



SIPA *Bulletin*

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Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

JANUARY, 1992 MEETING MINUTES : 29 MEMBERS PRESENT

Meeting was called to order after the usual exchange of pleasantries. Mr. D.H. Rao, Vice-President, occupied the Chair as Chairman of the meeting. Mrs. P. Thomas had put on Display a collection "SCHOOL EDUCATION THROUGH PHILATELY" in about six frames with good writingup. She gave a short talk on the above which was appreciated by all. New members got themselves introduced. Minutes of the Last Monthly Meeting read and adopted. Members present then gave their experiences on Philately. A Xerox Copy of Rs. 100/- Currency Notes signed by Mr. Bhattacharya was shown. Then Shri G. Madanmohandas, our President welcomed all the members with a Happy Prosperous New Year 1992 and a Sweet Pongal. New announcements of PERMANENT/SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS for Jan./Feb. 1992; enhancement of the cost from Re. 1/- to Rs. 1.50 for blank First Day Covers and Information folders from 1.1.1992 and withdrawal from sales at the Philatelic Bureau of Late Sankaran Pillai Cartoon Stamps from 31/1/92 the third in line, the first being the Carnatic Musician, the great Ariyakudi RAMANUJAM and Mrs. Kapoori Thaker from 30.11.1991 (The Second) after its sales for six months. The second being (a) ANTARTIC TERRITORY Treaty, (b) New Delhi - Diamond Jubilee & (c) Shri Ramsharma Acharya.

EXPORT OF INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS:

The Dept. of Posts, New Delhi invites enterprising Philatelists and Dealers in stamps who may be interested in export of Indian Stamps Abroad to contact the Department of Posts with any proposals that they may have in this regard, offering them an attractive commission of 20% of the total sales to the exporters upon proof that foreign exchange realised through export of stamps has been duly deposited in Government Account. Interested persons may contact The Asst. Director General (PHIL - II), Dak Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001 as per Stamp News 9. Shri. P. Rajalingam was goodenough to bring 100 Re. 1/- Coins commemorative "FOOD FOR THE FUTURE" issued on World Food Day (16th October, 1991 for distribution to our Numismatic members of SIPA. Shri. K. Narayanan distributed to our members Switzerland Stock List No. 39/1991 with the PTT at BERN.

All communications relating to Bulletin may please be addressed to Mr. M. T. Karunakaran, Hony. Editor, SIPA Bulletin, No. 3, III Cross Street, Jayanagar, Tambaram Sanatorium, Madras-600 047.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES: 26 Members Present

Meeting called to Order by Shri. D.H. Rao, Vice-President, Minutes of the last monthly meeting read and adopted. Some discussion as to how to improve the attendance at our monthly meetings. Mrs. P. Thomas brought her two albums on PHILATELY FOR CHILDREN" It traced the development of our Country's history, geography, scientific achievements, how Independence was achieved from Slavery, the story of the Father of our Nation—Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of Non-Violence and Peace who won Freedom for India with the least bloodshed, Presidents of Indian Republic, the history of the FIVE YEAR PLANS; the Builders of Modern India—Jawaharlar Nehru & others; the flora & fauna of our country, WHY? You name it and you will see it on the issuance of a stamp by India. It was very well planned album and all credit to Mrs. P. Thomas for her pains taking efforts in preparing such easily understandable style for young school going children to learn by OBSERVATION. Shri. P. S. Seshadri gave his impressions about WORKSHOPS ON PHILATELY he is conducting at 5/6 Schools in and around AVADI and how students interest should be sustained and made an appeal to more association members to take active interest for the spread of Philately. Shri. G. Madanmohandas gave his experiences how so many Societies/Associations were started with a Bang, much fanfare and in a couple of years they went into oblivion. But our Association had the good fortune of well wishers, survived through thick and thin, weathered clear the various hurdles by hard dedicated work for the past 36 years and that it is our Second Sunday Meetings which is and was responsible for this. Eventhough it rained or sunned, our Second Sunday Meetings were held regularly where senior members gave Display Talks and kept our members abreast of the news of the day by announcing new issues of stamps and stationery and also the various activities of other Societies around the country. He exhorted the members to bring in their collections, show it to their fellow members, get to know how to improve them by mounting them, avail the Library facilities to get to know the requisite knowledge on Stamps. New announcements were made. New members got themselves introduced. Members were requested to bring in atleast two/four album sheets on A/D Subjects on Philately for the next meeting. With a hot cup of tea the meeting came to close.

SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Post Office, Madras 600 002. (10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

THIRD SUNDAY of every month - Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 6, Nannian Street, Madras 3. (Timing: 10-45 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

SIPA library Open Tuesdays & III Sunday, 6, Nannian Street, Madras - 3

STAMP NEWS-1

I. PERMANENT PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS

It is proposed to provide pictorial cancellations from the following POs in Maharashtra.

1. Ajanta Caves Branch P.O. - 431 117

The cancellation depicts the "Pink Elephant" which is one of the paintings from Cave No.1.

2. Ellora Caves Branch P. O. - 431102

The cancellation displays a view of the Kailashnath Temple Pillar, Cave-16, Ellora.

3. Elephanta Caves Branch P.O. - 402201.

The cancellation depicts "Trimurthy".

4. Shaniwar Wada P.O., Pune-411030

The cancellation shows the front view of the "Shaniwar Wada".

II. SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS, SPECIAL COVERS

1. A special cancellation/cover was provided on 4.1.92 at Baroda on the occasion of the inauguration of the Indian Science Congress.

2. A special cancellation/cover was provided on 4th Jan. 1992 at Tiruchirappalli Philatelic Bureau on the occasion of the Conference of the Rotary District 3000. Blank covers will be sold at Re. 1/- each.

3. A special cancellation/cover was provided on 9th January, 1992 at New Delhi on the occasion of the inauguration of the National Science Centre. Blank covers will be sold at Rs. 2/- each.

4. A special cancellation was provided on 28th January 1992 at Patna on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai.

5. A special cancellation/cover was provided on 1st February, 1992 at Mysore-570001 on the occasion of the Conference of the Rotary International District 3180. Blank covers will be sold at Rs. 3.50 each.

III. FIRST DAY COVERS/BROCHURES

All blank First Day covers and Brochures issued after 1st of January 1992 will henceforth be sold for Rs. 1.50 each.

IV. NEW ISSUES

The stamp on the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, due to be released in December '91 has been postponed and is now proposed to be released by the end of January '92. (Not yet issued)

V. WITHDRAWALS

The following stamps were withdrawn from sale from all Philatelic Bureaux/Counters with effect from the 31st January 1992:

"K. Shankar Pillai - Cartoons".

"Wish You Happy New Year"

STAMP NEWS-2

I NEW ISSUES

1. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YMCAs

The National Council of YMCAs of India is part of the International Youth Movement called the Young Men's Christian Association. Established in February, 1891, it functions as the coordinating body of over 350 YMCAs spread out all over the country. The main objective of the YMCA movement is the total development of the person—spiritual, mental and physical.

2. PHAD PAINTING-DEV NARAYAN

Phad is a traditional form of Rajasthani painting and Dev Narayan is one of the most renowned and popularly worshipped heroes of Rajasthan. A stamp in the denomination of 200 P is proposed to be brought out portraying Dev Narayan as in a traditional phad painting.

II WITHDRAWALS

The following stamps were withdrawn from sale from all philatelic bureaux/counters with effect from the 29th of February, 1992 on completion of their sale at Philatelic Bureaux for six months:

I) Sriprakash; II) Gopinath Bardoloi; III) Rajiv Gandhi

IV) Jain Muni Mishrimalji

III) SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS/SPECIAL COVERS

i) A special cancellation/cover was provided on 06/02/92 & 07/02/92 on the occasion of the Inner wheel District 314 Conference and the 6th Triennial Association Conference respectively, at Bombay-400 001.

ii) A special cancellation/cover was provided on 23.2.92 on the occasion of the World Understanding Day (Rotary Foundation) at Vishakhapatnam-530 001.

iii) A special cancellation/cover which was provided on the 4th January 1992 at Baroda on the inauguration of the Indian Science Congress was not provided due to unforeseen circumstances.

IV PHILATELIC BUREAU

The upgradation of the Raipur Philatelic Counter to a bureau took place with effect from 29.1.92.

V PHILA-NIPON-91 WINNERS-SIPA Life Members

1) A.R. Singhi, Hyderabad- Large Gold Medal

2) M.C. Sukhani, Calcutta-Champion Medal

3) Pradeep Jain, Patna-Large Vermeil Medal

4) Dilip Shah, Jabalpur-Large Vermeil Medal

5) Brahm Mehta, New Delhi-Vermeil Medal

6) R.D. Binani, Calcutta-Vermeil Medal

7) J. M. Dhor, Jaipur-Silver Medal

8) Aditya Singhania, Calcutta-Silver Medal (Youth Section)

9) Literature Section

a) Postal History of India by Brg. D. S. Virk-Large Vermeil Medal and felicitations of the Jury.

b) Ajmer Postal History by J. M. Dhor and Ranjan-Silver Medal.

VI POSTAL STATIONERY

A new design of the ILC with the "Ship Motif" and an advertisement of the "SBI Mutual Fund", designed and printed at the Madras Security Printers, Madras was released for sale from 31.1.92. First Day cancellation was provided at all Philatelic Bureaux.

PHILORAMA

ENVIPEX-92:

Environment Department, Government of Rajasthan and Philatelic Society of Rajasthan jointly organised the 3rd Environment Philatelic Exhibition-ENVIPEX-92-on 3rd, 4th and 5th March 1992, at the Information Centre Hall, Jaipur. The object of this exhibition was to educate the people, specially youth and children for the protection of environment from population. To mark the event, 3 covers were released one on each day, with different picture and cancellations. The price of one set of 3 covers is Rs. 7.50, postage extra. Enquiries may be addressed to Envipex Secretariat, C/o. Mittal Stamp Co., Dhamani Market, Chaura Rasta, JAIPUR-302 003. Payments to be made in the name of Philatelic Society of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Rotary Conference:

On the Occasion of the First District Conference (4th January 1992), Rotary District 3000, Trichy a special cancellation post mark was issued. The pictorial post mark features the Rotary-Wheel and the International logo on Polio Drops. The host Club Rockcity Rotary Club have also brought out multi-colour printed special cover. Rotary International President's Representative Sri. Arvind G. Maratha released the Special Cover & Post mark. District Governor Sri. N. Raghavan received the first special cover.

The cancelled special covers are available at a nominal price of Rs. 2.50 (with Re. 1/- stamp affixed) from Philatelic Bureau, Trichy, or from Mr. P. Soundararajan, Secretary, Trichy Philatelists Association, Malolam, 9 Srimathy Enclave, II Street, S. R. Extn. Srirangam, TRICHY-620 006.

Philatelic Corner in Trichy Museum:

On January 28, 1992 a Philatelic Corner was inaugurated in the State Govt. Museum located in Promenade Road, Tiruchirappalli. District Collector, Shri. Vijaya Kumar unveiled the panel which displayed the collection of Stamps & FDCs owned by the museum; Shri. P. Soundararajan, Secretary, Trichy Philatelists' Association gave a lecture on The History of Postal System in India; there was a Question & Answer also; the gathering included officials from the Dept. of Posts, District Authorities, Officials from the Dept. of Archaeology, Directors of Madras & Tanjore Museums, Philatelists. Dr. Shankara Narayana M Curator of the Museum welcomed everybody & hosted tea.

It is noted that from January 1992 onwards the Museum will get one mint stamp, one information sheet & one cancelled FDC from the Philatelic Bureau Tiruchirappalli, free of cost, regularly; in fact all the museums (one in Pudukkottai near Tiruchy will get these; and Madras Museum will get the items from the Bureau in Madras). Tamil Nadu will hereafter build up a nice collection of Indian Issues and display them permanently along with other materials (sculptures, paintings, books, carvings.....).

Mangaldhwani Commemoration:

On 29th, February 1992 Music Lovers of India witnessed for the first time Ravi Shankar and Vilayat Khan sharing the stage at the Netaji Indoor Stadium at the SPIRIT OF FREEDOM CONCERT "MANGALDHWANI", sponsored by VST Industries Ltd. in collaboration with JALSAGHAR country's leading musical circle which celebrated its Silver Jubilee. The Galaxy of performers made this a very special and memorable occasion for Classical music and Dance Lovers. The stars were Ravi Shankar, Vilayat

Khan, Bismillah Khan, Bhimsen Joshi, Birju Maharaj, Samta Prasad, Alla Rakha, Krishen Maharaj, Zakir Hussian, Kumar Bose, Iswarlal, Sohanlal and Mefooz Khan.

To commemorate the programme a special cover was released on 29th at Netaji Indoor Stadium. Both Cover and cancellation designed by Dipok Dey. This multicolour cover price Rs. 5/- plus postage. Further information may be had from: Robin Paul, P & T Housing Complex, Bidhan Nagar, CC-Block Qrt. No. B/II/2 Flat-8, Sector-1, CALCUTTA-700 064..

MADUPEX-92

A three-day Philatelic Exhibition known as "MADUPEX '92" was conducted by the Southern Region (TN) Postal Department from 21.2.92 to 23.2.92 at TVS Lakshmi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, T. V. S. Nagar - Madurai 625 003. Participation in the Exhibition was open to students studying upto Plus-2 Level in the Educational Institutions in Southern Postal Region (TN) which comprises of 8 Revenue Districts, from Dindigul to Kanyakumari. The Exhibition mainly was classified into three Groups: a) GAMES & SPORTS; b) FLOWERS & PLANTS and c) ANIMALS & BIRDS. An Entry Fee of Rs. 5/- per frame was fixed. Requests from 24 participants in 40 Frames was displayed in the COMPETITIVE Section. Besides 10 Frames from INVITEES was exhibited. The Exhibition was INAUGURATED by Smt. GIRIJA VAIDYANATHAN, I.A.S., District Collector, Madurai. Numerous School Children from various schools came in large numbers with their teachers and saw the Exhibition. The Department placed at the disposal of the JURY comprising of Shri. G. MADANMOHANDAS, National Jury and President of the South India Philatelists' Association and Shri. S. T. Bhaskar, Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle. 3 Prizes—One First Prize, One Second Prize and One Third Prize for each of the 3 THEMES (9 prizes in all) besides a Consolation Prize. The Valedictory function took place on Sunday the 23rd February. Shri. D. Parthasarathy, Postmaster General, Southern Region presided and the Chief Guest Shri. Balakrishnan, I.P.S., Commissioner of Police, Madurai distributed the Prizes and Certificates.

The Department brought out a Special Cover portraying the VAIGAI DAM prominently and two Special Cancellations—one depicting Kallalagar landing on Vaigai and other depicting the WIND MILL PROJECT at KAYATAR for two days. Shri. S. Babu, I.R.S. Commissioner of Income Tax, Madurai released the Special Cover on 21.2.1992 along with the Special Cancellation of KALLALAGAR LANDING and Shri. P. VARADARAJAN, General Manager, Telecom District, Madurai released the Special Cancellation on 22.2.1992 depicting the Wind Mill Project at Kayatar.

A Quiz programme on Philately for School Children was conducted on 22.2.92 by Shri Eddie John, Principal, T.V.S. Lakshmi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Palanganatham.

A fortnight prior to the Exhibition, Workshop on Philately was conducted and 65 students participated. Shri. T. Ramaswamy, Deputy Supdt. of Railway Mail Services from Madras ably conducted the same. All credit to Shri. D. Parthasarathy, Postmaster General, Southern Region (TN) Madurai and Shri. T. Murthy, Director of Postal Services and Secretary, MADUPEX '92 for the success of the exhibition in popularising the science & art of Philately in Southern Region and kindling the interest amongst the students and lay public.

The Philatelist

Editorial Dec 1979

A shop near our London office features an open stamp album as an eye-catching display in its window, although the products it deals in are removed and very different from stamps. Nevertheless, the album is an attraction to passers-by with multi-coloured portraits of the Queen on Hong Kong stamps, "foreign" pictorial stamps, commemoratives and colourful "numeral" types arranged on facing pages, displayed tastefully but without regard to sorting by countries.

"Are those real stamps?" we were asked by a companion one night.

"Yes, certainly", we replied.

"They don't seem to have much regard for their value", was the comment, "leaving them in the window like that; they might get stolen".

"It wouldn't much matter if they did; they're of little value". In fact we added, with rather superior disparagement, "they look as if they've come off the office mail".

The moment we passed this observation we could have bitten off our tongue; isn't this what collecting is all about!

Brain-washed in part by traders whose philatelic ability and acumen may well be limited to how much profit they can make from the hobby, most collectors tend nowadays to think in terms of "completion", and there is a constant cry of "What chance has the ordinary collector today" and "One feels sorry for the junior collectors". Perhaps this attitude is a reflection on the sophistication of the present age in general; people want everything and want it NOW. The old time pleasures of collecting piecemeal have become lost somewhere along the way, though, strangely enough, one of the great rarities among modern British Colonial issues, the St. Helena TRISTAN RELIEF set, could only have been obtained in the first instance by collectors who had the good fortune to have a friend on the island. Within twenty-four hours the issue was withdrawn from the post office and even the most astute and well-organised of New Issues dealers could not obtain sets for distribution to his clients. Of course copies have come on to the philatelic market since then.

Interestingly enough, we know a number of "serious" collectors who now run a general collection for which their acquisitions accrue entirely from correspondence, from friends and by swapping at their local clubs.

We are reminded, on the other hand, of an old professional with whom we once worked. People would bring in collections for sale and when told

they were not worth much would be disappointed. "How much money have you spent on it?" "Nothing" would invariably be the reply. "Then how can you expect it to be worth anything?"

This obsession with money and something for nothing is another sign of the times. The hobby of stamp collecting is meant to be a tasteful arrangement of colour miniature portraits, views, numeral types and commemoratives in a pleasing eye-catching style; we wonder why one worries about types of gum and phosphor bands which can be seen only with the help of costly equipment. (Secretly we sometimes have a sneaking disdain for watermarks and perforations too). We recently saw a suggestion that the only collector who can truly claim to have achieved completion in his country is the chap who has acquired every sheet of every value of every issue that was ever put on sale at the post office.

We trust that collecting by clipping from the office mail and scouring the wastepaper basket may long continue, and Down with Meter Marks!

Sky is our limit

CONTACT

PARSI AMARCHAND

Phone: 566 466

6, Nannian St., II Floor, Madras-600 003

(Timings: 7-00 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

We buy

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BURMA AND OTHER

COLLECTIONS AND

ACCUMULATIONS.

NO PRICE LIST PLEASE

URGENT

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO INTIMATE IMMEDIATELY CORRECT NAME AND ADDRESS WITH PIN CODE BY POST CARD FOR BEING INCLUDED IN MEMBERS LIST.

OFFICE/RESIDENCE PHONE NO. TO BE GIVEN

ESSAYS, PROOFS AND REPRINTS

"Essays, Proofs and Reprints" of stamps of any country form an interesting group in themselves and early Indian trial impressions and designs are no exception. In fact, in many cases, "essays and proofs" have greater interest and often an increased value than the original stamps. But many of the readers would like to know what is an "Essay"? An 'essay' is a proposed design but *not adopted*, or if adopted, *not without some alterations* in the original design. In fact, they are more or less the designs submitted by artists for the approval of the officials of the stamp issuing country. Then what is a 'Proof'? A 'proof' is a trial impression, either in black or in the colour of the approved design before it is finally printed and issued to the public in the form of a stamp. Generally, a proof impression differs from the actual stamp issued, for, either it is printed on different paper or in a different colour or it may be only in an imperforate condition. A 'Reprint' is a printing made from an original plate of the issued stamp after it has been demonetised.

Thus, to an advanced specialist, the essays, proofs, and reprints are as important as the stamps of a country he collects. For, a specialised collection of a single country *must* be as complete as possible and the collection cannot be called complete without these three important groups.

Just as a book cannot be called fully complete without a preface, a specialised collection of a country cannot be also called complete without its essays, proofs and reprints. Besides their his-

torical value, essays and proofs always command a higher price than that of the issued stamps and this is due to their extreme scarcity. They are always issued in a very small number, for they are neither printed for speculative interests nor made to order for collectors. Thus, it is but natural that in a work like this, the early Indian "Essays and Proofs" should find a place and a special article devoted to these two worthies. The 'reprints' have only a nominal value, as in most cases they are issued in large numbers.

The First Essay

The first Indian 'Essay' is the famous "Lion and Palm tree" 1/2 anna design. It was prepared for the first Indian stamps but was abandoned under circumstances. It was engraved on steel and impressions from the original die are known to exist on various papers. Some impressions were lithographed by means of transfers from the engraved die and they are found on medium yellowish wove paper.

Half Anna

The half anna vermillion with 9 1/2 arches is considered by some as an 'essay' as it was not officially issued and so it is included in this list, besides the other half anna proofs which were prepared but issued only after

some alterations, particularly in the Queen's head and with the ornaments in the upper corners as on the issued one anna stamp. The latter is found printed with the word 'specimen' on the back of the stamp or in some cases with a single letter of the word 'specimen' on each stamp.



Some of the Indian "Essays, Proofs and Reprints"

One Anna

The one anna essay exists in the interesting unissued design of the head of Queen Victoria with Gothic crown as well as in slightly differing impressions of the issued design, which are also found with the word 'specimen' overprinted on the back.

Two Annas

The two annas 'essays' are very scarce and one of them is from the original design engraved by Numerodeen. The impressions for this essay were taken direct from the copper plate prepared by the Indian artist. Proof impressions of the engraved head in the issued design taken from an electrotype by hand pressure exist in various colours. These are without the outer frame lines.

Four Annas

The four annas value provides the largest variety of proofs inasmuch as they were issued in "unissued" heads as well as in issued designs and in their various settings, viz., the wide, medium and close settings. Further they were reprinted from the original plates of proofs and issued stamps between 1891 and 1894. In the impressions taken in March 1891, the head inverted variety appears in the last stamp of each sheet. Also, they appear with the word 'specimen' printed on the back of each stamp on some of the sheets. Lithographic reproduction with marginal inscriptions and corner ornaments of some of the settings of four annas were made in 1894 and complete sheets of these exist.

Eight Annas

Essays of the unissued eight annas value are scarce.

For full information regarding these early Indian 'essays' and 'proofs' it is recommended to the readers to refer to the Supplement No. 2 to the 'Postage & Telegraph stamps of British India' by Sir E. D. Bacon, C. V. O., as this work gives most exhaustive information regarding them.

Proofs of later issues printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. rarely come on the market, though colour trials exist of various values.

In the year 1925, before the stamps were printed in India, an experimental printing was made at old Delhi and about 250 sets of K. G. V stamps of 2 annas and 1 rupee denominations were printed for submission to members of the Central Legislature for their approval, but they were rejected. They were printed upon unwater-

marked paper with white gum and perforated 14 all round.

Recently, there came in the market a large variety of essays of the high values official provisionals and they form a most interesting group inasmuch as nearly 25 different types of overprints were found in these essays.

FRIENDS FORUM, MADRAS

Friends Forum (Regd.) Inaugurated its "PHILATELIC WING" on 23.2.92 at the LLA Buildings Meeting Hall with the aim of fraternity, friendship and amity through Philately. Shri. T. RAMASWAMY, Deputy Superintendent of Railway Mail Services inaugurated the Philatelic Wing and his talk was educative and instructive. Shri. N. Narayanan was chosen as the Wing Commander of the Philatelic Wing who is a Life Member of SIPA. Next Shri. P. S. Seshadri, a Small Scale Industrialist and life member of SIPA addressed the gathering and with lucid talk kindled an interest for the members to take up Philately for national integration. Mrs. P. THOMAS, school teacher and Member of SIPA put on Display her Thematic Display and brought to the notice of the audience the finer points of Philately and how history, geography and national heritage can be learnt from stamps issued from the various countries. All credit to Shri. N. Narayanan for mootng and awakening an interest in the members of Friends Forum to start the Philatelic Wing. May it grow to higher levels.

In a Lighter Vein

In the early days when the posts were regular and with early morning deliveries, an old Scotsman had to get an early train, but didn't want to buy an alarm clock for this one occasion. So he sent himself a letter, and next morning, the postman rapped at his door until he woke. "Letter for you Sir". "Thank you", called the old Scotsman from his bedroom window.

"Aren't you going to come down? The letter is not stamped. There is five pence to pay". "Not stamped? Then I won't encourage such carelessness. You can take it back.

**ENROL ONE NEW MEMBER
&
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
IF NOT DONE ALREADY**

LIFE OF STEPHEN H. SMITH

India has played in the past, and will continue to play its important role in the progress of Civil Aviation in future, and the part played by one of her sons must be placed on record for preserving his early efforts for the admiration by future posterity. Mr. Stephen Smith's name is known to all interested in Indian Air Mails, as a pioneer and historian for Aero-Philately in India, but few know that he is the indefatigable and the first experimentator of Rocket Mails in India. Stephen Hector Taylor Smith, commonly known to the world as Stephen Smith or Stevee Smith, was born on 14th February 1891, at Strawberry Hill, Shillong, Assam.

His early youth was spent in dodging his private tutor and day-dreaming in the pine forests. It is interesting to note that his day-dreams were always connected with the flight of birds, and an unknown power transporting him to the tops of the hills without him using his legs.

In July 1903 he was packed off as a boarder to St. Patrick's High School, Asansol. In January 1911 he left St. Patrick's after completing his final examination, and his character certificate describes him as a model boy and a perfect athlete.

Smithy looks back with mixed feelings to a certain day when he and four other schoolmates attempted to transport live garden lizards on Rockets of their own construction, over the School swimming pool; unfortunately only one Rocket rose up into the air and burst killing the lizard tied to it, the second Rocket burst at the moment of lighting. On leaving school, Smith joined the Calcutta Customs, but after a short while his services were transferred to the Calcutta Police. While in the

Calcutta Police he joined the College of Physicians and Surgeons as a private student. In 1915, on qualifying as a Dental Surgeon, he resigned the Calcutta Police and joined up during the 1914-18 war as a dentist.

In November 1918 he married Miss Fay Harcourt, had one son, Hector; but unlike his father Junior Smith took no interest in Rocket Experiments.

Besides Rockets, India's experimenter took the greatest interest in Botany and Ants. For ants, he possesses two special farms, one devoted to the large black variety, while the second is

occupied by the common red ant. Each farm had its own feeding trough, rain shelters, store rooms, galleries, etc., etc.

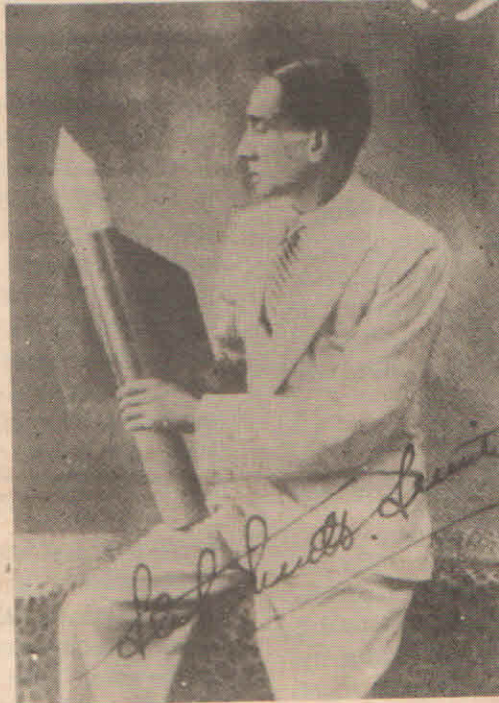
Mr. Smith was also the author of the following books:-

1. Indian Airways, 1926. Part I
2. Indian Airways, 1927. Part II 1927
3. The World Flier's Danger Zone.
4. Indian Airways, 1930. Part III.

Besides the above, he had the following three manuscripts ready for publication:-

1. Indian Airways 100 Years Ago.
2. Rocket Transport in India.
3. Queer Birds of Aero-philately.

Mr. Stephen Smith had not half-heartedly ventured in making the Indian Rocket Mail experiments a complete success, and his many firings up-to-date not only prove his indefatigable efforts, but show the complete and remarkable progress achieved by him in making Rockets play



Stephen Hector Taylor-Smith, commonly known to the world as Stephen Smith or Stevee Smith with one of his early Mail Rockets, now discarded.

their true part in all his experiments, viz., of carrying messages, foodstuffs, etc. In fact, Mr. Smith is the first Rocket Mail experimentator to convey successfully in one of his Rockets, parcels of foodstuff, medicine, etc., and live-stock. The list of Rocket firings by Mr. Stephen Smith as published in the 'checked Price List' will give readers, an idea of the tremendous efforts made by our pioneer in the direction of establishing India's claim as one of the first countries in the world to successfully use the services of Rocket transport for conveying food, medicine, etc., to places stricken down by floods, etc., and thus being inaccessible to ordinary transport means. Stevee Smith was one of the few who had taken steps to materialize their fantastic dreams and prove their utility, and it is but meet that we should record here the results of his efforts for future posterity.

*Do you know
why some sportspersons
collect stamps?*

*Because they can lick them
and get the pleasure
of having licked something atleast*

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WHEN DOES A LETTER BECOME A PACKET?

SHRI. G. MADANMOHAN DAS

The name of William Dockwra conjures up in the mind the idea that Dockwra handled only letters but it might come as a surprise to some of our readers to learn that "Dockwra had accepted packets of up to one pound in weight and ten pounds in value in early 1680. It is arguable what the words "packet" and "parcels" mean. Even today, we are told in the Post Office, "This will be x pence letter post or y pence parcel post. Which way do you want to send it?" The obvious answer is, "the cheapest or the quickest", (if the matter is urgent). There was a time, however, when one was not allowed (if discovered!) to enclose a letter in a parcel. In those days, the regulation was understandable. The lowest rate as far as we can remember, was sixpence for a parcel weighing about a pound. A letter of this weight would have been charged infinitely more, so the distinction between letters and parcels was logical. It is the word "packet" which is so confusing and, we believe, illogical.

However, as far as the article under review is concerned, the distinction is probably academic. In our younger days, the distinction was quite clear in meaning.

A regular parcel post (meaning books, chocolates or even samples of artificial manure) could never be confused with overweight letters. Yet it was not until 1882 that a regular parcel service was conceived and this was brought about by compulsion from the U.P.U. to "give provisional agreement on May 4 1882 for the Post Office to commence a full parcels service in this country, and to link with the existing international service". Thus there came into being, the Parcel Service that we once knew.

EIPSPLEX - STAMCO-92

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Empire of India Philatelic Society and decade of Kutch Hobby Circle, both the societies jointly organised abovenamed stamp & coin Exhibition at Asiatic Society of Bombay's Town Hall from 25th to 27th January 1992. Exhibition was declared open on 25th January 1992 by Shri. Jamshedji Bhabha-Chairman, National Centre for performing Arts, Bombay and function was presided over by Dr. Sadashiv Gorakshkar. Director, Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, (Bombay), who released Spl. Exhibition Souvenir also. Col. L. G. Sheno, President Elect, Philatelic Congress of India, released Spl. Cover with Spl. Cancellation.

Members of both the societies all over India participated in competitive Section of the exhibition consisting of 200 Frames for stamps and 40 frames for coins.