



# SIPA Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

Vol. 13 No.5

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '92

Bimonthly

## SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to SIPA BULLETIN with a slightly different look. It is impossible to begin without a few words of thanks. Firstly and sincerely to Shri M.T. KARUNAKARAN for all the work he has put into the SIPA Bulletin over the last 13 years as EDITOR. Under his stewardship it has blossomed into one of the PREMIER Bulletins of its type and I can do no more than express my clear determination to maintain the standard he has set. Change is inevitable, but I hope it will be gradual, preserving the best of the old while making best use of the new.

Secondly for the messages of goodwill I have received. They are indeed welcome, but even more welcome will be a steady stream of articles for publication. Please remember that an Editor's job is to edit, not to write material, Contributions do not have to be literary masterpieces in order to be published. Our purpose is study, and we can only learn by discussion, expounding new ideas and perhaps exploding a few myths. This is your forum in which to do just that, so if you have anything in mind to say, say it now. To use my GURU's words -- don't leave it to the other fellow, because to everyone else YOU are the other fellow.

A word of thanks to all the DEALER advertisers but for whose ready response, the cost of the Bulletin will be more than anticipated. Please give the same support to maintain the quality of the Bulletin.

### 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.)

FIRST AND 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 & Sunday, 6, Nannian Street, Madras - 3. 7p.m. to 8 p.m.

The GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS HELD AT 90, Godown Street, MADRAS 600 001 on 6th September, 1992 at 10.30 a.m.

There was lively discussion on the REPORT of the Association and all the suggestions were taken note of for the new Committee to implement as far as possible. Shri G.MADANMOHANDAS, President occupied the Chair. Shri. K. PRASAD replied suitably the various points raised by the members.

The REPORT and the AUDITED Statement of Accounts (Balance Sheet & Income & Expenditure) for the Biennial period ending 31/12/89 and for the period 1—1—90 & 31—3—1992 along with Audited Report was moved for adoption, seconded duly and passed unanimously.

Next the Office Bearers and members of the Executive Committee for the biennial period 1992-1994 was taken up and passed unanimously. The LIST of the new office Bearers is appended separately with addresses.

Auditors for the period 1992-94 was taken up. The present Auditors BADRI & SUDHAKARA for the period 1992-94 was approved.

The New President, Shri. D.H. Rao took over the proceedings and introduced the new Executive Members of the Committee and assured the members that he will put in his best efforts for the growth of the Association.

The Meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks from the New Secretaries, Shri P.S. Seshdri. There were 50 members present. Shri ASKOK KUMAR LUNIA was profusely thanked for placing at the disposal of Association his platial Hall for conduct of the Generalbody Meeting and also his dedicated staff services.

The GRAND FINALE was a SUMPTUOUS LUNCH given by the Association. AFTER LUNCH, there was SPOT AUCTION of the Philatelic material and members evinced keen interest and 85% of the material were taken up for good bids.

All communications relating to Bulletin may please be addressed to

G. MADAN MOHAN DAS, Hony Editor,  
SIPA Bulletin, 41, Perumal Mudali Street,  
Sowcarpet, Madras - 600 079.

INDIA SECURITY PRESS ESTD - 1925  
67 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION  
**A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDIA SECURITY PRESS**  
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The India Security Press is located at Nashik Road in the State of Maharashtra, about 188 kms. north-east of Bombay and linked by broad-gauge Railway Line (Central Railway) as well the National High way No. NH-3 (popularly known as Bombay Agra Road).

The India Security Press is (a Commercial Department, Government of India under the Ministry of Finance; Deptt. of Economic Affairs), unique of its kind in India and the Sole Source of Supply in India for many Public as well as high Security Govt. items.

The establishment of press was conceived by the Britishers after the world war-I, as the first security press in India. From that point of time, it has grown to its current size, employing about 7,000 employees over a location covering about 260 acres.

The important dates in its history are as follows:-

1922-Feasibility Study to test the practicability of establishing a security press in India was carried out by the then Master of the Mint at Bombay and Controller of Stationery India.

1924 (Sept)-Construction of the press at Nashik commenced.

1925 (Nov.) Press was commissioned and started functioning as a Security Printing in India.

1926 (Aug.) Construction was started for printing Currency Notes.

1928 (April)-Production of Currency Notes also started along with Postal Stationery.

Although with the increase in the volume of postal stationery production and introduction of new varieties of high security items; coupled with the increase in the demands for currency notes, in the year 1961 a separate Unit for production of Currency Notes was started at a distance of about 1/2 a kilometer away. India Security Press has continued to expand its diversified activities over the new areas to meet the challenge of high security.

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- |   |   |
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| 2) India Public Postage<br>Stamps, Service Postage Stamps | 2) Travellers Cheques                               |
| 3) Registration Envelopes                                 | 3) I.V.P., K.V.P. & N.S.C.                          |
| 4) Foreign Acrogramme                                     | 4) Central Excise, Revenue<br>Stamps                |

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5) Forces Letter/Green<br>Envelopes                          | 5) Customs Revenue<br>Stamps              |
| 6) Special Postage Stamps for<br>Nepal, Bhutan, etc.         | 6) India Revenue<br>Stamps                |
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Apart from the above stated items, every year new security items are added as required (e.g. Exim scrip. Gold bond etc.) & also the design etc. are altered at regular intervals as desired in the interest of security.

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# GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED PHILATELIC TERMS

**Advertising labels :** Many countries employ advertising in booklets of stamps where the labels are set (side by side) with the stamps. India Post has used labels to increase awareness of using the postal code, money orders, etc.

**Aerogramme :** Airletters made from lightweight paper, which in India are both stamp and stationery in one and are sold for postage value only.

**Approvals :** Postage stamp selections sent by stamp dealers for their inspection. It is important to remember to return promptly unwanted stamps and money to pay for retained stamps.

**Blocks :** Units of four or more stamps arranged from two or more horizontal rows, not separated.

**Booklet panes :** Small sheets specially printed and cut for inclusion in postage booklets. Before 1968, Indian booklet panes were stapled or stitched to the covers; since then, all booklet panes are glued to a one-piece covering along a strip of selvedge.

**Cachet :** An impression applied to an envelope to commemorate or advertise a specific event.

**Cancellation :** An impression used to obliterate a postage stamp to prevent its reuse.

**Catalogue value :** The valuation of postage stamps as listed in major stamp catalogues. It is important to remember that these prices serve as a guide and are not meant to be actual buying and selling prices.

**Centering :** The placement of a stamp design in relation to its perforations.

**Classics :** The early stamps of a country usually issued in the period prior to 1900.

**Coil stamps :** Stamps issued in rolls and, in the case of Indian coils, perforated on two sides only.

**Collectors, Subscription Service :** A service provided by India Post, through which collectors can open a mail order account with a minimum deposit and receive a desired quantity of all new postal items.

**Comb perforation :** A method of perforating postage stamps, by which the perforations will always meet exactly between stamps.

**Commemorative stamp :** A stamp that celebrates an event or honours a person—normally printed in limited quantities and sold within a specific period of time.

**Counterfeits :** Stamps that have been privately produced to deceive post offices and philatelists.

**Cover :** An envelope or wrapper for mail.

**Definitive :** A regular stamp issue that remains on sale for an indefinite period of time and has not been issued to commemorate a specific person or event.

**First Day Cover :** Envelope or postal stationery cancelled on the first day the stamps or stationery were issued. Generally these envelopes bear cachets as well as the special cancellation.

**Hinge :** A small piece of gummed paper used to mount stamps in albums.

**Imperforate :** A stamp without perforations or rouletting. All early postage stamps were issued imperforate and had to be cut apart with scissors.

**Inscription block :** A block of four or more stamps with printing on the attached selvedge. This printing can carry the printer's name, designer's name, or, in the case of definitive stamps, the specific plate number from which the stamp was printed. In modern Indian issues, inscription blocks always occur on the corners of panes of stamps.

**Line perforation :** The simplest form of perforation, in which rows of stamps are punched in single lines. Line perforated stamps can usually be identified by the fact that the perforation holes rarely if ever match precisely at the corners.

**Mint :** The condition of a stamp as released by the Post Office—unfaded, with full perforations and original gum.

**Mount :** A hinge or acetate container for mounting postage stamps.

**Phosphorescent :** Refers to a stamp overprinted (tagged) with luminescent substances that glow when exposed to ultraviolet light.

**Plate Block :** A block of four or more stamps, usually from a corner of a post office pane, that carries a plate number or printer's designation in the selvedge. In India these are also referred to as Inscription Corner Blocks, as only steel engraved

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stamps will have an actual plate number.

**Postage Due :** Special postage stamps used to indicate that a piece of mail has been underpaid and a fee must be collected from the recipient.

**Posatal Stationery :** Government-issued stationery such as letter sheets, envelopes, postcards, bearing impressed postage stamps.

**Precancelled stamps :** Stamps that have been cancelled with an identifying overprint before being issued by the Post Office. In India, modern precancelled stamps are overprinted with pairs of horizontal lines, and the selvedge bears message that these stamps can only be used by authorized agents.

**PVA gum :** Polyvinyl alcohol gum, introduced into postage stamp manufacture in the late 1960's. This gum has a near-matt, finish in comparison with the former gum arabic, which was shiny to the naked eye. All Indian stamps are now printed with PVA gum.

**Se tenant stamps :** Postage stamps of different designs, colours, or values, printed side by side, sometimes with advertisements or Post Office notices.

**Souvenir sheet :** A mini-sheet containing one or more stamps and a printed commemorative inscription.

**Souvenir collection :** A special collection of postage stamps grouped together according to theme or year of issue. The collection will generally contain the stamps and background information. India issues souvenir collections as well as special theme collections.

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## OUR MONTHLY MEETING

### SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

43 and 30 Members were present respectively with the President occupying the chair. There were lively discussions on Philately and our President was serious in making the meetings educative by Display talks. A brief resume of the Philatelic Week conducted by the Department of Posts, Tamilnadu Circle was given. Shri G. Madanmohandas, our past President and Editor SIPA, Shri D.H. Rao, our President and Shri P.S. Seshadri, our Secretary had put on Display UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION STAMPS, POSTAL STATIONERY OF INDIA, and BIRDS in about 6 frames, at the Philatelic Bureau and this was real treat for the General public and philatelists including school children and their wards. There was also a WORKSHOP on PHILATELY conducted by the Dept. of Posts, Tamilnadu Circle wherein 56 Students from various schools took part and our Association played a vital role. Shri D.H.Rao gave a talk on Philately, Shri G. madanmohandas evaluated the progress made in the Schools by the Dept. and Shri R.Narashimhan, Retd. SSPO and Mr. R. Ramaswamy Retd. Post Master, Mylapore gave a background history of Philately. Shri P.S.Seshadri took up the demonstration of washing the stamps, mounting the same on album pages, use of hinges and tweezers. MrsP. Thomas gave a lucid talk to the teachers from the 15 schools of the City on the value of stamps collecting and how through stamps children be given knowlege of the events of the curriculam. Janab A Ravooof gave some explanations for the postal cancellations of USA. With a hot cup of tea both the monthly meetings came to a close. A word of praise must be said of the silent services rendered by our vigilant young Secretary and our Librarian, Shri G. Balakrishnadas and C.S. Sankaranarayanan to the Department in the conduct of the Workshop. All credit to the new Circle Philatelic Officer, Shri Kuppuswamy for arranging the above functions under the auspices of the Dept. with the Chief Postmaster General and his dedicated officers.

## "STAMP NEWS"

In order to enable the Department of Posts New Delhi to mail to each and every member of the Association to the future issues of "Stamp News" to all individually kindly confirm by writing if you are interested in getting the "STAMP NEWS" to the following address:

**S. Mervin Alexander,**

Asst. Director General (Phil - I!)  
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If you have any suggestions/views/opinion on PHILATELY in general kindly write to them under advise to us.

# GUIDELINES

## GUIDELINES TO THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EVALUATION OF THEMATIC EXHIBITS

### Art. 1- COMPETITIVE EXHIBITIONS

These Guidelines, together with the Special Regulations for the evaluation of thematic exhibits (SREV), combine the most advanced level of knowledge and expertise of exhibitors and specialists in thematic philately. The two documents provide the relevant information for:

- the composition of the exhibit by the collector.
- the evaluation of the exhibits by the Juror.
- provision of advice by the experts.

The SREV for thematic exhibits offer the collector considerable liberty of construction within the framework of the established rules.

With these Regulations, the previous sub-division of the thematic class into "thematic" and "documentary" collections becomes obsolete.

### Art.2- COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS.

The essence of the thematic philately requires the balances and best possible use of both the thematic and philatelic aspects of the material. An exhibit which is entered in a competitive exhibition should, therefore, contain the most suitable material which contributes both to the development of the chosen theme and its philatelic significance.

The pages selected:

- give a synopsis of the chosen theme as a whole, or
- show in depth specific sections of the collection as an example, without losing the overall essence of the theme.

In both cases, the coherence and the continuity of the chosen theme must be observed.

### Art.3- PRINCIPLES OF EXHIBIT COMPOSITION

#### 3.1 Appropriate Philatelic Material

Each philatelic item, which fulfills the requirements stated by the GREV (see para.3.2.3 hereafter), and which, at the same time, is thematically appropriate, can be used. Furthermore the thematic information which it presents must have postal connotation (see para.3.2.2).

#### 3.2 The Elements of a thematic Exhibit

##### 3.2.1 The Plan.

In a thematic collection an appropriate, well organized plan must show the clear concept of the theme.

The title and the plan represent a meaningful entity and should reflect the specific characteristics of the chosen theme.

The plan should define the structure of the collection and of the exhibit (a selection of the collection) by means of rational classification in main chapters and their sub-divisions, it should provide a clear and intelligible insight into the whole theme, and be consistent with the title.

The plan should be more than just a simple listing. It

should detail both direct and cross references, developments, and special characteristics of the chosen theme. It should include all the different aspects of the theme, and cover the largest scope compatible with it. In this respect, one should avoid limiting or concentrating the development of the plan only to one or a few countries, as far as the chosen theme allows it.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLAN

The plan is the free choice of the collector, who may decide to analyze a specific theme or present a thesis according to his knowledge and/or cultural and philatelic background. It is possible to demonstrate original development of a theme by the construction of a creative plan.

The sequence of the plan may follow a time-related classification (historical, evolutionary), or a subject-related (scientific, systematic, organizational, economic, etc), or other criteria (importance, etc).

A logical plan requires adherence to the above definitions. In particular, the sequence of the main chapters and their sub-divisions must have a clear rationale without superfluous or misplaced chapters.

Correct means accurate, scientifically reliable and sound.

Balanced means that the same importance should be given to the different sections in accordance with the thematic significance and the available material.

Themes related to Organizations and Institutions (e.g. Red Cross, League of Nations, Council of Europe), repetitive events (e.g. Stamps Day, Olympic Games) etc. can be sub-divided according to their structure, type of organization, and individual events following thematically time- or place-related classification. However, the aims, tasks, results and effects of the activities of such organizations or events should be clearly shown.

The plan should consist only of thematic classification, without any generic chapters (e.g. "Miscellaneous"... "Appendix"... etc.). Furthermore, sub-divisions by issuing dates and/or country, or by type of material (e.g. "meters"... "Postal stationery"... etc.) or by purpose of issue (e.g. "Anniversaries"... etc.) should content, and the same applies to special philatelic studies (see para.3.2.3)

If the exhibitor decides to show a self-contained section of his collection, the plan and the title of the exhibit must be consistent with that section.

### THE PLAN PAGE

The plan has to be divided in such detail that the essential structure of the theme and its sub-divisions are clearly seen. More detailed sub-divisions, which can assist the understanding of the exhibit, should, in principle, be included only on the individual pages.

A numerical classification (e.g. decimal, legal systems) may be used if it helps to make the exhibit easier to understand. It should be limited to the major divisions of the plan. Experience has shown that a three digits letters system is sufficient.

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The plan, presented at the beginning of the exhibit, is the best possible introduction for the understanding of the theme. It cannot be replaced by a literary description.

An introductory title page, when shown, should highlight the theme. It can be combined with the plan as long as it is not to the detriment of the plan.

The title and the plan must be presented in one of the official FIP languages. English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

The number of pages shown for each sub-division of the exhibit should be indicated adjacent to the number of pages available in the collection, so that it is possible to see the relationship between the exhibit and the whole collection. This unsubstantiated information will not, however, be used for evaluation purposes. The content of the plan page should be brought up to date each time the exhibit is presented.

### 3.2.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEME

The plan and the development represent the two aspects of an interlaced process, based on the personal study and research by the collector on both the theme and the material. A deeper knowledge of the theme enables one to increase the number of facts and details and to look for additional items to illustrate them; a deeper knowledge of the material allows one to identify new pieces which often must be justified through further study of the theme.

The depth of development of the theme is demonstrated by the representation of connections, cross references, ramifications and effects within the framework of the selected theme, as well as through the display of material, either scarcely known or totally unknown, related to the time.

The thematic qualification and appropriateness of the material must be clearly demonstrated.

Originality refers to the successful elaboration of new themes, or new aspects of, or new approaches of known ones, new classifications and imaginative, effective description.

A thorough knowledge of both the theme and the appropriate material (analysis) is a prerequisite for the best possible thematic development. The skillful choice of the material and its correct positioning and sequence (synthesis) are necessary to ensure a proper understanding of the represented relations.

#### The Thematic Arrangement

The development is demonstrated in the exhibit by the correct thematic arrangement, which shows the relationship between the items used and the theme, i.e.:

- Presence of the sub-divisions, preferably at the top of the pages, in accordance with the plan.

- Possible utilization of fine/finer sub-divisions in form of titles and sub-titles, that go beyond the divisions of the plan, in order to provide an easier understanding of the content of the page. Correct relationship between all the items shown on the same page.

- Selection of the most suitable items for each thematic detail described correct and short text, but sufficient to provide an appropriate illustration of the thematic contribution of

the items and to correlate them clearly.

It is recommended that the text should:

- demonstrate the logical sequence in the development of the plan
- give appropriate descriptions of the thematic details of stamps and documents
- avoid thematic descriptions that are not related, or are related only indirectly, to the material shown, since they weaken the thematic development.

#### The Thematic Information

The development utilizes the thematic information directly represented by the appearance and/or the purpose of issue of the items.

It also utilizes the thematic information that can be shown as a result of a deeper analysis. In this sense, to the thematic information one can also include:

- for the purpose of issue:
  - issues which are due to changes in political relations
  - issues which document the spirit of the time
  - functions of the postal service which have a thematic significance (e.g. railway, telegraph, newspaper stamps, etc.)
  - in addition to the main and the secondary design of the item:
    - the text, art style of illustration and similar peculiarities.
    - the material on which printed e.g. granite (silk thread), banknote paper, war maps, etc.
    - the watermark design and perforation
    - the text or illustration of margins, gutters, tabs, etc.
- The information utilized for the development of the theme must have postal connotations. In this sense, in order to distinguish between postal and private origins for stamps, postal stationery, and other documents, the information must have been:
  - initiated by the postal service, or
  - introduced by the postal service (e.g. advertising appendices, marginal descriptions, postal stationery illustrations), or
  - approved by the postal service (e.g. postal stationery to private order).

Additional printing or surcharges introduced privately after the sale of the items are not to be considered.

Generic cancellations can be of interest because of the specific meaning of a place name; alternatively, they must contain adequate thematic information (e.g. advertising text, illustration) in addition to the date concerning the place and/or the date. A pre/philatelic postmark does not document the birth place of a person, nor is the postmark date relevant when related to a special event which happened on the same day (unless other thematic elements on the document or cancellation are relevant to the theme.)

Private vignettes, postmarks and decorative overprints as well as sender and a dresse date represent private infor-

mation and should not be used for the thematic development. In exceptional cases, they can be considered as a part of the document (but not for their direct thematic content) as long as they are relevant to describe a specific postal route or significant thematic association. Where a sender or addressee is entitled to special postal privileges (e.g. reduced or free postage) as a result of their position, condition or status (e.g. forces or official mail etc.) such information can be included as thematically relevant. The indication of reduced or free postage or the service postmarks, or equivalent markings of the postal route, provided sufficient evidence.

### 3.2.1 THE PHILATELIC MATERIAL

The GREV (Art. 3.2.) defines appropriate material as having the "Purpose of transmitting mail or other postal communications". This gives the collector the possibility of selecting items with the following characteristics:

#### Type of emission:

- Postal items (stamps, stamp booklets, postal stationery, franking meters, etc.) and their modifications (overprints, surcharges, perfins, etc.) Modifications which do not relate to the theme of the original postal items, and which do no longer relate to that theme should not be included.

- cancellations (ordinary, slogan, commemorative and other special postmarks)

- other items used in the postal operations, such as registration labels, postal route labels and markings, supplementary markings or labels (e.g. censorship, disinfection, crash mail, etc.) mail delivery and shipping dockets, reply coupons, forwarding agents markings, etc. Where applicable, these items should be on the relevant document.

- varieties

- items "intended for issues, or produced in the preparation for issue" e.g. sketches, proofs, etc.

#### Time frame:

- postal material from the pre-philatelic era, through the classic period, until the modern issues and documents.

- The use of common stamps and covers, including very modern ones can be justified if they best represent important thematic details.

#### Postal function:

- in addition to the normal transmission of mail, specific types, e.g. (postage free) service-and military-post (including Airgraphs and V-mail); maritime mail, railway mail, air mail of any type; prisoner-of-war and concentration camp mail small parcel and parcel post (and accompanying documents)

- stamps, marks and/or cards for free postage (e.g. authorities, military)

- postal payment service

- different forms of post automation

- private post, authorized or tolerated by the governmental Post, or active in total absence of a State post.

Under "other postal communications" are included other forms of postal services, like pneumatic post, telegrams,

electronic mail, etc.

The following items are not appropriate:

- fantasy issues from non-existent postal territories.

issues of Exiles without postal service:

- private additional cancellations, which are applied by a sender or a supplier before mailing the documents

- picture postcards

- private decorations on envelopes and cards

- vignettes (advertising labels), which are of private nature, issued for advertising or financing purposes. Of course, these are not to be confused with vignettes which refer to a specific postal service (e.g. airmail), or to the authorization of a special postal route, or which give postal privileges (e.g. military or prisoner mail in some countries), all of which are fully appropriate and may be included.

Border-line material always has to be supported by a thorough philatelic justification within the framework of an already highly specialized exhibit.

A philatelic description is only necessary when a specific characteristic of the item is not recognizable with average philatelic knowledge, or a philatelic study has to be described

#### Selection criteria

The criterion of postal character implies that, within the principles for the appropriate material, some reference levels for the selection of the items should be established. Exhibitors should look for the best ones: if they need to show

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Thematic	: Rotary, Lions, Scouts, U.P.U. Birds, Animals and many more
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some inferior pieces because of lack of availability, one of their major objectives should be to replace them as quickly as possible.

Preference and greater importance should be given to:

- issues which have an information content bearing a direct relation to the issuing country from a political, historical, cultural, economic and/or similar stand-point, as opposed to speculative issues, which exploit the "fashion trends" in thematic philately (these dubious issues can in principle be totally ignored).

- normal issues as opposed to additional imperforate parallel issues (stamps and souvenir sheets), especially of recent years..

- genuinely cancelled stamps, as opposed to cancelled to order ones.

- genuinely transported commercial mail with relevant cancellations as opposed to mere souvenir documents and any similar items created to please collectors. e.g. decorated FDCs (even when issued from the postal service). maximum cards. etc.

- genuinely transported items with correct postage and relevant thematic cancellations as opposed to favor cancellations, often with underfranked postage, or even worse, blank cancellations (unless due to a free postage privilege).

- documents with individual, differing addresses, as opposed to covers and cards received as a result of a subscrip-

tion.

- correct postage frankings as opposed to frankings substantially greater due to philatelic reasons (e.g. complete sets)

- meter frankings with appropriate postage, as opposed to the "000" favor cancellation.

The relevant rarity or other unusual characteristics of proofs, essays, varieties, and similar items can increase the philatelic level of the exhibit. Common varieties. e.g. minor color nuisances, easily acquired color essays, etc. do not add to the exhibit and are likely to affect adversely the thematic development.

When printing varieties, surcharges and overprinted items no longer present the relevant thematic information, the normal item should be also shown.

The use of maximum cards should be limited to a few, significant items, chiefly to make more obvious the information on the stamps. In addition to the necessary appropriateness of Subject, cancellation and date, these items should have a theme-related cancellation.

#### Philatelic studies

In most thematic areas there is philatelic material that, without great thematic differentiation, presents a large number of very important philatelic variants. If this material, at the same time, illustrates a very important point of the theme, then some deeper philatelic studies are allowed so that this valuable and extraordinary material can be properly shown.

In order to keep the balance, the objective of these studies should not be the completeness, but the representation of the most significant philatelic peculiarities. The extension of the studies should be proportional to the level of the specialization of the exhibit. However, the development of the theme must not be affected, and the thematic text shall be carried on within the study, so that there is no disturbing interruption.

#### Art.4-CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING EXHIBITS

The previous paragraphs explain the principles of composition of the exhibit which correspond directly to the criteria for its evaluation. In order to avoid repetition, the comments on these criteria are therefore limited to some additional notes.

##### 4.1 Plan and Size

The size will be evaluated by comparing the one of the exhibit with the potential one that can be achieved through a very comprehensive and complete plan and a through and deep development

##### 4.2 Development

To evaluate the originality of the thematic research, one must take into account previous studies of the theme, in order to see how much the development can take advantage of available thematic and philatelic literature, catalogues and documented research. This can be then compared with the personal research and study in terms of comprehensiveness, size and depth of the theme.

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The thematic importance is expressed by the degree of difficulty of the development, on the basis of the scope of the theme and the related availability of the material.

#### 4.3 Philatelic Knowledge

To evaluate the philatelic knowledge, within the possibilities of a given theme, importance is given to the presence of all the different philatelic types of material, and their relative balanced utilization. This relates in particular to the attention to old (pre-philatelic and classic) documents as well as to modern material, and to the use of items from different geographical areas.

Greater recognition should be given to material which

- has not yet been researched for that theme, or where there has been very little research

- refers to an uncommon area of collecting

- has a thematic qualification which is not immediately obvious and needs to be discovered by the exhibitor.

The philatelic importance of an exhibit is demonstrated by the degree of difficulty of the material available in terms of its philatelic significance. A development based on material of high philatelic interest (which does not necessarily mean of greater rarity) is more appreciated than one for which only common material is available

#### 4.4. Condition and Rarity

The Condition is based on the usual overall criteria of evaluation in philately. For modern material good condition is an essential requirement.

Cancellation must be clear, and allow the stamp design where relevant to be clearly seen.

The rarity is based on objective criteria such as quantity of issue, difficulty of acquisition and the presence of exceptional items.

It is essential that varieties, proofs, essays, strips, blocks, etc., are rarer than the original piece, in order to increase the philatelic level and to avoid the exhibit becoming just a specialized philatelic study.

It is obvious that items which, despite being very rare have no or insufficient relationship to the theme should not be included in the evaluation.

#### 4.5 Presentation

The efforts of the exhibitor are demonstrated by the arrangement of the items and the text on appropriate exhibition pages. White or pale-colored sheets, which do not detract from the material, are preferred.

Presentation techniques (e.g. the mounting and framing of stamps and documents) should be consistent and near throughout the pages.

##### Presentation of material

An individual page shall not be overcrowded or too empty. In order to avoid overcrowding, it is sufficient, in principle, to show only one item out of a long set (stamp, or postal stationery, or cancellation, etc.) with the same design; the use of several items with exactly the same design should be limited to special circumstances, e.g.

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INDIAN STATE POSTAL STATIONERY  
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## REKHA MAFATLAL SHETH,

28/D/415, MANISH NAGAR,  
FOUR BUNGLOWS, ANDHERI (WEST),  
BOMBAY 400 058.

- reasons of symmetry
- balance in the text
- specific thematic significance
- philatelic significance.

This does not apply when the same design is common to different types of material (stamps, and/or the imprint the illustration of postal stationery, and/or special cancellations, etc.) or when the items belong to several countries.

Sometimes the same item can be used to make several thematic points (e.g. because of its secondary designs). It is suggested that, to avoid repetition, the item is shown in different conditions (e.g. single, variety, proof, on cover with a relevant thematic cancellation, etc..)

In the case of very common items, the overcrowding of the page with documents and postal stationery items can be avoided by showing the essential thematic and philatelic parts through cuttings in the page ("windows") This often represents a viable alternative to the "cutting" of the documents.

Larger documents can sometimes adversely affect the thematic balance: it should be considered therefore if they present a greater rarity and condition than a single stamp or a cancellation on piece.

In principle, the overlapping of documents cannot always be avoided. The visual results are less disturbing for normal, commercial, service, and official correspondence, and in case of some themes (e.g. organizations, events, spe-

cific history, etc.) rather than others (e.g. artistic or esthetic themes).

The choice between mint or used stamps is left to the exhibitor. From a visual point of view, it is recommended that an exhibit consists of only one or the other. When this is not feasible because of philatelic reasons (e.g. a stamp which is by far rarer in the other condition), or of difficulty of acquisition, at least the mixing of mint and used stamps on the same page should be avoided. However, the inclusion of postally travelled items on a page does not imply that every stamp on the same page must be used.

Postal stationery can be shown mint or used, according to their philatelic importance and to the taste of the exhibitor. They must not be cut. Furthermore, the "windowing" of stationery items should be strictly limited to very common items selected because of their cancellation and should never be used when the item is shown because of its imprint and/or side illustration.

Only for justified philatelic reasons should the same stamp be shown single and cover or card. In principle it is sufficient to present the latter, provided it has also a thematic cancellation.

Stamps used for describing the development should not be shown on documents without a relevant thematic cancellation unless the document has a clear philatelic significance. The exhibitor should avoid showing covers where too many different stamps are not related to the theme (e.g. a set of which only one or two items are relevant).

#### **Text**

The repetition of the title of the collection on each page is only a waste of space. The headings on the page should identify the arrangement according to the sub-divisions of the plan and summarize the content of the page; where necessary, this can be achieved by presenting more detailed sub-divisions. When a numbering system is adopted for the plan page, it should also be used throughout all the pages.

Photocopies or photographs of the reverse side of a document (showing e.g. the stamp imprint of postal stationery or postmarks) may be used if only in this way important information is presented.

Simple and effective maps and diagrams may be used in few exceptional cases as a supplement to the text where they help toward a better understanding of the development and allow the text to be kept brief.

#### **Art 5 — JUDGING**

The Jury shall make full use of the points breakdown as in Art 5.2 of the SREV

It is strongly recommended that the thematic Judges complete an evaluation form in order to be guided towards a thorough and consistent judgment.

The FIP Thematic Commission shall provide a reference form.

The presence of faked, forged or repaired items which are not clearly marked as such, will cause the downgrading of the exhibit. Collectors are therefore recommended to have any doubtful item expertized before selecting it for the exhibit.