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BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

Editorial

Is Philately so silent ?

Normally we overdo things & make much ado about small things. We project ourselves much larger than life size. And yet how many people outside Calcutta knew that Calcutta hosted a national philatelic exhibition ? The country's biggest media the AIR & Doordarshan were represented on the publicity committee but there was no curtain raiser, nor publicity of the progress of the exhibition. There was no newspaper coverage. Stamp collectors the country over were kept in the dark. It does not pay the hobby if the publicity is restricted to the few people who are on the F C I's governing body or are big shots in the local philatelic circle. The prospectus

threw an open invitation to new collectors to come and join the exhibition, of course with the recommendation of the Commissioner, but did the organisers address the philatelic clubs outside Calcutta ?

Seminars were attended by few, and cultural functions sparsely attended. About 100 frames were vacant, about 20 of which were filled up impromptu the organisers lacked effective communication with distant participants.

Participants from the mofussil areas were not treated fairly. None of them received a copy of catalogue nor of the souvenir. Medals are yet to reach them (by the time we went to the press).

How would we expect to draw the non-initiated in to the hobby and keep the interests of the initiated on the right track ?

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA

Minutes of the Regional Meeting of Philatelic Congress of India held at I.S.P.C. Friendship Society, C/O Cultural Department of Russian Federation Consulate General, Gorky Sadan, Calcutta on 27th December 1993 at 7.00 P.M.

The 83 Members attended the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Col. L. G. Sheno, President, PCI. Mr. D. N. Jatia, Mr. P. Gupta, Mr. Dilip Shah, Secretary General, PCI and Dr. D. J. Banerjee were in the chair.

Dr. Banerjee welcomed all the members who were attending the meeting and mentioned a special thanks to President ISPC for arranging a regional meeting at Calcutta.

Col. Sheno said it was a pleasure to be in Calcutta for holding a regional meeting. He said this Land of Bengal, specially, Calcutta has produced many distinguished Philatelists. He specially mentioned that with the support and efforts of members, PCI has entered in 18th year of its existence. The future of Indian Philately depends on the new generation. For this PCI has set up a youth chapter and we are required to arrange workshops on philately in schools and train the children to adopt this hobby.

Mr. N. C. Bole requested the President to highlight the PCI activities and achievements. Col. Sheno briefly spoke on the subject.

Prof. V.K. Gupta said that the PCI has turned us into real Philatelists. Our international participation is very satisfactory and Indian Participants are bringing honour and medals to the country.

Mr. S. Sahoo of Orissa requested the congress to hold the meetings in backward provinces and rural Districts. He also said that in Orissa a lesson is being introduced on Philately in the text-books. A paper of 30 marks on Philately has been incorporated in Xth Class examination.

Dr. Mrs. Sita Bhateja informed about activities of the Karnataka Society and suggested that the members should be informed about it through 'SIGNET'. She also enquired what other societies were doing in this respect. Mr. Jatia replied that in spite of our repeated reminders to Societies, we are not receiving proper feed-back and requested the members to send information relating to their activities for publication in 'SIGNET'.

Col. Sheno informed that Mr. Prabhakara of Karnataka has

written a book on Philately in local language for rural areas. He has held 633 one man Exhibitions till now in rural areas for the promotion of Philately and he has also attended a number of Exhibitions in India as well as abroad.

Brig. Virk suggested that to develop Philately in 3rd World, PCI should promote thematic and create more awareness about it in India. Col. Sheno informed the House that Brig Virk is the Second Indian to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP). The house congratulated him.

Mr. R. K. Bagri informed about thematic collection as well as thematic exhibition which was organised by Jamshedpur Philatelic Society. He expressed special thanks to Mr. S. S. Basan for taking troubles to spread Philately among junior as well as senior collectors of Jamshedpur.

Mr. Amal Kumar Bose requested for the publication of revised Directory of Members as the previous issue had become very old and out of date. It is requested all the members of PCI to send details of their collecting interests, address, Phone No./Fax No. to the Secretary General PCI so that these may be sent to the Editor, 'SIGNET' for further action. Mr. Amal Kumar Bose has very generously agreed for publishing the new directory in book form.

Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das informed the members to carefully go through frame Nos. 567-570 on which Model good as well as bad Exhibits of Traditional Philately and Postal History were displayed. Mr. D. N. Jatia informed the House that this is available in Booklet form. If any members require the same they should place an order with Mr. M. G. Pittie of Hyderabad.

Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta informed the House that the Philatelic Society of India will be celebrating its Centenary in 1997. It is a year when we will be also celebrating Golden Jubilee of our Independence. It was decided to request the Department of Posts for holding an International Exhibition in 1997. Mr. Jatia said that the matter will be taken up in the proposed meeting with Hon'ble Communication Minister in February 1994.

Mr. Dilip Shah, Secretary General, PCI gave the vote of thanks. He thanked the I.S.P.C. and specially Consul General of Cultural activities of Russian Federation for holding the regional meeting of P.C.I. He thanked all who had come from outstation and graced the occasion and the Secretary, I.S.P.C. for hosting the dinner.

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 Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannian Street, Madras 3. (7 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT UNSORTED MIXTURES

by Bill Olcheski

Have you ever wished you could find a source for truly "unsorted" stamp mixtures? Do not wish too hard, you may get your wish and not be too happy with the results. That was the response of one reader who purchased an unsorted mix. After his experience, he said, "A stamp is worth whatever a knave can make a fool pay for it."

I acquire stamps from many sources, including schools and churches. The accumulations come in many forms, and I buy all of them in order to ensure that the senders will call me the next time they have stamps to sell. The great bulk of the stamps I get are common issues, often with double paper or even cardboard backings. When I appraise such an accumulation, I make an educated guess on what I will have left after I weed out the unsalable and the "other-than-philatelic" material included in the boxes. It is only after I get the stamps home that the real fun begins.

My wife, deciding that I will be 104 years old if I live long enough to get through the stamps I have waiting to be sorted, has become an unpaid "volunteer" who helps with the processing. First we go through the bulk stamps and tear off the extra paper. At the same time, we discard the common stamps on colored paper to prevent some novice collector from ruining a batch of stamps by soaking them with the rest of the contents of the mix and adding some unexpected color to the lot.

At this point, we separate the commemoratives from the definitives and the most common stamps from the rest. At the end of the process, we add in enough commemoratives to make the "beginner bags" interesting. Although we figure our time is valued at about eight cents per hour, we have a great fringe benefit—sorting gives us the opportunity to discuss everything from books we have read recently to what to give the grandchildren for Christmas.

Suppose we eliminated the processing and made the stamps available in truly "unsorted" mixtures. Let me give you an example of what could happen. I bought a large accumulation from a local school. I try to be generous in my purchase price estimate, as I realize I do not have time to go through all of the material at the purchase site. Sometimes I gamble and buy a sealed box, figuring that I am bound to find enough good material to get my money back. The last time I tried that I had purchased a box of thousands of the George Washington 5-cent stamp, all on double paper. Needless to say, there was no point in trying to salvage anything from that box. I put them back in the box and donated them to the stamps for veterans project.

They have many other thousands of stamps to mix with them and turn them into part of an interesting package. If you had sent in \$5 for a truly "unsorted" mix, you might have received thousands of a common stamp.

Another problem with "unsorted" mixes is improper storage. Some of the accumulation boxes may have been stored in a damp place—the mint stamps will be stuck together, and the stamps on colored paper will have bled into the other stamps.

If you were to order an "unsorted worldwide mixture," you could get mostly common U.S. stamps for your money, since the United States is part of the world.

What can you do as a new collector to protect yourself against such deals? First, accept the premise that most stamp dealers are honest and will give you what they say in their ads. Next, be sure you read what the ad says rather than what you would like it to say. Third, never buy an expensive lot without being exactly sure what you are getting—reserving the right to return it if it is not as advertised. Finally, make a sample purchase. If the dealer is offering a \$50 mix, send \$2 or \$3 and ask for a sample of the kind of material you would be getting in the larger lot.

If you still want to gamble on an unsorted mix, get in touch with schools and churches in your area and ask them to collect stamps for you. Work out a payment schedule within your budget and then wait for them to call you when they have an accumulation. You might not be pleased every time with what you get, but you will have a lot of fun in the process.

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Master will/kindly obtain this/cover and forward/to theInspector of/Post Offices, Ajmere" in five lines.

All the above examples are without any headings

Type III. In this case the wording is normally enclosed in a printed rectangle but, if the label has been cut close only a part or nothing of the printing lines appear.

(a) "Please return cover to Postman/for transmission to Inspector/General, R.M.S. Calcutta" in three lines Size 39 x 13 mm. Seen used circa 1885 - 90 Long sized label normally seen in pale colour. Two examples known to the author are (i) On February 1885 cover from Mirzapore to Mau with strike of Renouf type 141 a G.1 OT (ii) Cover from Bareilly to Bombay Oct. 10, 1890 with no railway cancellations but blue manuscript marking G 7 OT.

(b) "Please return cover/to Postman for/ transmission to/Inspector Genl., /R.M.S. Calcutta". in five lines size 21 x 11 mm. This seems to have been in widespread use for a long time from circa 1885 to 1904. It is seen in thick and crude printed letters. A variety has been seen with the parallel lines at the side and also with more space between the lines of wordings. Most of the covers we have come across are with the labels cancelled by a railway cancellation.

(c) Similar as in 'B' above but with the heading MISSENT in serif capital letters(?)

(d) At a later date circa 1894 the words "R.M.S. Calcutta" were substituted by the words "R.M.S. in India". It appears that this change was effected for administrative reasons but many offices and railway divisions continued to use their stock of the old labels with the former wording. This label is seen in various sizes and was used for a long time upto 1906. It is also seen on Edwadian envelopes. It is seen with the black border lines.

(e) With the words 'MISSENT' in serif capital letters at the top. One example in the author's collection is with Dept. in a small rectangle at the top on a 1906 example. It also has large empty spaces above and below the wordings and large margins at the side. Most of these covers manuscript wordings in blue pencil mostly of the town name.

The 'A' of India is found missing circa 1902.

Type IV. Similar wording as Type III but to be transmitted to non R.M.S. postal official.

(a) "Please return cover to Postman/for transmission to Dy. Post-/Master General, C.P. & Berar" in three lines enclosed in a rectangle of black lines.

(b) "Please return cover to / Post man for transmission to the Dy./Postmaster General/ Rajputana" in five lines. (c) "MISSENT/Please return this/envelope to the /Postman, for /transmission to /the Dy. Post-/master-General / Sind Karachi" in eight lines circa 1897

(d) Some other similar examples seen are with "Post Master General, Punjab (Circ 1902) "Postmaster General, Punjab and N.W.P. (1905) "Postmaster General Bengal" (1897) "Postmaster General Madras" (1886)

In the Punjab example the 'r' of "return" has been seen missing.

Type V. Those requesting the recipient to return cover to Postman. (a) Without mentioning the purpose/ "MISSENT" / Please return this / envelope to the / Postman." in four lines enclosed in a printed rectangle - Size 22 x 14 mm. Found used circa 1883 - 1899 on covers mainly from Bombay and Punjab Circle. The recipient was not informed as to why he had to return the cover to the Postman. This type has been seen in light grey and jet black printing inks and in differentsized letters, both crude and sharp. Normally there is a full stop after "MISSENT" but some have been seen without the full stop. Similarly another variation seen is the printing error return instead of return..

(b) "Cover wrongly dealt/with by P.O. Please / return to postman for / enquiry and notice" in four lines without the word MISSENT as heading. In this type the recipient is apprised of the purpose of his returning the cover. In both subtypes of Type V it is not mentioned to which place the cover is to be returned. Size 25 x 11 mm. This type is found widely used between 1897 and 1905. Some examples are seen in very crude and thick letters. They have been seen with wording enclosed in a block rectangle. Many of the examples seen have the labels cancelled by place / date handstamp.

In this type a very unusual dull red inverted equilateral triangular label has been seen. It is the only type seen in a colour other than yellow and in a triangular form. The triangular is of 35 mm on each side. "NOTICE/ This cover has been in - / correctly dealt with by / the post-office, please/

therefore return it / to the Postman / for necessary / enquires and / suitable / notice." in ten lines Circa 1894 to 1900.

The label is also cut in the form of a triangle. The example in the author's collection is on a Queen Victoria 1-2 A. green postal envelope used on January 10, 1896 from Ajmere to Bundi wrongly sent to Canpore. Another example recorded is tied with Bareilly c.d.s. of May 29, 1900. The example is also seen with the label cut square.

(Information on this type of red triangular labels will be most welcomed and acknowledged with thanks)

(c) "This cover is required for / official reference. The ad- / dresse is kindly requested / to return it to postman not/ing here the / place it was posted at." Seen used on Q.V. 1-2 a p.s. posted 16-5-1902 from Aligarh in Tonk state missent to Madhupur. The label is tied with Madhupur cds. of May 19, 1902. Size 35 mm x 15 mm and wording in six times. This label may have been used where it was not possible for the P.O. to ascertain from the envelope where the cover had been posted. The recipient could give this information after reading the contents of the letter.

VI. Other Missent or affiliated instructional markings and labels.

(a) a purple marking seen on Edward postcard of 1910 to Benares "To ensure an earlier delivery your letters should always be addressed "Benares City" United Provinces."

(b) Semi Circular red "found in the Portable B" it could also have been for wrong posting circa 1866.

(c) framed "found in/overland/letter Box" circa 1870.

(d) Circular "Posted/In Wrong/Box." Circa 1899.

(e) Label seen on letter from Mandivee (Kathiawar) dt. July 19, 1871 to Zanzibar "Not fully prepaid for despatch by Bombay, should therefore be forwarded by French Packet from Calcutta."

Various questions puzzle the ardent postal historian as regards these Missent markings and Inspectors labels. Why are these labels seen on some Missent covers and not on other from the same places and during the same period? At what stage of the journey were they affixed? By whom were they affixed? Were they a sort of test checking? Why are they seen only on postal stationery envelopes and not on ordinary non-official covers with stamps affixed? Why have they not been seen on Postcards? Why are some labels cancelled and others not? Why are they predominantly seen from Punjab Rajasthan and Bombay Postal Circles? Why only some have blue pencilled manuscript markings and not all? These are just some of the questions that have puzzled me and I pray that this humble effort to pen my observations will bring forth some light from other students of Indian Postal history.

(References : Old Volumes of India's Stamp Journal, and India Post; acknowledge with thanks the cooperation extended by Mr. Mansingh Nahar of Indore)

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8.11.93 : Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu : 100p .

Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu was born in Bangalore on 8th November, 1893 in a deeply religious and traditional family devoted to classical music. The handicap of having to leave school at an early age due to poor eye-sight, turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Venkataswamy and set him on a glorious career as violinist. His elder brother, an accomplished violinist himself, initiated young Venkataswamy into this instrument and he made remarkable progress by dint of ardent application and inherent merit. The Principal of the Maharaja Music College in Vizianagaram was so impressed by his recital that he appointed him as professor in 1919, the youngest to be elevated to that eminence. In 1936, Dwaram was appointed the Principal of the College a post he held for 18 years. In 1927, his debut at the All-India Music Conference in Madras launched his career on a higher orbit. Thereafter, he accompanied many masters of music and even performed solo concerts.

Venkataswamy's adaptability helped him to utilise ideas from Hindustani and Western music in his rendering of Carnatic music without affecting its fundamental structure and ancient tradition. He was innovative and believed that music, like arts and science, should be perpetually Progressive. His technical mastery over the instrument gave ample proof of his creative genius. His inborn talent and acquired skill coupled with profound devotion to art and a moral earnestness and humility endowed his music with a spiritual flavour. Deeply versed in the science of music, he would often explore the deeper realms of sound and newer technical possibilities. Venkataswamy was a soloist par excellence.

Many tributes, honours and awards came his way, the most notable being the President's Award in 1953 and the title of Padma Shri in 1959.

Venkataswamy was an ardent collector of books on music and musicology and in order to satisfy his thirst for knowledge, he would make his disciples read out to him from treatises and encyclopedias. He had even turned down offers of treatment for his weak eye sight as this enabled him to shut out the world around him and play the violin to his heart's content.

Life to Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu was a quest for truth through the medium of music and he spent it seeking ever greater heights in this sphere. Dwaram passed away in Hyderabad in 1964.

Thematic value : Greatman, music, violin.

8.11.93 Golden Jubilee of College of Military Engineering, Pune : 200p.

As the World War II progressed, the demand for training of military engineers increased and the necessity of centralising it in one institution for organising better technical and specialist training of officers and other personnel was felt. Accordingly, efforts were made for starting a School of

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Military Engineering (SME) on the lines of SME Chatham. It, therefore, became necessary to find a home for the School of Military Engineering and after careful consideration, the present site at Kirkee, Pune was selected in 1946. By end of 1947, the Institution started moving to its new location and the move was completed by the beginning of 1948.

It was the first project of any magnitude to be carried out in India since the War. Work on permanent construction commenced in 1948 and most of the accommodation was completed by 1958. Rapid expansion of the College took place after 1963 to cater to the increased intake necessitated by the expansion of the Army.

In this college, in addition to all ranks from Army, Navy and Airforce, even civilian officers are trained in Protective aspects of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare, strategic, Camouflage concealment, deception techniques and Bomb disposal techniques. The institution also runs few package courses and Diploma Engineering Courses for NCOs of military Engineering Services and General Reserve Engineering force (Border Roads).

This Premier institution is the nucleus of all Military Combat Engineering Studies in India, where in addition to training in various Combat Engineering disciplines, tests and trial of new equipment and stores, routine and specialised tests on engineering materials used in new projects, study of latest techniques in military combat engineering are being carried out.

The college provides facilities in almost every sport, i.e. Hockey, Football, Basket-ball, Volleyball, Squash, Badminton, Tennis, Golf, Cricket, Swimming, Rowing, Yachting and Hang gliding. Number of officers & other rank of the Corps have participated in Olympics, Asian games and other competitions at International and National level and brought laurels to the College and the Corps. Presently the Indian teams for rowing and yachting are being trained at the College.

The Golden Jubilee of the College is being celebrated this year.

Thematic Value: Military, Engineering, Education, Sports, Combat.

14.11.93 Children's Day : 100p.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's concern for children and young people as the precious resource for the nation's future was legendary. 14th november, which is Nehru's birthday is celebrated as Children's Day in India "The building up of a nation" Nehru had said, depends on building men and women and the process of building men and women depends

very considerably on what is done to children. it is therefore, of high importance that we pay attention to the well-being and growth of children.

Every year, on the occasion of Children's Day, the Postal Department brings out a special postage stamp, generally based on paintings done by children. This year (1993) saw a happy convergence of Children's day and the inauguration of the prestigious biennial International Film Festival for children and Young People (I'CYP) held at Udaipur from 14 to 23 November 1993. The 'Children's Day postage stamp for 1993 is based on Udaipur I'CYP India November 14-23, 1993.

The highlight of the stamp is the 8th I'CYP mascot 'Gajju'. As the Festival organisers put it, "endearing to children the world over, an elephant evokes friendly awe, admiration and even a strange fascination. It also symbolises an uncanny memory of things past.... the rendering is spontaneous, free of all rules and as symmetrical as a child's thinking".

9.12.93 Heart Care Festival : 650p

"Avoid stress, negative thinking and avoid a heart attack". The heart is vital organ in the human body and we often take it for granted, that the heart will go on ticking without much effort. The heart however needs a lot of care to go on beating. The Heart Care Foundation of India was started to provide this awareness in the minds of the public and was founded by smt. Pushpa Chopra in 1986.

In these 7 years, the Foundation has earned a reputation as a conduit for the latest techniques managing heart disease. The objectives of this organisation are to create awareness about the increasing scourge of heart disease and the importance of simple preventive measure as also to organise education programmes for doctors such as conferences, seminars, workshops and to enlist the support of voluntary agencies for free heart check up and treatment of those who cannot afford the high cost of this treatment. The milestones include the "Save a Life Campaign" for Delhi Police, "Shashi Bala Save a Life" campaign and the acquisition of Ambulances. It was this Foundation that in 1991 conducted a campaign "Run for your heart".

This year the Foundation organised the "Heart Care Festival" from December 9th to 19th in association with the Government of the National Capital Territory. Integral to this festival are two major events WORLDCON-93 and 'The Perfect Health Mela'. Two thousand doctor delegates from all over the world attended sessions on clinical cardiology and one of the major attractions was MEDIEXPO-93 an exhibition of medical, surgical and diagnostic tools, both for the patients and the specialists. The Perfect Health mela' aims to bring home its message through fun and recreation skits, plays, folk dances.

Stress has to be managed by the individual himself more than his physician. The effect of stress on the cardio-vascular system is hardly discriminated by the individual. The commemorative stamp being issued to mark the Heart Care Festival shows the 3 phases depression, stress and despondency, the 3 negatives which should be avoided for prevention of a heart attack! A depiction of the heart as a flower protected by 2 leaves, is also the LOGO of the Heart Care Foundation of India.

9.12.93 Dr Dwarkanth Kotnis :100p

Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis was born on the 10th October 1910 at Sholapur in a lower middle class family. He entered the medical field and joined the G.S. Medical College, Bombay. Inspired by the ideals of freedom and liberty he joined the movement against British rule. Because of this, he had to leave the college, but with single minded doggedness he graduated from the Grant Medical College, Bombay in 1936. The spirit of anticolonialism and anti-imperialism pervaded the atmosphere. It was also the period when Japanese aggression on China was in full flow. In response to the appeal for help from Chinese leaders, the Indian National Congress decided that medical teams would be sent and an 'AID CHINA' committee was formed. Many idealistic doctors empathised with this struggle and responded. Dr. Kotnis volunteered and became a part of the team of 5 doctors and left for China in spite of his family's monetary needs. Even while on board the young Dr. Kotnis set to work and learnt the Chinese language from a Chinese scholar who was a copassenger. Dr. Edgar Suai's Book 'RED STAR OVER CHINA' impressed Dr. Kotnis greatly, and he made up his mind to go the areas where the Eighth Route army led by Mao Zedong was fighting against Japan.

On reaching China the Mission began to work at various hospitals where wounded soldiers were admitted. While in China Kotnis learnt

the news of his father's sudden death but decided to stay and serve the cause for which he went to China. The Mission reached Yenen in North China where they met Mao Zedong in March 1993. Dr. Kotnis and Dr. Basu continued to stay in China while the rest of the team returned to India. Dr. Kotnis was sent to Shansichahar-Hoper border to work in the hospital set up by the famous Canadian Surgeon Dr. Norman Bethune. Dr. Kotnis became the Director of the International peace hospital which was later named after Dr. Bethune. In an extremely difficult terrain in the remote hilly regions, he had to treat wounded soldiers and the local people.

He also taught medicine to China's youth in the Junior Medical School of the Hospital and prepared many teaching notes in the Chinese language and thus built up the medical services in that difficult region. He identified himself with the struggling Chinese people in such a way that he even used to participate in cultivation and other social activities. Dr. Kotnis married Guo Qinglan a colleague nurse in the hospital. She gave birth to a son who was named In-Hua meaning 'India - China'

However, he did not think of his own health much and continued his routine work which resulted in his pre-mature death on 9th December 1942. at Kokun village of north China.

In his condolence message Chairman Mao wrote ".....the army has lost a helping hand, the nation has lost a friend. Let us always bear in mind his international spirit"

In 1976 the Chinese Govt. set up a Dr. Kotnis Memorial Hall at Sehizia - Chuang, Capital of Hebei province. Even non-Chinese School children are taught about Kotnis how a foreign friend sacrificed his life for the liberation of Chinese people.

The FDC shows Dr. Kotnis on an outcall in Yanan.

Credits

Text source: Dr. Kotnis memorial committee, Calcutta. Design Credits-Stamp: India Security Press Nashik. FDC & Cancellation: Mrs. Alka Sharma. Technical data same as College of Military Engg-Pune Thematic Value: Medicine, Doctor, Hindi-chini Bhaibhai, India on foreign soil.

11.12.93 : India Tea : 600p.

For over 1,500 years a cup of tea has brought cheer and joy to people throughout the world. It was ancient Chinese who first drank tea for its medicinal value and later adopted it as a beverage from the 4th century. The Japanese raised tea drinking to a fine art in their tea ceremonies. The Tartars, the Moghuls, the Tibetans-all of them fell for the taste of this beverage and drank it in the fashion most suited to them. Tea drinking in

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Europe and England began in the middle of the 17th century. Strange but true, in India, apart from certain tribes of Assam, tea was not used as a beverage until the British introduced it. Though tea was a subject of controversy in the 17th century, it gradually became the subject of inspired poetry when William Cowper sang "The cup that cheers but not inebriate". Tea had arrived in a big way in the drawingrooms of the elite and the streets of the market place.

Tea industry today employs a million workers in various estates spread over north, east and south India. It also generates gainful employment to a large segment of People engaged in ancillary and supporting services. Tea estates have been historically located in industrially backward areas and continue to play a pivotal role in supporting the tribal communities in those areas. The spread of tea estates was instrumental in the opening up of remote parts of India in terms of infrastructure such as roads and railways. Tea is a substantial foreign exchange earner and nets around Rs. 1200 crores annually. It also provides large revenues to the Central and State exchequers.

Indian tea, like the country itself, represents unity in the midst of diversity. The varying agro-climatic conditions of growth spanning the snowy peaks of Darjeeling up in the north to the sea levels of south Travancore; and the wide spectrum of the product ranging from the traditional black tea to the modern convenience beverage inherent in tea bags and instant tea, contribute to the uniqueness of Indian tea.

A specific thrust was given in the Year 1993 towards promoting the Indian tea in the world market. As part of its promotion thrust, trade fairs, buyer-seller meets etc. have been organised by the Indian Tea industry.

The country is commemorating 1993 as the year of India Tea. The first day cover readily recall to mind Rabindranath Tagore's lines.

Come oh come	Yea tea-thirsty
Restless ones	The Kettle boils
Bubbles and sings	Musically.

16.12.93 Papal Seminary, Pune Centenary- 1893-1993 : 600p.

The Papal Seminary, Pune, celebrates its centenary year in 1993. The history of the Seminary goes back to the year 1893 when Pope Leo XIII, with farsighted vision, aspired to establish a Seminary to train indigenous priests in India. It was opened in Candy in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in May 1893. In 1955 the Seminary was moved to Pune in India.

The Papal Seminary is an all-India institution, catering to students from various Parts of the country, with their different cultures and languages.

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The Pontifical Athenaeum, today known as "Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth," attached to the Papal Seminary has in the course of its long history, trained some 5560 Priest and religious. In 1968 it opened its doors to men and women of different faiths. The Papal Seminary has the distinction of having given our country its first two Indian Cardinals (in Bombay and Ernakulam) and some 65 Bishops or Church leaders. The Papal Seminary is run by the Jesuit Order, which is famous all over the world for its educational institutions.

The Seminary's over-all programme embraces spiritual, intellectual and cultural training. The academic courses go from under-graduate to doctorate levels in Philosophy and Theology. The syllabus offers a wide variety of courses on Indian subjects, such as the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Bhagavadgita, the Darshanas, Vedanta, Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam, Modern Hinduism and Modern Indian Thought. Much emphasis is laid also on Indian spirituality, inter-religious dialogue and intergration as well as social involvement.

The Centenary of the Papal Seminary is a significant event for both the Church and our country through involvement in the work for justice and uplift of the poor, for peace, dialogue and national intergration, both religious and cultural, in order to help build a new and better India tomorrow. Indeed the Centenary Theme of the Papal Seminary, depicted in the form of a mandal design is: Sarvajiva sukham sarvadhama sakhya-m-the happiness of all living beings and friendship among all religions. This design appears on the First-day cover being issued.

The Department of Posts has issued the postage stamp to mark the centenary of such institutions which have contributed greatly to the country's upliftment, education and progress. The Department is happy to continue this tradition with a commemorative postage stamp on the Centenary of Papal Seminary, Pune.

Thematic Value : Education, Religion, Centenary, Universal brotherhood.
23.12.93 Meghanad Saha : 100p.

Professor Meghanad Saha belongs to an outstanding group of Indian Scientists whose contributions revolutionised specific branches of Knowledge and earned global recognition. He rose from amongst the weakest sections of the society and established himself as one of the intellectual giants of the period.

Prof. M.N. Saha's greatest contribution, in the field of science is the theory of thermal ionisation. The theory, which afterwards was to bear his name, is one of the corner stones of theoretical astrophysics. He also made notable contributions in the field of magnetism, statistical physics, ionospheric physics, nuclear physics etc. He was one of the earliest contributors to the concept of monopoles and its physical consequences. The fellowship of Royal Society was bestowed upon him for his outstanding scientific contributions.

In the context of building scientific schools and science organisations, Prof. Saha surpassed most of his contemporaries. He built a strong group of nuclear physicists while he was Palit Professor of the Physics Department, Calcutta University. The effort ultimately culminated in the founding of the Institute of Nuclear Physics, where his students in later years earned international reputation. Here, he initiated pioneering activities in three frontline fields of research viz. particle accelerator, nuclear magnetic resonance and modern biophysics. Prof. Saha took over the leadership of the prestigious Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in 1953 and created new facilities and infrastructures for this institution. Though he was a theoretician, he always emphasised the importance of experimental research. In all his efforts, both scientific and social, he demonstrated the quality of harnessing the initiative of the common people. Aptly therefore, acritic in the renowned journal 'New Scientist' described him as a "prophet of Indian Science".

Prof. Saha was an avowed supporter of National Planning. It was through his ardent efforts that a National Planning Committee came into being under the aegis of the Indian National Congress in the

VISIT INPEX - 93

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

CALCUTTA

25TH DEC. TO 29TH DEC. 1993

AT NETHAJI INDOOR STADIUM

preindependence era.

1993 is Prof. Saha's Birth Centenary year. Postage stamp marks the Centenary of this illustrious figure of Indian Science. The FDC depict sketch of Prof. Saha with his signature.

NARGIS DUTT: (100p) The commemorative stamp on Nargis Dutt was released on 30.12.93 at Bombay.

Nargis Dutt was a legendary figure even in her life time as a film artiste and a social worker. To Nargis Dutt goes the credit of many firsts. She was the first Indian artiste to receive the international award for the best actress at the Karlovyvary Film Festival in 1958. She was the first actress to receive the Urvashi Award in 1968. She was decorated with the title 'Padma Sri' in 1958. Added to all these Mrs. Dutt was the first film actress to be nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1980. Nargis Dutt along with Smt. Mithu Alur started the first Society and School of Spastics in 1972 with only 3 children. Today the spastic society has branches in Bombay, Delhi, Bangalore, Calcutta and Madras for education and rehabilitation of spastic children and adults.

The stamp design features a charming profile of Nargis Dutt together with the symbol of the Spastic Society of India. The First Day Cover design shows her receiving an award from President Zakir Hussain and the Cancellation design depicts the classic still from the film 'Mother India'.

2. INPEX-93 During Inpex-93 held in Calcutta between 25th and 29th December '93 the Department of Posts released two stamps.

STATIONERY ISSUED IN 1993

- 06.01.93 Reply Postcard with Tiger Head Revised Design (Green Colour)
- 06.01.93 Reply postcard with Tiger Head Revised Design (Blue Colour)
- 06.01.93 Single Postcard with Tiger Head Revised Design (Green Colour)
- 20.01.93 ILC Advt. in Hindi-Drugs
- 25.01.93 PC-Advt. in Hindi-Drugs
- 01.02.93 Aerogramme-Indian Spices mark of Indianees and quality.
- 09.02.93 ILC with Advt. Drugs push you into pain and sufferings.
- 22.02.93 PC Adult Education in Hindi.
- 22.02.93 PC Adult Education in Telugu.
- 25.02.93 ILC ILC Philips India - A Hundred years.
- 15.03.93 PC - M/C Food - Cook Rice in Just sufficient water in Kannada.
- 15.03.93 PC - M/C Food - Cook Rice in Just sufficient water in Tamil.
- 22.03.93 ILC Ensure prompt Registration of Birth and Death.
- 26.04.93 ILC Pink colour, Gray colour, ordinary ILCs.
- 26.04.93 ILC HFDC - Quick and Easy Home Loans.
- 26.04.93 ILC Agmark - Seal of Purity and quality.
- 14.05.93 PC - Save through Peerless.
- 24.05.93 Aerogramme - Dream will drawn when sugar is Brown.
- 24.05.93 Aerogramme - A puff A pinch A Bite can push you into Darkness.
- 20.06.93 Aerogramme - LIC Housing Finance Ltd Housing Loan for NRIS.
- 21.06.93 Postcard - Cook Rice in just sufficient water in Bangala.
- 21.06.93 Postcard - Cook Rice in just sufficient water in Malayalam.
- 21.06.93 Postcard - Cook Rice in just sufficient water in Telugu.
- 21.06.93 Postcard - Life Insurance Corporation in Hindi.
- 28.06.93 ILC New variety land a vital resources.
- 15.07.93 ILC Adult Education in Oriya.
- 20.07.93 PC - Hindi Environment.
- 20.07.93 PC - Hindi Environment.
- 20.07.93 ILC - Hindi for a safe Future Insure today.
- 26.07.93 ILC - Adult Education in Tamil.
- 26.07.93 ILC - Adult Education in Oriya.
- 27.09.93 ILC - Adult Education in Hindi.
- 27.09.93 ILC - Adult Education in Bangala.
- 27.09.93 Aerogramme Eng - Catholice Syrian Bank Ltd.
- 27.09.93 Aerogramme Eng - Air India.
- 29.10.93 PC - Life Insurance Corporation - Insure and Be secure.
- 05.11.93 Cover with message - Greetings - Congratulations (Two Covers).
- 29.11.93 PC M/O Welfare in Hindi.
- 29.11.93 PC Pick up a flower Adopt a child.
- 29.11.93 PC Bureau of Indian Standards in Hindi.
- 29.11.93 ILC say no to Drugs yes to Life.
- 29.11.93 ILC M/O Welfare in Hindi.
- 29.11.93 ILC M/O Welfare in Hindi.
- 06.12.93 Aerogramme Eng. A puff a pinch a bite can push you into the darkness - Shun Drugs.
- 06.12.93 Aerogramme - Give a Home to a Homelss child - Adopt an Orphan child.
- 20.12.93 ILC-M/O Welfare in Hindi
- 20.12.93 ILC - M/O Welfare in Hind
- 20.12.93 ILC - Drug Abuse - Life Abuse

a. Inpex-93 - Speed Post (100p) released on 25.12.93

This stamp highlights one of the premier services of the Department of Posts namely Speed Post which was introduced in the year 1986 and is completing 7 years this year. Since its introduction in 1986 the Speed Post has grown tremendously in terms of net work and traffic. Today almost all major towns in the country are linked through Speed post. The International net work is also growing rapidly and it is one of the leader in the courier business. The First Day Cover shows a magic carpet containing speed post letters flying across the country.

b. Inpex-93 (200p) -released on 27.12.93.

The second stamp on Inpex-93 shows the Customs Wharf from a painting of Charles Doyle. This painting was collected from Victoria Memorial Museum, Calcutta. The First Day Cover shows in illuminated view of the famous Victoria memorial in Calcutta.

Indian National Army- Golden Jubilee (100p) 31.12.93.

INA under the leadership of Netaji Subhash Bose has a unique name in India's freedom struggle. INA with the help of the prisoner's of war among the Indian troops who were handed over to Netaji Subhash Bose fought from the eastern frontiers with the ultimate aim of free India from the British rule. The INA with its limitations in terms of material supply and other logistical support could advance as much as 150 km inside the Indian territory. Though their attempts ended with the surrender of the Japanese, INA has left a lasting impact among the Indians which ultimately led to our freedom. The stamp shows Netaji inspecting INA soldiers in the field.

25 POs to handle corporate mail in Madras

The Postal Department has identified 25 important post offices in the city for the collection of bussiness mail across the counter in view of the proposed launching of the metro business channel project for exclusive handling of corporate sector mails, with effect from July 1

The mails posted in these post offices by business establishments, government and sime-government institutions, will be processed at designated sorting centres, an official press release said.

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