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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

THE IMPORTANCE OF REVENUE STAMPS IN PHILATELY

A paper given by Gary S. Ryan to the Collectors Club, New York, 6 October 1993

Mr. President, Members of the Collectors Club of New York and Guests. Thank you for inviting me to talk about Revenues. As some of you know, I have been here before (16 years ago), but on that occasion I was giving a display on Hungarian philately which was concerned only with postage stamps. Today I will speak about Revenue stamps and not postage stamps.

Today I want to demonstrate the Revenue stamps are a most important part of philately and that it is important that they be collected in their own right and not as the poor relations of postage stamps.

A postage stamp represents payment of the service mainly for the carrying of a letter. A Revenue stamp is mainly to record the payment of a tax for which no direct service has normally been rendered. But there are a vast number of different services and this variety is of great importance.

Certainly a collection of Revenues should be regarded as being of equal status to a collection of postage stamps.

To American philatelists there is nothing new in this, because for many years you have had the foresight to keep Revenue stamps in your catalogues and to treat them as part of philately in your Exhibitions, but in Europe and elsewhere the position has been quite different. In France, the Forbin Catalogue of World Revenues ceased to be published after 1915, and from about the same time in England, the Morley and the A.B. Kay Catalogues were no longer regularly updated. In the absence of such priced references there were no yardsticks on which to base trading and dealers no longer offered the stamps for sale, with the result that the collecting of Revenues virtually ceased.

During the last decade, this situation has been changed by the efforts of an international group of collectors who have sought to put Revenues back as an essential part of philately. I have already spoken to an American audience during the

Chicago International Exhibition, and to them and to members of the American Revenue Society this was accepted as a normal and obvious move. Regrettably to many philatelists outside the United States of America the idea was not well received. In particular, established Traditional Philately Judges were worried because of the possibility of the status of their discipline being eroded.

It was even more difficult to persuade the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) to admit Revenues for competition at International Exhibitions, the stumbling block being Article 2.3 of GREV (General Regulations of FIP for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions) which stated that "appropriate material was only material for transmitting postal communications etc., etc" and therefore excluded Revenues.

Nevertheless a few Revenue exhibits were shown at certain Internationals in a so-called 'Experimental class' and sufficient international pressure had been generated for some formal action to be taken. In 1990 I was asked to lead a group of Revenue collectors from many different countries to draft Rules and Guidelines for the exhibition of Revenues at FIP International. As some of you may know, I was largely responsible for drafting the Rules and Guidelines for Traditional Philately in 1978 and similar consultative practices were used for Revenues.

At the FIP Tokyo Congress in 1991, Article 3.2 of GREV was amended to include the words "... or other payment of official dues including Revenues" This done,

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Dear Members,

Wish you a Happy New Year

1994!

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.

RESCIND THE BAN

By Col. L.G. Shenoi, President, Philatelic Congress of India, & Hony. Editor, IND DAK

We had reproduce the Department of Posts Notice that the Ban on Display of Essays, Proofs etc will be applicable only in respect of security materials relating to postage stamps printed in India since 15th August 1947. Adequate time has elapsed since the ban was first imposed to gauge the diastrous effect of the ban. The exhibits in the recently held INPEX-93 National demonstrated how the ban has brought down the standard of post-Independence Traditional exhibits. A review of the exhibits displayed in the competitive section throws up the following picture:-

Characteristics	Pre-Indep	Post-Indep
1. No. of entries	8	5
2. No. of Frames taken	40	19
3. No. of Medals Won :		
i) Large Vermeil	2	
ii) Large Silver	1	-
iii) Silver	2	-
iv) Silver Bronze	1	-
v) Bronze	1	1
Total	7	1
4. Exhibits that did not win any medals	1	4

How dismal ! A senior philatelist wrote to us before the exhibition that with the ban on, post Independence collections, even at their best, were doomed to be downgraded to the Silver Bronze level. In the event, there was no exhibit meriting even a Silver Bronze. How the ban has sapped the will of philatelists to collect post-Independence stamps!!

Our appreciation is that even pre-Independence collections were adversely affected by the imposition of the original ban and there has not been sufficient time for them to recover within the short time since the ban on pre-Independence and Indian States material was lifted. We are genuinely alarmed at the significant downfall of post-independence collections.

We are aware that the security material which has been banned was not officially distributed or disposed of and they were acquired by Philatelists, perhaps, through the clandestine operations of some minions of the officialdom. We would certainly not like to give legitimacy to stolen material; but they

were not certainly stolen by the philatelists or by philatelic trade. In fact, we are not aware that any theft was reported by the Department(s). We are also noting such post-Independence security material has been, and is being, offered in philatelic auctions in the U.K. Under the circumstances, we even doubt the legal validity of the ban (we have not obtained any legal opinion in the matter; we are only basing our opinion on the commonsense view that the possession of an object not acquired either by direct theft or by buying goods declared as stolen, cannot be deemed to be illegal possession)

Taking all these factors in view, we would in all seriousness, and with sincerity and purity of purpose, caution the Postal Administration that the CONTINUANCE OF THE BAN WILL ONLY BE SOUNDING THE DEATH KNEEL OF THE COLLECTION OF POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIAN STAMPS, WHICH CAN ONLY BE A CALAMITY. If the postal administration has any desire to promote the collection of their stamps, PLEASE RESCIND THE BAN IMMEDIATELY.

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THE STORY OF POSTCARDS

Today postcard is used by one all because it is the cheapest means of communication. Do you know when were the first postcards issued? The credit for proposing a postcard type postal stationery goes to Dr. Emmanuel Hermann who was a professor of National Economy in Military Academy of Wiener Neustadt, Austria. He proposed in July 1896 to the Postal Department of Austria to introduce a new form of postal stationery consisting of a sheet of card bearing a printed stamp on the address side. This advice was soon accepted by the Director General of Posts of Austria. On Oct. 1, 1896 the first stamped postcards were released in Austria and Hungary simultaneously. This experiment was a big success. So many countries started issuing postcards.

India issued its first postcards on July 1 1879. These postcards were both inland and foreign in the denomination of 1/4 anna 1 1/2 annas respectively. The price of the inland postcard was half than that of a letter and the cheapest in the world. So it became very popular among all the classes of the society. Its yearly sale reached 26 million copies against the 46 million copies of the old established inland envelopes by the end of the century. Before independence the head of the then British King or Queen was depicted on the postcard stamp. But in 1935 and 1937 the Indian postal Department printed at the cost of the North Western Railway and Visitor's Bureau of Kashmir, a set of pictorial cards, sponsored and paid for by them. But it was not appreciated by the general public. So it was not repeated.

On September 7, 1947, first postcards of independent India were issued with a new stamp design "TRIMURTI" in the denomination of 9 pies. On Oct 2, 1951 a set of 4 postcards were issued to commemorate Gandhi. New design of Ashoka Pillar and decimal currency appeared in 1957. To commemorate Gandhi Centenary three postcards in the denomination of 10 paise were issued.

On Sep. 15, 1973 six squares for Pin code were added at the bottom of the address lines Indian Postal Department started printing advertisements from June 5, 1975 on regular 15 paise postcards with Tiger inscription. To commemorate postcard centenary on July 2, 1979 new 15 paise postcards with stamp design of elephant from a famous Indian Sculpture were issued.

Indian Native States which issued their own postcards were Bamra, Barwani, Bhopal, Chamba, Charkhari, Cochin, Dhar, Dutt, Faridkot, Gwalior,

Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jharkashmir, Kishangarh, Morvi, Nabha, Patiala, Rajasthan, Rajkot, Sirmour, Saurashtra, Travancore and Travancore-Cochin.

In the last one hundred year the postcard has seen many changes in size, layout, colour and quality of paper, but its rectangular shape has remained unchanged. In the beginning for about thirty years, the size of the card varied within narrow limits. The inland or domestic postcard measured 121 x 87 mm. when the first reply card was produced in 1884 it was reduced at the very next printing. At the beginning of Twentieth Century the card increased to 138 x 89 mm. and remains the same today.

There are many kinds of post cards like public postcards, Official Post cards, Commemorative Postcards, Picture Postcards, Airmail Postcards, Surcharged Postcards Local Delivery Postcards etc. Collection of Postcards is an important branch of Postal Stationery collection. It has a vast scope. One can collect it in chronological order investigating its history. The postcard which seems very ordinary at first sight can be very rare and having different varieties and errors on close examination.

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COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ISSUED DURING 1993

Sl.No.	Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Value of Stamp
1	09.01.93	William Carey	600p
2	14.01.93	Fakirmohan Senapati	100p
3	28.02.93	CSIR GOLDEN JUBILEE	100p
4	01.04.93	No.1 Sqn IAF	100p
5	01.04.93	9 parachute Field Regiment	100p
6	09.04.93	Rahul Sankrityayan	100p
7	11.04.93	89th Inter Parliamentary Union Conference	100p
8	16.04.93	Mountain Locomotives	100p, 600p, 800p & 1100p
9	25.04.93	Meerut College, Meerut	100p
10	29.06.93	P.C.Mahalanobis	100p
11	31.07.93	Greater Bombay Municipal Corpn.Bilg.	200p
12	09.08.93	Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan	100p
13	19.08.93	National Integration	100p
14	26.08.93	Dadabhai Naoroji	600p
15	11.09.93	Swami Vivekananda	200p
16	09.10.93	Flowering Trees	100p, 600p, 800p. & 1100p
17	08.11.93	Dr. Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu	100p
18	08.11.93	College of Military Engineering, Pune	200p
19	14.11.93	Childrens Day 93	100p
20	09.12.93	Dr. Dwarkanth Kotnis	100p
21	09.12.93	Heart Care Festival	650p
22	11.12.93	India Tea	600p
23	16.12.93	Papal Seminary, Pune	600p
24	23.12.93	Meghnal Saha	100p
25	25.12.93	Inpex 93 (Speed Post)	100p
26	27.12.93	Inpex 93	200p
27	29.12.93	Dinanath Mangeshkar	100p
28	30.12.93	Nargis Dutt	100p
29	31.12.93	Golden Jubilee Celebration of the INA	100p

No. of Issues 29 No. of Stamps 35 for Rs.108.50

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the Rules and Guidelines for Revenues were voted upon and accepted. I have asked the Collectors Club to make available at this meeting copies of these Rules and guidelines.

You will be aware that FIP Exhibitions are divided into Classes, namely Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Aero- Philately which includes Astro - Philately is a section of Aero - Philately. This is a major advance, but quite frankly this is not compatible with the importance of Revenues and steps must now be taken to ensure that Revenues are allocated a class on their own.

To achieve this, more Revenue collections must be offered for display at the FIP Internationals, and here collectors in the United States of America can make an enormous contribution. In your country are some of the finest Revenue collections and I ask you to study the Rules and guidelines, tailor your collections to meet the FIP requirements and offer them for International assessment. You can surely do better than the three or four collections being offered by the U.S.A. at the moment.

Judging has initially been a problem because of the shortage of judges qualified to deal with Revenues, but already a few international Seminars are taking place to instruct Judges in the correct interpretation of the Revenue rules and guidelines.

From the display here today you will note that the Revenue stamps shown concentrate on my own special interest, which is Judicial stamps and stamps used by the Law Courts. In some instances, when Judicial or Law stamps were not available, postage stamps were used legitimately in their stead (Jamaica)

The display is intended to give examples only. You may show similar Revenues from a number of different countries or a variety

of different Revenues from the same country. This is provided for in Article 4.2 of the Guidelines. A short paper of Clarification of the Article by the Bureau of the Revenue Section is also available. There have been showing similar Revenues of two countries. There is much scope here for the collector to choose a subject and collect and show Revenues of Several countries of favourite subjects "Consular stamps", "Licence fees", "Probate"

You will see that where possible, usage on documents is shown, and if such documents are not included you should explain on the Introductory sheet or on the appropriate individual sheet why they are missing. For example, the associated documents are always too large for display purposes, the documents do not exist because all are officially destroyed before any can ever escape into private hands (German La stamps). or perhaps they are just too rare to be obtained. (The "In Prize" overprints on the Canadian young Queen Victoria Supreme Court Stamps). Whatever you collect it should be because the material gives you personal interest and enjoyment.

Importance is subjective i.e., what you consider important may not seem so to another person. You may collect consular Revenues whilst some one else considers more important to collect Documentary Revenues. Some may argue that the stamps of Guatemala or a Nicaragua are of less importance than the stamps of the United States of America. For this reason you should explain why you consider your subject important on the Introductory Sheet and you will find that the Judges will be reasonable in the allocation of marks for importance.

I am grateful to the Collectors Club, a club which is in the forefront of international philately with members who have the spirit, commitment and professionalism to understand the importance of Revenues in philately, for allowing me to present my views on this importance. Thank you.