



SIPA

Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

VOL. 17 No.5

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '96

BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

Editorial..... INDEPEX - 97.

WORLD CLASS PHILATELY COMING TO INDIA

INDEPEX '97 marks the fifth time that INDIA will play host to a World Philatelic Exhibition by the Department of Posts in collaboration with the Philatelic Congress of India and under the Patronage of the FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE (F.I.P.). To be held from 15th December to 22nd December, 1997 at the Pragathi Maidan, New Delhi. This follows the tradition set by First International Philatelic Exhibition in a small way in 1954 as part of the Centenary Celebrations of the Indian Postage Stamp; with two more International Exhibitions, INDEPEX '73 & INDIA 80 and INDIA 89 held in New Delhi in 1989.

Every effort is being made by the Organising Committee to ensure that INDEPEX '97 not only meets past successes but also offers an exciting new philatelic experience for serious collectors and novices alike.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE: As with all World Philatelic Exhibitions, the host India Postal Administration, plays a significant role in planning and promoting the exhibition, one of which is the release of stamps or souvenir sheets directly commemorating the event thus developing public awareness and an added incentive to attend.

The Theme of INDEPEX '97 coincides with the 50 years of INDEPENDENCE of India. This exhibition is thus a tribute India Post pay to the nation on this golden jubilee of its independence and hence the name of the Exhibition INDEPEX '97. The Logo of the Exhibition is "Caparisoned elephant which is unique to the country. It is beautiful, majestic and a part of Indian folk art. In Indian tradition, elephant is auspicious, a loving and friendly creature. The logo symbolizes our welcome gesture to our visitors. We are thus recalling and reliving our tradition on this occasion.

Over and above 2500 frames, we would require minimum 300 frames to accommodate various Postal Administrations and for the Court of Honour. The Release of Bulletin No. 1 is took place at ISTANBUL

'96 on 5th October 96. Shri G.B. Pai, Commissioner General, Indepex '97 stated that 33 commissioners had been selected and their names are printed in Bulletin No. 1 without their photos and the Jury Members will consist of 50% from FIP member countries; 25% from host country and by FIP 25% and there won't be any National commissioner for India. Five Committees have been formed to meet frequently to coordinate the activities connected with this exhibition.

This INDEPEX '97 exhibition also coincides with the centenary of PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA and release of the DIAMOND Jubilee of the India's Stamp Journal, an organ of the Empire of India Society.

The Editor, SIPA and a Member of the Organising Committee of INDEPEX '97 through this release invites PHILATELISTS, Collectors, Stamp Dealers of the world and members of the public to take part in the great event.

TANAPEX '96 Prize Distribution function took place on 14th August 1996 at the World University Hall at Egmore. Honourable G.K. MOOPANAR, President of Tamil Manila Congress and Rajya Subha Member presided and distributed the prizes, at the august colourful function under the able dynamic Chairmanship of Shri S. Brahmanandam, Chief Post Master General, Tamilnadu Circle. Our Association which won a prize is yet to get their certificate and Silver Bronze Medal in the Literature Class. Competitors are yet to receive their refund of money for the frames not allotted to them; and Juniors are still to get their classification of marks inspite of repeated requests and written letters from the undersigned. Hope the Department will set matters straight soon. Once again I request members to participate in Exhibitions, update their collections, join as members in Association/Clubs and keep themselves posted with the latest stamp releases. NATIONAL is to take place in Bombay sometime in March/April, 1997. So rewrite your collections and visit the exhibitions and see for yourselves the vast vista of knowledge that is put up in the various exhibits. Enrol new members.

SIPA MEETINGS :

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

First and third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library Hall at 6 Nannian Street, Madras - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)

SIPA Library Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannain Street, Madras - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)



XX WORLD'S POULTRY CONGRESS

2.9.96

Printed 0.7 Million

500P

The World Poultry Science Association (India Branch) is organising the XX World Poultry Congress, and International Poultry Exhibition, between 2nd to 8th September 1996 at New Delhi, India. The previous two were held in Japan in 1988 and in Holland in 1992. This Congress is twentieth in the series of such Congresses.

The modernisation of the poultry industry in the last three decades has put India among the World's top egg producers. The selection of India is significant in the present context. The earliest recorded existence of the modern poultry species, is traced back to the India Red Jungle Fowl. Rensch (1932) and others have deduced that India was the original centre of domestication. The Indian species Gallus gallus murghi is considered the true ancestor of the domestic fowl. The earliest records of the domesticated jungle fowl are found in the Harappa and Mohanjodaro civilization going back to 2500 BC. The Indian Red Jungle Fowl is mostly confined to the northern and eastern part of the country and the grey variety to western and southern parts. An endangered species, it has been successfully bred in captivity at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi. Desi breeds in India include Assel, Delhi. Desi breeds in India included Assee, chittagong and Ghagus. Assel is an aggressive bird. Pure specimen of this breed is now rare and available only in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

India's poultry exports are poised for a major breakthrough with the value of exports targetted at Rs.200crores. A number of export oriented egg and poultry processing projects are already in operation. The live stock sector has enormous potential to improve the socio-economic status of the rural population, particularly the landless.

The Department of Post is happy to bring out a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of holding of XX World's Poultry Congress in India.

Printer - Calcutta Security Printers Ltd. Kanpur.



Rani Gaidinliu

12.9.96

Printed 0.4 Million

100P



Rani Gaidinliu was born on January 26, 1915 at Nungkao village, district Tamenglong of Manipur State. Her political career started when she was barely thirteen years of age. She came in contact with the well-known political and spiritual leader of the Nagas, Haipau Jadonang who launched a movement to drive out the British on 29 August, 1932. Gaidinliu took over his mantle and exhorted her followers to fight

against the British, saying "we are free people, the white men should not rule over us, we will not pay house tax to the Government, will not obey their unjust laws like forced labour and compulsory poster subscription.

Her movement had socio-religious and political aims. She wanted to preserve the traditional Naga culture. Her political programme was strongly influenced by the preachings of Mahatma Gandhi. The British Government tried to suppress her movement by carrying out house to house search for arresting her, which forced her to change her name "Dilenliu". While constructing a wooden fortress to fight against the British, the British army made a surprise attack on her position and captured her on 17 October, 1937. Thereafter she was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In 1937, when Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru visited Assam, he learnt about Gaidinliu and her movement and was impressed by her indomitable spirit and struggle against the British Government. Shocked that the young girl of 22 suffered so much he commented, ".....what torment and suppression of spirit they have brought to her, who in the pride of her youth dared to challenge an empire." He, while acclaiming her valour and her achievements, described her as the 'Rani of the Nagas'. He championed her cause in British Parliament through Lady Astory to obtain her release but in vain. She was finally released from jail by the Indian Government after Independence, after spending about 15 years in jail of Assam and Manipur. During these years of her prime youth, she remained singularly located and encountered a train of tortures, hardships and difficulties. She was perhaps the only woman freedom fighter who spent more than 15 years in British jails.

Rani Gaidinliu continued to struggle for a place of honour for her people in the political set up of free India. She was honoured with Tamrapatra in 1972 and with Padma Bhushan in 1981. A freedom fighter, a political leader and a social reformer, she was also a towering spiritual personality. She breathed her last on February 17, 1993 at her native village in Manipur. Pandit Nehru once wrote "A day will come when India also remembers her and cherishes her".

Department of Post feels happy to bring out a special postage stamp to honour this great freedom fighter.

Printer : India Security Press, Nasik

Barrister Nath Pai

5.9.96

Printed 0.4 Million 100P



Barrister Nath Pai was born on 25th September 1922 in Konkan Region of Maharashtra. He was a great freedom fighter, a dedicated socialist and a vigilant parliamentarian. He was elected to the second, third and fourth Lok Sabha from Rajapur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra. He went under-ground during the 'Quit India' movement in 1942. He was eventually arrested and sent to jail. He was elected as the President

of the International Union of Socialist Youth and campaigned in India and abroad to build people's solidarity. He actively participated in liberation movement against Portuguese rule in Goa, Diu and Daman.

For the development of the backward Konkan region he worked relentlessly during his life. It was his idea, his dream to construct a railway line passing through Konkan region connecting Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka providing a direct link to Kerala and Tamilnadu.

The Konkan Railway today is no longer a dream but it is a reality. Though he did not live long enough to see his dream come true, Konkan Railway will remain a shining monument to late Shri Nath Pai.

He was a heart patient in the later stage of his life. But the pain in his heart did not deter him from active part in parliament and in his struggle against injustice. He died prematurely at the age of 49 on January, 18, 1971. With his death our country lost an authentic voice of freedom and democracy.

Department of Post is happy to bring out a commemorative stamp in memory of this great parliamentarian.

Printer - India Security Press, Nasik

INDEPEX '97

5.10.96

Printed one Million 200P



INDEPEX '97 World Philatelic Exhibition is being organised by the Department of Post, Government of India, in co-operation with the Philatelic Congress of India and with the patronage of Federation Internationale de Philatelic (FIP). It is being hosted at New Delhi from 15th December to 22nd December, 1997.

The Exhibition coincides with 50 years of India's Independence. This Exhibition is a tribute India Post pays to the nation on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of its Independence. Hence the Exhibition is named INDEPEX-97.

The first international philatelic exhibition was organised in India in a small way in 1954, as a part of the centenary celebrations of the Indian Postage Stamp. Since then India has held two more international philatelic exhibitions, INDEPEX 73, INDIA 80. India had also had the privilege of organising a World Philatelic Exhibition, INDIA 89, which was held at New Delhi from 20th January to 29th January 1989. INDEPEX-97 is thus the fifth in the series of such exhibitions and yet unique in that it commemorates fifty years of the country's independence.

For the Department of Post and the Philatelic Congress of India, the common objective in organising INDEPEX '97 is to promote and disseminate information about the fascinating hobby of philately. It will give an opportunity to the philatelic community to display their collections to a discerning international audience.

The Department of Post is proud to release a special stamp on the logo of INDEPEX-97 at ISTANBUL-96-World Philatelic Exhibition, to herald the announcement of the prestigious Exhibition.

DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN

The stamp depicts the logo of the Exhibition which is a caparisoned elephant, a symbol of traditional ceremonial welcome in India. Ceremonial processions, led by an elephant with heavily ornamental headgear, trappings and an elaborate canopy are now mostly confined to Kerala, the southernmost part of this vast subcontinent. However, interesting variations are seen in paintings of various schools from all over the country, from the last century, and Mughal miniatures. The carpet on which the elephant stands has the semblance of a postage stamp. It symbolizes the journey of the stamp around the world as a country's little ambassador.

Printed - Calcutta Security Printers, Kanpur

Pub : 13 x 13 of same shut 40

SILVER JUBILEE NATIONAL RAIL MUSEUM

7.10.96 PRINTED ONE MILLION 500P



The National Rail Museum was set up by the Indian Railways in 1971, to preserve and exhibit items of historical interest and the technical development, made by them. The Museum with its wide range of valuable exhibits promises to take its visitors on an exciting unforgettable Journey into the past.

Displays, both in the indoor gallery and the open yard, make a good sampling of the history of Indian Railways and provide an excellent opportunity for research students, railway enthusiasts and educational establishments to cover a whole era at a place. All exhibits wear their original colours and livery of the State or the Company Railway to which they belonged. From the aesthetic point of view, the exhibits have been placed so as to synchronise with the landscape.

The indoor gallery in the museum is devoted to the display of various small exhibits, working and dummy models, coat of arms, records, historical documents, photographs and charts depicting the development and growth of railways in India since their inception. The development of engines, rolling stock, signalling and telocommunication, engineering, construction and architecture and Railways contribution to the industrial development of the country is also depicted in a systematic and pictorial manner. One gallery has also been set apart to focus attention on the post-independence development and modernisation of the Indian Railways including self-sufficiency, export promotion and developmental plans for the future.

The open space is utilised to display heavy real size exhibits. There are as many as six gauges, four of them accommodated on only four rails. With lines of various gauges connected with multigauged lines to facilitate movement, the open yard houses some of the most exquisite specimens of railway engines and coaches

The 141 year old steam locomotive, the 'Fairy Queen', Steam Locomotive, "Ramgotty" built in 1862, the 234 tonner "Garratt Locomotive" the Patiala State Monorail Train built in 1907, the B class tiny steam engine which worked on the "Darjeeling Himalayan Railway", the 120 year old 4 Wheeler saloon of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), the Viceregal Dinning car, the 106 year old Maharaja of Mysore's saloon, and the Morris Fire Engine of 1914 are some of the star attractions at the museum. An item very popular with the children is the live run of miniature steam locomotives conducted on the 1st Saturday of every month.

The Museum also provides, a unique interactive Multimedia Kiosk with software packages (can be

operated by visitors) on the History of Indian Railway, the National Rail Museum and a Railway quiz.

The Department of Post is happy to release a stamp to mark 25 years of the National Rail Museum.

PRINTER - Calcutta Security Printers Ltd. Kanpur.

JANANAYAK DEBESWAR SARMAH

10.10.1996 Printed 0.4 Million 200P



Born on October 10, 1896 at Jorhat, Assam, Jananayak Debeswar Sarmah was a front-ranking freedom fighter. A Gandhian to the core, he was drawn to the nationalist movement while he was a student of law in the Calcutta University in 1916. He graduated in 1920, and plunged headlong into the freedom movement, working as a law student he came into contact with

volunteer at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. Also, during his days as a Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and a long-standing friendship developed between the two. In 1921 he was imprisoned for three months for participating in the Non-cooperation Movement. Later, he served further jail terms, including one of about four years between 1940 and 1945. He was C-in-C of the volunteer corps of the Indian National Congress at Pandu in 1925. In 1927, he joined the bar at Jorhat but gave up in 1930-31 to join the Satyagraha Movement.

Sh. Sarmah entered electoral politics in 1937 and was returned to the Assam Assembly under the 1935 Act. He was also an architect, along with then Congress President Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, in installing the first Congress Government in Assam in 1939. In 1946, he adorned the chair of the Speaker. In 1948, he was selected as the Dominion Agent in Manipur State. In 1952, he was elected to the Lok Sabha. He was also a member of the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha for two successive years.

Debeswar Sarmah's contribution towards uplifting the downtrodden, the handicapped and development of education is immense. He established the School for the Blind in Jorhat, the Regional Research Laboratory, the Jorhat Engineering College, the Science College and the Jorhat Girls' High School and started the Assam Prakashan Parishad.

He is credited with establishment of a Hospital in Jorhat and setting up of the Assam Fly Club. He was also the founder of The Janambhumi Group of Publications which has three papers-the Dainik Janambhumi, the Weekly Janmbhumi and the English Daily, The Eastern Clarion.

Debeswar Sarmah breathed his last on August 1, 1993 at Jorhat.

The Department of Post is happy to bring out a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of birth centenary of Jananayak Debeswar Sarmah.

Printer : Calcutta Security Printers, Kanpur.

Sikh Regiment : 150 Years

19.10.96 Printed 0.7 Million 500P.

The Sikh Regiment came into being in 1846, consequent to the heroic and valiant battles fought by the famous 'Khalsa Army' of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. XIV FEROZPUR and XV LUDHIANA SIKHS were the first two battalions to be raised from the remnants of the vanquished Army. In 1856, with the raising of 45 RASHTRIYA SIKH, the 'First Sikh Brigade' was formed. In 1887, 35 and 36 Sikhs were raised and the 47 SIKHS in

1901, to form the 'Second Sikh Brigade'. Post independence, 15 more regular and one TA Battalion were raised.

In the last 150 years this illustrious Regiment has had the unique privilege to serve in almost all parts of the globe. Battalions of the Regiment, most of which possess an unmatched record of valour and sacrifice, have taken part in all the major wars and operations with which the Indian Army has been associated. The Regiment has acquitted itself with most remarkable distinction. The history of the Sikh Regiment is a chronicle of the best tradition of soldiering, selfless devotion, supreme sacrifice, emphatic triumphs and achievement of highest glory. The Regiment has won 72 battle and 38 theatre Honours. Some important ones are Tofrek-1885, Saragarhi-1897, La-Bassee-1914, Hai-1917, Burma-1942-45, North Africa-1940-45, Italy-1943-45, Srinagar and Tighwal-1948, OP Hill, Burki, Raja 1965: Poonch, Sirmani and Parbat Ali 1971.

It is the most decorated infantry regiment of the Indian Army and is the proud recipient of a large number of awards including the Victoria Cross-10, Param Vir Chakra-2, Ashok Chakra-2 and number of other prestigious medals.

In the recent past, SIKH Battalions have proved their mettle in Siachen, Sri Lanka and during OP RAKSHAK. 2 SIKH and 6 SIKH have been awarded the COAS citation for outstanding performance in the valley.

The contribution in the sports arena has also been par excellence, 40 sportsmen have represented India and won laurels in various disciplines at OLYMPICS, ASIAN, Commonwealth and other international games.

The Regiment's motto is "NISICHE KAR APNI JEET KARON" - a will to win, which is a testimony to the spirit of the Sikh Soldiers.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a stamp to commemorate the 150 the Anniversary of the Sikh Regiment.

PRINTER : India Security Press, NASIK

SPECIAL & SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS OF INDIA

BY : R. M. MAKOOJINA

"Recently a 'slogan Study Group' has been constituted by a few members of the I.S.C. in the U.K. Endeavours are being made by this group to compile a check list of known Indian slogans and to classify them into various types and subtypes.

In the "India Post" Vol. 1 No. 1 Jan. 1967, under the heading "Around the Study Group" it is stated that "A basic listing of known Slogans, classified into various types, will be published very shortly." I do not know whether anything has been done in this respect, but judging from Mr. Cheverton's remarks there does not seem to have been much progress.

Recently, I have been fortunate in acquiring a small collection of these interesting post marks and believing that somebody somewhere has to start the ball rolling I have ventured to rush into print where more knowledgeable men have perhaps refrained.

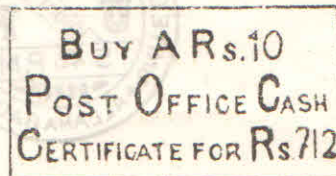
The very first attempt to publicise a government product comes in the form of labels pasted on registration receipts, etc., and though not a postal slogan cancellation, merits mention here. The example in my possession is printed on yellowish paper with the inscription "Registration envelopes purchasable/at Post Office are strongly recommended for enclosing currency notes, & c., / sent by registered post." in four lines and below in bolder type,

"Small size .. 2 as. 2 p. each

Large ,, .. 2 as. 8 p. ,,

Price covers registration fee, but not/postage." The label measures 49 x 32 mm. and is stuck on to a registered letter receipt from "Nawa" dated October 22, 1887.

The first recorded slogan cancellation devised to publicise a government-sponsored thrift campaign was introduced sometime in 1917, the first recorded example in English being on a card posted at Delhi on 25th May 1917 and an example of a Hindi version struck on a card at Cawnpore on 26th November 1917 (Article "First in the Field" by Mr. A. C. Gledhill June 1968 "Philatelist"). The example in my collection in English is a boxed rectangle measuring 46 x 23 mm. reading "Buy Rs. 10/

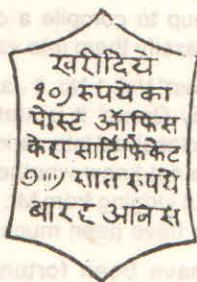


Post Office Cash/Certificate for Rs. 7.12" in 3 lines on a cover

dated 25th July 1918 from "Sambhar Lake"

१० रुपयांचे पोस्ट ऑफिस
क्याश सर्टिफिकेट ७ रुपये
१२ आप्याला विकत घ्या

Another version in Marathi also in a boxed rectangle 17 mm. wide (length cannot be ascertained as the cancellation is struck slightly out of the envelope) is also in 3 lines on a cover dated 31st March 1918.



The Hindi and Urdu versions are in a fancy elongated hexagon measuring 38 x 23 mm. with slightly curved sides as shown in the figure.

Another early example on mails posted in July/August, 1918 is a four line slogan framed in a rectangle measuring 50 x 30 mm. and bisected horizontally by a line that separates the 2nd and 3rd lines of the slogan "Buy/War Loan/Inquire At/Post Office".

A special postmark preceding the above mentioned slogan marks was used during Lady Minto's Fete at Calcutta from December 1906 to January 1907. It consists of a red cross with "Minto Fete" at the top of the red cross and "Calcutta" at the bottom forming a circle round the cross. One example in my possession is dated 1-2-1907 and the other 5-2-1907.

The Special Coronation Durbar postmarks of 1903 and 1911 as also the Prince of Wales camp and the various Viceroy's camp post-marks are quite familiar. They are fully illustrated and annotated (in the form of auction lots) by Mr. Cooper in the I.S.J. of June 1953 pages 132-33 and 144-45 and also by M/s. A.C. Gladhill and G. Sattin in their articles in the "India Post" Vol. 1 No. 5 Sept. 1967 Pg.88 and Vol.2 No. 1 Jan. 1968 Pgs. 9 & 10 respectively.



A very charming circular post mark was used during the United Provinces Exhibition, Allahabad 1910-11. This is also illustrated in the India Post Vol. 1 No. 5 Page 81 along with the

First Aerial Post and other Exhibition Camp postmarks. My copy shows the date 7th January 1911 whereas the "India Post" illustration shows the date 19th February 1911.

Another pleasing postmark originating from Madras was used on the the occasion of the Madras Exhibition of Arts and Crafts held in Park Fair grounds at Madras 15th January 1916.

It is a square measuring 33 x 33 mm. showing a Hospital Ship in the centre. The ship depicted is probably the Hospital Ship "Madras" which gave valuable service during the First World War. The exhibition was held to raise funds for the Hospital Ship.

A similar postmark measuring 34 x 34 mm. but without the Hospital Ship was used during the Madras Exhibition 1917.



A simple circular postmark was used to commemorate "Our Day" Fete held in Bangalore in December 1917 for the benefit of the Sick and Wounded during the First World War. The postmark consists of a double circle inner diameter 20 mm. and outer 32 mm. with the inscription "Our Day Fete" in the upper segment and "Bangalore" in the lower segment, with the date, month and year in the centre. A special label in carmine with a face value of anna showing a wounded soldier being helped by a nurse on a battlefield with a field gun and a Red Cross ambulance in the back-ground, was also printed.

Yet another cancellation from Madras similar to the Park Fair and Madras Exhibition cancellations to commemorate "Marian Congress" in 1921 is illustrated in the January 1954 I.S.J. under the heading "Do you have Them?" with a request by Col. D. H. Giles for further information regarding the postmark. I wonder if Col. Giles ever got any information regarding the Marian Congress and what it was all about.

Four different special cancellations, struck either in carmine or black, were used by the Mt. Everest Expedition 1924, led by the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C. B. They are all circular with the inside diameter measuring 28 mm. and outer diameter measuring 28 mm. and outer diameter 38 mm. with the inscription "Mt. Everest Expedition" in the upper segment and "1924" in the lower segment separated by a Star on either side of the year. The inscription in the centre differ in all the four cancellations and are as follows :

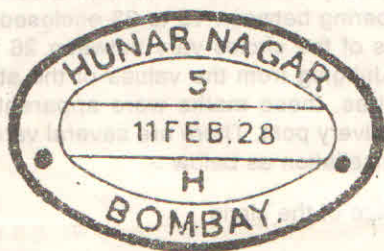
- (i) "Rongbuck/Glacier/Base/Camp" in 4 lines in red,
- (ii) Mt. Everest Expedition, Tractor Party, Tibet 1924,
- (iii) Rongbuck Glacier Main Base Camp 17,000 ft., and
- (iv) the centre is divided into three compartments with the word "Tibet" in bold capitals 6 mm high in the central compartment. This cancellation is in black. A special label

in blue depicting Mt. Everest and probably the Rongbuk Valley, Tibet, was also issued to publicise the Expedition.

Another slogan cancellation again publicising a government sponsored saving campaign was used sometime in 1924 (my example is dated 19th June, 1924 and 15th February, 1925). It consists of the words "Buy P.O. Cash Certificates" at the top and "6% Compound Interest" at bottom, 13 mm. apart, with the Royal Coat of Arms in the centre and 3 wavy lines flanking the Coat of Arms. Overall dimensions-51 x 19 mm.

Yet another slogan cancellation, this time a duplex from Calcutta in use about the same period (my copy dated 14th October, 1924), advertises the British Empire Exhibition. It consists of the normal circular Calcutta G.P.O. dated stamp with the duplex reading, "Brithish Empire" at the top and "Exhibition 1924," at the bottom, 14 mm. apart with the British lion in the centre flanked by 5 wavy lines. Overall dimensions of the slogan-52 x 21 mm.

The 1927 Royal Air force Display Cachets may be mentioned here because they commemorated a special event. The illustrations as also the full story behind these scarce cachets is described by Mr. Gordon R. Anstree in his article "India At War in the Air-Part II: 1920-1939" in September 1967 India post.



An unusual oval cancellation was authorized for use by the G.P.O. for "5H Fete" Week in the inner oval measuring 36 x 19 mm. and the outer 50 x 32 mm. The inner oval is divided into 3 compartments. "Hunaar Nagar" appears in the top segment of the oval and "Bombay" in the bottom segment with 2 large dots at the sides. In the inner oval, the upper and lower compartments have the figure '5' and the letter 'H' respectively, with the date, month and year in the centre compartment. Examples seen are dated 11th February, 1928 and 12th February, 1928. A sticker depicting a half opened Lotus with 3 leaves and with appropriate inscription was also employed. The cancellation is illustrated in "India Post" Vol. 4 No. 2 Mar./April 1970 Pg. 46, Query No. 10/70.



Another "Fete cancellation emanating again from Bombay was used during the "Help our Hospitals" Fete organised at

the Esplanade Maidan, Bombay, from 7th February, 1934. It consists of a double circle of outside diameter 32 mm. and inside diam. 21 mm., with the words "H.O.H. Fete P.O." in the upper segment and "Bombay" in the lower segment separated by two "Killer" arcs with the date in the centre compartment of the inner circle, similar to the I.F cancellation type M under Aden of the R.L. Encyclpaedia Part III Pg. 86. A special anna table was also issued for the occasion.

Two more "Exhibition" postmarks one in Lucknow and one in Poona were used during 1936-37. The first one is inscribed "U.P. Exhibition" in a double circle of inside and outside diameters 21.5 and 32 mm. respectively with Lucknow in the lower segment separated by a cross on either side. The inner circle is divided into three compartments with the date in the central compartment.

The example in my possession has the date 5th December 1936. The Poona cancellation is similar to type M mentioned above and is inscribed "Industrial Exhibition Poona" with the "Killer" ares reduced to about 1.5 mm. on either side of "Poona". The date is 2nd March, 1937.



A special rectangular postmark commemorating the "All India Jamboree" at Delhi was used in 1937. It consists of a rectangle, overall size 81 mm. x 27 mm. with two compartments, the left hand side compartment which is smaller (size 22 x 27 mm.) is made up of a border of scouting rope knotted at the bottom centre with a reef knot and consists of a caparisoned elephant with a covered canopy on its back and two flowers in the left and right corners at the top. The larger rectangle has the inscription "All India Jamboree/Post (date) Office/Delhi." in three lines. The date and year is in the centre between Post and Offices.



A special cover with the caparisoned elephant motif, printed in blue, grey, red and brown on the left hand side of the envelope (similar to the smaller rectangle of the postmark) was issued. The Jamboree was opened on 3rd February, 1937 by the then Viceroy of India, the Marquess of Linlithgow and Lord Baden Powell.

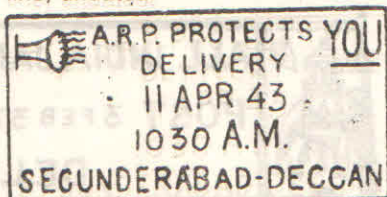
A few of the Slogan postmarks of the Pre-Independence era in my possession are listed below :

- (1) 12th Nov. 1933 "Buy Post Office/Cash Certificates" Surat. Similar to R.L. Type C25 pf Aden.
- (2) 17th May 1935 "Support the Jubilee Fund" Nagpur.

Similar to R.L Type C25 of Aden but with the date. below the time.

Similar to R.L. Type C25 of Aden from Pondicherry.

- (3) Mar./Oct. 1935 "Telephone makes/Life Easier" Karachi. R.L Type C25.
- (4) 6th Aug. 1935 & 5th Oct. 1937 "Increase Your/Business by using/ Trunk a Telephones" Karachi. R.L. Type C25.
- (5) 1935-1937 "Use the Air mail/And Save Time." Similar to R.L. Type C25 of Aden.
- (6) 27th Jan. 1936 "Support/Indian Industries" Karachi. Duplex type
- 20th Oct. 1942 machine cancellation with Coat of Arms in centre flanked by 3 wavy lines on both sides.
- (7) 1937-1938 "Increase Your/Business By using/ Trunk Telephones" in three lines enclosed at top & bottom by a wavy line, undated.



- (8) 28th Oct. 1942 "Join the A. R. P." Delivery mark similar to R.L. Type C 25 of Aden but with the letter 'V' (for Victory) 10 mm. high at both sides instead of the wavy lines from "Purulia"
- (9) 11th Apr. 1943 "A.R.P. Protects You." Delivery mark of Secunderabad-Deccan in a framed rectangle size 51 x 25 mm. with the outline of a siren sounding in the left top corner and the "You" in large capitals 5 mm. tall and underlined.
- (10) 14th June 1944 "Use the Air Mail/And Save Time" duplex from Bombay machine cancellation; enclosed at top and bottom by a wavy line



- (11) 16 Feb. 1946 "Delhi/Victory Week/4th - 9th/March". The cancellation consists of a double frame rectangle size 63 mm. x 26 mm. with the c.d.s. of Delhi G.P.O. at the left hand the outline of a flag filling up the rest of the rectangle in which is inscribed the above slogan in four lines.
- (12) 4th Feb. 1949 "Move With The Times/ Use Air Mail."

In the Post Independence period there has been a plethora of special postmarks and slogan postmarks from all over the country and it would be impossible to list all of them in a single article. Quite a few of them came and went unheralded and will be lost to posterity unless collectors having them come forward and chronicle them.

If any interested collector wants to pursue this subject further, I would be most willing to help.

-EDITOR

□□

EXPRESS DELIVERY POST MARKS OF COCHIN 1940 TO 1949

by Mr. G.B. Pai

A set of interesting postal cancellations were in use during 1940 to 1949 in the erstwhile Cochin State. These marks generally consist of circle with a series of parallel lines numbering between 16 to 33 enclosed therein. The dimensions of the circles vary between 26 to 33 mm. in diameter. Judging from the values of the stamps affixed to the entires, these marks were apparently meant for express delivery post. There are several variations of this type of cancellation as below :-

- (1) In the size of the circle
- (2) In the number of lines inside the circle
- (3) Addition of letters in the centre of circle
- (4) Addition of numerals below the letters
- (5) Variation in the size of the letters
- (6) Alignment of the lines in relation to the letters and numerals
 - (a) horizontal; (b) ascending from left; (c) ascending from right;
 - (d) lines through the letters/numerals or stopping at a place surrounding the letters/numerals.

In the principal Anchal Offices, Viz., Ernakulam, Trichur and Tripunitara, the marks consisted merely of circles and parallel lines. They do not have any letters or numerals within them. (See illustration 1).

For other Achal Offices as well as branch and sub Anchal offices variations were made by introducing letters and numerals to identify various Anchal offices. Illustration No. 2 was used by Palliath Achan a local aristocrat with special privileges. This family at one time produced the hereditary Diwans of Cochin. It consists of letter PA. Each letter was 5 x 3 mm. The circle is 25 mm. in diameter with 32 parallel

lines ascending from left to right. The letter apparently indicated Anchal Office attached to the Palliam Estate.

Illustration 3 was used in Arimpur Anchal Office and consists of a circle 28mm. in diameter with letter A in the centre with 27 horizontal parallel lines.

Illustration 4 was a victory post mark used in 1946 and consists of a circle 28 mm. in diameter with 26 lines ascending from right to left enclosing letter V 10x6 mm. in size.

Illustration 5 was used in Parappur Anchal Office and consists of a circle 29 mm. in diameter and the letter P 8x6 mm. in size with 27 parallel lines ascending from right to left.

Illustration 6 was used in Thiruvankulam Anchal Office and consists of a circle 32 mm. in diameter with 20 horizontal parallel lines with a serifed T 7x5 mm. in size.

Illustration 7 was used in Ammadam Anchal Office and consists of circle 28 mm. in diameter with 19 horizontal parallel lines with a serifed A 5x5 mm. in size.

Illustration 8 was used in Marathancode Anchal Office with a circle 27 mm. in diameter and 20 horizontal parallel lines and letter M 6x5 mm. in size.

In all illustrations from 2 to 8 the lines cut across and run through the letters.

Illustration 9 was used in Cochin Anchal Office and consists of a circle 27 mm. in diameter with 18 horizontal parallel lines and letter C 6x4 mm. in size enclosed in a small space.

Illustration 10 was used in Willingdon Island Anchal office which is a subsidiary Anchal Office to Cochin and consists of a circle 33 mm. in diameter with a letter C 8x5 mm. in the centre with 24 parallel horizontal lines running through the letter.

Illustration 11 was used in Kecheri Anchal Office and consists of a circle 27 mm. in diameter with 17 horizontal

parallel lines and a letter K4x4mm. in size within a square space.

Illustration 12 was used in Perumanur Anchal Office and it consists of a circle 27 mm. in diameter with 22 parallel lines ascending from right to left with letter P 5x4 mm. placed in a space in the centre of the circle.

Illustration 13 was used in Cherpu Anchal Office and consists of a circle 28 mm. in diameter with 24 parallel lines ascending from left to right with a small letter C3 x 2.5mm. in a space in the centre.

Illustration 14 was used in Cherai Anchal Office and consists of a circle 27 mm. in diameter with 16 parallel lines ascending from right to left, and with a letter C 3x2mm. in size, in the space in the centre.

In illustrations 9 to 14 the letters are placed in a space and the lines do not run through the letters.

Illustration 15 consists of a circle 30 mm. in diameter with 26 parallel lines ascending left to right with a letter R and numeral 1 placed vertically in a space in the centre, the space being 10x4mm.

Illustration 16 consists of a circle 29mm. in diameter with 29 parallel lines ascending left to right with the letter and numeral K2 placed diagonally within the space in the centre. This was used in Kunnankulam City Anchal Office.

Illustration 17 is same as above but with letter and numeral T2 which stands for Trichur City Anchal Office. The circle is 30 mm. in diameter with 30 parallel lines.

Illustration 18 is the only post mark of this variety used in 1930s and all other illustrations were used, already stated, during the 1940s.

Illustrations 15 to 17 consists of combination of letters and numerals and apparently represent Sub Offices in a main Anchal Office. □ □

Queen Dropped from Stamps

In another break with its colonial ruler, Hong Kong is ending a 134-year-old tradition by banishing Queen Elizabeth II from its postage stamps. The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) has reached an agreement on the issue by the Hong Kong Post Office of a new set of definitive stamps according to an announcement of the Office of the Chinese Senior Representative of the JLG.

The colourful new stamps, to be issued early next year, will feature Hong Kong's name in English and Chinese, and its skyline of mountains and skyscrapers.



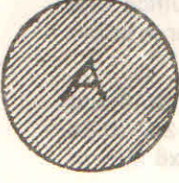
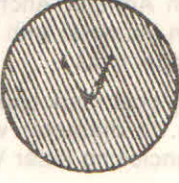
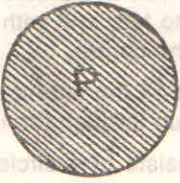

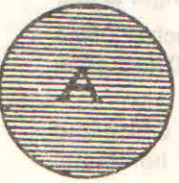










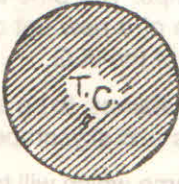
"We... Need a stamp which will take us through a period where we're under British sovereignty into a period when we under Chinese sovereignty," Robert Footman, Hong Kong's Postmaster General, said at a news conference unveiling the new design.

Stamps bearing the Queen's profile will become invalid on July 1, 1997, when China takes over, but will be exchangeable for the new ones, he said. Her Majesty has already disappeared from new coins and banknotes.

It would be disruptive "if we waited until June 30 and said, 'all change tomorrow'", Footman said.

-[Based on Reports from Xinhua News Agency and Times of India (New Delhi), 25 May 1996]

**EXPRESS DELIVERY POST
MARKS OF COCHIN 1940 TO 1949**

 I11.1	 I11.2	 I11.3	 I11.4
 I11.5	 I11.6	 I11.7	 I11.8
 I11.9	 I11.10	 I11.11	 I11.12
 I11.13	 I11.14	 I11.15	 I11.16
 I11.17			 I11.18

SEA BIRDS & WADERS

-By BARBARA LAST

The ladies who founded the "Fur & Feather Group" in Didsbury, Manchester in February 1889 were concerned to stop the trade in wild bird feathers for the fashion industry. Two years later the Group became the Society

for the Protection of Birds, and now a hundred years on the Victorian originators would be delighted to find that their brainchild, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, is the largest society in Europe for conservation. Four stamps showing popular sea birds were issued on 17 January 1989 to commemorate the Society's centenary.

Feathers for millinery may no longer be an issue, but the protection of breeding places and food supplies are increasingly essential. Wetlands like the Somerset Levels are drying up. Known from ancient times as the "land of the Summer people" because it was only dry enough to walk on once a year, it and similar marshlands have contracted, and wading birds need water within eight inches of the surface to force up worms and insects on which they feed. Birds are still illegally shot and trapped; intensified farming and building developments have whittled heathlands; hedgerows and estuaries, and river pollution and pesticides poison wildlife.

The loss of habitat is grave. When I moved to a built-up London suburb 25 years ago I used to watch the hovering Kestrel (Belgium, SG 2296), a falcon of open wooded country, as it bred year after year in the church spire. Owls roosted in the old decaying mansions next door. I saw a Tawny Owl in our garden mobbed by a cloud of small birds, and frequently heard it hoot and the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) screech (GB, SG 1320). Alas, no more as both sites have recently been redeveloped. In June 1988 it was estimated that only 5,000 pairs of Barn Owls exist, a drop of 70 per cent since 1932. Over the next 10 years the Hawk Trust is imaginatively trying to recreate grassland corridors along rivers, hedgerows and woodlands to link together the scattered pockets of surviving birds. All our birds of prey are protected by law. It is thought that there are 100-150 pairs of kestrels breeding across Greater London, and last year the London Wildlife Trust launched a kestrel count to build up an accurate picture of numbers and habits.



Society's Symbol

We in Britain are fortunate to have some 130 resident species swelling to about 500 passing through. Apart from fighting for protective legislation, the RSPB soon concluded that the best safeguard would be to purchase areas as wildlife reserves. A hundred years ago the Avocet - shown on the 27p stamp of the recent Birds issue - nested in great numbers in the eastern countries from the Humber south, but it was slain whenever seen and became a rare summer visitor. In 1947 seven pairs were discovered nesting in East Anglia. The first two reserves were purchased there in Suffolk where water and salinity could be maintained at suitable levels, and the avocet was adopted as the Society symbol. A delicate looking bird of the ooze and shallow pool, its partly webbed feet prevents it from sinking into the mud. Its long, slim up-titled bill recalls the local names "Cobbler's awl" and "Shooing-horne". It feeds by scooping up

insects-to-side action leaving a wavy trail behind. The avocet nests in colonies on sand or tussocks surrounded by water. It will fly low over intruders, with long grey-blue legs dangling, and will protect the nest from predators by attacking with wings and feet, never its bill. It is one of our rarest wading birds, but nests in Scandinavia.



"Sea Pie"

Another quite different wader is the Oystercatcher (32p stamp). Its long, stout orange bill, pink legs and striking black and white plumage make the "Sea Pie" difficult to mistake. It is here at all seasons, nesting freely in the north and west all seasons, but thinly in the south and east. Its habitat is various, including rocky or sandy shores, estuaries, mudflats, grassy islands, and in Scotland on rivers and lochs, and sometimes many miles inland. As the tide rises they pack onto reeds or islets until forced to lift in a clamorous cloud, and fly low over the water to a drier refuge. When the tide falls the birds spread across the ooze to plunge bills deeply in for worms and cockles, or to wade out overrocks in the ebbing water to attack mussels before they close their valves, skilfully forcing open smaller bivalves, or knocking limpets off the rocks. They will also eat small fish and crabs, but despite their name there is little proof that they ever open oysters.

Oystercatchers are sociable creatures. When migrants arrive in winter, flocks can number hundreds of noisy birds. Normally three eggs per season in a shallow depression hatch into fluffy active young that follow the parents for food within a couple of days, learning to swim and becoming independent



by about five weeks. Long before the spring migration, ardent males can be seen running on banks, or standing around in groups with their bills touching the ground, piping and warbling their bridal song.

They are depicted on rocky coasts (Alderney, SG A13) or on the sandy Langness peninsular (Isle of Man, SG 243) where shellfish, worms and crabs abound.

Largest Sea Bird

The Gannet (35p stamp) is our largest sea bird with a wingspan of six feet as it soars high above the sea with a mastery of the air equal to that of buzzards and eagles. Watching for fish below, its spectacular dive may start with half-closed wings some 300 feet above the water, before closing them entirely to plummet into the waves. It captures and swallows its victim before surfacing, and then flaps heavily for several yards before lifting to a powerful sweep up. The immature gannet's plumage of dark brown, speckled

white becomes gradually whiter with each moult as it turns into a brilliant white sea bird with black wing tips and yellow-buff head and neck. A network of airsacs under the skin helps to cushion the impact of the dive.

It breeds on rocky isolated isles and stacks, chiefly in

Iceland, Faroes, north and west Britain, and particularly the Scottish isles. One of the largest colonies is on the island of Grassholm, Wales, where more than 20,000 pairs breed about 10 miles off the coast. There are large colonies on St Kilda, Outer Hebrides (GB, SG 1159), where in spring and summer the ledges of precipitous crags like Stck Lii are solid with birds and resemble great white pinnacles topped by whirling hordes of thousands of birds. They arrive about March to lay one egg. The young remain in the nest until nearly full size. In winter gannets become pelagic, wandering south after the shoals of migratory fish. Courtship entails uplifted or flapping wings, and much knocking of bills as they stroke each other with croaks of love and wagging heads. Nests are decorated with any handy odds-and-ends and constant wrangles are caused by nest robbings. In Guernsey in 1986 three Wessex helicopters of 771 Naval Air Sqd, for the second time in five years, helped to clean up the empty nesting sites on Alderney islets where nylon fishing lines and netting trapped young birds in their nests. Aircrew, lowered onto the sites, collected 40 sacks of lethal flotsam. "Operation Gannet" is featured on the 10p stamp of Guernsey's 1986 Europa set (SG 366).

Clownish Appearance

The fourth (19p) stamp in the Birds set shows the Puffin, a quaint 12-inch auk, well-known for its clownish appearance and brightly-coloured bill which can hold a dozen sand-eels, and catch and hold slippery fish. It dives constantly, swimming under water with wings alone. Due to its short legs and the position of its orange feet, the puffin has a pronounced nautical roll. Rivals interlock beaks with much

growling and guttural "arrrs". March sees the start of a regular migration as far-scattered puffins return to their breeding grounds on grassy cliff slopes and turfed islands, where they gather in huge colonies. They excavate burrows, digging with the beak, and pushing soil backwards with the feet. Springy hassocks of thrift and turf are undermined by a labyrinth of burrows, many with more than one entrance. The single egg is laid in May, and the youngster is active and grows fast as it is literally stuffed with fish by its parents. About the fortieth day it is abandoned by the parents, and fasts, living on its fat for a week until its flight feathers are fully grown, before chancing trial flights under cover of darkness.

Densely crowded colonies smell strongly. A few are established in England, such as on Lindisfarne and Lundy, but the main British ones containing many thousands of birds are sited on the western and northern coasts and Scottish islands. This widespread and abundant species has been depicted on the stamps of several European countries. A 22p stamp issued by Gibraltar last June (SG 597) shows it flying through the Straits on its way to sites in the North Atlantic isles, and a Manx stamp (SG 232) illustrates it at Cranstal.

Lundy in the Bristol Channel was the first British off-shore island to issue local stamps (local carriage labels) to pay for the carriage of mail across to the mainland. The unit of currency was a "puffin", equal to one penny. One of the earliest cases of oil pollution on a grand scale involved the supertanker Torrey Canyon (shown on a recent Loyds Tercentenary stamp from Zil Elwanyen Sesel) which broke her back off Lands End in March 1967. About 30,000 tons of crude oil polluted the beaches of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Channel Islands and Brittany. It was estimated that in Cornwall alone 25,000 birds died. Lundy issued stamps that year showing puffins and the Torrey Canyon with the cry "Help the RSPCA - SAVE SEA BIRDS FROM OIL". In 1988 great concern was felt because there was a total failure to breed in the large Shetland colonies of skuas and puffins; the cause is thought to be a shortage of sand-eels and overfishing.

The Birds are a beautiful set. Don Cordery, a natural history artist and member of the RSPB, told me that in order to design a cohesive set of stamps he had concentrated on distinctive sea birds with black and white plumage and characteristic bills and legs. However among his presentation designs he included very handsome Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), a bird of ancient lineage; whose plumage was very dark with a greenish sheen. Mr Cordery's birds are so pleasing that I wish the set had stretched to five!



HOW I MOUNT MY COLLECTION " MUSIC ON STAMPS "

By : ELAINE R. DURNIN

My bulging stock books had piled up to such an extent that I had to face the fact that either I mount my music collection now or be faced with chaos years hence. Wanting to mount it permanently and not have to do it all over again in another couple of years, I decided to take my mulated so that the collection would be mounted consistently. The first thing to settle was whether to mount for exhibit or for my own pleasure and enlightenment-I decided on the latter. After this decision I was down to the basics which, for me, consisted of four major steps :

1. The Page : After practicing hand-lettering for several weeks, I came to the realization that I could never achieve a neat looking page with my hand-lettering, therefore I would have to use the typewriter. I do not particularly like to see typing on a quadrilled page, so I decided to use the reverse (unlined) side for my presentation. Standard size, stock album pages were selected as they would be available for years to come.

2. The Design: Now that I had a plain white page, decided a design for the top was needed. While looking at my stock books I realised that I had separated the various music stamps and cancels into sub-topics. I wanted to keep the music collection as a whole, but wanted the sub-topics to be an entity in themselves as well. Playing around with various thoughts, I finally titled my music collection "Philharmonic Philately" and then divided this into sections of "Composers," "Performers," "Musical Instruments," "National Anthems" and "Musical Miscellany". This last had turned out to be a large and very interesting sub-topic. It contains stamps and cancels not covered by the foregoing sections, such as the numerous music festivals held yearly by many countries, opera houses, etc.

The design for my pages had to tie these various aspects of philharmonic philately together into an all-encompassing entity. Therefore I chose to put a line of music across the top of the page-in the composers section I interrupt the music to centre the composer's name; in the national anthem section, I centre the name of the country; in the musical miscellany section I put an entire line of music across the top of the page. I must say that the music utilized has significant bearing on the subject of its particular page. While the Composer Section is mounted alphabetically by name. The miscellany is mounted alphabetically by country.

3. The Write-Up : The rule that I made concerning write-up is one of the hardest to follow. I have found it so simple to include too much, and yet I want an adequate write-up to cover the subject sufficiently. I do NOT want the write-up to be of prime importance using stamps and postmarks as illustrations or embellishments; instead the stamps and postal markings are to be first and foremost and whether write-up is utilized is to be molded around the philatelic material. The write-up must complement the material and not vice-versa.

You undoubtedly have noticed that I mention postmarks quite often. To me, cancellations (commemorative and/or slogan, not necessarily first day) are as much a part of my collection as are stamps. Cancellations add a scope and variety to a collection that is hard to imagine until such are placed side by side with stamps. This is the reason I have chosen this particular page to illustrate the way my collection is mounted. This page, out of my "Musical Miscellany", shows the Austrian stamp which depicts the exterior of the Vienna State Opera building. The stamp was issued in July 1955 to honour the re-opening of the Vienna Opera house, which was to take place on 5th November of that year. Now note, please, the postmark. The cancel was used in Vienna the first week the Opera House was re-opened (actually in used from 4th November to 13th November) and depicts the interior of the Opera House. To me this combination of stamp showing the exterior of the building with the cancel showing the interior beautifully exemplifies what a cancel can add to a page.

4. Philatelic Information : The question as to whether or not to include philatelic information on my pages and the quantity of such was one of my most difficult decisions. But, remembering that this is my philatelic collection, I want to keep it basically philatelic. When I look at a stamp, three questions come to mind : who issued it, when, and why? This to me is most important as it is the whole reason for the stamp's being. These three pieces of information appear on my pages. For a while it was difficult to know where to place this information : I finally decided to put it under the stamp and enclose all in a box, thereby off setting the stamp and the philatelic information into a place of prime importance, separate from the supporting facts pertinent to the subject matter of the stamp.

Thus I had my individual rules formulated, and from then on I found that the actual making of the pages was the easiest part of all. I also found that the greatest enjoyment of a hobby like ours is having our collection express our own individual taste and appreciation.

(By Courtesy: Fine Art Philatelist)