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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

PROFILE :

MR. S.T. BHASKARAN, Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle



Mr. Sundararaj Theodore Baskaran hails from Dharapuram in Periyar District and is from 1964 batch of Indian Postal Service. He studied at Madras Christian College, Tambaram. He is a graduate of the National Defence College, Delhi of 1985 batch.

He held an UN assignment in Kenya in 1996. Before coming to Tamilnadu, he was the Chief Postmaster General, Gujarat.

Mr. S.T. Bhaskaran is the author of two books. The first one "**MESSAGE BEARERS**" deals with the role of entertainment media in the Freedom Struggle. The second book "**THE EYE OF THE SERPANT**", released recently, deals with Tamil Cinema. This Book won for him the President's Award "**SWARNA KAMAL**" as the Best Book on Cinema for 1996.

Mr. S.T. Bhaskaran has held Fellowships from the Council of Historical Research for two years and from the Department of Culture, India for two years. He has

lectured abroad in many Universities including Australia, Great Britain and the United States. Last year he was invited by Princeton University for a Seminar on "Popular Culture". He is a Senior Fellow of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.

He writes regularly in "The Hindu" on Wildlife and Conservation in the name of S. Theodore Baskaran and he is an Honorary Wildlife Warden. He is a keen photographer. Four of his photographs have appeared as Postage Stamps. These are Toda Tribal, two stamps on Forts of India series and one in Ritu Rang (Miniature paintings) series.

He is married and has two children. His Ideal wife is a nutritionist, specialising in infant nutrition.

He is more than anything else a keen man very much interested in Philately and our Tamilnadu Circle is fortunate in having him as the Chief Postmaster General. He has great ideas for popularising Philately through his Department and our Association looks forward to him to see that our Circle is the Premier one in the lead for the advancement of Philately in the South and in bringing Philatelic Bureau in the Front Hall.

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 Nanian Street, Madras - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)

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

BOMBAY LAW COURTS - A TREASURE TROVE OF FISCAL PHILATELY

-By Solicitor Rajan Jayakar, Life Member, SIPA

The Bombay High Court is taking part in Centipex '97 in the Invitation Class. In fact it is the first time in the history of Philatelic Exhibitions in the world that any Court of law as an institution is taking part. One will wonder as to how does Bombay High Court have any connection with philately. Since past six years, Fiscals or revenues are considered to be part of philately and has gained great moment in the recent years.

Before we go to the participation of Bombay High Court in Centipex '97 it will be interesting to note the development of judicial system in Bombay. Bombay was a group of seven islands mostly occupied by fisherfolk and some of the early settlers such as Portuguese, Pathare Prabhus etc. The said islands were given in dowry by King of Portugal to King of England Charles II at the time of the marriage of Portuguese Princess Infanta Catherina of Braganza in 1661. The possession of the said islands was acquired by the British in 1665 and the British Government found the said islands useless for their purpose and readily accepted the proposal of East India Co. to have them leased to the Company for an annual rent of £10/- in 1665. The Governor of the Company, Gerald Aungiers established the Courts of Judicature on the islands in 1672.

In 1728 the Mayor's Court was established under a Royal Charter of King George I consisting of one Mayor and nine Aldermen. In 1798 Mayor's Court was replaced by the Recorder's Court, consisting of a Mayor, 3 Aldermen and a Recorder. While deciding the cases under Hindu and Mahomedan law, the Recorder sat with Hindu Pandits and Muslim Maulvis and acted according to their advice on the personal law.

By a Royal Charter of King George IV known as Letters Patent of 1823, Supreme Court was established in Bombay in place of Recorders Court in 1824. The Court had civil, criminal, equity, admiralty and ecclesiastical jurisdiction over town and island of Bombay and functioned from a building then known as Admiralty House at Apollo Street. The building is still existing in dilapidated condition next to the J.R. Cama Institute minus the portico.

By Regulation II of 1827, Zilla or District Courts and Sudder Diwani Adalats were constituted. The Sudder Adalat was invested with civil jurisdiction over all the territories in Bombay Presidency except City of Bombay. Regulation XIII of 1827 was enacted constituting Zilla Criminal Courts and Sudder Fozdari Adalats. The Supreme Criminal jurisdiction over territories in the Presidency of Bombay except the town and island of Bombay was vested in the Sudder

Fouzadari Adalat. In 1852-53 evidence was tendered before a Parliamentary Committee for East Indian Affairs, to the effect that it was desirable in the interest of better administration of justice that Supreme Court and Sudder Adalats should be consolidated into one Court in the three Presidencies viz. Bombay, Bengal and Madras with the object of combining the legal training of English lawyers with the intimate knowledge of Indian customs, habits and laws passed by Judges in the Country. The process of amalgamation was facilitated by the assumption of direct responsibility for the governance of India by British Crown in 1857 after the War of Independence also known as Sepoy Mutiny. In 1861 the British Parliament enacted the Indian High Court Act. This Act empowered Queen Victoria to establish a High Court in each of the three Presidencies. BY the Letters Patent of 1862 High Court of Judicature was established for the Presidency of Bombay. The Bombay High Court was housed in the same Admiralty House subsequently known as Great Western Building. After the demolition of the rearmparts of the Fort of Bombay in 1864, on the space created at the Esplanade, the present High Court building was constructed between 1871 and 1878 and the High Court was fully shifted in the new building in 1879, from where it functions even to-day.

By Act XV of 1868, the use of adhesive stamps for judicial fees in High Court and Small Causes Court in the Towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay was authorised. Finally Court Fees Act 1870 replaced Act XV of 1868 whereby uniform Court Fee on advalorem basis was introduced throughout British India. On 14th March 1870 the Superintendent of Stamps Bombay wrote to the Government:-

"A large portion of the stamps for the High court and Small Causes Court as per this office indent No.83 of 18th January 1869 has now been received and I request that I may be informed if these stamps are to be used under the new Act (Court Fees Act) and if it will be necessary to print additional words, "Court Fees" on them. Without these words they sufficiently indicate the purpose to which they were to be applied and in my opinion it will be a useless expense to print the additional words on them and the time occupied by this work will moreover delay the issue of stamps.

In reply to this, the use of these stamps without further surcharge was sanctioned by the Government of India in their Notification No.106 of 22nd April 1870, pending the receipt of which, the stamps had not been issued.

Pursuant to the coming into operation of Court Fees Act 1870, it was intended by the Government to

use stamped papers for all fees consisting of whole rupees and only to make up differences of fractions of a rupee by adhesives. The printing machinery in the stamp offices however failed to meet the demand for stamped papers owing to large number of different values required in each Court and on 18th June 1870 the Government of India permitted adhesive stamps for Court Fees purposes above one rupee. Delays in the production of the permanent issue, combined to enlarge what was intended to be a single issue of some half a dozen values into the complicated series of provisionals which ultimately made their appearance. On 3rd March 1870 the Government of India wrote to suggest that "Foreign Bill or other adhesive stamps used for Court Fees should be marked with the words "Court Fees" across them." Accordingly Foreign Bill, Share Transfer, Postage, Electric Telegraph, High Court, Small Causes Court and Receipt stamps were overprinted with the words "COURT FEE".

Finally the permanent issues printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. arrived by ship S.S. "Ardgovan" and were issued on 19th February 1872. These are the only British Indian stamps having an inscription in native characters, the values being shown in Urdu and Hindi. The various values from 1 anna to 1000 rupees in different colours were issued between 1872 and 1880.

Due to forgeries between 1874 and 1880 discovered in Lucknow, Nadiad and Lahore, of high denomination stamps, the authorities were induced to devise a new system for payment of Court Fees. A series of elaborately engrossed and water marked stamp papers manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were introduced and in 1882 were supplemented by a set of adhesive stamps for the low values upto six rupees. The adhesive stamps were large, lilac in colour, with Emperor's head on the left and space to the right for entry of name of the purchaser, date of purchase and signature of vendor. This issue arrived on 7th July 1882 and was immediately put into use and the remainders of the previous issue were allowed to be used, till the stocks were exhausted, by Notification No.361 of 18th March 1883.

The same design with minor changes and increased denomination was maintained during the period of King Edward VII, King George V and King George VI.

The Court fee was required to be affixed on the Plaints, Written Statements as per the monetary stake involved. Standard court fee of two rupees was required to be affixed on Vakalatnama and of one rupee on exhibits tendered in evidence. The Court fee on Decree was affixed according to the folios.

The Bombay High Court has maintained its Archives containing a separate folder for every case since 1863. In order to save space the folder in respect of old cases contains the original Plaint, Original

Written Statement, documents tendered in evidence and not taken back by the litigant producing it and the original Decree. All these documents bear Court Fee stamps. The pleadings between 1870 and 1872 contain provisional issues including HIGH COURT stamps overprinted with the words "COURT FEE". The pleadings between 1872 and 1882 contain the first permanent issues. The Pleadings between 1882 and 1901 contain court fee stamped papers and second permanent issue of adhesive stamps. The pleading between 1901 and 1909 contain second permanent issue of adhesive stamps with Emperor Edward VII's head. The Head changes between 1909 and 1936 to King George V and between 1936 and 1947 to King George VI. There are overlapping of issues of earlier Emperor for a few years during the reign of the next Emperor, till the stock was exhausted.

The Bombay High Court is displaying some of its original documents and pleading which are not seen by Members of public in the past and the credit for taking this initiative must squarely go to the present Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, His Lordship Mr. Justice M.B. Shah and the other Puisne Judges who granted special permission for display and participation.

The rarest documents that were displayed included :-

a. The Original Letters Patent with seal establishing Supreme Court at Bombay in the East Indies dated 8.12.1823, issued by King George IV.

b. The Original Letters Patent with seal appointing Sir Joseph Arnold as Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay, dated 24.2.1859 issued by Queen Victoria.

c. The Original Letters Patent with seal establishing High Court of Judicature for the Presidency of Bombay dated 26-6-1862 issued by Queen Victoria.

d. Additional Letters Patent of High Court of Judicature of Bombay dated 28-12-1865 issued by Queen Victoria.

e. Pleadings of the pre-stamp period, during the period of "High Court" adhesive stamps, provisional over-printed issues and permanent issues.

It is hoped that with the participation of Bombay High Court, other High Courts in the Country especially Calcutta and Madras High Courts will follow the example and participate in a big way in future State, National, International and World exhibitions.

What good is it, if we acknowledge in our prayers that God is the Father of us all, and in our daily lives do not treat every man as our brother ?

- Swami Vivekananda

CENTIPEX - 97 THE NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

The National Philatelic Exhibiton organised by the Philatelic Society of India to celebrate their centenary concluded a little while ago. The Exhibition was held at the World Trade Centre, a prestigious location in Mumbai from 27 to 31st March 1997 and attracted large crowds of stamp collectors from all over the country, thanks to the media - and T.V. Channels for their wonderful coverage.

The Department of Post released two commemorative stamps (setenant) to mark the centenary of the Philatelic Society of India and their Journal, The Philatelic Journal of India in two rupees denomination. The stamps were released at the Inauguration of the Exhibition by Mr. R.U.S. Prasad, Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Department of Post, New Delhi who was the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the Exhibition. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Rajashree Birla and Mr. R.U.S. Prasad in the presence of large and distinguished gathering in a traditional Indian manner by lighting a lamp. Earlier, songs were presented by Mrs. Sobhana M. Tambe and Mrs. Sudha Mane of the G.P.O. Mumbai. Major V.K. Khanna, Postmaster General compered the programme.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Prasad praised the work of the Society and its survival for 100 years. He said that Philately is an educational hobby and the Department of Post will make all its efforts to continue to popularise and support all activities.

Earlier Mr. B.B. Paymaster, I.C.S. (Retd.) President of the Society welcomed the guests and briefly gave an account of the Society's activities for the last hundred years. He referred to the work done by the earlier pioneers who laid the sound foundation of the Society which was founded on 6th March 1897 at Calcutta. Many distinguished personalisties were President of the Society and referred to Mr. C. Stewart Wilson the first president of the Society who later became the Director General of Post, Sir N.C. Macleod, Chief Jusitice of the High Court of Bombay and Field Marshal Sir William Birwood and others. The first Indian President was C.D. Desai, a banker by profession and an authority on Indian Lithographs.

Five Presidents of India graciously gave their patronage to the Society.

It may be of interest to know that since the formation of the Philatelic Society of India and the publication of their journal, the Philatelic Journal of India, the names have remained unchanged.

Mr. D.N. Jatia, R.D.P., President of the F.I.P. and Consultant to the Centipex97 complimented the Society on its evenful life and the role it played in the promotion of philately in the country. He said one has to be proud to have survived 100 years and still getting strong. He also referred to the role played by the Federation International De Philatelie (F.I.P.) and Federation of InterAsian Philately (F.I.A.P.) in the field of promotion of the hobby.

Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta, Hon. Editor of the Philatelic Journal of India and the Joint. Coordinator of the Centipex97 in his vote of thanks profusely thanked the Department of Post for graciously issuing a set of two (setenant) stamps on the occasion which he said was a rare honour to the Society in the world and its activities. He also specially thanked the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bombay High Court for graciously allowing to show some of the rare archieval material from the archieves which are very much appreciated. He also thanked the other invitees. He thanked the press, and the Doordarshan for their very wide coverage and the many persons who had spent sleepless nights on the laying of the exhibition and especially Mrs. D.M. Pittie, Hon. Secretary and Jt. Coordinator of Centipex97 who bore the brunt for collecting sizable amount of funds and also actively worked for the management of the show. Mr. J.P. Irani, the designer of the Centenary Stamps, F.D. Cover and Cancellation was presented commemorative stamps.

Mr. Rajesh Bagri of Calcutta won the Champion of Champions prize for his thematic exhibit "MAPS ON STAMPS" a very fascinating subject. There were three other contestants in the championship class and the results were announced by ballot. The prize for best exhibit in the Competitive class was won by Mr. Purshottam Bhargave for his collection of Postal History with special reference to "EARLY INDIAN CANCELLATIONS".

In all, the National jury, which deliberated under the Chairmanship of Society's Editor and a Senior Juror Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta with Mr. D.N. Jatia, R.D.P. of Calcutta, President of the F.I.P. as the Honorary Chairman awarded 3 Gold; 16 Large Vermeil; 16 Vermeil; 27 Large Silver; 21 Silver; 38 Silver Bronze; 21 Bronze Medals and Diploma. In all 142 participants won prizes. The FIP Guidelines were followed.

Mr. R. Narasimham, Chief Post Master General and Mr. D.N. Jatia, R.D.P., President, F.I.P. were the Chief Guests and other distinguished personalities gave away the prizes.

Sixteen well known dealers from the different parts of the country took dealers booth at the venue.

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EDITOR HONOURED

Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta, Society's Honorary Editor for the last 40 years and Joint Co-ordinator of the Centipex-97 was honoured by the Governing Council of the Society for his services to the Society and the Journal. A Silver plaque and the Citation was presented to him by the President Mr.B.B. Paymaster on behalf of the Governing Council of the Society. The presentation received standing ovation. Mrs. D.M. Pittie, Joint Co-Ordinator and Hon. Secretary of the Society was also honoured.

Collectors from different parts of the country participated and many of them personally visited the Exhibition, and attended the Seminars. Seminars on Postal History and Thematic were also organised. A Children's Art Competition was arranged. A workshop for the Youths was also organised at the Venue.

A special Souvenir and Hand Book on "THE INDIAN NATIVE STATES as a tribute to Late Mr. P.M. Medhora was also released. Later another book "THE SCINDE DAWKS AND THE LITHOGRAPHS OF INDIA" was also released as a tribute to late Mr. D.E. Wadia in the continuing programme for the publication of philatelic literature. Both these gentlemen wrote for the Philatelic Journal of India a series of articles which have been compiled in the books. The Souvenir contained articles and the list of participants and the names of the winners. The Philatelic Congress of India held their Regional Meeting, attended by members from different parts of the country who participated in the Meeting. Mr.R. Narasimhan, Chief Postmaster General was the Chief Guest. A special cover for the P.C.I. was also released by him.

THE STAMPS

The first of the two setenant stamps depicts the Logo of the Society depicting the "Lion and Palm" adopted from the first essays prepared for the stamps. The design also includes the name of the Society with appropriate inscription i.e. '100 years in Philately'. The floral design at the bottom corners has a likeness of the corner floral design for the 1854 lithograph stamps. The other stamp depicts "The Philatelic Journal of India" superimposed on a block of one anna red lithograph. Earlier, the Department had issued stamps depicting the 1/2a. Lithograph. It may be recalled that the set of stamps issued during the world exhibition in 1989, a stamp depicting the mast heads of some of the old philatelic magazines was issued and showed the Philatelic Journal of India. The stamps were designed by noted artist Mr. J.P. Irani to whose credit are several stamp designs beginning with the first photogravure set of bird stamps.

Special Cancellations were provided for each day of the Exhibition. The days designated were :

27th March - Centenary Day ; 28th March - Youth Day ; 29th March - 50 years of Independence ; 30th March - P.C.I. Day ; and 31st March - Environment Day.

Enclosed are special covers bearing Cancellations for the different days designated above. Special covers with appropriate designs in multi-colour were also released by the Society, other than the first day of issue.

Note : Further information about the exhibition or the Society can be had from Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta, Hon. Editor, the Philatelic Journal of India, 29, New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020. India.

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA CITATION TOSHRI DHIRUBHAI MEHTA

Shri Dhirubhai Mehta, F.C.A., F.R.P.S.L., Hon. Editor, The Philatelic Journal of India We have the privilege of honouring you today in our Society's Centenary year for your long association with our society and on your completion of 40 years as the Hon. Editor of our society's Journal.

Since the age of fourteen you have been interested in the pursuit of our beloved hobby and have acquired a fund of knowledge and experience over the years, enabling you to be a member and Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Your interest in philately has prompted you to compile award winning collections of Indian Air Mails, Imperial Russia and the Indian State of Soruth.

You have been the Past president of the Philatelic Congress of India. You are also India's representative to the International Federation of Aero Philately and were India's representative to the Aero Philately Commission of the International Philatelic Federation.

You have been a member of the Organising Committees of National and International Exhibitions held in India since 1973 and have been the driving force behind the exhibitions held by the Philatelic Society of India. You have also been India's National Commissioner for many International Philatelic Exhibitions, such as Warsaw in 1960, Philakorea in 1984, Stampex at, Adelaide in 1986, Poznam in 1988, Praga in 1988, Sophia in 1988 and New Zealand in 1990. You have also served on the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Department of posts.

You are a successful Chartered Accountant and have a wonderful record of community service being a Charter Member of the Lions Club of Bombay, the first Lions Club in India.

The National Philatelic Exhibition, Centipex - 97 is a testimonial to your devotion to philately and your organising ability. Your contributions to philately at home and abroad have been immense and we sincerely hope that you will continue to be of service to the hobby and to our society in days to come.

On this happy occasion we put the stamp on your dedication and endeavour through this citation, which is a token of our collective esteem and admiration.

Mumbai March 1997

Members of the Governing
Council

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MARCH - APRIL 97

WORLD'S LARGEST THEMATIC STAMP SERIES CELEBRATES 200TH ISSUE

With a total of 800 million stamps printed so far, the largest thematic collection of stamps in the world, the W W F Conservation Stamp Collection, recently celebrated its 200th issue.

Some 796 different stamps have been issued by 200 countries. They are produced in collaboration with Groth AG of Unterageri, Switzerland. During the last thirteen years the stamps have earned WWF almost sFr 16 million in royalties -- royalties which have funded WWF's conservation efforts worldwide. These range from efforts to protect endangered species to helping forest and coastal dwelling communities improve their standards of living through sustainable use of their natural resources.

Each year, up to 18 different countries have issued stamps featuring animals, birds, insects or fish that are endangered in that country. Past stamps have featured the Eagle, Owl from Aland, the European Bison from Lithuania, the humpback Whale from Tonga, the Clouded Leopard from Malaysia; issue No.200 the Besa Ory from Eritrea in north - east Africa.

Each stamp set includes a postcard illustrated with photographs of the species, a first day cover with sketches by well-known wildlife artists, and an illustrated text about the species written by scientists. Available in 10 languages, the texts describe the species' habitats, characteristics, behaviour,

Commonwealth Open Chess Championship'96, Netaji Indoor Stadium, Calcutta, Dec 4-14, 1996 Special Cover and Cancellation



relationship with humans and other animals and the main threats and protective measures taken for their conservation. In addition, albums are provided for easy storage of the collection.

On the occasion of the 200th issue, WWF International President, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh said, "These elegant sets of stamps are not only an excellent addition to any philatelic collection, they are also an effective way of communicating to the public the urgent need for conservation of wildlife throughout the world".

For more information please contact Franziska Anneler at WWF International, Gland, Switzerland (Phone : + 41 22 364 9321)

SHYAM LAL GUPT 'PARSHAD'

4-3-97

Printed 0.4 Million

100P.



Shyam Lal Gupta "Parshad" was born on 9th September, 1896 in Narwal Village, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. He joined the freedom movement in 1915 and made Fatehpur district his area of activity.

From 1920 onwards for a number of years he was Chairman of the Fatehpur District Congress Committee.

During the Non-Cooperation Movement, as chairman of the Fatehpur Congress Committee he was jailed. He was declared the most dangerous revolutionary by the District Collector and sent to Central Jail, Agra where he was kept under special security. In 1930 he was again jailed for his role in the Salt Satyagraha. During his frequent imprisonment, for his role in the freedom movement he came into association with towering nation leaders like Motilal Nehru, Mahadev Desai, Ram Naresh Tripathi and others.

On 3/4th March, 1924 Shyam Lal Gupta wrote the song on the National Flag. Gandhiji wanted a song in honour of the National Flag in the languages of the ordinary people, and this song composed by Shyam Lal Gupta seemed to fulfil this need. The first and last two stanzas of this song which was composed in seven stanzas, became popular and were sung by freedom fighters all over the country during the struggle for Independence. On 13th April, 1924, the song was first sung in a gathering at Phulbag, Kanpur in remembrance of the Jallianwala Bagh incident. The gathering included late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of Independent India. In Nehru's words, "People may not know, Parshadji, but the whole country is familiar with his song on the National Flag." In 1952 Shri Shyam Lal Gupta recited the song himself at the Red Fort.

Shyam Lal Gupta worked tirelessly for the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity, popularisation of Khadi and emancipation of women and children in the rural areas. He preferred to stay away from active politics and devoted his life to social work. He is responsible for the establishment "Ganesh Seva Ashram" at Narwal and a number of orphanages, schools and teaching institutions. He was awarded Padamashree on 26th January, 1976.

The Department of Posts is happy to issue a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the occasion of the writing of this memorable song and honour the memory of Shyam Lal Gupta "Parshad"
Printer : CSP, Kanpur.

SIPA BULLETIN



Saint Dnyaneshwar, the saintpoet lived during the 13th century AD and belonged to the great line of the Nathas, who like the Alvars in Tamil Nadu and the Siddhas in the Lingayats of Karnataka, laid the foundation of mysticism in Maharashtra.

He wrote the "Dnyaneshwari" (a commentary in simple Marathi on the Bhagwad Geeta) containing 9033 stanzas at the age of 15 years. Through this outstanding work he interpreted the philosophy of the Geeta, in the popular language of common people and sought to reform society. He preached an ideology of looking towards welfare of entire mankind, irrespective of caste, creed, nation and race. He advocated discarding rituals and preached that the ideology of life is Bhakti or the realization of divine love in this very life. The philosophy of Saint Dnyaneshwar is the foundation on which the Bhakti Cult movement of Maharashtra rests. He advocated "Chidvilasvad" or "Sphoortivad" - the doctrine that "this whole world is illuminated with His light. One's work or profession itself became an act of worship, under the influence of this doctrine, among all castes and creeds elevating the lives of the downtrodden and the outcastes.

Though his interpretation of Geeta is his most famous work, he is also credited with a number of other works, such as "AMRUTHANUBAHV" "CHANGDEV PASASHTI" "BHANGAS", "HARIPATH" All his classical works have been translated into various international languages including English, French and Spanish.

The commemorative postage stamp in honour of Saint Dnyaneshwar, has been designed by I.S.P. Nashik, on the basis of artwork provided by Shree Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Sansthan Committee.
Printer : ISP, Nasik

PARIJAT

8-3-97

Printed 0.7 Million

600, 500P.
Se-tenant



"Parijat" is considered to be a divine tree.

In the Poems of Rabindranath Tagore there are descriptions about the Parijat Flowers.

Parijat is also known as "Har Singar", "Sephali" "Sephali" and "Night Jasmine". It is widely known that the flowers of Parijat blossom in the evening hours only and shed off the next morning. Its branches are rectangular and its flowers are fragrant. The stem of the flower is saffron in color and the petals are white. The flowers blossom between August to October.

In India, they grow in the outer Himalayas at the height of about 1400mtrs, and are found in tracts of Jammu & Kashmir, Nepal to East of Assam, Bengal, Tripura extended through the Central region upto Godavari in the South. Besides India, they are found in Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan.

Apart from contributing to the beauty of gardens, "Parijat" has also got medicinal properties. The juice of its leaves is bitter and saline in taste. Taking its juice is considered to be useful in the treatment of fever. Its bark, if taken as medicine is known to give relief in the swelling of lungs. The oil produced from its bark brings relief to pains in the eyes and used for hair tonics. Fresh juice of its leaves mixed with honey provides effective relief in the treatment of chronic fever. The decoction of its leaves prepared over low fire gives relief in the treatment of chronic "Citica pain". The juice of its leaves mixed with little sugar is used for treatment of stomach diseases of children. Application of six to seven of its tender leaves with little fresh ginger juice, churned in water, brings relief in case of high fever. Its flowers, though bitter in taste act as appetiser and soothe the stomach. Its seeds are used in the treatment of skin diseases and piles.

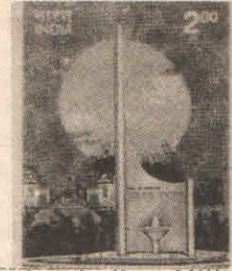
Shri R.N. Pasricha has designed the stamp in a setenant by showing the tree on one stamp and the flower on the other. The first day cover is again a painting of the tree, by Shri Pasricha. Cancellation has been designed by Smt. Alka Sharma. Printer : CSP, Kanpur

RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE, DEHRADUN

13-3-97

Printed 0.7 Million

200P.



The Rashtriya Indian Military College at Dehradun was inaugurated as the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College on 13 March 1922 by Edward, the Prince of Wales, who was later King Edward VIII of Great Britain.

Based on demands made by India's nascent freedom movement for Indian Officers to lead Indian troops, the founding of the College paved the way for young Indian lads to become commissioned officers of India's defence services.

The RIMC was the first public school of India set up on the lines of Eton and Harrow, for a small number of carefully selected boys. It has even now retained its characteristics of being a cradle of excellence, leadership and bravery.

It is a feeder institution to the National Defence Academy and the Academies of the three defence services. The finest leaders of men have passed out of its portals.

Hardly comprising 0.15 per cent of the annual officer intake in the Indian armed forces, they have provided three Army chiefs and one Air Chief in India; two Air chiefs and one Army chief in Pakistan besides numerous Army commanders, corps commanders, diplomats, and top grade professionals in both India and Pakistan over the last 50 years since Independence. The country's first recipient to the Victoria Cross in World War II, Second Lieutenant (Later Lieutenant General) PS Bhagat and free India's first Param Vir Chakra of the Kashmir War of 1947, Major Somnath Sharma were both alumni of the RIMC.

In the sphere of sports and adventure activities, so important for building character, the RIMC has excelled at all India levels. The College squash team has more than once been the national champions in the under 16 category. In soccer, the college team remains one of the top few. The young cadets have taken to diversified disciplines such as mountaineering, white-water rafting, naval cruises, desert safaries, hot air ballooning, mountain cycling and para sailing. Notable among recent mountaineering achievements has been the successful summiting of Mount Kedar Nath Dome (6830 M) by four boys, thus setting a World Record for the youngest to scale such a height. The 'Cradle of Excellence' has produced three Arjuna Award Winners comprising a leader of Mt. Everest Expedition; participants of the renowned round the world sailing expedition on the yacht Trishna and in Squash.

To mark the Platinum Jubilee of the RIMC the Department of Post is proud to issue a commemorative postage stamp on the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. Printer : CSP, Kanpur



A staunch advocate of socialism, Ram Manohar Lohia was a revolutionary thinker and a crusader for social justice. Lohia's memory is cherished for his learning, progressive ideas, fluency in French, German, Bengali, Urdu and other Indian languages, imprisonment for more than nineteen times, intense patriotism and broad outlook.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was born at Akbarpur in the district of Faizabad, U.P. on 23rd March 1910. Having lost his mother at a very tender age, Ram Manohar was brought up by his grandmother and aunt. He had a brilliant academic career and obtained the Ph. Degree from Berlin University in 1932 for a thesis on "Salt and Civil Disobedience."

As a school student, he participated in demonstrations on Tilak's death. He took up politics as career, and became the founder member of the Congress Socialist Party in 1934. Lohia was elected a member of the Executive Committee and also the first editor of the new weekly, the 'Congress Socialist.' He actively participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942 and went underground, conducted broadcasts of the secret Radio Station at Bombay and Calcutta. He was arrested in 1944 and was inhumanly tortured in the Lahore Jail.

As a member of the Lok Sabha since 1963 from Farukhabad Constituency (U.P.), Lohia was a strong petrel in the House. He was also a prolific writer. In his concept of New Socialism, particularly in the Indian context, he referred to permanent civil disobedience, oscillation between caste and class, synthesis of centralisation and decentralisation in politico-economic matters and a functional federalism wherein the units are the villages, the districts, provinces and the central government. He had pleaded for introduction of Hindi as the medium of instruction, more effective birth control measures, abolition of the dowry system, and introduction of inter-dining and inter-caste marriages.

Lohia died on 12th October 1967 at the Willington Nursing Home, New Delhi, following an operation.

The Department of Posts honours his memory with the issue of a special commemorative postage stamp. Printer : CSP, Kanpur



The Philatelic Society of India was established in March 1897 at Calcutta by a band of fifty Englishmen stationed in India. The first President of the Society and Editor of its journal was Mr. C. Steward Wilson (later Sir) who later became the Director General of Posts & Telegraphs.

It has a distinguished record of service to the cause of Indian Philately for a 100 years, being one of the ten oldest philatelic societies in the world and probably the oldest in Asia.

The first Indian member of the Society was Mr. C.K. Dutt of Calcutta who joined in the year 1907.

It has various activities in the field of philately, and publishes 'The Philatelic Journal of India', devoted to philately. It holds regular fortnightly meetings at present in the GPO, Bombay by the courtesy of the Dept. of post.

As part of its Centenary celebrations, it is holding a National Philatelic Exhibition - Centipex - 97, with the support of the Department of Post, the patronage of the Philatelic Congress of India, and the support of the leading Philatelic Societies in India.

Five Presidents of India have been the Society's patrons, and its Office Bearers included inter alia Sir Norman Macleod, Chief Justice of Bombay and Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, the Commander-in-Chief. Its first Indian President was Shri Chunilal D. Desai, a distinguished philatelist, who took over the post in 1946.

It is one of the founder members of the Philatelic Congress of India, the Apexbody, and has always supported its various activities by the participation of its members in different capacities.

It has brought out over thirty publications which have been acknowledged as standard works of reference. Most of the research work in the Indian Lithographs and the Indian States, both Convention and Feudatory, was published by the Society. While Exhibitions were held by the Society way back in Calcutta in the last century, an International Exhibition DIJUPEX-57 was organised to mark its Diamond Jubilee followed by PLAJUPEX-72 to mark its Platinum Jubilee. Napex-83 a National Exhibition and PHILAEX-83, a competitive Exhibition for members, were also held. The Society held Philex-96 a non-competitive Exhibition on a modest scale restricted to its members in March, 1996 before the much larger Exhibition to be held in March 1997 to celebrate its Centenary in a befitting manner. Souvenirs containing articles of interest have also been published on these occasions.

The Society's members have participated in various World, International, National and State level Exhibitions, and earned high awards.

The Society's journal, the Philatelic Journal of India, has published many research articles by distinguished students of Indian Philately. Mr. L.E. Dawson, who held the editorial chair for about 34 years, nurtured the Journal by contributing many valuable articles. Printer : CSP, Kanpur

JNANPITH AWARD WINNERS : KANNADA

28-3-97

Printed 0.4 Million

200P.



The Jnanpith Award has come to acquire an unparalleled status in the field of Indian literature. This is the only award given for the best creative literary writing of a specified period by an Indian citizen in any of the 15 Indian languages included in the VIII Schedule to the Indian Constitution.

It has become the symbol of the comprehensive vision of Indian literature. This special postage stamp issued by the Department of Post pays tribute to the Jnanpith Award and to the four great writers of Kannada who were presented the Jnanpith Award by Bharatiya Jnanpith for their outstanding contribution to the enrichment of Indian literature. The stamp depicts portraits of the Jnanpith Laureates in Kannada in the following order (from top to bottom).

I) Dr. K.V. Puttappa : (1904 - 1994)

Dr. K.V. Puttappa was co-recipient of the Jnanpith Award for 1967 for his outstanding work Sri Ramayanadarshanam (Kannada) during 1935-60. Sri Ramayanadarshanam, composed with great diction and style is the first epic in Kannada language. In this multi-dimensional epic, the real and reality, mundane and eternal, the ephemeral and immortal, the corporal and spiritual, all have been integrated into an accomplished work, with an inspired finesse. This is the most prominent work of Dr. Puttappa, where the past meets the future in the present, where the divine takes devil into embrace, where the most insignificant contributes in making of the Great. In 1958, Dr. Puttappa was awarded by the National Academy of Letters in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Kannada literature, and his dedicated services to the nation as an educationist of eminence. The Government of India bestowed on him the prestigious title of 'Padmabhusan' in 1958.

II) Shri D.R. BENDRE : (1896 - 1983)

Bendre is one amongst the most versatile writers in Kannada. He was co-recipient of the Jnanpith Award for 1973 for his outstanding work Naku-tanti

(Kannada) during 1962 - 66. The poet-visionary Bendre, in his writings, has given expression to the beauty of human individuality, the rediscovery of Karnataka and India, the future transformation of the World, the synthetic vision of journey through the decades, which all form essence of the Creation. Bendre is the torch-bearer who has given expression to the artistic consciousness of many writers. Through his folk-lyrics and intricate diction, he delighted both the educated and illiterate.

III) Prof. V.K. Gokak : (1909 - 1992)

The Jnanpith Award for the year 1990 was presented to Prof. V.K. Gokak for his outstanding contribution to Indian literature during the period 1970-84.

An author of about 50 works in Kannada and about 25 in English, spread over a period of six decades and covering almost all fields of literary expression like poetry, novels, plays, travelogues, aesthetics and contemplative prose, Prof. Gokak has been a strong advocate of integral vision in all his writings. What made Gokak a legend in his own lifetime is Bharata Sindhu Rashmi, an epic running into more than 35000 lines of blank verse in Kannada. The epic recreates the vedic culture and its changing value in a way that makes it relevant to our times and to all times. Bharata Sindhu Rashmi, had indeed, acquired a place of distinction in the epic tradition of the world.

(IV) Dr. Masti V. Iyengar : (1891 - 1986)

Bharatiya Jnanpith presented the Jnanpith Award for 1983 to Dr. Masti Venkatesh Iyengar, 'Srinivas' for his outstanding contribution to Indian literature during the pre 1978 period, with special mention of his novel 'Chikkaveer Rajendra.'

Masti was essentially a story teller, a master of the art of narration, whether in prose or poetry. He came to be recognised as the 'Father of the Kannada short story'. Masti remained in the forefront of Kannada renaissance for more than seventy years and made massive contribution to all the genres of literature. With his abiding faith in man's potential greatness, his writings reflect his inner urge to assert the supremacy of the basic values of humanity that remain firm in the face of chaos.

The First Day Cover depicts "Vagdevi", the Jnanpith Award Symbol. Printer, ISP Nasik.