



SIPA

Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

Vol. 18 No.5

September - October 97

Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

INDEPEX '97 DEC. 15-22-97 SPECIAL ISSUE

EDITORIAL

TAMILNADU CAN BOAST OF PHILATELIC ACTIVITY DURING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND BEFORE INDEPEX'97, during the months of SEPTEMBER and October, 1997 under the aegies of Chief Postmaster General, Shri S.T. BHASKARAN, of the Tamilnadu Postal Circle, The following activities took place during the above two months under his able guidance and due to his sustained efforts of Metro Postmaster General Mrs. RADHIKA DORAISWAMI and her Officers.

1. The Final Round of Quiz Programme was gone through of the Southern States comprising TAMILNADU, KARNATAKA, ANDHRA and KERALA on 15.10.97 in the Conference Room of the CPMG's Office with the Teachers and parents of the respective teams. Shri

R. NARASHIMHAN, Retd. Senior Officer of the Postal Department was the Quiz Master for Visual, Audio and Academic questions on Philately. KERALA Team easily had a walkover and have qualified for the New Delhi INDEPEX'97 Round. Suitable mementos were given to all the teams and CPMG distributed the same.

2. On 15.10.97, the Special Commemorative Postage Stamps on Rural Women was Released by the Chief Postmaster General (Mail Management) and the Album containing the Special Stamps was received by Shri D. PARTHASARATHY, Member (Operations) Retd.,

3. Further The Tamilnadu Postal Circle Organised a Three Days STUDENTS' PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, "JUNIOPEX'97 at Anna Road Post Office Complex from 13th to 15th October, 1997. The Theme of the Exhibition was "50 Years of INDIA'S

INDEPENDENCE". There were 36 Frames and students upto plus two level from all over Tamilnadu participated. The BEST ENTRY in the category Above 15 years was that of Miss D. SUSAN SHERMILLE of Coimbatore which bagged a Vermeil Medal and below 15 years category was bagged by Chi. G. ANUSH of Chennai School with Vermeil. Besides the following were awarded SILVER : (a) Selvi. A.J. PADMAVATHY, Pondicherry and (b) Chi R. Balaji of Chennai also won SILVER. Master Christopher of Chennai and Chi. R. Vikram of St. Mary's Higher Secondary (Anglo Indian) School won Bronze Medals. Chi. R. Vikram has become a Life Member of SIPA and is in the forefront in the promotion of Philately in his school and has enrolled nearly 90 boys for the CHAPTER FOR YOUTH PHILATELY. (KEEP IT UP, Vikram.) This Exhibition -

SIPA MEETINGS :

Second Sunday of every month Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Head Post Office, Chennai - 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, Chennai - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)

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

JUNIOPEX'97 was inaugurated by Shri T.T. Vasu, Industrialist of South at 10 a.m. on 13th October, 97. During the occasion, a Special Cover depicting the SLOGAN "ONE WORLD ONE POSTAL NETWORK" inside a Globe, the emblem adopted by the Universal Postal Union this year for the World Post Day and a Special Cancellation of JuniopeX'97 on the cover was Released. Shri. K.R. RAMBHAD, Postmaster General (Northern Circle) handed over the Stamp Album to Shri. T.T. Vasu. Mrs. Radhika Doraiswamy, PMG (Metro) welcomed the colourful gathering of Students, parents and teachers and philatelists of Madras and officers of the Postal Department. Dr. U. Srinivasa Raghavan, PMG (Mail Management) proposed a vote of thanks to the chief guests and others. Doordharsan, AIR and the Media gave wide publicity of function. Elsewhere an article on the venue of this Exhibition JUNIOPEX'97. The impressive Electric theatre Building adjacent to the Anna Road HPO, where the impressive Exhibits of 25 students under the competitive class and four exhibits under the Invitee Class were exhibited.

4. On 15.10.97 A SPECIAL CANCELLATION on the Birth Centenary of Sangita Kalanidhi MUDICONDAN C. VENKATRAMA IYER was released with Special Cover at Music Academy by the Chief Postmaster General, Chi. S.T. Bhaskaran before an August gathering in the evening.

5. Other Actlivity / Meeting :

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

presented big BLOWUP of poet SUBRAMANIYA BHARATHI to Bharathi Memorial at Madras on 11/9/1997. A revised Permanent Pictorial Cancellation has been provided at Ettayapuram 627902 from 11/9/97.

Four different INDEPEX' 97 Exhibition SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS have been released at 10 Metro Cities. Associations, Societies and the Media have not been provided with advance information together with the bromide Copy of the same. How does the Department expect wide publicity for this Exhibition. Further the Cancellations provided on the Delivery offices at the Metros are so bad that only partial cancellations are printed with the result the purpose of publicity is lost sight of. Hope better councils prevail and the Department see things in their rightful perspective.

3. Provision of Special pictorial cancellation was provided at Trichinopoly HPO commemorating the Mahatma Gandhi's 70th Anniversary visit to Trichinopoly.

4. Special cancellation was provided to LAWRENCE SCHOOOL LOVEDALE for the Third Students' Exhibition on 28/9/97

5. At an august gathering at the Chennai British Council Special commemerotive Stamp of Sir William Jones was held on 28/9/97 and Sri S. T. Bhaskaran, CPMG released the stamp and the Album was presented to the British Consul in joint sponsorship of the Dept. of INDOLOGY of which Shri V. Sundaram, IAS(Retd) was the President. The function was very well attended.

6. A hurriedly convened Meeting of the local Philatelists' was held at

the office of the CPMG in connection with STUDENTS' PHILATELEIC EXHIBITION for School children upto +2 level for picking out the best Entry to be forwarded to New Delhi for the International Exhibition - Indepex'97 as per DGPT's orders and Exhibition was conducted from 13th to 15th October, 1997.

The following Competitive Entries from the Tamilnadu's Circle of the Postal Department are being sent to INDEPEX' 97 Exhibition :

1. Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das - Study & Research of Indian Classics
2. Mr. G. Balakrishnadas - French India
3. Mr. G. Balakrishnadas - Convention States
4. Mr. G. Amarchand - Pre - Stamp and Maritime Mails of India
5. Mr. Ajit Chordia - India Pre independence
6. Mr. Satish Kumar - Birds
7. Mr. V.K. Mohan - Antropology
8. Master Md. Jalal (Junior) Penny Blacks, Red Two Pennys - Prestamp covers
9. Mr. A.V. Radhakrishnan - Birds (Literature Class)
10. Mr. S. Vaithyanathan - Communications of Dutch in India (Literature Class)
11. Mr. Mathew Varki - Philately for the young (Literature Class)

SIPA Wishes All the Best to all the above Competitors in bringing Laurels to south and bring credit to SIPA who have motivated them for competition. Nearly 40 Members from South are likely to visits the INDEPEX'97. We Wish Bonn Voyage to everyone.

INDEPEX 97

As part of the Golden Jubilee of the India's Independence, the Department of Post is holding a world Philatelic Exhibition, INDEPEX '97 from 15-22, December 1997 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The last World Philatelic Exhibition, India 89 was held in 1989.

Mr. D.N. Jatia apprised members at the Regional Meeting of the Philatelic Congress of India held at Infar Training, Alipore, Calcutta on 28.09.1997 about Indepex 97 World Philatelic Exhibition to be held in December to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of our Independence. Mr. D.N. Jatia informed that the Exhibition will be of 3100 frames out of which 2500 frames in the competitive class. There are 106 literature entries. He advised the Indian collectors to consult senior Philatelists and improve their collections. There will be 4 seminars, on Postal History, Postal Stationary, Revenues and Thematics. Mr. D.N. Jatia stated that he would arrange a session with Mr. Voltmeir, Chairman of the Forgeries Commission to explain the work on detection of Forgeries etc. The specialist gets only 2 days to detect and confirm a forgery at the exhibition which is a real difficult task. He suggested that if you

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.

- Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81)
British Primeminister

have a Forgery in your collection please mention the same and if in doubt put a "question mark" in the exhibit. The Director General of U.P.U. and Olympics President Mr. Samaranch would visit the Exhibition. There are 14 exhibits in Championship class, 20 entries in the Court of Honour and 25 entries in Computer Software (a non competitive class)

The logo of the Indepex'97 depicts the caparisoned elephant. A special stamp portraying this logo was released on 5.10.96. In connection with the Exhibition, the Department so far has released the following stamps:

1. A set of four stamps on Centre on Culture and Tourism related to Lord Buddha, on 6.6.97. The stamps contain the pictures of Bodhi Gaya, Nalanda, Vaishali and Kushi Nagar and priced at Rs.29/- per block.

2. Another set of four stamps on Beaches of India depicting Bogmalo Beach and Anjuna Beach in Goa, Kovalam Beach in Kerala and Gopalpur on Sea in Orissa and priced at Rs.29 per set was released on 11.8.97.

The P.C.I. Dinner at Indepex 97
Mr. G.B. Pai graciously agreed to host the same. As Commissioner General **Indepex 97** he is prepared to host the

Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.

- James B. Conant (1893-1978)
American Educator

dinner for Jurors, and Commissioners with their families, Organising Committee members and Governing Council Members of P.C.I. Other guests would be according to Mr. Pai's wishes. The dinner would be called the Commissioner General Mr. G.B. Pai's dinner.

To Honour Mr. D.N. Jatia : Mr. Pai suggested Mr. D.N. Jatia will be honoured by appointing him as President Emeritus of the P.C.I. The dinner is also to be hosted in honour of Mr. D.N. Jatia. The following to be included : Mr. R.V.S. Prasad, Secretary, Department of Post. The President of Regional Federations i.e. F.I.A.P. European and American.

We learn from Mr. G.B. Pai, Secretary General, INDEPEX - 97 that 2 Books would be published by him and the cost of printing borne by him. Some copies be given to him for F.I.A.P. Deptt of Post, Royal. 400 to 500 copies will be given to P.C.I. for sale. The sale proceeds of these publications to be given to P.C.I. Trust.

The President and Members of the P.C.I. complimented Mr. Pai on his very generous offer. The P.C.I. accepted Mr. Pai's offer with gratitude.

Indepex 97 Mr. D.N. Jatia apprised the members of the programme of Indepex 97. He told that Olympics President Mr. Samaranch is expected to be present on Olympic day during Indepex 97.

INDEPEX '97 EXHIBITION CANCELLATIONS



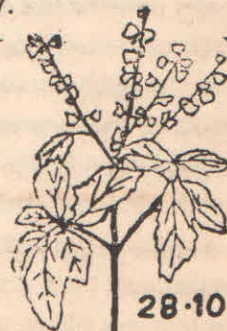
15.10.97
CHENNAI-600 002



11.9.97
CHENNAI-600 002



15.10.97



28.10.97

CHENNAI 600 002

Electric Theatre gets a new lease of life

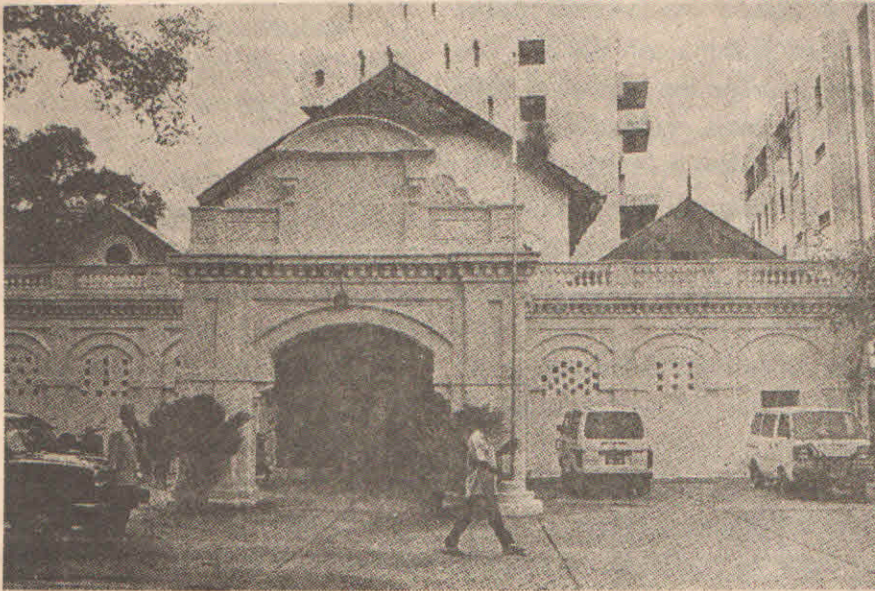
By T. Ramakrishnan

What was till recently a storing yard for postal forms in the city is to be converted into a storehouse of information on philately.

A stately building, adjacent to the Anna Road Head Post Office, has been given a facelift to house the Philatelic Bureau. The Postal authorities have drawn up an ambitious plan to establish a modernised Philatelic Bureau in this structure, known as the Electric Theatre in the early years of this century.

In 1962, the post office moved to the present building. Since then, the old building became a godown for storing postal forms.

Thanks to an initiative taken by the present team of senior officials in the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle, a portion of the historic building was renovated at a cost of about Rs. 30,000 without altering its original character. The officials have recommended to the Postal Directorate to declare the 'Electric Theatre' a Heritage Building.



Built by an Englishman Warwick Major, the building as originally designed and constructed several decades ago exclusively for screening films, the first such structure built in South India for the purpose. Its possession passed on to the Postal Department in 1915 and thereafter, it located a post office, then called Narasingapuram Post Office named after the revenue village of the area.

The Chief Postmaster General of the Circle, Mr. S.T. Baskaran, first brought out the significance of the building through one of his books, reckoning its year of its construction to be 1900. But, an American film historian, Dr. Stephen Hughs, who researched the silent era of south Indian cinema, this structure was built in 1913.

The 9000-foot -area building, located in the midst of a triangle, was constructed in the then Mckay's Garden. Though the Post Office carried the name of Narasingapuram initially, it came to be known as Mount Road Sub -Post Office by 1928, then under the jurisdiction of GPO,

In those days, films were shown in temporary structures such as tents and magnesium lamps were used for projection. At the 'Electric Theatre' projection was done with an electric lamp. Dr. Hughs points out that the theatre, a major entertainment spot on Mount Road, was "tastefully draped with star-spangled blue hangings overhead, and around the doorways

and sides with red cloth hangings", Its design and architecture set the pattern for subsequent cinema halls in South India.

There were five classes of seats in the Theatre hall, beginning with box seats costing Rs. Three. There were special screened seats for women in purdha. Two shows were held daily, one at 6-30 p.m. and another at 9-30 p.m. There were two ticket counters and films changed twice a week. All the films shown were either from U.S. or Britain as film production in India started only in 1912. Indian and British audiences on several occasions, returned disappointed, as the house was full.

However, Mr. Baskaran notes that available material does not have references about initial owners of the property and why the film house was sold out to the Postal department. One of the probable reasons for the closure of the theatre was that Warwick Major, who ran the film shows, might

have gone back to Britain.

The Mount Road post office, started in 1854, was a non-gazetted delivery office till 1955 when its postmaster was upgraded to the gazetted rank. It became the Head Post Office (HPO) in 1961. On the same year, the Philatelic Bureau, originally functioning at GPO, became part of the post office. At present, this office covers an area of 6.4 sq. km, serving a population of nearly 12 lakhs.

The Philatelic Bureau has over 1,000 deposit holders and a monthly revenue of about Rs. 3.8 lakhs through the sale of postal stamps, will have a thematic presentation of stamps. now, the section of Freedom Fighters has

163 stamps.

To be equipped with computers, the Bureau will have database on historical details, description and availability of stamps, issued after Independence. Another database for all deposit account holders will be created with a provision for automatic updating of the accounts.

The department has planned to utilise the services of the South India Philatelists Association (SIPA) in establishing the databses. Besides bringing out a Bi-monthly bulletin, public material will be produced by the authorities on various themes of philately or stamps. A display apparatus will be installed at the Bureau for

projecting new issues and 'user-friendly' terminals put in place to which the public can have access. For operating the terminals, visitors need to give only limited command, which will be put on a display board.

Enough provision will be made for facilitating meetings of SIPA. In front of the building, the authorities want to develop a garden, for which they are on the lookout for corporate sponsors. (Many have come forward.)

To give a renewed lease of life to the building, the department held a State-level philatelic exhibition participated by students during the Postal Week and more expose are on the anvil.

India's 9½ Arches in Two Different Ink

By Mr. D.N. Jatia, President, F.I.P

A battle royal between the Court of Directors and the Government of India was raging for a decision on whether the first postage stamps of India should be printed in England or in India for the quick implementation of the report of the Post Office Commission, 1850. The Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, mentioned in his Minutes dated 7th February, 1854, of the failure on the part of Col. Forbes of Calcutta Mint in producing a satisfactory standard for printing Indian Stamps by the required time. The task was thereafter entrusted to Capt. H.L. Thuillier of the Government Lithographic Press, Calcutta, for printing by Lithographic process. Capt. Thuillier submitted four designs of ½ anna, 1 anna, 4 annas and 8 annas stamps on 22nd February 1854 hurriedly drawn on transfer paper along with his comments.

Subsequently, Capt. Thuillier reported on 28th April to the Government of India on the various steps taken by him to achieve the objective. He mentioned of attaining a satisfactory representation of Her Majesty's head drawn on transfer paper with "INDIA" at the top and "HALF ANNA" at the bottom. With this set standard he laid off sufficient transfer upon a stone to form a continuing block of 120 stamps i.e., 12 rows with 10 stamps in each and covering such blocks on to the stone to print on approved paper watermarked with Coat of Arms of the East India Company.

In his report, he further mentioned of having been able to print

successfully a few hundred sheets after initial trials with very small quantity of English Vermilion lithographic ink which he happened to have with him. The 300 treble sheets or 900 single sheets so printed were sent to Bombay on 5th April. This was in compliance with the letter dated 1th March, 1854 from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Director-General of the Post Office of India which also contained instructions to print stamps by lithography.

Fresh supply of ink apparently of similar quality and colour obtained was, according to Capt. Thuillier, "found entirely to destroy the impressions on the stone, the proof coming off thick and smeared and losing the uniformity of the likeness, so much so to render the stamps unserviceable. Other attempts were then made to prepare the colour in this office and a series of experiments have been made under my immediate supervision, but from the properties of the mineral substance in the vermilion and from repeated and the most careful trials, it is now evident that it will be impossible at such a season of the year, to produce the half-anna stamps in the quantity required in that colour. Even those printed from the English prepared colour become too indistinct after a few hundred impressions, to permit of the same stone being used longer..."

In this respect the letter of 8th April 1854 from Capt. Thuillier to Supdt. of Stamps (published in PJI 1923) is very pertinent. He states that

the vermilion supplied by the Superintendent of Stamps "found to be ill-adapted for lithographic purposes, owing as I suspect to wood oil existing in the varnish with which it has been rubbed up. I have the honour to solicit the favour of your supplying me with a quantity of the vermilion powder to enable me to mix up the colour with some English Lithographic Varnish which I happen to have by me."

He had to clean off all the stones so prepared. In order to secure a good standard to be primarily relied upon, he got engraving of the design done on a copper plate by an Indian, Muanuruddin and blocks were again formed on the stone by transfer process in 12 rows x 8 (totalling 96 stamps). In the meantime, attempts were being made for preparing transfer material, printing ink and varnish from the purest ingredients obtained from dispensary of the East India Company. Fresh printing trials were made in Thuillier's office with the copper plate transfer in black from printing ink, in blue (from refined indigo) and in cobal blue.

The entire supply of 300 treble sheets sent to Bombay was ordered to be destroyed by telegraphic message of 23rd April sent to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. In his memorandum of 28th April, Capt. Thuillier stated of having submitted demi-officially samples to the Director General of Post Office and also to the Court of Directors. Among the known examples, the upper half of 60

stamps of Block I was presented to the then Prince of Wales by the India office in London in 1904. The lower-half containing 60 stamps was at one time in the India Government collection in a bad state and the same was



The unissued half anna vermilion

reported stolen. Block No. II has been illustrated in Hausburg's book in plate

2 from which the stamps with English Vermilion can be seen.

On 12th July 1949, a mild stir was caused among the Indian Philatelists (reported in ISJ June 1950) when Mr. Hiralal Banker of Saurashtra walked into the office of the late Mr. Jal Cooper with a complete triple sheet of the famous "9½ Arches" essay. Till today this discovery is surrounded with mystery. However, it then passed on to the Mecca of Philately, London through Harmers where it has been broken and being sold currently in singles, pairs and blocks.

Stanley Gibbons have catalogued this "9½ Arches" issue as SG 1. ½a Vermilion. If one examines carefully these stamps, he would find every glaring difference in the colour as well as in the printing and the wear of the stones. Between the two stamps, one

is from the original sheet which was printed earliest from the English Vermilion ink which Capt. Thuillier had with him and the other is from the ink sent by the Supdt. of Stamps from which the Hiralal's triple sheet was printed. English Vermilion print is deep blood red, shining having sharp print, while the other one is dull vermilion worn out in printing. It is evident that the concerned stamps were printed from two totally different supplies of ink and as such need separate cataloguing. The prints of the deep red English Vermilion ink are much rarer and deserve better attention than those of dull vermilion of which a full triple sheet was found.

Notify Early of Address Changes

NATIONS, THE OLYMPICS, AND STAMPS

More than 10,000 athletes from almost 200 nations of the world participated in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. A nation is an independent country that has boundaries and a government recognized by other countries.

Atlanta 1996

T.M. © 1992 ACOG

Nations may request admission to the United Nations (which is not a country or world government but rather an international

organization dedicated to promoting peaceful relations among the nations of the world).

Participation in the Olympics is not limited strictly to nations. The international governing body of the Olympics - the International Olympic Committee (IOC)-issues invitations to nations and a selected number of "dependent areas" (such as territories) that have created National Olympic Committees (NOCs). The IOC extended invitations to 197 NOCs to participate in the 1996 Summer Olympics, with every NOC invited having agreed to send a delegation of one or more athletes to the Atlanta Games.

Although the Olympics began as a forum for athletic competition with arts and culture as well, in recent de-

acades it has broadened to include a Cultural Olympiad - a formal program of various cultural events held in conjunction with the Summer Olympic games. One part of the Cultural Olympiad is OLYMPHILEX, which you read about



In addition to sending their best athletes, at least 42 countries also are sending their postal administrations to Atlanta to participate in OLYMPHILEX '96. A postal administration is the government agency that issues stamps, operates post offices, and delivers mail within a country. The names of these agencies vary from country to

country but usually have the word "post" or "postal" in their title (such as U.S. Postal Service, United Kingdom Post Office [Royal Mail] and Canada Post).

Postal administrations around the world commonly issue commemorative stamps to mark both the Summer and Winter Olympics. To use the

Olympic Rings or the words "Olympic" on stamps, each country's NOC enters into an agreement with the International Olympic Committee that spells out procedures (and fees). For example, a country has to submit all proposed stamp designs commemorating the Olympics to the I.O.C. for approval.

STAMPS FROM DIFFERENT CONTINENTS

What image comes to mind when you see the word "Olympics"? For most people, it will be the Olympic Rings. The Olympic symbol was designed in 1913, and the following year was placed on a white background to form the Olympic flag. From left to right, the top three rings are blue, black, and red, while the lower two are yellow and green. Frequently, the rings appear in color on Olympics stamps, though you will also see them all black or all white.

Take a second and look at the rings. What do you think they stand for? According to the Olympics Charter, "The Olympic symbol represents the union of the five continents and the meeting of the athletes from through-

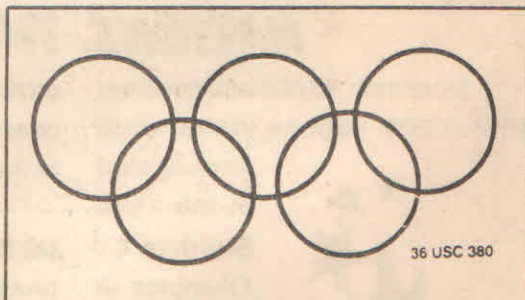
out the world at the Olympic Games."

When the Olympics were revived in 1896, only fourteen countries representing four continents participated. By the time the Olympic symbol was designed in 1913, the number of nations sending teams had doubled so that five continents were now represented, the Olympic Movement continued to grow, and soon all continents (except frigid Antarctica) were represented. Today, 197 nations around the world sent athletes to the 1996 Summer Games. Some of these are from island nations far removed from any continent, so in a way you might say that the Olympic Rings have come to symbolize

the global union of athletes around the world.

Speaking of continents, have you ever wondered what a continent is? The usual definition is that a continent is one of the major land areas on earth. Unlike an island, continents are not necessarily surrounded by water

on all sides. For example, Australia is a giant island continent, but as the map of the earth on the stamp at left



shows, Europe, Asia, and Africa are all part of the same giant land area. The customary dividing line between Asia and Europe is the Ural mountain range. There is no natural feature dividing Asia from Africa, though building of the Suez Canal created a convenient cultural dividing line.



**VISIT
INDEPEX-97**
at New Delhi,
15-22 Dec (97) at Pragathi
Maidan

Pre Independence Stamps of India

By *Late P.M. MEDHORA*

India has a very fascinating postal history and equally fascinating are the Indian stamps. Much has been written about the postal history and the early classical stamps of India by eminent foreign philatelic writers like Hausburg, Martin Dawson and Smythies who took great pains to bring early Indian stamps in great prominence. Mr. Jal Cooper is another eminent Indian author who has to his credit a most readable and interesting book on "Stamp of India" and his other interesting publications are, "India Used Abroad" and "Early Indian Cancellations" which are to my mind excellent reference books for a keen student of Indian stamps. In spite of such wealth of reference books that are at the disposal of Indian stamp collectors, very few devote their time and money in studying the stamps of India and the other side lines like postal history, early lithographed stamps and their fascinating printing and early Indian cancellations.

Short Postal History:

This vast country has passed from vicissitudes of time-it has seen good days as well as bad days. The country's history is full of strife and brickerings and it was because of this that the country was dominated by a foreign power for over hundred years. In the days of yore prior to East India Co., there was internal postal service carried in a number of ruling States and also by zamindars by regular runners or on horses or mules but the postal service was on a very restricted scale.

The Hon. East India Co., which was established in the year 1600 was mainly responsible in introducing regular postal service run on proper lines. The East India co., having established, started its trading activities from three important centres that of Madras Calcutta and Bombay. As the Company prospered very fast it realised that for exchange of business letters and other documents from one place to another a regular postal link was not only necessary but very imperative. The two trading centres at Madras and Bombay were asked to put up a regular post office in the year 1688. Between 1700 to 1760 a number of postal reforms were introduced. By about 1720 a weekly postal service was introduced between Madras and Calcutta and as the years rolled by a similar service was brought into effect joining Bombay. With the expanding trade and with the help of able administrators like Lord Clive and Warren Hastings the power and political influence of the East India Co. increased rapidly. The postal system which was once used for the Company and its staff only, was thrown open to the public. By 1837 British influence took its deep roots in the Indian soil and virtually the Britishers were in control of most of the strategic points in this country. The first Post Office Act of 1837 -38 came into force and the postal service was put on better footing throughout the country. As there was no postage stamps, various strikes better known as Early Indian

Handstruck Stamps' were introduced in three major presidencies that of Madras, Bengal and Bombay.

From the view point of stamp collectors those strikes applied to various letters offer a very interesting and fascinating study. A keen collector of Indian stamps if he wishes to bring completion must keep a few examples of these early Indian handstruck stamps in his collection. Some of these strikes are very rare and hard to obtain and fetch high prices. For a keen student of early postal history I would recommend that magnificent work in two parts on 'The Handstruck Postage Stamps of India' by Col Hammond Giles.

SCINDE DAWKS AND 1854 ISSUES

To Sir Bartle Frere goes the credit of introducing first stamps in this country. He was the Commissioner of Sind in those days and was an able administrator and a reformer. He decided to introduce cheap postal rate service in his province and with this view in mind he designed the first postage stamps of India, popularly known as Scinde Dawk stamps. No proper proof is available as to where the Scinde Dawks were printed but it is presumed that the credit goes to the famous printers De La Rue & Co.

The first to appear was the red Scinde Dawk. As it was very brittle, it did not remain in circulation for a long time and a new supply was ordered which was on white paper. From Stamp collectors' view the red Scinde Dawk is a great rarity in fine condi-

tion. First of all very few examples are known in fine condition as invariably the copies are found in cracked condition.

The white Scinde Dawk stamp did not prove popular with the postal staff because when affixed on a white cover they were not easily noticeable to the postal clerks working at night in very dim light. So, out went the white Scinde Dawks, and in came the other variety the blue Scinde Dawks. The Scinde Dawk stamps remained in circulation for more than two years, from July, 1852 to 30th Sept 1854. There was a time-about fifteen years back the writer had sold four copies of white Scinde Dawks at Rs.125/- per stamp and the Blue Scinde Dawk two copies at Rs. 200/- each to a dealer friend. The position is quite different today as they have gone up in prices, but I would still say that do buy good or fine used copies at prevailing prices as these rarities are simply disappearing from the market. One word of warning -beware of forgeries, as there are crude as well as clever foregeries and one is likely to be duped.

It was Sir Bartle Frere's bold venture which was greatly responsible for issuing stamps throughout INDIA in Oct., 1854. Full credit must be given to Capt Thuillier for his hard work and sincerity of purpose for printing 1854 Indian lithographs. This devoted officer first succeeded in printing nine hundred sheets of half anna in vermilion colour. The sheets were first sent to Bombay but they were not issued to public for postal use. As further printing of the said half anna vermilion cannot be had because that particular English vermilion ink was in

short supply, Capt. Thuillier experimented with the Indian red Ink but the result was not very encouraging. So he switched over to deep blue or indigo ink and was successful in putting up an excellent performance.

The first supply of half anna vermilion SG No.1 9½ arches were 120 stamps in a sheet but in the new printing of half anna blue there were 96 stamps in a sheet -8 X12. Each sheet showing corner floral ornaments, some descriptive information, printer's name and date of production. There was a very heavy demand for stamps So Capt. Thuillier had to work hard and fast by preparing one large 'Primary or Parent stone' of 96 stamps. To satisfy the overwhelming demand millions of stamps were printed and released to the various post offices. The first half anna stamps are known to exist in three different dies viz, die I, die II and die III and it is interesting to know as to how this happened.

By constant printing the printing stones got worn out and in spite of 'touches-up' and 're-touches' made to the worn out stones the impressions of stamps were not satisfactory. Therefore new printing stones were prepared with redrawing of some parts of the original design and such redrawing resulted in the new die, better known as die II. Further changes were made in the master die and there resulted a new die, known as die III. So one will find three different dies of half anna blue. Out of three dies of half anna stamps, that of die II were printed in a small quantity and it is very difficult to come across fine used copies die II. The second best is die III and the third best is die I. There was

a time when good to fine used copies of all the dies were available at a very low price but our Indian collectors never paid proper attention to early classics and today they have gone up in price.

It was truly a success story for Capt. Thuillier, So this hard working officer put on another great performance in offering a big quantity of one anna value in red colour. They were also printed in sheets of 96 stamps with the corner ornaments and descriptive inscription. As for the three different dies in one anna value the same story as that of half anna repeats itself. Out of the three dies in the one anna value the unused examples of die I and III are very scarce. Fine used copies of die III are hard to come across.

Those who are really interested in a deep and profitable study of 1854 half anna and one anna stamps are advised to possess or go through the masterly work on this subject by those very knowledgeable authors Col. Martin, L.E. Dawson and E.A. Smythies. Very interesting and scholarly articles also appeared some years back under the pen of late Mr. D.E. Wadia in India's Stamp Journal edited by Jal Cooper.

Two Annas & Four Annas

Whereas the half anna and one anna stamps were printed in sheets of 96 stamps and lithographed, the two annas stamps were printed in sheets of 80 stamps 8 X10 and were typographed. In the top and bottom margins it is inscribed, "EIGHTY TWO - ANNA POSTAGE STAMPS" and "PRICE TEN RUPEES" respectively. In half anna and one anna stamps

there are a number of 'retouches' and 'touches-up', in two annas such intricacies are not to be found. The stamps appear with two different watermarks and it was late Mr.C.D. Desai who brought to light the new watermark. Nearly seven million stamps were printed of this value and those stamps with an extra outer line (frame line on all four sides) are scarce. There are a number of shades and the rare one is two anna emerald green.

The East India Co., prospered by leaps and bounds and with increased prosperity the volume of work at the post offices also shot up. The postage rates were increased so there was a need for issuing a higher denomination stamp. The four annas value in two colours blue and red was released on 13th Oct. 1854. There were in all five printings. The first printing was in wide setting with only twelve stamps in a sheet, each stamp separated with a blue wavy line. As the sheets were small and the demand was great the stocks were dwindling fast and in quick succession further two printings in wide setting were made with some difference in the head and frame dies.

The sheets of twelve stamps were found small and inadequate. So Capt. Thuillier decided to improve upon his method of setting and printing. The size of the sheet was kept the same as before but he decided to put the stamps closer on the sheet and thus instead of 12 stamps in a sheet he brought out 24 stamps in a sheet and this printing is known as fourth printing - close setting. In so doing the wavy lines between the two stamps were not incorporated in the design and stamps were placed 2½ mm apart

from each other. This very close setting was found unsuitable so there came out the fifth printing of this value with stamps placed 4 1/2 mm apart from each other and this last printing is popularly known as fifth printing medium setting.

In four annas also there are a number of re-touches and fine examples of worn dies, different head dies and frame dies, centre shifted or double which provide an excellent study. This value was not printed in big quantity and as majority of them were used in post, it is extremely difficult to obtain mint copies. Fine or superb used copies with four corners and wide margins all round are fast disappearing from the market. This glamorous group will not be complete if that great rarity "Head Inverted" is forgotten or not taken note of. Recently it was offered in an auction in America where it realised fantastic price.

Note must be taken of other varieties the Serrated perfs. Or pin -- perf of 1/2 an die I; 1 an dies I & II and 4 as. die II. This is believed to be unofficial yet they are listed by Gibbons. Most of them were used in Madras circle but some are known with Bombay postmarks. The writer had one fine used example of 1 an die III serrated perfs which is unlisted by Gibbons. The above copy is genuine as I hold the same with the certificate of genuineness from the Royal Philatelic Society dated 28th Feb. 1936.

There is also a very fine range of early essays and proofs some of them are very rare. Those early essays are hard to find such as the famous 'Lion and Palm Tree' essay pre-

pared by Col. Forbes and the first essays prepared by Capt. Thuillier. Reprints were made later on in 1883, 1889, 1891, 1894, 1905 and 1916. For a full account the best reference books are Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia part III and Mr. Cooper's Stamps of India' book.

QUEEN VICTORIA STAMPS FROM 1855 TO 1990

After the fascinating lithographed stamps there came a supply of stamps from London printed by De La Rue & Co., five values that of 1/2 an; 1 an; 2 as; 4 as and 8 as. were printed on no watermark paper in sheets of 320 stamps, four panes of 80 stamps and they were perforated 14 all round. The values that of 4 as and 8 as. On thick glazed bluish paper which are listed as SG Nos. 35 and 36 by Gibbons. All other values were printed on white paper and they abound in shades. These no watermark stamps No. 35 to 49 are extremely difficult to obtain in fine mint condition. Even the used copies that one can get are hardly in superb condition as out of hundreds of stamps one may come across only a dozen or two may be fine copies.

There are many star items in this group and they are the bisected stamps used on covers and imperforate pairs. No doubt it is not possible to get all the imperforate pairs but it is advisable to keep one or two imperforate pairs in one's collection. The biggest pitfall is that of bisected stamps used on a piece or on a cover. I have seen only a couple of genuine examples of bisected stamps used on pieces. Most of the bisected and imperforate singles that are hawked

around used on pieces are nothing but dangerous forgeries. Very few collectors know that these bisected were used in Strait Settlement only, so be careful about the forged Postmarks.

Another rare item is 2 as. Yellow-green No. 50 which was printed but not officially issued. In spite of it being officially not issued some used examples are known which are worth possessing. The other very elusive items are imperf between vertical pair of 1 anna brown No.39a examples of which I have never come across and double impression of 1/2 anna blue and 1 anna brown. Actually I possessed stamp printed double of 1/2 anna blue which was bought from one of the London auctions about twenty years back.

In the year 1865 the same series as above from 1/2 annas to 8 annas No.54 to 65 with some variations in shades were issued on watermark paper known as 'elephant head watermark'. In this group also mint stamps in perfect condition are difficult to obtain. Even fine used copies are hard to come across and the most difficult stamp either mint or used is 8 annas value No. 65. The imperforate pairs of 8 pies purple; 1/2 anna blue and 2 annas orange are very rare. I have seen the first two but so far I have not come across an imperforate pair of 2 annas orange.

The other two important stamps either mint or used are the six annas provisional stamps Nos. 66 and 68. From 15th Aug., 1863 the 1/2 oz. letter rate to U.K. via Marseilles was fixed at 6 annas. 8p. and an order for this new value was placed with the printers. In the mean time to tide over

the difficulty the Foreign Bill stamps of 6 annas denomination was overprinted 'POSTAGE' in green ink with the words 'FOREIGN' at the top and "BILL" at the bottom removed. The overprint 'POSTAGE' appears in two types. The great rarity is No.66 showing the overprint inverted. Be very careful in buying these stamps as many forgeries are known. Only a limited number of stamps were overprinted (about 166400) with the result mint stamps are very scarce and whatever used copies that are available are mostly in poor condition.

Between 1867-1876 further new values were added such as 9 pies, 6 as; 6 as 8 p 12; as and Re.1 for postal purpose. Out of this I consider 9 p; 6 as 8 p; 12 as; and Re.1 Nos. 72, 77-79 and 82 are hard to obtain in fine used condition. The star item is the imperf pair of 6 as 8p value examples of which are hardly to be seen.

Here we come to the end of stamps with the inscription 'East India Postage'. Over and above the stamps, one could very easily expand ones collection by adding a galaxy of die proofs essays, and stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN' and 'CANCELLED'.

Empire of India

On 1st Jan. 1877 Queen Victoria assumed the title of Empress of India and the inscription on the stamps was changed from East India Postage to India Postage. A new set of stamps from 1/2 an. to Re.1 was printed and released in 1882. Once again the stamps were printed by De La Rue & Co., on star watermark paper in sheets of 240 stamps in two panes of 120 stamps - 12 x 10. There is nothing of

importance in this series except two very good errors of 1/2 an. bluegreen and 2 as. blue SG Nos. 85a and 92 a showing the stamps printed double or what we call double impression. Genuine examples are extremely difficult to obtain so it is advisable to buy from a very reliable source or preferably with the certificate of genuineness from B.P.A. or Royal Philatelic Society. Looking to their scarcity, they are grossly under priced in Gibbons catalogue.

Between 1890-1900 further new values and change of colours and surcharges appeared but they are not of great importance. The high values Rs.2,3 and 5 (SG Nos.107-109) are getting scarce either mint or used as the demand is increasing day by day. Another interesting item is the surcharge 1/4 anna on 1/2 anna blue-green showing stamp printed double and the surcharge double variety. In 1898 postage rate of news paper was reduced from 1/2 anna to 1/4 anna so to meet the demand this provisional surcharge was made. Both these errors are very difficult to obtain and they too seem to be under priced.

Edward VII and GEO. V Stamps

By 1900 the volume of trade in this country and with the overseas increased tremendously so to cope up with the demand of high denomination stamps, in 1902 the Edward VII set was issued upto Rs.25. The composition of the sheets for all the values upto rupee one was the same as before that means 240 stamps in a sheet whereas the high values from Rs.2 to Rs.25 were in the sheet of 96 stamps eight panes of 12 stamps - 4 x 3. In this group most of the stamps are easily

available but I would like to make special mention about the scarcity of fine used examples of Rs.3, 5 and 25 denominations. There was a time when they were easily available at very cheap rates. Twenty years back Ed. Rs.25 (No.147) was openly offered at Rs.75 in fine mint or used condition but today the story is different.

King Ed. VII ruled for a short period so in 1911 when Geo. V came on the throne another new series was released from 3 p. to Rs.25. As for the low values upto 12 annas there were 256 stamps in a sheet, four panes of 64 stamps 16 x 4 and the high values were printed in similar fashion as Ed. VII high values, This series abound in a number of shades. Due to heavy demand the high values Rs.15 and Rs.25 are getting scarce in fine mint condition as well as in fine postally used condition. The major error is the centre omitted in one rupee value which is a star item.

There are some errors in surcharges which are worth possessing - some of them like 1/4 an 1/2 an. surcharge double and inverted; surcharged omitted in pair with normal and some errors in the provisional NINE PIES on 1 anna like surcharge double and surcharge inverted are extremely scarce. Here also collectors are warned against forgeries of all the above surcharges. And last but not the least is that very scarce error of the double print of 1/2 an yellow-green (155a).

STAMPS PRINTED AT NASIK SECURITY PRESS

For a long period of about seventy years De La Rue & Co, printed and produced some fine stamps for

this country. The then government was contemplating in establishing a printing press in India but for some unforeseen circumstances it was delayed for one reason or the other. The first printing plant was established at Nasik and plant started operating from 1st April 1926. The composition of the sheets was the same as before but there was only one difference and that the stamps were printed on paper with multiple star watermark instead of single star watermark. The whole set of Geo. V from 3 p to Rs.25 came out practically in the same colours as before. There is nothing of importance except that there are two tetebeche pairs of 1 an. and 2 as, values. If the high values Rs.15 and 25 are missing from your collection do not wait long to buy them at best.

For the first time three pictorial sets that of 1925 Air Mail, 1931 Inauguration of New Delhi and 1935 Silver Jubilee were issued. The first two sets are worth possessing. In the Air Mail set there is one good error which is better known as 'tree top missing' in the 8 as. value which is recommended in pair with normal. In the 1931 Inauguration of New Delhi set there are some fine examples of 'centre design printed double'. Clear centre double examples are scarce.

In the later issues of Geo. VI there is nothing special to mention. Most of the stamps in this series are easily available except Rs.15 value in fine used condition.

Service Stamps

As the volume of official correspondence increased, the authority decided to have separate stamps for official purpose. On 1st Aug. 1866

complete sheets of 320 stamps of 1/2 an 1 an. and 8 ans., on no watermark paper and 1/2 an., 1 an., 2 ans. and 4 ans with watermark elephant head were over-printed and issued with the word 'Service' in small letters. The sheets were over printed in Military Orphanage Press, Calcutta. As the stamps were printed in small quantity it is difficult to obtain either fine mint or used copies. Varieties such as wide and more open letter 'S'; no dot on letter 'i' and no stop after 'Service' are hard to come across, The major error is the 'Service' overprint inverted on 1/2 an; 2 as. and 4 annas values. These are really outstanding errors. To tide over the shortage as many as 500 sheets of 8p purple were also overprinted 'Service' in 1872. One may come across a number of clever as well as crude forgeries of the 'Service' overprint. A number of stamps of 8p value are known with the forged overprint as well as with the forged postmark. Beware of reprints and dangerous forgeries.

The star items of the 'Service' group are foreign bills and fiscal stamps on blue enamelled paper overprinted with the word 'SERVICE' and 'POSTAGE' in green ink. The quantity printed was very small. There was 18,000 stamps of 2 annas; 20,000 stamps of 4 annas and only 2000 stamps of the 8 anns value. Mint stamps are very rare and good used examples are very scarce. Reprints were made but the reprints can be distinguished from the genuine stamps by the size of the overprints. Those who have not got SG Nos.015 to 019 in their collections are advised to pick them up when the going is good.

Between 1867-1873 further supply of stamps overprinted Service in large letterings on stamps bearing watermark elephant's head from 1/2 an. to 8 annas were supplied by De La Rue & Co. The stamps of this series are not so scarce except two scarce stamps that of 1/2 anna blue die II NO.022 and 6 as. 8p. (No.030b). Nearly 196 sheets (62,720 stamps) of the 6 as. 8p. were received at Bombay but they were not issued and officially recorded as destroyed. It seems the whole stock was not destroyed as a number of mint stamps have appeared on the market.

In the year 1874 the overprint 'Service' was changed and a new overprint reading HMS was applied by De La Rue for all the official stamps. In the Queen's official stamps there are some very rare items with the overprints double as well as inverted, examples of which are simply unobtainable. Keep in mind 1/2 an. blue and 1 an. brown (Nos.036-037) with the overprint in blue-black ink and rare errors overprints inverted and double Nos.038a, 040a, b, 050a, b. But once again be very careful, buy these errors from only reliable source. These items in my mind are grossly under priced as I have hardly come across a couple of them. Other varieties such as overprints shifted are not to be neglected. All the stamps of this series exist with the overprints 'Specimen' or 'Cancelled'.

The official stamps of Ed. VII and Geo. V are fairly common. There are some very deserving items in the high value provisional issues and the two outstanding items are Re.1 or Rs.25 (Geo. V) showing surcharge inverted

(No.0103a) and the most difficult item Rs.2 on Rs.10 green and scarlet (No.0104). There are a number of other provisional errors are not to be neglected, if one can get a few examples they are worth keeping in ones collection. Besides there is a very fine range of Essays of high value provisionals in Ed. VII and Geo. V complete details of which can be obtained from Col. Hammond Giles article on the subject or from Cooper's Stamps of India book.

In Geo. V single star 'SERVICE' stamps there are a couple of fine items worth possessing 1/2 anna yellow-green and 1 anna aniline carmine showing overprint double are not easily obtainable. 1 anna chocolate imperforate pair with the SERVICE overprint and the provisional error 'ONE ANNA' on 1 anna chocolate (No.0107a) should not be missed. There are a number of provisional errors but space does not permit to describe them at length.

In my opinion PRE INDEPENDENCE stamps offer a fascinating study but somehow our own Indian stamp collectors have neglected the stamps of their own country. It should be the pride and privilege to collect the stamps of one's country as extensively done by stamp collectors of other countries. When a number of publications on Indian stamps containing wealth of knowledge are available at reasonable prices, why should we not read them and study them. If this article gives some fillip and inspiration to some Indian collectors to collect the stamps of their own country, then I would feel, I have done my duty towards Indian philately.

Collect Stamps

MOTHER TERESA A TRIBUTE

Death always brings grief and a sense of loss and when the deaths of two well loved public figures take place within a span of a week, the grief of the people is unparalleled. First it was Princess Diana on August 29th and then Mother Teresa on September 6th.

The Mother was considered a living saint who chose the company of the sick and the poor and who undertook the care of the orphans. Born on Aug 10, 1910 in Skopje in Yugoslavia, as Agnes Ganzha Bojaxhia, the Mother began her work in India in 1929, she left the convent to serve God among the poorest of poor, since then she was a guardian angel of the sick and the dying the world over. At the tender age of 12 she decided to serve the poor and six years later, she joined the sisters of Loreto, an Irish order which sent her to India to teach. She immediately fell in love with Calcutta on reaching the city and the poverty that was prevalent and the sorry plight of the slum people inspired her to spread Gods love. She acquired Indian citizenship in 1948.

When the Mother first faced the problem of human suffering, the local teachers were the ones who helped her in their spare time. This was when she realised, that a dedicated religious order was necessary to carry out her work. So in 1950, the Missionary Sisters of Charity was established. A brotherhood was added on in 1963 and the international coworkers of Mother Teresa in 1969. The Missionaries of Charity, recognised by the Vatican formally in 1965 today has three thousand nuns working in 87 Countries.

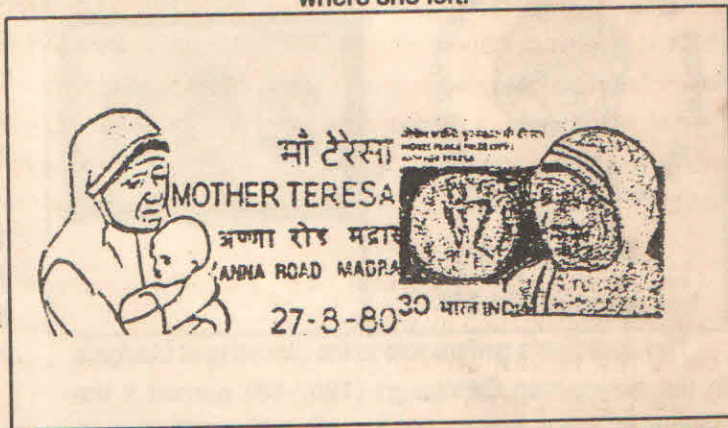
The Mother's selfless work was not without any problems. When the very first of her Institutions Nirmal Hriday (Sacred Heart) was opened in an abandoned dharma shala near the famous Kali Temple, the Mother faced stiff opposition from the Brahmin priests. This was solved when the mother restored dying Brahmin priest to health. For all the troubles she faced her efforts did not go in waste.

The Bharat Ratna, India's highest decoration was conferred on her in 1980. The Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Padma Shree Award were conferred on her in 1969. Ten years later the Kennedy International Award and the Pope John Peace prize. The Jawaharlal Nehru International Peace Prize was given to the Mother in 1972 and in 1979, she became the first Indian citizen to be given the Nobel Peace Prize. The first Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award was conferred on her in 1993.

The Mother was described by many as an 'angel of mercy' who spread love and compassion in the world. And also as one who gave relief and support to the sick, the needy and the poorest of poor people. In spite of being a citizen of the world, her loss would be felt especially by the Indians, because the Mother had an Indian spirit in terms of our culture. She was the beacon of light and hope for millions of poor and she will always remain as the symbol of dedication and selfless service. Her whole life was a big prayer, she prayed for all the needy and the sick and the orphans.

She reflected the agony of the helpless, the poor, weak and gave them support.

The loss of Mother Teresa is an irreplaceable one indeed and nobody can replace her - she was an angel to the earth to help and to serve the people. To the millions of sick, needy, poor and helpless people in India and the world over. We can only pray that others may be inspired by her selfless work and her dedication and carry on from where she left.



STAMP NEWS

2ND PARA (MARATHA)

7.9.97

0.7 Million

200 P.

The Battalion was raised on 6 September, 1797 for the Bombay Presidency as part of a treaty with the Raja of Travancore and was designated as the 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment Native Infantry of the Travancore Regiment.



The Battalion's gallant role in the storming of Madgala in the Abyssinian Campaign (1867-68) earned it the honour of being designated a Light Infantry Regiment. On return to India the Battalion took part in the second Afghan war. In 1885 the Battalion was designated as 10th Regiment The Bombay Native Light Infantry and was subsequently redesignated as 110 Maharatta Light Infantry in 1903.

In the First World War the Battalion fought against the Turks in Mesopotamia and won laurels in action at Shaiba, Kut-Ei-Amara and Ctesiphon. The Battalion also formed part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine.

In the Second World War, the Battalion won undying fame in the bloody assault on the formidable Italian fortress of Keren. The Battalion also fought against Rommel as part of the British Army. Under 10 Indian Division in Italy, NK Yeshwant Ghadge won the Victoria Cross posthumously at Citta-de-Castello for a supreme act of valour.

The Battalion was specially selected for parachute duties under 2nd Indian Airborne Division in 1946 and was redesignated as 3rd Parachute Battalion The Maharatta Light Infantry.

In 1948, the battalion was rushed to Jammu and Kashmir to stem the onslaught of Pakistani forces and fought

legendary action at Naushera and Jhangar.

On 15 April 1952, the Battalion became part of the Parachute Regiment Unit and was redesignated as Second Battalion. The Parachute Regiment. The Battalion saw service with the Indian Custodian Forces in Korea and was part of the forces which liberated Goa in 1961.

In the Indo-Pak war, the Battalion saw action in both the Rann of Kutch and Lahore Theatres. In 1971 the Battalion won the distinction of carrying out the first airborne assault of the Indian Army by para dropping in the Eastern Sector and was the first Indian Army unit to enter Dacca.

From April 1990 to December 1991, the Battalion served in OP HIFAZAT carrying out Counter Insurgency operations in the North East. Its commendable performance there earned one KC (Posthumously) and a number of other awards.

Till date the Battalion has won 30 Battle/Theatre honours and has the honour of being one of the most decorated battalions of the Army. The 240 awards won by the Battalion include one Victoria Cross, four Mahavir Chakras, one Kirti Chakra, 17 Vir Chakras and one Ashok Chakra Class III.

The Department of Posts is happy to issue a commemorative postage stamp on 2nd Para on the occasion of its Bicentenary celebrations on 7.9.97.

BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOBOTANY, LUCKNOW

11.9.97

0.4 Million

200, 200 P.

600, 1000 P.

Palaeobotany is the study of plant fossils preserved in rocks. The word "Fossil" has been defined as "any evidence of prehistoric life". Plant fossils were formed by burial and preservation in the sediments in the geological past. During transport to the site of burial the plant parts underwent decomposition and deformation in varying degrees. The environment of depositional site control the preservation of these plant remains. Research in the science of palaeobotany deals with both large and minute plant fossils as they help to deduce the antiquity, radia-

tion and evolutionary pattern of life on earth, the vegetation which was responsible for coal/oil reserves on earth, environment and climate of the past and co-relation of sedimentary sequences.

The first mention of a fossil plant was made by a German scholar Albertus Magnus in the thirteenth century. In India, the first fossil plant was recorded in the later part of the eighteenth century, although detailed studies were



carried out only in the later half of the nineteenth century, almost entirely at the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Professor Birbal Sahni was the first Indian to revitalize study of Indian fossil plants. He was a visionary in that he saw the potential of palaeobotanical research in India in understanding plant evolution through the ages and application of this knowledge for human welfare. It was through Prof. Sahni's efforts and zeal that the Institute of Palaeobotany was founded in September 1946 at Lucknow. The Institute functions as an autonomous research organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, to develop scientific knowledge and expertise in all branches of palaeobotany and related disciplines.

The set of four stamps issued by the Department of Posts to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, depict the richness and variety of plant fossils.

i. *Williamsonia seawardiana* - A model of extinct plant *Williamsonia seawardiana* which thrived in Rajmahal, Bihar

about 140 million years ago. This model is based on the reconstruction envisaged by Prof. Birbal Sahni.

ii. *Pentoxylon* - An important discovery of Prof. Birbal Sahni is the extinct plant group named *Pentoxylae* from Nipania in Dumka district, Rajmahal Hills, Bihar (age 110-114 million years). Reconstruction of plant with leaves, stem, flowers.

iii. *Glossopteris* - The tongue-shaped leaf *Glossopteris*, represents a unique group of extinct vascular plants (age: Permian, 250-280 million years). During this period India occupied a position South of equator close to South Pole as a part of a very large continent which included South America, Antarctica, Africa and Australia, called Gondwanaland. This vegetation was responsible for the precious coal reserves in peninsular India.

iv. *Birbal Sahnia divyadarshanii* - Fossil of an enigmatic flower-like organ of the extinct plant named after eminent Indian Palaeobotanists - Prof. Birbal Sahni and Prof. Divya Darshan Pant, discovered from Hura Coalfield, Santhal Pargana, Bihar (age 250-280 million years).

The First Day Cover features the Birbal Sahni Institute, and a Cameo inset of Birbal Sahni.

SWAMI BRAHMANAND

14.9.97

0.4 Million

200 P.

Swami Brahmanand was born on 4th December 1894 at Hamirpur district in Uttar Pradesh. He joined the freedom movement in 1918 and was jailed a number of times because of his participation in the Salt Satyagrah, Non-Cooperation Movement and Quit India Movement. During this period he was closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, Pt. Sampurnanand, Lala Lajpat Rai, Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi and other architects of the country's Independence.



After Independence Swami Brahmanand represented Hamirpur in the Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1977. In his

ideology he was influenced by Gandhiji, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in particular. He always worked for the emancipation of the economically deprived sections of the society and for eradication of inequalities based on caste and creed. He believed in the universality of religion and in a classless society.

Swamiji's life was as illustration of the principles he stood for. Though his primary role was that of a social reformer, he also worked for establishment of teaching institutions such as Brahmanand Inter College (1938), Brahmanand Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya (1943) and Brahmanand Mahavidyalaya (1960). Working selflessly for the welfare of society, Swamiji passed away on 13th September 1984.

The Department of Posts is issuing this special postage stamp in the memory of Swami Brahmanand.

BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI

16.9.97 0.4 Million 500 P.

Bhaktivedanta Swami born Abhay Charan De, in Calcutta on 1st September, 1896 was good at studies, showing special inclination for philosophy and science. Later, he became an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi's Civil Disobedience Movement. He dedicated his life to preaching the message of Indian culture and Indian philosophy worldwide. He worked tirelessly and translated over 100 books on vedic scholarly commentaries. His texts and translations are now used in more than 3000 Universities in different countries of the world.



He initiated many reform programmes including highly successful anti-drug addiction and recovery facilities, interfacing moral education in primary and secondary schools, food and emergency relief programmes etc.

Whether his services were required in war-torn countries like Bosnia, famine-struck countries like Ethiopia,

inner city NYC and London in aid of the homeless, flood-stricken Bengal or Florida, drought affected Andhra Pradesh, earthquake disaster areas like Armenia or Latūr, Maharashtra, his Food for life Rescue Teams have sprung timely to the forefront to provide healthy vegetarian meals and other services to the needy.

For his role in helping people all over the world to understand the message of Indian culture and philosophy, Bhaktivedanta Swami could be called as India's Cultural Ambassador to the world, and his contribution to the upliftment of society and betterment of mankind have been widely appreciated. By his straightforward presentation of our Indian cultural and philosophical heritage, millions have developed a deeper appreciation and understanding of India.

The Department of Posts is issuing a special commemorative postage stamp on August 26, 1997 to honour his memory.

SIR WILLIAM JONES

28.9.97 0.4 Million 400 P.

William Jones was born in London on 28 September 1746. In spite of an accident which permanently damaged his right eye, so that he was even advised by the doctor to give up school, Jones earned the epithet 'great scholar', at Harrow, where he spent his school years. At twelve, Jones knew Shakespeare's 'Tempest' by heart and by twenty, was proficient enough in French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek and Latin to compose original pieces in them. In his twelfth year, he translated into English several of Ovid's epistles and all Virgil's pastorals.



Jone's first year in college was marked by his study of Arabic. By 1768 he had acquired such a reputation for oriental scholarship that King Christian VII of Denmark asked him to translate the history of Nadir Shah, the

Tarikh-i-Nadiri, into French. He later turned to the Bar and was admitted to the Temple on 19 September 1770. At the Bar too, he distinguished himself and his "Essay on the Law of Bailments", published in 1781, was regarded as a classic at the time.

A great pioneer and the founding father of Indology and Oriental studies, Sir William Jones founded the Asiatic Society in 1784 with the objective of research in ancient history and chronology. In the special centenary meeting of the Asiatic Society in 1884, it was said "if Sir William Jones had done nothing else but translate the laws of Manu, and invent a system of transliteration which forms the basis of that now adopted by all scholars... he would have immortalised his name; but he was what in Sanskrit we call nana-sastra-visardah." The subject of a uniform system of transliteration has been reconsidered from time to time, and only minor changes are made in Jones's system. Jones laid the foundations of the disciplines of Comparative Mythology and Comparative Philology, or the Science of Linguistics.

Jones's paper "On the Chronology of the Hindus" presented to the Society in 1788, is the first known attempt to draw up a comprehensive chronology of ancient India. Jones revived ancient Indian dramatic literature when he translated Kalidasa's "Sakuntala", and thus introduced the Sanskrit drama to the western world. No one could then deny the merits of Indian literature. What is perhaps more important is he awakened Indians to the beauty of India literature.

Jones through his indefatigable labours, resuscitated India's ancient culture, for India. Now India could boast of any poet as great as Shakespeare, a language - that was superior to Greek and Latin, a philosophy that was truly outstanding and an advanced system of astronomy.

Shri A.L. Basham in his preface to Shri O.P. Kejariwal's study of "The Asiatic Society of Bengal" finds that Jones and other Indologists thus indirectly helped to lay the foundations of modern Indian nationalism. He has been termed as one of the most extraordinary men that even figured on the stage of life. Sir William Jones was only 48, when he died.

The Department of Posts is pleased to release a special commemorative stamp to mark his 250th Birth Anniversary. The stamp features a painting of Sir William Jones by Robert Home.

THE LAWRENCE SCHOOL, SANAWAR

4.10.97

0.7 Million

200 P.



The Lawrence School, Sanawar, Himachal Pradesh, was founded in 1847 by Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence, a distinguished British Army Officer of that time. The original name 'Lawrence Military Sylum', was changed to Lawrence Royal Military School and then to the institution's present name : "The Lawrence School." It was among the first schools in the British Empire to receive the King's Colours. The school went on to get the King's Colours three times in all. The students and the alumni of the school served during the First and Second World War in the highest tradition of Bravery. After independence, the School was handed over to the Ministry of Defence and subsequently to the Ministry of Education.

The Old Sanawarians continued to serve the country during all major wars from 1947 onwards. Lt Arun Khetarpal, PVC, was an ex-student of the School. The alumni holds prestigious ranks in all three Departments of Defence and in the Police Force. There is a large number of the alumni in Civil and Foreign Services, occupying highly important posts.

Old Sanawarians hold key corporate positions worldwide, be it media, industry or services. Sports, specially adventure sports, such as mountaineering has been a Sanawarian forte.

The centre of Sanawarian life revolves around the Birdwood School, as represented by the picture of the stamp, a building built of grey granite in a simple and austere Gothic style. The foundation stone of this building was laid on August 25, 1927, and was named after Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood.

Since its inception till date, it is being used as the main schools buildings and teaching section.

Inlaid within the stamp is the School Crest. The de-

sign of a hand holding a dagger, ivy, swords and lionheads was adapted from the family Coat of Arms of Sir Henry Lawrence. The crest bears the School's Motto - "NEVER GIVE IN", which embodies the spirit of the School, a spirit to which Rudyard Kipling bore testimony in his great classic work, "KIM" - "Send him to Sanawar & make a man of him."

The Cannons on the First Day Cover were captured in Turkey by the British and presented to Sanwar by the Ferozepur Arsenal Garrison in 1934.

The Department of Posts is happy to issue a commemorative stamp to mark the sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the Lawrence School.

V.K. KRISHNA MENON

6.10.97 0.4 Million 200 P.

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon was born on 3rd May, 1896 at Panniankara in Calicut. He started his education at the Municipal School at Tellicherry. He passed the Intermediate examination from the Zamorin's College, Calicut, in 1915 and B.A. examination from the Presidency College, Madras, in 1918. In 1924 he went to England, obtained a teacher's diploma, taught for a while and in 1927, he joined the London School of Economics with a First Class Honours. He obtained his M.A. degree from the University College London in 1930 and M.Sc degree from the London School of Economics in 1934. In the same year, he was called to the Bar from the Middle Temple.



The most notable traits of Shri Krishna Menon's character were shaped by his parents. Among those outside his family circle who profoundly influenced Krishna Menon were Professor Harold Laski, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mrs. Annie Besant.

Krishna Menon had political leanings as a student, but

he did not associate himself with any particular group or party. His political activity really started in England where he lived continuously from 1924 to 1947. During his stay in England, he contacted many intellectuals in almost all walks of life and had a large circle of friends.

His social leaning brought him into active association with the Labour Party, in which he created an important position for himself. For political work for India's Independence, he started the "India League" in London which soon became an important factor in British political. He was a staunch nationalist and worked incessantly for India's Independence from 1924 to 1947, a firm believer in the constitutional method. He was also an ardent internationalist and had a deep knowledge of world affairs.

In 1946, Krishna Menon advised the Congress to accept the Cabinet Mission's proposals. He also took an active part in the negotiations which followed. After independence, V.K. Krishna Menon returned to India and was sent to various European countries as the Prime Minister's Personal Envoy to explore the possibility of exchanging diplomats. He represented the Government of India at the UNO General Assembly Meeting held at Lake Success in 1946-47. He served as High Commissioner for India in London from 1947 to 1952 and also led the Indian delegation to the UN a number of times. His speech at the UN on Jammu & Kashmir in January, 1957 is considered as one of the masterpieces of oratory as well as diplomacy. He was elected as a member of the Lok Sabha in 1957 and again in 1962. From 1957 to 1962, he served as the Minister of Defence in the Government of India.

Shri Krishna Menon passed away on 6th October, 1974. The Department of Posts honours his memory with the issue of a commemorative postage stamp.

66TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION OF ICPO - INTERPOL

15.10.97 0.7 Million 400 P.

'INTERPOL' is the acronym for the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) and has its General Secretariat in Lyons, France. The aim of the Organization is to promote the widest possible co-operation among its member countries in the suppression of ordinary law crime. It is the largest police organization in the world, having a present membership of 177 countries. Using the Interpol

channels, the members - countries extend co-operation among themselves on criminal matters while staying within the limits of their own national laws. For day-to-day co-operation every member country has a National central Bureau (NCB) which acts as interface between its own police forces and NCBs of other members countries. The NCB are the real arms of Interpol.



The Interpol also plays a key role in the modernisation of police the world over and acts indirectly as an international police research centre.

The General Assembly of Interpol meets once a year and is the most powerful body of the Organization. The 66th General Assembly Session of Interpol will be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from 15th to 21st Oct. 1997. India is hosting a General Assembly Session for the first time even though we became a member of Interpol in 1949. In 1994, India had hosted the 13th Asian Regional Conference of Interpol in New Delhi.

A report on the financial position of the Organization and draft budget are always presented to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may also discuss matters such as admission of new members, developmental schemes of the Organization, International and regional police co-operation, ways and means to fight international crime such as Organized Crime, Money Laundering, Counterfeiting of Currencies, counterfeiting of travel documents etc.

With the process of economic liberalization gathering momentum, India will also become vulnerable to a spate of newer breeds of international economic crime. There would perhaps not have been a more opportune time for India to host a General Assembly of Interpol. The benefits are two fold. On the one hand, it will sensitize the Indian Police about the various services available through

the Interpol, while on the other, it will send out a message to the international policing community that India is keen to co-operate in the international effort to fight trans border crime.

The Department of Posts is happy to issue a special stamp to mark the 66th General Assembly Session of Interpol.

RURAL INDIAN WOMEN

15.10.97

0.5 Million

200, 600 P.

1000, 1100 P.

The Department of Posts is organising Indepex '97 World Philatelic Exhibition coinciding with the Golden Jubilee celebration of India's Independence. The exhibition is to be held from 15-22 December 1997 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.



To commemorate this event, a series of stamps are being brought out. The first such special postage stamp on the logo of Indepex '97, depicting the caparisoned elephant, the symbol of traditional welcome in India was released on 5th of October 1996. The second set of 4 stamps (centres of culture and tourism) depicting the Ruins of Nalanda University, the Stupa of Vaishali and

Kushinagar and the giant Bodhi Trees of Bodh Gaya was released on 6th June, 1997. The four stamps on the Beaches of India depicting Gopalpur-on-Sea, Kovalam, Bogmalo and Anjuna Beaches were released on the 11th of August 1997.

India lives in her villages and the essence of India is embodied in its rural women. In the search to discover India in her varied endeavours the Department of Posts has brought out a series of stamps depicting the cross-cultural currents of Indian life and tradition. It is only appropriate that, this issue of stamps showing the Indian rural woman in all her simplicity, beauty and traditional grace, occupies the pride of place, among the Indepex stamps.

Varied as they are in their attire, Jewellery and vocations, the Indian Rural Women depict the cross-cultural traditions and values and they symbolise the exacted place women have continued to occupy in the traditional societies of India. The unity in diversity that the Indian Society boasts of can be seen vividly in the depiction of Indian Rural Women.

While the choice has been difficult, the rural women depicted in these stamps are drawn from the North, South, East and West of India. The golden thread of Indian unity of culture and tradition is discernible in the rich diversity of dress, jewellery and ethnic purity of rural India, as depicted in

* The traditional headgear of the rural women of Ladakh studded with semiprecious stones is unique in its typical craftsmanship. The women are hardy, generally engaged in household work & rearing of cattle.

* Rural Women of Kerala boasting a high degree of literacy are tradition bound and they are engaged in the household work, agricultural operations, cottage industries and handicrafts. The stamp depicts a Kerala rural woman working in the paddy fields.

* Rural Women of Arunachal Pradesh depict the rich ethnic culture of the North East. The rich and varied dress and jewellery are symbolic of the cultural traditions of that area.

* The western region is represented by Gujarat. The colourful attire and jewellery are traditionally typical.

The Department of Posts is pleased to issue a set of four stamps depicting Rural Indian Women.

SCINDIA SCHOOL

20.10.97 0.7 Million (Setenant) 500, 500 P.

In 1897, late Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia established the Sardars School in Jal Vihar in the city of Gwalior. Along

with the curriculum of studies, emphasis was on acquiring various skills such as shooting, riding and other sports related activities.



Later the school was moved to the premises of the Gwalior Fort covering an area of about 110 acres. During 1929 the school magazine was started and a school council was set up, a forum where further improvement could be discussed. During this time the school emerged as a premiere public school of contemporary requirements. The school community became involved in the upliftment of the needy and has done pioneering work in this regard for the last 50 years. The social service league has adopted a village - Sonsa.

The Scindia School was among the first to introduce computer education as a part of the curriculum. The school is a member of the prestigious international organization called the Round Square Conference and the Headmasters' Conference. Every year the school conducts exchange of students with schools in U.K. and Australia. The school has contributed to civil service, defence personnel, industrialists and leaders in the field of art, music, culture and social work. The institution has a venerable history and heritage and has contributed to the development and creation of modern India, maintaining its traditions of excellence. Perhaps the single greatest contributory factor, responsible for building up the pupils, and imbuing them with the essence of our great cultural heritage is the gathering for meditation, every evening at the 'Astachal'.

The stamp design is in a beautiful setenant form, depicting the students in meditation, at Astachal, where the statue of Mahatma Gandhi inspires generations of students. The design also depicts the Gwalior Fort with an inset of the founder.

The department of Post is pleased to issue a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the centenary of Scindia School.

INDIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS

28.10.97

0.4 Million

200, 500 P.

Quadruplicate

1000, 1100 P.

The Indian systems of medicine have been a part of the culture and tradition of India down the centuries. Vedas, the ancient Indian epics have devoted an important section to Ayurveda, the science to life. The basic concept in the Indian systems of medicine, namely, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani relates to maintaining balance in the body between different elements of humours of which the body is made of. Any disturbance in the balance leads to disease and the therapy lies in restoring the balance through the use of medicines of natural origin such as herbs and minerals.

India is endowed with a rich variety of medicinal plants. Eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats are among the 18 crucial regions of bio-diversity in the world. Among the plants depicted in the series -

Tulsi - *Ocimum Sanctum* Linn. (Lamiaceae) is a plant worshipped for its medicinal values since time immemorial. The juice of the leaves is used in catarrh and bron-

औषधीय वनस्पति MEDICINAL PLANTS 1997



chitis and applied to the skin in ring-work and other cutaneous diseases. An infusion of the leaves is given to children in gastric disorders. A decoction of the root is given as disphoretic in malarial fever. It drives away mosquitoes.

Haridra - *Curcuma Longa* Linn. (Zingiberaceae) is a perennial herb, native of Southern Asia and cultivated throughout India. The drug is considered as carminative in cases of diarrhoea and intermittent fevers, in disorders of blood, in affections of liver and jaundice, in non-tubercular respiratory diseases. A decoction of the rhizome is applied to relieve catarrh, scabies and certain skin diseases. The drug is externally applied in pains and bruises and internally administered in disorders of the blood. Haridra can grow at all places ranging from sea level to an altitude of 1,220 metres but is very sensitive to atmospheric temperature.

Sarpagandha - *Rauvolfia Serpentina* Linn. (Apocynaceae) is probably one of the important contributions of ancient Indian medicine. The alkalid reserpine present in the roots of this plant, has been proved to be an effective remedy against hypertension. Ayurvedic texts also describe its sedative and hypnotic actions. The drug has been effectively tried in cases of high blood pressure, insanity and schizophermia. It is widely distributed in the sub-Himalayan tract, Assam, lower hills of Gangetic plains, eastern and western ghats, and some parts of Central India.

The drug *Rauvolfia* consist of the air dried roots of the plant. Besides the roots, its liquid extract, the dried extract and the tincture are official in Indian Pharmacopoeia.

Ghrit Kumari - *Aloe Barbadensis* Mill. (Liliaceae) is a native of North Africa and found in semi-wild state in all parts of India, from the dry westward valleys of Himalayas upto Kanyakumari.

The leaf juice is used in dyspepsia, burns, colic, hyperadenosis, hepatopathy, splenopathy, skin disease, constipation, vitiated condition of vata and pitta, abdominal tumours, dropsy, carbuncles, sciatica, lumbago and flatulence. The oleo-gum, is used for local application in painful inflammation, burns, chronic ulcers and catarrhal and purulent ophthalmia.

The first day cover carries the depiction of "Shri Dhanwantri" who is revered as the originator of Ayurveda. Considering the relevance, the government has created a Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy to develop, promote, research and increase awareness to these systems of medicine.

PROMOTING YOUTH PHILATELY

By Late Col. L.G. Shenoi.

1. Introduction

1.1 It is an universally accepted axiom that the future growth of philately will be directly proportional to the extent of stamp collecting taken up by the young successor generations. The basic postulates for promoting philately among the children and adolescents should arise from this axiom. It is not that the philately of the youth should be a minor image of adult philately; what is required to be borne in mind, however, is that the characteristic or basic features of youth philately should not be a negation of the basic characteristics of Adult philately. All promotional measures we adopt for spreading the hobby among the young generation should, therefore, have for its ultimate aim the natural growth of the child from a random collector and accumulator of stamps to a systematic collector and a knowledgeable philatelist over a period of years.

1.2 What type of promotional measures are required to be taken? What are the effective strategies that we should employ for making the measures successful? This is discussed below. My suggestions have been based on the impressions I have gathered during my close association with young stamp collectors and the working of societies formed to guide the juniors, over a period of 25 years.

2. What & Why of Youth Collecting

2.1 The motivations for collecting among the young ones are as under:-

i) The instinctive desire to collect things, pretty colourful things, small things.

ii) The persuasion of friends, parents and teachers.

2.2 In the initial stages, the one desire of the young one is merely to collect a large number of stamps, colourful and with attractive illustrations and shapes. This motivation is strong until the age of ten to twelve years. Around this age, the youngster starts forming his basic likes and dislikes. His liking of fauna, flora, games, automobiles etc. motivates him to collect stamps on the themes of his liking. Fulfilment of his (her) expectations from his (her) collection and the guidance he (she) receives goads him (her) on to further advancement in the realm of philately.

3.1 The prime motivation which greatly influences, or at times determines, the nature and scope of the young one's collecting is the encouragement given by the parents and teachers.

3.2 Once the motivation provided by the parents or teachers strengthens, the innate or instinctive love of collecting, the youngster pursues the hobby, spurred by the desire to increase the number generally and, later on, number of subject stamps that he or she wishes to collect.

3.3 The young one at some stage along the line develops some expectations from the pursuit of the hobby. The fulfilment of these expectations forms the motivation for his or

her continuation with the hobby.

3.4 What are these expectations? I would sum it all up in one word : APPRECIATION : I do not subscribe to the common assumption that a youngster gives up the hobby because of other challenging and glamorous attractions. I have spoken to many youngsters who had given up the hobby as they reached the higher grades of under graduation or early of graduation. The impression I gained was that they ceased to pursue the hobby as it failed to give them any benefits or because it was considered a child's hobby by the world of grown-up.

4. Promotional Efforts

4.1 The collecting environment I have described above is one in which parental and teacher influence is supreme, and one in which one of the main motivating factors is the weightage given to high accomplishments. The measures we devise for promoting the hobby must satisfy these influences and expectations.

4.2 We believe that the hobby is a self-educative indulgence and will contribute greatly to the pursuit of academic studies. Parents and teachers, we feel, should therefore have no fear that the hobby will distract the young ones from their academic pursuits and they should encourage the young ones to pursue the hobby. Some of the measures we may adopt for influencing the parents and teachers in favour of the hobby are as under :-

i) Publication of various essays and compositions on the subjects normally taught in schools, illustrating the composition by stamps.

ii) Publication of booklets on academic subjects by profusely drawing upon stamps and other philatelic material for explanation/illustration.

4.3 The following measures are suggested for providing appreciation of accomplishments in the pursuit of the hobby :-

i) In educational systems wherein the academic and extra-academic pursuits are regulated according to a rigid syllabus, the educational institutions may be persuaded to recognise Stamp Collecting as an educative hobby.

ii) In academic merit rating systems which give certain weightages to extra-curricular activities such as sports, social service etc, certain number of marks may be allotted for accomplishments in philately.

iii) We may consider the institution of a separate class of exhibits in Youth Section with academic subjects as the themes of the exhibits. This may call for modifications of the present concepts of exhibit composition, as the ACADEMICS exhibit may be a composition-cum-illustration. In other words, the text may be more and stamps less in such an exhibit than in the normal exhibits.

CONCLUSION

In this discussion I have mainly used as my model the environment obtained in India. I believe, however, that it is of universal application, more or less, as the age group we are considering is, mostly, going through the period of education when the influence of parents and teachers is very sig-

nificant, and quite often compelling. The measures I have suggested, therefore, are for tilting that influence in favour of philately.

I would now like to touch upon a subject which merits deeper support from our Institutional Members. I feel that one of the most effective steps taken by the PCI during the last two or three years is the setting up of a unit for the promotion of youth philately. Please bear in mind that the concept of this scheme is not so much the promotion or improvement of the youth collections, but is of much more significance as the prime motive is attracting the newer generations to the philatelic movement. The PCI Chapter for Promotion of Youth Philately (CPYP) has this concept as its prime motive.

Appended is a copy of the paper which I sent to the FIP Youth Commission in March 1994 outlining my thoughts of Youth Collecting.

With the assistance of donations from Philatelic societies and philatelists we have been able to publish a

quarterly journal - The MAYUR - for the members of CPYP. During the first year we had 100 members; now the membership is over 400 spread mainly over Bombay, Ahmedabad, Bikaner, Chandigarh, Dehra Dun, New Delhi, Jamshedpur, Madras and Bangalore. We need assistance by way of donations to meet the costs of publication of MAYUR, articles for the young to be published in the columns of MAYUR and help in running workshops for the members at various places once or twice a year. May I appeal to our Societies, professional philatelists and philatelists to participate and help run the organisation which I consider as a great experiment in bringing newer generations into the Philatelic Movement.

With the help of donations of stamps from friends abroad, we have been able to build up and maintain a Stamp Bank for CPYP from which stamp gifts are made to members. I have promises of more donations from abroad and I hope a good stamp Bank will be maintained by the CPYP.

We Buy & Sell

- ★ Postal History Covers
- ★ Coins, Notes
- ★ Telephone Cards
- ★ Stamps
- ★ Indian Commemoratives & Common Bundles
- ★ Thematic Stamps/Sets
- ★ High value foreign Stamps etc.
- ★ Fiscals/Revenues

Phone : 6414546, 5962650

V. ETHIRAJ

16/1, Pattu Rasappa Street
Behind Seven Wells Market
Chennai - 600 001.

Have you Obtained a
New Member ?
Patronise SIPA
Advertisers

Notify Early of
Address Changes

The Trick is in
growing up without
growing old.

- C. Stengel in
Voices of Baseball

Enrol Life Members