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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1956)
(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

H.C. METHA'S SPECIAL EDITORIAL

Whither Post-Independence Philately

In a recent issue of 'INDIA POST' published by India Study Circle U.K. I read a line mentioning that India Post-Independence Period is not gaining popularity. The statement is correct yet it's time for us to examine, why so, especially when we have completed our fifty years of Independence. My personal views on the subject are as follows:-

1. All those Englishmen who were in India till 1947 or 50 left India. From my experience I can tell you that they collected India upto first three to Four issues or up to Gandhi or say upto Postage Stamp Centenary. Those foreigners or their families who were connected with India in one way or another have religiously followed this hobby. It is mainly due to their efforts the pre-Independence Philately is still very popular. May be one or two Indian stalwarts have contributed like Jalecooper. Cooper through his reports published news on Post-Independence. But buy go's, the tempo seems to be going down.

2. Indian stalwarts followed pre-Independence era only. One specialised in half anna litho, other in one anna and so on. May be finance played an important part. With passing of years the collections changed hands rewarding with higher honours to those who could afford to buy and exhibit. This phenomenon was evident upto recent International Exhibition. For Indian States material this is a lesser evil! "Follow the leaders" and post-Independence was thus neglected.

3. Neglecting Post-Independence the result is obvious. Many have mint/used/f.d.c. collections but the postal history is absent and it is now difficult to get postal history material.

4. Post-Independence exhibits were never appreciated in true sense. One collection of Dr. Gupta deserved higher honours because of the presence of Gandhi Rs. 10/- service, Some minor varieties and colour trials (prior to ban). Judges would expect

Gandhi Rs.10/- service but the point is how many copies are available and how many can afford them?

5. Post office Records are not available. As said early no one preserved or collected post-Independence. Postal history. I am trying sincerely to collect AIR MAIL rates for the period 1947-1957 but without any success. I know the Air Mail envelope rate was 12 as to U.K. in 1947 and revised to 14 as sometime in 1953 but when? U.S.A. rate in 1947 was via Lagos then Rs.1-2 as and further redvised to Rs.1-8 as. when? When uniform Aerogramme rate was adopted? When envelope rates! All these questions have remained unreplyed to me atleast since last 20-25 years.

6. I can vouch that if you have money you can buy a cover with 1854 4as Litho-Cut square or even an Inveted copy but you can not get certain items in post-Independence. Period though the comparable prices can not be determined (If I state my missing items, I am likely to be deprived of them).

7. I may be pardoned if I say that judges from India will have to gather much more knowledge on post Independence period especially postal history aspect. Exhibitors will be more confident once they are given proper guidance by knowledgeable judges. I cannot resist quoting names of sarvashri Dhiroobhai Mehta and G.B. Pai who collected Post-Independence material / postal history and have appreciated it in one way or other.

And finally how many of us collected 15/8/97 and 15/8/98 issues and posted with appropriate postage in R.M.S. Office R.M.S. was the only official organisation which accepted Speed Post and/or Registered Mail on these days. Handing over F.D. covers to Philatelic Bureau and that too not according to postal tariff was an easy aspect?

H.C. MEHTA.

N.B. Can't we have a National Exhibition once in 3 yrs. or so entirely for Post-Independence. periods. All Catagries of exhibit remain the same.

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 Nanian Street, Chennai - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)
SIPALibrary Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannian Street, Chennai - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)

-by D.N. Jatia, President

Philatelic Exhibitions - Stamp Shows - on all levels, may it be a World, International, National or Regional or even a Local Exhibition - they seem to have something in common - they do not attract the general public. Those uninitiated to the hobby of stamp collecting hardly ever take notice of a stamp show even though exhibitions could be the best platform to promote our hobby. However, organisers of philatelic exhibitions tend to be traditionalists and it seems that they abhor new ideas. Looking back at the exhibitions of the last 20 or 30 years (and longer) the appearance and layout of philatelic exhibitions remained unchanged, even the visitors do not seem to change. You can see the same faces year by year at exhibitions all around the world. With some few exceptions the local public is usually not even aware that a major event is taking place in their city because the "major event" is designed to attract only one genre of people "philatelists"!

As exceptions to the general outlook of exhibitions we have to mention the shows organised in Asian countries which enjoyed a very successful influx of visitors. This was mainly due to the very wide and through publicity and in many part the close co-operation between the postal administration and the philatelic association.

How can we change the lack of interest of the general public? How can we make people aware that stamp collecting could be an exciting and rewarding past time? How to attract young people to visit a stamp show? The answer: " We have to change the appearance of these shows!" We have to get rid of the image that these shown are only for the "Rich" and the "Old"!

Let's take as an example National shows (and this applies to most countries of the world) of industry, agriculture or electronics etc. You will have activities related and unrelated to the subject of the show. The media are present throughout the show with live transmissions, there is entertainment of every sort imaginable. Special activities designed to attract a special public and so on.

To tackle this problem FIP has planned to organise another workshop during ISRAEL '98. the aim of this workshop is to create a "model" exhibition which can be adapted to the local requirements - a guide to the successful organisation of a philatelic event at every level. The guide should give an outline of the appearance and (layout) of the show, suggestions and ideas to activities and special events, suggestions of how booths could be arranged and decorated etc. including an estimate of the cost.

There are three partners interested in the organisation of a stamp show - the postal administrations, the dealers and the collectors and these partners should also be greatly concerned about the promotion and development of stamp collecting. Therefore the first step would be to have a better and close collaboration between those partners and therefore we will invite representatives of all the three partners to the workshop.

At present the usual layout of a stamp show contains one hall with rows and rows of frames of admittedly fantastic philatelic material but presented in an unattractive way and a second hall with the equally unattractive booths of dealers and postal administrations.

We want and we have to change the appearance of our exhibitions and we would like your suggestions, ideas of how a stamp show should presents itself in the year 2000.

We assume that the competitive side of the exhibition should remain to a certain extend, and there should be more space for creativity, space to show new ways of collecting and presenting a collection. There should be more collaboration with other or-

ganisations i.e. special shows with involvement of organisations interested in environment, peace, sports or folklore or fashion or... there is no limitation of possibilities as we all know every subject can be backed-up with stamps. Guided tours among the competitive classes to explain the exhibits could be of great interest to many people but it must be advertised of course.

Dealers and postal administrations should endeavour to present their booths in a more attractive way - specially post administrations could work together with their tourist board and promote their country as a tourist attraction at the same time. Special events for a target public (i.e. for children, teens, women, early retired people etc.) should be organised and widely advertised. Get local champions and celebrities for special events during the show. In this way you also have the interest of the media.

There are a lot of ideas around no doubt but we would also like to have your input. Therefore please send us your ideas to the following questions.

- ◆ What would you expect a stamp show should look like?
- ◆ How to convert a Stamp Show to an optimum Platform for promoting the hobby?
- ◆ What could make philatelic exhibitions more attractive to a general public and to stamp collectors?
- ◆ How to present stamp collecting as an exciting hobby?
- ◆ How to get the local public and the press to take notice of a philatelic event?

(Courtesy to FIP Flash Dec. 1997)

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The "Federation International de Philatelie" 9F(F.I.P.) has looked after stamp collectors and philatelists since 1926-growing from a society of a handful European Philatelic Federations to a Federation with a network throughout the world with:

- ◆ 79 Regular Members (National Philatelic Federations)
- ◆ 3 Associated Members (continental Federations)
- ◆ Promotional Members (a new type of Membership for Postal Administrations)

The aims of F.I.P. are:

- ◆ to promote stamp collecting and philately
- ◆ to maintain friendly relations and friendship among all peoples.
- ◆ to establish and maintain close relations with the philatelic trade and postal administrations.
- ◆ to promote philatelic exhibitions by granting Patronage and Auspices

The hobby of Stamp Collecting has occupied the first place among all hobbies for more than a century and it earned the distinction of being nicknamed "The King of the Hobbies and the Hobby of Kings". Today the hobby has maintained its special attraction but more effort is needed to uphold the fascination. A survey revealed that three segments of interest in stamp collecting can be discerned, each needing a different approach in promotional work:

- ◆ Emerging Interest in Developing Countries,
- ◆ Growing Interest in Asia and
- ◆ Stagnating to declining interest in industrialised countries.

In 1990 first tentative steps were taken for a collaboration between the philatelic world and UPU. Two symposia on philately were carried through at the UPU Headquarters in Bern resulting in the establishment of the UPU Contact committee for Philately which was renamed for publicity purposes to World Association for the Development of Philately (W.A.D.P.). The main objectives of W.A.D.P. are :

- ◆ A world wide promotion campaign for stamp collecting
- ◆ Starting with a "Guide" for Postal Administrations.
- ◆ Strengthening of the Philatelic Code of Ethics of UPU a
- ◆ recommendation to Postal Administrations to maintain a
- ◆ sound and moderate stamp issuing policy.

Stamps shows are the best platform to promote Philately and were introduced in the last century as "Salons of Stamps" and have grown to exhibitions with an area of more than 20,000m². At the beginning these shows were organised and financed by local stamp collector's clubs for their immediate public and developed to World affairs as joint ventures between the host country's postal Administration and the National Philatelic Federation. Next important philatelic events are planned in :

- ◆ LISBON - PORTUGAL '98, 04.09.-13.09.1998
- ◆ MILAN - ITALIA '98, 23.10.-01.11.1998.

A pilot project to promote stamp collecting in African countries was initiated in 1996. In conjunction with Postal Administrations, F.I.P. has completed a survey in two countries with different background. The area of work to be done has been identified together with authorities concerned and the initiative for further promotional work has now to come from within the country.

F.I.P. is convinced that postage stamps will always maintain their status as "little ambassadors" of a nation and therefore also stamp collecting and philately, the more advance variety of stamp

collecting, will weather any odds coming their way.

Release of E-Stamp soon

The world's first electronics stamp that can be downloaded from the Internet is on the verge of commercial release.

At a ceremony at the National Postal Museum in Washington DC, US Postmaster General Mr. Marvin Runyon displayed the stamp produced by E-Stamp of Palo Alto, California. At the press conference was E-Stamp's chief executive officer Mr. Sunil Kapoor who said, "We're bringing postage generation to the masses."

E-Stamp has taken over one year to get its technology approved by the Postal Service for beta testing, first in Washington DC and later in the San Francisco Bay Area and Tampa, Florida. "The (electric stamp) we unveil today represents the most significant new form of postage payment in three quarters of a century." Mr. Runyon said.

Mr. Kapoor told the California newspaper India - West that "we are the first company in 78 years" to do "new postage evidencing." He said he hopes that E-Stamp will pass beta testing with flying colours and get the go-ahead for broad commercial distribution by the fourth quarter of this year.

The new technology makes it possible to log on to the Internet. Buy postage and then have any laser printer print the postage on to an envelope.

The postage contains a sophisticated bar code and looks nothing like the traditional postage stamp.

E-Stamp's bar code includes not only the postage amount but the ID of the user and device, the address where the mail is going, the date the postage was printed, the postal rate category and a digital pattern that makes it difficult to counterfeit. There is even space left over for other uses such as printing a company logo or small message.

Customers buy the postage online either with a credit card or an electronic transfer of funds or a payment by cheque. The postage is down-loaded and secured in E-Stamp's hardware. Which is about the size of a cigarette pack, plugs into a computer port and acts as an electronic vault.

Misuse of postal metres and counterfeit marks cost the Postal Service more than \$ 200 million a year in lost revenue according to Mr. Kapoor.

He and the Postal Service are doing the testing to make sure the on-line postage can't be abused.

"over time, potentially every PC could be enabled with the software," said Postal Service Vice President Pam Gilbert. "It is we need to do a lot of testing of security and readability of the electronic bar Code."

E-Stamp has linked up with some major companies according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Last fall, AT&T Ventures and Microsoft invested several million dollars each for ten per cent stakes in the company.

E-Stamp is also working with Hewlett Packard, the big manufacturer of printers for PCs, to make sure electronic stamps are scanned and printed correctly.

The International Year of the Ocean (IYO) is an attempt to bring ocean issues to the attention of decision makers and the general public. The idea originally came from the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1993. The United Nations General Assembly formally adopted IOC's proposal a year later, in December 1994.

Aims of IYO

IYO aims to raise awareness of the oceans and coastal areas as finite economic assets.

It also aims to obtain commitments from Governments to take action, provide adequate resources and give to the oceans the priority which they deserve.

At the same time, IYO will emphasize that it is only through global scientific cooperation that we can begin to improve our understanding of how the oceans work. The fruits of our knowledge and cooperation, so far, have already saved many lives through warnings of tsunami (tidal waves) and storm surges, or have mitigated the impact on regional economics by accurately predicting drought or flooding.

SINGPEX '98

The 12th Asian International Stamp Exhibition, Singpex '98, was held at Singapore on 23rd to 26th July, 1998. along with Aseanpex '98, Singapore National Exhibition. There were in all 733 frames exhibit in Singpex '98 and 33 literature class : while 219 frame exhibits were displayed in Aseanpex '98.

The following Indian participants sent their exhibits and were awarded as below :-

1. Shri Sunder Bahirwani -
India Pre Independence - 88 Points L.V.
2. Shri Dhananjay Desai -
British Indian Postal Stationery 1856-1947-82 Points V.
3. Dr. Jivraj Thakkar -
Brahmini Dak of Mewar - 80 points V.
4. Shri Ashok Kumar Bayanwala -
Calcutta Postal History - 76 Points L.S.
5. Shri Aditya Singhania -
The Story of Aviation - 65 Points S.B.
6. Master Samir Gupta -
Great Britain in the 20th Century, 1901-1970 - 63 Points B.
7. Master Zahidul Islam Md. -
Man & Religion - 60 Points B.
8. Philatelic Society of India -
The Scinde Dawks & Lithographs of India
(Literature) - 75 Points L.S.
9. Master Parth Lochan Bayanwala -
Gandhi (Aseanpex'98) - 75 Points L.S.

From India Mr. D.N. Jatia was consultant while Mr. P. Gupta was a Jury, Mr. M.G. Pittie was in expert group and Mrs. Damayanti Pittie was an apprentice Jury as well as commissioner.

In February 1997 FIPO/IOC advised all Postal Administrations, UPU, NOCS, IFSDA, ASCAT, AIJP on Stamp Issues in connection with the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in 1998 in Nagano.

FIPO / IOC asked countries which did not participate at the Games to refrain from issuing stamps. While Postal Administrations are completely sovereign to issue any stamps, they may not use Olympic Properties (such as the Olympic Rings, the Emblem of the organising City and related Olympic Games Terminology / Olympics, Winter Olympic Games, Nagano Olympic Games) without due Authorisation by the IOC.

Furthermore, some of the stamps feature Olympic Winners who have not given their consent for such use.

The following countries, which did not participate at the Games, issued stamps:

BHUTAN
DOMINICA
GRENADA
GREBBD / GRENADINES
ST-VINCENT AND GRENADINES
GUYANA
MADAGASCAR
MALDIVES
MALI
NIGER
SIERRA LEONE
UGANDA
ZAIRE

The stamps feature Olympic properties and Olympic Champions without due approval. IOC/FIPO announces, herewith, that it does not recognise the stamps issued for the Nagano olympic Winter Games by the above countries as Olympic Stamps.

FIPO / IOC furthermore asks Olympic Philatelists not to include those stamps in their Olympic collections.

**THE ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED
PHILATELISTS**

at SINGPEX 98

by A. ronald Buttler

The 12th Asian International Stamp Exhibition (SINGPEX 98) was held in the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre from 23 to 26 July 1998 under the Patronage of the Federation of Inter Asian Philately (FIAP). The occasion was combined with the National Singapore Stamp Exhibition and the competitive exhibition comprised 170 entries from 17 countries and covered all branches of philately. The venue was excellent with efficient air conditioning, luxurious carpeting, a low level of illumination but good visibility for the exhibits.

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was the centre piece of the Exhibition with the stand for the vellum sheets being designed by Architect and distinguished philatelist Koh Seow Chuan and the following Signatories of the Roll were invited to exhibit in the Court of Honour which surrounded the RDP Stand:

A Ronald Butler (Chairman of the RDP Board of Election) G.B. Otto Hornung G.B., Alan Huggins G.B., Peter Jaffe Australia, DN Jatla India, Hiroyuki Kanai Japan, Francis Kiddle G.B., Koh Seow Chuan Singapore, Knud Mohr Denmark, Patrick Pearson G.B., Tay Peng Hian Singapore, Borje Wallberg Sweden together with Professor John West G.B. the keeper of the Roll.

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THE VALUE OF EXPERT OPINIONS AND CERTIFICATES

-By F. Ingham

Even the most advanced philatelists may occasionally be in doubt as to whether stamps which they are examining are all that they purport to be, while collectors of less experience must frequently be assailed by qualms when they are thinking of purchasing items on their own judgment, which, they realise, may be faulty.

It is at such times that the question of an outside opinion arises, and whether the trouble and expense involved in obtaining such are worth while. If the answer to that question is in the affirmative, as it always should be, a further query immediately follows as to who is the best authority to consult. whose verdict carries so much weight that it may be regarded as a guarantee, or may be accepted as an authoritative condemnation?

In this connection it is relevant to observe that there are two main causes of doubt. The first concerns genuineness, and the other is in respect of the stamps being free from blemish. The person or persons who may be authorities so far as the former is concerned may lack the qualifications which entitle them to speak as to the latter. With regard to genuineness there are three possible sources of assurance—the recognised specialist collector, the experienced and reputable dealer and the expert committee of a society; such as The Royal Philatelic Society.

With one or two notable exceptions, personal opinion has never been treated as being of much account by the majority of stamp collectors or dealers. When Dr. Diena has put his signature to any item, it has always been regarded as "good enough," and nobody would dream of gainsaying an opinion expressed by Mr. Charles Nissen upon any stamp of Great Britain. But, beyond those two gentlemen, there are precious few whose personal guarantee carries much weight, except with those immediately concerned.

Naturally, a reputable dealer is prepared to

stand by his written word, so long as it can be brought to a stamp in question. The certificate of a private individual, be he specialist or dealer, is seldom regarded as indisputable.

A certificate of genuineness by the Expert Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society of London, on the other hand, is generally recognised as being tantamount to a hall-mark, because it means that the item to which it refers has been examined by a highly skilled and disinterested body of collectors, whose knowledge is equal, if not superior, to that of anybody in the land. True, there have been occasions when it has been proved that not even these specialists are infallible, but their errors have been so rare that their reputation has not in any way suffered by their few lapses.

But a stamp may be genuine and still undesirable because of some camouflaged imperfection, or because the gentle art of the faker has been brought to bear upon it. Where, assurance is required under this head, professional opinion must take precedence, because amateurs, no matter how highly placed they may be, are not so well versed in the wiles of the faker and the charlatan as the stamp traders. The qualifications of the amateurs are almost entirely academic, whereas stamp dealers are in close contact with each other and with the public, which means that they get and exchange the latest information about the machinations of the philatelic underworld.

It follows, therefore, that a stamp which carries the certificate of the Royal Philatelic Society as to genuineness and a reputable dealer's guarantee as to freedom from blemish, may be accepted without any further question. As for the uses and value of such a certificate and guarantee, they are so obvious that they scarcely need stressing. Apart from the assurance and satisfaction which they engender in the collector, they have a definite intrinsic value, for they render, a stamp more easily saleable than it otherwise might be and especially in the case of a real rarity, they give it a higher status.

The case for certificates and guarantees can scarcely be overstated, particularly having regard to the fact that they are all for the good of the hobby.



THE INVESTMENT SIDE OF PHILATELY

-By Lanes Green

In one respect stamp collecting is unique, in that while it is giving the collector mind recreation and unbounded pleasure from many other angles, it is, at the same time, enabling him to save money. True, not every philatelist makes a profit when the time comes for him to sell his stamps, because it is not everyone who knows how and what to buy; but every collector has a definite asset in his stamps, and unless he has been very careless and prodigal in his expenditure, their value bears a very real relation to their cost.

Of no other hobby can this be said. In photography Perhaps the most extravagant of all spare time pursuits - little or no return can be expected by the average amateur. It is much the same with wireless; the debit side of the account heavily outweighs the credit. And while some of the other collecting hobbies, such as antiques, first editions, china and so on, may turn out well, they have a nasty knack of letting the collector down very heavily indeed, particularly if he is not well versed in their intricacies. They have no constancy or stability; a change of fashion, and their value may be reduced to practically nothing.

With stamps the case is very different. They are always an asset because there is always a market for them, the explanation of that being that stamp collecting is a world-wide hobby-the only one where the interests of Englishmen are the same as those of Frenchmen, of Germans, of Americans and of the dwellers in the Far East. There is nothing limited or localised about it. We over here have an interest in the stamps of Japan; the Japanese have an interest in the stamps of Great Britain. In a word, philately is international in the widest sense.

It follows, therefore, that there is always a demand for stamps, and that applied particularly to England, where London is the recognised clearing centre of the World. Every day of every week stamps for sale arrive in London from all quarters of the globe; and every day

of every week yet other stamps are despatched from London to the four corners of the earth. The trade done in these little pieces of paper is far beyond anything imagined by the average layman.

In these circumstances it is clear that, when a collector buys stamps, he is not throwing his money away; on the contrary, he is purchasing the equivalent of shares in a very well established company, and the stamps which he gets for his money are the certificates. They may or may not pay him a dividend; that must depend upon how, what and where he has purchased, to say nothing of when. But, even if he has bought in the dearest market and at the most disadvantageous time, he still has an asset, and one which may appreciate so that he does not have to lose a high percentage of his cost when selling.

Of course, there are fashions in stamps, just as there are with many other things in life which are of any account; countries wax and wane in popularity, as often as not without any apparent reason. Generally speaking, however, the collector is on safe ground if he buys British Colonials: especially is that true if he confines his attention to those of the twentieth century. Again, he is on safe ground if he indulges his fancy in the handsome stamps of the United States of America. The demand for either is so constant that they may be likened to the Trustee Stocks of the Stock Exchange.

One of the questions which invariably puzzles the beginner is the price which he ought to pay for stamps, so as to make them the best possible investment. In this connection he cannot do better than refer to the chapter on the importance of philatelic literature, with its subsidiary subject, the use of a catalogue; after reading what is said there he will be able to proceed with a minimum risk of error.

Price, however, is not the only factor to be taken into consideration when making an investment purchase. The condition of the stamp or stamps is of such paramount importance that it is almost impossible to stress the point too much. A damaged or repaired stamp, offered at what appears to be a ridiculously low price, may be cheap from one point of view' but as an investment, it is not cheap at any price, because it has

no stable value. Or, to put it another way, no serious collector wants such an item.

Condition is becoming more and more a watchword with collector; they set their faces against anything which is even slightly imperfect, or otherwise substandard. The collector for investment, therefore, will be wise if he insists on perfection. No doubt he will be told from time to time that he is being too particular, but, as a rule, such an opinion comes from one who has only inferior goods for sale. The better dealer may regret that he cannot supply perfection every now and again, but he will not pour scorn on the standard, let alone try to persuade the collector that he is hitching his waggon to an impossible star. Perfection is at times difficult to find, but in searching for it he is not on the track of will-o'-the-wisp.

Actually, there are very few stamps of which perfect copies are unobtainable, although there are quite a number where the quest of perfection may entail a long search. But then, one of the essential attributes of a stamp investor is patience; impetuosity may lead to grievous mistakes.

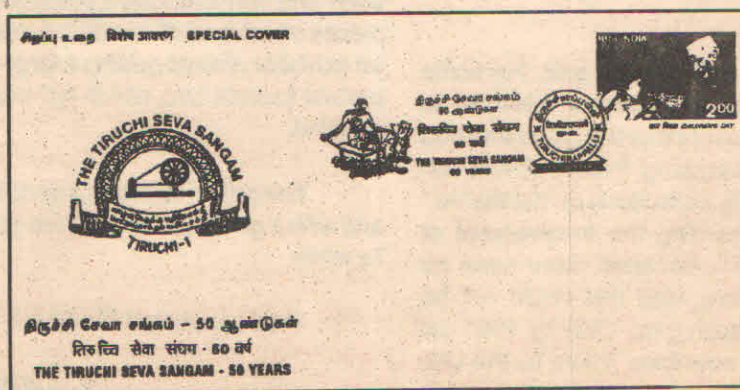
When he is buying an imperforate, he should insist on there being a margin all round the design; perforated stamps should have every perforation intact. Those are two simple rules which are all too frequently overlooked. And for the rest, the design should be well centred, the colour good, and every mint copy should be in possession of full gum. Used stamps should be lightly postmarked, free from stain or discoloration, as clean on the back as on the face, with an entire absence of any sort of damage, such as a cut (no matter how slight), a pin hole or even a thin spot. Apply the mint standard to the used, except, of course, for the postmark and gum; that is a golden rule. Needless to say, fiscal and other non-postal cancellations are taboo, even though the stamps may be otherwise perfect.

If the collector will observe these simple principles, his stamps will be a real and very sound investment, and at the same time they will afford him that peculiarly satisfying pleasure which only perfection can bring.



One more Gandhi Cancellation

One more Gandhi Cancellation from Trichy Philatelists' Association : On the occasion of 50 years of Tiruchi Seva Sangam, the Department of Post brought out one special cancellation. The P.M.G. of Central region Tiruchirappalli Sri. T.S. Govindarajan I.P.S. handed over the first album to Sri P. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam Hon'ble Minister for Power in a colourful function held at the premises on 10.8.98 .



Those who want the special covers contact to Sri. P. Soundararajan President Trichy Philatelists' Association No.9, S.R. Extn. Srirangam, Trichy - 620 006 Cost Rs. 7.00 Plus Postage.
(Cancellation & Cover Designed by J. Raghupathy, Philatelist')

CONSIDERATIONS ON THEMATIC PHILATELY :

A CREATIVE ADVENTURE

-by Nestor Ferre

While sometimes we find it difficult to explain someone say in the matter why people become stamp collectors, it is far harder to explain why some devote themselves to Thematic Philately. Most people wonder how can one engage in research of put forward a theory derived from postage stamps, or What's more, learn something from them, and whether one can look up encyclopaedias or specific treatises on the subject and find information directly? This is quite possible... as long as we are aware of which are the things we do not know.

It is not easy to explain that, in order to be a philatelist, you must first feel an irresistible compulsion to become one. Further more, for thematic philatelists a postage stamp is the key opening the doors of libraries and research.

In my particular case it so happened that, when I was very young (and already a stamp collector, since the age of 10), I discovered Richard Wagner's music, and a couple of years later I got hold of the stamp issue devoted to that musician in Germany. 1933, On going into the stamps (9) in that issue, I wanted to find out what each of them meant (what opera scene or act they depicted), and in order to do so I had to start reading books (hence the stamp as a key opening the doors of libraries). So I started researching the Wagnerian plots, leit motifs and characters, then the sources of his inspiration, the music conductors of each opera and so on; and the end result was that I began looking for other philatelic elements that would allow me to expand my collection. How can you explain, to a non-thematic collector, about that myriad of stamps and the research they lead to?

A thematic collection is developed from an idea, with postal elements doing something more than just tell "something" illustrating it. This should be clearly grasped, otherwise to underlying concept of Thematic Philately can be distorted.

Let me use an example to make this clearer. For some half century the United States of America seemed to overlook in their stamp issues the fact that the Japanese had been at war with them, after bombing Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941. Consequently, collections on the theme "II World War" had a blank regarding the involvement of Americans in the war: why so? Because there were no stamps telling that part of history, and this could not be literally narrated making up for such gap. Only by 1991 did the Marshall Islands and other countries linked to the US, and the United States themselves, began to illustrate such events in their stamp issues, thus bridging that gap.

Postal elements can actually "speak" for themselves, letting you know why they have been issued, or explaining

the reasons for a given design: it is up to thematic collectors to "let them talk" by marking research on them, analysing the message they convey, and their place in the development of a collection.

The Collector should then draw up a Collection Plan, divided into different chapters balanced in such a way that the number of pages should be approximately the same for each.

Drawing up a Plan, devising a fantasy title in keeping with it, balancing difference chapters as well as the makeup of each page, are some of the more complex tasks awaiting the collectors.

In order to succeed in this, an exhibitor should know his or her subject in depth as well as the philatelic elements included in it, but should also have general philatelic knowledge, good taste, be neat and, last but not least, have a considerable though balanced imagination allowing them to be "creative" while not diverting from the idea underlying the whole theme, i.e. not forcing the inclusion of elements in a collection, but including the normal, expected ones in it.

Such experiences and feelings cannot be transferred to somebody else; each person should draw on his/her own experience. that is why, as said at the beginning of this article, it is hard to explain the reasons leading one to become a thematic philatelist, for in order to do so you have to explain your own feelings as regards a given task, which for some people may be a creative challenge though not so for others. There is a good deal of subjective elements in the whole question, not easy to solve.

HOMO THEMATICS reaches Nirvana when creative effort-evidenced throughout the development of a collection-leads you to compete in exhibitions for the mere pleasure of doing so, unconcerned about the medal awarded or the up and downs in prizes from one contest to the next, By then you will have overcome that Manichaeon conception of yourself against all others (which means, I know all about it, those judging me know nothing).

Personal satisfaction, and a mind opened to change, enlarging and adapting a collection to new standards, rules or pieces of advice will make the collector feel, deep inside, like an exhibitor always getting a large gold medal even if awarded a silver bronze one, which will nonetheless be cherished and hoarded.

Thematic Philately undertaken conscientiously, lovingly and with a good deal of creative spirit is something really worth its while.

Thus we should ENJOY it, not suffer it.

(Courtesy : Revista/Faef, Argentina)



BHAGWAN GOPINATHJI

03-07-1998 0.4 million Rs. 3.00



Jagaduru Bhagawan Gopinathji was one of the most eminent saints who have graced the sacred land of India. With his spiritual power, he did a lot of good to spiritual aspirants and house-holders. Though utterly detached he howed much concern for his country and its people.

Gopinathji was born in a middle - class Kashmiri Pandit family at Banamohalla, Srinagar, Kashmir on 3rd July, 1898. He inherited spiritual fervour from his religious minded father and mother. Gopinathji was educated only upto the middle standard but had absorbed well whatever he had been taught at school. Due to financial constraints Gopinath was asked to take up some work at the young age of about 15 or 16 and he started working at a local printing press. He however gave up that job after three years and ran a gorcer's shop where he seemed to be absent minded being absorbed in meditation.

The noble feature of his youth was his longing to visit the great saints of that time. He regarded lust as the greatest obstacle to selfrealization and it was noticed throughout his later life.

Bhagwan Gopinathji started with a spiritual discipline known as Panchaᅅangaupaasanaa, i.e. meditating on the five deities- Ganesha, Surya, Naaraayana, Shiva, and Shakti. Gradually he shifted to nirgunaupaasanaa, i.e. meditating on the supreme reality without a form. Finally, in the early 30s, he took to intense saadhana (spiritual discipline), shutting himself up in a room. His concentration was so intense and he grew so unaware of his body that a rat nibbled a hole in a heel of his. The saadhana cost his body to swell and made him vomit blood sometimes. During this seven year period of saadhana he would take no food for long period extending even to six months. Sometimes, however, he would take food in very large quantities. And he come out of this terrible ordeal with the full realization of the supreme reality. From that time onwards his life was devoted to spiritual message all around.

On May 28, 1968 Bhagwan Gopinathji left this mortal world for his heavenly abode. Kashmir has produced a galaxy of saints and sages from times immemorial and in recent past we have had a number of them. But few of them have left as indelible an impression on the minds of the people as Bhagwan Gopinathji. After his death, his disciples and devotees set up at Kharyar Srinagar, an Ashram which was named after him. A sketch of the Ashram is depicted on the first day cover



GODREJ CENTENARY

04-07-1998, 1 million, Rs. 3.00

When a young man named Ardeshir Godrej fave up law and turned to lock-making in the year 1897, a legend in the field

of Indian industry was born. The word "Godrej" etched into the metal of his Anchor Brand locks became a symbol of self/reliance in

the years that followed. Ardeshir Godrej switched to manufacturing high quality safes that won public acclaim. He made a scientific discovery by making soaps from vegetable oil instead of animal tallow. Godrej intiated the concept of trusteeship of wealth in 1921 by donating Rs. Three lakhs to "Tilak Swaraj Fund." "Godrej became the harbinger of enlightened industry in India by laying the foundation of a thriving enterprise through an industrial garden township outside Mumbai, considering human relations the first principle of management.

After India achieved independence in 1947, Godrej rose to the occasion when they supplied 13 lakhs ballot boxes in record time for free India's first general election at an extremely low price.

A major concern of Godrej was the welfare of his workers. Godrej was always ahead of labour legislations in the country by introducing such benefits as holidays with pay, provident fund, bonus, gratuity, medical and canteen facilities for the workers. The Godrej Udayachal school at Vikhroli is reputed today as the first school unit imparting education and putting up projects on important aspects in the lives of the citizens. In addition it promotes the preservation of the Indian heritage with the Soonabai Godrej Dance Academy Theatre. Godrej continues to be a crusader for a better world with programmes for family planning, protection of depleting forest cover, wildlife and mangroves. Godrej also sponsored the Foundation for Medical Research, Mumbai, particularly for the cure of leprosy. Again, through a rural health and research project, Godrej has striven to develop an alternative model called the Foundation For Research in Community Health for rural health care based on community participation, with the emphasis on preventive rather than curative aspects. Godrej also represents high manufacturing achievements as for instances, the successful manufacture of the Vikas engine as its contrisution to the country's space programme.

The stamp design features the Godrej brothers Ardeshir and Pirojsha, and their contribution to building up the Country's economy along with their environmental & social concern. The first day cover, features a group of school children representing the concern for education building up a safe and pollution free enviornment for the generations to come.

ARUNA ASAF ALI

16-07-1998 0.4 million Rs. 3.00



Aruna Asaf Ali was born in 1909 at Kalka in Haryana, in a Bengali family of distinguished Brahmo-samaj lineage. She married Asaf Ali, a prominent lawyer of Delhi against convention. Very active in the National struggle for independ-

ence, she participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930's and went to jail. In 1941, when Gandhiji started individual satyagraha against British war effort, she courted arrest.

The Quit India Movement, 1942, was a turning point in her life. Following the arrest of all prominent Congress leaders, Aruna went underground and sought to build up an underground centre to guide the movement. She toured Calcutta,

Bombay and Delhi evading police and made heroic efforts to regroup the forces after the collapse of the movement in 1943. During this period she became a symbol of spirit of the youth of the country. She remained underground till 1946, when the warrant of arrest against her was withdrawn.

Aruna was elected President of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee in 1947. However, in 1948 she joined the Socialist group and took an active interest in the trade union movement. In 1955 this group merged with communist Party of India and she became a member of its Central Committee and Vice President of the All India Trade Union Congress. In 1958 she left the Communist Party of India and was elected Delhi's first Mayor. She rejoined the congress party in 1964 but ceased to play any active part in politics.

Aruna Asaf Ali, selfless, sensitive and emotional, charming in her manners, radical in her views, belonged to the heroic age of India's freedom movement. She could not adjust herself with political realities when that heroic age was over and finally chose to live in retirement in New Delhi, till her death on 29th July, 1996. She was awarded the Lenin prize for peace in 1975 and the Jawahar Lal Nehru award for International understanding for 1991.

1902, from which The Jadavpur University developed subsequently, operated from this college building.

During its existence for last one hundred twenty five years, Vidyasagar college, has made remarkable contributions to the country in the field of education, literature, sports, culture and above all, freedom movement. This is particularly relevant and worth remembering, when India is celebrating its 50th year of independence.

SHIVPUJAN SAHAI



09.08.1998 0.4 Million Rs.2.00

A pioneer of renaissance in Hindi Literature, Acharya Shivpujan Sahai was born on August 9, 1893 at Unwans, a village in Buxar District of Bihar. He came from a middle class family with some landed property.

He received his early schooling in the village pathshala and matriculated from Kayastha Jubilee Academy, Arrah in 1912. Under the influence of his brother-in-law, a poet of Brjhasha, Shivpujan Sahai, began his long and impressive association with poetry and journalism, an association that was to prove immensely beneficial and enriching. Pt. Ishwari Prasad Sharma, dramatist and journalist, and Surya Kant Tripathi Nirala and Jaishankar Prasad, two great Hindi poets influenced him deeply. Other notable influences were Bal Gangadhar Tilak's Geeta Rahasya and the political philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Shivpujan Sahai made his greatest contribution to the nationalist movement between 1921 and 1947. He supported the nationalist programme of the Congress and encouraged self confidence among the people. He was liberal in social matters, deprecating the seclusion of women and advocating female education and remarriage of young widows. However, he opposed the introduction of western education in India, advocating instead a national education with a grounding in Vedic and Puranic history of India.

A pioneer of Hindi literary journalism in India, Shivpujan Sahai edited and published numerous Hindi journals like 'Marwari Sudhar', 'Samanwaya', 'Adarsh', 'Matwala', etc. As an eminent Hindi story writer, novelist and biographer, he wrote about 400 short stories, 67 biographies and over 150 literary articles. He became so famous as editor of Hindi language that most of the Hindi writers of the time right from Nirala, Prasad and Premchand to upcoming writers got their works edited by him. His novel 'Dehati Dunia' is acclaimed as the first regional novel in Hindi. Some of his other prominent publications were : Bhisma, Arjuna, Maa Ke Sapoot, Adarsh Parichay, etc. He was a nationalist and reformist writer, criticising the British Government as well as the social evils like the dowry system, the parda, etc. His clever allegories flayed the British Raj without even giving it any legal pretext to hit back.



125 YEARS OF VIDYASAGAR COLLEGE

29.07.1998 0.4 Million Rs.2.00

Vidyasagar college was founded by the illustrious Pundit Ishwar Chandra

Vidyasagar as "Metropolitan Institution" in the year 1872. It was rechristened as "Vidyasagar College" in the year 1917.

Vidyasagar college has been a unique institute of higher education, conceived, established and managed by Indians only during the height of British rule in India. Its object was to impart higher education to Indian students, and inculcate in them a patriotic outlook. It also sought to make higher education affordable to the economically weaker students.

Because of these noble objectives, Vidyasagar college became the cradle of the national freedom movement. A galaxy of eminent sons of India were associated with this institute either as committee members or teachers or as students. Rabindranath Tagore, Surendranath Bannerjee, Chittaranjan Das, Narendranath Durra (Swami Vivekananda), Acharya P.C. Roy, Gostha Paul, Babu Jagjivan Ram, Ram Manohar Lohia, etc. are just a few of the illustrious persons who were associated with this college.

It is a matter of unique distinction for Vidyasagar College that four undergraduate colleges, namely, The Seuri Vidyasagar college, The Nabadwip Vidyasagar college, Vidyasagar college for Women and Vidyasagar Evening college have taken their origin from this college. It is also worth mentioning that the dawn Society, which was established in

During the decade 1939-49 when he was a Lecturer in Hindi in the Rajendra College, Chapra, he presided over the seventeenth session of the Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelah (1941) and later over the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan (1944). He also served as the Director of the Bihar Rashtra Bhasha Parishad from 1950 to 1959. He was honoured several times for his literary achievements and awarded the "Padma Bhushan" in 1960.

Acharya Shivpujan Sahai was a pioneer of Hindi literary journalism, the last of the prose stylists of the Dwivedi age and a formulator of plans of a theatre movement, literary movement, literary memorials and specialised museums of classified research materials for a lingua Indica. Paying tribute to his epoch-making service to the cause of Hindi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, 'Service to Hindi is in itself a great national service. Acharya Shivji was dedicated to a silent service to Hindi'. He passed away on January 21, 1963.



HOMAGE TO MARTYRS
15.08.1998 0.7 Million Rs.3.00, 8.00

India's emergence as an independent nation was the culmination of the largest mass movement spread across almost a century. The British rulers met with stiff resistance right from the beginning of their rule in India. The peasants, the tribal people, the chiefs and other sections rose up in revolt in every part of the country at different times. The year 1857 witnessed the first widespread armed uprising which shook the foundations of British rule in India. The British resorted to brutal repression measures, to crush the uprising. Even after the great uprising of 1857 had been crushed, popular discontent against British rule, however, continued to manifest in armed revolts in different parts of the country during the remaining years of the 19th century.

Side by side, new political forces emerged which gave rise to a nationwide movement for national liberation. As the First World War ended, the Indian National Movement entered the era of mass struggle against repression, for "Self Rule". A new element was ushered in into the political life of the country—the involvement of the common people in the struggle for freedom, with Mahatma Gandhi emerging as the greatest leader in India's struggle for freedom.

One of the worst political crimes of the 20th Century was committed in Punjab during 1919. On 13th April, the day of Baisakhi festival, troops under Gen. Dyer opened fire without warning on a completely peaceful and defenceless crowd at the Jalianwala Bagh ground which was enclosed on all

sides. The massacre stunned the people and became a turning point in the history of the struggle for freedom. With Gandhiji's call for 'Non-Cooperation' peasant struggle intensified in U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Andhra and Bengal, becoming nationwide.

The revolutionary movement of 20's and 30's which developed alongside was an integral part of the struggle for freedom. The revolutionaries, however, slowly gave up terrorist methods and concentrated on building mass organizations of workers and peasants. The mass struggle entered a phase more powerful than before with the "Boycott Simon Commission" movement. The Congress went on to launch the "Civil Disobedience movement" for the attainment of "Purna Swaraj". Along with the Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience movements the 'Quit India movement' was the third great phase in the mass struggle for freedom, with the nation taking to the streets, courting arrest. During the Second World War the Provisional Government of 'Azad Hind' was formed under the inspiring leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose. The men and women of the "Indian National Army", took up the cry of "Jai Hind", and blazed a trail of glory as they succeeded in liberating a part of Indian territory. The trial of three Azad Hind Fauz officers further inflamed public feeling. People clashed with the police and workers, countrywide, went on strike. From February 1946 onwards there were strikes by sections of the armed forces, the most serious being the Naval mutiny. These events finally convinced the British government that the foundations of their empire were collapsing and accelerated the process of negotiations for the transfer of power. The dreams of generations of Indians were finally realized on 15th August, 1947, with India attaining independence. In the words of country's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at the Constituent Assembly, 11.p.m. 14th August, 1947.

In this Solemn hour of our history when, after many years of struggle, we are taking over the governance of this country, let us offer our humble thanks to the Almighty Power that shapes the destinies of men and nations and let us recall in grateful remembrance the services and sacrifices of all those men and women, known and unknown, who with smiles on their faces walked on the gallows or faced bullets on their chests, who experienced living death in the cells of the Andamans or spent long years in the prisons of India, who preferred voluntary exile in foreign countries to a life of humiliation in their own, who not only lost wealth and property but cut themselves off from near and dear ones to devote themselves to the achievement of the great objective which we are witnessing today.

At the conclusion of the 50th anniversary of Independence, the Department of Posts pays homage to the martyrs of the freedom struggle with the issue of this special/commemorative set of two stamps, symbolizing the years of struggle for Independence, the attainment of independence and Indian achievements in the post-independence years. The instant stamp design portrays progressively from left to right our struggle for freedom culminating in the demand for self government and eventual independence, leading on to industrial, scientific and technological developments-all contributing to the building of modern India. The spirit of adventure and exploration resulting in Indian scientists, specially geo-physicists and Oceanographers reaching Antarctica is also suggestively proposed in the stamp design. The first day cover depicts the first slogan postmark, heralding the historic day, 15th August 1947 along with the first postage stamp issued, by Independent India.



GOSTHA PAUL

20.08.1998 0.4 Million Rs. 3.00

Gostha Behari Paul, the doyen of India football was born on the 20th of August, 1896, at Bhojeshwar, a small village of Faridpur district (now in Bangladesh). On his arrival at

Calcutta in 1907, Gostha got introduced to the game of football in the Kumartuli Park (north Calcutta). In 1911, Mohun Bagan became the first Indian outfit to lift the IFA Shield defeating the Yorkshire Regiment 2-1. The Indians, who had been at the receiving end all the time, suddenly realised the joy of victory over Britishers. The game became very popular in India particularly in West Bengal, and this popularity can perhaps be attributed to the Charisma of Gostha Paul, who became a legend in his life time. This barefooted India player rose to greater heights of glory. He became a symbol of the hopes and aspirations of the pre-independence generation who longed for India and Indians to take their rightful place on the world platform.

Discovered by Late Rajen Sen at Bhagyakul, Gostha played his first match for Mohun Bagan at the age of 16 in 1913 against Dalhousie F.C. He played for Mohun Bagan, without a break, for the next 22 years till 1935. After a match against the D.C.L.I., Rangoon in the IFA Shield, "Red-Rose" wrote in "THE ENGLISH MAN" - 'GOSTHA IMPREGNABLE AS CHINESE WALL'.

Gostha Paul's performance against Durhams in a Rovers Cup final was summed up by 'THE TIME OF INDIA' as - PAUL, THE FINEST BACK EVER PLAYED IN BOMBAY'.

Gostha captained the Mohun Bagan Club from 1921 to 1926. He also led the Indian contingent in their first outing to a foreign land, Ceylon, in 1924. But Gostha refused to lead the IFA XI to South Africa in 1934, Supporting the views of the Mahatma against apartheid.

On 27th April, 1962 Gostha became the first footballer to receive the 'PADMA SHRI' award from the then President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The Government of West Bengal have honoured this legendary-figure of Indian Football by erecting a 13 feet bronze-statue of him in front of the Akashbani Bhavan, Calcutta. The VIP Gallery of the Mohun Bagan Stadium has been named as the "Gostha Paul Stand".

Gostha Paul passed away on 8th of April, 1976. Gostha and his vision can be best expressed in his own words : " In an era, when we (Indians) were humiliated and insulted in every step of life, a life of remorse, the football arena was the only one place, where we could fight them, (the Britishers) incessantly. I didn't fear them, but it was they who feared me".

He was an epitome of patriotism, dedication, devotion and discipline. He became an institution who taught us something more than the mere skills of Football. Rakhai Bhattacharya, an eminent journalist, remarked, "India has produced many footballers of quality, but only one Gostha Paul".

YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA : GOLDEN JUBILEE

23.08.98 0.7 Million Rs.5.00



Youth hostels as a concept evolved from excursions organised by a German school teacher Richard Schirrmann and his pupils in 1909. The inauguration of International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) was an outcome of the First International Youth Hostel Conference held at Amsterdam in 1932. India hosts the 42nd IYHF Conference from 23rd to 27th August, 1998 at New Delhi.

Youth Hostels promote fellowship and community interaction and a better understanding, bringing together youth from different parts of the world. They stimulate youth to think about their role in preservation of the environment, plant and animal life.

Youth Hostelling International or Hostelling International logo with the blue triangle, hut and tree is registered as a trademark in many countries. Youth Hostels are run by the national Youth Hostel Association in each individual country under the auspices of the International

Youth Hostel Federation which is an international non-governmental, non-profit making organisation recognized by UNESCO, IYHF offers computerised International Booking Network (IBN) to meet the needs of this mobile and aware clientele while maintaining the unique qualities and mission that have made Youth Hostels such a global success.

The Youth Hostel Association of India (YHAI) was established on 14th July, 1949 when a group of educationalists from Maharaja College, Mysore formed a committee to promote Youth Hostel Movement. YHAI, through its more than 305 units and 22 state branches, offers inexpensive, neat, hygienic and secure accomodation at a nominal cost in youth hostels located throughout India. It organises a number of activities such as long and short distance cycle trails, expeditions and adventure sports, trekking in mountains, in deserts and along the beaches. The organization also conducts camps and workshops on national integration, control of environment and pollution and training courses in Youth leadership for inclucating Self-discipline and self-initiative in the youth. Special camps have ben organized for tribal and border area youth. The First Day Cover Design depict some of these activities. The stamp design is an imaginative depiction of a youth hostel, in idyllic surroundings.