



SIPA

Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

Vol.19 No.5

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '98

Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

We are pleased to inform that during SINGPEX - '98/ AESANPEX '98 at Singapore. between 23rd-26th July 1998. Janab. M.A. Syeed, Managing Director of COMMODITIES TRADING COMPANY (LLC) having headquarters at Dubai. A life member of SIPA was Awarded two large Gold Medals with Special Prize for the

Acharya Tulsi's Stamp Release

Ganga Sahar Philatelic society of Ganga Sahar (Rajasthan) organized stamp release Function on 20/10/1998 release at Acharya Tulsi with writing efforts at Shri. Namichand Life member of SIPA and Governing Council member at P.C.I. Representing Rajasthan.



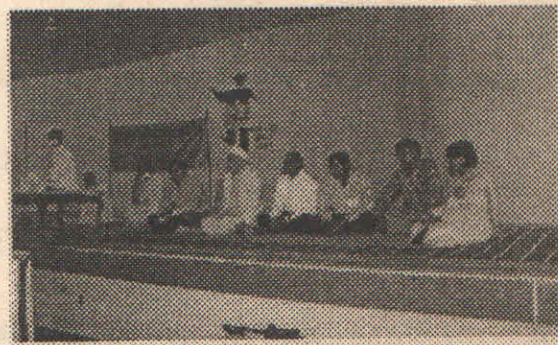
presentation of exhibits:-

- (a) Early Line Engraved G.B. issues and
- (b) India Scinde Dawak and Clasic lithograph issues.

Hearty Congratulations Again at PORTUGAL '98 at Lisbon from 4th-13th September. 1998. (International Philatelic Exhibition), he was awarded Gold in Traditional Philatelic Class for his exhibit of Great Britain. Nearly seventy Countries participated with about 2,300 frames from 450 Competitors. This exhibition coinsides with 500 years of the discovery of the sea route to India by VASCO-DA-GAMA.

It was a greatest honour to Janab. M.A. Syeed have the President of India Republic honourable Shri. K.R. NARAYANAN at Lisbon on 11th September 1998 to visit the exhibition and see the exhibits of Indian competitors. We wish Janab. M.A. Syeed many more International Awards for name and fame to our country. It is also his intension to organise an INDIA/UAE exhibiton at Dubai with about 600 frames during 1999 or the beginning of millennium 2000.

Our full cooperation in all his efforts and to orient and thanks India / UAE appear much more logical Indian Community in living then.



In 1994, Acharya Tulsi made an exemplary renunciation at his post of Acharya Tulsi. He passed away at 83, on 23rd June 1997 at Gwoza Sahar.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at Annasalai HPO regularly where in 30/35 Members Attended with Shri. G. Balakrishnadas, President in the chair talks on exhibitions, News/Views appreciated.

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 Nannian Street, Chennai - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)

THE LAST MESSAGE OF FIP PRESIDENT

Shri. D.N. JATIA ROI of FIP

Time has come to bid adieu. This will be my last column under the presidential page as my term ends at the close of 65th Congress to be held at Milan on 31st October/1st November 1998. I would have served 18 fruitful years in the FIP Board. First as a Director, then Vice-President and finally the last 8 years i.e. from 1990 from London Congress as your President.

The past 18 years have been time consuming as well as rewarding and full of responsibility. It is a long inning and new faces and ideas are a welcome sign. Let me highlight some of the outstanding achievements worth recollecting during my period. The introduction of judging regulations for competitive exhibitions saw a revolution in the judging system making it more transparent. It helped both judges and exhibitors to see the situation correctly. It is heartening to see smooth adoption by all judges harping strong resistance in introducing scoring sheet. Gradually they realised the usefulness of the same and adopted it.

The decision of Congress to check 1% of exhibits at FIP exhibitions for forgeries and fakes etc. at the London Congress and which necessitated to introduce the Expert Teams presented many problems and several false starts. However, the system now introduced and maintained by the President of the Commission for Forgeries seems to work well.

Other striking achievement that I take pride is the development of our relations with other International Philatelic and non-philatelic organisations. Never before have FIP come in such close contact as they do now with Universal Postal Union. Philately had no place in the realm of UPU but today all postal administrations look upon the philately into a totally different concept. A first major act was the establishment of the UPU Contact Committee for Philately now WADP (World Association for the Development of Philately) and FIP is working in close collaboration with the other members in compiling a Guide for the development of philately world-wide.

The healthier financial results has been encouraging. From a near empty coffer we now have seen a good turn around and by the year end would be closing near to one Million Swiss Franc mark. Similarly, the FIP foundation resources are also reassuring. Thanks goes to our members for better activity and generous donations. However, my dream of FIP having its own headquarters still dither. At least we started with a "roof above our head" in 1985 and God willing one day the dream should be fulfilled.

Through this column I have been able to reach you, dear readers on numeral subjects and have been able to place before you the insight of thinking of FIP. That the column was effective can be gauged for frequent references drawn many a time. I am positive that my successor will follow the trend established to communicate with you.

It is but unfortunate that there would be a tie for the post of Presidentship which has not happened before. It is not a healthy sign. I feel I have played my roll very intelligently keeping in mind, at all times, the good of FIP and their members and above all the collectors.

During my tenure I have received very cordial support from fellow Directors and Commission Presidents at all times and the working has been very smooth. I do not know if our members realise that in Secretary General they have a living institution having performed her duties most delicately and sincerely. Really she is an asset for FIP.

Now, my dear members and readers, let me Say Au Revoir, as a President, I wish all of you the very best health and spirit and good speed in your respective endeavours. I have tried my best along with my Board members and where we could not meet your expectation, it was certainly not due to lack of any efforts or lack of will on our part.

With best wishes,
D.N. Jatia.

STAMPS

INDIA PRE & POST
INDEPENDENCE USED &
MINT

&

also printing mistake
stamps & Postal Stationery
British Country &
Foreign Packets

WRITE TO
Subashchandra
K-57/47, NAWAPURA,
VARNASI 221001.

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

FEPA-Position as to EURO on Stamps

by Klaus E. Eitner, Vice President

1. EURO on stamps-a philatelic chance

The introduction of the EURO is conceived by the highly promising opportunity to stimulate stamp collecting at large:

*Attain new stamp collectors, primarily young people,
Stabilise/strengthen the philatelic market,
Conduct a promotional campaign jointly planned by
postal administrations, stamp dealer's and collector's
associations.*

2. EURO on stamps a new stamp collecting field

Chances are promising for a positive net effect between those stamp collectors terminating their collection because of the EURO and others who may start a new collection, either with EURO stamps of their own country or of all 11 EURO-countries.

3. EURO on stamps continued validity

All of the 11 EURO-Countries enjoy an unlimited validity of their stamps. EURO-stamps of all 11 participating countries should also be unlimited in their validity. Following is a list of the 11 EURO-countries and the year since unlimited validity had been introduced;

Country	Unlimited Validity Since
France	1849
Spain	1936
Austria	1947
Finland	1954
Belgium	1960
Luxembourg	1952
Italy	1967
Germany	1969
Ireland	1971
Netherlands	1977
Portugal	1980

4. EURO on stamps - Collector's Expectations

At possible measures should be adopted to ensure a successful implementation of the EURO in the philatelic market:

Unrestricted exchange of stamps of national currencies into EURO stamps, starting at the latest as of July 1, 2002. Since the unrestricted exchange is regarded by collectors as very important they are prepared to use their political

influence in order that postal administrations will comply with this request.

No limitations as to the volume of stamp exchanges other than will respect to white washing rules,

Allowing for sufficient time for the exchange, i.e. beyond Dec. 31, 2002.

No charges should be implied with the exchange/
Possibilities should be opened to exchange stamps also in other countries than only in the issuing country.

Stamps taken back should be destroyed. A record should be kept and published with details of number and value of destroyed stamps.

5. EURO on stamps Interim Period (Jan. 1, 1999 June 30, 2002)

The Possibility of parallel use of stamps in national currencies and in EURO will exert a major stimulus to the philatelic market and to the benefit of postal administration, stamp dealers and collectors. Three measures should be considered.

1 a) Release of stamps as from Jan.1, 1999 until Dec. 31, 2001: in both EURO and national currencies (dual currency stamps) parallel to stamps in national currencies.

1 b) Release of stamps as from Jan.1, 2002 until June 30, 2002: in EURO Parallel to stamps in national currencies.

2. Both measures will allow for mixed frankings and will open a new broad field to collectors. The philatelic market will be enriched with a new segment.

3. Postal tariffs should be published as early as possible in both national currencies and, EURO, at the latest per Jan. 1, 1999. the overall net effect of increasing/decreasing postal tariffs because of adaption should be zero.

4. Those countries having issued nondenominated stamps should publish their decisions whether these stamps will be valid beyond June, 30. 2002.

It would be desirable that European postal administrations agree on a common treatment of all these various challenges.

GWALIOR STAMPS & COIN CLUB GWALIOR

A State level exhibition Nuphilaex - '98, Numismatic & Philatelic Exhibition from 13-15 November, 1998, Jointly organised by Gwalior stamp & coin club and the Heritage, at Kalavithika, Gwalior. The massive collection of stamps and Coins displayed in this exhibition by participants came from various part of Madhya Pradesh. Club have issued fabulous covers along with the special cancellation. The theme of the covers are The Logo of Rotary International, first flying boat of Gwalior State, and rare coins of Gwalior state, are available @ 5/- each. The most informative souvenir and four special covers of last year exhibition Nuphilaex-'97 are also available. Collectors who are interested may write Secretary, Gwalior Stamp Club, J-17, Chetak Puri, Gwalior-474009 for their requirement.

AEROPHILATELY UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

One of the activities organized during the first Ibero-American Aerophilatelic Exhibition Aerofila '96 (from August 30th till September 8th in Buenos Aires) was a Seminar about Aerophilately. It was held in the Post Office Building, in the Assembly Room Eduardo Olivera, on September 5th and was led by Mr. Egil H. Thomassen (Norway), President of the FIP Aerophilatelic Commission. On the other hand, Dr. Roberto M. Rosende (USA) acted as coordinator and interpreter.

PARTICIPANTS

About thirty persons (between jury and exhibitors) followed very closely in the seminar. Among the participants there were members of the jury of Aerofila '96: Cesar Jones (Uruguay), Nestor M. Ferre (Argentina), Jose M. Grandela Duran (Spain), Algerio Nonis (Argentina), Carlos Kron (Paraguay), Gaetano Peroni (Brazil), Bend Sander (Colombia) and Osvaldo M. Giordano (Argentina). Unluckily, the President of Honor of the Jury of Aerofila '96, Eliseo R. Otero (Argentina) could not participate as he was invited to attend a colloquy at Cambridge University (UK).

GETTING IN THE SUBJECT

It may be convenient to expose some of the basic concepts that are taken into account by the norms of the FIP for the judging of the aerophilatelic exhibitions.

Article number 3 of the SREV, defines Aerophilately as a "a study of the development of the airmail services and other documents related with this development". The same article specifies what an aerophilatelic exhibition must contain as a minimum:

- a) Postal document sent by air mail.
- b) Postal stamps and semipostals specially issued for air mail use, mint or used, but mainly on covers.
- c) All types of cancellations and postal marks, vignettes and labels related with the air transport.
- d) Material dealing with a particular air transport, not carried by a postal service but considered important for the development of the air mail.
- e) Pamphlets and newspaper airdrop, as a usual way of postal delivery or in the case that the postal service is interrupted by an unexpected event.
- f) Any correspondence that has been saved from a flight accident.

The first point of the third article of the SREV where the guidelines are contained, amplifies what was stated previously: "An aerophilatelic exhibit will represent a study of the development, the activities and other spheres of action of the air mail, exhibiting material which is directly related and documenting the treatment and analysis of the aerophilatelic material".

Another normative aspect that must be taken into
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account in order to understand in the correct way what was said by Mr. Thomassen is the score assessment of collections (fifth article, second point). Let's see:

Philatelic treatment and importance.....	30
Treatment.....	20
Philatelic importance.....	10
Philatelic Knowledge,	
personal study and research.....	35
State and rarity.....	30
Rarity.....	20
State of the material.....	10
Presentation.....	5
Total.....	100

COURSE OF THE SEMINAR

Mr. Thomassen started his exposition with the origins of the FIP rules for the evaluation of the aerophilatelic exhibit. The General Regulations (GREV) for the judging of the exhibit in FIP exhibitions and the Special Regulation (SREV) or evaluating aerophilately exhibits in those exhibitions where originally approved in the 54# FIP Congress (November 5th, 1985, Rome). Afterwards, they were reviewed during the 61# FIP Congress (May 4th, 1992, Granada, Spain) in force since January, 1995. The Guidelines are based on the text of the SREV and are equally enforced.

In Mr. Thomassen's opinion, these regulations are not known and understood by many exhibitors. Moreover, some of them only take into consideration part of the evaluation criteria. His own experience can tell him that the points that are less taken into account are those of "treatment" and "Knowledge" although both of them only sum up 55 points. Later, Mr. Thomassen expounded his thought about the exhibits and its evaluation.

I will try to interpret and tell you all the concepts that the conductor of the seminar has revealed us.

1. PRESENTATION PAGE

It is the introductory page of the exhibit and it is compulsory. It must contain explanatory text about the exhibits that the jury will see, with the aims or its reach. These core for "treatment" comes from the relation that exists between this page and the way in which the exhibit is developed by the exhibitor. They must include in this page all the information that the jury may need in order to understand what he will judge and not to give less points because of misunderstanding what the exhibitor wants to transmit.

2. MATERIAL TO EXHIBIT

Mint stamps can be exhibited but they must also appear on covers. Blocks of four must not be included, except if they are considered a rarity. The labels can be mint or used. In case of having any rare or uncommon material in the exhibits, it does not have to be described as "unique", it must be said that it is "the only one known or reported".

Sometimes, it may happen that the exhibitors present an envelope with a postal stamp due to its rarity. But Mr. Thomassen prefers covers with the right rate, as the facial value of the rare stamps may not adjust to that rate. If it's necessary to put a colour photocopy of the reverse of a cover, it must be 25% smaller than the original so as not to confuse the members of the Jury. Also admitted is the inclusion of photocopies of the cancellations, next to the corresponding covers. Exceptionally maps or pictures (photographs) are accepted, if they are considered really important.

3. USE OF THE FRAMES

Mr. Thomassen advised not to put only one cover (by page) and the photocopy of its reverse. This must not be done except if the information that is contained in the reverse is important.

When an exhibitor in a FIP exhibition obtains a large vermeil medal or any higher than this and he presents the same exhibits in another exhibition, he will have to exhibit as minimum 8 frames. However, the exhibitors can ask the Organizing Committee for an authorization in order to present less frames (although they may receive a negative answer).

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIAL

Mr. Thomassen considers that most of the exhibitors describe what is more evident. An exhibitor must study the subject that he has chosen in depth. In "knowledge and research" the jury take into account what is described by the exhibitor. You may ask what does the jury want to be described by the exhibitor? Well, the following things must not be forgotten :

The route that was followed by the material and if it is not the normal one, much better.

The rate of the moment and the amount of postage corresponding to the air mail rate and how much to the ordinary rate.

Even if the material contains a postal mark which is really uncommon, it must also be described.

Where you can get the information for these descriptions? Mr. Thomassen has told us that in Norway he consults the files of the Post Office (routes, fares). The Post Office cancellations and other postal markings on the cover, must be correctly studied because they can contribute with very good information. Moreover, the newspapers of that period can also bring data of interest.

Even though the jury consider "treatment, knowledge and research" all together when they evaluate, the score that the exhibitor will be given for the last two things comes out from the description made of the material. Both of them can give the exhibitor up to 35 points.

5. CONDITION OR STATE

There is some material that is false. That's why, it is required to have the original certificate of the authenticity of the material in the reverse of the page (indicating in front this situation). Covers that were repaired or cleaned are allowed

to be exhibited whenever it is indicated. In this sense, whatever is repaired should not touch the postal cancellation. The condition of the material must be as best as possible, even though when it is of the pioneer flights this may be not attainable.

6. PHILATELIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. Thomassen has been consulted about this criterion of evaluation. He has told us that about this there is not clear and precise information. In the presentation page, the exhibitor can tell about the importance of his exhibit. In general it is taken into account the role that has played the air mail of each country in its development and due to this, the material of a country becomes important. That development must be according to the development of the world aerophilately, and the importance that is given depends on what the exhibitor shows.

7. PRESENTATION

Some exhibitors do not pay attention to this evaluating criterion. Even though it only represents five points, losing them in this item can cause the exhibitor not to obtain a better prize. An exhibit that is well presented helps the Jury to regard it positively (though this may be subjective). There is not an absolute rule for presentation. The exhibitors must look for harmony and balance in their exhibit. Whenever possible, it is advised to put all the covers at the same height in each page. When the exhibitor has two big covers in the same page, he can superimpose them but without hiding the essential information. "Windows" can be used. All the descriptions about the exhibit must be clear and concrete. The information must be enough but not in excess. The type of letter that is used must be legible.

If the cover is big it can be put in a horizontal or vertical way. The material that is affected by the light can be protected by a suitable transparent paper.

8. EXPERT COMMITTEE

In the FIP exhibitions an Expert Committee always participates. If they discover any false or inadequate material, immediately he National Commissioner of the country of the exhibitors is informed, and will inform the exhibitor sending him a letter.

If the exhibitor does not pay attention to this and presents again the exhibit with the same material, he will surely receive less points and can also be disqualified.

I have tried to emphasize the most important aspects of the seminar conducted by Mr. Egil H. Thomassen, head of the Aerophilately FIP Commission. Certainly, the seminar that has taken place during Aerofila '96 was one of the most important features of this First Ibero American Aerophilately Exhibition.

Oswaldo Mario Giordano



WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR POSTAL HISTORY POINTS SCORE

by Raymond Todd

Rearrange or redefine title to suit available material to conversely acquire material to match your title.

Quite often when one is judging an exhibit there is a discrepancy between the title and the material on display. This can happen in many ways. Often the exhibitor is unaware of the fault or the exhibit has outgrown an aged title. A good way to ascertain the correct title is to get the opinion of others, suggest alternative titles and gauge the reactions or to simply ask the judges what they feel is correct. Often one will find that say exhibitors stretch themselves too thin because their scope is incorrect (see next heading) and they could never fill the frames with appropriate material.

The converse applies when one tries to cram a large scope history exhibit into frames which are too few in number. Again more planning is needed and time taken to think through the planned exhibit and the title.

Acquisition of material is easier said than done. You need several resources. They are, not necessarily in order, time, money, opportunity and knowledge. Of course the greatest of all these is knowledge - without this you could be buying in the dark. It is often quite often sound to rely on the advice of dealers provide they know your collection - if they don't then you could end up with a lot of duplicated material. Again seek the advice of others if you are not sure whether the gaps you have identified in your exhibit are those the judges sees or not.

Rearrange scop (term) of your exhibit to improve importance.

Generally Postal History exhibits rely on age to improve their importance however of course there are exceptions to this rule. Bearing in mind that the story line must be maintained at all times it may pay the exhibitor to alter the style of his collection to reflect the more important era of the postal History subject. For instance you may have an exhibit for the period of say 1910-1940 where the most important part of the country's Postal History is from 1890-1920. Assuming that you have the means to expand the collection then the choice is obvious.

Of course it may transpire that the more important part of the country is more modern-you then have the choice to alter the scope to reflect this aspect. Of course and this should be mentioned quite often collecting and exhibiting are quite different and one should never abandon the collecting of an era or area just because in the eyes of the Postal Historian it is of lesser importance.

Have a close look at the story line to see how many

times you have broken the chain and then of course mend it. (Insert material of missing rates services routes marks)

The story line is the thread that connects each page to the other and overall this gives you the story of the Postal History exhibit. Random pages of Postal History thrown in at random will destroy your story. Determine what the missing links are and fix them by acquisition of material or removal of duplicated material or that adds nothing to the story. The story of the Post is what Postal History is all about-be sure to remember this.

See if your title pages stands up to scrutiny. Does it contain a brief outline of Postal History of the major area and then an account of the material you are showing. All irrelevant detail should be omitted. Make sure the picture on the title page is not too obtrusive. Ensure references are accurate.

A clear bold heading, a nice unobtrusive non philatelic (if necessary) postcard or the like and wise and well chosen words are what is needed on the title page. How does yours shape up? The title page is the first thing the judges read when arriving at your frames so we must be sure that all is right with it.

The heading should be bold enough to be read from a few metres but not so bold it dominates the page. Any added picture such as a postcard or drawing or map should be relative to the title and be in sympathy with the size of the page.

The writings can be divided up into distinct facets. Firstly you should talk about the Postal History of the country in general and secondly describe exactly what part of the Postal History of the country you are showing, Frame by frame descriptions are unnecessary but in some cases save space elsewhere and may be appropriate. Writings about non Postal History subjects are to be avoided on the title page - you simply do not have the space to waste.

References at the foot of the title page should be kept to a minimum but those which are relevant to your exhibit should be mentioned as should any important correspondence, articles and most importantly writings you have undertaken yourself.

Does every items' description cover rate, markings, route (where available)? Have unnecessary duplicates been discarded?

To tell the full story of a country's or area's posts one would probably want to include markings from short lived post offices or agents and even scarcer marks from larger post offices where for some reason there was little usage. Including rare postmarks on cover should be limited however to those that fit in with your story line; postmarks can be overdone. A story about the development of a particular postal marking or postmark however would fit in most Postal History exhibits.

The development of the various routes is an important

part of a Postal History display and is really the integral part, with the rates, of Postal History. The route taken by a particular mail service is reflected in the markings on the covers and there are various factors which affect those applied markings. Firstly, there was, in the 19th Century and indeed in more modern times, the factor for the various mail contracts to change because of legislation, war, treaties and the speed with which the addressee required the mail. All of these factors can be found by way of markings on a cover and all are important. Secondly some routes may have been travelled for which there are no markings applied and the very fact that there is an absence of markings may indicate the actual route taken. All these should be briefly explained in your write up.

Rates are an often neglected feature of other disciplines and care must be taken when describing your items to clearly indicate the rate and how it was arrived at-it is not good enough just to copy the total of the adhesives or the script markings. The history of the rates of a particular service is again an integral part of a good Postal History exhibit. Do not forget to fully describe postage due or taxed items.

Is the condition of each item the best one can get. Is it better to show a damaged cover with an excellent mark rather than an undamaged cover with a faint mark? that is the question.

When we talk about condition in any facet of philately we are talking about relative condition i.e. where better condition is known and available then the exhibitor will be penalised. One should remember that the Postal History aspect takes precedence over the Traditional aspect; the condition and value of the adhesives stamps really are not of such great importance as the markings on the particular cover. Of course an undamaged or superb adhesive will subconsciously influence the judge but to what extent one can only ponder.

Are rarities highlighted? Especially those without prior or existing references i.e. New discoveries. Are all rarities present?

One should never be afraid of highlighting their rarities to the judges but like everything else in life a balance must be retained. And by highlighting I mean sufficient words so the judge will not miss it. However the exhibitor must use his judgement here because if more than a few items are highlighted then the judge will run off if they do not warrant this treatment. Some use of the Title Page can be made to record rarities.

Any unreported rarity should be clearly explained if there is no precedent or existing reference. This will get the exhibitor more points for Knowledge and Research and will go some way to satisfying the judge that he knows what he is talking about.

Rarity is a relative thing and what is rare in one's eyes may not be in another's. Some Postal History subjects have some well known rarities-the judges will be aware of these and will look for them in an exhibit.

Would Presentation be improved with the use of outlines (care) or matters? Are sheet protectors too light reflective?

I am a great believer in the use of any medium which will highlight your exhibit. My own preference is for matters which simply are backing pieces usually of a postal shade upon which the covers are mounted. The colour choice is the exhibitors but it must be borne in mind that in the past most mattes were black and this was probably the reason that they proved to be unpopular. A small margin over the dimensions of the cover of say 1 mm is sufficient to provide enough impact and use of acid free mattes or backing will go some way to protecting your collection. Growing trend amongst senior exhibitors is the use of double mattes-the cover being mounted firstly on a white acid free matte and then on to a coloured matte, each with a margin of 1mm.

Another way of highlighting your material is the use of outlines around each item. These can be handdrawn or computer generated and they do provide some lift to an exhibit. However and this is important I have seen some exhibits which have been badly spoilt because the outlines are not accurate enough and actually detract from the exhibit.

The cheaper versions of sheet protectors are often very light reflective as indeed are some of the more expensive ones. These should be avoided at all costs as it is often difficult for the judge to see clearly (and quickly) so you could be penalised.

Is write up too large or too small? Are cover descriptions succinct?

The ideal write up of course could be described as just sufficient. However that is easier said than done. The use of headings can eliminate some of the duplicated write up on a particular page. Provided the write up covers the rate, the route and the markings then you have done well but please omit anything not directly connected with the postal history aspect of the cover i.e. any social history, contents of the missive where not related to the post and the sender or addressee where they are not part of the story line.

Have cut out postmarks been kept to a minimum? (except of course for marcophily exhibits)

There is some tendency for collectors to get hold of a rare postmark and insist on showing it in preference to a cover. I believe that if you have not got it on cover then don't show it unless it is one of less than 5 known-even then it would have to fit in with the story. A larger piece with several adhesives thereon is a different matter and can rightly be included provided, again, it fits in with the story. I suppose if one wanted a black and white answer to the inclusion of cut out postmarks the answer must be to omit them from an exhibit. Of course this does not apply to a Marcophily exhibit which can be composed of all cutouts if desired.



THE WHY AND WHEREFORE OF STAMP COLLECTING

Its Pleasure, Amusement and Instruction

by John Drinkwater

The Instinct of the collector is always something of an enigma to people who are so unfortunate as not to possess it, nor is it to be acquired, for collectors are born, not made. It is true that like all other natural gifts it has to be encouraged and directed, but without the natural gift no one will make much of a collection no matter what he collects. For those happily gifted in this matter, however, collecting is much more than the possessive whim that it is commonly supposed to be by the uninstructed. The intelligent collector is seeking to afford himself one of the principal pleasures of the human mind, namely the assembling of scattered elements into an orderly and harmonious whole. If, as more often than not is the case, he be a person of some taste these elements will be beautiful or curious in themselves, but his chief delight is to compose them into a group that gives them fresh significance.

For the Collector's purpose the postage stamp has now for nearly a hundred years been steadily establishing its claims. Its obvious advantages are many. A large collection can be kept in a very small space, there is material in abundance to suit every size of purse, the subject is exhaustively documented for the guidance of the novice and the expert alike, the philatelic field is one of infinite variety, stamps in themselves are delightful things to handle and arrange and they are, moreover, free of the taint of preciousness, symbolising as they do the daily business and social contacts of an age. If anyone cares to add to these certificates of merit such further recommendations as that stamps teach us something of geography and history, of pictorial form and of the craft of the engraver, printer and paper maker, he has reason on his side.

The most difficult aspect of all collecting is that of its financial considerations. It is right and inevitable that where there are collectors there will be professional dealers who legitimately expect to make a profit on their business, and further that the collector himself who may support his enthusiasm with considerable sums of money should regard his investment as being secure against unreasonable loss. At the same time, what is most needed for the wholesome development of collecting as a pursuit among intelligent people is that the collector should on no account regard his collection primarily as a speculation. Once this bad habit is acquired, the enlightened zeal of pure collecting, which is a charming activity of the mind,

disappears, to be replaced by the greed and caprice of the stockmarket, which are not charming at all.

It means, for example, in the world of philately that the rich collector who is afflicted by this infirmity concentrates his attention and his money on stamps that recommend themselves to him chiefly because they are gilt-edged securities on the market, and this is followed by a corresponding neglect of much rare and interesting material that is not attractive to the speculator because it is not widely known. It discourages research and scholarship which should be the adornments of the collector's instinct. It tends to deprive collecting of personality and reduces it to the level of huckstering. When this condition prevails in any collecting market the collector of taste and enterprise, who wants to bring learning and judgement to his hobby, is at a serious disadvantage, and this to some extent means the sterilisation of the whole field of philately. Such a collector too often finds that his needs can be supplied only at a price far above anything that he can hope to recover.

My own advice to the stamp collector would be this. Let the beginner, whether he be young or not so young, lay some foundations of philatelic knowledge with a small general collection that can always be acquired at a modest figure. Then as soon as possible let him choose some philatelic subject to his own fancy, and make up his mind to cultivate it at a cost which he can afford to write off as being paid outright for his pleasure. If the necessity arises and he is lucky, it will no doubt prove to be better than that, but it is a sound resolution to make at the outset. Then let him, under the guidance of his own taste, work out a scheme for his collection that shall reflect his personality and add something to the common stock of philatelic knowledge.

On these lines the collector can provide himself with a pursuit of never failing interest and genuine intellectual refreshment. I have no respect for a collector because he owns three stamps each of which can be matched only by two other known copies in the world, but I have a great deal for the collector who can show me an album in which by his own knowledge and curiosity he has illustrated some branch of the postal enterprise that is so vital a feature of our civilisation. The former achievement is open to anyone who has enough money, the latter only to the man with a particularly attractive kind of intelligence. It is an intelligence that can be exercised on quite a small scale and with quite a small purse, but without it collecting is a waste of spirit however substantial its profits may be.



**FOURTH BATTALION BRIGADE OF THE
GUARDS (1 RAJPUT)
15.9.98 0.7 Million Rs.6.00**



The Battalion 4 Guards (1 Rajput) was raised as part of the Bengal Army on 15th September, 1798, at Sasseram (Bihar), by Major George Sackville Brown

Fighting against the Marathas and the French, in the Battle of Delhi in 1803, the Battalion's collective gallantry was so conspicuous that an 'HONORARY COLOUR' was awarded to the Battalion, a unique honour never bestowed on any other unit of the Indian Army till date. The Battalion took part in the Battle of Bharatpur in 1805 and planted the "Battalion Colour" on the ramparts of the Bharatpur Fort despite stiff enemy resistance and heavy casualties. The 'Battalion colour' which was riddled with bullets was ordered to be burnt. The remnants preserved by the old soliders and their children, were pinned on to the 'New Colour and were carried to victory at Bharatpur in 1826. The revered shreds of the 'Old Colour' are still preserved in a silver casket known as the Battalion's 'Centre Piece'. This event has been introduced as a case study on Motivation in the Indian Army under the title, 'The Tattered Flag'.

Prior to the First World War, the Battalion saw action in Punjab, Afghanistan, Burma and China. In the First World War, the Battalion proved its mettle at 'Dujailah Redoubt' in 1916. In the Second World War, the Battalion saw action in Burma and accepted the 'Japanese Surrender' at Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1945.

In 1947, the Battalion was one of the first to be rushed into J&K. On 6th February 1948, the enemy attacked Taindhar. They were beaten back. In this historic battle, Naik Yadunath Singh, though himself wounded, rushed out of his bunker and charged the enemy single handed. He was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, posthumously.

In 1962, the Battalion was deployed at the watershed in West Sikkim and was later selected to form part of the United Nations Emergency Forces at Gaza during 1964-65. The Battalion got an outstanding report during its 'tour of duty' with the UN.

In 1971, the Battalion spearheaded the advance and was the first to reach the outskirts of Dacca on 13 December 1971. For its outstanding performance, during 1971 operations, the Battalion was awarded the Battle Honour 'Akhaura' and Theatre Honour 'East Pakistan'. Due to its glorious traditions and rich heritage, the Battalion was chosen to spearhead the mechanisation of Brigade of the Guards in 1987.

Since then the Battalion has seen action in J&K where it has acquitted itself most creditably and won many an applause for its glorious actions. The Battalion has won 23 Battle/ Theatre Honours till date. The awards won by the Battalion include Victoria Cross (2), Param Vir Chakra (1), Mahavir Chakra (2) and Vir Chakra (13).



Bhai Kanhaiyaji, the disciple of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib and Guru Gobind Singh Ji was an epitome of humility, devotion and loyalty to his Guru and Service to mankind without any discrimination of religion, caste or region.

He was born at village Sodhra near Wazirabad on the banks of river Chenab in 1648. Bhai Kanhaiyaji was

devoted to the cause of the needy and down-trodden. He had little interest in family trade and when his father expired, he waited for his brothers to take over the responsibility and set out to find his guru who could guide him on the path of service. He came to Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib and got the opportunity to serve him for three months. He then went on to establish a "Dharamshal" at Kehwa near Attock to serve the people, and he spread the message of "Universal Brotherhood" as thought by Guru Nanak Dev Ji. When Guru Govind Singh Ji was engaged in battle, Bhai Kanhaiyaji moved to Anandpur Sahib and took over the responsibility of serving drinking water to soldiers wounded in the battlefield.

Attired in white clothes with a white flag fixed in the left side of his belt, he carried the leather bag (Mashk) on his shoulders and served water to the wounded without discrimination, to friends and foe.

When a few Sikhs complained to Guru Govind Singh Ji that Bhai Kanhaiyaji was serving water to the enemy, Guruji called him and sought his version. Bhai Kanhaiyaji submitted "WITH THY GRACE MY LORD! MY EYES ARE SO ENLIGHTENED THAT I SEE NOTHING ELSE BUT YOUR DIVINE SPIRIT PERVAIDING EVERYWHERE AND IN ALL, SINCE I SERVED NONE ELSE BUT ONLY THYSELF MY LORD?"

Guru Govind Singh Ji then blessed Bhai Kanhaiyaji as a holy man and gave him a box ointment, for healing wounds. This inspired a group of volunteers who worked under the guidance of Bhai Kanhaiyaji, who thus became a forerunner of the Red Cross movement which Sir Henry Durant founded about 160 years later.

Bhai Kanhaiyaji went to Kehwa (Near Attock), when Guru Govind Singh Ji left Anandpur Sahib. He continued to serve the people and devoted his remaining life to preach and practise teaching of the Sikh Gurus till he left the World at the age of 71 years, while listening to the sacred hymns of Guru Granth Sahib Ji. He left behind a unique movement of "Sewa Panthi" which literally means people devoted to service of humanity.

The message of Bhai Kanhaiya's mission, enshrined in Guru Granth Sahibji - "Na Ko Bairi Nahin Bigana, Sagal Sang Ham Ko Ban Aiye", continues to be as relevant, today.

An award has been instituted in memory of Bhai Kanhaiyaji to honour the individuals/organisations who serve mankind in the same spirit of devotion and selflessness. The stamp depicts Bhai Kanhaiyaji spreading the message of universal brotherhood, as the water server. The F.D.C. depicts Bhai Kanhaiyaji receiving the box of ointment from Guru Govind Singh Ji.

18.9.98 0.7 Million Rs.8.00



The International Society of Radiology is the World Organisation of Radiologists and other Medical Radiation Scientists. It is a confederation of more than 60 National Radiological Societies.

Its mission is broadly to work for advancement of the practice of Radiology, Radiation Science and Radiation protection. While it of its national member societies.

The ISR sponsors and funds the International Committee on Radiological Education, which carries on approved projects. The ISR is a historic sponsor of the International Commission on Radiation Protection and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measures. These Commissions publish authoritative reports which serve as guidance for scientists and government agencies.

The International Society has been hosting International Congress of Radiology in different parts of the world. The first Congress sponsored by ISR was held in London in 1922 and the 20th Congress is being held in 1988 in New Delhi.

The Indian Radiological and Imaging Association was registered in the year 1937. It has 3500 Members and has 16 branches all over India. The Association has steadily grown to attain leadership worldwide as one of the most dynamic societies. In recognition of its contribution to International Radiology, ICR'98 was allotted to it. The Congress will be addressed by 60 Eminent Radiologists from all over the world. The Congress will be attended by approximately 5,000 Radiologists from all over the world. The First Day Cover depicts Dr. L.H. Athle (1909-1975) from Mumbai, Dr. Diwan Chand Aggarwal (1896-1956) from Delhi, Dr. P. Rama Rau, (1899-1956) from Chennai and Dr. Mihir Mitter (1919-1995) from Bengal who are held as doyens in the field of Radiology having pioneered radiation therapy in various parts of the country.

26TH IBBY CONGRESS
20.9.98 0.7 Million Rs.11.00



The Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC), the Indian Section of IBBY is hosting the 26th Congress of the International Board on Books For Young People (IBBY). The theme of the Congress is peace through children's books. This is the first time

that India is holding the world congress on children's books. IBBY is non-profit organisation founded in 1953 in Switzerland. It has more than 60 National Sections and represents countries with well-developed book publishing and literary programmes. It is a network of people from all over the world committed to bringing books and children together. In addition to other work the IBBY confers, biennially, the highest international recognition given to an author and illustrator of children's books the Hans Christian Andersen Awards commonly known as the 'Little Nobel Prize'. This prize is awarded for outstanding contribution to Children's literature.

IBBY also presents everywhere the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award to a group or institution that is making a significant contribution to book promotion programmes for children. The AWIC received this Award in 1991 for its Home Library Project. The AWIC is a voluntary organization founded in 1981 and has organized the Indian Section of IBBY since 1990.

The aim of the 26th IBBY Congress is to explore, encourage and promote the concept of peace as a theme in children's books. Books can be used to serve as important vehicles to convey the message of peace in an entertaining manner and help children to live in harmony with the rest of the world and with themselves.

Dr. TRISTAO BRAGANZA CUNHA
26.9.98 0.4 Million Rs.3.00



Portugal was the oldest colonial power in India and the last one to leave the Indian soil. The British after establishing their control over India allowed Portugal to retain her colonial possession in India - Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The father of the nationalist movement in Goa was Tristao

da Braganza Cunha. The dramatic entry of Mahatma Gandhi on the political horizon of India stirred the mind of Tristao who vowed to fight for the rights of his people in Goa, who led a subjugated life under the Portuguese colonial rule. He contributed articles in the French papers like Clarite and L 'Humanite pleading forcefully for the cause of India's independence. He exposed the vicious British propaganda and half truths on the massacre of Jallianwalla Bagh in the European Press.

In 1928 Tristao formed the Goa Congress Committee and started a campaign for Goa's freedom and its integration with India. He believed that Goa being a legitimate part of India, Goa's freedom was implicit in India's independence. In the 43rd session of the Indian National Congress held in Calcutta he got the Goa Congress Committee affiliated.

The sudden and spontaneous Civil Disobedience Movement initiated by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia in Goa on 18th June, 1946 turned out to be the most significant event in the lives of the Goan nationalists including T.B. Cunha. He was specially marked by the Portuguese authorities for victimisation at the opportune moment. He personally experienced the Portuguese brutality when he was arrested and beaten on 30th June, 1946 for participating in the meeting at Madgaon. Though let free on the day subsequently on 12th July he was taken into custody at the Madgaon Railway Station and was detained in Aguada Jail. He was tried by the Territorial Military Court on 24th July, 1946 and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment and a penalty of suspension of political rights for 15 years. Within a few days while he was unwell, he was secretly removed to the jail in the military barracks of Alto dos Alparqueiros and from there was deported to Portugal.

He was freed two years before the term on account of the amnesty but his movement were restricted to Lisbon City. He was not allowed to come back to India. However, he succeeded in securing the tourist passport to Paris, and escaped to India on 4th September, 1953.

On landing in Bombay, he took upon his shoulders the task of uniting all Goan political parties under the banner of Goa Action Committee. He continued to champion the cause of Goa's freedom through his writings in 'Azad Goem', a Konkani paper which he himself published and through an English periodical, Free Goa, published from Belgaum and subsequently edited by him in Bombay till he breathed his last on 26th September, 1958. Though he fought relentlessly for Goa's freedom he could not witness Goa's liberation for which he longed.

As a thinker, writer and humanist he was respected by the French intellectuals like Henri Barbusse, Romain Rolland and others. In the words of K.M. Panikkar, "he was nationalist India's first ambassador to France".

This renowned Goan humanist was honoured posthumously by the World Peace Council in Stockholm in 1959 for his eminent contribution to the cause of Peace and Friendship among peoples.

JANANETA HIJAM IRAWAT SINGH
30.9.98 0.4 Million Rs.3.00

Born in a humble family at Imphal on September 30, 1896 Hijam Irawat Singh lost his parents in early childhood. He earned his living and bore the cost of education through manual labour. A good student, he excelled in sports, and found a place in the Manipur Maharajah's Hockey Team.



In 1924, he attended a public meeting in Calcutta, heard Mahatma Gandhi's address & was inspired to dedicate his life to the service of the people.

He became a Magistrate in 1927, using his position in order to study the problems of common people and develop ways to solve them. He started a mass campaign for socioeconomic uplift of the people, fighting against religious exploitation and economic oppression. In those days the British colonialist ruled the people of Manipur with the active cooperation of the king of Manipur. The Maharajah along with the priests practised excommunication for religious offences. The excommunication was known as "Mangba-Shengba". Irawat led the people's protest against this practice of "Mangba-Shengba", successfully.

Irawat Singh was one of the founders of Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha, established in 1934. Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha (originally Nikhil Hindu Manipur Mahasabha) was established with the aim of unifying the Manipuri people inside and outside Manipur state. Irawat transformed the Nikhil Manipur Mahasabha into a political party in 1938 to fight against the dual rule of the British colonialists and the king.

The historic "Nupilal" (Women's War) of Manipur took place on December 12, 1939 against the scarcity of rice. The women agitationists looked to Irawat for leadership of the movement. Under Irawat's leadership the women's movement was transformed into a political agitation. On 9th January 1940 Irawat was arrested and imprisoned in Imphal jail, later transferred to Sylhat jail. On release from Sylhat jail on March 20, 1943 his entry was banned into his beloved motherland Manipur by the Manipur Durbar. He stayed in Cachar and worked to organise the peasants movements. He became the Secretary and later the Chairman of the Surma Valley Kisan Sabha.

In 1948 he was elected to the Manipur State Assembly. Irawat Singh was the pioneer of social reforms and modern Manipuri literature. He was not only a mass political leader, but also a cultural leader who helped to build up the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) in Manipur and Surma Valley. Recognising his contributions in literature he was conferred Sahitya Ratna, posthumously, by the Manipuri Sahitya Parishad.

He died on September 26, 1951 at Tangbaw village near the border of Burma.

INDIAN WOMEN IN AVIATION
5.10.98 0.7 Million Rs.8.00



Aviation in its infancy, was male-oriented and only a few daring women ventured to wing their way across the skies. Mrs. Urmila K. Parekh was the first Indian woman to obtain Pilot's License, in 1930. The photograph was published in the magazine "Indian Aviation" in July 1931 issue, as the first Hindu woman to receive

an air pilots license. After the country achieved independence, Indian women successfully competed for the top professional careers in all fields, including aviation. Some of the major achievement stories are :-

1947 - First to get Commercial pilot's license and to fly domestic airlines - Prem Mathur

1956 - First pilot of Indian Airlines-Durba Banerjee

1985 - First Captain in the WORLD to fly All - Women Crew, IATA schedule flight on F-27, Nov.1985; First Captain in Asia to fly All-Women-Crew on A-320, 1995-Saudamini Deshmukh.

1995-First All-Women-Crew to fly Helicopter, IAF-Flight Cadets Cheryl Dutta and Simran Sondhi

1997 - First Indian born to become an Astronaut - Dr. Kalpana Chawla

The Indian Women Pilots' Association was formed in 1967, to facilitate an exchange of experiences and ideas over the sub continent, and over the world through the 90s. IWPA was registered under the society registration act in 1984.

The IWPA has been promoting aviation for all, especially women, by giving scholarships for advanced flying training, encouraging school children, awarding trophies, organizing seminars independently and with Aero Club and Aeronautical Society of India and felicitating outstanding women pilots of India and sub-continent.

In 1997, with the efforts of IWPA, a permanent exhibition of India's Aviation History and Space Technology was opened at the Pima Air & Space Museum, Arizona, USA. In the same year IWPA joined hands with Nehru Science Centre to start a UNIQUE project, an Aviation and Space Gallery, at their centre in Mumbai.

ACHARYA TULSI
20.10.98 1.4 Million Rs.3.00

32 Agamas. It was an unprecedented event in the annals of 1500 years of Jain History.

Acharya Tulsi was born on 20th October, 1914 in a Jain family at Ladnun, a small town in district Nagaur of Rajasthan.

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आचार्य तुलसी ACHARYA TULSI 1914-1997

He was brought up by his mother having lost his father in child hood. Drawn from an early age to his mission in life at the age of eleven, he got initiated into asceticism and at 22 years of age he was appointed as the Acharya (Su-

preme Head) of the Religious order of Jain Shvetamber Terapanth, by his Guru, Shri. Kalugani, the eighth Acharya of the order.

On 2nd March, 1949, he launched the Anuvrat Movement for reinforcement of human values in life. Giving the slogan of 'self-discipline only is life', he propagated the Anuvratas (small resolves of self-discipline) amongst masses without any distinction of caste, creed, community, etc. He was honoured with the "Indira Gandhi National Integration Award of 1992". He was a philosopher, writer, poet, singer, orator, spiritual saint, a great social reformer and spoke for the upliftment of women. He was an erudite scholar of several languages including Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi, Rajasthani. He undertook the herculean task of research in Agamas (Jain Canonical Literature) in 1955 and later got published critical editions of all the

Under his guidance, an Institute 'Jain Vishva Bharti' was established in 1971, at Ladnun, for studies, research, practical training, etc. in oriental learnings. It was given the status of "Deemed University" in 1991 by Govt. of India and U.G.C., and Acharya Tulsi was recognised as the First Anushasta (Disciplinarian).

Acharya Tulsi wrote more than 50 books in Sanskrit, Hindi, Rajasthani. On behalf of the Tibetan Buddhist Research Institute at Saranath, Dalai Lama Conferred on Acharya Tulsi the degree of Vakpati (D. Litt. (Honouris Causa), in 1992. In 1962, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the Vice-President of India, honoured him by presenting him " Acharya Tulsi Felicitation Volume" on the eve of the Silver Jubilee of his Acharyaship at Gangasahar (Bikaner). In 1974, Fakhruddin Ali Ahemad, the President of India, honoured him at Delhi by presenting him the "Sati-Purti" volume on the eve of his completing 60 years. In 1972, the Jain community conferred on him the title of "Yugapradhan Acharya", which was presented to him on behalf of Shri. V.V. Giri, the President of India. In 1985, the Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed University) conferred on him its highest title "Bharati Jyoti", which was presented to him at Udaipur by Gyani Zail Singh, the President of India.

In 1994, Acharya Tulsi made an exemplary renunciation of his post of Acharya. He passed away at 83, on 23rd June, 1997, at Gangasahar.