



SIPA Bulletin

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EDITORIAL

X Tamilnadu Philatelic Exhibition TANAPEX 2000

To say the last word on anything is a difficult task. To say the last word on anything in a dual capacity is doubly difficult. My task now is to say the last words both as a member of Organising Committee of Tanapex 2000 as well as Editor of this bulletin.

Xth Tamilnadu Philatelic Exhibition was held from 2.8.2000 to 5.8.2000 at Shrimathi Padmavathi Ammal Cultural Centre, 1548, Avanashi Road, Peelamedu, Coimbatore - 641 004. The exhibition was organised by the Principal Chief Post Master General, Tamilnadu Circle Shri A.V.B. Menon with the active cooperation of the leading association, the South India Philatelist's Association. The entire exhibition was conducted by sponsorship.

A record number of entries (Invitees - 10, Seniors - 66, Juniors - 83, Schools - 5) comprising 484 frames were exhibited which was a record for any state level exhibition.

SIPA was in the forefront in getting / motivating their members and their families to put in their entries in large numbers, but for which the Tanapex 2000 would have lost its glamour. We are thankful to the department for giving SIPA an opportunity to pool philatelists to make the exhibition a success.

Participants from all over Tamilnadu took part in the exhibition. During on all the four days of the exhibition, large number of students numbering more than 25 thousands from 84 schools visited the exhibition, according to a rough estimate. Beside a sizable number of general public also had a glimpse of the exhibits.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. A.V.B. Menon, PCPMG, on 2.8.2000. Befitting the occasion four special exhibition covers (a. Ancient coins of Sangam age; b. Kudimiyan malai inscriptions on music / rock cut cave temple, Sithanna Vasal; c. Wind farm; d. Waterfalls in Kolli hills / Nilgris Tahr.) were released with appropriate cancellations. (a. Maritime heritage of Tamils; b. Sithanna Vasal Cave temple paintings; c. Energy is life-Save it; d. Project nature - Save animals). Fit Subjects for thematic collectors, indeed.

A postal gallery was also put up at the venue where the oldest order books, old type scales and other materials like spearhead with bells, badges, postman bags and other rare artifacts tracing the growth of the postal system were displayed.

Stamp exhibitions play an important role in attracting visitors and they are to be treated as long term investments.

They rekindle the so called "once upon a collector", rejuvenate the interest on "borderline collector" and create "new collector" especially from children.

On the whole, TANAPEX - 2000 gave immense enjoyment to the active collectors by viewing the best collections in the country, at one single place. These exhibitions give a natural advantage where philatelists and general public have an easy access to exhibits.

At this juncture, the prime necessity for SIPA is to keep a tag on these people by getting proper information. What may be more effective is to issue a 'Hand out' about SIPA (a forty five year old association) in detail so that if the handout is 'filled in', chances are there that the interested party may contact later to get further information. Efforts should be made to persuade the visitors to give their particular interest in the hobby of stamp collecting or any assistance required in the development of this hobby.

SIPA had a stall in Tanapex 2000 with the slogan, 'help us to help you', for building up data bank to follow up new entrants with advantage that if the data collection is broken down to match the area served by the local association or at club level. SIPA will have to work out to keep in contact with the new enthusiasts to build them up with their new interest in stamp collecting. This can be done by various methods. One would be to invite them for the monthly meetings or to have an open house and give the new people an opportunity for getting first hand information from senior collectors and philatelists. Also some workshops can be conducted especially to guide the newcomers on developing their new hobby and how to use the right tools and accessories. Suggestions can also be given on the selection of country collection or themes after finding out their aptitude. If there is a group of school or college students are interested a club can be formed in their institution itself. Another method can be the personal contact with the collector nearest to a person of similar interest.

It would be a pity if the department / SIPA is not able to encash the swing that we have seen in attendance of on all the four days of the exhibition. It is doubtful that this enthusiasm can be repeated unless we are able to retain a large percentage of the visitors / would be collectors. Hongkong is the only country which encashed large percentage of the exhibition visitors into collectors. Their tremendous success is due to the timing of the exhibition (institutional holidays), conservative stamp issuing policy and schools / colleges running stamp clubs etc. Let us all rise up to the occasion and keep the hobby growing and glowing.

Editor.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held regularly where 30 members attended with President Shri. Balakrishna Das presiding. Shri. G. Madan Mohan Das, Spoke. New members introduced themselves. Talks by members with display, News/Views invited.

TANAPEX 2000

JURY REPORT

The jury has great pleasure in presenting its report of 10th Tamilnadu Circle Philatelic Exhibition. TANAPEX 2000 held at Coimbatore from August 25, 2000. The jury panel consisted of Mr. A.V.B. Menon, Principal Chief Post Master General, Chairman, Smt. Vimala Kumar, Postmaster General, Western Region, Tamilnadu, Coimbatore, Shri. Dilip Shah, Shri Ashok Kumar Bayanwala, Dr. R.S. Gandhi as Jury. The exhibits have been judged in accordance with the FIP General and Special regulations for evaluation of exhibits by appropriately moderating these to the state level standards. The overall standard of exhibits was found to be satisfactory but there is considerable scope for further improvement. It was observed that there was no exhibit in Maximaphily and Mophila Salon class.

We have observed that the Organising Committee has classified Youth Group under two categories (i.e.) a. under 15 years of age as on 2.8.2000 and b. between 15 and 21 years of age as on 2.8.2000 which we have reclassified into four categories during its evaluation.

Youth A	Under 15 Years
Youth B	Age group between 16 - 17 years
Youth C	Age group between 18 - 19 years
Youth D	Age group between 20 - 21 years

We have to make special mention about the treatment of following exhibits which were initially wrongly classified:

1. Entry in frame Nos. 148 - 150, 151 - 153 classified under Sub Group 1.7 was transferred to Sub Group 1.6.
2. Entry in frame No. 179 - 181, 182 - 185 classified under Group 4 was transferred to Group 6.
3. Entry in Frame No. 186 - 188 classified under group 5 was transferred to Group 6.
4. It was also observed that a single entry was allotted more frames than provided in the prospectus. The organising committee may keep this provision in view for their future guidelines.

The competitive section of the exhibition consisted of 163 frames displayed with 82 exhibits which shows great enthusiasm among youth.

The exhibits of eminent philatelists - Shri Dilip Shah, Shri Ashok Kumar Bayanwala, Shri Ajit Chordia, Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, Shri G. Amarchand, Shri P. Soundararajan, National Philatelic Museum of Postal Directorate, New Delhi, India Security Press, Nasik, Army Postal Service Corps, New Delhi were displayed in the Invitee Class.

SPECIAL PRIZES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Communication Minister's Rolling Trophy For Best School Entry | Carmel Garden Mat.Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore - 641 045. |
| 2. Governor's Rolling Trophy (Seniors) | Mr. C.G. Baskar, Chennai |
| 3. Chief PMG's Rolling Trophy (Juniors) Thematic | Mr. Abhishek P. Rathod, Coimbatore - 641 002. |
| 4. M/s. Dalmia Cement's Rolling Trophy (Senior) | Mr. R. Vaidyanathan, Chennai. |
| 5. M/s. Surana Industries Rolling Trophy (Literature) | Mr. K.S.K. Tawker, Chennai |
| 6. Dr. G. Joseph Gnanadickam Trophy (Seniors) | Mr. S.K. Lakshmanan, Chennai |
| 7. Dr. G. Joseph Gnanadickam Trophy (Juniors) | Mr. H. Mhd. Ismail, Chennai. |
| 8. Special Prize on the Theme Environment | Mr. T. Murugavel, Chennai |

AWARDS

SENIORS:

VERMEIL:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Pre-Independence 1852-1946 | Shri. C.G. Bhaskar |
| 2. Birds of our Paradise as seen thro' Philately-I Edn. 2000 (literature) | Shri. K.S.K. Tawker |
| 3. Machins on Queen Victoria | Shri. S.K. Lakshmanan |
| 4. Lion | Ms. A.J. Hemamalini |
| 5. Post India | Shri. S.M.K. Hameed Jalal |
| 6. British Postal Stationery | Shri. V.K. Mohan |
| 7. Gwalior | Shri. Neel Kamal |
| 8. Cochin | Ms. R.Lalitha |
| 9. Pudukottai Postal History | Spl. Shri. R. Vaidyanathan |
| 10. Postal History of Pudukottai (Literature) | Shri. R. Vaidyanathan |

SILVER

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11. Red Cross | Shri. S.R. Janakiraman |
| 12. Civil Engineering | Shri. A.M. J. Bryito |
| 13. Water Birds | Ms. S.V. Vasundara |
| 14. Environment | Shri. T. Murugavel |
| 15. World of Wild Life | Ms. Suprabha Nahar |
| 16. Gandhi | Ms. A.C. Rajakumari |
| 17. Great Britain | Shri. H. Mohammed Ismail |
| 18. Hands | Shri. G. Anush |
| 20-21 YEARS | |
| 19. Maps | Shri. Abishek P. Rathode |
| SILVER BRONZE | |
| Senior | |
| 20. India 1947-2000 | Shri. Udham Hotchand Hotwani |
| 21. - do - | Shri. C.G. Bhaskar |
| 22. Military Issues | Shri. N. Suriyanarayana |
| 23. Postal Stationery of Cochin | Shri. V.K. Mohan |

24. Vatican City
25. Study of Traffic Lights
26. Flowering Plants
27. Filmately
28. Story of Aviation
29. Goal of WHO
30. Environment
31. Environment
32. Steam locomotives
33. Princely States of Central India

- Shri. C.S. Anthonisamy
 Shri. A. Suriyanarayana
 Shri. V.K. Natraj
 Shri. Mohan V. Raman
 Shri. Shaji Wilson
 Shri. Hastimal K. Jain
 Shri. P.S. Seshadri
 Shri. A.M. J. Bryito
 Shri. R. Thumanivannan
 Ms. Kiranbala

53. Sports
54. Travel of H.H. Pope John Paul II
55. Light House
56. Gandhi
57. Pope John Paul II
58. Tamilnadu Land of Tradition & tranquility
59. Environment
60. Pre Independence era

- Shri Satish Kumar
 Shri M.D. John Manavalan
 Shri D.H. Rao
 Shri Achyut N. Inamdar
 Shri P. John Sundararajan
 Shri C.S. Palaniappan
 Shri Rolands Nelson
 Shri M.V. Maruthachalam

Youth

Under 15 Years

34. Postal Stationery

Shri. Sadagopan alias Jagannathan Aksay

35. Special Covers & Cancellation

Ms. K.N. Sarania

36. Guernsey

Shri. R. Aashish

16 - 17 Years

37. Postal History

Shri. L. Joseph Reginald

38. Early Indian Cancellations

Shri. H. Mohammed Thariq

18-19 Years

39. British India

Shri. M. Kesavamoorthi

20 - 21 Years

40. Birds

Shri A. Akul

BRONZE

Seniors

41. Purna Swaraj

Shri Sudhir Bhandari

42. APS Covers

Shri N. Sundararajan

43. APS Covers

Shri P. Ramakrishnan

44. Inland Letter Cards

Shri. J. Raghupathy

45. Postal Stationery

Shri. C.S. Saravanan

46. British India Postal Stationery

Ms. Bhama Rekha

47. Jaipur State Postal Stationery

Mrs. Gokila Mohan

48. Philately-A Hand Book

Shri P. Soundararajan

49. Japan

Shri C.G. Bhaskar

50. East Germany

Ms. Bhanu Rekha

51. ABC Rotary

Shri P.S. Seshadri

52. Air Craft

Shri P.S. Seshadri

Youth

Under 15 Years

61. Maniature Sheet
62. Pictorial Postmarks
63. Indira Gandhi
64. Se-Tenant
65. Exhibition Cancellations
66. Country Information
67. Travancore
68. Singapore
69. Gandhi
70. Telegraphs & Fiscal
71. Jersey
72. Germany
73. E. & O.E.
74. Environment
75. Postal Stationery Hyderabad
76. Diseases
77. Mushrooms
78. Mushrooms
79. Stamp of Truth
80. Mammals
81. Slogan Marketing
82. Moriv State

- Kum F. Raja Swathika
 Kum V. Nandini
 Kum F. Raja Swasthika
 Kum. V. Annie Christabel
 Shri. A. Karthik
 Shri. K.A.R. Balaji
 Shri N. Sreedhar
 Kum. A. Kavya
 Kum. V. Annie Christabel
 Shri Arshad Ahamed
 Shri. A. Ankit
 Shri G. Anush
 Shri Aishwarya Raman
 Shri D. Daniel Devaraj
 Kum. M. Banu Priya
 Kum. Divya H. Jain
 Shri Naveen Richard
 Kum. T. Nandhini
 Shri R. Suresh
 Shri A.J. Praveen Babu
 Kum. Kamakshi
 Shri. M. Senthil Kumar

18 - 19 Years

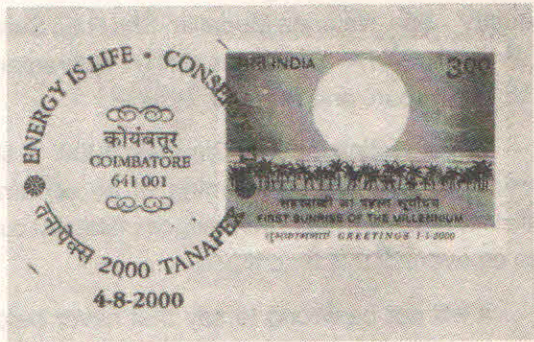
83. Souvenir & Miniature Sheet

Shri J. Prasanna

20 - 21 Years

84. Scouts

Shri. V. Pradeep

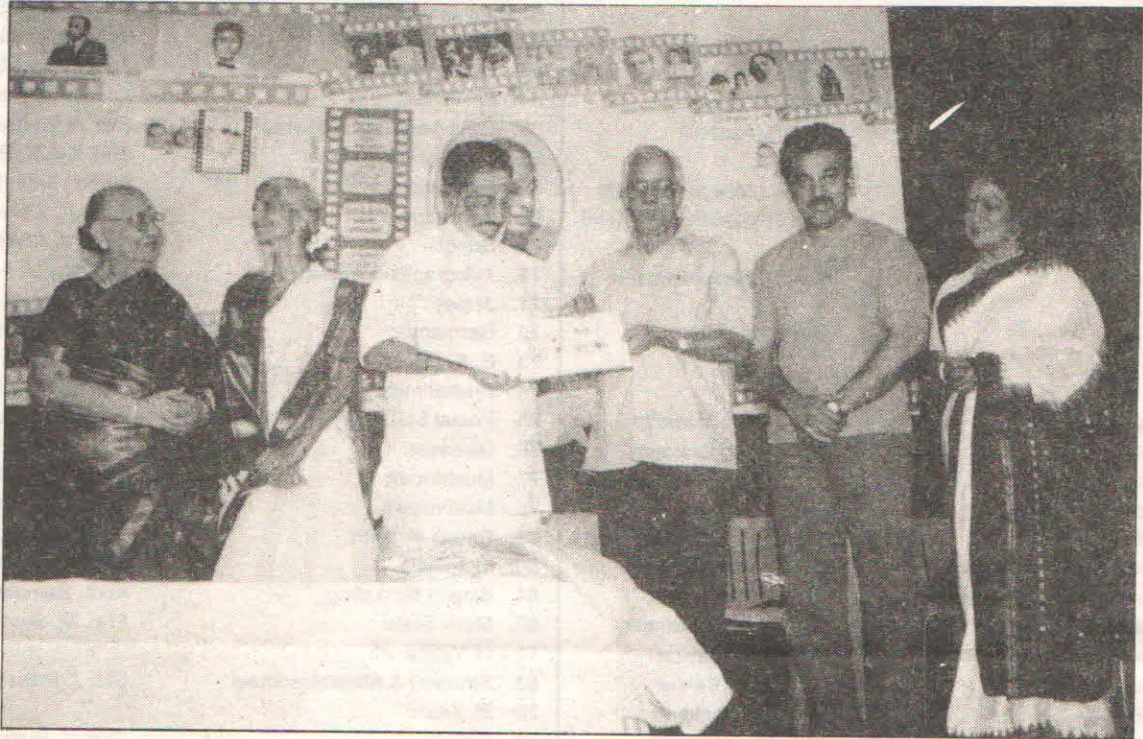


CANCELLATIONS - TANAPEX 2000

CINEPEX 2000

In the annals of SIPA, indeed it was a glorious day i.e., 10.07.2000; it was a glamorous stage with Chavalier Dr. 'Sivaji' Ganesan (Chief Guest) and Padmashri Kamal Hassan (Guest of honour) and it was a memorable event with Shri A.V.B. Menon, Principal Chief Post Master General, Tamilnadu Circle releasing the special covers (4

SIPA wishes to place on record its heartiest thanks to the wholehearted backing and support of Shri. AVM. Saravanan without whose ideas, innovations, suggestions, actions and sponsorship this function would not have been initiated, would not have been made to this



Nos.) album honouring the 'Pioneers of Indian Film Industry' - Shri. Nataraja Mudaliar, Shri Raja Sandow, Shri R. Prakash, Shri A. Narayanan, Shri K. Subramaniam, Shri A.V. Meiyapan, and Shri L.V. Prasad.

While writing about 'Cinepex 2000' it should be mentioned that the blossoming of an accumulator of philatelic materials into a full pledged philatelist culminated into an event of this magnitude.

It will not be wrong to say that never before in the history of SIPA, why, in the philatelic history of our country, an association function was conducted in a fully occupied auditorium holding more than thousand people and participating in the release of four special covers with four different cancellations (Cost of the set of four covers being Rs.40/-) which in itself could have been a philatelic record of sorts.

This function was really a show that showed that how philately can be made a "crowd puller". This eye opener should be followed more effectively for the betterment of the hobby.



Shri A.V.M. Saravanan

SIPA's due regards and thanks are to Mr. A.V.B. Menon, Principal Chief PMG and his supporting staff for the cancellations and release of special covers.

During the course of the function, 'as icing on a cake', one of SIPA's life member, Mr. M.A. Sayeed was honoured with a 'ponnadai' by Dr. Sivaji Ganesan. Mr. Sayeed was facilitated for his stupendous achievements of garnering 'Gold after gold (large)' in every international exhibition

size and shape and made into a grand success. Of course SIPA's special thanks are due to Shri. Mohan V. Raman - accumulator turned philatelist - whose ingenuous ideas and untiring efforts formed the nucleus of the event. Also

starting from Singapore - 98 and including the latest i.e., London - 2000, for his exhibits (i) Classic India, covering Scinde Dawks and lithographs and (ii) Classic Great Britain, covering Penny Blacks. Mr. M.A. Sayeed fondly remembered how much of a fan he was of 'SIVAJI' during his younger days while he was in Madras.

With a vote of thanks by Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Patron SIPA, the function became an event of philatelic history.



Shri Mohan V. Raman

Dr. Sivaji Honouring Mr. M.A. Sayeed



Special Covers

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, VELLORE 1900 - 2000

12.08.2000

300

0.9 million



The Christian Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), Vellore was founded by Dr. Ida Scudder in January 1900.

The spirit of service was stirred in the mind of

young Ida in 1890 while visiting her parents in South India where her father was a missionary doctor. Seeing that medical needs of Indian women in childbirth was an area where much needed to be done, she decided to address the problem herself. After studying Medicine at the Cornell University in America, she returned to Vellore and started a small clinic in 1900, which today has grown into a multidisciplinary healthcare, teaching and research facility of international repute.

CMCH, Vellore has made significant contributions to Medical Education in India, having trained over ten thousand graduates till date in healthcare disciplines. At present, the institution runs graduate courses in Medicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Record Science, Medical laboratory Technology and Nursing. Postgraduate training in various medical and nursing disciplines and a number of diploma programmes in Allied Health Sciences are also offered.

Community outreach and Primary Health Care for far-flung rural communities has been given high priority at the CMCH. Ida Scudder's concept of "Roadside" clinics in which a team of staff set out in a bullock cart with medical supplies and went out into the surrounding rural communities to provide health care had sowed the seeds of an innovative and path breaking Community Health and Development (CHAD) programme, which had recently been commended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the best Primary Health Care Programme in India. The Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA), College of Nursing Community Health (CONCH) and Low Cost Effective Care (LCEC) units of the CMCH have also been effectively participating in Primary Health Care and Community Outreach.

The main hospital in Vellore town covers both secondary level and advanced tertiary level care including

complex neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery, organ transplantation and oncology. In the area of tertiary care, some of the milestones the institution has recorded include the first Leprosy reconstructive surgery in the world in 1948, first open heart surgery in India in 1961, first Rehabilitation institute in India in 1966 and first bone marrow transplant in India in 1986.

CMCH, Vellore has also been actively involved in medical research in infectious diseases and other problems like malnutrition, relevant to the country. Research grants have been awarded by the WHO, ICMR, DST, DBT and other national and international organizations.

Theme : Personality, Medicine, Institutions

GREAT LEADERS : SOCIAL AND POLITICAL

VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT, R. SRINIVASAN, JAGLAL CHOUDHARY AND RADHA GOBINDA BARUAH

15.08.2000

300,300,300,300

0.4 Million each



This year India celebrates 50 years of its Republic status. During the struggle for freedom, and in independent India, leaders with rare insight and broad vision played catalytic roles in the

process of natural awakening, and building up of the nation as per the provisions of the Constitution of India, to expedite the process of socio-economic empowerment of the weaker and deprived sections of society.

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1900 - 1990), the younger sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, was the first woman to be elected as President of the U.N. General Assembly (1953 - 54). As a child she was deeply influenced by the history of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and thereafter by the example of Sarojini Naidu, who had championed the cause of women as early as in 1917. She joined the National

Movement under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi. Her involvement in the national movement was total and she was sentenced to imprisonment in 1932 as well as 1940. She served as the Ambassador of India to the USSR, USA, Mexico, Ireland and Spain as well as India's High Commissioner to the UK. She was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952 and 1964 and was Governor of Maharashtra during 1962-64.

Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan (1859-1945), a great leader of the depressed classes in the erstwhile province of Madras, did pioneering work for the eradication of untouchability. Having completed his higher education in Madras and Coimbatore, he also worked in Government in South Africa during 1904 - 1920. As early as 1891, he organised the 'Adi-Dravida Mahajana Sabha', for safeguarding the claims of the so-called untouchables. During 1930-31, R. Srinivasan attended the first session of the Round Table Conference in London as a representative of the depressed classes. During his membership of the Madras Legislative Council from 1923 to 1935 he secured several amenities and educational facilities for the depressed classes. In the task of abolishing untouchability and for the integration of society, the services of R. Srinivasan have been substantial.

Jaglal Choudhary (1895-1974), a torch-bearer of Gandhian values, emerged as a leader of the National Movement in Bihar. It was while studying for Medicine in Calcutta that he came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and plunged headlong into the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1921, forgoing his studies. The values enshrined in the epics of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and the patriotism of Rajendra Prasad were life-long influences on Jaglal Choudhary. He was actively involved in the Bihar Provincial Congress and for the role he played in the National Movement, was imprisoned more than once. He was part of the Congress Ministries formed in Bihar in 1937 and 1946 but preferred to stay away from power and office in independent India. After the attainment of Freedom, he took up causes like equality of women, religious harmony, national system of education and land reforms.

The birth of the "Assam Tribune" in 1939 at his initiative was the turning point in the life of Radha Gobinda Baruah (1900-1975). In 1946, he took the bold step of converting the Assam Tribune, hitherto a weekly, to a daily, and shifted its headquarters from Dibrugarh to Guwahati, the premier town of Assam. Later he started the weekly Assam Bani (1955) and the Daily Dainik Assam (1965) in Assamese language. The establishment of the Nehru Stadium which is a landmark in the development of Guwahati city, the Guwahati Indoor stadium, the Assam Sangit Sanmelani and the Assam Flying Club are all results of his foresight and labour. In the midst of his activities in myriad fields, late Shri Baruah played a very important role in popularising the Small Savings Movement in Assam as Chairman of the State Advisory Committee on Small Savings for several years.

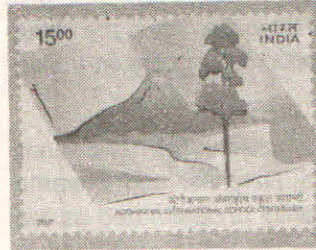
Theme : Personality, Freedom Fighters, Leaders

KODAIKANAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CENTENARY

26.08.2000

1500

0.8 million



K o d a i k a n a l International School (KIS), Kodaikanal began as a school for the children of missionaries in 1901. It became an international school and the first school in

India to offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) in 1975. Today, it is an autonomous, multicultural school, preparing students for entry into colleges and universities around the world.

Located in Kodaikanal, known for its rugged beauty and salubrious climate, the school provides the ideal backdrop for excellence in education, both curricular and extra-curricular. KIS is co-educational with a student body of 500 from pre-school to Grade 12, from more than 40 countries. The educational system is so designed as to benefit from the richness of this diversity of cultures. The values of the school are expressed in programmes, and a spiritual environment where students and staff of various backgrounds, religions and nationalities share together in a living, loving and learning community.

The unique academic programme of the KIS, accredited by the Association of Indian Universities, the International Baccalaureate (Geneva) and the Middle State Association of the United States has a global orientation and prepares the students for further studies in India and around the world.

The KIS curriculum includes emphasis on the responsibility of all people for the societies in which they live. This emphasis is embodied in a strong social experience curriculum, courses targeted at social and environmental concerns, and the integration of field work and service opportunities. The life of the KIS school community is enriched by a variety of extra-curricular activities also. These include: intra-mural and inter-school sports competitions, hiking and camping, inter-school cultural festivals, dramatic and musical productions, leadership development through Student Government and representation on school committees.

Theme : Education, Institution.

THE CARNATIC MUSIC TRINITY

By P.J. GOPALAKRISHNAN
Life Member SIPA.

Our music is of two kinds - FOLK MUSIC and CLASSICAL Music. In classical music there are two systems - the Hindustani and the Carnatic. There are about 250 Common ragas or compositions of notes in Indian music.

Thiruvarur was the place where the Carnatic music trinity Thyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri were born and their Jayanthi is celebrated as the Sangeetha Mummoorthigal Jayanthi Vizha organised in March every year by the Kanchi Kamakoti Sangeetha Seva Trust.

The culmination of musical activities was the birth of the Music Trinity, Thyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri. Many of the great vidwans who received patronage were overshadowed by the resplendent productions of the Music Trinity.

Thyagaraja, Shyama Sastri and Muthuswamy Dikshitar shine amidst the galaxy of composers as a uniquely celebrated combination of VAGGEYAKARAS.

SHYAMA SHASTRI (1762 - 1827)



Shyama Shastri, eldest of the 'TRINITY' of Carnatic music, was born in Thiruvarur on the 26th April 1762. The family of Shyama Shastri was engaged as archakas of Goddess Kamakshi. Shyama Shastri's real name was Venkatasubramaniam, but was called Shyama at home.

He was educated in Sanskrit and Telugu and is said to have learnt the rudiments of music from his uncle. His knowledge was also enlarged by association with Pachchimiriyyam Adiyappayya, the court musician at Tanjore. In spite of the reluctance of the family to let him adopt a musical career, he made great progress both as a musician and as a composer and eventually came to be reckoned as one of the "TRINITY" of Carnatic Music.

Shyama Shastri's compositions are original and have a style of their own. He was also a master of LAYA (Rytham). It is said that he had won musical contests by his command over Laya. He is acclaimed as the architect of the musical form, Svarajati which was basically a dance form was developed by him into a beautiful musical form fit for concerts.

His compositions are in praise of Goddess Kamakshi and Meenakshi and are in Sanskrit, Telugu and Tamil. Shyama Sastri was the only one among the Trinity to have composed in Tamil.

Shastri's bhakthi to Devi contributed to marvels in his acts; even his remarks often became prophetic. A dejected person sought Shyama Sastri's kind indulgence as he had only eight days to live according to predictions. The benevolent composer's invocation to Devi resulted in a fresh lease of eight more years for the person.

Shyama Shastri passed away on February 6, 1827 when he was 65 years.

SAINT THYAGARAJA (1767 - 1847)



In the South, where music has a strong hold, Thyagaraja is a house hold name. Neither at home nor in the concerts can there be any music without his immortal compositions.

Thyagaraja was born in 1767, but in 1759, according to another tradition.

Thyagaraja's father was Rama Brahmam and his family, called Kakarla, was one of the many Telugu families settled in the Cauvery Delta.

Thyagaraja took the vow of voluntary poverty, spurned Patronage, collected alms daily by going about singing the glory of the Lord and spent his time worshipping and composing songs of Lord Rama. He had detractors and critics, even at home, who hardly appreciated his philosophy and harassed him, persons whom bemoans or castigates in several of his songs.

In music, Thyagaraja was a pupil of Sonthi Venkataramanayya, one of the greatest masters of his time. His chief contribution to Carnatic music is the perfection of the composition-form called KRITI or KIRTANA which comprised in itself all the aspects of music and displayed earlier ways of rendering or preserving the RAGAS in unbound or bound forms.

According to tradition, it is believed that Thyagaraja composed several thousands of compositions and even those that we can take stock of to-day would be in the neighbourhood of a thousand. His songs are mostly in Telugu, but an appreciable number of them is in Sanskrit. Thyagaraja enjoys the pride of place as the composer PAR EXCELLENCE. Of no other single Composer were sung songs in such large numbers and in such constant appreciation.

The greatness of Thyagaraja is three dimensional. First and foremost, he was a supreme Rama Bhaktha. Secondly, he was a great musician. Lastly, he was a beautiful lyricist and a born poet. It is this combination of gifts that placed him on a pedestal among the great Vaggeyakaras of Carnatic music.

The life of Thyagaraja, the saint Composer of Thiruvaiyaru is replete with miracles. One of the earliest events was when the idol of Rama worshipped by him every day was hurled in disgust into the Cauvery by his brother. The figurines "Came floating back" following several songs of dejection that poured out from the composer.

It is said that the curtains in front of Venkataramana of Thirupathi moved aside on their own accord as all those assembled stood gaping in wonder when Thyagaraja sang "THERA THEEYAGA RADA".

What an incredible marvel it was as "NA JEEVADARA" sung in an extremely pathetic mood in front of a wayside temple near Puttur, brought to life a drowned pilgrim, who had accidentally fallen into a temple well.

The path of Dhyana or meditation has been recommended by Thyagaraja as a means of attaining oneness with the Lord.

The Ramayana of Valmiki has been re-presented to us by saint Thyagaraja who was in our midst two centuries ago in 24,000 songs, though only about 100 of them are available now. Every composition of Thyagaraja reveals the closeness of Sri Rama in his mind. Thyagaraja was said to be the incarnation of Valmiki.

Thyagaraja is, therefore, worshipped both as a saint-teacher and as a great creative musician.

He passed away on 6th January 1847 at Thiruvaiyaru. His annual Aradhana festival in January every year draws musicians from after to this village.

MUTHUSWAMY DIKSHITAR (1775 - 1835)



M u t h u s w a m y Dikshitar, one of the Composers of carnatic music, was born in 1775. Muthuswamy Dikshitar studied Sanskrit and allied subjects in his teens and acquired sufficient

proficiency in Telugu to serve the needs of music which became his passion in life.

When he was about fifteen, Muthuswamy accompanied a Yogi called Chidambaranatha to Varanasi. This was a momentous period in the composer's life, for at Varanasi, Muthuswamy Dikshitar grasped Hindustani music and got involved deeper in a pious life. After about five years, the Yogi asked his disciple Dikshitar one day to go five steps down the Ganga. A Veena with the word's Rama inscribed on it arose from the waters and

Muthuswamy Dikshitar received it. The Yogi said it was Ganga's blessings and that he would be famous and asked Muthuswamy Dikshitar to go back to his parents.

On his return to the South, Dikshitar proceeded to Tirutani and Worshipped at the famous shrine dedicated to Lord Subramanya. Tradition has it that when Dikshitar was in meditation in this shrine, an elderly person appeared before him, put a sugar candy into his mouth and disappeared into the sanctum sanctorium. Dikshitar burst forth into song and commenced his long career as composer by singing his first kirti "Srinathandi Guruguha" and had it as his "Mudra".

During Muthuswamy Dikshitar's visit to Kivalur, the temple had already closed for the day. Yet "the doors of the Sanctum Sanctorium" opened on their own presenting a full view of the Lord, when the Sankarabharanam Kirti, "Akshayalinga Vibho" was sung spontaneously by Dikshitar.

The most fruitful years of Dikshitar's life were spent at Thiruvavur, his birth place. He set up a gurukula and taught music to eminent disciples including his two younger brothers who were highly accomplished musicians. Among the most notable of his Tiruvavur Kirtis are the series of eight songs in eight Vibhaktis on Thyagaraja and a group of eleven kritis called "Kamalamba Navavarana".

Later, he moved to Ettayapuram where the Raja received him with full honours, on the outskirts of Ettayapuram where the composer learnt about the severe drought conditions, he performed a special puja to propitiate Devi and also sang the famous "Anandaa mritakarshini" piece. In an instant, the sky which had been clear so long darkened and clouds gathered bringing heavy rain to the parched land.

The outstanding feature of Dikshitar's compositions is that they present a vivid, accurate and full picture of the raga employed and not merely some of its facets. His kirtis bear the imprint of arduous Veena practice and are noted for the graces and glides which are possible only by Veena.

He spent the last years of his life in Ettayapuram and died there in 1835.

Music is "Food of love", human as well as divine and helps "relieve the passion". It pleases the ear, rejuvenates the mind and soothes the soul.

In honouring Thyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri by issuing special commemorative stamps, INDIA - POSTS offered its homage to these great saints - Musicians - Composers of India.

MINUTES OF THE PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EXTRACT

MEETING HELD ON 3rd JUNE, 2000

The meeting of the Philatelic Advisory Committee was held in the Committee room of Dak Bhavan on 3.6.2000 at 12 noon. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Tapan Sikdar, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Co-Chairman, of the Philatelic Advisory Committee, was also present. Shri R.U.S. Prasad, Secretary, Department of Posts and Vice Chairman of the P.A.C. attended the meeting which was also attended by seventeen committee members.

1. DDG (Philately) gave a brief review of the report of the UPU consultant who had conducted seminar-cum-workshop on philately in November 1999. The main issues discussed were as follows:
 - (i). **Dedicated and motivated core group needed to handle implementation of philatelic action plan** philately to be recognized as a priority area.
 - (ii). **Thrust to be changed from low volume and high cost production to discriminatory high volume and low cost one:** less personality based stamps (which should be produced by low cost methodology of printing) and production of popular thematic stamps in large quantities to be made available at larger number of outlets.
 - (iii). **Philately not to remain privilege of few but to be made accessible to the masses.** Customer base of philately to be expanded for easier access to beautiful stamps, number of outlets for sale to be increased. Besides existing philately bureaux, head offices must sell philatelic stamps, registrations forms for opening philatelic deposit accounts and register for window delivery.
 - (iv). Compare production prices and delivery schedules of government stamp printing press with private sector. Penalty clause to be included in contract for printing to penalize the printer in case the schedules are not adhered to.
 - (v). Distinguish printing process according to stamps and anticipated volumes.
 - (vi). Training programmes for trainers to be organized in training centres with standardized training material.
 - (vii). Develop policy of partnership with associations, philatelists, dealers, press, journalists, national educational organizations. Establish core group of motivated partners. Establish network of identified journalists, provide them with privileged information and develop state of the art strategy for promotion of philately.
- 1.2. The Committee took note of the recommendations made by the UPU Consultant and commended the strategy suggested by him to be implemented by Philately Branch for achieving the objectives of various philately programme during the 9th Five Year Plan.
2. While considering suggestions for 'Promotion and Marketing of Philately' as included under this agenda item, the Committee decided the following:
 - (i). A Philately Directorate to be set up to add strength to the philately administration in particular and philately movement as a whole.
 - (ii). Increase the remuneration to meet the designing of stamp and first day cover. While approving this proposal, Minister of State for Communications advised that competitions should regularly be arranged at zonal level to create variety in stamp designing and to attract talent in this field. Smt. Dayanita Singh suggested that Philately Branch should have a tie-up with the National Institute for Design for exposing their students in the field of stamp designing.
 - (iii). To achieve cost reduction, the Committee recommended printing of stamps on nature and heritage themes at high volume of not less than 30 lakhs per issue and low volume offset printing in case of personality stamp, 1 lakh per issue.
 - (iv). Shri R.S. Surya, MP, stated that ISP Nasik had constant difficulties in timely supply of commemorative stamps, causing frustration among the philatelists. This acted against the interest of philately, he said. He, therefore, suggested that printing to be given to the private sector printers as the technology was now available in the domestic market. Dr. Pandeya, MP, also pointed out that the paper quality of the stamps was not of high quality, unlike stamps printed by foreign countries. He further stated that even the stamps printed by Bhutan were of superior quality in comparison to our stamps. Shri M.G. Pittie also commented that commemorative stamps were not being supplied on time. In response, the Chairman called upon the representative of ISP Nasik to offer comments. Dy. GM, ISP Nasik stated in response that the photogravure machine used by the press for printing stamps was out of order for some months and they had taken action to obtain a new machine after which the problem of supply would be overcome and that they have requested the Department to make alternative arrangements. On being asked by the Chairman, Member (O) clarified the position and gave a comparative picture about the cost, quality and timeliness of production of the Government presses and private presses and said that private production was cheaper, better and timely. He also pointed out that shortage in supply of stamps by ISP Nashik was a lingering problem and the Department had to answer questions at regular intervals in the Parliament regarding shortage of stamps, lack of adhesive on stamps etc. and that there was need to bring about improvement in this

matter. He also pointed out that to overcome the problem of shortage and to meet the quality of printing, the decision was taken at the level of Finance Minister and MOC that commemorative stamps could be printed from private presses to supplement the capacity problem of the Government printing presses (under the allocation of Business Rules, Ministry of Finance, its internal Finance is to be consulted for matters relating to production and supply of postal stationery and stamps). It was finally decided that the period for which the printing machine was out of order, the commemorative special stamps for that period should be printed through private presses and thereafter the decision regarding printing of stamps either through Govt. presses or private presses would be considered keeping in view the cost and quality of printing. Chairman observed that printing of stamps should be of high quality and supply must be timely to keep people's interest in philately intact. He also stated that the rates of printing should be competitive with the private press as the Department should not face the burden of a higher cost of printing. Other members also pointed out that the main problem in developing philately movement was non-availability of commemorative stamps on the date of issue due to failure in supplying stamps from ISP Nashik.

The Committee then took up discussions regarding the annual stamps issue programme for 2001. The Chairman was of the view that in respect of personality related stamps, keeping the limitations of the guidelines we should try to accommodate all the states. With the consensus of the Committee 12 proposals were approved which are placed at annex. 'A'. 5 proposals were approved in respect of events and institutions and regarding the proposals for Badrinath & Kedarnath Temple and ANV of TT Devasthanam, it was agreed that these matters would be considered under the already approved sets of Temple Architecture. It was decided that the proposals in respect of tourism areas of Andhra Pradesh would be examined after receipt of the details. Proposal for issue of set of stamps on corals, madhubani paintings, Geological Survey of India and special series of stamp on children were agreed.

The Chairman then raised the issue of the plan to establish the National Museum at the ground floor of Parliament Street Post Office. The Chairman desired to know the progress. DDG (Philately) informed that a Committee had been constituted with experts from National Archives, National Museum and Ministry of Culture and an expert had been identified and appointed to give the recommendations regarding the architectural lay out. The Chairman directed that the museum should be ready for inauguration by the 15th of August, 2000.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks for the chair.

BOOK REVIEW

INDIA'S BI-COLOURED FOUR-ANNAS, 1854

by Shri. D.N. Jatia

Highlights of the book

With the discovery of fresh correspondences between Thullier and other government agencies, it is now possible to establish a firm date of commencement of printing stamps in India as May 5, 1854. This is the date when the Governor General authorized the printing of stamps in India.

Besides elucidating means of identifying stamps to the various 5 printings, it reestablishes new dates of commencement of the printing especially of the 1st, 3rd and 4th printings.

This monograph delves extensively into the 3rd printing and has brought out new frame flaws by means of new stones, individual confirmed flaws and single unconfirmed flaws. A total of 232 sets of flaws have been identified. This is a long cherished work of the author in the last 40 years. This hitherto complex problem of identifying 3rd printing stamps has been attempted to be made easier.

An exclusive chapter on 3rd printing, Head Die III, Frame Die II (SG 21C) has been elaborated much more in detail and the frame flaws of the known possible positions have been instituted so much so that the author has been able to identify this rare printing even in case of one cut to shape stamp with the help of these frames flaws. The status of this printing has also been proved as Trial Print.

The mystery of the close setting of the 4th printing has been revealed and the proof sheet lying unacknowledged with the National Postal Museum, Government of India, New Delhi, has been studied in detail.

Lastly all the 6 stamps of the 4th position of the famous Four Annas "Inverted Head" in the 1st printing, has been closely scrutinized and concluded that this error was committed not at one stage but at different stages of printing and none of the frames and the head are the same.

This is the author's long cherished dream and it will give him immense pleasure if the other readers benefit from the same and continue to improve their work.

Can you have a better author to speak authoritatively on India's classic stamps, that too on bicoloured 4 annas of 1854? The book has been released at the Stamp Show 2000, London, on May 24, 2000. Already half the print order has been sold and in the process of despatch to the buyers.

Why delay in buying your copy?

(Courtesy : SIGNET)

POSTAL HISTORY OF PUDUKOTTAI

(Native and Imperial Systems)

By Sri R. VAIDYANATHAN

The Author in his Preface has rightly observed that he began where Late Col. L. G. Shenoji has left. The author has used the core collection on the subject of Late Col. L. G. Shenoji, his own materials and other collections acquired subsequently to bring out the publication. His main aim was to extend his research further upto the merger of the Native State of Pudukottai with Indian Republic in March 1948. He has surely succeeded in this.

He has divided his book into six parts : 1. Postal History of Native System (1838 - 1894); 2. British Experimental Post Office, (1866); 3. British (regular) post and Telegraph Office (1884); 4. Take over by Imperial Postal System (1894 - 1947); 5. Under Republic of India (1947 - 48) and after Merger (w.e.f. March 3, 1948). Postal Systems, Rates, Routes including Railway Mail Service are discussed. A list of villages of Pudukottai state is also given. This is a useful book both for Postal Historians as well as students of serious aspects of philately. This book is a must for any collector of this Native State of South India.

Copies available with the Author at 101/S-r, Navin Apartment, Vannier Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai - 600 094. Price Rs. 200.

JUNIOR CORNER

UNICEF RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Children design special stamp

The unique thing about this special stamp is the story behind its design. In a competition, school children interpreted the rights of the child as set out in the UN Convention and added their own creative touch. The jury's task was not an easy one, but in the end they plumped for the flag entered by a school class from Dinhard, Canton Zurich.

Since its accession to the UN Convention in 1997, it not beforehand, 20 November was known as the International Day of the Rights of the Child in Switzerland too. By signing the Convention, the Swiss Government also committed, among other things, to spreading the word about its substance nationwide.

In April 1998, Unicef Switzerland and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs launched a painting competition for intermediate and senior school classes which were set the task of designing a flag on the theme the "Rights of the Child". Interested classes were provided with a competition kit consisting of a rectangular white fabric flag, textile paints and more detailed information about the topic.

The class of Margrit Uhlmann from Dinhard, Canton Zurich decided to enter. She and handicraft teacher Jolanda Hofmann soon managed to communicate their enthusiasm



to the students who read up on the basic rights of the child in the UN Convention and choose the five points that struck them as most important. The next task was to find images and expressive symbols to put across themes such as education and leisure to a broad general public by means of the flag. And the "thought-transfer" impact of the final Dinhard product greatly impressed the jury.

The ten flags shortlisted by a preliminary jury were displayed in the Swiss Parliament. On 20 November 1998, children from the prize-winning classes travelled to Berne where they had an opportunity to discuss the Rights of the Child with leading national politicians.

The Dinhard flag came out top of 158 entries (which were displayed on parliament square), thus qualifying for use as a stamp and as an unmistakable token of support for the Rights of the Child in Switzerland.

Every Child in the world has a right to:

1. Equal treatment and protection against discrimination;
2. A name and nationality;
3. Health;
4. Education and training;
5. Leisure, play and recreation;
6. Privacy and education on the lines of equality and peace;
7. Immediate assistance on disasters and emergency situations, protection against cruelty, neglect, exploitation and persecution;
8. A family, parental care and a safe home;
9. Care in the event of disability;
10. Information, self expression, the right to a hearing and the right of assembly.

GOOD NEWS

Service Charges Waived

The ten rupees service charges for philatelic account holders is waived from 1st October 2000 to 30th September 2001 as an experimental measure.