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Guest Editorial

Profiteering Postal Administrations Endanger Stamp Collecting

Profiteering Postal Administrations, under ever increasing pressure from their governments to raise higher revenue from the sale of stamps, are alienating collectors and endangering the hobby.

If Philatelic agencies continue to issue too many stamps with a high face value, and philatelic associated products, such as miniature sheets, maxim cards, commemorative labels, and booklets, collectors will quickly desert these territories in favour of those with a more responsible and reasonable stamp issuing policy.

Collectors are becoming completely disillusioned by the number of high values included in each new set. In particular, one major producer has a policy which includes issuing numerous sheetlets which contain an excessive number of high face value stamps. In order to complete a set, the collector is obliged to pay for these sheetlets, which anyway, are too large to mount on a standard album page.

Collectors are fed-up with the huge number of new issues each year from certain countries, like Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, who are now producing issues in as many different formats as they can dreamup. Collectors are being forced to buy the same stamp over and over again in order to complete their set. At one time these countries had a most responsible new issue policy. Now they have also jumped on the new issue gravy-train, and begun to exploit the hard pressed collector.

Canada is a worry to stamp collectors. They not only over-issue, but the postal authorities do not

supply dealers with all the new issues that are needed to make a complete collection.

New Zealand is another example of a country trying to "milk" collectors for everything possible. They not only issue a basic set, they issue them again as a "peel and stick", and then again as coil stamps, and then again as a booklet, together with a miniature sheet. Not content, they then overprint the miniature sheet for three or four different stamp exhibitions!

A look through the latest Stanley Gibbons catalogue quickly exposes the most prolific stamp issuing territories. Among Commonwealth countries these include Gambia, Ghana, St. Vincent, Tanzania, Grenada and Guyana.

Whatever happens in the future, everything possible must be done to create a sensible new issue policy which encourages new collectors of all ages to the hobby.

- International Stamp & Exhibition News, GB.

PS :	India Post	2004	2005	2006
		Rs.		
	Stamps	343(55)	280(50)	335(55)
	M/S	90(6)	60(3)	150(7)
	Maxim Lards	--	--	170(12)
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		Rs. 433	340	655
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Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai - 600 002. (11.00 AM - 1.00 PM) regularly where about 30 members attended with president Shri Balakrishna Das Presiding.

STAMP NEWS STOP CHILD LABOUR

26.12.2006

500, 500, 500, 500

1.6 Mill



Child labour is especially prevalent in the developing countries, and in rural areas where enforcement of schooling and minimum age requirements for work becomes difficult. It is mainly poverty that drives parents to set their young children to work and support the family. In the process these working children become objects of extreme exploitation.

India has all along followed a proactive policy with respect to the problem of child labour, and has stood for constitutional, statutory and developmental measures to combat child labour. Six ILO conventions relating to child labour have been ratified, three of these as early as the first quarter of this century.

The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986 of India was the culmination of efforts and ideas that emerged from the deliberations and recommendations of various committees on child labour. Significant among them are the National Commission on Labour (1966-69), Gurupadaswamy Committee on Child Labour (1979), and the Sanat Mehta Committee (1984).

The Act aims to prohibit the entry of children into hazardous occupations and to regulate the services of children in non-hazardous occupations. The Act, in particular, bans the employment of children, i.e., those who have not completed their 14th year.

The Government of India has recently decided to prohibit the employment of children as domestic servants and in tea-shops and dhabas, restaurants, hotels, motels, resorts, spas or other recreational centers. Final Notification has been issued on 10th October, 2006, under the child Labour (prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

It is true that the problem of child labour, being inextricably linked with poverty and illiteracy, cannot be solved by legislations alone. A holistic approach, and multi-pronged and concerted efforts are required to tackle this problem, and above all, the common man has to say no to child labour if this practice is to be eliminated. Theme : Children, People at Work.

BIMAL ROY

08.01.2007

500

0.4 Mill

The name of Bimal Roy is one well known and loved among film lovers, and is synonymous with good cinema. Rooted in reality, his cinematic masterpieces like 'Udayer Pathey' (Bengali), 'Do Bigha Zameen', 'Devdas' and 'Bandini' (Hindi) portray life with a rare sensitivity and a distinctive poetic sensibility.



Born into an affluent landowning family, the seventh of nine children of Smt. Kironmoyee and Shri Hem Chandra Roy, in village Suapur, a suburb of Dhaka, in erstwhile East Bengal, Bimal Roy was educated at Dhaka's famous Jaggannath College. Starting out as a still photographer, he soon became assistant to the eminent film-maker Nitin Bose, who was to become his mentor. From skilled cinematographer to director, and then producer, was a journey that began for Roy in New Theatres, Calcutta. He soon built up such a reputation that he was given pride of place as cinematographer on the billboards of P.C. Barua's landmark film 'Mukti'.

As he honed his craft, Bimal Roy's sensitivity to the myriad forms socio-economic oppression grew ever more acute. He joined the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and made the astonishingly assured, bravely path-breaking film, 'Udayer Pathey'. The film celebrated a principled fight against exploitation and was inspirational for a young and restless generation searching for a cause, among them Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen.

Migrating to Bombay in 1950, at the invitation of Bombay Talkies, Roy went on to make some of his most memorable films under its banner. Among these was 'Do Bigha Zameen', which shows the plight of Shambhu Mahato, uprooted from his patch of land to swell the ranks of the migrant labourers in Kolkata. Influenced by Rossellini and De Sica, there is a raw and contemporary edge to the portrayal of the indomitable and proud Shambhu. In his making of 'Devdas' Roy remained faithful to the spirit and text of the great literary classic. Yet the master film-maker's eye found not only the visual equivalent for the written word, but often went beyond to forge images that linger on in our collective consciousness. Thus the train becomes a symbol of the wandering hero's journeys far away from home, a means of uprooting an individual and alienating him from his familiar moorings. The beautiful and proud Paro, whose sense of self-esteem is so typical of the strong women portrayed in Bimal Roy's films, remains one of the most charismatic and memorable feminine characters of Hindi cinema. Kalyani, the protagonist of 'Bandini' remains another such archetypal figure.

Bimal Roy died in 1966, But his legacy lives on, through his cinema. Born out of a unique personal vision his films speak to us today with as fresh a voice as when made, in the manner of the true classics that remain relevant for all people and for all times.
Theme : Personality, Cinema; Pioneers

TAMIL NADU CRICKET ASSOCIATION

05.02.07

500

0.4 Mill

One of the leading Cricket Associations in the country today, the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association was established in 1930 for promoting and popularizing the game of cricket in the State. The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association was also among the founder units of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).



In course of its illustrious history, the Tamil Nadu Cricket

Association has helped nurture promising young talent and build up many cricket players of repute. Among them mention must be made of C. Ramasamy, M.N. Gopalan, C.R. Rangachary, A.G.Kripal Singh, S. Venkataraghavan, V.V. Kumar, Bharath Reddy, Robin Singh, K.Srikkant, L.Sivaramakrishnan, W.V. Raman, S. Ramesh and Hemang K. Badani. As we know, Shri.S.Venkataraghavan and Shri. K. Srikanth also had the honour of captaining the Indian Cricket Team. The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association is also perhaps the only sports Association that has produced two double internationals for the country, namely Shri.C.Ramasamy who represented the country in both cricket and tennis, and Shri.M.J.Gopalan who donned the country's colours in cricket and hockey.

Since its inception, the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has had the privilege of hosting 37 Tests and 10 one Day International Cricket Matches. The construction of the magnificent M.A. Chidambaram Stadium at Chepauk also marks landmark in its history. Its foundation stone was laid in 1971, and the stadium, which can accommodate 50,000 spectators, was completed in 1979. In the wake of the advent and tremendous popularity of one day cricket matches, and subsequently of day/night cricket, flood lights conforming to international standards were installed by the TNCA to make Chepauk an attractive venue for one day internationals. The first One Day International played under floodlights in Chepauk was between New Zealand and Australia in 1996. Further, in July 2005, the Executive Committee of the TNCA approved the establishment of a TNCA Cricket Academy. Apart from supplying free cricket balls to all the city and district teams, TNCA has also been helping the District Cricket Associations for laying of turf wickets and purchase of essential infrastructural equipments.

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has thus been rendering yeoman service in building cricket infrastructure in the State, as also in inducting and shaping young and talented cricketers, many of whom have been picked up to represent India in the international arena.
Theme : Sports, Cricket, Associations.

FRAGRANCE OF ROSES

07.02.2007

500, 1500, 500, 1500

0.8 Mill. each

"A rose is a rose is a rose" - Gertrude Stein

Somewords instantaneously suggest beauty because they are associated with things that afford pleasure and delight. The word 'rose' is one of them. When one sees a beautiful rose, the first instinct is to smell it as roses are known for their perfume.



The rose is a flowering shrub of the genus "Rosa" estimated to be more than 30 million years old and the flower has figured in countless myths and legends and in poetry and music throughout the world.

Roses are distributed in the north temperate, and the sub tropical parts of both the hemispheres and there are more than a hundred species of wild roses. As far as the garden roses of the world are concerned, however, only eight species, namely Rosa chinensis, Rosa damascena, Rosa foetida, Rosa gallica, Rosa gigantea, Rosa moschata, Rosa multiflora and Rosa wichuraiana have played an important role. Cultivated roses can also be grouped under two categories - those in cultivation before 1800 A.D. and those after.

The period after 1800 A.D. was notable because of the influence of perpetually flowering types derived from Rosa chinensis and Rosa gigantean from the Far East. These crossed with new introductions, gave rise to the important groups of the Noisettes and the Bourbons. Further complex crossings also gave rise to the great groups of the Tea continuous flowering, the Hybrid Perpetuates include varieties of magnificent size and rich perfume.

Roses have been symbols of love and beauty since ancient times. The red rose is a symbol of love, the pink rose a symbol of grace, the white rose a symbol of innocence, purity and friendship, and the yellow rose a symbol of dying love or platonic love.

Bhim : This hybrid tea rose is very famous in India. The camellia-like flatness of its form is unusual and its mid-red colour is very attractive. A healthy bush, very free with its

flowers it has dark semi-glossy foliage. The fully open blooms are striking and stands up to cold nights.

Delhi princess : A popular Indian-bred variety this rose has cerise-red buds which open to sparkling pink flowers in clusters. Growing in great profusion, the clusters may be small in cool weather, but the individual flowers are 10cm across.

Jawahar : Free-flowering and good for bedding and exhibition, the velvety, scented 'Jawahar' is a creation of the Indian Department of Crops and Agriculture. Introduced in 1980, its blooms are large and high centred. Growing usually in clusters of three to six; the flowers are perfect creamy white.

Neelam : The gardens of the Indian Rose Society in Delhi display some splendid roses as a result including the 'Neelam'. It is a large, shapely bloom in silvery pink, with a heady perfume and dark green, glossy foliage. Theme : Flora, Flowers, Roses.

MANOHARBHAI PATEL

09.02.2007

500

0.4 Mill

Shri Manoharbai Patel was born in Nadiad, Gujarat to a poor farmer's family on 9th February, 1906. He was unable to pursue his education beyond standard IV due to financial inability of his parents. He moved to Jabalpur at the age of 15 in search of a better future and started working in a bidi factory, primarily loading and unloading tobacco bags.



In 1930, he moved to Gondia, then in the erstwhile Central Provinces and Berar, to work in a firm belonging to his uncle known as M/s C.J. Patel & Company, which bought tobacco from farmers in Gujarat for sale to bidi manufacturers in Gondia. His uncle made him a partner and he started manufacturing bidis, generating

employment for thousands of workers in the Gondia region. By the 1940s his firm had become a major manufacturer of bidis, with manufacturing centers in West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh employing more than 60,000 workers.

With no formal education himself, Shri Manoharbai Patel thought of furthering education when he felt that a time had come to give something back to the society. With that intention he started the Gondia Education Society and, on one single day, he started 22 High Schools and a Degree College in a district, which did not have even one High School, till then. The Gondia Education Society today runs about 30 colleges and 30 high schools, which impart education to more than 80,000 students in various disciplines such as Computers, Engineering, Information

Technology, Architecture, Management, Law, Pharmacy, etc. With the same spirit he also started the Nadiad Education Society in Nadiad in Gujarat, which today runs many colleges teaching Engineering, Management, Science and Arts etc. He also set up numerous hospitals and charitable organizations all over the country.

In course of the struggle for India's freedom Shri Manoharbai Patel came in contact with stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Shri Vallabh Bhai Patel, Shri Jaiprakash Narayan and others. He also came to be a close associate of leaders like Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Morarji Desai, Shri Y.B. Chavan and Shri Babubhai Patel. A true Gandhian at heart, Shri. Manoharbai Patel always wore khadi, and remained a very committed member of the Congress Party as also a very active Member of the All India Congress Committee, President of the Vidarbha Region Congress Committee and Treasurer of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee. Shri Manoharbai Patel became the President of the Gondia Municipal Council in 1946, and continued to be its President till his demise in 1970. He also became a Member of the first Legislative Assembly in 1952, in the erstwhile State of C.P. and Berar, and then, after the reorganization of the States in 1960 in the Assembly of Maharashtra also. In tribute to his commitment and contribution towards various development projects, the Government of Maharashtra named one of the major irrigation projects of the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra as Manohar Sagar.

"Though a very successful industrialist, his contribution for the cause of the downtrodden, the Freedom Movement, agriculture, education and employment were the hallmarks of a great career which will always be remembered". Thus said late Shri. V.P. Naik, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra at the commencement of the last journey of Shri Manoharbai Patel, on 17th August 1970, when he was accorded a State Funeral.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Movement, Education, Industry.

FAIRS OF INDIA

27.02.2007

500, 500, 500, 500

0.8 Mill each

India has a very rich tradition of 'Melas' or fairs, many dating back to times long ago and drawing crowds of people from far and near. A focal point of socio-economic activities of the region, the fairs are vibrant and colourful spectacles, presenting a kaleidoscopic panorama of sight and sound. Steeped in local tradition, each fair has its own unique flavour, its own significance and history.

Through a set of four stamps on 'Fairs of India', India Post showcases the spectacular variety of melas held in different parts of the country.



The Goa Carnival is one of the most famous of these, a three-day riotous festival of music and dance, laughter and fun. The origin of this celebration can be traced back to the early years of Portuguese colonization of the state and, over the years, the carnival has emerged as an intrinsic part of the Goan cultural scene. Held in mid-February, every year, the three-day extravaganza starts with a mammoth procession of floats, of a variegated pageantry of colour and gaiety, headed by King Momo on the evening of 'Fat Saturday'. This is followed by a host of cultural events and competitions, with enthusiastic participation of locals and tourists who flock to Goa for the

carnival.

At the other end of the cultural spectrum is the Pushkar mela. Held annually during the Hindu month of Kartika (October-November), this is one of the largest cattle fairs in the world. Though dealing primarily with camels, a lot of other cattle such as horses, donkeys, bulls etc. are also bought and sold, after being beautified, raced, and paraded on the sands of this small lake-side town, near Ajmer in Rajasthan. The fair represents an extraordinary welding of commerce and devotion, as Sadhus (holy men) and devotees, musicians and folk dancers, acrobats and other entertainers, along with traders and tourists descend on the town in hordes. Camping in tents outside the town, the rural folk congregate to take a holy dip in the sacred lake next to the temple consecrated to Lord Brahma, the only one of its kind in the world.

The Sonepur fair in Bihar is also supposed to be one of Asia's largest cattle fairs specializing in the sale of elephants. Sonepur is situated at the confluence of the holy rivers Ganga and Gandak, about 40 km from Patna, and has been a center for the animal trade since the fourth century B.C. Chandragupta Maurya, the great Indian emperor who ruled the country from Pataliputra (now Patna) in those days is said to have bought elephants and horses for his army from Sonepur. Other animals traded at Sonepur include cattle, dogs, birds, and even monkeys. A holy bath at the confluence of the holy rivers, and a visit to the Hariharnath temple situated here are the other attractions that draw thousands of devotees here on the Kartika Purnima day, apart from the normal mela entertainment like jugglers and folk shows, and stall selling foodstuffs and all manner of things.

The Baul festivals of West Bengal provide a study in contrast. Their itinerant life-style, religious philosophy, poetical compositions, and musical style was brought into prominence through the writings of Rabindranath Tagore. The Bauls have been using the melas or fairs since time immemorial, to spread their message of universal brotherhood and love among the rural people. While a number of such melas are held in different parts of Birbhum District of West Bengal throughout the year, the two best-known ones are the Jaydeva-Kenduli Mela, and the Paus Mela at Santiniketan. While the Paus Mela has become a major tourist destination, the Jayadeva-Kenduli Mela better retains its original flavour, serving as a meeting place for the Bauls to come together and share their oral tradition of spiritual songs and music.

In bringing out a set of four commemorative stamps on the "Fairs of India" the Department of Posts celebrates the unique character of each, while also celebrating the rich variety of our country's socio-cultural heritage.

Theme : Culture, Heritage, Fairs & Festivals.



ROSES

SHEILA FOSTER

One of my biggest regrets is that I did not start collecting stamps when I was younger. My daughter was nine when she started collecting Great Britain, and it was through her that I became interested. She explained to me that although the Wilding definitives all looked the same on the face of the stamp, they were all different because of the water-mark which could be seen from the back of the stamp if it was held against (in our case) a shiny black tile; others had phosphor bands as well. My father was asked to bring home all the envelopes from his office, stamps were duly soaked off and many afternoons were spent sorting out watermarks. We visited the library, and devoured all the various books on stamp collecting and how to write up a collection. I was fascinated - it was then that I decided I wanted to collect stamps as well.

A well known book on stamp collecting at the time advocated choosing a country and then buying the largest packet of stamps you could afford. Great Britain had at that time approximately 850 catalogue numbers and I remember telephoning Stanely Gibbons and asking if they had a large packet of 500 different Great Britain stamps, figuring that I would then only have to collect another 350! I soon learnt that the biggest packet they had contained only 25 stamps, and that some of the early Victorian stamps were very, very expensive.



At this time I did not have an album to put my stamps in, so I sought out a local stamp dealer, a Mr. Stockman, who showed me loose-leaf albums, some with fancy scrolls on the pages and some plain. In the end I chose a Windsor Great Britain album from Stanely Gibbons, which had printed pages of all the British stamps with all the various watermarks inverted and sideways. It had a place for all the plate numbers of the Penny Black and Two penny Blue and all the plates on the Penny Red from plate 71 to 225.

For the next two years I popped along to see Mr. Stockman about once a fortnight to spend what little money I had on various Great Britain used stamps. I had learnt from books that it was better to get a round cancellation on a stamp rather than a slogan postmark, and I was prepared to wait until the right cancellation came along. I was also trying to fill in the spaces for the Penny Red plates; here I had difficulties as I could not afford mint stamps and the used were mostly very heavily post-marked. I used to ask Mr. Stockman 'which one do you think is best?' and he would say things like 'well, that one's a lovely fresh colour, not too heavily marked' or 'this is cancelled with a 27 which is the Clapham area' or 'don't have that one, it's a bit off centre', etc.

Reading the local paper one Friday evening I noticed a paragraph which stated that Clapham and Balham Philatelic Society would be holding its first meeting of the season in September at Balham baths from 7 pm to 10 pm, visitors being welcome. I noted down the date and duly presented myself dead on 7'o clock at the baths. There was nobody to be seen, lots of tables and chairs, but no people. I wondered if I had come on the correct day and sat looking out of the window wondering what to do. At 7.30 there were footsteps on the stairs and two people entered the room, saw me, and introduced themselves as the Secretary and another member. They asked me what I

collected and I replied Great Britain. 'Oh, lots of members collect GB so you are in good company.' More members arrived and sat around the room chatting until the President opened the meeting at 8'o Clock. I was introduced as a new member who collected Great Britain and as that evening was a members' night 'letter C' the evening progressed with most of the people showing a country beginning with the letter. At tea-time a gentleman sitting next to me asked 'have you got this one?' 'This one' was a beautifully cancelled King George VI 2s 6d brown. 'No, I haven't I replied; 'you can have that then, and I'll bring some other spares if you are coming to the next meeting'. The President asked me if I had enjoyed the meeting, and gave me some back copies of the club's newsletter and a programme of the coming events of the Society. I duly paid my year's subscription (£2 then) and went home to tell my husband all about it.

I attended all the following meetings and saw much postal history including letters from the siege of Paris and letters from the Boer War and World War One. Visiting societies and members showed one country collections including Channel Islands war-time issues, which included envelopes made from tomato wrappers because of paper shortages. We had an ephemeral evening where we were shown early Valentines, early boxes of stamp hinges, stamp seals (used with sealing wax to seal early letters) and stamp boxes. Two auctions a year were held by the club, and looking back I think I must have been a 'gift' to them; many Great Britain lots were on view and as most of the members already had them I was the only bidder in many cases; I quickly learnt that if I wanted to bid I just held up my hand and the lot was mine for a ridiculously low price. Biscuit tins with thousands of stamps of the world were obtained for a 'song' and many evenings were spent sorting them out into different countries. We had Great Britain evenings where members showed parts of their collection. Plate numbers abounded and all the stamps which I coveted were shown; I drooled over £1 PUCs (my black beauty, one member called it) and had to admit I still had a long way to go.

It was about this time that I realised the Windsor album was not for me. There were too many spaces for stamps which I would never be able to afford and there were more empty spaces in the earlier part of the album than there were stamps. I asked advice at my club and the general consensus was that a loose leaf album would probably suit my needs better, although I would have to 'write up' each page. After much deliberation I chose a Stanley Gibbons 'Senator' springback album and used their 'Senator Standard' pages. I found an old typewriter, obtained How to write up a stamp collection from the library, and set about typing my pages. The results were, to my eye, much better and as I obtained other PUC Great Britain sets I simply typed up one more page for them.

The Club held a competition annually with cups for postal history, one country collections and thematics. A
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maximum of twelve sheets could be entered in any of the three categories. Having seen members showing their country material at previous 'members' evenings I knew I did not stand a chance of competing on their terms, so I thought about assembling a thematic entry of 12 sheets. Thematics then were not as popular as they are now, and as mentioned previously, I only had Great Britain items plus one or two pages of many countries sorted out from the boxes of stamps bought at club auctions. At this time my daughter was keen on horses and as she had many books on the subject I thought it would be nice to collect horses on stamps.

I had noted that the previous winner of the thematic trophy had shown about 14 or 15 stamps on each page with writing underneath each stamp, so, I decided this would also be my style. I visited my local stamp dealer and we sorted through his albums for horse stamps (they had to be used as I could not afford mint ones and I knew that mixing mint and used on the same page was not the done thing). After a considerable time I returned home with my horse stamps and divided up my collection into different categories - working horses, various breeds, etc. I tried typing the information underneath the stamp, but the typing looked strange as I was using quadrille sheets and the line spaces were not the same as the lines on the quadrille paper. So I wrote in very small print; the results were quite pleasing.

Competition night arrived and I gave in my entry. I know now that it was the usual practice then for the secretary to warn the judge that so and so was a first time entry, so therefore he should be 'kind'! Needless to say I did not win, but the judge was very kind, commenting on my neat handwriting and making constructive criticism by suggesting I use less stamps per page and try to arrange my writing in 'blocks'.

Fuelled by new enthusiasm I decided I needed a new subject, but what? At this time New Zealand had issued a set of definitive stamps portraying roses, and as my mother and grandfather grew roses, and had also tried their hand at hybridizing, I felt I knew a little bit about the subject and could draw on their knowledge if need be. I purchased Stanley Gibbons' Stamps of the World (then in one volume) and spent months going through each country and noting the numbers for any rose stamps. Surprisingly, they were few and far between, especially named varieties.

Spring Stampex came, and armed with my list visited many dealers. I thought I would only have to quote the SG number and hand over my money and that would be that! I had decided to collect only mint stamps, but dealer after dealer could not supply me, either because they didn't stock the country, or the stamp I wanted was only one value from a large set, which meant I had to purchase the whole set or go without! I eventually solved this dilemma by buying the set and then putting the remainder in club books at a

fifth of catalogue value, and in that way atleast got part of my money back. I was a little more successful at local stamp fairs - many of the dealers there did specialise in 'foreign' - but to this day there are still rose stamps from my original wants list missing.

I decided to sort the stamps I had into species (wild roses), old garden roses, hybridisation and then the new hybridised varieties, ending with the search for a blue rose. I bought books on the subject (borrowing the more expensive ones from the library) and made copious notes



on little cards, which I then tried to match a rose stamp to; these were then sorted into roughly the order I wanted for my twelve sheets. The notes were then compressed into blocks roughly 40 letters per line (including spaces) of six lines. I obtained a children's mathematics book with squared paper, put one letter per space and ended up sometimes with three or four words too many or too few, which meant re-writing the whole block. Eventually I was satisfied, so the blocks were cut out, and I arranged them on the sheets with the stamps to find the best way of presenting them.

With stamps of different sizes it was not an easy task to balance the page, though if I had two or three different stamps to choose from the task was made easier. Once the page was set out to my liking I transferred all the markings in pencil onto my new page for typing up and mounting. I used strips of black Hawid to mount the stamps, as I knew it was better not to add hinges to mint stamps; I

cut them to size with a glass ruler and cutter manufactured for the purpose (making sure to cut as close to the stamp as possible so that it didn't look mourning'). I had decided to call my entry 'Roses, Roses all the Way's as every stamp and the few booklets I had featured roses. The yearly club competition came round and I submitted my entry. The judge on this occasion was P.J. Hobday, who the previous year had won the Link House Trophy for the best thematic entry at Stampex; after due deliberation he announced his decision in reverse order - and I won!

At this time I had started work again and had a little more money to spend on stamps. Every year after that I had to think up a new theme for club competitions, as previous winners could not submit the same winning entry twice. Being interested in medicine I built up a medical collection by presenting, in successive years, 'Medical Mythology and Symbols', 'Healing Hands' (doctors), 'Liquid of Life' (blood), 'The Heart', 'Surgery', 'Medicinal plants' and 'Destroyers of Disease'.

People at my club kept urging me to enter Stampex, but I really didn't think I was good enough. As time passed, however, and having studied the thematic entries there, I decided to have a go. The requirement was 32 sheets. As I had collected a few more booklets and had amassed quite a few more rose stamps, I broke down my original collection of 12 sheets and started again. I kept to the same storyline and the same 'block' writing and after a struggle managed to complete the 32 sheets, renaming my entry 'Roses: Past, Present & Future' was elated when I received a letter informing me I had won a silver bronze, and duly collected my medal at the presentation luncheon held after Stampex. That was in 1987.

In the meantime I had decided to collect France, but stamps rather than postal history as the majority of them were engraved. I had enjoyed many holidays in that country so I would be able to enjoy my stamps and relieve holidays in the resorts featured in the 'Regions of France' series. It also meant I would have something else to ask for when visiting the local stamp fairs. I had joined the France and Colonies Philatelic Society and the National Philatelic Society and had received stamp boxes from them plus boxes circulating through my club. I could examine these in my own home, take my time selecting the stamps I wanted, and perhaps most importantly, get them for a very good price.

Being a member of Clacton Philatelic Society I was able in 1988 to attend a stamp exhibition at Valence in France, Valence being twinned with Clacton. A series of frames were allocated to Clacton members and my 32 sheets of roses were one of the display. At a champagne reception for hundreds of people I was presented with a certificate and a medal to mark the occasion. Many hours were spent studying the other exhibits, and I notice that thematic collecting in France was quite different from Great

Britain; the pages were more crowded and contained much more postal history by subject. It was refreshing to ask for 'roses' and be handed one or more boxes full of rose material, all priced, to browse through, although it did perhaps take the excitement out of browsing through a box of postal history items, not knowing what you will find and coming across a treasure out of the blue. At Valence there were two other exhibits on roses, both containing postal history items that I didn't even know existed and rose stamps I didn't know about. These were added to my ever growing wants list.

Local dealers at stamp fairs were used to me asking for roses (some called me Rosie) and would kindly save material that they thought might interest me. I pored over auction catalogues looking for material, sometimes over-bidding in order to obtain a coveted piece.

The thematic entries at Stampex were getting better and better each year, and with the later additions to my rose collection looking cleaner and fresher than the original items, together with new writing up to be done, I decided to start again from scratch. The newly formed British Thematic Association held an exhibition, the entries reflecting the higher standards of thematic collecting. I had joined the British Thematic Association and had been sent their quarterly bulletin Theme scene which contained many hints and tips on how to write up and mount a thematic collection for display at local and national level.

I decided after much thought that I would like pale green card to mount my stamps on, as roses were a 'green' subject, and the colour seemed the natural background for a rose. I had a friend who could obtain stiffened card cheaply in bulk, so taking advice given in one of the thematic handbooks I ordered 80 sheets of Senator standard size for considerably less money than ordinary album pages would have cost me. I framed the sheets with a dark green border and obtained green carbon typewriter ribbons. I used clear plastic mounts instead of black, and tried to restrict my writing up to the absolute minimum.

By this time I had acquired a new electric typewriter with a daisy wheel typeface, enabling me to change print styles as I wanted. I choose a script typeface which, with its rounded curves, I thought reflected the curve of rose petals. The rules for national competitions had changed again in the meantime and for a competitor who had won a medal previously, an entry of 64 sheets was needed. Much thought was given to the rules sent out with the application for would be competitors, the biggest headache being 'The Plan' of the collection and its implementation.

My earlier Stampex entry of 32 sheets had only covered the botanical aspect of roses, and in the period in between I had amassed a large amount of rose-related material: I had a large box full of covers commemorating

various subjects; lots of slogans, mainly from France; and many more rose stamps plus various 'bits and bobs' associated with roses. The problem was, where to fit them into a 'plan'. After many evenings of head scratching and sorting, I had a rough plan from which to work.

I began my exhibit with the heading 'Say it with Roses', to include postal stationery from Afghanistan which had a spray of roses down one side and a Mothers Day first day cover from 'Rose' in Oklahoma, the cancellation showing a rose in a vase dated 1934. I followed this with 'Symbolic Roses' showing rose stamps which had been issued to commemorate diverse events such as water pollution (Hungary SG 2987) and nature protection, an Austrian black proof (SG 1722), and an imperforate pair of Wallis and Futuna stamps (SG 237) showing a hand emerging from a large pink rose (celebrating the centenary of the Universal Postal Union). Under the heading 'Philatelic Roses' I showed the various countries which had a rose watermark including Great Britain Queen Victoria 'Spray of Rose' and the French Congo's lovely 'Rose branch'. I also featured a 'Rose in Circle' cancellation from Amherst, Massachusetts dated September 13, 1863, a beautiful little cover and one that is very scarce. Also included in this section were first flight air mail covers, all showing a rose in the handstamp, again from the United States, in various colours. I only showed two of these, as to date I have them in blue, green, red, black and grey, and as I have been unable to find a reference book listing them I wonder how many more there could be!

Czechoslovakia has issued stamps periodically to commemorate the putting to death of the entire male population of the village of Lidice in 1942, the majority of these incorporating a rose in the design. In 1952 a rose garden of Peace and Friendship was established at Lidice, with rose growers from all over the world contributing plants; I could have shown these under 'Rose Gardens' but preferred to place them under my 'In Memorial' section.

Under the heading 'Emblems' I included the stamps from New foundland (SG 24c) which showed the heraldic flowers of the United Kingdom and a cover showing the national emblem of England - the cover, which seemed a good idea at the time, was condemned by the judges at Stampex as it was franked by two Machin stamps, nothing to do with roses at all. We live and learn! Under this section I also showed Queen Elizabeth I, whose motto was 'the rose without a thorn' (New foundland SG - 248) and St George, patron saint of England (SG 511); traditionally a red rose is worn on his feast day, April 23. In 1759 the Suffolk regiment (according to other records in was the Lancashire Fusiliers) defeated the French at the Battle of Minden, and rejoicing soldiers plucked wild roses from the hedgerows to wear in their caps; to celebrate the event on 'Minden Day', August 1, roses are worn by all battalions. This was represented by a National Army Museum cover showing the battle with a rose cancellation,



a Jersey 'The Battle of Minden' stamp (SG 314), and a stamp from Gibraltar (SG 363) showing a soldier of the Suffolk Regiment.

Under the heading 'Evolution' I explained that roses have existed for over 40 million years and it is from the original simple flower of five petals only that all modern day roses have evolved. There are many wonderful stories associated with old roses but unfortunately, because some of them are not depicted on stamps yet, I could not relate them. I was pleased to obtain a postcard from West Germany which showed the 1,000 year old Rosa canina growing against the apse of the cathedral crypt at Hildesheim. This was supposed to have been planted by the Emperor Charlemagne in 815, and even though the cathedral burned down in 1013, being a dog rose its roots probably survived the fire. During an air raid on March 22, 1945, the rose was again burnt down to six feet, but new growth has come from the suckers, and it is now about 80 feet tall.

My next section covered the Old Garden Roses, natural hybrids of species roses, their only drawback being they only flower once a year. I decided to show the variations of flowers and the shape of the corolla - cupped, informal, quartered, rosette, etc. I had obtained a prestamped 2 cent United States cover which showed a beautiful rose with leaves and a printed address for R.M. Rose Co, with the box number under the rose. Originally I had shown this under the heading 'Advertising' but had been advised by an eminent person knowledgeable about thematics that I could not use it this way. It was explained to me that I could call a 'named rose' (but I didn't know what it was!) so in my wisdom I placed it as a 'high centred' rose. I followed on by showing flower colours, such as blend, striped, and bi-coloured. Rose leaves are always odd-pinnate, shown by a Russian cover depicting Rosa canina flowers and leaves, and another advertising pre-stamped envelope with a large hybrid tea rose and five leaves. I ended this section with the various stem types of roses:

standards, shrub and bush. At this time I had information regarding the different types of thorns, but had little in the way of stamps or covers to show this element. I have since obtained a cover from a place named 'Thorn' with a large handstamp showing a rose thorn (everything comes to those that wait).

My next category was hybridisation. In the past roses had been cultivated, but the laws of heredity were unknown. Pollination occurred by chance either by insects or wind; this was depicted by a postcard from Japan which showed two roses blowing kisses to each other and various stamps showing a bee on a rose (Russia SG 3928) and the west wind (Greece SG 568).

The next pages concerned all the modern roses, the Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. Then followed the story of 'Peace'. Seedling number 3-35-40 (the third specimen of the 40th combination in 1935) was raised by Meilland in France. In November 1942, fearing being overrun by the Germans, Meilland sent scions of 3-35-40 to America via his friend the United States consul Lyon-George Whittinghill. Meilland had previously sent samples of the new rose to Italy and Germany. It was not until 1945 that Meilland knew that all three consignments had arrived safely and had provided superb roses. Those in France had been christened 'Madame Antoine Meilland', in Germany 'Gloria Dei' and in the United States 'Peace'. During the conference that saw the birth of the United Nations, each delegate was given the rose with this message: 'This rose was christened "Peace" on the day Berlin fell; we hope the "Peace" rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace'. China, Taiwan (SG 722) and Syria (SG 1441) feature 'Peace', whilst West Berlin issued a beautiful maximum card showing the rose in October 1982. Since 'Peace' was introduced over 75 million plants have been sold. Commercial breeders have produced a long line of progeny from this rose and my next pages showed these roses and their parents. A nice little block of New Zealand (SG 1092a) featured 'Michelle Meilland' ('Joanna Hill' crossed with 'Peace') and showed a nice pink colour shift.

No rose collection would be complete without referring to the scented rose and how 'attar' is obtained. Bulgaria, the home of rose oil, has issued several stamps showing 'Attar of Roses' (SG 398/9) and a rose distillery (SG 1715). The main area for growing the damask roses from which attar is obtained is the 'Valley of Roses' near Kazanlik, Bulgaria, I have one early postmark of Kazanlik which unfortunately has a large ink blob across it, so I had to make do with another postcard from Bulgaria which has the slogan in English 'ROSES, WINE, SONGS. A WARM SEA, HEARTY PEOPLE UNDER A SOUTHERN SKY. BULGARIA'. I'm not really happy with this page, but, as I needed to break it up a bit and not show all stamps it will have to do until something better comes along.

My next category covered rose breeders and the search for a blue rose. Roses lack a blue component, Delphinidin; breeders saw a colour break in 'Grey Pearl', introduced in 1945, and breeding from it produced 'Sterling Silver' in 1957 (New Zealand SG 1086) and 'Blue Moon' in 1964 (Hungary SG 3436). For years I had been unable to complete this page until I succeeded in getting a French booklet issued in 1955 which had an advertisement pane for French rose breeder Pernet - Ducher, printed in blue with a blue rose in the top corner.

Rose shows and rose gardens were featured in my next sections and here again I made a mistake by showing a used illustrated envelope of 1890 with a large centifolia rose mixed with greenery. As the rose had not been printed by the post office, it did nothing in the judge's eyes to enhance my exhibit. I did, however, have a few nice cancellations from Germany 1934-36, from Uetersen and Sangerhausen, which incorporated a rose in the handstamp.

'Rose Towns' gave me the opportunity to show covers from different countries which had 'rose' in the name. From America I have a registered cover from Roselawn cancelled on September 18, 1933 with three mauve roses with green leaves and a registered first day cover from Rose, Truro, which has a set of 1976 Great Britain roses issued for the Centenary of the Royal National Rose Society. Other covers show Rosebud, Dakota, July 29, 1888, and Rosenberg (the mountain of roses), Prussia, dated March 27, 1867. Way back in 1987 I wrote to the philatelic bureau in the Bahamas asking for a cancellation from 'Roses', located at Long Island, to be sent to me. I enclosed four international reply coupons and two self addressed envelopes. A few weeks later I received my envelopes back duly stamped 'Roses, Bahamas' but unfortunately covered with five and six brightly coloured stamps depicting several fish and stamps for Ameripex 86! Fortunately I was able to 'window' many of the offending stamps out, leaving only two exposed with the cancellations.

Belgium has for several years issued stamps showing named roses painted by Pierre-Joseph Redoute, and in 1990 they included a miniature sheet featuring the artist and six of his famous paintings from Les Roses, published between 1817 and 1824; this I added to my 'Artistic Roses' section.

During the Middle Ages the rose became associated with the church - the Virgin Mary was depicted in paintings of the period holding roses or in rose garden. The rosary approved by the Pope in 1216 was originally made from dried rose petals or rose hips. Rose windows first appeared in European churches in about 1200 - They Cathedral (SG 892) and Notre Dame, Paris (SG 1645). A Great Britain stamp shows Canterbury Cathedral while one from West Germany shows Freiburg Minster (SG 1868).

My 'Medicinal Roses' section featured rose water, which still retains a place in the British Pharmacopocia. Items were included from Czechoslovakia (SG 1980) and from Provins, France (a slogan) showing a rose which was extensively used there in the 13th to 18th centuries for medicinal purpose; this was the 'Apothecary's rose' or Rosa Gallica Officinalis (Syria SG 1444). France issued a 'life and death' stamp in 1970, showing a lady holding a rose for 'Fight Cancer' Day which also featured, on a first day cover, a handstamp of a rose - alive and dead.

I concluded my entry with a selection of sheets entitled 'A rose by any other name'. These included slogans from Switzerland showing 'The Golden Rose of Montreux' and from Eutin in Germany 'A Rose between north and east'; a cover from America with a trademark of a rose printed by Edward Rose and Co, who were tailors; plus stamps featuring rose ceiling (Monaco Sg 855). The Surrey Federation held a workshop at Surrey University for would be judges of thematic competitions at club level last year and I wrote for and obtained a place on the course. I was asked to bring with me 32 sheets for general discussion, so I took along part of my would-be Stampex entry, which was quite well received, with these was some criticism and some praise, but it was certainly a valuable insight into what judges look for when studying an exhibit.

After many alterations and changes of mind I submitted my entry to the Stampex office, obtained receipt and wondered, walking home, if all my hard work was worth it!

Two or three weeks later the entries were to be judged but meanwhile I had persuaded my husband that we needed a holiday and that I would like to go to Italy, where a thematic exhibition, Genova 92, was taking place. We booked to stay near Portofino, which was about 25 minutes by train to Genoa. It was a wonderful exhibition, despite the heat on the first Saturday which made many of the stamps curl. The whole of the huge lower ground floor was filled with hundreds of frames covering entries from all over the world. I spend five days there, alternately looking at entries and buying from the dealers. My purchases were mostly postal history, though I did manage to obtain a 1956 French booklet containing an advertisement for a well known French rose breeder, which I had been seeking for about six years.

On our return from holiday there was a stack of mail and the first letter to be opened was from STAMP MAGAZINE informing me I had won the Link House Thematic Trophy. I really was overjoyed and literally jumped about the kitchen, much to my husband's amazement. A later letter from the Stampex organisers informed me I had won a silver medal, one up on my previous entry. The judges' comments included the fact that they didn't like my green pages as they thought them too harsh, and I was inclined to agree; on its own it was quite nice, but against all the other entries on white pages, it did look perhaps too

colourful. I had earlier received a letter from the Clacton Philatelic Society which stated that they thought my choice of colour was inspired! Well, you win some you lose some.

I did say after I had completed my entry that I would not enter another National competition, but I'm still gathering material, so who knows - maybe next year!

(Courtesy : Stamp Magazine, July 1993).



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SIPAGOLD '06

South India Philatelists' Association has completed 50 years of yeomen service to the cause of philately. The Golden jubilee celebrations were started in right earnest during March 2006 and a series of activities were drawn up culminating in the holding of SIPAGOLD'06, the 11th National level Philatelic Exhibition.

Mention should be made of the efforts made by SIPA's office bearers to have the National Inpex 2006 conducted at Chennai coinciding with SIPA's Golden Jubilee. In fact, numerous letters were sent to the Department right from June 2004 citing various precedents like Centipex 97 [100 years of Philatelic Society of India] and Empirepex 01 [60 years of Empire of India Philatelic Society) and to have SIPAPEX 06 commemorating 50 years of SIPA; also the last National was way back in 2001, and all the more reason to have it in 2006, after a gap of 5 years. It is unfortunate that Inpex 2006 could not be conducted during our Golden jubilee year.

SIPA GOLD'06 was conducted at C.U. Shah Bhavan, 4 Ritherdon Road, Vepery, Chennai 600 007 from 28th Dec to 31st Dec 2006. There were 2 Invitee section of 10 frames, 47 Senior entries covering 72 frames and 55 Junior entries of 83 frames along with 10 frames from 3 Schools, totalling to 175 frames. It is heartening to note that there were more number of junior entries than the previous exhibitions. The exhibits covered a wide range of topics, namely Aviation to Zoology.

The awards were distributed as follows: 8 Vermeil, 12 Silver, 15 Silver Bronze and 12 Bronze in the Senior category. There were 11 Silver, 15 Silver Bronze, 22 Bronze and 7 Diploma in Junior section. The entire list of award winners is published adjacent to the article. The Chairman of the Jury was Mr. Dilip Shah, assisted by Mr. M.G. Pittie and Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das. Mr. S. Balasundaram was the Apprentice jury from India Post.

Attractively made Special covers were released as follows during the Sipagold'06 exhibition. They are for Mahatma Gandhi, Information Technology, Golden Jubilee of SIPA and Shri. R.K. Narayan. These covers were well received and appreciated by the collectors.

An attractive souvenir with informative and educative articles on philately was also brought out during the exhibition.

There were 22 Dealer Booths to cater to the ever hungry stamp collectors and both the dealers and collectors were very happy at the bourse. The whole exhibition on all four days were well covered by print and electronic media.

AWARDS

SENIORS

S.No	Name	Title
	Vermiel	
1	Dr.K.S. Rao	Early Postal Stationery
2	G. Anil Kumar Reddy	Pre-Independence
3	V.K. Mohan	Saurashtra
4	M.V. Maruthachalam	Society
5	Jayaprakash Sarda	Gandhi
6	G. Anil Kumar Reddy	Gandhi
7	B.K. Sinha	Birds
8	T. Murugavel	Conservation of Nature

Silver

1	Ghouse Ali Zameer	Pre-Independence
2	N. Rajkumar	Golden Jubilee
3	Rajesh Bhura	Gandhi
4	Raj Paul Oswal	Gandhi
5	Raj Paul Oswal	Jainism
6	D. Venugopal	Hands
7	Krishna Goyal	Roses
8	Kailash Nath Mathur	Autographs
9	P. Sreetharan	Scouts & Guides
10	Vineet Vaidya	Ships
11	M. Lazar	Wild Life
12	K. Rajesh Kumar	Women

Silver Bronze

1	Pramod Kumar Jain	M. Sheets & Sheetlets
2	Shaktivadivel	Singapore
3	Mohan Ram	Cinema
4	M.S. Mohd Noorullah	Hands
5	R. Kanagavalli	Ciconiformes Birds
6	P.S. Seshadri	Rotary
7	Rolands Nelson	Christmas
8	Ishwarya Mohan	Animals
9	S.K. Lakshmanan	Butterflies
10	Daniel Montiero	Stork
11	Varadharaja Perumal	Olympically
12	Naresh Agarwal	Road Safety
13	K. Ramarathnam	Joint Issues
14	G. Rammohan	Vedaranyam
15	P.J. Lewis	Christmas

Bronze

1	Brig. B.K. Bogre	Military
2	S. Shanawaz	Non-Indians
3	Naraindas Hasrajani	Nigeria + Ghana
4	S.B. Raja Seetharaman	Gandhi Slogans
5	D. Ranjith Kumar	Felines/Cats
6	A. Bhrito Rajkumar	Environmental Engineering
7	M.N. Mohd Najibullah	Road Safety
8	R. Thumanivannan	Locomotives
9	S. Ashokan	Blood Donation
10	C.T. Chidambaram	Art
11	M. Bharathy	M. Sheets
12	V.R. Padmanabhan	Space

JUNIORS

Silver

1	Pinky Chopra	Jainism
2	Aadhish Jain	Jainism
3	Yash Gupta	Tourism
4	G. Adityaram	Contemporary Stamps
5	R. Sankarshwaran	Ecology
6	R. Sivanesh	Commerce
7	Akhil Reddy	Sports
8	G. Anush	Sports
9	Nimisha Agrawal	Air Mails
10	Jennifer X	Peace After Victory
11	G. Anjana	Hands

Silver Bronze

1	Kalaivani	Australia
2	Hadijath Nafia	Post Independence India

3	Aparajith	Children's Day FDC
4	V.M. Aparna	Bharat Ratnas
5	D. Gowri	Gandhi
6	G. Vignesh	Sports
7	R. Nikita	Disney
8	K. Ujjwal	Role of Women
9	Manoj Karthick	Se-Tenants
10	Md. Kashif	Animals
11	Agnelo lasanth	Dogs
12	Md. Kashif	Man / Horse
13	Nikhila Sarda	Endangered Species
14	Vignesh Prabhakaran	Railways
15	Saviksha	Culture - Heritage

Bronze

1	Kanna	Germany
2	Sneha Bhandari	Post Independence India
3	Gautham Balaji	Post Independence India
4	N.R. Karthik	Tamil Nadu
5	Sai Pooja	Mother Land
6	V.R. Swarna Lakshmi	Personalities
7	Ajitha	Transportation
8	Aarthi Jain	A-Z Countries
9	Anmol Bohra	Wildlife
10	Vinitha	Marine Life
11	Md. Kashif	Fathoms Deep
12	D. Gouthami	Railway
13	Jennifer X	Christianity
14	Sheel Timir Shah	Road to Recovery
15	S. Dhanuja	U.N. Member Countries
16	Rekha. G	Environment
17	Harika	Astronomy
18	Anisha Murali	A-Z Countries
19	Ajith Kumar	Transportation
20	M.Srivatsan	Australia
21	R.A. Eazhisai Chelvan	Personalities
22	N. Vignesh	Type of Stamps

Certificates

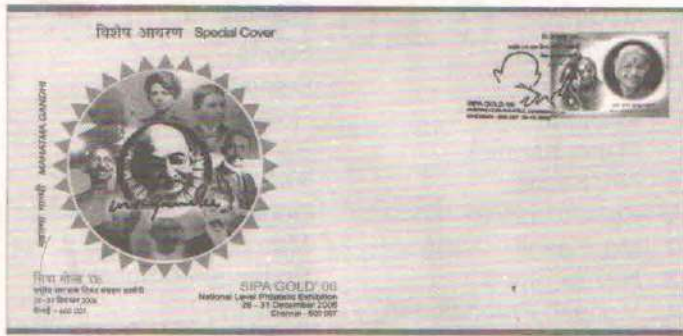
1	J. Aathi
2	R. Saipriya
3	Sharath Mayuran
4	N. Vignesh
5	C.R. Sriram
6	B. Sriraman
7	Sreepal
8	B. Madhani

Junior

Australia
Canada
Germany
Personalities
Personalities
Wild life
Wild life
Butterflies

SCHOOLS

1	Carmel Garden Mat. School
2	Maharishi Vidya Mandir
3	Bhaktavatsalam Vidhyasharm



Mahatma Gandhi



Olympia Tech. Park, Chennai



Shri. R.K. Narayan



SIPA Golden Jubilee

THE GRAND AWARD

What does collecting mean to you?
A dream fulfilled? A job to do?
Or is it more?

Is it perhaps a money thing
Of how much profit it will bring
That's at the core?

Perhaps it's none of these, and yet
why strive so very hard to get
A Grand Award?

Dear friend, the plain and simple truth
is earthy as an aching tooth

You know it's true
The most important thing of all
Is knowing Harry, Jim and Paul
Think well of you.

Real friendship is the purest gold
and not confined to young or old
Or night or day
So we collect, of course we do
But not just stamps real friendships, too
Along the way.

So when you take the final score
And find you've gained not one thing more
Except a friend

Ah! Then you've truly played the game
And now are worthy of the name
YOU are a friend!

- F.J. Penar

PHILATELY

Philately is a fancy name
Stamp collecting means the same;
A rose smells just as sweet,
Tho' it's Latin name I can't repeat.

A Stamp album brings to mind,
Heroic deeds of mankind;
Great and noble men portrayed,
Whom no difficulty dismayed.

In album's pages you will see,
Pretty stamps from across the sea;
Foreign lands are made familiar,
And we find all people similar.

The human heart is much the same,
In any peoples one can name;
Brothers and sisters are all one,
Which to deny we are undone.

- Constantine Rasis
Mar.-Apr. 2007

'Scenes' at SIPAGOLD 2006



Chief Guest Garlanded.



Smiling faces of sipagold



Address by Chief Guest



'Olympia Tech Park' released



Memento to Chief Guest



PMG addressing the gathering



Souvenir being released



Discussion about exhibits



A Young exhibitor awarded



Dignitaries engrossed in proceedings