



SIPA

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Editorial

ISSUES - 2009

Review

Like every years first issue, in this bulletin let us review the "Issues of 2009".

It is a highly accomplished year from India - Post's business point of view. Once an organization wants to change its objective and motto from service to commerce by competing with couriers, banks, companies etc., it is no wonder that minorities like 'we hobbyists' has to turn into grumblers due to confused and inadequate supply, unwanted material, too many issues etc etc.,

With 68 issues, 104 Stamps, 13 miniature sheets, many special packs and what - not there was a flood of philatelic material at the counter. All the staff on the philatelic line up to sales counter has to be sympathised and appreciated for the cooperation and support, given to us, the "so called" collectors with peculiar ideas of collecting. The other day, I saw one gentlemen getting cancellation on the pages of a Calender, of course the calender is India Post 2010 Calendar and he has pasted Jayadeva Geetagovinda stamps on it, one on each sheet; I missed to note what he put on the 12th & last, December sheet., may be the miniature sheet.

Coming back to the review, the year pack of stamps, first day covers and miniature sheets will cost a collector an amount of Rs.1536/-. A student collector in a 'poor' country of India can afford this "small money". No Problem.

Again out of 68 issues, 32 issues honoured great personalities of India. It is about 47% of the issues for which our so called Indian regulation is "to be with in 25%" International percentages of personalities in issues of well recognized countries may be with in 10% only. To tell a secret, this is one of the major reasons for the unpopularity of Indian stamps. Only selected Indian stamps are wanted outside the country and not the year packs which will have all these great personalities of India virtually unknown to the world.

A peculiar feature of 2009 issues is, that a number of Christian institutions were commemorated. Three churches and four educational institutions were honoured where as no Islamic representation has been given. In a secular country this is an aberration to be set right in future.

Coming to miniature sheets, thirteen nos have been issued, at a cost of Rs.270/-. This number may be a record for any stamp issuing country in a year though not a creditable record to hold.

WHY DO WE NEED STAMP CATALOGUES?

To stamp collectors a stamp catalogue is one of the most fascinating books to read. It acts as a checklist of the stamps issued by various countries, giving additional information on perforations, watermarks and colour variations. Some catalogues also list stamp booklets and special date stamps.

Although stamp catalogues also indicate a price for each stamps, you should be very careful not to consider this to be the exact value of your stamps collection. Many factors, such as market trends, the condition of your stamps, the demand for and availability of your stamps etc, can influence their value by as much as 100%. The prices given should therefore be seen only as a guideline that indicate which stamps are valuable and which are less valuable.

Generally, the scarcer a stamp is, the more people would like to have it and would be prepared to pay for it. The value of a stamp is therefore only that which people are prepared to pay for it. Some very good stamps are sometimes offered at very low price because there is no demand for them.

Catalogues are produced all over the world. In Great Britain, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue is accepted as a checklist of the stamps issued by the British Commonwealth countries. In America the Scott Catalogue is used as a list of American stamps. The Michel series of catalogues, issued in Germany, is considered to be the most comprehensive catalogue of the stamps of the world.

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
19 members attended the meeting on
13.12.2009. Mr. D. H. Rao gave a talk
on preparations of "Maxim cards" in
the concordant method.

STAMP NEWS

DR. RAJ KUMAR

1.11.09 500 0.4Mill

Dr. Raj Kumar was the most versatile stage and cinema artist of Kannada film world.

Born in a remote village Gajanur now in Tamil Nadu, on 24, April 1929 to Shri Singanallur Puttaswamaiah and Smt. Lakshamma, he was named Muthuraj.



Giving up his education at the primary level, young Muthuraj joined the drama troupe of his father from whom he inherited his acting skills. After spending almost 20 years on the stage, he got a break in 1954 to act in the film "Bedara Kannappa" in which he adopted the screen name 'Raj Kumar'. Since then he never looked back. He also sang his own songs in the films.

In a career spanning five decades, he acted in 206 films and became a cultural icon of the state.

The University of Mysore bestowed upon him the honorary degree of "Doctor of Literature". The Kannada University, Hampi honoured him with "Nadija" (Teacher of the land). The Karnataka Government honoured him with "Karnataka Ratna".

The Government of India conferred the Padma Bhushan and he also received the "Dada Saheb Phalke Award" for his significant contribution to Indian cinema.

He passed away on 12 April 2006.

Theme: Fine arts, Actors, Personality, Cinema.

DR. MAHENDRALAL SIRCAR

2.11.09 500 0.4Mill

Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, CIE, MD, DL was not only the greatest homeopath of his time but also a scientist. Born on 2nd November, 1833 at Paikpara Village in Howrah district, near Calcutta. In 1849, he passed the junior scholarship examination and joined Hindu College, where he studied up to 1854. As he was bent upon studying medicine, he was transferred to Calcutta Medical College. He obtained IMS in 1861 and MD degree in 1863.



Mahendralal Sircar turned to homeopathy after reading William Morgans "The Philosophy of Homeopathy", and by Interaction with Rajendralal Dutt, a leading Homeopath Practitioner of Calcutta. In the course of his career, he treated several notable persons including the author Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, the saintly Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the Maharaja of Tripura and others.

Mahendralal Sircar started the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in 1876.

He was a fellow of Calcutta University, and Honorary magistrate and Sheriff of Calcutta (1887), He was made a C.I.E in 1883 and Honoured with a doctor of law degree by Calcutta University in 1898.

Due to malarial fever and bronchial asthma Sircar died on Feb. 23, 1904.

Theme: Personality, Doctors, Health, Medicine, Homeopathy.

APOLLO HOSPITALS

2.11.09 500 0.8Mill

The unfortunate and untimely death of a young patient in 1979 due to the lack of advanced healthcare in India and prohibitive cost overseas triggered a vision. For Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, physician and philanthropist, this was the defining moment which led to the establishment of the Apollo Hospitals Group of which he is the founder Chairman.



Growing from a 150 bed hospital in Chennai in 1983, to Asia's biggest hospital chain, the Apollo Hospitals Group has evolved into a globally respected brand.

The Apollo Hospitals Group comprises 43 hospitals with over 9000 beds, six of which in India are accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI).

Theme: Health, Medicine, Hospitals, Healthcare.

DANMAL MATHUR

7.11.09 500 0.4Mill

Shri Danmal Mathur is remembered as a well known and highly respected luminary of Rajasthan. Multifaceted and diligent, he was born on 14th March 1904 in Ajmer and made a mark for himself as an educationist.

With a Bachelor's degree from Government College, Ajmer, he went to work as Demonstrator in Physics. The Principal of Mayo College in 1932, Mr.V.A.S. Shaw, appointed him to teach Geography in Mayo College. He rose to become Head of the Geography Department and acting Principal before retirement in 1969.



He was the founder principal of Vidya Niketan School in Bhilwara and the Mayo School in Ajmer. For his signal contribution to education the Rajasthan state Govt. Conferred the State Teacher's Award in 1970, and the Mewar Foundation awarded him the Maharana Mewar Award in 1981.

His special contribution besides academics to Mayo is the Museum established by him, now called 'The Danmal Mathur Museum'.

He was a pioneer of the Scouting Movement in Rajasthan and in recognition of his services, he was awarded the 'Silver Elephant.'

Theme: Personality, Education, Scouting.

VIRCHAND RAGHAVJI GANDHI

8.11.09 500 0.4Mill

Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi was born on 25 August 1864 at Mahua in Gujarat. He graduated with honours from the Elphinstone College, Bombay. He qualified to become a Barrister from London.

Besides mastering as many as fourteen languages, he studied Buddhism, Vedanta Philosophy, Christianity and Western Philosophy.



He was appointed as the honorary Secretary of the Jain Association of India at the very young age of 21.

Virchand Raghavji Gandhi was a true patriot. When India was facing a devastating famine in 1897 he was responsible for sending Rs.40,000/- and a shipload of grains to India from U.S.A.

He represented the Jain religion in the parliament of World Religions at Chicago in 1893.

This promising young man died at the young age of 37 on 7 August 1901.

Theme: Personality, Leaders, Jainism, Religion.

HORSES OF INDIA

9.11.09 4 X 500 3.0Mill each

Horses have been a part of the Indian ethos from time immemorial whether in mythology, the legendary horses of the Chariot of the Sun or the ones that carried warriors and kings across the pages of history. The Government of India identifies five breeds of Indian horses:

Marwari:

This breed derives its name from its habitat:

Marwar in Rajasthan. Reared today mainly for riding, sports and light draft and agricultural work, it was initially bred by the rulers of Marwar as a warhorse. It has a long body, a height of 152-160cms generally, a deep chest, slender legs with small well formed hoofs and a long facial profile.

Kathiawari:

Reputed to have sprung from the wild horses of Kathiawar in Gujarat, this breed is often considered the oldest of the indigenous horse breeds. Generally the horse has a height of about 147 CMS with a fine muzzle, large evenly placed eyes, and well shaped arched neck.

Zanskari:

This native Himalayan horse is genetically related to the Spiti breed. Found in the Leh and Ladakh area of J a m m u a n d Kashmir, this horse is predominantly grey in colour. Low set with heights ranging from 120-140cms, their characteristic features are prominent eyes, long and heavy tails and uniform gait.



Manipur:

This breed, developed in India, is reportedly derived from ancient stock drawn from the Mongolian Wild Horse and were probably brought to India by Tartar tribes.

Theme: Horses, Animals, Flora & Fauna.

RAJABHAU KHOBRAGADE

11.11.09 500 0.4Mill

Baburao Khobragade, affectionately called Rajabhau, was born on 25.09.1925 in Chandrapur, Maharashtra

Rajabhau Khobragade had his early education in Jubilee High School, Chandrapur. On the advice of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar, he went to London to study Law at the Lincoln Ccllege in 1950.

Rajabhau had great organizational and team building capabilities. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, entrusted the election campaign and the campaign for conversion to Buddhism to Rajabhau. After the death of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Rajabhau Khobragade was instrumental in forming the Republican Party of India.

At the age of 33, in 1958, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha and again for second time in December 1966. He had the honour of being the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha form December 1961 to April 1972.

He started a weekly newspaper, Prajasatta, using it as a vehicle to put across his views.

Rajabhau Khobragade was a revolutionary leader who worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the poor till he died on 19.04.1984.



Theme: Personality, Politician, Social worker, Parliament.

60 YEARS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

13.11.09 500 0.8Mill

In April 1949, Heads of State from Australia, Britain, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs met and deliberated in London which resulted in the London Declaration of 26 April 1949 heralding the beginning of the modern Commonwealth.

In the 60 years, the Commonwealth has grown from 8 Members in 1949 to become a unique association of 53 independent states. The creation of the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1965 and the ever expanding number of professional and advocacy Commonwealth organisations reflects growing relevance and strength of the Commonwealth.



The 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth is being celebrated by the Government of India in several ways.

Theme: Commonwealth, People, Anniversary

CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.09 2 X 500 0.4mill each

The Children's Day Special Postage Stamp marks the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on 14th November,

This year's set of two stamps carry the tiger and the deer in their natural habitat sending out an urgent message for prioritizing the protection of endangered species. The first day cover is a Montage of paintings. One shows a child resting from labour demanded of him, far beyond his strength and age placed between two nurturing hands which carry his dreams: the company of other children and an education that empowers him.



Another painting shows children's concern for the elderly and for the physically challenged. It highlights the fact that what senior citizens need is not charity but love and compassion. In yet another picture a child's observant eye and heart goes out to the environment which we do not hesitate to pollute.

Theme: Children, Paintings, Animals, Children's day

THE SILENT VALLEY

15.11.09 500 3.0 mill

The Silent Valley, situated in South Western Ghats, is one among the world's ten "Hottest Biodiversity Spots" and is believed to be the sole surviving bit of virgin tropical rain forests in this country. Located about 80 km north east of Palakkad, Kerala, the 8952 sq km forest was declared a National Park on 14th November 1984.



The flora of the Valley includes about 1000 species of flowering plants, 107 species of orchids, 100 species of ferns, 200 liverworts, 75 lichens and about 200 legae.

The rich and virgin forest underwent a tumultuous phase in its history during 1977 - 80 when the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project (SVHP) was proposed. The struggle that followed to preserve the forest was perhaps one of the most successful stories of protection of the environment. It became an irrepressible people's movement which resulted in saving the Silent Valley

Theme : Nature, Environment, Ecology, Rain Forests.

INDIA - PHILIPPINES: JOINT ISSUE

16.11.09 500,2000 1.5 mill each

India and Philippines established formal diplomatic relations on November 16, 1946 following the independence of the Philippines in 1946 and of India in 1947 and have since maintained good and cordial relations.

Marine mammals, because of their intelligence, visibility and frequent interactions with humans, hold a special place in people's mind. The biggest threat to them is their accidental capture or entanglement in fishing gear and destruction of their natural habitat.



Butanding :

Phillipines located in Southeast Asia, its 7,107 islands straddle the Coral Triangle, making them one of the top marine biodiversity hotspots in the world.

The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), known as Butanding, is among the best loved marine animals that visit Philippine waters. The Butanding can measure up to 20 meters in length and weigh more than 30 tons, i.e. the largest living fish species.

Gangetic Dolphin :

The Gangetic river dolphin occurs only in the fresh water rivers of India and Bangladesh. Today it is a highly threatened species.

The Ganges River dolphin weighs up to 90 kg and measures 1.5 - 2.5 meters in length. It eats a variety of fish and invertebrates.

Theme : Mammals, Water, Joint issues, Friendship, whales.

GANPATRAO GOVINDRAO JADHAV

18.11.09 500 0.3 mill

Dr.Ganpatrao Govindrao Jadhav was born on 04.05.1908 in Gaganbavada in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

He had his primary education in Kolhapur and Gaganbavada but could not continue due to poverty. However, he kept on reading various kinds of books and newspapers which laid the foundation for his great journalistic career.



In the inspiring company of member of the Bombay Legislature Council, Mr. Bhaskararao Jadhav, Mr.Keshavarao Jadhav and Dinkarrao Javalkar, G.G.Jadhav launched the newspaper "Kaiwari", thus initiating his career as a journalist.

He was famous for the publication of the newspaper "Pudhari", launched on 13th May 1937.

As a social reformer, he followed the footsteps of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and joined the Satyashodhak movement. He was the founder member of the District Agriculturist Co - operative Society, Tararani Vidyapeeth, Mouni Vidyapeeth, etc. Dr. G.G. Jadhav was felicitated with "Kakasaheb Limye Award", by the President of India on 26th January, 1984. He was honoured with D.Litt. by Shivaji University, Kolhapur, in 1986.

Dr. G.G. Jadhav passed away on 20th May, 1987.

Theme : Personality, Social Reformer, Freedom fighter, Journalism

TAMIL NADU POLICE

30.11.09 500 0.4Mill

The Tamil Nadu Police, established in 1859, had completed 150years of dedicated service. The Force is headed by a Director General. The Tamil Nadu Police has 236 IPS cadre officers and an executive strength of 1,30,098 officers and men and 5309 ministerial staff.

There are separate wings like recruitment, training and other important divisions of work viz. Law and Order, Crime, Traffic, Police Housing Corporation, Special Branch, Intelligence, Civil Supplies, Economic Offenders Wing, Social Justice Wing, Coastal Security Group, Special Task Force, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, State Traffic Planning Cell and Home Guards etc.



Tamil Nadu Police were the first to establish a dedicated Microwave Network across the State in 1979. Introducing wireless radio (Malabar Police, 1923), police dog squads (1951), Fax, pioneering the computerization of crime records (1971), introducing Women Commando Force (2001) and the first Women Battalion in the country (2004) as part of the Special Police are just some of its milestones.

Theme: Police, Security, Uniforms, Tamil Nadu.

GREETINGS

1.12.09 4 x 500 0.8 mill

Indian folk art which includes wall painting as well as floor painting goes back to 5000 years. Kolam, Rangoli etc. are examples of floor art.

The term Rangoli is derived from Rang (colour) + avalli (coloured creepers) or Ran + gaavalli (row of colours). Although Rangoli originated in Maharashtra, it is practiced everywhere in India today.

Rangoli was done in small patterns of 2'x2' earlier, but now entire floor areas are covered in intricate detailed designs. However, today synthetic dyes are used in a range of bright colours. The materials used for Rangoli create either a flat appearance, when coloured powder such as rice, brick, chilly, turmeric, etc. is used or a 3-D effect, when coriander seeds, cereals, pulses, etc. either in their natural colouring or tinted with natural dyes are used.

Kolam, which is predominantly used in South India - Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh - consists of patterns which are symmetrical and geometric in shape, drawn with continuous lines that may be straight or rounded on the edges. They are generally drawn with dry rice powder or with rice paste whose white colour provides

this centre. Ancient southern texts date the rich silks to the 2nd century, though many attribute the origin of the craft to the migration of weavers at different periods. The silk is compact, thick and richly textured due to the use of twisted three ply yarn. The use of colour and the luster of the silk give Kanchipuram Silks their identity.

Varanasi Brocades :

Varanasi's fame, apart from its temples, musicians etc. rests on the brocades and the versatile Varanasi draw loom. It is a complex hand loom for weaving figured textiles of great complexity and width. Designs or "naqshas" form the basis of the pattern woven. In brocade weaving, extra weft threads of different coloured silk or zari, metallic threads, are woven into the base fabric in areas where they are to form a pattern.



Kalamkari :

The term means pen work and denotes the painted and printed textiles of Andhra Pradesh. They belong to two distinct schools: the Masulipatnam ones patronized by Muslim rulers and the Sri Kalahasti ones by Hindu temples. The pen was often replaced by blocks for the repetitive patterns at Masulipatnam while Kalahasti continues to use the 'kalam' as the main tool.

Them : Textiles, Art, Indian Culture, Traditions of India.

HENRY LOUIS VIVIAN DEROZIO

15.12.09 500 0.4 mill

Nineteenth - Century Bengal Renaissance was ignited by a man whose radicalism and free - thinking challenged the obscurantist and superstitious orthodoxy of the time - Henry Louis Vivian Derozio. He was born on 10th April 1809.

His radical style of teaching at Hindu College, Kolkata (the present Presidency College) questioned all issues - from colonialism to women's education to social customs. The Governing Body of the College, reacted expelling Derozio on charges of attempting to turn young people into atheists.

Despite the expulsion, Derozio's influence continued unabated.

Equally intense was his poetry, which he started composing at a very early age, and contributing to the "India Gazette" magazine under the pseudonym Juvenis. He went on to become the Assistant Editor of the India Gazette in Kolkata and published a volume of poems at the young age of 18.



The legacy of Henry Derozio needs to be resurrected, not only as a poet but as a national figure who was the first among great Luminaries of the 19th century to awaken national consciousness. Derozio breathed his last in December 1831. Theme: Poet, Reformer, Bengal

LAL PRATAP SINGH

17.12.09 500 0.4 mill

The Visen Rajputs were the Talukdars of Kalakankar of which Rampur was the capital for the state known as Rampur-Dharupur. This branch of the family descended from Roop Mull, Younger brother to a ruler of Majhauri in today's gorakhpur District. The branch moved to Manikpur near Allahabad till it was finally established in Kalakankar.



Among the bravest of such warriors was Lal pratap Singh, the eldest son of Raja Hanumant Singh.

During the turbulent period of 1857, Raja Hanumant singh was the Talukdar of Kalakankar.

At the behest of the Begum, Hanumant Singh raised a battalion of 1000 soldiers under the command of his eldest son, Lal Pratap Singh. This battalion, rose to action in February 1858 when the English under Colin Campbell attempted to recapture Lucknow.

On 19th February 1858, as the 'Pratap Jang' contingent sat down to breakfast, the army of the East India Company attacked them.

Lal Pratap Singh was advised to withdraw but the brave young warrior led his troop into the final battle, of which the result was inevitable.

Theme: Freedom Struggle, First war of Independence.

PRESERVE THE POLAR REGIONS AND GLACIERS

19.12.09 500, 500 3.0 mill each

Earth's Polar Regions, also known as Frigid Zones, at the North Pole and South Pole, are dominated by Polar ice caps, resting respectively on the Arctic Ocean and the continent of Antarctica.

Decline in ice and snow in both the Polar regions is affecting the local plant and animal life in the Arctic. Climate change affects various factors of the habitat of animals and put their population at risk.

The Emperor penguins, the world's largest penguins could be pushed to the brink of extinction by the end of this century due to the melting of Antarctic Sea ice caused by global climate change. Similarly Polar bears in the Arctic, the largest bear species, also rely heavily on sea ice.



It is essential that the delicate balance of ecology be understood and maintained with a sense of commitment and responsibility.

Theme: Polar Animals, Penguins, Bears, climate change, Global warming.

INDIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

27.12.09 500 0.4Mill

The Indian Mathematical Society (IMS) is the oldest scientific society in India founded on 4th April 1907 by Shri V. Ramaswamy Aiyar, the Deputy Collector in the services of the then Madras Province with twenty members with its Headquarters at Pune. The society was then known as 'Analytic Club'.

The Object of the Society is the promotion of Mathematical Study and Research in the country. The discovery of Srinivasa Ramanujan, the greatest mathematical genius of modern India was to the credit of the society.

The Library of the Society was started in 1907 at Fergusson College at Pune which has been shifted to Chennai in 1950 and is now housed in the campus of the Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics, University of Madras, Chennai.



It is significant that the 1911 volume of JIMS contains the earliest contributions of Srinivasa Ramanujan. In fact a fifteen page paper entitled "Some properties of Bernoulli Numbers" contributed by Ramanujan also appeared in the same 1911 Volume of the Journal.

Theme: Mathematics, Societies,

VENKATARAMANA BHAGAVATHAR

27.12.09 500 0.3 mill

Venkataramana Bhagavathar was born on 18 February 1781 as the fifth son of Kuppiah Nannusamy Bhagavathar at Ayyampet in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu. He was one of the most illustrious disciples of Saint Thiagaraja of Tiruvaiyaru,

Saint Thiagaraja, two months prior to his death called Venkataramana Bhagavathar and entrusted to him

the idol of Sri Ram which he worshiped, the bundles of palm leaves containing his Kritis (Compositions) and other articles.

Van kat a ra ma na Bhagavathar had also written hundreds of kritis on palm leaves. He wrote Dhyana Sloka, Adiguru Stotra Panchakam, and Thiagaraja Mangalashtakam. He also wrote "Sri Thiagarajashtakam" which is being rendered at the end of all concerts during the Thiagaraja Music Festivals.



Venkataramana Bhagavathar's Kritis espouse Bhakthi, Rama Nama Prabhava and Vedantic philosophy.

Venkataramana Bhagvathar passed away on Tuesday, the 15th December, 1874 at the age of 93.

Theme : Music, Musicians, Musical Instruments, Tamilnadu.

MAHARAJA SURAJMAL

29.12.09 500 0.3 Moill

Mahharaja Surajmal was born on 13th February 1707. He was the son of Maharaja Badan Singh and his wife Rani Devaki.

He established an independent Bharatpur state and built historical temples and buildings in Bharatpur, Deeg, Kumbher, Vair and near Delhi. Maharaja Surajmal earned a name for bravery in his youth by winning the Chandors (Aligarh) "Kaul" battle killing Asad Khan in 1747. He helped Ishwari Singh in the historical battle of Bagru (Jaipur) on 20th August 1748 where, by defeating the joint army of seven Rahas, he put Ishwari Singh on the throne of Jaipur. On 1st January 1750, he defeated Mir Bakshi and his army forcing to flee from Faridabad and Ballabgarh.



He won "Ghasera" battle in 1753, defeated Nawab Gajraudding on 10th May 1753. On 18th May 1754 in JatMaratha battle, the Maratha siege of 'Kumher' lasted for four months and Maharaja Surajmal got victory by killing Khanderao, the son of Indore's Holker.

On 12th June 1761, he won Agra and Farruk Nagar in 1763 by defeating Baluchs.

After a lifetime spent in several battlefields where his valour became. legendary, Maharaja Surajmal sacrificed his life on 25th December 1763 in Shahadra(Dekgu). Theme: Rulers, Kings & Queens.

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SHOULD COLLECTORS DEMAND "SUPREME" CONDITION?

Rustomjee F. Shroff

The often debated question which has forged to the front and promises considerable future controversy comes from the urge of few philatelists that only superb or so-called "supreme" specimens should be collected. Superb is interpreted to mean fine color, clean-cut engraving, mathematically precise centering, 100 per cent preservation of perforations or wide margins, absence of thin spots, unblemished original gum and new or light cancellations on used specimens.

To aim at these ideals is admirable. Unquestionably a collection kept with such standards is susceptible to impressive appearance and in the event of forced or other sale, should yield a high return on original investment. If a collector has the funds and the disposition to accumulate his specimens in this most expensive form, if he buys with keep acumen for ultimate sales at a profit, he of course, has the right to do so and his activity is a callable asset to the hobby in general. However, in the writer's humble estimation, when such collectors should follow the same procedure, he is not working in the best interest of philately.

Money making not the Goal...

Unfortunately the idea of accumulating only perfect specimens can be sustained only at an enormous expense that is way beyond the means of the average collector. Possibly from the standpoint of ultimate sale at a profit, the collector of "Supreme" specimens may be right, but in making this statement the word possibly is purposely emphasized. If a stamp of impaired quality is bought for what it is, and acquired at a consistent price, the investment, from the money making standpoint, should be just as good. In other words, if an off-centre stamp is bought at an off-centre price, the financial position of the buyer, save for the exact amount involved, is the same as though he had bought a perfect copy at perfection price. But aside from all this, money making from his stamps was never the goal of the true philatelist,

One of the grandest features of the hobby and one which is most responsible for its ever increasing popularity is its often cited appeal to people in every status from the king to the office boy. That appeal comes largely from the fact that the vast majority of collectors, those with small and moderate income, can derive as much pleasure from their stamps as can those who feel that a high cost is essential to appreciation of their specimens. To discourage the beginner and the financially handicapped by telling them that heavier expenditure is essential to stamp achievements, throttles the progress of the whole hobby by checking many would-be devotees almost before they get started.

The beginner who has not special objective usually seeks all the varieties of stamps he can get, regardless of quality, but the more stamps he gets and the farther he goes, the more particular do his requirements become. To convert him into a real philatelist deserves all the

encouragement that can be given.

Seebecks have done good work

Probably those of today who preach that only superfine high priced specimens are worthy of accumulation would have only scorn for the old See back issues and practices. Yet in the light of experience since their appearance, many of the older and more advanced collectors have come to regard Seebecks as having done good work. Certainly their excellent designs, bright colours, general attractiveness to the novice, and their low cost did add to the enthusiasm of young collectors, and tide many beginners over the critical stage, after which efforts were devoted to more worthy accumulations.

According to those who insist upon perfection, the boy who once sold the rare British Guiana stamp for six shillings because it was the worst-looking specimen in his collection, did the right thing. Few will agree. Personally I prefer a specimen that is typical and faithful rather than perfect, and this even to the extent of having a heavy cancellation in those instances where heavy cancellations are known to have been the prevailing practice.

The collector who demands perfection limits his field, particularly with reference to completeness. There are many stamp issues in which every essential thing for perfection never existed, and this is particularly true in reference to mathematical preoccupation of centering within the perforations. Then there are those limited old issues of which the few copies that have survived almost invariably have some other fault, probably because at the time of their appearance, perfection did not involve the restrictions that it does today. Any stamp dealer will confirm that in spite of his best efforts to secure perfect stock specimens of even recent issues, he suffers many disappointments and often cannot get at any price the degree of perfection which he would like to sell.

As a fair example of the collector's problem, the government stamped envelopes known as the Prussian octagons with silk threads woven into the paper (1852) are conceded to be by far the most desirable single group of "entires" issued by any of the old German states. The set consists of four values, each in two sizes of envelope, so that collecting both used and unused involves sixteen pieces. The 1 ct in best condition catalogs at over \$3,600.00, with the best at \$800.00 and the cheapest at \$80.00 Ferrary had them all. Fifteen of his were in the superb or "supreme" class, but the sixteenth, the 6 s.g yellow, green, larger size envelope cataloging at \$200.00 and shown in the illustration, had a false back, an adhesive stamp skillfully removed from the front, and a patch and partially faked writing across the top front as shown. Money was no object to Ferrary, so it is logical to assume that he accepted this tough looking specimen, solely because no other of this particular face value and envelope size was obtainable. If you were collecting these items, would you have left an unfilled gap, possibly permanent, because the poor specimen was not good enough? The writer of this discussion did not, and is glad to own this faulty specimen now, notwithstanding all the shortcomings.

(contd. Page 11)

INDIA POST - STAMPS 2009

Sl. No	Name of the Stamp	Date of Release	Denomn RS.	Remarks
1.	LOUIS BRAILLE	04.01.2009	5	
2.	VAIKOM MD BASHEER	21.02.2009	5	
3.	ST. PAULS CHURCH	25.01.2009	5	
4.	H M P BY INTACH	28.01.2009	5,5,5,5,	MINIATURE
5.	BISHBY PARSAD RABHA	31.01.2009	5	
6.	SAIL INDIA	03.02.2009	5	
7.	NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY	05.02.2009	5	
8.	MAHA KAVI MAGH	09.02.2009	5	
9.	S S JAGNADE MAHARAJ	09.02.2009	5	
10.	POASTAL LIFE INSURANCE	11.02.2009	5	
11.	JAIN ACHARYA V SURI	21.02.2009	5	
12.	HARAKH CHAND NAHATA	28.02.2009	5	
13.	MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA	01.03.2009	5	
14.	PTEROSPERMUM ACERIFOLIUM	06.03.2009	5	
15.	BABURAO PULESHWAR SHEDMAKE	12.03.2009	5	
16.	DR. KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA	13.03.2009	5	
17.	SPICES OF INDIA	29.04.2009	5,5,20,5,5	MINIATURE
18.	R. SANKAR	30.04.2009	5	
19.	LIFELINE EXPRESS	12.05.2009	5	
20.	THE MADRAS REGIMENT	28.05.2009	5	
21.	REV. J.J. NICHOLS ROY	12.06.2009	5	
22.	SACRED HEART CHURCH	19.06.2009	5	
23.	RAMPUR RAZA LIBRARY	19.06.2009	5,5,5,5	MINIATURE
24.	INDIAN OIL	30.06.2009	5	
25.	LAL BAGADUR NATL. ACADEMY	04.07.2009	5	
26.	RAMCHARAN AGARWAL	25.07.2009	5	
27.	JAYADEVA AND GEETAGOVINDA	27.07.2009	5x11	MINIATURE
28.	St JOSEPH COLLEGE	01.08.2009	5	
29.	MAHARISHI PATANJALI	04.08.2009	5	
30.	PINGALI VENKAIAH	12.08.2009	5	
31.	HERITAGE RAILWAY STATIONS OF INDIA	16.08.2009	5,5,5,5	MINIATURE
32.	UTTAM KUMAR	03.09.2009	5	
33.	SACRED HEART M.H.S.S., CHENNAI	09.09.2009	5	
34.	HOLY CROSS CHURCH	14.09.2009	5	
35.	DHUSHYANT KUMAR	27.09.2009	5	
36.	RARE FAUNA OF THE NORTH EAST	01.10.2009	5,5,5	MINIATURE
37.	BISHOP COTTON SCHOOL, SHIMLA	06.10.2009	5	
38.	R.K. NARAYAN	10.10.2009	5	
39.	DINESH NANDINI DALMIA	11.10.2009	5	
40.	INDIA POST FREIGHTER	12.10.2009	5	
41.	HERITAGE JAIN TEMPLES	14.10.2009	5,5	MINIATURE
42.	MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH	21.10.2009	5	
43.	MAJOR GENERAL DEWAN MISRI CHAND	22.10.2009	5	
44.	LITTLE SISTERS OF POOR	29.10.2009	20,5	
45.	DR. RAJ KUMAR	01.11.2009	5	
46.	DR. MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR	02.11.2009	5	

.86	LAMARUS AJARAHAM	9002 21 92	5	
.76	RAHTAVAGAHB ANAMARATAKNEV	9002 21 72	5	
.66	YTB COSLAGTAMEHTAMNADN	9002 21 72	5	
.56	SNQ GER RAL OP EHT EVRESERP	9002 21 91	5 5	ERUTAN M
.46	HGN S PATARPLAL	9002 21 71	5	
.36	QZOREDNAVVSUOLYRNEH	9002 21 51	5	
.26	SEUTXETNADNLANQTDART	9002 21 01	5 5 5	ERUTAN M
.16	ESROHSRENDRAQ SRECNAL ^{DN} 2	9002 21 20	5	
.06	YRAMDNA SUSEJ FOTNEVNOQ	9002 21 20	5	
.95	SNTTEERG	9002 21 10	5 5 5	ERUTAN M
.85	EGL OP UDANU MAT	9002 11 03	5	
.75	VAHDAL GARDN VOG OARTAPNAG	9002 11 81	5	
.65	EUSS TN Q SEN PRU HP-ADN	9002 11 61	02 5	ERUTAN M
.55	YELLAVTNEUS	9002 11 51	5	ERUTAN M
.45	YAD S NERDU HO	9002 11 41	5 5	ERUTAN M
.35	HTLAEWNOMOC EHT FQ SRY 06	9002 11 31	5	
.25	AMAD RAKNAHSI RWOG	9002 11 21	5	
.15	EDAGARBOKH VAHBAJAR	9002 11 11	5	
.05	ADN FOSERROHSUONEQDN	9002 11 90	5	
.94	IDNAGI VVAHGARDNAHGRV	9002 11 80	5	
.84	RUH TAMLA MNAD	9002 11 70	5	
.74	SLAT PSH QLL OPA	9002 11 20	5	

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(Contd from Page 9)

A page of King George's valuable Mauritius stamps was portrayed in a London Philatelic exhibition in 1913. If one might judge from the picture, only two of about twenty stamps mounted on that page approached perfection. According to those who insist that stamps should be collected only in superb condition, the others should not have been there.

In conclusion, I am for perfection when you can get it, sacrifice perfection when you have to take it, and above all, for completeness rather than the restriction that necessarily excludes highly important items.
(courtesy - Tanapex, 1973).

* * * *

'BHANGY' POST

The Parcel post in India has its origin in the "Bhangy Post", a name derived from the Bamboo stick or Bhangy which an 'Indian carrier balances on his shoulder with the weights slung at each end.

The Bhangy Post was first used solely for the conveyance of official records and articles sent on Government service and the limit was 600 tolas (15 lbs).

In 1854 a regular Bhangy Post was established and opened to the public. The rates varied with weight and distance according to the scale laid down in the Post Office act of 1854.

* * * * *

SKY IN OUR LIMIT PARSI AMARCHAND

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