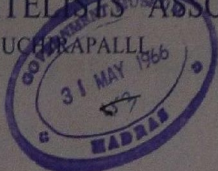


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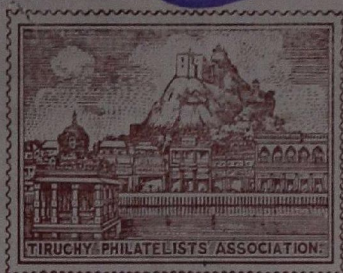
TIRUCHI PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

TIRUCHIRAPALLI



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FIFTH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

1966



148

SOUVENIR

P 14

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Vice President of India

NEW DELHI.

I send my best wishes for the success of the "Fifth National Stamp Exhibition 1966" organized by Tiruchi Philatelists' Association, Tiruchy on 12th January, 1966.

Yours sincerely,

Zakir Hussain.

Governor of Mysore

RAJ BHAVAN,
BANGALORE.

I am glad that the Philatelists' Association of Tiruchi is holding an Exhibition. Philately is a hobby relatively new in our country though there have been a few who have taken to it even in the earlier times. Such Exhibitions as the one you have organised will graphically portray the development of all nations, and the people can get an idea of the various countries, their monuments, their flora and fauna etc.

My best wishes for the success of your Exhibition.

Yours faithfully,
U. U. Giri

* * * *

Governor of Maharashtra

RAJ BHAVAN,
BOMBAY.

I am glad to hear that the Tiruchi Philatelists' Association is holding the Fifth National Stamp Exhibition 1966 from the 12th January. I have been a collector of stamps myself in my high school days and I know how valuable it is for increasing one's general knowledge about other countries. I congratulate the Association on holding this exhibition and I am sure it will be a great success. I send the Association my blessings.

P. U. Cherian.

American Philatelic Society

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

George A. Blizil
5208 Jackson Street,
Hollywood, FLA. 33021.

We the American Philatelic Society, would like to support this effort in the name of philatelist goodwill and friendship, and offer our famed AWARD OF DISTINCTION as a special prize for the event.

We are very much pleased to know the Tiruchi Philatelists' Association will be using our AWARD OF DISTINCTION as a special prize at your coming exhibition January 12-15.

I wish to re-echo the purpose of our Good-Will gesture. Through the medium of our Award we wish to reaffirm our friendship with collectors everywhere. It is offered in the name of philatelic good-will and friendship between the collectors of the T. P. A. and all the philatelists in America.

The officers of your Association will be pleased, I am sure, to see the merits and beauty of our Award when it is received. It is the same Award that was presented at PRAGA, WIPA, STAMPEX (London), etc. etc.

We are pleased to co-operate. On behalf of the 15,000 members of our Society I wish to extend every good wish to you gentlemen, for a successful stamp exhibition.

Sincerely,

George A. Blizil.

* * * *

VICE-CHANCELLOR, ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY.

"The Grove"
Madras-18.

I am glad to learn that the Tiruchi Philatelists' Association is holding a Stamp Exhibition from the 12th to the 15th January 1966.

I wish the exhibition all success.

C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

* * * *

DEPUTY MINISTER, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

5, Safdarjung Road,
New Delhi.

*I wish your Exhibition in advance all success.
With my regards.*

Yours Sincerely,
C. R. Pattabiraman.

Synopsis of the meetings held during the year 1965.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Subject</i>	
24—1—65	Corner Building, Thillainagar.	Election of office bearers for 1965.	
7—2—65	RTC Building, Teppakulam.	'What is Philately' Talk in Tamil	Mr. V. V. S. Mani.
10—3—65	Productivity Council Hall, Contonement.	Film show	Courtesy USIS, Madras.
28—3—65	Corner Building, Thillainagar.	Impressions of Napex Exhibition at Bombay.	Mr. V. N. Srinivasa Rao, Madras.
11—4—65	Corner Building, Thillainagar.	'Philatelic Assessories and their usage'	Mr. M. V. Ramamoorthi.
9—5—65	RTC Building, Teppakulam.	Discussion on philately and exchange.	
6—6—65	"	"	
4—7—65	"	'India & her neighbours'	Mr. E. G. Baggiaraj.
1—8—65	"	'Stamps of India'	Mr. S. Rangaswami.
5—9—65	"	Inter Club visit by Madurai Stamp Club members and Display of 'Space' stamps.	Mr. Paul Sunder Singh.
3—10—65	"	Discussion on club matters.	
7—11—65	"	'First Day Covers of U. S. A.'	Mr. S. J. L. Appadorai.
5—12—65	E. R. High School, Teppakulam.	Discussion of the 1966 exhibition.	
26—12—65	RTC Building, Teppakulam.	Discussions of the arrangements for the forthcoming exhibition.	Extraordinary meeting.

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Panel of Judges :

CHAIRMAN : DR. JOSEPH GNANADICKAM

MEMBERS : MR. DHIRU BHAI MEHTA, Bombay.

MR. V. SRINIVASAN, Bangalore.

MR. V. N. SRINIVASA RAO, Madras.

FIFTH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION - 1966, TIRUCHIRAPALLI.



COMPETITION :-

DETAILED LIST OF EXHIBITS

Class I - Early India, Lithographs, Pre-stamps, Indian Convention & feudatory states, Essays & Proofs etc.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Fr. G. V. I. Sama, Tirunelveli. | Indian Lithographs. |
| 2. Sri. T. A. Natarajan, Tiruchy. | Early Indian Cancellations. |
| 3. Sri. V. V. S. Mani, Tiruchy. | India - Pre-independence. |
| 4. Smt. B. S. Joseph, Tiruchy. | India-Convention & feudatory states. |

Class Ia - Post Independent India, First Day Covers, General collections etc.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Sri. S. Paul Sundar Singh, Madurai. | India after Independence. |
| 2. Sri. Mohan Radha Kishen, Hyderabad. | India from 1947 to 1964. |

Class II - British Commonwealth countries.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sri. M. V. Ramamoorthi, Tiruchy. | Stamps of K. G. VI & Q. E. II. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Class III - Foreign Countries

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Sri. N. A. Polishwalla, Bombay. | Israel. |
| 2. Sri. G. Balakrishna Das, Madras. | French India. |
| 3. Sri. T. A. Natarajan, Tiruchy. | Burma. |
| 4. Sri. V. V. S. Mani, Tiruchy. | Switzerland. |
| 5. Sri. Ashok K. Kora, Bombay. | Bhutan. |
| 6. Sri. P. Suryanarayanan, Tiruchy. | Netherlands. |
| 7. Sri. A. S. Venkatesan Chetty, Pondicherry. | Laos. |
| 8. Sri. N. Jayarama Iyer, Sithalavai. | Iraq. |
| 9. Sri. S. M. Sockalinga Mudaliar, Tirumarugal. | Hungary. |
| 10. Sri. P. A. M. Md. Farook, Koothanallur. | U. S. A. |

Class IV - Thematics :-

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Sri. D. R. Mistry, Bombay. | Birds on Stamps. |
| 2. Sri. K. D. Dinshah, Bombay. | Forestry & Timber industry. |
| 3. Smt. Subbalakshmi Subramaniam, Bombay. | Sports on stamps. |
| 4. Dr. N. Money, Madras. | Discovery of the source of the Nile. |

5. Sri. T. A. Natarajan, Tiruchy.
6. Sri. S. Paul Sundar Singh, Madurai.
7. Sri. Ifikar Anwar, Hyderabad.
8. Sri. V. A. Gnanaprakasam, Madras.
9. Sri. P. D. Taraporewalla, Bombay.
10. Sri. M. V. Ramamoorthi, Tiruchy.
11. Sri. E. G. Baggiaaraj, Tiruchy.
12. Sri. V. V. S. Mani, Tiruchy.
13. Sri. C. V. Subramaniam, Bombay.
14. Sri. S. P. E. S. Md. Abu Baker.
15. Sri. A. M. Stephens, Tiruchy.

Origin & growth of Olympic Games.

Space on stamps.

Birds on stamps.

Butterflies & Flowers.

Freedom from Hunger & Kennedy.

Bridges on stamps.

History on stamps of India.

Philatelic Glossary.

Men & Women who made India.

Great Sons & Daughters of India.

Olympic Games.

Class V - Juniors :-On any subject.

1. Kumari. R. Prema Kumari, Erode.
2. Master. R. Srinivasan, Tiruchy.
3. Sri. S. N. Polishwalla, Bombay.
4. Sri. B. Selvaraj, Madurai.
5. Sri. K. Mahadevan, Tiruchy.
6. Sri. A. Shaik Mahammad, Tiruchy.
7. Sri. V. S. Madhavan, Tiruchy.
8. Sri. S. Gopinathan, Tiruchy.
9. Sri. N. S. Mani, Tiruchy.
10. Sri. S. Arumugam, Tiruchy.
11. Sri. P. Amiruddin Sheriff, Tiruchy.
12. Sri. S. Javed Pasha, Tiruchy.
13. Sri. S. J. L. Appadurai, Tiruchy.
14. Sri. R. C. Krishnan, Tiruchy.
15. Sri. S. Ganesan, Tiruchy.
16. Sri. G. Manohar, Madras.
17. Sri. G. Ramdoss, Madras.
18. Sri. Dilip Kumar, Madras.

Ghana & Malayasia,

Aviation on stamps.

India Mint & used since 1955.

Sports.

Flags on stamps.

Head Gear on stamps.

Fruits & vegetables on stamps

Animals, Birds, flowers etc.

Flowers on stamps.

Coins on stamps.

Stamps on stamps.

Churchill & Victory,

Abraham Lincoln.

New Zealand.

Thematics on Stamps.

Air Craft, Old & New.

Red Cross on Stamps.

Animals, Birds, Fish etc.

OUT OF COMPETITION :-

LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. Sri. V. N. Srinivasa Rao, Madras.
2. Sri. V. N. Krishna Rao, Madras.
3. Major. V. S. Rajagopalan, Madras.

Progress of Man on Stamps
Costumes on Stamps.

Freedom from Hunger.

National Parks of U. S. A.

Champion of Liberty.

Credo Series of U. S. A.

4. Sri. V. Srinivasan, Bangalore.
5. Sri. M. C. Chandriah, Bangalore.
6. Sri. V. Suryanarayanan, Bangalore.
7. Sri. Ashok Kumar, Bangalore.
8. Sri. Mangal Doss, Madras.

Defective Postal Stationery.
 Philately in India.
 U. P. U. Covers.
 Presidents of U. S. A.
 Stamps honouring other Nations.
 Nehru Theme.
 Freedom from Hunger.
 Flight Covers.

JUNIOR EXHIBITS

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Master. | Nagabhushanam, Bangalore. | Stamp Stadium. |
| 2. „ | R. Seshadri, Bangalore. | Flowers on Stamps. |
| 3. „ | S. Ashok, Bangalore. | Stamp Aquarium. |
| 4. „ | R. Gopalakrishnan, Bangalore. | Philatelic Zoo. |
| 5. „ | Nagabhooshan, Bangalore. | My pets on Stamps. |
| 6. „ | R. Seshadri, Bangalore. | Snakes, animals & insects. |
| 7. Miss. | Amrit Prabha, Bangalore. | My stamps on birds. |
| | | Post Independent India. |
| | | Butterflies on stamps. |

OTHER EXHIBITS

1. The Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department, Government of India.
2. The Consulate of United Arab Republic.
3. „ Poland.
4. „ Hungary.
5. „ Austria.
6. „ Israel.
7. „ Grand Duchy of Luxemburg
8. „ Belgium.
9. „ Netherlands.
10. „ Thailand.
11. „ Federal Republic of Germany.
12. The High Commission of Canada.
13. „ New Zealand.
14. „ Great Britain.
15. „ Ghana.
16. „ Malayasia.
17. The Consulate of United States of America.



About Ourselves

The Tiruchy Philatelists' Association is perhaps the earliest organisation in South India for promoting philately. It was started in the year 1946, with a small but enthusiastic band of 6 members. While in big cities it was possible to start and run a philatelic association because of the facilities there especially for exchange; in a small town like Tiruchy those facilities rather limited, the running of such an organisation successfully was not an easy affair.

The activities of our Association were therefore mainly confined to the development of philatelic knowledge among the members and secondly to popularising this fascinating hobby among the public. We were very particular to impress on the student community the educative value of philately.

For the first object, we were arranging for periodical talks on philatelic matters. Besides our members, others who addressed us include Rev. Fr. Sama S. J., Mrs. Pope of Nellikuppam, Mr. Paul Sundersingh of Madurai, Dr. De Mello of W. H. O., Mr. Srinivasa Rao, President of the Madras Association. Mr. Madan Mohan Das, etc. etc. General Cariappa, the late Hon'ble Dr. U. Krishna Rao, and Mr. Tucker of USIS, Madras, have also honoured us with their visit and have addressed our meetings.

There were also stamp displays and film shows of philatelic interest. We subscribed for some of the leading philatelic journals which were circulated among the members. The latest catalogues were kept at the meetings for reference. As an additional incentive, we gave free to every member the First Day Covers of the lower values issued in India.

To create interest in the public in stamp collection, the best way was to arrange for exhibitions of stamps. A maiden attempt was made on a small scale in a Municipal Exhibition. It was followed by other Exhibitions on a model that would appeal both to public and students in co-operation with the Rotary Clubs of Tiruchirapalli and Tuticorin - three in Tiruchy and one in Tuticorin, on their Programme in International understanding.

Our members have participated in the International Stamp Exhibition in New Delhi in 1954, Bomtopex Exhibition - 1955 and Philatelic Exhibition at Madras in 1963.

Our strength has gone up to 80. We hold regular meetings on the first Sunday of every month and our average attendance now is 30. We expect our strength to increase further and our sphere of service will then include exchange circuits, periodical stamp displays, technical talks of a specialised nature, etc.

The enthusiasm of our members has emboldened us to hold this Fifth Exhibition on a grand scale with active participation of prominent philatelists in India and a few from abroad. We wish to place on record here our deep sense of gratitude to all those who gave us encouragement and help in promoting this Exhibition, particularly, Mehta, Jal Cooper, Srinivasa Rao, V. Srinivasan, etc.

We thank also those who gave us donations, material help and co-operation in conducting this Exhibition.

We are grateful especially, for the Indian Postal Department for their Co-operation and sanction in giving us the special cachet for the occasion, the various consulates who have sent in Exhibits and display materials, the several business firms for their advertisements, many distinguished philatelists who have contributed articles in this Souvenir, such of those Philatelic Association & clubs who have encouraged and actively co-operated in the Exhibition and also lastly, but certainly not the least to Sri Gopal Printers, who have helped us in printing this Souvenir.

Jai Hind

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YOUR REQUIREMENTS OF INDIA, AND THEMATICS
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Philately in India

By Jai Cooper, F.R.G.S., BOMBAY.

As an Indian, who has collected stamps uninterruptedly for 54 years, I believe, I can justifiably claim to have the requisite experience to talk about philately in India. When I began collecting the "tiny bits of paper" as the late Queen Victoria used to call the "stamps", almost all collectors were interested in only one aim, viz., to have the *largest* number of *different* stamps of the whole world! Today, it has become impossible to build a collection of the whole world even for a multi-millionaire collector, because the 30 rarest stamps of the world would cost an Alladin's fortune to buy them, if they would ever come up for sale at one time!

Thus, the general collector was replaced gradually by one country collector, and in India, the field was restricted to a few countries, like Cape, Ceylon, Great Britain, India, Malaya and Mauritius. In fact, it is known to very few collectors that the present day *gems* of Ceylon and Mauritius stamps were at one time or the other, all resting in collections made in India by British and Indian collectors! With the departure of the advanced British collectors from the ranks of civil and military officials at the time of Indian independence in 1947, philately in India received a temporary setback, but fortunately it has now fully recovered, though not in its old fields.

My wide experience as a whole-time stamp dealer since June 12, 1939 makes me say without being challenged that the present day Indian collectors are interested more in *thematic* collecting than even in their own country's stamps! The reason for this trend is quite simple. A majority of Indian collectors come from the middle class with limited means at their disposal for purchase of stamps. Thus, as the early classic issues of India and later high value denominations of King Edward VII and King George V stamps have become too expensive, they have become out of range for such collectors. On the other hand, a thematic collection can be built in a small sum, and it appears more fascinating to a viewer than a straight collection of Indian stamps!

Not only this. Indian stamps provide very little diversification in designs; thematic stamps are eye-catching both in their colours as well as designs! Most of the Indian commemorative stamps are issued in one value of 15 paise; thematic sets are mostly issued in sets of 4 to 8 stamps in a very small price! The European and Eastern Communist Countries are the greatest benefactors of stamp collectors, because at present they issue the largest number of stamps in a year and the finest pictorial stamps are also issued by them on every subject under the Sun, thus providing thematic collectors with enough stamps to add to their collections every month!

There are many who believe that the future of Indian philately is bleak due to import restrictions placed on collectors and dealers owing to foreign exchange scarcity. But I firmly believe that with the passing of each year, philately in India will steadily spread as never before.



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MINT OR USED?

By: D. E. WADIA

Age is the enemy of all, including the inanimate. Age thus casts its ugly shadow on a postage stamp as well. This has been the bitter experience of stamp collectors throughout the world.

There is yet another powerful enemy of a postage stamp in the prime of its youth, and that is the ravage caused by the unconquered and unconquerable "rust".

Why is this disfiguring element more active on mint stamps with gums than on stamps postally used and thoroughly washed? And why is it so rampant in India, in particular?

Many instances can be cited of stamp collectors who were bitterly chagrined when they did not realise their dream of easy returns over their investments on mint stamps. No where is this havoc by rust on stamps so active as in the tropical climate of India. Indeed, it would appear that the stamp collectors in this country should seriously weigh the desirability of giving up collecting mint stamps if they want to avoid the cruel disappointment in the long run!

'Rust' is the reddish-brown coating that attacks the body of a stamp—a disease caused by fungi—a kind of corrosive which, in terms of philately, is also known as "foxing", so called because of the reddish-brown or fox-colour. It is caused by three principal factors: (i) by environmental elements; (ii) by microscopic vegetable growth; (iii) by chemical compositions in the manufacture of the paper itself. Of the three, the last is the most dangerous.

Stamp collectors generally use four distinct varieties of papers to house their postage stamps: (a) paper, on which the stamps themselves are printed; (b) paper, from which the album pages are made; (c) separation sheets that protect the album pages and the mounted stamps; (d) paper, from which hinges are prepared.

Rust starts its career on either or all of the following:

1. On one or more perforations or on edge of the stamp, slowly spreading inward and, in due course, almost all over the body;
2. Anywhere on the body of the album page, soon embracing the body of the stamp;
3. On the hinge with its contagious consequences;
4. On the separation sheet that is in close with both the album page and the stamp.

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER

Now we all know that paper is made of some ingredients one of which is iron. We also know that iron gets oxidised or rusted on being exposed to the dampness of atmosphere or environmental surroundings. In a country like India with its 3,000 mile coastline where humidity persists throughout the major part of the year, coupled with its heavy rainfall, the iron in all the four categories of papers mentioned above has a more favourable atmosphere than elsewhere in which to be rapidly rusted. The rust, moreover, appears to be advantageously nurtured by the chemicals in the composition of gums on mint stamps, since its growth is not so lively or spectacular on ungummed stamps or on postally used stamps with their gums washed off. The conclusion is thus obvious that the presence of gum accelerates the growth of rust with its ruinous consequences to the intrinsic quality and value of stamps.

Researchers on this subject have further found that strong light, high temperature and moist air are potent factors which further the growth of rust on papers. If stamp collectors in India are to pursue their hobby without hindrance, one fails to see how all or any of these factors can be avoided in this country with its strong sunlight, its humid air and its hot climate. If the conclusion is stretched to its logical end, one should not then open one's albums during the four months of the monsoon season, four months of the summer and the remaining period of the winter!

GUM PLAYS PART

And how does the gum, meanwhile, behave in the Indian climate?

It gets softened with the heat of the summer; it sticks with the dampness of the monsoon; it cracks during the spell of the winter. Its disturbed condition throughout the year is thus an additional agent for quickening the growth and spread of the rust, which, year after year, engulfs the body of the stamp, reducing it ultimately to nothingness.

Chemical impurities in the process of fabrication of the papers mentioned are other factors to be reckoned with. Adequate attention is generally paid to the purity of chemicals for stamp papers; not always so in the preparation of album-page, transparent sheets, hinges and gums. False economy in the selection of album page is thus a dangerous practice. More often than not, it is the album pages that first get "foxed"; if not discarded promptly, they pass on the rust to stamps—rapidly to mint stamps with full gum. The same mischief is played by transparent sheets, which, in India, turn brownish, transfer their tint to album pages and finally to stamps—again more rapidly on mint stamps than on ungummed or used stamps. It thus appears that the presence of gum, particularly in India, where it undergoes seasonal metamorphosis, further provides a nutritious field for the healthy growth and rapid multiplication of fungi as well as microscopic air-borne organisms.

THE CURE

Various authorities on the subject have suggested means to prevention and cure of rust, but this universal enemy has not yet been conquered despite the present-day

scientific advancements. There are collectors in India, as indeed there must be many in other parts of the world, who, to avoid these factors, have stored their stamp collections in bank-vaults and safes with no better results. Albums are likewise kept in book-cases with liberal use of disinfectants—to no useful purpose. Frequent inspections and fumigations lead to no cherished end! Even the best of album sheets have not been able to withstand the onslaughts of brown spots and stains with then frightening repercussions to postage stamps.

Until the day dawns, whereafter collecting unused (without gum) stamps will be an acknowledged fashion, collectors in India will benefit if they give a thought to the problem—**MINT STAMPS OR USED?**

(Courtesy - The Philatelic Journal of India - July 1958)

With the best compliments from:



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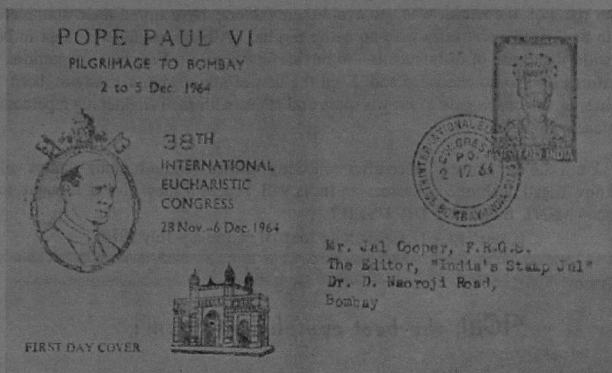
Mint Postal Stationery: All native states and India, Georgian and Victoria period. Also from Goa, Pondicherry etc., etc.,

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SANTOSH KUMAR

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POPES' VISIT TO INDIA 2-12-1964



STAMPS OF SHAKESPEARE



BALLOON FLIGHTS IN INDIA



*By V. SRINIVASAN, F.B.S.C., President,
Stamp wing, Indo-American Association, Bangalore &
Philatelic Adviser to the Pestalozzi Children's
Village of India.*

THE INAUGURATION of the BALLOON FLIGHT in India was made on the 14th day of November 1963 at the Race Course Grounds in Bangalore. The Mysore's Chief Minister Mr. S. Nijalingappa presided over the function and the inauguration was made by the then Postmaster-general in Mysore State, Mr. D. N. Ramchandani, B.E. The balloon was piloted by Mr. H. Jo. Sheer of the Pestalozzi Children's Village of West Germany. Mr. Alfred Suelz was the co-pilot and master Anil Kumar of Bangalore represented India on the above flight.

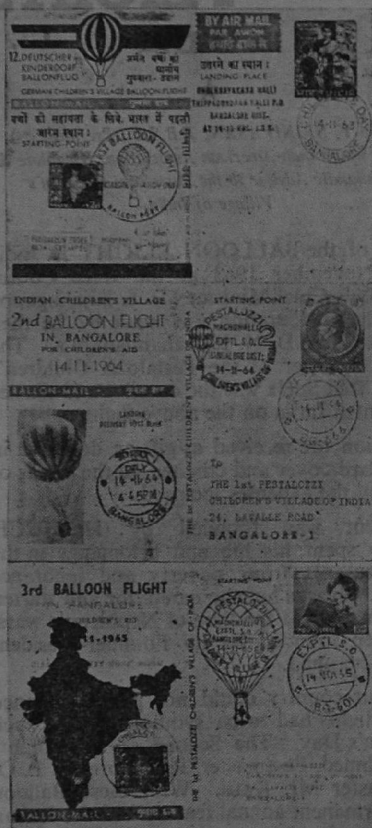
The proceeds of the collection are received as gift or donation in exchange for the Balloon Flight Card/cover and credited to the funds of the Children's Village after meeting the expenses incurred.

The 'Pestalozzi movement' was founded by HENRICH PESTALOZZI of Germany who spent his life and belongings in the struggle for emancipation of peasants from poverty and ignorance through the medium of education. It was he who cared for and started educating the Swiss war orphans in 1798 at the time of Napoleonic wars. In India, the movement has been founded by its Founder-President Mr. AR. Adaikappa Chettiar of Chettinad.

Emergency conditions in our country could not permit manned flights and the second and third flights had to be symbolic besides such flights synchronising with Children's Day. The Second of such flights was inaugurated by Mr. M. M. Ahmed, Postmaster, Bangalore G. P. O. and Third by the acting Postmaster Mr. Katti. With these Balloon Flights in India have become a permanent annual feature and the Indian effort is part of a world-wide plan and movement.

I hope that this great movement will grow in India and gain strength with the co-operation of philatelists all over the world in general and the Postal authorities in particular.

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“BIRDS ON STAMPS”

BY

D. R. MISTRY

Birds are the most interesting of all animals. We hear their serenade when we awake in the morning and their vespers in the evening at dusk. They give animation to the landscape and some of them are usually within sight. Their beauty of form, pleasing colours and colour patterns, and marvellous evolutions in the air attract the favourable attention of almost everyone.

Birds are distinguished from all other animals by their feathers. These serve various purposes. They protect the body from mechanical injury. They are admirably constructed so as to prevent the escape of heat from the body, since they form innumerable small air spaces, which are non-conductors of heat. Without them, flight would be impossible. Beneath the large outer feathers are the smaller down feathers. Mating occurs in the Autumn and new plumage is acquired at that time. Many species mate again in the Spring; the males, especially, become clothed then with fresh feathers and nuptial plumes.

Most birds mate every spring and separate again in the autumn, although a few species remain mated throughout life. Nests are built soon after mating; some birds build their nests in bushes and trees. Nests are flimsy affairs, but others are strongly constructed and are able to withstand the winds and storms of several seasons.

BENEFICIAL

Birds are principally beneficial to mankind. They are largely responsible for the destruction of insect pests and other obnoxious animals and destroy countless numbers of weed seeds. Birds are of great importance as destroyers of injurious animals and plants. A very large proportion of the food of birds consists of insects. Practically all of these are injurious to plants or animals and consequently harmful to man. Certain birds are of importance because they act as scavengers. Black Vultures or Carrion Crows; and Turkey Vultures or Buzzards, quickly dispose of the carcass of any animal they find.

Birds need food before they can carry on any of their nesting activities. The food consists largely of insects, seeds and berries. Insects are present almost everywhere, and as a rule seeds are abundant.

Water is needed by birds both to drink and for bathing, of which they are very fond.

BIRD GROUPS

Birds are divided by Scientists (Ornithologists) into groups, called Orders. The Orders are subdivided into Families.

There are fourteen headings as follows:—

1. **TOOTHED BIRDS:** Three orders of birds with teeth in their Jaws; known only from fossil remains.
Examples: Lizard-tailed; Western Toothed Bird.
2. **FLIGHTLESS BIRDS:** Four orders of terrestrial birds with wings too weak for flight.
Examples: Apteryx; Elephant Birds or Roccs; Emus; Kiwis; Ostrich; Rheas; Moas; Cassowary.
3. **DIVING BIRDS:** Birds with webbed feet and body adapted for movement under water.
Examples: Auk; Grebe; Loon; Murre; Puffin; Penguin
4. **SWIMMING BIRDS:** Birds adapted to swimming; many with long pointed wings and powerful in flight.
Examples: Albatross; Booby; Cormorant; Gull; Pelican; Petrel.
5. **STORKLIKE BIRDS:** Mostly wading birds with long necks and long legs.
Examples: Bitterns; Flamingoes; Heron; Ibises; Stork; Spoonbills.
6. **WATER FOWL:** Aquatic birds with webbed feet and usually long flat beak.
Examples: Ducks; Geese; Swans.
7. **MARSH DWELLER:** Mostly wading birds.
Examples: Crane; Gallinule; Rail.
8. **SHORE BIRDS:** Frequenters of shores where they probe for food in the mud.
Examples: Jacanas; Killdeer; Woodcock.
9. **BIRDS OF PREY:** Carnivorous birds with curved, hooked beak, and strong, sharp claws.
Examples: Eagle; Hawk; Owl; Vulture.
10. **GAME BIRDS:** Terrestrial birds sought for food.
Examples: Grouse; Pheasant; Quail; Turkey.
11. **PIGEONS AND DOVES:** Examples: Mourning Dove; Passenger Pigeon.
12. **PARROTS ETC.** A group containing a curious aggregation of diverse types.
Examples: Cuckoo; Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Nighthawk; Parrot; Swift.
13. **WOODPECKERS:** Birds adapted for climbing trees and digging in wood.
14. **PERCHING BIRDS:** Most of our common birds belong in this group, comprising about 25 families and nearly 15,000 species.
Examples: Blackbirds; Bluebirds; Crows; Creepers; Flycatchers; Finches; Grosbeaks; Gnatcatchers; Jays; Kinglets; Larks; Meadowlarks; Mockingbirds; Nuthatches; Pipits; Swallows; Sparrows; Starlings; Shrikes; Titmice; Thrashers; Thrushes; Vireos; Wrens; Wagtails; Waxwings; Wood Warblers; Weaver.

BIRDS ON STAMPS

The first stamp of a bird was issued by Western Australia in the year 1854. It was a black Swan on one penny value. Then in the year 1866, Bolivia issued a stamp of a Condor on 5 c. value. Japan issued three stamps in the year 1875, showing a wild Goose on 12 sen, a Wagtail on 15 sen and a Hawk on 45 sen. The highest number of Birds' Stamps in a single set was issued by ANGOLA in the year 1951, as the set had as many as 24 stamps showing all different birds! This set costs today over 500 rupees! Now many countries are issuing stamps of different birds continuously. Though about 100 countries have so far issued "Birds on Stamps", India and Pakistan have not done so, so far.



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Philatelic Accessories

By

M. V. RAMAMOORTHY

Many people seem to drift into this hobby of stamp collecting accidentally, by being attracted by a brightly coloured specimen of stamp and decide to start stamp collecting without much enquiry into the whys and wherefors of the subject. Indeed, a good proportion of the beginners who take the trouble of reading about the hobby and knowing fully about them is quite small in comparison with the spiralling growth of stamp collectors all over the world. This hobby which has captured millions of hearts; the business of which turns over billions of rupees to the Government Exchequers throughout the world; and the pursuit of the Kings and the commoners, old men and school boys and which links the nations of the globe into peaceful and cultural unity; and yet, is considered by most people and even by some Governments as a child's whim, and a waste of energy, money and time.

Now, coming to the subject, a Collector of stamps should, but very rarely asks "what shall I collect", "why shall I collect", "How shall I collect" and "what accessories shall I have", etc. etc... Of these, the accessories that one must have for stamp collecting plays a very important part. The field open to him is extremely wide and the choice rests with him or her entirely.

Every craft has its tools; like the carpenter his chisel; the mechanic his spanners; the engineer his slide rule; and the black-smith his anvil etc; and philately also has its special tool, though of course, philately is not a craft in the generally accepted sense of the term. Some people start collecting stamps without bothering much about the tools (philatelists call them accessories) in the beginning and perhaps after many bitter years learn that mistakes could have been avoided if right implemets had been used from the start.

The important and essential accessories required for stamp collecting are:
1. Tweezer, 2. Good lens, 3. Perforation gauge, 4. Water mark detector, and 5. Good hinges.

Probably the most important accessory and the one which many collectors ignore in their early days of stamp collecting is a pair of tweezers. The damage sustained by the stamp in handling them with fingers are considerable and the only way to obviate soiling them whether used or unused, is to have tweezer. Tweezers of various sizes and kinds are available in the market, but it is best to obtain a pair made especially for use with stamps and it is not to be confused with a pair of eye brow-pluckers or naturalists' tweezers, which are quite unsuitable as regards both size and shape and the shape of their ends. Generally tweezers with round or spade shaped ends, are good to handle the stamps without difficulty. Pointed ends could do a lot of damage to the stamps, if handled with

carelessness. Collectors are advised to choose nickel or chromium plated tweezers; silver or gold plated, nodoubt fancy and elegant; has disadvantages as far as expense is concerned but also they prove ruinous if chalk surfaced stamps are handled by producing black mark on them. If tweezers are not plated, rust or oxidation will set in and thus will do damage to the surface of the stamps.

Another accessory quite indispensable is the magnifying glass. However good one's eye sight may be, minute varieties and flaws cannot possibly be visible to the naked eye. Many types are available and it is better that one select a good lens which gives a clear magnification without end or angular distortions.

A French Philatelist Dr. J. A. Legrand invented the perforation gauge in 1866, and the later day development have retained much of the original basic idea. Most gauges consist of rows of evenly spaced dots, each successive row containing one dot or half of a dot more than the row beneath. The gauge of stamp perforation is found by placing the stamp flat on the gauge with one side of the stamp (usually vertical) on any one of the dot; and then moving the stamp up or down until a row is formed in which all the dots fit exactly into the perforation hole. The gauge is then the number at the side of that row. One of the few gauges that deviate from the Legrand's basic system of dots is the " INSTANTA " a transparent slide rule with converging lines. The stamp to be measured is placed on a black background; the slide is moved up or down on top of the stamp until each perforation tooth is cut centrally by one of the lines - gauge give the perforation. The advantage of this type is that it is more precise and perforations are expressed in decimals instead of fractions.

Watermark Detector is another essential equipment in the collector's kit. A difference in watermark can be a very important factor in deciding the rarity of the stamp. Some watermarks are very difficult to distinguish and the conventional detector cannot be used in such cases. Usually a detector is a black tray on which the stamp is placed face down and against the background the watermark shows out more clearly in most of the cases. In more obstinate cases, a few drops of Benzene or petrol on the backside of the stamp usually brings out even the toughest watermark. There are of course certain drawbacks in using petrol or benzene, both of them highly inflammable and affect the design of the stamp, if it happens to be printed in photogravure process. The latest development is the filter idea and the basic principle of it is that by employing filters in a rotatable colour screen holding the stamp upto a bright light closely approximating the colour design thus bringing out theoretically a water mark more clearly. The technical term is " PHILATECTOR " and is the best instrument now in use for the detection of water marks.

Lastly but certainly not the least are the hinges; If stamps are badly mounted they may lose much of their freshness and certainly good deal of their value. The use of best quality hinges is absolutely essential and the young collector must learn to use the hinges at the beginning of their philatelic career and their use of proper methods will lead to a far lower state of mortality among stamps than ever before. The quality of the hinges now available is peelable to a remarkable degree. When thoroughly dried,

it can be detached without the slightest trace of gum. Many and several Makes are available in the market and it is better to go in for good standard quality hinges. One of the secrets of stamp mounting is to ensure that minimum of moisture is employed. Wet hinges cause too much stickiness and will adhere too often to the album. A small narrow portion is enough for sticking to the back of the stamp and the larger portion is for adhesion to the album page. The less frequently stamps need remounting the better, longer the lasting. If it is worth collecting stamps, even the commonst stamp deserves the finest hinge - how much more so for a variety ?

I hope that the above facts would have given you some idea about the important accessories essential for stamp collecting whether for a beginner or for a veteran philatelist. Generally it is a vast field in philately and I have touched only a fringe of it, and it is for vaster than can be imagined by glancing through the pages of the School boy's album or through a few scraps of coloured paper gaily displaced in a stamp packet at the Stationer's window. The more one delves in to the subject, the more one is bound to have the conclusion that omniscience in philately can never be gained fully by any living person for mortal spell is all too brief for the complete knowledge to be acquired.

I would be happy if the younger set of philatelists start on the right path of collecting stamps, before learning fully about the background and history of stamps and I am sure that they will enrich the evergrowing field of philately.



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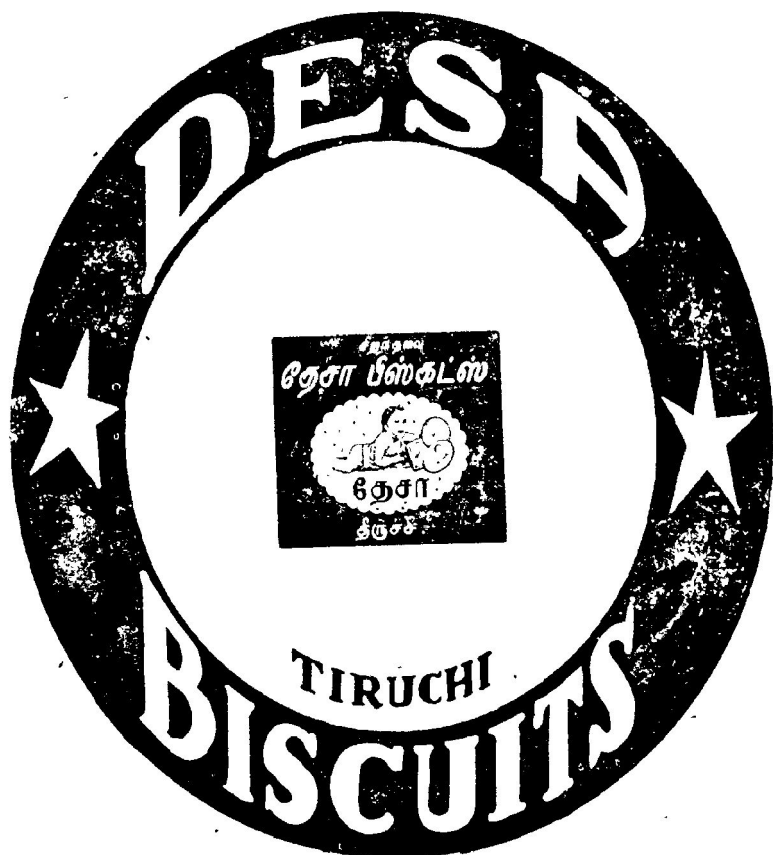
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DISPLAY YOUR STAMPS

By S. Paul Sunder Singh, B. A., B. Ed.

Stamp Exhibitions are conducted by big Stamp clubs every year. The organisers of these Exhibitions know the enormous difficulties, expenditure etc., involved in it. Since stamps are delicate things and most of them are more valuable than currency notes, the preservation and protection of stamps belonging to various collectors during the exhibition will be a Herculean task to the organisers of the Exhibition. Hence only highly organised stamp clubs can conduct an Exhibition successfully.

But individual stamp display can be done by every philatelist. This is the greatest need today to popularise our hobby for which we spend so much of our precious time and money. I started displaying my collections in 1954 and now it is so big that it has become an Exhibition itself. From my experiences I give some useful hints to develop this displaying art.

Why you must display? A collector finds no enjoyment unless he shows his collections and new additions to others. Very few who collect with monetary motive refuse to show their collection except to prospective customers. But real collectors always enjoy when others see their collections.

How to prepare display boards? You should not think that only senior philatelists can display stamps. You must always specialise on some subject or country in which you are interested. Birds, Flowers, Animals, Sports, Space, Scouts, Planes are some of the hundreds of subjects from which you can choose your interest. These stamps must be mounted in loose leaves on the most artistic arrangement as you like. Remember there is no rule in mounting stamps.

Afterwards you must write up the names and other particulars of the stamps in each page. It will be more attractive if you put a small colour picture in the middle of each page. The picture of a bird in the middle of bird stamps or an animal picture amidst animal stamps will make each page more attractive.

Now you have prepared forty or fifty sheets with neatly mounted stamps. The next problem is how to put them in a show. The easiest and cheapest way is putting them in colour Card Boards fitted with glazed (கண்ணாடித்தாள்) paper packets to suit your album sheets. On the display day you can easily put these sheets inside these glazed packets which will protect the stamps from dust, pilfering etc., In the Exhibition Hall you can easily spread these colour card boards fitted with your album sheets on the table or hang them in twine with paper clips or pin them with drawing pins in wooden boards. Any where you can display at a short notice and dismantle them in a few minutes. My own Exhibition consisting of more than thousand sheets can be arranged in a hall with the help of two or three volunteers in two hours time and can be dismantled and bundled within an hour.

Where to display? Some collectors feel some shyness. No, you must not feel shy and must beat the inconveniences and little expenses also. Our aim is that we must display what we collect for the benefit of others. If you are a teacher you have got ample facilities and occasions. You just put some boards in the corner of the hall on meeting days and naturally the whole school will see it and thereby you sow the seed of this hobby among your school children. If you are working in an office, or Bank, Hospital, Railway etc., everywhere you will be having some recreation club or like that and you can arrange your display in their meetings. Moreover if you are a member of Rotary, Y. M. C. A. Lions Club, Childrens' Club etc., you can find ample opportunities to display for eg. U. N. stamps during U.N. Day celebrations, Childrens Day on Nov. 14. Animals stamps on Wild life week, Christmas stamps & covers during christmas parties and soon. Even if you display 10 to 15 sheets it will be enough to impress others.

Stamp clubs also must give ample opportunities for its members to display in their club meetings. Every club meeting must have some interesting exhibits from one or two members. This will develop the art of display among the members.

Benefits of display: Displaying our collection is the only effective way through which we can popularise our hobby. Thousands of non-philatelists must know why we collect stamps. Hundreds of beginners will understand how to collect, mount & arrange stamps. Even regular stamp collectors also can learn many new things by seeing other's collections. That is why I want every philatelist must prepare a part of his collection and display whenever occasion comes. When you prepare more sheets you will find it a joy to conduct displays. Finally, I say that big Exhibitions can be conducted by bigger stamp clubs only and that too once in a year, but the small displays of individuals can be arranged by anybody in different parts of the town on different occasions and hence will be more helpful for popularising our hobby.

(Philatelists interested in developing this display art can get more information from Mr. S. Paul Sundar Singh, JOS Mari Villa, Pasumalai, Madurai-4).



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PHILATELIC REMINISCENCES

By V. V. S. MANI, Tiruchy.

In the early days of Stamp Collecting, it was all quite simple. One started as a boy to save those foreign stamps, fiscals, seals and other small printed odds and ends which came one's way. Exchanging increased the size of the collection and spare copies of India - half anna imperfs, could easily be kept threaded on a piece of cotton.

Then a few enterprising individuals began to buy unused stamps direct from the Post Office and the hobby had become a method of international financial dealing, eventually to hemmed about with all the panoply of import and export regulations, which reached its zenith in the early days of the recent War, when stamps were bought in London, sent to America and then to Nazi Occupied Europe where they were sold or exchanged for food by the victims of that regime and bought by those who were about to flee from it and who were otherwise unable to take their wealth and possession with them. I often wonder, how many round trips some of the classics made in those days and why some impresario has not produced a film of adventures of such a stamp.

While it is very pleasant to think that the stamps now mounted in idleness and luxury on page of some wealthy collectors' album may have between them saved several lives and reunited a twentieth century Romeo and Juliet enabling them to serve together on the Allied side, it was a difficult time for the man who started it at all, the simple stamp collector. If he had given up collecting the whole world before the war, and concentrated on the stamps of British Empire, he was to see hitherto almost unsaleable foreign issues brought out of the lumber heap and run up to ever higher prices in the auction rooms due to the shortage of material while his own Colonials rose, but in a more modest fashion. After the war came, the usual spate of foreign new issues and the loot of Europe purchased for a few cigarettes (then the only stable, acceptable international currency in many parts of Europe), followed by the news that current British Colonials were on sale at half face value mint in hard currency areas, due to the manipulation of the blackmarket (free) and controlled (artificial) rate of the pound sterling.

The speculators and tax-shy had bought whole sheet of mint stamps fearing to entrust their astronomical gains to pound notes, let alone to the banks. Now that money is no longer so easily come by, these gentry must sell. That is the modern background to a stamp collection and I have sometimes wistfully thought of the simple joys of a collector of match-box labels, who can exchange his duplicates with fellow enthusiasts all over the globe with the freedom the stamp collector used to know. Yet once a Philatelist never a philumenist, seems to be the law.

Every stamp collector sooner or later faces the moment of decision, when he cannot find any more of his special fancies and no longer feels able to tackle in general food. The weak may then give up but the strong decide on some reasonable target, such of the stamps of the West Indies, only to fall into the fever of Jamican rural postmarks,

which taken to its logical conclusion ends up in, "postmarked to order", or paying very stiff prices as soon as a dozen rivals have got into the same field.

Now let us suppose that the collector we are studying has reached the stage when he has given up collecting, what comes his way, has restricted himself to a certain field and exhausted that, at least in so far as his pocket has allowed him to go, and just wants to collect something within his normal means. What next? Here are some suggestions :—

Great Britain – with its plentiful cheap penny Reds, or the printings of Edward VII; The study of some low value common stamp from anywhere, in Oriental Country; The stamps used in some unhappy land that has been occupied by a dozen different powers in the last 75 years; Post marks, ship, train or just an English Country; Locals; Forgeries; Thematics; South America; Postal History –

When in search of wisdom it is usual to repair to the East and I found my own answer there during 1943, when I became a General-Collector of India and Europe.

The first rules are basic ones for Philately :—

1. Do not try to be complete.
2. Collect mint (for shades & appearance)
3. Collect used for information (legible postmarks rather than clean stamps)
4. Collect large pieces, mint-for the study of the stamp itself and used-just because, it is harder that way and the discovery of a really large used block can be displayed.
5. Collect stamps on cover.
6. Collect commemorative postmarks, but only in proportion to the rest of the material.
7. Collect Indian stamps used abroad and foreign stamps used in India.
8. Collect historical pieces, First Day Covers and so on.
9. Collect a little postal stationary, again in proportion to the collection as a whole.
10. Collect local issues, emergencies postal markings.
11. Collect what you like.
12. Don't collect what you don't like.

Now as long as you keep on taking what comes, so long as it has some connection with India, you will only have to look through the albums occasionally to find a dozen subjects for smaller, more intensive collection simply to be taken up. Take them all up and let them have a few pages each and in a few years time you will find a nice choice for that Club display, you have to give or a likely entry for the

competition. your own collecting will never grow dull and you need not spend much more than you can afford. The real danger is the completion bug - he ruins you and then lets you down flat'

Perhaps the best lesson, and the happiest one, I have learned is that the dealer, especially if he once was, or perhaps still is, a collector himself, is my best friend. Once, I have passed his way several times, he knows he has another market for certain items and those that come his way, he pounces on and despatches to me, secure the knowledge that what I might not have asked for will, however, never be denied a place in the album, once it has presented itself at my door. A few Tebetians which came along in a packet of different India have also found a home, and even Japan stamps used in Shanghai known as "fore-runners" that is those used before the special overprint was put on Japanese stamps for use by the Japanese Post Offices in China.

Not only accumulation of used, common stamps, but even cheap packets of India are worth taking home for careful examination. I recently, found a used copy of the special Congo 2 n.p stamps used on piece with F. P. O. cancellation mark on it in a packet of 100 different. If you like packets you can buy one containing 2000 India and Indian States today but it will cost you over Rs. 200/- and there are sure to be a number of fiscals in it.

Perhaps the best way to start is buying a collection at auction to get the commoner, older and middle issues and then augmenting it with a packet of 500 different which will be composed mainly of modern issues and will cost around Rs. 40/- to Rs. 50/-.

Don't keep your light under a bushel, talk India or Malaya or some postmarks or Locals or whatever you collect and then other people will know where to bring what you want and they don't. Drop into dealers' shops and ask for it; about the eighth time they will probably remember, they have got some somewhere or may even have bought some on the strength of your impending visit.

The ideal field to explore is one which has stamps or varieties of stamps not included in the usual Catalogues. Then you will begin another absorbing task, the Collection of Philatelic literature bearing on your special subject. out-of-print, handbooks ancient dealers' lists, (not to overlook dealers' ancient lists), articles in philatelic magazines, advertisement, auction catalogues, old illustrated albums (useful for maps), large maps to refer to and small ones to illustrate the pages of the collection itself, reproduction of essays, photographs of unusual items. Some even carry little notebooks in strange codes which are really home-made catalogues of varieties still a closely-guarded secret until enough to make a real show have been amassed. More than once, I have bought my own stamps from the exchange packet, having learned something new between the time I mounted them and their first, passing return.

Another very real pleasure is the visit of a fellow enthusiast with whom one can compare notes and from whom one can learn something to add to One's own special field which helping him in the study of his special-interest by opening one's albums for his inspection.

The essence of collecting is that very transaction whether it is the purchase of a stamp, an exchange of stamps or information, is a deal between two parties and BOTH must be satisfied. If the other person is not also the gainer, he will lose interest or go elsewhere and instead of opening up more sources of supply, the collector has closed one down. As Stamp Collecting is a hobby, while Philately is perused for pleasure (like the learned mathematicians who send each other problems or postcards as a form of mild relaxation) and happiness is contagious, how can one enjoy collecting stamps from people who have learned to suspect and distrust one at every meeting. Well, I too enjoy boasting of the scarce perforation 12, I bought for 6 n.p. as a perforation 14 from the careless, ignorant, or better still, from another perforation friend, who had somehow overlooked it

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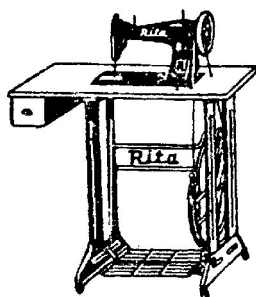
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உலகில் மிகப் பெரிய முத்திரை சேகரிப்பாளர்

By S. Paul Sunder Singh B.A.B.Ed.

ஆஸ்டிரியா தேசத்து கலீரிய பிரபுவின் கடைசி குமாரனாக பெராரி (Ferrary) பிறந்தார். இவர் சிறுவயதிலிருந்தே மிகுந்த பலவீனமாக இருந்தார். இவரது தாயார் பாரீஸ் நகரத்தை சேர்ந்தவள். தன் மகன் நேரத்தை வீண் செலவு செய்யாமலிருக்கவும், சந்தோஷமாகவிரும்புக்கவும் முத்திரை சேகரிப்பதைக் கற்றுக்கொடுத்தாள். வாலிப வயதடைந்த பெராரி குத்திரைப் பந்தயம், மது, பெண்கள் எதிலும் மனதை நாடாமல் முழு நேரத்தையும், கவனத்தையும் முத்திரைகள் சேகரிப்பதிலேயே செலவிடலானார். இவருடைய சேகரிப்பு உலகத்திலேயே மிகப்பெரியது. உலகில் தற்சமயம் மிக விலையேறப்பெற்ற முத்திரைகளெல்லாம் இவருடைய சேகரிப்பிலிருந்து பின்பு வாங்கப்பட்டவையேயாகும்.

பாரிஸில் உள்ள தனது பெரிய பங்களானில் இரண்டு பெரிய அறைகளில் தனது சேகரிப்பை அடுக்கி வைத்திருந்தார். வாரத்திற்கு 50,000 பிராங்குகள் இதற்காக செலவிட்டார். இன்று உலகிலேயே மிக அரிய பிரிட்டிஷ் கயானா 10 முத்திரையை அன்று £150க்கு வாங்கினார். 1922 வருடம் ஏலத்தில் இம் முத்திரை £7343/- விலை போயிற்று. பெராரி தன்னுடைய செல்வத்தின் மிகுதியால் முத்திரைகளை கண்டபடி வாங்கவில்லை. அதன் மதிப்பு தெரிந்தே வாங்கி சேகரித்தார். அவருடைய மற்றொரு முத்திரையை ருமேனிய காரல் மன்னன் £5000/- விலைக்கு வாங்கினார்.

எத்தனையோ நாடுகளின் முத்திரைகளை முதலிலிருந்து கடைசிவரை சேர்த்து விட்டார். ஆனால் இந்திய சமஸ்தானங்கள், தென் ஆஸ்திரேலியா நாடுகள் முதலிய நாடுகளை பூர்த்தி செய்வதில் அவர் வெற்றியடையவில்லை. அவற்றை முழுவதும் தேடிப்பிடித்து வாங்கி சேர்ப்பதற்கு அவரது வாழ்நாள் போதவில்லை.

இவர் பாரிஸில் வசித்தபோதிலும் ஆஸ்டிரிய தேசத்தாராகையால் முதல் உலகயுத்தம் தொடங்கியபோது தன் சேகரிப்புகளை பாரிஸில் விட்டு ஸ்விட்ஸர் லாந்துக்கு ஓடிவிட்டார். யுத்தம் நீடித்த போது தனது சேகரிப்புகளை மீண்டும் அடைவோமா என்ற கவலை அதிகரித்தது. 1917 ம் ஆண்டு ஒரு ஸ்விட்ஸர் லாந்து கம்பெனியிலிருந்து முத்திரைகளை வாங்கிவிட்டு தனது ஹோட்டலுக்கு திரும்பும் போது ஹிருதய நோய் கண்டு இறந்தார்.

தனது உயிரில் தன் சேகரிப்பு பூராவும் பெர்லின் நகரத்து தபால் கண் காட்சி சாலைக்கு எழுதி வைத்திருந்தார். ஆனால் யுத்தத்தில் ஜெயித்த பிரெஞ்சு

அரசாங்கம் அவருடைய சேகரிப்புகளை ஜேர்மனிக்கு கொடாமல் யுத்த செலவுகளுக்காக பாரிஸில் ஏலம் போட்டு விற்றனர்.

இவ்வளவு பெரிய சேகரிப்பை ஏலம் போடுவதென்பது சுலபமான காரியமா? 1921 முதல் 1925 வரை நூன்கு வருடங்களில் 14 பகுதியாக பிரிக்கப்பட்டு ஏலம் போடப்பட்டு உலக முழுவதிலிருந்து பிரபல முத்திரை சேகரிப்பாளர்கள் பாரிஸுக்கு வந்து ஏலம் எடுத்தனர். இன்றைக்கு உலகில் விற்பனையுறப் பெற்ற முத்திரைகள் என பலர் வைத்திருப்பதெல்லாம் இந்த ஏலத்தில் எடுக்கப்பட்டவையேயாகும். இந்த ஏலம் மூலம் பிரெஞ்சு அரசாங்கத்திற்கு கிடைத்த பணம் சுமார் £500,000 யாகும்.

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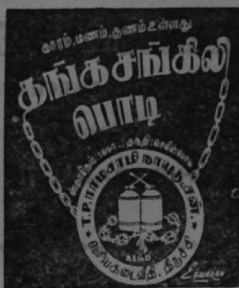
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Indus Valley Civilization :—

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Considering the importance of Radio Carbon Dating in India, Dr. H. J. Bhabha decided to set up at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research a Radio Carbon Laboratory and it was assigned to the Geophysics Research Group. Eighty samples principally from Indian archaeological sites of the Indus Valley region (Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Nial Buthi, Damsadaat, Kot Diji, Eran, Kalibangan and Hastinapur) were selected by an expert committee. A careful study of these specimens were carried out by "C14 Radio Carbon Dating Method" in this laboratory. The result led to the conclusion that the total duration of Harappan culture did not extend beyond the date bracket of 2300 - 1750 B. C. These findings were verified in foreign laboratories and were confirmed.

There remain several other important cultures in the Indus Valley which have not yet been dated. From the above we are convinced that the Indus Valley civilization had not emerged all of a sudden. The Proto Historical period (2300 - 1750 B. C.) of the Indus Valley civilization reveals that it had existed according to the nature of the ancient culture which already existed there even before many thousand years.

In this context we have to bear in mind that since the excavations show that the city of Harappa was formed of 8 layers beneath the earth the city must have been rebuilt eight times. Taking all these factors it is evident that the Indus Valley civilization had existed even some few thousand years before the period we have studied so far.

Indus Valley Alphabets and Seals :—

The West of the Indus Valley consisted of mountain ranges like Girdar, Hindukush, Sulaiman etc. The wild animals like bull, elephant, tiger, bison, rhinoceros found in the thick forests were struck in the seals (coins) found in the Indus Valley region. Certain things made of ivory were also found in the Indus Valley. Since they were making much use of the ivory they had great respect for the elephants. Since the bull was of great help to them in Agriculture and trade, in due course it became an animal for worship. The seal with bull type indicates that "Lord Siva" was called "Pasupathi". Some of the seals are seen with the swastika and the holy wheel which reveal the solar touch. The language as well as the alphabets used by these people

resemble the old Dravidian. Most of Dravidian words are found in Tamil, which is the main language of the Dravidian group. Fr. Heras who all along spent his life time in the research of the Indus Valley civilization has come to the conclusion that the language of the Indus Valley people resembled the old Sangam Tamil (Rev. Fr. H. Heras - studies in Proto - Indo - Mediterannean culture P. 270 - 279). He has conclusively proved that the pictorial letters on the seals of Mohenjadaró and Harappa stand for Tamil words and names.

Some of the letters in the findings from Mohanjodaro signify the Tamil words like " Mukil, Karmukil, Mazhai, Moonkan, Peraal, Ennal, Meen, Nandoor, Velloor, Meenavar." To signify brilliance, light, ray etc. an uniform sign is seen to be used. The word " Moonudayalu " is inscribed over a seal. That phrase means the cold season when we take shelter under three woolen blankets. Peraal, Ennal and Moonkan portand to signify " Lord Siva. " It is wrong to say that the old form of letters have disappeared, as far as the religion of Indus civilisation is concerned, particularly with regard to Tamil Nad where the Indus religions cult is still in extent.

Though the alphabet of the Indus valley appear to be pictographic there are certain variations in them. Pictographic words for Birds, fish, animals human forms etc are scanty or few and far between. The other forms are in a majority those that resemble the letters that portray life's various aspects from times immemorial. But it is remarkable to note that all the letters are picturesquely written in straight lines.

The excavated findings like the picturesque potteries ornaments, toys, Terracottas and similar things, from Pallavaram, Chettipalayam Manmedu in Palladam Taluk, Arikka Medu in Pondicherry, Adichanallur in Tirunelveli District, Pudukkottah, Korkai, Kaveri Pumpattinam, Tirumaraikkadu or modern Vedaranyam, Travancore and other places resemble very much the findings from the Indus valley and hence it is difficult to distinguish the Indus Valley civilization and the Dravidian civilization as two different ones. It is worthy to make mention of the coins also that have been gathered from the Pandya territory that make it difficult for us to deny the fact of the unity of these two civilizations on account of the similarity of the coins.

Experts like Sir Alexander Cunningham and Professor Longdon have argued for various reasons that the Brahmi Script must have evolved itself from the Indus valley. The Brahmi letters seen in the edicts of Asoka date back to 300 B. C.

In Madhya Pradesh, at Vikramakol, we have found a Sasana, or an inscription (Indian Ant. Vol. 62). This inscription clearly tends to point out the fact that in between the Indus valley script and the Brahmi Script forms there must have been an evolutionary stage or growth form for the scripts. Evidence to the fact that the Indus Valley civilisation was rubbed off after the coming of the Aryans (i. e. about 1500 B. C.) has not positively come to us hitherto. When civilizations rise they imbibe and embody in their inner most auricles of affinity the culture and civilization previous to their nascent rise. This is what history teaches us! Bearing in our minds the above mentioned facts and figures let us pry into the pandya coins of the last sangam age.

Pandya Coins of the Last Sangam Age :—

About forty nine Kings of the Pandya line ruled from Madurai, their capital for about 1850 years i. e. to about 200 A. D. The closing years of the Indus Valley civilisation and the beginning of the last Sangam approximately concur.

The coins of the Pandya Kings of the last Sangam are square and rectangular in shape. Of these the earliest coins in the first period of the last Sangam are rectangular with the figure of an elephant facing right, the disc, conch, the crescentmoon, the flower pot, Mirror and the phallus above it. In front of the figure of the elephant the trident, flag-staff are shown. On the reverse of the coin there is a triangular wavy line i. e. the fish emblem of the Pandyas of the Primary Sangam. Other Pandya coins of the same age substitute the elephant figure with that of the bull but retaining all the other symbols. We find the Pandya coins depicting the elephant or the bull and the other symbols and letters closely follow to a very great extent the Indus Valley script. If we take into consideration the Vicramakol script (which was in form in between the Indus valley script and the Brahmi script) and study the coins on the lines suggested, these pandya coins, must have been issued during the earlier phase of the last sangam.

A coin belonging to the Middle phase of the last Sangam shows an elephant with the king sitting on its back and two attendants leading the animal. On another coin we see the swastika, the disc or wheel, the conch, and other symbols. Yet another coin depicts a Kadamba tree above which there are two types of Dharma Chakaras and two hills (probably Himalayas and Kumari Mountain), on either side of the tree above which is a bull and a lion. Coins belonging to the closing period of the last Sangam age depicts an elephant or a bull facing right with Brahmi scripts above on the obverse. All the coins mentioned above have the same reverse, the triangular wavy line i. e. the fish emblem. It is not difficult in these days of "Atom" to ascertain the antiquity of my coins mentioned in this article.

Coins issued by the post-sangam rulers of the Pandya line are circular in shape. Let me conclude with this as it will require much more space to elaborate further about these post sangam Pandya coins.

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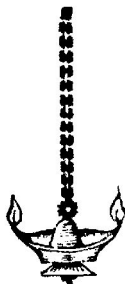
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