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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The First, Free & Only weekly on Philately & Postal Services of India

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Awards Received: Silver Medal with the 'Felicitations of the Jury' at  
'BELGICA 2001' World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001

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Issue # 136 - October 2, 2003. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
Indian Airlines Golden Jubilee Postal Stationery  
New Special Postmarks  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
PCI Cases Update  
India & States at Spink  
Security Press to Step up the Security  
Fake Stamp Scam Updates  
New Issues of Nepal  
Pakistan Decimal Currency Provisionals  
Also in the News - Vatican's Mother Teresa Stamps

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We are pleased to note the success of recently held district and  
regional level shows at Darjeeling and Mumbai respectively and  
congratulate India Post for these well-organized and publicized events.

We sincerely hope that these will serve as trendsetters with many more  
such exhibitions to follow; they will be infused with fresh thinking and  
focused in their approach to promote the hobby of collecting stamps at  
the grass roots.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Pankaj Tyagi,  
and The Hindu.

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We invite your inputs, please email to stampsfindia@tatanova.com

Please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still forward a copy of this issue.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

India Post will issue a set of 3 special stamps on Gnanpith Award  
Winning Authors of Malayalam language on October 9, 2003. The stamps in  
the denomination of Rs 5 depict G Sankara Kurup, S K Pottekatt, and  
Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai.

On October 10, 2003 India Post will issue a commemorative stamp in the  
denomination of Rs 5 on K Shivarama Karanth.

These issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet,  
at Rs.2 each, shall be available on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post  
Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Counters in the country.

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INDIAN AIRLINES GOLDEN JUBILEE POSTAL STATIONERY

Indian Airlines Corporation was created on August 1, 1953 after
nationalization of air transportation in India. To mark the Indian
Airlines Golden Jubilee, three different Inland Letter Cards (ILC) were
released on October 1, 2003 in a special function organized at Airlines
House at New Delhi. O S Veerwal, the Additional General Manager,
Business Development Directorate of India Post formally presented these
to T S Chandrasekar the Deputy Managing Director of Indian Airlines.

The Security Printing Press at Hyderabad printed 1 million Inland Letter
Cards of each of the 3 designs, 2 bilingual in English and Hindi and 1
in Hindi only for distribution in Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad,
Mumbai, Kochi, Patna, Jaipur, Bhopal and Bhubneshwar.

Vijay Seth designed the advertisements on ILC for Indian Airlines.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on October 1, 2003 at New Delhi  
on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HelpAge India.

For availability and charges, please contact the Philatelic Bureau,  
Sansad Marg Head Post Office, New Delhi 100 001.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

MUMBAIPEX

Speaker of the Lok Sabha of Indian Parliament, Manohar Joshi inaugurated
the first regional philatelic exhibition in Mumbai on September 27, 2003
at the World Trade Center. The Chief Post Master General of Maharashtra

& Goa Circle A K Bhatnagar, Post Master General of Mumbai Region A P Srivastava, Director of Postal Services P N Ranjit Kumar, and Director Mumbai GPO Veena Srinivas and other senior postal officers were present on this occasion.

This was a very well organized and publicized show with about 120 frames of exhibits, including Invitee Class filling about half the frames, and 15 dealers' booths besides India Post's mega booth.

Three covers and a souvenir were issued on the occasion. Two sets of 12 stamp cards that are picture postcards reproducing India stamps in color were also brought out in two formats - as a pack of cards as well as booklets of cards.

THRISSURPEX

Philatelic Club Thrissur successfully conducted a philatelic and Numismatic Exhibition under the Chairmanship of Dr. K S Mohan with O K Prakash as the Convener as a part of their Silver Jubilee celebrations on September 19, 20 and 21, 2003. A special cover was issued and India Post provided special postmarks on 2nd and 3rd day. A Souvenir was also published on the occasion. The show was inaugurated by the Mayor of Trichur, Jose Kattukkaran. A workshop and quiz competition for children was organized on the 2nd day. Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Thrichur, Therambil Ramakrishnan gave away the awards and honored the senior philatelists Olvex M Noronha and E P James.

KOSHELI

Darjeeling Philatelic Exhibition named 'Kosheli' meaning gift in the local dialect, was indeed a gift by the India Post to the people of Darjeeling and Philatelists in general after a gap of almost 25 years. The exhibition was held at Darjeeling Gymkhana Club on September 18-20, 2003 had 140 frames.

Kosheli was much better in terms of organization, publicity, visitors, exhibits, participation and enthusiasm than the so-called 'Nationals' where Jury and organizers outnumbered the visitors. There was unprecedented response to the exhibition and it surpassed all expectations with its team spirit and innovative ideas. The organisers presented neatly packed interesting range of events, several special releases and products. The Post Office made excellent sales and almost all items on offer were total sell-outs. There were queues for everything including writing remarks in the remarks book! More than 400 visitors recorded their views in the remark book.

For the first time a philatelic Exhibition in India had a theme song and every day's program began with postal staff singing this song and concluded with the National Anthem.

John Samuel, Post Master General, North Bengal and Sikkim Region, inaugurated the exhibition in presence of noted dignitaries, collectors, school Principals and students from almost all the schools of Darjeeling district and eminent Philatelists from Kolkata, Delhi, Patna, Cooch Bihar and Alipur Duar. D T Tamlong, Principle Secretary, Darjeeling Gorkha Autonomous Hill Council presided over the function and released

an excellent and informative souvenir during the function. H Mohan, District Magistrate of Darjeeling released the special cover on 'Darjeeling Municipality' and presented it to Passang Bhutia the Chairman of the Darjeeling Municipality.

Three special covers on 'Loreto Convent', 'Himalayan Mountaineering Institute' and on 'Darjeeling Tea' were released on September 20, 2003. In addition, India Post also brought out two Stamp Booklets on Darjeeling Himalayan Railway that is on UNESCO's world heritage list.

There were forty-two exhibits in the competitive class that were awarded 3 Gold, 6 Silver and 8 Bronze medals. Renowned artist and philatelist Dipok Dey was a member of the Jury along with the Superintendent of Post Offices of the Darjeeling Division P C Deb, and Uday Mani Pradhan. The Invitee Class displayed Dey's 'Cinema', Deogawanka's 'Stamp Booklets of India' and 'Brahmini Dawk', Kaushik Dey's 'Size and Shape of Stamps', Pradhan's 'Rotary International', S C Sukhani's 'Rocket Mail', Dilip Kumar Das' 'Pollution', Pradip Jain's 'India', Sovan Sanyal's 'Banglar Mukh', Nirmalendu Chakraborty's 'Gandhi', India Post's 'Bengal on Stamp', and the Post Master General of North Bengal and Sikkim Region John Samuel's 'Thailand' and 'Australia'. Colonel S K Das, Chief Post Master General of the West Bengal Circle and the Chief Guest Debaditya Chakraborty, the Divisional Commissioner distributed the awards to the winners.

During the exhibition, a sit and draw - stamp design contest, a letter writing competition in Hindi, English, Nepali, and Bengali, was organized. Uday Mani Pradhan and Nirmalendu Chakraborty conducted a quiz contest and Madhukar Deogawanka conducted a philatelic workshop. A seminar on postal services was conducted, where senior postal officers were present to listen to the public grievances & suggestions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following list of events scheduled till the end of the year is subject to change. We update it in every issue with the information received during the week. The organizers may be contacted for further details.

October

2-4, Ahmedabad, GUJPEX, State Level
9-11, Bilaspur, District Level
10-13, Jaipur, RAJPEX, State Level
16-19, Hyderabad, APPEX, State Level
xx-xx, Lucknow, Philatelic Festival

November

8-10, Coochbehar, District Level
27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December

26-29, Dharwad, KARNAPEX, State Level

For a list of exhibition held this year, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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PCI CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against PCI and others came up for hearing on October 1, 2003. The next date for hearing is now fixed for November 25, 2003

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INDIA & STATES AT SPINK

October has traditionally been the month that sees Spink offer their specialized auction devoted to Stamps and Covers of India, and this year is no exception. This year's auction also encompasses Ceylon and Borneo to form a sale comprising over 1500 lots to be offered over two days.

Thursday October 16 sees both Ceylon and India & States for sale and primarily comprises the fine collections formed by Henry Fotheringham, OBE, of Grantully, Perthshire, and a further wonderful array from the Estate of the late William Frazer.

India commences with a group of Early Letters and Handstamps including a 1681 entire letter from Fort St. George to England, undoubtedly one of the earliest recorded letters written in English to emanate from India, and four soldier's letters written during various campaigns.

The issues for India are strongly represented commencing with an attractive group of the 1852 Scinde Dawk ½anna values embossed in red, blue and white, which were issued after the capture of Sind Province in 1850.

The 1854 issue commences with a range of Essays and Proofs with no less than twenty examples of the ½anna 9½ arches essay prepared by Capt. Thullier and printed in inks obtained both locally and subsequently from England, and fifteen examples of the ½anna proof in red in the issued design.

The issued stamps include a major section of the Half Anna value with studies of the various Dies and Stones employed in the production of this issue.

From 1855 De La Rue obtained the contract to print the stamps of the East India Company and subsequent Empire issues. This sale includes a fantastic offering of the many essays, die proofs and colour trials that this company is famous for. There are also fine sections of Booklets and Officials.

There is a small select section of Airmails which includes a wonderful cover carried by Captain Ross Smith on his epic air race to Australia, one of only a handful of covers recorded from this historic flight bearing Indian adhesives.

The Indian Post Office had many offices outside of the country and the "Used Abroad" section offers items from Aden, Burma, Danish, French and Portuguese Possessions, Somaliland and Tibet.

There is a very fine section of 100 lots of Indian Convention States. These issues, overprinted on stamps of India, following a Postal

Convention, include a range of type varieties, the most notable being a Chamba 1887 1r. slate block of six with one stamp miss-spelt "CHMABA" which once graced the collection of Col. Rose-Hutchinson.

Over 200 lots of Feudatory States conclude Thursday's sale. These include comprehensive offerings from most States, and the remarkable collection of Poonch formed by Frits Staal, FRPSL, of USA.

For philatelic auctions worldwide, please see the Calendar of Worldwide Philatelic Auctions. The Calendar for October 2003 with detailed information and announcements was updated and is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Auctions/a702.htm>

This information is provided by special arrangement with Charles E. Cwiakala and updates to this information are available at their comprehensive Website www.cwiakala.com.

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SECURITY PRESS TO STEP UP THE SECURITY

The Security Printing Press at Hyderabad is inviting bids for supply, installation and successful commissioning of closed circuit television system with 24 cameras indoors and outdoors for round the clock surveillance of its premises. The last date for submitting bids for pre-qualification is November 11, 2003.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

On September 26, 2003, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu conceded in the State Assembly the Opposition demand for handing over the inquiry into the multi-billion fake stamp scam to a Judicial Commission, headed by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court. Replying to a four-day debate on 'Criminalization of Politics' he said that he would write to the Centre tomorrow for constituting such a Judicial Commission as the scam was spread over 16 States.

The Commission could set up an independent investigating agency to go into the scam, involving his former Cabinet colleague C Krishna Yadav, now in the custody of Maharashtra police, he added.

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NEW ISSUES OF NEPAL

A bicolor stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 was issued on September 23, 2003 on Gopal Das Shrestha, an eminent journalist of Nepal who made his mark in Nepalese journalism with his leadership as an influential intellectual, writer and thinker.

Mohan N Rana designed the stamp and Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, printed it by offset lithography on high quality stamp paper with PVA gumming in the quantity of 1 million in the sheets of 50 stamps.

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PAKISTAN DECIMAL CURRENCY PROVISIONALS

Khalid Malik and Shahid Zaki have co-authored the recently published 'Pakistan Decimal Currency Provisionals 1961 & 1968'. The 100 plus page book is profusely illustrated including 20 color plates. The book is A5 size, hardbound, and is reasonably priced at Pak Rs. 800 or UK £20. For

more information, please contact the publisher and co-author Shahid Zaki at sazphil2001@hotmail.com

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

The Advertising Supplement to 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is available on-line <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is the most effective way to reach the highest targeted readerships for Indian Philately worldwide. The advertising is FREE for the subscribers. The ads are published online in an Advertising Supplement. Send in your ad, today. Click here to view the ads and for the Terms for submitting your ad <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ads.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

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<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. We strive hard to bring you comprehensive coverage of the latest on Indian philately and improve with every issue. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions. We also would like to learn how our newsletter impacts your collecting and the value you feel it provides to you. Do send in your comments, views, reports, articles and other features for publication>

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Guide/Misc/cybercrime.htm>

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

VATICAN'S MOTHER TERESA STAMPS

The Vatican on September 23, 2003 released 5 stamps in the denomination of Euro 0.41 honoring Mother Teresa, as part of preparations for the October 19 beatification of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning nun who devoted her life to caring for Calcutta's destitute.

The stamps feature a portrait of Mother Teresa praying, and are bordered with the same blue trim of the saris worn by Missionaries of Charity nuns. Next to each of the five stamps are sayings of Mother Teresa. The quantity printed is 0.8 million.

Mother Teresa was born in 1910 as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, Macedonia (formerly in Yugoslavia). She was sent by missionary sisters of Our Lady of Loreto to India in 1929 to teach history and geography. Instead, she saw the need for someone to help the desperately poor and ill.

The Missionaries of Charity, the order of nuns founded by Mother Teresa in 1949, has some 650 centers in 123 countries run by about 4,000 nuns and volunteers.

Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Her dedication to the destitute earned her a special place in Pope John Paul the Second's heart. As a sign of his affection and admiration for Mother Teresa, who died in 1997 at age 87, he waived the customary five-year waiting period to begin procedures that can lead to sainthood.

Albania has declared 2004 to be "Mother Teresa Year" and set aside October 19 as a national holiday. India will hold its celebrations on November 8-9.

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ASK US

Please send your queries in detail (illustrations welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to provide an answer to you online.

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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

We require regular correspondents everywhere in India to cover the philatelic activities in their area. We shall reimburse the costs of photos, covers, publications, courier and other charges. All contributions shall be acknowledged.

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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPSOFINDIA

The Hub Site of Indian Philately presents info in following segments - NEWS, ISSUES, EVENTS, AUCTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, DEALERS, and ARTICLES. In addition we provide question answers in ASK US. Also all Indian philatelic web sites as well as several useful philatelic sites are listed under LINKS.

Updated Segments This Week: News, Articles,

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://stampsonindia.netfirms.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

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About STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -- ADMINISTRIVIA

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Vol.2 2001, Issue #20-52, Rs.950

Vol.3 2002, Issue #53-97, Rs.1250

Vol.4 2003, Part 1, Issue #98-122, (January-June) Rs.650

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Issue # 1 - latest issue, Rs.500 or US\$ 10 postpaid

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Issue # 1 - latest issue, Free

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