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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----

The First & 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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Edited by Madhu Jhingan and Savita Jhingan
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of this issue for details.

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We were saddened to learn about the passing away of Derek Lang and Ernie Oehme of UK. Both these gentlemen were in their 80s and were held in high esteem by all philatelists with 'India' interest anywhere in the world. Both made immense and important contribution to the cause of Indian philately during their life long association with it and both were connected to India beyond philately. Lang served in the 31<sup>st</sup> Field Royal Artillery Division with in the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division while Oehme served with the Post Office in India and Pakistan.

Lang and Oehme enriched Indian Philately in many ways and were deservedly respected and recognized. If just one achievement only has to be mentioned about each one of them, then we would say that Lang spent 10 years to research and compile the authoritative work on Indian Postal Stationery in four volumes while Oehme compiled the 'Queries and

Answers' column in 'India Post' the periodical publication of the India Study Circle for Philately for 18 years.

They will undoubtedly be missed; however through their works they will live forever.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Press Trust of India, The Times of India, and Mid Day Mumbai.

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We invite your inputs, please email to feedback@stampsfindia.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.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on photos, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

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

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

The tatanova.com will close down with effect from November 24, 2003, therefore the email id [stampsfindia@tatanova.com](mailto:stampsfindia@tatanova.com) will also be unavailable from that date. This necessitates setting up a new email address for this newsletter. This will now be mailed from [postmaster@stampsfindia.com](mailto:postmaster@stampsfindia.com). This and other new id's at stampsfindia.com shall be active from November 24, 2003 or earlier. Please note the new email address and update your address book.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

November 22

225 years of 2 Guards (1 Grenadiers), Rs5, in Sheetlet of 16

November 27

Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Rs5

November 29

India France Joint Issue, Set of 2, Rs22 each, in Sheetlet of 16, and Miniature Sheet, Rs44

December 10

India Korea Joint Issue, Set of 2, Rs15, in Sheetlet of 16,

December 18

Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava, Rs5

December 31

Major Somnath Sharma PVC, Rs5

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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CHILDREN DAY STAMP RELEASED

India Post released a stamp in the denomination of Rs.5 on Children's Day on November 14, 2003, which is also the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who was immensely fond of children.

This year's stamp has taken the design created by a student, Prasen R Modi of Ahmedabad, who won the first prize at the national level in the 'Stamp Design Contest' held during October 2002 on 'Let us go to school' theme. The design created by another student, Shilpa Kankaria of Pondicherry, who won the second prize at the national level, has been adopted for the First Day Cover.

Alka Sharma designed the sheetlet and the pictorial first day postmark. Information Sheet containing write-up and technical data and priced at Rs.2 was issued on the occasion. The FDC is also priced at Rs 2.

Calcutta Security Printers Limited of Kanpur printed the stamps by Photo Offset in four colors on Matt Chromo paper in the quantity of 0.8 million in the sheets of 40 stamps. The miniature sheet is printed in the quantity of 50,000 only.

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NEW SPECIAL POSTMARKS

India Post provided a special postmark on September 16, 2003 at Ajmer to mark the 1st Anniversary of the Philatelic Bureau at Ajmer. Please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Head Post Office, Ajmer 305001 for availability and charges.

India Post will provide a special postmark on November 20, 2003 at New Delhi to mark the 75th Anniversary of YMCA and a special postmark on November 26, 2003 at New Delhi to mark the Conference of Prosthodontic Association. Special covers are also being issued on both the occasions. For availability and charges, please contact the Philatelic Bureau, Sansad Marg Head Post Office, New Delhi 100 001.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATARAPEX

India Post organized the first ever district level philatelic exhibition from November 14-16, 2003 at Satara. There were 26 entries in the competitive classes. Jury comprising of P G Bhargave of Nashik and G Natarajan awarded 3 Large Silver, 4 Silver, Silver Bronze 6, and 12 Bronze medals. One exhibit was transferred by the Jury out of competition. The Best Exhibit Award was bagged by Dinesh D Shah for 'Fiscals of Princely states of Gujarat' and Best Youth Exhibit Award was won by Nimit D Shah for 'Cartoons on Philately'.

#### LUPHILA

Ludhiana Philatelic Club in collaboration with India Post, Lions Clubs of Ludhiana Region-III and Ludhiana Citizen Council, organized a philatelic exhibition at the Philatelic Museum at Head Post Office, Ludhiana on 14-15 November, 2003. Harnam Das Johar, Punjab Minister for Higher Education, inaugurated the exhibition and Anurag Verma, Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana presided over the function. MJF Lion Amrit Lal Aggarwal, Chairman of the Lions Clubs of Ludhiana Region-III, N S Nanda, President of the Hotel and Restaurant of Association of Punjab, C S Badan, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Ludhiana and V K Raizada, Senior Postmaster were also present on this occasion.

The event was organized as a Children's Fair having fancy dress competition, band competition and on the spot stamp design competition in addition to the stamp exhibition.

17 philatelists displayed their collections on a variety of themes including, Children's Day, Nehru family, Braille, Unusual stamps such as Embroidery stamps & Chocolate stamps, Butterflies, Coins, Mahatma Gandhi, Bharat Ratna Awardees, Disney, Indian States, England, India, and Bhutan with 3-D stamps, Talking stamps, stamps on steel foil and silk.

Rakesh Pandey, Punjab State Minister for Printing and Stationery, gave away the prizes in a function in the evening at Ludhiana Club on November 14, 2003 that was presided over by Hemant Mittal, Commissioner of Central Excise. Pandey, appreciated the work of Ludhiana Philatelic Club in spreading awareness about the usefulness of the hobby of stamp collecting among children and announced a grant of Rs.100,000 for its Philatelic Library and for promotion of philately.

A cultural program was also held on this occasion followed with a talk on 'Life Style of Children' delivered by Dr. Rajiv Gupta and Dr. Narotam Dewan and the evening culminated with dinner.

The exhibition was attended by large number of visitors daily. Ten stamps/coins dealers from all over India participated in the Stamp Bazar organized on this occasion and did brisk business. The exhibition was widely covered by the electronic and print media.

#### PATPEX

India Post organized a district level philatelic exhibition on November 10-11, 2003 at Patiala. Two special postmarks and special covers were issued on the occasion. Suraj Jaitly was the jury.

#### CALENDAR

The following list of events scheduled for next few months 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.

#### November

27-30, Thrissur, KERAPEX, State Level

December

18-19, Jaipur, CHINKARAPHILEX District Level (Army Postal Service)

19-21, Kolkata, National Stamp Fair

26-29, Dharwad, KARNAPEX, State Level

January 2004

9-11, Tirupur, Coin-Stampex

9-12, Nagpur, MAHAPEX, State Level

For a list of events held this year, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Events/a300.htm>

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NEW PHILATELIC BUREAUS

The philatelic Bureau at Patiala was inaugurated on November 11, 2003.

There are 65 philatelic bureaus in India now.

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WEB WATCH

Catalogue de Timbres-Fiscaux (Catalog of Fiscal Stamps) by A Forbin published in 1915 that still remains useful is now available on-line at

<http://www.revenue-collector.com/forbin/>

Philatelic Bureau at Erankulam is the only philatelic bureau in India to have a web site of its own at <http://www.philakochi.com>. The Ernakulam Bureau provides each Philately Deposit Account holder a separate home page on its web site.

Dinesh Mahtani's personal web site <http://www.Dmahtani.com> contains amongst other things his want lists of stamps and list of his duplicates available for trade.

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GENUINE STAMPS THEFT SCAM

A Special team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating the multi-billion rupees theft of real stamps and papers from trains while in transit. This probe, running parallel to that of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), is headed by Deputy Inspector General Prabodh Kumar. The team questioned several officers of the Railway Police Force (RPF) and at least seven officers of the India Security Press (ISP) in Nashik.

The CBI team also visited Pune to corroborate leads and exchange notes with the SIT. There is evidence to suggest that the two are linked and that the combined scam sum could have a staggering number of zeroes. The CBI and intelligence agencies are worried that the genuine stamp theft case, involving many government officials, could be a bigger scam than the fake stamp case.

Initial investigations reveal that Telgi and his gang members were involved in a series of thefts of stamp papers and other material printed at the ISP. High-value papers including stamp papers, postal orders, Kisan Vikas Patras, National Savings Certificates and Income-Tax refund orders printed at the ISP were stolen during rail transit from Nashik to at least 30 different locations across India. These startling thefts occurred at regular intervals during transit from ISP Nashik, to

various district treasury offices or stamp depots in connivance with railway officials and some officers of ISP.

At least 256 cases of thefts of parcels booked on passenger trains have been reported by the office of the controller of stamps at ISP to the security heads of different railway zones. Of all these reported cases, only two were detected till date. The CBI has acquired all those papers and details of cases reported by ISP.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

1

Mumbai police have seized a huge consignment of fake stamp papers and bogus franking machines on November 15, 2003 evening at Borivali and have sent details to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case. A Borivali-based bank had received stamped documents concerning some loans and suspecting foul play had asked the stamp office to verify the papers. The stamp office declared the entire lot of papers worth Rs200,000 as fake. The franking on the stamp papers was also found to be fake. The bank then registered a complaint with the Borivali police station.

2

Nagashetty, the second additional fast track court judge heard the counsels on November 15, 2003 at Bangalore and reserved orders to November 22, 2003 on an application filed by Fake Stamp Scam kingpin Telgi praying for his release for a week on parole to visit his ailing mother and wife. Telgi's lawyers argued that Telgi, who is said to be suffering from diabetes and cardiac problems, was not being provided adequate medical attention in the jail. The government counsel has contested his petition saying there was a government order not to remove Telgi from jail and alleged that claims of his mother and wife being seriously ill were not true. Telgi was produced in the court.

Telgi in another application sought a direction to jail authorities to restore the television set facility granted to him earlier, but withdrawn later.

3

Mumbai Police Commissioner R S Sharma on November 15, 2003 proceeded on indefinite leave in the wake of indictment by the SIT for his alleged role in shielding Telgi.

4

The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi police have arrested Sushant Kumar Das and Lalit Patodi on November 13, 2003 on charges of facilitating Telgi's dealings in fake stamps by providing premises in Delhi and opening bank accounts in fictitious names.

Das, who was nabbed in Kaushambi area on the outskirts of Delhi had allegedly opened accounts in two banks to enable Telgi to have financial transactions without being detected. In one account, he had deposited Rs7.19 million and in another he had a deposit of Rs2.73 million. Das

had allegedly given a blank signed cheque book to Telgi to operate these accounts.

Patodi, being a property dealer, had rented out one of his offices in Connaught Place to Telgi. Subsequently, he learnt that the premises was being used for sale of fake stamp papers, and then provided two more office spaces to Telgi for the illegal activity.

5

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had launched an enquiry, a few months ago, into the role of the staff of the India Security Press at Nashik and also whether proper procedure was followed in the disposal of printing machinery, some of which allegedly found its way into the hands of the prime accused Telgi. CBI director P C Sharma said at Mumbai on November 15, 2003 that the CBI had taken initiative on its own to start the enquiry.

6

Inspector General (Intelligence) Sridhar Vagal, now under arrest in Pune for his role in the scam, has been placed under suspension on November 13, 2003. There is a rule that if a government officer remains under arrest for more than 48 hours, he is suspended automatically.

7

Deputy Prime Minister of India, L K Advani commenting on the fake stamp scam said that those trying to destabilize the country through cross-border terrorism are suspected to be involved in the crime. Advani was talking to the journalists accompanying him to Chennai during his day-long visit there on November 13, 2003.

8

Maharashtra Governor Mohamed Fazal sought to know from Chief Minister Sushilkumar Shinde on November 12, 2003 certain information in the fake stamp scam.

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WADP EXPANDS

A new member, INTERGRAF representing security printers, has been accepted into the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) recently.

The other members of the WADP are Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Philatelic Federation (FIP), International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations (IFSDA), International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP), and Association of Philatelic Catalog Publishers (ASCAT). The International Bureau of the UPU hosts the WADP Secretariat in Switzerland.

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Rajesh K Agarwala of Capital Stamp Company has uploaded a new price list in Indian Rupees of British India King George VI stamps in mint and Used at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Ads/ar-01.htm>

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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>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

BANGKOK 2003 FAILS TO LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS

By Peter J McBride, UK

While BANGKOK 1993 was the success of the decade, 2003 was doomed to failure while on the drawing board. The offer to the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) by the owners of the Impact Exhibition Centre of free facilities was just too much for the organizers, CAT and the Philatelic Association of Thailand (PAT) to turn down. The result was a venue located on the outskirts of Bangkok, some 45 Km and 40 minutes with a Formula 1 taxi driver at a daily return cost of £8(US\$13).

The major promotional aspects of any exhibition are location and advertising and Bangkok 2003 lacked both. The only serious advertising was done by CAT, advertising its limited edition products and miniature sheets with added premiums. If you did not drive the only means of transport was taxi or sky train connected with a lamentable bus service.

The exhibition was closed down on the first day for the mandatory Royal Visit and this generated some coverage on TV but only in the Royal happenings program and not in the news programs. Those who attended the 1993 exhibition remember the enormous number of posters all over Bangkok which brought all those people in - none this time.

The air conditioning at the exhibition was superb, maintaining everyone and everything at a freezing 14C. The magnificent water fountain right beside some of the best exhibits certainly challenged the air conditioning system. Elvis Presley blasting from speakers 10 hours per day was hardly conducive to philatelic conversations or even selling stamps.

Let us not be totally negative. The standard of exhibits was indeed world class and the exhibits associated with David Feldman were a joy to behold.

The gravy train of commissioners, judges, officials, advisors and 254 members of the organizing committee were certainly at the highest level ever observed and appears to continue unabated, gathering steam and momentum between each FIP/FIAP event.

Regrettably the original plans had been for about 80 overseas dealers and 80 postal administrations to be present. The actuality was that 14 overseas dealers booked but only 10 arrived and only 31 overseas administrations were present and many of these were represented by local dealers who had been forbidden to do this by the organizers.

The overseas dealers were probably put off by the insistence of the organizers that non-Thai dealers and postal administrations pay US\$2200 while Thai dealers paid only US\$400. The Thai Post Office had 40 sales booths and 19 pages in the much reduced Philatelic Passport. So, the

only World Exhibition in 2003 attracted 10 dealers from outside the home country and many of them left after the first weekend.

Exhibition organizers, in conjunction with FIP/FIAP should learn many lessons from this exhibition. Prices for booths should be based on actual costs rather than how much the trade can be pressured to pay. Everyone should pay the same price. Everyone is selling the same product so why not the same overheads. Discriminatory pricing is immoral and illegal in most countries.

It was very obvious that this exhibition was totally and completely organized with the purpose of displaying excellent stamp collections and selling stamps and products created by the Thai Post Office. The trade, both local and international, was delegated to the sidelines and their trading was actually restricted by the organizing committee.

The philatelic Passport which normally is a very popular draw with the less sophisticated collector would be expected to be collected by about 10,000 visitors per day but was restricted to a maximum of 1000 per day so the Postal Administrations were unable to do the business that they had planned. I spoke to 21 of the Postal Administrations who were at the show and the MINIMUM that they admitted to losing by attending BANGKOK 2003 was US\$3000.

The British Post Office, very sensibly, did not turn up. This was seized upon by a very entrepreneurial Thai dealer who set up business in his local booth putting British stamps in the Passport, totally contrary to the Exhibition rules. It was amusing to see the Union flag moving on and off the booth as several of the organizers gave varying interpretations of the rules. This dealer was on the organizing committee. Obviously, in Thailand the rule is 'There are no Rules' - T.I.T. - This is Thailand.

The many functions that were organized were all scheduled to start at 7pm in downtown Bangkok, two hours away from the exhibition venue at that time of day. When did the exhibition close? 8pm.

There are 10 years to go before Bangkok hosts their next international. Is it possible that they can look at the success of 1993 and forget the disaster of 2003 and make 2013 something really worthwhile?

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READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please do let us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

DR. SATISH Y. DEODHAR from Ahmedabad

It gives me great pleasure to read the news item 'Peshwa Bajirao Stamp Approved' that appeared on Stamps of India Collectors Companion! If you recall, I had written a public letter that was also published here (#138) sometime ago expressing indignation at Department of Post not ready to issue commemorative stamp on Peshwa Bajirao. For the last 6 years, Marathi Rajya Smriti Pratishthan was trying its best but did not succeed. The public letter that I wrote inhere, I also sent it to the Deputy Prime Minister and Speaker of Lok Sabha. The letters bore fruits! I received letters from the respective offices immediately

thereafter indicating Department of Post's willingness to bring out the stamp. The remaining procedural things are being taken up by the Marathi Rajya Smriti Pratishthan. I am glad that you also had made my views public.

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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

ALLIGATOR IN MAIL!

November 17, 2003?

Postal workers in Milwaukee were sorting through the mail when they noticed a 4-foot alligator chewing its way out of an Express Mail box.

One of the workers said the gator's nose was sticking out.

She said another coworker picked the gator up by its tail and threw it in a hamper.

It's now at an animal shelter and will remain there before being moved to a sanctuary in northern Illinois. The sanctuary owner will eventually take the animal to Florida.

Officials say the shipment from Milwaukee to Colorado is under review.

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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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WEB SITE UPDATES

STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsofindia.com>

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.

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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ADMINISTRIVIA

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Vol.1 2000, Issue #1-19, Rs.500

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

Complete Set, as above, postpaid: Rs.3500 (inland) or US\$95 (overseas)

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

STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION, Back Issues on the Web Site

Issue # 1 - latest issue, No Charge

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Content/Download/archives.htm>

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