

ISSN 0972-3587

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

Issue # 173 - June 17, 2004. Published Every Thursday  
Edited by Madhukar Jhingan and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

In June 1994, the American Philatelic Society gave a charter to its Chapter #1461, "The Virtual Stamp Club" <http://www.virtualstampclub.com>. The VSC was then a part of GENie's Stamp Collecting Round Table, and it became the world's first electronic chapter of a major stamp collecting organization. Since then, the VSC has resided on GENie, America Online, the Microsoft Network, Dueling Modems Stamps and Delphi (often on more than one service at a time); on text-only dial-up services and the World Wide Web; from 2500 potential topics to hundreds of pages on the Web, chats, and an active message board.

We congratulate Lloyd de Vries, the founder President of VSC, and also Secretary of the American Philatelic Society.

We also plan to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first virtual stamp club in the world with the launch of another virtual stamp club - "Stamps of India Collectors Club" that will be the first virtual stamp club in India. The details will follow in the forthcoming issues based on your ideas and suggestions.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: The Hindu

We invite your inputs, please email to [feedback@stampsfindia.com](mailto:feedback@stampsfindia.com)

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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.  
Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this  
newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We  
shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, 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

OLYMPHILEX 2004

World Olympic -Sports Stamp, Coins and Memorabilia Exhibition,  
OLYMPHILEX 2004 will be held concurrently with the Games of the XXVIII  
Olympiad from August 12 to 22, 2004 in Athens. The venue of the  
exhibition, European Exhibition and Promotion Centre, will have 1000  
frames in 3,000 square meters space.

The Hellenic Post is organizing OLYMPHILEX 2004 with the cooperation of  
the Hellenic Philatelic Federation and the support of the Hellenic Union  
of Olympic and Sports Philately under the patronage of the International  
Olympic Committee and the International Federation of Olympic Philately  
[FIPO]. The event is taking place under the auspices of the  
International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

OLYMPHILEX 2004 is the first world philatelic exhibition to utilize  
internet as the sole medium for communication. No Bulletin with the  
appropriate Regulations as customary was published as these were  
published on the internet and circulated to the respective  
Commissioners. All correspondence, entry forms of exhibitors,  
application forms for booths' rent by Postal Authorities or stamp  
dealers is entirely carried out by internet. So far, the experiment is  
very rewarding and sooner or later the experience gained will help  
future organizers of International Exhibitions.

Although the Exhibition will open its doors to the public on the 12th of  
August, the official opening is planned for 16th of August, in order  
members of the Government, officials of the International Olympic  
Committee and of the Olympic Games 2004, Greek Olympic winners etc.  
would be able to attend.

India has not appointed any commissioner for OLYMPHILEX 2004 and the  
last date for participation was May 20, 2004. However those wishing to  
participate may immediately download the rules and entry form and email  
the duly filled form back to organizers. The participation is free.

Anthony B. Virvilis FRPSL, AIJP, AEP has been appointed General  
Commissioner of OLYMPHILEX 2004. For further information regarding  
OLYMPHILEX 2004 you may contact [olymp1@otenet.gr](mailto:olymp1@otenet.gr) or [olymp2@otenet.gr](mailto:olymp2@otenet.gr)

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SPECIAL PLACE POSTMARKS REINTRODUCED

In a philatelic seminar held in December 2003 at New Delhi, yours truly  
recalled that "earlier in addition to the philatelic bureaus the special

first day of issue postmark was also provided at the Special Place/s related with the personality, institution, or event for most Stamp Issues. It is a good practice and should be reintroduced as it also creates additional revenue if well publicized".

We are pleased to report, albeit belatedly, that for the stamp issued on June 2, 2004 to commemorate the 150 years of Woodstock School, Mussoorie a special place postmark was provided at the school premises. This is the first special place postmark in recent times and we welcome this move of India Post.

The first day cover postmark can be provided on the first day covers for a period of four weeks from the date of release as per order dated May 8, 2004 by Devika Kumar, Deputy Director General, Philatelic Division, India Post. Those who wish to have this postmark may send their request before June 29, 2004 to Chief Post Master General, Uttaranchal Circle, Dehradun 248001.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/173a.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

- June 17 - Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Rs5
- June 19 - P N Panicker, Rs5
- June 28 - Great Trigonometrical Survey, Set of 3, Rs5 each
- June 28 - Great Trigonometrical Survey, Miniature sheet, Rs15
- June 30 - Aacharya Bhikshu, 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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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The first state level of Jharkhand, JHARPHEX 2004 was organized by India Post at Dhanbad from May 6 to 9, 2004. 4 special covers were released during the exhibition along with special postmarks. Postmarks were on Sal Tree, Coal Washery, Dancing Legs & Mobile Phone.

The Jury was chaired by Kamleshwar Prasad, Chief Postmaster General, Jharkhand Circle and consisted of Dr. R S Gandhi, and R D Binani. K K Sinha, Director of Postal Services, Jharkhand Circle served as Apprentice Jury. Jury awarded 2 Gold, 8 silver, and 12 Bronze medals as follows:

Gold medals

- Syed Hafizuddin - Balloon Post + CPMG rolling trophy for Best Exhibit
- Rajesh Kumar Sinha - Maps

Silver medals

- Ashok Kumar Tiwary - Evolution of the Radio Wave
- Rajesh Kumar Sinha - Australia
- Suchanda Banerjee - Germany The Fatherland
- Ashok Kumar Tiwary - Indian Wild Animals
- R K Choudhary - Indian Pigeongrammes
- Moumita Mahto - India-Post Independence
- Aishaa Ferheen -Environment + Best exhibit in Youth class
- Yamini - Freedom from Hunger + JPS Special prize (Youth)

Bronze medals

- H C Pant - Indian Army covers

Lokesh Bagaria - Indian Personalities  
Dr. Mehboob Waris - Personalities  
Equbal Waris - Flora Fauna  
Rajender Singh - Bharatratna  
Abhimanyu Ram - Personalities  
S N Singh - Indian Freedom Movement  
Yamini - Jai Jharkhand (Youth)  
Harpreet Kaur - India-post Independence (Youth)  
Mugdha Banerjee - Gift of God (Youth)  
JPS Bulletin (Literature)

The exhibition perhaps had the distinction of having the longest Jury report that we have seen. Unfortunately mark sheets were not given to the exhibitors. The marks were not displayed in the list of award winners.

#### CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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.

June 18-20, Nainital, District Level + State Level (Youth)  
Raj Bhavan,

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

#### OLYMPIC TORCH IN NEW DELHI

New Delhi was the sixth international stop of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Torch Relay on June 10, 2004. This was 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Olympic torch came to India, the first was in 1964. ATHENS 2004 Olympic Torch Relay will cover 34 cities in 27 countries in all 5 continents and its theme appropriately is "Pass the Flame, Unite the World".

The Torch Relay began at the Qutab Minar, site of the medieval settlements of Delhi, to the sounds of the Taal Vaidyam, a performance of percussion instruments from the temples of South India, traditionally played to mark the beginning of an auspicious event. Delhi Chief Minister Shiela Dixit handed over the Torch to the first torchbearer, Suresh Kalmadi (President of the Indian Olympic Association). Among other celebrations, there was music from the desert regions of Rajasthan at the Humayun's Tomb, and a re-enactment of the centuries old kite festival at the Red Fort. A procession of bedecked elephants and camels escorted torchbearers down the majestic RajPath. The grand finale at the National Stadium included a fusion of the traditional and the modern as the myriad colors of Indian culture from across the country came into play.

Olympic Philatelists of India [opi@stampsofindia.com](mailto:opi@stampsofindia.com) mailed 41 illustrated covers on June 10, 2004 to mark this historic event.

Visit the following link for illustrations:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/173b.htm>

#### A GUIDE TO MODERN INDIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

Prashant Pandya [prashantpandya@sancharnet.in](mailto:prashantpandya@sancharnet.in) has authored and published Volume-I Envelopes of Independent India issued from 1947 to 2003. The book was released on June 6, 2004 at Vadodara.

The information is organized in following chapters:

Introduction to Envelopes,  
Ordinary Envelopes Advertisements on Envelopes  
Express Delivery Envelopes  
Registered Envelopes  
Air Mail Envelopes  
Greeting Post Envelopes  
Customised Postal Stationery Envelopes  
Customised Greeting Post Envelopes  
Provisional/Surcharged Envelopes  
Formula Postal Stationery Envelopes  
Indian Princely States' envelopes issued after Independence  
Postal Rates from 1947 to 2003

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AUCTION ACTION

Indian Thematic Society [indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@rediffmail.com) is holding its postal auction #25. The 61-lot auction closes on July 15, 2004.

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

SIGNET, Vol. 26 No. 3, October-December 2003, Quarterly  
SIGNET, Vol. 26 No. 4, January-March 2004, Quarterly  
Editor: S Sahoo  
Publisher: Philatelic Congress of India  
Address: D M Pitte, Suket, IV floor, 29B DongersiCrossLane, Mumbai 400006  
Annual Subscription: Rs.100 in India US\$ 12 overseas by airmail

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

On June 10, 2004 Metropolitan magistrate, Delhi, V K Khanna remanded Telgi to CBI custody till June 23, 2004 after special public prosecutor J S Wadia submitted that he had to be taken back to Yervada jail in Pune, by June 25. This was to enable his production before a MCOCA court in Pune on June 26, he added. The investigating agency had sought his custody claiming that Telgi had to be interrogated in connection with the recovery of fake stamp papers worth Rs 2.2 billion from Delhi almost two years ago. Wadia said two of the accused in the case which was registered at the Hauz Khas police station, had alleged Telgi's involvement.

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USA DIWALI STAMP

Dr Shailendra Kumar, president of the Committee for Diwali Postage Stamp, and Dr Piyush Agrawal, past President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA), are submitting a new proposal to the U S Postal Service to formally request the issuance of a Diwali stamp.

A past proposal fell through because of the low number of petitions.

Organizers have so far won the support of U S Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S C), who is urging all Hindus to begin a letter-writing campaign in support of the proposal.

The new campaign calls for Hindus to send a letter advocating the plan to: Dr. Virginia H Noelke, chairperson, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o U S Postal Service, Stamp Services, 1735 North Lynn Street, Suite 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6380. Letters must be submitted by June 30, 2004.

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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>

VIEWS & OPINIONS

PHILATELY IN TRANSITION IN INDIA, Part 73

This newsletter is neither a tool for self promotion nor a tool to settle personal scores for anyone. This column received contributions, encouragement and support from all corners and that has helped.

The subscribers list of this newsletter is very diverse and has been growing since inception. All individual members of the Philatelic Congress of India's governing council including its past presidents are also on this list. Those who put in specific request for unsubscribing are removed from the subscribers list. The subscription to this newsletter is not based on an individual's loyalty and there is no discrimination. This is a free newsletter and is emailed for free and can be downloaded for free from the website.

Readers have been requested on a number of occasions to write their comments, feedback, and rejoinders on the news and views published in here. However no one from the governing council of Philatelic Congress of India has taken the trouble to share their views on public platforms. But they do spend considerable effort to circulate misinformation, half-truths, and outright untruths in a clandestine manner.

From Issue # 58 - March 28, 2002, since the first publication of this column, we have received only one negative comment (from a non-resident Indian) and the same has been published in full.

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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.>

PALLAB BOSE, New Delhi

It's always a pleasure to read your news letter, week after week, that flips the entire 'world' on to our screens and also enables us to develop so many contacts.

Congratulations on your dynamic efforts.

Nice to know such interesting info about Venus and mail, in fact the philatelic circle of Rajasthan has issued a very colourful and nice special cover on Venus's transit across the sun.

I'm sure the Venus period 2004-12 shall see a new and dynamic phase in Indian philately, where we can have more national exhibitions and state wise march pasts, like the sporting events. Also modern philately needs to take a leap with more importance given to thematic collectors, rather than reserving all the gold medals for the grey haired 'classic' collectors only.

It was nice to know about the Autograph club and exhibition being held at Calcutta. This is a unique hobby, and along with my pursuit in philately, coins and bank notes, I have been casually collecting autographs, autographed photographs and signed letters for the past 20 years and have over 200 personalities.

Can you please give more information to like minded collectors about the Autographs Club and how does one go about arranging the display for exhibitions??? How are the good autograph collectors going about their display???

ASHOK KUMAR TIWARY, Jamshedpur

I want to point out something on the reaction of Dr. Satyendra Agarwal on JHARPHEX 2004.

Everybody is aware that now-a-days philatelic exhibitions are held in small towns & remote areas. Being a senior philatelist I go those places in JHARKHAND to help the Dept. of Post for organising that exhibition. I face very peculiar situation that time. Many collectors come there with their album or stock book full of stamps. They bring those stock books for participation. That time I tell them "How to display". Next day that person brings his stamp well mounted in 16 or 32 Pages. Now as a jury, I give him silver or bronze medal. Next time he participates in higher level exhibition & arranges his philatelic materials properly. Again he gets bronze or silver medal. Ultimate output is that he has got "The real test of PHILATELY" & a philatelist is born in a remote area who will guide many other people of that location. Isn't it promotion of philately?

Take the similar case of JHARPHEX as pointed by Dr. Agarwal. That girl had already applied for one frame of exhibit. She came with her stock book on the evening of 5th May. That time I told her how to display her collection. Next evening she came again with her 'READY EXHIBIT'. I allowed her to display & one frame was allotted (I was person-in charge of frame allotment). Had I done something wrong? Ultimately she was awarded DIPLOMA. Now she will take more interest in philately.

Being a senior philatelist, one must think of promoting this hobby at the grass-root level rather than thinking of Medals for himself. However, Dept of Post or Philatelic associations should organise philatelic workshops in such remote areas and small towns, then only people will be aware of exhibiting their collection.

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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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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

POSTAL STATIONERY OF INDORE

The correct date for the issue of the first Postcard and stamped Envelope is February 1894.

More interesting is the fact that the Reply Postcards were not issued at that time as is widely believed and cataloged but in April 1901.

Acknowledgements:

Director General of National Archives of India, New Delhi  
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ALSO IN THE NEWS

HARRY POTTER ON STAMPS OF TAIWAN

Harry Potter, a magical concoction of the English writer J K Rowling, created an immediate sensation when the first book in the series was published in 2000. Dearly loved by young folk around the world, Harry Potter has become an immensely popular figure of children's folklore and

literature. The first and second film adaptations of this best selling series of novels have raked in US\$1.9 billion in box office. Through these novels and movies, Harry Potter has been successfully marketed worldwide. To encourage younger generations to collect stamps, Chunghwa Post is issuing two souvenir sheets entitled "Magical Creatures" and "Hogwarts." They are being timed to come out simultaneously with the release of the third Harry Potter movie "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" on June 4, 2004. Each of these sheets consists of six stamps, five with denominations of NT\$5 and one with a denomination of NT\$25. The stamps have been designed by Double Impact Licensing and Marketing Inc. and printed by China Color Printing Co., Ltd. in deep-etch offset on Phosphorescent stamp paper in the quantity of 1 million each.

The designs of the "Magical Creatures" sheet are:

1. Owl Post (Upper Left): Harry's messenger owl, Hedwig, brings Harry a parcel containing a card and a present from Hermione on his 13th birthday

2. Close-up of Hedwig (Upper Right): By delivering messages and thus facilitating communication, Harry's pet Hedwig plays an important role.

3. Riding a Hippogriff for the First Time (Middle Left): As the new Care-of-Magical-Creatures teacher at Hogwarts, Hagrid gives Harry guidance as to how to ride a Hippogriff.

4. Close-up of a Hippogriff (Middle Right): Hippogriffs have the bodies, hind legs, and tails of horses, but the front legs, wings and heads of what seem to be giant eagles, with cruel, steel-colored beaks and large, brilliant orange eyes.

5. The Monster Book of Monsters (Lower Left): A present from Hagrid on Harry's 13th birthday. A required book for the Care-of-Magical-Creatures class, this book can bite and flip onto its edge and scuttle sideways on its covers like some weird crab.

6. Close-up of Crookshanks (Lower Right): Crookshanks is a huge, slightly bow-legged ginger cat with thick, fluffy fur.

The designs of the "Hogwarts" sheet are:

1. Quidditch Match (Upper Left): In the storm, Harry rides his Nimbus 2000 in Gryffindor's match against Hufflepuff.

2. Dementors Come onto the Quidditch Pitch (Upper Right): At the moment the Dementors set foot on the field, Harry feels a chill and hears the sound of his mother's pleading cries before she died. Then he crashes to the ground.

3. Riding a Hippogriff Together to Save Sirius Black (Middle Left): Harry and Hermione use a Time-Turner to rescue the Hippogriff Buckbeak. They then ride Buckbeak to rescue Sirius Black.

4. Third Year at Hogwarts (Middle Right): During his third year at Hogwarts, Harry learns how to defend himself from truly terrifying enemies.

5. Practicing the Patronus Charm to Repel Dementors (Lower Left): Professor Lupin, the Defense-Against-the-Dark-Arts teacher, uses a Boggart to teach Harry how to repel Dementors.



6. Conquering Fears (Lower Right): Harry bravely faces his fears to conjure a Patronus and defeat a Boggart that has turned into a Dementor.

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/News/2004/173c.htm>

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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://www.stampsonindia.com>

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

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9868140089  
Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

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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