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

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Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

To continue from the editorial of the previous issue, we would like to  
record that this year also marks the 100 years of stamp booklets in  
India.

The stamp booklets were introduced in India on April 1, 1904, just 15  
days after the introduction of these in UK.

We hope India Post will commemorate this event by bringing out a stamp  
booklet to mark its centennial.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: The Indian  
Express, The Times of India,

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

WEB SITE UPDATES

A major restructuring of the web site [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com) is underway. The basic idea is to make it simple and even more user friendly.

During this exercise certain information may be temporarily unavailable for some time. We request you to kindly bear with us and help us by informing broken links or any other problem that you may experience while using the site.

Once again, we seek your opinions and suggestions for its continuous improvement.

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUE UPDATE

India Post has scheduled India Iran Joint issue for release on August 16, 2004.

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POSTAL STATIONERY UPDATE

New Arrivals

July 5, Inland Letter Card with advertisement, Cataract, in Gujarati, 0.5 million, Multicolor, India Security Press, Nashik

Visit the following link for illustrations:

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/newspost/176a.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August 12-15, Kolkata, Stamp Fair
Art Gallery, Charnock City, Salt Lake City

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PCI COURT CASES UPDATE

The suit filed by Rajesh Varma against Philatelic Congress of India in 2002 came up for hearing on July 3, 2004 and the next date of hearing was fixed for December 6, 2004.

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PCI MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Congress of India has been scheduled for August 8, 2004 at Ahmedabad. More in the next issue.

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FAKE STAMP SCAM UPDATES

Tamil Nadu's Deputy Inspector General of Police (Crime Branch Criminal Investigation Department), A P Mohammed Ali, and Deputy Superintendent of Police, S Sankar and Life Insurance Corp official R Sadhu were arrested by the CBI after raids at their respective residences on July 1, 2004 at Chennai for allegedly shielding an associate of scamster Telgi. Metropolitan Magistrate Alamelu Natarajan had remanded them to the CBI custody for four days on July 2, 2004. They have been sent to the Chennai Central Prison in judicial custody till July 16, 2004.

A two-member team from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrived in Rajkot on July 4, 2004 to interrogate four persons accused in the fake revenue and insurance stamps racket unearthed in the State on July 2, 2004. In the meantime, a team of the Rajkot police left for Mumbai to arrest three persons who allegedly supplied fake stamps to the accused. The Rajkot police are yet to establish a link between the local racket and the multi-billion Telgi stamp scam. The Rajkot police had arrested Ahmedabad resident Kishor Patel on July 1, 2004. This led to a series of raids in Ahmedabad and Vadodara. The police arrested three persons – Jignesh Patel, Suresh Soni and Siddharth Shah and seized fake revenue and insurance stamps worth Rs 5 lakh. The four accused were remanded to six days in police custody on July 3, 2004.

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FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

PERSONALITY STAMPS OF INDIA

By Dr. Avinash B Jagtap, Binningen (Switzerland)

It has been a tradition of India Post that a number of stamps commemorating the achievements, birth and death anniversaries of prominent sons and daughters of India are issued from time to time. Many times these are issued just to please the state concerned or due to the "pressure" of the "Lobby" for certain group of people, belonging to a particular caste or creed. Not democratically indeed. This can well be observed when we take a glimpse of hundreds of stamps issued since the independence. In other parts of the world the postal authorities do issue personality stamps, but they are not so "generous" as our India Post.

Many times the personalities depicted on the stamp are almost unknown in the state itself, not to talk of their even being known to the people in neighboring states. France used to issue personality stamps in a series of 5 to 6 stamps. All stamps having the same design, framework and border. These were really beautiful series issued in 1950-1960. I personally believe that India should follow this example and issue only a few personality series comprised of 5 stamps each, giving equal importance to all states. Without issuing them haphazardly, but observing a clear issuing policy such series could become popular with Indian philatelists. Care should be taken not to issue any more stamps in the name of personalities, whose stamps have already been issued a number of times, like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Ambedkar, to name a few.

Also about the other part of a stamp design, apart from the effigy of the personality, the background should show some illustration which has to do with his life and work for which he or she was reputed. Most important thing which I always miss is the date of birth and demise. In any recent personality stamps, these important dates are deliberately avoided by India Post. It is possible that India Post is not willing to take responsibility if this date is incorrect, since there are some stamps, where these dates are erroneously printed! Most probably they are under the impression that this data is of no importance at all. If you see any personality stamps of any foreign country you will find that this data is always mentioned. Many times the personality stamps are issued with some imaginary figures as an "artist's vision" (like

Muktabai or Savitrabai Phule, Jijabai all from Maharashtra etc). In such cases some thing associated with their lives could be depicted.

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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

Thanks for your wonderful and comprehensive issue#175. Not only the content but also it was nice to see so many links, that helps philatelists to uncover so much of information.

It was very sad to note that July'04, being the 125th year of postal stationery release and also the 150th year of Scinde Dawks - the first stamps of Asia, there are no releases from the postal department this month, to commemorate these historic momentous occasions. We collectors should highlight this callous attitude of the Postal authorities very aggressively.

Also, surprisingly, there has been no good exhibitions, competitive or otherwise, held this month, to mark the occasions. This shows that the majority who claim to be Philatelists are only bothered in winning laurels and pursuing self interests, and do not have any passion or love for Philately.

As a philatelist, it was a bit sad to note that China had to destroy millions of stamps in order to reduce the amount in the market, to enhance the importance of Chinese stamps. What a national waste, what a philatelic waste. If the Indian postal authorities don't reduce the number of issues on ridiculous personalities, whom no one recognizes or wants, I think we shall start mass-destruction of these issues as well.

Even though your website is called 'Stamps of India', you could maybe start a small section on Coins, bank notes and autographs, for the benefit of these collectors too.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/sitel/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/sitel/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

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RESEARCH NOTES

By Madhukar Jhingan

NABHA AND PATIALA POSTAL STATIONERY

The P & T Director General's Circular # 37 of September 28, 1922 states: "Half Anna envelopes on which the embossed stamp has been overprinted with the words 'one anna' at the top and the name of the state at the bottom will soon be issued for the use of Patiala and Nabha states."

Acknowledgements:

MSJ Philatelic Collections

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ALSO IN THE NEWS

CZECH COUNTERFEITS SCANDAL

By Vanessa Bulkacz for The Prague Post

With a collection of Czechoslovak stamps that's won 16 international gold medals, what philatelist wouldn't envy Ludvik Pytlíček?

But although he claims to have the biggest collection of Czechoslovak stamps in the world, valued at more than 100 million Kc (\$3.8 million), Pytlíček's situation right now is as sticky as the gum on the back of a stamp. He is at the center of an international counterfeit scandal that he says is "an attempt to hurt me" prior to the upcoming World Stamp Championships in Singapore.

The controversy began following a 2003 auction sale gone wrong. In the wake of that and a later deal, Pytlíček and another Czech stamp expert face punitive actions from the Union of Czech Philatelists.

At a Brno auction in April 2003, Pytlíček sold a Czech collector a booklet of Czechoslovak airmail stamps from the 1930s for 10,000 Kc. Shortly thereafter, *Filatelie* magazine published several examples of counterfeit Czechoslovak entries, including many like those Pytlíček had sold in Brno. The sale was voided, the money returned to the buyer, and the suspect stamps returned to Pytlíček. The presidium of the Union of Czech Philatelists then nominated a special commission to investigate the alleged forgeries, according to an official statement the union released to international collectors of Czechoslovak stamps in mid-June.

Pytlíček said many of the more than 20,000 registered stamp collectors in the Czech Republic collect and trade stamps for investment purposes, giving his competitors motivation to attack him above and beyond mere pride. The value and quality of his collection has caused such jealousy that his competitors are attempting to denigrate him with accusations of premeditated fraud, he said.

Hopeful of vindicating his name and his collection, Pytlíček enlisted the services of Pavel Pittermann, director of the Union of Czech Philatelists' Testing Laboratory, and Jan Karasek, another certified Czechoslovak stamp expert. Both men determined that the stamps were, in fact, legitimate. Feeling exonerated, Pytlíček sold the same set of stamps for 4,600 Kc to an international buyer last November at an auction in Geneva. That buyer had the booklet examined by yet another Czech stamp expert, Frantisek Benes, who then stated, "The clipping is clearly a fraud," taking Pytlíček back to square one.

Four international societies of collectors of Czechoslovak postage stamps, representing collectors from the UK, the Netherlands, Germany and the United States, sent a letter to the Union of Czech Philatelists' April 27 to demand an official statement regarding the affair. In their official response, dated June 12, the union maintained, "The [special] commission studied and evaluated all the facts and aspects of the case," agreed the stamps were counterfeit, and promised action against the experts involved.

The president of the union, Lumir Brendl, told The Prague Post that Pytlíček is out of luck. "It is my opinion, and the opinion of the executive board of the Union of Czech Philatelists, that Mr. Pytlíček offered pieces of his collection in Geneva that were not genuine, even though they had been approved by Czech experts," Brendl said.

In the letter the union vowed to abolish its Commission of Experts and Testing Laboratory and to establish a new commission. It also said it would withdraw Pittermann from his position on its executive committee

and called for the resignations of Pytlíček and Pittermann from the union. Union members will call for a vote to determine the future of Pytlíček's membership.

For his part in the scandal, Pittermann is contrite. In a statement, he wrote, "I believed the opinions of two other experts ... and joined my own brand without a detailed check. It was unprofessional and I regret it."

Pytlíček continues to deny any wrongdoing, blaming the scandal on infighting and competitiveness in the philatelic community. "This is all a result of expert rivalry. There is fierce competition between the experts," he said. "One acknowledges it and the second one attacks the acknowledgement, saying it is not true. Their motivation is that one wants to be better than the other one."

Despite his assertions, when Pytlíček attends the upcoming invitation-only 2004 World Stamp Championships in Singapore, he may only attend as a private individual and will not be allowed to represent the Union of Czech Philatelists. Meanwhile, the union's June 12 letter states that in an attempt to counteract possible damage to "the reputation of Czechoslovak and Czech philately at home and abroad," they are considering further steps, including informing the Czech police.

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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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<http://www.stampsofindia.com/Guide/w04.htm>

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