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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION ------The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India Issue # 332 - March 13, 2008. Published Every Thursday Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

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We feel that stamp booklets whether issued by India Post or philatelic organizations should be in a minimum quantity of 1000. We believe with the details of design, content and price available couple of months in advance, it is very much possible to market 2000 pieces. The booklets thus issued with ample publicity also will have a better chance in getting listed in major catalogs worldwide.

Please have a long term view when planning to bring out or sponsor any philatelic product.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Abhai Mishra, A R C Shah, Mainak Kathiara, Jeevan Jyoti, Ajit Kumar Dash, and Vinod Sabharwal

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.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO INDIAN EXHIBITS FOR TAIPEI 2008 TAIPEI 2008 the 21st Asian International Stamp Exhibition, held from March 7-11, Taipei, Taiwan did not display any entries from India as Rajan Jayakar, India's National Commissioner, was unable to obtain the necessary official permissions to carry the exhibits out of India.

Any philatelic exhibit that has any item older than 100 years requires permission from the Director General of Archeological Survey of India and the same is granted on the basis of No Objection Certificate from the Department of Culture. Exhibits containing items less than 100 years old do not require the above permission.

On June 18, 1999 the Department of Culture issued Guidelines regarding exhibits going in and out of the country wherein all earlier instructions and guidelines in this regard were reviewed and consolidated.

In May 2000 for the THE STAMP SHOW 2000 at London, Madhukar Jhingan as Apprentice National Commissioner for India based on his representation was able to obtain permission from the Department of Culture to the Archeological Survey of India that philatelic exhibits may still be cleared as per earlier procedure instead of the new Guidelines of 1999.

However, in November 2006, India's National Commissioner to DUBAI 2006 Rajesh Bagri got the Permit from Archeological Survey of India without a No Objection from the Department of Culture! Only an official investigation can reveal the course of events that led to the issue of the Permit.

In 2007 the Department of Culture did not issue a No Objection to Madhukar Jhingan who was the National Commissioner for India for SAINT PETERSBURG 2007 held in June 2007. They insisted on following the procedures as per the Guidelines of 1999, hence The Archeological Survey of India did not issue a Permit and consequently the items 100 or more years old were removed from the exhibits so that Indian Exhibits could still go ahead and participate.

In August 2007 Anil Suri the National Commissioner for India for the 20th Asian International Stamp Exhibition BANGKOK 2007, keeping in view that no Permit was issued for the previous show, approached the Department of Culture early and explored the possibility for a solution. Department of Culture advised that India Post may be persuaded to take up the responsibility for becoming the Nodal Agency for philatelic exhibits under the Guidelines of 1999 to facilitate the participation abroad. India Post extended its full support and in a major policy decision consented to become the Nodal Agency and this paved the way for the participation of the exhibits in BANGKOK 2007.

Jayakar was fully aware of all these developments, yet why he pursued the No Objection under older procedure from Department of Culture and was turned down is best known to him only. Why India Post went along with Jayakar is not known at this time.

Jayakar must explain to the philatelic community, his reasons for not adhering to the procedure. The responsibility must be fixed for this debacle that has once again harmed India's philatelic interests and suitable action be taken against those found guilty.

In October 2001 Dhanajay Desai as India's National Commissioner to HAFNIA 01 Copenhagen, Denmark decided neither to carry nor organize to send any of the 8 exhibits. Why? Because the Archeological Survey of India refused to grant Permit in respect of one of the exhibits that was belonging to Dilip Shah against whom they had lodged a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation for smuggling. Desai decided against excluding Shah's exhibit and consequently India suffered the loss of several medals yet no formal explanation from Desai was asked, leave aside awarding him an exemplary punishment.

Those who cannot follow the laws of the land must be held responsible be it national commissioners or jurors.

# INDIAN PHILATELY LOSES TWO STALWARTS

B C Mehra died on March 4, 2008 at Gurgaon. He was 74. Originally from Kanpur he was well known and well liked philatelist, always ready to spend his time and energy to guide youngsters. Later years he was living with his son at Ahmedabad where he continued his contributions to philately in many ways. When his son was posted at Gurgaon he moved in January 2008. He was accorded warm welcome at the first and unfortunately only meeting he attended of Delhi Philatelists in February. He had spent quite some time and money to attend the meeting in Delhi but he was very keen to do so. Everyone was looking forward to see a senior and experienced philatelist in the meeting of March but that was not to be.

B J Kumar was a veteran Philatelist. He passed away on March 5, 2008 at Regency Hospital, Kanpur. He was about 87 years old and was seriously ill for the last six months. Born on July 21, 1921 in Kamalia (now in Pakistan) and graduated from Karachi. He came to India after the partition. He formed United Philatelists an active philatelic society of Kanpur. He was Honorary Secretary of United Philatelists. He edited U-Phil Times published by United Philatelists for about 25 years. He was an active member of U P Philatelic Society, the member of Royal Philatelic Society of London, India Study Circle of Philately, London and a life member of PCI. He participated in different National and International Philatelic Exhibitions. His important philatelic collections were "World Tributes To India" (a magnificent Thematic Collection of stamps and other philatelic material issued by foreign countries on India) Pre India, Nepal and Turkish Cyprus. He wrote in Philately column of Northern India Patrika for a long time. He retired as General Manager, Telephones from Kanpur in July 1979 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Mar 18: Madhubala, Rs 5, Please note the corrected date.

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, are put on sale on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2008, please visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm

NEW STAMPS RELEASED

Addenda to the report in issue # 331 of March 6, 2008 Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy

The proponents provided the design of the Stamp to India Post. Alka Sharma designed the First Day Cover and the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed the stamps by wet offset in the quantity 0.4 million in the sheets of 40 stamps.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2008stamps.htm

NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released: Tamil Nadu Power Finance, English Meghalaya Tourism, English

The grand total till date is now 532, with 255 added in 2007 alone.

Complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at: http://www.stampsof<u>india.com/lists/meghdoot.htm</u>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2007, visit http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007PC.htm

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2007, visit <a href="http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007ILC.htm">http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007ILC.htm</a>

RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Mar 08: Dehradun, State Flower Show

The Governor of Uttarakhand, B L Joshi released the special cover at Raj Bhawan Dehradun. The show titled "Colours of Spring 2008" was the 6th Annual State Flower Show. The cover is on the Valley of Flowers -Located at an altitude of about 3250 meters in district Chamoli. The Valley of Flowers was discovered in 1931 by a British mountaineer Frank Smith, who lost his way while returning from a successful expedition to Mount Kamat. Spread over an area of 87 square kilometers on the Zanskar range of the Himalayas, this national park is famous for its breathtaking variety of Alpine flora. The valley, home to more than 500 species of flowers, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2005. Showcased on the special cover is Morina Longifolia, whereas the special postmark depicts Brahma Kamal, the State flower of Uttarakhand. For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2007, visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2007pm.htm

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2007, visit <a href="http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2007aps.htm">http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2007aps.htm</a>

NEW STAMP BOOKLET

Bihar Circle of India Post released a Stamp Booklet in April 2007. The booklet was to be released in the quantity of 1000 however we have learned to our dismay that only 50 copies were ordered till date. Now no one seems to be interested in getting the remaining copies on sale.

This booklet is now listed as the new #57 and consequently old #57 onwards numbers have changed, kindly note.

For an illustrated list of all Stamp Booklet Issues, please visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb.htm

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RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

The Fila Capsule, Vol 3 #1, Jan Feb 2008, BiMonthly Editor: Ajit Kumar Dash <u>akdash2000@yahoo.com</u> Publisher: Eastern India Philatelists' Association, Bhubaneswar Annual Subscription:

MADURAI PHILATELISTS' CLUB Madurai Philatelists' Club was formed in 2003 and the members meet every 3rd Sunday. Apart from this he Club is publishing a News bulletin every month from 2004. Their address is: H-906, Ellis Nagar, Madurai 625010

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 21: Akola, The Scout Movement State Joint Commissioner of Scouts, Mrs Pratibha Janolkar inaugurated the One Man show of Ajay Agrawal's exhibit "The Scout Movement" was arranged at Holy Cross Convent High School on the eve of Birthday of Lord Baden Powell & Lady Olave Baden Powell also celebrated as World Thinking Day. It was viewed by 43 participating schools comprising of 58 scout masters & guide captains together with 1853 scouts & guide delegates.

Feb 24: Keonjhar, Philately Awareness Campaign B Senapati, Additional District Magistrate, Keonjhar, B C Sethi, Superintendent of Post Offices, Keonjhar and Dr C S Basak were the Chief Guest of Honor and Chief Speaker respectively, in the Function presided over by Akshaya Kumar Nayak, President, Keonjhar Philatelists' Association and organized at the Head Post Office, Keonjhar. Philatelists from different parts of Keonjhar, students of different schools and colleges along with their parents made the function a grand success. Discussions were also made to prepare exhibits to mark the Golden Jubilee celebration of D D College, Keonjhar and for the ensuing District Philatelic exhibition KENDUPEX-08. Abhijit Pattnaik, a student of Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Keonjhar was felicitated in the function with a certificate of appreciation for his achievement for getting a

Silver Bronze Medal in the India National Philatelic Exhibition(INPEX-08), Chennai. Mar 14-16: Ahmedabad, Coins Show 50 Stalls already booked, Todiwala Auction Mar 17-19: Mumbai, Film, Dance, Music, Film Personalities Contact: Dhirubhai Mehta Mar 25-26: Balangir, 3rd district philatelic exhibition Mar 28-29: Imphal, Division Level Philately Exhibition All Philatelists of Manipur and the surrounding areas are requested to participate in the Exhibition. Seminar, workshop and quiz will also be organized for the school children and beginners. Contact: Director of Postal Services, Imphal, Manipur Postal Division Mar 29-30: Keonjhar, 2<sup>nd</sup> district philatelic exhibition Mar ??: Bhubaneswar, 1<sup>st</sup> district philatelic exhibition Apr 11-13: Mumbai, Coins Show Todiwala Auction For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2008.htm MEETINGS The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm ADVERTISEMENTS Please visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/x16.htm for tariff and terms ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2008 Edited by Suraj Jaitly, 80 pages listing contact details of stamp collectors, dealers, clubs, magazines, websites, from India & overseas. Plus lots of relevant information. Price Rs.250 or US \$8 or Euro 6 OR £4 [Post paid] Contact at surajjaitly@hotmail.com or indianthematicsociety@gmail.com

WANTED India Stamp Booklets of King Edward VII, King George V & VI, Unexploded, exploded, and in all conditions, Contact MADHUKAR DEOGAWANKA deogawanka@satyam.net.in

SELLING Miniature Sheets of India Complete Mint 51 Different, Rs 6500 Contact RAMAWTAR B JAIN, Mobile: 093777 66365

STAMP QUIZZES by Anil Dhir, 224 pages, 2007 edition, contains over 1500 questions and answers. Comprehensive & detailed with quizzes on General Philately, India, Indian States, USA, Britain, Australia & New Zealand Must for all Philatelists & stamp clubs, Rs 300 post free in India. US\$20+ actual postage elsewhere, ANIL DHIR <u>anildhir2k5@hotmail.com</u>

VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

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

DR SITA BHATEJA, Bangalore If exhibitors are unhappy about the jury I wish to tell you a few stories.

In Tokyo another person asked the jury about down grading since it had added rare and unique item an 8 anna bisect. The answer is revealing he was told that the item was displayed too low a level for the jury to judge.

In Another incident Pacific 97 the jury decided that one stamp used abroad is a fake. Later I got it examined by experts in UK. It was found to be genuine stamp and genuine cancellation. However the damage had already been done and I just bore the outcome.

When such things can happen at the highest level with the most outstanding jury what to say about others? They do not have time or energy to really do justice. I do not think you can do much about it unless you have say 20 exhibits to be judged by just one jury maybe then you may expect full benefit of judging and correct result.

## JEEVAN JYOTI, Shimla

It refers to the letter of Mr Dinesh Chandra Sharma about old and hottest issue of this column "judging of philatelic exhibits". I agree with all his views but he did not consider the fact that judges really do not get sufficient time to judge the exhibits properly as the number of exhibits is quite big in ratio to the number of judges appointed. I have clearly made analysis in a past issue of this newsletter about the time given by the judges to judge each exhibit.

It is also necessary that the group which has large number of exhibitors should be judged by quite sufficient number of judges, expert in that particular group. But if this is considered in exhibitions, how a single expert can go through large number of exhibits?

Mr Dinesh has defended the jury and not considered the fact that Judging of Thematic Exhibits requires more time and one cannot judge it properly unless one gets sufficient time to understand the subject and its thematic treatment. I want to mention here that most of the thematic exhibits are prepared by the persons who are himself expert in that particular field and to challenge them on their subject is not fair at all. Yes they can be advised or penalized for philatelic knowledge. In exhibitions sometimes judges give very irrelevant remarks on the thematic treatment and development. Only another expert on that subject can challenge the treatment of the theme not a layman.

The views expressed by readers in past issues were through their inner voice which made them to express themselves due to dissatisfaction in the exhibition despite their best possible efforts and hours of hard work to prepare their exhibits. This can be felt by only those who himself had this experience. Of course there are certain suggestions which are not practically possible to follow. There is no doubt the best of all will always be well awarded and the ordinary will be knocked down but the main victims at the exhibitions are the average exhibitors who are between the best and the ordinary.

It's very easy to distinguish between a rose and marigold because it is very clearly visible but very difficult to grade different roses and marigolds. It needs patience and time. These collections are in big number at national exhibition and are judged with a flying view. It's a hard fact which everyone knows.

During the judging time management plays a crucial role. If the allotted time to the judges is not sufficient, how can he do justice to the exhibits? While appointing the judges it must be considered that their number should be sufficient in comparison to the number of exhibits in the exhibition.

Recently Central Board of Secondary Education announced to put copies of Toppers and those who get 100 out of 100 in respective subjects on website for reference of other students. I would suggest the same to India Post to display the exhibits of Gold medal winners online on the pattern of Japhila -On line International Philatelic Exhibition conducted by Czech Republic for the benefit and satisfaction of Indian exhibitors. The exhibitors will also get a chance to compare their exhibits with that of Gold Medal Winners and would also get tips to improve their collections.

#### O P KEDIA, Indore

I would also like to express my comments on judging of Thematic collection in INPEX 2008.I have exhibited entry titled "HISTORY OF ENGLISH CRICKET" consisting of approx. 450 cancellation on CRICKET from England and neatly arranged to tell the history of ENGLISH CRICKET thru cancellations. The exhibit has all the cancellations from all years of GILLETTE Cuo, NATWEST trophy, BENSON & HEDGES Cup and Cancellation from all County Headquarters for 150 Years of Cricket in England and GLORY OF LORDS.

Can you imagine the efforts taken to assemble the material like this. I have won VERMAIL medal and CHIEF MINISTER'S TROPHY for best exhibit in state level exhibition MAPPEX 2003 held at BHOPAL in 2003 for the same exhibit. Now in Inpex 2008, the same exhibit fully rewritten was awarded 54 marks and no prize. This is for the competency of Judgment. I do not question the integrity and honesty of Judges. It is only that the TEST MATCH selectors are selecting ONE DAY TEAM.

In my opinion classic philately is like a TEST MATCH whereas THEMATIC philately is ONE DAY MATCH and ONE FRAME EXIHIBITS are 20:20 format. We need to have judges who can adjust to different formats or even better if we have different judges for different formats .I think the philatelic community should take a lesson from new BCCI chairman Hon, SHARD PAWAR who rejuvenated Indian team by giving chance to younger players. If we want to keep philately as a hobby (as different from Investment), we must think out of frame and adopt new management fundas, Hope most of the philatelists will agree with me.

## NARESH AGRAWAL, Bilaspur

I fully endorse the views given by my Sri Dinesh Sharma that past is past, no use to harp. Well, we have spoken too much about the awards

given in INPEX 2008. Now it's the time to review the status in right prospective. Whatever was felt or found wrong, how can it be checked and rectified? What can we do to see that such dissatisfaction does not prevail? Though it is very difficult to check it out fully.

Mr Dinesh rightly suggested that we must keep on upgrading our thematic as well as philatelic knowledge, we must keep in touch with more than a few senior philatelists and/or jury, we must properly adhere to the FIP guidelines, we must keep on upgrading our exhibit by suitable placement of the material procured and inclusion of thematic chapters fully suitable to the storyline, replacement of better philatelic material from time to time, increase the frequency of visiting various philatelic sites on net and the actual shows to get ourselves updated and upgraded, and so on.....

Certainly when after doing all this, if one does not get the recognition which he had set for him, he is bound to be dissatisfied. But this is not right. We must not forget that other philatelists might have done better than us. I still remember the words of Mr Bagri, one of the jury in Inpex 2008 that one can get even two step better award with better display of the same material. So we must not always think that jury is wrong. Jury may commit a mistake ignorantly due to the stress factors during exhibition such as time constraints, mental and physical stress, quantity of exhibits to be judged and of course the guidelines given to them. So, this time when each one of us should come forward with his/her suggestions to improve the standard of exhibits and the judgment.

Friends, I have already sent a mail giving my suggestions to improve the thematic judging. See, the most difficult task is nothing but to judge within set framework to the satisfaction of all. Certainly some people are bound to remain dissatisfied. We must appreciate the fact. Some silly mistakes are bound to happen but this does not mean that the mistakes are done knowingly.

So come forward positively. Place very mistake you find in judgment in a right prospective and share it with others. I welcome suggestions from all the readers of this new letter and request them to be POSITIVE.

FEATURES & RESOURCES

History of Postal Communications in India By Sangeeta Deogawanka

Part 8 - MEDIEVAL INDIA (1030 - 1757 AD) Structure of the postal systems in Mughal period

The medieval period, was dependant on natural factors and human resources, for its communication modes. There does not seem to exist however, a complete picture, of the routes during this period. One has to largely depend upon accounts of travelers and normative texts, or autobiographical narratives like the Baburnama, drawing conclusions from movements of army, centers of trading activity and location of fords and bridges. Despite the presence of river traffic, chiefly used for transit of heavy materials, there is no known record of their being used for any communication or postal purpose. However, the many rivers and major harbors provided an excellent waterway for trade and commerce. Thus riverain towns developed as centers of trading activity, like Daybal, Thathah, Attock, Ludhiana, Lahore and Delhi. These assume importance in postal history studies, as the routes of communication eventually linked these centers of trade.

The postal system functioned at intervals of few kos. Most roads were turnpike roads, evident from the levies realized from merchants and travelers. Serais were built at convenient points, and were a boon to travelers and postal couriers, as written in the paeans contained in the chronicles of that period.

The Mughal rulers ruled over great distances, with the aid of superefficient runners and courier news agencies. This enabled them to keep a constant watch over wide distances. The question which plagued the author, "were the conveyance of mails and military intelligence network operations mutually exhaustive?" during the period of Sher Shah Suri, remains no longer a mystery in the context of Mughal administration. The two operated separately, though under the command centre of Darogah-i-Dak Chawki, and supervision of the Darogah overseeing the operations at grass-root levels. The job description and control area of postal officers also evolved in new avatars, and shall be dealt separately for each Mughal emperor, highlighting the semantical shift in the terms.

This was also the period, which saw the serious evolution of the language of Urdu or Lashkar Bhasha or Hindusthani, as a means of communication, for administrative and trading purpose.

An innovation of the Mughals was the mansabdar system, started by Babar in an originally crude form. Perhaps this paved the way towards the concept of land revenue administration and village community during the Mughal period, which eventually gave shape to the Ta-Aluqdari system in Awadh during the 18th century.

### ZAHIRUDDIN MOHAMMED BABUR (1526-1530)

Babur further developed the speed and efficiency of the horse courier system along the north-western route of Kabul-Agra to serve the postal and army link with his capital at Agra, in 1527. This was used for both military purpose and the traders that abounded on that route.

Babur's contribution to road management can be established with his construction of Char-dwaris, which served more like watch-towers, ensuring safety along the routes. We also find mention herein, how he appointed officers to measure the road from Agra to Kabul to erect a tower 12 qaris (yards) high with "a Char-dari on top", at every 9th Kuroh. At distances of 18th Kuroh, a yamb, a Dak Chauki and 6 post-horses were kept fastened, and arrangement was made for payment of post-masters and grooms, as well as for the horse-corn. The order was that "If the place where the horses are fastened up, be near a crown-domain, let those there provide for the matters mentioned, if not, let the cost be charged in the beg in whose pargana the post-house may be".<sup>1</sup>

Babar seemed to have continued with the postal reforms started by Sher Shah, albeit, integrating the Departments of Post and Intelligence, under the aegis of Darogah-i-Dak Chawki. This postal system followed throughout the empire, with a large number of postal officers under the Darogah-i-Dak-Chawki, was called Diwan-i-Insa. The chief Darogah, or postmaster juggled his duties, acting as overseer of postal conduit points, ensuring steady supply of dak runners, couriers and jasus, coordinating the news gathering from far-flung provinces and the functions of the two post-house clerks called tariq-navis.

Intelligence gathering played an important role in the military administration of the Mughals. So it is obvious that news reporters were treated as officers, complying with the same rules as that of military officers. These news couriers too, were each given the military rank of mansab, and assigned a horse, for optimum performance.

Though the Mansabdar system may have been started by the founder of Mughal rule, Babur, the same was further developed into an efficient multi-level functional system by Akbar. Herein, the ruler would confer portion of land to a Mansabdar, on condition that he would supply soldiers as required or additional forces of men during war-time, against the revenue earned by him from the said land. Greater the size of the land granted, greater was the number of soldiers committed by the Mansabdar.

Mail of the Mughal ruler and those of the military, administration and commerce, were carried by runners and mounted couriers. During times of emergency, the messages were borne by carriages drawn by fast stallions. These were however used specially for conveying express news of the State. In deserts, camels were used, where they were trained to run at great speeds

The obsession of the Mughals for speed, is evident from the fact that these couriers, mostly Mewras, depended upon opium to help them complete their journey on time. Reward or remuneration was payable only upon delivery of the letter.

A postal runner began his journey with a written permit, (signed and sealed) by the Darogah-I-Dak-Chawki, which made it obligatory for the respective Darogah and Faujdar, to provide safe journey through their areas of supervision. The return journey permit was sanctioned by the Sawanih-navis. All of these men, serving the postal and news-gathering needs of the emperor's domain, were on the State payroll even though many were stationed at the roadside serais.

The letters handled by the Department included the farmans or royal orders, with the Mir Munshi serving as the Secretary for processing the same. It maybe noted that during the period of Sher Shah's administration, the role of the Mir Munshi, was more of a Head Clerk, whereas herein assumed more powers as of a Chief Secretary.

Royal mail was transported to the districts, wherefrom the reports and local news were in return communicated to the centre. At the seat of the postal administration in the capital of the kingdom, the Darogah-i-Dak-Chawki conveyed the royal mail received from various provinces to the Mir Bakshi (secretary) for the knowledge of the emperor. The Mir

Bakshi dealt with all mail except for those personally addressed, and summarized them for perusal and comments of the emperor. NASIRUDDIN MOHAMMED HUMAYUN (1530-40,55-56) The same postal system continued in the time of Humayun, with no significant changes. <sup>1</sup>Babar-Nama, translated by A. S. Beveridge, pg 629 Indian Laws Relevant to Philately http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm \_\_\_\_\_ NEWSSCAN <We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here> ADMINISTRIVIA 'Stamps of India Collectors Companion' is published by Madhukar Jhingan mjhingan@yahoo.com for `Stamps of India', 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. Phone: +91-11-25281578, Mobile: +91-9350537037 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 'Stamps of India' does not rent, sell, or otherwise share your e-mail address with any third-party. Our now famous Disclaimer! http://www.stampsofindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm STAMPS OF INDIA also publishes: STAMPS OF INDIA http://www.stampsofindia.com The Hub Site of Indian Philately PRINCELY STATES REPORT http://www.princelystates.com Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics STAMPS ON INDIA http://www.stampsonindia.com The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869 The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm © Copyright 2008, Stamps of India, New Delhi. All rights reserved. For reproducing content from Stamps of India publications please ask the publisher for permission stating exactly what you would like to use, and for what purpose, before using the same.