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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 403 - Jul 23, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

Believe it or not, the 11 stamps that are being issued on July 27, 2009 are being issued in a se-tenant strip of about 21 inches long and will require a FDC of about 2 feet long! Will this be a first such issue in the world?

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Sekhar Chakrabarti, Ken Sanford, Nikhil

We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsofindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsofindia.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

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jul 25: Ram Charan Agarwal

Jul 27: Jayadeva, 12<sup>th</sup> Century author of epic Gita Govinda, Set of 11 Stamps + Miniature Sheet

Now days, issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice say couple of days! As you can see that the world is moving at very fast pace and we are still bringing out an issue only after 7 long days. Thus it is impossible to inform our readers thru this weekly publication about forthcoming stamp issues of India. We however do our best to publish this information on the home page of [www.stampsofindia.com](http://www.stampsofindia.com) as soon as it becomes available.

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 2009, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

ENVELOPES with Advertisement

May 30: Consumer Awareness, Bengali, ISP, M
May 30: Consumer Awareness, Bengali, ISP, M

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009EN.htm>

The complete illustrated listing of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2009, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2009ILC.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Feb 16: Chennai, Commissioning of Indian Naval Ships 'Car Nicobar' and 'Chetlat'

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2009, visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2009pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2009, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2009aps.htm>

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INDIA STUDY CIRCLE FOR PHILATELY

The Executive Committee of India Study Circle for Philately (ISC) have decided to substantially reduce the membership dues for members in India, from £18 (Rs 1500 approximately) to Rs 700 per year.

The members can now pay their membership dues in Indian Rupees directly into the State Bank of India account# 20031542846. Please don't deposit cash as it incurs bank charges. The account is in the name of Pratisad Neurgaonkar of

Pune, its new Regional Secretary for India. Neurgaonkar may be contacted on his mobile 09766310553 or over email pratisad@hotmail.com.

The membership year of the ISC is the calendar year. Those joining now should pay for one and a half years membership dues of Rs 1,050 for membership till December 2010.

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PALAKKAD PHILA CLUB

The Annual General Body meeting of Palakkad Phila Club held at Kairali International Hotel on July 19, 2009. The meeting was inaugurated by Jayaram, General Manager of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The newly elected office bearers are, President- Professor C A Hydrose, Secretary- K A Radha Krishnan, Treasurer- V Vijayan, Joint Secretary C Raghu Kumar, Vice-President S Chandrasekharan and 10 executive members.

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STANLEY GIBBONS INDIA CATALOG

Stanley Gibbons is soon to publish the new 3rd edition India catalogue which includes the Feudatory states. Last published in 2004 this new edition has long been awaited by both collectors and dealers alike.

Prices have been carefully revised and updated in line with today's very active international stamp market. In common with other rapidly developing economies, the demand for Indian stamps, particularly the pre-independence issues has been considerable in the last few years.

In addition to fully revised prices this new edition is designed in a new handy size and will feature the issues of India 1852-2008, Fully Priced listings for Bahrain, British East Africa, Iran, Iraq, Malaya (Straits Settlements) and Zanzibar. India Feudatory States (including, where issued, Official stamps and Booklets) Alwar, Bamra, Barwani, Bhopal, Bhor, Bijawar, Bundi, Bussahir, Charkhari, Cochin, Dhar, Dungarpur, Duttia, Faridkot, Hyderabad, Idar, Indore (Holkar), Jaipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Jasdhan, Jhalawar, Jind, Kishangarh, Las Bela, Morvi, Nandgaon, Nawanagar, Orchha, Poonch, Rajasthan, Rajpipla, Shahpura, Sirmoor, Soruth, Travancore, Travancore-Cochin and Wadhwan

The catalogue will be widely available through all the normal Stanley Gibbons distributors as well as being promoted in their monthly magazine, on their web site and also via their many mail order customers.

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NINI BOESMAN, BALLOON PILOT EXTRAORDINAIRE, PASSES AWAY AT 92

By Maureen Lynch

Anyone who has ever collected or even scrutinized balloon mail at an exhibit or a dealer's bourse has doubtless seen covers flown by the Boesmans. Nini and her husband Jan flew together, and also on their own, sharing some bordstempels (personal postmark of a pilot or balloon certifying the cover was carried by that pilot or balloon), while utilizing individual ones for other flights as appropriate. But Nini stood out in an aviation community largely run by men in her generation. She stood out because she was fearless and a top notch pilot. Jan Boesman stood out for his devotion to and promotion of flown mail (by balloon and other means) covers, and both balloonists were popular, congenial personalities. But Nini was recognized as a superb pilot, and earned the respect of the ballooning fraternity in Europe.

Over a career of many decades, Nini flew in countries scattered over the globe, She worked to document those covers flown in all their travels, forming the nucleus of a reference book which came to be known as the World Post Balloon Catalog. Produced by Jan Boesman, it lists many prominent flights and known covered carried, organized alphabetically by country. Throughout, the Boesmans' contributions are seen. Even after Jan passed away, Nini stayed active in flying, and took over additional responsibilities in their regional balloon club in the Hague, so as to foster the growth of the sport.

But let us start at the beginning - Nini Visscher met Jan Boesman in 1936, when she was 18. Two years later, she made her first balloon flight with him. It lasted all of 10 minutes, but led to greater things - they married May 18, 1946, commencing their honeymoon with a balloon flight - complete with Charles Dollfus as pilot! In one interview, Nini said she had made five flights before WW II broke out. Nini earned her pilot's rating two years later - the first woman in the Netherlands to hold a gas pilot's rating. It took her far - over the course of her life, she made no fewer than 9 Alpine crossings by balloon; five landings were in Italy, the first one in 1962. Murren, Switzerland was a favorite launch site (a small town tucked against the side of the Alpine mountains). An annual gas balloon meet launches from there, The Dolder Balloon Week. "Absolute silence and you could smell the snow," she described the first flight.

Nini flew in numerous countries - for decades, when it was not easy to arrange for hydrogen or any other LTA gas to be delivered in quantity to allow for inflation of a gas balloon. In 1970 she flew in India, in conjunction with the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) Conference held in New Delhi. Neil Armstrong was at the event, to receive the first FAI gold medal. He gladly accepted an invitation to fly with the Boesmans in a gas balloon, but upon close inspection of the aircraft, he stated that not for a million dollars would he get in the basket!

Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, the Indian delegate to the conference and an avid glider pilot, took his place with alacrity. So enthused was he from the 6-hour flight, Gupta came to the United States to get instruction sufficient to earn his balloon rating, and take up the sport in India.

Nini flew in isolated areas, she flew alone and with passengers, and she was a regular fixture at many European gas events. She flew in the 1983 Gordon Bennett race from Paris (in this event, Maxie Anderson and co-pilot Don Ida were killed in a balloon accident). She also flew regularly from St. Niklaas, in its annual balloon event (begun to celebrate the end of WWI in 1949) every September.

Nini was awarded the FAI's Montgolfier Diplome in 1963 for gas flying accomplishment - that same year, she was nominated for the Harmon Trophy. Other awards and recognitions were presented to her, as she moved around the globe always flying in new places.

When husband Jan passed away in 1976, Nini took over much of the administrative work and provided the guidance for the Hague Balloon Club and the small but growing balloon pilot community in the Netherlands. She continued to fly and promote gas flying, and mentoring new pilots coming into the sport. She even found time for two newcomers to St. Niklaas in 1986, Chris Lynch and me, to give us advice on flying out of the city square and procedures once away from town.

### Balloon post distinctions

Nini and Jan Boesman had some bordsdtempels in common, but also each had their own bordstempel. If they wished to make an event larger, or to get in more time for their respective log books(!) they would fly 2 separate balloons at an event. They used different colored ink for the on-board cancels as well, and for most events Jon was known to make up custom cancels for the individual flight. Generally, Nini left the details of the mail cover processing to Jan, although making sure her flown covers were marked with her bordstempel. There are both known in large and small sizes, depending on the cover they were applied to; also some are theirs alone, and some are theirs as pilots of the Hague Balloon Club. In some instances the bordstempel is for the balloon they flew rather than the pilot, and it is common to find either Nini or Jon's signature on the covers.

It is noteworthy to point out that on early covers - up to about 1949 from the examples we have seen - Nini signed her name some of the time with a hyphenated last name, Boesman-Visscher. After several years the Visscher was dropped, but it gives evidence of her strong sense of identity. Also the fact, that on these flights, though there were 2-4 pilots in the basket, she was the designated pilot of that flight.

By the time 1998 came, Nini decided it was best to hang up her instruments while she was ahead of the game; after 50 years of piloting balloons, she acknowledged the milestone and took her clean flying record of over 1000 flights, and retired from active gas ballooning. She was still to make the occasional excursion in the company of friends, however. Honors continued to accrue, as well; in 1991, she and husband Jan (posthumously) were inducted into the Soukup and Thomas Balloon and Airship Museum's Hall of Fame. Traveling to Mitchell, S.D. for the honor, she was presented the award by Jacques Soukup, who at the time was President of the FAI's CIA Committee (Committee International Aerostatique).

Nini passed away after a short illness, on June 2. Her life left a strong mark on the field of aviation, and a large footprint on such a small sporting community as ballooning. Her accomplishments did not come in one burst of activity, but accrued over decades of action and involvement, and steady promotion of the sport she loved so well. And it is thanks to her and spouse Jon that we have such a wealth of balloon post covers, flown around the world. Their flights enriched the collections and exhibits of airmail collectors worldwide, and each cover represents a story - not just a bag of mail.

She was a superb pilot, a brave woman, and a good friend to many. We will miss her, and remember her.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 14-16: Ahmedabad, Coin & Currency Fair
Organizer: Twin Stamps & Coins
Venue: Hotel comfort Inn President
Sales Booth: Rs 8,000
Contact: Shatrughan Jain sjain1@rediffmail.com

Aug 21-23: Bilaspur, Dak Ticket Milan 2009 (Stamp Fair)
Organizer: Chhattisgarh Philatelic Association
Venue: Hotel Centre Point

Sales Booth: Rs 4,000 for a Table and 3 chairs, Includes 3 day's accommodation in Hotel Anand on the same premises with twin sharing basis, with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Plus a set of the special covers, maxim cards & stamp booklets expected to be issued during the show
Contact: Atul Jain jainaatul.65@gmail.com mobile 09300311007

Oct 30-31 & Nov 1: Pune, Stampex - National Stamps Fair
Organizer: International Collectors Society of Rare Items
Venue: Sonal Hall, Karve Road,
Sales Booth: Rs 6,000
Contact: Pratisad Neurgaonkar pratisad@hotmail.com mobile 09766310553

Nov 20-22: Palakkad, Annual Stamp & Coin Exhibition
Venue: Town Hall Annex
Contact: 9847660217, 9446791629 for Dealers Stall

Dec 18-20: Vadodara, StampMania-2009 One Frame National Exhibition
Organizer: Baroda Philatelic Society www.vadophil.org
Venue: Shree Saurashtra Leuva Patel Seva Samaj, Alembic Road
Contact: Prashant H Pandya info@vadophil.org
Website: www.stampmania2009.com

Updates: 1. The last date for submission of Entry Forms extended to Aug 15;
2. List of titles of participating exhibits now listed at website
3. StampMania-2009 will be inaugurated on December 17, 2009
4. 'Heritage Walk through Stamps' in Vadodara on December 17, 2009
5. Printed Prospectus and Entry form are now available
6. One Participant can submit maximum three entries but all of them should be in different classes. This is also applicable to Youth Class
7. Make use of exhibits available online for guidance at "Link to One Frame Exhibits"

For a list of exhibitions in 2008, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2009.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

SOUTH ASIA NEW ISSUES

http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/south_asia_new_issues.htm

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ITS COLLECTORS DIRECTORY, 3rd 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]
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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 AMITAVA SEN, Kolkata

This is to bring into your kind attention to the dismal picture of recent work culture of the Philatelic Bureau of Kolkata GPO.

I am a philatelic account holder with the Philatelic Bureau of Kolkata GPO for nearly last 45 years. Never before it showed such poor performance and inaction.

You will be surprised to know that even till 21.7.09 (yesterday), I have not received any mailing containing philatelic material of 2009 from this Philatelic Bureau. New Definitives and Stationaries (Post cards, inlands, envelopes, airletters) other than Meghdoot Post Card are extremely rarely sent in spite of written request for those. Even the Megdoots I have not received for nearly one year. Though there are enough funds deposited in my philatelic account.

On repeated telephonic enquiries, they repeat the same answer "You will get it soon". I believe that many other account holders are suffering like this.

If the philatelic bureau of a premier Post Office like Kolkata GPO shows such inaction then what is the meaning of maintaining a philatelic account by advance payment?

NIRAJ GUPTA, Kolkata

I wanted to highlight the problems being faced by philatelists who have a running account with Kolkata Philately.

Today is 15th July and till date the philately has not sent a single issue of 2009 till date to the PDA holders....good way of making profit thru interest. Not only this, I have a request for 4 nos each of the stamps & MS issued. However, only 2 copies of the miniature sheets were sent for the Festivals of India. On enquiry I was told that they had recd short supply....how is it possible when the ordered quantity is known well in advance.

Thru your magazine I seek solution to the problems faced by genuine Indian stamp lovers.

JEEVAN JYOTI, Kullu

It refers to the cancellations and postmarks provided by Department of Posts on regular Mail as well as special covers. The cancellations on daily mail are so heavy that it spoils the philatelic value & beauty of the cover. I closely observed it when I found my covers sent to other countries, which have been displayed on various blogs among the covers received from other countries. It gives a very poor impression of the Indian postal department. As it is quite shocking when we see beautiful stamps heavily cancelled with thick ink and Indian covers generally appear to be in very poor condition after it reaches the destination. When we compare the cancellations given by India Post with the cancellations given by other postal administrations, we find that the quality of Indian cancellations is very poor. If India Post can bring a change in other products and its services, the quality of the cancellations can be improved too. The stamp ink is very heavily oil based that is not suitable for the nice covers we send to our overseas friends or anywhere in India. In general the stamps on the letters are spoiled to their worst condition. It would be very nice if authorities of Philately section of India Post take necessary step in introducing some fine cancellations for regular mail as well fine postmarks for special & First Day Covers as being given in most of the countries, a big change can be seen in the quality of

the postmarks. Now the time has come to discard old hand stamps which are still used in Indian Post Offices and these should be replaced by fine hand stamps and ink which can give a clear and fine postmark. It will be a great delight for whole philatelic community.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

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>

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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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ADMINISTRIVIA

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

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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>

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