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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 411 - Sep 17, 2009. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

We wrote in this space in the issue #389 of April 16, 2009 about forgeries. It did stir discussion which being un-moderated somehow lost focus and ended up on stamp booklets. Other perhaps more important issues were left out.

Fortunately that is not the case with other forums. For some time now there is discussion going on forgeries of Indian States at the India Study Circle for Philately's yahoo group as well as on the [www.stampboards.com](http://www.stampboards.com). While India Study Circle for Philately's yahoo group is for the members only, the Stampboards is freely accessible.

The philatelic world admires the way Robson Lowe, British Philatelic Association and American Philatelic Association, to name a few, have tackled the philatelic forgers and their output in the past. We also are familiar with the hard work in this regard by the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle as several forgeries of Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet, etc have the same origins as that of Indian Princely States and India. Cooperation and collaboration with the Circle will be good idea for all those who are fighting against forgeries of India and Indian States.

Recently we also had the opportunity to see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forgeries Report circulated to the members of Emirates Philatelic Association, Dubai. It indeed is a scholarly work. The Association has a committee that is monitoring forged items of the Emirates prior to the unity, which are being offered for sale on different outlets, especially on the internet. It is high time that the stake holders in Indian philately form a similar committee to detect the forgeries and frauds.

This cause has our full support and we invite volunteers for monitoring Indian philatelic items being offered on internet and other outlets and reporting on suspects. We undertake to publish on the forgeries and frauds in this digital weekly. We are for stern and result oriented action applied uniformly against all who are indulging in such activities.

To start the ball rolling here is the first report. The item # 69178141 at [www.delcampe.com](http://www.delcampe.com) has a bogus postmark of Bombay Philatelic Bureau applied on a maxim card of Marconi issue of India of 1974.

Another item # 54632596 from the same seller is described as 'Mahatma Gandhi 1995 India - S.A Joint Issue Rare Presentation Folder'. The fact that it is not issued by India Post or any recognized or relevant organization is not stated. The same seller also listed 'India 10th Definitive Series Gandhi Stamps Booklet 2009' (Item # 64713176) which is also his own creation. We suggest you spare some time to view his other items as well and if you spot a suspect please let us know.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jigar Desai, Anup Raut, Prashant Pandya, Mohd Mujibullah, and Anil Suri,

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

STANLEY GIBBONS INDIA CATALOGUE

Stanley Gibbons has released the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of its India Catalog on August 20, 2009. It was cleared by Indian Customs on September 14, 2009. The orders will be fulfilled on first come first serve basis from September 19, 2009. All orders will be sent by Speed Post.

The 240 page catalog is priced at £22.50 equivalent approximately to Indian Rupees 1800. However there is a very special price of Rs 750 for India. Stamps of India offer this on a first come first serve basis with free postage on all prepaid orders. The last date for the order to reach us is now extended till September 30, 2009. Contact [orders@stampsofindia.com](mailto:orders@stampsofindia.com) right away and reserve your copy.

We accept payment by transfer and cheque (not cash) deposit in to our bank account (ask for details), bank draft payable at New Delhi, and 'payable at par' cheque drawn in favor of 'Stamps of India'.

In case you wish to deposit cash in our bank account please add Rs 100 on account of bank charges and deposit Rs 850.

We also can accept all major credit cards directly as well as through PayPal; In this case please add Rs 75 to cover charges and remit Rs 825.

Kindly advise us after the payment, along with the Cheque No. or the the Credit Reference No. of the transfer. Also please provide complete postal address for delivery.

For details of Stanley Gibbons India Stamp Catalogue please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/SG-IN-CAT-2010.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Sep 27: Dushyant Kumar

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 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 STAMPS RELEASED

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

India Post released a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on Sacred Holy Cross Church at Mapranam on September 14, 2009.

Alka sharma designed the Stamp, 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. India Security Press, Nasik printed 0.4 million stamps by wet offset process in the sheets of 40.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2009, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2009stamps.htm>

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NEW ISSUES AVAILABILITY STATUS

AWAITED

Aug 16: Heritage Railway Stations of India, Miniature Sheet

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

ENVELOPE WITH ADVERTISEMENT

May 30: Consumer Awareness, Hindi, SPP, M

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

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

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Mar 3: Kolkata, Kolkata Rajdhani Express 40 Years
Apr 20: Chennai, Dr M R Guruswami Post Centenary Celebrations
Sep 1: Cuttack, International Theatre Festival & 17th India Theatre Olympiad
Sep 13: Mumbai, End Polio Now - Rotary Foundation Seminar

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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STAMP PACK NEW RELEASES

India Post has brought out packs for the following issues recently:

Aug 1, 2009  
St Joseph College Bangalore  
Content: Block of 4 Stamps, FDC, Brochure  
Price: Rs 100

Sep 9, 2009  
Sacred Heart Matriculation Senior Secondary School, Chennai  
Content: Block of 4 Stamps, FDC, Brochure  
Price: Rs 100

For viewing the images please visit,  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/packs/2009packs-sets.htm>

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

The 3rd International Day of Non-Violence will be observed all over the world on 140th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, October 2, 2009.

According to United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271 of June 15, 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

A resolution recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi was introduced in the US Congress on June 25, 2009.

India Post will issue a special definitive postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5.

U N Postal Administration <http://unstamps.un.org/UNPACommerce/en/index.jsp> will issue a definitive postage stamp in the denomination of US\$ 1 for its New York office.

Baroda Philatelic Society info@vadophil.org is releasing a Special Cover and a Stamp Booklet on this occasion along with a set of self adhesive labels.

Several more special covers and special postmarks are expected on this occasion.

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GREAT INDIAN RAILWAYS THROUGH PHILATELY

A new book 'The Great Indian Railways Through Philately' by Mohd. Mujibullah was published by Eastern Railway, Kolkata on August 16, 2009.

The hardbound book in landscape format of 140 A4 size pages in color is priced at Rs 695 in India and can be had from the Deputy General Manager (G), Eastern Railway, 17 Netaji Subhas ROAD, Kolkata 700001. The payment through cheque or draft should be made payable in favor of "Heritage Officer & Dy. G. M. (G) E. Rly. (HQ)".

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AUCTION OF DEALERS BOOTHS OF STAMPMANIA 2009

'STAMPMANIA 2009' the First National One Frame Philatelic Exhibition being organized by Baroda Philatelic Society, Vadodara from 17th to 20th December 2009. The organizers have planned to auction the last 4 dealers' booths to give a fair chance to many aspirants for the same. The size of Booth is 10' x 7' (Total 70 Sq. Feet) each.

The Auction for four Dealer's Booths will commence on September 19, 2009 at 10.00 AM and was originally schedule to close on September 23. The closing date is now extended till September 28, 2009 at 11.00 PM.

An online form will be made available at www.stampmania2009.com and those who are interested in bidding for the booth are required to fill the details in the online form and the bid amount.

Bidding will start from Rs 10,001 per Booth and bids below this amount will not be considered for auction. Bidding will progress in increment of Rs 500.

On the closing day highest four bidders will be allotted the booths in sequence of Serial Number of booths. (E.g. Highest bidder will be allotted Booth No. 44 then next nearest bidder will be given booth no. 45 and so on.)

In case of two or more bids of same amount, the first bidder will be given preference on the basis of date and time of the mail received.

Highest bidders will be intimated by email and winning bidders have to make full payment of bid amount by way of Demand Draft or "At Par Cheque" in favor of Baroda Philatelic Society immediately. On failure of making full payment the booth will be allotted to another bidder of higher amount.

All bids are confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties.

For any queries please contact Stampmania2009 at info@vadophil.org.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2-4: Coimbatore, All India Super Mega Coinstampex 2009

Organizer:

Venue: Kamalam Duraisamy Hall, Coimbatore-9

Sales Booth: Rs 3,000

Contact: C Palaleswamy, Mobile 0 94869 23558

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](mailto:pratisad@hotmail.com) mobile 09766310553

Nov 20-22: Palakkad, Annual Stamp & Coin Exhibition

Venue: Town Hall Annex

Contact: 9847660217, 9446791629 for Dealers Stall

Dec 17-20: Vadodara, StampMania-2009 One Frame National Exhibition

Organizer: Baroda Philatelic Society [www.vadophil.org](http://www.vadophil.org)

Venue: Shree Saurashtra Leuva Patel Seva Samaj, Alembic Road

Contact: Prashant H Pandya [info@vadophil.org](mailto:info@vadophil.org)

Website: [www.stampmania2009.com](http://www.stampmania2009.com)

2010

Jan 8-10: Calicut, COIN FEST-2010

Organizer: Calicut Numismatic Society [numisclt@gmail.com](mailto:numisclt@gmail.com)

Sales Booth: Rs 2,500

Contact: Soorej 09447124066 [soorejsks@yahoo.co.in](mailto:soorejsks@yahoo.co.in)

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>

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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]

Contact at [surajjaitly@hotmail.com](mailto:surajjaitly@hotmail.com) or [indianthematicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianthematicsociety@gmail.com)

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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 AVINASH B JAGTAP, Binningen (Switzerland)

In the weekly bulletin "Stamps of India Collectors Companion (Serial NO. 408, dated 28th August 2009) under the caption " News Stamp Booklets", a list of stamp booklets issued by Chhattisgadh Philatelic Society) the following stamp booklets have been listed:

Aug 15: Mahatma Gandhi Contents 6x5Rs Selling Price: Rs. 50.-

Aug 21: Mother Teresa: Contents 6x5 Rs. Selling Price: Rs. 100.-

Aug 21: Rudra Shiva: Contents 6x5 Selling Price: Rs. 80.-

Aug 21: Digambar Jain Temple: Contents 6x5 Selling Price: Rs. 80.-

Are these official stamp booklets? Is Chhattisgarh Post involved in issuing these stamp booklets? If so, who at all buys them? And for what reason? Any philatelist knows that the selling prices of these booklets are 166% to 333% higher than the total price of the stamps they contain! In no other country such stamp booklets are issued or sold. Are the papers/Cartons used for the covers of these stamp booklets and their printing costs are so high? I would advise the collectors in India to refrain from purchasing these heavily surcharged stamp booklets, even when they are "official". It is nothing but a "money-making" business.

EDITORS RESPONSE

We understand that the booklets issued by Chhattisgarh Philatelic Society are approved by Chhattisgarh Circle of India Post, carry the logo the India Post and hence are official.

Stamp booklets in India whether official or not share a common characteristic that no one likes including yours truly. That is selling them at high premium over and above the face value of stamps included.

In the same issue # 408 the first booklet reported was issued by Baroda Philatelic Society with India Post approval and carry its logo. The booklet with stamp worth Rs 10 is sold for Rs 50. In the issue #410 of September 10, 2009 we reported a booklet issued by West Bengal Circle of India Post containing stamps worth Rs 20 with a sale price of Rs 75.

It is time that rules are framed for the issue of Stamp Booklets by India Post. India Post should ensure that the booklet be sold on the face value of the stamps included and the cost of manufacture may be recovered by accepting advertisements and sponsorships. The booklets should usually be made up of current inland letter rate definitive stamps however other popular rates such as inland book post rate (for greeting cards), overseas airmail letter rate, airmail postcard rate, and combinations thereof may also be used. The booklet should usually contain multiple stamps, say at least 10 stamps. The booklet should be produced in the quantity of at least 1000 in order to be available to larger number of collectors for a reasonable time.

On another note, yes, India Post genuinely believes that it is in money-making business. Nowadays for almost every issue is accompanied with a presentation pack brought out by India Post. The pack includes philatelic material worth Rs 29 in case of issue of a single stamp and is priced at Rs 100. In other words the blank pack costs Rs 71. These are available in limited quantity of 1,000 and sell like hot cakes.

S D CHAUGULE, Belgaum

Comments of Shri P. R. Krishnan in Stamp Watch in issue # 410 of Stamps of India Collectors Companion merit a relook. There are 55 stamps issued up to September 9, 2009, excluded MSs and SeTenants. Out of 55 stamps issued 18 stamps were issued in the quantity of 0.4 million. Refer # 410-Stamps of India Collectors Companion. The logic of printing 0.4 million stamps is taken into account, the prices of other 18 stamps should also go northward and vanish from the philatelic bureaux. This has not happened. Shri R.C Agrawal being a Gandhian, this stamp attracts more demand holds no water as well. Perhaps the ghost of Raj Kumar Shukla is haunting all philatelists. Highlighting as 'Stamp Watch' will not help philatelists, but the vendors reap the benefits.

EDITORS RESPONSE

About two-third space is devoted to Mahatma Gandhi on the stamp design of R C Agrawal. Personally we fail to understand why Mahatma Gandhi not only in case of stamps but in so many other products and services is a global bestseller for decades but it remains a fact. The investors and dealers are banking on the salability and constant demand for Mahatma Gandhi in buying quantities of this issue and not any other issue printed in the quantity of 400,000.

By the way the Raj Kumar Shukla was a scandal a planned operation based on insider information that first cornered over 50% supply, skillfully built hype and later sold it for a huge profits. But that is a story for another issue.

FEATURES & RESOURCES

RARE COOPER TYPE 3 CANCELLATION
by Markand D Dave

To read this illustrated article please visit
http://www.stampsofindia.com/readroom/cooper_type_3.htm

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

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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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