



THE FILA CAPSULE

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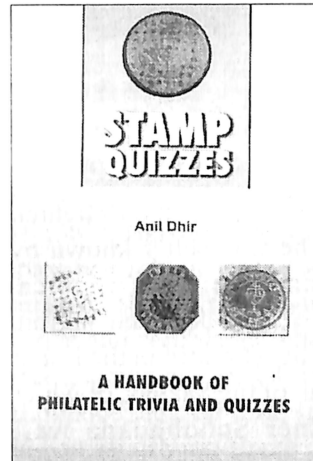
Bimonthly

The Red - "Letter Box"

I had been to my native town Berhampur (Ganjam) few months back. There is a big iron gate before our garden. The local postman was reluctant to open the gate every time he comes to deliver the letters to our house inside the garden. Some times he was throwing the letters through the gate which were collected by us. Hence one day he advised us for fixing up a letter box with proper locking facility to the Gate so that he shall drop the letters to the box which will save his time. Actually it was a good idea. Hence we purchased a GI letter box from the market and fixed it to our gate with proper lock and key. My brother told me to colour the box for its longevity and to free it from corrosion. We coloured that letter box in red so that it can be attracted by the postman. Next day when we opened the box for any letter, it was a pleasure to us when we found some letters inside it. But it was found that those were dropped by some local people thinking it to be a post box. We took it lightly and dropped those letters in the post box of the local post office. The matter did not ended there. The number of letters increased day by day and at times we watched for those persons who were usually dropping the letters to our box and explained them that this is not the postal letter box and advised them to drop in the local post box meant for that. To some extent the number of such letters in the box has reduced but could not be stopped fully. It was a difficult task for us to drop those letters every time in the post box, we couldn't even throw them out which was carrying the love and affection of those persons inside the small letters or postcards. Finally we have changed the colour of our letter box to get rid of such problem. Since then we are not getting any such letters dropped by outsiders. The problem of red 'Letter Box' was over. If you have any such experience, may be of little importance, but can give pleasure to others, then please do write to us.

A.K.Dash,
Editor

Bravo ! Anil



The long awaited stamp quiz book has at last been released by Mr. Anil Dhir, a senior philatelist of Eastern India Philatelists' Association, Bhubaneswar. The students and stamp lovers were indeed in need of such a book. Thanks a lot to Mr. Dhir for his sincere efforts and devotion which has led him to bring out a beautiful book namely "Stamp Quizzes" having 244 pages. He has collected informations relating to philately from almost all states and incorporated them in this book which will help the reader to study india through this.. Hope this book will be a helping hand for those who are in quest of knowledge through philately. The book will be well appreciated not only in India but also in other countries. The members of the Eastern India Philatelists' Association convey their Best wishes to Mr. Dhir for his achievement.

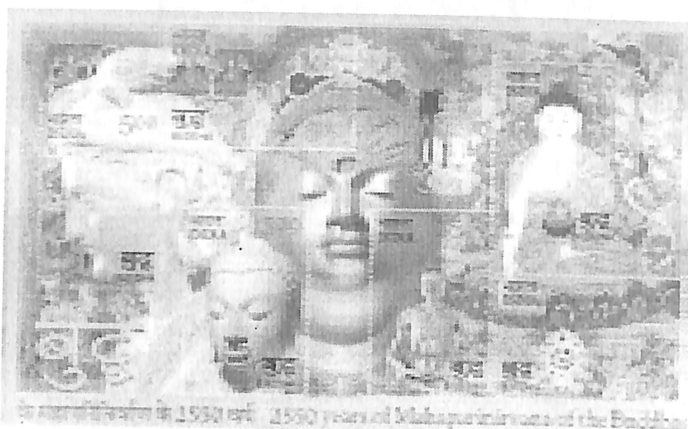
New Co-ordinator of EIPA



Mr. Kasinath Sahoo, a senior philatelist, has been nominated to act as the Co-ordinator of the Eastern India Philatelists' Association as per the decision of the last General Body Meeting of EIPA held on 17.06.07. He will liason the works of EIPA at dif-

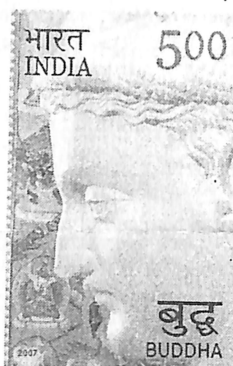
ferent sectors. Shri Sahoo is a sincere and hard worker who has shown keen interest in involving himself in different philatelic activities organised by the Postal Department as well as by our Association.

Buddha



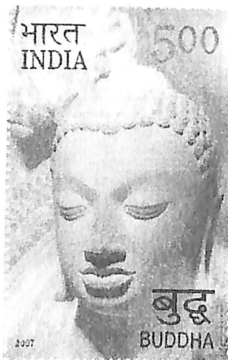
Miniature Sheet

The personal name of Buddha, 'the Enlightened', was Siddhartha, but he was better known by his gotra name Gautama. He was also called Sakyasimha, the Lion of the Sakya, and Sakyamuni, 'the Sakyan sage', as he was born in the Kshatriya clan of the Sakyas, of which his father Suddhodana was the chief. Before his birth, his mother, Mahamaya or Maya, of the family of the Koliyas, had a dream in which a white elephant entered her body. Brahmin priests interpreted this to indicate the conception of a son who would either rule the world or renounce everything and become a great spiritual leader.



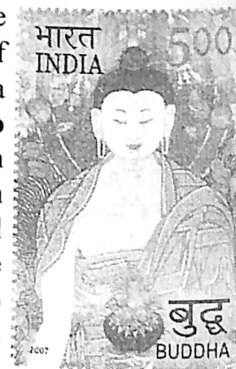
Buddha was born in Lumbini (in present day Nepal) and died around 80 years later in Kushinagar (India). While the date of his birth has been variously reckoned, it is now generally accepted that he was born in 563 or 566 B.C. In the five centuries following the Buddha's passing, Buddhism spread like a wave throughout the Indian subcontinent, and in Asia where it has flourished for over two millennia. Today Buddhism continues to attract followers around the globe, and is one of the major world religions.

At the age of 80, Buddha announced that he would enter



'Parinirvana' or the final deathless state, abandoning the earthly body and attaining freedom from the cycles of birth and rebirth. Ever since, Kushinagar in India has been turned into a glorious memorial site of the Mahaparinirvana of the Buddha with stupas, caityas, and viharas like the Mahaparinirvana-vihara and Makutabandhana-vihara, built by devout Kings and followers.

The **first stamp** depicts a statue from the Gandhara period of Siddhartha when he was still a prince. The **second stamp** shows a sculpture from Myanmar where Buddha is an ascetic having renounced royal luxuries to meditate on the essential Truth. The **third stamp** depicts the blissful head of the meditating Buddha



(Dharmachakrapravartan or Turning-the-wheel-of-law Buddha) from Sarnath, India, also done in the Gandhara style. The **fourth stamp** depicts the Bhumisparsha Buddha holding the nectar of



immortality in a jar. Some of the numerous incarnations of Buddha, past and future as well as part of the cycle of creation and dissolution of the

many worlds feature in the **fifth stamp**. Hinayana symbols such as the Lotus indicating the blossoming of inner harmony which is the basis of all existence, and the dharma chakra with the various stages of development is shown in the **sixth stamp**. Also seen in one corner is the bhumisparsha mudra which proclaims 'the earth is my witness'.



Credits:

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Stamp & FDC: Bharati Mirchandani.

Cancellation: Alka Sharma.

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Miniature Sheet: 0.4 Million

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NATIONAL PARKS OF INDIA

There are more than 450 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 85 National Parks, around the country. A comprehensive legislation called the 'Wildlife Protection Act' was enacted in 1972 for providing legal protection to wildlife, and to endangered species of fauna in particular, as protecting our natural heritage and preventing the extinction of increasingly rare and endangered species of animals like the one-homed Indian Rhinoceros, the Indian elephant, the tiger, and the musk deer among other, assumed national importance. Under this Act, the State Governments are empowered to declare any area as a Sanctuary or a National Park for the purpose of protecting and conserving wildlife and the environment.

Bandipur National Park



The Bandipur National Park is a beautiful forest reserve located in Karnataka. It lies in the shadow of the western ghats

and spreads across an area of about 875 sq. km., at a height of 780-1455 m. above sea level. A moderate climate and diverse geographical features support a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. Declared a National Park under the Wildlife Protection Act in 1974, this National Park is best known for its elephant herds and Sandalwood trees. A mix of deciduous and evergreen forests and scrubland supported by the waters of the Moyar River, this forest reserve is home to Indian Elephant, Tiger, Gaur, Sambar, Chital, Four Horned Antelope, Wild Pig, Black-Naped Hare and the Indian Porcupine. The Park is also rich in avian population with an abundance of birds like the Peafowl, and game birds like the Grey Jungle Fowl, Red Spur Fowl, etc.

Mudumalai National Park

The Mudumalai National Park lies in the state of Tamilnadu and is contiguous to the Bandipur National Park, separated by the river Moyar that



flows between the two. It is located on a 1000 mtr. high plateau at the base of the Nilgiri hills with a core area of 104

sq. km., and was declared as a National Park in the year 1990. Just 321 sq. km. in area, the hilly terrain provides diverse habitats sustaining a great variety of wildlife including the Tiger, Leopard, Bear, Elephant, Bison, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Four-Homed Antelope, Blackbuck, Hyena, Wild Dog, Porcupine, Jackal, Python etc. Rich in bird life, most families of birds found in the Indian sub-continent including some uncommon and rare species like the Grey Jungle Fowl, Red Spur Fowl, Grey Partridge, Malabar Whistling Thrush, Magpie-Robin, Spotted Babbler, Pigeons, Brown Dove, Malabar Grey Hombill, Harriers, Falcons and King Vulture, etc., may be sighted in the Park area, comprising a mixture of rain forest, evergreen, and deciduous forest and scrubland, with lofty as well as stunted trees, grass covered hills and marshy swamps. Bamboos, natural teak, sandalwood trees, slender Indian laburnum, flame of the forest are some of the better known flora which abound.

Bandhavgarh National Park



The Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh is primarily known for its tiger population. The

former hunting reserve of the royal family of Rewa, Bandhavgarh was declared a National Park in 1968. Covering an area of 542.40 sq. km. the forest area comprising of teak forest, grasslands and scrubland has about 22 mammal species and about 250 bird species. This is the place where the famous white tigers were discovered. Apart from the tiger, the other animals inhabiting this hilly Parkland include the Nilgai, Chausingha, Chital, Chinkara, Blackbuck and Wild Boar, as well as two primate species, the Rhesus Macaque and the Hanuman Langur.

Periyar National Park

The Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve was established in the verdant stretches of Kerala in 1895 and declared a Tiger Reserve in 1978. The



Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of 777 sq. km., of which 360 sq. km. is under dense and

evergreen forest cover. Deriving its name from the vast and stunningly beautiful Periyar Lake, the habitat diversity is reflected in the variety of fauna. There are 35 species of mammals in the Park including its major attraction, the Indian elephant, the endangered Lion-tailed Macaque which is confined to the evergreens in the interior as well as the Nilgiri Langur, Bonnet Macaque, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Wild Boar, and Barking Deer. Periyar is also the only habitat of the Nilgiri Tahr, which is not seen easily. This National Park is also rich in birds with 265 species including the Hornbill, Stork, Woodpecker, Kingfisher, Raptor, Cormorant and the Darter.

Kaziranga National Park



Kaziranga National Park is one of the last refuges of the endangered one horned Indian Rhinoceros.

Located in Assam on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River, Kaziranga was declared a reserve forest in 1908, primarily to protect this indigenous endangered species and a ban imposed on poaching of the Indian Rhino. Declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1940 the Park was given the status of a National Park in 1974, and has also been declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1985. Conservation efforts in this Park have paid off and the figure of 12 Rhinos in the early 90s has now grown to around 1000 Rhinos. Other animals that inhabit the Park are the Elephant, Tiger, Wild Boar, Jackal, Wild Buffalo, Python, Monitor Lizard, Bison, Leopard, Swamp Deer, Leopard, Hog Deer, Jungle Cats, Otters, Hoolock Gibbon, etc. Kaziranga is also a bird-watchers' paradise. Apart from the resident bird species like the Oriental Honey Buzzard, Black-Shouldered Kite, Black Kite, Brahminy Kite, Pallas's Fishing Eagle, White Tailed Eagle, Grey-Headed Fishing Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, etc., a large number of migratory birds inhabit the Park's lakes and marshy areas during the winters including the Greylag Geese, Bar-Headed Geese, Ruddy Shelduck, Gadwall, Falcated Duck, Red-Crested Pochard, and

Northern Shoveller. In bringing out a set of five commemorative postage stamps on National Parks of India, India Post celebrates the unique beauty of each while applauding the conservation efforts so far made, there is obviously a need to carry this movement forward with greater resolve. This set of stamps will create greater awareness of the heritage we need to preserve.

Text: Based on material provided by Postal Circles, Tourism Departments of the respective States and the Ministry of Environment & Forests

Stamp & FDC: Suresh Kumar

Cancellation: Alka Sharma

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Printer: India Security Press, Nasik

PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

London 2010

London 2010, International Philatelic Exhibition will be held from 8 – 15 May 2010 at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1. There will be some 2400 **competitive frames** available, comprising some 1200 frames on show from 8 to 11 May, with the exhibits then changed for a different 1200 frames from 12 to 15 May. As this total is some 30% less than in 2000, the competitive Classes will also be slightly restricted. The presently planned **competitive classes** for London 2010 are Traditional, Postal History, Literature, Postal Stationery, Thematics, Aerophilately and Revenues. There will also be a Youth Class, but restricted to one frame only, and also a One Frame Class which will be restricted to King George V and related material.

The London 2010 International Philatelic Exhibition has been granted full **FIP Patronage** as a World Exhibition, and all the competitive part of the exhibition will be run according to the FIP standards. The Contract for the FIP Patronage will be officially signed at the St Petersburg International Exhibition in June. The Business Design Centre is easily accessible by public transport, with Angel Underground station (Northern Line) less than 400 meters away and numerous bus routes passing nearby.

BANGKOK 2007

The 20th Asian International Stamp Exhibition, is being organized by Thailand Post Co., Ltd. in cooperation with the Philatelists Association of Thailand under the patronage of Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (F.I.P.) and the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (F.I.A.P.). This event will be held during 3-12 August 2007 at Siam Paragon, the largest shopping complex in Thailand, which will be the luxurious venue to accommodate all participants.

BANGKOK 2007 is the third Asian international philatelic exhibition hosted by Thailand after the successful organization of such exhibitions in 1989 and 2000.

For Thailand Post Co., Ltd. and the Philatelists Association of Thailand, the common objective in organizing BANGKOK 2007 is to promote and disseminate the value of Thai stamp collection to countries in Asian and Australian Regions. It will also give an opportunity to the postal operators and exhibitors to display their collections which provide artistic, cultural and educational merit to collectors and visitors.

In this occasion, Thailand Post Co., Ltd. will issue commemorative postage stamps as well as collectible items and souvenirs to commemorate the event.

As for visitors who are fond of stamp collections, at this exhibition, they can purchase attractive stamps and philatelic articles at sales booths of postal administrations and dealers from various countries around the world.

KARNAPEX-2007

The state level Philatelic Exhibition of the Karnataka State will be held at Bangalore from 10-12, August, 2007.

PUBLICATIONS

Stamp Quizzes-A hand book of Philatelic Trivia and Quizzes

Author- Anil Dhir

Publisher- Amadeus Press, 112, Vaishno Villa, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, email-amadeusbooks@yahoo.co.in

Price- Rs.300/- \$ 20, Pages-244

A PHILATELIC HANDBOOK ON M K GANDHI

Author: Dr Reuben A Ramkissoon

rramkissoon@juno.com

Editor: Dr Rajgopalan V Rajan

Publisher: R & W Enterprises, Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, Price: US\$ 75, Pages: 336, A4 size, many in color; Hardbound

HOW TO BUILD A THEMATIC EXHIBIT

Ajit Kumar Dash,

Secretary, Eastern India Philatelists' Association
Bhubaneswar

The hobby of collecting and study philatelic materials has become one of the important fascinating hobbies of several persons. The trend of collecting only stamps haphazardly has become obsolete. Some people have the liking to collect stamps on a specific theme or topic. Though it seems to be very simple, practically it is not that easy to build up a thematic collection on a specific theme or topic. One has to follow certain guide lines for building up a thematic collection. A senior philatelist can guide properly how to start and build such an exhibit for display in a State, National or International level exhibition. Before starting collection of stamps on a theme the following guidelines will help a beginner to build a beautiful Thematic Exhibit.

Selecting a Topic:

Selecting a topic for the purpose is very important. Before selecting a topic it should be kept in mind about its:

- (a) Scope of Development,
- (b) Availability of Sufficient Philatelic Material,
- (c) Scope of appreciation by the Jury member.

The topic to be selected should not be very common. It should be selected in such a way that it can attract a common person whenever he/she goes through the Title.

Title:

This is as important as the 'Topic'. Many Philatelist assign very common 'Title' which hardly

can attract anybody. Suppose a person will collect stamps on pigeon and gives a title as 'The Pigeons', may hardly attract anybody. But if the title can be given as 'The winged peace makers' or 'The symbol of Peace' etc. immediately attracts a common person. The title itself influences the Jury member before going through the topic and can impress him, which is a plus point for the Exhibitor.

Introduction:

A brief introduction is necessary as to what the exhibitor wants to display. Unnecessary explanation and narration of a story is not advisable as the Jury and the visitors have little time to go through the elaborate introduction. The matters those are to be narrated in the introduction should be incorporated through stamps or philatelic materials in the exhibit. Hence it is to be kept in mind that, "Whatever you say- show in the exhibit or What ever you are showing, say only on those things"

Plan of the Exhibit:

This is nothing but indexing the exhibits chronologically shown in the exhibit pages. A balanced plan fetches good marks and also looks beautiful. A balanced plan creates an impression in the minds of a jury that the exhibitor has sufficient materials in his hand for each section or sub-section and awards good marks. Whereas an unbalanced plan has many draw backs and secures poor marks. The Topic should be properly divided in Sections and sub sections in the plan chronologically so that each succeeding section have continuity with its preceding section or sub section so that the whole exhibit will appear as an essay rather than a collection of stamps on a topic only.

Development of Exhibit:

The exhibits should be developed as per the plan. Besides stamps on related topics, other philatelic materials should be mounted in the pages. Neatly or finely cancelled or mint materials should be used. CTO materials should be avoided as far as practicable. Undesirable or black listed materials should not be mounted in the exhibit. But when suitable stamps or philatelic materials are not available to suit to a specific topic or event, such undesirable material/Cinderella /levels (one or two) may be mounted with a noting that to be an

undesirable issue/Cinderella /levels so that jury can know that you are aware of such issues and materials. There should not be too many writings in each page. Try to limit the writing as far as possible and explain the theme through philatelic materials only. Try to keep as many as variety of philatelic materials in a page. The materials should not be over crowded in a page. In a page where mint stamps are used, no used stamps should be given. The important, rare and valuable materials should be mounted in such a place that it can attract the attention of the Jury. Unused covers, decorated FDCs, should not be shown as it is. They should be shown using windows. Common commercial covers, Registered covers, Speed Post covers have important role in building an exhibit. Use of Maximum cards should be limited to few.

Mounting:

The materials should be mounted using transparent mounts/hawids. Each page should be kept in good quality protecting covers. The cheap quality mounts and protecting covers adversely affects the colours of the stamps and other materials. All pages should be numbered at the left bottom corner at the front side and the name and address of the exhibitor should be given at the left bottom corner at the back side.

Judging Criteria:

In a competitive exhibition, entries, consisting of text and philatelic material on sheets of paper roughly A4 in size or 23cm x 29 cm, are examined by a team of judges and given a points score on a number of criteria. These points are totaled to give score out of 100. Awards of various levels are awarded, depending on the total points received by an entry. Exhibitors work to improve their exhibits so that they will get higher and higher awards.

The criteria that are used are:

- Plan of the exhibit
- Development of the theme
- Philatelic knowledge
- Condition and rarity
- Presentation

The first two criteria comprise about 50% of the points, and the second three criteria comprise

the other 50%. This means that the thematic elements and the philatelic elements each make up about half of the points. The exhibitor, therefore, has to balance their effort to ensure that they maximize their scores in each element.

Let's have a quick look at each of the criteria:

Plan of the exhibit - At the beginning of the exhibit, there must be an overall plan of the exhibit. It is not an index of the pages or table of contents. It is more like a story of the exhibit in point form, with chapters and sub-chapters to show how the story of the exhibit develops. This enables the judges and other viewers to read their way through the exhibit and understand what the exhibitor wants to tell and show them.

Development of the theme - This criterion looks at how the exhibitor develops the story through the text and philatelic material from the plan. It also examines how the material and story develop on each page. A logical, well-sequenced storyline that flows through each page and from page to page will be awarded higher points than one that does not flow smoothly and is badly sequenced.

Philatelic knowledge - This is a measure of the exhibitor's knowledge of the range of types of philatelic material available for the theme and the most appropriate ways of using it to help tell the story of the exhibit.

Condition and rarity - The first term refers to the physical condition of the material, relative to what is possible. Old envelopes from tropical countries may not be available in perfect condition, whereas modern stamps should be in pristine condition. Rarity refers to the level of presence in the exhibit of material that is difficult to acquire, either because of small numbers produced or because of high demand for the item. Exhibits that receive higher awards should contain more "rare" material from all periods of history than lower level exhibits.

Presentation - This is the appearance of the exhibit as it is displayed for viewing, including such aspects as balance of the layout, the neatness of the pages, and the readability of the exhibit. This criterion has the lowest weighting in absolute terms, but first impressions count. As a result, the judges' impressions of the presentation may affect their judgment in other criteria.

If you want to develop an exhibit that will score well on these criteria, it is strongly suggested to search out a copy of the complete rules and guidelines that govern thematic exhibiting.

These are some of the important guidelines for a beginner for building a thematic exhibit. It is always advisable to consult a senior philatelist before submitting an exhibit to an Exhibition. The local Philatelic Club/ Association play an important role to help such Philatelists in this regard. The Philatelists are also advised to follow the FIP Rules while building an exhibit.

So in a nut shell the Building of a Thematic Exhibit are as follows.

- **Decide to put an exhibit together** - get the rules and guidelines, try to visit an exhibition, look at the exhibits, and talk to exhibitors or senior philatelists.
- **Find a theme that you like** and that you are prepared to read about, learn more about, and stick with patiently for some time, maybe even many years. It also needs to be one that is suitable for the size of the exhibit you are doing. If you choose a limited theme, such as a single species of bird or flower, it may be difficult to expand it into a larger exhibit. On the other hand, can you tell the story of the Red Cross in a small exhibit and do it justice?
- **Write the outline of your story.** This will help you with the next step in the process.
- **Gather philatelic material of all types,** not just stamps but postal stationery, booklets, postal cards, aerogrammes, pre-stamped envelopes, registered or 'otherwise interesting envelopes, and so on. This will be the most time-consuming part of the exercise, and it will continue forever - your exhibit will never be finished completely. During this stage, you may have to rewrite parts of your story to accommodate good material or to cover some gaps in the material.
- **Gather your working tools,** including new pages for your exhibit, tweezers, scissors, pencils, ruler, cutters, clean rubber, mounting comers for envelopes and cards, paper for rough write-ups and layout planning, storage container.

- **Begin planning** - ensure that your title, material, and storyline all match and are complete in relation to the title.
- **Do a story board** layout for the exhibit. Make up a practice sheet for each point that you want to make in your story and put the relevant material with it.
- **Now do a rough layout** for each page. Check for layout balance, variety of philatelic elements (try to have three different types of material on each page), and the proportion of material to text on the page. The material is the highlight; the text must not ever overwhelm the material.
- **Survey the philatelic strength of each page.** How can you improve it?
- **Check the balance of material,** text, and layout across the whole exhibit. Are all your postal cards in one section of the exhibit? Strive for a balanced distribution.
- **Start work on the pages** for exhibiting. Check the consistency of layout. Keep the text to the minimum needed to tell the story. Make sure that you show what you say and say what you show - in other words, make sure that the material and the text on each page are tied closely together. Recheck the rules. Recheck your facts and material. Show your work to other knowledgeable people for their comments and suggestions.
- **Enter the exhibit in a show.**

Finished! How you are feeling?

Airmail



Airmail imprint on an envelope (Thailand)

Airmail is a mail that is transported by aircraft. It typically arrives more quickly than surface mail, and usually costs more to send. Airmail may be the only option for sending mail to some destinations, such as overseas, if the mail cannot wait the time it would take to arrive by ship, sometimes weeks. In June 2006 the United States Postal Service formally trademarked *Air Mail* (two words with capital first letters) along with Pony Express.

Air-speeded

A postal service may sometimes opt to transport some regular mail by air, perhaps because other transportation is unavailable, but it is usually impossible to know this by examining an envelope, and such items are not considered "airmail". Generally, airmail would take a guaranteed and scheduled flight and arrive first, while air-speeded mail would wait for a non-guaranteed and merely available flight and would arrive later than normal airmail.

Names

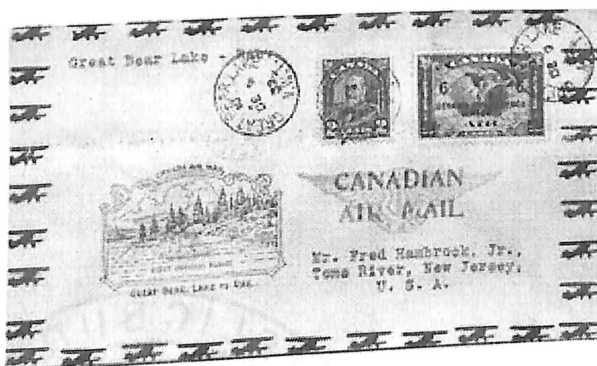
A letter sent via airmail may be called an **aerogramme**, **aerogram**, **air letter** or simply **airmail letter**. However, **aerogramme** and **aerogram** may also refer to a specific kind of airmail letter which is its own envelope. The choice to send a letter by air is indicated either by a handwritten note on the envelope, by the use of special labels called airmail etiquettes, or by the use of specially-marked envelopes. Special postage stamps may also be available, or required; the rules vary in different countries. The study of airmail is known as *aero-philately*.

History

Although homing pigeons had long been used to send messages (an activity known as pigeon mail), the first mail to be carried by an air vehicle was on 7 January 1785, on a balloon flight from Dover to France near Calais. During the first balloon flight in North America in 1793, from Philadelphia to Deptford, New Jersey, Jean-Pierre Blanchard carried a personal letter from George Washington to be delivered to the owner of whatever property Blanchard happened to land on, making the flight the first delivery of air mail in the United States. The first official air mail delivery in the United States took place on August 17, 1859, when John Wise piloted a balloon starting in Lafayette, Indiana with a destination of New York. Weather issues forced him to land in Crawfordsville, Indiana and the mail reached its final destination via train. In 1959 the U.S. Postal Service issued a 7 cent stamp commemorating the event. Balloons also carried mail out of Paris and Metz during the Franco-Prussian War (1870), drifting over the heads of the Germans besieging those cities. Balloon mail

was also carried on an 1877 flight in Nashville, Tennessee.

The introduction of the airplane in 1903 generated immediate interest in using them for mail transport, and the first official flight took place on 18 February 1911 in Allahabad, India to Naini, India, when Henri Pequet carried 6,500 letters a distance of 13 km. The first airmail flight in the U.S. took place in Albany, Georgia. U.S Army planes began regular airmail flights between New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. in 1918. The site of the first continuously scheduled air mail service is marked by a plaque in West Potomac Park in Washington, D.C. The first nighttime airmail flight was made in 1921 from Omaha, Nebraska to Chicago, by aviator James Knight. In Australia, the first air mail contract was won by the fledgling Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services (QANTAS), commencing in November 1922. Many other flights, such as that of the Vin Fiz Flyer, ended in disaster, but many countries had operating services by the 1920s.



Since stamp collecting was already a well-developed hobby by this time, collectors followed developments in airmail service closely, and went to some trouble to find out about the first flights between various destinations, and to get letters onto them. The authorities often used special cachets on the covers, and in many cases the pilot would sign them as well.

The first stamps designated specifically for airmail were issued by Italy in 1917, and used on experimental flights; they were produced by overprinting special delivery stamps. Austria also overprinted stamps for airmail in March 1918, soon followed by the first definitive stamp for airmail, issued by the United States in May 1918.

The dirigibles of the 1920s and 1930s also carried airmail, known as dirigible mail. The German zeppelins were especially visible in this role, and many countries issued special stamps for use on zeppelin mail.

In the 1950s, general enthusiasm for rockets led to experiments with rocket mail. There was a single use of **Missile Mail** by the United States in 1959. None of the various schemes went into production use, although many souvenir covers exist. A number of spacecraft have also carried space mail, sometimes in rather large quantities, all for promotional purposes. The study of these is known as **astro-philately**.

In the United States, domestic airmail long carried a higher rate, but in 1975 the United States Postal Service eliminated domestic air mail rates, deciding (coincident with the rise in the one-ounce **first class** domestic rate from ten to thirteen cents) that all domestic first class mail would be delivered by the speediest method of transportation.

NEW MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & IT

Dayanidhi Maran, Minister for Communications and Information Technology resigned on May 13, 2007. The President of India accepted his resignation from the Council of Ministers, with immediate effect on May 15, 2007. A Raja, Minister of Environment & Forests was moved to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The Prime Minister will look after the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

STAMP ISSUE PROGRAM 2007

- May 31: National Parks, Set of 5 Stamps
Mudumalai/Bandipur – Tamil Nadu/
Karnataka, Periyar – Kerala,
Kaziranga – Assam, Bandhavgarh –
Madhya Pradesh
- May 00: Landmark Bridges, Set of 4 Stamps
Howrah Bridge - West Bengal,
Vidyasagar Setu – West Bengal,
Mahatma Gandhi Setu – Bihar,
Pumbum Bridge –Postponed
- Jun 00: Jasmine (scented stamps), Set of 2
Stamps-Postponed
- Jun 00: Indian Air Force, Platinum Jubilee-
Postponed
- Jul 00: S B Chavan

Jul 00: Maharashtra Police Academy
 Aug 09: First War of Independence, Set of 4 Stamps
 Aug 00: 4th Gurkha Rifles – 150 Years of Raising
 Aug 00: Maharaja Gulab Singh
 Aug 00: Battaqh Ali Ansari
 Sep 00: 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference
 Sep 00: Satyagraha Movement, Set of 4 Stamps
 Sep 00: Tortoise
 Sep 00: Architectural Heritage of Indian Railways, Set of 4 Stamps
 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST)- Mumbai, Howrah Railway Station – Kolkata, Old Delhi Railway station – Delhi, Central Station- Chennai
 Oct 00: India China Joint Issue, Set of 2 Stamps
 Oct 00: 14 Punjab – 250 Years of Raising
 Oct 00: 4th Military World Games – 2007
 Nov 00: S D Burman
 Nov 00: Ritvik Ghatak
 Nov 14: Children's Day, Set of 2 Stamps
 Nov 00: Rare Animals of North East, Set of 3 Stamps

Nov 00: Damadar Sanjivaiah
 Nov 00: Wilson College, Mumbai
 Dec 00: Pramathesh Barua
 Dec 00: Mahanamrata Brahmachari
 Dec 00: Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar, Set of 4 Stamps
 Dec 00: Maulana Atikur Rehman Alvi
 Dec 00: Daly College, Indore

Dates (Months) to be decided:
 Maramalai Adigalar, Soorinarayana Sastry,
 Ramalinga Adigalar (Vallalar), Maharishi Bulusu
 Samba Murthy

Our readers are requested to give their comments, suggestions regularly to the Editor so as to improve the quality of this bulletin and also to promote philately. The views and comments will be published in the 'Reader's Desk' column of this bulletin. They are also requested to contribute any article or information on philately so that it can help the other philatelists to share their knowledge. They should send their articles in both hard copy as well as in soft copy by floppy or CD to the editor or may e-mail to any of the following email IDs "eipaorissa@yahoo.co.in" or "akdash2000@yahoo.com" so that it will be easier to edit and publish them in this bulletin.

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