



# SIPA

## Bulletin

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QUARTERLY

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Editorial.

### WHY I COLLECT STAMPS?

#### A Mental Relaxation

I don't any more! At least, it would be more true to say that I consider myself a philatelist and no longer a mere collector. The school boy was the collector; the grown man has become the philatelist.

My first introduction to the hobby came as a school boy who got a gift of a packet of "100 different stamps of the world" from an uncle who was working abroad. Then as a school boy, who, in common with many others, began to collect 'foreign' stamps. None of my friends would have considered collecting the stamps of India, such an eccentric was unheard of. We were all general collectors then and none of us had any technical knowledge of even perforations much less could we talk nonchalantly about watermarks or perfins. Apart from the collecting instinct which obviously played a major part as responsible agent and the possessive pride that kept the flame burning bright which set us on the road to philately is the romance of exotic sounding country names. The vignettes found on many of our stamps were also a strong motivating force.

Soon after school days, when I became a poor college student, the necessity to become a professional gave no time to indulge in the pursuit of a hobby. After starting a professional carrier as time for other pursuits became limited I had little or no contact with the hobby or hobbies.

But as fate would had it, it threw me into a wilderness of a country where I had time of my whole life and fortunately in the company of many "countrymen of the world". Who were all hoping and receiving letter and letters which immersed me in a world of used stamps. On return from my Sojorn, I had my earlier interest was aroused and began to purchase stamps for a more ambitious collection than I had when I was a school boy.

I decided to collect European stamps, but soon became more specialised and selected Hungary as my main interest. The stamps from this country are relatively inexpensive and they have considerable artistic merit. The culture of its people is subtly different from Western Europe and the language is so unique and unlike any other that there is a strange fascination for such a comparatively smaller country.

The historical association of earlier issues gives the same thrill which the connoisseur and collector of "objects d'art" obtains from his hobby. The earlier Hungarian issues, such as those with the portrait of Francis Joseph I, are redolent of the period at the end of the nineteenth century in Europe, when life moved at a slower pace and the hazards of travel across took a different form from those today.

The association of our country with the first adhesive postage stamps is such a strong historical one that I became drawn to these also and I am now in the process of building up a exhaustive collection of India in the philatelia album.

Working on my stamps has become a mental relaxation from the day-to-day responsibilities of a professional life and provided me with a hobby for which there is a tangible end product and consequently more satisfaction. Philately has a language of its own and there is a pride in .acquiring the ability to understand and use the technical terms necessary for the exercise of true expertise. In building up a collection there is the attraction of bargaining in the market place and endeavoring to spread one's financial resources to the greatest advantage. Nothing is more stimulating and satisfying in this respect than the Exhibitions held from time to time in various centres where dealers meet collectors to the mutual advantage of both.

In our more affluent present society the number of collectors is slowly growing, as more and more people seek satisfying occupation in their leisure hours. All have their different spheres of interest, but common to everyone is the appreciation of the almost indefinable charm of the diminutive postage stamp.

Note : This is more or less the story of many a collector turned philatelist in our country. Write ups are invited from members of different story. - Asso. Editor

#### Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President  
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the  
Chair, - 19 members attended the  
meeting on 11th March 2013

