



SIPA

Bulletin

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Editorial

ISSUES - 2009

Review

Like every years first issue, in this bulletin let us review the "issues of 2009".

It is a highly accomplished year from India - Post's business point of view. Once an organization wants to change its objective and motto from service to commerce by competing with couriers, banks, companies etc., it is no wonder that minorities like 'we hobbyists' has to turn into grumblers due to confused and inadequate supply, unwanted material, too many issues etc etc.,

With 68 issues, 104 Stamps, 13 miniature sheets, many special packs and what - not there was a flood of philatelic material at the counter. All the staff on the philatelic line up to sales counter has to be sympathised and appreciated for the cooperation and support, given to us, the "so called" collectors with peculiar ideas of collecting. The other day, I saw one gentlemen getting cancellation on the pages of a Calender, of course the calender is India Post 2010 Calendar and he has pasted Jayadeva Geetagevinda stamps on it, one on each sheet; I missed to note what he put on the 12th & last, December sheet., may be the miniature sheet.

Coming back to the review, the year pack of stamps, first day covers and miniature sheets will cost a collector an amount of Rs.1536/-. A student collector in a 'poor' country of India can afford this "small money". No Problem.

Again out of 68 issues, 32 issues honoured great personalities of India. It is about 47% of the issues for which our so called Indian regulation is "to be with in 25%" International percentages of personalities in issues of well recognized countries may be with in 10% only. To tell a secret, this is one of the major reasons for the unpopularity of Indian stamps. Only selected Indian stamps are wanted outside the country and not the year packs which will have all these great personalities of India virtually unknown to the world.

A peculiar feature of 2009 issues is, that a number of Christian institutions were commemorated. Three churches and four educational institutions were honoured where as no Islamic representation has been given. In a secular country this is an aberration to be set right in future.

Coming to miniature sheets, thirteen nos have been issued, at a cost of Rs.270/-. This number may be a record for any stamp issuing country in a year though not a creditable record to hold.

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WHY DO WE NEED STAMP CATALOGUES?

To stamp collectors a stamp catalogue is one of the most fascinating books to read. It acts as a checklist of the stamps issued by various countries, giving additional information on perforations, watermarks and colour variations. Some catalogues also list stamp booklets and special date stamps.

Although stamp catalogues also indicate a price for each stamps, you should be very careful not to consider this to be the exact value of your stamps collection. Many factors, such as market trends, the condition of your stamps, the demand for and availability of your stamps etc, can influence their value by as much as 100%. The prices given should therefore be seen only as a guideline that indicate which stamps are valuable and which are less valuable.

Generally, the scarcer a stamp is, the more people would like to have it and would be prepared to pay for it. The value of a stamp is therefore only that which people are prepared to pay for it. Some very good stamps are sometimes offered at very low price because there is no demand for them.

Catalogues are produced all over the world. In Great Britain, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue is accepted as a checklist of the stamps issued by the British Commonwealth countries. In America the Scott Catalogue is used as a list of American stamps. The Michel series of catalogues, issued in Germany, is considered to be the most comprehensive catalogue of the stamps of the world.

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
19 members attended the meeting on
13.12.2009. Mr. D. H. Rao gave a talk
on preparations of "Maxim cards" in
the concordant method.

STAMP NEWS

DR. RAJ KUMAR

1.11.09

500

0.4Mill

Dr. Raj Kumar was the most versatile stage and cinema artist of Kannada film world.

Born in a remote village Gajanur now in Tamil Nadu, on 24, April 1929 to Shri Singanallur Puttaswamaiah and Smt. Lakshamma, he was named Muthuraj.



Giving up his education at the primary level, young Muthuraj joined the drama troupe of his father from whom he inherited his acting skills. After spending almost 20 years on the stage, he got a break in 1954 to act in the film "Bedara Kannappa" in which he adopted the screen name 'Raj Kumar'. Since then he never looked back. He also sang his own songs in the films.

In a career spanning five decades, he acted in 206 films and became a cultural icon of the state.

The University of Mysore bestowed upon him the honorary degree of "Doctor of Literature". The Kannada University, Hampi honoured him with "Nadija" (Teacher of the land). The Karnataka Government honoured him with "Karnataka Ratna".

The Government of India conferred the Padma Bhushan and he also received the "Dada Saheb Phalke Award" for his significant contribution to Indian cinema.

He passed away on 12 April 2006.

Theme: Fine arts, Actors, Personality, Cinema.

DR. MAHENDRALAL SIRCAR

2.11.09

500

0.4Mill

Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, CIE, MD, DL was not only the greatest homeopath of his time but also a scientist. Born on 2nd November, 1833 at Paikpara Village in Howrah district, near Calcutta. In 1849, he passed the junior scholarship examination and joined Hindu College, where he studied up to 1854. As he was bent upon studying medicine, he was transferred to Calcutta Medical College. He obtained IMS in 1861 and MD degree in 1863.



Mahendralal Sircar turned to homeopathy after reading William Morgans "The Philosophy of Homeopathy", and by Interaction with Rajendralal Dutt, a leading Homeopath Practitioner of Calcutta. In the course of his career, he treated several notable persons including the author Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, the saintly Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the Maharaja of Tripura and others.

Mahendralal Sircar started the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in 1876.

He was a fellow of Calcutta University, and Honorary magistrate and Sheriff of Calcutta (1887), He was made a C.I.E in 1883 and Honoured with a doctor of law degree by Calcutta University in 1898.

Due to malarial fever and bronchial asthma Sircar died on Feb. 23, 1904.

Theme: Personality, Doctors, Health, Medicine, Homeopathy.

APOLLO HOSPITALS

2.11.09

500

0.8Mill

The unfortunate and untimely death of a young patient in 1979 due to the lack of advanced healthcare in India and prohibitive cost overseas triggered a vision. For Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, physician and philanthropist, this was the defining moment which led to the establishment of the Apollo Hospitals Group of which he is the founder Chairman.



Growing from a 150 bed hospital in Chennai in 1983, to Asia's biggest hospital chain, the Apollo Hospitals Group has evolved into a globally respected brand.

The Apollo Hospitals Group comprises 43 hospitals with over 9000 beds, six of which in India are accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI).

Theme: Health, Medicine, Hospitals, Healthcare.

DANMAL MATHUR

7.11.09

500

0.4Mill

Shri Danmal Mathur is remembered as a well known and highly respected luminary of Rajasthan. Multifaceted and diligent, he was born on 14th March 1904 in Ajmer and made a mark for himself as an educationist.

With a Bachelor's degree from Government College, Ajmer, he went to work as Demonstrator in Physics. The Principal of Mayo College in 1932, Mr.V.A.S. Shaw, appointed him to teach Geography in Mayo College. He rose to become Head of the Geography Department and acting Principal before retirement in 1969.



