



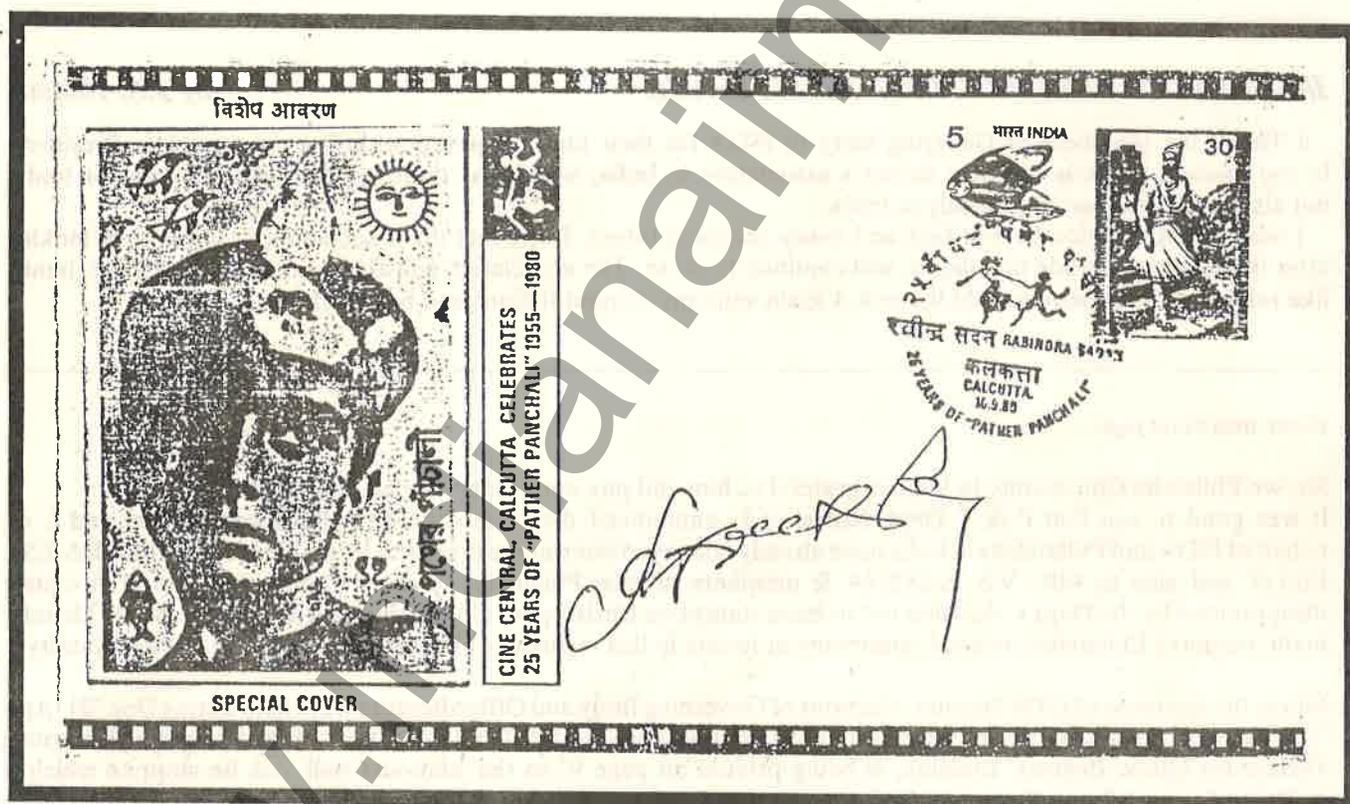
ISSUE II, 1992

# ISDA JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

INDIAN STAMP DEALERS' ASSOCIATION

STEPHEN SMITH COMMEMORATION ISSUE



## EDITORIAL *From the Heart*

by Kalyan Negal.

It was late sixties or early seventies, when I first came to know about stamp collecting from a collection of short stories by Satyajit Ray (*Ek Dozen Goppo*-One Dozen Story), in which a piece was on recovery of a stolen rare stamp. I believe this story is going to inspire lot of youngsters to collect stamps in future also, as it happened with me. This is perhaps the only Indian fictional work on stamps, thus Satyajit Ray was the only Indian writer and most probably the only Movie Director in India, who had shown stamp collecting as a hobby of one of his character (Captain Spark in *Jai Baba Felunath*).

*Contd. to page 2*

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

*by B.K. Poddar.*

THE TIME HAD COME DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1992, AFTER LONG AWAITING TO THINK AND DECIDE AS TO WHO SHOULD LEAD ISDA. IT IS MY GREATEST PLEASURE TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE PRESIDENT OF ISDA. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY HEARTIEST THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE ELECTED ME AND MY WELLWISHERS WHO ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO THIS ASSOCIATION, FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

THE STORY IS 20 YEARS OLD, THE PAGES WERE BLANK. I WAS ONE OF THE PRIME MOVER WHO HELPED TO GIVE A PROLOGUE TO THE STORY OF ISDA. SINCE THEN MANY PAGES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN AND I HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE FOR 12 YEARS IN MODIFYING THE STORY. IN DUE COURSE I HAD BEEN THE SECRETARY. I PLAYED MY PART EFFICIENTLY WITH THE DUE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF MY ASSOCIATES.

AMONG OTHERS, MY MAJOR ACTIONS INCLUDED THE ISSUING OF THE 'QUARTERLY JOURNAL REGULARLY, ORGANISING SEVERAL STAMP FAIRS, AND SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITIONS. ALSO THE REINTRODUCTION OF LICENSE OF POSTAGE STAMPS, WHICH WAS TOTALLY STOPPED, AGAINST EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEME.

SINCE THEN MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED AND I ONCE AGAIN PLAYED A ROLE AS VICE PRESIDENT OF ISDA. HOWEVER DUE TO CERTAIN OBVIOUS REASONS THE STORY WAS ALMOST DRAGGING TOWARDS A DREARY END DUE TO LACK OF SPIRIT, ACTIONS AND IDEAS, AND ABOVE ALL APATHY AMONGST FELLOW DEALER-MEMBERS.

YET THE WHEEL HAS TURNED, AND I HAVE AGAIN COME UP TO THE LIMELIGHT. I PROMISE TO HOLD THE BANNER OF ISDA FLYING HIGH UP AND HIGHER STILL, WITH THE DUE COOPERATION OF MY ASSOCIATES, WE CAN STRIKE THE PERFECT CHORD OF HARMONY. WITH ELATED SPIRITS I WILL ONCE AGAIN TRY MY BEST TO WORK UP TO THE EXPECTATION OF MY WELLWISHERS AND MEMBERS.

---

## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

*by J.S. Bhasin.*

I Thank the members of Governing body of ISDA for their kind cooperation during my tenure as President. In my opinion ISDA is the only dealer's association in India, which has done good works not only for trade, but also for promotion of philately in India.

I wish the association best of luck and every success in future. Hope that the association, as it has been looking after the welfare of trade member's, will continue to do so. The association will also works to bring closer, family like relation of our members. At the end, I again send my congratulations and best wishes.

---

*Contd. from Cover page...*

So, we Philatelic Community in India is grateful to him and pay our homage on his sudden demise. It was good to see that P & T Dept. had already announced the release date of the stamp on Ray and I, on behalf of ISDA and Philatelists in India have already conveyed our sincere thanks to Hon'able Minister MR. RAJESH PILOT and also to MR. V.S. SAXENA & members of new Philatelic Advisory Committee. But, I'm equally disappointed by the Dept.s' decision not to issue stamps on Christopher Coloumbus and Stephen J. Smith. I hereby invite readers/ Philatelists to send comments or letters in this regards, which will be forwarded to the authority.

Since, the last issue of ISDA Journal, elections of Governing Body and Office Bearers were held during Dec.'91-Apr.'92. Name of the new Office Bearers and Board Members are in page 2 and the extract of the letter from Returning Officer for Office Bearers' Election, is being printed on page 9, so the 'rumours mill' can be stopped which is going on for past 2 months, or so. In fact some non-Dealer and former Members has made it 'talk-of-the-town', as it seems to be simply nothing of their interest are available or everything else in Philately/ Trade got boring for them! Why are they so keen about ISDA's affairs without contributing anything? Wish, our own Members would take so much interest! Perhaps, they are not on the same 'track', what the former is on. What are they actually up to?

I, on behalf of ISDA would like to thank everybody who had congratulated us (new Office Bearers) and expressed their willingness to help and support. On very personal note, I must say there were very few who had done so, but nonetheless warming 'Congrats...' came from unexpected fronts and one of them even wished me luck in whatever I do! Wish ..... wishes the same for next 3 years or so/more! I also thank to those who had supported me and particularly for sharing the tension and agony with me during the days before Election.

# INDIAN STAMP DEALERS' ASSOCIATION (ISDA)

Regd. Off. : 19, Chandni Chowk Street, Calcutta- 700 072, India.

Tel : (01091) (033) 27-2171 Fax No : 91-33286871/ Attn : K. Negal.



Founded : 1972

## GOVERNING BODY

Past President : M C SUKHANI

Immediate past President : J S BHASIN

President : B K PODDAR

Vice President : P C JAISWAL

Secretary : KALYAN NEGAL

Asst. Secretary : SARAL BASAK

Treasurer : ARUN BHATTACHARYA

## MEMBERS

MD. ALAMGIR A N BARMAN

A V JAYACHANDRAN B C LUHADIA

A S MITTAL S K RUNGTA

KAUSIK SAHA R K SUKHANI

## LIFE MEMBERS

DHAWAN & SONS

SHABBIR A. SLATEWALA

## MEMBERS

ARUN AGARWAL

A B DESOUZA

TAPAN DHANG

M C DHAWAN & SONS

ARJUN K GHOSH

NARENDRA K GODHA

PRADIP JAIN

MADHUKAR JHINGAN

SATISH MISHRA

G M PUJARI

STAMP ENTERPRISE

REKHA MAFATLAL SETH

S C SUKHANI



*M.C. SUKHANI*



*J.S. BHASIN*



*B.K. PODDAR*



*P.C. JAISWAL*



*ARUN BHATTACHARYA*



*SARAL BASAK*

## **BUMPER BARGAIN OFFER.**

**SELLING TOPICAL SETS AND S/SHEETS (1980-1992) AT OFFICIAL FACE VALUE. MINIMUM ORDER Rs : 2000/- . SEND YOUR WANT-LIST.**

**SELLING BRT.EAST INDIA COINS, WILLIAM, QV, EDW, GV & PRE INDEPENDENCE LOOSE, UNC & PROOF SETS AT FAIR PRICE MUGHAL, BENGAL SULTAN VI EARLY INDIAN STATES SILVER COINS, ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.**

**INTERESTED IN BUYING TOO. PLEASE OFFER.**

**WANTED TO BUY WORLD WIDE POSTAL HISTORY COVERS 1ST / 2ND WORLD WAR RELATED, USED ABROAD COVERS, ANYTHING & EVERY THING FROM NEPAL, TIBET, INDIAN STATES.**

**WANTED TO SALE ONE I.Y.C. COLLECTION, MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION COVERS & CARDS FROM NEPAL, BHUTAN NEW ISSUES SETS + S/SHEETS.**

**AVAILABLE**

**HAWID MOUNTS 50 GRAMS PACKET. WORLD WIDE ANARCTICA EXPEDITION COVERS.**

**FOREIGN SETS ON INDIA THEME.**

**WORLD WIDE PACKET MATERIALS FROM 10 DIFF. TO 100 DIFF.**

**AIR INDIA FFC 25 DIFF.**

**FILATALIE — CAL  
30/1. BECHARAM CHATTERJI ROAD.  
CALCUTTA- 700 034**

## STEPHEN SMITH STORY

by Amal Kumar Bose

**T**his is the story of an Indian Philatelist who was an inventor and untiring experimenter in the field of delivery of mail by rocket.

His name is Stephen Hector Taylor Smith, more popularly known by his signatures to the multitude of philatelists both in India and abroad as Stephen H. Smith and to his friends and associates as Stephen Smith or Stevee. To an average Indian citizen of mid-nineties the name of Stephen Smith may mean nothing unless he is a serious collector of philatelic items. Like a large majority of innovators and creative persons Stephen Smith did not achieve much recognition or acclaim during his lifetime while each of the mails sent by him either by rocket mail, Pigeonogram or first air flight, commands high premium with the philatelists.

Mr. Stephen Smith carried extensive experiments between 1934 and 1945 with rockets described as ordinary rockets, gas rockets, telescopic rockets, war rockets etc. The idea of modern rocketry itself at that time was in its infancy and legendary Germans like that of William Von Braun, etc., were carrying on their experiments with rockets in Germany.

Stephen Smith was born on 14th February 1891 at Shillong in Assam of Anglo-Indian heritage. He was educated at the St. Patrick. High School at Asansol and completed his schooling there in 1911 and obtained a certificate that described him as a 'model student and a perfect athlete'. After his schooling he joined the Calcutta Customs and from the Customs he was transferred to Calcutta Police. During the period he joined the Calcutta College of Dentistry and Surgeons and graduated as a dentist. He joined the Indian Army during the 1914-18 1st World War and served in the Medical Corps as a dentist.

From the foregoing it becomes apparent that besides being a pioneer in the field of rocket mail, Mr. Stephen Smith was also a policeman and an army man and a dental surgeon. He carried on his profession of dentistry from 25 Elliot Road in Calcutta after leaving the military service at the end of 1st World war in 1918.

In the field of mail delivery India has the distinction of peculiar achievements. It was in India that for the first time mail was flown by air from Allahabad to Naini junction flying over the river Jamuna a distance of 6 miles creating history, particularly in the field of Aero Philately on 18th February 1911, the same year that Stephen Smith finished his schooling at Asansol. In this particular flight a De Havilland aircraft was used by one Frenchman Mons. Paquet which flew with 6500 letters and post cards bearing a special postmark in red showing the outlines of the plane in large circle and the postal stamps were cancelled with this particular postmark.

In a similar vein on 29th June 1935 Stephen H. Smith despatched over the river Damodar from a spot near modern Burnpur to the opposite side known as Ramkanali river bank his rocket named "David Ezra" carrying a live hen and cock and number of letter which reached and landed on the other bank safely. When Stephen Smith reached the other bank and opened the rocket compartment he found both the cock and hen completely uninjured and live but restive due to the confined space and any shock they might have experienced during the flight. This particular cock and hen was brought down to Calcutta and presented to Sir David Ezra and did not meet the fate of ordinary table birds but continued to live for quite some time in Sir David Ezra's mansion as the first living specie to have travelled by rocket.

Stephen Smith during his lifetime was very fortunate to have the patronage of two eminent and monied persons. They were Sir David Ezra, a millionaire businessman of Calcutta of 1930's and 1940's and his properties bearing the name of Ezra Mansion stand even today. Even the most successful rocket of Stephen H. Smith known as Rocket No. 65 carried the name of Sir David Ezra. Though Sir David Ezra himself was not a serious philatelist his wife lady Ezra was the main driving force behind the Airmail Society of India, the parent body of Aero Philatelists in India.

Mr. Stephen Smith shifted his experiments in rocket mail delivery to Sikkim from Calcutta on 19th April 1935.

*Contd. to page.... 7*

**DEALS IN :—**

- NEPAL 10 DIFF TO 700 DIFF ALWAYS READY STOCK
- BHUTAN 10 DIFF TO 200 DIFF. READYMAD
- NEPAL/BHUTAN ONPAPER AVAILABLE.
- WORLD POSTAL HISTORY MATERIALS
- IMPORTED QUALITY STOCK-BOOK.
- IMPORTED QUALITY CLEAR FACE ENVELOPE.
- IMPORTED QUALITY MINT SHEET FILE.

**URGENTLY WANTED :—**

**KGVI COMPLETE SETS MOUNTED / UNMOUNTED FROM BRT.COLONIES.**

**SOUTH-EAST ASIA POSTAL HISTORY COVER**

**USED / MINT COMPLETE SETS**

**ANYTHING & EVERYTHING IN COVERS / STAMPS. FROM**

**TIBET / NEPAL / BHUTAN / SIKKIM REGION**

**SPOT CASH.**

**SARAL BASAK**

**24/3. RATAN SARKAR GARDEN STREET.**

**CALCUTTA - 700 007**

**PHONE : 39-2629.**



*Pic. by Ahmed Ali.*

His Highness Sir Tashi Namgyal, the then Maharaja of Sikkim took great interest in the idea of delivering mail with the help of rockets because if that could be achieved the agreed with Mr. Stephen Smith that in his mountain kingdom long distances which one has to traverse up and down various valleys could be cut short by rocket mail delivery from one hill to another. The Maharaja of Sikkim gave Mr. Smith his utmost cooperation and Mr. Smith also received help from many officials of the Sikkim state, notable amongst them was Mr. Tashi Dadul Densapa, Private Secretary to the Maharaja, in the other words, the Prime Minister of Sikkim and also Mr. C. Dudley, Joint Secretary to the Maharaja of Sikkim. Altogether 90 rockets were fired in Sikkim and most of them proved to be very successful and on 11th April 1935 in a letter Mr. Dudley wrote to Mr. Smith "the utility of rocket as a means of transport during flood or landslides has been clearly demonstrated, especially in Sikkim experiment No. 6 a rocket having medicines, cigarettes, tea and sugar in small quantities was shot over the river Ranakhali without any damage to the contents". Most of the Sikkim rocket experiments carried a legend by 8-pointed rubber stamp "rocket mail experiments - Sikkim" and the special vignette that Mr. Stephen Smith created for the rocket mail priced at Rs. 2/- also carried an over-stamp "Rocket mail experiments by sanction - Sikkim Durbar".

These postal items carrying these cancellations and vignettes today are extremely rare philatelic items world over and are considered a must for all Aero philatelist collections. This 6th rocket fired from Surumsa, Sikkim, containing the parcels weighing about 2 lbs. in all, is considered to be the first rocket parcel post in the world. Mr. F. Williamson, ICS, was the British Political Officer in the Sikkim State also known as Resident Officer, took active and very serious interest in these rocketry experiments from Sikkim. He personally fired a number of such rockets and realised the potentialities of those experiments. The last of the experiments carried on by Mr. Smith in Sikkim was on 4th October 1935.

The rocket that Mr. Stephen Smith used for the purpose were initially manufactured by Orient fireworks Co. of Calcutta and subsequently M/s James Pain & Sons, London. In his diary Mr. Stephen Smith maintained a meticulous record of most of the rocket flights by rough sketch of rockets in flight and made several notes regarding the height achieved by the rocket, the flight path, wind direction, the failure point of the rocket, etc. and tried to find out the reason of such failures. After firing about 25 rockets Mr. Stephen Smith started his hand in making the rockets himself. He used thick cardboard, leather and tin for the purpose of having a strong outer shell of the rocket. Though in his diary he maintained a detailed record

*Contd. to page... 9*

## FOR CHEAP SOURCE OF SUPPLY

OF COMPLETE RANGE OF STAMPS ON  
PAINTINGS, BIRDS, ANIMALS, ROCKETS, FLOWERS, COSMOS, FISHES SPUTNIKS,  
ETC.

ALSO FULL RANGE OF STAMP ALBUMS, STOCK BOOKS,  
HINGES & OTHER ACCESSORIES

GENERAL PACKETS, COUNTRY PACKETS, COMPLETE AND SHORT SETS

FIRST DAY COVERS.

*CONTACT :*

**Rita stamps**  
72, BHAGAT SINGH MARKET,  
NEAR GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI- 110001.  
PHONE : 34 3731

## URGENTLY WANTED

**FDC, FOLDERS, VIP FOLDERS from different  
cities of following issues, 1-10 of each :**

- ★ 1967 Scouting
- ★ 1968 Cochin Synagouge
- ★ 1970 Girl Guides
- ★ 1979 Int. Year of Child
- ★ 1979 Children Book Fair
- ★ 1979 Apiculture
- ★ 1986 Asian Games

Send details immediately to :

**KALYAN NEGAL**  
41/3, NARIKELDANGA NORTH ROAD,  
CALCUTTA- 700 011.

of rocket flights no where he mentioned anything about the ingredients of the rocket propellant he used. It was his avid interest in birds in flight since his early childhood in the pine forests of upper Shillong that created his interest in Aero Philately, in particular in rocket mail, messages sent by pigeons known as Pigeonogram and first flight mail. It was his practice to inscribe his signature on all the covers, letters, post cards that he sent by the above method and each of these items today, 40 years after his death, has become collectors' items commanding heavy premium in philatelic auctions.

Mr. Jal Cooper published a catalogue giving complete details of Stephen Smith's rocket experiments and their pricing in the '50s which is a very sought after and authentic literature on him. Yet another publication issued by the Philatelic Congress of India as compiled by Mr. D.N. Jatia from the "Diary of Stephen Smith" is also a very interesting book on the experiments as carried out by Mr. Stephen Smith. This book in particular reproduces a number of sketches by the hand of Mr. Stephen Smith regarding the flight of various rockets during his experiments. Mr. Stephen Smith under his own hand also published between 1920 and 1930 four books. They were volumes 1,2,3 of Indian Airways which gave the details of various first flights in India. For instance, Tatasons flight between Karachi and Bombay piloted by Mr. J.R.D. Tata and such other flights. In fact Tata's were the pioneers in the field of introducing postal delivery by airmail in India. In 1927 Mr. Stephen Smith published yet another book "World Flyers Danger Zones". This is also considered as authentic book on Aero Philately.

It was in 1951 that Mr. Stephen Smith left this mortal world on the date after his birthday i.e. on 15th February while he was born on 14th February, 60 years earlier. He lies buried at the Lower Circular Road Cemetery, Calcutta. Mr. Hector Smith, only son of Mr. Stephen Smith, did not take much interest in philately or rocket mail in particular but migrated to England and settled there.

AMAL KUMAR BOSE, a collector of Indian sub-continent to Great Britain and also 'Map on Stamps'. He has been writing extensively on Stephen Smith and one of his article recently published in *The Economic Times*.

**Extract from the letter of Mr. Amal Kumar Bose, Retruning Officer for the Election of Office Bearers of Indian Stamp Dealer's Association for 1992-95 written to ISDA, on April 3, 1992 :**

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 18th February 1992 I have to inform you as follows : that on the counting of ballot papers on the evening of 2nd, April, 1992, Mr. B.K. Poddar has been duly elected as the President of ISDA and Mr. Kalyan Negal as the Secretary of ISDA for the aforesaid term.

There were seven votes each for Mr. B.K. Poddar and also for Mr. M.C. Sukhani, contenders for the Presidentship and Mr. Kalyan Negal and Mr. S.K. Rungta for the Secretary's post, with one ballot paper being kept in abeyance as it came in an outer-cover not provided by me.

On scrutiny it was found that two of the ballot papers had blobs of paint on the face of it at the place marked for putting the cross against candidate's name. As such two ballot papers were cancelled and the ultimate result was seven votes in favour of Mr. B.K. Poddar and Mr. Kalyan Negal respectively and five votes each for Mr. M.C. Sukhani and Mr. S.K. Rungta. The ballot paper kept in abeyance was not taken into consideration as the decision of the electorate by 7 to 5 valid votes was sufficient to elect the contending office bearers.

In addition to the above the following gentlemen were elected unopposed for the various office of Indian Stamp Dealers' Association as mentioned against their names.

Vice President : Mr.P.C. Jaiswal, Asst. Secretary : Mr. Saral Basak, Treasurer : Mr. Arun Bhattachaya. This is for your record and information.

## PHILATELIC CENTRE

**(PROP.P.C. JAISWAL)**

**AUCTIONEERS, EXPORTERS, DEALERS & VALUERS**

Phone No. 442818, 445934

Fax + 91-33-445934

### AUCTIONS

**LARGEST AUCTIONEER IN INDIA - 18TH Sale (Scheduled Saturday 19 Sept, '92. 5000 + LOTS \$2 - \$5000 + Each. TOTAL ESTIMATES TO EXCEED \$1,00, 000. To include A-Z of Philately from postal History to collectables. Strength in INDIA & INDIAN STATES with emphasis also on BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, BURMA, CEYLON (SRI LANKA), MALAYA, NEPAL, PAKISTAN & TIBET. PLUS selection from Great Britain, British Commonwealth & some very good lots of Western Europe & USA. PLUS 300+ COUNTRYWISE COLLECTIONS from all over the world PLUS SEPARATE WHOLESALE SECTION FOR DEALERS & INVESTORS.**

### PRIVATE TREATY

**WE HAVE AN EFFICIENT COMPUTERISED PRIVATE TREATY SECTION & HAVE ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKS OF WORLDWIDE MATERIALS. FROM POSTAL HISTORY /STAMPS TO COLLECTABLES. SEND US YOUR INTEREST. YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AT WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU. (SPECIALISTS IN FISCALS, REVENUES & COLLECTABLES).**

### CASH FOR TRASH

**THERE IS ALMOST NOTHING THAT WE DO NOT BUY — from RARITIES TO COMMON BUNDLES-ESTATES, REMAINDERS-ANYTHING. SEND DETAILED LIST WITH XEROX OF IMPORTANT ITEMS WITH ASKING PRICE. TURN YOUR SURPLUS/UNSALEABLE INTO CASH OR MAIL FOR OUR VALUATION & OFFER.**

**IF YOU POSSESS SOME RARE / SCARCE ITEM TRY US LAST, BEFORE SELLING. YOU WILL BE GLAD THAT YOU DID.**

**IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO SELL OUTRIGHT, WE CAN OBTAIN BEST PRICES FOR YOUR VALUABLE ITEMS ESPECIALLY VALUED \$ 1000 & over**

**WANT ON/OFF PAPER INDIA/WORLD MIXTURES REGURARLY ALSO REGULAR SUPPLIERS FOR INDIA/INDIAN STATE COMPOSITIONS.**

## Dr. Stephen Smith - Policeman rocketeer

by S. Kitson

If ever mails finally come to be carried over Continents by rocket, it will be a former policeman who pioneered this. Enough is known about Smith and his experiments. Little is known about him as a man.

It may have been a fondness for a disciplined life, or more likely he lived in an era, and in an area where certain services, were almost exclusively the preserve of young men of his community, the Customs, Police, Measures, Railways and so on. The recently issued stamp on Sir Henry Gidney shows this philatelically.

Smith, on leaving school in Asansol, joined the Customs, and after a short while, the Police. His career as a Sergeant was brief, and not very eventful. It was at this time that he studied dentistry, leaving the Force to become a dentist and join the Medical Corps in the Army. His career has been adequately covered in another article in this issue. Enquiries at Lalbazar, produced the resume reproduced below from the official record.

### Nominal Roll of Superintendents and Inspectors

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Name in full, Religion and Father's Name.   | — Stephen Hector Smith S/O, William Batt Smith, R.C.   |
| 2. Town or village   | — Tezpore  |
| 3. District or country   | — Assam.   |
| 4. Rank and grade  | — Round Sergeant, Rs. 100/-  |
| 5. Age on date of appointment  | — 22 years.  |
| 6. Height (Feet & Inches)  | — 5 feet 8 inches.   |
| 7. Name and address of heir and of any near relatives in India, England, or elsewhere. | — Miss F. Harcourt (Friend) 40, European Asylum Lane, Calcutta.  |
| 8. Remarks.  | — Is appointed Round Sergeant on Rs. 100/- p.m. on probation for 6 months from 18.3.13. C.O. No. 517 dt. 18.3.13. and is posted to III BN. his pay will be drawn in R.F.C.O. 517 dated 18.3.13. sick leave for 19 days from 3.4.13 to 21.4.13 Retd. on 22.4.13. C.O. 802 dt. 28.4.13. Is fined Rs. 2/- for being absent from the Parade on. 28.11.13. Is granted one month privilege leave from 20. 6.14 Return to his duty on 20.7.14 C.O. 1528 dt. 21.7.14 Retain in temporary vacancy on Rs. 100/- and posted to 2nd Dn. C.O. 2411 dt. 8.12.14 from 1.12.14. Discharged on resignation with effect from 14.12.14 p.m. C.O. 2475 d 18.12.14. |

His interest in almost anything that flew, took him into the realms of pigeon racers. The addresses given in this article from a local newspaper indicate the fact that the people closest to him were recipients of his covers, and he gave them adequate exposure. The most famous address of all is 25A Elliott Road (see illustration) the place where he lived, and was the head quarters of the Indian AirMail Society.

Contd. to page... 12



*Pic. by Ahmed Ali.*

Why it never occurred to him to use pigeons to carry messages is not clear. It was only the commemoratives labels that they carried, not regular mail. That was to come in 1946 when the Orissa Police introduced a regular pigeon mail service. The text below shows the response in the Press.

**AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA**

*Saturday, Oct. 19, 1940.*

### **HOMING PIGEONS' FLIGHT — ORGANISED IN AID OF RED CROSS**

*Fifty homing pigeons took part in a flight from Chandernagore to Calcutta (covering a distance of about 20 miles) organised on Friday in aid of the Red Cross. They carried a number of miniature messages in special envelopes suitably printed for the occasion. Each of the following messages, carried by the little feathered despatch carriers, was priced at Rs. 2/-.*

*One of the organisers of the flight told the "Associated Press" that not only owing to the great humanitarian motive attached to these tiny messages, but also to the unique method of despatch and transport, these miniature souvenirs will undoubtedly be highly prized and much sought after as tangible souvenirs of a personal effort to aid the wounded soldiers.*

*The total number of messages carried by the flight was 314 and the entire amount to be collected from the sale of these souvenirs will be handed over to the Red Cross.*

*A test flight was made by racing pigeons from Burdwan to Calcutta on October 14, on which occasion 33 birds took part carrying over 200 miniature messages asking everyone to do his bit in the war.*

*Fridays's flight was held under the supervision of the veteran racing pigeon expert Mr. Joe Madeira.*

*The messages contain the following verse :*

*"I hear the roar of guns,  
I hear the shriek, the whine of shells.  
I see the dying, I see the slain,  
I hear the cries of anguish and of pain.  
Oh God, have pity, have mercy.*

That 'absent from parade' on 24.11.13, and the long absence 19 days from 3 Apr to 21 Apr of the same year 'sick leave', was he in fact away somewhere firing rockets? Quite likely. The impression one gets after putting together his life from his writings and memories of people who knew him, speaks of a restless character, always chasing the stars.

*Contd. to page... 16*

## WANTED

- WORLD WIDE POSTAL HISTORY MATERIALS (1900-40)
- GULF COUNTRIES / W. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COUSTOMS DECLARATION NOTE CARDS IN ANY QTY.
- BRITISH INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, TIBET ANY RARITIES ON COVER, SINGLES, ERRORS, FREAKS, ETC.

## FOR SALE

- EXCLUSIVE ITEMS OF BRITISH INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, TIBET RARE SHEETS, IMPERFS & DIE CARDS ETC.
- WORLDWIDE FINE USED OFF PAPER MIXTURE IN QUANTITY.
- INDIA POST INDEPENDENCE 1947-1980 READYMADE USED COLLECTION (PER 10 ONLY)
- BRITISH INDIA BANKNOTE FOR COLLECTORS

*INVESTORS WELCOME FOR 100% MONEY BACK SAFE INVESTMENT ON GOOD LOTS OF WORLDWIDE COVERS, STAMPS, ETC. WRITE CONFIDENTIALLY.*

## PARK STAMP CENTRE

*(TAPAN DHANG)*

31 PARK MANSION

57 PARK STREET

CALCUTTA- 700 016

Phone : (Resi) 68-4129

(7.00 P.M. ONWARDS)

## WANTED

UN-MOUNTED MINT, FDC ON THEMATIC ISSUES FROM INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN AND ORS. ASIAN COUNTRIES.

USED MATERIALS PER 10, 100 FROM INDIA AND WORLD WIDE. BETTER SINGLE ITEMS, TOO.

UM/M YEAR SETS FROM INDIA AND WORLD WIDE.

ANYTHING ON SCOUTS & GUIDES, (PHILATELIC AND NON-PHILATELIC), BIRDS TOPICS FROM INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT AND WORLD WIDE.

UNUSUALS FROM BHUTAN. ALSO POSTAL HISTORY + ORS. MATERIALS.

SPECIAL SLOGAN AND BIRTH PLACE POSTMARKS OF INDIA FFC, BALLOON FC. ROCKET, PIGEONGRAMS, ANTARCTICA EXPD., HELICOPTERS FLIGHT COVERS FROM INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT.

MINT, BELOW FACE POSTAGES, WORLDWIDE.

LOOKING FOR OLD PHILATELIC MAGAZINES (INDIAN + FOREIGN), BOOKS, ETC. PL. OFFERS.

Send your detailed offers. No minimum. (Communications through Post only.)

KALYAN NEGAL  
41/3, Narikeldanga North Road,  
Calcutta- 700 011

**WANTED FOR OUTRIGHT PURCHASE :—**

**PRESTAMP, LITHOGRAPHS,  
POSTAL HISTORY,  
STAMPS, ERRORS & VARIETIES,  
POSTAL STATIONERIES,  
AVIATION COVERS, WAR COVERS, ETC.**

**NEXT POSTAL AUCTION — Write for free illustrated catalogue.**

**Available :—**

**INDIA, BHUTAN, BANGLADESH,**

**GANDHI, NEHRU, INDIAN THEME**

**POPULAR THEMATIC SETS**

**PACKTES, COMPOSITIONS**

**STOCK BOOKS, GRAPH SHEETS & ALBUMS,**

**HINGES, HAWID MOUNTS**

**Stamp Syndicate**

**19, Chandni Chowk Street**

**Calcutta - 700 072**

**Phone : 27 2171**

**CABLE : TULMONALI**

Smith died in 1951. His only son did not follow his father's pursuits.

Smith jr married and had two children the boy was, sadly, retarded, and had to be placed in an institution. The girl married, but like her father emigrated to England, where she still lives, returning once in 1986, when her mother Fay Marcourt, Stephen's wife died at the ripe old age of 85 or 86.

Smith's son died in England before his mother.

Fay Marcourt is buried, like her husband in the Lower Circular Rd. cemetery.

We probably know only limited fame. The real fame was to come well after his death, thanks to the efforts of Jal Cooper, and others who brought his activities to notice. Leading to a mention in the Guinness Book of Records, and celebration (observations?) such as this there were rockets before his time, and well after, but it is nice to think that man is on the moon to day, and may go even farther, because of the activities of Smith and his kind. It is nicer to think that an Angola-Indian boy from Calcutta was in the vanguard of these activities.



*SYDNEY KITSON, A retired Police Officer, collects Police subjects and interested very much in Stephen Smith, who was in Calcutta Police as Sergeant. Mr. Kitson was responsible for designing of large nos. of Stamps and Postmarks mainly related to Police theme.*



*AHMED ALI, A very well known Photographer. In his earlier years he specialised on Wild Life, Tribals, Village, Portraits and Industrial Photography. He was associated with designing Stamps, Postmarks which were quite popular, the latest one is being the Henry Gidney stamp.*

### ***Thanks!***

Thanks to all our readers who submitted suggestions and articles. We really appreciate them and hope you notice some of the articles and ideas in this issue.

We want to include readers' input as much as possible so if you have an idea, article or suggestion, please send it in! Next issue of ISDA Journal is due on early Aug. '92 and the Copy deadline is 31st July, 1992. So, I must have your reply within the date specified. *Editor.*

**KUALA LUMPUR '92**

From 1st to 7th Sept. the 5th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition. i.e., KUALA LUMPUR '92 will take place at the Wisma MCA Convention Hall situated in the heart of the Malaysian Capital city. The exhibition is being organised by the Malaysian Postal Service Deptt. and Philatelic Society of Malaysia under the patronage of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately. The year 1992 is the 125th anniversary of the Malayan Postage Stamp. About 1200 frames of exhibits will be on display and about 25 Trade Booths including Postal Administrations. I personally feel 25 Trade Booths are too low in comparison to the total nos. of frames. I don't know whether all the 22 FIAP member countries Postal Administrations are taking booths or not, but they should. How long Asian countries Postal Administrations are going to ignore Philately?

MR. AMAL BOSE of Calcutta has been appointed the National Commissioner and when asked, I was told that responses from Indian Collectors has been over whelming. Indian Dealers, too are not lagging behind as most of them has set their eyes for KUALA LUMPUR '92 but right now they are eyeing for Jap. Occupation & ors. exotic Malaya materials!

I'm sure Indians visiting the exhibition will feet-at-home -away-home particularly at the venue as lot of Organising Committee Members are of Indian origin and heading the list is Hon. Minister of Posts, DATO' SERI S. SAMY VELLU and of-course there is MR.C. NAGARAJAH, a very familiar name to Indian Philatelists. Malaysia has one more Indian connexion - the first stamps of the Straits Settlements were the stamps of India, overprinted. (Indian theme? My frind perhaps won't agree!)

**ISDA EXHIBITION-CUM-BOURSE**

Far from Malaysia, here in Calcutta ISDA is organising an Exhibition-cum-bourse, a warm-up sort of event before KUALA LUMPUR '92, from 14th to 16th August '92 at Calcutta Chamber at Commerce Hall, 18 H, Park St., Calcutta- 700 016.

It's expected that Dealers from all parts of India will be in Calcutta during the event. so, make sure you are with us.

An Auction is being planned on any of the day. Consignments are welcome. Contact at earliest, any of the Officials.

*For non-ISDA Members/Traders* - please let us know, if you are able to come during the Exhibition & Bourse and interested in taking a Space/Table, which is available @ Rs.750/-. We'll try our best to accomodate you.

**TAPAN DHANG REJOINS ISDA.**

Tapan Dhang has come back to the ISDA fold, as his membership was approved in the last Governing Body meeting held on 6th June '92. He is currently trading from 31, Park Mansion, 57 Park Street, Calcutta- 700 016 under the name of PARK STAMP CENTRE. He is available over there from 1200 to 1600 Hrs. on every working day and in residence over phone (68-4129) after 1900 Hrs.

REKHA MAFATLAL SETH has also joined ISDA. Her address is 28/D/415, Manish Nagar, Four Bunglows, Andheri(West), Bomboy- 400 058.

Readers might like to note that Secretary and Treasurer are available at the Regd. Office of ISDA on every friday from 1500 to 1700 Hrs. except the first one of every month as first Saturday is the provisional date for Governing Body meeting followed by an Anction.

It was also decided, in the last meeting that Advertisements from non-ISDA members will be accepted @ Rs.375/- for full page and @ Rs.225/- for half-page. Payment should be made while sending the Copy/AD matter.

**NEW ISSUE (!)**

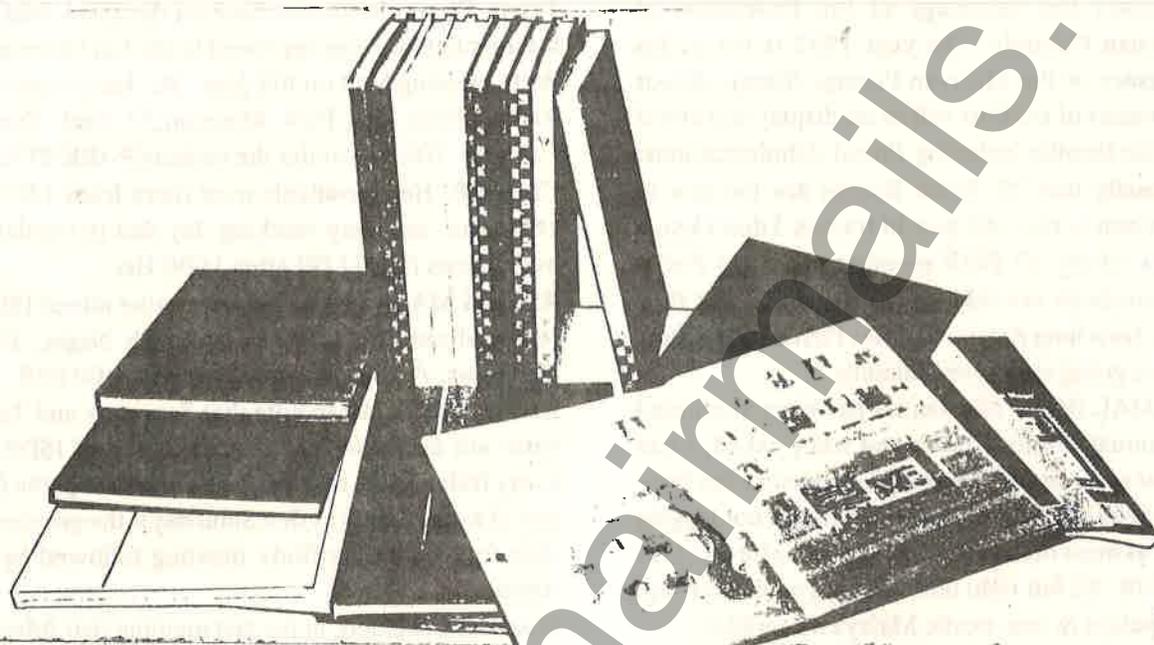
LINDER of Germany, the famous stamp and coin accessory manufacturer has launched a range of Stamp Care Kit, under the name 'ERNI' (Is it a German name of the white-tailed sea eagle? Will any German knowing friend help me?) It contains 2 bottles of liquids for the removal of foxing and one bottle of each for removal of gum and 'Schon' hinge mark. We have received the kit alongwith Trays but I could not manage to put on a 'test' yet but hope to do so at earliest and print the 'feed-back' in the next issue.

Linder is also publishing India Album for quite sometime now for post-Independence period (upto 1990) in 3 vols. (1947-73, 1974-85, 1986-90) and 112 pages. Cost? Somewhere between Rs. 6000/- - 8000/-! But this amount gives you the option to keep both Mint and Used in same album.

**FIRST TIME IN INDIA — NOW AVAILABLE**

**NEW GERMAN TYPE STOCKBOOK**

- DISTINCTIVE APPEARANCE**       **ATTRACTIVE PRESENTATION**  
 **VALUE FOR MONEY**               **OUTSTANDING QUALITY**



**This Stockbook is made to the very highest specifications ensuring many years of regular use. It is covered with top quality leather effect Rexin, available in 6 to 7 colours. 8 Leafs, 8 x 11 White Base**

Available from :

**UNICK STORES**  
B-6, New Market,  
(Old Complex),  
Calcutta- 700 087.

**RITA STAMPS**  
72, Bhagat Singh Market,  
Bhagat Singh Marg,  
New Delhi- 110 001.

**MITTAL STAMP CO.**  
22, Dhamani Market,  
S.M.S. Highway,  
Jaipur- 302 003.

For only Wholesale enquiries, write to :

**SARAL BASAK**  
24/3 Ratan Sarkar Garden Street,  
Calcutta- 700 007. Phone : 39-2629.

*Edited and Published by KALYAN NEGAL, Secretary, ISDA, 19 Chandni Chowk Street, Calcutta- 700 072 and printed by him from Pragna Prakashani, 60 B, Raja Dinendra Street, Calcutta- 700 006.*