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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION ----- The First & Only Weekly on
Philately & Postal Services of India

Issue # 279 – Jul 20, 2006. Published Every Thursday Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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J H I N G A N S J O T T I N G S

Hi

Let us look at what happened in New Zealand recently.

New Zealand Post had scheduled a set of 5 stamps on Maori Performing Arts for a June 7, 2006 release and publicized on May 11, 2006 that "New Zealand Post's latest stamp issue captures the passion and energy of the traditional Maori Performing Arts, better known in New Zealand by their Maori name of kapa haka. The stamps feature some of the key components of kapa haka, which is of cultural and spiritual significance to Maori. Each stamp has been carefully developed in consultation with experts at Te Papa Tongarewa (the Museum of New Zealand) and Te Puni Kokiri (the Ministry of Maori Development), to ensure that they present an accurate picture of an art form that is of huge importance to New Zealanders."

However on June 2, 2006 a press release informed "that after careful consideration New Zealand Post has decided not to release the Maori Performing Arts stamp issue. This decision follows consultation with a range of Maori arts and culture communities over the past week.

Some concerns about the design style of the stamp were raised with New Zealand Post when we first promoted the stamp issue. Consequently, we sought additional advice and we have concluded that the stamps would cause offence to some people.

As the stamps have not been released the stock is accounted for and will be destroyed according to New Zealand Post's processes."

This is not all, New Zealand Post followed up on July 2, 2006 "with an update in relation to the non-issued Maori Performing Arts Stamps. We have also today written to the New Zealand Philatelic Federation and to the New Zealand Stamp Dealers Association to provide the following details. Our aim in writing to customers, collectors and dealers at the same time is to achieve fair and equitable disclosure of information about this series.

All stock that had been despatched to PostShops was recalled and has been returned. Stock was/is also held in a range of other locations nominated by us as is typical in our business. Obviously for security

reasons we do not propose to provide more detail about our process, however please be aware that as of today the destruction process is still in progress.

In addition to samples that are always kept on file for archival purposes, and on the basis that our destruction processes which are still underway are completed as expected, our reconciliation of all stock has shown that eight orders to customers who had placed casual orders for a variety of products, including the Maori Performing Arts Stamps, were fulfilled in error. Forward requests for these eight orders were processed and the mistake that occurred, which enabled these orders to be supplied, was due to human error. Our processes have now been reviewed and steps have been put in place so that this error cannot occur again.

Along with the eight customer orders, product was given to one of the Advisers used in the creation of the product.

Additionally, we supplied 48 blank New Zealand Post first day cover envelopes to some customers. This is a normal practice in respect of these customers who choose to take the blank envelopes to their local PostShop on the day of issue, purchase stamps of their choice and have the issue cancelled at their local PostShop. As is normal, these were sent well in advance of the scheduled release for the series.

Therefore the product known to be in circulation is as follows:

2006 Maori Performing Arts gummed products

4 x \$2 single stamp mint

9 x first day covers

6 x sets plate imprint blocks

3 x complete single stamp sets mint

1 x complete single stamp set used

2006 Maori Performing Arts self adhesive products

1 x .45c dispenser box mint

2 x .45c single stamp mint

1 x .45c single stamp used

11 x stamp booklets

3 x presentation packs mint

48 x blank first day cover envelopes carrying Maori Performing Arts illustrative imagery

We have telephoned or written to the recipients of the non-issued stamp products and have asked them to return the items that were sent. We contacted these customers because we believe the reason we decided not to issue this series is still valid - that is, some of the Maori community have told us that the style of the stamp design does not portray the Maori Performing Arts appropriately and that the stamps would cause offence to some people. We would prefer all product is destroyed. Should any product be returned to us it will be destroyed.

We are very sorry that this situation has occurred.”

Now compare the efforts of New Zealand Post and India Post in identical situations.

India Post scheduled a stamp and a miniature sheet to mark the 400 years of Guru Granth Saheb for May 2005 release but has not since been issued. There is no official communication in this regard from India Post.

We do hope India Post will learn from the example set by New Zealand Post and deal with the subject in appropriate and clear manner and by taking all stakeholders in to confidence.

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

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue:  
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**

**BAN ON DISPLAY OF PROOFS**

India Post has extended the ban on display of artwork, color trials, proofs etc in philatelic exhibitions for another five years up to 2011. The violation of this ban may result in seizure of the exhibit and initiation of legal proceedings. The ban was imposed in 1990 and has been extended from time to time.

We published an article on this subject in the Issue # 88 of October 24, 2002:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/newssite/vando/trans-023.htm>

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FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Jul 29: High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Rs 5 Aug 04: Pankaj Mullick, Rs 5

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 2006, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2006stamps.htm>

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**RAKHI ENVELOPES**

The Director General of India Post, Jyotsna Diesh, released the Premium Rakhi Envelopes in four new designs on July 14, 2006. This year India Post has issued Rakhi Envelopes with uniformity in both quality and specifications throughout the country. The new envelopes are of tear and water resistant besides very light to keep the Rakhi mail within the basic weight limit, as far as possible. The envelopes are priced at Rs 5 each exclusive of normal postal charges. However, bulk buyers who intend to purchase 50 or more envelopes will be allowed a 10% discount.

Speaking on the occasion she said that since the Raksha Bandhan festival is an expression of tender sentiments India Post would like to ensure the best protection and security for reaching the Rakhi wishes to the brothers both in India and outside.

All Postal Circles in the country have followed the same sets of standards and specification through out the country in the procurement and sale of the new envelopes.

For an illustrated list of Rakhi envelopes, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pss/rakhi.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Jul 18: Sagar, Dr Hari Singh Gaur University Diamond Jubilee

For an illustrated list of special postmarks and covers in 2006, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2006pm.htm>

AUCTION ACTION

Indian Thematic Society indianthematicsociety@gmail.com is holding postal auction # 33. The 100 lots auction closes on July 22, 2006.

For a list of auctions in India, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/auction.htm>

EASTERN INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

The new governing body of the Eastern India Philatelists Association has been elected on June 18, 2006 for a period of three years.

The new body comprises of the following office bearers:

President: Bijoysree Routray

Vice President: Debasis Mitra

Secretary: Ajit Kumar Dash

Joint secretary: Ajaya Kumar Barik

Treasurer: Anup Kumar Raut

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jul 22-23, 2nd Annual Stamp Exhibition POSTPONED

Venue: CSOI, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi

Contact: Madhukar Jhingan 9350537037

Oct 14-16: ORPEX-06, 8th State level Philatelic Exhibition of Orissa

Venue: Bhanja Bhawan, Rourkela

Contact:

RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For a list of exhibitions in 2006, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

RECENT PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE FILA CAPSULE, Whole #3, Vol 1 #3, May Jun 2006, Bimonthly

Editor: Ajit Kumar Dash

Publisher: Eastern India Philatelists' Association

Address: D-13/6, Rental Colony, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar 751015

Subscription: Not Indicated

For a list of Indian periodicals, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/a602.htm>

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

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<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsfindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsfindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>

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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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<http://www.stampsfindia.com/siteguide/w04.htm>

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STAMPS OF INDIA <http://www.stampsfindia.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 post paid worldwide. Credit cards accepted <http://www.stampsfindia.com/99999.htm>

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