

Introducing a Course in philately

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, has received a brief note on introduction of a general Course in philately from Sri Vishnu S. Saksena of Vasan Kunj, Delhi, and asked the UGC's views of the same. The UGC in turn has sent the note to this University for consideration.

It is opined in the note (copy of the note enclosed at Annexure 'A') that a Certificate or Diploma Course in philately may be introduced in the Universities which will develop a new perspective of study and introduction in various disciplines. Further, such a Course with suitable Seminars/Workshops, will attract a number of students and participants and will be helpful in developing the personality of the students and others who choose to join such studies besides providing the noble hobby of philately.

The matter is placed before the 57th meeting of the Academic Council and the Council considered the introduction of a course on philately and Resolved to approve the same in principle and refer the matter to the existing centre of Cultural and literay studies.

The matter is placed before the Council for consideration.

5.6.3(2) Annexure 'A'

(COPY)

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110002

No.F.1-10/98(CPF-II)

April, 22, 1998

To

The Registrar,
NEHU, Shillong

Sub:

Introduction of a general academic course in
Philately

Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the DO letter
No. 4-1/98-Desk(U) dated 9th March, 1998 received from
Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Educa-
tion, New Delhi alongwith a brief note on introduction of a
general academic course in Philately for y ur consideration.

Encl : As above

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Dr. CHANDER SWAROOP)
Under Secretary

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5.6.3(3)

(COPY)

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI -110001

BARUN MITRA
DEPUTY SECRETARY
Tele : 3397235

D.O.No.4-1/98-Desk(U)

Dt. 9th March, 1998

Dear Dr. Sharma,

Please find enclosed a brief note on introduction of a general academic course in Philately received from Shri Vishnu S. Saksena of Vasant Kunj. Shri Saksena has stated that such a course are presently available in a few universities in the UK and the USA and it would be viable to start such a course in India also.

2. We shall be grateful if you'd kindly let us have your views on the subject at an early date.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

sd/-

(Barun Mitra)

Dr. G.D.Sharma
Secretary
University Grants Commission
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi.

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S:6:3(4)

RATIONALE FOR INTRODUCING A COURSE IN PHILATELY

Philately is regarded as the most popular hobby of the world. It is an educative and instructive hobby besides being relaxing, entertaining and providing gainful employment. The number of stamp collectors in various countries is estimated to be about 200 million. There may be about 2 million philatelists, stamps collectors in India. At the international level, it is a multi-million dollar business. Unfortunately, the finer points of this hobby are often not properly appreciated and the vast populace remains ignorant about the beneficial aspects and the immense potential of this pleasant pursuit.

Till a few decades back, stamp collecting used to be popular with the younger and the not so young and a large number of philatelic clubs used to function. Of late, with the availability of new forms of entertainment and pre-occupation, with the popularity of comics and films, TC & Video, the Computer & Information Technology, not much attention is being paid to Philately. Since technological developments have added to the tensions of modern life, the pursuit of a hobby like Philately can make it relaxing, interesting, and more meaningful. It is also likely to provide self-employment and help in earning of philatelic revenue.

Courses on Philately, though of recent origin are becoming increasingly popular in Western Universities. Among the first such courses was the one, started in the United Kingdom, at the University of Sussex, in 1971. A Unit was established for this purpose under the direction of Prof. John West, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Asa Briggs had also taken keen personal interest in this course. Besides UK, a number of Universities in the USA are also offering various types of courses in Philately. Most of these are for the guidance of Philatelists, Stamp collectors, agents/dealers, Journalists and members of Philatelic Clubs and Societies besides others interested in this hobby the Pennsylvania State University has also been conducting a correspondence course in Philately.

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In 1981, the Crown Agents of United Kingdom, an old and well-established supply agency for the erstwhile overseas colonies, who have also been printing stamps for a number of Postal Administrations, also started a Course in Philatelic Bureau Management. Despite a heavy course fee £1500 for a course of three weeks' duration, the course was oversubscribed. The Crown Agents have regularly been conducting such courses since then. Their course is, however, designed more for the sake of officials of the Postal Administrations and the Philatelic Bureaux than for the general philatelists and others. Officials from developing countries (including India) have been taking advantage of this course.

There is no institution or organisation in India, even in Asia, which is organising any type of courses in Philately, despite the availability of the necessary expertise and wherewithal. Neither is any Indian University offering any course in Philately. Our Philatelic novices are forced to learn the intricacies of the hobby the hard way, by trial and error method. They are supposed to get the necessary guidance from the Post Office, Senior Philatelists, reputed dealers and well-established Clubs and Societies, but in actual practice there is no assistance worth the name available to them. Perhaps, this is the reason that despite having numerous non-academic, Philatelic Organisations (including over hundred years' old societies and journals), top-ranking philatelists and experts of international standard (an Indian presently being the President of FIP - Federation Internationale de Philatelie, the apex Philatelic Organisation of the world, the hobby of Philately is not catching on in the country. In spite of the immense potential and the tremendous benefits of the hobby, the number of serious practitioners as also of the new entrants to the field is dwindling. The Philatelic revenue earned by the country is also abysmally low, especially in the context of other countries which have been earning increasingly handsome returns.

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It is felt that if academic institutions like Universities start a course in Philately it will elicit a good response. Such a course, with suitable seminars/workshop, will attract a number of students and participants and will be helpful in developing the personality of the students and others who choose to join such studies beside promoting the noble hobby of Philately.

Introduction of this subject in the Universities is also likely to develop a new perspective of study, and instruction in various disciplines.

A Certificate or Deiploma Course in Philately would be well-received not only by the lay man and begihners but also by practicing Philatelists and members of Philatelic Clubs and Societies.

The Course could be in three parts- Basic, Advanced and specialist/Expert level (A broad outline of the topics to be covered at the first two levels is annexed).. There is no dearth of material and men to help conduct the studies - We have a large number of world renowned Philatopists & Collectors, Philatelic Experts and Judges, Writers & Journalists, dealers and agents, and Office bearers of national and international philatelic organisations. There is an bundance of stamp designers and artists, visualisers and security printers. The Department of Post should also be willing to help through its Philatelic administrators.

PART-I

INTRODUCTORY

What is Philately - Who coined the term ?
Various definitions
How does it differ from stamp collecting
Various disciplines & branches - specialisations
why people collect - the things they collect.

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ISSUE OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS :

What is a stamp ? And a Label ?

Pre-stamp Philately

the beginning and development of Philately

The Pre-adhesive era upto 1840

The first adhesive stamps -

history and development. Role of Rowland Hill

First issues in the Continents

The Classic Age - 1840 to 1870

Post-Classic, Renaissance

Modern Philately -

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY & COUNTRY COLLECTIONS

RISE OF THEMATICS/TOPICALS - Post war Developments.

LATEST TRENDS

THE VARIOUS FIELDS

1. Collectors & Exhibitors

2. Dealers, Stockists,

3. Columnists, Journalists, Writers

4. Producers, Printers and Publishers.

5. Club and Society Managers

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIELDS

Collectibles :

Stamps, Definitive, Commemorative and Special

First Day Covers - Special Covers

Miniature Sheets, Sheet

Max Cards, Stamp Cards, HQ Cards

Stamp Booklets, Coil Stamps

PDLCS

CTOs

Items of Stationery

First Day/Flight Cancellations

Special Positions

Cancellations.

SG

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Classes:

Traditional	Revenue
Postal History	Youth
.....Stationery	Mophila
Aero & Astrophilately	Philatelic Litt.
Thematics	
Maximaphily	

PART - II

PURSuing THE HOBBY

AS A COLLECTOR: Starting & Developing a collection:

1. Deciding about the collection interest - country & theme
2. Building & collection
Sources
Turkit-Tweezer/Tong, Magnifier, Perf.gauge
Reference books, catalogues
stock books, Album pages
Hinger, Mounts.
3. Learning about the background:
Start, Production
Issuing Authority
-Policy
Printing Technique
Paper
Watermark
Perforation
4. Research & Write-UP: Developing the theme or the story
5. Things to Avoid
6. Exhibition Requirements
7. The guiding & Controlling organisations.

(ii) Centre for Buddha/ Gandhi / Nehru and Ambedkar Studies.

EC:97:98:5:6:(ii): The Council considered the assignment of the Centres for Buddha , Nehru and Ambedkar Studies in the University and RESOLVED to approve the same as recommended by the Academic Council.

(iii) Introducing a Course in Philately.

EC:97:98:5:6:(iii): The Council considered the introduction of a Course in Philately and RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Academic Council.

(iv) Recommendation of the Expert Committee for the Department of Computer Applications.

EC:97:98:5:6:(iv): The Council considered the recommendations of the Expert Committee for the Department of Computer Applications and RESOLVED to accept the same including the appointment of a Core group consisting of the following members.

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|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Prof. SK Mishra | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. SS Khare | Member |
| 3. Prof. Shukla | Member |
| 4. Prof. AN Rai | Member |

5:7: AFFILIATION

(i) Affiliation of various Colleges.

EC:97:98:5:7:(i): The Council considered the affiliation cases of the various colleges and RESOLVED to approve the same subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down by the Inspection Teams.

(ii) Regional Para-Medical and Nursing Training Institute, Aizawl- Report of the Inspection Team.

EC:97:98:5:7:(ii): The Council considered the affiliation of the Regional Para Medical and Nursing Training Institute, Aizawl and RESOLVED to approve the same subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down by the Academic Council.