

Life Time Achievement Award 2004

Conferred upon Mr. Zia Ur Rahman at NCA Lahore on 11th October 2004

In order to recognize indelible services to the cause of Pakistan Philately the Philatelic Federation of Pakistan and Philatelic Association of Pakistan decided to give each year a life time achievement award. This year first award hereby conferred upon Mr. Zia ur Rahman, Additional Director General and Member Board Pakistan Post Office for his services to Pakistan Philately.

Mr. Zia Ur Rahman, Additional Director General and Member Board Pakistan Post is son of late Moulana Muhammad Ismail Zabeeh a renowned freedom fighter and a close associate of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The services rendered by Mr. Zia to the cause of philately in the country are extremely valuable. He is an architect of laying down philatelic issue policy of Pakistan which has been given prestigious status as our official philatelic policy and has been deeply appreciated by the stamps collectors within the country and abroad.

Mr. Zia has officially represented Pakistan in numerous Philatelic exhibitions and fairs. He is in fact pioneer in laying down the tradition of official Participation in global stamps fairs and exhibitions when in August 1978 he led for the first time an official delegation to the 30th international Stamp Fair "RICCIONE -78" in Italy. In September, 1979 led Pakistan delegation to the world stamps exhibition "BRAZILIANA - 79" which coincided with the Rio Congress of the Universal Postal Union. He again led Pakistan delegation to one of the most prestigious International Stamps Exhibition "INDIA - 80" at New Delhi in January-February 1980. He was again head of the Delegation at the 32nd International Stamps Fair "RICCIONE -80" Italy in August 1980.

He represented Pakistan as head of the delegation to the International stamps exhibition "PHILEXFRANCE - 82" held in France in January 1982. He was the part of President of Pakistan's entourage as head of delegation to the First SAARC Stamp exhibition in Dhaka in 1985. He again representative Pakistan in the Seoul Olympic International Philatelic Congress "OLYMPHIX - 88" in September 1988 in Seoul.

He was made head of the Delegation at the World Philatelic Exhibition "INDIA - 89" at New Delhi, India January 1989. While representing the Pakistan in the 7th Asian Pacific Postal Union in September, 1995 in Singapore, he was also head OF THE Delegation to represent the country in the prestigious International Stamps Exhibition held during the same period in Singapore. While heading the delegation to the prestigious Conference on "New Postal Technologies" in France in June 1997 he held useful discussion with the French Postal Administration on new printing technologies of the postage stamps.

He again represented Pakistan as head of the delegation in the SAARC Stamps exhibition in 1996 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mr. Zia visited a number of countries in Asia, Europe and Americas to acquaint himself of the latest development philately for the benefit of our country.

Mr. Zia is also credited for holding RCD Stamp exhibition in 1977 in Karachi and ECO International International Stamps Exhibition "ECOPHILEX 86" in Islamabad which was attended by international dignitaries and presided over by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan. Beside arranging National Stamps Exhibition Pakphilex -83 in November 1983 in Lahore, he is also credited for holding a number of National exhibitions in collaboration with the leading philatelic organizations of Pakistan and eminent stamps collectors in all major cities in all major cities of Pakistan.

Mr. Zia also bought out the first official Postage Stamps Catalogue in 1978. It was the first serious official attempt to tabulate relevant data and information about the Pakistan Postage Stamps from 1947 onward. His brief writes up of the postal history in the catalogue still as authentic information on the subject.

Mr. Zia has rendered valuable assistance in the printing of other catalogues also which includes the most comprehensive colored catalogue title Pakistan Postage Stamps 2002 by Mr. M. I. Choudhry and also attractive stamps pocket size catalogue printed since decade by Mr. A. I. Siddiqui.

Mr. Zia also rendered valuable assistance to the authors of the historic treaties in the philatelic history such as "Postal Stationary of Pakistan" by Aleem Sundal and especially "Pakistan Overprints" by Mr. U. A. G. Issani now Vice Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University. Mr. Zia authored an impressive book titled "Pioneers of Freedom" in 1992 which contains life sketches of 27 pioneers of freedom and beautifully designed portraits by our internationally acclaimed artists Professor Saeed Akhtar and Adil Salahuddin. His well authored reviews on philatelic publications have appeared in the leading newspapers such as daily 'Nation' and 'Dawn'.

Brochures published by Mr. Zia on 'Printing Process of Postage Stamps', 'How Stamps are Designed' and 'Mounting of Stamps Collection' published on the occasion of National Stamps Exhibition held to commemorate "World Communication Year 1983" at Lahore contains very useful information. He authored a brochure on "Glossary of Philatelic Terms" along with Mr. Salim Tabani and Mr. F. Aleem Sundal in 1989 which is very fine piece of elaboration of technical philatelic terms.

His book "Ways & Means to promote philately in Pakistan" is again a fine piece of marketing techniques published in 1990 which still carries a lot of value and is a source of great inspiration for collectors. His article titled "Marketing Strategy of philately" was appreciated by the Universal Postal Union and published in the world report on philately in 1991 by the UPU and was also read out in the first congress on philately organized by the UPU in 1991 at Berne. His article on "Scind Dawk Stamps" and "History of Pakistan Postage Stamps" published in 1999 is still held by the collectors as a mile stone in the history of the South Asian Postage Stamps.

Mr. Zia has made myriad contribution to philately. Philatelists also appreciate key role in getting Pakistan Philately recognized in the community of Philatelic Associations. The great esteemed and respect with which Mr. Zia was held by the President of International Federation of Philately (FIP) Mr. D. N. Jatia led to a considerable extent in getting long awaited recognition for Pakistan from the International Federation of Philately (FIP) when it lend its formal support to the establishment of Pakistan Philatelic Federation.

Mr. Zia also played a key role in preserving and projecting the history of Pakistan through assisting in compiling the history of freedom movement through postage stamps from television media telecast in 1980's in series of programmes with the able and devoted assistance and research of one of the most respected philatelist of Pakistan Mr. Salim Tabani.

Mr. Zia shall always be remembered for so many philatelic achievements. He also managed apart from many other contributions, to keep the value of our commemorative postage stamps within the easy reach of the common man by avoiding the issue of high value stamps and in small quantities. This way he has consistently upheld the dignity of philatelic issue policy of Pakistan.

Mr. Zia shall always be credited for introducing some of the most fascinating and endearing themes on the Pakistan Postage Stamps canvas such as the introduction of Pioneers of

Freedom series in 1989, Aero Philately , stamps series on the flora and Fauna ,architecture landscapes, marine life, on the majestic mountains of Pakistan and the heroes of our armed forces ,our saints and literary personalities ,and artifacts , on archeological and historic monuments , our musical instruments and musicians are some of the mile stones of our philatelic history. Such themes have made Pakistan Postage Stamps as the most educative and rewarding hobby for the stamp collectors within the country and abroad.

Mr. Zia is not a collector of stamps but in the heart of collectors he reigns as one of them and shall always be remembered lovingly and affectionately by all of us.