












# Report on AMSIPEX-25

The 1st International Virtual Aerophilatelic & Astrophilatelic Exhibition

By Piyush Khaitan FPCI, FRPSL

AMSIPEX-25 is the 1st International Virtual Aerophilatelic & Astrophilatelic Exhibition, organized by the Air Mail Society India Foundation (AMSI) to celebrate World Air Mail Day on February 18. The event took place from February 15-23, 2025, and was held virtually. ([www.AMSIPEX.com](http://www.AMSIPEX.com)).

AMSIPEX-25 received Patronage from the International Federation of Aero-and Astrophilatelic Societies (F.I.S.A.) and the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI). It was also Jointly Sponsored by the American Air Mail Society and the Royal Belgian Astrophilatelic Society/COSMOS. Commercial sponsors were David Feldman (Gold), Robert A. Siegel (Gold) and Argyll Etkin (Silver) along with Philauctions (webinar sponsor) and Phila Arts (souvenir book sponsor).

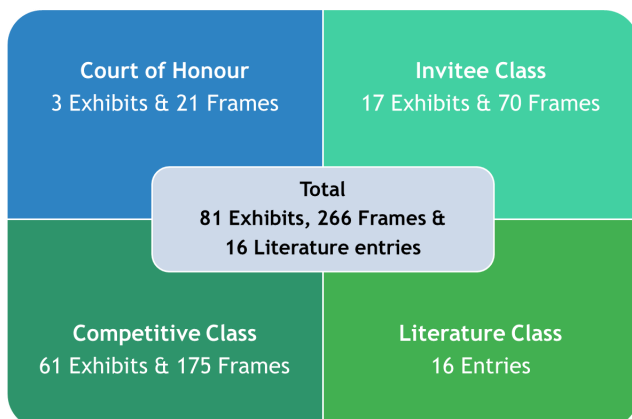
<b>Patronage</b>		<b>Jointly Sponsored by</b>	
 International Federation of Aero- and Astrophilatelic Societies	 Philatelic Congress of India	 American Air Mail Society	 Royal Belgian Philatelic Society
<b>Gold Sponsor</b>		<b>Gold Sponsor</b>	
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## The Exhibition:

Entries were open to exhibitors from across the world featuring Aerophilately: Development and Operation of Airmail Services, Airmail stamps, and their use in Airmail Service, and Astrophilately: Exhibits related to space exploration and astronomy.

The exhibition was in various categories, including Competitive Class: 5 & 8 frame exhibits and 1-frame exhibits; Literature Class; Youth Class: between 10-21 years in three age groups; Novice Class: Exhibits by new collectors in 1-5 frame exhibits.

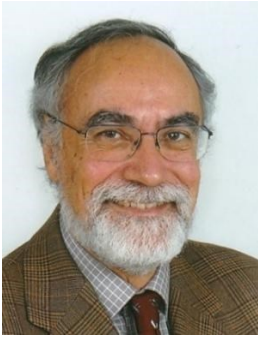
## Exhibition Highlights



## Entries from across the world

Countries	No. of entries	Countries	No. of entries
Australia	7	Italy	2
Austria	1	Japan	2
Belgium	5	Qatar	1
Canada	3	Romania	2
France	2	South Africa	1
Hungary	1	Sweden	2
India	55	Switzerland	3
Ireland	3	USA	7

**First Prize Winners in various categories**



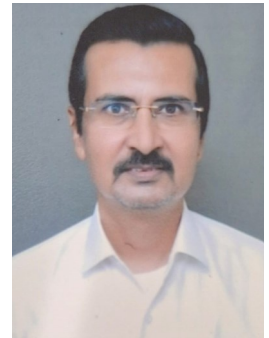
**Best Aerophilately Exhibit**  
Jean-Daniel Ayache



**Best Astrophilately Exhibit**  
Markand Dave



**Best Literature Class Exhibit**  
Ronald M. Lee



**Best Novice Class Exhibit**  
Sanjay Jagtap



**Best 1 Frame**  
Aerophilately Exhibit  
Pragya Jain



**Best 1 Frame**  
Astrophilately Exhibit  
Marianne Van den Lemmer



**Best Youth Class**  
(10-15 yrs)  
Nandakishore H S



**Best Youth Class**  
(16-18 yrs)  
Dhyana Shah

Besides the competitive class, there was a Court of Honour with 3 outstanding exhibits.



**Mr. Bartos, Alec**

**Exhibit Title:**  
Space Stamp Design

**No. of Frames:** 5



**Mr. Hopperwieser, Walter**

**Exhibit Title:**  
Space Mail

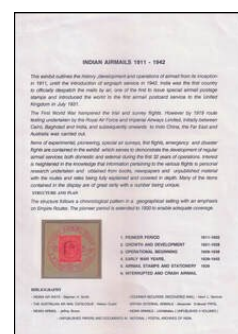
**No. of Frames:** 8



**Mr. Jain, Pradip**

**Exhibit Title:**  
Indian Airmails Developments &  
Operations (1911-1942)

**No. of Frames:** 8



The Invitee Class saw another 17 Exhibits & 70 Frames (8 from Jury & 9 other non-competitive). All exhibits can be viewed at [www.AMSIPEX.COM](http://www.AMSIPEX.COM)

Judging the exhibits: The exhibition followed FIP Guidelines for Judging Aerophilatelic Exhibits and for Judging Astrophilatelic Exhibits. The Jury comprised of 8 world renowned international experts in Aerophilately and Astrophilately and awards were given based on the exhibits' scores.



**Mr. Glen Stafford**  
**Aerophilately**  
**Australia**  
**Jury Chair**



**Mr. David S. Ball**  
**Aero- & Astrophilately**  
**USA**



**Mr. Charles Bromser**  
**Astrophilately**  
**Australia**



**Dr. Stefan Bruylants**  
**Astrophilately**  
**Belgium**



**Mr. Madhukar Deogwanka**  
**Aerophilately**  
**India**



**Mr. Walter Hopperweiser**  
**Astrophilately**  
**Austria**



**Mr. Georgey Lovei**  
**Aerophilately**  
**Hungary**



**Mr. Javid Muhammad**  
**Literature**  
**UAE**

AMSIPEX-25 also introduced some innovations that were well appreciated by all:

- Novice Class exhibits for persons who were otherwise ineligible participate in such events
- Medals for eligible 1 Frame exhibitors

### **World Air Mail Day Celebrations, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025:**

The Inaugural Function lasted 30 minutes, and started with a 2,600 year old Sanskrit invocation known as Shanti Mantra (*Sahana Vavatu*) reminding us all to work as one for the pursuit of knowledge in a spirit of peace and brotherhood.

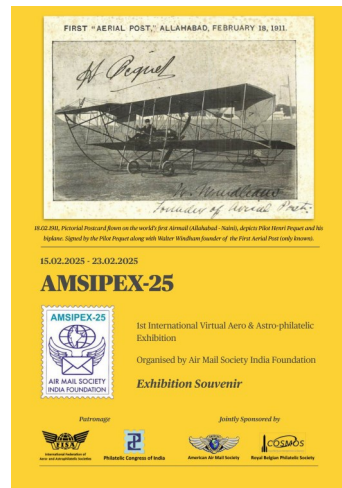
A Special Cover was then released to commemorate the 114<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Airmail flight from Allahabad to Naini on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1911. Designed and Executed by Navein O.C. and Akhil Reddy, the cover carried the special cancellation issued earlier that day from Prayagraj (erstwhile Allahabad) thanks to efforts of Rahul Ganguli, and from Bengaluru thanks to help from the Karnataka Philatelic Society and its committee members.



*AMSIPEX-25 Medal*



World Air Mail Day Special cover



AMSIPLEX-25 Souvenir eBook



The AMSIPLEX-25 Souvenir Book was then released. Compiled and edited by Pragma Jain, this book is divided into three sections – All about AMSIPLEX-25, expert articles on Indian Air Mails, and a technical section with rules and guidelines for aero- and Astrophilatelic exhibiting. This is available for free download from the AMSIPLEX-25 website (<https://www.amsiplex.com/test1-361884.html>).

The Jury Chair, Glen Stafford then read out the Jury Report and the exhibition results were announced with names of winners of all Special Prizes. The jury was divided into 3 teams, with Team 1 led by Charles Bromser evaluated all the Astrophilately exhibits and the Novice exhibits, Team 2 led by Glen Stafford for the aerophilately exhibits and team 3 by Javaid Muhammad evaluated the literature exhibits. The high standards of the exhibits was also appreciated by the Jury.

The AMSI Chairman, Piyush Khaitan then spoke about the importance of World Air Mail Day, and future plans of AMSI, the need for all air mail enthusiasts to work together to create renewed enthusiasm for this wonderful hobby.

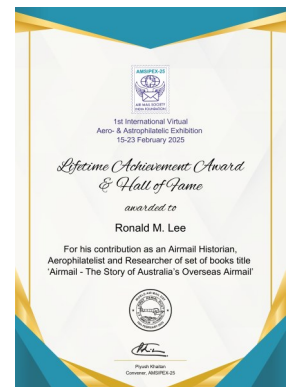
This was followed by the announcement of the winner of the Air Mail Society India Foundation's first Lifetime Achievement Award and inductee in their Hall of Fame, Ronald M. Lee. His 5 volume *The Story of Australia's Overseas Airmails* was recognised and the citation recognizing Ron was read out by the chairman, followed by a video recording of Ron's acceptance speech.



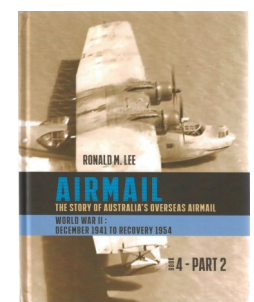
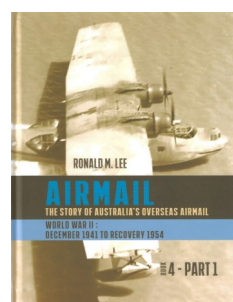
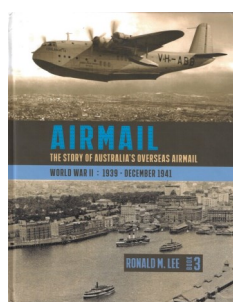
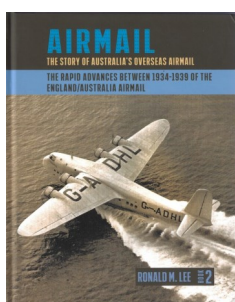
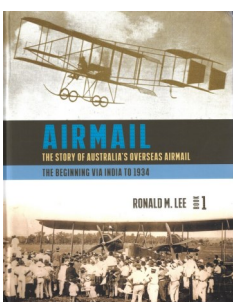
Ronald M. Lee



Lifetime Achievement Award



Certificate



List of the books published by Mr. Lee on Airmail

Pratisad Neurgaonkar proposed the Vote of Thanks where he thanked the patrons, jt. sponsors, commercial sponsors, jury, exhibitors, and the team work by the 10-member organizing committee.

### **World Air Mail Day Webinar:**

The highlight of the day was the webinar featuring 6 Speakers & 5 hours of Non-Stop presentations on Aero & Astro Philately.

- Terry Hare Walker - (Imperial Route to India 1972-29).
- Markand Dave FRPSL - (Indian Rocket Mails during WWII Period).
- Pradip Jain RDP FRPSL - (By the First Aerial Post of the world 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1911).
- Davis S Ball - (Pushing the Envelope).
- Cheryl Ganz RDP FRPSL – (The Basel Zeppelin Post Exchange Office).
- Ken Sanford – (Air Crashes of Imperial Airways).



**Name:** Terry Hare-Walker  
**Topic:** Imperial Airways  
Route to India 1927–29



**Name:** Markand Dave FRPSL  
**Topic:** Indian Rocket Mails  
during WWII Period.



**Name:** Pradip Jain RDP, FRPSL  
**Topic:** By the First Aerial Post  
of the World. 18th Feb 1911



**Name:** David S. Ball  
**Topic:** Pushing the Envelope



**Name:** Cheryl Ganz RDP, FRPSL  
**Topic:** The Basel Zeppelin  
Post Exchange Office



**Name:** Ken Sanford  
**Topic:** Air Crashes of Imperial  
Airways

Despite the long session, audience remained glued to their screens, and we had many participants. Each session was followed by a Q&A. Recordings of all these talks are being made available on the AMSI YouTube channel @HawaSaeByAir. Some have already been uploaded, and the rest will be posted during March 2025.

### **Jury Feedback Session:**

We had a Jury feedback session on Saturday 22nd February 2025 for Astrophilately & Aerophilately exhibitors, where the Jury for Team 1 & Team 2 provided feedback and suggestions to exhibitors on how to improve their exhibits. Questions were taken from participants and detailed responses were provided.

**YouTube**



@HawasaeByAir

**AMSIPLEX-26 is planned for 14th to 21st February 2026**  
**Information will be posted on [www.AMSIPLEX.com](http://www.AMSIPLEX.com) in April 2025.**

**Join**  
**Air Mail Society Indian Foundation (AMSI)**  
Visit website  
<https://www.airmailsocietyindia.org>



**Annual Fee**  
**Indian Members INR 1,000 per annum**  
**Overseas Members US\$15 per annum**

**Competitive Class Exhibits & Results**  
(Arranged as per Exhibit Class and Last Name of Exhibitors)

**3.2.1.1. Aerophilately > Development and Operation of Airmail Services**

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0091	Abdulwahab, Nader	Qatar	Establishment And Development Of Iraq Air Mail Service (1916-1939)	7	92	LG	
E0058	Ayache, Jean Daniel	France	Airmail From And To New Caledonia 1929-1949	8	92	LG	SP-1 (Winner - Best
E0015	Callan, Brian	Ireland	Zeppelin Mail Posted On Board 1929 To 1937	5	91	LG	
E0027	Callan, Brian	Ireland	French And German Airships 1900 To 1940	5	84	LV	
E0050	Ghose, Chandrajit	India	Rocket Mails Of India 1934 - 1937	5	79	V	
E0059	Minnaar, Emil	South Africa	Airmails Of The Rhodesias & Nyasaland Until 1946	8	88	G	
E0052	Misra, Dharendra Nath	India	A Philatelic Journey With First Flights And Their Celebrations.	5	66	S	
E0064	Murjani, Sandeep	India	Air India - From Roots To Routes	5	75	V	
E0065	Murjani, Sandeep	India	Indian Airlines	5	75	V	
E0062	Nair, Mohanchandran	India	Development And Operations Of Indian Airmails (1911-1950)	5	84	LV	
E0092	Neugaonkar, Pratisad	India	Indian Airmails 1911 - 1938	5	92	LG	SP-10 (Runner-up - Best Aerophilately
E0014	P K, Kuruvilla	India	Indian Airmails - Evolution, Development And Operations (1911-	5	81	LV	
E0033	Sanford, Ken	USA	Air Crash Mail Of Imperial Airways	8	89	G	
E0048	Wada, Fumiaki	Japan	Us Post Office Department/ Official Business Airmail, 1911~1945	5	81	LV	

**3.2.1.2. Aerophilately > Development and Operation of Airmail Services**

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0040	Biswas, Debatanu	India	British Royal Air Force (Raf) – A Journey Through Covers	5	67	S	
E0019	Dave, Markand	India	The 1929 Air Mail Stamps Of India	5	90	LG	

**3.2.2. Astrophilately**

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0068	Bartos, Vadim-Alexandru	Romania	Soviet International Manned Space Flights	5	90	LG	SP-5 (Runner-up - Best Astrophilately Exhibit)
E0020	Dave, Markand	India	The Rocket Mails Of India 1934-44	5	92	LG	SP-2 (Winner - Best Astrophilately Exhibit)
E0090	Jhingan, Savita	India	From India To Space	5	83	LV	
E0016	Oppens, Bart Van	Belgium	Space : An Eternal Frontier ?	5	85	G	

**3.2.3.1. Youth Class - Collectors aged 10-15 years**

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0069	HS, Nandakishore	India	Astrophilately	1	61	SB	SP-11 (Winner - Best Youth Exhibit; Age 10-15 yrs)

**3.2.3.2. Youth Class - Collectors aged 16-18 years**

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0066	Shah, Dhyana	India	The Cross-Border Aviation - First Flights Between Nations	2	78	V	SP-12 (Winner - Best Youth Exhibit; Age 16-18 yrs)

### 3.2.4. Novice – Aerophilately & Astrophilately related

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0041	Behera, Prakash	India	Apollo-Soyuz Test Project	3	70	LS	
E0080	Bhaumik, Malay	India	Gliding Briskly - Throgh The Trails Of Human Flight	5	70	LS	
E0083	Bhaumik, Malay	India	The Fascinating World Of Helicopters	3	66	S	
E0067	Bhujade, Chandrakant	India	German Rocket Mail	1	55	B	
E0086	Jagtap, Sanjay	India	Indian Rocket Mails (Rocket Pioneer Stephen Smith - A Memoir)	3	75	V	
E0087	Jagtap, Sanjay	India	Indian Pigeon Mails	1	83	LV	SP-4 (Winner - Best Novice Class Exhibit)
E0042	Mehra, Gauresh	India	Kourou To Comets Via Darmstadt	1	74	LS	
E0043	Mehra, Gauresh	India	Halley'S Comet Stamp Art	1	63	SB	
E0044	Mehra, Gauresh	India	Halley'S Comet: The Science, Narratives And Business Around The Halley'S Comet	5	76	V	SP-13 (Runner-up - Best Novice Class Exhibit)
E0045	Mehra, Gauresh	India	Common Design Templates In Halley'S Comet 1985-86 Stamps & Covers	1	63	SB	
E0047	Mehra, Sushil	India	Simplified Classification Of Indian Aviation Covers	1	70	LS	
E0071	Chandan Sengupta	India	Tale Of Two Cities Start Of London Calcutta Airmail Services: July 1933	3	74	LS	
E0073	Thapar, Raman	India	Aerogrammes Of The World	3	50	CP	
E0078	Thapar, Raman	India	First Flight Covers Of The World	3	63	SB	
E0079	Thapar, Raman	India	Rocket Mails And Covers Flown In Military Aircrafts	3	60	SB	

### 3.2.5. One Frame - Aerophilately & Astrophilately related

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
E0038	Agrawal, Naresh	India	Labelling Air Mail	1	63	SB	
E0026	Ganguli, Rahul	India	Letters Got Wings	1	71	LS	
E0029	Ganz, Cheryl	USA	Basel Zeppelin Posts	1	93	LG	
E0053	Gupta, Parvesh Kumar	India	Postal Meter Panels	1	64	SB	
E0054	Hargreaves, Chris	Canada	Wings Over Winnipeg, Canada	1	85	G	
E0074	Jain, Pradip	India	England -India-Australia Ross Smith & Beyond	1	91	LG	
E0076	Jain, Pradip	India	...By The First Aerial Post Of The World	1	91	LG	
E0075	Jain, Pragya	India	1929 Airmail Stamps - The First Airmail Stamps Of India	1	94	LG	SP-8 (Winner - Best 1 Frame Aerophilately)
E0077	Jain, Pragya	India	Picture Postcards Flown In The First Airmail Flight Of The World	1	86	G	
E0034	Kahn, Serge	France	Thor Solberg'S Odyssey	1	90	LG	
E0028	Lemmer, Marianne Van den	Belgium	Space Dogs - The First Soviet Superstars	1	82	LV	SP-9 (Winner - Best 1 Frame Astrophilately)
E0051	McEntyre John	Canada	The Development Of Official Canadian International Airmail Routes 1928-42	1	82	LV	
E0082	Natarajan, Kiran	India	Fairwell India '44 - The final 'Greeting' Airgraphs of India Command	1	85	G	
E0063	Paharia, Rajesh	India	Civil Airgraphs Service In India	1	84	LV	
E0021	Quickenborne, Marc Van	Belgium	Living Beyond The Space Frontier - Sergei Krikalev	1	81	LV	SP-7 (Runner-up - Best 1 Frame Astrophilately Exhibit)

E0046	Riccitelli, Flavio	Italy	The Greeting Cards At Reduced Rate By L.A.T.I. During The Christmas	1	84	LV	
E0060	Sasidharan, Sajjindralal	India	Artificial Satellite	1	66	S	
E0055	Schmied, Christian	Switzerland	Animals In Space	1	74	LS	
E0056	Schmied, Christian	Switzerland	Apollo-Soyuz Test Project - Astp	1	70	LS	
E0057	Schmied, Christian	Switzerland	Lifting Bodies	1	71	LS	
E0030	Seth, Vinod	India	Aero Philately	1	65	S	
E0039	Subramanyam, Satish	India	The First Flight Cover	1	62	SB	
E0036	Ydell, Fredrik	Sweden	The Swedish Atlantic Flight 1929	1	90	LG	
E0035	Ydell, Fredrik	Sweden	Scadta - Danish Consulate Stamps And Mails 1925-1928	1	94	LG	SP-6 (Runner-up - Best 1 Frame Aerophilately Exhibit)

### 3.2.6.1. Philatelic Literature – Aerophilately & Astrophilately related

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
L0002	Callan, Brian	Ireland	Graf Zeppelin Lz-127 South America Airmail 1930 To 1937	Literature Class	86	G	SP-29 (Honourable Mention - Literature Class Exhibit)
L0001	GIACCARDI, Francesco	Italy	Aerophilately Atlantic Balbo'S Cruises	Literature Class	85	G	
L0012	Lee, Ronald	Australia	The Story Of Australia's Overseas Airmail Vol 1- The Beginning Via India 1934.	Literature Class	91	LG	SP-3 (Winner - Best Literature Class Exhibit)
L0013	Lee, Ronald	Australia	The Story Of Australia's Overseas Airmail Vol 2 - The Rapid Advances Between 1934-1939 Of England To Australia Airmail	Literature Class	90	LG	
L0014	Lee, Ronald	Australia	The Story Of Australia's Overseas Airmail Vol 3 - World War II : 1939 - December 1941	Literature Class	89	G	
L0015	Lee, Ronald	Australia	The Story Of Australia's Overseas Airmail Vol 4 - Part 1 - World War II : December 1941 - Recovery 1954	Literature Class	88	G	
L0016	Lee, Ronald	Australia	The Story Of Australia's Overseas Airmail Vol 4 - Part 2 - World War II : December 1941 - Recovery 1954	Literature Class	88	G	
L0009	Mehra, Sushil	India	Advertising Jrd'S Aviation Dream	Literature Class	65	S	
L0011	Mehra, Sushil	India	Carried Covers Of India	Literature Class	71	LS	
L0005	Sanford, Ken	USA	Air Crash Mail Of The World	Literature Class	85	G	
L0010	Wada, Fumiaki	Japan	National Air Mail Week/ May 15-21, 1938	Literature Class	77	V	
L0006	Wadhwa, Capt. Vijay	India	Celestial Chronicles- Stellar Impressions	Literature Class	76	V	

### 3.2.6.2. Philatelic Literature – Aerophilately & Astrophilately related > Aero and Astro philatelic Periodicals

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
L0008	Agrawal, Naresh	India	Aero Philatelic Articles-4 Nos	Literature Class	71	LS	
L0017	Hargreaves, Chris	Canada	The Canadian Aerophilatelist	Literature Class	82	LV	
L0007	Sanford, Ken	USA	La Catastrophe	Literature Class	84	LV	

### 3.2.6.3. Philatelic Literature – Aerophilately & Astrophilately related > Aero and Astro philatelic Web Sites

Exhibit Number	Name of the exhibitor	Country	Title of exhibit	Frames	Marks	Medal	Special Prize
L0018	Thapar, Sahil	India	<a href="http://Stampdigest.In">Stampdigest.In</a>	Literature Class	70	LS	