

PRESIDENT:

Dr. Pierre Couvreur

SECRETARY:

C. Hepper,
3, Orwell Grove,
Peterborough PE 4 6 XU
Cams. England



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September 1978

Dear Friends,

Summer vacations will soon be over for another year and no doubt we shall soon be returning to our favourite hobby of the stamps of Nepal and Tibet. Frank and Mae Vignola have recently been on holiday in Europe and it was a pleasure for some of our European members to be able to meet them during their tour.

I am sure that in future if any of you are on holiday or business in other countries, members would be pleased to know and possibly arrange to meet and discuss their collections.

Our congratulations must also go to Frank Vignola for his exhibit of Nepal "The Native Obliterators for the Classic Period" which won the Grand Award, the American Philatelic Society Medal and the Society of Philatelic Americans Medal for Best Research at the Bakpex 78 philatelic exhibition in Fullerton California in June.

This entry will now go forward to a "Champion of Champions" competition held at the American Philatelic Society's Annual Convention Exhibition in Indianapolis in September. We all wish him well in what must be some tough competition.

Congratulations also to Mr. P. Gupta for his large Gold Medal award for Nepal at Capex and to Armand Singer whose entry of Tibet was awarded a Vermeil at the same exhibition. Finally you will find that most of the contents of this newsletter are items of local interest taken from the Kathmandu newspaper "The Rising Nepal". Our thanks to Dhruva Rudra and Rajkarnikar for supplying these.

On August 20. 1978 there was a new issue of Rs 2.30 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Mother Ratna Rajya Lakshmi Devi (14th Childrens' day)

NEW BOOKLETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM GEORGE ALEVIZOS

Nepal Philatelic Bibliography by Wolfgang Hellrigl

A chronological summary of over 120 books and articles on Nepalese philately and postal history.

The Seals of the Kings and Maharajas of Nepal by Wolfgang Hellrigl.

The price of these 24 page booklets is not known at the time of publication of this newsletter.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

U.S.A.: Mr. Frank Vignola, 105, 22nd Av., San Francisco, CAL 94121
INDIA : Mr. C. Tulsiyan, P.O. Siswa Bazar, Distt, Gorakhpur U.P.
NEPAL : Mr. Dhruva Rudra, P.O. Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu

NEW MEMBERS

William P. Janson, 16384 Marvene Drive, Hacienda Heights, Calif 91745 U.S.A.
 Leonard W. Epstein, 75, Candlewood Gardens, Baldwinsville New York 13027 U.S.A.
 Martin Walker, P.O. Box 581, Gawler, South Australia 5118
 L.A. Wood, Willow End, Hadley Road, Old Heathfield, East Sussex TN 21 8 RG England
 Edmond Weissberg, Quartier de la Vitniere 84520, Althen des Paluds, France

Re-joined : R. Lodha, D.S. Shakya, S.L. Shrestha

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Jackson, 17 Cambridge Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Leics. England LE 13 OAA
 Michal Zolno, 5645N Christiana Chicago IL 60625 U.S.A.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Can any member supply information on Revenue Stamps which may have the following varieties:-

Imperf between, Horizontal and Vertical and complete missing vowel marks.

The length of each inscription.

Reversed letters in the denominations.

All replies to Mr. Roger Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, Calif. 94022 U.S.A. who is trying to evolve a catalogue listing for all of them.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

Thomas Matthiesen Box 406, Duvall WA 98019 U.S.A. has offered to provide professional photographic services free of charge for use in any Published reference material such as articles, news releases, monographs, books etc. relating to the philately of the Nepal and Tibet areas. This would include colour slide programmes if they are made available to groups. All Mr. Matthiesen requires is the cost of the return post and in the case of colour only the additional cost of film and processing. Please send material by registered post. Photography required for personal use such as displays and exhibits are not included in this offer, but a price list is available from either Mr. Matthiesen or your secretary.

NEWS FROM NEPAL

27 MORE POST OFFICES OPENED IN FAR WESTERN REGION THIS FISCAL YEAR.

NEPALGUNJ JUNE 15 1978

25 additional and two sub-Post Offices were opened in different districts of Far Western Development Region this fiscal year, reports RSS. Of the 25 additional Post Offices, seven were opened in Rapti Zone, five each in Mahakali and Bheri zones and four each in Seti and Karnali zones. The two sub Post Offices were set up at Bamghat in Surkhet district and Chaujihari in Rukum district. Meanwhile money order service has also been introduced in Salyan, Dailekh and Dandeldhura districts. According to Western Regional Postal Directorate, the number of district Post Offices, additional Post Offices and sub-Post Offices in the far western region has reached 262. Of them, 24 are district Post Offices, 49 sub Post Offices and 189 additional Post Offices.

BETTER FACILITIES TO FAR W. REGION POSTMEN NEEDED - Nepalgunj June 13, 1978

There has been a growing realisation of the need for better work facilities to postmen and runners working in the Far Western Development Region, reports RSS. The postmen and runner have a monthly income of 142 and 137 rupees respectively. There are 336 postmen and 1,147 runners in the region. Postman Shyam Lal Sharma and Rhola Singh Thapa of Banke district who have already spent 20 years have expressed their concern about their future. Gaya Prasad Kurmi and Ram Bahadur Gurung who joined the post of runners 12 years ago purely motivated by service, said the only hope they were living on was pension. They say the present salary is not adequate to maintain themselves, let alone the families. According to a 1971 census, the Far Western Development region had a population of 2,446,201 people. A post office serves 9,336 people in the region. In Karnali zone one post office serves a population of 3,750 in Bheri zone one P.O. serves a population of 1,137 people.

Note: Rs.142 = \$ 11.93 Rs137 = \$ 11.51

NEW DECISION BY POSTAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT (Kathmandu July 31)

His Majesty's Government has abolished the provision of registering official documents free of charge at post offices of 22 districts of the Kingdom with effect from July 16, reports RSS. According to the Postal Service Department, the abolition was effected at present in only these districts which have developed means of transport and easy availability of postage stamps.

The 22 districts include all the districts except Rasuwa of Bagmati zone and Bara, Chitwan, Mahottari, Morang, Jhapa, Syangja, Palpa, Parsa, Makawanpur, Dhanusha, Saptari, Sunsari, Kaski Tanahur and Rupandeni districts of other zones. However for the time being the official documents registered at other districts will be delivered at the 22 districts. Prior to this, any government office used to send official document to other offices without any postal charge. According to the department, this provision had to be abolished as it caused decrease in its revenue.

Meanwhile it is learnt that the department had informed long before all the Ministries of the step being taken by the department and also requested them to set aside necessary budget for sending official documents. The abolition will be effected in other districts on the basis of the experiences gained from it in the 22 districts.

SILVER JUBILEE OF FIRST ASCENT OF MT. EVEREST AND POSTAL SERVICES by J.B. Manandhar

25 years ago on 29th May 1953, Shri Tenzing Norgkay and Sir Edmund Hillary first put their step atop Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha) the highest peak of the world and established a new record in the history of mankind. In other words, the king of mountains submitted itself to these two braves. To pay tribute to this glorious conquest by Norgkay and Hillary, the Postal Department issued two postage stamps depicting different portraits of Mt. Everest and a postal card to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of First Ascent of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1978. At a function held at the General Post Office, Minister of Communications, Mr. Hari Bahadur Basnyat initialled the first day cancellation on the Silver Jubilee issues of Mt. Everest. The function was also attended by the Minister of State of Tourism and Mr. Tenzing Norgkay. The two stamps are of Rs 2.30 and Rs 4.00 denomination with "Silver Jubilee of First Ascent of Mt. Everest" inscribed on the upper portion of the stamp. The postal card is of 20 paise denomination and the date of issue is inscribed at the lower left-hand corner. The total quantity of the Rs 2.30 and Rs 4.00 denomination stamps are 5,00,000 and 2,50,000 respectively, and the 7,50,000 number of postal cards were issued. First day cancellations were made at Kathmandu, Pokhara and Namche Bazar (base camp of Mt. Everest). These new issues will definitely remind us of the success of these two summitters. Additionally, it will bring forward the jubilant past history regarding all attempts made on Mt. Everest and also can be taken as a token of honour shown to all the members of all expedition groups to this peak. Countries like Nepal, India, China, S. Korea etc. have already marked Mt. Everest on their postage stamps: in addition these recent issues are expected to add new dimensions to the issues on Himalayan expeditions.

25 years ago the first success of the conquest of Mt. Everest was celebrated in Kathmandu. We must accept our ignorance in the philatelic field at that time for not being the first country to depict our glorious Mt. Everest on our postage stamps. This time, however, schedules were drawn up and timely executed by the 14 Marga, 2034 decision of the Minister of Communications to bring forward a set of postage stamps to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the first ascent of Mt. Everest. Accordingly, advertisements were made in the philatelic field within the country and abroad simultaneously well ahead of time. Some of the various achievements made in the philatelic history of Nepal by this event are worth mentioning. They are:-

- 1) It was the first time that a postal card was issued with the date of issue inscribed on it as part of a commemorative.
- 2) On the very day, a special philatelic flight was made by a group of foreign philatelists in a helicopter to the base camp of Mt. Everest-Namche Bazar to get their stamps and covers cancelled at the local Namche Bazar Choti Hulak.
- 3) It was a record-smashing occasion in the preparation of first day covers. The Nepal Philatelic Bureau prepared 11,000 covers, a Philatelic Society prepared

500 covers an Australian philatelist prepared 500 covers and two American philatelic groups prepared 83,000 covers. The total number of covers prepared was approximately 95,000.

- 4) It was also the first time 15,000 medallion first day covers prepared by the Franklin Philatelic Society of U.S.A. were issued. These medallion covers can be regarded as the first of its type prepared in this part of the globe serving both philatelic and numismatic purposes.
- 5) The Postal Department of Nepal for the first time earned an appreciable amount of US \$ 25,000,00 as royalty from the preparation of the above mentioned medallion covers.
- 6) For this issue, the Nepal Philatelic Bureau made a first day sales of Rs 1,24,878,00, the G.P.O. of Rs 18,614,00, the Kaski Dist.P.O. of Rs1,062,00 and the Namche Bazar Choti Hulak of Rs 1,632,00 respectively. The total first day sales amounted to Rs 1,46,18600. Foreign exchange earned by the Nepal Philatelic Bureau came to a total amount of US \$ 34,671,00. It is note worthy that the foreign Exchange earned from this issue by the Bureau is conspicuous because it exceeds the total amount of foreign exchange earned in any single year to date. Including the royalty earned, the first day total sales of this issue exceeded the figure of Rs 8,00,000,00.

Lastly it is believed that these immensely popular commemoratives, which have put forward new dimensions in Nepal philately, will be greatly relished by philatelists everywhere. It is also generally believed that philatelic investors in these beautiful commemoratives will be well-rewarded

(Translated by: Dhruba Rudra)

AUCTION NO. 5 Bids to reach me by 16th October - usual rules apply.

<u>Lot No.</u>		<u>ESTIMATE</u>
51	1887 Postcard (H&G3) with defective frame-line top L.H.side mint.	£1.50
52	1959 8p Aerogramme (H&G G.3) with UPU F.D. Cancel.	£4.
53	Xerox Copy of the Nepal Section of the H.&G. Catalogue.	£1.
54	1963 "Education for all" and "Freedom from Hunger sets in unmounted mint blocks of 4.	£1.50
55.	S.G.117,155,156,210,211,221,230,231 in mint blocks of 4.	£1.50
56.	Birganj "Exchange Nepal" cancel on 8p P.S. Envelope (with extra 4p stamp) sent to Railway Office in India May 1937.	£5.
57.	SG 1 Fine used but thin at back.	£6.
58	SG 13 Complete sheet of 64 with cliches 1,6,7,8,25, and 57 inverted. Plate V Used (T)	£20.
59	SG 13 Used pair Stamp double-printed. (T)	£15.
60.	1899-1917 two annas value 9 stamps of diff. shades used (T)	£6.
61.	" " 4 " " 4 " " " (T)	£3.
62.	SG 28A 1 Anna Tete-beche pair used (T)	£3.
63	SG 29A " " " (T)	£4.
64.	SG 39A 2 Anna Brown Tete-beche pair used (T)	£4.
65.	SG 39A " " Red Brown " " " (T)	£4
66.	SG 39A As lot 65 different shades used (T)	£4.
67.	SG 39A 2 Anna Purple-brown Tete-beche used (T)	£4.50
68.	SG 40A 2 Anna Orange-Brown Tete-beche used (T)	£5.
69.	SG 41A 2 Anna Claret Tete-beche used (T)	£3.50
70.	SG 41A " " Lake Shade Tete-beche used (T)	£4.
71.	SG 38 Two blocks of four of different shades used (T)	£4.
72.	SG 57 Complete sheet of last printing mint.	£3.
73.	SG 57 & 58 used blocks of 4 (T) Variety of Vertical Laid Paper	£4.
74	SG 58 4P Single used Variety of Horizontal Laid Paper very rare.	£5.
75	SG 58 Mint block of 6 on Gummed Laid Paper Rare	£5.
76	SG 115 Complete sheet of 32 on smooth native paper Mint.	£10.
77.	SG 116 " " " mint.	£4.50
78.	Nepal 2Rs. Green Court Fee Stamp. Mint inscribed Shri Bhiwani Mall.	£5.

Note: (T) = Telegraph cancel.

PRICES REALISED FOR AUCTION NO. 3

Lot. 13 £6.20; 15 £6.20; 16 £3.20; 17 £3.20; 18 £4.20; 19 £4.50; 20 £4.70
21 £4.70; 22 £5.70; 23 £5 ; 24 £3.70; 25 £4.30; 26 £10; 29 £5.20;
30 £2.20; 31 £12. Lots 14 and 32 withdrawn Lots 27,28,33,34 not sold.