



NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Newsletter No. 17

September 1979

Dear Friends,

The response to the new format of the newsletter was quite favorable and readers will note additional changes in this issue. Most of the credit should go to our capable and enthusiastic publisher, Thomas Matthiesen, who is responsible for the printing and mailing. The ability to reproduce cancellations and illustrations of various sorts, opens up a variety of possibilities which we plan to exploit in future issues.

Tibet enthusiasts will note the addition of a logo at the upper right of our new letterhead designed to emphasize their inclusion in the Study Circle. Another fine article by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, reviewed briefly in this issue, points up the logical and interesting relationship between these two countries.

Please remember that the Newsletter is intended to serve you, the readers, and that comments, criticisms, suggestions and contributions are always welcome. We have common interests, as well as diverse ones, and we will make an effort to include special interest material, as well as those items which may be of interest to all. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lester A. Michel

NEW MEMBERS:

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AUCTION REMINDER

Closing date for bidding in Auction # 10 is September 30.

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EXHIBITION NEWS

Two exhibits of special interest to our members will be held in 1980:

1) INDIA-80---an International Exhibition in New Delhi on Jan. 25-Feb.3 will include Nepal exhibits by Frank Vignola, Colin Hepper and Lester Michel, as well as a Tibet exhibit by Fred de Ridder. P. Gupta's outstanding Nepal exhibit will be in the Court of Honor. We also congratulate Mr. Gupta on his outstanding award in Sofia, Bulgaria, recently. And it is of interest to all to know that Mr. H.D.S. Haverbeck will be one of the judges at INDIA-80.

2) ASIAPEX-80---will be held in San Francisco on August 15-17. Bill McConnell, publicist for the exhibition, urges us to reserve frames now for this OPEN show. Although the prospectus will not be available until sometime in October, frame space should be reserved now. Frame rental is \$3 per 12-page frame for this outstanding show which will be located in the beautiful Hall of Flowers in famed Golden Gate Park. Address: ASIAPEX-80, P O Box 24561, San Jose, CA 94154.

Allen Kerr reports that his exhibit on the "Postal History of Tibet" has done well in Texas shows this year, winning a GOLD and the Reserve Grand at Austin in March, another GOLD and the President's Award in Amarillo in June, a third GOLD and the APS award, the postal history award and the GRAND AWARD at SPACEPEX in July. He plans to show it again in San Angelo in October. Congratulations, Allen, and best wishes. We welcome this kind of reporting.

CORRECTION

Member Bishnu Lal Shrestha reports that, after the withdrawal of the original sponsor, the Nepal Philatelic Society agreed to sponsor the First Hot Air Balloon Flight in Nepal. In our July report on this event, we stated that "It is believed that several thousand covers were cancelled there." However, Mr. Shrestha states that only 700 catcheted covers and cards (600 covers + 100 colored view cards) received the special catchet and that, of these, 588 covers and 50-70 cards were taken by the Pilot, Hans Zoet, for his Association in Holland, the remainder being left with the NPS office, certain NPS members and VIPs in Kathmandu. Additional information about this interesting philatelic souvenir can be obtained from Mr. Shrestha or from the editor.

RECENT ARTICLES

Three research papers by our first president, Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, appeared recently:

1) "The History of the Postal Routes Between Lhasa and Kathmandu" IND DAK, Vol. 3, No. 5, and No. 6, pp. 99-103 and 123-129 (May and June, 1979)

This lively article details the complex story in two sections: 1) The Kuti Route, and 2) The Yatung Route. It includes many new facts, a useful chronology of events and an excellent bibliography.

2) "The Proposed China-Tibet Postal Link by Means of the Indian Post Office, 1909-1912" THE CHINA CLIPPER, Vol. 43, No. 4, pp. 119-126 (May, 1979)

Essentially a detailed report on a 'Political and Secret Subject File' located in the India Office Library, London, and hitherto unknown to philatelists. Although the Chinese Proposal was never adopted, it and events surrounding it, shed new light on Tibetan postal history. Thoroughly footnoted, and with two Appendices, the article will be useful to specialists.

3) "The Early Hulak System of Nepal" INDIA POST, Vol. 13, No. 3 (Number 61) (July/September 1979)

A fascinating account of development of the early hulak system and its role in helping to weld isolated regions into the nation we know today. Dr. Hellrigl makes extensive use of information from a book by L. F. Stiller, "The Silent Cry," published in 1977, as well as material from 'royal orders' issued by the King in the early half of the nineteenth century.

In a recent monograph on the 1959 UPU 6 Paise Envelope, several previously uncatalogued characteristics were defined. It was also suggested that other types might exist and it is the intent of this article to solicit specific data from collectors who have some of these envelopes in their collections.

The easiest characteristic to classify is the outline of the unfolded envelope. Figure 1 shows the four shapes so far defined, identified as style 1 through 4. As there is a strong possibility that other shapes exist, we encourage you to look through your envelopes and see if you can add another outline to these four. Style 2 is non-symmetrical and a few have been found with the position of the stamp inverted from the position shown.

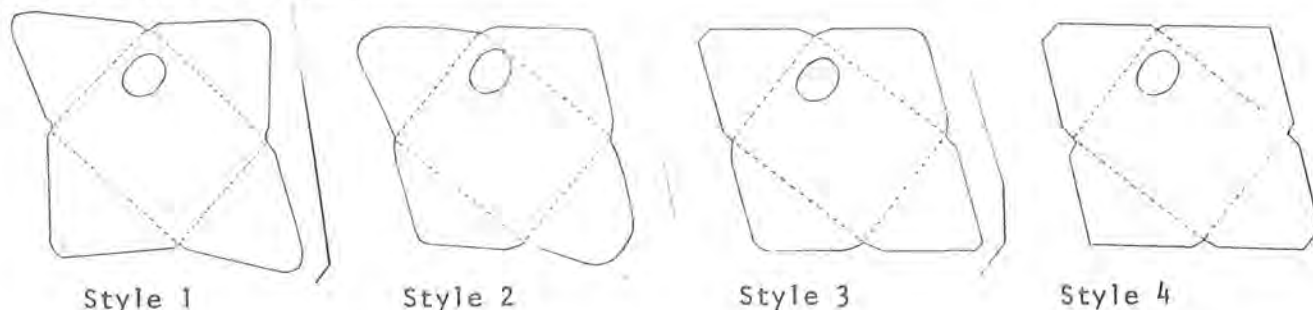


Fig. 1. Outlines as viewed from inside the envelope.

Another difficult area is that of postal usage for these envelopes. Only 54% of those studied have been cancelled, of which 46% were first day cancels that were not sent through the mails. That left us with only some 8% "used," but, here again, two-thirds of those were favor cancels that did not go through the mails. Being left with a bit under 3% for used envelopes doesn't exactly give us a strong feeling that this envelope ever saw normal postal duty. Your data can help to further enlighten us all about the number of these envelopes that have actually fulfilled their role as postal stationery. If it can be determined, please let us know the date of the cancel on your used envelope.

Even the total quantity of these envelopes made has not been well documented. The only quantity mentioned so far is 300. If you have more or less than your "allocation" of three envelopes per member of the Nepal Study Circle, it would help greatly to hear from you so we can adjust the known quantity accordingly!

Other data that would be useful concerns the amount of the watermark showing on your envelopes. Also, data on the type of UPU date cancel used on your FDC's would be helpful. So far, three types of date cancel have come to light, which seems rather high for such a limited release! Either noting the diameter of the circle and the top inscription, or using the Hellrigl/Hepper cancel identifications should provide us with adequate data for our matrix.

It is our hope that the above information has motivated you to write to either myself or to the editor so we can further highlight this commemorative envelope Nepal issued in 1959. Any information you can provide will place us all much further along in our study of Nepal Postal Stationery.

METHUEN HANDBOOK OF COLOUR NOW AVAILABLE

by A. Kornerup & J. H. Wanscher, 3rd Ed., 252 pp. with 1266 color plates, this authoritative reference has often been hard to find in the USA. Roger Skinner writes that 20 copies have just been received and can be ordered from Western Philatelic Library, P O Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 for \$19.19 postpaid.

NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

Mustang, May 3: Postal money order service has been introduced in Mustang District. The Service was inaugurated at a function held by Back-to-the-Village National Campaign Mustang District Committee Chairman Indra Bahadur Tulachan. There is a plan to introduce postal money order services in eleven districts of the country during the current fiscal year. Mustang District is one of these. The addition of eleven districts this year will bring the total number to 40. Under this service a person will be able to send a maximum sum of 1,000 Rupees.

KATHMANDU, May 3: In Nepal a postman has to distribute letters to an average of 4,275 persons, according to RSS. Records indicate that the largest burden of letter distribution falls on the postmen of Siraha District and the least is borne by the postmen of Manang District. Postal statistics compiled in fiscal year 1976-77 show that in Siraha District a postman distributed 9,161 letters while one in Manang carried only 572. In terms of postal facilities the district of Mustang tops the list with 1696 persons per office. On the average a Nepali receives four letters per year.

Nepalgunj, May 6: With the increase in the flow of letters, parcels and other postal items, the number of postmen and runners has been increased to 386 and 70, respectively.

The establishment of a postal link between Banke and Surkhet districts next month is expected to facilitate the flow of postal items to Karnali zone. The Bheri zonal office is using old post office materials for lack of adequate funds to replace them. At present money order service is available in four districts of Bheri zone and this service will also be made available in Bardiya District within the current fiscal year. A Savings Bank facility is available only in Surkhet Dist. As far as post office buildings are concerned, the additional post offices are operated with the cooperation of the village panchayat and five sub-offices are operated in rented houses. The Banke and Surkhet district post offices are operating in district panchayat buildings, whereas the Bardiya post office building is expected to be completed within the current fiscal year.

Sub post office buildings have been constructed in Khajura of Banke District, Dullu of Dailekh District and Lipsa of Jajarkot District with the cooperation of local people and have been turned over to the proper authorities. There are five district offices, 30 additional post offices and nine sub post offices in Bheri zone. Three additional post offices will be established within the current fiscal year.

Syangja, May 8: Postal money order service was recently initiated in Syangja District by Putali bazar village panchayat pradhan pancha Humananda Upadhyaya. According to the postal service department, Syangja is the forty-first district in the country to have money order service.

KATHMANDU, May 9: A new post office has been opened at Ward No. 7 of Lalitpur's Ashrange panchayat by Bagmati zonal postal supervision office. The new post office was opened under a program designed to extend postal facilities to various parts of the zone.

Achham, May 13: Rastriya Panchayat member Devendra Bahadur Shaha recently declared officially open a district postal savings bank in Achham, bringing the total number of such facilities to 15 in the country. According to plans, four additional postal savings banks are to be opened in various districts within the current fiscal year.

NEW ISSUE NEWS FROM NEPAL

A 75p stamp depicting the Idol of Red Machchhindranath was issued on 14 Baisakh 2036 B.S. (corresponding to 27 April 1979 A.D.). This first stamp of the year was to have been one of a two-stamp set, but the second stamp (R 1.25) was cancelled, as reported in our July issue.

The second stamp of the current year was issued on May 12, the occasion of the Buddha Jayanti, to mark the Lumbini Year. First day covers and folders were postmarked in Lumbini and Pokhara, as well as in Kathmandu, according to a news report dateline: Kathmandu, May 8.

The third stamp of the year is the redesigned Forestry Campaign stamp (R 2.30) described in the July issue. Date of release was 15 Ashad 2036 or the 29th of June, 1979.

HIMALAYAN PEAK CONQUERED

On May 8, a joint Nepalese-American expedition made an important first ascent of 23,442 foot Gaurishankar, described by American John Roskelley as more difficult than K-2 which he scaled last year. Sherpa runners carried mail and communications from the Base Camp to Kathmandu. All letters and cards leaving the camp were struck with a handstamp: "Carried by Sherpa Runner from Gaurishanker Base Camp" in red. About 50 souvenir photo postcards showing the mountain, signed by all ten Nepalese and American climbers, impressed with the expedition and "runner" handstamps were prepared. These cards (unaddressed) can be had for a \$15 (US) donation to the expedition through Thomas Matthiesen, Box 406, Duvall, WA 98019, U.S.A.

1960 SPECIAL CANCEL NOTED

This special cancellation for the 1960 Swiss Dhaulagiri Expedition was brought to our attention by Douglas Hatch. The postmark shown is of special interest in that the outline of an airplane underscores the first use of an aircraft in support of a mountaineering expedition. A one page article (J.K.B. Ingham, "Postmarks From the Himalayas" PHILATELIC MAGAZINE for May 20, 1960, page 379) describes the use of the aircraft for reconnaissance and the ferrying of supplies. It also includes a brief newspaper report from Kathmandu concerning a forced landing of the plane in an uncharted valley with three persons aboard including the leader of the expedition. The postmark shown here apparently has never been reported in philatelic publications..(Ed.)



FUTURE CLIMBING EXPEDITIONS

- 1) American Annapurna I Expedition 1979, led by Bob Wilson from Gresham, Oregon, is already underway in order to attempt an ascent of Annapurna I without high-altitude porters, guides or oxygen, using a party of 8 climbers. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 will bring the giver periodic reports of their progress and an autographed post card. Make check payable to the American Annapurna I Expedition 1979, c/o The Mazamas, 909 N.W. 19th, Portland, OR 97209. A brochure is available from the editor.
- 2) American Women's 1980 Expedition to Dhaulagiri I is being organized for the Fall of 1980. A small group of women, led by Vera Komarkova, one of the successful summit team on the ascent of Annapurna I last Fall, plus 3 high-altitude Sherpas, hope to make the climb via the Pear Route, on which the last few hundred feet are still unclimbed. A donation of \$20 will bring the sender a postcard from the Base camp, signed by all members. The expedition is endorsed by the American Alpine Club. Mail check to the AMERICAN WOMEN'S 1980 EXPEDITION TO DHAULAGIRI I, P O Box 1857, Boulder, CO 80306 U.S.A.

NEW POSTMARKS OF THE PASHUPATI PERIOD

The first is a new variety of the step-pyramid type of AMLEKHGANJ. This cds, used in 1929, is inscribed with 'Amlekhganj Hulak,' whereas the one illustrated in 'The Native Postmarks of Nepal' (page 39) does not include the word 'Hulak.'

The second discovery is an addition to the series of large ornamental postmarks (page 46), but the only strike seen, dated 1934, was not clear, except for the last characters, '...ULI'. Dr. Hellrigl believes this to be SINDHULI (rather than Trisuli) and has constructed his drawing accordingly. He expresses his thanks to Cdr. Bates and to Mr. Wittmann for providing the details of these types, which are possibly unique.

Dr. Hellrigl also reports a number of new periods of use for Pashupati postmarks:

Type a) 'Cross':

Baglung	1914-59
Butwal	1914-42
Chitwan	1932-51
Dailekh	1912-48
Doti	1918-55
Jumla	1928-51
Kanchanpur	1912-49
Ridi	1919-52
Salyan	1911-56

Type b) 'Step-pyramid':

Amlekhganj II	1931-59
Biratnagar	1935-36
Birganj I	1911-23
Jaleswar	1912-33
Jhapa	1912-15
Kadarban	1912-41
Rangeli	1914-19
Siraha	1915-24

Type c) 'Sun within Crescent':

Bhojpur	1912-51
Lyanglyang	1912-34
Udiapur	1911-44

Hand-dated Pashupati Types:

Chainpur II	1920-42
Taplejung	1924-34
Terhathum	1918-33

Large Ornamental Postmarks:

Bandipur	1929-56
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AMLEKHGANJ I.



SINDHULI

CLASSIC POST OFFICES AND THEIR EARLIEST RECORDED POSTAL MARKINGS

Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl has submitted the following list, in which we note no fewer than 14 post offices with markings dating to 1879, thus adding solid evidence to the belief that this was the year in which an internal postal system began to function in Nepal.

1 BAGLUNG	1888	27 KADARBAN (+RAUTAHAT)	1879
2 BAITADI	1881	28 KAILALI	1891
3 BANKE	1880	29 KALAIYA (+BARA)	1879
4 BARDIYA	1887	30 KANCHANPUR	1880
5 BHADGAON (BHAKTAPUR)	1888	31 KARNALI (*ACHHAM)	1884
6 BHAGWANPUR	1881	32 KATHMANDU (+NEPAL)	1879
7 BHOJPUR	1880	34 OKHALDUNGA (WAKHALDUNGA)	1880
8 BIJAYAPUR	1901	33 LYANGLYANG	1881
9 BIRGANJ (GAHAWA)	1898	35 PALPA (TANSEN)	1879
10 Butwal	1883	36 PARASI	1881
11 CHAUTARA	1884	37 PAREWADANDA (*KUNCHHA)	1884
12 CHISAPANI	1879	38 POKHARA	1879
13 CHITWAN (*BHARATPUR)	1884	39 PYUTHAN	1880
14 DAHABAN	1889	40 RANGELI (+MORANG)	1879
15 Dailekh	1879	41 RASUWA	1897
16 DANDELDHURA	1881	42 RIDI	1879
17 DHANKUTA	1880	43 SALYAN (DANG SALYAN)	1879
18 Dhulikeh	1882	44 SARLAHI	1882
19 DOLAKHA (*CHARIKOT)	1881	45 SINDHULI	1890
20 DOTI (SILGARHI DOTI)	1879	46 SIRAHA (SAPTARI SIRAHA)	1881
21 GORKHA	1881	47 TATAPANI	1896
22 HANUMANNAGAR	1879	48 THADA (THANDA, *KANCHITHANDA)	1879
23 ILAM	1887	49TAULIHAWA	1879
24 JALESWAR	1880	50 TRISULI (+NUWAKOT)	1881
25 JHAPA	1896	51 UDIAPUR (UDAYAPUR)	1888
26 JUMLA	1881		

+ = old names of provinces or regions used for classic postmarks

* = new name, currently in use