



NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Newsletter No. 20

March 1980

Dear Friends,

One of the new members listed in the January newsletter came as a last minute surprise—but a most welcome one. I refer to one of the recognized authorities on Nepal philately—H. Garratt-Adams. His study of the half anna stamp, which was printed in THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL early in 1951, is, in my opinion, the best paper on the subject that has appeared in print, despite the passage of nearly 30 years. Furthermore, his close association with E. A. Smythies and his unpublished studies will permit him to shed light on some of the perplexing questions being asked today. We look forward to the opportunity to share some of his knowledge with our readers.

The London Meeting: As there are no display facilities in the rooms provided (they seat 50 people), we shall have to restrict the two sessions to discussions.

Thursday, May 8: Presentations by 1) W. Hellrigl & F. Vignola on the classic issue studies, and 2) C. Hepper on the Pashupati studies.

Friday, May 9: General meeting of the Circle, to include discussions on future publications and subscriptions. Even if you are unable to attend, your views on several important questions are needed. Please respond to the questionnaire in this issue and send your responses directly to our Secretary, Colin Hepper, or to me. I will be unable to attend the meeting in person and must present my own views by mail.

Saturday, May 10: Our members are cordially invited to attend the all-day meeting of the India Study Circle. During the morning, Dr. Couvreur will be showing his award-winning exhibit of Indian Native States (Feudatory). An auction is scheduled for the afternoon session.

A new feature titled "Counterfeit Chronicle," begins in this issue, following the introductory article on recent counterfeits which appeared in the January newsletter. The title, as well as the content, of the article in this issue is credited to Roger Skinner, with valuable photographic assistance from our publisher, Thomas Matthiesen. We plan to offer this type of information on a regular basis and invite readers to submit items.

Lester A. Michel

NEW MEMBERS

Reinhart Stephan, Breslauer Strasse 205, 4105 Krefeld 11, W. Germany
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C. Kinch, 28 The Rise, Cardiff CF 4 5RD, South Glamorgan, Wales
C. Hallett, 689 Carney St., Prince George, B.C. V2M 2 K5 Canada
Peter Fink, Rest Lowen, CH 9532 Rickenbach, Switzerland
Dr. B. Holyoak, 20 Oakway, Studham, Dunstable, Beds. LU 62 PE England
Nicholas Twells, 15 Church Lane, Darley Abbey, Derby, England

REJOINED

Leo Zelasko, 26070 State Road No.2, South Bend, Indiana 46619, USA

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

L.B. Scott, 351 S. Deer Run Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 U.S.A.

NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

Arghakanchi, July 29: An additional post office has been established in Dibhama village panchayat in Arghakanchi district recently, according to RSS.

Chhinasi, August 28: The sub-post office of Muchu village panchayat was declared open by its upa-pradhan pancha Newachan recently. Humla district has one district post office, one sub-post office and 4 additional post offices at present.

Pokhara, August 31: Seventeen additional post offices were opened last fiscal year in Gandaki, Lumbini and Dhaulagiri zones in the Western Development Region, reports RSS. According to the Western Regional Postal Directorate, a sub-post office was also established in Dhaulagiri zone.

Last year (1978) money-order services were introduced in Mustang, Syangja and Nawalparasi districts and a postal savings system was initiated in Kapilavastu district.

According to latest reports there are 16 district post offices, 69 sub-post offices and 203 additional post offices in the Western Development Region.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that postal savings systems have been started in Kaski, Rupandehi and Kapilavastu districts. Altogether, 11 districts in the region have now been covered by money-order services.



Our correspondent has also sent your editor an example of the very colorful and handsome souvenir cover issued to mark the First International World Pheasant Association Symposium, held in the Hotel Malla, Kathmandu, on 22-23 November '79. The first day of the meeting was also the occasion for the First Day of Issue of a set of three stamps depicting Nepalese birds—and in honor of the symposium. A very limited number of these covers is available, according to Mr. Shrestha. Technical details on the stamps are available from him, from Colin Hepper (England), or from the editor.

COIN SERIES OF NEPAL ISSUED

Originally scheduled for release in October, the 'three' stamps (in se-tenant pairs showing both sides of each of three coin types) were issued on 16 December 1979, according to information received from Surendra Lal Shrestha. Technical details are available from him, from Colin Hepper or from the editor.

CORRECTION

With regard to the report on a "NEW G.P.O. CANCEL" in the January newsletter, Surendra Lal Shrestha has pointed out that the statement, "The postmark exists, however, on an expedition card (Schwabische Mt. Everest Expedition) with an all number date band reading "25-9-79", is in error. He notes that "The postmark used on the expedition card is made up of rubber and reads: 'Kathmandu G.P.O.' in Nepali/English, whereas the postmark shown is made up of metal and reads 'Goswara Hulak Kathmandu' in Nepali/7 DEC 79/ 'G.P.O. KATHMANDU' in English." He further states that "postmarks backdated to favor are unknown in any special cancellations and the G.P.O. authorities have been very strict about this for many years." An examination of these two postmarks readily confirms Mr. Shrestha's descriptions. The editor apologizes for these errors.

EXHIBITION NEWS

ASIAPEX-80: A prospectus is now available for this, the second ALL ASIAN philatelic exhibition in the USA, to be held 15-17 August, in San Francisco. Bill McConnell (P.O. Box 2730, Santa Clara CA 95051) urges our participation and will be happy to send entry forms and information to anyone interested. It is another good opportunity to show our Nepal and Tibet material in an exhibition which is especially appropriate for us.

India-80 attracted exhibits from several of our members, including Dr. Couvreur, who was awarded a Large Gold Medal for his exhibit of Indian Native States. Frank Vignola received a Gold for his classic issues of Nepal. Colin Hepper received a Silver for a classic issues presentation, as did Lester Michel for his Pashupati Study. Fred de Ridder was awarded a Vermeil for his Tibet exhibit.

In the Literature Section, "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Hellrigl & Hepper, was awarded a Gold Medal, and Bill McConnell's column, "Asian Area Philately," which appears bi-weekly in STAMP COLLECTOR, a popular American weekly publication, received a Silver-Bronze. Our area of interest was well represented at India-80. Congratulations to the award winners.

Dr. W.C. Hellrigl received a prize from the China Stamp society for his article titled "The Proposed China-Tibet Postal Link by Means of the Indian Post Office, 1908-1912," which was judged to be the best article in Volume 43 (1979) of the Society journal, THE CHINA CLIPPER. Congratulations!

Roger Skinner's handbook on "The 6 pa Envelope of Nepal—1959" received a Silver Award at SESCOAL '79 (Oct. 12-14, Los Angeles) while the "Priced Guide to the 1881-1917 Issues of Nepal" by George Alevizos received a Large Silver. Congratulations to both!

PRESIDENT: Dr. Pierre Couvreur

PATRONS: Mac Linscott Ricketts and Harrison D. S. Haverbeck FRPSL

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NEPAL Dhruba Rudra, P.O. Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu

CORRELATION OF CATALOGUES

2 Annas: 1902 - 1907 (Imperf.)

	<u>G. Alevizos</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>S. Gibbons</u>	<u>Michel</u>
Grey Lilac	24	14	15	18bB
T/B Pair	24a	14a	15a	18bBK
Lavender	24b	-	16	17B
T/B Pair	24ba	-	16a	17BK
Rose-Lilac	-	-	17	18Ba
T/B Pair	-	-	17a	18BaK

2 Annas: 1902 - 1907 (Pin Perf.)

Grey Lilac	24	19	20	-
T/B Pair	24a	-	20a	-
Lavender	24b	-	21	17A
T/B Pair	24ba	-	21a	17AK
Rose-Lilac	-	-	22	18Aa
T/B Pair	-	-	22a	18AaK

4 Annas: 1902 - 1907 (Imperf.)

Green (shades)	25	17	18	20Ba
T/B Pair	25a	17a	18a	20BaK
Yellow-green	25b	-	-	20Bb
T/B Pair	25ba	-	-	20BbK
Blue Green	25c	-	-	20Bc
T/B Pair	25ca	-	-	20BcK

4 Annas: 1902 - 1907 (Pin Perf.)

Green (shades)	25	22	23	20Aa
T/B Pair	25a	22a	23a	20AaK
Yellow-Green	25b	-	-	-
T/B Pair	25ba	-	-	-
Blue Green	25c	-	-	-
T/B Pair	25ca	-	-	-

1 Anna: 1917 - 1918 (Imperf.)

Blue (shades)	26	-	38	-
Indigo	26a	29A	-	25a
Cobalt	26b	-	-	26c
Ultramarine	-	-	38a	26a
Bright Blue	-	29Ab	-	-

...to be continued.

PUBLICATIONS

I have just received a copy of Dr. Hellrigl's latest publication: "Notes on Tibet" in IND DAK for January-February 1980, pp. 31-35. He discusses the so-called "official stamps" of Tibet, illustrates the newly discovered 5 Trangka value and summarizes the knowledge concerning the items. He also presents some of the official activities between the Courts in Tibet and the government of Nepal and illustrates the recently discovered Nepalese Court Seal of Lhasa. After reviewing its use, along with related Court documents, a newly discovered Customs Seal used for imports from Tibet into Nepal is discussed. Finally, a single example of a previously unknown postage due handstamp is reported.

Your editor has finally seen a copy of the Interview of the Month, from STAMP SHOW NEWS for April, 1978, titled "with Harrison D.S. Haverbeck" by Viola Ilma. It is a most interesting interview, in which this distinguished philatelist recounts his experiences in the philately of Asia, as well as how he got started on his collections of Nepal and Tibet, among other things. Incidentally, he also served on the panel of judges at India-80.

AREA HANDBOOK FOR NEPAL, BHUTAN, AND SIKKIM, co-authored by George L. Harris, Giddens, Lux, Bunge, Rintz & Smith, second edition (1074), for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock #008-020-00480-4, Catalog #D 101:22: 550-35/2. Price: \$7.75 Hardbound.

Roger Skinner writes, "This handbook is such a good reference book for collectors that a copy will belong on every collector's bookshelf. This new edition has just been reprinted and likely will sell out quickly again. The 430 pages contain not only a good general historical overview but also an excellent bibliography for further study. Updated to show the panchayat system of government now in operation, with many maps and tables to supplement the text."



COORDINATORS FOR STUDY GROUPS

Reprinted from Newsletter No. 7 and updated, this listing is a reminder and a call for reports which could be printed in the newsletter and/or presented at the next meeting, in May 1980.

Classic Issues	W. Hellrigl & F. Vignola
Pashupati Issues	C. Hepper & L. Michel
Modern Issues	D. Hatch
Postal Stationery	A. Singer
Forgeries	W. Hellrigl

Postal History:

a) pre-1949	W. Hellrigl
b) post-1949	C. Hepper
India used in Nepal	No offers yet. Volunteers?
Seals	No offers yet. Volunteers?

Members who would like to participate in the work of any of these groups should write to the coordinator.

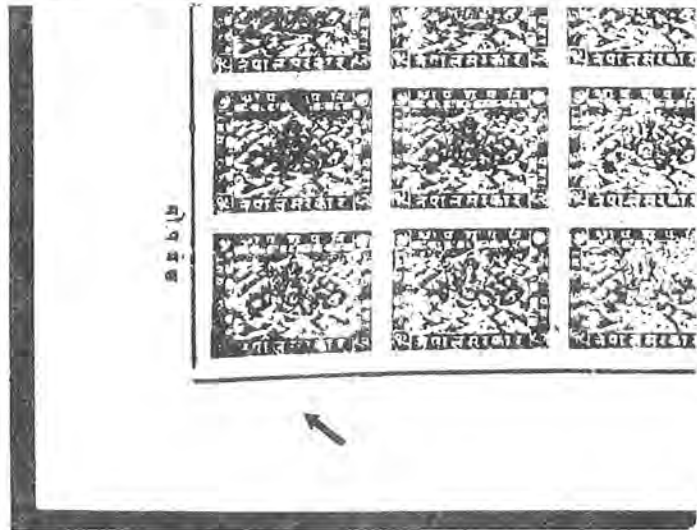
COUNTERFEIT CHRONICLE

Spurious Sri Pashupati Sheets

Spurious Sri Pashupati Sheets

—Roger Skinner

As Dr. Singer reported last month, the 1941 Sri Pashupati stamps are receiving the attention of counterfeiters. They seem to be producing only imperforate varieties, which makes their work easier and ours more difficult. Two sheets of the 2p denomination recently came into our hands. So far, we have been able to trace them back to India, but not to a particular person. The paper used is very similar to the genuine, being somewhat brownish, with the same laid lines in a fainter form. However, even with the many shades of ink found in the genuine stamps, these items will appear to be different to the collector who has gone over any quantity of the genuine stamps. The 2p, brown, is shifted more into the violet region than it should be, while the 2p, green, simulated error of color, has less yellow and is not as bright as its genuine counterpart. The sheets have the 40 stamps of the first printings, but do not have the clarity of the design that the genuine stamps show. These products have a much rougher form, with much loss of detail. Size can also be used to separate good from bad. The genuine sheets are 113.5 mm in width, from border to border while the bogus items measure only 111.5 mm in width. Although it is harder to see this difference in the individual stamps, there is a 0.5 mm difference between the genuine (24.75 mm) and the counterfeit (24.25 mm). If the genuine sheets are examined closely, a faint line is seen which connects the outer stamps, which is missing completely from the reproductions.



Note the illustration of the lower left corner of a spurious sheet. If a straight edge is laid along the bottom of the last row of stamps, it will be noted that the extreme lower left stamp curves downward. The same defect is noted on the left edge of the same stamp. This ballooning effect indicates that the optical system used in the counterfeiting process was nonlinear on its outer edges. Since this distortion is only evident in the outer row, let us hope this manufacturer does not extend his talents to the sheets of 36 stamps!

FAKES AND FORGERIES

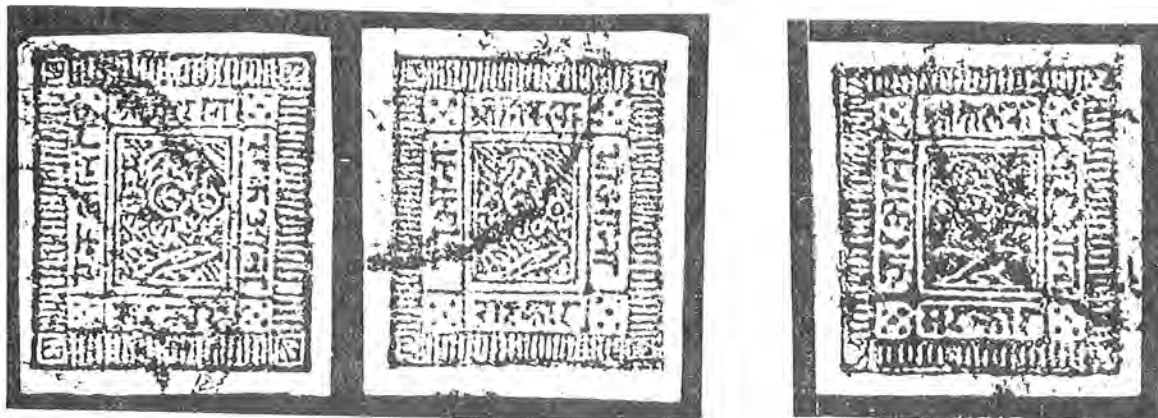
by A. Zulueta

Fortunately, the occurrence of counterfeit stamps is not frequent. The majority that do occur pose little danger to the informed collector. Close examination of the counterfeits shows several distinct characteristics:

- (a) the angles made by the crossed Kukris and the base of the central design are not equal;
- (b) the impressions are coarser and the colors are paler than those of the genuine stamps;
- (c) the letters in the inscriptions surrounding the central design are larger than those of the authentic copies.

Other minor characteristics also exist. However, the above list does establish a reliable guide for distinguishing the fakes from the genuine stamps.

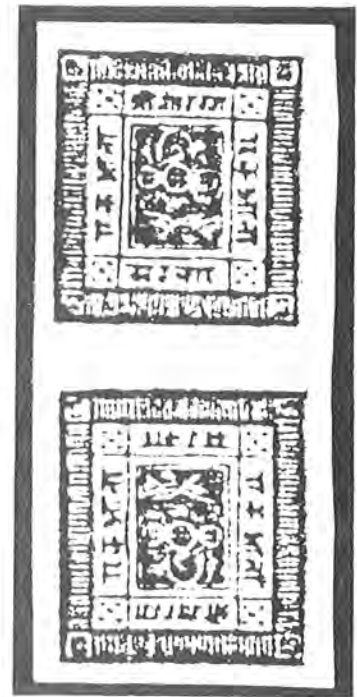
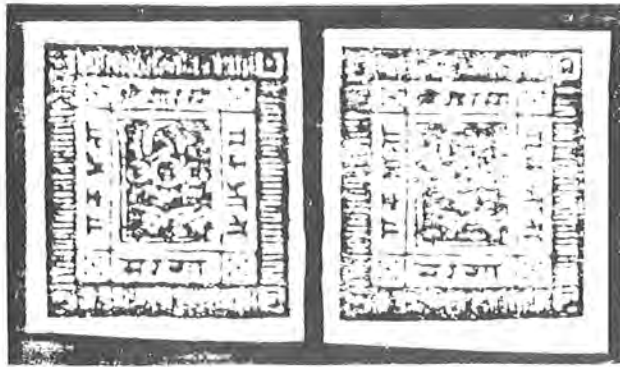
The Early Types



The Recent Forgeries

New forgeries have appeared on the market primarily emanating from India. These are usually found unused on good quality, thin native paper. Several distinct types exist.

One Anna Value



Type I

Measures 17½mm x 19½mm — smaller than the genuine stamp
Appears in many shades with clear to coarse impressions

Forged Tete-Beche Pair
Both cliches are exactly the same

Type II: The "Gibbons" Forgery

This type is the best executed and thus, the most dangerous of the one anna forgeries. Measuring 17½mm x 20mm, it has the same dimensions as the genuine stamp. These stamps, although of different shades, are exactly alike. Identical flaws appear on each stamp. The same flaws appear in the illustration used in several editions of the *Stanley Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalog*. The catalog illustration was obviously used as the photographic model in the production of this forgery!

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF COLLECTORS.



1 (1 a.)

2 (1/2)

.881. Type I. *White paper.* (a)

1 1 a., milky blue

PHILATELIC PROGRAM FOR 1980

His Majesty's Government, Postal Services Dept., Nepal Philatelic Bureau announces the Philatelic Program for the year 1980:

15/1/1980

Samyak Pooja...50 P.

19/2/1980

HERB SERIES

a) Holy Basil (*Ocimum Sanctum* L) 05P.

b) Himalayan Valerian (*Valeriana Jatamansi* Jones).....30P.

c) Nepali pepper (*Zanthoxylum Armatum* DC).....Rs 1.

d) Himalayan Rhubarb (*Rheum Emodi* wall).....Rs. 2.30

13/4/1980

LITERATURE OF NEPAL

Gyan Dil Das.....05P

Siddhi Das Amatya...30P

Pahal Man Sing Swar R.1

Jay Prithvi Bahadur Singh Rs2.30

10/7/1980

Olympic Games.....Rs 5.

17/8/1980

VISIT NEPAL SERIES

Jawalaji, Dailekh.....30P.

Godavari.....Rs.1.

Dhaulagiri.....Rs.2.30

27/9/1980

World Tourism Conf (Air Mail)

.....Rs.4.

27/10/1980

20th Anniv. APO.....Rs. 1.25

28/12/1980

36th Birthday of H.M. the king

.....R.1.

The program is subject to change without notice. Details of each issue are available from the Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu.

The Newsletter solicits articles, news items and information from the membership. Please send all such material to The Editor.

A NEW TIBET FIND

---Armand E. Singer

I have just come upon a most unusual item -- a cover "cover": a large envelope, ca. 235 x 117 mm, from the British-India Postal Service, inscribed at the top, "Posts and Telegraphs"; "To" and "The", followed by two parallel lines, in the middle; a large oblong set of framelines, 63 x 12 mm, within the words "From" and "Post Office," lower left; and, across the bottom, a printed notation including the date "11.8.19" and the numbers "1,00,00,000" (sic), apparently the number printed. The name "Lai Chand & Sons" before the numbers must be that of the printer, doubtless Indian.

Written in blue ink across the top of the cover we read, "Protecting Cover Containing Gyantse Rgd. letter No. 173 of 22/2/21 Addressed to... Katmandu, Nepal." Below it, "Weight of Protecting Cover Twelve Pts. [?](12)." I take this to be 12 pennyweights, or 0.6 oz. In the middle, the written directions tell us that the letter went to the "Postmaster ... Nepal." In the sender's rectangle is rubber-stamped "YATUNG. TIBET / VIA. SILIGURI" in its own slightly smaller, framed rectangle, 50 x 13 mm.

On the back of the cover we find the common Yatung cancel (but no stamps; Waterfall, p. 13, type B 1; or Haverbeck, ...*Tibet*, 2nd ed., p. 19, type III), dated "25 FE. 1921." Backstamped on arrival at the G.P.O., Kathmandu, "2 MAR. 21," Haverbeck, ...*Nepal*, p. 21, type 12. There are also two examples of a black wax seal, without year date (otherwise much like the Yatung cancel just mentioned).



Diam. 20mm.

Some observations: Though the number (?) at the bottom suggests commonness, I have never seen an envelope like this one, used in Tibet at any event. The seal is not among the many listed in Waterfall, p. 32, nor is the envelope itself mentioned on p. 33. The Yatung postoffice rubber handstamp in black resembles closely his No. YE, p. 31, but, if the others in the same column are drawn to the same scale as his illustration of this one, mine is much larger. The same sized stamp I have seen used on a page of a Yatung government telegram, etc. receipt book, 1931.

From the dates, in sum, the cover left Gyantse 22 Feb. 1921, was inclosed for some reason in this protective envelope 25 Feb., and reached its destination in Nepal, 2 March.