



NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Newsletter No. 21

May 1980

Dear Friends,

LONDON '80 and the third international meeting of our Study Circle are now a part of history. This issue has been delayed in order to bring important news of that meeting to the members as quickly as possible. We wish to thank all those who sent in their questionnaires---sometimes with additional thoughtful comments and suggestions. These responses have been most helpful to us and should make the organization and its newsletter even more meaningful to the members. Thank you.

45 members returned their questionnaires, giving us responses from 35% of the membership---a most gratifying rate of return. The results of these opinions are not yet fully assessed, but some are tabulated elsewhere in this issue.

The meeting in London was outstanding, with 12 countries represented by the 19 members attending. In addition, ten visitors from five different countries attended one or both sessions. The Friday session was the largest single gathering of the Circle to date, with 26 people present. Tentatively, a meeting of the Study Circle is being planned during ASIAPEX '80, from 15 to 17 August 1980.

The growth and vitality of the Study Circle, together with a sound financial status (see the financial report by Colin Hepper in this issue) demonstrates the interest and support of the 130 members---a number which grows larger each month. Our thanks is expressed to every member, and particularly to those who have contributed information to the newsletter and, by this means, have shared their knowledge with a worldwide group of philatelists.

Despite our best efforts, a number of errors managed to creep into our membership listing, which was enclosed with the March issue. We appreciate being informed of all errors and will make every effort to correct those of which we are aware.

Lester A. Michel

NEW MEMBER

Heinrich Deiman, Werntgens Hof 12, 4330 Mulheim a. d. Rhur, WEST GERMANY

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

CDR D. H. Bates RN, HMAS Watson, Watson's Bay, Sydney, New South Wales 2030, AUSTRALIA

MEMBERS RESIGNED

U.S.A. - J. Bonang, M. Fisher, A. Kaplan, K. Reed, G. Richardson, J. Roth
India - N. Dhroove

U.K. - F. Duerden, R. Mayes (Note: These members have not renewed their subscriptions and are, therefore, considered to have resigned.)

REPORT OF THE LONDON 1980 MEETING

On the first day an excellent attendance of 26 members and visitors were welcomed by the President, Dr. Pierre Couvreur. It was particularly pleasing to welcome those who had made long journeys to attend the meeting: Dr. D. Pocock (Australia), Frank Vignola (U.S.A.), Sri Tulsiyan (Nepal), G. Flack (Canada), Col. Shenoi and A. Bhallacharya (India).

The first session was devoted to the reports from the Classic Issue co-ordinators, Frank Vignola and Wolfgang Hellrigl, and the Sri Pashupati co-ordinator, Colin Hepper. The Classic Issue studies were at a fairly advanced stage with each issue being broken down into settings with full descriptions of each one. Colour identification was the one area of difficulty, and, after lengthy discussion, it was proposed that we should ask Tom Matthiesen if he could pursue his ideas on producing a Colour Chart associated with Nepalese stamps. This Chart could then become the standard for publications on both the Classic and Pashupati issued stamps.

All members are asked to send photo copies of any Classic issue stamps with frame-lines or part inscriptions to either Wolfgang or Frank so that they can be fairly certain that all known material has been covered.

With the Pashupati studies, a first manuscript had been circulated among the interested members at the meeting in San Francisco, and the result was a second manuscript which had now been completed. Colin Hepper brought two copies of the manuscript to the meeting for circulation a second time with a view to producing a final manuscript later in the year. He explained to members how the manuscript was being assembled and the format it would take. Members who could not attend the meeting and are interested in participating in these studies can be placed on the circuit list for the manuscripts if they contact Colin.

Frank Vignola then informed the members of three studies that we hoped would soon be published and brought the manu-

scripts for members to see. They were: "The Negative Pashupati Stamps" by Tom Matthiesen and Dr. F. E. Vignola, "Religion on Nepalese Stamps" by Mac Ricketts, and a larger booklet on "The Philatelic Associations with the Anglo Gurkha War" by Russ Sanford and Frank Vignola. The latter will be published by George Alevizos and the others probably in philatelic magazines. Any release dates would be announced in the Newsletter.

Forgeries and the problems of dealers who sell forged material was the final discussion of the afternoon, led by Dr. Couvreur.

Friday's meeting saw another good attendance with 21 members and visitors. The discussion on forgeries continued from the previous day. The resolution from the meeting was to ask all Circle members who receive faked or forged material to let Colin Hepper know the details of the forgery and its source. If it is seen that the forgeries are coming from the same source, this source would be named in the Newsletter, otherwise only the details of the fakes would be published.

Colin Hepper then presented the Circle financial accounts, which show that we are still in a reasonably good position and that the income from the Circle Auctions is slowly improving. He reported that over 50% of the membership were due to renew their three year subscription in 1981 and consideration must be given to the high inflation rates in the world when setting a new subscription for the next three years.

The questionnaire had proved to be most useful, with 58% wanting to continue with six issues per year and 38% wanting even more reading material at 10 per year. The idea of having a year book was also well supported, but the meeting favoured a suggestion that the Newsletter should be larger and issued four times a year. This would then cover most aspects required by members, i.e., there would be more reading for the same money, the larger newsletter would allow for more articles, and it would help reduce the work load for both Lester Michel and Tom Matthiesen, who were to be congratulated on their