



NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Newsletter No. 24

November 1980

Dear Friends,

This is the last issue of the Newsletter for 1980, and also the last issue to be published under the bi-monthly schedule. With the first issue of 1981, we begin publication every three months. Since there is an important savings in U.S.A. postal rates for a two ounce maximum, this will allow us to increase the number of pages to as much as 18, compared to the approximately 4 pages per issue which we are all acquainted with. Thus, the number of pages per year, with the quarterly issues as planned, will include as much as 70 pages of material compared to the 24 pages published under the old plan. Hopefully, the new format will permit us to keep costs down, in spite of the fact that most mailing rates will increase within the next year.

The fact of inflation, with which we are all familiar, combined with our determination to give our members a high quality newsletter, has made it necessary to increase annual dues, beginning 1 January 1981. This decision was made at the meeting of the Study Circle held during London '80, last May. We are aware that the new dues rate represents a sharp increase. However, by paying for a 3-year subscription, some saving can be made. As reported in the May Newsletter, the 3-year membership of £8 represents a saving of £1 from the new annual rate of £3 per year. Some of the questions you may have concerning the financial affairs of the Study Circle can be answered by a re-reading of the May 1980 issue of the newsletter, and, in particular, the last page of that issue which presents a detailed "Statement of Accounts" by the secretary, Colin Hepper.

Three people have been designated for receipt of dues. They are Colin Hepper, and our two Society Representatives: Dhruba Rudra (Nepal) and Frank Vignola (U.S.A.). We suggest that each member send the dues payment to the nearest representative, with European members sending their dues to the secretary, Colin Hepper.

As the year 1980 draws to a close, our president, Dr. Couvreur, and each of us on the Study Circle staff, wish each of you a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year." We look forward to the opportunity of increasing our philatelic knowledge of philately in our special area. We will be offering some very interesting new articles, which will provide all our members with new information, and, in some cases, will raise new questions. If you have questions which you would like to ask, or, if you can offer answers to questions raised, you are invited to participate in a "Question and Answer" column in one of our future issues.

Lester A. Michel

NEW MEMBERS

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EXHIBITIONS

A special exhibition of United Nations stamps was held in Kathmandu 29-31 Oct. 1980. On the first day of the exhibition a new 30p postal stationery envelope was issued. Also issued on the same day was a 25 Rupee stamp to commemorate the World Tourist Conference. It is the highest denomination issued thus far for Nepalese stamps.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In a recent study circle auction, was a commercial registered cover using the 1R local printed 1946 issue stamp. Does any other member have this stamp on cover? Please send answers to Colin Hepper so the information can be included in our studies on the Pashupati issues.

Dawson and Smythies wrote: "At first the stamps were supplied with brownish gum and pin-perforated 15 with what was probably a rouletting wheel, but afterwards they appeared ungummed and imperforate." Haverbeck, in his later book, specifically added "they were rouletted with a toothed wheel," which is undoubtedly correct.

It is not clear, however, from the stamps themselves, that the issues were consecutive. In fact, the evidence is that perforated and imperforate stamps were issued simultaneously and that some were gummed and some were not. Those that were gummed being almost exclusively the greater part of the perforated issue.

What no author has recorded is that the stamps exist with two very distinct types of gum, although they were quite separately set out in E. A. Smythies collection which I still have. In his collection he shows: a) brown gum, b) white gum. I give reasons (below) for believing the two gums were used in opposite order and that, while not all sheets were gummed of the perforated issue, at least the odd item can be found gummed of the imperforate issue.

It is generally acknowledged that the deep ultramarine 1 anna, which comes with a fanciful border, is the first printing, followed by the deep blue and subsequently by the milky boue which can virtually be matched by the first printings following on native paper.

I will take this value for indicating the order of printing. I have the 1 anna in the ultramarine and deep blue with white gum, whereas the milky blue has brown gum. It would appear to indicate, therefore, that

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this was the order of use. Regarding the other values, I have the 2 annas with white gum fairly clearly printed and with the brown gum in a muddy purple. Strange as it may seem, the first 4 annas, with the white gum, is in a rather blotchy green. The ink does not seem to have been satisfactory. Stamps with the brown gum are clearer and tend towards pale green. In this case, it would appear that the second ink was more satisfactory than the first. The first prints on native paper, which are clear, confirm this. All the above mentioned are perforated but I should mention that my portion of a perforated sheet with a fanciful border, at least now, shows no trace of having been gummed. On the other hand, I have one, and only one, clearly printed 2 annas imperforate with the white gum. These gums are quite distinctive and collectors having gummed stamps will easily recognize the differences. I should add that I have a single 4 annas on thin native paper, imperforate, with a thin marginal frame line at 4 1/2 mm to right, of a setting which I cannot place. It has white gum, so a short lived attempt at gumming appears to have occurred, probably in the 1890s.

To conclude, the perforated first issue of Nepal seems to have been issued with white gum, with the 1 anna in ultramarine and deep blue, 2 annas in a clear purple and 4 annas in a blotchy green. It was then issued with brown gum, the 1 anna in milky blue, 2 annas in a rather muddy purple and 4 annas in pale green (clear print). A few sheets of perforated stamps were not gummed and at least one sheet of the 2 annas with white gum was not perforated. At the same time, it should be noted that most stamps actually used, and in the same shades, were not perforated and were presumably ungummed. Almost all surviving copies are in this class.

I would appreciate comments, in particular with regard to any collector who has later issues gummed, as the 4 annas mentioned above.



NEXT MEETING OF THE STUDY CIRCLE

During Colin Hepper's visit to Nepal in February 1981, meetings will on Saturday, Feb. 7 and on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Times &

THE BRITISH INDIAN POST OFFICE IN KATHMANDU- Postage Due cachets

Prior to 1900 much of the mail going from India to Nepal had no stamps and postage dues had to be paid in Kathmandu.

It seems that this practice was common as it was cheaper to send a letter by the 'postage due' method for a cost of 1 anna, rather than register a letter at a cost of 4 annas. The end result was almost the same in that the letter was sure to be delivered because a fee had to be collected.

Modern methods used today would see the postage due cachet applied at the despatching office, with the stamps added and fee collected by the receiving office.

So far, articles written on the British India Post Office list various types of Postage Due cachets associated with this mail, but a question remaining unanswered as yet is WHO applied them. Were they applied in India or in Nepal?

Please send any views or comments to the Editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

- C. Hepper

MAC LINSKOTT RICKETTS WRITES AGAIN!

A fascinating article, titled "Religion on the Stamps of Nepal," appeared in the October issue of THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, which is published monthly by the American Philatelic Society. In this 8 page article, Dr. Ricketts, now Professor of Religion at Louisburg College in North Carolina, discusses his topic with authority and great sensitivity.

places are still to be arranged, but all members who can arrange to be in Kathmandu on one or both of these days are cordially invited to participate.

RESPONSE TO WHEN AND WHERE

Our hard working and thoughtful secretary, Colin Hepper, has offered an in depth response to the question of when and where future meetings of the Study Circle should be held. He points out that he plans to hold a meeting of the Study Circle in Nepal during his ten-day visit in February 1981.

Dr. Hellrigl will be organizing a meeting for European members at WIPA '81---the International Exhibition to be held in Vienna, May 22-31.

It is difficult to organize an annual meeting for all members, since we are scattered around the world. This fact indicates that the most favorable time to hold an international meeting would be during a large international exhibition.

Looking to the future, it is noted that an International Exhibition will be held in Paris---PHILEXFRANCE '82---June 10-24. In 1986 AMERIPEX '86 will be held in Chicago, J.S.A., May 21-June 1.

During the years between these international meetings, we would have to wait for announcements of major exhibitions, with an appropriate choice of a meeting in 1983, somewhere in the U.S.A.

Colin also states that "As secretary, I would try to attend a yearly meeting, but it does depend on cost and timing, so it really depends upon the members in the country concerned to organize it."

Mr. Tulsian's suggestion of holding meetings at WESTPEX in San Francisco, is a good one, since we have a number of very active members in the area, including Frank Vignola. Certainly the meeting held during the recent ASIAPEX '80 is a good example of such a meeting which was very valuable, even if neither the President nor the Secre-

tary of the Study Circle were able to attend. Obviously, such a location for a meeting, while very attractive in many respects, requires long and expensive trips for members in Europe and Asia. From the European point of view, a meeting on the East coast of the U.S.A. would be desirable, since the travel costs would be reduced significantly.

Your editor adds that, in his opinion, frequent meetings would be appropriate when as few as five or six members could get together. Formal decisions concerning operation of the Study Circle would not be made at these informal meetings, but could be stimulating to those who attend and could be the source of proposals to be presented formally to the officers, or through the newsletter, which can provide the opportunity for all members to express themselves concerning particular issues.

Persons willing to take some responsibility for organizing meetings, such as Frank Vignola did at ASIAPEX '80, will be supported and encouraged by the Study Circle leadership, during any exhibition which can be attended by several members. Furthermore, if such informal meetings are made known well in advance, they may well draw more members to attend. The more we can share our interests with each other, the more stimulating ideas we can develop concerning the study of the philately of our areas of interest.



Dr. W. Hellrigl reports this interesting seal-cancellation, inscribed: SHRI / SAHAKARI HULAK / ADDA / NEPAL. Sahakari Hulak Adda means Co-operative Post Office. This cancellation was found on a stamp issued in 1959 and is in P. Gupta's collection. The actual measurements are 21 x 21 mm.

FINE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS



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