

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



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POSTAL HIMAL is the quarterly publication of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Subscription dues are £ 3 for one year and £ 8 for three years or \$6 for one year and \$16 for three years in the United States of America. Dues should be paid to The Secretary or your closest Society Representative. Advertising rates and information may be obtained by writing the publisher.

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Mr. Kenneth W. Jones, 1013 Meadowlark, Stephenville, TX 76401, USA

OUR COVER illustration is from a c1900 magazine cut of the great stupa at Swayambhu, Nepal. A similar view can be found on the 1949 2p brown issue of Nepal.

Dear Friends,

Colin Hepper, our hard-working Secretary, reports that our membership has increased to 183 as of 31 March 1982. Part of this increase was due to an advertising effort in the USA and CANADA via the top ten stamp publications in those two countries. Thomas Matthiesen, our publisher, reports that requests for a free copy of POSTAL HIMAL exhausted the supplies of back issues so that some new readers must wait for the current issue. Although many of these recent requests have not resulted in new memberships, they are indicative of the growing interest in the philately of Nepal and Tibet. We extend a warm welcome to our new members.---This issue includes an up-dated membership list and a financial report for the Study Circle. Any address corrections should be sent to the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Apologies are extended to those members of our group who reside in Nepal and who worked long and hard to make NEPAL'81 a success. In our haste to print a preliminary report on that unique exhibition marking the Centenary of Nepal Postage Stamps, and due to the unfortunate timing of our last issue, many of those people were not mentioned and our report contained a few errors. A more complete and accurate report is included in this issue.

As a result of one suggestion---that we consider affiliation with the American Philatelic Society---the largest such organization in the USA and, possibly, in the world---Roger Skinner and I have explored the matter. One requirement is that at least 10% of our members in the Study Circle must also be members of the APS. After checking our membership list, I was somewhat surprised to find that more than 50 people were members of both organizations, including at least 12 who live in Europe or Asia. Affiliation with APS will give our Circle and its activities greater visibility, will not involve any additional costs and will require only that we supply single copies of each publication to the American Philatelic Research Library and that we make an annual report to the American Philatelic Society. Such reports are published in the American Philatelist, the monthly journal of the APS.---If anyone finds any objection to such an affiliation, or wishes to comment on this matter in any way, we request that you write to Roger Skinner or to me.

In this issue we have published an extensive commentary under the heading "Auction Action." For a number of reasons this commentary is incomplete. Our readers could render valuable service to each other by reporting sales of material in our area of interest which have been overlooked and, perhaps even more important, they might report the dates of future sales in which material will be offered. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lester A. Michel

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**A LIST OF MEMBERS is included elsewhere in this issue. Please check your entry carefully for errors and if incorrect in any way please notify your society representative, Secretary or Publisher at once. With the next issue we will be using mailing labels reproduced directly from this list. --Thomas Matthiesen**

## EXHIBITION NEWS

William H. McConnell, who writes a regular column titled, "Asian Area Philately" for the weekly newspaper STAMP COLLECTOR reports that the Fresno Philatelic Society will hold a special ASIAN EXHIBITION in conjunction with FRESPEX '83 on 17-19 March 1983. The exhibits will be judged by Asian specialists accredited by the APS. This event will be an important opportunity for our members, and further information will be forthcoming. Watch for more information concerning this event.---It is hoped that an Alevizos sale featuring Asian material can be arranged in conjunction with this exhibition.

NEPAL '81---Corrections and additions:

Our thanks to Mr. Dhruva Rudra for an official listing of all award winners as published by the Postal Services Department and for several pictures, some of which appear in this issue. Rather than the 27 awards reported in the previous issue of POSTAL HIMAL, 35 awards were made in at least seven classes. In addition to the awards already reported, we note the following honors bestowed on members of the Study Circle:

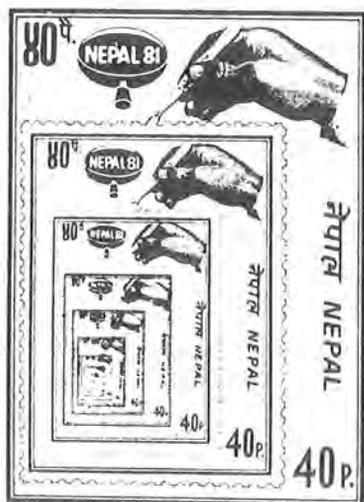
Mr. Dhruva Rudra Karmacharya (two awards)  
---A First (GOLD MEDAL) for his exhibit of Nepalese postal stationery and a Special Award for receiving the Highest Mark by the judges for the Competitive Class. The award was donated by another of our members, Mr. C. Tulsiyan, and consisted of a Silver Plaque depicting the one Anna stamp (1881) and Nepal '81 Emblem.

Mr. Nanda Govinda Rajkarnikar (two awards)  
---A Large Silver Souvenir in the "Invitees Class" for his exhibit of Nepalese Postage Stamps and a SPECIAL AWARD for the "Best Exhibit" donated by the Civil Provident Fund.

Mr. Bishnu Lal Shresta (two awards)---  
A Small Bronze Souvenir for his exhibit of King Birendra on Stamps in the Non-Competitive Class and a Special Award (Brass Idol of seated Buddha) for his Special Exhibition of Expedition Covers.

Congratulations to all of these members and to all other award winners in this the largest and most important exhibition ever staged in Kathmandu.

Mr. Bishnu Lal Shresta has kindly supplied an official report on NEPAL '81 for the Nepal Philatelic Society, including a picture and a number of FDCs and Souvenir Covers. The report is too lengthy to reproduce in its entirety, but we note that each day of the 5-day exhibition was appropriately designated: 1) Inauguration Day, 2) Happy Birthday, 3) Collector's Day, 4) Visitor's Day, and 5) Postal Day. Several new adhesives had their First Day of Issue during the exhibition, with most of these, together with the special cancellations, illustrated on p. 60 of the previous issue of POSTAL HIMAL. One not illustrated was the stamp issued annually to commemorate the birthday of the King of Nepal. That day, for the reigning monarch, King Bire-



Philatelic Exhibition 1981



View of the Exhibition Hall.

ndra, was the second day of the exhibition and a special stamp was issued that day, with an appropriate cancellation. The official set of exhibition covers may be obtained from the Nepal Philatelic Society, or from Mr. B. L. Shrestha.

Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha has generously

supplied us with a copy of the Souvenir booklet published in connection with the last great National Exhibition in 1967. This interesting souvenir was printed only in Nepali and includes a copy of the triangular stamp issued on that occasion.



— President of Nepal Philatelic Society, Mr. O. P. Gauchan, addressing the special function before the prize distribution. H. E. Nayan Bahadur Khatri, the Chief Justice, is seen in the center, while the Director General of the Postal Services Department, Mr. S. Srivastav is at the far right.



— Mr. Bishnu Lal Shrestha receiving a Special Award (Brass Idol of seated Buddha) for his exhibition of Expedition Covers, Mr. Shrestha also received a small BRONZE souvenir for his exhibit of King Birendra on Stamps in the Non-Competitive Class.



— Mr. Dhruva Rudra receiving the BEST EXHIBIT AWARD for his collection of postal stationery of Nepal from the Chief Justice, H. E. Mr. Nayan B. Khatri. Also seen in the photo are President of the Nepal Philatelic Society, Mr. O. P. Gauchan (center) and Director General of the Postal Services Department, Mr. S. Srivastav (holding papers in hand). Mr. Dhruva Rudra also received the GOLD MEDAL in the postal stationery group.



-- Mr. Hardayal Singh receiving the GOLD MEDAL for his collection of postage stamps of NEPAL.



-- Mr. Keshav M. Mulmi receiving the GOLD MEDAL for his collection of covers of Nepal.

### CORRECTION

In the account of NEPAL'81 which appeared in our previous issue (#27-28) it was stated that Mr. S.L. Shrestha and Mr. C. Tulsiyan were "advisers" to the the Jury "...on the request of the D.G./P.S. Dept..." We have received a letter from The Postal Services Dept. stating: "...neither any one nor the gentlemen mentioned...were appointed as advisers and as such would request you to kindly print correction in your next issue." We stand corrected and offer our apologies. Furthermore, we ask that correspondents who offer news items for printing in POSTAL HIMAL check their sources carefully to insure that errors are kept to a minimum. We cannot double check every piece of information offered us, but attempt to print any news which appears to be of interest to our readers.--Ed.

### VIGNOLA AND SANFORD TAKE HONORS

Members Frank Vignola and Russ Sanford received awards in ROMPEX-82, the annual philatelic exhibition held in Denver, Colorado, USA, each May. The exhibit was one titled "'Too Late' Markings of India." They received a ROMPEX SILVER-BRONZE MEDAL

plus two special prizes: The India Study Circle Award for the best India and Indian Sub-continent Exhibit and the UPSS RED CERTIFICATE for the second best Postal Stationery Exhibit. Our congratulations are extended to these members.

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## FOR SALE

Collection of India Used in Nepal with 1860 lettersheet canc. "B/137," "D" in bars, study of postmarks including delivery marks, registration marks, etc. In all 55 covers + pieces. The important material is written up on 20 sheets and would form an excellent basis for a major collection of this subject. For further details please contact: Mr. J. Jackson, 17 Cambridge Ave., Melton Mowbray, Leic 3, LE 13 OAA, ENGLAND. Price required: £400.

## PUBLICATIONS

### WATERFALL'S POSTAL HISTORY OF TIBET—

A Review by Armand E. Singer

Arnold C. Waterfall: The Postal History of Tibet, 2nd ed. (London: Pall Mall Stamp Co. for Robson Lowe, 1981). £ 12 (available from The Literature Dept., R. Lowe Ltd., The Auction House, 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth, BH2 - 5PX, England); \$26.00 (from George Alevizos, 2716 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 1020, Santa Monica, CA 90405).

A copy of Waterfall's indispensable and out-of-print postal history sold at an August 1980 auction for \$120.00, one of the rare times I have seen it offered in recent years. Given the growing popularity of Tibetan philately, a reprinting was sorely needed; a thorough revision and updating would have been even better. What we got is unfortunately closer to the former than the latter. The new preface states that "Very little has come in taking into account the 15 years that have elapsed," but the fact is that many important finds have surfaced and new information has been discovered since the publishing of the 1965 volume. There come to mind Wolfgang Hellrigl's rather convincing efforts to rehabilitate the cancels Waterfall still calls "crude forgeries" (p. 154). Hellrigl has also noted the appearance of a new orange (I have also seen it in red) 5 tr. "official" (notable, however doubtful the status of the whole issue), another 1 tr. value of the same set, a newly discovered seal of the Nepalese court in Lhasa (corresponding to the courts in Khassa, Kuti and Kerong), and two types of temporary postage-due markings from Gyantse (in use from at least 1908 to 1918; Waterfall refers to one of them on p. 19 as No. 55a, but in such a cursory way as to be almost valueless).

And there are other finds, not to speak of information now available concerning items already mentioned in the first edition. For example, the Nepalese occupation of Kuti (Khassa and Kerong were not and are not mentioned in either edition) has only two lines of text added to the

original five (p. 27). In light of Frank Vignola's exhaustive article on the occupation covers, such scanty treatment, not all of it accurate, some of it misleading, is hardly acceptable. Little new evidence is entered for British expeditionary and occupation cancels, although covers extending some of the usage dates, inter alia, have turned up in recent years. Several new shades of the 1912 and 1933 issues are now known, but Waterfall adds only Nos. 26a and 207a (pp. 170 ff), and they lack the point values listed for the other shades (an omission, by the way, which holds for all his similar additions). In fact, I find no revisions of the 1965 point system or statistical tables, although some of the first-edition values and percentage figures were based on scanty, statistically invalid data (e.g., p. 84).

The photo illustrations, already the weakest feature of the first edition, are, for the most part, as poor as ever. The remainder are worse. P. 33 is now almost illegible; p. 137 is even blurrier than the original; some of the cuts on p. 113 have degenerated into a black blob, as have two of the four on p. 139. The line drawings of cancels and the like, being mostly executed freehand, remain too crude to aid in determining forgeries (and remember, a lot is said about forgeries in these pages).

The Mt. Everest chapter begs for updating. As long as the 1953 Hillary-Tenzing ascent from the Nepal side is included (and rightly so, I would argue) as well as other climbs in other lands (Pakistan, etc. -- see pp. 40-41; incidentally, the Sierra Club expedition carried a piece of correspondence to the top of Everest: thus, a 25,300' Kangchenjunga Camp V cover is not the highest, and there are rumors of others carried to other summits), then climbs and covers from outside Tibet must be chronicled to date. The past twenty-five years have seen, along with a moun-

tain of junk mail, commemorations of many pioneer expeditions involving such achievements as the solo and oxygenless winter ascents of Everest. These years are written off, rather cavalierly by our mountain climber-author (see p. 6), with a mere three lines (p. 41). Nor is there mention of more recent stamps depicting Mt. Everest (Chinese People's Republic, Scott Nos. 830' (1965) and 1239-41 (1975); New Zealand semi-postals (1954); India (1965)) and other Himalayan peaks (Pakistan (1954), K-2; Japan (1956), Manaslu). There may be others.

Where are all the new forgeries subsequent to the writing of Chapter xiii, that account being only slightly revised or updated? Not a word, for instance, about the extremely dangerous photographic reproductions of genuine sheets, now flooding the market.

To be sure, there are some worthy additions and revisions. Chapter iv now boasts an extra half page; Chapter v on the 1951 Chinese occupation is two pages longer and shows revisions, though the list of native ideographs on p. 58 still lacks Chinese character equivalents for several of the town postmarks given on pp. 52-56. Chapter xiii has been expanded by half; Chapter xiiii has been expanded by a half page; the Bhutan section is much more satisfactory, with a minor correction and a new paragraph for the original two-plus pages and a three-and-a-half-page addition of drawings of cancels, a map and a list of towns and types; Sikkim now has a similar one-page checklist. There is a one-and-a-half-page table for a few selected prices realized at auctions up to 1978 (not 1980 or 1981, strangely and regrettably, and more regrettably still, with figures only for the House of Robson Lowe). The bibliography is richer by eighteen new entries (any number more are omitted). In all we are buying a volume almost ten pages thicker (over 5%). The remainder of the text shows a word or a line or a paragraph of amendments, deletions, additions, here and there. Some of these bits and pieces are valuable. We are now informed (p. 85) of G. S. Russell's 10/27/'32 cover, the earliest known use of the 1933 stamps -- May 1933 being the normally suggested date of issue (as all too often, Waterfall supplies no details; for the curious I can say that it was franked with a single 2/3

tr. blue, Lhasa to Patan, Nepal, and of course is considered controversial). Data on sheet lengths (p. 89) and Dalai Lama seals (p. 141) are corrected. And so on.

For the rest, the book is a photographic reproduction of the original edition plates. This makes for frequent outdated and/or embarrassing references. For example, Waterfall's text still makes comparisons with 1964 sterling shilling values (p. 9) in the point system I have already alluded to, and mentions the "nearly 10 years since the Chinese took over the Tibetan Postal Administration" (p. 112), now over a quarter of a century ago. Observations on the cost of the 1 sang greens (p. 80) are of little moment sixteen years later. Sometimes he fails to correct an old line to jibe with a new reference elsewhere (on p. 65, the reference to p. 55 should now read "p. 59"; adding a type "BR 17" on p. 31 throws off the total count of sixteen mentioned on p. 29). What use the reference to an item that fetched 17 at auction in 1964 (p. 24) when it, or something no rarer, might well command twenty times as much today? That the Dalai Lama was employing two crests "for the moment" in 1965 (p. 144) doesn't say much in 1981-82.

Worse, these faults, however minor, vitiate the usefulness of what was to a generation of collectors a true bible. It remains the most valuable single volume available today, and for that we must be properly grateful. But a great student of Tibetan philately has let himself and the rest of us down. Or must the publisher share, even assume the blame? Waterfall speaks of being given "a time limit to boot" (p. 5), which apparently would leave him at most little more than a year to comb through sales catalogs, digest articles, initiate correspondence, view collections (he has, what's more unfortunate, disposed of his own collection), and rework his old text -- precious few months in which to accomplish a respectable task, as any conscientious writer can affirm. Possibly his publisher set cost limits as well. Certainly a minimal number of lines were reset. Whoever sinned and for whatever reason, it is particularly ironic that Waterfall should still fault (pp. 8-9) Harrison Haverbeck's 1958 monograph for omissions of new findings. There must be a moral here: don't open Pan-

dora's box or cans containing worms unless the lid is handy for quick replacement.

In short, an inexpensive reprinting of the 1965 volume might have been preferable to a hasty paste-and-scissors job, or mere cosmetic surgery, performed on a modern classic. It is a conclusion I am loathe to reach; after all, we are all the losers.



"From China and Tibet" by Robson Lowe--- a commentary on letters written by missionaries working in the interior, 1844-1865. (The booklet, priced at 2, belongs in the library of postal historians of Tibet and China.--Ed.)

This little booklet of 20 pages may be considered as a supplement to the 1981 edition of "TIBET" by A. C. Waterfall, published by Robson Lowe. The 12 letters on which this booklet is based came to light just a bit too late to be included in that book, which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue of POSTAL HIMAL. Written in the middle of the nineteenth century by French and Italian missionaries, the letters constitute an important addition to the early history, including postal history, of Central Asia related to Western contacts. The commentary on early Christian missions to the area is fascinating, including the rather remarkable fact that Jewish missionaries are known to have reached China as early as 1163 A.D. Descriptions of the Silk Roads, including maps, boundary changes, and the 12 letters with as many good illustrations, are especially interesting.

-- Lester Michel



BOOK: "The Arun. A Natural History of the World's Deepest Valley," by Edward W. Cronin, Jr., published by the Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, USA (1979).

The author and a number of colleagues spent four years studying the flora and fauna of this large river basin. There is little of philatelic importance in the

volume, but it is well-written and quite understandable to non-scientists. One of its charming features is the quotation at the beginning of each chapter.

Chapter 3 is headed by the following epigraph translated from the Tibetan by Gordon Enders and was excerpted from his book, co-authored with Edward Anthony, titled "Nowhere Else in the World." It reads as follows:

"They tell of Chumbo who aspired  
One day as mail-man to be hired.  
To prove that he could make the run  
He vowed that walking he would shun  
And do his eight miles in a dash  
So rapid would he surely smash  
All records for the distance. Well,  
He sprinted for a mile and fell  
Exhausted by the roadside, where  
He lay and panted hard for air.  
Next day he learned there was no need  
For mail-men who make too much speed."

--Cartok Fable

(With thanks to Frank Vignola and his son Dr. Frank E. Vignola, who gave a copy of the book to his father for Christmas.-Ed.)



JOURNAL: PHILATELY, Vol. 9, No. 1 (1982), published by the Nepal Philatelic Society, 8/331 New Road, Kathmandu, Nepal, twice yearly, currently under the Editorial Board consisting of J. K. Shrestha, S. L. Shrestha and M. B. Shrestha.

This Souvenir Issue, marking the Centenary of the first postage stamps issued by Nepal is, by far, the largest issue ever published since its beginning more than 15 years ago. The major portion of the volume contains 100 pages, followed by a Supplement consisting of 50 pages in which all postage stamps and postal stationery items are listed and described. The major portion of the journal contains articles of philatelic importance authored by active philatelists in Nepal and from other parts of the world. The issue is replete with illustrations of unusual covers and photographs of important persons, including the King and Queen of Nepal.

Nepal philatelists, whether novices or long-time specialists, will find this publication of value. The journal comes with membership in the Nepal Philatelic Society which currently costs 20 Rs. (\$3 USA) per year or 50 Rs. (\$8 USA) for 3 years. However, we note that increasing costs are forcing an increase in membership dues to 25 Rs. (\$5 USA) for one year and 65 Rs. (\$12 USA). The cost of a Life Membership will remain at 500 Rs. (\$100 USA). The increase in dues begins on 1 July 1982. The USA Representative for the Nepal Philatelic Society is Frank Vignola, 105 - 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121. He can forward membership dues for new members and can provide application blanks.

#### CLIPPINGS FROM THE LIBRARY

--by Roger Skinner

In response to a request for help with a Tibet bibliography by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, the Western Philatelic Library has identified articles on Tibet that can be copied. Currently, the library has a charge of 50¢ for each request, plus a fee of 10¢ per page copied. If you would like any of the articles from the following list, send your request, with remittance, to FWPL, P O Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, USA. Overseas requests must add sufficient funds to cover Air Post Service.

TIBETAN COVER, by W. E. Jones (2 pp., ill) Set of 4 "Peaceful Liberation of Tibet" stamps issued by China illustrated on a cover with details by originator. (1953)  
Cost: \$0.20

NEW STAMPS FROM TIBET, by H. D. S. Haverbeck (2 pp., ill) description of the "official stamps of Tibet. (1954) Cost: \$0.20

TIBET-COMMUNIST CHINESE GOVERNMENT STAMPS, by H. D. S. Haverbeck (1 p.) Data on setting up of Chinese Post Offices in Tibet in 1953. Cost: \$0.10

TIBET - Part 4 - First Native Issue of Tibet 1912/13, by George S. Russell (13 pp., ill) Extensive facts about the first issue stamps and Tibetan Post Office operations. Cost: \$1.30

TIBETAN LETTER SHEETS AND SEALS - Part 3, by George S. Russell (3 pp., ill) (1950)  
Cost: \$0.30

SPOTLIGHT ON TIBET by S. Radgowski and A. E. Singer (4 pp., ill) Discussion of the validity of the One Sang stamp. (1959)  
Cost: \$0.40

TIBET - FORGERIES OF THE ONE SANG, AND OTHER DARK MATTERS, by R. H. Gaze (4 pp., ill) (1957) Cost: \$0.40

A TIBETAN PROBLEM, by R. H. Gaze (4 pp., ill) Notes about the 1933 five value set, locally printed stamps. (Some illustrations are too light to reproduce well.) (1956) Cost: \$0.40



#### NEPAL FIND REPORTED

-- Armand E. Singer

Our Study Circle auction No. 18 last October offered lot No. 8; a very fine 1917 telegraphically used 3' x 4 block, SG 38, of the 2 anna denomination, pale blue, one inverted cliché. Having obtained it, I can submit further details. The paper is so thin as to be almost transparent, of fine quality, the printing reasonably clear. No doubt obtains that it is the 2 anna value. I believe this color previously unrecorded for this denomination, blue obviously being normally found with the 1 annas. The cancel, telegraph sub-office type Ic, appears genuine, a clearer than usual impression if not sufficiently so to warrant positive identification. The seller is one of our most honored and knowledgeable members; so, the block has already negotiated the first hurdle of respectability. But the fact that what would seemingly constitute a genuine color error has surfaced over sixty years after its printing should make any collector hesitate. It certainly is not a forgery, and yet there remains the problem of Xerox-type color reproductions of genuine stamps. Originals are quite difficult to distinguish from the copies (the latter are necessarily a bit blurrier, but colors can be very close). These pesky critters are getting all too common, printing clarity varies greatly with the early Nepal issues and there is no norm with which I could compare. What's worse, a dangerous forged telegraph cancel of type Ic has been repor-

ted in Hellrigl and Hepper's book on native postmarks (p. 59).

Have others among our membership come across a similar item? At the risk of carrying coals to Newcastle I will venture to note that the vertical value panels of both the 1 and 2 anna denominations look very

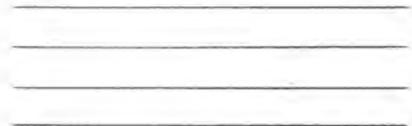
much alike, sometimes distinguishable in the later, worn printings only by the four clusters of Devanagari characters on the former, three on the latter. I would greatly appreciate hearing from any informants at 248 Grandview Ave., Morgantown, West Virginia 26505.



NEW NEPAL AEROGRAMME

We wish to thank Mr. Dhruva Rudra for a copy of the new Rs. 2.50 aerogramme, with First Day Cancellation---reproduced in this issue. Printed on light blue paper, the stamp, with a denomination suitable for overseas airmail, depicts a mountain scene in various shades of blue. We also thank Mr. R. K. Lodha, our India Representative for the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle, for a copy of this item mailed from Kathmandu a few days after the date of issue, and bearing an exceptionally clear strike of the current cancellation dated 19 April 1982.

हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME



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# AUCTION ACTION

--Lester A. Michel

The needs and interests of our members are quite varied, ranging from the old-timers who have been collecting and studying for many years to the neophytes whose interest in philately may have been awakened quite recently. One of our Canadian members, Cris Hallett, has recently written to share his experiences with respect to sources of Nepal and Tibet material. He writes, "The following is a list of U.S. mail auction houses that I have found useful for potential Nepal material. I have indicated what was offered, with auction dates, by these companies in the last six months.... I find that the descriptions of the native issues are often inaccurate because Scott's catalogue has no listing for the 1917-30 new printings. Also, some of the early material is often mistakenly identified. I have translated Scott's numbers into the new Stanley Gibbons numbers whenever possible.

Gold Medal Mail Sales, 915 Broadway, New York, NY 10010:

- 14 Oct 81--several lots of Nepal
- 25 Jan 82--Nepal, 18 lots including native issues + early mint sets
- Tibet, 29 lots including full sheets and covers.

Western Auctions, Del Amo Executive Plaza, Suite 107, 3868 Carson St., Torrance, CA 90503:

- 27 Nov 81--Nepal SG 26 on cover with Kathmandu date stamp, 1907 (PR \$10.00 US)
- 6 Feb 82--Nepal, 6 lots including native issues.

Rasdale, 36 South State St., Chicago, IL 60603:

- 4 Dec 81--Nepal, SG 57b, color error in complete sheet of 40
- 19 Mar 82--Nepal, SG 35, half anna red-orange, VF, unused

Central Suffolk, P O Box 919, Patchogue, NY 11772:

- 17 Jan 82--Nepal, SG 34a, block of 4

- with 2 tete-beche pairs, VF (PR \$60.00 US)
- Nepal, SG 143, 1961 Children's Day corner margin block of 4, F-VF, NH (PR \$34.00 US)
- 26 Feb 82--Nepal, two lots of early mint sets.

Peter Kenedi Inc., 17200 Ventura-Encino, CA 91316:

- 16 Jan 82--Nepal, massive specialized collection with strength in 1881-1941 issues, including several dozen covers, tete-beche pairs and shades. Est. \$1,000-\$1,250 US.
- Nepal, native issues, eight different tete-beche pairs, telegraph cancels, F-VF overall Est. \$430 US.
- 20 Feb 82--Nepal, native issues, four different tete-beche pairs, VF
- Nepal, SG 59, imperf corner margin block of 8, VF
- 16 Mar 82--Nepal, 90 stampless folded letters of varying periods, including Royal, Official and Commercial mail.
- Tibet, three covers."

Other firms in the USA which occasionally offer Nepal and/or Tibet material in their sales are quite numerous. Some sell only by mail while others accept bids both by mail and from the floor on the date of the sale. Prospective mail bidders should read the terms of sale very carefully as terms of purchase and rules for bidding may vary. Some mail auctions sell each lot to the highest bidder at his maximum bid, regardless of the actual bids made by others. Sales involving floor bids, as well as mail bids, normally specify bidding intervals, with a lot going to the highest bidder at one interval, or increment, above the highest competing bid. Mail bidders can expect to compete successfully with floor bidders, but must be aware that, if the description of a lot is incomplete in some respect, the lot may not be precisely what the bidder is expecting. If, however, the lot matches its description (no matter how incomplete),

the successful bidder is legally bound to accept and pay for the lot. The lack of knowledge and the lack of time and space may prevent a firm from describing a lot as completely as the mail bidder might desire. The floor bidder does have the advantage (usually) of examining lots in advance. However, some firms will send photocopies of lots---normally at the prospective bidder's expense---if they are requested early enough prior to the actual sale date. Some firms send catalogues to prospective bidders at no charge, but, due to the increasing costs of printing and postage, there is an increasing tendency to make a charge for catalogue subscriptions, usually on an annual basis. Those firms which add a surcharge (usually 10%) to the bid price, in addition to a charge for mailing lots, are on the increase, although some still manage to sell without this additional cost to the buyer.

Another problem for the collector, other than the mis-cataloguing which Cris Hallett mentions, is the growing number of forgeries appearing on the market---involving both stamps and covers. Some of these are very sophisticated and may fool even the most knowledgeable collector. If the buyer notifies a firm promptly of his suspicions concerning an item, the reputable firm will normally be willing to accept the verdict of a mutually recognized specialist, but all experienced collectors have learned the hard way that the "buyer must beware." There is simply no substitute for a thorough knowledge of the material of the country or area of study.

Other American firms with which this writer has had satisfactory relations include the following: (These have material only occasionally, unless otherwise indicated,)

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.,  
160 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022.

J. & H. Stolow, Inc., 989 Sixth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10018.

Sun Philatelic Center, Inc. - Suite 705,  
1 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94104.  
(Specialists in Asian material and has  
some material in every sale.)

Collectors Auction Service, P O Box 6996,  
Burbank, CA 91510. (Offers stamps only,  
with some in nearly every sale.)

Kover King, Inc., 120 West 44th Street, New  
York, NY 10036. (Covers and postal station-  
ery only, often very briefly described.)

The Clearing House, 764 West 181 Street,  
New York, NY 10033. (Covers and postal his-  
tory only.)

Stamp Collectors Guild, Hewlett Office Cen-  
ter, Hewlett, NY 11557.

Another member of our group, G. S. Rosamond, has pointed out to me that mail auctions are held by organized groups other than our own Study Circle. He has sent me a copy of the "Auction Catalogue No. 20" for a sale sponsored by the CHINA PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON in April. Some 500 lots of material are described, most of which, quite naturally, Chinese material. However, 9 lots of Tibet are listed and a grouping headed "Neighboring Countries" includes 4 lots of Nepal stamps, mainly Pashupati material. Some of our members might wish to join this organization, although membership may not be necessary to receive auction lists. Interested readers may contact the China Philatelic Society of London through Mr. Rosamond, 35, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1LN, ENGLAND.

#### AUCTION REPORTS

The fact that material from our area of interest has been in great demand in recent years is not news to anyone. The following quotation from the column titled "Auction Highlights" in the weekly newspaper STAMP COLLECTOR for 12 November 1977 (p. 30)---almost 5 years ago---reads:

"Nepal brought results astounding to those who have relied on Scott catalog for pricing: #s 4-5 mint vf brought \$300 (cat. \$57.50), #s 7-9 mint vf was knocked down at \$75 (cat. \$18) and a vf copy of H & G #17 postcard sold for \$125."

This was a portion of the report by Sun Philatelic Center of San Francisco, CA on their public auction of 28 August 1977. We now look at the results of some signi-

ficant auctions held within the past year.

RECENT AUCTION RESULTS

The David Feldman auctions in Zurich, Switzerland, frequently include Nepal and Tibet material. The 18-26 September 1981 sale was no exception in this regard. 67 Nepal lots, with estimated values ranging from 40 to 7,000 Swiss francs, included something for everyone. Little of the classic material was offered, but a fine range of Pashupati specialty items was evident, including a complete set of the 1935 issue in full sheets! While most lots sold at or near estimates, individual lots brought from 30% below to 20% above valuations. A 1911 Christmas Day letter with cover, cancelled "King Emperor's Camp Post Office," brought 1,600 Sf against an estimate of 1,200 Sf, while the set of 1935 Pashupati sheets was bought for 5,000 Sf against a valuation of 7,000 Sf. Some later items sold for their valuations, or as much as 20% more.

Tibet material, totalling 79 lots, was equally varied and included several 1924 Everest Expedition items, some early material and a good range of general issue stamps, used and unused and on cover, including several full sheets. Three outstanding items sold for well above estimates, as great rarities tend to do. A remarkable 1913 Gartok cover, "probably unique," (est. 15,000 Sf) brought 20,000 Sf and a 1933 registered cover from Lhasa bearing "Three Proof Sheets".... "probably the most important Tibet cover of this period" (est. 10,000 Sf) sold for 13,000. A "possibly unique" unused "interpanneau" block of 4 of the 1911 Chinese 3 pi on 1c OVERPRINT INVERTED" (est. 6,000 Sf) was bid up to 10,000 Sf before the new owner was determined.---These last two items were illustrated in color. In fact, Feldman catalogues are well illustrated and well made. They are available by subscription, as is the common practice these days among the better auction houses. Catalogue subscription information can be obtained from: DAVID FELDMAN S.A., Case Postale 81, 1213 Onex, Geneva, SWITZERLAND.

Zurich, offered 27 lots of Nepal---a generally undistinguished group---containing a variety of covers from an 1857 pre-stamp item to modern postal stationery errors, a few stamps, including two small collections and other items estimated at 50 to 1,000 Sf. No lot was significant enough to merit an illustration.

The 40 lots of Tibet material were more engaging, with a variety of interesting covers, stamps and complete sheets---especially strong in the 1933 issues. The latter group included a very fine 2/3 tr proof sheet of 2 and a complete sheet of 12 of the 2 tr in a deep brick red shade (enamel ink) valued at 2,000 and 1,500 Sf, respectively. The outstanding lot contained one each of the 4 tr and the 8 tr, 1924 issue, in sheets of six, cancelled "LHASSA" and trimmed close, described as "extremely rare, signed Holcombe." Valued at 9,500 Sf, this lot was illustrated, as were 9 other lots, including the two other items mentioned above. Except for these three, valuations ranged from 50 to 700 Sf, with most items, including several forgery lots, in the more modest price range. Realizations were unavailable at this time.

An Asian firm, R. K. International\*, offers monthly mail sale auction lists by subscription and, although India and Native States are featured, Nepal and Tibet material is always included. In the January list, 11 lots of Nepal and 5 lots of Tibet were offered. In more recent months the numbers are:

	Nepal	Tibet
February	32	5
March	44	6
April	46	3
May	28	6

An interesting variety of stamps, covers and special items, including postal stationery, court fee stamps, documents, forgeries, etc. appears regularly, including an occasional scarce item. The Tibet lots are obviously less numerous but they, like the Nepal offerings, are usually described in detail. There are no illustrations in these lists. Estimates are given in In-

\*Company name now changed to  
Rajesh Kumar Lodha

The Feldman sale of 21-26 May 1982, in

dian Rupees and bids are expected in the same currency. Estimates generally range from 50 to 500 Rupees, with occasional scarce items noted which are valued at up to 2,000 Rs, so that most material is within the reach of the average collector. Recent mailings of sales lists have been made from Nepal, using current Nepalese stamps for postage---a nice touch for the Nepal enthusiast. Yearly subscription prices vary, since they are related to the cost of airmail postage to various parts of the world. For particulars write to: R. K. International, P O Box 16609, 27, Badridas Temple Street, Calcutta-700 004, INDIA.

A British auction firm, East of England Philatelic Auctions, was brought to my attention early this year by Colin Hepper with a catalogue for a sale on 11-13 February 1982, held in the Middle East country of Dubai. It included 23 lots of Nepal material, all classic issue multiples, including several complete sheets. The most noteworthy items included an irregular block of 11 from Setting 4 of the la grey blue shade. This "extremely scarce" item comes from the first printing on native paper and shows portions of the left side and bottom marginal inscriptions. Valued at £200, it brought £270. Several extremely rare postally used blocks were offered (and illustrated) and consistently sold above estimates. Sheets and part sheets bearing telegraph cancels sold at or very near valuations, which ranged from £25 to £180.---One lot of two modestly priced Tibet covers was noted in this sale.

A General Sale held in England on 22 May 1982 offered only one lot of Nepal (none of Tibet) but well over 100 lots of India Native Feudatory States. Future sales are expected to include more material from our area of interest. High quality illustrated catalogues are available by subscription from: East of England Philatelic Auctions, 65 Ledbury Road, Peterborough, PE3 6RF, ENGLAND.

George Alevizos is probably the most knowledgeable dealer in our areas of interest at the present time. Over the years he has developed his expertise primarily in

Central and Eastern Asia. His auctions have become outstanding and regularly feature a wide variety of material from Nepal and Tibet. His 21-22 July 1981 sale in Los Angeles featured The Pierre Couvreur collection of Nepal, which, along with other material, totalled 284 lots, 200 of which included all the significant stamp issues. The remaining 80 plus lots of postal history material ranged over nearly the entire area from 1815 Gurkha War covers to scarce modern FDCs. A number of scarce postal stationery items and a variety of covers passed through the British Offices in Nepal were also noted. This sale included something for nearly every Nepal collector and postal history student, with valuations ranging from under \$40 up to \$10,000. The 20 lots of 1881 first issue stamps on European paper generally went at or near the valuations, although a lovely 2a deep purple imperf valued at \$150 actually sold for \$180. Some of the rarer items brought significantly less than expected---approximately 15% below valuations. The mint block of 22 of the half anna vermilion, for example, "an exhibition piece of the greatest rarity," went to the lucky buyer for \$8,500. However, a 2p die essay of the 1907 issue, valued at \$650, passed to a new owner for \$850.

Sale of postal history material was slow, for the most part, despite the variety of attractive items. Many sold for figures below the estimates, although an 1861 official document bearing the red seal of the King of Mustang, valued at \$400, was the subject of spirited competition before finally being knocked down at \$1,250. An 1887 cover sent by the Queen of Bajura (a separate kingdom similar to Mustang) to the Minister of Bajura, and franked with a la grey blue of the 1886 issue, sold for \$550, against a valuation of \$400.

The same sale included 29 lots of Tibet stamps, including 17 lots of the 1912 issue in complete sheets of 12. These generally sold at or a bit below estimates, but a rare 1/3 tr Waterlow essay in blue, VF, brought \$1,050, against an estimate of \$750. Later issues were represented, including a very rare complete sheet of 12 of the 1/3 tr bronze green in VF condition.

which passed to a new owner for \$3,000 (est. \$3,500). Again, an amazing variety of items was offered at valuations from \$50 and up---something for everyone.

The most recent Central and Eastern Asia sale (11-13 May 1982), held in Los Angeles, offered 191 lots of Nepal, including the final portion of "The Pierre Couvreur collection." The 123 stamp lots ranged from 12 lots of the 1881 issue on European paper, through a good range of classic and Pashupati issues to modern items of special interest. The postal history section (nearly 70 lots), as usual, offered great variety---an 1828 document of especial significance to postal historians, four early Royal Camp items, a nice selection of pre-stamp and classic issue covers, postal stationery items and a fine array of covers to and from Nepal, from 1849 onward. Lots ranged in value from less than \$50 to \$2,000. Interestingly, a lot estimated at this latter figure is also the most modern rarity---the only known complete sheet of the 1973 Cow stamp with the brown color omitted. (Only one other sheet has been discovered and it has been broken up.) Also noted was a complete unused sheet of Setting 1 of the half anna stamp, "very rare, fresh, VF" (est. \$1,750)---an extra fine mint single half anna vermilion (est. \$350)---a very rarely offered item. 23 lots of Pashupati proofs from all three British printings and a number of the rare perforation errors from the pre-1950 local Pashupati printings were noted.

An unusual range of offerings in 267 lots of Tibet made this sale of great importance to serious collectors and scholars of Tibetan postal history. Nearly 60 lots of stamps included some very rare items. For example, a 1912 Republic of China overprinted pair tied on piece by a 13 April 1914 CHABDO cds---a rare commercial usage (est. \$750); the 1912 set in complete sheets of 12 (a rare set est. at \$1,500); a VF set of the Officials in corner blocks of 4 (est. \$1,600); and a number of other items too numerous to mention individually.

The 200 lots of postal history material alone make this catalogue an important reference work for Tibet specialists. In



This Waterlow essay (1/3 tr in blue) brought \$1,050 in the Alevizos auction of July 1981.

fact, both Nepal and Tibet offerings are sprinkled with inserted comments of historical value and some of this material has never before appeared in print to this writer's knowledge.---Under "Chinese Office in Tibet" (nearly 20 lots) cover dates ranged from 1803 to modern, with estimates from less than \$50 to as much as \$750---half of them illustrated with excellent photos. "Indian Offices in Tibet" were represented by 19 lots showing great variety and value. Several "scarf" cover lots were followed with a strong showing (more than 40 lots) of the 1912 adhesives on cover and 1912 issue combination covers (25 lots)---more than 1/2 of them illustrated---completed that section. The 1933 issue on cover was also well represented with a section of 8 lots devoted to "Collections by rate"---a most interesting group. Combination covers involving the 1933 issues (nearly 40 lots) mostly bore stamps of India, but several combinations with Nepal were listed, as well as a number of covers "sent to G. Tuladhar" from a variety of non-Asiatic countries. The final portions of the Tibet section of this sale included Himalayan Expedition covers, 1950-55 Official covers, several miscellaneous lots & 6 lots of currency.

The tremendous range of material, the fine quality of the catalogue and the number of high quality illustrations---not to mention the excellent lot descriptions, indexes - cross-indexes and historical comments---make this a valuable reference. It is hoped that copies may still be available to those who may not be subscribers to the Alevizos catalogues. Contact: George Alevizos, 2716 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 1020, Santa Monica, CA 90405, USA.

Another topic that should not be overlooked is the subject of out-of-print reference volumes, as well as currently available ones. A number of these items were noted in nearly all sections of the Alevizos catalogue described above.

Robson Lowe International held a Far East sale in Tokyo on 10-11 October 1981 (during PHILATOKYO '81) that included some outstanding Tibet material (85 lots) plus 16 lots of Nepal. Incidentally, the twelve missionary letter which were the subject of the booklet by Robson Lowe, titled "From China and Tibet" (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) were offered individually in that sale. Other lots included items related to the Frontier Commission (1903), the Military Mission (1904), British & Indian POs, Chinese POs (1911-14) & stamps, covers and seals (to 1960)---a remarkable variety in all. In general, the more common items were grouped, valuations were given in Japanese yen and no lot was valued at less than 15,000 yen (ca. \$60 or £35). Most lots were valued from 2x to 40x that amount, so that the sale was directed toward the well-heeled specialist. The catalogue was well illustrated and is a useful reference item. We noted several remarkable rarities, including a 1931 cover, with letter, sent from the Panchen Lama to the Prime Minister of Nepal and written while the Panchen Lama was exiled to China---said to be "one of only two known examples with the wax seal."

The Nepal offerings included a fine selection of covers dating from 1858 to 1907, including an 1890 registered cover from Kalaiya bearing one each of all three values of the second setting of the classic issues (the first on native paper, 1886).

A few sheets and part sheets of classic issues were also included.---An 1820 cover from Deva Dharma, the ruler of Bhutan, to the King of Nepal, bearing the official red ink seal of the former is "possibly the only recorded instance of use on cover." Unfortunately, a list of prices realized was still not available to this writer at press time.

ROBSON LOWE offers subscriptions to their auction catalogues and to a combined journal, "Philatelist/Philatelic Journal of Great Britain." A unique service is made available to those with rather restricted interests who do not wish to receive full catalogues. It is called the "Busy Buyers Service" and consists of cuttings from catalogues for specified material at about half the cost of full catalogues. For particulars write to: Robson Lowe Limited, The Auction House, 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth BH2 5PX, ENGLAND.



#### THE NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

#### STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS 31 March 1982

<b>INCOME (UK)</b>	
Subscriptions	£ 190.21
Bank Interest	99.69
Commission (Auction #16)	35.83
Commission (Auction #17)	75.71
Commission (Auction #18)	43.84
Cash at bank (1981)	480.14
	<u>£ 925.42</u>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Auction Postage (#17-19)	81.40
Printing Auction list	24.00
Bank charges	1.22
Advertising	8.00
Affiliation Fee (BPF)	8.00
All other postage	20.61
Transferred to L. Michel	286.36
Transferred to R. Skinner	172.75
	<u>£ 584.34</u>
Cash at bank	341.08
	<u>£ 925.42</u>

<b>Total Study Circle Account:</b>	
UK	£ 341.08
<b>Held in account in US:</b>	
R. Skinner	\$ 374.25
L. Michel	462.94
T. Matthiesen	21.38
<b>Total held in U.S.A.</b>	<b>\$ 858.57</b>

THE STAMP DIES USED ON THE 1935 POSTAL  
STATIONERY (Concluded)

--by Colin Hepper

A study of the 1935 issue postal stationery shows that a number of different types of stamp dies were used. The difference in all cases is in the detail shown in the central figure of Siva and the mountains in the foreground.

This detail varies between the mountains being shown in detail to having no details at all. It is difficult to access if the dies have been progressively cleaned, or if they are completely different. Personally I feel they are different types.

The 4 Pice Postal Stationery Envelope



TYPE I



TYPE II

Stamp Die type I

The mountains in the foreground have the most detail of any of the postal stationery dies with the figure of Siva blank.

Colour: Green and Pale Green

Stamp Die type II

In contrast to type I there is no detail in the central design other than some slight

shading on the right hand side, and it would certainly seem to be a different die.

Colours: Dark Green, Green, Very Pale Green

THE 8 Pice Postal Stationery Envelope



TYPE I



TYPE II

Stamp Die type I

The mountains in the foreground look the most curious of all those illustrated in that they have a "rounded" rather than pointed look. This tends to make them look more like boulders in a stream, rather than mountains.

Colours: Pale Red, Deep Red, Red

Stamp Die type II

This die looks as if type I has been cleaned as there are some faint indications of mountains which still have the "rounded" look.

Colour: Deep Red.



**FOR SALE:** 100 Binders and cases made by Frank Godden, Ltd.,  
Stamp Album Specialist, bearing golden letters: "TIBET" (10),  
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