

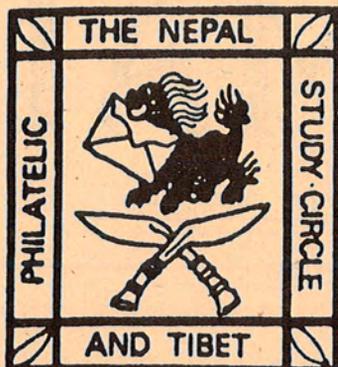
POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



No. 34

2nd Quarter 1983



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OUR COVER ILLUSTRATION for this issue is the 4 trangka of the 1933 issue of Tibet. Enthusiasts will recognise this particular example as the rather difficult position number four which was lost after the first few printings, never to be seen again. For many years the 4 trangka was printed in sheets of eleven instead of twelve, with a vacant position where cliche number four should have been. Later a replacement cliche was carved resulting in cliche number thirteen which was one millimeter larger than normal.

- T.M.

Dear Friends,

In this issue, we begin to publish an index to Postal Himal and earlier Newsletters, Nos. 1 - 32, inclusive, with the first twelve pages reduced to fit on six pages of our format. The total index consists of 38 pages reduced to fit on 19 pages and we hope to complete publication with additional segments in issues No. 35 and 36. We are indebted to Kenneth W. Jones for his work in preparing this most useful index.

We invite our members who live in India and who might be willing to help us, to write to our Secretary, Colin Hepper, to apply for the recently vacated position of Study Circle Representative for India. Until that new representative is appointed, Mr. Dhruba Rudra, Representative for Nepal, has consented to act as temporary Representative for India.

We have received a souvenir card and a brief note from Mr. Frank Vignola while he was attending the international exhibition--BANGKOK '83. And, today we have received a report on that same exhibition from Mr. S. L. Shrestha. We have decided to postpone a report on BANGKOK '83 until the next issue, in order to report more fully on this exhibition and others. We request all of our members to send information about any exhibition that may have included exhibits of Nepal and/or Tibet material, whether or not exhibited by Study Circle members.

With this issue, we are happy to remind you that authors of articles appearing in Postal Himal (Nos. 34 - 36) are automatically eligible to compete for the first President's Prize, to be awarded by our President, Dr. Pierre Couvreur, for the best article printed in Postal Himal in 1983, as announced in issue No. 33. So keep those articles coming in. If your best article is not published in one of the three issues mentioned, we will do our best to print it in 1984 and, thereby, place it in the competition for the second President's Prize for 1984.

We wish to congratulate our eldest member, Rev. Arthur Bruce Moss, on his 95th birthday in August, 1983. Our best wishes to you, Rev. Moss.

Lester A. Michel

FROM THE PUBLISHER:

In an effort to bring us back to timely publication dates, our U.S.A. representative, Roger Skinner, has kindly offered to help on some of the time consuming chores associated with mailing out **POSTAL HIMAL**. With this issue we are using new mailing labels supplied by Roger and in issues to come he will take over collating, stapling, folding, envelope stuffing, endorsing, stamping, addressing, sealing and mailing your **POSTAL HIMAL**. This will help me to concentrate on assembling the typed copy and other material received from Editor, Lester Michel into a better looking, carefully laid out publication with more realistic publication dates. All of our thanks go to Roger Skinner for taking on some of the more tedious tasks involved in producing this journal.

Thomas Matthiesen

COLIN HEPPER HONORED

Colin Hepper, Secretary of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle and Manager of the Study Circle Auctions, has recently been honored by the British Philatelic Federation, by appointment as "Philately Editor" for the Federation's fortnightly magazine, STAMP NEWS. The publication has a distribution of approximately 2,000. We congratulate Colin on his appointment to this important post and recognize that he will be busier than ever. It is often said that "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it!"--Ed.

EXHIBITION NEWS

Many of us remember well the meeting of our Study Circle during WESTPEX '79, in San Francisco--an international meeting which was attended by our Secretary, Colin Hepper, from England, by Mr. C. Tulsian, representing the Asian continent, and by a number of members from the USA and from Canada. A Regional Meeting of the Study Circle was held at 11 AM, Sunday, May 1, during WESTPEX '83--a meeting attended by four members and a visitor. The members were Frank Vignola, Al Zulueta, Jack A. Young and Roger Skinner. The visitor was Ken Goss. The member travelling the greatest distance was Jack Young, from Philadelphia. Ken Goss has exhibited Nepal in the Junior Section of several stamp exhibitions

Young, on the other end of the spectrum, is a young 72 years old and exhibited his Nepal material for the first time at WESTPEX '83, receiving a Silver award. He sets an example for some of the rest of us who have not written up our own material for exhibition. Jack's exhibit covered the early stamps, including the telegraph issues, with examples on cover. He exhibited some blocks of the early printings of the one-anna, one with the inscription facing outward, and many sheets of the telegraph printings--especially the two-anna.

A discussion of Jack's exhibit, as well as some of the others, was held during the

meeting. Other subjects of interest were also discussed and all attendees were very pleased to meet, once again, with other members of the Study Circle. Although the attendance was not anything to worry about from the standpoint of crowd control, the meeting was most beneficial for the exchange of ideas and information. (We wish to thank Roger Skinner for this fine report and trust that more members will help to arrange meetings at other shows.--Ed.)



PHILATELIC SERVICE OPENED IN TIBET

(As published in China Philately, No. 2, for March 1983, p. 25, and submitted by Mr. S. L. Shrestha.--Ed.)

On New Year's Day of 1983, the Philatelic Business Department, first of its kind, was set up in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region. On the opening day, the Department provided collectors with varieties of philatelic stationery, including stamps, FDCs, albums, magnifiers and perforation gauges. Many juvenile collectors of Tibet and the other minorities scrambled for the philatelic stationery. To mark the opening of the Philatelic Business Department, the Stamp Company of the Tibet Autonomous Region designed a commemorative card with inscriptions in Chinese and Tibetan and a cachet, featuring the magnificent Budala Monastery.



Tibet provided us service for philatelists for the first time.

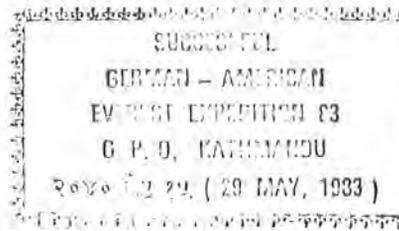
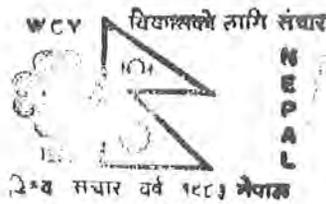
CHANGES IN 1983 PHILATELIC PROGRAMME

We thank Mr. Dhruba Rudra and Mr. S. L. Shrestha for pointing out the following changes in the current Nepal Philatelic Programme:

The first issue of 1983, scheduled for release on 17 July, in a denomination of Rs. 1.40, was actually placed on sale a month earlier (17 June), in a denomination of 50p. An unlisted stamp, marking the Silver Jubilee of Royal Nepal Airlines, had a First Day of Issue on 1 August. It features a lovely mountain (possibly it is Mt. Machhapuchchhre) and is in a denomination of Rs. 1.

As many of you know, 1983 has been designated "World Communication Year." The Nepal Philatelic Programme lists a stamp to be issued in October, marking the WCY. However, logos have already been prepared, and are being used. Two varieties are shown--one in English, as printed in a local newspaper, and another in Nepali, which appears as a handstamp on a cover sent to us by Mr. S. L. Shrestha. The cover is actually an item of postal stationery cancelled by a special marking to honor the successful German-American Expedition to Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) last Spring. It is also illustrated in this issue.--Ed.

Communications For Development



NEW ISSUE OF PHILATELY APPEARS

We received our copy of the half-yearly journal (Vol. 10, No. 1, 1983) on 26 July. From it we learned that this was the first issue to be published since the appearance of the Souvenir Issue (Vol. 9, No. 1, 1982) following NEPAL '81--the outstanding exhibition held in Kathmandu in December of that year to mark Nepal's Stamp Centenary. The unusually large size of the Souvenir Issue and the large amount of work required for its preparation were responsible for the decision to omit Vol. 9, No. 2, from the publication schedule for the year 1982.

This latest issue is another valuable addition to the students of Nepal philately. A fine article by J. B. Manandhar is the lead offering and caught our attention immediately--an analytical study of a list of Nepal post offices which appeared in a book published in 1915. And those of us who enjoy collecting philatelic souvenirs of mountaineering expeditions will find a wealth of information in this issue, with

many illustrations of special cancellations and covers related to this subject. A brief biography of the noted German mountaineer, Gerhard Lenser, was of special interest to us, since he is also a philatelist who has published a Nepal album, among other things. He has led numerous expeditions, not one of which has suffered a fatality, including the successful German-American ascent of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) this past Spring. Your editor had the privilege, recently, of meeting one of the American summiters, Mr. Peter Jamieson.

Study Circle members Colin Hepper, Hans Wittmann and Frank Vignola are listed as foreign representatives for the Nepal Philatelic Society and we urge all who have not done so to join this fine organization at once. You may write to one of these representatives, to your editor, or directly to the Nepal Philatelic Society for information and application blanks.--Ed.

TIBET - THE FORGERIES OF THE SECOND ISSUE
--Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

The appearance of recent 8 trangkas forgeries on the market makes it necessary to take a closer look at an issue whose classic forgeries have never posed any great problems in the past. Now the situation is changing fast, as several new and dangerous forgeries have turned up at auctions and in dealers' stocks.

Here now is a complete review of all known 4 and 8 trangkas forgeries of the 1914-1920 issue:

TYPE 1

This is the earliest forgery of the high values. Actually, only the 8 trangkas stamp was forged, but this was also printed in shades of blue and passed off as the 4 trangkas. The forgery was probably produced in India or Nepal, around 1957, and was first recorded in March 1958, by B. Beach.

It was printed in sheets of six different clichés which, although cleverly imitated, can be fairly easily distinguished from the genuine stamps. The forged sheets, on the other hand, can be recognized at a glance, because they lack the rough, colored marginal impressions framing the original sheets.

The shades of the forgeries are: dull blue, dark blue, grey blue; red and scarlet. Waterfall mentions that this forgery has also been reported in green but, apparently, no copies of this variety have actually turned up.

This type of forgery exists both mint and cancelled-to-order. Interestingly, its cancellations - the Lhasa types VII and VIII and the wavy-lines telegraphic cancellation - are invariably genuine! Waterfall even mentions the existence of an 8 trangkas blue forgery used on a commercial cover from Gyantse.

TYPE 2

Next, it was the turn of the 4 trangkas to be forged. This unrecorded forgery forms

part of the set of sheets and cancellations photographically reproduced from Haverbeck's handbook, "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet." It was made around 1973, either in the United States or in India.

Due to the modern offset-printing method used, the forgeries have a very "flat" appearance. The paper is Nepalese rather than Tibetan and the colour is a dark ultramarine.

The forged sheets show the rough, coloured marginal impressions which were missing in the type 1 forgeries.

Fortunately, Haverbeck's illustration of the 4 trangkas sheets (op. cit., 2nd ed., fig. 31, p. 39) has been disfigured by large dark patches covering several stamps and their respective interspaces. The latter were successfully retouched by the forgers but - given the photographic reproduction process - nothing could be done to remove these dark areas from the stamps themselves (pos. 1, 2, 4, 5). Thus, the forged sheets are fairly easily spotted while singles would be rather more difficult to detect. A long, coloured line below pos. 4 is another marked point of distinction.

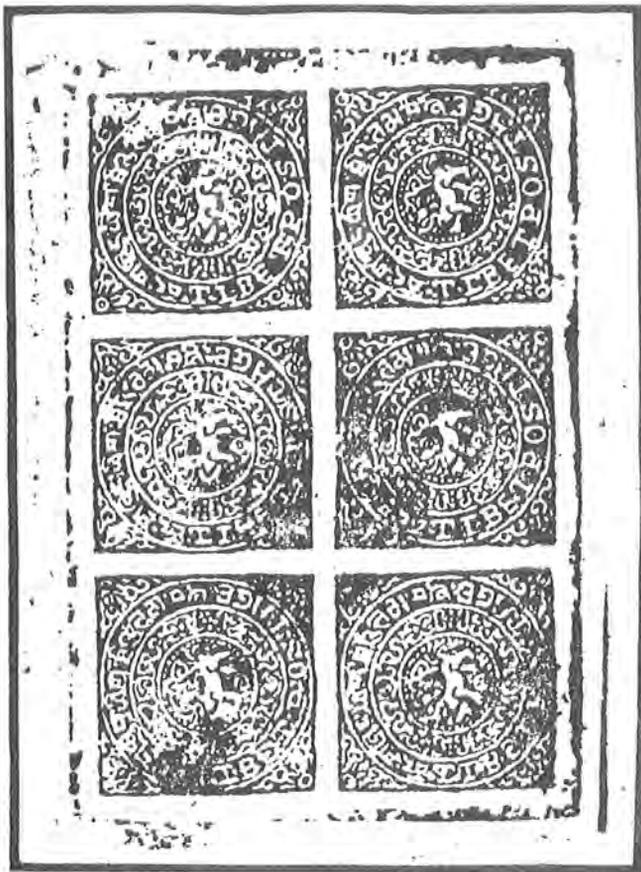
Although many other "Haverbeck" forgeries bear spurious cancellations, I have never seen a "used" copy of the 4 trangkas type in question.

TYPE 3

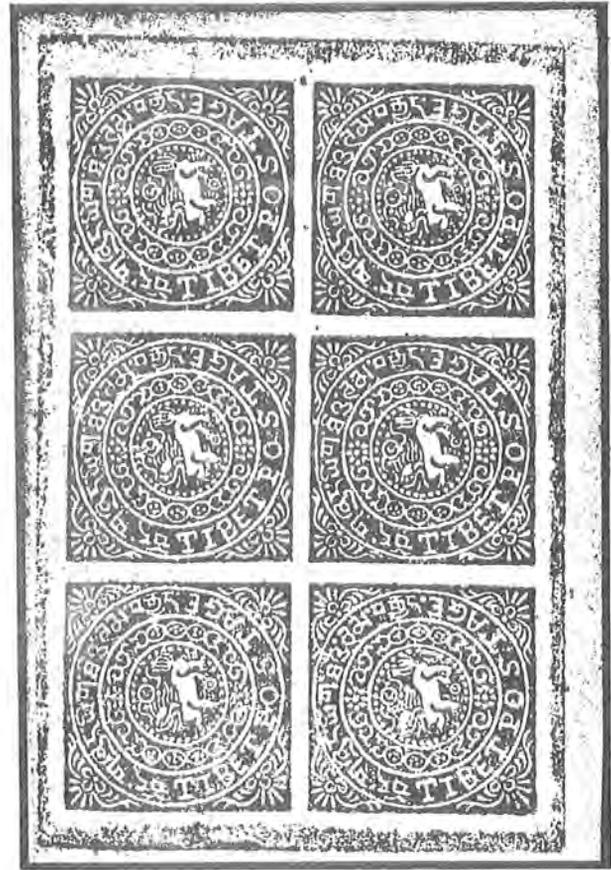
A recent forgery, this type is somewhat more dangerous than its predecessors. It first appeared in late 1981 and was produced either in Nepal or in India.

Only the 8 trangkas stamp was forged, a single cliché being arranged in sheet form. Apart from conventional sheet arrangements, some forged sheets are also known with pos. 3 and 6 inverted, giving rise to (impossible) tete-beches.

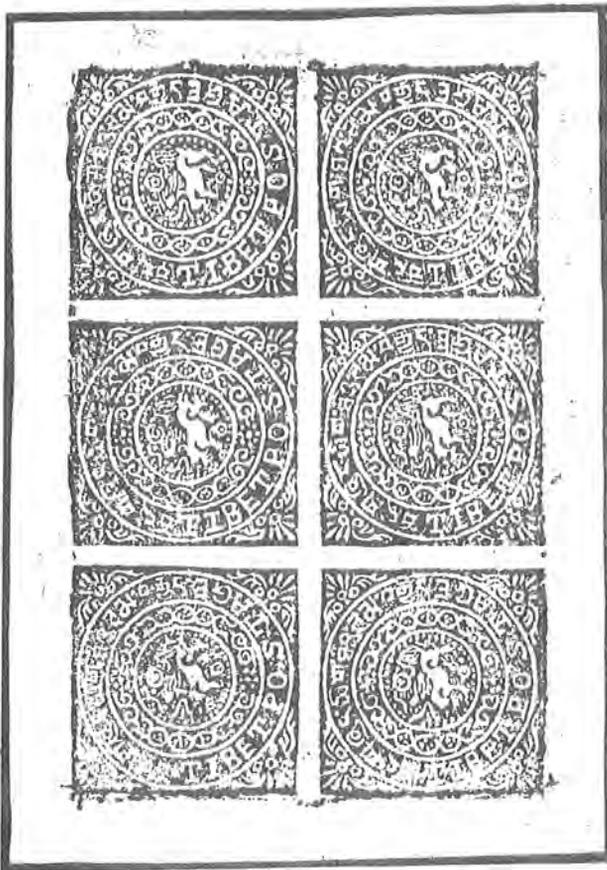
The shade of this forgery is a flat pale



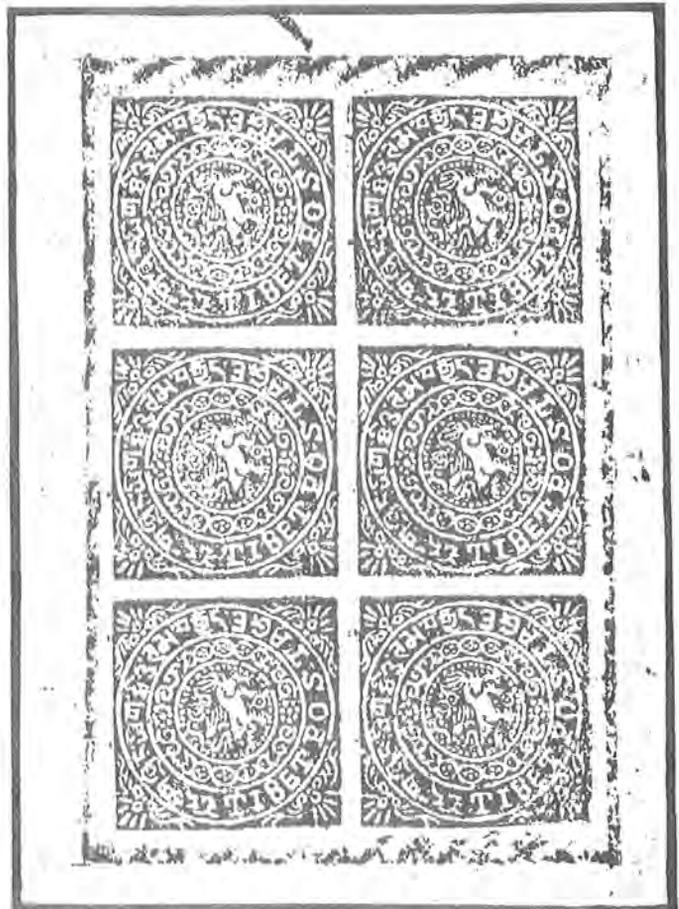
Type 2



Type 4



Type 1



Type 3

Hellrigl, TIBET - THE FORGERIES OF THE SECOND ISSUE----- (continued)

rose rather similar to the final printings of the originals. In fact, singles must be rated as very good imitations.

The forged sheets were framed with the typical coloured marginal impressions which were individually "printed," as the pencilled corner guidelines clearly show. The paper is typically Nepalese, not Tibetan. This forgery was first recorded and described in detail by Prof. Singer, in POSTAL HIMAL No. 30, p. 26.

The forgery can best be identified by the following details:

- the right leg of the letter A in POSTAGE is shaped like a dot;
- a coloured dot in the central white circle, above the flower ornament;
- two coloured dots just above the cliché.

So far, no "used" forgeries have been reported.

TYPE 4

Thanks to K. H. Dahnke, I can here report the latest forgery. This was first seen in 1982 and probably originated from Nepal or India. Again, only the 8 trangkas stamp was forged.

This time, the forgers returned to the system of six different clichés printed in sheets featuring the usual coloured marginal impressions. Whereas the design was very well imitated, the slightly shiny lake shade is rather odd and thus fairly easy to recognize. The paper is typically Tibetan, showing that modern forgers are trying hard to avoid errors committed by their predecessors.

So far, no "used" copies have been reported, but since this is a very new forgery the covers may still be on the production line.

S U M M A R Y

Type(tr)	Denomination	Difference	Sheet Size* (mm)	Approx. Date	Shades
1	8	6	94.5x63	1957	blue, dk. blue, grey blue, red, scarlet
2	4	6	92 x 61	1973	dark ultramarine
3	8	1	96 x 63	1981	rose
4	8	6	96 x 63	1982	lake

*Size of sheet, disregarding margins.



TWO TIBETAN "OFFICIAL" STAMPS REREAD
-- N. G. Rhodes

While glancing through the George Alevizos auction catalogue No. 39 (3-5 May 1983), I was surprised to see that the denomination written on the two "Official" stamps illustrated (Lots #1213 and 1214) did not correspond to the description in the catalogue.

Lot #1214, described as 1/3tr, clearly has the denomination written ཤོ་རྩལ་ལྷོ་རྩོ་ or "Tibetan Currency (literally 'silver'), Two Sho" in the corners around the central

circle. On further investigation, I found that this stamp had been illustrated by H. D. S. Haverbeck in the revised edition of his Postal History of Tibet, as Fig. 68 and described as "1 Karmanga," which is the equivalent of 1/3tr. Anyone looking carefully at the denomination can see that this stamp has the same inscription as the "2 Shokang," illustrated by Haverbeck as Fig. 71. I can only imagine that Fig. 68 was the first issue, but it was thought rather confusing that the 2 Shokang was

the same size as the 1 Shokang, so a new, larger design was made. I cannot explain why Haverbeck misread the inscription, or why nobody has corrected him until now.

Lot #1213 is described as "5 trangka RED,, only six copies believed to exist," & is not listed by Haverbeck or Waterfall. The denomination reads བོ་རྩ་ལྔ་མོ་ལྔ་ or "Tibetan Currency, Five Sho," which is the equivalent of 3 1/3tr. I assume that the misreading arose because someone managed to read the word ལྔ (five) in the lower right-hand corner, but failed to correctly interpret the word in the lower left-hand corner.

Readers will be relieved to hear that the other stamps in this series, as published by Haverbeck, had their denominations correctly interpreted, although Fig. 69 reads



1213



1214

"Kar(ma)nga" rather than "2 Khakang" as described. I have yet to see the 1 Trangka Orange listed by Waterfall, so cannot vouch for that.



His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Postal Services Department

Phone No 11152

Ref. No. 4-1/15/037/98/62

Kathmandu, 24 July 1983

Your Ref. No.

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your letter of June 20, 1983 and in response to the same this department takes serious note of the comment made by you. The service stamps in question were neither declared to be out of stock or scarce nor promised not to be brought in public again rather it was temporarily stopped from use as per Government decision.

The unsold stock has been brought in public again according to the decision made by the Government. In the interest of the government and the intending collectors this decision is perfectly right and therefore your protest could not be entertained.

I simply express sympathy for any harm caused to any collector by this just action of the government.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours

R. P. Wagle

(R. P. Wagle)
Section officer

Colin Hepper has received the letter reproduced here in response to his letter of 20/6/83 (see page 3 of POSTAL HIMAL #33) protesting the dumping of remainder stocks of the overprinted official stamps of Nepal.

✓ Mr. Colin Hepper
Hon. Secretary,
4 Osric Court
Peterborough
Cambs. PE1 5 LW
England.

CC:-

Nepal Philatelic Society
Kathmandu.

An historian by training, a librarian by vocation and a philatelist by avocation, Ken is well-qualified to do a service for us that your editor had not quite gotten around to doing. He offers the following words of explanation concerning his 'construction' experiences:

"I 'grew up' on Haverbeck's Postal History of Nepal and he uses 'sripech and crossed kukris' and 'bow and kukris' to describe the early stamps, rather than 'classic issues' and other descriptors which are scattered throughout the Postal Himal; so I used the former rather than the latter. Some would disagree, perhaps, but what's a classic, anyway? There are some other personal prejudices included, as in spelling. The Area Handbook was used as a standard for towns where possible, with a couple of glaring exceptions. I've always spelled Kathmandu with an 'h' and I probably always will. And the handbook spells what I've always seen referred to as Tansen as 'Tensing.' The word was used only once, and not as an entry, but I spelled it 'Tansen.' In the Postal Himal, there is a bunch of references to small towns, villages, districts and regions, often reported from elsewhere (in the 'News from Kathmandu' sections). I tried to index only the municipality where an event was taking place (and I got pretty tired of indexing all those towns--or what I thought were towns). In any case, these locations are indexed as spelled in the journal where I could not locate any 'standard' spelling. Finally, I tried to index subjects of articles or notices, prize winning members, authors and most titles, and most 'normally expected' items. I did not include names of individuals who were mentioned casually, or for that matter, I did not include anything which did not strike me as of only minor significance."

It may be added here that Ken also does microfilming, for a modest fee, and offers his services to anyone who might find such a service useful. -- So, thank you, Ken, for the index. It will be most useful to many of us.--Ed.

--Armand E. Singer

A Nepal dealer-friend, who just presented me with a whole sheet of the one-rupee purple stamp, overprinted in black, has asked my opinion of his government's Postal Services Department's decision to sell off their stocks of this and other 1960-62 items, issued and unissued, at face. In a nutshell, I am madder than hell. Two different dealers have already attempted to sell me sheets at several hundred dollars each, said dealers' greed having gotten the better of their common sense. Quite aside from such possible outrages, the pleasure of being able to afford the one-rupee, or the forty-paisa unissued, overprint sheet for a few dollars is far outweighed by the monetary loss for those who already own, let us say, a block of four of the former. I myself paid three hundred dollars for this block, now worth less than fifty cents. U.S. collectors may well recall the boondoggled Farley's follies in 1935 or the 1962 reissued Hammerskjöld inverted background stamp. The cheap reprints really pleased few and hardly served the demands of philatelic justice. Most viewed them as governmental interference in the private marketplace which simply compounded the original mistakes by the postal administration.

There is, as well, an intangible but very real fear lest other rarities may become equally worthless. Who knows what stocks may still remain undestroyed in Nepal's P.O. vaults? I remember being able to purchase the 1929 five-rupee bicolor at face from the Kathmandu P. O. in 1957, but at least no one suddenly dumped it on the market. It was simply still available some thirty years later. The current deluge is something else again, something we collectors must devoutly pray won't recur. Old government remainders should either be routinely destroyed after so many months or years, or a uniform policy of selling them until exhausted be publicly adhered to. Unissued items should never be sold to collectors in the first place. (See the reply of the Nepal Postal Services Department to the letter of protest sent by Colin Hepper on behalf of the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle to the PSD concerning this matter -- to be found elsewhere in this issue.--Ed.)



NEW BOOK ISSUED ON TIBET PHILATELY

--Armand E. Singer

A review of Kurt H. Dahnke, Tibet Handbuch und Katalog der Marken und Stempel ("Handbook and Catalogue of Tibetan Stamps and Cancells," published by the Forschungsgemeinschaft China-Philatelie [Association for Chinese Philatelic Research], 1978-81).

Herr Dahnke's handbook, in a word, is a must. It may be obtained from Herr Klaus Leister, Vice President and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Association, Burgstrasse 59, D-4281 Raesfeld, West Germany. The last three-fourths of the book, without the available plastic, imprinted four-ring binder, cost me thirty dollars, but is well worth the price. A new supplement is due out in 1983, Herr Dahnke writes me, but I have not seen it as yet.

The book consists of 234 pages plus numerous intercalary additions, introductory pages, 36 pages of notes, and 234 illustrations, most of them separate from the text, in their own section. With rare exceptions, the reproductions of stamps (many oversize), sheets, covers, cancels, seals, even coins and paper currency, are clear (good to excellent), thus constituting a valuable research tool in themselves. The first 65 pages and 59 illustrations were published in 1978, the remainder in 1981. The handbook's looseleaf format allows for and has already resulted in corrected pages and additions to the 1978 section and a few even in the 1981 supplementary pages. Other than the tendency of loose pages to catch in the binder rings and thus not turn easily, the format is almost ideal for the author's obvious interest in keeping his research up to date.

The book should be used in conjunction with Waterfall's Postal History of Tibet (1965; the second, 1981 edition fits as well), on which it leans heavily at times (perhaps too much so) and from which it admits substantial borrowings -- borrowings for which the author asked for and received permission from Waterfall (page 40a, Mt. Everest expedition cancels, for just one instance, is a photographic re-

production of Waterfall's original, as are the British-Indian series on pp. 22-24; these latter, by the way, were not well drawn by Waterfall in the first place, and what is worse, Dahnke's reprintings are cut down in size). Dahnke is strong in some of the areas where Waterfall is weakest, luckily, e.g., with valuable new information on the lamas, on the so-called Ma-ha-su-ta covers, the three-trangka revenue stamp, on forgeries of stamps, covers and cancels, of course, with most of his illustrations and with his section on coinage. But basically, his overwhelming advantage is in his being current, whereas Waterfall, even in the new 1981 edition, still reflects research carried out almost twenty years ago. Dahnke brings us a wealth of new information, new observations and new emphases. His strengths are his own; his weaknesses, fortunately, are often shored up by his predecessor. The section on Mt. Everest material, for example, is cursory and includes data only up to the thirties. His point value system is not regularly employed for all his material. Waterfall is more comprehensive in both these cases, though out of date to be sure. Neither author discusses or illustrates the more recent Chinese stamps with Tibetan motifs (forthcoming in the 1983 supplement?). In any event, these certainly constitute minor objections.

Prospective buyers may be put off by the German text. They shouldn't be. A smattering of German, a dictionary, and some patience will get the reader around that small impediment. The volume remains a much needed, solid achievement. This reviewer was impressed by its scholarship, overjoyed at its appearance. (We have written for more detailed information on pricing of the various sections & binders, on method of payment desired, plus added costs for shipping and handling. That information will be made available as soon as it arrives, in an appropriate issue of Postal Himal.--Ed.)



Cover page of the rare 'Hulak Niyamabali-1993 B.S.' Pailha Bhag (Part I) Printed on native paper at the Gorkha Patra Press, Kantipur (Kathmandu), at an issue price of 6 paise. This document detailed the arrangements for the 'Exchange Post Offices' and other arrangements with the government of India for the acceptance of Nepalese postage on letters to India and the first time that Nepal stamps were accepted for postage to any destination outside her borders. -- From the Surendra Lal Shrestha collection.