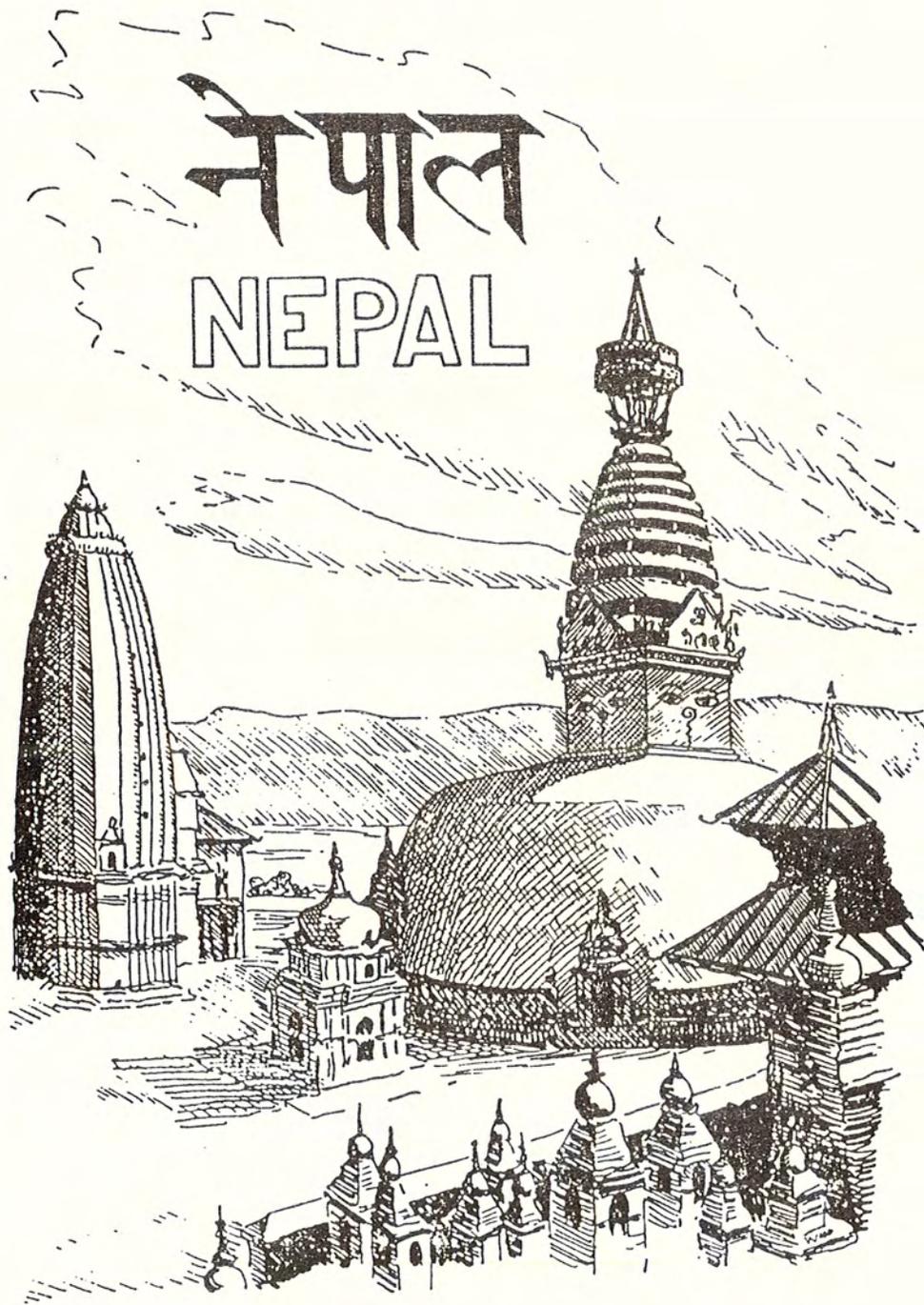


POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



No. 47

3rd Quarter 1986



POSTAL HIMAL is a quarterly publication of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year. Dues should be paid to the society representative in your area. Information on advertising rates may be obtained from the editor.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: This is a half-size reproduction of the cover page from Frank Vignola's GOLD award-winning exhibit of Nepal at AMERIPEX '86. The original drawing was done by Frank's good friend, Kenneth A. Wood, Editor Emeritus of STAMP COLLECTOR, a popular philatelic weekly in the USA. The drawing was signed by Ken in the lower right corner. Can you find his name? Frank values the drawing even more since he has been at the spot in Nepal that the drawing represents. -- The first page of Frank's exhibit is 'showcased' on p. 36 of this issue.

Dear Friends,

It is my sad duty to report the untimely death of one of our members, Mr. Robin Mix, in late January of 1986. You who are especially interested in Tibet will recall our mention of his article titled "A New Look at the Official Stamps of Tibet," which was reported in POSTAL HIMAL No. 45, p. 6.

On a happier note, we are pleased to report that Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, one of our Life Members, has accepted the appointment as Nepal Representative for our Study Circle. Nepal members may now pay dues through him and contact him for copies of POSTAL HIMAL which may have failed to reach them.

As many of you will recall, we have mentioned the possibility of including Bhutan within our area of interest. One of our members, Nildo Harper, has been corresponding with your editor for more than a year and we are pleased to present him and Bhutan on pp. 34-35 of this issue. It is our intent to publish more on the philately of Bhutan in future issues with the intent of making all of our readers more knowledgeable concerning the postal history of this Himalayan country. And, if you know of Bhutan collectors, we ask that you invite them to join our Study Circle, or request your editor to do so.

Finally, we note seven new members who are listed on the back of the cover page and we welcome them all into our fellowship.

Lester A. Michel

NEW EUROPEAN LIBRARIAN

Our President, Dr. Pierre Couvreur, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Dick van der Wateren -- another of our Life Members -- as his successor in the position of European Librarian for the Study Circle. Library materials have been transferred to Dick, who has prepared a new listing of his holdings. European members should write to Dick for a copy of the listing and for information on the cost of photocopies. Please write to: D. van der Wateren, De Brink 15, 8392 MB Boyl, HOLLAND.



WANTED

PRESTAMP COVERS from 1879-1881 with "Mahasul Chukti", "Mahasul Chuke", and "Mahasul Na Parne" manuscript markings. Also: Large seals on covers up to 1881; important classic stamped covers; classic stamp - Pashupati combination covers; covers with postal seal cancels; unusual Pashupati covers; postally used first type orange postcards; whole collections. Please write, describing items offered. I will purchase and/or trade for items. LEO MARTYN, P.O.Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA 90049, U.S.A.

NORTH AMERICAN LIBRARY

We have learned that the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, USA, have a new charge policy for photocopies of articles. Simply stated, mail order requests for photocopies are: 20¢ per page, with a minimum charge of \$1.50 to persons residing in the USA or in Canada (payment in USA dollars please). Walk in requests for photocopies are 10¢ per page with a \$1.00 minimum. -- They will accept requests for any item in their extensive library, including items listed in the bibliographies for Nepal and Tibet compiled by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl. More detailed information can be obtained by writing to the above address, attention: Roger D. Skinner. Roger and his wife, Jo, donate many hours to the WPL, besides their work in conjunction with the mailing of POSTAL HIMAL, for which your editor is ever grateful.

CAUTION RECOMMENDED!

We have noted an advertisement in the Classified section (Asia 450h, p. 25) of STAMP COLLECTOR for 23 August 1986 offering Nepal material by Rajesh Lodha, GPO Box 3609, Kathmandu, Nepal. This would appear to be the same person who was removed from membership in our Study Circle some two years ago for unethical practices. -- He made a brief appearance at dealer's tables during the first day of AMERIPEX '86 and sold at least one dealer a batch of Tibet Covers -- only one of which turned out to be genuine.

AWARDS AT AMERIPEX '86

(as reported in the philatelic press)

Championship Class: "Cochin - A General Collection" by P. Gupta (India) received a GOLD medal plus a SPECIAL AWARD.

Postal History: "India Letter Markings in Indian Maritime Mail" by P. Gupta (India) did not receive an award.*

Frederik C. J. DeRidder (USA) received a Large SILVER medal for his exhibit titled: "Postal History of Tibet ca. 1860-1960."

Africa, Asia and Oceania: "Nepal - Study of the Settings of the ½, 1, 2 & 4 Annas Kukris Issues of the Classic and the Telegraphic Periods Since 1881" brought a Large GOLD medal to Frank Vignola (USA).**

John A. Young, Jr. (USA) received a Large SILVER medal for his exhibit titled "Classic Stamps of Nepal." His showing started with examples of early courier-carried covers, from 1802 onward through the stamp period, followed by a display of the old classic stamps with examples of various settings exemplified by complete sheets.

Literature - Handbooks: "The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Frank Vignola, entered by Frank Vignola, was awarded a GOLD medal. We understand that Dr. Hellrigl will enter this fine volume in STOCKHOLMIA '86, to be held in Sweden later this year.

Traditional Philately - Americas, Excluding the USA: Although not technically a member of our Study Circle, we must report that Frank's spouse (Mae Vignola) received a SILVER medal for her showing of "Guatemala - Large Numeral Surcharge Provisionals of 1922." We know of no other husband & wife team to have exhibited at AMERIPEX '86 -- each of them outstanding philatelists in their own field. We congratulate Frank & Mae, as well as our other AMERIPEX exhibitors, and your editor begs forgiveness if he has, inadvertently, overlooked any of our members who may have exhibited at AMERIPEX.

*It is with sadness that we report the loss of both of Mr. P. Gupta's outstanding exhibits (along with several others from India) which passed through Canadian customs in a steel trunk, but which disappeared in, or on the way to, Chicago. As of this writing, authorities have no leads on the missing trunk, or its con-

tents. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Mr. Gupta and to other exhibitors from India for their loss and will express the hope that these valuable collections will eventually be recovered. Mr. Gupta's outstanding collection of Cochin, his pride & joy for at least 30 years, was wellknown in international exhibitions and was given the award listed even though the exhibit never reached AMERIPEX. His Postal History exhibit, entered in the competitive class, is a more recent collection and, according to the rules which applied, could not be given an award in absentia.

**Frank Vignola's remarkable Nepal collection has won many awards prior to his success at AMERIPEX. His cover page is, with his permission, as the illustration on the cover of this issue of POSTAL HIMAL and the first page of his exhibit, describing what is to follow, appears as our SHOWCASE feature on the last page of this issue.

At your editor's request, Frank wrote the article which appears on the next page, immediately after returning home from Chicago and I want to thank him for it. -- For those who have asked, I must tell you that Frank is now going through the final preparations for the delicate operation on his other eye -- scheduled for 3 September. We trust that the surgeon will be at his very best and that Frank's eyesight will be much improved by the time the next issue of POSTAL HIMAL goes to press.

OTHER EXHIBITION NEWS

In STAMP COLLECTOR for 28 June 1986, in the regular column titled "Winners' Circle" (p. 23) we read: "At SANDICAL '86, March 22-23, San Diego, CA - San Diego Philatelic Council - A SILVER BRONZE award to Mae Vignola for her exhibit titled "People's Republic of China, 1949-1962." Obviously Mae has broad philatelic interests and is a capable exhibitor in her own right. We suspect that Frank's successes with his Nepal collections must be credited, in part, to his fine spouse!

In the same paper for 16 August 1986, p. 2, we note the following entry: "PIPEX, June 13-15, Victoria, B.C., Canada, Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs." A SILVER award to Vernon Richards for his exhibit titled: "Nepal: The Sri Pashupati Issues," plus the Novice Award. Congratulations, Vernon. A first award is a great thrill.

COMMENTS & OBSERVATIONS RE AMERIPEX '86
 --Frank Vignola

When someone mentions the 'show of the year,' or 'the show of the decade,' or 'the show of the century,' AMERIPEX '86 deserves all of those titles. On the last day of the show it was announced that more than 153,000 had attended the show. The more than 4,000 frames used in the exhibition required walking more than three miles to examine all the remarkable collections. We met dozens of friends attending the show from all parts of the world -- a real pleasure.

The numerous dealers had class material for sale, making collectors wonder how they could come up with such gems. Just a few minutes after entering the show area on opening day I chanced upon a British dealer with a huge envelope of Nepal 2-annas sheets. He was willing to sell the items individually after I told him there were enough Nepal collectors at the show to buy out his entire lot. I was fortunate to get a sheet of the scarce Setting 18, plus one of Setting 20 -- both mint. I also acquired a telegraph-cancelled sheet of the 2-annas, Setting 23, in the rare slate-grey color. These items cleaned out my spending money -- but what great items! -- We spread the news and all of the Nepal collectors were able to purchase great items at very reasonable prices -- all from this particular find. Thus, the collectors and the dealer were all pleased.

Most of the Study Circle members attended AMERIPEX during the first half of the show period. As I best recall, those who attended included Fred de Ridder, Alan Warren, Leo Martyn, Geoffrey Flack, Wolfgang Hellrigl, Armand Singer, John Young, Al Zulueta & myself, of course. John Young's wife, Helen, Armand Singer's wife, Mary, and my wife, Mae, joined the 'gang' on several luncheons and dinners -- all fantastic get-togethers of old friends with similar interests.

Many purchases of good Nepal or Tibet covers and stamps were made by our Study Circle members at the dealer booths, so all of us were quite happy about that.

Our group did very well regarding exhibiting at AMERIPEX '86. -- One sad note was that P. Gupta (from India) had entered two exhibits of India and India

Native States -- one in the competitive class and one in the championship class. They were sent to AMERIPEX through the India Commissioner, but were lost after clearing customs in Canada. As of this date they have not been located. We certainly hope these two exhibits are located soon. I believe Mr. Gupta received his award in the Championship Class even though his exhibit was still lost at this time, but I am not certain about that. If such was the case, it was a most gracious act by the jury, as all Championship Class exhibits receive awards. (See comments on this matter in the report on p. 24.--Ed.)

George Alevizos attended the last two days of the show & I saw him for a few minutes.

Mae and I helped mount exhibits and take down exhibits as part of the "volunteers" group. Between 8:00 AM and 12:30 PM on the day following closing of AMERIPEX '86 all of the 4,000 plus frames of material were taken down and turned over to the 'bin room' to disburse to the exhibitors. We congratulate the workers for their splendid efforts.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EDITOR'S ACCOUNT (for 13-month
 period ending 30 April 1986)

INCOME

Transferred from Colin Hepper	\$474.60
Transferred from Roger Skinner	225.00
Classified Advertising	52.00
Sub-total	\$751.60
Cash at Bank (31 March 1985)	(-49.03)
Total	\$ 702.57

EXPENDITURES

POSTAL HIMAL No. 41 (printing)	\$113.40
42	58.40
43	65.00
44	99.40
45	67.00
Postage	81.95
Miscellaneous Expenses	27.20
Sub-total	\$512.35
Cash at Bank (30 April 1986)	190.22
Total	\$ 702.57

Note: Accounting date was shifted to 30 April (from 30 March) at the suggestion of our Secretary, Colin Hepper. See his report on the last page of Auction List No. 38, enclosed with this issue.

ANOTHER O'SULLIVAN COVER REPORTED

--David R. Innes

I have followed with interest the correspondence of Mr. Rhodes & Mr. Campbell in issues No. 44 & 45 of POSTAL HIMAL, regarding the use of back-stamped Indian stamps on Tibetan mail during the Chinese Occupation period (1910-1912).

I recently acquired a registered cover from this period -- one which has some puzzling features that I hope can be explained by Tibetan specialists in the Study Circle.

The cover comprises the Chinese overprint stamps SG C1 to C5, with the Type C4 Lhasa cancellation and a CR2 registration handstamp on the front. On the back is a Chinese Type C3 cancellation for Yatung (the receiving mark presumably) and three KE VII Indian stamps (SG 149/150) to the value of 2½ annas cancelled with a Type B2 'Yatung Tibet via Siliguri' postmark dated 3rd August 1911. There is also a BR 1 registration label stamped with a Type YB 'Yatung Tibet via Siliguri' handstamp. Finally, there is a Darjeeling arrival datestamp, almost certainly 16th August 1911.

The addressee is Mrs. W. G. O'Sullivan of Darjeeling, who is mentioned in Hellrigl & Hepper's "Native Postmarks of Nepal," page 45, as being the recipient of many of these scarce covers which were posted by her husband. It would seem that Mr. O'Sullivan had a keen eye for a philatelic rarity, being also the originator, some 10 years later, of covers with the scarce 'sun-in-crescent' cancellations of Ghumdang on the ½-anna vermilion Nepal stamps -- the only postally used examples known. Does anyone have information about Mr. O'Sullivan, and why he was in the area during this Chinese Occupation period?

From my reading of the history of Tibet at that time, I understand that British subjects were not allowed to travel beyond the Trade Posts established by treaty during the Younghusband expedition. If the sender of the letter was Mr. O'Sullivan, how was he able to visit Lhasa in 1911? Did he visit by invitation, or did he perhaps arrange for a Tibetan traveller to take the letter to Lhasa and post it on his behalf -- or did he post the letter under cover to the postmaster at Lhasa, with a request to affix the stamps and cancellations?

If one of the latter possibilities is the explanation, this would suggest that the cover is at least partly philatelicly inspired. I am also assuming that 6 As, 3 pies (the combined value of the Chinese stamps) was more than enough for the postage. Having gone to so much trouble to obtain his stamps, I am a little surprised that Mr. O'Sullivan did not spend the little extra to obtain the higher values also. On the other hand, it could be argued that the cover was not produced for purely philatelic reasons: it was not self-addressed, and it probably contained an enclosure -- the envelope is neatly slit open. Perhaps it was his wife who was the philatelist! I would guess that Mr. O'Sullivan was attempting to 'kill two birds with one stone' -- transmitting a message to his wife, and obtaining an interesting philatelic item.

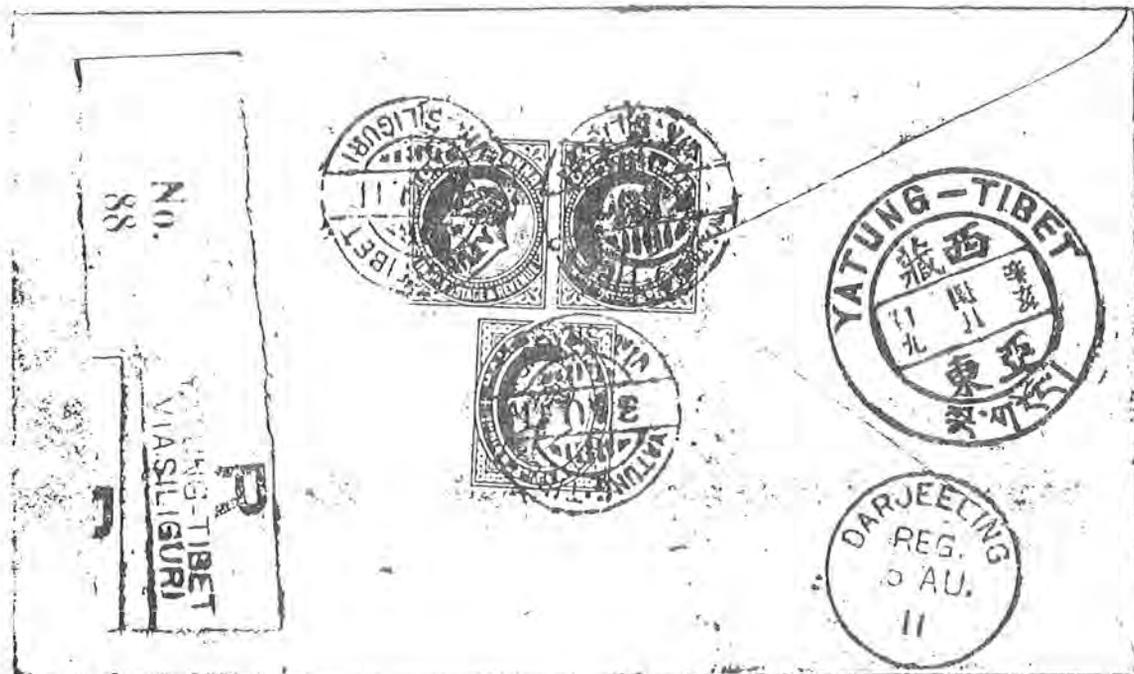
A further thought -- Darjeeling was the exile base of the Dalai Lama and his followers. At such a sensitive time of political unrest in Tibet, is it not surprising that the Chinese authorities allowed mail to travel between Tibet and Darjeeling without censorship?

The question remains: Why did some Chinese P.O. items attract additional foreign postage, and others not? Study Circle member Robert Murray has suggested to me that the 2½ annas charge might be for the registration only, from the Tibet border onwards. Unregistered items would not, therefore, carry additional postage. This suggestion could be easily proved or otherwise if members have similar items in their possession, or have knowledge of Indian postal rates at that time. It occurs to me that this anomaly might have arisen as a result of a policy change on the part of British authorities. Acceptance of Chinese P.O. items without additional postage was a de facto recognition of Chinese sovereignty in Tibet, since China was a member of the UPU, and Tibet was not. This may have escaped notice when the Chinese P.O.'s were set up, but, perhaps prompted by the exiled Tibetans, the political decision may have been taken to reimpose the charge. Can anyone confirm or refute this? Certainly, Waterfall (2nd Ed., page 84) clearly states that combination covers were the rule at this time. (continued on p. 28)

Innes, ANOTHER O'SULLIVAN....(concluded)--

Lastly, can anyone explain how the 2½ As stamps would be paid for by the sender? Did he have to keep a stock of Indian stamps and affix them in advance, or did he arrange to leave money at the border Post Office, -- or did he prepay

postage at Lhasa, the money being transported along with the mail to the border, where the stamps were purchased & affixed? -- Or was there some other, less cumbersome method? (Responses may be sent to the author or to your editor. Please be assured that all responses will be welcome.--Ed.)



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

One of our members, Prof. Dr. Axel Werner, President of Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien, has kindly sent us a copy of INDIEN REPORT No. 46, for March 1986 which contains an article by Prof. Dr. Werner, titled "Spezial-Katalog Der Ganzsachen Nepals 1887-1985 (1. Teil)." This Part One of a projected series deals with the earliest Nepal postal cards. English speaking readers are undoubtedly familiar with the Higgins and Gage catalogue and its entries concerning Nepal postal stationery. In this publication, Prof. Dr. Werner not only considers the early postal cards in detail in a manner we have not seen elsewhere, but also he provides full-sized illustrations of some 22 varieties of these interesting postal items, summarizing much of the information he has acquired in two full-page tables. His discussion ends with a 7-item bibliography. This article should be most valuable to anyone who seriously collects the early Nepal postal cards and we

look forward to the opportunity to report on the following parts of this series.--Ed.

Incidentally, we also noted a one-page article dealing with the Nepal stamp issue of 10.5.85 which was issued both perforated and vertically imperforate. This unusual issuing policy was brought to the attention of our members in POSTAL HIMAL No. 42, p. 11 & No. 43, p. 27.

In a recent issue of STAMP COLLECTOR (an English language philatelic weekly published in the USA) for 12 July 1986, pp. 20-21, we were delighted to find a brief article by George Alevizos, well-known collector and dealer in Central Asian Philately. This particular issue of the newspaper was a "Postal History Special Edition," and George's article is titled: "Exotic Countries Add to Collecting Thrills." Briefly he comments on covers used postally in Nepal, Tibet, Mongolia & Tannu Tuva, treating each separately. The article ends by mention of his literature list.--Ed.

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(Fourth in a series of discussions for beginners and intermediate collectors.)

4. Sripech & Crossed Kukris Issues -- The Four Annas

The 4-annas, the third and largest denomination of Nepal's Sripech & Crossed Kukris issues, follow much the same path over their 50-year history as the 2-annas discussed in the previous instalment of this series. There is, however, one important difference in that all twelve printings (usually referred to as settings) appear in various shades of green. So, unlike the 2-annas, we do not have the degree of color variations as an aid to assigning the various stamps to the three time periods on which this discussion is based. The guides are pretty well limited to paper characteristics, clarity of printing, cancellations where they exist and, to a more limited degree, to the various shades of green.

As with the 2-annas, there are no design changes. The stamps were printed from individual cliches locked into frames, leading to tete-beche pairs when cliches were inserted in the frames upside down. On the whole, the printing quality of the 4-annas, particularly in the earlier years, remained more constant than that of the 2-annas, no doubt because fewer of the highest denomination were printed -- thus less wear and tear on the cliches. Nonetheless, some extremely blurry stamps were printed in the last years of issue.

The suggestions to be laid out for segregating the 4-annas into their three time periods will help the collector create three accumulations based on shades of green, paper, printing clarity, perforations & no perforation and tete-beche pairs. Addition of multiples, where available and affordable, will add to the interest of the accumulations.

First Time Period

The 4-annas, like the other denominations of Nepal's first postage stamps, appeared in 1881. There were only two settings in the first time period (1881-85), both on white wove European paper that is easily identified by its good quality and its closely woven cross-

quality and its closely woven cross-hatch pattern.

The first printing was bright yellow-green, pale green and dark yellow-green; the second, bright yellow-green. The first was pin-perforated with clear to very clear printing. The second is believed to have been imperforate only, with fair to blotchy printing.

Both settings are gummed. Neither has any inverted cliches, thus no tete-beche pairs. Used copies and multiples are rare.

Second Time Period

Nepal switched from European paper to native paper in 1886. The native paper was used for the remainder of the life of the classic issues, with one brief exception noted in the second article of this series. It is readily distinguished from the bond of the original issues by a tendency to be off-white, with fiber strands visible when it is held to the light, particularly under slight magnification.

There were nine settings in the second time period -- 1886-1907. Colors cover a range of greens -- light yellow-green, dark yellow-green, deep yellow-green, bright green, light green and just plain green. Paper throughout the period was thick to thin, much of it of good quality, while printing was clear to very clear.

There was only one inverted cliche in each of the settings (position 54), excepting the first of the period (setting 3). Four annas stamps of the period are available imperforate and pin-perforate.

To assign any given stamp or small multiple to a specific setting is impossible for the average collector. Therefore, we suggest resort to the same stratagems outlined in the previous instalment of this series for the 2-annas of the second time period.

Four annas stamps on native paper with postal cancellations can safely be assigned to the second period. All three of the Sripech & Crossed Kukris denominations were withdrawn from circulation in 1907 when Nepal substituted a new issue with an entirely new design. A few of the classic 4-annas left over in remote post offices may have been used postally after 1907. But, unless they are on cover, there is no way of knowing. They should be assigned to the second time period.

Westbrook, BUILDING.... (continued) --

are on cover, there is no way of knowing. They should be assigned to the second time period.

Thus, a varied collection of postally used 4-annas of the 1886-1907 period can readily be assembled, based on the shades of green, paper & printing quality, tete-beche pairs (scarce), pinperf & imperf, multiples and cancellation varieties.

Decisions concerning mint copies are not quite so simple. When the classic issues were withdrawn in 1907, some remainder stock was stored in the Treasury and the cliches used to print them were not destroyed. In the case of the 4-annas, the cliches were kept intact and were reused as Setting 11 for most of the telegraphic period.

This leaves the collector of the second time period in a position where some arbitrary decisions must be made. There really is no way of distinguishing mint singles and small multiples carried forward from the final years of the second time period from some of those printed from Setting 11 in the very early part of the telegraphic time span. Fortunately for the collector, the quality of paper and printing quickly deteriorated in the third period and the shades of green proliferated. Thus, the pragmatic solution is to assign clearly printed mint copies of the 4-annas to the second time period and blurred copies, many of them on poor quality paper, to the third, or telegraphic era. This may not be foolproof, but one can rationalize that all came from the same setting, and the margin of error should not be appreciable.

Third Time Period

The recall of the classic issues in 1917 inaugurates our third time period. It coincides with the start-up of telegraphic service between Kathmandu and India. Telegrams were prepaid by purchase of stamps -- the recalled classics.

The 4-annas sheets (still Setting 11) continued with just one inverted cliche (position 54) for more than a decade. However, when Setting 12 appeared in 1929, it had four inverts, creating four tete-beche pairs per sheet. And one of the inverts (position 8 in the upper right corner of the sheet) was

upper right corner of the sheet) was not a 4-annas cliche! It was a 1-anna cliche from the last issue of the recut version of that denomination, thus creating one of Nepal's best-known color errors. About 50 complete mint sheets with this error are believed to exist.

Mint copies of the 4-annas of the telegraphic period, except for the early printings as noted above, are not generally difficult to recognize. The poor quality of the printing, which varies from slightly to very blurred, sometimes to an extent entirely obscuring design features is readily evident.

Also, as previously noted, the range of shades of green expanded, including dark green, dull green, grey green, yellow green, bright emerald and bluish green. Paper ranges over thin, medium and thick.

Used copies account for the very great majority of the 4-annas available from the third time period and are easy enough to recognize by their unique telegraphic cancellations. These are described and illustrated in "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Colin Hepper. There are a number of different cancels than can make an important contribution to a collection of the classic issues of the telegraphic period.

Finally, as was the case with the 2-annas, some effort was made to clean the lettering of the 4-annas as the printing became excessively blurred. The cleaning process disfigured the appearance of the lettering. The effectiveness of the cleaning was shortlived, but the so-called "cleaned lettering" printings are of interest in adding variety to a collection of this period.

The 4-annas of the third period also are available imperf and pinperf, the latter being the scarcer of the two. Multiples and sheets bearing the telegraphic cancellations are quite readily available, though at higher cost than comparable 1- and 2-annas material.

Thus, the 4-annas of the third time period provide the material for a varied and quite extensive collection.

Bibliography

(Sources listed at the end of the previous article in this series, POSTAL HIMAL No. 46, Second Quarter 1986.--Ed.)

AUCTION ACTION

--Leo Martyn

George Alevizos held his Sale #54 on 6 May, offering some interesting & rare items from the Himalayan area. The prices listed below include the 10% buyer's premium.

Fifty-three lots of Nepalese items were offered including the following:

A very nice 1881 pin-perf 1a in the rare milky blue shade (H/V #16) with full brownish gum brought \$495.

A very fine 1881 pin-perf 2a (H/V #2) with the major flaw "broken corner" (position 51) with full brownish gum realized \$330.

An extremely fine & fresh 1881 pin-perf 4a (H/V #3) with full brownish gum went for \$605.

Additional very fine 1881 wove papers in the 1a and 2a values, imperf, brought \$165 to \$192.50.

Prices for fine copies of the first issue are up - the 1987 Scott catalogue doubled the prices in the 1986 catalogue for the wove papers (give or take \$5).

A mint block of 14 of the 1898-1907 pin-perf 4a (H/V #22) went for \$660.

A rarely offered used copy of the recut 1a on European wove paper (H/V #25) with an invisible crease brought \$121.

A beautiful mint pair of the 1a on European wove paper (H/V #25a) with position 23 inverted, plus position 24, was knocked down for \$4125.

A complete sheet of the ½a black (H/V #33), setting #10 used on a telegraph form brought \$412.50.

A complete mint sheet of the 1929-30 4a yellow green with the famous 1a substituted cliché (H/V #37a, 43f,g) went for \$742.15.

A complete sheet of the 1929-30 2a sepia with positions 1 & 9 omitted (H/V setting 29) realized #357.50.

A mint never hinged set of the 1907 Pashupati set brought \$38.50.

An imperf corner block of the 1961 Children's Day went for \$110, while a similar marginal pair brought \$66.

An imperf marginal pair of the 1983 5R Birendra realized \$46.20.

A recut 1a on European wove paper (H/V #25) used on a large piece and tied by

the rare "Karnali" cancel (Hellrigl C38) was knocked down for \$550.

An extra fine used ½a postal card (H & G #12) went for \$77.

The Tibet section was represented by 56 lots - all but 12 of the lots were postal history items.

A mint extra fine set of the 1912 issue (all corner copies) realized \$137.50.

A used 1914 8tr in the rare shiny rose-carmine shade (W #95) with small faults brought \$319.

A used 1914 rose pink 8tr on very thin paper went for \$132.

A group of ten Amban covers (including possibly the earliest known usage) from Lhasa to Kathmandu was purchased for \$2860.

A 1910 (ca.) cover to Lhasa franked with China 1c & 2c stamps and showing three different cancels of the very rare small Type C2 realized \$1980.

A 1911 cover to Lhasa f.w. Offices in Tibet 1a/4c and with three different dollar chops went for \$990.

A 1904 Younghusband Expedition envelope to Rawalpindi canceled by clear Field P.O. No. 26 cds with blue manuscript marking "From Chumbi, Tibet Field Force, 23/3/04" realized \$632.50.

A 1906 cover to Mrs. Bailey at Edinburgh with "Oct. 16 Gyantse Tibet Sili-guri Base" circular date stamp and "R Temporary P. O. Y" handstamp brought \$412.50.

A 1915 cover f.w. 1/6tr tied by Lhasa P.O. Type III and with Gyantse and Pelti backstamps realized \$137.50

A 1925 cover f.w. a shiny enamel 2/3tr lake and a pair of the shiny enamel carmine red tied by a bold Lhasa P.O. Type VII circular date stamp went for \$176.

A 1930 India 1a postal stationery envelope to Darjeeling with an additional Tibet 2/3 tr shiny enamel carmine showing the "Potsage" error realized \$297.

A 1933 cover to Kathmandu f.w. a pin-perf ½tr with additional India 1a & 3a brought \$231.

A 1951 Nepal 4p postal stationery envelope to Pharijong with a Tibet 4tr tied by Phari cds and three line directional handstamp and Gyantok cds resulting in a scarce combination and rare routing realized \$275.

Two covers to Prime Minister Ranodip from the Nepalese Vakil at Lhasa (Malikaprashad, 1876-82) with his personal ink seal went for \$231.

Martyn, AUCTION ACTION (concluded)--

An unusual 1924 souvenir view card f.w. India 1/2a & 1a, with blue Everest local to England, violet "Return to Sender" handstamp & "Calcutta Unclaimed" label with manuscript "Tibet" brought \$187.

A complete pad of ten notes of the 1947 ten strang currency with consecutive numbering, mint condition, realized \$385.

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The new George Alevizos schedule calls for a public auction about every six weeks or so plus a Mail Sale occurring about the same time. Items valued at approximately \$150 or more will appear in the public auctions and lesser valued items in the Mail Sales.

His 55th sale occurred on 8 July, with the following selected realizations which include the 10% buyer's premium.

The Bhutan section contained six lots including:

The unissued 1974 "Famous Painting, Reading and Writing" set of 15 values ("probably the rarest set of Bhutan") realized \$132. A similar set, but imperf, brought \$99 and the souvenir sheets, perf & imperf, went for \$132.

A cover collection (1965-1978) of over 200 covers ("nearly all commercial usages") realized \$231.

The Nepal section offered 13 lots including:

An unusual 1917-1930 2a brown purple corner block of 20 (position 19 inverted), "probably setting 21-24," "an extremely rare multiple in unused condition" brought \$522.50.

A telegraphically used sheet of 56 of the 1917-30 2a brown red, H/V setting #26, realized \$165.

A complete sheet of 53 of the 1917-30 2a orange brown, with positions 1, 9 & 49 omitted (H/V setting #31) with various natural thin spots went cheaply at \$100.

A mint block of 44 of the 1917-30 4a yellow green with position #57 inverted, H/V #43f,g, setting 12, brought \$126.50.

A 1905 cover f.w. a 2a grey violet tied by a Taulihawa cancel (Hellrigl C21) realized \$209.

Tibet was the star of the show with 19 lots and some impressive prices.

An unused 1914 4tr mildy blue (bottom margin copy) with a natural printing flaw brought \$242.

An unused 1914 4tr complete sheet in "a remarkably clear printing in a previously unrecorded color" ("bordering on an ultramarine color") realized \$3300.

An unused 1914 8tr complete sheet in a previously unrecorded "shiny ink deep carmine rose" also realized \$3300.

An unused 1933 perf 4tr emerald, the rare cliché #8 "before damage," with a small gum stain, brought \$231.

An unused superb 1945 1/3tr bronze green official went for \$220.

A stampless 1908 blue I-chan cover from the Commercial Trade Commission to the British Trade Agent in Gyantse (F. M. Bailey) including the original 3-foot long letter, realized \$1870.

A 1911 registered (with the rare "R Lhasa" handstamp) red stripe cover to Shanghai f.w. 2a/7c and 2 1/2a/10c (pair) plus additional Indian stamps, brought \$2310.

A 1904 Younghusband Expedition cover to Mrs. Bailey in Edinburgh went for \$357.50.

A group of 33 10c USA aerogrammes (1949-50) sent to the Gorkha Office, P.O. Gyantse, sold for \$1595.

A 1933 cover to New York f.w. imperf 1/2tr and 2/3tr and perf 1tr tied by a Shigatse cds and additional Indian stamps, was knocked down for \$231.

A 1934 airmail cover to New York f.w. a pair of imperf 1/2tr yellow from Setting I tied by a Lhasa Type VII cds and Indian stamps tied by Tyantse cds went for \$176.

A 1934 cover f.w. 2/3tr perf tied by a Phari cds and Indian 1a 3p tied by a Nepal cds sold for \$231.

A curio (ca. 1900 ?) in the form of a large red wax seal affixed to a card with German text sold for \$88.

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FRED De RIDDER IN THE LIMELIGHT

On 22 September 1986, Fred De Ridder will give an illustrated talk on Tibet at the California Collectors Club in San Francisco. -- We also note that Fred's exhibit titled "Postal History of Tibet, ca. 1860-1960," which received a Large SILVER medal at AMERIPEX '86, is one of the "World Series players" in STAmPSHOW '86, as a result of winning the GRAND AWARD at MIDAPHIL '85 in Kansas City -- an award which we had failed to report earlier.--Ed.

BHUTAN - MY FIRST EXHIBIT

--Nildo Harper

(Your editor feels that these excerpts from a letter dated 12 December 1985 are a good way to introduce Bhutan to our members. The excitement of exhibiting for the first time is best communicated in the author's own words.--Ed.)

Well, the NATIONAL '85 (New York City) stamp show is over and boy am I glad. I never imagined that putting together an exhibit would be so much work!! I did procrastinate a little (don't we all?) because of increased work at my job, and consequently, I spent the last two days before the show almost without any sleep trying to finish the two exhibits.

The show was very well attended; the aisles were always crowded with people and the dealers seemed very upbeat. I managed to find a couple of covers from Bhutan, plus a few other odds & ends for my other topics (which are multiplying like rabbits).....

My main interest, of course, was the exhibition area. The exhibits always had mobs of people looking at all the different material. I heard many favorable comments about the Bhutan exhibit -- most appeared pleased, remarking that they had never seen this material postally used. I was proud to help "broaden" people's philatelic outlook a little.

On Saturday at the exhibitor's banquet I was not expecting any awards since I had heard a few comments from the judges about some of the "problems" with both of my exhibits ("Bhutan" and "Self-adhesives"). Imagine my surprise when they announced that I won a SILVER-BRONZE for "Bhutan" and a BRONZE for the "Self-adhesives"!!! I think it is a great start.

Being my first time exhibiting, I feel really good to have won two prizes, but, at the same time, realize that I have so much to learn about exhibiting!! I attended the judges critique after the banquet (which is sort of a requirement), where each exhibitor has the opportunity to ask the judges why they won what they won and how to improve it for the next time around. I'll outline some of the faults that the judges pointed out and some of the ones I can see myself.....

First of all, I should have studied the Exhibitor's Manual prepared by the APS -- I went into this whole experience without any guidance and without advice

on how to set the whole thing up. A couple of people (including the Exhibition chairman for the show) had graciously volunteered to help me, but we were not able to set up a time where we could sit down and work together.

The big complaint was that there was TOO MUCH writing!! I had done a lot of research, especially for the Bhutan exhibit, and found it impossible to really cut down the writing -- I just had too much to say! Most of the writing was really unnecessary to show off the stamps (which should have been my main goal, but which I sort of missed). The exhibit turned out to be a mini history of the country and this should not be its primary purpose.

The second big complaint was that the exhibit lacked a focus, which is true. The exhibit contained bits of postal history, proofs, mint stamps, topical, and quite a few things in between -- I tried to trace the "history" of the Bhutan postal service since its inception in 1962 -- an undertaking which turned out to be too broad. I think next time I will concentrate on showing the development of the postal service, with the opening of each new post office & the different mail routes. That should narrow it down a bit.

Thirdly, the pages were very crowded with too much in the exhibit overall. Besides the large amount of writing, the large number of covers and/or stamps on each page didn't help either. Another big complaint was the mounts -- I didn't know anything about mounting & unfortunately used the black-backed mounts -- a real no, no (the judges call these the "mourning mounts"). The clear mounts are much better so that the stamps and covers "LEAP OUT" at the viewers.

Overall, the judges were very positive and supportive in their critique. I was absolutely petrified to ask any questions, but their warm responses really encouraged me. Their main praise was that this material has not been exhibited before at a national show. They had never seen any of these stamps postally used on covers and were very impressed with the amount of covers in the exhibit. One aside: I had been admonished by some of the other exhibitors that I was not exhibiting what the judges wanted to see. True, I was stubbornly exhibiting what I liked, which meant that I was probably not going to win anything (but by some fluke of luck
(concluded on p. 35)

Harper, BHUTAN.....(concluded)--

I did). Next time I will try to balance a little more carefully what the judges want to see with what I want to exhibit -- but I will not spend my time and energy trying to please the judges. I will try to conform better to the established rules.....

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BHUTAN - A BRIEF POSTAL HISTORY
--Nildo Harper

China's takeover of neighboring Tibet in 1959 prompted Bhutan's decision to assert her independence, encourage development & begin the first of the 5-year plans in 1961. Part of this plan was the inauguration of a modern postal system with post offices throughout the country and a regular postage stamp program.

Most of the stamps of Bhutan are denounced as non-postal stamps and are black-blotted by some catalogs. In fact, all these stamps are, and have been since the day of issuance, valid for postage nationally & internationally and are normally used for their intended purpose.

Postal fiscal (revenue) stamps were issued sometime in 1954. Printed by the Security Printing Plant at Nasik, India, by offset in quantities unknown, they were approved for postage on 1 January 1955. These postal fiscals had no postal validity outside of Bhutan.

Before 1962, all letters going outside the country were carried through the Ha Valley to Yatung, Tibet, and from there to Lhasa or south into India and the rest of the world. India and China both maintained post offices in Yatung where their respective stamps were affixed for onward carriage. Mail was also carried from Bhutan through the mountain passes near Gasa Dzong and Lingshi Dzong further north. Most of the mail of this period is addressed to Bhutan House at Kalimpong (the first town in the Teesta Valley inside INDIA).

The cover shown below was cancelled on the third month (April), the 25th day. There is not entry for the year. The Chinese stamp was cancelled at Yatung on 7 May 1956 and backstamped at Kalimpong on 9 May.

The "native" Bhutan cancellation on the Bhutan stamp has the Tibetan year

symbols (the Bhutanese calendar is modelled after the Tibetan lunar calendar) at the top &, at the bottom, the symbols designating "month" & "day" with space for ink entries there.



These first stamps were issued in Tibetan currency -- trangka & sang -- with values: 1(blue), 2(red), 4(green) and 8(orange). The equivalent in modern values are 25 and 50 chetrum & 1 and 5 Ngultrum (the Bhutanese currency is at par with the Indian rupee).

On October 10, 1962, the first definitives were issued, denominated in Bhutan's new decimal currency (chetrum & Ngultrum). However, the coins and banknotes were not available until sometime in 1966. The stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., London, by offset lithography on unwatermarked white wove paper; perforated 14 x 14½.

(to be continued)

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Mr. S. L. Shrestha, our new NEPAL Representative for the Study Circle, has provided us with a copy of the Philatelic Services brochure of the Bhutan Post Office. This informative publication, together with a listing of stamps and related philatelic material currently available, may be obtained by writing to:-

Philatelic Manager
Philatelic Bureau
Phuntsholing, BHUTAN

SHOWCASE

NEPAL

THE KUKRIS ISSUES, 1881-1930

THIS ORIGINAL RESEARCH EXHIBIT IS A STUDY OF THE NUMEROUS SETTINGS OF THE 1, 2 AND 4 ANNAS BRIPECH AND CROSSED KUKRIS ISSUES AND THE 1/2 ANNA BOW AND ARROW AND UNCROSSED KUKRIS ISSUES OF THE CLASSIC AND THE TELEGRAPHIC PERIODS.

THE SETTING NUMBERS USED THROUGHOUT THE EXHIBIT ARE BASED ON THE BOOK, "THE CLASSIC STAMPS OF NEPAL", CO-AUTHORED BY W. C. HELLRIEGL AND THE EXHIBITOR, PUBLISHED IN 1984.

EACH VARIATION IN THE NUMBER AND POSITION OF INVERTED CLICHES, OR IN THE TRANSFER OF CLICHES, OR IN MARGINAL SHEET INSCRIPTIONS, OR IN SHEET FRAMELINES QUALIFIES AS A SEPARATE SETTING.

INCLUDED IN THE EXHIBIT ARE STAMPS CANCELLED WITH THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLASSIC PERIOD OBLITERATORS, AND ALSO COVERS ILLUSTRATING THE POSTAL RATES OF THAT ERA. FOR INLAND MAIL THE LETTER RATE WAS 1 ANNA, FOR REGISTERED MAIL THE RATE WAS 5 TO 7 ANNAS, AND THE OFFICIAL LETTER RATE WAS 1/2 ANNA.

THE EXHIBIT CLOSSES WITH A REPRESENTATION OF THE SETTINGS OF THE KUKRIS ISSUES OF 1917-1930 WHEN STAMPS WERE VALID FOR TELEGRAPHIC USAGE ONLY.



THE ACTUAL 4 ANNAS STAMP WHICH WAS DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST ARTICLE INTRODUCING THE FIRST ISSUE OF NEPAL. IT APPEARED IN "THE PHILATELIC RECORD" OF NOVEMBER, 1881.