POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



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COVER ILLUSTRATION: A reproduction of PLATE 68 in a book by Rosemary Tung, depicting one stage (the drying process) in the 'cottage industry' of papermaking in Tibet. See comments on the cover illustration in POSTAL HIMAL No. 49 (1st Quarter 1987) for more information on this interesting book. The following paragraph (p. 96) relates to the cover illustration for this issue: "The Tibetans even made their own paper -- and several grades of it at that. Papermaking was a cottage industry, often one perfected by women. In Lhasa, Tolstoy saw a woman making paper outdoors. She had first boiled a mixture including the ground roots of a shrub (daphne) and recycled shreds of paper and bits of thread. When the brew was the consistency of a thin paste, she spread it on drying frames that could be tilted at just the proper angle to the sun. When it had dried, it was peeled off the frames -- and there was paper for writing letters and wrapping important packages."

No. 51

Dear Friends.

Dr. Hellrigl has answered my letter requesting his aid in arranging meetings of the Study Circle at future FIP World Exhibitions. He states that he is very much in favour of such meetings, but he also points out that, in his experience, few members of our Circle attend such shows -- not enough to justify a room reservation. He proposes the following solution: "Since I shall stay during the entire duration of both HAFNIA and PRAGA. I am prepared to host any informal meeting of the Study Circle. If a certain attendance was guaranteed (i.e., if at least 3 or 4 other members would definitely attend), we could think about reserving a room. If no such attendance was likely, then I would try to arrange a get-together of interested collectors, but without reserving a special room.

"I must once more stress the point that INDIA '89 and LONDON '90 are definitely different proposals since either show will attract at least a dozen Study Circle members. In these cases, a formal meeting is a "must" and a special room will have to be arranged for."

We remind you that Richard Hanchett, one of our Life Members, has generously offered to underwrite the cost of a special room at any such World Exhibition, so it is up to the rest of us to let Dr. Hellrigl, or your editor, know of your plans to attend one of these events. Your editor has already begun the process of arranging for a Study Circle meeting at INDIA '89 and has received a cordial and enthusiastic response from Mr. D. N. Jatia concerning our plans. Most large exhibitions require much advance planning and the earlier we make our plans known the more likely we are to get a listing in the advance publicity material. So it is time to begin planning and we ask each of you to let us know of your plans as far in advance as possible. -- Note the complete list of such shows on p. 20 through 1990.

Jim Booth handles the mailing of the Tibet slide show prepared by Alan Warren and reports that, as of this time, it has been sent to 14 individuals and groups. At present it is available only in the USA at the cost of mailing and insurance. He has generously offered to handle the Nepal slide show when it becomes available. Watch for news!

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\$1.00 One insertion, per line 3.50 Four insertions, per line To calculate the number of lines your ad will require, count 39 characters per line -- including all letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. Ads will be placed under appropriate headings as needed. See the Classified Ad section in the final pages of any issue of The AMERICAN PHILATELIST for typical ad headings, or simply send your own ad, asking the editor to place it under an appropriate heading.

DEADLINE: Ad and payment in USA dollars, must reach the editor by the first day of one of the following months -- February, May, August, November -in order for ad to appear in issues mailed about one month later. Any change of copy after the first insertion will count as a new ad.

Example advertisement:

WANTED

NEPAL TELEGRAMS wanted, preferably with stamps affixed. Write, describing items offered, including date of usage, type of cancel, stamps and price. Lester Michel, 309 Yucca Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906-2150, USA

Charge for this sample ad would be: For one entry, $6 \ge $1.00 = 6.00 For four entries, $6 \ge $3.50 = 21.00

BHUTAN WANTED: Any specialty material modern commercial covers, postal-fiscal covers, pre-stamp material, proofs, essays, original drawings, etc. No mint stamps, please. Write with offer; all letters will be answered. Nildo Harper, 510 Main Street, Apt. 1910, Roosevelt Island, New York, NY 10044, U.S.A.

I am sorry to report that Frank Westbrook, the author of our series titled "Building a Nepal Collection" has lost his wife. He is rebounding nicely from this untimely blow and is vigorously resuming his publicity work on behalf of the Circle.

Ted Miller reports that the USA House of Representatives has passed a bill condemning human rights abuses in Tibet. He thanks all who wrote letters of support.

Lester A. Michel

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EXHIBITION NEWS

Alan Warren decided to enter his Tibet exhibit in a number of shows this year. receiving a GOLD at SARAPEX, another GOLD at SANDICAL, a SILVER at ROPEX, a VERMEIL at the PLYMOUTH show and a SILVER at NOJEX. Alan comments on his experiences: "I felt good about the Sarasota show, for Bill Bauer was on the jury and Bud Hennig was jury chairman. At NOJEX I attended the critique and was told by George Guzzio that I "should get one of those Dalai Lama covers that come up in George Alevizos auctions". One of the NOJEX jury members is a personal friend, and he told me aside that my exhibit suffered because the jury didn't understand what they were looking at. All of the above shows were APS accredited, so I'm glad it made a fairly good showing. It's the wide range in levels that is disturbing."

(Alan's experience is not new to those of us who have exhibited. The solution is for more of us to exhibit and get involved in judging, as well. -- Congratulations, Alan, and to all who exhibited at CAPEX '87.--Ed.)

FUTURE FIP WORLD EXHIBITIONS

Name	Cities	Dates
HAFNIA '87	Copenhagen	Oct. 16-25
FINLANDIA '88	Helsinki	June 1-12
PRAGA '88	Prague Au	g.26-Sep.4
INDIA '89	New Delhi	Jan. 20-29
BULGARIA '89	Sofia	May 21-30
PHILEXFRANCE '89	Paris	July 7-17
STAMP WORLD LONDO	N '90	May 3-13
NEW ZEALAND 1990	Auckland, A	ug.24-Sep.2





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We will be glad to send a complimentary copy of our Public Auction and/or Mail Sale catalogs to members of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Please let us know which catalog you desire.

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BUILDING A NEPAL COLLECTION --F. A. Westbrook, Jr.

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

The Sri Pashupati Issues -- Part II:

The last instalment of this series discussed the first three printings of the Sri Pashupati (Siva) stamps, printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. of London. Need for a fourth issue arose in 1941, with World War II raging in Europe. Since stamp shipments from London were highly uncertain, Nepal decided to print them locally.

The result was another specialist's dream. First, a clumsy start produced unusable stamps. A second start was more successful, followed by a proliferation of printings, shades and colors; a host of perforation errors; a variety of papers and watermarks; and shifts & changes in marginal sheet inscriptions.

This should not discourage the beginner. On the contrary, it provides him with the opportunity to dress up his Siva collection with many readily recognizable varieties to be examined as we move forward with this discussion.

The collector also is fortunate in the availability of an invaluable aid: Colin Hepper's "Sri Pashupati Stamps of Nepal" printed by The Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. This prolifically illustrated and definitive work covers all four of the Siva issues in detail.

Having decided to natively print the fourth issue, Nepal postal officials first tried to use the old Perkins, Bacon plates. But due to improper inking of the plates, the resulting stamps were unusable. The idea was abandoned, but a limited number of collector's items survived. The stamps of the two, four, eight and sixteen pice values were printed from the Perkins, Bacon plates, but the faulty technique resulted in stamps that are well described by the name under which they became known -- "negatives." Indeed, they were long believed to be forgeries, but more recent research has proved them to be genuine, all-be-it an effort gone wrong.

The so-called "negatives" are not often seen on the market, but are nonetheless obtainable with a little patience. The colors are: 2 pice, black; 4 pice, green; 8 pice, red and the 16 pice, slate grey.

The Second Try -- Success

Following this fiasco, large blocks of the Perkins, Bacon 1935 issue were photographed and printing plates made from the photographic negatives. The two, four and eight pice denominations initially were printed in sheets of 40 stamps, but were soon reduced to 36. The sixteen, twenty-four and thirty-two pice values were produced in sheets of 28. The one rupee was reprinted in sheets of 25 from the 1930 issue, as it was not produced in 1935. The five rupee value was not natively printed, there being no need for it.

The question arises: How are the native printings to be differentiated from the Perkins, Bacon stamps of 1935, and, in the case of the one rupee, from the 1930 stamps? The problem is that the native date blocks are the same as the corresponding Perkins, Bacon date blocks. With a little practice one can pretty well tell the difference by the general appearance of the stamps. With a few exceptions the quality of the native stamps is inferior to the earlier issues, but the sure way is by measuring the perforations. The Perkins, Bacon stamps are perforated 1312, whereas the native printings are perforated 11 and 12. Of course, the date blocks must correspond with those of the 1935 issue, excepting the one rupee which carries the 1930 date blocks.

The native issues were printed on a range of European paper of the best quality available at the time -- which was not always the best. It varies from thick to thin, most of it white or cream wove paper, with occasional use of white or cream laid paper. Stamps on laid paper carry a premium.

As the Sivas were printed from plates rather than cliches, as was the case with the classic issues, there are no tete-beche pairs, but frequent perforation errors take their place as collectibles. They range from fully imperforate sheets, to sheets perforated only vertically or horizontally, to sheets imperforate only between two (concluded on next page) Westbrook, BUILDING (concluded) --

rows of stamps -- imperforate between. One or more of these errors are to be found in all the native printings.

Printing Variations

Virtually all the native Siva printings have one or more sub-varieties due to paper and shade variations and differences in marginal inscriptions on the sheets. The inscriptions, however, are the concern only of the collector building an album of sheets, wherefore we leave them out of this discussion. Shades, on the other hand, are of immediate concern.

As we have seen, the fourth Siva issue included seven values with colors as follows:

The two pice: shades of pale to dark brown, deep chocolate and sepia. Included is a color error -- two pice stamps printed in pale to deep green. This is the only major color error, but nonetheless quite plentiful.

The four pice: pale to dark green, yellow green and bright green. It can be distinguished from the two pice green error by the value blocks at the extreme right and left sides of the stamps.

The eight pice: pale to deep carmine and rose red.

The sixteen pice: Various shades of brown. This is an instance in which the Nepalese were unable to approximate the color (purple) of the 1935 Perkins, Bacon stamps. Again, look at the value blocks to distinguish it from the two pice brown.

<u>The twenty-four pice</u>: constant orange. <u>The thirty-two pice</u>: shades of pale to dark blue.

The one rupee: pale to deep vermillion.

As noted, there only were two or three printings of the sixteen pice and higher values, which no doubt accounts for the more constant color of these denominations. On the other hand, the two, four and eight pice stamps were produced in ten or more printings each, providing more opportunity for shade proliferation.

Collecting the Native Sivas

All this says that the native Sivas, like the classic issues, provide a large amount of collectible material, as well as some difficulties. We start with the latter. Without full sheets, it virtually is impossible for any but the most sophisticated to attempt to assign singles and multiples to their respective printings, with the exception of the two pice green error, which belongs to the first two pice printing. The keys to determination of printings are in the marginal inscriptions on full sheets.

Therefore, it is suggested that the beginner, and indeed, the intermediate collector, forget about specific printings and base his natively printed Siva collection on an assemblage of as many shades as possible of the seven values. This can include mint and postally and telegraphically cancelled singles and multiples. Such a basic collection can be broadly expanded with a host of readily recognizable material. For example, stamps on white and cream wove and laid paper. Covers bearing the native Sivas are plentiful, often available franked with multiple denominations, adding a rainbow of color to album pages. And multiples telegraphically cancelled on telegram forms, or parts thereof, will complement the cover collection. Perforation errors can be displayed in pairs and/or multiples. And it may not be too ambitious to aspire for an occasional sheet. The last printings of the two pice, particularly, are available in sheets at modest price.

This concludes the discussion of the Sri Pashupati stamps, which, with the classic issues, span 74 years of Nepal's postal history. It is perhaps of note that the last of the Sivas overlapped Nepal's first pictorial issue, with which the next instalment of this series will start.

Bibliography

"The Sri Pashupati Stamps of Nepal" by Colin Hepper, published by The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1982).

"The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Colin Hepper and Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, also published by The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1978).

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalog, Part 21, Southeast Asia, Second Edition (1985).



EARLY USAGE OF COMMUNIST MAIL IN TIBET --Armand E. Singer

In answer to the "Showcase" picture in PH (2nd Quarter 1987, p. 18) and N. G. Rhodes' note that occasioned it, I add the following information to his dates (26.3.1954 and Waterfall's 2.10.54) and queries. My own remarks result from an extensive collection of over a hundred covers, from the early fifties up to the late sixties, sent from a large number of towns, with strength in Gyantse, Lhasa, Phari, Shigatse and Yatung, plus notes and photos of material held elsewhere. I can make no claim to originality or completeness.

In some respects H. D. S. Haverbeck's "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet," 2nd ed. (New York: Collectors Club, 1958) has more information on the early material than Arnold Waterfall's more widely used "Postal History of Tibet," 2nd ed. (London: Robson Lowe, 1981), pp. 51-67. Both credit C. W. Chiu's research in his "Chiu's Supplement," Vols. 4 & 5. These invaluable little mimeographed brochures could be obtained from a philatelic library, but Haverbeck will serve quite nicely. I excerpt pertinent data from his pp. 71-75. The Chinese "liberated" Tibet by May 1951. Soon after, they instituted a postal system of motorized "runners" along the old silk road through Chamdo and Ta-Tsien-Lu, for stampless official and military mail only. By late 1952, the service was made available to soldiers and Chinese living in Tibet. On 5 March 1952 [Scott gives March 15], the Chinese issued the "Liberation of Tibet" pictorial set [Scott #132-35], only occasionally found on Tibet mail. The first post offices were opened in Chamdo and Lhasa. In 1956, a mobile post office was opened but it was closed by March 1957 owing to native revolts that made the roads unsafe. Space precludes my repeating more details here, and interested students must go directly to Haverbeck and Waterfall, and ideally to Chiu as well.

If the system should result in communiques going back to 1951, I have seen reference to no such early examples. Waterfall (p. 51) notes that G. S. Russell reports a Hongma cover, 24 Oct. 1953, military # 43060, and Theo Klewitz another from Shigatse, # 48266, type M.1 (but Waterfall gives no date). As Rhodes repeats, Waterfall gives 2.10.54 as the earliest regular civilian use of Lhasa, type C5. Additionally, Waterfall mentions Lhasa, type Cll, March 1954 (he lists no day); Shigatse, Jan. 1955 (no day), again C5; Yatung, C7, July 1954 (no day) and Cll, April 1955 (no day). No dates earlier than 1955 are given for any other towns. I assume Waterfall's "2.10" means Oct. 2 and not Feb. 10, as he seems to give all his citations, day before month. For what it is worth, however, I have a cover sent from Lhasa to Fulda, Germany, with the Chinese registry receipt still attached, dated 54.2.10. The registry receipt is 54.2.11, and the arrival date in Fulda is 10.5.54 (the German system being to put the day first, and eight months being a bit long, one can assume 10.5 equals May 10; 2.10 and 2.11 obviously could not be Oct. 2 and Nov. 2). Haverbeck's illustrations show the Chinese dates given both ways, most of them month first.

The same Mr. Tuladhar (see PH, p. 18) sent a cover to Mr. Haverbeck dated 54. 2.16, Lhasa C5, over a month earlier than the one in Mr. Rhodes' collection. Inside it is a letter to Haverbeck which reads in part, "Dear friend. To-day I have sent you one cover for your use as your request. The is use only in Chinese P.O. and use in east in Tsyamdo [Chamdo?]. And one mint stamp set [the four "Liberation of Tibet" pictorials?]. . . . I have buyed some mint stamp of Tibetan (Revenue stamp) stamp sheet. And I want to sell them in fixed price." (Brackets = my remarks, but above parentheses are Tuladhar's.) The letter is not dated but the ink is identical with that on the cover, which did not, by the way, go to the U.S.A. It is marked "10cal" and is addressed to Tuladhar himself. Doubtless it was enclosed within another cover and sent at the same time to Haverbeck. Possibly the whole shipment went in one envelope; it is hard to be sure, Tuladhar's English not being letter-perfect. Parenthetically, the cryptic remark about the revenue stamp might refer to the rare, large three-sang red, never seen in a sheet, to my best knowledge, or to one or another of the so-called officials that are known in sheets, though Haverbeck himself never called them "revenues" in either of his two handbooks.

My own data and notes fill out the picture somewhat. First, remember that if Singer, EARLY USAGE (concluded) --

the "liberation: issue dates from March 1952, use of Chinese cancelled mail should begin slightly earlier or later than that date. I have not seen or heard of any such covers, however. Other fairly early covers of mine show the following dates and cancel types: Lhasa 54.11.19, with a later type cancel; Gyantse 55.5.30; Pharijong 55.4.10; Shigatse 55.5.18; Yatung 55.9.8; Mobile P.O. 56.5.28. My many other examples are almost all later, and none of the less well-known towns sets any of these dates back of 1955.

George Alevizos at one time built a splendid Tibet collection (later sold by private treaty, not to me). I do have photocopies of its contents and note a stampless military cover sent from Tibet to Shanghai via Chungking dated by George 53.8.20 (the "53" is quite clear; the rest is difficult to decipher from the photocopy), and a 1952 cover, sent from Malaysia to Lhasa via Gyantse, addressed to Tuladhar, which George notes as "the earliest recorded civilian Chinese Tibetan marking." The Malay date is 21 JUN 52, with a Chinese C5 arrival cancel in Lhasa 52.8.4. Actually, the "52" could read "53," but the former makes far better sense.

Somewhere out there must exist more and better examples of 1952 and 1953 (1951?) usage of the stamps and/or killers. We all need to report them to PH.

ANOTHER RESPONSE TO N. G. RHODES --Kurt H. Dahnke

At this time I have not checked the other PO's with my "first days" from Lhasa, where my earliest is 27.3.54. I would guess that the opening date for the Lhasa PO would have been at least one month earlier. Reason: I have one letter addressed to me from Lhasa, dated 54.4.21, with registration number 1044. I do not believe that, within one month, more than 1000 registered letters would have been posted. I have another letter (date not precisely readable (53?.2.23-see photocopy below) with a stamp from the 3rd issue (the "Gate of Heavenly Peace") according to the Michel catalogue. The 4th issue appeared in Dec. 50 and the 5th issue in April 1951, so 1954 seems to me to be a very late use of a stamp of the 3rd issue, but that is conjecture on my part.

Mr. Hevelbeck.

bear friend. Jo-day I have sent you one cover for your use as your request. The is use only inclinese 0.0. and use in east if isyands. And one mint stamp set. I hope it is useful for you collection I will give you some trouble. It you wish please help me. I have buyi some mint stamp of Jobeten (Revenue stamp) stamp sheet. and I want sell them in fixed price. Can you help me? If possible place write me. I will send you them. Yours over since shy Rian Fulsalla.

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Photocopy (reduced in size) of Tuladhar letter to Haverbeck, quoted in middle of second column on page 23.

POSTAL LINKS

(The title above, and this brief article, were gleaned from a newspaper, CHINA DAILY for Tuesday, August 11, 1987, by Ted Miller and passed on to us by Roger Skinner. Our thanks go to both.--Ed.)

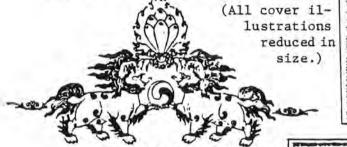
KATHMANDU - The number of Nepal's post offices has increased by 10 times to 1,992 over the poast 25 years, reaching the level of one post office cover ing 73 Square kilometres and serving 8,835 people, local newspapers reported.

At present, Nepal has one general post office, 74 district post offices, 428 sub-post offices and 1,489 additional post offices at town and township levels.

International postal links in the country have been expanded. In 1960, Nepal had only international postal service with India. But so far it has had direct postal links with 22 foreign countries and is a member of the World Postal Association and the Asian-Pacific Postal Union.

ILLUSTRATIONS RELATING TO SINGER ARTICLE TITLED "EARLY USAGE OF COMMUNIST MAIL IN TIBET"

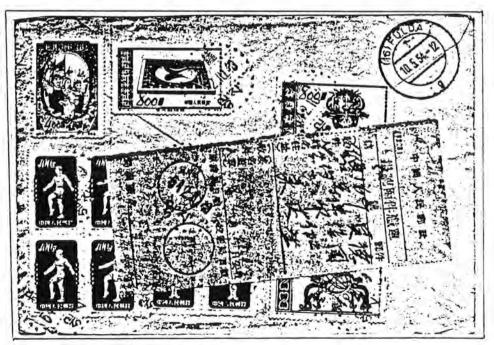
A cover which travelled to China by "Tibet Mobile Post via Chengtu" (note handwritten confirmation in lower right corner and receiving cancel dated 56 5 28. The Chinese stamp is Scott No. 267 (8f), issued 15 December 1955. See discussion on page 23, lower half of first column.



A cover which carried a letter, reproduced, but reduced in size, at upper right on p. 24. It is addressed to Pratek Man Tuladhar and marked "Local", with date in postmark clearly reading 54.2.16. Cover is referred to in lower half of second column on p. 23. The Chinese stamps are Scott Nos. 133 & 134 - issued 15 March 1952 - and, No. 184 (x 2)- issued 20 May 1953. See discussion on page 23, lower half of second column.

Back of a cover which carried a registered letter from Lhasa to Fulda, Germany. Note receiving cancel dated 10.5.54 and registration receipt attached. This cover is discussed in detail on page 23, upper half of right column. Stamps issued in June 1952 and 1953, plus December 1953 paid the postage \$7600 (yuan).





A REPORT ON THE STUDY CIRCLE MEETING -LONDON, 4th JUNE, 1987 --Colin Hepper

The first meeting of the Study Circle in London since the 1980 International, took place on 4th June, with an all day meeting split between two venues. It was a disappointing attendance, with 5 UK members, C. Hepper, D. Bates, G. Rosamond, J. Wright and B. Lucas, who were joined by Pete Planken and Dick van der Wateren from Holland, plus Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl.

Derek Bates was the star attraction in the morning session held at the new British Philatelic Centre, with a very fine display of Tibet which covered every aspect of collecting this fascinating country.

Mid-day took us to a very hospitable lunch at a local tavern where we were able to use an upstairs room where we discussed our favourite topics.

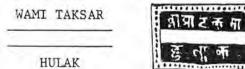
The afternoon was the highlight of the day when we were able to view the superb collection of Classic Issues of Nepal of Wolfgang Hellrigl at the Royal Philatelic Society. Included was a recent purchase of the largest known block of the -anna orange, and many full sheets and large blocks. In addition to this we were able to examine some of the early covers from 1800 which were quite outstanding.

The day was completed when Wolfgang received his medal for giving the exhibition from John Levett, President of the Royal Philatelic Society.

One final note, is to thank Peter Planken and Dick van der Wateren for making the long, tiring journey from Holland.

A PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED SEAL CANCELLATION --Colin Hepper

Mr. Madan Bahadur Shrestha has recently sent details of a seal cancellation not previously recorded in the 'Postmarks' book -- that of Wami Taksar Hulak, which has been seen on covers used in 1951.



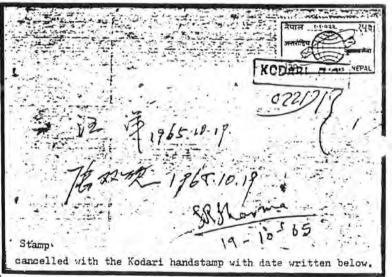
The illustration shows an example of this seal cancel used on a registered

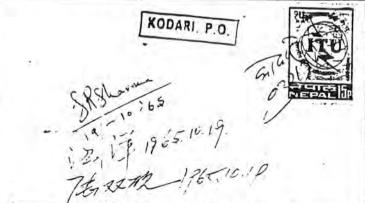
cover, hand dated 2008-11-14 B.S.(ca. late February 1952), sent from Palpa to the Governor Rudra Shumsher, Seto Tole, Kathmandu, with the transit mark of Ridi.



KODARI POST OFFICE --Colin Hepper

Illustrated (half size) are two covers used on the opening day of the Kodari Post Office on the border between Nepal & Tibet (China). Both are signed & dated by a Nepali & two Chinese of the official 19-10-1965 A.D. (2022/7/3 B.S.) staff:





Cover pen cancelled with the additional Kodari handstamp

CAPEX '87 --Frank Vignola

The spacious Metro Convention Center in downtown Toronto, Canada, was the scene of the CAPEX '87 World Philatelic Exhibition, June 13th through June 21st. Though below expectations, attendance was over 42,000; but the dealers reported that they did quite well at the show.

Among those attending CAPEX '87 who are members of the Study Circle or who are known by them, besides my wife, Mae and I, were Armand and Mary Singer, Hardyal Singh Gupta (the Commissioner from Nepal), Nildo Harper, Vernon Richards, Richard Hanchett, D. N. Jatia, M. C. Sukhani, R. K. Lodha, Geoffrey Flack, Richard Drew and Derek Pocock (the Commissioner from Australia) with his wife, Carol. No doubt there were others in attendance, but those listed are the ones we saw.

At 2:00 PM on the first Sunday of the CAPEX '87 show, a number of us gathered in front of the Nepal exhibits and chatted awhile and held an informal meeting of the Study Circle. Included in this group were my wife, Mae, and I, Armand Singer and his wife, Mary, Hardayal Singh Gupta, Vernon Richards, Richard Hanchett and Richard Drew. After viewing the exhibits made by Study Circle members, most of the group adjourned to our hotel room in the adjacent L'Hotel where we all thoroughly enjoyed a slide program showing Armand Singer's fabuous Tibet collection which he expertly described with choice bits of sly humor thrown in to keep us alert. It was the best philatelic slide program I have ever viewed, thanks to the contents and quality of the slides and the excellent verbal presentation by Armand.

Around 5:30 PM the informal meeting was adjourned and the Vignolas and the Singers went out to dinner before returning to L'Hotel for further visiting as we have been good friends since the 1960s. By 9:30 PM the Singers departed and a wonderful day came to an end.

The dealers had material available for sale for all of us and we were willing to buy Nepal or Tibet or Bhutan material for our collections at prices ranging from normal to high -- but mostly high, as is usual at international shows. Judging at CAPEX '87 was extremely tough -- much tougher than at recent internationals, including Ameripex '86. Why the sudden change in award-level judging without advance warning to the exhibitors is unknown to me, but I understand that most of the exhibitors received awards from one to three levels below what they had received in previous internationals, even though they had worked hard improving their exhibits for the CAPEX '87 competition.

The awards presented in the competitive classes, other than the Championship Class but including the Literature Class were as follows:

LARGE GOLD	33	LARGE SILVER	133
GOLD	102	SILVER	107
LARGE VERMEIL	148	LARGE BRONZE	107
VERMEIL	127	BRONZE	63

All of the Study Circle members who exhibited received awards from the above listing as follows:

- LARGE GOLD to Frank Vignola for "Nepal, The Kukris Issues, 1881-1930."
- GOLD to Frank Vignola (Literature Class) for the Hellrigl/Vignola book "The Classic Stamps of Nepal."
- LARGE VERMEIL to Hardayal Singh Gupta for "The Classic Stamps of Nepal, 1881-1918-1930."
- SILVER to Prashant Arora for "A Study of Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery of Nepal."
- SILVER BRONZE (Youth Class) to Jeetendra P. Singh Gupta for "Used Postal Stamps and Postal Covers of Nepal."

In summary, CAPEX '87 was a most pleasant international to attend. Held in beautiful Toronto, Canada, the pace of the show was relaxed, the exhibits were outstanding, the Canadian hosts were a pleasure to meet. There was good material available to purchase from the dealers, there were society meetings to attend, and there were friends from throughout the world with which to renew acquaintances. And last but certainly not the least, the Study Circle was very much in evidence at CAPEX '87, both in membership attendance and in competitive exhibiting. (We note that Mae Vignola received a BRONZE for her "Guatemala" at CAPEX -- and we congratulate all Study Circle members who exhibited.--Ed.)

A POSTCARD TO PROFESSOR SYLVAIN LEVI --Colin Hepper

The postcard illustrated on page 20 in "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" was included because it shows the rare usage of the Kathmandu datestamp (Type 13) as a cancellation. The card is not only interesting from the cancellation usage but also because it is addressed in Nepali with the message written in English, reading: - "Kathmandu 11.2.98, It is raining incessantly since yesterday. If this sort of thing continues, I wonder if Bhalehalh will go to Bhatgaon tomorrow." Muthin ?

A few years ago Nick Rhodes wrote to me to say that the address reads:-"Levi Sahib, Siddipokhari, Bhatgaon." It was clearly written to Professor Sylvain Levi, a Frenchman who visited Nepal, along with a French gentleman companion, from January to March 1898 in order to study Sanskrit manuscripts. Levi later wrote a famous 3-volume work titled "Le Nepal, Etude d'un Royaume Hindou" (Annalese du Musee Guimet, Vols. 17 - 19, Paris, 1905-8).

I have recently been reading the diary of Sylvain Levi ("Two Months in Nepal. January-March 1898, Note book to sojourn") and the nearest record in his notes to the date on the postcard was as follows:-"Bhatgaon 13th February - The icy blast has kept me in my house muffled up in vain to protect myself against the stings of the wind that sweeps my room. What a downpour, the clouds clung to the trees lossened themselves gathered in compact masses and melted in torrents. The whole of my escort crammed in shelter in the hall, warmed itself as best it could whilst the bulls were fighting in the neighbouring meadow."

This entry confirms the message written on the card but does leave a few intriguing questions such as why would anyone write to a Frenchman in English, or, who was the Englishman literate in Nepali who was associated with the Levi party?.

HULAK SERVICES BETWEEN KATHMANDU & GARHWAL

(An extract from the Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 39, pp. 416-17, offered by Colin Hepper.--Ed.)



"Aswin Badi 14, 1867.

"Local authorities, landowners, ferrymen (majhis) in the region between Dharmathali and Sirmure were ordered to arrange for the uninterrupted transportation of military and other supplies under the Hulak system. They were warned that punishment would be inflicted on their life and property if supplies were held up at any point. The order added: "The Subedar of Pyuthan shall provide an escort for the porters up to Salyan. The Bhardars stationed in Salyan shall do so up to Dullu-Dailekh. The company stationed in Dullu-Dailekh shall do so up to Doti. The company stationed in Doti shall similarly provide an escort to Kumaun. The Bhardars stationed in Kumaun shall do so up to Garh. The Bhardars stationed in Garh shall do so up to Doon and those stationed in Doon shall do so up to Sirmur.""

28

NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

(With thanks to our Nepal Representative, Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha.--Ed.)

1. An article from THE RISING NEPAL for Saturday, 18 April 1987, p. 3, titled "Steps to Increase GPO Efficiency Introduced" and date lined "Kathmandu, April 17:

Every day around 60 thousand letters are handled by the General Post Office. It receives mail from around the world through 22 countries while dispatching is done every day to 15 countries from which the mail goes to the respective countries.

Due to mounting pressure at the GPO new counters are going to be opened, according to the concerned official at the GPO.

Fulfilling the demands of customers demanding post boxes is not a problem anymore, however priorities are given to institutions and business houses while considering applications.

Consultations are underway with the Kathmandu town Panchayat to provide the GPO with the classification criteria of the new block numbers issued by the KTP to make delivery of posts more convenient to the clients.

There are 15 sub-post offices and the number of the letter boxes are likely to be increased due to the recent trend in expansion of the residential areas in Kathmandu.

Seventy-four postmen are on the run every day to deliver mails door to door to different parts of Kathmandu. New Road receives posts twice daily.

Steps to reduce postal "crimes" are being taken by the GPO which had been on the increase in the past years, with four employees being penalised and three rewarded for honest work in the past five months.

One of the main reasons of "sabotage" is illegal postage, like the cash enclosed in the envelopes.

Because of the tourist boom, letters addressed to foreigners in Nepal under the care of the Post Master General have also increased and to meet the requirement a larger space has been allotted for the purpose.

Although the GPO is a major communication medium many "inherent" problems have been hindering its operations and, to tackle this, His Majesty's Government is studying the obstacles and trying to find out ways to increase the efficiency of the GPO administration.

Measures, like introduction of such gadjets as "franking" and "cancellation" machines, have been taken.

The GPO alone collects almost 20 million rupees as revenue while its expenses amount to 3.5 million rupees, it is stated.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Our Nepal Representative, Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, offers the following response to Colin Hepper's query concerning "An Un-recorded Fiscal Stamp" (see POSTAL HIMAL No. 50, p. 15 for the 2nd Quarter, 1987):

The seal item shown on p. 15 is not a Fiscal stamp, but an official seal applied on the backs of documents with the Court-Fee stamps (Large) printed, having different face values starting from 4 paisa to Rs. 3000. (Please see PHILATELY Vol. 5, No. 1, JAN '78, pp. 7-9. The Court-Fee documents are not valid without this seal. The Devanagari script translates as follows: Shree Pashupati Nath Saran (in the top ornamental arch), followed by the 'Moon' and 'Sun' figures and 'Kortfee' & Hulak Goswara. The Nepali year '2000' is flanked by 'Gorkha' and 'Sarkar' in the lower arch -- again ornamental. The Bikram year '2000' is roughly equivalent to 1943 A.D.

It should be noted that another seal, similar in design, must be applied to all Court-Fee documents for validity. This second seal is from the 'Muluki Khana' bearing the scripts 'Kortfee' and '2000' in the same general positions as in the seal described above. The inscriptions reading 'Shree Pashupati Nath Saran' and 'Nepal Sarkar' are found in the upper ornamental arch and the lower arch, respectively.



Hulak Goswara Seal

Muluki Khana Seal

A MYSTERY CANCELLATION OF NEPAL --Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

I have recently seen blocks of 24 and 12, respectively, of the 1 anna, recutframe variety, emerald error-of-colour (H/V catalogue No. 36b/36c) bearing the following mystery cancellation:



Since the basic stamp is not only quite rare but also unknown in mint condition, one can safely assume that the cancellation must be genuine, thus ruling out any possibility of foul play.

The fact of having accepted its bona fides does not, however, solve the puzzle of this unrecorded cancellation. It is a large oval seal bearing the following Devanagari inscription: "Shri / Kumari Chauk / Nepal Phat / 60?". "Kumari Chauk" is said to stand for the Auditor's Office or Control Office that was located in Kumari Chauk, close to the old Royal Palace, in Kathmandu.

"Nepal Phat" stands for the Kathmandu Division of the said Office.

The year, not too clearly engraved, is probably B.S. 1960 (rather than B.S. 1990), i.e. equivalent to 1903 A.D.

From its inscription, the cancellation would appear to be some sort of official control marking. On the other hand, this stamp is only known telegraphically cancelled, so any other use would indeed shake the entire pattern of the telegraphic use of the classic stamps.

Two more clues should be placed on the table: Firstly, the two blocks I have seen are possibly from one and the same sheet but the way they are cancelled would suggest that they were probably used on separate forms.

Secondly, while the larger block has been carefully washed from its backing, the smaller block shows minute remnants of the form to which it had been glued: it is indeed a telegraph form!

I can offer no further evidence on this mystery cancellation. My own personal opinion is that it is not a telegraph cancellation nor, of course, a postal marking. Provided that the fixed date of the seal is indeed B.S. 1960, I would date the use of both blocks around 1917, i.e. right at the beginning of the telegraphic period.

It would be important to keep an eye on any further blocks with this mystery cancellation, since the slightest additional clue might give us a better indication of the significance and purpose of this most unusual mystery marking.

TIBETAN FAKES --G. M. Rosamond

A few weeks ago I asked for a postal view card from a small South Coast stamp auctioneer who included a set of the 1912 Tibet in his catalog. When they arrived I found 5 copies taken from the "Crow sheets", each with a heavy, very Tibetan style cancellation. Unfortunately, I was busy at the time and did not check whether the cancellor could have been stolen/liberated from Tibet (as I assume has happened to those used in Kathmandu) or whether it also was a fake. It might be well to warn members of the new possibility.

In all fairness it should be pointed out that Mr. Crow's advertising card mentions only the mint sheets and does not offer "used" copies. Someone else somewhere is 'trying it on.' I doubt whether the auctioneer himself is the guilty party, as, when I wrote to him, he responded that the lot had come to him from "an old customer".

Since then I have also bid for (and won) a Tibet lot in a well-known auction and had to return it as containing forged sheets of the 1933 issue. My German is very poor so I cannot be sure whether or not Herr Dahnke listed them in his work, but, certainly, they are better productions than the usual Hong Kong version. They are, in fact, very dangerous as they are printed in sheets of 12 (not the lovely 24 set) and the paper looks Tibetan/Nepalese -- at least to my eyes. The 'give away' is the Yin Yang -- virtually the same on each stamp on each sheet. I am awaiting comments from the auctioneers on this one!

(Best Wishes, Goeff, on your retirement. We trust that your plans for your 'golden' years work out satisfactorily and we look forward to hearing more from you.--Ed.)

BHUTAN - A BRIEF POSTAL HISTORY --Nildo Harper

(continued from POSTAL HIMAL No. 48, 4th Quarter 1986, page 51)

On 20 May 1968, the second set of 3-D stamps was issued, showing native butterflies. These proved to be very popular with collectors and more 3-D stamps followed.

Nearly 3 months earlier (20 May 1968). however, a set of 'normal' stamps was issued to celebrate the rededication of the rebuilt Tashichhodzong. Thimphu, the permanent capital of Bhutan since 1960, is dominated by the enormous Tashichhodzong -- the "Fortress of Glorious Religion" -- torn down in 1962 (except for the three central chapels) and rebuilt through 1968. It houses the main government departments and the National Assembly and, prior to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to Bhutan in 1968, no woman had ever slept here overnight. The rebuilding was carried out by traditional methods, using stone, wood and clay. Not a single plan was drawn and not a single nail was used. Note the use of two 10 ch stamps on a cover sent from Tashigang to Paro in December 1968.

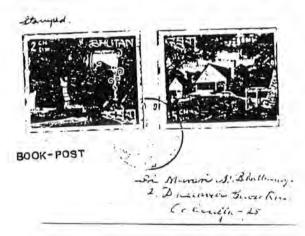


Tashigang, the eastern terminus of the National Highway, has paved streets, hydroelectric power, hospitals & schools. All these industries contribute to the enormous load of the Bhutan postal service. A total of 750,000 pieces of mail were handled by the Bhutan postal service in 1968.

A set of stamps, issued on 2 May 1969, marked Bhutan's admission to the Universal Postan Union. All denominations feature the same design -- the UPU monument in Berne, Switzerland, on the left and, on the right, a wheel with the 8 auspicious Bhutanese Signs (Tashi-Tagye) on the body of Lord Buddha. The stamps were printed in Spain.



On 2 June of the same year, a set of 12 stamps highlighting steelmaking's 5,000 year history was issued. The country was proud of its new hydroelectrically powered steel industry and of its vast deposits of iron ore, limestone and manganese. The stamps were lithographed on hair-thin 0.001-inch steel foil manufactured and rolled by the United States Steel Corporation, and then laminated to a paper stock. This issue was the first Bhutan issue designed and printed in the USA. The two stamps on a cover destined for Calcutta, India, depict an Assyrian furnace (2 ch) and the Saugus Iron Works in Massachusetts, USA (5 ch).



Steel trade journals in England, Japan and India publicized this issue. As the stamps are made from steel, they tend to oxidize if kept in moist storage conditions.

A 3-D set, showing birds in their natural habitat was issued on 5 August 1969.

An allegation was made around this time to the effect that Bhutan's stamps and first day covers were being issued and postmarked outside Bhutan, but this claim is refuted by a FDC, postmarked (continued on Page 32)

Harper, BHUTAN, (continued) ---

in Phuntsholing on 30 September and sent via registered mail to Mr. A. Binder (a wellknown collector of Asian material). It was received and backstamped in Brooklyn on 8 October 1969.

It was also alleged that the 3-D stamps were not being used internally for the transmission of mail. However, high ranking government officials explained that most covers with the 3-D stamps did not survive, due to their popularity, as most people tear the stamps off to keep as souvenirs (or, perhaps, to sell to dealers!--Ed.). In any case, another 3-D set, issued on 3 November 1969, commemorated the U.S. Moon Landing of 20 July in that year.

A lovely set of 3-Ds was issued on 17 September 1970 marking the designation of a large tract of land in southeastern Bhutan as the new Manas Game Reserve. This time all the animals, with the possible exception of the Panda Bears, were indigenous to Bhutan. -- Airmail values were issued about a month later (on 15 October). Of special note is the Takin, pictured on the 5 Nu value, as this rare mountain goat is indigenous only to Bhutan and a few parts of neighboring Assam. This particular stamp is at the lower right of the four stamps on the First Day Cover shown here.

Another remarkable innovation appeared with the issuance of a set issued in February 1971 outlining the history of the world through sculpture. An Italian process allowed the lithographed stamps to be placed in a hand engraved stainlesssteel heat mold and the design pressureembossed onto the stamp.

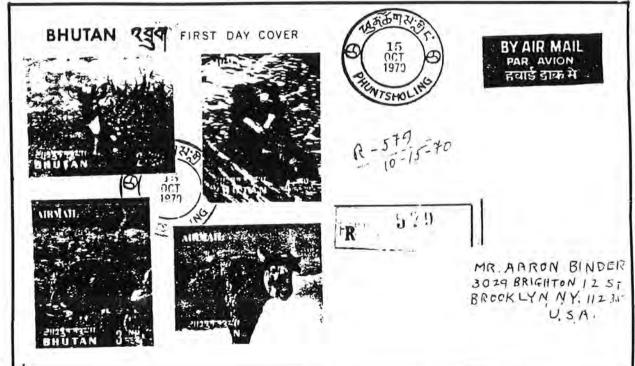
Example: A design depicting the Tutankamon Funeral Mask (Egyptian Period)



Bhutan was formally admitted to the United Nations on 22 September 1971. Bhutan had manted to join since 1966, but India had advised waiting until they had the manpower and resources. In 1971 the General Assembly vote was unanimous. Bhutan was ready witha set of stamps actually released the day before!

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Scouting worldwide, Bhutan planned to issue another 3-D set. Production costs delayed the issue, which was then cancelled. Instead, a conventional paper set, similar to the 1967 diamond-shaped stamps, was issued on 30 November 1971.

(to be continued)



THE PHILATELIC COLLECTION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON --Wolfgang Hellrigl

During a recent visit to London I had the opportunity of visiting the famous Tapling Collection at the British Museum. I had previously tried to lay my eyes on this outstanding stamp display but for one reason or another -- renovation, a closing of the museum's wing, etc. -- I had always missed this section.

Since the Tapling Collection contains only stamps issued prior to 1890, the Nepal display is limited to the very early settings; in fact, it consists of merely three pages, but the items shown are absolutely exceptional.

The Nepal display starts off with three sets of each of the 1881-1885 pin-perforated and imperforate stamps. Judging from the typically curled edges, at least two of the imperforate stamps (2 annas & 4 annas) would appear to have full gum. These are, of course, rarities since very few imperforate stamps are known with gum.

The main item of the 1881-1885 issue is a superb imperforate tete-beche pair of the 2 annas, in a very bright purple shade. Specialists had not been aware of the existence of this particular pair in the Tapling Collection. Two other imperforate and one pin-perforated tetebeche pair had been previously recorded.

The 1886 issue, on native paper, is represented by a fine set of marginal blocks of four of the earliest settings, i.e., with sheet inscriptions on all four sides.

The 1 anna block, amost certainly of setting 5, contains two inverted cliches, in positions 52 and 59. Up to now it was believed that this setting contained an inverted cliche in position 62 and. possibly another in position 52. Provided that the attribution to setting 5 is correct (and I am virtually certain that it is since the marginal inscription matches that illustrated in figure 34, page 73, of 'The Classic Stamps of Nepal'), the Tapling block would confirm that there were actually three inverted cliches in this setting: positions 52, 59 and 62. This fact would definitely reverse the chronological sequence of settings 5 and 6 of the 1 anna, still leaving some doubt on the exact place

of setting 4. Even if the riddle of settings 4 - 6 has by no means been solved, the Tapling block takes us a great step further to the definite answer.

Despite of their undisputed rarity, the blocks of the high values shed no new light on the settings involved: the 2 annas block of four is from setting 4 while the 4 annas -- a splendid block from the top left corner -- is from setting 3.

I do not know whether the Tapling Collection comprises further material which is not currently on display. If it does, it is quite possible that it might contain more items of interest to the specialist.



THE FIRST EARTH RUN - "TORCH OF PEACE" --Colin Hepper

On 31st October 1986 the torch carried round the world on the first earth run for peace arrived in Kathmandu. To commemorate the event the Nepal Philatelic organised a special card for the event which was signed by both runners who carried the torch in Nepal. Anyone wishing to purchase one of these cards should write to Mr. Madan Bahadur Shrestha, GPO Box 3082, 14/518 Dhoka Tole, Kathmandu, Nepal.



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COUNTERFEIT CHRONICLE --Lester A. Michel

Several years ago we ran a series of articles on counterfeits, largely from material handed out by Al Zulueta during an important Study Circle meeting at WESTPEX '79, in San Francisco. No one has offered material recently that might have been printed under this heading, but a recent happening has influenced me to do so.

A "Nepal Offers List" dated 1 February 1986 from Stanley Gibbons Limited caused me to write a letter to Greg Todd, Foreign Specialist in the Rare Stamp Department, which, in part, reads as follows: "....The first item that caught my eye was the illustration of the front of a cover labelled: 'Philatelic (Scarce)

150.-'. In the book by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Colin Hepper titled "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" (1978), the registration cachet is illustrated and identified as a forgery. Since I have had an interest in Nepal covers with mixed franking for some years, I happen to have acquired a number of covers with this same forged Kathmandu registration marking. While I cannot decipher the cancellations in the illustration and cannot see the back of the cover (which is not illustrated) I have no doubt that all cancels are bogus. The stamps themselves are probably genuine. And, while I would like to add this item to my forgery collection, you will understand why I would be unwilling to pay the asking price for it"

In due time I received a reply from Mr. Todd in which he stated that it was simply not possible to keep up with all the forgeries extant and he included the cover for my examination and offered it to me at a small fraction of the original asking price.

The cover (illustrated at the top of page 35) bears a strip of six ½-anna blacks, one 2-annas brown and one 4-annas green. Traces of faint telegraph cancels can be discerned on the strip of ½-anna stamps, but the 2- & 4-annas stamps may be unused (prior to being affixed on this cover) -- in any case, they are certainly from the late telegraph printings of these denominations. It is a handsome cover, despite the fact that the postal cancels (three on the front and a different one on the back) are forgeries which are illustrated and discussed in the book referred to earlier. However, actual <u>covers</u> bearing these markings have not been illustrated previously, to the best of my knowledge.

My interest in 'mixed frankings' goes back a number of years when I was concentrating on the Sri Pashupati issues and, while I do have a number of covers bearing stamps of two different issues (1907 & 1930, say, or 1935 & 1941-), covers bearing stamps of three different issues are almost certainly philatelic in nature, to say the least. When I realized that I had purchased such items, I began to be suspicious and started to study the cancellations.

The cancels on such pretty items are nearly always faint & at least partially undecipherable, but I had enough of them which, with the help of Dr. Hellrigl, led me to the conclusion that both types of cancels used were forgeries, with fixed dates, nearly two years apart! All of these covers, I should add, bear the fake registry handstamp mentioned early in this article. (See four examples on page 35.) The two types of postmarks have dates corresponding to 1928 & 1930. Sometimes the forged postmark of Birganj is used to cancel the stamps, while that of Kathmandu is used as a 'receiving' cancel. Usually, however, the two cancels are reversed. The pen entry in the registration label always corresponds to the sum of the values of the stamps used. in my experience -- and most frequently is entered in red ink.

I had not seen any of these on the market for several years, but, now that the reference book already mentioned has been out of print for several years and since many of our newer Nepal collectors may not be aware of these items as forgeries, it semed appropriate to call them to your attention.

Perhaps the most flagrant violation of all was called to my attention by Prof. Armand Singer, who noted lots 8434 & 8435 in the Kover King, Inc. Auction Sale #138 on 19 August 1986. Each lot consists of a single cover and both are illustrated, as well as being accurately described -at least, the <u>stamps</u> are accurately described. Each cover illustration shows that the stamps bear <u>telegraph</u> cancels which do not tie the stamps to the cover and both covers bear the bogus registry handstamp, which does tie one or two of (concluded on page 35) Michel, COUNTERFEIT, (concluded) --

the stamps to the cover in each instance. One cover was given an estimated value of \$150, the other \$250. Prof. Singer wrote to Mr. Siegel concerning these obviously forged items, but, as of this writing, had received no answer. We welcome information on forgeries of the stamps & covers of Nepal, Tibet & Bhutan, and will attempt to give such information priority in publication. In the meantime, eternal vigilance is the watchword. Let the buyer beware!

(to be continued)

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