

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



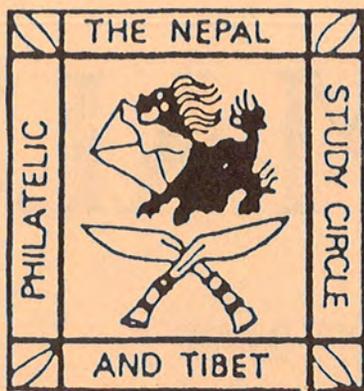
A TIBETAN MYSTERY SOLVED

(See p. 25)

No. 62



2nd Quarter 1990



POSTAL HIMAL

POSTAL HIMAL is a quarterly publication of the Nepal & 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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

	USA	India	Nepal	Rest of World
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President: Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl
Patron: Mac Linscott Ricketts
Secretary: Colin Hepper 12 Charnwood Close, Peterborough, Cambs., PE2 9BZ, ENGLAND
Editor: Leo Martyn P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA 90049-0263, USA
Publicity: F. Westbrook 2886 Carambola Circle South, Coconut Creek, FL 33066, USA

Representatives

EUROPE Colin Hepper, 12 Charnwood Close, Peterborough, Cambs., PE2 9BZ, ENGLAND
INDIA Sohan Lal Dhawan & Sons, National Agencies, Sheranwala Gate, Patiala 147 001, INDIA
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USA Roger D. Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94022, USA

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Mr. J. Shorey, 39 Walnut Grove, Southampton, Hants, SO1 4NJ, England
Mr. P. J. Spencer, 36 Blakesley Walk, Leicester, LE4 0QL, England.
Mr. Owen L. White, P.O. Box 860, Station K, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2H2, Canada [T].
Dr. Kennedy L. Wilson, 7415 Venice Street, Falls Church, Va., 22043, U.S.A. [N].

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BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Dear Friends,

This issue presents the Statutes which were voted in at the London Study Circle meeting on May 10 - please read them.

The "Questions & Answers" section has been reinstated. In fact we have three similar responses to a question of Lester Michel. I hope the members will make much use of this section.

Two recent editorials in the American Philatelist (journal of the American Philatelic Society) presented some interesting statistics. In the October 1989 issue (p. 901) editor Bill Welch discusses the collecting interests of some 26,800 members. The figures for our area were: Bhutan - 28, Nepal - 86, Tibet 60. The November issue (p.1013) gives figures for membership by country. Only Nepal is represented with six members. These numbers were quite high when compared with other seemingly "popular" countries on the list.

In the March 26, 1990 issue of Linn's (p.3), Ken Lawrence in "Bhutan's 3-D Stamps Deserve Better Treatment" discusses covers bearing modern stamps which aren't listed by the Scott catalogue. The author questions the deletion of certain issues and states he has collected commercial covers (some of which bear unlisted stamps) from 38 post offices. The Stamp Atlas by Wellsted, Rossiter and Flower (distributed by the A.P.S.) lists 51 post offices dating from 1962.

Cameron Britt is currently doing research in the area of modern Nepali postmarks and postal history with the aim of compiling a comprehensive catalogue for publication. If you can be of any assistance he can be reached at: 9 Herbert Ave., Wahroonga N.S.W., Australia 2076.

Please excuse the delay in getting out this issue of Postal Himal - inexperience, poor planning of time and a new typewriter were the reasons for the tardiness.

Volunteers Required

Due to the fact some of the Board officers hold more than one position it leaves four vacancies to be filled. This would not require any amount of work other than to be involved with the running of the Circle by giving your opinions on new developments and voting on Board problems as and when they arise.

If you would like to join the Board please let the secretary know by August 15, 1990.

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THE NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

STATUTES

Article 1: General

1.1 The Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (hereafter referred to as The Circle) is an international non-profit organisation. The Circle is an entirely independent organisation. It is an active affiliate of the American Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Federation.

Article 2: Objectives of The Circle

2.1 To unite persons of all nations interested in the philately and postal history of the Himalayan region and to promote and encourage personal contact and co-operation between them.

2.2 To issue and/or support studies and publications dealing with the philately and postal history of the Himalayan region.

2.3 To facilitate and promote the exchange of views and opinions between members.

2.4 To uphold common interests.

2.5 To promote and organize regular meetings of members, locally, nationally or internationally.

2.6 To publish a journal entitled Postal Himal.

Article 3: Membership

3.1 Members of The Circle may be collectors, dealers, auctioneers, or any other interested persons.

3.2 All members are obliged to pay the Treasurer or Regional Representative the annual membership fee. The membership fee must be paid at the latest by 31 March of each year. Any subscriptions not paid by this date, the membership will be considered as lapsed and the name removed from the mailing list.

3.3 The amounts of the annual membership fee and life membership fee respectively, are fixed by the Board of Directors, from time to time.

3.4 The membership fee includes a subscription to The Circle's journal, Postal Himal and participation in The Circle's auctions.

3.5 Membership can be terminated by the Board, should any person act in a manner which is detrimental to the good name of The Circle or the hobby.

3.6 Members may resign by voluntary resignation.

Article 4: The Board of Directors of The Circle

4.1 The Board of Directors of The Circle shall consist of The President, the Vice-President, the immediate Past President the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor of Postal Himal, the Librarian(s), the Auctioneer, and one or more members who are not an officer of The Circle. (More than one would be required when one person held more than one official position)

4.2 Every office of The Circle is honorary. One person may hold one or more of the positions listed in 4.1. The President is the legal representative of The Circle. The Presidents residence is considered the legal seat of The Circle.

4.3 The President and Board of Directors are responsible for the running of The Circle. The President decides on the ordinary business. Very important and/or extraordinary business is decided by two thirds majority of votes by members of the Board. Vital decisions, such as amendment of these Statutes, must be voted by the Board and then ratified by a two thirds majority by all members of The Circle voting.

Article 5: Election of the Board of Directors.

5.1 The Board of Directors of the Circle remains in charge for five years. At the end of a five year term, the new Board is elected by the members of The Circle, by postal vote. While all members of the Board are eligible for one or more re-elections, the President cannot serve more than two consecutive terms in that office.

5.2 Any vacancies occurring within the five years, will be filled by Board appointments. These posts would then have to stand for election at the end of the normal five year period.

5.3 Announcements to be made in Postal Himal nine months prior to elections asking for nominations/volunteers, with a deadline set for receipt of same by the secretary. In the event of an election being required, all the candidates shall have the opportunity to express their platform in the journal. The journal will also be the means of distributing voting papers to the members.

Article 6: Dissolution

6.1 The Circle can only be dissolved by the membership. All members to be balloted with full explanation for reasons of dissolution. If dissolution was the majority vote under rule 4.3 the financial assets of The Circle shall be handed over to another philatelic organization with similar interests.

Accounts

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

31 MARCH 1990

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
ITEM	£ p	ITEM	£ p
Bank Interest	268.89	Postage	42.07
Subscriptions	405.50	Trans. R. Skinner	352.60
Auction 47	98.25	Trans. L. Michel	65.00
Auction 48	84.53	Fax Machine	715.91
Auction 49	102.81	Telephone	38.41
Donation	121.63	Insurance	11.00
Library Purchase	40.00	Stationery	4.62
Commission		BPF Subs	16.00
Private Sales	8.50	Subs refund	11.00
		Trans Extra	
		Interest Account	400.00
		Room Hire	40.00
	-----		-----
	1130.11		1696.61
Cash at bank 1989	738.91	Cash at Bank	172.41
	-----		-----
	1869.02		1869.02

Cash held in 'Extra Interest Account'

£3000

WARNING

WARNING

Armand E. Singer

A TIME article, 26 March, 1990, pp. 69, 71 ("Forgery in the Home Office"), details a new use of IBM computer-compatible laser printers to reproduce almost perfect copies of drivers' licenses, digitalized checks, department-store ID's, etc. Forgers can recreate "official documents...virtually indistinguishable from the real thing." These desktop shenanigans can be defeated by artificial watermarks built into the originals, specially treated papers, etc., the account adds, ending on an upbeat note. For old Nepal or Tibet stamp originals, however, should counterfeiters choose to avail themselves of such space-age technology, these safeguards obviously are not available. The punishments our Study Circle agreed to mete out against purveyors of fakes, in our May 4 and 10 London meetings just past, would become increasingly difficult to justify, and the stamps themselves equally resistant to expertising. Let us all beware! Another insidious addition to the carpenter-criminals' toolbox. [ed. At "Stamp World London 90" I saw two new complete sheet forgeries of the 1/2 anna forgery on cigarette paper with frame lines around each stamp (c. 1920, probably produced in Turin)! One was in black and quite blurred but the other was in a very clear and very dangerous orange-vermilion; a very good color match of the genuine 1/2 anna orange vermilion. The new forgeries were on very thin tissue paper. They were purchased from an Indian dealer for \$20 and out of circulation but others will probably turn up. Beware!] [See p. 30 for a photo of the original forgery.]

Related to Armand's "WARNING", the following appeared in the 26 May (1990) issue of Stamp Collector.

"UK suit hits stamp dealers"

"A decision by a London Court of Appeal will make dealers liable for their own mistakes when buying items they believe to be genuine but actually are forgeries or fakes. Lord Justice Nourse, in a case involving art dealers, said 'Dealers only had themselves to blame, if, using their own judgment, they bought a forgery believing it to be genuine.' He also said that whether a person can return an item for a refund depends on his status; ordinary customers can, but 'experts' can't, under the ruling. Therefore, if a dealer buys an item from another dealer and then sells it to a collector who finds it to be a forgery, the collector has recourse against the second dealer, but the first [ed. second] dealer doesn't have recourse against the first. The ruling affects British dealers and other dealers doing business in Great Britain."

EXHIBITION - SHOW NEWS

Report from our Secretary, Colin Hepper

LONDON MEETINGS 4th & 10th MAY, 1990

There was an excellent attendance of 23 members over the two meetings. The first was the more formal business meeting when some time was spent discussing and going through the new Statutes for the Circle. The final agreed Statutes were then re-submitted to the members at the second meeting and are to be published in Postal Himal. Wolfgang announced at the meeting that he had now completed the manuscript of The British Indian Post in Nepal and was hoping that Robson Lowe would be able to publish it for him in the near future.

At the second meeting, material that had arrived too late for Auction 51 was on sale to members, and all the Auction 51 lots were available for viewing at both meetings. Some members had brought along their problem items to seek advice and members in general had an enjoyable time exchanging or selling items. It was a delight that towards the end of the afternoon one of the very early students of Nepal classic stamps, Garrat-Adams, joined us to meet some of the friends he has made over the long years he has been collecting Nepal.

Members attending: Dereck Pocock (Australia); Dick van der Wateren, Peter Planken (Holland); Mafatlal Sheth, Pradash Dhawan, S.C. Sukhani (India); Wolfgang Hellrigl (Italy); Barbara Kayfetz, Armand Singer, Frank Vignola, Richard Hanchett, Leo Martyn, John McClland, Francis Westbrook (USA); Karl Windelmann (Eire); Jennifer Broad, Geoff Rosamond, John Wright, Derek Bates, Bernard Lucas, Peter Moore, John Shorey, Colin Hepper (England).



Two very enthusiastic and hard working officers - Wolfgang Hellrigl (President, at left) and Colin Hepper (Secretary), presiding at one of the London meetings.

A meeting of the Study Circle is scheduled for the A.P.S. National Show, "STaMps show 90", being held at the Cincinnati Convention Center (Ohio) on August 25 from 11am to noon. Alan Warren will present a slide show title "Postage Stamps of Tibet". It is understood that Tibet experts Armand Singer and George Bourke will most likely be present. Alan will also be a judge of literature entries at the show which runs from the 23rd through the 26th.

Julie Marshall reports that she received a Large Vermeil medal for her Nepal exhibit at the National exhibition, "Stampshow 89", held in Melbourne in October of last year. She did not enter the 1990 National show held in Canberra, but a new Study Circle member, Cameron Britt, did enter for the first time and received a Silver medal for his exhibit, "Nepal - Stamps and Handstamps, 1876-1949".

Dick van der Wateren's exhibit received a Gold with "Compliments of the Judge" at the National Exhibition held on May 25-27 in Groningen.

Roger Skinner prepared a one frame (16 pages) Nepal exhibit representing the Study Circle for "World Stamp Expo 89" held in Washington, D.C., from Nov. 17 through Dec. 3. 104 clubs-societies participated in the exhibition (no awards were given).

At Stamp World London 90 our President Wolfgang presented two exhibits: "Nepal Classic Issues" which was in the FIP Championship Class and "India, The British - Indian Post Office in Nepal" which received a Gold award in the World Postal History Class. Your editor also presented his exhibit, "Nepal from the 18th Century through the Transition Period (1911)" in the World Postal History Class and received a Gold award.

At the bourse of Stamp World 90 Argyll Etkin Ltd. had a spectacular Nepal collection for sale, consisting of more than 90 complete sheets of the classic period (mostly unused) and many multiples of rare stamps, including 5 complete sheets of the 1881 issue. It was priced at £265,000.

AUCTION NEWS

There were 64 lots of Nepal in Kohler's (Wiesbaden) April 29 auction of which only 24 sold. Some of the highlights plus prices realized in DM (not including 15% commission) were: 1881 unused 1a imperf, vf - 330; 1881 1a, four copies with different blue postmarks - 900; 1881 unused 2a, one close margin - 200; 1881 unused 4a with gum, thinned - 440; 1888 1a, complete unused sheet, H/V setting 8 - 2300; 1a, position 64 (1st recut), on cover - 360; 1898 4a, used block of 8 - 500; 1917 1/2a orange-vermilion, telegraphically used pair - 350; 1909 mixed issue cover bearing classic and Pashupati stamps - 2400; 1907 Pashupati 9p, die proof - 950; combination censored cover with Pashupati and Indian stamps - 200; 1942 2p, complete sheet, first printing, folded - 450. Also offered were 11 Tibet lots with the following four being sold: 1924 8tr carmine red, complete unused sheet - 1500; 1933/59 1tr orange, perforated block of 6 - 230; 1933/40 2 tr red, complete unused sheet - 220; 1952 5sk [ed. ?, no photo] greyish black, unused block of 9 - 200. Offered but unsold was an unused complete sheet of the 2sh bronze green official with an estimate of 10,000 DM. No Bhutan was offered.

Superior Galleries (Los Angeles) auction of Nov. 6, 1989 contained 77 lots of Nepal items, some of which were mis-described. Following prices are in US\$ and do not include the 10% commission: 1881 unused 1a pin-perf - 120; 1881 unused 4a pin-perf - 120; 1881 unused 4a imperf - 105; 1898 registered cover bearing 1a, 2a, 4a with original letter - 350; 1893 1a cover - 80; 1903 cover bearing 1a tied by Dahaban seal cancel - 400; 1929 2a, complete unused sheet with pos. 1 & 9 blank, H/V setting 29 - 170; 1961 Children's Day, complete mint sheet of 16 - 95; H & G #13a, unused postal card with reversed letters - 170; 1903 eight anna rate cover - 320. No Bhutan offered.

NEPAL: WANTED - information and photocopies of Pashupati stamps on covers tied by unusual cancels (i.e. Classic cancels, seal cancels, manuscript cancels, etc.) for an article - will reimburse for expense. Also, unusual Pashupati covers of all periods for purchase or trade. Also wanted: 1 anna recut frame - positions 24 and 64, stamps and covers. Leo Martyn, P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles, Ca. 90049, U.S.A.

THE UNIQUE DHOMO COVER

--Armand E. Singer

One of the most puzzling if not major mysteries of Tibetan postal history has been the status of a cancel reported from the town of Dhomo. It was not known to the pioneers F.P. Renaut ("Tibet," Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular, No. 46, June 1923) or H. R. Holmes (The Postage Stamps of Tibet, 1941) or T. M. Newman ("Tibet," Collectors Club Philatelist 19, Nos. 1-3, 1940), though they all list cancels known to them at the time. Nor is the cancel noted in H. D. S. Haverbeck's The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet (New York: Collectors Club, 1952 and 1958 eds.). Finally, George Russell, the eminent New Zealand Tibet philatelic scholar, does not mention it in his series of four articles on "Tibet" (The China Clipper, Vols. 13-15, Sep. 1949 - Jan. 1951), but he did in a letter sent me in 1961, along with a photostat. He is the apparent discoverer of this rarity. It seems to be the actual illustration reproduced in Arnold C. Waterfall's Postal History of Tibet (London: Robson Lowe, 1965), pp. 115-16 and (sec. ed., 1981), pp. 121-22, as type XVII. Waterfall says of it, "a mystery cancellation . . . reported by G. Russell (owner [Philip H.] Cummings ?) . . . Not known cancelling stamp." R. H. Dahnke, Tibet Handbuch . . . (Nurnberg [?], 1978-1981) notes, and I translate, "Dhomo . . . Tibetan [native cancel] . . . dates of use ? . . . up till now known only on piece, not known on stamp. Customs?" (p. 118). Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, in a letter to me, sent in 1980, also believed it to be a customs cancel.

I came into possession of this item in the fall of 1989, through private treaty from George Alevizos, who was kind enough to supply a translation of the message on the address side (see next page). It is a cover, 260 mm (?) x 128 mm, roughly opened at the left and irregularly reduced by a maximum of some 6-7 mm. As may be seen, it bears the date numbers 3 16 12, data only very rarely furnished, as filled in by the sending post office. The cancel measures 32 mm, outside diameter. The central line of Tibetan characters are normally found on most native cancels and refer to the dating details that I have noted are rarely filled in. Mr. Alevizos's

informant tells him the numbers refer to 12 noon of the 16th day of the 3rd month. As is typical, no year is given. The large Tibetan single character at the top, ཏྲོ, needs some explaining. I send the interested reader to Sir Charles Bell, Grammar of Colloquial Tibetan, 2nd ed. (New York: Dover, 1977, a republication of the 1919 ed., Calcutta). As he informs us, the Tibetan words for "Chumbi Valley" are ཏྲོ་མོ་, pronounced "t'romo" (see p. 48). The tilde-like diacritical marks over the two characters simply give them a vowel sound of "o," for with no such marks the consonants are considered to end in the sound of "ah." The dots occur at the end of most Tibetan sounds. In short, the symbol on the cancel is "t'ro." But the apostrophe indicates a very short intake of breath, and R's in Tibetan are much weaker than in English. Further, Bell does not discuss voiced versus unvoiced consonants; thus, "t" and "d" would not seem to make much difference. In a word, "T'ro," "D'ro," or "Dho." We seem to have the sound corresponding to the first syllable of "D'romo" or "Dhomo." (N.B.: Cf. Nepal, where the first syllable of a town name is all that appears on classic cancels.) D'romo, is then, Chumbi, the older name for Yatung (see Waterfall, both eds., p. 26).

The year date? I would venture an educated guess that the cover, in view of the paper, its modern manufacture, and its condition (it is, by the way, not native), might be dated around the 1930s or forties. Though Russell came upon the cancel, it would seem, sometime between 1951 and 1961, the fifties are a disturbed period for mail of any nature, and after around 1954 to 1955, virtually too late for correspondence not sent through the Chinese system. The inscription on the back, according to the translation supplied Mr. Alevizos, reads, "The inclosed is **offered** with devotion and reverence to the Sacred Prince of the [Buddhist] Religion, the Exalted and Holy Leader of the Sakya [Branch of Tibetan Buddhism]." The two signature lines, bottom right, read, "Sent by the chief assistant to Mr. sPommdha, Official of the Fourth Level, sent on the 16th day of the 3rd month." The two seals are in black wax -- in short, sent by a layman (concluded on next page)

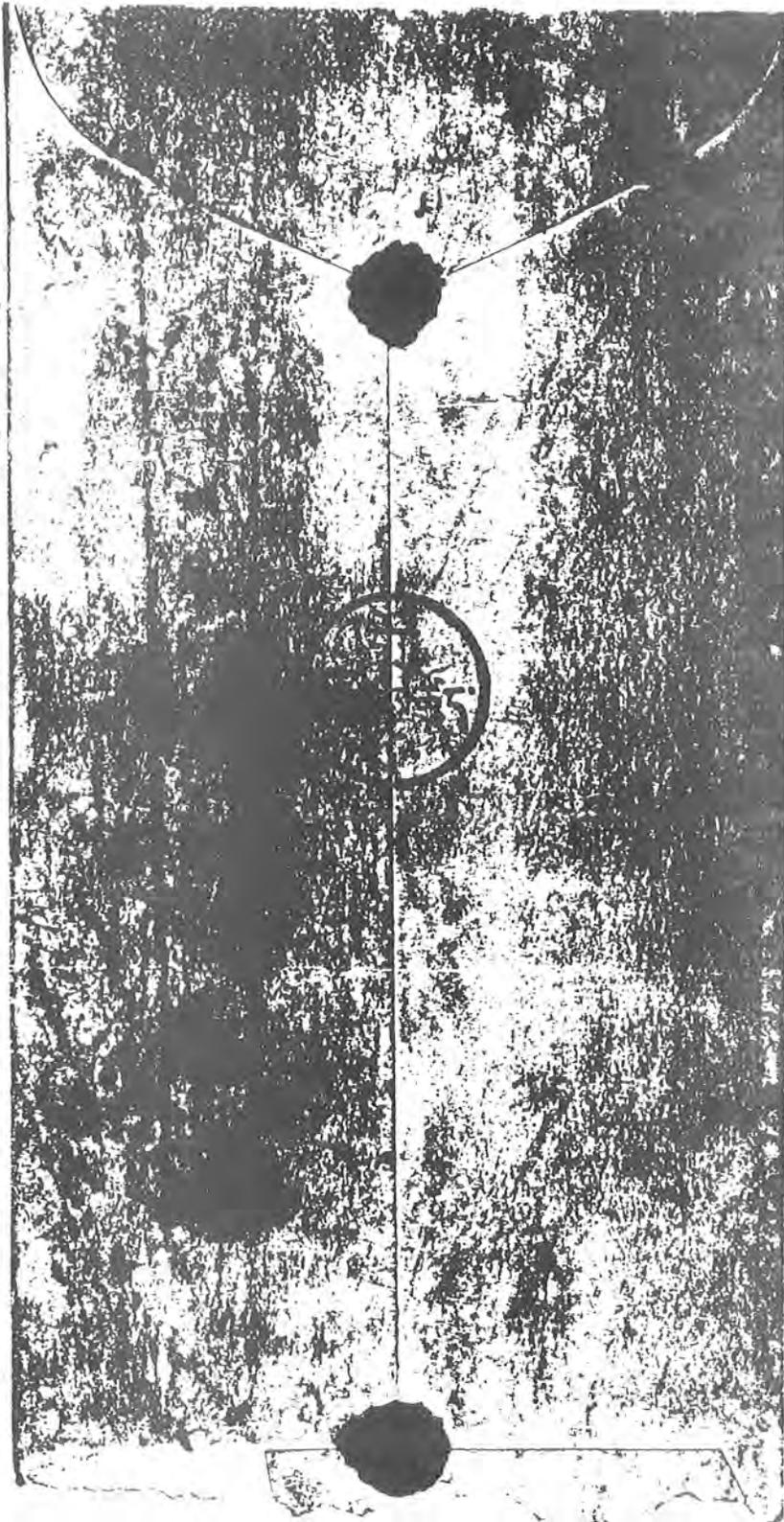
Singer, UNIQUE DHOMO COVER (concluded)--
in Yatung to some high lama in Lhasa or
Shigatse, most likely, those two towns
being the center of the Buddhist religion
in Tibet. Red seals were used only by

high lamas, abbots, or the prime minister
(see Waterfall, 1st ed., p. 132; 2nd ed.,
p.138).

I believe that we can safely at last
set this one mystery to rest.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

(Note: Illustrations below have been reduced to 85% of normal.)



Vertical lines of handwritten text in Tibetan script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the envelope. The text is arranged in three distinct vertical columns on the right side of the page.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

NOTE ON THE TIBETAN BI-LINGUAL POSTMARKS

A REVIEW--- Cameron Britt

On page 14 of Postal Himal (No 61, 1st Quarter 1990) Mr. Lester A. Michel posed the question "Can anyone explain the significance of the designs - and the colors?"

The answers can be found in an article from the publication China Philately (May 1988) at page 36, in an article titled "Postal Datemark Cards From Tibet" by Ngadan, Tibet. The article illustrates all of the postmarks found on the cards and discusses the designs and colors. The introductory passage follows:

"The Stamp Company of the Tibet Autonomous Region issued a set of Tibetan postal datemark cards in September 1986. Included in the cards are 130 postal datemarks, with seven from city and prefecture post offices, 71 from county post offices, five from branch post offices, 37 from sub-branch post offices, and 10 from postal agencies."

"The cards, with salient Tibetan characteristics, were designed by Liu Dun, a designer of the Stamp Issuing Bureau of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. On the top of the card are the words "Commemorative Postmark Card" in both the Tibetan and Han languages, with decorations, at the bottom in eight colors: purple, green, sky blue, yellow, red, black, bean green, and yellowish pink bearing designs commonly found on Tibetan buildings, hardware and furniture, which symbolize happiness and good luck."

"The color of the decorations has a symbolic meaning for the region as represented on the postmark. For example, Nagqu Prefecture lies in northern Tibet with vast grasslands, therefore its cards are decorated in green. Shannan is situated along the Yartlung Zangbo River, hence its cards in blue.

Other colors used were also carefully chosen to match the land feature of the areas they represent."

"On the card is a stamp of the R.23 set featuring the Tibetan dwelling house, cancelled with the datemark of September 1, 1986 - the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region. This adds to its significance of commemoration."

"As the names of the prefectures are not the same as the place names of the sites of post offices, the postmarks take two forms. Shannan Prefecture has Zetang as its capital, and its postmark bears both

Shannan and Zetang; but Ngari's postmark carries only the name of the capital "Shiquanhe" and not "Ngari". The difference is purely due to the practice of postal institutions.

The Tibetan Postal Datemark cards have aroused great interest of philatelists and many of them said they were very happy to get the cards which they had dreamed of for years."

The publication China Philately contains articles on the Modern stamps of Tibet from time to time, and details of subscriptions can be obtained by writing to the following address:

China Publications Center
(Guoji Shudian)
P.O. Box 399
Beijing, China

Another response to the same question was received from Mr. Derrick Dawson who said in reference to the significance of the designs:

"They are the 8 Auspicious emblems of Buddhism. Reading downwards, those in the left hand column (p.14) are: The Conch Shell Trumpet of Victory; The Lotus Flower; The Banner of Victory. Those in the right hand column are: The Golden Vase; The Umbrella of Sovereignty; The Endless Knot; The Golden Fish of the Yamdrok Lake; The Wheel of the Law. As to the colours, the Buddhists seem to have a large number with Symbolic meanings: Titanic blue, Hellish black, Human yellow, Animal green, Tantallic red, to name but a few listed by Walsh in his The Buddhism of Tibet."

George Bourke also responded:

"They are the most common decorative elements found on Tibetan artifacts, both secular and religious. This set of symbols is not of Tibetan origin but derive from Indian sources. They are of course found in China. They were often found on Tibetan Buddhist shrines cast in metal usually. They form a set of offerings. As for the meaning of the symbols, there are a number of levels of symbolism. Information as to this symbolism may be found in Vol.I of the Newark Museum catalog of the Tibetan Collection."

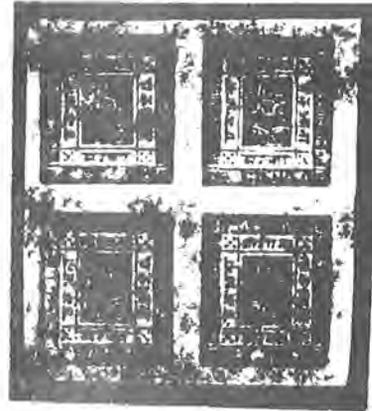
BUILDING A NEPAL COLLECTION

No. 13 - Forgeries & Doctored Material
--Lester A. Michel

(This is the last in a series of articles written by F. A. Westbrook, Jr. & myself, designed for the beginning & intermediate collectors. -- It was our intent to publish one of the articles in successive issues of POSTAL HIMAL, beginning with No. 44, but no 'chapter' appeared in PH No. 48. The final segment of this series was scheduled to appear in PH No. 57 -- First Quarter 1989 -- and this writer had agreed to write it. Readers who may wish to have the entire series can order back issues of POSTAL HIMAL from Roger Skinner, at the address given on the inside of the current cover of POSTAL HIMAL.

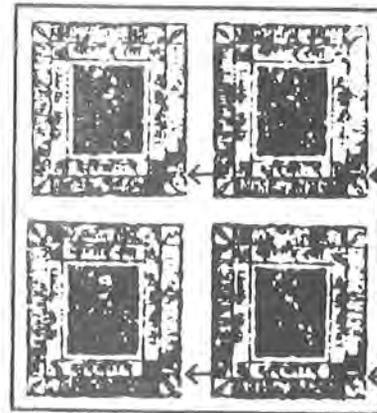
Every serious 'student' of Nepal philately accumulates a collection of forgeries and 'doctored' covers. The increasing interest in the classic material of both Nepal & Tibet has provided much incentive to counterfeiters and we offer some of the examples of their work may be of interest to our readers. The writer purchased a full sheet of the 1-anna stamp in an auction held by one of the most respected British firms in 1974. See Fig. 1. The paper is of medium thickness, quite smooth, but more stiff & brittle than is normal. It is also more of a brownish shade than the genuine and, in fact, does not resemble the typical 'home-made' Nepalese paper used for the genuine stamps. The color, or shade of blue, is, however, very close to that of the genuine. -- The block of 4 (See Fig. 2.) was purchased at auction by a knowledgeable member of our Study Circle from a reputable American firm in 1976 in the form of a RH strip of 16 and I was fortunate in purchasing the block of 4 (See Fig. 2.) in positions 55, 56, 63, 64 -- from the lower RH corner of what was almost certainly part of a full sheet. This item is more deceptive in that the paper is a good quality native product, fairly white, and typical of the early Settings on native paper -- but the color, or shade, of this item is a light blue -- not typical of the issue. These printings, apparently made from a photocopy of Haverbeck's Setting 7, or Hellrigl/Vignola Setting 8, are not so sharp and clearly printed as a genuine sheet against which they have been compared -- but it is unlikely that many full sheets exist.

Fig. 2 - A block of 4 from a strip of 16 bought with the knowledge that it was a forgery. The major clue to this fact is that every flaw (not so evident in the two blocks of four in these poor photocopies) are identical!



The strip of 16 fooled experts because the paper and the blue color were 'right' for that issue. Once one's 'guard' is up other less obvious evidence may be noted.

On page 74 of Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl's book, "A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks (1879-1935)", a block of 4 of Plate II is shown, identifying this item as a forgery. See Fig. 3:



[Led. This Plate II for-
gery can be identified
by a small indentation
as indicated by the
arrows.]

Single copies of these 1-anna stamps may be nearly impossible to label as forgeries -- even by the 'experts'.

The reader may be interested in Fig. 4 which shows an "ESSAY" of the half-anna stamp. Note the lines separating the individual stamps in a format of 6 x 7 stamps per sheet. Such stamps have been proved to be bogus -- but are interesting to collectors. Beware of individual copies, with the lines trimmed off!

"NEPAL 1886 2nd Printing, 1a full sheet, the sheets are looks like genuine, as it is difficult to identified, printing, colour, are same as genuine, I think it was printed from original plate (BUT REPRINT), with 3 pair tate batch as in original." (This is the actual wording on a slip of paper enclosed with the full sheet -- Fig. 1, below.)

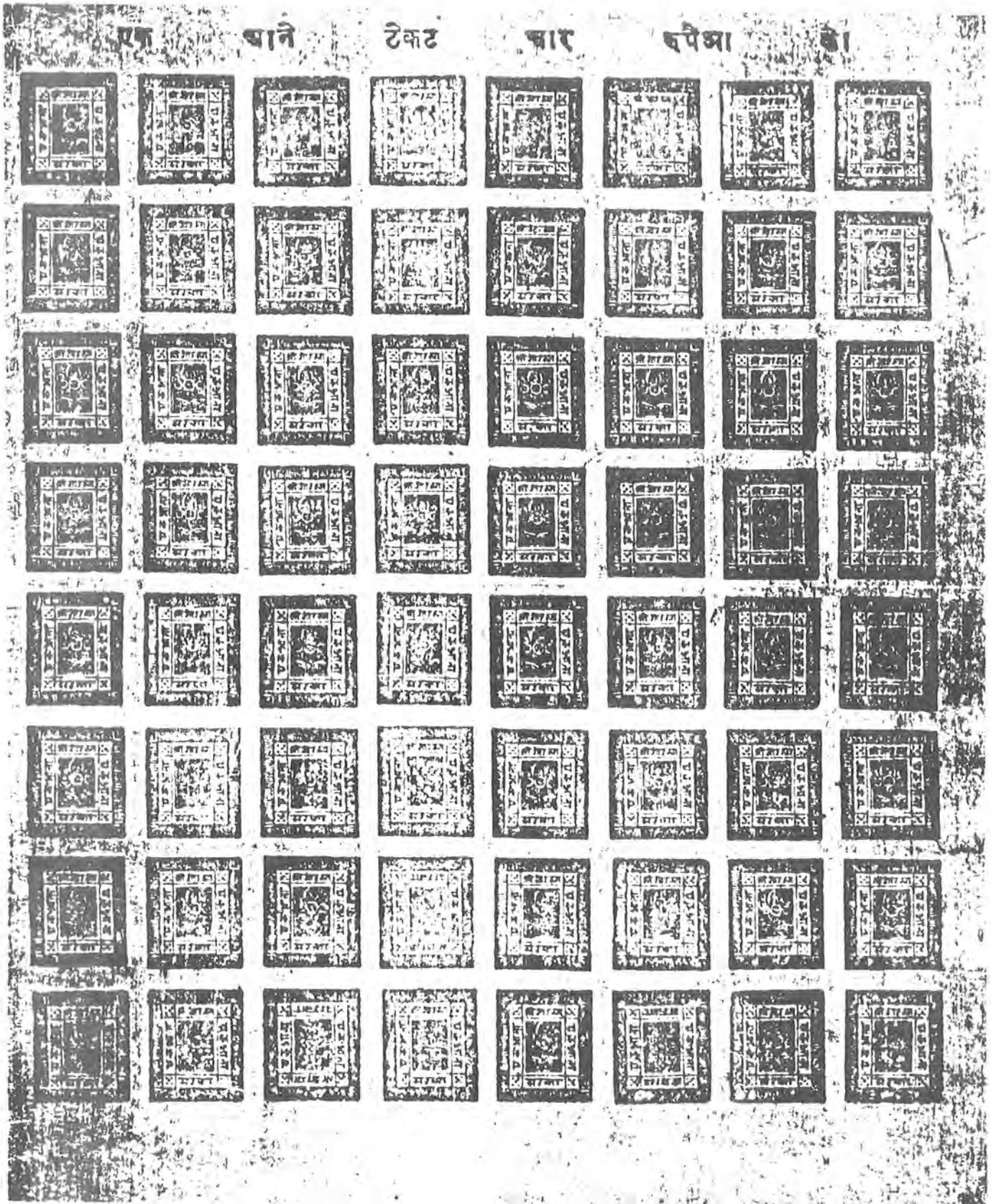


Fig. 4 - So-called "ESSAY", which has been traced to a European source!
 Note the single copy at right, an item printed on European
 paper and glued to a thin piece of Nepalese 'home made' paper.

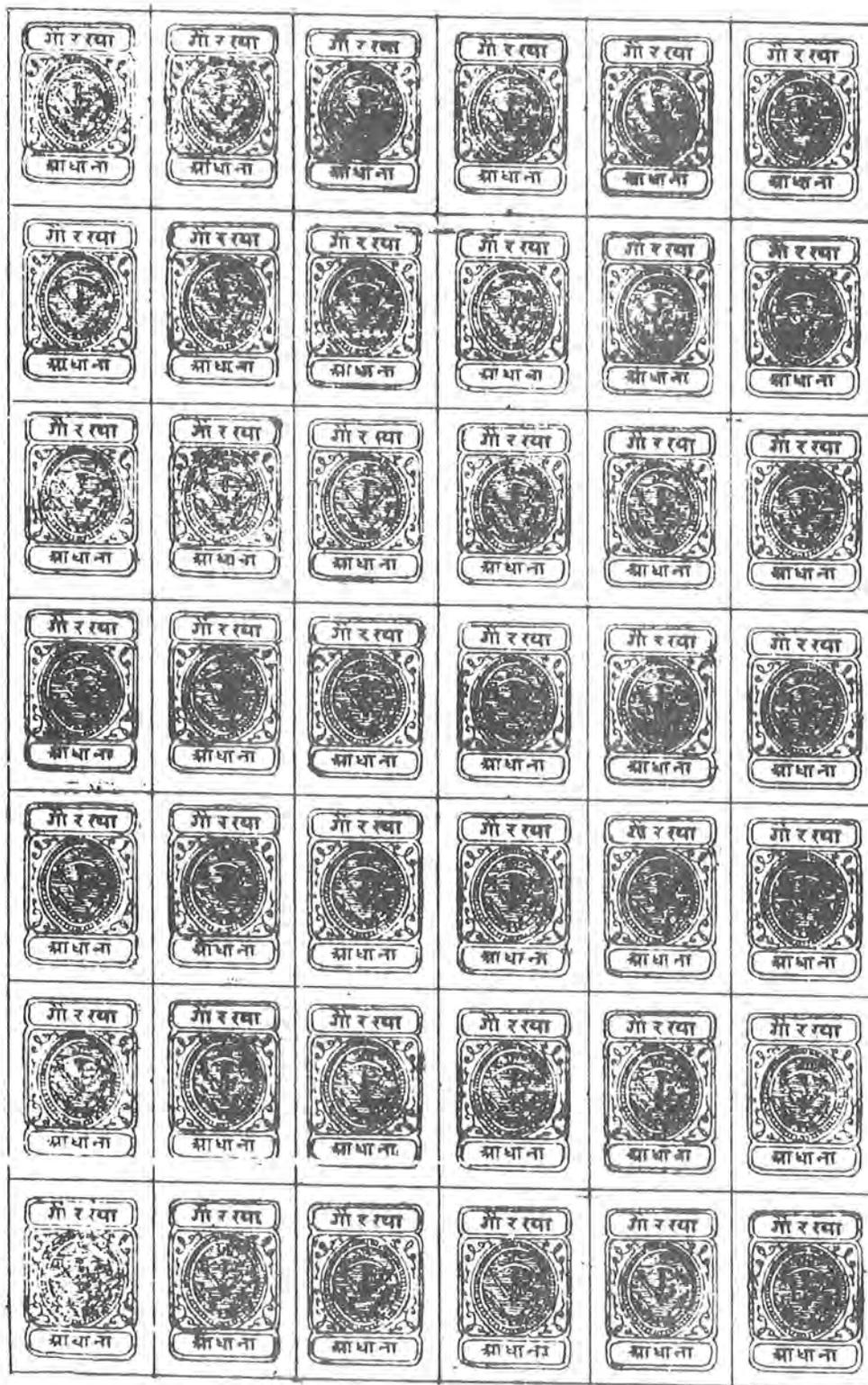
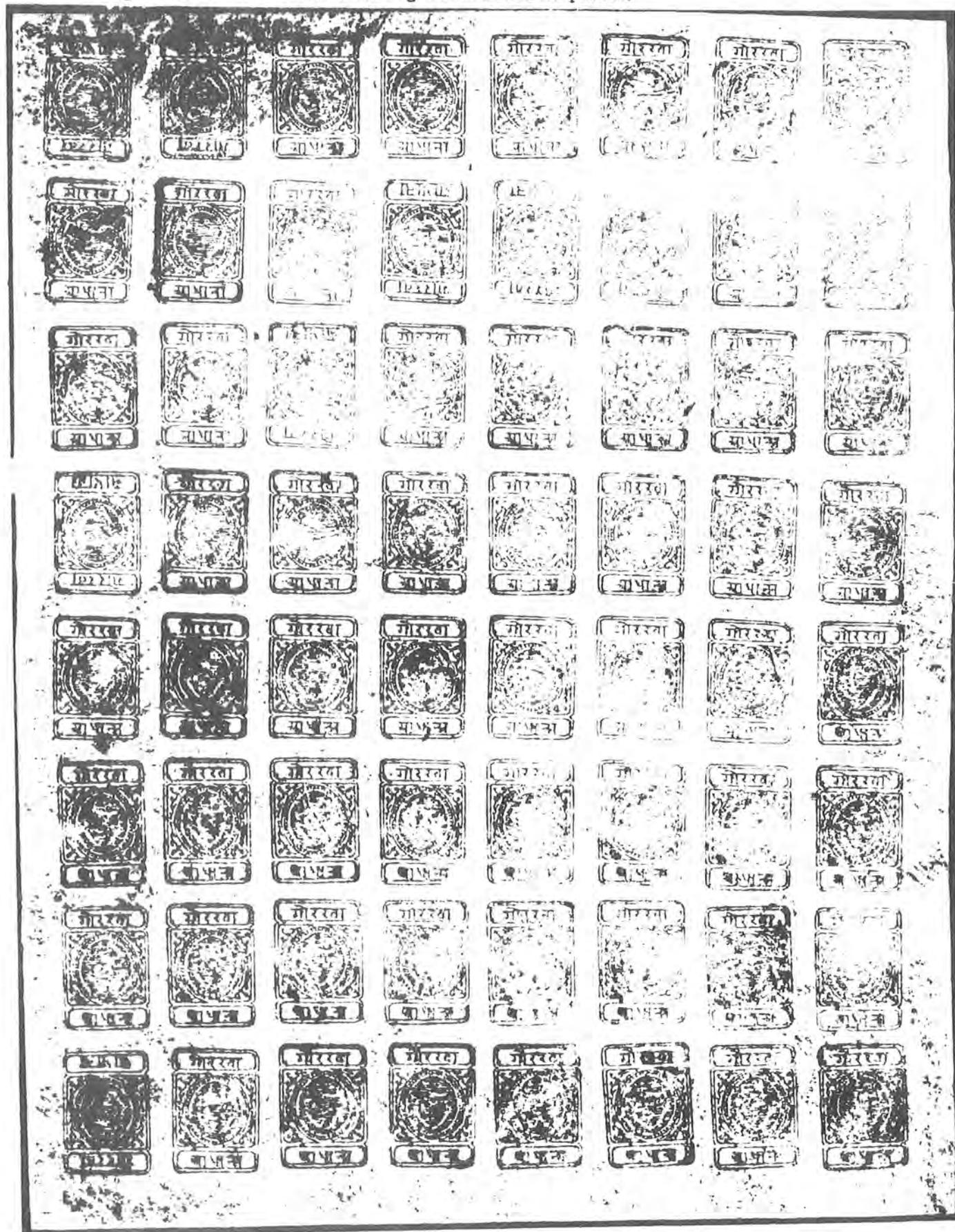


Fig. 6 - A full sheet of the half-anna stamp in the orange-vermilion color. Since no full sheet of this rare stamp is known to have survived, this completely bogus sheet is an interesting conversation piece!



Suffice it to say that all denominations of the classic issues of Nepal are known as forgeries. But modern issues have not been neglected either! Fig. 5 (below) shows two triangular stamps of the 1-Rupee denomination -- one perforated and the other imperforate. It is highly likely that the imperforate item was produced by simply trimming the perfs off of a perforated stamp. This writer has had no 'luck' in finding a pair of imperforate stamps!



At this point in our discussion, we have yet to discuss 'used' stamps which carry bogus cancels. Nor have we mentioned such scarce items as the highly desired ½-anna stamp in the orange-vermillion-color -- perhaps the most often counterfeited. Indeed, the rarer the stamp, the more often it is counterfeited. We even have a full-sheet of bogus stamps in this color in which there are as many as seven inverts! Can the reader identify their positions in Fig. 6 (next page)? -- Using a single cliché, I suppose that one could produce a sheet with as many as 32 inverts!

In 1976 Dr. Hellrigl gave me a copy of a 1-rupee stamp (Scott #124) bearing the overprint, but with that overprint hand painted on the stamp! The overprinted stamp was quite scarce at the time, since the black overprint bearing the king's likeness was considered an evil omen. Some of the stamps had, however, reached the Kathmandu Post Office and a few of the stamps were released and, quite naturally, were in great demand. When stocks of these stamps were released at face value by the Nepal Philatelic Bureau just a few years ago, collectors who had paid high prices for the stamps years earlier were not pleased!

So far, our discussion has not included bogus cancellations on stamps, but our President, Dr. Hellrigl, has been working on a book dealing solely with the counterfeits of Nepal and of Tibet. We can only offer some of the 'high-lights' of this subject for Nepal. So, to keep this belated article within reasonable bounds, we will simply point out that the last page (page 74) of Dr. Hellrigl's book titled "A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks (1879-1935)", bears the heading: "If you collect Nepal, chances are that you are familiar with the following forgeries ..." (Captions and other information throughout this paperbacked book are given in both English and German.) The seven cancels shown on page 74 are shown below as Fig. 6:

