

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

UNITED STAMP COMPANY

HERALD

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE
UNITED STAMP COMPANY
CHICAGO

Vol. I, No. 2 Whole No. 2

SPECIAL! CHINESE POST OFFICES IN THIBET 1911

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	Unused Prices
3 pies on 1c, brownish orange.....	\$.04
½ anna on 2c, deep green.....	.05
1 " on 4c, scarlet.....	.07
2 annas on 7c, lake.....	.12
2½ " on 10c, dull lake.....	.18
3 " on 16c, olive green.....	.22
4 " on 20c, maroon.....	.25
6 " on 30c, vermilion.....	.35
12 " on 50c, green.....	.65
1 rupee on \$1, myrtle and flesh.....	.80

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No. 72

4th Quarter



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 in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the society representative in your area.

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SECRETARY: Mr. Colin Hepper, 12 Charnwood Close,
Peterborough, Cambs., PE2 9BZ England.
Telephone: 0733-349403 Fax: 0733-896890

EDITOR: Mr. Leo Martyn
P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles,
Ca. 90049-0263, U.S.A.

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Mr. Ramesh Shrestha, 1/82 Ga Kopundol, Lalitpur, Nepal.
Mr. Boon Tan, 1137 Chancellor Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62026, USA.

RESIGNED:

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DECEASED:

Mr. C.W. Barnes, NSW Australia.

Can anyone supply the addresses for the following:

Mr. K. Windelmann, Ireland.
Mr. Naldo Harper, Hawaii.

* * * * *

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To calculate the number of lines your advertisement will require, count 74 letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. Ads will be placed under appropriate headings without charge for the headings, or simply send your own ad, asking the editor to place it under an appropriate heading (at no extra cost).

DEADLINE: Ad and payment in USA dollars (or in mint USA postage stamps) 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 be counted as a new advertisement.

FOR SALE: TIBETAN STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY. I currently have a large stock of quality material from all periods. I would be glad to send you a selection tailored to your specific needs. Want lists invited. I also have a list of out-of-print books and articles on Tibetan philately for which I can provide photocopies. This will be sent to anyone requesting it. George Bourke, P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, Mi., 49201, U.S.A.

WANTED: Tibetan Local Post Stamps and Postal History from 1912 - 1960. Single stamps, multiples, sheets, covers and proofs. I am willing to pay good prices and or exchange other Tibet material of all periods, Nepal stamps (Pashupati and Gorkha Patra Press issues) or quality stamps of the whole world. Write to: Rainer Fuchs, Am Burkardstuhl 31, 8702 Himmelstadt, Germany.

FOR SALE: Tibetan Pocket Calendars; includes Tibetan Holidays, written in English and Tibetan. \$2.50 each; money goes to help Drepung Monastery in India. T. Miller, P.O. Box 59031, Chicago, Il 60659, USA.

WANTED: CLASSIC AND PASHUPATI COVERS FROM Nepal. I will purchase and or trade better stamps and covers. Also wanted, better or unusual Nepalese covers from the 1950's and 1960's. Leo Martyn, P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA, 90049-0263, USA.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

George Bourke sent the following information in response to Wilson Lin's inquiry (Postal Himal No. 71, p. 47) concerning unissued overprinted Chinese stamps for use in Tibet. It appeared in The American Philatelist of November, 1970 (Volume 84, No. 11, p. 1010) and was written by Robert West.

Unfamiliar Invasion Stamps

Adding a touch of color to Tibetan postal history is a little-known plan that never materialized.

During World War II, the Chinese once again wanted to assume control over Tibet. Why such a venture would be considered, at a time when the Chinese had been forced to retreat into western China by the Japanese, has not been explained. Perhaps the major reason was that Tibet would have provided a vast sanctuary for rebuilding the Chinese armies for an all-out assault against the Japanese. Also, since the Chinese have maintained for centuries that Tibet is a part of China, a takeover of the country would have forstalled a Russian move into Tibet, such as occurred in Touva and Mongolia.

At any rate, the invasion plan advanced to the extent that in 1944 certain Chinese stamps were overprinted for use in Tibet. The overprint, in black, consisted of the Chinese character for "Tibet", flanked on either side by two vertical wavy lines. The basic stamps, featuring a portrait of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, had been printed several years earlier by the Chung-Hwa Book Co., Chungking.

The stamps overprinted consisted of the following: Scott No. 349, 2c olive green; 350, 3c claret; 351, 5c green; 353, 8c olive green, and 354, 10c green.

Why such low denominations were selected for overprinting is a matter of conjecture. Inflation was rampant at the time in the areas controlled by the Chinese Nationalists and postage rates required dollars in payment rather than cents. It can only be assumed that a separate Chinese currency, with a different valuation from that of China proper, was to be used in Tibet.

However, the Tibet invasion plan was abandoned late in 1944 and the overprinted stamps were never placed in use. Thus, it remained for the Chinese communists to accomplish again what the Chinese Imperialsits did in 1909 - conquer Tibet. The centuries-old battle continues, for today the Tibetans fight on for their independence.



Figure 2. This is an enlargement of one of the stamps prepared by Chinese Nationalists for a proposed invasion of Tibet. Invasion never took place.

[Ed. The overprint in the above illustration (poor as it is) appears to have 2 vertical lines (see arrow) whereas the illustration supplied by Mr. Lin (shown here) has 3 horizontal lines on either side. Can anyone offer additional information?

≈ 藏 ≈

EDITORIAL

The cover illustration was sent by Roger Skinner - certainly one of the earliest ads offering Tibetan material.

* * * * *

Mr. Shrestha, our representative in Nepal, ran the following ad in the December 26, 1992 issue of The Rising Nepal.

Read ! POSTAL HIMAL
 Only Quarterly from U.S.A. for Nepal & Tibet Stamp Collectors. Pay \$ 12 In P.E.R. Nepalese Rs for 1 yr.
To S.L. Shrestha
 G.P.O. Box 72, Kathmandu, Ph: 216726
 Free 1 Yr. membership to N & TPSC, England Included.

* * * * *

Members wishing to have their areas of interest published may write Roger Skinner, Colin or me. The areas will either be included with the 1994 Membership List or will be printed separately. You may be as general or specific as you want.

* * * * *

Michael Rogers discusses the stamps and postal history of Tibet in his regular "Asia" column in Linn's Stamp News of August 31. In Linns's "Reader's Opinion" column of October 26, 1992 George Alevizos offered some corrections and additional pertinent information to Michael's article.

* * * * *

George Alevizos, in his Nov. 16, 1992 Public Auction, offered the only recorded example of Nepal's 1962 1p Official stamp with a double overprint. It was estimated at \$1500 and had a Hellrigl certificate.



1321

* * * * *

I only received one response to my editorial in the last issue dealing with the term "native". There is no point in reproducing the letter as the writer made no references to philately and obviously completely missed the point I was making.

* * * * *

The two meetings of the Study Circle in San Francisco next month will be special. Geoffrey Flack and or Frealon Bibbins will present Alan Warren's "Stamps of Tibet" slide show plus some additional information of their own at the Friday meeting. Armand Singer will present a talk entitled "Trophies of A Himalayan Hunter", based upon his many years as a collector, sunday.

Seven Study Circle members will show exhibits: Frank Vignola's Nepal will appear non-competitively in The Court of Honor. The competitive exhibits are Leo Martyn's Nepal, Larry Scott's Nepal, Armand Singer's Tibet, Roger Skinner's Nepal, Frank E. Vignola's Nepal, and Al Zulueta Jr's Nepal. The total of 57 frames (912 pages) probably represents the finest showing of Nepal and Tibet material ever at one show. Are there any Bhutan exhibits out there?

Mr. Sidhartha M. Tuladhar may attend bringing with him a slide show.

of Nepal and or an exhibit of photographs of Tibet - both non-philatelic. Also he is willing to translate Nepali or Newari into English during Westpex.

If completed, Geoffrey Flack, the publisher of Frealon Bibbin's Tibet First Series, 1912 Plating Handbook (which is virtually sold-out), will bring along copies of Frealon's latest book which is a plating study of the 1933 issue.

WESTPEX '93

April 23-25 Quality/Cathedral Hill Hotel Van Ness at Geary Avenue

Nepal and Tibet Study Circle Meetings:

Friday, April 23, 1-3 p.m., Room 378, "Stamps of Tibet".

Sunday, April 25, 10 a.m.-noon, Embarcadero Room, "Trophies of a Himalayan Hunter".

In addition to the two meetings we will have a booth (M-9) available for members to meet and "chew the yak".

* * * * *

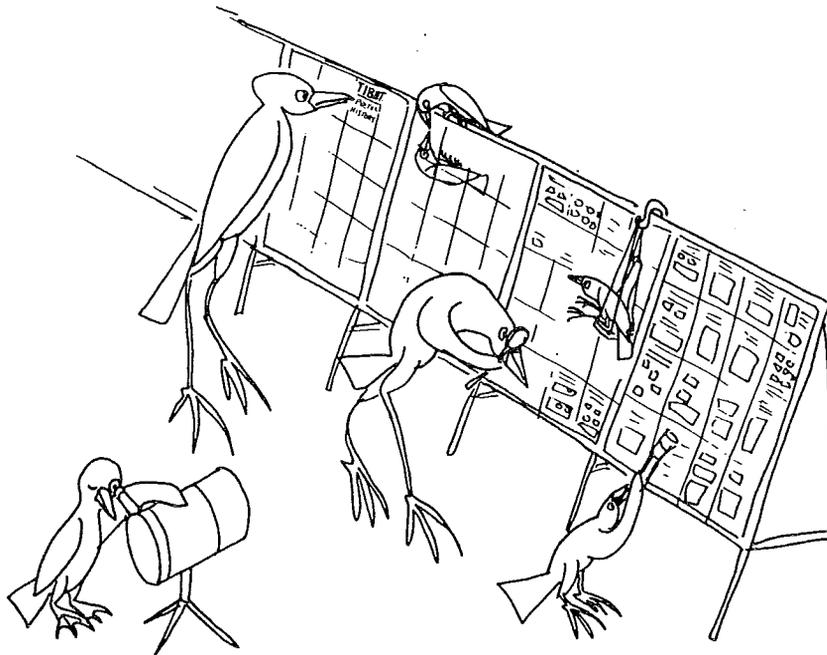
A new book, Nepal, Catalogue of the Postal Stationery, 1887-1992, by Professor Dr. Axel Werner and Dick van der Wateren. Although I have only been able to glance through it, the book appears to be a very fine production with many illustrations and valuation charts for all the items.

I would appreciate any additions or corrections to be included in the Postal Himal.

Roger Skinner will have copies available at Westpex plus several other books dealing with Nepalese philately.

* * * * *

FOR THE BIRDS by NORDEN



WESTPEX '93

One of our members is a cartoonist using the pseudonym of Norden. His works are titled "For The Birds".

* * * * *

Further Notes on the British-Indian Post Office in Nepal

Part 2

Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

In this second update to my handbook, *Nepal Postal History*, I can report several more discoveries concerning the Indian Post Office in Nepal. Most of the new information was kindly provided by Leo Martyn and John Kolena, respectively. Even if some of the periods of use could only be extended by a few days, they are nevertheless important as is the continued search for further new dates. After all, it is one of the foremost aims of a philatelic handbook to provide the basis for new research and to attract further information.

1. Revised Periods of Use

The periods of use of the following types of postal markings and labels should be corrected as follows (the newly recorded dates are underlined):

British Residency P.O.:

Cancellations (page 79):

TYPE B16 16.10.1916 - 27.12.1937

Datestamps (page 93):

TYPE B26 31.8.1888 - 17.12.1891 (used as a cancellation)

TYPE B29 30.7.1914 - 25.10.1941

Delivery Datestamps (page 103):

TYPE B34 12.12.1896 - 17.4.1898

TYPE B35 16.9.1905 - 12.9.1911

TYPE B39 16.5.1912 - 8.8.1914

TYPE B42 1.9.1940 - 30.4.1941

Miscellaneous Postal Markings (page 124):

TYPE B69 31.1.1887 - 20.10.1941 (used on "A.D." cards)

Royal Camp P.O. (page 132):

TYPE B78 15.12.1921 - 17.12.1921

British Legation P.O. (page 137):

TYPE B83 18.11.1941 - 4.11.1947

TYPE B88 25.7.1942 - 2.3.1948 (used on "A.D." cards)

Indian Embassy P.O. (page 144):

TYPE	B95	<u>9.6.1949</u>	-	<u>14.1.1964</u>
TYPE	B101	<u>22.1.1954</u>	-	<u>21.9.1964</u>
TYPE	B102	<u>15.8.1949</u>	-	<u>27.4.1961</u>
TYPE	B110	<u>25.5.1958</u>	-	<u>7.9.1962</u>

Postal Labels:

Registration Labels (page 151):

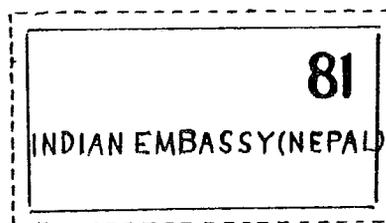
TYPE	8a	<u>27.5.1944</u>	-	<u>18.6.1946</u>
TYPE	9	<u>31.10.1945</u>	-	<u>29.4.1949</u>
TYPE	11	<u>29.8.1948</u>	-	<u>3.5.1949</u>

Value-Payable Labels (page 161):

TYPE	4	<u>9.2.1950</u>	-	<u>5.11.1950</u>
TYPE	4a	<u>5.2.1950</u>	-	<u>10.2.1952</u>

Parcel Labels (page 165):

TYPE	2	<u>19.12.1952</u>	-	<u>13.12.1957</u>
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Parcel Label, Type 2 (a new sub-type)

Kathmandu Exchange P.O. (page 178):

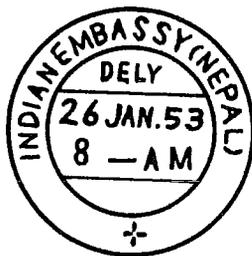
TYPE	1	<u>21.8.1919</u>	-	<u>10.2.1937</u>
TYPE	2	<u>23.3.1937</u>	-	<u>3.5.1949</u>
TYPE	4	<u>1.7.1949</u>	-	<u>21.11.1956</u>

As a result of newly recorded periods of use, the introduction of the postal markings inscribed "BRITISH LEGATION (NEPAL)" could be narrowed down to the period from 25.10.1941 (now the last known use of a British Residency postmark, Type B29) to 18.11.1941 (now the earliest known use of a British Legation postmark, Type B83). The respective dates given on page 135 should be amended accordingly.

2. Forged Postal Markings (pages 170-171)

The following forgery of the delivery datestamp, Type B102, was first found cancelling an Indian stamp on a spurious India/Tibet combination cover. The address consists of a forged directional handstamp, imitating Tibetan handwriting. It should be noted that delivery datestamps were never used to cancel stamps. There are numerous other inconsistencies - starting from purely invented rates - that I hesitate to explain in detail, as this might only help the forger to do better next time. This, incidentally, is one of the recent forgeries marketed by Mafatlal Sheth of Bombay.

Leo Martyn just sent me another cover bearing several strikes of the same forgery, again mis-used to cancel Indian stamps. The reverse of this cover is illustrated below. The date and hour - 26th January, 1953, 8 A.M. - appear to be fixed elements of this spurious device: they are identical on both covers and, therefore, betray an otherwise extremely dangerous imitation:

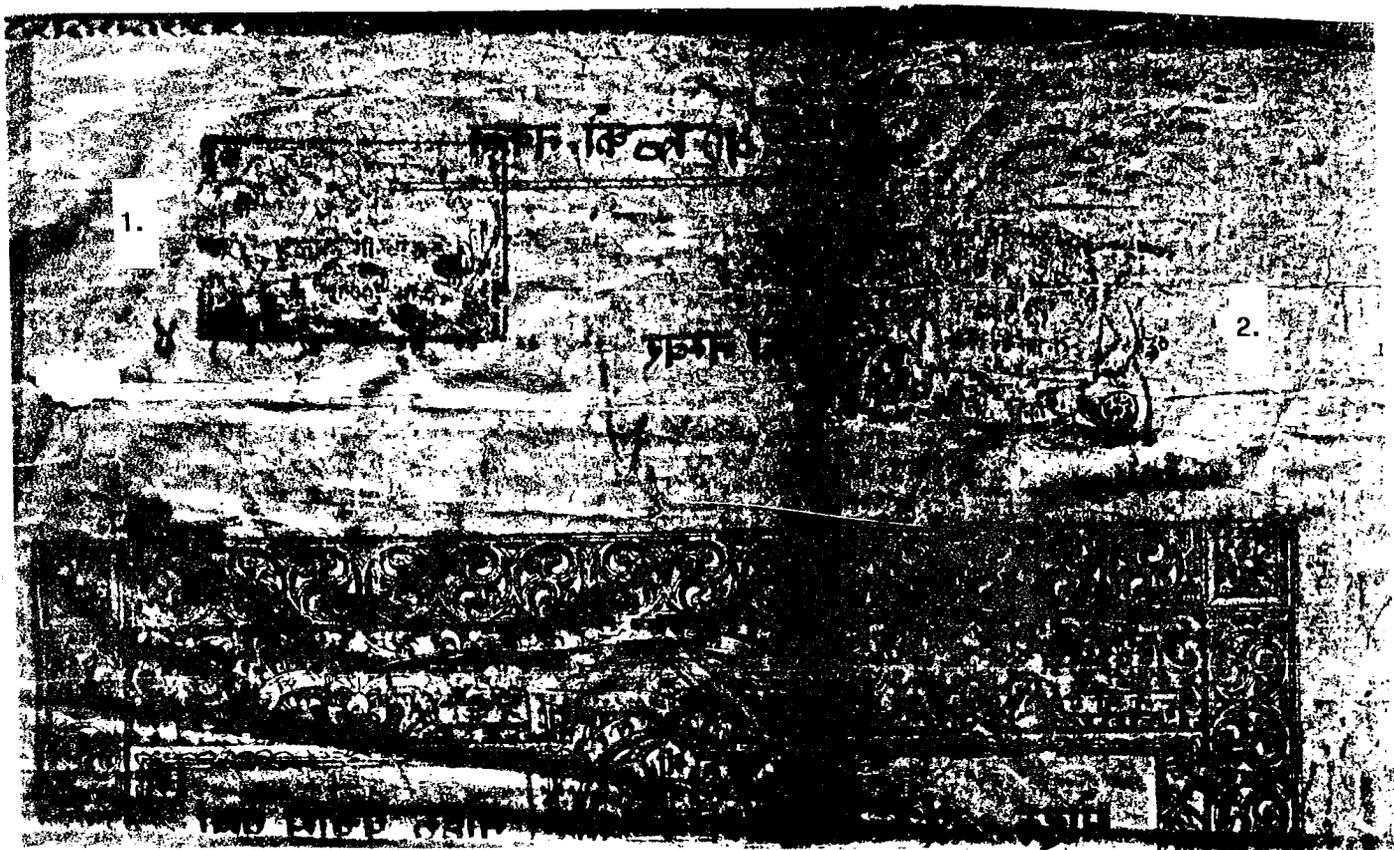


FORGED TYPE B102



Reverse of cover bearing four strikes of the forged delivery datestamp of the Indian Embassy P.O., Type B102. (Courtesy: Leo Martyn)

4. Bazariya Adhakatti Tikats to be issued to the public against the payment of the customs duty for the imports and or the exports.
Then the system was that the highest bidder or the favorite of the then regime got the authority of running the customs office on a contractual basis.
5. Supply of the receipts to be issued by the District Inspection Group to the officials or the public against the payment of the fines or the penalties for irregularities or flaws.
Such specially constituted teams appraised the workings of the district offices and reported their findings to the Centre.
6. Dharmadhikar Lifa is a special form which is issued by the nominated religious head or his agent against the payment of a tax or contribution to the head of the family.



Court Fee Lifa*

1. Govt. Treasury Seal:
"Shree
Court Fee
Muluki Khana (Govt.
Treasury)
Gorkha Sarkar
2000"

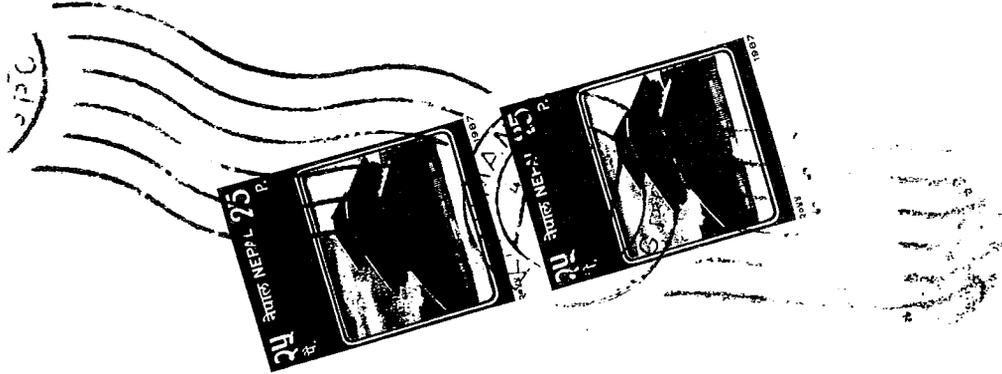
2. Hulak Goshwara (G.P.O.) Seal:
"Surrender to Shree Pashupati Nath
Court Fee
Hulak Goshwara (G.P.O.)
2000
Gorkha Sarkar"

NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

S.L. Shrestha

Recently (Oct., 1992) I saw a new type of postmark with bigger size letters (as in magazines) used by the Kathmandu G.P.O. I visited the Mail Centre room of the G.P.O. where I saw the new postmark being used. The cancelling device is a roller made of wood fixed with a metal cylinder. According to the postal staff in the room, this new type of postmark has been used since March of 1992.

They also said the G.P.O. is being reformed, to some extent, with the help of the Postal Project Office which opened in May of 1991, as per an agreement between the Nepalese and German governments.



* * * * *

NEPAL, CATALOGUE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

PROF. DR. AXEL WERNER
DICK VAN DER WATEREN

After some ten years of intensive preparations this catalogue is now finally available. Thanks to the long research it was possible to include the trends in market prices.

In this catalogue you will find:

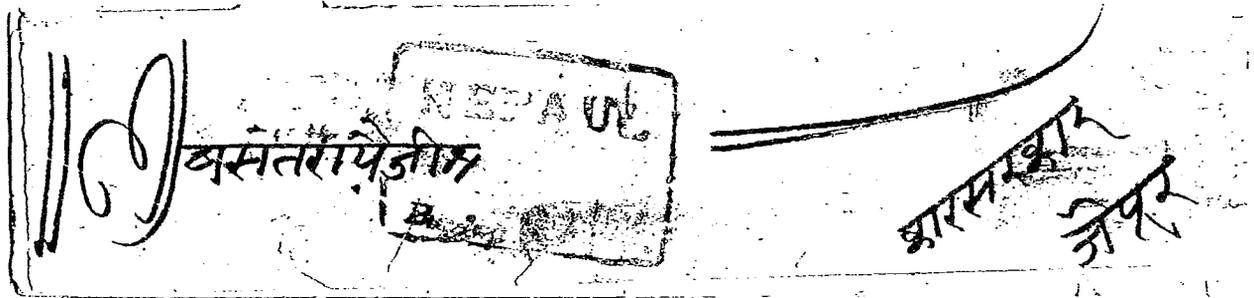
- a. A comprehensive description of the Postal Stationery from 1887 to 1992.
- b. A total of 64 pictures covering all types of stationery.
- c. Correlation of the used numbering system with Higgins & Gage.
- d. Detailed price indications for all stationery.
- e. Listing of many special varieties.
- f. A description of the Postal Rates.
- g. Extensive bibliography.

This catalogue belongs on the shelf of anyone interested in the stationery of Nepal: collectors, auctioneers and dealers.

The price of this catalogue in A-4 format is: £ 10,- for Europe (incl. postage)
\$ 17,- for the USA (ordinary mail)
\$ 18,- for the USA (air mail)

Order your catalogue by mail and please include payment with your order (no cheques) to the publisher:

Dick van der Wateren
Ysbaanweg 8
8391HZ Noordwolde
Netherlands



Not a new discovery but, nevertheless, an interesting item: the forgery of the NEPAUL/Bearing handstamp, Type B5, struck on a stampless Jaipur cover.

(Courtesy: Leo Martyn)

3. Additional Postal Rates

Registration (page 107, 3rd paragraph):

On 1.9.1921 the registration fee for letters to the United Kingdom was raised from 2 to 3 annas.

Acknowledgement (page 109, 2nd paragraph):

On 1.9.1921 the acknowledgement fee for foreign letters was raised from 2 to 3 annas.

4. India-Nepal Combination Covers

On page 182 of *Nepal Postal History* I had stated that I had never seen combined frankings on mail originating from India and addressed to Nepal. Searching casually through some papers that came with a collection I bought years ago, I have now found photocopies of a set of three commercial combination covers dated between October 1933 and June 1935. Undoubtedly genuine items, all three form part of the same correspondence. They originated from Fagu, Jalpaiguri, India, passed through Kathmandu (where they received the British-Indian datestamp plus the usual oval KATMANDU handstamp), and were then forwarded to the Nepalese P.O. which delivered them to their final destination, Dhulikhel. The Nepalese postage was, of course, required for the last stretch of the journey, from Kathmandu to Dhulikhel.

I have no idea of the present whereabouts of these three combination covers. I would have liked to illustrate at least one of these rare items, but the photocopies in my possession do not reproduce well. At any rate, the covers in question represent a very important aspect of postal history. Which proves once more that the Himalayan area is always good for new and exciting discoveries.

OF THE YORE-

HULAK GOSHWARA - SHRESTHA PHANT

- KRISHNA RAJ BHANDARI

Literally translated the name of this office means the General Post Office Administrative Section. So this Office is solely meant for the over-all postal management of the country. Of course, the primary function of this organization is the postal one but it is also entrusted with other extra activities which are not at all directly connected with the postal service proper. Let us examine its various activities.

First that of the postal. They are:

1. The administration and the management of the personnel, accounts, supplies and the distribution of the goods and services.
2. Supply of the stamps, postal stationery, forms and other accessories necessary for running the service.
3. Supply the MO forms and related accessories required for this service.
4. The monthly returns of the receipts and the sales of the postage stamps and the postal stationery are to be reported to this Office by the individual post offices spread all over the country. Generally as these articles are supplied by the attached Mals (Revenue Offices) or other allied offices and as such the post offices had to deposit the sale proceeds to the relative Mals.

Apart from the proper postal works this Office had to deal in other revenue-related undertakings. They were:

1. Supply of the Binti Patra Lifa (petition forms) valued in Nepalese and Indian currency for the general public. Petitions had to be submitted to the governmental authorities on such forms.
2. The supply of the tickets of various denominations for the appointment of Zamindars and Patwaris. Likewise the forms for digging up the ponds were arranged through this office.
3. Supply of the forms required for the admission to appear in the clerical and other allied examination.

In course of time this office has to take up additional functions. They were:

1. Supply for the receipt forms to be issued to the public against the payment of the land revenue.
2. Supply of the receipts to be issued for the payment of revenue through the Talukdars and Jimmawals.
3. Hal Ghar Sangha forms for the Ban Jach Adda (Forest Office) to supply the timber and allied accessories to the public for making plows and the construction of their dwellings.



फिलाटेलिक कार्यक्रम

१९९३

PHILATELIC PROGRAMME 1993



NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU

Contact: **NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU**
Sundhara, Kathmandu,
Nepal
Phone No. 2-14695

for
Nepalese Postage Stamps, First Day Covers,
Folders, Postal Stationeries etc.

क्र.सं	प्रकाशन मिति	विवरण	दर	S.N.	Date of Issue	Subject or Occasion	Rate
१.	२०५० वैशाख	माछा टिकट माला:- क, ख, ग, घ, ङ, सोभेनियर सिट	१०/- ५/- ५/- २/- २५/-	1.	April 1993	Fish Series:- a, b, c, d, e, Souvenir Sheet	10.00 8.00 5.00 2.00 25.00
२.	२०५० असार	राष्ट्रिय व्यक्तित्वहरू:- क, टंकप्रसाद आचार्य ख, सिद्धिचरण श्रेष्ठ ग, सुन्दरे शेर्पा	१/- १/- १०/-	2.	July 1993	National Personalities:- a, Tanka Prasad Acharya b, Siddhicharan Shrestha c, Sundare Sherpa	1.00 1.00 10.00
३.	२०५० असोज	हुलाक सेवा सम्बन्धी	७/-	3.	Oct. 1993	Postal Services	7.00
४.	२०५० कात्तिक	दक्षिण एशिया पर्यटन वर्ष - १९९३:- क. नाम्पा हिमाल ख तिलिचो ताल ग, सुन्दरी चोक घ, व्हाइट वाटर ज्याफिटङ्ग	६/- ७/- १०/- ९/-	4.	Oct. 1993	South Asia Tourism Year 1993:- a, Mt. Nampa b, Tilicho Lake c, Sundari Chowk d, White Water Rafting	6.00 7.00 10.00 9.00
५.	२०५० मंसिर	धार्मिक स्थल सम्बन्धी:- क, हलेसी महादेव (खोटाङ्ग) ख, बाघ भैरव (कीर्तिपुर) ग, देवघाट घ, रेलिङ्ग गुम्बा (हुम्ला)	१/- १०/- ४/- ३/-	5.	Nov. 1993	Holy Place Series:- a, Halesi Mahadev (Khotang) b, Bagh Bhairaw (Kirtipur) c, Devghat d, Reling Gumba (Humla)	1.00 10.00 4.00 3.00
६.	२०५० मंसिर	एड्स सम्बन्धी	१/-	6.	Dec. 1993	AIDS	1.00
७.	२०५० पुस	श्री ५ महाराजाधिराज सरकारको ४९ औ शुभ-जन्मोत्सव	१/-	7.	28th Dec .1993	49th Birthday of H.M. the king	1.00

दृष्टव्य:- १) आवश्यकतानुसार यस कार्यक्रममा थपघट हुन सक्ने छ ।
२) प्रत्येक प्रकाशनको सम्बन्धमा विशेष जानकारी नेपाल
फिलाटेलिक ब्यूरो, सुन्धाराबाट समय समयमा उपलब्ध
हुन सक्नेछ ।

Note:- 1) This programme is subject to change with or
without notice.
2) Details of each issue will be available from Nepal
Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu.

A 25-year-old report has surfaced in the archives of the government of Bhutan that reveals some startling details of problems the government had with its former stamp agent in the Bahamas.

The report was written in 1964 by K. Ramamurti, the former Indian postal adviser to Bhutan.

The report revealed that the arrangements for an agent were made in the early 1960s between someone in the Bhutanese government (the contract copies couldn't be found) and Burt Kerr Todd of Pryce Machine and Manufacturing Co. of Derby, Pa. Under the arrangement, an organization called the Bhutan Trust Ltd. was established by Todd in Nassau, Bahamas.

The trust was given the responsibility to design, print and sell Bhutanese stamps outside of Bhutan, which it did from 1960 to 1974.

Ramamurti wrote that six stamp issues had been prepared and issued in the first two years of the Nassau trust's operation (through the Tokyo Olympics issue of October 1964, Scott 24-30), without the agency having made any accounting to the government for the numbers of stamps printed or sold.

The report says that in April 1963 the government asked Todd for sales statistics and demanded monthly statements for the future. None was forthcoming.

Ramamurti complained that the agent didn't even submit photographs of designs for approval. In fact, a proposal to issue a three-stamp Kennedy Memorial set and souvenir sheet was disapproved by the government. The agent prepared and issued the set anyway in November 1964.

To this day, the Bhutan Posts and Telegraphs tolerates use of stamps from the Kennedy set on mail matter. Some time after the release of the stamps, the Bhutan P&T accepted the fait accompli and sold stocks in Bhutan post offices that it had received from Nassau.

Ramamurti's task as postal adviser was to study the ad hoc mail system that existed up to the time of his appointments and recommend actions necessary to modernize and expand postal services to the public at large throughout the country. There was no public mail service as such in Bhutan prior to 1954.

In the south of Bhutan, near the Indian border, government divisional officers were charged with accepting and forwarding mail through nearby Indian post offices.

In the north, west and east of the country, officials in various mountain fortresses accepted official mail for transit between the forts. From 1955, the officials allowed private letters. Fiscal stamps were used to indicate payment had been made.

At the time of Ramamurti's report, only three modern post offices existed in Bhutan that used postage stamps. His chief complaint about the inability of the three post offices to function adequately was that the agency in the Bahamas provided too few stamps.

Ramamurti made two recommendations to solve the problem. One was that Bhutan print its own stamps, and the other was that government terminate the agency arrangement.

The immediate result was the unannounced local issue of the first surcharged series of stamps released in 1965 (Scott 68-75), which were overprinted at the India Government Press at Nasik Road. This provisional set consists of eight high-value agency-issued stamps surcharged down to letter-rate values.

These 1965 provisionals are among the scarcest Bhutan stamps issued to date. The maximum quantity of sets that can exist is 2,750.

In 1966, the first regular, low-value, non-agency, Nasik-printed definitives (Scott 76-79) were issued.

The second recommendation apparently wasn't heeded. History has shown that it took 10 years, a failed coup d'etat, and a new government to place into effect Ramamurti's recommendation to terminate the old contract. The Bahamas trust closed in 1974.

After Ramamurti's mission ended, the need for foreign exchange from stamp sales apparently became too great a temptation for the government to ignore. In 1974, Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp. in New York became Bhutan's worldwide agent.

The government had no choice, for lack of a domestic printing plant and the money to build one, but to accept an arrangement that permitted IGPC to design and have stamps printed.

While IGPC avoided Todd's gimmicky 3-D, scented, metallic and silk stamps, the Bhutan P&T found its image was hurting.

Sales suffered from issue of extended sets of useless high-value souvenir sheets and other agency creations. Collectors were complaining.

The Bhutan P&T now has full control over its stamp issues, from concept to design and printing.

Marketing and sales are managed through regional agents in Europe, Asia and the Americas and directed from the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu. The new-issue policy is a conservative one.

[Ed. Len was appointed as a new philatelic agent for the Bhutan P&T last year and has access to historical information from the P&T archives. He can be reached at: Box 523, APO AE, U.S.A. The above article appeared in Linn's Stamp News of August 31, 1992, page 10.]

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ON THE PRACTICE OF MARKING FORGERIES

George Bourke

I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern over our Study Circle's policy of marking forgeries, submitted to our auctions, with a rubber stamp (see Postal Himal No. 71, "NOTICE TO AUCTION VENDORS"). I think the idea of marking forgeries while well intentioned, is misguided and rather than helping to solve a problem, could have potentially serious results. To illustrate this, let me recount a recent incident that goes to the heart of the problem.

One of our Study Circle members had sent me a large group of forgeries, with the request that I examine them and put them into sets for him. This is not an infrequent occurrence and something I enjoy doing. Many of the forgeries had been marked on their backs with the word "FALSCH" (German for "FALSE") and bore the printed name of a well known Tibet collector and expertizer. Of the material I examined, six of the stamps were found to have been stamped "Falsch" but were in fact genuine. These six stamps had been effectively rendered worthless.

Should you have any doubts as to the impact of such a "FALSCH" hand-stamp, just imagine you are examining a dealer's stock, and you notice a stamp that you have been looking for and want to add to your collection. Turning it over you notice that it has been marked "FALSCH", would you buy it? I don't think so. No matter how much the dealer may protest that the stamp is genuine, you will not be convinced.

Someone had examined the stamps before me and determined to their satisfaction that they were fakes and indicated this by stamping "FALSCH" on their backs. I come along later, examine the same stamps and decide that they are genuine. This brings us to two important aspects of this problem.

First, who is qualified to render a verdict? Although this may seem easy to answer, I am sure that most of us could find several persons that we could agree know enough to pass judgment. The fact is that the history of Art, an area with a much longer history of fakery than philately, is replete with countless instances where experts have been fooled into thinking something is genuine when it is not and conversely, that something is a fake when it is actually genuine.

The British Museum recently put on an exhibition titled, "FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION", an exhibit of more than 600 objects, from the Museum, as well as other collections. Many of these objects had been deemed genuine by the British Museum herself. This certainly underscores the fallibility of experts.

Secondly, advances in the means of detection of forgeries, can often change our opinion as to what is and is not genuine. Be these advances technological or increases in understanding, they often have the effect of changing the way we view things and render previous opinions obsolete. Opinions that were well thought of at the time, are often shown to be incorrect at some later date. An opinion is never final. But the practice of marking a suspected forgery is certainly permanent and final - permanently altering the object and affecting its value.

This raises the not inconsequential issue of legal liability. As in the incident I recounted at the beginning of this article, should a genuine stamp or cover be incorrectly marked "FAKE", in such a situation, where is the legal liability? You can certainly bet it is with the person or organization that marked the item. The legal consequences could be considerable. Do you want to take the chance of having a law suit destroy the finances of our group?

What does a museum do when it discovers that it has a "fake" among its treasures? Does it stamp "FAKE" on the back of a suspect painting or chisel FORGERY" on the base of a statue it no longer thinks is genuine? No, it certainly does not, nor should we. For to do that is to permanently alter the object. As has been shown countless times, what we consider genuine today, may not be thought of as genuine tomorrow. What the museum does is to remove the suspect object from public display and put it into the museum's study collection.

A study collection has many parts, one of which is a collection of fakes and forgeries, that are used for study, research and to train the eye. Training the eye is an important function of forgeries, offering a comparative tool of great usefulness. Collectors should consider forming a forgery collection. Not as a "rouges gallery" but as a serious tool, indispensable for training the eye.

In closing, I would like to suggest that the practice of marking forgeries is primitive, destructive and not something that is done by museums or art galleries. Expert opinions and fallibility go hand in hand. Opinions are not something that should be carved in stone or permanently marked on the backs of things. The legal implications of incorrectly marking an item can be considerable.

The only way to safeguard ourselves from forgeries and fakes is through education. Study forgeries, get to know what they look like. Form a reference collection. There is no substitute for this.

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HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU

Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal



**AVAILABLE POSTAGE STAMPS
1993**

Available Postage Stamps

S.N.	Subject	Denomination	Sheet	Year
1.	Chariot of Red Machhendranath	1.25	100	1979
2.	Shiva Parvati	1.25	35	1979
3.	Danphe	3.50	50	1979
4.	Dhaulagiri	5.00	50	1980
5.	International Year of Disabled person (IYDP)	5.00	50	1981
6.	Souvenir Sheet	5.00	-	1981
7.	Satellite Station	5.00	100	1981
8.	39th Birthday of HM the King	5.00	50	1983
9.	Mt. Cho-oyu	6.00	50	1983
10.	20th Anniversary of Asia Pacific Broadcasting	5.00	16	1984
11.	23rd Olympic Games	10.00	50	1984
12.	Mt. Api	5.00	50	1984
13.	40th Anniversary U.N.O.	5.00	50	1985
14.	First SAARC Summit	5.00	50	1985
15.	Regular Series			
	(A) Lumbini	.10	100	1986
	(B) Crown	1.00	100	1986
16.	Mt. Purnori	8.00	50	1986
17.	International Peace Year	10.00	50	1986
18.	Regular Pashupati	.50	100	1987
19.	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless 1987	5.00	50	1987
20.	Kasthamandap	.25	35	1987
21.	43rd Birthday of HM the King	.25	50	1987
22.	Mt. Kanjiroba	10.00	50	1987
23.	Diamond Jubilee of Queen Mother Ratna	5.00	50	1988
24.	10th Anniversary of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity	4.00	50	1989
25.	45th Birthday of HM the King	2.00	50	1989
26.	Child Survival and Development	1.00	50	1989
27.	Mt. Ama Dablam	5.00	50	1989
28.	Coming-of-age of HRH Crown Prince Deependra	1.00	50	1990

We have the pleasure in notifying revised list of Nepal Postage Stamps available for sale in this Bureau. All those interested in Nepal Postage Stamps are cordially invited to contact the following address:-

Officer in charge

NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU
Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal

Order and method of payment

Since standing order system for deposit Account Number is already available in our Bureau, deposit account may be opened at the following minimum sum in one of the following currencies listed below:-

- Rs. 200.00 NC for Nepalese Customers,
- Rs. 200.00 IC for Indian Customers, 25.00 (U S Dollar) or equivalent DM or Sterling Pounds or Japanese Yen for Overseas Customers.

Any order from time to time may be placed along with the remittance sufficient to cover the cost of stamps including Postage Packing and Postage Registration.

Payment may be made by any foreign customer through cheque, bank draft or any method payable to the Nepal Philatelic Bureau or through Nepal Rastra Bank Account No.SA. A. Deposit:-1549/049

Stamps will not normally be sent until the draft or cheque has been cleared.

Orders may be made for

1. New issue stamps.
2. First day covers bearing a newly issued stamps with first day cancellation.
3. Folders bearing new stamps and first day cancellation marks.
4. Singles, stripes, blocks and sheets of available stamps in mint condition.
5. Singles, stripes, blocks and sheets of available stamps cancelled with ordinary post mark or first day cancellation.
6. Postal Stationeries (Postcards, Envelops, Registration envelops and Aerogrammes)

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
STANDING ORDER FORM**

Name (Block Letters).....
Address.....
Country.....

I enclose the sum of.....to open a deposit account for automatic supply to the items listed below.

Standing Order of	Please send by/on
1.	*air mail
2.	
3.	
4.	* 3 months a year
5.	* 6 months a year
6.	* once a year

Signature

Date

Available Folder FDC

	FOLDER/FDC
1. National Democracy Day	3.50 -
2. 25th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan 1976-77	2.00 1.25
3. Olympic	4.25 -
4. 32nd Birthday of HM the King	1.35 -
5. Kaji Amar Singh Thapa	1.10 -
6. Silver Jubilee of Nepal Scout	4.50 -
7. Post Mark	1.75 1.25
8. World Environment Day	1.25 1.00
9. Golden Jubilee of Queen Mother Ratna	3.05 2.55
10. Fruit Series	3.05 2.55
11. 30th Anniversary of Human Rights Day	2.00 1.55
12. 75th Anniversary of the Powered Flight	3.05 2.55
13. 34th Birthday of HM the King	3.05 2.55
14. 100th Birthday of HM the King	1.50 1.00
15. Chariot of Red Machchindranath	2.00 -
16. Forest Festival	3.05 -
17. IYC	1.75 -
18. Visit Nepal 1979	2.80 -
19. Banagnaga Irrigation Project	3.30 2.25
20. 35th Birthday of HM the King	3.30 -
21. 36th Birthday of HM the King	2.00 -
22. Silver Jubilee of Nepal Rastra Bank	- 2.25
23. Visit Nepal 1981	- 2.80
24. 39th birthday of HM the King	6.00 5.50
25. 40th Birthday of HM the King	2.00 -
26. Silver Jubilee of Auditor General	1.25 -
27. International Youth Year	2.00 -
28. First SAARC Summit	6.00 -
29. Silver Jubilee of RSS	5.00 -
30. B.P. Koirala	3.60 2.10
31. Anniversary of Nepal Philatelic Society	7.00 5.50
32. Balanced Environment	3.60 2.10
33. Rights of the Child	4.00 2.50
34 Temple Series 1992	17.75 16.25
35. Bird Series 1992	32.00 30.50
36. Agricultural Development Bank Silver Jubilee	3.40 1.90
37. 48th Birthday of HM the King	10.00 8.50
38. Poet Series 1992	7.00 5.50
39. Olympic Games 1992	28.00 26.50

The 1976 Nanga Parbat Flimsy

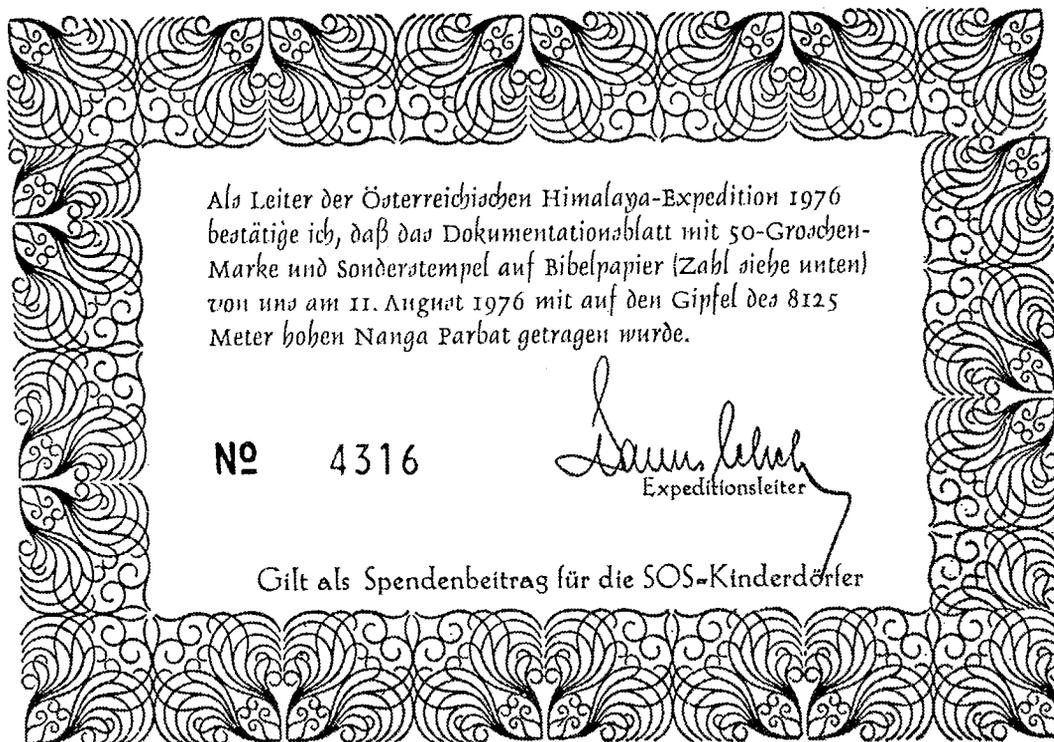
Armand E. Singer

Covers or postcards actually carried to the tops of really high peaks such as abound in the Himalayas are a rarity. I do have one Vagmarken card signed by the Canadian twins, Alan and Adrian Burgess, who reached the summit of Nanga Parbat in May 1981. It bears the --Aug.---(mostly illegible), franking a Pakistan stamp. Since the Vagmarken group has made a business of carrying its cards to the summits of various mountains (though usually the more accessible peaks such as the Matterhorn or Mt. Whitney and the like), I assume my card was chilled by Parbat's top winds, but the card itself simply doesn't say. The Sierra Club holds in its archives a cover carried to the summit of Mt. Everest by the U.S. 1963 expedition. There are surely others, but at most they remain most unusual. For one thing, your typical mountaineer isn't all that interested in immortalizing a heavy packet of postcards by lugging them up some eight-thousand meter height, having in mind other priorities such as self-preservation. Mountain covers are far more likely to be (and justifiable when) sent from basecamps, not to speak of those dispatched from a nearby town after the descent with the object of marketing them to collectors in an effort to raise expedition funding (see Postal Himal No. 69-70, pp. 11-19).



The above flimsy, however, represents a new twist on - what shall I call it? - the summit souvenir. Translated from the German, the cancel reads, "With the Austrian Karakoram Expedition to Nanga Parbat, 8125 m." Below the drawing of the mountain we read "8010 Graz [Austria] 16.6.1976."

The following accompanying card tells us: "As leader of the Austrian Himalayan Expedition of 1976, I confirm that the documentary sheet with the 50 Groschen stamp and special cancel on Bible paper (see the number below) was carried by us August 11, 1976 to the summit of the 8125-meter-high Nanga Parbat.



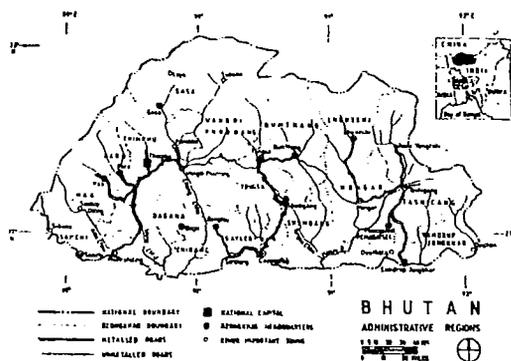
The tiny sheet, ever so thin and measuring only some two by three inches, was obviously prepared in advance, with stamp affixed and cancelled, back in Austria, to commemorate what proved to be a victorious ascent. The SOS Villages mentioned on the card are part of a well-known organization operating in countries like Austria, that helps orphaned children (of parents perhaps killed in a village avalanche - something mountain climbers would easily appreciate). The little flimsy and its card must have sold for more than 50 Groschen, the difference going to support the orphan villages. Thus, we have a sort of semi-postal usage, a device for raising money much beloved in many European nations. Nothing in this case, however, proves official sanction.

The number 4316 on the copy illustrated suggests that at least five thousand or so copies must have been printed. Since this is the only example I have ever seen (a gift, by the way, from our editor, Leo Martyn), it must be rare. What has become of the others? The few collectors of mountain covers could scarcely absorb such a relatively huge printing. Did the miniscule size hasten their disappearance? Possibly, but the accompanying card is of normal postcard size and thickness, and I have never seen one of them, either. If the scheme to aid the charity proved unpopular and few of the flimsies were sold, how did the number on this copy reach 4316? The same Granz cancel, incidentally, is known on a regular postcard. My own copy, unaddressed, shows some Austrian mountains, apparently unconnected with the Himalayas.

For climbing buffs, in lieu of completely satisfying the curiosity of philatelists, I note that Nanga Parbat lies some fifty miles south of Gilgit in the Karakoram Himalayas, in N.E. Pakistan, an area still under dispute with India. The 1976 climbing team (in addition to Hanns Schell) consisted of Robert Schauer, Siegfried Gimpel, and Hilmar Sturm. Their ascent was only the sixth, but by a new route via the south side, first attempted unsuccessfully by Dr. Karl Herrligkoffer's 1963-64 Expeditions. First ascended in 1953 after almost sixty years of trying, Nanga Parbat - this most formidable of challengers - has cost far more lives than any other Himalayan peak.

A LIST OF BHUTANESE POST OFFICES

Compiled by
S. C. SUKHANI



With the help of Mr. T. Chhetri Chief Postmaster, G.P.O. Thimphu, Bhutan and through the courtesy of Philatelic Bureau, Royal Government of Bhutan, I have been able to present this listing of the post offices in Bhutan, by grade as of 1990. Some of these post offices have been temporary or may be permanently closed. At the time of preparing this list, this part of information could not be established.

Serial No.	Name of the Post Offices	Grade	Date of Opening	Serial No.	Name of the Post Offices	Grade	Date of Opening
1.	Phuntsholing	GPO	10-10-62	44.	Bara	Gr-IV	17-09-73
2.	Thimphu	GPO	28-03-63	45.	Bidung	Gr-IV	09-09-71
3.	Tashigang	Gr-I	14-07-65	46.	Sinkerlauri	Gr-IV	02-12-74
4.	S/Jongkhar	Gr-I	14-05-65	47.	Nanglam	Gr-IV	26-12-74
5.	Gaylegphug	Gr-I	24-11-65	48.	Gasa	Gr-IV	05-03-69
6.	Chimakothi	Gr-I	08-09-65	49.	Bitekha	Gr-IV	09-05-71
7.	Samchi	Gr-I	22-10-65	50.	Lingsi	Gr-IV	26-02-69
8.	Wangdiphodrang	Gr-I	15-05-65	51.	Tendoo	Gr-IV	09-03-78
9.	Chukha	Gr-I	13-07-77	52.	Burichu	Gr-IV	24-11-73
10.	Sarbang	Gr-II	07-10-65	53.	Rongthongwoon	Gr-IV	07-12-77
11.	Chirang	Gr-II	12-11-65	54.	Dujeystang	Gr-IV	05-01-83
12.	Mongar	Gr-II	07-05-66	55.	Thrimsing	Gr-IV	19-10-78
13.	Sibsoo	Gr-II	01-06-66	56.	Tashichho-Dzong	Gr-IV	23-08-86
14.	Changmari	Gr-II	20-3-68	57.	Pasakha	Gr-IV	07-12-88
15.	Shemgang	Gr-II	29-02-68	58.	Panbang	Gr-IV	30-12-77
16.	Punakha	Gr-II	09-06-66	59.	Yangphula	Gr-IV	08-12-77
17.	Tongsa	Gr-II	20-05-66	60.	Bonday	Gr-IV To be opened shortly	
18.	Jakar	Gr-II	31-05-66	61.	Yadi	Gr-IV	Do
19.	Paro	Gr-II	05-11-62	62.	Yurung	Branch P. O.	15-09-71
20.	Putilbir	Gr-III	24-09-65	63.	Lalai	Do	09-07-72
21.	Ha	Gr-III	16-09-65	64.	Radhi	Do	02-11-73
22.	Lhuntshi	Gr-III	01-06-66	65.	Tintibi	Do	04-04-74
23.	Lamidara	Gr-III	15-02-67	66.	Lingmethang	Do	28-09-74
24.	Kalikhola	Gr-III	15-03-68	67.	Wiringla	Do	02-10-74
25.	Dagpela	Gr-III	03-03-69	68.	Dentai	Do	04-10-74
26.	Deothang	Gr-III	21-03-69	69.	Tomiyangtsha	Do	04-11-75
27.	Khasadrapoñu	Gr-III	07-02-70	70.	Leopani	Do	24-11-75
28.	Kanglung	Gr-III	03-03-70	71.	Langhtil	Do	28-12-75
29.	Wamrong	Gr-III	03-04-70	72.	Tasha-Nobding	Do	29-09-76
30.	Ghumauney	Gr-III	29-07-70	73.	Ura	Do	15-10-76
31.	Diafam	Gr-III	23-08-70	74.	Tang	Do	16-10-76
32.	Khaling	Gr-III	22-11-72	75.	Chuma	Do	19-10-76
33.	Bhangtar	Gr-III	18-04-73	76.	Galing	Do	06-02-77
34.	Tala	Gr-III	07-12-73	77.	Zangkhar	Do	08-01-78
35.	Pugli	Gr-III	23-04-73	78.	Minziwoong	Do	25-04-78
36.	Samrang	Gr-III	30-10-76	79.	Babesa	Do	11-08-78
37.	Chapcha	Gr-III	—	80.	Tading	Do	26-10-78
38.	Dagadzong	Gr-IV	05-04-69	81.	Neoly	Do	16-11-78
39.	Chargharey	Gr-IV	29-07-70	82.	Deohling	Do	01-12-78
40.	Surey	Gr-IV	20-12-70	83.	Lapsibotary	Do	30-08-79
41.	Dorokha	Gr-IV	17-03-69	84.	Nobding	Do	24-09-79
42.	Tashiyangtshi	Gr-IV	17-03-70	85.	Phubjikha	Branch P. O.	15-09-82
43.	Pema-Gatshel	Gr-IV	12-10-74	86.	Samteygang	Do	17-09-82

Many thanks to Roger Skinner for sending the above list which appeared in the Nov.-Dec. 1991 issue of India's Stamp Journal.

Book Review

Nepal, Catalogue of the Postal Stationery 1887-1992, by Prof. Dr. Axel Werner and Dick van der Wateren.

Noordwolde: Dick van der Wateren (Ysbaanweg 8, NL-8391 HZ Noordwolde, Netherlands), January, 1993. Illustrated, A-4 format, 68 pp., stapled, soft cover.

English Edition: Price £10 for Europe (post paid)

\$17 for the U.S. (surface mail)

\$18 for the U.S. (air mail)

German Edition: Price DM 25 (post paid).

The history of this publication goes back to 1986 when Prof. Werner started a series of eleven articles entitled "Spezial-Katalog der Ganzsachen Nepals 1887-1985" in the German journal, *Indien-Report*. When the author's plans to publish this series in book form failed, Dick van der Wateren stepped in. He revised and improved the text and produced the low-priced catalogue which now bears the names of both authors.

So far, I have only seen the German edition, but I am assured that the English version is identical in contents, layout and pagination. Since Prof. Werner's original series was written in German, it was known to relatively few collectors outside continental Europe. The long-awaited English version of this catalogue now replaces Higgins & Gage's *World Postal Stationery Catalogue* as the leading authority in this field. Therefore, this book must be regarded as a very important achievement in the history of Nepal's philatelic literature. If the following comments do include some critical remarks, they are solely intended as constructive suggestions, notably in view of possible future editions.

The Werner/van der Wateren catalogue comprises every postal card, postal envelope, registered envelope and aerogram of Nepal. They add up to one hundred different items, divided into 22 separate issues, whereby the largest and most important section is that of the fifty cards. The individual sections are clearly arranged and well illustrated.

As the title indicates, this is a catalogue and not a handbook. Perhaps the authors should have gone a step further: by adding more details, particularly on the pre-1935 card issues, they could have considerably enhanced the postal-history value of this publication. It is obvious that the catalogue contains much information lacking in Higgins & Gage (such as the exact translations of the inscriptions) but, for the sake of completeness, perhaps a few more pages should have been devoted to additional matters of importance and interest.

I can think of many such details that might have been included, e.g., a statement that India's 1/4-anna card of 1879 served as a model for the first card issue of Nepal; further proof that the earliest cards were printed in a single process (parts of the text adjacent to the die show occasional traces of red ink); an assurance that the cards of the second issue (No. W6) were run through the press twice, although the same blue colour was now used for the die and the text; a listing of all P.O.s from which the early cards were used (the second issue is known used from only 7 P.O.s, the third issue from only 4 of over 60 P.O.s in existence at the time); a listing of any early cards featuring additional frankings, etc. I am of the opinion that these and similar details, which could contribute towards a better understanding of the various postal stationery issues, should be added to future editions of this catalogue.

The fact that almost every sub-type of the early cards is illustrated, is a very positive feature of this catalogue. Since a number of cards differ only slightly from each other, an illustration is worth more than the best description. Three missing illustrations create immediate problems: the reader is left with no information at all on W7b and he probably wonders whether the existence of Nos. W2c and W5b has been proved beyond doubt.

The dates of issue and use of the various postal stationery items are obviously a most important aspect of the catalogue. I noticed that the dates following the headings of each issue (which strictly follow Higgins & Gage) do not always coincide with the recorded periods of use. If the late usages are excluded, then the actual periods of use - and, probably, also the periods of printing - are as follows:

1st card issue (W1a-W5bd)	not 1887-1904(?)	but 1887-1921
2nd card issue (W6a-W6c)	not 1925-1933	but 1929-1934
3rd card issue (W7a-W7c)	not 1933/1934(?)	but 1935-1937
4th card issue (W8)	not 1935-1958	but 1937-1959.

The single issue dates (1887, 1929, 1935, 1937) can only be proved by reliable sources (e.g., in the case of the first issue) or by the earliest recorded use of correctly dated items. As far as the second issue is concerned, Ricketts' alleged date of 1925 remains to be verified.

Personally, I feel that an effort should be made to date even those cards of the first issue, of which no used specimens are known. It would not be the first time in Nepal's postal history that dates of issue had to be estimated. Although this system is subject to occasional errors, I always prefer a plausible date with a question mark to no date at all. The real art consists in proposing logical and plausible dates.

Some of the periods of use quoted in the catalogue are actually in contrast with the (presumably chronological) numbers. To give an example, cards Nos. 2b and 2ba were issued several years after Nos. 2bb and 2ca. In view of this, I should have changed the sequence and, possibly, revised the whole numbering system.

There is also some inconsistency in the numbering of sub-types. The authors honour the famous invert No. W5bbF (by the way, a typically German catalogue number - but are such complicated numerical expressions necessary and/or useful?) with a number while the equally spectacular invert of card No. W8 is only mentioned in the text.

The catalogue prices are given in DM - I understand in the English edition also. While it is always a difficult task to devise an impartial catalogue value, I feel that the prices indicated by Werner/van der Wateren are realistic and fair. They represent important guidelines for the collector. Finally, the chapter on the postal rates of postal stationery items is of particular value to the student.

In my opinion, this catalogue represents a solid base for future research on Nepal's postal stationery. I am confident that collectors will provide new information, particularly as far as unrecorded sub-types and extended periods of use are concerned. I hope that this catalogue will see further editions - one of the reasons why I took the liberty of suggesting a few improvements. We are indebted to the authors whose significant contribution has finally opened one of the last "underdeveloped" areas of Nepal's postal history. Every collector seriously interested in Nepal must surely obtain a copy of this catalogue.

Wolfgang Hellrigl