

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET  
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



THE DALAI LAMA VISITS WOLFGANG HELLRIGL



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American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122  
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Secretary: Mr. Colin Hepper  
C72 Calle Miguel Angel  
El Sueno - Fase I  
El Chaparral  
03180 Torrevieja  
Alicante  
Spain

Editor: Mr. Leo Martyn  
P.O. Box 49263  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-0263  
U.S.A.  
Ph & FAX 310 476-2608

e-mail - Himalayan@worldnet.att.net

PH & FAX 34 96 6784701 e-mail - hepper@redestb.es

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# HIMALAYAN VIEWS

by  
Leo Martyn

Well, after a long period of silence, an issue of Postal Himal is out. Another issue is going out next month and eventually they will be up to date (look for two more issues by the middle of September). Although this issue is for the 2nd quarter of 1997, it is being mailed in May of 1998.

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Nepal's 1995 (October 2) 50R stamp (Scott 579), designed by Mohan N.S. Rana, received first prize (Gold Medal) in an international competition held by the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) in October, 1997. The theme of the competition was the best stamp portraying the goals, ideals and objectives of the United Nations. Second prize went to England and the third prize to France (source: Linn's Stamp News, November 10, 1997).

00000

The Melbourne World Stamp Expo, "Australia 99", will be held in Melbourne March 19-24, 1999, at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. Entries for exhibiting closed April 1, 1998. NTPSC member Julie Marshall will be happy to arrange a society meeting at the show or a dinner at a local Nepalese restaurant. She states, "If the Australian dollar continues to depreciate at the current rate (especially against the American dollar) a visit to Australia will be a bargain". Any member planning to attend can contact me and I will pass on the information to Julie. Enquiries regarding the show be addressed to the Secretary-General: John Mac Donnell, Australia 99, GPO Box 1999, Melbourne, Vic 3001, Australia, FAX (61) 3 9204 7744. As a side note, Julie is the author of a wonderful, annotated bibliography of printed material in European Languages, titled Britain and Tibet 1765-1947 (La Trobe University Library, 1977).



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Member Lawrence Scott received a Gold and the Reserve Grand awards at Frespex 97 for his exhibit: "Nepal: Development of Its Postal System". Larry is always looking for items to add to his fine exhibit - and seems to find them.

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Colin Hepper reports that our Study Circle will have two meetings at Stamp Show 2000, which will be held in London. I believe that the show takes place in May - more details later.

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I received a request from Mijal K. Shrestha, regarding the exchange of Nepalese stamps for stamps of other countries. If you are interested, he can be contacted at: P.O. Box 2857, Kantipath, Kathmandu, Nepal.

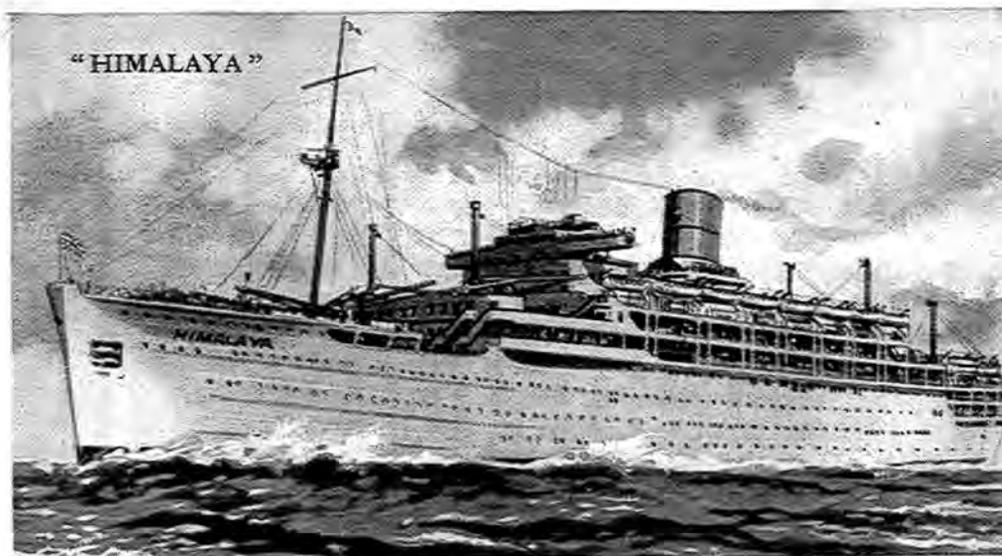
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A new, updated membership list will be forthcoming. If you **DO NOT** want your name and or your address listed please contact me, Colin Hepper or Roger Skinner soon (addresses, etc. are listed on the front inside cover). Also, if you **WANT** your area (s) of interest (Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Everest, etc.) listed contact one of us.

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We are one of the host societies at Sescal 98, which is taking place in Los Angeles at the Wyndham Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd (conveniently located very near the airport), October 2 - 4, 1998. We will be represented by many exhibits including several which have never been shown before. There will be a society meeting - details next issue. For a prospectus regarding exhibiting, write me or: Howard Green, 15125 Arlette Dr., Victorville, CA 92394. Entries are accepted until July 15. As usual, we are going to have a great time - wonderful speakers, door prizes, and more.

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R.M.S. "Himalaya."—Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. Built 1948 by Vickers Armstrong, Ltd. Weight, 29,000 tons; Service speed, 22 knots; Length, 710 ft.; Breadth, 90 ft. Passengers, 779 First Class, 393 Tourist Class. Cargo capacity, 6,000 tons. Twin-screw turbines developing 42,500 h.p.

Some issues back Roger Skinner mentioned a post card picturing a ship named "Himalaya". I came across this one recently and it also illustrates a ship named "Himalaya" (same ship?). It was printed by Valentine & Sons Ltd (Dundee & London) as part of a "Steamship" Series (# 1794) - no date indicated. Another ship named "Himalaya" is mentioned in The Guinness Book of Ships and Shipping - Facts & Feats (1983, p. 1560) - "The earliest vessel recorded by Lloyd's Register which used oil as fuel was the steamer *Himalaya* in 1885." Any more out there?

\* \* \* \* \*

Sir Edmund Hillary Honored on New Zealand \$5 Note  
Armand Singer

Newer concepts and regulations for philatelic exhibitions encourage ancillary material to enrich exhibitors' offerings. The Sir Edmund Hillary \$5 bill would look fine enhancing a showing of mountain covers featuring Mt. Everest climbs. Hillary and Tenzing Norgay made the first ascent of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953. The tractor depicted at the lower left of the bill commemorates his crossing of the South Polar continent some years later. Most nations do not depict their heroes during their lifetimes.

This particular example is a true rarity. Sir Edmund has personally signed it: "Ed. Hillary". It was done as a favor for Alan Wondra of Van Nuys, California (not, as it happens, a stamp collector, but a Tibetophile). Note the tractor, lower left on an angle with his nose slant - the device he used to reach the South Pole. The penguin on the back of the note is obvious - New Zealand has penguins and so do south polar regions (but not the Pole itself).





### The Dalai Lama's Visit to South Tyrol

by Wolfgang Hellrigl

In September, 1997, the Dalai Lama visited Bozen, capital city of South Tyrol. This province, located in the alpine north of Italy, has more in common with Tibet than just great mountain scenery. Austrian territory before the first world war, it was annexed by Italy in 1919. During the ensuing fascist era, its German-speaking Austrian population was severely oppressed, in a bid to eradicate its language, culture, educational and social systems and economy. After WW II, an agreement between Austria and Italy finally restored most of the rights. When Italy failed to abide by this agreement, violence broke out in the late 1950s. Austria brought the case before the United Nations and, as a result, the province eventually obtained a generous autonomy, which today is rightly regarded as a model throughout the world.

Despite Chinese protests, the local South Tyrolean authorities invited the Dalai Lama, who expressed great interest in this particular type of autonomy of a province within a nation with a different cultural background. It is this model of "one country - two systems" that particularly interests His Holiness, as he explained in a conference. This could be a practical solution to the great problems faced by the Tibetan population.

In the course of this visit, the Dalai Lama expressed the wish to see my collection of Tibetan stamps. The issues of Tibet, 1912-1956, represent a tangible proof and an important aspect of the virtual independence of the country. Mementoes of this independence - since tragically lost - are dearly treasured by the spiritual leader of Tibet, and by his people. The Dalai Lama took great interest in some of the peculiar features of the shades, and was amused by the fact that the trial perforations tear. The covers particularly fascinated His Holiness. He pointed out various faulty spellings of Tibetan names by some Nepalese letter writers, and laughed heartily at the inventiveness of his people when he noticed covers with bisected 2 *tangka* and quartered 4 *tangka* stamps (rendered necessary by a sudden shortage of 1 *tangka* stamps).

At the end of the half-hour session, when I presented him with my two publications, *The Postal markings of Tibet* and *Tibet - A Philatelic and Numismatic Bibliography*, the Dalai Lama expressed his appreciation that much effort was put in studying and preserving a sideline that forms part of his country's historical and cultural heritage. Finally, the Dalai Lama presented me with a very fine silk scarf, the traditional Tibetan form of greeting.

The Dalai Lama also met with the well-known South Tyrolean mountaineers Reinhold Messner and Hans Kammerlander, who both live near Bozen.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Diljit Singh Virk, 1914-1997

The October 1997 issue of the *London Philatelist* reports the death of Brigadier D. S. Virk on July 21 at the age of 83. Virk was author of several books on the postal history of India and related areas. Study Circle members will recognize his name as author of *Sikkim-Tibet 1903-1908* which was published in 1989.

Employed by the Indian Army Postal Service, Virk witnessed much of the development of military postal history in India, and also had access to records in order to study the postal history of earlier periods. He served in several commands before appointment as Chief Postal Officer of the British Indian Contingent of the Occupation Forces in Japan. After India became independent, Virk directed the postal service of the new Indian Army, retiring in 1968. For this service he was awarded the Ati-Vishisht Seva Medal.

Virk was author or coauthor of additional books on the China Expeditionary Force of 1900-1923, on the location and movements of India Army post offices between 1929 and 1947, postal censorship in India during the WW II period, and Indian postal history from 1873-1923. He was named an FIP judge in 1982 and signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1993.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alan Warren



A square, purple, postage-due marking (applied in England) in violet (hopefully it shows up in the printing) indicates the fee due (I am not sure if it's 7 1/2p, 10p, or 16p). Upon receipt in Bhutan a 2ch 1976 Winter Olympics stamp (Scott 213, Stanley Gibbons 338) was applied to the back flap and cancelled by a May 24, 1976 Rinpung Dzong circular-date-stamp. Along side is a manuscript date (26/5/76) and initials (probably the postmaster's). I think the cover is completely commercial and the only Bhutanese related postage-due cover I have seen originating outside of the country.. Do any other members have unusual Bhutanese covers - send photocopies (preferably in color) and any information.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A NEW TIBET FIND

by  
Armand E. Singer

The incredible truth about collecting Tibet is the neverending appearance of important new discoveries. One of the most recent and notable is two examples of a small, unrecorded Pelti postmaster's seal, similar to Waterfall types XIV-XVI (Shigatse, Phari, Gyantse, and Penam; Wolfgang Hellrigl, The Postal Markings of Tibet [published by Geoffrey Flack, 1996], types T60-63), as illustrated. George Alevizos, who contacted me about them, writes that they were part of the Neil Campbell (an avid collector some years ago) correspondence, these two covers being the only remarkable pieces in the find.

The Tibet inscription definitely shows the letter "P". As the only other town with the same letter (Penam), has a somewhat different inscription, though also showing a "P", and since the two covers both also contain the fret Pelti cancel as an arriving postmark (both covers were forwarded from Sikkim to Pelti), Dr. Hellrigl and the rest of us feel comfortable calling the mark a Pelti postmaster's seal. The one I retained bears the San Francisco postmark sending date of March 10, 1952, reaching Gyantse March 18. The other example is postmarked in San Francisco and Berkeley May 5, 1952, reaching Gyantse May 13. The diameter of the Pelti seal is about 20 mm.

FLASH: And then there is a cover sent by the Dalai Lama from Lhasa to a collector in Norristown, Pennsylvania, with the equivalent date in our calendar system of September 16, 1949 -- unique. I'll tell you readers about it soon.

Neil A. Campbell  
640 South 17th St. Apt. 1F  
Richmond, California

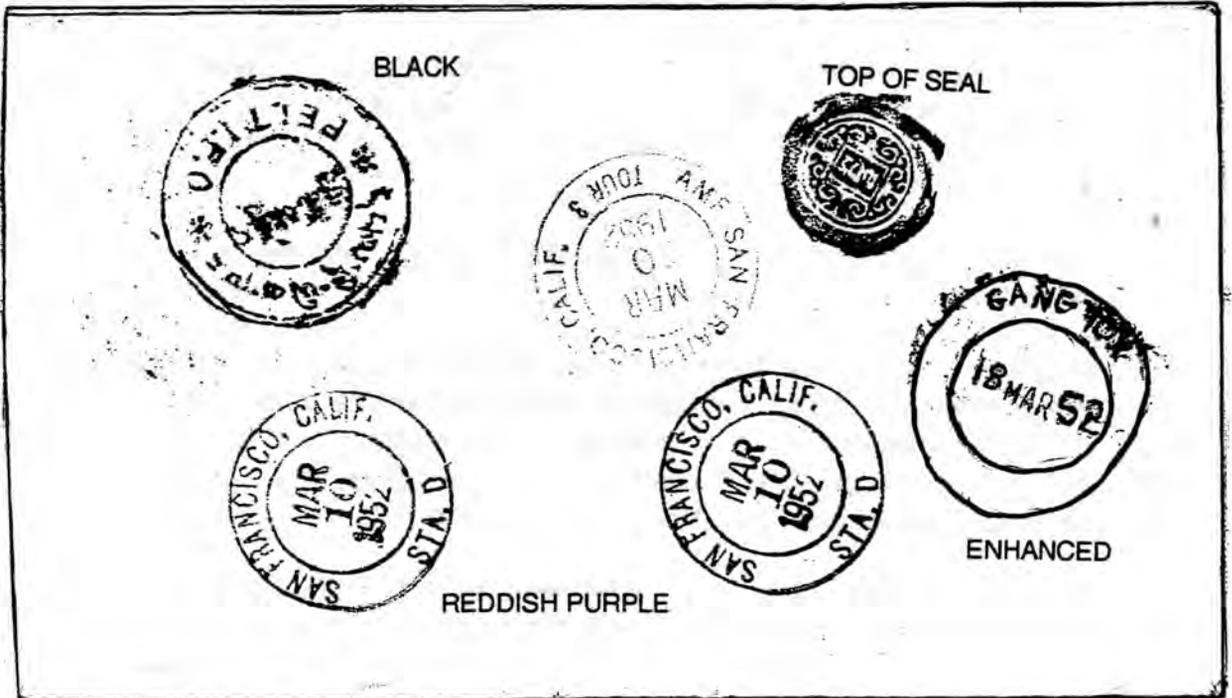


Airmail

REGISTERED

24868

Sonam Kaji  
c/o R.S. Rhinock Kaji  
P.O. Gangtok, Sikkim  
Pelti India



## NEW ISSUES FROM NEPAL

Mr. D.R. Pandey, the Officer-In-Charge of the Nepal Philatelic Bureau in Kathmandu, kindly sent the following information, including stamps and FDCs.

प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण / FIRST DAY COVER



VISIT NEPAL SERIES - 1996

नेपाल दर्शन टिकटमाला - २०५३



### Technical Details

- |                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 1. Denomination:     | : |  |
| (a) Arjunthara       | : | R. 1   |
| (b) Nuwakot Durbar   | : | R. 2   |
| (c) Gaijatra         | : | R. 8   |
| (d) Beganas Lake     | : | R. 10  |
| 2. Size              | : | 30 x 40 mm                                   |
| 3. Sheet Composition | : | 50 Stamps in each sheet.                     |
| 4. Quantity          | : | 1 million each                               |
| 5. Process           | : | Offset lithography                           |
| 6. Colour            | : | 4 colours                                    |
| 7. Paper             | : | High quality stamp paper                     |
| 8. Format            | : | Horizontal                                   |
| 9. Designer          | : | Mohan N. S. Rana                             |
| 10. Printer          | : | Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna. |

### A. Arjunthara, Jhapa

Located in Arjunthara V.D.C. Jhapa district of Eastern Nepal, this holy -place is important in view of mythological and religious for Hindus .

It is called that at the time of "Mahabharata" the cows of King Birat which were kidnapped by "Kaurava" were returned by Arjuna. All cows were suffered by thrust. Arjuna used his powerful "PARJANYASTRA" and forced to evolve water from earth. It is believed that there is a beautiful pond in same place where the "PARJANYASTRA" was used. Shivalaya has been built the side of pond. Thousands of religious people from Nepal and India come on "Balachaturdashi" and "Maha Shivaratri" to worship for lord "Mahadeva" in this pilgrim.

### B. Nuwakot Durbar , Nuwakot

The seven- storeyed Durbar of Nuwakot was built in 1819 B. S. at the time of King Prithvi Narayan Shah, the great . This Durbar , as the historical monument of Nuwakot District was the Centre of power and rule at that period . This is an example of rich craftsmanship and old sculpture . As a famous for old technology, this Durbar Square is also important for tourism and cultural view .

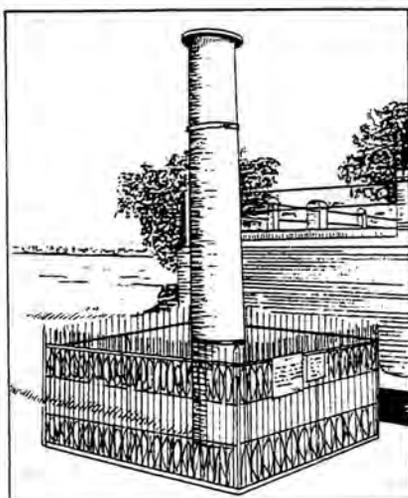
### C. Gaijatra , Bhaktapur

It has been considered that King Pratap Malla started " Gaijatra " festival to give sympathy for his queen after the death of his son Chakrabartendra Malla. The " Gaijatra " festival of Bhaktapur is typical and different other than the Kathmandu Valley . Now a days " Gaijatra " festival is celebrated as a satire and funny for Political , Social & Economic activities . This festival is celebrated continuously upto seven days from the next day of " Janai Purnima " festival.

### D. Beganas Lake, Kaski

Nepal is rich in nature . It contains a lot of natural heritage including mountain peaks and lakes . A beautiful lake Beganas is one of them. This lake is located in Beganas V. D. C. of Kaski district, covering 3 Sq. Km. area. This lake is at 650 meter above from Sea level and it's average water depth is 9. 37 meter and maximum water depth is 13.84 meter . This natural gift is 13 k.m. far from the beautiful city , Pokhara .

### प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण /FIRST DAY COVER



अशोक स्तम्भ, लुम्बिनी  
Ashoka Pillar, Lumbini



### Technical Details

1. Denomination :	R.12
2. Size:	28 x 37.7 mm.
3. Sheet composition:	50 stamps in each sheet.
4. Quantity :	1 million
5. Process :	Photogravure
6. Colour :	4 colours
7. Paper :	High quality stamp paper
8. Format :	Vertical
9. Designer :	Mohan N. S. Rana
10. Printer :	Helio Courvoisier S. A. Switzerland.

### Ashoka Pillar, Lumbini

Emperor Ashoka Maurya guided by his spiritual teacher Upagupta had a pilgrimage visit at Lumbini . He created a tall stone pillar in 249 B. C. . This pillar is known as " ASHOKA PILLAR " . The inscription engraved by Ashoka is still intact and testifies the authenticity of the birth place of Lord Buddha . King Ripu Malla in the 14th century found it easy to make his pilgrimage to Lumbini by engraving the famous Mahamaya Buddhist Mantra " Om Mani Padme Hum " and his name " Sri Ripu Malla Chiranjayatu " on the top of the Pillar .

It is called that Ashoka pillar was rediscovered in December 1, 1896 A.D. by the joint effort of the German archaeologist Dr. A.A. Fuhrer and then Governor of Palpa Mr. Khadga Shamsheer Rana .

On the occasion of 100 years of the rediscovery of Ashoka pillar , Postal Services Department has brought out this commemorative postage stamp to reflect the importance of the birth place of Lord Buddha.

पथम दिवसीय आवरण  
First Day Cover



हिमश्रृंखला टिकट-माला २०५३  
Mountain Series 1996

### Technical Details

- |                       |                          |              |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| 1. Denomination:      | R. 18.00 each            | 6. Colour:   | 4 colours   |
| 2. Size:              | 28.0X39.5 mm.            | 7. Paper:    | High Quality Stamp Paper                                    |
| 3. Sheet Composition: | 18 Stamps in each sheet. | 8. Format:   | Horizontal  |
| 4. Quantity:          | 1 million                | 9. Designer: | K.K. Karmacharya  |
| 5. Process:           | Offset Lithography       | 10. Printer: | Austrian Government<br>Printing Office, Vienna,<br>Austria. |

### Mountain Series

The attractive and beautiful mountain range Annapurna is located in the western part of Nepal. In these postage stamps the beautiful and attractive peak of Annapurna South (7219 m.), Annapurna I (8091 m.), Annapurna II (7937 M.), Annapurna III (7555 M.), Annapurna IV (7525 M.) and the sample of beauty, Machhapuchhre Mountain peak (6993 M.) have been depicted. Being a natural beauty the surrounding area of this range is considered very good and attractive for trekking in view of tourism. The Annapurna Mountain range was first permitted in 1950 AD to climb on either side of the Kaligandaki river. After then every year several expedition teams are climbing these mountain peaks.

प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण / FIRST DAY COVER



श्री ५ महाराजाधिराज सरकारको

५२ औं शुभ-जन्मोत्सव

52<sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY OF H. M. THE KING

" खुला समाज, उदार राजनीति र लचिलो आर्थिक व्यवस्थाको परिधिभित्र प्रत्येक नेपालीको व्यक्तित्व फस्टाउन सक्ने प्रजातन्त्रको अनुमति हुन सक्दछ । "

- श्री ५ वीरेन्द्र



" Democracy will have meaning only if an open society with a liberal polity and flexible economic structure provides every Nepali with the appropriate framework for the full realisation of individual potential. "

- H. M. King Birendra

TECHNICAL DETAILS

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1) Denomination      | : Rs. 10.00                            |
| 2) Size              | : 25.7x 37.7 mm.                       |
| 3) Format            | : Vertical                             |
| 4) Colour            | : 4 Colours.                           |
| 5) Process           | : Offset -Lithography.                 |
| 6) Sheet Composition | : 50 Stamps in each sheet              |
| 7) Quantity          | : 1 million                            |
| 8) Paper             | : High quality stamp paper.            |
| 9) Designer          | : Mohan N. S. Rana                     |
| 10) Printer          | : Hello Courvoisier S.A., Switzerland. |

\* \* \* \* \*

## TWO COVERS BEARING HALF-SHEETS OF 1933 2/3 TRANGKA DISCOVERED

Rainer Fuchs

One of the most important additions to Tibetan-Philately in 1994 has been the recent discovery of two covers each bearing a half proof sheet of the 2/3 Trangka, blue of the issue 1933.

The 1933 Proofs were prepared in order to inform the Postmasters about the newly issued stamps. Each sheet or sheetlet consisted of two clichés found in a horizontal format. Examples of the four higher values (2/3 Tr, 1 Tr, 2 Tr and 4 Tr) have been found. (No Proofs of the 1/2 Trangka value have yet to be discovered.) Until now, only three covers had been recorded bearing examples of these proofs.

- 1: The most famous Cover bears no less than 3 of the 7 known pairs of the 2/3 Tr value and is in the collection of Armand Singer. (It is believed to have cost over \$ 10,000 (US).)
- 2: A Combination cover with a half Proof Sheet of the One Trangka realized \$ 10,500 (US) in October 1986 (Alevizos Sale 57, Lot 317).
- 3: A Combination cover (from the same correspondence as #2 above) bearing a half Proof Sheet of the 1 Trangka (cut close) was recently sold (privately) for \$ 3500 (US).

In April (1994) I was offered a newly discovered cover bearing a half proof sheet of the 2/3 Trangka. I was not sure if I should buy the cover and asked the dealer to put the cover aside until I have made my decision. Soon after I received the catalogue from a small Auction house in which a Tibet cover was offered and described as follows:

**Tibet, 1933, 4 stamps on cover, addressed to England  
canceled with postmark of SAPOJ.....**

Since I (and I assume nobody else) has ever heard anything about a town with this name, I asked the Auction house to send me a clear photo copy of the cover. The size of, and general appearance of, the cover was the same as the cover I had recently been offered. Very large margins on the top, bottom and left side of the 2/3 Trangka stamp were clearly visible and it was clear to me that it was the left side of a proof sheet.

I was now quite excited and wanted both covers in my collection. I made a high bid for the cover in the auction and also arranged for the purchase of the cover the dealer had offered me. I was successful in getting both covers and now have both Proof Covers number 4 and 5 in my collection.

As I have mentioned, both of these newly discovered covers bear half proof sheets of the 2/3 Trangka. Both of the covers were enclosed in an outer envelope and sent by the British Mission to Lhasa (Under B.J. Gould). They were mailed through the British-Indian Post Office in Lhasa and had originally contained Christmas Cards (1936). These covers are overrated and philatelic, but in my opinion this does not detract from their importance and desirability. (Many of us sent Christmas cards with additional stamps.)

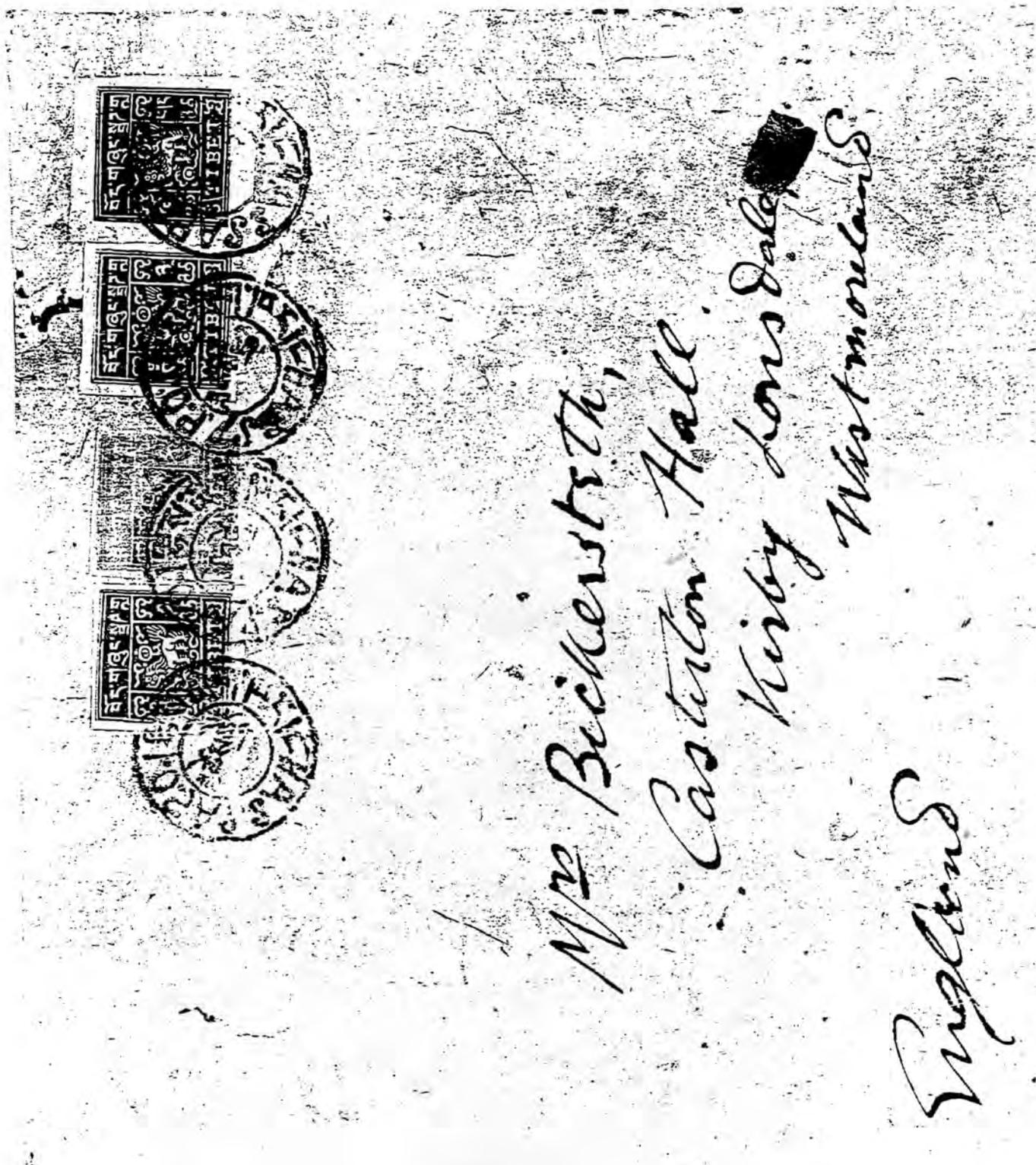


Mrs Mrs W. Spencer,

43, Harley House,

England London N.W.1

Cover 1, (No. 4 in the row of known covers), franked with the right side of the Proof sheet, Cliche No. 3, Color 21F8, dark blue. Original size of the cover is 22,5 cm. x 18,5 cm.



Mr Bickersth,  
Castleton Hall,  
Kirby Lonsdale,  
Westmorlands,  
England

Cover 2 (No. 5 in the row of known covers), franked with the left side of the Proof sheet, Cliche No. 5, Color Prussian Blue. Original size of the cover is 18,6 cm. x 21,9 cm.

The covers are canceled with the LHASA Type VII postmark which is not very often seen on stamps of the 1933 issue. (See Geoffrey Flacks's article "Later Than We Thought", *Postal Himal*, Vol. 71, 1992.

The illustrations are in original size, but due to the large size of the envelopes the lower and the right side of the envelopes are not illustrated.

**Note No. 1:** This report will be published (in the German language) in the magazine "Indien Report", the magazine of the India Study Group (Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien) in Germany.

**Note No. 2:** There are some rumors of a 6th cover bearing a half sheet of the 1 Trangka. Unfortunately I do not have any additional information at this time. [Ed. This cover is illustrated below.]



PROFESSOR DR. BOECK AND NEPAL POSTAL STATIONERY

BY Dick van der Wateren

Professor Dr. Kurt Boeck of Germany is not a stranger to collectors of Nepalese philately. He is credited with the taking of a photo of a Hulaki (Nepalese postrunner) near Bhimphedi, in December of 1898, and illustrated on the front cover of Nepal Philatelic Bibliography by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl and in the famous book, The Classic Stamps of Nepal (page 39), by Dr. Hellrigl and Frank Vignola.

Prof. Boeck was a German traveller who made many journeys through India, Sikkim and from December 1898 through January 1899, Nepal. He published his travel reports in two books - Indische Gletscherfahrten and Durch Indien ins verschlossene Land Nepal, printed and published by Hirt & Son, Lipsia (Leipzig) in 1900 and 1903 respectively. These books let us have a look at the life of the inhabitants around the turn of the century. Everytime he had the opportunity for taking pictures of the land and the people he placed his enormous hidden camera in position giving us good evidence of the customs at that time.

I do not know whether Dr. Boeck was a stamp collector. Nevertheless, he left philatelists some nice examples of postal stationery, two of which are illustrated in this article.

Figure 1 shows a postal card (Wa 14) bearing a clear Kathmandu datestamp (Hellrigl type D 75) with the date of 55/9/2 BS, equivalent to ca. December 15, 1898 A.D. Dr. Hellrigl describes such a card on page 31 in his outstanding book, Nepal Postal History. The vermilion embossed  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna indicium is, I believe, tied by the heptagonal Kathmandu cancel (Hellrigl type C70). If this is correct it is a very late usage of this obliterator - the period of use according to Dr. Hellrigl is 1886-1896.

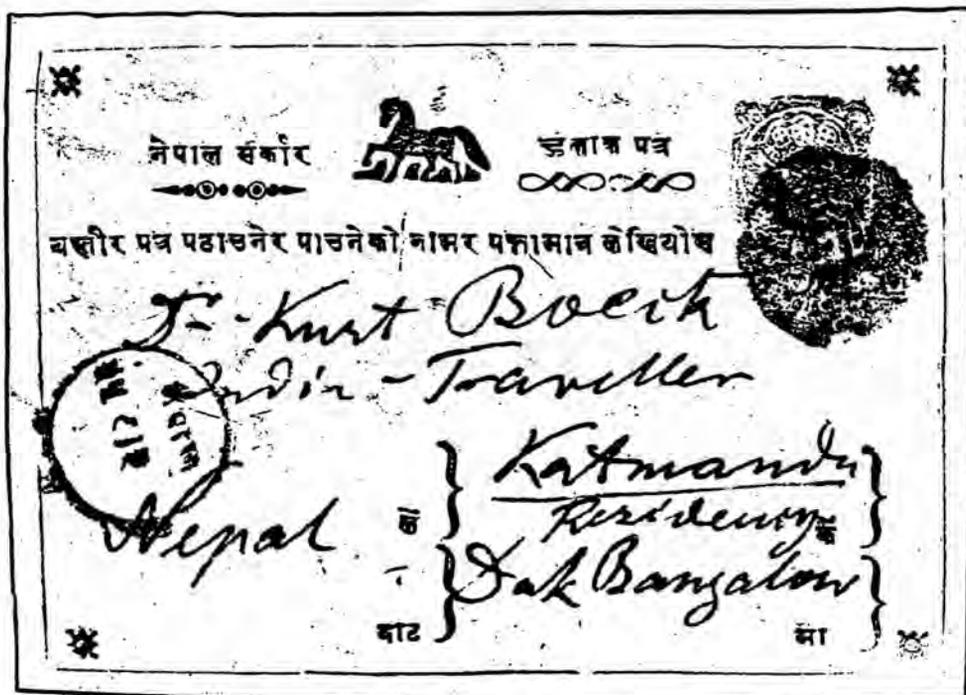


Figure 1. The postal card of printing 14 by Dr. Boeck addressed to himself.

Of much more importance are two postal cards sent by Dr. Boeck on December 13, 1898, to Berlin and Dresden respectively, via Calcutta, Bombay, Sea Post to Brindisi. They arrived on January 3, 1899, the total transit time being 22 days ( see figure 2). Dr. Hellrigl states on page 45 in Nepal Postal History, that only two examples of 19th century out-going mail are noted (1891 and 1898).

In the absence of a mutual postal agreement, the cards were not accepted for payment. Consequently a British Indian 2 annas 6 pies stamp was needed. The stamp on each card is tied by the so-called squared-circle type cancel (Hellrigl B14), applied by the Nepal Residency P.O. in Kathmandu.

Both cards are of the 12th printing (Wa12) and, obviously, available at the post office at the same time. It is more than likely that Dr. Boeck did not notice the spelling error in the large text of the card in figure 1 - all the more since this peculiarity was only discovered in 1967 by the Nepalese philatelist, Mr. N.G. Rajkarnikar.

I would like to thank Mr. Johannes Bornmann of Germany for giving me the opportunity to depict and describe the card illustrated in figure 1 and the card sent to Dresden, both part of his collection. The card sent to Berlin is in my own collection. Probably, this is first instance that these two cards have been illustrated.



Figure 2. The postal card of printing 12 sent to a local newspaper in Berlin.

[This article first appeared in Indien-Report Nr. 78 (Oct./1997).]

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AUCTION # 69 - PRICES REALIZED CONTINUED (U.S. DOLLARS)

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
19	35	26	1200	45	1000
49	855	50	100	63	200
74	175	88	575	89	300
95	150	136	150	137	125
143	135	155	260	168	120

The following lots were withdrawn for various reasons: 24, 34 (unfortunately this turned out to be a forgery), 47, 107, 108, 165.

Auction #69 went very well - as can be seen from the prices realized. The bulk of Les Michel's collection is still to be offered. - including some very good items. I think it is now best to offer items in groups and the better items singly. With the next Postal Himal I will include a list of available items from Nepal (also a small amount of common Tibet [if there is such a thing]), in various groups (such as postally used classic stamps; telegraph/telephone items; various Pashupati covers; Documents; First Day Covers and Folders; Court Fee Stamps; Land Lord stamps; Modern stamps and covers; Classic covers, etc.). If you have any specific requests please contact me - something for everyone (if you collect Nepal).

I am still holding items from other consignors so if you sent me material please be patient.

Well, nothing more to say and space available, so below is one of my favorite cartoons. By Gahan Wilson and appeared in *Playboy* (not sure which issue-but probably some 20 years ago).

Leo Sotomayor



*"By God, for a minute there it suddenly all made sense!"*



NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

AUCTION NO. 69 - CLOSING JAN. 17, 1998



PRICES REALIZED - U.S. DOLLARS

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
1	10	2	27	3	40
6	8	8	17.50	9	45
12	75	16	20	18	8
20	30	23	140	30	200
31	175	41	450	43	350
44	800	46	500	55	235
52	750	54	200	60	530
58	50	59	340	73	850
70	305	71	530	78	425
75	150	77	325	81	155
79	425	80	110	84	92.50
82	305	83	92.50	96	500
85	140	87	375	100	250
98	115	99	130	106	1200
102	150	103	150	113	110
111	102.50	112	200	118	125
114	620	116	275	126	175
119	250	121	125	130	100
127	225	129	100	140	350
132	70	139	125	147	20
144	142.50	145	125	150	560
148	41	149	50	153	150
151	450	152	50	156	170
154	910	155	390	159	102.50
160	200	158	50	164	230
169	500	161	150	171	350
172	350	170	180	175	200
176	175	173	250	178	115
179	125	177	350		

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

Lots 142, 157 (misdescribed -Bhutanese seal, will be reoffered), and 174 were withdrawn. As of 1/24/98, any lots (except the withdrawn) not listed above are available at the starting prices on a first-come - basis, and can be paid for over a period of time as stated in the Auction list. Please contact Leo Martyn if you want any of the available lots:

Leo Martyn  
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Los Angeles, CA 90049-0263  
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## BOGUS NEPAL ONE-ANNA THIRD (?) SETTING SHEET

by  
Armand E. Singer

When a dealer sent me a photocopy of a one-anna sheet, somewhat damaged but clearly bearing marginal inscriptions proper for the second or third settings of the one-anna first issue blue (two complete setting 2 sheets recorded; no setting 3 sheets known to exist -- see the Hellrigl/Vignola book, pp. 68-70), I was ecstatic. I held onto a large sum of money already set aside for two forthcoming auctions (funds for my favorite hobby are never extensive!). This promised to be a one-in-a-million find. In due course the sheet arrived, only to prove a sad let-down. I had missed out on several potential auction purchases just to be offered a clumsy fraud. The sheet is obviously an almost weird reconstruction of a genuine sheet. Let me run through a description of the accompanying illustration.

1) It is printed in a slightly brownish black ink on native laid paper (not European wove paper, in a shade of blue, as with the genuine second and third settings).

2) The inscriptions, though proper for these early settings, are a few millimeters short at the top, bottom, and right margins. The left margin, as I already knew from the blurry black-and-white photostat previously sent me and as is visible in the present illustration, is missing, the sheet being defective along the left edge. The letters are thicker than setting 2; they could be setting 3, as the bottom part of the inscription fairly well matches as much of Hellrigl/Vignola's figure 32 (p. 70) as shows up in their illustration of a block of six. However, Hellrigl/Vignola note that the thicker letters are differently spaced; my sheet does not have differently spaced words or letters, merely a slightly shorter line.

So far, then, theoretically we could be dealing with a printer's waste copy of a black proof, on native paper. I should add that what looks like a paper fold, lower left in the illustration, with parts of four stamps printed on an angle, is actually merely a reproduction of a fold. There is no paper fold; it just looks like one (and did on the photocopy I received).

3) The printing is very blurred (unlike any of the early settings), but careful study reveals a whole set of inverted clichés (none in the genuine setting 2, or 3, as far as known); to wit, clichés 10, 11, 15, 23, 27, 40, 41, 51, and 61 seem inverted, suggesting settings 21 or 23.

4) There are two faint but recognizable traces of a bottom frameline along the right side, also consistent with settings 21 or 23.

5) There is a flaw on the top right corner of cliché 40 (first found in setting 8).

Other progressive flaws (see Hellrigl/Vignola again) I was unfortunately unable to check because of the blurred, damaged sheet.

6) Let it be noted that, while settings 4 to 6 are printed on native paper, the inscriptions point OUT, not IN, as with settings 2 & 3, and as shown in the present sheet. Later settings lack inscriptions except at the top. After around 1900, there are no inscriptions at all.

7) Finally, the sheet dimensions, as far as they can be measured because of the left hand damage run several millimeters shorter than the genuine, as do the inscriptions; the result of poor photographic reproduction, or even paper shrinkage.

To summarize and theorize: The dealer, who claims to be convinced of the bona fides of the sheet, writes me that it came from the collection of a "very, very [sic] old man, [whose] material is always authentic". The dealer adds that he never had any doubt about the source. "A genuine print." The fact that it is in black "may be an error" or possibly "a proof". He notes that the Nepalese P.O. has no information about these old issues; hence, there is no way to be sure. To the contrary, we can all consult Hellrigl/Vignola's exhaustive Classic Stamps of Nepal, as may be seen I already have. Of course, a new early printing, however unlikely, could turn up, as I had hoped against hope. Not in this case.

What I think we are dealing with here is a photocopy of setting 21 or 23 with genuine top inscription deleted, this copy made from another photo out of a book or more likely from a flawed original sheet, with new inscriptions added, this time probably out of a book. If not made to look old, the fake looks to date from the early 1970s, when copiers were not as accurate, the resulting work apt to be blurred. Naturally, there would be no color. The paper is genuine native laid, the holes and ragged left edge quite possibly intentional. It does lend an air of authenticity that could be missing from a flawless piece of crooked work.

I cannot prove my scenario, however likely, but a word of advise: don't consider buying any similar item. I had originally written, "don't even consider buying the item", as I was returning it post haste, but I actually did purchase it for \$25.00 to put among my collection of frauds and get it off the market, at just about one-hundredth of the cost originally demanded. I may add that Messrs. Vignola and Hellrigl both agree with this sheet's being an egregious fake. I am told that some similar items are out there. I was offered a less ambitious example of the faker's art: a single of setting six of the half-anna in orange-vermilion, doubly printed in black. The price was so reasonable (an almost sure sign to beware, but I failed to heed it) that I was tempted and succumbed. This one, I find, is making the rounds as well. Consider yourselves warned.

आने देवद चार हरेजी जी.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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