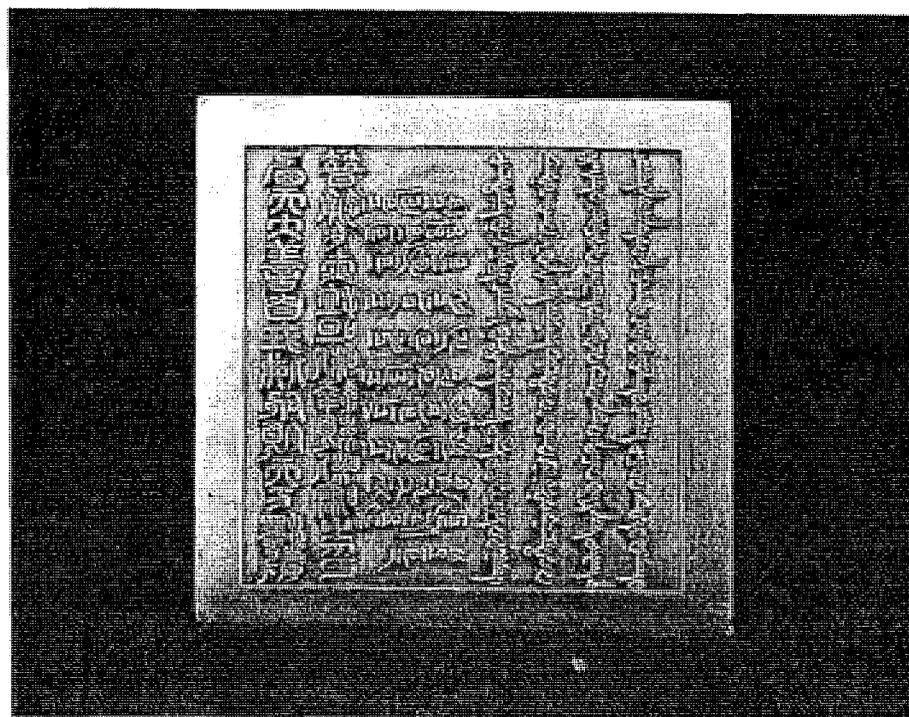


# Postal Himal

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## Officers Corner

The president gets to put in his two bits again. One man's opinion on stapling and/or hole punching the *PH* issues: in a word, don't! Why not let our members adapt their issues to their own preferred method of filing? The editor won't be wasting our money adding a possible amount of stapling weight that could run into a postage increase, nor his time in punching holes that surely won't fit everyone's binders. A win-win solution, I'd argue. Then, there's the matter of a possibly classier product. Frankly, I for one remain pleased with the appearance of *PH*. The text is sharp, the layout is pleasing, the paper is of good quality. Illustrations are at least adequate, and our editor tells me he is getting a new software program that will enhance them. More color? Use of more of it is of course doable, if we want to invest in expensive equipment or pay extra for farmed-out professional work. Caution: we are a relatively small group and our surplus funds, while comfortable, could easily and quickly be exhausted with undue added expenses. Be careful what you ask for!

The priced Himalayan mountaineering catalog is coming along very nicely indeed. Still looking at the end-of-year 2001 appearance. Do desperately need a couple of items (at least one): Tibet-side Everest climbs by Chinese expeditions 1960 and/or 1975, with readable cancels and some signatures if possible — cards or covers, and the 1980 Tibet-side solo climb by Reinhold Messner (needs to show actual postal use, which most don't). You can contact me most easily by e-mail, Armand.Singer@mail.wvu.edu. Muchas gracias.

## Editor's Ramblings

The new monarch, King Gyanendra has been installed. I almost met the previous monarch, King Birendra when he was Crown Prince. I visited Nepal for the first time in 1965. During Graduate School I met a Nepali citizen and when I mentioned that I would be taking a trip around the world, he proposed that I stay with his father in Nepal. His father was Royal Professor Dr. Gokal Chand Malhotra and he was also a Royal Tutor. While staying with him he proposed that I accompany him on one of his Tutoring sessions to meet the Crown Prince. It was thus set up for my to go with him the day before I was to leave Nepal. Something, I don't remember what, came up that day and the Tutoring session was cancelled. And thus I never met the Crown Prince later to become King Birendra. The next time that I visited the Royal Kingdom was in 1986 and King Birendra was then on a State Visit to Germany.

The article on Tibetan Seals comes from Wolfgang Bertsch who is not a member of the Study Circle and who does not collect either Tibetan or Nepalese philatelic items. He purchased several issues of Postal Himal from Surendra Lal Shrestha and thus came across Professor Singer's review of Dawson's book on Tibetan Seals. Mr. Bertsch is a collector of Tibetan coins and banknotes. I am publishing his article as it contains some interesting information and a very comprehensive Bibliography of Tibetan Seals. This information should prove useful to those members who collect Tibetan items. In several places in Mr. Bertsch's article there were Tibetan characters which I have been unable to reproduce correctly and therefore I have omitted them. I have also omitted two lines of Chinese characters. On the bottom of page 7 there is a photograph labeled 'Reduced'. At the top of the next page in Mr. Bertsch's manuscript there was a photo labeled 'Actual size', but this was too light to reproduce and I have also omitted it. Even with the omissions noted I hope that it will prove useful to the members and I thank Mr. Bertsch for sending it to us.

Of the responses which I have received regarding the method of stapling/punching *PH*, all tend to be along the same line as the reply from Armand which is given, to wit, leave it as it is. Unless someone has strong objections which I haven't heard yet, I shall leave it as it is. If in the future there is a demand to do it some other way, the matter can be revisited at that time.

Dick van der Wateren was written to point out that the title of his book should be Nepal Postal Stationery, not Nepal Postal Stationary. My apologies.

## **Congratulations to the following members who received awards for their exhibitions:**

Leo Martyn, Small Gold, "The Development of Nepal's Postal System 1775-1911", PhilaNippon 01  
Rishi Tulsyan Kumar, Small Vermeil, "Nepal Collection 1779-1950", PhilaNippon 01  
Bineet Chandra Jha, Large Silver, "Lord Shiva in Nepalese Philately", PhilaNippon 01  
Shristi Nhuchhe Pradhan, Small Silver, "Postal Stationery of Nepal", PhilaNippon 01  
Paul C. Hager, Vermeil, AAPE Award of Honor, India Study Circle Award, "The Pashupati Era of Nepal", APS Stampshow, Chicago

# In Memory of His Majesty King Birendra

As we know, on June 1, 2001 King Birendra, Queen Aiswarya and seven other members of the Royal Family were murdered by Crown Prince Dipendra. On the death of King Birendra became King and upon his death his uncle became King Gyanendra. King Gyanendra wife became Queen Komal and his son became Crown Prince Paras.

The reason behind this has been reported to be that Crown Prince Dipendra and Queen Aiswarya had a disagreement over the Crown Prince's choice of a wife. The true reason will probably never be known as the persons who could answer the question of Why? are all dead.

The Crown Prince was reported to be in a drunken state after quarreling with his mother at dinner. He reportedly left the dinner and went to his room, imbibed a quantity of alcohol, donned Army clothes, and armed himself with several weapons. He then returned to the dining room and opened fire on the assembled group, killing his father and mother and seven other members of the Royal Family.

Several persons survived including the current Crown Prince Paras who witnesses credited with saving the lives of a group of persons.

After word of the murders was released to the public there was some rioting. It was also reported that King Gyanendra do not receive the usual respect due to the King from his subjects. This is perhaps understandable after the murder of a popular, revered and deeply beloved King. It is to be hoped that as his subjects come to know their King that he too will receive their respect.

Crown Prince Dipendra's girl friend, Devyani Rana left Nepal shortly after the shooting for India where she spoke with the Royal Commission investigating the murders. No charges have been placed against her and she has not made any public statements regarding the shootings.

# Tibetan Seals

A Rejoinder to Armand Singer's Review (Postal Himal nr. 89) of

*Some Tibetan Seals Illustrated and Described* by Derrick Dawson

by Wolfgang Bertsch

## A) Suggested Corrections to *Some Tibetan Seals Illustrated and Described*, by Derrick Dawson, published by Geoffrey Flack in 1997.

p. 2: The translation of the seal inscription (last line) should be: "The Seal of the Dalai Lama, Holder of the Thunderbolt. Victory."

*The expression "rgyal" appears as last word on many official seals and cannot be translated as royal in this case (although this expression rgyal is best known from the Tibetan rgyal-po which means king, literally "the one who is victorious"). It is an auspicious word, resembling somewhat the English "Hail!"*

p. 4: Line 5 should read: gsum mgon dus.

p. 5: The last character of the middle column of this seal is not "rtsha", a syllable which does not exist in Tibetan, but it represents what Schuh calls a "pseudo-graphem", i.e. a meaningless character which serves as filler inserted for reasons of symmetry; See Schuh (op. cit. in the bibliography) p. 44.' The translation of the seal inscription is: "The Seal of the Dalai Lama. Victory."

p. 11: The meaning of the Tsarong seal should be interpreted as follows:

"spyi" is short for "spyi mda" = commander general. This again is probably short for "spyi mda dpon"; the literal meaning of this word being "general master of arrows".

"dza" is short for "dza sag", Dsasa or Dzasak, a Tibetan Government rank which, as far as I am aware, is of Mongolian origin and which Tsarong was holding for some time.

In this context a remark found in the following recent publication is useful:

Tsarong, Namgyal Dundul: *In the Service of his Country: The Biography of Dasang Damdul Tsarong. Commander General of Tibet*. Snow Lion Publications. Ithaca, New York, 2000, p. 47:

"My father was officially given the title of Dzasak (government official ranked directly under that of cabinet minister) and, together with his position as Chida (Commander General), he became known as *Chidza*."

p. 14: The three characters of the lower seal are most probably not initials, but are to be read as dbang (pronounced "wang" and meaning "power").

p. 15: The second syllable of the first (left) column of this seal is probably "thsang", written erroneously as "thang", these two characters being very similar in 'phags-pa script (the "thsa" in "thsang" is written without the small vertical stroke at the upper right; this stroke may have been engraved on the seal by mistake). Thus one could read "yig tshang" and not "yig thang". The "yig tshang" was the highest office for monk officials, the religious counterpart of the Kashag, but, as far as I am aware, not subordinate to it, as is mentioned on page 16.

The first character of the middle column is not "la" which is a different character in 'phags-pa script; (see table on p. 56), but a meaningless filler letter ("pseudo-graphem"), see Schuh, op. cit. p. 44.

p. 40: the second line of the lower seal should be translated as "bSam grub". The letter "ma" in the symbol 'bSam' does not appear as "ma" on the seal, but as a small circle to the upper left of the "sa", a short way for writing syllables ending in "ma", a usage taken from Sanscrit where the small circle is called "anusvara".

- p. 42: The inscription of seal nr. 45 is better translated as "Perfect Happiness".
- p. 43: The left column of this seal most probably can be read as "gzhung" meaning "government -". The right column is not clear enough to be read.
- p. 49 and 50: All dates given for the use of Tibetan banknote seals are incorrect. Mr. Dawson probably takes the date 1890 for the early "Tam" issues from Shakabpa, Tsepon W. D.: *Tibet. A Political History*; Potala Publications, New York 1984, p. 10:

"In 1890 the Tibetan government introduced paper currency;" In the same book one reads on p. 249: "The thirteenth Dalai Lama was the first to introduce paper currency. [...] Postage stamps were introduced at that time, [...]."

From this quotation one could conclude that Tibetan post stamps were also introduced as early as 1890!

The correct dates for the banknote issues are AD 1912/13 for the first "tam" issues and 1937 to 1959 for the srang issues. (see my booklet *A Study of Tibetan Paper Money*; Dharamsala, 1997, Appendix II). For the proper dating of banknotes, see also Rhodes, Nicholas: "The Dating of Tibetan 'B@krtotes." in: *Tibet Journal*, "Vol. XIII, No. 1, Dharamsala 1988, pp. 57-60. Also published in *Coin & Medal News*, January 1987, pp. 89-90. And: Shrestha, Bhupendra Narayan: *Tibetan Paper Currency*; St. Albans, Herts., 1987. Shrestha was probably the first in dating the Tibetan banknotes correctly basing his findings on the evidence provided by the banknotes themselves, particularly by the second, multicoloured 50 Tam notes which are dated both in T.E. (Tibetan Era) and in the Tibetan sixty year Cycle.

Seal No. 57 on p. 49 does not show a crowded mass of symbols, but what is to be seen are undecipherable characters except for one which represents the syllable "cha".

## B) Bibliography of Tibetan Seals:

Prof. Armand E. Singer mentions in his review of Dawson's book (see *Postal Himal*, no.89, 1st Quarter 1997, p. 18-19) that little has been published on Tibetan seals. This may have been true some 25 years ago, but numerous publications on Tibetan seals are now available, although some may not be easily obtained and many exist only in Tibetan or Chinese language. I hope that the following, partly commented list of literature on Tibetan seals may be of use to those who wish to study Tibetan seals in more detail or wish to identify seals on Tibetan documents or postal items in their collection, particularly those seals which are not mentioned in Dawson's book (note that philatelic works which discuss seal imprints on postal items are not included in my list except for an article by Mr. Dawson and a publication by K.H. Dahnke, because I presume that they are known to readers of *Postal Himal* and since what has been published up to 1982/3 is listed in the bibliography by Hellrigl and Gabrisch, mentioned below):

1. Anonymous: "Gold Seals Bestowed to the Dalai and Bainquen". In: *China's Tibet*. Supplementary Issue, Beijing, August 1995, pp. 30-31.
2. Chab-spel rtshe-brtan phun-tshogs & Ma-grong mi-'gyur rdo-rje: *Bod kyi gal che , 'i lo rgyus yig cha bdams bsgrigs* (A Collection of Important Tibetan Historical Materials) Bod ljongs bod yig dbe rnying dpe skun khang, Lhasa, 1991.  
*This book contains a large chapter, entitled "tham deb bkod par" which is dedicated to reproductions and descriptions of official Tibetan seals.*
3. Chen Jinzhong (khrin cin krung): "Ta la 'i bla ma sku phreng lnga pa 'i gser tham la sprad pa (A Cursory Analysis of the Various aspects of the gold seal of the 5th Dalai Lama)." In: *China Tibetology*, 1989, issue 1, pp. 77-80. (with illustration of the seal imprint of the gold seal referred to in the title of this article).
4. Clauson, Gerard L.M.: "A Mongolo-Tibetan Seal". In: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*. London, 1929, pp. 117-119.
5. Das, Sarat Chandra: "The sacred and ornamental characters of Tibet." In: *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Volume 57 (1888), pp. 41-48 and IX plates.  
*This is probably the first scientific publication outside of Tibet of the Hor Yig ("Mongolian Script"), also called 'Phags-pa script according to the person who invented it in the 13th century: 'Phags-pa Pandita, the well known ruler of Sakya (see Das' tables V and VII). This script is used on many official seals. Das' publication served A. H. Franke in deciphering*

seals (see entry m: 8).

The script tables of S. C. Das were republished by András Róna-Tas: *Wiener Vorelsungen zu Sprach- und Kulturgeschichte Tibets*. Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde, Heft 13. Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien Universität Wien. Wien 1985, pp. 280-303.

6. Dahnke, K. H.: *Tibet. Handbuch und Katalog der Marken und Stempel*. Handbuch der Forschungsgemeinschaft "China-Philatelie e.V." Essen, 1978 and 1981.  
*Contains a small chapter on Tibetan seals and illustrations of two seals of the 13th Dalai Lama and one of the Panchen Lamas.*
7. Dawson, Derrick: "An Interesting Historical Letter from Tibet." In: *Postal Himal*, No.56, 4th Quarter 1988, pp. 48-49.  
*The article discusses the seals found on a letter sent on behalf of the Panchen Lama to the Gorkha Raja in late 1788 or early 1789.*
8. Dawson, Derrick: "A Window on the Past." In: *Tibetan Review*; Vol. XXIV; No. 11, Dharamsala, November 1989, pp. 9-10.  
*Similar to previous article.*
9. Dawson, Derrick: *Some Tibetan Seals Illustrated and Described*. Published by Geoffrey Flack. n.p. (Vancouver), 1997.  
*Dalai Lama, Panchen Lama seals and those of many Tibetan Government offices and of nobility are illustrated. The seal inscriptions are transcribed into both Tibetan dbu chen and western characters and are translated into English in most cases.*
10. Francke, August Herrmann: "Note on the Dalai Lama's Seal and the TibetoMongolian Characters". In: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*. London, October 1910, pp. 1205-1214.
11. Francke, August Herrmann: "Ein Siegel in tibeto-mongolischer Schrift von Bhutan". In: *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*. Vol. 64, Leipzig, 1910, pp. 553-554. .
12. Sgrolkar (sGgrol-kar), Xiao Huaiyuan and Vodzer (chief editors): *A Collection of Historical Archives of Tibet*. Compiled by the Archives of the Tibet Autonomous Region. Cultural Publishing House. Lhasa, 1995.  
*This profusely colour illustrated volume presents a selection of 107 documents kept in the Archives of Lhasa. All the documents are reproduced and their texts translated into English. Most of them are in Tibetan and Chinese language, some are in four languages, i.e. Tibetan, Chinese, Manchurian (Manjurian) and Mongolian, and all of them bear seal imprints in one or several of these languages and scripts. The book contains several excellent colour reproductions of important historical seals and illustrates there imprints. However, the seal inscriptions are neither transcribed nor translated.*
13. Hellrigl, Wolfgang and Gabrisch, Karl: *Tibet. A Philatelic and Numismatic Bibliography*; Santa Monica, 1983.  
*Includes a section on "Ink and Wax Seals" with 24 bibliographical entries.*  
For a brief review see: Anonymous: "Tibetan Stamps and Coins Bibliography;" In: *Tibetan Bulletin*, Vol. 15, No.2, Dharamsala, June-July 1984, p. 12.  
A further review by Ronge, Veronika: *The Journal of the Tibet Society*. Vol. 3, Bloomington, 1983, p. 49.
14. Huang Hao: "Tibetan Seals of Various Dynasties". In: *China's Tibet. A Quarterly Review of Tibetan News & Views*. Vol. 4, Nr. 4, Beijing, Winter 1993, pp. 46-48.  
*This is a review of the book by Ou Chao-gui and Qi Mei (see below).*
15. Jin Hui, Ren Yinong and Ma Naio Hui: (chief editors): *Social History of Tibet, China. Documented and Illustrated*. China Interncontinental Press. Beijing, 1995, pp. 14-15.  
*Photographs of gold seals granted by the Chinese emperor to Prince Palen (Chakna Dorje) in the 13th century and to Drakpa Gyaltsen, Grand Lama of Phagmo Drupa regime, in A.D. 1406.*

16. Liu Lizhong (compiled and photographed by): *Buddhist Art of the Tibetan Plateau*. Edited and Translated by Ralph Kigell. New Delhi, 1989. (Originally published under the title "Zang Chuan Fo Jiao Yishu", Tianjin, 1987), pp. 256-311.  
*Includes illustrations of important Tibetan seals.*
17. Olson, Eleanor (editor): Catalogue of the Tibet Collection and other Lamaist Material in the Newark Museum. Vol. V Food Utensils and Tables, Fire-making and Tobacco Utensils, Track and Fighting Equipment, Currency and Stamps, Appendix to Preceding Volumes, Index to the five Volumes. Newark, New Jersey, 1977.  
*Contains a short paragraph entitled "Personal Seals and Sealing Wax" and a table illustrating some personal seals.*
18. Ou Chao-gui and Qi Mei [for "Jigme"] : *Xi Zang Li Dai Zang Yin* (Tibetan Seals of Various Dynasties). Xi Zang Ren Min Chu Ban She (Tibet People's Publishing House). Lhasa, 1991.  
*The book reproduces imprints of part of the seals kept in the Potala, the Norbuingka, the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and Qamdo Cultural Bureau, dating back from the Yuan Dynasty to the Republic of China, including jade, gold, silver, copper, ivory, agate, crystal, iron and wood seals.*
19. Ou Chao-gui: "The Gold Seal Granted by Emperor Kang Xi to Sangs-rgya Rgya-mtsho". In: *Tibet Studies*. Journal of the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences. 2nd issue. Lhasa, 1989, pp. 154-155.
20. Petech, Luciano (editor): *I Missionari Italiani nel Tibet e nel Nepal*. 11 Nuovo Ramusio, Parte III. Raccolta di Viaggi, Testi e Documenti, Relativi ai Rapporti fra l'Europa e l'Oriente a cura dell'Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente. Volume secondo, Parte III. I Capuccini Marchigiani. Libreria dello Stato. Roma, 1953.  
The complete work: is divided into 7 parts which are published in 7 volumes. .  
*In the third part of this important edition of Italian Missionary reports from Tibet and Nepal dating back to the first part of the 18th century, the editor, Luciano Petech, illustrates three Tibetan seals on plate III. One belongs to P'o-lha-nas and is found on a document dated 9th September 1741, the other two belong to the 7th Dalai Lama and are found on a document dated 7th October 1741. While the P'o-lha-nas seal cannot be deciphered, the editor gives transcriptions and Italian translations of the two seals of the 7th Dalai Lama.*
21. Nakano, Miyoko: "Three 'Phags-pa Seal Inscriptions. Re-examination of Dr. E. Haarh's Readings". In: *Asia Major*. A British Journal of Far Eastern Studies, Vol. XVI, London, 1971, pp. 96-101.
22. Rockwell, John: "The Labyrinth of Tibetan Seals". In: *Vajra Dhatu Sun*, Vol. VI, Nr. 5, June/July 1985, p. 15.
23. Schuh, Dieter: *Grundlagen tibetischer Siegelkunde. Eine Untersuchung über tibetische Siegelaufrschriften in 'Phags-pa-Schrift*. (Foundations of Tibetan Sigillography. An Investigation of Tibetan Seal Inscriptions in 'Phags-pa Script). Monumenta Tibetica Historica: Abt. III, Diplomata et Epistolae, Vol. 5, St. Augustin, 1981.  
*This is the best and most exhaustive western language publication on official seals from Tibet. However, the book is only available in German language.*  
*(There is no need to buy a set of 5 Volumes; this book is available separately for about \$100.- from German oriental booksellers or direct from the publisher: VGH Wissenschaftsverlag, St. Augustin. Unfortunately I do not have the exact address.)*
24. Shadra, Kalon H.E. & Nornang, Kadrung: *Letter-Writers. YIK-BSKUR RNAM GSHAG and Various other collections of modern letter-writers. Short History of ancient Kings, H.H. the Dalai Lamas & their Regents. The thirteen Code laws by king Srongtsen Gampo, list of seals and their sizes as used by the Dalai Lamas & Regents*. Edited and published by G. Tharchin at the Tibet Mirror Press. Kalimpong, 1956.  
*In Tibetan language. Seals are listed under the heading "Tham Deb Ni" on pp. 201-216. The sizes of the seals are indicated by drawings, but the imprints of the seals are not given. Some legends on the seals are read. A copy of this rare publication exists in the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamsala (northern India).*

cient Kings, H.H. *The Dalai Lamas & their Regents. The thirteen Code laws by king Srongtsen Gampo, list of seals and their sizes as used by the Dalai Lamas & Regents.* Edited and published by G. Tharchin at the Tibet Mirror Press. Kalimpong, 1956.

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25. Tirmizi, S.A.I. (editor): *Catalogue of Seals.* Vol. I Foreign. National Archives of India. New Delhi, 1982.

*On pp. 175-176 a seal of the "Teshu Lama" on a document dated 1786 and one by the "Raja (Regent) of Teshu Lumbu" dated 1786 are described. Both seals are illustrated, but no attempt has been made to read their legends.*

26. Wadell, Austine L.: "Seal of the Dalai Lama". In: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland for 1911*, pp. 204-206.

27. Wadell, Austine L.: "The Dalai Lama's Seal": In: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland for 1911*, pp. 822-825.

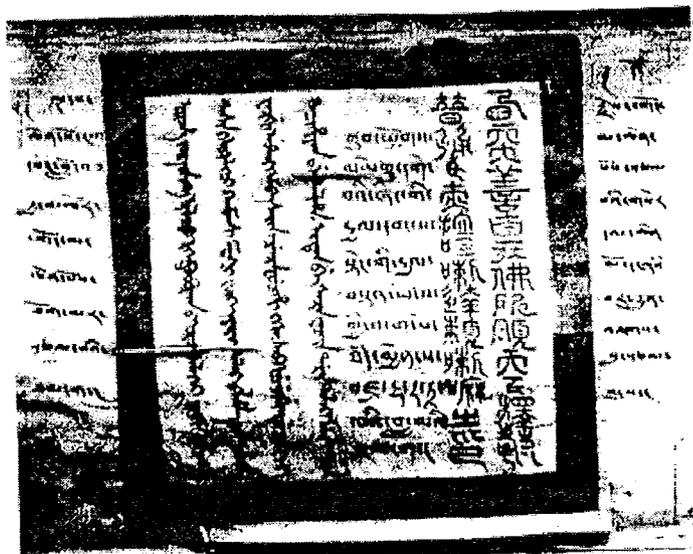
28. Walsh, E. H.: "Examples of Tibetan Seals". In: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, January 1915, pp. 1-15.

29. Walsh, E. H.: "Examples of Tibetan Seals: Supplementary Note." In: *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, July 1915, pp. 455-459.

The above list may also serve as a bibliography to Dawson's book. I would like to recommend **Some Tibetan Seals Illustrated and Described** as a very useful, well organized and beautifully illustrated compilation of Tibetan seals, particularly in view of the fact that a publication of this nature in English language was so far unavailable.

### C) The Gold Seal bestowed on the 7th Dalai Lama by Emperor Yongzheng.

As an example of a historical seal in four languages I reproduce a gold seal which is preserved by the Historical Relics Administration in Lhasa and was published by Sgrolkar et alia (see bibliography, nr. 12, plate 71). The transcriptions of the seal inscriptions and the translation of the Tibetan text is taken from D. Schuh (see bibliography, nr. 23, p. 3). From left to right (looking at the imprint of the seal) the following scripts have been used: Mongolian (two columns), Manjurian (two columns), Tibetan dbu med script (11 lines), Chinese (two columns).



Reduced

*Mongolische Siegelaufschrift:*<sup>20</sup>

- 1 örön-e jüg-ün yeke öljei erketü burqan-u oron deleki dakin-u burqan-u
- 2 Šasin-l erkilegči vačir dara dalai blama-yin tamay-a

*Manjurische Siegelaufschrift:*<sup>21</sup>

- 1 wargi abkai amba sayin jirgara fucihi-i abkai fejergi fucihi-i
- 2 tacihiyan-be aliha erten-be sara wacira dara dalai lama-i doron

*Chinesische Siegelaufschrift:*<sup>22</sup>

- 1 hsi-t'ien ta-shan tzü-tsai fo so ling t'ien-hsia shih-chiao
- 2 p'u-t'ung wa-ch'ih-la-ta-la ta-lai la-ma chih yin

[two lines of Chinese characters which I am unable to reproduce - the editor]

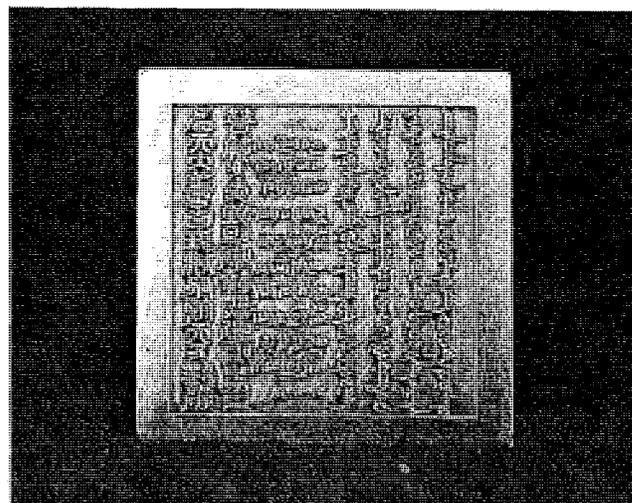
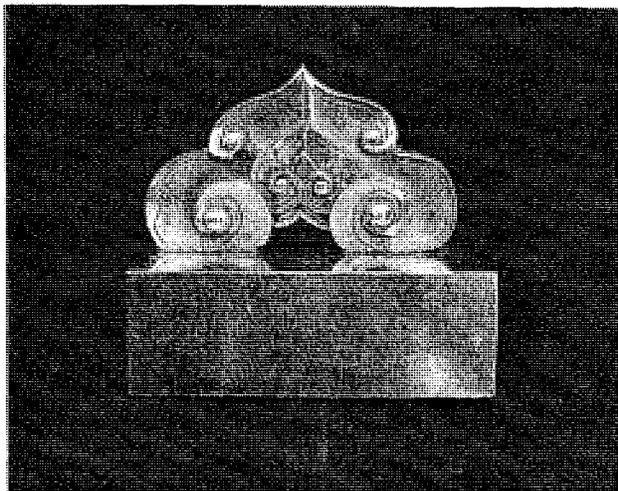
Tibetische Siegelaufschrift (in *dBu-med*Schrift):

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 nub phyogs      | 7 gyi <sup>23</sup> bdag po |
| 2 (mčhog tu) dge  | 8 (thams čad) (mkhyen) pa   |
| 3 ba'i žiñ gi     | 9 vajra dha ra tā           |
| 4 (rgyal) dbań sa | 10 la'i bla ma'i            |
| 5 steń gi (rgyal) | 11 tham ka                  |
| 6 bstan yoris     |                             |

Translation of the Tibetan text:

"Seal of the all-knowing *vajradhara Ta-la'i bla-ma*, of the ruler over the highly meritorious sphere in the West, the master on earth over the entire teaching of the Buddha."

Gold Seal Awarded by Emperor Yongzheng to the 7th Dalai Lama



# Auction Number 70 Report

**Auction 70 is now history!** Sales were concentrated mainly around Nepal and the mountaineering lots. Unfortunately, much of the good Tibet material did not sell. (See the attached "Prices Realized.")

Unsold lots were returned to consignors and were not offered after the sale. The majority of the unsolds had been run in previous sales (many more than once), so I decided enough was enough and returned them.

This was my first sale as your auctioneer. My attention was diverted by a personal crises at home. Some of you may have noticed a "delay" in responses from me, either by mail or e-mail. I apologize for this.

My wife, a kidney dialysis patient, developed a heart condition which required short visits or stays in the hospital. These happened in May and June. We also had consultations with heart specialists in July in San Jose. After comprehensive tests and adjustments to her medications, she's feeling much, much better. She's even back to work, although for only three or four days a week.

The deadline for consignments was August. Right now, there isn't enough material for a Fall sale so I'll be accepting consignments until "full."

**A little background.** You may have thought that I've done this kind of work before. True. When I first graduated from San Diego State University (1975), I took a job with an approval dealer in Los Angeles. A few months later, I went to work for an auction house in Beverly Hills. (As an aside: one of the consignments in sale 70 contained a lot card from this same auction house with my handwriting on it!) On good advice from a local auction agent, I applied to Richard Wolffers in San Francisco and began work there in June 1977. I left the stamp business in 1982 for a technical writing career in the then fledgling personal computer business. I still write, but now for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

**Parting thoughts.** As I write this, I'm wrapping up all of the outstanding business for the sale. One thing does come to mind: If you participate in the auction as a consignor or a bidder, let me know in advance, whether there are **SPECIAL CONDITIONS (VAT, customs value declarations, and so on) for mailing lots to you.** This applies especially to addresses outside the USA. So, check your stockbooks! Check your duplicates! Send me your material for sale 71 !

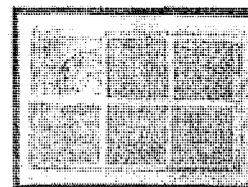
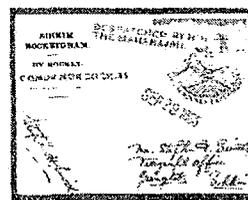
Cordially,

*Al Zulueta*

NTPSC Auctioneer

## The Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle

Mail Auction #70 • Closing Date: 8:00PM Sharp (PST), May 6, 2001



*Featuring: Bhutan Postal History, PRC Covers to Nepal, Nepal Die Proof of 3r Siva Issue, Mountaineering Covers, Collections, Sikkim, Tibet Postal History, Properties of 14 Owners*

All Amounts in the Right Column Are Starting Bids • No Bid Will Be Entered below the Starting Bid

### Send Your Bids To:

A G Zulueta Jr, NTPSC Auctioneer  
P. O. Box 6533

Concord, California 94524-1533, USA

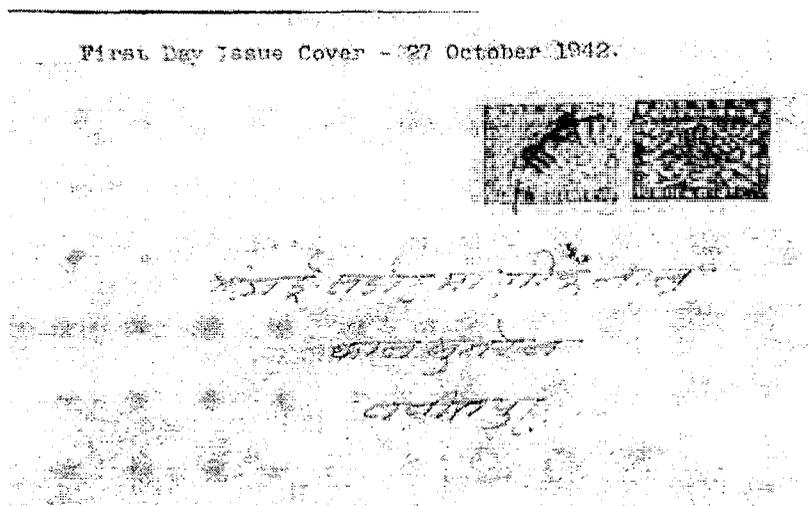
[agzulueta@earthlink.net](mailto:agzulueta@earthlink.net)

If you send bids by e-mail, please confirm by post.

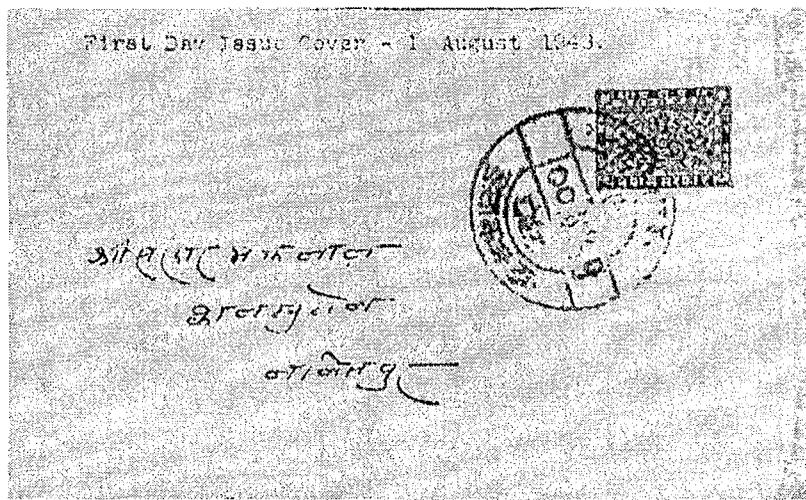
## NTPSC Auction 70 PRICES REALIZED

Lot	Price Realized	Lot	Price Realized	Lot	Price Realized	Lot	Price Realized
1	50.00	47	130.00	93	40.00	139	0.00
2	0.00	48	25.00	94	15.00	140	0.00
3	0.00	49	15.00	95	0.00	141	20.00
4	0.00	50	0.00	96	75.00	142	0.00
5	0.00	51	0.00	97	0.00	143	0.00
6	20.00	52	0.00	98	0.00	144	0.00
7	0.00	53	30.00	99	5.00	145	0.00
8	50.00	54	80.00	100	0.00	146	0.00
9	25.00	55	0.00	101	0.00	147	0.00
10	0.00	56	26.00	102	600.00	148	0.00
11	0.00	57	11.00	103	0.00	149	20.00
12	0.00	58	0.00	104	220.00	150	0.00
13	0.00	59	0.00	105	0.00	151	0.00
14	0.00	60	0.00	106	0.00	152	30.00
15	0.00	61	0.00	107	0.00	153	40.00
16	80.00	62	0.00	108	0.00	154	0.00
17	5.00	63	0.00	109	0.00	155	0.00
18	0.00	64	0.00	110	0.00	156	0.00
19	0.00	65	15.00	111	0.00	157	0.00
20	0.00	66	160.00	112	0.00	158	0.00
21	60.00	67	0.00	113	0.00	159	11.00
22	0.00	68	275.00	114	0.00	160	0.00
23	1.00	69	300.00	115	0.00		4,464.00
24	0.00	70	75.00	116	0.00		
25	330.00	71	150.00	117	0.00		
26	0.00	72	0.00	118	0.00		
27	15.00	73	0.00	119	0.00		
28	47.50	74	0.00	120	0.00		
29	0.00	75	0.00	121	0.00		
30	0.00	76	145.00	122	0.00		
31	50.00	77	135.00	123	0.00		
32	19.00	78	30.00	124	0.00		
33	18.00	79	0.00	125	0.00		
34	0.00	80	0.00	126	30.00		
35	20.00	81	0.00	127	0.00		
36	0.00	82	0.00	128	25.00		
37	30.00	83	0.00	129	7.00		
38	0.00	84	0.00	130	0.00		
39	35.00	85	0.00	131	10.00		
40	0.00	86	0.00	132	11.00		
41	47.50	84	0.00	133	15.00		
42	50.00	88	0.00	134	0.00		
43	0.00	89	0.00	135	0.00		
44	60.00	90	0.00	136	0.00		
45	0.00	91	400.00	137	0.00		
46	0.00	92	250.00	138	20.00		

The cover with two of the two pice brown stamps is interesting in that both the pale brown and dark brown stamps have been used. This then begs the question, 'were both shades issued on the same day or only one of them, with the second shade being an earlier printing but applied to make up the letter rate of 4 pice'.



First Day Issue cover with 2 x pice local Pashupati printings dated 27 October 1942  
Postmark, Hulak Goswara.



The 4 pice green is the second printing with the cover dated 1 August 1943.  
Postmark, Lalitpur

The final four covers have the three higher values, 16 pice, 24 pice and 32 pice. Dated in 1946, which would have been the first printing of each value. Once again as with the 8 pice value, there are two different shades of the 16 pice both dated 4 July 1946.

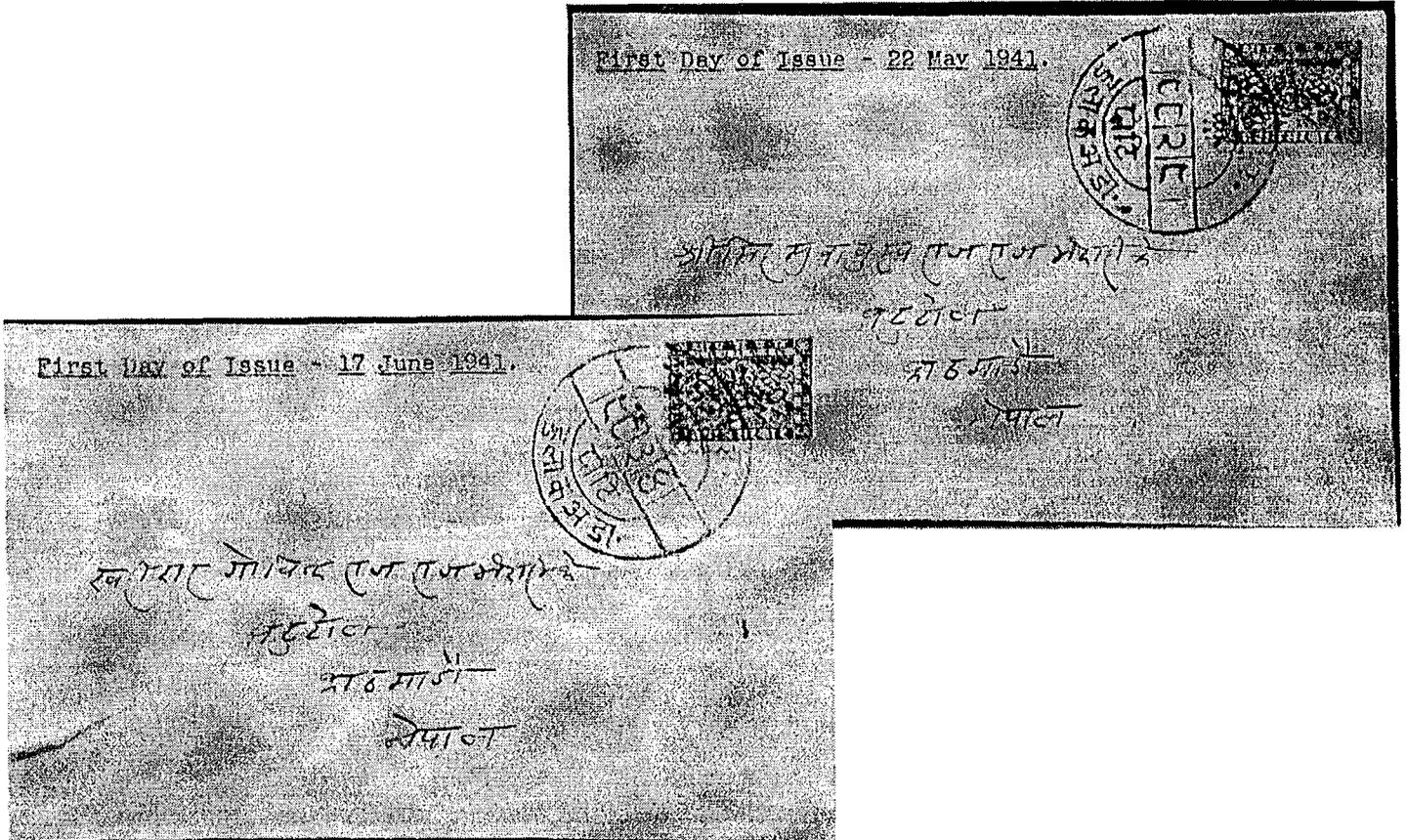
**DATING SOME OF THE LOCAL PASHUPATI PRINTINGS.**

Recently I was rummaging through a box of Nepalese covers, that had been accumulating over the years (it's the squirrel instinct in me) when I came across a packet of photographs that had been sent to me by Bill Janson from the USA. In amongst the photographs was a copy of a letter I had written to him in August 1989, thanking him for the photographs and to say that I would write a short article on them in Postal Himal. So it looks as if they remained at the bottom of the 'things to do' pile and eventually finished up in a box of covers. My apologies go to Bill for taking eleven years before the contents are brought to light in Postal Himal.

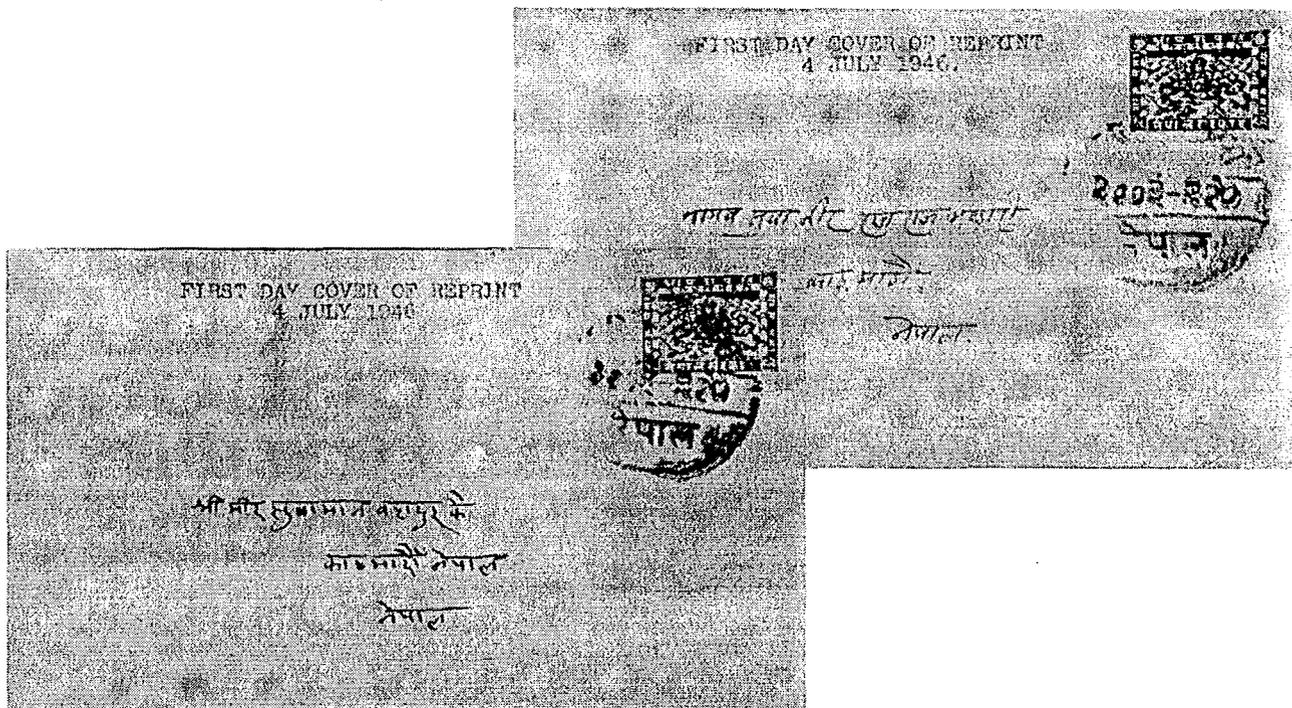
All the photographs were of some covers he had purchased, of the local Pashupati issues. They are all marked as First Day Covers and seem to have been prepared by a local philatelist and sent to local addresses in Kathmandu. They are spread over a period of five years and with the exception of the 8 pice covers, the recipient seems to be different on each one. Perhaps one of our members in Kathmandu could identify them.

All the covers have 'First Day of Issue' and the date typed along the top.

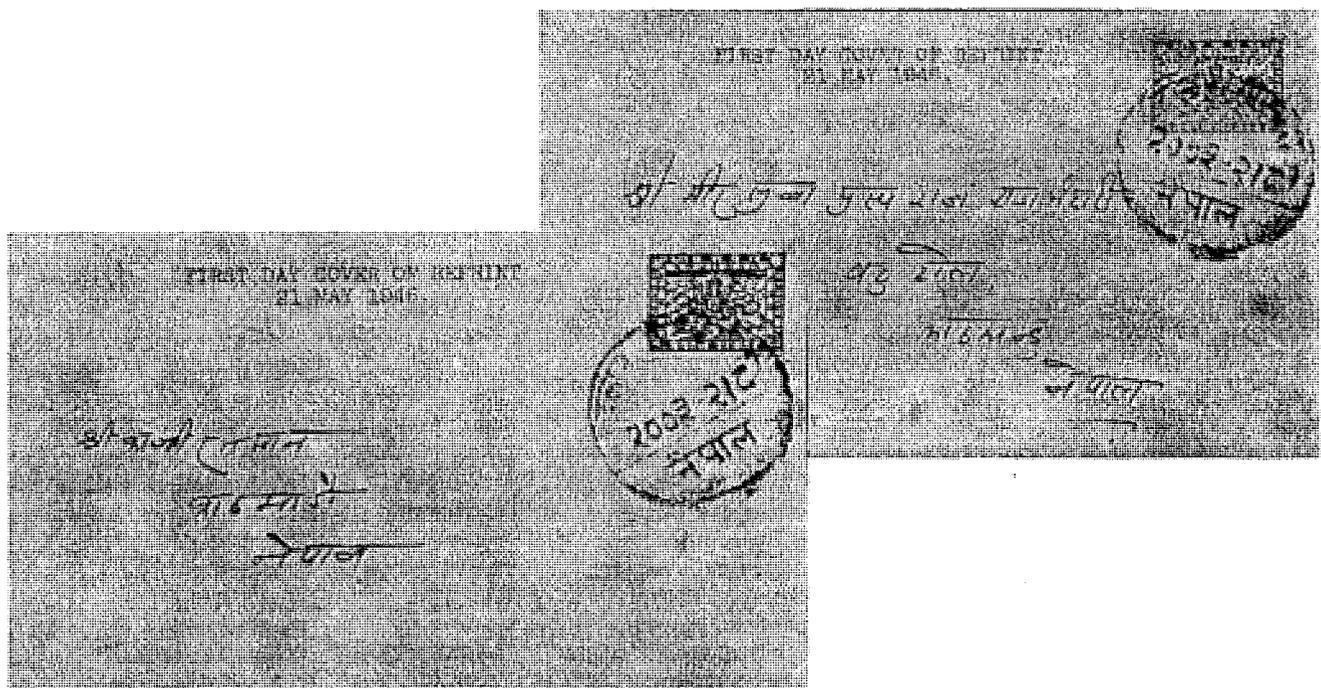
The first two covers of the 8 pice are dated 22 May 1941 and 17 June 1941. Both were posted in Lalitpur. They are a little puzzling in that we have two First Issue dates for the first printing, unless it is a reference to different colour shades.



Two 'First Day of Issue' covers of the first printings of the 8 pice red.

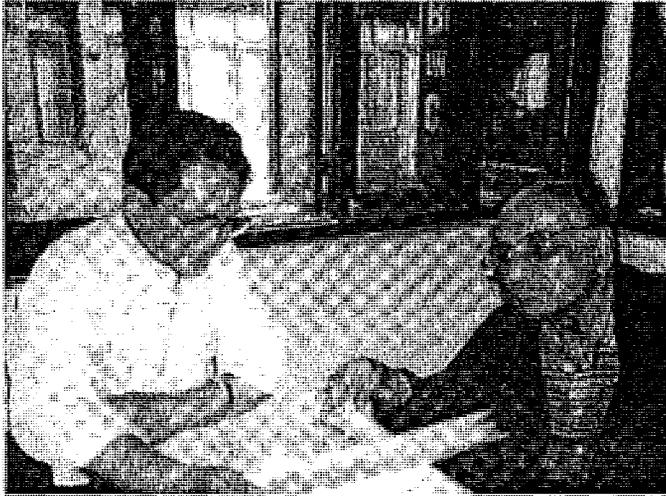


Both 16 pice First Day of Issue covers dated 4 July 1946: postmark Hulak Goswara



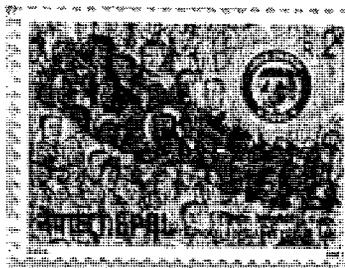
The 24 pice and 32 pice covers both dated the same day; 21 May 1946 and posted at Hulak Goswarw

# NEWS FROM KATHMANDU



Our representative in Kathmandu continues to help to promote our own Society with the notice of direction to find his philatelic shop in Kathmandu. The other illustration shows Surendra Lal Shrestha in discussion with another of our life members Mr. P. Gupta.

## NEP AL -NEW ISSUES National Population Census -17 April 2001



### Technical Detail

Population census is an activity with national and constitutional importance. Since 1911 AD., Population Census is conducted once in every ten years in Nepal. For the planned development of the country socio-economic and demographic information are of immense importance. The main objective of the census is to visit each and every household of the country and collect individual information. One of the major significance of the census is to collect information of the whole country at a single point in time. So, the next decennial census to be launched in the whole country during a fixed period of time is scheduled for 10th to 21st June 2001 AD. The census reference day will be taken as the dawn of the 22nd June 2001 AD. and is celebrated as the census day.

As in the 1991 AD. Population Census the present postage stamp issued on the occasion of the National Population Census 2001 AD. depicts the census logo.

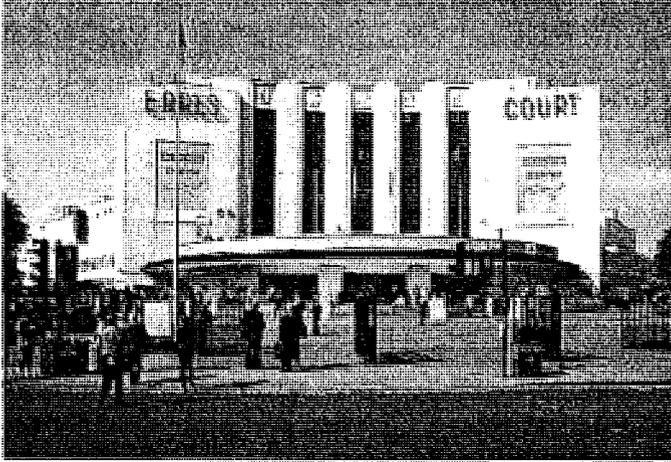
- |                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Subject:           | National population Census 2001 AD. |
| 2. Denomination:      | R. 2.00                             |
| 3. Quantity :         | One million                         |
| 4. Process:           | Photogravure                        |
| 5. Size:              | 28.56 X 39.23 mm                    |
| 6. Format:            | Horizontal                          |
| 7. Sheet Composition: | 50 Stamps per sheet                 |
| 8. Paper:             | High quality stamp paper            |
| 9. Colour :           | Four                                |
| 10. Designer :        | K. K. Karmacharya                   |
| 11. Printer:          | Helio Courvoisier S.A. Switzerland. |

Issued by:  
HMG, Nepal Post  
Philatelic Bureau. Kathmandu.

# A Short Photo Journey

through London, *The Stamp Show 2000*, and *WIPA 2000* by Al Zulueta  
(azulueta@pacbell.net)

It has been over a year since the NTPSC meeting at *The Stamp Show 2000* and I have yet to publish the pictures I took at the show. So, in an act of shameless self-promotion, here is my partial visual record of London 2000:



The Stamp Show 2000 venue, Earl's Court



Earl's Court train station, just across the street



Earl's Court station platform



Preregistration table on the morning of May 20th

**The Stamp Show 2000 London** Getting to the show was easy, just two stops from our hotel. As you can see, opening day was beautifully sunny. Before the official opening, show organizers distributed badges to exhibitors at the preregistration table. I exhibited my Amanullah Afghanistan at *TSS 2000*. It won a Vermeil which is pretty good for a first time international showing.

Most of us had already been "stamping" at the *London Millennium Stamp and Postal History Event* held at the Chelsea football club. The day I arrived, Saturday, Chelsea played and won its football championship. (Saturday afternoon, I watched the winning goal on television!) On my way to the bourse Sunday morning, I was caught up in the celebration which later closed the Chelsea station and most of the nearby streets. Not wanting to appear out of place, I bought a club flag and blended in.

Enthusiastic supporters waiting for Chelsea Football Club to appear



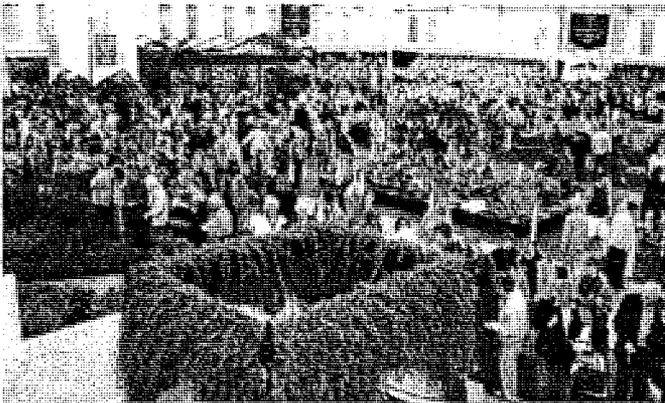
At a local Chelsea pub, still celebrating the club's win late into the afternoon

Camera in hand, I moved through the crowd taking pictures, all the while, looking for a

way to the Chelsea Football Club. To my surprise, a fellow Collectors Club of San Francisco member suddenly appeared in the crowd right in front of me. He was also looking for the bourse, too! We teamed up and finally made it there three hours late.

Running concurrently with *TSS 2000* was the **Chelsea Flower Show**. A hobby I share with my wife is gardening. She thinks, however, I have too many hobbies -stamps, photography, model railroading, to name a few. Before we left for the UK, we used the Internet to buy flower show tickets for Thursday,

Big crowds at all of the flower show exhibits



Boobies admiring girls on the way to the Chelsea Flower Show



May 25th, the first day it's open to the general public. I'm glad we did this. On the day we went, we bumped into a USA dealer friend of mine trying to buy tickets from a scalper at the entrance to the flower show!



The flower Mortella lady

to be continued