

# Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpsc>



Number 134

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008



*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.

	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>Life Member,</u> 2008
Great Britain	£12	£33	£180
USA	\$25	\$50	\$375
Europe	€19	€52	€185

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122  
British Philatelic Federation Affiliate #435

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper  
12 Chamwood Close  
Peterborough  
Cambs. PE2 9BZ  
England  
Phone 01733-349403  
email: colinhepper@aol.co.uk

Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett  
6 Rainbow Court  
Warwick, RI 02889-1118  
USA  
Phone (401) 738 0466  
email: editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

The Board of Directors:

President:	Mr. Colin T. Hepper	Past President:	Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl
Vice President:	Mr. Geoffrey Flack	Secretary:	Mr. Colin T. Hepper
Treasurer:	Mr. Colin T. Hepper	Auctioneer:	Mr. Leo Martyn
Members at large:	Mr. Christopher Kinch, Mr. Alan Warren	Editor:	Mr. Richard M. Hanchett

Representatives:

Europe: Mr. Colin T. Hepper - see address above  
Nepal: Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, G. P. O. Box 72, Kathmandu, Nepal  
USA: Mr. Roger Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94024, USA

Patron: Mac Linscott Ricketts

Honorary Life Members: Colin Hepper, Jit Bahadur Manandhar

Life Members: Mario C. Barbieri, Johannes Bormann, Jeremy Brewer, Geoffrey Flack, Richard M. Hanchett, Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, Kenneth L. Javonovich, William Jansen, Manfred Lauk, Gerhard Lenser, Leo Martyn, R. Murray, Bruno le Peut, Peter Planken, Kedar Pradhan, Barbara Praytor, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Roger Skinner, Rishi Tulsyan, Dick van der Wateren, Robert Wightman, Danny Kin Chi Wong, Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.

New Members: David Link, Box 1 Site 300 RR, Stony Plain, Alberta T7Z 1X3, CANADA (T)

Change of Address:

Resigned: Helmut P. Schmitz (Germany)

<u>Publishing Schedule:</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cutoff for Articles</u>	<u>Into Mail</u>
	135	August 30, 2008	September 13, 2008
	136	November 22, 2008	December 6, 2008
	137	February 28, 2009	March 14, 2009
	138	May 30, 2009	June 13, 2009

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper	1	Cumulative Index Report	Richard M. Hanchett	7
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	1	Membership List	Richard M. Hanchett	7
Congratulations		1	Additional Cover Illustrations	Surendra Lal Shrestha	8
Himalayan Mountaineering			A Piece of Postal History	Surendra Lal Shrestha	9
Correspondence	Bob Gould	2	British-Indian B25 Cancellation	Colin Hepper	10
Mysterious Black Label	Bo C. Olsson	3	British Envoy at Court of Nepal	Colin Hepper	11
Double Sealed Document	Dick van der Wateren	4	Unusual 'Postal Stationery'	Colin Hepper	12
Bharatpur BPO	Colin Hepper	5	News from Kathmandu	Surendra Lal Shrestha	13
Local Pashupati Printings	Colin Hepper	5	FDCs		14
Dhuduwapahad PO	Colin Hepper	6	Nepal Post Offices	Hepper and Jha	15
Report on WESTPEX 2008	Richard M. Hanchett	7			

## Officer's Corner

At the recent WESTPEX meeting I had the honour to be elected as the President of our society and together with our new Vice-President, Geoffrey Flack, from Canada will try to make us a more active society. I would also like to thank our former Vice-President, Dick van der Wateren, for the excellent work he did for us in his many travels to both Nepal and international exhibitions.

One of our first objectives is to have more regular auctions and by now you should all have had and been able to participate in Auction No. 71. Derek Pocock, one of our Australian members, has decided to sell his Nepal collection and this is currently being lotted up to be included in another auction to take place later in the year. To be able to continue these on a more regular basis we do need your spare material as not only does it benefit other members but is also a source of income for us.

Richard Hanchett often has difficulties in having sufficient material to complete a 16-page magazine, so we need you to have more participation in this. Richard has produced an

excellent index for *Postal Himal* and looking through it, there is a long list of questions that have been asked of members, but very few answers. If you think you know the answer to any questions please write to Richard and don't assume that someone else will send an answer.

We have new members that join us every year but we have no idea if they are advanced or beginner collectors in this area. If you are a new member and would like advice on anything write to Richard in the first place and he will either pass the questions on to an appropriate member, or he may be able to re-run an earlier article that answers your questions.

Finally, *Postal Himal* is one of the vehicles we have to communicate with each other; the other is our web page. Rainer Fuchs who runs our web page, feels very unwanted as he runs a very good forum page and none of us use it. So please make an effort and go to it on a regular basis. I am sure that you could get a lot out of it.

Colin Hepper

## Editor's Ramblings

Congratulations to Colin Hepper and Geoffrey Flack (see e-mail addresses on inside front cover) on being elected President and Vice-President of our Society. Colin has now held every position in our Society (at one time he was Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Auctioneer simultaneously in addition to putting out *Postal Himal* and its Newsletters.

And again thanks to Dick van der Wateren for all that he has done (and will continue to do) for our Society.

We had two meetings at WESTPEX (see page

7 for a report) and next year we will have two meetings: one at WESTPEX in April and one at SESCAL in October. The people who run SESCAL had asked us if we would consider holding one of our meetings at their show and so we will.

Also LONDON 2010 will have a new venue (not Earl's Court) and Colin has promised to get a list of close by hotels for those who are planning to attend. We will have probably 2 meetings at LONDON. And then there will be INDIA 2010 in New Delhi in September 2010.

## **CONGRATULATIONS:**

**Edward F. Gosnell** was awarded Vermeil for his exhibit "The Kingdom of Nepal: Adapting an Industrial Age Communications System to a Handicraft Society (A Philatelic Overview 1790-1930)" at the Garfield-Perry National Exhibition

**Colin Hepper** was awarded Gold and the NTPSC Award for his exhibit "Nepal: Postal History 1810-1911" at WESTPEX '08

**Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.** was awarded Gold and the Michael Rogers Award for Best Asian exhibit for his exhibit "Afghanistan: Amanullah Period, 1920-1929" at WESTPEX '08

## More Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence

Bob Gould

In our catalog, Singer and I included most of the chapter "A Tale of Philately" from the book *Tales of the Himalaya: Adventures of a Naturalist* by Lawrence W. Swan. Swan told about the trials and tribulations that he endured in order to mail covers for the 1954 California Himalayan Expedition to Makalu. The covers were made from native Nepalese Daphne paper and had in the upper left corner a cinderella label designed by Swan for this expedition. These were printed in red, blue and green and over 1000 covers were mailed out with both Nepalese and Indian stamps and cancels. The covers had a black R/S "CARRIED BY RUNNER" and another "BARUN GLACIER BASE CAMP". A 1954 newspaper article states that "Each cover will cost \$1 and will be addressed directly to the person ordering. Five hundred of the labels are reserved for the personal use of the expedition's members and 500 have been set aside for the use of the

public". One of the covers that I own included a short note (on Daphne paper) to Bob, signed Bill. The cover was addressed to an individual at Stead AFB in Reno, NV and had no return address or sender's name. I thought it would be interesting to try and discover who had mailed this particular cover. The expedition took place 50 years ago and had three members named William and one named Willie, so I had my work cut out for me. After corresponding with several different members I was able to narrow it down to William Long who now lives in Alaska and subsequently signed the cover for me. We have had several phone conversations and he was most helpful in supplying me with additional information about this and other mountaineering expeditions. In fact, he was also a member of the first expedition to climb the highest peak in Antarctica, Mount Vinson in 1966.





## The Mysterious Black Label Depicting the Potala in Lhasa One More Piece of the Puzzle

Bo C. Olsson

In his book *The Essays and Proofs of Tibet* Armand E. Singer mentions the mysterious black label depicting the Potala.

The Swedish part of The Relief Committee for Tibetan Refugees in India sold such labels to raise funds. This must have been around 1973-74 (if I remember right). Apparently few were sold since I have not had many answers when trying to advertise for them. I could have missed them totally, but a person who was involved in the work knew I was a collector, so I was notified the committee had received a thin bundle of minisheets from the exile government in Dharmasala. Would I like to buy a few? Yes, indeed!

And I was offered a proof perforation as well. Minihole 9 instead of rouletted 6. A whole minisheet! So far as I know, it is the only such item known, and it is depicted here.

Singer asks in his book what the figure "20" stands for. It is a value and the currency is Indian; i.e., naye paisa. Trangka was not used in Tibet itself at that time. It was probably made invalid after the 1959 revolt or even

earlier. Chinese stamps were sold in Tibet in Chinese currency during 1954-55, so for some time I think both Tibetan and Chinese currency had validity. At least until late 1956 when the Tibetan postal organization finally closed down.

In a number of *The Cinderella Philatelist* many years ago someone speculated that this label had been used for local postage in the Tibetan camps in India. Or, he might have heard a rumor that they were. I can't remember exactly after so many years. Sorry! However, if that was true at least a few such covers should have turned up in the meantime, but none have yet. So, I think we can now be sure that it was just a fund raising label.

Like I said, I have tried to advertise for such labels, but without much success. I did however, get a used copy on piece with a Swedish postmark, showing evidence that they have been used as labels on mail here. It would be interesting to hear if this label was sold in any other countries outside of India.



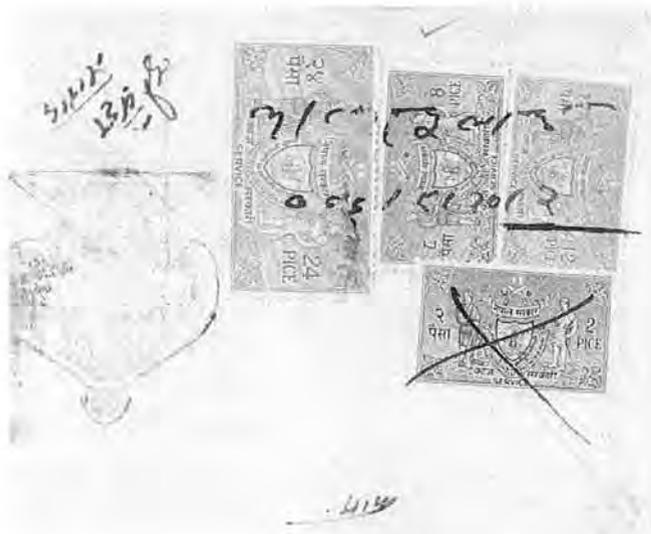
## Bharatpur Branch Post Office Colin Hepper

I have two covers in my collection from Bharatpur Post Office. One is a small registered letter using official stamps which has been cancelled 'Bharatpur Post Office' and dated 016/9/20/2 which would be in January 1960.

The other cover is a postal stationery envelope which I recently purchased and is cancelled with a single line handstamp, reading Bharatpur Branch Post Office. On the back of the

envelope are the postmarks of Kathmandu G.P.O. and Singh Durbar dated 5th and 8th of June 1964.

So far I have not seen any of the bi-lingual postmarks from this post office and it is not listed in the 1999 official list of post offices. I would be interested to know from our friends in Nepal if this post office still exists.



## The Local Pashupati Printings Colin Hepper

All the early collectors and writers on the local Pashupati printings made the assumption that the local printings were started in 1941, because of the difficulties of getting supplies from Perkins Bacon, due to the start of World War II. Later writers (myself included) and some catalogue companies continued to make this assumption without 'switching their brains on'.

During the meeting at WESTPEX, I was in

conversion with Roger Skinner who reminded me that we had all ignored a very well known fact that Perkins Bacon went out of business in the late 1930's, so that the supply of stamps to Nepal and any other country they were supplying would have dried up.

I am sure that this is a much more accurate reason for the need for the Nepalese to start printing their own stamps again, than is the World War II theory.



## Report on WESTPEX 2008

Richard M. Hanchett

We had another very successful WESTPEX! It is interesting that 100% of our members who entered exhibits won Gold (see page 1).

Our first meeting was Friday afternoon with Frank Vignola, Bill Jansen, Frealon Bibbins, Leo Martyn, Geoffrey Flack, Roger Skinner, Colin Hepper and myself in attendance. The primary business for the meeting was the election of a new President and a new Vice-President. I am very pleased to announce that Colin Hepper is the new President and Geoffrey Flack is the new Vice-President. Their e-mail address are on the inside front cover. There was then time to examine the exhibits and of course, to spend (too much) money buying items from the various dealers. That night Roger and his wife Jo, Colin Hepper and myself and my wife Pat went to Max's for dinner - lot of food and huge desserts.

Sunday we had our general meeting with Geoffrey Flack, Alfonso Zulueta Jr, Roger Skinner, Deepak Jaiswal (a visitor), Frank Vignola, Gerhard Wolf, Colin Hepper and myself in attendance. The discussions included how to get our auctions going again on a regular basis. It was noted that Derek Pocock of Australia is selling his entire Nepal collection (Vermeil awarded Postmarks of Nepal, 5 albums with covers classified postmarks, an

album of Pashupati sets and covers, a 1000+ covers with seals and some odds and ends) through the Society. Colin Hepper is currently lotting the material and says he will have it finished by the end of the year. (See page 6 for one of the items that will be in the auction). Mr Jaiswal showed us several documents with seals.

SESCAL has invited us to have a meeting at their show next year and we have accepted the offer. So, next year there will be two meetings - one at WESTPEX in April and the second at SESCOAL in October.

The venue for LONDON 2010 has been changed from Earl's Court and will be in the northern part of London. Colin will get a list of hotels near the area and it will be published in *Postal Himal* for those interested in attending that show. We normally have two meetings at the LONDON show. Also in 2010 will be the international exhibition in New Delhi, India and several of those in attendance indicated an interest in attending with a trip also possible to Nepal (and also Bhutan for those interested). No word yet on the venue.

Hopefully we are once again on the way to having regularly scheduled auctions for the Society.

## Cumulative Index for *Postal Himal* and Membership List

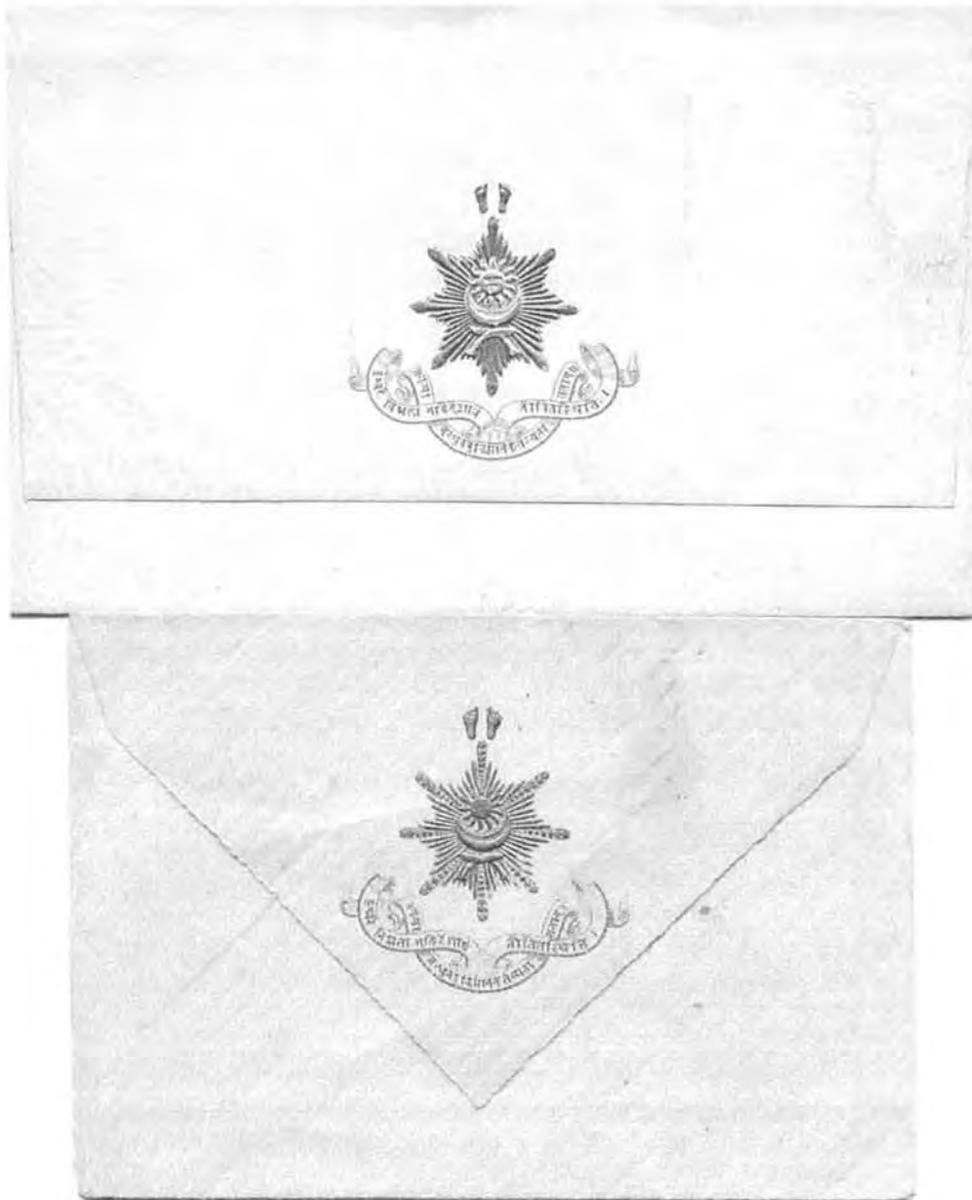
Richard M. Hanchett

When last I gave you an update on the Cumulative Index (see *PH* 131:1) I had finished through Issue 46 and the Index was 23 pages long. When I finished it through Issue 132 (4th Quarter 2007), it was 80 pages in length. Then, like any editor, I thought it would be good to have such and such, and so and so would make it more readable and when I got finished with the enhancements it was 130 pages long. I used a few tricks like changing margins to shrink 2 lines to 1 and it is now 122 pages long. You will have it later this year. At the same time I am

going to republish the Membership List. I notice that there is a lot of white space in it. It would be beneficial to all of us to have e-mail address and collecting interests published. If you collect general Himalayan areas, specialize in corner blocks of the first local printing of the Pashupati issue, are a part time or full time dealer, or expertise stamps, why not let your fellow members know. Send me any information about your collecting interests that you want others to know about. E-mail addresses would also be nice to have.

## Two Additional Cover Illustrations Surendra Lal Shrestha

Illustrated are two cover envelopes with the Lakshmi Nivas Maharajganj, Kathmandu, crest used by the last Rana Prime Minister of Nepal. (See also *PH* 133:9 'A Letter to the Nepal - Mohan Shamsher J. B. Rana from Queen of Bundi' - editor)





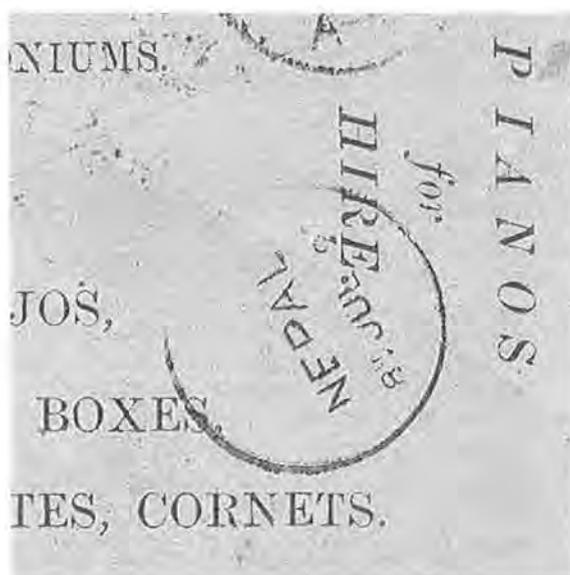
## The British-Indian B25 Cancellation

Colin Hepper

I would like to comment on the 'New Discovery' of the British-Indian B25 cancellation, reported by Surendra Lal Shrestha in *Postal Himal* 133 (see 'A New Type Discovered on the British-Indian B25 Cancellation by Surendra Lal Shrestha *PH* 133:2 - ed.).

I believe that we should *proceed with caution* before accepting that it is a new type. I have a similar postcard to the one illustrated which was

posted two months earlier, and as can be seen from the illustration, the inking on the lower portion of the date stamp is very clear. On Surendra's card, the inking on the lower portion of the date stamp is almost non-existent and so there is a possibility that the date characters are there but missed being inked making it look as if there was no date stamp. To be sure there must be a full inking of the whole date stamp.



## British Envoy at the Court of Nepal

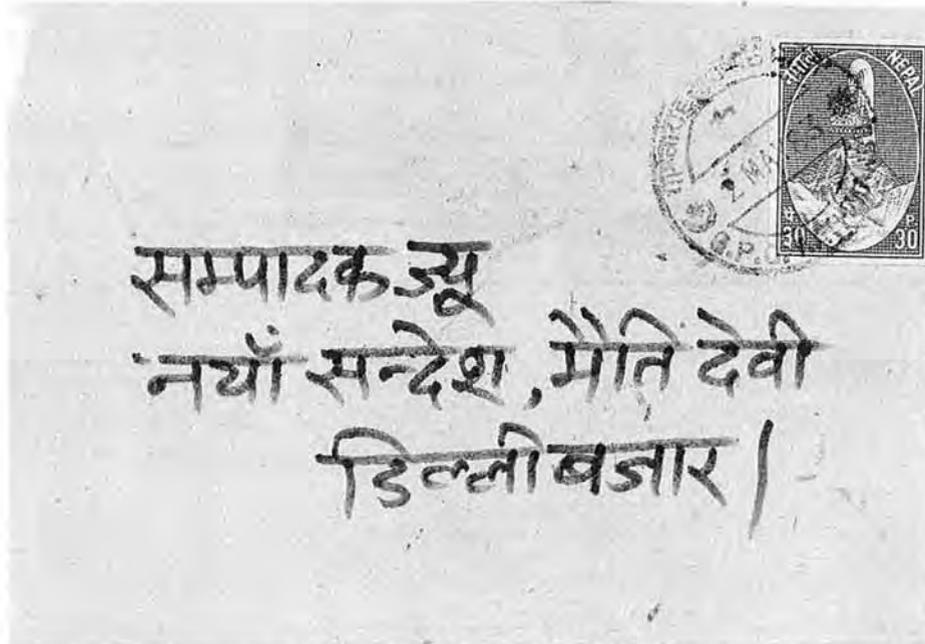
Colin Hepper

Some time ago I purchased a small lot of Nepalese material in amongst which was this fine embossed seal on a thin cream coloured card, which may have been cut out from either a letter sheet or an envelope. However, the card seems to be rather too thick to have been used on normal stationery items. I have no idea as to

what year this stationery was in use and would be interested to hear from anyone who could throw some light on this position of 'British Envoy at the Court of Nepal', bearing in mind there has always been a British/Indian Embassy in Kathmandu.



Unusual 'Postal Stationery'  
Colin Hepper



The illustrated cover was posted at Kathmandu G.P.O. on 2 May 1983. The stamp used has been cut out of the 1980 issue postal stationery envelope and placed on a normal envelope.



Another cover also posted at Kathmandu G.P.O. dated 19.10.93 has had the 50p stamp from the 1986 issue aerogramme cut out and used in conjunction with a 1 Rupee stamp for use on an internal airmail letter.

**News from Kathmandu**  
**Surendra Lal Shrestha**



हलाक पत्र Post Card



नाम र स्थान

घटाऔँ भूकम्पको खतरा  
जागरूक भई युवा

COMMEMORATIVE COVER

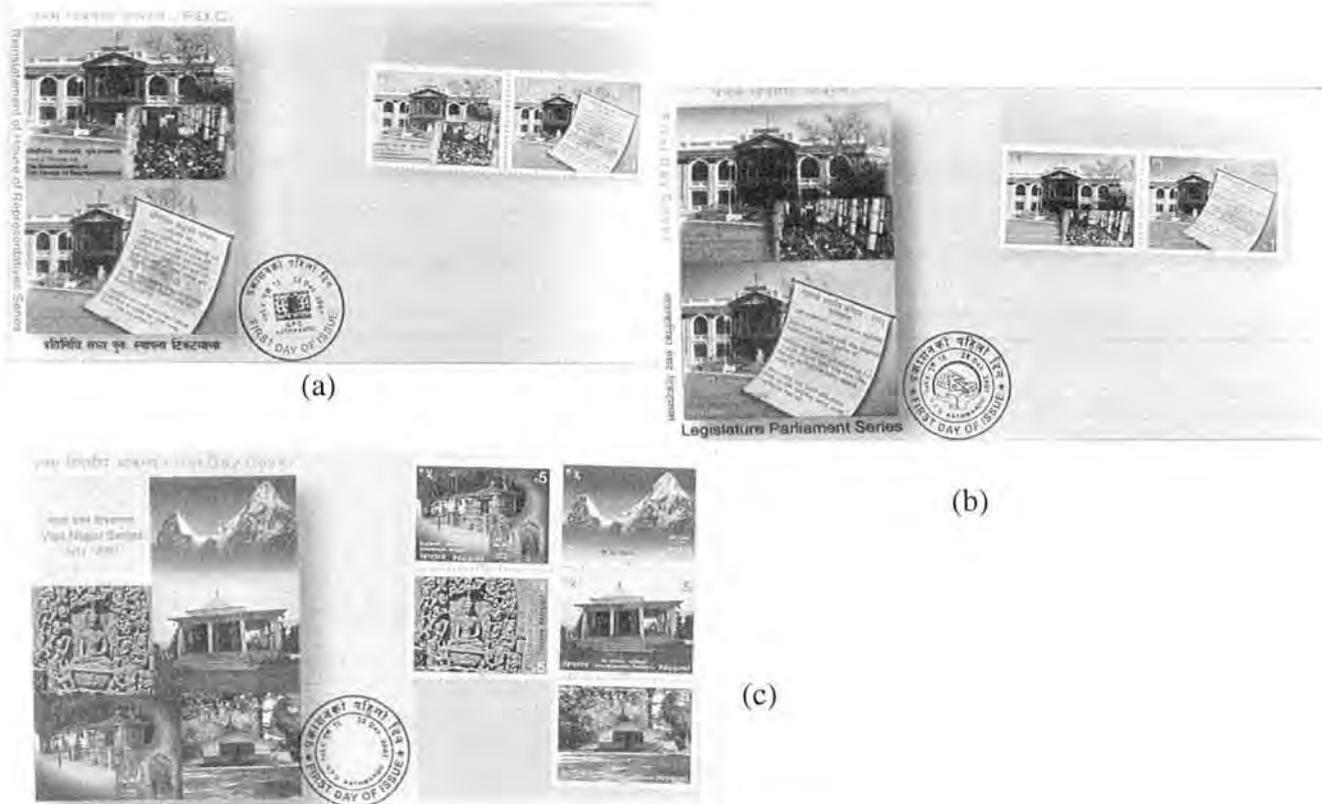


ICC U/19 CRICKET  
WORLD CUP  
MALAYSIA 2008

**ICC U/19 CRICKET WORLD CUP**  
Feb. 17- March 2, 2008



## First Day Covers



## Technical Details

	(a)	(b)	(c) Visit Nepal Series
<b>Subject:</b>	Reinstatement of House of Representatives Proclamation of House of Representatives	Constitution of Legislative Parliament Interim Constitution of Nepal	Shree Shaillya Malikarjun, Darchula Buddha Mt. Abi 6097 m. Shree Bhageshwor, Dadeldhura Shiddakali, Bhojpur
<b>Denomination:</b>	Rs. 1	Rs. 1	Rs. 5
<b>Color:</b>	Four with Phosphor print	Four with Phosphor print	Four with Phosphor print
<b>Composition:</b>	20 stamps per sheet	20 stamps per sheet	20 stamps per sheet
<b>Size:</b>	40 x 30 mm	40 x 30 mm	40 x 30 mm
<b>Process:</b>	Offset Lithography	Offset Lithography	Offset Lithography
<b>Quantity:</b>	500,000 each	500,000 each	200,000 each
<b>Format:</b>	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal
<b>Paper:</b>	High Quality Stamp	High Quality Stamp	High Quality Stamp
<b>Designer:</b>	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana
<b>Printer:</b>	Cartor Security, France	Cartor Security, France	Cartor Security, France
<b>Postal Himnal No. 134</b>		13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008



(a)



(b)

### Technical Details

	(a) (Personality Series)	(b)
Subject:	Shivapuri Baba & Mahesh Chandra Regmi Bhrikuti & Pt. Udayananda Arjyal Ganesh Lal Shrestha & Tara Devi	Chhaya Devi Parajuli
Denomination:	Rs. 5	Rs. 2
Color:	Four with Phosphor print	Four with Phosphor print
Composition:	20 stamps per sheet	20 stamps per sheet
Size:	40 x 30 mm	40 x 30 mm
Process:	Offset Lithography	Offset Lithography
Quantity:	1,000,000 of each pair	1,000,000
Format:	Horizontal	Horizontal
Paper:	High Quality Stamp	High Quality Stamp
Designer:	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana
Printer:	Cartor Security, France	Cartor Security, France

Thanks to Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu for the First Day Covers

Nepal Post Offices - A Continuing Series  
 Colin Hepper - photos by Jaya Hari Jha

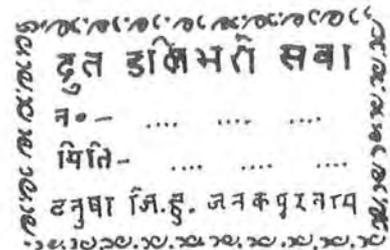
Dhankuta District Post Office



The Dhankuta District Post Office is one of six District Post Offices in the Koshi Zone



Regd No.....  
 Date.....  
 Dhankula D. P. O.



Itahari Chhoti Hulak



Itahari Chhoti Hulak is in the Koshi Zone and comes under the jurisdiction of the Sunsari District Post Office

