



NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

No.16 July, 1979

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our President Dr. Couvreur and myself, I would like to thank all of those U.S.A. members who wrote expressing their appreciation of the meeting in San Francisco, and to Bill McConnell for the very good report he gave in Stamp Collector magazine.

Lester Michel has agreed to take over the position as Newsletter Editor, so I would ask all of you to make a big effort and let him have some articles. It makes life much easier if you can have a few issues to hand.

For those of you who will be coming to the London 1980 Exhibition, you may like to note that I have provisionally booked a meeting room on Thursday, 8th May and Friday, 9th May 1980 at 14.30 to 16.30 PM. Full details will of course be published nearer the time.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that I have to report the death of one of the first members who joined our society - Mr. S.K. Chatterjee (aged 25) from India. We send our condolences to his family.

NEW MEMBERS

G. Flack, 6206 Vine Street, Vancouver B.C., Canada V6M 4A8

Prof. Dr. A. Werner, Romerberg 23, 6200, Wiesbaden, Germany

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Robert Wightman, Zum Hoelzli 13, 8405, Winterthur, Switzerland

Membership of the following must be considered as lapsed:

A. Dutta, D. Hall, J. Kyle, S.L. Shrestha, D.S. Shakya, K. Young.

NEW ISSUES NEWS

The R1.25 stamp due to be issued on April 27th was cancelled.

Our member in Kathmandu, Malcolm Campbell was instrumental in having the proposed design of the Forestry Campaign R2.30 issue changed. The submitted design was a very stylised forest and river design, which he thought would not have meant a thing to the Nepalese hill people who it was to impress. As a result the design to appear on 29th June is a simple, vertical format of a pair of hands planting seedlings, printed in dark green on a buff background without borders.

Our book on the Native Postmarks is still doing well. The latest award being a Gold medal at Vebileph 79 International Philatelic Literature Exhibition. If there are still any members who have not purchased this yet, we have almost sold out of the hard bound copies.

Colin Hepper

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POSTAL STATIONERY "ERRORS"

In response to the request in Newsletter #14 for information on Nepali aerogrammes with errors which would all seem to be "printer's waste" rather than genuine errors, the following list has been supplied by our Modern Issues co-ordinator Douglas Hatch.

- H&G aerogramme #4 mint, with folded extra paper in corner.
- 15 paisa ('69) with folded extra paper on flap.
- Rsl.50 ('62) with creased paper.
- Rsl.25 ('73) with blurred defect in ink on blue plane.
- Rsl.25 ('73) with blurred impression - shift in printing.
- Rsl.25 ('73) with partial "offset" impression on reverse.
- 25 paisa (green) with one part of design missing due to having been covered by another piece of paper during printing.
- 25 paisa (green '77) with almost half of front design missing (also covered by another piece of paper during printing).
- 25 paisa (green '77) with 2.5 cm blurr across top where inking was lighter with impressions on aerogramme.
- 15 paisa (purple) with large purple blob near stamp.
- 15 paisa (purple) with creased paper.
- 15 paisa (purple) with light purple design (faint inking)
- 15 paisa (purple) with very dark purple inking.
- 15 paisa (purple) with aerogramme design cut 8mm lower than guidelines in corners.
- 15 paisa (purple) with aerogramme design cut 8mm too far to the right of guidelines in corners.
- 15 paisa (purple) with foreign matter in stamp area, and is therefore not covered with ink.
- 15 paisa (purple) with whole streak of purple across top of aerogramme, including the purple blob previously mentioned.
- 15 paisa (purple) with 4.2 cm. wide lighter impression across top of aerogramme, streaked appearance on stamp.

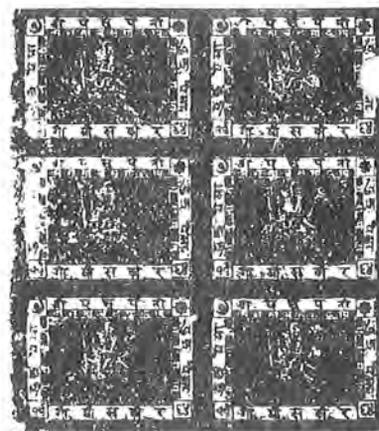
If any member knows of other defects; or anything that might be of interest in the issues from 1949 to date, please write to Douglas with the details.

THE PASHUPATI "NEGATIVE STAMPS"

During our research on the Pashupati stamps, questions have arisen regarding the so called "negative stamps" of the 1907 design (part of a sheet is illustrated). Some consider them forged attempts to produce stamps or philatelic curiosities but others believe they may have great historical importance. Although there seem to be no government or official records to substantiate their genuineness, sources in Nepal assert they originated in 1917 when the government was faced with a shortage of imported stamps due to World War One.

Because of their poor appearance, unusual colors and various grades of native paper it seems unlikely these were attempts to forge stamps for the philatelic market. In fact, now most people tend to put these impressions in the category of "proofs" whether considered genuine experiments or philatelic fakes.

It is this writer's opinion, after examining examples in the Vignola collection, these impressions were made from the actual 1907 Perkins Bacon line engraved plates by surface inking in the same manner one would ink and proof a typograph (letterpress). Rather than rubbing ink into the engraved lines it was merely rolled onto the plate's surface thus printing only those portions normally wiped clean and unprinted. The result is a negative, but unreversed image. Other theories such as inter-



mediary dies or photographically produced plates have problems but remain possibilities. Known forms include the following printed in sheets of 100 on various grades of native paper:

2 pice-BLACK, 4 pice-GREEN, 8 pice-RED; 16 pice-SLATE GREY

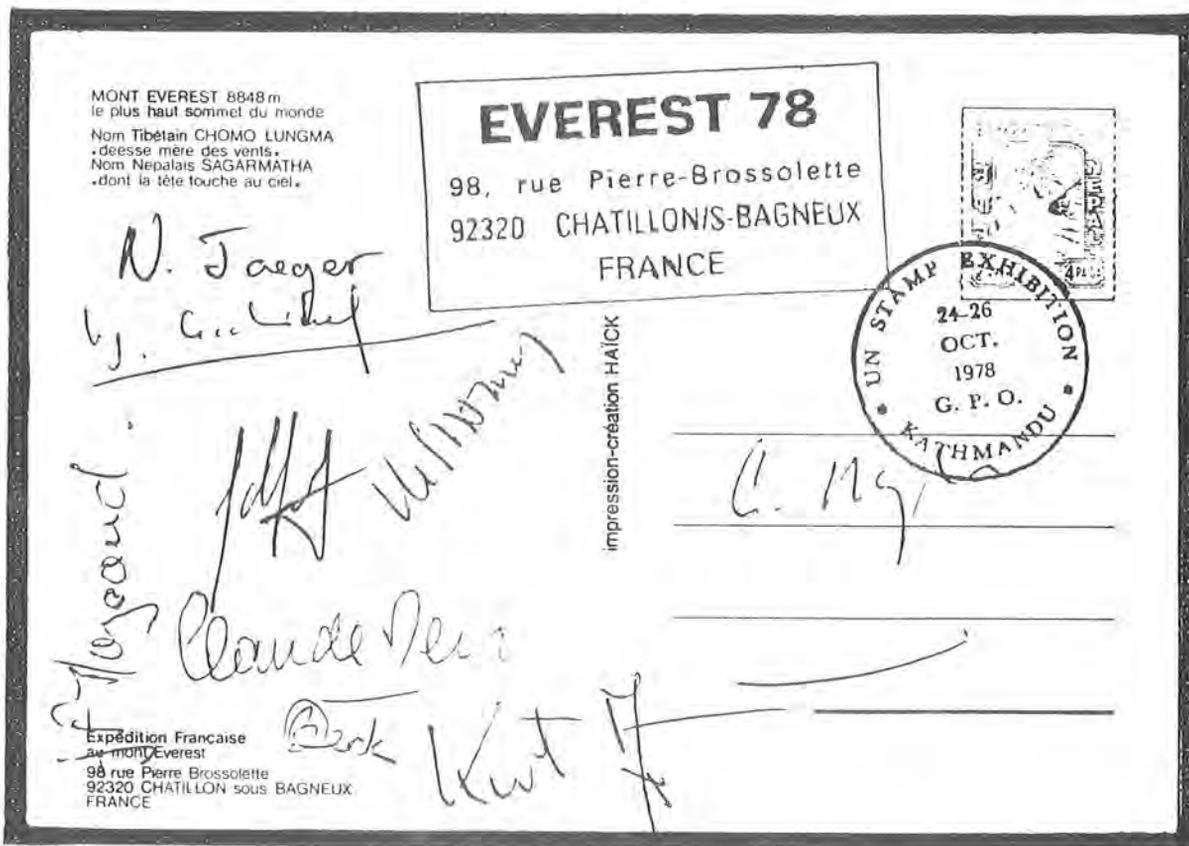
Without government records we can only speculate as to why (if genuine) these impressions were made. It would be most helpful to us to receive any information from members around the world which may relate to the negative impressions and in particular the following questions:

- What became of the original Perkins Bacon engraving plates of 1907?
- Did they ever leave England at any time?
- What were the printing facilities available to the Nepalese government in c1917 (personnel and equipment)?

If you can help, please write! Any info will be appreciated.

Thomas Matthiesen
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Duvall, WA 98019 U.S.A.

UNITED NATIONS STAMP EXHIBITION



The Nepal Philatelic Society sponsored a three day exhibition from 24-26th October 1978 in the G.P.O. Building, Kathmandu. The exhibition consisted of two themes, one with complete sets of U.N. mint issues from 1951 to date, and the other with Nepalese stamps in mint blocks of four of all issues having U.N. themes. The material was supplied by Mr. Gyandasi Tuladhar and Mr. Bishnu Lal Shresta. The exhibition was opened by the Hon. Minister for Communication, Sri Bari Bahadu Bosnyat.

To mark the occasion a special commemorative postmark was used during the exhibition and only 800 covers were cancelled.

The French Mount Everest Expedition was in Nepal at the same time as the U.N. Stamp Exhibition, and their Expedition cards with the climbers' signatures also received the special exhibition cancellation.

FIRST HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT IN NEPAL



Special cancellation
used at Kathmandu
G.P.O.

Dutch champion hot air balloonist Hans Zoet became the first person to fly a balloon in Nepal. He is a radio journalist invited by the Nepal-Holland House and the Nepal Holland Friendship Association to give demonstration flights over Kathmandu. Zoet was at the world championships at Upsula in February and has flown balloons in Canada, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Surinam and in March was giving demonstrations in Dubai.

Nepalese civil aviation authorities gave permission for the flights which would be every day for five or six days in April from Tundikhel depending upon the weather. During the flights he would be in radio contact with Tribhuvan Airport control.

A special cancellation was used at the Kathmandu G.P.O. to commemorate the event. It is believed that several thousand covers were cancelled there. On the one seen, the 65p airmail stamp issued in 1968 was used.

NEW POST OFFICES OPENED

Baglung - April 7th

Rastriya Panchayat member Omkar Prasad Gauchan declared open an additional Post Office at Sigana village Panchayat. A host of speakers threw light on the importance of the postal service. The mangural function was chaired by the local pradhman pancha Hira Bahadur Karki.

Ilam - April 9th

District panchayat member Dharma Raj Nembang declared open an additional Post Office at Dewali of Sumbek village. There are now fourteen additional Post Offices in Ilam district.

Kathmandu - April 28th

An additional Post Office has been established at Ward No. 8 of Taldhunga village panchayat in Kavre district. It was declared open by local pradhman pancha Jagannath Tamang.

POST OFFICE TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Parbat - April 7th

Back-to-the-village Parbat district committee chairman Lal Kaji Gurung laid the foundation stone of the district Post Office building at Unnais village panchayat of Kusma district. Construction is expected to be completed by January 1980 at an estimated cost of 136,000 rupees.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

U.S.A.	Mr. Frank Vignola	105, 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121
INDIA	Mr. C. Tulsian	P.O. Siswa Bazar, Distt, Gorakhpur U.P.
NEPAL	Mr. Dhruva Rudra	P.O. Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu