

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



ONE HUNDRED YEARS

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Summer 1981



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OUR COVER illustration for this issue is from a photograph of a first issue 1 anna kindly supplied by Al Zulueta. We have printed the black and white photograph in a standard printer's stock color (Reflex Blue) which is somewhat brighter than the actual stamp color. If you would like a slightly larger blow-up of this stamp in Reflex Blue on a 5 x 7 inch sheet of heavy white vellum stock suitable for framing or album display please send \$2 to Thomas Matthiesen, Box 406, Duvall, WA 98019, USA. Proceeds go to The Study Circle.

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to recognize a new member who is a well-known mountaineer. Irene Beardsley will probably be better remembered as Irene Miller, who, with the expedition leader, Vera Komarkova, reached the summit of Annapurna I in 1978, marking the first successful ascent of an 8,000 meter Himalayan peak by an American all-women's team. Those of us who enjoy mountaineering, whether from an armchair or in active climbing, will be particularly pleased to have this distinguished new member join us as a fellow philatelist. (Please pardon the expression: "fellow philatelist," Irene!) A quick check of our membership list seems to indicate that she may be the only woman in our Study Circle. In any case, we are pleased to welcome her into our group.

We wish to commend the officers and members of the Nepal Philatelic Society who have contributed to the publication of the latest issue of their official publication, PHILATELY. Vol. 8, No. 1 for January 1981 is devoted to the "Centenary of the Nepalese Postage Stamps 1881-1981." We are pleased to note that a week-long exhibition marking this important philatelic event is scheduled to begin on 7 November 1981. The fine cooperation of the Postal Services Department of His Majesty's Government with the Nepal Philatelic Society in the planning of this event, sets an example which some of us might wish could be followed in other countries. Incidentally, a Souvenir Issue of PHILATELY is being planned and readers are encouraged to contribute appropriate articles for that issue.

The date of the first issue of Nepalese stamps is, unfortunately, not known precisely, but, to the best of current knowledge, a cover in the Vignola collection represents the earliest known usage of a Nepalese stamp. The cover was mailed from Kathmandu to Palpa on 5 May 1881, and is pictured and described in THE NATIVE POSTMARKS OF NEPAL by Hellrigl and Hepper (page 8).

It may be noted that a set of three stamps plus a Souvenir Sheet (only the second ever issued by Nepal) was issued on 13 April 1981 and is available from the Nepal Philatelic Bureau. A special postal marking and other philatelic mementoes will be available during the November Exhibition.*

We wish to thank those who have written to express their satisfaction with the new format, name and contents of our first quarterly publication (Newsletter No. 25). The editor is grateful to all who have provided material for publication and especially to our hard-working publisher, Thomas Matthiesen, for his imaginative talents which are so apparent in our first quarterly issue of POSTAL HIMAL. Keep those articles and bits of information coming to the editor---no matter how small they may be. We endeavor to recognize each contribution and urge all philatelists to respond to that inner urge to see their own words in print.

Lester A. Michel

*ISSUE DATE POSTPONED

According to a recent report received from S. L. Shrestha, the issue of three postage stamps, plus a miniature sheet, to mark the CENTENARY YEAR OF NEPALESE STAMPS, was not issued on the date shown in the official PHILATELIC PROGRAMME for 1981 as shown on page 13 of the previous issue, due to the

failure of the printer to deliver supplies on time. This issue, as well as the issue marking the Philatelic Exhibition (40p to be released 7 NOV 1981) may not be released until very late in the year. (Our thanks to Mr. Shrestha for the timely information. -Ed.)

REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

Frank Vignola has made the following report of a meeting of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle which was held in conjunction with the WESTPEX '81 National Philatelic Exhibition at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco on 26 April 1981: "There were eleven persons at the meeting chaired by Frank Vignola. Members in attendance were: Roger Skinner, Larry Scott, Ken Goss, Russ Sanford, Al Zulueta and Fred de Ridder. Guests attending were John McClelland and his wife, Leigh Ortenburger and Irene Beardsley.

The latter two are mountaineers of achievement. Leigh climbed close to the top of Makalu back in 1961, while Irene was one of the two girls who reached the summit of Annapurna in 1978. The Study Circle was honored by their attendance. Membership applications have been forwarded to the visitors, and it is hoped they will join the Study Circle. (One has done so.--Ed.)

Three members brought material to the meeting. Ken Goss, a junior, showed his recently made exhibit of the telegraphically cancelled stamps of Nepal. Larry Scott passed around a number of nice Nepal items, including first issue stamps on cover, a cover with a stamp tied by the Taulihawa seal, and a magnificent cover with a 1 anna recut tied by a clear Kuti seal. Roger Skinner showed the group a large number of fine classic period covers including several franked with ½ anna stamps, and also a number of ½ anna stamps postally cancelled in the classic period. The members and visitors certainly enjoyed the opportunity of viewing the beautiful material brought by Ken, Larry and Roger.

Letters from Les Michel and Tom Matthiesen were discussed during the meeting. One subject was regarding the proper policy to be followed on photocopying articles and books available from the Study Circle Libraries here and in Europe. Roger Skinner, in charge of supplying articles available at the Western Philatelic Library promised to write Les Michel on the subject."

Also discussed at the meeting was what action should be taken by the Study Circle regarding dealers' auctions offering forgeries (properly described or not) at high valuations.

Also there have been complaints from members regarding the ethics of a few dealers---mostly regarding misdescribed material. The only output from those present was that the purchaser should beware of what he buys as well as from whom he buys his material; and that members should advise each other about their purchasing problems."

A good time was had by all, and it is planned to continue holding regional meetings at the annual WESTPEX exhibitions and the bi-annual ASIAPLEX meetings----both of which are held in San Francisco. It is hoped that regional meetings like these can be arranged in the other parts of the world so that all of our members can benefit from them. They are an excellent substitute for those who are unable to attend the international meetings because of the distances and expenses involved.

EXHIBITION NEWS

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition (ROMPEX '81) was held in Denver, Colorado on May 14-16. Three members of the Study Circle entered exhibits and Frank Vignola was one of the judges. Allen D. Kerr was awarded a BRONZE MEDAL for an interesting exhibit of "The Postal History of Mongolia," Arthur F. Ackley received a SILVER MEDAL for his exhibit titled "Tibet - Stamps and Postal Markings," and Lester A. Michel received a GOLD MEDAL for his exhibit of "Nepal - Sri Pashupati Issues." Congratulations!

ROCPEX TAIPEI '81

It has recently been learned that the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Newsletter (a compilation of the last two years (1980 and 1981) issues has been accepted as an entry in the literature division of ROCPEX TAIPEI '81---an International Exhibition celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China.--Ed.

A REQUEST FOR HELP

A recent note from member Peter Fink, Rest. Löwen, 9532 Rickenbach, SWITZERLAND, expresses his interest in completing his Nepal aerogramme collection. He is buying or exchanging, and collects aerogrammes of the entire world.

Q. & A.



A. I would like to make a comment on the Nepal 4p, black, 1935 Pashupati stamp, proof or essay reported by Colin Hepper on page 5 of the Spring, 1981, POSTAL HIMAL. This is a rather hoary imposter, which first came to my attention in either 1948 or 1949. It turned out to be a chemical changeling, probably purposely concocted by one of the freebooters of Kathmandu. I do not now remember just which reagent I tested it with. It was either hydrogen peroxide or an aqueous solution of sodium hypochlorite (Javelle Water or Chlorox). The result was an immediate return of the green colour in the area where the reagent was applied. Perhaps Prof. Dr. Axel Werner would be kind enough to report the results of a similar test.

(H.D.S. Haverbeck)

Prior to receiving the above communication from Mr. Haverbeck, the following answer to the same question had been prepared: In Haverbeck's book, *The Postage Stamps of Nepal*, Chapter 13—Counterfeits and Bogus Stamps (page 111) paragraph two, we read: "Another form of fantasy consists of the 4 pice, green, of 1935, being offered as a proof printed in black and having been used in error. This is very easily detected by treating with "Chlorox" or some similar bleaching solution. The green color is rapidly restored."

Also, an article by M. L. Ricketts, titled "Forgeries and Phantasies of Nepal" in *WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP* for January, 1960, page 518, we read: "I was once offered a stamp of the 1935 issue, in the two pice denomination, I believe, in black instead of brown. The Nepali dealer wanted \$50 for his "rarity." Mr. Haverbeck warned me against it, as he felt sure it had been produced by a chemical reaction, not a printer's error. Although I have not seen or heard of any others like it, I pass along the word of warning to beware of stamps supposedly printed in the wrong color." (These

statements, gleaned from the literature, not only show that Mr. Haverbeck's memory is quite sound on this matter, but also that he was the first to expose this particular phantasy.---Ed.)

Prof. Armand E. Singer also responded to the question concerning the 4p stamp, in black, stating that in 1973, he received one with the center in blue and border in green! (Beware of these items.---Ed.)

H.D.S. Haverbeck writes:

On page 15 of the Spring, 1981, issue of *POSTAL HIMAL*, there is a reprint of the report by F. C. J. de Ridder of the final determination of the plate size of the 2 Shokang, olive green, official stamp of Tibet (Scott No. 04). I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. de Ridder upon this discovery. Further he makes the statement: "Ever since the sudden appearance in 1952 of this set of 'Officials,' its origin, purpose and use have been cloaked in mystery..." Since my recent retirement from active business, I have had an opportunity to go over a vast file of philatelic correspondence. Among them was a rather large file from E. A. Smythies, commencing in 1946 when he had just retired to Ireland from the Indian Civil Service. His last post had been in Nepal, as chief Forestry Officer, and he had lived in Kathmandu for several years. In 1948 he mentioned that he had found some strange Tibet "Fiscals" in one of the bazaar stalls. He had one denomination, the 1 Karmanga (Scott No. 01) in a pair, which he had brought back with him. I pestered him to split the pair and send me one copy. After some bargaining, he finally did scissor the pair and sent me one copy. For twenty years, these two copies were the only ones known of this denomination. When Mr. Philip Cummings established the bona fide postal use of this series after the initial Chinese occupation, the 1 Karmanga stamp was not found used in this manner, nor were any examples furnished by Tuladhar Man Singh, who was, I believe, responsible for obtaining most of the sheets which appeared in 1952-56. The use of these stamps as "Officials" was documented by Mr. Cummings' correspondents in Lhasa. Unfortunately, we have never been able to get drafts of the original documents. A great deal of this information was independently

verified by Mr. Nicholas von Harringa, the former manager of the German East Asiatic Bank in Urga, Mongolia, who travelled through Tibet in 1942-44, when he was forced to leave his post. He stayed in Tibet until 1946, when he went to India and joined the Brakra Dam Project. He had been a stamp collector for many years and was able to bring some of his material with him to India, and later, to the United States. It has been established to my satisfaction that these "Official" stamps were in existence for several years prior to their "sudden appearance."



New Data on the Court-Fee Stamps of Nepal
---Armand E. Singer

The Nepal Philatelic Society's journal, PHILATELY (Vol. 5, No. 1, Jan. 1978) contains a fine, comprehensive listing of court-fee stamps by S. L. Shrestha, including errors and various other varieties. In this short article I should like to make a few additions and observations.

Shrestha gives the black paisa values as 1, 2, 4, 8, 25, 50 and 75. These are all that I myself have ever seen, but back in 1970 Mr. N. G. Rajkarnikar also noted 7, 10 and 20 paisa values. Dr. Mac Ricketts' price list of his offerings (ca. 1960) included a 12 paisa denomination (noted as being obsolete) but not the other three. Mr. Frank Vignola wrote me several years ago that he had in his collection a 30 rupee value. At one time it was claimed that there were 50 and 100 rupee values as well, but recently I have heard no more about them. Around 1971-72 Robert Bloodgood drew up a list like that of Shrestha's but missing a few denominations and paper color varieties; and our own Newsletter, No. 4 (May 1977) had a piece about these stamps, but with some mistakes in the colors given for the rupee values and some confusion in the *révenue* types. Concerning the highest denominations, Shrestha says that 25 rupees is the top value.

In addition to the rupee values that Shrestha catalogues as either on white or blue paper, or both, my own collection includes an 8 rupee on blue. Incidentally, though they should exist, I have never seen mint copies, all being cancelled with a red,



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six-pointed star (various shades, orange-red to purple), with or without a black rubber seal cancel in various shapes (oval, heart, shield, hexagon, etc.), plus a punched hole or signature on some of them. Almost all have at least the red star, a few examples of which are clear enough show the Devanagari date "2000" (= 1943).

As far as I can ascertain, all values, paisa and rupee alike, were made from one single die, with the value panel at the bottom and color of the printing changed where desired, for the different denominations. The black paisa values range in color from gray to jet black (not simply a matter of over-inking, though the amount of ink does vary greatly for most copies of these stamps, in all denominations).

The 15 rupee blue I also have in ultramarine, the 25 rupee red in a distinct dark red shade as well. The value panels must have been made from individual, handset groups of letters for each (?) cliché, as they vary considerably in length (e.g., 2p, 24 and 26 mm; 8p, 27 and 28 mm; 50p, 31 and 34 mm; R2, 27 and 30 mm; R6, 25 and 29 mm; R7, 28 and 29 mm; R8, 29 and 30 mm; R9, 28 and 29 mm; R25, 32 and 33 mm.). I have one block of six of the 8p with three 27 mm, one 28 mm, one 29 mm and one 31 mm inscription; and a R15 ultramarine, 30 mm, plus a block of six blue including one with an error in the lettering, 29, 30 and 31 mm among the normal examples, the block showing, in addition, two blind perf. rows of double perforations (seemingly not privately produced!).

There must surely be other varieties, including spelling errors. Collectors are urged to check their own holdings and report additional denominations, shades, papers, errors and perforations, if any,

BIBLIOGRAPHY CORRELATION

The only available bibliographies of publications dealing with Nepal philatelic literature are: 1) a two-page supplement in the Nepal + Tibet Philatelic Study Circle issue for July 1978, and 2) one by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, NEPAL PHILATELIC BIBLIOGRAPHY, published by George Alevizos with a copyright date of July 1977. Since one of the most troublesome omissions in both publications is the absence of the number of pages in each bibliography, members seeking articles and the two libraries providing them are both inconvenienced. We have attempted to correlate these two bibliographies, indicating the number of pages in each article listed. The two libraries have slightly different charge regulations, but both rely heavily on a page charge. Our President, Dr. Pierre Couvreur, manages a library in his home in France, providing photocopies at a charge of 14p per sheet, including postage, following a common British custom. The Western Philatelic Library, associated with the Public Library in Sunnyvale, CA, USA (see CLIPPINGS FROM THE LIBRARY elsewhere in this issue for the complete address) charges 10¢ per page, plus a 50¢ mailing fee for each order from the USA or Canada. Additional charges for airmail service are required on overseas orders. The listing that follows includes 3 columns: 1) the column headed "WH" refers to Dr. Hellrigl's bibliography, 2) the heading "PC" refers to the two-page listing in the Study Circle Newsletter for July 1978, in which the entries have been serially numbered from PC-1 to PC-84. The third column indicates the number of pages in each article. We request your help in eliminating errors and omissions.---Ed.

WH	PC	pp.	WH	PC	pp.	WH	PC	pp.	WH	PC	pp.	WH	PC	pp.
A-1	15	13	B-1	74	4	E-1	26	8	F-1	80	26	-	6	13
2	9	2	2	18	4	2	25	2	2	80	13	-	16	4
3	-	2	3	55	2	3	8	1	3	-	book ⁺	-	23	?
4	41	2	4	27	1	4	-	2				-	24	?
5	11	12	5	28	8	5	-	3	G-1	-	2	-	29	2
6	12	7	6	82	4	6	-	1	2	1	1	-	32	5
7	13	1	7	10	16	7	-	3	3	60	2	-	37	6
8	74	1	8	-	1	8	-	1	4	-	?	-	40	?
9	75	1	9	-	1	9	56	2	5	-	1	-	42	?
10	75	1	10	35	3	10	41	1	6	-	1	-	47	2
11	76	20				11	-	6	7	-	1	-	71	1
12	-	1	C-1	83	1	12	-	9	8	-	1	-	77	1
13	-	1	2	64	1	13	-	3	9	-	2	-	79	7
14	-	1	3	-	1	14	7	1	10	unpub.		-	84	1
15	72	1	4	-	1	15	48	1						
16	-	1	5	59	5	16	49	2	H-1	-	1			
17	73	46	6	-	26	17	-	21	2	-	1			
18	77	6	7	-	1	18	-	4	3	-	6			
19	18	2	8	-	2	19	4	2	4	-	1			
20	-	5	9	-	9	20	-	12	5	-	16			
21	19	1	10	52	2	21	45	book [¢]	6	-	4			
22	-	1	11	50	1	22	-	2	7	-	81+			
23	-	2				23	22	3						
24	61	6	D-1	44	2	24	21	4	*A-25	Out of print. Occasionally				
25	28	book*	2	3	1	25	20	1	available from G. Alevizos.					
26	-	2	3	-	3	26	39	2	@A-28	Available from C. Hepper.				
27	-	1	4	65	7	27	-	4	#A-34	Available from G. Alevizos.				
28	58	2	5	66	2	28	38	map [@]	¢E-21	Sold out.				
29	58	3	6	-	2	29	46	4	#E-36	Available from G. Alevizos.				
30	78	1	7	-	7	30	-	22	+F-3	Sold out at publisher.				
31	-	1	8	-	5	31	-	5	Available from G. Alevizos.					
32	-	24	9	-	8	32	-	6						
33	39	3	10	-	7	33	-	4						
34	-	book [#]	11	-	1	34	-	7						
			12	-	4	35	33	12						
						36	31	book [#]						



COUNTERFEIT CHRONICLE

The Half Anna Red-Orange on Cover
 ---Roger Skinner

During 1980, two examples of the half anna red-orange used on cover were offered at auction. Both covers appear to have been done over thirty years ago with the intent to be offered to collectors. If so, then there are likely to be more examples of a similar nature that need to be brought to light.

The first cover (Fig. 1) uses one of the oldest known types of counterfeit half anna stamps. The outstanding characteristic is the break in the lower right part of the inner frame line of the upper inscription block. This bogus item has been placed on a genuine cover from Birganj to Kathmandu that was already stamped with a 4p 1907 Sri Pashupati issue. As can be seen in the illustration, the bogus item has been placed as close to the 4p stamp as possible. The missing arc of the circular Birganj cancel has then been added to tie the half anna to the cover and to the genuine cancel. Two factors alert the collector, the first being that the additional half anna stamp does not fit any normal postage requirements. The second factor is that the

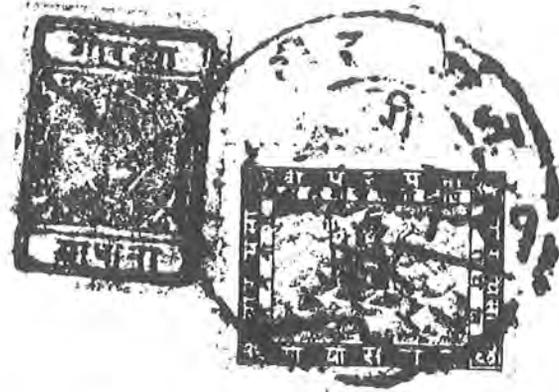


FIG. 1

curve of the circular cancel bulges out a bit to cover the half anna. An additional fact, which cannot be seen, is that remnants of the genuine Birganj cancel are found under the half anna stamp. (The date of the Birganj cancel appears to be 68/7/21 or early November, 1911, with the arrival mark of Kathmandu dated the following day---representing proper usage of the time. The half anna stamp could have been added at any time after that date.---Ed.)

The second example is a bit more difficult in that the stamps, and the stamped envelope, are all genuine. In this case



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

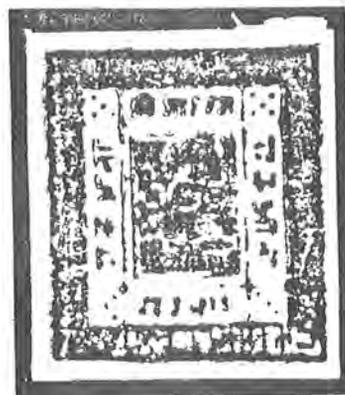
it is obviously made up for a collector, as the unusual stamps are never seen in combination on a normal cover. Since Fig. 2 is not in color, it should be explained that the two stamps at the left are 4a green, followed by one 2a brown, then the 1a redesigned (Scott #29A) and a half anna black. The half anna red-orange is directly under the 8p franking on the envelope. Conveniently, the most heavily inked cancel is placed over the half anna red-orange. This tends to obscure the dark smudges on the lower left part of the stamp. Here is another case where the use of Tom Matthiesen's Cascade Color Filters helps to eliminate back-ground color. Tom has enlarged that area and has used a red filter to emphasize the black cancels. Fig. 3 shows this enlargement, in which the stamp (and envelope franking) have nearly disappeared from view. The curve of the telegraph cancel on the half anna red-orange now shows up under the third and fourth letters of the Kathmandu cancel. An arrow points to this area of combined cancellations. (The date of the Kathmandu cancel appears to be 2007/6/1, or mid-September, 1950.--Ed.)

There is an ethical sidenote to these two covers. Most dealers are not familiar enough with Nepal postal history to be able to be alert to potential counterfeits. However, when a collector lets the dealer know of a counterfeit he has sold, then the true colors start to show. In this case, the first cover came from the Robert A. Siegel auction firm. When informed of the facts, Mr. Siegel promptly offered to accept the return with full refund, as he said, "We have a policy of guaranteeing any we sell as genuine without time limit." Could any collector ask for more? The second firm, which shall remain nameless (May their profits fall as low as they!), when informed that the second cover's star stamp was used telegraphically prior to its being placed on the philatelic cover, would not consider any adjustment or return, except that (to quote them), "You do have the option to place the cover in our next auction, and if you do so, I am sure you will not lose money, as even expertised as such, the stamp is scarce and it is a good item." ☺

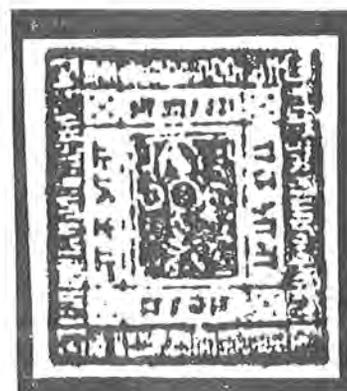
FAKES AND FORGERIES

Compiled by A. Zulueta
(continued from Newsletter #20)

Type III Forgeries.



Cliche size is 18mm x 20½mm. It was probably produced photographically. Blurred impression.



Coarse impression on thin, fine paper. The crack in the upper right corner identifies it as cliche 48. Shiny ink, 18mm x 20½mm.

(to be continued)



MISSING AN ISSUE?

If you feel you have not received a particular issue of **POSTAL HIMAL** due you please write directly to the publisher:

Thomas Matthiesen
Box 406
Duvall, WA 98019 USA

DR. HELLRIGL WRITES:

A visit to Kathmandu is always a great moment for a philatelist who specialises in the postal history of Nepal and Tibet. The only regret is that such visits are, invariably, far too short for sight-seeing, souvenir-shopping, trips to various villages, mountain flights and meetings with fellow collectors and dealers. So, when you finally leave, you cannot but promise to return to this exciting place.

On my recent visit, in March, I was impressed with the fact that supplies of early issues have dramatically dwindled.

A few years ago it was possible to buy larger quantities of telegraphically cancelled classic stamps, in many varieties of shades, but now there are few available. The same goes for pre-1907 stamps and their covers. These have never been plentiful, of course, but now they are hardly on the market at all. In my opinion, the prices for classic material, especially if telegraphically cancelled, have been kept low in consideration of the large quantities available through and readily supplied by the local dealers. Now that the market seems to have absorbed it all, continuing demand and the lack of fresh supplies should result in price rises.

I should like to add a separate word about the 1/2 anna orange-vermilion. I have seen many album pages filled with these elusive stamps, but only a fraction of them were genuine. Of the countless tete-beche pairs featured in various prominent collections, only one was genuine! I start wondering whether collections in Europe and America are afflicted by the same plague?

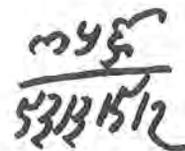
Pashupati covers, once plentiful and cheap, are no longer available in numbers, either. Min Perkins, Bacon issues are most difficult to find - the 1930 issue not being available at all. The various sets issued between 1949 and 1960 have greatly appreciated in value, due to the limited numbers printed.

As for Tibet, supplies were not quite as low for the more common stamps and the usual cover material, but few rarities were being offered - prices being rather high.

While looking through several collections, I noted a number of postal markings that were not listed in "The Native Postmarks of Nepal." Some of these I would like to record here, thanking my Nepalese friends for their cooperation. Other types, especially those of the classic period, will be recorded separately, together with various other markings which have been discovered since the publication of the handbook on postal markings.



A



B

A - Anarmani, 1921. Forming part of the "Hand-Dated Pashupati Postmarks" adopted by some villages in Eastern Nepal, this is an extraordinary discovery. In fact, the small village of Anarmani (located near Jhapa, in the South-Eastern tip of Nepal) has only been included in relatively recent lists of post offices. I very much doubt whether this P.O. has been in continuous operation throughout the past 60 years. I assume it was closed down in the 1920s and re-opened again in the 1970s. This postmark is probably unique and must be considered as one of the rarest types of Nepal.

B - Lalitpur, 1936. A provisional manuscript marking, abbreviated La(lit)pu(r) Hu(lak). This is the earliest type of postmark used at Lalitpur. The definitive datestamp ("Hulak-Adda" type) was released in 1937.



C

C - Darchula, 1936. This is the rarest of all Regional Pashupati Postmarks, only one cover being known. The inscription reads "Darchula Hulak," the P.O. being located in Western Nepal, near the Indian border. (Cf. J.B. Manandhar's article in PHILATELY, Vol.7, No. 2, pp. 2, 4).



D

D - Barse, 1951. An interesting hand-dated postmark, inscribed Barse/Hulak/Adda.

E - Indian Embassy (Nepal), 1957. The only known strike of a postage-due hand-stamp used by the Indian Embassy P.O. of Kathmandu.



E



F



G

F & G - Two unusual cancellations of modern co-operative post offices (used in 1974 and 1977, respectively).



TELL-TALE POSTMARKS OF NEPAL by Dr. Frank E. Vignola

All-English postmarks were introduced when Nepal joined the UPU in 1959. Outside the Kathmandu District these English postmarks were used only at the Exchange Post Offices (THE NATIVE POSTMARKS OF NEPAL, Hellrigl & Hepper, pp.74-75). The Exchange Post Offices concurrently used similar all-Devanagari postmarks. It appears that the English postmarks were used when mail crossed the Nepalese border and the Devanagari postmarks were used internally. This is supposition based on several covers in my collection and I would appreciate any confirmation or contradiction.

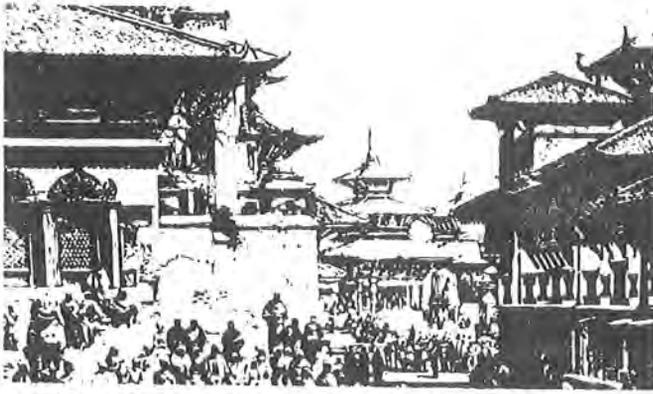
My interest was sparked on the use of the English postmarks after I recently came across several covers to Bankey from Bhairahawa with the English postmarks. On the front of the covers was written 'via India mail.' Other covers I have with Devanagari Bankey (not recorded?) or Bhairahawa registration postmarks are mailed inland and do not cross the border with India. If the English postmarks were used for mail crossing the Nepalese border, it should be possible to find Indian mail routes between other Nepalese Exchange Post Offices.



AMERICAN APO FOR NEPAL

Mr. Ralph Group, a friend of the Study Circle in Seattle, USA notes that in a recent list of U.S. Army Post Office cancels one is indicated for Kathmandu, Nepal. It is designated "74 (Box N)." A date is given as 8/6/57 apparently from a recorded cover. If you can share any information about this or have an example for illustration please send to The Editor.





NEWS FROM KATHMANDU (1980)

Rajbiraj, March 7: Local people's confidence in the postal service here has been considerably eroded by its poor performance and carelessness in handling postal goods, reports RSS.

Unnecessary delay in the delivery of letters and misplacement of postal matters are reported frequently. The people complain that their letters, even when sent to important places like Kathmandu, Janakpur, Birgunj and Biratnagar, take more than a month to be delivered. Meanwhile local readers complain that they are not receiving mail despatches like newspapers and magazines on time. (Similar problems are reported now and then by people in these countries with long established postal services, and can sympathize with the people of Rajbiraj!--Ed.)

Rolpa, April 1:

District panchayat member Purna Bahadur Bali declared open an additional post office at Chhap recently, reports RSS.

There are now 14 postoffices in the district, including 10 additional post offices, 2 sub-post offices and one district post office.

Kathmandu, April 1:

A philatelic exhibition will be held at Tansen by the middle of July, the Philatelic Bureau said here today, reports RSS.

The exhibition was organized in Kathmandu, Birgunj, Biratnagar and Surket earlier.

Kathmandu, April 2:

The Department of Postal Services is to open 66 additional post offices in the current fiscal year, reports RSS.

The Kingdom currently has nearly 1,000 post offices. Additional post offices were first started in 1960. They are open two to three hours a day and handle all but insurance, money orders and parcels.

Kathmandu, April 14:

Minister of State for Works and Transport and Communications, Damber Bahadur Mall, inaugurated the Nepal-India money order system at a function here today, reports RSS.

Mr. Malla said the money order system would not only benefit the common folk on both sides of the border, but students, traders and pilgrims who commute back and forth. He pointed out that the money order system was far more dependable than the insurance system.

The Minister of State further said that the assistance received from India in the development of mails exchange, packet mail and in the insurance sector for the last five decades or so will hold a special place in the annals of Nepal's postal services development.

At the same function, Indian ambassador, N.P.Jain, said the introduction of the money order system between Nepal and India testified to the cordial relations existing between the two countries. Describing the contact in the area of telegram communications between the two neighbors as very close, Mr. Jain hoped the people on both sides would benefit from the new system.

Director general of the postal services department, Sachinanda Srivastav, also hoped that the bilateral agreement under which the money order system was being introduced from today, would go a long way in further broadening mutual cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

Kalैया, April 23:

Ex-upa pradhan pancha, Ramji Prasad Saha, declared open an additional post office at Ganj Bhawanipur village panchayat (Bara district) the other day, reports RSS.

The district now has 19 post offices including two sub-post offices and 17 additional post offices, according to the district post office.

POKhara; April 24:

One additional post office each at Sirkutan of Thumki village panchayat (Kaski district) and Maling village panchayat (Lamjung District) was declared open recently, reports RSS.

According to the Gandaki zonal post offices control office, there are 22 sub-post offices and 90 additional post offices in the six districts of the zone.

Dhankuta, April 25:

An additional post office has been opened at Ankhisalla village panchayat, reports RSS.

The postal unit is serving Phoku village panchayat as well as Ankhisalla.

Dhankuta district now has a total of 21 postal units including one district post office, seven sub-post offices and 13 additional post office.

Bhimphedi, May 8:

An additional post office was declared open at Basamadi village panchayat of Makawanpur district by pradhan pancha, Shyam Bahadur Thapa recently, reports RSS.

There are 22 additional post offices in the district, according to official reports.

Janakpurdham, May 10:

A letter posted by the local Rashtriya Banijya Bank to a neighbouring house only about 15 meters away has taken almost a month to reach its destination, reports RSS.

The registered letter sent by the local branch of Rashtriya Banijya Bank on Station Road on the 27th of Chait was received by the addressee, Ananda Prasad Upadhyaya on Baisakh 22. (In the U.S.A. we blame this sort of thing on "gremlins." Does the yeti get blamed for similar problems in Nepal???--Ed.)

Bhadrapur, June 24:

Narayan Youth Club of Chitwan district has put up post boxes at Sangam Chowk and Layali Chowk in the local bazar and also made arrangements to provide the local people with stamps, reports RSS.

According to the club, it has decided to make similar arrangements at other places also.

The club also recently launched a campaign to clean the drain at Sangam Chowk and the road from Sangam Chowk to Putali Bazar. (Such constructive projects by this Youth Club could set good examples for youth groups in other countries.--Ed.)

Mugu, June 25:

Postal order service has been opened at Mugu district post office, reports RSS.

The postal order service was inaugurated by the pradhan pancha, Man Bahadur Malla, at a function recently.

Likewise, an additional post office was inaugurated the other day at Pulu in the same district.

The district now has one post office, two additional post offices and 7 sub-post offices.

Kathmandu, July 3:

Postal order service has been started in Nawalparasi district, reports RSS.

According to the Postal Service Department postal order service will also be introduced in Bara district sometime this month.

Postal order service has been introduced in 47 districts of the country so far.

Up to 1,000 rupees can be sent through the postal order service.

Ilam, July 9:

A saving bank has been opened in the district postal office here, reports RSS.

The bank was declared open by town panchayat upapradhan pancha, Gopal Prasad Shrestha, recently.

Kathmandu, July 9:

Mr. P. Gupta, member of our Study Circle) has been awarded a gold medal with a special prize for his exhibit on Nepalese stamps at the world stamp exhibition held in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, recently, reports RSS.

This is the only collection of Nepal which has been awarded so many gold medals.

The world stamps exhibition PHILASRDICA '79 was held from May 18 to 27 to mark the centenary of the Bulgarian postage stamps under the aegis of the Bulgarian Ministry of Communications. (This award has been announced previously in our Study Circle publication, but it is notable that such matters are reported in the local press in Kathmandu.--Ed.)

Arghankanchi, July 29:

An additional post office has been established in Dibhama village panchayat in Arghankanchi district by the Postal Services Department, reports RSS.

According to the village panchayat, the newly established additional post office was inaugurated at a function held recently in the village panchayat by district panchayat president, Rudra Prasad Ghimire.

Meanwhile it was reported from Okhaldhunga that work is being hampered in the newly constructed post office building in the headquarters of Okhaldhugga district because the roof of the new building has started to leak.

The post office building was handed over by the contractor just two months ago.

The post office building was constructed at a cost of 120,000 rupees under the supervision of the public construction branch.

Chhinasim, August 28:

The sub-post office of Muchu village panchayat was declared open by its upa-pradhan pancha, Newachan, recently, reports RSS.

Humla district has one district post office, one sub-post office and 4 additional post offices at present.

Pokhara, Aug. 31:

Seventeen additional post offices were opened last fiscal year in Gandaki, Lumbini and Dhaulagiri zones in the Western Development Region, although the target was to open fifteen of them, reports RSS.

According to Western Regional Postal Directorate, a sub-post office was also established in Dhaulagiri zone in accordance with the target.

Last year money-order services were introduced in Mustang, Syangja and Nawalparasi districts and a postal savings system was initiated in Kapilvastu district.

It is learned that more than two million rupees as revenue was collected last fiscal year from different postal offices in the region.

Zonewise distribution of revenue earned was 9 lakhs, 54 thousand and 97 rupees in Gandaki zone; 8 lakhs, 8 thousand and 827 rupees in Lumbini zone; and 2 lakhs, 46 thousand and 430 rupees in Dhaulagiri zone.

According to latest reports there are 16 district post offices, 69 sub-post offices and 203 additional post offices in the Western Development Region.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that postal savings systems have started in Kaski, Rupandehi and Kapilavastu districts also. Altogether eleven districts in the region have been covered by money-order services.

Kathmandu, October 9:

Assistant Communications Minister, Omkar Prasad Gauchan, in a message today on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) pointed out that the union, besides maintaining postal administrative, has worked assiduously to make the postal service efficient and well organized by bringing about harmony between the postal services of various countries of the world, reports RSS.

Unification of the postal services of its member nations and free postal transit facilities within their borders, introduction of uniform postal rules and regulations in the member countries and conclusion and implementation of various postal agreements from time to time are some of the significant achievements of the UPU, Mr. Gauchan noted.

The establishment of the union is a hallmark in the history of postal service of the member countries, Mr. Gauchan continued and said that starting from twenty two, its membership now embraces 160 nations of the world, and added that Nepal had shouldered its responsibility as a member since 1956.

Meanwhile, speaking at a function organized by the Postal Services Department today to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the UPU, Assistant Minister for Communications, Omkar Prasad Gauchan, expressed his confidence that Nepal's participation in the 18th congress of the UPU would contribute towards expanding and widening postal services.

Referring to the assistance made available by the UPU to bring about postal service reforms in Nepal, he said that he was very much impressed by preparations made for the recent conference and the exchange of views and experiences with representatives of various countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Acting Director General of the Postal Services Department, Nain Bahadur K.C., threw light on the importance of the Universal Postal Union day and expressed gratitude for the assistance made available by it.

Bilateral agreement relating to money order service between Nepal and India would be made on the occasion of His Majesty's auspicious birthday on December 29, it was announced at the function today.

MAIL EXCHANGE OFFICES OF NEPAL IN 1936 -by S. L. Shrestha

British Indian Exchange Offices in Nepal:
British Legation Post Office in 1) Kathmandu, 2) Raksol, 3) Soorsand, 4) Pharbisanj, 5) Sukiyapokhari, 6) Rupaidiha, 7) Noutunuwa Bazar, 8) Jhulaghat.

Nepalese Exchange Post Offices: 1) from Kathmandu, serving Bhaktapur, Dhulikhel, Choutara, Tatapani, Trishuli, Dhading, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Chitwan, Kuncha, Bandipur; 2) from Birganj serving Amlekhganj, Bhimphe, Kalaiya, Katarvan (Kadarvan); 3) from Jaleswar serving Sarlahi, Sirha, Udairpur, Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Dolakha, Lyang-Lyang, Hanuman Nagar; 4) from Biratnagar serving Bijayapur, Rangel, Jhapa, Dhankuta,

Terhathum, Taplejung, Bhojpur, Chainpur; 5) from Pashupatinagar serving Ilam Dist.; 6) from Banke, serving Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dahavan, Pyuthana, Dhuduwapahad, Salyan, Dailekh; 7) from Bhairahawa serving Toulhawa, Syuraj (Shivaraj), Butwal, Palpa, Parasi, Sherganj, Ridi, Syangja, Pokhara, Baglung, Thak; 8) from Baitadi serving Darchula, Dadeldhura, Doti, Ridikot, Karnali, Jumla. (Source: "Hulak Niyamavali - Pailha Bhag"/ Nepali Samvat 1993.)

Our special thanks to Mr. S. L. Shrestha for his contributions to this issue. We can report that 1980 Supplements to his Nepal Stamp Album are now available at \$5 pp.--Ed.)

This postcard was used from 1935 until the introduction of the U.P.U. postal stationary issue in 1959. There are a number of variations in the printings and I have tried to list them in a logical order, similar to the format used for the first issue cards.

Stamp Die

Three distinct types of die were used.



DIE I



DIE II



DIE III

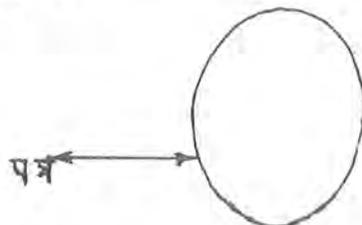
Die I- The mountains are shaded giving them a more realistic look. The figure of Siva has no details.

Die II- The mountains have far less shading and are represented by thick wavy lines. The figure of Siva has some details in the face and body.

Die III- The central design of mountains and Siva is blank except for a small area of shading under the trident.

Position of the Die

The position of the die in relationship to the second line of the inscription varies considerably. I have determined five different measurements between the word पत्र and the die. The measurement is taken from the top line of the letter त्र in a horizontal line to the outside of the die.



Distances are as follows:

- (a) - 15½mm
- (b) - 17½mm
- (c) - 19mm
- (d) - 20mm
- (e) - 24mm

This gives the effect of the end of the lower line of the inscription being either to the left, the right or central under the die.

The bottom inscription

There are two variations in the lower line of inscription, the only difference being in the type of symbol used in the last letter - tr (त्र)

Inscription Type I - Symbol has the two arced lines in the centre almost parallel with the top line - (त्र)

Inscription Type II - Symbol has the lower centre line at 45° to the other - (त्र)

cont'd...

Colour shades

Four distinct colour shades can be fairly easily identified: Brown (B), Pale Brown (P), Red Brown (R) and Dark Brown (D).

CARD	DIE	DIE POSITION	BOTTOM INSCRIPTION	COLOR
1	I	b	I	D
2	I	d	I	D
3	II	b	I	D
4	II	a	II	P
5	II	b	I	R
6	II	a	II	B
7	III	e	I	D
8	III	d	I	D

Varieties exist with double stamp impression on front of cards, stamp inverted or stamp printed on the back of the card.

Cards vary in size from 137mm to 147mm in length and 90mm to 98mm in width. They are printed on native paper which varies in thickness from thick card to thin almost paper thickness.

If any members have any cards not recorded here please let me know or better still write to The Editor and he can then let everyone know via POSTAL HIMAL.



POSITION PAPER

(Observations on Climbers' Mail)

by Armand E. Singer

One of the truly engrossing by-ways of Nepalese-Tibetan philately, at least to a Sunday climber like this observer, has been mountain-eering covers from the Himalayan area. The Everest story starting in 1922, whose Golden Age continues through the Hillary-Tenzing first ascent in 1953, obviously provides the creme de la creme, but there exist many desirable items right down to the present moment - lesser mountains, later climbs on Everest (the great American expedition of 1963, very scarce on cover by the way, or the 1980 solo and winter ascents, for instance), mind-boggling technical achievements commemorated in base camp cachets. Nevertheless somewhere along the line greed or misplaced pride or philatelists' knee-jerk acceptance of anything shoved under their nose with a price tag under three digits has spoiled the broth. At prices ranging from \$5 to \$25 I have in the past year or two been offered duly signed and/or cacheted covers celebrating the following often less than momentous climbs, etc.: Polish Kanchenjunga (22.5.'78); American Women's Annapurna I (a commemorable milestone, '78); Nepalese-Australian Sunkoshi Rafting Exp. ('79); Nepalese-Dutch Hot Air Balloon Ascent over Kathmandu (18.4.'79); Yugoslavian Everest ('79); Spanish Dhaulagiri ('79); Swabian Everest ('79); Fourth Argentine Himalayan Exp. - the name of the peak is not specified, but the cover bears a cachet claiming that it was carried by a Yeti, humor scarcely solacing me for the \$15 asking price ('79); and American Annapurna I ('79). I wish I could state with assurance that this list is complete. Far from it. 1980 has added a scarcely noteworthy bunch of commemorated ascents, an example or two to the contrary notwithstanding. Even the best of the offerings, like the worst, for the most part

seem to have been signed in and dispatched from Kathmandu. To be sure, even the 1924 Everest Expedition sent most of its mail from India and purely as advertising and a fundraiser. But at least it was done with panache, and some pieces show genuine basecamp usage. Fortunately a few of the recent expeditions have had the grace to send their mail, even the fund-raising variety, by base runner from off the mountain, and to them a tip of my climbing cap. I am not objecting to the use of expedition mail to raise money. I'm quite happy to help boost a fellow or lady climber up a rock wall or glacier. But it takes gall to market covers, as with Messner's 1980 solo climb of Everest, bearing neither stamp nor cancel of any kind. I call that exploitation, pure and simple.

An organization exists (The Vagmarken, Box 572, Reseda CA 91335, U.S.A.) that sells for a modest sum cards carried to the summits of such peaks as the Matterhorn, Grand Teton, and the like. If you too have risked limb and life on the same heights, there is an undeniable pleasure in adding such an item to your collection. I myself have made up my own climbing covers of ascents hither and yon for my personal collection and for a few fellow collectors, as has one of my scrambling friends (who just happens to be the editor of this society's journal) for his North American ascents. No argument from me. But should we not think twice before we encourage through purchase immortalizing rubber-inked reproductions of basecamp cachets from every other peak in Nepal? The proliferation far outstrips the cost of Nepal First Day Covers not to speak of our own U.S. annual production, and on the whole lauds far lesser events. In a word, this commercialized business has gotten completely out of hand. Let's try to cool it. How?...Nothing complicated: simply refuse to purchase junk. Let's demand quality, selectivity, evidence of some connection between cover and its designated mountain. That way, the commemoratives will come closer to justifying the astronomical markup of selling price over manufacturing costs. We will be giving a worthy seat-of-the-pants lift to serious expeditions and letting the others pay their own way for simply indulging in their favorite sport. That way instead of seeking mere completeness we can look at covers in which to take some real pride and invest our hard earned money in something for the most part a mite less shoddy. ☺



NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (U.K.)

31st March 1981

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subscriptions	£295.50	Postage Auction No. 13	£19.00
Bank Interest	£62.88	Postage Auction No. 14	£19.68
Commission Auction No. 12	£77.86	Postage Auction No. 15	£24.09
Commission Auction No. 13	£33.49	Postage Auction No. 16	£27.11
Commission Auction No. 14	£42.50	Auction invoices & envelopes	£41.68
Commission Auction No. 15	£66.50	V.A.T. Auction lots	£4.50
Cash at bank 1980	£209.76	Duplicating paper	£2.69
		Bank charges	£9.01
		All other postage	£10.69
		Society trophies	£28.90
		Inscriptions	£3.00
		Transferred to T. Matthiesen	£118.00
			<u>£308.35</u>
		Cash at bank.	£480.14
Total	£788.49 =====	Total	£788.49 =====

Total held in U.S.A. Account

F. Vignola /\$ 284.82

T. Matthiesen /\$ 177.00

Total /\$ 461.82

Total Study Circle Account

U.K. £480.14

U.S.A. /\$ 461.82

