

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



No. 36

4th Quarter 1983

March 1, 1984



POSTAL HIMAL is the quarterly publication of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Advertising Rates and information may be obtained by writing the publisher. Individual membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

	United States	Rest of the World
One Year	\$ 7.00	L 4.00
Three Years	\$ 19.00	L 11.00

## List of Officers and Representatives

PRESIDENT: Dr. Pierre Couvreur  
 PATRONS: Mac Linscott Ricketts, and Harrison D.S. Haverbeck, FRPSL  
 SECRETARY: Colin Hepper 4 Osric Court, Danes Close, Peterborough, Cambs, Great Britain  
 EDITOR: Lester Michel 309 Yucca Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, U.S.A.  
 PUBLISHER: Tom Matthiesen Box 406, Duvall, WA 98019, U.S.A.

## SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

INDIA Essell Dee & Sons, National Agencies, Sheranwala Gate, Patiala 147 001 INDIA  
 NEPAL Dhruva Rudra, P O Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu, NEPAL  
 U.S.A. Roger D. Skinner 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94022 U.S.A.

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

## LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. F. L. Buck 34 Wagon Trail Road, Highland Farms, Black Mountain, NC 28711 USA  
 Harold E. Heironimus Route 1, Box 16, Greely, Kansas, 66033 USA  
 Mr. L. K. Wright 3036 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 USA  
 Mr. B. Lucas 99 Moseley Wood Drive, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7HD GREAT BRITAIN  
 Robin H. Mix Box 1, South Strafford, VA 05070 USA  
 Torben Pedersen Tornegrade 5 2.T.V., 2200 Copenhagen N., DENMARK  
 John L. Petsco Box 587, Port Jefferson, NY 11777 USA  
 J. Reid 1 Boyce Avenue, Edinburgh, EH1 6TX GREAT BRITAIN  
 Narendra S. Sengar P O Box 110, Kanpur, 208 004 INDIA  
 D. van der Wateren De Brink 15, 8392 MB Boyl, HOLLAND

## MEMBERS REINSTATED

Mr. C. Kinch 28 The Rise, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF4 5RD GREAT BRITAIN

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mr. D. Bates "April Cottage" 39 Dent Lane, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3RH GREAT BRITAIN  
 Mr. B. Holyoak "Oaklands" Grove Road, Mollington, nr Chester CH1 6LG G.Britain  
 Sharon M. Searle P O Box 956, Port Orchard, WA 98366-0956 USA

**OUR COVER ILLUSTRATION for this issue is a book or magazine illustration (c1890, origin unknown) showing a tiger (Panthera tigris). In an interesting article in the Aug-Sept 1971 Nepal Digest (Vol. 1, No.3) Robert L. Fleming Jr. notes that the country of Nepal has more species of wild cat than all of Africa combined. Some are rare and endangered such as the famed snow leopard and of others very few facts are known. Nepal pictured a tiger on a 2p postage stamp in 1975 (Scott #304).**

Dear Friends,

With this issue we complete the Index for POSTAL HIMAL & its predecessor News Letters, Nos. 1 - 32, & express our thanks again to Ken Jones for this "labor of love." The publication of this long-awaited index has forced us to postpone a number of our regular columns to avoid prohibitively high mailing costs & we look forward to our 1984 issues, with the opportunity to share with you more of the interesting material on hand. However, we urge you to send material for consideration in future issues. Your editor will respond gratefully to any offerings, no matter how modest. As he has said before, editorial aid is available to help put your material in its best form, if you feel uncomfortable with the English language.

In our next issue we expect to announce the award of the President's Prize for the best article published in POSTAL HIMAL Nos. 33-36. While the prize is a modest one, Dr. Couvreur hopes that it will be an inspiration to some of you, and a real honor to receive. Remember that a second President's Prize will be offered for the best article published in 1984. Make the job of selection a difficult one for us!

The pressure to raise dues this year has been avoided largely by the work of our Secretary, Colin Hepper, in running the Study Circle Auctions and by those loyal readers who submit and buy material in those auctions. We are grateful, too, for the fine work of our publisher, Thomas Matthiesen, who often works under trying circumstances, and for Roger Skinner's help with the printing and mailing. And, as I have just retired, I look forward to spending more time on POSTAL HIMAL. Let me thank each of you who has written in the past year -- expressing concerns, criticisms, offers to help -- but most of all -- sending material for publication. May 1984 be a good year for all of us -- and for our special area of interest -- the philately of Nepal & Tibet.

Finally, it is my happy duty to inform our members that Mr. John W. White has, at last, settled his account with another individual and has stated that he is working on the problems related to the one remaining claim. We are grateful to all those who have helped to resolve these difficulties by patient communication and with understanding for varying points of view. -- Sadly, there are a few among us who cannot resist the opportunity to take advantage of ignorance. We still see the overprinted "Officials" -- particularly the 1 Rupee -- being offered, or valued, at ridiculously inflated prices, despite the fact that the Nepal Philatelic Bureau has been offering them at face value since mid-April 1983. We can all help by writing to firms and individuals who may not be aware of the unfortunate decision of the Nepal Postal Authorities to release these items.

While the New Year is long past for those of us that use the Western calendar, we note that our friends in Nepal will celebrate the beginning of a new year in mid-April, as usual. We send our greetings and best wishes to all.

Lester A. Michel



## NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

(As reported in "The Rising Nepal" in 1983 and submitted by Mr. Dhruva Rudra, Nepal Representative for the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle.—Ed.)

Sankhuwashabha (RSS), 1 August 1983:

An additional post office was opened recently at Lawar Danda, Ward No. 7, of the local Diling village panchayat. The additional post office is expected to serve about 7,000 people of the area. With this new post office, the number of additional post offices in the district has reached 17. The district has four sub-post offices and one district office. Meanwhile, money order service has been started at Tumlingtar sub-post office of the Sankhuwashabha district.

Nepalgunj (RSS), 15 August 1983:

Delivery of a registered letter sent by the Banke district postal officer to the Rastriya Samachar Samiti office, which lies within the same ward of Nepalgunj town panchayat, has taken 18 days. The official letter, dated 20 July 1983, was delivered on 9 August 1983, within the same ward of the town panchayat. It contained a formal request for publication of a news item regarding inauguration of an additional post office at Kamdi village panchayat by pradhan pancha Nasir Ali Sayeed on July 16. When the attention of the district post officer was drawn to this delay, he was astonished and said that action would be taken against the postman. Meanwhile, the director of the Western regional postal services department is here on an official visit to investigate into the allegations and complaints regarding loss as well as delay in the delivery of postal material.

Kathmandu (RSS), 18 August 1983:

The Postal Services Department has decided to upgrade 12 district post offices supervised by non-gazetted first class officers. The post offices will now be su-

pervised by gazetted officers. The decision was necessitated by factors such as work volume, administrative skills, postal materials handling & expansion of areas covered for postal services, as well as the rising income generated by them for the national exchequer, according to the department.

The post offices thus upgraded are those of the districts of Kailali, Kapilavastu, Palpa, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Lalitpur, Saptari, Surkhet, Dhankuta, Sunsari, Baglung and Dang. With the upgrading of these 12 district post offices, there are presently 20 gazetted officers, 55 non-gazetted first class and 318 lower level post officers in the kingdom.

Nepalgunj (RSS), 11 October 1983:

One more sub-post office and one additional post office will be opened in Bh zone in the current fiscal year. Once these offices are opened, the number of sub-post offices and post offices will reach 13 & 62, respectively. There are 5 district post offices in the zone.

Kathmandu (RSS):

Eighty more additional post offices will be opened in different parts of the country during the current fiscal year, bringing the total to 1339. Similarly, a sub-post office in each of 19 districts of the country will be opened during the same period. The total at the end of this fiscal year will then be 318.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that postal money order services were extended by the district and sub-post offices, facilitating 126 different individuals or concerns. During the current financial year, the money order system will be introduced in 23 sub-post offices and savings banks opened in 10 district post offices.

The number of post offices in the country has reached 671. The total includes 5 regional directorates, 14 postal control offices, 75 district post offices, 169 additional post offices and 318 sub-post offices. However, only district post offices, additional post offices & sub-post offices handle mail and related documents.

While the zonal postal control office is involved in supervisory and administrative work to ensure smooth intra-zonal postal transactions, the regional postal directorate investigates into offences relating to postal affairs -- besides carrying out inspection and supervisory activities.



## EXHIBITION NEWS

### NEPAL EXHIBIT AT SEPAD '83

--Alan Warren

The exhibit of "Nepal: A Study of the Early Issues," entered by our member, John A. Young, Jr., in the annual SEPAD show held in Philadelphia, 7-9 October, won a SEPAD Vermeil medal as well as the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Award. The exhibit emphasized the early native issues and their usages, both postal and telegraphic. Young's entry contained used, unused, tete beche pairs, multiples, sheets and examples used on cover. Color shades of the 1, 2 and 4 annas values were shown along with a discussion of the many shades found on the later issues.

A few examples of perforated varieties of the 1917-30 printings were shown, as well as the only known complete sheet of the 1 anna 1893-94 printing in setting 12.

Another exhibit at the SEPAD show contained a few pages of interest. Frederick E. LaWall exhibited many examples of India Stamps Used Abroad, for which he won a SEPAD Silver medal. Of particular interest were 5 pages of Indian stamps cancelled in Nepal and 2 pages of examples cancelled in Tibet.

### YOUNG DOES IT AGAIN!

John A. (Jack) Young, Jr., won a GOLD at VAPEX '83, which was sponsored by the Virginia Philatelic Federation at Virginia Beach on 11-13 November 1983. Jack also received the Apfelbaum Award for his exhibit. Congratulations, Jack.

You may recall that Jack, in his first effort at exhibiting, received a SILVER award at WESTPEX '83 earlier in the year. And, as Roger Skinner said, after that initial success, "members are encouraged to follow the example of Jack Young and to enter their material in any show. Exhibits of both Nepal & Tibet material are always popular with viewers. Old hands at exhibiting are always happy to give advice and help to novices who wish to give exhibiting a try." From my own experience, I can say that one of the most valuable by-products of writing up an exhibit is the knowledge gained about the material -- not to mention the thrill of sharing experiences with fellow exhibitors.--Ed.

### AND AN "OLD PRO" WINS AGAIN

While Jack was at VAPEX, Frederick C. J. de Ridder was winning another GOLD on the other side of the continent -- this time at SUNPEX '83, held in Sunnyvale, California, 13-14 November 1983 under the auspices of the Sunnyvale Stamp Society. The exhibit was titled "The Postal History of Tibet from 1860 to 1960." Congratulations.

### COLIN HEPPER WINS IN DUBLIN

Colin Hepper was awarded a SILVER medal for his exhibit of "The Nepal Postal System Before 1900" in the Irish National Exhibition in Dublin -- STAMPA '83. We do not know the date of that show, but that will not stop us from doffing our caps to another "old pro." Congratulations, Colin.

### FRANK VIGNOLA REPORTS

Frank Vignola visited his son, Dr. Frank E. Vignola, this past summer, and the two had the pleasure of attending PAN PACIFIC EXPO '83 in Portland, Oregon. The show was well attended & Frank noted that Fred de Ridder exhibited nine 16-page frames of "Postal History of Tibet" for which he was awarded a GOLD and a Special Prize donated by the Sun Philatelic Center of San Francisco. Congratulations to you, Fred.

We note that Frank Vignola has come up with another exhibit Titled "Nepal Revenues & Documentaries," which received a SILVER at CALPEX '83, held in San Francisco by the California Collectors Club on 30 September - 2 October 1983. Although Frank is certainly an "old pro" on the exhibition circuit, we know that "back-of-the-book" material rarely gets top awards. We look forward to seeing this exhibit, as it certainly contains interesting material -- at least to confirmed Nepal specialists.--Ed.

### ROMPEX '84 IN DENVER, COLORADO

The annual Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition will be held 18-20 May 1984 in "the Mile High" city. It will also be the site of the annual Spring Meeting of the American Philatelic Society. Your editor is arranging for a Regional Meeting of the

Nepal & Tibet Study Circle on Saturday, May 19, and hopes that many of you will plan to attend. He will present a slide program on "Nepal - The Telephone/Telegraph Story," which will be followed by an open discussion of matters of interest to those who attend. We expect, also, to offer the Study Circle Award for the "best exhibit of either Nepal or Tibet." Join us if you can, but if you cannot,

send an exhibit, or, at least, write the editor a letter, telling where you would like to see a Regional Meeting held and what types of presentations you would like to give -- or have someone present.

ROGER SKINNER reported that the officials in charge of SESCAL '83 accepted the proposal to offer the Study Circle Award at this California exhibition. However, we have no report on this show at press time.



#### CORRECTION

Due to a misunderstanding on the part of your editor, proper credit was not given for the SHOWCASE item illustrated on p. 26 of POSTAL HIMAL No. 34 (2nd Quarter 1983). This rare booklet belongs to K. M. Mulmi, not to Surendra Lal Shrestha. However, we thank Mr. Shrestha for submitting the photocopy of the cover used in our illustration. We offer our apologies to Mr. Mulmi and to Mr. Shrestha, and thank them both for their help in making this correction.--Ed.

#### ANOTHER CORRECTION

Mr. J. B. Manandhar, Honorary Member of the Study Circle and prolific author on Nepal postal history, writes concerning an error of a district name in his article titled "Thak Post Office," which appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 33 (1st Quarter 1983). In the last sentence of that article the district name 'Mugu' should be changed to read: 'Myagdi.' (Our thanks to Mr. Dhruba Rudra, Nepal Representative for the Study Circle, for his aid in forwarding Mr. Manandhar's letter to us.--Ed.



The long-awaited book, "The Classic Stamps of Nepal," by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl and Frank Vignola, will be released on 1 March 1984. This hardbound volume contains more than 200 quarto-sized pages and 100 illustrations and is priced at \$37 U.S. + \$3 for surface postage and packing, from either of the authors, Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, P.O.Box 349, 39100 Bozen, Italy, or Frank Vignola, 105 - 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121, U.S.A. Our congratulations to these two Study Circle members for bringing out a book which will surely be another "landmark" in the literature of Nepalese philately.



#### CORRECTION--

In Postal Himal No. 32 (p. 56), we illustrated two new aerogrammes issued by Nepal on the same day. In a note beneath the illustrations, your editor stated, in part: "Both were printed by the Pakistan Security Corporation....." Mr. S. L. Shrestha has kindly pointed out that the first of these, which features the fami-

liar Mt. Machhapuchchhre design, was printed at the India Security Press, Nasik, India. -- Incidentally, the latest issue of Philately (Vol. 10, No. 1, 1983) includes much useful information on the stamps and postal stationery issued by Nepal in 1982.--Ed.

F. Williamson Esq, I.C.S., C.I.E., was concerned with Tibetan affairs from 1924 to 1935. In June 1924 he was appointed British Trade Agent at Gyantse, a post he held for two years. Then, between June & December 1926, he acted as Political Officer, Sikkim, while Col. F. M. Bailey returned to the United Kingdom on leave. In 1927 he was posted as Consul-General in Kashgar, but he returned to Tibet in 1931 when he toured Western Tibet and the area around Mount Kailas. In January 1933 he was appointed Political Officer, Sikkim and, in this role, was responsible for the relations between the British Government and the Government of Tibet. He visited Lhasa later in 1933, Shigatse in 1934 and Lhasa again in 1935. Sadly, he died in Lhasa on 18 November 1935 at the early age of 44.

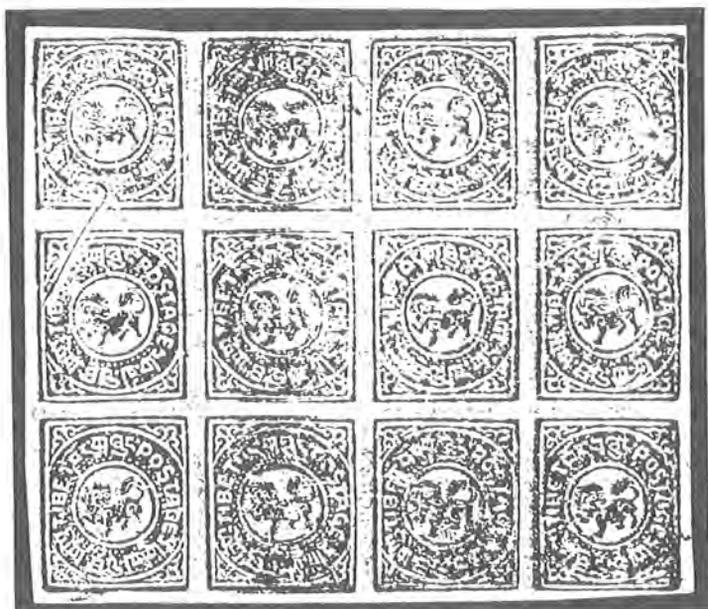


Fig. 1. - 1912 Issue, 1/6 t, mint, (ii)

Throughout his life, Williamson kept the stamps from the letters he received. He also kept a number of unused stamps, but more as an accumulation than as a systematic collection. His period in Tibet was no exception and there were a number of Tibetan stamps among his papers when he died.

Williamson married in June 1933 and his wife accompanied him on his last three visits to Tibet. After his death, Mrs. Williamson made only one further visit to Tibet, in 1937, to visit her husband's grave in Gyantse, but she maintained her interest in Tibet & preserved intact the fine collection of Tibetan material which she and her husband had formed during their brief marriage. Apart from films, which are now housed in the National Film Library, the bulk of this collection has been given to Williamson's old college, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, & is housed in the Museum of Anthropology & Ethnology, Downing Street, Cambridge. This gift did not include the stamps & Mrs. Williamson has generously allowed me to add a fully representative selection to my own collection.

The Tibetan stamps in the collection are particularly interesting, as they are a relatively unbiased sample of the stamps that were used and which were available

during the period between 1924 and 1935. Hence they provide some valuable evidence for the chronology of the various issues.

I list below the stamps that were in the collection, giving references to the 2nd Edition of Waterfall's Postal History of Tibet.

#### 1912 Issue - Mint Stamps

The collection contained several mint sheets & blocks of all five denominations from the 1/6th tangka to the 1 tangka, mostly of the dull ink variety. The sheets were contained in original wrappers, which were inscribed in Tibetan: "Old stamps," together with the denomination & the number of stamps contained. In all cases the number was slightly more than the actual number of stamps surviving, so some had been disposed of earlier. It is interesting to note that the sheets had been trimmed fairly close to the stamps on all sides &, furthermore, the wrappers fitted closely round the trimmed sheets, showing that the trimming had taken place prior to purchase. The mint blocks in shiny ink had not been trimmed in this way. In detail the stamps were as follows:

1/6 Tangka

- (i) Mostly bright green, dull ink (W.20), clearly printed.
- (ii) One sheet, trimmed in the usual manner, dull yellow green, slightly shiny ink (W.28?), weakly printed, with a slight shift in paper giving a double impression on cliches 2, 6 & 10. (See Figure 1.)
- (iii) One strip of 4, untrimmed top and sides, olive green colour, shiny ink (W.30).

1/3 Tangka

- (i) Mostly blue colour, dull ink (W.34) and rather poorly printed, being either weak impressions or smudged.
- (ii) One block of 4, untrimmed top and side, grey-blue colour (W.41), shiny ink, heavily printed with few details of the design visible.

1/2 Tangka

- (i) Mostly violet colour, dull ink (W.44) and clearly printed.
- (ii) One pair, dull ink and deep violet colour (W.45).
- (iii) One block of 4, grey-lilac in colour, shiny ink (W.57), clearly printed. This block was not trimmed.

2/3 Tangka

- (i) Mostly salmon carmine, slightly shiny ink with fairly clear impressions (W.63 or 65).
- (ii) One clear, untrimmed, block of 4, in shiny ink, bright lake in colour (W.67).

1 Tangka

- (i) Mostly dull ink, vermillion colour (W.72) with fairly clear impressions.
- (ii) One clear block of 4, untrimmed, shiny ink, rose-carmine colour (W.77).
- (iii) One trimmed sheet, carmine-red coloured shiny ink (W.78?), with a very blurred impression. (See Figure 2.) Since the denomination was totally illegible, someone had written, in ink, the Tibetan word "Tam" (ཐམ), short for "Tangka" in this context, on the back of the sheet. Waterfall made no mention of blurred prints of this variety, and, when I showed him the sheet, he confirmed to me that he might have considered it a later reprint if it had not been for the provenance.

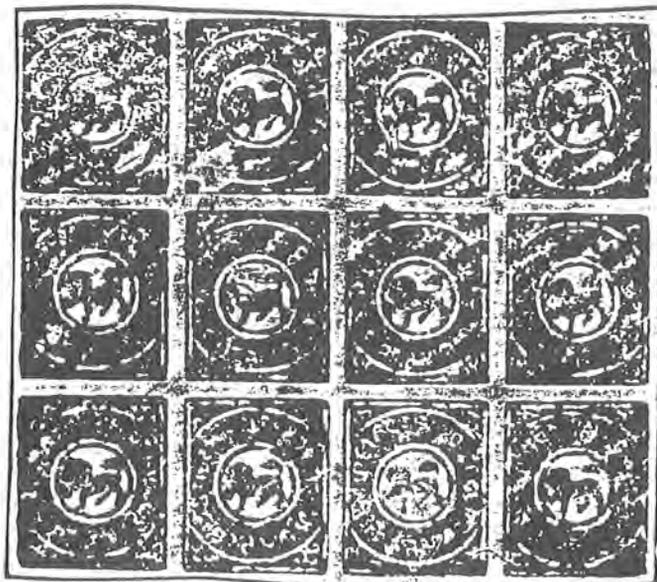


Fig. 2. - 1912 Issue, 1 t, mint, (iii)

The use of the phrase "Old stamps" on the wrappers implies that most of these stamps were purchased in or after 1933, probably during one of Williamson's visits to Lhasa, i.e., between 14/8/33 & 4/10/33 or 26/8/35 until his death on 18/11/35. Indeed, Mrs. Williamson recorded a visit to the Post Office in her diary for 18 September 1933, so it is most likely that the stamps were bought on that date. Some of the untrimmed blocks of shiny-ink stamps may have been leftovers, perhaps, from Williamson's period in Gyantse between 1924 and 1926, but that is uncertain.

1912 Issue - Used Stamps

Only one cover was in the collection with 1912 issue stamps. This was a large registered envelope sent by Tsarong Shape in March 1926 with the unusual combination of a 1 tangka & a 1/6th tangka, similar to the covers mentioned by Waterfall on p. 77.

The other used stamps were used on pieces roughly cut from the envelopes, fortunately often preserving much of the cancellations, which I shall discuss separately below. These stamps were probably both from the period 1924 to 1926, & the early part of 1933, before the new stamps were issued.

1/6 Tangka

Mostly shiny ink, with a wide range of shades of green -- usually singles, from

internal letters, but some in combination with 1/2 tangka stamps & one strip of 4, to make up the 2/3 tangka registration rate.

#### 1/3 Tangka

All dull ink of various shades. All used in pair to make up the registration rate.

#### 1/2 Tangka

Mostly dull ink, used in combination with 1/6 tangka. One used pair from Lhasa with Giamda arrival mark. One complete sheet, used, with shiny grey-lilac ink (W.57).

#### 2/3 Tangka

All shiny ink, carmine shades, used singly.

#### 1 Tangka

Apart from the cover mentioned above, one used strip of three, dull ink, vermilion colour.

#### 1933 Issue - Cancelled to order sets

The stamps of the 1933 issue were all obtained between 1933 and November 1935, except for two Christmas cards received by Mrs. Williamson in 1936. The CTO sets give some hints as to the dates of acquisition of the mint stamps, which are of similar shades. The CTO sets fall into two groups:

- (i) All stamps perforated, except for the 2 tangka, which were almost certainly cut from proof sheets, as they are only cliches 8 & 9, and have slightly large margins.
- (ii) 1, 2 & 4 tangka stamps, perforated, but the 1/2 & 2/3 tangka imperforate, from settings II & I, respectively.

All the sets were cancelled in Lhasa with Type VIII cancellations showing the full double circle. The fact that setting II was used for the 1/2 tangka in group (ii) shows that these must have been acquired in 1935, while the sets in group (i) were almost certainly obtained in 1933.

#### 1933 Issue - Proof Sheets

The only full proof sheet was a 2 tangka (W. 103) scarlet colour, but there was also a cut half sheet of the same denomination and the cut singles making up the CTO sets. It is interesting to note that none of the other denominations were acquired in proof sheet form.

#### 1933 Issue - Mint Stamps, perforated

All 1, 2 & 4 tangka stamps in the collection were perforated, except for the proof sheets mentioned above. There were a few singles and blocks of the 1/2 & 2/3 tangka stamps, but no complete perforated sheets of these lower denominations. The mint 1/2 tangka stamps were all orange (W.105) and the 2/3 tangka, dark blue (W.126), similar to the stamps in the sets acquired in 1933, but there were also some specimens of the 1/2 tangka orange CTO in Shigatse in July 1934. There was little variation in colour of the other stamps, which were probably acquired in both 1933 and 1935.

All the sheets of the 1 & 2 tangka and one block of the 4 tangka, had a "V" shaped cut in the right hand margin for fastening the sheets into little booklets in the following manner:

- (i) The sheets were printed on sheets of paper, as closely aligned as possible.
- (ii) About 5 sheets were placed on top of each other and two "V" shaped cuts were made in the margin down through all the sheets with a sharp instrument. On the 1 & 2 tangka sheets, the "V" points away from the top and bottom edges, but on the 4 tangka block it points toward the stamps. (See Figures 3 & 4.)
- (iii) The inside of the "V" on the bottom sheet is folded upwards to form a prong.
- (iv) The "V"s on the other sheets are folded backwards and flat. These sheets are then slotted over the prong on the bottom sheet.
- (v) The prong is then folded outwards and slotted into an extra cut in the top sheet.
- (vi) The sheets are then perforated together and the stamps torn off as required.

None of the 1/2 or 2/3 tangka blocks had any sign of such stapling, nor did the majority of the 4 tangka stamps.

Other features of the perforated stamps are worthy of note. The 8th cliche on the 4 tangka stamps showed signs of a flaw on the chest of the lion. (See Figure 4.) However, on closer examination, there was a slightly raised lump on that stamp,

showing that the paper had been forced up into a fault in the block, so that it was not truly pre-damage. None of the CTO 4 tangka stamps were from the 8th cliché.

Also, it has been pointed out to me by Mr. Bates that the 1 & 2 tangka stamps are all from an early state, without some of the identifying features mentioned by Waterfall on clichés 3, 7, 11 & 12 of the 1 tangka, and on clichés 4, 8 & 12 of the 2 tangka.

1933 Issue - Mint Stamps, imperforate

Apart from the proof sheets, the only imperforate stamps in the collection were some sheets and blocks of the 1/2 tangka, pale yellow, Setting II (W.109), and of the 2/3 tangka, dark ultramarine, Setting I (W. 128). These must have been purchased between August and November 1935 in Lhasa, as these same types were used on the CTO sets, but it is interesting that this proves that it must have been the 1/2 tangka that first required a second setting, rather than the 2/3 tangka, as suggested by Waterfall (p. 92).



Fig. 4. - 1933 Issue, 4 t, mint, perforat , showing fault on #8 cliché and staple cuts



Fig. 3. - 1933 Issue, 1 t, mint, perforated, showing staple cuts, (ii)

### 1933 Issue - Used Stamps

Most of the used stamps were perforated, with only the lower four denominations being represented. The 2/3 tangka was the prussian blue shade, used from Lhasa. The only imperforate stamps were one 1/2 tangka, pale yellow (W.108), from Setting I (cliche 5, with wide left hand margin) and a yellow-orange (W.107), used on cover from Chushu in 1934. Although all the mint perforated stamps were pin-perforate 10½ to 11, the used stamps varied from about 10½ up to 12.

### NATIVE CANCELLATIONS

On the 1912 issue stamps, the following cancellations appeared, with the given frequency, using types according to Waterfall:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Lhasa	III	2
Lhasa	IV	2
Lhasa	VI	28
Phari	X	7
Shigatse	XI	8
Penam	XI	1
Oga	X	1
Giamda	XII	1

Except for the Giamda mark, which was a dated arrival mark, all the others were undated marks, cancelling the stamps. I have used the name "Oga," rather than "Holkar," as used by Waterfall, as "Oga" is a more correct phonetic rendering of this place name, and one used by European visitors to the area. These two cancellations will be discussed in detail in a forthcoming article. The other cancellations are interesting in that they show which cancellations were being used in the period 1924-1926 and, perhaps, early 1933.

The cancellations used on the 1933 issue stamps were all Type VIII, and included all six post offices recorded by Waterfall, but only the black cancellation for Gyantse. None of the cancellations was dated, but one fine transit mark for Nagartse had the date 5.15 on the 21st day of the 8th month.

### British-Indian Cancellations

Apart from the Tibetan native cancellations, there were a number of stamps and



Fig. 5. - British-Indian Yatung Type 9 cancellation used two years before the earliest recorded by Waterfall

covers with cancellations applied at the various British-Indian post offices in Tibet. The only items worthy of note were:

- (i) A Yatung handstamp (W.61) applied to letters addressed to Williamson in Gangtok. At first sight these seem to indicate a rather circuitous route from India to Sikkim via the Chumbi Valley in Tibet, but it seems most likely that Williamson was then just departing on his last journey to Lhasa, and hence the postal service may have rerouted his mail via Yatung, without any specific routing instructions being recorded on the envelope.
- (ii) A cover sent from Yatung on 16 May 1952, addressed to Mrs. Williamson 1952, addressed to Mrs. Williamson in England -- one of the very few later additions. This used the Waterfall Type 9 cancellation, two years before the earliest use recorded by Waterfall himself. (See Figure 5.)

### 1936 Christmas Card Envelopes

The only later additions among the Tibetan stamps were two Christmas card envelopes, cancelled to order in Lhasa in October 1936, and sent to Mrs. Williamson in England -- presumably in a separate cover that has not survived. The cards were sent by Sir Basil Gould and Rai Bahadur Norbhu. The covers bore the following stamps:

1/2	tangka	Imperf	bright chrome	W.110
2/3	"	"	dark blue	W.130
1	"	"	scarlet-vermillion	W.147/8
2	"	"	pale scarlet	W.173
4	"	Perf	emerald	W.200

It is interesting to note that, although perforated, the stamps were cut out with scissors.

#### Conclusion

The value of this collection is that it provides an unbiased selection of the stamps that were available in Tibet in the period 1924-26 and 1933-35, well before collectors started recording material from Tibet systematically. It is, therefore, very useful in clarifying the dates of issue and use of certain printings. I am very grateful to Mrs. Williamson for preserving the collection so carefully, and for permitting me to retain a representative selection. I shall be delighted to give further information about the stamps to any specialists who may be interested in details which I have not mentioned above. (C)

I should like to add a few notes and questions relating to J. B. Manandhar's interesting article on "Thak Post Office" (Postal Himal No. 33, p. 16).

The earliest date recorded so far for the step-pyramid type postmark of Thak is 1928, as stated in my "Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks."

Mr. Manandhar's "negative name stamp" would appear to be a general purpose post office handstamp rather than a postmark or cancellation. Incidentally, this type is strikingly similar to a marking of Amlekhganj that I have found used as a telegraphic cancellation on multiples of the 1907 Pashupati issue. This leads to the question as to whether the Thak handstamp was found on cover and, if so, whether it was used as a back-stamp, cancellation or address handstamp and whether its use can be dated.

I am certain that many readers would be most grateful to Mr. Manandhar if he were to publish the full list of post offices compiled by Eden-Vansittart in 1915, as well as the "long list" of post offices contained in the government document of 1920. Such rare information is indeed invaluable to postal historians and would be highly appreciated.

Finally, the dated reference to Anarmani P. O. confirmed my findings that this little known border village possessed a post office in the early 1920s (cf. my notes in Postal Himal No. 26, p. 24) and is, in fact, the earliest mention of this P. O. that I am aware of.

Wolfgang Hellrigl



For all your requirements  
of Nepal and Tibet!

Write to:  
**S.L. SHRESTHA (MEMBER: NTPSC),**  
5/148 Ombahal, GPO Box 72,  
Kathmandu, Nepal.  
*\*Visiting Kathmandu?\**  
*Please, send an Air-letter.*

#### MISSING ISSUES?

Requests for lost or missing issues should now be directed to our U.S.A. Representative, Mr. Roger D. Skinner, who is now doing the printing and mailing of POSTAL HIMAL. Requests of this nature which are sent to Mr. Matthiesen or to the editor, will be forwarded to Mr. Skinner.

BANEPA POST OFFICE  
--Colin Hepper

On the main road between Kathmandu and Dhulikhel lies the small village of Banepa and its post office is part of a small general store which has been opened since the 1950's. Recently, while looking through some modern commercial covers, I came across some of them with different types of cancellations from this office. So I thought that, perhaps, our members would be interested in seeing these illustrated and that it would give them some ideas on the types of interesting things that can be done with modern covers.



Banepa Post Office



The modern bi-lingual cancellor

The first batch of covers I have are all manuscript cancelled and are dated from 1957 to 1963, which would certainly show that no cancellors were issued for at least the first six years, and possibly longer, from the time that the post office was opened. A circular, almost ornamental type, cancellor was then issued and is illustrated cancelling two 2-paisa stamps of the 1959 issue -- in 1965. A later cover (The date of the receiving postmark of Bhaktapur is not clear.) shows how badly the cancellor has worn, as the lettering can no longer be distinguished. This was finally replaced by the familiar modern bilingual cancellor. The earliest cover I have, showing this postmark, is dated 1976, but was, in fact, issued in 1965, as recorded in The Native Postmarks of Nepal. The same pattern is followed with the registration marks, with the early covers having the registration number handwritten but the 1976 cover shows the use of a standard rubber handstamp for recording the details.



Two covers manuscript cancelled from Banepa dated 1959 & 1963.



Two covers cancelled with the ornamental type cancellor from Banepa

So, a small range of covers does give some clues concerning the development of these small post offices and, maybe, some of our members can do similar studies of other post offices and report their findings through POSTAL HIMAL.



POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF NEPAL  
ANNOUNCES PHILATELIC PROGRAMME FOR 1984

<u>S.N.</u>	<u>Date of issue</u>	<u>Subject or occasion</u>	<u>Denomination</u>
1.	1 July	20th Anniversary of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union	not stated
2.	? July	Silver Jubilee of Tribhuvan University	.50p
3.	28 July to 12 Aug	23rd Olympic Games	Rs 10.00
4.	? Aug	<u>Wildlife Series:-</u>	
		a) Panthera Vncia	.10p
		b) Gavialis Gangaticus	.25p
		c) Antelope Cervicapra	Rs 1.10p
5	18 Sept	Silver Jubilee of Nepal Family Planning Assn.	Rs 1.00
6.	22 Sept	Social Service Day	Rs 4.50p
7.	? Nov	<u>Visit Nepal Series:-</u>	
		a) Traditional Painting (Ancient Painting)	.05p
		b) Phoksando Lake	.10p
		c) Tri Kikram Bamanavate	.50p
		d) Chhinna Masta Bhagabati	Rs 2.00
		e) Ape Mountain	Rs 5.00
8.	28 Dec	40th Birthday of H.M. the King (with Purnakalasa)	Rs 1.00

Notes:-

1. The programme noted above is subject to change with or without notice.
2. Details of each issue will be available from the Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu.

(The usual list of "Available Postage Stamps 1984" was enclosed with the copy of the Philatelic Programme reproduced above. We note, with interest, that what appears to be a rubber stamp addition to the list of available stamps, reads as follows:

- "-Kaj Sarkari (Service Stamp)-1959 12,16, 24,32,50 Paisa + 1 and 2 Rs  
-Kaj Sarkari (Over Printed)-1962 1,2,5, 10,40,75 Paisa + 1,2 and 5 Rs."--Ed.)

