

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

NEPAL & TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

INAUGURAL
SOUTH ASIA
'DOWN-UNDER' MEETING
ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
JAN 31ST. - FEB 1ST.
1986





POSTAL HIMAL is the quarterly publication of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year. Dues should be paid to the society representative in your area. Information on advertising rates may be obtained from Editor.

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	United States	India	Rest of World
One Year	US \$ 7.50	Rs 105	L 6.00
Three Years	US \$ 21.00	Rs 300	L 17.00
Life Member	US \$ 150.00	Rs 2100	L 120.00

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: A representation of the cover of the four-page programme prepared on the occasion of the first "South Asia 'Down-Under'" meeting of the Study Circle. We thank Malcolm Campbell for sending us a copy of this handsome item, printed in vermilion. The actual programme for the meeting appears on page 2 of this issue.

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to announce that the President's Prize for the best article in POSTAL HIMAL in 1985 has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Armand E. Singer for his article titled, "Another Route Up the Himalayas" (POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, pp. 42-44. Prof. Singer is no stranger to our readers, as he has made frequent contributions to POSTAL HIMAL over the years. In a year when we made special effort to attract new members, including more beginning and intermediate collectors, this well-written and informative article seemed especially innovative & entertaining.

Honorable Mention goes to Mr. N. G. Rhodes for his article titled, "The Post Offices at Gyamda & Oga Dzong" (POSTAL HIMAL No. 43, pp. 23-25). Mr. Rhodes is also no stranger to our members. His knowledge of the Tibetan language and his familiarity with the life & customs of the Tibetan people, as well as his high standards of scholarship are reflected in this article. Mr. Rhodes, it may be noted, received the first President's Prize for the year 1983.

Another experiment, first suggested by Mr. Leo Martyn, is being offered to our members in this issue. We are starting a "Classified Ad" section, patterned after the one which appears regularly in The AMERICAN PHILATELIST each month. While the cost of such an advertisement may seem a bit high in terms of our relatively small circulation, you are reminded that every recipient of POSTAL HIMAL is vitally interested in one or more aspects of the philately of Nepal and/or Tibet. Your "message" in our publication will probably be read by more interested persons than a similar one in The AMERICAN PHILATELIST!

And remember that POSTAL HIMAL is your publication. Your questions, suggestions, constructive criticisms, articles, newspaper clippings, etc. are always welcomed by your editor. Please help us make POSTAL HIMAL what you want it to be.

Lester A. Michel

FOR MEMBERS USE ONLY

One insertion, per line \$1.00

Four insertions, per line 3.50

To calculate the number of lines your ad will require, count 39 characters per line -- including all letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. Ads will be placed under appropriate headings as needed. See the Classified Ad section in the final pages of any issue of The AMERICAN PHILATELIST for typical ad headings, or simply send your own ad, asking the editor to place it under an appropriate heading.

DEADLINE: Ad and payment in USA dollars, must reach the editor by the first day of one of the following months -- February, May, August, November -- in order for ad to appear in issues mailed about one month later. Any change of copy after the first insertion will count as a new ad.

Example advertisement:

WANTED

NEPAL TELEGRAMS wanted, preferably with stamps affixed. Write, describing items offered, including date of usage, type of cancel, stamps and price. Lester Michel, 309 Yucca Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906-2150, USA

Charge for this sample ad would be:

For one entry, 6 x \$1.00 = \$6.00

For four entries, 6 x \$3.50 = \$21.00

MISSING ISSUES OF POSTAL HIMAL ?

Requests for missing issues of POSTAL HIMAL should first be sent to your area representative, who receives a few extra copies of each issue. To purchase earlier issues of POSTAL HIMAL and/or predecessor Newsletters, write Roger D. Skinner, USA Representative, for prices and information.

PROGRAMME OF THE INAUGURAL SOUTH ASIA
'DOWN-UNDER' MEETING IN ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1

Friday, 7:30 PM, 31 January:

*Introduction to Colin Hepper and Nepal & Tibet Study Circle Members.

*Colin Hepper to display 100 sheets of Nepal & Tibet Postal History, 1810-1910.

Saturday, 2:00 PM, 1 February:

*A brief history of Nepal and a look at Nepal today, by Malcolm Campbell.

* Workshop session:

- Classic forgeries
- Classic identification
- Nepal philatelic literature
- Recent auction results
- Exhibition reports
- Any other topics of interest to members

*Auction. Members are invited to submit lots with a 10% commission to the Study Circle.

*8:00 PM. Banquet at the Jasmin Indian Restaurant, 31 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide.

*You are requested to bring any literature of interest to the Circle as well as any items of interest or that you want identified or confirmed.

(We look forward to presenting a full report on this important meeting in the next issue of POSTAL HIMAL.--Ed.)

Mr. P. GUPTA AGAIN HONORED

An article in THE FIAP JOURNAL for February 1985 reports on the election of Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, at a meeting of the Council held on 1 November 1984, at which 47 new members were elected, including Mr. Gupta.

In the article Mr. Gupta was singled out for particular notice, with his picture & a brief description of his contributions to philately.

Mr. Gupta reports that he will attend STOCKHOLMIA '86 both as Commissioner & as a Member of the Jury. Because of his duties in connection with that important World Philatelic Exhibition, he will be unable to attend AMERIPEX '86.

(See POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, p. 33, for a more detailed listing of Mr. Gupta's many contributions, both philatelic and non-philatelic.--Ed.)

EXHIBITION NEWS

In STAMP COLLECTOR for 4 January 1986, in a column titled "The Winners' Circle" (p. 15) we read that, at SUNPEX '85, on 9-10 November, in Sunnyvale, California, in an exhibition hosted by the Sunnyvale Stamp Society, Arthur F. Ackley received a VERMEIL award for his exhibit titled, "Tibet - Stamps & Postal Markings." Congratulations, Art.

The USA philatelic community is now 'gearing up' for "the largest stamp exhibition ever held in North America." Your editor has learned that Frank Vignola's outstanding Nepal exhibit has been accepted for this event, as has Mae's Guatemala exhibit. This unusual honor for a husband & wife philatelic team is made more remarkable by the fact that fully 40% of entries offered by USA philatelists had to be turned down for lack of space!

We have also been informed that "The Classic Issues of Nepal" by Hellrigl & Vignola has been accepted as an entry in the literature section.

In addition to the Vignolas & Dr. Hellrigl, we have learned that Dr. Armand Singer and Leo Martyn will be attending AMERIPEX. Are there others? -- We hope that an informal meeting of the Study Circle may be held during this event & we urge other members to write to Frank Vignola about their plans to attend, as the second issue of POSTAL HIMAL will appear too late to inform attendees of any meeting which may be arranged.

STOCKHOLMIA '86 is an important International Exhibition which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, 28 August-7 September. In addition to Mr. P. Gupta's involvement (mentioned in the column on the left of this page), we learn that Dr. Hellrigl will exhibit his Nepal collection at STOCKHOLMIA '86. Are any other members exhibiting? -- Attending?

A CORRECTION

Mr. J. B. Manandhar points out that the size of the negative name stamp, in his article, "Post Offices Under Circle Offices," which appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 40, p. 44, should be changed to read "approximately 40 mm x 20 mm".

FOCUS ON FORGERIES - PART 3

--Wolfgang Hellrigl

(Parts 1 & 2 of this series appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 35, pp. 34-35, and No. 39, pp. 31-32, respectively.--Ed.)

Two new and very dangerous postmark forgeries have emerged on the market, causing considerable problems to Nepal collectors.

First signalled in the USA in May of 1984, the forged postmarks were applied to small covers of buff paper bearing Devanagari inscriptions.

Of the four covers that I have seen so far, three bear genuine half anna stamps while the fourth bears a 1 anna stamp of the recut-frame variety. The forged Kathmandu cancellation is invariably indistinct, thus cleverly imitating the genuine device. The Kathmandu datestamp, on the other hand, is easily the best forgery of a Nepalese postmark that I am aware of. All strikes of this postmark are dated B.S. 61/12/25 (= AD 1905) but I would not exclude the possibility of the existence of variable dates.

I would welcome further details from any collectors who might have been offered such covers; in this particular

Forgery of Kathmandu type C71 cancellation:



Forgery of Kathmandu type D78 datestamp (damaged state):



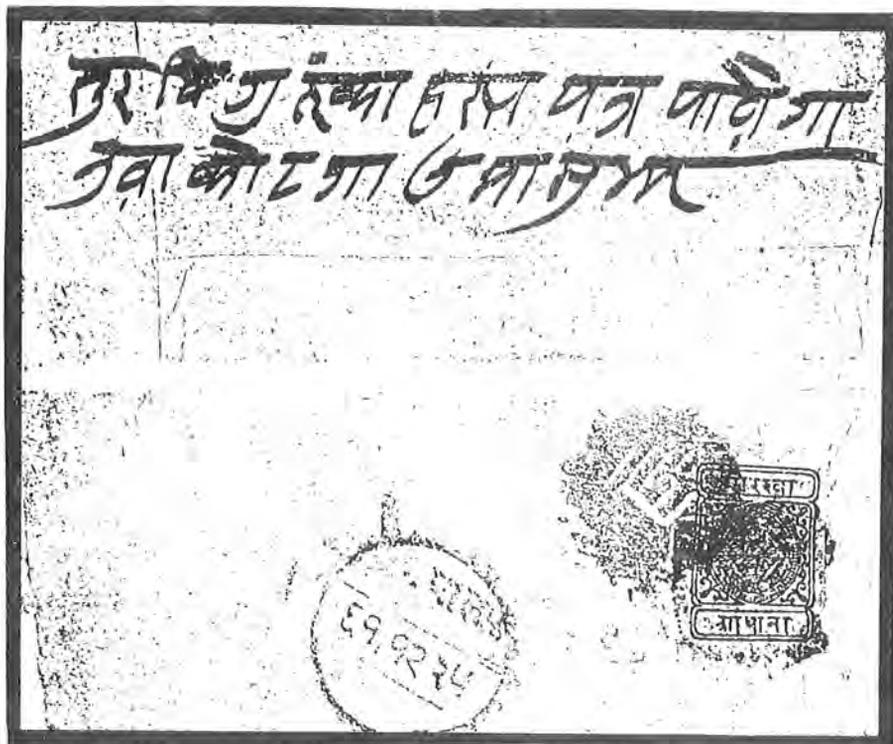
case it would be most important to locate the source of these items, thus preventing further damage by an exceptionally knowledgeable forger.

From forgeries we pass to another malpractice, i.e., the chemical treatment of stamps.

In an attempt to eliminate the typical stains known as "foxing," stamps are sometimes subjected to a simple chemical bleaching process. Unfortunately, this treatment has a most detrimental side-effect: it alters the original shade of a stamp. The results get worse with higher condensation of the chemical ingredients and/or longer duration of the chemical baths. Moreover, the paper shrinks fractionally & turns unnaturally white.

It is obvious that a chemically altered stamp is worth less than the original and, in the case of major changes of the shade, this process may even ruin a stamp for good. Recently a number of chemically treated blocks of classic Nepal have been reported from the USA, so care should be taken.

A typical fake cover bearing the two forged postal markings of Kathmandu:



BUILDING A NEPAL COLLECTION

--F. A. Westbrook, Jr.

(Second in a series of discussions for beginners and intermediate collectors.)

2. Sripech & Crossed Kukris Issues -- The One Anna

Nepal issued its first postage stamps in 1881 -- a set of three similar designs -- 1-, 2- & 4-annas -- known as the "Sripech and Crossed Kukris" types. They were printed on imported plain white bond paper in Kathmandu. The printing plates were made up of individual cliches for each stamp and were locked into frames of 64 cliches in an 8 x 8 format. Early on, this procedure led to cliches falling out and sometimes being replaced upside down, creating the tete-beche pairs that have been a prime feature of the collecting of early Nepal stamps.

Because of the many printings over such a long time period (50 years!), the poor quality of much of the printing, the early introduction of native paper of variable quality and the many shades in which the stamps appeared, the classic stamps have been a source of dismay to many collectors. The major difficulty is in distinguishing one printing from another and the truth is that it cannot be done, even by experts, without access to full sheets or large multiples. And most experts do not consider themselves infallible.

This need not 'turn off' the less expert. The solution is to segregate the stamps by logical and easily defined time periods based on recognizable differences between the stamps printed in the several time spans.

This will result in a series of accumulations representative of each period, with identical designs, but varied in such details as perforated or imperforate, shades & color, paper thickness & quality, quality of printing (clear to blurred) and, of course, tete-beche pairs reflecting these variations.

First Time Period

The reader is reminded that this section deals only with the 1-anna denomination.

The one anna stamp, meeting the basic

letter rate during the classic period (1881-1907), was printed first on white European bond paper in several shades of blue and ultramarine--both imperforate and pin-perforated, with and without gum. The bond paper makes them readily distinguishable from the many printings on native paper. There are no inverted cliches of the 1-anna on bond paper.

In 1886, however, bond was abandoned for locally produced paper made from the inner bark of an evergreen shrub. Its quality & thickness was quite variable--sometimes in the same sheet.

Second Time Period

Although the very earliest printings on native paper were quite good, this change inaugurates the second time period into which we can separate these stamps. The key identifying factor is the native paper which is easily distinguished from the bond by its comparative roughness, tone and the presence of long fibers which are readily observed under slight magnification, if not to the unaided eye. This period extends to about 1901, and covers some 24 printings during that 15-year period, according to "The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Hellrigl & Vignola. The one anna stamp continued to be printed in various shades of blue and the early printings were clear, and on good quality native paper of varying thickness. Both quality of printing & paper tended to deteriorate as the years passed. The cliches became clogged with ink and the variety of shades increased, with some appearing in several shades of green. Inverted cliches became more numerous. While most were issued imperforate, some were perforated.

The stamps of this period, therefore, provide the basis for a sizeable and varied collection, without regard for the precise printings into which they fit.

Toward the end of the 1886-1901 period, the one anna cliches became so clogged with ink & worn to a point where the stamps became mere blobs of ink. Accordingly, a cleaning job was undertaken and the outer frames of all cliches were recut. This signals the beginning of our third time period.

(concluded on page 5)

Westbrook, BUILDING..... (concluded)--

Third Time Period

The rejuvenated 1-anna stamps are readily distinguishable from their predecessors by the smaller number of lines in the recut outer frames.

The recuts were accompanied by several other unique features. While they continued to be printed in various shades of blue, both perf and imperf, a few were printed by error in various shades of green. And some of the very earliest were printed on bond paper. Both of these varieties are among the major Nepal rarities.

Furthermore, the recuts were printed in two time periods -- 1901 to 1907 & 1917 to ca. 1927, the latter known as the telegraphic period.

In 1907, Nepal issued a new set of stamps, with an entirely new design, printed in England. With the issue of these stamps -- the Sri Pashupati series, to be discussed later in this series of articles -- printing of the Sripech & Crossed Kukris types ceased & remainders were stored in the Treasury. The re-issue of these classic stamps began in 1917 when a telephone line was opened between Kathmandu and Birganj and connected to the Indian telegraph system. The government decided to institute a prepayment system using the old "classic" stamps. These were affixed to the backs of the telephone/telegraph forms and cancelled with special "telegraph" cancellations. The popularity of this more rapid method of communication was so great that the remainders were soon exhausted, requiring additional printings of all the "retired" denominations, including the 1-anna. As a result, few mint copies of these recut 1-anna stamps are available.

The recuts are relatively common on covers seeing service between 1901 and 1907, although occasional covers using these stamps are found -- principally from outlying offices -- as much as 3 years later.

Fourth Time Period

Such large quantities of the "classic" stamps, including the 1-anna, were required during the telegraphic period, that the old 1-anna plate, already badly

worn, became virtually unusable. Thus, Nepal issued a new 1-anna stamp (ca. 1927) and the old 1-anna plate was retired permanently! The most noticeable distinguishing feature of the new stamps is the presence of what appear to be little spearheads in the the outer corners. They also have more lines in the frames and smaller inscriptions. The central rectangle is totally devoid of any design.

This issue was printed from a plate, rather than using cliches locked in a frame, so there can be no inverts and no tete-beche pairs. The stamps were printed on native paper, in various shades of blue & ultramarine, with the quality of printing being quite clear to very blurred.

Since this new stamp was produced solely for telegraphic use, apparently, it could be called a "telegraph stamp." The occasional appearance of these stamps on covers appears to be philatelically inspired.

This issue is available both mint & used, as well as in large multiples and full sheets -- nearly always telegraphically cancelled.

This issue closes out the long history of the 1-anna classic issues of Nepal. Along with the other "classic" stamps the 1-anna ceased to be used ca. 1930.

Bibliography

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalog, Part 21, South-East Asia, 1981 Edition. (Stanley Gibbons covers Nepal more completely & accurately than Scott.)

"The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl & Frank Vignola, published by the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1984). (This is the definitive work on Nepal's "classic" issues.)

"The Postage Stamps of Nepal" by Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, F.R.P.S.L., published by the Collectors Club of New York (1960). (While this volume is substantially outdated by the Hellrigl/Vignola work, it can still be an important aid to the beginning & intermediate collector of Nepal.)

"Priced Guide to the Native Issues of Nepal" by George Alevizos, privately published.

TIBET ARTICLE PUBLISHED

Robin H. Mix authored an article published in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol 65, (1) Jan-Feb 1986, pp. 21-28, titled "A New Look at the Official Stamps of Tibet."

NEPAL ARTICLE RE-PUBLISHED

Mr. J. B. Manandhar, who received the President's Prize for the best article published in POSTAL HIMAL in 1984, has had the honor of having that article re-published in HULAK No. 108, 13 April 1985. HULAK is the official publication of the Nepal Postal Services Department. Readers may be reminded that the title of the article was "Post Offices Under Circle Offices." (We wish to thank Mr. S. L. Shrestha for sending us this information.--Ed.)

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL
POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PHILATELIC PROGRAMME FOR
1986

His Majesty's Government, Postal Services Department, Nepal Philatelic Bureau, has the pleasure to announce the Philatelic Programme for the year 1986 as follows:

<u>S.N.</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>	<u>Subject or Occasion</u>	<u>Denomination</u>
1.	March	Silver Jubilee of Panchayat	R. 1.00
2.	July	<u>Visit Nepal Series</u>	
		(a) Dhanusha	.05p
		(b) Budhanilakantha	.50p
		(c) Mt. Pumori	Rs. 5.00
3.	September	International Peace Year	Rs. 10.00
4.	October	<u>Dance Series</u>	
		(a) Sorathi Dance	.25p
		(b) Rateli Dance	.50p
		(c) Bhairabkali	R. 1.00
		(d) Tarai Dance	R. 1.00
5.	November	Fifteenth World Conference of Buddhists	Rs. 4.50
6.	28 Dec.	42nd Birthday of H.M. the King	R. 1.00

Note:-1. This Programme is subject to change with or without notice.

2. Details of each issue will be available from the Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu. (Sent to us by the Nepal Philatelic Bureau.--Ed.)

NEPAL STAMP ALBUMS

--Lester A. Michel

A number of standard stamp albums are published which contain "spaces" for Nepal stamps, but some of our members may not be aware of any specialty albums for Nepal.

The earliest one I have seen was compiled by M. R. Rajbhandary & was printed in Nepal. This small bound album, dated 1973, is titled, "The Stamp Album of Nepal - With the Portraits of Their Majesties King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev & Queen Ratna Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah." It contains spaces for 53 different stamps issued between May 1965 & August 1971. It includes a wealth of information concerning the King & Queen, as well as the stamps themselves. To the best of our knowledge, this interesting little album is now out of print.

M. R. Rajbhandary (27/45 Kamaladi, Kathmandu) also compiled a more general Nepal Stamp Album which was edited by Gyandass Tuladhar (904 Ason Kamalachhi Tole, Kathmandu-11). My copy, consisting of the pages only, is the Second Revised Edition, dated 1973. The attractive pages are numbered--some 75 of them--and have a colorful sketch across the top of each page, as well as a border, about 1/2 inch in from the edge at the sides and bottom. The spaces for the stamps are tastefully arranged and information of interest to collectors is found on each page. I am not aware of any annual supplements for the album.

Perhaps the most useful album printed in Nepal is "S. L. Shrestha's Nepal Stamp Album," published by Nepal Philatelic Services, G.P.O. Box No. 72, Kathmandu. This album--loose pages, actually--in my own binder, covered the period of 1881 to 1971. However, Mr. Shrestha, who is a Life Member of our Study Circle, publishes annual supplements. The latest I have seen is for the year 1983, but it is probable that supplements for 1984 & 1985 will soon be available.

Gerhard Lenser (Postfach 5503, 7800 Freiburg, West Germany) publishes an elegant Nepal Stamp Album and I assume that many of our members in Europe are familiar with his German editions.

(concluded on page 10)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

An answer to the question posed by Mr. N. G. Rhodes in his short article titled "A Picture Post Card From Tibet: (POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, p. 40) is offered by Mr. Malcolm Campbell, who writes:

"While I cannot settle this debate definitively, let me offer these 'facts.'

"In 1897 the Chinese Imperial Post was formed and, I believe, accredited to the UPU, since I have seen several covers from 1899 onwards with only Chinese adhesives affixed, addressed to foreign ports without foreign stamps added or 'postage due' cachets.

"Patrick Pearson, in his book, "Advanced Philatelic Research" (1971), states that "one of the regulations of the UPU required that countries should provide stamped post-cards for use on foreign mail" (p. 93). He also goes on to say that these cards were often produced "unwillingly by countries as they became signatories to the UPU treaty."

"In 1911 the Chinese Imperial Post was extended to Tibet with the overprinted issues (Scott Nos. 1-11).

"The 1910-11 Chinese PO's in Tibet are seen* on cover with no additional foreign postage to foreign places, which I construe as meaning that the PO's in Tibet were also accredited to the UPU. This would explain why post-cards with pre-paid postage had been produced in 1911. The Chinese revolution of 1912 and the re-formation of the new national republic had enough problems without including Tibet, so Tibet slipped back into the Middle Ages &, of course, was never accredited to the UPU as an independent country. So the need to continue producing picture post cards never arose.

"The card in question would most likely have been produced by lithograph in Japan after 1897, as the current Imperial Chinese Post stamps were (Scott Nos. 86-97). The subsequent Chinese Imperial Post stamps of 1898 were engraved in London and would almost certainly have produced a post card of finer detail (Scott Nos. 98-109 were the stamps of that issue.) if that was the source of the card in question."

Malcolm Campbell

*I saw one illustrated in the Alevizos Sale No. 33 (May '82), Lot No. 1791 (Estimated value: \$790, incidentally!).

A question: Lou Hidu asks if anyone can provide a source for the "propaganda labels" mentioned by Armand Singer in his article titled "Another Way Up The Himalayas" (POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, p. 44). Is Nelson Eustis of Adelaide, Australia, still active? Can anyone provide his current address?

A COMEDY (?) OF ERRORS!

Some time ago, at the request of some Indian members, our Secretary directed that membership fees be expressed in Indian rupees (in addition to amounts expressed in pounds sterling & USA dollars). Appropriate figures were first shown in POSTAL HIMAL No. 42 (2nd Quarter 1985) on the back of the cover page. In early December your editor noted an error in the 3-year dues figure, which should have been Rs. 260, not 160! Then shortly before the printing of POSTAL HIMAL No. 44 in mid-December, but after that issue had been sent to the printer, our Secretary wrote, asking that, due to changes in the exchange rate between the Indian Rupee & the Pound Sterling, membership dues paid in Indian Rupees should be increased for 1986. Your editor rushed the changes to the printer but, in his haste, made another error--this time in the cost of a Life Membership, which appeared as Rs 2300, when it should have been Rs 2100. This required a special insert in some mailings to Indian members, attempting to correct the new error.--We trust that all dues figures shown on the back of the cover page for this issue are correct, & your editor apologizes for any inconvenience caused anyone.--We are reminded that the lack of accurate & effective communication is the source of many of the world's problems and we are determined to keep trying to do better!--Ed.

A CORRECTION

Due to last minute printing difficulties encountered with POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, the second third of the Nepal calendar for 1985 could not be included with that mailing. The correction applies to the second sentence under the heading "NEPAL CALENDAR....." on p. 44 of POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, which states: "first eight months...." The missing sheet is included with this issue.

MELUNG POST OFFICE

--J. B. Manandhar

Some seven years back I met Mr. Bunde Bahadur Shrestha at Trishuli while he was the postmaster of Nuwakot district post office. He made a very vivid impression on me with his description of the rebellion at different parts of East No.2 district against the century-old Rana regime and of the situation under which a post office at Melung was started. As the importance of Melung post office was not felt at that time, I did not pay him any attention and therefore no queries were made pertaining to this post office. But, recently I had an opportunity of going through a few negative name stamps of the post office under reference. This made me feel interested and eager to know something more about Melung post office. So I tried to find out Mr. Shrestha's whereabouts. Luckily, with the cooperation of Mr. Mukund Sharma Poudyal, Bagmati Zonal Controller of post offices, he was traced & is living the life of a retired pensioner in the Trishuli area. And from him I received relevant responses relating to the date and circumstances of the opening of the post office.

As per Mr. Shrestha's letter dated 2041.10.28 (Feb. 1985) and received through the controller of post offices it is learned that Melung post office was established 34 years ago on 28 Magh 2007 B.S. by the order of the liberation army revolting against Ranaism and supporting strongly for the crown, country and democracy. To run the post office one bahidar (postmaster), two postmen & two runners were sanctioned at that time and Bunde Bahadur was appointed as the bahidar. It is known that, like other military men, Mr. Shrestha used to get the ration of food from Melung army post.

Mr. Hepper refers to this post office in a book co-authored by him (Dr. Hellrigl, W.C. and Mr. Hepper, Colin - "The Native Postmarks of Nepal," England (1978 A.D.), p. 81, by stating: "Flower seal of Melung P.O. (1958)." However, such a brief and vague statement is not sufficient to explain a meaningful name stamp. To elaborate, the floral design under study has a circle at its centre which is adorned and surrounded by five



petals. In Nepal the number 5 is used in various ways because it carries many symbolic meanings. There is one Devanagari letter in each & every petal.

These letters are arranged in the clockwise direction. As and when they are read collectively they are found to form a popular and catchy slogan: 'श्री प्रजातन्त्र' (Shri Prajatantra). The word 'Prajatantra', denoting thereby democracy, is preceded by the honorific letter 'Shri'.

Inside the central circle the Devanagari inscriptions: 'Shri Panch Purba Due Num/Melung Hulak/2008' are also in negative forms. There is an ample space above the first line to accommodate some propitious symbols and letters. But, with the aid of covers seen by me, it is difficult to say whether there is any letter in that particular place to decipher.

The words in the first row: 'Shri Panch' mean: 'His Majesty, the King.' It is unique and uncommon to have the title of the Sovereign in the name stamp of an ordinary office like Melung post office. Tribhuwan, beloved of the people, being the first King to give the blessings of democracy to Nepal, it seems natural to have these two auspicious words inscribed in the name stamp of the post office opened by the liberation army stationed at Ramechhap headquarters.

The words: 'Purba Due Num' indicate the then hill district lying east of Kathmandu & they mean nothing but 'East No. 2.' As the post office was made operative in the last quarter of the Bikram year 2007 (Feb.1951 A.D.) before the fall of the Rana government & just after the capture of the district by the revolutionary army, it is appropriate to have the year '2008' in the name stamp.

At present, Melung post office lies in the district of Charikot and is functioning as the sub post office. It is mainly connected with Ramechhap and Charikot district level post offices through direct mail lines regularly used by foot-runners.

(The drawing of the name stamp of Melung post office was done in actual size by K. Karmacharya, Writer.)



सं० २०४२ OCT. कार्तिक NOV. सन् १९८५

आइतवार Sunday	सोमवार Monday	मंगलवार Tuesday	बुधवार Wednes	विहीवार Thursday	शुक्रवार Friday	शनिवार Saturday
५	५	५	५	१	२	३
४	५	६	७	८	९	१०
११	१२	१३	१४	१५	१६	१७
१८	१९	२०	२१	२२	२३	२४
२५	२६	२७	२८	२९	३०	३१
१	२	३	४	५	६	७
८	९	१०	११	१२	१३	१४
१५	१६	१७	१८	१९	२०	२१
२२	२३	२४	२५	२६	२७	२८
२९	३०	३१	१	२	३	४
५	६	७	८	९	१०	११
१२	१३	१४	१५	१६	१७	१८
१९	२०	२१	२२	२३	२४	२५
२६	२७	२८	२९	३०	३१	१

सं० २०४२ NOV. मंसिर DEC. सन् १९८५

आइतवार Sunday	सोमवार Monday	मंगलवार Tuesday	बुधवार Wednes	विहीवार Thursday	शुक्रवार Friday	शनिवार Saturday
३०	५	५	५	५	५	५
२	३	४	५	६	७	८
९	१०	११	१२	१३	१४	१५
१६	१७	१८	१९	२०	२१	२२
२३	२४	२५	२६	२७	२८	२९
३०	३१	१	२	३	४	५
६	७	८	९	१०	११	१२
१३	१४	१५	१६	१७	१८	१९
२०	२१	२२	२३	२४	२५	२६
२७	२८	२९	३०	३१	१	२
३	४	५	६	७	८	९
१०	११	१२	१३	१४	१५	१६
१७	१८	१९	२०	२१	२२	२३
२४	२५	२६	२७	२८	२९	३०
३१	१	२	३	४	५	६
७	८	९	१०	११	१२	१३
१४	१५	१६	१७	१८	१९	२०
२१	२२	२३	२४	२५	२६	२७
२८	२९	३०	३१	१	२	३



सं० २०४२ **AUG. भाद्र SEP.** सन् १९८५

आइतवार Sunday	सोमवार Monday	मंगलवार Tuesday	बुधवार Wednes	बिहीवार Thursday	शुक्रवार Friday	शनिवार Saturday
माइ शुक्ल प्रतिपदा ३० सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 15	द्वितीया ३१ (रत्न धाने) 16	५	५	५	५	१ रुद्राध्यायः 17
द्वितीया २ 18	तृतीया ३ 19	चतुर्थी ४ 20	पंचमी ५ हस्तिक उपवृत्ती 21	षष्ठी ६ 22	सप्तमी ७ 23	अष्टमी ८ 24
नवमी ९ 25	दशमी १० 26	एकादशी ११ प्रथम व्रतम् बहिर्गोत्र 27	द्वादशी १२ 28	त्रयोदशी १३ सुनिता व्रत 29	चतुर्दशी १४ रत्न पुस्तक उत्सवका विरा 30	पंचमि १५ 31
द्वितीया १६ सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति SEPT. 1	तृतीया १७ 2	चतुर्थी १८ 3	पंचमी १९ 4	षष्ठी २० 5	सप्तमी २१ 6	अष्टमी २२ 7
नवमी २३ सोमवार, रात्रि, सोम वासा, रात्रि, शनिवार नारायण वासा 8	दशमी २४ 9	एकादशी २५ समाप्ति 10	द्वादशी २६ बैशाखा अजा 11	त्रयोदशी २७ प्रथम व्रतम् बहिर्गोत्र 12	चतुर्दशी २८ सुन वहे शुभ 13	पुष्य अजा २९ सोमि अजा सोमि अजा 14

सं० २०४२ **SEP. आश्विन OCT.** सन् १९८५

आइतवार Sunday	सोमवार Monday	मंगलवार Tuesday	बुधवार Wednes	बिहीवार Thursday	शुक्रवार Friday	शनिवार Saturday
५	५	१ माइ शुक्ल तृतीया हस्ताध्याय तीर्थ प्रथमा विरा 17	२ सोम वसुधो 18	३ द्वितीया विरा सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 19	४ तृतीया 20	५ चतुर्थी 21
६ अष्टमी व्रतम् 22	७ नवमी 23	८ दशमी सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 24	९ एकादशी बैशाखा अजा उत्सवका विरा 25	१० द्वादशी 26	११ त्रयोदशी सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 27	१२ चतुर्दशी 28
१३ पंचमि 29	१४ षष्ठी 30	१५ सप्तमी OCT. 1	१६ अष्टमी सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति (सोमि अजा, वासा) उत्सवका विरा 2	१७ नवमी 3	१८ दशमी 4	१९ एकादशी 5
२० द्वादशी सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 6	२१ त्रयोदशी सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 7	२२ चतुर्दशी 8	२३ पुष्य अजा हस्ताध्याय तीर्थ 9	२४ शुक्रवार 10	२५ शनिवार 11	२६ सोमवार सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 12
२७ मंगलवार 13	२८ बुधवार सुंकासर्गं समाप्ति 14	२९ बिहीवार उत्सवका विरा नारायण वासा 15	३० शुक्रवार 16	५	५	५