

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL & TIBET
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



A philatelicly inspired cover from Thankot
(See page 12)

Postal Himal is a quarterly publication of the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through to December of each year. Subscriptions should be paid in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the Society representative in your area.

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Notes from the Secretary's Desk

First I must make an appology for an error in the last issue of Postal Himal (No.95 & 96). Pages 39,40 & 41 should read 3rd & 4th Quarters 1998 (*not 1999*). This issue is very much a 'Nepal' issue, which may be a little dissapointing for our 'Tibet' members, but this is the only material I have to hand to publish. So we need a few of you 'Tibet' members to put pen to paper for us.

For any of our 'non USA' members, if your subscription is due in January you will find a reminder letter enclosed with this publication. Our USA and Canadian members will receive their reminders from Roger Skinner.

Colin Hepper

Flash: You climer-mountaineer cover collectors take note, the new, raised height for Mt Everest, established by satalite measurement, is now given as 29,305 feet.

New Member:

Bruno Le Peut, 11 Rue du 11 Novembre, 29900 Concarneau, France.

Change of Address:

Mr T. F. Warner, c/o SAICO, Ocean Tower 2, 75/105 Sukhumjit Rd, 50i 19, Klongtoey Nua, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

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Evolution of Postal Co-operatives in Nepal

(A Report submitted by the Director of Postal Services Department on the occasion of the ceremonial opening of 100th Postal Co-operative by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. B. P. Koirala at Chapgaun.)

Postal Services and the progress of society: There is always a marked degree of parallelism between the growth of postal services and the progress of the human society in the field of education, culture, commerce and industry. This is true of a national society and also of a greater society beyond nations. Several practical instances have established that the volume of postal traffic can be utilised as the most nearly correct device for measuring several aspects of human progress.

Interest awakened: The great political change of 1950 has been followed by an awakening of a variety of economic, educational, industrial and aesthetic interests in the people living in the farthest corner of the country. Since then demands for post offices from rural and municipal areas have been coming up and the postal traffic has been progressively registering increases. This is more particularly so since April and May 1959 when the demands for post offices and the volume of traffic has been considerably increased. The Honourable Minister of Communications and Assistant Minister of Communications had to spend much of their valuable times in meeting crowded delegations and representations from various parts of the country with demands for post offices and improvement in existing services. Such representations were made by the Members of Parliament including ministers, business elite's, construction workers and educationists of the respective areas. His Majesty's Government, in response to the popular demands, launched a bold programme of expansion of the postal facilities in this fiscal year (1959-1960) with nearly one hundred percent increase in the postal net work as the achievement.

A new idea evolved: It is noted with utmost satisfaction that in spite of new expansion, large demands for post offices still await government's attention. This is the indicator of the fact that there is genuine will among the people for developing their areas, because in many cases post facilities precede developmental works, especially establishment of educational institutions, libraries and panchayats in the particular areas. The government, eager to fulfil popular aspirations have devised a new method of postal co-operatives to meet the requirements. The postal co-operatives are run with the joint efforts of the government's postal department and the local people. The co-operative system gives a new vision to look upon the postal service, the most essential utility service in equal footing with the schools, libraries, and the local welfare committees that may be organised on voluntary and co-operative basis by the local inhabitants. A primary school, nucleus library or a village dispensary will be still missing something vital without a post office, for a post office provides an essential part of the sap that feeds their life. The department has watched with eyes of scientific investigations how the above mentioned institutions and the post offices are closely related and are complimentary to each other. Postal survey reports from the distant villages show that in many cases, the shifting of a post office from a particular place has not only adversely affected the growth of literacy in that locality but also has impoverished it in many ways.

The Co-operative in working: A point centrally located in a rural area and thus suited to all encircling tiny branch villages, is selected to be the station of the co-operative. The co-operative postal representative on whose shoulders falls the responsibility of executing the workings of the co-operatives are selected from among the inhabitants of the locality, which comes within the jurisdiction of the co-operative. In a more improved co-operative system the representative is assisted by a postal co-operative committee, composed of local people, having representation of each branch village in conducting its works in a very smooth and orderly way. Scheduled and regular connections can be maintained between the co-operative centre and the villages in the group and thus establishing a feeder communication network.

Its advantages: The successful working of the postal co-operative depends upon (a) the sincere desire of the people for the local growth, (b) their spirit of self help and (c) their interest of service to the community. It is also equally true that the co-operative helps to grow these democratic virtues in the local people. It helps to develop the habit among the people to work in co-operation and cohesion for a common good.

The co-operative starts: *The first postal co-operative was opened on 6th June 1959 corresponding to 23rd Ashar 2016*, by the Honourable minister of Communications Mr. Ganesh Manda Singh at *Jitpur Phedi*, seven miles west from Kathmandu and this inaugurated an era of postal co-operatives in the history of postal services. The start was humble and after a pause of a couple of months August and September 1959 saw the opening of one and a half dozen postal co-operatives in the villages near Kathmandu valley. The wonderful zeal of the Honourable Assistant Minister of Communications, Mr Lalit Chand to make this project of the postal co-operatives a success made him move personally to the hills and villages adjacent to the capital every Saturday and public holiday. He made contacts with the rural people, sought first hand survey of the areas and opened co-operatives on focal points. In his addresses to the rural people, the Honourable Assistant Minister explained the importance of co-operative systems more than other things in all spheres of social life. This gave a momentum to the project and created a feeling of movement. Thanks to the devoted endeavours of the Honourable Assistant Minister, the idea of the postal co-operative was popularised throughout the length and breadth of the country. Within a few months, scores of co-operatives have sprung up through spontaneous ways and they are widely distributed in all parts of the country, from the plains of the south to the high hills of the north, near snow lines.

The Hundredth Co-operative: Ninety-nine co-operatives have already been opened and are functioning. *Today 9th July 1960, corresponding to 26th Ashara 2017 we are celebrating in this ancient and historic town of Champapur (Chapagaun) the opening of the 100th postal co-operative in the kingdom of Nepal.* The Honourable Prime Minister has obliged the Department by kindly consenting to open this 100th co-operative. It is really an honour for all of us.

A contribution: Nepal definitely has contributed this new idea of postal co-operatives to the world. Other sister Administrations are looking upon this experiment of ours with curiosity and educative interest. We have to try to make the co-operatives really active and work in a perfectly mannered way in the following days. Besides the

spirit of co-operation and the sense of self reliance in the people concerned, its success depends upon how we nurse the co-operative by constant departmental education, aid, supervision and checking. A postal co-operative, as has been discovered by practical experience, deteriorates in lack of adequate contact with parent offices.

Future Progress: We have a target to raise the numbers of postal co-operatives to one thousand with a period of five years, beginning from the start of this project. But this depends upon how people react to this and how other departments render their valuable co-operation in addition to several other requisites. The co-operatives though at their infant stages, are working satisfactorily and this hopeful morning promises their bright future. We shall make every endeavour to improve and expand the postal co-operatives and make them really useful to the people and the country at large.

Department's gratitude: We are immensely gratified to the officers of the Communications Ministry and particularly to Mr. Yoga Prasad Sharma, the Secretary for encouraging the Department to march ahead with this novel programme of postal co-operatives. We also express our thankfulness to Mr. B. Lal, Member Posts and Telegraphs of Indian Aid Mission who appreciated the idea of postal co-operatives initiated by Nepal Postal Administration and lent moral support to it.

JAI NEPAL

J.L.Satyal

Director of Postal Services Department
His Majesty's Government of Nepal

A Directory of Himalayan Area Philatelists



Mr Jit Bahadur
Manandhar

In Postal Himal 95/96 Armand Singer proposed a directory of Himalayan Area Philatelists and asked for additions to his listing. Although not a philatelist I believe that Mr Jit Bahadur Manandhar should be included. He is a historian with a great interest in the postal history of Nepal and his studies of the early postal documents are of great value to the serious collectors of Nepal postal history.

His work was recognised by this society when we made him an honorary life member.

Colin Hepper

Missing from the previous listing (sorry the typist jumped the name):

N.G.Rajkarnikar; one of the pioneer collectors of Nepal, an expert in the area, and a dealer.

Error: E.A.Smythies was as many of you know the co-author with Major Evans of the first Nepal manual.

Members Awards:

Paul Hagar received a vermeil for his Pashupati exhibit at INDYPEX in Indianapolis in September and earlier in the year in July he received a silver award and Best research Award for the Postal Markings of Nepal at LOUIPEX (Louisville, KY).

More Postal Slogans by Colin Hepper

World Food Day

World Food Day has been recognised in Nepal every year since 1985, and postal slogans are a regular occurrence to help commemorate the event.

1985

जोगाजो बन बढाओ उत्पादन
मनि हदछ गरिपपन
बिरल लाग दिवत
२०४२

World Food Day slogan
“Protect Forests, Increase Production,
Poverty escapes then”

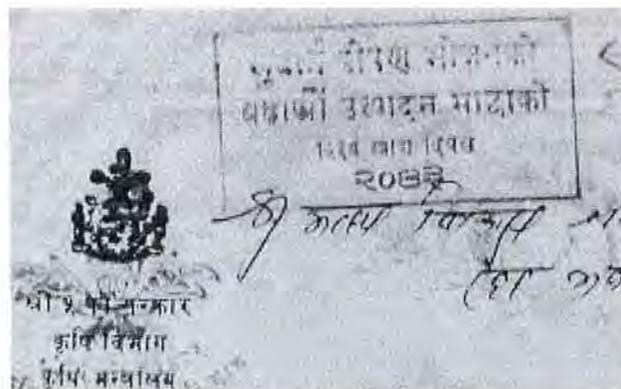


Letter sent from Naulpur Atirikta Hulak to Kathmandu with the 1985 World Food Day postal slogan.

1986

A boxed slogan reading “For nourishment, products must be grown first” was used in 1986.

सुनार्ग पोषण भोजनको
बढाओ उत्पादन मादाको
बिरल लाग दिवत
२०४३



Internal official letter sent from Tarhara Atirikta Hulak with the 1986 World Food Day postal slogan.

1989 The World Food Day slogan was in use at the same time as Health Slogan against drug abuse.

गरौ वातावरण संरक्षण
बढाओँ खाद्य उत्पादन

"Protect environment
Grow Food Products"



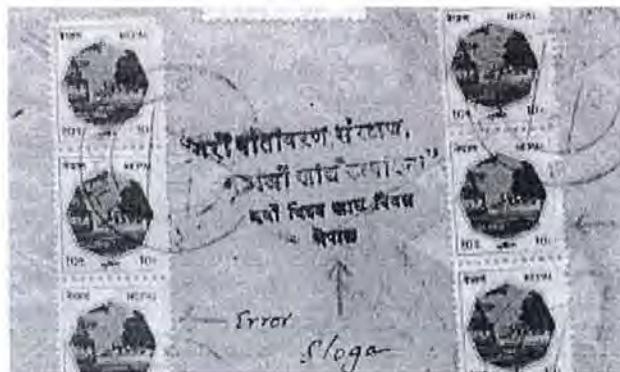
Internal letter sent in January 1989 with two postal slogans, "Protect Environment, Grow Food Products" and "Say No to Deadly Drugs".

1990

In 1990 *four* different types of slogan were used for 9th World Food Day, all with the same wording "Protect environment, Increase Food Production". This slogans seem to have been used for most of the year.

गरौ वातावरण संरक्षण,
बढाओँ खाद्य उत्पादन
सुनौ दिवस काष्ठ दिवस
नेपाल

1990 World Food Day postal slogan Type 1



Letter sent from Sindhuli to Kathmandu with the World Food Day type 1 postal slogan, dated November 1990

1990 9th World Food Day, Type 2 and Type 3 postal slogans.

“गरीं वातावरण संरक्षण,
बढाओ खाद्य उत्पादन”

Type 2

“गरीं वातावरण संरक्षण बढाओ खाद्य उत्पादन
विश्व खाद्य दिवस

२०४६

Type 3

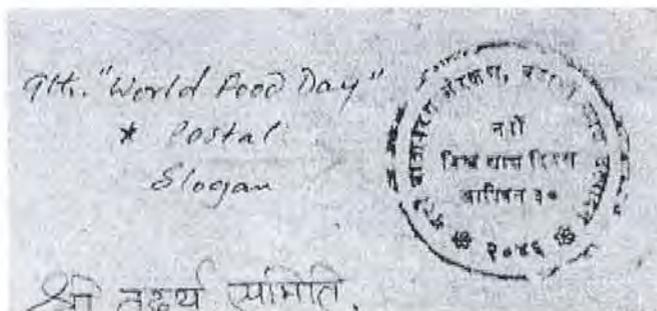


The official cover at the top, posted at Parsa, in January 1990 has the Type 2 slogan and the lower cover posted at Lalitpur has the Type 3 slogan, both were used in February 1990.

Type Four of the 9th World Food Day postal slogans was circular, and the only example I have is on a registered letter sent from the Surkhet Post Office, dated February 1991. This may well have been an error in the date slug and should have been 1990.



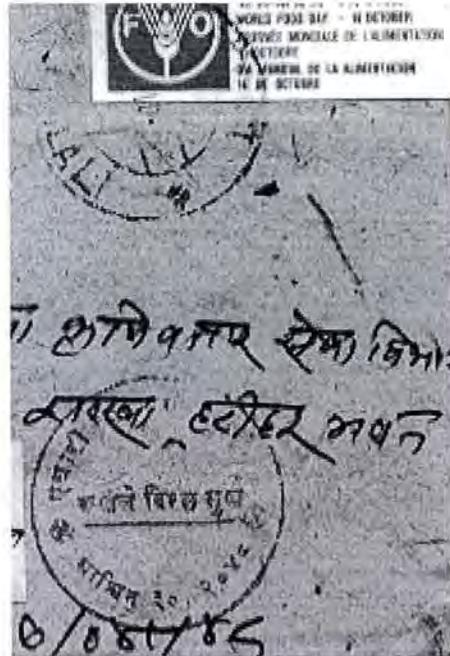
Type 4



1991

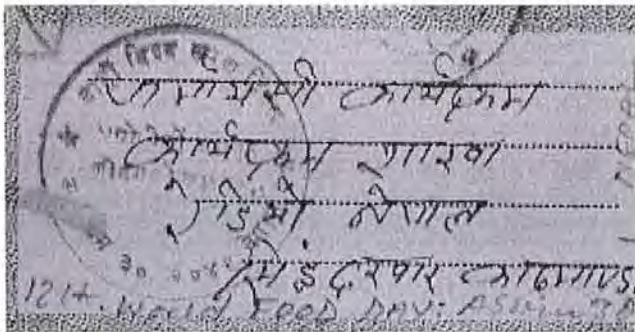
World Food day was on the 16th October in 1991 and the postal slogan in Nepal was again a circular one, reading:

"Trees Give Happiness"



The cover illustrated on the right was sent from Kalaiya Post Office and dated October 1991.

1992 World Food Day was again celebrated on 16th October, and the example I have on a 50p. Aerogramme is struck in red. I do not know what the message in the slogan is, but perhaps my Nepalese friends will inform me.



1993 The slogan for this year incorporated the message "Let us protect natural resources for utilisation" and once again was introduced on the mail in October.



A VISIT TO A PROFESSIONAL

Visiting Nepal and being a stamp collector means automatically paying a visit to a stamp dealer. In this case you have little choice or even no choice.

In the shopping centre of Kathmandu, only one real stamp shop can be found, the stamp shop "Filatelica" of which the Study Circle's representative for Nepal, Mr Surendra Lal Shrestha is the owner. Open from 9.00 to 11.00am and from 1.00 to 7.00pm you may not miss the opportunity to do this.

In his roomy accommodation you can find most what you need for the beginner collector and for the advanced as well. Packets, cards, loose stamps, coins, bank notes and literature etc. and also rare stamps, covers and postal stationery of Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan and China.

If Mr Shrestha does not have the items, missing from your collection, you find time for a good talk about your hobby with him, because he is not only the "shopkeeper" but fortunately also a professional and a collector too.

How to find his shop is very easy. Walk to the Kathmandu Guest House; from there, coming out of the access, go to the right and walk 2 minutes and you will see the large billboard at the second floor on your right. It is also probable that you will meet other members/collectors there.



The picture was taken in October 1999, about two years after the opening of the shop on January 1st 1998.

Have a good journey and greetings to Mr Shrestha!

Dick van der Wateren

A BORDERLINE COVER by Derrick Dawson

A recently acquired cover for a sideline collection of China led to a surprising outcome. The cover was an auction lot described as "a 1948 Red band cover franked with an amazing block 80, 50c Gold Yuan on 40c brown lake (SG 1084) folded to tuck around the corner. Sining and Lanzhou cancels and others". In one sense this was inaccurate for the franking turned out to be a block of 40 stamps. Nevertheless it was a nice cover with genuine commercial usage. The stamps were cancelled with 15 full or part strikes of in Chinese characters showing origin as Kweiteh with a further complete strike on the front of the cover. My Chinese geography cum gazetteer listed two towns of this name, one in Honan province and the other in Kwangsi. Kweiteh, Honan, also known as Shangkuai, is about 700 miles as the crow flies from Lanzhou. Kweiteh, Kwangsi is not shown on any of my maps, but it lay within the jurisdiction of Nanning Fu, which as the crow flies, is all of 1000 miles from Lanzhou.

The Kweiteh departure cancel is dated 22nd of the 3rd month; the Sining arrival mark shows 24th of the 3rd month. The Lanzhou routing mark is unclear as to the date because of some degree of overprinting, but it is presumably 23rd of the 3rd month. Given that communications within China would hardly allow such speedy transit in 1948, this would rule out both the Kweiteh locations mentioned. Further, the top segment of all-Chinese cancellations usually bears characters which indicate the Province or main city. Those on the Kweiteh cancels on the cover support neither Honan nor Kwangsi origin. The cover was therefore, put aside for further study at a later date.

As it turned out, that circumstance arose sooner than expected. I was reading Mary Craig's book "Kundun", the biography of the family of the Dalai Lama, in which she refers to the search for the infant Dalai Lama in 1937 and his discovery in Taktser, one of six villages under the jurisdiction of Kumbum Monastery on the caravan route between Sining and the large monastery of Tashikiel. A search for Taktser on Bartholomew's World travel map of China was unsuccessful, but, in the course of the search my attention was suddenly caught by a town not far south of Sining. Sure enough it was Kweiteh, spelt Kueiteh on the map. Further research indicated that it is now known by the Chinese name of Guide. The Tibetan name has always been Trika. It lies on the south bank of the Yellow River some 70 miles from Sining. Tibetans account for 32% of the area's population, the remainder being Chinese and Muslim.

Back to the cover. I found that the two Chinese characters in the top segment of the all-Chinese Kweiteh c.d.s. were in fact, Ching Hai, the name by which the Chinese refer to the Tibetan province of Amdo which they annexed in 1914.

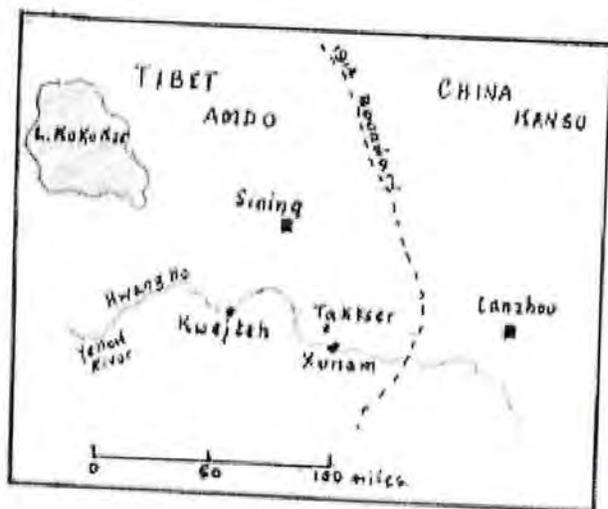
The name Ching hai means "Azure Sea", in Tibetan Koko Nor. This is, of course, the name of the great salt lake covering an area of 1600 square miles at a height of 10,000 ft. lying about 50 miles WNW of Sining.

So here is a Chinese cover originating within the area of ethnic Tibet and with a destination within the same territory. Other similar covers must exist and may well be held in the collections of members. Such covers would certainly add an extra dimension to a Tibetan collection.



KWEITEH

CHINGHAI
(+ AMDO)



Chinese Franking but a Tibetan Cover

1948 Red Band cover from Kweiteh, Chinghai (now *Guide*; Tibetan *Trika*) to Sining via Lanzhou, franked with a block of 40 x 50c Gold Yuan 0/ps on 40c brown lake (SG 1084) folded around the cover, cancelled Kweiteh 22nd day, 3rd month; routed Lanzhou 23rd of 3rd month; Sining receipt; 24th 3rd month. Oblong Chinghai despatch in red.

Both Kweiteh and Sining were within Tibet until China annexed Amdo in 1914. The XIV Dalai Lama was born at Taktser, 40 miles east of Kweiteh in 1935.

More Thankot Covers

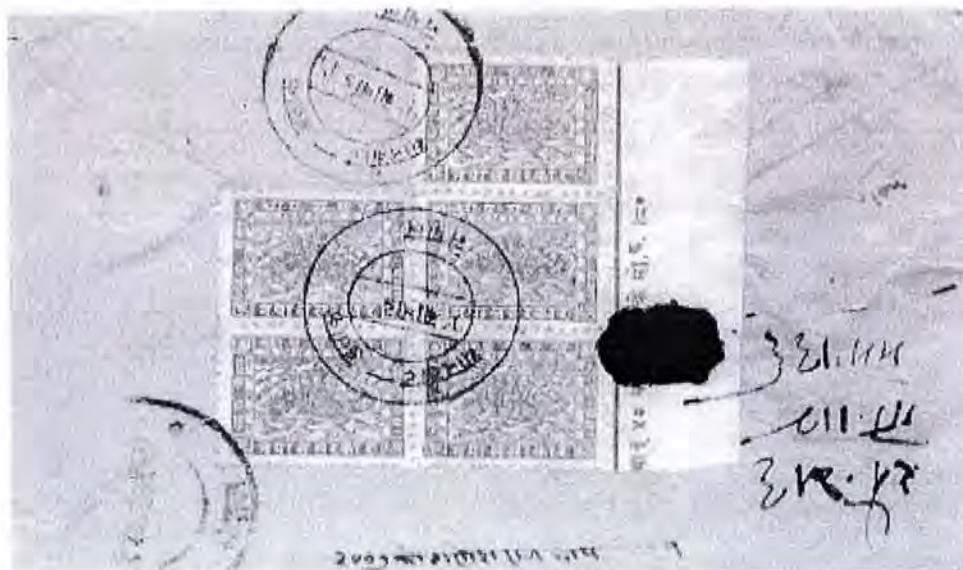
The philatelic cover sent from Thankot to Kantipur (Kathmandu) illustrated in Postal Himal No. 95 & 96 is not the only one of this kind of cover.

In the Nepal Philatelic Society Journal "Philately" issued on the occasion of the National Philatelic Exhibition "Nephil 98", page 85, is illustrated a page of Sundar Agrawal's Collection with an identical envelope Wa 4a with the "ath paisa" overprint 'inverted'. The cover was sent from Thankot to Kantipur 11 Asar 11, also an early date for this Thankot 'small circle' cancel, franked with a higher rate, due to the registration fee. The reverse of the cover is not shown so I cannot see if additional stamps have been used.

In my own collection I have another philatelically inspired envelope, (see cover illustration), also sent from Thankot to Kantipur and on the same day as the cover before; 11 Asar 11.

The following stamps were used on the stationery envelope with the 2 paisa error of stamp die in red, *not overprinted 'athpaise', Wa4.*

- a pair of 2 paisa pale brown Pashupati
- a pair of 4 paisa green Pashupati, both pairs imperforate
- a single 2 paisa green error of colour, pos.17
- one anna Plate II
- 2 annas brown-red.



The reverse of the cover (illustrated above) has 5 Pashupati 2 paisa error of colour green.

When adding all these stamps, the 44 paisa is not a correct rate for a registered cover. The postal clerk noted on the reverse, the correct fee of 36 paisa.

I have never seen a commercially used postal envelope Wa4 and though the cover has passed through the mail, I unfortunately cannot see this as a genuine commercially used cover.

Dick van der Wateren.
1st Quarter 1999

STAMP SHOW 2000

Earls Court, London, 22 – 28 May 2000

Our Society will be holding a meeting at this exhibition on Friday 26 May 2000
10.30 – 13.30

The first part of the meeting will be an open forum for all members attending to discuss the activities of the Circle.

After the business session Prof. Armand Singer will give a lecture entitled:

“Nepal and Tibet the Penultimate”

He will also be advertising his new book ‘Officials of Tibet’

We are trying to arrange a dinner venue in the evening, on the same day for members to attend. Details have not been finalised yet.

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Plus the following postage per issue: USA \$.52, Europe
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To calculate the number of lines your advertisement will require, count 74 letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. Appropriate headings will be used if not indicated. After receipt, the advertisement will appear in the next issue of Postal Himal.

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<http://fuchs-online.com/ntpssc>

WANTED

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I will purchase and/or trade better stamps and covers. Also wanted – better “India Used In Nepal”, Censored mail from Nepal and Tibet, Nepal/Tibet and Nepal/India combination covers, unusual Nepal covers from 1950’s and 1960’s.

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Nepal Pashupati period covers bearing stamps from the 1907, 1930 and 1935 issues (including mixed issues on cover). Also a large used block of the 1 Rupee 1930 issue. Offers invited – please send photocopies to:-

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I-39100
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BHUTAN
SIKKIM**

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