

Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpssc>





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

	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>Life Member</u>
Great Britain	£12	£33	£250
USA	\$18	\$50	\$375
Europe	€19	€52	€390

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

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
C72 Calle Miguel Angel
El Sueno - Fase I
El Chaparral
03184 Torrevieja
Alicante
Spain
Phone & Fax 34 96 6784701
email: hepper@terra.es

Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett
6 Rainbow Court
Warwick, RI 02889-1118
USA
Phone (401) 738 0466
email: editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

The Board of Directors:

President:	Prof. Armand Singer, armand.singer@mail.wvu.edu	Past President:	Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl
Vice President:	Mr. Dick van der Wateren	Secretary:	Mr. Colin T. Hepper
Treasurer:	Mr. Colin T. Hepper	Auctioneer:	Mr. Leo Martyn
Members at large:	Mr. Christopher Kinch, Mr. Alan Warren	Editor:	Mr. Richard M. Hanchett

Representatives:

Europe: Mr. Colin T. Hepper - see address above
Nepal: Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, G. P. O. Box 72, Kathmandu, Nepal
USA: Mr. Roger Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94024, USA

Life Members: Mario C. Barbieri, Jeremy Brewer, Geoffrey Flack, P. Gupta, Richard M. Hanchett, Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, William Janson, Kenneth Javonovich, G. Lenser, Leo Martyn, R. Murray, Peter Planken, Barbara Praytor, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Roger Skinner, Dick van der Wateren, Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.

New Members: Edmond Weissberg, 92 Rue De La Gardette, F 84270 Vedene, FRANCE
Bengt-Erik Larsson, Arenprisgatan 43, S-416 52 Goteborg, SWEDEN
Mr. Bo Christer Olsson, Munkebackgatan 24B, 416 53 Goteborg, SWEDEN

Change of Address: Richard Azizkham, 8595 Jordon Road, Cincinnati OH 45002
Mike McKillip, 7052 Remington Oaks Loop, Lakeland FL 33810-4788
G. Flack, Box 16011, Lynn Valley Postal Outlet, North Vancouver BC, CANADA V7J 3S9

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues: John Nordquist, Richard A. Salisbury, Larry Scott

Resigned: James Younger, P. Spencer, F. Malpas

Deceased: Barney McCasland

Lost Members: (Anyone knowing the address, please send it in)

<u>Publishing Schedule:</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cutoff for Articles</u>	<u>Into Mail</u>
	123 - 3rd Quarter 2005	August 27, 2005	September 17, 2005
	124 - 4th Quarter 2005	November 19, 2005	December 03, 2005
	125 - 1st Quarter 2006	February 24, 2006	March 18, 2006
	126 - 2nd Quarter 2006	June 02, 2006	June 20, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officer's Corner	Dick van der Wateren	1	Chomorak Postmark	Armand E. Singer	10
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	1	Phari Overprint - Again!	Jeremy Brewer	11
From Tibet to North Borneo	Jeremy Brewer	2	Nepal's Stamp Designer	J. L. Gobert	13
2004 Combined Accounts	Colin Hepper	5	Two Interesting Covers	Colin Hepper	14
Nepal's Post Offices	Colin Hepper	6	Movie Review	Alan Warren	15
Nepal New Issues 2005		7	Special Cancellations	Surendra Lal Shrestha	16
Tibet or Bhutan	Surendra Lal Shrestha	8			

Officer's Corner

Sometimes there are so many items for the serious collector that you need more money. Sometimes you can't find any good items for your collection. And sometimes, even if you have money, there aren't any auction lots and nobody offers to sell you anything.

In February, one of my Nepalese friends, told me that he had in his shop a document authorizing the use of a large stamp series for fiscal documents. He said that he could give me the official document in which the government ordered the fiscal use of the so-called Map series of stamps, issued BS Baisakh 1, 2011 (corresponding to April 13, 1954 A.D.). Unfortunately I do not yet have the document and so cannot show it, but he has sent me the following information: In the HMG public notice in *Nepal Gazette* on BS Poush 19, 2011 (January 3, 1955 A.D.) it was stated that the Map series were to be used for **revenue** purposes from BS Magh 1, 2011 (January 14, 1955 A.D.). These stamps were to be used on

Court documents (*Lifa*), Application Letters (*Niwedana patra*) and any other forms for revenue purposes.

However, in another notice published in *Nepal Gazette* on BS Falgun 19, 2012 (March 12, 1956 A.D.) out of the stamps being used for revenue purposes, the stamps of the denominations 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 20 and 24 paisa were again to be used for postal purposes also, i.e., these 8 stamps could be used for both postal and revenue purposes. The remaining stamps with denominations 32 and 50 paisa and Rs. 1 and 2 were to continue to be used only for **revenue** purposes.

This has made me very happy and a new page has been born in my collection. I am exhibiting my Revenue collection in a Philatelic Exhibition in the south of the Netherlands during the 3rd week of May and this page is a welcome change in the mostly black-and-white Documentary-, Service- and other revenue stamps

Dick van der Wateren

Editor's Ramblings

Enclosed with this issue you will find a copy of the newest postal card from Nepal. I would like to thank our Vice-President Dick van der Wateren for making this possible. Dick purchased these during his last visit to Nepal for the members. Thank you, Dick.

Also, a new series begins on page 6. Colin Hepper has purchased a large number of photographs of the Post Offices of Nepal. The photos were all taken by Punny Sthapit. We expect that it will take between 5 and 10 years to publish the entire series. I intend to publish one, or at most two, of the photos in each issue. If there is a shortage of articles for any issue, I will NOT publish extra pages of the photos just to fill up the issue. A still can use more articles and I ask each of you to please supply some article to our Journal. Thanks in advance.

Also, Colin's new book on the modern postmarks of Nepal has been published by him.

Please see page 15 for the particulars of the book and how to order it.

On page 5 of this issue you will find the combined accounts of the Society from our Treasurer. As usual, the largest amount has been for postage for the mailing of *Postal Himal*, followed by the cost for printing it.

Jeremy Brewer has very sharp eyes as Armand Singer's article on page 10 shows!

Can you supply any information to the question asked by Surendra Lal Shrestha in the article on page 8? And speaking of Jeremy Brewer, please see his article on page 11.

Meet Nepal's prolific stamp designer on page 13. Colin Hepper can always find something interesting, just see page 14.

And, I think, a first for *PH* - a movie review by Alan Warren on page 15.

Enjoy the issue!!

From Tibet to North Borneo

Jeremy Brewer

During the early part of 1912, newspapers in India reported that the Dalai Lama's exiled Government in Darjeeling and Kalimpong was contemplating the production of postage stamps. Trial printings from apparently wooden plates, each of twelve subjects, were made. Those Trials that have survived, which are not in the colours of the issued stamps, are represented by the 1/6, 1/3 and 1/2 tanks values.

Meanwhile, in China, the rebellion against the Manchus was continuing apace. It soon spread to Tibet where disagreement within the Chinese military amongst supporters of the Emperor, on the one hand, and those favoring the Republicans, on the other, was a major factor in fomenting strife and a breakdown in discipline. This was exacerbated by food shortages leading eventually to starvation, and antipathy from the Tibetan populace. In these chaotic circumstances the exiles found encouragement to think about returning, and, towards the end of June 1912, the Dalai Lama together with his Ministers and retinue began the return journey from the Indian border via Sikkim and the Chumbi valley and then Ralung towards Lhasa. Progress was very slow, stones and boulders being cleared from the pathway in deference as the party advanced. The population from miles around joined the procession jostling for a sight of His Holiness. Every so often a stop would be made for visiting a monastery or whilst the Lama dispensed blessings. Beyond Ralung the Dalai Lama stayed at Yardok Samding monastery and then at Chokhar Yangtse awaiting the long delayed departure of the Chinese from Lhasa. Eventually, on a day calculated as being suitably auspicious, he entered Lhasa - around the middle of January 1913.

At the commencement of the journey, the Dalai Lama had spent about a week in Chumbi at the residence of the British Trade Agent, David MacDonald who, like Rose-Meyer the Telegraph Superintendent when at Phari, had

assisted his escape from Chinese pursuers two years earlier.

Illustrated is a very early envelope bearing each denomination of the 1912 issue cancelled with a Gyantse postmark, in black ink, of the Tibetan post office. It is addressed to North Borneo and has a transit postmark of Singapore, dated 12th July 1912, and a receipt postmark of British North Borneo, dated 16th July 1912. Tibet, as we know, never joined the UPU and thus its stamps were only valid internally. The cover should, of course, bear in addition Indian postage to pay the rate to North Borneo. Nevertheless, it must have been carried by the British-India postal system initially or it would not have reached its destination.

Other correspondence that has traveled east from Tibet (but not to Borneo!) indicates that the average time to Singapore from the Sikkim-Tibet border area is 13 or 14 days. Therefore, if from Yatung, the cover would have been placed in the mails during the last few days of June; if from Gyantse, three to five days earlier than that. It is from David MacDonald and is directed "via Siligury". It also has "P.D." marked on the face in red crayon. I interpret that as "paid to destination" and I conjecture, too, that the notation was made by the postal clerk. Not by an employee of the Tibetan service, which was not yet in operation, but by the British-Indian office at Yatung. The "P.D." is not a due marking, for a handstamp was furnished for that purpose, and, too, there is no evidence of the collection of charges in British North Borneo.

My thoughts are that some of the 'new' Tibetan stamps were given to MacDonald during the Dalai Lama's stay with him in Chumbi. The Dalai Lama, incidentally, was not the only Tibetan occupying his residence. Not only had MacDonald protected the Dalai Lama from the Chinese during his flight from Lhasa in 1910, but, moreover, had done the same for the young man who subsequently married

Tsarong's daughter and is so well known to Tibetan philatelists, having adopted her family's name. A few stamps would have been an inconsequential recompense! In fact, quite apart from this, there are other recorded instances of Tibetan postal material being distributed prior to the entourage reaching Lhasa. So, how did this letter get into the mails? Well, I suggest the Tibetan cancellations of Gyantse were applied by favour at Chumbi and the envelope passed by MacDonald to the Yatung postmaster or his clerk. A misunderstanding by one or the other

seems to have been quite punctilious in observing this limitation, for he absented himself from the meeting at Ralung between the Tashi Lama and the Dalai Lama some weeks later despite earnest requests from both to attend. It seems possible, thus, that Gyantse was shown as the return address because this town was already determined by the Tibetans for their own post office. MacDonald, presumably because the cover was notionally pre-paid by Tibetan stamps, regarded it as the post office of return.



postal official as to the status of the Tibetan stamps vis-à-vis the UPU led to the omission of the Indian franking. I don't see any collusion - merely that the postal official was taken 'off-guard' because of the novelty of the situation and an over-reliance on a misconception of the stamps' limitations by his Trade Agent.

Interestingly, the return address for the POSTAL SERVICE (should the letter be undeliverable for any reason) noted on the envelope is 'D. McDonald, GPO Gyantse'. MacDonald's jurisdiction, as Trade Agent of Yatung only at that time, did not extend beyond the territory between Phari and Kangma. He

The colours of the set of stamps affixed to the envelope, as far as I can see using Waterfall's listing (and I am being cautious here), are Green, Ultramarine, Deep Violet, Brown-Red and Dull Vermillion. These stamps, then, would have been printed in India and this cover represents a record of the earliest printings.

The only other covers that I have seen dated 1912 and bearing Tibetan stamps also included the complete set and were cancelled with the Tibetan Gyantse postmark. They were mailed from the British-India post office at Gyantse franked, correctly, with Indian stamps and carried within the Indian postal system. The

Tibetan stamps served no purpose as prepayment of postal charges but are valuable for determining early printings. Whether or not the stamps were cancelled after the Tibetan office was officially opened to the public is a moot point. Moreover, I have not come across any covers franked with Tibetan stamps cancelled at either Phari or Lhasa and, whether by favour or not, dated 1912. Therefore, I tend to the view that it was not before the return of the exiled Government to Lhasa in January 1913 that any other post office was open; in which case the Gyantse post office could hardly function on its own. It is quite possible, too, that the opening of the post offices was delayed beyond 1913 even by some months. Of course, when eventually the Chinese authorities publish the Tibetan Archive, many of today's uncertainties should be resolved. However, whether or not there will be anything in the way of records regarding the media and colours used for printing is problematical. In the meantime we must glean what information we can from the stamps and covers themselves.

During 1913 a number of covers franked with the complete set supplemented by Indian stamps was sent to Singapore and to England. Those observed are addressed to L. C. Teng and Huttenbach Bros. in Singapore and to W. T. Wilson in England. The Tibetan stamps are cancelled Gyantse or Lhasa. Additionally, there are a few covers addressed to H. J. Simmons in Ramsgate, England bearing just one or two Tibetan stamps together with the Indian franking.

As mentioned earlier, I haven't seen a cover of 1912 with the fret postmark of Phari. This, though, could be just my bad luck! Nor have I come across any correspondence, whether early or late, used during the duration of the 1912 issue bearing the first set accompanied by the sang value. As we all know, the one sang was carved in identical fashion to the tanka denominations but printed in somewhat drab grey-green shades quite unlike the bright greens of the early ink printings of the one-sixth tanka. It certainly served a purpose for payment for telegram charges circa 1950, but in 1912 at a

value equivalent to six and two-thirds tankas it obviously was not a postal rate. A likely explanation is that the origin of the central design of the first issue, the Tibetan lion (the ancestry of which can be traced back to the Yarlung kings), was adopted from the s(r)ang coin of 1909. This s(r)ang coin together with two (s)kar values can be regarded as the earliest for Independent Tibet. No doubt, a one sang stamp design was carved simultaneously with the other values - as the prototype in all probability - but was not printed and used as a postage stamp. Presumably, then, only many years later was the engraved plate revived and printings made of stamps to fulfill the function of receipts for payment of telegram charges. Hence the presence of the word "postage" in the design of the telegraph stamp! Incidentally, this would not be the only occasion an inscription from Tibetan coins would be employed in that country's stamp design: The Radio Telegraph stamps of circa the late 1940s have been printed with illustrations - lions, mountains, clouds - copied from the 5 sho coins of that period. If anyone should have any envelopes dated in 1912 to which Tibetan stamps have been affixed, whether cancelled by favor or otherwise, would they please write to the Editor with details and, if possible, illustrations. Identification of the colours of the stamps is not needed, so that should make it easier.



one s(r)ang coin

References: Publications referred to include those by the authors David MacDonald, Tsepon W. D. Shakabpa, David Snellgrove and Hugh Richardson, Rinchen Dolma Taring.

Coins - from articles and auction catalogue descriptions by Nicholas Rhodes.

The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Combined Accounts
01 January 2004 - 31 December 2004

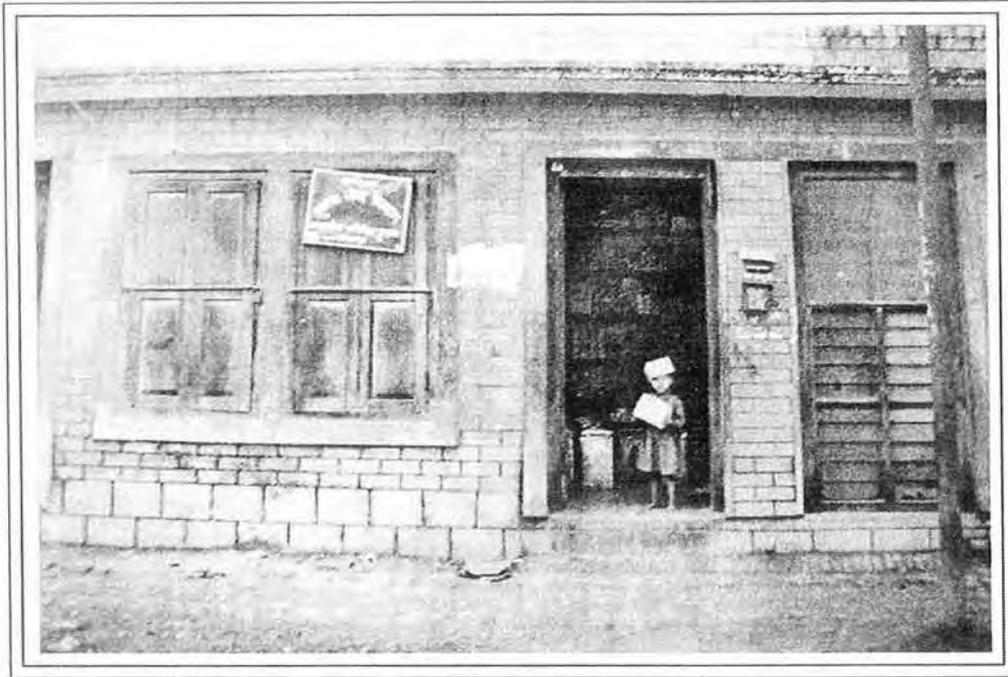
Colin Hepper

USA (\$)	Income		Expenditure
Subscriptions	594.26		
		Postal Himal Printing	509.15
		Postal Himal Postage	869.18
		Miscellaneous	144.00
		Trophy for 2004 WESTPEX	45.47
Total	594.26		1567.80
Balance (Income-Expenditure)	-973.54		
Balance Brought Forward	1856.57		
Savings Account	1038.32		
Total	1921.35		

Europe (£)	Income		Expenditure
Current Account			
Subscriptions	637.66	Postage	1.72
		ABPS Subscriptions	14.40
Business Account			
Opening Transfer	5000.00		
Bank Interest	24.16		
Total	5682.82		16.12
Balance Forward	585.46		
Total Income	6272.28	Total Expenditure	16.12
Balance (Income-Expenditure)	6256.16		
Combined Total	£'s Sterling		
USA converted to £'s	1067.42		
Europe	6256.16		
TOTAL	7323.58		

NEPAL POST OFFICE PICTURES

Colin Hepper
photos by Punny Sthapit



Jawalakhel Atirikta Hulak, Lalitpur



Lubhu Chhoti Hulak, Lalitpur

NEPAL NEW ISSUE PROGRAM for 2005

- Apr Animal Series, 4 stamps, Rs 10 each (Asiatic Wild Elephant, Gangetic Dolphin, Chinese Pangolin, Clouded Leopard)
May Golden Jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Makalu, Rs 10
May Golden Jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Kanchanjunga, Rs 10
May Buddha Series, Rs 10
Jun Fruit Series, 4 stamps, Rs 10 each
Jul 59th Birthday of the King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Rs 5
Jul National Library, Bhrikuti
Aug Golden Jubilee of Diplomatic Relations between Nepal and China
Sep World Heritage Series, Rs 10
Oct 125 Years of Nepal Postage Stamps, Rs 50
Nov Ornament Series, Rs 5
Dec Visit Nepal Series, 2 stamps, Rs 5 each

Dalai Lama on Austrian Stamp

The Austrian Postal Service had initially planned to issue a postage stamp with His Holiness as the motif to commemorate his 70th birthday on July 6, 2005. However, because of pressure from the Chinese embassy on the Austrian government, this plan was shelved, although all the preliminary work on the design of the postage stamp has been completed.

Fortunately, it is possible in Austria for private citizens to order customized postage stamps, although at a higher price. Upon hearing about the cancellation of the Dalai Lama postage stamp, an Austrian citizen, Heinz Stoff, contacted the Austrian postal service regarding placement of an order for a stamp on His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. This stamp will be brought out to commemorate His Holiness' 70th birthday as had been originally planned. The Chinese have protested again but this time to no avail. The Austrian postal service has informed them that "their hands are bound".

The stamps will officially be worth 55 cents. Stoff has received orders for about 9,000 stamps. For an order under 10,000 each stamp will cost €1.16. For an order of 10,000 stamps each stamp will cost €1.10. The stamps are only valid in Austria.

Orders can be placed by writing to kailash473@gmx.at

editors note: - The above two articles are reprinted with the permission of Stamps of India. Stamps of India is published every Thursday as an email. Their web address is www.stampsofindia.com. Colin Hepper also sent a copy of Nepal's New Issues for 2005. To subscribe, send an email giving you name, postal address, and philatelic interests to subs@stampsofindia.com.

A reminder that our society will have a meeting next year during the world philatelic exhibition **WASHINGTON 2006** which will run from May 27 through June 3, 2006 in Washington, DC USA

This will certainly be a huge exhibition. Why not plan now to attend and be part of it.

Also remember that our society will have a meeting at **LONDON 2010**.

Start making plans now to attend both of these FIP sponsored exhibitions.

A Note on a Chomorak Postmark

Armand E. Singer

There is, as Tibetan collectors already know, a whole set of six all-native postmarks (Waterfall, 1965 ed., p. 121; 1981 ed., p. 127, calls them cancellation type IX, but Hellrigl's *Postal Markings of Tibet* [Geoffrey Flack, 1966], p. 36, more cautiously terms them postmarks). Hellrigl illustrates all six, giving them a high rank of 90 points. They are indeed rare. I, for one, cannot recall ever seeing one actually used to cancel a stamp, only as transit (arrival?) backstamping. Waterfall does list them on cover (which would seem to imply canceling) as well as backstamps (1965 ed., p. 165; 1981 ed., p. 177). Until now. My friend Jeremy Brewer studied the illustration in my Tibet collection *Supplement* (George Alevizos, 1998), p.43, of a little decorative page gotten up by Tsarong Shape's grandson Jigme. In the center he

discovered, the cancel is clearly Chomorak, Waterfall type IX, Hellrigl T50.

It should be noted that the cancel, if not heavily inked, is so sharp [it did not reproduce very clearly - editor] as to suggest little, if any, previous use. Jigme's grandfather was, be it remembered, postmaster general. Was this cancel part of postal archives, an initial strike of what was to be sent out to postal officials in the town in question - a sort of "proof" usage (see the arguments in my recent *Essays and Proofs of Tibet* [Vancouver: Flack, 2004])?

So then, Chomorak does exist as a cancel. By the way, there are various spellings of this little village, situated some "200 miles due east of Lhasa ... the farthest east of any reported native Tibetan cancellation" (Waterfall, 1965 ed., p. 116; 1981 ed., p. 122).



That Wretched “PHARI/TIBET Overprint” - Again!

Jeremy Brewer

Included in the Tibet collection of Garrett-Adams, sold intact by Christies in 1993, was a page of four values of early perforated stamps of the 1933 issue. A 1/2t, 2/3t, 1t and 2t. These had all been marred by the application of a somewhat clogged rubber stamp impression, in English, reading in two lines, one above the other, PHARI/TIBET.

Since then at least two discourses have appeared both discussing at great length the pros and cons of authenticity of the impression. George Bourke back in 1995 under the title “A Mysterious Phari Tibet Cancel” (PH 82) and now Armand Singer in his “The Essays and Proofs of Tibet” recently reviewed, also in *Postal Himal* (PH 119). Bourke, harshly dismissive of Garrett-Adams, a scholarly man, even refers to the impression as a ‘canceller’ whilst Singer, amidst profound professional analysis, makes the bold but surely abstruse suggestion that the impressions are ‘possible examples of true essays or proofs’. Garrett-Adams, however, considered them bogus. I doubt they are even that, for bogus implies deception. I regard them as being no more than a well-meaning gesture by a correspondent at Phari to emphasize examples of stamps obtainable from the local TIBETAN post office.

Although both authors touch upon the fact that an English inscription has been applied to a Tibetan stamp neither seems to adequately appreciate that the Tibetan postal system was TIBETAN - not British and not Indian. The stamps were intrinsic to the Tibetan service and had nothing whatsoever to do with that of British-India.

Here is the full text from Garrett-Adams’ album page which is headed ‘GENUINE STAMP - BOGUS POSTMARK’ - “These 4 stamps were found added to a genuine cover from Indian P.O., Pharijong of Oct. 1934

addressed to E.J. Currell, St. John’s College, Umtata, Cape Province, South Africa. The stamps were on top of inscription ‘By Air’ and over Blue Registered line.”

Illustrated is the cover upon which the Tibetan stamps were affixed. It is dated 27 Oct. 34. Underneath the horizontal blue registration line to the left is written, in pencil, ‘By Air’. Mr. Currell left Eastleigh in Hampshire, England during 1931 to take up an appointment at St. John’s College, Umtata. Like many other collectors he arranged for self-addressed covers to be returned to him from different post offices abroad.

As can be seen there is no room below the air mail label for more than four stamps which probably accounts for the lack of a 4t value. Their removal yields a scarce Tibet to South Africa registered air mail cover. Nevertheless, the franking via the Indian office appears excessive, despite the very recent increase to 3 annas of the registration fee. Possibly Mr. Currell was not aware that an additional Indian internal air fee no longer applied. More likely, though, he did not have a sufficient variety of Indian stamps for the rate. On the reverse is a transit postmark of Cairo, the envelope being received at Umtata on 17th November.

Reverting to the Tibetan stamps themselves, I suggest they were marked using a proprietary kit such as that produced as the ‘John Bull Printing Outfit’. This consisted of various sized individual letters of the alphabet, numerals, etc. in different typestyles cut in relief on small blocks of rubber which were placed in metal channels to form words or messages. The channels were held by a handle and applied to an inking pad and then to a printing surface - in this instance the Tibetan stamps. The line beneath the print, where apparent, is merely the edge of the metal channel. Unhappily, all that

has been achieved is the ruin of four early printings of the 1933 issue.

curios the 1/2t and 2t values can be seen in colour adorning the outer cover of Postal Himal 82 and on page 16 of "The Essays and Proofs of Tibet".

For those readers unacquainted with these



R. E. J. Currell.
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
UMTATA, C. P.



The illustrations of the stamps were copied from the cover of PH 82 (2nd Quarter 1995) - Editor.

Nepal's Stamp Designer

sent in by J. L. Gobert of Belgium via Colin Hepper



It took a lot of toying with initials before he decided on KK Karmacharya. “just enough K’s,” laughs Kancha Kumar Karmacharya, the 57-year old artist and Nepal’s most prolific postage stamp designer. As he nears retirement this year, KK has been counting all the postage stamps he has designed and there is a grand total of 389 stamps since 1967.

His first stamp was the International Tourism Year stamp on 14 October 1967. “its hard to choose my favourite,” he says when asked to point out the stamp he is most proud of. “I wasn’t happy with all of them,” he says. The ones he enjoyed doing the most were those reflecting Nepal’s biodiversity: blocks of four flowers, butterflies and birds. “They were quite popular,” he recalled. Then there was the strip with Mt Everest, Lhotse and Nuptse that were unique when they came out in 1979. Karmacharya is no philatelist but he has collected all of his first day covers diligently. “It’s hard enough trying to collect my own,” he smiles, “I never was interested in collecting stamps anyway, just designing them.” His most expensive stamp costs Rs 25, and now sells for Rs 80.

Painting on canvas and designing stamps are very different, says Karmacharya. “When I first began, I was a little baffled because you design on A4 size and then it gets minimized, all the space just

disappears. “You have to think little while working big,” he says. As an artist, it took quite a while to get used to the miniaturization, but he did.

As emails replace snail mail, technology has also overtaken stamp designing. “All attention has moved to the technical and this has not necessarily been helpful to creativity,” he says. Despite all his years at the post office, KK never

took to letter writing. His passion remains with brushes and colours. He is well known for his larger water and oil works on canvas. Contemporary abstract compositions are his forte but he likes experimenting with modern figurative works too. KK Karmacharya is designing his last few stamps before retiring in April and he is already looking forward to painting fulltime.

This article appeared in the *Times* 7-13 January 2005 #229 page 19 - editor.

Ed Viesturs reached the summit of Nepal’s Mount Annapurna on May 12th, becoming the first American (and only the 12th mountaineer) to climb the 14 highest peaks in the world, all of which are over 26,240 feet in height. Viesturs is 44 years old and lives on Bainbridge Island in Washington State. He reached the 26,540 foot summit during the afternoon, according to reports from the mountain.

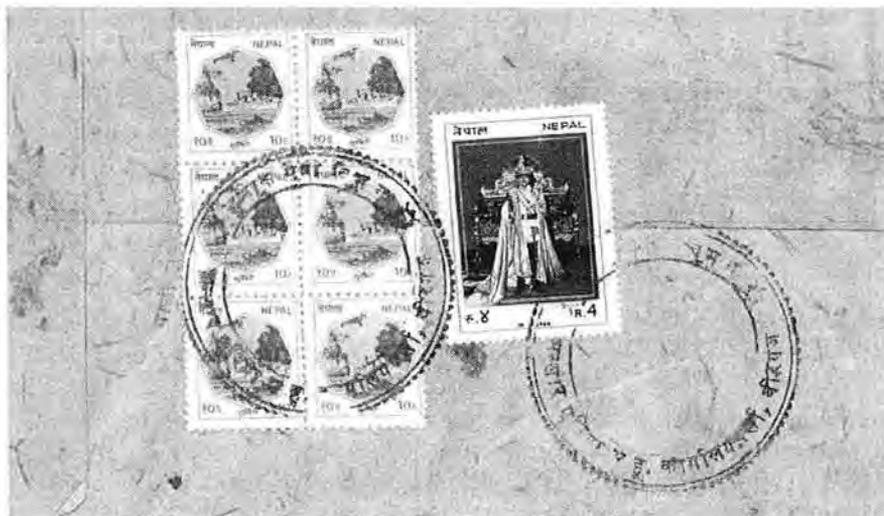
The first mountaineer to accomplish the feat of climbing the 14 highest peaks was the Italian Reinhold Messner.

Two Interesting Covers

Colin Hepper



The illustrated cover is from Bisan Pachani Post Office which is in the Panchthar District. It is unusual in that the postmark has no wording in it all. To the right of the block of stamps is hand written, A. Hu. Bisan Panchi. Under the block of stamps is hand written '10 Postage Due.', so it would seem that the registered letter was pre-stamped with 4.50Rs. by the sender before being handed in at the post office. The reverse of the cover has the hand written registration details and the date 045/13/24 = May 1989.



Registered letter with the large cancellation of the Postal Services Department (Hulak Sewa Bibhag), Birgang, from Bhansar Area Atirikta Hulak, Parsa. There is no indication in the postmark of the date but it is recorded on reverse as 16/7/2046 = October 1990

A Film Set in Bhutan: A Review

Alan Warren

Travelers & Magicians, written and directed by Khyentse Norbu; with Tshewang Dendup, Sonam Lhamo, Lhakpa Dorji, Deki Yangzom, Sonam Kinga, 2004.

For the armchair traveler who desires to see a film with many breathtaking scenes of the Himalayan Mountains, this is the film for you. Set in modern Bhutan and filmed there, the movie tells two stories that have many parallels.

Dondup is a minor government official in a small town in Bhutan and desires to go to America to escape boredom and to make money. When he finally receives a letter from a friend in the USA advising him to come, he hastily leaves but misses the bus and has to hitchhike. Along the way he meets several other travelers.

One of his fellow journeymen is a monk who tells the story of another man who also dreams of searching for a more meaningful life. This second story unfolds within the first and the plot turns to lust and murder.

Throughout the film Dondup is frustrated by delays to make the connections he needs in order to go to America. Both stories raise questions about these yearnings for a different life, and whether the grass is truly greener elsewhere.

The narratives are told against a wonderful background of the rivers, woods, back roads, and mountains of Bhutan. Most of the actors are natives with no special training. It is the magic of director Norbu that brings out the wonderful performances.

Khyentse Norbu first made a name with his earlier film *The Cup* (1999), which won prizes at several film festivals. He is also known as His Eminence Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche and is a member of one of Bhutan's noble families. This movie may not hit the major movie complexes but if you have an art film theatre near you, watch for it. You will be rewarded.

Word has been received that Colin Hepper's new book 'The Modern Postmarks of Nepal' has been published by the author. The book is hard bound, 256 pages in length and has over 1650 illustrations of postal markings of Nepal covering the period 1949-2004. The book is available from the author (see inside front cover for Colin's postal mail and email addresses). The cost of the book which includes postage and packing is €70 or £50 to Europe and €85 or £60 or \$110 to the Rest of the World.

Payment from USA members, and those who wish to pay in US\$, can be made to Roger Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94024-5003. The book will be mailed from Spain.

Please let me know your wants for Nepal Stamps, First Day Covers, Postal Stationery, Used Covers
Email enquires appreciated at: purast69@hotmail.com
Punya R. Sthapit, GPO Box 1079, Kathmandu, Nepal

The following information was supplied by Surendra Lal Shrestha

Special Cancellation Postmarks used in 2004

1. Nepal Bharat Philatelic Exhibition	25 January
2. Grand Opening Ceremony of the International Mountain Museum, Pokhara	05 February
3. Golden Jubilee of Marwadi Sewa Samiti, Nepal	09 April
4. Thematic Philatelic Exhibition	06 July
5. 400 Years of Guru Granth Sahib	18 September
6. Dharanphil, UPU Day	09 October
7. Dharanphil, Dharanphil Day	10 October
8. Dharanphil, Palmares Day	11 October
9. The Golden Jubilee of Mt. Cho-Oyu Philatelic Exhibition	17 October
10. The Golden Jubilee of the Ascent of Mt. Cho-Oyu	19 October
11. Second World Buddhist Summit, Lumbini, Nepal	30 November
12. Golden Jubilee of the Establishment of Madan Puraskar	13 December

Julie Marshall of Australia sent in the following information on the results of Pacific Explorer 2005 World Stamp Expo held in Sydney from 21 to 24 April. She reports that there were five entries of interest to our group - four collections on Nepal all exhibited by Nepalese nationals and one exhibit on Tibet by a collector from Hong Kong. She was unable to attend the Expo and obtained the details from one of the organizers.

Rameswar Man Karmacharya was awarded a Large Silver medal for the exhibit "Lord Pashupati".

Binaya Manandhar was awarded a Silver medal for the exhibit "Misprints and Errors of Nepal Stamps and Stationary".

Rishi Kumar Tulsyan was awarded a Large Vermeil for the exhibit "Postal Stationary of Nepal".

Danny Kin Chi Wong was awarded a Large Vermeil medal for the exhibit "Development of Postal Services in Tibet".

Deepak Manadhar was awarded a Vermeil medal for the exhibit "Postal Stationaries of Nepal".

Correction: The last paragraph in PH 121, page 4 reads as follows: Conclusion: Nepal's mills of justice grind most slowly, and at least in this case seem to have ground much grain. **It should have read:** Conclusion: Nepal's mills of justice grind most slowly, and, at least in this case, do not seem to have ground much grain.

APS STAMPSHOW August 4-7, 2005 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information, call Ken Martin at (814) 933-3817 or send an email to APS at stampshow@stamps.org or visit their web site at <http://www.stamps.org/stampshow/intro.htm>