

NEPAL PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER  
(including Tibet)

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PRESIDENT

DR. PIERRE COUVREUR

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Dear Friends,

First I must thank all of you who keep sending along information and questions to some of the more puzzling aspects of Nepalese philately. It does make life much easier for producing this newsletter, and I am sure will be of benefit to all of us.

CORRECTED PROGRAMME OF STAMPS TO BE ISSUED 1977

In addition to those listed in newsletter No. 3 there will be an issue on 2nd October 1977, commemorating the 1st Anniversary of Police Mountaineering and Adventure Foundation Expedition. Values are not known at present.

NOTE

On 24th January 1977 there was an issue of 3 values of Flowers each being 30p denomination. These were the remainder of the postponed issues of 7th November 1976. There were no official F.D.C's for this issue, but any private F.D.C's have the unusual combination of the stamps showing the year of issue as 1976 and the postmark January 1977.

It is nice to see that the magazine 'Philately' from the Nepal Philatelic Society in Kathmandu is being published again. Members may be interested in a special cancellation, which is reported in the magazine. A Regional Committee meeting of the members of W.H.O. was held at Kathmandu in the newly erected town hall. A temporary Post Office functioned for the use of participating members for the period of the meeting. The Special postmark reads "22nd Regional Committee Meeting. W.H.O. Searo, 29 Sept. - 5 Oct. Kathmandu P.O." The symbol of W.H.O was used in the centre.

Any member who wishes to join the Nepal Philatelic Society the address to write to is: The Nepal Philatelic Soc., G.P.O. Box 342, Kathmandu, Nepal. Subscription rates: 3 dollars for one year 8 dollars for 3 years.

INLAND POSTAL RATE - NEWSPAPER STAMPS

The following information has been sent by Mr. Bishnu Lal Shresta on a newspaper stamp used in conjunction with 'The Gorkhapatra' which is a local Government paper. The paper is 76 years old and although was originally a weekly paper is now issued as a daily paper. This newspaper used its own stamp for posting, from 1935 to 1960. It is printed in red ink, is 25 mm. x 29 mm. in size, imperf. and has the number  $\frac{1}{2}$  in the lower part of the stamp. Above the value are crossed Kukris and in fact it looks very similar to the present day meter cancellation. Unfortunately on the copy I have seen the details of the top half of the stamps are not clear to distinguish the inscriptions. This  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna or 2p. rate was used for newspapers up to January 1974 when the rate changed to 5p. for REGISTERED newspaper rate.

COURT FEE STAMPS

The use of Court Fee stamps on documents and the multiple use of postage stamps for paying revenue is a fascinating side-line to our collecting. It is with regret therefore that I have to report the following facts regarding one cover, which was

an official stampless cover with a 1p Court Fee stamp added. The usual bright red cancel is on the Court Fee stamp, but is not 'tied' to the cover and in addition to this the 1p. value would not pay any postal rate.

Earlier this year this cover was offered as genuine by one of our dealer-members Mr. S.K. Chatterjee to Mr. Roger Skinner in the U.S.A. The cover was checked by some of our other circle members and was returned to Mr. Chatterjee informing him that it was not genuine and should not be offered as such to other collectors.

During April I received the same cover still being offered as genuine from Mr. Chatterjee, so I must warn members to beware of all covers bearing Court Fee stamps, and in particular those emanating from Mr. Chatterjee.

1/2 ANNA BLACK - ESSAY

Some collectors in our circle have the 1/2 anna black in 'Essay' sheets, - so far four of them are known and this fact makes it a little suspicious as to them being genuine. Most of the research into these has proved inconclusive, so could I ask all members if anyone has an 'Essay' sheet would they please send all information to Lester A. Michel, 309, Yucca Circle, Colorado Springs, COLO 80906.

EARLY POSTCARDS

Since the error was reported in Newsletter No. 2 the following error has also been noticed by Mr. P. Gupta. It is a first issue with a variety in the spelling of the word Nepal - the last character being ण instead of न .

In a recent auction list more unrecorded types were listed as follows:-

- (a) 1st issue. H- Die type 2. Horse type 2. Vowel-slanted text type C ornamental type 1.
- (b) HG 27 2p brown card with die type A and inscription to the left of centre under stamp.
- (c) 1933-58 2p Postcard Sri Pashupati (Oval die) printed in bi-colour, text in lake and stamp in brown measuring 140 x 90.

Wolfgang Hellrigl has been busy with his research and writing and I hear that he will soon be having two pamphlets published. One on the Rana Seals and the other on Philatelic Literature on Nepal. This lists over 100 books and articles. Both of these brochures are being published by George Alevizos.

It is still a bit of a struggle to get the printers to keep to promises with our book on the Native Postmarks. We are now about eight weeks behind schedule, and it looks as if it will be sometime during July before it will now be available.

You will find enclosed with this newsletter the promised list of our membership. We are now 50 strong and steadily growing. I shall be having a meeting with our President Dr. Couvreur and Dr. Hellrigl in July to discuss the future plans of our circle. Any new members who join us from now on I will list their names and addresses in each newsletter.

MEMBER'S QUERY

Mr. P. Gupta has recently discovered the early Kathmandu Oval-type receiving date-stamp which has the numbers 222 hand-written below the word Nepal instead of the mechanical figures. This number 222 does not appear to be a date and I would appreciate it if any member could throw any light on this.