

NEPAL PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER  
(including Tibet)

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Dear Friends,

Autumn is with us and the stamp season has started again with Societies in the U.K. With this issue our newsletter has now been running for a year and membership has almost doubled from the initial 35 to our present number of 60. I feel that we now have an excellent foundation for the continuing expansion of our Society, and I would hope that during the next 12 months our Study Groups will become established and so benefit us all with their findings.

For those of you who returned the questionnaire (15 so far), I will wait a little longer before getting the Study Groups organised where there are sufficient numbers.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

The following members have kindly agreed to represent our Society and collect subscriptions:

U.S.A. : Mr. Frank Vignola, 105, 22nd Av., San Francisco, Cal. 94121  
INDIA : Mr. C. Tulsian, P.O. Siswa Bazar, Distt. Gorakhpur U.P.  
NEPAL : Dr. Drubra Rudra, P.O. Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu

I would like to thank these three members for their help and remind members that subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st Jan. 1978. All members outside of the three listed countries will continue to send subscriptions to myself.

MEMBERS' CHANGES OF ADDRESS

A.G. Zulueta, Jr., 3063, Steiner St., San Francisco CA 94123, U.S.A.  
E. Gunnar Okero, P.O. Box 9099, S-151 09 Sodertälje, Sweden

SOCIETY MEETING IN FRANCE

Since the last newsletter suggesting a meeting of the Circle next year in the South of France, we have had a few members who are interested, so this meeting is now definitely on. It will be held in Les Issambres on 24th, 25th, 26th May 1978 and a programme for discussion will be published later. Les Issambres is a very pleasant village on the coast situated centrally between Cannes and St. Tropez both of which can be reached in about 30 mins. Details of Hotel prices can be obtained from Dr. Pierre Couvreur, 1a Bernanne, 54, Avenue des Dolmens, F-83380, Les Issambres, (VAR) France.

B.P.A. Certificate Cancelled

The following statement has been issued by the British Philatelic Federation:-

"A genuine B.P.A. Certificate was issued on 9th December 1975 in respect of a strip of four 1 anna green stamps of Nepal, which wrongly described the denomination as 4 annas bright green (1917-18). Additional information having since become available to the B.P.F. Expert Committee, it is now known that the strip comes from a sheet of forgeries of the 1886 (1 anna issue). Accordingly Certificate No. 77753 has been cancelled. Collectors of Nepal should beware of stamps offered for sale as genuine on the alleged authority of this Certificate."

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Some members have written to query if I have the answers to some of the questions asked in previous Newsletters. In many instances unfortunately there have been no replies, but the following is a list of answers I have received:-



## REVENUE STAMPS

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The information I have received would take up a fairly large part of a newsletter but I hope to do this for you in the new year.

### 1/2 ANNA BLACK "ESSAY"

A few members who have commented on this are all of the same opinion, that they are not genuine, but no one has offered any real evidence to prove this one way or the other. However a leading specialist in Germany does put forward the argument that if these were genuine essays the printing would be the same as stamps and printed prior to 1900. The "Essays" are much sharper and seem to be printed by more modern methods than existed before 1900.

Mr. Gupta's query on the written number 222 handwritten in the Kathmandu Oval datestamps has brought replies from some of our Nepalese members who all state that this would be the date and should have been written 42.2.2, but the postal official left out the figure 4.

A recent query I received was, what do auction houses mean when they sell covers with postmarks of Hill Post Offices? Well I can only imagine that these post marks are from some of the more remote villages outside the Kathmandu Valley, and are therefore not quite as common as those from the more popular districts. I would appreciate any other comments on this fairly popular phrase used by auctioneers.

### 1907 PASHUPATI ISSUES

These first issues from Perkins Bacon seem to have produced more varieties than the two later printings. The following is a list of various recent finds, and it would be appreciated if members could let me know if they have seen any of these

### 2 PICE GREEN

The Robson Lowe sale of Feb. 1976 had a 1907 2 pice die proof in GREEN. Recently seen were a pair of 1907 2 pice printed in green perforated  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

### VALUE IN MIRROR IMAGE

Die proofs usually have the value printed in mirror image at the bottom of the card. A 2 pice brown sheet is known with the value and colour printed in mirror image at the bottom left hand corner.

### OVERPRINTED SERVICE

The 4p. Green and 8 p. Red are known overprinted SERVICE, and the only comment I can make on these is that the word 'SERVICE' is printed in exactly the same position on each stamp and it is also from the same printing block.

### PERFORATION ERRORS

The 1907 issue were perforated with a comb. perf. machine and varieties are known with perforations running diagonally across the stamps. This method also created strips of stamps being perforated offset vertically.

### WHAT COLOUR IS A STAMP?

This question often arises when one is trying to decide the colour of a particular printing (i.e. is it grey green or slate green?) We would therefore propose that we should all try to use the same colour codes to identify the stamps of Nepal and Tibet. After looking through all the various stamp Company colour charts we found that they did not really provide the precise information required. Two books that do however provide the most comprehensive ranges are (1) Taschenlexikon der Farben by A. Karnerup and J.H. Wanscher, printed in Denmark and (2) The Color Handbook, Universal Identity system published by Collectors Institute Ltd., U.S.A. We feel that the Danish book is slightly better with an easy identification system that can be linked quite easily to stamps. If any other members have seen any other books on this subject we would like to hear of them.

You might ask 'what's it all about?' Well another project we would like to get to grips with in the near future is to produce a listing of all Nepalese stamps with their appropriate colour code number and possibly a scale of rarity attached to each stamp.

C. Hepper