

NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

Once again we are round to another newsletter and it seems no time at all since I was writing the last one. It is always a pleasure to have new members join our Society and this time in particular we have ten new names to add to our list of members. On the other side of the coin however its the time of the year when we have to look hard at our subscription list and I find there are a few who have not re-joined us. If any of the names listed below are friends or are corresponding with any of you, I would appreciate it if you could 'jog their memory' for subscriptions.

NEW MEMBERS

Francis A. Westerbrook, 14, Westway Rd., Westport, Conn. 06880, U.S.A.
Kenneth M. Reed, c/o Sun Philatelic Centre, 1, Sutter St. San Francisco Calif.
94104, U.S.A.
Laurence N. Norton, Metchley Cottage, Stoney Lane, Little Kingshill, Gt. Missenden
Bucks., England.
Peter Holcombe, Eisenguise 9, 6004 Lucerne, Switzerland
Sohan Lal Dhawan & Sons, P.O. Box 46, Osraj St., Pataila 147001, India
David Feldman Ltd., 102, Leinster Rd., Dublin 6, Eire
N.G. Rajkarnikar, 81, Mangol Bazar, Lalitpur, Nepal
James Kyle, 74, Rubislaw Den North, Aberdeen Scotland AB2 4 AN
Lawrence B. Scott, 900 Pioche St., Carson City, Nevada 89701, U.S.A.
Col. Shenoi, Systems Advisor, Hindostan Aeronautics, Indian Express Building
PE 5150, Bahgalore 1, India.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nils Ramm-Ericson, Unido P.O. Box 837, A-1011 Vienna, Austria.

Membership of the following must be regarded as lapsed:

A. Gilliam, P. Haubner, H. Kenyon, G. Message, G. Sturton, Leo Diamond

SUBSCRIPTION NOTE FOR U.S.A. MEMBERS

When renewing subscriptions to Frank Vignola please submit in dollars i.e.
3 dollars for one year and eight dollars for 3 years.

A WELCOME TO OUR PATRONS (HONORARY MEMBERS)
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As members may have noticed from our letter heading we have been honoured by the fact that two most distinguished collectors of Nepal and Tibet have accepted our invitation to become patrons of our Society. We look forward to having a long association with them, and will include pen-sketches of both patrons in future newsletters.

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SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

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

CORRELATION OF CATALOGUE NUMBERS - 1889 - 1903
1/2 ANNA IMPERF.

<u>FIRST PRINTINGS</u>	<u>George Alevisos</u>	<u>Stanley Gibbons</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Yvert</u>	<u>Michel</u>
1/2 Anna Black	19	13	10	13	13b/B
<u>LATER PRINTINGS</u>					
1/2 Anna Black	20	13	10	13	13b/B
Tete Beche Pair	20a	13a	10a	13a	13b/K/B
Double Impression	20b	-			-
Tete Beche Pair	20ba	-			-
1/2 Anna Grey-Black	-	-			-
1/2 Anna Vermillion	21	14	11		14
Tete Beche Pair	21a	14a	11a		14K/B
<u>PIN PERFORATED</u>					
1/2 Anna Black	-	19	12	14	13b/A
Tete Beche	-	19a	12a	14a	13b/K/A

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. The Aerogramme issued in Nepal in 1963 value 1R.50p. seems to have no valid postal rate for that time. No doubt it was issued for overseas use, but even today the rate from Nepal to U.K. is only 1R.25p., so why the high value in 1963?
2. Were the telegrams and telephone messages sent to the receiving person from a telephone office or from a Post Office?
3. If messages were not delivered on paper or on a form of some sort, how were the messages delivered?
4. In some instances, the telephone office and the Post Office were in different buildings, but was that always true? Perhaps, in the smaller towns, the two offices were in the same building. Can anyone shed any light on this question?
5. Were stamps applied to all messages? If the messages went to a government official, I assume that the messages were filed in a Government Office. But if the message went to a private person, did that person receive the message form with stamps on it?
6. If private persons did not receive the forms, where were the forms filed, or what was done with them? Perhaps a duplicate message was sent to the person, with the original form with the stamps on it being filed in some office. Does anyone know?

If anyone can give any explanations to any of these questions (I look particularly to our Nepalese members) please let me know and I will publish them in the next newsletter

COURT FEE STAMPS

With reference to the listings in Newsletter No. 7 there are indeed incorrect items listed. Please delete the following:-

Rupee stamps printed in black on white paper.

Amendment

5 Rupee Orange on White Paper
 5 Rupee Orange on Blue Paper

6 Rupee Orange on White Paper

Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, the past-president of the Study Circle, has encouraged me to write an article dealing with the use of the stamps of Nepal for payment of telephone-telegraph messages. As we all know, the late prints of the classic issues, as the 1929 and 1935 Sri Pashupati Issues, frequently bear the distinctive crescent-shaped 'telegraph' cancellations. Unfortunately, most of these have been removed from the message forms so that the date of use cannot be determined. The search is now going on for message forms, or parts of them, which carry a date, as well as the cancelled stamps, to establish when and where these messages originated. Of the 25 or so that I have examined, the large majority come from the late period (1959-61) and bear Service stamps of that period rather than postage stamps. Examples bearing postage stamps which were used during the period from 1917 when the first telephone line connected Kathmandu to the Indian telegraph system in Raxaul, until 1959 are not common. Therefore, your aid is solicited in helping to fill in some of the blanks in the record.

The locally printed Sri Pashupati Issues are occasionally seen with a portion of the familiar telegraph cancel on them, but I have never seen a message form with stamps of this series attached and would be especially interested in obtaining data on any such existing message forms, as well as any which bear the stamps of later issues, such as the first pictorial series.

More recently I have become interested in another fiscal use of postage stamps. I have found that postage stamps have been used in place of documentary stamps in some instances. The large black documentary stamps (70 x 145mm) imprinted on native paper forms used in Nepalese legal matters, are imprinted not only in several denominations, but frequently carry either Court Fee stamps, or postage stamps, as well. I have not seen any published report on this particular fiscal use of the postage stamps of Nepal.

Cancellation methods vary considerably and were not standardized, apparently. Often more than one method of cancellation is used on the same document, including punched holes, a variety of seals both large and small, handwritten cancellations and simple ink lines drawn across the stamps. One interesting example has ten postage stamps affixed with each stamp being 'cancelled' individually by the handwritten word 'Nepal' in English! Was a clerk simply practicing his penmanship???

Most of the forms have the handwritten entry on the document scissored off roughly, and the remainder, bearing the stamps, cannot always be dated. But postage stamps used that I have seen include the 5R value of the 1929 Sri Pashupati series on up to and including the 5R value of the 1962 definitive series. Virtually all sets and individual stamps issued during this period are represented by this usage, except for the 1956 Coronation set. Dated documents which I have seen and which also carry postage stamps bear dates ranging from 1953 to 1963 (as of February 1978). Large handstamps appearing on these documents are printed either in black or violet. Small seals are invariably in black and are frequently accompanied by punched holes.

Among the most intriguing usages are those instances in which a combination of Court Fee stamps and postage stamps have been used, despite the fact that the Court Fee stamps themselves were issued in a wide variety of denominations from 1p on up to 30R or more. Most frequently postage stamps seem to have been used to cover some fraction of a Rupee, but the use of high value postage stamps indicates that this was not always so. Dated combination usages range from 1953 to 1960. From documents I have seen, I assume that Court Fee stamps only were added during the period from 1944 to 1951. This suggests that a change in the fee schedule, or in the policy of stamp usage, may have occurred about 1951-53.

Your comments on these observations would be most welcomed by Lester A. Michel.

It would seem that there was not much to interest members in the last auction as I only received bids on half of the lots although it was quite competitive on these. If anyone is interested in the remaining lots I will accept $\frac{3}{4}$ of estimate for these on a first come first served basis. Lots will be returned to vendors on May 6th.

Auction No. 3

This time we have all stamps and the next one with the June Newsletter will be all Postal History. Bids to reach me by June 3rd 1978, Rules as Newsletter No. 7

		<u>Estimate</u>
Lot 13	1 Anna - fine used (S.G.1) thin at centre giving three pin holes in stamp.	£4.
Lot 14	$\frac{1}{2}$ Anna - pin perf. tete beche (S.G.19a) used	£6.
Lot 15	2 Anna - 9 stamps all different shades (1899-1917) used	£9.
Lot 16	4 Anna - (S.G.42) 4 different shades	£4.
Lot 17	1 Anna - tete beche pair (S.G.20a) used.	£3.
Lot 18	1 Anna - tete beche pair (S.G.29a) used	£3.
Lot 19	2 Anna brown tete beche pair (SG 39a) used	£4.
Lot 20	2 Anna Red brown, Tete beche pair (SG 39a) used	£4.
Lot 21	As lot 20, but different shade.	£4.
Lot 22	2 Anna Purple Brown, Tete Beche pair (SG 39a) used.	£5.
Lot 23	2 Anna Orange Brown Tete Beche pair (SG 40a) used	£5
Lot 24	2 Anna Claret Tete Beche pair (SG 41a)	£5
Lot 25	2 Anna Lake Tete Beche pair (SG 41a)	£5
Lot 26	4 Anna Green Tete Beche pair (SG 42a)	£10.
Lot 27	8p Scarlet (SG 59) mint corner block of 4 IMPERF.	£5
Lot 28	2p. Green (SG 57b) mint block of 6	£3.
Lot 29	6 p. Parliament stamp (SG 134) FORGERY with normal	£2.
Lot 30	2p. Brown (SG 57) Complete sheet - late 1950's printing.	£3.
Lot 31	10p. Airmail stamp (SG 115) Complete sheet on smooth native paper	£10.
Lot 32	5 x $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna black - pin perf. (SG 19a) used	£3.
Lot 33	1 Anna (SG 38) used black of four	£2.
Lot 34	TIBET sheet of 4 trangka blue - reprint	£5.

Note: Except for Lot 13 all other used stamps are telegraph cancels.

Realisation Prices for Auction No. 2

Lot 1 - £16.30; Lot 2 - £4.80; Lot 3 - £8.50; Lot 7 - £10.00; Lot 11 - £4.45; Lot 12 - £4.45

No bids received on remaining lots.

NEPAL HIMALAYAS CLIMBING EXPEDITIONS

If any members have any covers or postcards associated with climbing expeditions, it would be appreciated if you could send me any details of base camp cachets (or any other cachets) and if known ~~whether~~ the climb was successful, or not.

EVEREST ANNIVERSARY COVER

A special souvenir cover is being produced by the Mount Everest 25th Anniversary Appeal to mark the 25th Anniversary of the first climbing of Mt. Everest. The covers will be serviced with the 25th. Anniversary of the G.B. Coronation set and the special cancel of 2nd June and will be obtainable from Mount Everest 25th Anniversary Appeal c/o British Mountaineering Council, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Booth St. East, Manchester M 13 9 RZ at a cost of £2. each. For a further £2. per signature, the same covers are on offer with the signatures of John Hunt, Sherpa Tenzing, Doug Scott and Chris Bonington.

Recent Articles published by members. A Tale of Three Cities by Frank Vignola

Published in the American Philatelist in January 1978 covers the story of mail travelling between Khasa, Kerong and Kuti in Tibet to Nepal during the period 1896-1921. The article illustrates many of the postmarks used on covers in transit from these Tibetan towns en route to Kathmandu.

GUNNAR OKERO has also had published an excellent article on Nepal giving a general historical and geographical account of the country in his own club magazine in Sweden in Feb. 1978. He will have further articles published in the same magazine, on Nepalese collecting. Colin Hepper