

PRESIDENT:

Dr. Pierre Couvreur

PATRONS:Mac Linscott Ricketts
Harrison D.S.Haverbeck F.R.P.S.LSECRETARY:Golin Hepper,
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Dear Friends,

As I am writing this newsletter here in the U.K. we are still in the grip of one of the most severe winters we have had for many years, and I am sure when we are out with spades clearing snow, we think of those other members in the circle, who are living in the warmer climates. Now to more serious things. Recently I have been offered a range of some six aerogrammes (1974 issue 1.25 rupees where the stamp shows an aeroplane flying over mountains) which were in various stages of printing errors. Mostly the ink had not taken up correctly and gave a poor impression of the aeroplanes. My personal feelings are that these are printers' waste, and should not be offered as errors at all. I would be interested to hear of any other members being offered this type of material, and from which dealers they were sent.

NEW MEMBERS

Prof. B.H. Archer	3, The Cedars, Milford, Nr. Godalming, Surrey, England
Robert T.Y.Lee	P.O. Box 1758 Oceanside, Calif. 92054, U.S.A.
A.S.Murray	1, Grange Road, Bearside, Glasgow, Scotland
P.J. Wakeman	B.M. Box 1284, London W.C. 1 V 6 XX England
H.C.Denham	Poplar Farm, New Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, Glos. England
M.W.Campbell	P.O. Box 208, Kathmandu, Nepal.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

T.V.Sommerfeldt	P.O. Box 203, Sealrain, Oslo 1, Norway
W. Epstien	1625 W. Elizabeth St., L-1 Ft. Collins, Colorado 80521, U.S.A

MEMBERS' AWARDS

Our congratulations to Mr. P. Gupta for his large Gold and Gold medals awarded at the International Exhibition in Prague in September 1978.

The book 'The Native Postmarks of Nepal' is still doing well, being awarded the Albert H. Harris trophy for literature at Stampex, and your secretary had the honour of showing his exhibit on Nepal Postal History in the Court of Honour at the same exhibition.

ERROR ON THE NEPAL FLOWER SERIES STAMPS

One of our new members, Mr. M.W.Campbell who is working for the Nepal-Australia Forestry Project has provided the following information on the flower series stamps issued January 1977:-

"The dark green 30p stamp with the white tube flower bears the name 'Megacodon Stylophorus, when in fact it is a Cardiocrinum Gigateum and the purple stamp is named Cardiocrinum Giganteum, but is in fact the Megacodon. This has been confirmed by the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley in England."

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

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

THE SRI PASHUPATI DIE PROOFS

One of our members, Mr. Peter Holcombe, was fortunate enough to be able to handle all the Nepal material from the Perkins Bacon archives. He took photo-copies of most of the die-proofs and has written an excellent 12-page study of all the various stages of producing these. It also includes details of the artist's drawings for both the accepted and unaccepted designs, and the printings of the plate proofs. For any of our Pashupati Specialists this is a must, and the 12 page article is available from your secretary at £2. each post paid.

TIBET COLLECTORS

We have had requests - particularly from our Tibet specialists - on the availability of the Methuen Handbook of Colour. The 3rd Edition of this book can be purchased in the United States for \$ 17.50 per copy post paid, from Leonard H. Hartmann, P.O. Box 21397, Louisville, Kentucky 40221.

Now you Tibet specialists, how about some of you putting pen to paper, and giving us some information or articles for the newsletter? The fact that there is very little about Tibet in the newsletter is only because you do not send anything in, so how about putting the balance right?

MEMBERS' MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO 27th - 29th April 1979

Arrangements are just about complete for this meeting, and its good to hear that our President Dr. Pierre Couvreur will be able to make the trip and meet you all. The activities for this annual meeting are being arranged by Frank Vignola and will include talks and displays of material on Nepal registered letters by Colin Hepper, on Nepal forgeries by Alfonso Zulueta and Tibet covers and stamps by Fred de Ridder. The Court of Honour at "Westpex" will be Frank Vignola's award winning exhibit of 'The Classic Period Postmarks and Obliterators of Nepal'. He will also give a talk on the subject at the site of the exhibit. Meeting rooms have been reserved on both Saturday and Sunday during the exhibition from 1. to 3 p.m.

PHILATELIC PROGRAMME FOR 1979

1. April 27th Red Machchindra Series.
 0.75p. Image of Red Machchindra Nath.
 1.25 Chariot of " " "
2. May 12th Lumbini Year Campaign
 1 Rupee Sculpture of Maya Devi.
3. June 29th Forestry Campaign
 2.30 rupee Planting Trees.
4. Aug. 20th International Year of the Child
 0.30p Emblem of I.Y.C.
 1.00 Childrens' Parade
 2.30 .H.R.H. Crown Prince Deependru Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal.
5. Sept. 17th Visit Nepal Series
 3 values to be issued. Details not known.
6. Oct. 20th Coins Series
 0.05 Lichchari Period
 0.15 Malla Period
 1.00 Shah period.
7. Nov. 17th Birds Series
 3 values to be issued - details not known.
8. Dec. 28th Birthday Series
 0.30p 35th Birthday of H.R.H. King Birendra
 1.00 Development Campaign in Nepal

काज साकारी

Fig. 1

FORGED OVERPRINTS OF THE 1 RUPEE KING MAHENDRA OFFICIAL STAMP

Most members of the Nepal Study Circle are aware that forged overprints have been made on genuine King Mahendra 1 Rupee stamps. Few illustrations or descriptions of these forgeries exist, as they seem to be scarcer than the genuine stamps. However, the 1978 auction of David Feldman held on 27-30 June offered a block of four with the official overprint in lot 316. A bid by the author secured the lot, but upon receipt it was quite obvious that it was one of the forgeries. Complying with the Auction firms rules, the stamps were submitted to expertization and certified as a forgery. The block has been returned to the firm and is now back in the hands of the owner.

Prior to returning the block, an attempt was made to make an enlarged photograph of the overprint. This was partially successful due to the difficulty in separating the black and magenta colors. With a bit of touch-up, it was made suitable for an illustration in our newsletter. A glance at fig. 1 will show you the results.

The most outstanding characteristic is the roughness of the forgery compared to the clean lines and form of the genuine. Each of the letters in the forgery is thicker by 30% than the genuine overprint. The outline of the forged letters is irregular when viewed under low magnification. This contrasts easily with the clean even, non-wandering outlines of the genuine. With the block of four it was easy to determine that the lettering varied in its shape from one stamp to the next. Naturally this will not be easily determined with just a single stamp. Any slight variation in letters, even with the short vertical accent bar, is a good clue. The Genuine stamps exhibit none of the variations in letters from stamp to stamp found in this particular forgery.

Perhaps the easiest feature to check is the normally thin bar joining the letters at the top. Here again, the roughness leads to an irregularly sized bar rather than the even, although thin, rectangle of the genuine. The varying thickness of the line bar is again coupled with very rough edges along its outline. In two of the four stamps in the block, the bars at the top of the two words point upwards slightly at the juncture of the two words. Alignment among the overprints on the other stamps was not in a straight line as they are in the genuine overprints. With the illustrated forgery in view, it should be easy for other collectors to verify any examples proffered.

One of the motives in publicising this forgery is that there is a strong probability that these forged stamps will again appear on the market. Our reason for this opinion is that the material offered in the Feldman auction was extensive enough that its owner must have been knowledgeable enough to know that this particular block was (at least) a suspected forgery. Using an unwitting auction house to dispose of the forgery indicates that we have a person who believes it is permissible to try and sell questionable material as the genuine article. Publicity is one of the few methods collectors have of discouraging this practice.

Roger Skinner

MODERN ISSUES FOR SALE

Dr. W.C. Hellrigl, P.O. Box 349, Bozen, Italy has a collection (in unmounted blocks of 4) of modern Nepal for sale. It comprises most sets issued between 1949 and 1962 including a corner block of the 1 rupee service overprint, which is most certainly genuine.

He also has for sale, a collection of some 40 covers (mostly registered and insured) of India used in Nepal, with many interesting postmarks, and some rare registration cachets. Details of both collections supplied on application to Dr. Hellrigl.

A U C T I O N N O. 8

Usual rules apply. Closing date for bids 14th April 1979. Colour codes are from the Color Handbook.

<u>Lot No.</u>		<u>Estimate</u>
128	SG 13a Block of four used 2 x 2 T/B pairs 1 corner slight damage.	£8.
129	SG 13a four x 1/2 anna T/B pair all with diff. telegraph cancels.	£12.
130	SG 13a 1906 setting 4 T/B pr. flaw in cliché No. 57, used.	£5.
131	SG 13 1/2 anna F.U. Block of 4. Very clear printing on good quality paper. Full margins.	£5.
132	SG 38 1 anna blue used 4 diff. shades	£4
133	SG 38 1 anna used block of 4 on thick paper	£4
134	SG 39 2 anna brown used (100.50.30.30) block of 4 recut frame and lettering (GA 32)	£6
135	SG 39 2 anna Red-brown (70 70 30 0) used strip of 4 good margins.	£5
136	SG 25a 1898-99 mint T/B pair on thick paper (GA 16) full margins (10 30 100 20)	£8
137	SG 28a 1 anna (10 20 50 10) used T/B pair.	£4
138	SG 39 2 anna chocolate (100 100 50 10) F.U. block of 6 good margins all round.	£8
139	SG 42 4 anna Green 2 used pairs one dark green one pale green.	£5
140	SG 28 1 anna blue 3 used stamps all different shades.	£2.
141	10 x 2 annas used. All different shades.	£10
142	SG 39 2 anna Brown 3 used pairs, different shades Red-brown, Brown Chocolate.	£6
Lot		
143	1907 Siva Madheva set of 4 used. two shades of each value (8 stamps)	£5
144	SG 0135-0145 set fine used.	£3.
145	SG 39a used block of 4 with two T/B pairs (100 50 30 0)	£10.
146	SG 39a used block of 4 with two T/B pairs (100 50 30 0)	£10.
147	SG 41a T/B pair used lake shade (100 100 30 10)	£4
148	SG 41a Maroon (20 50 20 20) T/B pair used.	£4
149	SG 41a T/B pair used lake shade (100 70 30 10)	£4
150	SG 57b 2p Green Mint block 4 and mint pair both different shades	£3.
151	SG 57b 2 p. Green L/H Corner block of 6 mint.	£3.
152	One Court Fee document with 1 paisa Revenue stamp added. very clean.	£1.

NOTE: All used stamps are telegraph cancelled.

Prices realised for Auction No. 6:

<u>Lot No.</u>		<u>Lot No.</u>		<u>Lot No.</u>	
79	£6	88	£10.50	97	£5.25
80	£1	89	£2.50	98	£7.50
81	£6.20	90	£6.20	99	£1.40
82	£6	91	£2.50	100	£3.20
83	£2.80	92	£2.60	101	£4.20
84	£1	93	£2	102	£3.80
85	£2	94	£4.20	103	£4.40
86	£2.50	95	£8.25	104	£8.25
87	£3.	96	£2.50		

As we appear to have a little space left for the benefit of new members, Auction rules are:-

1. Each lot will go to the highest bidder, and for more than one equal bid the lot will go to the first one received.
2. Purchaser to pay Society plus postage when in receipt of lot from successful bid.
3. Vendor to pay 10% of sale price to Society funds.
4. Lots making less than two thirds of the estimated value will be withdrawn.
5. Bids will be in the following stages:-

Up to £1. steps of 10p. £1. to £5. Steps of 20p
 £5. to £10 steps of 25p. Over £10 steps of 50p