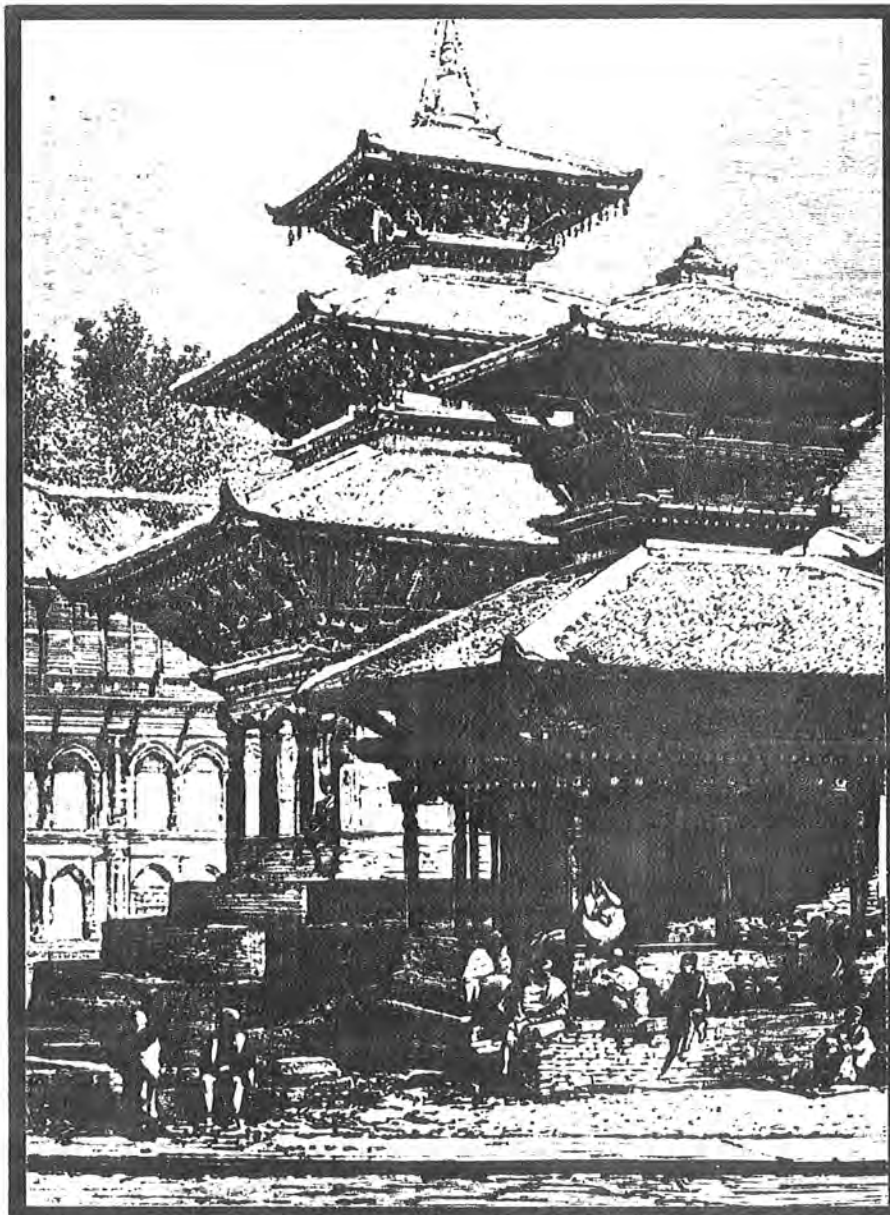


POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



No. 25

spring 1981



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MEMBERS RESIGNED

J. Hallows - England

G. Wade - Australia

Dear Friends,

You will note some changes in the newsletter as we begin our quarterly schedule. We hope these changes will meet with your approval, but we continue to invite your constructive criticisms and your suggestions. Without the active participation of our members, "POSTAL HIMAL." will not include the variety of subject matter which is needed to provide broad appeal to our group as it continues to grow.

CENTENARY YEAR OF NEPALESE STAMPS

- 13.4.81 Issue of 3 postage stamps showing the classic 1 anna, 2 anna & 4 anna stamps on .10p, .40p and R3.40 stamps plus a miniature sheet.
- 22.11.81 Centenary Exhibition in Kathmandu

We plan to emphasize this milestone by a special recognition of Nepal philately in our next issue. We ask all who may wish to contribute material for that issue to do so within the next two months.

Please note that a new Society Representative in India has been appointed. We are fortunate that Mr. R.K. Lodha has accepted this position. Our members in India may find it convenient to send information for the newsletter through him, as well as remitting dues through him.

It is a pleasure to thank all those who sent me Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year. Although I have not found time to answer each greeting personally, I want to express my thanks to all of you who have sent words of encouragement, and especially to those who have sent material for the newsletter.

Lester A. Michel



JOINT MEETINGS OF THE NEPAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND THE NEPAL & TIBET STUDY CIRCLE

KATHMANDU - FEBRUARY 1981

Joint meetings of the Nepal Philatelic Society and the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle were held at the Nepal Philatelic Society office in New Road, Kathmandu, on Saturday 7 February 1981 and on Wednesday 11 February 1981.

On Saturday Mr. Bidya Ratna Tuladhar welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Hepper and their daughter, Claire, to the meeting and introduced the twenty members attending. He thanked Mr. Hepper for making the long journey to visit them and looked forward to discussions on the future co-operation between the two societies.

Mr. Hepper gave a brief outline of the formation of the Study Circle with its aims to try and publish detailed studies of various aspects of Nepal Philately. He informed members of the studies being completed at the moment on the classic issues

and the Pashupati issues, with the aim being to try and get one or both of these published during the centenary year. Tea and refreshments were then served, after which Mr. Hepper made presentations in the form of wall plaques, from the Study Circle to the Nepal Philatelic Society (received by their President, Mr. Omkar Prasad Gauchan) and to Mr. M. Raj Bhandary, Mr. N. G. Rajkarnikar and Mr. J. B. Manandhar. In turn, Mr. O. P. Gauchan presented Mr. Hepper and his family with sets of the First Day Covers associated with the visit of Prince Charles in December 1980.

On Wednesday evening there was another fine gathering of members, with additional members: Mr. R. K. Lodha, Mr. B. Vora and Mr. S. Basak from India being welcomed by Mr. Dhruva Rudra, the Study Circle Representative in Nepal. The main items for discussion were the centenary exhibition and how the two Societies could work together.

The Centenary Exhibition will be held for 7 days from 22 November 1981 and there will be 200 frames holding 24 sheets per frame. Mr. Hepper suggested that the competitive section of the exhibition should probably be for the Nepal based collectors with some invited displays being given by Study Circle members providing good security could be assured. He would present one of the books "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" for the best exhibit overall in the competition class.

The Nepal Philatelic Society will be producing special event covers and it is probable that there will be a special stamp issue to commemorate the event.

The co-operation between the Societies was another subject of discussion and one of the major requirements of the Nepal Philatelic Society is to build up their Society library. So any assistance that Study Circle members can give in the way of donations of photocopies of articles on Nepal and Tibet would be greatly appreciated. Any items could be sent to the Secretary of the Society, 8/331 New Road, Kathmandu, NEPAL.

During the meeting, Mr. Hepper announced that Mr. R. K. Lodha had agreed to be the Society Representative in India. He also thanked the Nepal Philatelic Society for the use of their premises for the two meetings and for the overwhelming hospitality shown to him and his family during their stay in Kathmandu.



EXHIBITION NEWS

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION WIPA 1981

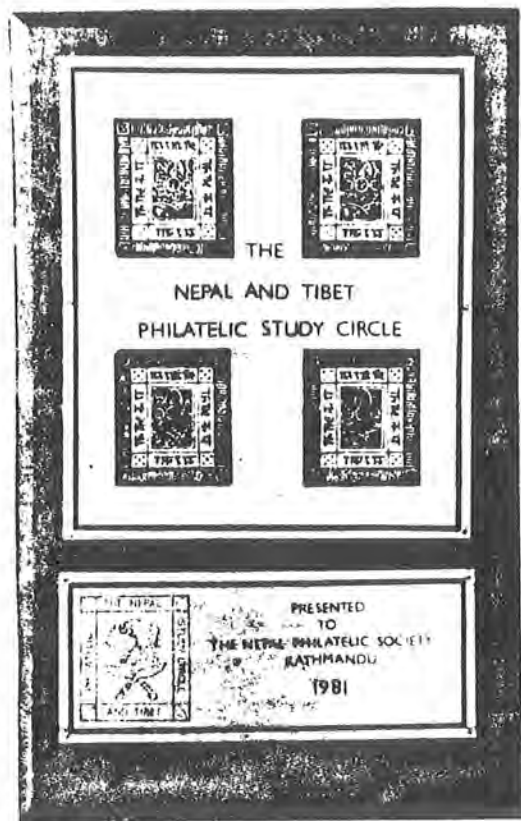
The meeting of members of the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle will be held on Saturday, 30 May 1981 at 3 p.m. at the entrance to Exhibition Hall H.

This meeting is being organised by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl. If any member requires further details, please contact either Dr. Hellrigl or Mr. Hepper.

Arthur F. Ackley received the Grand Award for his showing of "Tibet" at CHERPEX-81, a Denver area show held annually in January. Congratulations, Art.

Frank Vignola writes that a Study Circle Award will be available at ROMPEX '81 in Denver, Colorado, May 14-16, for the "Best Nepal or Tibet exhibit."

Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, for the second consecutive year, has been awarded the China Stamp Society's prize for the best article of the year appearing in the CHINA CLIPPER, the society's official journal. This year's award was for the article titled "Three Early Tibetan Cancellations Re-Discovered." Congratulations!



The plaque presented to The Nepal Philatelic Society by Colin Hepper during his visit to Nepal. Similar presentations were made to Mr. M. Raj Bhandary, Mr. N.G. Rajkarnikar and Mr. J.B. Manandhar.

A CORRECTION

In the September 1979 Newsletter (#17), Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl reported two new postmarks of the Pashupati period. One of these was a large ornamental type which he believed to be that of SINDHULI. (He had seen only one strike of this cancellation, of which the first half of the inscription was illegible.) He has now pointed out that, in the July 1980 (Vol. 7, No. 2) of PHILATELY, Mr. J. B. Manandhar indicates that the postmark in question is actually from RANGELI and shows an illustration of a cover bearing a clear strike of this rare postal marking. Dr. Hellrigl has corrected the drawing of the postmark and asks readers of the Newsletter to ignore the SINDHULI drawing.

RANGELI
(1934)



The editor would like to call attention to the fact that PHILATELY is the official publication of the Nepal Philatelic Society, the only philatelic journal in Nepal with international circulation. The dues are very reasonable, being only \$3 U.S., or 20 Rs for residents of Nepal. Members receive the half-yearly journal without any extra charge. Incidentally, membership is also offered on a 3-year basis, and a life membership is available.

The issue of PHILATELY referred to above, is outstanding and should be in the library of every serious scholar of Nepal philately. In addition to the article by J. B. Manandhar titled "Some Interesting Postmarks," with six illustrations, an article by S. L. Shrestha titled "The First Aerogramme of Nepal - 1959" includes some interesting details not seen in print previously. Many interesting items, too numerous to mention, are also included in its 50 pages.



SPECIAL POSTMARKS

--Bishnu Lal Shresta

The Postal Services Department issued a stamp on 29 October 1980 to mark the World Tourism Conference. The denomination was Rs.25/----the highest ever issued in Nepalese Postal History. On the same day, a 30p stamped envelope was also issued. Both stamps and First Day cancellations were illustrated in Newsletter No. 24 (November 1980, p. 2) but additional information may be of interest to our readers. The 3-day Exhibition in honor of United Nations Day included exhibits of mint stamps of Nepal from 1951-1977 from the collection of Mr. Gyandass Tuladhar, as well as mint issues from 1977 to 1980 (up to the date of the exhibition, and of the Nepalese stamps issued to honor United Nations activities (from my own collection. The exhibition was sponsored jointly by the Postal Services Department and the Nepal Philatelic Society.

On the occasion of the auspicious visit of HRH Prince Charles to Nepal, the Nepal Philatelic Society printed a special souvenir cover (3,000 copies) and the Postal Services Department granted a special postmark at the Hotel Shankar. The cancellation was granted

for the period of 6 December to 13 December 1980. (Cancellations have been seen in both black and violet. Colin Hepper reports a First Day Cancel with the entire date inverted.--Ed.)

CORRECTION

In the listing of SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM, which appeared in Newsletter No. 23 (September 1980) we neglected to mention that the information was furnished by Bishnu Lal Shresta. He has pointed out one error in that listing. Among the list of post offices, number four in the lefthand column should be DHANUSHA, and not DHANKUTA as shown. The Nepalese script is correct.

NEW ISSUE NEWS

Mr. Shresta also reports that on 14 September 1980, the "Visit Nepal" Series was issued in three denominations: 10p, Rs.1/- and Rs.5/-, with gutter pairs. The printed sheets issued contain two parallel blocks of 25 stamps with a vertical gutter between the two. (American readers may have seen this information in Bill McConnell's column in STAMP COLLECTOR.--Ed.)

Q. & A.

A PUZZLING TIBET RUBBER STAMP

--Armand E. Singer

I illustrate here a rubber stamp marking in violet ink, found twice on a cover from Lhasa, not touching the 4-trangka stamp (in one of the late, 1950's, gray-green shades). The cover is undated, but the Lhasa cancel is the usual Waterfall type VIII, late state of wear. The envelope flap is protected by a single set of double, parallel ink strokes inclosing a Devanagari "74"----- customary with Nepalese Lhasa merchant-colony correspondence. I am not sure of the significance of the four Devanagari characters on the rubber stamp, but they too suggest Nepalese merchant use. I assume that they were applied in Lhasa. There are no arrival markings on this cover, though it bears a registry chop and the correct registration postage. The address, etc., is in Nepali and Tibetan; since there are no stamps beyond the one 4-trangka Tibet, valid only in Tibet, it must have ended up in that same country. Dr. Hellrigl suggests that the upper left character on the rubber stamp, a "Mo," may be the abbreviation for "mohar," "fee" or "amount"; and the upper right, a "To," for "tola," "weight" (see Hellrigl and Hepper, The Native Postmarks of Nepal, p. 100). The bottom pair I read as "Cho" (left) and "Ravan" (right). Neither of us can hazard a guess as to their meanings.



Diam. 30mm.

Dr. Hellrigl recently sent me a photostat of a similar stamp (28 mm, not 30, with the two bisecting lines double, 2 mm apart and not connected at the center; upper right character preceded by an introductory character) on a California collector's cover, Kalimpong (26 May 53) to Lhasa via Gyantse (2 Jun 53), bearing India stamps and what must be a 4-trangka Tibet (value obscured), plus

a handwritten registry chop. On the copy, impossible to tell whether the rubber stamp over- or underlies the Kalimpong cancel.

Query: are these rubber stamps official, as appears to me quite possible, and where and by whom applied? Since they are in Nepali characters, not Tibetan, they would not seem to emanate from the Tibetan postal system; and, with a cover like mine, not intended for external use, why use characters other than Tibetan?



NEPAL MYSTERY CANCEL

Dr. Hellrigl asks for help in identifying a circular seal-type cancellation which he has found on a 1 anna stamp, dark blue, of the 1886 issue. He states that the inscriptions are not sufficiently clear or complete to allow him to be more specific than the following:

1st line: (crescent) SHRI (sun)

2nd line: Ma(Dh?)iSa (+missing letters)

3rd line: KhoRaTiYa

4th line: 1944 (= AD 1887)

Can anyone draw any conclusions from this partial translation? Does anyone recognize the item?

1935 4p PASHUPATI STAMP PRINTED IN BLACK

---C. Hepper

In a collection recently purchased by Prof. Dr. Axel Werner was a small card with what appears to be a genuine 4p 1935 Pashupati

stamp printed in BLACK stuck to it. The top left hand corner has been torn out and the right hand side has a 'cross' type cancel. The word 'sample' is written on the card at the side of the stamp. Possibly the stamp has been chemically altered to change its colour to black, or perhaps the stamp was genuinely printed in black. Has anyone else seen one of these, or do you have any theories on why the stamp is in black? Answers please, to Colin Hepper, so that the item can be included in the Pashupati studies. Replies will also be passed along to Dr. Werner.



sample

(1935-) London Print.

Blackups Error



NEW NEPAL FIND

--Armand E. Singer

An unrecorded sheet of the half-anna black has recently turned up, not mentioned by Garratt-Adams (1951), Haverbeck (1962), nor Hellrigl in his enlarged list (1977). It possesses one unique difference from all the previously known settings; only cliché No. 57 is inverted, thus putting it just before the presently designated No. 2, or just after it. Cliché No. 6 shows outer frame line damage at the bottom right. No sheet framelines. Clear printing on thin native paper of good quality. It and three other, not unrecorded sheets, offered me at the same time, I was told were part of the Perkins Bacon archives which suffered fire and flood damage some years ago. As such, all four show a browned, irregular paper damage area surrounding the imprint of a large paperclip. It may be partially due to rust, but it appears the result of heat given off by the paperclip itself, causing the paper to char. The same clip was affixed to all four sheets (2 annas, setting 13,

pale blue; 4 annas, setting 8, very fine and clear; 1 anna, recut, setting 15, clear, early printing). The damaged area in each case is about 60 mm wide and 40 mm high, with the paper burned through on the half anna. With the others, all three are deeply charred, the damage being limited to the selvedge on the 2-anna, but affecting two or three stamps of the 1- and 4-anna sheets. The same discoloration may be seen in copies of many of the Sri Pashupati essays, also part of the Perkins Bacon disaster. It may be conjectured that the four sheets were held in the company's files simply as samples of native designs, probably back in 1907, at the time of their first essays.

Each of the four sheets bears one large positive oval seal in black ink (33 x 22 mm, with a decorative border of "x's," but with a legend too faint to make out satisfactorily) and a smaller negative seal, also in black ink (12 x 9 mm, somewhat like those in Hellrigl and Hepper, pp. 26 & 61.



9 x 12 mm.

PERSONALITIES OF THE RANA FAMILY OF NEPAL

by Colin Hepper



Maharaja Sir Jung Bahadur
Rana 1817 - 1877

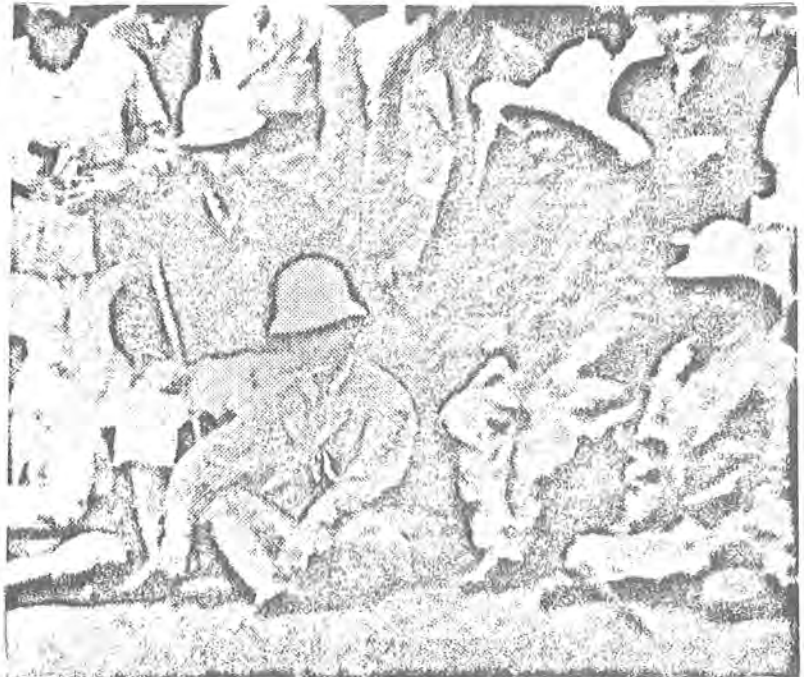
Maharaja Jung Bahadur is recognised as the maker of Nepal. He was an intrepid soldier, a magnificent hunter, a far sighted statesman and a generous ruler. His visit to Europe in 1850 was a revolution in the whole Hindu world, for it was the first time a high born Hindu had been to a Christian land without the severe penalty of social ostracism.

Born 18 June, 1817 and named Birner Singh. This was changed by his uncle, General Matber Singh to Jung Bahadur (the brave in war) being in accordance with the boy's future career as foretold by the priests.

- 1 May 1828 -Married to a daughter of a Nepalese nobleman, a chief of the Thappa's.
- Winter 1832-33-first joined military service.
- January 1835 -promoted to Second Lieutenant in the cavalry.
- 1837 -a revolution overthrows Bhimsen Thappa with the result that Jung Bahadur, a Thappa supporter is dismissed from military rank.
- Dec 1838 -his wife dies.
- Feb 1839 -married to the sister of Sanak Singh who subsequently became the mother of Generals Jagat Jung and Jeet Jung.
- Nov 1841 -joins the staff of the King's bodyguard.
- Jan 1842 -appointed Kazi (civil judge) of Kumari Choke.
- 17 May 1845 -Jung Bahadur assassinates his uncle, Prime Minister General Kather Singh on instructions from the King and Queen. As a result he is promoted to General. The Queen's lover Gagin Singh is appointed Prime Minister.
- 15 Sept 1846 The Queen summons all the chief officers of the state to the Kot (a place near Hanumandhoka where regimental colours are stored and worship offered to them) for an inquest to determine who had murdered the Prime Minister Gagin Singh. The developments that followed saw Jung Bahadur, his brothers and supporting regiments massacre about 55 nobles of high rank.

- 18 Sept 1846 -Jung Bahadur is formally appointed Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief.
- Nov 1846 -He foils a plot by the Queen to assassinate him and following a meeting of the State Council withdraws all sovereign authority from her.
- 26 Nov 1846 -King and Queen leave Kathmandu to live in Benares. At this time Jung Bahadur assumes the supreme authority in the state and Prince Surrendra was placed on the throne. The Prime Minister thus became defacto ruler of the state and the sovereign was reduced to the position of a titular figure head.
- 15 Jan 1850 -leaves Nepal for a visit to Europe
- 8 Feb 1851 -returns to Nepal. Shortly after returning he foils a plot by his brother to assassinate him.
- 1 Aug 1856 -Resigned the office of Prime Minister and his brother Bam Bahadur took over.
- 6 Aug 1856 -Given the title of Maharaja and the power of awarding capital punishment, appointing and dismissing all servants, declaring war, making treaties with any foreign power, and of making new or repealing old laws (civil, criminal and military). Thus he was made the virtual dictator of Nepal. An important constitutional change effected by the charter was that the Prime Ministership was made hereditary in Jung Bahadur's family and was to devolve on the eldest agnate.
- 25 May 1857 -Again assumes position of Prime Minister when his brother Bam Bahadur dies.
- May 1857 -offers to place the whole of the military resources of Nepal at disposal of British Government on occasion of the Indian mutiny.
- Jan 1858 -leads the Gurkhas in the capture of Gorakhpore.
- 15 Oct 1859 -presented with insignia Knight Grand Cross of the order of the Bath.
- 20 Feb 1876 -The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) visits Nepal and joins Jung Bahadur for big game hunting in southern terai.
- 25 Feb 1877 -dies of tetanus during a hunting expedition.

Possibly one of the last photos taken of Jung Bahadur, with the Prince of Wales at the hunting party in March, 1876. The Prince of Wales is seated on the left (with beard) and Jung Bahadur on the right wearing the large hat.





General Bam Bahadur Rana

2nd brother of Jung Bahadur and was appointed Prime Minister 1 August 1856 when Jung resigned. This was a position he had temporarily held during Jung Bahadur's visit to Europe. His reign as Prime Minister was to be short lived as he died on 25 May 1857. It is interesting to note that he was the first Prime Minister to die of natural causes, every one of his predecessors having met with a violent end. There was no suttee performed after his death, Jung Bahadur having declared it unlawful.

General Badri Narsing Rana Bahadur

3rd brother of Jung Bahadur who held the temporary position of Commander-in-Chief during the European visit. He plotted to assassinate his brother upon his return but was foiled because Bam Bahadur revealed the details to his elder brother. Jung arranged for his guilty brother to be held by the British Government at the fort at Allahabad for five years. He was pardoned after three years and made Commander-in-Chief of the Western Army.





General Krishna Bahadur

4th brother of Jung Bahadur and Commander-in-Chief of the Nepalese Army. During Jung's visit to Europe he was the temporary head of the Civil Department.

He died June, 1862.

Maharaja Sir Ran-Uddip Singh Rana Bahadur

5th brother of Jung Bahadur. Succeeded him as Prime Minister when his brother died in 1877. He lacked the energy and vigor needed for this demanding position and relied heavily on his brothers Jagat Shumshere and Dir Shumshere.

The sons of Jung Bahadur felt that they were unjustly excluded from their rightful inheritance and resented Ran-Uddip. On the night of 22 November 1885 General Khudgo Shumshere Jung the Maharajas' nephew murdered him at his palace.





General Jagat Shumshere Jang Rana Bahadur

6th brother and Commander-in-Chief of the Nepal Army, accompanied Jung Bahadur on his visit to Europe.

Was actively engaged in the Tibet war of 1855-56. He commanded six regiments of infantry and captured Gunta Gharri and the fortress of Jhunga.

General Dhir Shumshere Jang Rana Bahadur

7th and last brother of Jung Bahadur. Commander-in-Chief of Nepal and was one of the party that visited Europe. He was actively engaged in the Tibet war and possessed the qualities of a soldier and statesman. Being fully acquainted with the conditions of Nepal he gave valuable assistance to Maharaja Ran-Uddip.

He died in 1884



Cover tells two-part Tibetan tale

by MICHAEL GREEN

The illustrated mixed-franking cover, bearing stamps of Tibet and India, was sent to SC along with a newspaper clipping of unknown origin by a reader in Cherokee Village, Ark.

According to the clipping, the cover was sent to R.S. Strother, who had previously been an editorial writer with a Missouri newspaper, by a Tibetan journalist named Tharchin Babu. The background of their correspondence and the contents of the envelope provide an interesting two-part story.

Part one began when Strother came across an unusual item in the cable news, giving a Tibetan editor's (Tharchin's) explanation of the depression, which was then making its existence known throughout the world.

"The depression was caused by wheels," the account began. "Wherever there are wheels, there are hard times. In places where there are no wheels, there is no depression."

The item prompted Strother to compose a lighthearted editorial in which he suggested that Tharchin be invited to Washington and made a member of the Brain Turst. Strother clipped the editorial and mailed it to Tharchin at Kalimpong, the place indicated in the dateline of the cable story.

Tharchin received the clipping and a spasmodic correspondence developed between the two. Strother learned that Tharchin was the publisher of an eight-page tabloid newspaper in the Tibetan script entitled *Mirror of the New Vicissitudes in Every Corner of the Universe*.

The illustrated cover contained a letter from Thalin (who was temporarily in Lhasa), a copy of the aforementioned *Mirror*, and a translation of the lead article, the basis of part two of this story.

The article concerned Theos C. Bernard, then a graduate student in philosophy at Columbia University who was in Tibet to work on his doctoral thesis on Buddhism.



Apparently Bernard was making headlines in Tibet for the way he had been accepted in Buddhist circles closed to all but few Tibetans, and definitely closed to white men.

Bernard, who had mastered the Tibetan language in a border city, had not only spoken with but was befriended by Tibet's most famous living Yogi, known for his inaccessibility even to his countrymen.

According to Tharchin, the Yogi had been meditating in a cave for 10 years, after having spent 12 years in another holy Tibetan cave. "He is now over 60 years of age," Tharchin wrote, "and during his entire period of meditation, he has never laid down to sleep, in accordance with the beliefs of their teachings."

"Even the Lamas who live at the monastery near-by and take the hermit his daily food of a handful of barley and a little yak's milk, have never been received by the hermit on the footing accorded to the outsider from America."

Bernard subsequently made application to go on a religious pilgrimage to Lhasa, the Tibetan holy center. He was invited there and was allowed to participate in the largest ceremony held at Tauglag-Khang, the chief temple.

The most amazing example of his acceptance was his ability to secure, through his friendship with one of Tibet's governing officials, a complete set of the Tibetan Holy Scriptures. Called the Kangyur and Tangyur, the scriptures had been printed on blocks made centuries before in China.

The stamps on the cover appear to be Tibet Scott's #14 and India #s 91, 115, and 162. Any readers with information on their usage in this way are invited to write to the editor, *Stamp Collector*, Box 10, Albany, OR 97321.

A RESPONSE:

Sir:

In *Stamp Collector*, Aug. 25, I note the interesting item on Tibet, with picture of cover franked by stamps of both Tibet and British India.

Having resided at Darjeeling, India, the hill-town close to the Tibetan border and the age-old road connecting Tibet and India via Kalimpong, I believe that I can offer a reliable answer to the philatelic questions involved.

The stamps listed by Scott for Tibet cover the period of Tibet's independence in the years prior to the take-over by Red China. The note in Scott reads, "Tibet's postage stamps were valid only within its borders."

In order to provide for the carrying of mail to points anywhere beyond the boundary, provision for such service was arranged with the British government in India.

By this agreement, post offices of British India were established at three towns of Tibet located between Lhasa, the capital, and the border of India. These were Gyantse, Pharijong, and Yatung.

Tibetan stamps would frank the item from the point of origin in Tibet to the nearest of the three where stamps of British India would be affixed according to the rates for foreign postage. Canceled at this British India PO, the item would display postage sufficient to insure delivery.

On the cover illustrated with the article in SC, the stamp, Tibet 14, is tied by the CDS of Lhasa. The three Indian stamps, in value to provide carriage to the USA, were affixed at Gyantse and are tied by the CDS of that British India PO.

From that point the item traveled into India at Kalimpong, the town at rail-head under the Himalayas, north of Calcutta, from which main PO it went forward to its destination in the US.

Kalimpong is on the plains of India in the Teesta River valley. Darjeeling lies in the foothills of the Himalayas, at the 7,500-foot elevation, about 30 miles west of Kalimpong.

The branch railroad lines for Kalimpong and Darjeeling has its origin at Siliguri, a major junction point on the India throughrun from Calcutta to the northwest.

Moving north from Darjeeling, an ancient road crosses several passes to enter Tibet at an angle separate from that from Kalimpong.

The first town inside Tibet from Darjeeling is Pharijong, where another of the British India POs was located. A cancel sometimes used there carried both Pharijong and Darjeeling as names in the CDS of that PO. This cancel is quite scarce.

Likewise, to the east of Kalimpong there is Yatung, the last of the three Indian POs. There is a cancel that shows both names — Yatung and Siliguri. These are uni-

Philatelic Programme for 1981

His Majesty's Government, Postal Services Department, Nepal Philatelic Bureau has the pleasure to announce the Philatelic Programme for the year 1981 as follows:

S. N.	Date of issue	Subject or occasion	Denomination
1.	1-1-1981	International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP)	Rs. 5.
2	13-4-1981	A. Centenary Postage Stamp (a)	.40 p.
		(b)	.10 p.
		(c) Souvenir Sheet of Centenary Stamp	Rs. 3.40
3.	26-4-1981	Silver Jubilee of Nepal Rastra Bank	Rs. 1.75
4.	15-8-1981	Raksha Bandhan	.10 p.
5.	7-11-1981	Nepal Philatelic Exhibition	.05 p.
<u>Visit Nepal Series</u>			
6.	1-12-1981	a) Dhanusha	.25 p.
		b) Tripura Sundari, Baitadi	Rs. 1.
		c) Ridi	Rs. 1.25
		d) Langtang Himal (Lirung)	Rs. 3.50
7.	28-12-1981	37th Birthday of H. M. The King	Rs. 2.

Note:--

- (1) The programme noted above is subject to change with or without notice.
- (2) Details of each issue will be available from Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu.

que in displaying the names of two towns in distinctly separate countries, joined in the same CDS.

No collection of "India Used Abroad" is complete without one or two such covers as that shown with the article — carrying stamps of both Tibet and India under the terms of this international agreement.

Arthur Bruce Moss
Walpole, N.H.



FILLING ANOTHER GAP IN TIBETAN POSTAL HISTORY?
by F.C.J. de Ridder

This concerns the Olive Green colored 2 Shokang (1-1/3 Trangka) of the so-called "OFFICIALS" (Scott No. 04).

A. C. Waterfall, in his "The Postal History of Tibet" of 1965, mentions that the 5 values in the set appear to come in sheets of 12, except the 1 Sang in sheets of 8. H.D.S. Haverbeck, in his "Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet of 1952, mentions that both the 2 Shokang and the 1 Sang are in sheets of 8. However, his illustration of the 2 Shokang only shows a block of 6. The German Michel Catalogue also states that the 2 Shokang was printed in sheets of 8.

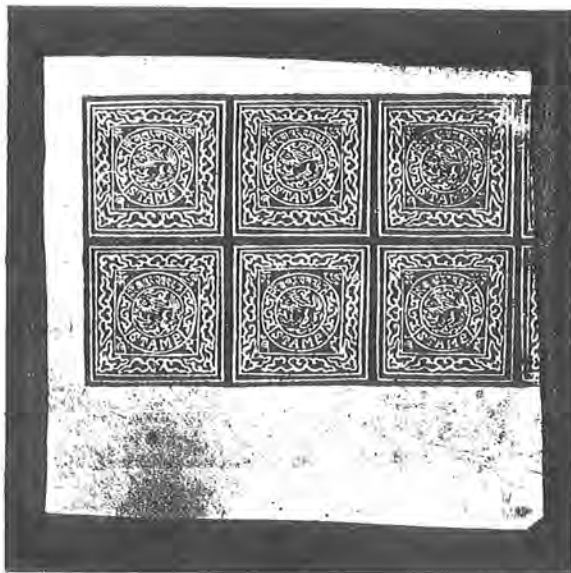
Of the 1 Karmanga - bronze green (Scott No. 01) only a few complete sheets are known to exist. Unused singles do appear from time to time but none have been seen used on a cover. The other 4 values of the set are more abundant, in singles and multiples, unused and cancelled, on covers and in complete sheets, except however, the 2 Shokang (Scott No. 04),

of which, apparently, no complete sheets have been seen to be able to clarify the discrepancy between Waterfall's 12 cliches and Haverbeck's and Michel's 8 cliches to the sheet.

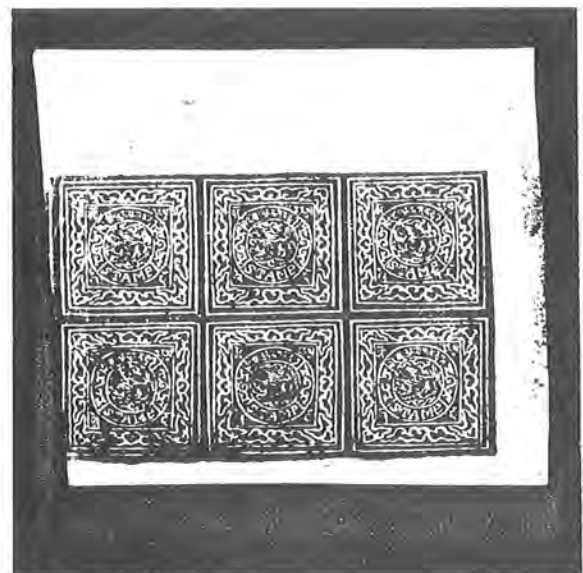
Considering the size of the stamp (41 x 41 mm) I presume that it was assumed that a complete sheet would consist of 8 cliches as in the case of the still larger 1 Sang (64 x 64 mm).

Although some 8 years ago I acquired at different times and from different sources, complete sheets of four of the five values, in the case of the 04 I had to compromise eventually with a block of 6 because that was all that was ever offered. Since then I have been on the lookout for a complete sheet but time after time dealers came back with a block of 6.

Until recently the blocks of 6 I had obtained were all identical, that is, they were the 6 cliches of the left-hand side of the sheet and they also showed a small part of the 7th and 8th cliches. The size of the sheets of paper used was also in each case identical.



Left sheet



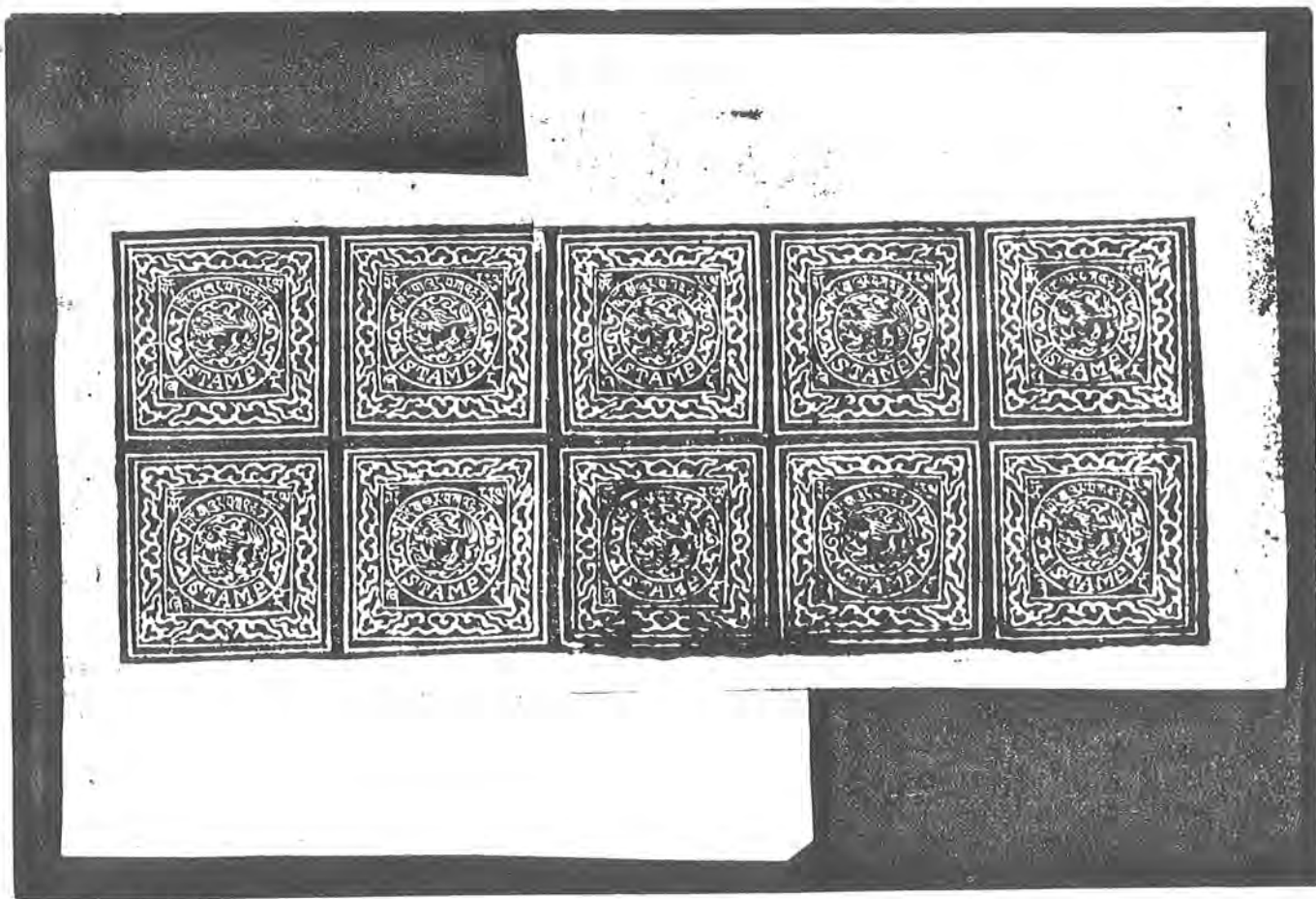
Right sheet

This gave me a strong reason to believe that these blocks of six were not merely cut from a larger complete sheet but that they were indeed printed in sheets of six cliches only, due to the small and insufficient size of the paper, and supplied in that form to the post offices. As a matter of fact, the size of the paper used is the same as the small sheets of paper used most often in the printing of the 5 values of the 1933 series.

It remained, however, everybody's guess as to the actual size of the block of cliches. This could be 8, as in the case of the 1 Sang, 12, as in the case of the other 3 values in this set or it could be even 10 cliches to the full block.

Ever since the sudden appearance in 1952 of this set of "officials", its origin, purpose and use have been cloaked in mystery. Any official information from Tibetan Government sources, or any really reliable information from other sources never materialized. The only way to prove a thing, in this case the actual size of the block of cliches, which so far had not been conclusively established, is therefore, to try and accumulate as many specimens as possible of the item involved, in order to be able to ascertain thru quantity what cannot easily be established from only a few selected items.

Recently, when offered another sheet of a block of 6 cliches, I noted to my surprise that, although the size of the



Both sheets with two center positions overlapped

paper was again identical to the other sheets I had seen so far, this block of 6 appeared to be printed from the righthand side of the full block and that the cliches on the left were identical to the 2 cliches on the right of the previous sheets. In adjoining the lefthand and the righthand sheet and overlapping the 2 identical cliches of each sheet, they formed one complete sheet of 10 cliches.

The 3 illustrations adequately confirm my theory that, notwithstanding previous statements of 8 and 12 cliches to the complete block, the actual size of the block of the 2 SHOKANG "Official" sheets consists of 10 cliches.

Just for the sake of proving my point, I would like to invite anyone possessing a full sheet to send me a photocopy--which I am sure the editor will be happy to publish in the next issue.

(Reprinted, with permission, from the January 1981 issue (Vol. 45, No. 2) of THE CHINA CLIPPER.)

EVEREST IN WINTER

Two members of the Polish National Expedition-Sagarmatha Winter 1979/80, led by Mr. Andrej Zawada reached the top of the world's highest mountain (Sagarmatha) on Sunday, 17 February 1980 at 2:30 P.M. It was the first successful winter ascent and the Poles frankly stated that they had been preparing for it for years. The official cover, prepared in cooperation between the Polish team and the Nepal Philatelic Society, is shown on the cover of the Society's Journal (PHILATELY) for July 1980 (Vol. 7, No. 2). A limited number of covers is available from the Society for \$35 each.

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A TIBET FIND

--Surendra Lal Shrestha

I have a registered cover¹ (British Indian prestamped envelope²) from Calcutta to Pharijong,³ franked with 4 copies of the 1 trangka (shiny) plus one copy of the 2/3 trangka (shiny) on the back of a cover which bears five native date stamps (PHARI, type X). Waterfall states: "This value⁴ used outside Lhasa is seldom seen." (page 72).

¹Label: R F 539 (1912 A.D. Issue, or series.)
CALCUTTA

²Blue King George VI + KG V 1a,3p (2)

³Indian Transit postmark: 5 NOV 32

⁴1 trangka - shiny (?)---mine is dark red!

POSTAL HIMAL solicits news, articles and any other information of interest to members of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Material may be sent directly to the Editor, Secretary or your nearest Society Representative. Upcoming events should be reported as far in advance as practical to allow timely inclusion in the next issue.

