

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Nos. 27 & 28

Double Issue



POSTAL HIMAL is the quarterly publication of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Subscription dues are £ 3 for one year and £ 8 for three years or \$6 for one year and \$16 for three years in the United States of America. Dues should be paid to The Secretary or your closest Society Representative. Advertising rates and information may be obtained by writing the publisher.

PRESIDENT: Dr. Pierre Couvreur

PATRONS: Mac Linscott Ricketts and Harrison D. S. Haverbeck FRPSL

SECRETARY: Colin Hepper, 4 Osric Court, Danes Close, Peterborough, Cambs. ENGLAND

EDITOR: Lester A. Michel, 309 Yucca Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, USA

PUBLISHER: Thomas Matthiesen, Box 406, Duvall, WA 98019, USA

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

USA Roger D. Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94022 USA

NEPAL Dhruba Rudra, P.O. Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu

INDIA Rajesh Kumar Lodha, PO Box 16609, 27 Badridas Temple Street Calcutta 700 004

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Colin Hepper, 4 Osric Court, Danes Close, Peterborough, Cambs. ENGLAND

Bishnu Lal Shrestha, 113/1 Maru Pyaphal Tole, Kathmandu-14, NEPAL

#### NEW MEMBERS

David A. Cooper, 201 Lawrence Rd., Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149 AUSTRALIA

Dr. George Contis, M.D., PO Box 19374, Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

Rev. P. Garland, PO Box 496, Blantyre, MALAWI

OUR COVER illustration for this issue is a photograph of The Personal letter seal of the 13th Dalai Lama (Waterfall Type 4) in red. The example here was made available to us for photography by Rev. Arthur Bruce Moss. More seals and other interesting items kindly provided by Rev. Moss will be found elsewhere in this issue.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Because of the strength of the U.S. dollar the dues will be lowered to \$6 for one year and \$16 for three years as of now for those members who use U.S. currency.

Dear Friends,

As you will undoubtedly notice this is a double issue and represents an effort to bring POSTAL HIMAL up to date. Our most notable step this last year has been our conversion to a quarterly format and change of name to POSTAL HIMAL. Credit for the new name and appearance of our publication goes primarily to Thomas Matthiesen, our publisher. Both he and I have had unexpectedly heavy work loads this past year and have been unable to maintain our quarterly schedule. Readers have been very patient and now that our respective work loads have eased a bit we have every intention of meeting our quarterly publication dates regularly in 1982.

At this time I want to thank those who have contributed to our publication the past year. The space does not allow me to name them all, but my especial thanks go to Dr. Hellrigl, Colin Hepper, Bishnu Lal Shrestha, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Roger Skinner, Fred deRidder, Frank Vignola, Dr. Armand Singer and all others who sent a query, a bit of news, a suggestion or an offer to help in some way. This position is a rewarding one, largely because of the friends I have made through correspondence throughout the year and because of the opportunity to see our Study Circle grow and mature. I know I speak for our president as well. Dr. Couvreur writes to me regularly, encourages me, makes suggestions and enthusiastically backs our group and its activities in every possible way.

We wish to dedicate this issue to Rev. Arthur Bruce Moss, Life Member of our Study Circle, who celebrated his 93rd birthday this past summer. His memories of his early days in Darjeeling beginning in 1916 are still very clear and most interesting. We are pleased to print some of these recollections, since they relate in a variety of ways to the area of the world which receives our philatelic attentions. We trust that you will find them enjoyable.

A new column, AUCTION ACTION, is introduced in this issue to meet the request of several who have written to the editor. We ask that all who have information concerning sales which include Nepal and/or Tibet material will send letters to the editor, including prices realized, if available. Insofar as possible, we wish to make this type of information available to our readers as soon as possible after each sale. Your editor receives a few of the important American catalogues regularly, but is unable to subscribe to all publications of firms who offer such material on a less frequent basis, especially those firms outside the USA.

Finally, Frank Vignola has pointed out that, in the Summer Issue, your hard working editor neglected to mention that I received the Nepal and Tibet Study Circle Award for my exhibit of "Nepal - Sri Pashupati Issues," at our regional ROMPEX-81 in Denver, Colorado, this past May. This was an oversight which I'm glad to mention, since I am very pleased and honored to have this award which now resides in a conspicuous place in my stamp den.

Lester A. Michel



NEPAL-81 (CENTENARY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
KATHMANDU, 12-16 Poush 2038 B.S. - 27-31  
December 1981 A.D.)

Two reports have been received, one from Mr. S. L. Shrestha (Kathmandu) and one from Mr. R. K. Lodha (Calcutta) who, together with three others, travelled to Kathmandu for the event. Mr. Shrestha has provided the picture of the award ceremony and other information about the exhibition and the special covers and cancels, while Mr. Lodha sent clippings from Nepal's English language daily newspaper, THE RISING NEPAL, relating to the event. We are most grateful to these gentlemen for their prompt and thorough reports on this important philatelic event.

Mr. Shrestha reports: An excellent show of the stamps of Nepal, with 25,000 visitors (local) during the 5-day exhibition, even though newspaper publicity was inadequate.

The list of Jury members was declared only at the concluding function of the exhibition. Chairman of the Jury: O. P. Gauchan. Members: J. B. Manandhar, N. G. Rajkarnikar, G. D. Tuladhar and the D.G./P.S.Dept. Advisers: S. L. Shrestha and C. Tulsian (on the request of the D.G./P.S.Dept., Mr. Sachidananda Shreevastav).

Award winners in the stamp group were:  
 First - Hardayal Singh (GOLD medal),  
 Second - Toya B. Dhakhwa (SILVER medal),  
 Third - M. L. Gurubacharya (COPPER medal).

Literature class: Two articles by Armand E. Singer (USA) and S. L. Shrestha's Nepal Stamp Album (1881-1980).

The only foreign visitors were: R. K. Lodha, B.K. Vora, A. K. Dutta & Saral Basak, all members of our Study Circle and all from Calcutta.

The exhibits involved 27 local participants and the exhibit area was indicated by an excellent Silk-screen colored poster (20" x 30" in size) published by the Nepal Philatelic Society (Designer: S.L.Shrestha).

Mr. R. K. Lodha, in addition to supplying some of the same information, included the following newspaper clippings, mentioned earlier:

Kathmandu, Dec. 27:

Her Royal Highness Princess Sharada Shah affixed the first cancellation mark on a special postal stamp issued by the Postal Services Department to mark the 100th anniversary of Nepal Philately today.

Also on the occasion, Her Royal Highness Princess Sharada declared open the Nepal Philatelic Exhibition 1981 organized to commemorate the centenary of Nepal Philately.

Her Royal Highness also saw with keen interest various postal stamps displayed at the exhibition at the Royal Nepal Academy.

On the occasion, Her Royal Highness was presented with a postal album and souvenir by the Director General of the Postal Services Department.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State for Labour and Social Welfare, Miss Bhadra Kumari Ghale, said that the postal stamps played a significant role in informing the people about the country's cultural heritage and its historical events.

Various stamps issued on various occasions carry behind them stories of the country's historical events and preserve its cultural heritage, she said.

The Royal Nepal Academy Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, believed that the postal stamps had a significant role in carrying out the memories of the past.

President of Nepal Philatelic Society, Mr. Omkar Prasad Gauchan, shed light on the objectives of the exhibition and that of philately.



Earlier, in his welcome address, Director General of the Postal Services Department disclosed that the department would issue a special stamp on the auspicious occasion of the 37th birthday of His Majesty the King.

He said that in the course of the last one hundred years a total of about 425 stamps including postal stationery had been issued in the Kingdom. The first postal stamp was issued in the year 1938 B.S.

Of these 425 stamps a total of 350 stamps had been issued in the last thirty years alone.

The exhibition which was opened today will be open through December 31.

On display are various postal stamps issued so far.

Kathmandu, December 31:

Chief Justice Nayan Bahadur Khatri has said that postage stamps educate the people on the country's history, culture, religion and natural assets, reports RSS.

Distributing prizes to the winning philatelists of the competitive Nepal philatelic exhibition, "Nepal '81," organized to mark

the anniversary of publication of postage stamps in Nepal, he said that the hobby and profession of collecting postage stamps was gaining popularity today.

At the concluding function of the exhibition, president of Nepal Philatelic Society Omkar Prasad Gauchan said that the five-day exhibition had added a new chapter to the philatelic history of Nepal.

Director General of the Department of Social Services, Sachhidananda Shrivastav said that the exhibition was participated in by some 87 philatelists and had drawn over 25 thousand visitors.

Coins expert and chairman of Nepal National Museum Pasupati Kumar Dwebedi expressed the view that a philatelic museum and publications of literature concerning the postage stamps would go a long way in development of philately in Nepal.

Hardayal Singh, Toya Bahadur Khakwas and Manik Lal Gurucharya were declared first, second and third in the postage stamp group.

In postage materials, Dhruva Chandra Kar-macharya, Pancha Ratna Bajrasharya and Puskar Rudra were declared winners.

Likewise, Jitendra Lal Singh, Miss Parnima Devi Shrestha and Miss Nirmala Shakya stood first, second and third, respectively, in the junior philatelists group.



Mr. S.L. Shrestha receives NEPAL-81 medal from Chief Justice Mr. Nayan Bahadur Khatri. Mr. Sachidananda Sribastav, Exhibition Secretary and Director General of the Postal Services Department announces names of the winners as Mr O.P. Gauchan, Chairman of the Jury and President of the Nepal Philatelic Society looks on.



## NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

Kathmandu, July 15, 1981: His Majesty's Government has made postage stamps mandatory for government mail in 29 more districts, reports RSS.

Official materials sent through the post in the districts affected will be required to have postage stamps affixed on them like ordinary mail.

The districts affected by this measure, effective from tomorrow, are: Ilam, Panchthar and Taplejung in Mechi zone, Terhathum, Dhankuta, Bhojpur and Sankhuasabha in Kosi zone, Siraha, Udayapur, Khotang, Okhaldunga and Solukhumbu in Sagarmatha zone and Sarlahi, Sindhuli, Ranechhap and Dolkha districts in Janakpur zone.

Likewise, Rautahat district in Narayani zone, Rasuwa in Bagmati zone, Gorkha, Lamjung and Manang districts in Gandaki zone, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi, Arghakanchi and Gulmi districts in Lumbini zone and Baglung, Parbat, Myagdi and Mustang districts in Dhaulagiri zones have also been affected by the measure.

Kathmandu, October 28, 1979:

In an article by S.L. Singh titled "Upcoming Nepalese Philately," which appeared in the local paper, THE RISING NEPAL, some interesting facts appear. After a brief history of the subject he notes that The Nepal Philatelic Society now has approximately 500 members within and without the country. On the average, each Nepali writes 3 letters a year and that some fifty million letters, aerogrammes and postal cards flow in or out of the country each year.

## PHILATELIC PROGRAMME - 1982:

<u>Date of issue</u>	<u>Subject or occasion</u>	<u>Denomination</u>
23-6-1982	Academy Building (Royal Nepal Academy)	.40 P.
21-7-1982	Laat Late Bala Krishha Sama	R. 3.40
19-11-1982	Asian Game	R. 5.00
30-11-1982	<u>Visit Nepal Series</u> (a) Cho-oyu Himal (b) Barah chhetra (c) Phoksando Lake	R. 1.00 .10 .05
28-12-1982	38th Birthday of H.M. the King	.25 P.



Technical data on the following recent issues of Nepal can be obtained from the Data Collector, Bishnu Lal Shrestha, G.P.O. Box 193, Kathmandu-14, Nepal, or from the editor. We are indebted to Mr. Shrestha for the following information:

A single stamp (Rs. 1/-) issued to mark the 36th Birthday of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on 14 Poush 2037 B.S. (28 December 1980).

A single stamp (Rs. 5/-) to mark the International Year of Disabled Persons, on 18 Poush, 2037 B.S. (1 January 1981).

A single stamp (Rs. 1/75p) to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Nepal Rashtra Bank (the Government Bank).

A set of three stamps (10p, 40p, Rs. 3/40p) plus a Souvenir Sheet (Rs. 5/-) perforated (3 stamps) to mark the Centenary of Nepalese Postage Stamps 1881-1981.



"NEPAL - 81"

1. Commission Organized April 8, 1981.

A 5-man committee was organized for the preparation of the Philatelic Exhibition to be held December 27-31, 1981, for the Centenary of Nepalese Postage Stamps. The committee members are Mr. Ram Krishna Gautam and Mr. Hari Shrestha from the Government side and M/S Bishnu Lal Shrestha, Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha and Mr. C. Tulsiyan from the NPS side.

This committee was given the name of CENTENARY EXHIBITION SECRETARIAT and the office assigned is in the G.P.O. Building in Kathmandu.

2. Souvenir Cover and Special Cancellation.

NPS printed nearly 10,000 covers with the Globe and main emblem of 'OM' in multi-colour for the World Hindu Conference which is to be held at Pipara Math, Birgunj, Narayani Zone, Nepal. The special cancellation was also granted on this occasion & used from the 12th to the 16th of April, 1981 -- a 5-day programme. The Chairman of this Conference was Mr. Nagendra Prasad Rijal, the former Prime Minister. Mr. Madan Bahadur Shrestha and Mr. Deepak Man Manandhar were deputed to the spot to obtain the cancellation.

3. Another Souvenir Cover.

The Nepal Philatelic Society printed a Souvenir Cover and the Postal Services Department granted a Special Cancellation to be used from the 4th to the 22nd of June, 1981, on the occasion of the 4th National Census 1981. The cancellation consists of a double-line circle enclosing all Nepalese characters. In a circular pattern, the upper inscription is 'CHATURTHA RASHTRIYA JANAGANANA' -- or, Fourth National Census. The lower portion shows the date: Jestha 22 - Asher 7. Three horizontal lines of inscription appear in the center: Upper-- 'Goswara Hulak,' Center-- 'Kathmandu,' and Lower-- '2038.' The cachet is printed in black, with a central picture with a pair of hands indicating the 4th Census before

a group of people. The picture is surrounded with a 10-point border to indicate 10 years. NPS printed only 900 copies for collectors in Nepal and is not for sale.

4. The Nepal Philatelic Society formed a new body on the 23rd of July, 1981, on the completion of the terms of the previous Executives, whose Assembly was completed on the 18th of July. The election was held on the 23rd of July, 1981. The New Executives are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Honorable Mr. O. P. Gauchan,  
Kamaladi, Kathmandu.

Vice-President: Mr. Dam Bahadur Shakya,  
6/64 Bhim-mukteshwar,  
Kalimati, Kathmandu.

Secretary: Mr. Bidhya Ratna Tuladhar,  
13/9, Nara Devi, Kathmandu.

Administration Secretary:  
Mr. Jala Krishna Shrestha,  
15/660, Chhetrapaty, Kathmandu.

Organization Secretary:  
Mr. Ramesh Kumar Shrestha,  
2/69, Tripureshwar, Kathmandu

Treasurer: Mr. Madan Bahadur Shrestha,  
14/518, Dhoka Tole, Kathmandu.

Membership Secretaries:  
Mr. Bishnu Lal Shrestha, 113/1, Maru,  
Pyaphal, Kathmandu.

Mr. N. G. Rajkarnikar, 81, Mangal Bazar,  
Lalitpur.

Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, 5/148, Ombahal,  
Kathmandu.

Mr. B. N. Shrestha, 11/113, Asan Kamal-  
akshi, Kathmandu.

Mr. Deepak Manandhar, 9/85, Tamsipakha,  
Naradevi, Kathmandu.

Mr. Ghana Shyam Rajkarnikar, Haugal Tole,  
Lalitpur.

Mr. Punya Ratna Sthapit, Chalcha Galli,  
Thamel, Kathmandu.

Mr. Dwarika Bhakta Joshi, 3/256 Lakola  
Chhen, Bhaktapur.

Mr. Shyam Pradhan, Tankeshwar-Tahachal,  
Kathmandu.

(This 15-member Executive Committee will remain in office for two years from the date of the election.)



## EXHIBITION NEWS

Colin Hepper received a SILVER award for his exhibit at PHILATOKYO '81 recently. Al Zulueta, Jr., was awarded a SILVER for his exhibit titled "Nepal: Classics" at the same international exhibition.

Fred de Ridder, a Commissioner for the third international exhibition in Taiwan, informs us that our Newsletter received a SILVER in the literature section of ROC-PEX TAIPEI '81 recently. Lester Michel was awarded a SILVER in the same show for his Nepal exhibit titled "Sri Pashupati Issues."

Member Ken Goss, at CALPEX '81, received a VERMEIL for his exhibit titled: "Nepal, Telegraph Issues 1917-30."

AWARD: Colin Hepper has been given the British Philatelic Federation's AWARD OF MERIT, in the form of a framed certificate, "for individuals who have given outstanding voluntary service to philately." (We are informed that only 3 or 4 nominations are made each year and knowing of Colin's untold hours of voluntary service to our Study Circle alone, we can think of no one more deserving of such recognition. Congratulations.--Ed.

Vern Richards, a new member from Victoria, B.C., received a SILVER and the Frank Dyment Trophy at an exhibition in Victoria.

Russ Sanford and Frank Vignola received a LARGE SILVER at ROCPEX '81 in Taiwan, for a 3-frame exhibit titled: "India, Too Late." Congratulations to the winners.

Your editor requests that he be informed of other entries and awards received by our members in these and other exhibitions held in recent months. He apologizes to those who may have received awards not yet reported.

## FINE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS



TELEPHONE  
(604) 261-1673

*Geoffrey Flack*

BOX No. 35545  
POSTAL STATION "E"  
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA  
V6M 4G8

## Q. and A

Dr. Hellrigl requests the help of our readers in the task of clearing up the following problem in connection with the handbook of the classic issues of Nepal, which he and Frank Vignola have been working on. His request is: "On the 2 annas, I have so far not found any trace of what may be termed as a "phantom setting." This was first listed by Dawson, in 1941, but has not been seen since, or so it would appear. It is possible that Dawson simply made a mistake in quoting the positions of the inverted cliches, as there are other settings with very similar inverted cliches. But is it

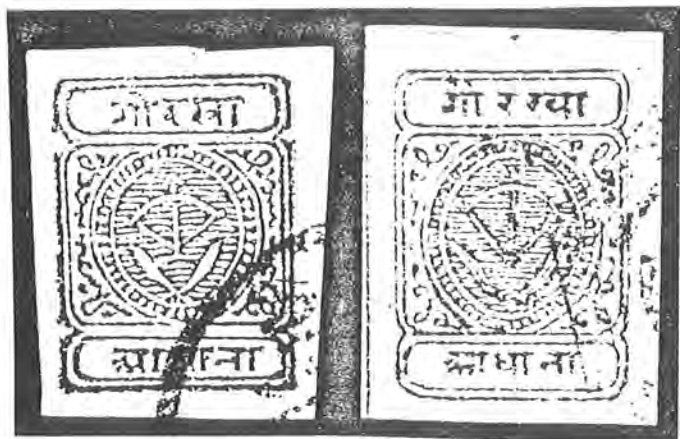
simply a printing error? Readers are asked to check their UNUSED 2 anna sheets or blocks WITHOUT SHEET INSCRIPTIONS. Dawson's sheet has 4 inverted cliches (positions 1, 8, 9, 19). Even if someone had only the 2 top rows of such a sheet, this would be sufficient evidence that this setting really existed.--The period in question is 1903/04, so the setting would not exist telegraphically cancelled. Anyone who may have such an item is requested to send me a photocopy of any such sheet or block, or inform us by writing to Dr. Hellrigl, Frank Vignola, or your editor.



# COUNTERFEIT CHRONICLE

FAKES AND FORGERIES

Compiled by Al Zulueta (continued from #26)



*Forgeries of the Half Anna Value*



*Forgeries of the 1902 One Anna Rect*  
Well-executed, 17½mm x 20mm,  
each made from the same model

Shades

## *Forgeries of the Two and Four Annas Values*

On thin, good quality native paper  
Shades



Two Annas Values



Four Annas Value

Coming next:

The fake ½ anna Orange-Vermilion!

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FLAW

- Lester A. Michel

Collectors of classic Nepal stamps have always found the half anna stamp, first issued in 1899, worthy of study. Several outstanding philatelists have written on the subject. (1,2,3) H.D.S. Haverbeck, in his well-known book (4), devotes a brief chapter to this stamp (Ch.3, pp. 41-44)--- a chapter which ends with a description of damaged cliches and plating flaws. Under the heading: "C.---New or Transferred Cliches (4)," the third item mentioned is: "No. 42---Blister in center of outer right line. In settings #5 and 6." No illustration appears for this flaw, nor for any others described, though the flaw is fairly commonly known in the form illustrated in Figure 1.

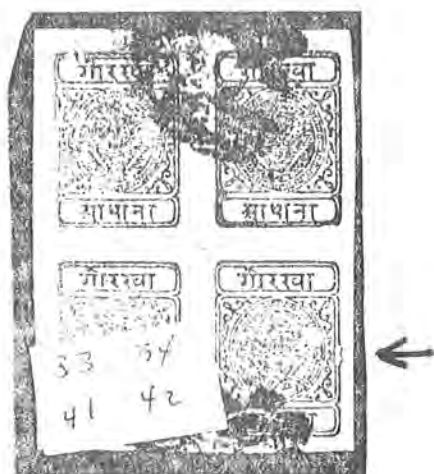


Figure 1---Double blister flaw as seen in Dr. Hellrigl's Settings 10, 11, 12.

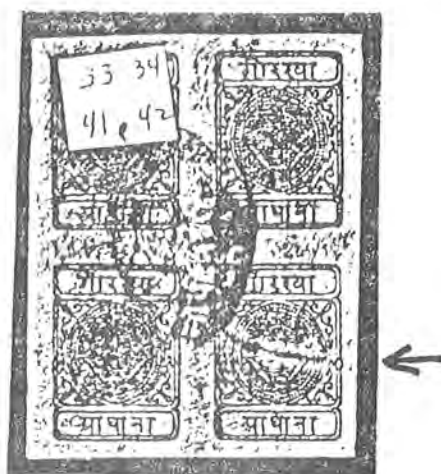


Figure 2---Single blister flaw as seen in Dr. Hellrigl's Settings 9 and 10.

A number of years ago, while studying my own half anna material, I came across a block of 4 which had a curious flaw on the stamp at the lower right. (See Figure 2.)

At the time this item remained a unique curiosity which I considered to have happened but once and, as such, was of little value in plating or in helping to establish the order of settings. However, in February, 1976, one of our members asked me to examine his small collection of early Nepal, including two quarter sheets of the half anna which, together, made up the lower half of a complete sheet. Imagine my surprise in discovering that a "blister" on the stamp in position #42 appeared to be nearly identical to that shown in my block shown here as Figure 2! My curiosity was stimulated and I began to look for other examples. If such a flaw had been found twice, then it seemed likely that others might exist. Correspondence followed, but in every instance no other example turned up.

In June, 1977, Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl sent copies of a preliminary study of the half anna settings to several leading collectors for study and comment. In this unpublished article, a new setting (his own discovery) was listed and mention was made of the flaw I had reported. Under his listing for Setting 10, he wrote: "The prominent flaw on cliché 42 first appears as a single blister (rare) in this setting and soon develops to a double blister." At the time, this positioning of the appearance of the 'single blister' form of the flaw was an educated guess, as no complete sheets in which this form of the flaw appears had been brought to our attention.

In the Spring of 1979, two complete sheets of the half anna stamp were brought to my attention, each of which featured the single blister flaw (Fig. 2) at position #42, but from different settings! The first was found to correspond to Setting 10, just as Dr. Hellrigl had predicted, but the second corresponded to Setting 9! Thus it appears that the flaw developed during the latter printings of Setting 9 and continued on into the early printings of Setting 10. Furthermore, these two

sheets clarify two points: 1) Haverbeck's book, quoted above, in describing the flaw, indicates that it appears in his Settings 5 and 6, but does not mention Setting 7 (his last) at all. This had puzzled me, as well as the fact that the description refers to a "blister"---and not to a double blister, such as is found throughout the more common later settings. I now believe that Mr. Haverbeck was describing the rarer 'single blister,' as shown in Figure 2; and 2) Dr. Hellrigl's conclusion that Haverbeck's Settings 5 & 6 should be reversed so as to be placed in proper chronological order, is confirmed. Both settings have been dated approximately in the year 1917, the year the telephone/telegraph service between Kathmandu and Raxaul, India, began to function.

To my knowledge, the first published use of Dr. Hellrigl's classification of the half anna stamp, made first in 1977, appeared in connection with the George Alvarez Sale No. 30, held on July 21-22, 1981. On page 27, at the bottom of the first column we read: "The setting numbers used below are taken from an unpublished letter by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl. At least one further Setting has been discovered so these numbers should be taken only as temporary." It may be assumed that the latter statement refers to the entirely new Setting reported by Dr. Armand E. Singer in *POSTAL HIMAL* (No. 25) in the Spring 1981 issue, under the title, "New Nepal Find," on page 6, in which Dr. Singer reports a sheet with only cliché 57 inverted and surmises that it should be placed either immediately before, or just after "the presently designated No. 2." He undoubtedly refers to Dr. Hellrigl's 1977 listing.

Among the items offered in the aforementioned sale is Lot No. 870, with the following description: "Setting 9, Sheet of 64, cl. #6,7,8,25,57 inverted, blotchy printing, single "blister" flaw on cl. #42 (rare), cl. #63,64 with small pieces missing, scarcer setting, F-VF." This particular sheet turned out to be a normal example of Setting 9, with no evidence of the blister in the outer frame line. This fact prompted me to write this article.

It is only natural to speculate about the cause of this flaw and its development in-

to the more common "double blister" form seen in Hellrigl's Settings 10, 11 and 12. My first surmise was that the feature illustrated in Figure 2 resulted from the use of a wiping cloth for cleaning the plate prior to re-inking. I speculated that a hard particle of some sort---perhaps a crystal, a sand grain, or other foreign object---may have stuck to one of the threads of the wiping cloth. Later, during the use of the cloth, the hard particle may have become caught between the raised lines of the cliché which produce the pair of frame lines on the right side of the print. If then, the thread attached to the hard particle came loose from the wiping cloth, it might have assumed a position corresponding to the line that emanates from the blister, travelling across the cliché and curving upward as it approaches the left side of the cliché. Either during the application of ink to the plate, or the pressing of a sheet of paper onto the plate, the hard particle could have been forced into the cliché in such a way as to deform the outer frame line. Measurements on these single blisters indicate that the position corresponds to that of the lower of the two features which characterize the double blister. We may assume, therefore, that the hard particle was moved from its original location to a position about 1 mm higher during some later cleaning operation. Whether or not the 'thread' was removed from the plate at that time is not known, since the only subsequent printings known to me show a clean double blister, as in Figure 1, with no trace of either the particle which caused the minor damage to the cliché, or the 'thread' which was presumably attached to it. It seems quite possible that, somewhere out there, a sheet, or a portion of one, may show a flaw somewhat like that in Figure 2, but in a position corresponding to the upper of the two blisters in the later printings, and with a clean single blister just below it. The discovery of such a feature would provide additional evidence as to the manner in which the flaw was produced.

More careful examination of the single blister shows that it appears as a fully outlined oval with the vertical axis in the vertical orientation. This suggests that the hard particle might have been a tiny glass or metal bead, such as those so



often used in decorating women's clothing, using the fine stitching so often seen and required to attach these colored beads in close array. The actual nature of the item will probably never be known, but the nearly identical shape of the two blisters in the double blister form of the flaw suggests that they were both formed by the same object. Perhaps a later wiping motion with a cloth simply flipped the bead over moving it upward a short distance, so that it had a chance, during the following printing operation, to produce a second deformation in the outer frame line.

The writer welcomes correspondence from anyone who may be able to shed light on this interesting subject.

#### REFERENCES:

- 1) Smythies, E.A., and Dawson, L.E., "The Postage Stamps of Nepal," The Philatelic Society of India, Lahore (1945)
- 2) Garratt-Adams, H., "The 1/2 Anna of Nepal 1899-1918," Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, London (Jan.-March, 1951)
- 3) Heddergott, J., "Nepal 1/2 Anna," Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien (1973)
- 4) Haverbeck, H.D.S., "The Postage Stamps of Nepal," Collectors Club, New York, Handbook No. 14 (1962)



POSTAL HIMAL is offering enlargements of the 1881 one anna pictured on the cover of our last issue (#26) offset lithographed in reflex blue on 5x7 inch white vellum stock suitable for framing or album display. Send \$2 U.S. or equiv. in your currency for each copy desired to:

Thomas Matthiesen  
 POSTAL HIMAL  
 Box 406  
 Duvall, WA 98019 U.S.A.

Each order helps the Study Circle.



#### NEPAL NEWSPAPER STAMP

--by Bishnu Lal Shrestha

This stamp was used in the authorized circulation of The Gorkha Patra, the National newspaper. It was used only for the mailing of this particular newspaper. The denomination of the stamp was found to have only one value---1/2 anna, or 2 paisa. The size is approximately 25 x 29 mm, with a design in red ink, as seen in the sketch:



In this design one sees a curved line of Nepalese characters in a scroll-type band at the top. They read: NEPAL SARKAR ( नेपाल सरकार ) or, Government of Nepal. Just below the curved band is an oval shape enclosing a monogram combining the letters G and P, for Gorkha Patra. Below this symbol is seen a pair of crossed kukris. Another, more formal band, just below the crossed kukris, contains the word "Dui," or Two ( दुइ ) at the left and at the right the word "Paisa" ( पैसा ). In the lower left and right corners we see snowy mountain sketches flanking a central square with the denomination: 1/2 (1/2). During the period of time this stamp was used, the newspaper, The Gorkha Patra, was available by mail for an additional 2 paisa per copy. This price was valid until the 29th of Paukh 2032, i.e., the 16th of January, 1976. A new tariff of 5 paisa, rather than 2 paisa, was instituted on the 1st day of Magh 2032, i.e., the 16th of January, 1976.

The Gorkha Patra newspaper began in 1924 A.D., during the reign of Prime Minister Bir Shumsher JBR. It was first printed as a weekly, then bi-weekly, then on alternate days, becoming a daily in 1960 A.D. In my opinion, this stamp was used only from about 1935 to 1960 or so.



Some controversy surrounds this stamp. The opinion has been expressed that this is a Franking stamp or Meter stamp. However, I feel certain that this was a true stamp. The Meter or Franking stamps were used only from 1967 and a FDC cancellation of this Meter or Franking stamp is illustrated, for comparison purposes:



In this sketch one sees both round and vertical impressions. The denominations of these franked stamps vary, while the round seal bears the name of the owner of this franking machine assigned by the Postal Department. I estimate that not less than 125 franking machines were distributed to different merchandising firms. On the round seal the word KATHMANDU appears in a curved line above, while below the letters KN (representing Kathmandu and Number) appear after an abbreviated name of the firm. The date appears across the middle band. The example sketched above appeared on a FDC and was issued by the G.P.O.

The story of the newspaper stamp discovery is as follows. The examples were found in a batch of mail received in India while I was deputed in the Royal Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi during the period 1959-62 A.D. I have also found piles of such wrapping papers at the Gorkha Patra Newspaper office. Unfortunately, it did not occur to me to keep the whole wrapping, and I cut out 5 copies remaining.

In the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle Newsletter No. 3 (March, 1977), I saw that Mr. Michael Zolno wanted to collect the hand-stamps and that he was interested in obtaining complete information on them. Therefore, I sent an item concerning this discovery for publication in the Newsletter No. 4 (May, 1977). I am grateful for the inspiration given me by the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle.

Despite the encouragement from various philatelists, I have been unable to get more information as of this date and am waiting for more complete information from the appropriate authorities. I am sure that the authorities of the Gorkha Patra Press can provide the correct information and wish to express my gratitude to them in advance for their valuable help. Thank you. (Interested readers may wish to consult the book by W. Hellrigl & C. Hepper, "The Native Postmarks of Nepal," p. 88, for a useful discussion and illustrations of Machine Cancellations.--Ed.)



Q.

In a recent Study Circle auction, one lot was a commercial registered cover using the 1 R. local print of the '1946' issue of Nepal. Does any other member have the stamp on cover? Answers please to Colin Hepper, as the information will be included in our studies on the Pashupati issues.



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CHINESE/TIBETAN CENSORSHIP OF A NEPALESE  
STAMP ISSUE

-- Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

On 21st March, 1963, Nepal released the "Freedom-from-Hunger" issue, a set of four stamps (SG 172/175, Fig. 1). This modest issue would probably never have made any philatelic headlines had it not been for the most unusual reactions it caused within Chinese-ruled Tibet.

In fact, the Chinese authorities defaced any stamp of this issue that was found on Tibet-bound mail from Nepal, by covering it with black ink or watercolour.

Naturally, the question arises why such action would be taken against any stamps that bore no apparent political or ideological message. The answer is that the Chinese obviously regarded the problem of the battle against hunger very much as a political issue: Since they claimed that hunger did not exist in "liberated" Tibet, they found it impossible to tolerate stamps that propagated the need for freedom from hunger.



Fig. 1 - The "Freedom-from-Hunger" set, of 1963

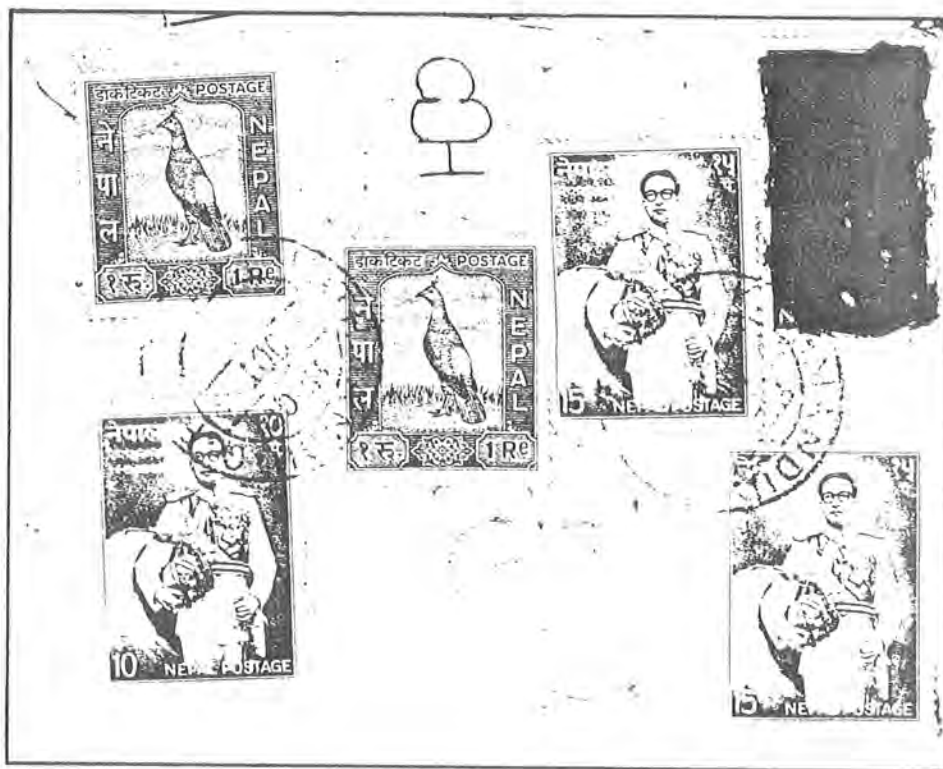


Fig. 2 -  
Cover from Kathmandu  
to Lhasa, dated  
30.12.1963

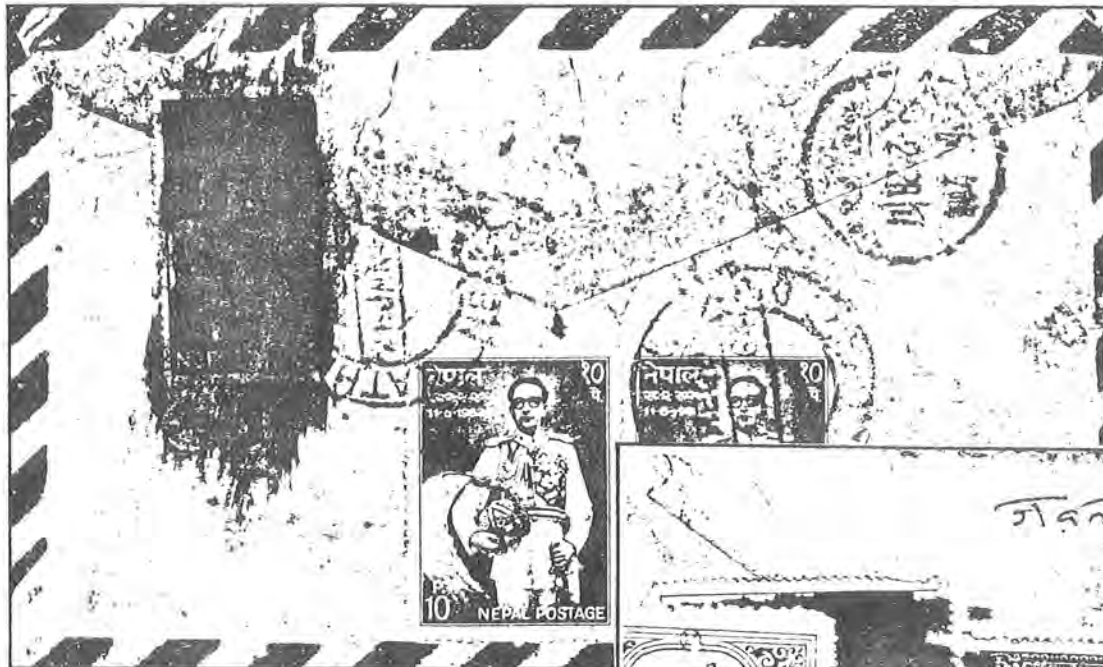


Fig. 3 - Cover from Kathmandu to Lhasa, dated 28.2.1964

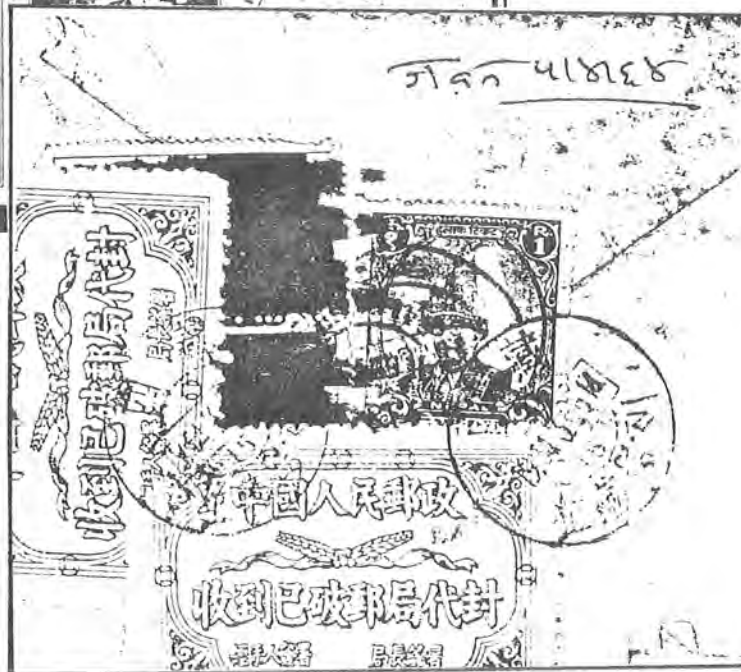


Fig. 4 - Cover from Kathmandu to Lhasa, bearing two censor labels

I have seen three covers -- all sent from Kathmandu to Lhasa -- that demonstrate this absurd case of censorship: The earliest cover is dated 30th December, 1963 (Fig.2). It is registered and bears a copy of the 50p. "Freedom-from-Hunger" stamp, completely obliterated with black ink. The stamps of other issues on this and the following covers were, of course, not touched in any way.

My second cover -- also registered -- was sent on 26th January, 1964, arriving at Lhasa on 28th February (Fig. 3). It bears a defaced 1 R. stamp, this time covered with brownish watercolour.

The third cover (Fig. 4), finally, is the most interesting example in that it bears two yellow-green Chinese censor labels

pasted over the opened sides of the cover and tied by the Chinese/Tibetan Lhasa cancellation dated 26th March, 1964. The censor labels -- very rarely used in Tibet -- partly cover a pair of 10p. "Freedom-from-Hunger" stamps which had been previously defaced. Thus we actually have two different kinds of censorship, side by side.

It would be most interesting to find out whether any stamps of the said series slipped through without being defaced and, secondly, whether any covers sent to Chinese regions other than Tibet received a similar treatment.



## CLIPPINGS FROM THE LIBRARY

In response to a request to help with a Tibetan bibliography by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, the Western Philatelic Library has identified articles on Tibet that can be copied. Currently, the library has a charge of 50¢ for each request, plus a fee of 10¢ per page copied. If you would like any of the articles from the following list, send your request, with remittance, to FWPL, P O Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94022, USA. Overseas requests must add sufficient postage for Air Post service.

TIBET - THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY, Part I - by H.D.S. Haverbeck (22 pp, illustrated) -- contains Chapters 1 - 5, Geography & History, Postal History of the Border Commission, Younghusband Expedition, British-Indian Postal Agency, Chinese P.O.  
cost: \$2.20

Ditto, Part II (15 pp, illustrated) --Ch.6, The Tibetan Stamps & Cancellations.  
cost: \$1.50

Ditto, Part III (14 pp, illustrated) -- Ch. 6, Part 5, The Cancellations & Postal History, Appendix A - D, Bibliography.  
cost: \$1.40

TIBET - FURTHER DISCOVERIES - by H.D.S. Haverbeck (8 pp, illustrated) -- Data and illustrations of official stamps and 1 Sang 1912 stamp.  
cost: \$0.80

TIBET - TIBET, Part I - by Theodore M. Newman (8 pp, illustrated) / Background data, dates of philatelic importance, Wax seals, Younghusband Expedition, First Chinese issue, Second Chinese issue.  
cost: \$0.80

Ditto, Part II (12 pp, illustrated) -- First Tibetan issue, shades, errors, Mystery issues, Second issue, shades, 1938 lithographed issue, Proofs, Errors, Lhasa P.O. Postal Systems.  
cost: \$1.20

Ditto, Part III (16 pp, illustrated) -- English, Chinese & Tibetan Cancellations for Lhasa, Pharijong, Gyantse, Yatung, Shigatse, Nagartse, Medagongkar, Chamtha, Chiamdo, & registry labels, Trade routes and mileages between Tibetan cities.  
cost: \$1.60

TIBET - TIBET, the 1933 Type - by E. A. Smythies (16 pp, illustrated) -- Details of the 1933 issue, enabling plating of each stamp to specific printings and settings; illustrations of complete sheets; 8 pages of plating tables.  
cost: \$1.60

TIBET - SOME FORGERIES OF THE 1912 ISSUE - by E. A. Smythies (2 pp, illustrated).  
cost: \$0.20

TIBET - THE LOCALLY PRINTED STAMPS 1912-14 - by E. A. Smythies (4 pp, illustrated).  
cost: \$0.40

TIBET - MEETING OF OCT 7, 1959 - TIBET - by Secretary of the Collectors Club of New York (3 pp) -- A description of the showing of H.D.S. Haverbeck's Tibet collection to the CCNY.  
cost: \$0.30

NEPAL - NEPAL'S POSTAL SERVICE - by Ben Hamilton, Jr. (2 pp) -- List of 67 post offices (1942) and a few details about cancels of the British Legation post office.  
cost: \$0.20

NEPAL - NEPAL PART-PERFORATES OF 1941-46 - by Harrison D. S. Haverbeck (1 page, ill.). -- The story behind the catalogue footnote.  
cost: \$0.10

NEPAL-TIBET - STAMPING WITH CURRENT EVENTS, CHINA-TIBET-NEPAL-INDIA - by Arthur Bruce Moss (3 pp, illustrated) -- An overview of the 1960 problems with China concerning its borders; Geographic, Ethnic, Philatelic data about the Himalayan region; illustration of three covers of the region.  
cost: \$0.30





(Dr. Singer attended the George Alevizos Central and East Asia auction in Westwood, California, this past July 22, where some fine Tibet material went under the hammer along with the great Nepal collection formed by our own Pierre Couvreur. This article was written at the request of the editor, who wishes to thank Dr. Singer for sharing his experiences with us.--Ed.)

The auction room, high up in the Holiday Inn, in a posh section of Los Angeles, is rather full. Some of these characters look well-heeled and sure of themselves. How many are dealers or agents bidding for absent clients. I better get a few of those cookies off the snack table -- too nervous to eat a decent dinner! Been talking to some stranger who calmly informed me and a fellow collector that he has come to fight. Told us he'd be hard to beat. That's all I need: a trip clear from West Virginia just to get outbid by a bigtime operator! I'm out of my league. Well, I'd better pick up a buyer number card. I'll really need two, since I'm bidding for a friend also. And I'll have to establish my own ground rules. If I lose out on any certain lot, do I put the "savings" into the following ones? Do I go over my own pre-determined limits? Auctions work me up & sometimes I forget to keep within common-sense bounds. The session is starting. Now I'm really tense. There's no denying the excitement of important auctions, offering one-in-a-lifetime gems, especially for a bidder with strictly limited means, like me. If you don't watch out, the acquisitive fever hits you. The adrenalin flows. It's in no way like bidding by mail, any more than dating the campus beauty queen resembles a love affair with a pen pal!

I wish I had studied the lots more carefully this afternoon. Plus points, little flaws, some item to go for or reject at the last second. I'll be under- or over-bidding. No. 813 went below estimate. Good. No. 814 brought about the suggested figure, No. 815 less again. But the three lots, consisting of whole collections, are being regrouped into one and bidding re-opened. Knocked down at \$13,500 to that belligerent bidder. That man bears watch-

ing. I don't belong here. Where does he get that kind of money? A couple of items I want are coming up soon, but not top priority. Better let them go unless bids are modest. Save my hoard for the clinches. Both just went over estimate. \$180; \$105; \$1600 -- that lovely one-anna sheet I really coveted. No. 854, another fine sheet -- bidding already over \$1000 -- it goes for \$1250. My first "must" item is at hand. I raise my card; it stays up; the bids rise, rise -- already too high; put the card down, you fool. No more bids. I hear my number called out. I have my first prize. Also my second, luckily at far less. What if that fabulous block of twenty-two of the half-anna orange mint is underbid? Not even checked on my catalogue. I knew I couldn't afford it, but what if, if? No. Probably has a reserve. It wouldn't be let go for any bargain-basement figure. Some dealer would snap it up. The owner has surely left instructions: no sacrifice bidders need apply. \$6000, \$7000, \$8500. Sold to the same tough customer who affirmed to us he wouldn't be beaten out. He wasn't! At that figure, I don't even feel defeated. No contest. Then a long run of lot numbers of material I can live without, if reluctantly. Relax and regroup forces.

But now the Perkins-Bacon Sri Pashupati 1907-1935 issues plus the 1941-1949 local printings are coming up: sketches, essays, die and plate proofs, blocks, multiples, the controversial "SERVICE" overprints, sheets, perforation errors -- the works. Heart of my heart's desire. I want them all; well, most of them; please, Lord, let the bids stay low; let me get at least a few. Now my wants come so fast I can hardly keep a running total of where my balance stands, though I have partial limits marked on the catalogue margins to keep from running out of gas too soon. Here is where greed flattens caution, where you can be deep in the hole before the red light turns on, where the men get separated from the boys. How do I classify? Auctions are sure tough on the indecisive and the unsure. There's so little time.

My card stays up: \$150-160-70-80-90-200-10-20-30-40-50-60-70-80-90-300-320-340. It's only money. The man in front of me has dropped out. The little guy on my right, too. Ah, that feeling of power! I'm breaking them on my financial rack.

I've won again. Singer, the ruthless. Trample the opposition under foot. To be sure, the \$13,500 and \$8,500 millionaire (?) isn't bidding on these items. I get another pair of dandies, lose a third and a fourth. I let a few pass just to catch my monetary breath. A cheaper item or two and I'm still solvent, but Tibet is yet to come.

This auction is more relaxed and informal than many I've attended. Once I actually bid under my friend's card number and had to switch to my own. Another time I bid on the wrong lot. At some auctions you'd have to keep it, but George takes the error in stride with a friendly smile.

Nos. 1098 to 1385 do nothing for me. Even Tibet Nos. 1386-1414, single stamps and multiples, blocks and all, I decide to forego in favor of the later postal history section. Hong Kong takes a while, India forever. Mongolia, Thailand, and now back to Tibet at No. 1710. I'm sweating and the room is cool. Lots all going at close to estimate, even over. The trouble with George is that his estimates are so steep and almost always about right on the nose. Nevertheless, I manage to grab a bargain for under \$90, and many lots for my absent friend.

Here comes my next "must." Under estimate, but I still pay a wild price. Visions of my wife: underclothed, underinsured, underfed, her charities undernourished, while I overbid. Guilt, guilt, guilt. A few more victories as the auction winds down. I bid heavily on the penultimate item, cautiously let the last one slide past me. "End of sale."

I make some rapid additions. In under budget, as financial planners and movie moguls brag to justify astronomical wastes of their backers' money, even with the 10% buyers' surcharge we all tend to forget during the heat of the fray. I've garnered some unique material, an item or two that won't look so good in the cold morning light, when I've calmed down. I've missed out on a few I wish I hadn't stopped bidding on. I've blown a large chunk of cash saved for my old age. Old age? Just hold it there, mister. Old age? I'm already old; I don't need to save it; that's where I got it from in the first place. Now if I can only make my wife see things in the same light. ☻

(I can think of no better way to introduce our new column: AUCTION ACTION, than by printing the foregoing article, which left me in a shivering sweat as I relived the experience described by the author. But most of us get our "kicks," in part at least, by such activities.--Ed.)

## AUCTION ACTION

--Lester A. Michel

An unusual auction was held by London and Brighton Stamp Auctions on 20 March 1980, when the "Gold Medal Collection" assembled by Mr. Jochen Heddergott was offered. The collection had been offered earlier at an intact price of £150,000 but, apparently, failed to attract a buyer. The sale was unusual in that most people in the USA received their catalogues unusually late. In fact, my own copy arrived on the day of the sale! Indirect information from a person who attended the sale indicated that no more than a handful of people was present at the sale. The number of mail bidders is unknown. Furthermore, although the catalogue did not indicate any reserves later information indicated that reserves had been in effect during the sale. A total of 158 lots was offered, valued at anywhere from £10 to £7,000 and included a great variety of material, including early letters and pre-stamp covers dating from 1801 to 1881. The largest offering of first issue stamps was presented that this writer had ever seen, including 16 lots of first issue stamps in all three settings, and featuring the full sheet of the la bright blue with fanciful border, originally from the Haverbeck collection (illustrated in Haverbeck's book on "The Stamps of Nepal,") which brought £5,200 against an estimate of £5,000. One of three known examples of the 2a tete beche pair (Setting 3) was knocked down at £4,200 (est. £4,000). The lovely mint corner block of 24 of the half-anna red-orange was bought for £4,400 against a valuation of £7,000. Half-anna material included 18 lots, beginning with a mint sheet of the first setting and continuing through to a collection of 1200+ stamps, telegraphically used, in the form of sheets blocks, etc., -- a lot that did not sell! Most sold at or below valuations, inclu-

ding the full mint sheet of the first setting, which went for £900, against a valuation of £1,200. This group concluded with a lot of two mint sheets of 56 -- the last setting -- which went for £70, though valued at £140.---The sale certainly included something for everyone, as an 1838 letter bearing a fine strike of an oval seal, coming from the town of Doti, & sent to Kathmandu, sold for £16, 20% below the valuation. Interestingly, Lot No. 152 -- a 35-piece forgery collection valued at £10, actually sold for £120! This rather amazing selling price confirms the fact that Nepal forgeries are still eagerly sought after for study purposes. All-in-all, 53 of the 158 lots sold, with the remainders being grouped into seven lots which were offered at the International Exhibition in London on May 6, 1980. We have had no firm report on the disposition of these remainder lots.

Nearly all of our readers will be familiar with the periodic auction sales held by a member of the Study Circle, George Alevizos, in the Los Angeles area of the USA. His Sale No. 28, held on April 28, 1981, included 64 lots of Nepal material and 9 lots of Tibet. The Nepal items ranged from seven lots of the first issue, mainly mint, seven lots of half-anna issues, 20 lots of Pashupati material, including some very rare items, to 24 lots of modern material, including some interesting errors. The popularity of first issue offerings was shown by the very first lot (No. 286) which included five stamps, excepting only the 4a, perforated, but all with faults. This lot was knocked down at \$240 (10% buyers surcharge not included) against a valuation of \$140. All first issue items brought prices exceeding the valuations. Half-anna lots tended to go for slightly less than the valuations, except for the half-anna vermilion lots. Lots No. 302 and 303, offering single copies, telegraphically used, each sold for \$160, against valuations of \$125 and \$100, respectively. The latter was a pin-perfed copy---interesting, but not commanding any premium. The Pashupati material was quite varied, including a very rare set of 1935 die proofs which sold for \$2,400 against a valuation of \$3,000. In fact, the scarcer, higher priced material generally went for 10-20% below the valuations, whereas the lots valued below about

\$200 generally sold at higher prices. Lot No. 309, which included F-VF sets of the 1907, 1929 and 1941-46 issues brought \$210 against a valuation of \$100. The more modern offerings also sold well for the most part, with Lot No. 331, which included mint sets of the 1954 King and Map issues, together with the 1957 Crown issue, all in NH, F-VF condition, brought \$130 against a valuation of \$70. On the other hand, Lot No. 341, containing full mint sheets of the 1960 and 1961 Children's Day issues, in NH, F-VF condition, sold for \$90, 10% below the valuation and considerably below the single stamp value, as listed in Scott, of \$210+.

The Tibet lots were small in number and, for the most part, sold in the neighborhood of the valuations. An XF set of the 1945 Officials (Scott Nos. 01-05) brought \$460, against a valuation of \$500, and a Scott listing of \$595. A rare corner copy of the 1914 4tr milky blue (Scott #7) went for \$380, while valued at \$350---proving again that the "Superb" condition was appreciated by the discriminating buyer.

Much interest has been expressed in the Alevizos sale No. 30, held in Los Angeles on July 21-22, 1981. Unfortunately, the authorized list of prices realized is not yet available. However, Dr. Singer's article in this issue includes some information on the sales results. Through a few friends, we are able to add a few of the prices realized to those which Armand Singer mentions. -- As most of you know, the sale featured the Nepal collection assembled by Dr. Pierre Couvreur, our own president. 200 lots of stamps, plus 84 lots of postal history material were offered. The first three lots (Nos. 813-15) were sold as a group, bringing \$13,500 vs. a valuation of \$14,500. Lots No. 827, 838, 840 and 841 sold for \$160, \$105, \$70 and \$50, respectively, against valuations of \$200, \$150, \$75 and \$100, also respectively. Lot No. 854 -- a full mint sheet of the 4a on thick paper, VF and very scarce, sold for \$1250 vs. an estimate of \$1500, and the beautiful mint block of 22 of the half-anna vermilion, valued at \$10,000 was sold for \$8,500. Other half-anna lots: Nos. 858 (a collection), 866, 870, 872 & 875 brought \$1,000, \$320, \$140, \$200 & \$80 respectively, against valuations of \$1,500, \$300, \$225, \$250 & \$100, also respectively.



No information is yet available on the results for the remainder of Nepal lots offered, including stamps and postal history material. The same is true of all Tibet lots. We will attempt to summarize the prices realized in our next issue, if the data are available.

Some requests have been made for prices realized on more modestly priced items. Of course, the Study Circle auctions, held regularly and managed by our Secretary, Colin Hepper, are worth noting. Lists of previous sale prices realized are included with the next sale brochure and are available to the entire membership.

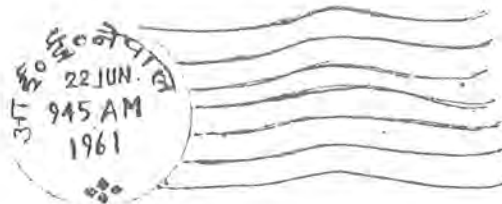
The Sun Philatelic Center, Inc., 1 Sutter Street, Suite 705, San Francisco, CA 94104, regularly includes a few lots of Nepal and occasionally Tibet, most of which are more modestly valued. Those looking for less expensive items should consider the Collectors Auction Service, P O Box 6996, Burbank, CA 91510, as a source. Their method of operation reduces the cost to the seller by having the seller prepare lot descriptions. These are sometimes inaccurate with respect to the classic material, due to lack of knowledge. This means that the buyer must be knowledgeable or assume the risk of purchasing improperly described items. Our experience has been that the firm readily accepts returned material without hesitation and for full and immediate refund, if the buyer returns improperly described material within 7 days.

There are other sources, of course. Robson Lowe and its subsidiary, Bournemouth Stamp Auctions, hold sales regularly -- sales which often include a variety of Nepal and Tibet material. We are not receiving their catalogues currently and must ask for our reader's help to report on such sales, including prices realized. -- This is not to be considered a complete listing and I must apologize for any unintentional slight, if I have overlooked an important source. I welcome comments from readers and dealers.



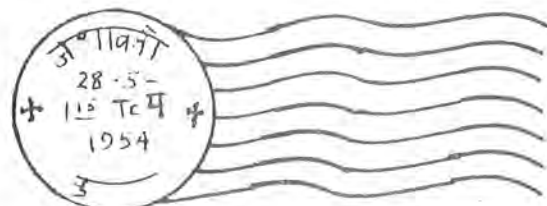
AN UNRECORDED RARE POSTMARK!

--by Surendra Lal Shrestha



Compare the above illustration (drawing) with No. 42 in the article by Dr. Singer, "The British-Indian Postmarks of Nepal," AMERICAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS BOOK (1969), p. 204, which shows an all-English version of this postmark. The same type, in Hindi, as shown above, was in use in 1956-1959.

(This postmark excited your editor, as he has puzzled over a cover with a similar postmark for several years---a cover which was directed to Kalimpong, India, showing an arrival mark dated 1 JUN 54. The cancel is not entirely complete and does not reproduce well, so I have made the following drawing:



Seeing Mr. Shrestha's drawing, I suspect that the first character above the day and month digits may be identical with his. It may be that I have another unrecorded variety of a Hindi version of an Indian Embassy cancel. I note that the date (1954) is 7 years earlier than that shown by Mr. S. L. Shrestha. Both he and I would welcome correspondence with any who can shed light on these interesting markings.--Ed.)

Incidentally, Mr. Shrestha has also reported to me that he has a "Last Day Cover" issued from the Indian Embassy Post Office in Nepal when the use of cancellation No. 45 in the same article by Dr. Singer was terminated. The last day of use, as shown in the postmark is '5 APR 65.'



## PUBLICATIONS

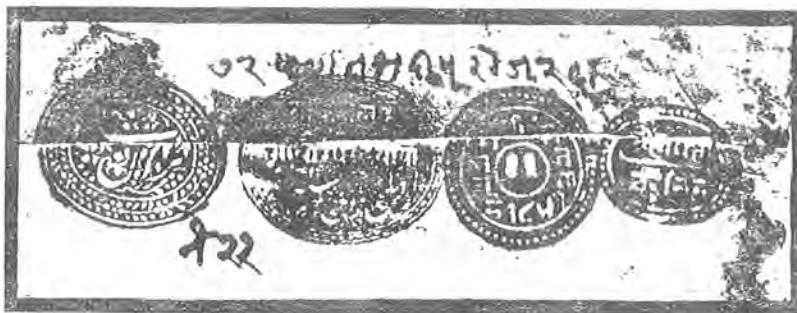


Figure 23-March 1816 stampless cover with seals of the four Nepalese commanders who had joined forces for the defense of Makwanpur during the last major confrontation of the war.

From page 22 of A PHILATELIC VIEW OF THE ANGLO-NEPALESE WAR OF 1814-1816 by Frank Vignola and O.R. Sanford

George Alevizos has recently published the long awaited 26-page booklet by Frank Vignola and O. R. Sanford, Jr., F.R.P.S.L., A PHILATELIC VIEW OF THE ANGLO-NEPALESE WAR OF 1814-1816. Printed in a limited edition of 200 numbered copies, including 15 hard-bound in library buckram, this little gem belongs in the library of every Nepal postal history buff. Beginning with a brief summary of the geography of Nepal and followed by a summary of the early history of the country, the reader is led into the events which were largely responsible for the territorial outlines of Nepal as we know them today. The decision of the Nepalese to attempt an expansion into India brought about the invasion of Nepal by the East India Company in 1814 and the war which followed. The authors have illustrated their description with 26 illustrations of letters and covers--including both Nepalese and British material. Important battles and related activities are documented with care. In some instances, information is included which renders obsolete, if not in error, some previously published writings concerning the war. And, of course, much new information, not previously published, makes the story all the more interesting. When the war finally ended with the Treaty of Segauli, ratified by the Nepalese on March 4, 1816, the British forces were technically the winners. However, the British discovered that the Nepalese hillmen made excellent soldiers and soon began to recruit them into their army. The Gurkhas, as they were called, became world renowned and provided Nepal with a source of economic aid

not previously available. This well-written, authoritative addition to the philatelic literature of Nepal fills an important place in a little-known but significant period in Nepalese history. The authors and publisher are to be congratulated.--Ed.



### WATERFALL'S TIBET IN SECOND EDITION

Robson Lowe Ltd. has published the second edition of "The Postal History of Tibet" by Arnold C. Waterfall. The first edition was published in 1965 and soon became the "Bible" of Tibet collectors. The new edition includes careful records of new discoveries and offers 43 new illustrations and 14 more pages. A list of recent (1978) auction prices is featured as well as information on modern cancels of Chinese Tibet and Bhutan.

Available in England from Robson Lowe Ltd. and in North America from H.J.M.R. Co., Box 6638, Hollywood, Florida 33201 U.S.A. Price is \$23 plus \$1.60 shipping.

We will feature a complete, in depth review of this important work in the next POSTAL HIMAL.

### PUBLICATION:

Herman Herst, Jr., "Philately Leads to Part Ownership of a Hotel in Nepal," THE STAMP WHOLESALER, 1/2/81, pp. 30-34.--A personal reminiscence concerning the author's involvement with a Kathmandu dealer in 1965.

Notes on the Early Life and Career of  
Laden La

--Arthur Bruce Moss

At Darjeeling, India, 1916-18, Laden La appeared to be in his mid-thirties in age. Competent evidence -- personal habits, innate courtesy, acceptability at high levels of society, reputation in the community and status in Government esteem -- conspire to indicate his home in Tibet as being one of wealth in what might properly be called "Tibetan Aristocracy." In his early teens he became a resident student in a leading English private school for boys in India. He continued there until the course had been completed for entrance at University.

During these years he gained a notable mastery of the English language in both vocabulary and composition. His speech was British in quality and sound, but with lingering tones and rhythms of Tibetan. He enjoyed European music with an unusual appreciation of its technique. This was evidenced in his frequent attendance at the Darjeeling Saturday evening concerts for the Red Cross, and his critical comments on the performance. (Whether he himself played or sang is not noted.)

While at school, his alert mind and natural sense of relationships esteemed the value of certain elements in the life of India that had been established and developed by the British Colonial Government: such as Communications -- nation-wide postal and telegraph service. Education -- an integrated system of schools from the simple village type to the University, based on a comprehensive standard for personnel, property and equipment. Finance-- stabilized currency and efficient banking. Transport -- a railroad system penetrating into almost every area of the sub-continent, for which he used such terms as "amazing," "unbelievably precise and effective," "unique in Asia." (Having travelled uncounted miles on all sectors of the railroads in India, in pursuance of my mission task, the writer would fully second all of L.L.'s remarks. Indeed, a comparative study of the world's railroads at that time demonstrates unquestionably that the total of regular daily railroad mileage in India was markedly greater than

that of any other nation, excepting only the USA.)

We do not know what incidents or trains of thought motivated Laden La's decision to make Police Service in India his life work. However, it is clear that the necessary preliminaries were so successfully completed that his application to enter Scotland Yard, London, was approved. Upon graduation from that notable institution he returned to India, was commissioned as junior officer and assigned to the Darjeeling District. This was a "natural" for him, as the two major and historic roads from Eastern India to Tibet crossed that area. The first passed through Darjeeling Town, then crossed a number of ridges, entering Tibet just below Pharijong (sometimes called Phari), and hence to Lhasa. The second was the very ancient caravan route from mid-India up the Teesta River valley to meet the first not far below Gyantse, from whence it ran to Lhasa. Kalimpong, the easternmost city of Darjeeling District, controlled this route on the last Indian sector. (The vital meaning of this area in things stampic is detailed in Haverbeck's standard work on Tibetan Philately and in the current number of POSTAL HIMAL, Spring 1981, pages 12 and 13.)

In the early 1900's, when the then Dalai Lama fled from Tibet under the pressure of the Imperial Government of China, official sanctuary was granted to him by the British Colonial Government of India. Laden La was immediately assigned to duty as the personal bodyguard of the Lama, to give him complete safety and security. Laden La deemed this assignment as a high honor and supreme duty. The Dalai Lama welcomed him as representing not only Britain's pledge of security, but as a devout Lamaistic Buddhist related to a family worthy of all respect. During the Lama's prolonged residence in India, he and Laden La always remained within close sight and hearing distance of each other. They were never separated from this protective custody. A natural mutual exchange of thought, purpose, religious ritual and experience grew up between them, deeply building itself into Laden La's mind

and spirit. When the Lama returned to Lhasa, Laden La resumed his normal post at Darjeeling, serving not only in the Town, but throughout the District. It was in this capacity that the writer became acquainted with him in Darjeeling, 1916.

The Darjeeling District has been noted for its excellent tea, "Darjeeling Tea" becoming a superior brand in general estimation. The Tukvar Tea Estate, over 5,000 acres in extent, was supreme among all the gardens. Claude Bald, resident manager of this famed garden, told the writer of his admiration for Laden La as a thoroughly competent police officer, an unusually talented man and a very warm personal friend."

In the very recent years, the writer has observed two references to Laden La that should be included in this summary of his career.

Direct reference to Laden La stands in the book written by General Younghusband concerning the first expedition to attempt the scaling of Mt. Everest. The General was intimately familiar with the entire Tibetan situation, for this area he was probably the most knowledgeable leader in the British establishment. His interest in the Everest attempt was keen, based on his own vivid experience in Tibet. In detailing the logistic problems that faced the expedition, he cites the extraordinary help rendered by Laden La, who was then in a position to aid as was no other British Indian official. Younghusband's style is

factual and direct, devoid of all florid description and padding. The fact that he mentions Laden La's help in just the way he does, is, in itself, strong evidence that his assistance was basic to the entire project.

Again, quite recently, a friend of the writer -- an internationally prominent geographer -- was in India spending several days at Darjeeling. In conversation at home, the remark was made that the notable Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, directed by Tenzing Norkay, was located on "Laden La Road." Questions loomed. Is this an older highway, renamed in honor of Laden La, or is it a new avenue in the recent development of Darjeeling? What circumstances in Laden La's career were of such lasting significance as to warrant such present honor? Is it just a chance coincidence that the Himalayan Institute was located on the road which holds the name of the official so directly connected with the original expedition?

When we left Darjeeling for the long trek home in mid-1918, Laden La was in the company at the station to bid us "Farewell." At New Years I sent greetings to him and wrote twice again that year. No reply ever came, and I wondered whether he had received my letters, and why I had not received such answers as he may have sent me. That puzzle can never be solved.

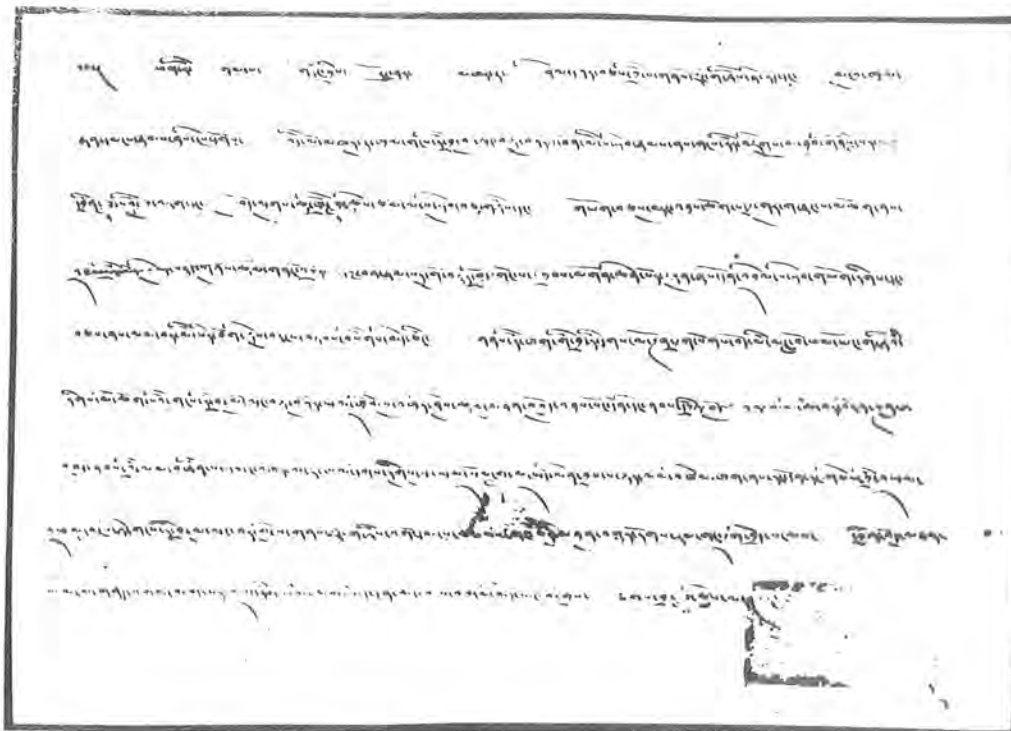


Rev. Moss has kindly supplied us with this photograph of Shigatse, photocopies and translations of documents relating to early Everest Expeditions as well as several red ink seals of Tibet to be found on the following pages.



The Tibet Digarcha, where the Prime Minister lived (Shigatse).





TRANSLATION of a passport by the Prime  
Minister of Tibet:

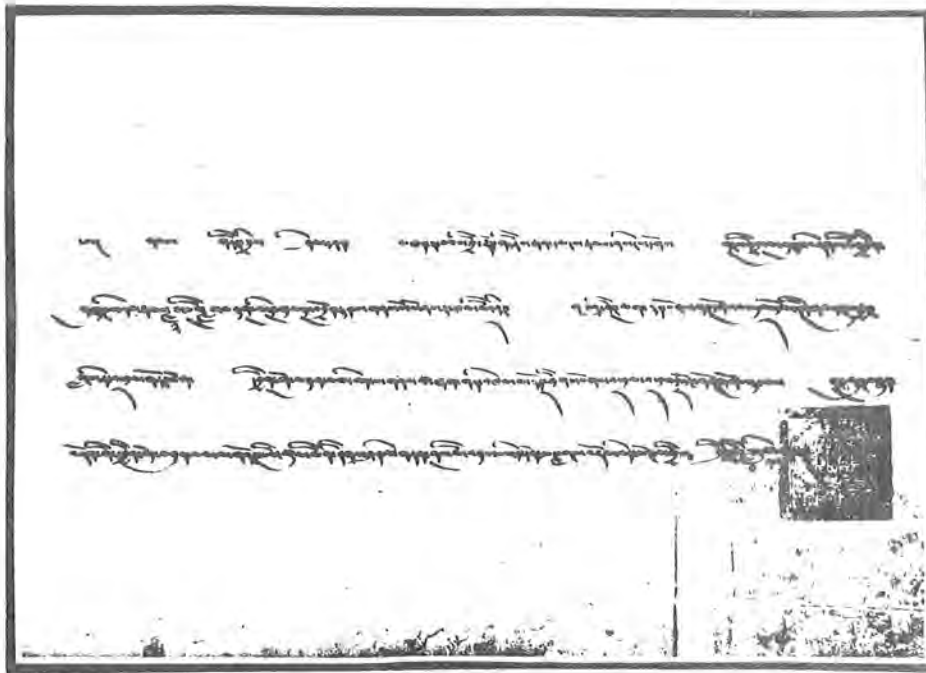
Be it known to the officers and headmen of Phari, Kampa, Tinki, Rongshar, Kharta and Shekar that the Sahibs having not succeeded to ascend the Mountain Chomo Lungma (Mt. Everest), they propose to make a further attempt to climb it at the end of March, 1922 (corresponding to about the first day of the second month of the Water-Dog Year).

There will be 12 Sahibs in addition to porters. The Government of India has communicated with me on the subject through the Political Officer in Sikkhim. After consulting the Ministers, the matter has been laid before His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It has been agreed to allow the party to enter Tibet. We have requested the Government of India to order the party (a) not to create any disturbance on the road or subject the people to any oppressions, (b) not to shoot birds or other animals of the different sacred hills, as the people of Tibet

will feel very sorry for this, and (c) to observe the laws of the country when they visit the Mountain Chomo Lungma (Mount Everest). As at present the British and Tibetan Governments are on great friendly terms, you are to supply riding ponies and pack animals at the prevailing rates of the country as before, taking their hire at every stage on the spot and all the officers and headmen, who are on the way to Mount Everest, should render all possible help to the party. You should not do anything which would tend to affect the friendly relations between the British and Tibetan Governments.

Dispatched on the 17th day of the 11th month of the Iron Bird Year (corresponding to the 15th January, 1922).

Red square seal of the Prime Minister of Tibet.



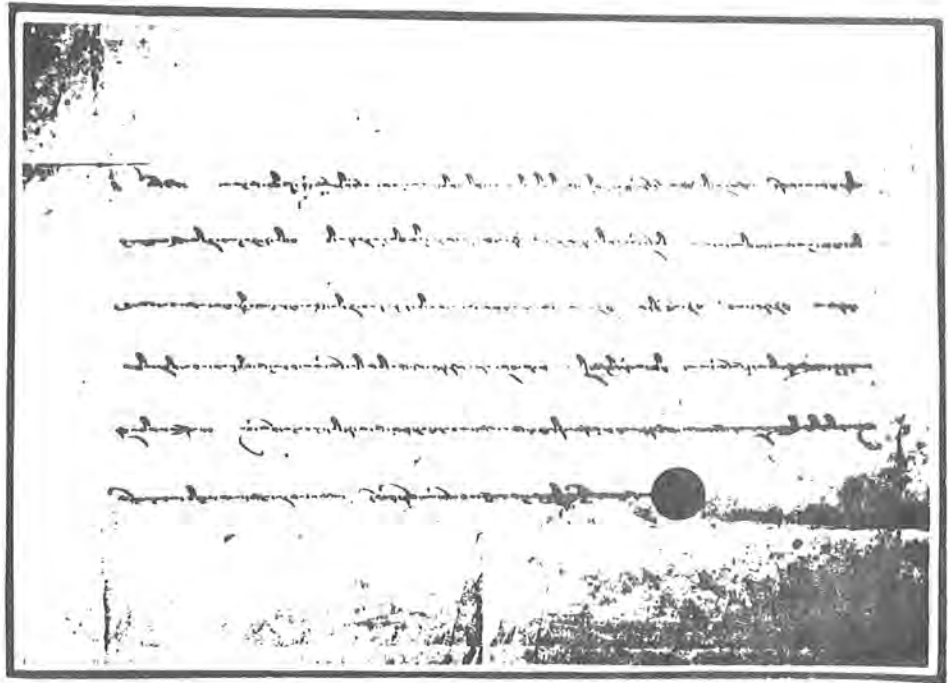
TRANSLATION of a parwana issued by the Prime Minister of Tibet to the Dzongpens Kampa, Tinki, Shekar and Kharta for transport and supplies to the MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION:

This is sent for the information of the Dzongpens of Kampa, Tinki, Shekar and Kharta, that the Sahibs of the British Government who are to climb on the Mountain Chomo Lungma (Mt. Everest) will enter your jurisdictions about the end of the 2nd Tibetan month (end of March, 1924). You are hereby ordered to supply them with transport, viz. riding ponies, pack-animals, coolies and with whatever supplies

they may require, viz. fuel, fodder and grains, and to receive the hires, wages and the prices at the prevailing rates of the country. You are also directed that, in view of the excellent relations that exist between the two Governments, you should make without delay, camp arrangements at whatever place they happen to camp. Any report of the perfunctory action taken on the order, or of any disregard of it on your part, will be severely dealt with. Sent on the 20th day of the first month of the Wood Mouse Year (25/2/24).

Large red square seal of the Prime Minister of Tibet,





TRANSLATION of a letter from His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Brigadier General Bruce of the Mount Everest Expedition dated the 16th day of the 9th month of the Water-Dog Year (corresponding to the 5th of November 1922).



13th Dalai Lama's personal seal

A special letter. On the 10th day of the 9th month of the Water-Dog year (30th October, 1922) I have duly received your letter, with a translation in English, which you sent through Major Bailey, Political Officer in Sikkim and have understood the contents. In this letter you, as representing the Royal Geographic Society, London, and the Alpine Club and as Leader of the Mount Everest Expedition, tender thanks to me, the Tibetan Government, Kampa Dzongpen, the Dzongpens of Tinki, Shekar and the people of Kharta region for the help and the assistance given to the expedition. I have also received the banner in a tin case. I thank you very much for these. In your letter under reply you also asked the Tibetan Government to transmit the other banner to His Serenity the Tashi Lama. I enquired by telegram from Major Bailey, Political Officer in Sikkim, about it, who informed me that it has been sent direct by him. Sent with a silk scarf.

Seal of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



The bright red personal seal (22 mm) of the 13th Dalai Lama described by Waterfall as Type II.



The small dark red seal of the Lwon Chhain Lama (Prime Minister of Tibet) is described by Waterfall as follows: "The Prime Minister's seal (or, as he is known in Tibet, Lon Chen Shokang), can be found in Red and Black, the former for official business, the latter for his own private correspondence; the only layman to be able to use a red seal. In the centre of four round floral shapes is a rounded clockwise swastika (21 mm)." -- (However, this example is smaller -- about 17-18 mm. -- Ed.)



This orange-red seal (33 mm) described as "The Large Red Seal of the Deva Dharma Lama -- a member of the Government." is not mentioned by Waterfall, insofar as we can determine. Readers who can shed additional light on the use and meaning of this interesting seal are invited to correspond with the editor.

We wish to thank Rev. Arthur Bruce Moss for making available to us the above seals from Tibet as well as the preceding Tibetan documents.

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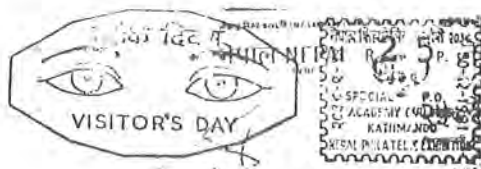
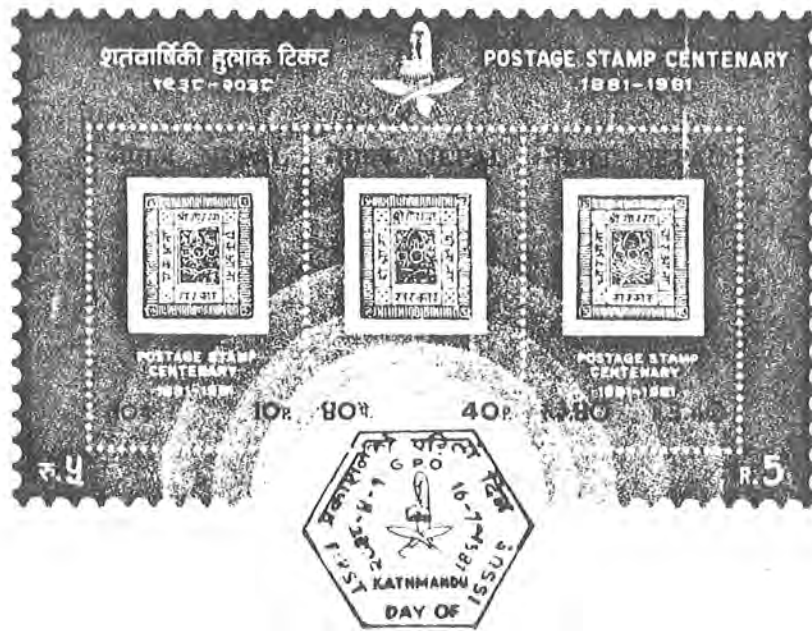
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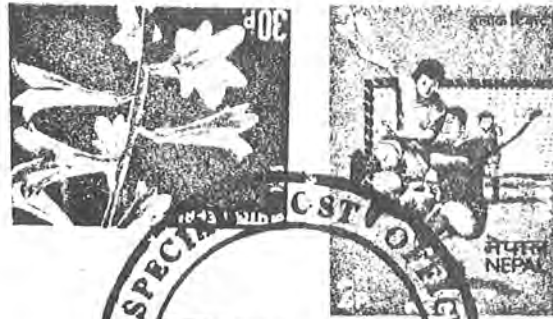
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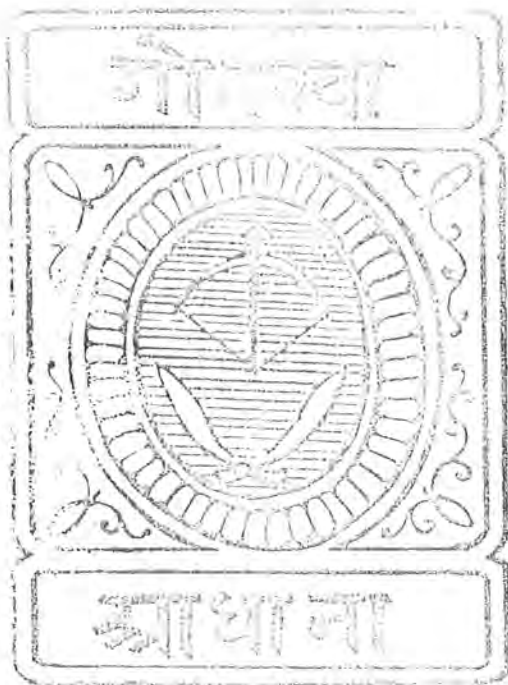


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M. C. Sukhani  
4 Mayfair Road  
Calcutta 19, INDIA

Sun Philatelic Center  
1 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
U.S.A.

Punnya R. Sthapit  
GPO Box 1079  
Katmandu, NEPAL

F.R. Stubens  
22 Brynston Road  
Islington, Ont.  
M9B 3C6 CANADA

L.A. Tonkin  
46 Dale View Crescent  
Chinford, London, ENGLAND

C. Tulsian  
6/296 Gana Bahal (2nd Fl)  
Katmandu, NEPAL

Nicholas Twells  
15 Church Lane  
Darley Abbey  
Derby, ENGLAND

Thomas Urban  
D-465 Gelsenkirchen  
Mattmannsweg 10  
WEST GERMANY

Frank E. Vignola  
1830 Garfield  
Eugene, OR 97405, U.S.A.

Frank J. Vignola  
105, 22nd Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
U.S.A.

P.J. Wakeman  
P.M. Box 1284  
London, W.C. 1V6 XX  
ENGLAND

Martin Walker  
P.O. Box 581  
Gawler, 5118  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Prof. Dr. A. Werner  
Rumerberg 23  
6200 Wiesbaden, WEST GERMANY

A. Warren  
P.O. Box 17124  
Philadelphia, PA 19105  
U.S.A.

Edmond Weissberg  
Quartier de la Vitriere  
84520 Althen des Palvos  
FRANCE

F.A. Westerbrook  
245 Unquowa Road (Unit 11)  
Fairfield, CONN 06430, U.S.A.

Owen White  
Box 860 Station K  
Toronto M4P 2H2 CANADA

Arthur Whitehead  
2710 E. 3100 S.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84109  
U.S.A.

Edison G. Willers  
3138 Sunset Terrace  
San Mateo, CA 94403, U.S.A.

Hans Wittman  
Stienmetzstrasse 5  
D. 6200 Wiesbaden  
WEST GERMANY

L.A. Wood  
Willow End, Halley Road  
Old Heathfield  
East Sussex, ENGLAND

J.A. Young Jr.  
PO Box 436  
Devon, PA 19333, U.S.A.

Leo Zelasko  
26070 State Road No. 2  
South Bend, Indiana 46619  
U.S.A.

A.G. Zulueta Jr.  
3063 Steiner Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
U.S.A.