

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



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OUR COVER ILLUSTRATION for this issue is the value panel from the 1962 Registration Envelope of Nepal. In his book "The Fire Ox and Other Years" Suydam Cutting gives the following description of the crown as seen during the Jubilee ceremony of 1937: "...This was the famous jewelled helmet, one of the most famous crowns in the world. Emeralds, rubies, diamonds and pearls...covered the head. Over the royal brow dangled a fringe of pear-shaped emeralds. Over the right ear was a mammoth cluster of pear-shaped or tear-drop emeralds. Surmounting the jewelled helmet was a bird-of-paradise feather in natural colors...Shafts of sunlight falling on emeralds, rubies and diamonds created a blaze of multicolored light..."

"An Introduction to Nepalese Postal Stationeries" by J.B. Manandhar will be found on page 54 of this issue of POSTAL HIMAL.

T.M.

Dear Friends,

With this issue we complete the four issues scheduled for 1982. It is our hope to catch up with our planned schedule and publish four issues in 1983. The First Quarter issue will feature "Mountains and Mountaineering" and the philatelic material related to these activities in Nepal and Tibet. Anyone who has material which might be suitable for publication should contact the editor promptly.

A few have expressed the desire to know more specifically the collecting interests of individual members. If you would find that information helpful, let us know. Perhaps another questionnaire is in order -- one which would enable us to publish such information in our next directory, along with names and addresses, as the Nepal Philatelic Society does in PHILATELY. -- We look forward to hearing from you on any topic related to the philately of our area of interest. Suggestions, constructive criticisms, corrections, etc., are always welcome.

We are indebted to B. Holyoak for the following suggestion: "Would it be possible to have a "Beginner's Corner" for those of us who are relatively inexperienced? -- Possible subjects would include 'identification of SG 1-29 & 34-41,' 'Court Fee Documents - information about their use - identifying features, etc.,' 'Court Fee Stamps - listing of known stamps, period of use, etc.,' No doubt other members would be able to identify subjects of interest." We think this is a valuable suggestion, not only for our less experienced Nepal collectors, but also for those who have started to explore the fascinating world of Tibet philately. Would any of the 'old hands' out there be willing to contribute to such a column? Your editor would welcome any volunteers and would gladly assist.

Finally, we wish to thank all those who sent holiday greetings to us toward the end of 1982. As we have so often mentioned, correspondence with you, our readers and contributors, is one of the most valuable benefits for one in the position of Editor.

Lester A. Michel

FROM THE PUBLISHER:

If you think you have not received a particular issue of POSTAL HIMAL due you, please notify me directly (Thomas Matthiesen, Box 406, Duvall, WA 98019, U.S.A.)

About one out of every one hundred POSTAL HIMALs seems to get transferred into oblivion somewhere between here and the intended destination. I am told this ratio is quite good considering our members are scattered all over the world. Please be sure to let us know promptly if you have a change of address, in clear block letters.

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

EXHIBITION NEWS

Colin Hepper's new book, "The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal," which was reviewed in the previous issue of POSTAL HIMAL, has received its first award---a BRONZE-SILVER award at STAMPEX '83, held in London in February. Congratulations, Colin.

Art Ackley has received another award for his exhibit of Tibet, this time at CHERPEX '83, held in Denver, Colorado, 21-23 January 1983. His GOLD award was accompanied by a First Place ribbon at this open show. But the exhibit also received the most votes from viewers as the "Most Popular Exhibit" at the show. Congratulations to you, Art.

While looking through a recent issue of a weekly philatelic newspaper (STAMP COLLECTOR for 17 January 1983) my eye was drawn to a familiar face in a picture. In the column titled "The Winner's Circle" the face was given a name --Frank Vignola! He was pictured receiving the GRAND AWARD at SACAPEX '82, held last October in Sacramento, California, for his exhibit titled "Nepal: First Native Post Offices, 1879-

1882." This may have been the first time that this exhibit has been entered in a philatelic competition, but since Frank has already published a fine article on this subject, with the same title, it is no surprise that the exhibit received such high recognition. Congratulations to you, Frank.

STAMP COLLECTOR, in the 27 December 1982 issue (p. 17), also reported Alan Warren's success at SESCAL '82, 15-17 October 1982, in Los Angeles, California, by noting that Alan received a Vermeil award plus the Nepal and Tibet Study Circle Award for his exhibit titled, "Tibet: Stamps, Covers, Cancellations." Of course, we have already reported this in POSTAL HIMAL (No. 2 p. 35), but it is always pleasing to see our members gain recognition in one of our top philatelic publications. Again, congratulations to Alan.

We ask our readers to report news of exhibition awards received anywhere in the world -- awards received by members and non-members for exhibits relating to Nepal and/or Tibet.--Ed.



PAUL HAGER TEACHES COURSE IN PHILATELY

In STAMP COLLECTOR for 13 December 1982, we spotted a familiar name on page 15 and learned that Berea College, with which a Study Circle member is affiliated, is now using his talents to introduce others to the hobby of philately. According to a college announcement, Berea College and Elderhostel in Berea, Kentucky, will offer a course in basic philately 6-12 February 1983. Titled: "Stamp Collecting--A View of the World," the course will be taught by Dr. Paul Hager. Elderhostel is a program designed for those 60 and older, or "to those whose spouse or companion qualifies." A number of other courses and activities are offered. Information on the philatelic course and the entire program is available by mail from Elderhostel, 100 Boylston St., Suite 200, Box S, Boston, MA 02116. This sounds like a fine program & we congratulate Paul for his efforts.

APS AFFILIATION

In the December 1982 issue of "The American Philatelist," official publication of the American Philatelic Society, under the heading title: "Our Active Affiliates," by Robert de Violini, Chairman, APS Affiliate Coordination Committee, the NEPAL AND TIBET STUDY CIRCLE is listed as one of the four organizations welcomed as new affiliates at the APS General Meeting held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during STAMPSHOW '82 last August. Roger Skinner, our USA Representative for the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle, knows Mr. de Violini personally & merits our thanks for his efforts to obtain this recognition by the American Philatelic Society. Roger will make periodic reports to Mr. de Violini concerning activities of our organization. Our thanks to you, Roger.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE LIBRARY

--by Roger Skinner

In response to a request for help with a Tibetan bibliography by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, the Western Philatelic Library has identified the following 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 in the list below, send your request, with remittance, to: FWPL, P O Box 2219, Sunnysvale, CA 94087, USA. Overseas requests must add an amount sufficient to cover the cost of Air Post Service.

- - TIBET - -

TIBET - Untitled letter to the editor by C. W. Dougan (1 p). Comments on an article with a listing of 15 covers in Dougan's collection with cancels during use of Chinese stamps in Tibet for the 1911-1913 period (1962). Cost: \$0.10

TIBET 8 TRANGKA RED AND BLUE FORGERIES? by Stanley G. Radgowski and Armand E. Singer (1 p, 2 ill). Original article with large illustrations. Cost: \$0.10

TIBET 8 TRANGKA RED AND BLUE FORGERIES? by S. Radgowski & A. E. Singer (1 p ill).

A discussion of the bona fides of the stamp - 4 stamps ill., 2nd printing, reduced illustrations. Cost: \$0.10

THE PROPOSED CHINA-TIBET POSTAL LINK BY MEANS OF THE INDIAN POST OFFICE, 1909-12 by W. C. Hellrigl (10 pp ill). Includes added letter from later release (1979). Cost: \$1.00

POSTAL RATES IN TIBET, 1903-1960 by S. Radgowski, M. L. Ricketts & A. E. Singer (3 pp ill). First article (1961). Cost: \$0.30

TIBET POSTAL RATES 1903-1960 by S. Radgowski, M. L. Ricketts & A. E. Singer, (8 pp ill). Second article with new illustrations (1962). Cost: \$0.80

- - TIBET-NEPAL - -

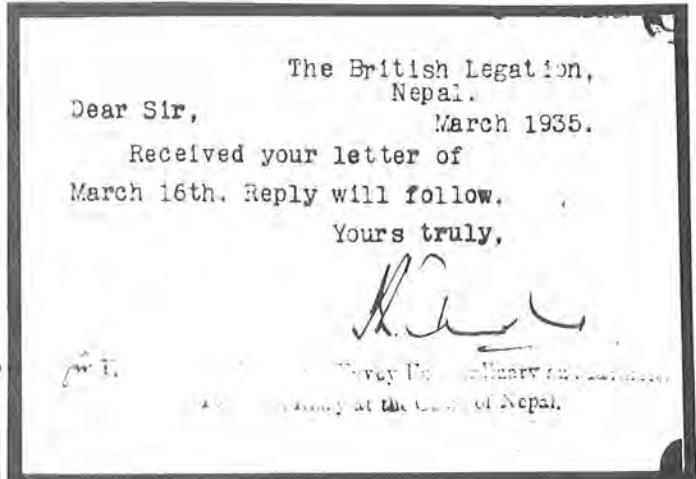
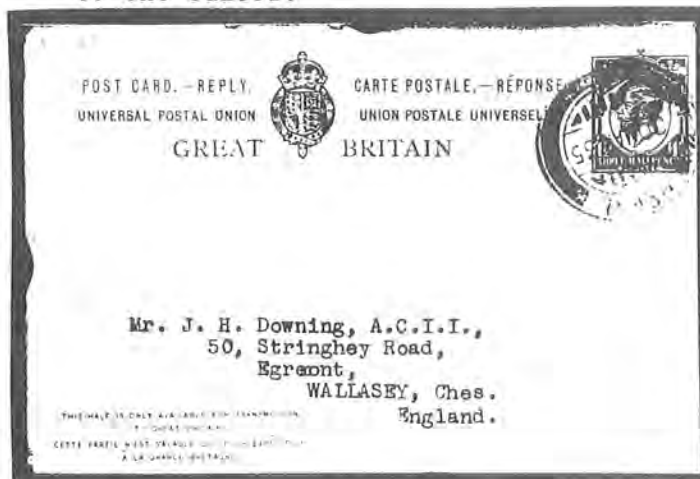
POSTAL HISTORY OF THE MAILS BETWEEN NEPAL AND TIBET, 1911-61 by M. L. Ricketts (6 pp ill) (1961). Cost: \$0.60

MAIL TO NEPAL FROM KHASA, KERONG AND KUTI TIBET by F. Vignola (7 pp ill) (1979). Cost: \$0.70



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

One of our well-known members, Mr. P. Gupta, has sent photographs of the two sides of a British postal card, postmarked at the British Legation in Nepal in 1935. He asks, "Has anyone else seen such an item?" Your editor has not seen a British stamp or item of postal stationery used in Nepal and, along with Mr. Gupta, requests your comments concerning this item. You may write either to Mr. Gupta, whose address is: Mr. P. Gupta, c/o Organon (India) Ltd., Himalaya House, 4th Floor, 38 Chowringhee Rd., Calcutta 16, INDIA, or to the editor.



HRH PRINCE GYANENDRA INAUGURATES SAGARMATHA EARTH STATION

(Reported in "The Rising Nepal" for 6 November 1982, and submitted by Mr. Dhruba Rudra, Nepal Representative for the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle.--Ed.)

The Sagarmatha Earth Station Project at Balambu was formally inaugurated Sunday afternoon by HRH Prince Gyanendra with a direct telephonic conversation with HRH Prince Charles.

HRH Prince Gyanendra, together with HRH Princess Komal, graced the inaugural ceremony which was held at the site of the earth station. The long-distance phone call was made possible via a satellite link-up which will facilitate direct communications with international points.



In a conversation that lasted about six minutes, HRH Prince Gyanendra conveyed best wishes from His Majesty King Birendra to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. HRH also thanked the British Government for making the conversation possible.

HRH Prince Charles, speaking from Earl Spencer's home at Althrope in Northampton, said that the reception was "very clear." In fact, the Prince of Wales added, it was clearer than between some places in England. HRH Prince Charles

said he was delighted to help inaugurate the link, to which HRH Prince Gyanendra expressed the opinion that the satellite link-up would help Nepal in opening up.

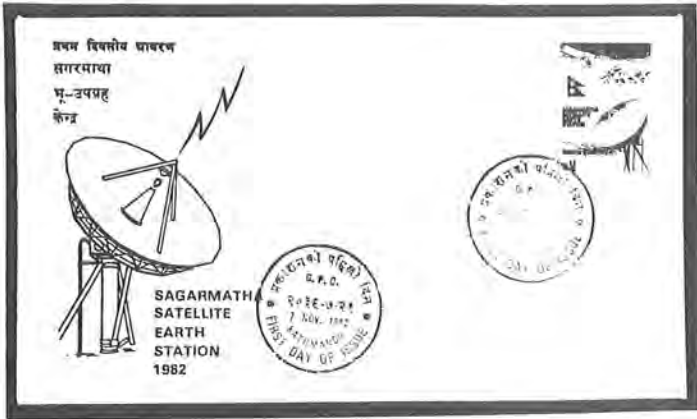
Speaking earlier, the British Ambassador, Mr. J. B. Denson, said that the inauguration of the earth station was a momentous event for which both HMG and NTC could feel "justly proud." The British Government had contributed over three million sterling pounds as a part of its development plan in Nepal for the project. British aid to Nepal, Mr. Denson recalled, started in 1961 with Queen Elizabeth II's visit in that year.

Also speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Communications, Mr. Ragabendra P. Shaha, called it a "grand achievement," and disclosed that, with the proposed 12,000-line extension to telephone distribution in the Kathmandu Valley, international phone facilities would be available to a greater section of the population.

Assistant Minister of Communications, Mr. Ganesh Sherchan, also highlighted the benefits to consumers accruing from the direct telephone and telex facilities.

Delivering his report, B.B. Bajracharya, in charge of the project, explained the earth station's capacity, which he said would be capable of providing 60 channels for direct communications to and from Nepal, as well as 512 terminations at the International Telex Exchange at Tripureswar. The Nepal Telecommunications Corporation made available Rs. ten million for the earth station which was built by the British company Marconi with Crown Agents, London, as consultants. The International Telex Exchange, meanwhile, was built by the NTC and uses equipment supplied by another British company, Plessey.





CANCELLATION MARK ON NEW STAMP AFFIXED (Reported in "The Rising Nepal" for 8 November 1982--Monday--and submitted by Mr. Dhruba Rudra.--Ed.)

Minister of State for Communications, Raghavendra Pratap Shaha affixed a cancellation mark on the first day issue of the five-rupee denomination postal stamp Sunday.

In the postage stamp, the antenna of the recently built Sagarmatha satellite earth station has been depicted. Conspicuous in the stamp are Nepal's flag, peak of Mt. Sagarmatha and the Sagarmatha satellite earth station in four different colours.

One million postal stamps with this picture are printed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State for Communications, Raghavendra Pratap Shaha, said that the Nepalese postal stamps had considerably helped project Nepal's image in the international field.

He said that the stamps issued Sunday would throw light on the importance of earth satellites in the field of communications, nationally as well as internationally.

Referring to the need for developing, first of all, the means of communication in a country like Nepal on its onward march towards modernism, the minister said that the services provided by the Post Office and Telecommunication Corporation were, indeed, very important.

Mr. Shaha said that the earth satellite station had been installed in Nepal keeping in view the increasing international trade, cultural and other exchanges at the international level. Services of telecommunications could no longer be confined internally as the need for contact at the international level had become increasingly necessary.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Minister for Communications, Ganesh Sherchand, said that the motto of communications for development had become more meaningful with the publication of the postage stamp depicting the Sagarmatha satellite earth station.

He said that the postage stamps published by the Department of Postal Services had been greatly successful in projecting Nepal's image internationally.

General manager of Nepal Telecommunications Corporation, Ram Prasad Sharma, said that, with the installation of the Sagarmatha satellite earth station, long distance direct communication through operators, had become possible with Australia in the East and England and Norway in the West.

Director General of the Department of Postal Services, Sachitananda, also spoke about the significance of the postal stamp published Sunday. (RSS)

UNIQUE SAGARMATHA STAMP ISSUED (Reported in "The Rising Nepal" for 19 November 1982, and submitted by Mr. Dhruba Rudra, Nepal Representative for the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle.--Ed.)

The Postal Services Department of His Majesty's Government has come out with a unique stamp to commemorate the 44th general assembly and the 50th anniversary of the International Union of Alpinists Associations (UIAA) held in Kathmandu in October.



The stamp depicts an aerial view of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) with sister peaks Lhotse and Nuptse. Perforations divide the stamp into three different ones (one

for every peak) with denominations Rs. 3, Rs. 2 and 25 paisa. Postal Services Department officials said that this was the first time a Nepali postal stamp had come out in this format. The denomination of the stamp as a whole (Rs. 5.25) will mean that all three stamps can be affixed together on letters with overseas destinations.

The stamps come in sheets of thirty-six each with a "cross-gutter" pattern bearing national symbols such as the Danfe pheasant and rhododendron blossoms.

Minister of State for Information, Mr. Ragabendra Pratap Shah, who affixed the first cancellation marks on the stamps, speaking after the ceremony, stressed the important role of tourism in the country's economy. Minister Shah also said that postal stamps were a direct method of making Nepal known all over the world. He also pledged to work on ironing out the problems faced by the Postal Services Department.

Officials of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) were also present on the occasion. NMA president, Kumar Khadga Bickram Shah, reminded the gathering about the Kathmandu Declaration issued after the UIAA Conference in October, which laid emphasis on the ecological and cultural preservation of mountain areas. Kumar Khadga also said that he believed the Sagarmatha stamp, with its worldwide circulation, would make Nepal and the Himalaya more familiar to people abroad.

Director-general of the Postal Services Department said that it was fitting that the mountain stamps should be dedicated to the mighty Himalaya, which, he said, was a part of the world's natural heritage. The uniqueness of the stamp, he said, could make it a valuable collector's item besides serving the function of a colourful projection of Nepal's mountains. ☉

NEPAL PHILATELIC PROGRAMME FOR 1982

(We are indebted to Mr. Dhruba Rudra for examples of FDCs of recently issued items, some of which represent departures from the original published programme.--Ed.)

The first issue of the year, scheduled for 23-6-1982, appeared as planned -- a 40p stamp showing the Academy Building of the Royal Nepal Academy.

We have neither seen nor read of the issu-

ance of a stamp scheduled to appear on 21-7-1982 depicting the late Bala Krishna Sama -- a stamp of Rs. 3.40 denomination and, possibly, postponed or omitted this year, as the Asian Games stamp, scheduled for 19-11-82, appeared as indicated in the programme, but with the denomination changed from Rs. 5.00 to Rs. 3.40.

The "Visit Nepal" set of three stamps was scheduled to appear on 30-11-1982, but actually appeared on 18-11-1982, with different denominations and different subject



matter. For details see the article which is titled "Unique Sagarmatha Stamp Issued" and which appears elsewhere in this issue.

A column headed "Philatelic Preview" in STAMP COLLECTOR for 31 January 1983 (p.39) indicates that Nepal issued a stamp on 8-12-1982 featuring the Kulekhani Hydro-electric Project (denomination: Rs. 2.00) although this stamp was not listed in the original programme. We have not seen the stamp as of this date.

We have no doubt that the last stamp of the year will be one marking the 38th Birthday of H.M. the King on 28-12-1982, as listed in the programme, but we have not seen this stamp as of this date.

The modest list of emissions each year in Nepal is a pleasant contrast to the stamp issuing policies of so many countries, including the USA.



AUCTION ACTION

--Lester A. Michel

Prof. Armand E. Singer and Francis A. Westbrook, Jr., attended the auction held by George Alevizos in New York City on 22-23 November 1982. We have not yet received a copy of Prices Realized in this sale.

We note that Robson Lowe Ltd., 10 King St., St. James's, London, SW1Y 6QX, ENGLAND, held an auction on 6 January 1983, described as follows: "Bournemouth Stamp Auctions include a fine philatelic library offered in 49 lots; valuable collections, 200 lots of Europe; Great Britain, China, Iran, Tibet, Israel and U.S.A...." Illustrated catalogues available from Dr. Gordon Torrey, 5118 Duvall Drive, Washington, DC 20016, or from the auctioneer. Since these sales frequently include material from Nepal, as well as from Tibet, we felt that they should be called to the attention of our newer members. Robson Lowe Ltd. also provides a "Busy Buyers Service" which is useful to overseas bidders, in that it will provide cuttings from catalogs for as few as two or three countries at a modest cost.

Stanley Gibbons Limited, 391 Strand, London WC2R 0LX, ENGLAND, under a letter dated November 1982, enclosed a FOREIGN OFFERS LIST dated Autumn 1982, which includes four Nepal covers dating from ca. 1912 to 1928 for individual fixed prices ranging from £20 to £60. Tibet items offered include four covers dating from 1935 to 1951 plus a complete sheet of 12 of the 2/3 tr, indigo, "unofficially perforated, Setting III" (SG 10b) and a complete sheet of 12 of the 2 tr, bright scarlet on brown paper, Setting II. Prices on these lots are noted as ranging from £25 to £100.

Prof. Armand Singer sent us a copy of a two-page article reprinted from STAMPS for November 1982, in which author Ken Lake gave an outstanding report of the East of England Philatelic Auction held on 11 September 1982, under the heading, "Go With the Auction Action." The title is close to the one we have been using on our column titled "Auction Action" and it was interesting to note that the longer title was credited to John Bull Stamps Ltd. of

Hong Kong, a firm which uses the title as a slogan and which was used by Ken Lake with permission of the firm. All we can say is, "It's a small world!" Or should I say, "Great minds run in the same channels!"

NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD QUESTION

--Lester A. Michel

About a year ago Surendra Lal Shrestha reported a previously unrecorded postmark used by the Indian Embassy in Nepal in 1961 (POSTAL HIMAL, Double Issue, No. 27 & 28, p. 50), with wording in Hindi rather than the more common English. In connection with that report your editor inserted a drawing of a similar cancel that has puzzled him for years -- speculating on the possibility of its being another variety of Indian Embassy cancel. The request for correspondence brought two replies. One, from Roger Skinner, in his typical direct fashion, simply asked a question: "What makes you think that it is a Nepal cancel?" That question, plus an assist from my second correspondent, Prof. Armand Singer, helped us to pursue the matter from a different viewpoint -- one which paid off! The cancel is almost certainly that of Jogbani, in India (Purnea), just across the boundary from Biratnagar, Nepal. The cover, which bears two 4p green Sri Pashupati stamps of the 1941- locally printed issue, must have been posted either in Biratnagar or in Jogbani. If posted on the Nepalese side of the border, it may have failed to receive a Biratnagar cancellation and the oversight may have been caught by a sharp-eyed clerk in the Jogbani post office, who simply corrected the oversight by applying a Jogbani cancel. If, on the other hand, the letter was actually posted in Jogbani, the clerk applying the cancellation may have simply ignored the fact that the stamps were Nepalese rather than Indian, recognizing that the postage on the letter was appropriate for a letter going from Nepal to an address in India. The actual details will probably never be known, but the letter was delivered to its destination, Kalimpong, on 1 JUN 54, as an all-English receiving cds indicates. In retrospect we can only wonder why it took us so long to clarify a question whose answer now seems fairly obvious!

AN INTRODUCTION TO NEPALESE POSTAL STATIONERIES

--J. B. Manandhar

The term 'postal stationery' comprises envelopes, postal cards, aerogrammes, registration envelopes, etc., issued by postal administrations. It is an established fact that postage stamps and envelopes are the creation of May 1840. At the beginning, postal stationery collection was regarded as a must by the contemporary philatelists of the world. But, slowly, their popularity diminished due to their bulky sizes. Now, with the advent of thematic trends in philately, they are again being collected everywhere with great enthusiasm.

Generally, the postal stationery is collected in "entires" (original issued form) but not in its "cut squares" (portion around the printed stamp). The collection of postal stationery items is easier than that of postage stamps in many respects, for their numbers are comparatively small, prices are low and the accessories needed for them are limited. Even with our naked eyes, errors and varieties of postal stationery items can be traced. Moreover, postal stationery can help develop the study of postmarks, mail routing, and franking usages. Without them our study of postal history will be crude, baseless, scientifically unsound and of no avail. Again, if we take into account privately made envelopes, the postal stationery precedes postage stamps and, therefore, the field of its collection is wider.

All these facts have made our present day stamp collectors keenly interested in postal stationeries. As a consequence, some of them have fairly nice collections. The collection of Nepalese postal stationery items can also present vivid and varied dimensions, though the number, frequency of issue and change of design are very few. Now let us discuss chronologically about our postal stationeries with some details, so that it can be of use to the beginners in this field. The specialists and advanced collectors have to hunt for rare stationery items to make their collections richer, for there exist numerous errors, varieties with ink smears, printed on creased paper, double impression, double print, omitted stamp, size varieties, colour varieties, cutting varieties,

watermark varieties, inscription varieties, surcharge varieties, etc., in the field of Nepalese postal stationeries.

POSTAL CARDS

The pioneer indigenous postal stationery item is a half anna (adhana) postal card issued in 1887 A.D. with the vermilion stamp of the crown-and-crossed khukris design. Printed on local paper at the Type Press, Thapathali, it has different varieties pertaining to types of stamp dies, text types, horse types and ornament designs. The list of major representative postal cards is as follows:

S.N.	Design	Denomination	Colour	(A.D.) Year
1.	Crown and crossed khukris	½ a	vermilion	1887
2.	Same	½ a	blue	1925
3.	Shiva on the Himalayas (rect)	2 p	blue	1933
4.	Same (vert. oval)	2 p	brown	1935
5.	Crown(vert. oval)	4 p	brown	1959
6.	Same " "	4 p	purple	1962
7.	Same " "	4 p(reply)	"	1962
8.	Same " "	8 p	blue green	1962
9.	Same " "	8 p(reply)	"	1962
10.	Mt. Everest(hori- zontal rect)	20 p	bluish gray	1978

Nos. 2-4 postal cards were printed at the Gorkhapatra Press (now H.M.G. Press) on Nepali paper. The printing of No. 5 postal card was done at the same press on Indian paper. All other remaining postal cards were printed by the India Security Press, Nasik, on thick Indian paper. Postal cards No. 3 and 4 bear dates in the stamp design.

ENVELOPES

The first among ten listed envelopes is of 4 paisa denomination. It exists in different sizes. The larger one was issued in 1989 B.S., corresponding to 1933 A.D., whereas the smaller one was produced nearly 3 1/2 years later, in 1993 B.S. (1937 A.D.). The first five envelopes mentioned below were printed at the Gorkhapatra Press and the rest at the India Security Press.

The hand made Nepali paper was used on Nos. 1-4 and all others used Indian paper. All envelopes, except No. 10, have vertical oval stamps imprinted.

S.N.	Design	Denomi- nation	Colour	Year
1.	Shiva on the Himalayas	4 paisa	Green	1925
2.	Same	8 "	Red	1935
3.	Same	2 p(error)	Red	1935
4.	Same	8 p(black- surcharged)	Red	1935
5.	Crown	6 paisa	Red	1959
6.	Crown	6 paisa	Purple	1962
7.	Same	12 "	Red	1962
8.	Same	15 "	Brown	1965
9.	Same	10 "	Green	1968
10.	Crown over Mt. Everest (vertical rect.)	30 "	Purple	1980

Note: All year dates given above are A.D. Only the first four show B.S. dates in the stamp design.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Broadly speaking, these are of two types from the stand-point of paper and printing. The vertical oval stamp of the first registration envelope bears the year 1992 B.S., corresponding to 1935 A.D. It was locally printed at the Gorkhapatra Press and issued in 1936 A.D. It has two varieties, one with inscriptions "Registered Letter" just above the underline and the other one with the underline and inscriptions missing. The second and third types were printed at the India Security Press. First, second and third-type envelopes for registered letters have imprinted values of 24 paisas, 46 paisas and Rs 2.30, respectively. The stationery charges of 3 paisas, 10 paisas and 20 paisas, respectively, were levied on these envelopes. All registration envelopes have vertical oval stamps imprinted.

S.N.	Design	Denomi- nator	Colour	Year
1.	Shiva on the Himalayas	24 paisas	Orange	1935
2.	Crown	6 paisas + 40 paisas	Green	1962
3.	Rhododendron	30 paisas + Rs 2.00	Green	1980

Note: All year dates given are A.D. and only the first one shows B.S. dates in the stamp design.

AEROGRAMMES

On the second day of the U.P.U. week, an 8 paisa aerogramme with the design of Garuda on the stamp was released. It is the only locally printed airmail letter sheet and can be distinguished into two types from the existence and non-existence of swastikas in the border design. All aerogrammes bear rectangular stamps. The mythical bird--Garuda--has played a vital role on five of the eleven aerogrammes listed hereafter:

S.N.	Design	Denomi- nation	Colour	Year
1.	Garuda	8 paisas	Blue	1959
2.	Same	10 "	Green	1960
3.	Same	1 rupee	Red	1960
4.	Same	1.50 rupees	Violet	1963
5.	Same	8 paisas	Purple	1964
6.	Mt. Machapuchare	15 "	Blue	1969
7.	Stupa, Temple and plane	75 paisas	Green	1973
8.	Everest region and plane	Rs 1.25	Blue	1973
9.	Mt. Machapuchare	15 pa	Red-brown	1975
10.	Same	25 pa	Blue-green	1977
11.	Dhaulagiri range	Rs. 2.50	Blue	1982

Note: All year dates given above are A.D.

The first and last aerogrammes were printed at the Gorkhapatra Press, Kathmandu, and at the Pakistan Security Printing Corporation Ltd., Karachi, respectively. The India Security Press, Nasik Road, printed all other aerogrammes.

EARLY, RARE AND FINE BOOKS ON THE HIMALAYAN AREA

Iozawa, T. **TREKKING IN THE HIMALAYAS**, Tokyo, 1980. 208 pp. Many color photos and maps including much information dealing with Nepal. Soft cover, \$21.50ppd. Overseas, \$23.50ppd.

Marshall, Julie. **BRITAIN AND TIBET, 1765-1947**. A select, annotated bibliography. 2,874 entries, the majority of which relate to Tibet, but include important titles on Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. Soft cover. \$37.50ppd. Overseas, \$40.00ppd.

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NEPAL AEROGRAMMES -- AN ADDITIONAL REPORT
--Surendra Lal Shrestha

(Mr. Shrestha, GPO Box 72, Kathmandu, has provided us with a listing which adds some additional information to that included in Mr. J. B. Manandhar's article on Nepalese Postal Stationery, elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Shrestha welcomes your questions, inquiries, and comments concerning our subject.--Ed.)

For convenience, we have keyed each item to correspond with the S.N. designations in Mr. Manandhar's section on aerogrammes:

S.N. 1 - Though printed in Kathmandu, the paper used was made in India, watermarked ROHTAS BOND and the form of a Bull. Both types (with and without swastikas in the border design) are known without watermark and with watermark inverted. Prefold Size is 20.4 x 28.4 cm. Issue date: 1959.4.15 (2016.1.2 B.S.).

S.N. 2 - Prefold size is 21.1 x 27 cm. A second, more common variety is more common than the early variety which was printed on Indian off-white paper. The more common variety was printed on less uniform paper, with the color of the paper being more varied. This item is also known in a variety described as a "double print, & also exists with the red stamp entirely omitted. (S.N. 3 - 1 rupee denomination)

S.N. 6 - Prefold size is 21.2 x 26.9 cm. Issue date: 1969.7.1 (2026.3.17 B.S.) on the occasion of 'Tribhuvan Jayanti.'

S.N. 7 - Prefold size is 21 x 27.1 cm. Issue date: 1973.12.18-30 (2030.9.13-15 B.S.). Known with green stamp omitted.

S.N. 8 - Data same as for S.N. 7. Also known with the stamp showing a double print.

S.N. 9 - Prefold size is 21 x 27 cm. Issue date: 1975.8.1 (2032.4.16 B.S.).

S.N. 10 - Prefold size is 21.1 x 27 cm. Issue date: 1977.2.6 (2033.10.24 B.S.).

S.N. 11 - New international format. Prefold size is 21.9 x 31 cm, with 3 sides gummed.



नेपाल ३०प



(We thank Mr. Dhruba Rudra and Mr. N. D. Shrestha who each sent us examples of two new aerogrammes, with First Day cancels, & which are illustrated in this issue. Both were printed by the Pakistan Security Printing Corporation (as was S.N. 11) and both were issued on the same day: 1982.10 (2039.6.15 B.S.) and both show a denomination of 30pa, for local use. (We have taken the liberty of assigning the S.N. numbers as they would appear at the end of Mr. Manandhar's discussion of aerogrammes.--Ed.)


"S.N. 12" - The familiar Mt. Machapuchare design, in red-brown. Prefold size is 21 x 27 cm, with one side gummed.

"S.N. 13" - New design showing a view of Basantapur Durbar, in deep red-brown. Prefold size is 21 x 27.3 cm, with one side gummed.

"SHADOWS OF THE PAST"

A passing remark by Frank Vignola in one of his letters to your editor concerning the Scott catalog entry for Nepal in the 1930 edition, set this writer to thinking. My oldest Scott catalog happens to be a 1929 edition, and the Nepal and Tibet entries from it are reproduced herewith:

NEPAL, A.
16 ANNAS—1 RUPEE.



A1
1881 Unwkd. Imperf.
European Paper.

1 A1	1a ultramarine	75	
2 A1	2a purple	1.00	
	α. Tête bêche	10.00	
3 "	4a green	2.00	

Rouletted.

4 A1	1a blue	1.00	
5 "	2a purple	2.00	
	α. Tête bêche	12.00	
6 "	4a green	3.00	

Native Wave Paper.

1887 Imperf.

7 A1	1a ultramarine	25	6
	α. Tête bêche	2.50	4.50
8 "	2a violet	50	35
	α. Tête bêche	3.50	3.50
9 "	4a green	40	30
	α. Tête bêche	7.50	6.00

1899 Pin Perf.

10 A1	1a blue	50	50
	α. Tête bêche	2.50	
11 "	2a violet	75	75
	α. Tête bêche	2.80	
12 "	4a green	75	75
	α. Tête bêche	2.00	



A2
13 A2 1/2a black 10 10
α. Tête bêche 9.00

1900 Pin Perf.

14 A2	1/2a black	10	10
	α. Tête bêche	9.00	



A3
1907 Perf. 13 1/2.

15 A3	2p brown	6	6
16 "	4p green	8	8
17 "	8p carmine	12	12
18 "	16p violet	15	15

TIBET, A.
16 ANNAS—1 RUPEE.



A1
1913 Unwkd. Imperf.

1 A1	1a blue green	10	10
2 "	2a deep ultramarine	20	15
3 "	3a purple	30	20
4 "	4a carmine	60	40
	α. "POSTAGE"	1.50	
5 "	6a vermilion	60	40

It is interesting to note that no prices, or valuations, are given for used copies of any of the 1881 issues of Nepal. The prices listed are, of course, unreal by today's standards. The items with the highest figures are the tete beche pairs of the 2a purple of the 1881 issues, with the "Imperf." valued at \$10.00 and the "Rouletted," valued at \$12.00. To my knowledge, there are only two known copies of the former and only one of the latter!

The most notable omission, of course, is that of the 1/2 anna orange-vermilion stamp. Although it was, apparently, the first of the 1917-18 settings of the half anna, it was not known in the West until ca. 1940, or thereabouts.


The Tibet entry is notable for its brevity as it includes only five catalog numbers for the 1913 issue -- the only one in existence in 1929.

My next catalog happens to be a 1935 issue and the entries for our favourite countries appear as follows:

NEPAL, A.

An independent kingdom in the Himalayan Mountains lying between British India and Tibet. While the country is a monarchy, with a living sovereign, all power is vested in the prime minister who, besides his native titles of rank, is a general in the British Army. According to a treaty of 1923, the British and the Nepalese governments acknowledged each other's independence both internal and external.

16 ANNAS—1 RUPEE.



A1
1881 Unwkd. Imperf.
European Paper.

1 A1	1a ultramarine	75	
2 "	2a purple	1.00	
	α. Tête bêche pair	10.00	
3 "	4a green	2.00	

Rouletted.

4 A1	1a blue	1.00	
5 "	2a purple	2.00	
	α. Tête bêche pair	12.00	
6 "	4a green	3.00	

Native Wave Paper.

1887 Imperf.


7 A1	1a ultramarine	25	6
	α. Tête bêche pair	1.50	
8 "	2a violet	50	35
	α. Tête bêche pair	3.50	
9 "	4a green	40	30
	α. Tête bêche pair	7.50	6.00

1899 Pin Perf.

10 A1	1a blue	50	50
	α. Tête bêche pair	2.50	
11 "	2a violet	75	75
	α. Tête bêche pair	2.80	
12 "	4a green	75	75
	α. Tête bêche pair	2.00	

Synthetic Devices

A2



13 A2 1/2a black 10 10
α. Tête bêche pair 9.00

1900 Pin Perf.

14 A2	1/2a black	10	10
	α. Tête bêche pair	9.00	

1907 Perf. 13 1/2.

15 A3	2p brown	6	6
16 "	4p green	8	8
17 "	8p carmine	12	12
18 "	16p violet	15	15

Imperf.

15 A2	1/2a black	10	10
	α. Tête bêche pair	9.00	

1900 Pin Perf.

14 A2	1/2a black	10	10
	α. Tête bêche pair	9.00	



A1
Siva Mahadeva

A1

1907 Perf. 13 1/2.

17 A3	2p brown	6	6
16 "	4p green	8	8
17 "	8p carmine	12	12
18 "	16p violet	15	15



A1
Siva Mahadeva

A4

Type of 1907 Redrawn.
Nine instead of five characters in the bottom panel.

1913 Perf. 14, 14 1/2.

Size: 24 3/4 x 18 3/4 mm.

19 A4	2p dark brown	2	
20 "	4p green	4	
21 "	8p deep red	6	
22 "	16p dark red violet	8	
23 "	24p orange yellow	12	
24 "	32p dark ultramarine	15	

Size: 26 x 19 1/2 mm.

25 A4	1r orange red	50	
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Size: 28 x 21 mm.

26 A4	5r brown & black	250	
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In the intervening six years we find no price changes for Nepal, but the second Sri Pashupati issue appears, indicated as a 1931 emission, and with no valuations for used copies. Interestingly, the high value (Rs. 5) is valued at \$2.50 -- in the same range as the 4a green issues of 1881!

TIBET, A.

An independent state in the Himalayan Mountains, north of Nepal and India. Was invaded by Chinese troops in 1911, forcing the government to go into exile at Darjeeling, British India. The Chinese revolution furnished the Tibetans the opportunity for the expulsion of the Chinese troops and the return of their own government. The actual status of Tibet is rather confused. It is nominally considered to be under Chinese control, but in 1904 Great Britain negotiated a direct treaty with the Tibet government in which the Chinese government concurred in 1906. Area, 463,000 square miles. Capital, Lhasa.

10 ANNAS=1 RUPEE.



Lion
A1

1913

Uawmkd.

Imperf.

1	A1	1a blue green	10	10
2	"	2a deep ultramarine	20	15
3	"	3a purple	30	20
4	"	4a carmine	40	40
5	"	a. "POSTAGE" 1.50	99	40
5	"	6a vermilion	99	40

8 CHEEKY=8 SHUKANG=4 TANGKA.

1 TRANKA=6 ANNAS (INDIA).



A2

1933

Uawmkd.

Pin Perf.

6	A2	1c orange		
7	"	1s blue		
		a. imperf.		
8	"	1t dark carmine		
9	"	2t red		
10	"	4t green		

For Tibet we also see no price changes for the 1913 emission, but the number of entries is doubled with the listing of five numbers for the 1933 issues -- with no valuations for either column, mint or used News travelled slowly in those days!

(Contributions for this new column, or suggestions for it, are welcomed.--Ed.)



THE POSTAL SERVICE OF NEPAL

(This is the title of a "Final Report prepared for His Majesty's Government of Nepal by Mr. W. R. Ward, Universal Postal Union adviser in postal organisation, after a mission of 5 years, 4 months, from 1 September 1965 to 31 December 1970, under the United Nations Development Programme." Dated December 1970, Kathmandu, this formerly restricted report was made available to the editor by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, to whom we express our sincere thanks.)

Although this 114-page report was not made available to the public at the time of publication, the passage of some 12 years has changed that and we note that a copy was offered for sale in Study Circle Auction No. 21 (Lot #119) which closed on 16 October 1982. It is our intent to summarize pertinent parts of this document, with the first installment appearing herewith.--Ed.

The two-page introduction indicates that periodic reports, at three month intervals, were submitted to the Postal Services Department and that the main purpose of this final report is "to place on record a number of recommendations which have not yet been fully implemented and to indicate the desirable lines of future development of the Nepalese postal service." The author concedes that many of his preconceived ideas, based on his prior experience, have had to be abandoned and that he believes that his final recommendations are practical and suited to the particular geographical, economic and social conditions under which the Nepalese postal service operates.

The report is divided into three parts. -- Part I contains general recommendations for the administration and organisation of the Postal Services Department. Part II contains various Appendices which provide many of the details upon which the recommendations in Part I are based. Part III contains detailed recommendations relating to the operation of the Postal Service.

The Table of Contents shows that Part I is the longest part of the report, and is the only one for which chapter headings are given. We will summarize these chapters in their normal order.

Chapter 1 - The Staffing of the Postal Service (5 pages) with seven numbered recommendations:

1. Submits that the most valuable but scarce assets of a developing country are its trained and experienced administrators and managers and that such people should be employed where that training and experience will be of the most value.

2. States that "So far as Nepal's postal service is concerned, these assets are being wasted, and the development of the service is being severely hindered by the present policy of free interchange of staff between government departments." This severe criticism is then documented in some detail.

3. Points out the importance of the postal service and its unique character. The special status of postal services in other countries is noted and the recommendation is that it should have a "separate staffing unit from the rest of the civil service."

4. Details unfortunate transfers and promotions made by the Public Administration Department which emphasizes the specific reasons for the previous recommendation.

5. Details the reasons for the fact that employment in the postal service is less attractive than in government service generally, such as the need to have some of the workers on duty during holidays and at unusual hours, and at locations often far removed from Kathmandu, and inferring that appropriate steps be taken to make such work more attractive.

6. Recommends specifically that the postal service be regarded as a technical service, justifying "superior rates of pay."

7. This final item indicates that the first proposal for a "closed service" was made by a former Indian adviser, Mr. B. Lall, in a report dated November 1958, and was first made by the present adviser in November 1965. It repeats this proposal with increased emphasis, because (as of the date of the report) "there is no evidence that the authorities competent to make the change have yet realised the seriousness of the situation."

Chapter 2 - Headquarters Organisation of the Department (4 pages) with seven numbered items:

1. "Little more than ten years ago the Postal Services Department was concerned with operating only an internal mail service based on foot runners. Today it uses a network of air services and ever-expanding road services. Its responsibilities extend to mail contacts with all parts of the world. The volume of traffic has increased enormously and large new buildings have become necessary." (It is unlikely that any other country in the world has been required to expand its postal service so rapidly.)

2. The author points out that this growth was brought about, largely, by the pressure of outside circumstances and that it was not accompanied by the planned development of the administrative organisation.

3. He notes that administration, at the time of this report, is primarily devoted to keeping pace with outside pressures, & that little talent or effort is available for planned development.

4. In 1965 the headquarters organisation of the Department consisted of a single Director and three Section Officers--one each for a) Budgets and Accounts, b) Personnel and Administration, and c) Mails.

5. Recommendations are made for a Director General, three Deputy Directors, and for two Section Officers under each Deputy Director.

6. Points out that the administration originally envisaged at the end of five years is to be found in Part II, Appendix I, and provides, under the Director General, for two Deputy Directors General and five Directors, each with three or four Sections. The author refers to an earlier 20 year plan which provided for even more administrators and infers that the program of development is behind schedule.

7. It is here pointed out that the Postal Services Department is already the largest government department and that it is certain to grow ever larger for a variety of reasons. Thus there is need for staff devoted to future planning and development.

(Chapter 3 to be continued)

--Armand E. Singer

1982 has proved a rather rich year for expanding philatelic horizons. The following information was either not widely known or publicly reported until now.

George Alevizos' November 23 auction in New York City, in his usual cornucopia of goodies, featured item No. 1582, a used postal card, unlisted in Higgins & Gage even in normal condition (Frank Vignola states that one used and two mint copies have turned up so far, however), Die III, Horse 3, 8 words in the heading, Text A, vowel erect, Ornament 2, with the red die inverted. Unless further examples surface, one of the few unique rarities in Nepalese philately. The usage, 20 June 1945, is very late for an issue dating back into the late nineteenth century. George notes that the invert was properly cancelled and wonders what the postal clerk must have thought on seeing it. "Nothing," I would suggest. Msprints and such rarely bother clerks -- only collectors and typesetters. Remember the 1918 U.S. airmail invert sheet sold over the counter without even ruffling the postal clerk's feathers.

The same auction boasted a Tibetan find as well, No. 1619, a complete sheet of the 1912 one-trangka value in yellow instead of red, c.t.o. Lhasa type VIII, also believed to be unique. Yellow being a difficult color when verifying a sheet's bona fides, the purchaser is currently in the process of checking it out. Meanwhile, the likelihood is that the color is close or identical to that used in the last printings of the 1933 one-trangka value (datable, according to Waterfall, 2nd edition, p. 96, probably as late 1950s). The late state of the Lhasa cancel would support this dating, though we may still question the necessity or even the reason for reprinting a value from an outdated issue. Possibly part of the same rationale that permitted the belated appearance of the one-sang greens, or reprints of the 1914-1920 four-trangka blues and eight-trangka reds, not to speak of the so-called officials. This whole period in the Tibetan postal system has an odor all its own.

I have recently been privileged to vet a most fascinating item: a registered commercial Tibetan cover, dated 28 DEC. '51, franked with a four-trangka green, printed on ruled paper of the kind used by Indian schoolboys. Tibetan stamps have been reproduced on a far greater range of papers than those of Nepal, for instance, but I

not recall ever having come across the use of notebook paper before. Several horizontal blue lines about 9 mm apart are clearly visible, as well as one double perpendicular pink line, normally found marking the left margin of such student notebook sheets. The stamp itself appears genuine.

To update my report (Postal Himal, No. 29, 1st Quarter 1982, pp. 8-9) on the Nepal two-anna blue, SG 38, ca. 1917, originally offered for sale in our Auction No. 18, October 1981, I must make acknowledgment to Frank Vignola, Colin Hepper, C. Tulsian, Lester Michel and Frank Westbrook, who all replied to my request for information and to whom we are all indebted. Let me sum up what we now seem to know. These stamps surfaced in a large accumulation sold in Nepal back around 1968 by a high-ranking official not himself a collector. The buyer, who finally came across a few more blocks and singles from other collections, held on to his cache until 1978, when he decided to sell it to the present vendor, who in turn has offered it piecemeal through Hepper's Study Circle Auctions No. 18 (a telegraphically used block of twelve, one inverted cliché), No. 20 (tel. used blocks of eight and four), and No. 21 (Te. used block of eight with two inverted clichés), October 1981 to October 1982. The color may or may not be natural. There is the possibility of color change through exposure to chemicals in the air or from sunlight. One collector even admitted the possibility of intentional modification through the use of chemical agents. Frank Vignola writes me of his knowledge of blue printings of the two annas during the earlier, though not the later (1917--), period. His personal opinion is that these late blues are genuine but that the shade is probably due to ink deterioration and ageing. In any event he feels that they cannot be considered a true error of color. A minor variety at best, he concludes. He also notes already having similar if not identical shades in his own collection.

Two respondents detected a slightly greenish component in the blue color, one noting the possibility of some gray as well, adding that the result, though to him a one-anna color, could not be matched among his own one-anna copies. Another collector considered the block of four that he saw from Auction No. 20 as blue-gray, not pale blue. I myself have not seen this block but did have the opportunity to examine the block of eight from the last auction. I would call it the same color as my block of twelve, but detect no green tone in either. So much for visual comparisons seen through different eyes!

Singer, Nepal-Tibet Finds, continued:

Mr. Tulsian notes that some of the blue stamps from this same accumulation were auctioned off in Kathmandu just before Nepal '81, with good bidding. He suggests that if the items are a case of willful color changing, it would have made better sense for the perpetrator to have tampered with more of them at that time, the demand being strong; but such was not the case. I may add myself that the telegraph cancellations seem to have been applied to the stamps colored as they were encountered at the time (i.e., ca. 1917). The color seems identical under the cancels with that found over the whole stamps. If I am right, the tampering or fading would have to date from over sixty years ago. Purposeful changing that long ago is not likely. Furthermore, a telegraph cancel on top of an altered color would only lower its value to collectors. It would be better to change mint or postally used copies.

In short, the pale blue is probably an

honest shade, but possibly due to fading or natural chemical deterioration. Is it a true color error, if the original color? In the later, worn printings of this classic issue of Nepal, the value panels for the one and two annas look much alike. Did the printer make a mistake? The latest printings bore no marginal inscriptions to indicate stamp denomination and sheet value total; the value panels on the individual stamps would remain the only easy source of information. So, we may be dealing with another color error much like the one-anna recut cliché (No. 8) found in the last setting of the four-anna sheet from the same 1917-1918 period. I am assuming that the cliché, so worn as to be almost unreadable, was mistakenly inserted in the plate when the original fell out. It is, to be sure, also possible that the one-anna cliché was knowingly inserted to replace the damaged four-anna cliché on the grounds that it was unreadable in any case.

SHOWCASE

TIBET - A REGISTERED 8 TRANGKA COVER

--Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

Commercial covers bearing either of the two high values of 1914-20 are very rarely seen. I have now acquired an early registered cover - illustrated herewith - franked with a rose-carmine 8 trangka stamp.

This remarkable cover, which has bravely withstood a good deal of soiling as well as attacks by insects, is possibly the earliest 8 trangka cover in existence. Although the cover itself is undated, its postal markings would suggest a date of 1920 or earlier.

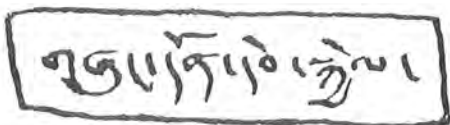
The stamp has been obliterated with two brownish-black strikes of the Lhasa type III cancellation whose period of use was believed to be limited to 1915-16. Left of the stamp is a strike of the negative Gyantse postmark, in black.

The most interesting part of the cover, however, are the two registration markings on the address side: One is a boxed manuscript marking while the other is the rare Lhasa I registration cachet. This handstamp is so clearly impressed on my 8 trangka cover that I have no hesitation in dating it either 1920 (i.e., the earliest recorded use of this cachet) or even earlier.

If this assumption is correct, this cover would definitely challenge Waterfall's statement that no 4 or 8 trangkas have come to light on covers earlier than 1924.

Apart from its early date, however, my cover's rarity lies in the fact that it is most probably the only known second issue cover bearing a registration handstamp.

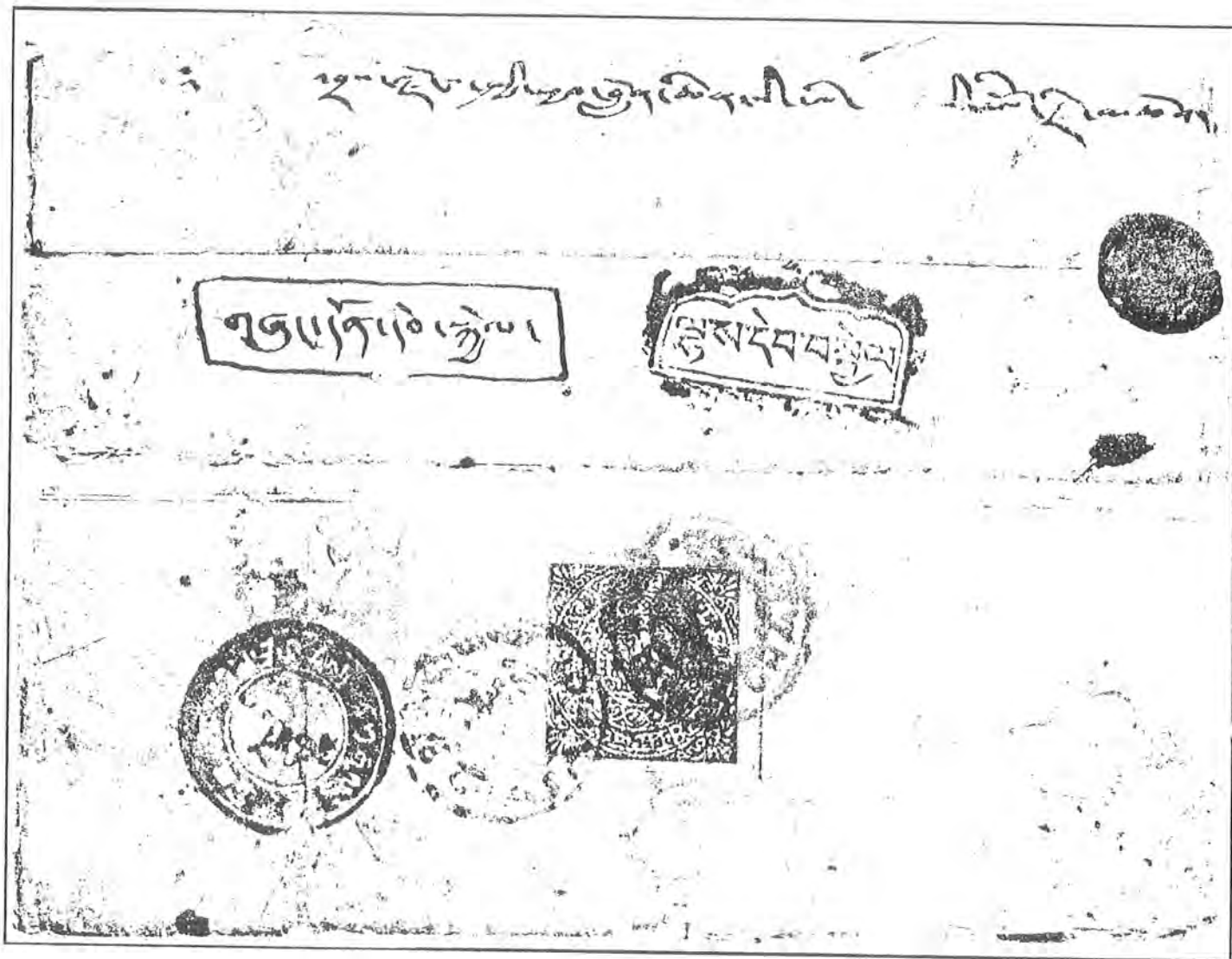
SHOWCASE



m/s registration marking



Lhasa I registr. cachet



Gyantse postmark



Lhasa III cancellation