

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



No. 35

3rd Quarter 1983

January 1, 1984



POSTAL HIMAL is the quarterly publication of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Subscription dues are £4 for one year and £11 for three years or \$7 for one year and \$19 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.

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OUR COVER ILLUSTRATION for this issue was sent to us by Mr. Dhruba Rudra and is a drawing of the emblem used by the Postal Services Department of Nepal in the 1960s. The following information about the emblem was written by Mr. J.B. Manandhar:

"A circular emblem was adopted by the postal authorities in the nineteen-sixties only. It consists of two Devanagari inscriptions and two postal instruments of historical significance. The upper inscription is the department motto: 'Service is the main religion'. The lower inscription, also in Nepali, reads: 'Nepal Postal Service.' Spears with bells and a postal horn

indicate the combination of two civilizations -- the former representing the East and the latter the West and stand for international collaboration in the field of post. The purpose of blowing the horn and ringing the bells is the same, i.e., to make their fellow beings ready for onward journeys and to keep the postal route free from impediments."

Dear Friends,

In our last issue, readers encountered an author new to our publication -- N. G. Rhodes. Another short but authoritative article by Mr. Rhodes appears in this issue. Interestingly, Mr. Rhodes' wife is the grand-daughter of Sardar Bahadur Sonam Wangfel Laden La, C.B.E., whom Rev. Arthur Bruce Moss met in Darjeeling in 1916. (See "Notes on the Early Life and Career of Laden La" in the double issue of Postal Himal, Nos. 27/28.)

Another new author breaks into print with a short article in this issue -- Mr. Malcolm Campbell. Mr. Campbell's name is not new to our readers, however, as it is referenced in our cumulative index in connection with a Nepalese stamp calling attention to Nepal's afforestation program (Scott No. 360). Campbell is a Forest Technical Officer with the Nepal-Australia Forestry Project and has spent several years in Nepal. His article titled "A Commentary on Color Changes in Certain Nepal Stamps" illustrates how a keen observer can make valuable contributions to help solve a philatelic problem.

Most of our readers have knowledge, opinions and ideas which can be both interesting and useful to our readers. We trust that more of you will follow the example of these two new authors and send your contributions to the editor. -- If you have sent material and it has not been published, please be patient. Your editor has not forgotten you! A variety of constraints, including that of space, requires that some material be held in reserve. It is, of course, the editor's responsibility to make decisions about such matters and they are not always easy.

A discussion of the reasons for a poor turnout at a Regional Meeting of the Study Circle has brought out the fact that more readers might attend such meetings if they were advertised in Postal Himal well in advance of the date of the exhibition at which such a meeting is to be held. In that connection, we ask members who would be willing to host such a meeting or, at least, to help arrange for a meeting, to write to Roger Skinner, who will coordinate the planning for meetings in the USA and Canada. Our secretary, Colin Hepper, will coordinate similar meetings in Europe. Both Hepper and Skinner will help coordinate such meetings in Asia and elsewhere. Your editor has already offered to work on arrangements for a meeting at ROMPEX '84 in Denver, next May. That exhibition will also be the site of the annual APS Spring Meeting. This is the most important show in the region and we invite all who can to attend, to exhibit and to visit one of the beautiful scenic areas of the USA at a lovely time of year.

A few dealers are still attempting to make excessive profits from the release of stocks of "Official" stamps, both normal and overprinted varieties, by the Nepal Postal Services Department. Correspondents in Nepal tell us that much of that stock is poorly centered and otherwise in less than pristine condition. Reputable dealers are selling these items at approximately twice face value and, in general, offer items in the best available condition.

Tibet collectors will be interested to learn that Kurt H. Dahnke's book, reviewed by Armand E. Singer in our last issue (No. 34, p. 25), is available at a price of \$25.00 (USA), including the 1983 supplement, the binder and surface mailing costs, with payment in advance. Herr Klaus Leister also states that no additional supplements are scheduled at this time.

Lester A. Michel

EXHIBITION NEWS

BANGKOK '83

--United States Commissioners Frank Vignola and Raymond L. Gaillaguet

The international Philatelic Exhibition held in Bangkok, Thailand, 4-13 August, is now history. In our opinion, it was an unqualified success. The USA exhibitors did quite well. Out of the 32 exhibits brought by the U.S. Commissioners, a total of 30 medals were awarded, including the Grand Prix d' Honneur and the Grand Prix International.

N. G. Rajkarnikar, the Nepal Commissioner, brought seven Nepal exhibits and all were awarded medals in the competition. Other Nepal or Tibet exhibits were entered by collectors from Switzerland, India and Japan.

Many members of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle were involved in the International Exhibition. An attempt was made to hold a joint meeting of the Study Circle with the Nepal Philatelic Society, but various tours and duties performed by the judges, commissioners, exhibitors and visitors were such that it was impossible to get together for a meeting. Instead, the various members visited together quite often when their paths crossed during the many activities.

Among those belonging to either the Study Circle or the Nepal Philatelic Society and who were at the exhibition at one time or another were: N.G. RAJKARNIKAR, K.M.MULMI, H.SINGH, S.L.SHRESTHA, R.M. RAJBHANDARY, J.P.SINGH, PETER HOLCOMB, GEOFFREY FLACK, C.TULSIYAN, P.GUPTA, FRANK VIGNOLA, DR. FRANK E. VIGNOLA, DR. D.POCOCK and others no doubt, that we may have overlooked. For this we apologize.

On arrival at the airport in Bangkok, the Thai Postal Department cleared customs for us and drove us to our hotel -- the Dusit Thani. The next morning we set up the collections, again with the assistance of the Thai Post Office Department personnel. The physical setup and the numbering of the frames were both excellent. The security had been well planned, even to the stationing of a fire truck on the exhibition grounds during the show. (If you had ever been caught in a Thai traffic jam, you would appreciate this important detail!) The air conditioning at the Suan Amphora Auditorium was perfect. When, to all of

this, you added the graciousness of the Thais, you had an almost perfect exhibition.

There were 1602 twelve-page frames in the exhibition. Forty frames made up the Court of Honor and the remainder, the competitive classes. Throughout, the material was outstanding. As could be expected, the exhibits were very strong in the Asian area. We were informed that the estimated attendance was about 70,000 and we believe that at least half of that number consisted of school children attending in groups each day.

With great pomp the exhibition was officially opened by H. R. H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, but it was saddened by the sudden death of Charles Stewart, the guiding spirit of Bangkok '83 and an esteemed friend of many of us, a few minutes before the arrival of the Princess. After a short period of disarray, the rest of the committee closed ranks and the show ran smoothly.

The Palmares was presided over by H. E. Mr. Samak Sundaravey, Minister of Communications. The speeches were short and we were pleasantly entertained by traditional Thai dancers.

Following is a list of award winners belonging to the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle and/or the Nepal Philatelic Society, plus others who exhibited Nepal or Tibet material in the competition:

FRANK VIGNOLA--Large Gold, with Felicitations of the Jury
PETER HOLCOMBE--Gold with Special Prize
PETER HOLCOMBE--Gold
PETER HOLCOMBE--Vermeil with Special Prize
MEISO MIZUHARA--Vermeil
RAJ GOVIND RAJKARNIKAR--Vermeil
YOSHIMI ITO--Silver
SURENDRA LAL SHRESTHA--Silver
HARDAYAL SINGH GUPTA--Silver
KESHAB MAN MULMI--Silver Bronze
O. R. SANFORD--Silver Bronze
J. P. GUPTA (Junior Class)--Diploma

Serving as apprentice judges on the International Jury were P. Gupta and Dr. D. Pockock. Both are specialists in Nepal philatelic

tely and are members of the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle and/or the Nepal Philatelic Society. Congratulations to both of them!

We also wish to congratulate the exhibitors for their fine exhibits and their well-deserved awards. We were quite pleased with the participation of so many members of the two societies along with their spouses and children who attended the exhibition. In our opinion, Bangkok '83 was a huge success and our societies had a lot to do with it. We heartily thank those who exhibited and attended. It was indeed a pleasure to meet all of you.

STUDY CIRCLE PARTICIPATION AT STaMpsHOW'83
--Alan Warren

At the suggestion of our American Philatelic Society representative Roger Skinner I attended the APS STaMpsHOW in Pittsburgh in August & represented the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle. As this was our first effort in active participation at an APS show since becoming APS Affiliate No. 122, we attracted little interest, but nevertheless made the effort to bring our organization to the attention of other collectors.

The Affiliates' luncheon was held on Saturday, 27 August, and was chaired by APS Affiliates Coordinator Robert deVio- lini. Several dozen affiliates were represented and Bob announced those organizations in attendance, including our own Study Circle. During the luncheon it was brought out that it is virtually impossible to have tables set up for the sale of Affiliates' materials, such as souvenirs and publications, because of the difficulty in keeping track of so much material. APS Secretary, Pat Siskin, who was present at the luncheon, suggested that the Affiliates might get together & organize a group of volunteers to staff a table at the APS shows for the sale of Affiliate materials. This would be a major task in keeping track of all the funds and staffing the table at all times. The availability of space for such a table is also something that the APS would have to review.

Immediately following the luncheon, which fortunately began at 11 AM, the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle meeting, scheduled for noon, was held. The turn-out was disappointingly small, which was pro-

bably due to a number of circumstances, including the time of day, the limited interest in our specialty (especially in light of the concurrent meeting of nearly a half dozen other groups), and the limited number of Study Circle members in the geographical area of Pittsburgh, PA. I showed slides of my Tibet collection, beginning with examples of Younghusband expedition cancels, China offices in Tibet, the stamps of India used in Tibet, followed by the issues of 1912, 1914-20 and 1933, with examples of used and unused, sheets and usage on cover. A set of 1933 issue forgeries was also shown and a few examples of the "officials" and so-called wireless telegraph issues. Copies of two articles which appeared earlier this year in the New York Times on recent conditions in Tibet were distributed.

Although no stamp exhibits of Nepal or Tibet were entered in the show, Colin Hepper did win a Silver Award in the literature competition for his book, The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal. While our efforts at this first participation in an APS show brought limited results, it was at least a start. With continued exposure and publicity, we can make our organization better known to the collecting public. -- (For the reader who may not be familiar with the annual APS sponsored STaMpsHOW, it can be pointed out that the exhibition is called "The Champion of Champions" competition, with only those exhibits allowed to enter which have won the top award at certain selected shows in the USA during the previous year. We congratulate Colin Hepper on his award in the literature competition -- the most demanding competition of its type each year in the USA.--Ed.)

For all your requirements
of Nepal and Tibet!

Write to:

S.L. SHRESTHA (MEMBER: NTPSC),
5/148 Ombahal, GPO Box 72,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Visiting Kathmandu?*

Please, send an Air-letter.

P. GUPTA WINS GRAND PRIX DE HONNEUR

We congratulate Mr. Gupta for winning the top prize for his Nepal exhibit at the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Rio de Janeiro, 29 July-7 August 1983 -- BRASILIANA '83. To our knowledge, this is the first time that a Nepal exhibit has won highest honors at any international exhibition. It is a great honor for Mr. Gupta and it brings important recognition to the philately of our area of interest.

PETER GARLAND ALSO WINS

Rev. Peter Garland, who lives in Malawi & is the only member of the Study Circle residing on the African continent, recently reported as follows:

"I recently exhibited my Tibet collection

at DORSA '83, the Southern African Exhibition at Dvkan. There were about 1,000 frames on exhibit and I am told that the standard was very high. I received a Silver with Felicitations. My wife, who collects "The River Nile," won a Silver-Bronze with two frames on "They Came to Khartoum," a thematic on Kitchener & Gordon." (So we have another husband & wife team of collectors! Many of us know Frank & Mae Vignola, of course, and we wonder how many other husband & wife collectors are represented in our Study Circle. And, by the way, Mae Vignola received a Silver Award at the international exhibition, BANGKOK '83, for her exhibit of Guatemala. Our congratulations to Mrs. Garland and to Mrs. Vignola. --Ed.)



AUCTION ACTION

Cris Hallett, one of our Canadian members who has reported auction results in earlier issues, has offered us the following: (It should be noted that Cris has returned from a 3 1/2 month leave-of-absence in Nepal and England. While in Nepal he met with another Study Circle member in Kathmandu, Punnya Sthapit, and practiced his elementary knowledge of Nepali. He also spent 11 days trekking toward the Everest Base Camp area, but was forced to end the trip at Lukla, due to illness. A total of six weeks was spent in Nepal before he went on to England. We congratulate Cris for his accomplishments and thank him for his report.--Ed.)

Vance Auctions Ltd. (Canada) Amounts in Canadian dollars :

14 Jan '83:

--An unusual accumulation of several hundred stamps between Scott Nos. 10 & 46 (SG 10-59). Included are quantities of No. 10 (SG 23) (about 100) and No. 17 (SG 17?) (about 125). There are multiples & tete beche pairs (for example, No. 10), blocks of Nos. 46 & 29 (SG 59 & 33); No. 17 (tete beche block of 12). No more than

20 of any other stamp. Telegraph cancels on most multiples. An interesting lot from a remote & popular area. Good for the plating specialist or dealer. (1982 Scott was \$1,800+) Est. \$500.

Realised \$400.

--A good little Nepal collection on leaves 1917-1981. Most periods well represented and incl. 1917 tete-beche pair; se tenar blocks; souvenir sheets; 3 covers; etc. Generally VG-VF (Few 100's). Est. \$80.

Realised \$89.

--Nice little Nepal collection in Hawid mounts on pages. VG-VF (195). Est. \$25.

Realised \$30.

--A useful Nepal collection on leaves, 1899-1981, with a few early and a good range of later with pictorials. Also a selection of stampless covers (65) with native and bi-lingual postmarks and ornamental officials' handstamps, mostly middle and modern. Generally VG-VF (few 100's). Est. \$75. Realised \$74.

Peter Kenedi of California, Inc. (USA)
(Amounts in American dollars):

12-14 Jan '83:

--1850 (ca.) cover from India to Nepal

with "Nepaul" receiving cancel, also "Unpaid Sorting" and "Postage Due" markings, rare, fine. Est. \$200. Realised \$140.

--Scott No. 7 (SG No. 7?), tied by superb grid on native cover, VF. Est. \$150-200. Realised \$120.

--Scott No. 26 var (SG No. 30), 2p brown imperf corner block of 12, extremely rare, only 4 such blocks known, overall creasing, margin tear affects one position, fine. Est. \$750-1,000. Realised \$550.

--1907 2p brown on thick paper, part sheet of 59, unused, rare in such a large multiple, F-VF. Est. \$400. Realised \$250.

--Scott No. 29 (SG No. 33), 1907 16p violet small die proof in issued colour, very rare, flt at t (there are virtually no sound examples in existence), signed, fine appearance. Est. \$500-550. Realised \$350.

--Scott No. 46 var (SG No. 59), 1941 8p rose-red, imperf full sheet of 36, scarce, VF. Est. \$200. Realised \$140.

7-8 Mar '83: "Peter Kenedi had some very interesting Nepal lots--nine in all. One had an estimate of \$15,000 and another of \$10,000. (All Pashupati sheets)

--Scott Nos. 26-29 (SG Nos. 30-33), 1907 Siva issue in vertical imperf pairs, rare, un gummed, vf, Est. \$350-400. Realised \$325.

--Scott No. 28 var (SG No. 32), 1907 Siva issue, 8p, imperf pairs in Red & Carmine, rare, un gummed, vf. Est. \$200. Realised \$150.

--Scott No. 29 var (SG No. 33), 1907 Siva issue, 16p, full imperf sheet of 100 with rare "16 AMEst" imprint at b left, folded between 8ty and 9th vert. rows, soiling or small flts in selvedge (incl tear into design of pos. 41), rare and vf (Note: perf sheet cats \$1,400). Est. \$2,000-2,500. Realised \$1,900.

--Scott Nos. 30-36 (SG Nos. 43-49), 1929 issue to 1r in full sheets, incl extra sheet (diff shade) of 2p value; there is only one other similar set known and all of these issues are rare in multiples of any kind; few values with partly missing or soiled margins and, in addition, two 32p and one 1r are a bit stained (pink). An extremely rare unit, un gummed, f-vf except as mentioned. Est. \$12,500-\$15,000. Realised \$12,500.

--Scott Nos. 38-43 (SG Nos. 51-56), 1935 issue in full sheets of 100, the 8p is exceptionally rare, few perf seps or tiny selvedge flts, un gummed, fine-vf. Est. \$10,000. Realised \$9,000.

--Scott Nos. 39/43 var (SG Nos. 51/56),

1935 issue in imperf blocks of 4, less 8p value, un gummed, vf (one sheet each made). Est. \$500-750. Realised \$500.

--Scott No. 40 (SG No. 53), 1935 issue, 8p Bright Red, block of 4, un gummed, quite scarce, vf. Est. \$250. Realised \$190.

--Scott No. 40 (SG No. 53), same in vert pair, un gummed, vf. Est. \$30. Realised \$90.

18-19 Apr '83:

--Scott No. 36 (SG No. 49), 1929 1r value, die proof with pencil notations "1 Rupee" and "16/6/26," bit reduced, probably unique, vf. Est. \$750. Realised \$700.

Roger Koerber (Southfield, Michigan) under a letter dated 19 May 1983, offered some two dozen modern Chinese-Tibet covers at prices ranging from \$5 to \$20 each. About half of these items were internal, with the remainder destined for Nepal.

Kover King, Inc. (New York City), in their auction catalog #107 (28 June 1983), offered three early Nepal postal cards valued at \$10 to \$25. Sale No. 108 (30 August) included one Tibet cover valued at \$25.

Earl P. L. Apfelbaum Inc. (Philadelphia), in their Ads & Offers price list for July,

included five Nepal stamps and/or tete beche pairs at prices ranging from \$5 to \$40.

R. K. Lodha (Kathmandu), in his catalog a mail auction which closed on 14 August, offered more than 80 lots of Nepal and 27 lots of Tibet material. A large range of items was noted in both groups. We were sorry to observe, however, in his listing of "late lots" at the end of his catalog, several lots of Nepal "Officials" (overprinted), which have been much in the philatelic news of late -- still offered with excessively high valuations.

Sun Philatelic Center, Inc. (San Francisco) held their 40th Public Auction on 20 August 1983, including 13 lots of Nepal & 11 lots of Tibet. A nice range of material was offered, with valuations ranging from \$40 to nearly \$1,000. Nearly half of the descriptions were accompanied by photos. The next sale is now scheduled for December 1983.

Auction Action (continued)--

David Feldman (Geneva) held an extensive Fall auction (4 catalogues) during the week of 16-22 October. Nepal & Tibet material was included in Catalogue #2, which we did not receive. However, we can report that 24 lots of Nepal and 37 lots of Tibet material were offered.

The George Alevizos public auction sale, originally scheduled for 27 October in Los Angeles, has now been announced for 8-10 November. We have just received a copy of the catalog for Sale #42 -- another quality production -- in which we note 15 lots of Nepal and 55 lots of Tibet material. The rather short list of Nepal material is about evenly divided between stamps and postal history material. No classic issue stamps are included, but some pre-stamp covers of special interest to postal historians are noted. Lot valuations range from \$30 to \$500. -- The more numerous Tibet offerings comprise a satisfying variety of material from early to modern, including a few unique items. Lot valuations are in the \$50-900 range -- an assortment in value and variety that all serious Tibet collectors will enjoy.

Member G. S. Rosamond has sent us a catalogue for the China Philatelic Society of London Auction Sale No. 23, featuring, as

usual, China material, but including 34 lots of Tibet stamps & covers, a copy of Waterfall's "Postal History of Tibet," (1965 edition) and 2 lots of Nepal. This is a mail auction with a closing date of 15 November. -- Prices realized on Tibet material in the previous auction, which closed on 27 April, were typically 50% above the estimates, with a few lots going for more than twice the estimates and a very few for less. The four Nepal lots sold for about 75% of the estimates.

We have just received a catalogue from China Stamps, featuring a "China & Far East Postal Auction (England), on 25 October 1983. This is an inexpensive catalog which is "sent free to regular bidders." Although we have not seen earlier catalogues from this firm, this particular sale includes 34 lots of Nepal, mostly classic and Pashupati stamps, including a few complete sheets. An interesting variety of material is listed, with estimates in the range of £3-350. We note a few mistakes in identification and a general lack of information concerning condition. The Tibet material is also varied, with 20 lots, including 5 complete sheets of the second native issue. Estimates are in the range of less than £2 up to £160. A number of lots are illustrated and are helpful, despite the fact that the printing is generally poor. (C)

MORE ON THE FOUR-TRANGKA GREEN ON RULED PAPER, TIBET 1933

--Armand E. Singer

Recently I reported on a Tibet cover (see Postal Himal No. 32, p. 60) franked with a four-trangka green single, apparently printed on schoolboy-type ruled paper, the horizontal blue lines and one vertical pink line clearly visible. Since then I have received a card from our own Tom Matthiesen, offering an alternative explanation -- one which had not occurred to me at that time, but which I now favor. I quote: "Regarding the 4tr green on ruled paper, unless the paper itself is machine made, I suspect the blue and pink lines were transferred to a normal stamp, or sheet, when it was stored in a damp place adjacent to, or between, sheets of lined

paper. The inks used on ruled paper are very transient and have a remarkable ability to transfer directly to another surface when humid or moist conditions are present. See p. 240 of The American Philatelist for March 1983. Just a guess!"

I no longer have the cover before me for re-examination, but I did test the tendency of a sheet of similar paper to transfer color when damp. Both pink and blue lines transferred clearly within five seconds when the paper was slightly moistened. I would assume that a damp climate would easily effect the same transference within a few days or less. (C)

TIBETAN-INDIAN EXCHANGE RATES

--N. G. Rhodes

Any postal historian who wishes to study Tibetan postal rates and the combination covers between India and Tibet will be interested in the relative value of the two currencies. I fear that the statement made by Haverbeck that "in the period 1912 to 1945 the Sang was equal to 2½ rupees," is dangerously misleading. The purpose of this article is to trace the varied fortunes of the Tibetan currency during the first half of the 20th century.

My sources have been the official reports of the Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung, supplemented and confirmed by numerous other official reports or traveller's accounts. The exchange rates at Lhasa and at Yatung did sometimes differ, according to supply and demand, but the difference was never substantial and should not materially affect the validity of the following table.

Date	Value of the Indian Rupee		Value in Rupees/Annas/pies of	
	Tangkas	Sang	1 Tangka	1 Sang
1904	3.0	0.45	0- 5- 4	2- 3- 7
1909	3.5	0.52	0- 4- 7	1-14- 6
1910-12	See Note (1)			
5.1912	3.5	0.52	0- 4- 7	1-14- 6
7.1918	3.5	0.52	0- 4- 7	1-14- 6
1-10.1919	3.0	0.45	0- 5- 4	2- 3- 7
4.1920	3.5	0.52	0- 4- 7	1-14- 6
5-8.1920	4.0	0.6	0- 4- 0	1-10- 8
4.1921	4.5	0.67	0- 3- 7	1- 7- 8
4.1923	5.0	0.75	0- 3- 2	1- 5- 4
4.1926	6.0	0.90	0- 2- 8	1- 1- 9
6.1926	7.0	1.05	0- 2- 3	0-15- 3
4.1927	8.0	1.20	0- 2- 0	0-13- 4
8.1928	9.0	1.35	0- 1- 9	0-11-10
2.1929	9.0	1.35	0- 1- 9	0-11-10
10.1929	12.5	1.87	0- 1- 3	0- 8- 6
4.1930	15.0	2.25	0- 1- 1	0- 7- 1
4.1931	21.0	3.15	0- 0- 9	0- 5- 1
4.1932	24.0	3.6	0- 0- 8	0- 4- 5
4.1933	26.0	3.9	0- 0- 8	0- 4- 2
4.1934	24.7	3.7	0- 0- 8	0- 4- 4
4.1936	24.5	3.7	0- 0- 8	0- 4- 4
4.1937	25.0	3.75	0- 0- 8	0- 4- 3
4.1938	36.0	5.4	0- 0- 5	0- 3- 0
4.1939	50.0	7.5	0- 0- 4	0- 2- 2
4.1940	46.7	7.0	0- 0- 4	0- 2- 3
4.1942	45.7	6.85	0- 0- 4	0- 2- 4
12.1942	33.3	5.0	0- 0- 6	0- 3- 2
1-6.1943*	26.7	4.0	0- 0- 7	0- 4- 0
7-12.1943	20.0	3.0	0- 0-10	0- 5- 4
1-5.1944	20.0	3.0	0- 0-10	0- 5- 4
6.1944	16.7	2.5	0- 0-11	0- 6- 5
7.1944	13.3	2.0	0- 1- 2	0- 8- 0
11.1944	12.0	1.8	0- 1- 4	0- 8-11
1.1945	16.7	2.5	0- 0-11	0- 6- 5
7.1946	16.7	2.5	0- 0-11	0- 6- 5
9-12.1946	20.0	3.0	0- 0-10	0- 5- 4
3.1947	16.0	2.4	0- 1- 0	0- 6- 8

Notes: (1) During the Chinese occupation, between 1910 & 1912, the situation was complicated by the introduction of the Chinese rupee -- a copy of the Indian rupee struck in Szechuan -- & the reintroduction of the Silver Standard. The denominations on the Sino-Tibetan stamps are, therefore, a very confusing anomaly & should be ignored when considering the later Tibetan stamps.

*(2) After 1942 the rates of exchange were expressed in Srang, whereas Tangkas were used before that date.

(3) Unfortunately, the records I used did not continue after Indian independence in 1947, so I would be grateful for any information on exchange rates after that date.

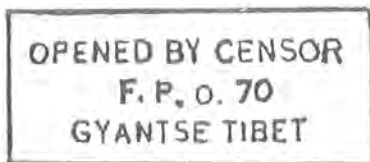
FOCUS ON FORGERIES

--Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

The continuous appearance of new forgeries from Nepal & India, respectively, gave me the idea to start a new column, called 'FOCUS ON FORGERIES,' in which I should like to record the latest forgeries and phantasies as they emerge on the market.

While most of these recent products are relatively harmless, an immediate warning might still turn out to be useful to the less experienced collectors. The most important task of this column, however, would be to demonstrate that the problem of forgeries is really well under control & that neither the quality nor the variety of spurious stamps & postal markings are such as to deter anyone from collecting Nepal and Tibet.

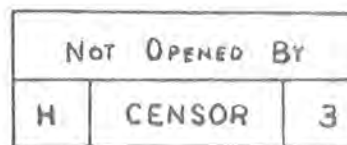
In this first installment, I should like to start off with a couple of censor handstamps found on genuine mail from India to Tibet and from India to Nepal.



FORGED GYANTSE CENSOR MARKING

The first type is a fantasy cachet inscribed "OPENED BY CENSOR / F.P.O. 70 / GYANTSE TIBET" and, if genuine, would have been an extraordinary find indeed. I have come across a cover bearing this handstamp earlier this year. Two further covers have since appeared from the same Nepalese source. They are dated August 1926 (from Kalimpong to Gyantse), May 1939 (from Benares to Pharijong, thus not even reaching Gyantse!) and December 1951 (from Kalimpong to Gyantse), respectively.

We know that postal censorship on the Indo-Tibetan border was confined to the World War II period, hence all three covers are clearly outside the accepted time limits, thus automatically disqualifying this handstamp.



FORGED INDIAN CENSOR MARKING

The second type reads "NOT OPENED BY / CENSOR / H 3," in imitation of similar handstamps actually used by British-Indian censors. I have seen this marking on two post cards dated May 1907 and July 1928, respectively. Both cards travelled from Calcutta to Kathmandu and are -- needless to say -- from the same source as the covers bearing the Gyantse handstamp.

Here, too, the "impossible" dates proved to be the main stumbling stone for the forgers. Obviously, there are further clues that have lead to the rejection of both markings but it would probably only help the forgers if their mistakes were here discussed in detail.



Forged 5 Sang Wireless-Telegraph Stamp

In Postal Himal No. 30, I recorded the 25 sang forgery of the so-called wireless-telegraph issue of Tibet. Now the 5 sang stamp of the same set has been forged as well. Various marked differences of printing & paper, however, would seem to rule out any direct link between these two forgeries.

The spurious 5 sang is presumably of Nepalese origin and is poorly printed in a dark green shade on thin native Nepalese paper. It comes in mint sheets of four different cliches.



COMMENTARY ON COLOR CHANGES IN SOME
NEPAL STAMPS

--M. W. Campbell

One observation I would like to make, since I have worked in Nepal for 2 1/2 years, concerns the role of the Postmaster in Nepal. Unlike most countries, he is often one of the few literate people in his area. He not only performs the role of scribe in most villages but also reads his client's incoming mail to him, in exchange for a rupee or two. (One can still say 'his' without fear of impunity in Nepal, since there are no women Postmistresses!)

I work in the vicinity of the chief district post office of Sindu Palchok in Chautara and, on a sunny winter's day, the Postmaster and his clerks are seen sitting

out on stools--conducting their business in the sun, because it is so cold indoors. They sit there with stamps and all their postal stationery items anchored down with rocks--in perfect peace! The reason I mention this is not to ridicule them, since it is the most sensible place from which to conduct business in Nepal, where it seldom rains in winter, but rather to throw some light on how some issues--possibly the 2-anna blue (SG 38, ca. 1917--came about. Over-exposure to sunlight for slow moving 2-anna stamps in slow moving villages 60 or 70 years ago, seems a very realistic explanation. The native paper, made from the bark fibres of the Daphne bhoulia shrub, changes color with

exposure to sunlight and we know that many inks are unstable in the presence of ultra violet light. The concentrations of this light in Nepal are a good deal greater than where most of our readers live--due to the relatively high altitude and the clear, cloudless skies for 4-6 months of the year.

(Although Mr. Campbell speaks specifically of post office practices, it is quite probable that similar habits were the rule in the telephone/telegraph offices. They were housed in similar but separate buildings--usually near the post office, particularly in smaller communities. Furthermore, we are aware that stocks of old, superseded stamps in small post offices were usually small and, apparently, were used until they were exhausted. It is also probable that, on occasion, a postmaster may have returned slow moving items to the treasury in Kathmandu. Thus, obsolete stamps, sometimes sun-faded, may have been re-distributed to telephone/telegraph offices, as it was the custom to use superseded stamps for that purpose. On the other hand, pristine stamps from old, superseded stocks, may have become sun-faded--particularly if they were sent to a small community where such business was not especially brisk. In any case, the quantity of "light blue" stamps with telegraph cancels and which have been showing up of late, would likely be quite small and may well have become "varieties" quite by accident.--Ed.)

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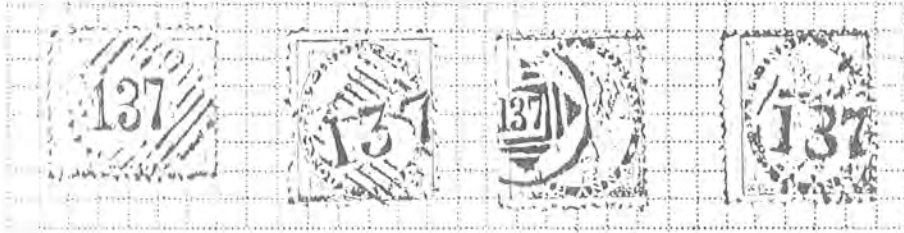


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Frank Vignola asks for our help in identifying the usage of four Indian stamps with different types of cancellations bearing the number "137." He comments as follows: "The stamp at left (oriented horizontally) is definitely cancelled at the British Residency Post Office in Nepal, as I have same on a cover. The second has lines sur-

rounding the number, but they run opposite of those in the first stamp." He goes on to state that he has not seen the other 3 stamps (oriented vertically) on cover, and that the fourth stamp appears to have what he describes as "a rhomboid of thick dots or dashes around the number," with a letter (probably C) above the number -- possibly.



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