

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



GLASHO

No. 43

3rd Quarter 1985



POSTAL HIMAL is the quarterly publication of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year. Dues should be paid to the society representative in your area. Information on advertising rates may be obtained from the Editor.

	MEMBERSHIP DUES		
	United States	India	Rest of the World
One Year	US\$ 7.50	Rs 90	L 6.00
Three Years	US\$ 21.00	Rs 160	L 17.00
Life Membership	US\$ 150.00	Rs 1800	L 120.00

American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 122  
British Philatelic Federation Affiliate # 435

#### OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

##### Officers

PRESIDENT: Dr. Pierre Couvreur  
 PATRONS: Mac Linscott Ricketts  
 Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, FRPS  
 SECRETARY: Colin Hepper 4 Osric Court, Danes Close, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 5LW England  
 EDITOR: Lester Michel 309 Yucca Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 USA  
 PUBLICITY: F. Westbrook 245 Unquowa Road, Unit 11, Fairfield, CN 06430 USA

##### Representatives

EUROPE Colin Hepper 4 Osric Court, Danes Close, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 5LW England  
 INDIA Essell Dee & Sons National Agencies, Sheranwala Gate, Patiala 147 001 INDIA  
 NEPAL Dhruva Rudra P O Box 80, Gana Bahal, Kathmandu, NEPAL  
 U.S.A. Roger D. Skinner 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94022 USA

#### LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

James A. Booth	3141 Westview Drive	Beavercreek	OH	45385	USA
George B. Dresser	501 Fairview Avenue	Collect Station	TX	77840	USA
Richard M. Hanchett	P O Box 4435	Middletown,	RI	02840	USA
Dr. James B. Hickman	P O Box 924	Morgantown	WV	26507-0924	USA
Lou Hidu	Box 21201	St. Petersburg	FL	33742	USA
P. Edward Kaltenbach	408 Carolina Road	Towson	MD	21204	USA
Dolores K. Lingle	3817 Atlantic Avenue	Long Beach	CA	90807	USA
Richard J. Premo	9206 Adams Hill	San Antonio	TX	78245	USA
Ruth A. Roach	East 2630 19th Avenue	Spokane	WA	99223	USA
James S. Rosenberger	P O Box 248	Rock Island	WA	98850	USA
Mike Shirer	346 South Jackson Street	Green Bay	WI	54301	USA
L. L. Walsh	712 W. Delaware Avenue	Urbana	IL	61801	USA
W. W. Woytowich	4312 Riverside Drive	Juneau	AK	99801	USA

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Michael M. Raskin, MD	7710 N.W. 71st Court	Tamarac	FL	33321	USA
Mac L. Ricketts	106 Lakeside Avenue	Louisburg	NC	27549	USA

COVER ILLUSTRATION: A photograph of Giamdo, Tibet, taken in the 1920s and submitted by N. G. Rhodes to accompany his article in this issue. See pp. 23-25.

Dear Friends,

You will note the names & addresses of 13 new members, all from the USA, on the page to the left. We are happy to welcome these, as well as others listed in previous issues who have joined us this year. Some of us, including our hard-working publicity officer, Frank Westbrook, have expressed concern at our low rate of growth and, the bad news is that we have had about as many old members fail to renew their memberships this year, making our growth rate very low.

However, we are not the only philatelic organization to face such difficulties. Even the prestigious AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, with more than fifty thousand members, is slowing in its rate of growth. Various reasons can be suggested for this modern trend, but it seems probable that the primary reason is the proliferation of spare time activities which are promoted so aggressively in today's world.

There is no doubt that a goodly number of collectors are only superficially interested in our area, but there are a few "out there" who would find membership in the Study Circle both interesting and profitable. As we have suggested before, the best way to reach those persons may be through personal contacts. If each of us would make a serious attempt to recruit one new member, and if only half of those attempts were successful, we could easily reach President Couvreur's goal of doubling our membership in the next three years. Frank Westbrook will, of course, continue his work and would like to hear from you if you have suggestions to offer on this subject.

Incidentally, I wish to thank Frank Vignola and Armand Singer for providing copies of a publication announcing the formation of the NEPAL SPECIALIST SOCIETY OF AMERICA. The NSSA QUARTERLY #1 was published in September 1967, with Dr. Mac L. Ricketts as Editor & President. He, Armand Singer and Jim Wong, Vice-President and acting Secretary-Treasurer, constituted the Board of Directors for 1967-68. This organization, started some ten years before our Study Circle, was short-lived. Let us all do our best to keep our own Study Circle alive and healthy. And send your ideas to your editor. Lester A. Michel

Earlier this year, Roger Skinner reported that he had received word concerning the death of Rev. Arthur Bruce Moss, whereupon your editor wrote to his son, Frank T. Moss, requesting information and received the following letter in reply:

"Arthur Bruce Moss was born in New York City in 1888 and graduated from Columbia University & Drew Theological Seminary. In 1916 he was assigned to mission work in India by the then Methodist Episcopal Church, where he served until 1918. During this time he also served as a chaplain to British forces stationed at Darjeeling.

"Returning to the U.S.A. at the end of World War I, he was appointed Secretary for India by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Church. Later he served churches in Jamaica, Bay Shore, Brooklyn (all in New York), and finally the historic John Street Methodist Church in lower Manhattan, New York City. This last charge was and still is the oldest Methodist Society in the U.S.A.

"He very early was attracted to stamp collecting and continued the hobby to the very end. His collection of early Indian, Nepalese and Tibetan stamps was extensive and he became quite an authority on the postage of that region.

"He retired from active ministry in 1960 at the age of 72, and in the later years made his home with me and my late wife, Mildred, moving with us to New Hampshire in 1977. Not only was he meticulous in ascertaining facts about postage, he was also delighted to share his knowledge with other collectors. He carried on a voluminous correspondence with traders and collectors around the world and for a number of years wrote articles on special aspects of collecting for philatelic magazines.

"He passed away in the Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, this spring, the victim of plain old age." (We have lost a true friend and fellow philatelist and your editor will miss his interesting letters and reminiscences which have been shared with readers of POSTAL HIMAL.--Ed.)



We are seeking

*Esoteric,  
Unusual &  
Inimitable*

# POSTAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD

We are knowledgeable and interested buyers of valuable postal history.

In addition to direct sales, we are one of the few auction houses to hold sales devoted exclusively to postal history.

Please contact us regarding your holdings. (Minimum shipment, \$500., please)

**George  
Alevizos**



2716 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Suite 1020  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Tel: 213/450-2543

## EXHIBITION NEWS

### STUDY CIRCLE MEETING AT ITALIA 85 (??)

Although we have had no response to our comment on p. 11 of POSTAL HIMAL No. 42, concerning attendance at ITALIA 85 in October this year, we hope that prospective attendees have made contact with Dr. Hellrigl, who has offered to arrange a meeting during this important exhibition to be held in Rome, Italy. We note that Dr. Hellrigl will be exhibiting his outstanding Nepal material and have it on good authority that John A. Young, Jr., who has been exhibiting both Nepal and Tibet collections with success in the USA, will also be exhibiting in Rome. Our well-known dealer-member, George Alevizos, may also be there at a dealer's booth, but your editor has been remiss in contacting George concerning his own plans. If he is there, it would be appropriate to leave a note at his booth concerning your presence, so that contacts between members can be made.

### STUDY CIRCLE GROUP AT WESTPEX 85

Roger Skinner submitted a good report on this meeting, held on 28 April of this year, which appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 42. He has now submitted a group picture which our readers may enjoy.



Standing (left to right): Fred de Ritter, Frank E. Vignola, Al Zulueta, Leo Martyn, Frank Vignola & George Alevizos.

Seated (left to right): Roger Skinner, Larry Scott & Russ Sanford.



THE POST OFFICES AT GYAMDA & OGA DZONG  
--N. G. Rhodes

So little philatelic material has survived from the Tibetan post offices at Gyamda (1) and Oga Dzong (2) that it seems worthwhile recording in detail two pieces from the Williamson collection (3) and, at the same time, quoting some accounts of the Gyamda post office written by those few Europeans who visited it.

Gyamda was an important staging post on the route from Lhasa to Chamdo, and thence to China. The earliest account I have noticed is by Brigadier-General George Pereira, who arrived there on 6 October 1922, on his way from China to Lhasa. Pereira died in 1923, but his notes and diaries were edited by Sir Francis Younghusband in 1925, and the following extract is of some interest philatelically (4):-

"Gyamda, 11,750 feet, has forty families, of whom seventeen are Chinese..... There was a sort of post from Gyamda to Lhasa. For a junka (5) a letter can be sent to Lhasa in a day and a half. Pereira sent one to the Commander-in-Chief telling him of his arrival so far."

The next account is by Capt. F. Kingdon Ward (6), who arrived at Gyamda on 2 September 1924, and said that "there is a post office in Gyamda, and there are also several shops, the best of which is kept by a Nepalese trader." After extensive travels in eastern Tibet in search of flowers, Kingdon Ward again passed through Gyamda on 23 January 1925 and he records that he stayed there for the day to write his last mail before returning to India.

Unfortunately, although Kingdon Ward seems to have been the only European to visit Oga Dzong, he makes no mention of any post office in his book. He passed through the place briefly about 25 April 1924, and again on 28 January 1925. Apart from mentioning that it was a grain distribution centre, he says very little about the place, although it was clearly an important administrative centre for this section of the Tsangpo Valley.

Kingdon Ward again visited Gyamda in 1935 and, on this occasion, gave a detailed description of the town and its post office (7):-

"So we came to Gyamda (on 23 August 1935) on a bright sunny day which could not guild the squalid town; in eleven years it showed no sign of improvement, architectural or sanitary, and the solitary shop it boasted in 1924 had closed its shutters..... But the post office was functioning, with the same old Chinese postmaster who had been in charge eleven years previously. I bought up all the Tibetan stamps I could lay my hands on. There had been a second edition, and the new ones, in four colours, were a slight improvement on the old, though hardly fine examples of the stamp engraver's art.....

"I went round to the post office and talked to Mr. Ma - Hsiao Ma - 'little horse' he called himself. There was not much business, and the tiny cubicle at the top of the rickety stair with its paper-covered Chinese window frame, where Mr. Ma slept, ate, smoked opium and transacted postal business, was always empty. A wooden box, about the size of a small dispatch case, with a large Chinese brass lock, contained all the stamps, cash and accounts that Mr. Ma ever kept. You could send a letter to Lhasa, or to Chamdo, or even to India, with reasonable assurance of its arrival at destination, but you could not telegraph, or buy a postal order, or a post office savings certificate, or a dog license.....

""When does the mail leave for Lhasa, Ma Hsien-Seng?" I asked.

""The day after it arrived here from Lhasa, Hwa Hsien-Seng."

""And when is that?"

"Mr. Ma shook his head; he did not know. Perhaps tomorrow, perhaps the day after. The post arrived from Lhasa when there were letters to come, and, as the courier had to go back, he took letters to the capital - if any. It was a sliding service. Mr. Ma was not overworked. Lately

Rhodes, "Gyamda & Oga Dzong," (cont.)--

there had been a good deal of correspondence passing to and fro between Lhasa and Chamdo, and between Lhasa and Shoga Dzong, he told me.

"Just then I heard a jingle of bells below. Another Jongpen arriving? Mr. Ma said suavely, "There's the Lhasa post."

"...it was... a small boy who put his head rather shyly around the corner; seeing only two of us, he stepped into the room... and pulled out a grubby letter, and handed it to the little post-master with an air. It was the Lhasa mail!

"Letters travel from Lhasa to Gyamda in four days, by relays of couriers, who go at the double, or are supposed to do so. The courier carries a stick with bells loosely attached, which jingle as he jogs along over the mountains, warning all whom it may concern that he is carrying Government mails - very few private letters are sent in Tibet. Approaching Gyamda, the regular courier had apparently flagged, and sublet the contract to the cherub, who had sauntered and dallied along the road like any boy on his way to school; but he had undoubtedly run the last half mile in the orthodox manner."

Not only do these accounts provide an interesting insight into the workings of a very minor Tibetan post office, but they also prove beyond a doubt that the post office at Gyamda was functioning from at least 1922 until 1935, information not easily available from surviving postal material. (8)

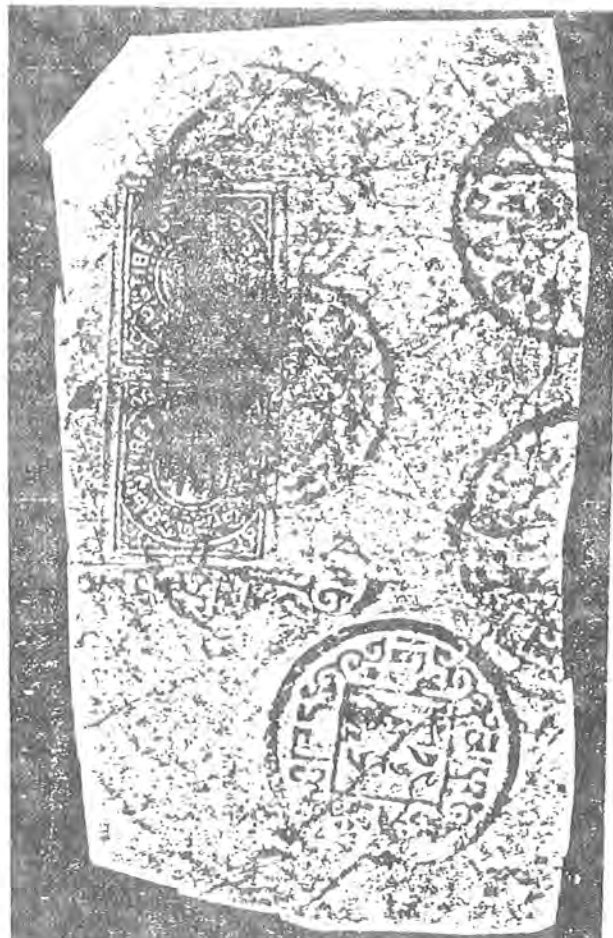
The two particularly interesting postal markings from the Williamson collection are illustrated below:-

Fig. 1 - Gyamda, Large fret, Waterfall Type XII.



On the first piece, a pair of half-tangka stamps have been cancelled with a normal Lhasa Type VI, and the Gyamda

mark is clearly an arrival or transit mark. It is dated in ink to 9 o'clock on the 26th day of the 6th month, but naturally there is no year. It is, however, reasonable to assume that it dates from Williamson's period in Tibet between 1924 and 1926. Since Mr. Williamson was not a serious stamp collector, it is interesting to speculate how such a piece, sent TO Gyamda, a place he never visited, could have entered into Williamson's collection. Naturally, Williamson could have been in correspondence with a Tibetan traveller, but it seems more likely that the piece should be associated with a European, and Kingdon Ward was the only European known to visit Gyamda during this period. In particular, it is interesting to note that the date could correspond with 25 August 1924, just over a week before Kingdon Ward's first arrival there. Could it be that the stamps were on a letter or package sent to Gyamda from Lhasa, and then Kingdon Ward reused the paper on a letter sent to Williamson, who was at this time in Gyantse? If so, the only stamp in the Williamson collection cancelled from anywhere in the area is the one illustrated as Fig. 2:



Rhodes, "Gyamda & Oga D...." (concluded)

Fig. 3 - Oga Dzong,  
Small fret, Waterfall  
Type X.



This piece from Oga Dzong is of particular interest, as the postmark is only known from this specimen, which was first published by Waterfall in the second edition of his book (9). The only other postal markings known from Oga Dzong are of Type IX, and hence used after 1933. The paper used is an identical type of Tibetan paper to that on the Gyamda piece, so it is quite possible that Kingdon Ward reused the paper from the packet he had received in Gyamda in August/September 1924, for a letter to Williamson posted at Oga Dzong on 28 January 1925. The only problem with this theory is that Kingdon Ward makes no mention of a post office at Oga Dzong. However, it is quite possible, as his visit was so brief, that the Dzongpen, the local official in charge, who met Kingdon Ward on his way through, merely promised to send on the letter without explaining that there was a post office in the village.

This piece, therefore, provides the only evidence that there was a post office at Oga Dzong as early as 1925.

There remains much to be discovered about these two post offices, and I hope that this short note will encourage anyone who has further information to come forward and publish it.

Notes:

(1) The Tibetan spelling is རྒྱ་མདའ་ (rgya-mda'), which is most usefully transcribed in English as "Gyamda", but sometimes as "Giamda". The latter version is rather confusing, as the "G" is hard. Waterfall gives a number of other spellings found in philatelic sources, most of which are totally incorrect.

(2) The Tibetan spelling is འོ་ལ་རག་མཚན་ ('ol-dga'), phonetically transcribed into English as "Oga". The spelling used by Waterfall and other philatelic authors, "Holkar", is wrong, and was probably based on an incorrect reading of the first and last letters - e.g., རྒྱ་མདའ་.

(3) c.f. "The Williamson Collection of Tibetan Stamps" in POSTAL HIMAL No. 36, pp. 41-46.

(4) "Peking to Lhasa" by F. Younghusband, London 1925, pp. 176-77.

(5) Sic! Presumably a misprint for a "tangka". Although this would be a high postal rate for a normal letter, it may be noted that the piece illustrated in Fig. 2, with the Gyamda arrival mark, was charged at this rate.

(6) "The Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges" by F. Kingdon Ward, London 1926, pp. 172 & 268.

(7) "Assam Adventure" by F. Kingdon Ward, London 1942, pp. 221-25.

(8) According to Haverbeck, the Chinese Ministry of Posts and Communications Report on the Imperial Chinese Post Offices for the year 1911 lists a post office at Gyamda, but no direct evidence at this period has survived. In 1922 F. Reinhard published a flower-ornament cancellation from Gyamda in "Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung", but the present whereabouts of Reinhard's example is not known today, and no other examples have appeared. Indeed, Waterfall thought cancellations of this type were false, and it was only in 1980 that Dr. Hellrigl republished them as genuine (in "Three Early Tibetan Cancellations Rediscovered", THE CHINA CLIPPER, Vol. 44, No. 6). I reproduce Reinhard's drawing below (Fig. 4), merely to point out that the top Tibetan letter has been incorrectly drawn, and should be རྒྱ instead of རྒྱ . རྒྱ



(9) "The Postal History of Tibet", by A. C. Waterfall, 1981 edition, p. 133, where my christian name is given as Christopher in error!



# AUCTION ACTION

--Leo Martyn

The George Alevizos auction of July 6-7 offered 49 lots of Nepalese stamps and 48 lots of Nepalese postal history, plus 15 lots of Tibetan material, 8 of which were postal history.

## NEPAL

Pre-1949 material was quite strong but later items were weak.

A fine pin perf 1 anna (H/V #1) with small thins, bright color and no gum brought \$126.

A very fine imperf 2 anna (H/V #5) with wide margins realized \$187.

A fine 1886 1 anna grey-blue (H/V #7) with original white gum (see H/V, pp. 74 & 162), a hinge remnant and a Hellrigl certificate brought \$308 after spirited bidding.

An imperf corner block of eight of the 1898-1907 imperf 2 anna grey-lilac with position 9 inverted (H/V #17, 17a) brought \$308. It was accompanied by a Hellrigl certificate.

A complete sheet of the 1926-29 4 anna (H/V #43f, g, Setting #11, fourth state) was knocked down at \$605.

Another 4 anna complete sheet containing the recut 1 anna substitute cliché (H/V #37b) went for \$550.

A proof of the 1929 1 rupee orange red with penciled notations and small ink stains brought \$374.

Complete sheets of the local Sri Pashupati issue (1941-1955) in the values of 16p, 24p, 32p and 1 rupee brought prices of \$198, \$198, \$165 & \$638, respectively.

A group of 11 covers franked with the recut 1 anna plus an earlier cover with a variety of cancellation and postmarks brought \$462.

An 1897 cover franked with a 2 anna grey violet went for \$253.

A 1902 cover to Kathmandu franked with a recut 1 anna European wove paper stamp with a few small stains realized \$462.

An attractive 1904 registered cover to Kathmandu franked with one recut 1 anna, one 2 anna and one 4 anna and tied by Trisuli cancels (Hellrigl C8) brought \$528.

A 1907 cover franked with a very nice recut 1 anna, position 24 and tied by a Dailekh cancel realized \$462, with a Hellrigl certificate.

A very rare mint 1933 2p blue Kukris card (Higgins & Gage #24) in almost fine condition went for \$528.

A very early usage (November 1890) of the orange Kukris card (H & G #3) with a Palpa standard square cancellation (Hellrigl C81) brought \$418.

## TIBET

A 1920 (ca.) registered cover franked with a 1/6 tr and a 1/2 tr realized \$187.

A 1950 (ca.) registered cover franked with a pair and a horizontally bisected single of the 2 tr on brown silky paper brought \$220.

An 1805 cover to Nepal with a red Chinese Office Amban seal and the original letter with a similar seal brought \$143.

Back issues of George's catalogues with the prices realized are available.



Our thanks to George Okell for sending this item.--Ed.



The STAMP WHOLESALER

Copyright, The STAMP WHOLESALER, Van Dahl Publications, Box 706, Albany, OR 97321. Reprinted by permission of Kyle R. Jansson, Executive Editor.



AUCTION LIST WITH NEXT ISSUE ??

Colin Hepper reports that he does not have enough material on hand

[and asks that members send material to him promptly so that he will be able to prepare an auction list to enclose with POSTAL HIMAL No. 44 before he leaves for an extended trip to Australia.

UNSOLD LOTS FROM AUCTION No. 33 AVAILABLE AT 2/3 ESTIMATE:

- 6, 7a, 8, 9, 14, 19, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 41, 48, 54, 62, 65, 67, 68, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82, 87, 92, 93, 95, 96, 97, 101, 102, 209, 226, 227, 321, 237, 250, 253, 352, 356.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

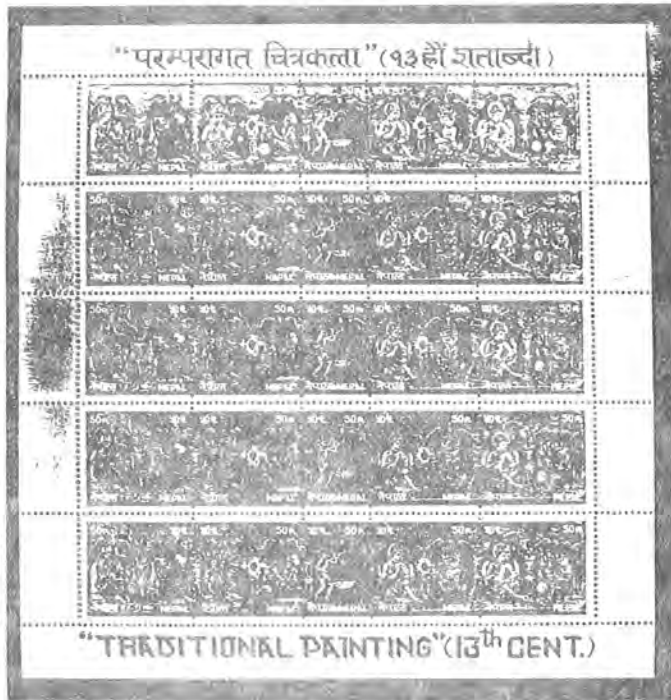
Colin Hepper answers Question 1) from Mr. Van der Wateren (POSTAL HIMAL No. 42 p.15.): "The post offices listed in the Postmark Book ("The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Colin Hepper) were compiled from covers we had seen or which were reported by members, and lists that were available. Since the book was printed, more up-to-date lists became available. Tribeni P. O. is a sub-post office in the Nawalparasi District in the Lumbini Zone."

Question 1): Leo Martyn asks, "Does anyone have a postally used copy of the 4 anna, European wove paper, perforated (H/V #3, 3a or 3b?"

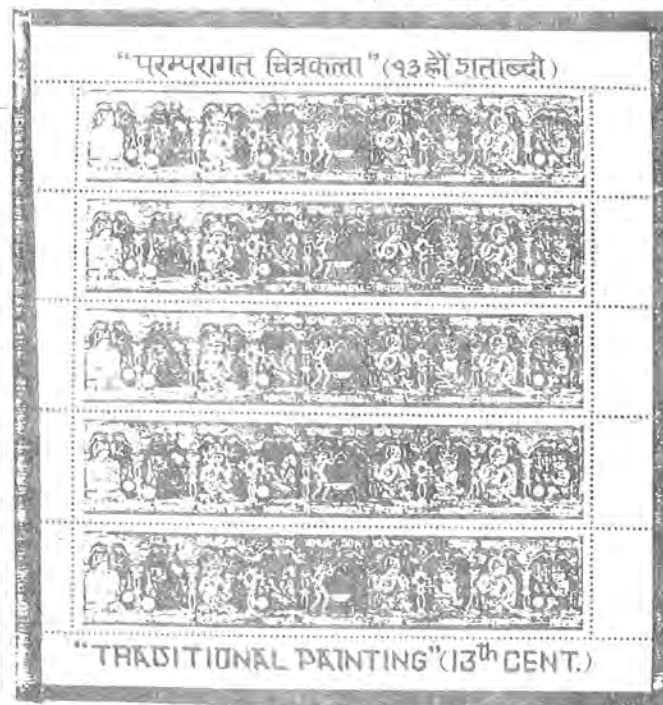
NEPAL PAINTING SET ISSUED ON 30 MAY

In our last issue we reported this set as issued both perforated and imperforate between, expressing our concern about the latter and the possibility of its exploitation. Colin Hepper has sent us photos of the two varieties, together with the following information:

Perforated fully--160,000 sheets issued:



Imperforate between--20,000 sheets issued:



(We wish to thank Mr. S. L. Shrestha for a recent mailing franked with a full strip of this issue, imperforate between.--Ed.)

EARLY, RARE AND FINE BOOKS  
ON THE HIMALAYAN AREA

NEPAL      TIBET      BHUTAN      SIKKIM

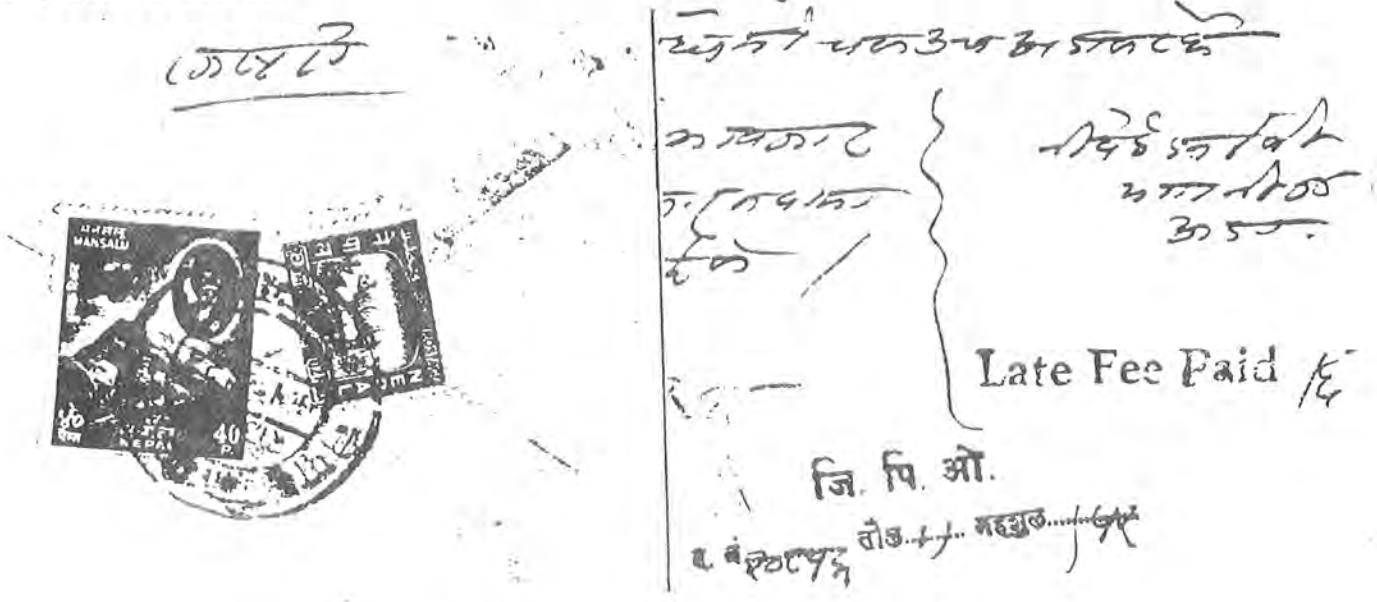
NEW LIST NOW AVAILABLE  
PLEASE WRITE!

**Leo Martyn**  
Bookseller  
P.O. Box 49263 • Los Angeles, California 90049  
213-476-2608

Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle  
American Philatelic Society  
Society of Philatelic Americans

MORE QUESTIONS!

2) Colin Hepper writes: "The cover illustrated here was posted at Kathmandu, but on the reverse is the cachet "Late Fee Paid" with "/6" written in pencil. The stamps on the envelope come to 52p which is, in fact, 6p above the normal registration rate. Can any of our members throw any light on why a late fee should have been paid on a registered letter?"



3) Colin also writes: "The next cover is interesting because it is a registered cover posted at Kathmandu in 1965, but the old registration cachet (GPO Type 1) normally associated with mail going through the British-Indian Post Office, was used. Is this a particularly late date for usage of this cachet?"



DISTRICT TOURS OF RANA PRIME MINISTERS  
(continued from POSTAL HIMAL No. 40,p.47)

1. Vishnumati-Deurali Region

Order to Lt. Likhadhvaj Khatri Chhetri  
from Prime Minister Jung Bahadur:

"Since we intend to undertake a tour  
of that area in the month of Ashwin 1920  
(September 1863), you are hereby ordered  
to widen the existing main route from  
the Vishnumati river to Deurali in the  
west. At those points where the route  
passes through rough terrain, or is  
circuitous, it should be realigned, and  
made suitable for horses and palanquins  
without any obstruction. Construct  
bridges (pul, sanghu) where necessary.  
For the construction of both roads and  
bridges, impress the labor services of  
the local people."

Chaitra Sudi 1, 1919  
(March 1863)

Kegmi Research Collection, Vol. 33,  
pp. 488-89.

2. Satighat-Humla Region

Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's Order  
to Chief Colonel Dilli Simha Basnyat  
Chhetri:

"We intend to undertake a tour of that  
area from Marga 5, 1921 (20 November  
1864). You are, therefore, ordered to  
depute to officers and personnel of the  
Narayan Dal Paltan the impress the labor  
services of the local people to con-  
struct a road from Satighat to Humla.  
Obtain necessary funds from the Kausi  
Tosakhana for providing food (khaja)  
to the laborers at the rate of two  
paise daily, and submit the accounts  
to the Kumarichok Dafdarkhana."

Aswin Sudi 3, 1921  
(September 1864)

Kegmi Research Collection, Vol. 33,  
pp. 501-02.

3. Pyuthan-Surkhet Region

Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's Order  
to Commanding General Badri Narsing  
Kunwar Rana Bahadur on Ashadh Sudi 14,  
1923 (July 1866).

"This year, we intend to undertake a  
tour to the west through Pyuthan and  
Surkhet. Impress the labor of the local  
people from Palpa to Pyuthan for the

construction of roads sufficiently wide  
for horses and palanquins by the end of  
construction of roads sufficiently wide  
for horses and palanquins by the end of  
the month of Ashwin (October 15). In  
addition, arrange for adequate stocks  
of rice, pulses, maize, millet, flour,  
wheat barley, peas, salt, oil, ghee,  
turmeric powder, chillies, ginger, etc.  
to feed our entourage."

Such orders were sent on the same day  
to the following officials also:

(1) Captain Bal Bahadur Pande Chhetri  
for the Pokhara-Palpa sector.

(2) Colonel Rana Simha Khatri Chhetri  
for the Kathmandu-Pokhara sector.

(3) Major Captain Udaya Simha Bogati  
Chhetri for the Pyuthan-Salyan sector.

(4) Lt. Colonel Dalamardan Thapa Ch-  
hetri for the Salyan sector.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 63,  
pp. 9-10.

4. Far-Western Tarai (Naya Muluk) Region

Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's order  
to Lt. Colonel Dalamardan Thapa Chhetri:

"This year (Vikrama 1923/A.D. 1866) we  
are leaving on a tour of the Naya Muluk  
on the auspicious day of Tika (i.e., the  
Dashain festival). When orders were  
sent to different areas for the supply  
of provisions, Subba Padmanabha Joshi  
reported from Banke that this year  
drought has damaged the rice crop in  
Banke, so that sufficient supplies of  
rice for our entourage will not be a-  
vailable.

"You are, therefore, directed to make  
arrangements for husking paddy received  
as rents (Panchkur-bataiya, i.e. one-  
fifth of the crop) from Dang and Deuk-  
huri, impress the portering services of  
the local people for one day each on  
payment of wages, and transport the  
rice to the ferry-point (ghat). From  
there the rice shall be transported by  
boat to Sidhniya-Ghat. At that place,  
the cost of the rice, calculated at  
rates current in Dang and Deukhuri plus  
the amount spent as wages while trans-  
porting it to Sidhniya-Ghat, shall be  
realized from Subba Padmanabha Joshi.  
In this manner, make arrangements for  
the sale of rice worth Rs. 20,000 or  
Rs. 25,000.



DISTRICT TOURS.....(concluded)--

"In case the quantity of rice collected as rents is not sufficient to feed our entourage, order the local people to sell their produce at Sidhniya-Ghat at rates current at that place."

Aswin Sudi 4, 1923  
(September 1866)

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 63, pp. 276-78.

5. Sindhuli-Morang Region

In Marga 1948 (December 1891), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere left on a hunting tour of Morang through Sindhuli. He was scheduled to halt in the valley south of Sindhuli-Gadhi on Marga 17, 1948 (December 3, 1891), and at Sindhuli-Madi on the following day.

On Aswin Sudi 2, 1948 (September 1891), the following order was sent to the officials of Sindhuli-Gadhi:

"The Prime Minister's party will include 10,000 troops and 200 horses. Rice, pulses, salt, oil, vegetables, ghee, spices, tobacco, ducks, sheep, goats, ducks' eggs, and feed for horses will be required for them. Issue orders to the inhabitants of villages situated in that area for the procurement of these supplies. Make arrangements to stock them at each camp four or five days in advance. Construct roads strong and wide enough to ensure that horses of Arab breed pass through without any obstruction. Construct dirt bridges on streams and rivers, or make arrangements for boats in adequate numbers, as appropriate."

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 50, pp. 625-28.

(to be continued)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

AN UNRECORDED REGISTRATION LABEL

Mr. Van der Wateren reports an "INDIAN EMBASSY / NEPAL" handstamp on a registration label which is not recorded in Prof. Armand Singer's study on these items. Note cover illustration at right. (The study referred to is "The British-Indian Postmarks of Nepal" by Armand E. Singer, AMERICAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS Book for 1970, pp. 195-210. --Ed.)



A SPECIAL CANCELLATION FROM NEPAL

Our thanks to D. Van der Wateren for a photo of a postal card bearing the special cancellation marking the 24th session of the Asian-African Legal Consultation Committee, held in Kathmandu on 8 FEB 1985:



We show here an enlargement of an oddity in the Van der Wateren collection--the 20p stamp on the Mt. Everest postal card has a "sun/moon" just above the summit!





## POSTAL HISTORY

--N. G. Rhodes

Being an amateur Himalayan historian, I sometimes wonder whether philatelists realise the importance of their collections in the wider historical context, not just from the point of view of the POSTAL historian. When folded pre-stamp letters are published in India Post, the postal markings are carefully reproduced, the route it followed is traced in detail, methods and rates of payment are studied, but how often are the contents studied? A letter in English may be read, but what about the letter in Urdu or Gurmukhi? And again, how frustrating for the Historian who finds a single letter--and who dreams about reading the complete correspondence--now distributed among a hundred collectors from Arizona to Zululand, each of which is only interested in the postal markings. Let me take the example of a letter I purchased recently from an auction; written by Lt. Hamilton Vetch to his brother, Capt. J. Vetch, dated 22 Feb 1836, sent from Nullbarry, 30 miles NW of Gauhati, and cancelled with a fine early "Pt.Pd" mark from "Gowahutty". However, it is the text of the letter that is particularly fascinating to me, as it gives a first hand account of the annexation by force of 500 square miles of Bhutanese lowland territory, and an expedition to the foothills of the Himalayas. I wonder where the rest of the correspondence is?

Keeping to my own area of interest, let us consider those splendid "Postal History" items that appear regularly in the auction catalogues of George Alevizos--letters addressed to the King of Nepal with fine seals of the Dalai Lama etc! Such items must surely have been stolen from the Nepalese national archives. How frustrating for the serious historian, who has surmounted the bureaucratic hurdles and gained permission to study the archives, only to find that many important items have vanished, and are presumably scattered over a score of countries, with collectors who are unlikely to be able to read the documents, and less likely to publish them. And how about the collector who is the proud possessor of a

lector who is the proud possessor of a letter addressed to the King of Nepal? It is clear for all to see that the letter is, with little doubt, stolen property--with all that that implies!

No doubt it is very tempting for the owner of a family archive to sell it and, of the postal markings are interesting, splitting it up among philatelists will probably produce more cash than selling it as a whole. But is it too much to hope that photocopies of important letters be retained and, for items of Indian interest, perhaps lodged at the India Office Library? Can the auctioneers help here, before the correspondence is dispersed?

And what about those Nepalese national archives? How tempting it must be for the less scrupulous dealer who sees piles of letters gradually being buried in dust, eaten by insects and becoming green with mould. He may even convince himself that he is doing historians a service by "liberating" a few of the more spectacular pieces--and if it happens to benefit his own purse..... Should we philatelists help such a man to denude the national archives by providing a market? Should dealers and auction houses refuse to handle such material: Should we collect copies of all important material that appears, translate it, and publish it for all to see and use--or at least lodge copies in some central location?

What are the views of Study Circle members? Should we have an agreed stance?

XXXXXXXXXXXX

THE POSTAL SERVICE OF NEPAL (continued from POSTAL HIMAL No. 40, p.50)

Chapter 10 - Diversification of Services (4 pages) with six numbered items:

1. A number of services provided by many postal administrations around the world have not yet been introduced in Nepal. Some are at present provided only through bilateral agreements with India. For example, insured letters are exchanged between Nepal and other countries only through the Indian postal service. This is because Nepal has not yet become a party to the Insured Letters agreement of the Universal Postal Union.

## THE POSTAL SERVICE OF NEPAL (continued)

2. The main obstacles to introducing such services have been detailed in Chapters 1 & 2. The administrative organisation is not yet sufficiently strong to undertake extensive development work and the postal staff is not yet sufficiently strong or stable to acquire the experience & skills necessary to maintain new services.

3. It must be realised also that any expansion in the international field requires staff able to conduct correspondence in English.

4. Another reason for caution is that the existing services are not yet properly documented. The legal basis for postal operations in Nepal is the Post Office Act of 2019 B.S. (1963). The relevant provisions of the Act have been amplified in postal regulations covering the services available to the public, but there are, however, no published rules of procedure instructing postal officers how to perform their duties.

5. Given the necessary administrative structure and fully competent staff, the following developments should be considered over the next few years:-

- (i) Introduce more direct letter mails to countries for which there is sufficient traffic, e.g. Japan, U.S.A.
- (ii) Sign the Insured Letters & Boxes Agreement of the UPU.
- (iii) Sign the Parcel Post agreement of the UPU.
- (iv) Become a member of the Asian-Oceanic Postal Union.
- (v) Introduce a Money Order Service.
- (vi) Introduce a Money Order Service with India.
- (vii) Introduce an internal Cash on Delivery service.
- (viii) Introduce a Cash on Delivery service with India.
- (ix) Consider signing the Postal Order, Money Order and Cash on Delivery agreements of the UPU so that these services can become available with other countries.

6. It should not be overlooked that the postal service is an organisation which has branches in all parts of the country capable of dealing with financial transactions and linked directly with the national communications network. It has therefore been found convenient in many countries to use the post office for a

therefore been found convenient in many countries to use the post office for a variety of agency services which have nothing to do with the postal service itself. Examples are:- national savings, issue of various licenses, payment of pensions & allowances, sale of national lottery tickets. This is an important extension of the potential value of an efficient, nation-wide, network of local post offices. (to be continued)

XXXXXXXXXXXX

### AN UNUSUAL DISCOVERY

--Lester A. Michel

A tete beche pair of the half anna black, with a Kathmandu cds (Hellrigl D79) which I prize, was taken out last winter to see if the sheet position of the item could be determined. After finding that positions 7 & 15 were involved, I checked the table on p. 180 of "The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Hellrigl & Vignola and found an anomaly. The stamp in position 7--the inverted one in my tete beche pair--is the wellknown cliche with the flattened base, first found in position 7 and inverted, in Setting 6. But that happens to be the orange-vermilion printing, so my item must come from Setting 7, or a later Setting. However, we know that the Kathmandu cds mentioned above ceased to be used as a postal cancellation in 1912, so how do we now account for this cancel on an item printed no earlier than 1917? The logical thing to do was to write to Dr. Hellrigl, which I did, and received the following reply:

"... as to the question of the small Kathmandu datestamp used for telegraphic purposes, I have now checked my 4 annas block of 4 (with the same cancel). The date is definitely 1919. At the time I must have thought that this was a wrong date or something as I did not connect it in any way with a possible telegraphic use. After seeing your 1/2 anna pair (which you proved had to be of the telegraphic period) I had no further doubts that this datestamp was indeed revived for telegraphic purposes and now my block established the date of this (surely very brief) period: 1919....."

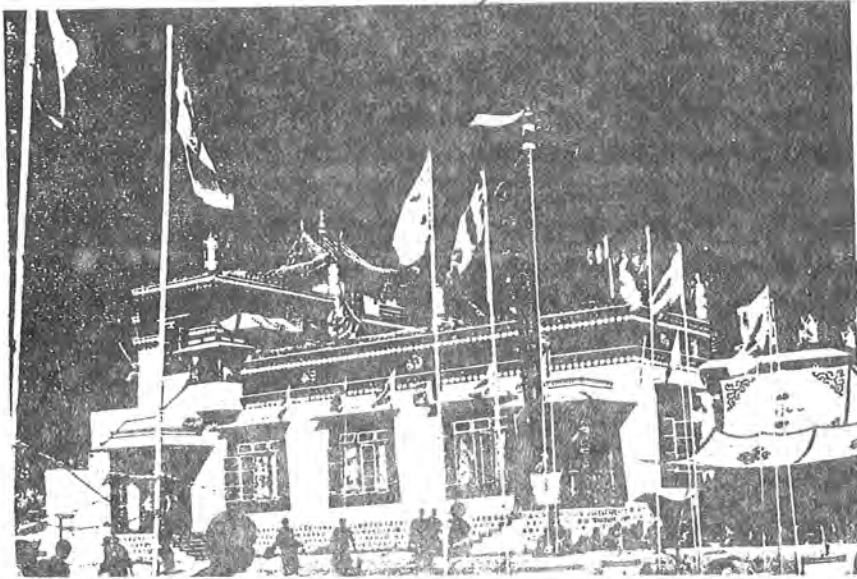
I would be more certain of this analysis if someone had a classic stamp (or block) with this type of cancel (preferably dated) and attached to a telegraph form, or a piece of one. Can anyone help me?





རབ་བྱུང་བརྒྱ་དྲུག་པ་      རབ་རྒྱལ་ལོ་ངོ་བྱེད་ འོད་རྒྱལ་ལོ་ ༡༩༨༥

A TIBETAN CALENDAR FOR 1985



Printed by :  
ASHOKA LITHOGRAPHY SOCIETY  
P. O. TITAN COLONY,  
Pleasant (N. E.)  
Kashmir Post - 19111  
SOUTH INDIA.

Important Commemorations :-

- 4th November Buddha descended to Earth.
- 7th December Lama Tsong Khapa was Born, Ordained and Passed away.

ཕྱི་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་མེད་ལ་ ལྷ་བཅས་དུས་ཚོའི་  
ཕྱི་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་མེད་ལ་ ལྷ་མཚོ་ཚོའི་མོ།

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ཉི་ཨོ་	ཟླ་	མི་རྩི་	ལྷ་གཤམ་	ལྷ་ལྷོ་	མངས་	ལྷོ་ལྷོ་	ཉི་ཨོ་	ཟླ་	མི་རྩི་	ལྷ་གཤམ་	ལྷ་ལྷོ་	མངས་	ལྷོ་ལྷོ་

OCTOBER 1985

འོད་རྒྱལ་ལོ་ ༡༩༨༥ ལྷ་བ་བརྒྱུད་པ་དང་། ལྷ་བ་དགུ་པ།

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		༡༢	༡༤	༡༥	༡༦	༡༧	༡༨	༡༩	༢༠	༢༡	༢༢	༢༣	༢༤
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
༢༧	༢༨	༢༩	༣༠	༣༡									
27	28	29	30	31									
༡	༢	༣	༤	༥									

NOVEMBER 1985

འོད་རྒྱལ་ལོ་ ༡༩༨༥ ལྷ་བ་དགུ་པ་དང་། ལྷ་བ་བརྒྱུད་པ།

					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					༡༠	༡༡	༡༢	༡༣	༡༤	༡༥	༡༦	༡༧	༡༨
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
༢༤	༢༥	༢༦	༢༧	༢༨	༢༩	༣༠							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
༡	༢	༣	༤	༥									

DECEMBER 1985

འོད་རྒྱལ་ལོ་ ༡༩༨༥ ལྷ་བ་བརྒྱུད་པ་དང་། ལྷ་བ་བརྒྱུད་པ།

							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
							༡༠	༡༡	༡༢	༡༣	༡༤	༡༥	༡༦
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
༢༢	༢༣	༢༤	༢༥	༢༦	༢༧	༢༨	༢༩	༣༠	༣༡				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
༡	༢	༣	༤	༥	༦	༧	༨	༩	༡༠				