

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



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2nd Quarter 1986



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COVER ILLUSTRATION: An enlarged photograph of the "SPECIMEN" overprints on the 1907 Sri Pashupati issue of Nepal, discovered by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl some two years ago and belatedly announced in this issue due to an oversight on the part of your editor. Please see his article on page 17.

Dear Friends,

Your editor had the rare privilege of visiting Frank & Mae Vignola in their home in a charming old section of San Francisco late in January. Most of you do not know that Frank is involved with operations on both eyes. The first of these is in the past and Frank has near perfect eyesight in one eye. The other eye is scheduled for a similar operation in September. The road to complete recovery has its 'pot holes,' of course, but Frank has every reason to expect the best. Certainly we all hope for the best, Frank, and trust that you and Mae had a great time at AMERIPEX '86. Your editor looks forward to reporting on that outstanding exhibition now in progress as I write these words -- in the Third Quarter issue of POSTAL HIMAL.

Your editor wishes to apologize for the tardy inclusion of Richard Hanchett among the Life Members. He is the very first of that group to reside in the USA. -- It is interesting to note that one country can boast that all of its Study Circle members are Life Members! That country is Holland, the home of Dick van der Wateren & Peter Planken! As of this writing, Holland is the only country that can claim more than one of our Life Members. The others represented are: Nepal, Italy, India, Great Britain and the USA -- making a total of 7 Life Members in all. We thank all of these individuals for this tangible expression of optimism concerning the future of our Study Circle & of POSTAL HIMAL.

Finally, we wish to thank Leo Martyn for the first 'Classified Ad' appearing in the next column. We hope that all of you will read it.

Lester A. Michel

EUROPEAN LIBRARIAN NEEDED

Our president, Dr. Pierre Couvreur, has decided that he should give up his post as Study Circle Librarian for the European area. Please write to him or to our Secretary, Colin Hepper, for more information if you can consider taking this position.

WANTED

PRESTAMP COVERS from 1879-1881 with "Mahasul Chukti", "Mahasul Chuke", and "Mahasul Na Parne" manuscript markings. Also: Large seals on covers up to 1881; important classic stamped covers; classic stamp - Pashupati combination covers; covers with postal seal cancels; unusual Pashupati covers; postally used first type orange postcards; whole collections. Please write, describing items offered. I will purchase and/or trade for items. LEO MARTYN, P.O.Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA 90049, U.S.A.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE FOR NEPAL NEEDED

Mr. Dhruba Rudra has found it necessary to resign from his position as Area Representative for Nepal. We thank him for his years of service in that capacity & ask for volunteers to take up his duties. Please write to our Secretary, Mr. Colin Hepper, if you wish to consider this important post.

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REPORT ON INAUGURAL MEETING 'DOWN-UNDER' --Colin Hepper

The first meeting of the Australian members took place in Adelaide on Friday, 31 January & Saturday, 1 February 1986.

On Friday evening the first session took place at the home of Malcolm Campbell, with members Julie Marshall, Martin Walker, Derek Pocock & Colin Hepper attending.

Malcolm had borrowed some display boards from the local society and, after an informal meeting over a glass of wine and refreshments, Colin Hepper gave a display of 100 sheets, showing examples of most of the early postmarks up to 1910. This was followed by an informative talk, with slides by Malcolm, giving a brief history of Nepal and a look at Nepal today. After further refreshments & coffee, and general discussions on the talk, the evening finally broke up around midnight.

(continued on page 13)

TIBET SLIDE SHOW IN COLORADO SPRINGS

On 1 April, Art Ackley, whose Tibet exhibit has been winning awards at a number of exhibitions in the USA, was in charge of the program for the regular meeting of the Colorado Springs Stamp Club. He had arranged for a showing of our new Study Circle slide show on Tibet which was supplemented by pages of Art's exhibit material which were passed from hand to hand and discussed. Although Art & your editor are the only collectors of that part of the world among the membership, the program was enthusiastically received & enjoyed by the 30 members and visitors who attended.

The 36-slide show is rather brief but provides a good overview of the stamps and postal history of Tibet. At the beginning of the show, 2 or 3 slides show some of the important reference material, including POSTAL HIMAL, and the narrative discusses literature and mentions our Study Circle. We are glad to recognize Alan Warren for preparing this show and are grateful to James Booth for handling the slides for us.

The slide show may be had by any group or individual by writing to: Mr. James A. Booth, 3141 Westview Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385. Three dollars, for postage & insurance, will be required in advance for shipment of the slides, which come with a printed narrative and a standard cassette tape. For more information, see POSTAL HIMAL No. 44, p. 40, or send a SAE to Mr. Booth. Recipients of the slide show are expected to return the materials promptly after the scheduled showing, with appropriate postage affixed.

EXHIBITION NEWS

From the column titled "The Winners' Circle" in STAMP COLLECTOR (a weekly philatelic newspaper published in the USA) for 6 April 1986, p. 16, we read:

"MILCOPEX '86, Feb. 28-2 March, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sponsored by the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Arthur F. Ackley received a VERMEIL award for his exhibit titled: Tibet - Stamps and Postal Markings." -- We note, also that the same exhibit received a VERMEIL at ROMPEX '86, in Denver, Colorado, in May. Congratulations, Art.

STUDY CIRCLE MEETING AT WESTPEX '86 (as reported by Bill McConnell)

Bill McConnell, who writes the regular column on 'Asian Area Philately' for the weekly philatelic newspaper, STAMP COLLECTOR, has sent us a brief report on the Study Circle meeting held during WESTPEX '86 in San Francisco, on 25-27 April 1986.

Sox attended the meeting, including Dr. Swanson, Al Zulueta, Frank Vignola, Fred de Ridder, Roger Skinner & Bill McConnell. Bill goes on to say: "There was a discussion of the J. Crow ad in LINN'S (another weekly philatelic newspaper) which offered a beginners collection of Tibet for \$5.00. Apparently, quite a few stamps in this collection were counterfeit. The person offering bought them from refugees from somewhere during his trip to India. He lives in New Hampshire. I assume the refugees are from Tibet and now live in Pakistan or India, but was not sure even after reading the letter he sent to a member.

"There was some discussion concerning the large amounts of Nepal material now showing up in Dealer's stocks and there is some thought that much of this should be looked at, since no one seems to know where this material is coming from. It may be that much of this material is 'bogus.' There is a rumor that someone found a large stock in a family that had been there since 1935 and that the estate had sold this accumulation to dealers... but that is all heresy.

"The show was excellent, probably the finest I have seen in many a year at WESTPEX....."

AN AUTHOR'S CORRECTION

With a recent letter, Mr. J. B. Manandhar, author of a recent article on the Melung post office, enclosed a more accurate illustration of the postmark. He also pointed out that both drawings are the work of K. Karma-charya, the artist, & not the writer. The article referred to was published in POSTAL HIMAL No. 45, p. 8, for the First Quarter of 1986.

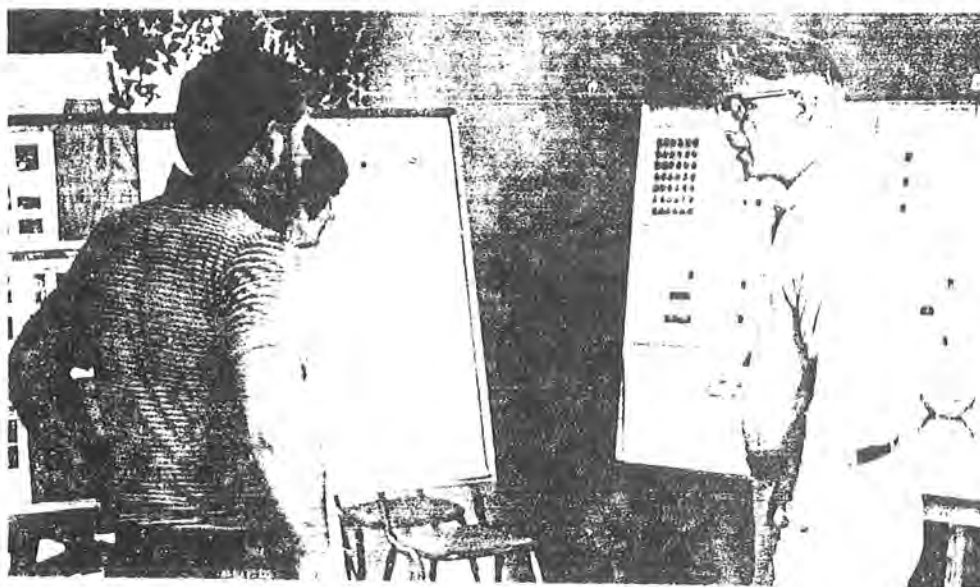


Hepper, REPORT ON INAUGURAL MEETING ...
(concluded)--

On Saturday afternoon the meeting was held in a local hall, where the time was used as a 'workshop' with the frames being filled with various items from member's collections. Topics which were discussed and displayed included 'How to identify various early printings,' 'Forgeries--early and modern types,' etc. Derek Pocock gave members the benefits of his experience as an international

judge, on how to present displays for exhibition. -- Four other members from local societies also joined us to make a very enjoyable afternoon.

The final session was in the evening, when members & wives met at the Jasmin Indian Restaurant for a banquet meal. At the end of the evening, Colin Hepper thanked the members for attending, despite the long distances involved, and addressed special thanks to Malcolm Campbell and his wife for the arrangements made over the weekend.



Above: Derek Pocock (right) in discussion with Malcolm Campbell & Julie Marshall

Below: (left to right) Julie Marshall, Malcolm Campbell, Martin Walker and Mike Hancy (visitor)



(Your editor would like to call your attention to the programme for this meeting as it was presented in the previous issue of POSTAL HIMAL. It could serve well as a guide to others in future meetings of this sort. We wish to congratulate our Australian members on their fine planning and execution of a meeting we all would have enjoyed.)

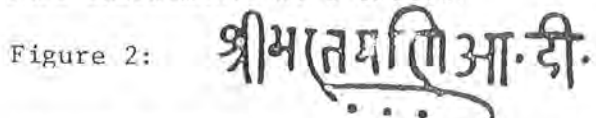
(Your editor also asks that, if you are planning any sort of meeting involving the showing & study of Nepal and/or Tibet material, as well as Study Circle members, please inform us as early as possible so that we may help with publicity of various sorts. Frank Westbrook can help by offering news releases to local area publications which may be more timely than POSTAL HIMAL which, of course, is mailed only quarterly.)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

An answer to a question concerning an "inscription" on some native Nepal pre-stamped envelopes (See question in POSTAL HIMAL No. 45, p. 10.):

Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl published an article in POSTAL STATIONERY for July-August 1977, pp. 145-148, titled "Nepal: The Four Pice Envelope of 1933", from which we quote: (pp. 147-148)

"Apart from the different types of dies we also have an interesting sub-type of the envelope (type C die), bearing a black handstamp on the flap (Figure 2). The story goes that some envelopes had been forged with a view to defraud the Post Office; when the forgeries were detected, the Head of the Postal Department, Shri Bharatmani Adi, had his signature stamped on the flaps of all genuine envelopes for sale at post offices, in order to distinguish the genuine from the forged. While there may be some truth in this story -- from 1953 onwards both the 4 pice (type C die) and 8 pice envelopes were, in fact, endorsed in this manner -- it would now be virtually impossible to say whether one of the 4 pice die types was indeed a postal forgery. Type D could, in my opinion, be a possible suspect, since it was used during the regular currency of type C, two years prior to Shri Bharatmani Adi's action."



(The above answer was written by your editor before receiving several comments from readers on this question which appear on this page and page 15.--Ed.)

Dick van der Wateren writes concerning this question:

"Mr. Axel Werner sent me (last year) a photocopy of a short article in an -- I think -- American philatelic magazine under the heading: "TOO SHORT TO SAVE" by "Hawkeye," re "Handstamp on Nepal Envelopes":

"Some of the early Nepal envelopes on local made paper, 8 paisa vermilion (Higgins & Gage, No. 3), are found with a handstamp on the back flap in Devnagri letters, reading Shri Bharat Mani Dik-

shit. Dr. Chowdhury tells us that his good friend from Kathmandu, Nepal, Mr. N. D. Shrestha, informs him that when these envelopes were current, large quantities were stolen from the post office, and new issues from the post offices were then stamped with the name of the postmaster on the back flap to distinguish the legitimate envelopes from the stolen stock." (Mr. van der Wateren sent us a photocopy of this very brief article which includes a photocopy of the back flap of an envelope. The handstamp shows up fairly clearly and seems to be the one illustrated in POSTAL HIMAL No. 45, p. 10, as well as the one in Dr. Hellrigl's article which is quoted in the column at left. -- Can anyone provide us with the source of the brief article by "Hawkeye"?--Ed.)

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ANOTHER NEPAL STAMP ALBUM

S. J. Shrestha has recently informed us of another stamp album which he has published for some years and of which your editor was not aware. The pages are smaller than usual, being approximately 18.5 x 22 cm (7 3/8 x 8 3/4 in), or very nearly square and with 2 holes punched in the left margin about 8 cm apart. The pages are simply, but tastefully arranged, with headings and other markings in red and blue. Originally, this album, titled "S. L. Shrestha's NEPAL Stamp Album (1881-1971)" was published in 1971, and supplements for 1972, 1973 & 1974 were issued. This small but convenient album is still available from Mr. Shrestha, with annual supplements.

Mr. Shrestha tells us that this album has been so popular locally that some enterprising packet dealer has copied it and that his copied version (in black & white) is "the pride of every packet seller in Kathmandu." Interested readers should write to Mr. Shrestha for further details and for prices on his album.--Ed.



ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN
POSTAL HIMAL No. 45

--S. L. Shrestha, Life
Member of N&TPSC

To Mr. Lou Hidu (page 7): The main source for the "propaganda labels" so far as I know is Calcutta. Kathmandu was one of the best sources for them up to the second week of July 1985. Now the remaining Kathmandu stock of the "labels" has been dumped as well, after the confiscation of shops and a "bank" for importation. I think you can obtain some privately in Kathmandu or directly from: Nelson Eustis, Philatelic & Numismatic Adviser, Box 954, GPO, Adelaide, South Australia (Phone: 212 3576).

To Dr. Raymond (page 9): Your opinion: "... real sources of absolutely genuine Tibet covers have long ago been depleted --other than at auction." may not be entirely true. If you had gone through the membership list of the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle before coming to Kathmandu last year, you might have found some dependable sources, such as this reporter and other leading dealers in Tibet material.

To Mr. Hepper (page 9): If you could print an enlarged photo of both sides of the cover in question, focussing, at least on the portion bearing the seal cancel, and if you would send a photocopy, I may be able to tell you what is in the seal.

To Mr. Derek McCullough (page 10): Please check once again your registered cover with the GPO Type 1 registration cachet. That should not be mailed in 1966 (January), but must be in 1965 (January)! The last, or closing date of the Indian Embassy Post Office in Kathmandu was 12.4.1965.

Regarding the question appearing just beneath the above (page 10), please note that it was a seal inscription of the then Director of the Postal Department of Nepal in 1952-53, who ordered it applied to control the leakage of some envelopes from the Press at that time. The inscription reads: "Shree Bharat Mani AA.DI."

(These various comments, and in particular Dr. Gupta's statement at right, would seem to clarify the question concerning the "flap inscription."--Ed.)

FURTHER COMMENTS ON TIBET COVERS

--S. L. Shrestha

It is unfortunate that Dr. Raymond has disclosed the 'Top Secret' for detecting or identifying genuine Tibet covers. In fact, forgers can easily get Yak-butter, Yak-skin coats and other Yak products in Kathmandu, to rub on covers to give them the Yak-smell. We invite all Study Circle members to write to the Nepal Representative before visiting Kathmandu, as we would be happy to put you in contact with Study Circle members in Nepal and help to make your stay more enjoyable. (Those who have taken Mr. Shrestha's advice--such as Dr. Hellrigl, Frank Vignola & Hans Wittmann--have had nothing but praise for the hospitality of our Nepalese friends.--Ed.)

Lou Hidu writes concerning the "quest" for the elusive Tibetan "labels" and the equally elusive Nelson Eustis. Lou has heard from two other members who offered the same address as that given by Mr. S. L. Shrestha. He also states: "F.C.J. de Ridder of San Francisco has also advised me that these "labels" can be gotten directly from the Secretary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Thekchen Choling, Dharmsala (Kangra) Himachal Pradesh, India. He says they can be purchased by making a contribution to the Tibetan Refugee Fund. To me, this is a preferable means of obtaining them than paying a private promoter. He says that the Tibetans will also provide commemorative "First Day Covers" of sorts."

DR. P. GUPTA, LIFE MEMBER IN INDIA ALSO RESPONDS TO THE QUESTION OF THE MEANING OF THE INSCRIPTION ON SOME NEPAL ENVELOPES:

"... During one of my visits to Kathmandu, I made enquiries about the meaning of this marking. I was told that, after this particular envelope was released for sale in the post offices in Kathmandu, it was found that a large number of the envelopes had been stolen. In order to prevent the postal usage of the stolen envelopes, it was decided that all the remaining envelopes should be marked with a rubber stamp bearing the name of the then Postmaster General. Frankly, I do not know how far this is correct. However, this particular explanation was corroborated by others."

Those of you who enjoy Tibet philately & who are members of the American Philatelic Society, must have noted the article titled "Of Sewing Machines, Perforations, and Other Kindred Tibetan Matters." (pp. 328-343) in The AMERICAN PHILATELIST for April, 1986. You may have also noticed the cover picture, showing Professor Singer using a sewing machine to "pin-perforate" a sheet of Tibetan stamps--with the caption, "A Stitch in Tibet. See Page 328".

This article, written in Singer's inimitable style, is a scholarly account of his research, conducted over a ten-year period, in which he has attempted to prove that some Tibetan stamps, at least, were perforated with an ordinary Singer (no relation) sewing machine.

The article begins with a rather exhaustive summary of published material dealing with the subject and which is responsible for the first ten of the 16 references cited at the end of the article. This section is followed by a section sub-titled, "The Sewing Machine Theory: The Case for the Defense." And, while Professor Singer would be the first to admit that he does not have absolute proof, he does build a very strong case on the circumstantial evidence he has acquired. -- The last six references include commentaries which are rather lengthy in some instances, and which add valuable information to the whole story being told.

The article is made all the more interesting by the inclusion of no fewer than six illustrations, not counting the large illustration of a Singer Sewing Machine of that period, at the beginning of the article.

Professor Singer, Emeritus Professor of Romance Languages at West Virginia University, has collected and studied Tibetan stamps and postal history for many years, and has published articles in a wide variety of philatelic publications, including POSTAL HIMAL. We congratulate Professor Singer for his stimulating article in the APS journal and look forward to more articles in the future.--Ed.

LINN'S STAMP NEWS for 30 December 1985, p. 27, in an item titled "Errors in stamp design," illustrated a pair of Tibetan stamps (1912 issue) showing one with the familiar 'potsage' error. The comment under the illustration reads: "In 1912, Tibet issued its first set of postage stamps in denominations from 1 trangka to 1 sang. One position on the 2/3 value contained an error. It bears the word "POTSAGE" instead of Postage. Specialists like to be able to show the error in a pair with a normal stamp."

Alan Warren, one of our enthusiastic and eagle-eyed students of Tibet philately, saw the item and wrote the following letter to the Editor of LINN'S:

"Your "Errors in stamp design" item in the December 30 issue contains an error in your text. The first issue of Tibet does not have denominations "from 1 trangka to 1 sang", but rather 1/6 trangka to 1 trangka. The 1 sang value (equivalent to 6 & 2/3 tran-ka in value) appeared much later, in 1950, and its legitimacy is still questioned.

"An interesting point about the POT-SAGE error on the 2/3 trangka value is that it occurs twice in the sheet. The sheets consist of three rows of four subjects, with the entire sheet of twelve designs having been hand carved from a wood block. The middle two positions, Nos. 6 & 7 in the sheet, are the famous POTSAGE errors. Thus anyone who has a block of four is sure to have at least one error."

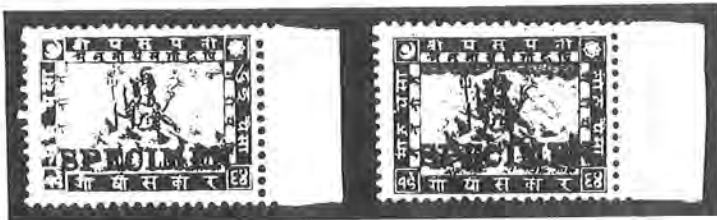
(As of this date, Alan has received no reply from LINN'S editor, but we felt that some of our readers would enjoy this incident.--Ed.)



"SPECIMEN" OVERPRINTS ON PASHUPATI ISSUE
 --Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

Two years ago I had the rare opportunity of purchasing a superb Nepal collection. Formed by the late Dr. Berkowitz, of Germany, the collection was confined to the classic issues of the 1881-1907 period and did not contain one single item of the telegraphic period printings.

However, a page with the 1907 Pashupati issues was included at the end, almost as an afterthought. On that very page I was thrilled to find two unrecorded and probably unique stamps -- the 2 pice brown & the 16 pice violet, overprinted SPECIMEN, in black. Both stamps are mint & have full original gum.



2 Pice Brown

16 Pice Violet

This unexpected discovery adds a most interesting chapter to this first Perkins, Bacon issue, whose wealth of artist's drawings, essays, die and plate proofs, colour trials and SERVICE overprints is unmatched by any other stamp issue of Nepal.

To me, the fact that these two SPECIMEN stamps were included in an early collection that had obviously been left untouched for several decades, was a vital point in their favour and so I really never had the slightest hesitation in accepting their bona fides. However, in order to obtain an additional reassurance on the credibility of the overprints, I contacted Mr. James Bendon, a leading authority on specimen stamps and co-author of the handbook "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948".

Mr. Bendon pointed out that similar SPECIMEN overprints were known on some contemporary stamps of Liberia which were also printed by Perkins, Bacon. The Liberia issue in question is the 1906 set of 13 (1 cent to \$5), S.G. Nos. 224-236; it is scarce with the SPECIMEN overprint. Since Mr. Bendon kindly sent

me the 5 cents stamp of the Liberia specimens (overprinted in red), I was able to compare it with the Nepal overprints. They are definitely identical in every particular, thus removing the last shadows of any doubt one tends to have when unexpectedly faced with a previously unknown Nepal rarity.

Apart from the Perkins, Bacon specimen stamps, the Berkowitz collection also yielded a number of unique or very rare classic items, details of which I barely managed to include in the manuscript of the handbook, "The Classic Stamps of Nepal", before handing it over to the printers. Dr. Berkowitz held important collections of the whole world, the Indian sub-continent being very well represented. Tibet was not included, probably because it did not start until after 1910, which would appear to have been the close-off date for Dr. Berkowitz' collecting interests. (This report was placed in your editor's hands some two years ago and was lost, for which unpardonable failure, we must offer our apologies -- not only to Dr. Hellrigl, but also to you, our readers. --Ed.)

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NEPAL CALENDAR

With this issue of POSTAL HIMAL we include the final four months of the Nepal calendar for the Bikram Sambat year 2042. Note that the last month (Chiatra) has 30 days and ends on 12 April 1986. Thus the New Year (2043 B.S.) began on Sunday, 13 April 1986.

We do not plan to publish either the Nepal or the Tibet calendars for following years, unless some members request that we do so. We will try to fill requests for photocopies of current calendars to members who request them. -- Please write to the editor if you have questions or comments concerning this 'experiment.' --Ed.



BUILDING A NEPAL COLLECTION

--F. A. Westbrook, Jr.

(Third in a series of discussions for beginners and intermediate collectors.)

3. Sripech & Crossed Kukris Issues -- The Two Annas

The 2-annas Sripech & Crossed Kukris stamp, like the 1-anna discussed in the second instalment of this series, was a part of Nepal's first issue of postal adhesives. It was printed over a period of 50 years in a multitude of colors and shades. And, like its companions, the 1-anna & 4-annas, was printed by individual cliches locked into printing frames. During the half-century history of these stamps, numerous tete-beche pairs resulted, due to carelessness by printers in replacing loose cliches upside down in the printing frames.

There were at least 31 printings, or Settings, of the 2-annas between 1881 & 1930.

Unlike the 1-anna, however, there were no design changes through the stamp's long history, which complicates the assignment of the varieties to the three time periods on which this discussion is based. Rather than working with design changes, reliance must be placed on color, paper, cancellations and the position & number of inverted cliches in the sheets. The latter is only helpful, however, if one has full sheets or large multiples.

The plan we are laying out will help the collector create a series of three accumulations of the 2-annas, each based largely on type of paper, color, quality of printing, cancellations, perforations vs. imperforate and tete-beche pairs, where they exist. In the third period, where sheets and multiples are more common, it will be possible to be more precise in pinpointing exact Settings.

First Time Period

The 2-annas, like the 1-anna, first appeared in 1881. It was printed on European bond paper, easily distinguished by its closely-woven, cross-patch pattern by holding the stamps to light. It was printed in purple, ranging from bright to pale. It is found on gummed & ungummed paper, pin-perforated & imperforate. Only one inverted cliche is

known on bond paper, producing one tete-beche pair. There were three bond paper settings, but they are not easily distinguished in single stamps.

Second Time Period

In 1886 Nepal abandoned the bond paper, substituting locally produced paper of rougher quality. This period extends to 1907 and includes some 17 Settings.

The native paper is strong & resists tearing, but poorer quality examples often include bits of "undigested" bark. The native paper is easily distinguished from the bond of the first three settings as it is usually off-white. When held to the light, fiber strands are visible. It ranges from tissue thin to almost cardboard-like thickness.

For the most part the 2-annas of the second period were printed in a range of violet shades, but, toward the end of the era, shades of purple, lilac, lavender & mauve appeared.

The printing of the earlier native paper settings is very clear and the paper quality is good, medium thin to thick. As time advances, paper quality becomes more varied and printing fluctuates from clear to blurred.

The native paper stamps seldom are gummed, but some were pin-perforated -- probably unofficially, at least in the later years of the period. The number of inverted cliches increases with the years.

This is by all odds the most difficult period for the less sophisticated collector of Nepal. There are few sheets and large multiples to help date the stamps. The beginner, unless affluent, will be working with singles & small multiples. When working with mint stamps, assignment of specimens to the second period must be based, per force, on color, paper & printing quality -- guides that can be deceptive as quality control appears to have been forsaken for the most part. As a general 'rule of thumb,' it may be assumed that the clearer the printing and the better the quality of the paper, the earlier in the time period the stamps appeared. But this rule is not infallible. Another potential problem is that some of the 2-annas printed late in the second time period, as we shall see, came back into use in the third period.

Westbrook, BUILDING.... (continued) --

There is another approach where mint stamps are involved. The 2-annas of the third period, our next subject of discussion, are largely inferior in printing & paper quality, and, for the most part, the color differences are radical. Since mint stamps of the third period are hard to come by, this alternative approach is quite simple. Assign mint copies that don't meet the specifications of the third period to the second period. This approach is not infallible, but the degree of error would not be great, if indeed there were error at all.

The collector of used 2-annas of the second time period may have an easier time. Stamps with postal cancellations on native paper can safely be assigned to the second period, as, in 1907, Nepal issued the first of a new series of stamps of an entirely different design, which, from that time forward, accounted for virtually all postal usage. The Sripech & Crossed Kukris stamps may be found on covers dated after 1907, but, for the most part, they are "made to order."

The rub, as we have seen, is that some of the 2-annas printed at the end of the second time period were re-issued in 1917 for use in prepaying telegrams and/or telephone calls. The colors of the stamps re-issued are, of course, those already mentioned for the latter part of the second time period. A solution, while on the opportunist side, perhaps, would be to assign all postally used 2-annas on native paper to the second time period and telegraphically cancelled stamps to the third time period. In other words, make a division by usage rather than by date of initial issue.

Detailed information (well illustrated) on postal & telegraphic cancellations can be found in "The Native Postmarks of Nepal," by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Colin Hepper, published by the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle.

Third Time Period

In 1917 Nepal inaugurated a telegraph service between Kathmandu and India. As messages were prepaid by purchase of stamps which were affixed to the forms,

large quantities of adhesives were soon needed. While the new issue of 1907 sufficed for postal use, remainder stocks of the Sripech & Crossed Kukris stamps that had been stored in the Treasury were called back into service for telegraphic use. These remainders were followed by 10 additional settings of the 2-annas -- the last in 1930.

The telegraphic period brings new light to the aid of the less sophisticated collector and the opportunity for some interesting and not too costly specialization.

The quality of the stamps is of decidedly poorer quality than those of the second period. Paper is often very thin, but sometimes medium to thick. Printing ranged from fairly clear to smudged.

A major hallmark of the period, however, is the vast number of colors and shades in which the stamps appeared. Stanley Gibbons lists five basic colors for the 1917-30 2-annas -- red, lilac, purple, maroon & brown -- but this is but 'a drop in the bucket' compared to reality. The shades are legion. It is not uncommon to find two quite distinct shades on a single sheet! Colors are not listed by Stanley Gibbons, but are named by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Frank Vignola in "The Classic Stamps of Nepal," including lavender, mauve, slate, grey, magenta, plum, carmine, claret, chestnut, chocolate, orange-brown, sepia, cinnamon and numerous shades of the foregoing.

Another hallmark of the period -- at least where used stamps are concerned -- are the distinct telegraphic cancels. They are identifiable at a glance and as most copies of the 2-annas available are used, there is no problem knowing into which time period they fall. Mint copies, when available, can usually be identified by color & poor printing quality.

The 2-annas of this period are not gummed, but most are available pin-perforated and all are available tete-beche, usually at a moderate price.

A relatively small number of the 2-annas of the telegraphic period are available in what is known as the

Westbrook, BUILDING... (concluded) --

"cleaned lettering" variety. The printing of the stamps had become so blurred that the cliches were vigorously scrubbed, apparently, which resulted in some disfigurement of the lettering that is easily recognizable. But the cliches were neither recut nor retouched and they soon regained their former blurred condition. However, the "cleaned lettering" variety can be regarded as a category for collecting.

Full sheets of many of the 2-annas of the 1917-30 period are available, used & mint. Multiples, often large, also are fairly plentiful and sometimes may be obtained on all or part of telegraph forms. The sheets, and sometimes the larger multiples, can be assigned to their actual settings by the position and number of inverted cliches.

The less sophisticated collector can have a lot of fun in this area, building a significant collection with reasonable assurance that he is on the right track. Indeed, if all the colors & shades are assembled in singles, pin-perforated & imperforate, multiples, tete-beche pairs & multiples, sheets (when available) and the "cleaned lettering" variety, the collector would be well on the way to filling an album.

Bibliography

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalog, Part 21, South-East Asia, 1981 Edition. (Stanley Gibbons covers Nepal more completely & accurately than Scott.)

"The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl & Frank Vignola, published by the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1984). (This is the definitive work on Nepal's 'classic' issues.)

"The Postage Stamps of Nepal" by Harrison D.S. Haverbeck, F.R.P.S.L., published by the Collectors Club of New York (1960). (While this volume is substantially outdated by the Hellrigl/Vignola work, it can still be an important aid to the beginning & intermediate collector of Nepal.)

"The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Colin Hepper, published by the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1978).

"Priced Guide to the Native Issues of Nepal" by George Alevizos, privately published.

1983 NEPAL COMMEMORATIVE COINS HONOURING THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASCENT OF MT. EVEREST

Mr. S. L. Shrestha has sent us a copy of a small brochure announcing these commemorative coins. The total "World Mintage" is stated to be:

	Price
350 only GOLD PROOFS	US \$250
1500 only SILVER PROOFS	US \$45
2000 only CUPRO-NICKEL PROOFS	US \$5

"Each proof coin is encapsulated and cased in an attractive presentation box and has a numbered Certificate of Authenticity signed by the General Manager of the Singapore Mint. A special 10 x 7 inch Commemorative Certificate signed by the two famous explorers (Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay) also accompanies each proof. Sole Distributors appointed by His Majesty's Government of Nepal: Nepal Numismatic Bureau, GPO Box 981, Adelaide, South Australia 5001."

In another place the brochure names Nelson Eustis, Manager of the Nepal Numismatic Bureau. We have no knowledge at this time as to whether or not any of these 'commemorative' coins are still available.--Ed.

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CARDS & COVERS WITH SPECIAL CANCELS MARK VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Bill McConnell's column titled "Asian Area Philately" in STAMP COLLECTOR for 26 April 1986 (p. 16) describes & illustrates cards & covers with special cancels marking the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Nepal on 17-21 February 1986. At least two different sets of souvenir cards & covers were prepared -- one by the Nepal Philatelic Society, the other by a member of our Study Circle -- M.B. Shrestha. These are available from the various members of our Study Circle as well. Sets of 5 cards, or covers, are priced at \$8 to \$10.--Ed.

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**AUCTION
ACTION**

--Leo Martyn

George Alevizos' public auction on 17 December 1985 offered 107 lots of Nepal

Martyn, AUCTION ACTION (concluded)--

and 4 lots of Tibetan material. There was strong interest in most of the items as reflected in the following prices, which include the 10% buyers' premium.

An unusual group of 11 original letters, written by G. A. Smythies while he lived in Kathmandu (1944-46), describing contemporary Pashupati settings and new 2-anna settings went cheaply for \$55.

An unused 1881 pin-perf 1-anna in the rare "milky blue" shade (H/V #16) with the "large dent" major flaw realized \$412.50.

Other unused first issue wove papers brought between \$66 and \$165 depending upon condition and anna value.

An extremely rare 1886 2-anna blue error of color (H/V #9) in used condition (only 3 used copies recorded) was purchased for \$660 (condition about fine).

An unused block of 6 of the 1886-98 4-anna was knocked down for \$275.

An unused 1898-1907 2-anna purple, tete beche pair with "large dent" major flaw (pos. 8) went for \$264.

A very rare copy of the ½-anna orange-vermilion (H/V #34) unused with a natural paper inclusion brought \$412.50.

Two very fine telegraphically used copies of the ½-anna orange vermilion realized \$253 and \$209.

A very rare 1917 1-anna deep emerald error of color (H/V #36b) telegraphically used brought \$231.

Several lots of the 2-anna in complete sheets telegraphically used (ca. 1917-1930) realized varying prices as follows:

Aniline Carmine - \$231

Venetian Red showing partially "cleaned lettering" - \$770

Claret - \$242.

Also, several lots of the 2-anna in complete unused sheets were offered (ca. 1917-1930):

Brown Purple - \$522.50

Sepia (pos. 1 & 9 omitted) - \$231

Light Brown (pos. 1 & 9 omitted) - \$264

Orange Brown (pos. 1, 9 & 49 omitted) - \$286

An extremely rare imperf-between-horizontally pair of the 1941 Pashupati 2p light green error of color realized \$605.

The Postal History section was smaller than usual and there were not any important items which George usually is able to offer from Nepal. This also was true

for the Tibet section.

On 11 March 1986, George Alevizos offered 56 lots of Nepalese material and 2 lots of Tibetan items. All prices include the 10% buyer's premium.

A fine selection of first issue wove paper resulted in keen interest and strong prices, as follows:

Unused 2a pin-perf, bright purple-\$209

Unused 4a pin-perf, yellow green, small thin - \$187

Unused 1a imperf, ultramarine, horizontal pair, brilliant color & impression - \$577.50

Unused 1a imperf, dull blue, rich color - \$253.

Used 1a imperf, milky blue, clear Palpa cancel - \$176

Unused 2a imperf, bright purple, strong color - \$297

Used 2a imperf, bright purple, bold Palpa cancel - \$176

Used 2a imperf, bright purple, Bhojpur cancel - \$176

Unused 4a imperf, yellow green, horizontal pair, brilliant color - \$825

An 1889-1898 1a dull blue block of 8 with marginal sheet inscriptions - \$176

A very rare 1889-1898 4a yellow green with brownish gum (H/V #13, Setting #4, pos. 8 -- see p. 162 in "The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Hellrigl & Vignola) - \$385

An unused 1a grey-blue on wove paper (H/V #25) brought \$660.

A telegraphically used ½-anna orange-vermilion brought \$154 & an extremely rare tete beche pair of the same stamp with a light telegraph cancel realised \$1815.

The Postal History section contained several interesting and unusual lots.

An 1843 cover from Prime Minister Fatehjung Shah to the Nepalese Envoy in Lhasa, with the original letter, realized \$577.50.

An 1879 (December) cover from Kathmandu to Palpa with the "Mahasul Chukti" manuscript and at the possibly unique rate of ¾ anna, went to a lucky buyer for \$935.

A 1904 double rate cover franked with a tete beche pair of the recut 1-anna, including position 64 and tied by a clear Pokhara cancel brought \$220.

The Tibet section offered a very rare & interesting Tibetan writing slate used for transmitting messages. It is circa 18th-19th century. It realised \$275.

NEPAL T.B. ASSOCIATION ISSUES SEALS
--S. L. Shrestha

The first Seals issued in Nepal to help raise funds to combat tuberculosis were sold at 25p each, or in a sheet of 12 for Rs. 3, in 1976. (See illustration below.) Their sale was soon stopped due to misuse by the public as postage on letters. Some few hundred letters are believed to have used these seals illegally -- most of them being intercepted and destroyed by the P.O. at Kathmandu.

The seals were printed in 3 colours: Red, yellow-orange & violet. A receipt was issued to the buyer -- example is shown at right. The second issue, shown at lower right, was issued in the same colours.

A few hundred sheets of each issue have been preserved. Please write to the author for further information. (All illustrations have been reduced to approximately half the original size.-- Ed.)

Below: An example of the receipt issued by the Nepal T.B. Association.

ने० २७७ नेपाल क्षयरोग निवारण संस्था
कालिमाटो, काठमाडौं मिति ०५/१२/७६

श्री श्री कृष्ण माल ११६ - ५ - ३३

रु० १५१ -

अक्षरोंद्वारा प्राप्त भयो ।
सुधन्यवाद प्राप्त भयो ।

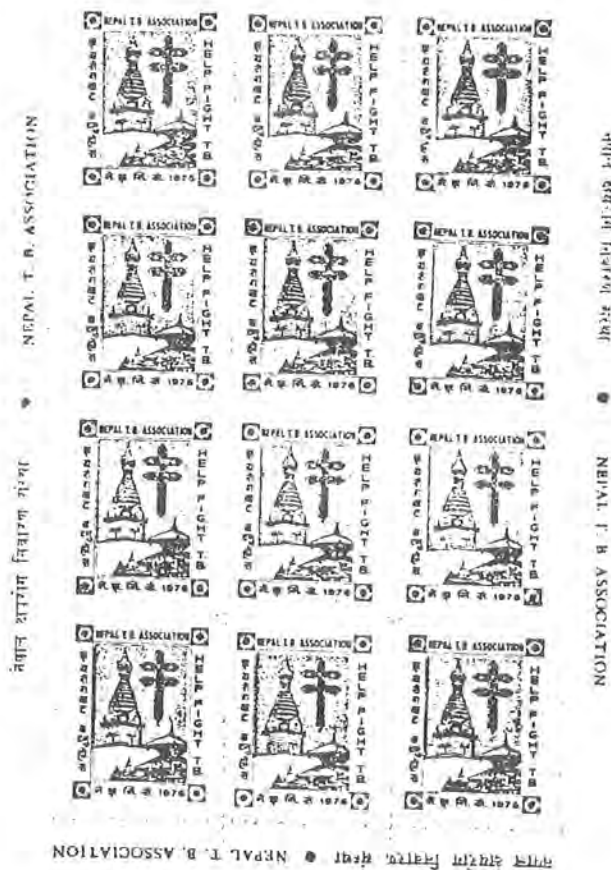
NEPAL T.B. ASSOCIATION
TUBERCULOSIS
1976

क्षयरोग निवृद्धको अभियानमा सहयोग गर्नुहोस् ।

नेपाल क्षयरोग निवारण संस्था • NEPAL T. B. ASSOCIATION



नेपाल क्षयरोग निवारण संस्था • NEPAL T. B. ASSOCIATION





सं० २०४२ FEB. फाल्गुन MAR. सन् १९८६

आइतवार Sunday	सोमवार Monday	मंगलवार Tuesday	बुधवार Wednes	विहीवार Thursday	शुक्रवार Friday	शनिवार Saturday
५	६	७	८	९	१०	११
१२	१३	१४	१५	१६	१७	१८
१९	२०	२१	२२	२३	२४	२५
२६	२७	२८	२९	३०	३१	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

वसन्त-चमूहर्ता: - फाल्गुन २९, ३० गते । विवाह-चमूहर्ता: - फाल्गुन २९, ३० गते ।



सं० २०४२ MAR. चैत्र APR. सन् १९८६

आइतवार Sunday	सोमवार Monday	मंगलवार Tuesday	बुधवार Wednes	विहीवार Thursday	शुक्रवार Friday	शनिवार Saturday
३१	१	२	३	४	५	६
७	८	९	१०	११	१२	१३
१४	१५	१६	१७	१८	१९	२०
२१	२२	२३	२४	२५	२६	२७
२८	२९	३०	३१	१	२	३
४	५	६	७	८	९	१०
११	१२	१३	१४	१५	१६	१७
१८	१९	२०	२१	२२	२३	२४
२५	२६	२७	२८	२९	३०	३१

वसन्त-चमूहर्ता: - चैत्र २, १५ गते ।