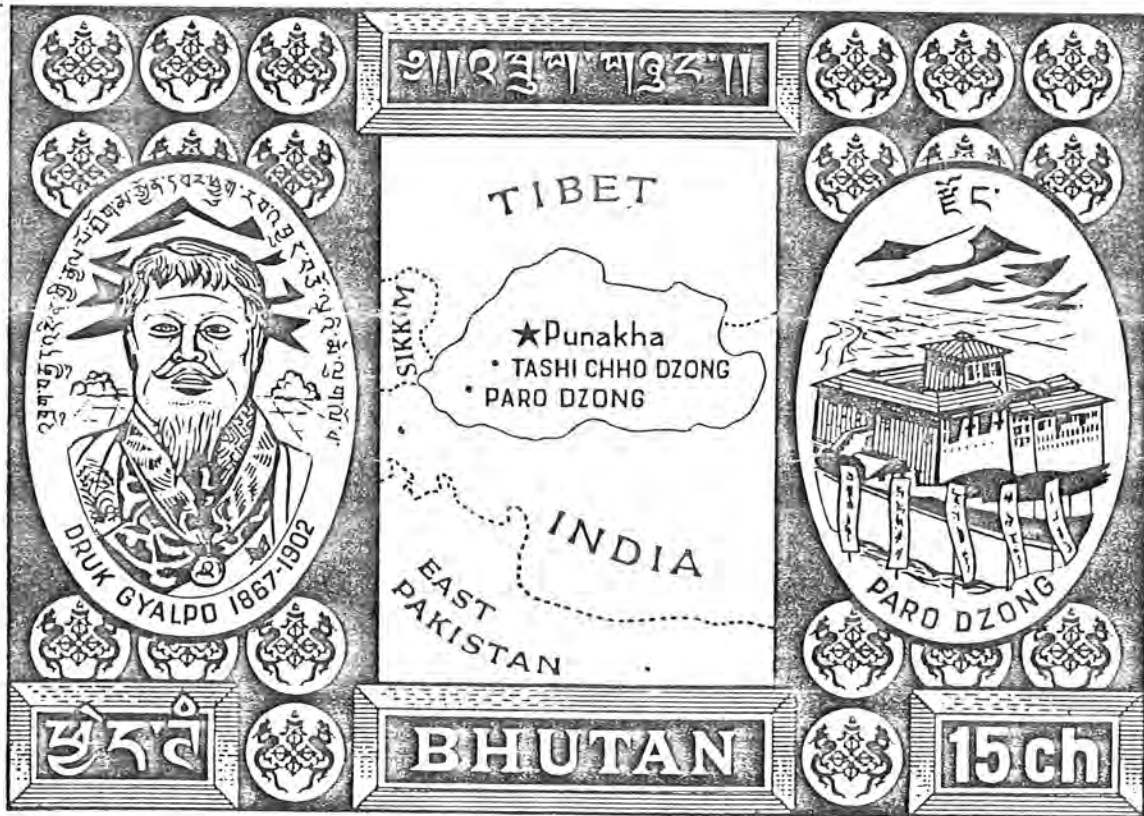


# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE





POSTAL HIMAL is a 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.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: An exciting addition to Nildo Harper's Bhutan collection -- the final photoproof for the first 15ch stamp of Bhutan -- obtained from an Indian dealer at AMERIPEX '86 in Chicago. The original art work was obtained at the same time and is our featured SHOWCASE item on the last page of this issue. Note the differences in these two items. In the final photo proof, the features on the King's face were simplified, the map of Bhutan was reduced to show more of the neighboring countries, and the issued colors are more a fire-truck red & yellow than ruby & gold.

Dear Friends,

We are happy to report that Frank Vignola had his operation on the other eye in September - apparently as successful as the first one - and he is pleased to trade those old, thick lenses for some new, thin ones. While we have had no recent report, we consider that "no news is good news" and trust that Frank's eye problems are mostly behind him now.

On a more somber note, we must report that Jack Young was seriously injured in an auto accident in late October. We do not know all the details, but assume that he was alone in his car at the time. His wife, Helen, reports that Jack is improving and has been moved from the hospital to the Cathcart Home for rehabilitation. He suffered some very serious head injuries and this has been a very difficult time for both of them. Jack is able to read and would enjoy hearing from his many friends in our Study Circle. We hope to give our readers an optimistic report on Jack's recovery in our next issue.

This issue emphasizes the philately of Bhutan and we trust that there are other members, or prospective members, out there who will regard this issue as a serious effort to include them in our Study Circle. Nildo Harper is already asking how we will change our logo to include Bhutan. So, we invite suggestions from our readers concerning this matter.

With the year 1986 drawing to a close, your editor wishes to thank each of you who has contributed articles and information for POSTAL HIMAL - and for your letters & cards of encouragement. We want to make our publication what you, our members, want it to be. - Please note Al Zulueta's AMERIPEX DIARY on pp. 43-45 in this issue. The article was printed with the aid of a computer, giving constant line lengths and a somewhat different type face. The latter can be changed, of course, and your editor is seriously thinking of using a computer system for the production of future issues. Your comments, criticisms & suggestions are earnestly sought.

We apologize to Frank Westbrook and to our readers for the decision by your editor to postpone until next issue the discussion of the ½-anna stamp - the

next section of "Building a Nepal Collection." We will try to rectify that omission in our next issue.

With all best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and for a Prosperous New Year in 1987. Lester A. Michel

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WANTED

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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.

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BHUTAN WANTED: Any specialty material - modern commercial covers, postal-fiscal covers, pre-stamp material, proofs, essays, original drawings, etc. No mint stamps, please. Write with offer; all letters will be answered. Nildo Harper, 560 Main Street, Apt. D701, Roosevelt Island, New York, NY 10044, U.S.A.

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(See POSTAL HIMAL No. 45, p. 1, for details on the cost of 'Classified Ads.': \$1.00 per line for a single insertion, or \$3.50 per line for 4 consecutive insertions.--Ed.)

USA REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE  
NEPAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Lester A. Michel, Editor of POSTAL HIMAL, has been appointed as the Representative for the USA - a post which has been vacant since the resignation of Mr. Frank Vignola. New, and renewing, members can now remit dues through Michel, thus avoiding the expense of sending directly to Nepal via registered mail. - Dues are now \$5.00 for 1 year, or \$12.00 for 3 years. A Life Membership is also available. - Questions, letters to the editor and articles for publication in the NPS journal (PHILATELY) may also be forwarded through the new USA Representative.

## EXHIBITION NEWS

### A REPORT ON STOCKHOLMIA '86

--Wolfgang Hellrigl

The World Philatelic Exhibition, STOCKHOLMIA '86, held in the Swedish capital from 28 August to 7 September 1986, was a very fine & well-organized show. The Asian section - in the competition as well as championship class - was very strong, featuring exceptional collections of Mongolia, China, Korea, Afghanistan, Thailand, Ceylon, Bhopal, Portuguese India and Indian Postal History.

I showed 7 frames of my classic Nepal collection in the competition class and was awarded a LARGE GOLD medal. Mr. P. Gupta showed 4 frames of his Nepal collection in the jury class.

The Hellrigl/Vignola handbook, "The Classic Stamps of Nepal", was once more very successful in the literature class, receiving its third international GOLD medal in a row (only 8 GOLD medals were awarded in this class which featured 205 entries!).

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### FRANK VIGNOLA HONORED

During AMERIPEX '86, the noted Indian philatelist, D. N. Jatia (Vice President of the F.I.P. and an international judge of repute) approached Frank Vignola and invited him to become a member of the Philatelic Congress of India. Because Frank feels that he should support the philatelists of India, since they are closely allied with Nepal philately, and since P. Gupta (a Life Member of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle) is President of the Philatelic Congress of India, & for a number of other reasons, Frank is especially honored to join as a Life Member. Not many foreigners are invited to join this elite group of philatelists and we thought that members of the Study Circle should share in this important event.--Ed.

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### LOST COLLECTIONS

Mr. P. Gupta, who lost two valuable collections while they were being trans-

### JOHN YOUNG'S NEPAL TAKES GOLD AT SEPAD

--Alan Warren

One of thirteen GOLD medals awarded at SEPAD '86, held at King of Prussia, PA, in September, went to John A. Young, Jr. for his exhibit, "Classic Stamps of Nepal: A Study of the Settings of the ½, 1, 2 & 4 Anna Stamps from 1917 to 1930." John's six frames began with the first issue of April 1881, showing imperforates, color shades, various settings, examples on cover, multiples, tete-beche and paper thickness varieties.

Also seen was the 2 anna error printed in the 1 anna blue color. A highlight of the exhibit was the only known complete sheet of the 1 anna, Setting 12, with cliché #64 inverted. The sheet was unofficially pin-perforated. John also showed some sheets from the 1901-07 printings which had been recovered from the WW II "blitz", with evidence of fire damage in the margins. At the jury critique, the judges were hard pressed as to how John could improve this fine exhibit.

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ported to AMERIPEX '86, reports that the other collections also being shipped in the missing trunk were:

- 1) Indian Classics - owned by Mr. Kohari (Championship Class collection),
- 2) Sourth - owned by Mr. Medhora, and
- 3) Jaipur - owned by Mr. Dangi (Junior Collection).

We regret the fact that no clues as to the whereabouts of these collections have been obtained by the authorities. All collectors of Asian material should 'keep their eyes open' for items which might come from these collections.--Ed.

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Your editor entered the four issues of POSTAL HIMAL for 1985 (Nos. 41-44) in STAMPSHOW '86, held in Washington, D.C. on 21-24 August. We are pleased to report that our publication received a SILVER medal in the competition, which saw only 3 GOLD medals awarded and 14 VERMEIL medals given. We can be proud of our success with our modest journal and hope that good publicity will come from these efforts to let the philatelic public know of our existence.--Ed.



UNOFFICIAL STUDY CIRCLE MEETING  
IN BRIXEN (ITALY)

--D. van der Wateren

Four members of the Study Circle were together during the period of 12-14 September, in Brixen, Italy. Wolfgang Hellrigl (just returned from the stamp exhibition in Stockholm) and Erhard Mailander met with Peter Planken and myself.

On Friday they dined together in the hotel where Dick & his wife and Peter were staying for a week, and they had a good talk about Nepal and philately.

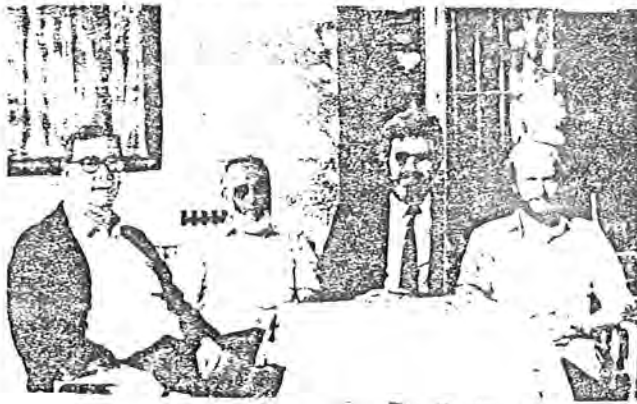
On Saturday afternoon, Wolfgang showed his Nepal exhibition collection and we all enjoyed the opportunity to see such a beautiful collection. After that, Peter showed three 1881 stamps, mint & imperforate, with full, white gum. Wolfgang congratulated Peter on his unusual find. This is the second complete set of three known with full, white gum. Wolfgang also congratulated Dick with his find of a very nice mint block of 12 from Setting 21 of the 1-anna, second state, which was unpriced in the H/V catalogue (No. 35 b/c).

On Sunday we saw the good collection of Nepal which Erhard has built and of which he can be truly proud.

We (Peter and Dick) wish to thank Wolfgang and Erhard for all we learned during the more than ten hours we were together -- and for the package of 112 photocopies of the pages in Wolfgang's exhibition collection. We hope to meet again and, if it is possible for you to come to Holland, you are all welcome to join us to share in our informal philatelic meetings.

(Dick sent us this report just before leaving on a trip to Nepal, where he planned to stay for a week with his friend, Punnya Sthapit -- also a member of our Study Circle. During that week Dick hoped to attend an auction held by the Nepal Philatelic Society and an opportunity to meet several other members of the NPS. After that week, Dick was to take a walking trip from Tansen to Butwal with five of his countrymen before returning to Holland. We have received an attractive view card from Dick which was postmarked in Kathmandu in late October and we look forward to receiving a report on that interesting walking trip.--Ed.)

Picture caption: Peter Planken, Dick van der Wateren, Wolfgang Hellrigl and Erhard Mailander relaxing in front of the hotel in Brixen, Italy.



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O'SULLIVAN TIBET COVER - A RESPONSE

--Armand E. Singer

Mr. O'Sullivan was the postmaster or the like, as I recall, and sent lots of "philatelic items" to his wife. (I have one of the 1/2-anna yellow, rather than orange, stamps affixed.) Ricketts, Radgowski & I did an article on Tibet postal rates (Weekly Philatelic Gossip, April 29, 1961 - reprinted in THE GREAT WALL). We never got enough Chinese occupation of Tibet covers to be positive, but suggested 3 cents Chinese, later 1 or 2 annas (surcharged), internal, non-registered and 26 cents, Chinese, to India, registered, including Acknowledgement of Receipt. As for surcharged, the later ones varied so much by extra weight & value, possibly, we just couldn't say. Some day, I'd like to redo & update that article. I have seen more covers since. Maybe we could settle the questions. 4 annas to India (including A.R.) probably normal for registration at the border. I always assumed senders or receivers left money at border for affixing stamps. Most of the covers I've seen are by few hands or commercial firms. They would have a representative or friend in the P.O. for the few letters that crossed, I'd suppose, but am not sure. Of course, China was a member of the U.P.U., so no extra stamps were needed for a regular letter, but for registered mail, yes. Apparently, Chinese registration held only to the border.



## NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

(Bishnu Lal Shrestha, Secretary for The Nepal Philatelic Society and member of our Study Circle, has sent us a copy of the most recent issue of the official journal of the NPS -- PHILATELY. Although it is a "Half-Yearly Journal", only one combined volume has been issued in each of the last 3 or 4 years. This issue is Vol. 13, Jan/July 1986, No. 1 & 2.--Ed.)

This 30-page issue is modest in size, but is packed with a large amount of information. The Table of Contents lists the following major topics:

1. The Centenary of Our Post-Card by J. B. Manandhar (pp. 1-10) - of interest to anyone who collects & studies the postal stationery of Nepal.
2. Exhibition News (ITALIA-85) (p. 11) - a brief report on this important event including the mention of awards won by Hardyal Singh Gupta & Dr. W. C. Hellrigl for their Nepal exhibits.
3. New Issues and Special Post Offices (pp. 12-17) - with technical details & other information of value to those who collect these items.
4. Development of Postal System Under Chandra Shumshere, the 5th Rana Prime Minister of Nepal by N. G. Rajkarnikar (pp. 18-20) - useful to all students of Nepal postal history.
5. 9th General Meeting News (p. 22) - A brief summary of the subjects discussed and names of various officers elected at a meeting held on 3 August 1986.
6. Biography: Mr. P. R. Bajracharya (pp. 24-25) - A feature of each issue -- in this instance of an important philatelist who is also a free-lance writer, artist & designer in Nepal.

7. New Member's List (pp. 26-27, 30) - including the names & addresses of 21 persons - 16 domestic and 5 abroad.

The remainder of this issue includes Letters to the Editor, advertisements, etc. - Three Overseas Representatives are listed: Mr. Hans Wittmann, West Germany; Mr. Colin Hepper, England and Prof. Dr. Lester A. Michel, USA.

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### ANOTHER RECENT FORGERY

--Lester A. Michel

Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl initiated a new series on forgeries -- a series titled "Focus on Forgeries -- which first appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 35, for the Third Quarter of 1983. In "Focus on Forgeries - Part II", which appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 39, for the Third Quarter of 1984 (pp. 31-32), Dr. Hellrigl reported and illustrated a forged SAWARI CAMP P.O. (KHASRA) cancellation.

My eye was caught by the description of Lot No. 319 in Study Circle Auction No. 37, which closed on 19 July 1986, so I bid on and got the lot. The description reads: "1917 India cover to Nepal with a Swari Camp receiving pmk." Upon receipt of the lot and examining it I was convinced that the cover was genuine, but that the receiving postmark was a forgery. So I sent the cover to Dr. Hellrigl for examination. He commented on the cover and agreed with my diagnosis. Upon consultation with Colin Hepper, a compromise was reached on the price and the cover has been added to my forgery collection.

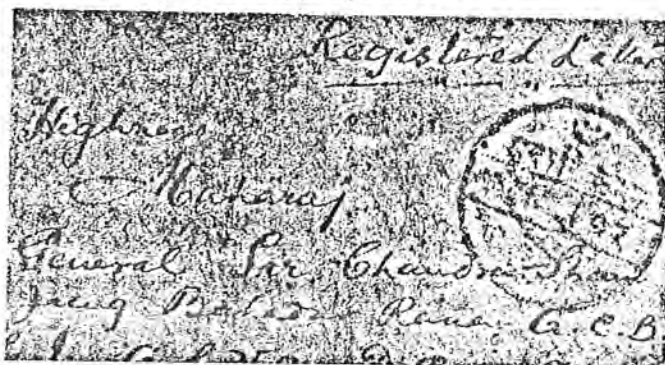
All of us must realize that it is not possible for our hardworking Secretary to check on the bona fides of every item sent to him for inclusion in our auctions. We depend on all vendors to be careful to describe lots as accurately & completely as possible. But, we must add that even knowledgeable collectors & vendors are not always aware of the existence of forgeries among their holdings. In this instance, I was suspicious of the item from the beginning and, perhaps, should have pointed out my suspicions to Mr. Hepper before bidding on it. As Dr. Hellrigl pointed out to me, the statement on p. 34 of "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Wolfgang Hellrigl & Colin Hepper, published by the Study Circle in 1978,

(concluded on page 41)

Michel, ANOTHER RECENT F....(concluded)-

clearly states: "The ROYAL CAMP postmark (Fig. 9) was in use for 10 days only, during King George V's visit to Nepal, in December, 1911." Clearly, then, a 1917 India cover to Nepal with such a mark used as a receiving cancellation must be suspect. And, being aware of that statement when I bid on the item, I felt honor bound to accept and pay for it.

All of which simply suggests that each of us should help dealers & vendors by calling their attention to forged items in their offerings - to help them protect their own good names and to keep our hobby as free as possible from being victimized by the unscrupulous.



#### NEW PUBLICATIONS:

DER AUSBAU DES POSTWESENS IN BHUTAN  
--Peter Haubner

(This unpublished summary on Bhutan postal history is based on the study of the author's personal collection.--Ed.)

The title, in English, reads: The Development of the Postal System in Bhutan

After a brief introduction, the author gives a list of 92 post offices which have been opened since 1961, listed in chronological order with specific dates. This list is followed by examples of some 15 early postmarks. Examples of various types of postmarks follow, as well as other items, such as registration labels, etc.

Although the article is written in German, anyone reasonably familiar with Bhutan philately will find it useful and well worth the time spent with a German-English dictionary. Herr Haubner would be pleased to correspond with anyone interested in Bhutan philately. His address is: Zobelsreutherstrasse 27, D 8670 Hof/Saale, WEST GERMANY.

SPEZIAL-KATALOG DER GANZSACHEN NEPALS  
1887-1985 (2. Teil)

--Prof. Dr. Axel Werner

(See our review of Part 1 of this publication concerning the postal stationery of Nepal in POSTAL HIMAL No. 47, Third Quarter 1986, p. 29.--Ed.)

Part 2 is a brief (one page) section devoted to a few corrections for entries in Part 1, dealing with postal cards with H & G Nos. 5 & 6 (or Nos. 2a & 2ad, as Werner numbers them).

Part 3 (3. Teil) immediately follows Part 2 and brings this study of postal cards up-to-date, as it discusses those items issued from 1925 through 1985, with many full-size illustrations in 14 pages of the INDIEN REPORT Nr. 47, for June 1986.

In Nr. 48, for August 1986, we find the 4-page supplement (Part 4) which consists largely of additional information on the postal cards, as provided by Mr. Frank Vignola. This section ends with a complete table of the postal cards, listing both Higgins & Gage and Werner numbers, along with Werner's valuations in DM & H & G valuations from the "1980 price supplement", converted to DM.

Part 5 is devoted to postal stationery, beginning in 1933 with the 4p green and 8p red envelopes, and continuing onward through 1980 when a 30p envelope was issued. Valuations are given for all items listed and full-size illustrations are included where appropriate. The section ends with a 7-item bibliography.

We should mention that Prof. Dr. Werner has inserted advertisements of Nepal material offered for sale in each of the three issues of the INDIEN REPORT he has sent to us. Also, note his advertisement in POSTAL HIMAL No. 47, p. 26. (We wish to thank Prof. Dr. Werner for sending us the three consecutive numbers of the INDIEN REPORT containing the material on which we have reported and we look forward to additional parts which will, we presume, deal with aerogrammes, registry envelopes, etc.--Ed.)



## BRITISH-INDIAN CANCELLATIONS OF NEPAL

Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl is trying to record the exact periods of use of the early British-Indian cancellations (obliterators) of Nepal.

So far, no cancellations have been recorded for the following years: 1864, 1869, 1870, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887 and 1888.

Anyone who has a cover bearing British-Indian stamps cancelled in Nepal during one of the above-mentioned years, is kindly asked to supply full details (exact date, description of cancellation and other markings, etc.) or a photocopy of both sides of the cover.

Registered covers: So far, only two registered covers of "British-India used in Nepal" have been found with dates prior to 1883. Anyone who has a pre-1883 registered cover that departed from the British-Indian P.O. of Nepal, is kindly asked to contact Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, P.O.Box 349, I-39100 Bozen, ITALY.

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## TIBET - THE 'OFFICIAL' AND RADIO TELEGRAPH STAMPS

--Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

Those who collect & study the stamps & postal history of Tibet will be familiar with the 'Officials' and, probably, with the 'Radio Telegraph' stamps as well. Dr. Hellrigl has produced an unusual article on the subject -- an article which was published in The CHINA CLIPPER, Vol. 30, Number 6, for September 1986 (a Special 50th Anniversary Issue), pp. 176-195. It makes fascinating reading since the author asked leading Tibet experts, both collectors & dealers, to answer the following questions:

1) What is your opinion on the status of the so-called 'Official' and 'Radio Telegraph' stamps of Tibet?

2) Should either of these issues be catalogued?

Thirteen people, besides Dr. Hellrigl himself (making 14 statements in all), responded to this invitation and these responses are printed in full in this unusual article.

The range of opinions, here expressed after some 35 years has elapsed since these items first became known to philatelists, is extreme, to say the least, and the reader is left to form his own opinion on these two questions.

As an interested by-stander whose knowledge of Tibet philately is rudimentary, your editor can only say that, as in politics, religion and other areas of human thought and activity, we all believe what we want to believe. What one may accept as proven fact may be disputed by another. Opinions and value judgments are rarely, if ever, completely shared by any two people. Personally, I found the various statements to be illuminating and educational, leaving me with a more open mind on these questions than I had had before. I can only say that I now hope that additional information, including discoveries that I can accept as "facts," will eventually forthcoming. In the meantime, we must make our decisions as best we can, knowing that the information available is incomplete. -- The article ends with 7 pages of illustrations of these items -- the most complete that I have seen in one place.

Finally, we express our thanks to Dr. Hellrigl for a copy of this article and to Mr. F.C.J. De Ridder for sending us a copy of this special issue of The CHINA CLIPPER.--Ed.

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## MORE ROYAL CAMP (SAWARI) CANCELLATIONS

--David R. Innes

In a letter dated 11 April 1986, I was offered the following and I purchased a set of the 1906 Pashupati stamps in pairs, neatly cancelled with the Royal Camp (Sawari) handstamp. The cancellations seem genuine, but the stamps have undisturbed gum on the back. Shortly after I made this purchase, Stanley Gibbons sent me a photocopy of the classic 1 Annas stamps, also in pairs, with cancellations on the same date. Have others been offered similar items recently?

(Your editor wrote to Mr. Todd, of Stanley Gibbons, concerning the pairs of 1-annas stamps mentioned above and received the following reply: "By the time your letter arrived the 'Royal Camp' postmarks had both been sold, but I am sure these were, in fact, genuine, as they had formerly been on a page with both Dawson & Smythies' handwriting telling me what they were!"

This statement allayed my fears, but caused me to wonder if a philatelist was in the retinue accompanying King George V on that occasion. Could it have been 'W. Krauller' whose name appears on a few early postal cards of Nepal?--Ed.)



AMERIPEX '86 DIARY

by  
Al Zulueta

Ten years ago, I missed INTERPHIL. I made up my mind then that I wouldn't miss the next International held here in the United States.

Late In November 1985, I began to make hotel arrangements and tend to the other details of travel. Then, a complication. A local print company needed a Technical Writer and Editor with some knowledge of chemistry. They made an offer I found difficult to refuse.

Now, what!? I'll need time off... I won't have vacation time until a year passes. Hmm... I know what: I'll ask for a leave of absence. Lo and behold, they gave it to me. AMERIPEX here I come!

First Day: May 22, 1986

At a quarter to ten, the traffic near the exposition center was already backed up a couple of blocks. Uniformed officers stationed themselves every half block, directing cars and buses into the parking lots.

As the hotel shuttle bus approached the hall's main entrance, I could see a large crowd lined-up outside waiting for the doors to open. Our bus bounced along the final few feet then stopped right next to the crowd. Waiting for my turn to get off, I looked around the bus. Many had that look of eager expectation. They must have felt like I did: It really looked like the start of something big!

My first day was a work day. A year before, I volunteered to work for a postal history dealer that had a booth at the show. After getting my dealer ID badge (color picture and all), I showed up at the booth ready to go.

Activity was hectic. Most of the time, people were two- or three-deep at the counter. But, at the end of the day, none of us complained. After all, we had sold enough to just about make expenses for the entire show.

That evening was the first of several informal get-togethers of Nepal and Tibet collectors at the show. Frank and Mae Vignola, Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, Fred deRidder, Leo Martyn and I went out to dinner. The day's excitement was still there that evening as the subject of conversation quickly turned to "show 'n' tell."

To everyone's surprise, our waiter unintentionally tried to dampen our philatelically-inspired enthusiasm, but Leo's good-natured sense of humor carried us through the evening.

Next Day: May 23, 1986

Leo Martyn, Dr. Hellrigl and I met that morning. The day before, they had already made their first pass through the dealers. So, they had a pretty good idea of who had what. Judging from what they talked about and showed me earlier, good material was out there.

"Are you interested in full sheets?" Leo asked as we walked over to one dealer's booth. "His prices are a little high," whispered Leo.

Leaning slightly forward and striking the characteristic pose of a collector about to ask a question: "Do you have any Nepal?" I inquired.

"Yes," he said, pausing and tapping his chin with his finger. "But, I have to find the envelope they're in."

In a few moments, a manila envelope was placed on the counter: Setting 23, unused with trial perforations... Setting 19 with neat, clear strikes of the scarce Telephone Sub-Office Type I cancellations ... numerous blocks and part sheets in shades, and so on.

This scene and its variations were repeated many times during the show as all of us went from dealer to dealer searching for those elusive little stamps for our collections.

(continued on page 44)

There's More to Life than Stamps:  
Monday, May 25 and Tuesday, May 27

If you ever get a chance to go to Chicago, don't miss the Field's Museum of Natural History. Aside from the large collection of stuffed animals, there's an interesting exhibit of Tibetan artifacts on the second floor. (I don't know, however, if the exhibit is permanent.) In a small room next to the exhibit is a video short about Tibet. Included in the program are several bits of old historical footage. I enjoyed this part of the exhibit the most.

On Tuesday, I followed the advice of my friends back in San Francisco: "You've got to go to a Cubs game at Wrigley," they all said. With tickets in hand, one train ride and one bus ride later, we were at Wrigley.

The Cubs home field is an old, traditional baseball stadium, one of only a few left in the United States. It's located in an established suburban part of Chicago.

During the game, some of the brown-stone brick row houses that border the stadium serve as free viewing stands for whoever lives in them. Quite a sight to see fans all set up on the roofs, a beer in one hand and binoculars in the other!

The Weekend: May 24 and May 25

Exhibits...that was my personal weekend theme. With over 3000 frames on display, I had to have a clear plan of attack. I decided, of course, to look at all of the Nepal (Jack Young and Frank Vignola) and Tibet (Fred deRidder). Then, I would look at the Court of Honor exhibits for Horst Dietrich's Afghanistan. If I had time, I would finally look at anything else that interested me.

For exhibits, AMERIPEX was overwhelming. Lights could have been better, but overall the "once-in-a-lifetime" chance to see great philatelic classics rates an "A"!

Today it was the Cincinnati Reds versus the Chicago Cubs. Unfortunately, Chicago lost. Final score seven to two.

My Last Day: Thursday, May 29

Chicago, however, didn't lose at AMERIPEX. The show was everything I expected. And some. Stamp shows are business and social gatherings. Fortunately, AMERIPEX had a big social component to it.

Our Study Circle was well represented: Frank Vignola, Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, Dr. Armand Singer, Leo Martyn, Geoffrey Flack, Fred deRidder, Jack Young and others I'm sure. I was especially glad that I finally met Dr. Hellrigl. We've corresponded since pre-Study Circle days, but this was our first "face-to-face" meeting.

I can't speak for the others, but I didn't want to leave. I just wish all shows were like AMERIPEX!!

Prologue

After nearly two days on a train through Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, I arrived in Toston, Montana ready to begin two weeks of a "working" Western vacation. Cattle had to be moved to summer pasture, calves branded, winter and spring wheat fields irrigated. This is where I got to live out part of the all-American fantasy of being a cowboy.

At days end, tucked into my "bunk" and just before turning out the lights, I'd reach for my little Showgard display book to look at what I bought at AMERIPEX. Each stamp now contained a memory...a memory of a truly great stamp show. Sweet dreams!

(concluded with a series of pictures on page 45. -- Your comments, pro and con, are requested, concerning the type face and format of this computer-assisted print-out. Our thanks to Al Zulueta for material and pictures.--Ed.)

1) Looking down "Mainstreet AMERIPEX"



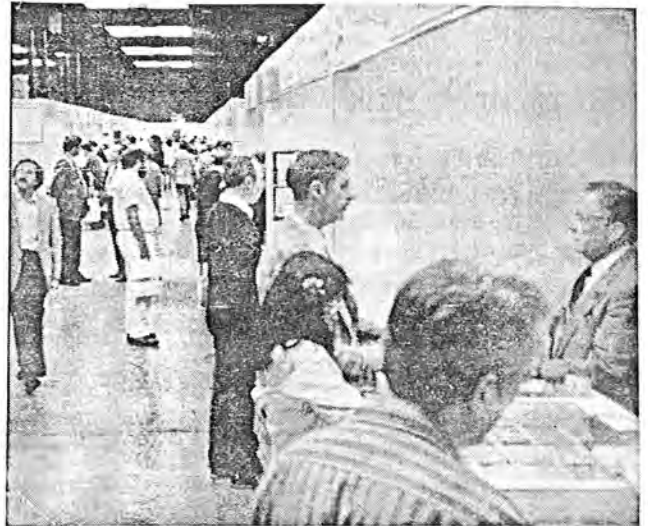
4) Frank Vignola studying an item in Jack Young's Nepal exhibit



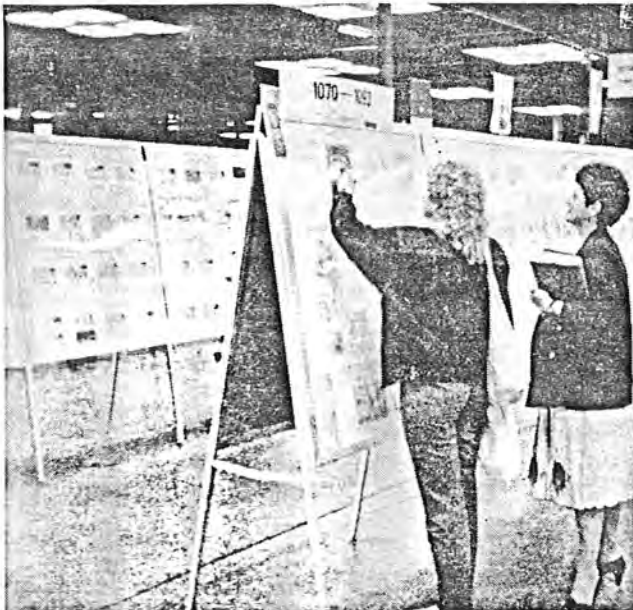
2) Frank Vignola & Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl at Frank Vignola's exhibit



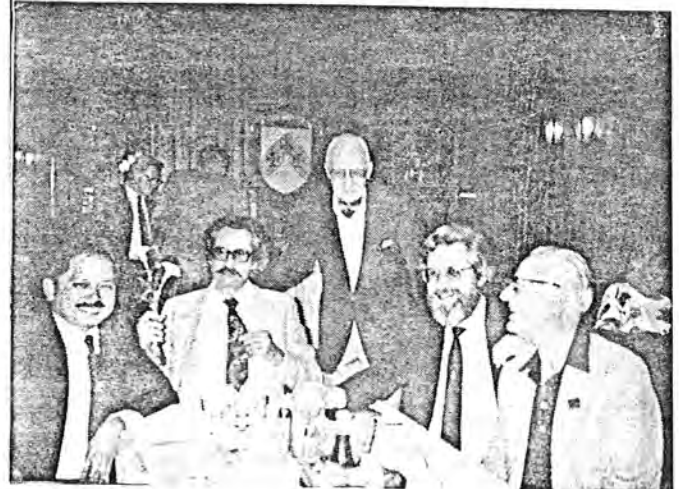
5) The dealer booths on one of the less hectic days



3) A couple of keen collectors examine an interesting piece of postal history



6) Study Circle dinner: (L to R) Al Zulueta, Leo Martyn, Fred De Ridder, Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, Frank Vignola





## INTRODUCING SOME CLASSIC POSTMARKS

--J. B. Manandhar

(Reprinted from 'HULAK', Vol. 22, Whole No. 107, 28 December 1984, by permission of the author, who is chief editor of 'HULAK', which was started in 1963, as the house journal of the Postal Training Centre (HMG/N), Kathmandu, Nepal.--Ed.)

My interest in postal history has helped me to develop thoroughness, to some extent, in dealing with philatelic research. With that thoroughness and clarity I have been disseminating information gained by me. My approach to the subject and my discussion in a free & frank atmosphere have made my way clear into some private collections of Nepal also. As I have discovered a few covers with unrecorded postmarks and some with postal markings of earlier dates not listed before, I expressed my interest in publishing them to contribute to the knowledge of Nepalese postal history. Nepalese philatelists came forward to loan their valuables to me also. Impressed with their generous attitudes I am here to appreciate them by way of giving due courtesy, which appears elsewhere in this article.

Taking into consideration the groups of covers under study, only preliminary briefings of the postmarks in the following two main divisions are set down here. They are meant just to make the postmarks known rather than to present them with broader coverage, as was done in my articles on specific post offices. Moreover, attempts are being made to enliven discussions with the help of illustrations given below:

### 1. UNRECORDED POSTAL SEALS (SMALL NAME STAMPS OF POST OFFICES):

#### (a) Ridi Post Office (Fig. 1 - ex T.B. Dhakhwa collection)

Among the inscriptions of the circular seal - Shri Ri/di Hulak A/dda 37 - the words 'hulak' and 'adda' mean 'post' & 'office' respectively and the year figures correspond to 1880/1881 A.D. The auspicious word 'Shri' and the first letter of the name of the post office ('Ri') are flanked by the crescent and sun in the first line.

It is worth noting that, at one time, Ridi post office served as the sorting office for Palpa, Butwal and other post offices lying in the terai of the present Lumbini Zone.

#### (b) Pyuthana Post Office (Fig. 2 - ex T. B. Dhakhwa collection)

I have seen two stampless official covers bearing this post office oval seal on the back, with the year undecipherable. But in the T. B. Dhakhwa collection, I came across a 'service des postes' cover dated 1955-1-30, with a letter inside. It has the seal having the faint strike of the year. The seal has 'Shri' on the top with the moon & sun in the usual positions. Other remaining inscriptions read only 'Pyuthana adda' in the second line and, in the last line, the figures '38' denoting the year, which corresponds to 1881/1882 A.D.

#### (c) Dang Salyan Post Office (Fig. 3 - ex D. R. Karmacharya's collection)

This postal seal is on the back of a cover sent from Dang Bijauri to Kathmandu. It has the characters - 'Shri Sa/Hulak' only. The first two letters on the top are comparatively smaller in points and they are flanked by the crescent & sun. The abbreviated letter 'Sa' stands for Salyan. It is combined with the single-lined manuscript date stamp reading: 'Dang 40/10/17' (Feb. 1884 A.D.).

#### (d) Bhagwanpur Post Office (Fig. 4 - ex T. B. Dhakhwa collection)

The Devanagari characters of the circular seal read 'Shri/Bhagwanpur Hula/K Ghar 1949'. To honour the post office, the letter 'Shri' is on the top and, on its right and left hand sides there are placed the moon and sun. The Bikram year 1949 on the seal corresponds to 1892/93 A.D.

As the word 'ghar' means 'the house', the literal translation of 'hulak ghar' is 'the post house'. Nowadays the single word 'hulak' is taken to mean 'the post office'. But, in the earlier period of Nepalese postal history the words 'hulak' and 'hulak ghar' were generally meant to refer to 'the relay station' and 'the post office', respectively.

Bhagwanpur, a one-time famous administrative centre with many government offices, is now located by the road leading to the southern border from Lumbini -- the birth place of Lord Buddha. It is nearly 4 km away from the main entrance to the Lumbini garden. So it is not situated west of Taulihawa, as pointed out by Dr. W. C. Hellrigl on maps illustrated in his book: "A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks (1879-1935)".

Manandhar, INTRODUCING....(continued)--

(e) Doti Post Office (Fig. 5)

The round seal of Doti post office bears large characters: 'Shri Doti/Hulak/Ghar'. The crescent and sun are placed curiously at the corners lying between the first and second rows. Moreover, they look very, very faint. These undated seals are found used from the 1950's to the 1990's B.S.

(f) Kailali Post Office (Fig. 6)

Inside this rectangular seal with all corners cut away, there are inscriptions - 'Shri Kalaili/Hulak Ghar/1959'. The Bikram year, corresponding to 1902/1903 A.D., shown in the third line, is flanked by simple ornamental designs.

(g) Dailekh Post Office (Fig. 7 - ex T. B. Dhakhwa collection)

This seal of Dailekh post office is partially listed by Dr. W. C. Hellrigl. As he could not read figures indicating the year, he left the ending space blank. I agree that it is not easy to decipher figures and fill in the gap. After many microscopic studies of a cover, I came to the conclusion that the composition was comprised of four figures - 1942 - to make the year corresponding to 1985/1986 A.D.

## 2. POSTAL MARKINGS WITH EARLIER DATES:

(a) Thada Post Office (Fig. 8 - ex D. R. Karmacharya's collection)

A pre-stamp cover sent by Lt. Col. Lalit Jung Bahadur Rana to Kathmandu possesses a Thada postmark dated 36.2.19 (June 1879 A.D.). As it precedes one of the rarest date stamps, illustrated first in PHILATELY, Vol. 5, No. 1, and later in "A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks (1879-1935)", it can be assumed that the postmark under reference is the earliest of its kind known to us.

(b) Udiapur Post Office (Fig. 9 - ex D. R. Karmacharya's collection)

This post office is situated at the ghost place named Udiapurgarhi. When the 'garhi' was the headquarters of Udiapur district, at that time also it used to be considered an out-of-the-way place. So the post office there was not a busy one. Due to disappearance of its classic postmarks, time and again Udiapur has become a puzzling post office, even in relation to its mail connection. Whatever it may be, this manuscript postmark, dated 38.2.1 (May 1881 A.D.)

is to be taken as the earliest one.

(c) Jaleswar Post Office (Fig. 10)

The manuscript square postmark of Jaleswar belongs to the year 1891 A.D., but this postmark is nearly five months earlier than the one listed by Dr. W.C. Hellrigl in his catalogue of Nepalese postmarks (p. 40).

(d) Pyuthana Post Office (Fig. 11 -- ex D. R. Karmacharya's collection)

The Bikram date 46.5.19 (September 1889 A.D.) antedates other recorded hand-written postmarks of Pyuthana post office. This manuscript postmark is in combination with the unlisted grilled cancellation designed in a square format and so therein lies its importance.

(The drawings of illustration Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 10 are done in actual sizes by Artist K. Karmacharya - Writer)

Fig. 1 - Ridi      Fig. 2 - Pyuthana      Fig. 4 - Bhagwanpur



Fig. 3 - Dang Salyan

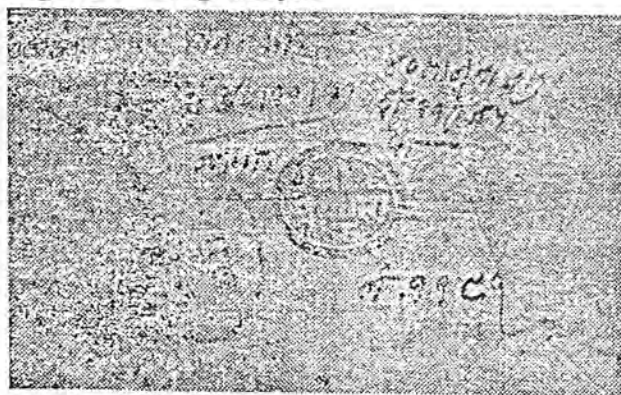


Fig. 11 - Pyuthana



(concluded on page 48)

Manandhar, INTRODUCING....(concluded)--

Fig. 5 - Doti



Fig. 6 - Kailali



Fig. 7 - Dailekh



Fig. 10 - Jaleswar

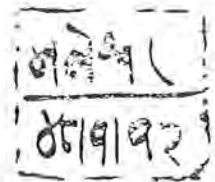


Fig. 8 - Thada

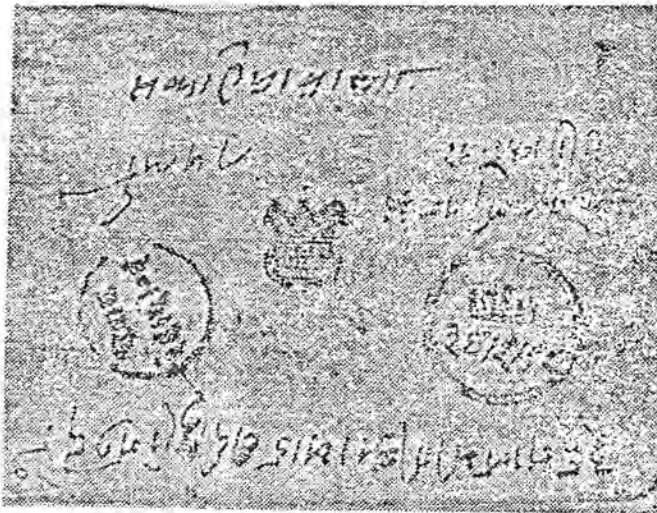
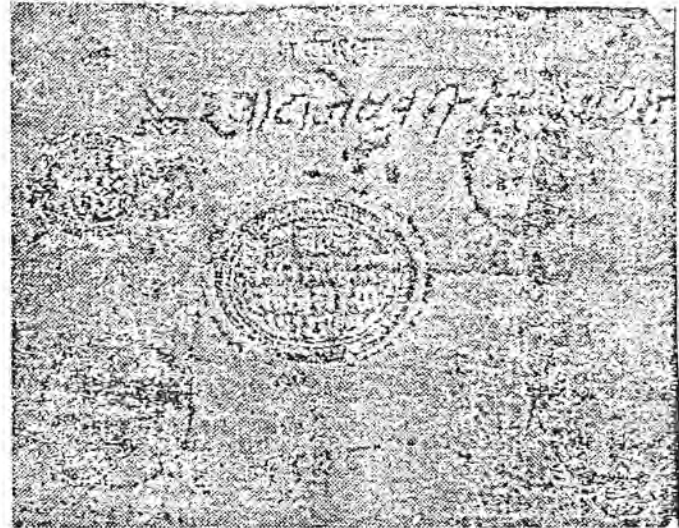


Fig. 9 - Udiapur



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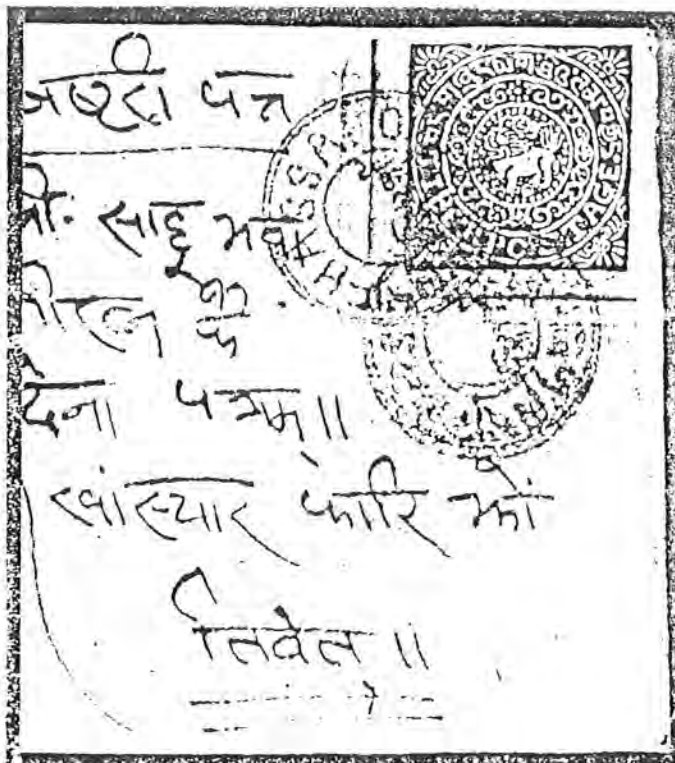
NEW FORGERIES OF THE TIBETAN HIGH VALUES  
--N. G. Rhodes and Derek Bates

Readers of POSTAL HIMAL may be interested to know that at least four examples of covers bearing the high value of the 1914 issue of Tibetan stamps have recently appeared in provincial UK auction houses. The indications that the covers are false are:

- 1) The cancellation, supposedly Waterfall Type V, has a double outer ring, not present on genuine cancellations of this type.
- 2) The stamps are all of the 8 Tangka denomination, even though they have been found in both red & blue colours, both shiny & dull ink.
- 3) The item illustrated here has two cancellations on the one stamp -- a feature that rarely, if ever, occurs on genuine covers. The other three covers we have seen only have a single, clear, cancellation.

Presumably the perpetrator of these forgeries will be trying to market his products, so be warned!

Lot 1026: (Front)



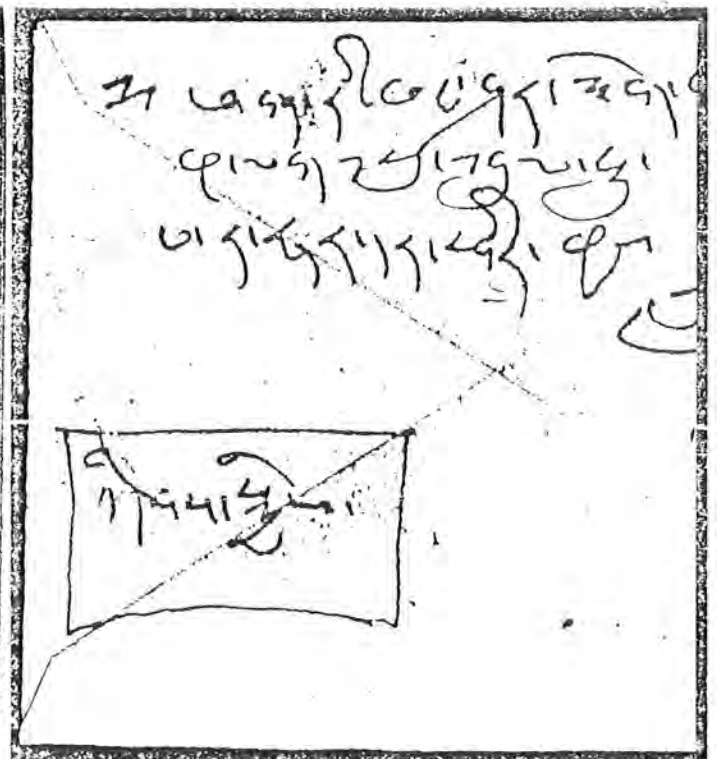
COMMENTS ON THE TIBETAN MAIL SYSTEM

(We thank N. G. Rhodes for this interesting item gleaned from "Two Journeys to Ta-tsien-lu on the Eastern Borders of Tibet", by A. E. Pratt, in the GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL, 1891, pp. 329-43. The passage describes a journey undertaken in 1889.--Ed.)

"The mail system is decidedly curious. Official despatches are carried from Lhasa to Peking by a mounted courier who rides day and night; he is tied onto his horse at starting, and at each station he is untied, lifted off, given a raw egg, and then mounted on another horse which is ready waiting for him. The two soldiers who accompany him are changed at every station. Many of these couriers die on the road."



Lot 1026: (Reverse)



BHUTAN - A BRIEF POSTAL HISTORY

--Nildo Harper

(continued from POSTAL HIMAL No. 47, p. 35, Third Quarter 1986)

In 1907, Bhutan's leading monks and warring district governors elected Ugyen Wangchuk (ruler of Tongsa Dzong) - because of his leadership abilities - as the first hereditary Druk Gyalpo, or King.

On 20 October 1967 (10 days after the inauguration of Bhutan's postal service), an agreement took effect between India and Bhutan in which India agreed, under the UPU Regulations, to recognize Bhutan's postage stamps as valid postage affixed on mail to India and to the rest of the world.

A second stamp was prepared for the malaria eradication program. Since it is not appropriate to picture Lord Buddha in conjunction with "killing", the stamp was not issued. Buddhists are opposed to all killing, maintaining that "all living things are sacred"; consequently, butchers in Bhutan are Moslems who performed the same services in Lhasa and other Tibetan cities before fleeing from Chinese rule.

33ch - prepared to publicize the malaria eradication program, but never issued:



A set issued on 4 April 1964 showed native dances. Monk dancers with frightening masks remind the faithful of the endless oppression of humankind by the forces of evil.

5ch and 1.30nu (Scott Nos. 3 & 7):



In 1965, 8 values were overprinted to meet the new postal rates.

A hastily overprinted set was prepared for use on 10 January 1967 to inaugurate a system of helipads connecting the country by helicopter to & from the Indian Air Force field at Hashimara. Special covers were carried on these flights to five different towns: Samdrup Jongkhar, Tashigang, Gaylephug, Wangchuklo Dzong & Samchi. All were properly backstamped at the receiving post offices.

Two types of overprints exist on each sheet of stamps: the helicopter above a straight-line "Air Mail" inscription & the helicopter above a curved "Air Mail" inscription.

Cover to England bearing a strip of 3 50ch stamps, showing both types of overprints. The Phuntsholing cancel includes the statement: "Second Five-Year Plan 1966-71"



(continued on page 51)

Harper, BHUTAN.....(continued)--

Phuntsholing, the main town for entry by land, is at the border with India. The Bank of Bhutan, the Royal Insurance Corporation and the General Post Office & Philatelic Bureau are located here.

Phuntsholing lies at Sinchula Pass where the British and Bhutanese met in 1865 to sign a treaty that ended the Bhutan wars and cost the kingdom vast tracts of land. This town was "created" when Bhutan requested assistance from India in 1961 to build a "National Highway". The first stretch from Phuntsholing to Thimpu (500 miles of road spanning 120 miles ('as the crow flies')) was opened in 1962, allowing travel by motor vehicle inside Bhutan for the first time in history. Today the National Highway extends more than 1600 kilometers (ca. 1,000 miles), criss-crossing the country.

The first definitive set of stamps was issued in 1966, meeting local mailing rates. There is no first "Five Year Plan" postmark on this 1966 cover because the post office was not organized at that time:

**GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**



To

*The Inspector of Schools,  
Sarkhang Circle,  
P.O. Sarkhang.*

Bhutan began to emit sets of stamps honoring worldwide events in 1967, when a set & a souvenir sheet honoring the Boy Scouts was issued on 27 March:

A set was issued in June 1967 honoring Sir Winston Churchill and the Battle of Britain.

And, a set was issued on 18 September of the same year, honoring the Girl Scouts. (None of these three sets is recognized by Scott, but the author's exhibit shows covers to the USA & England which bear only these Bhutan stamps.--Ed.)

A new stamp agency was established in the Bahamas in 1967 to handle collecting needs around the world. Note that the

agency had to wait to receive their supply of new issues and first day covers from Bhutan.

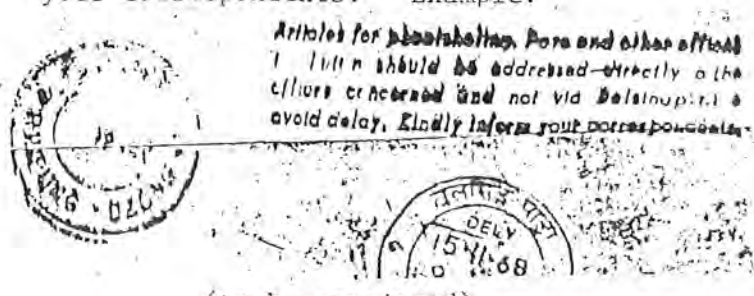
The philatelic world was shocked later that same year with the issuance of 3-dimensional stamps. These 3-D stamps were printed at Toppan Printers in Japan after exhaustive tests to perfect their depth and clarity.

The "father" of Bhutan's stamps is an American steel-millionaire businessman by the name of Burt Todd. He had met a princess of Bhutan while attending Oxford University and, at her invitation, travelled to that country in the 1950's.

After being turned down for a World Bank loan of \$10 million to help build hospitals, roads and an airfield in Bhutan, it was suggested to Mr. Todd that Bhutan issue postage stamps as a revenue producer (similar to Monaco & San Marino). Eager to assert its independence, Bhutan quickly agreed to begin a postal program.

With the growing pains of the new postal service, a problem developed: mail between towns in southeastern Bhutan & the western part of the country was being routed through India. It was much easier and faster to transport this mail along India's North Frontier Railway or the North Trunk Road to Phuntsholing and then back into Western Bhutan. (A similar 'problem' occurred in Nepal with mail between border towns, both East and West, and Kathmandu, in the late 1930s & early 1940s.--Ed.)

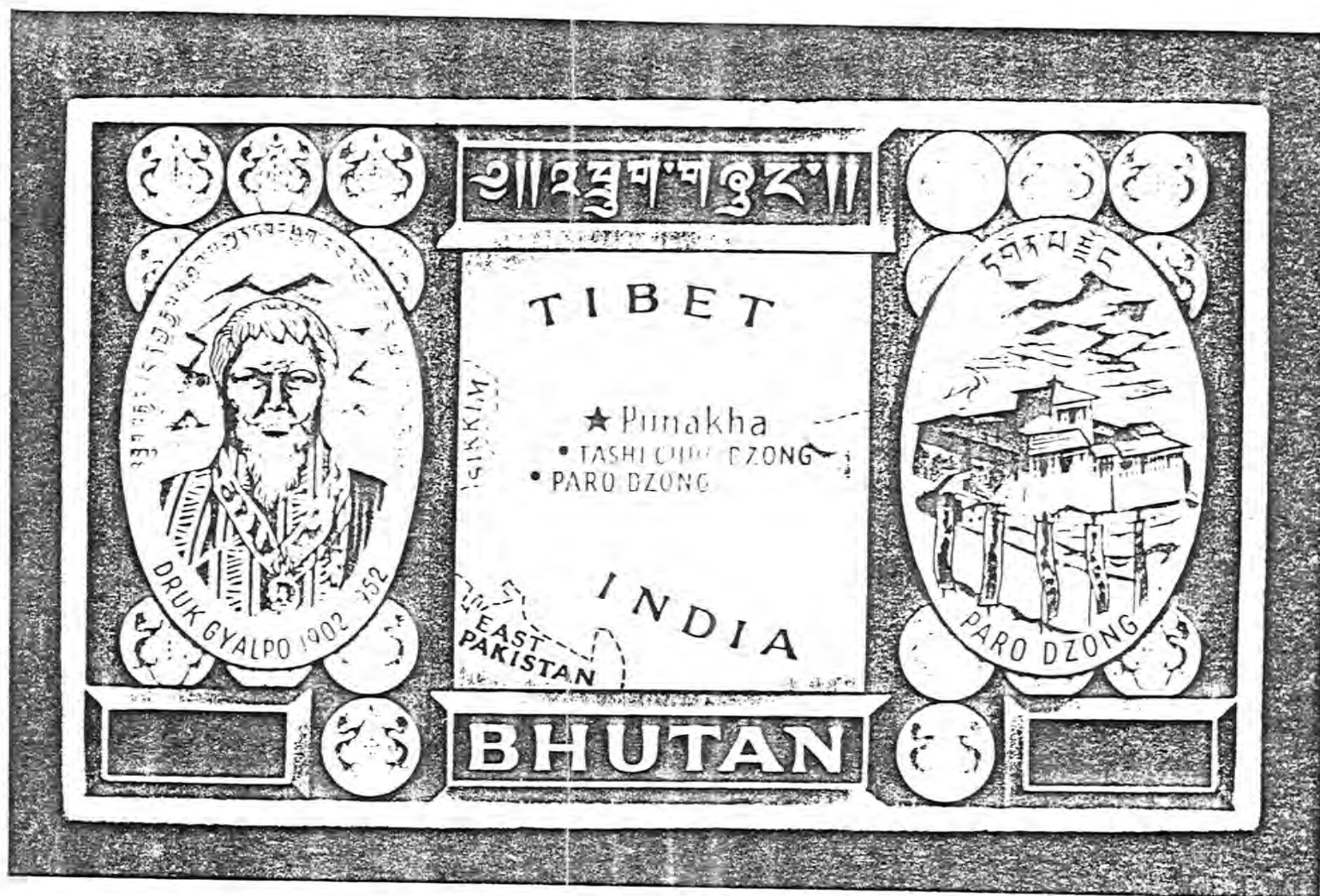
The new National Highway rapidly being extended throughout Bhutan caused the post office to begin a campaign to educate the public and to end local mail routing through another country. A handstamp was applied to many covers at this time which read: "Articles for Phuntsholing, Paro and other offices in Bhutan should be addressed directly to the offices concerned and not via Dalsingpara, to avoid delay. Kindly inform your correspondents." Example:



(to be continued)



SHOWCASE



The original artwork for the first 15ch stamp of Bhutan (Scott No. 4 - red, black & orange yellow), obtained by Nildo Harper from an Indian dealer at AMERIPEX '86. -- Compare this item with the cover illustration for this issue, which shows the final photo proof of the issued stamp. (The Scott Catalogue, 1987, Volume 2, p. 269, states: "Nos. 1-7 were issued for inland use in April, 1962, and became valid for international mail on Oct. 10, 1962.")