

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



No. 49

1st Quarter 1987



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##### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Nildo Harper, 510 Main Street, Apt. 1910, New York, NY 10044, USA

COVER ILLUSTRATION: A reproduction of PLATE 47 from a book by Rosemary Tung, titled "A Portrait of Lost Tibet," published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston (1980). This unusual book, liberally illustrated with black & white pictures, is a rare chronicle of the experiences of two young men (one a relative of then President Franklin D. Roosevelt) who were sent into Tibet to explore the possibility of sending arms & supplies by an overland route to the Chinese who were resisting the Japanese invasion. At that time, early in the USA involvement in World War II, the sea lanes to China were closed to the U.S. Navy. -- This cover picture is related to the following passage in the book (p. 87): "The way of life in Tibet was unique. It must have been an incredible, revealing moment when Tolstoy and Dolan heard a jingling of bells and turned to see a small wiry man trotting along the trail, carrying a spearheaded staff with bells on it (to let the people know he was coming); this was an official government mail carrier taking a written message to someone in the next town. There were many such mail carriers; in fact, each man was spelled by another after he had run about four and a half miles. There was even "special-delivery" mail -- important government documents -- that might be carried by relays of horsemen. The mail carrier's lance, with a spear point, served to keep off wild animals or bandits." (See article on page 4 of this issue.)

Dear Friends,

Please note that the last two pages of the previous issue (pp. 51, 52, comprising one sheet) of POSTAL HIMAL (No. 48) are included with this issue and should be attached to that issue. We apologize to Nildo Harper and our members for this inconvenience.

Richard M. Hanchett, one of our USA members, called your editor in January, just before we left home to spend a month in the state of Florida. Richard called to make a most generous offer to our Study Circle -- an offer which was confirmed in writing. Let me present his offer in his own words:

"I am very serious about the Study Circle securing a room at the various International shows. I think that, if we have a room, with a formal meeting & a program, we will be better able to attract new members. There are those of you who give their time to run the organization, and I am willing to give some money so that we can try to get some new members added to our membership. I am prepared to send a check for \$200.00 for a room at CAPEX '87 (to be held in Toronto, Canada in June) and for any other International show at which members will be exhibiting and at which officers or members will be in attendance. I think it is not too early to start making plans for the show in Delhi, India, in January of 1989. We should certainly get a large number of members attending that one!"

While it may be a bit late to arrange a meeting at CAPEX '87, Richard is certainly right in his observation concerning INDIA '89. Please write to your editor concerning your willingness to participate in the planning for a formal meeting of the Study Circle anywhere in the world. POSTAL HIMAL will keep our membership informed of developments to take advantage of this most generous offer that Richard has made to us. -- We have just learned that Frank Vignola and his wife, Mae, will both be exhibiting at CAPEX '87 and we would be glad to hear from others who may be planning to attend that important event. While your editor will be unable to attend, he will be glad to serve as a liason between the various persons who may be attending.

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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.

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, 510 Main Street, Apt. 1910, Roosevelt Island, New York, NY 10044, U.S.A.

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### FOR SALE

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ALL DIFFERENT NEPAL: 400 \$24, 500 \$95, 550 \$350, 600 \$999; BHUTAN: 500 \$60, 600 \$125, 700 \$225, 800 \$500, 900 \$999. Postage extra. Order per Regd. Airmail. Want lists solicited. SOHAN LAL DHAWAN & SONS, P.O. BOX 46, PATIALA-147 001 (INDIA)

(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.)

Our president, Dr. Pierre Couvreur, & your editor are pleased to announce the recipient of the President's Prize for 1986, for the best article appearing in POSTAL HIMAL during that year. That person is none other than Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, first president of the Study Circle, for his article titled "'Specimen' Overprints on Pashupati Issue",

(letter concluded on page 2)

## EXHIBITION NEWS

Regional meeting in

LONDON

4 June 1987

10.30am - 12.30pm  
at the British Philatelic Centre,  
107 Charterhouse St.

Member Dereck Bates  
will give a display  
of TIBET.

2.30 pm at the Royal  
Philatelic Society,  
to see a display of  
the Classic Issues  
of NEPAL, by Wolfgang  
Hellrigl.

Any overseas members  
wishing to attend,  
please contact Colin  
Hepper.

The following items have been gleaned from columns titled "The Winners' Circle" which appear in STAMP COLLECTOR, a weekly philatelic newspaper published in the USA:

6 December 1986 (p. 15): At SUNPEX '86, Nov. 8-9. Sunnyvale, California, sponsored by the Sunnyvale Stamp Society, Leo Martyn received a GOLD award for his exhibit titled "Nepal Postal Markings & Rates, 1879-1911."

13 December 1986 (p. 27): At SESCAL '86, Oct. 24-26, Los Angeles, California, sponsored by the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, Leo Martyn received a VERMEIL plus the Michael Rogers Award for his exhibit titled "Nepal: Postal Markings of the Classic Period." (In a recent letter to the editor, Frank Vignola commented as follows: "Leo Martyn showed, at SESCAL '86 and SUNPEX '86, his exhibit of postal rates & obliterations of the classic stamps of Nepal, plus related postal history items. The material was quite excellent, especially for a first exhibit of a difficult subject. He not only received the awards mentioned, but received a special award for the Best Asia exhibit (Michael Rogers Award) at SESCAL.") -- Our congratulations to Leo on his successes at these important shows.--Ed.

14 March 1987 (p. 39): At SARAPEX '87, Feb. 6-8, in Sarasota, Florida, sponsored by the Sarasota Philatelic Club, Alan Warren received a GOLD award for his exhibit titled "Tibet: Stamps, Covers and Cancellations." In a letter from Alan, still rather incredulous at his fine award, he makes the following observation: "At first I thought the people in Sarasota were just bowled over by seeing something strikingly unusual, but then I noticed that Bill Bauer, chairman of the APS judges accreditation committee, and Bud Hennig, who wrote the APS judging manual, were both on the jury, so my exhibit (Tibet) must have passed muster." -- Congratulations, Alan, for this well-deserved award at an important show. And, remember, dear readers, to send your editor information about exhibits of Himalayan material at shows anywhere in the world. We all like to read of your experiences.--Ed.

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Michel, LETTER TO MEMBERS (concluded)--

which appeared on page 17 of POSTAL HIMAL No. 46. His research & writing on a variety of aspects of both Nepal and Tibet philately are well-known and we wish to acknowledge his impeccable work, his outstanding writing ability and his continued interest in and support of our Study Circle and of POSTAL HIMAL.

Honorable Mention goes to Sri J. B. Manandhar for his article on "Melung Post Office" in POSTAL HIMAL No. 45.

Lester A. Michel



Padma Sambhava, also called Guru Rimpoche. See article on page 6, titled "BHUTAN - A CORRECTION OFFERED", by George Bourke.



# Fascinating Inner Asia

We are pleased to offer the following items from the most comprehensive stock of these countries in the world.

## EXOTIC Nepal

Home of Maharajas, Tiger Hunts, Gurkha Warriors, 1/2 of Mt. Everest!

# 1	\$250	---	# 16a	---	10 *
2	350	---	17	---	3 *
3	500	---	18	---	55
4	175	190	19	---	35
5	200	---	20	---	---
6	250	---	21	---	---
7	30	70	22	---	80
8	30	25	23	---	3
9	35	25	23a	---	10
10	20	1 *	24	---	15
10a	65	4 *	24.9	---	10
11	450	250 *	29A	---	5 *
12	50	75	29Ab	---	5 *
13	50	15	30.37	---	46
14	65	6 *	38.43	---	75
15	---	6 *	44.50	---	35
15a	---	15 *	44a	---	15
16	6	2 *	---	---	10

(#s 51-215 are NH, LH available for 30% less)

51-59	42	15	118.74	2	1
60-71	36	15	125	7	5
72-83	36	15	126.33	1	1
84-88	48	40	134	28	25
89-102.3	1	1	135-215	15	8
90-101	30	13	01.11	15	2
104-17	40	20	---	---	---

\* = telegraph cancel (as nearly always)

Many other telebeche pairs plus shades and varieties available. Please inquire.

## MYSTERIOUS Tibet

Perhaps the most enigmatic country in the world, home of the Abominable Snowman, the Dalai Lama, the other half of Mt. Everest!

# 1	\$12	\$15	# 18	---	4	5
2	15	20	18a	---	15	20
3	15	20	01	---	350	---
4	25	35	02	---	9	12
4a	85	110	03	---	9	12
5	35	50	04	---	30	---
6	50	60	05	---	60	---
7	300	350	---	---	---	---
8	95	120	---	---	---	---
9	25	35	---	---	---	---
10	25	35	---	---	---	---
11	35	50	2	---	3	4
12	30	60	3	---	3	4
13	35	70	4	---	4	5
14	4	5	5	---	6	7
14a	15	20	6	---	10	12
15	4	5	7	---	10	12
16	4	5	8	---	17	20
16a	10	12	9	---	40	45
17	5	6	10	---	---	---
17a	4	5	11	---	350	400

### Chinese Offices in Tibet

We have a good stock of the postal history of the Indian Offices, Chinese Offices, and Native Issues of Tibet.

## WILD Mongolia

Home of the Gobi Desert, Kubla Khan, Ghengis Khan and the Mongol Hordes!

# 1-7	\$85	\$75	# 32, 39-44	105	13
16	10	10	38	45	29
17	10	10	44a	60	25
18	12	12	45	30	30
19	15	15	46	40	40
20	18	18	47	50	50
21	175	175	48	30	10
22	300	400	49	30	9
23	550	---	50	30	9
16a	15	12	51	30	9
17a	15	12	52	40	13
18a	18	14	59	25	10
19a	22	16	60	35	14
20a	30	30	61	50	16
21a	250	125	62.74	15	15
22a	400	340	83	3	4

Proofs of #1-7 and other speciality items are in stock. Please let us know your requirements.

## UNKNOWN Tannu Tuva

A remote country, virtually unknown except for its brief period of issuing stamps. Currently closed to the western world due to nuclear testing.

# 1-10	\$28	\$35	# 35	90	---
11-14	60	80	36	90	---
15-28	48	50	37	150	250
29-34	48	75	38	900	---

### 1934-43 Pictorials & Locals

1934 "Registered" Perf. 8v	\$15	\$5	# 1935 Jubilee. 22v	90	20
1934 "Registered" imperf. 8v	15	5	1936 Zeppelins. 9v	40	10
1934 Airmails. 9v	15	5	1943 75k Locals. 2v	40	---
1935 Landscapes. 7v	10	5	1943 75k & 50k Locals. 2v	135	---
1935 Animals. 10v	15	5	---	---	---

A few postal history items and stamp varieties are available. Please ask for a selection.

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## MAIL RUNNERS ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

(An article in the English language newspaper, RISING NEPAL, for 31 July 1981. We thank Alan Warren for sending us a copy of this interesting article.--Ed.)

Tibet has a new, high-speed postal service -- just 20 days for a letter from China's capital, Beijing, to reach Ari, high in the north-western mountains.

High-speed? Compared with two decades back, when letters took six months to arrive in this mountain fastness from the outside world, it is positively super-sonic.

The history of Tibet's postal service has little to do with the development of automatic sorting machines or complicated zip codes. It is a dramatic tale of man against the elements that could have come straight out of a 19th-century novel.

Camel trains, treacherous mountain passes, blizzards and glaciers -- these are the ingredients of this modern-day adventure epic, set among the rugged mountain scenery of one of the most remote regions on earth, an area that is known as "the roof of the world."

Bordered by the Kunlun mountains in the north & the Himalayas in the southwest, and dissected by the Karakorum and Gangdise ranges, Tibet is an average 4,000 metres above sea level.

For centuries, its inhabitants had lived a self-contained existence, cut off from outside influences by the inhospitable terrain where they eked out a precarious living.

The "postmen" of Tibet needed very special qualifications -- they had to have an intimate knowledge of the twisting mountain routes and their extreme weather conditions, an understanding of the habits of that most unpredictable of animals, the camel, and the stamina to survive a six-month trek, for that's how long it took to penetrate to the hinterland from where the roads stop in the bordering provinces.

In 1958, a road was opened between Kashi city, in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, and Ari prefecture in Tibet. But the 1,400-kilometre highway was difficult to construct -- and just as difficult to negotiate.

For five months a year, the eight-man postal team, driving four trucks, was

halted by severe weather -- the road became impossible.

The team was determined to overcome these difficulties, however, and deliver mail on a year-round basis.

So, in 1971, they set off in the teeth of a raging blizzard. Every few kilometres, lead driver Gao Renyuan and his colleagues had to stop to clear waist-high snowdrifts.

Sometimes they encountered huge chunks of ice or rocks dislodged by avalanches, which they removed by tying steel cables around them and attaching them to their trucks. It could take a whole day to clear one patch of road.

But, eventually, they arrived in Ari. They had proved their point -- it was possible to drive the length of the highway, even in the depths of winter.

As a result of their pioneering efforts, freight lorries and even passenger buses began to make the long trip on a regular, year-round schedule.

It is not just in winter that the road is hazardous. With the onset of summer, streams in the valleys of the Kunlun mountains become swollen with melting snow.

Over the past ten years, the postal team has driven 1.2 million kilometres and delivered some 1,140 tons of newspapers and mail.

Their courage & tenacity has not gone unremarked by the grateful inhabitants of Ari prefecture and the peasants of various nationalities living along the perilous route.

They have given them a name, in memory of times gone by when messages were sometimes sent by affixing them to the feet of migratory birds: "The wild goose that flies highest and straightest."  
(China Features)



H. D. S. HAVERBECK, 1913-1986

--Alan Warren

A long time member and patron of The Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, Harrison D. S. Haverbeck, passed away 26 September 1986. His philatelic interests included the feudatory native states of India, China, Nepal & Tibet. Haverbeck authored two editions of the important monograph, "The Postage Stamps & Postal History of Tibet," published by the Collectors Club of New York, in 1952 and 1958.

His articles appeared in POSTAL HIMAL, CHINA CLIPPER, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF INDIA & elsewhere. He was an active member of the Collectors Club for nearly half a century and held many offices including two terms as president, as well as serving as editor of their journal. He received the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award in 1966, the SEPAD National Merit Award in 1965 and was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Haverbeck was a 30-year member of the China Stamp Society and served as editor for three years as well as being a member of the editorial committee. He was a founding member of the Philatelic Foundation and served on their expert committee. Philately in general and Asian philately in particular has benefited greatly from Haverbeck's contributions over many years, and he will be sadly missed.

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IN MEMORY OF H. D. S. HAVERBECK

--Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

India's Stamp Journal has reported the death of Harrison D.S. Haverbeck, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., a patron of our Study Circle.

Mr. Haverbeck was a prolific writer & his handbooks on Nepal and Tibet are well known. He also formed important collections of many Indian States and of Nepal and Tibet.

Just over a year ago I wrote to Mr. Haverbeck, asking him to tell the story of how he started his Nepal collection, famous for containing five complete sheets of the classic stamps on European paper. His reply, which I think will be of interest to all Nepal specialists, is here quoted:

"My first interest in Nepal arose out of the formation of a collection of the stamps of the Princely States of India. This started in 1936. At that time Nepal was grouped under this same heading. I was picking up all sorts of catch-all and job lots of these stamps. Each lot contained a number of Nepal stamps. I arranged them as I had done the others. When I had accumulated what I felt was a good representation, I studied the literature, at this time mainly the writings of Major E. B. Evans. What there was in the literature did not fit all the material that I had found. So I got interested in further research.

"During 1939-40 I was doing some research on the circular stamps of Jammu & Kashmir, which led me to the conclusion that the one anna and 1/4 rupee denominations were backwards. During these studies I entered into a correspondence with Mr. L.E. Dawson who could not be persuaded to see things my way. World War II intervened. After the war I was introduced, by mail and by Mr. Dawson, to Mr. E.A. Smythies, a good friend of Dawson's & just retired from the Indian Civil Service. His last post had been as chief forestry officer to the Government of Nepal. He had spent several years in Kathmandu. The years had not been wasted philatelically. He had collected a great deal of material, both current & classical. This correspondence continued for over 15 years, during which time I exchanged United States & Canadian material for whatever material of Nepal and Tibet that he wished to dispose of. Mr Smythies also put me in touch with his former clerk from whom I also obtained many fine pieces.

"By the early nineteen-fifties, I had gotten a rather clear picture of how the classic stamps were prepared, the size of the plates and an idea of the sequence of printings. I had added many rare items, complete sheets of the various printings known to me, earliest known usages, etc. I exhibited the collection for about 18 years. Finally, I made up my mind to dispose of the entire collection, as I had run against a blank wall and could not add any more significant material. At the Anphilex Invitational Exhibition in New York, early

(concluded on page 6)



Hellrigl, IN MEMORY OF .....(concluded)

in 1971, I was approached by Mr. Bernard Harmer with what I considered a fair & reasonable offer for sale by private treaty. I accepted. The collection was never auctioned to my knowledge.

"I enjoyed the accumulation of the stamps & the realization gradually dawned on me that I had found an area about which little was known and which was ripe for scholarly research. The major portion of the material came from Mr. Smythies. He worked with me for several years and supplied the bulk of the classic material which led to my arrangement of the sequence of printings. He also supplied me with the basic stamps which formed the nucleus of my study of the typographed Sri Pashupati types. The balance of the collection came from a small circle of dealers of which H. R. Harmer, Harmer Rook & Co. and Eugene N. Costales were the main suppliers. I do not recall any specific collections."



#### BHUTAN - A CORRECTION OFFERED

-- George Bourke

I am writing in regard to the article titled "Bhutan - A Brief Postal History" (second instalment) by Nildo Harper, which appeared in POSTAL HIMAL No. 48, page 50, where it is stated that the Lord Buddha is pictured on the unissued anti-malaria stamp. This statement is incorrect, as the person pictured on this unissued stamp is Padma Sambhava, also called Guru Rimpoche. (See illustration on page 2 of this issue.) He was a famous Indian scholar from the Buddhist University of Nalanda. And it was he who brought Vajrayana Buddhism to Bhutan and Tibet, where he arrived in 747 A.D. He is the second most venerated teacher in this part of the world, next to The Buddha. (George goes on to say that he is enjoying Mr. Harper's article on the postal history of Bhutan and is looking forward to future instalments.--Ed.)

Since George Bourke is a relatively new member and somewhat unknown to us, your editor requested that he provide us some background on himself, as well as sources of this most interesting information. He replied as follows:

"Let me preface this by saying that Guru Rimpoche is an historical personage, but also that he is a meditational deity. There are eight meditational forms of Guru Rimpoche, known as the eight aspects. These iconographical forms may be found in a number of sources:

- 1) THE LIFE AND LIBERATION OF PADMASAMBHAVA, Dharma Publishing.
- 2) THE TIBETAN BOOK OF THE GREAT LIBERATION, Oxford University Press.
- 3) CRYSTAL MIRROR, Vol. II (out of print) Dharma Publishing.

(Dharma Publishing, 2425 Hillside Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704, publishes a large color poster depicting the Eight Aspects of Guru Rimpoche.)

"Iconographically speaking, the person pictured on the unissued anti-malarial stamp could not be the historical Buddha. The form is not correct. Note the moustache, not a feature seen on images of The Buddha. The hat is also not correct for an image of The Buddha. This hat is the kind found on images of Guru Rimpoche. He is also shown wearing a moustache. Guru Rimpoche, also called Padmasambhava, is the patron saint of Bhutan.

"Although I could not be considered an authority on the iconography of all Tibetan (Tantric) Buddhism, I am not entirely unfamiliar with many of its forms. I have been a member of the Karma Kargyupa Order since 1973. This is one of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism. I have studied and received teaching from many of the most important Tibetan Buddhist teachers of our period. I am familiar with the forms of Guru Rimpoche, as I practice this meditation."

(Since your editor is unfamiliar with the Buddhist faith, but is aware that various forms of Buddhism are important to the religious life of the peoples living in the area of our philatelic interests, it is especially pleasing to me to have a member of our Study Circle who is more knowledgeable than most in this important aspect of life. Thank you, George, for this contribution.--Ed.)

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NOTE: Vol. 14, No. 1 (January 1987) of PHILATELY, official journal of The Nepal Philatelic Society, has recently been received. The three overseas representatives of the NPS are also members of our Study Circle: Hans Wittman (W. Germany), Colin Hepper and your editor.



## BUILDING A NEPAL COLLECTION

--F. A. Westbrook, Jr.

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

The Bow & Kukris Issue -- the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna:

The Bow & Kukris  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna stamp was introduced by the Nepalese government in 1899 -- originally as an official stamp to frank mail to and from the Maharaja while travelling or on hunting trips. Previously such mail had been carried free.

The design of the new stamp was very different from the three previous classics discussed in this series -- the Sripech & Crossed Kukris types. The dimensions produce a somewhat taller stamp and the design features a bow & arrow and uncrossed kukris. They are printed on native paper exclusively, good in the early settings, the quality declining with the passage of time -- as did printing clarity. Like the 1-, 2- & 4-a classics, sheets were printed from individual cliches locked into printing frames, resulting in the usual inverted cliches and tete-beche pairs.

In all, there were 14 Settings of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna -- from 1899 to 1930. Throughout this period the color of the stamps remained black, dark to light, sometimes with a brownish or greyish tone. There is one exception to this -- the sixth setting -- which was printed in orange-vermilion -- more about this later.

For the sake of this discussion, we will consider the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna Bow & Kukris in two time periods: 1899-1907 and 1917-1930.

The First Time Period (1899-1907):

The first five Settings, comprising the first time period, were printed very clear to clear, on thin to thick white native paper of good quality, excepting Setting 3, which appeared on medium thick, buff-colored paper of inferior quality. Stamps from this setting are quite readily identifiable by this paper, as well as the fact that most of these were pin-perforated. -- However, pin-perforated stamps from other settings of the first time period also are available.

In segregating the Sripech & Crossed Kukris classics of the second time period, which roughly corresponds to the first time period of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna, we had

the advantage that we could start by dividing them into mint and postally used copies. We do not have this advantage with the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna. Remember that these were official stamps intended for use during the period we are discussing only for mail to & from the Maharaja (Prime Minister). Consequently, genuinely cancelled examples are extremely rare and costly. However, fake, made-to-order covers that have gone through the post are fairly common.

The result is that, in the first period of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna, to all practical purposes, we are dealing with mint stamps only. The collector will have to be guided by printing clarity and paper quality. By and large, stamps that are not blurred and show a good degree of design detail may be assigned to the first period with minimum concern for error. Few, if any, of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -annas of the first period were carried over to the second or telegraphic era, and the deterioration of printing and paper quality in the latter period is quite evident.

First period tete-beche pairs are very scarce, none having appeared in Settings 1 & 2, with only one inverted cliche in Settings 3 & 4, and two in Setting 5. All this adds up to the potential for a first period accumulation of mint singles (imperforate & pin-perforated), multiples of some of the settings and, perhaps, a tete-beche pair or two. Shades and paper variety also may fill out the collection. Few sheets of this period exist and, consequently, are very costly on the rare occasions they are available.

In 1907, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna, along with the other classic types, was withdrawn from circulation.

The Second Time Period (1917-1930):

The  $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna, along with the other classics, was called back into service in 1917 to prepay telegrams when Nepal began telegraphic service between Kathmandu & India. The stamp made its telegraphic debut in the form of one of Nepal's major rarities -- the orange-vermilion color, mentioned earlier. It is not known whether the new and temporary color was an error, or intentional. Its design is identical to that of the earlier black & black-brown varieties, the paper of medium thickness and printing quality fair. Its outstanding characteristics are that it is readily identified  
(concluded on page 8)

Westbrook, BUILDING.....(concluded)--

tifiable and very scarce. Hellrigl/Vignola, in their "Classic Stamps of Nepal", estimate that only about 100 mint and 300 to 400 telegraphically cancelled copies exist. No complete sheet, mint or used, is known. Multiples are even rarer and very expensive. The original sheets had three tete-beche pairs each, or the plate had three inverted cliches.

All subsequent settings of the 1/2-anna were printed in the old black, brown-black shades, all printed on thin paper with printing quality ranging from clear to very blurred. The inking frequently appears light. There are some exceptions, however, with examples of very heavy inking.

Another exception is Setting 14 -- the final printing -- with the bottom row of eight stamps removed, leaving a sheet of 56 stamps, whereas all previous settings had 64. Furthermore, Setting 14 is only known mint. It obviously was never released before all four classic stamps were withdrawn in 1930.

The number of inverted cliches increased with the beginning of the telegraphic era, ranging from three for the vermilion setting to five or six for the later ones.

The 1/2-anna stamps of the telegraphic era were not pin-perforated -- officially, at least.

The second period 1/2-annas can be collected both mint and cancelled. Mint singles and multiples are relatively available, as are mint sheets of Setting 14. Mint sheets of the other settings are scarce. The mint stamps of this era must be distinguished from those of the first time period, as we have pointed out, by the quality of printing & paper.

The availability of 1/2-anna stamps, telegraphically cancelled, exceeds that of mint copies by many magnitudes. They are plentiful in singles & small multiples. Larger multiples and full sheets of some settings are hardly scarce, though the cost of sheets begins to mount up.

Interesting collections of both mint & cancelled 1/2-anna stamps of the second period can be developed on the basis of shades, paper quality, tete-beche pairs, multiples and, if some extra dollars

are available, sheets. If the latter are obtained, the precise settings can be determined by the number & position of the inverted cliches. The 1/2-annas may also be obtained on part, or full, telegraph forms, adding more variety to the accumulation.

Finally, beginner or intermediate collections can be dressed up substantially with singles and multiples bearing examples of the four basic telegraphic cancellations used during this period. A block with a clear, strong strike, well-centered, can be an attractive addition. The telegraphic cancellations are described and illustrated in "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Hellrigl & Hepper.

This completes the discussion of Nepal's so-called 'classic issues.' Following the suggestions outlined in the four articles covering these issues will produce a credible, varied & interesting collection, providing the basis for ongoing specialization in all or selected areas, as one's interests dictate.

With the next instalment we will move on to the Sri Pashupati issues of 1907-1946.

Bibliography

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalog, Part 21, South-East Asia, Second Edition (1984).

"The Classic Stamps of Nepal" by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl & Frank Vignola, published by the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1984).

"The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Wolfgang C. 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.

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INDEX SUPPLEMENT No. 2

Once again we are indebted to Ken Jones for his professional indexing -- this time on INDEX SUPPLEMENT No. 2, covering POSTAL HIMAL Nos. 41-48 (1985-1986), the first half of which is enclosed herewith. The second half of this index supplement will be included with POSTAL HIMAL No.50, Second Quarter 1987. Thank you, Ken.--Ed.

Those who may wish to purchase copies of the original index, covering Nos.1-32, and/or Index Supplement No. 1, should write to Roger Skinner.

## TIBET FORGERIES

--Gale J. Raymond

While I have never "done" anything with Nepal (except re India Used Abroad), I do collect Tibet postal history and have done so for many years. I am by no means ancient, but I remember picking up some of my best Tibet covers at \$1 each, or so, but mostly on swaps.

I was in Nepal in November 1985 and, having lost touch with my "stamp" contacts there who used to garner Tibetan covers for me, I had to start over from scratch. Several leads ultimately sent me to a Tibetan who had a small book-stall. "No," said he, "I have nothing here at the shop." But he went on to say that if I would drop back in the next afternoon, he would try to put together anything he could find in Tibetan covers. Needless to say, I moseyed in casually and, sure enough, he did have some beautiful covers, with fine stamps of 'boardwalk' margins, with quite legible Lhasa & Gyantse cancels! Unfortunately, the ink smeared on both stamps & cancels as I tested with my thumb! He had made them up overnight and the ink was still wet!! They appeared to have been made from photo-plates of apparently genuine sheetlets & copies of genuine cancels. So beware!--I would like to have had them as specimens of fakes for comparison purposes, but at even one-third of his asking-price per cover, they were way out of line. By now the covers are dry. They, and others, are probably en route to the stamp markets. In my opinion, real sources of absolutely genuine Tibet covers have long ago been depleted--other than at auction.--My first test has always been to actually smell the older Tibet covers. If they don't smell like a YAK, investigate further! I found no genuine covers now in Nepal. (We welcome Dr. Raymond, a new member of the Study Circle, to the pages of POSTAL HIMAL, and thank him for this interesting article.--Ed.)

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QUESTION: Colin Hepper is trying to update the seal cancellations and would appreciate it if any member could identify the postal seal used on the cover illustrated at right.

## A U C T I O N   A C T I O N

--Leo Martyn

George Alevizos held his 51st public auction on 7 October 1985, with 21 lots of Nepalese items being offered. All of the following realizations include the 10% buyer's premium.

Wove paper singles of the 1881 issue brought between \$100 and \$165 depending on condition.

One lot comprised of three blocks containing sixteen copies of the ½-a black with framelines (setting 1B) went for \$528.

A registered 1906 cover franked with a block of four and an irregular block of three of the recut 1-anna tied by Pokhara classic cancels realized \$462.

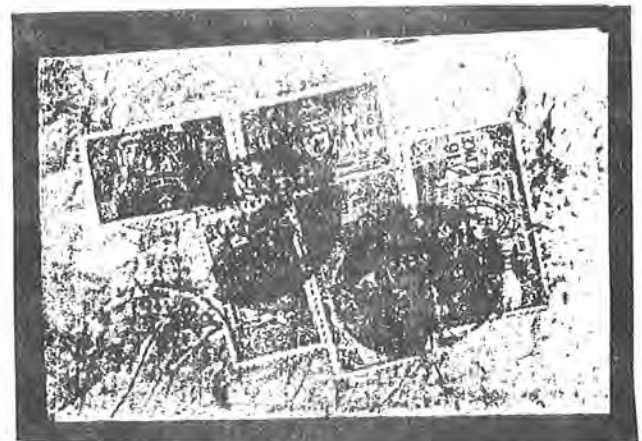
An attractive 1908 cover franked with a recut 1-anna and tied by a sharp Dahanban II postal seal cancel (Hellrigl S2) was bought for \$506.

An extremely rare 1909 combination cover franked with a 4p & a 16p of the 1907 Pashupati issue and a single copy of a 2-anna classic stamp--all tied by Birganj classic cancels realized \$1595. This is the only classic - Pashupati combination cover known with a 2-anna classic stamp. Other covers are known with the recut 1-anna.

A 1910 cover franked with a recut 1-anna and tied by a beautiful Tatapani II postal seal cancel brought \$308.

George's next auction will take place on 17 December 1985 with 105 lots of Nepalese items. (As of this date we have not received a report on this sale.--Ed.)

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REPORT ON STUDY CIRCLE AUCTION NO. 34

--Colin Hepper

Bidding was strong in the 'stamps' section, as usual, where most lots sold except the lots with high estimates: Nos. 127, 128, 130 & 131.

Lot 109, the 4 anna block of 4 which included the re-cut 1 anna realised £ 270; Lot 101 (SG 7) attracted many bids with 3 of £200--the realisation price, & Lot 129 (SG 349), 5p Bird stamp with the dark brown colour omitted from the two right hand stamps made £50.

We generally get a number of climbing expedition cards in each auction but interest seems to be dwindling, with only 8 of the 22 lots sold--mostly under estimate.

Postal History lots never attract as much interest as the stamps, and few lots made much over estimate, but, in the Tibet section, all lots sold, mostly close to or above estimate.

The response I have had from members for lots has been excellent and I have sufficient material to last well into 1986. May I ask all members that, when sending lots to me, try to keep them in small packets. The reason being, if they are picked out by the customs people there is a hefty charge to pay to get them released. By having smaller packets the chances are that they will not be so readily picked out.

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MORE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question 3 in POSTAL HIMAL No. 43, p. 28, refers to the GPO Type 1 registration cachet having a late date for usage. A further example has been reported by Derek McCullough on a registered letter sent from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu to Calcutta in January 1966.

QUESTION - Can any member give an explanation why the following cachet is found on some postal stationery items, and what does it mean?

श्रीमत्तमैत्रिआ.दी.

NEW MEMBER ARRIVES BY A NOVEL ROUTE

One of our new members, Ted Miller, in a most interesting letter to your editor, writes:

"I have sent some copies of POSTAL HIMAL to a few Tibetan friends of mine & they have found it quite interesting --especially the article about Laden La, who was well-known in Darjeeling. I myself would like to see articles about the Tibetan postal system as pertains to proving the independent status of Tibet from China during the years before 1949.

"The way I discovered the Study Circle began when I was reading the magazine 'Tibetan Bulletin' which is printed in Dharamsala. In it there was a small article about the new book, "TIBET - A Philatelic and Numismatic Bibliography" by Hellrigl & Gabrisch, so, being interested, I ordered it from George Alevizos. It was in this bibliography that I discovered the Study Circle."

(We wish to thank Mr. Miller for a 1986 Tibetan calendar which we received recently. Space does not permit us to include a portion of it with this issue, but a photocopy may be obtained by writing your editor.--Ed.)

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Michel, NEPAL ALBUMS (concluded from page 6)--

North American members, as well as other English speakers, may be interested to know that Mr. Lenser (also a Study Circle member) is now preparing an English edition of his Nepal album. I have seen only a few sample pages so far, but can report that the pages are fine quality, with printed matter on the back of each page relating to the stamps on the opposite page when the album is opened. The pages are punched for a 4-hole D-ring binder, which is attractively bound in black leatherette and fits neatly into a matching dust cover. The spine of the binder has the word "NEPAL" printed on it in gold.

We might add that Mr. Lenser is active in mountaineering and has led a number of expeditions to some of Nepal's highest mountains, including Mt. Everest.

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