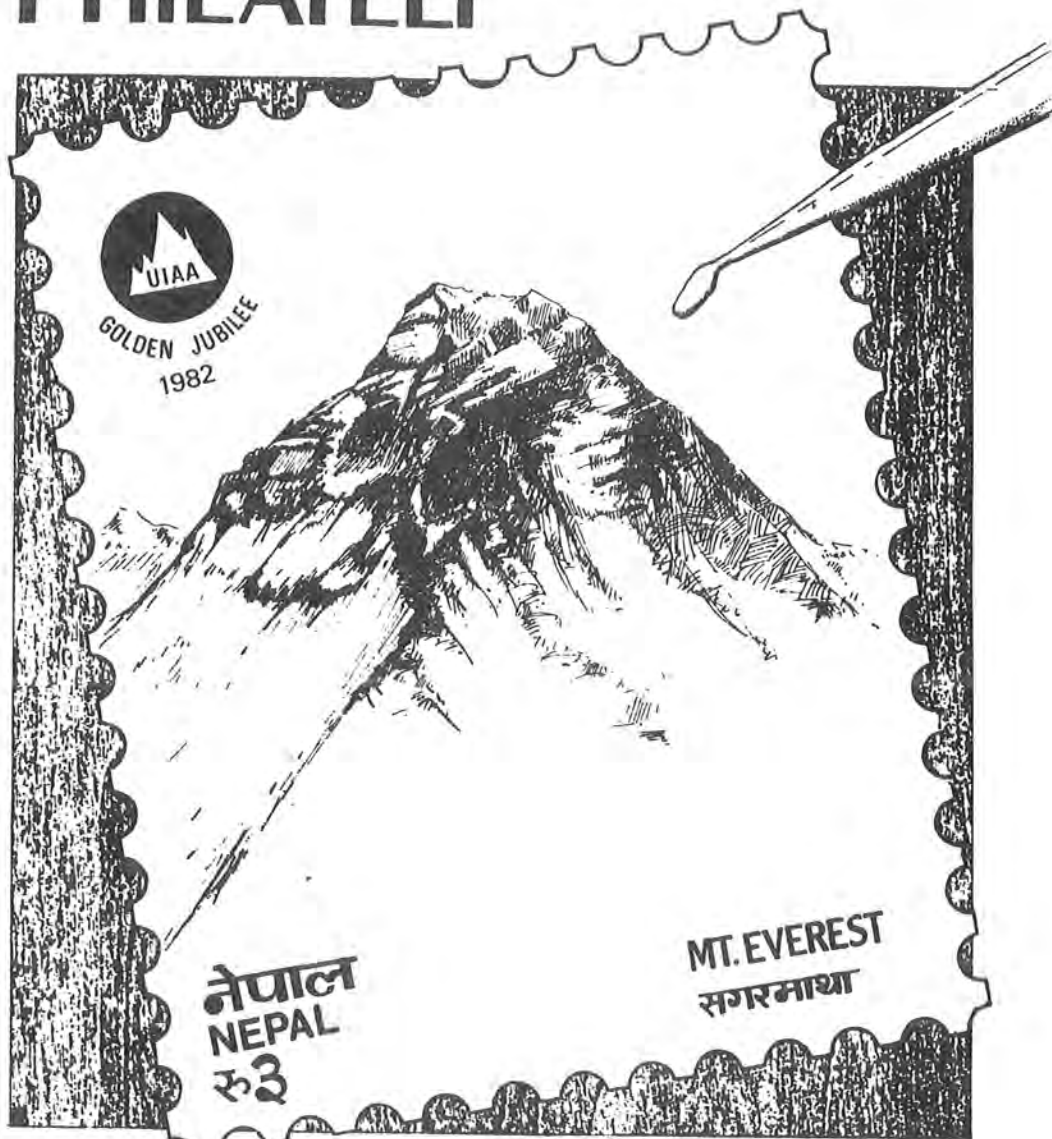


POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

PHILATELY



HALF - YEARLY JOURNAL

No. 50

2nd Quarter 1987



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: We commend the members of the Editorial Board and the Executive Committee of PHILATELY (the half-yearly journal of the Nepal Philatelic Society) for the many improvements shown in Vol. 14, No. 1, for January 1987, and used their new cover as our cover illustration on this issue of POSTAL HIMAL. The page size has been enlarged slightly, the paper and the printing are much improved and all members of the Nepal Philatelic Society can be proud of the 'new look' in the official journal. See page 10 for more information.

Dear Friends,

With this issue, in addition to the usual Auction List, you will receive the second half of Index Supplement No. 2, covering POSTAL HIMAL Nos. 41-48 (1985-1986). If you need earlier indexes, please write to Roger Skinner for info.

We feel that we must keep each mailing under a 2-oz. weight limit for any printed matter sent abroad. Having now 'caught up' (we hope!) No. 51 can be increased to 14 pages (7 sheets) of page-numbered material, so keep those advertisements, articles, questions/answers, etc. coming.

Remember CAPEX '87 -- in Toronto, Canada on 13-21 June. Frank & Mae Vignola are looking forward to meeting you in front of Frank's marvellous Nepal exhibit at 2 PM on Sunday, June 14.

Due to Richard Hanchett's generous offer of support for meetings of our Study Circle at international shows (See my letter to members in PH No. 49.) we are attempting to arrange meetings at three international shows, two of which are mentioned in item 6) on page 10 of this issue. Another important exhibition toward which we are pointing, is INDIA '89, in New Delhi, in January of that year. Through the good offices of Mr. P. Gupta, one of our Life Members & currently serving as President of The Philatelic Congress of India (and Mr. D. N. Jatia), we have indicated our desire to hold a meeting of the Study Circle at that event -- possibly a joint meeting with the Nepal Philatelic Society. This would be not only a good opportunity to attend a major philatelic event, but also a good chance for a side trip to Nepal. Start planning now! -- And please send your ideas for a program at any or all three of the shows mentioned.

On a more somber note, we observe that one of our members, J. Crow, has been advertising: "Tibet Stamps / Genuine Sheets, Color Reprint Set, Scott #1-5 / \$10 ea., 3/\$18." In recent months your editor has had the opportunity to examine these items, which are nicely printed on good quality paper. In our opinion, the advertisement is unsatisfactory, as the items are 'reproductions' and the word 'genuine' is misleading. Therefore we have declined to publish his advertisement.

Lester A. Michel

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.

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.

(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.)

EXHIBITION NEWS

At ROPEX '87, March 27-29, in Rochester, New York, Arthur F. Ackley was awarded a VERMEIL for his Tibet exhibit, plus the APS 1900-1940 award. Our congratulations, Art, on this recognition.

We note that Donald Peterson received a SILVER award for his exhibit titled "Classic Nepal," at SPRINGPEX '87, held in Springfield, Virginia, March 28-29. (Does anyone know this gentleman? He is not a member of our Study Circle.--Ed.)

POSTAL HIMAL for 1986 (Nos. 45-48) received a VERMEIL award in the literature competition at COLOPEX '87, held in Columbus, Ohio, on April 10-12. At our request, the entry was donated to the Philatelic Library of the Columbus Philatelic Club.--Ed.

NEW ISSUE OF PHILATELY PUBLISHED

Our thanks are extended to Mr. Bishnu Lal Shrestha, Secretary of the Nepal Philatelic Society for sending us, via airmail, a copy of PHILATELY for January 1987 (Vol. 14, No. 1) -- the official half-yearly journal. This issue shows marked improvement over previous issues, especially in the quality of paper and printing. The Editorial Board and the Executive Committee have produced a professional-looking publication of which all members can be proud.

Within the 50 pages of this issue one may find something for nearly everyone who is interested in the stamps and postal history of Nepal.

A perusal of the table of 'Contents' (all printed in English) we note, after the introduction, the following articles:

- 2) An Introduction to Federation Internationale de Philatelie (F.I.P.) followed by the
- 3) Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions.
- 4) An article titled "Anarmani Post Office" by J. B. Manandhar, with 13 references. The author is no stranger to readers of POSTAL HIMAL, as he is an Honorary Member of the Study Circle and has published many fine articles on the postal history of Nepal. As Ex-Director General of the Postal Services Department and as Joint Secretary in the Industry Ministry, Mr. Manandhar has access to important reference sources and has the background to interpret them accurately.
- 5) An article titled "75th Anniversary of the Pharphing Hydro-Electric Station" by B. K. Pradhan, Executive Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, His Majesty's Government of Nepal -- most interesting and authoritative. (Nepal issued a 15p stamp on 9 October 1986, commemorating this first hydro-electric power station in Nepal.)
- 6) International Exhibition News focusses on three shows: CAPEX '87 on 13-21 June 1987, in Toronto, Canada, at which Mr. Hardayal Singh Gupta will serve as National Commissioner; HAFNIA '87 on 16-25 October 1987, in Copenhagen, Denmark, at which Mr. Shyam P. Pradhan is the Nepal National Commissioner; and, FINLANDIA '88 on 1-12 June 1988 in Helsinki, Finland. Mr. Bishnu Lal Shrestha

is the National Commissioner for Nepal.

- 7) Detailed New Issue Information begins with the stamp issued to mark the 75th Anniversary of Pharphing Hydro-Electric Station (9 October 1986) through a stamp recognizing 1986 as the International Year of Peace (issued 28 December 1986). (We should note that the date is also the birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and, as is done each year, a stamp (Rs. 1/-) was issued. Indeed, this issue of PHILATELY was programmed to mark the 42nd birthday of this beloved monarch.
- 8) Devoted to the report of Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, as Nepal Representative of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, at a special meeting arranged on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Richard Hanchett, the only Life Member from the USA. (See Richard's report on his visit -- in this issue of POSTAL HIMAL, pp. 12-13.)
- 9) A biography of Mr. Riddhi Harsha Bajracharya, a recent new member of our Study Circle, whose gift is reported in this issue of POSTAL HIMAL, p. 11.

There is one article in Nepali, with an English sub-title reading "Issues and Management of the Service Stamps in Nepal." Your editor's poor knowledge of the language prevents him from giving any details on what must be an interesting article.

One of the striking features of this issue, in this reviewer's opinion is a clear picture of the author alongside the title of each article. These make each article more personal and each author like a wellknown friend. Indeed, many of our Nepal friends are members of both organizations, making the future of each intertwined with the other.

Finally, as our cover illustration reminds us, Nepal is the land where many of the highest mountains are located. Some of you, like myself, collect souvenir cards and other mementoes of mountaineering expeditions. Among the many advertisements found in this issue are those offering a great variety of souvenir cards & covers -- some of which are available from the Nepal Philatelic Society itself.

There are three overseas representatives for the NPS. They are:

Mr. Hans Wittman (West Germany), Colin Hepper (England) and Lester Michel (USA). All are also members of the N&TPSC, and can furnish membership dues information, etc. to prospective members of the NPS.



NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, Nepal Representative for the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, reports that he has received a donation from Mr. Riddhi Harsha Bajracharya of the Ananda Printing Press (Pvt.) Ltd. -- a new member of the Study Circle. The donation consists of a rubber stamp and two small zinc blocks showing the emblem of the N&TPSC. We wish to thank Mr. Bajracharya for these gifts, which will be put to good use by Mr. Shrestha.

The letter from Mr. Shrestha, announcing the above-mentioned donation, was postmarked on 1 April 1987 with a cancellation marking the "First Nepal Jamboree", with the added words: "Special Post Office/Kirtipur" in English and in Nepali. The back of the envelope carries a strike of the gift provided Mr. Shrestha by Mr. Bajracharya, whose address appears on the back of our cover page, under the heading: NEW MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT POSTAL ANNIVERSARY

(Our Nepal Representative, Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, has sent us a clipping from THE RISING NEPAL, an English language newspaper, for 3 March 1987, page 1 which will be of interest to readers.)

"Talk Programme, or 'Studies in Postal Services Urged':--Kathmandu, March 2 (RSS).

"A talk programme was organised here Monday to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Postal Agreement between Nepal and India.

"Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Minister for Communications, Krishna Kumar Rai, said that it was on this very day that Nepal's communication links with the outside world with the use of Nepalese postage stamps commenced, after the signing of an agreement with India

five decades ago.

"Mr. Rai emphasised the need for celebrating this day in the form of a national festival.

"The Assistant Minister said that the postal employees and philatelists should carry out studies relating to development of postal services in Nepal and publish them.

"Ex-director General of the Postal Services Department and Joint Secretary in the Industry Ministry, Jit Bahadur Manandhar, said that the postal agreement signed between Nepal and India in 1993 B.S. was an incident which ushered in a new era.

"He added that the system of using Nepalese and Indian postage stamps to send letters to India had come to an end on this very day.

"The Director General of the Postal Services Department threw light on the development of postal services in Nepal since the establishment of the post office in 1935 B.S."

VISIT NEPAL



5148 OMBAHAL
KATHMANDU.



NEPAL-TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE 'USEFUL'

(The above title and following article appeared in THE RISING NEPAL for 20 November 1986 on page 3 and we thank our Nepal Representative for providing it for our readers.--Ed.)

"Kathmandu, Nov. 19 (RSS):

The setting up of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle believes that it would be of great help for collectors of Nepalese stamps all over the world in introducing the culture, tradition, natural beauty and literature of Nepal to the world.

(continued on page 12)

NEPAL-TIBET.....(concluded)--

"The Circle's newly appointed representative for Nepal and life member of the Circle, Surendra Lal Shrestha, has said that the Circle has over 200 members in different parts of Asia, Europe and America, and has also been useful for Tibet as well.

"The Circle established in 1985 publishes an English quarterly "Postal Himal" from the United States.

"Increasing interest shown by international stamp collectors in the collection of Nepalese stamps following the symposium organised during the recent visit here of the Circle's life member Richard Hanchett of USA has further heightened the usefulness of the publication." (See Richard's report on his visit to Nepal on this page.--Ed.)

A TRIP TO NEPAL

--Richard M. Hanchett

On 4 October 1986, my daughter and I left New York on Air India for Bombay. After a refueling stop in London, we continued nonstop to Bombay.

After visiting Bombay, Cochin, Madras and Agra, we were scheduled to take a flight to Varanasi to connect to our flight to Kathmandu on the 20th. The flight from Agra to Varansi was on a standby basis and we were not able to get a confirmation. As a result, we took a 20-hour ride by train from Agra to Varanasi to get our flight to Nepal. We arrived in Nepal on time and departed on the 25th to visit Varanasi and Delhi in India before returning home on 2 November.

This was my third trip to India and my second to Nepal. For my daughter, it was her second to India & first to Nepal. Before leaving the USA, I had sent a letter to Surendra L. Shrestha, informing him of my visit to Nepal and letting him know my arrival time and hotel. The flight was on time and Surendra arrived at the hotel about 5 minutes after I did!! In my letter I had indicated a desire to have a meeting with some of the N&TPSC members, if it could be arranged. After our meeting at the hotel, he said that they were trying to arrange a meeting for the evening of the 23rd. I visited

Surendra's office and had a most pleasant visit with him. I purchased a number of items from him and he very kindly showed me some of his Tibet collection. His wife provided us with some light refreshments which made the visit even more enjoyable.

On the evening of the 25th, he, his wife, his younger son and I went by taxi to the home of Hardayal Singh Gupta. Mr. Gupta is an Indian who now holds Nepalese citizenship. Mr. Gupta had very graciously offered to host the meeting at his home. In addition to Surendra, Hardayal and myself, the following members were in attendance: Narayan D. Shrestha, Bishnu L. Shresta, Shyam P. Pradhan, Ramesh Shrestha, Moti R. Tuladhar, Nanda G. Rajkarnikar and Keshav M. Mulmi. Mr. Gupta showed us his silver medal exhibit as well as various other very interesting items from his collection. While we were enjoying the refreshments which his wife had prepared for us, the discussion turned to the two collections which had been lost in Canada. Everyone expressed the hope that the collections would be found intact. After some more general conversation, the meeting disbanded. The meeting was most enjoyable and I thoroughly appreciated the chance to meet and talk with the other members of our Study Circle. I think that special thanks should go to Surendra for arranging the meeting and to Hardayal and his wife for hosting it.

This was the first time I have been in Nepal in 21 years and in India in 13 years. While I noticed many positive changes, there was one change for the worse -- air pollution. It is much worse in India and it is getting worse in Nepal. I spent the remainder of my time in Nepal visiting the other two cities in the Kathmandu Valley as well as the sights of Kathmandu itself. All in all the trip was very enjoyable for both my daughter and myself.

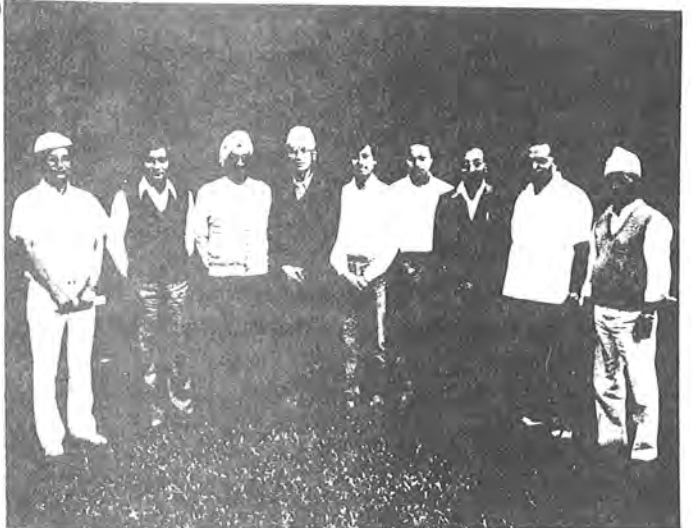
Picture captions: (See p. 13) All persons are named from Left to Right.

- 1) Seated: Surendra L. Shrestha, Bishnu L. Shresta, Hardayal S. Gupta, Keshav M. Mulmi
Standing: Narayan D. Shrestha, Shyam P. Pradhan, Moti R. Tuladhar, Nanda G. Rajkarnikar, Ramesh Shrestha
- 2) Surendra, Narayan, Hardayal, Bishnu, Shyam, Ramesh, Moti, Nanda, Keshav
(Remaining pictures have captions above.)

1)

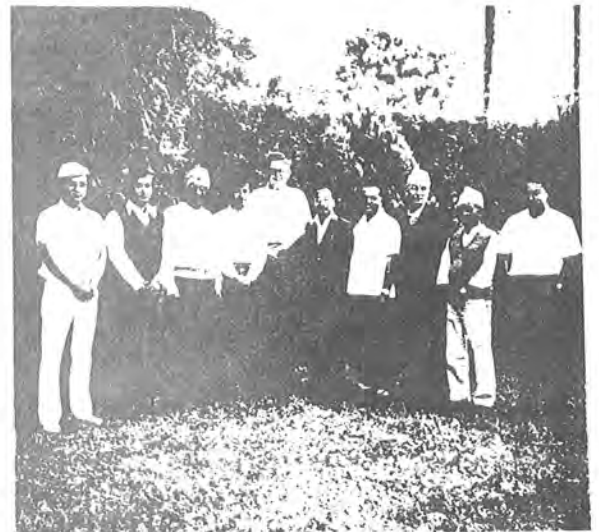
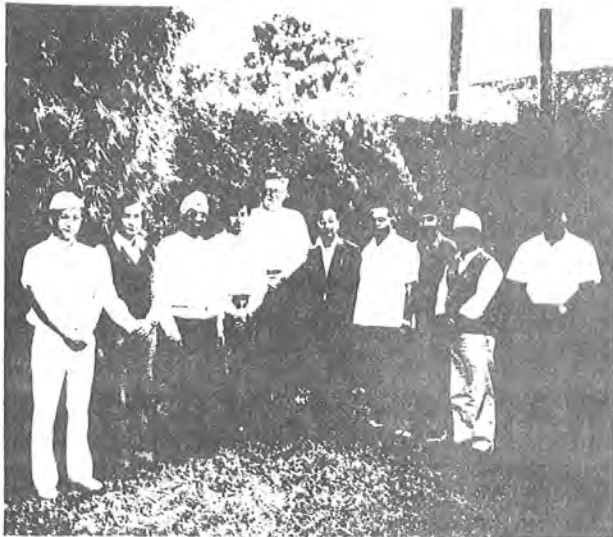


2)



3) Surendra, Narayan, Hardayal, Shyam, myself, Moti, Nanda, Hardayal's son, Keshav, Ramesh

4) As in 3) except that Bishnu replaces Hardayal's son



5) Surendra Lal Shrestha, Nepal Representative for the N&TPSC, seated with his wife in his office

Tibet sheet (8t forgery): See article on p. 16, titled "NOTES FROM TIBET" by Quinlan J. Shea, Jr.



BUILDING A NEPAL COLLECTION

--F. A. Westbrook, Jr.

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

The Sri Pashupati Issues -- Part I:

With the advent of the Sri Pashupati stamps in 1907, Nepal took a major turn in its philatelic history. For the first time it assigned the production of its stamps to a foreign supplier -- Perkins, Bacon & Co., a prestigious London printer. This, among other things, bade farewell to the use of Nepal's often poor quality native paper and greatly upgraded the attractiveness of its adhesives.

Then, too, the new stamps were in pice denominations, reflecting Nepal's currency change to a decimal system. The pice was valued at one quarter of an anna, the currency denomination used on the classic issues (and as it continued to be used when they were re-issued in 1917 for the telegraphic era).

And, finally, the Sri Pashupati stamps opened a "new ball game" for collectors baffled in their efforts to assign the various denominations of the multitudinous printings of the classic issues to their respective niches.

But this does not imply that the new stamps lack many absorbing philatelic challenges. There were four basic issues stretching over some 40 years. There were a large number of printings, particularly in the later years of their use, some shade variations, paper varieties, watermarks and changing marginal sheet inscriptions. The good news is that the stamps can be collected as simply as filling in the spaces in a preprinted album, with ready assurance that each stamp is in its proper place. Or, the specialist can amass a voluminous collection based on the variations inherent in the long history of these issues.

Of the four basic issues, the first three were printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., while the fourth was typographed by the Gurkha Patra Press in Kathmandu, with the expected deterioration in quality. The reason for the change of printers is usually assigned to the difficulty of obtaining supplies from England during World War II.

The stamps depict the god Siva Mahadheva (Pashupati) nestled among the Himalayas. They are frequently referred to as the 'Sivas' for brevity's sake. The first three issues are easily distinguished by the dates of their printing, in Nepalese characters in boxes at the bottom corners of the stamps. They appear as follows:



(Some catalogues indicate the year of issue of this second emission as 1929 -- obtained simply by subtracting 57 years from the Nepalese year '1986'. It is now known that the issue could not have appeared until sometime in the latter half of 1930.--Ed.)



The dates on the stamps are of the Sambat calendar used by the Nepalese. It is approximately 57 years ahead of the Gregorian calendar used in the West. The dates under the boxes are those of the Gregorian calendar.

The Issue of 1907

The philatelic departure represented by the Sivas was decreed by the then Prime Minister of Nepal, who no doubt was distressed by the faceless blobs into which the classics were degenerating. The date in the bottom corner boxes is 1964 in Nepalese, approximately the equivalent of 1906 A.D. There are four denominations: 2 pice, brown; 4 pice, green; 8 pice, carmine, and 16 pice, purple. Colin Hepper, in his book titled "The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal," reports six printings of this issue, with some shade variations. The stamps, for the most part, were printed on good quality European white wove paper.

(concluded on next page)

Westbrook, BUILDING..... (concluded) -- per, perforated 13½. The earlier printings of this issue were printed on watermarked paper. All of the Perkins, Bacon issues were gummed.

The Issue of 1930

This issue is much the same as that of 1907, except that it was extended to include four new values: 24p, orange; 32p, blue; 1 rupee (R), vermillion, and 5 R, black and red-brown. The latter is the first bi-color stamp issued by Nepal. There were some minor letter changes in the inscriptions, also, and, of course, the date blocks were updated. It should be noted that the date boxes actually read 1986 (Nepalese), the approximate equivalent of 1929 A.D. However, as the stamps were not issued for use until 1930, they usually are 'pegged' to the latter year.

They continued to be printed on good quality paper, perforated 13½. It is the only Siva issue to include the 5R value.

The Issue of 1935

Except for date boxes (1992 Nepalese, equivalent to ca. 1935 A.D.), and the dropping of the 1R and 5R values, this issue is virtually identical to its immediate predecessor. -- It is also the last of the Perkins, Bacon issues.

Collecting the Perkins, Bacon Issues

Collecting the three Perkins, Bacon issues is a relatively straightforward undertaking. As we have seen, the individual denominations & issues to which they belong are readily determined. If the collector wishes to advance beyond filling spaces in an album, there are a variety of interesting opportunities. He can collect mint and/or singles and multiples, adding shade varieties. They are available on covers, in most instances at moderate prices. Many registered covers bearing several Siva values are very colorful for brightening up a collection.

The spectrum is widened by the fact that all three issues were used to pre-pay telegrams, as well as postally. This leads to the opportunity for two sub-collections: 1) postally used stamps on & off cover, and 2) the same stamps telegraphically cancelled, frequently available in large blocks on whole

or partial telegraph forms. The telegraph cancels are interesting & easily identifiable. Unfortunately, postal cancels were sometimes used telegraphically, but it is reasonably safe to assume that large Siva multiples, regardless of the cancels, were used on telegrams. On singles and small multiples one has little choice but to assume that postal cancels were placed there for postal use.

For a detailed discussion of Nepal's postal and telegraphic cancellations, see "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl & Colin Hepper. The book is fully illustrated, with enlightening explanations.

The Perkins, Bacon issues were singularly free of errors. However, there are some exotic misperfs on ungummed paper of the 1935 4p green -- examples of which can be obtained at fairly reasonable prices.

Finally, die and plate proofs of the three issues are available. They provide the opportunity for the more advanced collector, with some degree of affluence, to give added depth to his collection.

In the next instalment we will discuss collecting the fourth Siva issue -- that of 1941-55. While the stamp designs are unchanged, it is otherwise a 'new ball game', with most of the collecting opportunities of the Perkins, Bacon issues plus a great deal more.

Bibliography

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalog, Part 21, Southeast Asia, Second Edition (1984).

"The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal" by Colin Hepper, published by The Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (1982).

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

AN UN-RECORDED FISCAL STAMP??

(See Colin Hepper's question concerning this item -- on p.17.--Ed.)

Ragged
punch
mark?



NOTES FROM TIBET

--Quinlan J. Shea, Jr.

We all began as stamp collectors. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in postal history & other related interests that we almost forget about the stamps that got us started. I'm a relatively new member of the Circle and don't consider myself an expert. Looking over recent issues of, and indexes to POSTAL HIMAL, there have been relatively few items on Tibet. As a result, I am volunteering to coordinate a joint effort by those collectors of Tibet who are interested, to go back to the basics and share our collecting experiences. The "bible" I use is "The Postal History of Tibet, 1981 Edition" by Arnold C. Waterfall.* As he makes clear, however, there are many unanswered questions -- and probably a lot of questions we haven't even asked yet.

For no particular reason, I am going to start the discussion with the 4 & 8 trangka issue, which appeared, according to Waterfall, sometime between 1914 & 1920, inclusive. The most expensive of the Tibetan regular issues, they have at least one thing in common with the others: you are more likely to encounter a forgery than a real stamp! The stamps appeared in sheets of six, and differ in color and in the design of the corner spandrels. The 4t is known in various shades of blue and has one small circle in each corner of the stamp, with rays starting there and pointing in towards the large outer circle of the central design. The 8t is known in various shades of red, and has three small (almost but not quite) circles near that large outer circle, with rays pointing out towards the edge of the design.

Waterfall notes that forgeries are known in both colors, but only in the design of the 8t. He gives as the key distinguishing point the fact that:

"In the forgeries, the three small circles are quite independent of the rays. In the genuine, the rays spring from the small circles."

The illustration shown on p. 13, lower right, is of a sheet of forgeries, showing a clear break between ray & circle in almost every instance.

Waterfall adds that, like the genuine stamps, the forgeries were printed in sheets of 6 stamps, but states that the

forged sheets lack the line of color around the sheet which is found on the originals. The illustrated sheet, from my own collection, is the 8t forgery with the line of color in the margin. Under a microscope, the match between the color of the stamps & that of the surrounding line appears to be perfect, making it quite unlikely -- though hardly impossible -- that the margin line was added at a time subsequent to the printing of the stamps themselves.

To sum up, it appears that, absent further information, there are no forgeries of the 4t stamp, only forgeries of the 8t in the colors of both the genuine 4t & 8t stamps. The presence or absence of a line of color in the margin should not be relied upon in attempting to tell a genuine sheet from a forged one. This makes the distinction involving the circles & the rays of critical importance. Can anyone provide either drawings or photocopies -- preferably, in either case, enlarged -- which will illustrate the distinction definitively?

I'll end as I began: I don't consider myself an expert, even on Tibetan stamps (let alone cancels & covers). Mistakes will appear in this column, and comments and corrections are very welcome. In addition, and most importantly, for this effort to be of any real value will require input from other collectors.

My intent for the next issue is to begin a review of the many forgeries of what Waterfall calls the 1933 issue (and which Scott breaks into separate 1932 & 1934 issues on the basis of paper). If you have anything to contribute which corroborates, supplements or even contradicts Waterfall, please let me hear from you.

If possible, send photocopies of your items with accompanying notes to:

Quinlan J. Shea, Jr.
5250 Wild Flower Terrace
Columbia, Maryland 21044

*This book was recently available from Roger Koerber, per his 1986 list of philatelic literature, at a cost of \$23. The reference number is AV19, and the address is: 15565 Northland Drive, Suite 605 W., Southfield, MI 48075-5308.

(Your editor notes that this book, and other useful references, are also available from member-dealer George Alevizos.)

A CORRECTION

In printing the article titled "Mail Runners on the Roof of the World", from THE RISING NEPAL for 31 July 1981 (in POSTAL HIMAL No. 49, page 4), we mistakenly gave credit to Alan Warren as our source. Although Alan frequently sends newspaper clippings relating to Tibet, this particular one was brought to our attention by Nick Rhodes. We wish to apologize to both gentlemen for the error and to express our appreciation to all of our readers who write in to point out errors which, despite our best efforts, sometimes slip through.

THE EARLY TIBETAN MAIL SYSTEM

We again thank Nick Rhodes for this brief but interesting passage which appears in an article describing a journey taken in 1899. The article is titled: "Two Journeys to Ta-tzien-lu on the Eastern Borders of Tibet", by A. E. Pratt. It appeared in GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL 1891, pp. 329-43. The pertinent paragraph is:

"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 reaches 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."

SURENDRA LAL SHRESTHA PUBLISHES

Our Nepal Representative, Surendra Lal Shrestha, has sent us a copy of a philatelic article with a religious flavour, relating to the Lord Krishna. It is titled "Shree Krishna Through the Postage Stamps of Nepal" (in Nepali) and appeared in DHARMA BHUMI, a special publication by the LALITPUR CITIZENS' COMMITTEE on 7 September 1985 (pp. 33-35) and was prompted by the Auspicious Occasion of Lord Krishna's Birth Anniversary -- "KRISHNASTAMI DAY". It dealt with such topics as: The first philatelic club in Nepal, named the "Himalaya Philatelic Club", which produced a high quality FDC for the first "Krishna Temple" stamp (16p) on 1 October 1949 (still available at face from the GPO in Kathmandu after 36 years!); the second "Krishna theme" stamp issued on

16 April 1959 (2p); the third on 7 September 1966 (15p); then noting that no more appear in the 457 different Nepal stamps which have been issued, according to the list issued by the Nepal Philatelic Bureau up to September 1985. (We also thank Mr. S. L. Shrestha for a copy of the revised "POSTAGE RATES" which became effective on 16 July 1986, as we had not seen it before. Mr. Shrestha states that few were printed, so we invite interested readers to request a photocopy from your editor.--Ed.)

AN EARLY CHINESE COMMUNIST COVER FROM LHASA

--N. G. Rhodes

(The cover described is shown on page 18, as our SHOWCASE item for this issue. It may be of interest to anyone studying the establishment of Chinese postal services in Tibet in the 1950s.--Ed.)

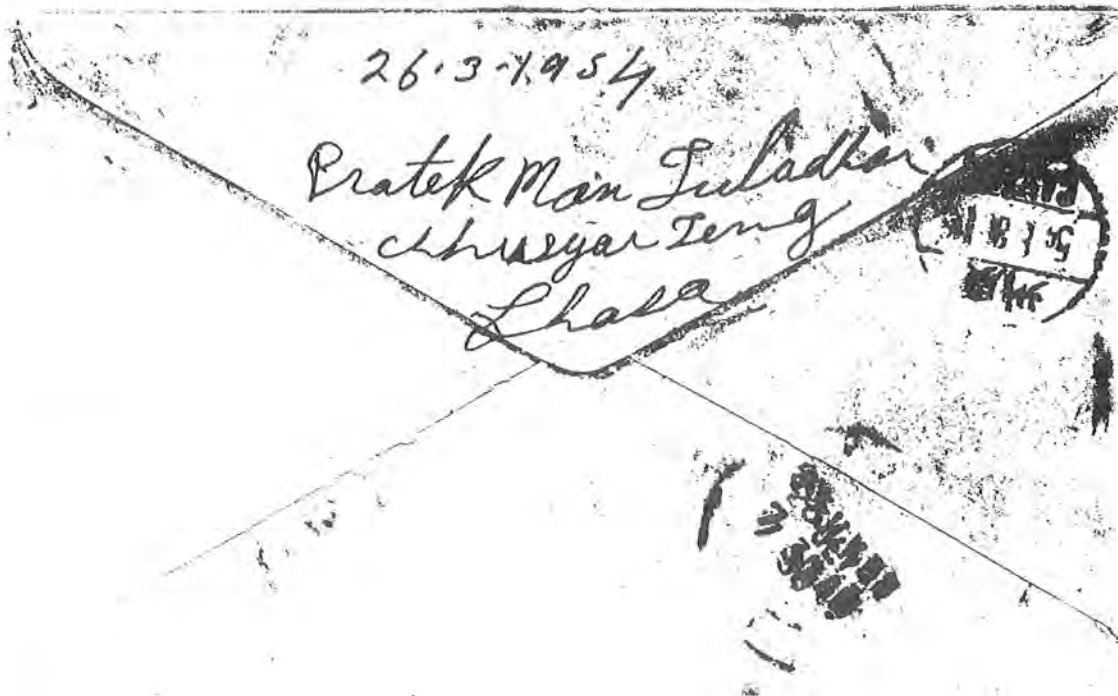
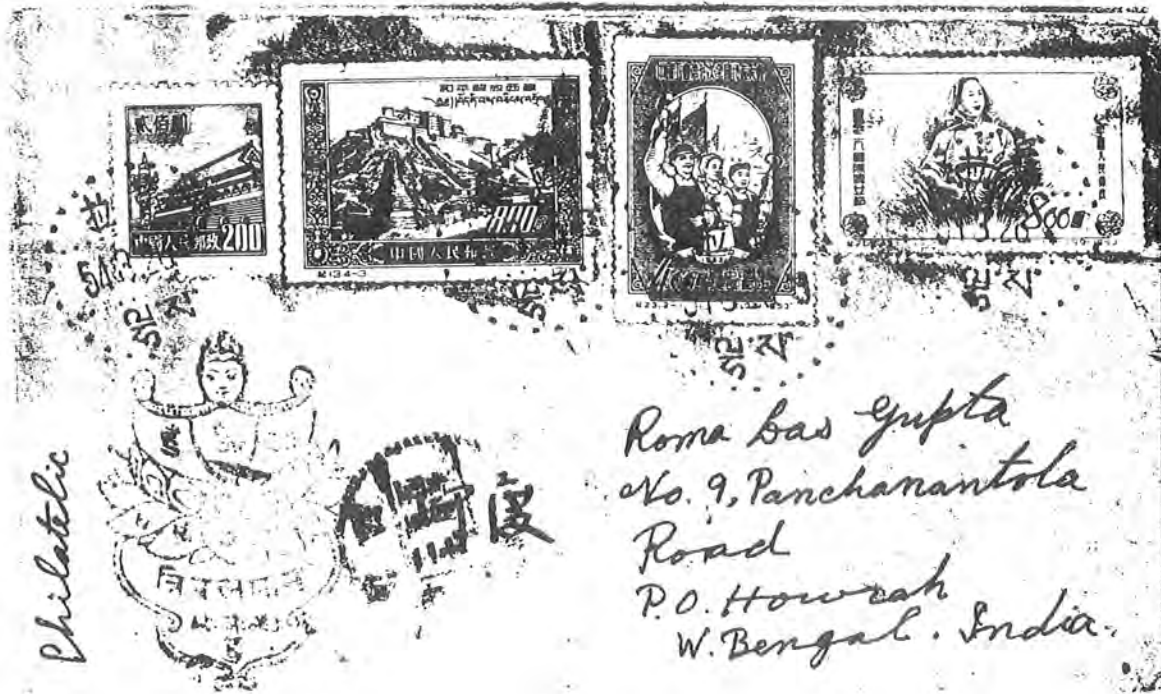
This philatelic cover was posted in Lhasa on 26.3.1954 by Pratek Man Tuladhar and addressed to Calcutta. It received a Lhasa type C5 handstamp -- more than 6 months earlier than the first usage of this handstamp recorded by Waterfall (2.10.54). Rather than passing along the direct route to India, via Yatung, it headed east, and received a transit mark in Szechuan Province around 20th May, and another in Canton on 23 July 1954 -- just under 4 months after leaving Lhasa.

This cover raises several questions. When in the 1950's did civilian Chinese postal services start in Tibet? Was Lhasa the first Chinese Post Office in Tibet, and when did it open -- could this be a First Day cover? Was this roundabout route used because the Chinese had not yet negotiated transfer facilities from the Chinese to the Indian postal system?

AN UN-RECORDED FISCAL STAMP??

Colin Hepper writes: "Enclosed is a photo-copy of what I think is a fiscal stamp overprinted 'Kathmandu Hulak Goswara'. It was sent to me by one of our members, Mr. A. Eller, of Halifax (GB), but, as I have never seen one before, I could not help him very much. Can any of our readers provide information on this unusual item?" (Please write to Colin Hepper and/or your editor.--Ed.)

SHOWCASE



See article, with questions raised, by N. G. Rhodes, on page 17 of this issue.