

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



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COVER ILLUSTRATION: An enlargement of the special cancellation created for POST-EXPO GOTEBOG, which opened on 6 October and closed on 12 November -- an unprecedented period of time for a philatelic exhibition -- created especially for the visit of His Highness, the Dalai Lama of Tibet. See pages 45 & 46 for Bo Olsson's report on the opening day ceremonies and his unique opportunity to prepare the only philatelic exhibit. -- Note the sketch of the Potala in Lhasa and the use of both Tibetan and Swedish languages in a most unusual cancellation.

Dear Friends,

After nearly ten years of experience as editor for our Study Circle, I cannot recall putting together a more exciting issue than this one. Several of you have shared your discoveries, exhibition successes and other matters related to the philately of the Himalayan Region of Asia -- so eloquently that I found it unnecessary to do much re-writing. I feel most fortunate to share your experiences and to pass them on to our membership. I call your attention to articles by Bo C. Olsson (who is, by the way, in the process of starting his own dealership in Tibetan material). -- We have a most scholarly study by Mr. D. Dawson (his first offering to your editor) of an unusual Tibetan letter. -- Ken Jones, who prepares our indexes, shares with us his excitement in discovering a "bamboo" letter more than 350 years old -- and 'old timers', including Dr. Hellrigl, Colin Hepper, Prof. A. E. Singer, Dick van der Wateren and your editor add their voices to this issue. Surely our Study Circle is alive and well. Your editor is much encouraged by your response to his pleas for material. Keep it coming!

But there are other needs. Colin Hepper renews his call for more material to offer through our quarterly mail auctions. Remember that commissions from these sales provide additional income to meet the increasing costs of printing, postage and other expenses. Your Secretary, your Editor and Publicity Director, Frank Westbrook, as well as the various area representatives, serve without pay -- and gladly. What can you do, as one member, who may not have personal contact with any other Study Circle member? Remember our President's admonition. Dr. Couvreur has often suggested that each of us can share his/her philatelic interests with others through a local stamp club, or on a one-to-one basis. Have you done that during this calendar year?

We sometimes lose members, but it is very unusual to find that a "dead" member is very much alive! At CHICAGOPEX '88, while attending the annual meeting of the American Philatelic Congress the first weekend of November, three different people mentioned to me that 'Jack' Young had died recently -- no details.

So, a few days ago, I wrote a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Young. This morning I received a telephone call from Helen & Jack, both assuring me that Jack was alive & well! The erroneous 'news' was also spread at SEPAD '88, in Jack's own home state (Pennsylvania), on October 21-23! Welcome back, Jack!

Let me call your attention to various international exhibitions coming up in the next few years -- especially INDIA '89 in January 1989, at which we are arranging an international meeting of the Study Circle. And, of course, our hard-working Secretary, Colin Hepper, has already commenced arrangements for a similar meeting at STAMP WORLD '90, in London, 3-13 May 1990. -- Note the schedule for other FIP exhibitions, on page 44, where you might find members gathering and/or exhibiting.

Finally, as the year 1988 A.D. draws to a close, allow me to wish for each of you a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year in 1989.

Namaste,

Lester A. Michel

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING FOR MEMBERS ONLY

One insertion, per line \$1.00

Four insertions, per line 3.50

To calculate the number of lines your advertisement will require, count 39 characters per line, including all letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. The final line, although it may require less than 39 characters & spaces, is counted as a full line. No charge is made for headings and advertisements will be placed under appropriate headings as needed. See the Classified Ad section in the final pages of any issue of THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST for typical ad headings -- or simply send your advertisement, asking the editor to place it under an appropriate heading.

DEADLINES: Ad & payment in USA dollars must reach the editor by the first day of one of the following months -- February, May, August, November -- in order for ad to appear in issues normally mailed about a month after the deadline.

Postal Bid Sale for India, Indian States, stamps, covers, fiscals & literature. -- Catalogue 90¢ in stamps. Satish Misra, 112, Punjabpura, Bareilly-243003 (INDIA).

SOCOPEX '88 REPORT

The annual Southern Colorado Philatelic Exhibition was held this year on November 4-6 -- the very same weekend that your editor was attending CHICAGOPEX '88 and the annual meeting of the American Philatelic Congress. He had entered an 80 page exhibit in the local show quite early, when our local exhibit chairman, Art Ackley (the other Study Circle member in our city), made an appeal for exhibits from the members of the Colorado Springs Stamp Club. When your editor made a last minute decision to go to Chicago (nearly 1,000 miles away) he hurriedly completed preparation of an exhibit of "the Use of Nepalese Postage Stamps in Telecommunications" and put it in Art's hands the day before leaving for Chicago. (See article under NEW PUBLICATIONS on p. 51) Upon returning from Chicago, we were surprised and pleased to learn that the exhibit was not only awarded a GOLD, but also the RESERVE GRAND award -- quite a successful philatelic weekend for your editor!

INDIA '89

Mr. D. N. Jatia and Mr. P. Gupta, the outstanding philatelist among our Indian members, have both written recently to report that plans are well underway for the exhibition in New Delhi scheduled for 20-29 January 1989. Although the officers of the Nepal Philatelic Society had originally suggested January 26 for a combined meeting of our two societies, serious objections were made by some of the foreign visitors, since January 26 is National Day in India and many would like to witness the lengthy parade on that day. As a result of these differences of opinion, we have asked Mr. D. N. Jatia to change the meeting day to 28 January at 10:00 AM. This was considered a better choice than the afternoon of 26 January, since a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society, London is scheduled for that afternoon. Please inform the Secretary of your society if you plan to attend, since it is hoped that the meeting will be followed with a dinner. Mr. Jatia has asked us to report how many are coming so that required arrangements can be made. -- Since POSTAL HIMAL No. 57 will not appear until March 1989, this is our last report to members via the pages of POSTAL HIMAL.--Ed.

HELLRIGL WINS AGAIN -- AT PRAGA '88

Dr. Hellrigl's exhibit of the classic issues of Nepal was awarded a LARGE GOLD medal and the Hellrigl/Vignola book, "The Classic Issues of Nepal", received another GOLD medal. Dr. Hellrigl reports that it was a very successful exhibition in that it attracted some 300,000 visitors! However, he added that he did not encounter a single Nepal or Tibet collector. -- Congratulations are in order and we note that this is about the 8th successive GOLD medal received by the Hellrigl/Vignola book in international competition!

FILACEPT '88

Dick van der Wateren has sent us an interesting postal card the Holland-Europa exhibition held on 18-23 October. The special cancel on an appropriate stamp is shown below. Dick did not mention details and we assume that he did not enter an exhibit. Thank you for the most interesting souvenir of the show, Dick.--Ed.



Future FIP Exhibitions

Year	Name	City	Date
1988	JUVALUX 88 (Youth)	Luxembourg	March 29-April 4
	FINLANDIA 88	Helsinki	June 1-12
	PRAGA 88	Prague	Aug. 27-Sept. 5
	*OLYMPHILEX 88 (Sports)	Seoul	Sept. 19-28
1989	INDIA 89	New Delhi	Jan. 20-29
	IPHLA 89 (Literature)	Frankfurt	April 19-23
	BULGARIA 89	Sofia	May 21-30
	Philexfrance 89	Paris	July 7-17
1990	Stamp World '90	London	May 3-13
	*WIEN 90 (Postal History, Thematic)	Vienna	?
	Dusseldorf 90 (Youth)	Dusseldorf	June 12-17
NEW ZEALAND 1990	Auckland	Aug. 24-Sept. 2	
1991	PHILATOKYO 91	Tokyo	Aug. ?
	PORTUGAL 91	Lisbon	?
1992	URUGUAY 92	Montevideo	October ?
	ESPANA 92	Madrid	?
	?	Genoa	?

EXHIBITION OF TIBETAN PHILATELY
IN POST-EXPO

--Bo C. Olsson

The stamp exhibition in honour of His Highness Dalai Lama's visit to Sweden opened on 6 October 1988, three days before the arrival of HH Dalai Lama in Sweden, and continued until 12 November 1988. Posters depicting a front view of the Potala palace in Lhasa had been sent out to all post offices in the Göteborg area. The exhibition was held in Post-Expo in the downtown area of Göteborg. All exhibitions in Post-Expo have official sponsorship from the Swedish postal administration. A special letter box just outside the entrance to the exhibition collected all mail items to be cancelled with the special postmark for the exhibition (shown here in actual size).



The postmark is rather unusual, not only in depicting the Potala but also being the first bilingual one in Swedish and Tibetan languages.

At 12.00 (noon) on the opening day invited philatelists, postmen, cultural workers and press men heard the strange sounds of Tibetan music, the Tibetan flag was raised and the music slowly died out. The director of Post-Expo, Mr. Liljedahl, introduced Mr. H. Brockenhuis von L wenhielm, the opening ceremony speaker. Mr. von L wenhielm gave a very much appreciated background to the Tibetan history, its postal history and philately, and finally introduced the exhibitor, Mr. Bo. C. Olsson. Mr. L wenhielm also pointed out the reason for the exhibition, namely the visit of His Highness Dalai Lama to Sweden, and he stress his concern for peace and harmony in the world. Finally, he expressed the hope for rightful freedom for the Tibetan people to be achieved. Mr. Liljedahl then read a personal letter from, and signed by, HH Dalai Lama, who wrote that he was deeply honoured and expressed his sincere prayers and good wishes for the success of the exhibition.

The exhibition included information about Tibet, its history and philately.

A complete scarf letter sent by HH Dalai Lama in the 1920s, an antique hand-written book from the Panchen Lama's monastery, a prayer wheel and other related items were on display. The stamps and covers section was divided as follows:

1. Pre-philately and proof printings for the 1912-type issues
2. 1912-type issues
3. 1914-type issues
4. 1933-type issues
5. Postmarks
6. Forged stamps and exile 'stamps'
7. The so-called official stamps
8. Telegraph stamps

The exhibit also included information about HH Dalai Lama's visit to Sweden. After the official opening ceremony the Swedish Post Office invited the participants to refreshments. (See related pictures on next page.)



NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

(The following excerpt from an article in THE RISING NEPAL - English language daily - for August 8, 1988, sent by our Nepal Representative, Mr. S. L. Shrestha.--Ed.)

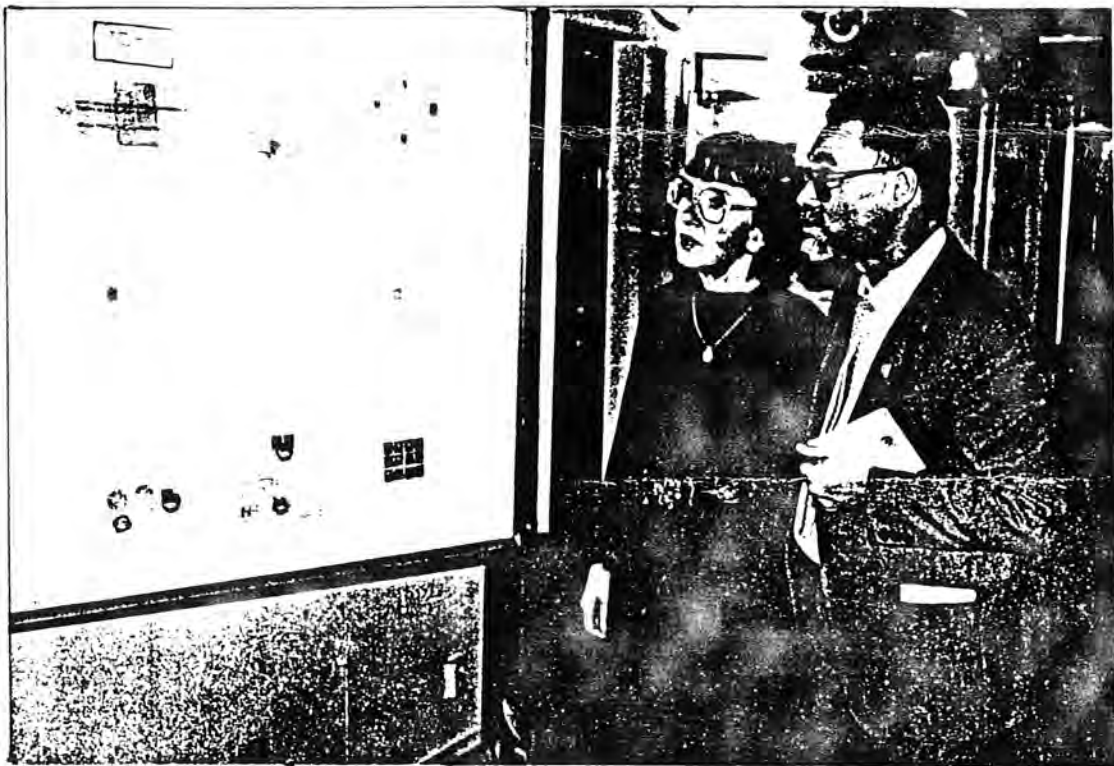
The title of a lengthy article on the front page is: "HMG Approves Communications Policy" and its main provision seems to be the appointment of a "chief Government Spokesman whose main duty will be to provide better information services to the media. Those paragraphs relating to postal matters are quoted here:

"The zonal level post offices are to be abolished and the regional level post offices will be strengthened. The abolition of zonal level post offices at the administrative level and retention of operational level post offices is an attempt to make the postal services efficient.

"District post offices will continue and the General Post Office in Kathmandu will now be a district post office.

"Area post offices will be opened in each of the nine areas of the district and each of the village panchayats will have one village post office. The work of opening area post offices and village panchayat post offices will be carried out gradually."

Pictures of the EXHIBITION OF TIBETAN PHILATELY IN POST-EXPO (6 October-12 November 1988):



Stamps & cancellations on a typical cover:

NEPAL ENTERS STANLEY GIBBONS', PART 1
--Wolfgang Hellrigl

Many Nepal collectors will surely be surprised to learn that the editors of the world's leading general catalogue, STANLEY GIBBONS, have included a brief chapter on Nepal in their "Part 1" (British Commonwealth) catalogue for 1989, released in August, 1988. The new Nepal entry refers exclusively to "India used in Nepal" and reads as follows:

"NEPAL. A post office was opened in the British Residency at Kathmandu in 1816 following the end of the Gurkha War. Stamps of India were used from 1854, initially with "B137", "137" or "C-37" numeral cancellations. The Residency Post Office continued to provide the overseas mail service after Nepal introduced its own issues in 1881.

In 1920 the Residency Post Office became the British Legation Post Office. On the independence of India in 1947 the service was transferred to the Indian Embassy and continued to function until 1965."

The above information given by Gibbons is quite correct, except for two minor points: Firstly, the earliest cancellation was a diamond of dots; it preceded the B/137 type.

Secondly, the Residency P.O. provided not only "the overseas mail service" but also - and one is tempted to add: primarily - the "inland" mail service to India and Indian P.O.s abroad (such as Gyantse and Pharijong, Tibet).

While the catalogue editors are to be congratulated for their obvious effort to squeeze as much postal history as possible into the pages of their best 'horse', Part 1, I cannot but question the blatant discrimination of Nepal if compared to other classic areas of "India used abroad" such as Burma, Straits Settlements (Malacca, Penang, Singapore) and Muscat. For all of these countries, lavish illustrations of the early cancellations as well as their periods of use, lists of Post Offices, etc., have long been a standing feature.

Was Nepal denied such treatment only because it had never formed part of the British Commonwealth? I am afraid that the answer might be yes. What other

criteria could have induced the editors of Stanley Gibbons to treat analogous Post Offices in such a different way? And yet, notwithstanding Nepal's political sovereignty, the British Residency Post Office at Kathmandu is clearly an undeniable part of the postal history of the British Empire.

Gibbons would be well advised to rectify the situation by including illustrations of the classic cancellations of "India used in Nepal" in Part 1 or, alternatively, in Part 21 (which contains the stamp issues of Nepal). I fully agree that it would be impractical to show or list all cancellations but those in use prior to, say, 1880, should definitely be included, giving the British Residency Post Office of Nepal the listing it really deserves.

The position of Tibet - which, incidentally, has also been included in Part 1 for the first time - is basically different in that its British-Indian markings were only introduced in 1903, i.e., well beyond the classic period in question.



RECENT NEPAL STATIONERY

Mr. S. L. Shrestha has sent us some new items of postal stationery:

- 1) A stamped envelope with a rectangular stamp of 60p denomination, blue in color & featuring the King's crown above Mt. Sagarmatha, in a vertical oval frame. No other markings appear. Issue date: 8 September 1988.



- 2) Apostal card
A postal card nearly identical to the Mt. Sagarmatha 20p postal card issued 25-9-1978 -- the 25th anniversary of the first ascent. This new one has no date in the lower left corner, is printed in brown, and has a denomination of 30p. Interestingly, the cards come in a folded strip of four and are partially severed between so that they are easily detached from one another. This postal card was also released on September 8, this year, and, unless I am mistaken, these are the first new postal stationery items to appear in the past 5 to 6 years. -- An illustration of the card appears on p. 51.

AN INTERESTING HISTORICAL LETTER
FROM TIBET

--D. Dawson

Some time ago I acquired a letter bearing the red ink seal of the Panchen Lama. The letter is written in eleven lines of Tibetan dBu-med script on a sheet of Tibetan paper 59 cm square and folded in the usual manner of scarf letters so as to leave only the address instructions visible. The outer fold bears a smaller red ink seal of the Secretary of the Panchen Lama beside which is a registry marking in Nepali. Both seals are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. There are no other markings.

The Panchen's seal, known as the Ja-sa-kah-tham (hJa-sa-bKah-tham, འཇམ་ས་ཀམ་ཐམ་), "the seal of heaven (lit. "rainbow") and earth", bears an inscription in Old Indian Lantsa script with a central monogram above which is a conch shell and, at each side, the word "man-galam", the Sanskrit equivalent of the Tibetan "Tashi" (bKra-shis, བླ་ཤིས་), i.e. "blessing" as in Tashi-lhünpo, the name of the Panchen Lama's monastery at Shigatse. The central monogram is a composite of ten letters supposedly having mystical power and hence called "Nam-chu-wang-dam" (rNam-bou-dBang-lDam, འཇམ་བུ་འབྲུ་རབ་དང་ལྷ་མོ་), "the ten powerful letters". At the base is a stylised lotus cushion. The seal is 39 mm square and impressions have been recorded on letters between 1761 and 1930.

The small round seal of the Secretary, 16 mm in diameter, shows a conch shell surmounted by three dots representing the Lamaist Tri-ratna (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha). The conch is one of the eight auspicious symbols of Buddhism, implying the preaching of the doctrine.

The text and date of the letter interested me, and I am greatly indebted to Mr. Hugh Richardson, last Head of the British (later Indian) Mission, Lhasa, for his generous and invaluable interest and help in unravelling the problems. The letter is addressed to the Gorkha Military Officers at Gnyanang (Nielam or Kuti), the Tibetan town on the Nepalese border, and would have been carried by courier. It contains a request that a separate letter be forwarded to the Maharaja of Nepal, and goes on to describe the efforts of the writer and the Sakya Lama to make peace between the Gorkha

and Tibetans, mentions troops being sent towards Sikkim and implies a Gorkha withdrawal from Gnya-nang.

The context, then, is war between Nepal and Tibet. There were two such periods of hostilities. The first was in 1788 over trade problems, debased Nepali coinage circulating in Tibet and damaging that country's economy, and intrigues involving the Shamar Trulku, head of the Karma-pa sect and brother of the late 3rd Panchen Lama who died of smallpox while on a visit to Peking in 1780. Shamar Trulku disputed the settlement of the dead Panchen's estate and had fled to Nepal where he sought support for his claims. The Gorkha invaded Tibet and took the frontier districts of Gnya-nang, Kyi-rong and Rong-shar before advancing further into the country. Peace was not finally restored until 1792. The second conflict was in 1855, again over alleged trade violations. Once more Gorkha forces occupied Gnya-nang, Rong-shar and other frontier areas. That dispute was settled in 1856 by the Treaty of Thata-pali, Tibet regaining its territories and Nepal obtaining extra-territorial rights in Kuti, Kyi-rong and Khasa. Collectors will no doubt be familiar with covers bearing Nepalese Court Seals from these Tibetan towns.

To which of these periods does the letter relate? Mr. Richardson gives what must be the two vital clues. These are (i) the reference in the text to the "efforts of myself and the Sakya Lama to make peace between the Gorkha and Tibetans", and (ii) the mention of troops being sent towards Sikkim. During the 1788 conflict Chinese Imperial forces intervened but, having reached Shigatse, the commander, Shen T'ai-tu, showed some reluctance to advance further. Instead he pressed the Tibetans, who were already having some success against the invaders, to negotiate a settlement. The Tibetans agreed, apparently with some reluctance, and sent the Gya-yab (Tibetan "rGyal-Yab", an honorific title borne by the fathers of Dalai and Panchen Lamas), on this occasion the father of the 7-year old 4th Panchen Lama, Tempe Nyima, together with the Secretary of Sakya to Shekar with power to negotiate. Meanwhile, towards the end of 1788, Gorkha forces had attacked the Winter Palace of the Maharaja of Sikkim, and Tibetan troops under the command of Depon Kyibuk were despatched

Dawson, AN INTERESTING.....(concluded)--

from Shekar to aid the Sikkimese. By the Spring of 1789 the mediators at Shekar were in correspondence with Shamar Trulku who suggested that they proceed to Kyi-rong with a representative of the Dalai Lama to open negotiations with himself and the Gorkha. This was agreed upon and the Kalon Doring accompanied the Tibetan delegation. The Gorkha negotiators were led by Bhim Sahib (Bhim Sen Thapa), a famous general and Minister of the infant Nepalese King, Ran Bahadur Sah. A peace treaty was concluded, but it was not long before the Gorkha disowned it and an 18,000 strong army invaded Tibet in 1791 and sacked Tashi-lhunpo and Shigatse before being defeated and expelled the following year by Tibetan and Chinese troops.

These facts fix the date of the letter beyond reasonable doubt as late 1788/early 1789. There is no record of the Panchen and Sakya Lamas taking any part in the negotiations in 1855, nor were Chinese forces involved in that conflict, the Manchu power being then in decline and China being in no position to assist the Tibetans. The letter is thus almost exactly 200 years old.

One further relevant fact is worth mention. The Regent of the 4th Panchen Lama was the Drungpa Trulku, a brother of both the 3rd Panchen Lama and of Shamar Trulku, and since the 4th Panchen Lama as a minor was not in charge of affairs, the letter was in all likelihood dictated and sealed by the Regent. The delegated use of seals was a usual practice in Tibetan official circles. As an example, during the signing of the Treaty between Great Britain and Tibet in the Potala on 7th September 1904 (Young-husband Mission) the seal of the 13th Dalai Lama, who had fled to Mongolia, was affixed by the Gaden Tri Rimpoché with whom it had been left.

Sources consulted:

- Richardson, H. E., "Tibet and its History."
Shakabpa, W. D., "Tibet - A Political History."
Turner, S., "An Account of an Embassy to the Court of the Teshoo Lama in Tibet."
Waddell, L. A., "Lhasa and its Mysteries"
Walsh, E. H., "Examples of Tibetan Seals" (Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland: Jan. 1915)
Waterfall, A. C., "The Postal History of Tibet."



Fig. 1 - Seal of the Panchen Lama.

Fig. 2 - Seal of the Secretary of the Panchen Lama (below).



TRANSLATION OF A 'BAMBOO' LETTER

--Kenneth W. Jones

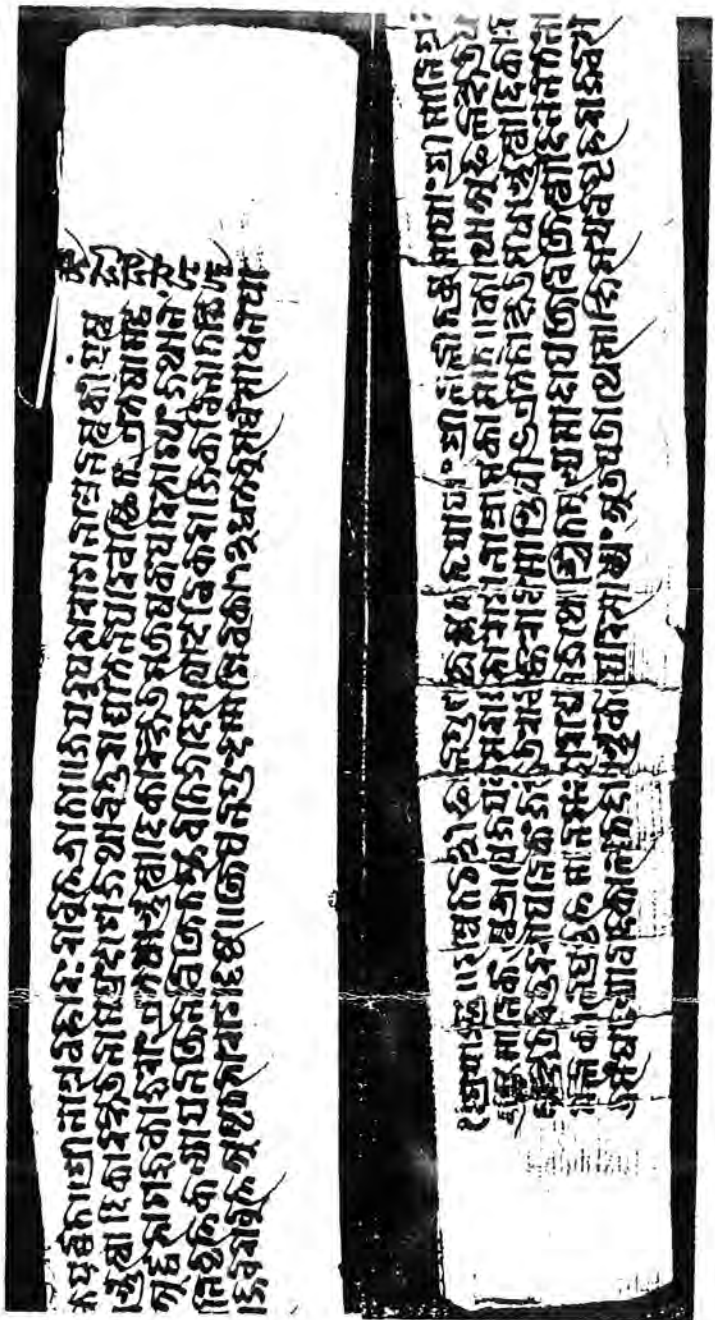
Several years ago I purchased two of the 'bamboo' letters. They are "rolls" which are sealed with a clay seal. One of these has been opened and found to be very fragile. I showed it to a Nepalese student in one of my classes, but he was unable to read it since it was not written in the common written language. He did, however, put me in touch with a friend who was a linguist. It turns out that the 'language' is a combination of Sanscrit & Newari -- very difficult to read, but here is a rough translation:

"Hail! On the 13th day of the dark of the moon in the month of Falgun (Feb.-March) of the year 631, Nepal era (1511 A.D.):

"The owner, brother Raurta jayaropa bhara (meaning unknown) living in Togla Bahara that lies in the east of Maningala (present-day Patan Darbar), of the wealth (or piece of land) that was owned by him, e.g., one fourth out of the total land, called kothomaphala (?) surrounded by the Nepars and having an area of four ropanees (1 ropanee = 5,476 ft.) was sold in the presence of the tenant. The tenant could use his portion after paying the required part to his new landlord. The produce, when ripened, if it has to be sold at a good price, that also can be done. Later, if it is so desired, the farm (land) may also be sold.

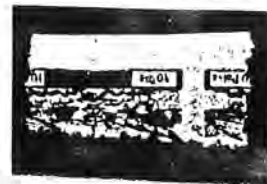
"The witness to this transaction is Mr. Rajab Sahu, and Mr. Amrit Bhara, living in the same quarter. The buyer should pay 13 shivakas (an old unit of currency). The farm should be cultivated properly and used to feed the needful. The end."

I almost choked over that date, as I had not realized that I had such an antique. The photocopy (at right) shows that there were some breaks in the bamboo caused by rolling it out flat after so many years. It actually measures about 13.5 inches by 1 5/8 inches, so this illustration is cut in half in order to fit on this page. -- The other item appears to be newer, and I will try to have it translated. If successful, I will share what I learn with you all. (We have a couple of these items, but know little about them and look forward to learning more.--Ed.)



NEPAL ODDITY REPORTED

Our Nepal Representative, Mr. S. L. Shrestha, has sent us a photocopy of a small freak (?) item of the 1958 10p Airmail issue, locally printed. The item shows part impressions of two adjacent stamps, with perforations on 3 sides, imperforate at bottom & between. Perhaps it is a good example of what would be called "printer's waste".--Ed.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Your editor is pleased to report that his long-awaited study of the use of Nepalese postage stamps by the telephone/telegraph service has been published in the 1988 issue of the "Fifty-Fourth American Philatelic Congress" which was released during the annual meeting, held at the O'Hare Expo Center in Rosemont, Illinois, in conjunction with CHICAGOPEX '88, November 4-6, 1988.

Those who attended the international meeting of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle at WESTPEX '79, may recall that a rough initial draft of an article on this subject was distributed to those who attended that meeting, and many of you who read these words are aware that you have provided the author with descriptions, photocopies, etc., of items in your collections which relate to the topic, and a final section titled "Acknowledgements" lists many names. -- It was Dr. Hellrigl, however, who suggested, some years ago, that I offer the manuscript to the editor of the APC.

Although I had not planned to attend the meeting, I began to get urgent calls and letters from the editor and the president, saying that it was important for me to attend in person and, almost at the last moment I decided to attend, knowing only that I was being asked to speak briefly at the "author's forum", scheduled for 11 AM on Saturday, Nov. 5. It turned out that, after talking briefly about my research, and as the last of four speakers, the President gave a short speech and presented me with the Walter R. McCoy Award "For the Best Article in the Congress Book of the current year." -- I was overwhelmed, but recovered sufficiently to accept the award on behalf of all those who helped and encouraged me to publish "The Use of Nepalese Postage Stamps in Telecommunications". Thank you.



NEW NEPAL POSTAL CARD


The new Nepal postal card illustrated in the lower right corner of this page, is described on page 47, along with the description of a prestamped envelope issued on the same day -- 8 September 1988.--Ed.

PROFESSOR SINGER PUBLISHES

Those of you who read "The American Philatelist" each month may have seen the familiar name of Armand E. Singer, in the Table of Contents, opposite an article titled "Philatelic-Flavored Fiction" -- in the October 1988 issue. Although the article does not relate to the philately of our area of interest, I found the opportunity to stretch my own relatively ordinary command of the English language via some stimulating reading. Prof. Dr. Singer has been a Professor of Romance Languages at the University of West Virginia for many years and, although now retired, still teaches a graduate-level course in the area of literary research. This article, with its catchy title, is a rather thorough study of the use of philatelic themes in works of fiction and required six fully packed pages. No one I know is better qualified to write such an article, since our learned colleague has been the editor of the "WVU Philological Papers" for at least thirty-five years. I found myself required to check my own English dictionary a number of times, as I read the article -- and so will you!

It should be mentioned that Professor Singer is no stranger to the pages of "The American Philatelist" as he published another fascinating article in the April 1986 issue dealing with his theory that the stamps of Tibet may have been perforated on a Singer sewing machine. The cover of that issue shows the author testing his theory!--Ed.






हुलाक पत्र

POST CARD

नाम र ठेगाना मात्र



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

REVENUES:

For the purposes of this discussion we have chosen to list these interesting items in four categories, although we find no clear stopping place. There is relatively little published on the subject and we do not consider ourselves to be experts on this subject. Nepal is unique in so many ways, including the handling of revenue stamps, that it does seem appropriate to include them in the series.

1) SERVICE.

This bank note size stamp (62 x 150 mm), without value panels or other inscriptions shows the official seal at the center. This stamp was printed at the top of a sheet of native paper, apparently, and it was necessary to write all petitions and requests to the Prime Minister on such a sheet. Throughout the period of the Rana Regime (ca. 1850-1950) the Prime Minister was the absolute ruler of the country. The petitioner was required to pay one Rupee for a sheet of paper with the SERVICE stamp printed on it. See Figure 1.

2) COURT FEE.

First issued in 1922, there are some 22 denominations, ranging from 1 pice to 25 Rupees. There may be higher values but we have not seen any, if they exist. The design is ca. 37 x 58 mm, printed in black on white handmade paper -- usually quite thick -- for the seven pice values; orange on white or blue paper for the Rupee values up to and including 10 Rupees. The 15, 20 & 25 Rupee values are normally found printed in blue, green & red, respectively, on white paper. All are found with a variety of cancels -- often several on a stamps -- including punch, pen, red star and seal cancels. The example shown in Figure 2 is a 4 R stamp, orange on white paper. The denomination panel (bottom, center) is changeable and interesting variations and errors can be found. Unpunched examples normally are bought at a premium as they are relatively scarce. They can be found on documents, along with postage stamps up to ca. 1960. More will be said on this topic later.

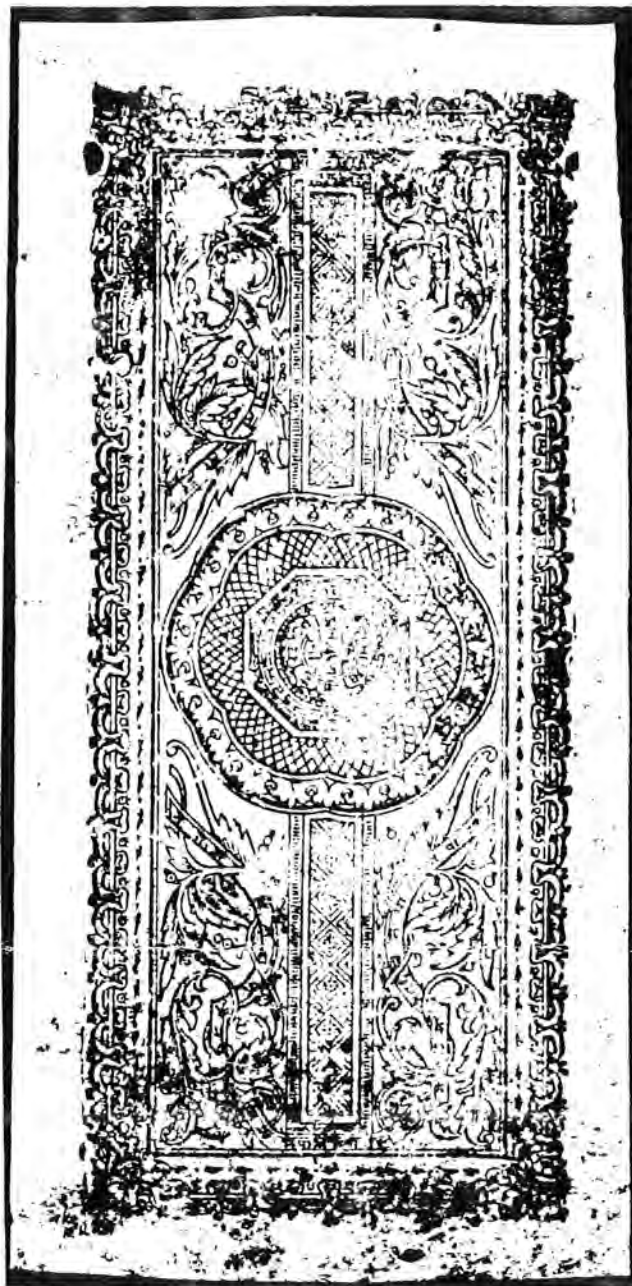


Fig. 1 - SERVICE stamp, black on native paper

Fig. 2 - COURT FEE stamp, on thick native paper, linen finish, 4 Rupees, orange on white



3) LANDLORD.

This square (ca. 66 x 67 mm) stamp, printed on native paper, has a design reminiscent of the first postal issue. Three values are known: 1 Rupee (blue), 2 Rupees (green) -- shown in Figure 3 with a black oval seal cancel) and the 5 Rupees (red). All are known both mint and used and, occasionally can be found glued to the top of a sheet of native paper on which landlord-tenant agreements are described. The 1 Rupee value is fairly common in used condition, but is very scarce mint. On the other hand, the 2 Rupees value seems more common mint.

4) DOCUMENTARY.

These large rectangular stamps (ca. 68 x 146 mm) are similar to the SERVICE stamps described at the beginning of this discussion. First issued in 1922, they are distinguished by the value panels at left and right of the centrally located official seal. They are normally found detached, often roughly cut from the sheet. If found on an entire sheet, the stamp is just under a printed heading and carries both a Series number and a Serial number. All are printed in black and at least nine values are known to this writer. These 'stamps' were involved with all sorts of cases coming before the courts of law and, as mentioned earlier, documents (or portions of them) can be found with one of these stamps plus a variety of SERVICE stamps and/or postage stamps, from the later Sri Pasupati issues up to the early 1960s. -- An example of the basic DOCUMENTARY stamp is shown in Figure 4.

References:

- 1) Khatri, Tek Bahadur, "The Postage Stamps of Nepal" (First Edition) HMG Press, Kathmandu (1971), p. 17
- 2) Hellrigl, Wolfgang C., "The Seals of the Kings and Maharajahs of Nepal", privately published (1976)
- 3) Ricketts, Mac L. and Vignola, Frank, "A Guide to Specialization in Nepal Philately", California Collectors Club (undated), Section VII.

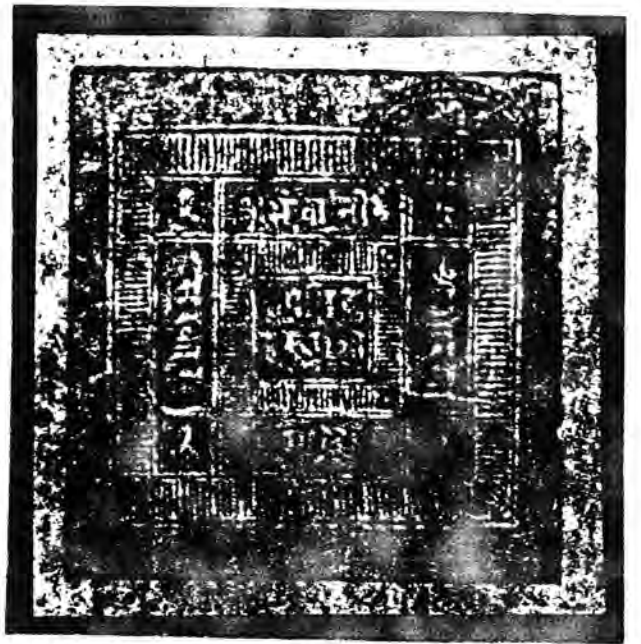
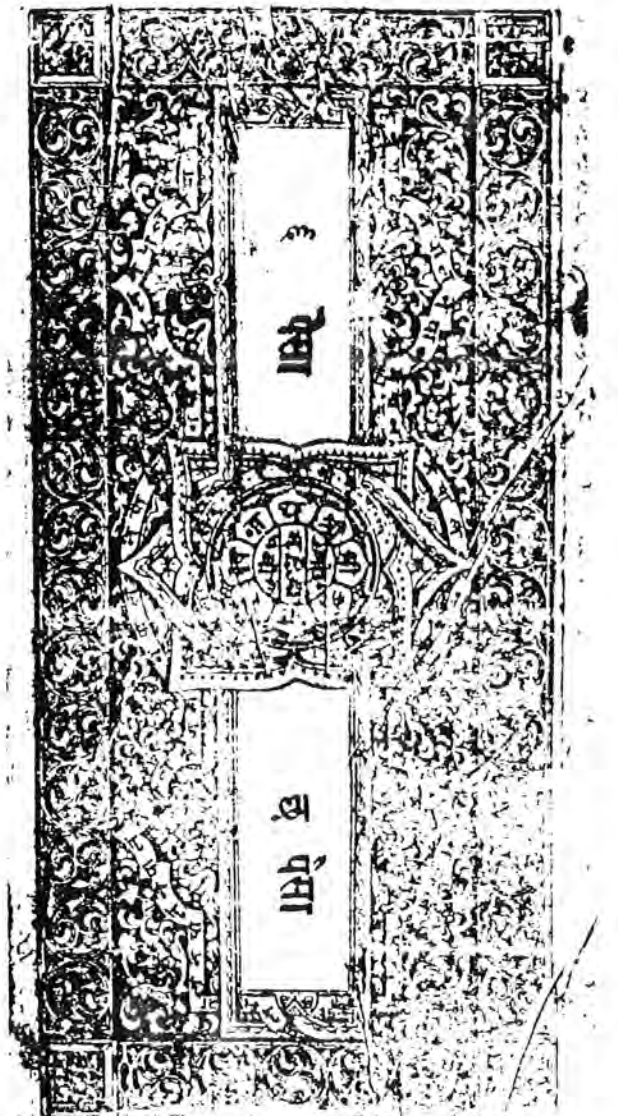


Fig. 3 - LANDLORD stamp, 2 R green on native paper (above)

Fig. 4 - DOCUMENTARY stamp, 6 R black on thin native paper (below)



We thank our Nepal Representative, Mr. S. L. Shrestha for sending us this interesting page from a Chinese publication.--Ed.

Postmarks

The Tibetan nationality, one of China's minorities, has a long, beautiful cultural tradition with a population of over 1.2 million. The Tibet Autonomous Region covers 5 cities and 71 counties whose post offices use postmarks in both Chinese and Tibetan. We select some of them as follows:



Lhasa



Xigaze



Yadong



Zayu



Zhag yab



Comai



Tingri



Nyamrong



Happy Tibetans



Gyaca



Zhongba

DICK van der WATEREN REPORTS A "ROGUE" CANCELLOR AT THE HULAK GOSWARA P.O. (HWLAK)

Colin Hepper has forwarded Dick's report, including examples of the "rogue" cancel and the normal one. Both types of cancel appear on overseas mailings, but Colin has noted that the HWLAK spelling is on the Registration cancel. Colin received another example which reached him directly from Nepal on 20 October 1988.



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