

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



NEW TIBET FORGERY, 1912 issue, 1/3 trangka, block of four (enlarged), with one cliché tête beche. See article on pages 45-48.



POSTAL HIMAL is a quarterly publication of the Nepal & 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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POSTAL HIMAL No. 60
4th Quarter 1989

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NEW MEMBERS:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

George Bourke, P. O. Box 564, Belleville, Mich., 48111, USA

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Dear Friends,

Our President, Dr. Pierre Couvreur, has submitted his resignation from that office. As your editor, for more than ten years, I can only say that I have been the beneficiary of our president's knowledge and wise counsel -- and his constant encouragement. I am happy to report that Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl is expected to be confirmed as the next president -- at the meeting of our Study Circle in London next May. For the benefit of our newer members I wish to note that Dr. Hellrigl was one of the 'founding father's' of the Study Circle and is, without doubt, the best known philatelist concentrating on the philately of the Himalayan Region. His contributions to the pages of POSTAL HIMAL have been most welcome on these pages, and we have two important contributions to this issue.

It is also appropriate to report that this editor will 'step down' from his very rewarding position and is happy to be replaced by a very capable and enthusiastic collector and exhibitor -- Mr. Leo Martyn. We hope to make the transition as smooth as possible during 1990.

Colin Hepper, as Secretary, will continue to wear his many hats! He, and other 'old-timers' in our Study Circle, have decided that our organization is mature enough to require some 'Statutes' (or By-Laws). A third (or, possibly, fourth) revision of these 'rules' is included with this issue. Final changes will be discussed during our meeting(s) in London next May. Please read these proposed 'Statutes' and send your suggestions and questions to Colin by the first of May, 1990, so that the discussions at the meeting mentioned above may bring a consensus among our membership.

Note that pages 39 & 40, omitted from the Third Quarter issue of POSTAL HIMAL, because of my error in counting (!), are included with this issue. That sheet, as well as the listings for Mail Auction No. 50, are folded separately. Thus, pages 39 & 40 can easily be inserted in the proper place in PH No. 59.

Another mistake was made by me in printing Prof. Dr. Armand Singer's one-column article on page 30 for a second

time! He called to 'tease' me about my forgetfulness, but did not complain! No one else has objected either!

Lester A. Michel

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
FOR MEMBERS USE 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. Ads will be placed under appropriate headings without charge for the headings. See the Classified Ad section in the final pages of any issue of The AMERICAN PHILATELIST for typical ad headings -- or simply send your own ad, asking the editor to place it under an appropriate heading (at no extra cost).

DEADLINE: Ad and payment in USA dollars (or in mint USA postage stamps) 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 mailed about one month later. Any change of copy after the first insertion will be counted as a new advertisement.

FOR SALE

TIBETAN FORGERIES. I have a large stock of the older 1912 and 1933 forgeries, as well as examples of the new 1912 forgeries. Want lists are welcome. If you have forgeries for sale, I am an active buyer. Write first before sending material. Trades are also welcome. If you have an interest in forgeries and would like to share that interest or are looking for information about Tibetan forgeries, write to me. George Bourke, P.O.Box 564, Belleville, MI 48111, USA.

WANTED

Bhutan. Anything: covers, FDCs, stamps, proofs, essays, etc. Also loose stamps & broken sets to use for postage. Write first. Nildo Harper, 510 Main St. 1910 Roosevelt Island, New York 10044

A REPORT ON PHILEXFRANCE '89

--Colin Hepper

On the weekend of 8/9th July Eleanor and I took a holiday break in Paris, to co-incide with the PHILEXFRANCE '89 International stamp exhibition being held in the quite magnificent surroundings in the Parc des Expositions.

On Sunday morning we visited the exhibition and met up with those two most enthusiastic of our members: Dick van der Wateren and Peter Planken from Holland, and, also, Jos Gobert from Belgium. Dick and Peter had already spent most of the previous day at the exhibition and had already viewed the Nepal exhibits of members Colin Hepper and Mr. A. Bose from India.

A very pleasant couple of hours were spent over some refreshments discussing their various purchases and the items on display.

Members awards at the exhibition were: "The Classic Stamps of Nepal" received another well deserved LARGE GOLD for Wolfgang Hellrigl & Frank Vignola, with Colin Hepper gaining a LARGE SILVER for his Postal History exhibit. A SILVER went to Mr. Bose for his Nepal.

A VISIT TO THE PAST PRESIDENT

--Colin Hepper

In the last weekend of July I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Pierre Couvreur and his family at his home in Seillans. The weekend could have been spoiled by the fact that when we arrived in Nice, we discovered that the airline had sent our luggage to Lisbon, but Pierre and Monique came to the rescue with clothes from their wardrobe.

Pierre was in excellent spirits and looked remarkably well for his 76 years. Even though he has now handed over the reins to Wolfgang, he is still very enthusiastic about the Circle and its projects. We spent some hours discussing collecting in general over a few drinks in the shade of the large trees in his garden which was most welcome -- with the temperatures being around 34 degrees Celcius.

A very enjoyable weekend -- and I look forward to Pierre continuing to give us his advice and guidance for many more years.



From left to right: Jos Gobert, Peter Planken, Dick van der Wateren and Colin Hepper



Colin Hepper (left) and Dr. Pierre Couvreur relax at the President's home, "La Rouviere"

A BOOK LEAVES THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE
--Wolfgang Hellrigl & Frank Vignola

With the last world philatelic exhibition, PHILEXFRANCE '89, the final curtain fell for a book which had been much in the limelight for the past few years. Published in April, 1984, "*The Classic Stamps of Nepal*" was regularly exhibited in the literature class of the main philatelic events until the five-year limit, imposed by FIP-regulations and calculated from the date of publication, had expired.

Now that this book leaves the competitive international scene, it is time for us to take a look back and express our gratitude to the persons who have taken interest in and supported our work in so many and varied ways.

Generally referred to as "Hellrigl/Vignola" or, simply, "H/V", this volume has had most favourable reviews throughout the leading philatelic journals of the world. One of the most knowledgeable reviewers, Prof. Dr. Armand E. Singer, had concluded his comments (published in *Postal Himal*, No. 38) with the following, benevolent words: "*If ['The Classic Stamps of Nepal'] fails to gain gold medals for philatelic literature at international exhibitions, a great injustice is in the making.*" Protected by such powerful spells, we entered the book at eleven world philatelic exhibitions. We are proud to announce that, on each occasion, "*The Classic Stamps of Nepal*" was awarded a gold medal.

The exhibitions in question were: ITALIA '85, AMERIPEX '86, STOCKHOLMIA '86, CAPEX '87, HAFNIA '87, FINLANDIA '88, PRAGA '88, INDIA '89, IPHLA '89, BULGARIA '89 and PHILEXFRANCE '89. It should be noted that in the literature class of world exhibitions there are usually between 180 and 220 entries competing for an average 5 to 6 gold medals. As an exception, IPHLA '89, a special world philatelic-literature exhibition, featured close to 600 entries, an absolute record.

Apart from these major successes, the volume was awarded gold medals at various exhibitions of local importance such as the Cardinal Spellman Literature Fair. One award which we treasure for its special significance is the Martin Memorial Trophy, the India Study Circle's recognition for the best literary work on the subject of philately and/or postal his-

tory of the Indian sub-continent.

However, the real success of a book cannot be measured just by the favourable reviews and the number of medals received. There is a far more important test and that is the opinion of the readers. We are happy to say that "*The Classic Stamps of Nepal*" was extremely well accepted by the growing community of Nepal collectors, so much so that, even today, we receive occasional letters from philatelists expressing their appreciation. Moreover, the fact that most collectors and virtually all exhibitors of classic Nepal are now adopting the "H/V" numbering system, may perhaps be taken as a silent form of recognition.

Having thus given a brief summary of the events following the publication, we wish to thank those philatelists, most of whom are members of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, who have helped us produce this book. Without their encouragement and co-operation as well as technical and financial assistance, the project could never have been successfully concluded.

We gratefully remember the many reviewers, who have taken their time to delve into a rather complex and, for most of them, unfamiliar subject. Next, our thanks go to the members of the various international juries who have invariably included "H/V" among the world's best philatelic publications of the past five years.

There remains one special group of supporters to thank for - the many philatelists who purchased a copy of "*The Classic Stamps of Nepal*". In this context we also wish to thank those dealers - in the U.S., England and Germany - who have eased our financial burden by ordering consistent quantities of the book. The combined response by individual buyers and dealers was so great that it did not take long before the stocks of the book began to run low. The 500 copies printed were virtually sold out after three years, enabling us to fully recover the considerable production and mailing costs.

We have occasionally been asked whether we consider publishing a revised edition of "H/V". Obviously, new information on the classic issues has emerged since 1984, but this does not include any dramatic discoveries such as new settings. This means that, on the whole,
(concluded on next page)

HELLRIGL/VIGNOLA.....(concluded)--

the book is still very much up to date and that, at this stage, a new edition is not in sight. Nevertheless, we have meticulously recorded any new finds, however small, and appeal to all members of the Study Circle to continue supplying with details of anything of interest. Once sufficient new information shall have been collected, we will consider the possibility of issuing a supplement.

We should like to conclude these remarks by saying that the wonderful support we have received from all concerned has been not only the greatest reward we could have hoped for but also the best incentive for continuing our research work in the future.



AN INTERESTING HISTORICAL LETTER FROM
TIBET - A TRANSLATION

-- D. Dawson

The article which was published in issue number 56 under this title provoked at least one member of the Study Circle to press the case for a full translation. Approaches to several possible sources for this to be done met with little success until quite recently, when I heard of a young Tibetan monk studying English in London who might be prepared to undertake the task. Official Tibetan documents are not the easiest papers to translate for various reasons. These include the use of honorifics, which in Tibetan almost constitute a separate language, and the changes which affect most languages over a century or more. Kalden Lodoe has done a remarkably good job, and I am grateful to him. His translation of the letter is as follows:-

"To the High Ranking Officers of the Gurkha Army in Nyanang.

"To bring about happiness for the people of Tibet and Nepal, the Sakya Lama and I recently wrote a letter to the Maharajah of Gurkha on the subject of negotiations, and I received a quick reply to that very letter.

"Specifically, as we mentioned in a letter which was sent to the High Rank-

ing Officers, we were glad to know that orders have been given to the troops which have already arrived in Dre Jong* to cease firing until the negotiations are completed, and also ordering the withdrawal of the troops from Shel Kar to Nyanang. It is very kind of you.

"Enclosed with this letter is a separate one to the Maharajah of Gurkha. Please try to deliver it to him as soon as possible.

"I myself and Sakya Lama, having our beneficial thoughts and being determined to bring happiness to the large number of people of Gurkha and Tibet, will make every effort to develop the negotiations in a positive way.

Also you, the High Ranking Officers, must have positive thoughts and show mercy to the people of Nepal and Tibet, and should give your support to the negotiations.

"Particularly during these negotiations, it would be very helpful if the Sakya Lama and I could work towards a successful treaty without being caused many difficulties. As we mentioned earlier to you, we will inform the representative of the Central Government. As you have asked through the representative here, we enclose the urgently needed best quality medicinal stones and clothes for the seven High Ranking Officers in their various locations.

"Enclosing a Kathag for a symbol and four golden coins.

"ON AN AUSPICIOUS DATE

SEAL OF THE PANCHEN LAMA.

*i.e. Sikkim"



STAMP WORLD LONDON 90

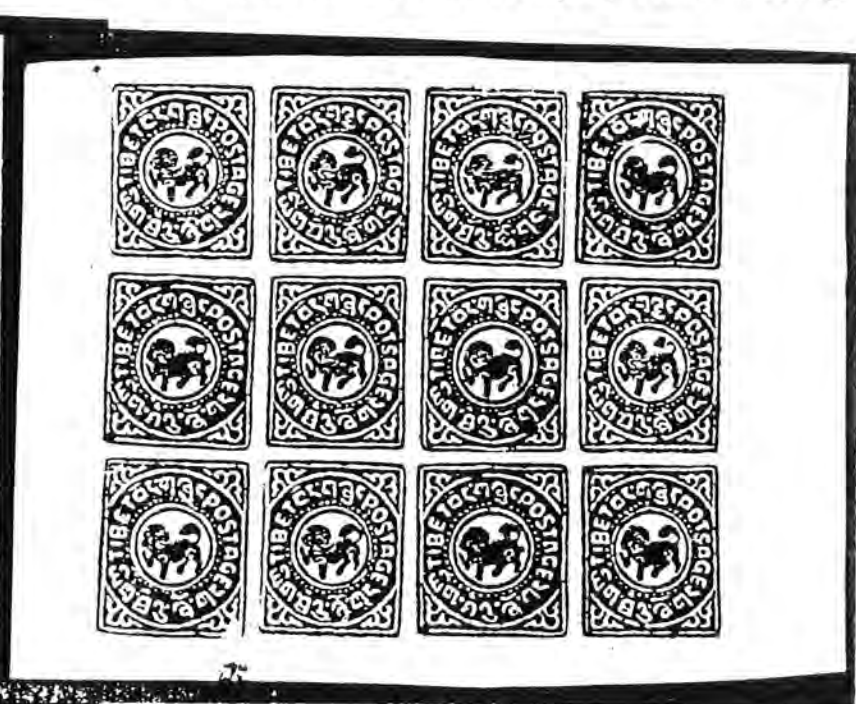
Did you know that a half-century ago philatelists were planning fitting centenary celebrations for May 1940? The outbreak of war in September 1939 put to an end the preparations. -- So the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black is an event that should not be missed. Two meetings of our Study Circle are planned during May 3-13. Please plan to attend.

STAMP WORLD LONDON 90

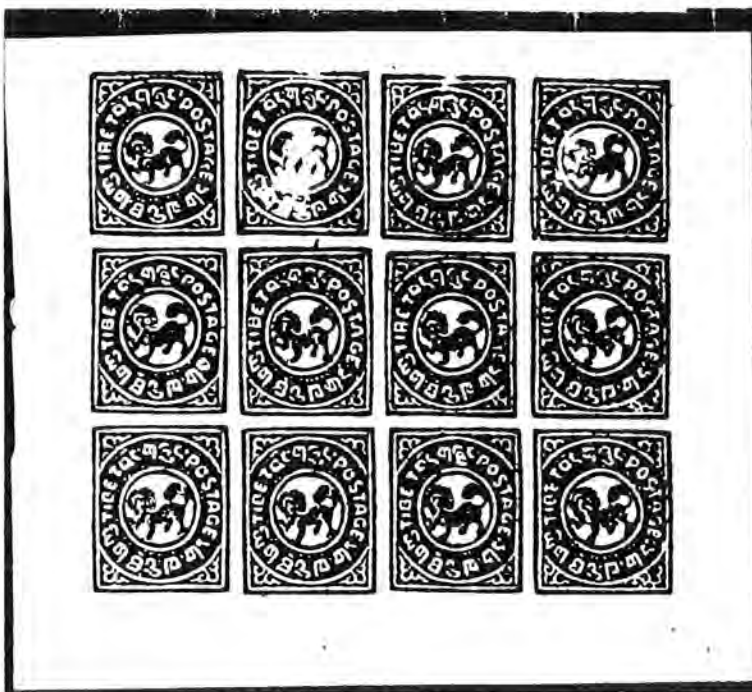
1. 1912 issue, 1/6 trangka



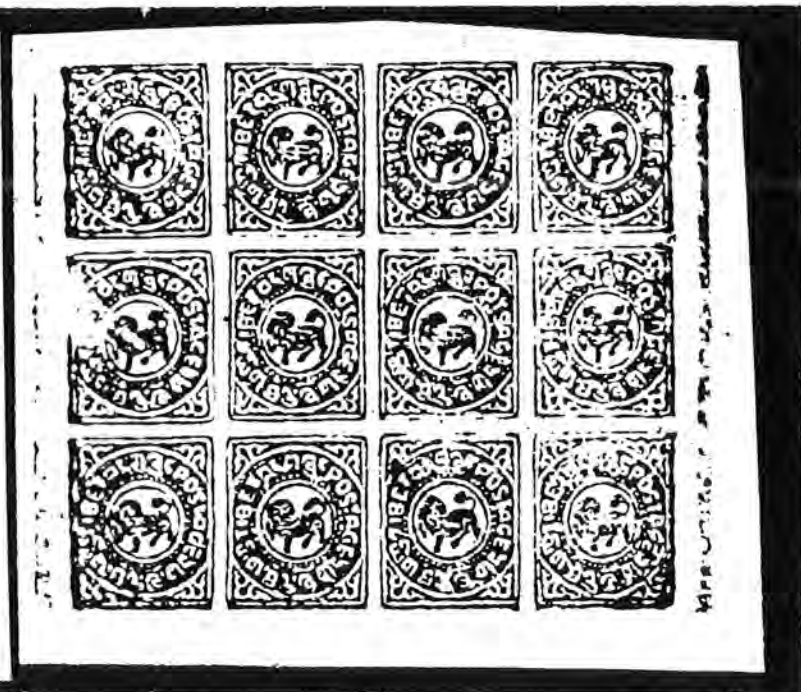
3. 1912 issue, 2/3 trangka, first setting



2. 1912 issue, 1/3 trangka



4. 1912 issue, 2/3 trangka, second setting



Note: All illustrations on this page are reduced to 75% of the original photographs.

A NEW SET OF TIBETAN FORGERIES
--George Bourke

A new and very dangerous set of forgeries of the 1912 issue has appeared. This is the first set since Waterfall set seven to include all five values of the 1912 issue. In addition, the one sang has also been forged. Like the originals, they are printed in sheets of twelve. They have been photographically reproduced either from genuine sheets or photographs of genuine sheets. Dr. Hellrigl, who has examined some of the material, has offered the following possible explanation: "As to why only certain cliches were used in one sheet, I would presume that the remaining cliches did not come out well in the photographic reproduction or, alternatively, they may have featured some individual flaws which would have allowed to identify the 'model' sheet." At least two printings of each value have appeared. The first, on a thick paper, smooth (polished) on one side and backed with native paper. I refer to this as 'rough-smooth' paper. A second printing, on yellow paper exists for each value. In addition, several copies of the 1/2 trangka have been found on rice paper. Whether other values will also be found on rice paper, remains an open question. Several other paper varieties have been noted, but they have not been found in all values or in full sheets. With the exception of the 1/3 and 2/3 trangka, the forgeries of this set are in colors that closely reproduce the colors of the originals, making them very dangerous, especially on cover.

1/6 TRANGKA

Green, light green, vivid green. Both rough-smooth and yellow paper. Only five cliches: 1 2 3 2
5 3 1 3
9 9 5 3

Double prints of this value have been seen.

1/3 TRANGKA

Light blue. Both rough-smooth and yellow paper. Only six cliches: 1 2 3 4
5 1 5 8
8 2 3 4

A sheet has been found printed on the smooth side, although this is not usual. Blocks of four of this value with one cliche tete beche exist.

This variety has not been seen in a full sheet. (See front cover.--Ed.)

1/2 TRANGKA

Violet. I have only seen two singles of this value. Both were printed on rice paper. No sheets have yet been seen. At the present time this value remains rare.

2/3 TRANGKA

Vermilion. Both rough-smooth and yellow paper. Two different settings have been seen:

1st: two "Potsage" errors. The cliche number and arrangement has not been completely determined because of the poor registry of this setting. This was printed on rough-smooth paper. No copies on yellow paper have been seen for the first setting. The only cliches that have been determined are: 1 X 3 X
5 6 7 X
X X X 12

2nd: three "Potsage" errors. Both rough-smooth and yellow paper.

Seven cliches:

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 1
4 2 5 6

1 TRANGKA

Vermilion. Both rough-smooth and yellow paper. Six cliches: 1 2 3 4
3 6 7 2
6 7 4 1

1 SANG

Deep green. Both rough-smooth and yellow paper. Only four cliches: 1 2 1 2
5 6 5 6
2 6 2 6

THE CANCELLATIONS

With the exception of one strip of three of the 2/3 trangka, all examples of this set so far seen are uncanceled, unless on cover. Examples on cover bear a variety of cancels:

Chushu in black and blue.
Lhasa in black and green.
Gyantse in black, blue, green and red.

The above are all type I and are photographically reproduced from the book: "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet" by H. D. S. Haverbeck. They are not forgeries in the usual sense.

(continued on next page)

..... TIBETAN FORGERIES.....(continued)--

They are exact reproductions. That is their weakness as well as their strength. Other cancels seen are Lhasa Type VI in black, Phari Type VIII in blue and Nangartse Type VIII in black, all reproduced from Haverbeck's book. A Shigatse Type XI has been reproduced from "The Postal History of Tibet: by Waterfall. An additional marking found on one cover is the Shigatse Registration handstamp, again reproduced from Haverbeck.

COVERS

It may be good at this point to make some general comments on the covers. The ones that I have seen fall into two groups, fabricated covers which are preprinted business covers (two) and genuine cover fronts and pieces (five). The preprinted covers are not dangerous as they are very clean and fresh. The genuine cover fronts and pieces on the other hand are very dangerous. With the exception of the 1 sang, all values of this set have been seen on cover or piece. So far only the rough-smooth printing has been used. The yellowish paper printing would be easy to spot. Except for the colors of the 1/3 and 2/3 trangka, the stamps themselves are very convincing, especially on cover where examination of the paper is difficult. The 1/6 trangka is particularly so. The genuine cover fronts and pieces so far seen are all British Offices in Tibet, inward or outward bound. One example in my collection bears a genuine Gyantse Registration label and another a Pharijong F.P.O. Due handstamp. No combination covers have yet been seen, but I do not expect this oversight to continue. Several of the fronts and pieces have ink seals which are exactly the same ones found on some of the forged covers bearing copies of the 1/6 trangka shiny ink, that first appeared in 1979-80. (See "More Tibet Forgeries" by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, Postal Himal No. 30). This raises the very real possibility that both of these forgeries were produced by the same person or persons. These seals are not contemporary with the covers they are found on and have been added for effect. To those familiar with them they are a sure indication that the cover is not quite right. The use of genuine covers and pieces, photo-

graphically reproduced stamps in accurate colors and perfect cancels make this the most dangerous material so far encountered. The failings of these creations are subtle and I will make no mention of them here, for fear that future productions will be even better. To the collector with a bent for research and a good library, this set offers just the right amount of challenge. It's quality, variety and promise of more to come, should make it a favorite among collectors. While much still remains to be learned about this set, it is hoped that the information in this article will provide a framework for further study of this most interesting set of forgeries.

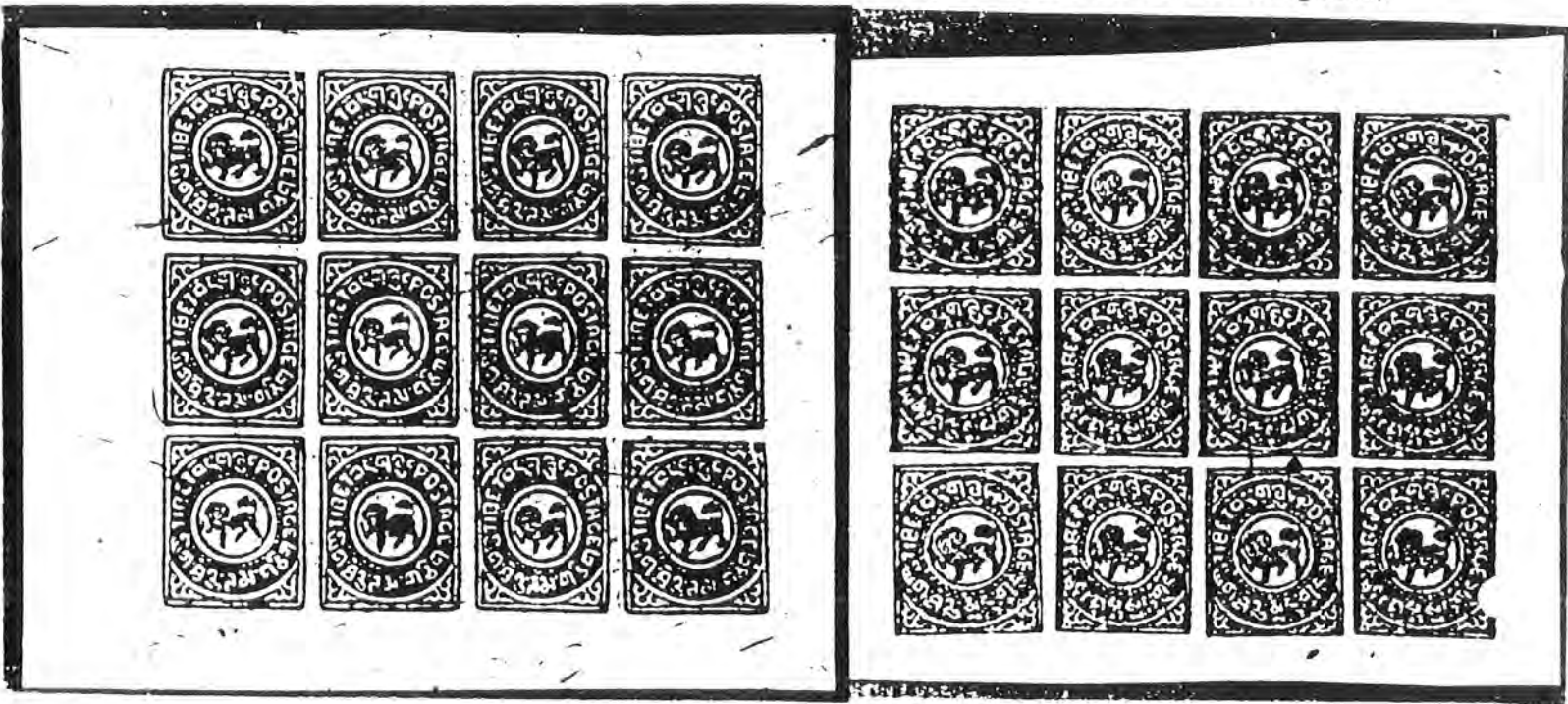


PHILATELY, "Jan 88 - July 89", Vol. XV

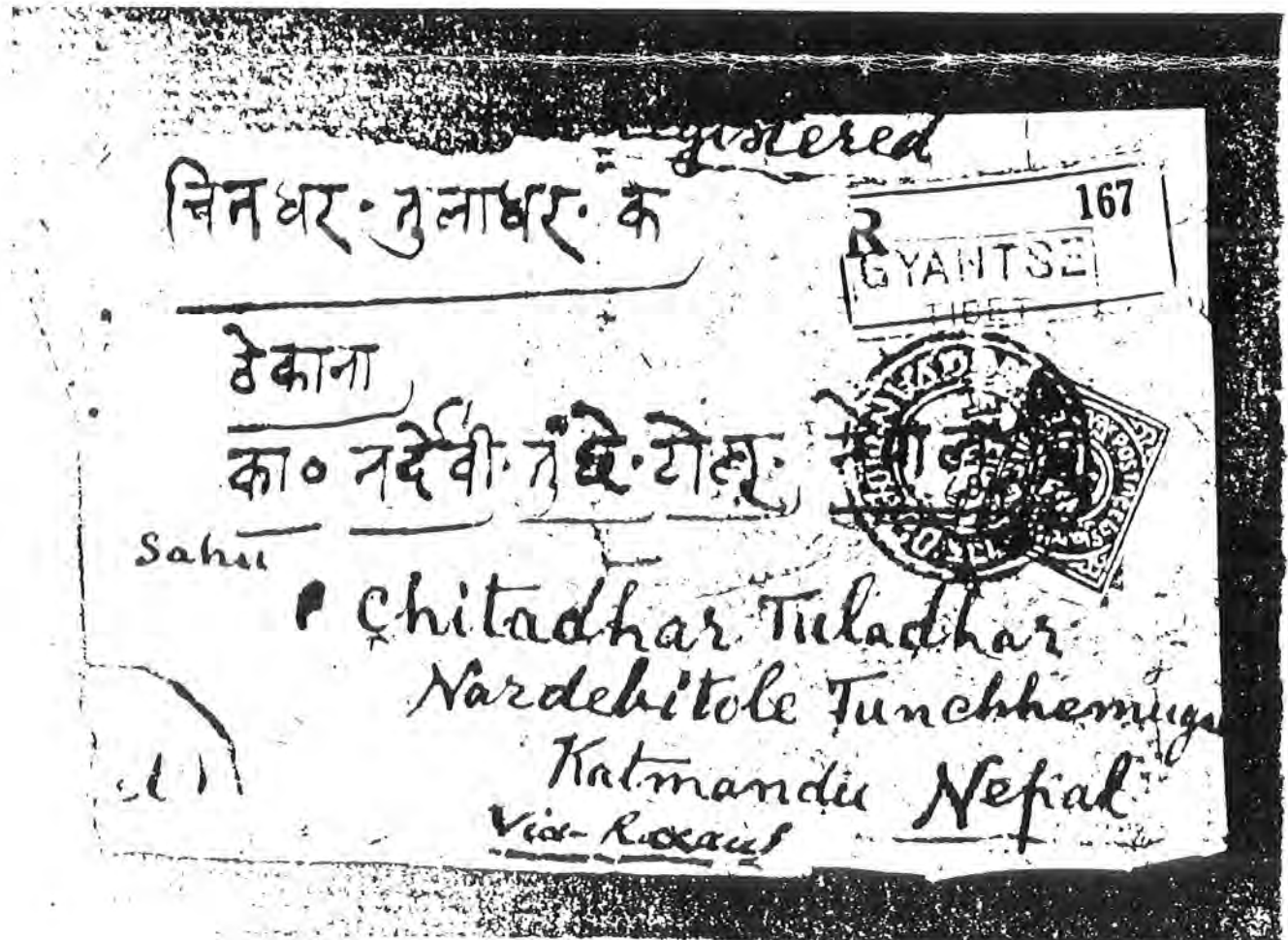
The most recent issue of the official publication of the Nepal Philatelic Society reached me on 24 August -- too late to be reviewed in POSTAL HIMAL No. 59. Since then one of our members asked if he had missed an issue, as this most recent "N.P.S. Half-yearly Journal" carries the "Whole No. 28". This number seems to be in error, as the previous issue ("Vol. 14 January 1987") shows "Whole No. 26" on the Title page. The editorial page of the most recent issue provides a clue in the opening sentences: "We regret for not being able to publish this magazine in time due to various reasons. The main reason is the problem of transferring our office from one rental building to another as we do not have our own building." -- We can imagine the disruptive effect of such a move. I have written to the Secretary, Mr. Shyam Prasad Pradhan, about the apparent discrepancy between the Volume number and the Whole number, and will report his explanation in a future issue of POSTAL HIMAL, since many of us are members of both philatelic organizations. Space limitations prevent a complete review of this fine issue, but the Table of Contents shows the lead article to be authored by the well-known writer, Mr. J. B. Manandhar, and titled: "Achham Ridikot Post Office" (useful to our postal historians). A variety of articles follows (eight in all), ending with the usual "Members List". -- We urge all members of the Study Circle to join NPS.

5. 1912 issue, 1 trangka (reduced 75%)

6. 1 sang (reduced to 75% of original)



7. Forged 1 trangka and Gyantse Type I cancel in green, on a genuine cover front. (full size)



A FAKE RARITY OF CLASSIC NEPAL

--Wolfgang Hellrigl

This story of an exceptional Nepal cover really began in New Delhi. The illustrated cover was exhibited at "INDIA '89" and this is where I first came across this brilliant star.

And what a star it was - just imagine a cover bearing a pin-perforated pair and a single of the 2-annas stamp of the first issue, on European paper, plus an imperforate 1-anna always of the first issue. The result is simply staggering and so are the unique features:

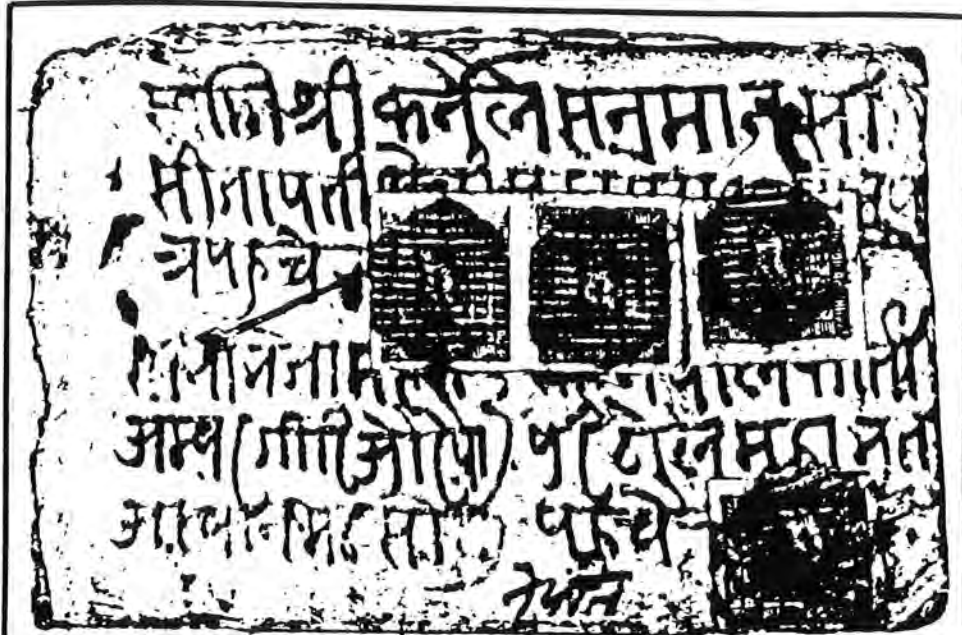
- the only cover known bearing pin-perforated 2-annas of the first issue;
- the only registered cover bearing pin-perforated stamps of the first issue;
- the only cover bearing a combination of pin-perforated and imperforate stamps of the first issue;
- the earliest registered cover of Nepal (October, 1881).

Judging by this record, I would have no hesitation in calling a cover of this calibre as probably the most important as well as the rarest cover of classic Nepal. It would indeed be the absolute highlight of any collection.

There is really only one test that a cover of this order has to pass before entering the "hall of fame" and that is, it must be genuine. To cut a long story short, more than one feature of this cover aroused my immediate suspicion, so much so that I was convinced that the three 2-annas stamps were added later in a fraudulent attempt to convert a (either double-rate or A/D) registered cover.

At this stage, I took the proud owner of this cover - a collector of Kathmandu -

aside and informed him of the various reasons for my suspicions. I also explained to him that to purchase such an absolute star item of Asian postal history just on good faith was purely his personal business, but to show it at a



world exhibition, was an entirely different matter that could not be left at that. I added that if I ever saw this cover exhibited again, by whoever, I would immediately inform the Jury. I felt sure that, if the cover were taken out of the frames and examined on the spot, I could prove that it was a fake.

(concluded on next page)

Some time after this episode, I received a letter from the furious Patan dealer who had supplied this cover and who was desperately trying to defend the bona fides of himself and his star item. At any rate, he sent me a photocopy of both sides of this cover which enables me to change my earlier suspicion into certainty: the cover is definitely a fake, as proven by the following facts:

- it is not a registered cover at all (there are no wax seals and no m/s endorsements of registration, etc.), hence the 7-annas rate is wrong;
- the weight of the letter being 1 tola (as stated at the back), the correct rate is 1 anna. Had the cover been registered, the correct rate would have been 6 annas, not 7, since A/D was not requested;
- the cancellations centred on the 2-annas stamps are not properly tied to the cover, although some attempts were made to add portions of the killers;
- there are further clues such as the placing of the 2-annas stamps over the address details despite the fact that there was ample free space at the back.

Both the owner and the dealer have been fully informed of the situation. Should this particular cover re-appear at a world exhibition, I shall have no option but to inform the Jury that it is not genuine.

To make matters worse, there is a second doubtful cover in the same exhibit and it was handled by the same dealer. It bears imperforate 1, 2 and 4 annas stamps of the first issue, genuinely cancelled with the standard hexagonal Jaleswar type. The stamps appear to have been "tied" to the cover by the additional strikes of what I consider to be a forged Jaleswar cancellation. The date of the backstamp appears to have been fraudulently altered (from 1889? to 1881). A definite opinion on this second cover will only be possible after a careful examination of the reverse. Thus, I have offered to expertize this item free of charge. In the meantime - and in view of the fact that there have been recent offers to purchase this item - I must warn prospective buyers that this is almost certainly a fake.

I am of the opinion that the exhibition of key items that are faked, or even doubtful, is extremely detrimental to our hobby and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.



FRANK & MAE VIGNOLA SURVIVE EARTHQUAKE!

An inquiry, sent by mail, brought one of Frank's 'up-beat' letters, plus a photocopy of his experiences during the October 17 earthquake. I now quote:

"Mae & I were reading a menu on a window of a restaurant when the quake started. The window began to gently wave and Mae said, "Look, it must be an earthquake". She no sooner said that than the street and sidewalk began rising and falling in big waves. I couldn't believe it, as I have lived here all my life and never felt or saw such an earthquake in action. Then the windows in the stores and restaurants on this street began cracking like pistol shots and crashing. I looked overhead and saw signs above us shaking, so grabbed Mae's arm and we made our way to the curb -- about 10 feet from the buildings. Mae started to fall, but I caught her and we both held on to each other. In-the-meantime, motorcycles parked nearby started falling over and there were lots of crashes within the stores and restaurants as people ran out of the stores and buildings. Then, the quake stopped, although the ground continued shaking, but less violently. The autos had all stopped in the street and were bouncing like rubber balls -- I couldn't believe it. The overhead wires were wildly swinging, so we made our way across the street where there were no overhead 'things' to fall on us. Mae sat down, and I leaned on a parking meter. There were several mild afterquakes for several minutes but we were able to walk home a few blocks away. Our place was a mess inside, but the only damage was broken lamps and some crystal decanters, glassware, etc. Fortunately there was no structural damage to our place, but many were not so fortunate." (The scare headline is mine, but the story is Frank's and his words are so graphic that we thought they should be shared with you, our readers.--Ed.)

PROPOSED STATUTES FOR THE NEPAL & TIBET
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

Article 1: General

- 1.1 The Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle (hereafter referred to as 'Circle') is an international non-profit organization. The Circle is an entirely independent organization and is an active affiliate of the American Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Federation.

Article 2: Objectives of the Circle

The objectives of the Circle are:

- 2.1 To unite persons of all nations interested in the philately and postal history of the Himalayan region and to promote and encourage personal contact and co-operation between them.
- 2.2 To issue and/or support studies and publications dealing with the philately and postal history of the Himalayan region.
- 2.3 To facilitate and promote the exchange of views and opinions between members.
- 2.4 To uphold common interests.
- 2.5 To promote and organize regular meetings of members, locally, nationally or internationally.

Article 3: Membership

- 3.1 Members of the Circle may be collectors, dealers, auctioneers, or any other interested persons. Membership will be denied to any persons who have been knowingly involved in the production and/or circulation of forgeries.
- 3.2 All members are obliged to pay the Treasurer or Regional Representative the annual membership fee. The membership fee must be paid at the latest by 31 March of each year. Any subscriptions not paid by this date, the membership will be considered as lapsed and the name will be removed from the mailing list.
- 3.3 The amounts of the annual membership fee and life membership fee respectively, are fixed by the Board of Directors, from time to time.

- 3.4 The membership fee includes a subscription to the Circle's journal, Postal Himal and participation in the Circle's quarterly auctions.
- 3.5 Membership can be terminated by the Board should any person act in a manner which is detrimental to the good name of the Circle or the hobby.
- 3.6 Members may resign by voluntary resignation.

Article 4: The Board of Directors
of the Circle

- 4.1 The Board of Directors of the Circle shall consist of a maximum of nine, being the President, the Vice President, the immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor of Postal Himal, the Librarian, the Auctioneer, and one or more members who are not an officer of the Circle. (More than one would be required when one person held more than one official position.)
- 4.2 Every function of the Circle is honorary. One person may hold one or more of the positions listed in 4.1. The President is the legal representative of the Circle, the President's residence is considered the legal seat of the Circle.
- 4.3 The President and Board of Directors are responsible for the running of the Circle. The President decides on the ordinary business. Very important and/or extraordinary business is decided by a two thirds majority of votes by the members of the Board. Vital decisions, such as amendments of these Statutes, must be voted by the Board and then ratified by a two thirds majority vote by all members of the Circle.

Article 5: Election of the Board of
Directors

- 5.1 The Board of Directors of the Circle remains in charge for five years. At the end of a five year term, the New Board is elected by the members of the Circle, by Postal vote. While all members of the Board are eligible for one or more re-elections, the President cannot serve more than two terms in that office.

(continued on the next page)

PROPOSED STATUTES.....(concluded)--

- 5.2 Any vacancies occurring within the five years will be filled by Board appointments. These posts would then have to stand for election at the end of the normal five year period.
- 5.3 Announcements to be made in Postal Himal six months prior to elections asking for nominations/volunteers.

Article 6: Dissolution

- 6.1 The Circle can only be dissolved by the membership. All members to be balloted with full explanation for reasons for dissolution. If dissolution was the majority vote under rule 4.3, the financial assets of the Association shall be handed over to another philatelic organization.

(All members are encouraged to read, and re-read these "Proposed Statutes". If you have questions, or suggestions, we ask that you submit them in writing to our Secretary, Colin Hepper, so that he may prepare a suitable agenda for the discussions that will take place during the meetings held during May 3-13 at STAMP WORLD LONDON 90. As our organization matures, the need for appropriate rules for its management becomes more important.--Ed.)

FLASH! In a letter to your editor from Colin Hepper (just in time to 'make' this issue) he states that the second meeting during STAMP WORLD LONDON 90 has been shifted to Thursday, May 10, in room D from 14.15 to 17.45. -- This was necessary in order that Dr. Hellrigl could attend the meeting. It turned out that he, being a director of the experts committee, was required to meet on the very same day and time as the Study Circle meeting had been scheduled.

Also please read the important letter on page 6 of the enclosed listing of lots for Auction No. 50. Since that letter is there reduced to half-size, we repeat it in the column on the right of this page.--Ed.

Dear Members

We will not be sending out an auction list with the next two issues of Postal Himal as we are going to try running a larger auction to coincide with the London International Exhibition in May. This will be run as a separate catalogue with the lots being available for viewing at our two meetings during the exhibition. I am looking for good quality lots which must be in my hands by the middle of February in order that the catalogue can be out by the end of March. The two meetings will be held during the afternoon of Friday 4th May and Thursday 10th of May. At least one of these will be used as a General Business Meeting of the Circle and the other can be used in whatever manner members would wish. So for all of you who are attending I would like to hear from you letting me know which days you may be able to attend and what subjects you would like to see us cover either by discussion or display. We will do our best to try and please everyone.

Both I and your President look forward to having two very enjoyable and fruitful meetings.

Regards,

Colin Hepper

(Please note that the second meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, May 10 -- and not on Friday, May 11.--Ed.)

ANOTHER LATE ITEM

Your editor has just received a packet of 130 cards from Tibet -- the cards illustrated on page 37 of Postal Himal No. 59. Unfortunately, the name and address on page 37, as well as in my letter on page 25, is no longer valid. My first attempt to order a set of these cards suffered the same fate as a previous mailing. Another of our members learned that the cards (bearing the bilingual postmarks -- all dated February 28, 1987) could be obtained from the same person who offered the mountaineering maximum cards -- so we tried that and found success! We wish to apologize for the confusion and plan to deal with this subject more thoroughly in our next issue.--Ed.