

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF TIBET



By **Arnold C. Waterfall**



HAIL
AND
FAREWELL

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Armand E. Singer

Tibetan philatelists have learned of the passing, May 7, at the age of seventy-six, of one of their greatest experts, Arnold C. Waterfall. He was a pioneer in the finer points of Tibetan philately, and no one could claim to match his knowledge at the time his basic book, The Postal History of Tibet, appeared under the imprint of Robson Lowe (no mean student of the subject himself) in 1965. Winner of many international medals, it quickly assumed its proper role as the bible for us collectors, and not simply among those with English as their mother tongue -- it was even translated into German, further widening its sphere of influence.

He was a man with more than a few strings for his bow. Not unexpectedly he labored for the cause of Tibetans exiled through the Chinese invasion of their homeland. His final interest, I read, centered around his collection of postmarks struck in his section of Yorkshire. He was, as well, a staunch Quaker, working assiduously on behalf of his faith. On one occasion he ran for a local public office (for once in his life unsuccessfully, though only, I understand, after he lost in a recount). Like our own Lester Michel, he was a climber of note, if in the other direction. Arnold was a speliologist -- cave explorer to us uninformed -- and a more than able one to boot: he discovered a considerable number of new passages in the Pennine caves area, even carrying out rescue missions for many years.

I had the opportunity of meeting him in person just once, some twenty years ago, during a London auction of part of his enormous Tibet collection, the disposing of which necessitated several sales. I still treasure my good fortune, already and subsequently enriched by a long correspondence. He was a wiry little man with a no-nonsense manner about him. Quite frankly, the good Quaker allowed for no fudging of the truth. Read the not infrequent passages in his book where spades are so accurately described. I must refrain from listing the names of those he skewed out of deference to their sensibilities. On second thought, try page 20, where the present writer deservedly gets his knuckles rapped. He could call a digging tool by its right name because he was almost always correct, and, at least with me, I hasten to add, could remain the best of corresponding friends. His last years were apparently less contentious, pleasurably spent traveling on income derived from the sales of his philatelic holdings, and living out his days in his picturesque little home town of Skipton, down in Yorkshire.

His "bible" was reissued in 1981, and this time, in a review, I chided him for a less than thorough updating. In retrospect, I wish I had been gentler. No longer a young man, he had disposed of most or all of his collections, reference or otherwise, he was given a time limit for the revision, and the format for the new version obviously reflected limits on funds available for editing and printing (the illustrations, indifferent in the first edition, have, naturally enough, deteriorated in this photostat-reproduction edition, and most of the revisions consist of a substituted paragraph or less, or a rare new page). This second edition is still, far and away, the best work we have, and it is based on a predecessor that restructured our whole approach to its field. I write these words with full appreciation of the excellent monographs and articles on which he in turn depended -- by the likes of Holmes, Smythies, and especially Haverbeck, among others --and of the scholarship which followed him, notably that of Wolfgang Hellrigl.

Goodbye, old friend; we must all mourn your passing.

PROPOSED NEW LISTING OF TIBET IN SCOTT'S CATALOGUE

Geoffrey Flack

In 1989, I was pleasantly surprised when Scott Publications approached me regarding input to their Tibet listing. I suggested a major rewrite was needed and proposed putting something together for them. They agreed with this, however they put some restrictions on me. Scott is a "general" catalogue . . . and the detail had to be limited. The style had to fit into their overall approach. No major numbering changes could be made (such as #6 had to be left as part of the 1912 set despite the fact that it first appeared in 1950).

The biggest problem was limiting the listing . . . particularly in reference to the choice of colors. A general catalogue cannot, as in the case of the 1934 issue, list 15 or 20 different printings for one value . . . yet to mention only one color when printings may include colors as varied as . . . orange/carmine/scarlet/yellow/red-brown . . . is not acceptable. I have increased the number of listings and have tried to choose representative colors . . . it's an improvement, but I realize it's not perfect. In addition, I have a short paragraph on color which explains the necessity of simplifying the listing and which shows some of the scope to collecting Tibet.

I felt it was important to mention that the "POTSAGE" error is found on all printings of the 2/3 trangka. In addition, I think the listing of the "Shiny Enamel" printings of #1-5 is an improvement.

I have increased the listing of the 1914 issue to include both the shiny printings and the late printings.

Over the years many copies of #14-18 have been mistakenly purchased as the scarcer #9-13. In the case of the 1933 Issue (#9-13) I have suggested changing the description "Imperf, Pin-Perf" to just "Pin-Perf" and adding a notation on perforations following the listing. I think this will go a long way to reducing the mis-described auction lots which have burnt so many collectors.

I have suggested a change in the notation regarding the perforations of the 1934 issue. It is important to state categorically that they were "privately produced".

I have suggested the inclusion of bisects of #17 and quadrasects of #18 as well as a note on their usage (Scott has a policy of not listing 20th Century bisects and have questioned their inclusion).

In the case of the "Officials" I have included an important error and suggested a notation in regards to two additional values.

Pricing is always difficult, however I feel the suggested "retail" listing is an accurate picture of the present market. In the area of pricing, I am in debt to a number of collectors and in particular to George Alevizos for his comments and suggestions.

I think the proposed listing is an improvement, however we all realize it is impossible for a general catalogue to provide a specialized listing. I am sure improvements can be made and I invite comments and suggestions.

Heavy Toned Native Paper

1934-58		Imperf.	
14	A3 1/2t yellow	10.00	12.00
a.	bistre	100.00	150.00
15	A3 2/3t blue	6.00	8.00
a.	grey blue	6.00	8.00
b.	indigo	8.00	10.00
c.	violet blue	6.00	10.00
16	A3 1t vermilion	5.00	6.00
a.	scarlet	6.00	7.00
b.	orange	7.50	9.00
c.	chestnut	60.00	50.00
d.	yellow (error)	100.00	100.00
17	A3 2t scarlet	5.00	6.00
a.	Bisect (used on cover)		250.00
b.	orange	10.00	12.00
c.	orange-brown	5.00	6.00
d.	yellow (error)	100.00	150.00
18	A3 4t green	6.00	6.00
a.	25x25mm instead of 24x24mm	25.00	40.00
b.	1/4 used on cover		400.00
c.	olive green	25.00	30.00
d.	yellow green	6.00	6.00
e.	blue green	20.00	20.00



01



02

In the early 1950s ..due to a shortage of 1 trangka stamps .. bisect and quadrisect 2 and 4 trangka were accepted as valid.

Some printings of #17 and 18 are known on white silky paper.

Pin-perforated examples of Nos. 14-18 were privately perforated.

Nos. 14 and 16 (1/2t and 1t) exist printed on both sides.



NORMAL



HOOK ERROR

The "hook" is reversed in the bottom left corner

Various Designs and Sizes Inscribed "STAMP"

- Sizes: No. 01 32½x32½mm.
- No. 02 38x28½mm.
- No. 03 34x33mm.
- No. 04 44x44mm.
- No. 05 66x66mm.

1950 (?) Unwmk. Typo. Imperf.
Native Paper

01	01	1/3t bronze grn	525.00	600.00
02	02	1/3t slate blk	10.00	15.00
	a.	Hook Error	25.00	35.00
03	01	2/3t redsh brn	10.00	15.00
04	01	1 1/3t ol grn	100.00	150.00
05	01	1s dk gray blk	65.00	85.00

A 1t orange and 3 1/3t red are known to exist.

Geoffrey Flack seriously collected Tibet for many years developing an award winning collection. In the late 1970's he started dealing in Tibetan stamps and postal history which has continued until the present time.

The original plan was to include this update in Scott's 1991 catalogue, but there were difficulties and we are now aiming at the 1992 catalogue.

Mr. Flack invites comments and suggestions.

Box 65987
Station F
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V5N 5L4

(604) 986 3898
FAX (604) 986 4777

All sheets were perforated 11 and the perforations are usually good. There are sheets with the perforations cut at an angle cutting through the stamp design. All three types of paper are known with horizontal rows of perforations missing (Fig.5) and with vertical rows of perforations missing (Fig.6) but only the watermarked paper, type 2, is known wholly imperforate (Fig.7).

A large circular special hand-stamp was applied to First Day Covers of this issue. (Fig.8). Its design is a double-circle broken at the left by a globe. Between the circles is a commemorative inscription in Nepali with "G.P.O.(Kathmandu)" at its base. Within the centre circle is "U.P.U." in English below which in Nepali appear "2016" and "Baishakh". At the bottom is "Nepal" in English. The hand-stamp is struck in black and a standard postmark in black cancels the stamp. Several types of F.D.C. exist.

Copies of this stamp were included in a Universal Postal Union booklet issued to commemorate International Postal Services Week, and in the booklet were cancelled by a special U.P.U. cancellation. Sheets are also known cancelled to order (C.T.O.) with this postmark.

The stamp was widely used as a Fiscal or Revenue on various documents and can be found cancelled by small punched holes together with small seal cancels and/or manuscript cancels (Fig.9).

SG 119, Scott 119, Michel 114

Catalogue

- (i) 12 paisa blue on paper type 1 (with gum)
- (ii) 12 paisa blue on paper type 2 (no gum)
- (iii) 12 paisa blue on paper type 3 (no gum)
- (iv) Clear glasses variety (pale printing)
- (v) First Day Cover
- (vi) Watermark reversed
- (vii) Watermark inverted
- (viii) Watermark inverted/reversed
- (ix) Double perforations
- (x)a Vertical perforations missing, paper type 1
- (x)b " " " , paper type 2
- (x)c " " " , paper type 3
- (xi)a Horizontal perforations missing, paper type 1
- (xi)b " " " , paper type 2
- (xi)c " " " , paper type 3
- (xii) Wholly imperforate (paper type 2 only)
- (xiii) Off-set on reverse
- (xiv) Postally used on cover
- (xv) Fiscally used on document



Fig.7 Wholly Imperf.



Fig.8 F.D.C. Hand-Stamp



Fig.9 Fiscal Use

SG 134, Scott 120, Michel 129

Catalogue

- (i) 6 paisa carmine on white paper
- (ii) 6 paisa carmine on off-white or creamy paper
- (iii) Double-Moon variety
- (iv) First Day Cover
- (v) Wholly imperforate
- (vi) Vertical perforations missing
- (vii) Horizontal perforations missing
- (viii) Perforations cutting design
- (ix) Postally used on cover

SG 134 Illustrations



Fig.1 Parliament



Fig.2 Double-Moon Variety

Renovation of Sri Pashupatinath Temple

Gorkha Patra Press produced a set of three stamps, issued on 19th. November 1959 (4th. Marga 2016), to commemorate the completion of the restoration of the Pashupatinath Temple (Fig. 1). The name of the designer and the total numbers issued are not known.

The three stamps share the same design which shows the Linga Moorti of Shree Pashupati with His Image facing the four corners of the world. The inscription "Nepal Hulak Tikat" is shown at the top in Nepali and it's English equivalent "Nepal Postage" at the centre. The name "Shree Pashupatinath" is inscribed in both Nepali and English at the bottom. The values are shown in tablets at the right and left of the pedestal on which the image stands in both Nepali and in English.

The three values are:

1. 4paise green, 25mm high x 18mm wide, issued in sheets of 49 (7 x 7).
2. 8paise red, 28½mm high x 21mm wide, issued in sheets of 80 (8 x 10).
3. 1 Re. blue, 33½mm high x 24½mm wide, issued in sheets of 63 (7 x 9).

All three stamps were printed on good quality white imported paper with no watermark and clear gum. Various shades of each colour are known and are described as being:

4 paise green, grey-olive, deep olive-green, deep yellow-green and bronze-green.

8 paise red, carmine, scarlet, scarlet-red, carmine-red.

1 Rupee blue, light-blue, bright light-blue

Each of the values were perforated 11 and the perforations are good and clear. All three values are known with rows of horizontal perforations missing and all are known with rows of vertical perforations missing. However only the 1 Rupee value is known wholly imperforate. All of the imperforates are extremely rare with the 1 Rupee being the most difficult of all (Fig's. 2, 3 & 4).

Other perforation errors include stamps with wide margins (Fig. 5) and marginal copies which have a double row of perforations in the margin.

A simple rectangular hand-stamp was applied to First Day Covers (Fig. 6). Within a single-lined frame is a three line inscription in Nepali which includes the date of issue "2016/4/Marga". The hand-stamp was struck in black and a standard postmark in black cancels the stamp(s). F.D.C's are found bearing single values, two out of the three values and all three values.



4 paisa value



Fig.1

8 paisa value



1 Rupee value



Fig.2 4 paisa with vert.perf.
missing



Fig.3 8 paisa with vert.perf.
Missing



Fig.4 1 Rupee with Vert.Perf.
Missing



Fig.5 Wide Margin on
3 paisa

न्या प्रतिमा उद्घाटन
पि० सं० २०१६ मार्ग ४ गते
प्रकाशको पहिलो दिन

Fig.6 F.D.C. Hand-Stamp



HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Nepal Philatelic Bureau
Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal



**AVAILABLE POSTAGE STAMPS
1981**

S.N.	Subject	Denomination	Sheet	Year
17.	23rd Olympic Game	10.00	50	1984
18.	Mt. Annapurna	5.00	50	1984
19.	Sugarmatha National Park	10.00	25	1985
20.	40th Anniversary U.N.O.	5.00	50	1985
21.	14th Eastern Regional Tuberculosis conference of I.U.A.T	25.00	16	1985
22.	First S.A.R.C. Summit	5.00	50	1985
23.	75th Anniversary of phurping Hydro Electric Station	15	50	1986
Regular Series				
24.	(A) Lumbini	10	100	1986
25.	(B) Crown	1.00	100	1986
26.	Mt. Purnima	8.00	50	1986
27.	International Peace year	10.00	50	1986
28.	Regular Pashupati	50	100	1987
29.	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless 1987	5.00	50	1987
30.	Kashubamundap	25	35	1987
31.	43rd Birthday of H.M. The King	25	50	1987
32.	Mt. Kangjroba	10.00	50	1987
33.	Diamond Jubilee of Queen Mother Ratna	5.00	30	1988
34.	Bindhyabasini temple Pokhara	15	50	1988
35.	44th Birthday of H.M. King Birendra	4.00	50	1988

We have the pleasure in notifying revised list of Nepal Post Stamps available for sale in this Bureau. All those interested in Nepal Postage Stamps are cordially invited to contact the following address:-

Offices - in **Chang**
NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU
Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal

Order and method of payment

Since standing order system for deposit account Number is already available in our Bureau, deposit account may be opened at the following minimum sum in one of the following currencies listed below

- Rs. 200.00 NC for Nepalese Customers,
- Rs. 200.00 IC for Indian customers,
- 25.00 (U.S. Dollar) or equivalent in SF or DM or Sterling pounds or Japanese Yen for overseas customers.

Any order required from time to time may be placed along with the remittance sufficient to cover the cost of stamps including Packing, Postage and registration.

Payment may be made by any foreign customer through cheque, bank draft or any method payable to the Nepal Philatelic Bureau or through Nepal Rastra Bank Account No SA. A. Deposit-1549/041.

Stamps will not normally be sent until the draft or cheque has been cleared.

Orders may be made for

1. New issue Stamps.
2. First day covers bearing a newly issued stamps with first day cancellation.
3. Folders bearing new stamps and first day cancellations, marks.
4. Singles, stripes, blocks and sheets of available stamps in mint conditions.
5. Singles, strips, blocks and sheets of available stamps cancelled with ordinary post mark or first day cancellation.
6. Postal Stationeries (Postcards, Envelops, Registration envelopes and Aerogrammes)

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
STANDING ORDER FORM**

NAME (Block Letters) _____
ADDRESS _____
COUNTRY _____
I enclose the sum of _____ to open a deposit account for automatic supply of the items listed below.
Standing Order of _____
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Signature _____
Date _____
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Available Folder FDC

S.N.	Subject	Denomination	Sheet	Year
1.	Rastriya Panchayat	2.50	...	...
2.	10 Democracy Day	.60	...	...
3.	Int. Postal Services	.65	...	...
4.	National Democracy Day	2.00	...	...
5.	Int. Women Year	1.25	...	...
6.	31st Birthday of H. M. King	2.00	125	...
7.	25th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan 1976-77	4.25	...	...
8.	Olympic Games	1.30	...	...
9.	Flower - Lilium	1.35	...	...
10.	32nd Birthday of H. M. King	1.10	...	...
11.	Kaji Amar Singh Thapa	6.30	5.55	...
12.	Visit Nepal Series (1977)	4.50	...	...
13.	Silver Jubilee of Nepal Scout	1.75	1.25	...
14.	Post Mark	1.25	1.25	...
15.	World Environment Day	3.05	2.55	...
16.	Golden Jubilee of Queen Mother Ratna	2.35	...	...
17.	Visit Nepal-78	3.05	2.55	...
18.	Fruit series	2.00	1.55	...
19.	30th Anniversary Human Rights day	3.05	2.55	...
20.	75th Anniv: of the powered Flight	1.50	1.00	...
21.	34th Birthday of H. M. King	3.05	.55	...
22.	1st of Fed. Machelndramath	1.50	1.00	...

Available Postage Stamps

S.N.	Subject	Denomination	Sheet	Year
1.	Date Stamp 1935 V.S.	.75	50	1978
2.	1st of Red Machelndramath	.75	50	1978
3.	Chair of— Red Machelndramath	1.25	100	1979
4.	Shiva Parvati	1.25	35	1979
5.	Danphe	3.50	50	1979
6.	Dhatagiri	5.00	50	1980
7.	World Tourism Conference	25.00	50	1980
8.	International Year of Disabled Person (IYDP)	5.00	50	1981
9.	Silver Jubilee of Nepal Rastra Bank	1.75	50	1981
10.	Souvenir Sheet	5.00	...	1981
11.	70th Council Meeting of International Hotel Association	1.75	50	1981
12.	Satellite Station	5.00	100	1981
13.	Golden Jubilee of UFAA	...	...	...
14.	Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse & Mt. Nupise	5.25	12	1982
15.	39th Birthday of H.M. King	5.00	50	1982
16.	Mt. Cho-yu	6.00	50	1983
17.	20th Anniversary of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting	5.00	16	1984

S.N.	Subject	Denomination	Sheet	Year
23.	Chair of Red Machelndramath	3.05	...	...
24.	Forest Festival	1.75	...	...
25.	I. V. C.	2.80	...	...
26.	Visit Nepal 1979	3.30	2.25	...
27.	Banianganga Irrigation Project	14.35	...	...
28.	Bird Series	3.30	...	...
29.	35th Birthday of H. M. King	4.40	...	...
30.	Herb Series	4.40	...	...
31.	Literature Series	2.00	...	...
32.	30th Birthday of H. M. King	2.00	...	...
33.	Silver Jubilee of Nepal Rastra Bank	...	...	2.25
34.	Visit Nepal '81	...	...	2.80
35.	39th Birthday of H. M. King	6.00	...	...
36.	Sugarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park	11.00	...	...
37.	Silver Jubilee of Royal Nepal Airlines	2.00	...	...
38.	40th Birthday of Birendra	2.00	...	...
39.	Silver Jubilee of Auditor General	1.25	...	...
40.	International Youth Year	2.00	...	...
41.	Wildlife Series	1.85	...	...
42.	40th Anniversary of U.N.O.	6.00	...	...
43.	14th Eastern Regional Conference Tuberculosis	26.00	...	...
44.	First (SAARC) Summit	6.00	...	...
45.	Silver Jubilee of (RSS)	5.00	...	...

this vast area does help in the movement of the postal articles to and from different relay stations-

1. Trishuli	- Rasuwa	32.5 miles
2. Gorkha	- Bhachek	12 "
3. Kuncha	- Khudibeni	14 "
4. Pokhara	- Thak	41 "
5. Ridi	- Bharse	8 "
6. Wanla	- Chandrakot	36 "
7. Salyan	- Jajarkot	19.5 "
8. Karnali	- Jumla	59 "
9. Doti	- Bajhang	24 "
10. Amthan	- Dhading	16 "
11. Gorkha	- Chitaun	27.5 "
12. Kuncha	- Bandipur	16 "
13. Palpa	- Sherganj	68 "
14. Bhairawa	- Shivraj	31 "
15. Tarikhet	- Dang-ghorai	8 "
16. Dahban	- Kanchanpur	199.5 "

V NORTHERN SECTOR

It may look strange that there is no separate main line serving the northern parts of the country. Because of the inaccessible mountainous region to some parts, the scanty population and the under-development of this area, the volume of the postal articles is relatively very low. So this belt had been postally served to certain parts through the bifurcated branch lines of the Eastern and the Western Sectors.

EXCHANGE POST OFFICES

The Exchange Post Offices meant for the exchange of the postal articles to and from India and abroad are included in the above list of the post offices.

POSTAL CHAUKIS

As regards the postal chaukis it may be noted that the number of postal posts or chaukis mentioned above include the chaukis on both the sides of the bridges, ferries and rope-way 'tuins' (serving like bridges) for crossing.

POSTAL ROUTE

It may be noted in passing that the postal route locally known as 'Hulaki Bato' wherever possible, sticks to the 'crow's flight system or the shortest route.

JUNE 11, 1990.

"From China and Tibet" - some corrections

by
Nick Rhodes

Students of the history of missionary work in China and Tibet owe a debt to Mr. Robson Lowe for publishing, in 1981, 12 interesting letters in a short monograph entitled "From China and Tibet". (1) The letters dated from the period 1844-65, and contain interesting information, not only on the routes taken on their journey to France, and the postal markings applied to them, but also on the situation in these isolated mission stations. Unfortunately Mr. Lowe was not aware of any other letters, and admitted to being rather uncertain over the location of some of the places from which the letters were sent and of other places mentioned in them. The purpose of this note is to throw some further light on the three letters written in French that purported to come from Tibet.

The first letter was written by C. Renou on 28th January 1859, and was sent from "Tcha-mon-tong". On p. 14 Mr. Robson Lowe stated that this was an old name for "Taichi-Gyandie", on the road east of Lhasa, but on p. 17 refers to the possibility that it was a village south of the Tibetan border in Yunnan. I can confirm that it was, indeed, the first village inside China when following the Salween Valley south from Tibet.

This letter also mentions the Mission station at Bongo, a place that Mr. Lowe could find on any map. I can confirm that this was up a tributary to the east of the Salween called the Bongo river (or more usually the Bongo), a few miles within Tibet, due north of "Tcha-mon-tong". Bongo was visited in 1862 by the Abbe Desgodins (2), who met Renou there and records much information about this mission, and other missionary activities in and around Tibet at this period.

The second letter was, according to Robson Lowe, written by "Jacques Leon, Bishop of Dinopolis (?)" and sent from "Chang tchouan tan" pm 30th August 1859. In fact the author of the letter was Mgr Jacques-Leon Thomine-Desmazures, Bishop of Sinopolis and Apostolic Vicar of Lhasa. Robson Lowe identifies "Chang tchouan tan" with Chengtu, but this is not correct; it should be "Tienchuan", about 5 days journey due east of Tachienlu, and hence within Szechuan Province in China.

The third letter was written by J.B. Goutelle from "Ta-tsien-lou" (Tachienlu) on 20th May 1865, which Robson Lowe located correctly. At this time this town was on the border of ethnic Tibet, but the authority of Lhasa certainly did not extend so far east. I have included a copy of a map drawn by M. Desgodins showing the political borders of Tibet at this time (3), showing the location of Bongo and Tcha-mon-tong (or Tchamouton), but Ta-tsien-lou is over 100 miles east of Litang at the edge of this map.

Incidentally, Desgodins mentions in his book that correspondence was most often sent by special courier, which is very expensive and slow (4), which agrees with the experience of the letters published by Robson Lowe. However, I have to say that although these letters are of great interest, none of them were actually sent from Tibetan territory.

Notes

- (1) London, 1981. Available from Christie's Robson Lowe. See Waterfall's Postal History of Tibet, 2nd ed., p. 50.
- (2) "La Mission du Thibet de 1855 a 1870", C.H. Desgodins, Verdun 1872.
- (3) This map was published in the "Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal", Dec. 1880, p. 197.
- (4) Desgodins, op. cit. p. 75.