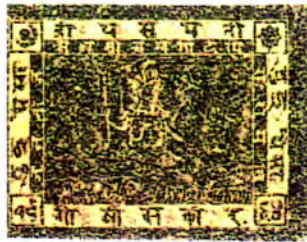


# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET  
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



2 Pice



4 Pice



8 Pice



16 Pice

THE SRI PASHUPATI NEGATIVE PROOFS



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 in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the society representative in your area.

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1st Quarter 1993	£12	£33	£250

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SECRETARY: Mr. Colin Hepper, 12 Charnwood Close,  
Peterborough, Cambs., PE2 9BZ England.  
Telephone: 0733-349403 Fax: 0733-896890

EDITOR: Mr. Leo Martyn  
P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles,  
Ca. 90049-0263, U.S.A.

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\* \* \* \* \*

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One insertion, per line \$1.00  
Four insertions, per line \$3.50  
To calculate the number of lines your advertisement will require, count 74 letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. Ads will be placed under appropriate headings without charge for the 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 issue mailed about one month later. Any change of copy after the first insertion will be counted as a new advertisement.

**FOR SALE: TIBETAN STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY.** I currently have a large stock of quality material from all periods. I would be glad to send you a selection tailored to your specific needs. Want lists invited. I also have a list of out-of-print books and articles on Tibetan philately for which I can provide photocopies. This will be sent to anyone requesting it. George Bourke, P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, Mi., 49201, U.S.A.

**FOR SALE: Tibetan Pocket Calendars;** includes Tibetan Holidays, written in English and Tibetan. \$2.50 each; money goes to help Drepung Monastery in India. T. Miller, P.O. Box 59031, Chicago, Il 60659, USA.

**WANTED: Tibetan Local Post Stamps and Postal History from 1912 - 1960.** Single stamps, multiples, sheets, covers and proofs. I am willing to pay good prices and or exchange other Tibet material of all periods, Nepal stamps (Pashupati and Gorkha Patra Press issues) or quality stamps of the whole world. Write to: Rainer Fuchs, Am Burkardstuhl 31, 8702 Himmelstadt, Germany.

**WANTED: NEPAL** FDCs, Folders, Gurkha Patra Press imperfs., classical issues, covers 1900-1960. Please ask for want-list. Heinz Schobel, Hornerstr. 1, D-2800 Bremen 1, Germany.

**WANTED: CLASSIC AND PASHUPATI COVERS FROM Nepal.** I will purchase and or trade better stamps and covers. Also wanted, better or unusual Nepalese covers from the 1950's and 1960's. Leo Martyn, P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA, 90049-0263, USA.

\*\*\*\*\*

TIBET: THE 1950's BI- AND QUADRI-SECTS REVISITED

In an article that appeared in Postal Himal No. 71 (1992): page 42, I wondered how clerks in the Tibet P.O.'s could tell whether the bisected two-trangka reds, in cases where the value panel did not show, represented one half of a two-trangka or a one-trangka stamp (the shades, at one time or another, being virtually identical). I added that Tibetan philately rarely surrendered its secrets easily. Perhaps I became unduly perturbed over a non-problem.

In a country where few letters were dispatched, and, hence, few stamps needed or likely bought in advance to keep in the sender's own hands, the probability is that said sender took any letters to the counter, where the clerk would sell the stamps to him (not so likely "her", in that patriarchal society!), cut a two-trangka single or more in two, and have it or them sent off. Thus, a properly valued stamp would automatically be the one affixed. The clerk could even have had a few two's bisected in advance.

May I now scrape the egg off my face?



Photo of the Dolakha Post Office.

Photo Source: S.L. Shrestha

\*\*\*\*\*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In Postal Himal # 72 [page 53] I found the answer to my question regarding the unissued overprinted Chinese stamps for use in Tibet. My sketch of the overprint was based upon the article in "Prize Selections from the ROCPEX TAIPEI'81" and not from actually seeing an illustration of the overprint. The only question is "are there two or three wavy vertical lines?"

Thank you for answering my question.

Wilson Lin

[Ed. The above is not a direct quote

**NEPAL** — *Selections from Stock* SC #1

SIVA PERIOD: Unused Plate and Press Proofs, Covers, and one Telegraph Form.



Stock #	Description	Price (US\$)
1001	1907, 4p green plate proof (27 var), imperf horiz pair; NG as issued, wide mgns, VF .....	\$70
1002	1907, 16p pale violet plate proof (29 var), imperf vert pair; NG as issued, nice wide mgns, VF .....	\$75
1003	1907, 4-16p Siva (26-29), complete set; OG, LH, F-VF (Scott \$12.85++) .....	\$35
1004	1909 (March 25) pink cover f.w. 4p green tied by hand-dated negative pmk; cover addr to Kathmandu; F-VF attractive cover .....	\$40
1005	1910 (January 13?) cover f.w. 4p green tied by Birganj ornamental pmk dated by hand; nice example of mark used as cancel, VF .....	\$55
1006	1910 (December 18) native paper cover f.w. 4p green tied by Pokhara negative pmk dated "67/9/4". Kathmandu b/s; interesting, VF .....	\$45
1007	1930, 4p green (27), blk of 30 on part telegraph form; Chisapani postal killers used as telegraph cancellations; one insignif sm insect hole, scarce on forms, F-VF .....	\$110
1008	1929, 2p dk brown plate proof (30 var), T mgn imperf vert pair; NG, sm pencil note on rev, VF .....	\$70
1009	1929, 8p dp red press proof (32 var), perforated B mgn blk of 4; NG as iss, VF see Photo above .....	\$100
1010	1935, 2p-32p Siva plate proofs (38/43 var), imperf horiz prs, 8p only missing; 16p, 32p nat paper crease, NG, VF see Photo above .....	\$250
1011	1935, 4p green plate proof (39 var), blk of 4; NG as issued, Very Fine .....	\$130
1012	1935, 4p green press proof (39 var), mgn blk of 12 showing shifted perforations; NG as issued, a striking error, VF .....	\$275
1013	1946, 1r henna brn and black press proof (50 var). L mgn blk of 4; NG as issued, scarce, F-VF .....	\$100

**TERMS:** Cash with order, please. Order by stock number. Most items are one-of-a-kind, so order early to avoid disappointment. *Postage and insurance extra.* Orders under \$50 add \$3; \$50 and over add \$6. Satisfaction guaranteed. Member: APS, CCNY, NTPSC.

*Zulueta & Company*

P. O. Box 27742 • Concord • California • 94527 • USA

EDITORIAL

The Study Circle auction which usually accompanies each issue was sent earlier in a separate mailing. There will be an auction listing with the next issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lost member - can anyone supply an address for Stephen M. Rahpael (possibly in New York)?

\* \* \* \* \*

Recently we have had a couple of display ads. The rates have not been published in some time so here are the current charges (10% reduction for 4 consecutive ads):

Full page	- \$40.00
Half page (horizontal or vertical)	- \$25.00
Quarter page (horizontal or vertical)	- \$15.00

The above rates are for ads ready for printing. There is a 50% surcharge for retyping. There is also a 50% surcharge if a half-tone is required for a clearer illustration. Because the above rates didn't jibe with the classified ads, the rates for classified ads have been changed to \$1.00 per line (approximately 74 characters and spaces). Members who have current ads will be given additional insertions.

\* \* \* \* \*

From the Federal Express shipping handbook of June, 1992, Roger Skinner has sent me a photocopy of the page dealing with Nepal. Among the items which are prohibited from shipping (or entry?) is stamps! Additional items are: coins (collectible); checks (cashiers and personal); and x-rays.

\* \* \* \* \*

Michael Roger's public auction of June 12-13 offers 137 lots of Tibet material, including items from 1854 through the 1950's. I have been advised by several experts that some of the lots are not genuine and or mis-described, such as the 1933 perforated sheets and the 1914 four and eight trangka sheets and covers. But there are many fine items, such as: three Chinese Office in Tibet covers plus the stamps, some in large blocks; a Waterlow die proof in blue of the first issue; and 1933 issue bi-sect and quadri-sect covers. Michael Rogers will send a free catalogue to any member - state that you belong to the Nepal & Tibet Study Circle.

\* \* \* \* \*

Frealon Bibbins recently received a Bronze-Silver literature award for his Tibet First Series, 1912 Plating Notebook (published by Geoffrey Flack, 1992). The award was given at Orapex, where Canada's 2nd National Philatelic Literature Exhibition took place.

\* \* \* \* \*

Westpex was a big success - I think all of the attending members had a grand time. Friday's meeting was highlighted by Geoffrey Flack's presentation, accompanied by his excellent and original commentary, of Alan Warren's slide show on Tibet. Armand Singer led off Sunday's meeting with a talk titled "Trophies of a Himalayan Hunter". All of us who are familiar with Armand's witty writings in the Postal Himal expected something special - we were not disappointed. In fact, the word must have spread as there was "standing room only". Sidhartha M. Tuladhar also gave an excellent presentation with slides dealing with Tibet. In addition, he brought photos of "old" Tibet which were displayed in the room run by the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library.

Seven members showed exhibits as follows (alphabetically listed):

- Leo Martyn - "Nepal: Postal History from the 18th Century through the Transitional Period (1911)": Gold Medal, plus the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Award (with inverted inscription, of course) and the Michael Rogers "Best Asian Exhibit" award.
- Lawrence B. Scott - "The Development of Nepal's Postal System": Vermeil Medal.
- Armand E. Singer - "Tibet": Vermeil Medal (a Gold in Yak's clothing) and the American Philatelic Society Research Medal for "Best Research Exhibit".
- Roger D. Skinner - "Nepal First Day of Issue Postal Markings": Silver Bronze Award.
- Dr. Frank E. Vignola - "Nepal-The Rectangular Design Sri Pashupati Issues: 1907-1940": Gold Medal.
- Frank J. Vignola - "Nepal: The Kukris Issues, 1881-1930": Special Non-competitive awards.
- Alfonso G. Zulueta, Jr. - "Nepal: The Classic Period": Gold Medal.

Most of the credit for such a successful show must go to Roger and Frank - because of their efforts, we had the meeting rooms and equipment, plus the exhibition frames.



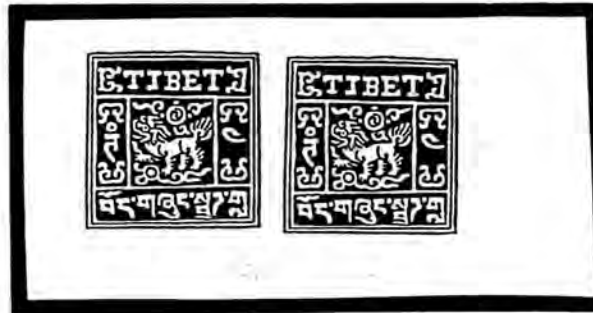
Roger prepared two cacheted envelopes for the occasion which were available at the show. They can be obtained from Roger for 50¢ each (#10 S.A.S.E. appreciated).

NEPAL & TIBET STUDY CIRCLE  
YEARLY CONVENTION  
April 23, 24 & 25th  
34th annual WESTPEX 1993



NEPAL & TIBET STUDY CIRCLE  
YEARLY CONVENTION  
April 23, 24 & 25th  
34th annual WESTPEX 1993

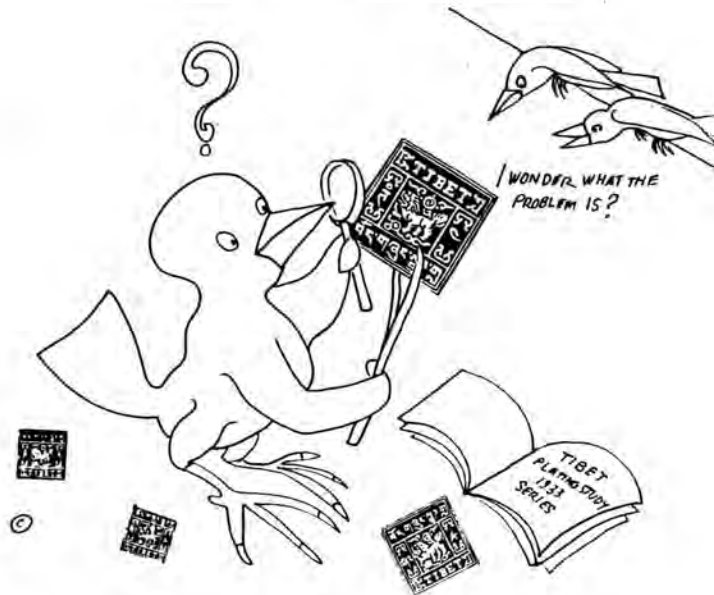
STOP THE PRESSES!



I have been told that a tremendous Tibet item has been discovered at one of the dealer's booths - a previously unrecorded mint proof sheet of the 1933 4 trangka (used copies are known). Illustrated above, it was found by Frealon Bibbins and "expertised" by Geoffrey Flack. They showed off their great find to Armand, who, of course, was beside himself for not getting to the dealer first (the 4 trangka is the only 1933 proof which he does not have [the ½ trangka is unknown in proof form]).

We have an opportunity . . .

STOP THE PRESSES - AGAIN!



BUT, as it turned out, the above proof sheet was created by Frealon, and, with Geoffrey's help, they were out to get Armand's goat(ee). All who were present (I wasn't) at the Study Circle's table had a good laugh at Armand's expense. The following press report was sent to me:

THE 1933 4 TRANGKA "SPOOF" SHEET

"Mysteriously at Westpex a photocopy of the 1933 "SPOOF" sheet made an appearance. The perpetrators of this hoax are reported heading for the nearest Tibetan Monastery to seek political asylum (it was used on one of the clubs most distinguished and witty members who is noted for getting the best of it)."





Review of Tibet Third Series, 1933-60: Plating Study, by Frealon Bibbins, with Geoffrey Flack. Softbound \$20.00 U.S.; hardbound \$45.00 U.S., with five color plates. Plus postage. Available from, and published by, Geoffrey Flack, Box 65987, Station F, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5N 5L4; copyright 1993.

In Postal Himal No. 71 (3rd quarter 1992) I heaped much deserved praise on Bibbins' Tibet Series, 1912 Plating Notebook, \$15.00 U.S., plus postage. I even expressed the wish that its author would do for the 1933 issue what he so ably accomplished for the 1912. He just has. Those of us attending WESTPEX in San Francisco, April 23-25, were vouchsafed a preview of the second study. Actually it surpasses its predecessor (no mean feat) - as close to an ideal guide for identifying the thirty-threes as philatelists are likely to encounter. The 63-page monograph is to appear in both soft- and hardbound format, identical except that the latter will include color reproductions of sheets of all five values. Flack is publisher and collaborator as well in the Bibbins endeavor. Space is left for collectors to add their own findings and/or objections (p. 5 speaks of a "plating notebook whose purpose is to encourage further study"). Despite such becoming modesty, notations will doubtless remain minimal.

"Terminology" (p.6) illustrates the 4-trangka value, with lines pointing to twelve typical areas and clues ("value character," "top panel," "yin-yang," "hooks under the lion," etc.), characteristics to be referred to throughout. The five values are then illustrated (p. 7). Page eight discusses the miniature two-cliche proof sheets of the 2/3, 1, 2, and 4 trangkas (no 1/2-trangka sheetlets have been found to date, nor any fours in mint, paired condition; for one exciting moment at WESTPEX I thought I had come upon a mint sheetlet of the latter, but it turned out to be something else, alas!).

The rest of the book discusses the five values in sequence, each with a page or more plating the order of the cliches for all the settings. Another page, entitled "Diagnostics," gives at least one salient characteristic for each cliche, each value. "Starting Points" affords still another page listing which cliches possess confusingly similar characteristics: in the case of the 1/2 trangkas, e.g., the lion's tail in Nos. 1, 5, 7, and 9 has a small hook, No. 5 has distorted hooks, Nos. 8 and 12 a small shoulder line. Twenty such details are listed under both the 1/2 and the 1-trangka values; 24 under the 4-trangka.

Finally, to each of the 61 cliches is devoted a half-page, describing in detail, among other data, special imperfections in later settings. I cannot swear to the accuracy of every indicator, but I did check a large number of them. I am humbled by Bibbins' fine persevering scholarship, a feeling tinged with pity for the damage he must have wrought upon his marvelous eyesight.

The need for this study is obvious, but the extent of its usefulness might escape the user at first glance. Not only does it greatly simplify identifying sheets, remove doubts concerning counterfeits (except for those pesky color-copier reproductions), allow for the making of reconstructed sheets, but it also aids immeasurably in dealing with individual cliches on cover. Local covers (as against those addressed inward from or outward to Nepal or India or any other country) are virtually never accurately datable. Using this study and therefore knowing which flaws occur in which settings of which cliches and collating all these data, let us say, with Waterfall's color identifications keyed to the Methuen color handbook, the problem of dating should become much easier. Remember, the illustrations are considerably enlarged and uniformly razor-sharp, much unlike Waterfall's and even Haverbeck's books.

In short, Bibbins' 1912 study was remarkable; this one is a God-send. Now bring on the triangle's third leg - the study of the 1914-20 issue - less necessary perhaps, but certainly much to be desired. (Rumor has it to expect something late this year or early next, and more than just a plating study.)

NEWS FROM KATHMANDU

S. L. Shrestha



श्रेष्ठा ३३



श्रेष्ठा ३३

Pictured above is Mr. Krishna Bhakta Shrestha, the oldest postman of the G.P.O. in Kathmandu. He has been in the service of the post office for 40 years and was featured in an article on the present condition of the post office, which appeared in Sadhna, a family digest, and written by the Study Circle's representative in Nepal, S.L. Shrestha.

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The following announcement appeared in The Rising Nepal (newspaper) of July 5, 1993:

**Postal Service Regulations Amended**

Kathmandu, July 4 (RSS):

His Majesty's Government has announced the Postal Service (Third Amendment), regulations-2049 B.S.

Under the regulations, goods worth Rs. 5,000/ in the maximum and currencies and coins up to 5,000/ rupees can be sent in a letter or in a package through the postal service by insuring them.

Previously goods worth Rs. 2,500/ and coins and currencies of the same value could be sent through postal services in this manner.

As regards the postal registration of newspapers and journals, they should be registered with the district post office concerned if only one district post office is to be used and with the regional postal directorate or the postal service department if more than one district post office is to be used.

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## THE SRI PASHUPATI EXPERIMENTAL NEGATIVE PROOFS

Thomas Matthiesen and Dr. Frank E. Vignola

In 1907 the government of Nepal abandoned the badly worn and troublesome clichés of its locally printed, typographed postage stamps and began importing a finely engraved issue produced by Perkins Bacon, printers, of London, England. The new stamps consisted of four values using the revised monetary unit of pice rather than annas (1 anna = 4 pice): 2 pice BROWN, 4 pice GREEN, 8 pice RED, and 16 pice VIOLET. Since the central vignette pictures the Hindu deity Sri Pashupati (Siva Mahadeva) these and similar subsequent stamps are referred to by collectors as the "Sri Pashupati" issues and comprise a distinct specialization within the philately of Nepal. After its first appearance October 16, 1907 several additional printings shipped from England extended the useful life of this issue for twenty three years. In 1930 and again in 1935 almost identical sets of Sri Pashupati stamps were issued differing only in the inscription surrounding the vignette and the addition of higher values in more colors. These too were recess engraved in England by the Perkins Bacon firm.

By 1940 England's involvement in World War II made importation of stamps by the Nepalese either unreliable or simply impossible. In their mountain kingdom, with limited printing technology, they decided to again print their own stamps. As with the earlier native issues the only method of production locally available was flat bed letterpress printing (or "typograph" as philatelists prefer to call it). Rather than making a new design or redrawing the existing design they cleverly photographed large multiples of the actual 1935 Perkins Bacon engraved stamps and from these photographic films new printing plates were made. When surrounded by marginal inscriptions (set in foundry type), locked into a form on a letterpress and printed on imported white papers the result was an inferior but quite serviceable set of postage stamps. Although this locally "typographed" issue used from 1941 to 1955 lacks the depth, sharp details and rich colors of the original engraved issue, the numerous changes of marginal inscriptions, paper and ink varieties and errors of perforation and color have made it one of the more interesting areas of study for the specialist.

Perhaps it was the pursuit of these unusual varieties by philatelists that encouraged a number of spurious items to emanate from Nepal and India in the 1940's. Normally green stamps chemically treated to turn black and other oddities were duly inspected and rejected by experts of the time. Unfortunately fakes, counterfeits and forgeries exist in Nepalese philately. One of the goals of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle is to expose these practices.

In 1948 an unusual set of items surfaced in the Kathmandu philatelic market place. These consisted of what appeared to be complete sheets of 100 of each of the four values of the 1907 Pashupati stamps. They were printed in several dull colors on assorted kinds of native and imported papers, with and without gum. But most noticeably they possessed the unusual and rather suspect characteristic of having been printed entirely in the negative. That part of the design normally meant to be colored was unprinted while the areas normally meant to be unprinted were colored (as were the spaces between the stamps). They were at once labeled "impossibilities" by the important philatelists of the time and simply regarded as another of several philatelic scams emanating from Nepal or India. Through the 1950's smaller blocks and singles surfaced and even some philatelic covers with "used" negative Pashupati items have been circulating among collectors as curious fakes and have been described as such in auction catalogues although in recent years the term "proof" has been used.

In 1972, during a trip to Nepal, the noted Nepal specialist Frank J. Vignola was offered five full sheets of the negative impressions by a Nepalese dealer. Believing them to be forgeries, Mr. Vignola took this opportunity to question him at length. The dealer stated that the sheets originated as experiments done by the Nepal Post Office during an effort to produce their own stamps. The entire lot of about 15 sheets came into the possession of the dealer and were placed on the philatelic market. As mentioned before they were greeted with little enthusiasm and considerable suspicion. Singles and blocks were sold to a few interested parties and many years later (about 1959) he prepared philatelic covers using the negative stamps in an attempt to establish authenticity in the eyes of collectors and perhaps recoup his original investment. Of course, rather than stimulate demand it only made them appear more suspect.

After considering them on their own merits, Mr. Vignola decided to purchase the remaining five sheets offered to him as it seemed quite possible they may have been some kind of experiment, particularly in light of the many different shades of ink and kinds of paper used. The exact reason for their negative appearance, however, remained something of a puzzle. He eventually split the sheets of 100 and at present the right half sheets are in the possession of Mr. Roger Skinner, while Mr. Vignola's son, Dr. Frank E. Vignola has the left half sheets.

Reliable government records from Nepal that deal with such matters (if ever maintained) are almost impossible to ferret out and distance or language barriers prevent most westerners from doing first hand research. The only alternative seems to be cautious speculation combined with close scrutiny of the actual material. Our sense of justice requires that to call something a fake it must have at least one severely compromising aspect, something that just doesn't quite fit. At first glance these negative "proofs" would seem to be full of such inconsistencies. After intensive study, however, the authors have found the so-called compromising points seem instead to build a strong case FOR credibility.

We believe these negative impressions to have been made DIRECTLY from the original 1907 Perkins Bacon recess engraved printing plates by someone who did not know how or was unable to use them properly. The negative appearance and the correct right to left imposition of the design would indicate the engraved plates were simply inked like a typograph (the method of printing most familiar to the Nepalese). No facility for and little knowledge of the recess engraving process existed in Nepal around 1940 when the government was deciding on a way to make their own stamps due to shortages caused by World War II. In his 1947 article "The War-Time Issues of Nepal", H. Garrett-Adams mentions the following: "In 1941 it was found that the stocks of some values of the Perkins Bacon printed issues were running short, and the printing plates were stored in Kathmandu. It was felt that it was not practicable to send them to England, and furthermore, the delay in securing supplies might be of any length, it was therefore resolved to attempt to print the stamps locally".

"It was for technical reasons impossible to use the large Perkins Bacon plates, probably no one had sufficient knowledge of printing from line engraved plates, and it is unlikely that a suitable printing press was available and in any case the only perforation machines that could be used were too small for sheets of 100 stamps."

While it is difficult to understand just how and why the 1907 engraving plates actually got to Nepal after their retirement by Perkins Bacon in 1929 it seems evident they did in spite of the normal procedure for security printers not to relinquish plates.

As tactile, tangible evidence, if the negative impressions were in fact pulled from the original 1907 plates (and not photographically derived from printed stamps), we predicted they would have to be slightly and consistently larger than the original issued stamps. This would be caused by a unique

factor in the recess engraving process. On a recess plate the portions to be printed are sunken "engraved" lines cut or etched into the surface of the metal. The plate is first flooded with ink; then wiped clean leaving only the engraved lines loaded with ink. Paper with an extremely high moisture content is then placed in contact with the plate under considerable press pressure, literally pushing the soft, damp paper into the grooves where the remaining ink is forced to adhere to it, creating the characteristic texture of engraved stamps. After printing, the moist paper is dried and noticeable shrinkage of the printed stamps occurs (usually greater in one direction than the other, bias to the paper's "grain"). If one were to merely roll some ink onto the surface of an engraving plate and without wiping the plate simply make an impression on DRY paper (as in letterpress printing) the result would be a NEGATIVE image with CORRECT right to left imposition. In addition this dry paper impression would more accurately reflect the ACTUAL SIZE of the printing plate than would a normally printed stamp (dry paper having no shrinkage).

Careful measurements of all negative multiples available to us have proven them to be the same size and proportion as the original plates, but not the same size and proportion as the original stamps. This information indicates the plates used to produce the negative impressions could not have been produced photographically from 1907 stamps as they would have retained the distinct proportions caused by paper shrinkage.

As an additional check we used the clever method employed by V.P. Turnburke Jr. to establish original die sizes of early Mexican engraved stamps (American Philatelist, Sept. 1980). Well over 100 examples of all four values of the 1907 stamps in used condition were carefully measured and found to .1 to .25mm smaller horizontally and .2 to .5mm smaller vertically than the 25 x 18.5mm original die size indicated for this issue by Peter Holcomb. After soaking briefly in cold water to expand them to their approximate size when printed they were again carefully measured and were found to have stabilized at about 25 x 18.5mm, the original die size and same size and proportions of the negative impressions.

It appears unlikely the negative impressions were made on a press but instead the original plates were simply inked with a hand roller, the paper placed on top then tamped or rolled to provide contact, a traditional proofing method in Nepal. It may have been a genuine and frustrating experiment by a government printer who did not understand recess engraving procedure, or they may have been made by a knowing printer to illustrate to a superior or bureaucrat just why the plates could not be printed properly by the pressmen and equipment available in Kathmandu. The diversity of colors and papers suggest they may have seriously considered using the plates anyway. The decision to not use them may not have been poor image quality but rather the large size of the plates (surpassing available paper size and perforating machine capacity) or most likely the outdated and offensive inscription "GORKHA SARKAR" ("GURKHA GOVERNMENT") which was removed from later Pashupati issues for political considerations. As the plates had been idle for nearly a dozen years this may not have been remembered or noticed until the negative proofs were viewed.

We do not know where the plates are at present or if they might still exist. Without government records we cannot rule out the possibility that the negative impressions may have been unofficial or unauthorized, although we can find nothing that would indicate this. We feel that for anyone to dispute that the negative impressions were pulled from the original plates they must document their contention or at least explain their account of why the negative impressions maintain the same size and proportions of the original plates. We have only attempted to find logical and viable reasons for previously unexplained items.

Nepal is a charming land of the unexpected, where by necessity the people have been used to making what they must with limited technology, often with

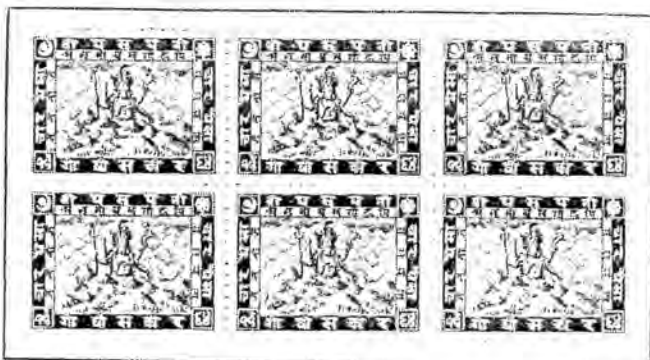
surprising and innovative results such as the locally printed Pashupati issues. It is unfortunate that the negative impressions, possibly important and revealing pieces of philatelic history, have been so ignored or maligned in the past. In those areas of philately sadly lacking in clear historical records such as that of Nepal, we are sometimes left with odd scraps of deceptive clues. In this instance we hope they have led to a better understanding of what may have gone on during the development of the locally printed Pashupati postage stamps.

\* \* \* \* \*

The authors would like to recognize the assistance of the following people in the preparation of this article: Peter Holcomb, Professor Lester A. Michel, J.R.W. Purves, Professor Armand Singer, Roger Skinner and Frank J. Vignola.

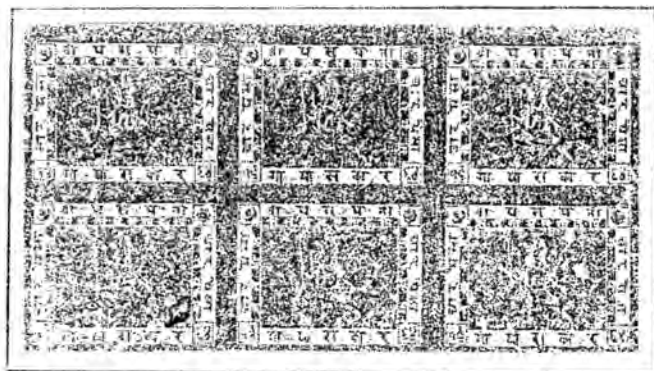
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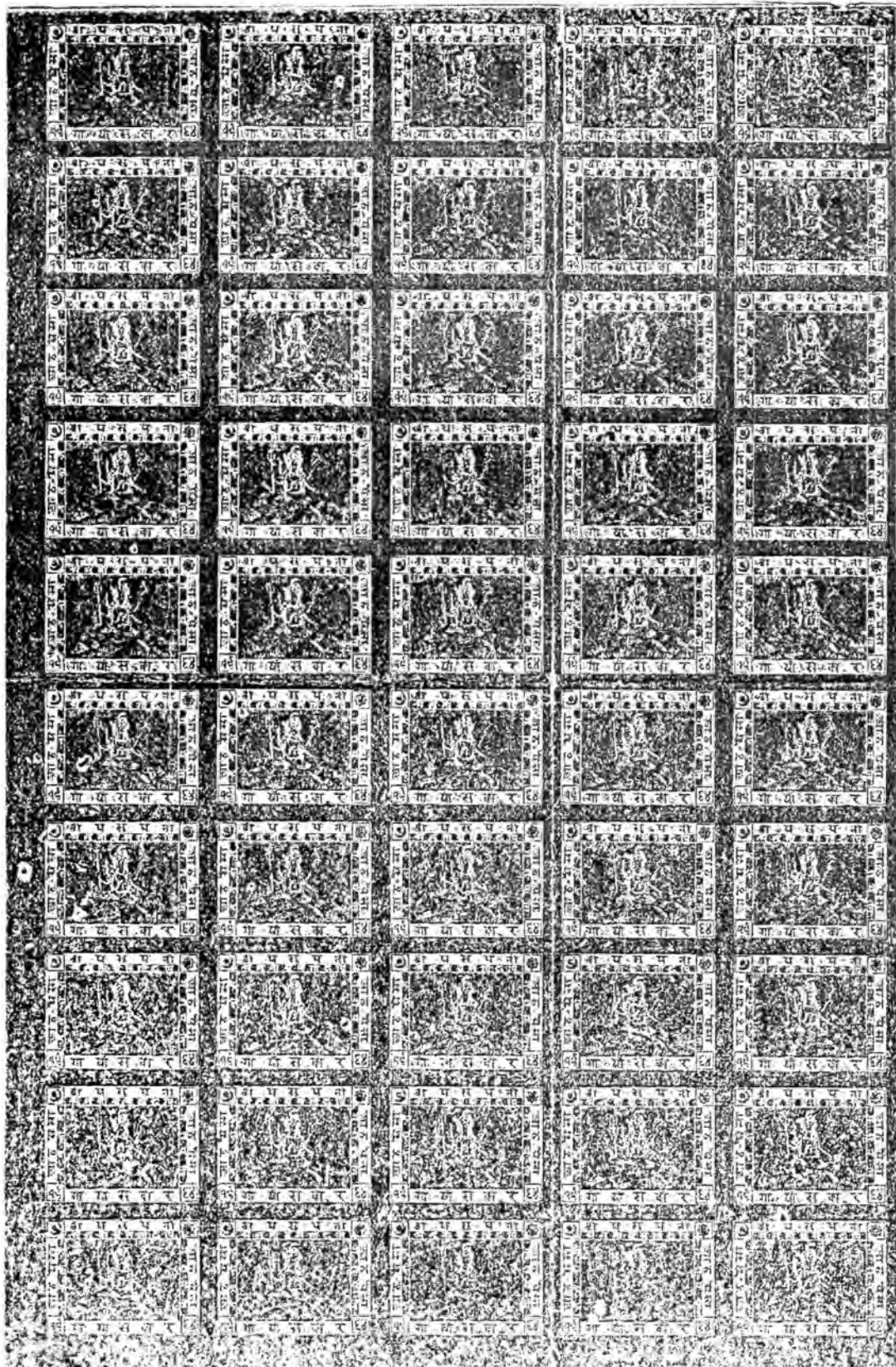
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- Papenfus, H.L.N. - "The Shri Pashupati Stamps of Nepal" (ISJ, Sept., 1948).
- Haverbeck, H.D.S. - The Postage Stamps of Nepal (Collectors Club, New York, 1962).
- Hepper, C. - The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal (Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, Peterborough, England, 1982).



4 pice stamps of the 1907 issue printed in London by Perkins Bacon on white wove paper.

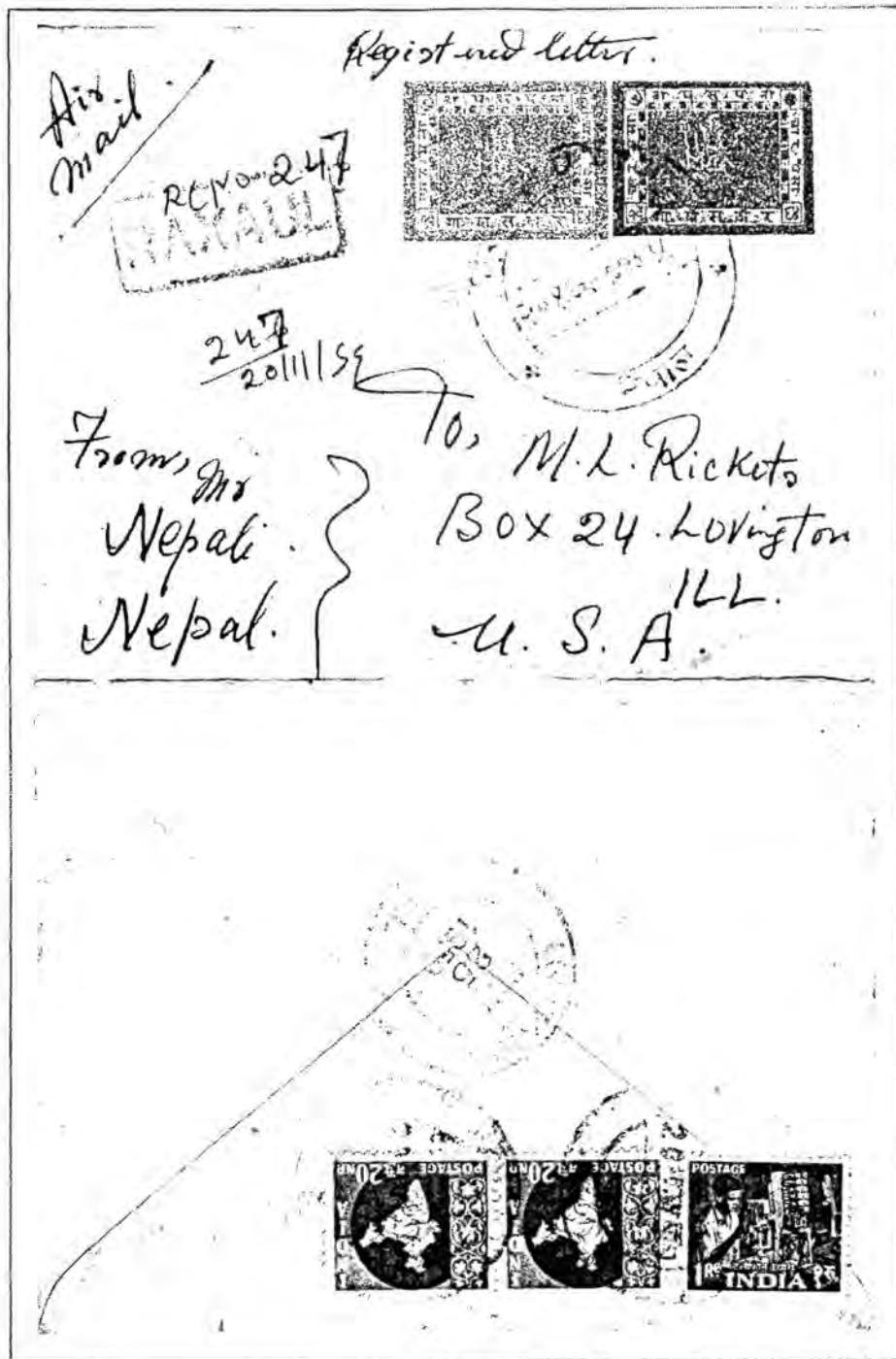
4 pice experimental proofs, on toned wove paper, made in Nepal from the same Perkins Bacon plates used to print the 1907 issue.





The left-half of a complete sheet (100) of the 8 pice experimental negative proof on card stock. From the collection of Dr. Frank E. Vignola.





Cover bearing 4 pice deep green and 8 pice brown red experimental negative proofs. The negative proofs were not valid for postage and were favor cancelled at the Birganj exchange post office in Nepal on Nov. 19, 1959. The cover was then sent by registered airmail from Raxaul, India, on Nov. 20 and received on Nov. 25 in Livingston, Illinois, U.S.A. The valid stamps of India paid the required postage.

## A List of Bhutanese Post Offices - Additional Information

Iiro Kakko

Following are notes relating to "A List of Bhutanese Post Offices" by S.C. Sukhani which appeared in Postal Himal No. 72 (4th Quarter, 1992).

### Following post offices were temporarily closed, and most still are:

44. Bara .
33. Bhangtar (operating now in Kiwapani, not Bhangtar).
52. Burichu.
39. Chargharey.
14. Chengmary.
25. Dagapela (possibly in operation).
31. Daifam (should be open again).
41. Dorokha (Gomtu has been used temporarily).
30. Ghumaney.
24. Kalikhola.
63. Lalai.
23. Lamidara.
70. Leopani.
83. Lobseybotey.
81. Neoly.
36. Samrang (destroyed entirely in 1991).
13. Sibsoo.
40. Surey.
80. Tading.
51. Tendoo.

### Closed, though not officially:

45. Bidung (closed, operations in Ranjung).
60. Bonday (not yet opened).
75. Chume (should have a post office but no facilities - all the mail is carried to Jakar).
76. Galing (closed; mail possibly serviced in Ranjung).
78. Mizniwoong (entirely closed).
35. Pagli.
64. Radhi (not in operation anymore; mail possibly serviced in Ranjung).
53. Rongthangwoong (closed; cancellations are in use in Doksum).
46. Sinkerlouri (closed due to lack of manpower).
69. Tomiyangtsi (closed; cancellations should not be in use anymore).
73. Ura (operating but without cancelling devices as they were destroyed in a fire).
61. Yadi (unknown; inquires in Thimphu in 1992 offered no results).
59. Yongphula (it should exist but neither locals nor I could find it: there is a mail box at the army compound!).

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This is a photo of the Inaruwa Sub Post Office (Inaruwa Chhoti Hulak) in the District of Sunsari (Sunasari), Zone XIII (Kosi).

Photo Source: S.L. Shrestha .

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir,

The letter from Mr. George Bourke in Vol. No. 72 certainly makes some very good points regarding the Society's attitude and proposed actions in receiving forgeries submitted for auction. I would certainly endorse Mr. Bourke's comments that it is not for an individual member of a society as an auctioneer to take a rather Draconian position and label what he or she may perceive as a forgery by creating an indelible mark on same. In fact I would suggest that the owners of such material would probably have reasonable case against the Society for defacing in any way material that is only offered through their services.

I certainly agree with Mr. Bourke that it is not for us to permanently deface as what we as single individuals may decide is not the genuine item. I certainly have found from another area of philatelic interest (Nicaragua), where in the past two very biased individuals, possibly with a hidden agenda have seen fit to deface many items whose provenance is certainly not as clearly established as they would like to think.

Therefore I would endorse Mr. Bourke's remarks in suggesting that the auctioneer has no right to deface and if we as a group believe that the selling of such material "as is" is not to be encouraged then the material should be returned to the person who submits it in the same condition in which it was sent.

If over a period of time material submitted from any one person is considered by a group to be of doubtful authenticity then that person should be debarred from participating in the auction and also the material should be described in articles in the journal as has been and is the practice at present.

Turning to another small matter which I have heard no more for some time in the pages of the magazine, I refer to the publication "Yak Posts of Dogar" allegedly by Colonel Dobson-Bligh. This apparent spoof of postal history does not seem to have ever become generally available and I would welcome hearing how one can obtain a copy. At one stage the publication was allegedly available from a source in Belgium but requests there subsequently denied the continued availability. I would certainly welcome hearing how one could obtain a copy of this publication, assuming that it actually exists, as I believe we should certainly have some confirmation as to its actual reality.

[Ed. I obtained a copy from the Belgium source (see Postal Himal No. 66) but apparently it is out-of-print. A quality photocopy is almost as good as the original.  
By the way, who really is Colonel Dobson-Bligh?]

From a rather distant part of the world [Australia], and having taken little part in the philately of our area over the recent years, may I take this opportunity to congratulate both the editor [thank you] and the office bearers in continuing to maintain a society in high profile and with obvious international success.

Yours faithfully,

Dr D.A. Pocock

SEALS OF MALS (REVENUE OFFICES)

Krishna Raj-Bhandari

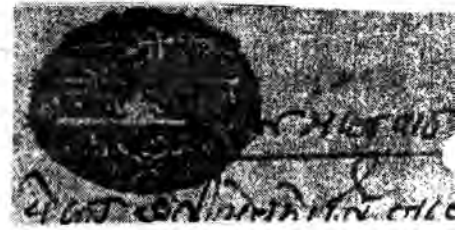
This article has a bearing to my article, "POST OFFICES OF NEPAL", published in the fourth quarter of 1990. There I had referred to the revenue/allied offices supplying postal stamps and stationery to the post offices within the country. Of late, since the publication of an article entitled "A SELECTION OF OFFICIAL SEALS OF THE POST OFFICES OF NEPAL", I thought of collecting seal marks of other offices somehow connected with the postal activities. The Mal offices, during the period, supplied the postal stamps and stationery. The sale proceeds of the stamps, stationery and other forms were deposited in the adjoining Mals. It is through the Mals post offices collected their salary, allowances and other sundry requirements. Thus we find a close link between the post offices and the Mals. As such the seals of the Mals also are worth studying. Some of the seals are illustrated here.



BAITADI



BANDIPUR



CHITAU



DAILEKH



DHADING



DOTI ACHAM



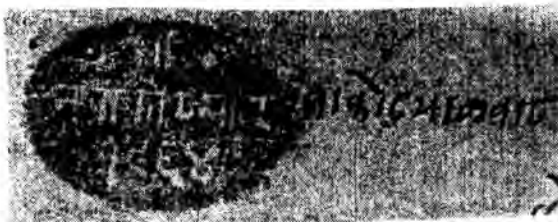
GULMI



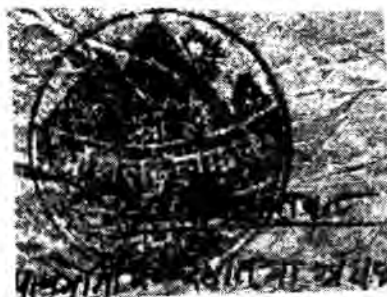
ILAM



KAVRE PALANCHOWK



NUWAKOT



OKHALDHUNGA



PALLOKIRAT MAL

## FIRST YEAR OF BHUTAN'S NEW POLICY PRODUCES ONLY SEVEN NEW ISSUES

Len Nadybal

A little more than a year ago (Linn's Stamp News, Dec. 31, 1991, page 2), I reported that the Post and Telegraphs Department of Bhutan had embarked on a new-issue policy that would do away with long sets of souvenir sheets and stamps that either had no relation to postal rates or events related to the country.

A year has passed, and true to the government's announcement, there were only seven new issues in 1992, none of which appeared in imperforate form.

Five of the seven issues related directly to Bhutan. Even the Barcelona Olympics stamps and souvenir sheet, which pictured archers, were directly related to the country as Bhutan has fielded Olympic archery teams since the 1960s.

The other two issues, the German Unification stamp and souvenir sheet and the Columbus pair and souvenir sheet, are of sufficient international importance to be fully justified as worthy subjects of any nation's stamps. The government stated up front that two or three issues each year would be of international interest.

The total face value of all 20 items issued in 1992 was less than \$13 a far cry from the \$80.94 face value of the 92 agency-produced stamps (and one non-agency stamp) of 1991.

Of the 20 items released in 1992, five stamps were issued for the inland letter rate (and also good for inland postcards, small packets of up to 50 grams and newspapers).

Of the remaining denominations issued, the majority were one of the following: 15 ngultrums, paying the 50-gram airmail to Europe; 20nu for the 50-gram airmail letter rate to the Americas; and 25nu for 10-gram registered airmail letters to Europe and for small packets, printed paper and books less than 250 grams in weight, sent worldwide by surface mail.

With all the new uses there are for 25nu stamps since the change of postal rates at the beginning of this year, the previously unusable, ever-growing stock of agency-produced 25nu souvenir sheets may start appearing on covers. These souvenir sheets have lingered in the vaults in the P&T headquarters since 1985.

None of the 1992 stamps were produced by any of Bhutan's agents, although one anomaly occurred worthy of note that involved an agency.

A sheetlet of four Wildlife stamps was produced by Bhutan's agent in New York. But when the stamps showed up in Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, they were missing the desired logo from the World Wildlife Federation, which was to be a beneficiary of the sales of the stamps.

The Bhutanese withheld the issue from its planned August 1992 release, but the agent had already distributed supplies to some dealers in the United States. Whether the stamps will ever be officially released is questionable.

This year promises to be another one of moderation. Ten issues are on the Bhutan Stamp Committee's selection list, from which seven will probably be chosen.

Five stamps and a souvenir sheet featuring medicinal plants already were issued Jan. 1.

The list also includes the following proposed issues based on local themes: 350th anniversary of Tashichho Dzong (fortress), which is Bhutan's capital; Losar (Bhutan's new year, the Year of the Bird); and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Bank of Bhutan.

The following international issues were proposed: 25th anniversary of the first walk on the moon; the World Soccer Cup in the United States; the upcoming Lillehammer and Atlanta Olympic Games; the 175th anniversary of the first ocean liner crossing the Atlantic; and the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus.

Collectors interested in Bhutan's stamps can write to the Philatelic Bureau, Bhutan P&T, GPO Thimphu, Thimphu, Bhutan.

TIBET - FORGERIES OF THE 1933 ISSUE  
 AN INVENTORY OF 2nd SET MULTIPLES

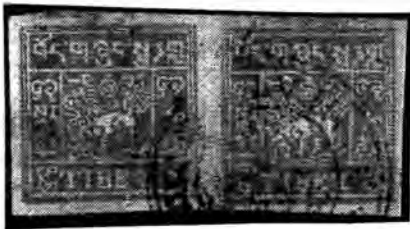
George Bourke

Although not known to Waterfall (at the time he published his book), multiples of the 2nd set do exist. The only previous reference to this can be found in Kurt Dahnke's, Tibet Handbuch und Katalog der Marken und Stempel, where he records and illustrates (photo No. 204) a horizontal strip of four of the 2 trangka. Several other multiples of this set are now known. A list of these follows:

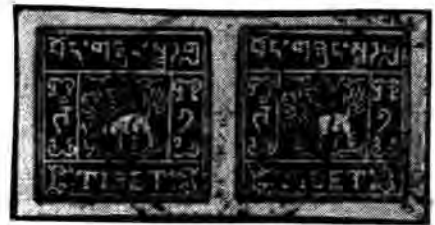
- $\frac{1}{2}$  trangka; two horizontal pairs both of which are cliché II.
- 1 trangka: one horizontal pair.
- 2 trangka: a horizontal strip of four. All cliché II, as in the strip illustrated by Dahnke.
- 4 trangka: one horizontal strip of three.

Comparing the position of the impressions on the strip illustrated by Dahnke and the one in this article, it will be seen that the position of the individual impressions differ. I imply from this, that this forgery was printed from a hand held block. Undoubtedly these multiples are very rare but their existence clearly indicates the likelihood that this set was printed in strips.

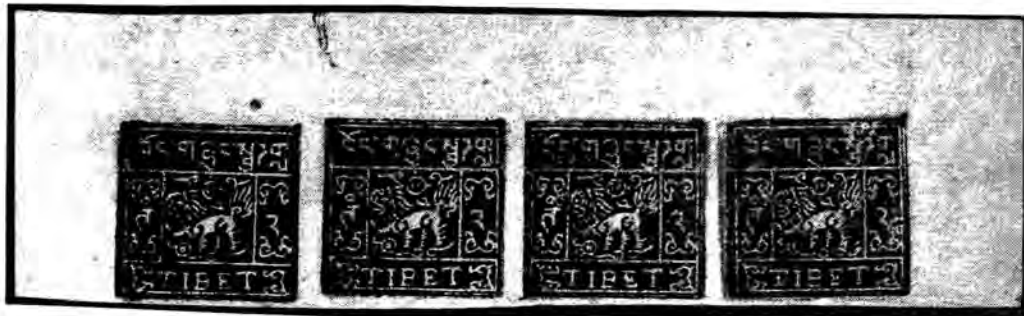
For the specialist, the classic forgeries of Tibet offers a challenging area, rich in potential. The continued discovery of previously unrecorded varieties and types, is an indication of the vitality of this area of research.



1/2 tr. pair both cliché II



1 tr. pair



2 tr. strip of four of cliché II



4 tr. strip of three

## A REVIEW OF THE COINAGE OF NEPAL

Wolfgang Bertsch

*THE COINAGE OF NEPAL*, by N. G. Rhodes, K. Gabrisch, C. Valdetaro. Royal Numismatic Society, Special Publication No. 21, London 1989. Hardbound, 249pp, 51 black and white plates. £37,50 for RNS members, £50 to others.

Nepal's "exotic" coinage is doubtlessly one of the most fascinating oriental series. Hardly any other country has produced such a vast variety of denominations and designs in the three major coin metals - copper, silver and gold. Despite this, even nowadays Nepal's coinage is not too well known among collectors of oriental coins. This is partly due to the fact that Nepal was a "forbidden" country until the 1950's. This new book, *THE COINAGE OF NEPAL*, which replaces the previous standard work by E. H. Walsh (*THE COINAGE OF NEPAL*, Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1908; reprinted 1973 by Indological Book House, Delhi and Varanasi), will certainly contribute to making Nepal's coinage more popular among oriental collectors.

The authors give a complete survey of Nepal's coinage until 1911 A.D. (end of rule of King Prithvi Vir Vikram Shah). The first chapter deals with the early coinage of the Lichhavi period (A.D. 576 - 750). Many hitherto unpublished varieties and types are listed and illustrated. Chapter II, about the mediaeval period, steps on almost unknown territory. In fact hardly anything was known in the West about the few coins which have survived and can be attributed to this period. Chapter III describes the most fascinating period (numismatically speaking) of Nepal's history: The Malla Dynasty (A.D. 1540 - 1768). This period actually starts earlier than 1540 A.D., but no coins are known which could be attributed beyond any doubt to early Malla rulers (see previous chapter). Walsh had already quite extensively dealt with the issues of this dynasty (based on the holdings of the British Museum). Rhodes had given a quite detailed listing of Malla coins in the Krause publication, *The Standard Guide to South Asian Coins and Paper Money Since 1558 A.D.*, by C. R. Bruce II, J. S. Deyell, N. G. Rhodes and W. F. Spengler, Iola. However, the listing of Malla coins in the new book goes far beyond these earlier publications, since many new varieties and types have come to light since. The same applies to the next Chapter IV which discusses the coins of the Shah Dynasty (A.D. 1749 - 1911), a period which produced a large number of coins types and dates, although the variety of coin designs cannot compete with the preceding Malla period. Chapter V, about the coinage in the Nepalese Hills, treads again on new ground. We find illustrations of coins which up to now were completely unknown to most collectors of oriental coins. Chapter VI discusses the issues of Nepalese coins for Tibet, presents contemporary and modern forgeries, Tokens and Amulets. Again these subjects (excepting the coin issue for Tibet) have hardly been dealt with in western numismatic literature so far.

Appendices about numerals on Malla- and Shah- coins, about denominations, weights, silver content of Malla- and Shah- coins, genealogical tables, lists of queens and deities on Nepalese coins and a bibliography (due to lack of space only a selective bibliography is given) increase the usefulness of this book for anybody who tries to study Nepal's coinage and history.

This book will remain for many years the standard work on the coins of Nepal and should be in the library of any collector of institution interested in the study of oriental coins.

Reviewed by Wolfgang Bertsch

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[Ed. By presenting the above review I am breaking with my policy of not including non-philatelic articles in the Postal Himal. It is offered here as many of our members are also interested in the numismatics of Nepal. The book is available from Spink & Son Limited, 5-7 King Street, St. Jame's, London SW1, England, for £50 plus postage. The review first appeared in the Numismatic International Bulletin of Sept., 1990. One of the authors, Nick Rhodes, is a member of our Study Circle.

AUCTION ACTION

Leo Martyn

Michael Rogers' auction of May 28-29 (1992) offered 22 lots of Tibet material including the following notable items and the prices realized (not including the 10% buyer's commission):

- Lot 774 1911 single-franked (surcharged one anna) Chinese Post Office in Tibet cover from Lhasa to Yatung. \$260.
- Lot 775 A philatelically inspired 1911 combination registered "Wilson" Chinese Post Office in Tibet cover bearing surcharged 1 anna, 2a, and 3a stamps on the front and a strip of three of Indian  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna on reverse. \$700.

Earl P.L. Apfelbaum's auction of May 27 (1992) offered 13 lots of Nepal - all of which sold. Two better items offered (commissions not included) were:

- Lot 842  $\frac{1}{2}$ anna orange-vermilion block of six telegraphically cancelled. \$350.
- Lot 843  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna orange-vermilion tete-beche pair telegraph cancel. \$1050.

Christie's Robson Lowe auction of April 21 (1993) offered items from the archives of the printers Bradbury & Wilkinson, including the following lot:

- Lot 360 1959 Elections 6p. De La Rue handpainted essay in issued design and colours, on card (95x106mm.); 1965 I.C.Y. 1r. imperforate proof on presentation card master "Approved" \$240.

hh Sales Limited Postal Sale No. 113 (Feb. 5, 1993) offered some unusual items indeed - "the following 14 lots of Tibet came from a 'find' in a junk-shop and are the Authors' working papers for Arnold Waterfall's book".

- Lot 941 Tibet, Waterfall, folder of typed 1st edn., 1st draft plus notes. Est. 27
- Lot 942 Tibet, Waterfall, file of handwritten drafts for 1st edn. book. Est. 20
- Lot 943 Tibet, Waterfall, apparent final typed draft for above plus 2 folders of duplicate pps and tracings for illustrations. Est. 25
- Lot 946 Tibet, large bundle of letters & items addressed to A.C. Waterfall, mostly concerning Tibetan philately, important reference. Est. 25

I hope the buyer of the Waterfall material is a member of the study