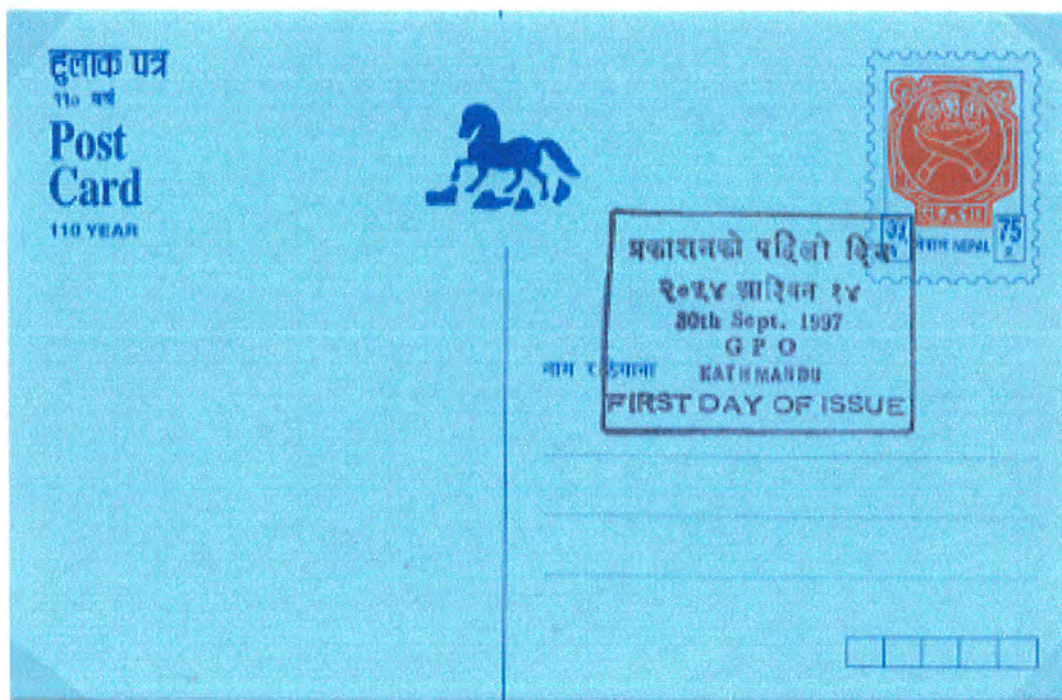


POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



New Postcard Issued in 1997

Postal Himal is a quarterly publication of the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through to December of each year. Subscriptions should be paid in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the Society representative in your area.

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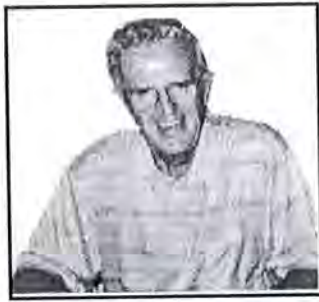
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Notes from the Secretary's Desk

First I must thank all those members who offered their services to help with the running of various aspects of our society, and a good meeting of our USA members at 'WESTPEX' has helped to iron out a few problems. As you know, I said in the last newsletter that we were looking for a new President. I received two excellent nominations and I am pleased to announce that Prof. Armand Singer, who is not only one of the founder members of our Circle, but a well known expert on both Nepal and Tibet, will be taking over as President and Dick van der Watteren, one of our very enthusiastic life members is to take over the Vice-Presidents role. This will relieve me of one of my numerous posts but for the time being I am going to work with Leo Martyn on the production of Postal Himal. The present plan for the publication of Postal Himal, is that I am doing this one and Leo Martyn will be following up close behind with a double issue to complete 1998 and there will also be an auction list included with it. After that we will try and get four more issues out as quickly as we can to get us back uptodate again. This may mean that these will be two more double issues.

To do this we need a good supply of articles and information from you, so that we do not have anymore 'thin' issues that was unavoidable with issue number 93. Any material can be sent either to Leo or myself.

Colin Hepper

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From the collection of Surendra Lal Shrestha

A rare variety of the 1958 issue of the 10 paisa airmail stamp. The sheet has been mis-perforated and shows four parts of the stamp within the normal stamp perforated area.



The Collectors Club of Chicargo

The Collectors Club of Chicargo has just established a website- <http://www.askphil.org> that will reply to any questions on collecting stamps.

Our Society is one of more than a thousand stamp clubs listed. The listing includes 2300 dealers and lots more are listed by state and country.

The service is to get people involved in stamp collecting and NOT a project to generate funds or new members for the CCC.

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Another Forgery of Nepal Classic Stamps by Nick Rhodes

4 Anna & 1 Anna Forgeries



From a source in the UK, I recently came across two tete-beche pairs of what appeared to be relatively early, clear printings of the 1 Anna (grey-blue) and 4 Anna (green) early issues on thin native paper, with telegraphic cancellations. However, on closer examination, I realised that the clichés were slightly smaller in size than they should be, with each cliché being about 18.5 x 16.5mm, instead of 20 x 18mm, although the space between the clichés was slightly wider to compensate. Another feature that proves that the items are forgeries, is that on both denominations, the symbol in the square at the lower left, is inverted, compared with the same symbol in the other corners, and points towards the stamp, rather than away from it. This feature only occurs on genuine 1 Anna stamps, as can be clearly seen on the front cover of Hellrigl and Vignola's book on the Classic Stamps of Nepal. Also, although

the telegraphic cancellation is not clear, it is not precisely the same as any of the genuine telegraphic cancellations on stamps in my own collection, but otherwise the design appears to be very close to the original, and of exactly the right size.

The reduction in size tends to indicate that this may be a photographically produced reproduction, but the forger must have started with a clearly printed 1 Anna stamp and then somehow cleverly altered the denomination of the 4 Anna stamp in order to produce the higher denominations.

The items had been in the UK for some time, so I have no way of telling when or where they might have been produced. Can anyone shed any light on these items? I illustrate them, together with a genuine tete-beche pair of 2 Anna stamps, which came from the same collection, to indicate the difference in size.



Genuine tete-beche pair of 2 Anna stamps from the same collection.

A New Postcard Issued (Cover Illustration)

In 1981 the Postal Authorities in Nepal commemorated the centenary of the Nepal postage stamps and issued a souvenir sheet of three stamps. 1987 was the centenary of the post card but the authorities seem to have overlooked this milestone and it was ten years later before this was corrected, when a new postcard was issued in a different colour, design and denomination.

The card measures 14x9cm and is printed on light blue paper featuring in a darker blue, the text lines and well known horse similar to type 5 of the first cards.

In the upper right corner, the stamp printed in red, similar to type C, within a simulated perforation in blue with 'NEPAL' (lower centre) and '75P', in Devanagari(lower left) and English (lower right).

In the upper left corner in five lines 'HULAK PATRA', '110 VARSA', 'POST CARD' and '110 YEAR' respectively.

Below the horse there is a dividing line down the centre, to the right of which is the text 'NAAM RA THEGANA' and below this three dotted lines for the address and a space for the ZIP code.

I do not know if this card was printed at the India Security Press like the previous cards.

The cards can be found with a rectangular cancel, celebrating the first day of issue. The text for this can be read as 'PRAKAASANKO PAHILO DINA' (FIRST DAY OF ISSUE) and the date '2054 ASWIN 14' (30 SEPTEMBER 1997) as well as the words GPO and KATHMANDU.

The card can be catalogued under **Wa.44**.

Dick van der Wateren.

Note: The colour on the illustration is not quite correct, the card is a blue/green colour (turquoise). - Editor

THE STAMP SHOW 2000

Earls Court, London, 22 - 28 May 2000

**Our Society will be holding a meeting at this exhibition on
Friday 26th May 2000 10.30 - 13.30**

Details of the meeting will be announced in a later issue of Postal Himal.



The Date of Printing of the First Postcard of Nepal

During my last trip to Nepal in February/ March 1999, I of course took advantage of attending a meeting of the Nepal Philatelic Society on March 4th, together with my friend Punnya Sthapit.

One of the members I met there for the first time was the retired Director General of the Postal Services Department, Mr Jit Bahadur Manandhar. After being welcomed by the President of the Society, Mr Ramesh Kumar Shrestha, Mr. Manandhar

opened a discussion concerning a phrase in my book *Nepal Postal Stationery*. After tea most members went home and Mr Manandhar invited me and some of the board to continue the discussion at his home, not far from the house where the meeting was held.

It was there that he showed me a small book containing 25 studies entitled *Hulak Yek Parichaya (The Post, an Introduction)*. In one of these studies (No. 20), the author describes the 'birth of the Nepalese Postcard', a very interesting item for the serious collector.

Three authorities were responsible for the issue of this first postal card: 1st: the Western Commanding General, Shree Dev Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, 2nd: His Majesty's Government and 3rd: Shree 3 Maharaja Bir Shumsher J.B.R. This 'troika' approved the issue with required measurements of a 'length of 5 fingers and a width of 8 fingers'.

The agreed date of issue was 1944 Ashad 11, Roj 5, which corresponds to AD 25 June(exact or around) 1887.

Needless to say I was very happy with this revelation and also with the donation of the book, though a bit symbolic since it is written in Devanagari. Mr Manandhar personally wrote my name on the first page of the book and he then asked Mr Sthapit to translate the appropriate paragraphs.

Dick van der Wateren

A SHIP CALLED THIBET

Shippers are requested to print on the back of Bills of Lading with reference to the terms of this Bill of Lading which are printed on the reverse side of this Bill of Lading.

Shippers are requested to print on the back of Bills of Lading with reference to the terms of this Bill of Lading which are printed on the reverse side of this Bill of Lading.



Shipped in good order and well-conditioned by *Varachund Nunsaudjee* in the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's STEAM SHIP *Thibet's* and now riding at Anchor in *Bombay*

The Company will not be accountable for deficiency in the weight of opium in the Chest unless it exceeds 10 lbs, and then only if the Chest bears external evidence of being damaged or broken.

Broken & repaired on shore

Freight on 14 chests

349/312 - *Fourteen Chest Malwa opium*

being marked and numbered as in the margin and to be delivered subject to the perceptions and conditions at foot hereof to the *Shah Bhai Babarji* at the Port of *Bombay* or to his or their Assigns on Freight for the said Goods being paid in *Bombay* by the Shippers as per margin Ship lost or not lost. *In Witness* whereof the Commander of the Ship hath affixed to these Bills of Lading all of this date one of which being accomplished the others to stand void.

Dated in *Bombay* *21 Oct 1881*

The following are the Conditions and Conditions above referred to—

Weight Measure Contents and Value unknown.

The Act of God the Queen's Service or Provisors restriction of Quarantine Plague Bubone or Cholera or Pest or Loss or Damage from Fire or other causes and Navigation of what kind manner and accidents loss damage delay or detention from any cause or accident of the Navigation Government or the Administration of the Sea Canal or arising out of or consequent upon the obligations of the Company's Vessels in Her Majesty's Mail Service or any act of God or other cause of which the Master Mariners or other servants of the Company are not responsible or from deterioration of marks or numbers or from leakage or breakage of packages or from other cause or from other ships not having room at Port of Transshipment are all accepted.

The cargo is to be as heavy as will sail or without pilots and to be and void freights in all situations and also to despatch from the Voyage for any purpose or to land and stow or other Ports either in or out of the way.

I warrant Declaration of the Contents and Value of Goods sent by the Shippers to the Company with the Bills of Lading and an untrue Declaration shall release the Company from all responsibility and shall entitle the Company to charge double Freight on the real value.

All Goods must be distinctly marked with the Marks Numbers and Port of Destination otherwise the Company will not be responsible for confusion or misdelivery.

The Company shall have the option of making delivery of Goods either over the Ship's side or from Lighters or a Store Ship or Bulk or Customs House or Warehouse at Merchant's risk.

Crews and their Agents must be ready to take delivery of Goods as soon as the Ship is ready to discharge them otherwise the Company shall be at liberty to land and warehouse or discharge them into a Store Ship or Bulk at the Merchant's risk and expense and shall have a Lien thereon for such expense.

Spots deliverable in London will be treated as a Port in England and consigned to the Bank of England and the Company's expense but at the Merchant's risk. All liability of the Company is to remain on board the Goods as free from the Ship's tackle.

The Company will be at liberty to carry the said Goods to their Port of Destination by the shore or other Steamer or Steamship or Ship other than belonging to the Company or to other persons providing either directly or indirectly to such Port and to be so doing to carry the Goods beyond their Port of Destination and to tranship or land and stow the Goods either on shore or afloat and stowage and forwarding the same at the Company's expense but at Merchant's risk.

In cases where the actual destination of which the Company may have engaged to deliver Goods is other than the Steamer's Port of Discharge the Company reserves the right to load and stow Goods by Rail. The Company act as Forwarding Agents only from that Port and in all cases the liability of the Company is assumed of all Goods is to remain on board as the Goods are free from the Ship's tackle.

Goods carried on deck are carried subject to the Merchant's risk.

Not accountable for Money Damaged Gold Silver Bullion Jewellery or Precious Stones unless Bills of Lading are signed therefor and the value thereof expressed.

Any claim that may arise in respect of Goods shipped by the Company's Steamers must be made at the Port of Delivery.

John Kelly

[A.—81.]

Ben Kaufmann from Australia sent in this interesting shipping document dated 21 October 1881, relating to fourteen chests of opium from the P & O steamship *Thibet*, anchored in Bombay.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dick van der Wateren and Wolfgang Hellrigl were both awarded gold medals at the international exhibition in Nuremburg for classic Nepal and Tibet respectively.

Change of address:

Mrs J. Broad, Tilsworth House, Amos Lane, South Scarle, Newark, Notts. NG23 7JJ
England.

Mr Tokuichi Tamura, 1-5 Kamitakano, Ichikaw-Cho, Sakyo-Ku, Koyoto 606-0056
Japan.

New Member:

Gregory Baker, 23110 State Road 54, PMB #168, Lutz, FL 33549, USA.

NEPAL POSTAL SLOGANS - PART 2

by Colin Hepper

The Post Office

The Post Office has been quite conservative in advertising its services, with the first two slogans it used, in 1973 and later in 1977, being associated with trying to educate the public to use postal codes.

चिह्नी पत्रमा केग र गद दुलाकको
सकेत नम्बर प्रयोग गर्नु होतु ।

1973

'Use the post code numbers
of the principle post offices
on the address of the letter'

चिह्नी पत्रमा केग - तेहरा केत
नम्बर प्रयोग गर्नु होतु ।

1977

'Use post code numbers
when you write a letter'.

In 1981 they were promoting the use of money orders for sending money.

* त - ईताई सुराहतत प पेना *
* पठा तनुपर्वे मए माने *
* इमा तई सवादेरा गवुह सु *

'If you have to send money safely
send money order from the post
office'

1993 saw the introduction of two more slogans, advertising the express mail service.

बढी, सस्तो र भएवनी
काम हुल क त त लेवनी
हो मसको नभन

'Faster, cheaper, reliable,
express mail.'

पावरी म-बदी र रिकुतो
बेवाका सगि दुलाक हुत सेवा

'Cheaper reliable and faster
service is express service.'

A NEW STAMP SHOP OPENED IN KATHMANDU



Surrendra Lal Shrestha, a Life Member of our Society and the Circle's representative in Nepal opened a new stamp shop in central Thamel (The Earth House), Kathmandu in January 1998. The shop is called Filatelica and we wish him well with this venture .

Philately: Fulfilling, lucrative but neglected by Suman Malla

KATHMANDU, Jan 14 - For many, the colourful little stamp that adorns every envelope that passes through the post office, hardly means anything more than a fanciful way of paying for your mail. But to a significant and growing number of people out there, that colourful piece of paper is the centre of their universe which serves as a hobby, and in recent years, also as a treasure trove which can be cashed in the future. 'Investment on stamps is like saving your money at a bank' said Heinz Schobel, a stamp collector from Germany speaking for many of his fellow collectors. 'When you grow grey and retire from your job that very stamp collection, which by then will be worth several times more than its face value, will come to your rescue as a real accessory. At least that is how it is in Europe'. Stamps sold to collectors generate substantial amounts of profits in countries such as Switzerland, Germany, and New Zealand. Even in South Aisa, neighbours such as Bhutan realize a significant chunk of their earnings through exporting stamps to collectors world wide. But philately, the business of collecting and dealing in stamps is a neglected field in Nepal.

Only a handful of collectors operate in Nepal, and they are constrained by the inefficiency of the Postal Services Department which is charged with issuing stamps.

According to data provided by the Nepal Philatelic Bureau, a division under the PSD, a mere Rs.5.6 million worth of stamps were sold in the last fiscal year. That includes stamp sales for mailing purposes as well as to collectors. Nepali philatelic dealers' annual transactions is estimated only at 1.5 million rupees, which is nothing in comparison to their counterparts in Europe and America, where the amount comes up to multi-million dollars.

A rare 1 pence orange Queen Victoria imperf. stamp of Mauritius, issued in 1847, similar to penny black of England, is valued at a staggering 300,000 dollars in the standard postage stamp catalogues.

Nepal does not lag far behind in this field either, at least by our standards. A mint imperforated set of first stamps of Nepal - 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas, all depicting the Crown and Crossed Khukuries, issued in 1881 is priced at around 20,000 rupees. A similar set but with pin perforations is worth even more, around 35,000 rupees.

Hardayal Singh Gupta, a renowned senior philatelist has already won five vermeil (medal that is ranked above silver medal) medals, at various international philatelic exhibitions over the years for his collection of classic stamps of Nepal.

Another philatelist Surrendra Lal Shrestha who won vermeil at an international stamp exhibition a couple of years back, claims that his Tibet collection of 1912-56 is one of the outstanding foreign collections a Nepali collector possesses. Shrestha who owns a philatelic store at Thamel, proudly states "The collection is now worth around US\$ 30,000 in the international market. There are still a couple of senior collectors in the country whose philatelic assets are worth several million rupees.

Philately, although hardly of interest to the general public, has existed in Nepal for some decades. From a small exclusive group in the early 1960's, the business has been adopted by several hundreds at the present. The Nepal Philatelic Society (NPS), which promotes philately, now boasts of 80 members, including foreigners.

"The postage stamps, besides serving the purpose of many philatelists are also the tiny ambassadors of the country. So more effort should be made to influence interested youngsters to pursue their new found hobby seriously," says Ramesh Kumar Shrestha, the NPS vice-president.

"An introduction of stamp collection as an effective study in schools could be one of the most handy ways to do it" he says.

Stamp collectors, however are worried over the slack in stamp business. Stamp traders have faced a serious setback in the past decade because of the government's policy. On April 14 1984 they put back into sale the stamps issued in 1962. These stamps were not circulating in the market at that time and had become part of collectors item. The recirculation of the out of stock stamps frustrated the collectors and lessened their interest in Nepali stamps.

"The imprudent procedures concerning stamp release and indiferent approach from people overseeing the country's philately have been contributing to the slack in stamp business" says a stamp collector.

For example, authorities here release stamps commemorating a particular occasion well after the occasion has concluded. Anil Karmachary who has been collecting sport related stamps for almost a decade, says "First of all, there are a few Nepali stamps illustrating sports. Even if some were issued in the past, they were issued so late that they completely missed the actual event, which is outrageous."

Many other collectors share similar views. According to stamp dealers in the capital, the country's dismal philatelic trading condition could be improved at least to the South Aisa level if only the government was serious in rectifying existing discrepancies.

Printing postage stamps is the only means of survival for the post office. If we adopt some degree of tactfulness in issuing stamps with adequate publicity, it could even become one of the prominent sources of income for the country." remarks Jit Bahadur Manandhar, former secretary at the Ministry of Information and Communications.

This article was printed in The Kathmandu Post 15 January 1998.

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Book Review.

by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl F.R.P.S.L.

Supplement to the Armand E. Singer

TIBET 1809 – 1975

By Prof. Dr. Armand E. Singer.
Published by George Alevizos,
55 pages (21.5x28 cm). Price?

All readers who appreciate the basic volume on Prof. Singer's outstanding Tibet collection, published by George Alevizos in 1995, will love this supplement. Indeed, the full-colour illustrations show some extraordinary additions. The author admits to "having had improbable success in acquiring some very unusual pieces, many of which have never been shown at any philatelic exhibitions."

The volume opens with a strong section of red seals, including a rare specimen ink seal of the 14th Dalai Lama. It is quite amazing that such items have survived and that they have found their way into Western collections.

Of the Imperial Chinese P.O. in Tibet, there is a trilingually surcharged set with a SPECIMEN overprint. This previously unknown variety suddenly appeared on some Chinese sets as well, only to be withdrawn from several auction sales. The author classes this as doubtful, with a question mark, and I think this is a safe way to handle this patient.

The British-Indian section includes two unique postmarks from the Younghusband Mission of 1903-04, although one of them (F.P.O. 87) appears to have been used only in Sikkim, not in Tibet. Nevertheless, it is part and parcel of the postal history of the Mission and hence is an important item.

Finally, the local issues of 1912, 1914 and 1933 are represented by some outstanding items:

- Sheets of 1/2 and 2/3 t. of 1912, both printed in yellow;
- Commercial mixed frankings of pin-perforated and imperforate stamps of the 1933 issue
- A unique cover with the "floreal" postmark of Dechen;
- A cover to the USA, with a strike of the unrecorded postal seal of Pelti;
- Several impressive "crested" covers, and much more.

The item that impressed me most of all, is an insured cover bearing at least eight (the torn – off flap may have contained further stamps) 1 – tangka stamps of the 1912 issue. This unbelievable rate represents the highest known franking of the first issue, annihilating the record I previously held with my top cover (“only” 4 2/3 tangka).

We must be most grateful to Prof. Singer, for opening the pages of his Tibet and Nepal collections and for sharing his extraordinary treasures with us. Anyone interested in the Himalayan area would be well advised to obtain the respective books.

TIBET – SECOND SERIES, CIRCA 1914
by Frealon Bibbins.

Published by the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, 18 pages (21.5 x 28 cm).

Price: \$12 plus postage for members; \$30 plus postage for non-members (quantity discounts available) – available from Leo Martyn.

This is the final volume of a trilogy dealing with the plating of the stamps of Tibet. Following the earlier studies on the 1912 and 1933 issues, the present booklet is concerned with the “circa – 1914” set, whose exact year of issue is still one of the many Tibetan mysteries.

This issue is obviously the least complicated, for the simple reason that there are only six clichés to the sheet which makes plating – basically a process of elimination – that much easier. As usual, the author’s analytical description of cliché characteristics is easy to follow, practical and to the point.

Although the 1933 issue, with its moveable clichés, provides a far more interesting field for plating specialists, Tibet’s second issue should not be underestimated. Personally, I always plate these stamps as a first defensive measure against forgeries. After all, even single stamps have a relatively high value and, hence, must pass a series of standard checks.

The last third of the booklet contains full-colour illustrations of complete sheets, rare commercial covers (this issue was intended for parcels, not for covers!) and printing varieties, such as double impressions.

This booklet is definitely a most welcome addition to the growing specialist literature on Tibetan stamps and postal history. It is highly recommended.