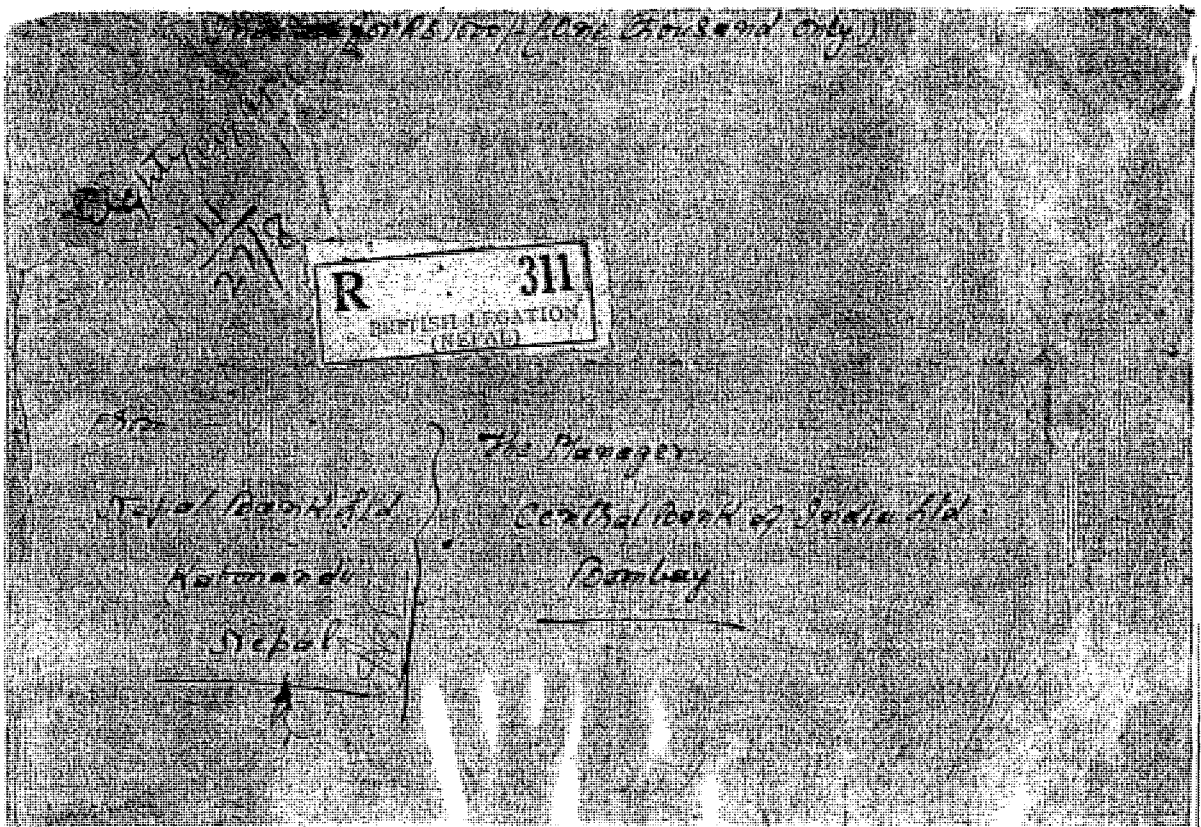
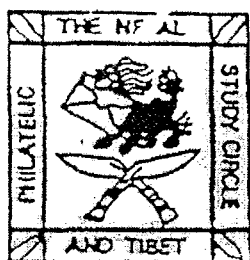


Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpssc>





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Officer's Corner

In lieu of an Officer's Corner for this issue,

Editor's Ramblings

We are happy to report that we have 15 new members from Nepal. Please see page 3 for their names.

A reminder that the membership list will be published soon and if you have not yet sent in your collecting specialty and your email address, you need to do so at once or the information will not be published. Send the information to Mr. Roger Skinner whose mail address is listed on the inside cover page. A reminder that you must notify us if you do not want to have your address, specialty or email address listed in the membership list. In that case, only your name will be listed.

A lot of News from Nepal in May.

Alan Warren tells us that the Stamps of India email Newsletter for May 29 indicated that there were 3 commemorative postmarks used during the month: on May 5th the 30th anniversary of the youngest summiteers on Mount Everest; on May 8th the 25th anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest without oxygen; on May 16th the 2547th anniversary of the birth of Lord Buddha (Lumbini Day). The weekly email newsletter is free, and while mainly concerned with India, sometimes carries information of interest in the Himalayan area. To get on the emailing list, contact stampsofindia@tatanova.com. Also in that issue was news about a new commemorative from Bhutan.

Congratulations:

Alan Warren received a gold and the Michael Rogers award for best Asian exhibit at WESTPEX in San Francisco in April for his exhibit "Tibet: Stamps and Postal History".

Don Peterson received a silver-bronze at SPRINGPEX show in Springfield, VA in March for his exhibit "Early Bhutan Postal History".

please see the articles on page 2 by Dick van der Wateren.

Various news sources have carried the report from Nepal's Tourism Ministry that Yuichiro Miura from Japan, at 70 years of age, became the oldest climber of Mount Everest on May 29th. His "Miura Everest 2003 Expedition" was one of three groups and a total of 31 people to reach the summit on that day. The second group to reach the summit was a joint Nepal-India army expedition which was followed by the Tokyo University's Agriculture Alpine Club expedition.

Two Sherpas have also set records during the month. Appa made a record 13th climb with an American expedition. And Lakpa Gyelu set a speed record in climbing from the 17,380 foot base camp to the summit in 10 hours and 56 minutes. Most climbers take 4 days to cover the same distance. It was Gyelu's 10th ascent of Mount Everest and he broke the previous record of 12 hours and 45 minutes set just the week before by another Sherpa.

Since Hillary and Norgay, Everest has been climbed by more than 1,300 people.

And the 29th was the 50th anniversary of Hillary and Norgay's ascent. Hillary, now 83, was in Kathmandu for the celebration along with Norgay's son Jamling Norgay. Nepal's Crown Prince Paras opened a symposium on mountaineering. King Gyanendra and Queen Komal planned to host a tea party honoring Hillary. Hillary plans to have dinner with members of the Sherpa community.

NEPHIL '03

An exceptional week in Nepal

by Dick van der Wateren

I have spent many weeks in Nepal and the last one was of a very special nature.

I had first planned to travel to Nepal from February 7 to the 15th, but some of my Nepalese friends asked me to delay my trip for one week so that I could be in Kathmandu during the National Philatelic Exhibition "NEPHIL '03".

It did not take me long to think about this and the travel agency had no problems changing the dates. Thus my trip began February 13th and the next day I arrived at the Kathmandu Guesthouse where I usually stay and was welcomed at the desk as a well known guest.

I had intended to dedicate my new publication "**Nepal Revenues**" to my friends in Nepal who have been so helpful with the study. I also wanted to solve the problem of so many Nepalese members of NTPSC canceling their membership last year. The main reason was the relatively high membership cost and the fact that more than once PH arrived late or not at all.

I have discussed this problem in a flood of emails with one of my friends and that resulted in a meeting on February 16 with a lot of enthusiast Nepalese philatelists. This meeting was organized by the "Friends of Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle", a forum to help NTPSC for the promotion of philately. (editor - A report of this meeting will be found on page 3). The meeting ended with a common dinner.

The morning after this meeting an interview was organized by Mr. Sagar Shrestha in the backyard of my hotel with journalists of some Nepalese newspapers (editor - see page 3).

was, of course, the National Philatelic Exhibition **NEPHIL '03**. The show was organized by the Postal Services Department of His Majesty's Government and the Nepal Philatelic Society. It was held in rooms of the Royal Nepal Academy from 19-23 February 2003 (7-11 Falgun 2059 B.S.).

I took a taxi to the Academy around 10 o'clock. The construction of the frames was not yet finished and the inauguration was scheduled to take place at 3 PM.! No problem. At 3.15 the Minister for Information and Communication, Mr. Ramesh Nath Pandey, arrived and the exhibition was inaugurated by cutting the tape. Mr. Pandey, in his opening speech, said that the time has come for the Nepalese to preserve the glorious history of their country and he lauded the Nepal Philatelic Society for making such efforts in that direction. The usual tour through the hall followed and the minister stamped some of the Commemorative Covers. Each day of the exhibition a special cancellation was made available to commemorate the occasion.

Besides 2 collections in the Official Class and 9 in the Invitation Class, 18 collections were shown in the Competitive Class, split up in 3 Traditional, 5 Stationery, 8 Thematic and 2 Revenue collections. Two collections were awarded gold.

The exhibition was set up with the solidarity of the NPS members, but without the glamour and frills that I have seen so many times at the exhibitions in the western world.

My week in Kathmandu ended on Friday with my signing title pages of the photocopies of my new book and posing for the cameras of some of the "Friends of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle". With great pleasure I look back on a fine week between friends.

However, the real highlight of the journey Dick

Friends of the NTPSC

Mr. Shyam Agrawal
 Mr. Toya Bahadur Dhakwa
 Mr. Jeetendra Pal Singh Gupta
 Mr. Jaya Hari Jha
 Mr. Deepak Manandhar

Mr. Saroj Man Mulmi
 Mr. Kedar Pradhan
 Mr. Gauri Shankar Shrestha
 Mr. Jala Krishna Shrestha
 Mr. Narayan Das Shresth

Dr. Ramesh Shrestha
 Mr. Sagar Man Shrestha
 Miss Shova Shrestha
 Mr. Ujjal Kapoor Shrestha
 Mr. Hira Ratna Tuladhar

addresses to appear in next issue of PH

Friends of Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Meeting 16 February 2003

by Dr. Ramesh Shrestha

Recently an unofficial body with the name of **Friends of Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle** was formed among enthusiast Nepalese philatelists with the objectives of helping the non-Nepalese members of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle in various aspects of Nepalese philately.

On 16 February 2003 a program was held in Thamel at Le Bistro Restaurant honouring Mr. Dick van der Wateren, Vice President of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, amidst 40 persons. Those present included members of NTPSC and other interested persons.

Mr. Sagar Man Shrestha, Coordinator of Friends of Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle welcomed Mr. van der Wateren and those present. He also gave an over-view about the formation of the group.

Dr. Ramesh Shrestha, a member of NTPSC, introduced Mr. van der Wateren to the attending members. An understanding was made that the Nepalese membership fee would be subsidized, which many persons welcomed. Due to this subsidy, 15 persons (editor - see above) became members of NTSPC.

Mr. van der Wateren's book on Nepalese Revenues was introduced to the members and Dick kindly allowed it to be photocopied for distribution among interested members. Lastly, Dick shared his experiences of Nepalese philately with the members.

नेपालसम्बन्धी सामग्रीको विदेशमा मात्र चर्चा किन ?

उप-सम्पादक विमलाकुमारी
 नेपालको विकासमा अझै धेरै बाँच्नु पर्ने देखिन्छ। तर यसको विकासमा नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ। नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ। नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ।

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डि.रमेश श्रेष्ठ

नेपालको विकासमा अझै धेरै बाँच्नु पर्ने देखिन्छ। तर यसको विकासमा नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ। नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ। नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ।

The original article in the Gorkhapatra of February 18, 2003.

(editor - For a translation by Dr. Ramesh Shrestha, please see page 4).

दुई पुस्तक सार्वजनिक
 नेपालको विकासमा अझै धेरै बाँच्नु पर्ने देखिन्छ। तर यसको विकासमा नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ। नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ। नेपालीहरूको योगदानको कमी देखिन्छ।

Why are Nepalese items a matter of curiosity overseas only?

Report in the Gorkhapatra, February 18, 2003

translated by Dr. Ramesh Shrestha

Kathmandu Falgun 5.

A book on Nepalese postal stationeries, which are believed to be very rare throughout the world, was released.

The released research book deals in postal stationery items like airmail letter sheets, stationery postal cards, stationery envelopes and stationery registered envelopes issued from 1887 to 1952.

Jury members have also used this book as a basis for judging in many world level philatelic exhibitions.

This book which deals in the primitive postal system and various postal stationery items showing Nepalese historical and cultural aspects has been very popular among stamp collectors and authors worldwide.

Similarly, the book on revenues "Nepal Revenues", dealing in various aspects of revenue collection in Nepal and its administration has also been released. This book contains information on the revenue collection from the beginning on the Shah dynasty rule in Nepal. Furthermore, it also contains Lal Mohar, Leefa Nalis dastoor, old receipts, Landlord stamps, Income stamps, etc.

Mr. Dick van der Wateren, the Dutch national, who has been collecting postal stationeries and revenues of Nepal, released these books among Nepalese collectors.

Mr. van der Wateren came to Kathmandu as a guest and to attend the forthcoming National Philatelic Exhibition to be held from 7 Falgun in Kathmandu. These two books were released before this exhibition.

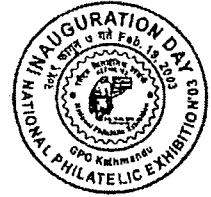
Mr. Hardayal Singh Gupta informed us that this book has been very popular among collectors, dealers and researches throughout the world.

Mr. Sagar Man Shrestha, Dr. Ramesh Shrestha, Jaya Hari Jha, Surendra Lal Shrestha and Shyam Sundar Agrawal have acclaimed Mr. van der Wateren's work.

The collector, Mr. van der Wateren, has been exhibiting his collection "The Classic Period of Nepal" in many countries. This exhibit has won gold medals in International European Exhibitions and his Nepal Postal Stationery exhibit was awarded gold in Germany. This work has also been exhibited in Toronto, Canada, Istanbul, San Francisco, Copenhagen, Hamburg and the Netherlands.

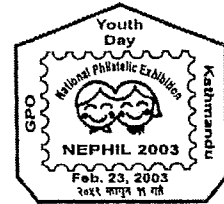
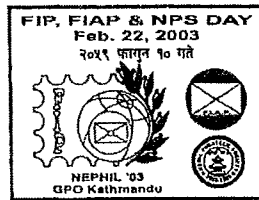
Twenty years ago, during his visit to Nepal for trekking in Helambu, he came into contact with the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. This led to his starting to collect Nepal items.

These types of materials are invaluable to collectors of postage stamps and postal stationeries.



The five special cancellations issued for NEPHIL '03

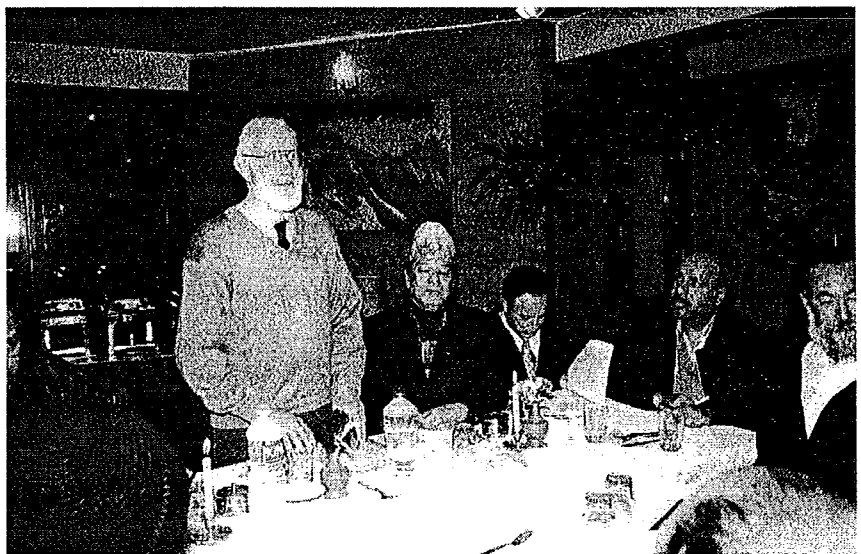
Golden Jubilee of First Ascent of Mt. Everest 1953-2003



Mr. Ramesh Nath Pandey observing a frame with complete sheets of modern stamps.

The unofficial meeting of the "Friends of Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle". Standing is Mr. Dick van der Wateren, Vice President of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle.

A similar photo was also received from Mr. S. L. Shrestha.



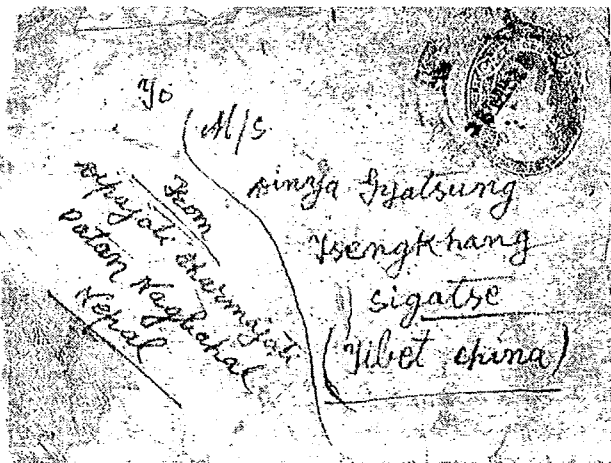
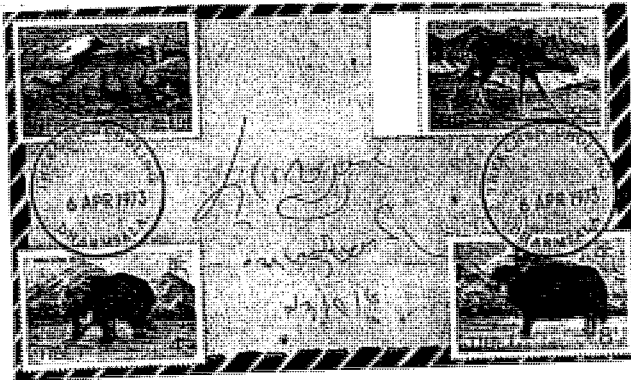
News from Kathmandu

by S. L. Shrestha

Right: H.H. the Dalai Lama of Tibet discusses the Tibetan "local" with Mr. Nelson Eustis.



Below left and right: The front and back of the Tibet "local". The back bears the affirmation "Guaranteed as Number 2 of 3 covers signed by H.H the Dalai Lama of Tibet on April 6, 1973 - Mr. Eustis and the signature of the artist."



The front and back of a 4 paisa Postal Stationery envelope mailed from Patan (Lalitpur), Nepal to Shigatse, Tibet in 1956. The cancellation on the front is "Gorkha Sarkar". The additional 2 stamps (for 8 paisa) on the back of the envelope make up the 12 paisa postage to a third country.

The Shigatse receiving mark on the back of the envelope is dated 10 March 1956. It is Type G. Shigatse, the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, lies north west of Gyantse and is now on the lorry road between Lhasa and Gyantse

That Nepal Postal Forgery Again

by Armand E. Singer

Leo Martyn in the long-awaited missing PH No. 103-104, p. 43, illustrates the back of a Registered Letter Postal Stationery envelope dated 14 Dec. 1952 and partially franked with a pair of forged KG VI one-rupee Indian stamps. He comments on their rarity, their exclusive use in Nepal, and the fact that they were known as early as 1937 (the year, incidentally, when the genuine stamp was issued.

Here I illustrate a cover dated 27 Aug. 1946, cancelled in Kathmandu at the British Legation Office. It was boldly sent from the Nepal Bank Limited in Kathmandu (even bearing the sender's initials) to the manager of the Central Bank of India in Bombay. Two stamps seem to have been cut out, the remains of the cancels still showing bottom left and bottom of the cut-away portion.

We must speculate as to why the sender would risk prosecution for using a counterfeit stamp. Asking for registration and insurance for one thousand rupees (as was the case here) would invite careful scrutiny and the chance of being caught. Possibilities: 1) collusion between sender and postal clerk with each enjoying a share of the profit; 2) ignorance of the forgery on the part of the clerk, unlikely as both the genuine and forgery were already in existence for some nine years (the examples shown by Martyn and Hellrigl [see below] are reasonably dangerous as forgeries go; my example would scarcely fool the blind); 3) Nepalese defiance of British rule in India at a

time when the breaking away would occur within a year - in this scenario, both sender and clerk would be thumbing their noses at authority. Only my first suggestion really convinces me, at least.

Hellrigl's illustration as mentioned by Martyn on pg. 43, and Martyn's own example both show the one-rupee forgery to be a good bit clearer than mine. The perforations are given as 11 ½. Mine is a rough 11. As well, my example is both horizontally and vertically about 2 mm. smaller than both Martyn's and Hellrigl's illustrations. Unless both by chance slightly enlarged their pictures (and Martyn assures me that he did not), we also surely are dealing with a different forgery (their examples date from 1952, remember). Mine appears faded and blurry, but the cover itself shows no evidence other than the nine mostly broken-away wax seals of any signs of (water?) distress. The two other stamps, the cancels, the paper, the envelope lining, the blue registration sticker, the printed bank logo, and the ink writing on the front side all seem quite fresh. When we add the fact that my example dates from 1946, and the others in evidence bear dates six years later, I would suggest the strong possibility of two different forgeries. A final possibility: my copy is genuine, its washed-out appearance and smaller dimension caused by an attempt to obliterate a cancel showing previous usage; probably by soaking in water. This theory fails to account for the inferior draftsmanship (especially the elephant, bottom right). In short, two forgeries best explain the facts.

editor - see page 8 for the illustrations.

In PH 113, p. 10 there was a letter from Mr. F. C. Malpas to Mr. Collin Hepper which raised several interesting points. Mr. Derrick Dawson has kindly replied to that letter. -editor

25th April 2003

Dear Editor,

Fred Malpas' letter of 6-1-03 to Colin Hepper raises two major problems - the imbalance in "Postal Himal" in favor of Nepalese philately and the scarcity and cost of Tibetan material.

On the first problem you rightly point out the difficulty faces by the editor in the absence of suitable articles. For my own interest I recently analyzed the geographical spread of the Society's membership based on the 1999 Membership List. This shows the following:

Resident in N. America	75
Great Britain	31
India/Nepal	18
Germany	12
Rest of Europe	13
Australasia	8
Elsewhere	8

What is lacking is any indication of the area of interests of members, and perhaps thought might be given to remedying this when the List is updated - something along the line of "A - Nepal; B - Tibet; C - Sikkim; etc. We should then have some idea of the balance "Postal Himal" might be expected to strike. Perhaps, too, a regular "Questions and Answers" column in "P.H." might be useful in assisting new members and in encouraging more advanced collectors to share their knowledge.

The second problem is really one of simple economics - supply and demand. Tibetan material has never been plentiful. William J. Thomas in his article "An old collector visits Tibet" (PH No. 113) makes the point succinctly "For a long time I looked at the blank space under the heading of Tibet" et seq. That is a common experience. Inevitably scarcity determines cost and inflation lends its own weight. But much of the pleasure in building up a Tibet collection comes from the determination not to give up and, even at some sacrifice, to pursue those pieces which time inevitably throws across our path. Nowadays I count myself fortunate if I find two or three worthwhile additions in the course of a year! I would encourage Mr. Malpas not to lose heart but to build up his contacts with dealers such as those you mention, and to watch out for the occasional item at Stamp Fairs, local auctions and the like. The major auction houses such as Christies, Sotheby's, Bonham's often have Tibetan material in their philatelic auctions if one's purse stretches to such activities!

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely
Derrick Dawson

PS. I have written to Mr. Malpas with whom I have corresponded from time to time. DD

I thank Mr. Dawson for his letter. Would anyone else care to make any comments to either Mr. Malpas's letter or to Mr. Dawson's reply? - editor

Dalai Lama Label Postally Used, 2000

by Armand E. Singer

The cancel, supposedly Indian, unknown to me or several other experts who saw it, resembles Tibetan coin designs. The fact that the faint impression seems to be backwards suggests a coin inked and used as a killer. Below and left of the black "coin" cancel is another in red, details illegible but clearly, if faintly, dated MAR 19, 2000 in three lines. A few faint letters are in Western script, but seemingly do not spell Tibet or any town in India or India itself (I would guess, applied in the U.S.A.). The return address, lower left, reads "Mr. (inked out), Kamala Trading Co., Shivpur, Varanasi, India". The address seems to be Mr. Panne Jeannol, State College, W.V. 26502, U.S.A. "State College" would have to mean "West Virginia University" as 26501 is my home town of Morgantown, WV. The university's zip code is actually 26506, 26501 being my home address area, known to the dealer who sent me this cover. There is no Mr. Jeannol in our current telephone directory and the cover genuinely seems to have been returned to sender. There is no "State College" in Morgantown, only the University.

The label, which dates from 1974, was prepared by the Australian dealer Nelson Eustis and accepted by the Tibetan government in exile in Dharmasala, India, but never used except locally. Four trangkas was the going registry rate only until around 1950. If we are to assume that somehow the Varanasi postal clerk let the envelope slip by because of not noticing the words "map of Tibet" and "Tibet" that were partially blacked out, there is still the insufficient postage and the fake killer to argue against genuine usage. Far left we read "RL ... 139/TIBET)" and a label "RR ... 139IN", which looks genuine. "RL ... TIBET" is not a recognized Tibetan label. My assumption is that the sender made up this cover (along with others??) for collectors and got a friendly clerk to put it into the mail, where it reached its destination. The fact that it's my hometown to which it was addressed would be something to tempt me. If I am right, other similar covers would bear addresses to tempt other collectors elsewhere. The advice from this collector is "caveat emptor".



The back is blank

Please also see News from Kathmandu on page 6 - editor.

From a Chinese Cell, A Lama's Influence Remains Undimmed

from The New York Times International, Sunday, February 23, 2003

by Erik Eckholm

submitted by Alan Warren

Litang, China - It is dawn at the Litang Monastery, and Tibetan spirituality seems to be alive and well, if slightly disheveled.

As a brilliant Venus fades in the rising sun, the 300 monks straggle to their prayer stations, chants mingling with trumpet calls in the thin crisp air. Dozens of robed novices, many no older than 12, stream through the temples, rubbing their eyes as they start lighting endless rows of yak-butter candles.

Even on the commercial main street of this remote mountain crossroads, evidence of rapid social change is countered by strong displays of ethnic pride.

Former yak headers, now earning cash at construction jobs, strut the sidewalk wearing not the latest Chinese styles displayed on television, but flamboyant versions of traditional Tibetan garb. The men sport towering hats fashioned from fox pelts, or coil their hair into elaborate spikes braided with ivory rings. At their belts, they wear showy two-foot swords.

Officially, Litang, situated in a treeless valley at 15,350 feet, is part of China's Sichuan Province. Historically and still culturally, though, it lies at the heart of the unruly region the Tibetans call Kham - a distant land that opened to foreigners only a few years ago.

Only in front of the Litang police station is there any visible clue to the tensions now wrenching this society.

Lest any resident miss the message, two large fliers proclaim, in Chinese and Tibetan, the harsh penalties recently dealt to a senior Tibetan lama and a younger follower suspected of being

accomplices in bombings and separatist activities.

In a secret trial in December that has been condemned abroad as a travesty, the lama, Tenzin Deleg Rimpoche, 52, was given a suspended death penalty, meaning it could be converted to life in prison. The younger man, Lobsang Dondup, 27, was executed the same day in January that his appeal was denied. Both had proclaimed their innocence.

In hushed conversations, many Tibetans here question whether Tenzin Deleg was really behind the several small explosions reported during the last two years in Litang, Kangding and the provincial capital, Chengdu. Property damage was slight, though the police say that in one case a person was killed.

"Tenzin Deleg was the most beloved of all lamas around here," said a Tibetan businessman in his late 20's who recently moved to Litang from the south, where Tenzin Deleg had his ministry.

"He taught the Tibetans to lead good lives," the man said. "He said Tibetans shouldn't fight each other, shouldn't drink or smoke and shouldn't wear Chinese clothes or hair styles."

Considered a "living Buddha" by his followers, Tenzin Deleg was a charismatic lama who quarreled with the local establishment - Tibetan and Chinese - over religious doctrine and monastic goals.

He established his own monastery and gained respect through his own example of austere living. He used herders' donations to build schools and roads. Tenzin Deleg was also an

ardent supporter of the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader vilified by Beijing, but so is virtually every monk in the region. Local people insist he did not spend his time campaigning for a separate Tibet, as the Chinese authorities have charged.

Many who live here suspect, instead, that it was his own independent spirit and large, loyal following, rather than any crimes, that lead to Tenzin Deleg's condemnation.

"Because the Tibetans loved him so much, the Chinese took him away," the businessman said.

Wang Lixiong, the Chinese author of a book on Tibet who has visited the Litang region several times in recent years, said that in the mountain communities - dispirited by cycles of repression, poverty and alcoholism - Tenzin Deleg was revered for "showing a new path."

"What he did was to set a moral example, and that had a big effect on the people," Mr. Wang said. "But the government saw him as a threat."

Tenzin Deleg first entered the Litang Monastery as a child in the 1950's, when it was still a thriving institution housing some 3,000 monks. He drifted after the temples were shut down by the Communists in 1959 and later destroyed, but he eventually spent years in India, studying with the exiled Tibetans under the sway of the Dalai Lama. He returned to the monastery in 1987, as it was rebuilding in the post-Mao era.

Tenzin Deleg soon broke with the monastery's leaders, and although the reasons for the split are not clear, they apparently included his fierce campaign against the worship of an avenging angel called Shugden. This practice, one of the many variants in Tibetan Buddhism's world of spirits, had gained a following in the Litang area, but had been discouraged as cultish and divisive by the Dalai Lama, who was seeking greater unity

among the major Tibetan sects.

In the early 1990's, Tenzin Deleg set up his own monastery in the nearby town of Yawing with satellite outposts in the hinterlands.

More than once in the last several years, the police sought to arrest him for starting an illegal monastery - all religious institutions in China must be approved by the state - and for other alleged crimes. But the outpouring of public support forced the authorities to back off, which they did until the arrest and trial last year.

The emotional struggle over a Buddhist deity and the rise of a populist like Tenzin Deleg may be signs of the stress rolling this long-isolated region as Tibetans seek better material as well as spiritual lives, and the Chinese government tries to buy peace with economic development, and a large military presence.

Litang's population is now around 50,000 people, 94 percent of them ethnic Tibetans, according to official statistics. But ethnic Chinese are a growing and sometimes resented presence. Many of the town's multiplying shops and restaurants are run by energetic migrants from over-crowded areas of China who have come here in search of opportunity.

The Chinese influx may be matched, however, by the rush of Tibetan herding families into Litang and other towns, where they are happy to have access to electricity and schools, and the chance to earn cash working casual jobs.

Some Litang residents, especially those who admire Tenzin Deleg, express suspicion about their town's government-sanctioned monastery.

But nothing here is simple. The dozens of young monks in the monastery are proof that many families remain happy to give over a son.

In the inner sanctums of the Litang Monastery, large pictures of the Dalai Lama are openly displayed. The senior lamas may have made their peace with the Chinese authorities, but they make no bones, either, about their loyalty to their exiled spiritual leader.

While Tenzin Deleg may be in prison, over the last decade, after firmer dictates from the Dalai Lama, the Litang Monastery and nearly all others in the region have halted any worship of Shugden.



More than 90 percent of Litang's 50,000 residents are Tibetans.

Tenzin Deleg Rimpoche was given a suspended death sentence.



Tradition and change blend in Litang. A man in a fox-fur hat rides a motorcycle bearing a photo of the late Panchen Lama, a spiritual leader.



A group of Tibetan monks from the Litang Monastery on the way to town. Litang is officially part of China's Sichuan Province, but culturally and historically it lies at the heart of an unruly and impoverished region Tibetans call Kham, which opened to foreigners only a few years ago.

Himalayan Mountaineering: A Book Review

by Alan Warren

A Catalog of Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence, Armand E. Singer and Robert F. Gould, 8 ½ by 11 inches, soft covers, 168 + xii pages, perfect bound, George Alevizos 2002. \$25 postpaid in the U.S. (or \$29 by priority mail) from George G. Alevizos, Box 1408, Topanga CA 90290-1408.

One of the authors, Professor Singer, is known for his exhibits, articles and books on the postal history of Nepal and Tibet, so his extension into mountaineering correspondence of this area might be expected. To set limits on what the authors cover, they begin with George Mallory's three expeditions on Mt. Everest in the 1920s and end with the 1985 treks, after which the number of mountain climbs in the region rapidly multiplies.

The authors acknowledge the assistance of other collectors and dealers, with special thanks to the catalog's dedicatee, pioneer mountaineering collector Gordon Palmer. A rarity scale is used throughout the catalog, and consists of five levels from common to extremely rare (half a dozen or less known).

Sometimes the authors use actual values from auction realizations. Examples of expedition mail includes covers, souvenir post cards (often printed for a specific climb), items with labels and cachets, postal markings, and climbers' names or autographs.

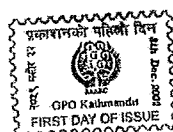
Approximately half of the listings are for Mt. Everest correspondence alone, in chronological order. Stamps issued by various countries are included in the listings. The second half of the catalog is directed to other Himalayan peaks, from the 1930s to the mid 1980s. A final list presents the mountain names alphabetically with their height in meters and feet.

Although a bibliography is not included, major references appear in the introduction. Unfortunately, after printing, a number of corrections and additions were discovered, and a 4-page insert is provided. This catalog offers much for anyone interested in the history or postal history of Himalayan mountaineering. Numerous illustrations lend excitement to the presentation.

प्रथम दिवसीय प्रसङ्ग First Day Cover



साार्क स्थापना दिवस
२०२२ मेसिनर २२
SAARC CHARTER DAY
8th Dec, 2002



Technical Details

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| 1. Subject | : SAARC Charter Day | 7. Quantity | : Half Million |
| 2. Denomination | : Rs. 15 | 8. Format | : Horizontal |
| 3. Colour | : Four | 9. Paper | : High Quality Stamp Paper |
| 4. Sheet Composition | : 50 stamps per sheet | 10. Designer | : K. K. Karmacharya |
| 5. Size | : 26.5 x 40 mm. | 11. Printer | : Austrian Government Printing
Office, Vienna, Austria |
| 6. Process | : Offset Lithography | | |

Courtesy of HMG, Nepal Post, Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu

Accounts Explained

by Colin Hepper

Derek Pococks from Australia sent me a letter after he had received PH 113 and queried the amount of income shown against the amount of postage for PH. On the face of it, it looks as if the postage costs are twice that of the subscription income.

In reality there is normally one third of the membership that have to renew their subscriptions each year, because some pay for three years and there are new members joining every year at approximately the same rate as we lose membership. So, the income figure is not a true figure to put against the cost of the magazine as the money in a large part of our bank account, is in fact advanced payments from those who take advantage of a three-year subscription.

So, the magazine does not cost twice that of

our income, but there is a small short fall in the subscriptions against these costs, which at the moment is being made up mainly by income from the auctions, and to a lesser degree by bank interest. Roger Skinner, Richard Hanchett and myself keep a close watch on the Circle's costs and normally assess the financial situation in the autumn of each year against the projected costs for the next year. It is usually a close call as to whether we need to raise the subscriptions and in fact last year the only reason subscriptions remained the same was because we felt that there was sufficient funds in reserve to carry the small short fall we anticipated.

With the continual rise in postage costs it may well be that a rise in subscription is not too far away, but we will continue to keep them as they are for as long as we can.



Personality Series 2002



Technical Details

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. Subject | : a) Daya Bir Singh Kansakar | b) Rev. Ekai Kawaguchi |
| 2. Denomination | : a) Rs. 2.00 | b) RS. 25.00 |
| 3. Colour | : Two | |
| 4. Sheet Composition | : 50 stamps per sheet | |
| 5. Size | : 26.5 x 40 mm. | |
| 6. Process | : Offset Lithography | |
| 7. Quantity | : a) One Million | b) Half Million |
| 8. Format | : Vertical | |
| 9. Paper | : High Quality Stamp Paper | |
| 10. Designer | : K. K. Karmacharya | |
| 11. Printer | : Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria | |

Courtesy of HMG, Nepal Post, Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu

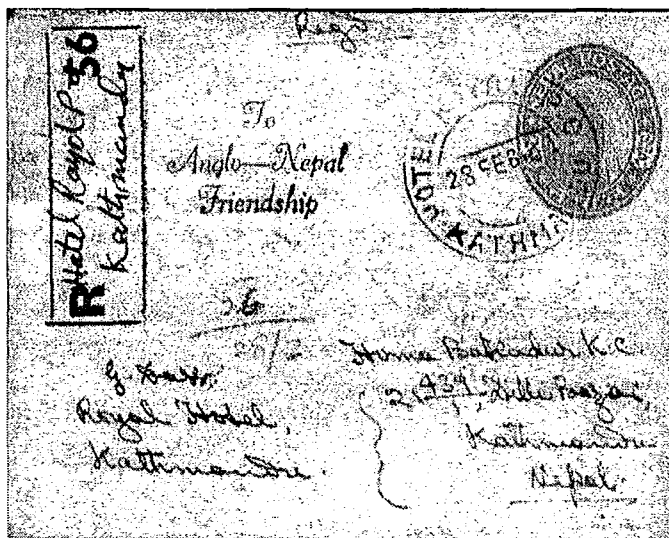
Special Post Offices in Nepal

by Colin Hepper

In Postal Himal 109 I wrote an article on the Special Post Offices in Nepal, included in this were the covers used in connection with the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in February 1961. The covers I have with 'Hotel Royal Post Office' and 'Royal Guest House Post Office' have been genuinely sent through the post, but are philatelically inspired. The cover illustrated is in the collection of Karl-Heinz Michel and was also registered.

It would be interesting to know, how many covers were sent from these post offices and if they were all philatelically inspired. I would appreciate any information from members who have these covers.

Colin's address appears on the inside front cover - editor.

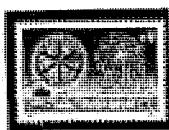
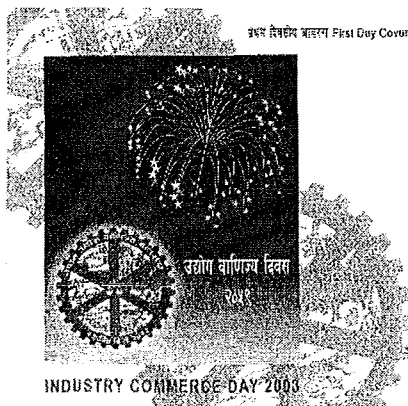


गणतन्त्र नेपालको पहिलो दिनको First Day Cover



Subject : Golden Jubilee Nepal Chamber of Commerce
 Size : 29 x 29 mm.
 Format : Square
 Designer : M. N. Rana

उद्योग विपणन महोत्सव First Day Cover



Subject : Industry-Commerce Day
 Size : 40 x 26.5 mm.
 Format : Horizontal
 Designer : K. K. Karmacharya

Both stamps are Rs 5.00, Four Color, 50 stamps per sheet, printed by Offset Lithography on High Quality Stamp Paper, One Million each, printed by Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria

Courtesy of HMG Nepal Post, Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu