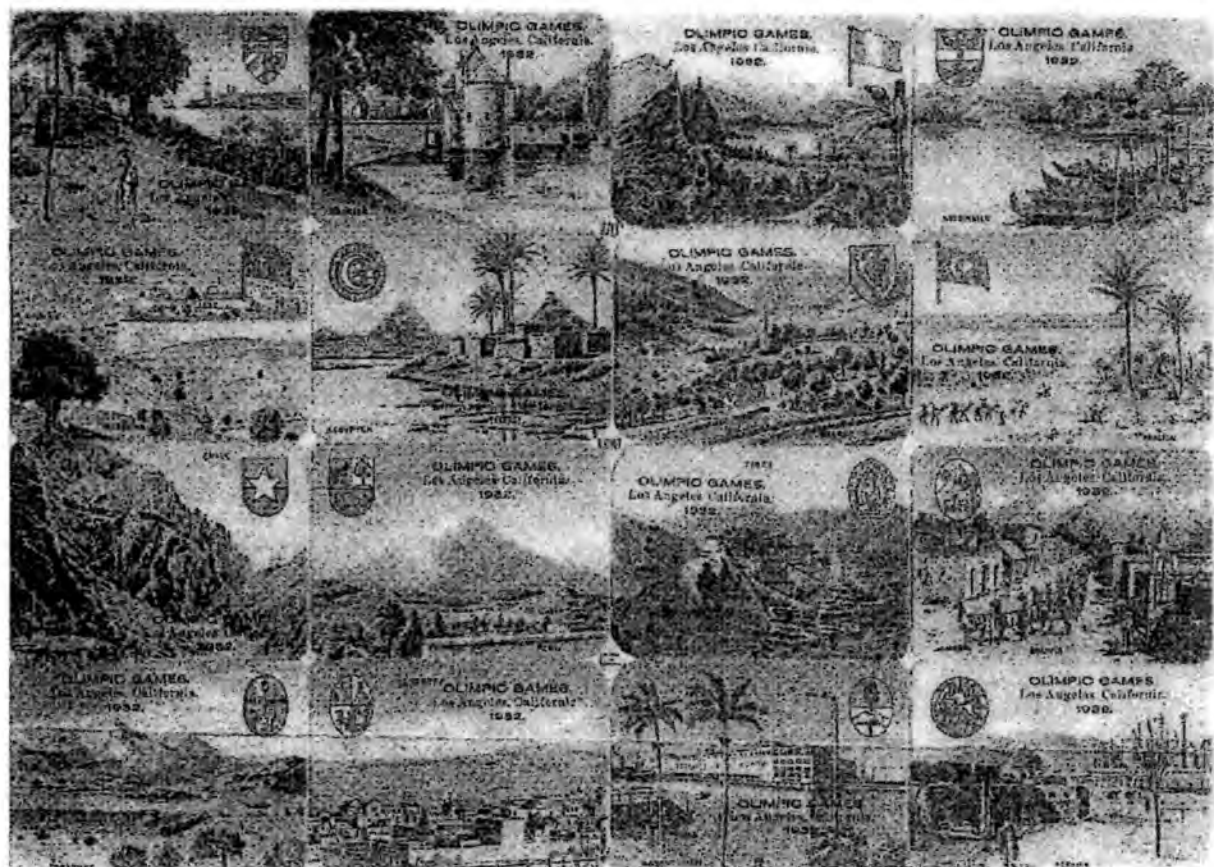
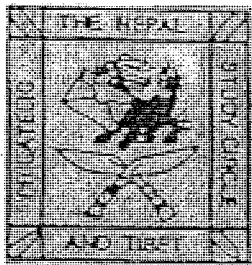


Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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





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Officer's Corner

Our President, Dr. Armand Singer is on a well deserved vacation.

Editor's Ramblings

As promised in the last issue of PH, the addresses of the Friends of NTPSC appear on page 2.

The membership list is finally here. It begins on page 8 of this issue. That is the good news. The bad news is that there is a lot of white space in the list. If I can get enough updates from you, I would like to republish the list again in two or three years time. Please check all information listed for you and if you find any errors, please either email me or send me a letter. I would suggest to you that block capitals would probably be best and would lead to the fewest mistakes on my part. I have tried to make the list as perfect as I could, but there are probably some errors. If you want to have anything changed, please let me know.

Occasionally I receive a letter from a member stating that they haven't received any issue that came out months ago. The publishing schedule for the next four issues is always found on the inside of the front cover. It shows the issue number, the cutoff date for articles to be received and the mailing date. The mailing date is the date on which I plan to put the issue into the mail. The actual mailing date maybe a week before or a week later. You should have some

idea of how long it normally takes you to receive an issue based on the postmark. If you haven't received any issue within a reasonable amount after you should have received it, please contact you area representative (they are also listed on the inside front cover) and ask them for a replacement copy. **Please don't wait for a year!** If you haven't received it within a reasonable time, then it is probably lost. Of course, if you resign from the society you won't receive any more copies.

The membership turned out to be larger than I thought it was. You may remember a letter from Mr. Fred Malpas in issue 113. Several members have contacted him and he sent me a letter which was originally on page 8 of this issue. When the membership list needed that page, I removed his letter. It will be in the next issue.

One of the benefits of the membership list is that if you are planning a vacation, check to see if a member lives in the vicinity of where you will be vacationing. If there is one, why not write to him/her and invite them to have lunch or dinner with you. Let them know where you will be staying. You will be able to have a meal with another member of the society. A good chance to talk about a common and you might just make a new friend.

Good Luck.

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul C. Hager on receiving both a gold and the American Philatelic Society Research Award for his exhibit "The Pashupati Era of Nepal" at INDYPEX in Indianapolis, Indiana in June. He was also awarded a vermeil for the same exhibit at the APS Stamp Show in Columbus OH in August.

CONGRATULATIONS to Frank E. Vignola on winning a vermeil and the Greater Eugene Stamp Society Member Award at the PIPEX show in Eugene OR in August for his exhibit of "Nepal: The Two Paise Horse Type Design Postal Cards 1887-1939".

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Book Review

by Alan Warren

The Chinese Presence in Tibet by Armand E. Singer, perfect bound, 8½ by 11 inches, 136 pages, George Alevizos, Topanga, CA, 2002. \$40 in the USA (\$44 by priority mail). Outside the USA, \$45 by surface mail, or \$49 by global priority mail. Ordering details from George Alevizos, P. O. Box 1408, Topanga, CA 90290, email goergealevizos@msn.com.

Professor Singer has contributed many articles and books to the philatelic literature of Tibet, often based on his own collections. His latest contribution amplifies an important aspect of Tibet postal history, namely the many influences over the years by Tibet's neighbor, China.

He begins with examples of pre-stamp letters bearing seals of the Panchen Lama and the Ambans (Chinese ambassadors) from the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as shirt letters and documents bearing the seals of the Tibetan Regents. Next are a few examples of mail in Eastern Tibet by way of the official Chinese I-Chang postal system.

The next period is the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1910 and the introduction of the stamps of China, overprinted in three languages, for use in Tibet. Singer shows examples of the stamps in panes and other multiples, mentions the two major errors, and describes cancels used during this period.

More Eastern Tibet mail is seen, including missionary covers, and airmail that reached the area in the early 1930s, well before Tibet proper received mail by air. Other examples of Chinese associated mail connected to Tibet from the 1930s and 1940s are shown, leading up to the Chinese invasion of 1950. Military mail, mobile post office covers, and official Chinese government mail of the 1950s complete the story. An epilogue deals with some of the propaganda items such as the Nelson Eustis labels of the 1970s.

A bibliography and index conclude the volume. The book is lavishly illustrated, with even a few examples in color, as it consists essentially of exhibit pages. Although photocopies result in some having less the adequate quality, the majority of the illustrations are quite good and help convey important details of usage and postal markings described in the text. In addition to covers the author includes related items such as telegrams, postal warrants, receipts and letters.

A 1932 Olympics Games Puzzle

The Cinderella Philatelist April 2003

submitted by Geoff Rosamond

The following letter dated 28 May 2003 was received from Geoff Rosamond. - editor

DID TIBET TAKE PART IN THE 1932 LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS?

The Cinderella Philatelist - the journal of the English Cinderella Stamp Society recently included the article illustrated.

The Cinderella Society is keen to obtain any information on these labels - probably produced in a German speaking country - just a chance some of our own German members may recognize these labels.

There is also a chance that one of our senior LA members may have dabbled in such items 70 years ago and can answer the comment in my headline.

Certainly the labels are new to me - I thought I had most of the earlier Tibetan ephemera - so if anyone wants to exchange labels for \$ bills please let me know.

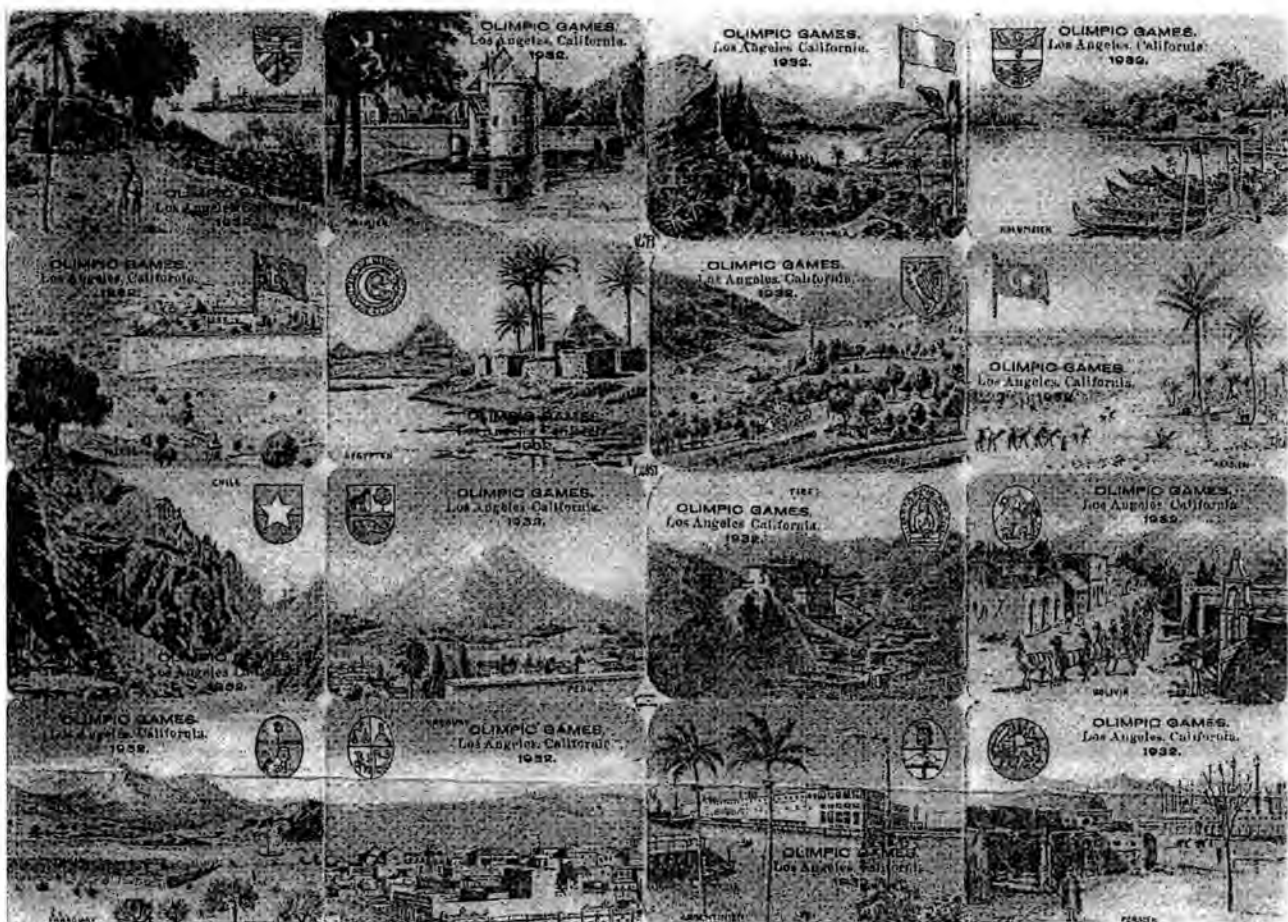
Please send any comments to Geoff Rosamond, 35 Church Hill, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1LN, England and if of interest to the Cinderella Society I will pass them on - I have been a member of the Society since it started.

The stamps are illustrated on page 4. The article accompanying the stamps is below. - editor

The following set of 16 different 1932 Olympic Poster stamps presents some unanswered questions that have stumped several scholars we know.

1. All 16 have the same text: OLIMPIC GAMES. / Los Angeles, California. / 1932. in assorted different locations from Cuba, Palestine, Chile, Paraguay, Belgium, Egypt, Columbia, Arabia, Bolivia, Persia, Argentina, Tibet, Ireland, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay.
2. Nine of the 16 countries are from Latin America.
3. All of the vignettes contain a coat of arms and a painted scene presumably from that particular country.
4. The paintings do not demonstrate or illustrate any kind of Olympic event.
5. It is doubtful that every country in this set even participated in the games.
6. There are 3 bits of information found in the middle of the pane: "L&B", "37957", and "Made in Germany".
7. The source of these paintings is unknown and we do not know who "L&B" is or was.
8. Some country names are given in their German version.
9. "Olimpic" is either misspelled or spelled in Latin, Spanish or French.
10. The countries chosen to be represented are somewhat odd and unexpected.
11. The sheet is neither perforated or rouletted but held together with paper connections for easy separation.
12. Each vignette is on heavier than usual paper in order to be easily embossed.

We are hopeful that some German scholar will be able to shed some light on this mysterious set. All we can say is that this is a very strange set indeed.



A LETTER FROM MT. EVEREST, 1933

by Armand E. Singer

Frank S. Smythe, the famous mountaineer, who conquered peaks in Canada and the Swiss Alps as well as the Himalayas, sends a letter from the Everest Base Camp, June 24, 1933. Two assaults were made on the summit from Camp VI at 27,400 feet, the first by Wyn Harris and Lawrence Wager, remembered because the climbers came upon a rusted ice axe, the Swiss maker's name still legible. It would have to have belonged to either the ill-fated Mallory or Irvine, lost nine years before, in 1924.

Smythe, after his companion Eric Shipton collapsed, went on the reach 28,200 feet, June 1, the highest ever reached at the time without supplemental oxygen, less than a thousand feet from the summit.

This letter, unsigned, is apparently a carbon copy though hand corrected. Smythe makes it seem as if little but the weather could have prevented the expedition from success.

However, lines 9-10 (6-7 next page - editor) hint at the inherent difficulties that beset climbers at these frightful elevations. He needed "but two or three breathes to a step." A climber might normally heave once per step or more. He needed three.

For what the observation is worth, when I was last in the Himalayas, aged 59, I could barely walk ten steps even on mainly level or modestly rising ground before my legs stopped working completely. I would have to wait for a while for them to reoxygenate. Remember, there is ever so much more oxygen at 18-19,000 feet where I was climbing than at 28 where Smythe was vainly struggling, almost two miles higher. These people are a breed apart. (See Walt Unsworth, *Everest: The Mountaineering History*, for a fuller account of Smythe's remarkable, even if unsuccessful, achievement).

MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION
BASE CAMP

June 24, 1933

Dear Christy,

Many thanks for your two letters. We expect to leave the Base Camp for Darjeeling by the end of this month unless an unexpected developments occur to cause us to stay on. Shipton and Wager are staying on through the monsoon to make meteorological observations, but I fear there is no question of another attempt on the mountain. No doubt you and others are disappointed at our failure. When assessing it you should bear in mind a few points. We were perfectly acclimatized and fully capable of reaching the summit physically and mentally. Personally from Camp 6 to my highest point I did not have to stop once for a rest, and took but two or three breaths to a step. But no expedition ever had such terrible weather as we. Blizzard after blizzard whilst establishing glacier camps and temperatures far lower than previous expeditions - 20 F below zero being quite a usual sort of temperature. Owing to blizzards and avalanches it took two weeks to force the North Col alone. Then after one effort Camp 5 was established and we went up for an attempt only to have to remain there in the most terrible three days blizzard I have ever known. Shipton and myself had our tent nearly blown over the precipice and I had to get out in the night and secure it in the worst wind I remember. We were covered in deepest snow. All Europeans and porters were frostbitten - myself in fingers and toes and two porters lost fingers. Nothing like this has been experienced by any former party. Beaten down we returned to the attack and managed to pitch Camp 6 at 27,400 ft. - a marvelous feat by two porters. Wyn Harris and Wager failed and then Shipton and I tried. Shipton collapsed and I went on alone but the conditions were terrible - deep powdering snow lying on steep smooth slabs as steep or steeper than a roof. I did the most desperate piece of solitary climbing I've ever done but had to return. And lucky I did for at 3 p.m. a sudden and furious storm broke. It caught Shipton alone descending to 5, blew him from his footholds and left him hanging on his hands over a precipice, only by a supreme effort did he save himself. At camp 6 the tent in which I was the solitary occupant was nearly blown away, and had I been descending from the summit I should not of course got down alive. Next day I descended to camp 4 and was caught in the worst storm I've ever known on a mountain. I was blown off my holds several times and only saved myself by a miracle each time by driving in the pick of my ice axe - the cold was so bad that to have stopped would have meant being frozen to death in a few minutes. As it was I could hardly move owing to bodily cold. Well, we can only hope for another shot and luck with the weather. Without luck with the weather Everest cannot be climbed. It is not only a difficult peak in the best of conditions - the last 1,000 ft. is steeper than the matterhorn - but for wind, cold and storms there is nothing in the world to approach it.

Kindest regards to you and Champion.

Yours sincerely,
F.S.Smythe.

Editor's note - I have added in the hand corrections which Mr Smythe made to the letter, but have left the capitalization and punctuation as he had it in the letter.

The Modern Negative Seal Cancellations of Nepal

by Colin Hepper

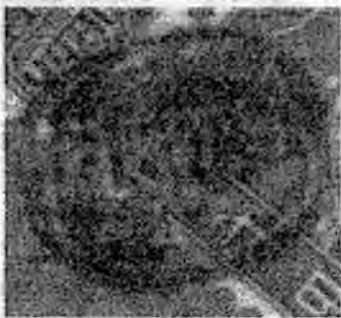
Negative seal cancellations have been in use since the early days when the postal system commenced in Nepal in the 1880's and have always been more difficult to find than the more regular type of postmark.

This is still the same in more modern times, with seal cancellations being much scarcer than the regular postmarks, even though there are a much greater variety of these.

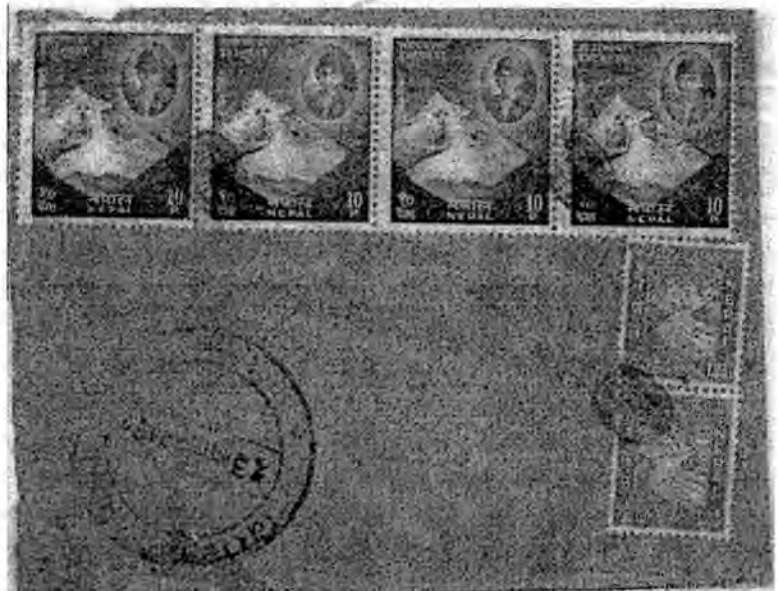
A number of postal seals were recorded in 'The Native Postmarks of Nepal' but were only those recorded up to the early 1960's. The seals

shown in this article are others that have been recorded since the book was published.

One of the difficulties in recording these seals is to be able to illustrate them, as it is often difficult to reproduce the lettering. One such seal is found on a registered cover sent from the Morang Post Office to Biratnagar Exchange Post Office in 1955. The stamps are cancelled with a small oval seal which I would assume is the Morang postmasters seal and is inscribed 'BALRAM'.

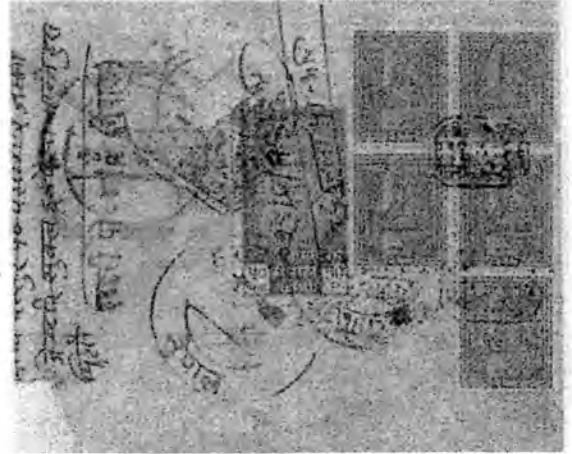


Seal Enlarged



The next recorded seal is found on a 6p Postal Stationery envelope which has been cancelled with a large oval seal of Judukewa Atirikta Hulak. An additional 4p stamp on the reverse, which has been added to make up the rate for registration, is also cancelled with the same seal. The cover was received in Kathmandu in 1964.

Another seal from the Morang District was used at the Madhumalla Post Office in 1961 and contained the letters 'MDHU'. The stamps on the cover have been cancelled with a combination of the seal and a hand written date.



Judukewa Atirikta Hulak



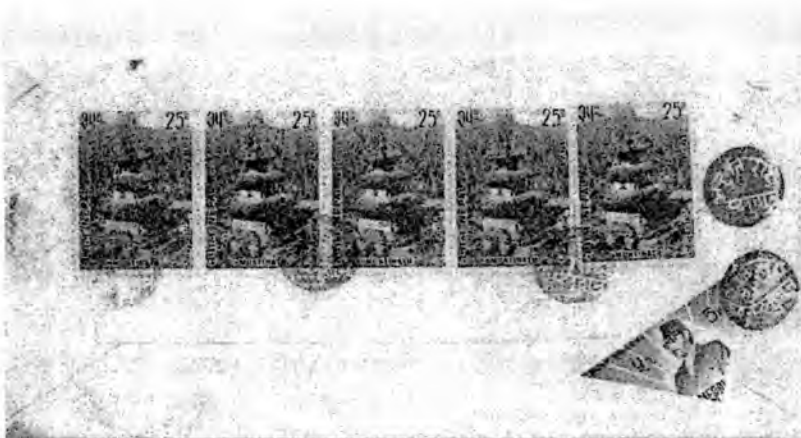
Madhumalla

The next cover has no date stamp on it, but the stamps used were issued in 1974 and a 1 Rupee stamp on the reverse was issued in 1975, so it is probable that the year of use of the seal was 1975. It is a small circular seal from the Nirpa Post Office in the Pyuthan District.

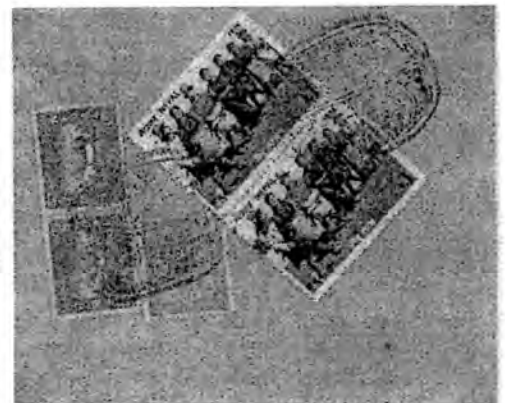
ink. Without having any receiving postmarks the covers can only be roughly dated by the year of issue of the stamps on them. In this instance the 1 Rupee stamps were issued in 1976.

The last one I have recorded is a very large seal from Fhali Bhayupokhari in the Bhojpur District. I have three covers with this particular seal on and they are all cancelled with purple

I would appreciate it if any members could let me know details of any other postal seals that have not been recorded so far. (see inside front cover for Colin's address - editor).



Cover cancelled with the small circular seal of Nirpa



Fhali Bhayupokhari

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