

Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122 British Philatelic Federation Affiliate #435

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
C72 Calle Miguel Angel
El Sueno - Fase I
El Chaparral
03180 Torrevieja
Alicante
Spain
Phone & Fax 34 96 6784701
email: hepper@terra.es

Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett
6 Rainbow Court
Warwick, RI 02889-1118
USA
Phone (401) 738 0466
email: editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

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New Members: Lektor Sorfen Otto, ADDRESS UNKNOWN!! Can anyone supply it?

Change of Address: Danny Wong, 8/F Bank of China Building, Taicang, Jiangsu, China 215434 email: dw@modernterminals.com
Rainer Fuchs, Am Burkardstuhl 33, 97267 Himmelstadt, Germany email: rainer@fuchs-online.com
Michael Rogers, 660 W. Fairbanks Ave. Suite 4, Winter Park, FL 32789-4779 USA

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues: A. K. Agwaral, S. L. Dhawan

Rejoined: Malcolm W. Campbell, P.O. Box 344, Goodwood SA 5034, Australia

Resigned: Ben Kaufmann

Lost Members: (Anyone knowing the address, please send it in) Leonard Naybutal

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Officer's Corner

Before writing these words for the Officer's Corner, I was preparing for my trip to WESTPEX with my good friend Peter Planken. I am happy that he will show for the first time a part of his comprehensive Nepal collection: 48 pages with the locally printed stamps of the Gorkha Patra Press for the years 1958-1961. Many times I have encouraged him to prepare this collection for any exhibition and at last it will be shown at WESTPEX.

We are both looking forward to seeing our friends at the two meetings of NTPSC planned for WESTPEX.

This will be my third philatelic trip this year. At the end of January I spent 10 days in Kathmandu. Unfortunately I arrived too late to visit the *Nepal Bharat Philatelic Exhibition 2004*. This event was organized for the occasion of the 55th Republic Day of India

(Bharat) promoting Nepal-India relations. The Nepal Philatelic Society is introducing a school programme to encourage philately among school children. NPS members can send contributions to the NPS president Mr. Kedar Pradhan, P.O. Box 1217, Kathmandu NEPAL. Congratulations to Shyam Pradhan (L.V.), Shyam Agrawal (V), Kedar Pradhan (L.S.), Ujjaf Shrestha (S), Sristi Pradhan (L.S.) and Raksta Devi (L.S.) for winning at the Fiap Stamp Exhibition in Hong Kong Jan. 30 - Feb. 3. The last two named are youth members.

My second trip was the General Annual Meeting of *Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien* in Halle, Germany two weeks before WESTPEX. A very simple show with some exhibits of India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh and some very interesting discussions between members at the meeting.

Editor's Ramblings

I finally did get to WESTPEX although I had not originally planned to go as I was short of vacation time after planning to go to Hawaii for four weeks.

Eleven of our members exhibited at WESTPEX and every one of them won at least one award. 100% of the entries winning awards must surely qualify for a mention in Guinness. Please see below for a list of the exhibitors and there awards.

I am hoping to launch a major new project in

the near future and will discuss it in this space if it comes to fruition.

On a sad note I must inform those of you who do not already know it of a tragedy which has occurred to our president. Armand's wife Mary has died. While not a stamp collector in her own right, one could always be sure that if Armand was at an exhibition then Mary was there also, lending him encouragement. Please see page 2 for details

CONGRATULATIONS to our members who won the following awards at WESTPEX:

Armand Singer won a gold, the N&TPSC plaque and Michael Rogers Award for the Best Asian exhibit for his exhibit 'A Postal History of Nepal'.

Danny Wong won a gold and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award for his exhibit 'Imperial Courier Post of China'.

Jeremy Brewer won gold for his exhibit 'Tibet: The First Issues of 1912 and 1914'.

Dick van der Wateren won gold for his exhibit 'Nepal Revenues'.

Paul C. Hager won gold for his exhibit 'The Pashupati Era of Nepal'.

Alfonso G. Zulueta, Jr. won vermeil for his exhibit 'Nepal: The Pre-Stamp and Classic Periods 1814-1930'.

Leo Martyn won vermeil for his exhibit 'Nepal: The Postal History of the Pashupati Period'.

Armand Singer won vermeil for his exhibit 'The Chinese Presence in Tibet'.

Peter H. Planken won silver for his exhibit 'Stamps of the Gorkha Patra press in Nepal 1950-1961'.

Roger Skinner won silver for his exhibit 'Nepal Postage Meters'.

Robert Gould won silver for his exhibit 'Mountaineering - Around the World'.

In Memoriam
Mary Rebecca White Singer 1912-2004

Mary Rebecca White Singer, 92, beloved wife of Armand Edwards Singer, passed away Thursday, March 11 after suffering a massive stroke.

She held an A.B. degree from Fairmont State College, 1933, did graduate work in classics at West Virginia University 1933-34, and received an M.A. and Ph.D. in Latin from Duke University where she was inducted in Phi Beta Kappa for her outstanding graduate work, an honor not possible previously as Fairmont did not have its own chapter.

Her dissertation, not superseded to this day, was a critical biography of Octavia, sister of the Emperor Augustus. She wrote articles for the American Philological Association, including one of the method that she developed to teach extracurricular French to fourth and sixth graders. She served for many years on the Board of the West Virginia University Philological Papers.

She taught French and history at Greensboro College for Women in North Carolina, Latin at West Virginia University and Morgantown High School, French at St. Francis High School and English at West Virginia University - a very successful career somewhat compromised by the University's then policy against spousal positions.

Dr. Singer fought hard for women's rights as an almost lifetime member of the American Association of University Women, of which she was several times president. It was her paying position at Greensboro College that allowed her marriage to Dr. Armand Singer.

She enjoyed books, theater, art and world travel - having visited Europe, Asia and Latin America. She had also taken African safaris, sailed in the South Pacific and climbed mountains in the United States.

In lieu of flowers, friends may wish to contribute to the Departments of Foreign Languages or English, West Virginia University Foundation, 1 Waterfront Place, P.O. Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507-9937.

Mary met her future husband at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina in 1936 when Armand sat beside her in a class in French Realism and Naturalism, and he was hooked.

They went together for four years, finally marrying on August 8, 1940 in Duke's Gothic chapel. They honeymooned in the Smokies, the first of the mountain adventures that they came to love so much.

At the time of her death, she and Armand were working on her Octavia dissertation with a view to removing the ponderous dissertation language, adding some illustrations and publishing it as a university press book. Armand has not decided whether to continue with the project or not.

They did safaris in Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. They drove in all fifty states and twice drove over a thousand miles into Mexico. They visited Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, many of the Caribbean islands, most of Europe, China, Nepal, Australia and New Zealand. Two years ago they drove to the Arctic Ocean, 500 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska and just last summer drove almost 14,000 miles in the Western United States, Mexico and British Columbia (so much for getting old - editor). Her death came as they were packing for a cruise from Auckland, New Zealand to Sydney, Australia. They loved climbing and trekking and had climbed the highest mountain in the continental United States - California's Mt. Whitney (14,495 feet).

She was not a collector of stamps or interested in any hobby, spending all of her leisure hours fighting for women's rights, but she always attended Armand's stamp shows.

Before they knew each other, they both enrolled at Duke because of scholarships offered, even though both had planned (independently) to attend the University of Wisconsin. Perhaps this was a sign that they were meant for each other. They were married for 63 ½ years, and she was truly his soul mate.

Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Meeting at WESTPEX

Alan Warren

The meeting of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle at WESTPEX, May 7-9 in San Francisco, drew a goodly number of exhibitors including two from the Netherlands, one from England and one from Hong Kong. Our exhibitors won a number of awards at the show (see page 2 - editor).

Friday, May 7

President Armand Singer opened the first meeting Friday afternoon with 17 members present. Discussion was held on the possible use of some of the funds in our treasury as our current costs for the journal appear to be covered with dues income. At the moment there does not appear to be any need to increase the dues.

Roger Skinner made a donation in the name of the Circle to Washington 2006, the next FIP international exhibition in the United States, which will be held in Washington, DC in late May and early June of that year. Alan Warren will coordinate a meeting during the exhibition. The Circle may be invited by the organizing committee to furnish a one-frame exhibit about our specialty. Leo Martyn has such material, which can be updated.

Our editor, Richard Hanchett, indicated that he is working on what he hopes will be a major project. More details to follow if the project pans out.

Member and exhibitor, Danny Wong, talked briefly about a book he is working on about Tibet that will widen our knowledge about the country and include materials from the Highlands. He has access to archives in China that will expand our philatelic knowledge of that area. He also talked about his exhibit at WESTPEX.

Danny's book will run from the 7th century to and including the 20th century. According to the archives, the Tibet local post office closed in 1959. He also pointed out that this year is the

centennial of Younghusband's activities in Tibet. Danny proposed that we organize a trip to Nepal and Tibet in the summer of 2005. By show of hands there was considerable interest in this. He and Geoffrey Flack will look into arrangements.

Attendees at the meeting introduced themselves, their collecting interests and where they were from. Armand then opened a discussion on "Extending the Boundaries of Postal History Exhibits". One of the problems is the introduction of non-philatelic but Postally related items in an exhibit. The award level often suffers because of the judging guidelines.

Many exhibitors do not care about the medal received and simply want to display items they feel are pertinent. Some exhibits are teaching displays, containing more text than judging guidelines suggest. There is the Display Section which does encourage use of non-philatelic materials that relate to the story told by the exhibit. Suggestions include trying to get the rules for postal history exhibits changed.

Geoffrey Flack showed a revenue stamped document from Tibet that apparently came from an archive in the Potala, and confirms that revenue stamps were used in Tibet. The item appears to be from the 1930s and very few such examples are known, suggesting that the revenue system was used for only a short time and then discontinued.

Discussion then centered on the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle plaque to be awarded at shows where there are exhibits in our area of interest. It was agreed that the Study Circle who decide the winner and present the award at a meeting. In the case of WESTPEX, the plaque had already been given to the show jury for awarding.

The first day of the show concluded with a group of 14 members retiring to Max's Opera House Café for an enjoyable dinner.

Saturday, May 8

The group welcomed meeting attendees Mae and Frank Vignola, Jr. and their son Frank E. Vignola. Eighteen members were present as President Singer opened the meeting. Armand and Geoffrey Flack described the book that they hope to publish early this summer on the proofs and essays of Tibet. The work will also include some labels and promotional reprints. The plan is to do many of the illustrations in color and use Cerlox binding.

Bill Jansen suggested that a census is needed for the first issue of Nepal. Bill offered to prepare (and the editor accepted the offer - editor) an article for *Postal Himal* on this subject and to request, via the article, the help of the members in adding to the database. He is also interested in the earliest known dates of usage for these issues. The effort may be expanded to include the second issue of Nepal. Alan Warren announced that he will be giving a talk on the telegraph stamps and official stamps of Tibet at the APS Stampshow in Sacramento, CA August 12-15. (Members wishing more information on the APS Stampshow can contact

Alan at alanwar@att.net - editor). The presentation is scheduled for 11:00 AM Sunday, August 15.

Geoffrey Flack suggested that a simple folder be made up that consists of a brief description of the purposes of the study circle along with a membership application form. It would include our areas of interest - Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim.

Frealon Bibbons passed around a quiz to test one's knowledge of the 1914 issue of Tibet. He has also produced a book entitled *A Philatelic Story of Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey, C.I.E.* based on the author's collection of covers and correspondence related to Bailey.

At this time each exhibitor mentioned a few words about his exhibit at WESTPEX.

Bob Gould mentioned the illustrated book that he and Armand wrote, *A Catalogue of Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence*. The book has proved to be popular with mountain climbers as it shows many of their autographed covers.

The Study Circle attendees then assembled at the hotel staircase for a group photo.

CONGRATULATIONS continued

Danny Wong has received from Royal Philatelic Society London its Tapling Medal for 2003 for his article "Chinese Imperial Post in Tibet" published in the society's journal, *London Philatelist*. The award honors Thomas K. Tapling, one of the first great collectors who had built a stamp collection by 1887 that was exceeded only by that of Ferrari. Tapling's collection is now in the British Library.

Rainer Fuchs received a Gold plus Special Award at the Exhibition Phila-Tolbiac 29-30 June 2002 at Zuelpich, Germany for the best exhibit in the class 'Country Collection' for his exhibit "Tibet 1912-1960".

Rainer Fuchs received a Gold plus Special Award at MABRIA '03 held 14 and 15 June 2003 in Marktbreit, Germany for his exhibit "Tibet 1912-1960".

Wolfgang Hellrigl has received a Gold at Espana 2004 for his exhibit "Jammu and Kashmir".

Colin Hepper has received a Gold at Espana 2004 for his exhibit "Postal History of Nepal".

Wilfried Franke has received a Silver at Espana 2004 for his exhibit "Tibet".

Deepak Manandhar has received a Vermeil at Espana 2004 for his exhibit "Nepal Postal Stationery".

Shyam Pradhan has received a Large Vermeil at Espana 2004 for his exhibit "Nepal Revenues".

The Bailey Correspondence: A Review

Alan Warren

A Philatelic Story of Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey, C.I.E. 1882-1967 by Frealon Bibbins, 8 ½ by 11 inches, Cerlox bound, stiff covers, 132 pages, self published (San Francisco) 2003. \$50 from the author Frealon Bibbins, 2 Sumac Court, Novato, CA 94945-1324 USA.

The author has written extensively on the stamp issues of Tibet and has now produced this remarkable biographic sketch of the well known soldier, explorer, political agent and writer F. M. Bailey, much of whose career was related to Tibet. Bibbins tells Bailey's story through his collection of Bailey's correspondence and covers from 1903 to 1950. The cover's are a philatelist's delight, showing many of the rare markings sought after by collectors of mail from the Himalayan region. Most of the illustrations are black and white but half a dozen are in color on non-numbered pages.

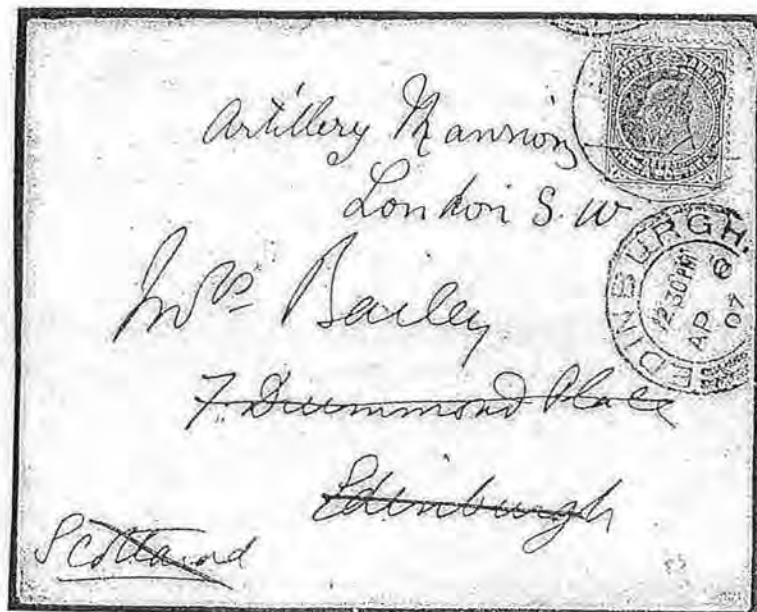
F. M. Bailey's life is told in brief summaries of text but largely through the write-ups on the pages of Bibbins collection. The philatelic items begin with the Frontier Commission in Khamba Jong in 1903 and move on to his service as a trade agent in Tibet, then as a political officer in Persia and later, Gangtok. Bailey also used the 1924 Mont Everest expedition label on his correspondence at that time.

A striking 1924 presentation cover is seen bearing copies of the 4 trangkas and 8 trangkas

1914 series of Tibet along with a block of four of the 2/3 trangkas first issue with the POTSAGE error. Covers shown during the late 1920s relate to Bailey's activities in Gangtok, followed by forwarded mail attempting to reach Bailey as he traveled in Europe on his way back to India after taking a leave in England in 1930.

Bailey then served as minister plenipotentiary in Nepal during the 1930s. A few covers from the 1940s are shown. Bailey retired and he and his wife moved to Norfolk, England where he wrote three books about his many experiences. Bibbins provides a brief bibliography.

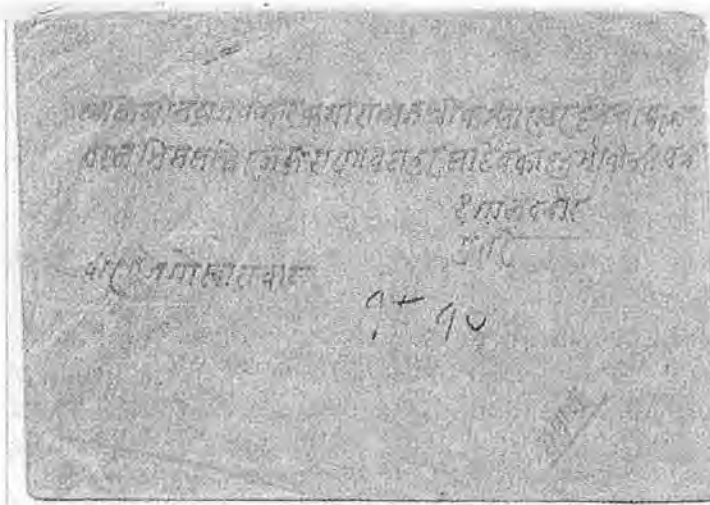
Because Bailey saved so much of his correspondence, Robson Lowe prepared a chronological listing of Bailey's movements from 1900 to 1943. This listing, slightly expanded by the author, concludes the book. Collectors are indebted to F. M. Bailey for having the foresight to save his letters, and to Frealon Bibbins for showing so much of it in his book. The many covers not only reflect Bailey's life but also provide important postal history documentation on rates, routes and markings.



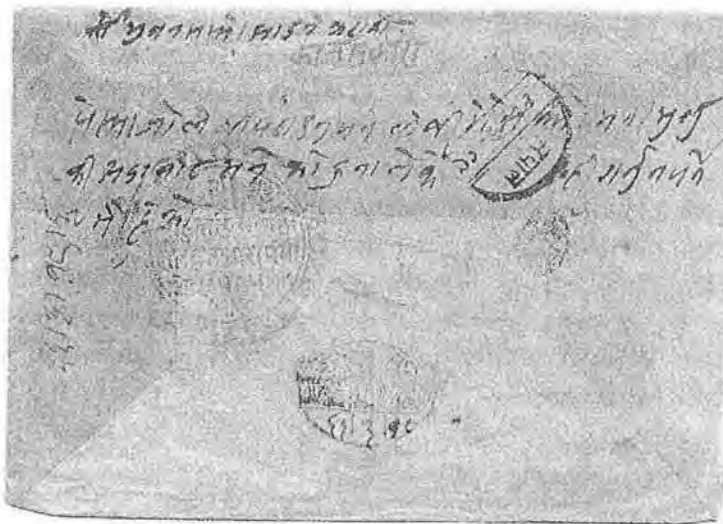
1907 cover from Tibet to Scotland, cancelled 17 March 07 at Field Post Office No. 70 at Chumbi.

An Ordinary Cover, or Not?

Dick van der Wateren



Thus the letter was sent by the highest court of Nepal, in Birgunj. In the centre of the cover the postal marking is written: 1810.



In the centre of the back of the cover is the non-circular hand-dated postmark of Birgunj (Hellrigl N70) in use 1090-1911, which is dated 66-3-18 Bikram Sambat, a relatively scarce mark. In the upper right part is the classic date stamp of Kathmandu XVIII (Hellrigl D79), mechanically dated 66-3-19. It is remarkable that the cover took only one day to get from Birgunj to Kathmandu (now an 8-10 hour car trip) whereas now it takes up to a week sometimes to make the same trip.

The small oval seal is of the responsible officer. The ornamental (non postal) seal of the Birgunj Goswara is inscribed *Shri* between crescent and sun and in four lines: *Mahutari, Sarlahi / Rautahat, Bara, Parsa / Goswara 54 / Sal*, being the 5 districts in the south of the Tarai under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Birgunji. *54 Sal* means the year 1954 Bikram Sambat corresponding to 1898 A.D., the year of the cutting of the seal. Alongside the left edge is the date written by the postal clerk of the receiving office: *66 / 3 / 19 / 6*, corresponding to July 1909, the 7th day of the week. In the same

handwriting as on the front is the underlined word *Kaj Sarkariya*, meaning “Official letter”) On Government Service).

The most interesting part of the cover is the text written in a difficult to read script. In the first line written above *Kaj Sarkariya* is an annotation which reads: *Sri Bhuwaan Shumsher aaune kura ko* which means: “About the coming of Sri Bhuwan Shumsher”. This is written at the top of the cover for future reference. Below *Kaj Sarkariya* is the following text, in Nepali, which is the summary of the letter: *yesma jo kekhi pathaumu parne lekhi gai*

sakeko bhani mulu // ki adda bata bhaneko hunale kehi garnu naparne bhai // raheko, meaning: “Whatever answer was required in this letter, Muluki Adda has informed, that is has already been sent. So nothing has to be done on it now”.

Muluki Adda is the Treasury Office of the nation and is located in Kathmandu. It controls matters of finance.

My good friend, Mr. Sagar Shrestha, who has been a big help in this case, is of the opinion “ that the letter was related to two different matters, one regarding the information about the coming of Mr. Bhuwan Shumsher from Birgunj and the second is about the financially related matter between Birgunj Goswara and Muluki

Adda, which may have been pending for a long time. The Birgunj Goswara has requested General Bhim Shumsher to look at the matter and has ordered Muluki Adda to send the required finance to the Birgunj Office. Hence, on this matter the second note had been written that the matter had already been dealt with (maybe the General has contacted Muluki Adda) and nothing has to be done on it”.

It is not a rare cover, and although it has given us some interesting facts not everything has been clarified.

I thank Mr. Shrestha and another friend, Mr. Shyam Agrawal, for deciphering the Nepali text on the back of the cover.



- 1. Subject : 57th Birthday of HM King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
- 3. Color : Four Color
- 5. Size : 38.5 x 29.6 mm
- 10. Designer : K. K. Karmacharya



- 1. Subject : Babu Chiri Sherpa
- 3. Color : Two Color
- 5. Size : 30 x 40 mm
- 10. Designer : Mohan N. Rana

- 2. Denomination : Rs. 5.00
- 4. Sheet Composition : 50 Stamps in each sheet
- 6. Process : Offset Lithography
- 7. Quantity : One million
- 9. Paper : High Quality Stamp Paper
- 11. Printer : Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria

First Day Covers courtesy of HMG Nepal Postal Services Department, Kathmandu

Dear Editor,

I have been reading Ken Jones' articles about Buddhist monks and their mountain mail system. However, I just wonder whether he has strayed down the wrong track and that the explanation of his cover is more prosaic than the romantic picture he paints. It seems to me that the cover is a survivor of those sent by a member, probably the leader Bhairab Bahadur Gadhatola, of the 1906 Nepalese Quinquennial Mission to China.

This mission was away from Kathmandu for nearly four years returning overland via Tibet not arriving back in Nepal until 1910. Very briefly, the return journey from Peking was by train to Tientsin and by train again to Honan and thence by foot and ponies to Chengtu from whence the Mission departed on 5th February 1909. The route continued south and west via Tarchindeo and Batang and thence to Lhasa. As the Mission had left Chengtu by 15th February, the date stated for the Chengtu Handstamp, it must have been carried back to that town for registration and mailing. If Tarchindeo had been reached it would have been mailed from there.

The contents were most likely the news-letter regularly sent by the Mission to keep the Nepalese Government abreast of their progress and affairs en route; the address is merely in the form of the protocol required of the period. The two postmarks on the face of the cover both dated 18th March, as per the article, are those of the Chinese and French post offices at Shanghai. Presumably the first boat sailing via India was French. The postmark across the stamps appears to be HAND-DRAWN and is dated 24th March which obviously is illogical. It is drawn in the style of the Chinese office. Has the possibility been considered that the original stamps have been removed at some time (for the 'philatelic' market) and replaced with others and 'cancelled' to deceive the unwary?

Having made this suggestion I must confess that I know nothing of the Nepalese Bhuddist monks inhabiting Emei mountain and even less of the means by which they relayed their missives up and down the mountain slopes and back and forth to Nepal. I see, though, that Mr. Jones has already been in contact with a member of the China Philatelic Society so maybe a further approach by him could be made for examples of mail to support his fascinating account.

I did notice, incidentally, a couple of covers very similar to that of Mr. Jones, sent from the 1906 Mission and included in the displays at the 2004 WESTPEX show; one mailed from Chengtu, the other from Tarchindeo.

REFERENCES:

- Nepal-Tibet Relations 1850-1930 (Prem R. Uprety)
A Documentary History of Nepalese Quinquennial Missions to China 1792-1906 (Vijay Kumar Manandhar)
The Armand E. Singer Nepal 1772-1961 and Beyond (Alevizos - pub.)

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Brewer

(For the articles, please see PH No. 116 pg. 4 and PH No. 117 pg.4 - editor)

A New Variety Reported Surendra Lal Shrestha



Our Nepal representative, Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha reports the discovery of an unreported variety - a color shift. Mr. Shrestha reports that he found it in a bundle of 100 used stamps. The variety (left above) clearly shows a very pronounced color shift. The map of Nepal in the circle in the upper portion of the stamp also

shows two Nepal flags, one in the correct position and one shifted up and to the left. The stamp was printed in 1991 by the Austrian Government Printing Office in Vienna, Austria. The stamps were printed 50 to a sheet, so where are the other 49?

A Nepalese Sherpa has broken the record for the fastest ascent of Mt. Everest, scaling the world's highest mountain in 8 hours and 10 minutes.

Pemba Dorji Sherpa, 26, surpassed the previous record by more than two hours, reaching the summit at 2:10 a.m. local time on Friday, 21 May officials said.

The previous record of 10 hours and 46 minutes was set last year by fellow Sherpa, Lakpa Gheylu. Pemba and Lakpa had been competing against each other to chip away at the record. Pemba set a new record in May 2003 with a time of 12 hours and 43 minutes but Lakpa beat that effort three days later.

The ascension record has been getting shorter and shorter thanks to climbers being allowed to use ropes and ladders put in place by other climbing teams. Most climbers take two to three weeks to summit Mt. Everest because they must acclimatize to the lack of oxygen. Pemba's record is a far cry from the more than seven weeks it took Sir Edmund Hilary and the late Tenzing Norgay Sherpa to reach the summit from their base camp on May 29, 1953. Hillary and Tenzing had to forge their own route without the benefit of modern equipment.

From CNN.com by Journalist Akhilesh Upadhyayh.

The Anthrax Threat in Nepal

Dick van der Wateren

The fear of Anthrax has been perceived in Nepal and has been expressed in letters to the B. B. C. in Kathmandu.

Through an English dealer I came across some 11 covers, all addressed to this institute: The B. B. C. Nepal Service (Sebaa), Post Box Nr. 672. From October 2001 to March 2002 all mail was opened, checked by an outside firm, released and marked in various ways.

Eight of the covers show a rectangular Handstamp, printed on either the front or the back, as shown on the postal stationary cover (see Figure 1). Two were in black, the others in purple; none are filled in.

According to a small printed announcement

(see Figure 4) other markings were also used.

Two of my covers bear the word CHECKED in large, hollow capital letters in red (see Figure 2) and three covers have the word CHECKED in small capital letters and the number 7 in red on the front of the cover (see Figure 3).

I have not seen the word CHECKED in large capital letters with the numbers 1 - 6, nor small capital letters with the numbers 8 or 9.

Please write to me with photocopies who have found an of the missing cachets, described in Figure 4, on covers. My covers were sent and checked between 20-12-01 (in cancellation) and 07-03-02 (handstamped).



Figure 1

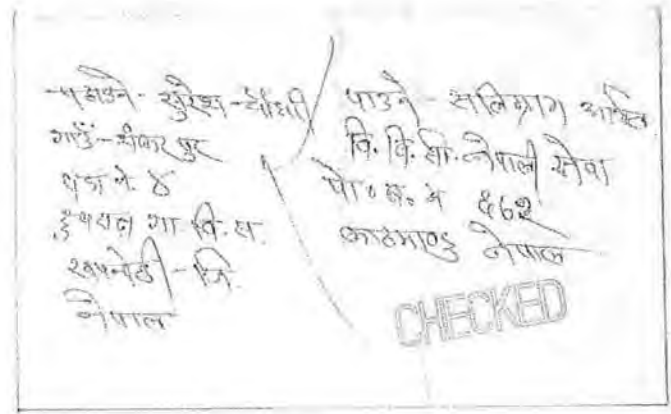


Figure 2

ANTHRAX.

Due to a perceived terrorist threat of receiving Anthrax spores through the post, the BBC arranged for it's mail to be tested for Anthrax by an outside firm. This testing was carried out from October 2001 to March 2002. The mail was opened, checked, re-sealed by label or tape and marked as being checked. The cachets used to show that the mail had been tested were:-

1. 'CHECKED' in large 'hollow' capital letter, in RED.
2. 'CHECKED' in large capital letters, with a number, (1 to 6) in RED or BLUE.
3. 'CHECKED' in smaller capital letters, with a number, (7, 8 & 9) in RED or BLUE.

Figure 4



Figure 3

This Year's Exhibits at WESTPEX - A Personal View

Jeremy Brewer

At the annual WESTPEX Show this year no fewer than 10 members of the Study Circle exhibited, receiving 11 medals and 3 additional Sponsored Awards. All these exhibits, in whole or in part related to Nepal or Tibet and included seven specialist Nepal and two specialist Tibet displays.

"Mountaineering - Around the World" entered by Bob Gould, containing as it did much Himalayan material, was an innovative exhibit for the Circle and hopefully the Himalayan aspect of this most interesting subject will be repeated in the future by other members. Bob is to be congratulated on taking the first step and all success to him for future displays. Peter Planken and myself (Tibet: the First Issues) were both exhibiting competitively for the first time (anywhere) and Peter's three frames of "Stamps of the Gorkha Patra Press in Nepal, 1950-1961" where I spent an enjoyable and instructive hour or more, was awarded a worthy Silver. His fellow countryman Dick van der Wateren accompanied his recently published 'Nepal Revenues' with an exhibit of the same name. Another innovative theme, this exhibit stimulated much discussion amongst the judges; fortunately the English member of the panel has vast experience in cinderellas and revenues and the exhibit received an appropriate Gold award. A just reward for all Dick's research into this fascinating subject.

Our President entered his well-known and outstanding "Postal History of Nepal". Ever intent upon testing the jury this exhibit seemed to fall partly within the traditional category and partly within that of Postal History. As such it must have presented something of a dilemma to the judges who graciously responded with a Gold together with the 'Michael Rogers Award - Best Asia'. So, well done Armand! Not one for doing things by halves the President's other entry was "The Chinese Presence in Tibet". Despite being full of superb, rare and even esoteric material, all duly acknowledged and applauded by the jury, this exhibit did not quite

comply with the rigidity and parameters to which the jury must adhere. A Vermeil was the outcome.

Danny Wong's "Imperial Courier Post of China" is one of the top three collections of this topic having already won a Grand Prix at National level in Beijing. Dealing with the Yizhan (I-chan) postal system until its abolition at the start of the Republican revolution it is beautifully presented, being written up in both Chinese and English - no mean feat! It includes the hitherto much neglected aspect of the Yizhan system connecting China, Tibet and Nepal. Initially discomfited by the exhibit's compass and exotic nature the jury, of Western experts only, soon recovered and as well as awarding the inevitable Gold for this thoroughly researched exhibit, Danny also received the "American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award".

To my mind Roger Skinner is the unsung hero of the Circle when it comes to WESTPEX. Quite apart from all his background work and efforts in exhorting members to display their collections, he is the one called upon at the last minute by the Display Committee to provide material from his own collection for any unallocated frames. Last year it was a frame of "An Overview of Nepal Postal Stationery". This year with only a few days available and ably supported by his wife Jo, he came to the rescue again and submitted "Nepal Postage Meters". happily, the knowledge required to display this particular topic was recognized and a Silver awarded. A nice finale to all Roger's scholarship contained within Postal Himal issues 111 and 112.

"The Pashupati Era of Nepal" exhibited in the Traditional class by Paul Hager and earning him a Gold must have been a joy for the jury to appraise. With only a little over a day in which to judge, make their awards and write up notes on each exhibit in readiness for the critique, the jury have only a limited time in which to study each entry. Paul's exhibit with its clearly

defined divisions, headings and natural flow would without doubt have endeared itself to public and judges alike.

An exhibit which for me seemed to have been unjustly treated by the jury in its award - a Vermeil - was that of Al Zulueta. Entitled "Nepal: The Pre-stamp and Classic Periods, 1814-1930" this showing, to my mind, exuded gold! Whether the judges were distracted or fell into the trap of comparing it with a barely similar exhibit immediately opposite I do not know. I can only surmise that they were mistakenly confused into believing the display was missing a key item. This then is an instance of the unlucky exhibitor being at the mercy of the vagaries of philatelic judging. Incidentally, if anyone wishes to see presentation at its best, a visit to any of Al's displays is a must - they are all immaculate.

The ten frames showing of "Nepal: the Postal History of the Pashupati Period" by Leo Martyn

occupied much of my viewing opportunities. Chock-full of fascinating material and know and little-known facts with much instructive write-up, it read like a book. Hopefully, one of these days it will appear as such. Evidently too much for the limited time available for the judges it received a Vermeil. Undoubtedly, though, with a re-jigged 'introduction' and 'chapter' headings to improve understanding and give flow for the benefit of the less knowledgeable this exhibit will go on to garner high awards at International level.

The one exhibit I did miss this visit was Alan Warren's Tibet, my own specialty, but having gained gold and best in Asia last year, alas it is ineligible for showing again just yet.

This year our own Society's award was up for grabs (judged independently by the jury) being dexterously caught in the safe hands of our President. Congratulations again, Armand.



- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Subject | : Tea garden of Eastern Nepal |
| 2. Denomination | : Rs. 25.00 |
| 3. Color | : Four Color |
| 4. Sheet Composition | : 50 stamps in each sheet |
| 5. Size | : 30 x 40 mm |
| 6. Process | : Offset Lithography |
| 7. Quantity | : 500,000 |
| 8. Format | : Horizontal |
| 9. Paper | : High Quality Stamp Paper |
| 10. Designer | : Mohan N. Rana |
| 11. Printer | : Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria |

First day cover courtesy of HMG Nepal Post, Kathmandu

THE MODERN POSTMARKS OF NEPAL

In 1977 "The Native Postmarks of Nepal" was published and now twenty-seven years on it is in need of updating. The Modern Postmarks section was finished in the early 1970s so there are now thirty years of new postmarks to record.

I have completed about 90% of this work for which Surendra Lal Shrestha has played a significant part and I was on the brink of publishing a new book with the postmarks from 1964 to 2000. I recently had a couple of days with Wolfgang Hellrigl at the Spanish international stamp show and discussed this with him. The result of our discussion was that I will re-do the whole of the modern postmarks from 1949 up to 2000. At a later date Wolfgang would look at re-publishing the early postmarks as a separate book as he has many more new postmarks that were not recorded in the first publication.

As much of this work has been completed I would hope that I could amalgamate the old book with the new manuscript within the next six months.

The next step is I NEED HELP FROM YOU, THE STUDY CIRCLE MEMBERS.

I need any NEW information regarding the first publication, whether it be a previously unrecorded postmark or any new dates for periods of use or indeed any corrections.

I would also appreciate photo copies of any postmarks for the last thirty year period and earliest dates of use.

I look forward to your help.

Colin Hepper

Colin's postal address, email address and phone number are on the inside front cover - editor.



Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha reports that this cover from the Nepal Bharat Exhibition has been signed by:

Mr. Shyam Saran, India's
Ambassador to Nepal
Mr. P. N. Chowdhuri, President of
the Raj Sabha
Mr. Shree Dhar Gautam, Director
General, Postal Services Dept.
HMG
Mr. Kedar Pradhan, President of
the Nepal Philatelic Society

N&TPSC at Washington 2006

Alan Warren

Thanks to Roger Skinner, the Study Circle has signed on with the Washington 2006 exhibition that takes place at the end of May and the beginning of June that year. This is an FIP exhibition and the Bulletin for exhibitors has just been released. Anyone who would like to exhibit at this show should contact the commissioner for their country to obtain a copy of the Bulletin, which contains the rules of exhibiting, along with an application form.

For exhibitors in the United States, the commissioner for east of the Mississippi is George Kramer, 99 Charles St., Clifton NJ 07013, email: gikk@optonline.net. The commissioner for the western part of the country is Lewis Bussey, Box 18674, Denver CO 80218, email: lebarch@aol.com.

President Armand Singer has asked me to help coordinate our activities at the show and we plan to have two membership meetings. One of

the areas that is open for discussion is taking a table for the entire 8-day show. The problem is to have sufficient volunteers to cover the booth at all times. We are exploring with other groups, such as the India Study Circle, the possibility of sharing a booth so that volunteers of both organizations can help cover for each other. If you plan to come to the show, let me know if you can volunteer some time to help at the society booth. I can be reached at P.O. Box 39, Exton PA 19341, email: alanwar@att.net

Supporting societies also have the opportunity to take a 16-page non-competitive frame to describe the society's purposes and to display some of the items that we collect. Armand remembers that we did so in London, and Roger Skinner and Leo Martyn have offered to help prepare such a frame for 2006.

Also upcoming is London 2010 - editor.

At the NAPEX exhibition held at Tyson's Corner, VA in June, a new literature competition was introduced. Winning Silver medals were Armand Singer's book *The Chinese Presence in Tibet*, and the co-authored work by Armand Singer and Bob Gould, *A Catalog of Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence*.

Alan Warren



Patron ® and an advisor to the Nepal Philatelic Society, 13 September 2003 at the 20th General Assembly, Kathmandu.

Photo courtesy of Surendra Lal Shrestha.

The 13th Dalai Lama Flees from Tibet, 1910

Armand E. Singer

There finally appeared, in 1946, Sir Charles Bell's delightful memoir of the life and times of his longtime friend and associate, the 13th Dalai Lama (*Portrait of the Dalai Lama*, London: Collins). The book is beautifully crafted, Bell being that rare phenomenon, a political analyst with a poet's sense of style. Since he was with his friend during the latter's exile from Tibet (1910-12) caused by the Chinese invasion of his homeland (prophetic foreshadowing's of 1950!), and seems to have a connection with his decision to initiate a native postal service, including Tibet's first stamps (1912), and finally, since there is other evidence of Bell's interest in stamps, this biography should present an obvious place for us to read about it. For whatever reason, Bell affords us nothing but the simple observation that the Dalai Lama's official Tibetan biography allots but one line to his "establishment of a postal system in Tibet (p. 160). Bell is no more generous. He does, however, describe for us the following picturesque account of the Dalai Lama's escape from the Chinese in 1910:

It was not long before the brave young favourite, who had kept back the Chinese troops, arrived at Pa-ri [Phari], which was by then in Chinese occupation. A heavy price was on his head. The Chinese had placed men on watch at several of the bridges en route. The Dzong-pöns at Pa-ri sent some of their servants with him, and he managed to evade the watchers, and arrive in Yatung, twenty-eight miles away. Here he was put up in an outhouse belonging to one of Mr. Macdonald's servants. He carried two revolvers, and vowed that the Chinese should never take him alive;

for if captured, they would certainly have executed him.

From Yatung he went with the postal runners, men who carry the letters and parcels between Pa-ri and Sikkim. He did not wear the postal uniform or badge, but with his head no doubt bowed down a little under the load of mail, he was able to escape recognition, and to climb up through the snow to the pass, where he crossed the frontier into safety.

Thus the Dalai Lama arrived in Darjeeling, having ridden from Lhasa to Gnatong, a distance of two hundred and seventy miles, in nine days. Accustomed as he was to the dignified slowness of a Chair of State, this was for him a sterling achievement, more especially as the journey included four high passes and the chief river of southern Tibet. He had to ride over the icebound uplands in the depth of winter, the wind drove furiously in his face all the time, and culminated in that blizzard when crossing "The Plain of the Three Brothers". And with it all was the deep anxiety for his country (pp. 88-89).

Let me conclude with a recommendation. Bell's book is not only a beautifully written account of this period and one man (roughly 1900-1920), but a wide spreading treasure house of Tibetan customs, history, politics and local expressions. Bell not only lived in Tibet for years and spoke the language, he did a standard basic grammar of Tibetan. He knew his subject well. This is, indeed, a book well worth acquiring.

Armand E. Singer

पद्म विराटो जयन्त First Day Cover



75x40 2003



1. Subject : Dr. Dilli Raman Regmi
2. Denomination : Rs. 5
3. Color : Two
5. Size : 30 x 40 mm
7. Quantity : One Million
9. Paper : High Quality Stamp Paper with PVA Gumming
10. Designer : Mohan N. Rana

नेपाले मान्य हुने एक राष्ट्रिय विमान
सङ्ग्रहमा समावेश
गणतन्त्र नेपाल



Initiator of National Era
National Luminary
2003



1. Subject : National Luminary Sankhadhar Sakhwaa
2. Denomination : Rs. 5
3. Color : Four
5. Size : 40 x 26.5 mm
7. Quantity : One Million
9. Paper : High Quality Stamp Paper with Tropical Gumming
10. Designer : K. K. Karmacharya

सर्वोच्च विकासको First Day Cover



10 स २०००



1. Subject : Export Year 2003
2. Denomination : Rs. 25
3. Color : Four
5. Size : 39.5 x 28 mm
7. Quantity : Half Million
9. Paper : High Quality Stamp Paper with Tropical Gumming
10. Designer : K. K. Karmacharya

गणतन्त्र नेपालको जयन्त First Day Cover



गोपालदास श्रेष्ठ / पत्रकार
Gopal Das Shrestha / Journalist
२०१० २००३



1. Subject : Gopal Das Shrestha
2. Denomination : Rs. 5
3. Color : Two
5. Size : 30 x 40 mm
7. Quantity : One Million
9. Paper : High Quality Stamp Paper with PVA Gumming
10. Designer : Mohan N. Rana

4. Sheet Composition : 50 stamps in each sheet
6. Process : Offset Lithography
8. Format : Horizontal
11. Printer : Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria

Covers courtesy of His Majesty's Government Nepal Postal Services Department