Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Officer's Corner

however seem to be on the increase with Nepal or forgeries. and in particular in the UK. I have, through my sheets of early stamps printed on native paper, their money. I believe they sold for \$40. possibly forgeries'. In addition to this there is a For the specialist collector of Nepal they are no Tibet forgeries for two or three years now.

purchased some of these and they all appear to be collectors. copies of either full or part sheets of classic made paper. The fact that they are printed on hear from you. native paper would lead me to believe that these

Forgeries have been around since stamp are being reproduced in either India or Nepal. collecting became a popular hobby and Nepal There is little point in contacting the auction and Tibet are no exceptions this problem. It does house as they are stating that they are facsimiles

Quite recently I noticed that an individual in local stamp club, the opportunity to look through Holland was selling some of these sheets on a good number of catalogues from the smaller eBay. I contacted him to ask if he was aware that auction houses and it is surprising just how often they were forgeries, his answer was no, but if any there is an auction lot describing 'Nepal - 10 buyer wished to return them he would refund

stamp dealer who has been advertising Nepal and real problem as they are easily recognisable, but as they appear to sell, once on the open market Out of curiosity more than anything else I have they will be absorbed in the albums of the novice

I am not quite sure what, if anything our issues or the local Pashupati printings, Society could do about this problem, but it might presumably scanned from a photograph and then be help if anyone had any idea where these were printed via their computer, on genuine local hand being generated from and I would be pleased to

Colin

Editor's Ramblings

With this issue we welcome Mr. Joachim Bednorz and Mr. Edmond Weisberg our newest Life Members. We also have our first member in Bhutan, Mr. Leo van der Velden. Mr. van der Velden is also a first time contributor to Postal Himal [see p.7]. And on p. 9 we welcome another first time contributor to Postal Himal Chief Thomas Weixlmann, USN (Ret.).

Part III of Auction 72 begins on p.12. The last 8 items listed (FP1-FP8) are fixed price, not bid lots. It is first come, first served for these 8 items. Part IV, in issue 138 or 139,

will be a rebundling of the unsold items from Parts I, II and III.

I hope to see many members at WESTPEX and, of course, at LONDON 2010. Although there will not be a formal NTPSC meeting at LISBON 2010, there could certainly be an informal meeting of those of us present and the same for INDIA 2011. I am hoping to be at all three. I have been to Portugal only once and I would like to return for another visit.

The Index for 2008 begins on p.15. The Cumulative Index is printed and awaiting the mailing envelopes. Hope that you enjoy it.

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 2009 24-26 April 2009 San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel LONDON 2010 08-15 May 2010 Business Design Center, London LISBON 2010 01-10 October 2010 INDIA 2011 February 2011 New Delhi

Congratulations:

Dick van der Wateren was awarded Large Gold for his exhibit "Nepal Revenues" at the National Philatelic Exhibition, Veendamphila

More Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence by Bob Gould

The 1971 International Himalayan Expedition to Mount Everest was organized in an attempt to summit Everest by two new routes with an international team. After almost three years of planning, the expedition arrived in Nepal with thirty members from thirteen nations including a BBC film crew, journalists and thirty-six tons of equipment and supplies. Team members were asked to sign 6,000 postcards that were to be sold at \$10.00 each to help in financing this \$215,000 expedition. Below is a picture of a receipt signed by leader Norman Dyrenfurth to Armand Singer for \$10.00 and dated May, 2, 1970. This attempt was well intentioned and started well, but soon dissolved into constant bickering and complaining between the members from different countries and backgrounds. In April an avalanche took the life of Harsh Bahuguna from India and the expedition really started to fall apart. Between the bad weather and some serious illness issues, members began to go home. After seven weeks on Everest, the highest point reached was about 27,500 feet and the expedition was abandoned.

There was a lot of media coverage about this failed expedition and the blame was spread around, with leader Dyrenfurth taking most of it. He may have been overly optimistic in his attempt to make this a truly international expedition. The reader can find more detailed information in the 1972 American Alpine Journal or the September 1971 issue of Mountain magazine among other sources.

\$ 10.00	May 2	1970 No. 228	
RECEIVED	DIF Armand E.S	Singer	-
I Len	100	Double	RS
with a	H	TERNATIONAL UMALAYAN	
	E	C C C	10
100	Br / Komen	- S. Oghring 1	C

Nepal - The Stamps of the 1956 Coronation by Karl-Heinz Michel

This article first appeared in the *Indien Report* No. 99, (Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien (FG Indien eV) December 2007, Mr. Christian Sperber, editor. I thank Mr. Sperber for his kind permission to reprint this article - ed.

The coronation of King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Devi and of Queen Ratna Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah was the occasion for the issuance of the first special stamp series of Nepal. For this occasion one of the country's most beautiful and most interesting modern stamp issues was created.

The issuance of the set occurred in two parts on different dates: on May 2, 1956 (Nepalese date 20 Baisakh 2013), the day of the coronation, two stamps were issued: 6 Pice (Michel 93, Scott 85) and 1 Rupee (Michel 96, Scott 88). Approximately two months later, on July 3, 1956 (20 Asadh 2013) three additional stamps of 4, 8, and 24 Pice (Michel 92, 94, 95; Scott 84,86, 87) were issued.

The 6 Pice stamp was printed in Switzerland by Courvoisier S.A. in sheets of 50. The paper which was used, the blue/red granite type was also used for Swiss stamps. 850,000 stamps were printed. In regard to the design, the printer simply noted that "the original was prepared in our graphic division on the basis of the documents which were put at our disposal".

In the upper corners of the stamp appears the following inscription in Nepali and English: "NEPAL Coronation H.M. King Mahendra 1956".



It is the graphic design with the motif of throne and insignia and the excellent quality of

the print which makes this stamp stand out, because of its beauty, above the others of the set. Three further values of the set appeared, as already noted, only on July 3, 1956 - two months after the coronation. The stamps show an incorrect inscription in Nepali, but no







additional one in English. The production of these stamps was done by the Indian State printer, India Security Press as follows:

4 Pice: 430 sheets of 320 stamps = 137,000 8 Pice: 5,470 sheets of 320 stamps = 1,750,000 24 Pice: 1,100 sheets of 120 stamps = 132,000 Most astounding is the huge number of the 8 Pice value. This value was available at the post office for decades.

The I Rupee, which looks much less imposing, is nonetheless the most interesting stamp of the set. The half-length portraits of the rulers, clothed in their coronation gowns, are seen with the mountains of the Himalayas in the background. In the foreground are pictured Nepalese houses and temples. The stamp was produced by the India Security Press in Nasik in sheets of 120. The edition consisted

of only 110 sheets of 120 stamps for a total of longer be changed because the time was too 13,2000.

The insignia in the bottom part of the stamp



reads "CORONATION MAY 1956", in Latin script and "NEPAL" in Latin and Devanagari script. The inscription in Nepali script in the picture reads however "Coronation of his Majesty King Mahendra Baisakh 2013".

The different inscription points to a process known only to a few collectors but which resulted in one of the most interesting stamps in Nepal.

When the order for the Rupee value was placed, it was for a stamp in orange color, carrying the inscription "KING'S CORONATION MAY 1956". A small edition was printed in Nasik and sent to Kathmandu. There, objections were raised to the inscription because Queen Ratna was to be crowned along with King Mahendra. That was sufficient incentive to order a new edition with the neutral inscription "Coronation May 1956".

short to do so.

In order to avoid confusion with the first edition, this second edition was produced with the changed inscription in red brown (with the designation of the print shop "Maroon"). This fact was documented in a correspondence by Mr. Sarnaik, Deputy General Manager of the India Security Press of July 1, 1972 [see page 6 - ed.1



The small size of the first printing was not totally destroyed. The only stamps which were saved were those which had been sent to Nepal as samples. At the time it was claimed that only twenty-two copies of this printing existed. Twenty of these were supposedly unused and one each of the other two on covers with First Day of Issue cancellations. Already, in November 1957, there appeared a report about the stamp in the American stamp weekly Linn's Weekly Stamp News and Haverbeck also mentions it in his Nepal handbook, although neither of them was able to present an illustration. Nothing is known about the status of the unused stamps. Supposedly they were to be found in the archive which was totally destroyed in the fire in the Singha Durbar. If an The Nepali inscription in the picture could not unused piece were to surface it would be a small sensation.

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Therefore we can only concentrate on the two pieces which are found on covers and which have fallen into the hands of collectors. They are clearly cancelled to order, which considering the circumstances prevailing in Nepal in the year 1956, is completely normal.

One piece has been in my collection since

1958. The other one was auctioned ten years ago by David Feldman. Supposedly it originated from the Nepal collection of the well-known Indian philatelist Gupta. The first edition, which was not distributed, is registered in the Michel catalog as No. I. According to my information other catalogs have not listed this stamp up to the present time.





N. P. SARNAIK,

Dy. General Manager,

तार सिकापन

सामुद्रिक

TELEGRAMS SECPRIN NASIK ROAD.

CABLEGRAMS



D.O. No.5035 /C-2-1 (Vol-2)

भारत प्रतिभृति सुद्रणालय, नासिक रोड, (मध्य रेलवे) INDIA SECURITY PRESS, NASIK ROAD. (CENTRAL RIX.)

//7/ 1972.

BY ATR MAIL

Dear Mr. Michel,

I thank you very much for sending me a selection of 24 German Stamps alongwith your letter dated 21.5.1972. As desired in your letter, I am further supplying you the information on Mepalese Stamps. I now give below the requisite parawise information as per your letter.

Para 4:- New Post Stamp for Nepal Govt. on the ocassion of the coronation of W.M. the King of Nepal.

Denomination

Re.1/-

Sat.

120 Set.

Ink: Humanawalla Maroon Marabalat

Drate of First orint :: 5.1.1958.

Quantity printed : 110 Issue sheets.

Initially proofs of Re.1/- with inscription of the words 'King's Coronation' were sent for the approval to Nepal Govt. Authorities, who had suggested some changes. These were finally carried out at the time of printing the changes were to delete the word 'KINGS' from the words 'King's Coronation' appearing at the bottom of the stemp to re-adjust the word Coronation' so as to appear it in the centre of the stemp

The editor wishes to than the American Philatelic Society's Translation Committee for translating this article from German into English.

The Monk who became a Postal Agent by Leo van der Velden

In early 1986 the monk Kudrup Dorji, 26 years old, arrived in Kamji, 25 kms north of Phuntsholing along the highway to Thimpu. He originated from a village six walking hours west of Chapcha, monkhood when he was around six years old and followed the monastic school curriculum. The task he was given was to establish a lhakhang in the hamlet of Kamji, funded by the late grand queen mother. Kamji had only a few permanent inhabitants, but housed a few dozen nomads with their cows in wintertime, when they migrate southwards from areas south and west of the town of Ha. The lhakhang was completed late in 1987.

Earlier that year his daughter, Rinchen Dema, had been born and Kudrup decided to leave monkhood and marry the mother of his daughter, a girl from the Kamji area. The now Mr. Dorji built a house on the temple grounds, and, as he was almost the only one who was educated, he became the gup, or village head, of Kamji in 1991. He would be gup for seven years, until 1998, with a salary of 800 Ngultrum per month.

Mr. Dorji often saw the mail jeep passing, bringing the mail from Phuntsholing to Thinphu and vice-versa. When he stopped the jeep to ask them to accept some letters from him, they refused, saying they were not authorized to accept any letters and referred him to the GPO in Phuntsholing. So, one day early in 1993 when he was in the capital Thimpu, he went to the GPO there to inquire into the matter. The Post and Telegraph Department (Bhutan Post since 1996) offered him the position of postal agent with a renumeration of 300 Ngultrum per month. He received one day of training, some pens and a letter box. He brought these home and travelled to Phuntsholing to introduce himself. Kamji APO, now CMO, was born.

Mr. Dorji is still looking after the CMO and also the lhakhang. He had to dismantle his house next to the lhakhang a few years ago as it was on official temple land. He moved to a small private plot next to Kamji Community

Primary School. This school was established in 1991 and has been upgraded to a Lower Secondary School (LSS) recently and it is an important recipient and source for mail and Money Orders. Mr. Dorji's present house is of a very simple wooden construction which houses his wife, four of the nine children (two more during school holidays), himself and the CMO.

Three children are already out of the house: one son is a policeman, another son is a driver, while one daughter is a housewife. The other six children (2 boys and 4 girls) are all going to school: two to boarding schools and the other 4 to Kamji LSS. Education is free for all in Bhutan until class 10, and from class 11 onward is free for those with a certain point average. One son is in a private high school paid for by The other son, at the government relatives. boarding school, receives free housing and three free meals a day for the nine months that the school is open. Those at the Kamji LSS receive two free meals per day. This, together with the free health care system in Bhutan, helps the Dorji family keep their head above water, as the income from the CMO (495 Ngultrum per month currently) and the profit of the small shop and the provision of boarding facilities to some of the Kamji school students is hardly enough for other costs like food, clothing and the monthly telephone and electricity bills.

At present Kamji CMO receives a mail bag twice weekly (Wednesday and Saturday) from Phuntsholing, and sends outgoing mail on Saturday. In 2008 outgoing mail was an average of 40 pieces per month, going down to 10 per month during the main school holidays (17 December to 14 February). Incoming mail was a little more, some 50 pieces per month, mainly newspapers, books and letters for Kamji LSS. In 1993 incoming mail was around 20 letters per month and outgoing between 15 - 30 letters, mainly for the school, as there was no email, fax or telephone at that time, and traveling by road was still a challenge.

The CMO does not accept Money Orders, but only pays out money orders (which are received with the relevant cash from Phuntsholing. MOs only started to come in, 2 - 3 per month, once the school became larger, mainly for students and occasionally some remittance for villagers

from their relatives. Kamji CMO does not sell postage or juridical stamps, but only revenue stamps. Kamji has never had its own cancellation seal as all mail is cancelled in Phuntsholing.



Mr. Dorji in front of the lhakhang he built



Mr. Dorji as a monk



Mr. Dorji with the author [notice the letter box between them - ed.]



Mr. Dorji's wife and four of their children at the side of their house

Nepal, Mount Everest & Himalayan Postal Collection by Chief Thomas W. Weixlmann, USN (Ret.)

How do we get started on the many variations and facets of stamp collecting? Many of us, in our youth, found fascination in Philately as a hobby. Some of us were influenced by older siblings or friends. Thereafter, we were guided by a general curiosity. Over many years, we evolved our philatelic interests by subject matter, themes, topics, and seeking out countries of the world that held our attention for knowledge.

My personal collections grew from childhood. Later, as a result of both military service (CPO, USN Retired), foreign travel or tourism, I presently fill a small room of bookshelves with binders and file boxes on Country Collections of those places I have either been stationed in or had a chance to see and/or visit. Then there are the "Special Ones" which have been collected with care and memories.

What led me to two journeys to Nepal? My wife's choice often influenced my foreign travel. As a young girl growing up, and being a bookworm, she had read the Lowell Thomas book: "Out of This World, Across the Himalayas To Forbidden Tibet". That book always intrigued her and she dreamed to one day visit Tibet (we did) and the Himalayas. As for Mount Everest, we both were keenly interested like many other people who have read the adventurous sagas on the conquest of Mt. Everest in book, newspapers and magazines.

In retirement, as a tourist, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to tour Nepal and trek areas of the Himalayas on two

separate occasions. First in May 2002 and again in October 2004.

"To gaze at the Himalayas: Lifts one off the ground with Joy", according to the book, "The Waiting Land". I can assure...this is so! Ever since, I have been fascinated by "Shangri-La". For me and my wife, this is no longer a mysterious domain or just a dream.

Our travel to Nepal has led my philatelic interest to form a *specialized stamp collection* for Nepal, Mount Everest, the Himalayas in general, and Mountaineering Expedition Covers, as you will read below. To those who may never have the chance, let me take you there with a Stamp Adventure as you read the following summary and foundation of my Nepal, Mount Everest and Himalayan Postal Collection.

Nepal

Nepal is a beautiful wonderland and a country The enchanting place of diverse extremes. possesses the world's highest mountains, tropical jungles, wild rivers and the deepest valleys. Nepal is blessed with a cultural heritage of magnificent ancient temples and shrines, pagodas and palaces of historic and scenic beauty. Nepal is the world's only declared Hindu country with a fusion of Buddhism. Besides the multitude of ethnic people and ancient cultural heritage, the towering peaks of the Himalayas The Roof of the World are overwhelming. A map of Nepal is depicted below, and along side it, our first stamp reference, Scott No. 82.





Postal services for the general public were established in 1878. Publication of regular postage stamps began with the release of stamps depicting the Crown and Kukris in 1881. Since then, different types of definitive and commerative stamps and souvenir sheets have been released. By 2005, their total exceeded 825.

Nepal's stamps reflect images from the exotic range of incredible temples and pagodas, glorious high snow peaks, flora and fauna, topography and dedicated and distinguished personalities from different ethnic groups. Due to their richness in content, attractiveness and variety in theme, these stamps are very collectable and should satisfy any philatelists.

Nepal's capitol, Kathmandu, is depicted on



Scott No. 56. The estimated population of Nepal as of 2000 was 24,702,220. The main language is Nepali (with many spoken dialects) and the breakdown of religious groups is 90% Hindu, 5%

Buddhist, 3% Muslim and 2% Other. The currency is the Rupee with 1 Nepalese Rupee (NR) = 100 Paisa [1 US\$ = 77 NR end of Jan 2009 -ed].

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated ten natural and cultural sites in Nepal. Seven of the cultural sites are located within a 20 kilometer distance within the Kathmandu Valley. Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha is the only cultural site located outside the Kathmandu Valley. The two natural heritage sites are Mount Everest and the Royal Chitwan National Park. All of the sites have been pictured on Nepal's stamps.

The seven sites located within the Kathmandu Valley are Kathmandu Durbar Square, also known as Hanuman Dhoka (Scott No. 87),



Patan Durbar Square (Scott No. 241),





Bhaktapur Durbar Square (Nyatapola Temple) (Scott No. 205)

Changu Narayan Temple (Scott No. 609)





Swayambhunath Stupa (Scott No. 303)

Pashupatinath Temple (Scott No. 52)





Bodhnath Stupa (Scott No. 242)



Lumbini (Scott No. 270) is located near the Nepal - India border and has been developed as a Buddhist

Pilgrimage Center, where the archaeological

Buddha form a central feature.



Sagarmatha National Park (Scott No. 432) and

Chitwan Royal National Park (Scott No. 488) are the two Natural World Heritage Sites.



Mount Everest

Lying among the world's majestic Himalayan peaks, Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world and nature's greatest gift to Nepal. The King of the Mountains was first explored by the

remains associated with the birth of the Lord then Surveyor General, Sir George Everest in 1841. In 1865, it was named Mount Everest in recognition of George Everest's exploration.

> The first organized attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Everest was made in 1922. "Because it was there" was the classic answer of British mountaineer George Mallory, who disappeared into the clouds near the top during his fatal attempt from Tibet in 1924.

Twenty-nine years later, Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa of Nepal, and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand, set the world record for the first time by climbing Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953.

Nepal commemorated the Golden Anniversary their ascent issuing Scott No. 728



[This article will be continued in *Postal Himal* 138 - ed.]

Questions and Answers

Paul Hager sent the accompanying photo of a part of a block of Scott #39, 1935 4 Pice Green of the Pashupati series. At the upper left is a small inscription "4 Pi / 2". He can find no reference to such an inscription in Colin Hepper's Pashupati Issues of Nepal. The print style is like that used by Perkins Bacon in the inscriptions used on the margins of some of the 1925 printings of the 1907 issue. He [and the editor] would like to hear from anyone else who has seen one of these marginal inscriptions on any of the 1930 or 1935 issues. The block is cancelled with a Telephone Sub-office Type II cancel.



Paul can be reached by email at bereahagar@roadrunner.com

Auction #72 Part III -- Closing Date 21 May 2009

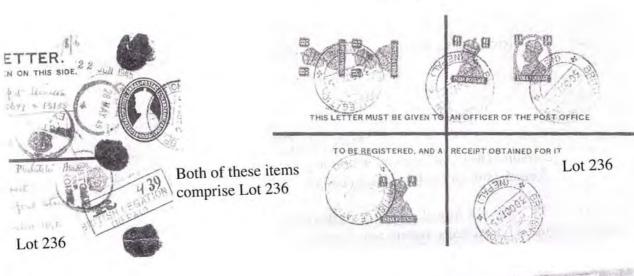
SG = IL = RL = ptf =	= Official Stampless Cover Stanley Gibbons Indian Legation Registration Label part telegraph form	pmk(s) = Postmark(s) pts = points BL = British Legation Pash = Pashupati stamp doc = document A Catalogue of Nepalese Post	Ktm = Kathmandu IE = Indian Embassy XPO = Exchange P.O. Reg = Registered cover	
Lot		Description		£s
	Br	itish/Indian Post Office	e	
224	1954 Reg, pmk IE, Type 16 R			8
		nt Card, Type B118 hand stamp		8
226	1955 Reg, pmk IE, Type 16 R	L, torn at top		5
	1953 letter to India, pmk IE			5
228	1956 Reg, faint IE pmk. Type	e 13a RL		5
229	1954 Reg, pmk IE, Type 13a	RL		5
230	경영생은 그 전문 경에 맞는 이 유럽 그 동안 그 아이들은 그 그 사람들은 살아서는 사람들이 되었다.	nvelope with added stamps. Sen led with Royal Camp pmk (B78 rated.		30
231	Letter sent to England with In Airmail label. Earliest record	dian stamps, pmk Nepal (B16) of ed use of this label.	lated 21 June 1933. Type 1	20
232	Letter from India to Nepal. N	epal receiving pmk (B35), dated	1 17 May 08	10
233	by Mohun Shumsher, who lat	over from Nepal to Bundi State (er became Prime Minister. Inclu k, not affecting stamps or pmk.	ides original 2 page letter.	15
234	Reg opened for exhibition with Sent internally in Nepal.	h Indian stamps. Pmk BL (B81) 27 June 1945. Type 8 RL.	10
235	1957 Reg Nepal to USA. Ind	ian stamps. Pmk IE (B96). Typ	e 13 RL.	7
236	Smythies to England in Octob	nvelope with additional Indian store 1945. Pmk BL (B81), Type attionery Reg envelope sent to Endstamps.	7 RL, Type 3 Airmail label	15
237	Reg Nepal to USA, pmk IE (l handstamp, Type 5 Airmail la	396) dated Sept 1957. Type 13 label.	RL, GPO Type I	10
238	# (D.) [17] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18	e V & George VI stamps with N Victoria 5R overprinted Service		15
239	39 5 pieces with Indian stamps, all pmk B16			
240	3 pieces with Indian stamps,	all pmk B17		5
241	6 pieces with Indian stamps v stamps. One piece pmk B96	vith B81 pmk. One piece has bo	th George V 1R & 5R	10

Lot	Description	£s
	<u>Tibet</u>	
300	1933 letter with Indian 1.3 Anna stamp. Pmk Pharijong. Nepal (B29) receiving. Blurred KTM oval.	20
301	1936 letter with Indian 1.6 Anna stamps. Pmk Pharijong. Nepal (B29) receiving. Stained one corner.	20
302	1944 letter with 1.5 Anna Indian stamps. Pmk Gyantse. Ktm Exchange Nepal Type III receiving.	10
303	1943 letter with 1.9 Anna Indian stamps. Pmk Gyantse, Ktm Exchange Nepal Type III receiving. Cover rather grubby.	10
304	1940 letter, 1 Anna Indian stamp, Pmk Pharijong, KTM Exchange Type III.	10
	<u>Forgeries</u>	
350	Genuine 1881 OSC with added forged pmk of Ktm and an unknown forged pmk, possibly meant to be Parasi. Very clean cover.	10
351	OSC with forged negative 'Pashupati Seal'. This seal is normally found tying classic stamps to covers.	5
	Literature	
400	Nepal Postal History, Wolfgang Hellrigl, 1991, 9 X 11½, hard bound, dust jacket. An indispensable reference book for the British/Indian offices in Nepal.	35
EDI	Fixed Price Sale - sold on a 'First come, First served' basis	10
FP1		10
FP2 FP3	100 Official covers with official stamps 100 ordinary rate covers either going to India or internally used in Nepal, using 1949-	20
113	1969 stamps	20
FP4	10 internally Reg (1959/60) all with RLs	15
FP5	10 Reg all with wax seals and locally printed Pash	20
FP6	10 Reg with wax seals using mixed Pash local and 1959-1060 issue stamps	20
FP7	10 Reg with wax seals using 1949-1959 issued stamps	15
FP8	12 ordinary rate covers using local Pash either on internal mail or mail to India	6



Lot 233







Lot 238



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