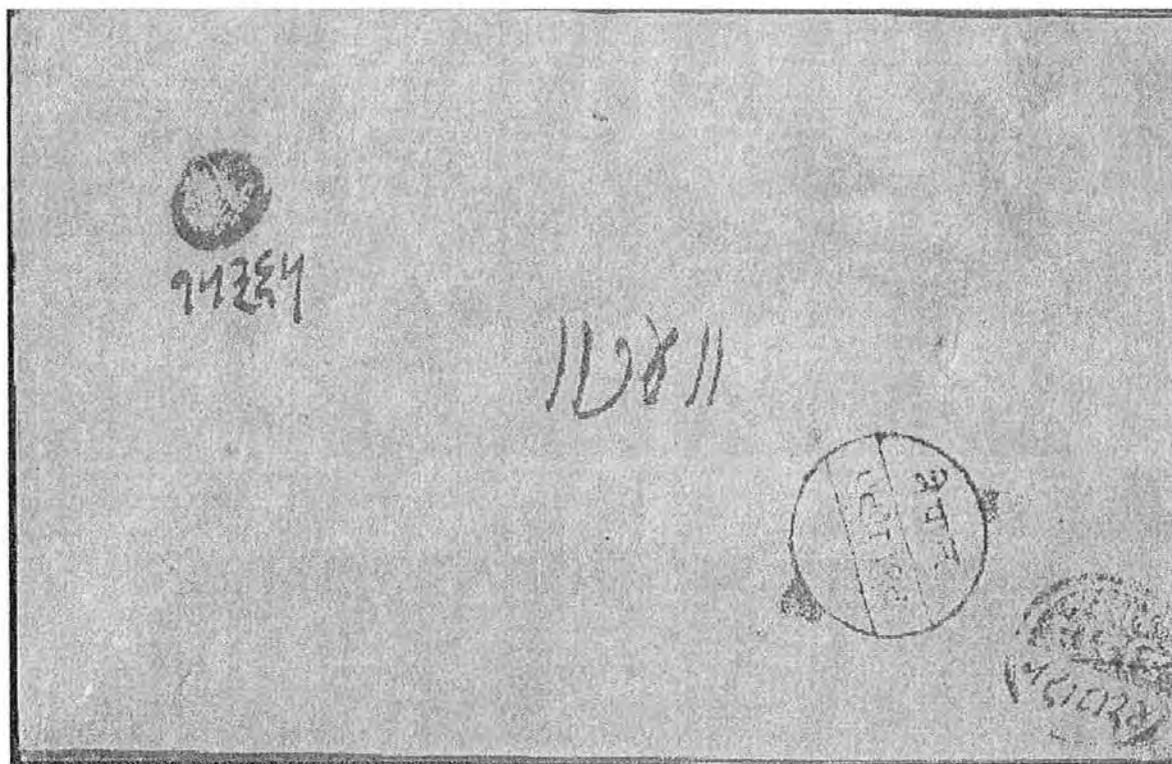


Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Officer's Corner

The Wind of Change

The postal history of Nepal has always been one of the main interests I have and so for many years now I have collected this type of material from all periods. Over the last ten years I have been concentrating on the more modern covers, which in many respects have the same problems as the early years in that it is not easy to get clear readable postmarks. In fact I often think that it is more difficult as many of them are smaller than their earlier counterparts. A survey of covers by one of my Nepalese friends estimates that less than 2% of all modern covers have what you might call 'exhibition class' postmarks.

Recently I received a packet of modern covers from Nepal and was surprised to find that the postmarks were sharp and clear. On closer inspection I found that they were all 'European' type postmarks and all in English. In 1992 the German government started a development programme with the postal authorities in Nepal to improve the postal services and to this end, new postmarks began to appear at the Kathmandu Post Office. This

now seem to have been extended to post offices outside of Kathmandu.

So, as a lover of postal history, I suddenly found the challenge had gone, postmarks are now sharp and clear, they are all in English so there are no more translation problems and they look like any other postmark from a European country. What a disappointment.

Three of the covers all posted at Sanischare P.O. also had a large triangular self adhesive sticker with the message in Nepali 'Save and be saved from HIV/AIDS'. I hope that this is not another trend to modernization for postal slogans. Sadly it would seem that my postal history collection will stop after 2003.

(Please see page 4, for an illustration of a cover with the slogan Colin referenced above - editor).

(Please note on the inside front cover that Colin's postal code has changed from 03180, Torrevieja to 03184, Torrevieja - editor)

Colin Hepper

Editor's Ramblings

We welcome a new author to *Postal Himal* this month - Mr. Saroj Man Mulmi. His article begins on page 2. Hopefully he will continue to produce articles for both *Philately* and *Postal Himal*. We always need articles and its especially nice to receive them from new authors. If a subscription renewal form is enclosed with your copy of PH, please respond with payment by 31 January 2005 to avoid being dropped for non payment of dues. Unfortunately, we have another short issue - the second in a row - but not as short as the last issue. Hopefully the New Year will bring with it an increase in the number of articles sent to me. Mr. Mulmi is a first time author with *PH*. Why don't YOU become an author also?

CONGRATULATIONS to our members who won awards at **Singapore** in August 2004:
Kin Chi Wong won a large vermeil for 'China: Development of Postal Services in Tibet'.
Deepak Manandhar won a small vermeil for 'Postal Stationery of Nepal'.
Shrist Nhuchhe Pradham won a silver for 'Nepal Postal Stationery'.

and at **Apeldoorn, Netherlands**

Dick van der Wateren won gold and best collection of show for 'Classic Nepal, 1879-1907' His 'Nepal Revenues' was in the Promotion Class and therefore not judged.

Peter Planken won a large silver for 'Stamps of the Gorkha Patra Press'.

Unofficial Stampless Cover Saroj Man Mulmi

King Prithvi Narayan Shah developed the network for the native postal system, namely a paper post to consolidate the national unification program. The development of this network, thus created, was confined to carry government letters and messages. So, though there had been the development of a postal network, the network acted as a means of mass communication for the government, without being accessible to the general public. This situation came to an end in B.S. 1935 (A.D. 1878) when the Nepal Post Office (Nepal Hulak Ghar) was established and the general public had access to it. Since postage stamps had not yet been issued, the general public had to prepay the postage to take advantage of the new network. It became simpler after postage stamps were issued in April 1881. This article tries to draw a picture of special arrangements made in the postal system for special people and personalities.

Some people have always been taking advantage of their privileged position. They have also been exempted from different duties, taxes and liabilities. At this point I would like to cite an example of a 'Sanad', a government notice about an arrangement between Prime Minister Ranauddip Singh and Commander in Chief General Jagat Sumsher Jung Rana dated B.S. 1935 Magh Sudi 11 Roj 1 (February 1879). According to the postal rate arrangements made in that 'Sanad', letters belonging to the King, the Prime Minister and the Commander in Chief were exempted from inland postage duty. It also stated that other government officials' letters should not pass without the proper postage. However, it remained silent on the letters of the Queen and the spouses of the Prime Minister and Commander in Chief.

The cover that I present here is by a Prime Minister's wife dated B.S. 1959.8.19 (December 1902). It was written from Kathmandu to a

Subba Parmananda Dhital in Palpa (arrival date B.S.1959.8.24). The cover does not carry any postage stamps nor does it bear any inscription about postage due or postage paid. It also does not bear any inscription declaring it an official letter (Kajsarkari). The postal registration number 15365 is clearly seen on the reverse of the cover. It is sufficient to surmise that although not mentioned in the 'Sanad', the Queen and the spouses of the Prime Minister and the Commander in Chief are also exempted from postage duty.

N.B. The Prime Minister of the period was Chandra Sumsher. Lok Rajya Laxmi Devi was his wife.

This article was originally published in *Philately*, Journal of the Nepal Philatelic Society, Volume XXIX under the title 'Hulak Mahashul Mukti Sambandhi Byabastha'.

श्री ३ वडमाहागानि
स्वस्ति श्री सुधा. परमानंद धीतलिके
वाट
पाल्या

११३६५
॥०४॥
१०/१२/०४
१०/१२/०४



The following was received from our President Armand E. Singer

As you may already know, NAPEX is one of the prestigious APS World Series of Philately shows. Held annually, usually the first weekend of June, in McLean, Virginia, the area, while at the center of a significant collector population, is also close to our nation's capital and an ideal setting for family tourism. NAPEX '05 will take place June 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Each year several leading philatelic societies choose NAPEX for their annual convention or regional meeting. NAPEX accommodates convening societies by publicizing each society convention, reserving exhibition frames, providing accredited judges in their area of specialization and inviting participation by dealers with appropriate specialized stock. For both conventions and meetings, NAPEX makes rooms and society tables available and coordinates various social functions. Additionally, lectures prepared by specialty organizations are both welcomed and encouraged.

We hope that you will consider NAPEX as a site of your future convention or meeting. Although the Washington 2006 World Philatelic

Exhibition pre-empts our 2006 show, we are currently accepting society space reservations at our shows in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The Confederate Stamp Alliance, Mobile Post Office Society, Society of Indo-China Philatelists and the Ottoman and New East Philatelic Society are scheduled for NAPEX '05. Already in our plans is the Convention of the Scandinavian Collectors Club (2007) the American Revenue Association (2008) and the Postal Stationery Society (2009). Tables, meeting and lecture rooms can still be accommodated for all years 2005 through 2010. For more information please contact Henry Hahn - telephone 703-560-2972, fax 413-581-1976, email hhahn25@ntmail.net

Editors note: Our Society normally holds its annual meeting at WESTPEX. I suspect that the annual meeting for 2006 will be at Washington and the one for 2010 at London. If any member would like to host a table or preside over a meeting of our Society at NAPEX, please contact Armand E. Singer and Henry Hahn.

Nepal Revenues - Additional Notes

Dick van der Wateren

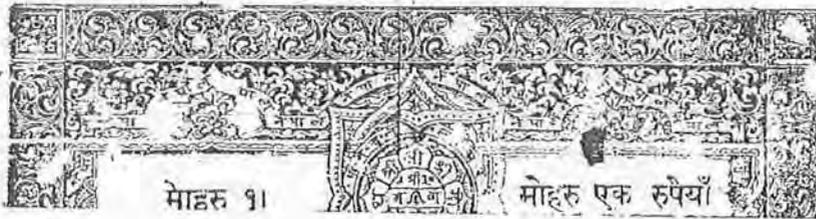
On page 52 of my book 'Nepal Revenues' are shown two Documentary stamps with different notations in the right hand panel.

The upper one with the text *Moharu Ek Rupaiya* was printed on a *Lifa* paper, whereas the paper of the lower one with the text *Ek Rupaiya* could not be determined due to the absence of the heading.

Help came a few weeks ago when I obtained some Documentary stamps, all with the heading *Kotphi Arthat Nalisdasturko*. One of these stamps in the denomination of Re. q was of the same nature as the lower one illustrated on page 52.

It may thus be accepted that the illustrated Re. 1 stamp must have been printed on a *Kotphi* paper and consequently there are two different *Kotphi* printings as shown below.

कोटफी अर्थात् नालिस दस्तुरको लिफा नम्बर १११०
मिसिल नम्बर ४०



कोटफी अर्थात् नालिसदस्तुरको लिफा नम्बर ११) ३५
मिसिल नम्बर १९



Both printings also feature another difference which is brought to the readers attention on page 76; the spelling of the word *nambar* at the end of both lines of the heading.

The one above reads

नम्बर

(the *m* and the *b* written as one character) whereas the lower one reads

नंबर

Unfortunately I omitted the dot over the first character in my book. This dot over the *n* indicates the same pronunciation *nam* making the *m* necessary. I found the first spelling on the Re. 0.25, 0.50 and 1.00 papers.

The third difference is to found in both left denomination panels. The vowel sign on *moharu* is printed mistakenly on the wrong place on the upper stamp and is correctly placed on the lower stamp.



Technical Detail

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Subject | : Mountain Series a) Mt Cho Oyu b) Mt Everest c) Mt Kanchanjunga main d) Mt Lhotse e) Mt Makalu I f) Mt Dhaulagiri I g) Mt Manasalu h) Mt Annapurna I |
| 2. Denomination | : Rs. 10.00 each |
| 3. Colour | : Four color and one gold color additional on the border of the stamps |
| 4. Sheet Composition | : 32 stamps (8 different mountains in a sheet) |
| 5. Size | : 40 x 30 mm |
| 6. Process | : Offset Lithography |
| 7. Quantity | : 125,000 |
| 8. Format | : Horizontal |
| 9. Paper | : High Quality Stamp Paper |
| 10. Designer | : K. K. Karmacharya |
| 11. Printer | : Austrian Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria |

Covers courtesy of HMG/N Postal Services Department, Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu



400 Years of Guru Granth Sahib

The Nepal Postal Service Department has given a special postmark on the request of Guru Nanak Sat Sang, Kupondole, Nepal on the auspicious occasion of 400 years of 'Guru Granth Sahib'. Nanak monastery (Nanak Math) and other monasteries are very important religiously and historically because the 5th Guru Arjan Dev wrote the Holy Book 'Guru Granth Sahib' (Sikh Holy Book) based on the teachings of ten spiritual Gurus and Devotees who were available in various monasteries.

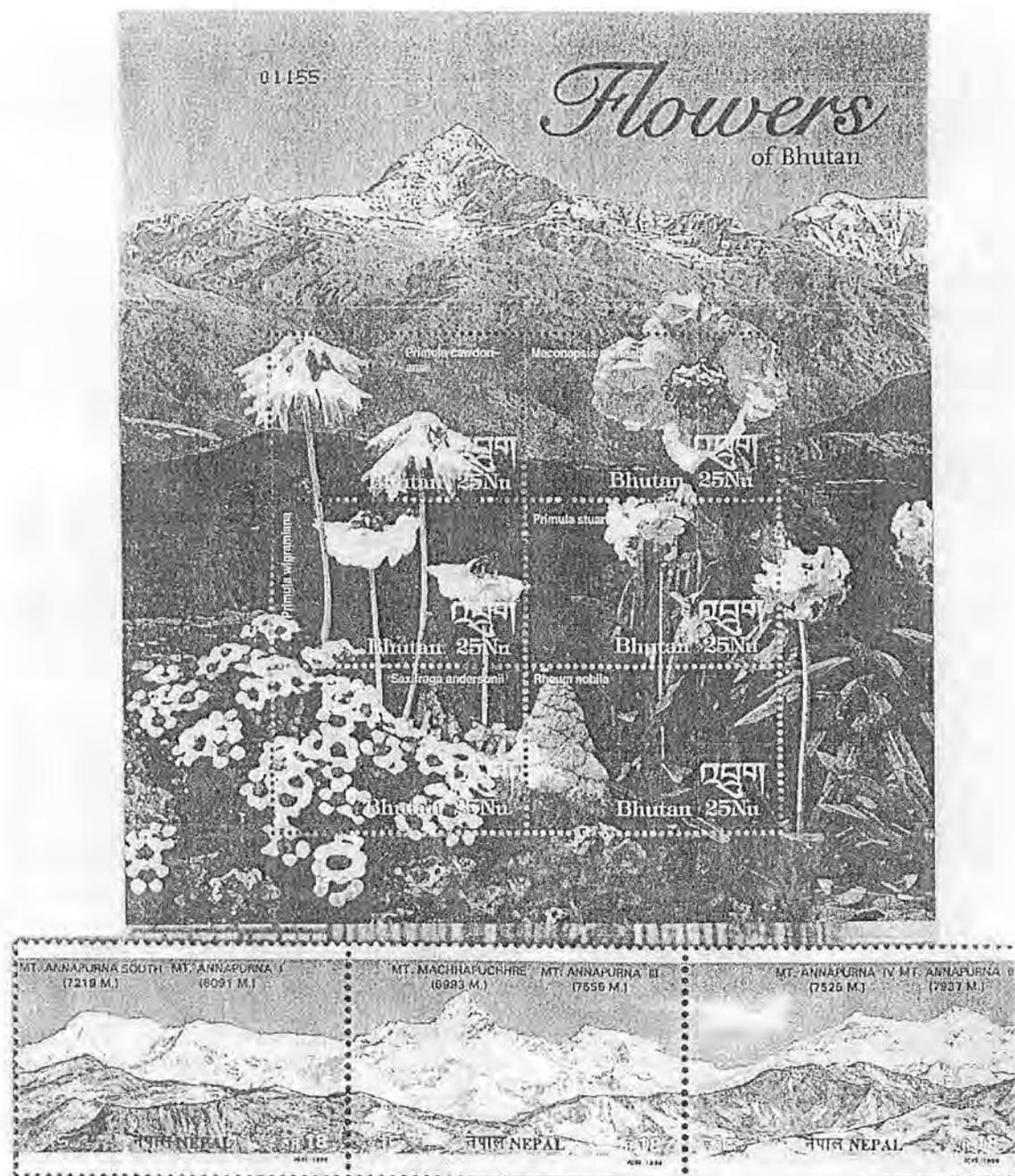
There are many religious monasteries both in and out of the valley: (1) Nanak monastery - Balaju; (2) Bhasmeshwor monastery - Pashupati; (3) Raj Rajeswor monastery - Pashupati; (4) Bishnu Paduka Nanak monastery - Gyneswor; (5) Udasi monastery - Kalmochan Ghat, Thapathali; (6) Shoba Bhagwati monastery - Shoba Bhagwati; (7) Kalimati monastery - Kalimati; (8) Ram Dhuni monastery - Biratnagar; (9) Bhedia monastery (largest monastery of Nepal) - Koshi Zone; (10) Nanak monastery - Dharma Nagar, Kaliya.

Guru Nanak Dev came to Nepal (the only Hindu country in the world, the land of God and Goddess Lord Pashupati Nath, Lord Buddha, Goddess Parvati and King Janak), along with his disciples, Bala and Mardana during 1517 - 1518 B.S. (1574 - 1575 A.D.). He stayed on the banks of the Bishnumati River at a place called Mhaipe.

This place is religiously famous as Nanak Matha Balaju, Kathmandu. He gave religious teachings and discourses in different places. From here he went to Tibet.

Hardayal Singh

Cover courtesy of Surendra Lal Shrestha, Kathmandu



Mr. Shrestha notes that the Flowers of Bhutan sheet shows the Nepali mountains Machhapuchhre and Annapurna (see middle stamp of strip of three Nepal stamps) as the background for the flowers. He wonders if anyone has asked the Government of Bhutan why this was done? Does anyone know the answer?

Mr. Shrestha has sent the following Letter to the Editor. He indicates that it appeared in the March 1974 issue of Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

78 YEARS IN STAMPS

'Dear Sir,

In your December number (p.124) you had a short note on a member of Gibbons's staff under the heading 'Sixty years in Stamps'. This suggested to me that you might be interested in a still longer period in stamps, so I give a brief summary of my own philatelic career.

I was born in India in 1885 and came to England for my education in 1893. Two years later my stamp career started rather accidentally. I entered a competition - I don't remember what about now - in which I obtained third prize (there were three entries). The prize consisted of a large exercise book (cost: 3d.), a bottle of gum and a brush (1d.), and a small packet of stamps (2d.) - total 6 pence. On this humble beginning is based a life-long love of stamps.

One year later, in 1896, the headmaster of my prep school, himself a keen philatelist, seeing my exercise book and pot of gum, presented me with my first Gibbons album, a Gibbons packet of hinges, and a Gibbons packet of stamps. From that date to the present day I can claim to be a regular customer of Gibbons - a period of 77 years! I believe I can claim to be a regular Gibbons customer before any of the present Directors of Gibbons, and possibly before any of the present staff, were born.

My prep headmaster also introduced me to stamp auctions at an early date. An uncle had left me the proud possessor of a gold sovereign - fabulous wealth in those early days - and my headmaster helped me to obtain an auction lot of 7 or 8 Cape triangulars, stuck down to album pages with gum of course. With infinite care I

soaked them off, put them on a sheet of paper, and took them to the kitchen. The cook kindly offered to look after them. When I went down an hour later to see if they were dry, I found she had put the lot into a hot oven, and forgotten about them. On taking them out, we found they were the colour of roast mutton and completely ruined!

Years later, in 1932, Gibbons printed, very beautifully, my book on India 4 annas lithographs (1954-55), which received the highest award for a philatelic publication, i.e. the Crawford medal of the Royal Philatelic Society, and which became the basis of the Gibbons catalogue for these stamps, with the illustrations of head and frame reproduced direct from my book.

Since then I can proudly claim to have helped the Editor of Gibbons catalogue on several occasions, e.g. in the preparation of the description of the stamp issues of Nepal, the Jap occupation of Burma, and the registered letter stamps of Canada.

I am still an active customer and correspondent of the Gibbons organization; as I write I am awaiting information if my bid for an auction lot at Gibbons latest auction has been successful or not. This auction lot is intended for a grandson who is strongly infected with the philatelic virus, so that although my personal contact with Gibbons must end fairly soon, the family name and contact will (I hope) continue to complete the century.

E. A. Smythies,
Tralee, Ireland'

m