

Preface

The Nepal classic design postage stamps of 1881 to 1930 have been the subject of several articles, publications and excellent books over the last forty years. The definitive study on the subject, "The Classic Stamps of Nepal," by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Frank Vignola, Jr. (the father of my coauthor Dr. Frank Vignola), has stood the test of time with only a few discoveries having been made since its publication in 1984. However, there has been a dearth of accurate basic stamp and market information readily available to the philatelic community. The present catalog, and the companion website, will provide the descriptive material and requisite images that should allow a careful user to confidently be able to correctly identify early Nepal stamps. It will also provide the information needed to differentiate between the postal stamp issues and the telegraph service stamp issues which have the same designs. A valuation guide for both stamps and stamps on cover which is based on recent auction and market sales is also included.

My personal interest in Nepal stamps and postal history is rather recent but quite diligent and rigorous. I purchased a large "stock" of Nepal stamps and covers from a client who had acquired it from the late Geoffrey Flack, a noted expert and dealer in Tibet and Nepal philatelic material. The purchase included a portion of the Dr. Armand E. Singer collection including many important classic design stamps that were illustrated in his "Nepal 1772-1961 and Beyond" book published by George Alevizos. The purchase also included some scarcer items from the Gupta collection.

Armed with the knowledge that the Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl's collection of Nepal was slated to be sold at public auction, I realized that the timing was perfect for assembling a comprehensive study collection of the classic design stamps and the stamps on cover. When the Corinthila June 2016 auction of the Hellrigl collection took place, I was able to add a large number of significant items.

In trying to assimilate and organize this material, it became apparent that there was a general lack of accurate stamp identification and market information available. Most of the standard stamp catalogs did not adequately differentiate the postal from the telegraph uses and most were lacking in any kind of accurate organizational logic. The best literature on the classic design stamps apparently prove to be too detailed to be readily adapted to the stamp catalog and album publishers' needs. It is hoped that this work will provide an accessible, accurate and useful guide to those seeking to properly identify their stamps, value their stamps and stamps on cover, and to learn more about the additional resources available to further their study of Nepal philately.

I would like to thank my co-author, Dr. Frank Vignola, for his enormous contributions to this work in all of its details. In addition, I would like to specifically thank two collectors, Leo Martyn and Johannes Bornmann, who have tried to answer my innumerable questions and requests for opinions.

For anybody wishing to study other areas of Nepal Philately, or the classic designs in more detail, I highly recommend membership in the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle.

Finally, if you would like to contribute images to the website, or share your collection publically on my website, please contact me.

Richard Frajola, December 2018