

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET

PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



NEPAL IS HOT!



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EDITORIAL

Leo Martyn

For those who are attending Napex in Arlington (see Postal Himal No. 75/76) and wish to partake of an Indian feast (most likely a buffet-style set-up) on Friday, June 24, sign up at the Indian Study Circle table (we may even be sharing the table with them). I estimate that some 15 Nepal and Tibet Study Circle members will be there, including two from The Netherlands and one from England. We will have two meetings (Friday and Sunday) plus other unscheduled activities (no fisticuffs, please).

o o o o o

The Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs held their 54th Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition - Pipex '94, May 27-29, in Eugene, Oregon. "Nepal - The Rectangular Design Sri Pashupati Issues, 1907-1940" was exhibited by Dr. Frank Edward Vignola of Eugene, Oregon. The exhibit was awarded a Gold and the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellency, 1900-1940 Period.

o o o o o

Correction: Geoffrey Flack's presentation at Westpex (April - San Francisco) was titled "Tibet: New Discoveries" (reported incorrectly in Postal Himal No. 77). Study Circle member Alfonso Zulueta Jr., an exhibitor of Nepalese material, presented his new exhibit at Westpex. Titled "Afghanistan: The Reign of Amir Habibullah Khan", it received a Vermeil and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Award of Honor.

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Bill Janson sent in an article stating that forty thousand copies of Nepal Sc #103 (1959 First General Election) realized \$935 in a recent Greg Manning auction.

o o o o o .

Dick van der Wateren is preparing a new edition of Nepal Catalogue of the Postal Stationery, 1887-1992. Please send any suggestions and/or corrections you have to him at: Ysbaanweg 8, NL-8391 HZ Noordwolde, Netherlands.

o o o o o

"Bhutan: Mystical Himalayan Kingdom" is the title of an article which appeared in Stamps of April 30, 1994. Although we don't have an article on Bhutan in this issue there will be an extensive one in the next issue and hopefully each issue thereafter.

o o o o o

In the "World of New Issues" column in Linn's Stamp News of May 2, mention is made of two stamps from Nepal honoring climbers of Mount Everest. Bishnu Lal Shrestha, who supplies Linn's with new issue information, reports that one of the stamps, a 10 Rupee value honoring the first woman to climb Everest, was sent back to the printers because of an error. Other new issues were also mentioned. In the near future I hope to report new issues from Bhutan and Nepal as they are released.

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In the March, 1994 issue of The China Clipper Henry Nyi, in an article titled "The Retouched 'Yi' varieties, discusses the Tibet/China one dollar retouched stamp.

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Under the heading, "For The Record", in the India Post of April/June, 1994, Keith Lloyd illustrates and describes a 1903 postage due cover from India, addressed to Naples, which was mistakenly sent to Nepal (backstamped) and re-routed to Italy.

o o o o o

MARDEN THE POET'S RUIN: OR, YOU CAN'T SERVE TWO MASTERS

I've garnered the stamps of Nepal
Until I've collected them all:
Clear cancels in boxes,
Sheets, singles, and blockses -
My hobby has held me in thrall.

The moral? O never forget!
Avoid sinking deeper in debt;
It's not boozing or sin
That's at last done me in -
It's blowing big bucks on Tibet.

#5189/5190
Ward Marden

This double limerick #5189/5190, by Ward Marden was really composed by Armand Singer. Using Ward Marden as his nom de plume, he has written more than 5100 (probably over 5200 by now) limericks. I think a collection of 1000 of his favorite ones is to be published soon and I hope some of his more spicy creations are included. He recently had published The Don Juan Theme: An Annotated Bibliography of Versions, Analogues, Uses, and Adaptions. This work, whose final version runs some 417 pages, took Armand some 42 years to complete!

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS: Areas of interest: [B]=Bhutan, [N]=Nepal, [T]=Tibet

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Our First Twenty Years

by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

In 1974, a group of keen collectors decided to form a Study Circle, "with a view to bring Nepal collectors throughout the world closer together, to exchange ideas, to share knowledge and to encourage and co-ordinate individual research." I had put forward the original proposal for a "Nepal Study Circle" and the first philatelists to join in were Purnendu Gupta and Colin Hepper. Since the "founder members" had never met each other, we exchanged our views by corresponding between Australia (where I lived at the time), England and India.

In those days, Nepal collectors were few and far between and it was by no means easy to locate further kindred spirits. I recall some of the early members joining our ranks: Roger Skinner, George Alevizos, Frank Vignola, Derek Pocock, Armand Singer, C. Tulsiyan and so on. All of them are still active members today, after 20 years. Very few, like Andrew Gilliam and Josef Braun, later lost interest in philately. Other men of the first hour, like Ove Tresschow-Kühl, have died. As time passed on, more and more collectors joined and by the autumn of 1976, the Circle counted some fifty members.

Initially, the Circle was run on a purely informal basis. There were no rules, no application forms, no membership fees, no funds. All that was required was a good portion of enthusiasm and we all had plenty of that. I was the "Co-ordinator" of the Circle and Colin Hepper was its Secretary, a position he still holds today. Soon Colin, ever as active then as he is now, came up with the idea of a news bulletin, the *Nepal Study Circle Newsletter*. Under Colin's editorship, the first number was published in November, 1976, the initial subscription being £1 for six issues per year.

In those early days of the Circle's history, the only publication dealing with Nepal consisted in H.D.S. Haverbeck's book of 1962. One of the foremost aims was, therefore, to carry out research and have it published, for the benefit of our members. A first big step was made when Colin and I completed the manuscript for the handbook on an entirely new postal history subject: with the financial assistance of Pierre Couvreur, *The Native Postmarks of Nepal* was published in 1978 and thus started the Study Circle's series of very successful publications.

At about that time we decided to give our Circle a more formal frame. We felt that the growing membership required that a President be appointed and so the first formal Presidency was offered to Pierre Couvreur. Now Pierre is a man of action and one of his immediate suggestions was to attract Tibet collectors and, consequently, to include Tibet in the Circle's name. I remember that there were some heated discussions about this plan and it was decided to put it to a vote by the members. The great majority was in favour and so the name was first changed to "Nepal Philatelic Study Circle (including Tibet)" and then to the present name, "Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle." In hindsight, it was probably the inclusion of Tibet collectors that gave the Study

Circle the decisive boost. In fact, by the end of 1978, it had progressed to 115 members.

Auctions were another important innovation. The Study Circle's first auction was held in December, 1977. It ran to 10 lots with a total estimate of £43. This initiative proved so successful that a further 60 auctions were to be held over the next 16 years. Throughout this whole period, Colin Hepper has been the Circle's auctioneer. Another new feature was the establishment, in July, 1977, of a library that specialised in philatelic books and articles on Nepal and Tibet. Pierre Couvreur ran the library from his home in the South of France.

In 1979, commencing with *Newsletter* No. 17, Colin Hepper laid the editorship of the journal in the capable hands of Lester Michel and Thomas Matthiesen became responsible for its printing and mailing. Lester remained editor for over a decade. In the spring of 1981, the name of our journal was changed to *Postal Himal*, its presentation and layout were improved and its contents greatly expanded. In short, it became a fully fledged quarterly. Subscriptions now amounted to £3 for one year.

In 1982, the Circle became an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. A year later, it became an affiliate of the British Philatelic Federation. In this context I should also mention the excellent relations that have always linked our Circle to the India Study Circle for Philately, to the Nepal Philatelic Society and to the Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien.

If *The Native Postmarks of Nepal* had secured us a place on the international scene (it was successfully exhibited, gaining many awards, including the Albert Harris Literature Trophy, the Martin Memorial Trophy and a gold medal at INDIA '80), *The Classic Stamps of Nepal*, written by Frank Vignola and myself and published in 1984, became even more successful. It gained a record 11 gold medals at World Exhibitions and won the acclaim of Nepal collectors. Another important book published by the Study Circle was Colin Hepper's *The Pashupati Issues of Nepal*. Although all of these publications were actually privately financed, we have always considered them as Study Circle publications, because so many members had actively contributed much of the information contained therein.

Life membership was introduced in 1984: first takers were Surendra Lal Shrestha and Dick van der Wateren. Incidentally, the fee then stood at £120, before rising production and mailing costs pushed it up to the present level of £250. Honorarary life memberships were awarded to Colin Hepper and Jit Bahadur Manandhar.

In 1989, Pierre Couvreur resigned as President and I was asked to fill this position. The year 1990 saw an important innovation. The Circle, which had previously functioned without any formal rules, was deemed mature and large enough to require official "statutes." These were drawn up and ratified at the meeting that took place during the World Exhibition in London.

Postal Himal No. 61, of the 1st quarter 1990, was the first issue produced by the present editor, Leo Martyn. The various volumes of this journal contain many outstanding articles on both Nepal and

FORGERY NOTES - TIBET

George Bourke

This is the first of a series of short articles that will appear sporadically, wherein I will record new discoveries among the classic forgeries.¹

The first of these is the discovery, among the material from the Henry Garrett-Adams collection,² of a mint pair of the 1 trangka value from the 7th set of 1912 forgeries. This pair is, to my knowledge, only the second multiple reported from this set.³

Over the years I have acquired or been apprised of a number of previously unrecorded "errors" of color belonging to the early 1912 forgery sets. These include:

Set 1: 1/3 trangka in slate gray.⁴ Three examples seen.

Set 2: 1/3 trangka in gray black. Three examples seen.

Set 2: 1/3 trangka in gray. One example seen.

Set 2: 1/3 trangka in light gray. One example seen.

Set 2: 1/2 trangka in dull rose. One example seen.⁵

Set 4 Type "A": 1/6 trangka in blue.⁶

Set 5: 1/3 trangka in gray. Two examples seen.

This listing does not include unlisted shades of already listed colors, as these are so numerous as to be outside the scope of this work.

And finally, I have in my collection, a wonderful double print of the 1/3 trangka from set 5. This double print shows a spectacular vertical shift of as much as 5mm.

Notes:

(1) The classic forgeries comprise the first seven 1912 forgery sets and the first three sets of the 1933 forgeries. This is not meant to imply that later sets are somehow more common and easier to come by, as this is not necessarily the case. Generally when I use the term "classic forgeries", I mean forgeries before 1970.

(2) This collection was sold by Christies, London, April 22, 1993.

(3) Of the first seven 1912 forgery sets, the only previously recorded multiples are from set 4, all of which are very rare.

(4) The colors referred to in this article are taken from the Stanley Gibbons Color Key.

(5) This "error" of color was previously mentioned by me in Postal Himal No. 58, 2nd Quarter 1989, p. 17.

(6) This beauty was reported to me by the English collector Derek Bates.



MINT PAIR OF THE 1 TRANGKA FROM THE 7TH SET OF 1912 FORGERIES

Higher Prices for Nepal in 1995 Scott Catalogue

Leo Martyn

On page 7A of Scott 1995 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume I, is a "Letter From The Publisher", and under the heading - "What Else Is Hot?", we find stated - "Nepal and Batum show quite a number of changes" [in reference to the 1994 listing]. I feel compelled to comment (for what it's worth) on certain changes and some omissions.

Scott's prices are retail prices, "that is, what you could expect to pay for the stamps in a grade of Fine-Very Fine" (p. 852). Nothing is stated concerning gum so a few facts should be presented. As far as I know only Scott 1-3 (Hellrigl/Vignola 1-3, Stanley Gibbons 1-3) were originally issued with gum (white and brown) - a few copies of the imperforate wove first issue values have been reported with gum but to be sure these would have to be in at least pairs as it would be quite easy to remove perforations from 1-3. Scott #7 is also known with original gum and commands a premium. So one should not expect original gum on classic stamps from #4 onwards (to find original gum on #1-3 is rare and these also command premiums). Collectors who are not familiar with The Classic Stamps of Nepal by Dr. Hellrigl and Frank Vignola (Italy, 1984, out-of-print but readily available) usually are not cognizant of facts concerning original gum and come to expect it on all of the classic stamps - "if it doesn't have gum it is a damaged copy and should be discounted in price" (or something to that effect).

Most of the higher prices occur in the classic issues. "Stamp values in **ITALICS** [**BOLD** in this article] generally refer to items which are difficult to value accurately" (Scott p. 14A). All of the following catalogue numbers refer to Scott (Sc) or Hellrigl/Vignola (H/V); * refers to mint (unused if you prefer) and @ refers to used.

Sc 1 * goes from \$135 to \$175 and @ from \$135 to **\$300**. Okay, #1 is very rare used, but why does #2 @ stay at \$200 and #3 @ at \$300? Only one used example of #3 is known (see Postal Himal No. 63, p. 50). Also, #2 * is harder to find than #3 *; #1 being the easiest. With #1 @ priced at **\$300** I would price #2 @ at **\$600** and #3 @ at **\$1200**. By the way, the perforated one anna exists in two very distinct color varieties - dull deep blue and milky blue (H/V 1a & 1b) - both unlisted by Scott and much more difficult to find than the ultramarine shade. The four anna * goes down from \$350 to \$250 - I would keep the price at \$350 and raise the two anna * to \$450.

Now we come to the imperforate first issue wove papers. Sc 4 and 5 * stay the same and 6 goes up \$35, fair enough as #6 is the most difficult to obtain of the imperfs. The one anna and the two anna used go up \$50 and \$70 respectively, but why does the four anna stay at \$60 @? All three values are very difficult to obtain @ (much more so than mint); the most difficult being the four anna (an educated guess would put the the total number known at around 25) - Sc #6 should be priced at around \$400 to \$500. Also, Scott lists #4 as blue - it should read ultramarine.

The next group is the local paper issues. The 1886 (Sc 7) one anna should be listed as being blue, not ultramarine. Some large price leaps are registered for several of the tete-beche pairs: Sc 7a * rises to **\$125** from \$60, @ from \$47.50 to **\$175**; the two anna * goes down \$10, @ up \$75 to **\$200**; and the four anna * rises \$50 to **\$200**. @ doubles in price to **\$250** - seems

reasonable, although the four anna tete-beche pairs (Sc 9a) should be higher since there was only one inverted cliché per sheet until 1929 (H/V setting 12). Also, for record, the first four anna inverted cliché didn't appear until H/V setting 4, therefore H/V 10a and 10c are unknown, at least for now - confirmed in a letter from Dr. Hellrigl in 1988 (see The Classic Stamps of Nepal, p. 14, 161, 162).

The imperf half anna tete-beche pair (Sc 10a) * goes from \$55 to **\$200** - this price only applies to printings up through 1907 (H/V 23b, setting 5). Later printings from the Telegraph Period are rightfully not listed by Scott, yet all half annas are the same to uninformed dealers. This stamp in orange- (Sc red orange), which was printed during the Telegraph Period, quadruples in price to **\$1000**, and the tete-beche pair listing at \$2500 in the 94 Scott goes unpriced in the 95 catalogue. This is truly a rare stamp - no complete sheets are known and most of the * copies are part of large blocks (32, 24, and 22); Hellrigl/Vignola estimate that only some 100 * copies exist, leaving approximately 22 stamps available in smaller multiples and single copies. If you need this stamp for your collection **\$1000** is a fair price (if you can find it - some very dangerous forgeries exist and it is best to obtain a Hellrigl certificate).

The * perforated half anna (Sc 12, H/V 24) goes from \$5.00 to \$20. The tete-beche pair rises to **\$150** from \$25. Again, these prices only apply to pre-Telegraph Period printings. The prices seem okay since the early perforated printings are not easy to come by and the inverted cliché only occurs once in setting 3 (position 7) and once in setting 4 (position 57).

Scott does not price any of the half anna used. Granted 99.99+% are telegraphically used, a small number of stamps were postally used (official mail with seal or manuscript cancels; three covers known, each bearing a pair to make up the one anna rate [standard obliterations]; some six W.O'Sullivan philatelic covers sent to India bearing the half anna orange-vermilion plus other classic stamps and Indian stamps).

The 1898-1904 (H/v 1898-1907) group show some large upward price movements - see the tables on the last page of this article). A few comments are in order: the listed color of Sc #15 should not be claret but rose mauve (H/V 17b) - the clarets are from the Telegraph period (compare the prices of Sc 15, 15a with Sc 20, 20a); same goes for the browns (Sc 16, 16a, 21, 21a; H/V 16, 16a). Perforations on stamps from the Telegraph Period are considered to be of a private nature (possibly a few sheets had "trial" perforations). The price for the *four anna green (Sc 17) should be somewhere around \$30 and the tete beche pair * at \$300 (compare to Sc 22, 22a). A price of **\$300** has been given to the famous substituted one anna cliché printed in the sheets of four annas (Sc 17b) - for a * copy. The price for a used copy has been dropped - again this stamp is from the Telegraph Period (H/V setting 12 [1929-1930]).

The recut one annas also make large percentage gains (Sc 23, 23a, 24, 24a). Although mentioned, the recuts on wove paper (H/V 25-26c) are not priced. As with the half anna orange-vermilion, the one anna recuts on wove paper are truly rare stamps. I personally know of five tete beche pairs with position 24 (see H/V p. 85) and one @ position 24 single copy. With 64 clichés per sheet we can easily deduce that at least 384 recut wove paper copies were printed - the largest multiple known is a block of four! The stamp is known in several shades and some three dozen covers are known from a surprisingly large number of towns. I think this is the most difficult classic stamp to find in mint condition.

The indigo one anna "New Design" almost quadruples in price. This shade seems to be the most difficult to find - especially mint.

The only major change in the Pashupati issues is Sc #40, the 1935 eight pice value, which goes up from \$7.50 mint to \$35. In 1937 the Nepal-India postal agreement came into effect - the rate being eight pice from any part of Nepal to any part in British India, resulting in a very large usage of this stamp and thus making mint copies very scarce. I think it is overpriced used at \$6.50 (should be less than \$1). Also, the 1929 one rupee (Sc #36) is undervalued at \$4.25, in fact it is much more difficult to find mint than the five rupee (#37) which is valued at \$17.

The 1941 two pice green error of color (#44a) has been reduced (as it should have been) from \$7.50 (mint and used) to \$1 mint and listed unpriced used (it is unknown postally used). The set as a whole has almost doubled in price to \$30.45 mint - probably should be considered a major change also.

The definitive sets of the 1949-1950's have changed little in mint condition but have appreciated dramatically used, as follows:

| <u>Scott</u> | <u>Stanley Gibbons</u> | <u>1984</u> | <u>1985</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|--|-------------|
| 51-59 | 64-72 | \$10. | \$20. |
| 60-71 | 73-84 | 6.90 | 18.97 |
| 72-83 | 85-96 | 9.07 | 19.41 |
| 84-88 | 97-101 | 20.83 | 75.15 |
| 90-101 | 103-114 | 6.62 | 19.85 |
| 104-117 | 120-133 | stays the same used at \$14.86 even though the five rupee (#117) is extremely difficult to locate postally used. | |

A casual look at the later issues revealed no startling changes- it should be noted that the 1960 Children's Day stamp (#125) dropped from \$7 to \$5 mint.

Overall, Scott has done a respectable job in their price revisions, considering the complexity of the issues (made even more difficult by the "Telegraph Period" stamps) and the scarcity of retail lists. Future editions of the catalogue should be even more accurate as the publishing team seems open to suggestions from collectors and dealers (I am sure this is the reason for the 1995 revisions). One final note: the Scott type A1 illustration should be changed as it pictures an older type forgery.

Volume 2 listing Bhutan will be out shortly and Vol 5 listing Tibet is scheduled for release in September - I hope to have reviews of both for the Postal Himal.

The following "Correlation of leading catalogues" was reproduced (reduced) from The Classic Stamps of Nepal by Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl and Frank J. Vignola, pages 20-22. Please note the following corrections for this listing:

H/V 14c (not 15a, which is not listed in Scott) correlates to Sc 13b.

H/V 10a and 10c are not known at this time (explained earlier in this article).

H/V 13a (not 10c for the above reason) correlates to Sc 9a.

The 1994 and 1995 lists are reproduced from their respective Scott catalogues.

Correlation of leading catalogues

| Helling/Vignola (1984) | Gibbons Catalogue (1981) | Scott Catalogue (1983) | Michel Catalogue (1983) | Helling/Vignola (1984) | Gibbons Catalogue (1981) | Scott Catalogue (1983) | Michel Catalogue (1983) |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | | 1 | 1aA | 23 | 27 | 10 | 13aB |
| 1a | 1 | | 1bA | 23a | | | 13bB |
| 1b | | | 1cA | 23b | 22n | 10a | 13bKB |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | | 24 | 23 | 12 | 13bA |
| 2a | 2a | 2a | 2KA | 24a | 23a | 12n | 13bKA |
| 2b | | | 2A | 25 | | | |
| 3 | 3 | | 3A | 25a | | | |
| 3a | | 3 | | 25b | 24 | | 15b |
| 3b | | | | 25c | 24a | | 15KB |
| 4 | | | 1aB | 26 | | | |
| 4a | 4 | 4 | 1bB | 26a | | | |
| 4b | | | 1cB | 26b | 25 | | 15A |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | | 26c | 25a | | 15KA |
| 5a | 5a | 5a | 2KI | 27 | 26 | 23 | 16bB |
| 5b | | | 2B | 27a | 26a | 23a | 16aKB |
| 6 | 6 | | 3B | 27b | | | 16aH |
| 6a | | 6 | | 27c | | | 16aKI |
| 6b | | | | 27d | | | |
| 7 | | | 4 | 27e | | | |
| 7a | | | 4K | 27f | 27 | | 16cB |
| 7b | 7 | 7 | | 27g | 27a | | 16cKI |
| 7c | 7a | 7a | | 28 | 28 | 24 | 16bA |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | | 28a | 28a | 24a | 16bKA |
| 8a | 8a | 8a | | 28b | | | 16aA |
| 8b | | | 5 | 28c | | | 16aKA |
| 8c | | | 5K | 28d | 29 | | 16cA |
| 9 | | | 8bB | 28e | 29a | | 16cKA |
| 9a | | | 8bKB | 33 | 34 | | |
| 10 | | | 6 | 33a | 34a | | |
| 10a | | | 6K | 33b | | | |
| 10b | 9 | 9 | | 33c | | | |
| 10c | 9a | 9a | | 33d | | | |
| 11 | | | 7aB | 33e | | | |
| 11a | | | 7aKB | 34 | 35 | 11 | 14B |
| 11b | 10 | | 7bB | 34a | 35a | 11a | 14KB |
| 11c | 10a | | 7bKB | 35 | | | |
| | | | | 35a | | | |
| 11d | | | 7cB | 35b | | | |
| 11e | | | 7cKB | 35c | | | |
| 12 | 11 | | | 36 | 26b | | 16dB |
| 12a | 11a | | | 36a | 26ba | | 16dKB |
| 12b | | | 8aB | 36b | | | |
| 12c | | | 8aKB | 36c | | | |
| 13 | 12 | | 9aH | 37 | 41b | 17b | 16FB |
| 13a | 12a | 9a | 9aKB | 37a | | | |
| 13b | | | 9bB | 37b | | | |
| 13c | | | 9bKB | 37c | | | |
| 14 | 13 | | | 38 | | | 29 |
| 14a | 13a | | | 38a | | | |
| 14b | | 13 | 10aB | 38b | 39 | | 30 |
| 14c | | 13b | 10aKB | 38c | 39a | | |
| 15 | | 13a | | 38d | 36 | | |
| 15a | | 13b | | 38e | 36a | | |
| 15b | 14 | | 10bB | 39 | | | 2H |
| 15c | 14a | | 10bKB | 39a | | | |
| 16 | 15 | | 17B | 39b | 37 | | 27H |
| 16a | 15a | | 17KB | 39c | 37a | | |
| 16b | | | 11aB | 39d | | | 27I |
| 16c | | | 11aKB | 39e | | | |
| 16d | | | | 40 | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 14 | 11bB | 40a | | | |
| 17a | 18a | 14a | 11bKB | 40b | 38 | | 31b |
| 17b | 18c | | 18aB | 40c | 38a | | |
| 17c | 18ca | | 18aKB | 40d | | | |
| 17d | 18b | | | 40e | | 15 | |
| 17e | 18ba | | | 40f | | 15a | |
| 17f | | | | 40g | | | 31a |
| 17g | | | | 41 | | | |
| 18 | 17 | | 12B | 41a | | | |
| 18a | 17a | | 12KB | 41b | | | 19H |
| 18b | | 17 | 20aB | 41c | | | 19KI |
| 18c | | 17a | 20aKB | 41d | | | |
| 18d | | | 20cB | 41e | | | |
| 18e | | | 20cKB | 41f | | | |
| 18f | | | | 41g | 40 | 11 | 32a |
| 18g | | | | 41h | 40a | 16a | |
| 19 | 18 | | | 42 | | | |
| 19a | 18a | | | 42a | | | |
| 19b | | 18 | 10aA | 42b | | | |
| 19c | | 18a | 10aKA | 42c | | | |
| 20 | | | | 42d | | | |
| 20a | | | | 42e | | | |
| 20b | 18 | | 10bA | 42f | | | 32b |
| 20c | 19a | | 10bKA | 42g | | | |
| 21 | 20 | 19 | 11aA | 43 | 41 | | 30d |
| 21a | 20a | 19a | 11aKA | 43a | 41a | | |
| 21b | | | 17A | 43b | | | |
| 21c | | | 17KA | 43c | | | |
| 21d | 20b | | 11bA | 43d | | | 33a |
| 21e | 20ba | | 11bKA | 43e | | | |
| 21f | | | | 43f | | | 33b |
| 21g | | | | 43g | | | |
| 22 | 21 | | 12A | 43h | | | 33c |
| 22a | 21a | | 12KA | 43i | | | |
| 22b | | 22 | 20aA | 44 | | 29Ab | 26c |
| 22c | | 22a | 20aKA | 44a | 42 | | 25b |
| 22d | | | | 44b | | 29A | 25a |
| 22e | | | | 44c | 42a | | 26b |
| 22f | | | | 44d | | | 26a |

Note: A few numbers, incidentally listed in Scott and Michel catalogues, had to be omitted because they could not be brought in any connection with the Helling/Vignola listing.

1994

1995



Stripech and Crossed Khukris — A1



Siva's Bow and Two Khukris — A2



A4

| 1881 | Typo. | Unwmk. | Pin-perf. |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|
| European Wove Paper | | | |
| 1 | A1 1a ultramarine | 155.00 | 135.00 |
| 2 | A1 2a purple | 225.00 | 200.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | | |
| 3 | A1 4a green | 350.00 | 300.00 |
| <i>Imperf</i> | | | |
| 4 | A1 1a blue | 105.00 | 60.00 |
| 5 | A1 2a purple | 130.00 | 60.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | | |
| 6 | A1 4a green | 130.00 | 60.00 |

| 1881 | Typo. | Unwmk. | Pin-perf. |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|
| European Wove Paper | | | |
| 1 | A1 1a ultramarine | 175.00 | 300.00 |
| 2 | A1 2a purple | 250.00 | 200.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | | |
| 7 | A1 4a green | 250.00 | 300.00 |
| <i>Imperf</i> | | | |
| 4 | A1 1a blue | 105.00 | 110.00 |
| 5 | A1 2a purple | 130.00 | 130.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | | |
| 6 | A1 4a green | 165.00 | 60.00 |

| 1886 | Native Wove Paper | Imperf. |
|------|--------------------|---------------|
| 7 | A1 1a ultramarine | 14.00 8.75 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 60.00 47.50 |
| 8 | A1 2a violet | 20.00 17.50 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 160.00 125.00 |
| 9 | A1 4a green | 27.50 21.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 150.00 125.00 |

| 1886 | Native Wove Paper | Imperf. |
|------|--------------------|---------------|
| 7 | A1 1a ultramarine | 15.00 8.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 125.00 175.00 |
| 8 | A1 2a violet | 17.50 10.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 150.00 200.00 |
| 9 | A1 4a green | 45.00 12.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 200.00 250.00 |

| 1899-1903 | Native Wove Paper | Imperf. |
|------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 10 | A2 1/2a black | 11.50 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 55.00 |
| 11 | A2 1/2a red orange '03 | 250.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 2.500 |
| <i>Pin-perf.</i> | | |
| 12 | A2 1/2a black | 5.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 25.00 |

| 1899-1903 | Native Wove Paper | Imperf. |
|------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 10 | A2 1/2a black | 11.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 200.00 |
| 11 | A2 1/2a red orange '03 | 1,000. |
| | o. Teie beche pair | |
| <i>Pin-perf.</i> | | |
| 12 | A2 1/2a black | 20.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 150.00 |

No. 11 probably was used only on telegraph/telephone forms.

Type of 1881

Type of 1881

| 1898-1904 | Imperf. | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 13 | A1 1a pale blue | 4.75 3.00 |
| | o. 1a bluish green | |
| | b. Teie beche pair | 22.50 17.00 |
| 14 | A1 2a gray violet | 5.75 2.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 40.00 24.00 |
| 15 | A1 2a claret | 8.75 3.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 50.00 27.50 |
| 16 | A1 2a brown | 7.25 3.25 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 45.00 27.50 |
| 17 | A1 4a dull green | 4.75 2.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 40.00 27.50 |
| | b. Cliche of 1a in plate of 4a '04 | 175.00 |

| 1898-1904 | Imperf. | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 13 | A1 1a pale blue | 12.50 6.00 |
| | o. 1a bluish green | 50.00 50.00 |
| | b. Teie beche pair | 150.00 175.00 |
| 14 | A1 2a gray violet | 25.00 10.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 250.00 300.00 |
| 15 | A1 2a claret | 30.00 12.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 275.00 125.00 |
| 16 | A1 2a brown | 10.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 25.00 |
| 17 | A1 4a dull green | 10.00 15.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 70.00 400.00 |
| | b. Cliche of 1a in plate of 4a '04 | 300.00 |

#17b has the recut frame of the 1904 issue

#17b has the recut frame of the 1904 issue
#17b probably was used only on telegraph/telephone forms.

Pin-perf.

Pin-perf.

| | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------|
| 18 | A1 1a pale blue | 5.00 4.25 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 22.50 22.50 |
| 19 | A1 2a gray violet | 8.75 6.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 40.00 32.50 |
| 20 | A1 2a claret | 8.75 6.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 45.00 32.50 |
| 21 | A1 2a brown | 7.50 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 45.00 |
| 22 | A1 4a dull green | 7.50 4.50 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 50.00 42.50 |

| | | |
|----|--------------------|---------------|
| 18 | A1 1a pale blue | 17.50 10.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 100.00 150.00 |
| 19 | A1 2a gray violet | 25.00 12.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 200.00 225.00 |
| 20 | A1 2a claret | 8.75 6.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 45.00 32.50 |
| 21 | A1 2a brown | 7.50 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 45.00 |
| 22 | A1 4a dull green | 50.00 18.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 400.00 450.00 |

Frame Recut on All Cliches, Fewer Lines

Frame Recut on All Cliches, Fewer Lines

| 1903-04 | Native Wove Paper | Imperf. |
|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 23 | A1 1a bright blue | 5.50 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 17.50 |
| <i>Pin-perf.</i> | | |
| 24 | A1 1a bright blue | 7.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 40.00 |

| 1903-04 | Native Wove Paper | Imperf. |
|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 23 | A1 1a bright blue | 10.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 50.00 |
| <i>Pin-perf.</i> | | |
| 24 | A1 1a bright blue | 15.00 |
| | o. Teie beche pair | 100.00 |

No. 23 exists on European wove paper.

No. 23 exists on European wove paper.

| 1917-18 | Imperf. | |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| 20A | A4 1a indigo | 5.50 1.50 |
| | b. 1a bright blue | 8.75 6.25 |
| | c. Pin-perf. | |

| 1917-18 | Imperf. | |
|---------|-------------------|------------|
| 20A | A4 1a indigo | 20.00 1.00 |
| | b. 1a bright blue | 10.00 1.00 |
| | c. Pin-perf. | |

During 1917-18, due to a shortage of current stamps, remainder stocks and further printings of types A1 and A4 were used provisionally on official mail and to prepay telegrams. The usual telegraph cancellation is crescent-shaped.

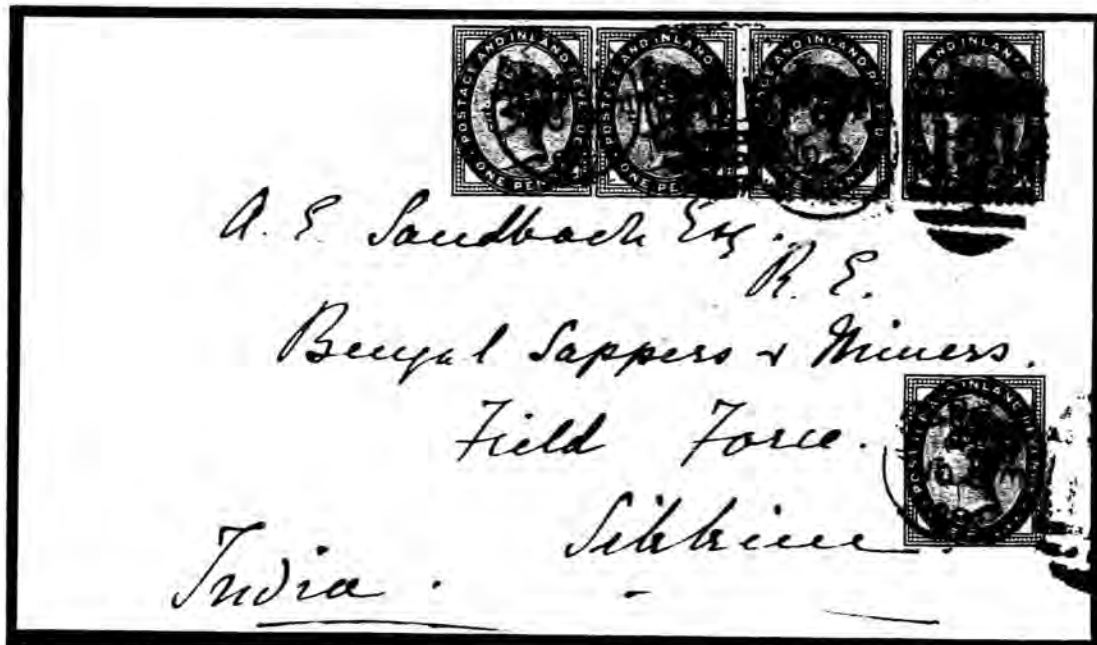
During 1917-18, due to a shortage of current stamps, remainder stocks and further printings of types A1 and A4 were used provisionally on official mail and to prepay telegrams. The usual telegraph cancellation is crescent-shaped.

SIKKIM FIELD FORCE, 1888-89
PRECURSOR TO THE YOUNGHUSBAND EXPEDITION

Geoffrey Flack

*A British-Indian Post Office operated in Tibet 15 years earlier than
the Frontier Commission of 1903.*

The story of British postal involvement in Tibet did not begin with the British Frontier Commission of 1903 and the subsequent Military Mission to Lhasa in 1904. The recent discovery of the "Sandbach" correspondence throws new light on postal arrangements made for the Sikkim Field Force of 1888-89 and shows a British Post Office operated inside Tibet fifteen years earlier than had been thought.



COVER SENT TO LT. SANDBACH WHILE SERVING WITH THE
SIKKIM FIELD FORCE, 1888-89.

Until the discovery of the Sandbach correspondence very little was known about the postal arrangements of the Sikkim Field Force. Covers relating to this campaign were almost non-existent and very little has been written on the subject. The discovery of this important correspondence plus an examination of historical records pertaining to the expedition opens a new chapter in the postal history of Tibet.

Relations between British India and Tibet can be traced back to the late 18th century when Warren Hastings sent delegations to the Panchen Lama's court at Shigatse. Despite these early contacts, Tibet's isolationist position and the British desire to, at the very least, influence the States bordering on the "Raj" led to increased tension on the frontier. The Younghusband Expedition of 1903-4 was the culmination of a series of events, the most important of which was the Sikkim Expedition of 1888-89.

In 1885, the British proposed to send a commercial and diplomatic Mission to Tibet. By 1886, the Mission, which included a small military escort, had assembled in Darjeeling, but the lack of cooperation on the part of the Tibetans, and Chinese delaying tactics led to the British reluctantly cancelling the mission. Not aware the mission had been cancelled, Tibetan forces crossed the frontier into Sikkim and fortified their

position. On hearing the mission had been cancelled, the Tibetans boasted of capturing Darjeeling (78 miles away) causing panic in this small frontier town. The British spent more than a year trying to negotiate a Tibetan withdrawal, finally giving the Tibetans an ultimatum to do so by March 15, 1888 or be expelled by force. On March 20th, Brigadier-General T. Graham, with a force of 2,000 men, started the offensive to retake Sikkim. At first the Tibetans offered very little resistance, retiring to Chumbi on their own side of the frontier, but two months later the Tibetans again took to the offensive, crossing the Jelap La and attacking Gnatong with over 3,000 men. They were beaten and driven back over the frontier, but in

September they again crossed into Sikkim, building defensive positions on the Sikkimese side of the frontier. Once again the British drove them back, this time pursuing them into the Chumbi Valley. It is at this point that there seems to be some disagreement as to what happened next. Younghusband stated that the British troops returned immediately to Gnatong ... *"For two years now the Tibetans had been encroaching on our side of the frontier, but not for one day would we permit our troops to remain on the Tibetan side."* (India and Tibet, 1910) British Library files pertaining to the Sikkim Field Force show that Indian forces crossed into Tibet in early November and remained on the Tibetan side of the frontier for at least three weeks. Not only did troops cross the frontier, but British postal facilities and telegraph accompanied the troops. (The British criticism of Russian domination of her neighbours might have accounted for their reluctance to advertise their own temporary "occupation" of Tibetan territory.)



BRIGADIER-GENERAL GRAHAM AND OFFICERS
(The Illustrated London News, Nov. 10, 1888)

On October 27, 1888 General Graham sent a telegram from Pedong (Expedition Headquarters) to the Quartermaster General of India asking that permission be granted for the extension of the telegraph "to accompany the party proceeding Tibetan side of Jalap." On November 1st, he repeated his request and later that day the Secretary to Gov't of India (Military Department) sanctioned "the extension of the telegraph line to accompany a party proceeding to the Tibetan side of the Jalap." The Report on the work of the Bengal Sappers and Miners for the 5 months from September 1888 to February 1889 confirms that Sandbach's unit was part of the force which crossed into Tibet in November. His unit had arrived at Gnatong on November 6th and after one day's halt marched to Kupup and crossed the Jalep La into Tibet, camping at "Byutan" on November 9th. The exact location of camp Byutan is not known, but we know it was on the Tibetan side of the frontier and in all likelihood

just east of the pass near the border of Bhutan. (Tibetan forces had crossed the frontier on three occasions and a British military presence on the Tibetan side of the pass would have discouraged further Tibetan attacks and put the British in a much better position to negotiate.) Sandbach's unit stayed inside Tibet for more than 3 weeks, returning to Gnatong on December 3rd. The Sandbach correspondence shows that besides the telegraph, "Experimental P.O. C-7" accompanied the British troops into Tibet.

We know from British Library files that Lt. Arthur Sandbach was in Tibet from November 8th to December 3rd. His correspondence for this period contained a number of inbound letters cancelled with "Experimental P.O. C-7". These covers in themselves do not prove "C-7" was used inside Tibet, though Graham's request for the telegraph over the Jelap La and the British desire to communicate with the front seem to make it likely. The proof lies in a "Money Order" for 10 Rupees sent to Lt. Petrie in Roorkee. Sandbach's receipt was dated November 13, 1888 and bears a very clear strike of "Experimental P.O. C-7." The receipt is signed by the postmaster, John Claude White. White was the Assistant Political Officer with the expedition and his presence on the frontier should be no surprise. (In 1902, White headed up the Sikkim-Tibet Boundary Commission and was second in command, under Younghusband, of the Tibet Frontier Commission of 1903.)

(Receipt.) No. **11**

Received a IN. 0

addressed to Lt. Petrie
payable


at Roorkee Post Office.

(Add in the case of a prepaid parcel or money order)

with rupees (in words) Ten only

as detailed below:—

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">If a parcel.</p> <p>Weight in rates. } No. <u>1</u></p> <p>Postage prepaid. } Rs. As.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">If a money order.</p> <p>Value ... Rs. <u>10</u> As.</p> <p>Commission " " " <u>2</u></p> |
|--|---|



John Claude White

Branch Postmaster.

An examination of the records of the Expedition and of Sandbach's movements (India Office Records, L MIL/7/14639-14640, Coll. 325) helps piece together this postal history of which so little is written. The Bengal Sappers and Miners, under Lt. Sandbach's command, left Roorkee on Sept. 11th, 1888 enroute to join the Sikkim Field Force. They reached Siliguri at midnight on the 15th and then proceeded to Ghoom (Ghum) which is just south of Darjeeling. On the 18th they left Ghoom for Peshok with orders to march to Gnatong. On the 19th they marched from Peshok to Kalimpong and on the 20th from Kalimpong to Pedong. This must have been particularly unpleasant as it rained throughout the march. Pedong was the Base Headquarters of the Expedition, but they had no time to relax as they immediately received telegraphic orders to march to Pakyong instead of Gnatong and join the "Intchi Column" marching on Gangtok. They left Pedong on the 21st, reached Pakyong on the 22nd and started towards Gangtok on the 23rd, repairing the track as they went. Their orders were to make the "road" passable for laden mules, so the troops would no

longer be dependent on coolie transportation. On the 29th Sandbach accompanied Col. Mitchell to Tumlong where they spent two days. On the 4th of October they went to "Rungpo" and returned to "Guntok" on the 5th. Their report stated that a "great deal of blasting was required to make it even a clear 6 ft. roadway." Sandbach's section spent 3 weeks at Gangtok moving 2 1/2 miles to Rongreh on the 26th of October. The Sappers and Miners didn't have long to wait before they were ordered north to Gnatong and over the Jelap La into Tibet. They left Rongreh on Nov. 1st and marched north reaching Gnatong on November 6th. (They spent the nights of November 1st to 5th at Pakyong, Ari, Lingtam, Sedonchen and Garnai respectively.) After a one day halt at Gnatong the section marched to Kupup and crossed the Jelep La into Tibet reaching camp "Byutan" on November 9th.) Sandbach's unit stayed in Tibet for more than 3 weeks. On December 3rd they



THE STOCKADE AT GNATONG.
(The Illustrated London News, Nov. 10, 1888)

left camp "Byutan" and returned to Gnatong where they spent four days constructing permanent barracks for British troops. On December 8th, leaving Gnatong they headed south reaching Rhenock Ridge on December 11th. Sandbach remained at Rhenock (Rhenak) until June 1889, but we know he made several trips to the Expedition Headquarters at Padong. During this period, he prepared reconnaissance reports on the Gantok-Rungpo Road and on the Bokchachu River. In April, 1889, Sandbach was made a Captain. It was also during their stay at Rhenak that Sandbach's good friend Lt E. Hudleston died of "Brights Disease" at Padong. A letter sent to Hudleston was marked "deceased" and sent to Sandbach, this being the only item in the correspondence not originating with Sandbach or received by him. Sandbach had been suffering on and off from fever and in the summer of 1889 it became worse. In August, after convalescing in Darjeeling, he was sent home on a year's sick leave.

ARTHUR SANDBACH (1859-1928)



Arthur Edmund Sandbach was born July 30, 1859 in Denbighshire, England. Educated at Eton and Woolwich, he joined the Royal Engineers in 1879. He saw active service in Egypt in 1882 and again in 1884-85. In September 1886, Sandbach was sent to Upper Burma where he joined the 5th Company of the Bengal Sappers and Miners. After five months of hard campaigning he was ordered back to Roorkee where he spent the next two years. He managed to make two trips to "Cashmere" and made a four-month trip from Srinagar to Leh then through Tibet, reaching Simla from the north.

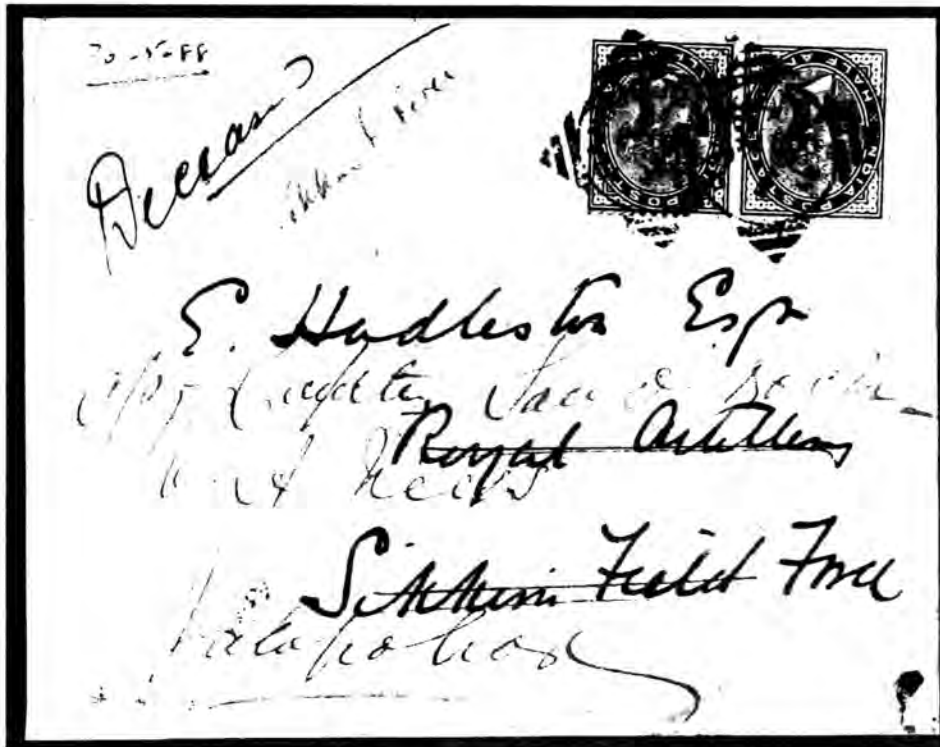
"For three months after leaving Leh he had not seen a white man, and had only spoken in Hindustani to his servant." (The Royal Engineers Journal, 1929)

Sandbach served with the Sikkim Field Force from Sept. 1888 until August 1889. (His activities during this period are dealt with in more detail in the article.)

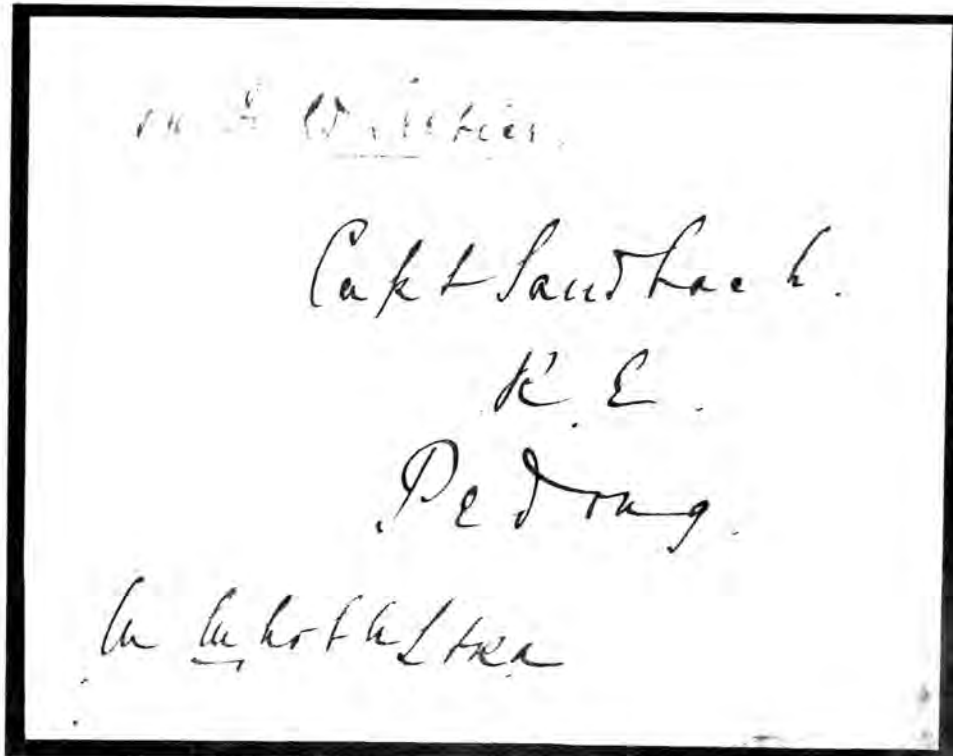
In 1891 Sandbach served on the Hazara or Black Mountain Expedition and in 1892 he spent 9 months at Gilgit before returning to England. After 5 years in England he was sent to Egypt and the Sudan in 1897 and was present at the battle of Omdurman.

In late 1898 Sandbach was appointed Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon (the force behind the Younghusband Expedition of 1903-4). The association between the Viceroy and his Military Secretary was not a happy one, and did not last long. From Nov. 1899 until December 1900 Sandbach saw service in the South African War. This was to be followed by a few years in England and then back to India where he commanded the Bengal Sappers and Miners.

In 1910, Sandbach (now a Lieut.-Colonel) took up the post of Chief Engineer in Ireland. With the outbreak of World War I, he was transferred to France where he served as Chief Engineer of the Second Corp.. Sandbach was sent back to Ireland to help quell the Easter Rebellion. Taking command of all troops in Dublin .."it fell to his lot to provide the courts-martial to try the prisoners and later to arrange for the execution of those that underwent the death penalty." Sandbach returned to active duty in France and after the war he finally retired. Sandbach's final years were spent in England where he died in June, 1928.



COVER TO LT. E. HUDLESTON, MARKED "DECEASED" AND SENT TO SANDBACH (DATED MAY 30, 1889)



THE ONLY "ON FIELD SERVICE" COVER IN THE CORRESPONDENCE. SENT FROM RHENOK (BACKSTAMPED "EXPERIMENTAL P.O. C-22" DTD MAY 31, 1889) TO PADONG (BACKSTAMP "PADONG DEL" CDS DTD JUNE 1, 1889.)

The Sandbach correspondence consists of less than 50 covers, a large number from one man, but they are believed to be the only surviving covers from the Expedition. Compared with the Younghusband Expedition of 1903-04, these Sikkim Field Force covers are extremely rare. At most, only a few examples of each marking are known. Most of the covers are inward bound. The majority are from Great Britain, though a few covers sent from within India can be found in the correspondence. A few covers were outbound, from Rhenock (C-22), Jalapahar and Darjeeling, but no outbound covers are known from "Camp Byutan" in Tibet (EXPERIMENTAL P.O. C-7).



COVER AND LETTER TO ENGLAND FROM "RHENOCK RIDGE, SIKKIM" BEARING A BEAUTIFUL STRIKE OF "EXPERIMENTAL P.O C-22" DATED MARCH 31, 1889

The Sandbach correspondence adds a great deal to our knowledge of the Postal History of the Sikkim Field Force. Very little has been published on this campaign, and the information we have is based solely on postal records, not on actual usage. In his "History of the Indian Army Postal Service" (Volume I, 1854-1913, p.409-10) Edward Proud, in discussing the Sikkim Expedition, stated: "Shortly after the commencement of

hostilities the Government of Bengal requested Mr. H.M. Kisch, Postmaster-General, Bengal, to open a runners' line from Siliguri to Kalimpong, a distance of thirty-seven miles. This line was used only for transmission of letter mails, parcel mail being conveyed by the old route from Darjeeling via Ghum and Pasok. On the 24th March the Padong post office was converted into a sub-office, and from that date it was constituted a Base office for the expedition. On the 16th March the force, which concentrated at Padong, moved out in two columns, one under Brigadier-General T. Graham, R.A., commanding the expedition, and the other under Colonel Michel, of the 13th Bengal Infantry, the former advancing towards Fort Lingtu and the other towards the Rhenok Bazar. With the advance troops the post office opened at Dulapchin was shortly removed to Ranglichu. Other post offices were opened at Gnatong, Sedonchin, Gangtok, Rhenok Bazar and Pakyong. The mail lines connecting these offices were under the management of the Post Office as far as Ronglichu and Pakyon, but the lines beyond were under the Political authorities." D.S. Virk (Army Post Offices and Philately, p.68-9) gives us similar information, but mentions that a military report states: "...as an experimental measure General Graham had given orders for the withdrawal of escorts accompanying the mail between Gnathang and Rongli But he was obliged to cancel this order, as the discontinuance of escorts was found to be impracticable with the efficient working of the postal system generally." Robson Lowe (The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps) stated that "all covers are rare", but did not give any prices. They must be rare as I have yet to find an India used abroad collector who has seen any other than those found in the Sandbach lot!

CANCELS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SIKKIM FIELD FORCE

EXPERIMENTAL POST OFFICES: Only three different cancels are known though others were probably in use. Most examples are very poorly struck and the majority are illegible. (The position of the word "Experimental" differs on each cancel, which might assist in "reading" a cancel.) The dates of use given for these cancels are based on very few covers and are unquestionably incomplete.



EXPERIMENTAL P.O. C-3



EXPERIMENTAL P.O. C-7



EXPERIMENTAL P.O. C-22



- 1) "Experimental P.O. C-3": The scarcest of the Experimental P.O. (only 3 found), dated Oct. 3 & Oct. 5, 1888. must be in the Rangpo area as Sandbach reached there on October 4th.
- 2) "Experimental P.O. C-7": Known to have been used between Oct. 8 and Dec. 1, 1888. It was used at "Camp Byutan" in Tibet between Nov. 9 and Dec. 3, 1888. (only 5 covers and 1 Money Order receipt are known used in Tibet.)
- 3) "Experimental P.O. C-22": At Rhenok (or Rhenok Ridge) (less than 10 have been found). Known to have been used between Dec. 16, 1888 and late May, 1889.

Other markings were used at the Expedition Base at PADONG as well as at DARJEELING and JALAPAHAR (major staging areas for the Expedition). The period of use must have predated and continued well after the period covered by the Sandbach correspondence.



PADONG



PADONG 2ND DELY



PADONG-DARJEELING



PADONG
DARJEELING DISTRICT



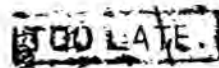
DARJEELING 2ND DELY



JALAPAHAR



JALAPAHAR 1ST DELY



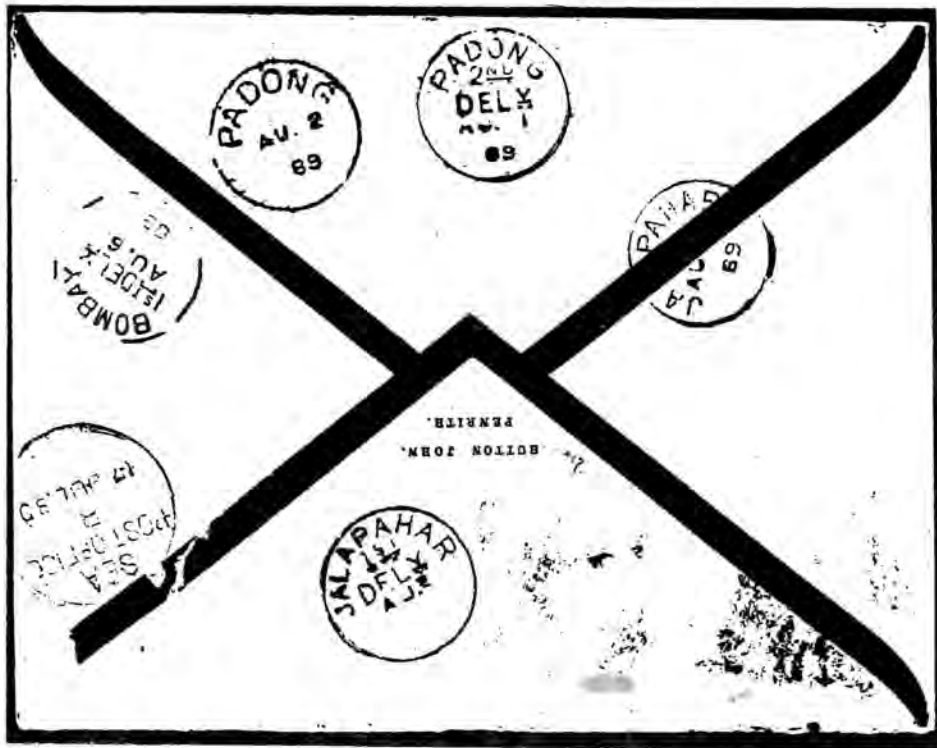
TOO LATE



C.9.IN/SET. No.4

One cover sent from Kuch-Bihar, India to Sandbach in Darjeeling (April 1889) was cancelled "TOO LATE" and forwarded to Rhenoch Ridge where it received an Experimental P.O. C-22 cancel. The same mark is found on a parcel receipt posted at Jalapahar.

One of the few outgoing covers was sent by Sandbach while he was recovering from fever in Jalapahar. The cover contains a letter on "The Club, Darjeeling" letterhead. The cover bears 5 strikes of "C.9.IN/SET. No. 4" which must have been located in the Darjeeling-Jalapahar area.



(Cover inverted for display)

BACK OF AN ATTRACTIVE 'MOURNING' COVER SENT FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO SANDBACH. THE COVER BEARS "PADONG", "PADONG 2ND DELY", "JALAPAHAH" AND "JALAPAHAH 1ST DELY" CANCELS (AUGUST 1889)

Some of the covers in the correspondence are found with a large number of backstamps associated with the Expedition while other covers sent to the same location do not have any backstamps.

In addition to the covers in the correspondence, Sandbach's papers included the Money Order Receipt, a Parcel Receipt and a Pay Remittance Receipt. Several of the covers contained letters; one of these mentioned sending a parcel of souvenirs home to Great Britain. These documents and letters give us some indication of the postal services provided to the troops.

Only a handful of Europeans served with the Sikkim Field Force and the information we have on the postal history of the Expedition is sketchy. The Sandbach correspondence is very important in that it proves the existence of a British-Indian post office in Tibet fifteen years before the Frontier Commission established itself at Khamba-Jong.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nic Rhodes, George Alevizos and the staff of the India Office Record and Archives in London. Without their help, researching this article would have been impossible.

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Bhutan Hologram Souvenir Sheet New Issue

On or about 20 July Bhutan will issue a single souvenir sheet containing two hologram stamps commemorating the 25th anniversary of the first Moon landing and the 15th anniversary of the Space Shuttle program. The printing quantity ordered is 100,000, and the face value of the sheet is \$1.75. FDCs \$2.25 ea. Advance orders for singles or quantities for mail delivery on the issue date at face value may be mailed to:

Len Nadybal, 17ASG Box 3226, APO AP 96338, USA

Payment should include amount for return postage and registration if desired. US dollar checks, money order or travellers checks are acceptable. European currency payments may be made by transfer to PostGiro Acct 3919-707 at the PostGiroAmt, Stuttgart, Germany BLZ 600 100 70.

AUCTION ACTION

Leo Martyn

Michael Rogers' auction of July 2-3 has much to offer including some unusual Tibet postal history. Five lots of Nepal including a set of the perforated first issue with full original gum (H/V 1-3) is up for grabs. Forty seven lots of Tibet are present including rare postal history items. Catalogues are available at \$5/\$10 overseas - purchasing a lot gets the buyer on Rogers' mailing list for one year. Also offered is some scarce Indian States postal history. His September auction will have some Everest material as well as many other items from the Himalayan area. Following are some of the July 2-3 highlights:

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| <p>CP) 1643 C 1911 Oct 4 double registered (Lhasa, Yatung) OPSP cover (front only) bearing Chinese stamps overprinted for use in Tibet 4c (x2) and 10c (x2): tied by 'Lhasa-Tibet' cancels (Waterfall type C4) plus 1/2a and 4a Indian stamps tied by 'Yatung-Tibet/Via Silguri' cancels. Sent to the Postmaster General in Peking. Very rare China in Tibet-Indian combination. ECV \$ 1,500.00</p> | <p>(P) 1649 C 1934 1/2t yellow block (margin cut in) tied by Shigatse pmks and 2/3t (3) tied by Gyantse pmks on cover. Rare combination cover. ECV \$ 100.00</p> |
| <p>(P) 1647 C Lhasa to Gyantse (directional h/s) cover bearing 2 3 tr. and 2 tr. tied by Gyantse cancel, very rare rate. Waterfall records only one cover. (Scott 15.17) ECV \$ 440.00</p> | <p>P) 1655 C 1954 Mar 26 cover bearing PRC stamps and Trader's h/s, from Lhasa (West type C5) to Seattle. Earliest known cover used under Peking regime. ECV \$ 400.00</p> |
| <p>(P) 1644 C Foreign-style native cover f/w 4t 1914. Crease, soiled. LHASA type III cds. ECV \$ 500.00</p> | <p>(P) 1657 C 1954 May 15 registered (manuscript) cover bearing pair 2tr (setting II) tied by type VIII Gyantse cancel. Local dated covers are very scarce. (Scott 17) ECV \$ 250.00</p> |
| | <p>CP) 1660 C 1954 July 12 registered bearing 4tr large cliché and quadrisect 4tr tied by Lhasa cancel. Very rare combination of rate, quadrisect and dated cover. Soiled near stamps prior to being used. Exhibit item. (Scott 18a) ECV \$ 900.00</p> |

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In George Alevizos' auction of June 30 some rare Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal items will be offered: Bhutan - 7 lots of proofs and hand-painted essays; Nepal - 12 lots including scarce mint multiples of classic stamps (including H/V #17 block of six - setting 17, H/V #18 block of six - setting 10) and 6 cover lots (including the earliest recorded usage of the recut one anna); Tibet - 13 lots of local issues (1912 Waterlow 1/6 tr. essay in Yellow, 1914 8 tr. VERMILION complete mint sheet - FIRST PRINTING, est. \$10,000-\$15,000), 24 lots of Chinese Offices, 11 lots of British Offices (Tibet Frontier Commission), and 2 German Himalayan Expedition covers (1936, 1939). Two dollars for the Sale 86 catalogue plus the next catalogue. Highlights of Sale 86:

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| <p>537 * STAMPS. 1911 3p/1c BLOCK OF FOUR WITH INVERTED SURCHARGE (#1a), pure white streaky original gum, apparently never hinged, brilliant and wonderfully fresh color, a major rarity of Chinese philately, very few blocks known, VF. Photo \$9000-10,000</p> | <p>539 * 1911 2 1/2a on 10c, RETOUCHE TOP RIGHT CORNER (Chinese "One" and ornament), listed in Chan without surcharge as #134g and unpriced unused, UNLISTED WITH TIBET OFFICES SURCHARGE, as a comparison of the rarity of this variety the more common 1r/\$1 with "retouched one" is priced at \$5500 and the 2r/\$2 with "reentry of two" at \$3500, an exceptional opportunity, 1993 Holcombe cert, F-VF. Photo \$4000-5000</p> | <p>565 1903 cover to Mrs. Bailey Scotland (bkstp) Lw, 1a tied by 13 DE GANGTOK double circle cds, includes three-page TIBET FRONTIER COMMISSION letter dated 10 DEC and sent by Capt. C.H.D. Ryder of the Survey Detachment (Ryder & Bailey explor. Western Tibet and Gartok in 1904, Ryder became Surveyor-General 1919-24), the contents are most fascinating and reproduced in full below, note that Ryder was "stuck on the road" some three days from Gangtok when the letter was written, plus it is known that Bailey was in Khamba Jong on Dec 10 roughly opened and repaired at top, Tibet Frontier Commission letters are rare, a wonderful usage. Fine Photo \$1500-2000 10th Dec. 1904</p> |
| <p>542 1910(ca) grey/blue/red granite paper cover to GYANTSE (rare Type C2 bkstp) f.w. on reverse two China 3c tied by the exceptionally elusive trilingual LHASA TIBET Type C1 postmark with additional strike on front, some light unobtrusive stains and vertical fold at edge just affecting Gyantse postmark, a scarcer rate and a truly rare cover, F-VF. Photo \$3500-4000</p> | <p>557 1911 (Sep 13) regis. (Type CR2 h.s.) cover to the Directorate General of Posts Peking f.w. Offices 1/2a/2c, 3a/16c and 4a/20c tied by LHASA TIBET Type C4 cds's, ms. "Via Chengtu," bkstps of BATANG, TATSJENLU, and PEKING (x2), a marvelous example of the exceedingly rare Overland Route, very seldom offered, F-VF. Photo \$4000-5000</p> | <p>My dear Mrs Bailey I've been meaning to write to you for some weeks as know you would like to have some news of your son. was surprised when I got to Khambajong to meet him there as I had no idea he had gone into the 32nd Pioneers. I left Khambajong on the 6th & came down to join the main advance into the Chumbi valley. When left your son was very well indeed; in fact he kept his health better than anyone, as nearly everyone else in town had coughs or lost their voices, or were in some way affected by the elevation. We spent two days together at a hut on the pass a few days ago where had to go surveying & where he shot his second arrow. He did most of the shooting at Khambajong & had good row of heads round his tent. He was also our mess secretary and generally full of go. We are hoping the Tibetans may oppose our advance, but they are such very poor fighters and so badly armed that you need not feel at all nervous at your boy's safety. Will you tell your husband that I hope to get a lot of new country surveyed. We had fine views of Kinchinpinga and Mt. Everest and the survey range in between. I am stuck on the road for want of transport, which is being very badly managed on this expedition. I hope the 32nd will get me round and be our escort again before the winter sets in. They are a nice set of fellows and we were a very happy family at Khambajong. With kindest regards to you both. Yours sincerely, C.H.D. Ryder * * * *</p> |
| <p>549 1911 (Mar 11) native paper cover to LHASA (Type C3 bkstp) f.w. on reverse UNOVERPRINTED CHINA 1c margin pair and OFFICES IN TIBET 1/2a/2c tied by GYANTSE TIBET Type C3 cds's with additional strike on front, a very rare mixed-issue franking, ONE OF THE KEY ITEMS OF CHINESE TIBET, plus a fine early usage of the Offices issue, opened for display, F-VF. Photo \$4000-6000</p> | <p>563 1903 cover to Mrs. Younghusband at Calcutta (ms. "Await arrival") and forwarded to the Residency Indore (five different bkstps), sent by Col. Younghusband and f.w. India 1/2 pair (one faulty) tied by very fine 8 JL GANGTOK double circle cds, ms. "July 6" and pencil ms. of origin "Tangu July 6th," Robson Lowe states that Younghusband was at Tangu from July 1-6, Vink posits that a temporary P.O. was opened about June 30 at Tangu, this cover shows that it was not opened until at least a week later, recorded by R. Lowe in the 1943 "Philatelist"; a handsome and very rare usage, some light creasing. Fine. Photo \$1250-1500</p> | |
| <p>553 1911 (May 6) cover to LHASA (Type C3 bkstp) f.w. on reverse Offices 1a/4c tied by SHIGATSE TIBET Type C3 cds with additional strike on front, LHASA Type C3 transit, scarce with three different postmarks, addressed in three languages including Chinese, light soiling and stain on front, fine usage, F-VF. Photo \$500-600</p> | | |

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