

POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET

PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



SINGER STEALS SHOW !

(Photo courtesy of Bill Janson)



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

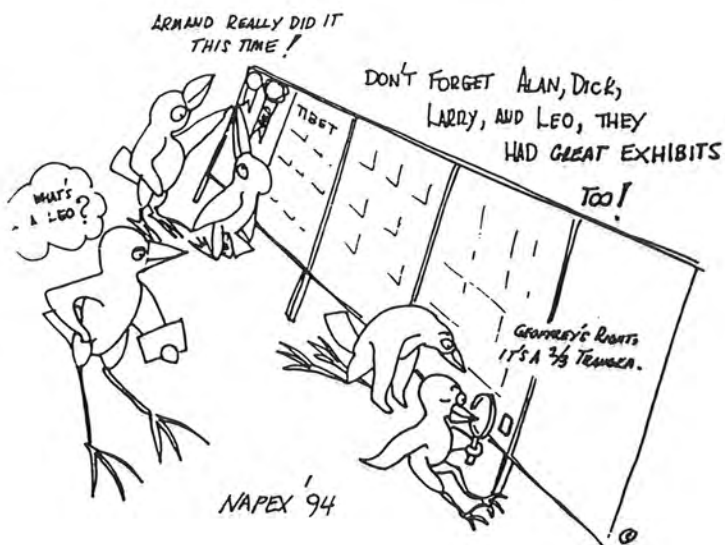
	<u>Page</u>
Editorial	Leo Martyn 43
"Tibet and the Universal Postal Union"	Geoffrey Flack 46
"Seals of M'als (Revenue Offices) - Part II"	Krishna Raj-Bahandari 51
"Tibet Registration Label Variety "	Alan Warren 52
Nepal to Set Up One Man Post Office in All Villages	Xinhua/Tuladhar 52
"Further Notes on the British-Indian Post Office in Nepal - Part 3"	Wolfgang C. Hellrigl 53
"Gurkhas in Belize"	Gale Raymond 55
"Recent Forgeries of the British and and Chinese Offices in Tibet"	George Bourke 56
Auction Action	Leo Martyn 60

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EDITORIAL

Leo Martyn

FOR THE BIRDS by Norden



Armand Singer's exhibit, "A Postal History of Tibet, 1809-1975", received five awards at Napex - site of this year's Study Circle annual meeting. The awards were: Grand Award, Gold Medal, Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Plaque, American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence (1900 to 1940), and the Postal History Society Medal. In addition, Frealon (Bud) Bibbins presented Armand with his own personal Tibet stamp (see above).

Also exhibiting were the following members: Lawrence B. Scott (Silver - he received a Vermeil at Westpex!) - "The Postal System in Nepal"; Alan Warren (Silver, also was awarded the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor) - "Tibet: Stamps and Postal History"; Dick van der Wateren (Vermeil) - "The Classic Period of Nepal"; Leo Martyn (Gold) - "Nepal: Postal History From the 18th Century Through the Transition Period (1911)".

One of our meetings took place on Friday (June 24) and was attended by 10 members and several visitors; photo courtesy of Bill Janson.

Jeremy Karl	Leo	David	Frealon	Bill
Brewer Winkelmann	Martyn	Witter	Bibbins	Janson

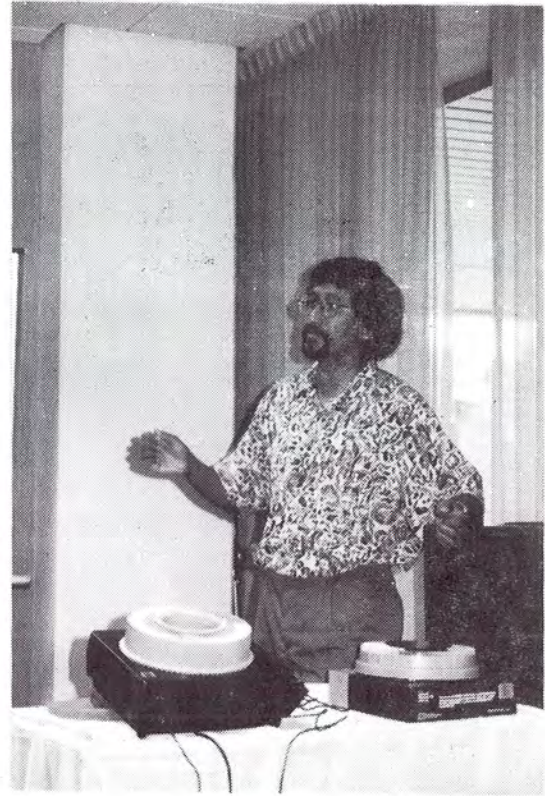


Geoffrey Flack	Larry Scott	Mary Singer	Armand Singer	Dick van der Wateren	Sidhartha Tuladhar
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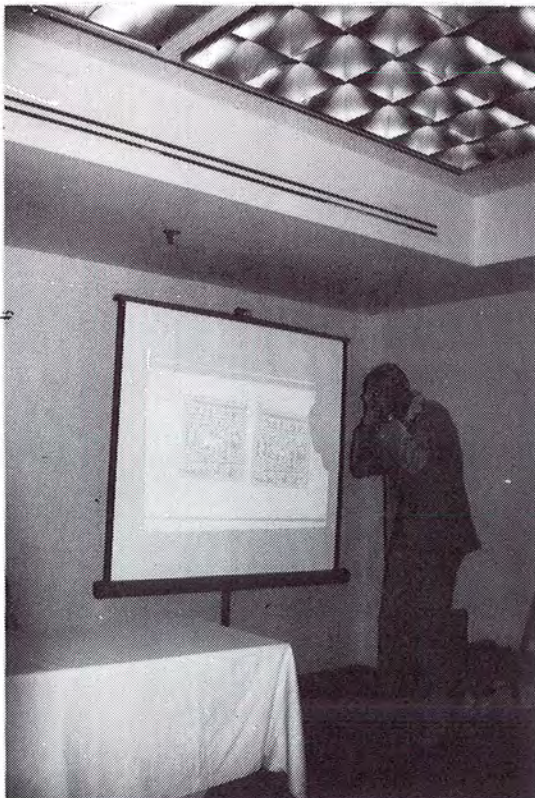
We had two splendid speakers: Geoffrey Flack - "Tibet: New Discoveries" and Sidhartha M. Tuladhar - "The Philately of Nepal and Tibet".



Geoff is discussing one of his new discoveries (See Postal Himal No. 74).



Sidhartha is emphasizing a point in reference to Tibetan traders.



At the meeting on Sunday Armand Singer gave an excellent presentation titled: "Nepal and Tibet - Some Philatelic Facts (?) or Fantasies (?)".

Armand is reliving the "4tr SpooF Proof" incident (see Postal Himal No. 73).

Many thanks to Bill Janson for the excellent photos.

o o o o o

I have applied for our Study Circle to participate at CAPEX, the F.I.P. International Exhibit which will take place in Toronto from June 8 through the 16th, 1996. We will have one, possibly two meetings and many members from various countries will attend. We won't automatically be given a certain number of exhibit frames as at National shows - each member wishing to exhibit will have to apply. The requirement for U.S. residents is that your exhibit has received at least a Vermeil award at a Nationally approved show (I am not sure of the requirements for other countries). Even though the show isn't until 1996, now is the time to contact a commissioner. In the U.S. write:

Western

Joseph Schwartz
3230 Fieldcrest Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821

Central

James P. Mazepa
P.O. Box 1217
Oak Park, IL 60304

Eastern

Roger G. Schnell
4800 N.E. 20th Terrace
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Or you can contact CAPEX directly: CAPEX '96, P.O.Box 204, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4T 2M1.

I am also going to apply for meeting rooms at Pacific '97, the International Exhibit taking place in San Francisco on May 29 through June 8, 1997. I haven't come up with a show for next year's annual meeting yet - hopefully soon. Of course, we will have a meeting at Westpex next year (San Francisco, April 28-30), but not in 1997 because of Pacific '97.

o o o o o

Member Paul Hager's Pashupati exhibit won Best In Show, Best Exhibit by a Member and a Gold Award at Lexpex '93 (Lexington, Kentucky). His next showing will be at an A.P.S. regional show.

o o o o o

Roger Skinner recently discovered a magazine which presents articles dealing with the cultural, environmental and developmental issues pertaining to the Himalayan area. Titled Himal, it is non-profit, published bi-monthly in Lalitpur, Nepal, and is in English. Each issue runs about 50 pages and includes illustrations and ads. Himal has a circulation approaching 10,000 (1350 in North America, 7500 throughout the Himalayas, and the balance in Japan and Western Europe).

Our Study Circle has been offered a free 1/6 page ad in the next issue in exchange for sending each a member a subscription form (enclosed with this issue of the Postal Himal) - hopefully we can get some new members. If you are sending in a subscription form from outside the U.S. be sure to affix the proper postage. We have also been given the opportunity of submitting an article about the Study Circle for publication in Himal and it should appear in the next issue.

o o o o o

The list for auction no. 66 will be sent separately (in about a week). The unsold lots for auctions 64 and 65 are as follows - please contact Colin Hepper if interested in purchasing any of them.

UNSOLD LOTS FROM AUCTION 64 offered at 2/3 estimate:
6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 85, 87, 104, 108, 121, 132, 135, 137, 140, 142, 144, 146, 147, 151, 152, 153, 157, 163, 165, 174, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 185.

UNSOLD LOTS FROM AUCTION 65 offered at 2/3 estimate:
1, 2, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 37, 50, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 102, 104, 105, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 134, 139, 140, 141, 143, 144, 147, 148, 149, 152, 155, 156, 157, 158, 161, 163, 252, 253, 300, 301.

* * * * *

TIBET AND THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

by Geoffrey Flack

In 1924 Major F.M. Bailey, the British Political Officer responsible for Tibet, was approached by the Tibetans on the subject of Tibet joining the Universal Postal Union.

Collectors of Tibetan stamps and postal history know that Tibet never joined the Universal Postal Union and that its stamps were valid only within its own borders. (This was also true during the Chinese occupation of 1910-12.) Foreign or international mail had to be carried by the British Indian post office which operated several post offices inside Tibet. Documents found in the British Library* reveal Tibet expressed interest in joining the U.P.U. in 1924. Though they never actually joined the U.P.U., this information adds an interesting chapter to the Postal History of Tibet.

Between 1912 and 1951 the Lamaist State of Tibet had enjoyed a defacto independence which it tried to preserve by isolating itself from the world. Behind its mountain fortress Tibet remained aloof from the twentieth century, believing any interaction with the outside world would lead to domination and the destruction of their way of life.



International Mail (both inbound and outbound) was forwarded through British-Indian Post Offices within Tibet.

Though the isolationists dominated Tibetan politics, there was a small, but significant group that wanted their country to enter the modern world. The Chinese Occupation of Tibet in 1910 led to the flight of the Dalai Lama

* Indian Office Library and Records, Political & Secret Files L/P&S/11/232, File P 1638/1923

and his Government to India. This was significant in that a number of young nobles came in contact with the outside world. They were exposed to new ideas and returned to Tibet with plans to change and modernize their country. The Tibetan Postal System, a telegraph line to Lhasa, several schools, and an attempt to modernize the army were among the changes which started to take place.

In the early 1920s the most important of these "reformers" was Tsarong Shape, the most powerful lay person in Tibet and a confidant of the 13th Dalai Lama. It was Tsarong Shape who led the drive to modernize and bring about change in Tibet.

In 1924, Major F.M. Bailey (the British Political Officer at Gangtok and responsible for Tibet) visited Lhasa. While there he was approached by Tsarong Shape, at that time the Postmaster General of Tibet, on the subject of Tibet joining the Postal Union. Bailey admitted he *"knew little about such things"* and that he would make enquiries. In his report (paragraph 6) he mentioned telling Tsarong that he thought Tibet would have to reach *"a high standard of efficiency in their postal arrangements"* to be accepted into the Union. Bailey went on to describe the Tibetan Postal System. *"At present their postal system is very inefficient. There are only six main post offices - Lhasa, Shigatse, Gyantse, Phari, Chamdo and Gyamda- but in addition it is possible to post a letter at some of the intermediate stages"* (no Tibetan Post Office has been recorded for Chamdo and several other post offices, not mentioned by Bailey, are known to have existed at this time). *"In the post offices I have seen the postmaster who is underpaid is seldom present and the public inconvenienced so much that they do not send letters. I took an opportunity to tell the Postmaster General about this. He is an old friend of mine who I knew in 1907. Post runners I met on the road between Gyantse and Lhasa were carrying no letters at all as none had been posted. The Nepalese officer told me that he did not trust the Tibetan post and had lost letters in it."*



Tsarong Shape, the Postmaster General of Tibet
(Photo - Circa 1921)

On October 31, 1924 Bailey sent a confidential letter to the Secretary to the Government of India (Foreign and Political Department, Dehli) on the "possibility and conditions" of the entry of Tibet into the Postal Union. He requested information on;

- 1) whether it will be necessary for the Tibetan Post Office to institute money orders, insurance and other branches of post office work undertaken in other countries?
- 2) whether it will be necessary for them to replace their present roughly printed stamps (which are easily copied) by better ones?
- 3) whether it will be necessary for them to send a representative periodically to the postal Conference?
- 4) What steps should be taken by them and to whom an application to enter the Union should be addressed?"

The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs prepared a memorandum dated 18th November 1924. In this memorandum he answered Bailey's questions and detailed the responsibilities and requirements of joining the Union. He mentioned that it would be necessary for Tibet "to address the Government of the Swiss Confederation through diplomatic channels" and he added that as Tibet did not have diplomatic relations with Switzerland, "she can address the Government of the Swiss Confederation through the intermediary of the British Government". He mentioned that if Tibet joined the union she would "be expected to guarantee transit across her territory of any mails for China which may be offered by any other country of the Union". He said that Tibet would have to take measures to punish the fraudulent use of counterfeit postage or the use of used stamps. The Director General of Posts also said that Tibet would be expected to contribute to the expenses of the Union, but he felt this would only amount to 250 Rupees a year. He felt that it would not be necessary for Tibet to join any of the other arrangements of the Union (Insurance, International Money Orders, etc.). He ended his memorandum by stating that unless Tibet decided to send its own representative to Switzerland "...India will always be prepared to act in this capacity".

On the 25th of November the Under Secretary of State mentioned the concern over the suggestion that the British Government might approach the Postal Union on behalf of the Tibetans. He stated "...The suggestion is one which is open to obvious objections but which there does not appear ... to be, in existing circumstances, any suitable alternatives".

On the 15th of December, 1924, J.P. Gibson (?) in commenting on the memorandum from the Post & Telegraph stated that "The memorandum does not appear to present any serious obstacle to Tibet's entry into the Postal Union. Apparently the present inefficient state of her postal arrangements is not a bar, but she will be required to remedy matters if she should desire to continue her membership of this union." He mentioned that Paragraph 1 "...seems to present most difficulty. What diplomatic

channels is she to employ in addressing the Swiss Confederation? She can hardly write direct to Bern. The use of the Chinese Foreign Office would seem the most natural course, but it is one which we should strongly deprecate as making too obvious a recognition of China's suzerainty and giving her an opening into interference in Tibetan affairs. There seems no suitable alternative to that proposed in memorandum." He pointed out that should India represent Tibetan interests at the Congresses of the Union that it would probably "arouse unfavourable comment from foreign governments." He went on to say "It seems desirable to invite an official expression of Foreign Office opinion for the guidance of the Gov't. of India and a draft is accordingly submitted."

The files contain a Departmental Paper (dated 23 Feb., Signed L & L [?]) which stated "The Government of Indian should unquestionably refer the matter to the Secretary of State, for discussion with the Foreign Office, before any communication is made to the Tibetan Government on the Subject." This paper pointed out that there was "nothing necessarily inconsistent with China's admitted position in regard to Tibet in the suggestion that the latter might independently join the Postal Union". In support the paper pointed out that India and the Dominions were independently members of the Union. Despite the legality of Tibetan's position the writer of this Departmental Paper believed "the matter would be sure to stir up trouble, especially if Tibet appeared as a protégé of the British Gov't." The question was complicated by Trade Regulations of 1908 which contained a clause "referring to the making of arrangements by China for a postal service in Tibet."

This paper went on to say that "Probably the Gov't of India are proposing to let the matter drop unless the Tibetans raise it again". This paper mentioned that "Major Bailey sometimes shows a disposition to follow an object indiscriminately .. without full regard to the wider considerations". The paper ended with the note that "...In it's practical aspects, the suggestion that Tibet should join the Postal Union does not in present conditions seem a very promising one".

The files also contain the draft of a telegram from the Secretary of State to the Indian Foreign Office (dated February 26, 1905) which mentioned the "delicate issues" raised by Tibetan interest in joining the Union.

In 1974, the Tibetan Government in Exile authorized a commemorative set to honour the 100th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.




It went on to say that "there is much to be said for letting Question rest unless Tibetans pursue it. If you agree please instruct Bailey accordingly."

The last reference to this issue to be found in the files is a confidential letter from Major Bailey to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department dated the 2nd of March 1925. In this communique he stated, "I will not raise the question again unless pressed by the Tibetan Government in which case I will do my best to discourage the idea."

By the late 1920s, the more conservative forces, led by the powerful monasteries, again dominated the Tibetan political scene. For almost 20 years the isolationists controlled the Tibetan Government and Tibet remained aloof from the world. It was only with the Communist victories in China in the late 1940s that Tibet started to look for friends who might help her. It was a case of "too little, too late".

We can always speculate on what might have happened if the British had assisted and encouraged Tibetan entry into the Universal Postal Union. Would this have been the first of a series of International commitments? Could a less isolated Tibet have withstood the Communist onslaught? It would be foolish to blame the demise of an Independent Tibet on her not joining the U.P.U., but her isolationist position was no doubt a contributing factor in the demise of the Lamaist State.

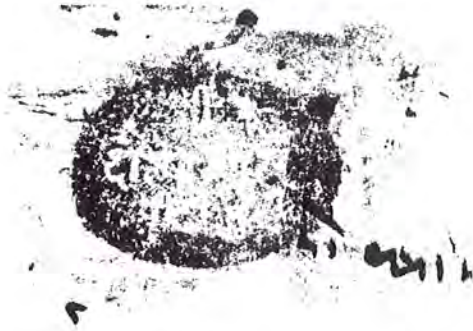
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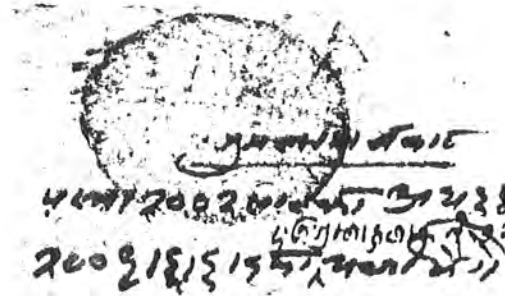
SEALS OF MALS (REVENUE OFFICES) - PART II

Krishna Raj-Bahandari

Following are additional examples of seals to the ones which appeared in my article, "Seals of Mals (Revenue Offices)", which appeared in Postal Himal no. 73 (page 18). The Mal offices sold stamps and stationery and supplied post offices with salaries, allowances and other sundry requirements.



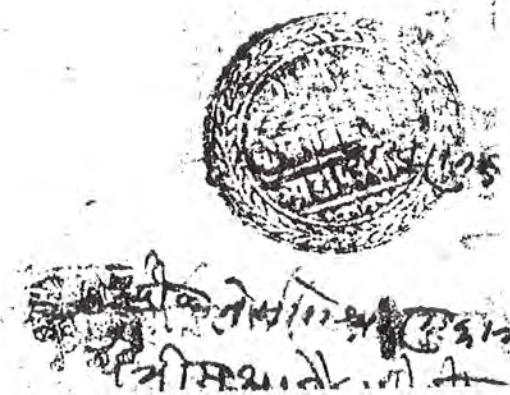
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JUMLA



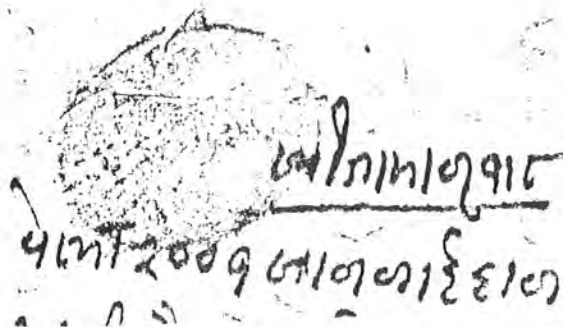
PIUTHAN



POKHARA



SINDHU PALCHOK



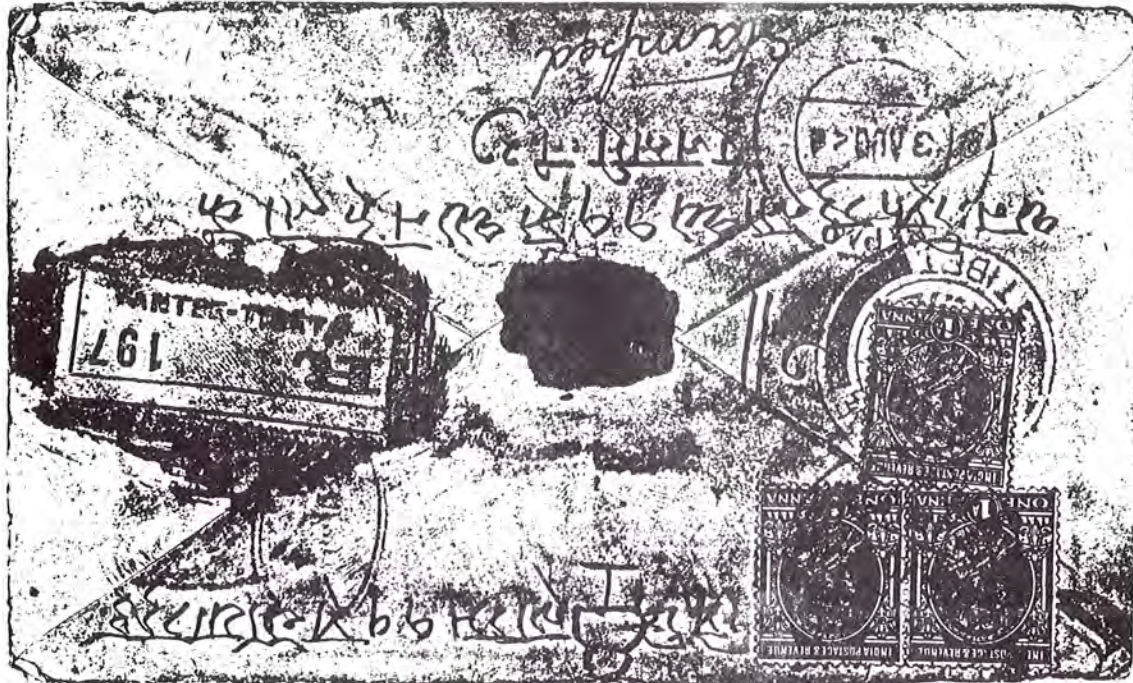
SYANGJA

Tibet Registration Label Variety

by Alan Warren

This commercial registered cover was sent from the Gorkha office in Gyantse to Katmandu on July 25, 1922, with a Nepal arrival of August 3. It bears three India King George V one Anna stamps which would indicate that, according to Waterfall, it is ½ Anna overpaid. The registration label is the typical blue ink with sans-serif numerals, Waterfall Type BR.2. The Gyantse-Tibet black imprint on the label is Type GD. However, the imprint is upside down.

Has anyone else seen such labels with the town name inverted, and how common is such a variety? I would appreciate hearing from anyone with information (Alan Warren, P.O. Box 17124, Philadelphia PA 19105).



HEADLINE: Nepal to set up one-man post office in all villages.

SOURCE: Xinhua **Dateline:** Kathmandu, August 6. **ITEM NO:** 0806094

BODY: The Nepali [sic] government is establishing one-man post offices in all of the country's villages in accordance with the announced program to provide simple and cheap communication services by means of general mail services. A circular on the decision of the government has already been sent to all the district post offices and the necessary preparations are underway, according to Ramchandra Upadhuaua, director general of the mail services department. In some villages, one man post offices have already started functioning, the official said, adding that the monsoon has delayed the operation of the post offices owing to the difficulties in transporting mail items to the remote parts. The program envisages [that] a total of 3,995 one-man post offices would be set up in rural areas altogether. Nepal now has 2,479 post offices including 5 general post offices, 70 district post offices, 497 area post offices, 1,673 additional post offices and 234 village post offices, said a new economic survey of fiscal year 1993-94 issued recently by the finance ministry.

Reported by Sidhartha Tuladhar.

Further Notes on the British-Indian Post Office in Nepal - Part 3

Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

In this third supplement to *Nepal Postal History*, I am pleased to record several discoveries that have been brought to my attention. I should like to thank Leo Martyn, Lawrence Scott, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Prof. Dr. Armand E. Singer, C. Tulsiyan and Brig. Diljit S. Virk for sharing their findings with us.

1. Revised Periods of Use

The periods of use of the following types of postal markings and labels should be corrected as follows (the newly recorded dates are underlined):

British Residency P.O.:

Datestamps (page 93):

TYPE B23 (black) 8.9.1870 - 1.8.1873

Delivery Datestamps (page 103):

TYPE B35 19.9.1905 - 12.9.1911

[correcting a date recorded in *Postal Himal* No. 72, p. 56]

Postage-Due Handstamps (page 118):

TYPE B61 31.7.1907 - 12.8.1937

Indian Embassy P.O. (page 144):

TYPE B115 22.10.1949 - 11.12.1958

Postal Labels:

Registration Labels (page 151):

TYPE 6 21.10.1943 - 28.1.1944

TYPE 15 8.9.1953 - 27.7.1954

TYPE 19 24.7.1960 - 13.6.1961

[cf. *Postal Himal* Nos. 69 & 70, p. 6]

Airmail Labels (page 167):

TYPE 1 24.7.1931 - 9.2.1950

2. New Types of Postal Markings and Labels

This time, an interesting discovery was made by S.L. Shrestha. He found a British Legation V.-P. label of Type 3, printed in green instead of red.

Value-Payable Labels (pp. 161-162):

TYPE	label printed	recorded usage	Rarity	Points
3a	<u>green</u>	1.7.1948	RRR	150

3. Further Comments

Early Inward Mail (Page 72):

Inward covers of the pre-stamp period have been reported from two further Indian Post Offices: ALMORAH [Bearing] and GAYA [Paid.] These are extremely rare.

Datestamps Used as Cancellations (Page 91):

Brig. D.S. Virk, the doyen of India's postal historians, has sent me further comments, which are gratefully acknowledged. He claims that the regulation that required postcards and embossed envelopes to be defaced with circular datestamps instead of obliterators, was "introduced in 1881" and "remained in force till at least 1939, though it was widely ignored." I have still not seen the text of this most interesting ruling.

During the 20th century, both cancellations and datestamps were indiscriminately used to cancel postal stationery, and the regulation completely lost the importance it undoubtedly had during the 1880s.

Datestamps (Page 98):

Fig. 37 shows a cover bearing a strike of the datestamp, Type B27, without year digits. This was originally believed to be a unique marking. Now a second strike of the same variety, dated 29th July [1895], has been reported.

Postage-Due Handstamps (Page 121):

Brig. Virk correctly points out that the octagonal "Type B62 is not the Postmaster's Unpaid Stamp." Instead, the standard Postmaster's Unpaid Stamp was a small oval datestamp bearing the name of the P.O. and the word UNPAID. The oval marking, which, so far, has not been recorded for Nepal, was later superseded by the octagonal UNPAID datestamp.

"T" Handstamp (Page 121):

Brig. Virk also maintains that "Type B63 is not an Indian stamp but the stamp of some foreign exchange office en route for destination." On the other hand, the "T" was applied to a cover that originated from Nepal: according to U.P.U. regulations, this marking had to be applied by the dispatching P.O. Under these circumstances, I feel that further evidence would be required before condemning this undoubtedly rare marking.

The Triangular Datestamp (Page 123):

A third strike has been found on a cover addressed to Nepal. The three covers in question were not marked with any rectangular sorting datestamps or UNPAID/SORTING handstamps.

Airmail (Pages 127 & 167):

In *India Post*, Vol. 28 (1994), p.34, Ajeet Singhee illustrates the earliest known airmail cover from Nepal, dated 24th July, 1931. It bears an Airmail Label, Type 1.

Insured Labels (Page 166):

Brig. Virk claims that the two Insured Labels are not of Indian origin. He may well be right, but the fact remains that both Types have been found on mail sent from the Indian P.O. in Kathmandu.

* * * * *

GURKHAS IN BELIZE

Gale Raymond

The cover below was recently found in a dealer's junk-box, for pennies. During this period, mail was collected from four or five Gurkha encampments just inside the Belize southern border with Guatemala, by a landrover or military jeep. Ultimately it was bagged and flown out by helicopter to the British Forces Base 12 at Ladyville, near the airport. Presumably the mail was canceled somewhere on the track, with an FPO 293 datestamp, as it varies slightly in dimensions from another such datestamp held at the Army Camp FPO. The Belize Philatelic Study Circle records FPO 939 and an FPO 293 as Mobile FPOs.



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RECENT FORGERIES OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE OFFICES IN TIBET

George Bourke

FRONTIER COMMISSION

By comparison with the forgeries of Tibet's native issues, forgeries of the British Offices are quite uncommon. Recently two new forgeries have been seen, one is potentially dangerous. They both appeared in 1993 and are here recorded for the first time.

The first is a forgery of the KHAMPA JONG TIBET cancel Type B1, No. 6. This cancel was used exclusively during the Frontier Commission period. I have only seen one example of this forgery. It was canceling a genuine Indian stamp (Scott No. 53), albeit one that is not known used in Tibet. The source for this forgery was the illustration in Haverbeck's¹ "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet."

Comparing the forgery with Haverbeck's illustration, it will be noted that both are extremely sharp and clear. This is quite unlike most genuine impressions. The forgery does not have the appearance of a handstruck cancel but more closely resembles a photocopy.

All of the forgeries discussed in this article appear to have been created using modern photo reproductive technology. Each example exactly reproduces the other. This is unlike individual cancelers and dies, which produce individual inking characteristics.

YOUNGHUSBAND EXPEDITION

The next forgery is of the Lhasa Type B1, No. 37 cancel, the most common of the cancels from the Younghusband Expedition. I have seen only two examples of this forgery: one on a piece with a single cancel, and the other a nearly complete cover front, with two full and one partial strike. Both the cover front and piece appeared to be genuinely of the period and were thus very convincing.

The forgeries bore the date 22 SE 04. This is not a date that corresponds to any of the illustrations in Newman, Russell, Haverbeck or Waterfall, so it has not been possible to trace this forgery back to a source in any of these works.

The stamps used were genuine Indian stamps (Scott No. 55). These are often found genuinely used from this period with the Lhasa Type B1 cancellation. The cancels on the other hand, each had breaks in the letters, numbers and along the outer ring. These breaks, caused from incomplete inking (on the genuine model this forgery was taken from), and forming the individual characteristics of the cancel, were in the same place on each of the strikes. While breaks are a common enough occurrence due to the vagaries of hand inking, to have each strike showing the same minute breaks is

certainly suspicious.

Thankfully I had more than one example of this forgery to use for comparison. Had this not been the case, it would have been very difficult to determine if this was genuine or a forgery.

CHINESE OFFICES

The next group of forgeries appeared in the early 1990's and are here recorded for the first time. They comprise two distinct groups, forged overprints and forged cancels.

FORGED OVERPRINTS

These are invariably found on genuine stamps. The four values that I have seen were Scott No.'s 1, 5, 7 and 8. Two of the stamps showed clear evidence of prior postal use, as they had genuine Chinese cancels underneath the overprints. The others had traces of ink from a canceling device but it was not possible to make out the cancels.

The overprints are quite good, except for a slight difference in size. On the forgeries the overprint is wider than on a genuine example. It may be that Haverbeck was used as a source for this latest set of forged overprints. It should be noted that Haverbeck's illustrations are slightly enlarged, making the overprint wider than it would otherwise be (at normal scale). His figure 12, shows a photograph of seven China Offices stamps with the background almost completely (photographically) removed, thus isolating the overprints from their backgrounds.² Of the forgeries, each is to be found among these seven stamps. A coincidence to be sure but a strong one. It seem likely that this set of forgeries was created using this photograph and that the differences in the overprints size can be attributed to this source.

Certainly the best way to differentiate this forgery from the genuine is by measurement. It should be pointed out that many authors choose either to enlarge or decrease the size of their photos, in relation to the object being photographed. Thus it is necessary to use genuine stamps for comparison and not rely on photographs, unless they are known to be in accurate scale.

FORGED CANCELLATIONS

This next group consists of forged cancels on genuine unoverprinted Chinese stamps of the 2nd and 3rd Imperial issue 1898-1910. Not all of these stamps are known used in Tibet, and a familiarity with those that were is a must.

The cancels encountered were: Lhasa Type C1 and 2, Gyantse, Phagri, Yatung Type C2 and Yatung Type C3. Some of these stamps showed signs of previous use and bore genuine Chinese cancels under the forgery while others did not.

The Lhasa and Phagri Type C2 cancels have been reproduced from illustrations in "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet", by H.D.S. Haverbeck. I have been unable to find a source for the other cancels. Each of these seems to be a product of modern photo reproductive technology and not the result of individual hand struck cancelers. When more than one example of the same cancel is examined, each shows the same individual characteristics, over inking in one area and under inking in another, unlike genuine cancellations which show variations caused by differences in hand pressure and inking.

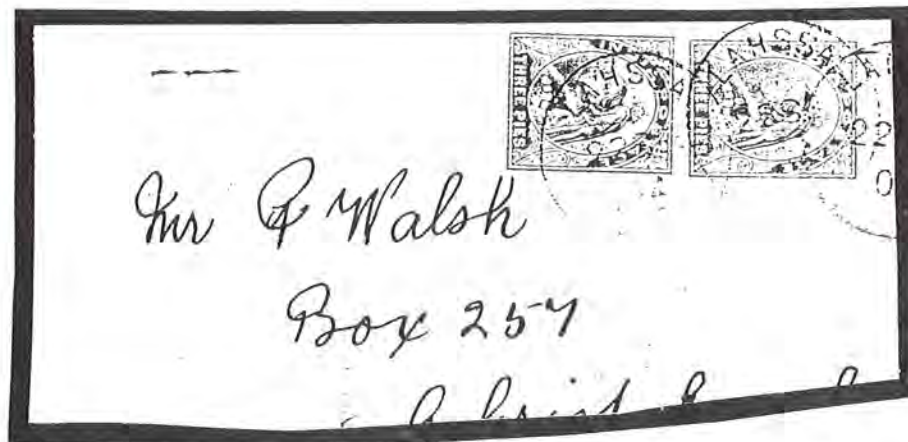
They all appear to have been reproduced using genuine examples (or illustrations of genuine material), and are thus very dangerous. When found on the correct stamp (one known to have been genuinely used in Tibet), they can be most difficult and could fool even the most advanced collector.

I have seen one example of the forged Lhasa Type C2 cancel tying a genuine China Offices stamp (Scott No. 1) to a piece. It is possible that these forged cancels may show up on genuine China Offices stamps, on genuine Chinese stamps or on stamps with forged overprints. Any of these possibilities are likely, and the collector must be alert to such eventualities.

As genuine examples of these cancels (with the exception of the Yatung Type C3) are rare and expensive, the utmost care needs to be taken in the purchase of such material. Like all things philatelically Tibetan, a skeptical attitude is the best defense.

Notes:

- (1) H.D.S. Haverbeck, "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet", The Collectors Club; New York: 1st Edition, Sept. 1952, p. 6, fig. 1, ILL. VI. 2nd Edition, 1958, p. 7, fig. 1, ILL. VI.
- (2) H.D.S. Haverbeck, "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet", The Collectors Club; New York: 1st Edition, Sept. 1952, p. 20, fig. 9. 2nd Edition, 1958, p. 22, fig. 12.



KHAMPA JONG FORGERY

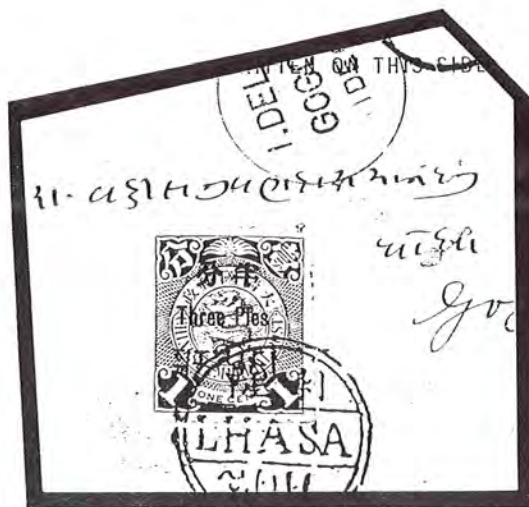
LHASA TYPE B1 FORGERY



FORGED CHINA OFFICES OVERPRINTS



FORGED CHINA OFFICES CANCELS ON GENUINE CHINESE STAMPS



FORGED LHASA TYPE C2 ON A GENUINE STAMP AND OVERPRINT

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FOR SALE: TIBETAN STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY. I currently have a large stock of quality material from all periods. I would be glad to send you a selection tailored to your specific needs. Want lists invited. I also have a list of out-of-print books and articles on Tibetan philately for which I can provide photocopies. This will be sent to anyone requesting it. George Bourke, P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, Mi., 49201, U.S.A.

AUCTION ACTION

Leo Martyn

The following four lots were offered by Chrisite's in their 1993, Dec. 14-15 auction. Lot 2411 realized £1380 (including the buyer's premium), the others did not sell. Regarding lot 2411 the note that this sheet is "one of the most important items of Nepalese philately" is Christie's opinion, not Hellrigl/Vignola's.

Nepal

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|--------|------|--|----------|
| 2411 ★ | [B] | 1894-96 2a. violet unused (purple tinge) very clear impression, the famous and probably unique sheet of sixty-four from Setting 8 showing inverted clichés [21] and [60]. Some light overall foxing, nevertheless one of the most important items of Nepalese philately. See Hellrigl/Vignola page 130. | £700-900 |
| 2412 | [EB] | 1917-30 New printings on native paper, blurred impressions, an accumulation with many large blocks with telegraphic cancellations, comprising ½a. black (2500 approx.) with about 50 tête-bêche pairs, 2a. brown shades (1200 approx.) with about 50 tête-bêche pairs and 1928 redrawn 1a. (1400 approx.). Cat. £6000+ | £600-700 |
| 2413 | [B] | 1922-24 ½a. Setting 10, 1925-26 Second State ½a. Setting 12 and 1929-30 ½a. Setting 14 — three complete sheets of fifty-six showing various inverted clichés, the first two telegraphically cancelled (some staining), the last unused. | £100-120 |
| 2414 | | 1928-30 Redrawn 1a., a study illustrating the many variations of shade and paper, including three complete sheets (one unused and two telegraphically cancelled, one in an almost black shade). (228) | £140-180 |

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In Christie's auction of March 9, six lots of British-Indian/Nepal material was offered. Realizations (not including Buyer's premium): Lot 2484 - £ 260, 2485 - £95, 2486 - £ 130. Lots 2487 and 2488 did not sell (not sure about 2489) as their valuations were raised to £160 and £280 respectively.

Nepal

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|------|-----|--|----------|
| 2484 | [X] | 1865 (c.) [X] from Kathmandu to Patna, bearing India 1856 ½a. pale blue (manuscript "Shri" and vertically bisected prior to affixing to [X]), cancelled "137", reverse showing partial "NEPAUL/G.P.O." c.d.s. (with inverted date). A charming and petite cover Hellrigl Certificate (1990). Photo | £150-200 |
| 2485 | [X] | 1870 (Feb.) stampless incoming [X] from Tirhoot (13.2 despatch c.d.s. with manuscript "1a" due mark above), showing alongside a very fine strike of the rare triangular "NEPAUL" arrival d.s. (17.2). Fine. Hellrigl Certificate (1984). Photo | £120-150 |
| 2486 | [X] | 1871 (Oct.) stampless incoming [X] from Tirhoot (manuscript "1a." due mark above), showing a very fine strike of the black "NEPAUL" c.d.s. (Hellrigl type B23). Fine and complete with original enclosure. Photo | £100-120 |
| 2487 | [X] | 1873 (8 April) stampless incoming [X] (peripheral faults and somewhat crumpled) from Benares via Bankipoor (9.4) and Tirhoot (10.4), showing "NEPAUL" arrival c.d.s. (the "U" is broken) alongside. Photo | £80-100 |
| 2488 | [X] | 1883 (21 Nov.) stampless [X] to "Princess Nara Jung Shah" and "Hani Jung Shah of Jajarkat" (banished to Benares and showing 24.11 arrival c.d.s.), with "NEPAL" c.d.s. alongside together with framed "POSTAGE DUE" h.s., all in black. A few worm holes, though of mostly fine appearance. Hellrigl Certificate (1984). Photo | £80-100 |
| 2489 | [X] | 1892 (3 June) [X] from England to the "Senior Commanding General, Chandra Sham Sher Jung, Kathmandu", bearing G.B. 1d. lilac and Jubilee 2½d. pair, reverse showing transit c.d.s. together with thimble type "NEPAL" arrival c.d.s. displaying the error of lettering. A cover of much appeal. Photo | £100-120 |

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Cavendish offered four Chinese/Tibet lots in their April 22-23 auction, including an inverted surcharge on the 3p/1¢ which realized £1600; lot 515 realized £220 (neither lot includes the buyer's premium).



TIBET

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|-----|--|------|
| 512 | 1911 3p on 1c brownish orange variety SURCHARGE INVERTED. Fine mounted mint. SG. 1a Cat. £1000. COLOUR PHOTO FRONT COVER. | £500 |
| 513 | 1911 mint selection with 3p (4), ½a (4), 1a (3), 2a (3), 2½a (3), 3a (3), 4a (4), 6a (3), 12a (3), 1r & 2r. Mostly fine. SG. C1 - C11. Cat. £450+. (32). | £250 |
| 514 | 1911 3p to 2r used, some faults but scarce. SG. C1 to C11. Cat. £575. (11). | £150 |
| 515 | 1911 3a on 16c olive-green, a marginal pair one with "inverted S" variety, some minor thinning, very fresh. PHOTO | £75 |

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Michael Rogers' auction #29 (July 2-3) offered 5 lots of Nepal and 47 lots of Tibetan material; highlights (prices do not include buyer's premium):

NEPAL

1881, complete set, pin-perf, full original gum - \$250.
1881, complete set, imperforate - \$125.
1889 4a, mint block of 4 including position 54 inverted (H/V 13, 13a) - \$190.
1942 Nepal/Tibet (registered) censored ("Open /) cover (shortened at one end) - \$240.

TIBET

Complete unused set of the 1950 Telegraph stamps - \$190.
Cover bearing 1933 $\frac{1}{2}$ t block of 4 and $\frac{2}{3}$ t irregular block of 3, both cancelled Gyantse with transit or receiving postmark of Shigatse (unusual to find transit or receiving marks on covers bearing the 1933 issue) - \$450.
A 1954 (July 12) dated registered 5 t rate cover bearing a 4 t plus a quadrisect 4 t - \$900.

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George Alevizos in his auction of July 7 offered 7 lots of Bhutanese essays, printer's presentation sheets and proofs; 12 lots of Nepalese stamps and covers; 50 lots of Tibetan items including some rare and exciting Chinese Office and Tibet Frontier Commission postal history (prices do not include the buyer's premium).

TIBET

1912 Waterlow 1/6 t, engraved essay in YELLOW (rare color) - \$2300.
1914 8 t, vermilion, complete sheet, rare First printing (Waterfall records 3 complete sheets) - \$10,000.
1910 (ca.) cover to Gyantse franked with 2 China 3¢ tied by rare trilingual Lhasa Tibet C1 postmark - \$5750. (ecv \$3500-\$4000).
1910 (ca) cover to Lhasa bearing China 1¢ & 2¢ tied by the rare trilingual Shigatse type C2 cancel - \$2750. (ecv \$800-\$1000).
1910 (ca) China 1¢ postal card cancelled by two rare trilingual Shigatse type C2 postmarks with two Gyantse type C2 postmarks alongside, file fold and light even staining - \$3750. (ecv \$1250-\$1500).
1911 (Mar. 11) mixed issue cover to Lhasa franked with unoverprinted China 1¢ (pair) and Offices in Tibet $\frac{1}{2}$ a/2¢ tied by Gyantse Tibet type C3 - \$4000. (\$4000-\$6000).
1911 (Sept. 13) registered (type CR2 handstamp) cover addressed to the Director General of Posts Peking, franked with China Offices $\frac{1}{2}$ a/2¢, 3a/16¢ & 4a/20¢ tied by Lhasa Tibet type C4 postmark, with manuscript "Via Chengtu" and backstamps of Batang, Tatsienlu & Peking illustrating the rare Overland Route - \$5500. to a telephone bidder (ecv \$4000-\$5000).
1911 (Apr. 8) cover franked with Chinese Office 3a/16¢ & 4a/20¢, tied by Chabdo Tibet type C3 postmark - \$10,000 to the floor (ecv \$4000-\$5000).
1912 (May) red stripe cover bearing Chinese Office 3a/16¢ tied by the rare trilingual Yatung type C2 postmark with a Pharijong F.P.O. No.81 type B1 cds - \$4000. to the floor (ecv \$2500-\$3000).
1936 view card (showing Nanga Parabat) to Munich, franked with Indian stamps tied by Gangtok cds, with dateline "German Himalayan Expedition 1936, Camp III" - \$550 (ecv \$250-\$300).
1939 (June) view card (unidentified snow-covered mountain peak) to Germany, franked with Indian stamps tied by Gangtok cds, with handstamped return of "Munich Sikkim - Himalaya Expedition 1939, care of Postmaster, Gangtok, Base Camp Green Lake 4860m", \$400 (ecv \$250-\$300).

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