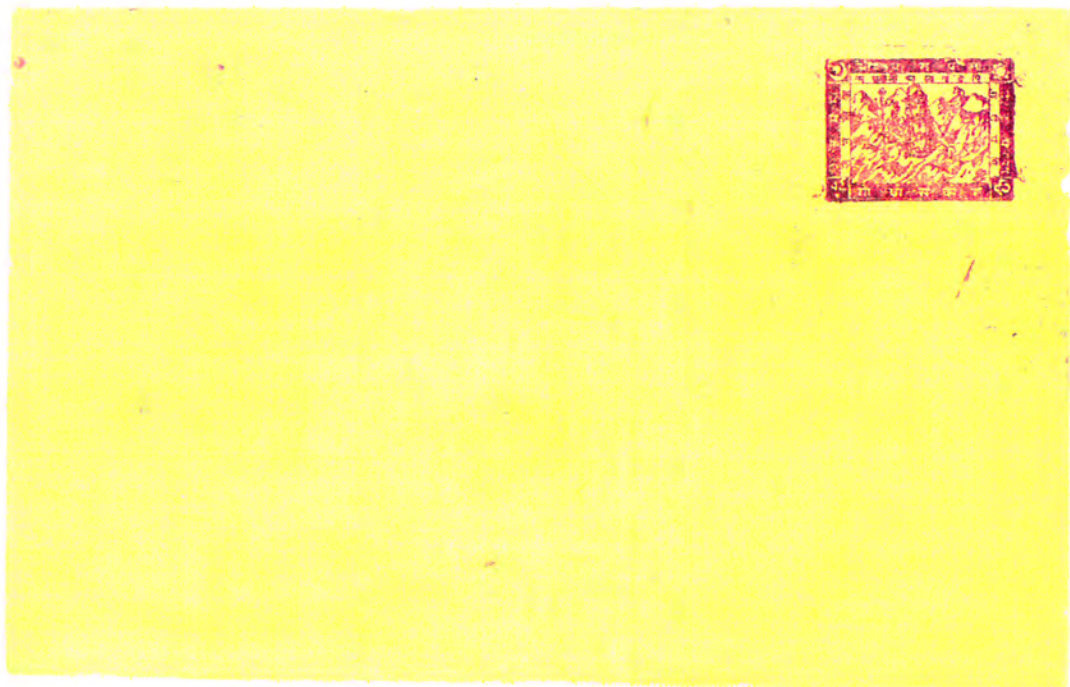


POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



SRI PASHUPATI POSTAL CARD PROOF

No. 86

2nd Quarter 1996



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HIMALAYAN VIEWS

by
Leo Martyn

We had a very fine meeting at Capex '96, Canada's World Philatelic Exhibition. Mr. Ramesh Shrestha, the National Commissioner from Nepal, gave everyone present a very colorful 1997 calendar. They were printed in Nepal using local paper and are designed to hang on the wall. Please see Alan Warren's report in this issue for more details regarding Capex '96.

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Our meeting at Westpex (San Francisco - April 28) was attended by about 10 members. Geoff Flack gave a talk regarding the present "market conditions" of Tibetan philately. As usual, our meeting and the show were very fine.

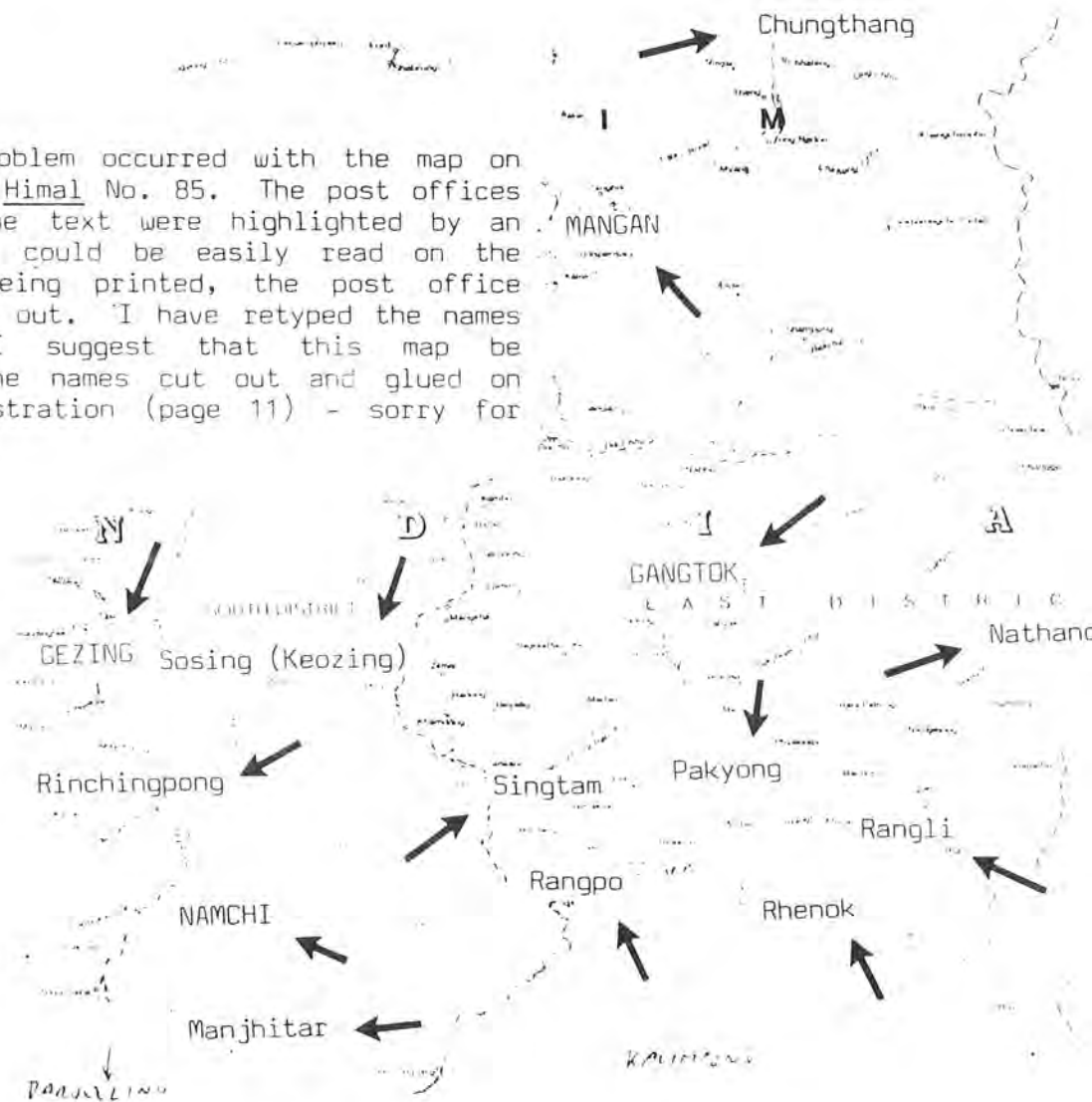
Westpex will not take place in 1997 due to the World Philatelic Exhibition in San Francisco (Pacific '97 - May 29 through June 8). This promises to be a super show and I know that many members will be present at the two scheduled Study Circle meetings (June 1 and 7 - both at 10:30).

o o o o o

The following awards were received by members for their exhibits:

- Paul Hager: "Nepal: The Pashupati Issues" (4 frames).
Louipex '96 (Louisville, Kentucky, June 28-30) - Gold Award and the Reserve Grand Award.
Cinplex '96 (Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society) - Gold Award.
"Postal Markings of the PTT of Nepal" ("One Frame Exhibit").
Cinplex '96 - Gold Award.
- Leo Martyn: "The Development of Nepal's Postal System, 1775-1911" (8 frames).
Capex '96 - Gold Award.
- Ramesh Shrestha: "Nepalese Classics" (5 frames).
Capex '96 - Gold Award.
- Dick van der Wateren: "Nepal Postal Stationery, 1887-1959" (6 frames).
ALPHILA '96 (Netherlands National Stamp Exhibition) - Gold Award, Special Prize and Felicitations of the Jury for "Best Exhibit".
Capex '96 - Gold Award.
- Frank Edward Vignola: "Nepal: The Sri Pashupati Local Printings, 1941-1946" (5 frames).
Pipex '96 (Salem, Oregon, National Philatelic Exhibition, May 17-19) - Gold award.
- Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.: "Nepal: The Classic Period, 1881-1930".
Sandical '96 (San Diego, California, Jan 19-21) - Gold Award.
ASDA Mega-Event (New York City, N.Y., Feb. 22-25) - Gold Award.
Filatelic Fiesta (San Jose, California, Mar. 16-17) - Gold Award, The "Grand Award", American Philatelic Society "1900-1940 Medal".
- It should be noted that Rishav Shrestha (not a member) received a "Certificate of Participation" for his 3 frame exhibit, "The Himalayas", shown in the "Youth-up to 15 years old" group at Capex '96.

A printing problem occurred with the map on page 11 of Postal Himal No. 85. The post offices referred to in the text were highlighted by an orange marker but could be easily read on the original. Upon being printed, the post office towns were blacked out. I have retyped the names on this map. I suggest that this map be photocopied and the names cut out and glued on the original illustration (page 11) - sorry for the inconvenience.



THE TWO PAISA POSTAL CARD PROOF OF THE SRI PASHUPATI
DESIGN STAMPS, ISSUE OF 1934/1935-1937.

Dr. Frank E. Vignola

Printed by the Gurkha Patra Press in Kathmandu, the locally designed rectangular Sri Pashupati 2 paisa imprinted stamp design is very similar to the 1935 issue of the Sri Pashupati stamps printed by Perkins-Bacon and Co., London (illustrated on the front cover).

The 2 paisa proof was printed in light brown ink on thick, heavy, buff Native paper, whereas the imprinted stamp on the 2 paisa postal card was printed in blue ink on stiff native paper of poor quality in shades of buff to gray. The text, ornaments and "Horse Type" design also were printed in blue on the postal cards of this issue.

Apparently the 2 paisa postal card proof was printed in brown so that it would be a match of the color of the new 1935 issue of the paisa stamps. It was a good, logical idea, but those in charge decided to keep this new issue of 2 paisa postal cards the same color as the previous "Horse Types" and "Kukris" imprinted stamp design and text in blue ink.

All that can be recalled regarding the source of the proof is that it was purchased from a dealer in Nepal around 1970 by my father, Frank J. Vignola, and presented to me by him to add to the Nepalese postal stationery collection I was starting at that time.

Armand Singer Speaks at the Collectors Club of New York

by Alan Warren

On May 1, Armand Singer was the featured speaker at the twice-a-month meetings of the Collectors Club of New York. His topic was specialized Nepal. Members and guests gathered for a social hour beginning at 5 PM. Shortly after, viewers could inspect some of Armand's nicer items which he had on display in the club frames. About 6:30 PM the Program Chairman Robert L. Markovits introduced Armand and his wife who accompanied him from West Virginia.

Armand apologized for inadvertently leaving some slides at home that he intended to show. However, with his spry humor and wonderful anecdotal reminiscences, his talk went very well, supported by the wonderful material in the frames. He began with a 1772 document with the seal of the first hereditary king of Nepal, followed by a cover from the British residency post office which served from 1816 until 1920. His example was the earliest surviving cover dated December 7, 1816. The next gem was a "Nipaul" mourning cover sent to Greenock, Scotland with arrival marking from June 30, 1834.

Next was a Kathmandu to Calcutta cover dated February 1, 1849 followed by the only recorded example of a 19th century cover sent from Nepal to Latin America, this one being an 1891 item to Guatemala. Some mouth watering items from the first issue included an imperf sheet of setting I of the one anna ultramarine from 1881-85, and a setting X of the 2 annas with damaged cliché from about 1898. He showed several sheets with missing clichés and inverted clichés.

Another beauty was the only recorded sheet of the ½-anna, setting 4, with burn marks caused by the fire at Perkins, Bacon in London in 1940. One item with association for those of us who collect Tibet was an official cover to Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey in May 1938, the year in which he retired from government service. Another registered cover of August 1884 bore copies of the three values of the first issue-- 1, 2, and 4 annas. A unique item was a cover with a tête-bêche pair of the recut one anna on white wove European paper, dated December 1904 -- the only recorded example of this rare pair on cover.

Other rare items on display included a mint tête-bêche pair of the 2 annas first issue, and a unique used strip of three with position 22 inverted (see *Postal Himal.* No. 77). Still another unique item was the ½-anna provisional seal. In addition to the classic issues of Nepal Armand also had a few examples of the Sri Pashupati issues. He is in the process of writing up and mounting this material in hopes of preparing a photocopy of this collection similar to the recent edition of his Tibet collection.

|| * * * * || * * * * ||

Some Interesting Tibet Postal Markings - By Nick Rhodes

Having just received a copy of *The Postal Markings of Tibet*, by Wolfgang Hellrigl, it occurred to me that the items illustrated below may be of interest to readers, as they provide one entirely new marking, and extend the period of recorded issue of certain of the scarcer Tibetan postal markings:-

1. A cover, sent by registered mail, from Lhasa addressed to S.W.Laden La, in Darjeeling. It received an impression of the registration handstamp, T73, and a T14 cancellation in Lhasa. It then entered the Indian postal system at Pharijong on 28th March 1923, receiving the common B17 cancellation and the Pharijong F.P.O.81 postage due handstamp B115, before arriving in Darjeeling on 31st March. Accordingly it extends the period of recorded use of two of these postal markings, T73 & B115. Also, my cover shows clearly that the illustration of T14 is misleading, in that the "H" of LHASSA slopes backwards, not forwards, as in the line drawing - this feature was correctly drawn by Waterfall (his Type.V), but was not mentioned in his description of the differences between the various cancellations of this period.

2. A Postal Receipt bearing the rare Gyantse Postal Ink Seal marking T60, for a Registered letter, originally sent from S.W.Laden La in Darjeeling to Kusho Mondo, c/o the British Trade Agency in Gyantse, and then forwarded on from the Trade Agency to Lhasa. Mondo was, of course, one of the Tibetan boys who was sent to school at Rugby in England during the first world war. The Postal Receipt is attached to a letter from S.Tobden of the Trade Agency to Laden La dated 28th May 1932, confirming the date of this usage. S.Tobden writes "The cover addressed to Kusho Mondo has been forwarded through the Tibetan Post Office under registered cover. The Postal receipt is enclosed. You need not entertain any anxious (sic) for the payment of stamps, as it is too meagre a sum to get refund." This item thus extends the recorded use of this item up to 1932, and it seems appropriate, therefore, to extend the presumed use up to 1933, as for the other similar postal seals.

3. A Telegram form addressed to "General Dzasa Laden La" in Lhasa in 1923/4, and bearing an unrecorded Ink Seal with the Tibetan letter "Lha" in the centre, presumably referring to the Lhasa Post and Telegraph Office. I feel that this mark deserves to be added to the recorded Postal Ink Seals on p.37 - T59 might be an appropriate Type No.

- Apart from these three items, I can extend the recorded period of issue of a few other Tibetan cancellations: T43, which I have used in October 1934, and T.46, which I have used in the 7th Tibetan month of the Wood-Hog year (1935). I also have a fine pair of 1tr rose-lake perforated stamps, cancelled with the scarce PELTI cancellation, T45, which came from the Williamson collection, and hence must pre-date Mr.Williamson's death in November 1935. I regret that Mr Williamson only preserved them "on piece", and not on the whole envelope, so no more accurate date is possible.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Wolfgang Hellrigl and Geoffrey Flack, on a very well produced book, with interesting information clearly set out, and I hope that more people like me will be tempted to look carefully at their collections to see what additional information can be added.



Handwritten text in Hindi script, including a name and a title.

to *Radhika*
 my nephew of Police
Deeraj Singh

Coyambur, Poona.
The 28th May 1932

Dear Dasa Kushe,

Thank you for
your kind letter of the 5th May 1932.
The cover addressed to Kushe
Mundo, has been forwarded through
the Poona Post office under registered
cover. The Postal receipt is enclosed.
You need not enter any amount
for the payment of stamps, as it is too
meagre a sum to be paid.

The postmaster
apparently knows something about
your account with the Kaximau
Sama. Thank you, I am in excellent
health. She is getting better
of course. We are glad to see
the monsoon approaching.
With regards.

Sincerely yours
S. J. ...

Handwritten text in Devanagari script, possibly a postscript or a separate note, including a circular stamp.

C.

POSTS TELEGRAMS



NOTICE.

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.



Per Stamp.

Handed in at (Office of Origin)	Date	Hour	Minute	Service Instructions	Words
Lalgarh	12	10	19		
TO	Recd. here at		11	11	40
<p>General Manager Lalgarh received the message regarding the... with the... San... ...</p>					

Note—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.
Lal. Char. & Sour—3617—27.2.22—200,000 Bks.



(Above seal enlarged and enhanced)

Nepal 1881-1885 Issue: More on the 2 Annas Tête-Bêche

by Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

In *Postal Himal* No. 77 (1994), I published an article on the famous 2 annas tête-bêche, on European paper (Hellrigl/Vignola No. 5a). In particular, I recorded a newly discovered vertical strip of three containing pos. 14, 22 and 30, in which pos. 22 was inverted. The position of this inverted cliché enabled me to plate two other tête-bêche pairs (ex Haverbeck and ex Heddergott, respectively): both consist of pos. 22 and 23, with pos. 22 inverted. At this stage I believed to have definitely solved the long-standing problem of the position of the inverted cliché.

Now, new evidence has come to light which forces me to revise, at least partly, some of the points I made in my previous article. The first additional clue came in the form of a photograph of the well-known, but previously unplated tête-bêche pair in the Tapling collection of the British Library. I had closely examined the original in London - David Beech, the most co-operative curator of the collection had even taken it out of the frames for me, in order to provide better viewing facilities - but it was only after obtaining a clear photograph that I could actually attempt plating it. However, to my indignation, the plating procedure proved to be so extremely difficult that, in the end, I had to surrender without coming to an acceptable conclusion.

But help was on its way: an unrecorded, vertical tête-bêche pair appeared on the scene and was kindly brought to my attention by George Alevizos. Although this pair was equally difficult to plate, it enabled me to establish a common feature with the Tapling pair and this fortunate circumstance eventually led to the solution of the plating puzzle: it is now proven that the Alevizos pair consists of pos. 13 and 21, the latter being inverted, while the Tapling pair comprises pos. 20 and 21, again pos. 21 being inverted. Following my earlier announcement that the inverted cliché was in pos. 22, it was, of course, a most unexpected surprise to find that the adjacent pos. 21 was also inverted.

In this context I should perhaps explain that the plating problems were due to the fact that the early, clear printings of the clichés involved are virtually free from flaws. Besides, there are only two multiples of the first issue with which to compare the group of clichés centering on pos. 21 and 22.

At any rate, now that five of the six known tête-bêches have finally been plated, the situation is that two different clichés were actually inverted: pos. 21 and pos. 22. We know nothing of the sixth tête-bêche pair, except that it appeared in the Dawson sale (Robson Lowe, 1967), is pin-perforated and damaged at one corner.

At this point, I must revise my earlier suggestion that the setting with pos. 22 inverted may have preceded the Hellrigl/Vignola setting 2. While this statement might still hold true, the existence of an inverted pos. 21 now reopens the field to any speculation. Most importantly, the strong link with setting 4 (which also has pos. 21 inverted) has now been re-established.

In view of the fragmentary nature of the information at hand, perhaps the wisest thing to do would be to retain the original sequence of the Hellrigl/Vignola settings and to note that setting 3 *presumably* had two inverted clichés, pos. 21 and 22. However, the fact that two inverted clichés have now been proved beyond doubt does not necessarily imply that both inversions occurred in the same setting. Theoretically, the tête-bêches could have involved two distinct settings, each of which featuring one inverted cliché in a different position; these could have occurred in lieu of, or in addition to, a setting with two simultaneous inversions. I calculated that, all in all, there are no less than thirteen different possible combinations of the sequences of settings involving these two inverted clichés! Perhaps one day, this mystery can be solved completely, but at the moment we must be content with the discovery that not only one, but two clichés of the first issue of the 2 annas were actually inverted.



The Alevizos tête-bêche pair of 2 annas, on European paper, (pos. 13 & 21), featuring the inverted cliché in pos. 21

Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Meeting at CAPEX 96

by Alan Warren

The Study Circle held a meeting on the second day of the international exhibition CAPEX in Toronto on June 9. Our featured speaker was Armand Singer of West Virginia, who had received a special honor earlier in the day. During the spring meeting of the American Philatelic Society that morning, APS President Randy Neil presented Armand with his certificate and pin for being a member for 25 years.

The Study Circle meeting was called to order by Leo Martyn, editor of *Postal Himal* with 20 members and guests present, including Armand's wife. He spoke about his Nepal classics collection which will be issued shortly as a mounted exhibit, similar to his Tibet book last year. He began with the British presence in Nepal and showed us slides of many unusual items including a forged "1849" Nepaul cancel, an example of the B137 canceller, a 19th century cover from Nepal to Guatemala, inbound mail from China, and an 1875 "Calvary stamp" of which five are known. We also saw a full sheet of the one anna 1881 imperf first setting.

Some other mouth watering material included a 2 annas used strip of three with a tête bêche pair, and one of two known covers bearing all three values of the first issue-- 1, 2, and 4 annas. Armand also showed us a 1/2-anna stamp which appears to be a possible essay. Another striking item was a large block of 12 of setting 6 of the 1/2-anna orange with telegraph cancels. Armand concluded his talk by showing some proofs of the Shri Pashupati issues, and examples of postal cards and stamped envelopes of Nepal.

We then went around the room so everyone could introduce themselves. One attendee was an international judge from Sweden, Hasse F. Brockenhuus von Löwenhielm. Then Tibet dealer and publisher Geoffrey Flack of British Columbia spoke about how "Tibet is Alive and Well." He discussed the recent flurry of major auctions and collections coming onto the market. Some of the new material that is coming to light includes correspondence from the 1888-89 Sikkim Expedition, the telegraph stamps on documents, and the discovery copy of FPO No. 82 at Chumbi. Geoffrey also mentioned a trader's tombstone mark in an unusual red color on a 1938 registered cover from Pharijong to Katmandu, as well as a telegram which ties Younghusband and Sandbach together.

In the CAPEX exhibition hall there were no Tibet entries but there were three on Nepal. Leo Martyn won a gold with his "The Development of Nepal's Postal System 1775-1911." He began with some early prestamp covers which were carried by horse and runners and then a letter from the Nepal-Tibet war of 1855-56 from Sikar Jung. Another cover was sent from Tibet to the Prime Minister in Katmandu via Kuti.

Leo's exhibit contained examples of various dispatch, transit, and arrival markings from the stampless period. Another nice item was an 1897 I-Chan cover to Katmandu-- the only I-Chan cover known with a Nepalese stamp. Two other key items were a registered 1894 letter with quadruple rate and acknowledgment due, which is the only 10 anna cover

known, and a registered octuple rate (8 tolas) cover which is also the only cover known at the rate of 13 annas.

Dick Van der Wateren also received a gold for his "The Classic Period of Nepal." He began with prestamp letters carried by messenger during the late 18th and 19th centuries, including an 1867 Amban letter from Lhasa to Nepal. He also shows manuscript postmarks and postal seals. The first issue of three values is shown with color varieties, in multiples, and on cover with many examples of different postmarks on the stamps. Similar treatment is given for the recut one anna and the 1/2-anna issues.

Ramesh Shrestha received a large silver for his "Nepal Classics," in which he exhibits a few prestamp covers followed by the 1,2, and 4 annas with varieties, various cancels, and some typical usages. He also showed multiples of the 1/2-anna and examples of the postal card.

Leo announced that plans are already made for two Study Circle programs next year at PACIFIC 97 in San Francisco.

* * * * *

Nepal Postal Card Wa 5. Further information.

Dick van der Wateren

In Postal Himal No. 84 I described an interesting postal card sent from Dharmsala to Darjeeling and forwarded to Chongtong, asking the members for more information concerning the location of Chongtong.

On Dr. Boecks map of Sikkim, which was sent to me by Mr. Johannes Bornmann and depicted already in Postal Himal, one can find 'Kloster Chungtong' and I suggested this monastery (Gompa) could be the destination of the card though not being sure. After all, the distance in a straight line from Darjeeling to this monastery, being some 50 miles, covering in one day is too much for a postrunner. It must not be forgotten that the dispatch took place in February and Darjeeling is situated some 7000 feet above sea level.

An interesting letter has been sent to me by Mr. D. Dawson of Edinburg, referring to a book, entitled "*Lands of the Thunderbolt*" published 1923. In relation to this monastery Schungtong the Earl of Ronaldshay wrote:

"The spot was a striking one - a tongue of level land thrust out at the foot of a mountain wedge at the apex of which the waters of the Lachung and Lachen rivers mingle, to be known thenceforward as the Tiska, for which reason the people have given it the name of Chung Thang, or the 'marriage of the rivers'. A few hunderd feet above us a small gompa, enshrined an image of Guru Rimpoche". This gompa is the monastery "Kloster Schungtong" on Dr. Boecks map of Sikkim, but for the above reason most likely not the destination of my postal card.

That is why Mr. N. Rhodes enjoyed me very much by sending me 2 letters and I am sure his view is the correct one. He kindly agreed me to copy completely his first letter for Postal Himal.

Dear Mr van der Wateren,

I was very interested to read your article in Postal Himal No.84, illustrating an unusual Nepalese postal stationary card, used from Dharamsala to Darjeeling. I can shed no light on why someone should post such a card in Dharamsala, the present home in exile of the Dalai Lama, but then a rather small village, I assume. However, I can tell you that the card was addressed, in a typically difficult to read manner, to Jahardhoj Sirdar at "Darjiling, Marekbung" (*दार्जिलिंग मारेक बुङ* , in line 1 of the address), so I assume that the addressee lived in or near Maribong Tea Estate. According to my 1885 Darjeeling Village Directory, the local Post Office for that Tea Garden was Chongtong - at the tea estate of that name. These two tea estates are situated close to each other, on the east side of, and reaching right down to, the little Rangit river, just to the west of, and several thousand feet below, Darjeeling itself. I imagine that the address was written out in English by the post office, and the Chongtong was added in a different handwriting at the Darjeeling Post Office, when forwarding the card to the P.O. nearest the addressee.

I am sorry that I cannot confirm this as a Sikkimese cancellation, but I have been trying, rather unprofessionally, to locate as many cancellations from the Darjeeling district as I can, and this is the first Chongtong mark that I have seen.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



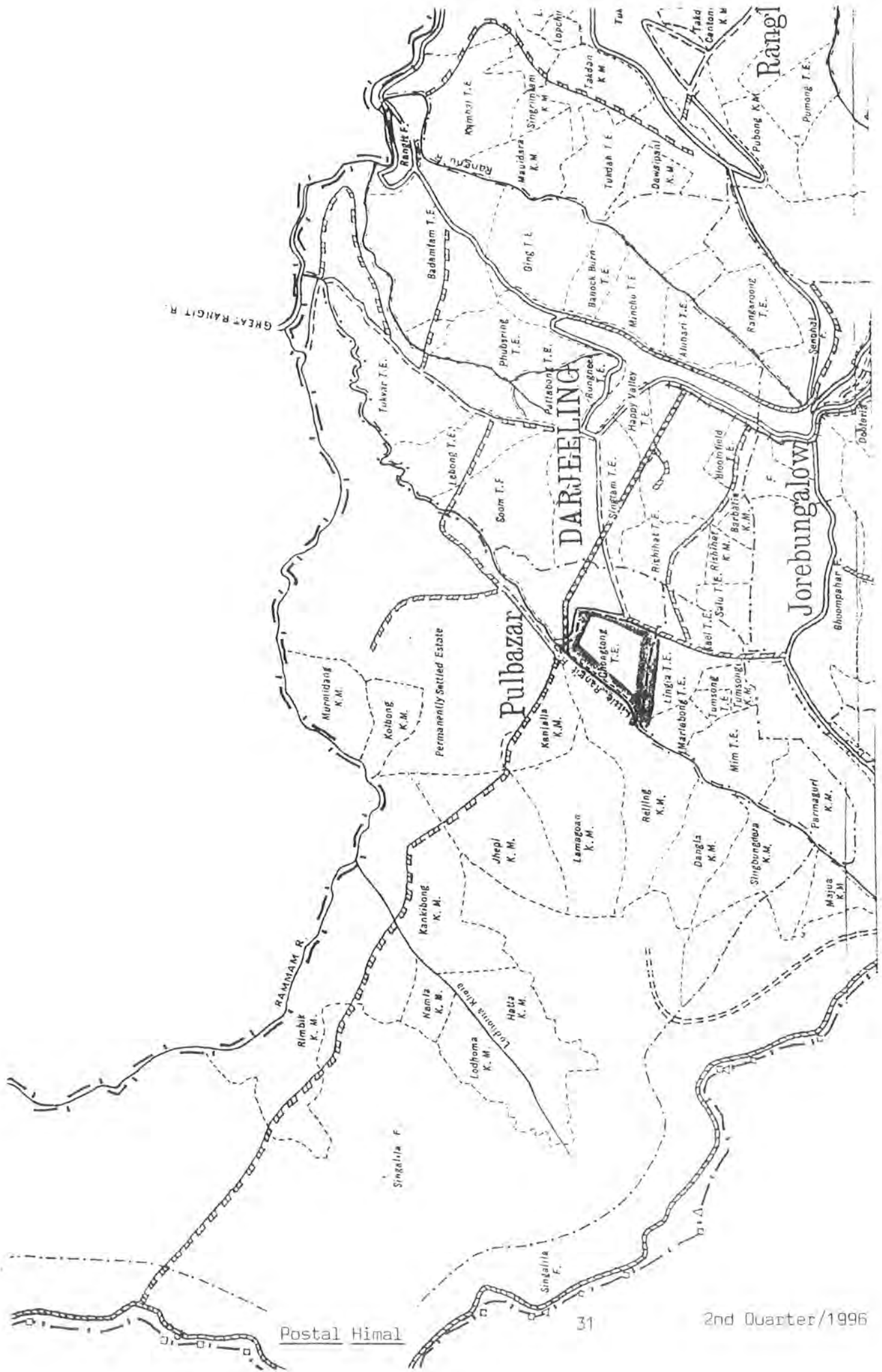
In his 2nd letter he sent me a very detailed map of Darjeeling and surrounding area showing a number of Tea Estates. West of the village Darjeeling we can find the Chongtong Tea Estate.

Mr. Rhodes also has sent me a copy of the cover and a page of the "*Village Directory of the Presidency of Bengal*" Volume XVII, Darjeeling, compiled by the Postmaster-General, Bengal. Calcutta 1885 (Bengal Secretariat Press).

In this Directory the Chongtong Tea Estate is listed, served through the Darjeeling P.O., whereas Chongtong had its own Post Office. This P.O. and the Tea Estate is within easy reach of Darjeeling P.O. in one day.

I am sure it must be this P.O. in which the card has been postmarked with the small Chongtong date stamp.

* * * * *



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WANTED: CLASSIC AND PASHUPATI COVERS FROM NEPAL. I will purchase and or trade better stamps and covers. Also wanted, better postal history of 'India Used n Nepal', and unusual Nepalese covers from the 1950's and 1960's. Extensive price list of Nepal free for the asking. Leo Martyn, P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA 90049-0263, U.S.A.

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