

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET  
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Nepal's Cavalry Mail Stamp (?)

(Armand E. Singer Collection)



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# HIMALAYAN VIEWS

by  
Leo MacTyn

Finally, after much delay the missing two Postal Himalas have been completed. I apologize for the hiatus and hope it hasn't caused too much turmoil for those who bind their copies.

I have enjoyed being editor for these last 10 years. I especially looked forward to the challenge of presenting an attractive and thought-provoking front cover (a "book" can sometimes be judged by its covers). My first issue as sole editor was No. 62. Although only a Tibetan postmark was illustrated on the front, when enlarged it became to me, a work of calligraphic art. I am sure some attention had gone into the arrangement of characters by the designer (most likely a maker of seals).

Some of my favorite covers:

Nos. 69/70 - "Phil A. Telic ventures out of his Element". An advertisement from a company which made envelopes shows climbers on a mountain going for an actual example of Nepal's 1960 10p Mount Everest stamp affixed at the top. The ad was too tall to fit on one page and it wouldn't have made much sense to spread it over two pages. Revelation - why not reproduce it full length, fold it and affix it to the front cover? It's a technique used in art books which also worked here and, of course, in many other issues; quite time consuming but the results are worth it. The only problem is that the adhesive in glue sticks is not permanent, so readers may have to "repair" their journals at some time. Also, one should glue the perimeter down so the corners will not get bent.

No. 72 - Roger Skinner sent me a copy of an early ad (1912) offering Chinese Post Office in Tibet stamps. You could buy a complete set, minus the top value, for \$2.50 including postage.

No. 73 - I believe this is the first issue that I used color reproductions. The illustrations are of Nepal's Experimental Pashupati Negative Proofs (an attempt to produce stamps during a War time shortage); black and white reproductions would not have done the job properly.

No. 75/76 - Geoffrey Flack did a very fine original research article on Tibet's Wireless Telegraph. Alongside an illustration of a partial telegraph form I translated the title into Morse code.

No. 79 - Armand, our President, is shown with his five awards garnered at Napex (a National U.S. show in Washington, D.C.). I used actual photographs; worth much more than a thousand words. I was also pleased with the caption (Hollywood style) - "Singer Steals Show".

No. 90 - A candid photograph of the Dalai Lama viewing Wolfgang Hellrigl's Tibet collection made for a wonderful cover illustration.

We have had many fine, originally researched and informative articles during my tenure, but possibly my favorite does not meet any of these criteria. Armand Singer's review (Postal Himal No. 66) of The Yak Posts of Dogar is a must read, as is Col. Dobson-Bligh's monograph. The colonel has created the mythical kingdom of Dogar complete with a postal system. Stamps, cancellations and postal history (including a "Yak and Balloon Flight" combination cover!) are illustrated. Background information is given, including the history, people and language. Armand, in his review, suggests several areas where Dogar may be located - "This Himalayan kingdom stronghold lies along the old Silk Road, according to the author, exactly where, for some recondite reason, he fails to tell us. Through peripheral data and by processes of elimination, I would guess on the northeast borders of Nepal, Bhutan, and Sikkim, or possibly up by Mustang. It could even represent another spelling of Dolpo, a mountain-locked enclave of traditional Tibetan Buddhist culture, ...".

I had first thought that Armand was the true author of this work. It was conceived in a style similar to his - witty, well written, tongue-in cheek, and created by a scholar. This gem was definitely written by a philatelist, possibly influenced by the activities of F.M. Bailey and Francis Younghusband. Apparently, Armand knew of Dogar before publication of his review - "Covers are rare but obtainable. I have just one in my own collection, sent from Nwthre, Dogar's capital city, via Lhasa, Phari, Calcutta, and Auckland, New Zealand (misdirected, obviously), to Morgantown, West Virginia. I was going to ask the editor to reproduce it here, from a xerox copy, but I cannot find it. It's simply lost; I'm devastated but insured."

I have always considered our Quarterly a Journal, not just a newsletter. Articles from members make up the bulk of each issue. Even a half or one page article is welcomed. I think there is an article in all members - "My favorite Nepal stamp"; "Why collect Tibet"; "Fibres of Nepal's stamps compared with those of Tibet"; etc. Illustrations, of course, are most welcome. When possible, use color photocopies - details are finer than those found in black & white reproductions.

Our new editor, Richard Hanchett, has done several issues now, but has not been properly introduced. He became a member of our Society in 1985, following a trip to Nepal where he stayed with a Royal professor who was the tutor to the Crown Prince and future King. He has returned to Nepal several times and visited Tibet in 1995. His area of collecting is Nepal and he hopes to exhibit one day. He will accept printed articles and articles on 3.5" disks in either Word 95 or 98 (he may have upgraded by now). I will be sending articles to Richard and hope some of you will, too.

I will close with a poem by Rudyard Kipling:

## THE OVERLAND MAIL

(Foot-Service to the Hills)

In the name of the Empress of India, make way,  
O Lords of the Jungle, wherever you roam.  
The woods are astir at the close of the day-  
We exiles are waiting for letters from Home.  
Let the robber retreat-let the tiger turn tail-  
In the name of the Empress, the Overland Mail!

With the jingle of bells as the dusk gathers in,  
He turns to the foot-path that heads up the hill-  
The bags on his back and a cloth round his chin,  
And, tucked in his waist-belt, the Post Office bill:  
"Dispatched on this date, as received by the rail,  
*Per* runner, two bags of the Overland Mail."

Is the torrent in spate? He must ford it or swim.  
Has the rain wrecked the road? He must climb by  
the cliff.  
Does the tempest cry "Halt"? What are tempests to  
him?  
The Service admits not a "but" or an "if."  
While the breath's in his mouth, he must bear without  
fail,  
In the name of the Empress, the Overland Mail.

From aloe to rose-oak, from rose-oak to fir,  
From level to upland, from upland to crest,  
From rice-field to rock-ridge, from rock-ridge to spur,  
Fly the soft sandalled feet, strains the brawny brown  
chest.  
From rail to ravine-to the peak from the vale-  
Up, up through the night goes the Overland Mail.

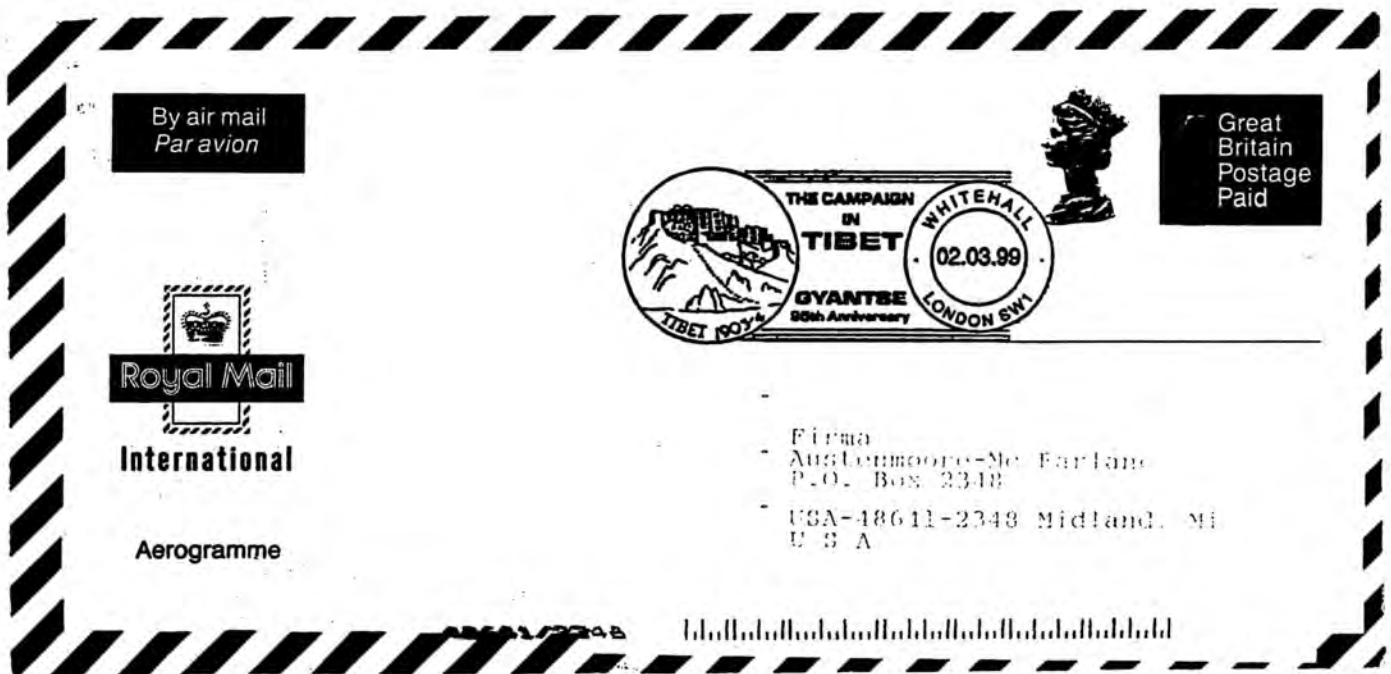
There's a speck on the hillside, a dot on the road-  
A jingle of bells on the foot-path below-  
There's a scuffle above in the monkey's abode-  
The world is awake, and the clouds are aglow.  
For the great Sun himself must attend to the hail:  
"In the name of the Empress, the Overland Mail!"

\*\*\*\*\*

# 95th Anniversary of the Campaign in Tibet

Leo Martyn

What appears to be a Great Britain pictorial cancel noting the anniversary of the Tibetan Campaign of 1903-4 (led by Colonel Francis Younghusband) was actually created by a private company engaged in preparing philatelic items. Jeremy Brewer checked with the post office and was able to determine that no such postmark was officially issued. The inside of the aerogramme is a printed list of German airmail catalogs, available from a dealer in Germany. The aerogramme must have been posted in England, have gone through the post uncanceled, and was received by a postal history dealer in Michigan. Chuck made a gift of it knowing my interest in the Himalayan area.



## NEPAL'S CAVALRY MAIL STAMP

Leo Martyn



When I first became aware of the so-called "Cavalry" stamp of Nepal I began a quest to gather additional information and hopefully, to obtain one. I think I have found the original source (Jeremy Brewer directed me to a listing in Morley's Philatelic Journal of 1906) and two stamps. One stamp was offered on eBay, the online auction firm. It was placed by a consignor in New York, who was acting as an agent for someone in India, who, over a period of a year or so, offered some unusual items from the Himalayan area. After the lot closed, I was offered another copy by the same dealer. I was suspicious but was willing to take a chance. I had not seen another copy and if it turned out to be bogus, at least I saved some other collector from being taken. Well, that isn't the real reason - I am just a sucker for anything unusual associated with Nepalese philately. Our society president, Armand Singer, is also afflicted. I was able to satisfy Armand's quest via a trade.

I inquired as to the source of the stamps and was told that they were purchased from the Superior Stamp auction of June 19, 1995. Superior offered the Manly P. Hall collection which contained some nice Nepal, wonderful Tibet and much India (including some unusual items). I viewed all of the lots, including the India, but did not see these two stamps. Two Indian accumulations were offered - a Revenue collection (realized \$2600) and an Indian States Revenue collection (realized \$1100). The album page on which the two stamps were mounted contained the notation - "Nepal. Internal Revenue" (no reference to Cavalry Mail). I had only seen a poor photocopy of the Nepal "Cavalry" stamp, and probably overlooked them if they were present in either of these two groups. Mr. Hall was head of the Philosophical Research Society in Los Angeles, and obviously a collector of Himalayan philately.

At one time, these two stamps may have been in the possession of Jal Cooper, a major dealer in Indian/Himalayan material, as both have his name or initials on their backs.

Armand's



Mine



Following, in chronological order, are all the references I know of which include these stamps.

The earliest reference I am aware of is the listing in Morley's Philatelic Journal, 1906, Volume VII, page 2.

#### NEPAL.



An independent state on the Northern frontier of India. No accurate statistics are available. The area is estimated at 54,000 square miles; the population at more than 2,000,000. The revenue at 15,000,000 rupees, and the army at 50,000 men in a fair state of efficiency.

Only one revenue stamp of the annexed type is known, but we desire to obtain information concerning same, and if other values exist.

#### COURT FEES.

189? Laid paper. Imperf.  
1 rupee, vermilion

It is listed as a "Court Fee", issued sometime in the 1890s. On the same page is shown a "Receipt" stamp issued by Nabha - a State in the Punjab. Notice the similarity of design to Nepal's stamp. Also, take a close look at another stamp (illustrated at 150%) whose design is very similar to Nepal's. I believe it is a revenue from Faridkot (see Scott #3 - issued in 1879) - a Feudatory State in India. I don't think the similarities are a coincidence but I am hesitant to draw any conclusions.





The next reference is from Catalogue De Timbres-Fiscaux by Farbin (1915). The description is without an illustration but most likely refers to the item illustrated in Morley's book:

**Nepal**

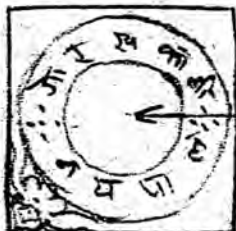
(?) — 30 x 41. Armoiries et inscriptions. Papier vergé.  
1 1 r. vermillon . . . 5 s

Now let's jump to 1956 (December 4). In the last paragraph of a letter I have from a G. Raj Singh to the well known Nepal/Tibet/etc. dealer, H. Garrat-Adams, appears the first reference to "Cavalry Stamp" that I know of. I assume that Mr. Singh is a stamp dealer (Nepal?) from other text in the letter. It should be noted that he refers to the paper as European.

On Nov. 9, 1956 The Nepal Govt. have published in the Gorkha-Patra that the Cavalry mail One Rupee stamp of 1875 is the first issue in NEPAL. *printed on European Paper* -

Wish best wishes , I shall be waiting.

*Raj Singh*



*Crown of King*

Truly yours,

*G. Raj Singh*

एक रुपैया

*1 Rupee Cavalry mail of 1875*

In 1991, Frank J. Vignola sent me a copy of the following 1958 letter which included a sketch and a description of the item.

Messrs, Arthur Barger & Company,  
7 South Dearborn Street,  
Chicago 3, Illinois.

Dear Sir,

Oct. 27, 1958



C 1

Thank you very much for your letter of 11th Oct. Harmer Rooke & Co., New York wrote me a letter by 3th Oct.

Regarding 1st issue stamp of Nepal, I already had written you on the 9th April 1956, but you wrote nothing about it. The first issued stamp of Nepal is Cavalry mail stamp of One rupee. It is v. scarce. Such stamps are of rarest of Nepal stamps existed. Three years ago, my brother Brihaspati of 5/647 Wombahal had sold such Cavalry mail stamp to a Royal family in Nepal at Rs.10000/- equal to \$2100.00 It is certain.

First issued Nepal Cavalry mail stamps only three seemed existed.

- (1) One slightly damaged stamp is with a Royal family in Nepal, which my brother had sold.
- (2) One stamp may be in the collection of late King George V of England, because Col. O. Conor the then regident at the court of Nepal, who had got a coly from the late Maharajha of Nepal Sir Chandra Sh. Sh JER. , wrote that he had presented the stamp to King George V. England.
- (3) One fine stamp is in my collection.

On the 9th Nov. 1956 The Nepal Govt. had published in the Govt. paper (Gorkha-Patra) that the Cavalry mail One rupee stamps of 1875 is the first issue in Nepal. etc.. etc.

I already had sent the said paper to Mr. H.D.S. Haverbeck. C/o, Francis I. Du. Pont & Co., One Wall St. New York 5.

I am afraid of sending this rare stamp to anyone for fear of being lost in transit.

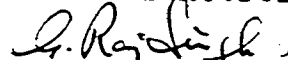
I believe, you will be pleased to get from me a Photo and a enclosed discription of the Nepal Cavalry Mail Stamp for publishing in the Scott's Catalogue or in the monthly or weekly Journals, magazines etc. to be next issued. It will be really a nice provision for the readers. If they are interested to publish it in their monthly Stamp magazines, ~~Y~~ you are requested to send me a copy of each. per Regd. post. On hearing from you, I will pay the cost of postage expence.

Hope you will ~~v~~ write to Scott' Publications, Inc. or other parties.

Please find herein enclosed 1 entire sheet Nepal Air-mail stamps and 3 F.D.C:

Again thanking you for your kind act,

Yours sincerely,

  
G. RAJ SINGH.

A brief description of Nepal Cavalry mail stamp.  
-----

In the year 1875 , the Central Govt. of Katmandu wanted to join communication with Palpa and Pokhara via Gorkha.

Govt. messages were carried by running horses. The rider takes a bamboos, cleft on the top side where the written messages in envelopes are clipped.

The rider carries the letters on horse back direct to Gorkha thence to Pokhara and thence to Palpa and returns with replies via same route to Katmandu.

For confirming the ~~ix~~ Governors of Gorkha, Pokhara and Palpa that the letters were dispatched from Central Govt. Katmandu. Govt. had stamps printed for use. Printed 50 pcs. only.

The size of the stamp is <sup>about</sup> 4 c.m x 2.8 c.m ablong, bearing the inscription of crest in the centre. round about it in circular form, the inscription runs GORAKHKALI - NYAPAL. On the bottom the value was noted as ONE RUPEE. Printed in blue colour on western paper imperforate in singles.



Clipped with bamboo ["Clipped with bamboo"]

W.H.Adgey-Edgar (an early Tibetan philatelist), in his April 11, 1959 "London Chat" (Weekly Philatelic Gossip), states the following:

Nepal is still a mysterious country and with the exception of Officials very few Westerners have ever been there for any length of time. Nepal stamps, however, have always interested certain sections of the philatelic world and much has been written about them, but have you ever heard of the "Cavalry Mail Stamp?" It was the first stamp to be issued there and is reported to be the rarest of all Nepal stamps. Three years ago a Nepalese sold a copy to the Nepal Royal Family for Rs. 10,000 or about £750. Another copy is reported to be in the Royal collection here. The British Resident at the Court in Nepal secured it from the late Maharajah of Nepal and presented it to King George V. Why I relate this is because the third and only remaining copy has just been offered to me from a contact of mine in Nepal. I am not interested for two reasons. One is that I am not interested in Nepal stamps and the other is that the price asked is £950! This might be an opportunity for someone who just found oil in his back garden.

The size of the stamp is about 28 mm. x 40 mm. and the inscription round the circular center design reads "Garakhali-Nyapal." The value is "One Rupee." Printing is in blue on Western type paper. On November 9, 1956 the Nepal Government published in their official paper, the *Gorkha Patra*, the fact that this stamp was the first to be issued in Nepal. It was in 1875 that the Central Government of Kathmandu wished to open postal communication with Palpa and Pokhara via Gorkha. Official messages were normally carried by dispatch riders on horseback and the envelope enclosing the messages to and from Kathmandu were fixed in a cleft bamboo stick. In order to give these envelopes a more official look, the Government in Kathmandu had fifty of these stamps printed and for the last thirty years only three specimens have known to have survived.

It is now Harrison Haverbeck's time to add his 2 pice worth. In his book, The Postage Stamps of Nepal (N.Y., no date), he states:

The philately of Nepal, in contrast with that of several other small countries has been relatively free from fraud and fakery. However there are a few fantasies which have lately been offered as genuine stamps and proofs.

The one most likely to fool the collector has been described as the "Cavalry" stamp. It is a blue stamp showing the King's crown stated to be of the denomination of 1 rupee. It is claimed to have been issued in 1875 for the purpose of carrying letters on a courier system established by the Royal Cavalry! To authenticate this fraud the perpetrator

even had an article placed in the local newspaper. The story goes that there are five copies in existence. One in the British Royal Collection, one in the collection of the King of Nepal, one given to a Col. Cooper, one now missing and the one being offered. I have been offered three of these already.

The Guide To Nepal, by Major J.H. Elliott (Calcutta, 3 editions - 1959, 1963, 1969), states under the heading of "Communication / Postal Service":

The Postal Service began in Nepal in 1875, when runners, soon replaced by lancers, carried government documents bearing One Rupee stamps between Kathmandu and the districts of Gorkha, Pokhara and Palpa. Four years later, this facility was opened to the public to become popular. In 1881, New Post Offices were opened and stamps in one, two and four annas denominations were issued, thus setting a pattern, which in an extended form, has continued till today.

Mac Ricketts, a highly respected pioneer dealer in Nepal and Tibet philately published the following in his January 23, 1960 article, "Forgeries and Phantasies of Nepal" (Weekly Philatelic Gossip):

The phantasies which have been offered lately originated with a dealer or a family of dealers in Nepal, long known for these activities. The first is described as a stamp issued in 1875 for use by the Nepal Cavalry (Nepal's first postage stamps were issued in 1881). The dealer claims that there are only three copies in existence, one being in the Royal collection. Haverbeck states that this dealer had an article placed in a newspaper in 1956 offering evidence on the genuineness of the "stamp." But there is no evidence in government archives that there ever was such a stamp or service. The asking price for this rarity is \$1000. Photographic prints are available free to prospective buyers!

The following "authoritative" account, titled "Eine unbekante Macke von Nepal" (originally in German and translated by Professor Jurgen Schlunk, a colleague of Armand Singer) was sent to me by Wolfgang Hellrigl. It is dated March 10, 1963, and is accompanied by the same illustration found in Singh's "A brief description of Nepal [sic] Cavalry mail stamp".

"An Unknown Stamp from Nepal: Discovery of an 1876 stamp", by Karl-Heinz Michel.

It is known that a collecting area can bring surprises in the form of so far unknown stamps, sometimes decades later. Several examples of this, including some from the most recent past. Especially surprising is the little noticed unfortunately poorly attended collecting area of Nepal, especially for Germans. Through articles in official publications by the Nepalese Government there were reports about a new stamp, until now unknown to collectors. The first regular Postal System in Nepal was established by Prime Minister Rana Udip Singh in 1876 [Armand points out that Singh didn't become Prime Minister until 1877 (Feb. 27)]. Letters then were carried by postal walkers and partially by royal cavalry. Stamps were not used at first and fees for transportation done in cash. Same system as in Germany - delivered and paid for on receipt, using cash. For transport, letters were pierced by a bamboo pole and shoving them down through the split. Bad for modern philatelists! Soon after the introduction of the postal transportation system, there were instituted 43 post offices in the various parts of this hard-to-travel in mountain country. When in 1881 the first Nepalese stamps, 1, 2, and 4 annas, were printed, the old payment-on-receipt system was done away with, to the extent that the individual Post Offices had stamps. The first issue was redone [reprinted] for years until the introduction of the English-printed Pashupati issue. Only much later was it discovered that there was also a one-rupee stamp in use, for special government mail delivered by royal cavalry, probably a sort of official special delivery system, Kathmandu to Gorkha, Pokhara, and Palpa. Up until now, this stamp has not listed in any catalog, seemingly because the catalog editors didn't know of its

existence. According to Nepalese government reports, only three copies reported, 29 x 39 mm., upright form; upper part a seal design, and around it a circle of Devanagari writing; reading "Gorkha Kali Mya Pali." Below the value "ek rupaya", also in Devanagari. Dark Blue. Printed in 1876 in Nepal on European paper, and like the 1881 issue, perforated. Very limited printing, this may be the reason unreported. So far, three known examples: one in Nepal, royal collection, one in George V royal English collection, and one in a private Kathmandu collector's collection. George V got his through diplomatic representative Col. O' Connor, then living in Kathmandu, by order of Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher, as a present. Nepal government research has brought to light its existence and use [purpose]. So far, no pairs or part sheets known, so no more detailed study possible about production. Even in Nepalese state archives, no more copies.

Delivery date of any given letter was written in ink on the stamp, this likely serving as a cancel. All three examples known also show obvious traces of the bamboo delivery stick (see above). The stamp is called "Royal Cavalry Mail Stamp" since it was delivered by the royal cavalry and used for the government post only.

The question for catalog editors now is whether and how to list it. It does exist, even if only three known. There is no doubt about its official status, since the official government Gorkha Patra bulletin No. 1413 has reported it. The official Nepal Ministry of Communications also mentions it. I think it has as much right to be listed as ... [text not clear enough for translation] in other countries. Bad thing for Nepal collectors as they aren't going to get so rare an item for their collections. Maybe further notices in

philatelic [sic] presses will result in the reporting of more copies. The Nepal government asks us that if we have one, let them know.

In closing, we say that surprising material, especially in overseas areas, can still turn up.

In 1990, I asked Armand Singer for any information regarding the "Cavalry" stamp. He had a photocopy from a dealer in Nepal which apparently is of the same stamp illustrated in Singh's description and in Michel's article. He also had a photocopy of a similar item which is illustrated below. The detail is not as fine (see the cross-hatching in the bottom panel). He obtained the photocopy from Colin Hepper. The item belongs to Geoffrey Rosamond, who kindly gave me a color photocopy of it. He had it for viewing at London 2000. It is imperforate, 28.5 mm. x 39.3 mm., on white wove paper, flat printing (offset), and dark grey-blue (information supplied by Wolfgang Hellrigl). Geoffrey can't recall when or where he obtained it. He does know that it was quite a while ago. The curious fact is that only one copy has come to light. Any others out there?



(Image enlarged)

About two years ago, I asked Sidhartha Tuladhar to check out Mr. Singh's statement (letters of 1956 & 1958) regarding the Government of Nepal's reference to the "Cavalry Stamp" in the newspaper article appearing in Gorkha-Patra (mentioned earlier). After much searching, including the largest library in Kathmandu, he finally was able to gain access to the article which



was on microfilm. He had to first submit a formal request in writing accompanied by a 5 rupee stamp. He browsed through the article but could not find any reference to a "Cavalry Stamp". The article dealt with Nepal's First Five Year Plan, including information on the Post, Telegraph and Telephone services. Possibly there was a mention of the stamp, but it is somewhat of a challenge to find specific references within a lengthy article on microfilm. In any case, if there is such a reference to the stamp it most likely was based on hearsay and unsubstantiated references, not on official Postal records. Can anyone supply a photocopy of the article as it appeared in the newspaper?

Well, time to make some conclusions based upon the information. I strongly feel that the two copies I purchased are genuine with respect to Morley's and Farbin's listings. The designs match; in fact I think that Armand's copy may possibly be the one illustrated in Morley's book - apart from the close bottom margin many of the reference points match (for example, the four "dots" vertically lined up just to the right of the last character in the bottom panel). My copy is a lighter impression but printed from the same cliché. I made photocopies of both stamps on clear acetate at 200% and layed one over the other - a perfect match. Also, my copy has some of the same matching reference points. The color is correct (vermilion) and they are on laid paper.

Now for the tricky part - what are they? The earliest reference to a "Cavalry Stamp" is from Singh's 1956 letter to Garret-Adams. Did a cavalry even exist in Nepal in 1875? Laurence Oliphant, in his Journey to Kathmandu (N.Y., 1852), a book describing his visit to Nepal, states: "There was no cavalry, the country not being adapted to that arm of the service ..." (this was in reference to a parade he attended). Perceval Landon, in his Nepal (London, 1928), states: "... on this occasion, he was accompanied by 32,000 soldiers, 52 guns, 300 cavalry, 250 horse artillery, 2000 camp followers, and 700 ration officers." Was he going to war? No, just a shooting expedition in the Tarai in December of 1848. Landon goes on to say that political reasons were behind this display of force. So, apparently a cavalry did exist, but would they have been used to deliver mail (official documents)? Possibly if the mail was of great importance. Hellrigl and Hepper, in their The Native Postmarks of Nepal (England, 1978) state: "T.B. Khatri himself ('The Postage Stamps of Nepal') points out that, as early as during the reign of King Prithwi Narayan (i.e. 1742-74), 'regular state communications had already started with different parts of the Kingdom, i.e. Palpa, Gorkha, Pokhara, Dhankuta, Nuwakot, etc. Horses were used by the government messengers to carry official orders, documents and informations.' " So the horse method is possible and maybe the term "Cavalry" has been used to spice up the description of the stamp.

What about the references to the stamp being blue? Raj Singh, in his letter of 1958, states he has a copy in blue, and his illustration seems to match the one in Morley's book. Adgey-Edgar says he was offered a blue stamp, and Haverbeck states he was offered three blue copies. I doubt if Singh, Adgey-Edgar or Haverbeck actually saw the stamps they refer to. I am quite sure that Haverbeck's reference to a newspaper article is the same one which appeared in the Gorkha Patra.

Elliot, in his Guide To Nepal, states that stamps were affixed to Government documents, carried by lancers (runners with postman sticks?). The earliest documents I know of with stamps affixed are the telegraph forms of 1917. If 19th century documents bearing stamps existed, they could have been destroyed in the fire at the archives of Singh Durbar (1970s?). Or they could still exist somewhere in files not seen for many years. But, Mac Ricketts stated: "there is no evidence in government archives that there ever was such a stamp or service". He is a scholarly person and most likely did some investigating when he was there.

The first reference I know of to the stamp being perforated is in Karl-Henz Michel's article. He also states that it is blue - sounds like a description of Nepal's first issue perforated 1 anna.

I think that the stamp listed by Morley and Farbin (early 20th century) is at worst a cinderella (possibly same as Tibet's Officials) or, at best, printed for official or revenue purposes, but not actually put into use. One sticky point here though - why such a high value (1 rupee) fee in the 1890s? The two stamps I purchased and the one illustrated in Singh's "A Brief Description of Nepal Cavalry Mail Stamp" seem to be "good" (if one can use "good" with reference to Morley and Farbin). The other references, over a period of time, have most likely been confused with Nepal's 1881 first issue one anna - perforated, wove paper, blue (ultramarine). If only we could find out where Morley got his illustration we could possibly come up with the purpose and origin of this stamp - a mystery going back two centuries.

A word of caution; be prepared for some very good forgeries. Since these stamps are crudely printed, the first aspect to look at is the paper: it should be laid-wove (my copy has the laid lines running vertically and I think that Armand's is the same).

Many thanks to: George Alevizos, Jeremy Brewer, Wolfgang Hellrigl, Colin Hepper, Geoffrey Rosamond, Armand Singer, Roger Skinner, Sidhartha Tuladhar and Frank J. Vignola.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Tibet's 1933 Half Trangka Yellow-Ochre and Bistre Colors

Frealon Bibbins

The Third Series of Tibetan stamps, ca 1933-60, has an incredible variety of colors and shades - the 1/2 tranka value is of special interest. This value was first issued in Bright-Orange, followed by a Yellow-Orange and many shades of Yellow. Near the end of Setting I printings, a Yellow-Bistre appeared. The Ochres and Bistres showed up in Setting II (1936-1941) and setting III (1941-1950). Waterfall states the Bistre group is found from the late printings of Setting II through the early printing of Setting III. I have a 1935 cover bearing a stamp which I think is from the Bistre-Ochre group. These hues are very drab in comparison to the bright and cheerful appearance of the other colors. There is some speculation that the yellow pigments used in mixing the inks (or paints) were not readily available at the time and the Mint (Post Office) had to improvise by combining various shades of Yellow which were on hand with common earth colors. This procedure would account for the variety of shades of Bistre - all quite scarce (rare in complete sheets).

Unlike the First and Second Series of stamps, which were done from a single printing block for each value, the Third Series was printed from twelve separate blocks or cliches. Each value was bound or clamped together for printing. Between printings the cliches were separated for storage, then put together when needed for new printings. This resulted in many settings and sub-settings as the cliches were not always replaced in the same order. It is believed that the stamps were hand-printed in the same manner as the religious books. There is some evidence that a portion of the Third Series was done on a Price-Chandler printing press at the Mint, but detailed information has not yet come forward. The Third Series is of great interest to collectors because of the many settings and sub-settings along with the many colors and shades; the Bistre-Ochre group being the most interesting.

Yellow-Bistre  
Setting I  
Cliches 4/8



Yellow-Bistre  
Setting III  
Cliches 7/4  
6/11



Setting II - Late Printings  
Range of shades:  
Yellow-Ochre to Greenish-  
Bistre and Bistre-Yellow.





1935 (August); Kathmandu to Lhasa. Very early usage of a Bistre-Ochre. Setting I, Cliche 8.



1940 (ca); Phari to Lhasa. Yellow-Ochre (rarest of the Bistre-Ochre shades). Setting II, Cliches 7/11.



1946 (March/April; Lhasa to Kathmandu. This cover is quite unique as it shows that the Bistre and Ochre colors were a mixture of various pigments. It appears that the blend was not properly mixed, producing a broad range: from Brownish-Yellow, Yellow-Chrome, Bistre and shades in between. The part sheet shows how some of the rare shades came about; either by a residue of pigments remaining in the mixing bowl, blending with a new batch of ink/paints, or possibly a poor congealing of mixtures. There is a possibility of oxidation, but this has not been a problem with Tibetan stamps. A truly remarkable cover.

# Postal Forgery Used IN Nepal

Leo Martyn

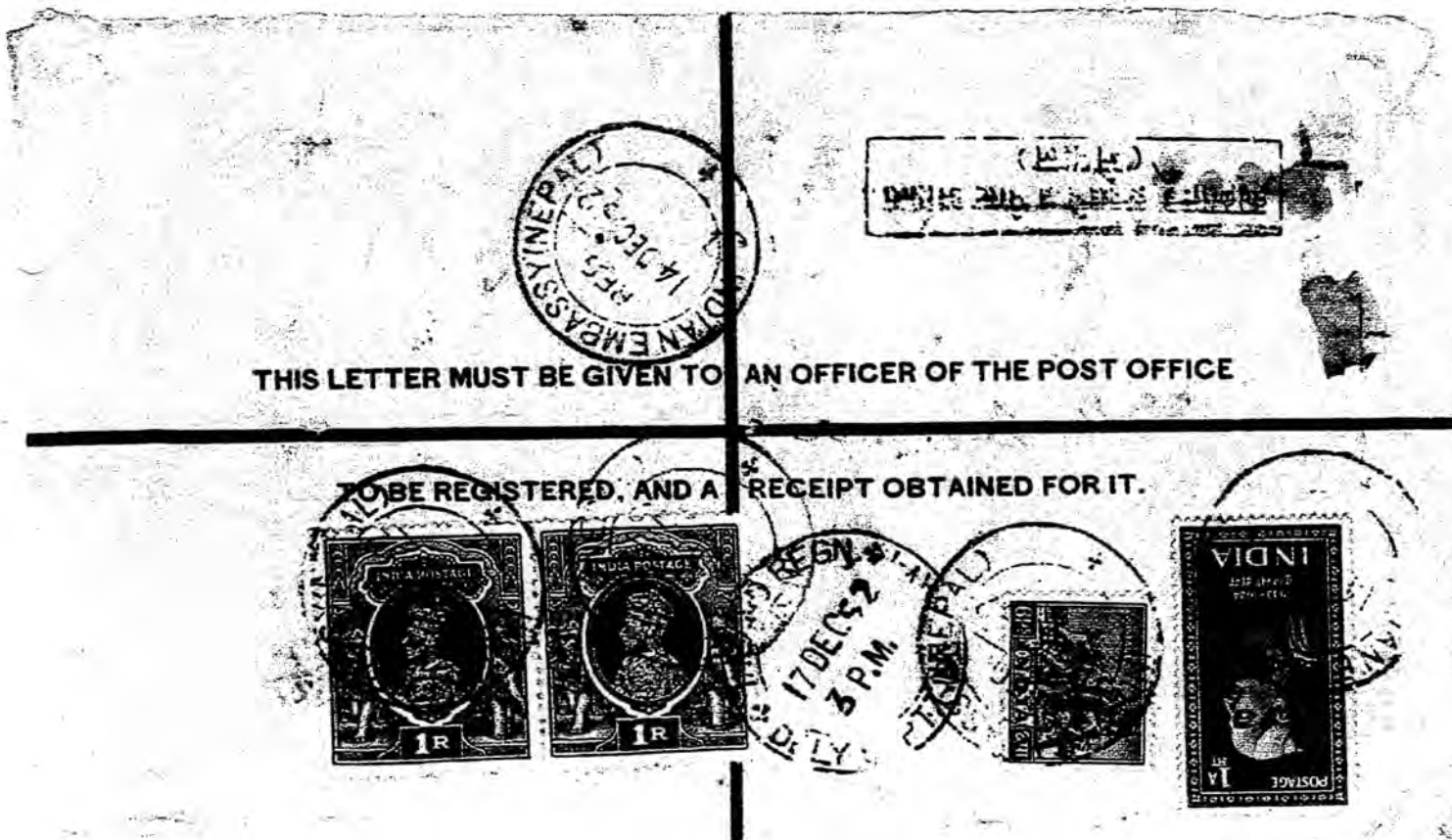
Wolfgang Hellrigl, in his book Nepal Postal History, describes and pictures a forgery of an Indian George VI 1 rupee. This stamp, I believe, was only used in Nepal and is very difficult to find. Always on the out-look for forgeries to add to my reference collection, I spotted this back portion of a Registered Letter Postal Stationery envelope (front has been removed) which was properly described in a Sukhani Europhil auction. I put in an aggressive bid and won it at an aggressive price. According to Wolfgang, this forgery was noted as early as 1937 in H.G.L. Fletcher's, Postal Forgeries of the World, p. 70. Fletcher gives the following characteristics (as printed in Wolfgang's book):

- a) lithographed (instead of typographed);
- b) roughly perforated 11 1/2 (instead of clean perf. 14);
- c) without watermark (instead of Star multiple watermark).

These forgeries were intended to defraud the post office. December 14, 1952 Indian Embassy (Nepal) cancels (Hellrigl B 96) tie the stamps; Bombay receiving postmark of December 17. I have noticed several places which stand out for comparison with a genuine copy:

- 1) The chest ribbons are quite crude.
- 2) The area under the elephant on the right is poorly defined.
- 3) Details of the crown are poorly defined.

Most likely there are more out there - if you find one, I need a complete cover for my reference collection.



Genuine



# Nepalese Telegraph Form

Leo Martyn

I do not believe that this particular Indian post office telegraph form has been previously recorded. I was told by a dealer in India that it was the copy filed by the post office as part of their records. I have several of these, all dating from September of 1958. Only this one is unattached to a larger piece of paper - the others have the message on a separate piece of paper which is glued to this form. The perforating holes (purpose unknown) were applied after the the two pieces were joined. The illustrations have been reduced to 85%.

CANCEL No. <u>25</u> DATE <u>25/9/58</u> TELEGRAMS <u>1</u> TELEGRAM <u>A</u> WORDS <u>57</u>		SPACE FOR POSTAGE STAMPS BELOW ABOVE LINE AND AT THE BACK.
OFFICE OF ORIGIN <u>1109</u> CCODE <u>PG</u> SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS (SENDER TO WRITE BELOW THIS LINE ONLY)	TO NAME <u>XX</u> <u>UNMOGIT</u> ADDRESS <u>KARACHI (Pakistan)</u> TELEGRAPH OFFICE	1. NAME OF THE SENDER SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN A SEPARATE LINE JUST BELOW THE MESSAGE, IF REQUIRED TO BE TELEGRAPHED.
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS BY SENDER, e.g., "REPLY PAID", Etc.	(STAMP CATEGORY NOT REQUIRED) ORDINARY EXPRESS NON-STATE STATE <u>Cheapest</u>	2. ADDRESS FULL AND CORRECTLY FOR QUICK DELIVERY.
RISON NEWYORK 51 NO REPLY RECEIVED MY CABLE 49		3. USE HIGH DENOMINATION STAMPS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.
AUGUST 21 INFORMING YOU MRS LUBA INTENDS TRAVEL		
KATHMANDU LATE SEPTEMBER AND ASKING FOR TRAVEL		
AUTHORISATION STOP MRS LUBA INFORMS COOKS HAS NO		

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SENDER PRECISE CABLE AUTHORIZATION COOKS LONDON ISSUANCE RETURN TICKET LONDON KATHMANDU PLEASE CABLE CONFIRMATION	LUBA
NAME AND ADDRESS OR PHONE No. OF SENDER <u>J. Luba</u> <u>United Nations</u> <u>Kathmandu</u>	J. E. Silca

\*\*\*\*\*

# Revenue Stamp Usage In Bhutan

Leo Martyn

I believe this receipt was a result of a tax due on a hotel room bill. The stamp's value is 25ch and reads "Bhutan Revenue".



## HOTEL JUMOLHARI

Thimphu Bhutan

Tel 2747

No. 2983

Date 24.10.85.

RECEIVED with thanks from MR. BRUCE B. BURWALL  
a sum of Nu, One thousand one hundred and twenty  
five SENCH Ch. Nawo Koon.  
by Cash/Cheque No \_\_\_\_\_ against Bill No 2180  
Dated 24.10.85

NU. 1,177.19



*Handwritten signature and date: 24/10/85*

For HOTEL JUMOLHARI  
Cashier

\*\*\*\*\*

**Have you visited our website yet?**  
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**<http://fuchs-online.com/ntpsc>**

**NOTICE:** Regarding Postal Himal nos. 101/102, the issue numbers at the bottom of all pages (except the Front cover) should read "Postal Himal nos. 101/102, not nos. 99/100.

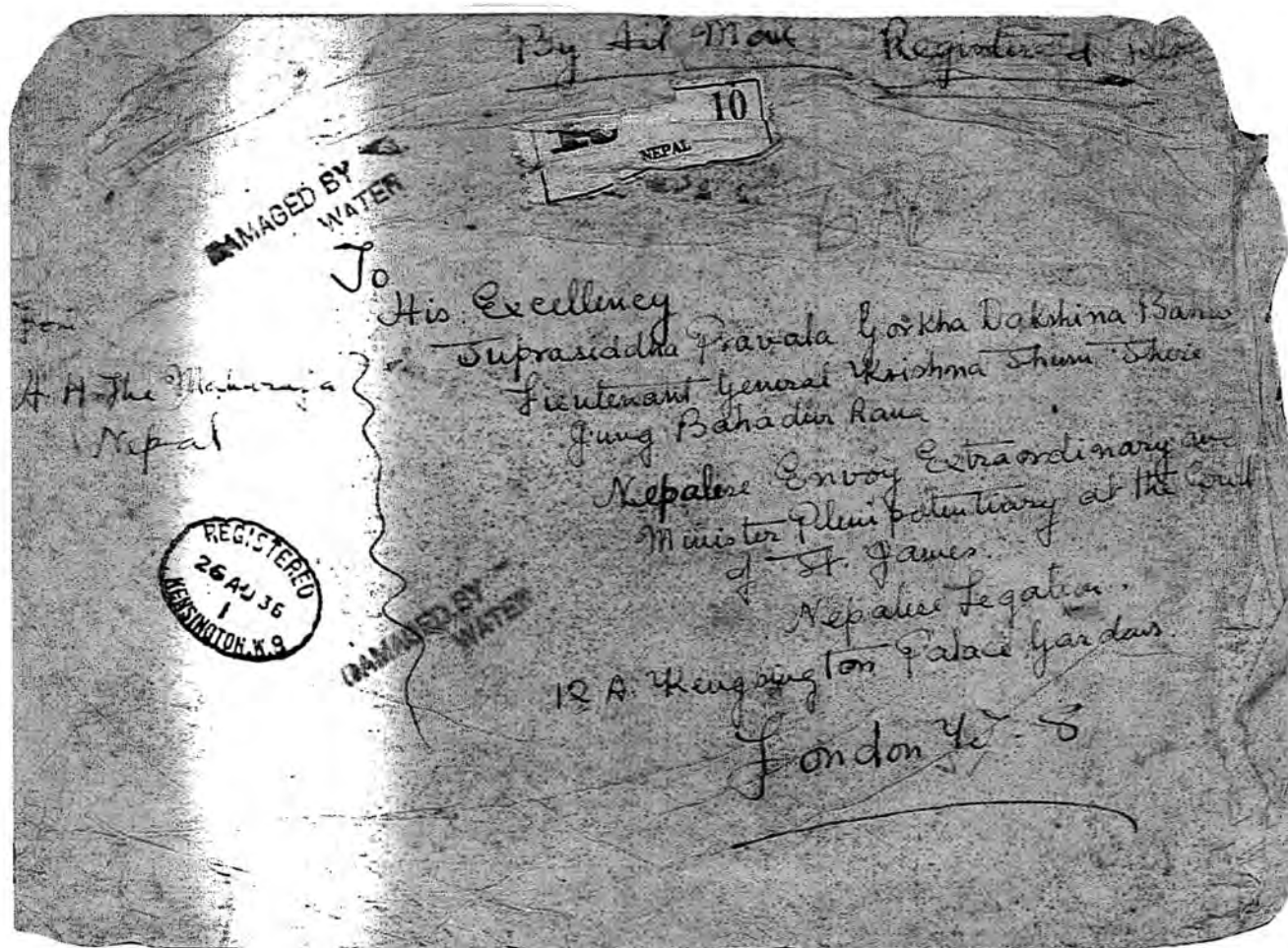


## Two Unusual Nepalese "Sea" Covers

Leo Martyn

It is quite satisfying to find really unusual items relating to the Himalayan area (usually at a high price). The following two covers fit the bill nicely.

The following large (illustrated at 75%) was sent by the Maharaja of Nepal to the Nepalese Envoy in London.



A description from the album page which accompanied the cover reads: "The Imperial Airways Short Kent Flying Boat No. G.ABFA 'Scpio', homeward bound with mail from Australia, the far and near East, crashed into the sea off Mirabella, Crete [August 23, 1936]. The large mail was all salvaged within six hours and many cachets were applied to British mail in London. This interesting registered cover from Nepal (backstamp: Nepal, 14 Aug. 136) shows the unusual cachet in red with the 'SEA' omitted. The cachet was in regular use subsequently in the Registered Letter Office, Mount Pleasant, London."

Some of the stamps have washed off, but still present are two Indian George V 1 rupee stamps.

Paquebot covers from the period between the two World Wars (a time of much large passenger ship activity) were handed over at post offices (usually by personnel of the ships) at the ports of call. Most of the ships had a postal facility, often manned by postal clerks of the countries of both the port of departure and destination. This cover is addressed to Mrs. Bailey; the wife of that great Statesman/Spy/Explorer/Raconteur/Tibetan Philatelist, F.M. Bailey.



HE  
Mrs. Honble. Mrs Bailey.  
The British Legation  
Kathmandu  
~~to~~ India Nepal

\*\*\*\*\*

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