

Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpssc>





Postal Himal is a quarterly publication of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year. Dues should be paid in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the Society representative in your area.

	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>Life Member</u>
Great Britain	£12	£33	£250
USA	\$18	\$50	\$375
Europe	€19	€52	€390

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122 British Philatelic Federation Affiliate #435

Secretary: Mr. Colin T Hepper
 C72 Calle Miguel Angel
 El Sueno - Fase I
 El Chaparral
 03184 Torrevieja
 Alicante
 Spain
 Phone & Fax 34 96 6784701
 email: colinhepper@hotmail.co.uk

Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett
 6 Rainbow Court
 Warwick, RI 02889-1118
 USA
 Phone (401) 738 0466
 email: editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

The Board of Directors:

President:	Prof. Armand Singer, armand.singer@mail.wvu.edu	Past President:	Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl
Vice President:	Mr. Dick van der Wateren	Secretary:	Mr. Colin T Hepper
Treasurer:	Mr. Colin T Hepper	Auctioneer:	Mr. Leo Martyn
Members at large:	Mr. Christopher Kinch, Mr. Alan Warren	Editor:	Mr. Richard M. Hanchett

Representatives:

Europe: Mr. Colin T. Hepper - see address above
 Nepal: Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, G. P. O. Box 72, Kathmandu, Nepal
 USA: Mr. Roger Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94024, USA

Life Members: Mario C. Barbieri, Jeremy Brewer, Geoffrey Flack, P. Gupta, Richard M. Hanchett, Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, William Janson, Kenneth Jayonovich, G. Lenser, Leo Martyn, R. Murray, Peter Planken, Barbara Praytor, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Roger Skinner, Dick van der Wateren, Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr

New Members: Bo Christer Olsson, Munkebacksgatan 24B, 416 53 Goteborg, Sweden

Change of Address: Boon Tan, 1916 Applegate Lane, Edwardsville, IL 62025 USA

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues:

Lost Members: (Anyone knowing the address, please send it in)

<u>Publishing Schedule:</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cutoff for Articles</u>	<u>Into Mail</u>
	124 - 4th Quarter 2005	November 19, 2005	December 03, 2005
	125 - 1st Quarter 2006	February 24, 2006	March 18, 2006
	126 - 2nd Quarter 2006	June 02, 2006	June 20, 2006
	127 - 3rd Quarter 2006	September 01, 2006	September 16, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officer's Corner	Armand E Singer	1	Tibet to North Borneo	Wolfgang Hellrigl	13
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	1	Chomorak Postmark	Derrick Dawson	14
Chinese Imperial Post-Tibet	Danny Wong	2	Nepal Post Offices	Colin Hepper	15
Himalayan Phantasies	Wolfgang Hellrigl	7	News from Kathmandu	Surendra Lal Shrestha	16
Answer to a Question	Larry Bowles	12			
Book Review	Colin Hepper	12			

Officer's Corner

Last year I did a short monograph on the essays and proofs of Tibet. No sooner did it appear than a new find of proof material hit the market. New buyers of the monograph (published by Geoffrey Flack) can expect an additional page or two chronicling this rather remarkable find. Available soon. Why not ask Geoffrey to send the extra sheets if you already have a copy? Bob Gould and I expect to have a second edition of our mountaineering cover catalog available by the end of the year (George Alevizos, publisher). It will include a greatly expanded listing on non-Everest climbs, some additional Everest items, corrections, a few color pages,

revised numbering, etc.

Next May 27 - June 3 will see the great international stamp exhibition (4,000 frames) in Washington, D.C. We will have a meeting and hope to have at least two exhibits accepted from among our circle. We expect a goodly showing of members, statewide and abroad.

As of now, this is the event to schedule as it seems the philatelic adventure in Tibet and Nepal, planned by Danny Wong for 2006, will not take place. If I get further information to the contrary, it will appear in future issues of *PH*.

Armand E. Singer

Editor's Ramblings

I have had an email from Alan Warren, confirming that our meeting at Washington 2006 will be held on Monday, May 29 from 9:00 AM until 12 noon. We do not yet know what room we will have. For any member who wishes to make a presentation at our meeting, computer projection, slide projection and overhead projection equipment will be available. If you would like to make a presentation, please email Alan Warren (alanwar@att.net) or postal mail him (P O Box 39, Easton PA 19341-0039 USA) to let him know what kind of projection equipment you will need and how long you will take for your presentation. Once our time limit has been filled up, it will be too late to accommodate you, so please let him know as soon as possible.

Also please note that some of the hotels close to the Convention Center are already filled for the first weekend. **If you are planning to attend, please make your hotel reservations early!!!**

And while you are making your plans, please remember that London 2010 will soon be occurring, and we will, of course, have a meeting there. If anyone knows of any other upcoming international exhibitions that any of our members are planning to attend or to exhibit at, I would be happy to publish the particulars if you will communicate them to me.

This issue contains the first part of a three-part article by Danny Wong on the Chinese Imperial Post in Tibet. The second part will appear in *PH* 124 and the third part in *PH* 125. This marks the first time that color has been used on a cover by this editor. Do you like it and would you like me to continue to use color even if it eventually raised the cost of a subscription? Please note that there is no plan to raise the subscription cost. Let me have your opinion.

Please note Colin Hepper's new email address on the inside front cover.

Remember:

**Washington 2006, starting 27 May 2005 - NTPSC meeting Monday, 29 May 2005 0900-1200
LONDON 2010, date unknown but usually in May. There will be a NTPSC meeting**

CHINESE IMPERIAL POST IN TIBET

Danny Kin-chi Wong

After the imperial post came into being in 1896, it gradually expanded its geographic coverage from coastal cities into the inland. The first Post Office serving a Tibetan town was open in Tatsindu (Datsindo, or Kangting) in 1902, with a postal agency in Luding, prior to the Younghusband Expedition. Then it followed the Kham-Tsang Road westward to Batang in 1909. In Yunnan, Atuntse and Waixi Post Offices were open along the Yunnan-Tibet Road. Figure 1 is a 1903 cover from Datsindo, the earliest recorded imperial cover from a Tibetan town. Figure 2 is a 1909 cover from Waixi, Yunnan. The few surviving covers from these remote locations were mainly sent by missionaries to their home abroad, testifying to their pioneer spirit.

For Tibetan tribal regions in northern Sichuan, a Post Office was open in Maozhou, seat of government, in 1903, with agencies in Lifan, Waizhou, Xinglong and Songpan. Figure 3 is a 1910 official cover from Maozhou using combined services of *yi-zhan* (*I-chang*) and the Post Office. In Qinghai, Sining Post Office was open in 1907, followed by

agencies in Dangar, Zhanbo, Xiangtang, Guide and Xunhua. Figure 4 is a 1910 cover from Sining to USA.

With the 1904 Younghusband Expedition and the establishment of British Post Offices in Tibet, China felt the pressing need to extend her postal service there.

Yatung Customs and the Post Office

Until 1911, the imperial postal service was managed by Customs, run by expatriate mandarins. In Tibet, the bond between the Post Office and the Yatung Customs was very intimate.

Yatung Customs was established in 1894, as a result of Anglo-Chinese Convention on Tibet and India, which opened Tibet to trade with British India. The communication between Yatung Customs and Beijing was primarily through post via India. In the beginning, all posts and parcels went through the care of the Calcutta Branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, with whom the Customs

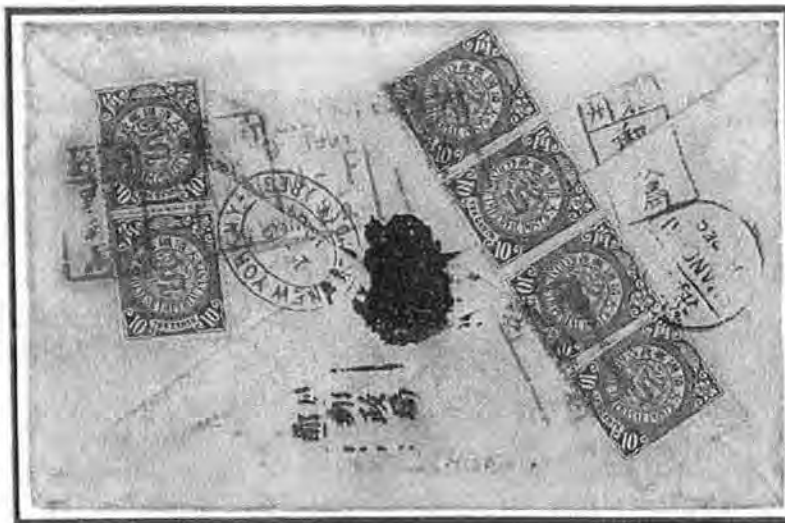


Figure 1

Datsindo → Yazhou → Chengdu → Chungking, 1 Dec 1903
→ Shanghai, 14 Dec → Shanghai SPD, 14 Dec
→ Yokohama, 19 Dec → New York, 9 Jan 1904

Registered mail Postage: 60c

maintained banking facilities.

In 1896, an Indian Post Office was opened in Gnantang, Sikkim, a day's journey from Yatung. Letters were relayed from there for a brief period until it was closed late that year. Then, arrangement was made with Indian Post that all letters and parcels to Yatung and Tibet were to be relayed through the Post Office in Renok, Sikkim. A mailbag was to be ready every day in Renok, and once every three days ex-Darjeeling, for pick up by messenger from Yatung for onward delivery. Receipt of registered mail was to be signed by the messenger dispatched by the Commissioner of Yatung Customs.

In a 21 December 1896 letter to the Indian Post, Hobson, the Commissioner of Yatung

Post Office, and he was also willing to provide service to the public.

After the 1904 Younghusband Expedition, the British opened a Post Office in Yatung. The Messenger from Yatung Customs was no longer necessary, and the British Post Office delivered all mails to Chinese and Tibetan recipients in Yatung to the Customs for onward delivery. Figure 5 is a 1909 cover sent from China through India to Tibet care of the Yatung Customs. Interestingly, it bears the cachet "CONTROLLER DES POSTES CHINE" on reverse.

Little wonder that in 1910 the first Yatung Post Office was located within the premises of Yatung Customs, and the Commissioner was appointed first superintendent of posts for Tibet.

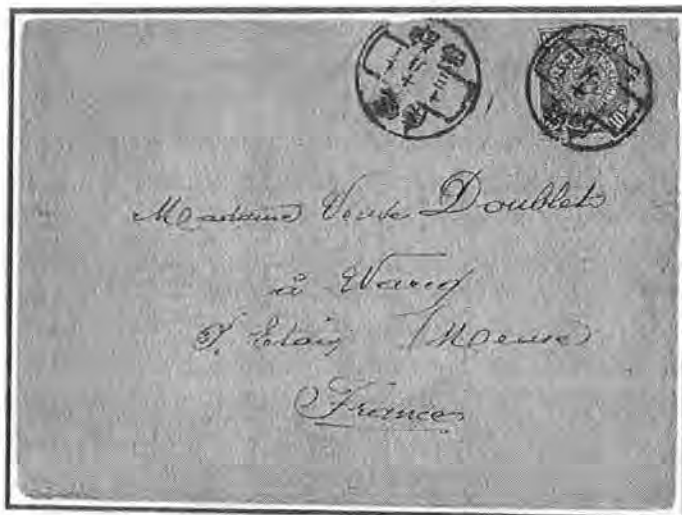


Figure 2

Customs wrote that he had more or less taken the function of a postmaster. All cables and letters, be it to Lhasa Amban or shopkeepers, were distributed by him. He duly signed receipts for those registered letters and paid for postage dues. People regarded his office as a

Opening of postal services in Tibet

In December 1903, Younghusband led a British India team into Tibet to settle border disputes, which later turned into a military expedition that pushed all the way into Lhasa, and dictated terms that further opened Tibet to trade with India. After withdrawing from Lhasa, the British maintained their garrison in Gyantse, and occupied Chumbi Valley. Post Offices were established in Chumbi (Yatung), Phari and Gyantse. The Qing government had to negotiate with the British to improve their terms, which resulted in the 1906 Anglo-Chinese Convention on Tibet, and the 1908 Regulation governing trade between India and Tibet.

On 21 April 1908, one day after the signing of the Regulation, the chief Chinese negotiator telegraphed the Foreign Ministry, "now that the Regulation is signed, the British agreed to close their Post Offices once the Chinese offices are operative. Please therefore proceed with preparation". The Imperial Maritime Customs, reporting to the Revenue Office, was responsible for the national postal services then. The Foreign Ministry immediately requested the Revenue Office to make such preparation.

Figure 6 is the original instruction from the Revenue Office to Acting Inspectorate-General of Customs, Mr. R E Bredon, stating that per paragraph 8 of the Regulation, the British Trade Agents had the right to maintain couriers to convey mails between Tibet and India, and they

should be protected by local officials. Once the Chinese Post Offices were established, the two countries would discuss measures to withdraw these couriers. The Customs was requested to put forward a proposal on the opening of Chinese Post Offices in Tibet, in the spirit of the Regulation and to protect China's sovereignty.

Mr. Bredon then instructed the acting Commissioner of Yatung Customs to work out an action plan. Yatung Customs' proposal of establishing Post Offices in Lhasa, Yatung, Gyantse and Gartok was duly approved in 1909.

Mr. Deng Weiping (Tang Waiping) was appointed postal inspector of Tibet in September 1909. He set off to Lhasa by sea in October and showed up at the Yatung Customs on 17 December. Incidentally, while he was in Yatung studying post routes and postal arrangements, the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa on 13 February 1910 to Yatung. Deng arrived in Lhasa on 26 March. The Lhasa Amban decided that *yizhan* were also to transmit postal matters, with a monthly subsidy of 108 teals of silver from the Post Office, and no postal couriers would be necessary. Altogether 18 *yizhan* stations were engaged. In return, all official mails were to be registered, and delivered free of charge by the Post Office. As a final preparation, 10 Chinese *yizhan* soldiers each from Chumbi (Yatung) and Shigatse plus about 100 Tibetan militia were given postal training in Lhasa commencing 12 June.

On 16 June 1910, the Lhasa Amban declared the opening of the Post Office (in Lhasa). The opening of the Yatung Post Office followed within days. Gyantse Post Office was open on 18 September, Shigatse on 3 October, and Phari shortly after.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 6



Figure 5

Pingqiao, Zhejiang (18th day, First month 1909)
 → Chinkiang (10 Feb) → Shanghai Chinese P O (11 Feb)
 → Shanghai French P O (11 Feb) → Yokohama a Marseille paquebot (12 Feb)
 → Yatung British P O (6 Mar)
 → Yatung Chinese P O ("Controller des Postes Chine")

Part 2 of this article will appear in PH 124 and Part 3 will appear in PH 125 - editor

HIMALAYAN PHANTASIES

Wolfgang Hellrigl

This article originally appeared in *Fakes Forgeries Experts* No. 7 May 2004. It is reprinted with their kind permission. - editor

A philatelist who collect Nepal and other Himalayan countries can expect to find some of the most unusual and fascinating items that postal history has to offer. However, he must constantly be on his guard, because forgeries and fakes are part and parcel of many a tempting offer, either from dealers at auctions or on eBay. This article proposes a typical selection of spurious Nepalese items that demonstrate the great inventiveness of the Himalayan fakers.



Forged Cancellation

Figure 1

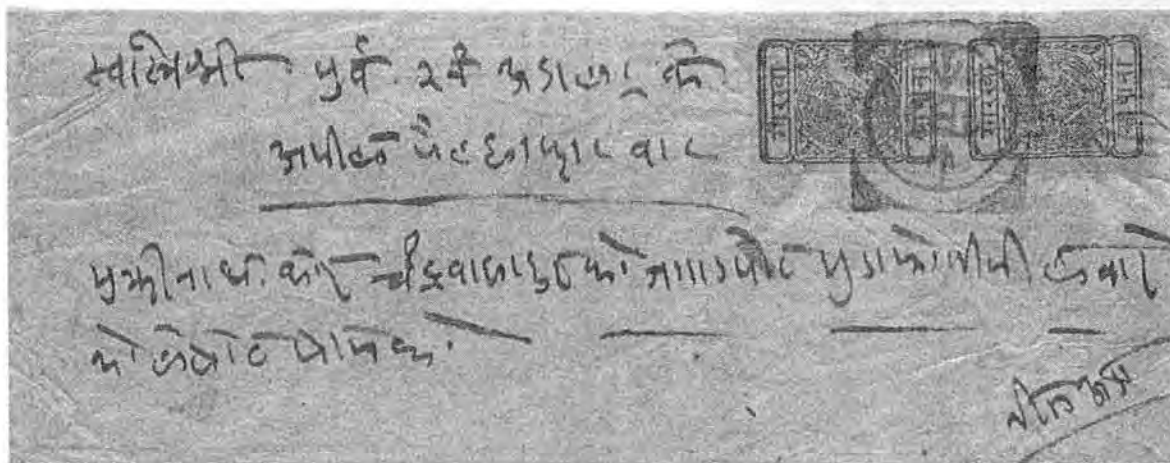
The support for this fake is a genuine cover of 1902 that bears three genuine postmarks on the reverse. Originally, the front must have borne a single 1 anna stamp that was later removed. In its place, the faker added four genuine stamps: a 4 anna green, a 2 anna purple and a tête-bêche pair of ½ anna black. The stamps were then cancelled with a cleverly forged killer. However, the ½ anna and 2 anna stamps are from the later printings, of c. 1917. Moreover, traces of the removal of the original stamp are still visible under the tête-bêche pair. Although the rate is realistic (7 annas is the correct rate for a double-weight registered letter), no genuine commercial combination of ½ anna with other denominations is known.

This cover bears a pair of a dangerous forgery of the ½ anna black, photographically reproduced from an original and offset-printed on native paper. Incidentally, the same forgery was used for printings in orange, in an attempt to imitate the rare orange-vermilion variety of this stamp. The forged stamps were added to a genuine cover official (stampless) cover, and cancelled with a bogus killer. Genuine covers franked with two ½ anna stamps do exist, but only three such covers are known.



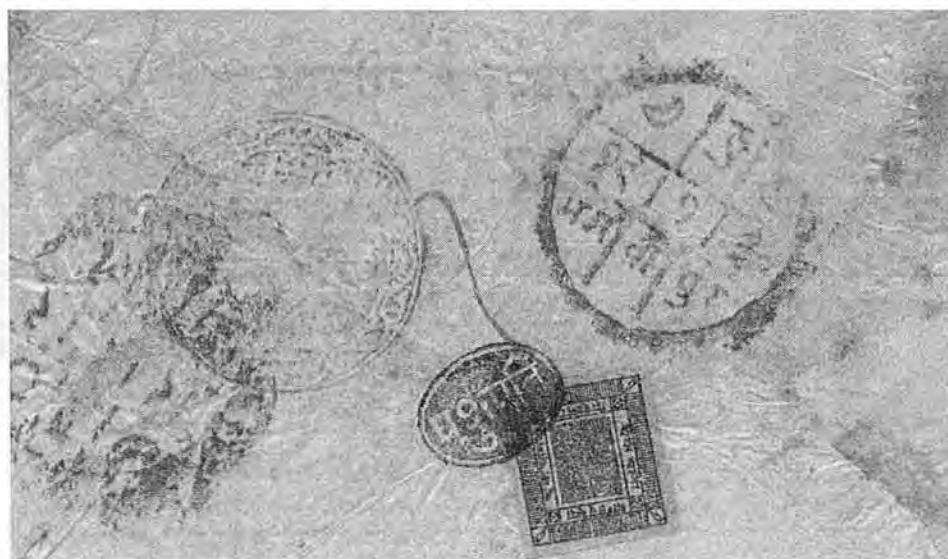
Bogus cancellation

Figure 2



Bogus cancellation

Figure 3



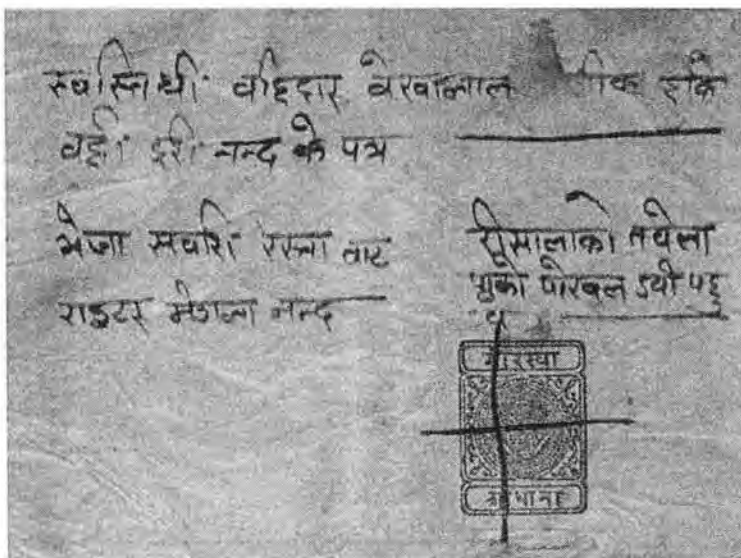
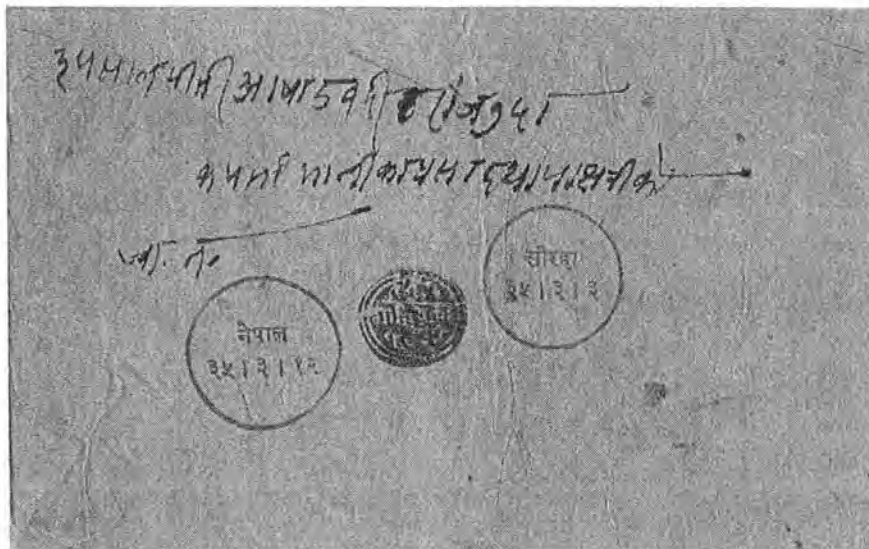
Humble stamps are often used as the basis for Nepalese faked covers, since they are easily available. The 1 anna stamp of the so-called “new design” or “Plate II” was issued in 1927 and is indeed very common, whether unused or telegraphically used. Commercial postal use, however, is limited to a handful of covers of the 1950s, when this and some obsolete classic stamps were being used up. At any rate, this stamp was added to a genuine official (stampless) cover and cancelled with a bogus seal cancellation, in order to attract postal history collectors. The date of the cover, as clearly shown by the circular postmark on the right, is November 1922, i.e., some five years prior to the actual issue date of the stamp.



Forged datestamps

Figure 4

The pre-stamp period of Nepal is a relatively new field for the fakers, and became popular in response to the demand by postal history collectors. Nepal introduced its native postmarks in March 1879, two years before the first stamps were issued. Covers from the period March 1879 to March 1881 are rare and much in demand, especially if they bare a manuscript endorsement, Mahasul chukti, indicating that postage had been prepaid in cash. On the other hand, covers prior to 1879 are considered to be practically worthless, because they lack any direct reference to the postal service. So the forger “improved” a cover of June 1878, by adding spurious datestamps of Siraha and Kathmandu, respectively.



Pen cancellation of the ½ anna are extremely rare, with little over a dozen genuine covers being known. On the other hand, it does not take much to fabricate them, since unused stamps are freely available. In the case of this made-up cover, the faker used a genuine stamp, but made two decisive mistakes which I would prefer not to discuss here in detail, as this might be taken as an open invitation to do better next time.

Figure 5

When I was a novice Nepal collector, back in 1970, I bought this cover in good faith, in Kathmandu (later on, when the Nepalese dealers came to know me better, they never offered me fakes or forgeries again, although I was constantly on the lookout to add material to my forgeries collection). It is a genuine cover, with a genuine 2 anna brown-orange and genuine postmarks. Moreover, the date, 1930, corresponds to the late printings of this stamp. What I missed then, are the handwritten initials, "Ka" and "Sa". They stand for Kaj Sarkari, i.e., Official Mail. All official mail was carried free and is therefore incompatible with stamps, at least prior to 1959. The upper postmark was cleverly extended over the stamp, i.e., the circle was manually "reconstructed" in order to tie the stamp to a cover to which it does not belong.

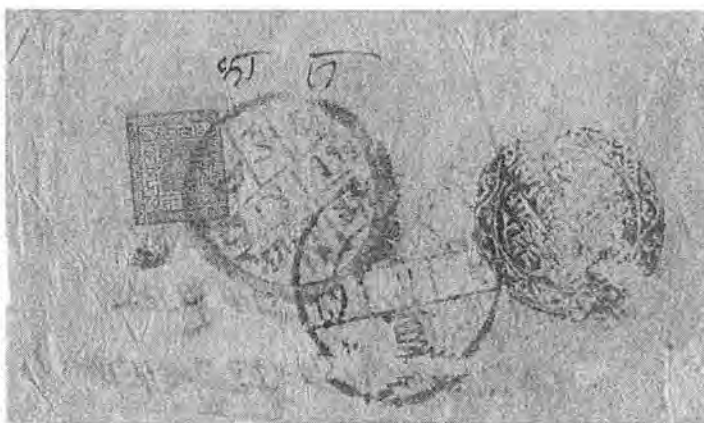


Figure 6

Figure 7

An 8 pice stamp of the 1907 issue was added to an unused picture postcard showing a Tibetan woman, and cancelled with a forged datestamp of Kathmandu, dated 1918. The same marking was used on early forgeries of the classic issues, but this is the only instance where it is known to cancel a genuine stamp.



Forged datestamp



Another fine example of Nepalese inventiveness. Again, a genuine official cover was taken as the support. Then a ½ anna brown of the 1935 issue plus a ½ anna green error-of-colour of the 1941-46 issue were added, and cancelled with a forged datestamp of the Kathmandu G.P.O. The error-of-colour is not known commercially used on cover, but mint copies are relatively common and freely available in Nepal. In any case, the genuine postmarks on the reverse reveal the true date of the cover: 1933, i.e., definitely prior to the issue of both stamps.



Figure 8



Forged datestamp



Figure 9

In June 1960, the 1 rupee King Mahendra Birthday stamp was issued with the overprint Kaj Sarkari, Official Mail. Actually, it was planned that the overprint should be in red, but this turned out to be invisible on the bright purple stamp. So the printers decided to go ahead with a black overprint. But the use of black on the Monarch's portrait caused an uproar in Nepal, because this was regarded as an evil omen. The stamp was quickly withdrawn, but a few copies had been sold. As a result, this became a modern rarity. Of course, the Nepalese forgers did not have the sophisticated machinery to imitate the overprint, but they had the basic stamp and an artist with a firm hand: in the illustrated part-sheet the "overprint" was individually hand-painted on each stamp and, even so, turned out to be unbelievably exact!

Incidentally, the original rarity vanished overnight, after the postal authorities decided to sell the entire stock of overprinted stamps at face value, in 1983, after the King's death.

On page 8 of PH 122, Surendra Lal Shrestha asked for assistance in determining whether an item was from Bhutan or Tibet. In response to that request, Larry Bowles of New Mexico has sent the following reply:

I can't help on the seals themselves. However, the text is written in Bengali. That was nowhere an "official" language until after partition. But it was the principal language of Bengal, the state that became India's West Bengal, including Calcutta and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Bhutanese uses the Tibetan script. Nepalese uses the same Devanagiri script as Hindi. If the documents originated in the Himalayan area, that points toward Darjeeling where a number of seal-wielding princes - like the Maharaja of Burdwan, a Bengali-speaking area - had summer homes.

I lived in Calcutta 40 years ago (like the Sixties, man) but have completely forgotten what little Bengali I picked up, especially the writing. You're bound to have a potentially helpful Bengali MD or two there: Sen, Ray, Roy, Bose, Ghosh, Choudury or anything ending in -jee.

Editor's note: Thank you Mr. Bowles and I hope that Mr. Shrestha finds this of some help.

The following article has been received from Colin Hepper. Colin also says that a copy of the book has been given to the Study Circle by Mr. Manandhar and that he (Colin) has sent it to Roger Skinner to be placed in the library.



Some Selected Post Offices by J. B. Manandhar

This new book by Mr. J. B. Manandhar was published on 14 April 2005 and is an excellent addition to the library of anyone who is interested in the postal history of Nepal.

Mr. Manandhar worked for 37 years as a civil servant in Nepal in which time he held the offices of Director General of the Postal Services Department, joint Secretary, Secretary (special class officer, HMG) and spent almost half of his career in the field of Postal Services.

In his post office job he had the chance of traveling far and wide both in Nepal and abroad. He was able to study several old documents pertaining to the Post and Philately.

This book has brought together articles that he has written over the years about the history of some of the post offices in Nepal. A total

of twenty one post offices are listed.

In addition to this there are details of post office regulations and listings of some of the more modern post offices.

Soft bound, containing 132 pages. Cover designed by K. K. Karmacharya.

Price \$6 or 5 Euro.

Available from the publisher:

Mrs Tara Devi Manandhar

Layakusal, Kathmandu - 23

The Long Ride from Tibet to North Borneo

Wolfgang Hellrigl

In the last issue of *Postal Himal*, Jeremy Brewer described and illustrated a “MacDonald”-cover from Gyantse to Jesselton, British North Borneo (*PH* 122, pg. 2 - ed.). Although some of the characteristics of this cover are unusual and, to some extent, in opposition to the postal rules, Jeremy went to great lengths to explain how the letter could have been sent. Being of a rather more sceptical nature, I am sorry to say that I have the greatest reservations about this cover. I must add that I have seen only the illustration of the cover, which obviously prevents me from giving a definite opinion, but even so, the list of the points that do not fit into the picture of a genuine cover sent from Gyantse to North Borneo, is quite long:

- This is no “MacDonald”-cover at all. The unknown person who tried to make it sound as one, misspelled the name as McDonald!
- The writing is not that of an Englishman educated in the 19th century.
- A modern felt-pen appears to have been used, instead of a contemporary pen.
- The word “sender” would hardly appear on a letter of the time.
- “G.P.O.” Gyantse sounds ridiculous for a P.O. of minute dimensions.
- Surely, MacDonald would have spelled Siliguri correctly. He must have passed it on his way to Tibet. Silligury was never an accepted spelling.
- A P.O. Box address (instead of *poste restante*) for Jesselton seems to be similarly out of place as a “G.P.O.” in Gyantse.
- Possibly even the abbreviation B.N.B. is a product of more recent times.
- The “P.D.” (Paid to Destination) in 1912 is meaningless, this is a postal term of the 19th century.
- The absence of Indian stamps was noted

before. An oversight might be accepted, but the total absence of any Indian postal markings in transit (e.g., at Siliguri) to Singapore is inexcusable.

- The date of the cover cannot possibly be of June 1912. The stamps, or at least their proofs, may well have been printed around May 1912, but they were issued much later. At any rate, there is no reason why the Gyantse postmark would have been produced – and used – as early as that. Incidentally, I doubt that the stamps are of the earliest printings. Some of the lions appear to be rather ink-clogged, suggesting that several earlier printings had occurred.
- The Singapore cancellation is of the “killer-arcs” type that was normally used for cancelling stamps. Instead, datestamps (similar devices, but without “killer-arcs”) were used as backstamps. However, exceptions to this general rule do occur. I am not an expert on the postal markings of Singapore or North Borneo, but – by deduction – I strongly suspect that both of these backstamps are forged.

This leaves us with a blank (unaddressed) cover franked with genuine Tibetan stamps that were cancelled-to-order with a presumably genuine Gyantse cancellation. As I see it, the fictitious journey to North Borneo ends right there. Someone then tried to convert the item into a rare-destination cover, by adding manuscript details as well as two spurious markings. Next time, if the forger uses a proper pen and whacks on a Siliguri datestamp of, say, 1913, he will be more difficult to fault. Provided that he does get MacDonald’s name right.

A Response to Professor Singer's Article: "A Note on a Chomorak Postmark"
(*Postal Himal* No 122, page 10)

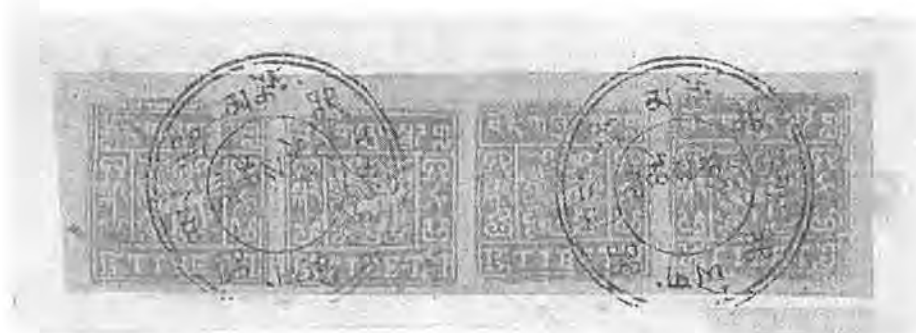
Derrick Dawson

Some years ago I acquired a small collection of Tibetan postal items which Hugh Richardson had brought home on his retirement as Head of British/Indian Mission in Lhasa. This included some interesting covers and a small number of used stamps on piece with a variety of the more usually seen Tibetan cancellations. One piece, however, stood out and is illustrated below. The strip of 4 x 1/2 trangkas of the 1933 issue is tied to piece by two fine complete strikes of Waterfall's Type IX cancel of Chomorak.

I discussed this piece, on the reverse of which was written in pencil "mTsho rag / tshomora", with an endorsement by Hugh himself. Hugh confirmed that the endorsement was his and said

that he had cut the piece from a letter received at the Lhasa Mission. This seemed to fit in with his usual habit and I have, therefore, always regarded the piece as evidence of genuine commercial usage. But what a shame that Hugh had not mislaid his scissors that day!

One further comment. I am sure that so distinguished a Tibetologist as Professor Singer is aware of the philatelic covers bearing the complete set of the 1933 issue cancelled with the Type IX handstamps of the six small villages. I had them all, apart from Penam, in my collection which I have now disposed of, though I have retained a few special pieces, including the Chomorak piece here described.

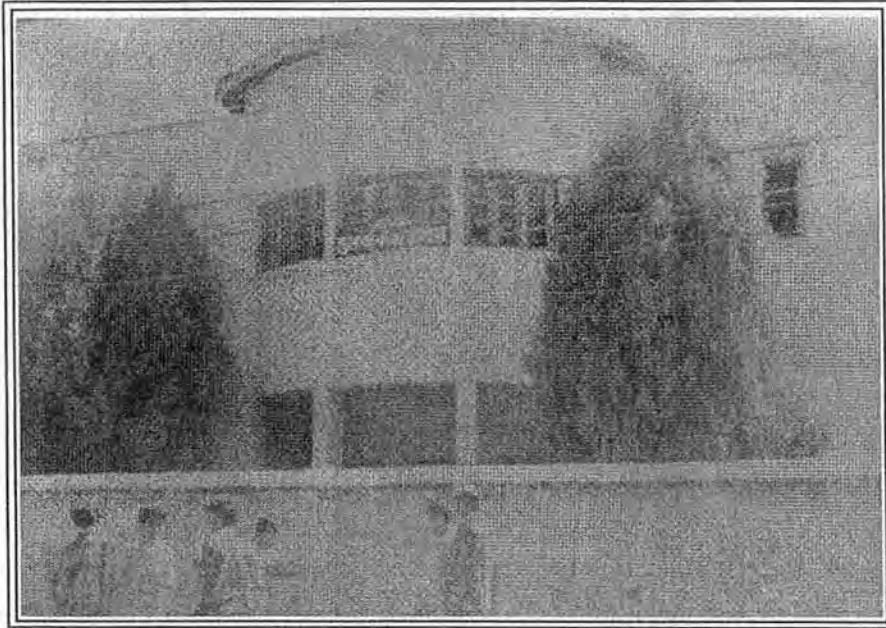


1941-1950 strip of 1/2 t bright chrome, Setting III (Waterfall 115) clichés 9, 5, 10 and 8 cancelled by the rare Type IX Tshomora (Chomorak, Tibetan mTsho-rag).

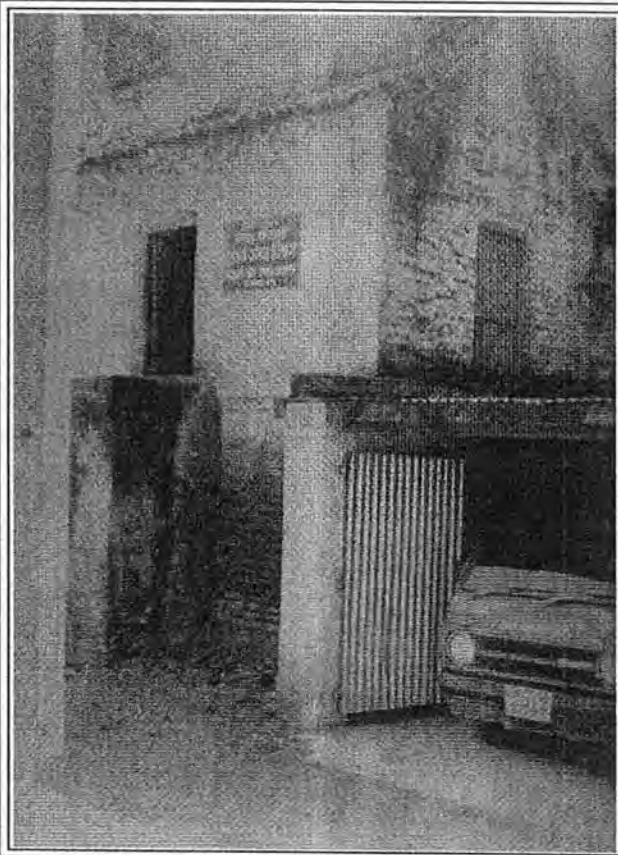
Hugh Richardson told me he cut this strip from a letter received at the British Mission. This certifies genuine commercial usage, rare from Tshomora.

NEPAL POST OFFICE PICTURES

Colin Hepper
photos by Punny Sthapit

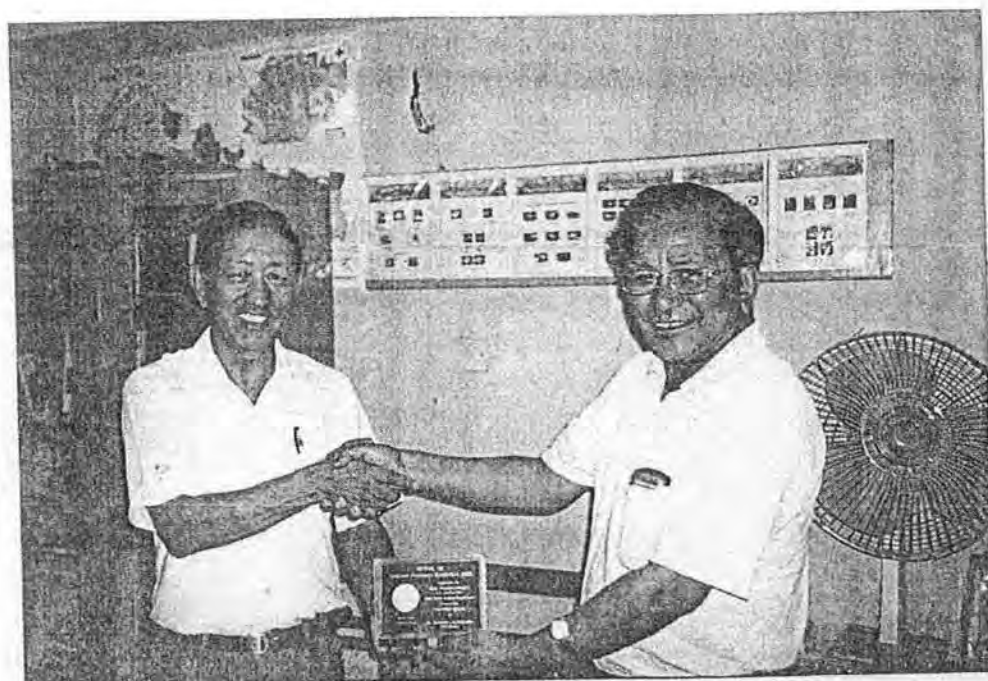


Department of
Postal Services,
Kathmandu



Government Postal Management Office
Dilli Bazar, Kathmandu

News from Kathmandu



NEPHIL '05 National Philatelic Exhibition 2005 organized by the Nepal Philatelic Society in cooperation with HMG, Postal Services Department presents a souvenir medal to Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, NPS Advisor. On April 18, 2005 Mr. Kedar Pradhan, President of the Nepal Philatelic Society presents the medal at the Society Office in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Subject : 59th Birthday of
HM King Gyanendra
Denomination : Rs. 5.00
Color : Four Color
Composition : 50 stamps per sheet
Size : 30 x 40 mm
Process : Offset Lithography
Quantity : One Million

Format : Horizontal
Paper : High Quality Stamp Paper
Designer : M. N. Rana
Printer : Austrian Government Printing
Office, Vienna Austria

Courtesy of HMG Postal Services Department