

Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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<u>Publishing Schedule:</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cutoff for Articles</u>	<u>Into Mail</u>
	133 - 1st Quarter 2008	February 29, 2008	March 8, 2008
	134 - 2nd Quarter 2008	May 30, 2008	June 14, 2008
	135 - 3rd Quarter 2008	August 29, 2008	September 13, 2008
	136 - 4th Quarter 2008	November 21, 2008	December 6, 2008

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Officer's Corner

2007 has been a rather sad year for the Study Circle with the loss of both Frank Vignola and Armand Singer. They had been part of our Society since it was formed and had contributed a huge amount of research for the benefit of others. This will leave a rather large void in our Society, but we now have to move on and look for both a new President and a new Vice-President, as Dick van der Wateren although stepping in the position, does not wish to continue as such for the long term. As Vice-President, Dick has been a tremendous ambassador for us with his regular travels to Nepal and international stamp exhibitions. So I would urge all of you who have any views on should take over as President and Vice-President, to let either myself, Roger Skinner or Richard Hanchett know. These will all be taken into account at the WESTPEX meeting next

April when the new President and Vice-President will be appointed.

Whilst on the subject of appointing new officers, I have been the Secretary/Treasurer since the Society was formed in 1975 and although I am a fit but not so young 72 year old, there may be some members who would like to take over these not so arduous tasks and at the same time have some new blood on the Board. I would like to add that a new treasurer would have to come from one of the European members as Roger Skinner already looks after the USA accounts.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their quick response and views during a flurry of emails, at the time of Armand's passing.

Colin Hepper

Editor's Ramblings

The names which have so far surfaced for the positions of President or Vice-President are Geoffrey Flack and Colin Hepper. Both of these gentlemen are well known to our members and both travel extensively. One of the two should come from North America and the other from Europe. None of the officers receive any remuneration for their positions and there are no officially defined responsibilities for any position. The top two positions should be, I believe, geographically separated so that we can have at least one officer, hopefully, at large exhibitions to run the member's meeting. Other than that, each of them supplies an article for the Officer's Corner (President twice a year, Vice-President once, Treasurer once). Both Roger Skinner and Alan Warren have indicated that they do not wish to be considered for either position.

I have had to postpone the article from Bo Olsson (see page 2), for the past two issues as I wanted to use his discovered C6 postmark for the cover of *PH*. With the passing of Frank and then Armand, I was until to use the cover for his postmark until now. I thank him for being so patient

With this issue we welcome a new *PH* author, Bob Gould (see page 11). I hope that you enjoy this article, as I would like to have Mountaineering Cover articles, as an ongoing series, perhaps once or twice a year.

I also would like to welcome our newest Life Member, Mr. Kedar Pradhan who is the President of the Nepal Philatelic Society. Any of our members who may be interested in joining the NPS can contact Mr. Pradhan at G.P.O. Box 342, Kathmandu, Nepal or by e-mail at mass@ntc.net.np.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

WESTPEX 2008 25-27 April 2008 San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel - meeting Friday PM to appoint new NTPSC President & Vice-President - general meeting Sunday 11 AM

LONDON 2010 London 08-15 May 2010

INDEPEX 2010 New Delhi September 2010

An Unrecorded C6 Postmark

Bo Olsson

A Lhasa postmark of the Chinese/Tibetan bilingual type has been discovered 52 years after the earliest date recorded for such a type from other towns.

The postmark is a Chinese one for use in their, at that time newly opened, post offices in Central Tibet. Waterfall named the type C6 in his handbook and it is now listed as type C220 to C232 in the excellent standard work for Tibet's postmarks compiled by Dr. Hellrigl which we all now use. Postmarks of this bilingual large dotted circle type from Phari, Shigatse and Yatung have long been known.

The "new" Lhasa postmark could, in fact, have been discovered at least 30-35 years earlier when I purchased this cover from an American dealer. Unfortunately I didn't take the time for a closer examination of the cover. I just placed it in a bank deposit box for further action at a later time. And later it was indeed! Now, thanks to a visit by Geoffrey Flack here, I tried to bring some order to my Tibet collection and this cover has come out into the light again.

In the meantime, Dr. Hellrigl has kindly given me the following information:

The transit marking on the front is from Lhasa. Although it is indeed unrecorded, it will shortly appear under "C229" in the second edition of my *The Postal Markings of Tibet*. I enclose a clear drawing of this marking which is slightly earlier than Bo Olsson's strike. This marking exists with the numbers (1) and (2) in brackets.

Even without the Chinese Lhasa postmark this cover is interesting. It was mailed 27th of October 1954 from Peking in China. It went the land route to Lhasa via Ya'an in Sichuan province where it received a transit mark. The Lhasa arrival postmark reads 54.12.18. It apparently took 52 days to arrive in Lhasa!

How are the stamps of the Tibetan Government on the cover to be explained? Unfortunately, I

think that we again see a good example of "philatelic handicraft". According to Dr. Hellrigl, the earliest known Chinese postmark from Shigatse is dated 55.01.20, probably indicating that this town still had no Chinese Post Office which could justify the use of Tibetan stamps to pay the postage for redirecting the cover. But this makes no sense either, for if it were so, then the additional stamps should have been postmarked in Lhasa.

Who sent the cover? I have tried to find out about him, but unfortunately in vain. The man is probably to be connected with the fact that H. H. Dalai Lama was in Peking in 1954 and it is believed that many Tibetan noblemen followed him there.

Translated the Tibetan script on the cover reads:

Front

To

Dear Chima-la
Shol Khang Shag
LHASA

From

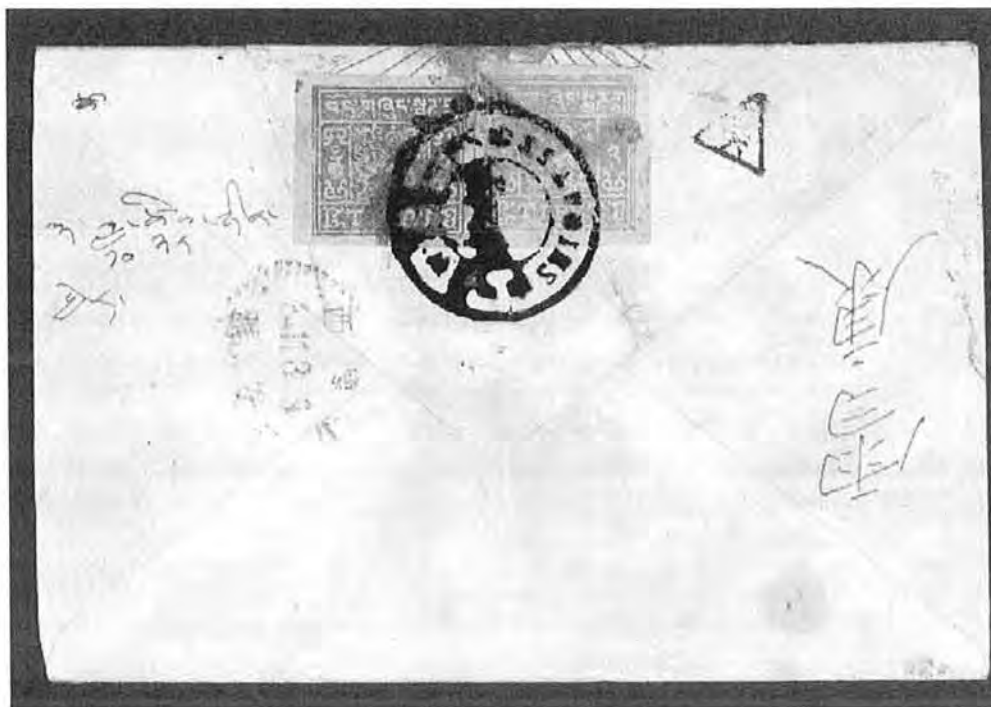
Son of Shol Khang
Peking

Dated 2nd the ninth month (Tibetan calendar)

Back

Received on 28th of the 10th month (Tibetan calendar)

Finally, most strikes of Tibetan postmarks are from Lhasa, so one really wonders why this type apparently should be so scarce? Another Tibetan mystery to meditate over for awhile.



The postmark from the cover.



The drawing provided by Dr. Hellrigl

The cover below was for sale on eBay. It is manufactured, of course. The Chinese PO in Shigatse had long been open at the time of this cover, so why should it be necessary to send it with the Tibetan mail? Why not mail it with the Tibetan mail at once, instead of going the unnecessary way via the Chinese PO?

The shade of the Tibetan stamp seems to be the same as the 2tr. on my cover and the strike of the Tibetan Shigatse postmark is similar to the strike on my cover: dark, blurry and watery.

This cover was sold, according to eBay, for US\$ 203.61 to a buyer in China



'Gorakha Sresta Shixya' - a guide book to the collector of revenues and documents bearing the official ink seals of the Nepal's Kings and P.M.s. This is the cover page of parts 2 and 3 - second edition: 1984 S.B. (= 1927 A.D.) priced at 60 paisa. Printed in Nepal at Shree Pashupati Press on native paper.

Table of Contents - 2nd Part:

Pramangi - Grant Permit
 Ek Chhape - Single Seal
 Rahadani - Passport
 Bada Patra - Order of P.M. or C. in C.
 Dui Chhape - Double Seal
 Rukka Dstakhat - Paper bearing the signature of the P.M. or C. in C.

Khanga Nishana - Sword mark
 Ripot - Report
 Bintipatra - A petition
 Tok - Sanction

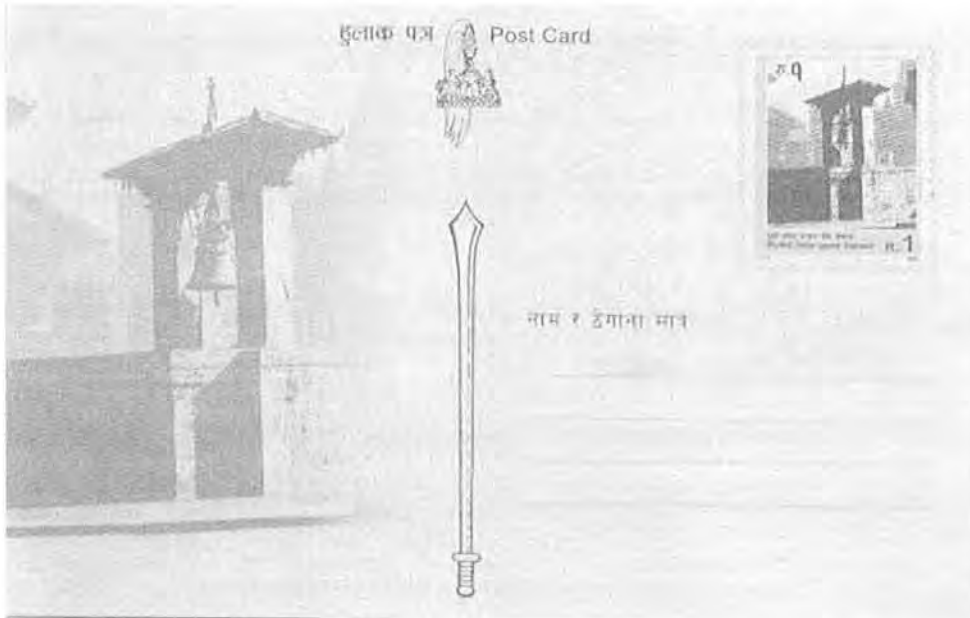
Table of Contents - 3rd Part

Panjika - Table
 Mudda Khichne - Main lines
 'Nakkale Kitab' or Bahi - A ledger
 Misil Banaune - The papers and records (of a case)
 Kagaj Patra Rakhne - Record keeping

A must item for the owner of Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl's *The Native Seals of the Kings and Maharajas of Nepal* published by George Alevizos in 1978. (Surendra Lal Shrestha has 'Gorakha Sresta Shixya' and more information on obtaining it can be had by contacting Mr. Shrestha -ed.)

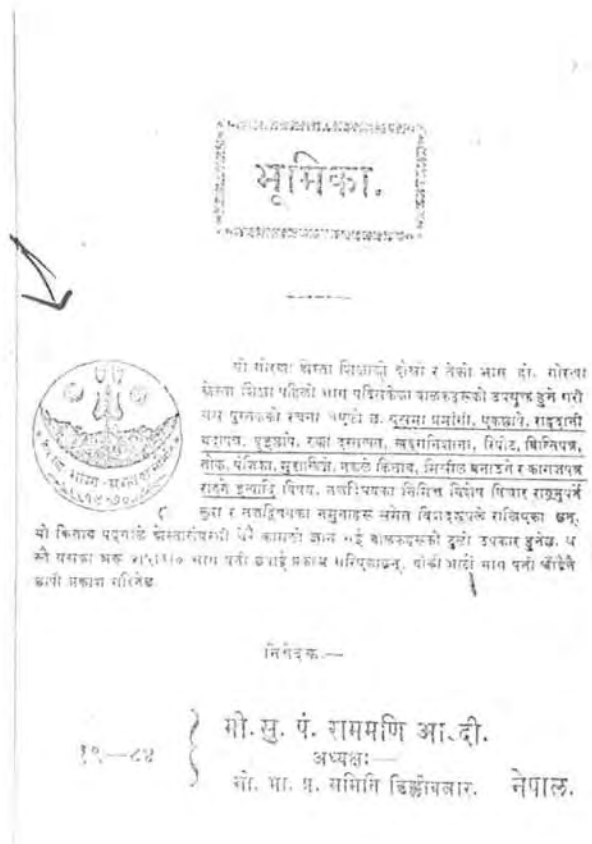


News from Kathmandu
Surendra Lal Shrestha



An error has been discovered on the 2004 postcard from Nepal. The name Nepal is missing!

This is the seal of the 'Gorakha Bhakha-Prakash Samati' 1970 S.B. from the third page of the important book 'Gorkha Sresta Shixya' pages 2 and 3.





Note New Arms of NEPAL.



Postal Service Department
NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU
 Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal

AVAILABLE LIST OF PHILATELIC ITEMS
 2007

Phone No. : 977-1-4241895
 E-mail : philatelic@hons.com.np
 Website: www.nepalpost.gov.np

Two commemorative covers
 top: The Bi-centenary celebration of Hans Christian Andersen
 bottom: The Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Nepal and the People's Republic of China

At right: the new Coat of Arms of Nepal on the Nepal Philatelic Bureau's 2007 list

GPO KTM
 Regd. No. 30135
 Letter
 From: Nepal Telecom,
 Po Box 5406
 To: Nepal Telecom N,
 Pyuthan
 Weight: 16 Grams
 Cash: Rs. 10
 Date: 11/18/2005 Time: 13:50:44 (OP Jaganath)
 Have a nice day.

न्युनी

GPO KTM
 Regd. No. 30135
 Letter
 To: Pyuthan
 Weight: 16 Grams
 Cash: Rs. 10
 Date: 11/18/2005 Time: 13:50:44

Customer Copy


Postal Card From Kathmandu

Introduction of Computer Automated System (CAS) for Nepal Postal Service, from August 17, 2005.

A few days ago (18 December/2005), I was in G.P.O. Kathmandu waiting, and I was attracted by a new thing being used in the counters. Then I went to an Officer to ask, from which the new type of registration receipts are in use. Also, I requested to him to give me some examples to be published in our Postal News. He kindly gave me one the above example - a print from his computer as well as some other details regarding the new system. I am sending you some other examples through my e-mail as follows:
 He also, informed us that the systems are now in use, not only in G.P.O. they are in our various Sub-Offices also, but the list of Post Offices are not available. May we find about to those Post Offices - he said.


- Ramesh Lal Shrestha.






भारत
 Regd. No. 2826
 Letter
 To: Kathmandu
 Weight: 12 Grams
 Stamp: Rs. 10 Cash: Rs. 0 Total: Rs. 10
 Date: 09/21/2005 Time: 11:06

नेष्टरी चिट्ठी REGD. LETTER
 विक्री मूल्य रु. ७.५० SALE PRICE R. 7.50
 नाम र ठेगाना मात्र NAME AND ADDRESS ONLY





*श्री कर्मचारी संघपाल
 त्रिदेवी मार्ग उमेल काठमाडौं
 पो.ब. नं. ७६४२*

The new postal Registration Label of Nepal

Nepal - The Sri Pashupati Printings - Perkins Bacon Archives

Colin Hepper

The Royal Philatelic Society, London has most of the philatelic records from Perkins Bacon & Co. Many of the records are carbon copies of the original document, which by now are not always very easy to read. The clarity is dependent upon how well the typist hit the typewriter key and some are beginning to fade.

The following information has been taken from these records, which are letters and invoices from Perkins Bacon to Keymer Son and Co. who were the agents handling the transaction between them and the Nepalese Government.

A letter dated 30 May 1907 confirms the initial order, which was for 150,000 2, 8 and 16 pice stamps and 1,500,000 of the 4 pice, making a total order of 1,950,000 with 100 to a sheet.

A 17 July 1907 letter acknowledges an order for a further 5,000 of each value. There were also some concerns from the customer about the stamps being delivered in good condition. Perkins Bacon assured them that they had sent large quantities of stamps to India and other hot countries and had had no complaints of sheets sticking together. The letter then goes on to describe, in detail, how the sheets would be packed.

Packing still seemed to be of concern as in a letter on 24 July, Perkins Bacon quotes a price of £4 10s 0d (in addition to the original quote cost) for supplying 80 soldered tin canisters, 60 to hold 75 sheets each and 20 to hold 750 sheets each. All to be packed into larger wood cases.

This must have been agreed to as a letter dated 26 July confirms the tins will be prepared and ready for shipment by SS Palawan and would be sent to the docks about the 7th of August. The letter continues *'We can send you perfect proofs, i.e., gummed and perforated sometime next week, but if plain proofs, not gummed or perforated will do, we can send some at once'*.

A letter dated 30 July confirms that two cases containing 600,000 stamps will be shipped to the SS Palawan.

Problems occurred with the 8 pice stamp. A letter dated 6th August: *'We are in receipt of*

your favour of 2nd August and would say in reference to the perforation of the red stamps, that for some reason that we have not discovered, the sheets printed from this particular plate appear to have shrunk unequal in one corner causing the perforations to be rather irregular. For this reason we have rejected some 300 sheets and are now only shipping, as you will notice, 1200 sheets by this steamer. We hope to have these and the remainder of the 4 pice stamps by the P.O. steamer Java leaving 24th inst.

We enclose 100 sheets of each value stamped 'Specimen' which is the usual way of marking proofs sent to dealers'.

The delivery of the remaining stamps to SS Java was confirmed in correspondence 20th August:

Dear Sir

We beg to advise you that we have shipped today 4 cases per S.S. 'Java' containing 1,380,000 stamps, being the completion of your order. Enclosed please find invoices for same.

The Plates and Dies will be returned to you in a day or two.

We remain,

You Obedient Servant

I assume that the plates and dies were returned to the Keymer firm until required for further printings.

There is no correspondence in the archives with reference to the later printings in 1913, 1918, and 1925. There are, however, invoices relating to these printings.

It would seem that some damage occurred to the plates whilst in the care of the Keymer firm as an invoice relating to the 1913 printing, dated 13 October, 1913, a charge of £10 was made for *repairing damaged plates* with another charge of £7 3s 9d for printing 150,000 4 pice green stamps. As this was the only printing mentioned on the invoice it could be assumed that the damaged plates were for the 4 pice stamp. However, an entry in the engraving book on 27 August 1913 states: *'Repaired 4 stamp plates 'Nepaul' for Keymer & Co.'*, so

there were either 4 plates for the 4 pice or repairs were done to some of the other value plates.

A second invoice dated 19 November 1913 gave printing quantities for all values, being: 150,000 2, 8 and 16 pice and 1,350,000 4 pice. Colours quoted were Brown, Green, Crimson and Amethyst. The order to be shipped to Nepal, via Calcutta per SS Novara.

Smaller quantities were ordered for the 1918 printing - 2 April 1918 - 50,000 for 2, 8 and 16 pice values and 500,000 for the 4 pice value. These were to be shipped by the SS Meraka.

The date on the last invoice is not clear but I would assume it to be for the final printing in 1925. The quantities invoiced were 15,000 2 pice and 5,000 4, 8 and 16 pice making a total of 30,000.

Erratum

In response to the article 'New Color Names for Tibet' by Bo Olsson (see *PH* No. 130, pg. 8), the following was received from Rainer Fuchs.

"In regard to Bo Olsson's article about the Tibet Colors in addition to the ones in Waterfall's Handbook, the List that I have provided to Bo I did not receive from Waterfall but from the late Tibet collector and examiner Kurt H. Dahnke."

Clarification

In response to his article 'New Color Names for Tibet' by Bo Olsson (see *PH* No. 130, pg.8), Bo Olsson has sent the following to avoid any misunderstandings among readers who are not familiar with the colours of Tibet Stamps.

"I think the article gave the impression all lists gave colour names only, but the fact is that Waterfall's Handbook list both colour number and colour name. Only the Dahnke list lacks colour name."

DUES REMINDER

A reminder that there will be a dues increase for 2008 for those paying in US \$.

Also, remember that for 2008 ONLY, the cost of a Life Membership will be 15 times a 1-year rate instead of the normal 20 times a 1-year rate. If you wish a Life Membership and cannot pay it in a single installment, arrangements can be made to pay it over the course of the year. Apply to Roger Skinner or Colin Hepper for particulars (addresses on inside front cover).

In summary, for 2008 the rates for 1-year, 3-year, and Life membership will be: for USA \$ (25, 50, 375) for £ (12, 33, 180) and for € (19, 52, 285). For 2009 the rates for the time periods will be: for USA \$ (30, 82, 600) for £ (12, 33, 240) and for € (19, 52, 380). The 3-year rates are 2.75 times the 1-year and the Life rates are 20 times the 1-year.

Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence

Bob Gould

As some of you are aware, Armand Singer and I co-authored the recently published "A Catalog of Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence". Many mountaineers used signal covers to help finance or advertise their expedition and we attempted to catalog as many as we could from about 1924 to 1985. The postcard used for the 1970 British Annapurna expedition that was led by Christian Bonington (later knighted) has one of the more interesting stories.

The postcard has a picture of Annapurna taken by Lt. Col. Jimmy Roberts who led the successful 1960 British expedition that summated Annapurna II. On the reverse is a preprinted "annapurna south face expedition 1970" and a blue or red R/S "annapurna south face expedition Base Camp". On May 27, 1970 Don Whillans and Dougal Haston summated this mountain via a new route on the South Face without oxygen and in bad weather. Per conversation I had with expedition member Tom Frost, there were probably 1000 postcards signed prior to the expedition leaving Kathmandu for Annapurna.

The actual signature of Ian Clough is one of the most highly sought after by collectors because Clough was killed in an avalanche on May 30th

as the party descended the mountain.

I have seen postcards signed by him (always in red ink), not signed or with a purple R/S of his signature. Frost remembers that since Clough was in charge of supplies and late in arriving in Kathmandu, a portion of the postcards were stamped with his signature in purple ink.

Through correspondence I had with Bonington and a 1970 letter I have from expedition member Kelvin Kent, it appears that many of the promised postcards were lost after being taken to a post office in Kathmandu. Frost believes that the stamps were steamed off and the postcards discarded. If any readers have more information about this postcard, I would appreciate your input. An interesting footnote is that the total cost of this 1970 expedition was about \$60,000, about what it cost for just one person to attempt to summit Mount Everest in 2005.

Readers may contact Bob with information as follows:

Mr. Bob Gould
W9651 North Street
Cambridge, WI 53523
USA

or email at bobkatz1@verizon.net



Dongkur Post Office Wolfgang Hellrigl

A recent correspondence with Bo Olsson once more raised the problem of Dongkur, a Post Office in the vicinity of Lhasa. All we have of this P. O. is a very rare postmark whose known use is confined to a brief time span (1924-1926).

Waterfall locates Dongkur on the road between Lhasa and Chushu. This position appears to be confirmed by several strips of paper which accompanied mail bags, and on which the markings of Lhasa, Dongkur, Chushu, Pelti and Nangartse - in that order- were impressed. Incidentally, when I visited Tibet in the mid-1990s, I actually looked out for Dongkur, but there are no corresponding villages along today's road from Lhasa to Chushu. It is quite possible that eighty years ago, the mail followed a somewhat different route.

Haverbeck, on the other hand, places Dongkur opposite Chushu, across the Tsangpo river. This

would correspond with Gonggar, today's site of the Lhasa airport. Gonggar, like most Tibetan villages, is known under different names: Gongkur, Gongkar, Kongka, Kung-Ka, Gongka, Kong-Ko, Konako. Interestingly, Waterfall applies the last three of these names to Dongkur.

The obvious question now arises, is Dongkur identical with Gonggar, Gongkur, etc.? Judging from the postmark itself, I would say it is. After all, the Tibetan inscription definitely starts with "Go", not with "Do". I would not even exclude the possibility that the "D" of the English inscription might actually be a "G". However, since I do not have clear impressions of this marking, I would greatly appreciate if anyone who has legible strikes of Dongkur/Gongkur could send me a good scan (to: Hellrigl@tin.it) or a photocopy. The problem could then be solved definitely.



Ka Sa (Kaj Sarkari) - Official Government Mail

Colin Hepper

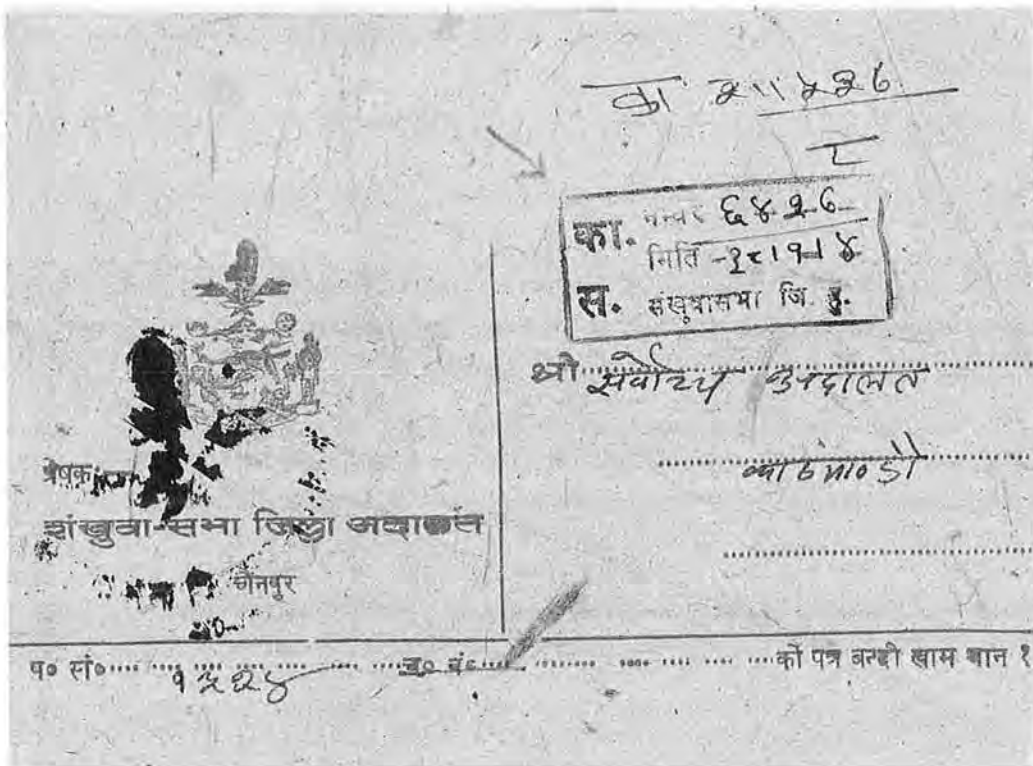
Official government mail is the most common to be found since the postal service began in 1881. Modern day mail from government offices often use a pre-printed envelope with the name of the office printed on the envelope, although this is not the case with all official mail. During the 1980's a standard hand stamp was used on much of this mail, and resembles the 'Boxed' registration cachets.

The hand stamp has the words Ka Sa down the

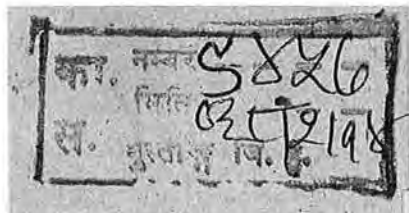
left hand side, to the right of this are three lines. The top one is to record the number of the letter (again similar to a registration number), the middle one is to record the date of posting and the lower one has the name of the office.

Shown is a typical official government mail pre-printed envelope with the Ka Sa cachet which reads:

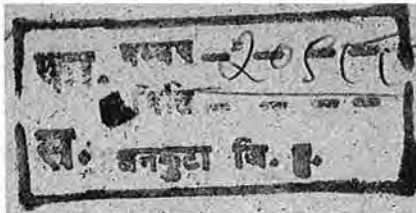
Ka.	No. 6427
	Date 038/1/4 (1981)
Sa.	Sankhuwa Sabha DPO



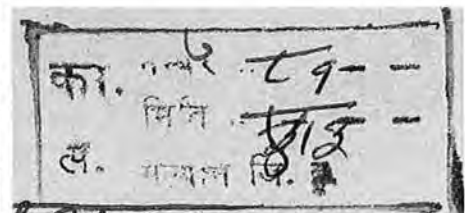
Examples of other Ka Sa cachets



Mustang



Dhankhuta



Sallyan

Study Circle Celebrates 25 Years as APS Affiliate
Alan Warren

25 years ago the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle became Affiliate Society No. 122 to the American Philatelic Society. At the APS Stampshow held in Portland OR in August, director Alan Warren attended the affiliates' luncheon and accepted the 25-year certificate from APS Affiliates Chairman Jim McDevitt, on behalf of the officers and members of the Study Circle.



25 Year Affiliate

presented to

Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle

Affiliate Number AF0122

granted

August 2007



Janet Klug
President

Wayne L. Youngblood
Secretary

APS STAMPSHOW

August 9–12, 2007
Portland, Oregon

Postal Himal

Postal Himal

Silver



Jury Chairman



Thanks to the Government of Nepal Postal Services Department for the First Day Cover

Technical Details

Subject Golden Jubilee Nepal - Sri Lanka Diplomatic Relations

Value Rs. 5.00

Color Four with Phosphor Print

Sheet 20 stamps per sheet

Size 40 x 30 mm

Format Horizontal

Quantity 0.5 Million

Process Offset Lithography

Paper High Quality Stamp

Designer Mohan N. Rana

Printer Cantor Security, France

Nepal Post Offices - A Continuing Series
Colin Hepper - photos by Jaya Hari Jha

Makawanpur District Post Office



Makawanpur District Post Office is one of five District Post Offices in the Narayani Zone



MAKAWANPUR D. P. O.
 R. L. No
 DATE
 HETAUDA

Express Mail Service	
No. _____	Date _____
MAKAWANPUR	



R N: _____
Date: _____
MAKAWANPUR

MAKAWANPUR D. P. O.
 EXPRESS DELIVERY SERVICE
 DATE _____
 HETAUDA

Bhawanipur Chhoti Hulak



Bhawanipur (Jeetpur) Chhoti Hulak in the Narayani Zone comes under the jurisdiction of Bara District Post Office

