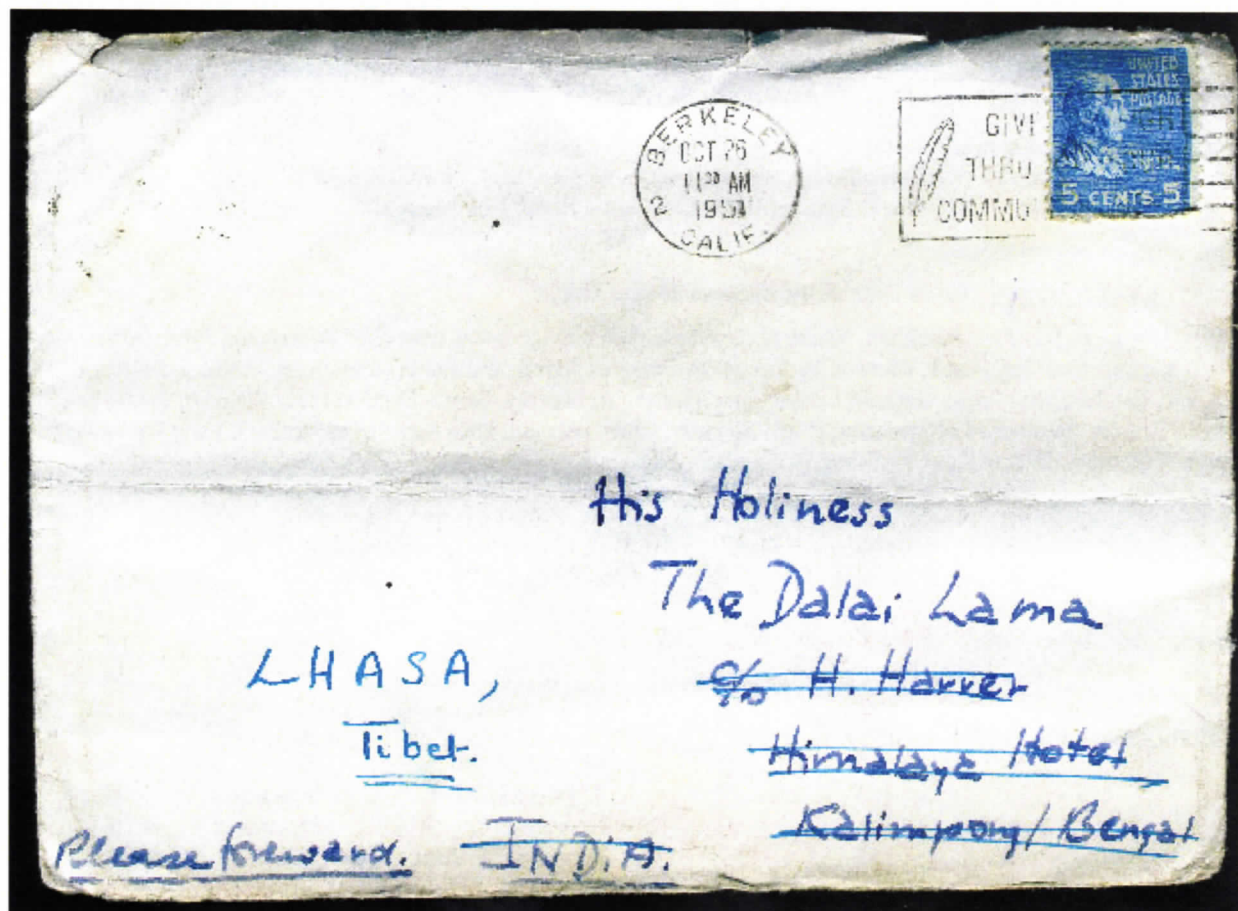


Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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





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

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
12 Charnwood Close
Peterborough
Cambs. PE2 9BZ
England
Phone 01733-349403
email: colinhepper@aol.co.uk

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

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Officer's Corner

Occasionally members send me photographs of their visits to international exhibitions or visits to Nepal or Tibet. Recently Al Zulueta sent some photographs he took in Nepal in 1980, one of which was a very colourful 'Holy Man' which brought back memories of my own visit to Kathmandu in 1981. I was also attracted to one of these 'Holy Men' and found that he spoke quite good English. He had apparently travelled up from India to attend some Pashupati celebrations and during our discussions a good crowd of children gathered round, who followed us to a local food store where he had persuaded me to purchase some food for him. He may of course have been around just to attract tourists like myself or his story may have been genuine but it was an enjoyable experience. So after 29

years I am going back to Nepal in March, but this time I will be spending most of my time on a walking holiday in the Pokhara area, but will try to spend some time at the end of the visit, with our friends in Kathmandu. So I expect that our editor will be looking for an article on my visit there for a future *Postal Himal*.

When I return, London 2010 will be just round the corner where I hope to see many of our members during the exhibition. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets for the opening day can do so by visiting the website www.london2010.org.uk payment through paypal.

Colin

Editor's Ramblings

An apology to Mr. Raj Kumar Sukhani whose name was misspelled in the New Members section (inside front cover) of the last issue of *Postal Himal*.

Visitors who attend the first day of the London 2010 International Exhibition will have to pay £10 admission - all other days are free. Details of how to buy tickets can be found at www.london2010.org.uk. As has been previously well publicised, the exhibition will be divided into two halves. During the first four days, May 8 - 11, visitors will be able to see entries in five classes: traditional, postal stationery, revenues, one-frame and youth. During the final four days May 12 - 15, they can see postal history, thematic and aerophilately. A full list of all the entries will be posted on the exhibition website.

I am sometimes struck by the probabilities that one encounters during one's life. What are the

probabilities that two editors of Journals dealing with Asian philately (both of which started in the UK) would both live in the smallest state of the United States within 5 miles of each other. That is what happened when Deepak Jaiswal joined the NTPSC. He is the editor of the India Study Circle's Journal *India Post*. The ISC is an organization which I should have joined years ago and have finally done.

This is the last copy of *Postal Himal* which you will receive before WESTPEX 2010 and LONDON 2010 have become history. For all of you who are able to do so, I hope that you will attend one or both of those meetings. I was planning to go to LONDON 2010 only, but changed my mind and will attend both shows, as well as LISBON 2010 later this year, as I am also a member of the International Portuguese Stamp Society, my wife being of Portuguese descent.

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 2010 23-25 April 2009 San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel (NTPSC meeting on 25 April from 11:00 am -12:00 noon in Room 6096)

LONDON 2010 08-15 May 2010 Business Design Center, London (NTPSC meeting on 12 May from 10:00 am through 1:45 pm in the City Suite - Hilton Hotel)

LISBON 2010 01-10 October 2010

INDIA 2011 February 2011 New Delhi

To His Holiness The Dalai Lama C/O H. Harrer by Geoffrey Flack

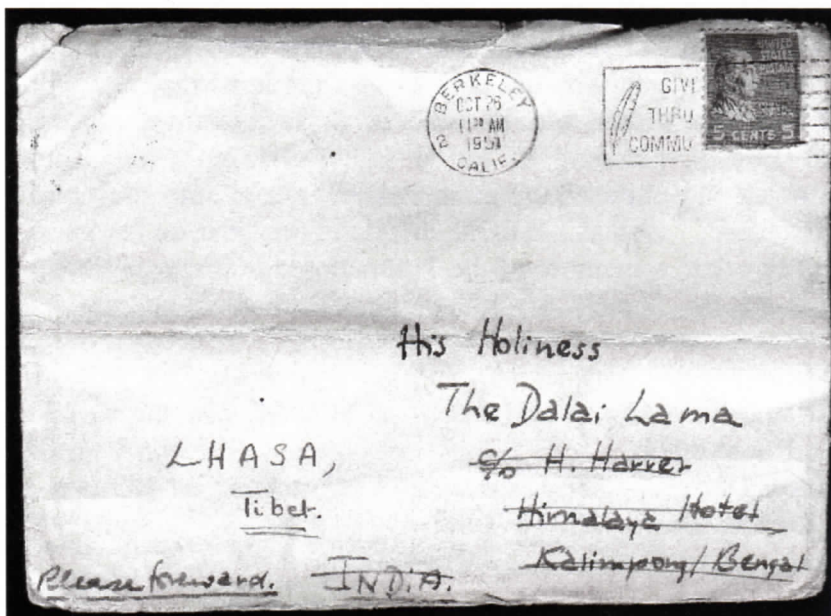
One of the most famous stories of modern Tibet is the relationship between the young Dalai Lama, the God-King of Tibet, and the German climber and explorer, Heinrich Harrer. The legend of Harrer's escape from a British World War II interment camp and his two year journey to reach Lhasa have become a legend - a story told in Harrer's magnificent book *Seven Years in Tibet*. During his time in Lhasa, Harrer became the friend and tutor to the Dalai lama, a friendship which remained strong for more than 50 years.

The history of the relationship is well known through *Seven Years in Tibet* (both book and movie), but almost nothing relating to Harrer's time in Tibet has been found in the philatelic world.

In the summer of 2007 a small selection of Tibet covers was found in Lhasa, Tibet. These covers included a few better covers dating from the early 1930s and a few local covers from the early 1950s. This second group included a very unusual 1951 cover from the USA addressed to "His Holiness / The Dalai Lama / C.O. H. Harrer / Himalaya Hotel / Kalimpong / Bengal / India". The cover was backstamped with two KALIMPONG transits (dates unclear) and then

the cover was forwarded to "LHASA / TIBET" and was backstamped with a GYANTSE / TIBET Type B-3 (Hellrigl B48) transit dated 18 DEC 51.

With the Chinese army marching on Lhasa, the Dalai Lama had fled the capitol on December 19, 1950 and moved his Government (the 'Kashag') to Yatung (just inside Tibet on the border with Sikkim). Heinrich Harrer also left Lhasa and went to Kalimpong (on the Indian side of the frontier) where he resided at the Himalaya Hotel (owned at the time by David MacDonald (*20 Years in Tibet*) and still owned by the MacDonald family). Harrer remained in Kalimpong for an extended period and it was here that he started writing his famous book *Seven Years in Tibet*. The Dalai lama met with Chinese officials in Yatung and agreed to return to Lhasa, reaching the city on August 17, 1951. Harrer did not return to Europe until 1952. It appears that Heinrich Harrer forwarded this letter to Lhasa - it is not known whether this letter finally reached the Dalai Lama. The cover has a number of faults, including the back flap missing - but it is unquestionably a very unusual item.



Heinrich Harrer and the His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Germany in 1990.

More Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence

by Bob Gould

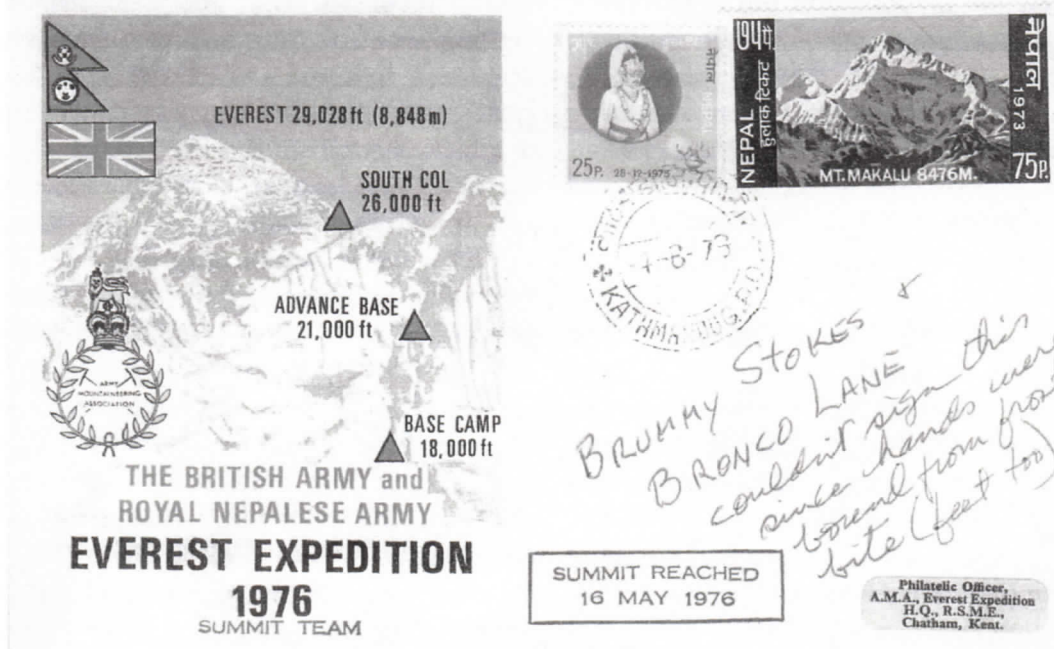
There were a total of 15,000 covers printed for the British Army and Royal Nepalese Army Everest Expedition 1976 and all had the same cachet, but a variety of different rubber stamps. I have seen more than 20 different variations of this cover: signed, not signed, no rubber stamp, different rubber stamps printed in either purple, red, black or green ink.

They used five different R/S starting with "Expedition Departs U. K. Mt. Everest COVER No 1" and ending with "Summit Mt. Everest 1976 COVER No 5". Then there were a variety of different R/S from "BASE CAMP ESTABLISHED 24 MARCH 1976" to "SUMMIT TEAM". There were also 200 of each with a special R/S for either Field Marshall Sir Michael Carver or John Hunt, President of the Army Mountaineering Association, or for expedition leader H. R. A. Streather.

12,000 covers with Nepal stamps were cancelled in Kathmandu and the remaining 3,000 with British stamps were cancelled 1 MAR 1976 with a special cancel by the British Forces Postal Service. The covers were signed

by team members and although this was a joint British - Nepalese expedition, I have not seen any signed by a Nepalese member.

The cover shown below is one of my favorites. Corporal M. P. Lane and Sergeant J. H. Stokes summited Everest late in the day on May 16. They were caught in bad weather and had a forced bivouac on the descent. They were able to return to base camp but both suffered frost bite and between them lost 20 toes and 5 fingers. Written on this cover is "Brummy Stokes and Bronco Lane couldn't sign this since hands were bound from frost bite (feet too)". Was this written by an expedition member or later by the army philatelic officer? Or, could this have been added by a philatelic dealer or a collector? I have seen several "SUMMIT TEAM" covers signed by Stokes and Lane. Could they actually sign after their summit ordeal with frost bitten hands? Perhaps they signed later or had someone else sign for them. Another interesting mystery. Any input from the members would be much appreciated.



If any member has any information as to who signed this cover or when, please contact either Bob at bobkatz1@verizon.com or the editor at editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

A Trip to Eastern Tibet by Julie Marshall

In June this year my husband, Alan, and myself visited Tibet soon after the country reopened for tourists following its closure due to the 50th Anniversary of the Dalai Lama's flight to India in 1959. This was our second trip to Tibet – nine years ago we travelled the traditional route from Kathmandu to Lhasa and trekked to the East (Kangshung) face of Mt Everest. This time we spent almost four weeks in Eastern Tibet travelling from Lhasa to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan. Eastern Tibet, especially in the Tibet Autonomous Region, is not so frequently visited due partly to the number and difficulty of obtaining permits for the area. Even with these permits we sometimes found it difficult to get permission to camp from local officials and our guide had to report to police almost every day with our passports.

On the route from Lhasa to Kathmandu there are a number of towns and most tourists, unless they are trekking, stay in hotels. In Eastern Tibet there are few towns with facilities for tourists so we were mainly camping near villages. Although there is a large Chinese presence in the towns and all the bridges over the major rivers are guarded by Chinese soldiers with guns, we found village life in the country seemed to continue much as it always has. There was also a difference between life in the Tibet Autonomous Region, where there are more restrictions, and the areas of Tibet which have been incorporated into the Chinese provinces of Qinghai and Sichuan.

We found Lhasa much more restrictive than before. To visit the Potala you now need to go through X-Ray machines and be frisked and you cannot even take a bottle of water in with you. Only an hour is allowed and what you can see is controlled. No photos of course are allowed in the building but it was a surprise when we could not even take photos from the roof of the Potala. Another change in Lhasa was the big monument in the square in front of the Potala commemorating the “peaceful liberation” of Tibet. On top of the buildings around the

Barkhor, the big square in front of the Jokhang, there are Chinese soldiers with cameras whilst troupes of soldiers walk around the Jokhang passing prostrating pilgrims and Tibetans twirling their prayer wheels.

Despite these restrictions what really impressed us on this trip was how Buddhism once more seems to permeate most aspects of Tibetan life. Monasteries are being rebuilt and there are many practising monks. When we were in Lhasa we visited the major monasteries of Drepung and Sera which were thronged with tourists, mainly Han Chinese, who seem now to regard Tibet as an exotic destination much the same as Western tourists. Although the chanting and debating of the monks was, I'm sure, genuine, in some ways it almost seemed a demonstration for the tourists. Photos were allowed but only at a price. It was quite different in the monasteries in eastern Tibet, many of which are only occasionally visited by tourists and where we were warmly welcomed. The most unusual and magnificent was the Riwoche Tsuklakhang, a big square building painted in the red, white and black stripes of the Taglung sect with enormous tree trunk columns supporting its three stories and with 20 metre doors. It is surrounded by prayer wheels some of which are covered with animal skins and pilgrims come from all over Chamdo to do the kora (pilgrimage walk) round the monastery. We also came across pilgrims on the road prostrating on their way to Lhasa. One group we stopped to talk to had already been on the road for two years. Another impressive sight was the Gyanak Mani, the largest field of mani stones in Tibet which covers about 1 sq. km in area, and is just outside Jyekundo (Yushu). Each stone is carved with a Buddhist prayer and it is thought to date back to the 13th Century. The stones have been placed there by Tibetan pilgrims over the centuries and new stones are continuing to be added. Pilgrims constantly do the kora round the wall. There were also carved stones at the beautiful glacial holy lake of

Yilhun Lhatso in Sichuan. All around, and in, this lake which is fed by two glaciers are large rocks with carved Buddhist prayers. The surrounding hills are covered with wildflowers including the legendary blue poppy. One of the features of Eastern Tibet at this time of the year is the flowers, especially in the fields and on the high passes.

Out on the plains, the “oceans of grass”, are still scattered with nomad tents and literally millions of yaks. Here again life seems to continue as before except many nomads have replaced their horses with motorbikes. But we still came across nomads moving camp with their belongings on the backs of yaks and riding horses. It was a time of festivals and at one we attended they were having a singing contest and at another the emphasis was on horse riding.

One of the most disturbing aspects of Eastern Tibet was the activity of the Chinese in the area trying to build vast roads across the fragile

landscape causing much erosion. Even in the area of the great rivers where large landslides are common, efforts were being made to put through major roads bordered with stone walls. The Chinese are also building airports in Eastern Tibet. Chamdo airport at 4300 m must be the highest airport in the world, Yushu Airport (3700 m) opened in August this year, and Kanding Airport (4300 m) is still under construction. All need very long runways to cope with the high altitude. There are dams on the rivers and communication towers snake up the hills all over the country.

At present Tibetan culture seems to be still thriving especially outside the cities and towns but it remains to be seen how long this can persist with the rapid changes taking place and with China’s continuous industrial development and the influx of Han Chinese. Fortunately the latter prefer the cities to the countryside.



Draksum-tso, a beautiful glacial lake about 350 km east of Lhasa surrounded by 6000 m peaks

Riwoche Monastery



Commercial Frankings of the 1912 and 1933 Issues of Tibet by Rainer Fuchs

In *Postal Himal* No. 117, 1st Quarter 2004, Wolfgang Hellrigl had published a list of commercial frankings of the 1912 and 1933 issues of Tibet. Since then I have used that list as a want list and used it to add new frankings either in my collection or as seen at various auctions. Furthermore, a very few minor corrections to the original list have been added.

Since Wolfgang's list was published, I have only added 5 entries, which are noted in the Remarks column. I am not aware that any other Tibet collector/dealer has maintained the original list; therefore I consider my list as the latest version.

| Rate - Issue of 1912 | 1/6 Tr. | 1/3 Tr. | 1/2 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. | 1 Tr. | Rarity | Remarks |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--|
| 1/6 Tr. | x1 | | | | | | |
| 1/3 Tr. | | x1 | | | | | |
| | x2 | | | | | | |
| 1/2 Tr. | | | x1 | | | | |
| | x3 | | | | | | |
| | x1 | x1 | | | | R | |
| | | | | | bisect | RRR | |
| 2/3 Tr. | | | | x1 | | | |
| | | x2 | | | | | |
| | x4 | | | | | | |
| | x1 | | x1 | | | R | |
| | x2 | x1 | | | | R | |
| | | x1 | x1 | | | | NEW, Fuchs collection (2 fragments only) |
| 5/6 Tr. | x1 | | | x1 | | R | |
| | | x1 | x1 | | | R | |
| | x3 | x1 | | | | R | |
| | x1 | x2 | | | | R | |
| 1 Tr. | | | | | x1 | R | |
| | x2 | | | x1 | | R | |
| | x3 | | x1 | | | R | |
| | | x3 | | | | RR | |
| | x6 | | | | | RR | |
| | x4 | x1 | | | | R | |

| Rate - Issue of 1912 | 1/6 Tr. | 1/3 Tr. | 1/2 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. | 1 Tr. | Rarity | Remarks |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|---|
| 1 Tr. (cont.) | | x1 | | x1 | | R | |
| 1 1/6 Tr. | x3 | | | x1 | | RR | |
| | x1 | | | | x1 | RR | |
| 1 1/3 Tr. | | | | x2 | | RR | |
| | x2 | | | | x1 | RR | |
| | x4 | | | x1 | | RR | |
| 1 1/2 Tr. | x1 | x4 | | | | RR | |
| 1 2/3 Tr. | | | | x1 | x1 | RR | |
| | x2 | | | x2 | | RR | |
| 2 Tr. | | x1 | | x1 | x1 | RRR | |
| | | x4 | | x2 | | RR | |
| | x12 | | | | | RR | |
| 2 1/3 Tr. | x2 | | | | x2 | RRR | |
| 2 2/3 Tr. | | | | x4 | | RRR | |
| 3 1/3 Tr. | | | | x5 | | RRR | |
| 3 5/6 Tr. | x1 | | | x1 | x3 | RRR | |
| 4 2/3 Tr. | | | | x1 | x4 | RRR | |
| 6 1/3 Tr. | x2 | | | | x6 | RRR | NEW, Michael Rogers Public Auction 54, April 2005, Lot 793. |

| Rate - Issue of 1933 | 1/2 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. | 1 Tr. | 2 Tr. | 4 Tr. | Rarity | Remarks |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1/2 Tr. | x1 perf | | | | | | |
| | x1 | | | | | | |
| 2/3 Tr. | | x1 perf | | | | RRR | |
| | | x1 | | | | RRR | |
| 1 Tr. | | | x1 perf | | | RR | |
| | | | x1 | | | | |
| | x2 perf | | | | | | |
| | x2 | | | | | | |
| 1 1/2 Tr. | x1 | | x1 | | | NEW, Fuchs collection | |

| Rate - Issue of 1933 | 1/2 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. | 1 Tr. | 2 Tr. | 4 Tr. | Rarity | Remarks |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 2/3 Tr. | | x1 | x1 | | | | |
| 2 Tr. | | | | x1 perf | | RR | |
| | | | | x1 | | | |
| | | | x2 | | | | |
| | x2 | | x1 | | | | |
| | | x3 | | | | | |
| 2 1/2 Tr. | x4 | | | | | R | |
| | x1 | | x2 | | | | |
| 2 2/3 Tr. | x1 | | | x1 | | | |
| | | x1 | x2 | | | | |
| 3 Tr. | | x1 | | x1 | | | |
| | | | x1 perf | x1 | | RR | |
| | | | x1 | x1 | | | |
| | x2 | | | x1 | | | |
| | x2 | x3 | | | | | NEW, Fuchs collection |
| | | | x3 | | | | |
| | | x3 | x1 | | | | |
| | x4 | | x1 | | | R | |
| | x6 | | | | | RR | |
| x2 | x3 | | | | RR | | |
| 4 Tr. | | | | | x1 perf | RRR | |
| | | | | | x1 | | |
| | | | | x2 | | | |
| | | | x2 | x1 | | | |
| | | | x4 | | | | |
| | | x6 | | | | | |
| | | | x4 perf | | | | NEW, Fuchs collection |
| | | x3 | | x1 | | | |
| | x4 | x3 | | | | RR | |
| | x4 | | x2 | | | RR | |
| | x8 | | | | | RRR | |

| Rate - Issue of 1933 | 1/2 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. | 1 Tr. | 2 Tr. | 4 Tr. | Rarity | Remarks |
|----------------------|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| 4 Tr. (cont.) | x2 | x3 | | x1 | | RRR | NEW, Fuchs collection |
| | x4 | | | x1 | | R | |
| | | x3 | | x1 | | R | |
| 4 1/2 Tr. | x1 | | | | x1 | | |
| | x1 | | | x2 | | | |
| 4 2/3 Tr. | | x6 perf + x1 | | | | RRR | |
| | | x1 | | | x1 | | |
| | | x1 | | x2 | | | |
| | | x7 | | | | RR | |
| | x4 | x4 | | | | RR | |
| 5 Tr. | | | x1 | | x1 | | |
| | x2 | | | | x1 | | |
| | | | x1 | x2 | | | |
| | x2 | | | x2 | | | |
| | | | x5 | | | RR | |
| | | | | | x1 + quadrisect | R | |
| | | | | x2 | quadrisect | R | |
| | | | | x1 | three quarters | RRR | |
| | | | | bisect | x1 | | |
| | | | | x2 + bisect | | | |
| | x4 | | | x1 + bisect | | RR | |
| | | x3 | | x1 + bisect | | RR | |
| 5 1/3 Tr. | | x8 | | | | RRR | |
| 6 Tr. | | | x6 perf | | | | Ex Schewe collection, most likely philatelic cover |
| | | | | x1 | x1 | | |

| Rate - Issue of 1933 | 1/2 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. | 1 Tr. | 2 Tr. | 4 Tr. | Rarity | Remarks |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|--------|---|
| 6 Tr. (cont.) | | | | x3 | | | |
| 6 2/3 Tr. | | x1 | | x1 | x1 | RRR | |
| 7 Tr. | | | x3 perf | | x1 | RRR | |
| | | | x3 | | x1 | R | |
| | | | x1 | x3 | | R | |
| 8 Tr. | | | | | x2 | R | |
| | | | | x4 | | R | |
| 9 1/3 Tr. | | x2 | | x4 | | RR | |
| 10 Tr. | | | x2 | x4 | | RR | |
| 11 Tr. | x2 | x3 | | | x2 | RRR | NEW, Michael Rogers Public Auction 54, April 2005, Lot 808. |
| 12 Tr. | | | | x6 | | RR | |
| | | | | | x3 | RR | |

| Mixed rate frankings of the 1912 and 1933 Issues | 1912 Issue | 1933 Issue | Rarity | Remarks |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| 4 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. x3 | 2 Tr. | RRR | |
| | 1/3 Tr. + 2/3 Tr. | 2/3 Tr. x3 + 1 Tr. | RRR | |
| | 1/6 Tr. x2 | 1/2 Tr. x2 + 2/3 Tr. + 1 Tr. x2 | RRR | |

Note: All stamps in the above tables are imperforate, except where expressly stated "perf."

I would appreciate it if other Tibet collectors/dealers would inform me of additional covers, preferably with images and references, in order to keep the list up-to-date.

In a later revision it would be helpful to split the tables into usages such as: ordinary covers, registered covers, insured covers in addition to usage dates. That would, unfortunately, make the list even more complex, especially since the dating of Tibet covers is never an easy subject.

[Readers may respond directly to Rainer at rainer@fuchs-online.com - ed.]

The NTPSC Statement of Accounts for 2009
by Colin Hepper

| USA (\$) Income | | USA (\$) Expense | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Subscriptions (S) | 338.00 | <i>Postal Himal</i> Printing (PHPr) | 1450.00 |
| Transfer from UK Account (T) | 3027.00 | <i>Postal Himal</i> Postage (PHPo) | 2282.31 |
| Miscellaneous (M) | 10.00 | Miscellaneous (M) | 107.00 |
| PH Advertisements (Ad) | 30.00 | Auction 71 (A) | 115.00 |
| Auction 71 (A) | 219.00 | | |
| Total (S + T + M + Ad + A) | 3624.00 | Total (PHPr + PHPo + M + A) | 3954.31 |
| Balance (Income - Expense) | -330.31 | | |
| Balance Brought Forward (BBF) | 3574.04 | | |
| Bank Interest (BI) | 1.32 | | |
| Total USA (Balance + BBF + BI) | 3245.05 | | |

| Europe (£) Current Account Income | | Europe (£) Current Account Expense | |
|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| Carried Forward (CF) | 822.56 | Postage (P) | 18.12 |
| Subscriptions (S) | 498.25 | ABPS Subscriptions (S) | 21.00 |
| <i>Postal Himal</i> Back Issues (BI) | 49.10 | Advertising (Philatelic Congress) (Ad) | 40.00 |
| Auction 72 (Part II) (A) | 180.00 | Auction 72 (Part II) (A) | 14.03 |
| Auction 72 (Part III) (A) | 285.62 | Auction 72 (Part III) (A) | 272.03 |
| Transfer from Bank Account (T) | 2000.00 | Auction 71 & 72 (A) | 399.35 |
| | | Transfer to USA Account (T) | 2222.12 |
| Total (CF + S + BI + A + A + T) | 3835.53 | Total (P + S + Ad + A + A + A + T) | 2986.65 |
| Balance (Income - Expense) | 848.88 | | |

| Europe (£) Business Account Income | | Europe (£) Business Account Expense | |
|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| Carried Forward (CF) | 7416.54 | Transfer to Current Account (T) | 2000.00 |
| Bank Interest (BI) | 3.45 | | |
| Total (CF + BI) | 7419.99 | Total | 2000.00 |
| Balance (Income - Expense) | 5419.99 | | |
| Total Europe (Current Account Balance + Business Account Balance) | 6268.87 | | |

| Combined Total | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| USA Total converted to £'s | 2028.16 |
| Europe Total | 6268.87 |
| TOTAL | 8297.03 |



a



b



c

Technical Details

a

b & c

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Subject: | Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal | Butterflies of Nepal |
| Denomination: | Rs. 2.00 | Rs. 10.00 |
| Color: | Four with Phosphor print | Four with Phosphor print |
| Sheet Composition: | 50 stamps per sheet | Sheetlet (16 x 10 Rs.) |
| Size: | 40 mm x 30 mm | 40 mm x 30 mm |
| Process: | Offset Lithography | Offset Lithography |
| Quantity: | 1 million | 0.5 million |
| Format: | Horizontal | Horizontal |
| Paper: | High Quality Stamp | High Quality Stamp |
| Designer: | Mohan N. Rana | Mohan N. Rana |
| Printer: | Cantor Security, France | Cantor Security, France |

FDCs courtesy of Nepal Philatelic Bureau

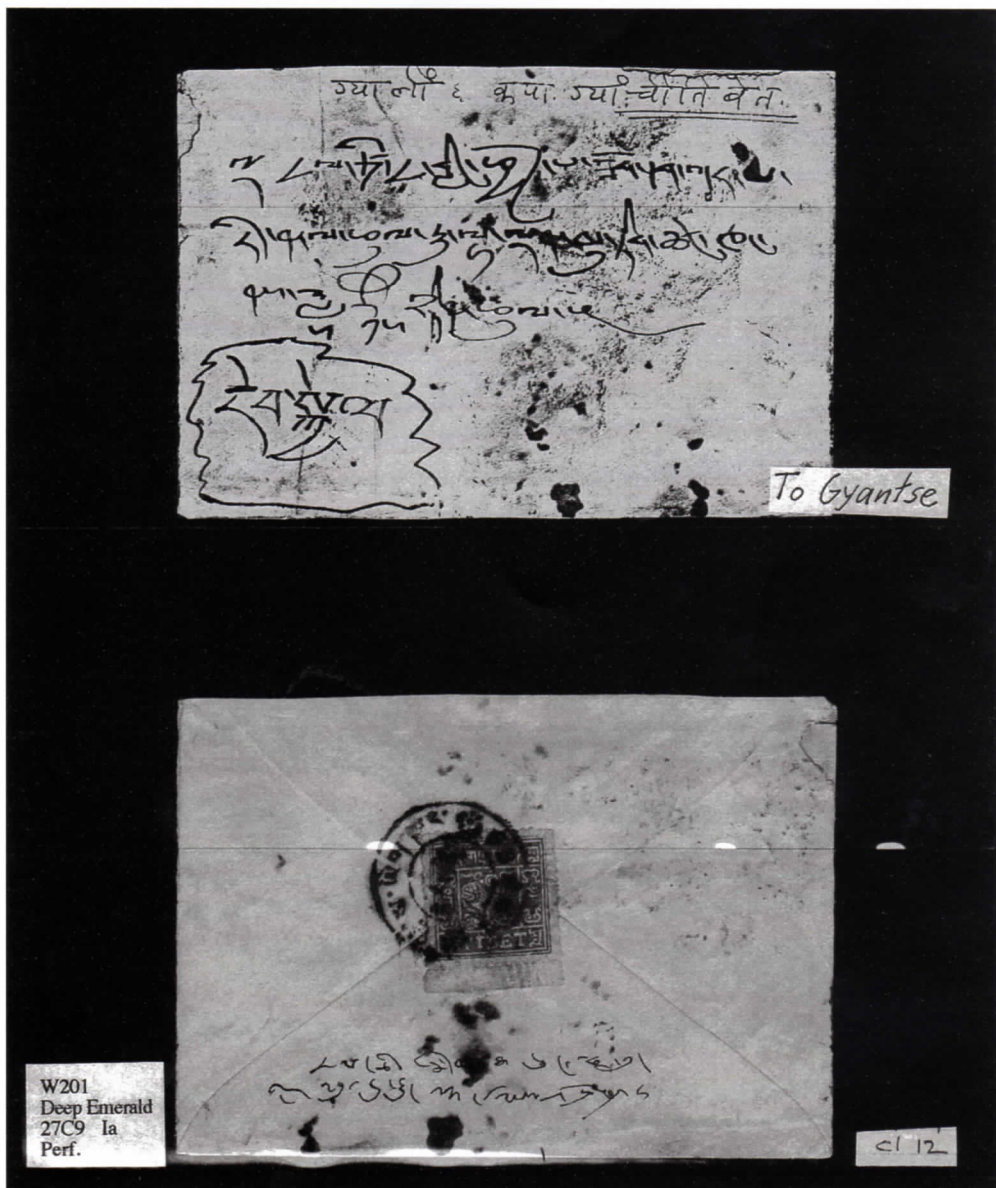
Registered Tibet Commercial Cover with 4 tr. perforated stamp by Bo Olsson

Registered commercial covers bearing the 4 tr. rate perforated stamps are considered rare - very rare. We face many mysteries when studying Tibetan philately. I can not come to any conclusion about this cover bearing this early (?) rate. On the other hand I have only seen a few of them. What is the reason for the 4 tr. stamp?

Is it because of:

- 1) Heavy weight? (all envelopes I have seen are small sized)
- 2) The mail is insured as well? (the handwritten marks don't indicate this)
- 3) A late usage? (the covers were mailed when the 4 tr. rate for registration was in use?)

The questions now go to the Tibetan students of our society. Do any of you have any clues or answers?



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

Darta Chhoti Hulak



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