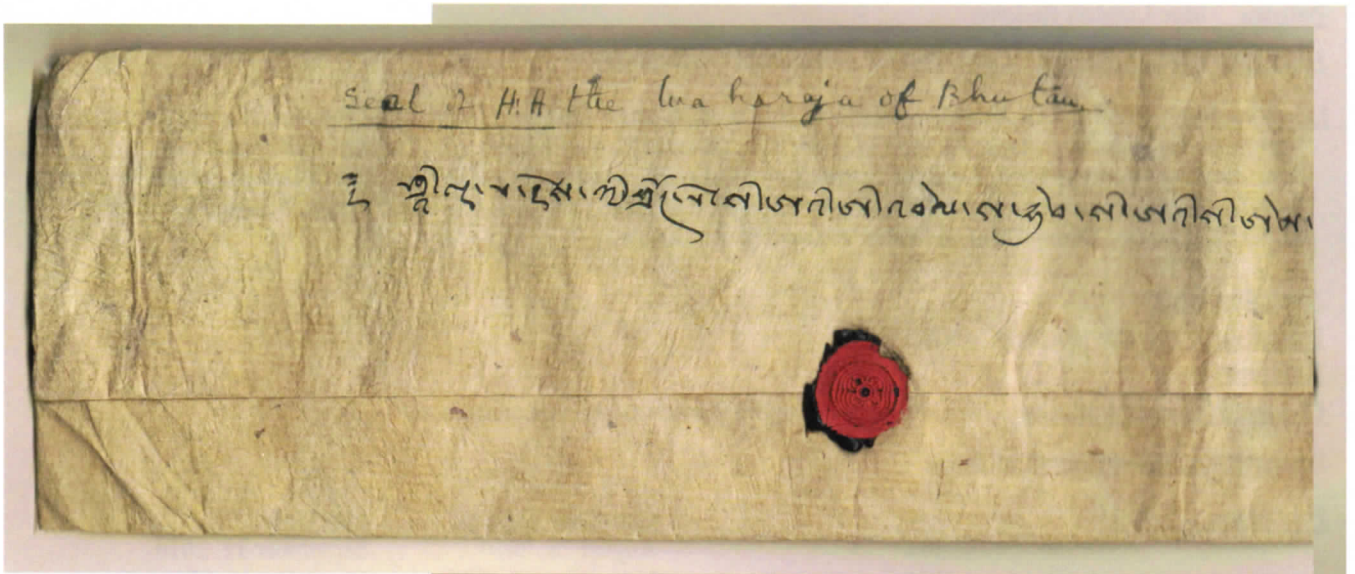


Postal Himal

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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Officer's Corner

Last year was a busy year for me - probably a little too busy. I was traveling for 160 days - most of it relating to stamps. The highlights were two trips to Nepal in July and August, where I was able to meet with several members of our Society and was able to find some very interesting Tibetan Postal History including a spectacular insured cover franked with proofs of the 4tr green. (This cover will be the subject of an article in an upcoming *Postal Himal*.)

In September my wife and I holidayed for three weeks in Europe. We had a great time and I was able to meet with a number of Nepal & Tibet collectors in Sweden, Germany, France and the UK.

In November I gave a talk and slide show on Tibetan Postal History at the Latse Tibetan Library in New York. The talk was well attended and the audience included many

Tibetans who seemed very interested in learning more about the history of their country. Alan Warren, of our Society, was there to lend moral support.

I am currently in Asia - writing this on my Blackberry in Delhi airport - this trip included a few days in Kathmandu where I missed meeting up with both Colin Hepper and Wolfgang Bertsch.

This year I plan to attend WESTPEX in San Francisco and the Internationals in London (May) & Bangkok (August). I have also offered to give a talk on Tibetan Postal History at a stamp show in Delhi in December, but this has yet to be confirmed.

It has been a busy year, but I have had a great time and I have seen first hand that interest in Himalayan philately is strong and the future is bright.

Geoffrey

Editor's Ramblings

This month we welcome a new author Mr. Binod K. Shrestha. His article, which begins on page 7, will run over the next 5 issues of *Postal Himal*. Mr. Shrestha is a member of NPS, NTPSC and Rotary on Stamps Fellowship.

And apologies are due to Sandeep Jaiswal. It is he who has joined the NTPSC and it is he who is the editor of *India Post* and not his brother Deepak as was stated in Editor's Ramblings in the last issue. It looks as if the editor's mind was certainly rambling then.

For those who are planning to attend the International Exhibition in New Delhi next year, please see below for dates and venue. More information can be obtained at the website <http://indipex2011.com>.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Gold for his exhibit "Kotah - 19th Century Dual Postal System" at the 2010 APS Winter Show at Riverside, CA.

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded the Single Frame Prix d'Honneur for his exhibit "Kashmir and Jammu Telegraphs" at the 2010 APS Winter Show at Riverside, CA.

UPCOMING:

LISBON 2010 01-10 October 2010

INDIA 2011 12-18 February 2011, New Delhi, Halls No. 8-11, Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex

STOLEN: If you have seen, been offered or know the location of the following item, please be aware that it is stolen material: A mint corner marginal block of 4 of the Nepal 1929 Essay Sri Pashupati 24p orange-yellow issue overprinted "SERVICE" in black. This item was from the Perkins Bacon archives and was acquired by Dr. Soli Contractor from a prominent UK dealer several years prior to the theft. It was stolen from his home in Worcester Park, UK some 6 - 8 years ago. If you have any information regarding this item, please contact Dr. Contractor at soli.contractor@sky.com or you may contact the editor at EditorOfPostalHimal@cox.net.

Bhutan - Medieval Society in the Modern Age

by Bo C. Olsson

For the fastidious, Bhutan is really the field for collecting. Here the philatelic rarities are indeed living up to their name. And for those interested in postal history there are such oddities as postal- and person transport on women's shoulders.

The name Bhutan has been interpreted to mean "End of Tibet" and is located in the eastern Himalayas between Tibet and India. Farthest to the south there is lowlands along the Indian border, but after that the land rises steeply toward the Himalayan peaks [see Figure 1]. The country's flag has a stately dragon and is much like the old Chinese imperial banner [see Figure 2].

The climate varies between the oppressing heat of the lowlands and the bitter cold of the highlands. The populace speaks a dialect of Tibetan and has the same religion as the Tibetans. The country is a monarchy and the previous king recently abdicated in favor of his son. There are large castles called "dzong" high above the valleys where the rulers of the districts, i.e. the castle masters reside. Here the social life flourishes in the markets and events such as a competition in the country's national sport, archery, may be under way while one or two criminals in ankle shackles move freely among the crowds.

In the mid-20th century it took the adventurer Michel Peissel a decade to get permission to visit the country. This is how he describes Bhutan in the 1950s: "Bhutan is perhaps the least known country in the world. This quite medieval nation is situated between India and Tibet where TV and newspapers are unknown and where the prayer wheel is almost the only wheel. I might just as well have thrown away my money."

Prior to 1962-1964 when the first road, with the help of India, was built between Phuntsholing located at the Indian border and the capital city of Thimphu, there existed only foot paths. And the bridges over raging rivers were made of bamboo cane and rope. The first-

built road consisted mainly of hairpin curves and on the opposite side a ravine. Due to the steep climb, trucks had to run in second gear the entire distance up the road.

However, during later years the country has developed quite a lot. Nowadays one can go to a disco and have one's mail franked with the world's most modern postage stamps. The country has also recently held general elections and the new king expressed his desire for the country to change from absolute monarchy to modern constitutional monarchy.

Only a few pre-philately letters known

Since time immemorial there has existed a postal system consisting of runners between the fortified castles and the monasteries of the Lamas. This is how the postal notices described the workings of the system in 1876: "From the capital city Tahsisudon to the borders there functions a peculiar delivery of mail, travelers and goods - all carried on the shoulders of women. The transport of mail, travelers and luggage in an animal-drawn wagon is out of the question. Instead, on the most traveled routes east toward China, south toward India, and west toward Nepal, women are positioned at regular intervals relaying mail and travelers onward. The traveler sits in a saddle that is fastened with strong straps to a women's shoulders and waist, while other women carry goods in baskets. After a period of five days each of these women receive as payment one British-East Indies silver Rupee, the equivalent of about 1 1/2 Krona in Swedish currency."

In a collector's world, letter mail delivered by this kind of "postal service" can be considered an utmost rarity and next to impossible to find. Someone has expressed the matter in these words: "Neither love nor money can bring such letters forth even in Bhutan itself". In comparison, our own (Swedish) "skilling" letters may on the same scale of rarity be considered almost "mass produced".

Letters from the king and perhaps also from some of the very highest-ranking potentates

were sealed, besides with an ordinary black wax, by also painting the center of the seal red. Like in Tibet red wax could not be produced. One or two so-called scarf covers are known sent by Bhutan's Maharaja Dharma Raja [see Figure 3] who later, after a brief civil war, became king. However, we hardly know of any details with regard to the pre-philatelic era. Every castle master may have had a mark but only a very few are known to collectors. Several variations exist and some are very imaginative not least in format, whereas some are negative marks.

Correspondence of Nobility via Tibet

It happened that children of kings and youth of the nobility were sent to better private schools abroad and this mostly in England. Upon returning home to Bhutan some would keep up minor correspondence with students they had befriended during time in school.

Postal service as we envision it did not exist in Bhutan, instead letters were sent privately up through the snow-covered steep passages past Paro and Dukye into Tibet to Phari or Yatung where they were mailed from a British-Indian post office. Only by the sender's name and address could someone tell that the letter had come from Bhutan; in other words real rarities for collectors. Such as a letter from the king of Bhutan to Colonel Bailey in England marked June 9, 1952 and taken by courier to Kalimpong, India where it was mailed from.

The authorities' mail was delivered by postal runners, and since carrying, besides mail, their own food and other things needed for the journey, the runners were not always able to accept private mail, as individuals who wished to send letters had to deal directly with the postal runner. One postal route went south to India, and, at least during more recent times, the exchange post office was in the small Dalsingpara railroad station by the rail line to Assam.

Prior to 1963 the minor quantity of mail departing or arriving in Bhutan was censored. For those who from Hedin or Harrer are familiar with how well the Tibetans guarded their borders in order to keep strangers out of their

country, I can tell you that something similar existed in Bhutan. The so-called Inner Line, a forbidden border zone, prevented the unauthorized to get too close to Bhutan. The border zone was patrolled by the Indian security service and if anyone, by chance, got through he would probably soon have starved to death in Bhutan, because without royal permission to be in the country one was considered *persona non grata*, which meant that a person was neither served nor allowed to buy food from the locals. And there were no inns or similar establishments. Furthermore, money had no power whatsoever. Only a person's social standing, liking and acceptance by the king had any significance.

British First with Mail in Bhutan

A special chapter in Bhutan's postal history is the field post mark that was taken into use during the British military expedition into Bhutan during 1864-66. A few stamps and a (?) letter are known with the special BF.F.4 mark. However, any marks or letters from a similar expedition in 1826 are unknown.

The expedition came about because the Bhutanese made raids down to the plains, pillaging and taking British citizens as prisoners to Bhutan.

From Medieval to the Present in Record Time

In 1950 the Bhutanese king to-be, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, visited India and England. He was both well-travelled and well-read, an intelligent and open monarch. Because many Bhutanese were shocked about what happened in Tibet when China took over, the king decided that Bhutan would open up to the world and modernize in order to prevent anything similar happening there. Perhaps the king's thinking was not totally erroneous, since in a bygone era the country was said to have paid tribute to the Emperor of China. Thus, Bhutan signed an agreement of mutual assistance with its southern neighbor India. However, one segment of the population was against change and moderation. And even with the murder of Bhutan's prime minister in 1963 there was no stopping what had been started.

Creation of a Postal Entity

Most likely the king got his idea from India to use stamp marks for lesser taxes and fees. A minor series of marks in four values were issued in 1954 that could also be used as postage stamps. Usually the low value was for a single franking and the value thereafter for heavier letters. The highest values were probably never postally used. The marks were only for inland, because at that time Bhutan was not a member of the UPU.

As a result of the agreement with India, the king decided on the founding of a modern postal entity. The postage stamps were printed gratis in the U.S.A., and so an agent, Bhutan Trust Ltd., in the Bahamas got to handle the largest part (?) of an edition for sale to collectors, though it seems that Bhutan always got at least small quantities of the stamps issued by the agent.

To be certain, the sale to collectors started on May 26, 1962, whereas the sale to the locals in Bhutan began on October 10, 1962 - the same day that the new postal entity was inaugurated in the small city of Phuntsholing in Southern Bhutan. And as a result of a treaty with India, they new stamps were valid internationally also.

Post offices were opened also in the capital, Thimphu, and Paro, as well as later in several other locations - most of them in densely populated areas in the west and southwest. For a long time Tashigang was the only post office in distant eastern Bhutan [see Figure 4].

Eventually, delivery by postal runners ended and was replaced by jeep or car as roads were built throughout the country. For a long time mail was transported from the eastern- to the western part of the country, later southward and then through India.

Also printed at this time was Bhutan's first postal tax on which the letter rate to various countries was indicated, yet the Post was still in its infancy. Not until 1965 could registered letter mail be sent abroad [see Figure 8] and at that time postal order exchange with India started, though parcel post with India began later. Often there were leftover editions of higher value series and the practice began to

locally overprint the high values with lower values suitable for card- and letter rates [see Figures 5 - 7].

Agent gets Involved

It did not take long for the agent in the Bahamas to start supplying the market with imperforate stamps and so-called souvenir blocks of perforated and imperforated versions. And at the end of 1967 the agent advertised the issuance of 3-dimensional plastic stamps with space motifs. After that many more issues followed such as "thankas" (religious paintings) printed on silk [see Figure 9], printings on thin foil, stamps having the scent of roses or the form of a phonograph record, etc. This continued until January 1974 when Bhutan finally put an end to it.

The new agent became IGPC of New York and even though they did not issue any plastic stamps or similar, their postage stamp printing presses worked overtime resulting in an enormous output. And often the picture selection has nothing to do with Bhutan. I will spare the reader any further details on this matter.

After IGPC, the Bhutanese themselves took care of the postage stamp distribution and this proved fairly decent for awhile, but now it seems that things are changing again. A new firm headed by the daughter of the man behind Bhutan Trust presently runs the agency and the first "postage stamp" that is advertised for Bhutan is a CD-ROM disc intended as a stamp. To say that this writer is somewhat worried about what comes next is to put it mildly.

First Day Covers without Date Marks

At least during the earlier stages the issuance took place much later in Bhutan than with the agent. Consequently, for a time first day marks did not have dates. The first day covers used by the agent are printed on white Western-type paper, whereas the covers used in Bhutan are domestically made and printed with the country's old printing press on coarse brown paper reminiscent of wrapping paper.

The plastic marks in 3D are, of course, objects for collectors but there are actually some used mailing with these also.



Figure 2. Bhutan's coat of arms etched in steel with dragons and Bhuddist symbols is seen on the royal covers.

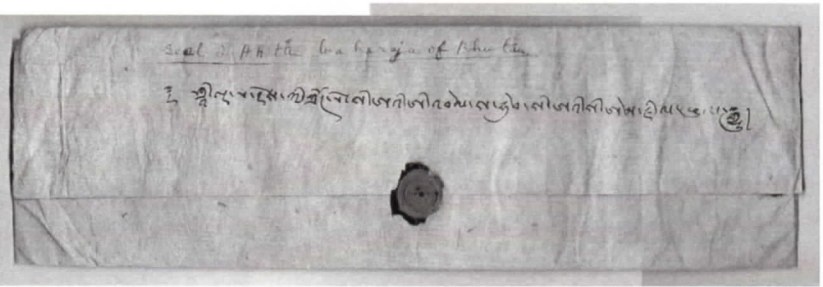


Figure 3. Perhaps the most perfect example of Bhutanese pre-philately, a so-called scarf cover to Sir Charles Bell from the country's ruler. The text says: "To be delivered personally to my friend the fivefold extraordinary Bell Sahib the great envoy (ambassador) from Bhumtang in Bhutan". Indeed, Bell as not just anybody. Previously he had been acting prime minister in Tibet and was the one who, on the request of the Dalai Lama, negotiated with his own countrymen, the British, the 1904 treaty between Tibet and Great Britain.

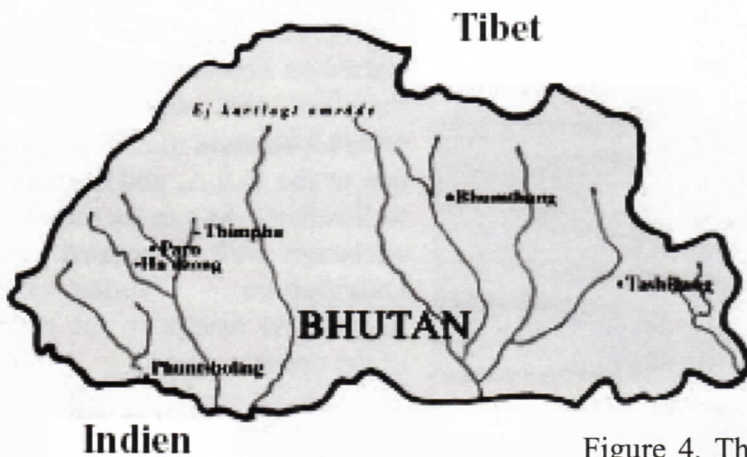


Figure 1.



Figure 4. This letter was sent from far away in eastern Bhutan to Kalimpong in northern India. Bhutan had a connecting office there and on the last segment the letter was carried by Bhutanese courier. Bhutan had a trading post in Calcutta and here, too, there are indications of courier mail that had been franked and mailed in Phuntsholing at the Indian-Bhutanese border. The letter from Tashigang had been sent with runners clear across Bhutan and onward into India. Haverbeck describes the stamp cancellation as Taga Dzong and asks if this is the same as Thimphu? The mark is actually from Tashigang. Then there are three unknown transit marks from Bhutan's inner mountain regions, from left: Chhyochhe, Shongar and Wang Dzong. The letter was sent on October 26, 1954, i.e. prior to when marks were accepted as postage stamps.



Figure 5. One of Bhutan's imaginative pre-philately marks.

Figure 6. One more of Bhutan's imaginative pre-philately marks, the only known specimen so far discovered. It was sent by the staff at the Bhutanese army camp near the capital Thimphu and the text on the mark reads: "Bureau for annihilation of enemies".

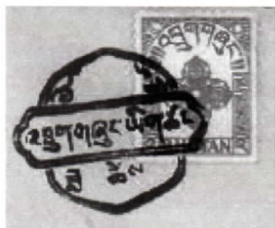
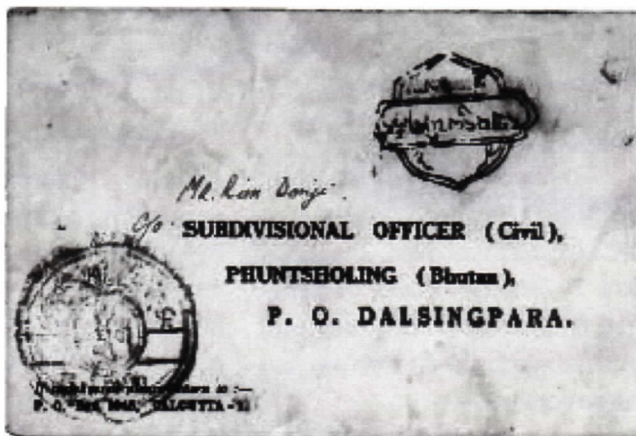


Figure 7. Another beautiful pre-philately mark on a "high value".

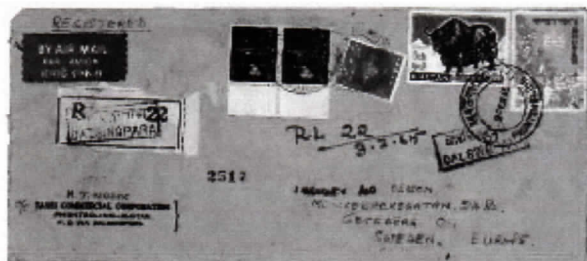


Figure 8. The delivery of registered mail in Bhutan started on February 2, 1965. Of the four first day registered letters, two were mailed abroad, one to the U.S.A. and the other to Sweden. As can be seen the exchange still happened via Dalsingpara. Notice the registration receipt to the right of the cover..



Figure 9. Thankas are religious paintings from Tibetan monasteries. The postage stamp is printed on silk.

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The editor wishes to thank the APS Translation Committee for translating the article from Swedish to English.

The Himalayas on Nepalese Postage Stamps

by Binod K. Shrestha

A. Introduction

The Himalaya Range, meaning “abode of snow”, is a mountain range separating the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau. The main Himalayan range runs west to east, from the Indus River valley to the Brahmaputra River valley, forming an arc 2400 km long with Nanga Parbat (8152m) and Manche Barwa (7755m) as its terminal points. To comprehend the enormous scale of this mountain range, consider that Aconcagua, in the Andes, at 6962m is the highest peak outside Asia, whereas the Himalayan systems include over 100 mountains exceeding 7200m. Fully a third of its central section traverses through Nepal and is known as Nepal Himalaya. Here congregates 1310 peaks that exceed 6000m in height. Of the 31 Himalayan peaks over 7600m, 22 are in Nepal Himalaya including 8 of the world’s 14 giants.¹

Since the “Sri Pashupati” series of stamps were introduced in 1907, Himalayas have been the subject of Nepal philately. Initially the Himalayas appeared as artistic designs. Still an art work, but actual Himalayan peak, Mount Everest appeared for the first time in 1960 on two stamps, namely Scott 125 Children, Temple and Mount Everest (6 p, dark blue) and Scott 127 Mount Everest (10 p, blue and red violet). Other stamps in this series were a 5 p showing Machapuchhere (Scott 126) and a 40 p showing Manaslu (Scott 128). (The 1959 Scott 106 ultramarine stamp of “Nepalese glacier” could be considered Khumbu Glacier with Mount Everest in the background.)

Since then, Mount Everest has been the subject on 11 postage stamps, 2 fiscal stamps, 2 post cards, 1 aerogramme and 3 postal envelopes. In addition Mount Everest also appears on another 24 commemorative stamps.

In all, 31 Nepal Himalaya peaks appear on Nepalese postage stamps and postal stationery. This includes all of the eight 8000m peaks in

Nepal which appear on stamps at least two times. Fifteen stamps show 7000m peaks, seven show 6000m peaks and one shows a 5000m peak. A total of 124 stamps (not counting the “Sri Pashupati” series) show Nepal peaks as either actual peaks or artistic drawings. There are also 14 postcards, postal envelopes and aerogrammes showing Himalayan peaks. There are also five Map of Nepal stamps showing an outline of the Himalayas on the northern boundary of Nepal (Scott 170-172, 540, 561).

Also the beautiful and attractive Khumbu and Annapurna ranges have been the subject of two separate horizontal se-tenant panoramas of three stamps each. The Manisri (Gorkha or Manaslu), Ganesh and Jugal Himal ranges have been the subject of three separate stamps. In a number of stamps other peaks are also visible, but they have not been named on the stamp itself. For example, Jugal Himal (Scott 707) shows Dorje Lhakpa.

Two peaks have been named in honor of non-mountaineers - Baden Powell Peak to commemorate the Centenary of the Scouting Movement (Scott 794) and Dr. Harka Gurung Peak in honor of the well known geographer, planner and naturalist (Scott 809). Three stamps have been issued in honor of Sherpa mountaineers (Scott 523, 544, 729).

This paper is divided into six parts. Part B refers to 8 stamps of the early period up to 1960. Part C lists 13 stamps which are directly related to Mount Everest (Sagarmatha). The second part of Part C documents 22 stamps and other postal stationery with pictures of Mount Everest. Part D list 20 stamps related to the other 8000+m peaks in Nepal (other than Mount Everest). Part E lists 31 stamps related to other Himalayan peaks. At the end of Part E there is a list of 32 stamps which show parts of the Himalayan range in an artistic design as part of the stamp. Finally Part F lists 113 stamps which were issued by 52 countries which have a direct or

¹ Gurung, Harka (2004) Peaks and Pinnacles - Mountaineering in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal, page 129

| 8000+m Peaks | 7000+m Peaks | 6000+m Peaks |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Everest | 1 Annapurna II (a) | 1 Machapuchhare |
| 2 Kanchenjunga | 2 Nyagdi | 2 Tukuche |
| 3 Lhotse | 3 Nuptse (b) | 3 Kanjiroba |
| 4 Makalu | 4 Khumbkakarna | 4 Ama Dablam |
| 5 Cho Oyu | 5 Annapurna III (a) | 5 Nampa |
| 6 Dhaulagiri | 6 Annapurna IV (a) | 6 Cholatse |
| 7 Manaslu | 7 Ganesh | 7 Abi |
| 8 Annapurna I | 8 Langtang | 8 Baden Powell Peak (c) |
| (a) As seen on Scott 601 with Annapurna range | 9 Annapurna South (a) | |
| (b) As seen on Scott 404 with Khumbu Himal range | 10 Pumori | |
| (c) Height is 5890m | 11 Gauri Shankar | |
| | 12 Api | |
| | 13 Pabil | |
| | 14 Nilgiri | |
| | 15 Saipal | |

Table 1 Nepal Himalaya Peaks which appear on Nepal stamps (peaks actually named on the stamp)

indirect reference to the Nepal Himalaya. As this is an initial attempt to record Nepal Himalaya related stamps, the author would welcome comments, additional information and suggestions.

B. Early Period

Himalayan peaks have been the subject of Nepal stamps since 1907 when the first set of the "Sri Pashupati" type was issued (Scott 26-29). Haverbeck describes the four stamps (values 2, 4, 8, 16 p) as follows: "In the centre of an oblong rectangular frame is a diagrammatic view of the Himalayas, stretching from the Snowy Range (Himal) at the back to

the jungles and grassy savannahs of the *Terai* in the front".² Singer further notes "the basic design, only slightly modified over the next forty years, shows the god Sri Pashupati (an incarnation of Shiva Mahadeva) enshrined in the midst of a cluster of Himalayan peaks".³ For over forty years the design remained unchanged until a pictorial series was introduced in 1949.

On 1 October 1949, the first set of pictorial issues of 9 stamps (Scott 51 - 59) was released. One of them (Scott 59, 1 Re orange) was an enlargement of the familiar "Sri Pashupati" motif dated Sambat 2005 (1948 AD) but issued in 1949.⁴ The set included a 20 p blue with a

² Haverbeck, Harrison D.S. (1962) *The Postage Stamps of Nepal*, Collectors Club Handbook Number 14, Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund, New York, Page 45.

³ Singer, Armand (1971) *Errors, Para-Errors, and Irregularities in the Postage Stamps of Nepal*, American Philatelic Congress Book, page 156.

⁴ Haverbeck, page 70.

View of Kathmandu (Scott 56), which Haverbeck describes as “far away on the northern horizon rises the great Himalayan range of snow clad peaks”.⁵ An inscription, in Devanagari, on the bottom right hand corner reads “madhya Kathmandu” which is “central Kathmandu”. While Shivapuri Hill is clearly visible at the top right hand of the stamp, the white patch on the left side should be Ganesh Himal.

The 1 Re stamp showing King Mahendra and Queen Ratna in their coronation robes, which was issued on 2 May 1956, shows a sketch of the Himalayan range in the background (Scott 88). Issued later that year, on 14 December 1956, to mark the admission of Nepal to the United Nations, is a triangular stamp with a sketch of the Himalayas in the background (Scott 89, ultramarine and buff).

The definitive series of 14 stamps (Scott 104 - 117), issued starting 14 April 1959 to mark the occasion of Nepal’s admission to the Universal

Postal Union, includes a stamp with a glacier landscape (Scott 106, 4 p ultramarine) in the Himalayas (issued 17 April). The glacier could probably be the lower parts of Khumbu Glacier as seen from Kala Patar, in which case the peak in the centre background would be Mount Everest with Lhotse to the right.⁶

Two stamps, issued 19 April 1959, showing Himalayan Impeyan Pheasant (Monal) (Scott 115 & 116 Re. 1 and Rs. 2), designed by Dr. Harka Gurung, issued in the same series also show sketches of Himalayan peaks in the background. A third stamp showing Satyr Tragopan does not show any Himalayan relief in the background.

The First Children’s Day Stamp, dated 1 March 1960 (Scott 125, 6 p indigo), shows “two children in front of a temple with Mount Everest in the background”.⁷ The cachet appropriately states, “Country’s Future is in the Hand of Children”.



From left: Sri Pashupati series (Scott 26-29), View of Kathmandu (Scott 56), Coronation (Scott 88)



From left: Mountain Village (Scott 89), Glacier in the Himalayas (Scott 106), First Children’s Day (Scott 125), Himalayan Pheasant (Scott 115, 116)

⁵ Haverbeck, page 69.

⁶ Singer, Armand E and Gould, Robert F (2002, 2006 second edition) A Catalogue of Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence, page 47 no. 73, see also page 49 no. 78.

⁷ Haverbeck, page 88.

C. Mount Sagarmatha (Everest)

Mount Everest - also called Sagarmatha, Chomolangma or Qomolangma - is the highest mountain on earth, 8848m. In 1865 Everest was given its official English name by the Royal Geographical Society upon recommendation of Andrew Waugh, the British Surveyor General of India at the time. In 1956 the Nepalese government gave Mount Everest the official name Sagarmāthā, as suggested by the Nepalese historian Babu Ram Acharya who was himself the subject of a stamp issued on 12 March 1973 (Scott 268).

In 1856, the Great Trigonometric Survey of India established the first published height of Mount Everest, then known as Peak XV, at 8840m.⁸ In 2005, the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping of China determined the elevation of the peak to be 8844.43m.⁹

In 1885, Clinton Thomas Dent, president of the Alpine Club, suggested, in his book *Above the Snow Line*, that climbing Mount Everest was possible. George Mallory discovered the northern approach to the mountain in 1921. It was an exploratory expedition and not equipped for a serious attempt to climb the mountain. With Mallory leading (and thus becoming the first European to set foot on Everest's flanks) they reached the North Col at 7066m before being forced back. The New Zealander Hillary and Norgay from Nepal, climbing the South Col

route, eventually reached the summit of Mount Everest at 11:30 a.m. local time on 29 May 1953. Mount Everest, Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary have been subjects of many stamps issued by many countries (see Part F). However, Norgay and Hillary have never been the subjects of Nepalese stamps,

A painting of Mount Everest by Bal Krishna Sama was the subject of a stamp issued on 30 June 1960 with a full faced portrait of King Mahendra (Scott 127, 10 p, blue and red violet). The official first day cachet carries the wording "Highest Peak and Highest Personality of Nepal / 30 June 1960".¹⁰ The name of the peak is written in Devanagari and English on the top left hand corner, but the elevation is not given.

On 14 April 1963, two fiscal stamps with Mount Everest were issued, but they were only released in 1983.¹¹ They were issued in denominations of 50 Rs (crimson) and 100 Rs (blue) depicting Mount Everest with the flag on Nepal on the summit. These two stamps were part of a set with 10 stamps, with the highest values showing Mount Everest.

An actual picture of Mount Everest appeared on Nepalese stamps when the Visit Nepal Series stamps were issued on 28 December 1971 (Scott 253, 25 p, blue/brown).¹² The stamp shows Mount Everest from the south.¹³ The name of the peak and elevation are in English in the top left corner while the year of issue appears in the

⁸ India issued a se-tenant set of three stamps on 27 June 2004 (Scott 2065-2067) to honor Radhanath Sikdar, the Indian surveyor who calculated the height of Mount Everest.

⁹ Pre-stamped commemorative cover issued 18 October 2005 "Elevation Measurement of Mt. Qomolangma in 2005". See also Singer and Gould page 92 no. 306.

¹⁰ Haverbeck, page 89. See also Singer and Gould page 49 no. 78

¹¹ Singer and Gould, page 80 no. 195-196 and page 49.

¹² The first stamps to depict Mount Everest with an actual photograph of the peak were issued by India (Scott 244-245, India) on 2 October 1953 to commemorate the first ascent of Everest on 29 May 1953. Similarly, New Zealand issued two semi-postal stamps on 4 October 1954 (Scott 44-45, New Zealand) depicting a young hiker looking at a peak labeled Everest. The first Himalayan peak to appear on a stamp was Mount Siniolchu on a Sikkim local revenue stamp dating back to ca. 1920. (Singer and Gould page 45 nos. 62-63 and page 46 nos. 69-70). The Everest label designed by Francis Helps and co-conceived by Captain John Noel was issued in 1924. (Singer and Gould page 11 no. 6)

¹³ Singer and Gould page 58 no. 95.

bottom left corner. Other stamps in this series are Mount Kanchenjunga (Scott 254) and Mount Annapurna (Scott 255).

A multi-colored 1 Re Regular Series stamp with Mount Everest and six shades of rhododendron flowers was issued on 6 July 1994 (Scott 539).¹⁴ The name of the peak and elevation are in English in the bottom right corner.

Another picture of Mount Everest appeared in the Visit Nepal Series issued on 7 June 1999 (Scott 650).¹⁵ At the bottom of the 15 Re stamp is printed "The Highest Peak of the World". The name and elevation of the peak are printed outside the frame of the photograph in both Devanagari and English.

On 19 October 2004, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the First Ascent of Mount Cho Oyu, eight beautiful stamps in the Mountain Series were issued with pictures of

the respective peaks over 8000m located in Nepal (Scott 747 a-h, 10 Rs. each). The first stamp in the series (Scott 747a) shows Mount Everest.

Two Regular Series stamps were issued on 19 September 2006 (Scott 777, 1 Re, black and blue green and Scott 779, 5 Rs, black, pink and blue). The 5 Re stamp is larger, measuring 32.5 mm x 27.5 mm, while the 1 Re stamp measures 25 mm x 21 mm. Both have a picture showing a white cloud or snow plume blowing off the peak. The name of the peak appears at the bottom center in both Devanagari and English while the elevation is given only in English.

A multi-colored stamp of 5 Rs. was issued on 14 March 2007 (Scott 787). The name of the peak is given in Devanagari at the top center and in English (including the elevation) at the bottom center.



From left: Mount Everest (Scott 127), Fiscal stamps, Visit Nepal Series (Scott 253).



From left: Mount Everest (Scott 539), Visit Nepal Series (Scott 650), Mountain Series (Scott 747a).

¹⁴ Singer and Gould page 86 no. 278.

¹⁵ Singer and Gould page 90 no. 293.

to be continued - ed.

Comb Perforating Machines

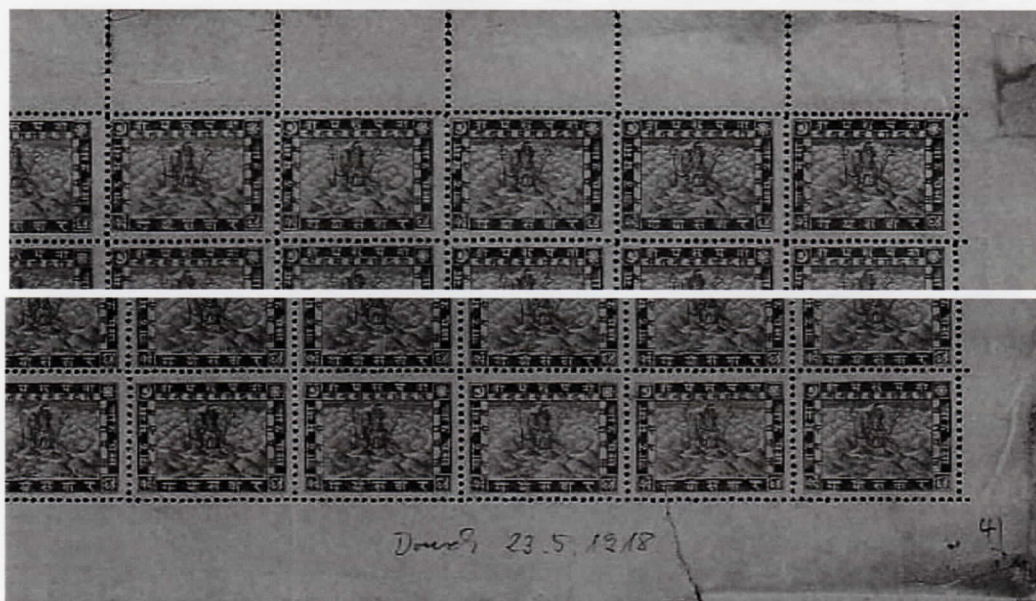
by Colin Hepper

After I had written the article on the perforation anomalies associated with the Perkins Bacon printed stamps [see Perforation Anomalies of the Perkins Bacon 1907 Sri Pashupati Issue by Colin Hepper 140:8], my brain switched into another gear and I began to wonder just how a comb perforating machine actually worked. So with the wonders of the internet I researched the subject and found the information that might be of interest to any of our collectors of the Pashupati issues.

In simple terms, the machine, in the case of the Pashupati issues, has a single comb which perforated one row of stamps on three sides. The perforating machine has two heavy metal rods, having flat faces. The upper bar has holes

in it and the lower bar has pins that are projected through its holes into the holes in the upper bar by a mechanism. The upper face is pressed down so that its holes are opposed to the holes in the lower face. The pins then press through the sheet and withdraw. The sheet then moves a "row" and the operation is repeated. This is continued until all the rows have been punched. The single comb machine could perforate up to seven sheets at a time.

Only the top row of the comb is needed to complete the top row of stamp perforations, so the vertical rows perforate blank paper on the sheet selvedge. So all complete sheets have the top selvedge perforated and the bottom selvedge is not perforated.



Example showing the top and bottom of an 8 pice value sheet

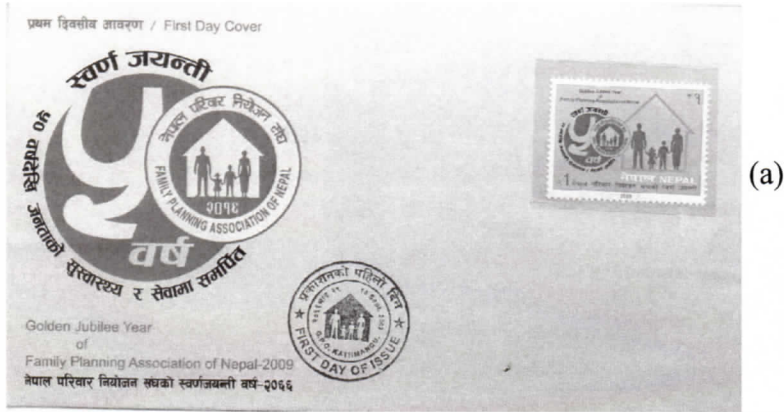
At each end of the horizontal row of the comb there are either one or two extra holes, known as extension pins. I could not find any information as to their use, but I would think that they were used as locating pins for the comb in the machine. An additional feature of the machines was that the punched out paper was collected at the base to be weighed as part of a check that all paper had been accounted for.

Perforating and printing was always done in the opposite direction of the paper web - i.e. in

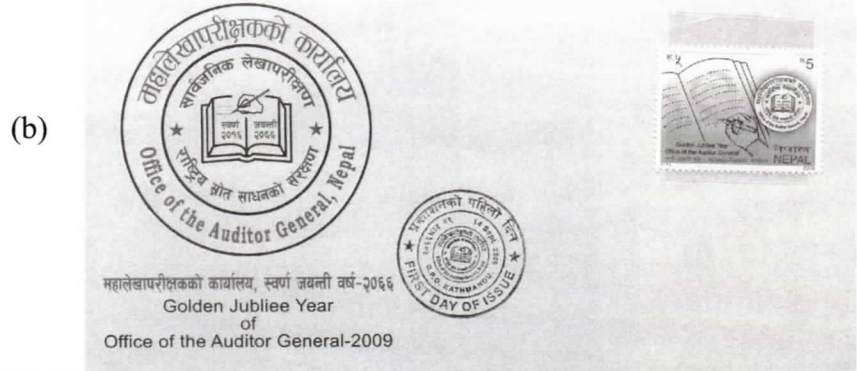
the direction opposite that of paper production. Machines were also capable of micrometer adjustment as distortion could (and did) occur during perforation runs. It was often found that because of atmospheric conditions sheets at the top and bottom of a ream of paper were distorted to a greater extent than those in the centre where they were more protected.

A hundred years ago they did not have the benefits of air conditioning and temperature controlled rooms as we have today.

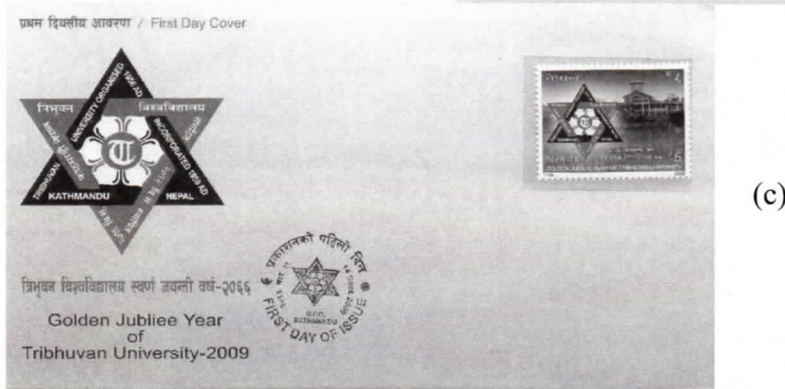
First Day Covers



प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण / First Day Cover



(b)

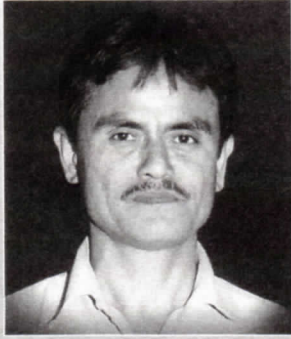


(c)



(d)

प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण / First Day Cover

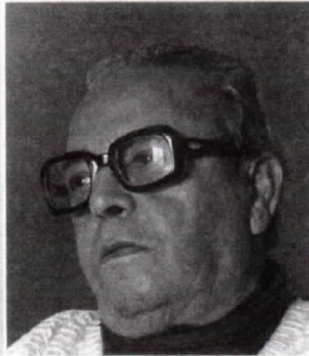


पत्रकार कृष्ण सेन 'इच्छुक' (२०१३-२०५५)
Journalist Krishna Sen 'Ichhuk' (1956-2002)
२०६६ / 2009



(e)

प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण / First Day Cover



साहित्यकार रमेश विकल
(वि.सं. १९८५-२०६५)
Litterature Ramesh Vikal
(1928-2008)
२०६६ / 2009



(f)

प्रथम दिवसीय आवरण
First Day Cover



तेजबहादुर चित्रकार (१९५५-२०२८)
Tej Bahadur Chitrakar (1898-1971)
२०६६ / 2009



(g)

Technical Details applicable to all issues

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Color: | 4 with Phosphor print | 4 with Phosphor print | 4 with Phosphor print |
| Process: | Offset Lithography | Offset Lithography | Offset Lithography |
| Paper: | High Quality Stamp | High Quality Stamp | High Quality Stamp |
| Designer: | Mohan N. Rana | Mohan N. Rana | Mohan N. Rana |
| Printer: | Cartor Security, France | Cartor Security, France | Cartor Security, France |

Technical details unique to each issue

| | |
|-----|---|
| | Subject: |
| (a) | Golden Jubilee Year of Family Planning |
| (b) | Golden Jubilee Year of Auditor General |
| (c) | Golden Jubilee Year of Tribhuvan University |
| (d) | World Heritage Site/ Birthplace of Buddha/Lumbini/Nepal |
| (e) | Krishna Sen 'Ichhuk' |
| (f) | Ramesh Vikal |
| (g) | Tej Bahadur Chitrakar & Tributes to Forefathers |

| | (a) | (b) & (c) | (d) |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Denomination: | Rs. 1 | Rs. 5 | Rs. 10 |
| Sheet: | 50 stamps per sheet | 50 stamps per sheet | 20 stamps per sheet |
| Size: | 40 mm x 30 mm | 40 mm x 30 mm | 40 mm x 30 mm |
| Quantity: | 1 million | 0.5 million | 1 million |
| Format: | Horizontal | Horizontal | Horizontal |

| | (e) | (f) | (g) |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Denomination: | Rs. 5 | Rs. 2 | Rs. 5 |
| Sheet: | 50 stamps per sheet | 50 stamps per sheet | 50 stamps per sheet |
| Size: | 42.5 mm x 31.5 mm | 31.5 mm x 42.5 mm | 42.5 mm x 31.5 mm |
| Quantity: | 0.5 million | 1 million | 0.5 million |
| Format: | Vertical | Horizontal | Vertical |

First Day Covers are courtesy of the Nepal Philatelic Bureau

News from Kathmandu by Surendra Lal Shrestha

The photograph of Mr. Shrestha was received with his Holiday Greetings. It is a photograph taken in his stamp shop. He also sent the commemorative covers and one with a stamp with his picture on it.

