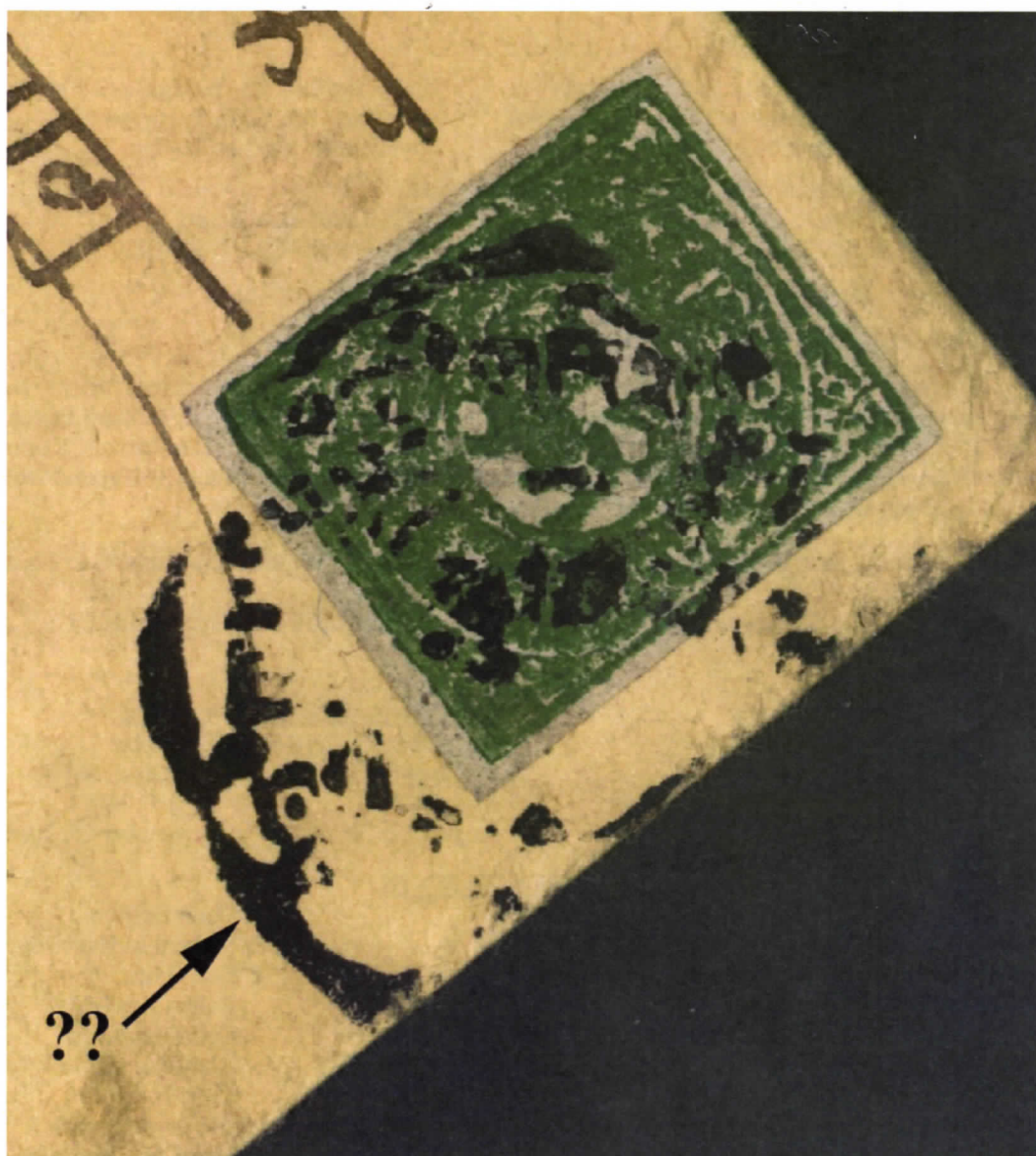


# Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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





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## **Officer's Corner**

It has been a busy year for me so far, which has included a holiday in Nepal and the London International Exhibition. Our society meeting there went very well and it was most pleasing to meet up again with my good friends Dick van der Wateren and Peter Planken from Holland. Dick has been such a good ambassador for us with his many visits to Kathmandu and I believe that he is going again in October and I wish him well with the visit. The first of our society meetings to be organized with a London International was in 1980; since then I have organized three more in 1990, 2000 and now 2010. After each one I usually think it would be the last one I would be organizing, but who knows, another ten years on and I could be doing it again.

There seems to be quite a shift in our collecting habits, as during the 1980s and 90s postal history was very popular with good prices being paid, but in recent years this has not been the case. Early covers with classic stamps still sell well but there does not seem to be many around and at present there seems to be little interest in early official stampless covers (even with scarce postmarks) and Pashupati covers. Looking at sales on eBay, the items that are selling well are the climbing expedition covers which may well be collected by thematic collectors. Let's hope that there will soon be a new generation of collectors for the Nepal/Tibet area.

Colin

## **Editor's Ramblings**

Apologies to Edmond Weissberg of France for having spelled his name with one 's' instead of two for so many years.

The International Exhibition in London is now history. I personally did not like the venue - Earl's Court is much superior to the Business Centre. There was not enough exhibition room - the exhibits had to be all changes half way through the exhibition so that they could all be shown. The dealers occupied the center portion of two levels and the exhibits were pushed off into obscure places with insufficient lighting - it was impossible in some cases to see the exhibit due to the poor lighting and in other cases hard to see colors that were being shown. There were no exhibits from any of our members at either WESTPEX or London.

There were no chairs available at any of the dealer booths, which meant that you had to stand all the time, unless you were in the food area. Standing at all times may be fine for younger persons, but I saw some persons who could definitely had used seats. WESTPEX can do it and London should have been able to also.

We had a very enjoyable meeting with a presentation by Geoffrey Flack. After the formal meeting we adjourned to the restaurant for a light lunch and further conversation.

Patricia and I had an enjoyable 3 weeks in both Paris and London - first time to both for her. Both cities are extremely easy to get around in due to excellent public transportation, something we do not have enough of in the USA. And both cities are walkable and clean.

## **CONGRATULATIONS:**

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Gold for his exhibit "Indore Philately" at Boxborough, MA

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Gold plus Best in Show for his single frame exhibit "Kotah - The 19th Century Dual Postal System at Boxborough, MA

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Gold for his exhibit "Jammu & Kashmir Telegraph Issues" at Boxborough, MA

## **UPCOMING:**

**LISBON 2010** 01-10 October 2010

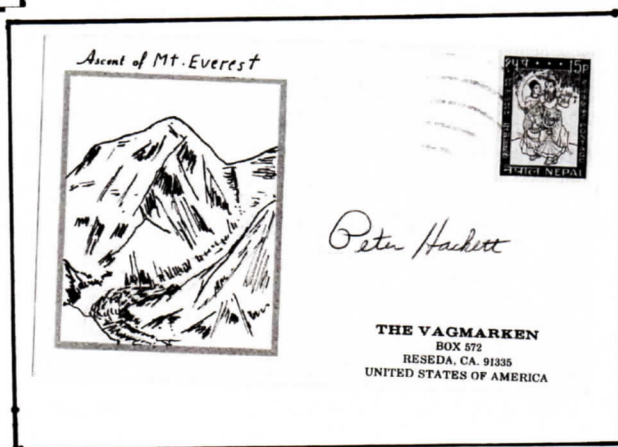
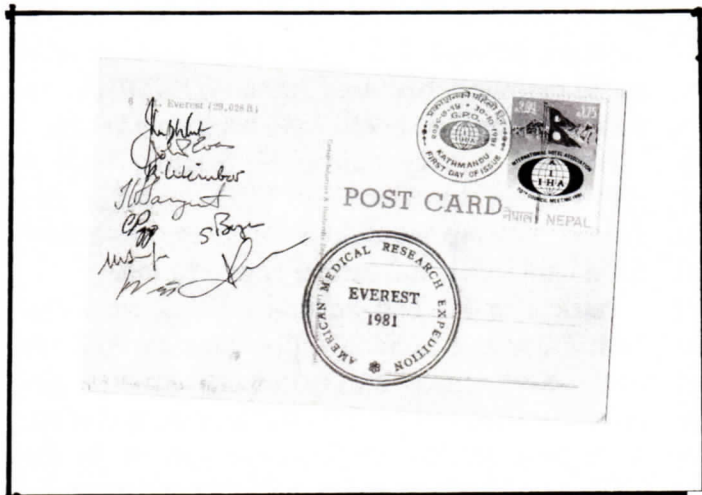
**INDIA 2011** 12-18 February 2011, New Delhi, Halls No. 8-11, Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex

## More Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence by Bob Gould

The 1981 American Medical Research Everest Expedition (AMREE) was the first expedition to Everest of its kind. Their goal was not only to summit Everest, but to study how a person's blood deals with the loss of oxygen at high altitude. The expedition consisted of 21 doctors, scientists or high altitude mountaineers as well as many porters and Sherpas. They carried in twelve tons of supplies to Base Camp that was established near the end of August at 17,700 feet. The main research laboratory with 3,500 pounds of medical equipment was then established at Camp Two located at 20,700 feet. Here they were able to carry out studies on sleep and exercise. Many blood samples were taken, frozen and shipped back to the USA for further study. The expedition carried a special research tent and stationary bicycle to Camp Five at 26,400 feet for additional studies. Due to bad weather and high winds, they were unable to erect the tent and could not conduct many

studies at this height. Five of the expedition members summited between October 21-24 and even conducted some scientific measurements on the summit of Everest. This was a very successful expedition that carried out many worthwhile scientific studies, had five team members summit and they all seemed to get along with a minimum of problems.

Shown below are two different PCs for the AMREE. One is from the expedition and signed by nine of the team. The other is a Vagmarken PC signed by expedition member Peter Hackett who summited on October 24. Note that both of these PCs have cancelled Nepalese stamps, but neither was actually mailed. This is typical of Vagmarken PCs. This organization was based in California and would send out their own cards with a hand drawn cachet to get signed by different expedition members, often the expedition was completed.





## E-mail to the Editor From Robert Binner

Dear Mr. Hanchett,

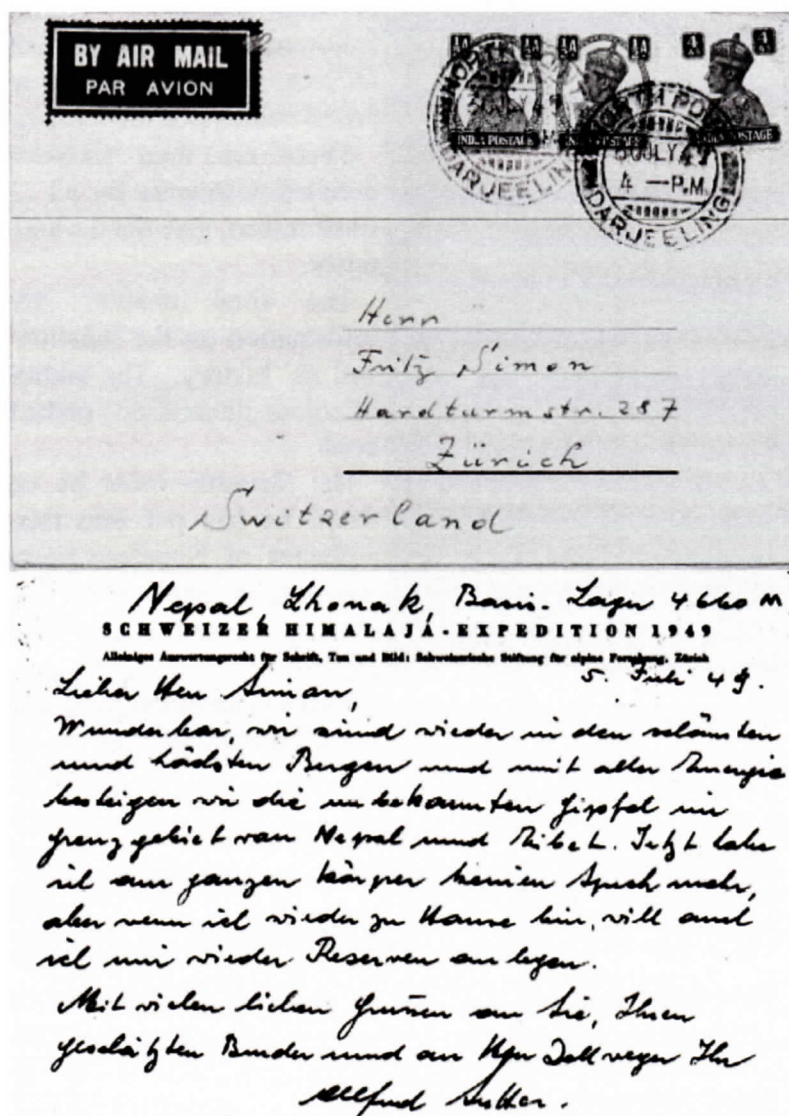
I enjoy reading *Postal Himal* at our Munich Philatelic Library every time it comes in. While I am not a serious Nepal or Tibet collector I have an interest in the Himalayas since my first visit to Nepal in 1979.

Besides a little thematic collection on the Himalayas I have a few covers from earlier expeditions. Last year I picked up a card from a 1949 Swiss expedition to Kanchenjunga, written on July 5th at 4660m at the base camp at Lhonak. The card was taken by native runner all the way to Darjeeling and posted at North Point Darjeeling 30 JLY 1949 by air to Switzerland.

To my knowledge, no mail from this expedition is recorded so far and I thought you may want to record it in *Postal Himal*. Information on the expedition can be found on the Internet at <http://www.sfar-evev06.ch/de/expeditionen/himalaya49.html>. A map of the region can be found at [http://www.myhimalayas.com/kanchenjunga/image/kanchenjunga\\_map.gif](http://www.myhimalayas.com/kanchenjunga/image/kanchenjunga_map.gif). I trust this is of interest to you and for the journal although it comes from a non-member of the society.

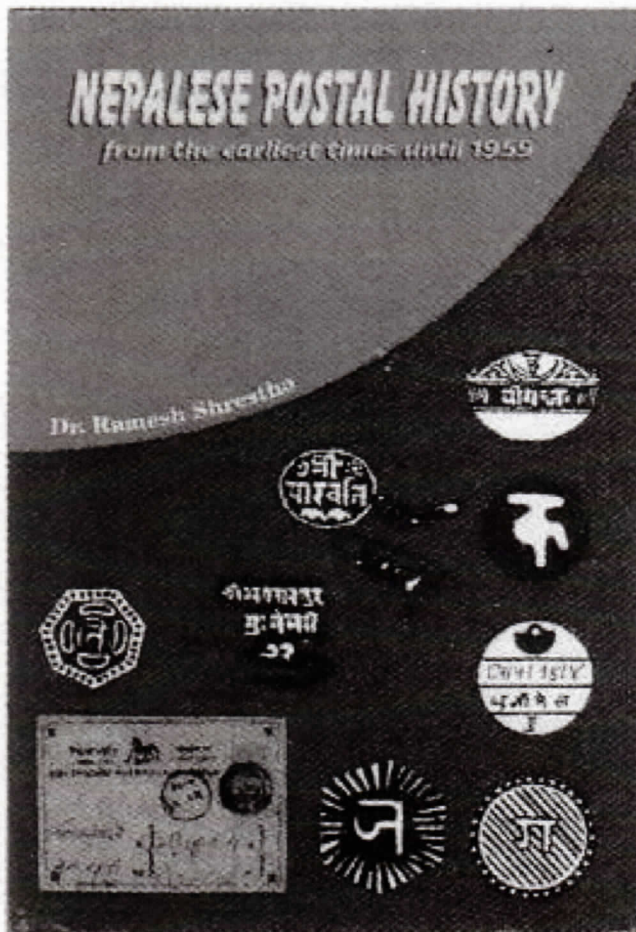
With best wishes for 2010.

Robert Binner



**Book Review of *NEPALESE POSTAL HISTORY from the earliest times until 1959*  
by Colin Hepper**

*NEPALESE POSTAL HISTORY from the earliest times until 1959* by Dr. Ramesh Shrestha, published 2009 by the author, hard backed with dust cover, 376 pages with 70 pages of colour illustrations. Price \$60.00, including postage and packing. Available from Dr. R. Shrestha, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal. Email: [r\\_shrestha@dr.com](mailto:r_shrestha@dr.com).



Some books are a pleasure to review and this is one of them. It is a work that compliments very well with previous books on Nepal postal history. The first fifty-four pages cover the history of Nepal including its' economic resources, agriculture and forestry, industry and trade, transportation and culture.

It is then followed by the postal history, which is very detailed, with chapters on the overview of the Nepalese Administrative Districts followed by an overview of the Nepalese Post Offices, with 123 listed in detail, giving the postal routes and the various transit times.

There are then sixty-two pages with the detailed postmarks for all 123 Post Offices with illustrations, size details and an indication of its' rarity.

The final chapter gives very detailed information on the location of each post office and its' history. The addition of seventy pages of colour illustrations make this a very attractive book.

Dr. Shrestha must be congratulated on the detail he has put into this book and for any collector of Nepalese postal history, this is a 'must have one', even for a collector of the country's postal history for over thirty years like myself.

There is an initial publication of 200 with each book being numbered.

## Regional Meeting of Study Circle at WESTPEX

by Alan Warren

On the last day of the WESTPEX show in San Francisco in April, a regional meeting of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle was held at the exhibition hotel. Six attendees talked about some show-and-tell items (Geoffrey Flack, Richard Hanchett, Jerome Kasper, Frank Vignola, Jr., Roger Skinner, and the author).

Jerry Kasper, an authority on worldwide aerogrammes, showed some air letters of Nepal and asked for additional information. Those that were addressed to locations in Nepal were believed to have been sent by surface mail rather than by air.

Geoffrey Flack handed around illustrations of a recent phenomenal find of a unique Tibet cover. It was sent from Lhasa to Phari and insured for 300 rupees, and most likely was sent

early in 1933. It bore a transit mark at Nangartse.

The cover was franked with seven copies of the 1933 4 Tr and one copy of the 2 Tr. The surprising discovery was that all of the stamps were proofs. Additional details of the cover will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Postal Himal*.

Geoffrey also showed a copy on an article by Karen Foy entitled "Tibetan Treasured" that appeared in the April 2010 issue of the British journal *Stamp Mart*. It was general in nature but might attract new collectors to the hobby.

Other discussions revolved around the recent 3-volume book on Tibet and its philately by Fortune Wang, and reminiscences about our late president Armand Singer.

## Meeting held at the London 2010 International Exhibition

by Colin Hepper

Thirteen members and two visitors attended the meeting held at the Hilton Hotel on Wednesday 12 May. Colin Hepper opened the meeting by introducing the members attending, some of whom had come from Australia, Hong Kong, USA and Europe. In his introduction he thanked Richard Hanchett for the excellent work he was doing in producing both a quality magazine and getting it out on time. He then reviewed the financial situation with the society and the reasons for having to increase the subscriptions which at the present time still do not cover the whole cost of printing and posting *Post Himal*. Richard Hanchett then gave a brief resume of the way we could go forward by sending it by email to those members who would like to receive it this way and consideration could be given to a possible

reduction of the subscription rates they pay. There is however still a lot of work to be done to achieve this. Colin also expressed his thanks to one of the members whose generous donation paid for the hire of the meeting room.

Geoffrey Flack then took the floor and gave a very interesting talk on the postal history of Tibet, which was illustrated by slides of material that he had or had sold but had taken photographs of the items, some of which were particularly rare. The talk was the same as he had given to the Trace Foundation Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library in New York on behalf of our Society in November of last year.

Members then adjourned to the restaurant area where discussions continued over a light meal.



## An Unidentified Tibetan Postmark by Bo Olsson and Wolfgang Bertsch

[Bo Olsson sent the following email - ed]

Richard!

Enclosed please find two images of a Tibetan early postmark I cannot identify.

It is similar to the early ornamental postmarks for Shigatse etc., but look at the script indicating the town. I have never seen it before. Could it be a dirty or damaged Shigatse pmk? I also enclose a filtered image so that it should be easier to read the script of 3 Tibetan letters.

Could you ask Wolfgang Bertsch to translate it?

[I sent the images to Wolfgang Bertsch, and his reply follows - ed]

Dear Richard Hanchett and Bo Olsson,

The only three letters which are more or less clear on this postmark can be read “gshi” or “bshi”, a combination of letters which normally does not occur in Tibetan. A misspelling for “gzhis”, the first syllable in “Shigatse”, can be

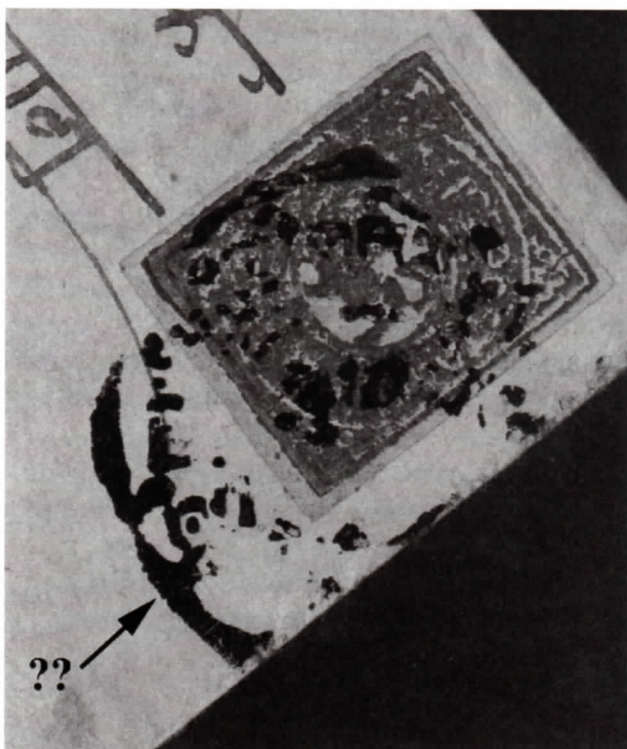
excluded, unless we presume that the postmark is a forgery or bogus. Anyway, the three letters that are visible do not occur on any of the genuine or forges postmarks that are illustrated in *The Postal Markings of Tibet*, Bozen and Vancouver, 1996, by Wolfgang Hellrigl. So, if genuine, it could be a, so far, unrecorded mark.

Sorry that I cannot be of more help. If a clearer print of this mark could be found on some other cover it may be possible to read it.

[A further email was received from Bo with the images shown on the next page which show the entire cover - ed]

The cover was sent from somewhere in Tibet to Nepal via Gyantse in October 1928. The back is marked “satampal” (stamped). I used to be able to sometimes read the Nepali script town names where the cover should be delivered to, but the mailing town in Tibet could be omitted.

It’s a pity the postmark isn’t complete, but the Tibetan postmasters mostly missed the training



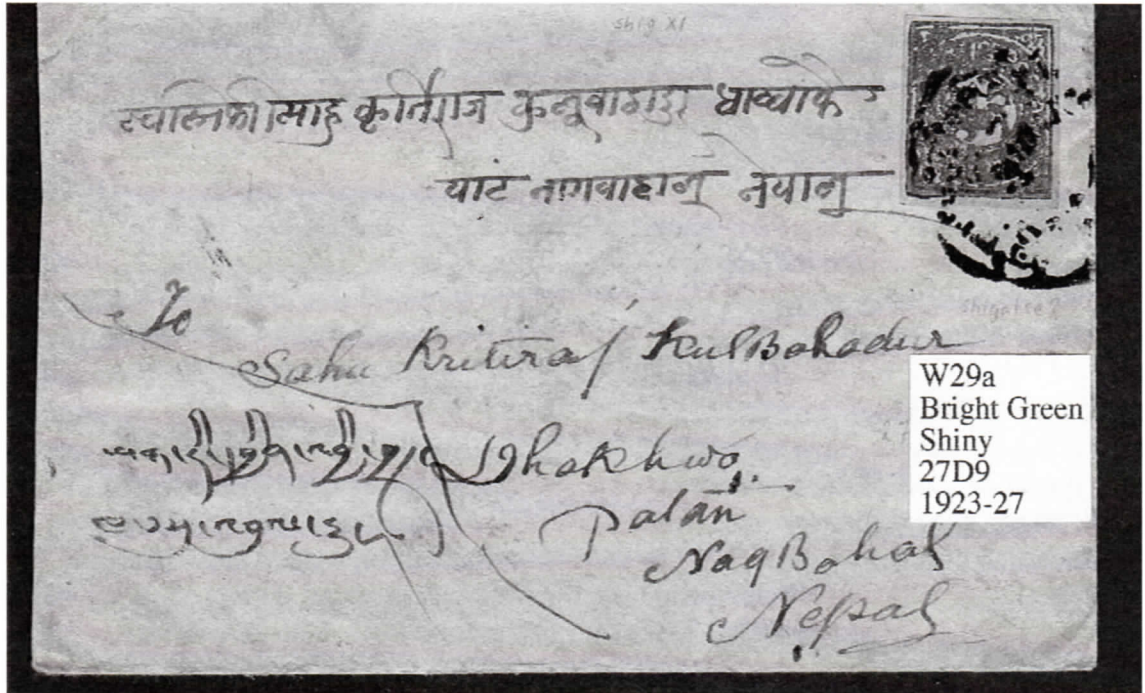


of how to cancel covers the philatelic way.

[Members who have any information regarding

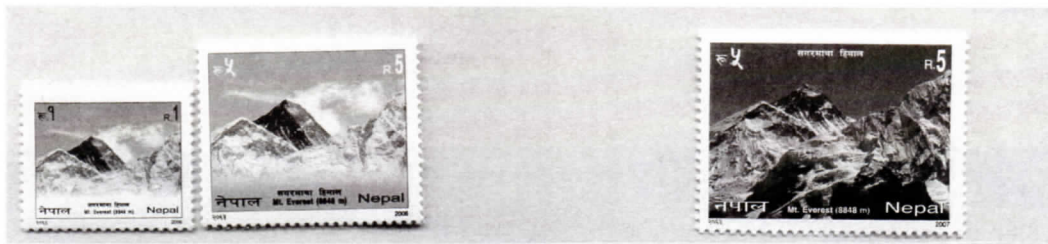
Perhaps one of our members could shed some more light on it.

this item can contact Bo at [fcx987z@tinet.se](mailto:fcx987z@tinet.se) - ed.]



## The Himalayas on Nepalese Postage Stamps (continued)

by Binod K. Shrestha



From left: Regular Series (Scott 777, 779), Mount Everest (Scott 787)

### Mount Everest Anniversaries

The “25th Anniversary of the First Ascent of Mount Everest” was celebrated on 29 May 1978. Two stamps with different views of Mount Everest were issued on the same day (Scott 343, 2.30 Rs, red, brown and slate, 344, 4 Rs, green and violet blue).<sup>16</sup> Mount Everest appears behind the Nuptse ridge on the 2.30 Re issue and the south face of the peak appears on the 4 Re issue. A ceremony was held in Kathmandu which brought together many of the Everest summiteers with an official ceremony held at the City Hall which included a photo exhibition and a display of mountaineering

history organized by the then newly organized Ministry of Tourism.<sup>17</sup>

The “Golden Jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Everest” was celebrated on 29 May 2003 with the issuance of a single stamp (Scott 728, 25 Rs, multi-color). A number of countries have issued stamps to mark this occasion: Great Britain, India, New Zealand, Monaco, Bosnia Serbia. A cover from China issued on 29 April 2003 mentions the 50th anniversary commemoration on the backside. An Indonesian sheet of stamps showing mountains also mentions the 50th anniversary.



From left: 25th Anniversary (Scott 343-344), 50th Anniversary (Scott 728)

### Nepalese Mountaineers<sup>18</sup>

Sungdare Sherpa (1956-1989), from Pangboche village in Khumjung, climbed Everest five times between 1979 and 1988.<sup>19</sup> On 21 October 1981 he climbed from the South

Pillar route and on 10 May 1988 he traversed from south to north.<sup>20</sup> He was killed when he fell into the Imja Khola river on 17 October 1989. A stamp (Scott 523, 1 Re) in his honor was issued on 2 December 1993 as part of the

<sup>16</sup> Singer and Gould page 63 nos. 138-139.

<sup>17</sup> Although there were a number of covers issued in Great Britain, other countries did not issue any stamps the mark the 25th Anniversary of the First Ascent of Mount Everest.

<sup>18</sup> Sherpa, Ang Phurba and Kunwar, Ramesh Raj (2002) *Nepalese Climbers on Mount Everest*, Kathmandu, pages 71, 91, 109.

<sup>19</sup> Singer and Gould page 85 no. 263 and page 86 no. 277.

<sup>20</sup> Unsworth, Walt (2000) *Everest: The Mountaineering History*, London, page 631.



National Personality Series.<sup>21</sup> The stamp shows Sungdare Sherpa with Mount Everest in the background.

Pasang Lhamu Sherpa (1960-1993), from Chaurikharka village in Solokhumbu, reached the summit of Mount Everest on 22 April 1993 from the southeast ridge. She was killed during the descent the next day from exposure at 8750m. A stamp was issued in her honor, (Scott 544, 10 Rs) on 2 September 1994, as the first Nepalese woman to reach the summit.<sup>22</sup> The stamp shows her portrait with Mount Everest in the background and the Nepalese flag on the summit.

Babu Chhiri Sherpa (1965-2001) climbed

Mount Everest 10 times, all without oxygen. In 1995 and 1999 he climbed twice during the British International and the International Everest expeditions. In 1999 he set a remarkable record by bivouacking on the summit, without oxygen, for 21 hours. On 21 May 2000 he climbed Mount Everest in 16 hours and 56 minutes setting the world speed record. On 21 May 2001 he was killed at Camp II in a fall. He is named twice in the Guinness Book of World Records.<sup>23</sup> A stamp was issued in honor of this “World Renowned Mountaineer” (Scott 729, 5 Rs) on 27 June 2003. The stamp shows him and the upper ridge of Mount Everest.



From left: Sungdare Sherpa (Scott 523), Pasang Lhamu Sherpa (Scott 544), Babu Chhiri Sherpa (Scott 729)

### Coat of Arms

Declaring parliamentary democracy a failure, King Mahendra carried out a royal coup in 1962. He dismissed the elected government, declared that a “partyless” panchayat system would govern Nepal, and promulgated another new Constitution on 16 December 1962. The Coat of Arms of Nepal includes a picture of Mount Everest. The design of the stamps issued in 1994 and 1996 are the same but there is a slight variation in color as well as size. The Coat of Arms adopted in 1962 appears on three stamps: National Day (Scott 209, 15 p) issued on 19 February 1968), Regular Series (Scott 535, 25 p, size 21 mm x 23 mm) issued on 17

May 1994 and Regular Series (Scott not listed, 25 p, size 21 mm x 26mm) issued on 2 August 1996.

The Coat of Arms that existed prior to 1962 appears in a set of 11 stamps issued on 1 November 1959 (Scott O1-O11) in two sizes - 29 x 17.5 mm and 37.5 x 21.5 mm. At the centre of the crest is Mount Everest in the background.

With the political change of 2006, a new Coat of Arms was adopted on 30 December 2006 and appears on a stamp issued on 21 August 2008 (Scott 805, 1 Re). The common features on the three Coat of Arms series is a scroll with the national motto, in Sanskrit, *janani*

<sup>21</sup> Norgay and Hillary have never been pictured on any Nepalese postage stamps as there is a tradition not to issue stamps to honor any living Nepali, except for the then Royal Family. Apa Sherpa, who holds the record for summiting, does not appear on a stamp, only autographed covers exist to honor his achievement.

<sup>22</sup> Singer and Gould page 67 nos. 280-281

<sup>23</sup> Gillman, Peter (2001) (ed) Everest: Eighty Years of Triumph and Tragedy, Little Brown and Company, London. Singer and Gould page 90 no. 299.





From left: Coat of Arms: Scott 209, 535, unlisted, 805, from the set O1-O11

*janmabhūmiśca svargādapi garīyasī*, which translates as “The mother and the motherland are greater than heaven”.<sup>24</sup>

### Royalty

On the occasion of the 49th birthday of King Mahendra a stamp was issued on 11 June 1968 (Scott 212, 15 p) depicting what could be the Khumbu Himal Range as seen above Dingboche in the background. The summit of Mount Everest is visible behind the Nuptse Ridge. In the lower left hand corner is a pheasant, the national bird of Nepal.

Similarly, to celebrate the 51st birthday of King Mahendra a stamp was issued on 11 July 1970 (Scott 233, 50 p, gold and multi-color). Besides the portrait of the King and the crown, the mountain peak on the left of the stamp is Mount Everest.

To mark the “Ascension of King Birendra to Throne 25th Anniversary” a stamp was issued on 1 February 1997 (Scott 603, 2 Re, multi-color). A number of national symbols, including Mount Everest, are shown in the right margin of the stamp.



From left: King Mahendra (Scott 212), King Mahendra (Scott 233), King Birendra (Scott 603)

### Diplomatic Relations

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established when its Charter was formally adopted on 8 December 1985 by the Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Association provides a platform for the peoples of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. On this occasion a stamp was issued (Scott 436, 5 Rs) showing the flags of the seven member countries and Mount Everest in the top left corner. A number of stamps with the Nepalese flag have been issued

by the member countries since the establishment of SAARC.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations a stamp was issued on 22 October 1995 (Scott 579, 50 Rs). On that stamp the UN logo and figure 50 is surrounded by the outline of seven persons representing the seven continents. Mount Everest is shown in the top left corner. Nepal obtained membership in the United Nations on 14 December 1955 at the 10th Session of the UN General Assembly (Scott 89). Nepal was twice elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during 1969-70 (Scott 216) and 1988-89. Over the past

<sup>24</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat\\_of\\_arms\\_of\\_Nepal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Nepal)

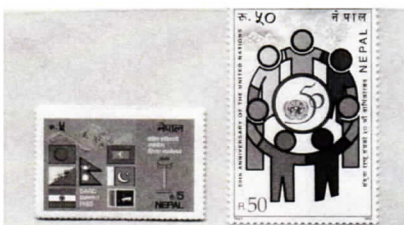


50 years, Nepal has contributed 60,000 peacekeepers during some 40 peacekeeping missions (Scott 636). Stamps issued on 24 October 1973 (Scott 240) and 26 December 2005 (Scott 766) marked the 25th and 50th anniversary of Nepal's membership in the UN.

Diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan were established on 1 September 1956. A permanent Nepalese Embassy was opened in Tokyo in July 1965 and H. E. Mr. Bharat Raj Rajbhandary was appointed Ambassador to Japan. The opening of the Embassy of Japan in Kathmandu, in February 1968, followed this. H.E. Mr. Hidemichi Kira was appointed Ambassador to Nepal. The cultural ties between Nepal and Japan date back to much earlier days before direct people to people contact started. In 1899 Reverend Ekai Kawaguchi, a Japanese Zen Buddhist pundit and ascetic, visited Nepal on his way to Tibet (Scott 725). Large numbers of mountain lovers from Japan are regular visitors to Nepal since the ascent of Mount Manaslu by a Japanese expedition team (Scott 631, Japan).<sup>25</sup>

To mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Japan, a stamp was issued on 7 April 1997 (Scott 605, 18 Rs) showing the flags of both countries and also showing Mount Everest, Mount Manaslu and Mount Fujiyama. On 1 September 2006 a stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries was issued (Scott 776, 30 Rs). This stamp shows Mount Everest and Nyatapolo Temple on the left and Mount Fujiyama and Horyuji Temple, Nara, Japan on the right. Horyuji Temple is the oldest wooden temple in the world.

The 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Egypt was marked on 24 July 2007 with a stamp (Scott 793, 5 Rs) showing the flags of both countries with the Giza Pyramids in the centre and Mount Everest in the top left corner. The Egyptian National Postal Authority also issued a stamp on this occasion. The official FDC cover has a picture of Mount Everest.<sup>26</sup>



From left: SAARC (Scott 436), 50th Anniversary of the UN (Scott 579)



From left: Nepal-Japan 40th Anniversary (Scott 605), Nepal-Japan 50th Anniversary (Scott 776), Nepal-Egypt 50th Anniversary (Scott 793)

<sup>25</sup> Stamps have been issued to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with a number of countries but the stamps do not show Mount Everest or other Nepal peaks (i.e., Scott 613 (USA), Scott 765 (China), Scott 775 (Russia).

<sup>26</sup> In this series, the Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau of Department of Posts issued a commemorative stamp on 1 September 2007. The stamp depicts Mount Everest and Sri Pada (Adam's Peak) of Sri Lanka.

to be continued - ed.

## Tibet, Waterlow Issue 1912 with Watermark by Rainer Fuchs

Waterfall mentions in his Tibet handbook that some of the Waterlow Essays show part of the watermark "Jas. Wrigley and Son Ltd". A sample of the watermark is shown in the upper part of the illustration below [the editor apologizes that is not more clearly seen -ed.].

I know that at least the blue and the shown red essays exist with this watermark. Does any other collector have a census or images of what other essay colors exist with the watermark? I can positively report that the blue color exists with and without watermark and, of course, the

red one with watermark. The green one I have seen did not have a watermark and essays in other colors I have not seen.

I would appreciate it if other Tibet collectors/dealers would inform me as to what they have, preferably with images, in order that we may have an up-to-date list.

[Rainer can be contacted at [rainer@fuchs-online.com](mailto:rainer@fuchs-online.com) - ed.]





**E-mail to the Editor**  
**from Sagar Man Shrestha**

Dear Richard,

On behalf of the Nepal Philatelic Society we thank you for your efforts, via *Postal Himal*, to promote Nepalese Philately all over the world. Our members always enjoy reading *Postal Himal* regularly, and exchange views and share ideas on all interesting topics.

Thanks to Colin [Hepper] for his writings on Nepalese forgeries [see *Postal Himal* 140:1, 140:13] appearing on the international market through eBay and other sources. We always try to inform our members about these forgeries, and to discourage the collecting of such items. We should all do our best to try to keep Nepalese philately forgery free, and not to follow Tibetan philately. We would be thankful if a few of these forged pieces, or photocopies of them, could be made available for our records also.

As you all know, the Nepal Philatelic Society has made only 400 copies of an autographed commemorative cover to mark the 19th ascent of Mount Everest by Apa Sherpa. We are very much concerned to see the forged Apa Sherpa (PH 140 page 13). We condemn these covers with a photographed signature of Apa's and request all mountain philately to avoid them and not to be tempted to collect such material. Please let us know if any other such materials are available in the market. From our side we are trying to find out the source of this material. Please allow us to reprint both of the above articles in the NPS Journal and Bulletin [permission has been given - ed.].

Our board has decided to send NTPSC one each of all forthcoming commemorative covers produced by NPS for your records. We hope that you will publish the above letter if an upcoming issue of *Postal Himal*.

Thanking you.

Sagar Man Shrestha

President Nepal Philatelic Society

Post Box #342

Kathmandu

NEPAL

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The commemorative cover for World Malaria Day is courtesy of Surendra Lal Shrestha

## USA First Day Cover to Tibet by Alan Warren

Judges will tell you that in traditional stamp exhibits, where usage of the stamps is shown on cover, as well as in postal history exhibits, there should be examples sent to unusual destinations. Finding such examples offers a real challenge.

On the other hand it is recognized that Pratek Man Tuladhar, a fiscal agent of the Dalai Lama of Tibet, was a collector who encouraged his correspondents to send mail to him so he could embellish the covers with Tibetan stamps and markings. Figure 1 shows a 1953 United States First Day Cover of the stamp marking the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase sent to Tibet. The surface rate abroad at that time was still 5¢ so the letter was one cent overpaid.

Foreign mail coming into the country arrived in the city of Gyantse and was then forwarded internally to its final destination. In this case that was Lhasa. Tuladhar arranged for forwarding postage to Lhasa for many such

letters he sought from collectors outside Tibet by adding Tibetan postage in the city where mail entered the country.

For this FDC he applied two copies of the Tibetan “official” stamp of 2 kha kang value on the reverse of the cover (Figure 2). These so-called official stamps appeared in the early 1950s and their usage has always been circumspect. Even the cachet on the front of the cover indicates the mailing was collector-inspired.

So we have a First Day Cover from the United States to Lhasa, Tibet that is unabashedly philatelic. Tuladhar used similar treatment on covers from abroad that were not first day covers but were franked with interesting stamps. Collectors of the stamps and postal history of these other countries seek the Tuladhar covers to show an unusual destination.

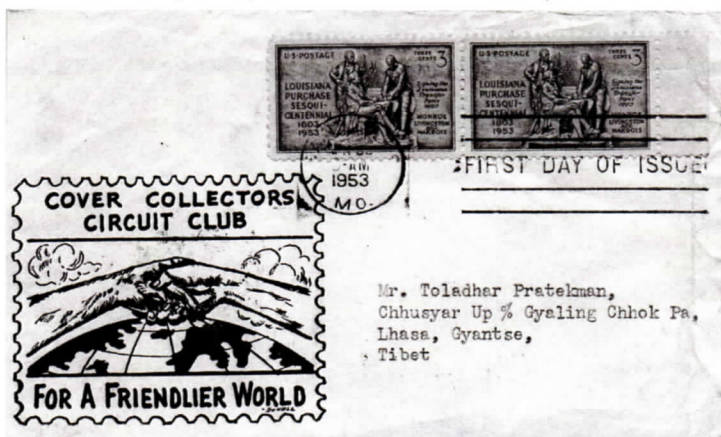


Figure 1



Figure 2

Reference: Singer, Armand E. *The “Officials” of Tibet*, published by Geoffrey Flack, Vancouver BC, Canada, 1999.



## Mustang Cover?

by Ed Gosnell

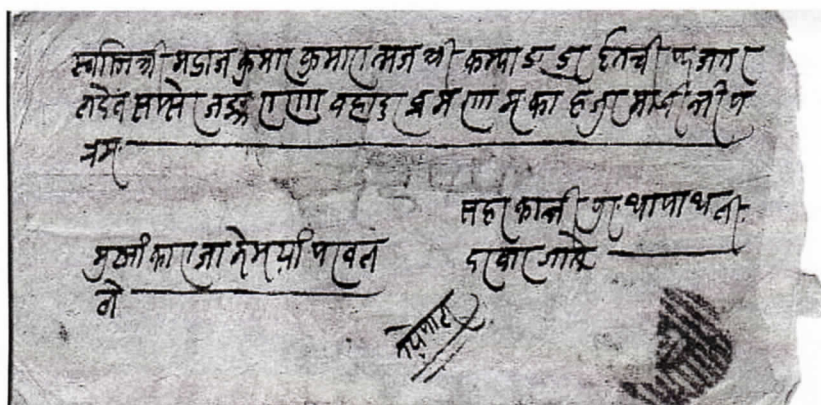
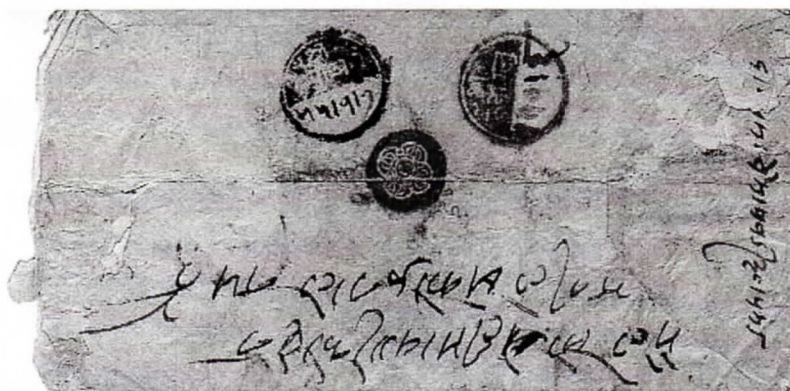
Stephen Bildhelm recently sent me pictures of a cover that appears to be from the small Himalayan state of Mustang. Mustang was an extremely isolated, semi autonomous kingdom in the northwestern part of Nepal on the Tibetan border. Although the king owed his allegiance to the Nepalese monarch, the population was largely of Tibetan stock.

The cover pictured below included a note indicating that it was mailed in 1955 (1898) by Jhem Yang Parwal, the King of Mustang, to the Prime Minister of Nepal at Kathmandu. The cover apparently entered the Nepalese postal system at Baglung where it probably received the stamp which has since been removed. A

partial classical Baglung circular grid cancel on the address side indicates where the stamp was placed. On the back of the cover is the negative manuscript postmark of Baglung dated 55-1-6 and a Pokhara negative transit postmark dated 55-1-7. In addition, there is a red seal which is presumptively that of the King of Mustang.

Can any of the members verify if this information is correct or offer any other information about this cover? Any such information would be greatly appreciated.

[Ed can be reached at [gemtreet1@aol.com](mailto:gemtreet1@aol.com) - ed.]





## Auction #74 -- Closing Date October 27, 2010

OSC = Official Stampless Cover    pmk(s) = Postmark(s)                      Ktm = Kathmandu  
 npm(s) = negative Postmark(s)    Pash = Pashupati stamp

**Note: All bids are to be in British £s**

Lot	Description	£s
1	Bundle of 26 OSC all with good to fine strikes of npms, all identified, 1890 - 1910 period	15
2	13 OSC, mainly with npms 1890 - 1910 period + 1 Pash cover 1934 and 2 modern covers, pmk Kodari (1966)	10
3	47 OSC, period mid 1880s - 1930s, good variety of pmks	20
4	15 covers all with Pash from all periods, including mixed frankings during 1960s. Good range of pmks	10
5	28 modern covers 1960s period, good range of pmks	10
6	5 modern covers with scarce pmks Mulpani, Surkhet, Sanghutar Bazar	5
7	Insured letter to Central Bank, Bombay. Pmk British Legation 22 May 1946, KG VI Indian stamps. Heavily sealed with red wax.	5
8	Insured letter to Central Bank, Bombay. Pmk British Legation 10 August 1945, KG VI Indian stamps. Heavily sealed with black wax.	5

### Nepal's Department of Plant Resources by Surendra Lal Shrestha

Established in 1960, the Department of Plant Resources is involved in researching Nepal's plant diversity, especially medicinal herbs. With a range of professionals in phytochemistry, biochemistry, pharmacy and veterinary scientists the department helps formulate plant based medicine. The department is a scientific authority of Convention on International Trade on Endangered Fauna and Floral Species and the National Focal Body of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2000.



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Further information can be obtained from  
[department\\_plantresources@yahoo.com](mailto:department_plantresources@yahoo.com)

[Cover courtesy of Surendra Lal Shrestha - ed.]