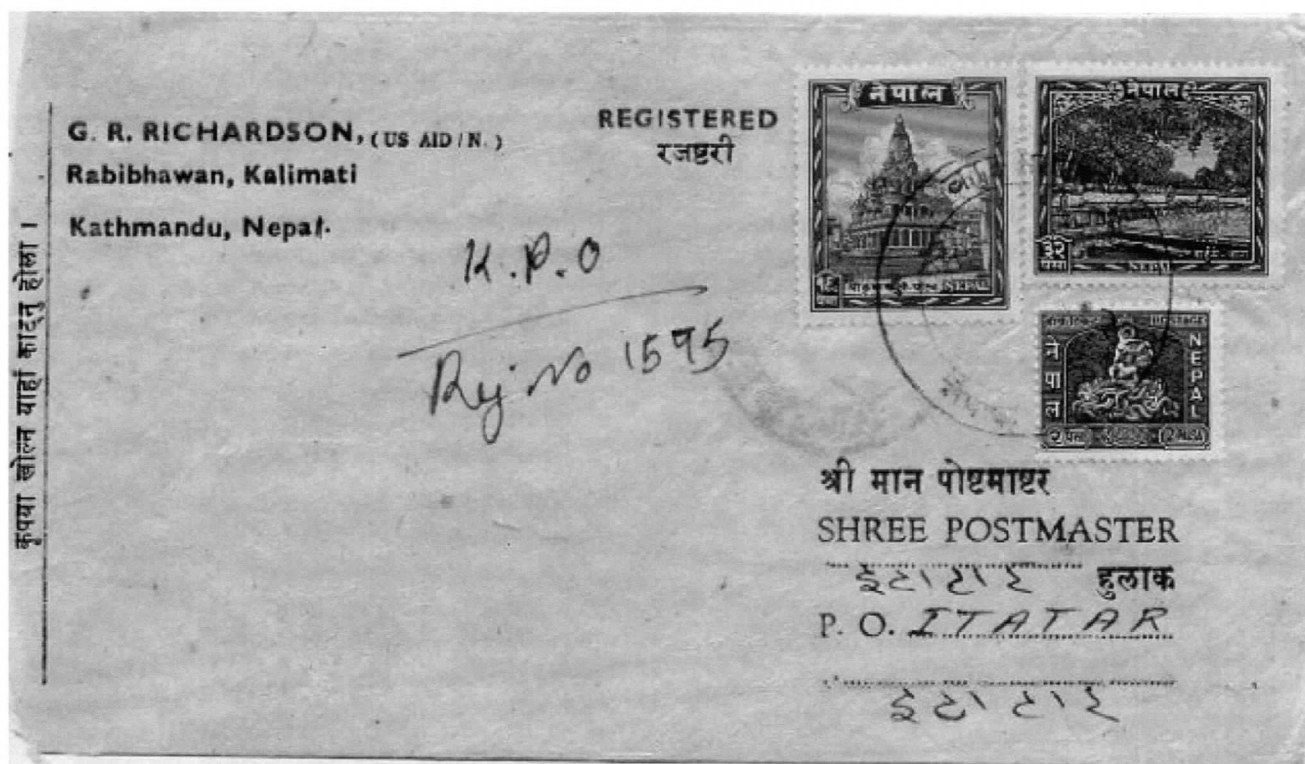


Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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





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

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

	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>Life Member</u>
Great Britain	£20	£55	£400
USA	\$30	\$80	\$600
Europe	€25	€70	€500

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
12 Charnwood Close
Peterborough, Cambs. PE2 9BZ
UK
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

The Board of Directors: President: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper Treasurer: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
Members at large: Mr. Christopher Kinch, Mr. Alan Warren

Vice President: Mr. Geoffrey Flack
Auctioneer: Mr. Leo Martyn
Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett

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

Patron: Mac Linscott Ricketts

Honorary Life Members: Colin Hepper, Jit Bahadur Manandhar

Life Members: Richard G. Azizkhan, Mario C. Barbieri, Joachim Bednorz, Johannes Bornmann, Jeremy Brewer, Steve Chazen, Elizabeth Downey, Geoffrey Flack, Richard M. Hanchett, Douglas Hatch, Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, William Jansen, Jaya Hari Jha, Manfred Lauk, Gerhard Lenser, Leo Martyn, R. Murray, Bruno le Peut, Peter Planken, Kedar Pradhan, Barbara Praytor, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Roger Skinner, Rishi Tulsyan, Dick van der Wateren, Edmond Weissberg, Robert Wightman, Danny Kin Chi Wong, Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.

New Members:

Rejoined:

Change of Address:

Dropped for Non-payment of Dues:

<u>Publishing Schedule:</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cutoff for Articles</u>	<u>Into Mail</u>
	152	16 November 2012	30 November 2012
	153	22 February 2013	08 March 2013
	154	31 May 2013	14 June 2013
	155	30 August 2013	13 September 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper FRPSL	1
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	1
Upcoming		1
Himalayan Airmails	Jeffrey Brown	2
The Reverend J. R. Fox Letters	Peter Moore	4
The Richardson Mail	Hepper & Martyn	7
Rainer Fuch author Tibet Review	Alan Warren	11
Thinleygang CMO: the most beautifully decorated Mail Office of Bhutan	Leo Van der Velden	12
Letter to the Editor	Ajit Shah	13
News from Kathmandu	Surendra Lal Shrestha	14
Michel Peissel, Tibet Explorer	Alan Warren	15
Press Release from the Royal Philatelic Society London	Colin Hepper FRPSL	16

Officer's Corner

A few months ago I was giving a display of Nepal to the Cambridge Philatelic Society and one of the questions I was asked was 'what is the significance of the horse on the early postcards'. A question I couldn't really answer with any conviction (I just waffled). It is an interesting question and I wondered if there are any of our members who have any theories on this.

We are familiar with the use of horses on the historic Pokhara to Kathmandu postal trail where mail was taken by horse rider as late as the 1970s and there were other horse postal trails in the west and north of the country. The Tibetan word for horse is 'ta' and several ethnic groups of Nepal have names beginning with 'Ta' - that indicate their identity as 'people of the horse'. The Rana's regularly used horses for

traveling.

My guess is that the horse was used on the postcards because of its use to move mail around the country. Does anyone have any other theories?

The membership of the UK is very scattered and I don't very often get to meet many of them. So it was a pleasure after about thirty years to meet up with Frank and Jennifer Broad again who visited our local society, where amongst other collections they have was a very comprehensive collection of the early Nepalese post cards.

In September Eleanor and I are off to Egypt for a couple of weeks and after that my visit to Nepal will soon come round.

Colin

Editor's Ramblings

My apologies to **Alan Warren**. In the last issue I mentioned [150:1] that we had two officers who were Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London: Colin and Geoffrey. Alan, who is a Member at Large of the Board of Directors (and therefore an Officer of the Society) became a Member of the Royal in 1997 and was elected a Fellow in 2004.

As you can see from Colin's article above, he has come up with a very interesting reason for why horses may have been used on the early Nepal postcards. I have often wondered myself why a horse instead of Mt. Everest or the crossed khukris or even the crown? Of course, mail was also carried by runner, so why not a representation of his spear? If anyone has anything to add, email Colin or myself (email and postal addresses on the inside front cover).

WESTPEX will soon be upon us once again. I hope that you will be attending. It is always a

great show and we will, as usual, be having a Society meeting. If you are flying into San Francisco just to attend the show, there is no need to rent a car as the Marriott supplies 24-hour transportation (every 20 minutes or so) to and from the hotel.

Several members have lately indicated that they have not received their copy of *Postal Himal*. The inside front cover of every issue of *Postal Himal* includes the publishing schedule for the following four issues. The "Into Mail" column is the hoped for posting date although the actual date may be a week either side of it. All issues are sent by air mail both within and outside of the USA. If you have not received your copy of *Postal Himal* within three weeks of the "Into Mail" date, please contact Roger Skinner (address on inside front cover) to request a replacement copy. Please do not wait months waiting for you copy.

Upcoming

WESTPEX 2013 April 26-28, San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel

NY 2016 Javits Convention Center 28 May - 04 June 2016

Himalayan Airmails by Jeffrey Brown

[for Part 1 of this 6-part series, see *Postal Himal* 146:3 - ed.]

Part 2 - The Tourists Fly In

No airlines operated in the Himalayas between the wars and few aircraft would have flown in the region. Nevertheless, they remained a magnet for the intrepid flier and I know of two examples of pioneers taking a diversion just to see Mount Everest.

The first was Alan Cobham, who was the pilot on the Anglo-Indian Air Survey in 1925.

General Sir William Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, was instructed by the British Government to survey the route across Europe to India. Piloted by Alan Cobham with his engineer, Arthur Elliott, he left Croydon on 20 November 1924 in a De Havilland DH50 G-EBFO and flew into Calcutta during the first week of January 1925. The General fell ill with pneumonia, so on 5 February Cobham and Elliott flew on to Akyab and thence to Rangoon.

The return journey, with Sir Sefton back on board, started on 8 February 1925, with stops at Akyab, Calcutta, Delhi and Karachi. The flight was halted by a snowstorm in Germany; the aeroplane had to be dismantled and transported by lorry to an airfield near Stuttgart, where it was reassembled and was able to continue to Waddon Aerodrome, Croydon which was reached on 17 March 1925.

On 25/26 January 1925, during their stay in Calcutta on the outward journey, Cobham and Elliott made a short trip to Jalpaiguri. Cobham, accompanied by an army officer named Fish, flew to within 40 miles of Mount Everest. Sadly, the cover shown (Figure 1) is not mine, but in the collection of Tom Frommer, who is editor of *The Australian Air Mail Catalogue*.

The second flight (Figure 2) was by Americans, Richard Halliburton and Moyer W. Stephens, Jr., in their Stearland C3B, registered NR-882N and named *The Flying Carpet*. They had flown to Calcutta from Timbuctoo in January 1932 on a stage of a round the world flight. Halliburton owned the Stearland biplane and employed Stephens as his pilot. He subsequently wrote a book about his exploits, which he entitled *The Flying Carpet*.

Whilst in Calcutta, the fliers made a flight to within 20 miles of Mount Everest, having received special permission from the King of Nepal.

These are two very collectible covers, but neither will come cheap. Only 5 of the Cobham covers are recorded though I have only seen the one illustrated, which sold at a Harmsers auction in 1997 for £1,500 plus commission. Fifty (50) Halliburton covers are recorded and are worth at least £300 each.

[The above article was first published in *India Post* and I thank the editor Sandeep Jaiswal for permission to reprint it here. - ed.]

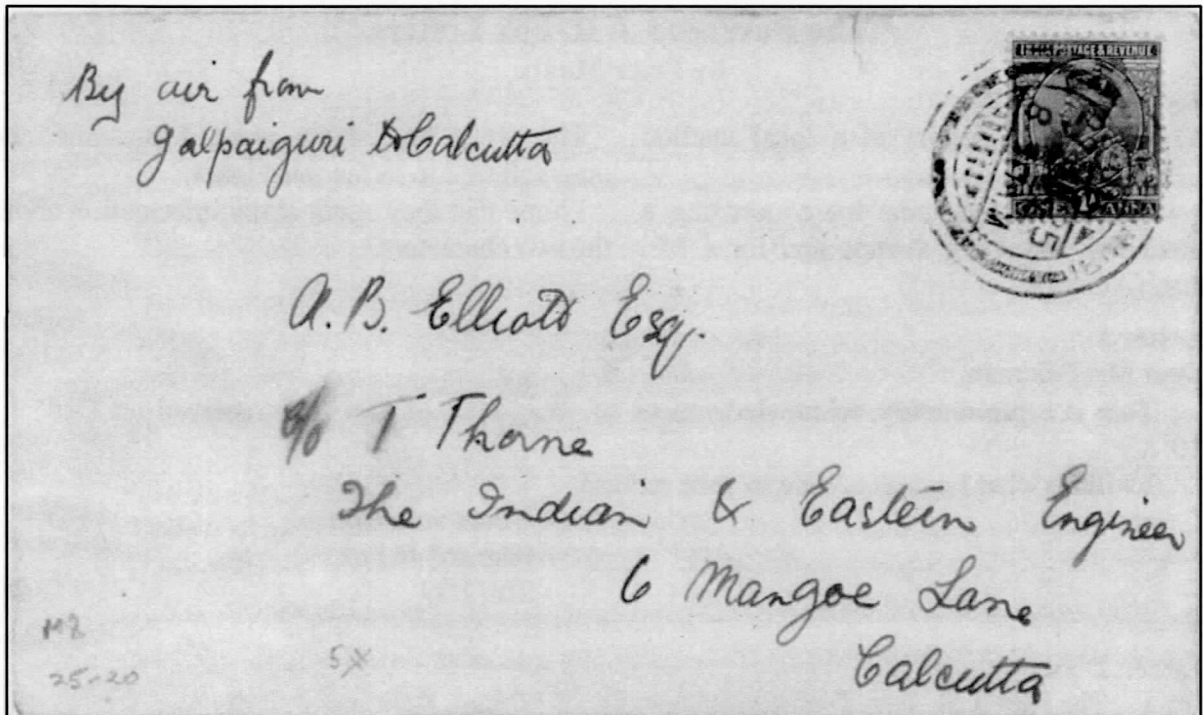


Figure 1 Cover flown from Jalpaiguri to Calcutta on 27 January 1925
 Postmarked *Jalpaiguri 27 JAN 25* and *Calcutta GPO 28 JAN 25*

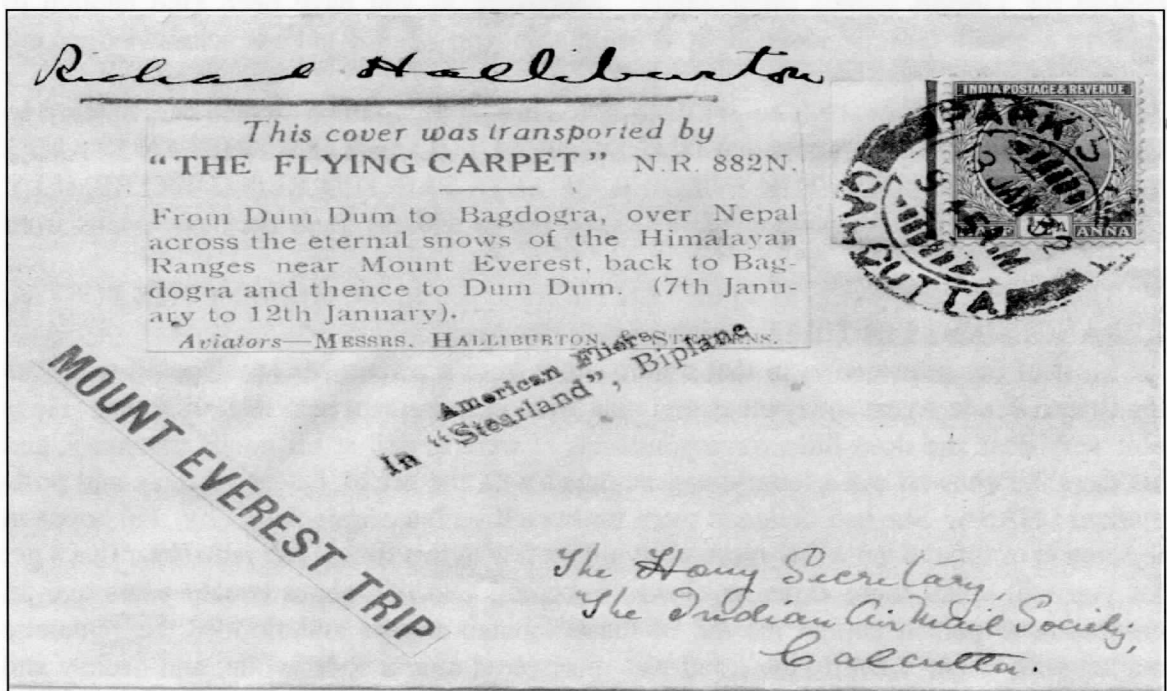


Figure 2 Cover flown towards Mount Everest on 7 January 1932
 Postmarked *Park Street, Calcutta 13 JAN 32*
 Signed *Richard Halliburton*

The Reverend J. R. Fox Letters by Peter Moore

I purchased these letters at a local auction some 20 years ago.

The cover and stamp were, I presume, the ones referred to in the third letter.

All were part of the same lot concerning a Reverend Fox obtaining stamps etc. for a Mr. Feldman (American dealer?)

I hope that they spark some information about the two characters.

Letter 1

Dear Mr. Feldman,

This is a preliminary acknowledgement of your letter of Oct. 16th received on Dec. 10th.

I will do what I can to accede to your request.

Yours very truly,
[signed] JRFox
20/12/39

Letter 2

from The Rev. J. R. Fox, Prefecture Apostolic of Sikkim, Kalimpong, India
to His philatelic correspondents in America

My dear friends,

I hope that you will excuse the receiving part of my reply to your enquiries in this form of a cyclostyled letter. I wanted to explain as soon as I could why I cannot accede to your request for Tibetan stamps immediately. Moreover, as you have been kind enough to enclose a small sum in advance, it is right that you should get an acknowledgement without delay.

In case you did not see it emphasized in the article in "Stamps" which Mr. Stanard so kindly published, I now repeat that IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN TIBETAN STAMPS IN LARGE NUMBERS: THE NUMBER OF SETS PRINTED BEING EXTREMELY LIMITED. Some correspondents have asked me to address them their envelopes from Tibet registered.

There is no registration in Tibet. Let me refer you to the article on THE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN TIBET, which I wrote last April.

Most of my information in that article came from a certain Mr MacDonald who was the British Trade Agent in Gyantse, and now lives in retirement here in Kalimpong. He is now very deaf and does little correspondence. I went to call at his house yesterday, and his daughter showed me a letter-cover stamped with the set of Tibetan stamps and post-marked LHASA. She had obtained them for herself with a certain difficulty, and hopes in the course of time to get a few more - but only a few at this time. The remainder that I get for you will entail more expense. I was informed also that about twenty years ago an unscrupulous person copied the die of these Tibetan stamps and flooded the philatelic market with them. Luckily the fraud was discovered after a short while, and dealers and expert collectors were soon on the lookout.

The value of Tibetan stamps under present conditions consists not merely in their actual rarity, but also in the difficulty of obtaining those that have passed through bona fide postal channels. For instance, the superior of this mission wished to go to the land which borders on his territory to the north. He hoped incidentally to get some stamps. But

he could no get to Lhasa itself. All he could do was to ask the favor of the British Political Agent at Gantok, Sikkim, for permission to go as far as Gyantse, which as I said in my article, is still within the British Indian postal system. My superior went to Gyantse with a companion and the minimum of servants and carriers, and they did the two hundred miles journey there on foot. The trip, in spite of this economy, cost them 800 rupees (equals 200 dollars). So you can see that if I were not able to make some friends among the local people by residing among them it would be almost impossible to get any genuine used stamps at all. I will try and distribute what I do get, to you in the order in which I receive your letters.

The world is becoming a monotonous place, but this region has not yet fallen under the spell of so-called western civilization. At Kalimpong itself there are indeed certain amenities; a lovely climate, views of the Snows, a center for expeditions for collectors of all kinds.

1) Of primary interest is the opportunity it affords for the students of human nature. Kalimpong is a veritable microcosm. Nepalis [sic], (themselves comprising a dozen different races in their various castes) Bhutias [sic], Lepchas [sic], Bengalis, a few Madrasis [sic] and others from the south, Mussulman [sic] shopkeepers, Marwaris [sic] from Rajputana, British, French, Swiss, Armenians, Chinese, Bhutanese, and one Hungarian Jew who has taken British nationality.

2) I can hear many as yet unpublished folk-songs of Nepal and Tibet. To those especially interested I will give a description in so far as an amateur can.

3) This is one of the finest regions in the world for the coleoptologist. There is an amazing variety of beetles. My predecessor was in correspondence with a certain M. Oberthur, and used to send him a regular supply for museums in France.

4) I have a little village school where I am forming a troop of boy scouts. I have got them to make an album of pressed leaves of over a hundred species; they themselves know the name of each and its uses. There are strangely few flowers at this height, but I can put those interested in touch with a nursery gardener who has a unique collection of orchids.

I remain yours gratefully,
sgd J. R. Fox (priest)

Letter 3

from Rev J. R. Fox
The Prefecture
Kalimpong

April 6th 1940.

Dear Mr. Feldman,

At last I have been able to obtain a genuine cover from Lhasa. Yet it was sent from Lhasa by hand and then posted from Pharijong, which comes within the British postal system. This will shew [sic] you how difficult it is to obtain Tibetan covers. I have obtained another stamp however and I enclose this too, also a photograph taken in Tibet.

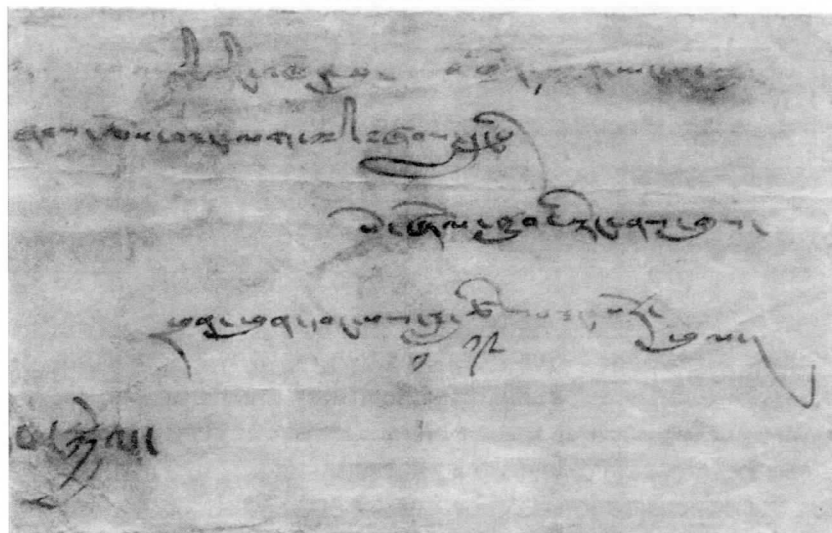
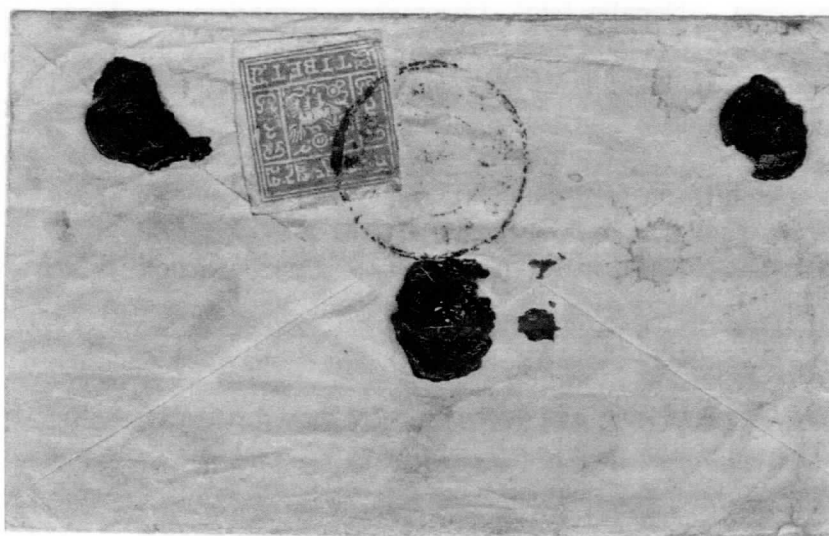
To get into Tibet is a difficult and expensive journey for Europeans, and it is only very rarely that we go there. Two of my companions went as far as Gyantse last year, a walk of 400 miles across what was largely desert country.

On these southern slopes of the Himalayas
the people are mostly Nepali, the race that produces the famous Ghurkha [sic] soldiers. They are asking for education but they are so poor that we can only provide it on condition

that we obtain funds from elsewhere. I am just putting some new walls on my village school (about 80 little boys attend it). These walls will be of trellised bamboo, and the work will cost me about 7 dollars. This morning one of my Nepali schoolmasters has just asked me for "Scouting for boys"; he will then begin to build up a troop on his own. I will send you a photo of them when they are ready. Any help in our work is most gratefully acknowledged.

On re-reading your letter I see you especially want a cover with a Tibetan stamp on it. I have just found one, so it will be allright [sic].

Yours sincerely,
[signed] JRFox



Front and back of the 2t registered letter supplied by Rev. J. R. Fox

The Richardson Mail

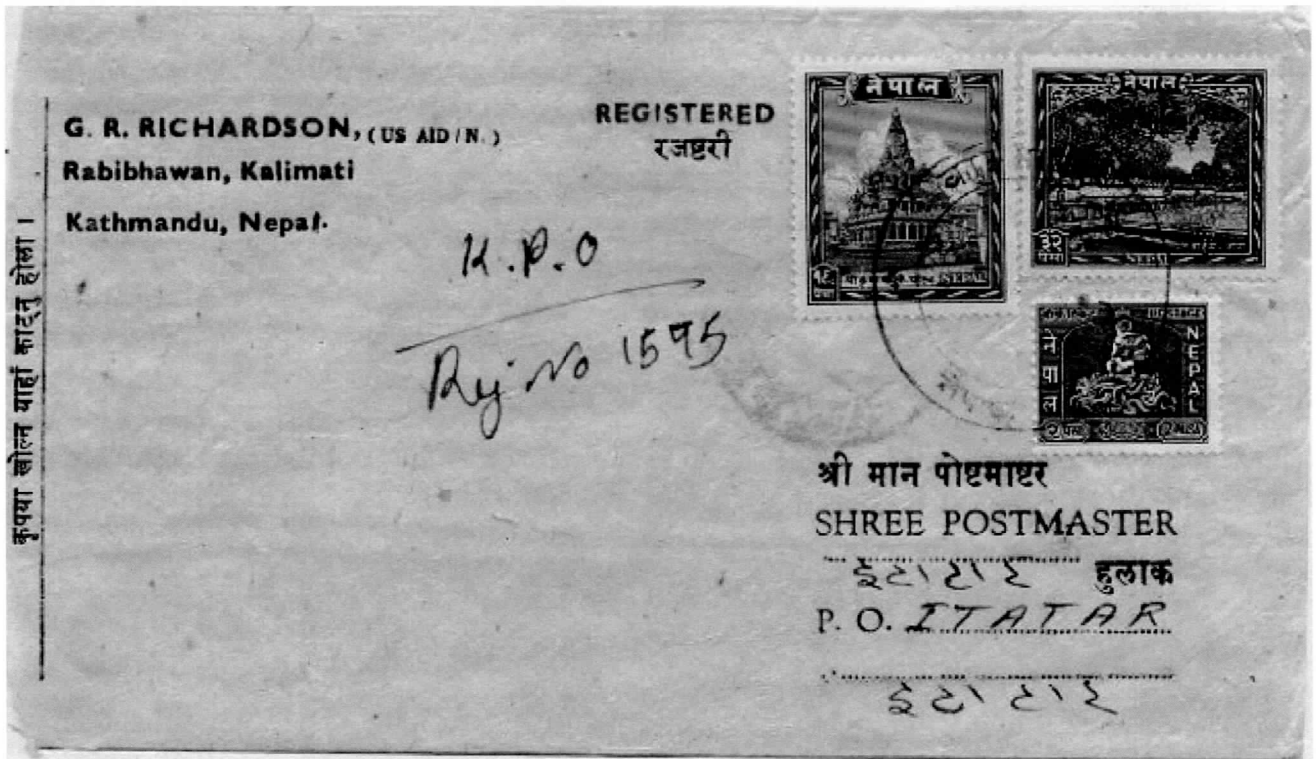
by Colin Hepper FRPSL with illustrations provided by Leo Martyn

In *Postal Himal* issue No.149 [see 'An Unusual Postcard' by Colin Hepper FRPSL 149:8 -ed.], I wrote a small article on an unusual registered postcard I had purchased and inquired if any other members had any information on this. The answer quickly came from Leo Martyn who had a number of items that had been organised by Mr Richardson whom he (Leo) had in fact met some years ago. Leo kindly sent me the scans of his items which are illustrated here.

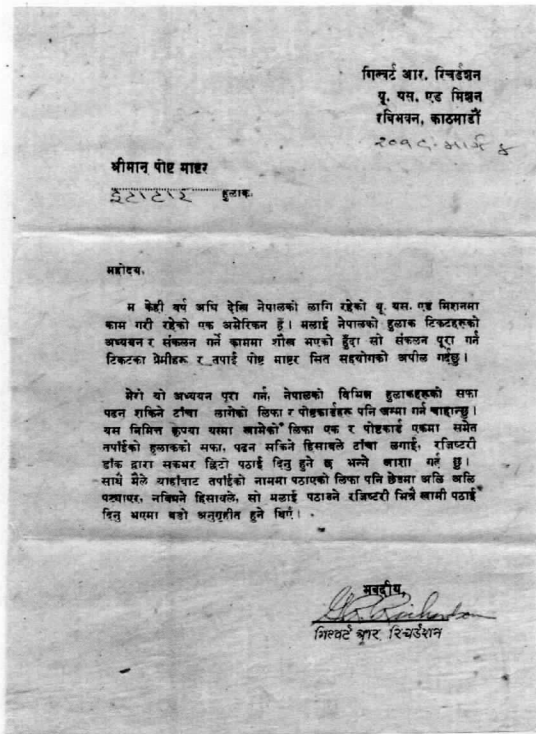
Gill Richardson worked for the U.S. Aid

Mission in Kathmandu and was a keen philatelist. Apparently he sent out correspondence to various postmasters around the country to collect postmarks. To achieve this he used to send the stamped envelopes and post cards to Post Masters of different post offices to be cancelled properly and requested the postmaster to send them back to him.

Gill Richardson was also the creator of the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition covers bearing a label. He also had an extensive collection of Tibet gold coins.



Envelope sent to Itatar Postmaster which contained the postcard to be returned by him and written requests in both English and Nepali. Written at the side of the envelope 'Please cut here to open'.



POST CARD:

Date: 2019..... (BS)

Dear sir,

I have sent the envelopes and the post cards today.

Yours truly

Mr. Post Master
ITATAR Po

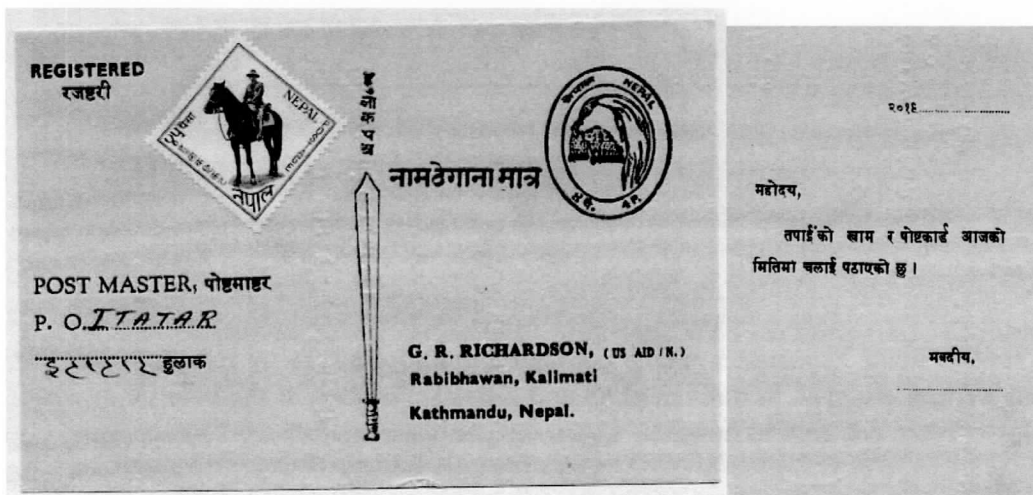
Dear sir,

I am an American citizen, employee of U.S. Aid Mission working in Nepal since last few years. I am interested in collecting and studying the Nepalese postage stamps and to achiev this I request for the cooperation of the Stamp lovers and the post masters like you.

To complete my research work, I want to collect fine, easily readable and nicely cancelled postmarks of different Nepalese post offices, on covers and post cards. And for this, I hope you will send me the enclosed post card and envelope, nicely cancelled with your related pmks, by Registered Post at your earliest possible. I would be highly obliized if you please send me the envelope which I have sent to you, well packed so that it could not be damaged, back to me.

Yours truly
G.R.Richardson

Enclosures to the Postmaster which included a slip to be sent back by the Postmaster to Richardson to say that the card had been sent.



महोदय,

तपाईंको काम र पोहकार्ड आजको
मितिमा बलाई पठाएको छु ।

मन्दीप,

The enclosed postcard which was to be registered back to him.

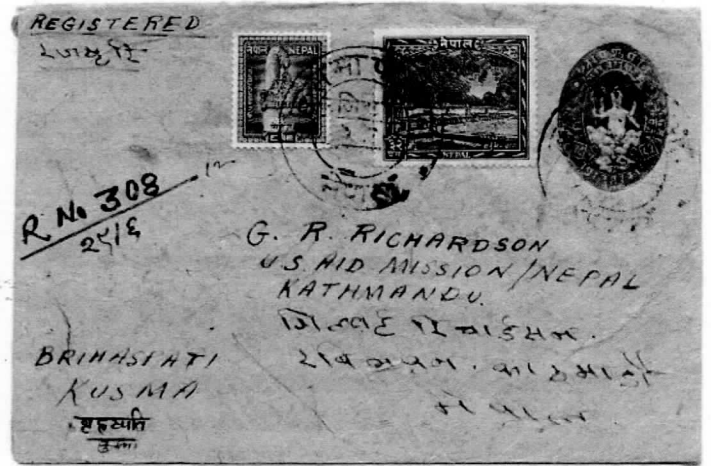
Kusma
Oct. 15, 1962

Dear Sirs,

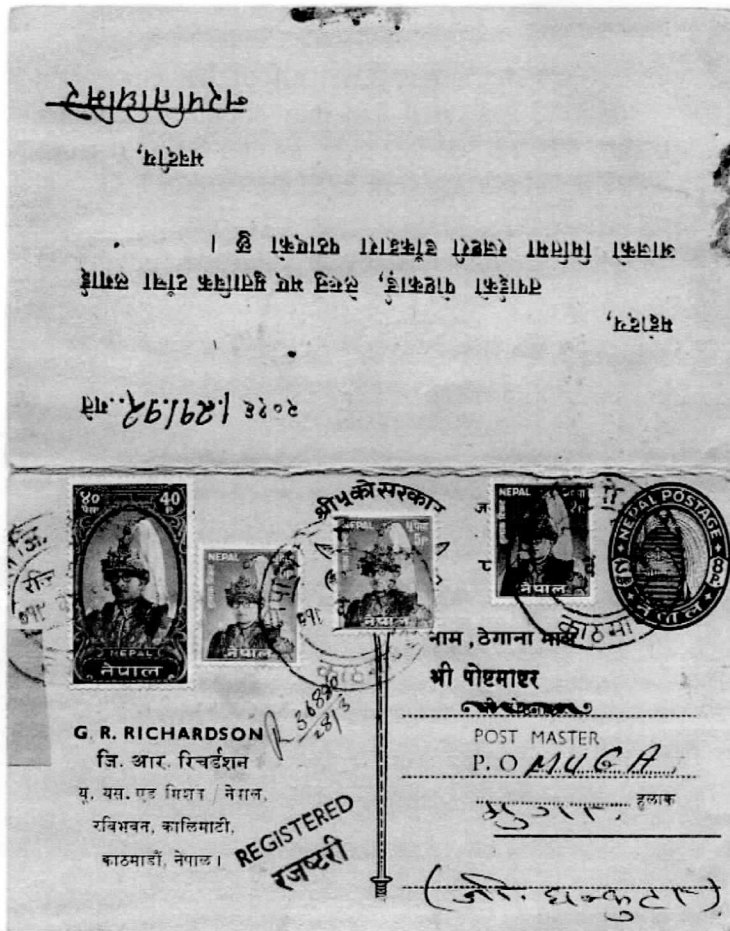
This evening we reached Kusma, up till now I was able to post you only one mail from this Post Office, I shall try my best to mail you more from there too.

Thanks

Sincerely yours,
G. R. Richardson



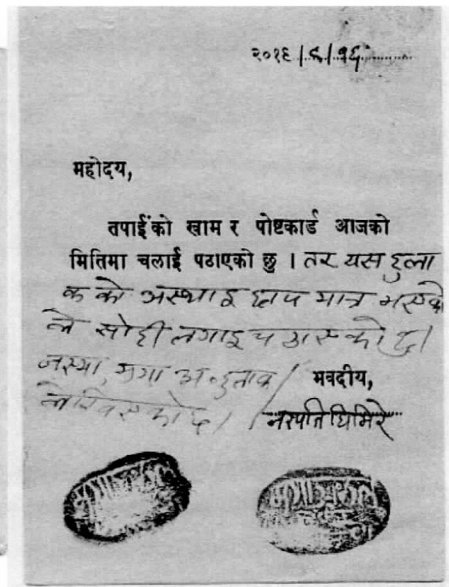
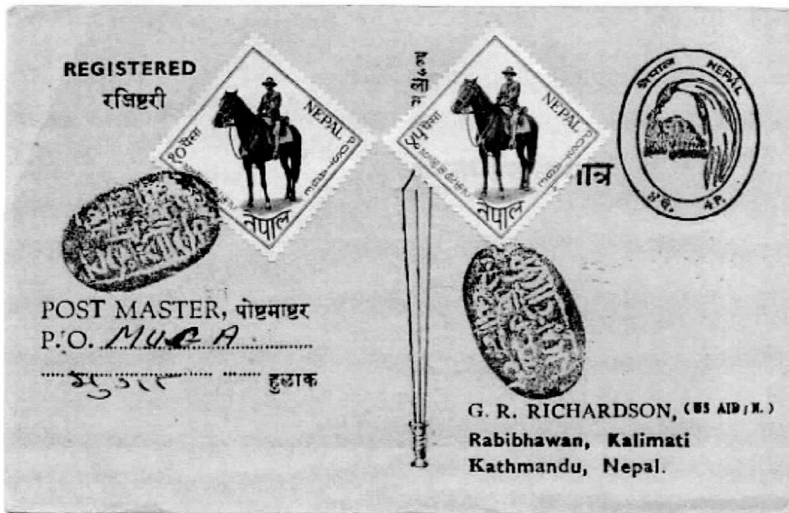
He also had someone who was travelling in Nepal, to send mail to him, as can be seen by the above envelope and the enclosed handwritten letter.



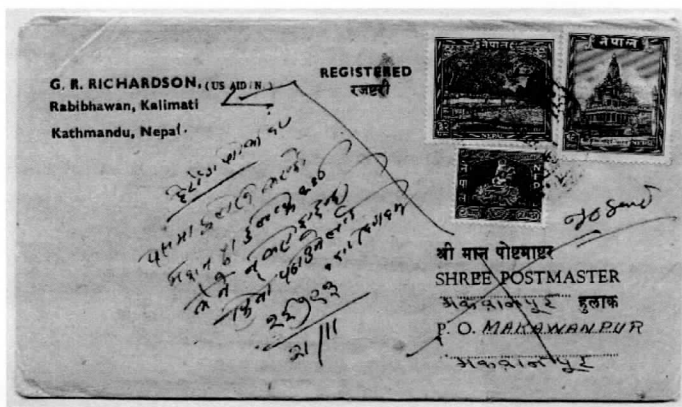
Another method he used was to send reply cards to the postmaster which he again registered.

Inside of this reply card he enclosed a postcard with the edges of the reply card being taped at the ends.

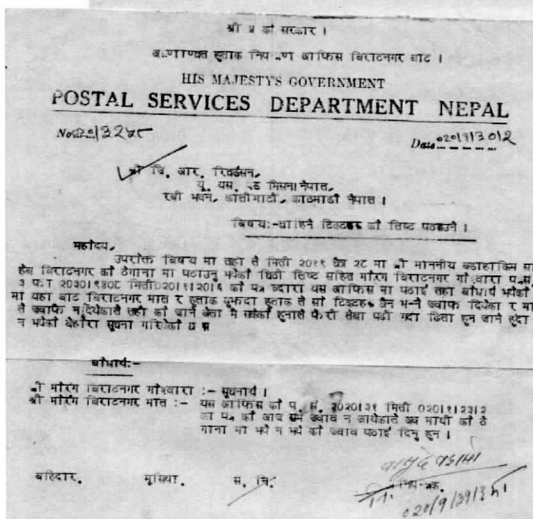
The card illustrated was sent to the Muga post office.



The postcard enclosed in the reply card sent to Richardson with a fine postal seal of the Muga Post Office. Later bilingual postmarks have the name of the post office as Mugu. This seal I had not seen before and is therefore not recorded in my 'Modern Postmarks' book.



Apparently not all of his envelopes indicated that they should be opened on the left side, as can be seen from the one sent to Makawanpur P.O. This has been returned unopened with its contents.



Some envelopes were returned with enclosures from the post office as illustrated by the letter and envelope above.

Rainer Fuch authors Tibet Review reported by Alan Warren

Michel, the well known German publisher of worldwide stamp catalogs, offers a series of short reviews during the year known as "Rundschau." These German language booklets provide collectors with summaries in a variety of philatelic specialties. The first such review released by Michel in 2012 was written by Nepal and Tibet Study Circle webmaster Rainer Fuchs, and is entitled *100 Jahre Briefmarken von Tibet* (100 Years of Stamps of Tibet).

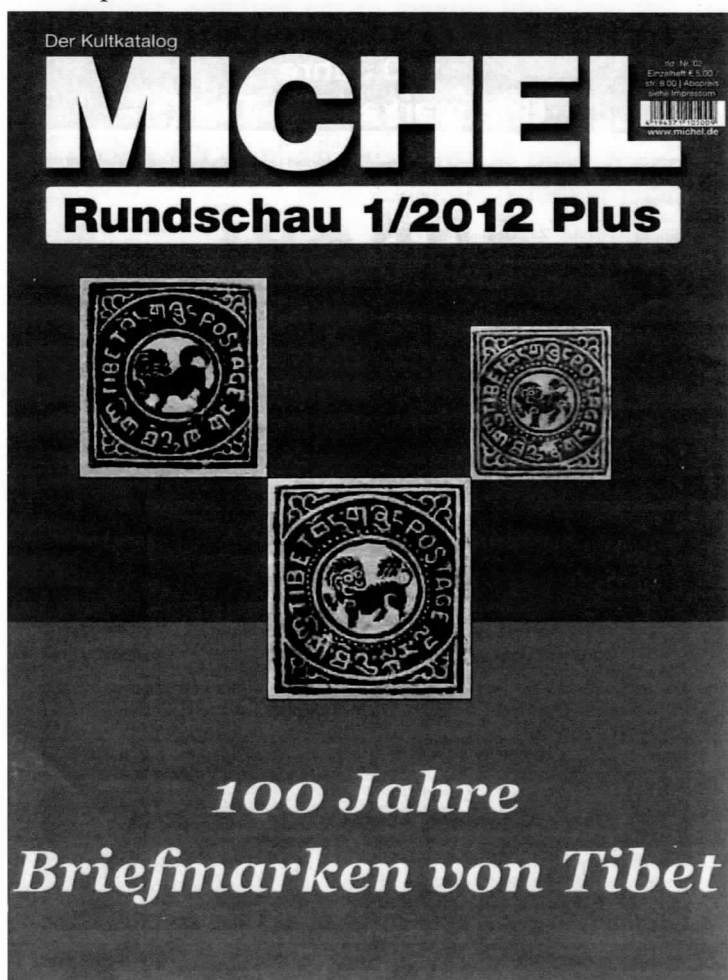
The first native issue of Tibet was the 1912 series of five values that was later discovered to actually consist of six different denominations. In this anniversary booklet, Fuchs describes the origin of the design of the First Issue and the initial essays prepared by Waterlow & Sons. The Tibetan government eventually decided to use a similar design but to produce the stamps domestically. Fuchs lists the stamp values and indicates the number of different colors identified with each stamp.

He also mentions the early attempts to perforate the imperforate sheets and the great varieties in appearance due to the differences in papers and inks used to prepare short print runs of the stamps. Fuchs points out that recent discoveries indicate that the 1-sang value (6 2/3 trankas) that appeared

in the early 1950s was contemplated and designed along with the originally released five other values. Two of the values were also officially reprinted in 1950 for use as gifts when a Tibet trade commission visited New York.

Other subjects that Fuchs describes briefly include the Second and Third issues and the counterfeits that abound including use on covers. The official and telegraph stamps are mentioned in passing with a promise to provide another article on these items in the future. The author intended this booklet to serve as an introduction to Tibet collecting for other philatelists. He mentions several overseas societies that have published articles on Tibet stamps and postal history as well as our study circle's Journal *Postal Himal* and our website that Rainer Fuchs hosts for us.

His booklet concludes with a brief bibliography of some of the literature sources that collectors can refer to for more details on Tibet philately.



[A copy of the article can be obtained from Rainier at Am Burkardstuhl 33, 97267 Himmelstadt, GERMANY. Please send €5,00 or \$7.00 to cover printing and postage (banknotes should be alright). If you wish to use PayPal, please contact Rainier at rainer@fuchs-online.com for details. - ed.]

Thinleygang CMO: the most beautifully decorated Mail Office of Bhutan by Leo Van der Velden

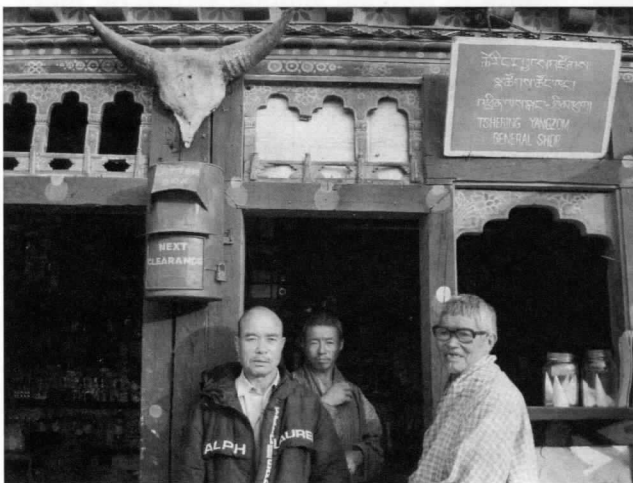
Thinleygang is a group of shops and houses and a school along the Thimphu - Wangdue stretch of the lateral highway connecting the west and east of the country. Thinleygang is some 50 km from the national capital, Thimphu, and 20 km from the district's capital of Wangdue. The right part of the ground floor of a large, traditionally built Bhutanese house gives space to a small bar and restaurant cum general shop ("Tshering Yangzom General Shop") cum Community Mail Office (CMO) owned by Mr. Nima Dorji and his wife. He is the postal agent since 2004. The status of the CMO is reinforced by a nicely red painted letterbox defiantly hanging outside next to the entrance of his shop.

The letter box is more or less the only thing which really makes this CMO a CMO, as Thinleygang has no longer a separate seal. All their mail is cancelled at Punakha PO to whom Mr. Nima Dorji reports since 1 January 2009. Before that date Thinleygang fell under

Wangdi PO. Mr. Dorji sells some postage and legal stamps and pays out incoming MOs, which arrive from other post offices or agents in a sealed envelope together with the relevant cash. Two times per week he dispatches or receives mail to and from Punakha PO through the bus company which has been given the mail contract. Depending on the school holidays, some 20 to 60 letters are dispatched per week, while incoming mail is 20 to 100 items per week.

The only remarkable fact of the CMO are the paintings on the house it is located in: a huge phallus is painted in bright colors both at the left and right corners of the building, fending off evil forces and generating fertility in the fields and prosperity in business. Moreover, at the left side, a beautifully painted celestial Snow Lion is on guard, while at the right a tiger is shown hunting a deer.

Indeed, the most beautifully decorated CMO in Bhutan.



The Postal Agent of Thinleygang CMO (bald man at left)



Wall decoration at Thinleygang CMO

**Letters to the Editor
from Ajit Shah**

9th June 2012

To,
The Editor
Postal Himal

Re: Apology

Dear Sir,

I had offered to sell the following items to various members of NTPSC which I later learned to have been forged items.

1. 2nd Issue Post Card - 4 units
2. 3rd Issue post Card - 2 units
3. 4 paisa envelope - 15 units
4. 8 paisa envelope - 15 units

I had purchased these items in good faith from Dr. Ramesh Shrestha (Life Member of Nepal Philatelic Society, membership no, 471). I had paid a good price for the same sincerely believing them to be genuine materials. However, after I offered the same for sale to the members of NTPSC, I was totally shocked to learn that those materials were not genuine articles and were forged with dishonest intentions. I am currently seeking legal advice and I have requested Nepal Philatelic Society to take prompt action against the perpetrator. I believe this will be done soon.

Meanwhile, through this forum, I would like to offer sincere apologies to all the members of NTPSC who were distressed by my inadvertent offer of forged items. I would once again like to reiterate that I offered those items for sale sincerely believing, in good faith, that they were genuine materials. I am looking forward to this being published in the upcoming issue of *Postal Himal*.

Sincerely,

Ajit Shah

Best regards.

[the editor has not verified the statements presented as facts in the above letter nor has he had any contact with Dr. Ramesh Shrestha to obtain his views on the statements made by Mr. Ajit Shah. If Dr. Shrestha wishes to supply a rebuttal, the editor would be glad to receive his statements. Mr. Shah also enclosed a copy of a letter which he sent to the V.C. of Tribhuvan University alleging forgery against Dr. Shrestha - ed.]

News from Kathmandu by Surendra Lal Shrestha

[Mr. Shrestha has sent the following article from *The Kathmandu Post*. It was written by Samik Kharel and is from the edition of July 4, 2012. Mr. Shrestha has also sent the Philatelic Programme for 2012 - ed.]

In today's digitized world, postage stamps keep post office going

With the exponential rise in the development and use of modern information technology, older methods of communication are poised on the brink of extinction. Ease of access to phones, the internet and email has largely eclipsed the postal service and its trademark postage stamps.

Nowadays, stamps are used mostly by the small number of people who still use the postal service and for government purposes. However, stamp collecting remains a serious hobby for many and it is through their and the government's attempts that the stamp legacy still survives in Nepal.

Although the last few years have seen a drastic decline in the use of postal mail, the government has been steadily issuing stamps. Data from the Department of Postal Services (DoPS) shows that a total of 288 different stamps were issued in the last ten years, averaging 28 new issues a year. Till date, the government has issued 1001 different stamps.

It is the government's resilience in constantly issuing new stamps that has kept them alive, explained Niranjana Rijal, Assistant Secretary at DoPS.

"Although we print 25-30 new stamps every year, we also reprint old and rare ones with historical and cultural significance. Stamps never expire or get outdated so we stockpile them for later use" said Rijal.

"Recently popular stamps include those of Girija Prasad Koirala, Gajendra Narayan Singh, Ramesh Mahato and stamps of natural beauty and biodiversity. Cheaper stamps tend to be more popular with customers, so we print more stamps with lower denominations."

Making stamps is an art for Mohan Narsingh Rana, who has been designing stamps since 1978.

"Although the stamps look very simple, it is difficult to finalize the proper design. We come up with many dummies of a single design before finalizing it. A minimum of five hectic days is required for a single design" said Rana.

Every year, suggestions for stamp themes are collected from various private and governmental sectors on various categories, including themes of cultural and national importance. Experts select 25-30 different themes from the suggestions and forward them to the Ministry of Information and Communication (MoIC) which then directs them to be printed as official stamps. One to two million copies of each stamp are printed in Latvia. This printing contract is acquired by a global tender.

These stamps, representing the culture and people of the country, are avidly pursued by stamp collectors.

Toya Bahadur Dhakwa, an avid stamp collector and founder of the Nepal Philatelic Society, claims that stamps will never be extinct as they carry the burden of representing the nation.

"Stamps are ambassadors from a country. They have always been symbols of national identity. We are mistaken in considering stamps just a general medium of communication. They are representations of art, culture and the people" said Dhakwa.

Dhakwa started collecting stamps when his father gave him a stamp album from the Bombay Philatelic Company for his eighth birthday. Young Dhakwa's fascination with stamps and the post made him many friends from across the globe.

"I was fascinated with stamps and the post as I

could correspond with people anywhere in the world. With this hobby, I made many friends from across the world by exchanging stamps” said Dhakwa.

The 73-year old stamp collector is of the opinion that children should be encouraged in stamp collecting as a hobby as it is apt to make them more sensitive. He also thinks that the government should make stamps using local material as they are national representations.

The history of Nepali stamps began in April 1881, three years after the first post office was

established in the country. Three sets of stamps were issued priced at one, two and four anna. These stamps were used until 1907 when they were replaced by Pashupati designs using smaller paper stock. Initially, these stamps were printed in Britain and later reprinted in Nepal using Nepali paper.

Before this, unofficial postal services operated by the East India Company were used by kings and aristocrats. Nepal only became a member of the United [sic] Postal Union in 1956.

Philatelic Program - 2012				
S.N.	Subject	Remarks	Month	Rate
1.	50th Anniversary of National News Agency		February	Rs. 10/-
2.	Ascent of Mt. Everest	By Civil Servant	May	Rs. 10/-
3.	Blindness Prevention Campaign		May	Rs. 10/-
4.	Biodiversity Series		May/June	Rs. 10/-
5.	Personality Series:-		June/July	
	a) Krishna Pd. Bhattarai	Politician		Rs. 10/-
	b) Khagendra Bdr. Basnet	Social Worker		
	c) Basudev Luitel	Litreature		
	d) Melwa Devi	Singer		
	e) Ali Miya	Folk Singer		
	f) Kishor Narsing Rana & Kumar Narsing Rana	Architect Engineer		
	g) Mahaasthabir Bhikshu Sudershan	Buddhist		
	h) Rajman Singh Chitrakar	Artist		
	i) Dr. Ram Nivas Pandey	Educator		
	j) Pt. Ramakant Jha	Litreature		
	k) Bhuvaneshwor Patheya	Litreature		
6.	Lumbini Year	Lord Buddha	July/Aug.	Rs. 10/-
7.	(a) Joint Issue of Nepal-Israel diplomatic relation	Highest point on earth lowest point on earth	September	Rs. 35/-
	(b) Souvenir sheet			Rs. 50/-
8.	Year of elder person		September	Rs. 5/-
9.	Bird Series		September	Rs. 10/-
10.	50th Anniversary of APPU		Aug./Sep.	Rs. 25/-
11.	First Public Transport		Aug./Sep.	Rs. 10/-
12.	Museum Series:-		September	
	a) National Museum	Chhauni, Kathmandu		Rs. 10/-
	b) Patan Museum	Lalitpur		Rs. 10/-
	c) Bhaktapur Museum	Bhaktapur		Rs. 10/-
	d) International Mountaineering Museum	Kaski		Rs. 10/-
	e) B.P. Memorial Museum	Sundarjal, Kathmandu		
13.	Religious/Historical Places:-		September	
	a) Rajdevi Temple	Saptari		Rs. 2/-
	b) Sahadhara Jatra	Dolkha		Rs. 1/-
	c) Jame (Masjid) Mosque	Kathmandu		Rs. 5/-
	d) Salhaes Sthan	Siraha		Rs. 5/-
14.	Sports:-		October/November	
	a) Elephant Football			Rs. 25/-
	b) Bunjy Jumping			Rs. 25/-
15.	Visit Nepal Series:-		November/December	
	a) Lomangthang Palace	Mustang		Rs. 5/-
	b) Pangboche Monastery	Solukhumbu		Rs. 2/-
	c) Traditional Ivory Window	Sundanchowk, Lalitpur		Rs. 5/-
	d) Mountains			Rs. 5/-
	e) Salpa Pokhari	Bhojpur		Rs. 1/-
16.	World Aids Day		December	Rs. 5/-
17.	Nepal Shiksha Parishad		December	Rs. 5/-

Michel Peissel, Tibet Explorer from Alan Warren

Marlise Simons wrote in the October 16, 2011 issue of *The New York Times* that the noted explorer and author Michel Peissel died in Paris October 7 at his home. He was 74. Peissel was educated in England and France, and obtained a doctorate in ethnology from the Sorbonne. He authored a dozen books and produced or directed nearly two dozen documentary films about his explorations and adventures, many of them to remote areas of Tibet. His books and films were largely based on his 30 expeditions to Tibet and the Himalayas.

Peissel was also an accomplished photographer and artist, and recorded many scenes of Tibet with line drawings and watercolors. He explored areas of the Tibetan high plateau as well as Ladakh and Zanskar, and he obtained permission to cross Bhutan. He decried the destruction of Tibetan monasteries and was openly critical of the Chinese. Peissel spoke fluent Tibetan and often associated with Tibetan natives to learn about their culture.

Press Release from the Royal Philatelic Society London
forwarded by Colin Hepper FRPSL

Philatelic Research now much easier

The launch of the Global Philatelic Library website (www.globalphilateliclibrary.org), a centralised information gateway to the world's greatest philatelic research, has been announced by the founding partners, including The Royal Philatelic Society London, The National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC, and The American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa.

It was 125 years ago that an idea for a Joint Index of Philatelic Literature was put forward, but on February 15, 1888 the President of the American Philatelic Association, John K. Tiffany, wrote to Edward Denny Bacon, Secretary of the (now 'Royal') Philatelic Society London, stating, '... I consider the project as utterly impossible of any practical execution ...': the project has become a reality.

This ambitious project has happened thanks to the inspiration and dedication of the founding partners. The website establishes a single destination – a responsive centralised gateway – by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries instantly, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, are now instantly available, providing invaluable resources for those undertaking philatelic research. It provides:

- * A world-class collection of printed, electronic and other media;
- * Access and support for beginners, hobbyists, specialists, writers and postal historians;
- * International collaboration and co-operation with philatelic libraries and museums around the world;
- * An Anthology of fascinating, informative and sometimes even scandalous articles written throughout the past century about philately and some of the people involved in its history.

'A large part of the philatelic information I have acquired was discovered incidentally while searching for something else,' said Thomas Lera, Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum. 'I hope other philatelists, scholars and researchers will push open the doors of the new global philatelic library to find the answers to their questions and uncover new ones in the process as well.'

Other contributing philatelic research libraries include the National Philatelic Society (UK), The Collectors Club in New York (USA), Greene Foundation (Canada), Oslo Filatelistklubb Bibliotek (Norway), Philatelistische Bibliothek Hamburg (Germany), Postal History Foundation (USA), Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (US) and Western Philatelic Library (USA).

The Chairman of the FIP Literature Commission, Tony Virvilis, added, 'The Global Philatelic Library is an excellent idea which I fully support.'

The Royal Philatelic Society London is proud to be playing such an active and vital role in this initiative, its own library being the most significant and comprehensive in the world. The full range of services available from the Society can be seen by visiting www.rpsl.org.uk.

01 June 2012