

Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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TEN RUPEES

दश रुपैया

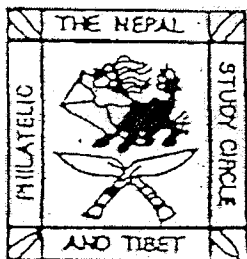


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Officer's Corner

Since my last contribution to "Officer's Corner" I have been to Nepal and spent Christmas in Egypt by the Red Sea. In Nepal the Kathmandu traffic is as chaotic as ever with what seems to be hundreds of motor cyclist mingling with the pedestrians and the Thamel area crowded with tourists in the evenings. Pokhara is very similar with streets crowded with traffic, but once you are away from the main cities and into the countryside things seem to have changed very little and in my opinion it

is a much more pleasant place to be.

During my time in Kathmandu I had the pleasure of visiting the home of Mr. C. Tulsayan who I have known since the late 1970's when he was a full time stamp dealer.

So apart from a couple of excursions to Spain at the end of February and Lanzarote at Easter I am looking forward to the WESTPEX meeting at the end of April. It is always an excellent show and gives me the opportunity to meet some of our members and Society Officers.

Editor's Ramblings

We welcome two authors new to *Postal Himal* this month, Brian G. Vincent (page 2) and Ed Boers (page 3).

What a difference a year makes. Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Single Frame Grand Award plus Gold plus The American Philatelic Society Research Medal for his exhibit "Shahpura - A Newly Discovered Stamp Issuing Indian Princely State" at the 2011 APS AmeriStamp Expo, Charleston, SC [146:12], while the exact same exhibit was awarded Vermeil at the 2012 APS StampShow in Sacramento (see below). While every judge sees each exhibit with his own eyes, it would seem that an exhibit which wins Gold plus the Grand plus an APS award at one APS show should do better than Vermeil at another APS

show. While all judges are not experts on every area of philately, there should be a sufficient number of knowledgeable judges for each entry made at any national show. Any comments?

It will shortly be time for WESTPEX - always an outstanding show with a goodly number of dealers to help one get rid of excess money. And just a little over 3 years before NY2016 the once-in-a-decade FIP sponsored international show. Make plans to attend.

A very varied issue of *Postal Himal* - articles on Sikkim, Tibet, Nepal, Mountain Expeditions, a possible new postmark, Himalayan Airmails, a remarkable cover and a mysterious mark from Tibet. A lot of good information and I hope that you enjoy all of it.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Vermeil for his exhibit "Shahpura - A Newly Discovered Stamp Issuing Indian Princely State" at the 2012 APS StampShow, Sacramento, CA

Sandeep Jaiswal as part of the India Study Circle team which won first place in the Team Competition at APS AmeriStamp Expo Louisville, KY

Paul C. Hager was awarded Gold for his exhibit "The Pashupati Era of Nepal" at AmeriStamp Expo, Louisville, KY

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Gold plus the Reserve Grand Award plus the India Study Circle Award for his exhibit "Indian Postal Stationery for the Boxer Rebellion" at AmeriStamp Expo, Louisville, KY

UPCOMING

WESTPEX 2013 April 26-28, San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel. NTPSC meeting 11:00 am, Sunday, 28 April 2013, Room 6096

NY 2016 Javits Convention Center 28 May - 04 June 2016

SIKKIM - The Stamp Papers by Brian G. Vincent

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamped_paper) “Stamped Paper” refers to a piece of paper (often foolscap) which bears a pre-printed revenue stamp. The paper is used to collect taxes on court and other documents such as leases and agreements. It seems that this use represents an effective way of collecting these taxes.

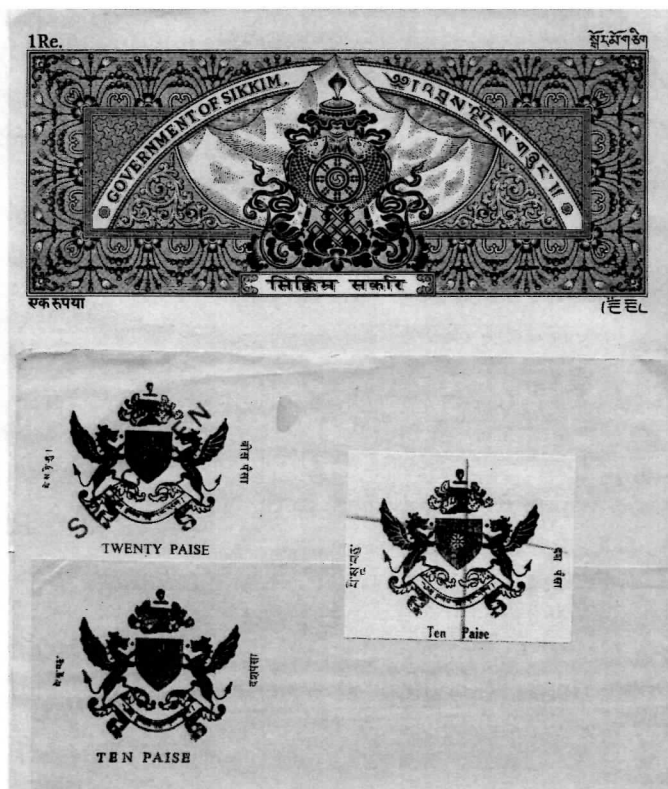
The book “*Indian Government Fiscal and Judicial Stamps & Stamp Papers, including Provincial & Provisional issues, Vol. 2*” by S M Blatt and A M Mollah (published in 2008) lists four stamp papers issued for use in Sikkim. They are of the following denominations – 25p, 1R, 5R and 10R.

When I was visiting Sikkim in 2010, I purchased a 10R stamp paper from a shop in Gangtok. Since then I have acquired three other complete papers and one piece. These add to

the listing in Blatt and Mollah. The items in my small collection are –

1. 10 paise – with “Ten Paise” in sentence case (This is a piece only)
2. 10 paise – with “TEN PAISE” in upper case letters (unused)
3. 20 paise – overprinted “Specimen” in red ink – lettering in upper case.
4. 1R – dark blue shade header (as illustrated in Blatt and Mollah)
5. 10R – light blue shade header.

The 10R paper purchased at Gangtok has a security strip running vertically through the paper. All five items are illustrated here. These stamp papers may have been discussed in an earlier “Postal Himal” however I would very much appreciate learning more information about them (including dates of use) and about any others that have been issued.



Item 4 (top), Item 3 (left top), Item 2 (left bottom), Item 1 (right)



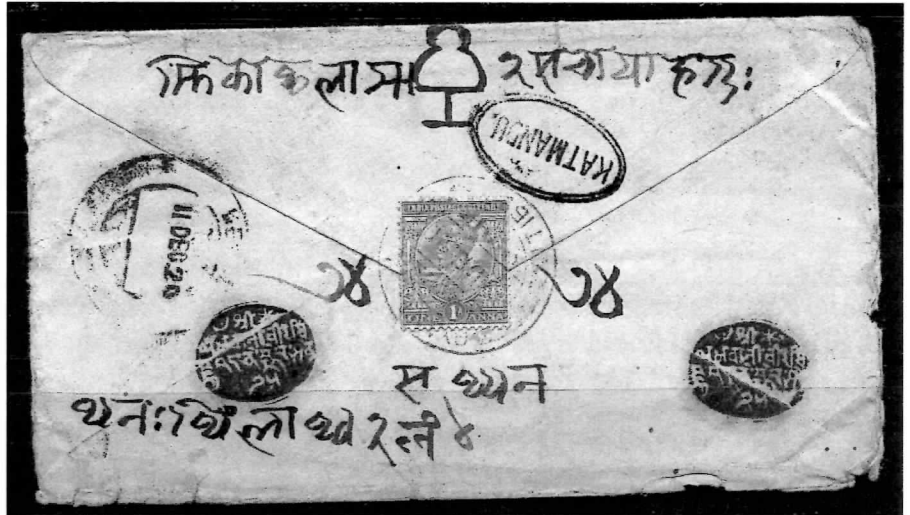
Item 5

[members who have any information may send it directly to Brian either via email: bgvincent@xtra.co.nz or via postal mail to: PO Box 1321, Wellington 6140, New Zealand or to the editor (address on inside front cover) -ed.]

Some New Postal Historical Facts of Tibet by Ed Boers

During the last 40 years I built up a collection of Tibet postal history with great pleasure. It contains some covers that might be of interest to the members who collect Tibet. They might add some new facts to what is already known up to now. I have described them the best way that I can. If you have any comments or information to add, it will be most welcome.

Earliest date of cancel type B-4?



This cover was sent from Gyantse to Kathmandu and has been in my collection for years. It shows a very clear cancel type B-4 dated Dec 3, 1920. Waterfall states that this cancel is seen from 1921 on. This cover comes from the same correspondence that was found in the collection of Bibbins. One of these covers was offered by G. Flack in 1999¹. However I did not find any cover showing a date with the year 1920, surely not before the 3rd of DEC 1920. This might be the earliest known usage of cancel type B-4. Can anybody report an earlier use of this cancel?

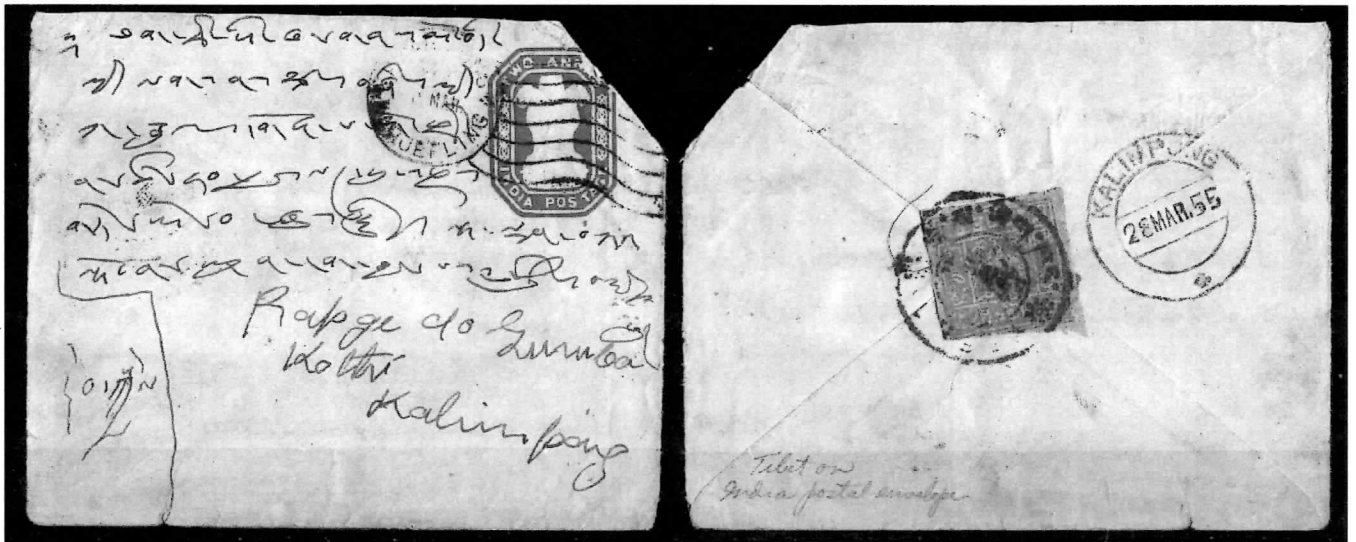
Latest use of Pharijong?

This registered cover was sent from Lhasa to Kalimpong. It was correctly franked with a 4 trangka stamp, tied by a Lhasa cancel type VIII. It was printed on the brownish silky paper that was used for the final printings of the 4 trangka. At Pharijong it was handed over to the British-Indian PO and was tied by the 7 wave Pharijong cancel, Waterfall type B-9². The date is unclear as is often the case with this cancel. Only the month MARCH is visible. Most of the B-9 cancels never show a year figure, as is also the case with this one. The letter arrived at Kalimpong on March 28, 1955. A very clear cancel has been applied.

I have checked several similar covers in my collection that followed the same route in 1955 and the covers among them that show a clear date show a 4 day trip between Pharijong and Kalimpong. If we deduct 4 days from the date of the Kalimpong cancel, it might have been sent from Pharijong on March 24.

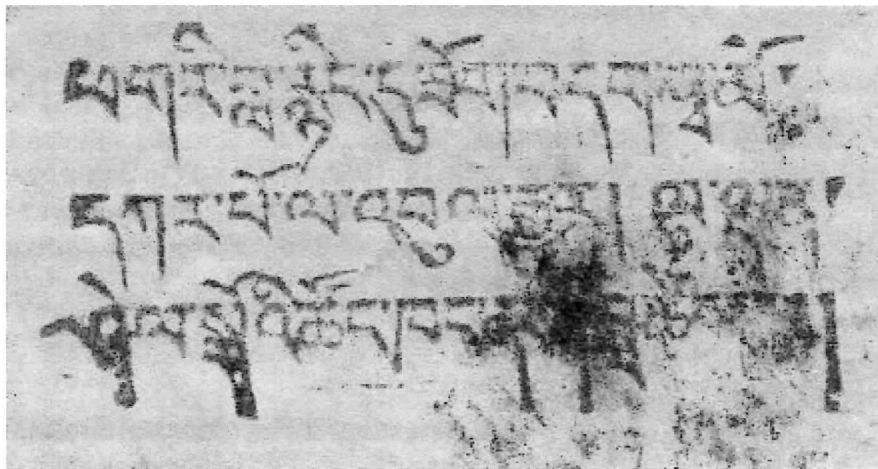
Hellrigl states that this cancel can be found till the end of January. Indeed, I have a nice one in my collection clearly cancelled Jan. 13, 1955. In October 1999, G. Flack offered a cover with a date of March 12, 1955³.

The latest known date of the B-9 type is one of March 25 in YATUNG (ex. Bibbins). The Indian offices were officially closed on April 11, 1955. As to what I have seen, this cover might be the latest use in Pharijong that has been reported up to now. Has anyone seen a later use of Pharijong?



Unknown Directional Postmark

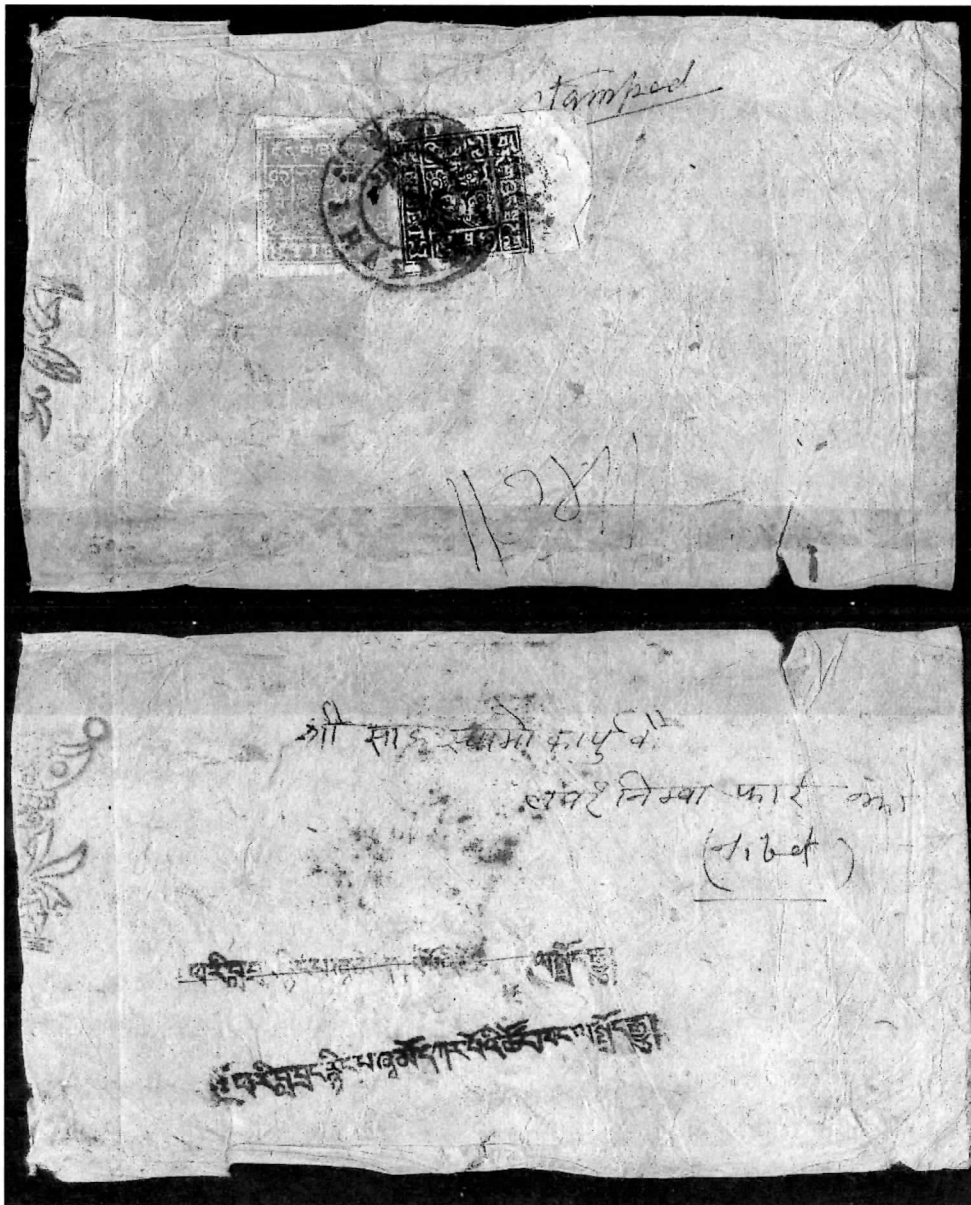
Hellrigl lists 17 directional postmarks in his handbook. This directional postmark looks very much like type B-4 (Lhasa to Gyantse). A closed look however shows that it is another. Has anyone seen another? There should be more!



A cover with a story

This is a trader's cover with a scarce directional postmark. First of all it is an example of postal fraud. A blue 2/3 trangka stamp was affixed next to a 1 trangka stamp. The denomination of '1' was hidden by an ink spot to make it look like a 2 trangka value. In the 1950's, the last years of the use of the 1933 issue, the colours of the 1 trangka and the 2 trangka were very similar as the shades that were used to print these values were made by hand and it was always difficult to approach the original colour. It is believed that the postal rate of 2 + 2/3 trangka was used for non-registered mail in the early 1950's. A directional postmark was tied underneath in violet. It was applied twice. The only explanation was that the upper one was too faint, so a second one was applied. This cancel is not mentioned by Hellrigl. The translation of the cancel says 'Lhasa to Shigatse'. A similar directional postmark was on a cover in the collection of D. Bates and offered by G. Flack in 2004⁴. I have not seen another copy since. Can anyone report a third copy?

If you have any additions or new information it would be most welcome.



¹ No. K75 of G. Flack's pricelist, Oct. 1999

² Hellrigl type B-18

³ No. K88 of G. Flack's pricelist, Oct. 1999

⁴ No. L118 of G. Flack's pricelist, Jan. 2000

[This article first appeared in *The China Clipper*, the Journal of the China Stamp Society in Volume 77 Number 1, November 2012. The editor thanks them for permission to reprint it. Mr. Boers can be reached by postal mail at Ed Boers, Nassau Zuilensteinstraat 7, 2596CA Den Haag, The Netherlands or by email at edboers@casama.nl. - ed.]

A Visit to Kathmandu by Colin Hepper FRPSL

At the end of November Frank Vignola and I were to visit Nepal, but unfortunately Frank became ill and could not travel, so I organised a full itinerary with a local travel company to explore Kathmandu and some of the outlying areas with a guide and taxi driver.

Many of the areas I had seen before, but this time a very knowledgeable guide gave very detailed information on the many temples we visited. Kathmandu itself was just as chaotic as ever with pedestrians, motor cyclists and cars all occupying the sometimes narrow streets at the same time. I think that my guide did find it a little strange that this Englishman was more interested in visiting post offices than the many temples they have.

Kathmandu G.P.O. was the first to be visited and I joined the queue to post some letters. The system I found out was the same at any other office I visited. You give the letters in to be weighed and the postal clerk (usually a woman) tells you the price and places the loose stamps on each envelope and returns them to you. After placing the stamps on the envelope you then had to take them to another counter to be cancelled.



Kathmandu G.P.O.
General counter for posting letters

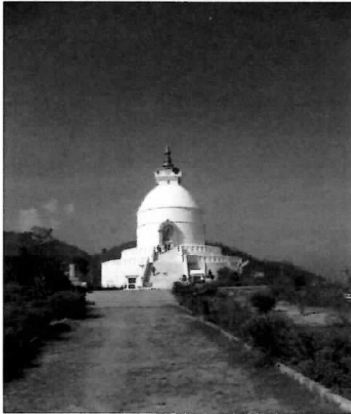


Kathmandu G.P.O.
Counter for handling parcels

Another fifteen minutes walk to Durbar Square where the Basantapur Post Office is situated, with its small post box on the wall and a large open grill in the wall. Beside this, along the wall, an enterprising vendor has set up two large boards containing postcards etc. making it very convenient to post them.



Basantapur Post Office



The World Peace Stupa

The next day I took an internal flight to Pokhara where unfortunately the fine views of the Annapurna range were mainly hidden by cloud. My guide took me to view the World Peace Stupa, the building of which had been shared by a number of nations with the Japanese being the largest contributor. The taxi could reach approximately three quarters of the way up with the remaining quarter being completed by a rather exhausting climb up a concrete stairway.

The next day I took an internal flight to Pokhara, where unfortunately, the fine views of the Annapurna range were mainly hidden by a cloud. My guide took me to view the World Peace Stupa, the building of which had been shared by a number of nations with Japan being the largest contributor. The taxi could reach approximately three quarters of the way up with the remaining quarter being completed by a rather

exhausting climb up a concrete stairway.

I had been to Pokhara on a previous visit and had remained in what they call the Lakeside area and I had assumed that the post office would be somewhere that vicinity. However at my request to visit the post office the guide said it was in the old town, which took the taxi driver some twenty minutes to get there. The old town is almost as busy as Kathmandu but unlike the capital many of the old original houses have been knocked down to make way for new shopping centres.



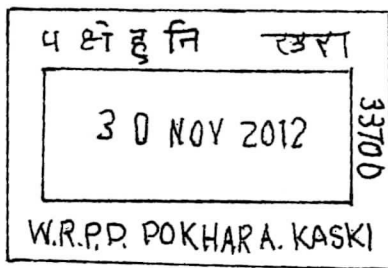
Pokhara Post Office



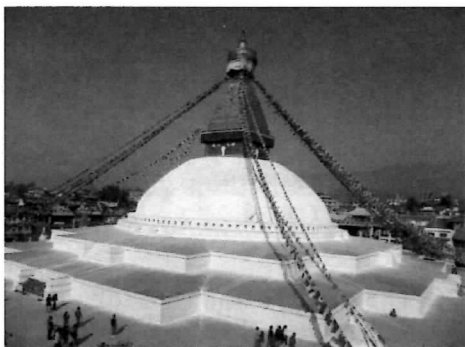
The stamp counter at Pokhara Post office

The post office stands in its own compound with a barbed wire fence running along the top of the wall. Once again a few more letters were posted with the system being the same by purchasing the stamps first and then going to another counter with them to be cancelled.

The mail took eight days to reach the UK and was cancelled with a new type cancellor. Interestingly the letter I posted to Frank Vignola took almost four weeks to reach him.



Some of the old buildings in Pokhara which are now preserved with Mt Machhapuchhre in the background.

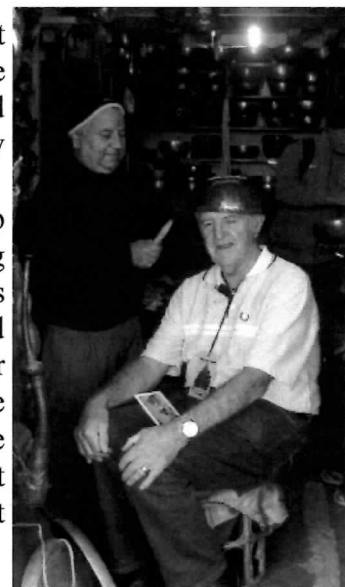


Bodnath Stupa

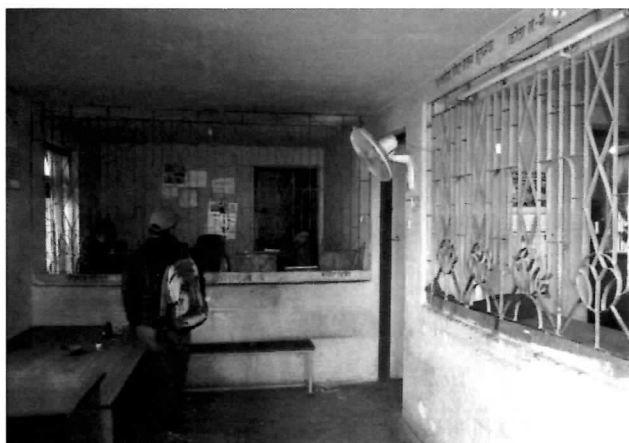
It had been over 30 years since I last visited Bodnath and as with all of the Kathmandu area it had changed considerably to cater for the many tourists that visit there.

I was intrigued by a Tibetan shop that had many types of metal 'singing bowls'. There were some larger bowls that my guide informed me were used for medical purposes. In particular for people that suffer with migraine the

bowl is placed on the head and gentle tapping round the outside of the bowl will drive the pain out of the head and into the body. So I couldn't resist the chance of a demonstration, but not having a headache to start with I have no idea if it works.



A cure for migraine



The stamp counter at Lalitpur Post Office

By the fourth day my guide had cottoned on to the fact that I liked looking at post offices, so on our visit to Patan he actually asked me if I would like to go to the post office. After purchasing some postcards we made our way to the Lalitpur Post Office which stands on the corner of one of the main streets. The cards were duly stamped and cancelled, and took nine days to reach England.

A visit to Kathmandu would not be complete without a visit to 'Filatelica', the shop of Mr. Surendra Lal Surendra who has been our representative in Nepal for many years now. His shop seems to be well stocked of Nepalese items from all areas.

I would also like to thank Mr C. Tulsiyan for his hospitality, where I spent two evenings at his home.



[all photographs were supplied by Colin - ed.]

Saltoro Expedition 1960

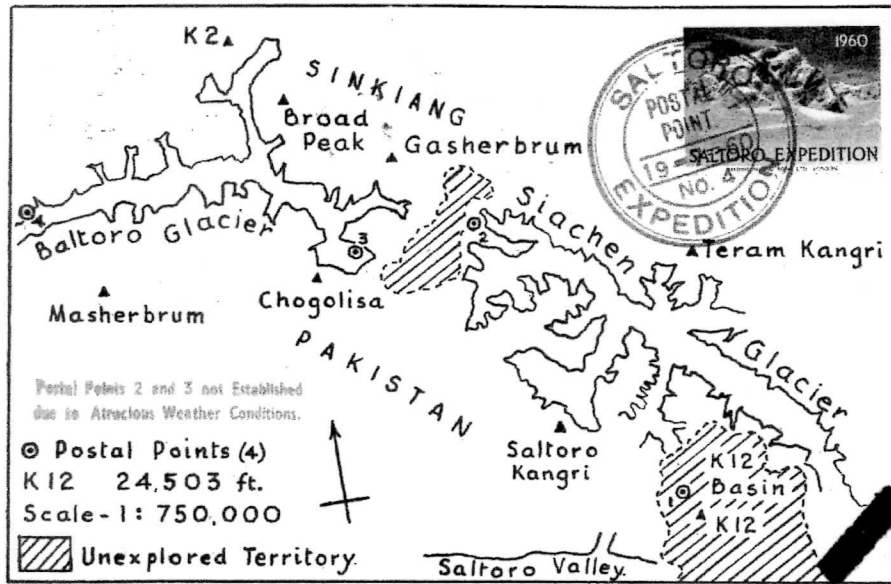
by Thomas W. Weixlmann, Sr.

In 1960, a joint Australian-American-British expedition in the Karakoram Himalayas explored the area around Peak K-12. The designation K-12 means that it is the 12th highest peak in the Karakoram mountain range which is home to more than sixty peaks over 7,000 meters (22,060 ft.). The team members were Dr. Jon Stephenson, Jim Hurley, Keith J. Geller and D. H. Hapfner.

Entering the Great Karakoram Range of Pakistan from the Saltoro Valley, the team established itself in the vicinity of the unclimbed and unexplored K-12. For a period of 4 weeks they surveyed, collected geological specimens and climbed, making some useful exploration of the Chunik and Gyong Glaciers

within the Siachen and Baltoro system.

The illustration is a 1960 postcard from the Saltoro Geological/Survey Expedition with a duplex cancellations. The card has a receiver cancel of 26 Jul. 60 on a Pakistani dark blue Star & Crescent (Scott No. 47) and another delivery cancel of 29 Jul. 60. The card also has a specially printed Saltoro Expedition stamp with cancel, a map and printed signatures of the team members dated July 19, 1960. The distinctive double circle bridge cancellation is stamped in blue ink with Saltoro Expedition between the circles and the date and POSTAL / POINT / NO. 4 within the innermost circle. The Postal Point indicates that it was dispatched by runner from Postal Point 4.

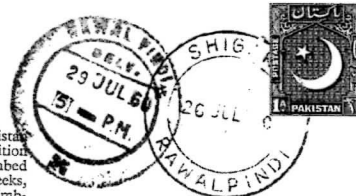


SALTORO EXPEDITION 1960

Entering the Great Karakoram Range of Pakistan from the Saltoro Valley, this international expedition is to establish itself in the vicinity of the unclimbed and unexplored K 12. For a period of 4 weeks, surveying, collecting geological specimens and climbing will be the team programme.

Finally the expedition will attempt to make the first ever traverse of two of the greatest glacial systems in the world. The traverse covers unexplored areas and the sketch map overleaf shows the stages 1 to 4, from where mail is carried by a porter to the nearest valley post office some 80 to 150 miles distance involving a descent sometimes from over 20,000 feet. Finally a postal runner will carry the card to Skardu, a further 80 miles away.

Jon Stephenson *D. Hapfner*
Keith J. Geller *Jim Hurley*



MR. T. WALKER,
MORGAH,
ATTOCK OIL CO.,
RAWALPINDI.

A New Type Kathmandu Postmark? by Colin Hepper FRPSL

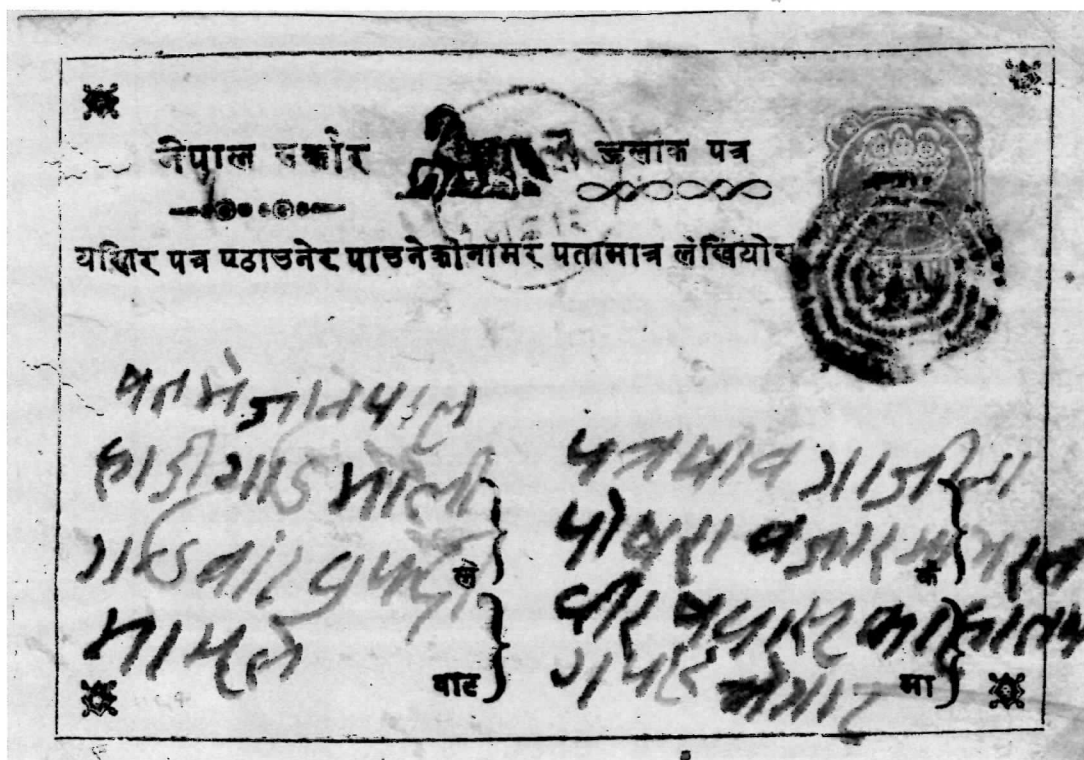
During the winter months our local society has its own members giving displays rather than risk asking speakers to travel from outside the area during possible bad weather conditions. So as part of one of our members evenings I was showing some of my postal stationery collection, when a member pointed out that one of the cancellations was not the same as the one I had illustrated, i.e. the Kathmandu heptagonal cancellation. When I had written up this particular page I had made the assumption that the cancellation was the C70 cancellation without looking very hard at the detail. It is different from the standard postmark we know in that there are circles in the centre instead of the

four ovals but it is not clear what the centre of the design is.

Is it bogus? The card seems to be perfectly genuine as does the Kathmandu date stamp. The only reference I can find that might fit, is that Hellrigl reported that Smythies and Dawson had listed six types not shown by him one of which was described as ..'large treble circle'..

If any members have any theories on this postmark, please send your views to either myself or the editor for publication in a future issue.

[see inside front cover for email address for Colin and the editor - ed.]



New cancellation?



Type C70 cancellation

Himalayan Airmails by Jeffrey Brown

[for Part 1 of this 6-part series, see *Postal Himal* 146:3, Part 2 see *Postal Himal* 151:2, Part 3 see *Postal Himal* 152:4 ed.]

Part 4 Houston Mount Everest Expedition Emergency landing near Kanchenjunga

The problems with the poor quality of photographs from the Survey cameras from the first flight over Everest (on 3 April 1933) meant that a second flight would be necessary and permission from the Nepal Government was requested. Clearly though, it was important that the cameras were tested again and, on 4 April 1933, Air Commodore P F M Fellowes DSO, leader of the Expedition, decided to order another high altitude flight to test them. A flight over Kanchenjunga would give similar conditions without the need for permission from Nepal.

Fellowes in the Westland PV-3 and Flying Officer R C W Ellison in the Westland PV-6 undertook the test flight over Kanchenjunga. They became separated near the summit of the mountain and, when Ellison was about to resume station on the PV-3, Fellowes began to turn to the left. Ellison had to turn away so steeply that he side-slipped for about 2,000 feet. Unable to rejoin his leader, he returned alone. Fellowes, having trouble with his oxygen mask and having to navigate for many miles over low clouds, laid a faulty course. Realising he was lost, he made an emergency landing at Dinajpur, some 60 miles east of Purnea where, short of fuel, he spent the night. He sent a telegram to Lord Clydesdale who arrived with the second plane about three hours later. But, as the supply of fuel was still inadequate, a fresh supply was brought by a third aeroplane. All three aircraft returned safely to Purnea.

The incident was reported in the Indian press:

ADVANCE
Friday, April 7, 1933

EVEREST TRIP

One Down for Petrol Shortage

Dinajpur, Apl. 5.

Two biplanes and one monoplane, all belonging to the Mount Everest Expedition party, landed here, two yesterday and one today.

Lord Clydesdale, who came with one of the planes, when approached for information, said that he was not in a position to do so, as "The Times of London" had the copy-right.

It is, however, reported that Air-Commodore Fellowes went up yesterday at 10 a.m. in one of the test flights, but having lost his way in the clouds had to alight here at 3 p.m. for shortage of petrol. On arriving here, he sent an express telegram to Purnea for supply of petrol, and accordingly Lord Clydesdale arrived with the second plane about three hours later. But the supply of petrol yet proving inadequate, fresh supply was sent for and with this the third plane arrived this morning.

They all left for Purnea this morning.

This incident caused a major problem, as the Expedition's insurers informed them that they regarded the flight over Kanchenjunga as the equivalent of the second Everest flight for which they had contracted to give cover, with the result that the second flight would have to be made in uninsured machines and in contravention of direct orders from the authorities in England.

In all other respect though, the flight was successful and confirmed that the survey cameras were working perfectly.



Cover flown over Kanchenjunga on 4 April, 1933 certified by Air Commodore Fellowes as below

certified that this cover has been
over Kanchenjunga 4/4/33
P. Fellowes

The cover illustrated is one of only two known to have been flown on this flight and is referred to in Fellowes' Obituary published in *The Aero Field* of Aug-Sept 1955:

Air Commodore P. F. M. Fellowes D.S.O. died on June 12th at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa at the age of 71. He will be remembered by collectors chiefly for his leadership of the Huston 1933 Mount Everest Expedition which made the first flight over Everest. He did not actually fly over Everest himself, but on the day after the Marquis of Clydesdale (now Duke of Hamilton) made the first

successful flight, he flew over Mount Kanchenjunga and a cover is known bearing a circular cachet dated Purnea April 5th and certified by him to have been carried on the flight. He was also associated with the Cairo-Baghdad air mail, and from 1924 to 1929 he was in charge of airship development while the two biggest airships Britain ever built, R.100 and R.101, were under design and construction.

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

A Remarkable Nepalese Cover from 1882

by Colin Hepper FRPSL

During my recent visit to Kathmandu, Mr C. Tulsian showed me a quite remarkable cover he has, which unfortunately has been badly damaged. The stamps appear to have been damaged by insects, but Mr Tulsian is of the opinion that they have been damaged by someone trying to remove the stamps from the cover.

issue 1 Anna stamps can be seen (2 have gone completely) and the cover was sent by Kaption (Rank) Kuldhaj Pandey from Khajhani revenue office, which should be near the Indian border close to Taulihawa, to Ditta (senior officer) Bhavdhaj(other details are not clear).

Mr Tulsian said that he believed that there were originally 20x1 Anna stamps on the cover.

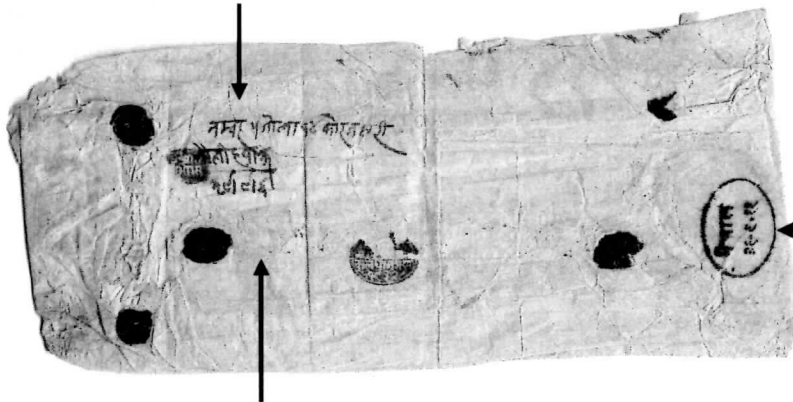
The details of the cover are shown here. 14 first



Front of cover

Senders hand writing shows Rs 11520 (Indian paper notes), No. of Pcs.....

Hand written Registration No. 5, Tola weight 14.



Back of cover

Kathmandu Receiving Pmk.
39-9-11 = 25 December 1882

Taulihawa manuscript date 39/9/6 = 19 December 1882

It does not mention the number of wax seals or the name on the seals. There was a provision for transporting government treasury (silver coins packed in silver boxes). Nepal did not have paper currency so there was no provision for paper currency.

It appears that a high ranking Rana was in need of Indian Currency for his next visit to

India and he found a solution for that.

The mystery still remains as to what were the contents of the cover to warrant such a high weight and postal use.

If anyone has any theories about this cover please write to either myself or the editor.

Mysterious Mark Revealed

by Bo C. Olsson and Wolfgang Scharlipp

This mark has caused some confusion among collectors of Tibetan material. It really looks like one of the registration (wood?) stamps from the period after 1933. The older registration marks are official, but the "modern" are of private nature. Mostly the mark was handwritten instead of stamped after 1933. The reason the mark looks so similar to a "modern" registration mark is probably because both marks have the same manufacturer.

I am not familiar with the very complicated Tibetan script, but manage, as a stamp collector, to recognize important Tibetan text like town names, registered, insured, et cetera. But to translate our mysterious mark my knowledge was not enough, so I consulted a friend, Dr. Wolfgang Scharlipp, who is educated in this complicated language.

Tibetans speak a modern variety of it, but spelling is like it was a thousand year ago. Wolfgang gave me the following answer and translation: The Tibetan looked easy to read and I tried to translate it, but got no sense from it. I can only tell you the meaning of the words, perhaps with your background in Tibetan postal history you have an idea.

sgo means door, board; can also mean by way of...

sngon formerly, before

together with the syllable po it can mean the former one; sngon po can also mean the colour between blue and green

nub, West or anything western, also evening, because that is where the sun goes down

Let us think. It is not a mark for "registration" or "insurance". But covers sometime have either drawn or rubber stamped company marks. This could be the case. If we put it together:

sgo = door

sngon po = blue green

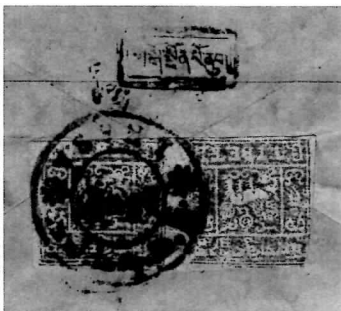
nub = west

I think it likely could be a company mark for the trading company

Blue Door West.

Wolfgang's answer to me was encouraging: Yes Bo, this is the solution. You can be sure.

Many things in Tibetan philately are hidden for us collectors, but if we can get support from academics schooled in the Tibetan language I am sure many secrets can be revealed to us.



The mark, see also the illustrations below left and below right.



The illustration on the bottom left and on the right are courtesy of Rainer Fuchs.



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