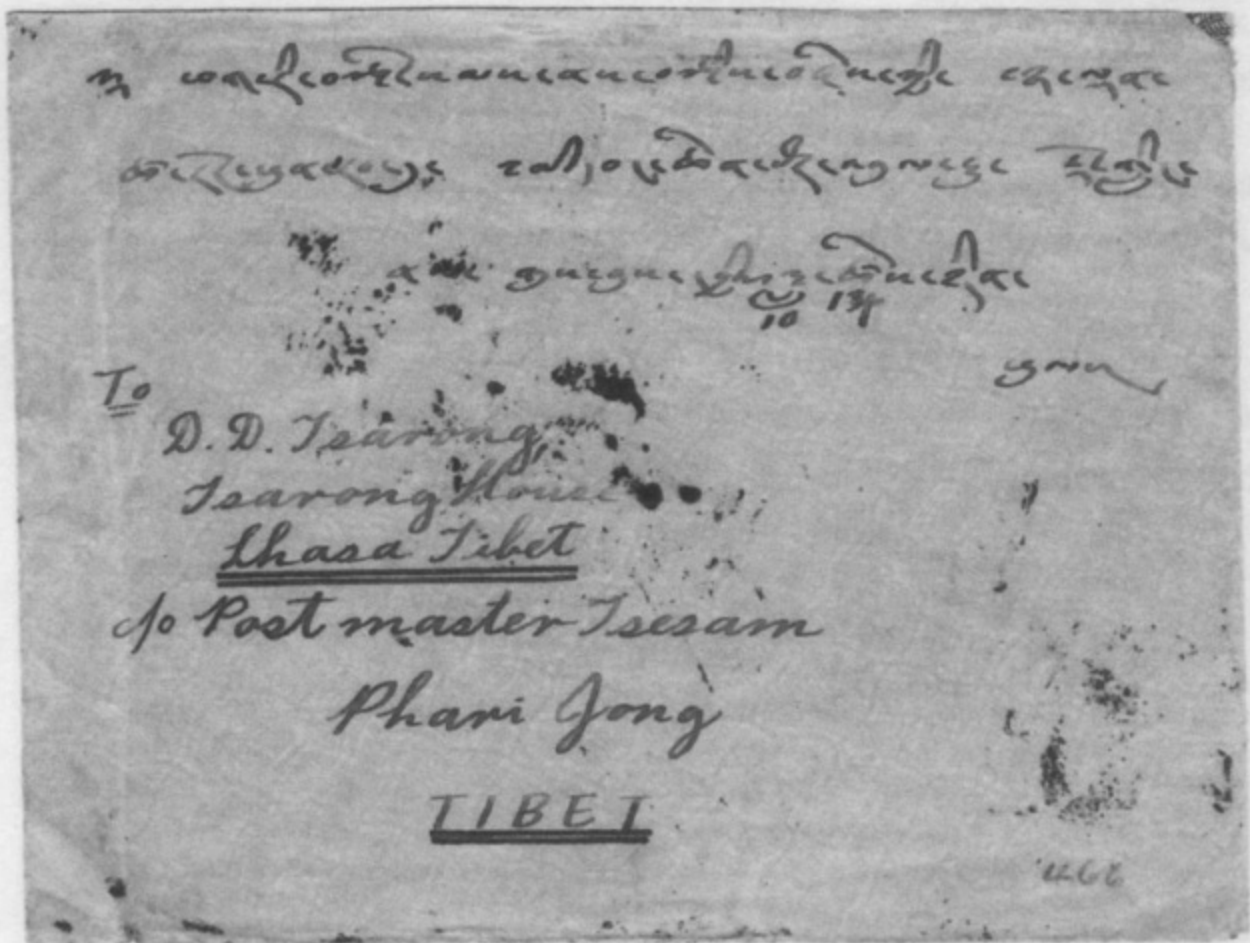


Postal Himal

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.

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| <u>Publishing Schedule:</u> | <u>Issue</u> | <u>Cutoff for Articles</u> | <u>Into Mail</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | 157 | 21 February 2014 | 07 March 2014 |
| | 158 | 23 May 2014 | 06 June 2014 |
| | 159 | 22 August 2014 | 05 September 2014 |
| | 160 | 21 November 2014 | 06 December 2014 |

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Officer's Corner

After almost two years of working for my daughter to refurbish a very tired public house into a modern health/beauty/gymnasium establishment it is now open for business and dad is redundant. So I should now have more time to catch up with my collecting. To this end in September I visited Stampex in London, which I hadn't done for some time and I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of Nepalese material I was able to find with the dealers.

January is almost upon us and a time for collecting subscriptions and for those that are

due the usual reminder will be enclosed with this issue [for non-USA members]. The very fine auction Leo produced this year will help with our bank balance and so subscriptions are remaining the same for next year. However, this is a short term bonus and a more long term solution will be discussed at the next meeting at WESTPEX.

Finally I would like to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and good collecting in the New Year.

Editor's Ramblings

Thanks to Leo and Roger for an absolutely outstanding Mail Sale [see page 9]. There was certainly something for every area that we cover. The Society netted \$1,034.10 and there are still some unsold lots for sale. I think that Leo will have a very hard time outdoing himself with the next Mail Sale. Just to see how the members feel: 1) Would you prefer a Sale of this size every 2 to 3 years or 2) would you prefer smaller Sales (say 1 page in length) more often. Nothing is being cast in stone, but we would like to get some feedback. Colin and my email addresses are on the inside front cover, Leo's is himalayan@att.net and Roger's is rogerskinner96@yahoo.com.

Some of you are probably tired of hearing me remind you to get ready for NY 2016. A point to remember for those of you who would like to enter an exhibit, is that it must be qualified to be exhibited according to FIP rules. A friend of mine wanted to enter a new exhibit that would have meant winning at a national show and then winning at an international

show. He missed a deadline by 2 hours - no exhibit for NY 2016 (and he would probably have been awarded Gold had he made the deadline).

At this time of year please remember those who are not as fortunate as you. If you have any duplicates from whatever country you could make a child of a veteran very happy. There are children's hospitals and burn centers all across the USA and other countries and there are Veteran's Hospitals in all states and equivalent units in many other countries. You enjoy stamp collecting and many children and veterans would be thrilled to have your duplicates. So, why not get an address and make someone whom you have never met very happy.

As for *Postal Himal* I thank all of you who have sent in articles throughout the year. If you haven't yet done so, why not send one for the new year. Anything which is not blatantly religious or political is fine. Don't worry about phrasing it - just get your idea down.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Colin Hepper was awarded Vermeil for his Nepal Postal Stationery exhibit at Stampex 2013 (the United Kingdom's National Exhibition)

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 2014 April 25-27 San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel
NAPEX 2014 June 6 - 8 Hilton McLean Tyson's Corner Hotel
NY 2016 May 28 - June 4 Jacob Javits Convention Center

Himalayan Airmails by Jeffrey Brown

[An article appeared in *India Post* Vol. 47 / No. 188 page 37 regarding the passing of Jeffrey Brown. Jeffrey had sent me 6 articles on Himalayan Airmails: this is the fifth. The final article will appear in the next issue of *Postal Himal*. I am sure that we all join in extending our sympathy to Jeffrey's family. -ed.]

[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, Part 4 see *Postal Himal* 153:11 -ed.]

Part 5 Houston Mount Everest Expedition: Survey Flight on 8 April 1933

The Aero Club of India arranged with Colonel Stewart Blacker, the Chief Observer of the Expedition, for covers to be carried on a survey flight, paying one guinea for each in aid of RAF charities. Stephen Smith travelled to Purnea and handed 87 covers to Air Commodore Fellowes on 7 April. He returned on the afternoon of the following day. The covers are postmarked Purnea 8 APR.33; it is likely therefore that they were flown by Fellowes on the morning of 8 April.

These covers give every appearance of having been flown over Everest. I suspect that there will be readers who own one and who will be disappointed that this is not so. Indeed, I have had extended correspondence with one gentleman who remains unconvinced. However, the facts are clear:

The two flights over Everest were on 3 April and 19 April.

A letter dated 5 April from Col Blacker

to Stephen Smith offered to fly the covers but states that "no guarantee can be given that any cover sent will necessarily be flown over the Mountain".

The Indian Air Mail Society *Bulletin* of May 1933 confirmed that, at a meeting at Darbangha House, Purnea, Blacker requested Stephen Smith "to call the next day at 3pm when the covers would be returned to him". The article continues: "At 3pm on the 8th, the covers were handed to Mr Smith by Air Commodore Fellowes. They were immediately posted at the Purnea P.O. and bear the postmark *Purnea 8 April 33, 5-PM*".

It is clear, in my opinion, that the covers were flown on the morning of 8 April 1933 and therefore cannot have been flown over Everest. They were however flown in one of the Expedition's aircraft and are mementos to be cherished. They are also valuable, as all items related to Mount Everest seem to command a premium.



Cover flown by Air
Commodore Fellowes
on 8 April 1933
Postmarked Purnea 8
APR.33

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Cover flown by Air
Commodore Fellowes
on 8 April 1933
Postmarked Purnea 8
APR.33

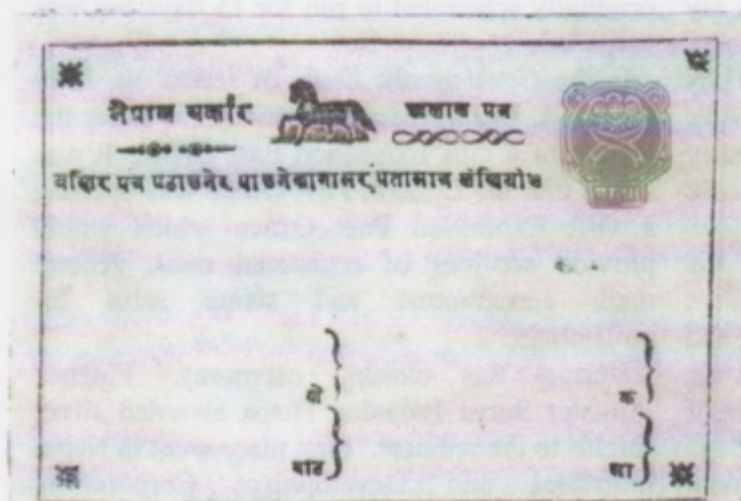
An Unrecorded Postal Stationery Card by Dick van der Wateren

During my last visit to Nepal [PH 152:8] I obtained an unrecorded postal stationery card. At first I was of the opinion that I had the not very rare Wa 5: Vowel on *Sarkar* erect, large text, stamp B, horse 2, six groups of characters. Also the corner ornaments were in the correct position. No differences! However, the stamp shows not 3 discs over the crossed kukris, but only 2 which may have been caused by bad inking. I have found a like condition on other cards. Ergo, a normal Wa 5?

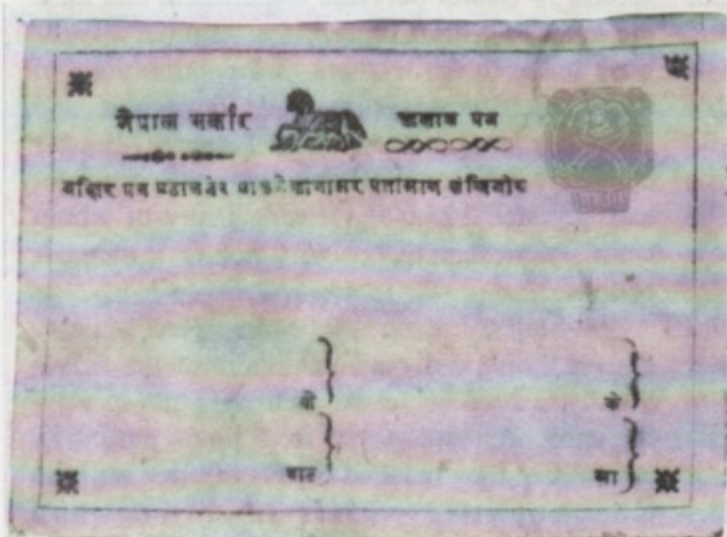
No. By measurement, which was advised by the seller, I found remarkable, though not striking, differences in the size of the card. The normal length of the top frameline is 120 mm. and the bottom one about 119. The lengths on

the present card are 113 and 114 mm. respectively. The left and right framelines are normally 82 mm. but on this card 79 and 81. The large text is 87 mm. on Wa 5 but 82 on the new one. Also the other words and ornaments are a bit smaller as well.

The former owner told me that he had never seen another card like this before. The question is: Do other cards in this new size exist? Another question is what happened at the printers and can this new card be seen as a new printing to be numbered Wa 5b? Please search and measure your postal stationery cards and if you find any which match this new size, please report them to the editor.



Wa 5



Wa 5b?

“Aupaharik” Gift Exhibition Post Office

by Jaya Hari Jha

[The following article was first published in *Philately*, the Journal of the Nepal Philatelic Society in Nepali in the issue Dated 1st January 2013, Vol. No. XXXV, No. 51, page 20 -ed.]

About a year ago while collecting philatelic items, I came across a postal mark from BS 2019 Ashadh 6, 9 and 10 (June 6, 9 and 10, 1962) with an aerogramme denomination of 10 paisa. The aerogramme had a postmark that read “gift exhibition (‘Aupaharik’) post office” and was obtained from Gauri Lal Shrestha. In my philatelic journey of about 36 years, I had never come across an Aupaharik post mark. I was naturally curious to learn more and started to research it. I talked to many persons involved in Nepalese philately and questioned them about the establishment of the Aupaharik post office, but was unable to get any information. In my search, I went one day to the Madan Puraskar Library and explained my quest to them. They were able to supply me with the relevant issues of the *Gorkhapatra Daily* which finally answered my questions regarding the Aupaharik post office.

On the occasion of the 43rd birthday of His Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, the Department of Small Industries of Nepal had organized an exhibition. In that exhibition the participants were His Majesty’s Departments of Agricultural, Forestry, Mining, Health, Village Development, Nepal Industrial Development and the Nepal Postal Administration. The major highlight of the exhibition was gifts and acknowledgement letters provided to His Majesty from China, Pakistan, Outer Mongolia, Japan, Yugoslavia, the USA and other friendly nations while His Majesty was on Royal Visits to those nations. Because such gifts were to be exhibited, the exhibition itself came to be known as the Gift Exhibition.

Production from the Nepal’s small industries and agricultural production were given special importance. A public notice was circulated so that the general public knew about the exhibition. There was wide media coverage of the exhibition along with coverage of His

Majesty’s Birthday celebrations.

The inauguration of the exhibition was done on His Majesty’s 43rd Birthday (Jestha 29, June 11) at 7:17 pm by the Honorable Surya Bahadur Thapa. Other ministers, foreign diplomats and high level dignitaries were also present for the inauguration. After the inauguration, Minister Thapa inspected the exhibition and tried his hands on the automatic weaving and wood duplicating machines. The best stalls among the 300 that were present in the exhibition would receive awards. Tickets for the general public were priced at 10 paisa. The exhibition was originally scheduled to run for 15 days but was extended.

In the *Gorkhapatra Daily* of Jestha 30, 2019 (June 12, 1962), there was an article about the launch of a Gift Exhibition Post Office. It was stated that the General Post Office was opening a Gift Exhibition Post Office which would provide services of registered mail, general mail, aerogramme and stamp sales for philatelists.

During the closing ceremony, Finance Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa awarded silver shields to the winners. First place went to Nepal Industrial and Development Corporation, second to Health Services Department and third to Nepal Industrial Enterprises. Similar awards were made to the winners of the exhibitions of Rice and Wheat, Fruits and Vegetables and Livestock and Poultry. The Finance Minister considered the exhibition a huge success as it had attracted 125,000 viewers, many of whom were representatives of A.P.O. member countries.

His Majesty King Mahendra, Her Majesty Queen Ratna and other members of the Royal Family arrived on Jestha 10 at 9:15 pm to view the exhibition and stayed for 5 hours until 2:15 am. When they reached the Post Office stall the Construction, Communication and

Transportation Minister presented them with a postal album and a map of Nepal that showed zonal divisions with the East-West Highway marked on it. Other gifts produced by the Department of Small Industries were also presented to them.

This exhibition was very attractive from all

angles while at the same time unique in itself since it displayed expensive gifts received from various Royal visits.

I would like to thank Ms. Bindiya Jha and Dr. Shital Sharma for their support in preparing this translated version of the "Aupaharik" Gift Exhibition Post Office article.



Chisapani

by Dick van der Wateren

Chisapani is a well-known name for Nepal collectors. They all have in their collections postmarks of Chisapani even if they collect classic stamps, covers, custom papers or telephone/telegraph documents. Mr Ramesh Shrestha mentions a Lal Mohar document of 1830 concerning the staff of Chisapani Gadhi. The addition 'Gadhi' is interesting but there is no doubt about the location of Chisapani: on the route from Kathmandu to Birganj at the Indian border. Searching the Internet, I was surprised to find 7 villages with the name Chisapani. Below are 5 different postmarks of Chisapani that I have and the locations of the 7 villages named Chisapani ordered from west to east.



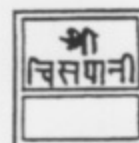
CHISAPANI
C50



CHISAPANI
N15



CHISAPANI I
P48A



CHISAPANI
Z1



CHISAPANI
T4

| | | |
|--------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Chisapani | Bheri Zone Banke District Far West, north of Bardia, Bridge over the Karnali | Coordinates: 28°38 N. 81°17 E. |
| 2. Chisapani | Gandaki Zone Syangia District Central Nepal | Coordinates: 27°93 N. 84°65. E. |
| 3. Chisapani | Bagmati Zone (Chisapani Gadhi) Neighbour of Bhimpedi. | Coordinates: 27°35 N. 85°08 E. |
| 4. Chisapani | Bagmati Zone. Position between Ghul Bhyanjyang and Sundaryal. | Coordinates: 28° N. 85°18 E. |
| 5. Chisapani | Janakpur Zone Ramechap district | Coordinates: 27°42 N. 86°06 E. |
| 6. Chisapani | Sagarmatha Zone Kothang District East of Nepal. | Coordinates: 26°58 N 86°05 E. |
| 7. Chisapani | Mechi Zone Ilam District Far East, 29 km to Darjeeling. | Coordinates 26°50 N. 87°55 E. |

Bhutan Postal Stationery - Some Questions

by Brian G. Vincent FRPSNZ

For some time now I have been building up a collection of the various types of postal stationery issued by Bhutan. After acquiring items I have referred to a catalogue of Bhutan postal stationery that is on-line (www.japhila.cz). The two items that are the topic of this short article do not appear to be listed there. In this catalogue the 1.25Nu aerogramme of 1977 is also shown with an additional 25ch 'Postage Pre Paid' rubber stamp marking, making a new postal rate of 1.50Nu. The date of issue is stated to be not known. It is further noted that these aerogrammes were up-rated with the use of adhesive stamps to 2.45Nu and then to 2.50Nu (in 1984).

I have an aerogramme (Figure 1) with a Postage Paid rubber stamp marking of 1.50Nu resulting in a rate of 2.75Nu. This marking is similar to the one shown in the catalogue with the 25ch marking, however the space that was evident in the original marking between the words POSTAGE and PRE PAID has now

closed up. Presumably it was issued at some time after 1984? Does anyone have any information about this particular up-rated 2.75Nu aerogramme?

My second query relates to the provisional reply cards of 1980. At some stage during that year the reply cards were issued with an additional 5ch postage stamp affixed and also a rubber stamp marking reading 5ch postage pre paid (on both portions).

This marking is shown (Figure 2) from a postcard with the identical rubber stamp marking). I have recently acquired a reply card up-rated with a 5ch stamp and a quite different 50ch rubber stamp marking - giving a postal rate of 65ch. (Figure 3). Does any member have any information about this reply card and its marking and when it was issued? The catalogue states that the domestic postage rate for postcards was 30ch in 1983 so presumably this reply card would have been issued after that date.



Figure 1



Figure 3

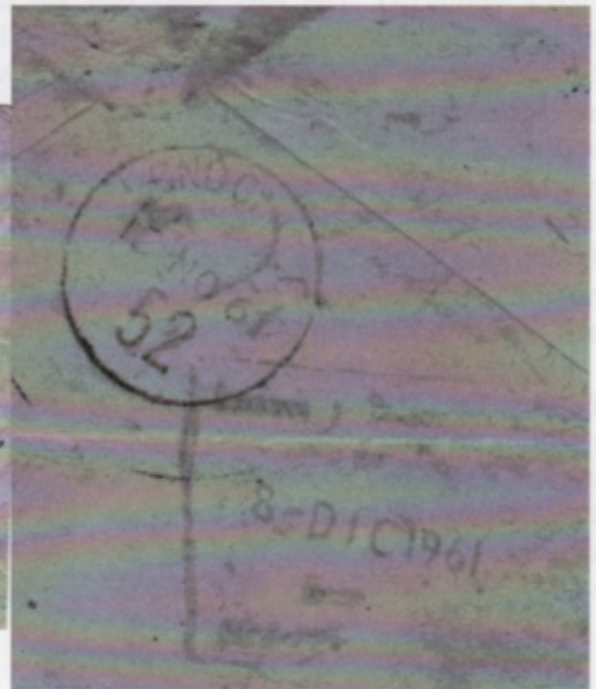


Figure 2

I would be grateful for any details about these two items. My contact details are: B G Vincent, P O Box 1321, Wellington 6140 New Zealand, or by email at bgvincent@xtra.co.nz

Mail to South America
by Colin Hepper FRPSL

The illustrated cover was sent by registered mail from Kathmandu to Lima, Peru dated 5 November 1961. With no airmail services from Nepal at that time it must be presumed that the letter went at first overland to India and then on to England by sea. There is a London back stamp 12 November 1961. The letter was then forwarded to Peru by sea and arrived in Lima on 8 December 1961.



London & Lima postmarks

Curious Cover 1
by Colin Hepper FRPSL



The registered cover is a 15p postal stationery envelope with stamps to the value of 85 Paisa on the back, all cancelled with a faint heart shaped seal.

Could someone tell me the name of the post office hand written in the registration label.

Help with either this cover [or the one on page 14] would be appreciated.

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Figure 3



Figure 2

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Auction for N.T.P.S.C. Number 72. closing date of Oct 15th 2013

| Lot # | Price Realized | Lot # | Price Realized | Lot # | Price Realized | Lot # | Price Realized |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 2 | 26.00 | 87 | 50.00 | 158 | 51.00 | 721 | 45.00 |
| 3 | 25.00 | 88 | 51.00 | 161 | 15.00 | 723 | 105.00 |
| 9 | 21.00 | 89 | 25.00 | 162 | 20.00 | 725 | 360.00 |
| 10 | 7.00 | 90 | 20.00 | 163 | 20.00 | 726 | 325.00 |
| 12 | 46.00 | 94 | 12.00 | 167 | 61.00 | 730 | 450.00 |
| 15 | 39.00 | 96 | 5.00 | 170 | 11.00 | 731 | 600.00 |
| 16 | 125.00 | 98 | 12.00 | 171 | 40.00 | 732 | 320.00 |
| 17 | 76.00 | 100 | 12.00 | 173 | 95.00 | 733 | 155.00 |
| 20 | 125.00 | 101 | 3.00 | 204 | 30.00 | 734 | 140.00 |
| 26 | 81.00 | 103 | 11.00 | 205 | 50.00 | 736 | 132.00 |
| 29 | 105.00 | 104 | 4.00 | 206 | 60.00 | 737 | 75.00 |
| 37 | 95.00 | 106 | 4.00 | 211 | 25.00 | 756 | 230.00 |
| 40 | 390.00 | 107 | 11.00 | 212 | 31.00 | 757 | 220.00 |
| 41 | 40.00 | 110 | 19.00 | 222 | 20.00 | 759 | 70.00 |
| 42 | 60.00 | 111 | 6.00 | 300 | 45.00 | 761 | 380.00 |
| 43 | 40.00 | 112 | 7.00 | 301 | 19.00 | 763 | 280.00 |
| 44 | 20.00 | 115 | 3.00 | 302 | 230.00 | 766 | 39.00 |
| 45 | 25.00 | 116 | 6.00 | 303 | 48.00 | 769 | 295.00 |
| 48 | 8.00 | 118 | 75.00 | 314 | 25.00 | 781 | 45.00 |
| 53 | 95.00 | 119 | 80.00 | 315 | 33.00 | 786 | 50.00 |
| 54 | 225.00 | 120 | 20.00 | 317 | 35.00 | | |
| 55 | 20.00 | 125 | 20.00 | 331 | 90.00 | 805 | 15.00 |
| 60 | 15.00 | 130 | 70.00 | 341 | 20.00 | 825 | 325.00 |
| 61 | 55.00 | | | 408 | 15.00 | 826 | 30.00 |
| 65 | 21.00 | 132 | 105.00 | 425 | 65.00 | 827 | 210.00 |
| 66 | 41.00 | 133 | 45.00 | 426 | 15.00 | 828 | 20.00 |
| 70 | 125.00 | 135 | 10.00 | 427 | 20.00 | 839 | 60.00 |
| 71 | 45.00 | 136 | 20.00 | 428 | 40.00 | 848 | 75.00 |
| 75 | 35.00 | 137 | 20.00 | 429 | 20.00 | 905 | 35.00 |
| 76 | 30.00 | 138 | 55.00 | 452 | 95.00 | 928 | 60.00 |
| 78 | 45.00 | 142 | 65.00 | 602 | 90.00 | | |
| 83 | 30.00 | 147 | 45.00 | 608 | 130.00 | | |
| 85 | 44.00 | 155 | 135.00 | 609 | 20.00 | | |
| 86 | 55.00 | 157 | 275.00 | 610 | 75.00 | | |

**Total 10341.00
to NTPSC 1034.10**

lots not listed are unsold and available at the starting bid on the auction list

1936 Tibet Cover to D. D. Tsarong

by Brian W. Smith

In the summer of 2013 I bought a small collection of Tibet stamps from a local Stamp Fair amongst which was this interesting 1936 cover.

Mailed from North Point Post Office, Darjeeling (near St. Joseph's College) the cover is addressed to D. D. Tsarong, Lhasa via the Pharijong British Post Office. Here it received a Phari receiving mark (Hellrigl B17). A 1 trangka Tibet stamp was applied for forwarding to Lhasa - rather a low rate, but in view of the importance of the recipient maybe it had special dispensation? The Tibet stamp was cancelled by a Hellrigl T44 postmark.

Dasang Damdul Tsarong was the Commander General of Tibet, head of the Tibetan Army and a prominent member of the Kashag. He lived at Tsarong House, a 36 room mansion, built in 1923 and situated in its own estate on the banks of the Kyichu River south of Lhasa. He also became head of the mint at Drapshi where Tibetan currency notes, silver and copper coins, and postage stamps were produced.

In 1934 his son, Dundul Namgyal Tsarong - along with a sister - were sent to St. Joseph's College in Darjeeling, an educational establishment that had been recommended by the 13th Dalai Lama. Many prominent families of Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan sent their children to St. Joseph's (including a former King of Bhutan). From here Dundul wrote letters home to Lhasa.

Dundul eventually left Tibet in 1957 for India where he played a role in the Government in Exile in Dharamsala. In 2000 he published a biography of his father *In The Service Of His Country* (Snow Lion, NY) in which he writes that D. D. had a personal interest in stamps and stamp collecting. In the 1940s D. D. approached the Kashag and requested that Tibet join the International Philatelic Society. Although the membership fee was "only a few do-tse" the Government showed little enthusiasm. Not to be discouraged he continued to pursue his interest on his own, and a lifelong postal friendship started between D. D. and an American, Mr. William Engelsmann of Missouri, who had written to him requesting Tibetan stamps.

Sadly D. D. Tsarong died in a Chinese prison in Lhasa following the 1959 rebellion there. I wrote to the Tibetan Government in Exile at Dharamsala enquiring about his son Dundul. They confirmed my cover had been sent by him but that he had died two years ago, aged 91 years.



Tsarong House, Lhasa in 1944 from Dundul Tsarong's book *In The Service Of His Country*



Dasang Damdul Tsarong from a book by Ernst Schafer



Dundul Tsarong and his wife Yangchen Dolkar from *In The Service Of His Country*

འཕགས་པའི་ལུང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་ལྟར་གསུངས་པའི་ལུང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་
 འཕགས་པའི་ལུང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་ལྟར་གསུངས་པའི་ལུང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་
 འཕགས་པའི་ལུང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་ལྟར་གསུངས་པའི་ལུང་ལོ་རྒྱུ་
 10 17
 To D. D. Tsarong
 Tsarong House
Lhasa Tibet
 c/o Post master Tsesam
 Phari Jong
TIBET



The Third Issue - 1933



An upper line, lower line and left and right columns with the snow lion in a square in the center. The upper line: "bod gzhung sbrags gla" = "Tibetan Government post cost"; sbrags = post (loan word from Nepalese); gla = value, cost. The two consonants -gs at the end of the word are written with the inverted letter for D, which is used as a short form if there is not enough space for two letters. These short forms are common in Tibetan orthography. Lower line: TIBET in Latin characters. Left column: the name of the currency entity. Right column: the amount of the value:

dark red stamp: tam; inverted T as above in 1912 and 1914; a small circle above the T standing for the nasalization of the vowel, thus in place for the M, because another letter does not fit in the column. The circle comes from Sanskrit and is called 'anusvara'. Right column: the numerical sign for 1.

red stamp: same as for the dark red stamp, except the right column contains the numerical sign for 2.

green stamp: same as for the dark red stamp, except the right column contains the numerical sign for 4.

blue stamp: Upper and lower lines are the same as for the dark red stamp. Left column: zho; Right column: gang (a whole); both words together = one zho = $\frac{2}{3}$ tangka.

orange stamp: Upper and lower lines are the same as for the dark red stamp. Left column: skar. Right column: numerical sign for $7\frac{1}{2}$ (the sign for 8 with a dash through the upper part).

"Official" stamps

Of the "Official" stamps that are accessible to me there is a brown one that cannot be read at all. I do not recognize any written sign on it. All others read more or less clearly. Some of the stamps have squares, some have circles for the layout. The texts in either the upper line of the square or the upper portion of the circle are always the same: "bod gzhung bka rtags" or "Tibetan Government authoritative (?) mark; bka = order, command; rtags = mark, sign, label. The phrase "bka rtags" is the old designation for the original teaching of Buddha. In many cases we cannot translate Tibetan words in the common lexical sense, but have to take all connotations of the words into consideration. That is why I find the translation suggested here the most acceptable. This phrase gives an "official" character to the following noun.

Text in the inside circle or square is **always:** left side: bod = Tibet; right side dngul = currency. money.

As this remark is consequently written on all "official" stamps we have to conclude that the intention was to underline the importance to know that the denomination further down do not refer to another currency. There are two aspects important in this point: 1) There have been for a long time two currency systems at the same time, one based on the sang, having probably its origin in China, the second one based on the tangka, having its origin in India (coming later to Nepal). 2) If the "officials" were edited during the time of the Chinese invasion their origin might have been unclear and thus it was necessary to say that these stamps are based on the Tibetan currency and not the Chinese one being valid at that time.

The denominations are written in the right corner under the central square or circle: zho do = two sho (on two stamps); skar lnga = five skar; or sang gang = one sang

Telegraph Stamps

The Telegraph stamps have very short texts. As Haverbeck wrote in 1958 (page 65) "The

inscription on the top reads, Tibetan Government, with the denomination given in the upper corners". Thus in the middle at the top of the stamps we find again "bod gzhung", at the bottom is written TIBET in Latin characters.

The denominations are high values:

yellow stamp: ½ sang.

violet stamp: 1 sang.

green stamp: 5 sang.

blue stamp: 10 sang.

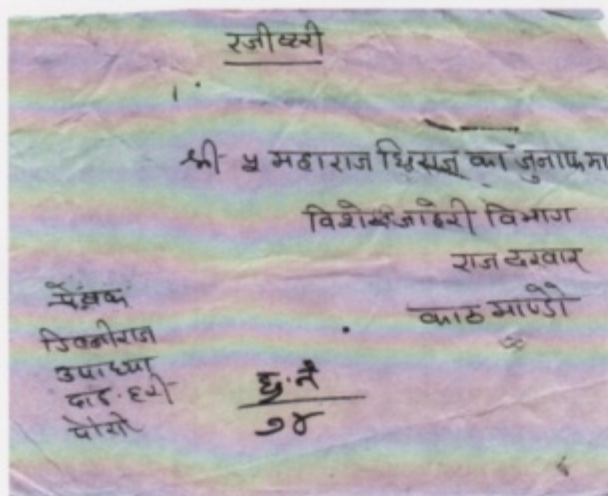
red stamp: 25 sang.

We have to take into consideration that in the three different types of stamps we find a different system for the cliché in each. Furthermore the texts are clearly divided into three different categories: 1) The so-called normal stamps have the head line "Tibetan Government: and in the lower part the word for "stamp" and the value. 2) The "official" stamps and the phrase "bka rtags" = "authoritative

mark" after "bod gzhung" = Tibetan Government. 3) The Telegraph stamps use only "Tibetan Government". This hints at an organizing mind behind the creation of all three groups and speaks against forgery.

An aspect that is often brought forward to prove that the "officials" are bogus is the rough, unclear way in which they are carved. Firstly, this does not refer to all of them, especially as the big blue 'one sang' (srang gang) is a fully carved beauty of a stamp. But even a stamp like the brown 'two zho' (zho do) which is carved rather roughly has letters which can be read without a problem for a reader who is used to reading Tibetan. It must have been a carver who was used to writing Tibetan in order to give such unusual shapes to letters, as they are in this stamp, that they fit into a tiny corner, but are still clearly readable. Thus the rough shape indicates, in my opinion, rather the genuineness of the stamp rather than the opposite.

Curious Cover 2 by Colin Hepper FRPSL



I would be interested if anyone can throw any light on the illustrated registered cover. It has been cancelled with a very fine seal with what seems to be a signature below it.

There is a second very feint postmark which I cannot read.

The Design of the Classic Nepal Postal Stationery

by Johannes Bornmann

1) The red and blue “Khukris & Chakras” postcards

I could find an old Nepalese coat of arms that perfectly corresponds to the design of the stamp of the first postcards and of the first adhesive stamps of 1881 as well. It shows three stylized lotus flowers with a “chakra” (wheel) as a symbol of the Hindu-God Vishnu inside of each. The chakra is in addition to the “sankha” (shell), the “padma” (lotus) and the “gada” (mace) one of the symbols of Vishnu. The king of the Hindu-Kingdom Nepal was traditionally regarded as an incarnation of Vishnu. Above the middle chakra the “sirpech” (Crown of Nepal) is arranged, decorated with feathers of the bird of paradise. Beneath these chakras are two crossed “khukris” (Nepalese swords).



left to right: first postcards, old Nepalese coat of arms, first adhesive stamp

2) The blue “Pashupati” (Shiva) postcard was printed since 1934/1935. The design looks similar to the 2 Paisa Pashupati stamp of 1907, but it is not the same.



far top left: 2 Paisa stamp of 1907.

far bottom left: stamp of the “Pashupati” (Shiva) postcard.

left: Royal Coat of Arms of the 19th Century

The template for the Pashupati stamps (for adhesive stamps, postcards and envelopes) is the Royal Coat of Arms of the 19th century. At the top again is the “sirpech” (Crown of Nepal), under it are the footprints of Shri Gorakhnath, patron saint of the village “Gurkha”, the place of origin of the Royal Family. Beneath this we see two crossed khukris, showing the power of the Royal Family, amongst the crescent on the left side and the sun on the right side. A crest in the centre shows the Himalaya and Shiva standing in a river. Shiva, patron saint of Nepal, is wearing a “lota”, a small pot to store water, a “trishula” (trident), a deer and a “damaru” (small drum). An inscription in Devanagari scripture around the crest states: JANANI JANMA BHOOMISHA SVARGADAPI GARIYASI (mother and motherland are mightier than heaven). Another latin inscription says: DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI (it is sweet and honourable to die for the motherland). On the sides of the crest we find a Gurkha soldier and a farmer respectively.

3) The brown “Pashupati” postcard and the envelopes

Shiva is also reproduced in the center of the stamp of the brown “Pashupati” postcard and of all envelopes until Nepal’s admission into the World Postal Union (UPU) in 1956.



Shiva-Pashupati



Brown “Pashupati” postcard, “Pashupati” envelopes 4 Paisa (green), 8 Paisa (red), 2 Paisa (red), 24 Paisa (orange)

4) The UPU postcard

In 1959 three special editions (a postcard, an envelope and the first aerogram) were issued on the occasion of Nepal’s admission into the World Postal Union (UPU). The postcard and the envelope again show the “sirpech” (Crown of Nepal).



4-Paisa postcard and 6-Paisa envelope

The card additionally shows a sword standing on its hilt in the center. Since ancient times the sword has represented the strongest power. As the symbol of Goddess “Durga”, we find the design of the “khadga” (sword) already as a symbol of power in the “Lal Mohur”-seals of the



“Lal Mohur”-seal

On these seals the name “Sri Durga” is written above the sword. In the 20th century Maharaja Chandra Shumsher Rana (1901-1929) established the “Khadga Nishana Adda” (office with the symbol of the sword) in Singh Durbar, representing the highest authority of the Nepalese government.

5) The first aerogram



Finally the first aerogram issued on the occasion of Nepal’s admission into the World Postal Union shows Garuda. Garuda is the legendary bird that carried god Vishnu from the skies to earth. He is an eagle-like bird from the Indian mythology and is considered as the mount and emblem of Vishnu. As the King of Nepal is traditionally regarded as an incarnation of Vishnu, Garuda was elected as a striking image on the first aerogram.