



Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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**In Memory
of all who died or were
injured in the
Earthquakes
in Nepal and Tibet**

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Officer's Corner

First thing come first. Central Nepal and Tibet were devastated by mega-earthquakes this year. They are areas of our collecting interest that gave us immense pleasure. Many of us had visited Nepal and Tibet before and enjoyed the warm hospitality of the local people. Our sympathy rest with them and hope that we could contribute in a small way in their rehabilitation. Please give charitable donations generously to assist their relief.

Secondly, New York 2016 is round the corner. Let's try to meet there socially, also discuss our

Editor's Ramblings

Above is the first Officer's Corner from our new Vice President, Danny Wong. It is interesting that I have not read anything in our US media that mention the deaths in Tibet from the same earthquakes that ravaged Nepal. I check via Google did reveal that there were, in fact, many deaths also in Tibet.

Another fantastic WESTPEX show has come and gone. If you haven't attended before, why not try to make it to next year's and meet with other members of our group. It should not be too hard for west coast members to attend—Frank Vignola, comes down from Oregon. Colin has to come from the UK, I come from the East Coast, and Danny would be coming from Hong Kong. So, lets try to get some more members to the meeting.

way forward. Last but not least, may I invite you all to contribute to the *Asian Philatelist* which will run a Tibet and Nepal focus in 2016 to spread our hobby to a wider audience. *Asian Philatelist* is a leading Chinese language philatelic journal published by the Royal Philatelic Society London and I am the editor. Past papers are also welcomed and they would be translated into Chinese. Please send in your article before 1st February 2016 to me at amilkoroyal@hotmail.com.

Leo always brings items of interest with him (see page 18).

Next year is NY2016 and a chance for East Coast members to attend any meetings, and hopefully, a few informal get togethers. A much shorter trip for our European visitors. The next FIP international show in the US will be Boston 2026, so come next year and don't wait for 2026. There will be plenty of world class exhibits (perhaps by some of our members), along with auctions, society meetings, and of course dealers who should have just about anything philatelic that you could want. And, we will be sharing a Society booth with the India Study Circle (as we did in 2006) and volunteers will be needed as the booth must be continuously manned while the show is open.

CONGRATULATIONS

Johannes Bornmann was awarded a Large Vermeil for his exhibit "Nepal: Classic Postal Stationery 1887-1859 at 2015 EUROPHILEX, London

Dick van der Wateren was awarded a Large Vermeil for his exhibit "Nepal Revenues" at 2015 EUROPHILEX, London

UPCOMING

WESTPEX 2016 29 April—01 May at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel.

NY2016 28 May-04 June Jacob Javit's Convention Center

Letter Written by Edward Gardner by Johannes Bornmann

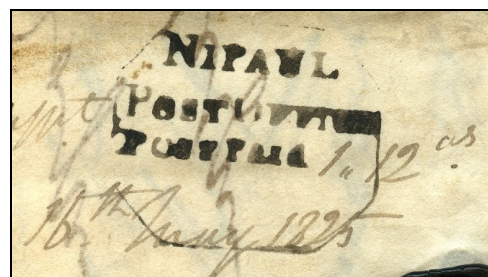
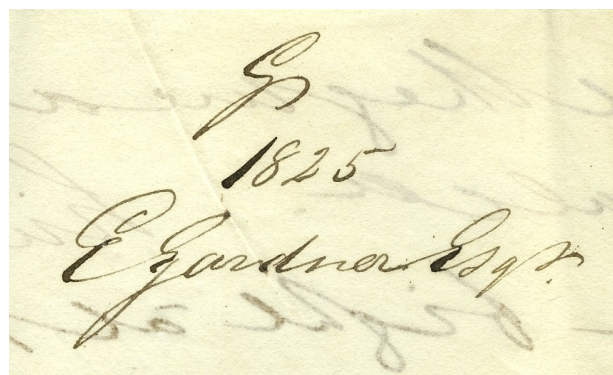
The time is during the final stage of the Anglo-Nepalese War. In 1815 the peace talks started, resulting in a first Treaty of Segauli, signed by Lt. Col. Paris Bradshaw for British India. As this treaty was profitable for the East India Company the Nepalese Government did not want to accept it. Thereupon the East India Company again started to attack Nepalese villages. They captured Makwanpur and threaten the capital. After all, a modified Treaty of Segauli was accepted by both sides. It was closed by General David Ochterlony for British India and by Chandra Sekher Upadhyaya for the King of Nepal on March 4, 1816.

With this, General David Ochterlony brought the Anglo-Nepalese War to a successful conclusion. The Treaty of Segauli dictated the subsequent relations between British-India and Nepal. Particularly, Nepal had to accept the comeback of the British Residency in Kathmandu, following article 8 of the Treaty of Segauli: "In order to secure and improve the relations of amity and peace hereby established between the two States, it is agreed that accredited Ministers from each shall reside at the Court of the other". Edward Gardner became the first British Resident (1816-1829).

No letters of Edward Gardner were recorded until recently a letter written by him came to light. Edward Gardner sent it on 16th May 1825 to his friend, the artist and writer William Fraser. This 9 pages long letter from Kathmandu to Delhi, redirected to Dehrah, bears the first Nepalese postmark (Hellrigl B1).

Octagonal handstamp "NIPAUL / POST OFFICE The earliest entire featuring this handstruck postage stamp is dated 7th December 1816. It is illustrated in the catalogue of Robson Lowe's auction of 17th April, 1957. It is described as "1816 Entire to Calcutta, rather damaged ..." Three other letters bearing this stamp (dated 1833, 1834 and 1836) are accurately described by Dr. Hellrigl in his book "Nepal Postal History"¹ (p 65 ff.). The one written by Edward Gardner in 1825 is the second eldest letter. It is not mentioned by Dr. Hellrigl.

¹ Hellrigl, W.C. *Nepal Postal History*, Turin 1991



Octagonal handstamp "NIPAUL / POST OFFICE / POST PAID" (Hellrigl B1) with the rate (1 Rupee & 12 Annas) and date (16th May 1825) in manuscript

Phubjika, the CMO with an Extra Letter Box for the Post Master Monk

by Leo van der Velden

The Community Mail Office (CMO) of Phubjika, also written as Phobjika, is located in a shop cum bar in "central Phubjika" below the main road through the scenic Phubjika Valley near the new Hotel Dewachen. The Postal Agent is the shopkeeper, Mr Namgay Tshering. What is remarkable is that there are two letter boxes on the corner of the house, which provides space to the shop, store and living quarters. One is a regular letter box, while the other one is somewhat smaller and is used only for the mail for the well-known Gangtey Monastery, which is dominating the valley from a hilltop a few kilometers to the north. The monks have a "post master monk", who is responsible for collecting their mail from the Postal Agent and handing any outgoing mail to the Postal Agent or dropping it in special mail box provided by Bhutan Post.

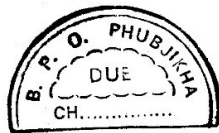


Phubjika CMO with the two letter boxes

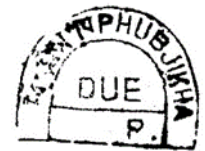


Postal Agent Namgay Tshering in front of his CMO

Phubjika CMO falls under Wangdi PO and no longer uses any canceller or other seal of its own. Outgoing letters are cancelled at Wangdi PO. Mail arrives from Wangdi twice per week by private passenger bus (which plies this route on a daily basis). Mail is sent from Phubjika to Wangdi only 2 - 3 times per month. At my visit a postbag was ready with only three letters and three Money Order (MO) forms ("money received"). Mailbags are nowadays closed with metal clips and no longer with lacquer seals. There is not much mail, as for instance the GUP's office sends mail through the Dzongkhag's (district) own system.



B.P.O. PHUBJIKHA



The CMO sells postage and legal stamps, and also pays out incoming MOs, but doesn't issue outgoing MOs. Although he doesn't cancel any letters, Mr Namgay Tshering still has in his metal postal agency box eight cancellation and other seals: two types of "Due" seals, one rubber stamp "B.P.O. Phubjika", old styled negative seals (general, registered and parcel) used in the past for wax sealing of MO envelopes and outgoing mail bags, and newer types of registered and parcel seals, the latter is the only one with a date: March 1998. The older type 'due'-stamp has Phubjika written in both Dzongkha and English and the Indian currency is used (P stands for paisa), while the newer 'due'-stamp has Phubjika only in English and the Bhutanese currency is (CH stands for chhetrum).

Mr Namgay Tshering has been the Postal Agent since 2005. Before 2005 the BHU health assistant was looking after the Postal Agency, and before that a school principal or teacher. Namgay states that he more or less was forced to take over the CMO from the previous Postal Agent, and he has informed the post master in Wangdi that they have to look for another Postal Agent before the end of this year. The commission of Nu 495/- per



Postal agent Namgay Tshering inside his shop & CMO

Namgay Tshering comes from a village deep in Phubjika Valley, where he still has some land and plants potatoes as a cash crop. After he completed class 10, he started to help his parents for two years, before opening the present general shop. It is a quite busy shop cum bar, and he is assisted by his wife, who is also from Phubjika Valley. He owns a Mahindra pick-up, which he uses to go once or twice per month to Phuentsholing to buy supplies for the shop, although sometimes he also buys some supplies in Wangdi.

Rare World War II British India Postcard of Tibet

by Brian W. Smith

From my collection a rare picture postcard of Tibet showing Tibetans and Yaks in the Chumbi Valley with Mount Chomolari. It was sent by Airmail from Kalimpong, British India to Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA on 26 January 1940 and carries the usual wartime censor marking. Transit time: one month.

The card is addressed to an American philatelist, J. Stanard Esq, the publisher of "Stamp" magazine, and is part of an ongoing correspondence concerning Tibetan stamps between American collectors and Kalimpong.

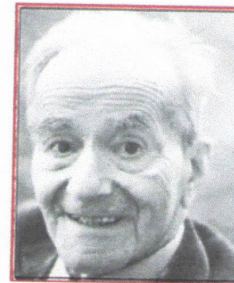
More information on other correspondence by the sender of the card, J. R. FOX is contained in the excellent article "The Reverend J. R. Fox Letters" by Peter Moore [*Postal Himal* 151:4].

Augustinian Fathers John Roger Fox (British) and A. Gianora (Swiss) were sent out from St. Maurice Abbey in Switzerland to give help to French

missionaries in Kalimpong within the Sikkim Apostolic Prefecture. The French had set up the Mission of Sikkim in 1882 after failed attempts to reach Tibet. Their headquarters were at Pedong near Kalimpong, across the border from Sikkim - then a tiny Independent Himalayan Kingdom under a King of Tibet that banned Christian missionaries.

John Roger Fox reached Kalimpong on 17 December 1934. In 1937 the Swiss took over the entire Sikkim Mission from the French Fathers. During World War II the Swiss established St. Augustine's School in Kalimpong which is still in operation today.

It is clear from his correspondence that J. R. Fox was a man of quite diverse interests. He made a small and quite early contribution to the study of Tibetan philately (vis. Articles for *Stamp* magazine) which in the late 1930s to early 40s was in its infancy.



FR. JOHN ROGER FOX



How I Came to Exhibit by Richard M Hanchett

For several years my friend, and fellow NTPSC member, has tried to get me to exhibit at the APS Team Competition at an APS StampShow.

I should mention that my method of collecting drives Sandeep crazy. At stamp shows I tend to purchase whatever strikes my fancy in my collecting areas. I might purchase a rather common stamp which I already have because it has a socked-on-the-nose cancel, or maybe it cancel is from a city or town which I have never heard or maybe it is a cover with an interesting (to me) auxiliary marking. At any rate I buy it. At some point Sandeep will ask what I bought and how it fits into my collection - to which my reply is generally: It doesn't. I just found it interesting."

As I mentioned above, Sandeep has been trying to get me to exhibit for several years. Feeling that I don't have anything worthwhile to exhibit, I tell him; "I don't have anything."

At the end of last year he again asked me to exhibit something at the Team Competition in February of this year in Riverside, California. I gave my usual answer, but this time Sandeep suggested that we go through items that I had been purchasing to see if there might be anything there. Several of the covers that I had recently purchased recently were from India with an auxiliary marking 'TOO LATE'. He asked how long I had been buying them and I replied "for the past five or so years". Next came his suggestion that I should go through all of the covers I had to see if there might be a sufficient number for a single page exhibit, which meant ONLY 16 8.5 x 11 pages of which I could use an 11 x 17 page for the general information at the beginning of the exhibit, leaving 14 pages of two covers each. So, I would need 28 covers, all different. With all the covers I had in different locations around the house, I also fainted at the prospect of having to dig through all of them.

When I had been through everything I called Sandeep to say that I had more than enough covers to do the exhibit.

Then came the decisions: Should the markings be in chronological order, in order be the size of the box surrounding 'TOO LATE', in order of the size of the

'TOO LATE' letters. The decision was made to do them in chronological order. The next step was to determine the chronological order and to examine each of the covers (if there was more than one of the same type) to determine which cover should be used.

It was decided not to try to affix a rarity value to the covers. The 'TOO LATE' by itself is not rare. What makes a 'TOO LATE' cover valuable is other markings (for routings), an uncommon destination (such as one of Britain's Channel islands), a very overweight cover for the time period.

After some discussion with Sandeep it was decided to limit the time frame to 19th Century and to title the exhibit "Late Mail Strikes on 19th Century Indian Mail".

Next followed the necessity of getting all of the required paper work into the APS, and getting the exhibit mounted. After numerous suggestions from Sandeep as to how best to mount the exhibit, everything was mounted with one day to spare. Luggage packed and off the Riverside where the temperatures were in the 70s and 80s compared to the below freezing temperatures and mounds of snow in Rhode Island.

I was surprised and thrilled to find out that I had been awarded Gold for my very first exhibit. Many thanks to Sandeep for his suggestions and help.

Perhaps this will help those of you who have never exhibited before to seriously consider doing so.



One of the covers from my exhibit

The Complex Start of First Day Covers in Bhutan

by Iiro Kakko & Leo van der Velden¹

Introduction

The release of FDCs in Bhutan started with the issue of the first set of postage stamps in 1962, when the legendary American businessman Burt Todd with his Bhutan Trust/Bhutan Stamp Agency based in the Bahamas was the agent for the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (P&T) of the Ministry of Telecommunication of “His Majesty’s Government of Bhutan” (changed in time to Royal Government of Bhutan). P&T covered the domestic and Indian markets, while Todd looked after the rest of the world. After the cancellation of Todd’s agreement early 1974, the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC), based in New York, would become P&T’s exclusive agent till 1992, when a system of philatelic world-wide agents was introduced, with IGPC one among many, although still the most important one. This system would continue when P&T became in 1996 the parastatal Bhutan Postal Corporation Ltd, Bhutan Post for short.

1962 – 1974: the FDC dual track system by P&T and the Burt Todd’s Bhutan Stamp Agency

During this period both P&T and Burt Todd issued each their own FDCs. Burt Todd missed the first few years, most probably because he was not yet fully convinced of enough interest by collectors. P&T started enthusiastically with 6 different cachets (2 different designs each in three different colors) for the 1st issue of 10 October 1962, while the number of stamps on a particular cachet varied from one lonely stamp till the full set of 7 stamps, so at least some 42 different combinations! Furthermore, there were also different kinds of envelopes used, some on traditional hand-crafted paper, while other covers were made of regular paper, either different shades of light brown or ordinary white colored.



P&T issued FDCs for the 1st issue: 2 designs each in 3 colors, with a different number of stamps and different paper

The 2nd issue at the occasion of World Refugee Year, issued on the same day 10 October 1962, would use the same cachets and FDC cancellation seal, but always with the full issue of two stamps. Soon, P&T would reign in their own number of cachets to one per issue. The place mentioned on the cancellations was for at least the first nine issues Rinpung Dzong (Paro) and thereafter for many years Phuntsholing, with some exceptions like the FDCs for the 1968 Tashichhodzong stamp and 1969 Ghandi issue which mention Tashichhodzong, the 1966 Trongsa Dzong stamp cancelled with a combined Phuntsholing-Tongsa Dzong seal, or the 1968 Mythological Figures issue, which FDC cancellation mentioned no place at all. The FDC for the 1988 Chhukha Hydro issue carries Chhukha on its seal, while the 1989 Asia-Pacific Expo overprint issue has even Fukuoka, the place of the Expo in Japan, in its FDC cancellation. Only in 1989 will there be a definitive shift from Phuntsholing to Thimphu.

¹ With thanks to Ewout Sutorius and Nildo Harper for their comments. Also the Bhutan philatelic database maintained by Ed Pawlowski has been of great use. Kakko, Van der Velden, Sutorius, Harper and Pawlowski are all members of the Bhutan Stamp Collectors Group (on Facebook).

Special attention should be given to the remarkable cachets for the first four issues designed by Charles George Junior, who signed his cachets with the initials “C.G. Junior III”. On his FDCs the official P&T FDC cancellations were used. Charles George Jr was an American cachet craftsman who made several cachets for stamps of the US, the Canal Zone, Canada, the UN and Lesotho mainly during 1960s and some in the late 1950s. His father had designed cachets for American stamps in the 1930s.



Attractive 1963 cachet by Charles George Jr.

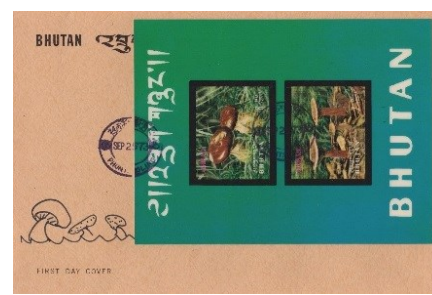


Independent issue Birds 1982 using the official FDC seal

P&T and its successor Bhutan Post would also facilitate the cancellation of private FDC cachets using either the special FDC cancellation seal, their generic FDC seal or a regular date stamp, first often from Phuentsholing GPO and later also from Thimphu GPO or some smaller POs near the border from India, in particular Sarbhang PO. Like the P&T FDCs, private issues could be produced and sealed after their first date of issue, as in Bhutan the postal authorities have no official policy to destroy FDC seals, as is usually done in many other countries.

Burt Todd's FDCs highlighted

Only with the March 1966 ITU stamp issue did Burt Todd also start issuing FDCs, using his own covers and cancellation seals. Both were remarkable plain, probably in order to save time, effort and costs. As covers Todd was using slightly embossed or plain firm brown or sometimes white covers, the size and strength depending on the number and kind of stamps or size of the souvenir sheet to be attached to it. As cancellation he used several slightly different kinds of ordinary Phuntsholing date stamps (or in some exceptional cases a Tashichho Dzong seal). On the cover was in general only printed BHUTAN in English and Dzongkha, and the words “First Day Cover”, except for some covers, like the 1973 3D Mushroom cover, which carries a small cachet of three mushrooms in the lower left corner. The Todd FDCs were cancelled by his agency outside Bhutan, either in the Bahamas or the USA. In order to provide their clients at least one offer per month, Todd's



Typical Burt Todd FDCs with rather plain envelopes with slightly different date stamp cancellations

agency would split up on some occasions sets into two: one set of lower values, released first, and then the next month one set of the higher values, often ‘airmail’ stamps. On the FDCs they would for instance seal the first lower denominations with the date 29 January 1972, and then cancel the higher ‘airmail’ stamps released one month later with 28 February 1972, while for P&T the whole set was officially released on 29 January 1972. This confusion is also reflected in some stamp catalogues like Michel. While for the 3D stamp FDCs Todd

would use a thicker cover and his regular date cancellation device, P&T would use a dry seal cancellation combined with a regular rubber date stamp. As these rubber stamps were not so durable, there may be dates on covers for the same first day of issue with a different font. Except for the very start and the dual track system, there were not that many varieties from 1962 to the end of Todd's period in early 1976.

Some official regular P.O. cancellation devices (Phuentsholing and maybe other place names as well), disappeared at the end of the 1960s and were later used to produce unauthorized "FDCs" apparently coming out of India with plain covers and stating "First Day of Issue" using a rubber stamp.



Unauthorized FDC using a misplaced cancellation device

Modern FDC: 16th SAARC Summit held in 2010 in Thimphu

1974 -1992: P&T and the IGPC

IGPC would, as part of their services, also design and produce FDC cachets. For certain topical theme issues, there might be two sets of almost the same cachets, one mentioning Bhutan on the cover, while the second, omnibus cachet had no mentioning of Bhutan at all on the cover and exactly the same cachet was also used for the different countries where the same kind of theme stamps set had been produced by IGPC. During this period we can observe not only the use of different covers for the same issue, but also different special FDC cancellations for the same issue, with sometimes a different setting of the date, for instance for the first batch 20 Jun and the second batch Jun 20, while also the font used could differ. P&T might also use a special cancellation seal for the first batches, and later on replace this with their generic FDC seal (with the original date of issue).

1992 – Present: P&T and its 1996 successor Bhutan Post

Cachet design and printing is part of the total stamp release package instigated by an agent or Bhutan Post itself. In certain cases the agent might not incorporate an FDC in its release or Bhutan Post might not have budgeted for the design and printing of an FDC, and consequently no official FDC is released. Private individuals or parties have made some FDCs on those occasions, in general cancelled with an ordinary PO date stamp. In at least one case, a special FDC cancellation device was available and could be used on the covers of the private party, as for some reason Bhutan Post or the instigating agent had not printed any cachets for this particular stamp release, although the FDC cancellation device had been made. In some cases cachets were printed, but no FDCs produced, and the cachets were sold to the public and used as an ordinary envelop, a practice which has been also occurring also with other cachets. Since 1984 some stamp issues were made with WWF as agent, with unclear cancellation protocols. There are P&T/Bhutan Post covers with Phuntsholing or



Private 2009 FDC issue using the official FDC cancellation, while Bhutan Post didn't issue their own FDC

Thimphu as place names in the cancellation seal, while WWF would use a general FDC seal only stating "Bhutan" as the place name. In the late 1990s at least one clear forgery can be found, an FDC for the 1999 Cats issue produced without any authorization and with an own fancy cancellation device by a certain Bennan of Folkstone, Kent.

Fancy usage of FDC cancellation devices and covers

At some of the Indipex and other philately events where Bhutan Post was a participant, FDC cancellation seals have been used on completely unrelated Bhutanese stamps, although for some of these events Bhutan post had also made a special Indipex or another seal related to the event. Furthermore, the unused FDC covers sold to the general public were mostly utilized as an ordinary envelope, but in some cases also to make fancy souvenir covers with often a mismatch between the cachet and the used stamps.



2004 New Year FDC cancellation seal used on a 2002 New Year stamp by Bhutan Post at the Hong Kong Stamp Expo

Questions about an O'Sullivan Cover

by Frank E. Vignola

Recently I obtained one of the O'Sullivan covers from his trip to Nepal in 1921. The O'Sullivan covers are philatelic in nature and probably were canceled at a local post office before being taken to the British Legation for posting to his wife in India. The British Legation Postmark is on the 10th of January, 1921. The Nepalese postmark is from Kathmandu and is date read 73-5-23 which would equate to 7 September 1916. The Kathmandu datestamp (D111 from the Hellrigl Nepalese postmarks catalogue) has a recorded use 1909 and 1921.

The other O'Sullivan cover that I have seen has the ½ Anna Vermillion on it and was postmarked at Ghumdhang (P87) on September 24, 1921 and at the British Legation on January 28, 1921.

I am at a lost to explain the date of the Kathmandu cancel on this cover. Other O'Sullivan covers with the 2 to 16 Anna Sri Pashupati stamps exist. Is this cover consistent with similar O'Sullivan covers? What the date usage of the Kathmandu cancel (D111) in 1921 from an O'Sullivan cover?

The O'Sullivan cover is almost identical to the ½ Anna cover that I have except that the Sri Pashupati stamps are used instead of the classic issue stamps. It is possible that O'Sullivan mailed this envelope to his wife without the stamps, but it seems more likely that he put the stamps on the envelope because these were the type of covers he was mailing.

I see two possibilities. One is that someone put the stamps on at a later date and forged the cancel. The other possibility is that O'Sullivan didn't like the messy Kathmandu canceler that was being used and asked the clerk if he had a less obtrusive cancel and the clerk pulled this one out of the archives.

Whatever the case, I would like to hear from someone who has a similar Sri Pashupati O'Sullivan cover.



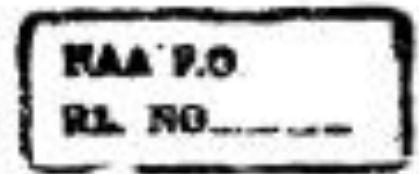
Change of Name of Post Offices in Bhutan 1962 – Present¹

by Leo van der Velden

Since the start of modern mail services in Bhutan in 1962, many post offices have changed names, although they are still in, or close to, the same location as when they originally were established. There are four main reasons for this: a) the legacy of the old Dzong based system of mail delivery, b) official standardization of the transcription from Dzongkha to English, c) change of the official postal name, and d) shifting locations and concentrations. It should be noted that the Posts and Telegraphs Department (P&T) and its successor in 1996, Bhutan Post, have been following up any official change in name quite slowly, first in their listing of General Post Offices (GPOs), POs, Branch POs (BPOs), Agency POs (APOs), Community Mail Offices (CMOs), and, a recent creation, the Community Centers (CCs), and at an even slower pace in their postal cancellation devices as well. The latter might be replaced only after many years of the official change of place name, or in some cases, not at all. Many old cancellation devices are still often used together with newer ones.

A. From Dzong to Town

Before the establishment of a modern postal system starting in the late 1950s and culminating in the creation of a Posts and Telegraphs Department and the issue of the first postage stamps in 1962, there existed the so-called Dzongdak system for the delivery of official mail by mail runners between dzongs and some selected palaces and monasteries under the responsibility of the different dzong administrations. It is therefore not surprisingly that the first post offices in towns with dzongs, would have ‘dzong’ in their name. In a number of years, however, the name of these POs changed to the name of the town in which the PO is established. The only surviving name with dzong included is Tashichodzung PO in Thimphu, established as a post office only in 1986, although the name has been used almost twenty years earlier for some years in the cancellation seal of Thimphu GPO in the 1960s. Early 1970s we see a remarkable temporary revival for the “dzong” addition for the post offices in Gasa, Lhingzhi, Lhuentse, Punakha, Trashigang, Trongsa, Wangdiphrodrang and Zhemgang which all started as POs without “dzong” added. In the P&T listing of post offices of 1979, no PO had any longer the ‘dzong’ as an addition. In the 1990s another name with “dzong” included would appear, the Drugyel Dzong CMO in Paro Valley near the tourist attraction of the abandoned dzong, which had been damaged by fire in the 1950s. This community mail office had, however, only a short lifespan.



¹ I would like to thank Iiro Kakko and Karl-Heinz for their comments and remarks. The illustrations are from Karl-Heinz’s collection and my own.

Table A. From Dzong to Town (listing of related post offices)

<i>Name of post office at date of opening as per earliest PO listing (and date of opening)</i>	<i>Name of the PO on first post marks</i>	<i>Name changes in time</i>	<i>Present name(s) (latest Bhutan Post listings)</i>
Byakar Dzong (1966)	Byakar Dzong	Byaker Dzong, Jakar Dzong (1976)	Bumthang PO
Daga Dzong (1968)	Dagadzong, Daga Dzong		Dagana PO
Drugyel Dzong (1993)	Tsento	Drugel Dzong (Tshento) CMO	(closed)
Gasa (1969)	Gasa	Gasa Dzong (early 1970s)	Gasa PO; in postcode list: Gasa PO/CC
Ha Dzong (1965)	Ha Dzong, Ha, Haa	Wangchhuk-lo-Dzong (early 1970s), Ha	Haa PO (Katshog geog); in postcode list: Katsho PO/CC
Lhuntshi (1968)	Lhuntse	Lhuntshi Dzong (early 1970s), Luntsi, Luntshi, Lhunsi	Lhuentse PO; in postcode list: Lhuntse PO
Lingshi (1969)	Lingshi	Lingshi Dzong (~1974)	Lingzhi CMO
Mongar Dzong (1966)	Mongar-Dzong		Mongar PO
Punakha (1966)	Punakha	Punakha Dzong (early 1970s)	Punakha PO
Rinpung Dzong (1962)	Rinpung-Dzong	Paro	Paro PO
Shemgang (1968)	Shemgong (note the “o”)	Shemgang Dzong (early 1970s), Shemgang	Zhemgang PO
Tashichhodzong (1986)	Thimphu, Tashichho-Dzong	Tashichho Dzong, Tashi Choedzong	Tashichodzong PO
Tashigang (1965)	Tashigang	Tashigang Dzong (early 1970s), Tashigang	Trashigang PO; in postcode list: Tashigang PO
Thimphu (1963)	Tashichho-Dzong	Thimpu (on rubber seal for registration only)	Thimphu GPO
Tongsa (1966)	Tongsa	Tongsa Dzong (early 1970s), Trongas (post mark with typo) ²	Trongsa PO
Wangchhuk-lo Dzong		See Ha Dzong	
Wangdiphrodrang (1965)	Wangdiphodrang	Wangdiphrodrang Dzong (1970s), Wangdi, Wangdiphudrong, Wangdi Phodrang, Wangduephrodrang,	Wangdue PO



²for Trongsa PO see Postal Himal #152 4th Q 2012

B. Standardization of Romanization of Dzongkha

The absence of official guidelines for the Romanization of Dzongkha to English led to a confusing free for all, till the Royal Government of Bhutan adopted a guide to official transliteration in 1991 and in time also a listing of the right spelling in English for the names of all districts (dzongkhags), sub districts (dungkhags), blocks (gewogs), towns, and villages. Note that Dzongkha is the official national language of Bhutan, while English and Nepali are also official languages of communication for the Administration. English had been already adopted in the 1960s as the main language of instruction in schools and colleges for the whole country and is widely used by the government, press, business and general public. The different spellings in the names of POs, BPOs, APOs and CMOs over time by P&T or Bhutan Post in their official listings and on post marks can be noticed for most of the existing post offices. This can be observed already in the above table of post offices with ‘dzong’ in their name, but more examples are provided in table B. Most probably because of oversight, some POs or CMOs on present Bhutan Post listings don’t have yet the correct spelling or are even still spelled differently in various Bhutan Post publications, while many postal cancellations are still lagging behind, as often (very) old cancellation devices are used together with newer ones, while many post offices have not received new devices for years or, in some cases, for decades. This has been even more valid for POs or CMOs which have changed their name entirely, where new cancellation devices have lagged behind the name change for many years.

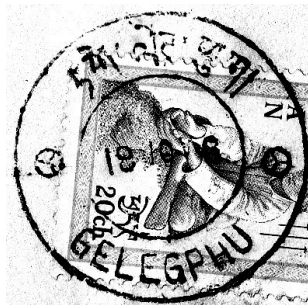


Table B. standardization of Romanization of Dzongkha, some selected examples (see also the other tables)

Name at date of opening	Name(s) used over time	Present name (Bhutan Post listing)
Phuntsholing (1962)	Phuentsholing (also the RGOB preferred name for the gewog, but not for the town), P/ling (generally used abbreviation)	Phuntsholing GPO
Gaylegphug (1965)	Gaylephug, Gelegphu PO	Gelephu GPO
Sarbhang (1965)	Sarbang	Sarpang PO
Samchi (1965)		Samtse PO
Sibsoo (1966)	Sipsoo, Sipchu	Sipsu PO; in postcode list: Sipsu PO/CC
Chirang (1965)	(note that the town is sometimes referred to as <i>Damphu</i> , an alternative name, not used by P&T or BP in listings, but sometimes in their correspondence or website)	Tsirang PO
Demtsi (1980)	Drametse (RGOB preferred spelling), Damitse, Dramitse, Dramitsi, Demsi, Demchi, Demchey	Dremtse CMO; in postcode list: Drametse CMO

[to be completed in the next issue of *Postal Himal*—ed.]

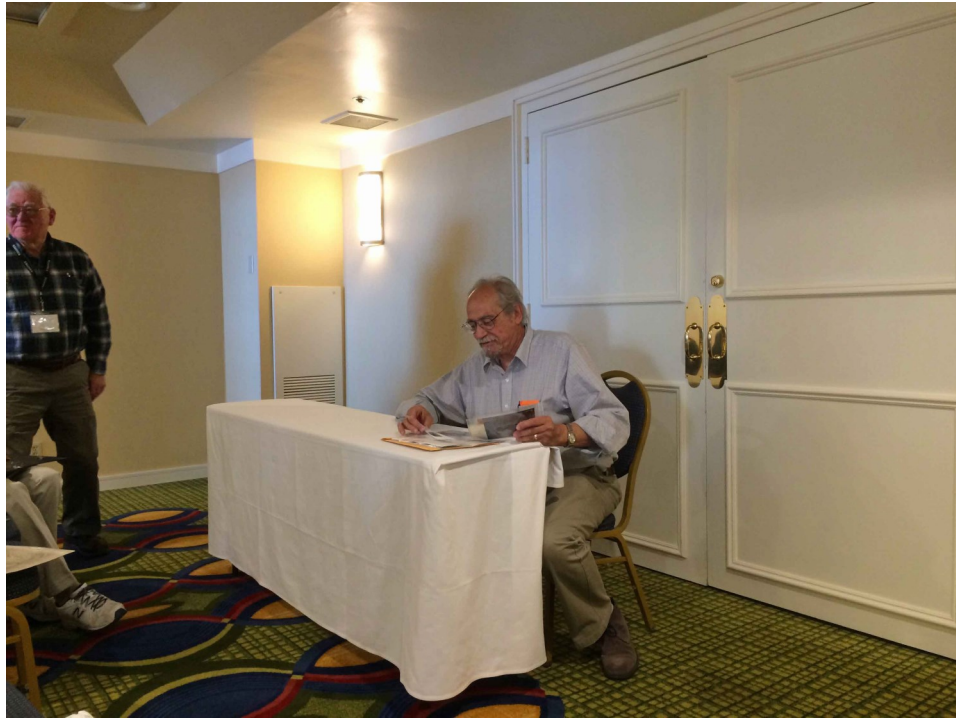
NTPSC Meeting at WESTPEX 2015 by Richard M. Hanchett

Our meeting was sparsely attend this year, one reason being that the editor was an hour late in getting to it. There was however selling and information trading with Leo bring some interesting items with him. The meeting occurred the day after the terrible earthquake in Nepal and we had no information regarding our members in Nepal. Upon arriving home I had an email from Surendra Lal Shrestha (our Nepal representative) informing me that he and his family had not been injured. No information from other members.

Below and on the next page are some of the photos taken by Ken Goss.



Members in attendance minus the late-arriving editor



Roger Skinner and Leo Martyn



Some of the more interesting items that Leo brings to the meetings. A good thing that he drives from Los Angeles to San Francisco, as TSA would definitely not like to see these items.