



Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Email anywhere	\$10.00 or £6.00 or €7,50	\$25.00 or £15.00 or €18,75	N/A
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	167	19 August 2016	02 September 2016
	168	18 November 2016	03 December 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper	3
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	3
Congratulations		3
Volunteer's Fill Out Table		4
Status International Auction	Alfonso G Zulueta Jr	4
Chinese Cultural Revolution Cover Posted in Lhasa, Tibet	Brian W. Smith	5
Upcoming		5
Forgeries, Fakes and Bogus Stamps of Bhutan	van der Velden & Kakko	6
Tibet—Early Bisepts of the 1933 Issue	Rainer Fuchs, IAJP, FRPSL	9
Newspaper Articlec	Colin Hepper, FRPSL	11
The Bhutan 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics overprint on the 1966 Yeti series	van der Velden & Kakko	12
News from Kathmandu	Surendra Lal Shrestha	15
The Remarkable Dry Cancellation Seal of Bhutan	Leo van der Velden	17

Officer's Corner

It is almost the end of another year and personally I am looking forward to 2016. Health wise I was struggling for most of the summer months with a trapped sciatic nerve which saw me with long periods of inactivity and on our last holiday to Egypt in September I caught a rather nasty virus and was glad to get back to the UK. That now is all behind me and I am fit and well and up and running and looking forward to the International Exhibition in New York next year.

At the exhibition we will be sharing a booth with the India Study Circle for the whole of the eight days of the exhibition, with an anticipated 250,000 attendance it is a great opportunity to advertise our society. **We do need volunteers to man the booth**, so for members who are having some time at the exhibition please let either Richard Hanchett or myself know what day you could help and for what period of time i.e. am. or pm or all day.

Finally I wish you all a happy Christmas and good collecting in the New Year.

Editor's Ramblings

Almost time for the next WESTPEC show (which I will be attending) as well as the Big One - NY 2016 (which I will also be attending).

My one frame exhibit on Too Late Strikes on 19th Century Indian Mail has been accepted for exhibition at NY 2016— a big surprise to me when the acceptance email arrived!

As you know, we will be sharing a Society Table with the India Study Circle. The rules at NY 2016 require that the Table be manned during all hours that the show is open. On page 4 there is a form showing the dates and times.

We can't really expect the ISC to do all the work, nor is it right for just 2 or 4 of our members to do all the work. If you are attending the show, please email either Colin or myself with the days and hours when you would be willing to help. Looking at it another way, you will have a place to sit down for an hour or two. So please, if you are attending, volunteer some of your time to help out.

Best Wishes to all of you for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

CONGRATULATIONS

Alfonso Zulueta was awarded Gold (90 points) for his exhibit 'Afghanistan: Amanullah Period, 1920-1929' at World Stamp Exhibition, Singapore

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Vermeil (87 points) for his exhibit 'British India - Queen Victoria Postal Stationery at World Stamp Exhibition, Singapore

Johannes Bornmann was awarded Gold (91 points) and a Special Prize for his exhibit 'Nepal Classic Postal Stationery (1881-1959) at Gotha

Rainer Fuchs was awarded Gold (90 points) for his exhibit 'Tibet 1912-60 at Gotha

Rainer Fuchs was awarded Gold (93 points) for his exhibit 'Tibet 1912-1960' at ITALIAFIL

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded the Gold and the Single Frame Grand Award plus the India Study Circle (ISC) Best 20th India Award plus the ISC Best India Postal Stationery Award and the ISC Best One-Frame India Award for his exhibit 'The 1904 Lithograph Issue of Jaipur' at Chicagopex

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Gold plus the United States Postal Stationery Society Marcus Whit Award for his exhibit 'British India Queen Victoria Postal Stationery' at Chicagopex

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Vermeil for his exhibit 'Indian Postal Stationery Issued During the Reign of King George VI' at Chicagopex

Richard M Hanchett was awarded Gold for his single frame exhibit 'Late Mail Strikes on 19th Century Indian Mail at Chicagopex

NY2016

Volunteers to man NTPSC-ISC Joint Society Booth

AM

PM

Saturday	28 May
Sunday	29 May
Monday	30 May
Tuesday	31 May
Wednesday	01 June
Thursday	02 June
Friday	03 June
Saturday	04 June

The exhibition will be open daily from 10:30 - 18:00

Volunteers should let the Editor or the President (email addresses on page 2) know the day/days they will be attending and the times that they could cover the booth.

Status International Auction
By Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.

I've just recently returned from Australia after about a month. While in Sydney, I visited Status International with my dealer friend Dragan (Euro-Yu Oz). Chris Ceremuga of Status showed me lots of Nepal which is coming up for sale in late (?) January.

There is a nice range of material with many European-paper first issues, mostly expertised or signed by Hellrigl. (The majority of the certificates are dates 2007). Condition is generally way above normal, i.e. excellent, for Nepal. There are also plate proof sheets of the Siva issues (from the Perkins-Bacon archive). There are a couple of 1904 covers in the collection lot which may be taken out and lotted separately. Condition on these is average.

I estimate that there are at least 50-60 lots.

Had a good time in Australia, as always. Because of the volcano, I didn't go to Bali - Auckland, New Zealand instead.

Cheers,
AGZ

Chinese Cultural Revolution Cover Posted in Lhasa, Tibet by Brian W. Smith

A philatelic looking cover with Standardized International Type T10 dater. Peoples Republic of China in upper ring—Chinese and Romanized LASA in lower ring, dated 1971 7. 6 (6 July 1971). The Type T10 was in use between the 1960s and 1980s.

The 8f postage stamp is the left-most stamp of a strip of three issued in 1971 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party. It shows the unlikely scenario of a Tibetan woman marching with her fellow “countrymen” holding Chairman Mao’s red book! The illustration on the left side of the cover depicts a Revolutionary Ballet dancer. Above the text may well be a “thought or poem” of Chairman Mao—the writer is unsure which it is.



UPCOMING

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

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

Forgeries, Fakes and Bogus Stamps of Bhutan by Leo van der Velden and Iiro Kakko

In 2014 Bhutan philatelists watching eBay and Delcampe stamp sale sites were surprised by a sale of a 2012 Bhutan silk stamp of 225 Ngultrum. The stamp shows the painting of 'The Kiss' by Gustav Klimt at the occasion of the '150th Anniversary of Gustav Klimt 1862 -2012'. A few months later a second Gustav Klimt stamp would follow of 100 Nu. With the same painting 'The Kiss', but slightly different arranged. This issue had, however, never appeared on any list of issued stamps provided by Bhutan Post. Some follow up with a Bhutanese philatelist would reveal that the stamps were not even a proof or unissued set. They were clearly bogus stamps, issued by an unknown party, possibly working out of some country of the former East Block or Soviet Union.



The 2012 Gustav Klimt Anniversary silk bogus stamp

We follow Wikipedia's entry 'Philatelic Fakes and Forgeries', which defines bogus stamps as "fictitious stamps which purport to be produced by an entity that exists and might have produced them, but did not". In accordance with *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* Wikipedia defines the term *forgery* "for stamps as stamps produced to defraud collectors (properly known as forgeries) and to defraud stamp-issuing governments (properly known as counterfeits). "Fake" is used to indicate the alteration of a genuine stamp to make it appear as something else. Fakes might refer to cancellations, overprints, added or clipped perforations, stamp design alterations, etc.



The genuine stamp set and the forgeries

After placing some small entry on the Facebook page of Bhutan Stamp Collectors on *Numisbriefe* or numismatic postage covers issued with Bhutanese stamps and coins or a banknote, as many images as possible were collected of these hybrids. One cover stated to be issued on the occasion of the 1994 Lillehammer Olympic winter games, and carried a 15 Ngultrum stamp depicting the 300 Ngultrum

coin which is enshrined in the cover showing a skating event. This stamp didn't look familiar, and it is not included in neither the Michel nor the Scott catalogue, while the online catalogue Stampworld.com didn't present it either. We started to check more carefully numismatic postage covers issued on the occasion of the related 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics, which carry stamps with a very similar design of a reproduction of the attached Bhutanese coins showing a related sporting event like basketball or soccer. There exist a genuine Bhutanese set of 1996 on the occasion of the Atlanta Olympics with three stamps showing a similar design, however the values for these stamps are respectively 5 Nu (soccer), 7 Nu (basketball) and 10 Nu (judo), while the stamps on the numismatic covers for 1996 are both 15 Nu, although the design is very similar. Also the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics stamp has a value of 15 Nu. The only value of 15 Nu in the real set issued by Bhutan Post is on the souvenir sheet, which shows archery, but has a complete different design. Clearly these 15 Nu stamps on the 1994 and 1996 Olympics numismatic postage covers are forgeries, copies of an original design of issued stamps but with a changed value and slightly bigger in size, and – in the case of the skating event - a changed coin center as well. The issuing agency of these covers is unknown. It should be noted that the value of numismatic covers is especially based on the coins, and the postage stamp is in general a minor item, added in general to reach a larger market.



The fake overprints on the revenue stamp and the fake golden WWF logo on the Tiger Year set

As fake postage stamps are concerned, using postage stamps genuinely issued by Bhutan Post or its predecessor P&T, there are only a few cases known. The first case was the 1961/1962 overprint using a rubber stamp of 10 NP and 25 NP both on the same 4 Trangkha stamp of the 1st set of revenue stamps issued in 1954. ‘NP’ stands for New Paisa, referring to the Indian currency, while the original revenue stamps were using the Tibetan currency (also touched upon by Brian Vincent in his article on Bhutanese revenues in *Postal Himal* #163, 3rd Quarter 2015). According to a former director of P&T of Bhutan, these overprints are fake and have not been issued by the Bhutanese postal authorities. Another case was the overprint of the WWF logo in gold on one of the two souvenir sheets of the 2010 issue for Chinese New Year ‘Male Iron Tiger Year 2010’. Details for this fake overprint are still outstanding.



The mysterious 1999 Fishes set

A mysterious case is the 1999 Fishes set with still value in Laotian currency shown and Laotian text. It isn't known as an unissued official proof and has not been made available for sale in larger numbers like the Gustav Klimt silk bogus stamps. A bogus stamp or a sales attempt by an eager printer trying to do business with Bhutan Post?

Fake covers and FDCs are more common. The case most written about is the existence of many questionable early fiscal covers, using the 1954 issued revenue stamps for postage on domestic or international mail. The fake kind of FDC often encountered is the so-called ‘Patna cover’, using a mislaid Phuntsholing cancellation device on white regular envelopes without any cachet, but only with a rubber stamp stating ‘First Day of Issue’. Another case involves an own fancy cancellation on an own designed FDC issued in the UK using genuine Bhutanese stamps (see *Postal Himal* #162, 2nd Quarter 1915). These fake covers and FDCs may need further, detailed attention in due time.

Note: images used are either from own collections or from Ed Pawloski's Bhutan Philatelic Database

Tibet - Early Bisects of the 1933 Issue

by Rainer Fuchs, AIJP, FRPSL

Much has been written about the bisect (and quadrisect stamps) of Tibet, in use after the Chinese Occupation of Tibet from 1950 onwards.

Very little is known regarding the early bisects of the 1933 issue and I am trying to shed some light on this.

I have been showing a cover in my collection for some time, and have also shown it on the Nepal/Tibet Discussion Forum. During the Bilateral Germany / British Stamp Exhibition in Gotha / Germany on 3-6 September 2015 where our fellow member Johannes Bornmann had shown his marvellous exhibit about classic Nepal Postal Stationary and myself my Tibet 1912-1960 exhibit, I noted another early 1933 issue bisect on Nepal Postal Stationary cover which is in the collection of Mr. Bornmann. Both bisected items are shown here.

Let's start with the bisected 1 Trangka stamp as it has been used earlier than the Postal Stationary of Tibet.



A bisected 1 Trangka red on cover dated June 1933 from Kathmandu via Gyantse to Shigatse. The cover has been sent thru the British-Indian Post Office in Nepal and was therefore franked with Indian stamps. It is postmarked Kathmandu "NEPAL / 22.JUN 33", with a Gyantse transit postmark dated 1 July 1933. In Gyantse the bisected 1 tr. stamp for the onward transport by the Tibetan Postal system was added and cancelled by a bi-lingual GYANTSE handstamp (T 41) and consequently forwarded to Shigatse. The 1/2 tr. postage was the then current postage rate for an ordinary local letter.

The second cover, from the collection of Johannes Bornmann, is on a Nepal Postal Stationary envelope.



A bisected 1933 2/3 Trangka blue on Wateren No. 3, to make up the 1 Trangka rate for Tibetan internal delivery on an 8-Paisa envelope from Kathmandu-Lalitpur (Patan) to Lhasa via the Indian post office in Gyantse, Tibet. Posted at the Nepalese Exchange P.O. Kathmandu, dated 2001.5.18 BS (= Sept. 1, 1944 AD). From Nepal to the Indian Post Office in Gyantse the Nepalese postage rate was 8 Paisa. In Gyantse it was handed over to the Tibetan Postal system and was forwarded to Lhasa. Bilingual GYANTSE handstamp (T 41) cancelled the Tibetan stamps at the Gyantse Post Office.

It is interesting that both bisects were used and produced at the Gyantse Post Office. If other members are aware of other early Tibet bisects I would be very interested to learn about them (rainer@fuchsonline.com or <http://fuchs-online.com/forum>).

Of course, the hunt goes on, where there is one bisect there must be a second one too...

Postal service facing existential crisis

Only tourists posting letters in traditional letter boxes in the capital



Letter boxes in front of the General Post Office, in Sundhara, Kathmandu.

Thomas Bogaty

Kathmandu, August 31

Kathmandu denizens have stopped making use of the traditional postal system due to increased access to modern means of communication.

Of the 72 letter boxes in Kathmandu, only 10 are being used at present. Two decades ago, temple shaped letter boxes were a common sight in the Valley. However, only a few of them remain to this day.

Madan Bahadur KC, a non-gazetted first class officer at Sundhara-based General Post Office, said people gradually shifted to modern technologies since the 90's with the introduction of the Internet in Nepal.

The Internet, telephone and mobile phone, and

other modern means of communication have narrowed the usage of the letter box. "People prefer to communicate over phone and the Internet than to post letters," said KC.

However, tourists continue to send letters through the postal system. The letter boxes installed at Thamel, Tribhuvan International Airport, Bhrikuti Mandap, Basantapur, Darbarmarg and Pashupatinath are filled with letters and post cards posted by tourists.

KC informed that over 8,000 letters and post cards were posted in a letter box at Thamel, generating more than Rs 250,000 revenue per day. Europeans, Americans, Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans, among other tourists, continue to use the traditional postal

system.

General Post Office delivers the posted letters within 15 days and earns over Rs 20 million revenue from the 10 letter boxes.

"The tourists still regard postal system as an effective means of communication. They comprise 99 per cent of the modern users of the traditional postal system," said KC.

Kumar Shahi, 30, of Bhotebahal said he grew up seeing a letter box in his locality, but never posted any letter. "The letter box stands useless in our locality. I've never spotted anyone posting letters in it. But the GPO still turned down the locals' request to remove it," he said.

Postal service formally began in Nepal in 1878 with the establishment of GPO.

The Bhutan 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics overprint on the 1966 Yeti series* by Leo van der Velden and Iiro Kakko

On the occasion of the 1968 10th Winter Olympics in the French ski resort of Grenoble, the agent of the Posts and Telegraph Department of Bhutan, Burt Todd's Bhutan Stamp Agency based in the Bahamas organized the issue of an overprint with the official '10th Winter Olympics' logo on several of the values of the 1966 Abominable Snowman (a.k.a. Yeti) series. The stamps were officially issued on 16 February 1968. The logo consists of a six-pointed snow crystal with three stylistic (red) roses, the symbol of Grenoble, with below it the five intertwined Olympic rings, the whole surrounded with the text in French 'X^es JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER GRENOBLE 1968'. The logo used for the stamps, however, comes in two variations. Type one has an open ice crystal center with double lined Olympic rings, while type two, a darker, bolder version of type 1, has a closed, black filled ice crystal center with single, thick Olympic rings (see illustrations). Both types are listed in MICHEL (189-192 resp. A1 and A2) and SCOTT (93-93C and 93D-G).



Official emblem



Type 1 overprint



Type 2 overprint

The values of the original stamps were not changed. The Yeti series stamps used, are triangular in shape, with 50 stamps in one pane, arranged in 25 facing pairs. Both perforated and imperforated Yeti stamps were originally issued and also available in the overprint version.

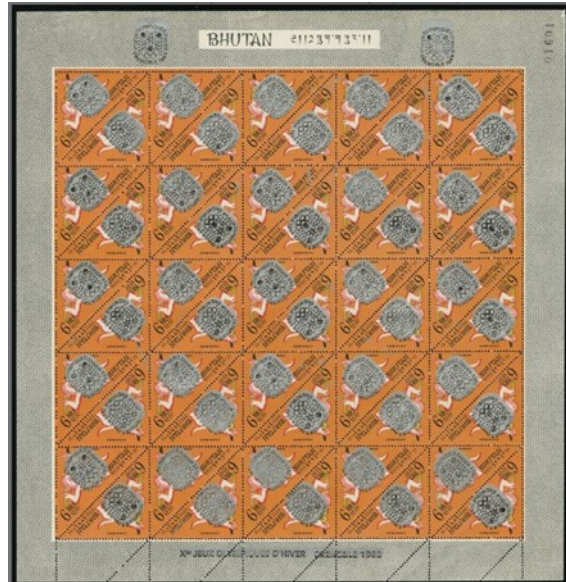
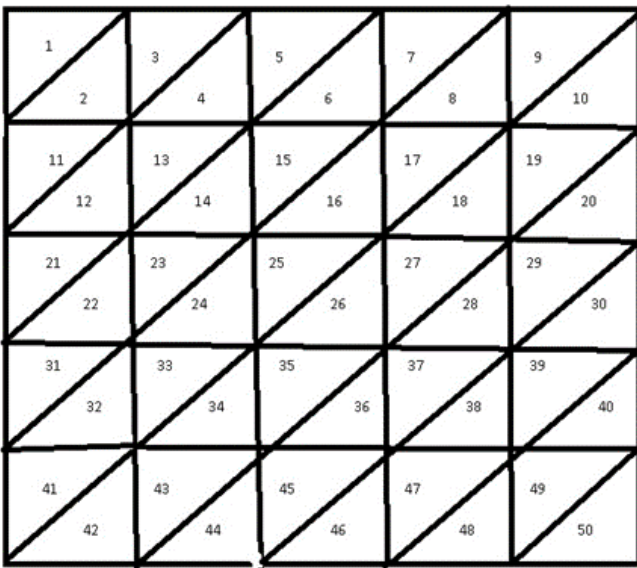
A trial was made of a black overprint on different values, at least known for the following values: 15 Ch (Chhetrum), 40 Ch, 50 Ch, 3 Nu (Ngultrum), 5 Nu and 6 Nu, and a silver text trial as well on 1.25 Nu only. As these were not deemed clear enough, it was decided to print first a silver foil as underlay for a black overprint. The stamps available with only the black overprint on the silver foil underlay, were most probably trials and not misprints, as for instance the values 15 Ch, 50 Ch and 5 Nu which are known with the black overprint, didn't make it to the four values used for the definitive overprint: 40 Ch, 1.25 Nu, 3 Nu and 6 Nu.



*Note: with thanks to Gary Davis who made some of the stamps scanned here available, while also some illustrations from Ed Pawlowski's Bhutan Philatelic Data base have been used. The emblem illustration and description of the original Grenoble Winter Olympics 1968 are based on information provided in Wikipedia.

On each pane in a set position, flaws can be observed in the black overprint. Also shifted printing of the silver underlay and the black overprint exist, while also double overprinting of the silver overlay has been reported.

A full pane of 50 stamps looks as follows:



The following flaws can be observed on each pane:

In locations 18 and 34 the R in GRENOBLE lost the right leg of the R, resulting in the letter P and the word "GPENOBLE";

In location 37 the second E in GRENOBLE lost the lower shelf, resulting in the letter F and the word "GRENOBLF";

In location 41 the X in JEUX carries a small black dot right of the top of its right upper leg, like X˙;

In location 47 the Q of OLYMPIQUES carries a small black dot right on the top of the Q;

In location 38 there is often a small round, 2 mm diameter hole in the silver underlay.



'GPENOBLE' (lower)



'GRENOBLF' (upper)



black dot on X



black dot on Q



Hole in the silver underlay (second illustration is a blown-up detail of the stamp opposite "GRENOBLF" above).

Furthermore, the overprints on one pair (locations 13 and 14) don't face each other but are in line with each other, as the overprint on location 13 is turned 180 degrees.



the pair of overprints on one

Note that there are also two overprints on the upper margin of the full pane, both type 1 only, and on the base margin the overprint in large capital letters 'X^es JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER GRENOBLE 1968'. While the letters 'es' after the X are here reasonably readable, they show up often as dark blots in the overprints on the individual stamps, in particular on the type 2 ones.



'es' often readable on type 1



appearing as two dark spots on type 2

As there were four ways to put a pane in the printer, and both for the silver underlay as well as the black overprint, it is not surprising that there are numerous varieties because of the shifted printing of the silver underlay and the black overprint combined, or the silver underlay or black text only, and in some cases the black overprint misses some parts of the letters of some words because of this. In one known case, a pane was inserted upside down, resulting in the overprints appearing on the gum side.



Examples of shifted silver and black overprint, while in the middle only the black overprint shifted and in the third case only the silver shifted

The full overprint sheetlets reflect the cutting of original Yeti series panes out of the printer's sheet resulting in border perforations varieties for the individual panes.

News from Kathmandu by Surendra Lal Shrestha



Three new postage stamps unveiled

Rastriya Samachar Samiti
Kathmandu, October 9

The Postal Services Department today unveiled three new postage stamps on the occasion of the 141st World Post Day.

Secretary at the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, Sunil Bahadur Malla, affixed the first cancellation mark on the postage stamps depicting Kumbheshwar Mahadev at Lalitpur, the 18th SAARC Summit and

the postage stamps carrying the message about the threat of earthquakes.

Speaking at the programme, Secretary Malla said that the postal service in the country had failed to provide quality service in lack of adequate physical infrastructures.

Stating that the postal service was the oldest form of communications, he argued that its effectiveness was equally important in these days as well.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Ramesh Prasad Khanal expressed his confidence that the stamp projecting the 18th SAARC Summit would help spread the message of brotherhood across the South Asian countries.

On the occasion, Joint Secretary at the MoICT, Kabiraj Khanal, Director General of the PSD Drona Pokharel and Philatelic Society Chairperson Ramesh Kumar Shrestha, among others, stressed the need for developing the postal service.



NEWS FROM K'du.





Government of Nepal
Postal Services Department / Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu

Technical Details

1. Title	: "Drop, Cover and Hold on" during earthquakes.
2. Denomination	: Rs. 5.
3. Size	: 42.5 mm X 31.5 mm.
4. Format	: Horizontal.
5. Paper	: Security Stamps Paper with special gumming.
6. Color	: 5 colors with phosphor print.
7. Sheet Composition	: 20 stamps per sheet.
8. Quantity	: 1 million.
9. Process	: Offset Lithography / Photogravure.
10. Printer	: Joh Enschede Stamps B.V., The Netherlands.
11. Issue Year	: 2015.



Government of Nepal

Technical Details

1. Title	: Sarbeshwor (Kumbheshwor) Mahadev, Bagalamukhi, Lalitpur.
2. Denomination	: Rs. 3.
3. Size	: 42.5 mm X 31.5 mm.
4. Format	: Vertical.
5. Paper	: Security Stamps Paper with special gumming.
6. Color	: 5 colors with phosphor print.
7. Sheet Composition	: 20 stamps per sheet.
8. Quantity	: 0.5 million.
9. Process	: Offset Lithography / Photogravure.
10. Printer	: Joh Enschede Stamps B.V., The Netherlands.
11. Designer	: Purna Kala Limbu Bista.
12. Issue Year	: 2015.



Government of Nepal
Postal Services Department / Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu

Technical Details

1. Title	: 18th SAARC Summit, Kathmandu, 2014.
2. Denomination	: Rs. 10.
3. Size	: 42.5 mm X 31.5 mm.
4. Format	: Vertical.
5. Paper	: Security Stamps Paper with special gumming.
6. Color	: 5 colors with phosphor print.
7. Sheet Composition	: 20 stamps per sheet.
8. Quantity	: 0.5 million.
9. Process	: Offset Lithography / Photogravure.
10. Printer	: Joh Enschede Stamps B.V., The Netherlands.
11. Designer	: Purna Kala Limbu Bista.
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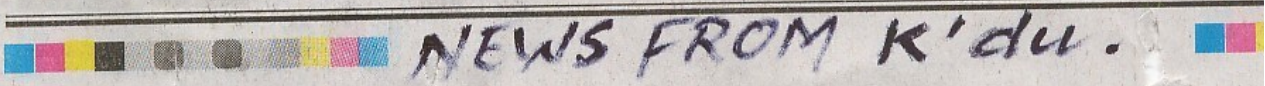
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The Remarkable Dry Cancellation Seal of Bhutan by Leo van der Velden

While visiting the philatelic bureau of Bhutan Post in Thimphu in October 2008, one of the philatelic officers showed me an old, intriguing apparatus, which I recognized as a dry or negative seal or embossing device. It was a tough, heavy metal piece of office equipment. It showed considerable wear and tear and the original black paint decorated with colorful motives had been chipped off at many places. After some research, it turned out to be the original dry seal which was purchased at the time of the first issue of 3D stamps in Bhutan in 1967 to be used as a cancellation device. The dry seal has no date included and a separate regular rubber date stamp was used in addition to indicate the date of issue by P&T in Thimphu, while Burt Todd's Bhutan Stamp Agency added a regular Phuntsholing post mark showing the date. During the Bhutan Stamp Agency time, both P&T and the Stamp Agency would issue their own FDCs. Note that the date stamps used by P&T would be easily worn out, and then replaced by a similar, but often slightly different rubber date stamp, with for instance a different length.



The dry seal device in the philatelic office



Bhutan Stamp Agency FDC front and back imprint

The dry seal has been used on several of the FDCs for 3D stamps, with the Bhutan Stamp Agency using some blue handcopy carbon paper on the front side, in order to show a clear imprint on the 3D stamps. It was apparently not considered a real success, as in later years only a Phuntsholing rubber post mark was used instead by the Bhutan Stamp Agency. May be the partly plastic 3D stamps were too thick and tough for a real impact. The dry seal has not been used for the cancellation of any other kind of stamps, except on some old 1967 'Crossed Dorjies' postal reply cards I used as paper to experiment with at the philatelic office. They are made out of thin carton and gave an acceptable imprint (they were still available at that time at the post office for the original price of 20 Chhetrum each).



P&T FDC with unclear imprint and use of ordinary rubber date stamp