



Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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	168	25 November 2016	02 December 2016
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Officer's Corner

The report in the last issue of 2015 tells of the demise of the post box in Nepal and the fact that there is becoming little use for internal mail. The main users of the post offices are now tourists. This has probably come about because of the difficult terrain for transportation, the older generation outside of the Kathmandu valley having little use for writing letters and in particular the younger generation being more computer literate due to more modern schools. On looking back over the last few years the stamp designs are also changing. At one time there always seemed to be issues that were designed to help educate the public, particularly on health and hygiene matters, but today the trend is more for the tourist covering either many of the fine mountain views and temples, or the thematic collector with, butterflies, elephants etc.

So where does that leave the collectors of modern postal history. With internal mail becoming obsolete then the covers of today could become much scarcer than the presently sought after covers of 100 years ago. What about used stamps, well catalogues could in the future pay more attention to the fact that the used stamp will be much scarcer than the mint. Your views on this would be appreciated.

In November 1976 our first newsletter went out which was paid for by members as a subscription (Prior to this correspondence to prospective members was paid for by either Wolfgang or myself) this was of course the forerunner of our current magazine. So in November we will be celebrating our 40th year so I would ask members to make an effort to write an article for Richard to make that issue one to remember.

By the time you receive this issue New York 2016 will almost be upon us and the indications are that there will be a good number of our members attending, some of which have already said that they will help on our stand there. However we have no specific times/days organised at present and I would ask anyone who is going to help to call at the stand and a day and times can be arranged. I will be there for the first four days and I look forward to meeting you.

Editor's Ramblings

Well, the big year for spending has finally arrived what with both WESTPEX and NY 2016. I will try not to go too crazy with purchases. NY 2016 will be the last FIP sponsored stamp show in the USA until Boston 2026, Hopefully we will all be around for that one.

As you will notice in **UPCOMING:** below, both we and our society booth partner will be having a meeting on the same date and place, one after the other. And speaking on the society booth, remember that we are SHARING the booth with the ISC and sharing doesn't mean that they do all the manning. There is a schedule on the next page. Please select a date and time (no more than 2 hours in a row) and forward your dates and times to either the editor or Colin. Email addresses on page 2. See you all at the show(s) of your preference.

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 29 April - 01 June 2016. NTPSC meeting should be Sunday 01 June. Check the Marriott activities board for time and place

NY 2016 27 May - 04 June 2016. NTPSC will have a meeting 29 May in Room 1E06 from 10:30 until 12:00. Ed Gosnell will make a Power Point presentation (about 45 minutes). We will have plenty of time for any others who want to show and tell, for selling and buying, and for plain good old talking. For those of you interested in India, the India Study Circle will have a meeting the same date and room as the NTPSC from 09:00 until 10:30. Come to one or both and enjoy yourself. Non-collecting wives are also welcome.

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.

Please note that this is a sharing arrangement and we should do our fair share.

Please do not sign up for more than a two hour time frame for any one day, but feel free to sign up for multiple days.

You don't have to know all the details about NTPSC - just be prepared to talk to other collectors about what you like about the society and the general area of interest of the group (Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim).

There will be a sheet there for visitor's who wish to provide their email address to receive a gratis copy of *Postal Himal* without any obligation on their part.

This is a good opportunity to talk up our society and meet other collectors and maybe even pick up some knowledge about the India Study Circle.

We'll be looking for you and thanks in advance if you are able to help!!

And please remember that this is voluntary. If you attend the show and are not up to manning the table, please drop by any way and say Hi.

Book Review: *China Stamp Society Specialized Catalog of China to 1949*
reviewed by Alan Warren

China Stamp Society Specialized Catalog of China to 1949, ed. H. James Maxwell. Approx. 9 by 9 inches, 524 pages, spiral bound, plastic coated covers, China Stamp Society, Kansas City MO, 2016. ISBN 9780615550336, \$69.95 plus postage from Richard Boyd, 127 Carmody Circle, Folsom CA 95630, or online at www.ChinaStampSociety.org.

The Chinese stamps described in this catalog represent a comprehensive specialized listing of the Imperial issues of 1878 through the Republic issues of 1949. The numbering system is based on that of *Ma's Illustrated Catalogue of the Stamps of China* but has been modified and expanded.

Other introductory material includes the use of Romanized place names, warnings on forgeries, and a glossary of terms used. There is also a glossary of Chinese characters and their English equivalents for names of provinces and their capitals, numerals, currency, dates, and a few philatelic terms.

The listings begin with the two stages of the Ching Dynasty from 1878 to 1911. Here will be found the Large and Small Dragon issues and the Empress Dowager commemoratives. Specialized entries include color varieties and major plate flaws. Text describes how the stamps were printed and the layout of the plates. The surcharges on these issues are illustrated and their varieties listed.

The next section begins with the regular issues of the Republic (1912-1936), and then the Wartime issues (1937-1945), the inflationary period (Chinese national currency, gold yuan and silver yuan issues 1945-1949), followed by special service issues for airmail, express and registry, postage due, parcel post, military post, and booklets. Rate tables for the inflationary periods help in understanding this complex area. Official postal seals and postal savings stamps are listed and then extensive descriptions of the province issues and the

Japanese occupation issues are presented.

The stamps are nicely illustrated in color.

Each of the sections begins with good background text for orientation. The table of contents not only shows the page numbers but also the color bands that appear on the page edges that enable users to turn quickly to each section of the catalog. The binding permits the book to open flat during use.

Tibet collectors will be interested in the listing of the 1911 provisional surcharges on Chinese Imperial Post stamps for use in Tibet. Values are also shown for the two major overprint errors—the inverted surcharge on the 3 pies and the inverted “s” in “Annas” on the 3 annas value. Five of the base stamps have platable re-touches and these are listed as well. The quantities printed of each value are indicated in the listing.

**Comments on Brian Vincent article “Revenue Stamps of Bhutan”
by Leo van der Velden and Iiro Kakko**

The article by Brian Vincent on the revenue stamps of Bhutan in Postal Himal #163, 3rd Quarter 2015 [pg. 12—ed.] is a welcome contribution on the discussion of this topic. He presents in depth the first issue. As a result of his article, the Wikipedia entry changed the used transcription ‘thangkha’ for the denomination of the first issue to “trangkha” which is also in line with the use elsewhere in Wikipedia.

-2-

the actual quantity overprinted will follow:

√ (vii) This information is available in regard to the stamps printed since 1965.

√(viii) <u>Stamp:</u>	<u>Value</u>
Blue	1 Trangka (1 anna)
Red	2 Trangkhas (2 annas)
Green	4 Trangkhas (4 annas)
Orange	8 Trankhas (8 annas)

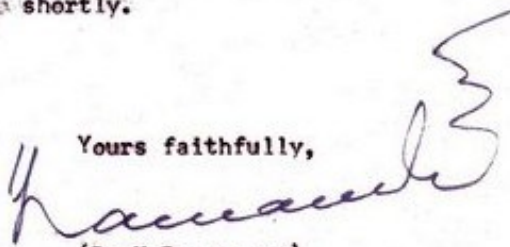
The above stamps were printed at the Government of India Security Press, Nasik.

√ (ix) The matter is under investigation. Further communication will follow.

√ (x) I shall let you know further in this regard shortly.

I am sorry to hear that you have not heard from our Philatelic Bureau about the order placed by you. I am enquiring into the matter. I shall let you know further shortly.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr.K.Ramamurti),
Postal Adviser.

A. 1968 Letter by Dr Ramamurti to Kmilu

4. The revenue stamps both old and new are not available in the Philatelic Bureau but you may have it from the Sub-Divisional Officer, Phuntsholing (Bhutan) on payment. Following are the revenue stamps available in that office.
- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|--|
| 10 CH | 50 CH | | |
| 25 CH | 1 NU | 5 NU. | |

- 2 -

Should you require any further information please write to us and we will be glad to give you our best of services.

Yours faithfully,


Philatelic Officer
Phuntsholing: Bhutan.

B. letter by Bhutan Philatelic Officer of 1971

Bhutanese Trangkha has also been used for the values of first revenue issue by the Indian postal advisor to Bhutan in the 1960s, Dr. Ramamurti, in his letter of 2 April 1968 to the German philatelist Karl Heinz Michel (Kmilu) with, between brackets, the value also stated in Indian 'annas'. The colors are described as blue (1 trangkha), red (2 trangkha), green (3 trangkha) and orange (4 trangkha), and these are also generally recognized as the basic colors for the 1st issue.

Brian Vincent points out correctly that after the issue of the first set of revenue the exact information of several dates of issue is often lacking and rather confusing. The proposed issue of a set of at least two new revenue stamps 10 Chetrum (Ch) and 25 Ch is known as the 1966 litho proofs of the printer, the Indian Security Press in Nasik are available. Both revenue stamps were issued in 1967, although the 25 Chetrum stamp is, as far as we know, only used in the surcharged form. That explains why this stamp in the uncharged format is sold on auctions and the internet as "unissued". Also the 10 Ch has been reportedly surcharged to 15 Ch, although used samples are not known. The Bhutanese philatelic officer mentioned in a letter dated 26 March 1971 to Mr Karl-Heinz Michel that the following revenue stamps are available: 10 Ch, 50 Ch, 25 Ch, 1 Nu and 5 Nu. This is a problematic statement, because the 2nd issue of revenue stamps as we know them are the 10 Ch red and the 25 Ch aqua green of 1967 and, issued in the same year or one or more years later, the values of 20 Ch red, 1 Nu olive green and 5 Nu orange. So the 20 Ch is missing while 50 Ch is not known as part of the new 2nd issue. According to Nicholas Rhodes in an article in the newspaper Kuensel of 20 March 2011, the stamps of the first issue had received new book values of respectively as 25 Ch, 50 Ch, Nu 1 and Nu 5, which is however questionable, as this information is nowhere provided in the mail exchange between Bhutan P&T and Karl-Heinz Michel or mentioned elsewhere. The 50 Ch mentioned is either a typo and should be the missing 20 Ch, or refers to the 25 CH surcharged to 50 Ch. It is clear that there are still unanswered questions outstanding here.

Both the 1st and 2nd issue have been printed by the Indian Security Press, which also printed most stamps for India. The first issue has been reprinted several times, with the print becoming clearer and the paper more white. The color of the ink used in subsequent reprinting might differ slightly from the first printing.



Variations in the different printings of the 20 Ch revenue stamp

Also the 2nd issue has been reprinted several times, with this time even more changes, resulting in two main types which can be distinguished: first printed have even shade lines around the center of the dorji, while later prints have darker vertical lines along the dorji. Of the 20 Ch there are stamps known which differ entirely in clearness, color and size.

Ministry of Finance
 No.DRC/Adm/03/Rev Stamps/96/4313 12/1/96

Notification

This is to notify to all concerned that the Royal Government has revised the denomination/value of the existing revenue & judicial stamps. New stamps have also been introduced for non judicial purpose. The changes are illustrated below and shall come into effect from 1st February 1996.

S.No.	Type	Values	colour
1.	Revenue stamps	Nu. 1	Red
2.	Non judicial stamps	Nu. 10	Brown
		Nu. 100	Purple
		Nu. 500	Pink
3.	Judicial stamps	Nu. 5	Blue <i>GREEN</i>
		Nu. 20	Yellow <i>BLUE</i>
		Nu. 50	Orange
		Nu. 100	Green <i>YELLOW</i>

The above stamps shall be available for sale through the P&T net work as the responsibility of printing, supply and sale of the same has been transferred to the Division of Post & telegraph. The procedures and guidelines for the usage of the above revised stamps is being circulated to all user agencies for effective compliance. Once the new stock of stamps is in effect, old/existing stamps shall be considered invalid.

All concerned agencies, Bank of Bhutan and the general public are also hereby informed that any existing stock of sold stamps both revenue and judicial lying with them should be surrendered to Division of Revenue & Customs on or before 31st January 1996 positively for cancellation and refund purposes.

Secretary

The official announcement for the 1996 issues of the judicial, non-judicial and revenue stamps is known from a notification in the local newspaper Kuensel on 13 September 1996 by the Ministry of Finance, although confusingly it mixes up the actual colors of the different values of the judicial stamps. In the Kuensel of late 2005 the Department of Revenue and Customs announces a new Nu 10 judicial stamp and a new Nu 5 revenue stamp to be released in 2006, which explains the existence of those two stamps.

Regarding non-judicial stamps, this concept was most probably copied from India, where judicial and non-judicial stamp paper is in use. Judicial stamps would then only be used for court documents and non-judicial for commercial agreements, transfer of property, power of attorney and such transactions between parties done outside court. However, it looks like this concept never was recognized in Bhutan by the general population, which kept on using, as in the past, revenue stamps for this type of agreement and transaction which were made outside any court. Revenue stamps were used as well for legal purposes, i.e. on legal agreements and statements, until the first set of separate legal stamps was issued.

NOTIFICATION

This is to notify all concerned that the existing Stamp Duty rates of Nu.1 for Revenue and Nu. 5 for Judicial Stamps are revised by the government to Nu.5 and Nu.10 respectively w.e.f. 1st January 2006.

All concerned are required to affix/pay stamp duty of the correct amount/denomination by way of the relevant stamps as applicable from the effective date.

It is also informed that until such time the new stamps in different denominations are printed and distributed, the existing stamps shall continue to be used with the revised rates until replaced through the Bhutan Post outlets where the stamps are sold.

After the new stamps formally replaces the old stamps, an exchange policy for old stamps with new stamps will be put in place for the benefit of all concerned to surrender their old stamps in lieu of new stamps. This will be informed through subsequent notification.

Director

Example
 USE 2 Judicial stamps USE 5 Revenue stamps

Public Information Services, Department of Revenue and Customs
 Tel:333771 FAX:323608 www.mof.gov.bt/darc

Nepal Postal Stationery Further Printings of Wa 15 by Joachim Bednorz

Recently I was able to get hold of a series of horse postal cards of the first printing of Nepal Wa 15 at an auction. Among the series there are two particularly interesting pieces.

Both postal cards are not in conformity with the Wa 15 print, exhibiting left and right framelines that either do not reach the bottom frameline or slightly overlap it. Moreover, the left frameline displays two gaps. This means that the postal cards approximate to the Wa 15b print which was published by van der Warteren in *Postal Himal* volume 106 as “unrecorded printing”.

However, the illustrations below neither show the Wa 15b nor the Wa 15 “damaged corner” that was presented along with it.

Figure 1:

1. The right frameline does not overlap the one at the bottom.
 2. The last character of the long text line sticks out and fully overlaps the ornaments below which is different from what has been shown in previous publications.
- Due to its gaps the left frameline seemingly consists of three parts, the middle part of which is slightly shifted to the right.

Figure 2:

1. The right frameline slightly overlaps the frameline at the bottom.
2. Compare Figure 1 – the middle part of the left frameline that is shifted to the right in figure 1 has now also been lowered. So the card shows a double frameline in the lower section.



The Philatelist from Lalitpur - Part II

by Colin Hepper, FRPSL

In *Postal Himal* No. 157 [1st Quarter 2014, page 12-ed.] I wrote an article about two covers which were obviously philatelically created by a Mr. Pratap Bahadur Joshi and posted to himself in 1943. Since then I have come across a few more covers associated with him. Three more covers using the 1936 issue Pashupati stamps on the same type green envelope, none of which has a correct postage rate with one using a single 16 pice value, another has a 2 pice, 4 pice, 8 pice and 24 pice stamps with the final one having a 1 Rupee value, with the address written in Devanagari instead of English as shown in the previous article [Figure 1].

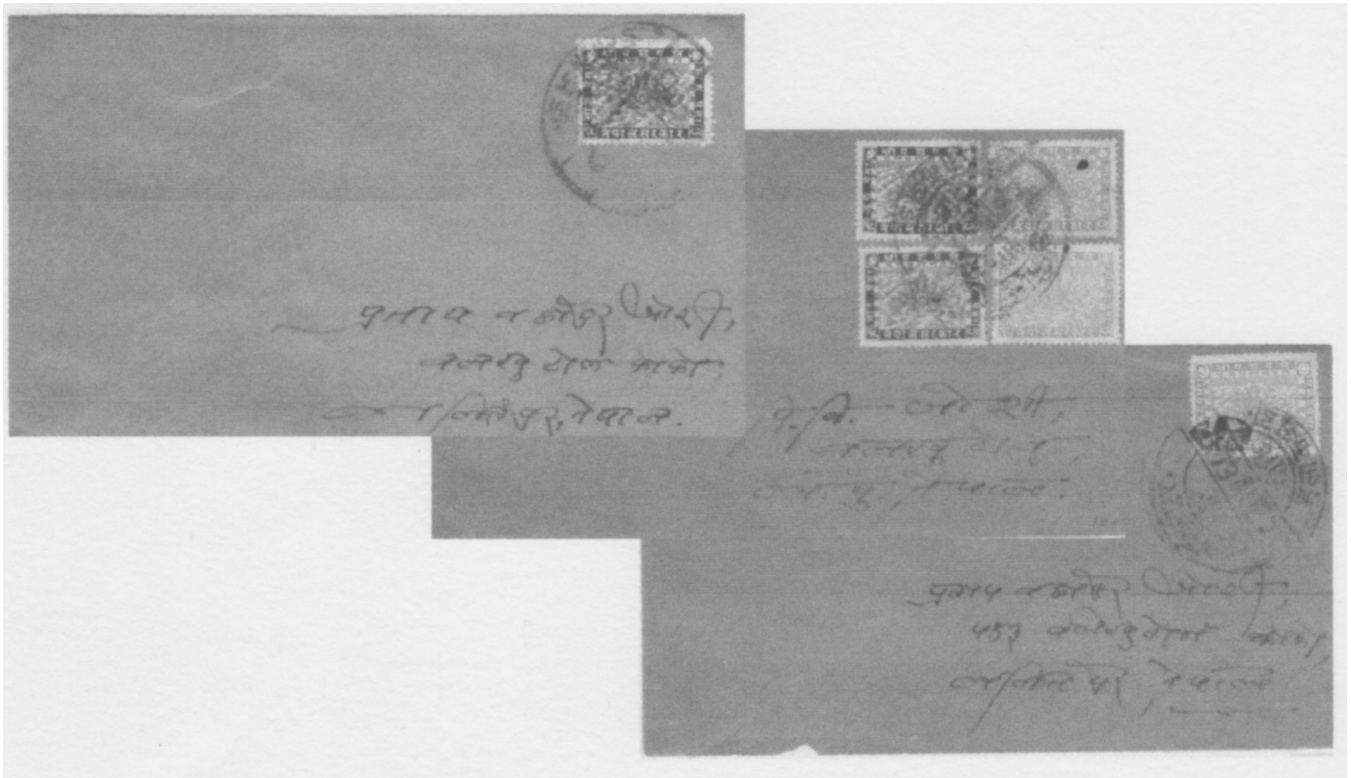


Figure 1

His interest continued with the issue of the first pictorial stamps which came out in 1949 when he was busy sending First Day Covers to himself. He probably did a complete set but so far I have only come across the one illustrated [Figure 2].



Figure 2

The last cover I have that was posted by him [Figure 3], was sent to the USA in 1948 and had to go via the British Legation Post Office. On the reverse of the cover is the Kathmandu Exchange P.O. postmark and a Calcutta transit postmark dated 22 April 1948. I would presume that the cover was then taken by sea to the USA. There are no USA receiving marks to show how long it would have taken to reach its destination.



Figure 3

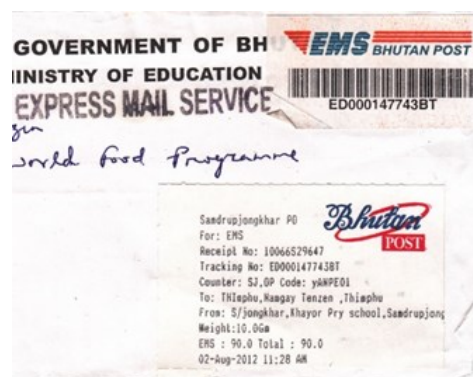
Mr Joshi was obviously a collector, particularly in the 1940s and I will continue to be on the look out for any other letters he sent to add to my collection.

Bhutan Post postage labels by Leo van der Velden

Bhutan Post uses postage labels for domestic and international mail for registered letters, old-style express mail and modern Express Mail Service (EMS). All postage labels indicate date and time, the originating post office, receiving PO name or country of addressee including sometimes a name and abridged address, weight of envelope, costs of postage and EMS express mail or registration (tracking) number. Registered letters and domestic EMS letters using a postage label, carry also often a separate registration or EMS label with a 13-digit reference number and corresponding bar-code, while for international EMS covers this is part of the main label. Registered letters using ordinary postage stamps, will have an analogue registration number, often written by hand on the envelope. We can see with more current international registered mail using postage stamps that also a registration barcode label is used.



National EMS label with type 2 logo



Registration label with type 1 logo

The postage label for registered and domestic EMS or express letters bears the logo of Bhutan Post, printed in the right upper corner. There are two versions. The first is almost like the Palace Script font in bold which looks like **Bhutan**, with a right leaning fine red oval line encircling the name in the middle, while in a small dark red box placed under the last three letters of Bhutan “POST” is written in bold, elongated white serif letters. The paper of this label is rather greyish. The label measures 79 x 51 mm or 83 x 51 mm. The total logo size is 24 x 14 mm, with the red box size 10 x 4.5 mm. The small, narrow rectangular registration label only carries this version of the Bhutan Post logo. The small EMS label used with domestic EMS is dominated by the EMS logo, while Bhutan “POST” is only printed in regular bold serif letters.



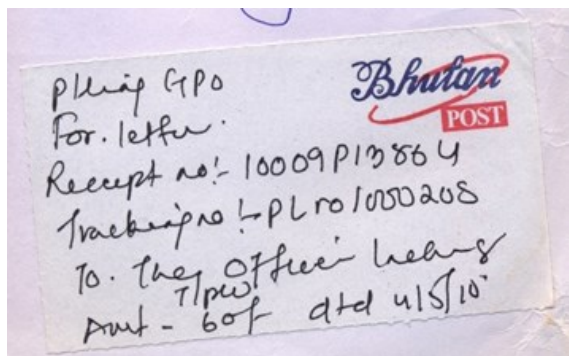
Type 1 logo close-up

Type 2 logo close-up

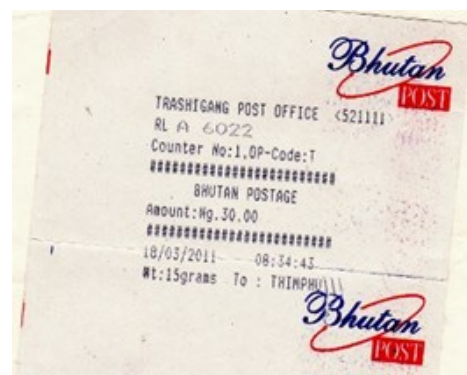


The second version postage label has a similar font as the first, but the difference is that the ‘h’ and ‘t’ of Bhutan have a loop, while the capital ‘B’ has two extra curls, one at the lower left side and one at the lower right side. The letters POST are rather plump bold in the red box. The red oval encircling Bhutan is a little thicker and shorter than in version one. The paper of this label is clear white. The

label measures 77, 79 or 90-93 x 51 mm. The logo size is slightly larger than in version one: 27-30 x 14 mm, and also the red box size is slightly longer: 11.5 x 4.5 mm.



Label filled in by hand



Misprinted postage label using two labels

In some cases the ink-jet printer didn't function properly and the relevant information has been written on the label by hand. In other cases the labels did not line up well, and the text was printed over two labels, with the full two labels attached to the envelope or one of the two labels torn by hand just before the first line or after the last printed line. In case only one label is used, it may result in a missing upper or lower line.

The labels are printed by a regular ink-jet printer using the whole normal A4 width, with the left part provided to the sender as proof of sending (right hand illustration) and the right part used as the postage label which is affixed to the letter or parcel.



Label as proof of sending a package



International EMS sticker with separate EMS barcode label

The postage label for international EMS letters is completely different from the regular postage labels. Not only is it filled in by hand, but the EMS logo dominates with 'Bhutan Post' written in regular sans-serif letters. There is no separate Bhutan Logo on the postal sticker, nor on the additional affixed EMS barcode label. Both the weight and postage charges are mentioned. Post office of origin, sender and addressee are included in the label as well, while a short description of the contents can be chosen out of four multiple choices, with some extra space available if one would like to declare some more details for customs purposes.



Indian postal labels as model for Bhutan postal labels

Bhutan Post started to use postage labels at least since 2001. If we compare it to a postage label from India, it is clear that India has apparently provided the technical know-how. This system, however, cannot cope with a combination of postage stamps and an additional postage label, like for instance the Thai Post system can. It is unclear whether the system also offers tracking advantages for Bhutan Post as these are not (yet) offered on-line.

Thimphu is mentioned on postal labels both as GPO and PO. Otherwise postal labels are known to have been used by Phuntsholing GPO and the following POs: Bumthang, Dagana, Gedu, Gelephu, Gyelposhing, Haa, Khaling, Lhuentse, Mongar, Paro, Pemagatshel, Punakha, Sjongkhar and Samdrupjongkhar, Samtse, Trashigang, Trashi Yangtse or Trashiyangtse, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wamrong, Wangdue, and Zhemgang.



Postage (pre-) paid signs

Postal meter stamps are not used in Bhutan, only the possibility exists for companies to send mail stamped with a rubber seal “Postage Prepaid” (Thimphu, Trashigang), “Postage Pre-Paid” (Bhutan Post HQs, PO Wangdue) or “Postage Paid” (Tsirang).

We can distinguish six different domestic mail postage labels (2 each for registered, express mail and EMS letters) and five international registered airmail postage labels, which are hereunder categorized in two tables. The number of lines used differ from 8 to 10. Note that there might be a slight difference in the font used by the different post offices, while in certain cases, whole lines might be in capital letters only.

Bhutan – overview of the different domestic mail postage labels

Row	Domestic (1) registered (2009 /10/11) OR (2) express letter (2009) label	(3) Registered domestic letter label (2009/10/11)	(4) Domestic EMS label (2013)	(5) Domestic EMS label (2009, 2012)	(6) Domestic express mail labels (2001)
1	PO name and code	PO name	Text “EMS to: Hub”	PO name	PO name with code
2	a) Registration code “RL” followed by letter A and number; OR b) Express code “SP” followed by a tracking code	“For: letter”	EMS tracking code	“For: EMS”	Letters “SP” followed by express mail tracking number
3	Counter and OP-Code	“Receipt No:”	Counter and OP-Code	“Receipt No:”	Counter and OP Code
4	Row of hash tags: #####	“Tracking No:”	Row of hash tags: #####	“Tracking No:”	“To:” name addressee and part of address
5	Text: “BHUTAN POSTAGE”	Counter and OP Code	Postage fees in Nu.	Counter and OP Code	Continuation address (place name); “PIN:000”
6	“Amount:” postage costs in Nu.	“To:” name and abridged address of addressee	Row of hash tags: #####	“To:” name and abridged address of addressee	“From:” sender’s name and place
7	Row of hash tags: #####	Weight in grams	Weight in grams; date and time	“From:” name and abridged address of sender	Weights in grams
8	Date and time	Postage fee and registration fee	“From:” PO name and zip code	Weight in grams	Postage fee; date and time
9	Weight in grams; and “To:” name PO	“Total:” total costs	“DelvryPO:” receiving PO name and zip code	EMS costs and total postage costs	Text “Have a nice day” or “Have a pleasant day”
10		Date and time		Date and time	

Bhutan – overview of the international mail postage labels

R o w	(1) International airmail letter label (2010)	(2) International airmail letter label (2011)	(3) International registered airmail letter label (2013)	(4) International registered airmail letter label (2013)	(5) International registered airmail letter label (2010)
1	PO name and zip code	PO name and zip code	text “fgn-AIR- RL”; PO name and zip code	text “fgn-AIR-RL”; PO name and zip code	PO name
2	text “fgn-AIR- RL A” followed by a tracking number	text “fgn-AIR- RL A” followed by a tracking number	Capital letter “A” followed by tracking number	Capital letter “A” followed by tracking number	“For: letter”
3	Counter and OP-Code	Counter and OP- Code	Counter No. and OP-Code	Counter No. and OP-Code	“Receipt No:”
4	“To:” name and abridged address addressee	Row of hash tags: #####	Row of hash tags: #####	“To:” name addressee and abbreviated address	“Tracking No:”
5	Country of destination	Text: “BHUTAN POSTAGE”	Amount in Nu.	Country of destination; followed by “PIN:”	Counter and OP Code
6	(empty row)	Postage costs in Nu.	Row of hash tags: #####	(empty row)	“To:” name and abbreviated address of addressee
7	Weight in grams	Row of hash tags: #####	Weight in grams; date and time	Weight in grams	Weight in grams
8	Postage fees; date and time	Date and time	“To:” country of destination	Postage fees; date and time	Postage fee and registration fee
9	Text “Have a nice day”	Weight in grams; “To:” country of destination		Text “<<Have a nice day>>”	Total costs
10					Date and time

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