



# Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper	3
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	3
NTPSC Auction Notice	Leo Martyn	3
Upcoming		3
Modern Postal Markings of Nepal	Sidhartha M. Tuladhar	4
WW II Cross-Border Censor Markings between Nepal and Tibet	Leo Martyn	10
The British Residency in Kathmandu	Colin Hepper	11
Latest Date of British India Gyantse (Hellrigl B48) Date Stamp	Brian W. Smith	13
Replies to "Another Unrecorded Tibetan Official?" by David W. Witter <i>PH</i> 167:4		14
Obituaries		14
1940 Wartime Cover to England from Gyantse, Tibet	Brian W. Smith	15
A September Visit	Richard M. Hanchett	17

## Officer's Corner

It seems to have been a quite eventful year with both the sale of Wolfgang Hellrigl's Nepal collection and the fine New York exhibition which as is usual with international exhibitions saw a number of our members being able to attend and meet. This was also the first year that we started to offer Postal Himal by email for which we have approximately 20% of the members receiving it this way. Apart from the fact that members can print their own copies in colour, it is much less work for our editor, who has to envelope, address and deliver to the post office all those receiving hard copies. We have very few of our USA members who have the magazine by email, so perhaps, when you have recovered from the shock of having Mr Trump as President you might consider changing your method of delivery.

Finally as the New Year approaches I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and good collecting New Year.

## Editor's Ramblings

Another year has flown past. It amazes me how quickly it passes. When I was younger it seemed to take a much longer time. It makes me wonder if time has speeded up.

It was quite a year, philatelically speaking - what with WESTPEX and NY 2016. Next year should be a little less hectic. There will of course be WESTPEX 2017. Are you planning to attend? You will a truly great show if you don't. And then there will be the APS show in Reno, Nevada for which I am preparing an exhibit. And following that I will be in Porto, Portugal for the AGM of the Portuguese Philatelic Society of Great Britain. Every 5 years the AGM is held in Portugal and the other 4 it is held in GB. So, a few things for me to look forward to.

For those of you who have been wondering when the next NTPSC auction would be you can stop wondering. See the Notice below.

If any of you have stamps that you don't require any longer, why not donate them?

Children's hospitals, the Shriner's Burn Institute, wounded Veteran's groups or homes, or maybe the Western Philatelic Library or any philatelic library for that matter. Any of the above mentioned would be thrilled to receive your donation and you would definitely bring joy to children and wounded Veterans.

In the spirit of the season, I being a Christian, wish you a Blessed Christmas. For those who practice any other faith, I wish you the Joy of the Season. And for all of you Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy, and Safe New Year. And may you all enjoy finding something to add to your philatelic collection.

Again, remember our upcoming auction and make your plans to join your fellow collectors at WESTPEX 2017.

**If your subscription is up your dues notice is enclosed. Members receiving PH via email will receive their notices by email.**

**NTPSC Auction Notice: Our auctioneer Leo Martyn is planning the next NTPSC Auction for early 2017. Lots from members will be accepted for listing for a 10% fee if sold. Prior to listing, the material has to be accepted by the auctioneer. Queries and scans can be sent to Leo at [himalayan@att.net](mailto:himalayan@att.net).**

## Congratulations:

**Bruno Le Puet** was awarded Silver for his exhibit "The Shri Pashpuati Issues of Nepal" at PHILATAIPEI 2016

## Upcoming:

**WESTPEX** April 28 - April 30, 2017 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront. Shuttles run 24 hours daily every 20 minutes from the airport to the hotel. NTPSC meeting on Sunday at 11:00 am. Room to be announced later.

**Modern Postal Markings of Nepal**  
**The Standard Bi-Lingual Postmark (Type A)**  
 by Sidhartha M. Tuladhar

A few years ago I had a chance to read the excellent and well researched book titled *The Modern Postmarks of NEPAL* authored by Colin Hepper. This type specialized book is very hard to get in Nepal. I am fortunate enough to have a friend in UK, who kindly sent me one. I have read Colin Hepper's other two books on Nepal as well. The above mentioned book is, I found, very well organized and most of the topics has been systematically categorized. After reading this I am encouraged to publish the modern cancellations I have in my collection. I think these illustrations will be a supplement to Colin Hepper's book.

I am following the categorization of Colin to list the cancellations so that collectors are not confused. The most common category of all the categories in my collection The Standard Bi-Lingual Postmark (Type A) is the one which will be illustrated.

In this article I am illustrating 60 cancellations which have not been published anywhere to my knowledge. Most of the cancellations are from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. The illustrations are not perfect. All the cancellations on my covers are not in good enough condition to be copied directly. It is noted that most English names are clear as when the cancellation was applied, more pressure was automatically applied on the back of the canceller. And some letters are difficult to read when the cancellation was applied to dark portions of the stamp. So some cleaning was needed. Most of the cleaning was done in my computer with photo editing programs and retouching by hand. In some cancellations Nepali characters had to be re-drawn for clarity. While doing the cleaning job I tried to keep any originality as far as possibility.

The following points were noted as I list down the cancellation.

English spellings do not match the Devanagari in some cancellation, such as Madhumalla.

On the date bar Day and Year are interchanged in some cancellation. In some cancellations Year comes first ( In Nepali style, Year comes first).

Cancellation of Baluwatar must be from the Dailekh District, as it has village by that name, as Kathmandu's Baluwatar has been documented in Colin Hepper's book.

Two types of Bhimphedi cancellations are illustrated. The difference is in the last character: di and dI (which are the Nepali verbs for pronouncing long and short vowels).

**Note:** the earliest recorded dates are listed in chronological order while illustrations are in

Yasok	65	Gausala	67	Gaunsahar	68	Jhingajholi	69
Rangeli	66	Galkot	67	EDPO Kalimati	68	Dhading	70
Khasyauli	66	Dang Ghorahi	67	Chainpur	68	Panauti	71
Wokhaldhunga	67	Buipabazar	67	Bijauri	68	Kodari	71
Those	67	Brahmadeonandu Bazar	67	Bhimphedi	68	Bahrabise	71
Thak	67	Bharatpur	67	Serunj	69	Damaulee	74
Rabi	67	Sanischare	68	Samanpur	69	Duhabi Bazar	77
Parbat Darsan	67	Ratnanagar	68	Riugha	69	Buipa	78
Madhumalla	67	Phidim	68	Mushikot	69	Surkhet	79
Lyanglyang	67	Pakanajol	68	Melung	69	Baulwatar	80
Kunchha	67	Luintel	68	Kusma	69	Alkatar	80



Bharase	81	Phalate	84	Chouri	84	TU (Tribhuvan University)	97
Lele	83	Dadarbairiya	84	Balajyu	87		

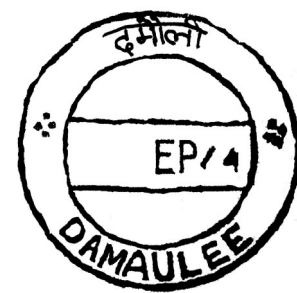
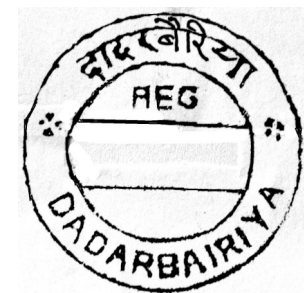
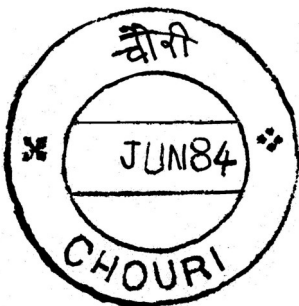
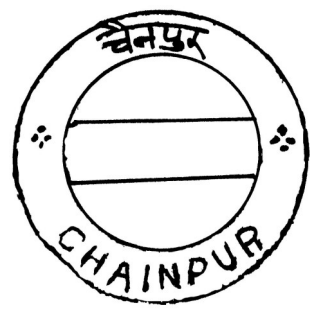
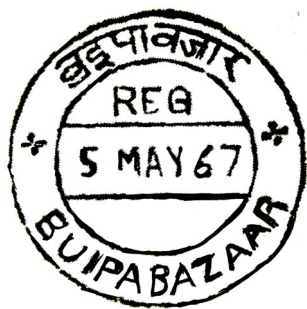
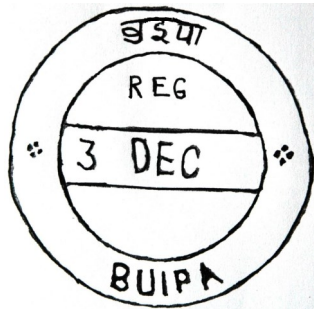
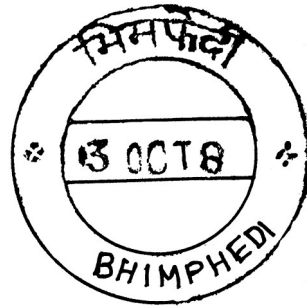
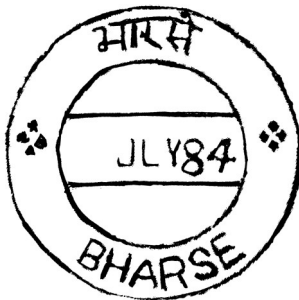
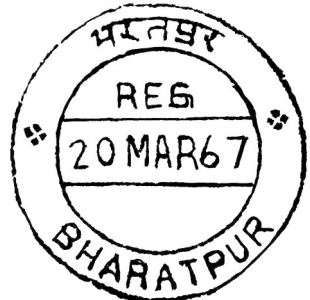
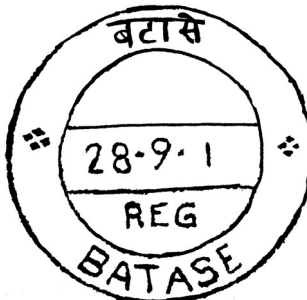
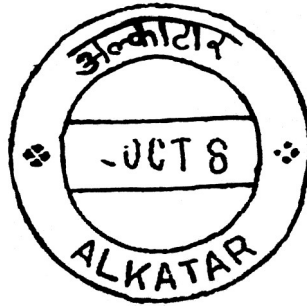
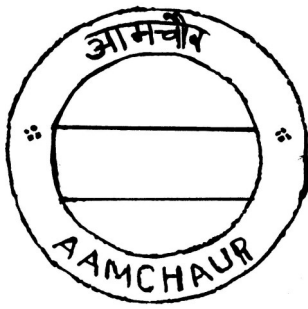
Lastly two modern Nepal Bi-lingual covers are illustrated with intermediate cancellations. I have no idea if it is a transit cancel or just due to dispatched in wrong bag. Readers' comments are welcome. These types of covers are seldom seen. My email is at the end of this article.



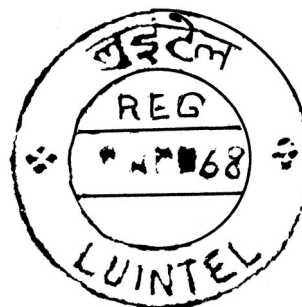
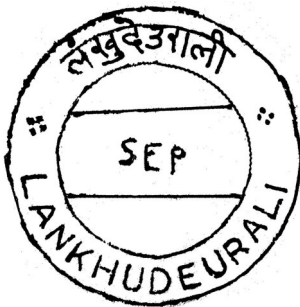
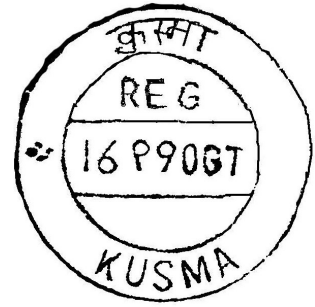
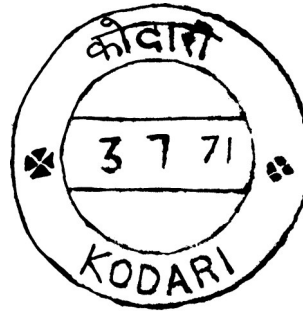
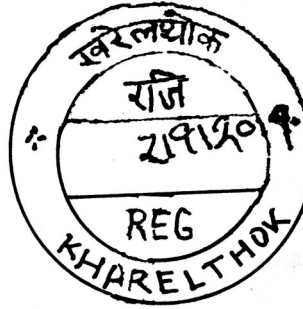
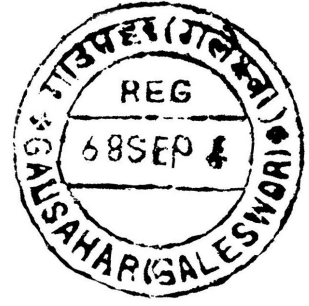
Fig: 1 This cover originated from Jaleswore addressed to Secretariat (Singh Durbar). It has two intermediate cancellations – Birgunj and GPO Kathmandu. It must have been dispatched from Jaleswore in the wrong bag to Birgunj, from where it was sent again to the proper destination.

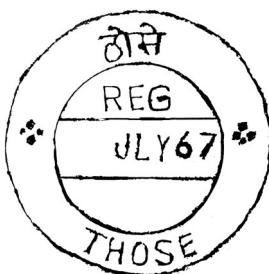
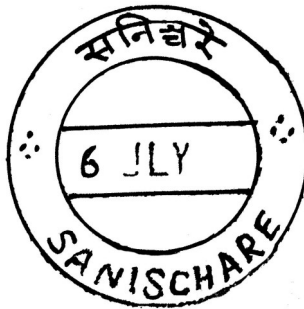
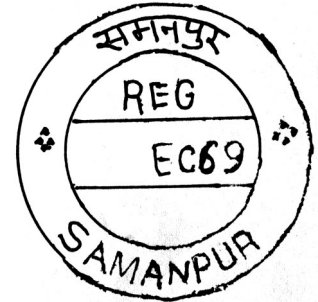
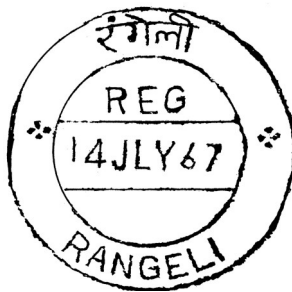
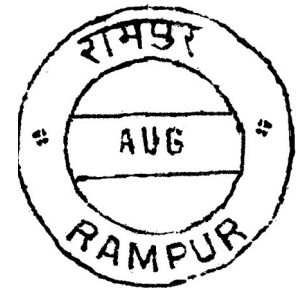
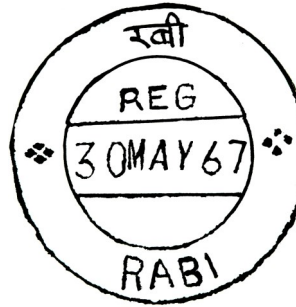
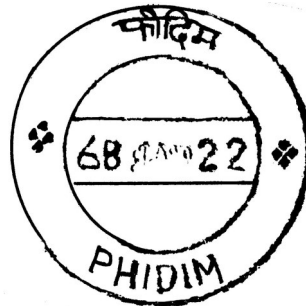
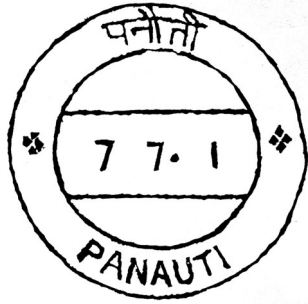
Fig: 2. This cover originated from Yasok and was addressed to Secretariat (Singh Durbar). It has one intermediate cancellation – Rabi. Similarly as above it must have been dispatched in wrong bag to Rabi from where it was sent to Secretariat (Singh Durbar). If the readers have another explanations for the intermediate cancellations their comments would be most welcome.



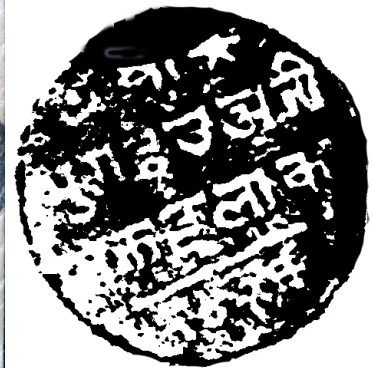












This cover was sent from Lugadeo to the Tax Office in the northern border town of Tatopani. The cover has intermediate postmarks of two towns - Panauti (7-7-71) and Barhabise (10-7-71) and it reached Kodari on 13-7-71. Kodari is the border area of Tibet and Nepal. Tatopani is 3-4 kilometers from Kodari.

The postmark, tied on the stamps, reads 'Lugadeo Atirikta Hulak'. The date, on the last line, could not be read.

[the author can be contacted at [sidhartha.tuladhar@gmail.com](mailto:sidhartha.tuladhar@gmail.com) - ed.]



## World War Two Cross-Border Censored Mail between Nepal and Tibet by Leo Martyn

With the outbreak of World War Two, censorship of cross-border communications between Nepal and Tibet was instituted. Although they were not directly involved in the war (notwithstanding the participation of Nepalese Gurkha soldiers), because of their proximity to the countries that were, and their strategic location, the examination of their mail became a necessity. In fact, all of the countries related to the British Commonwealth were under postal censorship. The start of the war is generally accepted to be September 1, 39 (invasion of Poland by Germany), and British censorship was instituted almost immediately.

The following conclusions are based on my collection and additional material from the collections of Jeremy Brewer and Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl.

### Darjeeling Station



May 17, 40, Nepalese Postal Stationery envelope from Nepal to Lhasa.

The first censor station was established in Darjeeling, India. The censor devices were a printed re-sealing tape and a triangular shaped hand-stamp. The date of the earliest examined cover is from Tibet to Nepal, April (day date is not clear), 40. The latest date recorded for Darjeeling Censorship is July 21, 40 on a cover from Nepal to Tibet. (It appears that virtually all Nepal/Tibet cross-border correspondence during the war years was sent by Nepalese traders)

### Non-censorship period



Postal Himal No. 168



10

4th Quarter 2016



## The British Residency in Kathmandu by Colin Hepper



The old residency building in 1918.

Following the war in 1814-16 with the East India Company, concluded by the Treaty of Sagauli, Nepal was obliged to accept a British Resident at Kathmandu. The Residency was established on land gifted by the king, but believed locally to be 'ill-omened'.

The 50 acre site in Lainchaur included a church, a greenhouse a miniature zoo and a bird sanctuary.

Within this building was also established a post office for sending and receiving mail from outside Nepal. It was known as the British Residency Post Office with Indian stamps being used and the word 'Nepal' in its postmarks.

In 1920 the post office was renamed 'The British Legation Post Office' but there was no indication in the postmarks that there had been a name change until 1941 when the postal markings changed to 'The British Legation'. In his very fine book on the Residency post office Wolfgang Hellrigl gives the approximated date when this change in postmarks came about but no reasons for it.

I believe that the change came about because the original residency building was destroyed in the 1934 earthquake and the residents and post office had to move to temporary accommodation. A new building was started in 1940 and completed in 1941 and I would suggest that the new British Legation postmarks came out at the same time as they moved into the new building.



The present residence of the British ambassador.



It is interesting to note that the new building was constructed to withstand earthquakes and it survived the huge earthquake they had in Nepal in 2015.

The photograph on the left shows tents in the grounds of the residency being used by earthquake relief workers.



**Photos of some Bhutanese Post Offices**  
by Robert Jack



## Latest Date of British India Gyantse (Hellrigl B48) Date Stamp by Brian W. Smith

I have in my possession a Registered cover from East Germany dated 17 5 54, addressed to Pratekman Tuladhar the well known Nepalese stamp collector/dealer, then living in Lhasa, Tibet. It is back stamped with the British India Gyantse (Hellrigl B48, Die2) received strike dated 8 JUL 54. In his "The Postal Markings of Tibet - 1996" Hellrigl records the latest date for this marking as 19 MAY 1954. My cover extends this date by over 6 weeks.



Cover addressed to well-known Nepalese philatelist Pratekman Tuladhar of Lhasa % the Tibetan Post Office at Gyantse.



The backstamp on the above cover. The backstamp is an Indian Gyantse (Die 2) receiving mark [Hellrigl B48] dated 8 JUL 54.

It is presumed that it was privately taken to Lhasa as there is no Lhasa receiving mark.



**Replies to ‘Another Unrecorded Tibetan Official?’ by David W. Witter**  
***Postal Himal* 167:4 (3rd Quarter 2016)**

An email from Bo C. Olsson

I am sorry to say your copy is just a modern forgery. I have recently seen 2-3 of them “around”. This is not an unrecorded “Official”. A genuine copy is on the front page of Armand E. Singer’s booklet *The “Officials” of Tibet*. The genuine is a very rare stamp and only a few copies exist. I have never seen any for sale and I lack a copy myself.

This forgery is probably of Indian origin. All such are crude and badly printed. Singer says the size of the original is 48 x 48 cm, but the forgery is apparently 47 x 49.5 cm. Furthermore, the forgery is in deep orange, but the original is red.

Take care buying Tibet on eBay. Mostly forgeries are sold at the place.

So, sorry David.

[Bo also suggests checking <http://stampforgeries.com/forged-stamps-of-tibet/> -ed.]

[You may be able to purchase a photocopy of Singer’s book from a philatelic library such as The Western Philatelic Library Western Philatelic Library, 3004 Spring Street, Redwood City, CA  
Mailing Address: FWPL, P.O. Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2219 Telephone: (650) 306-9150 or  
The American Philatelic Research Library [www.stamplib.org](http://www.stamplib.org)—ed.]

An email from Rainer Fuchs

Well, while the stamp is not listed BY Waterfall, it is listed in the *Tibet Handbook* by Dahnke, illustration No. 202, description on page 141/2. It is apparently a 5 Trangka value. Apparently a sheet (sheet size not reported) existed but was split into individual stamps by the at that Nepalese dealer.

If anyone is interested, I can send scans of the respective pages of the Dahnke Handbook

[Rainer’s email address is [rainer@fuchs-online.com](mailto:rainer@fuchs-online.com)—ed.]

### Obituaries

Emails have been received from Colin Hepper noting the passing of two of our members.

**Geoff Rosamond** in January. Mr. Rosamond was a long time member and was well into his 90s.

**Shri Ved Parkash Dhawan** on December 4, 2015 at Patiala, India. He was 79 and was a well known stamp dealer with the firm of B. L. Dhaun which was established in 1906. It was succeeded by Sohan Lal Dhawan in the next generation. Ved Parkash Dhawan was the third generation stamp dealer

He successfully exhibited and won Gold medals, served as a Member of the Jury and was honored by the Philatelic Congress of Punjab with an Award of Honour.

He was a member of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, the Philatelic Congress of India, and The American Philatelic Society.

[The above was sent to Colin by his son Sanjay Dhawan—ed.]



## 1940 Wartime Cover to England from Gyantse, Tibet by Brian W. Smith

I acquired this cover, posted from Lhasa, with two letters from Captain Thornburgh, British Trade Agent at Gyantse. He served in this post from 3 February to 19 July 1940 during the early years of World War II.

The cover is franked with a full set of the 1933 Tibetan stamps:  $\frac{1}{2}$ t Yellow-orange, Setting II [1936-41];  $\frac{2}{3}$ t Dark Blue, Setting II [1935-41]; 1t Deep Scarlet Vermilion, Setting I [1933-40]; 2t Carmine. Setting 1a [1933-45]; 4t Green (unlisted shade), Setting I [1933-39]. Five clear strikes of the Lhasa postmark (Hellrigl T42).

Thornburgh's letter, dated 26 February 1940, to his friend Mr. Browne—evidently a keen collector of Tibetan stamps—tells Browne that “*An unkind fate has posted me as British Trade Agent, Gyantse. Being in Lhasa for the installation of the new Dali Lama, [sic] I thought that you would like these stamps [presumably enclosed]. I hope the World is treating you well and that you are having a good War.*”

At this distance in time Thornburgh's last comment seems rather flippant. War had been raging across Europe for six months, and another six months would elapse before the German Blitz on London began in September 1940.

The cover was posted from the Tibetan Post Office in Lhasa. At Gyantse it was handed over to the British Post Office for its onward journey where it was franked with an Indian 2 anna red and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna brown. It was mailed on 2 MARCH 1940—Hellrigl B16 postmark.

The cover is absent of wartime censor markings. Is this because it was sent by a British Government official who was part of the Mission to Lhasa? It is hard to imagine that the Post Master at the British Post Office at Gyantse would be so lax.

A further letter from Thornburgh to Browne tells us that he (Thornburgh) is “*Not so crusty—though my sorrowing bride was torn from me on the way up and is now living in Kalimpong where she has just contracted German measles! Just my luck to land to land a non-family job 6 weeks after she had flown out.*”

The joys of being a Tibet frontier cadre!



British Mission to Lhasa 1940 L to R unidentified Tibetan orderly, Pemba Tsering (Tibet cadre officer), Sonam Tobden, Capt. Thornburgh, Major J.G. Innes-Keyes (commanded the 15 Punjabis, Trade Agent Escort), Harry Staunton. On 17 July 1954 the Gyantse Trade Agency, the Post Office and many houses were destroyed by floods. Pemba Tsering and his wife were drowned with hundreds of others.

Photograph © Harry Staunton (Pitt Rivers Museum Collection)



Front and back of the cover from Capt. Thornburgh to Mr. Browne

% The British Mission  
Lhasa  
Tibet.  
26.11.40.

Dear Mr. Browne,

an unkind fate has posted me  
as British Trade Agent, Gyantse. Being in  
Lhasa for the installation of the new Jela  
lama, I thought you would like these stamps.  
I hope the world is treating you well & that  
you are having a good War.

Yours sincerely  
J. G. Thornburgh

Letter from Capt. Thornburgh to Mr. Brown

## **A September Visit** **by Richard M Hanchett**

One day early this past September, I was privileged to have Mr. Jaya Hari Jha and his son-in-law drive down from nearby Worcester, Massachusetts for a very pleasant visit. Mr. Jha and his wife had come from Nepal to visit their daughter and son-in-law. This is the third time that they have done so and we have always been able to visit with each other during their visits.

Mr. Jha brought several items of interest with him. One was a reprint of an article of his which appeared in the *Journal* of the I.B.N.S. entitled "Issues in Nepalese Paper Money: Will Nepal Rastra Bank Ever Address Them?" Mr. Jha is very interested in Nepalese currency as well as the stamps of Nepal, and has published several articles on Nepalese currency which have contained more accurate information than even Nepal Rastra Bank could supply. I do not intend to report on the article, but if any NTPSC member is interested in Nepalese currency you might wish to contact Mr. Jha at either: The Collector's Shop, House #21 Atkonarayan, Kathmandu, Nepal or at: [jayaharijha@mail.com.np](mailto:jayaharijha@mail.com.np).

Mr. Jha also presented me with *Philately* The Nepal Philatelic Journal issue for 2015. It contains very interesting articles, some in Nepali and some in English. It also contains the names of all members of the Nepal Philatelic Society. Looking under the International Life Members listing, I was surprised that I did not find my name, as I thought that I had joined as such.

The item that I wish to report on is the "Nepal Postage Stamp Catalogue 1881 - 2015" issued in April 2016. It is a well presented catalogue in full color. Each item contains the printer, date of issue, method of printing, stamp size, perforation size, occasion for which it was issued, denomination, color, and prices for both mint and used. All prices are in Nepalese Rupees. The photographs of the stamps are very well done. As the issues are listed in chronological order, there is no separate listing for airmail stamps or miniature sheets, as they are included with the regular issues. There are, however, separate listings for the Service stamps, as well as the Income Revenue Stamps "AAYA TEKAT" 1962 issue with prices given only for mint issues.

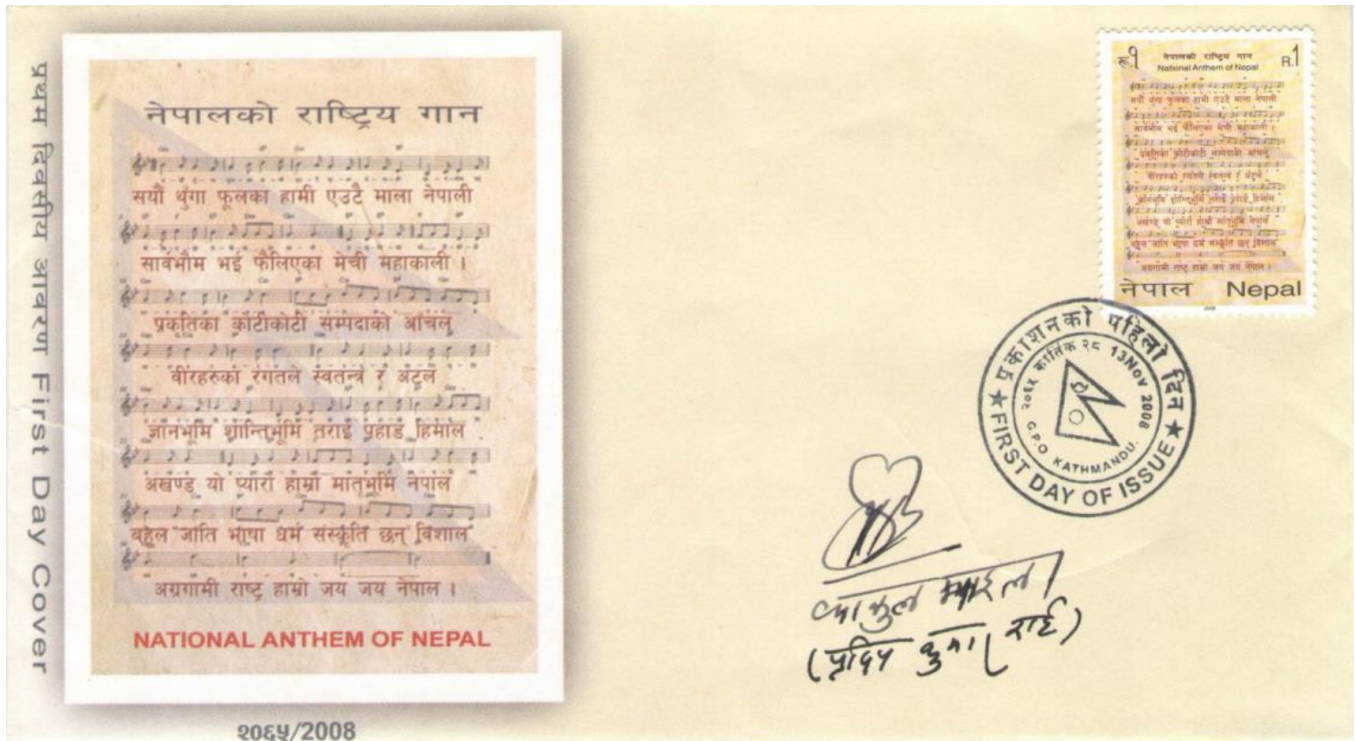
It is, all in all, a very nicely produced catalog, containing all the information which one would expect.

The catalogue was printed by Mass Printing Press, P.O. Box 1217, Chhauni, Kathmandu. The email address is [masspress.np@gmail.com](mailto:masspress.np@gmail.com). The price is listed as Nepalese Rupees 400/-. There is no indication of the postal cost. If you are interested in obtaining a copy you might contact either Mass Printing or Mr. Jaya Hari Jha.

Lastly, Mr. Jha presented me with a First Day Cover of Nepal's National Anthem stamp issued in 2008. The cover is shown on the following page. It is signed, but as I do not read Nepali, I am unsure if the signature is that of the stamp designer or that of the composer of the National Anthem.

I am looking forward to my next visit with Mr. Jha.





## Nepal's National Anthem, in English

We are a single string of hundred of flowers, Nepali,  
 Stretched sovereign from Mechi-Mahakali.  
 Endowed with amazing numerous heritages of Nature,  
 Existing ever independent with Valiant's blood.  
 Land of peace, wisdom, Terai, Hill and Himnal,  
 Our beloved motherland is indivisible Nepal.  
 Plurality in race, language, religion cultures, all grand and special,  
 Progressive nation of ours, Long Long Live Nepal.

[The translation above was provided by the Nepal Philatelic Bureau's handout which accompanied the cover. - ed.]