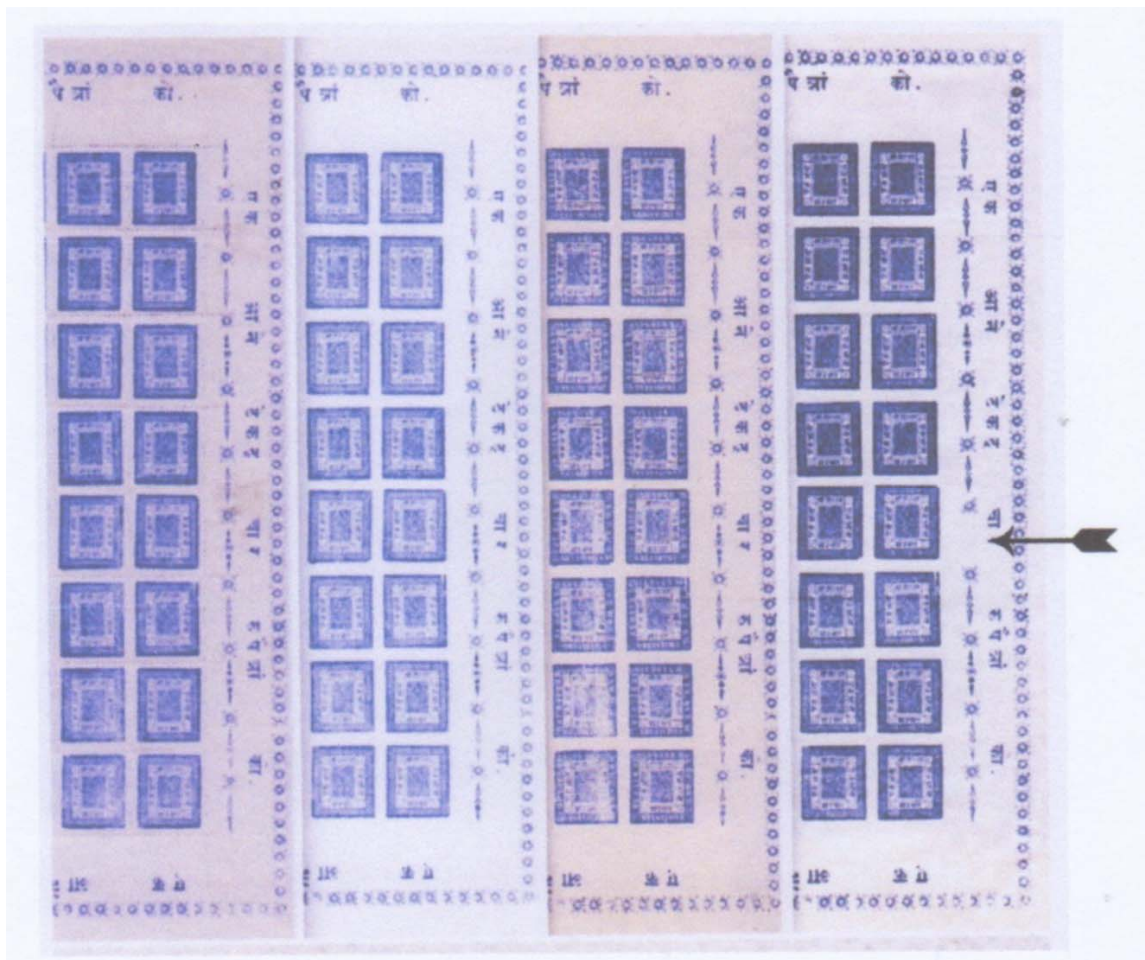


# Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE  
NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpssc>



*One Anna - Setting 1 Error in the Fancy Sheet Border  
Missing ornament shown by arrow on example on right  
See article by Johannes Bornmann on page 4*

Number 175

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018

Postal Himal 175 September, 2018



Area	One Year	Three Years	Lifetime
USA/Canada	\$20.00	\$50.00	N/A
PayPal for USA/Canada	\$21.20	\$53.00	
All Others	£18.00 or €22,00	£45.00 or €55,00	N/A
PayPal for All Others	£19.08 or €23,32	£47.50 or €58,30	
Email Only —Everywhere	\$10.00 or £6.00 or €7,50	\$25.00 or £15.00 or €18,75	N/A
PayPal for Email Only	\$10.60 or £6.36 or €7,95	\$26.50 or £15.90 or €19,88	

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122;  
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<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		
Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper	3
Editor's ramblings	Frank Vignola	3
One Anna - Setting 1 Error in the Fancy Sheet Border	Johannes Bornmann	4
1970 Manchester Expedition to Nampa	Colin Hepper	5
EVEREST IN WINTER	Colin Hepper	6
Tibet 1912 Proof, Newspaper Reference	Rainer Fuchs	7
A New Postmark Type from Bhadgaon	Ed Gosnell	9
Perkins Bacon 1930 Printings	David Bradley	10-11
Nobding, a Friendly Community Mail Office in the Middle of Bhutan	Leo van der Velden	12-13
OVERLAND ROUTE via THIBET from AUSTRALIA to GERMANY?	Edmond Weissberg	14-16



### Officer's Corner

Dear Members

I was recently watching a TV documentary on the efforts of two well-known celebrities to climb Mount Everest. It seems easy when sitting in an armchair at home watching queues of climbers in the early hours of the morning going to the top. It became quite apparent on watching the documentary just how difficult it is. This led me to think of the many expedition cards, which were produced in the 1970/80's that we collect and save without much thought as to the physical effort it took to make these climbs. So I looked into the background of two of these expeditions and the difficulties encountered for which you will find elsewhere in this magazine.

On the subject of the magazine, it is the one thing that holds this Society together and our editor has once again had insufficient articles to be able to get it out on time. A request was sent to many of you for whom we have email addresses, for articles for this issue and I would like to thank those who were able to get some material, quickly off to Frank. This is an on going problem and we need a regular stream of material. It need not be an article but could be a particularly fine cover or document you have in your collection that you would like to share with members, or send impressions of visits to exhibitions or holidays to Nepal /India.

Finally to complete my day, as I am writing this news came through that a new great grandson had arrived. With todays technology I would be surprised if he became a stamp-collecting enthusiast.

Colin Hepper

### Editor's Ramblings:

It is time again to thank all those who contributed articles and information for the Postal Himal. Your contributions really make the newsletter and it is good that so many of you are willing to share your information with other members of the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle.

At the StampShow 2018, the Postal Himal newsletter received a silver bronze medal under the society newsletters. This is quite a good showing

and all who have contributed to the newsletter are responsible for the award. The award can be seen on page 13.

Now is the time to think about articles for the next Postal Himal. Do you have an item you would like to share with others in the study circle. Do you have philatelic related information about a trip to the Himalayas?

Your contributions are appreciated!

### Congratulations!



Macao 2018, the 35<sup>th</sup> Asian International Stamp Exhibition took place in September. Bhavya Tulsyan received a vermeil for "The Classic Period of Nepal 1779-1930." In the literature class, Binod Shrestha won a silver for the publication *Nepal: Home of Lord Buddha*.

At the Praga 2018 FIP exhibition in Prague, Czech Republic in August, Kun Hoo Rhee won a bronze for the publication *Nepal-Korea Flower Stamps and the Short Essays*.

Edward Gosnell, "Seals, Covers, Documents, and Correspondence: A Political History of Nepal 1785-1911" gold

The Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle's *Postal Himal* received at silver bronze in Literature at StampShow 2018.

Picture of Edward Gosnell with the Chief Judge Darrell Ertzberger at StampShow 2018 in Columbus, Ohio after receiving his Gold medal.



## One Anna - Setting 1 Error in the Fancy Sheet Border

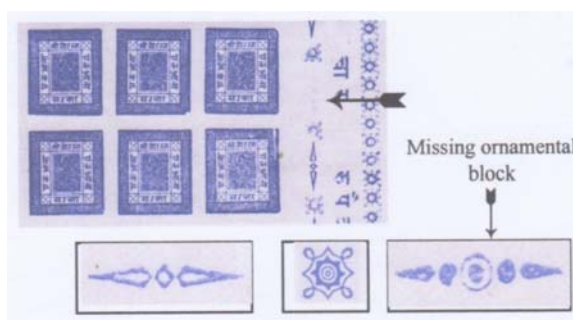
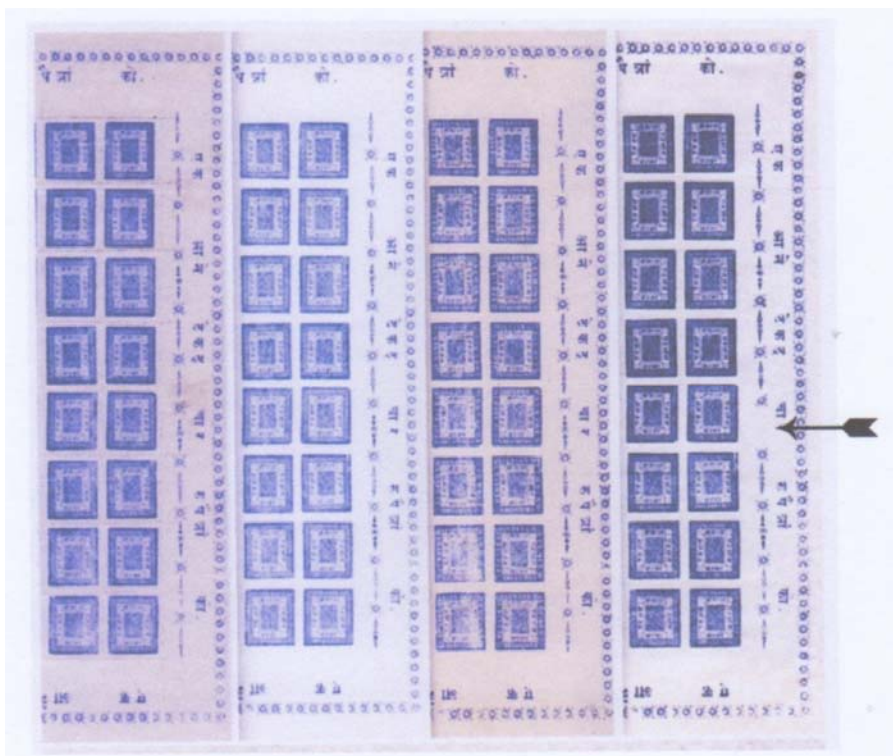
by Johannes Bornmann

The fancy sheet border of sun-shaped and spear like ornaments, surrounding the sheet of the one anna setting 1 is famous and unique. Hellrigl/Vignola mentioned the same fancy border printed in setting 1 of the two annas: "One complete sheet, in an unidentified Danish collection, was exhibited in London in 1939" (The Classic Stamps of Nepal, Bozen 1984). Since then the sheet has not been listed anywhere and its current location is not known.

Four complete sheets of the one anna setting 1 have survived. One is pin perforated and the other three are imperforate. The pin perforated sheet and one of the imperforate

sheets were part of the Henry Pattiz collection sold in January 2017 at Spink USA. The other two sheets are in private collections.

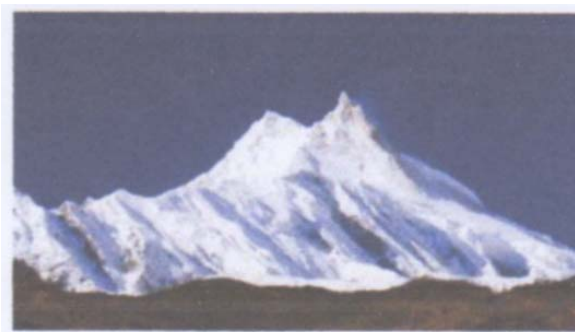
One of the imperforate sheets shows an error "missing spearhead" near position 40. It is an interesting error as it shows that the fancy border was put together with many small printing blocks. It would seem that one of the spear like ornament blocks has fallen out and not been replaced. It is a matter of speculation whether other printings were made with the block missing or if the error was seen and the block replaced for further printings.



*The fancy border pattern would be made up of 3 separate ornamental blocks.*

## 1970 Manchester Expedition to Nampa

by Colin Hepper



Mount Nampa is situated in the Gaurus Himal near the India and China border in the Baitadi District.

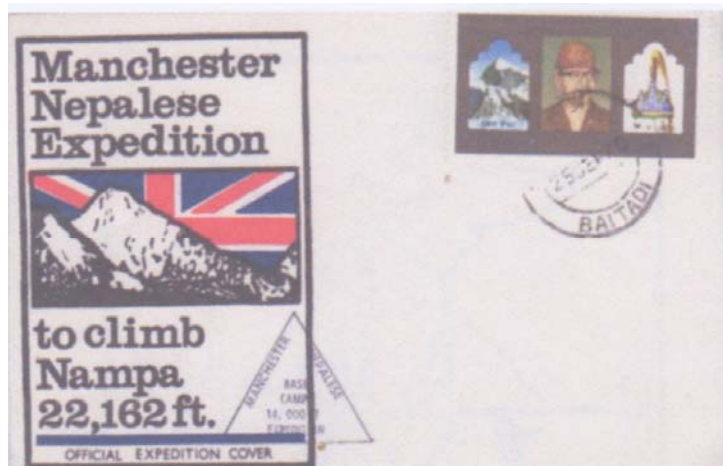
In July 1970, a group of six British climbers, The Manchester Nepalese Expedition, travelled overland from the UK to Nepal, during July/August in a specially overhauled ex-army lorry. A round trip of 15000 miles. The objective being the first ascent of Mt. Nampa (22,162ft) in North West Nepal.

The team consisted of John Allen (Chief Organiser and Leader), Arthur Clarke (Deputy Leader and Food Officer), Robert Beighton (Equipment), Yvone Clarke SRN, SCM, QIDN (Medical Officer and wife of Arthur Clarke), Brian Cosby (Transport), Bill Rowntree (Treasurer and Documentation).

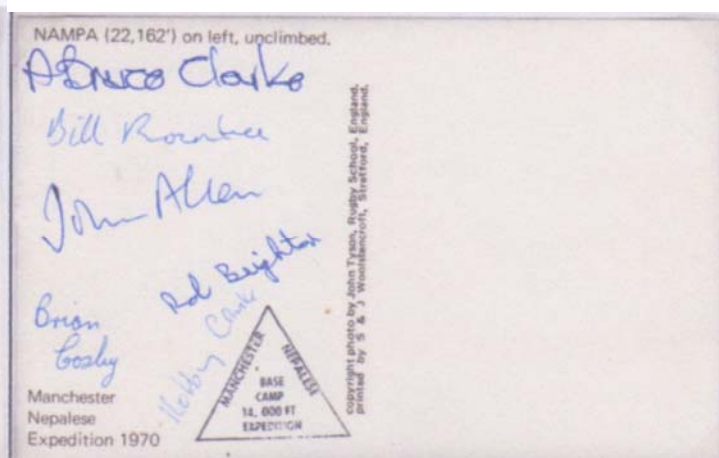
Base Camp was established in late September at 13,000 ft and Base Camp covers and postcards were despatched from the small Nepalese village of Baitadi.

Fifty numbered cover and postcard combinations were to be carried by the climbers, but because of the very critical weight allowances at the high altitudes, the covers had to be left low down. The remaining postcards were carried by Brian Cosby and Rob Beighton as camps were established and taken on the final assault in late October, when the climbers set up camp at 20,500 ft spending a bitterly cold

*(Continued on page 8)*



Expedition cover with the Base Camp triangular cachet with a pre-set height given as 14,000 ft and the Baitadi postmark dated 25 September 1970.



Expedition postcard with the signatures of the six team members and a Base Camp cachet.

## EVEREST IN WINTER

by Colin Hepper

The Polish National Expedition to climb Everest in winter had been planned for some years before the assault on Everest in 1980. Experience at climbing at high altitude in the winter was gained through an expedition to Noshaq (7492m) in Hindukush in 1973 and an unsuccessful attempt on Lhotse (8511m) in 1974. The latter in particular provided an opportunity to study the winter conditions in the Everest region.

The Poles were the first to request the Ministry of Tourism of Nepal for permission to climb in the Himalayas in winter and rules had to be formulated for winter climbing. The team with 9 tons of equipment flew firstly to Lukla and then by porter to Khumbu glacier on foot. Base Camp was established on 31 December 1979 and work began on establishing a

sequence of camps and transporting food and oxygen bottles, frequently done in hurricane winds. The lowest temperature recorded at that time was -24C at Base camp and -42C on the south col.

The 1st camp was established on 8 January 1980, the 2nd camp on 9 January at 6500m. The third camp at 7150m was on 15 January 1980 but was completely destroyed by severe winds and had to be re-established. The fourth camp was finally established on 11 February 1980 on the south col at a height of 8000m. Due to the strong winds the climbers had to wait until 17 February when weather conditions improved and two climbers Leszek Cichy and Krzysztof Wielicki were able to complete the climb to the top.



*Philatelic cover from the Expedition posted at Kathmandu G.P.O. dated 17 March 1980 and signed by the two summiters and the Team Leader Andrej Zawada.*



## Tibet 1912 Proof, Newspaper Reference

By Rainer Fuchs (AIJP, FRPSL)

Every Tibet collector is aware of the native proof (1/6 Tr. violet) which was shown at the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition in London, October 4-19, 1912.

The proof is also mentioned in Armand Singers "The Essays & Proofs of Tibet", Published by (the late) Geoffrey Flack ©2004 where he quotes:

The native proofs have been known all along, a sheet of which was first exhibited at the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition in London, October 4-19, 1912.

And...

Holmes then goes on to mention the sheet that was exhibited in London in October of that year...

Here I like to add another newspaper reference:

The Strait Times (of Singapore), issue 31 October 1912, Page 9, reports as part of the covering of the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition in London, October 4-19, 1912. I have cut that article in 3 images for easier showing and illustrate the complete article, even

### £250,000 of Stamps.

GREAT EXHIBITION TO BE HELD  
IN LONDON.

### Curious Specimens from Tibet.

Since the habit of stamp collecting, first favoured by one or two as far back as 1840, became the craze of many, there has been a great development, alike in the style and character, as in the number of postage stamps.

The exhibition of the Junior Philatelic Society, which is to be held in November, in London, therefore, if it be true to its designation—Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition—must comprise, says the Evening Standard, a great collection of examples of at least one hundred thousand. Towards these, we understand, contributions will be forthcoming, not only from this country, but also from other lands, and efforts will be made to ensure the thoroughly representative nature of the exhibition.

if the Tibet references is only very short and the major part deals with other items from the

(Continued on page 8)

A curious sheet, with a strange history, will form one of the features. It comes from Tibet, and bears specimens of twelve stamps, which were prepared for the Dalai Lama, but never used by that mysterious ruler. Every philatelist concerned with the people who produce the stamps, as well as with the stamps themselves, will be greatly interested in this exhibit.

Many complete collections, some containing twenty, fifteen, and ten thousand specimens will be on view. Probably there has never been brought together under one roof such a number of distinct collections, and when the aggregate value is put at a quarter of a million it is believed that the estimate is not an exaggerated one.

### Wonderful Collections.

The jubilee which is to be commemorated obviously is not the original issue of the penny and twopenny stamps in this country in 1840, when the idea of collecting was first put into practice. It is the jubilee of the first book dealing with the subject of philately—presumably the first English catalogue of stamps—published in 1862, though a year before that a catalogue was issued at Strasburg. The periodical literature did not commence until 1863, when "The Stamp" and "The Stamp Collectors' Magazine" were established, to be the forerunner of more than eight hundred philatelic magazines.

In these days—that is, the early 'sixties—the hobby was developed into a systematic study of stamps, in addition to the mere grouping together of as many specimens as could be obtained. About 1865 the collection of Baron von Ferrary, the largest in the world, was commenced. It is reported to be worth £250,000, and to contain a copy of every stamp issued in every country of the world.

Another large collection is in the British Museum, where it was placed in 1891 upon being bequeathed to the nation by Mr. T. K. Tapling, M. P. Few stamps will be missing, we understand, from the Horticultural Hall in October, and the Junior Philatelic Society, in whose hands the arrangements lie, will make the exhibition full of interest to the ordinary visitor as well as to the ardent philatelist.

The Strait Times (of Singapore), issue 31  
October 1912, Page 9



A special 'label' was designed printed and perforated in single sheet for use on the expedition cards and covers to be taken to the highest point reached on the climb.

(Continued from page 5)

night in their tent while a blizzard raged outside.

With their food running low and the blizzard at full force Cosby and Beighton had to abandon their attempt on Nampa and spent three days retracing their steps to Base Camp. Because of approaching winter and low supplies of mountain food, no further attempts on Nampa could be made. The cards were signed by the Expedition Liason Officer, an Inspector in the Royal Nepalese Police, who observed the summit attempt through binoculars from Base Camp. It is believed that these cards were carried to a greater altitude than any other previous mountaineering cover. Because of an error in the altimeter which was discovered on testing later, the altitude of 20,000ft given on the cards should in fact be 20,500ft.

The first ascent of Nampa was achieved in May 1972 by the Japanese.

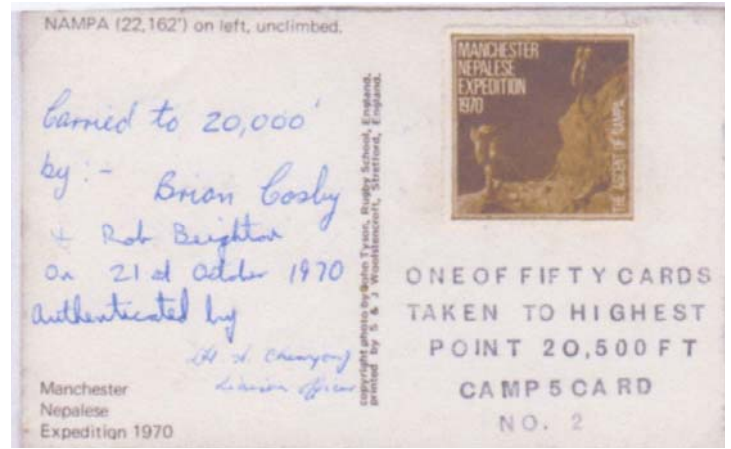
(Continued from page 7)

exhibition.

Interesting that they write about ONE sheet that will form one of the features since other sources (Armand Singer in his book "The Essays & Proofs of Tibet", Page 7) mentioned that there were 2 or even more sheets shown.

QUOTE:

A note tells us two sheets of each were



Postcard No.2 taken by Cosby and Beighton to the highest point reached 20,500 ft. The card has been signed by the Expedition Liason Officer, Hang Sing Chern long.

- All the material and information were supplied by John Allan the Expedition Leader.



Mount Nampa and it's sister' Mountain Mt. Api were featured on Nepalese stamps in 1984 and 1995 respectively.

exhibited in London in 1912.

UNQUOTE

Maybe other collectors are aware of and have copies of similar early contemporary newspaper clippings related to the stamps and postal history of Tibet published in the non-philatelic press which I would/could archive on a central location?

Rainer Fuchs

[rainer@fuchs-online.com](mailto:rainer@fuchs-online.com)



## A New Postmark Type from Bhadgaon

By Ed Gosnell

Shown here is what appears to be a new form of postmark from Bhadgaon that is unlisted by either Dr. Hellrigl or Dr. Shrestha. It appears to be a variation of the Hellrigl number H132 manuscript in circle. This variation has what seems to be the postmaster's seal impressed at the top of the circle. This hybrid form would at first glance appear to be simply a coincidence of placement of the postmark next to a personal seal. However, I have found three covers with the same seal impressed in exactly the same position at the top of the postmark; and Stephan Bildheim has emailed me a picture of a fourth example from his collection. I have also seen a fifth example offered as part of a lot on eBay. Five examples would to me indicate that this combination of markings was intentional in a

manner similar to the Manuscript Postmarks with Seals such as Hellrigl numbers H60-H68 or H80-H107. A detailed picture of the postmark and full pictures of the three covers are shown below. Please note that all three covers are also validated by three other different seals indicating different senders while the seal next to the postmark is the same on all three covers. The covers are dated between November 1899 and July 1890.



*Postmark and seal*



*Covers with new postmark and seal from Bhadgaon*

## Perkins Bacon 1930 Printings

By David Bradley

The following information comes from David Bradley's article Cochin Type O5 Official Overprints and other contemporary Perkins Bacon Printings in the India Post Vol. 52 (2018).

During the relevant period, Nepal had an issue of six values in an altered Type 3 Siva Mahadeva design dated 1986 N.S. (1929) (Figure 1), plus two rupee values in two different larger sizes, SG43-50 (Figure 2), in one printing only, issued circa August to December 1930, shortly after the issue of the Cochin Type O5 officials. The six low values are comb perforated about 13.65 usually with no holes in the bottom, right and left margins and perforated across the

top margin; another comb, seen only on the 4 paise value SG44, has two holes into right and left margins and is perforated across the bottom margin. The two larger high values are line perforated about 14.05; all are on unwatermarked paper. All values show a marginal inscription of the value below the bottom left stamp on the sheet, for example "2 PICE" on SG43 (see Figure 3); this is in somewhat smaller type than the marginal inscriptions on first issue printings. For more information, see Hepper (1982).

(Continued on page 11)



Figure 1: Bottom inscription for the 1930 Perkins Bacon issue.



Figure 2: Perkins Bacon 1930 Issue





Figure 3: 2 PICE block with inscription in lower left corner.

(Continued from page 10)

Nepal also had a later issue of six low values dated 1992 N.S. (1935), SG51-56, printed in May 1935 and issued circa August 1935. This third type is comb perforated 13.6 horizontally and 13.7 vertically with one hole into left and right margins, not perforated into the bottom margin and perforated vertically across the top margin, on unwatermarked paper. Ungummed sheets of the 4 pice green with the entire comb misplaced are known.

## Reference

Hepper, Colin (1982) *The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal*. Peterborough: Nepal and Tibet Study Circle.

## THE PERKINS, BACON ENGRAVING BOOKS 1900-1935

*Extracted by JOHN EASTON*

### 2. Definitive Issue of eight duties, 1930

The date in the lower corners was changed, and four new duties introduced. The size of the stamp was increased for the one rupee and still further increased for the five rupees.

Two sketches for the pice duties and a sketch for each of the rupees were entered on 12/2/29. The vernacular was altered for the four new duties on 27/5/29.

The following dates are taken from the Engraving Book only, as the Hardening Book for that period is missing.

*Dies:* 8/1/30, 24p, 32p, 11'; 13/1/30, 51'; 26/4/30, 2p, 4p, 8p, 16p.

On 9th April, 1930 a new frame die was engraved for the 51' which was printed in two colours, and the original dies for the 24p, 32p and 11' were rebitten and the vernacular altered.

The plates were not entered in the Engraving Book.



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## Nobding, a friendly Community Mail Office in the middle of Bhutan

by Leo van der Velden, October 2014 rev

Nobding is a small trading center along the central, lateral highway, mid way between Wangdue and Trongsa, near the point where the feeder road to Phubjika valley branches off. It has some shops, some schools, a large government road maintenance compound and a Community Mail Office (CMO). Nobding CMO reports to Wangdue Post Office. The postal agent is Mr Phub Tsewang, the son of the *gup* (head) of Dangchu *gewog* (the *gewog* or block of which Nobding is a part of). If Phub Tsewang is not around, his sister Sonam Pem is serving the postal customers. Sonam is otherwise an agricultural extension worker with the government.



*Inside the CMO#*



*CMO Nobding in 2008#*

The CMO is now based since early 2006 at the very east end of Nobding village as part of a new, large restaurant with a large, separate section for tourists, mainly for lunch while on a stop of their tour organized by private travel agencies (Kuenphen Restaurant cum Bar, tel 02 - 442000). The CMO steel trunk with stamps, forms and postal seals is in a room, which is also used as a branch office by the *gup*, whose official *gup's* office is in nearby Dangchu village, which is a four hours walk from Nobding. The red Bhutan Post letter box is still hanging at the old family house in the center of Nobding (see picture). That house has now been rented out to another family, but the mail box stayed behind because of its central location, and is regularly

being emptied.

Phub Tsewang has also some cows (five, of which only two are good milking cows). Furthermore has the family some land on which they grow potatoes as cash crop, and radish for their livestock. They also cultivate *maitake* mushroom, at the moment only for their own consumption. One of their brothers has a high position as national programme officer with UNICEF in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan and its main city.

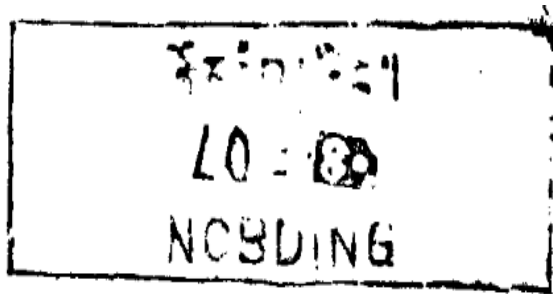
*Continued on page 13*



*The former APO 'downtown' still has a letter box*

(Continued from page 12)

The Nobding postal agent is also delivering mail to and from Dangchu gewog center, and received for this Nu 388/mo (at the time of my visit in October 2008), on top of the usual commission of Nu 495/mo for postal agents. The PO sells stamps and has one active, metal seal, used for cancellation. In store it has two dead seals, one negative seal (with NOBDING in English and Dzongkha) used in the past for wax sealing of MO envelopes and outgoing mail bags, and one old-type oblong seal formerly used for the MO form.



#

Mr Phub Tsewang is in charge since the year 2000 (before a teacher from Nobding LSS had been the postal agent). The mailbag to and from Wangdi PO is twice per week. The main receiver and sender is Nobding LSS (Lower Secondary School). That's why the mail traffic in the winter is only half of the rest of the year (the school in Bhutan are closed from mid December till mid February). In summer time, they dispatch some 6 to 7 letters per week, while in winter time it is that amount per month. Incoming mail is much more, 5-6 letters, a bundle of Indian newspapers and some 8 Kuensel, the national Bhutanese newspaper, per week. (Note that at POs people can subscribe and pay to Indian newspapers and magazines, one of the services delivered by Bhutan Post, also generating mail).

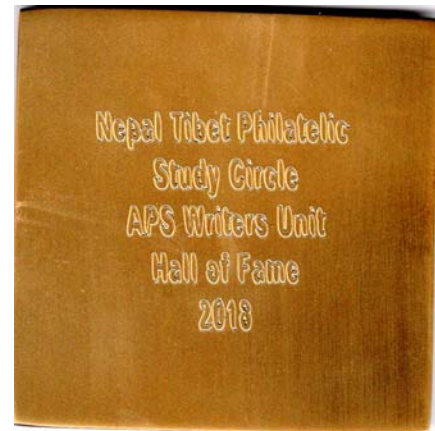
From the information from the collection of Kmilu (Karl Heinz Michel), Norbing was opened

as a Branch Post Office (BPO), later on also known as Assistant Post Office (APO), on 24 September 1979. In the past it exchanged mail not only with Wangdue PO (also known as Wangdi or Wangdue Phodrang) but also Phubjika BPO. At the time of its opening Nobding reportedly used temporarily an EXPTL P.O. (Experimental Post Office) seal (# C2353).

\* This article is mainly based on my visits to Nobding CMO in October 2008.



EXPTL. PO seal #C.2353 from Kmilu's collection



Silver Bronze Medal received by the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle for its Postal Himal newsletter at StampShow 2018.



## OVERLAND ROUTE via THIBET from AUSTRALIA to GERMANY?

By Edmond Weissberg



FIGURE 1: RECTO OF ENVELOPE

At first sight, this seems to be a strange cover! Is it a testimony of an ancient, secret and mysterious, long forgotten and now lost "Overland Route via Thibet from Australia to Germany"? With a reminiscent scent of "Fabelhaft Agartha", the fabulous Agartha, and other such XIXth century drivels about subterranean Thibet? [1]

Definitely and definitively: no! Perhaps just an "April Fool", and more assuredly, a continuation to Leo Martin's paper in the last issue of Postal Himal: «The "Nepaul"». [2]

So, this is merely a cover sent from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, to a lawyer in Aurich, East Frisia, Germany, bearing a remarkable boldly handwritten endorsement: "PER THIBET". And "THIBET" was a ship, as you can well imagine! Belonging to the P. & O. Company.

This cover was franked 9 p., i.e. five "1p." plus two "2p." stamps (in all likelihood from the watermarked 1882 issue of New South Wales -

but I haven't checked) rather pleasantly laid out in a single row on the top of the envelope. They were cancelled by four "SYDNEY / NSW" duplex cancels dated 16 May 1885, (plus one partial on the cover). [see: Figure 1]. The back of the cover only shows "BRINDISI" transit datestamp dated 27 June 1885, and "AURICH" arrival datestamp dated 01 July 1885. (No mention of a sender's name and address).

Now, THE VOYAGE! I've tried to reconstruct it as follows (all dates are 1885 year):

- 23 April: THIBET from China station leaves HONG KONG.
- 10 May: THIBET - captain W.D. Mudie, [3] arrives SYDNEY "From Hong Kong, via ports".
- 15 May: THIBET leaves SYDNEY ("Captain W.D. Mudie" - " To BOMBAY only; passengers for Europe proceeding by the RMS TASMANIA, 4486 tons, from COLOMBO").

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

- 16 May: The LETTER is posted in SYDNEY (THIBET was already departed! But the LETTER cunningly and innocuously just boarded a train from SYDNEY to MELBOURNE! - see below).
- 17 May: THIBET arrives MELBOURNE.
- 18 May: The "Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Monday 18 May 1885, p.6", informs: "The mails will be made up at the General Post Office or the undermentioned places as follows: Continent of Europe - United Kingdom - etc...: Overland to MELBOURNE and thence per P.&O. Company THIBET : 2.30 p.m. this day ...Correspondence intended for transmission by the P.&O. Co' steamers must be endorsed: «VIA BRINDISI»". [4]. So: the LETTER duly travelled from SYDNEY to MELBOURNE by train to catch THIBET in time.
- 19 May : THIBET leaves MELBOURNE at 1.00 p.m. The LETTER is now ON BOARD!
- 21 May: THIBET arrives GLENELG (ADELAIDE), and leaves at 3.00 p.m. - 25 May : THIBET arrives KING GEORGE'S SOUND (ALBANY), and leaves on the same day.
- 08 June: THIBET arrives COLOMBO, supposed to continue towards MADRAS and BOMBAY, while passengers and mails were transferred to the P.&O. TASMANIA for further transport to Europe.
- 27 June: LETTER is backstamped BRINDISI transit datestamp.
- 01 July: LETTER is backstamped AURICH arrival datestamp.

In addition, Poverty Bay Herald (Vol XII, issue 4320, 02 July 1885 - p.2.), and New Zealand Herald (Vol XXII, issue 7369, 02 July 1885 - p.5), both state: "LONDON HOMEWARD - Australian Mails dated Melbourne May 19 per RMS THIBET, were delivered today via BRINDISI". I think this implies: mails were "originally dispatched by THIBET", but arrived by RMS TASMANIA (from Colombo); also that the mails were dispatched overland by train from Brindisi (via the Mont-Cenis Tunnel) (and the Channel, of course), to

London, while passengers arrived later, on board the Tasmania, via Gibraltar. I regret to say I didn't find any data, neither about the exact RMS TASMANIA's voyage, nor about the THIBET's further one from Colombo to Madras and Bombay. However, it was not customary for THIBET to operate this SYDNEY/COLOMBO/BOMBAY line, and what's more, coming from HONG KONG. This ship is more often mentioned on the BOMBAY/SUEZ line. It's due to uncommon circumstances that THIBET was assigned this peculiar voyage: "On account of the RMS MASSILIA having been turned into a cruiser, the RMS THAMES was the vessel selected to replace the MASSILIA. The RMS THIBET is to leave Hong Kong to take the place of the THAMES" [5].

Now, some technical data about the ship: [6] (extract): "2,593 gross tons, length 360 ft X beam 36.2 ft. One funnel, three masts, twin cylinder compound engine, speed 11 knots, accommodation for 59 - 1st and 24 - 2nd class passengers. Employed on the Indian service. Launched on 29th August 1874 by Gourlays Bros & Co., Dundee for P&o Steam Navigation Co. 1875: employed as transport, carried 1,500 troops from Suez to Souakim during the Sudan expedition. 1885: fitted with new boilers. 1890: converted at Bombay to a cargo liner for the Japan service. 1895: sold to Hajee Cassum Joosub, Bombay, 1896: renamed CASHMERE. 1898: scrapped at Bombay. [Figure 2] shows Thibet as painted (watercolour and pen - 12.6 cm X 17.9 cm), by artist Sir Eliot Whately (1841 - 1927). This 1875 painting, now in the National Library of Australia, Canberra, is entitled: « WE Straits of Babel Mandeb - Arabian shore. 9/2/1875. S.S. "Thibet" ». ("WE" stands for the initials of the painter, while "Babel Mandeb" should read: "Bab el Mandeb", i.e. "the Door of Wailings" [or: "of Tears"]).

So, by a strange but fortunate triple coincidence (i.e. the ship's uncommon voyage, the sender's disrespect for regulations, and my modest insight [irony point !]), this cover is not as ordinary as it may apparently look at first sight.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

So: keep your watchful "third eye" wide open for new discoveries! In our field, there are certainly more ships to hunt, for spotters:

- Other P.&O. ships: HIMALAYA, MONGOLIA.
- Marseilles' FRAISSINET Company "TIBET". (Possibly, if my Editor permits, I will have a say in the matter of this french ship - and I promise: yes, with less "written logorrhoea"!)

NOTES: [1] Such inane nonsenses concerning Thibet also flourished in the XXth century, and alas still do in our XXIth!

[2] Postal Himal n172, December 2017, p. 16: «The "Nepaul"».

[3] Captain William Davidson Mulie (awarded Japanese "Red Ribbon" medal for the rescue of a vessel near Nagasaki in 1884).

4] Underlining is mine. Fortunately, the sender did not respect the regulations, and endorsed the ship's name instead of "Via Brindisi"!

[5] The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA): 20 May 1885

[6] <http://www.theshiplist.com/ships/descriptions/ShipsT-U.html> (acceded 18/01/2008 - ten years ago, already !)

#### OTHER REFERENCES & DOCUMENTATION CONSULTED:

\*Reginald KIRK: British Maritime Postal History, Vol. 1, The P&O Bombay & Australian Lines, 1852-1914 PHEAS, on behalf of Postal History International. (A Proud Bailey Division) - 1981.

\*Australian newspapers available for consultation on internet ("TROVE"):

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW): 14, 15 (p.1 & 6), 16 (p.6 &10); 11 June 1885

The Brisbane Courier (QLD): 21 May 1885

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA): 21 May 1885

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA): 19, 20 (p.3), 21 (p.1), and 22 May 1885 (p.4); 01 June 1885

The West Australian (Perth, WA): 25 may 1885

The Mercury (Hobart, TAS): 13 June 1885

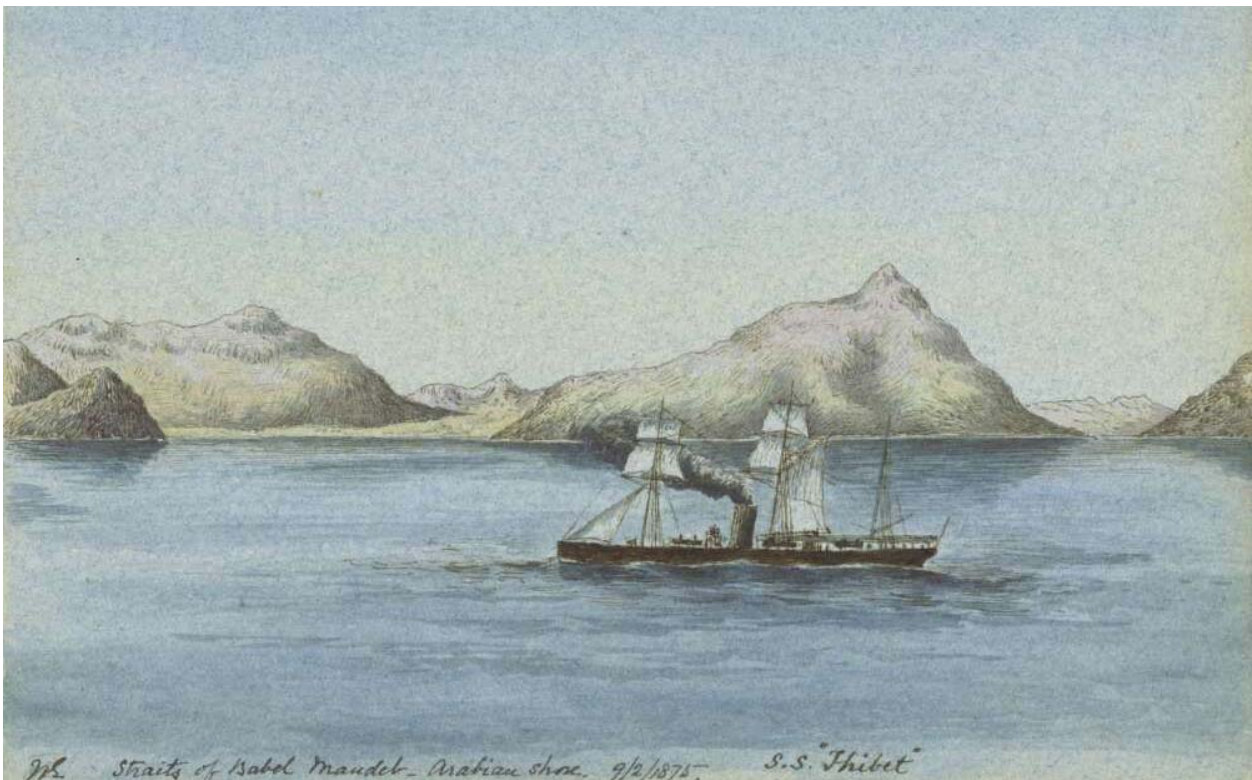


FIGURE 2: THIBET IN THE STRAITS OF BAB EL MANDEB (1875)