

# Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpssc>



*Various Shade of the One Anna Green*

*See article on page 15.*

Number 177

1<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2019

Postal Himal 177 March, 2019



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;  
British Philatelic Federation Affiliate #435

*Postal Himal* is a quarterly publication of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year. Dues should be paid in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the Society representative in your area.

**Secretary:** Mr. Colin Hepper, 12 Charnwood Close, Peterborough, Cambs, PE2 9BZ, England  
Phone: 01733-349403  
Email: colinhepper@aol.co.uk

**Editor:** Dr. Frank E. Vignola, 2238 Greiner St, Eugene, Oregon, 97405, USA  
Phone: 1 541 683 2695  
Email: frankvignola@comcast.net

**Board of Directors:**

President: Mr. Colin T. Hepper  
Vice President: Mr. Rainer Fuchs  
Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper  
Treasurer: Mr. Colin T. Hepper  
Members at Large: Mr. Christopher Kinch,  
Mr. Alan Warren  
Auctioneer: Mr. Leo Martyn  
Editor: Dr. Frank E. Vignola

Your subscription for 2019 is due on 1st January. Subscriptions must be renewed by the end of February so that you will not be dropped from the membership list. Subscriptions can be sent by cheque to Colin or the amount can be transferred direct to TSB Bank: Account: 00106890.

Sort Code:30-96-60. or by PayPal using Colin's PayPal address at colinhepper@hotmail.co.uk and he will confirm receipt by email

We hope that you enjoy being a member of our Society and look forward to having you renew your subscription with us.

**Representatives: Europe:** Mr. Colin T. Hepper  
see address at left

**Nepal:** Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha,  
G. P. O. Box 72, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Email: filatelica.thamel@gmail.com

**USA Subscriptions:** Mr. Kenneth Goss  
2643 Wagner Place, El Dorado Hills,  
CA 95762, USA  
Email: kfgoss@comcast.net

New members: Ural Wayne Raymond, USA  
D. Mills, UK  
R. Rajguru, India  
V. Sukhani, Singapore

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		
Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper	3
Editor's Ramblings	Frank Vignola	3
The Postage Stamps of Nepal - A Catalog of the Classic Issues, 1881 - 1930	Richard Frajola/Frank Vignola	4-5
Czechoslovakian Trucks to Tibet –1956	Brian W. Smith	6-7
Nepal Issue of 2018	the Rev. Douglas W. Hatch	7
Nepal 2 Paisa "Orange" Horse Postal Card WA2a Variant?	Ken Goss	8
1980 German Expedition, Second Ascent, Shishapangma, Tibet	Brian W. Smith	9
Earliest Date British India Yatung-Tibet via Siliguri Datestamp	Brian W. Smith	10
The Padmasambhava and the Madagascan Connection	Edmond Weissberg	11-13
Tashichho-Dzong PO, the post office of "The Fortress of the Glorious Religion"	Leo van der Velden	13
Examples of Nepalese Blue Postal Cards	Colin Hepper	14
Classic Nepal One Anna Green Stamps	Frank Vignola/Richard Frajola	15-16



Dear Members

It has been a rather difficult two months for me since the last issue, as I seem to have spent a great deal of time at either the doctors or the hospital. Fortunately my own problems cleared up but it is a bit of a different story for my wife. For those of you who may have seen

the advert on British TV with Usain Bolt on a treadmill, then you will know what Eleanor did, but she finished up with a dislocated arm plus a

fracture and six stitches in a cut on her forehead. So I am afraid that stamp collecting has had to take a back seat as it looks as if it will take quite a few more weeks before she is able to take back the running of the house.

By the time this issue reaches you WESTPEX will almost be upon us. I will not be attending the show this year but I do send my best wishes to all of you that do attend and go to our meeting.

*Colin Hepper*

### **Editor's Ramblings:**

Again, I would like to thank the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle members for submitting articles to the Postal Himal. This newsletter is by and for its members and is a way to share one's interests and seeks articles or comments on interesting items. For example, Brian Smith wrote an interesting article on a Czechoslovakian stamp that showed Czech trucks with the Lhasa Potola Palace in the back background. He includes an interesting postcard related to the event and was hopeful that one of the NTPSC members could translate the Czechoslovakian writing on the postcard. Please feel free to comment or add to any article in the newsletter and if appropriate we will include the comments in the next issue of the Postal Himal.

An article is a good way to share your interests and discoveries with other study circle members. Personally, I find the articles interesting and they open up aspects of the hobby that are fresh and exciting. **Please keep those interesting articles coming!**

Occasionally typos or errors enter into the articles. In the December 2018, issue number 176, a few typos or corrections were brought to my attention. Thank you for letting me know.

Errata: On page 10 in the figure caption, the statement should be *Note use of British India Geo. VI 2 Anna 5 years after Indian Independence in 1947.* The mistyping had 54 year instead of 5.

#### **ADDENDUM:**

in: A TRICOLOR FROM THE TRI-JUNCTION : THE FIRST SWISS HIMALAYA EXPEDITION. Page n° 8, line 4: after "(photo 54)", please add and insert: "[Fig.4]".

#### **CORRIGENDUM:**

in: A FAR-REACHING TIBETAN NEWSPAPER WRAPPER. Page n° 15, line 22 should obviously read as: «replace the inside "IS" by an "U" ». instead of: «replace the inside "I" by an "U" ».

### **Announcements**

**Auction**—H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale - 3025—Sale Date: April 30, 2019

<https://stampauctionnetwork.com/ha/ha3025.cfm> The Richard Frajola Collection of Classic Nepal

### **NTPSC Meeting at Westpex, 2019**

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Santa Barbara Room

Presentation: *Nepal: A Survey of Forgeries* by Leo Martyn

Location: San Francisco Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Highway in Burlingame (immediately south of the San Francisco International Airport)

**The Postage Stamps of Nepal**  
**A Catalog of the Classic Issues, 1881 - 1930**  
by Richard Frajola and Dr. Frank Vignola

The classic stamps of Nepal were printed from the same set of plate from 1881 to 1930. A detailed description of the myriad of printings from these plates is discussed in *The Classic Stamps of Nepal* by Wolfgang Hellrigl and Frank Vignola in 1984. For many of these printings it is almost impossible to distinguish one printing from another unless one has a large multiple with marginal inscriptions or framelines. What has been lacking for many beginning Nepalese collectors is an accessible publication that is between the detailed evaluation of the printings and standard catalog listings. Richard Frajola's idea for an online catalog of the classic Nepalese issues came from his interest in the unique characteristics of the early Nepalese stamps and the lack of a well-organized catalog for the classic issues. The expanded online catalog can be found at <http://www.rfrajola.com/nepalcat/nepalcat.htm> (see Fig. 1).

The catalog and the companion website provides the descriptive material and requisite images that should assist a careful user to confidently and correctly identify early Nepal stamps. A valuation guide is included that also provides some guidance on the value of covers with classic stamps.

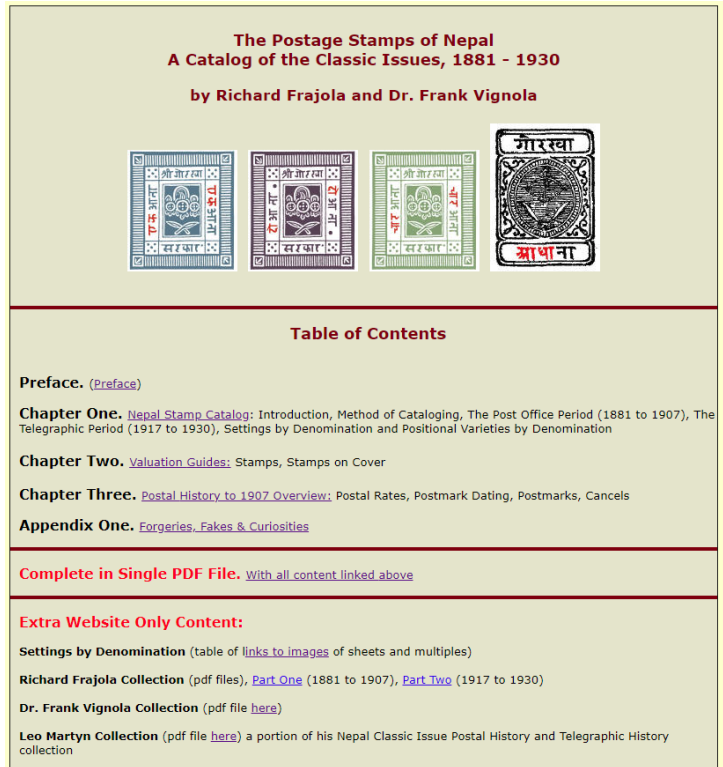
The preface to the catalog gives useful background information about the catalog and the rationale for the catalog.

**Preface**

The Nepal classic design postage stamps of 1881 to 1930 have been the subject of several articles, publications and excellent books over the last forty years. The definitive study on the subject, "The Classic Stamps of Nepal," by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Frank Vignola, Jr. (the father of my coauthor Dr. Frank Vignola), has stood the test of time with only a few discoveries having been made since its publication in 1984. However, there has been a dearth of accurate basic stamp and market information readily available to the philatelic community. The present catalog, and the companion website, will provide the descriptive material and requisite images that should allow a careful user to confidently be able to correctly identify early Nepal stamps. It will also provide the information

needed to differentiate between the postal stamp issues and the telegraph service stamp issues which have the same designs. A valuation guide for both stamps and stamps on cover which is based on recent auction and market sales is also included. My personal interest in Nepal stamps and postal history is rather recent but quite diligent and rigorous. I purchased a large "stock" of Nepal stamps and covers from a client who had acquired it from the late Geoffrey Flack, a noted expert and dealer in Tibet and Nepal philatelic material. The purchase included a portion of the Dr. Armand E. Singer collection including many important classic design stamps that were illustrated in his "Nepal 1772-1961 and Beyond" book published by George Alevizos. The purchase also included some scarcer items from the Gupta collection. Armed with the knowledge that the Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl's collection of Nepal was slated to be sold at public auction, I realized that the timing was

*Continued on Page 5*



*Fig. 1: Image of the online catalog's webpage along with along with a listing of the catalog's content. Also available on the website are pdf files showing some of the classic material.*

## The Postage Stamps of Nepal—A Catalog of the Classic Issues, 1881 - 1930

(Continued from page 4)

perfect for assembling a comprehensive study collection of the classic design stamps and the stamps on cover. When the Corinphila June 2016 auction of the Hellrigl collection took place, I was able to add a large number of significant items. In trying to assimilate and organize this material, it became apparent that there was a general lack of accurate stamp identification and market information available. Most of the standard stamp catalogs did not adequately differentiate the postal from the telegraph uses and most were lacking in any kind of accurate organizational logic. The best literature on the classic design stamps apparently prove to be too detailed to be readily adapted to the stamp catalog and album publishers' needs. It is hoped that this work will provide an accessible, accurate and useful guide to those seeking to properly identify their stamps, value their stamps and stamps on cover, and to learn more about the additional resources available to further their study of Nepal philately. I would like to thank my co-author, Dr. Frank Vignola, for his enormous contributions to this work in all of its details. In addition, I would like to specifically thank two collectors, Leo Martyn and Johannes Bornmann, who have tried to answer my innumerable questions and requests for opinions. For anybody wishing to study other areas of Nepal Philately, or the classic designs in more detail, I highly recommend membership in the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Finally, if you would like to contribute images to the website, or share your collection publicly on my website, please contact me. *Richard Frajola, December 2018*

The catalog is divided in five parts:

1. Preface
2. Nepal Stamp Catalog:
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Methodology of Catalog
  - c. Post Office Period (1881—1907)
  - d. Telegraph Period (1917—1930)
  - e. Settings by Denomination
  - f. Positional Varieties by Denomination
3. Valuation Guide:  
Stamps and Stamps on Cover
4. Postal History to 1907 Overview:
  - a. Postal Rates
  - b. Postmark Dating
  - c. Postmarks
  - d. Cancels
5. Forgeries, Fakes, and Curiosities

One can download the each section or download all five sections.

Being an online catalog, changes can be incorporated as more information is obtained and feedback from users is incorporated. When substantial changes are made, the version of the catalog will be updated.



### Chinese Stamp Buyer

Pay top \$ for Asian Stamps

#### Jonathan Fenn

President, JSF Holdings, Inc.

jon@chinesestampbuyer.com

www.chinesestampbuyer.com

307/690-0925

**email images for a cash offer**

*Pay finder's fee to collectors/dealers who make me aware of estate auction collections.*

## Czechoslovakian Trucks to Tibet –1956

by Brian W. Smith



Fig. 1: Enlargement of 1958 Czechoslovakia stamp with Czech trucks at Lhasa, Tibet in 1956

In 1958 Czechoslovakia issued six postage stamps to commemorate the Czech Motor Industry. The highest value, 1.25 koruna, depicts two Czech built Kamiony Tatra III and Praga VS 3 motor lorries in front of the Potala Place, Lhasa, Tibet in 1956 (Fig. 1). How could this have come about?

Czechoslovakia was one of the first countries to recognize the formation of the Peoples Republic of China in 1949. Through the auspices of the Soviet Union, Sino-Czech friendship and cooperation soon took place and the two new communist countries made mutual agreements to assist each other with their respective agricultural and industrial development.

A Czech Embassy was opened in Peking and delegations sent to each country to facilitate the setting up of trade.

The invasion of Tibet in 1950 by the Peoples Liberation Army of China brought about permanent changes to that country. Resistance by the Tibetans frustrated Chinese plans for a peaceful take over and their plans for land reform and eventually introduction of a communist government. However, they quickly instigated the connection of Lhasa, Tibet with

China by the building of two major highways: one from Sichuan in the East, and another from Sining in the North.

The Chinghai-Tibet highway from Sining to Lhasa was completed in 1954 and opened to traffic in December of that year. Was this how Czech trucks reach Lhasa in 1956? I have been unable to discover the facts. Flying heavy trucks to the Tibetan plateau in the 1950s seems inconceivable. Perhaps they were driven overland from Eastern Europe through the USSR and Sinkiang to Lhasa, or from China where they could have been delivered from Europe by sea.

Continued on Page 7

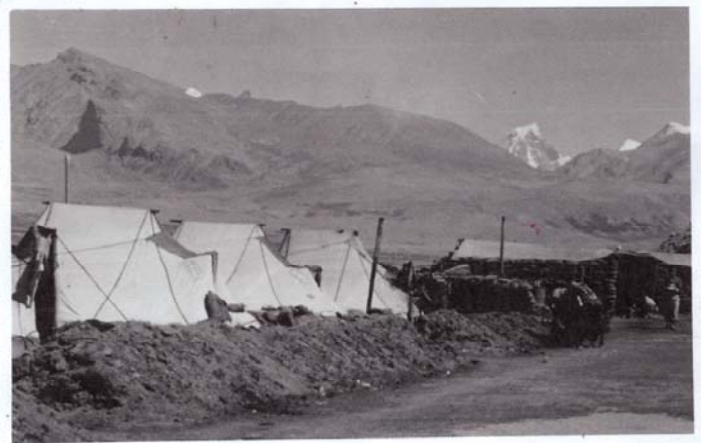


Fig. 2: 1956 Postcard of encampment in Tibet. Mailed from Lhasa October 1956 addressed to Czechoslovak Embassy Trade Representation, Peking, China

## Czechoslovakian Trucks to Tibet –1956

(Continued from page 6)

Another piece in the jigsaw. I have a photographic picture postcard of an encampment in Tibet posted from Lhasa on 2 October 1956 (Fig. 2). The message is written in Czech(?), signed by 15 individuals, and addressed to “Czechoslovak Embassy Trade Representation, Ha-tan-tze, Huting 18, PEKING”.

Was this group a Czech trade delegation that had travelled to Tibet in connection with the truck delivery and/or other trade matters? It clearly seems to have been an important event for the Czech government, important enough to warrant the issue of a commemorative stamp.

If any member can read Czech a translation of the message would be welcome and could help to conclude yet another Tibet mystery. My contact Email address is: [brian63@inbox.com](mailto:brian63@inbox.com).

### Reference:

Daniela Kolenovska. Between Two Suns, Czech Journal of Contemporary History. Vol IV (2016). P39. "In 1955 the PRC still accepted products (from Czechoslovakia) to assist Chinese industrialization" per their agreements. Czechoslovak trade with China halted after the Sino-Soviet split in 1960.

## Nepal Issue for 2018

by the Rev. Douglas W. Hatch

To update some information on Nepal 2018 stamps: the only stamp issued was on December 30th, and is of 10r denomination. It pictures Ram Prasad Rai, a “democratic fighter” (1909-1952 A.D.) with the First Day of Issue envelope of light olive color with a framed picture of the individual at the left. The First Day circular cancellation has the picture of a flame inside a circle and seated on a bed of lotus flowers. It has 30 Dec. 2018 in English inside the inner circle and 2065 Puchh 15 (in Nepali) on the inside left circle.

My informant mentions that there were not financial problems but administrative ones. Some well skilled staff were transferred to other government offices, and not replaced, and there was no Director General for the Post Office. There were some “acting” Director Generals who didn't remain in the position long,

and felt they could not make a decision about issues. All the designs for new issues had been completed on time, but there was no contract with a printer.

Hope this information supplements what we know about Nepal's only issue for 2018.

## Nepal 2 Paisa “Orange” Horse Postal Card

### WA2a Variant?

by Ken Goss



While sorting through several common WA2a “Second State” cards looking for shades of the stamp and other anomalies, the above card does not correlate directly to Van der Wateren’s description in his “Nepal Postal Stationery” book.

The WA2a “Second State” card is identical to WA2 “First State” card except that there is no longer a tail behind the large text and the top right corner ornament is 2mm shifted to the upper right.

But note the upper right corner ornament is not shifted upward toward the frame line – it is 3mm. I looked at other 2<sup>nd</sup> State cards in my

collection and the upper right ornament is 1.5 to 2mm from the upper frame line.

Perhaps this is an intermediate state between the First and Second State cards? The tail has dropped off but the corner ornament has not made the final movement to the top right corner. And the handicraft nature of these cards offers much opportunity for variation.

Please send any comments to the author or editor.



# 1980 German Expedition, Second Ascent, Shishapangma, Tibet

by Brian W Smith

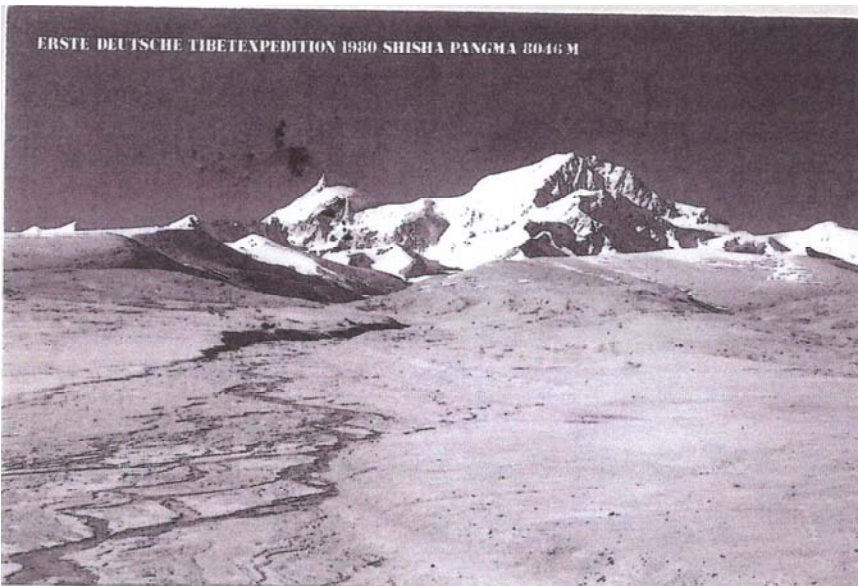


Fig. 1: Front of postcard showing Shishapangma—8,027 meter mountain in Tibet.

Sturm, Frits Zintl, Wolfgang Schaffert, Sigi Hupfauer and Manfred Sturm. It was mailed at Lhasa on 31 March 1980. Franked with attractive China stamps tied by Lhasa postmark (Waterfall type C10).

Shishapangma, at 8,027 metres (26,289 ft) is the 14<sup>th</sup> highest mountain in the world, and falls entirely in Tibet.

The first ascent of Shishapangma was made on 2 May 1964 by a Chinese/Tibetan team led by Xu Jing. It was the last 8,000m peak to be climbed due to its location within Tibet and the restrictions by foreign visitors to the region imposed by China at that time.

The 1980 Second Ascent was by a strong German Expedition led by Michael Dacher. The summit was reached on 7 May 1980 by the Northern Route. The Expedition Post card was signed at Base Camp by Dacher, Gunter



Fig. 2: Back of postcard from the Second Ascent of Shishapangma, showing signatures of expedition member 7 May 1980.

## Earliest Date British India Yatung-Tibet via Siliguri Datestamp.

by Brian W. Smith



Fig. 1: Registered cover from Yatung—Tibet via Siliguri, 17 Oct. 1949.

Registered cover Yatung, Tibet to USA franked with British India Geo. VI 1R [used two years after Indian Independence] tied by Yatung (Hellrigl B51) datestamp (Fig. 1). Backstamped (Fig. 2) received at Elizabeth New Jersey 1 December 1949.

This is the earliest date seen for Yatung B51 postmark.

For those Tibet collectors with Wolfgang Hellrigl's "Postal Markings of Tibet" (Geoffrey Flack, 1996) please amend the date in table on page 13.



Fig. 2: Back of cover with receipt marks from New York, NY and Elizabeth, New Jersey, 1 December 1949.

## The Padmasambhava and the Madagascan Connection

by Edmond Weissberg

Oh! This is merely a typical example of a postcard sent from Tatsienlu to Tananarive, as usual... Well, let me just add some trifling details and comments!

Here is a green 1 cent C.I.P. coiling dragon stationery card, uprated with three brownish-orange 1 cent C.I.P. coiling dragon adhesive stamps, cancelled by 3 bilingual cancels "Tatsienlu".

[Fig.1] and (note 1). The card is addressed to Mr. Girard, Public Prosecutor in Tananarive (nowadays: Antananarivo), Madagascar, and endorsed "Via Siberia". It was redirected to Tamatave (nowadays: Toamasina) in red ink: "Tamatave", + "The law courts in Tamatave", + "Tananarive" crossed out. (note 2).

Now, "The Voyage", and the dates (Chinese bilingual lunar cancels are "Xin Hai", i.e. 1911): (note 3).

- From the bank of Yalong - 29 March (manuscript on the back) - TATSIENTLU departure: 3rd month, seemingly 5th day: 03 April 1911 - YACHOWFU transit: 3rd month, seemingly 10th day: 08 April 1911 - CHENGTU



Fig. 1: Postal card sent from Tatsienlu to Tananarive, Madagascar, 1911

transit: 3rd month - illegible day - PEKING transit (chinese P.O.): 25 or 26 April - year illegible - PEKIN - CHINE transit (French P.O.): 27 April 1911 - Via SIBERIA (no transit datestamps, alas! - neither from Moscow, Paris or Marseilles!) - redirected from TANANARIVE, but unfortunately, still no datestamps. - TAMATAVE - MADAGASCAR arrival: 19 (or 18?) June 1911 (datestamp on the back) [Fig. 2].

The TATSIENTLU, YACHOWFU, and CHENGTU circular bi-lingual cancellations are all three as per PADGET (note 4) type illustrated under "Fig. 11" on p.30. The PEKING transit - chinese P.O. - is as per PADGET type illustrated under "Fig. 5" on p.30.

An uncommon destination for an eastern Tibet mail, but if not a plenty, missionaries were nevertheless many, operating in this area... and they were writing mails...

So, some info from the back of the card having been disclosed for

(Continued on page 12)



Fig. 2: Back of postal card

## The Padmasambhava and the Madagascan Connection

(Continued from page 11)

philatelic purposes, it's now time to have a full translation of the text on the back: [Fig. 2] (Plus the arrival datestamp from Tamatave, Madagascar, 19 -or perhaps 18- June 1911.)

" From the bank of the Yalong (eastern Tibet), 29 march Sincere greetings from G.- Ch. Toussaint, who will have reached within four days Lithang, the highest town in the world, and will set off again immediately on the way back towards Paris and Tananarive---"

Aha! there it gives a jolt ! The sender is perhaps not just anyone! And certainly not some or other, renowned or not, missionary. "G.- Ch. Toussaint" is obviously: GUSTAVE CHARLES TOUSSAINT ! Gustave Charles Toussaint (1869 - 1938), was a colonial high magistrate, having practiced in New Caledonia, Indochina, China, Madagascar (so: his relation with the addressee Mr Girard), and in French India Pondichery. And he made a quick expedition with a light caravan, into eastern Thibet, in 1911. He was also a poet, an explorer, an orientalist, and a tibetologist. As a tibetologist, his main work and masterpiece is the translation in french of the: Padma Thang Yig (note 5): "Le Dict de Padma".

According to his travelogue in "la Géographie" (note 6), he reached Lithang (note 7) on 01 April 1911, and on 03 April, he got from the abbot of the monastery there the famous manuscript of the "Padma Thang Yig". Concerning the "Yalong" (from which bank the card was written), it is the Yalongjiang, i.e. the Nyag Chu in Thibetan. Here, halfway from Tatsienlu westwards to Li thang, is the town of Ho k'eou,/ Hokow / nowadays Yajiang, and in thibetan: "Nyag chu kha" or "Nyag chu rdzong ". And then, after Lithang he quickly returned (as written: "immediately") to Tatsienlu, and already on 30 May 1911 he was in Paris! This "haste" suggests that C.G. Toussaint didn't go to Lithang by chance or accident, but purposely, just to pick up the "famous" manuscript, of which he had a previous knowledge that it was

there...And that's perhaps to add to "History"...

**(note 1):** Tatsienlu (otherwise Tachienlu), is a vague attempt at rendering in chinese the thibetan name "Dar rtse mdo" of this frontier town on the sino-thibetan border, at that time one of the major *emporium* for trade between the two countries. Main exportations were brick tea, silk, and also household goods, even including such things as japanese safety matches. Imports from Thibet were mainly wool, hides, and medicines. In 1923, Tatsienlu was renamed and sinocized as Kang Ting (nowadays: Kang Ding), in connection with the laborious attempts at creating a so-called new chinese province of Si Kang purporting to extend westwards as far as Gyamda (rgya mda') - but just on the maps! The Gyamda Thibetan postmarks are here to prove and evidence that Gyamda was under Thibetan control, and that the dreamed Si Kang province was - at that time - a rather fanciful and deliberately deceiving utopia. Harsher times were still to come... Also to be noted: many christian missions from France, U.K., U.S.A., *inter alia*, were active in this area.

**(note 2):** The useless pencil notation in bottom right corner "origin eastern Tibet (Tatsienlu)" is obviously not mine, but most probably from a previous owner!

**(note 3):** For converting dates, I have found the following booklet very helpful: 100 years Chinese-English Lunar-Solar Calender (*sic!*\*) 1864 - 1963 - Perak edition. Published by Liew Hong & Co., Penang, Malaya (*sd*) \* Well, inside, it is correctly termed as "calendar"!

**(note 4):** "PADGET" is for: The Postal Markings of China - Peter I. Padget - China Philatelic Society of London - 1978

**(note 5):** Edition "Les Deux Océans - Paris - 1994. The original edition was published in several volumes, finishing in 1933, because the translation took G.C. Toussaint about 20 years to complete it. This is a so-called "gter-ma", a "rediscovered" book, "treasure" book, presumably written years ago and purposely

(Continued on page 13)

## Tashichho-Dzong PO, the post office of “The Fortress of the Glorious Religion”

by Leo van der Velden



*The Tashichho-Dzong post office in Thimphu*

also the main monastic body. It is known as “The Fortress (dzong) of the Glorious Religion”.

The PO only opened in August 1986 to cater for the increasing mail of the government offices which at that time were located inside the dzong and in buildings erected south of it to cater for the expansion of the government. A number of ministries is nowadays also located in newly built offices in Thimphu town. The name Tashichho Dzong has been used already before the opening of the PO in the postmark of GPO Thimphu in the early 1970s and on some special FDC cancellations like the 1968 Tashichhodzong stamp and the 1969 Gandhi set.

In this 2008 picture, the Tashichho-Dzong post office in Thimphu is at the right, while the dzong after which it is named can be seen at a distance. Tashichho Dzong is the center of the Bhutan government, with for instance offices for the king and the prime minister, while it houses

There are different spellings for Tashichhodzong in English, as an official standardization for the romanization of Dzongkha only started in 1991 and even this has not strongly been enforced. So we can read Tashichho Dzong, Tashichho-Dzong and on the postmark in 2008 Trashichoe Dzong.

Postmarks used are from my own collection and from the collection of Karl-Heinz Michel.



1969 Gandhi FDC



Thimphu GPO 1972



First PO postmark 1986



PO postmark 2008

---

## The Padmasambhava and the Madagascan Connection

*(Continued from page 12)*

hidden for rediscovery when time is ripe for that. This is a poetic “biography” of Guru Padmasambhava, who is purported to have introduced buddhism in Thibet. In any case, a major text, translated in a poetic way, according to the original Thibetan text, in French language. Not so an easy undertaking!

**(note 6):** La Géographie - T. XXVI - 15 July

1912 - Paris - Masson & Cie.: “Voyage au Sseu-tch’ouan et aux marches orientales du Tibet” - pp.7-10.

**(note 7):** Although at 3954 m above sea level, Lithang was at that time not exactly the “highest town in the world”, Phari (Phag ri rdzong) in Thibet being higher. Nowadays, things have probably changed...

## Examples of Nepalese Blue Postal Cards

by Colin Hepper

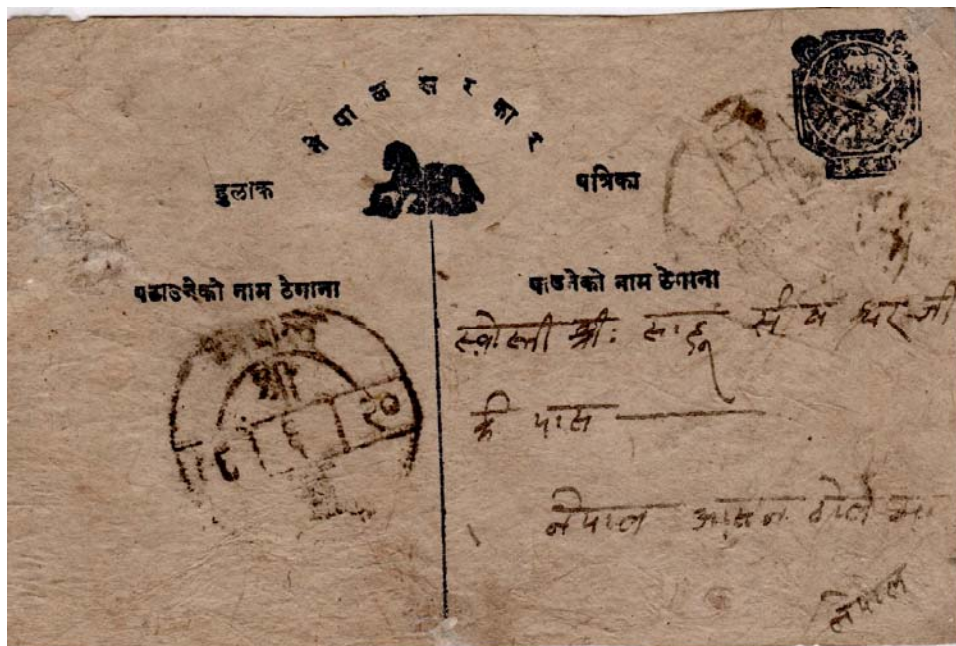
The following are two examples of blue postal cards that were sent in by Colin Hepper. The first is an unused and unrecorded postal card van der Wateren's 29b.

The second postal card is a used copy of van der Wateren's 23 subtype b. It was sent from Amlekganj to Kathmandu in October 1931.



An *unrecorded* and unused postal card van der Wateren 29b

The word *Patrika* at the right of the horse is almost in line with the lower large text. The center line is shifted to the right side of the horse.



Used copy of van der Wateren's postal card 23b sent from Amlekganj to Kathmandu, October, 1931.

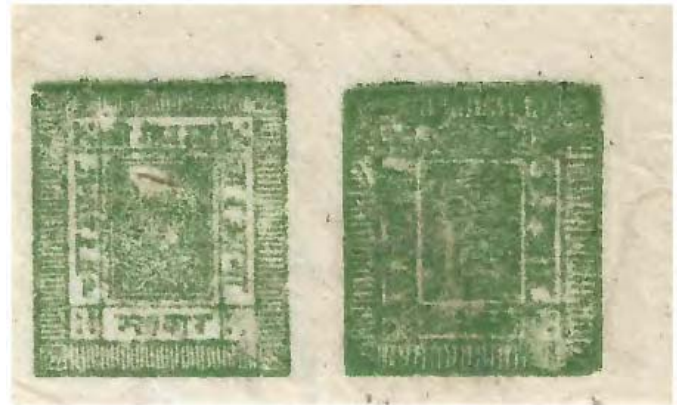
## Classic Nepal One Anna Green Stamps

by Frank Vignola and Richard Frajola

During the period from 1881 through 1930, Nepalese classic stamps were printed in blue for the one Anna, purple for the two Annas, and green for the 4 Annas stamps. Each denomination is available in a wide range of shades as inks were purchased as needed and no precise requirements were made for the color of the inks. Over the fifty year run of the classic stamps, involving approximately thirty settings of the one and two Anna stamps and a dozen of the 4 Annas, the color of the inks were bound to vary.

During the 1896-1898 period, a series of setting using greenish blue 1 Anna stamps were printed (Fig. 1). These greenish blue stamps were significantly different in color that the Stanley Gibbons catalog gave them their own catalog number. At the same time stamps from these same setting appear in a range of other blue shades. The distinguishing feature of the printings is the distinct wear on the plates that give the stamps a blurred impress as opposed to the sharper impressions of the earlier printings. These are classified a blurred blue stamps in Frajola's and Vignola's online catalog and range in colors from greenish blue to dark blue.

During the telegraph period, the volume of sheets printed increased dramatically. There is a tremendous variation of shade for the two Anna issues. The one Anna stamps vary in shade from light blue to a very dark blue.



*Fig. 2: One Anna recut used in a 4 Anna sheet. The recut stamp on the right is inverted compared to the other clichés.*

The last printing of the 4 Anna sheet contains a one Anna cliché that replaced a missing 4 Anna cliché (Fig. 2). This stamp is inverted compared to the stamps around it forming a tête-bêche pair and it is also printed in the same shade of green as the rest of the 4 Anna stamps..

Among the shade for the one Anna stamps printed early during the telegraph period are a few sheets that were printed in a pale emerald shade (Fig. 3). These greenish one Anna stamps were first reported in 1946 and are occasionally available. Their shade is distinct from the 4 Anna darker emerald stamps.

Because the mailed version of the Postal Himal is printed in in gray scale, color versions

*(Continued on page 16)*



*Fig. 1: One Anna greenish blue circa 1897*



*Fig. 3: One Anna pale emerald shade recut. Cliché 64 on right inverted. Early one Anna recut as cliché 64 shows minimal damage.*

## Classic Nepal One Anna Green Stamps



*Fig. 4: One Anna recut printed in emerald green similar to the color used for the 4 Anna stamps printed during the later telegraph period.*



*Fig. 5: One Anna green stamp postally used. The stamp probably was printed in the 1898-1906 time period.*

*(Continued from page 15)*

of the various one Anna “green” stamps discussed in this article are also shown in color on the front cover of the Postal Himal.

More recently dark emerald green one-Anna stamps from the telegraph period were found. These stamps were reported after the 1984 issue of the Hellrigl/Vignola *The Classic Stamps of Nepal* was published and are not listed in that publication (see Fig. 4). At least two large multiples of these telegraph issued stamps have been reported and more may exist as collectors look into stamps classified as 4 Anna by their color. The later issues are often difficult to read after being in use for nearly 50 years.

While preparing the web-based classic Nepal catalog with Richard Frajola, an interesting item

was uncovered in his collection. It was a one Anna green stamp postally used (Fig. 5). This stamp predates the telegraph period and has not been reported previously. The rarity of this stamp is hard to estimate. At least one of sheet of 64 was printed in this color and it is unlikely that only one sheet of this color was printed. However, while green one Anna stamps are unlikely to be common, it might be worth looking through four Anna stamps to see if one is really a one Anna green.

There is considerable variety in the shades and wear on stamps from the Nepalese classic period from 1881 through 1930 and one never knows what one will come across. Many interesting items may be found if one looks hard enough.