

Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE
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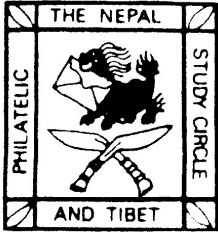


Postcard mailed from Tatsienlu, Tibet to Tananarive, Madagascar via Siberia,
March, 1911

Number 179

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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:

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see address at left

Nepal: Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha,
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CA 95762, USA
Email: kfgoss@comcast.net

New member: Dr. Ashok Rana (renewal)
(e-mail: arana1953@gmail.com)

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Dear members,

Another summer has gone by and we are back into the winter 'philatelic' season. However my summer has continued for a few weeks longer as I have been visiting my daughter in Perth, Australia and did not be home until late September. This may delay the distribution of this magazine to the non-USA members a little. During the summer I had a holiday in Austria and although we hear much about global warming it wasn't until we visited a mountain where there should have been all the year round

skiing, there was in fact no snow, and you begin to realise how serious it is. In this magazine is a letter from a member of the 1953 Everest expedition and I have to say that I admired the organisation that took over 365 porters to carry loads to the base camp.

Finally another reminder that Society meeting at the London 2020 exhibition is on Sunday 3 May at 12.00 noon.

Colin Hepper

Editor's Ramblings:

I would like to thank all the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle members who sent in articles for this issue. There was space in this issue to use some of the articles that were provided earlier. These articles often inspire other collectors and adds to our philatelic knowledge. Thank you for contributing. I especially want to thank Leo Martyn on his series on Nepal forgeries. There are several more parts to this series and this information is extremely helpful.

Ken Goss should be recognized for the work he does proofing the newsletter. I am amazed at some of the typos that he finds that I have overlooked. The newsletter is a better product because of his help.

It is not too early to think of articles for the December 2019 issue. The September issue

used most of the items that had been sent to me. However, new articles are needed. **Please keep those interesting articles coming!**

For those interested in exhibiting at Westpex, the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle is a host society for Westpex 2021 and exhibits from the Himalayas are needed. This is two years away, but it takes time to set up an exhibit.

Scott catalog will list the NTPSC along with other philatelic societies in their next catalog. Hopeful this should encourage others to join the society.

Announcements

London 2020 is May 2-9—The NTPSC is having its meeting on Sunday 3 May at 12:00 noon. The Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle is a host society for Westpex 2021. There should be some interesting exhibits from the Himalayas at the show.

Rishi Kumar Tulsyan Receives Recognition for His Large Gold Exhibit

by Sidhartha Tuladhar

Today I am attaching some photos of an occasion to felicitate a Nepali Philatelist Rishi Kumar Tulsyan who have been awarded a LARGE GOLD MEDAL for exhibiting his collection - "Nepal: The Prestamp and Classic Period 1779-1907" in China. You have already reported about his award in the last Postal Himel #178. This felicitation was honored by Nepal Philatelic Society on Rishi Kumar Tulsyan for being awarded LARGE GOLD MEDAL - the first time ever that a Nepali citizen has received this high philatelic award. He was felicitated by Nepal Philatelic Society and was given honour certificate by communication Minister of Nepal at a function organized by Nepal Philatelic Society. Also, there was a commemorative cancellation to honour the recipient of a LARGE GOLD MEDAL. (See pictures). This photos can illustrate in the coming Postal Himel.



Rishi Kumar recognized for his large gold Nepal exhibit



Commerative cancel honoring Rishi Kumar's winning the large gold medal at the World Stamp Exhibition in Wuhan, China.



Minister signing document for the commerative cancel.

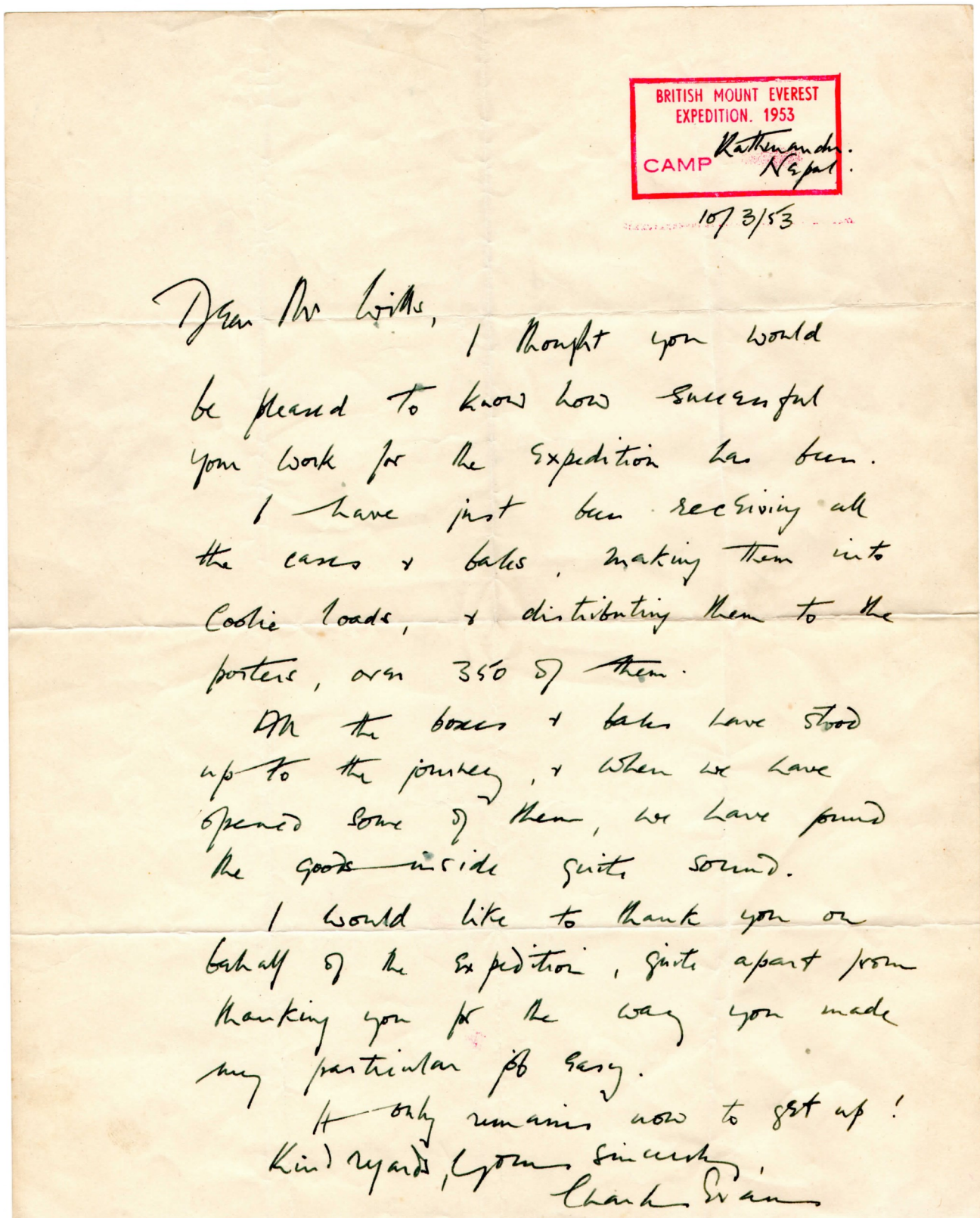


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Everest Letter
From David Innes

The following is a letter from Charles Evans during the 1953 Mount Everest expedition.



Dear Mr Innes, I thought you would be pleased to know how successful your work for the expedition has been.

I have just been receiving all the cases & bales, making them into Coorie loads, & distributing them to the porters, over 350 of them.

All the boxes & bales have stood up to the journey, & when we have opened some of them, we have found the goods inside quite sound.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the expedition, quite apart from thanking you for the way you made my particular job easy.

It only remains now to get up!
Kind regards,
Charles Evans

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) - TATSIENLU departure: 3rd month, seemingly 5th day: 03 April 1911 - YACHOWFU transit: 3rd month, seemingly 10th day: 08 April 1911 - CHENGTU 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. -



Fig. 1: Postcard mailed from Tatsienlu, Tibet to Tananarive, Madagascar via Siberia, March, 1911

TAMATAVE - MADAGASCAR arrival: 19 (or 18?) June 1911 (datestamp on the back).

The TATSIENLU, 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 mail...

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

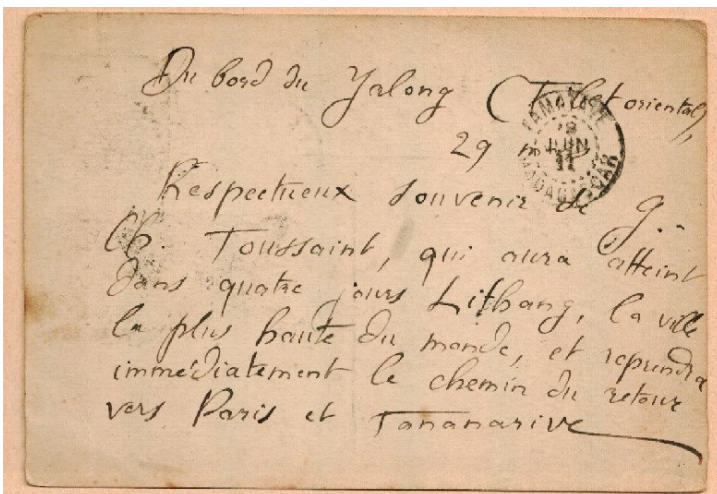


Fig. 2: Back of Postcard

(Continued on page 7)

Padmasambhava and the Madagascan Connection

(Continued from page 6)

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 Tibetan. Here, halfway from Tatsienlu westwards to Li thang, is the town of Ho k'eu, / 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 went 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 *emporía* for trade between the two countries. Main exportations were brick tea and 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 Sinicized 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 Calendar (*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 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...

From Ladakh to Cognac

by Edmond Weissberg

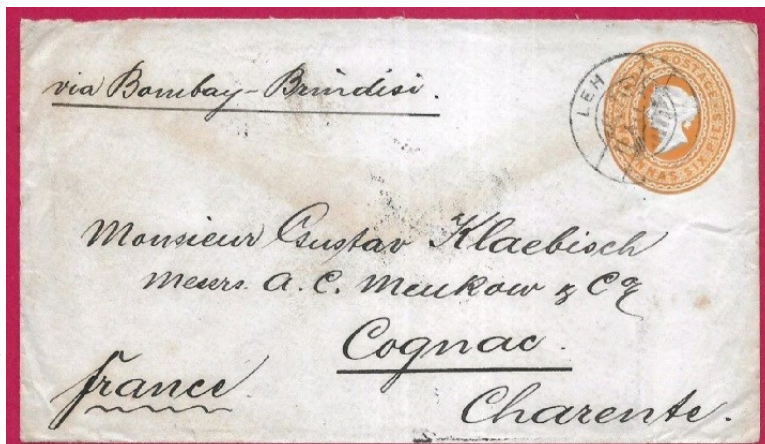
Further my last paper on a 1907 France to Thibet (Menton to Chumbi) postcard, let me present you a parallel cover from Little Thibet to France, just to illustrate the "French connection" in the reverse direction. This letter was sent in 1910, [Note 1] from Leh, in Ladakh, (known as "Little Thibet"), a part of Kashmir Feudatory State within the British Raj. [Note 2]

Philatelically, it's a rather common, or even insignificant item. It is an old stationery cover with an embossed QV orange "two Annas - six pies", cancelled "Leh 11 AUG 10". In addition to the addressee's name and address, there is an endorsement "Via Bombay - Brindisi". The back only shows an arrival cancel, (see: fig 2), with a faint "COGNAC", and a legible "7h - ...4 - 9 - 10 - CHARENTE". No sender's name and address, nor transit cancels such as "sea post office", etc. etc.. So: just a letter from Leh, travelling for 24 days, certainly first by postal runner, then train, then ship, then train again, to reach its destination and addressee in France. That's all folks, and now I gnaw at my carrot !

But, has not this anonymous cover something more to say, after all? Well, just have a look at the addressees: "Gustav Klaebisch" and "A.C. Meukow". The A.C. Meukow company was founded in Cognac by August Christoph and Gustav Meukow (from Silesia) on August 1st, 1862. In 1850, it was handed over to Gustav Klaebisch. In 1914, when WWI I broke out, the Klaebisch family, was dispossessed, because, of course they were Germans. There is another story during WW II, when a descendant of the family, another Gustav Kleibisch, born in Cognac, was made "Weinführer", and saved the "Cognac trade" from complete collapse, dealing only with the Wehrmacht, i.e. the supplying of brandies for only the regular German army. From what I understood, It seems his position was due to his brother Otto Kleibisch, as a brother-in-law of Joachim von Ribbentropp! [Note 3]

So: let's have a drop of Cognac Brandy in Leh !"

[Note 1] To be noted: at that time (1910), "Greater Thibet" was under the Manchu



Cover from Leh in Ladakh to Cognac France,
August 11, 1910

"Qing Dynasty" occupation. To the best of my knowledge, there is somewhere a cover from Lhasa to Paris from this period. If I remember, it was possibly previously (I have not checked), in Prof. Armand Singer's collection. That would have been a much more choice and appropriate epitome...

[Note 2] Leh, the "capital" of Ladakh, is in Thibetan: "sle", i.e. : ལྷལ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ Ladakh, is in thibetan: "La dwags", i.e. : ལ་དྭགས

[Note 3] Of course, Joachim von Ribbentopp was Hitler's "Foreign Minister" (and was hanged in 1946 after the Nürnberg Prozess). But before that, he was also a "wine and spirits" importer, while in Canada, in his former "career".

Acknowledgements to: "Lexilogos" - The Thibtan Keyboard Online.



Receival postmark Cognac, September 4, 1910

Differences in same value stamps from the mini-sheet and full sheets of the 1987 Bhutan issue “500th Anniversary of the Discovery of America”

by Leo van der Velden



Stamps from the mini-sheet (upper row) and from the full sheets (down row)

On 25 May 1987 Bhutan Posts & Telegraphs (P&T) issued a stamp set on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. The set consists of six stamps with the values 20, 25 and 50 Chhetrum (CH), and 1, 2 and 3 Ngultrum (NU), both issued in full sheets as well combined in a mini-sheet. Further seven souvenir sheets were issued with the same values and the extra added value of 5 NU, all with different designs as the 6-value stamp set. Although the stamps from the full sheets and those of the mini-sheet have the same design for each value (except partly for one value), they have a slightly different color pattern. Michel mentions that the stamps of the mini-sheet have a white background, while those of the full sheets have a colored background, while Scott catalogue just mentions that those of the mini-sheet have a white background. The reality is slightly different. Two values, 25 CH and 2 NU, jump out as their difference is obvious: those from the full sheets have a light orange background, while those of the mini-sheet have a very light blue background. For the other values the background color is very light blue, almost white, for those of the mini-sheet, while those originating from full sheets have a slightly darker blue background. One stamp has still a clear difference: the 50 CH value of the mainsheet

has a yellow sun in the upper right corner, while the stamp from the full sheet lacks completely any sun. For all stamps there is one different feature which easily helps to differentiate between them: those from the mini-sheet have a black line surrounding the illustration, while those of the full sheets have a mild blue line. Full sheets, the mini-sheet as well as the souvenir sheets have been issued both perforated and imperforated.



The sun on the 50 CH mini-sheet stamp and the mini-sheet

Errors in Design of Postage Stamps of Bhutan

by Iiro Kakko and Leo van der Velden

Introduction

Design errors in Bhutanese stamps can be observed especially at the start of the modern postal services in 1962. Some mistakes might be rather technical, like a typo in the scientific name of an animal depicted or the wrong type of color for some flowers on the local flowers issue of 1965, but sometimes it is more serious, like the wrong lifetime dates for the 1st King on one of the stamps of the very first issue of 1962. The mistake in 1989 in the face-value of 1 Chhetrum instead of 1 Ngultrum led to some serious confusion at the different post offices, although even in those years 1 Chhetrum was already not that much, so just because out of necessity 1 Ngultrum was asked for that stamp and valued for postage as such. There were also some misunderstandings by the international public, when for instance the Tokyo Olympics issue of 1964 the stamps showed Olympic Games with players in a local Bhutanese dress. Herewith an overview of well-known errors in design.

1. The 15 Ch stamp of the first stamps of 1962



In the first postage stamp issue of Bhutan in 1962 a mistake already occurred on the 15 Chhetrum stamp, showing the 1st King, a map of Bhutan and Paro Dzong. Under the portrait of the 1st King is printed “Druk Gyalpo 1867 – 1902”, while actually the 1st Dragon King lived from 1862 – 1926. As far as possible, the stamp was reportedly silently taken out of circulation.

2. The 1966 “Animals of Bhutan” issue

On the 10 Ch and 1.50 Nu stamps a picture of a dhole (cuon alpinus), or Asian Red Dog, is stated to be showing. However, it is argued that this particular picture doesn't show a dhole, but a red fox. Furthermore, the Asiatic black bear on the 1 Ch and 4 Nu stamps has some wrong color of the face, while the wild pygmy hog on the 4 ch and 2 Nu stamps is missing some features on the face (white lines).

3. The alien pheasant of 1968



The 1968 pheasant set includes one pheasant on the 15 Ch and 9 Nu which doesn't occur in the wild in Bhutan, the Crossoptilon Drouyni or Tibetan white-eared pheasant. As it is a specially protected bird in Buddhist culture, some monasteries might, however, keep some individual birds. Furthermore Lophophorus Sclateri or Sclater's Monal on the 2 Ch and 4 Nu is misspelled as L. Sclareti, mixing up the “r” and “t”, while an unclear, ambiguous picture of a female pheasant is used as illustration on the 4 Ch / 5 Nu stamp.

4. The typo in the name of astronaut Aldrin in the 1969 Apollo 11 3D issue

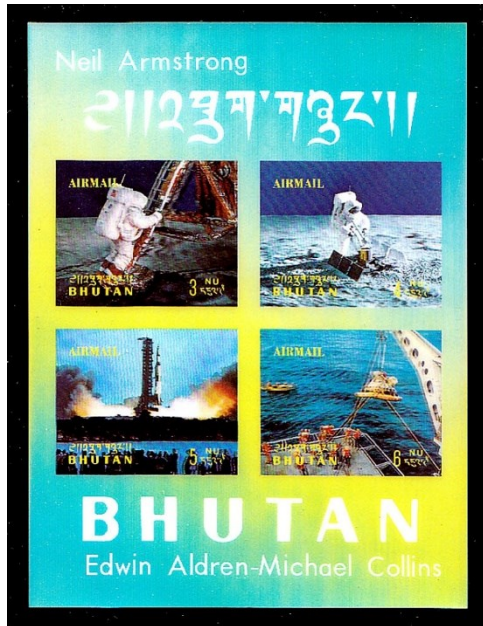
To commemorate the first manned moon landing in 1969 Bhutan issued in the same year a set of 3D stamps accompanied by two postcard sized souvenir sheets. On the airmail

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Errors in design of postage stamps of Bhutan

(Continued from page 10)

souvenir the family name of the astronaut Edwin Aldrin is misspelled as “Aldren” with an “e” instead of an “i”.



5. On the 1989 Nehru stamp the face value is stated as Chhetrum instead of Ngultrum



This obvious design mistake of Chhetrum instead of Ngultrum is approached differently in the different stamp catalogues. Scott states in the listing 100 Ch (as according to an explanation received there is no dot between the 1 and the two zeroes), but adds in a note that “denomination is shown as 1.00ch in error”. Michel lists the stamp as 1 Ch with the note that the wrong value of 1 Ch instead of 1 Nu is on the stamp and that “in Bhutan the stamp was handled as a 1 Nu stamp”.

6. The 1997 World Cup Soccer set: Uruguay won in 1950, not 1958



In the 1997 set for the World Cup soccer 1998, the illustration with Uruguay as winner states the year 1958 instead of 1950 on the stamp. For those who are interested: it was Brazil which won the World Cup in 1958.

7. The Meena stamp of 2003



Block of the four Meena stamp

On 11 November 2003, the birthday of the 4th King, UNICEF issued a mini stamp sheet of 4 stamps showing a girl called “Meena” as part of its “Meena Communication Initiative”, a campaign for “Education for every girl and boy” in South Asia, showing a “spunky South Asian girl”. In Bhutan UNICEF, in collaboration with the Bhutan Post, designed and printed 10,000 sheetlets of Meena postage stamps and 5,000 Meena posters with the message “Educate Every Girl and Boy”.

Furthermore, it provided many post offices with an outdoor advertisement light box with a picture of one of the stamps. The original

(Continued on page 12)

Errors in design of postage stamps of Bhutan

(Continued from page 11)



Wangdi PO in 2008 with Meena advertisement light box.

cartoon character of a Bangladeshi girl was slightly adjusted to Bhutan, with the girl Meena now wearing a kira, a long, ankle-length dress, and long sleeved blouse, the toego, while the small boy on one of the stamps is wearing a kho, the national dress code for Bhutanese men. However, other features were not adjusted, so the features of especially the girl don't look Bhutanese at all. On top of that her hair is in a very long string, not at all common in Bhutan where women and girls traditionally wear in general their hair quite short, and for sure not in a long string. A long string of hair is here even slightly more out of place, as long hair of a lady is in particular a feature of a mother who lost a baby. Furthermore the name "Meena" not a regular or common girl's name in Bhutan.

Sample of Modern Postal Registration Receipts from Colin Hepper

नं. ४६
अखरेपी H. ... तारीख छाप
पाउनेको नाम Benard S. Metzig
डेगना ASHUSCH-2
साई पठाएको पत्र/बीमा/पु/रजिष्टरी बु.पो. बुझिलियो
बुझिलिने कर्मचारीको सही
बीमा रु. (अङ्कमा) (अक्षरमा) को
बीमा महसूल रु. (अक्षरमा) तौल (अक्षरमा) ग्राममा
पठाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...

Receipt for Reg. ...
नं. १०३
अखरेपी ... तारीख छाप
पाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...
साई पठाएको पत्र/बीमा/पु/रजिष्टरी बु.पो. बुझिलियो
बुझिलिने कर्मचारीको सही
बीमा रु. (अक्षरमा) (अक्षरमा) को
बीमा महसूल रु. (अक्षरमा) तौल (अक्षरमा) ग्राममा
पठाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...

नं. ११
अखरेपी Tom Hughes तारीख छाप
पाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...
साई पठाएको पत्र/बीमा/पु/रजिष्टरी बु.पो. बुझिलियो
बुझिलिने कर्मचारीको सही
बीमा रु. (अक्षरमा) (अक्षरमा) को
बीमा महसूल रु. (अक्षरमा) तौल (अक्षरमा) ग्राममा
पठाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...

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डेगना JHARA
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बुझिलिने कर्मचारीको सही
बीमा रु. (अक्षरमा) (अक्षरमा) को
बीमा महसूल रु. (अक्षरमा) तौल (अक्षरमा) ग्राममा
पठाउनेको नाम S. K. Shrestha
डेगना P.O. B. 72, KTM

नं. १२
अखरेपी Karel H. ... तारीख छाप
पाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...
साई पठाएको पत्र/बीमा/पु/रजिष्टरी बु.पो. बुझिलियो
बुझिलिने कर्मचारीको सही
बीमा रु. (अक्षरमा) (अक्षरमा) को
बीमा महसूल रु. (अक्षरमा) तौल (अक्षरमा) ग्राममा
पठाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...

नं. १३
अखरेपी Herrn तारीख छाप
पाउनेको नाम D. ...
डेगना ...
साई पठाएको पत्र/बीमा/पु/रजिष्टरी बु.पो. बुझिलियो
बुझिलिने कर्मचारीको सही
बीमा रु. (अक्षरमा) (अक्षरमा) को
बीमा महसूल रु. (अक्षरमा) तौल (अक्षरमा) ग्राममा
पठाउनेको नाम ...
डेगना ...

Sample of six postal registration receipts

A Survey of Nepalese Forgeries, Facsimiles, and Fantasies—Part II

by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Leo Martyn

Nepal: Third Type of Forgery



Third Type of Forgery

“This 1 anna type was first described by Smythies/Dawson, in 1945: ‘Printed in bright red, every detail of the design is wrong!’“. Dawson’s copy eventually found its way into the Heddergott collection where it was described as a genuine ‘essay of the 1 anna stamp in red colour and different design, two copies being known so far.’“

“I have actually seen this ‘stamp’ without, however, having had the opportunity of a close examination. Nevertheless, I had the strong impression that it was not printed at all, but handpainted! I very much doubt the existence of a second copy.”

“The question remains whether this is a genuine essay of the 1st issue or an imitation of the issued 1 anna stamp. In my opinion, Heddergott’s ‘essay’ theory could only be maintained if this type’s history could be unequivocally be traced back right to 1881. Since this is obviously not the case, it must be regarded as an imitation. After all, in Nepal’s

philately, there can be no room for any benefit of the doubt: dubious items without reliable references first cannot be accepted as genuine.”

In his book *The Stamps of Jammu and Kashmir*, Professor Fritzt Staal discusses an identical problem in the form of two unique hand-painted stamps whose origin and history are unknown: ‘It is possible that these two items are hand-painted essays ... However, during the 1890-1920 period it was customary in Europe to have artists render stamp designs for page decoration. It is possible that the two items are just this.’ “

“The crown looks like a flower, its central circle being surrounded by seven circles of equal design” (New York Collector’s Club, pp. 143-144, 1983).”

“In an old handbook entitled *Stamps and Stamp Collecting* (1898), by Major E.B. Evans, the great philatelist responsible for the earliest studies on stamps and postal history of Nepal, I found an illustration of a 1 anna stamp that may well have served as a model for the 1 anna bright red forgery. In fact, Major Evens’ illustration features the same flower-like central design as the scarlet forgery. Moreover, Major Evans did not supply any details as to the stamp’s actual shade which could be a reason why the forger picked a wrong colour.”

(Continued on page 14)

Nepal: Fourth Type of Forgeries The One Anna Forgery



Photocopy of type 4 forgery



Example of type 4 forgery



Forged cancel



Forgery with forged

Type 4 Forgeries

(Continued from page 13)

“It is virtually impossible to accurately date this forgery. It could have been produced any time between c. 1920 and c. 1975, but probably is a fairly recent imitation (1970-1975) and produced in Hong Kong. It has been first recorded together with its forged cancellation, in *The Native Postmarks of Nepal*. Mint copies exist as well as used, but both forged cancellations are poor phantasies.”

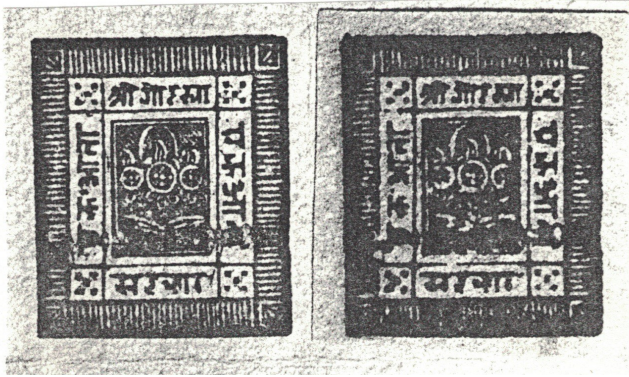
“Oddly, this forgery was printed, on European paper, in violet, yellow-green, dark green, yellow-olive, brown lilac, scarlet and bistre. Had it been printed in blue, it would have made an excellent counterfeit [Leo Martyn’s reference collection contains several in blue].”

“The cliché was produced photographically, but turned out fractionally too small. This forgery can be recognized by a large break above the last two character of ‘Sarkar’.”



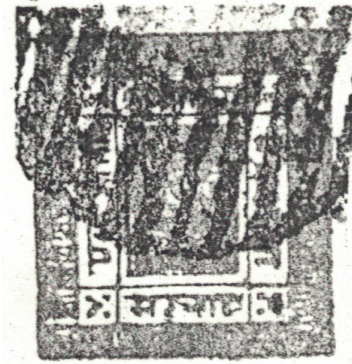
Leo Martyn’s collection includes a one Anna which is closely related to the type 4 forgeries. The various line breaks are absent as well as the dash connecting “Sarkar” with the bottom right panel containing an arrow. The center design appears to be the same, if not very close.

Nepal: Fifth Type Forgery



Genuine

Forged
Cliché 28



1 Anna Green
forged cancelation Maybe 1995(?)

“This very dangerous forgery imitates the 1886 issue. It was photographically reproduced from a complete sheet of Haverbeck’s setting 7, i.e. with clichés 52, 59 and 62 inverted. At one stage I [Dr. Hellrigl] was even accused of having been involved with the forgery of this setting (!), since the genuine sheet which served as a model had previously been in my possession.”

“The forgeries first appeared in 1975, in Calcutta and Kathmandu, and they had a very successful run, especially at auctions, before the word of their true nature spread amongst Nepal

collectors. I first reported these forgeries in *India Post*, in 1976.”

“They were printed in three distinct shades, viz. milky blue, an oily well matched dark blue and bright green, the latter being offered as errors of color.”

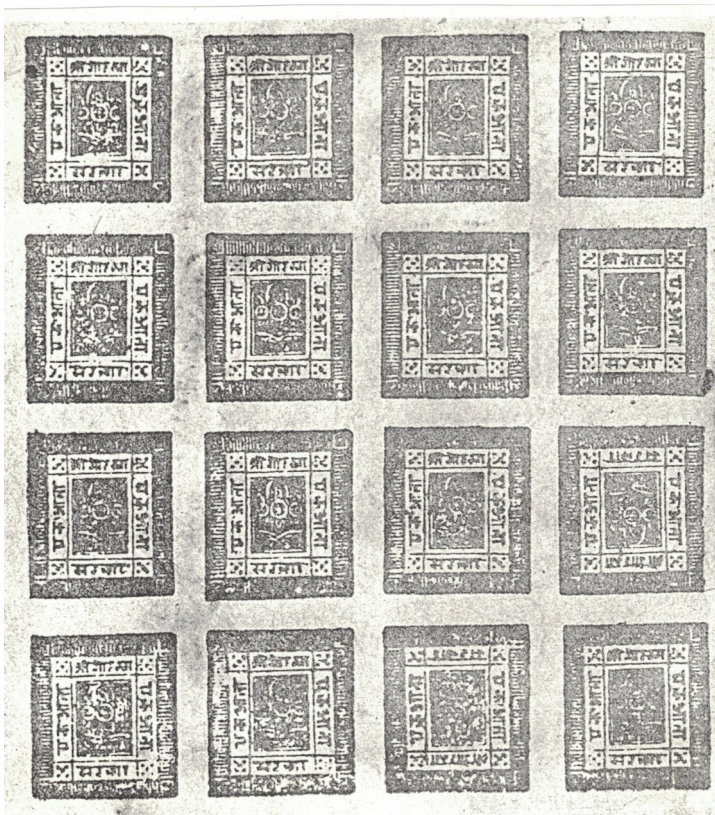
“In Kathmandu I saw a certificate, by a leading British expert committee [Leo Martyn’s reference collection], which accepted the green forgery as a genuine 4 Annas (sic). I immediately sent my protests to London and, about a year later, the said certificate was duly cancelled. Meanwhile however, a ‘unique’ block of the same ‘rarity’ had been proudly exhibited in Copenhagen’s HAFNIA ’76, where it found good company in the red 1 anna (type 3) and the orange-vermilion 1/2 anna (type 10) forgeries, all forming part of a large-gold-medal collection from Germany.”

“One dark blue sheet passed through Robson Lowe’s, being actually described as ‘reprinted from the original plate’ in the auction catalogue. Actually, the stamps were produced by a flat printing process. The forgery is really dangerous, especially if in singles.”

“Apart from a slightly blurred appearance, particularly of the frame, these forgeries are exact copies of the 64 clichés of the sheet, as every detail and flaw has a been photographically reproduced and there are no difference in size.”

“One of the best tests is the paper which is

(Continued on page 16)



One Anna Green block with a tete-beche pair.

Nepal: Fifth Type Forgeries

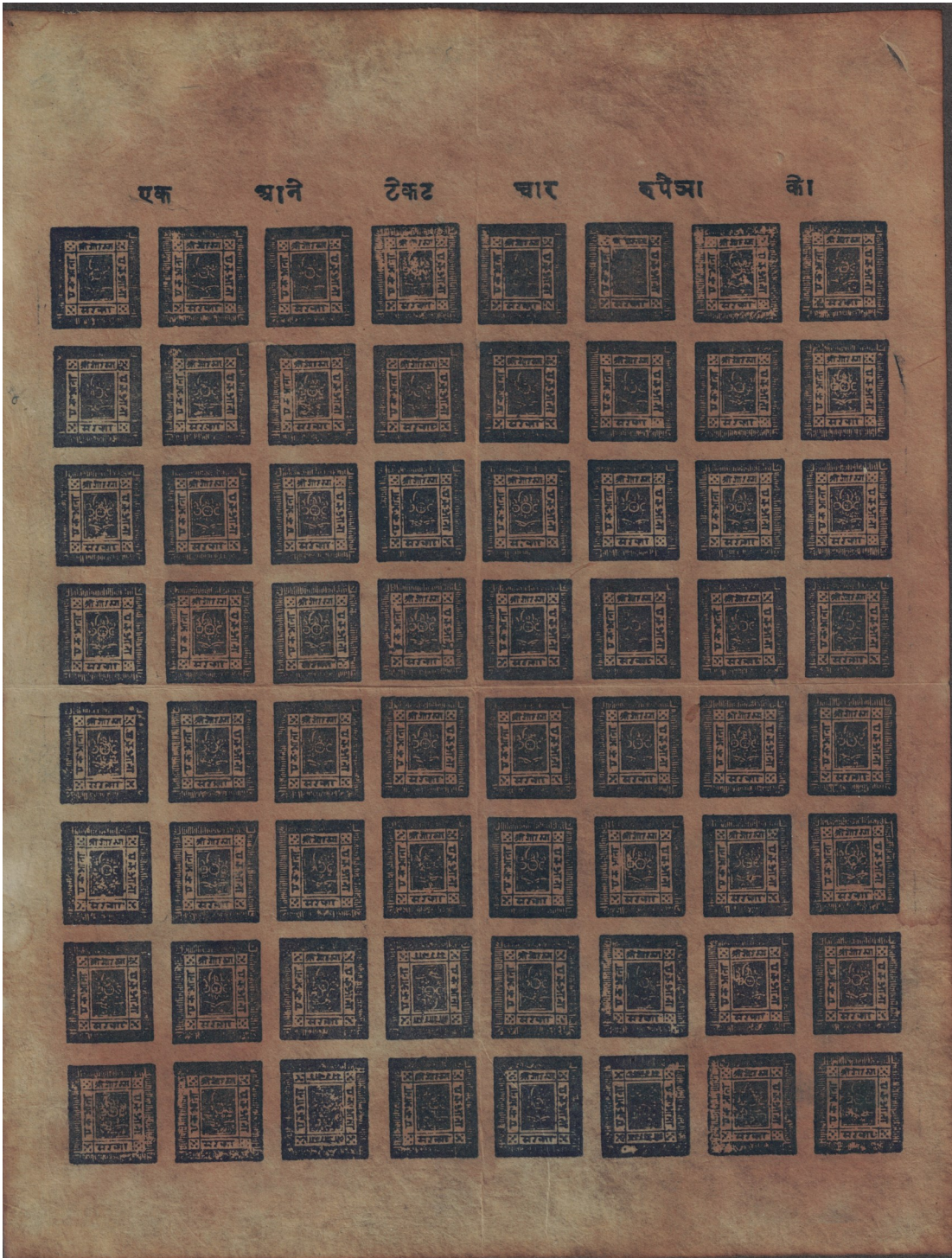
(Continued from page 15)

whiter, smoother and thinner in the forgeries. To cover up these deficiencies some sheets were even artificially 'smoked' in a naïve bid to imitate the typical 19th century patina: the result is an odd, brownish surface of the smoked front while the reverse is white."

"Full sheets are easy to distinguish from the genuine, as the forgers erroneously eliminated

the surrounding sheet-framelines! A rather elementary mistake, really."

"The forged sheet naturally shows several individual flaws which would only occur in the genuine sheet, from which the printing plate was photographically produced, such as casual printing impurities. The most prominent of these appears as a fish-shaped flaw in cliché 28."



Forged One Anna Sheet "smoked"