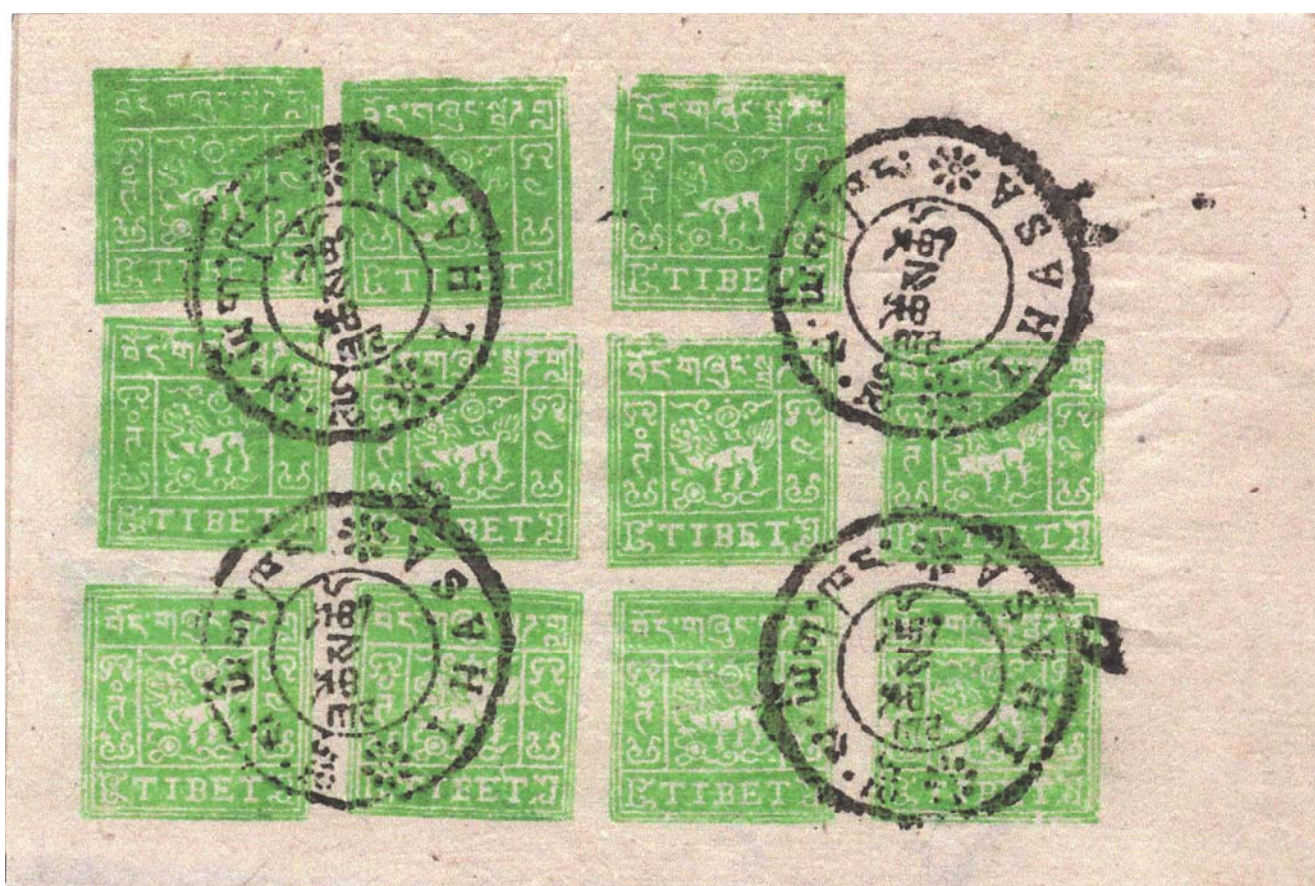


Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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



*4 Trangka Sheet with Missing Cliché
Enlarged color image of sheet shown in Postal Himal 180*

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Postal Himal 181 March, 2020



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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	

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

Please add Rishi Tulsyan to the list of NTPSC lifetime members. He inadvertently slipped through the net when the list had to be reconstructed after the list keeper passed.

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Dear members,

I was expecting to be able to write about two philatelic events, Westpex and London 2020, but the Coronavirus has overtaken events, with both of them having to be cancelled and I am sitting at home under lockdown in common with many other members in our Society. The London International has now been re-scheduled to 19-26 February 2022. Westpex will be held as usual next year at the end of April. Our Society are/were to be the featured Society for the exhibition but as this year's show has been cancelled, I am not sure if the list for

featured societies has been moved back a year which would then move us back to 2022. I should be able to give more information in the next magazine. For those of you that receive Postal Himal as a hard copy rather than by email it may be late in getting to you with printing firms being under lockdown.

It's a very difficult situation for everyone, but perhaps as well as enjoying and working on your collections you might find some interesting items that could be featured in the magazine.

Stay Safe.

Colin Hepper

Editor's Ramblings:

The purpose of the Postal Himal is to share information on Nepal and Tibet philately and to keep abreast of our members activities. I would like to thank all the NTPSC members who have contributed to this Postal Himal. The articles are interesting to read and give insights in to aspects of the field that are new to me.

Many of the articles are share by a few gifted philatelists but I am sure there are many out there who have information they would like to share. An article on an item that stimulates your interest or that you have found recently would fit nicely into this newsletter. Even if some minor editing is needed, we have expertise from people like Ken Goss who review the articles for typographical or grammatical

problems. The larder of articles is empty again and contribution are encouraged and desired.

A text file in such languages as word or .txt are the easiest to put in the newsletter. But .pdf articles can be formatted along with scans or images.

It is you that makes the newsletter interesting to read. Now that the work is on lockdown, time for studying Himalayan philately should increase and along with it, time to write about items of interest in your collection.

Please send in your articles to frankvignol@comcast.net and include any special instructions if necessary.

Thank you very much.

Announcements

In the literature section of the NZ2020 exhibition held in Auckland, New Zealand in March, Kun Hoo Rhee received a silver for *The Story of Nepal King's Stamp*.

"Eddie Hackstaff gave a presentation on "Expedition Mail of the Himalaya, Part 1 Mt Everest 1921—1940" at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in December 2019. The Philatelic Library requested to make a video of it to publish on-line. On February 18, 2020, he gave the presentation to the American Alpine Club who heard about it from the philatelic library. He is currently preparing two additional talks on the subject.

Eddie is also generating a census of the Himalayan mail of 1921 - 1960, and has recently completed the information for Mt. Everest 1924. Now that he has time off, he is able to organize the information so he can understand how to better capture it. He has generated detailed documentation for 90+ unique covers and postcards from the 1924 expedition, not including the Waterfall Type IIa in red. To contact Eddie with information on the Himalayan mails send it to eddie@hackstaff.com.

If interested in quarantine mail see the article in the New York Times at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/health/coronavirus-mail-packages.html>. While this doesn't apply to the Himalayas, it does show techniques used to purify quarantined mails.

Two Covers from Ngari, Western Tibet

By Brian W. Smith

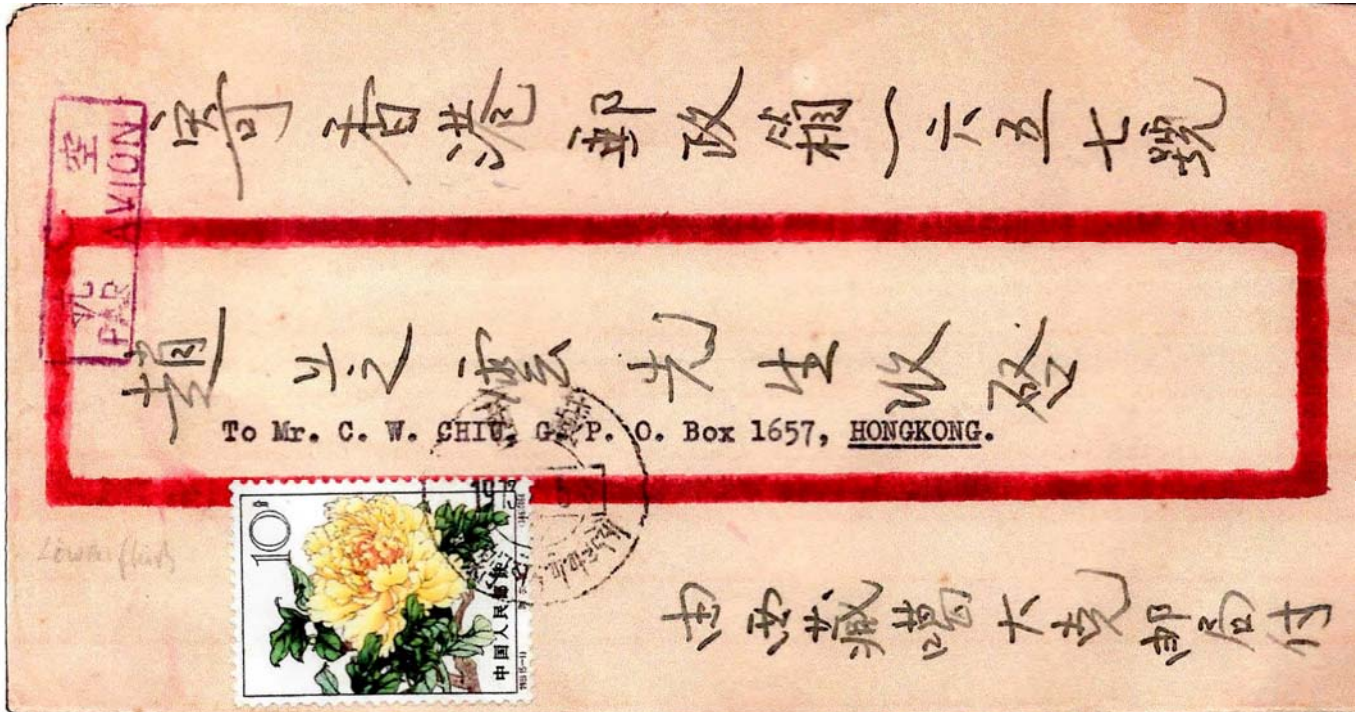


Fig. 1: Senge-Tsangpo

1. SENGE-TSANGPO (Chinese SHlorNHE or ALI)

This town is the seat of Gar County and the capital of Ngari Prefecture in Western Tibet, lying at a height of 4220 metres.

This 'Airmail' cover [there was no airmail service from this place at this date] is franked with 1964 China Chrysanthemum stamp tied with a bi-lingual Chinese Tibetan Waterfall Type C10 cancel dated 5 June 1973. Posted during the Cultural Revolution era and addressed to well-known collector C. W. Chiu of Hong Kong.

Senge-Tsangpo

is the Tibetan name for the river Indus on which the town lies, the source of which is in the Mount Kailas area to the South East. The modern Chinese built town of concrete buildings has grown from a population of c1500 to over 20,000 (1978-2008) and replaces the old capital Gartok that was



Fig. 2: Tholing or Toling

(Continued on page 5)

Two Covers from Nagari, Western Tibet

(Continued from page 4)

situated on the main road c50 miles south of Senge-Tsangpo.

On modern maps it is shown as Gar Gunsu. "Today it is impossible to see where it once was situated. All that remains are piles of rubble." [1]

2. Tholing or Toling (Chinese Zanda)

The ancient Tibetan town of Toling, 3,600m, lies next to the river Sutlej and was once the capital of Ngari.

This early 80s cover is franked with China definitive and tied by two bilingual Chinese/Tibetan Waterfall Type C10 cancels dated 6 JAN 1981. Addressed to Shenyang, China, the cover has a very early use of postal code [viz. 85960] which were introduced nationwide by China Post in July 1980. The renowned, but now abandoned, Tholing Monastery, established in 997AD, lies within the town. Its importance lies in the fact that the second dissemination of Buddhism in Tibet emanated from it. Twelve miles (20km) to the west lie the extensive ruins of Tsaparang, the one time capital of the Guge Kingdom in 10 –11th Centuries when Tibetan Buddhism civilization developed in W. Tibet.

Tholing was an important trade route between India and Tibet. The Guge

Kingdom fell into ruins by the end of the 17th Century after the Ladakh army seized the Kingdom in 1630 [2]

Sadly, much of the art and architecture that had survived at Tholing and Tsaparang was destroyed by Red Guards in the 1960s. [3] However, China has recently spent large sums of money to restore and stabilize remains at risk from erosion and water damage. [4]

References:

[1] Tibet Footprint Handbook. Gyurme Dorje. 1999

[2] Lonely Planet. 2008

[3] Orientations Magazine (for collectors & connoisseurs of art). July 2011

[4] China Daily. July 2019



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A WIRELESS TELEGRAM

by Leo Martyn

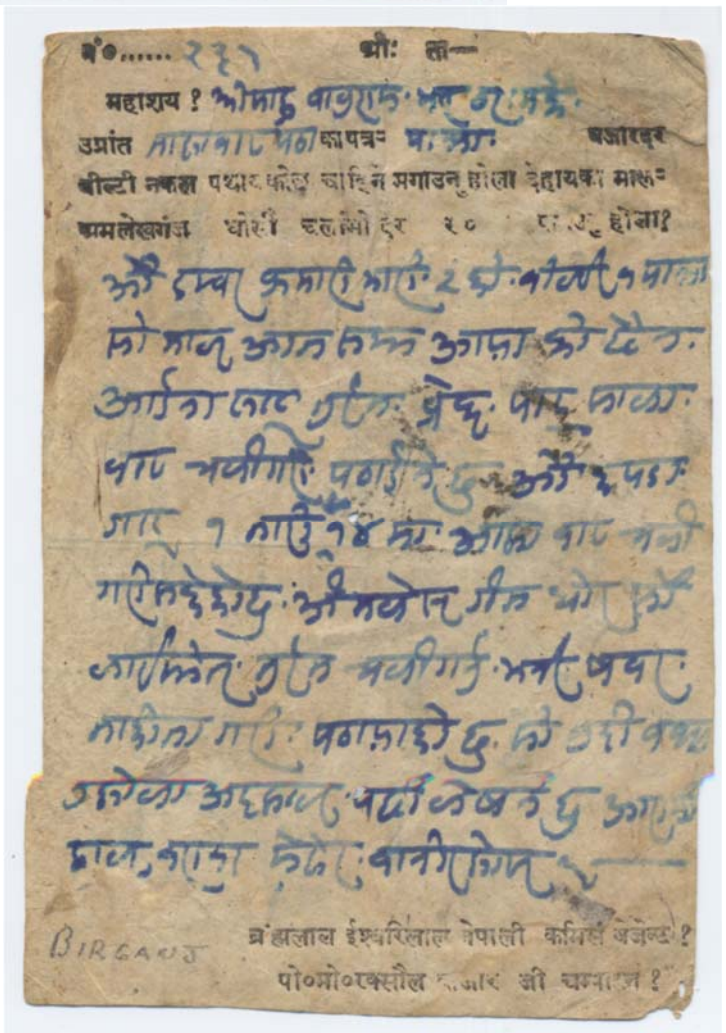


In a recently purchased small accumulation of Nepalese material this Blue Card was included. My friend and fellow Study Circle member, Ashok Rana, translated the text on the back and appropriately labeled it as possibly a wireless telegram. The translation reads as follows:

No. 37 Telegram

To Respectful Merchant Baburam

The letter sent from there [probably Amalekhganj] has arrived. Market rate copy, I have sent. Please order accordingly. Following items have been sent to Amalekhganj. A Sari Bundle of Dambar Kumari make has not arrived as yet, as soon as it arrives here then will be sent there. I will pay them instantly. The next cloth item I have already sent on the 14th [month or year not written]. I have also instructed them to post Saree Clothing items to Amalekhganj immediately. Please be clear. Rests, I will write afterwards again. From Bramhalal Isworilal, Nepal Commission Agent. Post Box Raxaul, Champaran, India.



How to Send a "Registered Letter" while in Thibet in the Forties?

by Edmond Weissberg

The present sheet of very thin handmade local Thibetan "silky" paper approximately 14.50 X 21.00 cm (i.e. about 5.51 X 8.27 inches), is a multiple deposit receipt for four "registered mails" (recorded delivery / certified mail) remitted at the Lhasa P.O. (Note 1) In all likelihood, it originates from a Nepalese merchant in Lhasa, sending registered mail to his company's agent, or representative, in Gyantse. Possibly for further delivery to his mother house in Nepal, or to India, or elsewhere. Who knows or shall know, now?

It consists of four "paragraphs", one for each letter (or letters) sent.

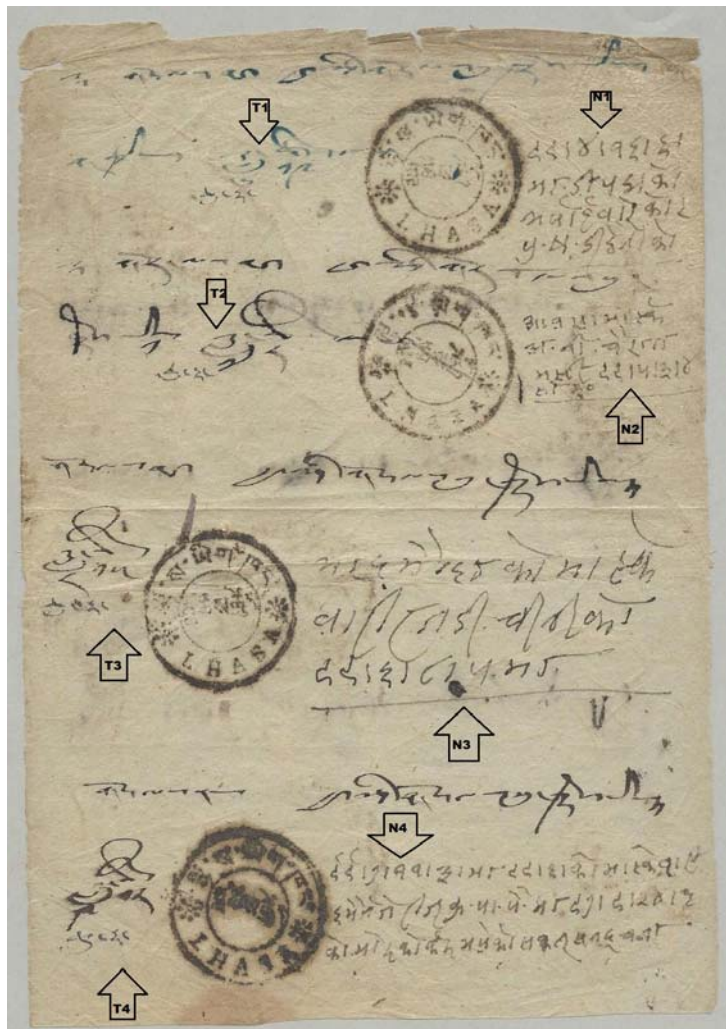
Each "paragraph" has a Thibetan cursive mention which one can translate as follows:

"From Gor [sha] (i.e.: Nepalese) office (Note 2) - Letter(s) -[number]* sent to Gyantse Gor [sha] (i.e.: Nepalese) office". * If I read correctly: - 1st dispatch: Two letters ("Two" written in letters). (all written in BLUE ink) - 2nd dispatch: 1 letter (numeral "1"). - 3rd dispatch: 2 letters (numeral "2"). - 4th dispatch: 2 letters (numeral "2").

Underneath is: "Month (x) Date (xx) Water Horse". The cursive indicates a well-read man, probably the Lhasa Postmaster himself, or one of his attendants. According to the different styles of handwriting, it seems there were 2, possibly 3, different clerks at work.

On the right of the date is a LHASA (Hellrigl Type T 42) handstamp. (Note 3)

Then, on the farthest right, on the right of the Lhasa handstamp, there is a text in Nepali, on 3 or 4 lines. Here also, from the handwriting, it seems there were different writers at work. (3, possibly 4). I must admit that I cannot understand nor read Nepali language! (Note 4). But I can decipher the numerals, so I have endeavoured to find: "where is the date"?



And so, I have signposted by numbered arrows on the attached picture as follows: - T1 to T4 for the Thibetan dates. - N1 to N4 for the Nepali dates. This results in the following in Table 1:

Knowing that "Water Horse" is "1942 / 1943", as well as Nepali V.S. "99", i.e.: 1999, it was easy to convert the recorded dates into our Gregorian calendar with the help of the available and appropriate (and free!) "calendar converters" on the net. And the result is that it's all perfectly matching! Even the "days", not

	TIBETAN			NEPALI					GREGORIAN			
	Month	Date	Year		Year	Month	Date	Day	Day	Date	Month	Year
T1	6	19	Water Horse	N1	99	4	16	6	Friday	31	July	1942
T2	7	8	Water Horse	N2	99	5	3	4	Wednesday	19	August	1942
T3	8	15	Water Horse	N3	99	6	8	5	Thursday	24	September	1942
T4	9	18	Water Horse	N4	99	7	11	3	Tuesday	27	October	1942

(Continued on page 8)

Plating the Quaterfoil

by Edmond Weissberg

(Continued from page 7)

mentioned in Thibetan on the document, but specified in the converter, do indeed correspond (i.e. Friday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Tuesday).

So it probably worked as follows to send a "registered letter" when in Thibet in the 40ties: - The sender (in this case a Nepali merchant), had a notebook, (or a strip of paper), on which he wrote the necessary data concerning the addressee, viz: name, address (well, at least the town's name!) - Then, he unhurriedly walked to the next post-office, waiting serenely the counter clerk to be in the mood to examine his letter(s) and deposit receipt. Just because the clerk, if a "she", had first to finish her knitting for her nice niece's baby, or if a "he", to first finish reading his preferred newspaper to know if he won on three yacks with or without the right placing. - Finally, the clerk deigned to take your letter(s), frank it/them with appropriate Thibetan postage stamps, annotate in Thibetan your prepared deposit receipt, stamp it with P.O. handstamp/s, and obviously cash your money for all that work. (Note 5)

Well, if you remove all references to the "nowadays western exaggerations", this is how it once possibly worked in Thibet in 1942. In my opinion, all went of course much more smoothly and easily! In Thibet, of course!

OH! By the way, if you remember, the first "batch" of two covers was dated: JULY 31st, 1942. This is EXACTLY and precisely the death date in England, of: Lieutenant-Colonel SIR FRANCIS EDWARD YOUNGHUSBAND. You surely remember he was a major intervening party in Thibetan affairs in 1904... ..

(Note 1) This corresponds to the well-known "Deb skyel" [དབ་སྐྱེལ་] mention, either manuscript, or printed, or more rarely by postal handstamp, on the registered covers from Thibet. (But this mention does not appear on the present document - at least in the thibetan text).

(Note 2) Between brackets is the omitted syllable in order to abbreviate. So, "Gor" is for "Gor sha", i.e. "Gor kha" (Gurkha), "Nepalese".

(Note 3) Wolfgang Hellrigl: The Postal Markings of Tibet - 1996 Dr. W. Hellrigl / Bozen / Italy - G. Flack, Vancouver, Canada

(Note 4) Accordingly, I kindly request the members of N.T.P.S.C. who are fluent in Nepali language, if they can help to translate the Nepali mentions on this document.

(Note 5) Any similarity with nowadays usual current practices is purely imaginary, of course !

=====

British Legation in Nepal: An Extremely High Franking

by Leo Martyn



Presented here is the highest franked postal history correspondence from the British Legation in Nepal that I know of up to the currency revaluation. Colin Hepper has a similar 1944 item (part cover) rated at 6 rupees/4 Annas. This large cover was posted on July 6, 1946 (no receiving backstamp) and bears postage of 6 rupees/5 Annas. It was registered for delivery via airmail to London, England. The postage is broken down as follows (1 rupee = 16 Annas):

- Air mail plus first half ounce of weight = 14 Annas
- Registration fee = 3 Annas
- The remaining additional airmail weight of approximately 3 ounces = 5 rupees/4 Annas.

The registration mark is stamped on a piece of adhered paper.

The German & Austrian Alpine Club Expedition to Kangchenjunga

by Edmond Weissberg

Pre-war mails related to German expeditions to the Himalayas are rather uncommon, particularly when addressed to the Superintendent of Police in Darjeeling, who was formerly Superintendent of Police in Lhasa. Especially, when redirected to Thibet!

The letter itself [Fig. 1] is self-explanatory, it is a letter of thanks, sent to the well-known S. W. Laden-la, (Note 1), by the President of the German and Austrian Alpine Club, Robert Rehlen. (Note 2). This letter is all-typewritten, except being signed by hand, and is dated from February 20th., 1930, from München (Munich).

According to the text and to the date, one can easily guess that this relates to the first German-Austrian autumn 1929 after-monsoon expedition to Kangchenjunga. (Note 3). And incidentally, the first German-Austrian expedition to the Himalayas.

Now, concerning the cover, the front side [Fig. 2] shows: - A "Hindenburg" blue "25 pfennige" postage stamp (correct rate at that time) cancelled from "NABBURG" on 25 February 1930. (Why from Nabburg i/o from Munich, and 5 days later than letter date, will be explained later). - The addressee's name, title and address in "Darjeeling, India", all typewritten. - And, in manuscript blue ink, the words "Darjeeling India" are crossed, and the

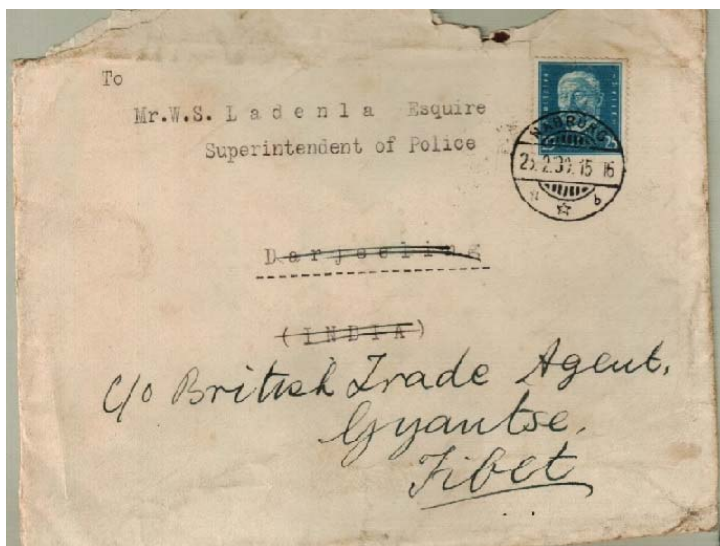


Fig. 2: Letter sent to the superintendent of Police in Darjeeling and forwarded to Gyantse, Tibet for delivery..

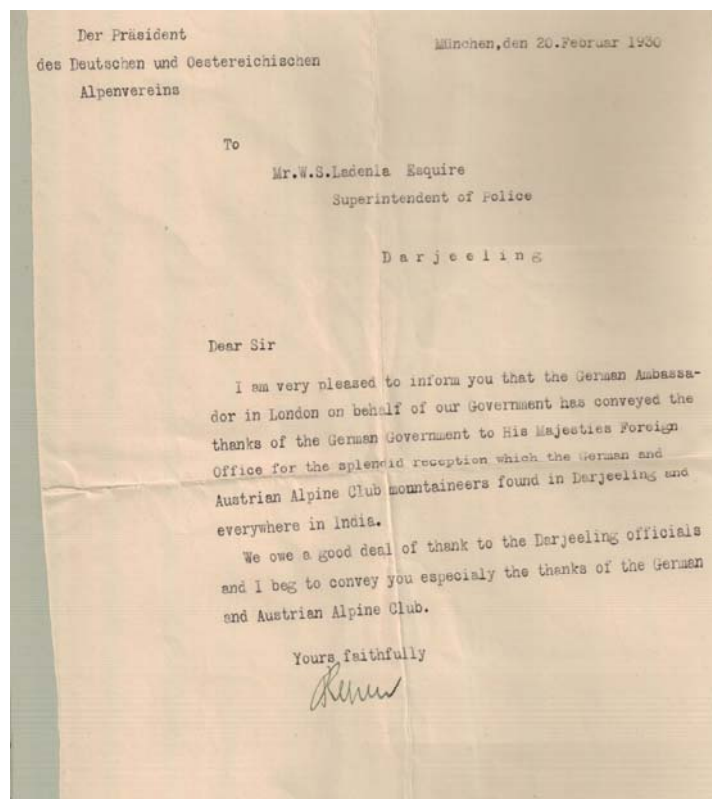


Fig. 1: Letter of thanks sent to Superintendent of Police in Darjeeling.

forwarding address is added, as: "C/O British Trade Agent - Gyantse - Tibet".

And the back side of the cover [Fig. 3] shows: - Typewritten name, title, occupation, address of sender, in Munich. - An Indian TPO "E-II" transit datestamp dated 16 March 1930. - A "Darjeeling" "provisional arrival" datestamp dated 19 March 1930. - A British Indian "Gyantse - Tibet" "final arrival" datestamp dated 25 March 1930. - And an ornamental manuscript ink drawing, shaped like a horizontally elongated rhombus, with a transversale embellished line. This "mark" seems to be a more or less rather common practice of S. W. Laden-la on some of the mails he received.

Now, let's come back to History. This 9 members expedition was led by Paul Bauer (see again "Note 3"). He does not appear to be named in this letter. But, Paul Bauer, in addition to be a mountaineer, was also, from 1926 to

(Continued on page 11)

THE GERMAN & AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB EXPEDITION TO KANGCHENJUNGA

(Continued from page 10)

1934 a notary, with it's office in the town of Nabburg, about 180 km north of Munich! QED! Robert Rehlen wrote the letter in Munich, but wanted to show it to Paul Bauer in Nabburg before dropping it in the letterbox! Which explains the delay between the date on the letter and the one of posting, as well as the letter having been posted in Nabburg i/o Munich.

It is otherwise worth to be noted that amongst the team of the 1929 expedition, there was a certain Peter Aufschneider, (1899 - 1973), who was to become Heinrich Harrer's travelling companion when they later in WWII escaped from Dehra Dun to Lhasa.

(Note 1) བསོད་ནམས་དབང་འཕེལ་ལེགས་ལྷན་ *bsod nams dbang 'phel legs ldan*, more widely known as ལེགས་ལྷན་ལགས་ *legs ldan lags*, i.e. "(S. W.) Laden-la" - 1876 - 1936. Laden-la was born near Darjeeling, so he was not a Thibetan by citizenship. But in his heart, yes indeed, he was. His brilliant education lead him to be recruited to create a Police Force in Lhasa in the early twenties, where he became friend with the famous Tsarong Shape. And then, he was also, *inter alia*, Superintendent of Police in Darjeeling. Well, all his life and experiences are to be read

in: "A Man on the Frontier: S.W. Laden La (1876 -1936, his life and times in Darjeeling and Tibet", by: Nicholas and Deki Rhodes, Mira Bose - Kolkata - 2006.

(Note 2) Robert Rehlen (1859 - 1941) was an architect, and from 1928 to 1934, president of the "Deutscher und Österreichischer Alpenverein" (German and Austrian Alpine Club).

(Note 3) This expedition, approximately July to October 1929, comprised 9 members, under the leadership of Paul Bauer (1896 - 1990). It is briefly described by him in the Himalayan Journal (Vol. 02, 1930), and in his book: "Am Kangchenzonga, Kampf um den Himalaya" (München, Knorr und Hirth - 1931). The objective was to summit Kangchendzönga (གངས་ཆེན་མཚོ་ལྷ་ - *gangs chen mdzod lnga*), the 3rd "eight - thousander", 8,586 m, but they had to retreat after having reached 7,400 m. Paul Bauer lead another expedition in 1931, which neither did succeed.

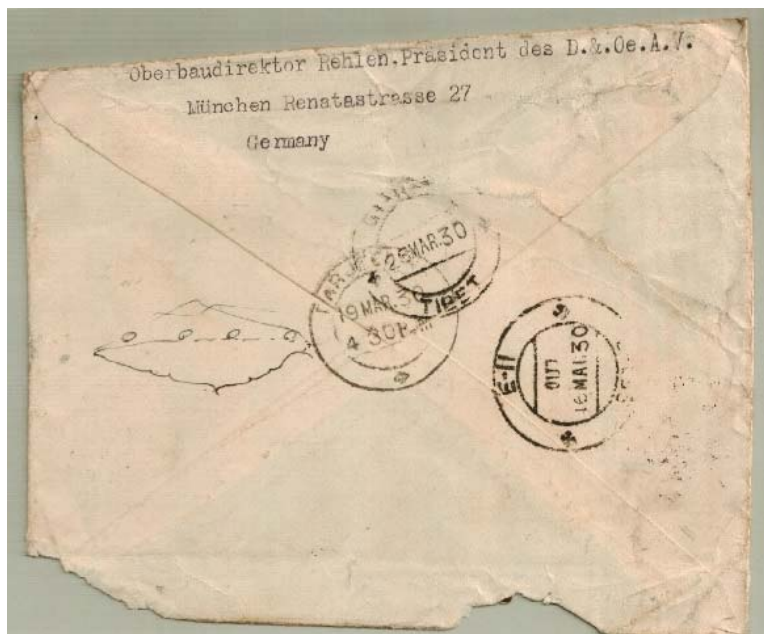


Fig. 3: Backside of the cover from the President of the German and Austrian Alpine Club

Nepal Postal Stationery Unrecorded Printing of Wa 8

By Joachim Bednorz



Every collector of the 'Horse-Postcards' of Nepal knows about the numerous differences concerning the stamp, the horse, the framelines etc. But I didn't find anything of interest in the literature with regard to the four brackets in the lower half of the cards.

So one can say that a finding as described here was overdue: We see a used postcard of

Editor's note: Dropped and missing brackets or ornaments exist to a variety of degrees, pending on the issue. These missing portions are interesting and may relate to the printing method in use. Some first issue postal cards were printed in a single process where the body of the plate for the postcard was inked in black and the stamp was inked in vermillion. The postal card was then printed. On a few occasions a portion of the

Wa 8 on which the upper right bracket is missing. The letter KE for 'to' is printed as it should be. I have some more cards from the same sender to the same receiver but all show the complete set of four brackets.

I'm curious if any reader will have similar findings in his collection.

postal card was not inked fully and missing brackets or ornaments exist.

In the later printings, a two step process was used and the body of the postal card was printed and then the stamp was printed later. The position of the stamp can be found in many different locations and orientations in these later issues.

An American Alpine Club Hidden Gem

by Eddie Hackstaff

After exhibiting my "Expedition Mail of the Himalaya—Mt. Everest Region" exhibit at the 2019 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, I was approached by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library to give a presentation on the subject. After the presentation, I was approached by one of the attendees that told me about a book he had seen at the American Alpine Club (AAC) Library that contained multiple labels from the 1924 Mt. Everest Expedition, expedition markings, Tibetan stamps, and a letter from the expedition.

I made arrangements to meet with Katie Sauter, the AAC Librarian, at the American Alpine Center in Golden, Colorado to coordinate giving my presentation to the AAC and to get a look at the book. Katie was a wonderful host as we discussed plans for the presentation and she showed me around the library and its collections [Figure 1].



Figure 1, Eddie Hackstaff and Katie Sauter at the AAC

Then came the moment I was taken into the special collections room and Katie pulled out a copy of "The Fight for Everest: 1924." At first glance the book was a bit rough around the

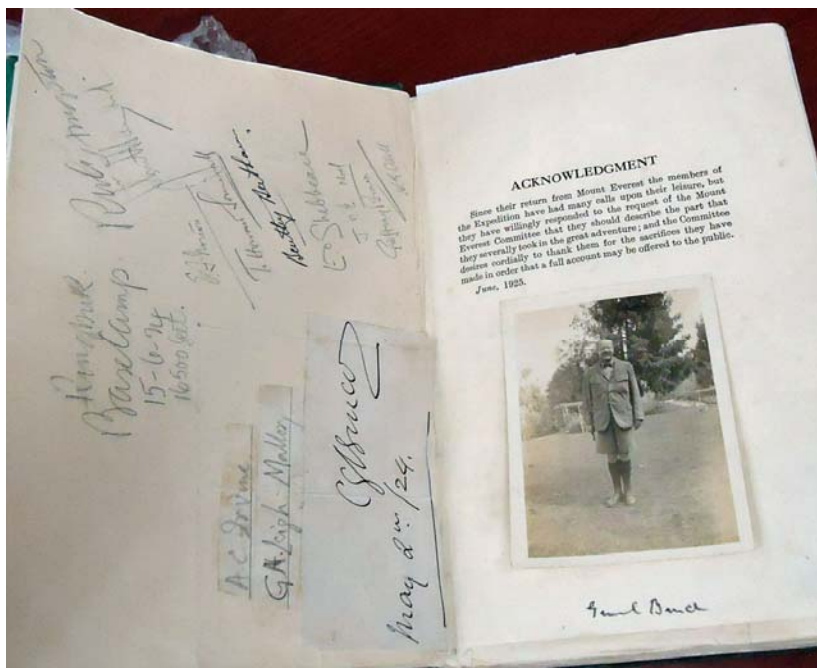


Figure 2, Signature Page

edges, but once opened I could tell immediately that it was a very special book.

The book was given to the library as part of the John M. Boyle Himalayan Library. It is believed that Boyle acquired it through purchase. It was Charles M. Inglis who assembled the book and its contents. Right after opening the book, I noticed a page had been glued in that was signed by the expedition members while in base camp on June 15th, 1924. The signatures of Sandy Irvine, George Mallory, and Charles Bruce had been added separately [Figure 2].

Next came a page where seven on-piece expedition labels were glued in with three Waterfall type IIb Tibet, three type IIc Base Camp, and one type I Tractor Expedition markings. The facing page had a three-page letter from Capt. J. Noel to Charles M. Inglis while Noel was in Yatung, Tibet, dated 8 July 1924 [Figure 3]. The letter was a rather simple one where Noel had "returned to Yatung in advance of the main party." He asked Inglis to send him a fishing net and talked about additional filming plans.

The last addition to the book was on page xi where copies of Tibetan stamps (SC 1-5), a

(Continued on page 14)

An American Alpine Club Hidden Gem



(Continued from page 13)

Figure 3, Labels, Markings, and Letter

Sikkim stamp, and a Christmas card from the expedition were glued on to the page [Figure 4].

This was a wonderful experience and just goes to show how a simple philatelic exhibit can open the doors to new and wonderful discoveries in unexpected places. Feel free to contact me at eddie@hackstaff.com with any questions.



Figure 4, Signature Page

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

by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Leo Martyn

NEPAL: EIGHTH TYPE—RECUT ONE ANNA



Examples of the 1 Anna 'recut frame' forgeries

This is an extremely dangerous forgery of the 1 Anna, 'recut frame'. It is very closely related to the preceding group of 'flat printings' as far as general characteristics, printing and paper are concerned."

"Particularly the colours, dull blue and dark grey-green, are excellent imitations of the shades found in the genuine stamps."

"The best tests are the sides of the central rectangle: attached to the inscriptions at top;

ragged at left; dented at bottom. Leo Martyn identifies this forgery by the constellation of dots found in the center section, which is always the same." "I have seen only singles which undoubtedly rank among the best Nepal forgeries."

Leo Martyn observations: variety of blue shades; very thin to medium thickness paper; exists imperforate and pin-perforated.

ONE ANNA NEW DESIGN



Examples of the 1 Anna new design forgeries

"This is a good forgery of the 1 Anna, new design. Mr. Gupta first saw a full sheet in 1975. All multiples are, however, made with a single cliché, featuring a break in the top corner of the innermost frameline and a tiny white dot on the

right bottom square" [Roger Skinner sees a 'Happy Face' in the top of the right margin, just below the ornament in the top right square.]

(Continued on page 16)

ONE ANNA NEW DESIGN

(Continued from page 15)

“Of the several shades seen so far, one (dark blue) is extremely good, while others (bright blue and green blue) are unlike any shade used for the genuine stamps.”

“The dark blue forgeries even exist pin-perforated, a privilege which the originals never knew (in fact, all pin-perforations of this stamp are spurious). It was marketed, if not produced, by an Indian Dealer.”



NEW DESIGN FORGERY – A COMPLETE SHEET One Cliché for all positions