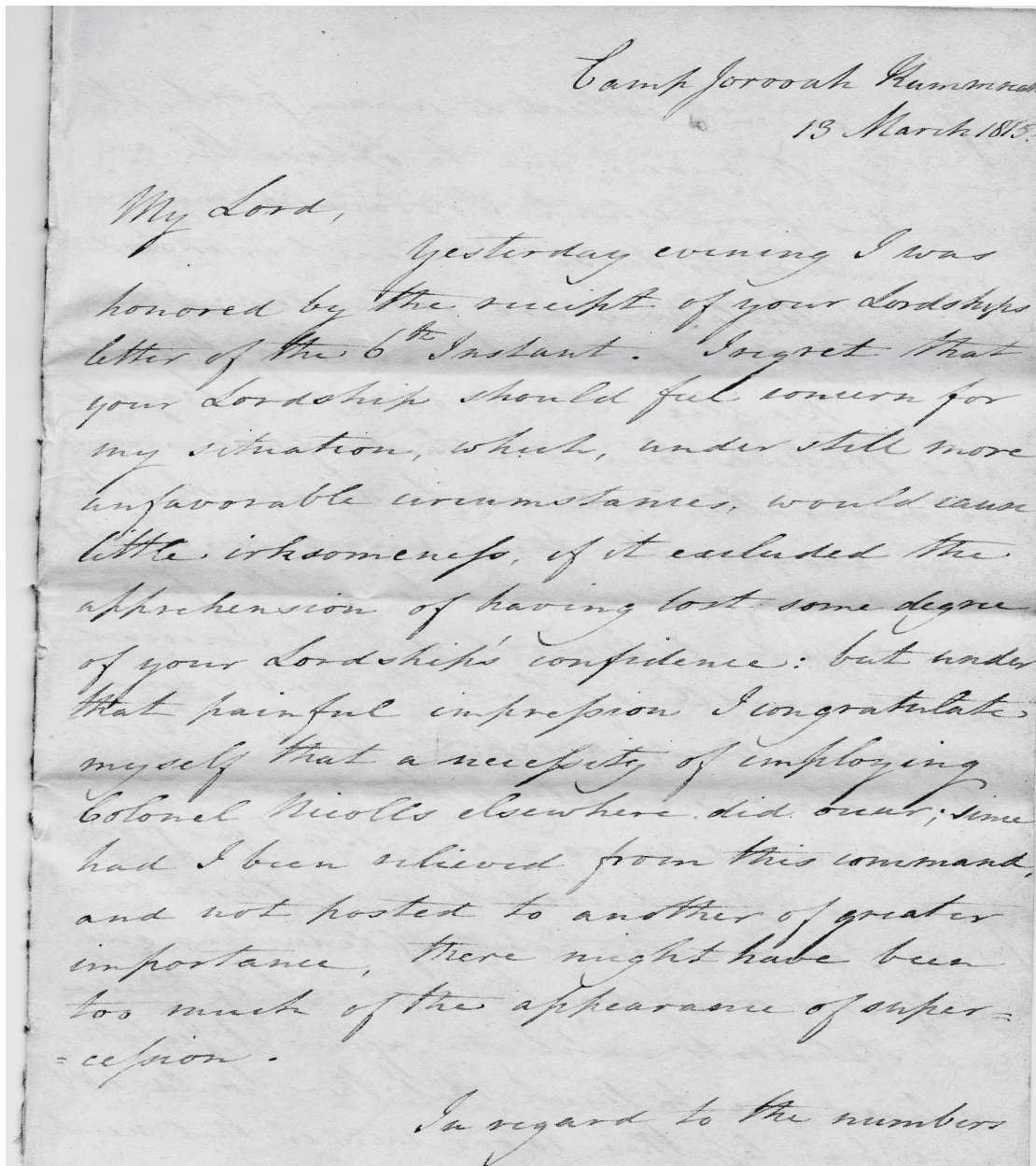


Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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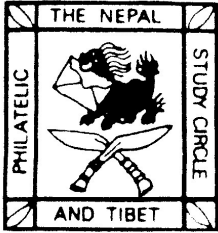


Correspondence from the Gurkha War of 1814—1816

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Dear Members

It seems to have been a long spring/summer so far with the coronavirus lockdown only just starting to be released. As my wife and I are under the classification of 'protected species' and with no cure on the horizon, we still have to be very careful when visiting the shopping arcades again. On a more positive note, we are the featured society for WESTPEX 2021 and as such we are committed to supply a minimum of 35 frames for the show. I know of one or two members that are already working on entries but may I ask any member who intends to show would you please contact Ken Goss and let him know the subject and number of frames you require, so that we know that we will be filling the required number of frames for the show. All requests for entry must be in by the end of

January 2021.

My first visit to Nepal was in 1981 and at that time there were very few cars in Kathmandu, almost everyone was either on a bicycle or walking and the Himalayan ranges could be seen quite clearly. My visits in recent years have been totally different with an enormous amount of motor cycles, the air was very polluted and smog blocked out the mountain views. So, it was with much pleasure that I saw on Facebook that because of the lockdown the air in the Kathmandu valley was clear and Mount Everest could once again be seen from the capital.

The coronavirus has something to be thankful for.

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.

Space limited the number of articles that could be included in this issue. They should be available in the next issue. More articles for the

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

During this quiet period, I am planning to revise an exhibit for Westpex. Like many, the quarantine has provided a little extra time to enjoy the hobby and examine the material. I Hope you are making the most of this trying time.

Best wishes,

Frank Vignola

Johannes Bornmann's exhibit titled "Nepal, Pre-Philately and Classic" won the "Grand Prix International award and Large Gold at the NAPOSTA in Germany (<http://www.naposta.de/home.html>). It was the best traditional exhibit of the show.

Johannes Bornmann in center of photograph receiving the award. Photograph by Thomas Lein.

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*



Gurkha War, 1814-1816

by Peter Dorman

Reading the late Armand Singer's article on the Chamberlin correspondence of the Gurkha War, Postal Himal 131, has prompted me to look out and transcribe a Holograph Letter I purchased over fifty years ago from Rigby Auctions in England. It is from Major General John Sullivan Wood, Commander of the Third Division, to The Governor General and Commander-in-Chief Francis Edward Rawdon, Marquess of Hastings and Earl of Moira.

Major General Wood, in command of 4500 regular troops and 900 irregulars and with fifteen large guns, was ordered to recover the town of Butwal in the Terai, and the Siuraj area. These troops were assembled at Gorakhpur in November 1814. After much prevarication Wood approached Butwal in December 1814, but was unfortunately lured to a position directly in front of the Gurkha stockade. Only the arrival of the main body of troops saved him from disaster. Five officers and twenty-four men became casualties causing Wood to retreat to a defensive position at Lotan, twenty-five miles south of Butwal, covering the approach to Gorakhpur. So pained was Lord Hastings by the utter lack of enterprise and initiative on the part of the Major General that he sent the frostiest of dispatches to him.

This is Major General John Sullivan Wood's reply.

Camp Joroak Kumsrocak

13 March 1815

My Lord,

Yesterday evening I was honored by the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 6th Instant. I regret that your Lordship should feel concern for my situation, which, under still more unfavourable circumstances would cause little irksomeness, if it excluded the apprehension of having lost some degree of your Lordship's

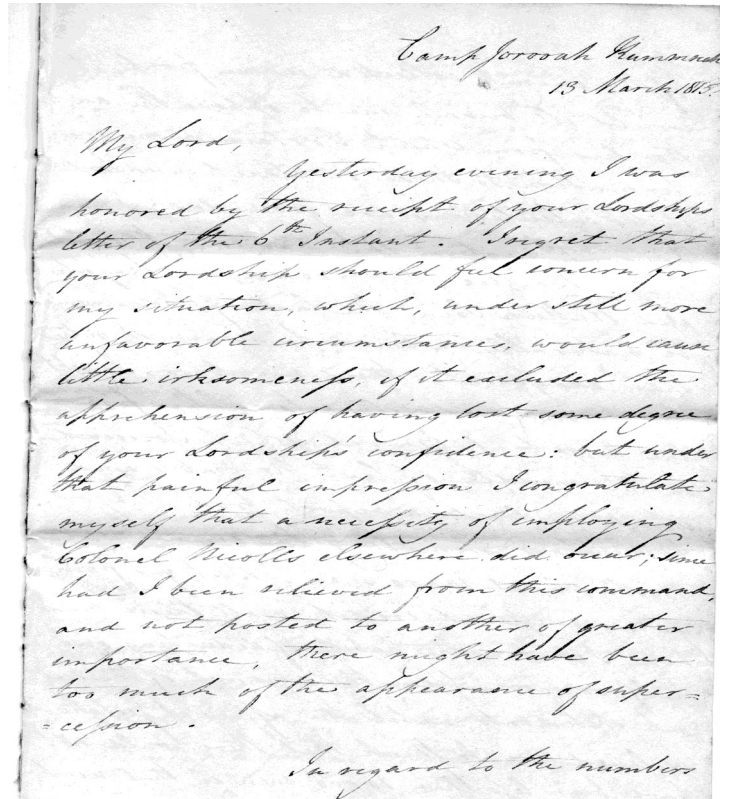


Fig. 1: First page of letter from M Genl Wood

confidence; but under that painful impression I congratulate myself that a necessity of employing Colonel Nicolls elsewhere did occur; since I had been relieved from this command, and not posted to another of greater importance, there might have been too much of the appearance of supercession.

In regard to the numbers of the enemy collected in my front, it would ill become me to oppose the authorities from which I obtained my information to those on which your Lordship's calculations are grounded. I may however mention the manner of Mr. Brooke, Major Baillie, the Toolsepose Rajah, and Ruthun Seine, the last of whom would be naturally inclined to diminish rather than exaggerate their numbers. I ought not to omit adverting to a letter from the Adjutant General, which I received in

(Continued on page 5)

Gurkha War, 1814-1816

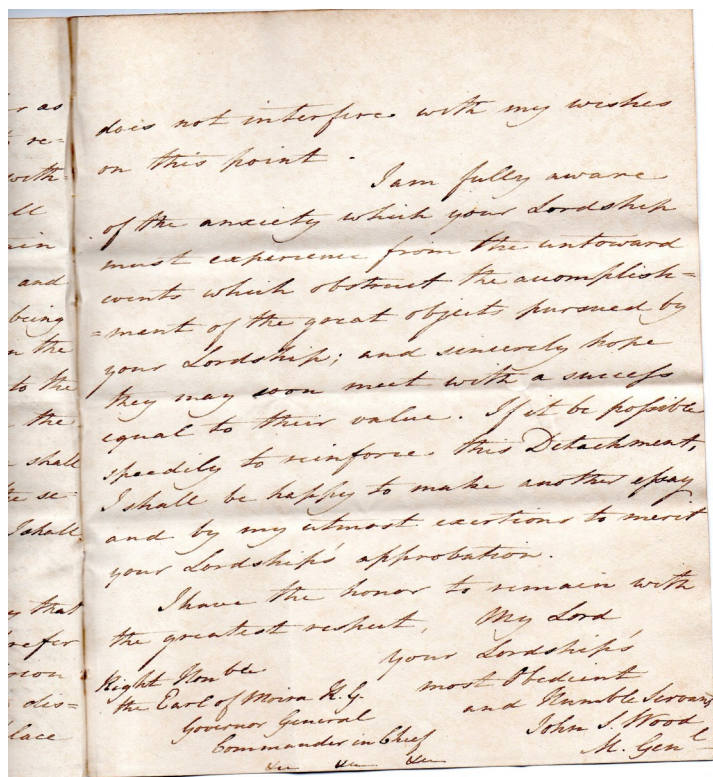


Fig. 2: Second page of Letter from M. Genl Wood

(Continued from page 4)

the middle of last November, and which enclosed a report from Major Bradshaw estimating the enemy near Bootwal at 10,000 men. But far from giving implicit credit to all this information, I was in the habit of deducting one half, or more, from the amount of the several statements, until the Officer at Jeetghur inclined me to think that there could not have been less than 10,000 men in that neighbourhood; and from the heaviest of the fire that their musketeers must have amounted to 3 or 4000 – After leaving 1000 men to protect stores and baggage, I had only 2000 wherewith to establish myself on the hill, and attack the forts; but even this I should have attempted, had not the local obstacles, and chiefly the want of water, deterred me. At the same time that I could not hope, by running all the risks, to facilitate the efforts of the eastern army to penetrate, or to be relieved by them. If under all the circumstances I had brought disaster on the detachment I should have justly become obnoxious to censure. I

have reason to think that in other quarters the mountain barrier rises more gradually from the plain and is less covered with jungle than in this neighbourhood, and hence the difficulty of obtaining a footing within it.

With the view of counteracting as far as possible the intention of the enemy to reinforce their army in Kumaon by withdrawing troops from my front, I shall immediately order the battering train to be held ready to march to Lotan, and spread a report of reinforcements being about to join me from Cawnpore, in the manner most likely to give effect to the deception. To the same end, when the arrival of Colonel Gardiner's horse shall have enabled me to provide for the security of this part of the country, I shall return towards Bootwal.

Permit me, now my Lord to say that when in quarters, I shall always prefer the command of the Cawnpore Division to the Benares one, and that the disposal of my house at the latter place does not interfere with my wishes on this point.

I am fully aware of the anxiety which your Lordship must experience from the untoward events which obstruct the accomplishment of the great objects pursued by your Lordship, and sincerely hope they may soon meet with a success equal to their value. If it be possible speedily to reinforce this Detachment, I shall be happy to make another essay and by my utmost exertions to merit your Lordship's approbation.

I have the honor to remain with the greatest respect, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most Obedient and Honorable Servant,
John S. Wood, M. Genl

Right Hon'ble the Earl of Moira K. G.
Governor General
Commander in Chief

(Continued on page 9)

In memory of Richard "Dick" Topley (1921-2019) - the 1st issue of Bhutan by Iiro Kakko (with the assistance of Nildo Harper and Leo van der Velden)

I met Dick Topley in London in 1992 when I was starting my six months around-the-world trip, aiming to meet as many Bhutan stamp collectors, dealers and people related with Bhutan stamps as possible. I had started collecting Bhutan stamps in 1985 while living for a short time in this "Land of the Thunder Dragon".

On my Bhutan philatelic tour Mr. Topley was the first person that I met. We had a lovely meeting with him and his wife, and he regaled me with all kinds of interesting facts about Bhutan stamps and philately; the most interesting being the stories regarding Bhutan's 1st stamp issue. In this article I'll try to put together the information that Dick told me then and at other later meetings, while I also adding further facts that I've gathered over the years.

Mr. Topley, after returning from a long stay in Africa, settled in Rickmansworth, England. He began working in a philatelic shop in London, and stamps became not only his work but also his lifelong hobby. Above all other countries, he was most interested in Bhutan. Mr. Topley collected not only single stamps, but pretty much everything that the Bhutan Philatelic Bureau had to offer. His ambition was to have every single stamp issued by Bhutan on a genuine postally used cover.

Bhutan first issue 10.10.1962

Bhutan issued its first set of postage stamps in 1962. It consists of a set of 7 stamps: 2 ch (chhetrum) and 33 ch picturing a postal runner, 3 ch and 70 ch picturing an archer, 5 ch and 1.30 Nu (Ngultrum) a yak and 15 ch picturing the first Druk Gyalpo (King) with a map of Bhutan and a drawing of Paro Dzong at his right side. This amounts to 4 different designs. These designs were based on a drawing competition. Several other designs that were selected as semifinal drawings and were approved by Bhutan Post and Telegram also still exist.

The printer selected for the first set was a British security printing company, Harrison and Sons Ltd. All seven values were issued as perforated only. This is pretty much all we knew about these stamps for many years, and there



Fig. 1: 15 Chhetrum face value of the 1st issue of Bhutan with a portrait of the 1st King (Druk Gyalpo), the map of Bhutan and Paro Dzong

didn't appear to be much to study regarding this first set. One full sheet contained 50 stamps, and no varieties were reported at that time.

Withdrawal of the 15 ch value

In the 1960's the postal rate for most normal mailings was 15 ch for domestic Bhutan and for Indian letters. The only 15 ch value in the first set depicted His Majesty the 1st King's portrait. However, very soon after issuance, that 15 ch stamp was invalidated for postage inside Bhutan, and soon most of these stamps disappeared from the market. Not much was known about this at the time, and in international news it was only reported that the 15ch stamp had been withdrawn. This mysterious withdrawal is still not completely understood and there are several theories such as the unflattering portrait of His Majesty, or that the Bhutanese felt that it was not proper to cancel a saint's picture (the reason why the proposed 2nd set of Bhutan stamps was not issued), or that such cover could fall on the ground dirtying the portrait, or that the text below the portrait was incorrect (1867-1902 instead of the correct years of birth and death, 1867 - 1926). It was also noted that Tibet was still clearly depicted as the neighbouring country to the north, which might have been objected to by the People's Republic of China. We still don't know the exact reason why this particular stamp was invalidated for local postage, but note that the 15 ch stamp could still be used for mailing to India and the rest of the world.

(Continued on page 7)

In memory of Richard "Dick" Topley (1921-2019) - the 1st issue of Bhutan

(Continued from page 6)

Imperforated stamps?

One day 5 values of 1st set popped up as imperforated stamps. We wouldn't know much about this mystery without Dick Topley's interest. Based on Mr. Topley's recollection, one day in 1970s, a fellow came to the shop where he worked and offered him imperforated stamps of Bhutan. Normally imperfs are not that interesting, but these were from the 1st issue. Mr. Topley immediately contacted his colleague in Central Europe in order to purchase the items together, and also later contacted Harrison & Sons Ltd. for more information on these unknown and unissued imperforated stamps.

After Mr. Topley and his friend purchased the lot, they received some interesting information from Harrison & Sons. This material should never have come to light, as the printer should have destroyed all processed material. Mr. Topley was not aware of that fact at that time and simply thought it was something he just had not seen before (which was very possible as well, knowing the erratic printing policy Bhutan had at the time). Mr. Topley also found out that the printing in the early '60s was done across the street of the shop where he had been offered the lot years later. These Bhutan stamps were pretty much the first by lithography. This meant that the lot contained printers sheets that were used at that time to check each stamp for errors, colors and misregistration.

After much research on this issue, the authors have concluded that there appears to be two printer's sheets of these imperf stamps (200 stamps each), and interestingly not of all the values. Only five of the 7 values exists imperforated in the market: the 3 ch and 70 ch archer, 5 ch and 1.30 Nu yak, and 15 ch His Majesty. It appears that the two missing values (2 ch and 33 ch postal runner) remained in Harrison's archives. Each printer sheet had two



Fig. 2: Full printer's sheet with two panes

panes of 50 stamps each. Sheets/panes are marked, the left one is with an "A" (on selvage lower right) and right side sheet with a "B". This entire imperf lot was split between Mr. Topley and his colleague in mainland Europe. Mr. Topley soon sold most of his material to an American dealer, and kept in his collection mostly cut singles and blocks (right upper corners with markings). Meanwhile, Mr. Topley's colleague's share of the imperforate lot was mostly auctioned off years ago, and is believed to be in a private collection as uncut full printers sheets (50 + 50 stamps/each) (see illustration) – but of only 4 of the values, missing the 3 Ch value. Recently a left side "A" pane of the 3 Ch was pictured in Facebook's Bhutan Stamp Collectors page.

So of the four panes, one pane was used to make the correction markings (see illustration) and is a very interesting part of the stamps printing process.

2nd print

It has also been known for many years that there exists a second printing of the original 7 values. This is easily noted from the full sheets. The text on selvage of both panes of the printers sheets is different in size (see illustration), and panes were marked differently: 1st printing: 1A and 1B; 2nd printing A1 and B1.

In recent discussions in the Facebook group on this 5 ch 1st issue, we have also noted

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In memory of Richard "Dick" Topley (1921-2019) - the 1st issue of Bhutan



Right upper corner with correction markings



Different text size in selvage between 1st (up) and 2nd printing (down)

the 1st print there are neatly aligned in the middle.

5 ch (yak): left vertical edge line and the of "5". 1st printing it is further away from the left side of the stamp than in the 2nd print (around 3

(Continued from page 7)

differences on individual stamps in these first and second printings – thanks to possibility to comparing full sheets/panes. Here are few easy keys to tell the differences from a single stamp:



2ch: 1st print light red, 2nd print brown-red



5ch: Yak is light brown in the 2nd print



15 ch: 1st print with dark yellow and red-brown colors vs 2nd print

2 ch (postal runner): see the letter "h" of ch and the dzongkha mark below it. 1st printing it is under the front part of "h", and second it is under later part of "h". The color of the 2 Ch postal runner of the 2nd print is brown-red, while it is light red on the 1st print (see illustration).

3 ch (archer): still under study, but a first observation is that the blue-purple fillings in the vertical strip at the left side of the stamps are touching the red color in the 2nd print, white in

mm vs 2 mm). Furthermore, the yak is dark brown in the 1st print and light brown in the 2nd (see illustration).

(Continued on page 9)

In memory of Richard "Dick" Topley (1921-2019) - the 1st issue of Bhutan



Difference in the position of the face value in the 1st (up) and 2nd printing

(Continued from page 8)

15ch (1st King): still under study; it is observed that the yellow color of the 1st printing is dark yellow, while it is lighter yellow in the 2nd printing. Also the second color used is more vivid, an almost red-brown in the 1st printing, while purple-brown in the 2nd printing. First

printing appears sharper, and the 2nd printing is slightly blurred.

33 ch (postal runner): also still under study, but there seem to be differences in lines in down right. 1st print the lines are more blurred, 2nd print has four clear separate lines.

70 ch (archer): still under study. More material is needed

1.30 Nu (yak): as 5 Ch, the position of the face value "1.30 Nu", nearer to the left side in the 2nd print.

In addition, it appears that most of the 2nd printing was "Cancelled to Order" (CTO).

Without my discussions and meetings with Dick Topley and the information he provided, the first issue would not have received as much attention by me and others. This article is the result of that research, and has thus been dedicated to Mr. Topley's memory.

Gurkha War, 1814-1816

(Continued from page 5)

I do not know the ultimate fate of Major General John Wood, but I suspect he did not receive the command of Cawnpore Division, or indeed any other! The East India Company finally won the war in 1816 thanks to the careful and methodical advance made by Major General Ochterlony.

References

Forever Incomplete - The Story of Nepal, by Mahendra Man Singh

Battles of the Honourable East India Company - The Making of the Raj, by M.S. Naravane

[Editor Note: Additional information on the correspondence during Gurkha War can be found in Frank J. Vignola Gurkha War 1814-1816].

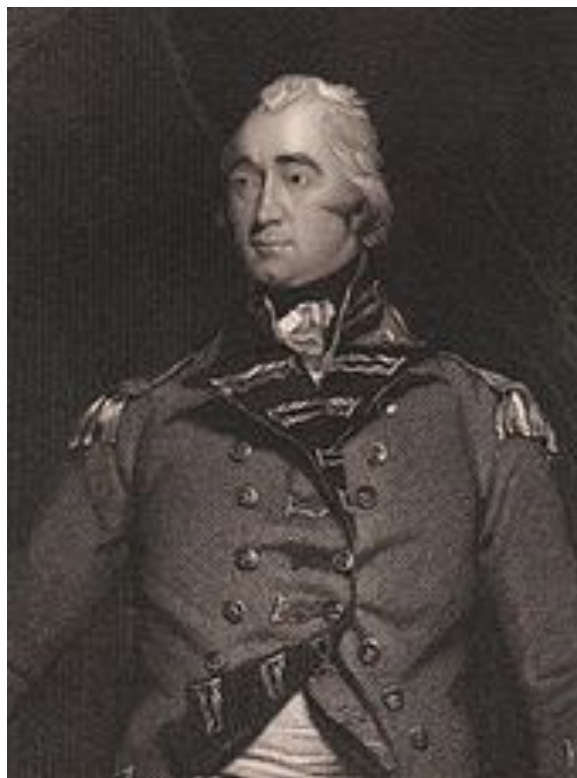


Fig. 3: Francis Edward Rawdon, Marquess of Hastings, Governor-General of India from 1813 to 1823

Unnecessary Tibetan Postage Stamp?

by Edmond Weissberg



Fig. 1: Front of a combination cover with Chinese PRC stamps, and a Tibetan Stamp. Reverse has three Indian stamps (see Fig. 2).

Here we have what looks at first sight like a "combination cover" with one Tibetan stamp, four Chinese PRC stamps, and three Indian stamps. It looks somewhat philatelic, isn't it? See: [Fig.1] (*recto*) and [Fig.2] (*verso*). And let's read the seller's description:

"1952 Liberation of Tibet set tied to cover

along with UNNECESSARY (my emphasis) Tibet 1934 (sic) 4 t green imperf lion, LHASA cancel making a dramatic combination. Indian postage on the reverse tied GYANTSE. Addressed to a famous philatelist [...]"

So: "Unnecessary Tibetan stamp", really? Well, let's just ascertain if that's not merely quite the opposite! And let's examine the most salient and significant features of this cover:

Letter addressed from Lhasa to Hong Kong, seemingly, to a "famous philatelist", i.e. Mr. Wm. E. Jones (typewritten addressee on the front), by a member of the Nepalese Legation in Lhasa, i.e. "Ambarbahadur". (Manuscript on the back, as well as a manuscript repetition of the addressee). Front side showing: the full set of 4 China PRC stamps issued for the so-called "peaceful liberation of Tibet", (note 1), PLUS: one Tibetan stamp 4 Trangka green. (Clearly a "cliché 3"). All of these stamps, the Tibetan one and the



Fig. 2: Reverse of combination cover

(Continued on page 11)

Unnecessary Tibetan Postage Stamp?

(Continued from page 10)

four Chinese ones, were cancelled by two strikes of a very legible: LHASA (Hellrigl Type T42) (note 2). *It was planned to send this letter "registered", but unfortunately the sender changed his mind, and crossed the manuscript endorsements "registered" on front and back of the envelope. That would have added some pep to this cover!* There is neither Hong Kong arrival datestamp nor any other transit one.* Inside the (opened) cover is a cardboard piece (cut from a stamp album), with a pencil notation: "From G.S. Russel". * On the back, the 3 Indian stamps are cancelled by 2 strikes of an identifiable GYANTSE / TIBET (Hellrigl Type B16) cancel, but otherwise, very faint and barely legible concerning the date. And the date is quite precisely the key factor to the puzzle! So, let's carry on the analysis.

Well, after a brief war in October 1950, till the unequal treaty of May 23rd, 1951 (note 3), PRC Military P.O. were introduced, mainly in Eastern Tibet. No postage stamps were required. Then, slowly and progressively, PRC Civilian P.O. were also introduced and developed westwards, until Central Tibet, and especially Lhasa, were reached. It is generally admitted that July 1st, 1953 is the date for the merging military & civilian P.O. in Lhasa, and that the earliest date of use of P.R.C. stamps and civilian cancels in Lhasa is mid-1953. Anyways, this was not the time to use commemorative stamps (if available), but the common definitive ones. See: Hellrigl, and Fortune Wang (note 4).

And for foreign mails (except, perhaps, directly to mainland western China), it was still until 1955, the practice to make use of the Indian P.O. in Gyantse, even for Chinese mails!

So, it's perhaps just time to have again a look at our cover. And a thorough one!

Therefore, the microscope for the "Gyantse" Indian cancel! See [Fig. 3]: It shows first part, now legibly: "10 JAN." and see second part on [Fig. 4], showing: "N. x3". So, we have: "10 JAN. x3". Only "x" now remains apparently undecipherable. And what's "x" in the equation? - Surely not a "4", that would be well before the issuing date of the PRC stamps! - Surely not a "6", that would be well after the closing date of the Indian P.O.! So, more probably a "5", which is rather guessable, if you extend and continue the few remaining inked points suggesting an upper horizontal with left adjoined vertical lines, and below, an attached curved line opened at left, thus making a "5" numeral. Thus, we now have the date of the Indian P.O. Gyantse datestamp: 10 JAN. 53.

And now, that's all matching: Well: "postally", all is matching: The Tibetan stamp was useful to transmit the letter from Lhasa to Gyantse Tibetan P.O., then to Gyantse Indian P.O., for further forwarding to Hong Kong. That was sufficient enough.

Nevertheless, this is a philatelic "construction"! The PRC stamps were at that time not used in Tibet (the much the more,

(Continued on page 12)



Fig. 3: Date of Indian Cancel 10 Jan. 53.

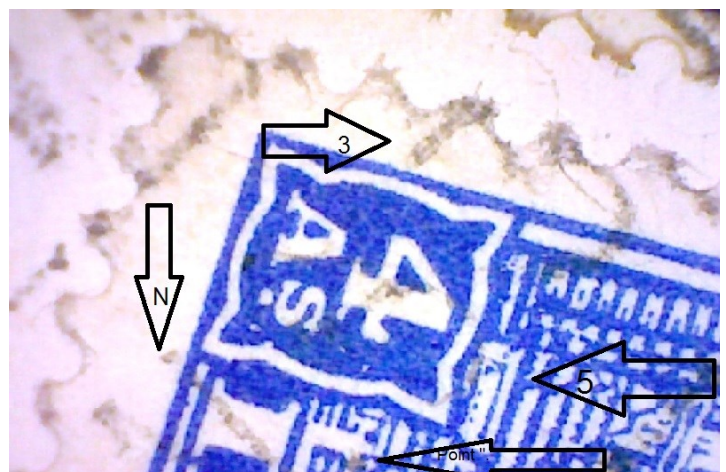


Fig. 4: Date showing "3"

Unnecessary Tibetan Postage Stamp?

(Continued from page 11)

"commemorative stamps"), so: the "philatelist" (Mr. Jones), prepared the cover in Hong Kong with the PRC stamps which were easy to be purchased there, possibly also added the Tibetan 4 T stamp he also had easily at hand, and sent all under cover to his correspondent / pen pal in Lhasa, Ambarbahadur, requesting him to post this letter back to him in Hong Kong. That's, in my opinion, the most probable solution to the equation!

But this also proves that the description, ironically, should be "UNNECESSARY CHINESE STAMPS"! (Note 5)

After all, A.C. Waterfall wrote: "As has been repeatedly said - "If any kind of "STAMP" or label was put on an envelope - any Tibetan Postmaster would only be too pleased to cancel same - and send it through the post - as long as the postal fee was paid to him. His only thought would be "These mad Westerners."" (Note 6) So, in this case, we can consider the PRC stamps as just considered by the Tibetan Postmaster as just "any kind of stamp" or "LABEL"! . or any other .paper.

(Note 1) Those are the originals, not the reprints with the added tiny "big", i.e.: «大» (dà) character in the bottom left corner. They were designed by Sun Chuanzhe, (a painter and stamp designer already in 1947, in the times of the "not people's - republic", and recess engraved by the Shanghai People's Printing Works (anonymous engraver!), to be issued on March 15th.1952, (Some say: January 10th,

1952, but this is possibly the printing date, not that of release?) One must recognize that these stamps are rather beautifully executed. They commemorate the so called "peaceful liberation of Tibet", and tacitly - this is not mentioned -, the unequal treaty of May 23rd, 1951 between PRC and Tibet. Still nowadays this set is termed in the French catalogue Yvert & Tellier as "Incorporation of Tibet". It is also to be noted this was the first time that PRC stamps were not entirely "all-Chinese" written, but were also legibly captioned in a foreign language, i.e. Tibetan, as it happened.

(Note 2) "Hellrigl" refers to: Wolfgang Hellrigl: The Postal Markings of Tibet - 1996 Dr. W. Hellrigl / Bozen / Italy - G. Flack, Vancouver, Canada

(Note 3) Significantly, PRC was proclaimed and inaugurated on October 1st, 1949. No comment!

(Note 4) Tibet and Postal History & Stamps, Vol. III - Fortune Wang, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, R.O.C. - 2008 By the way: one such cover R-letter with full set (no Tibetan stamp) used from Yatung 19 July 1954 to Shanghai is illustrated p. 884.

(Note 5) Tibetans have long proved to be able to produce their own stamps, with no help from any foreigners!

(Note 6) Arnold C. Waterfall - the Postal History of Tibet - Second 1981 Edition -The Pall Mall Stamp Company Ltd., for Robson Lowe Ltd., London. p. 114

Some Remarks About a 13th Dalai Lama Telegram

by Edmond Weissberg

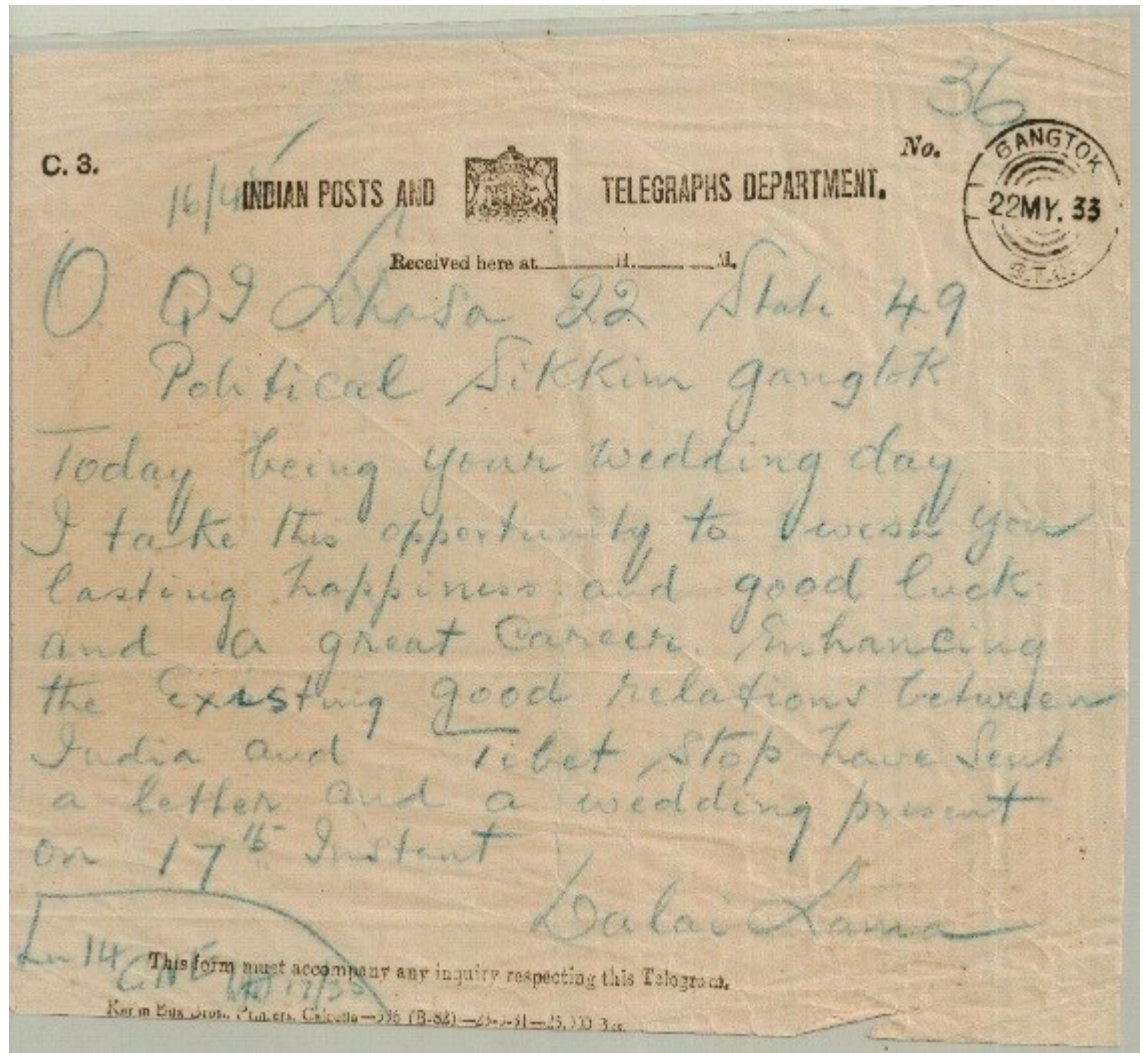


Fig. 1: Telegram from the Dalai Lama

On May 22nd., 1933, Frederick Williamson, then Political Officer for Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet, married Margaret Marshall in Gangtok, Sikkim. (Notes 1 & 2).

On this occasion, he received from Lhasa, on this very day, the following telegram, signed "Dalai Lama". [Fig.1]

16/45 No. 36 Gangtok 22 MY 33 G.T.O.
O QI Lhasa 22 State 49

Political Sikkim Gangtok

Today being your wedding day I take this opportunity to wish you lasting happiness and good luck and a great career enhancing the existing good relations between India and Tibet Stop Have sent a letter and a wedding present on 17th instant.

Dalai Lama

Lu 14 CNG 17/30

So, this telegram was sent by the 13th Dalai Lama, "Thubten Gyamtso" (Note 3).

I am not familiar with "service instructions" for telegrams, so will not elaborate on these.

It is interesting to note that besides wedding wishes, some "political wishes" are also inserted. The tenor of which, in a soft diplomatic language, is similar to the one in a letter sent by the 13th Dalai Lama to F. Williamson on February 1st., 1933, [Memoirs - p.55]:

I am very glad to note the assurance that during the tenure of your office, it will be your endeavour to further cement the friendly relations existing between Britain and Tibet. You also express that you will have the pleasure of meeting me in the near future and that you will

(Continued on page 14)

Some Remarks About a 13th Dalai Lama Telegram

(Continued from page 13)

make your acquaintance with me. It would be very good if you could come to Lhasa as soon as possible.

From June to October 1933, the Williamsons travelled through Bhutan, then to Tibet, and up to Lhasa, where they had several audiences with H.H. the Dalai Lama. Shortly after, however, the 13th Dalai lama untimely passed away on 17 December 1933.

In June 1935 the Williamsons departed again to Lhasa, where Frederick Williamson met with the Regent on October 23rd. But Frederick Williamson had kidney disease, and his health badly worsened. Attended by his wife and by Captain James Guthrie, India Medical Officer, he passed away in Lhasa on November 17th, and was buried on November 25th, 1935, in the cemetery of the British Trade Agency in Gyantse. This cemetery, and a part of the

Agency, were washed away during the Gyantse floods in 1954.

(Note 1) Frederick Williamson, (1891 - 1935) was Political Officer for Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet since January 04th, 1933

(Note 2) Margaret Dobie Marshall (1906 - ?). She published her memoirs in: *Memoirs of a Political Officer's Wife in Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan* Margaret D. Williamson, in collaboration with John Snelling, Wisdom Publication - London - 1987 NB: In this paper, most of data have been culled from these "Memoirs".

(Note 3) Thub bstan rgya mtsho (1876 - 1933) ཨ་ལུ་བསྟན་རྒྱ་མཚོ་། ("Ocean of Buddha's teachings").



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Third Issue Paper Crease

by Alan Warren



Fig. 1: 2-trangka sheet setting 1b

The 2-trangka rose-carmine sheet has a spectacular paper crease running from the top to the bottom of the sheet of twelve stamps. It is setting 1b and is an example of an EFO, or Errors, Freaks and Oddities. Such printing problems are not especially rare, but their value is in the eye of the beholder. Someone might observe that the item is “damaged goods” and therefore to be avoided. A student of stamp production and the problems that can occur would prize it.

The proper name for such an oddity is pre-printing paper crease. In other words, the paper was creased before the stamps were printed. After printing, someone pulled on the ends of the sheet to open the crease. Close examination indicates they likely ironed out the crease to try and restore the stamps.

While such oddities are seen on individual stamps or in multiples like blocks or the entire sheet, one wonders how many examples can be founded either used off paper or on a cover. In fact, would the sheet have been available for sale to the public and would the post office accept a creased item that paid postage?

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

by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Leo Martyn

NEPAL: Non Hellrigl Type—One Anna



Martyn Collection

A type of One Anna forgery not mentioned in Dr. Hellrigl's notes. It appears to be an earlier forgery, on medium thick, native paper. Colors vary from light blue, ultramarine, grey blue, and purple. One distinguishing feature is found in the bottom left corner ornament—a tap pointing at 7 o'clock. The cancels are non-distinguishable.

This is a fairly rare forgery as I have only accumulated the 8 above examples.