

Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Cover from the King of Mustang—1904 (see article starting on page 13)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	AUTHOR(S)	PAGE
Officer's Corner	Colin Hepper	3
Editor's Ramblings	Frank Vignola	3
Christmas at Bingzhongluo	Bruno Le Peut	4
Sikkim Rocket Main Experiments—Unique Rocketgram Parcel Mail?	Brian W. Smith	5-6
Two mails looking for Lieutenant-Colonel BAILEY	Bruno Le Peut	7-8
Imperforated Stamp Issues of Bhutan	Iiro Kakko and Leo Van Der Velden	9-11
World War 11 Green Envelope Sent To Nepal	Leo Martyn	12
Mildly Mice-Munched Mustang Missive: The King of Mustang Watches the "1904 Gartok Expedition"	Edmond Weissberg	13-16
A Survey of Nepalese Forgeries, Facsimiles, and Fantasies—Part V	Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Leo Martyn	16



Dear Members

2020 has almost gone, a year in which I am sure many of us would like to forget, but we have a New Year to look forward to with Covid19 vaccines becoming available. Having said that I believe that it will be some time before we can meet again and stamp shows are becoming a regular feature of our lives. I have been able to see my local soccer team being one of the 2000 allowed into the stadium, with the thing that struck me most of all with no visiting team supporters, when the visitors scored there was complete silence.

In this issue you will see an article by Leo Martyn on a forged Half Anna sheet. What I find

strange is that if the forger is able to produce a sheet as good a quality as that one, why go to the trouble of altering the lettering in one inverted cliché. Perhaps they have a conscience and did it to let the collector know it was forged?

During these long lock down days, I hope that you have been able to spend plenty of time on your collections and have been able to put together some excellent pages for exhibiting again.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Colin Hepper

Editor's Ramblings:

There are several articles in the current Postal Himal that should appeal to a wide audience. These articles illustrate the diverse nature of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle members and their expertise. We try to keep our members abreast of the interest and expertise of information on Nepal and Tibet philately. 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 March issue are needed. Please send in your articles to frankvignola@comcast.net and include any special instructions if necessary.

The information in the articles published in the Postal Himal are from the authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the expertise or opinion of the NTPSC.

Best wishes,

Frank Vignola

Erratum: In Postal Himal 183, p.13, it was erroneously written that Engineer K.T. Yu's letter was sent to "Mr Cummings". In fact, it was addressed to "Mr. Campbell".

Advertisements

The Postal Himal accepts advertising from members of the NPTSC. The Postal Himal has been charging \$25 per issue for a business card size advertisement. There has been a question about large ads and the suggested rates per issue are \$25 US per a business card size advertisement, \$50 for 1/4 page, \$75 per 1/2 page, and \$100 for a full page. Advertisements will be inserted on a space available basis.

These rates are temporary until the study circle members vote on them at the next meeting.

Christmas at Bingzhongluo

by Bruno Le Peut

My last travel to China brought me to Bingzhongluo, a city near Tibet in Yunnan province. The Zhongding church was built in 1908 by french missionary Annet Genestier. The church was destroyed during the “cultural revolution” and rebuilt in 1996. Annet Genestier died in Zhongding in 1937. His grave is near the church.

I arrived there just after Christmas and the church was decorated with a Christmas tree and shiny decorations. On the entry door, Chinese and Tibetan writings welcome the visitors.



The Zhongding church in Bingzhongluo in Yunnan province.



Inside the church with Christmas decorations, including a Christmas tree.



Grave of Annet Genestier, French missionary who oversaw the construction of the church in 1908.



Entry door with Chinese and Tibet writings welcoming visitors

Visiting the church, I was remembering the book “From China and Tibet” written by Robson Lowe. There must be some beautiful covers sun from China to France by this church man.

Sikkim Rocket Main Experiments—Unique Rocketgram Parcel Mail?

by Brian W. Smith

In April 1935 Stephen H. Smith, an Indian born rocket pioneer conducted a series of rocket flights in the Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim to deliver mail and parcels within the rugged mountainous terrain. The flights were authorised by the Maharajah of Sikkim who took a keen interest in the events.

Various rockets were used, up to 2 metres in length, which were hand-fired from angled supports.

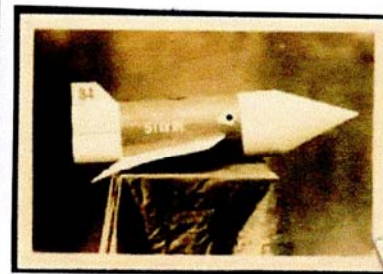
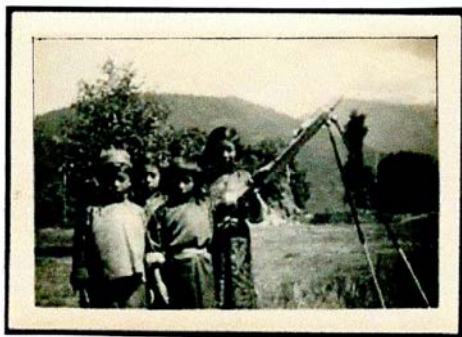
Eight flights took place around the Durbar Week celebrations in September/October 1935. Special Rocketgrams and 'stamps' (labels) were printed and used during the celebration flights, on flight "missive" cards which accompanied the parcels. A few of the rocket 'stamps', printed in various colours, were overprinted "PARCEL". An unusually rare example is illustrated here (Fig. 1).

This "SIKKIM ROCKETGRAM" is franked with British India George V 9 pies stamp and a specially issued 2 rupees imperf violet "ROCKET FEE/ Rs.2" stamp, overprinted "PARCEL" in red. Both stamps are tied to the missive card by a deut>1e-circle "GANGTOK" cds dated 1 OCT 1935.

The "CHUMBI/R88" rocket was fired by Postmaster R. P. Rai (autograph on front) from Sir Tashi Namgyal Field towards the British Residency, Gangtok. The firing took place from the Chogyal's residence towards the British Residence. Contents of the rocket are listed on the reverse of the rocketgram and signed by Stephen H. Smith. Items include tubes of Quinine, Pepsodent and Iodine, plus cigarettes, butter and matches. I have reason to believe that Francis J Field (the addressee) was an American collector who may have acquired this missive direct from Stephen H Smith. Can any member verify this?

The full story of this Rocket-Mail Parcel Post Stamp was documented in Stamp Collector, May 12, 1979 which notes that the franking is the ONLY known example where the violet Parcel Post Stamp is overprinted with a red "PARCEL" marking. According to Stephen H. Smith (Rocket Mail Catalogue, 1955) only 8 parcel stamps were used on missives: 4 overprinted in red on blue stamps, and 4 in red on red stamps. The red on violet is the only example recorded.

(Continued on page 6)



King of Sikkim with one of Smith's rockets—From the diary of Stephen H. Smith

Sikkim Rocket Main Experiments—Unique Rocketgram Parcel Mail?



Figure 1: Sikkim Rocketmail parcel cover October 12, 1935

(Continued from page 5)

Since acquiring the above item I have had doubts that this item is as unique as it is claimed to be. The Auction House I purchased from supplied me with a write up from the collector who was selling the Rocketgram — with a statement as noted above. They also supplied a copy of Harmers of San Francisco Auction Catalogue of May 15-16th 1984, Westpex where the item was sold. The catalogue entry is:- "Lot 783. Sikkim. First Rocket Mail Parcel Post, stamp franked by only know example of violet 1 parcel post overprint w red "Parcel" marking (RRR). Believed to be unique. Seron Page 132. Rocket Mail Catalogue EZ15"

[Note 1. I have not seen Catalogue.EZ15. If

any member can supply me with a copy or information where I may obtain it I would be most appreciative.]

[Note2.The real reason I have penned this article is as a cautionary tale. I have seen another identical example of this same Rocketmail stamp for sale on Ebay in 2016. It looked genuine, was signed by Smith. But notably it did not claim to be unique. One wonders how these things come about, by genuine mistake or with some other intent? It goes to prove that a Himalayan collector must be very circumspect when acquiring certain items and not necessarily always believe what he is being told. But unique or not, I am keeping my Rocketmail cover!]

Two mails looking for Lieutenant-Colonel BAILEY

by Bruno Le Peut

Frederick Markham Bailey was born in 1882 in the city of Lahore in India. He started his military career in south India in the British army in 1900. He was one of the first Europeans to go to Tibet. From 1921 to 1928, he was political agent in Gangtok and from 1935 to 1938 British Envoy at the Court of Nepal.

Lt-Colonel Bailey was often traveling in India. The letters addressed to Lt-Colonel Bailey at the British Legation in Kathmandu, were delivered first at the postmaster of Raxaul, the Indian border town of Nepal. The postmaster redirected the letters to the city where Lt-Colonel Bailey was.

Letter from Port-Saïd, Egypt, 12 November 1935 to Kathmandu, Nepal (Fig. 1). The postal rate is 55 Mills. Letter rate 15 Mills + airmail rate 40 Mills. Alexandria transit postmark the same day. The letter is sent by «Imperial Airways» to Karachi, after several stops at Gaza, Baghdad, Bassorah, Koweit, Bahrein, Sharjah and Gwadar. At Karachi, the letter received the handstamp «Karachi Cancelled» on 17 November 1935. This handstamp is used at the last stop of the “Imperial Airways” line. The letter is probably sent by air to Delhi, then by train to Raxaul at the Nepal border where the postmark “Delivery” on 20 November 1935 is affixed on the back of the cover.

Lt-Colonel Bailey was in Delhi. On 21st November, the cover was redirected to the Viceroy’s Camp in New Delhi. Arrival postmark of New Delhi on 24 November 1935 and Viceroy’s Camp P.O. the same day.

Cover from Cairo, Egypt, 16 December 1935, to Kathmandu, Nepal, Figure 2. Franked



Fig. 1: Port-Saïd, Egypt, 12 November 1935, to Kathmandu. Redirected to New Delhi at the Viceroy’s Camp, 24 November 1935.



Fig. 1a: Reverse side of cover showing additional postmarks.

(Continued on page 8)

Two mails looking for Lieutenant-Colonel BAILEY



Fig. 2: Cairo, Egypt, 16 December 1935, to Kathmandu. Redirected to Calcutta at the Government Camp - Bengal, 25 December 1935.



Fig. 2a: Reverse of cover with additional postmarks

(Continued from page 7)

with 40 Mills, the airmail rate. The letter was probably sent by a person in the military who didn't need to pay the price of the standard letter, but only the airmail rate.

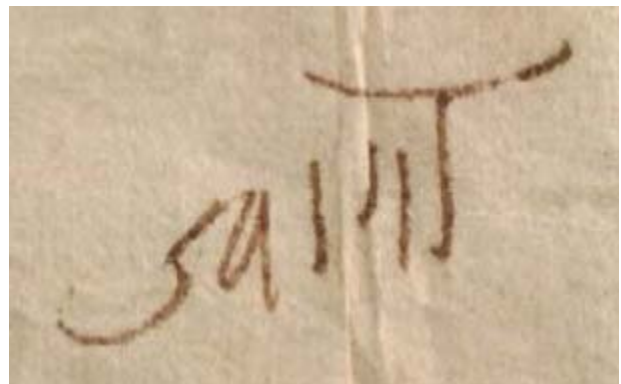
The cover bears an air mail sticker. The letter travel with «Imperial Airways» from Egypt

to Karachi, where it received the handstamp "Karachi cancelled". The cover arrived at Raxaul on 23 December 1935. Redirected to Calcutta on 24 December 1935, the letter is delivered at «Government Camp – Bengal» on 25 December 1935.

[Editorial note] Many covers from Nepal, especially important official covers, have a synopsis of the contents of the letter written on the back of the envelope. This is a handy way for archive letters for future reference.

Often this information is very interesting and gives the background for the mailing. Often at the at the end of the explanation or by itself, is a phrase, show in the picture to the right. This phrase means that a reply was sent.

Edmond Weissberg sent the image of the script and wanted to know its meaning. I forwarded the image to Leo Martyn who quickly replied with the translation. Thank you Leo and Edmond for the interesting bit of information.



Script meaning "reply sent" is sometimes written on Nepalese covers to show that a reply has been sent.

Imperforated Stamp Issues of Bhutan

by Iiro Kakko and Leo Van Der Velden

Introduction

There exist always imperforated sheets directly after printing, but if only perforated stamps have been ordered, these should all be perforated and any mis-perforations or imperforations should be destroyed by the printing company. Therefore, for most modern stamps we should not find any imperfs on the market, unless the postal authorities expressly authorized their release to entice collectors or otherwise. For Bhutan we can make the following overview depending on their reasons of existence:

1. Proofs.

Proofs are in general imperforated and often just a few single stamps or full sheets offered for review in order to provide the necessary go-ahead or to suggest corrections. These proofs might be saved in the printer's archives, by the agent organizing the issue or by the postal authorities themselves, here the Bhutanese Posts & Telegraphs (P&T), since 1996 called Bhutan Post. We have seen that printers' archives or agents' archives have come on the market, or in some cases these proof imperfs disappeared from their offices, and so the imperforated proofs appeared in collections and catalogues. These imperfs were not intended to be issued as imperfs, and should not be considered as such, but as proofs.



Imperforated proof of the 1st stamps issue of 1962

2. Imperforates ordered and approved by P&T / Bhutan Post

Especially in the 1960s and 1970s the agent would suggest to issue as well in limited numbers an imperforated version of a stamp issue, in order to generate extra income from the sale to collectors. This proposal would then be remitted to Bhutan for approval. Both versions would be sold for instance both by the Bahamas Stamp Agency (P&T agent till early 1974) and by P&T in Phuentsholing and Thimphu (both G.P.O.s in Bhutan).

Continued on page 10



1982 Boy Scout set: both imperf and perf as planned

¹Illustrations are of own collection or of Ed Pawlowski's Bhutan Database. Len Nadybal's recent focus on imperforated stamps of Bhutan is acknowledged.



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Imperforated Stamp Issues of Bhutan

(Continued from page 9)

3. Approval of sale of imperfs post facto
In some cases the agent had ordered both perforated and imperforated sets from the printer without prior approval from Bhutanese authorities. Imperfs distributed by the printer as a result of “miscommunication” between printer and agent or P&T. These were then often post-facto approved. In some cases had the printer even sent due to misunderstanding with the agent the unauthorized imperforated items directly to Bhutan as well. P&T decided then after some deliberations still to give its go-ahead.

4. No approval, but no large numbers of imperfs as well issued (often called “status unknown”)
In some cases the agent most probably in collusion with the printers, would have some imperforated sheets put aside in nominal numbers, not really enough for a general distribution and not sold to the public at large, but available on demand for high prices in small numbers from the agent.

5. Not perforated by default
In a number of cases the stamp is imperforated by default, like the moulded plastic stamps, most of the thangka silk stamps, most of the 3 D stamps, the steel stamps, the embossed carton stamps; while also many regular souvenir sheets (anyway a collectors’ gimmick) were only issued imperf.

6. Error in listings
In some cases the catalogues might list erroneously some stamps as available as imperfs, while actually none exist, or only proof issues.

Bhutan’s postage stamps issuing history starting with the release of its first postage stamp set in 1962, can be divided in three periods:

a. 1962 – 1974, when P&T was set up but the design, production and international sales

(except for India) were organized by Burt Todd’s Bhutan Stamp Agency.

- b. 1974 – mid 1992 when the IGPC became the main agent, and
- c. the period after mid 1992 when P&T/Bhutan Post would work together with more agents and also more and more issue and organize new stamps releases themselves, although often sponsored by third parties. It should be noted here that at the time of change in 1996 to a semi-independent para-statal company, Bhutan Post Incorporated, most of the old archives were disposed of as old paper, which makes the task writing about the postal history and postage stamps of Bhutan rely on newspapers clippings, information on flyers issued by P&T at the release of a new stamp set, or information available from the Bhutan Stamp Agency or the IGPC.



1973 “Talking Stamp”: imperf by default

We can make the following overview for these different periods:

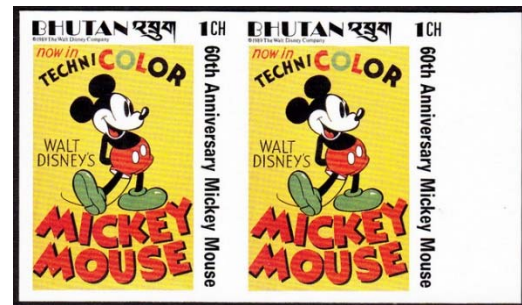
- a. Most imperfs available for Bhutan appeared between October 1962 – March 1974, the Bhutan Stamp Agency period. Of the 73 sets issued in that period, 26 stamps sets (either the stamps or the souvenir sheets, or both) were also issued officially as imperforated, while for one set the imperforated version was issued unauthorized and 23 stamp sets were imperforated by default, like the well-known 3D stamps, the embossed carton

(Continued on page 11)

Imperforated Stamp Issues of Bhutan



Imperf 1991 World Cup: post facto go-ahead



Imperf 1989 60th Anniversary Mickey Mouse: unauthorized by P&T

stamps, the gold foils coins, the “Talking Stamps”, steel stamps and most of the silk Thangka set. For one set imperforated proofs are known, while for 11 sets no imperfs are known at all.

- b. In the beginning of the period that IGPC took over as main agent since April 1974, we can see a few stamps issues which were a legacy of the period of Burt Todd and his Bahamas Stamps Agency, made available imperforated as well, like the 1974 Coronation issue and the 1974 UPU Centenary set, while the 1975 gold coins and 1976 3D Masks set were by default imperforated. The IGPC record is as follows: of the around 85 stamp sets issued under the IGPC period (minus the Burt Todd legacy), 16 sets were also issued authorized imperforated, 2 were by default imperforated (1987 Chagall and 1991 Van Gogh sets), while an impressive 15 sets were either issued imperforated unauthorized or the exact status is a question mark. Furthermore, one issue, the 1991 World Cup set is an example of a set also issued “in error” imperforated, which was sent by the printer by mistake directly to Bhutan as well. P&T decided then after some discussion still to give its go-ahead. . For 2 sets imperforated proofs are known, while for 40 sets no imperfs are known at all. Most probably this questionable issuing of imperfs on a relatively large scale has also assisted in the ending of the good relations between P&T Bhutan and the IGPC.

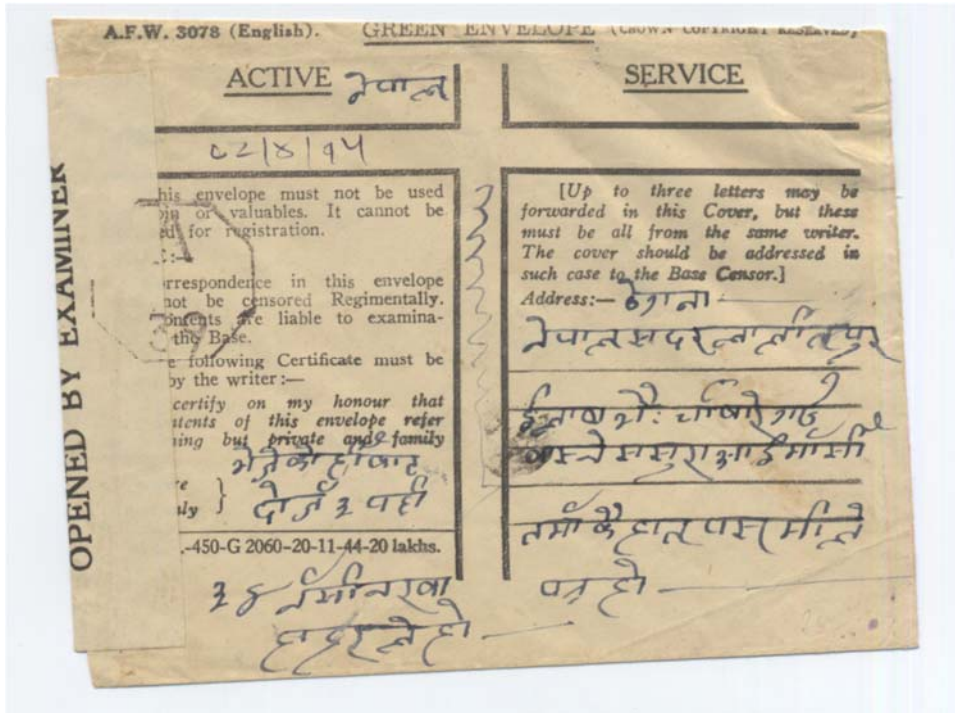
- c. Since the introduction of a multi-agent system in 1992, hardly any imperforated stamps have been issued or are known to exist even as proofs. Special mention should be made of the UPU Postal Anniversary Paintings set, that was prepared by Burt Todd’s Bahamas Stamp Agency in 1974, but was only officially issued by P&T in 1993, including the existing imperforated version. Of the 1998 Mother Theresa stamps, imperforated mini-sheets exist, but their status is questionable. Only a few stamp sets have been issued imperforated by default in these years, like the 1994 Stampcards, the three large stamps of the 2003 Japanese Art issue, the 2008 and 2009 CD-Rom stamps and the 3D hologram issue of 2018. Only the 2006 Europa 50th Anniversary set has been officially issued both perforated and imperforated. So all in all, very few imperforated stamps were issued or are known for this latter period.

World War 11 Green Envelope Sent To Nepal

by Leo Martyn

World War II green envelopes were used by soldiers on duty and were only given out once a month for personal correspondence, without being censored. The sender had to verify by signature, that he/she had only included private mail. These were not normally censored, but occasionally they were opened and re-sealed.

This particular envelope was sent by a Gurkha soldier to his father-in-law in Lalitpur on July 28, 1945 and censored in Bombay – tape and handstamp. A transit censor handstamp was applied on the back in Calcutta. So far, this is the only recorded WW II green envelope sent to Nepal



World War II Green Envelope sent to Nepal by active duty Gurkha soldier.



Back of cover showing censor mark

Mildly Mice-Munched Mustang Missive: The King of Mustang Watches the "1904 Gartok Expedition"

by Edmond Weissberg

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

After the Younghusband 1904 military expedition to Lhasa, a treaty was signed there on September 7th between Tibet and Great Britain. Article 5 of this treaty provided for the opening in Tibet three trade marts/agencies, namely in Yatung and Gyantse on the "India - Lhasa" southern trade road, and an odd one in faraway Western Tibet, in Gartok. (But not so far from the trade marts in British India of Leh, or Almora, or Simla.) So it was decided to promptly send an expedition to Gartok, to survey the route along the Brahmaputra (Tsang po) River, and establish the trade mart/agency there. (Note 1) Also, to make known to the Tibetan Officials encountered en route, the terms of the Lhasa Treaty, a certified copy of which was carried by the expedition.

This expedition was made of:

- 4 Britons:

Captain C.G. RAWLING, deputed to open the trade mart at Gartok

Lieutenant F.M. BAILEY, assistant

Major C.H.D. RYDER (survey party)

Captain H. WOOD (survey party)

- and according to the sources, a party of 27 or 34 men, including a sub-surveyor, a hospital assistant, 3 military surveyors, 5 soldiers

(sepoys - sipahi) from the 8th Gurkha Rifles, pony drivers, servants, etc. and one official appointed by the Tibetan Government, Kalsang by name, with a written permit and orders sealed by the three great monasteries in Lhasa.

The highlights (places and dates), of the travel stages of the expedition were:

- From Lhasa and elsewhere, the party met in Gyantse and departed from there on 10 October 1904.

- The expedition was in Shigatse from 14 to 17 October.

- Then it was in Tradom (just north of the Mustang border) from 14 to 16 November.

- It reached Gartok on 09 December and departed the following day!

- Then, the expedition crossed the Tibeto-Indian border at Shipki La on 24 December 1904, and arrived in Simla on 11 January 1905.

For further details about this expedition, please see the reports by Ryder (Note 2) and by Rawling (Note 3).

THE LETTER:

From the seal and from the mentions of "Mustang Bhot", ("Mustang Tibet"), we have clear evidence that this letter originates from Mustang. The date on the last line of the letter, "1961 saal Magh 4", i.e. early 1905 is also questioning. As obvious from [Fig. 1 to Fig. 4], a part of the cover and of its contained letter have been torn away, (or chewed at by a muroid rodent?!), but this does not detract from an attempt at translation. (see: "Acknowledgements").

As there are no stamps nor postal cancels (and probably not enough place for those on the torn away piece), one can assume the letter was privately carried. (Note 4)

THE TRANSLATION:

Please see: "Acknowledgements".

I have nevertheless slightly rephrased, edited,

(Continued on page 14)

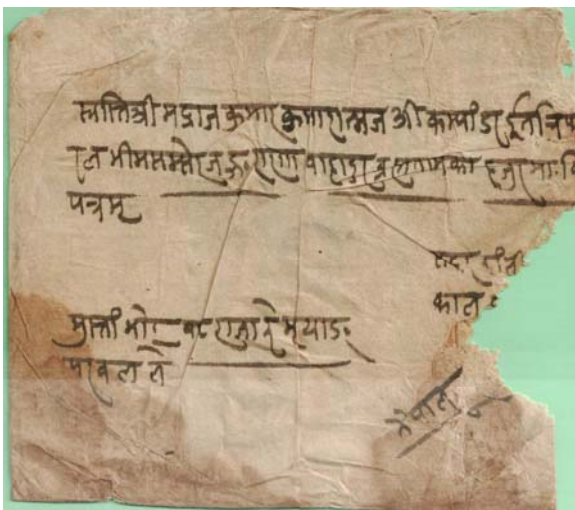


Fig 1. Address to Swasti Shree Madraj Kumar Kumarat Maj Shree Commander in Chief General Bhim Shamsher Jang Bahadur Rana Brahmana Hajurma

**Mildly Mice-Munched Mustang Missive:
The King of Mustang Watches the :1904 Gartok Expedition”**

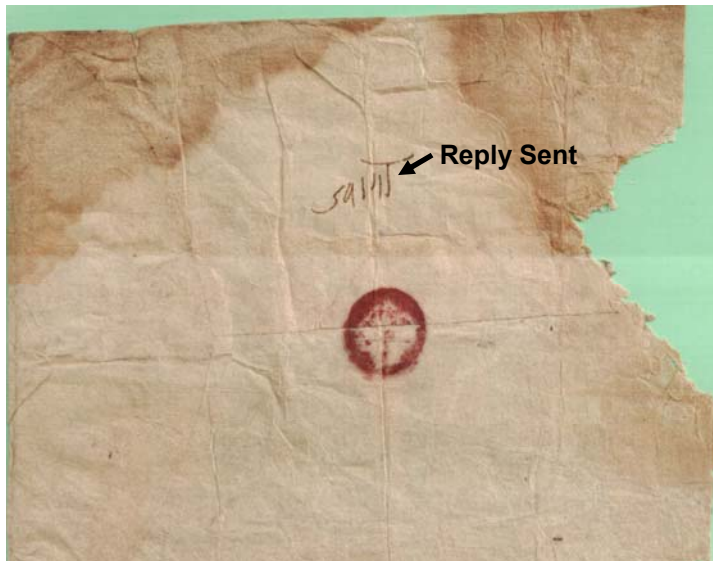


Fig. 2: Back of cover with seal of King of Mustang

(Continued from page 13)

and annotated it.

1/ Cover front [Fig. 1]

Memorandum to: Swasti Shree Madraj Kumar Kumarat Maj Shree Commander in Chief General Bhim Shamsher Jang Bahadur Rana Brahmana Hajurma (Note 5)

Sadar-ti Kaal Dhara Naipal [i.e. Kathmandu].

From Mustang Bhot Raja [i.e. King] Jhemyang Parwal (Note 6)

2/ Cover back [Fig. 2]

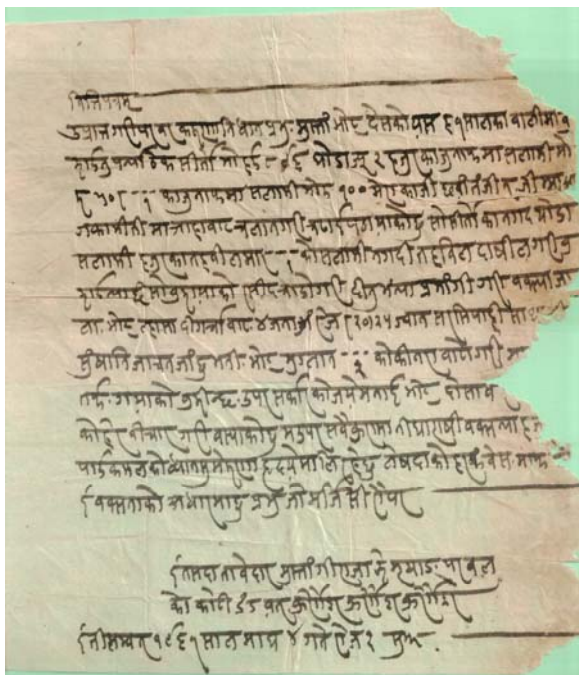


Fig. 3: Front of letter

Reply sent [and the red seal of the King of Mustang] (Note 7)

3/ Letter front [Fig.3]

MEMORANDUM

With regard to the tribute as per contract for year 61 due by Mustang Bhot: Sirto tribute has been sent in terms of payment for: 896 mohar and 2 horses, and also we send 50 rupees and additional 100 rupees as salute offerings. (Note 8) Altogether the total amount will be presented by Kaji Chhawan Tanjin. (Note 9) Today he has departed from here. I hope the amount submitted will be well recorded as tax paid in full in the respectable register book, and a receipt for tax payment will be made available.

From Tibet Lhassa and Shigatse, 4 Englishmen along with 20 to 25 soldiers have travelled in search of gold mines, and I think they went towards Brahmaputra and Muglan. (Note 10) I am always vigilant towards watching on our Tibetan border and hope you will always be merciful upon me.

Your wish will always be my command

Yours obedient Mustang Raja Jhemyang Parwal saluting you 3 times a day [kuneersh kuneersh kuneersh] Iti Sambat 1961 year, Magh 4, day 2 auspicious day. (Note 11)

4/ Letter back [Fig.4]

Shree \

Shree 3 Maharaj \ Shree Brahmaputri Ganga \ (Note 12)

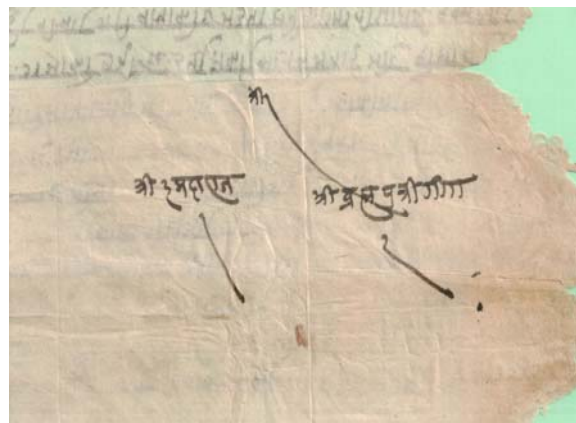


Fig. 4: Back of letter (Continued on page 15)

Mildly Mice-Munched Mustang Missive: The King of Mustang Watches the :1904 Gartok Expedition”

(Continued from page 14)

CONCLUSION:

The Gartok Expedition was by no means intended to be a secret one (as were the former "Pundit's explorations), so there is no wonder it did not pass unnoticed from the southern neighbour, Nepal, through the Tributary King of Mustang. Succinct but concise, the observation of the Gartok Expedition is quite accurate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: For their invaluable help in translating this letter, I am greatly indebted to: our fellow member of N.& T.P.S.C. - Mr Surendra Lal Shrestha, and to: Mr Subash Krishna Dangol, Museum Officer, The National Museum of Nepal, both from Kathmandu. My thanks to them.

NOTES:

- 1:i.e. before the mountain passes are closed and blocked due to winter snowfalls.
- 2:"Exploration and survey with the Tibet Frontier Commission, and from Gyantse to Simla via Gartok", by: Major C.H.D. Ryder, D.S.O., R.E. - in: The Geographical Journal N°4, October 1905, Vol. XXVI - London.
- 3:"The Gartok Expedition, including the Brahmaputra, Sutlej, and Indus Valleys, and that portion of Tibet which lies to the west of Gyantse." - 1904-1905 - By Captain C. G Rawling, Somersetshire Light Infantry, Calcutta: Office of the Superintendent of Government Printing, India, 1905.
- 4:This letter is more or less akin to the "Mustang Cover" from 1902, but sent through the postal system, presented by Sagar Man Shrestha in P.H. N° 150, 2012.
- 5:In 1905, **Bhim Shamsheer Jang Bahadur Rana** (b. 1865, d.1932) was General, Commander in Chief (from 1901 to 1929). He became prime Minister only in 1929 until his death in 1932. Other words around his name are here his titles, and honorific and respectful words. At that time (in 1905), the King of Nepal, of the Shah dynasty was: Prithvi Bir Bikram Shah (b. 1875, d. 1911), who reigned from 1881 until his suspicious death in 1911. The king had absolutely no power, being only in a figurehead position, all the effective power being in the hands of the Prime Minister. The P.M. in office at the time the letter was written was Chandra Shamsheer Jang Bahadur Rana

(b.1863, d.1929), holding office from 1901 to 1929. This is quite reminiscent of the situation in Japan before the Meiji Restoration.

- 6:In 1905, the King of the Kingdom of Lo (as Mustang is known in the Tibetan language), was: A ham 'jam dbyangs rgyal mtshan (ཨ་ཧམ་འཇམ་དབྱངས་རྒྱལ་མཚན་) [to be pronounced as: "A ham Jamyang Gyeltsen"], also known as 'Jam dbyangs dpal bar (འཇམ་དབྱངས་དཔལ་འབར་) [to be pronounced as: "Jamyang Pelwar / Pelbar"]. He reigned from 1893 until his death in 1935. So, "Jhemyang Parwal" is the rendering in Nepali transcription of the Tibetan name.
- 7:The endorsement "Reply sent" appears on some old covers from Nepal, in all likelihood written by the addressee or by a member of his secretarial staff, when the letter had been answered, and before filing it into the archives. Concerning the seal of the King of Lo (Mustang), it is here very faint, but a nice restoration of it is pictured in: Tibet Stamps and Postal History: by: Steve Chazen & Danny Kin Chi Wong, The RPSL, London, 2019 - pp. 88/90 This seal bears in its center the letter "A" (ཨ་), and is therefore called the "A seal" (A tham).
- 8:Tribute for year 61: in this occurrence, this refers to year B.S. 1961, i.e. A.D.1905. Sirto Tribute: Mustang was a vassal kingdom, formerly under Tibet, then Jumla, and finally under unified Nepal. Mustang had to pay an annual tribute called "Sirto" to the central government, consisting of cash and horses, but enjoyed land revenue for himself. Mustang was therefore called a "Sirto Rajya". The Sirto tribute could vary from time to time, but was to be paid annually at a fixed date (Magh 14) in the capital city. Concerning the additional "salute offerings", although it is not clearly mentioned to whom they are to be offered, they allegedly are intended for the Commander in Chief and for the Maharaja respectively.
- 9:A "Kaji" (Tibetan "ka dzi") is a title for a senior official, possibly a magistrate or landlord, and belonging to the nobility. In this case, "Kaji Chhawan Tanjin" denotes - implies - the Nepali transcription of a Tibetan name, which can't be no other than "Kazi Tsewang Tensing", i.e. "Ka dzi Tshe dbang bstan 'dzin" viz : ཀའི་ཚོ་དབང་བསྟན་འཛིན་ This is the name of the Mustang King's envoy appointed to lead the Sirto tribute caravan - cash and horses - from Mustang's capital Lo Mantang, to the capital of Nepal, also appointed as a special messenger to carry the present letter - memorandum.

(Continued on page 16)

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

by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Leo Martyn

HALF ANNA FORGERIES

Now we have come to the extensive and varied world of the half-anna forgeries. But, to start the study, is an example which is out of sequence and quite disturbing as to what can be done with modern technology.

A complete sheet, described as Setting 8 was purchased at auction, by Colin Hepper. Colin discovered that position 57 appeared to have its center inverted! He contacted me for an opinion and we both felt that it was not genuine. I traded him a genuine setting 8 sheet for the forgery and came to the conclusion that it was

not genuine and most likely created by a software program (I am not computer wise and can't say for certain how it was done). The auction house, Cavendish Philatelic Auction Ltd., graciously refunded his purchase price and told him to keep the forgery.

I used the retro reveal.com site and was able to find traces of the original printing which are most prominent in the bottom panel. I don't know when or where it was produced, but there may be more to be discovered.



Image on left is of the 1/2 Anna stamp position 57 as it appears on the sheet. Example is the same image inverted that more clearly reveals the original inscription that was partially erased.

Mildly Mice-Munched Mustang Missive: The King of Mustang Watches the :1904 Gartok Expedition”

(Continued from page 15)

10:Gold mines: in Rawling (note 3), we can read: "Without doubt the land is immensely rich in gold. The chief mines [...] are mostly situated in the northeast of Gartok [...] and the most important one being known as Thok Jalung."

Muglan: in late 18th century, refers to moslem Mogul India subject to "Feringhi" christian merchants, in order for emerging Nepal to distinguish itself politically

from India. Later, this name was to refer broadly to British India. Muglan was also considered as a sort of land of plenty, where it was enviable to migrate from Pahad (the Hilly Central Region of Nepal), to get a better life.

11:This corresponds to AD: 1905, January 16, Monday - auspicious day.

12:Those are auspicious, honorific words, showing all due respect.