

Postal Himal

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Officer's Corner

The start of another year for our Society - it is our 36th year and maybe time to look at where we are as a Society. During the 1990s our membership rose to a peak of approximately 150 members but has since declined and seems to have remained at around 120 for the past few years. Of those I would think that 60% have been with us since we started (could be called our core members), but they are all 36 years older which probably puts our society in prospective. We are, as Rainer Fuchs observes in his open letter [see page 12 - ed.] an aging Society. I firmly agree with his views on trying to use the Internet more when I see all of my grandchildren with a mobile phone as a permanent part of their right arm (or left if that is the case) and it seems to be in constant use with networking sites such as Facebook and

Twitter.

My wife is now addicted to Facebook via her laptop to keep in regular touch with our family, some of whom live in Australia - writing letters went out the window some time ago. So we then come to the problem of how we harness this new world we live in for the benefit of our Society. It seems I am 'banging on the drum' again about making more use of the Internet. First of all I feel that we must all make more use of the excellent web pages that Rainer has set up and hopefully there will be some positive suggestions to his letter.

I will be at WESTPEX again this year if you would like to make any suggestions for topics of discussion at our meeting there

Colin

Editor's Ramblings

I don't think that I have been to two more different International stamp shows than London and Lisbon, both held this year.

London had a huge bourse with the best areas being given to the dealers and the exhibitions being relegated to side rooms, some with terrible lighting. And, half way through the show, the exhibits all had to be taken down and new ones put up due to a lack of exhibition space. And relatively few families and even fewer children.

Lisbon had only about a dozen dealers and almost half of them were auction houses. There were more postal agencies present than dealers. The exhibition hall was new and large with excellent lighting so that there was no problem viewing the exhibits. Many families and a lot of children doing everything from creating stamp designs to having to go in timed teams to the exhibits to find answers to

questions that had been given them.

Now onto New Delhi and then WESTPEX. As I will be in India, I have decided to spend 5 or so weeks not only there, but also visiting Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Taiwan. As Colin points out above, we are all getting older and I certainly don't know how much longer I will be able to travel the world, although it will hopefully be for a good many years yet.

And, on a purely personal note, it has been 10 years since I became editor and put out my first issue (*Postal Himal* No. 105) for the 1st Quarter of 2001. A lot of changes, most of them happy ones and new friends made. And some sad times such as the two successive issue that dealt with the deaths of Armand Singer and Frank Vignola. Armand I knew, but met Frank only once. Oh well, on to the future and whatever it may bring.

CONGRATULATIONS

Rishi K. Tulsyan was awarded Gold for his exhibit "The Postal Stationary of Nepal 1887 - 1959" at FIAP (Johannesburg) South Africa.

UPCOMING:

INDIA 2011 12-18 February 2011, New Delhi, Halls No. 8-11, Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex
WESTPEX 2011 29 April - May 1, 2011 San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel. Our meeting is

Tibet Forgeries

by Bo C. Olsson

Another forged cover from Tibet (Figure 1). The Chinese post had direct access to India from 1955 and Tibet post closed in 1956. This cover is from 1957! It is a clumsy attempt to affix a Tibet stamp over what most probably is an Indian arrival postmark with a smaller diameter than the Tibetan postmark. Beware because some auctioneers are probably blind, so check all incoming auction material.

Perhaps some of our readers can identify what is wrong with the second forged Tibet cover (Figure 2).

[Well readers here you have a challenge from Bo. If any of you want to say what is wrong with it, please email Bo at cfx987z@tinet.se or the editor at editorofpostalhimal@cox.net].



Figure 1



Figure 2

A New Dangerous Tibetan Forgery by Bo C. Olsson

The modern crude forgeries of Tibetan material has long since flooded the market, but it sells and one really wonders why there are more collectors of forged Tibetan items than of the genuine items. Rainer Fuchs [one of our members - ed.] has written excellent information on eBay on how to detect Tibetan forgeries, but still almost all Tibetan items sold on the Internet are modern forgeries. When a potential buyer sees a 1 sang green or a complete sheet with a start price of 99 cents he should understand that something is wrong, but apparently he does not. Like a fish he swallows the bait without hesitation.

Anyhow, there are so many modern forged items that you can hardly collect all of them even if you wanted to. For my part I only

collect the classics, like those listed in Waterfall's handbook. I think my money can be used for better purposes than being support money for dubious printers in India/Nepal or where ever they are hiding. I know of attempts to buy forgeries out of the market, but the only result of such an operation is that the printing press starts printing more forgeries. So the only way to stop this business is to boycott such items.

Usually these junk printings aren't dangerous at all, but the latest addition could be dangerous for the beginner. It's a forgery of a 1/3 tr. blue with a forged Dhomo postmark. If you take a close look you will see that both stamps are printed from the same cliché.

smaller image for clarity



The Himalayas on Nepalese Postage Stamps (continued) by Binod K. Shrestha

Manaslu (8156m)⁵¹

Manaslu is the subject of three Nepalese stamps. The first was issued on 26 February 1961 (Scott 128, 40 paisa, violet and red brown) with a full-faced portrait of King Mahendra.⁵² The second was issued on 19 October 2004 as part of the Mountain Series of 8 stamps (Scott 747g). The third was issued on 9 May 2006 (Scott 772) on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the First Ascent of Mount Manaslu.

Manaslu is the eighth highest mountain in the world. Located in the Mansiri Himal, Manaslu is derived from the Sanskrit word Manasa and is translated as "Mountain of the Spirit".⁵³ Toshio Imanishi and Gyalzen Norbu, members of a Japanese expedition climbed Manaslu for the first time on 9 May 1956.⁵⁴

Annapurna I (8091m)⁵⁵

Annapurna I is the subject of four Nepalese stamps. The first stamp was issued on 28 December 1971 (Scott 255, 1.80 Rupees, blue and red brown) as part of the Visit Nepal Himalayan Peaks Series.⁵⁶ The second was issued on 28 December 1996 as part of the Mountain Series (se-tenant panorama of the Annapurna Range, 3 stamps of 18 Rupees each).⁵⁷ The stamp on the left shows Annapurna South and Annapurna I. The third stamp was issued on 30 June 2000 (Scott 672) on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the

First Ascent of Annapurna. The fourth was issued on 19 October 2004 as part of the Mountain Series of 8 stamps (Scott 747h). The first stamp indicates an elevation of 8078m while the correct height of 8091m is indicated on the latter stamps.

Annapurna is a Sanskrit name which literally means "full of food" (feminine form), but is normally translated as "Goddess of the Harvests".⁵⁸ In Hinduism, Annapurna is the goddess of fertility and agriculture and an avatar of Durga. Annapurna I was the first 8000m peak to be climbed. A French expedition led by Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal reached the summit on 3 June 1950.⁵⁹ Its summit was the highest attained on Earth for three years, until the first successful ascent of Mount Everest. However, higher non-summit points - at least 8500m - had been attained on Mount Everest in the 1920s.

E. Other Nepal Himalayan Peaks

Abi (6097m)

Mount Abi, in the Khumbu (Mount Everest) region, is the training peak for those attempting to climb higher peaks.

A stamp was issued as part of the Visit Nepal Series (Scott 802a) on 30 December 2007.

Ama Dablam (6812m)⁶⁰

Ama Dablam is known as one of the most impressive mountains in the world, not for its

⁵¹ Japan issued a stamp 3 November 1956 (Scott 631) to commemorate the first ascent.

⁵² Singer and Gould page 126 no. 4.

⁵³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manasku>

⁵⁴ Singer and Gould page 115 no. 3 and page 117 no. 6.

⁵⁵ France issued a stamp on 3 June 2000 (Scott 2775) to commemorate the 50th of the first ascent.

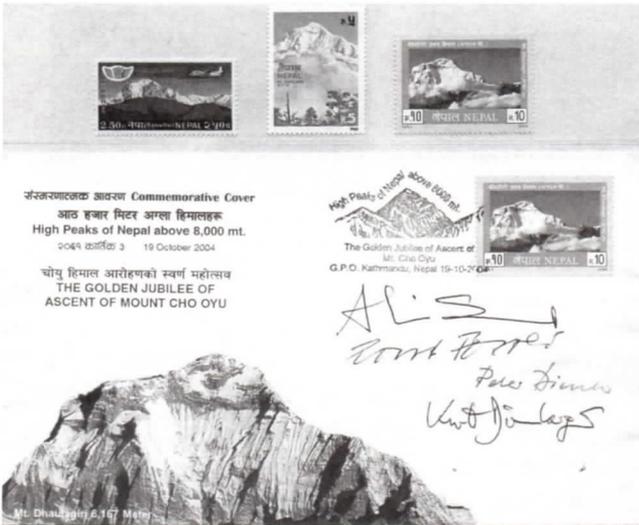
⁵⁶ Singer and Gould page 148 no. 9.

⁵⁷ Singer and Gould page 203.

⁵⁸ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annapurna>.

⁵⁹ Singer and Gould page 100 no. 2.

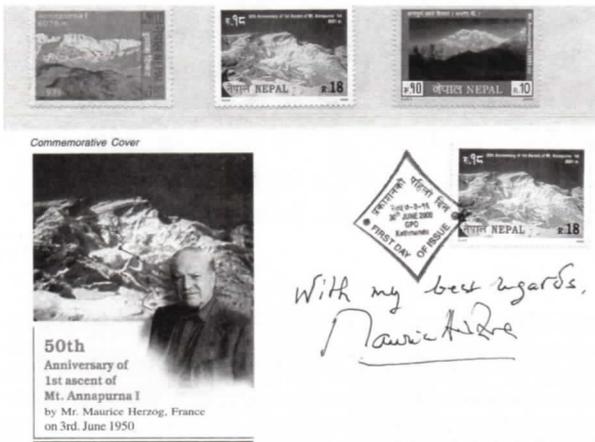
⁶⁰ Ama Dablam is the subject of two stamps issued by St. Vincent (Scott 3036, 1 July 2002) and the Maldives (Scott 2639, 11 July 2002) on the occasion of the International Year of Mountains. Indonesia issued two stamps on 28 October 1998 (Scott 1807), one of which showed the Indonesian flag flying over Ama Dablam's peak.



Dhaulagiri stamps (Scott C5, 387, 747f) and a cover signed by first summiteers Kurt Diemberger, Peter Diener, Ernst Schelbert and Albin Schelbert



Manaslu stamps (Scott 128, 747g, 772) and cover signed by team member Minoru Higata (1956) and third summiteer Wolfgang Nairz (1972)



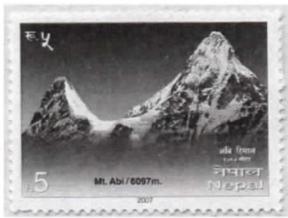
Annapurna stamps (Scott 255, 672, 747e) and cover signed by first summiteer Maurice Herzog

altitude, but for its beauty, aesthetics and the pure exposure encountered high on its flanks. “Ama” means mother, grandmother or even world. “Dablam” means charm box (a special pendant worn by elder Sherpa women that holds precious items). The mountain has a hanging glacier that resembles a dablam and two extending ridges are out stretched like a maternal embrace. The first ascent of the mountain was by Ed Hillary’s Silver Hut Expedition in 1961 when Bishop (USA), Gill,

Romanes (NZ) and Ward (UK) reached the summit, via the Southwest Ridge, on 13 March 1961⁶¹.

Three items have been issued by Nepal. The first, a stamp, on 14 October 1967 (Scott 204) to celebrate the International Tourism Year shows Ama Dablam peak with Tengboche Monastery in the foreground. The second, also a stamp, was issued on 31 December 1989 (Scott 477) as part of the Visit Nepal Series. It shows the peak itself. The third is an

⁶¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ama_Dablam.



From left: Stamp depicting Mount Abi (Scott 802a), stamps (Scott 204, 477) and aerogramme depicting Ama Dablam

aerogramme (1.25 Rupees) issued on 29-30 December 1973. It shows Ama Dablam and Mount Everest.

Annapurna Range

[For **Annapurna I**, see page 4 - ed.]

Annapurna II, the eastern anchor of the range, was first climbed in 1960 by a British/Indian/Nepalese team led by Jimmy Roberts, via the West Ridge, approached from the north. The summit party comprised Richard Grant, Chris Bonington and Sherpa Ang Nyima.

Annapurna III was first climbed in 1961 by an Indian expedition led by Capt. Mohan Singh Kohli, via the Northeast Face. The summit party comprised Mohan Kohli, Sonam Gyatso and Sonam Girmi.

Annapurna IV, near Annapurna II, was first climbed in 1955 by a German expedition led by Heinz Steinmetz, via the North Face and Northwest Ridge. The summit party comprised Steinmetz, Harald Biller and Jürgen Wellenkamp.

Annapurna South (also known as Annapurna Dakshin or Moditse) was first climbed in 1964 by a Japanese expedition, via the North Ridge. The summit party comprised S. Uyeo and Mingma Tsering.

The Annapurna Range appears on stamps of Nepal as a panorama in the Mountain Series (Scott 601a-c, 18 Rupees each) issued on 28 December 1996. The left hand stamp shows Annapurna South and Annapurna I, the middle stamp shows Machhapuchhare and Annapurna III and the right hand stamp shows Annapurna IV and Annapurna II.

A stamp (Scott 202) showing King Mahendra

addressing a crowd with the Himalayas in the background was issued on 11 June 1967 on the occasion of the King's 48th birthday. The peak directly over the head of the King, with the summit covered by the Devanagari word "ka" is Machhapuchhare with Annapurna III, IV and II to its right. A Lake Series stamp (Scott 235) was issued on 11 June 1970 showing Lake Phewa and the Annapurna Range. The Annapurna Range is shown reflected in Lake Phewa. Aerogrammes (2.50 and 10.00 Rupees) were issued on 14 April 1982 (Wateren 15, Type 7). The peaks shown are Annapurna South and Huinchuli, but it is often listed as Dhaulagiri⁶² probably a mistake in identity when the stamp is compared with Scott C5 issued on 1 July 1968 with the same value.

Api (7132m)

Api is the highest peak in the Yoka Pahar section of Gurans Himal, in the extreme northwest corner of Nepal, near the borders of India and Tibet. It is a little known peak in a rarely visited part of the Himalayas, but it rises dramatically over the surrounding terrain. The first ascent of Api occurred in 1960. The Doshisha Alpine Society of Japan successfully completed the Northwest Face route. A stamp issued as part of the Visit Nepal Series (Scott 430) on 21 December 1984 depicts Api's peak.

Cholatse (6440m)

Cholatse (also known as Jobo Lhapshan) is a mountain in the Khumbu region of the Nepalese Himalaya. The Chola glacier descends off the East Face. Cholatse was first climbed via the Southwest Ridge on 22 April 1982 by Vern Clevenger, Galen Rowell, John Roskelley and

⁶² Ref Gupta page 82.



From left: stamps (Scott 202, 235) and an aerogramme depicting the Annapurna Range



A panorama (Scott 601) depicting the Annapurna Range



From left: stamps depicting Api (Scott 430), Cholatse (Scott 628), Dr. Harka Gurung Chuli (Scott 809) and Ganesh Himal (Scott 308)

Bill O'Connor⁶³. A stamp depicting Cholatse was issued on 8 May 1998 (Scott 628) as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

Dr. Harka Gurung Peak / Ngadi Chuli (7871m)

Ngadi Chuli (also known as Peak 29, Dakura, Dakum or Dunapurna) is a high peak in the Mansiri Himal (or Manaslu Himal), also known as the Gurkha Massif. Despite its top 20 height, Ngadi Chuli has only been climbed once or twice. The probable first ascent occurred in 1970. Hiroshi Watanabe and Sherpa Lhaksa Tsering, members of a Japanese expedition,

climbed the East Ridge and Face. The first confirmed ascent was in 1979 by the Polish climbers Ryszard Gajewski and Maciej Pawlikowski.⁶⁴

The peak has been renamed Dr. Harka Gurung Chuli in his memory and honor. The postal services issued a stamp on 24 December 2008 (Scott 809). Dr. Gurung was killed in a helicopter crash on 23 September 2006.⁶⁵

Ganesh Himal Range

Crested with a number of peaks, the Ganesh Himal is pictured on a stamp (Scott 308) as seen from Kakani. It is one of three stamps issued on

⁶³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholatse>

⁶⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngadi_Chuli

⁶⁵ <http://www.nepalitimes.com/issue/317/Remembrance/12572>

16 December 1975 as part of the Visit Nepal Series. Ganesh Himal is located in north-central Nepal, but some peaks lie on the border with Tibet.⁶⁶ The highest peak in the range is Yangra (Ganesh I), 7422m. Despite having no peaks over 7500m, the Ganesh Himal enjoys great vertical relief over the nearby valleys; Ganesh NW (known as Ganesh II or Ganesh III) is the most favored in this respect, being closest to the Shyar Khola. The name of the Range comes from the Hindu deity Ganesh, usually depicted in the form of an elephant. In fact, the South Face of Pabil (Ganesh IV) slightly resembles an elephant, with a ridge that is reminiscent of an elephant's trunk.

Gauri Shankar

Gauri Shankar comes from the Sanskrit and can be translated as “The Goddess and Her Consort”. Also known as Gaurishankar and (to the Tibetans) Jomo Tseringma. The mountain has two summits, the northern (higher) summit being called Shankar (a manifestation of Shiva) and the southern summit being called Gauri (a manifestation of Shiva’s consort). In 1979, an American/Nepalese expedition led by John Roskelley and Dorje Sherpa, finally managed to gain the top, via the West Face.⁶⁷ A stamp was issued on 28 December 1970 (Scott 243) as part

of the Visit Nepal Series. Another stamp was issued on 26 October 2003 (Scott 735) in honor of Sankhadhar Sakhwa who initiated the Nepal calendar era. The top right corner of the stamp shows the moon rising over Gauri Shankar’s peak.

Jugal Himal Range

The Jugal Himal is contiguous with, and often considered as part of, the Langtang Himal. The two ranges are spurs of Shisha Pangma (8046m) in Tibet. Two stamps show the Jugal Himal Range. The first (Scott 707) issued on 28 December 2001 as part of the Visit Nepal Series shows Dorje Lhakpa (6966m). Visible also from Kathmandu Valley it has an elegant pyramid-shaped figure and it popular with both photographers and mountaineers.⁶⁸ A second stamp (Scott 546 issued on 9 October 1994 showing “methods of transporting mail”) likely shows Jugal Himal with Phurba Chyachu (6658m) and Dorje Lhakpa in the center below the wings of the plane.



From left: stamps showing Gauri Shankar (Scott 243, 735)



From left: stamp showing Jugal Himal (Scott 707) and Methods of transporting mail (Scott 546)

⁶⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganesh_Himal

⁶⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gauri_Sankar

⁶⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorje_Lahkpa

to be continued - ed.

A Stone Printing Block for Producing Forgeries of an Early Tibetan Stamp with some Notes on the Printing of Tibetan Postage Stamps

by Wolfgang Bertsch

In the mid 1970s I acquired, in a Nepalese curio shop, a small printing block (cliché) carved in what appeared to be a greenish soapstone (Figures 1 and 2). The block must have been intended for producing forgeries of the lowest value of the first Tibetan stamp series, which was initially issued in 1912: the green “kha gang” (= 2 ½ skar or 1/6th tangka). I do not know whether forged stamps produced with this block exist or if the block was discarded by the forger after some trial prints in favour of a more finished product.

The original Tibetan printing blocks of the first postage stamp series were not carved in stone, but in wood. These blocks must have been carved in a similar manner as those which were used for printing books. Jest (1961) gives the following description of preparing a future Tibetan printing block: “The text was carefully written in *dbu-c'en* on sheets of thin Tibetan paper. Using a paste prepared with wheat flour (*gro-zib*) the carver sticks the pages, text downwards, on the printing blocks (*par-sing*). Having dried them thoroughly either in the sun or by fire, he takes one of the prepared boards and with a clean damp cloth carefully damps the paper on one side and so removes it, leaving the reversed lettering clearly showing. When the board is dry again, he rubs it lightly with a little mustard oil (*pe-k'ang-snum*) which has the effect of showing up the letters clearly”.

By replacing “test”, “letter” and “lettering” by “design of the postage stamp” one can obtain what most probably is a fairly accurate description of the manufacture of the clichés of the first Tibetan postage stamps. What remains to do for the professional wood carver is carefully cutting away the wood around the outline of the design and the script which are left in relief.

Nearly all authorities agree that the twelve stamps of each value were printed from one

single block (Waterfall, p.70: Dahnke, p.58 and, recently, Wang, vol. 3, p.563-564), except for Bibbins (1992, p.1) who believes that the block consisted of 12 individual clichés which were tied together, as was the case, without any doubt, with the blocks used for the 1933-issue.

For the second series of 1933 and subsequent series the individual clichés most probably small, engraved metal plates which were mounted on a wood block, similar to those which were used for the printing of the banknotes of 50 tam (second issue, first released in 1926) and of 5, 10, 25 and 100 srang denominations, some of which have survived and have been published (Bertsch, 1999 and Zhu Jinzhong et al., 2002).

The first Tibetan postage stamps were either printed in the Government printing house in Shol below the Potala or in the Government mint Dopal (Tibetan spelling: *'dod dpal*), also located in Shol; from the early 1920s they were printed in the Dode (Tibetan spelling: *dog bde; dog sde* or *rdo sde*) mint. The second series of 1933 and subsequent stamp issues were printed with colour imported from India in the Tibetan Government mint Trabshi Lekhung (the full name of this mint was *grwa bzhi glog 'phrul las khungs* = “Trabshi Electrical Machine Factory”), located halfway between Lhasa and Sera Monastery about four kilometers north of Lhasa (Figure 3). This mint was modernized with imported machinery in 1931 and disposed of printing presses which could alternately be hand-operated or worked with electrical power supplied by the only Tibetan hydro-electrical power station in the Dode Valley, located near the former Dode mint, about 10 kilometers north-north-east of Lhasa. This power station was built in the 1920s and was made operable with machinery which had been imported from England.



Figure 1. Enlarged stone cliché for printing forgeries of the green “kha gang” = 2 ½ skar or 1/6th tangka.



Figure 2. Printing block (cliché) illustrated reversed, in order to be able to read the inscription.

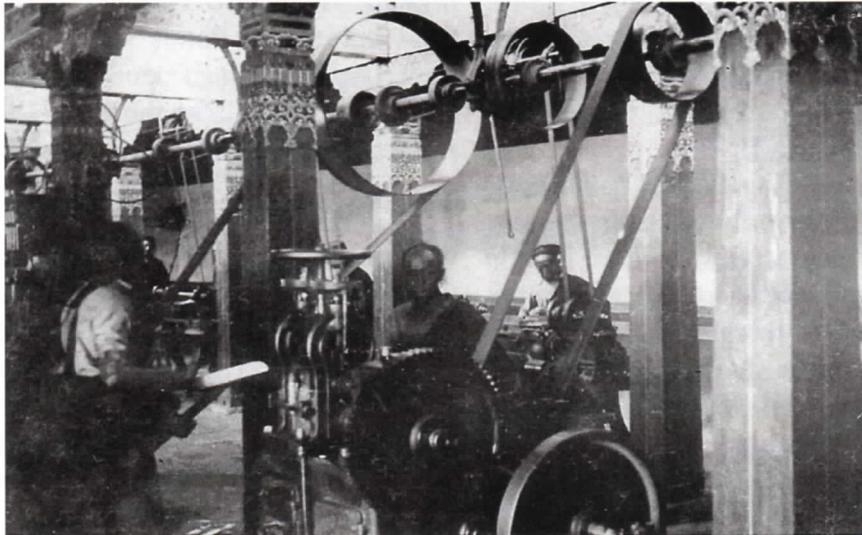


Figure 3. Interior of the Tibetan mint Trabshi Lekhung, photographed by F. Williamson, August 31, 1933. Published by M. D. Williamson (1987)

F. Williamson’s comment is as follows: “31 Aug. 1933. At eleven o’clock went to Trapchi at the invitation of Kunphel La to see the electrical workshops and the new regiment. Trapchi (often written Debchi) is about three miles from Lhasa, not far from Sera monastery ... To one side are the workshops. The electric power is brought nearly six miles from Dote, the original site of the workshops. The latter are extremely silent and the machines are in a pillared room which is gaily painted and decorated in the usual Tibetan fashion. Silver coins were being made, notes printed, rifle barrels bored and shell cartridge cases filled. The whole place is a great credit to Ringang, who is responsible for the machinery, and to Kunphel La at whose inspiration the whole thing has arisen ..., the whole place has an air of efficiency which is very rare in Tibet” (F. Williamson, 1934).

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My thanks go to Nicholas Rhodes for having made available to me the contents of this file.

Email to the Editor from Jeffrey Brown



[I have received an email from Jeffrey Brown asking for help from our members for a compilation that he is trying to do - ed.]
Jeffrey is trying to compile a list of all covers flown over Mount Everest by the Houston Mount Everest Expedition. All covers contain the same cachet, but with differing dates. Jeffrey is looking for the following information: Addressee, Date of cachet, Sent by (if known), Is there an accompanying letter, Is it Registered?
If you have a scan of the item that would also be helpful.

Jeffrey can be reached by postal mail at: Jeffrey Brown, Sedgewell, 1 Fluder Hill, Kingskerswell
Newton Abbot, TQ12 5JD, GREAT BRITAIN
or by email at sedgewell@eclipse.co.uk

What is Going Wrong with the NTPSC?

by Rainer Fuchs

Maybe the title is hard, but I feel we are going nowhere. Over time I have written several open letters to the members of the NTPSC which were published in *Postal Himal*, but to no avail.

Are we satisfied with what we are doing? I feel the NTPSC is not progressing properly. As everybody knows, the members of the NTPSC are ageing (a process which we can stop) and the same is true for basically every philatelic (and other) organizations. In order to attract more members, especially younger members, and to promote the areas we deal with, I set up several years ago a web site at my server and we have won several new members through that site. I created a discussion forum for our areas of interest and upgraded it 2 years ago and again now. I informed members by email, at least those whose email addresses I had. What has been the outcome? More or less NIL.

I am not complaining nor am I asking for money, as we must all do our share to promote our society and to communicate actively. I must say for myself, my primary way of communication nowadays is email. It is cheap, fast and reliable and I guess more or less every collector has access to the Internet.

I know many members are doing their share in promoting our collecting areas, some by writing articles for NTPSC, others by holding presentations at exhibitions or other occasions, but what is missing is the active search for young collectors. You do not find large numbers of young collectors at International FIP exhibitions. Young collectors are sitting home at their computers; they have a different way of communicating. But, if we older and experienced collectors are ignoring modern resources, then how can we encourage young collectors? I have created numerous guides for Nepal and Tibet on eBay which are helpful for many collectors. I have uploaded images of my Tibet collection to at least 3 different sites, but I am the only Tibet collector doing this. I do not see any Nepal collections on the Internet, but I know we have many computer literate members

with very good collections.

We buy and sell books and other merchandise online, buy and sell stamps on eBay, book travel, and some governments' even plan to hold national elections over the Internet.

These days, and I speak now only for myself, I do not like to wait 6 months until I might get an answer for a philatelic question. I am used to posting my question along with one or more supporting images and within a very short time I get an answer. Well, this is true for almost all questions I have except for Nepal and Tibet items where I do not find specialists registered at any philatelic forum. I have to contact them specifically. But why??? Are they afraid of expressing their opinions? There are no judges outside evaluating their postings. We are free to discuss and exchange ideas and opinions. The forum can be accessed at <http://fuchs-online.com/forum/>.

I have modified the forum in such a way that new users have to be accepted by the administrator of the forum (myself). This is done purely for technical reasons (access rights) and in order to reduce SPAM registrations. I read my emails on a daily basis, so access is granted in a very short time.

You may have noticed a new forum group there which is called "Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle". That forum is intended for NTPSC internal discussions, it is access protected and access rights will be given to NTPSC members ONLY. Current members of the forum, as long as I am aware that they are NTPSC members, have already been granted rights. There are numerous discussions going on, waiting for you to participate. If some members have ideas or requests for additional categories or subforums I am willing to implement them. A forum lives from interaction. I have even created polls waiting for your participation and opinion. And, the polls are anonymous.

[continued on page 13 - ed.]

Email to the Editor by Edmond Weissberg

[The following email was in response to the article “An Unidentified Tibetan Postmark by Olsson & Bertsch” 143:6 - ed.]

Dear Mr. Olsson,

With reference to your enquiry concerning “An Unidentified Tibetan Postmark”, in the last issue (No. 143) of *Postal Himal*, I can comment as follows:

1) This letter was sent to Nepal via PHARI (not via Gyantse) as attested by the postmaster’s note in the Thibetan language: “To be delivered to the English post office in Phari”.

NB: The handsome handwriting is certainly probably not that of the Nepalese sender himself.

2) The cancel on the British-Indian stamp is the one of PHARIJONG (Hellrigl Type B17) i.e., with continuous black bar from left to right and no interruption for “TIBET” at bottom.

3) Well, concerning the Thibetan postmark itself:

In my opinion, the three letters appearing on the top of your filtered scanned image may be read as “gzhis”, being the first syllable of “gzhis rtse”, which is the short form for “gzhis ka rtse” i.e., Shigatse.

I have remarked that the first prefixed letter’s head (“ga”) is not well aligned with the second one (“zhis”) i.e., well underneath.

This is accordingly in compliance with my own Shigatse cancels and also with that of Hellrigl Type T36.

This therefore excludes the possibility of a misspelling such as “gshi” instead of “gzhi”.

On the left side of your same scan, one can just detect, or rather guess, the letters “khang”, being the second syllable of “yig khang” i.e., post office.

4) In conclusion, I can assert, otherwise contested, which I readily accept (i.e., a contestation), that this “unidentified postmark” is in fact a “Shigatse” Hellrigl Type T36. but however very smudgy, very badly struck, perhaps under-inked, but very alas, alas, alas, not a new discovery. If I’m wrong, may all Gods of Thibet help me, and please inform me at first!

N.B.: All Thibetan transcription are based on the TURRELL WYLIE transliteration system.

Bo Olsson’s reply via email dated September 24, 2010

I wish to thank Mr. Weissberg for his information. I had a feeling myself that it could be like that, but lack Mr. Weissberg’s knowledge of the Tibetan language to dig deeper into it than I have done.

[continued from page 12 - ed.]

I have many more ideas in mind and one of them is to send weekly newsletters by email to NTPSC members whose email addresses I have. The newsletters could be reprinted in *Postal*

Himal so members without Internet access are not uninformed.

Please contact me so that I can add your email address to the distribution list at rainer@fuchs-online.com.

Report of a Meeting of the Nepal Philatelic Society

by Sagar Shrestha

A meeting was organized at the NPS on March 18, 2010 in honor of NTPSC President Mr. Colin Hepper and Tibet Numismatic Scholar Mr. Wolfgang Bertsch, with about 35 members present. Mr. B. K. Pradhan ask Mr. Hepper about the international market trend of both classic and modern Nepalese stamps. Mr. Hepper went into some detail in answering this and other questions. Mr. Hepper thanked the NPS for organizing the meeting and was pleased to see some old friends including Mr. C. K. Sthapit, Mr. C. L. Tulsyan, Mr. K. M. Mulmi and Mr. K. Pradhan among others.

Mr. Bertsch spoke on various aspects of

Tibetan coins and banknotes. On behalf of the NPS, I had the pleasure of garlanding Mr. Hepper and Mr. Bertsch with Tibetan Khadas.

After a brief meeting we adjourned to the Baithak Restaurant for dinner. By chance Mr. Hepper's visiting group members were also having dinner there. We all enjoyed dinner and the Tibetan and Nepalese cultural dances.

We thank Mr. Hepper for sharing his whole evening and his vast knowledge with us.

[Mr. Bertsch is a non-member of NTPSC who sends occasional articles to us - ed.]



Colin Hepper, Sagar Shrestha, Wolfgang Bertsch



Colin



S. Shrestha offering the Khada to Colin, Ramesh Shrestha (NPS VP) is applauding



front row: U. K. Shrestha, H. R. Tuladhar, K. M. Mulmi, S. S. Sakun, R. M. Karmacharya, B. K. Pradhan, R. K. Shrestha
back row: R. L. Baidya, R. B. Amatya, C. Hepper, S. M. Shrestha, W. Bertsch, V. S. Upadhyaya

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