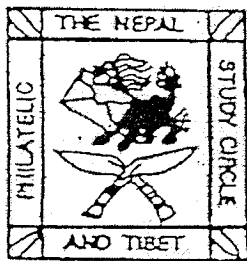


Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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





Postal Himal is a quarterly publication of the Nepal & Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Membership subscriptions run from January through December of each year. Dues should be paid in local currency at the prevailing exchange rate to the Society representative in your area.

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122
British Philatelic Federation Affiliate #435

	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>Life Member</u>
Great Britain	£20	£55	£400
USA	\$30	\$80	\$600
Europe	€25	€70	€500

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
12 Charnwood Close
Peterborough Cambs. PE2 9BZ
England
Phone 01733-349403
email: colinhepper@aol.co.uk

Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett
6 Rainbow Court
Warwick, RI 02889-1118
USA
Phone (401) 738 0466
email: editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

The Board of Directors: President: Mr. Colin T. Hepper Vice President: Mr. Geoffrey Flack
Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper Treasurer: Mr. Colin T. Hepper Auctioneer: Mr. Leo Martyn
Members at large: Mr. Christopher Kinch, Mr. Alan Warren Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett

Representatives: Europe: Mr. Colin T. Hepper - see address above
Nepal: Mr. Surendra Lal Shrestha, G. P. O. Box 72; Kathmandu, Nepal
USA: Mr. Roger Skinner, 1020 Covington Road, Los Altos, CA 94024, USA

Patron: Mac Linscott Ricketts

Honorary Life Members: Colin Hepper, Jit Bahadur Manandhar

Life Members: Richard G. Azizkhan, Mario C. Barbieri, Joachim Bednorz, Johannes Bornmann, Jeremy Brewer, Steve Chazen, Elizabeth Downey, Geoffrey Flack, Richard M. Hanchett, Douglas Hatch, William Jansen, Jaya Hari Jha, Manfred Lauk, Gerhard Lenser, Leo Martyn, R. Murray, Bruno le Peut, Peter Planken, Kedar Pradhan, Barbara Praytor, Surendra Lal Shrestha, Roger Skinner, Rishi Tulsyan, Dick van der Wateren

New Members: Mr. Brian G. Vincent, P O Box 1321, Wellington 6140 NEW ZEALAND (Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan)
Mr. Kenneth Goss, 4667 Boone Drive, Fremont, CA 94538 USA
Mr. Hebert Mailander, Via Karl Wolf 16, 39012 Merano ITALY

Rejoined: Mr. Henry A. Pattiaz, 3615 Shady Oak Road, Studio City, CA 91604 USA

Resigned: Mr. Harry Rabinovich, USA
Mr. David Hand, USA

Dropped for Non-payment of Dues: Mr. Bob Gould, USA

<u>Publishing Schedule:</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Cutoff for Articles</u>	<u>Into Mail</u>
	151	24 August 2012	07 September 2012
	152	16 November 2012	30 November 2012
	153	22 February 2013	08 March 2013
	154	31 May 2013	14 June 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officer's Corner		1
Editor's Ramblings	Richard M Hanchett	1
Congratulations and Upcoming	Richard M. Hanchett	1
Sinchekha PO: A Post Office in a Tin Shed	Leo Van der Velden	2
Special Cover sent from Rongbuk Post Office, Tibet	Brian W. Smith	4
Tourist Fee Receipt - "Donation" to the Maoists	Dick van der Wateren	5
Mustang Cover	Sagar Man Shrestha	6
Ebay Sales 27 January 2012	Colin Hepper FRPSL	7
The Half Anna Forgeries from the Collections of Colin Hepper and Leo Martyn	Hepper and Martyn	8
Book Review <i>A Tribute to Late King Mahendra</i>	Richard M Hanchett	12
Report on NTPSC meeting WESTPEX 2012	Richard M Hanchett	12
Photographs of Nepal	Alfonzo G. Zulueta, Jr.	13
Forgeries	Bo C. Olsson	14
Commerative Covers	Surendra Lal Shrestha	15
An Unissued 2 Paisa Stamp?	Colin Hepper FRPSL	16
Emails to the Editor		16
Study Circle Auction	Leo Martyn	16

Officer's Corner

In place of the Officer's Corner article which would have appeared from Geoffrey Flack, I (the editor) am writing this to let you know that Geoffrey is seriously ill with Stage 3 cancer. He has said that he intends to fight it, but that the prognosis for his recover is not good.

I would ask each of you, regardless of your personal religious beliefs, to please say a prayer for Geoffrey asking that he might be restored to full health.

Editor's Ramblings

CONGRATULATIONS to our Vice-President Geoffrey Flack who has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. It is a signal honor and well deserved. We now have our President and Vice-President as Fellows of that Society.

Dick van der Wateren has sent an email asking members who wish to purchase the new edition of his book *Nepal Postal Stationery* [146:9 - ed.] to please pay using PayPal to save him a fee (15€) that his bank charges for foreign checks. When you go to PayPal it will ask for his email address which is water313@planet.nl.

Apologies to **Sandeep Jaiswal** for misspelling the name of his exhibit in the last issue of *Postal Himal* 149:1. The exhibit's correct name is Rajpipla State, not Rajpopla State.

For those of you who have been looking forward to a **Study Circle Auction**, please see Leo Martyn's article on page 16. And please note the information regarding the sending of material.

Your editor has been doing one of his favorite pastimes this year - travelling. First stop was in Porto, Portugal for the AGM and 50th anniversary of the founding of the Portuguese Philatelic Society accompanied by my wife Patricia. I started collecting Portugal several years back as my wife is of Portuguese ancestry. Porto reminds me a lot of San Francisco - a lot

of up and down, up and down, up and down. It definitely builds up an appetite. And there was plenty to eat and more to drink during the week we were there thanks to the PPS's President and her husband. The weather was very cooperative and we had a most enjoyable time. And of course there was a lot of time devoted to stamps. The PPS is headquartered in England and have an AGM every year. Every five years the AGM is held in Portugal. The Portuguese Postal Service had a special cancel available marking the 50 year anniversary.

And after Portugal, San Francisco and its hills for the WESTPEX show (again accompanied by Patricia who always enjoys San Francisco, especially when the weather cooperates as it did during the show).

And next will be NAPEX during the first weekend of June, but this time without Patricia. I hope that the weather will cooperate even if she won't be with me.

And that will do it for traveling for this year.

As you will remember Colin has decided not to attend WESTPEX every year as it is a long and expensive trip for him for just a weekend. So he hopes to attend every other year which means that he should be with us next year - hope that you will be there also, especially if you haven't every attend WESTPEX before. It is a well done show.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Alfonzo G. Zulueta, Jr. was awarded Gold plus the American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence: 1940 - 1980 plus the Donald Dretzke Memorial Award for Best Used Stamps for his exhibit "Afghanistan: Amunullah Period, 1919 - 1920" at WESTPEX.

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 2013 April 26-28, San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel
NY 2016 Javits Convention Center 28 May - 04 June 2016

Sinchekha PO: A Post Office in a Tin Shed

by Leo Van der Velden

The road to Sinchekha starts at Darla, along the by-pass highway from Gedu to Phuntsholing via the industrial town of Pasakha at the border with India. Darla is 8 km from Gedu post office, and Sinchekha 16 km from the Darla junction. The road goes slowly downhill, passing by the upcoming settlements of Gurung Dara and Arekha, the latter only one kilometer before Sinchekha. Construction activities are impressive in all of these places, as the Tala Hydroelectric Project (THP) is handing over all its offices and apartments in Gedu, 386 in all, to the newly established Gedu School of Management of the University of Bhutan, and moving to new offices in Arekha and the housing colonies in Gurung Dara, Arekha and Sinchekha, which are now boom towns. Gurung Dara, a spot with a name till two years ago, has a large warehouse with a helipad aside it, built in 2008 in case the Indian and Bhutanese prime ministers would pass by for the dedication ceremony, which at the end took place at the Tashichhodzong in Thimphu. This ceremony is shown on one of the four stamps on the recently released sheetlet commemorating the good relations between India and Bhutan, and showing the two prime ministers (Figure 1).

Eight kilometers further from Sinchekha, down below along the river, is the entrance to the THP power station, deep in the mountains, where the head race tunnel (over 22 km long) provides the water power to generate some 1,020 megawatt power. The construction started in 1996 by Indian companies with Indian labor, and the project was commissioned in several phases between July 2006 and March 2007. It almost doubled the GDP per capita in Bhutan from US\$ 700 to some US\$ 1,200. The housing for permanent employees started late 1990s in Sinchekha, and in recent years boomed again after the government decided to house a new faculty of the University of Bhutan in Gedu.

The old half-temporary structures erected in Sinchekha for the Indian labor forces of up to 6,000 men, are partly already demolished. One

tin shed at the left side of the road is still standing. There is a letter box hanging outside, for some reason painted in a yellow color variant, while above the entrance door a sign says: Sinchekha Post Office (Figure 2). The space inside, 5 x 4 meters, is divided into the post office proper (Figure 3), and small living quarters for the acting post master, Mr B. B. Gurung, or Bhakta Bahadur Gurung in full.

B.B. Gurung arrived in January 2007. He hails from the village of Ghumaaney in Samste district, where he was born in 1976 and completed only class VII at the local primary school. He first worked at the rice, potato and maize fields of his parents, before joining Bhutan Post as a postman in April 2003 in Gedu. He stayed with Gedu PO, collecting among others, letters from Gup's offices (head of gewogs or blocks) till December 2006, when he was re-assigned as post master in Sinchekha, keeping however his personal rank of post man. Mr Gurung replaced Mr Radna Thapa, who was post master from the opening of the PO in 2001 till December 2006.

Sinchekha PO is a full PO, but with ordinary money orders (MOs) only and without sale of philatelic items. At present there are 20 – 25 MOs per month to India and Bhutan, with a total value of some Nu 17,000. The PO receives some 300 or more letters, post cards, magazines and newspapers (Kuensel) per month, while outgoing mail is, on an average 300 – 400 per month, mainly company mail from the THP and the Indian sub-contractor Jay Pee Group (in full: Jay Prakash Associates Ltd, the builders of the powerhouse etc). With the shifting of THP offices and personnel to Arekha, the volume is only expected to increase.

The PO receives, by bus, on a daily basis incoming mail bags from Phuntsholing and Gedu, while there is an outgoing bag to Gedu only. The PO is open from 6AM to 5PM, with a lunch break from 1 – 2 PM. Post master B.B. Gurung stays in Sinchekha during the week, and joins his two children (5 year old son and 7 year

old daughter) and wife in Gedu during the weekends.

The cancellation seal used by Sinchekha PO is an old round rubber stamp, which shows a kind of ink blots, where there were may be one day letters (Figure 4). For mailbags and MOs it uses an old Phuntsholing GPO seal, the type used for wax seals. It has furthermore a rubber seal stating in three lines (Figure 5):

Postmaster In charge
Bhutan Post
Sinchekha

The land behind the PO slopes down towards a stream, with the concrete floors of the demolished former JP Group hospital still showing. The toilets are also still standing, and used by Mr Gurung, as the PO itself has no sanitary facilities. During my visit I could see gray langurs and large brown monkeys playing in the tall trees along the stream.



Figure 1

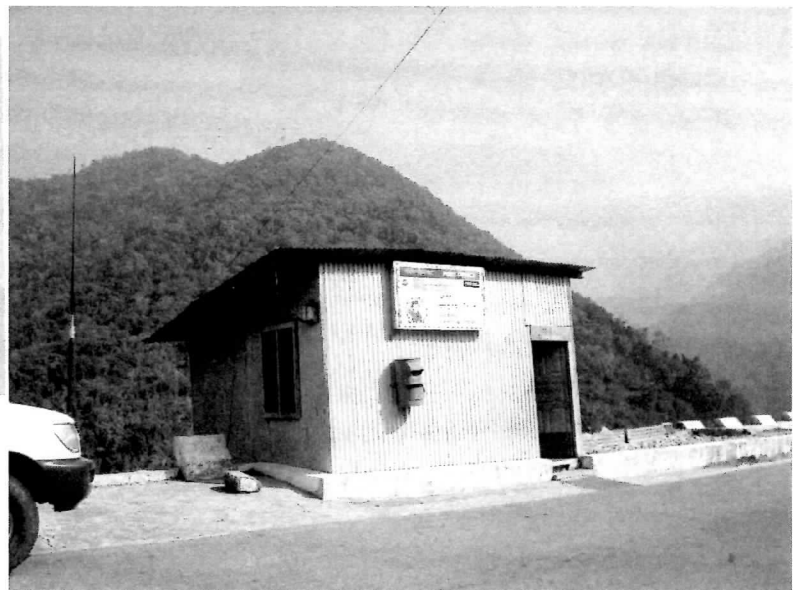


Figure 2

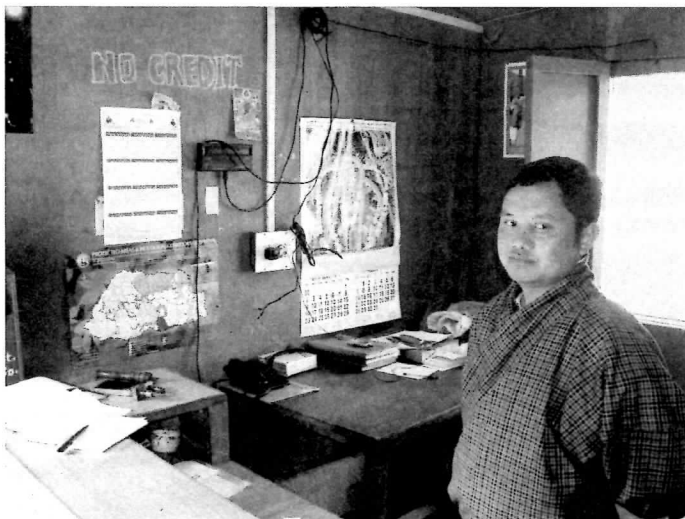


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

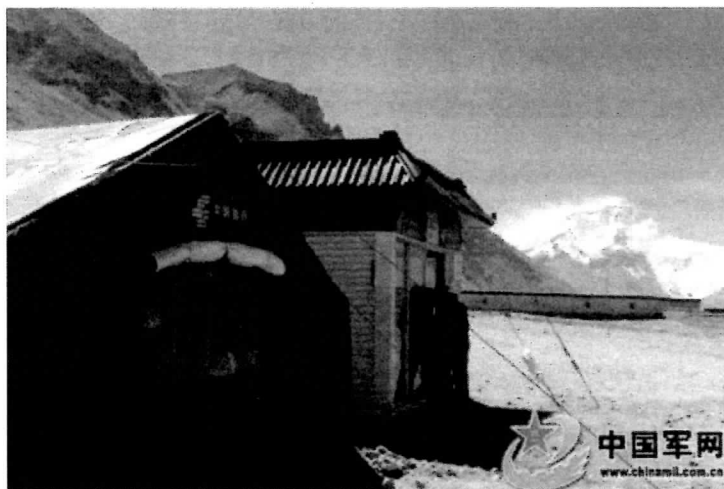
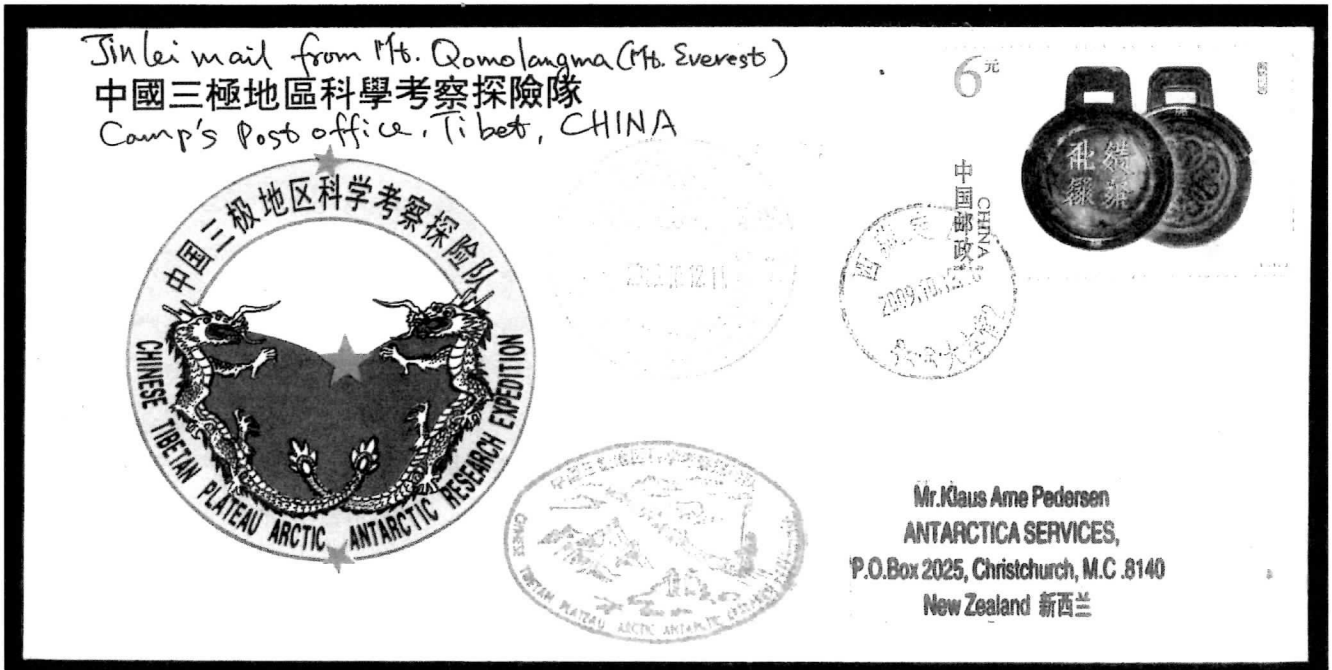
Special Cover sent from Rongbuk Post Office, Tibet
by Brian W. Smith

I purchased this cover from eBay in early 2010. It was supplied by a Mr. Klaus Pederson of New Zealand who worked on an Antarctic Survey Vessel. His Chinese work colleagues organized a trekking expedition to the Everest region of Tibet and they had this special cover printed in Beijing. The cover was posted from the Rongbuk Post Office near the Everest Base Camp [see also "Tibetan Post Office at

Rongbuk" *Post Himal* 136:7 - ed.], with a special cachet, on 12 October 2009.

Since purchasing this cover I have endeavored to find other examples - e.g., postcards - but without success. I would be interested to hear if other members have any postal history items from this location.

My email address is brian63@inbox.com.



Rongbuk Post Office at Everest Base Camp, Tibet

Tourist Fee Receipt - "Donation" to the Maoists by Dick van der Wateren

Unit all the oppressed classes & people of the world!
Long live Marxism-Leninism-Maoism & Prachinpath!!

S/N 3107 TOURIST FEE RECEIPT

For the protection of language, culture and art of Magarat Autonomous Region, for the development of tourist areas and to keep them clean and beautiful and finally to bring about the complete change by completing the Nepalese Revolution, your help will be important. We welcome you and our heartfelt thanks for your help.

Tourist fee Rs. 1200/- or \$ 15.00

Voluntary Donation :-

- Date :- 2064 7 5

Special Regional Bureau
NCP (Maoist)
Magarat Autonomous Region



The fee of \$15.00 has been paid by a trekking tourist at a checkpoint southwest of Pokhara to the Maoist rebels in 2007. These checkpoints were installed to earn money (revenue) for the protection of language, culture and art of the *Magaret Autonomous State*. Magaret State comprises Palpa, Rukum, Rolpa Baglung, Myagdi, Arghakanchi, Pyuthan, Gulmi and Salyan. Dev Gurung, member of the Maoist Central Committee said that the Maoists were compelled to declare autonomous states to exert

pressure on the Government to be serious towards timely drafting on the Constitution. Officially Ram Bahadur Thapa, the General Secretary of the ex-rebel party, declared 13 Autonomous States on 11 - 17 December 2009 of which *Magaret* was the 12th. It will be clear that the fee was not on a voluntary basis but was obligatory.

Mustang Cover by Sagar Man Shrestha

[This article was received from Mr. Shrestha in November 2010. It was in response to an article “Mustang Cover?” by Ed Gosnell 143:15. It should have appeared much sooner and the editor apologizes for allowing it to ‘slip through the cracks’. - ed.]

It is a very interesting cover indeed with the rare red seal of the Mustang King Jhem Yang Parwar on the back. The information given is correct regarding the Postal movements during those days. Letters coming from Mustang to Kathmandu should enter the Nepalese Postal System at Baglung and then enter Pokhara as the Transit Post Office before reaching its final destination of Kathmandu. It was addressed to Chief General Dev Shamsheer Jung Bahadur Rana. He was not Prime Minister at that time. In 1898 Bir Shamsheer (PM 1885 – 1901) was the Maharaja and Prime Minister of Nepal.

I have a similar cover to yours (Figure 1). This cover was also sent by the Mustang King (in the local vernacular ‘Mustangee Raja’) Jhem Yang Parwal with his Red Seal on the back. Addressed to the Maharaja and Prime Minister Chandra Shamsheer Jung Rana Bahadur (PM 1901-29) at Thapathali palace, Kantipur, which was the name of Kathmandu at that time.

Presumably, a 1 anna (postal rate at that time) stamp has also been removed here. On the back is a negative manuscript Baglung postmark dated 59/4/28 (1902/8/11) with Pokhara transit postmark dated 59/4/30 and Kathmandu delivery postmark of 59/5/3.

Both the covers have following interesting similarities;

- 1) Both were sent by Mustangee Raja Jhem Yang Parwar with his personal seal on the back to seal the joints of the handmade cover, like writing '74' in those days.
- 2) Stamp removed from both covers – may be due to light use of glue on Nepali handmade paper cover. Normally, stamps easily come off of local handmade covers if the gum not pressed properly.
- 3) The postal and transit rout to reach Kathmandu is same on both covers.

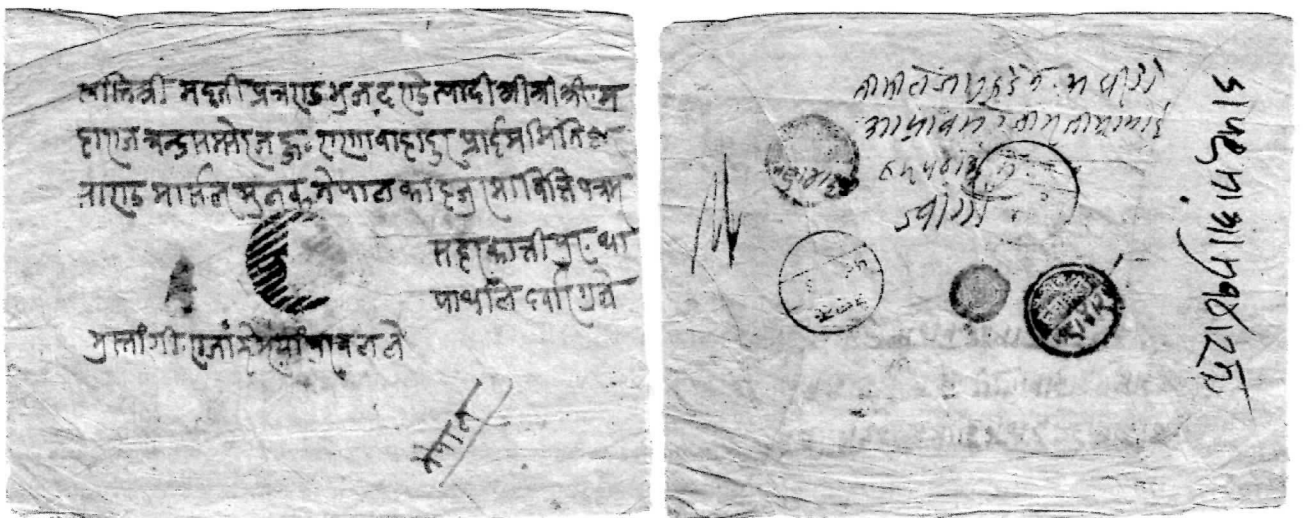
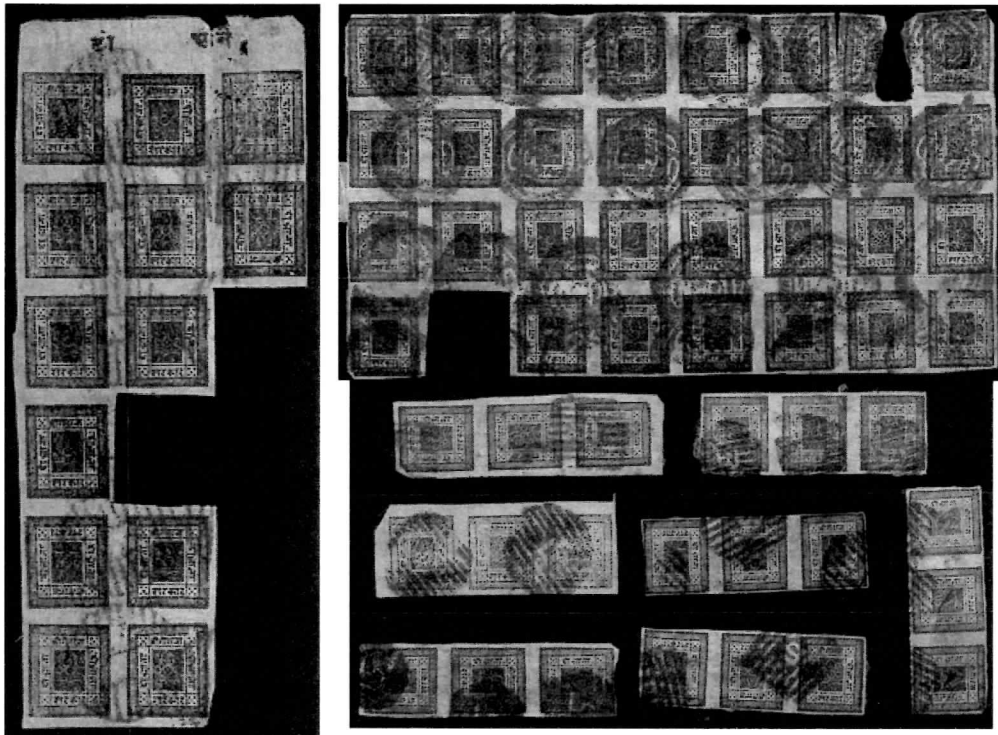


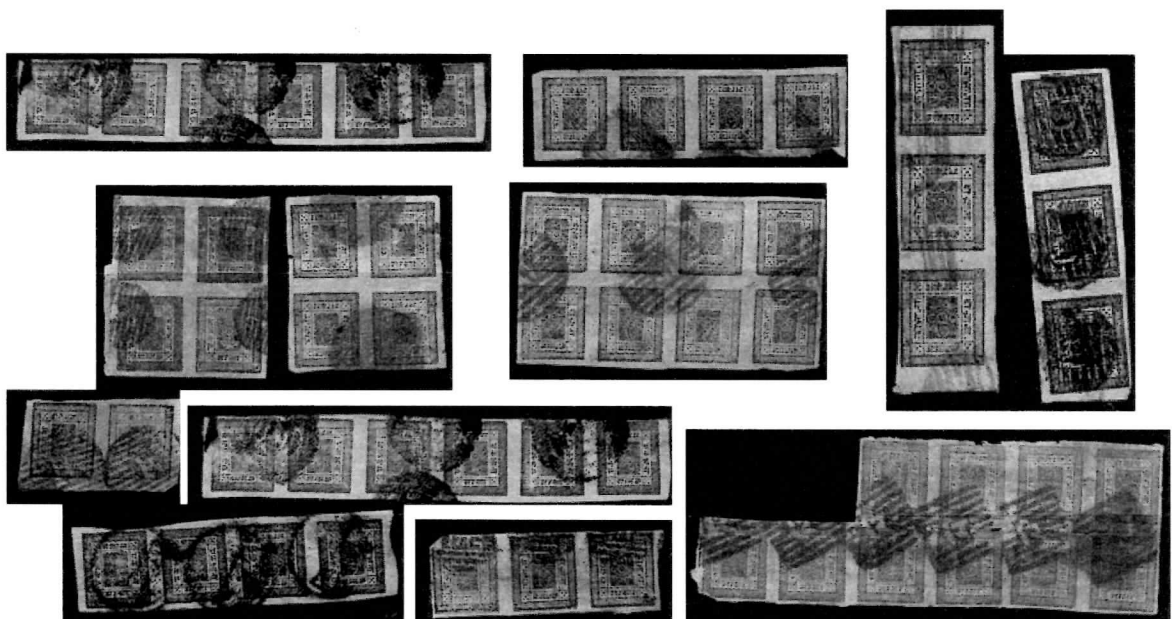
Figure 1

Ebay Sales - 27 January 2012
by Colin Hepper FRPSL

Lot with large blocks of 2 Anna plus strips of 2 anna and 1 anna all very fine used sold for \$1108.88



Lot with blocks and strips of the classic stamps, all very fine used sold for \$430.00



The Half Anna Forgeries from the Collections of Colin Hepper and Leo Martyn

by Colin Hepper FRPSL and Leo Martyn

The early forgeries of the one anna stamp were always produced as a single stamp which would indicate that there was only one cliché made. They are always cancelled with a variety of forged cancellations or as the one illustrated which has been pen cancelled.

In comparison with the genuine stamps the

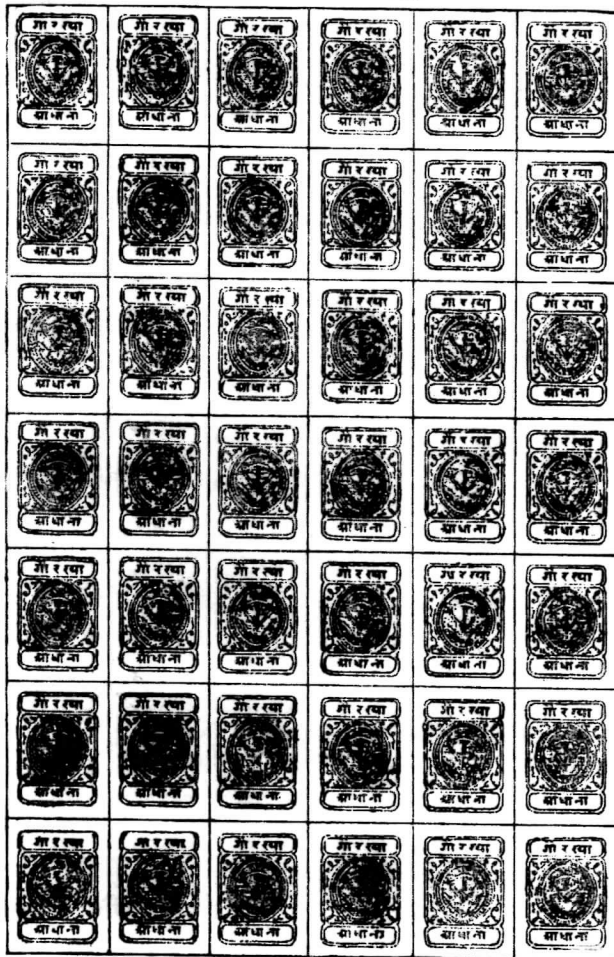
central design is crudely drawn and there are far less divisions round the central circle. The lettering in both top and bottom tablets is not quite the same as the genuine issue. A good number of these must have been produced as they can still be seen in Nepal collections and occasionally on eBay.



Early forged stamp



Genuine stamp

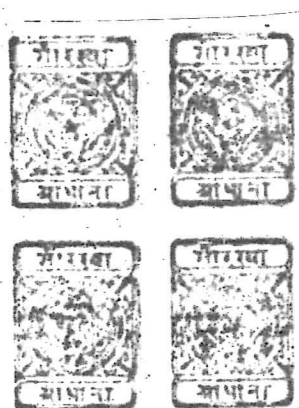


It was probably in the early 1980's that the next forgery appeared which was a complete sheet of 42 printed on a thin European paper with a line drawn between each row of stamps. The central design is not very distinct and there are gaps in the lettering in top tablet and they are more or less joined in the genuine stamp.

All the clichés appear to be exactly the same which would lead to the theory that there was only one cliché made which was carefully impressed on the original sheet with the lines then added. The sheet was then either photocopied or scanned and printed from a computer.

At the time these were being sold as 'proof' sheets. The sheets are known printed in orange as well as black.

Now the computer age has made things much easier for the forger, with such software as desktop publishing, printers that will produce accurate colours and local native paper being readily available.



Block of 4 Orange

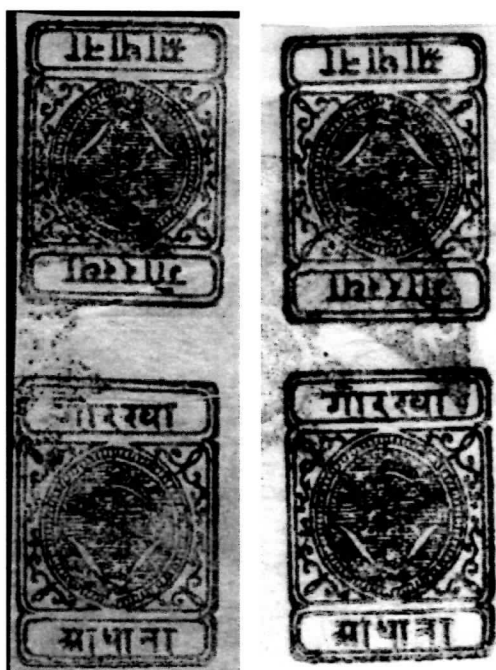


Block of 8 black.

The two blocks illustrated seem to have many of the characteristics of the 'proof' sheet but without the ruled lines and are printed on native paper.

There are of course forgeries of complete native paper. At present they seem to be sheets which have been produced by computer limited to vertical tete-beche pairs and apart and have been printed in a variety of colours that from the fact the surface seems to be very would not fool anyone. smooth in comparison to the genuine stamp,

In more recent times the quality of the which has a slightly rough feeling, they are forgeries has improved considerably with difficult to detect. genuine stamps being scanned and printed on



Forgery

Genuine

The illustrated tete-beche pairs show how good the forgeries are as the only way to tell the forgery is that the gap between the two stamps is too wide.

I have ten other vertical pairs, two of which are printed in orange where the stamp details and the distance between them are correct. These were purchased from an Indian dealer who was selling them as forgeries and the only way the black stamps can be detected is by the smoothness of the paper they are printed on. Each pair is exactly the same but once split up would be almost impossible to detect. The two orange ones have incorrect colours.

The Half Anna - Orange

As the orange colour is the more valuable of the two, it is more tempting for the forger than the black colour. Detection can be very easy with those printed in the wrong shades or which have design errors. As with the half anna black the design error is almost always in the central

stamp design with the Kukris generally being too wide apart. There is a wide range of colours, ranging from pink to yellow. The examples below show the stamp printed in a pink, vermilion and yellow colour.



Pink

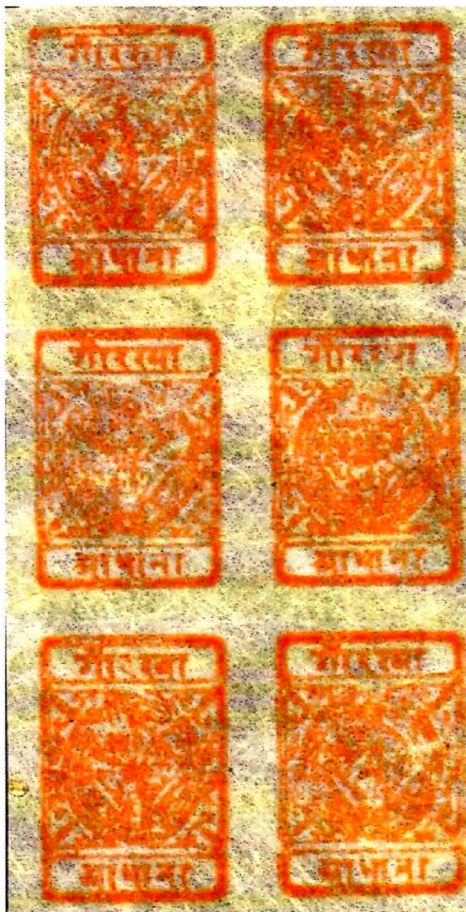


Vermilion



Yellow

However when the colour is correct it becomes more difficult. When a stamp of the correct colour becomes available either through a dealer or an auction, treat it as a forgery in the first instance and then do a detailed study of the design. If the design is OK then proceed with the purchase.



This illustrated block of six is typical of the computer produced forgeries with all the stamps having a solid outer frameline.



A very dangerous forgery is a block of four of the orange stamp.

In particular, note the dark line across the centre of the top right stamp and the poor designed bow in the bottom right stamp.

The illustrated block of 12 is in fact the above block of four repeated three times across the sheet.



All of the illustrated orange stamps are from the collection of Leo Martyn.

Book Review by **Richard M. Hanchett**

A Tribute to Late King Mahendra by Kaji Madhusudan Raj Rajbhandary, Kathmandu, 2010, with a foreword by Dr. Ramesh Shrestha. Full color, 142 glossy pages, bound. Price: US \$50.00 (including Registered Postage) or Nepalese Rupees 2,500.00.

Order from Punya R. Sthapit, GPO Box 1079, Kathmandu, Nepal or email - prs.79@hotmail.com or puast69@gmail.com [see also *PH* 146:10 -ed.]

A work of love from Mr. Rajbhandary, who served King Mahendra as Private Secretary, Principal Personal Secretary, Deputy Chief of the Royal Household and as Master of Ceremonies. He has received many honors and decorations including Kaji and Trishakti Patta First Class.

The book is subtitled "A collection of Postage Stamps, Postal Stationeries, Gold Coins (Asarphis) & Bank Notes of Nepal Issued During the Reign of His Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva March 24, 1955 - January 29, 1972".

The subtitle is an accurate summary of what the book contains. The Postage Stamps and Stationeries section contains full color copies of each stamp issued, along with color copies of First Day Covers, a few Special Occasion Covers, and, where they exist, Folders. Details are also given for each stamp including the occasion for which it was issued, the color, perforation size, stamp size, printing method, stamps per sheet and print quantity. Each page

is devoted to a single issue.

Also illustrated and discussed are the Service Stamps and the Income Revenue Stamps of 1962 as well as the Postal Order Services of 1966, the Registered Envelopes of 1962, the Postal Envelopes of different values, Postal Cards and Aerogrammes.

The photography in this section is excellent.

The Coins section illustrates the Obverse and Reverse of each coin. The details of some of the coins are not as clear as they could be, with the result that some of them appear as a colored circular detail-less blob.

The Bank Notes section contains full color illustrations of each banknote (front and back) along with the printer, size of the note, security features incorporated into the note, and, for notes issued after February 19, 1960, an approximation of the number of notes printed.

The book is well done with a good amount of useful information and it is well presented. A good addition to a philatelic/numismatic library.

Report on NTPSC meeting at WESTPEX 2012 by **Richard M. Hanchett**

Eight members and one guest were in attendance at our WESTPEX meeting: Leo Martyn, Hap Pattiz, Frank Vignola, Ken Goss, Alan Warren, Roger Skinner, Geoffrey Flack, myself and guest John Wynns.

We were all very pleased that Geoffrey was able to join us.

After introductions and general remarks [see also pg 16 for notice of Society Auction - ed.] Alan Warren showed us his updated presentation on Tibet. While general in approach it contained a wealth of information

and, of course, excellent visuals. It was both informative and enjoyable and generated both questions and comments. Thanks Alan for a job well done.

Although Al Zulueta was not able to attend the meeting he did have his Afghanistan exhibit in competition and was awarded Gold. I am still amazed at the size of the stamps. It is easy to see why they are placed on the back of the cover - there isn't enough room on the front for the stamp and written address.

Photographs of Nepal
by Alfonso G. Zulueta, Jr.

[These photos were all taken by Al during a trip to Nepal in 1980 -ed.]



Swayambunath Stupa, Kathmandu



Holy Man, Kathmandu 1980



Boy on Temple Grounds, Central Kathmandu

Forgeries by Bo C. Olsson

Unfortunately eBay and similar sales places are flooding the market with false and manipulated items.

I enclose two items that are not dangerous to the Tibet specialist, but for the newcomer or even average collector they can be dangerous.

First, a pair of 4 trangka 1933 issue with a Nangartse postmark (Figure 1) offered at a complete fantasy price. Both stamps and postmark are forgeries.

Second, a genuine registered cover (Figure 2). It was earlier stamped with a 4 trangka stamp which was removed and replaced with a 2 trangka stamp to fill in the hole left by the removal of the 4 trangka stamp.

Rainer Fuchs detected a very smartly forged cover in Gärtner's November auction and I a few more. Included was one cover with a Dahnke certificate, but even so it didn't help - it was still a forged cover.



Figure 1

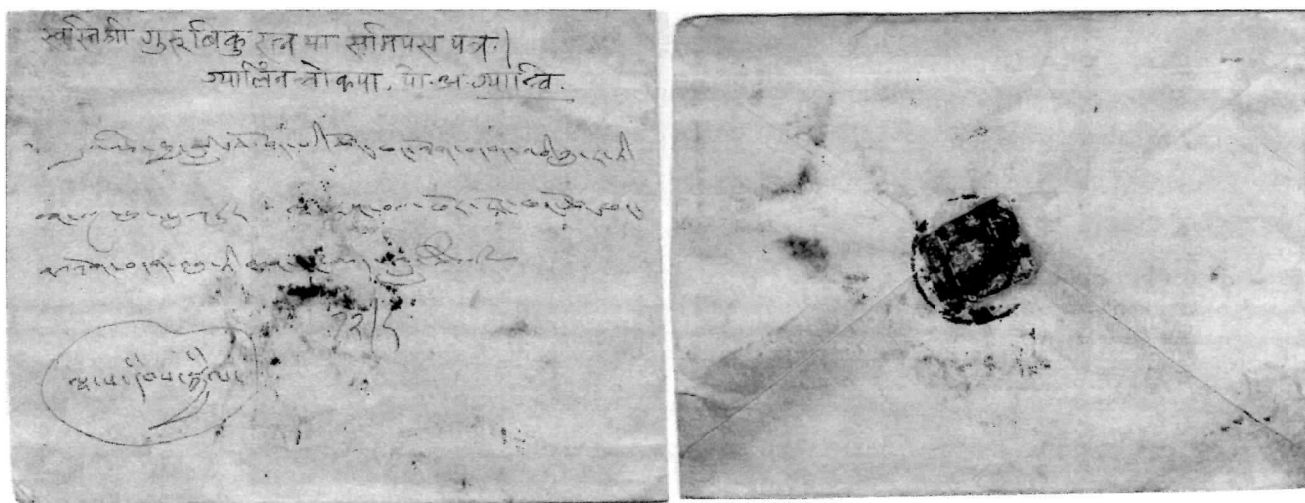


Figure 2

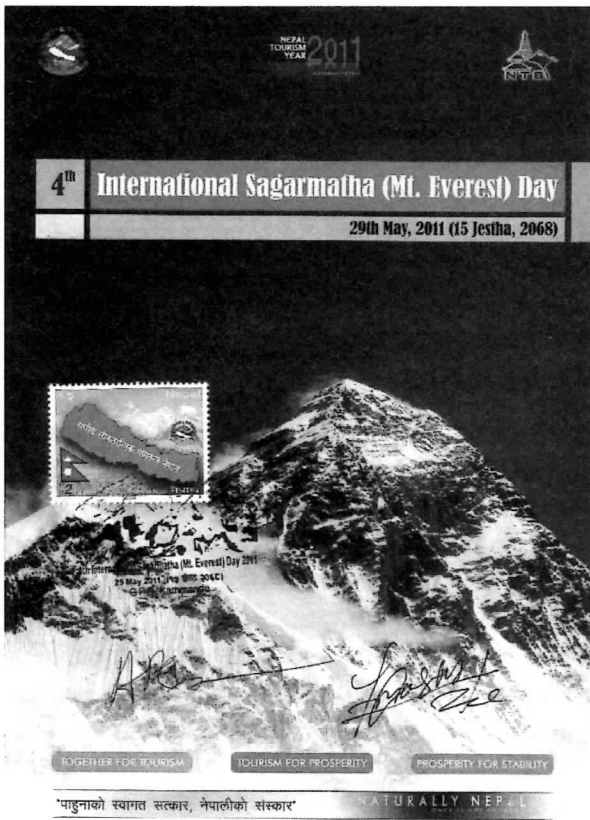
Commerative Covers by Surendra Lal Shrestha



ACC Elite Cup 2011



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011



4th International Sagarmatha Day 2011



Mingma Sherpa (left) with Surendra Lal Shrestha



Surendra Lal Shrestha (left) with Appa Sherpa

Appa Sherpa has summited Mt. Everest 21 times and Mingma Sherpa is the first Nepali to summit 14 8000-thousanders. Their signatures appear on the commemorative card.

Covers and card courtesy of Surendra Lal Shrestha

An Unissued 2 Paisa Stamp?

by Colin Hepper FRPSL

The 'stamp' illustrated was in the collection of A. E. Smythies and seems to have been produced at about the same time as the Nepalese were trying to produce their own stamps in the 1940's. The question arises 'was this an unaccepted design' of a 2 pice stamp and the local printed Pashupati stamps were preferred?

The general overall design is very similar to the 1959 2p 'Cottage Industries' stamp. Could they both have been deigned by the same person?

If anyone has any theories on this or in fact know why it was produced please let the Editor know.



Emails to the Editor

From Alan Warren

Marlise Simons wrote in the October 16, 2011 issue of *The New York Times* that the noted explorer and author Michel Peissel died in France October 7 at his home in Paris. He was 74. Peissel was educated in England and France, and obtained a doctorate degree in ethnology from the Sorbonne. He authored a dozen books and produced or directed nearly two dozen documentary films about his explorations and adventures, many of them to remote areas of Tibet. His books and films were largely based on his 30 expeditions to Tibet and the Himalayas.

Peissel was also an accomplished photographer and artist, and recorded many scenes of Tibet with line drawings and watercolors. He explored areas of the Tibetan high plateau as well as Ladakh and Zanskar, and he obtained permission to cross Bhutan. He decried the destruction of Tibetan monasteries and was openly critical of the Chinese. Peissel spoke fluent Tibetan and often associated with Tibetan natives to learn about their culture.

[A search on Amazon.com lists over 100 entries with both hard cover and paperbacks, some in French, some in Spanish and some in English. Among those listed were the following: *Cavaliers of Kham: The Secret War in Central Asia*; *Lords and lamas: A solitary expedition across the secret Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan*; *Zanshar: The Hidden Kingdom* -ed.]

Study Circle Auction

by Leo Martyn

The Study Circle auction will take place in October of this year. Please email me (himalayan@att.net) if you have items to consign. Please **do not** send material without prior acceptance.