



Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Officer's Corner

It has been a bit of a difficult summer so far as I have been suffering with sciatica for the last few months when I seem to have spent weeks either lying on my back and the rest of the time hobbling around with a walking stick. MRI scans have shown that I will need to have an operation on my back, so stamp collecting has been off the menu for quite a while. However I was fortunate enough to have a short period when the offending disc moved and was able to have a very pleasant day with Danny Wong at a meeting of the Royal.

New York 2016 is in May next year but like everything else will soon seem to come round. Rainer Fuchs has set up a discussion page on the website for all those members who are going, through which we can find who will be there on what days and hopefully be able to set up meetings and perhaps lunches/dinners together. So please make a visit to the website. A list of hotels in close proximity to the venue are currently on the NY-2016 website.

Colin

Editor's Ramblings

I am sure that we all wish Colin a speedy and complete recovery from his upcoming operation. Rainer's email regarding the discussion mentioned above is on page 11. I hope that all members planning to attend NY2016 will use the web site.

Also we will need volunteers to man our joint Society table which we will be sharing with the India Study Circle. The rules of the exhibition require that the table be manned during all of the hours that the exhibition will be open. We can certainly use Rainer's site to indicate the days and times that we are willing to donate to manning the table. It isn't a very completed procedure—just sit there and talk about our Society to prospective members and anybody else who shows up. I think that it would be a good idea to have some past copies of *Postal Himal* to hand out to those interested. If you run out of copies we could have a list for those who wish to receive a sample copy which I will have printed and sent to them.

As far as hotels are concerned there are three possible sites for you to use: for show attendees: <https://registration.experientevent.com/ShowWSS161/>; for dealers and postal administrators: <http://registration.experientevent.com/showWSS161/?flowcode=DEL>; links are also at the NY2016 website: http://www.ny2016.org/SubMenu/Hotel_Reversations.aspx?id=522. Assistance can also be obtained from Experient Customer Service via email: worldstamp@experient.com or toll free at 1-800-967-8852 or international 847-996-5832.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Gold and Reserve Grand plus United Postal Stationery Society Champion of Champion Award for his exhibit "British India - Queen Victoria Postal Stationery" at NAPEX

Ed Gosnell was awarded Vermeil for his exhibit "Nepal: From Outside the System" and Silver for his exhibit "Nepalese General Jaget Shumser and the Sepoy Rebellion of 1857" at COLOPEX

Danny K. C. Wong was awarded a Medal from the Royal Philatelic Society London for Outstanding Service to the Society

Anthony Bard was awarded the Royal Philatelic Society London Tapling Award

Rainer Fuchs was awarded Large Gold for his Tibet 1912-1960 exhibition at the Bilateral Exhibition in Gotha

Johannes Bornmann was awarded Large Gold plus Special Award for his Nepal Classic Postal Stationaries exhibit at the Bilateral Exhibition in Gotha

Yushu Earthquake Temporary Post Office by Danny Kin Chi Wong

At 07:49hr, 14th April 2010, the residents of Jyekundo were awakened by an earthquake of 7.1 magnitude. Jyekundo (Chinese name: Jiegu) is the seat of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, with a population of over 100,000, predominantly Tibetan. I am intimately associated with this place for the past three decades through my teacher and good friend, the Venerable Ato Rinpoche. Therefore when Ato Rinpoche returned to his monastery in July to see his disciples and fellow countrymen to assess the damages done, I decided to go with him, bringing with me donations from my fellow colleagues, the company and myself.

The devastation was horrible. The traditional buildings were not quake-resilient and entire street blocks collapsed with monasteries smashed and religious relics in ruins. Post offices, like other government buildings did not collapse but were damaged beyond repair and were unsafe to work in. Miraculously the newly-completed huge statue of the legendary King Gaser stood to the test.

To meet the communication requirements of the local population, post services were set up at temporary structures and mobile post offices (as illustrated). I could not but help to post a registered letter from the temporary post office to my home addressed in Taicang near Shanghai.

The postal stationery cover was specially issued on 2nd June 2010 for the Yushu Earthquake charity, bearing a map of Qinghai province upheld by two hands, with date of the quake and slogan TOGETHER WE STAND and a face value of RMB1.20 for ordinary domestic letters. There were strikes of special cachets in memory of the quake.

I purchased the postal stationery cover, and sent it back to the postal clerk with additional fee to make up to domestic registered letter rate. He put the additional postage stamps on reverse, cancelled on 23rd July, and the letter arrived on 29th July, even before I returned to base! The date stamp in use was the same as before the quake, and the speed of delivery was normal – and the apparent normalcy was in fact most remarkable!

In Jyekundo the temporary markets were busy, restaurants full, the local population was positive-minded and optimistic. Ato Rinpoche's monastery had minor cracks but it was fully functional. There was only one fatality in the village.





Obtaining Stamps in Tibet
From *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* March 1951, page 81
written by A. M. Crawford
submitted by Brian Smith

The present international situation in the Far East is tending to bring such countries as Korea, China and Tibet to the front page of the international newspapers. This will, no doubt, create among philatelists a renewed interest in the stamps of such countries.

On the occasion of a visit to Tibet a few years ago, I determined to acquire some Tibetan stamps and I found that it was not quite such a simple matter as one is apt to look upon it here at home.

I crossed the Natu La, a pass just over 14,000 feet, from Sikkim into Tibet in the plebeian and normal manner, on the back of a mule, an animal which, by the way, plods along on the outside edge of the narrow mountain pathways. It is rather nerve-wracking experience, at first, for the unaccustomed rider to look down, as so often happens, to the bottomless depths thousands of feet below. But one soon gets used to it and the mules are very sure-footed. It is over such roads, narrow, rocky and often washed away in the rains that the *dak* runners brought the mails from Tibet to India.

I spent a few days in the rest bungalow at Yatung, a lovely little village, about fifteen miles within the Tibetan border, cupped in the hollow of the hills. Here I discovered I could not obtain Tibetan stamps as, at that time, the Yatung post office dealt only in British Indian stamps!

I then moved onto Pharijong up on the Plateau some twenty-odd miles on the road to Lhasa. Here I was assured I would be able to obtain Tibetan stamps, but I was warned to be careful as two young army officers, who had passed through Phari some time previously on their way to Gyangtse, had bought some stamps there and, taking advantage of their ignorance, the postmaster had charged them extortionate prices! No doubt they had indulged in the interminable bargaining of the East to their own disadvantage.

On arrival in Phari, I set out for the post office which was what would be popularly called a mud-hut. The floor was being cleaned by the simple

process of digging it out and exposing a new layer of earth. Judging by the step down at the doorway, this was not the first time! The postmaster was absent, and, owing to language difficulties, I was unable to find out when he would be available.

Somewhat disappointed, I returned to the rest bungalow and sat down to make a sketch of the 23,000-ft. mountain, Chomalhari, which was visible at this time. While busy with my pencil I noticed a robed and booted figure approach. He stood gazing over my shoulder for some time and then without a word turned and moved away. By his dress, lined with lambskin, and his leathern Tibetan boots, I knew he was someone of importance.

At that moment the Bhutia in charge of my mules came by and I asked him, nodding towards the retreating figure, whether that was the Jong, or ruler of the district. On hearing that it was, I sent him after the Tibetan hopefully with an invitation to tea which was just about ready at that time.

The invitation was accepted and with the help of the mule man a conversation of some kind was carried on. I soon discovered that my new friend was very anxious to have his photograph taken and I assured him that I would certainly take it for him and, after developing, would send a copy back to him from India. He then asked if there was anything he could do for me in return.

The opportunity seemed too good to be missed. I explained that I wanted to obtain some Tibetan postage stamps. Saying that that was a simple matter, he got up and left at once. He was a long time away — indeed, I began to wonder whether, as I did, he was having difficulty finding the postmaster! I was the more anxious because of my promise to take his photograph, for the light would soon begin to fade, and as I was leaving Phari before six the following morning, I would not be able to take the photograph if darkness fell before his return.

However, he returned eventually and just in

time to get the last moments of good daylight. With him he brought a handful of Tibetan stamps. I was quite unable to find out what they cost and I even began to wonder if my friend had really paid for them or had helped himself from the postmaster's stock!

Thus my Tibetan stamps cost me only the price of a snap, and I was delighted to find that I had specimens of all those of the 1933 issue

catalogued by Gibbons, including some blocks. They were, of course, printed on native Tibetan paper, some used and some unused, but all were of the imperforate variety. The photograph was duly dispatched from India some weeks later, a clear picture of a formidable-looking character, but I never discovered whether the recipient was as satisfied with his side of the bargain as I was with mine.



The man who knows how!

Change of Name of Post Offices in Bhutan 1962 – Present (conclusion)

by Leo van der Velden

C. Same Place, new Name

Together with the renewed attention to the use and standardization of the national language in the late 1980s and early 1990s came a renewed drive to give attention to the national culture. As a result, there has been a policy to change place names with foreign influences (Indian or Nepali) to Dzongkha based ones, affecting a limited number of places in the Nepali speaking districts along the border with India. For instance, Kalikhola PO, famous among Bhutan collectors for the vintage photograph of its postmaster in front of the post office, has become Lhamoizingkha CMO. Surey PO is since a few years Jigmechholing PO and Daifam PO changed to Jomotsangkla PO. The official prescribed official transliteration of the new name places is still not commonly known. We even can expect some more confusion, as the Election Commission has been introducing in 2012 some more name changes on its own, like for instance Dewathang for Deothang, Draagteng for Drakten and even more rigorously, Tashichhoeling for Sipsu. Also the introduction in the last few years of the Community Centers (CCs) has led to name changes like Katsho PO/CC for Haa PO and Maedwang PO/CC for Kasadrapchu PO, reflecting the name of the block (gewog) where the settlement is located.



<i>Name at date of opening and dzongkhag</i>	<i>aka</i>	<i>New name, according to recent Bhutan Post listings</i>
Bhangtar (1973) (S/Jongkhar)	Bangtar, Bhantrar, Kawaipani (Bangtar)	Samdrupchholing CMO; in postcode list: Samdrupcholing CMO
Chimakothi (1965) (Chukhha)	Chimakothi, Tshimakothi, Tsimakothi,	Tshimasham PO
Daifam (1970) (S/Jongkhar)	Daifam (as per first set of cancellation devices); this (mis-) spelling can still be observed	Jomotsangkha (Daifam) PO; in postcode list: Jomotsangkha PO
Ghumaunay (1970) (Samtse)	Ghumauney	Yoeseltse CMO (closed)
Ha Dzong (1965) (Haa)	See under table A above	Khatso PO/CC (in postcode list only)
Kalikhola (1968) (Sarpang)	District boundaries changed, and now in Dagana district, but for Bhutan Post included under Chhukha district.	Lhamoizingkha CMO; in postcode list: Lhamoizingkha CC/ CMO; RGOB preferred spelling is Lhamoy Zingkha
Kasadrapchu (1970)	K/Drapchu	Maedwang PO/CC (in postcode list only)
Lalai (1972) (Sarpang)		Umling CMO (closed); in postcode list: Umling CC
Leopani (1975) (Sarpang)		Dekiling CMO (closed); in postcode list: Dekidling CC
Nainital (1973?) (Samtse)		Ugyentse CMO (Nainital); in postcode list: Ugyentse CC
Shumar (1974) (Pema Gatshel)	Changed name to “Dungsum Pema Gatshel“ in 1982	Pemagatshel PO (note that a Shumar CC has been recently opened as well)
Surey (1970) (Sarpang)		Jigmechholing (Surey) PO; in postcode list: Jigmecholing PO/CC

D. Shifting Locations and combined Offices

In some cases P&T would combine existing offices in a new location, often a more centrally placed market place. So present day Duksum PO or Doksum PO, located in the local market area, was established in 1992 (spelled as Dogsum), as a combination of two nearby POs: Rangthanwoong (aka Rongthongwoong) and Tongmiyangsa. In a number of cases the construction of hydro-electric projects would lead to new temporary or permanent villages or towns. The Chukhha Hydro project, for instance, not only led to the establishment of the new Chukhha PO in 1977 in their new permanent company town, but also to a “Surge Shaft Colony“ BPO which was renamed Dobiari BPO (1980), and shifted some ten years later to the labor camp at Tsimalakha (1994) and became an PO named after that new location. Tsimalakha changed almost to a ghost town due the closure of the works, the PO became a CMO and was later on closed, its tasks taken over by the vintage post office in the nearby growing market place of Tsimakothi (1965), which recently changed its name to Tsimasham PO. The Tala Hydro-electric Project which started in 1996, saw the opening of Sinchekha PO³ at the labor camp of the head race tunnel and at the other end of the tunnel a temporary (1 to 2 years) extension post office of Darla at Mirenchu (2007). With the end of the construction activities in Sinchekha in 2007, and the start the following year of a few hundred new Tala Hydro offices and staff apartments in nearby Arekha, including space for a new PO, it is just a matter of time before there will be again a change in location, with most probably the revival of the old Darla/Dala PO name, which has confusingly already been used in Bhutan listings also to refer to Sinchekha PO. Eight kilometers from Darla is Gedu, a location which grew moderately in 1980s when a large veneer and plywood factory was constructed there, and dramatically when the Tala Hydro project established its headquarters in Gedu in the mid-1990s. P&T decided therefore to relocate nearby vintage Putlibhir PO (1965), located 3 kilometers further down the highway towards Phuntsholing, to Gedu in 1996, while Darla would be downgraded from a full PO to a CMO under the gup’s office with a letter box at the house-cum-shop of an BP postman who was relocated from Darla PO to Gedu PO. The construction of the Kurichu hydro project, started in 1995, lead to the opening of a post office at the project site in 1996, which would find a permanent place in the new township of Gyelposhing and the relocation of the nearby Lingmeythang PO (1979) to that location.

Table D. shifting locations and combined offices

Present Name (recent Bhutan Post Listings) with date of opening	Details	Aka
Duksum PO, Doksum PO (1992)	Started as Dogsum PO as a result of the combination of the nearby (B)POs of <i>Rangthanwoong (1977) (aka Rongthongwoong)</i> and <i>Tongmiyangsa (1975)</i> , which shifted here.	Dogsum, Dosum,
Chazam (Sephu) CMO, Chazam/ Sephu CMO (1993)	This is just a case of one CMO with two names. The CMO is housed in the Sephu BHU (Basic Health Unit). Sephu is the name of the block where Chazam is located. Chazam is the name of the small market along the Wangdue – Trongsa lateral highway near a bridge, where the BHU is located. It is not listed as an official place-name. A confusing situation.	Chazam CMO

³for Sinchekha PO see Postal HIMAL #150 2nd Q 2012.

Drakten CMO, Drakteng CC/ CMO (1993)	Drakten was incorporated in Kungarabten, and then known as K.Rabten (Drakten) CMO, which only a couple of years ago changed again to Drakten CMO	Kingarabten (Drakten), Kungarabten, K/Rabten (Drakten), Dakten
Drametse CMO, Dremtse CMO (1980)	Gongdu BPO incorporated here	See under table B above
Jenkhana (Sama) CMO (1993) (closed)	Sama was combined with Jenkhana	Recently an Samar CC was opened
Gorgan CMO (1989)	Zangkhar BPO (1978) in Mongar district shifted to nearby Gorgoan (aka Gorgan) just over the districts border in Lhuenste.	Gorgoan (Zhangkhar) CMO, Zhangkhar (Gorgan) CMO
Gedu PO (1996)	Putlibhir PO (1965) shifted here in 1996 at the opening of the new PO	
Gyelposhing PO, Gyelpozhing PO (1996)	Nearby Lingmeythang BPO (1979) (aka Lingmethang) shifted here in 1996.	Gyalpoizhing; and also often misspelled by Bhutan Post as Gyelopshing;
Langthel CMO (1978/9)	Lamthey BPO (1975) shifted here in 1978/79	Langthil CMO
Lingmeythang BPO (1979) (shifted)	Khalanzi BPO (1974) shifted here in 1979	Lingmethang shifted to Gyelposhing (see above)
Misina (Lobesa) CMO (1993) (closed)	This is just a case of one CMO with two names. Misina is the name of the main market of Lobesa village. The only remnant of the CMO is a red letter box on the front of the shop which housed the CMO in the past.	Lobesa (Misina) CMO
Nainital CMO (1973) ; renamed to Ugyentse CMO (Nainital) see above table C	Chargharey (1970) aka Charghare shifted here in early 1990s?	Nanital
Rangung PO, Rangjung PO (1992)	Bidung PO (1971) was incorporated in Rangjung PO as of its foundation in 1992. Bidung PO had at that time already shifted from the village of Bidung to Lungtenzampa without change in postal marks or postal listings.	
Tashiling (Tshangkha) CMO (1996) (closed)	Tshangkha (1993) APO shifted to Tashiling in 1996	
Wirringla CMO (1978) (closed)	Kengsilambi BPO (1972) aka Kensilampi, Wensilambi shifted here in 1978	Wirringla, Wringla

Emails to the Editor

From Rainer Fuchs

Greetings,

I would like to take the opportunity of the mail received by Richard to write about the NY2016 exhibition next year.

Myself will be there (with wife) and I have already Hotel reservations arranged thru the Internet Site of the show.

I also have created a discussion on the Forum where we can discuss meetings and other social events.

http://fuchs-online.com/forum/world-stamp-showny-2016_topic205.html

Looking forward to discuss the show and planned meetings/events and meeting some of our members at the show.

Kind regards

Rainer

From Oleg Novoselov

Dear friends!

My name is Oleg Novoselov. My father had worked 40 years as a teacher at the High school, now he retired. Last year he organized small philatelic club in the school. It consists of 15 students - hope it will grow. At our town we have small resources for development of the club, that's why we collect only Russian and Soviet stamps. You know philately was very popular in USSR and it's practically disappeared in modern Russia. He tries to revive it at the local level and to inspire young people with such hobby.

For several years I've been studying culture and history of postal services. Once I was lucky to visit your beautiful country. So I want to ask you to send some stamps to share with that club. It will be great honor and also possibility to show the students great culture and history of the US. On our side we also can give you some of our stamps.

Mailing address:

Oleg Novoselov
Rudneva St 61a-26
Tula
Russia
300026

Sincerely,
Oleg Novoselov

The Revenue Stamps of Bhutan

by Brian G Vincent FRPSNZ

First issue



Figure 1

The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue lists the four revenue stamps shown in Figure 1 (F1 to F4) as being issued on 1 January 1955 - the date that they “could be used for postage on domestic mail”. The catalogue adds that “they are denominated in local currency (the shiki) for which however no coins existed. Until 1965 (when Bhutan produced its own coinage) Indian or Tibetan money was used.” The four stamps are listed in Indian currency as – (UL) ¼r blue, (UR) ½r carmine-red, (UL) 1r green and (LR) 2 or 5r orange. They explain that “Prior to decimalisation in 1957 the “8” value was sold at 2r, after 1957 at 5r.”

The SG Catalogue also mentions that the 1 blue stamp was hand-stamped 10NP or 25NP, adding that these were not official issues.

J Barefoot Ltd, in their “South East Asia Revenues” catalogue, follow the Stanley Gibbons descriptions except that the 2sh denomination is listed as “carmine”. The date of issue is given as “1955 (or earlier)”, which probably reflects the fact that this is a ‘revenues’ catalogue. It is noted that the vast majority of other information sources reviewed for the purpose of this article did not use the term “shiki”.

The Scott catalogue lists this set (AR1 to AR4) under the heading “Postal - Fiscal Stamps” with the same date of issue as in Stanley Gibbons, but records their denominations and colours as 1ch blue, 2ch rose red, 4ch green and 8ch orange. “Ch = chetrum. 100 chetrum = 1 Ngultrum (or Rupee)”. Scott adds “After the issue of regular postage stamps in 1962, they served primarily as fiscals, although they appear to have been postally used into 1964”.

The correct term for the actual currency used for these stamp denominations is difficult to determine from the various published reports. H D S Haverbeck (in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 46, No. 2) records the four stamps as being 1 Trangka blue, 2 Trangkas red, 4 Trangkas green and 8 Trangkas orange. Haverbeck provides some background to the issue of these stamps, “[Jigme Dorji Wangchuk] needed a method of accounting for the smaller taxes and fees, so in 1954 he ordered adhesive revenue stamps...”. These were subsequently authorised for postal purposes from 1 January 1955.

Kenneth Trettin, ARA, in an article titled “Bhutanese Fiscals”, *The American Revenuer*, October, 1977, states that the stamps appeared in 1953 and that they provided an accountable system of taxation other than through traditional means. He adds that the stamps were issued “in Tibetan currency –

trangkha and sang.” Trettin also records the overprinted stamps that were mentioned in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue (although he states that two different values were overprinted) and comments “*Specialists in Bhutanese material, to our knowledge, have never seen actual stamps of this issue, although photocopies appear to abound.*” He states that they were recorded as having appeared in 1962. The 2 Trangkha stamp is described as being printed in red.

As an aside it is noted that the above sources use four different shade descriptions for the ½r (or 2ch or 2trangkha) stamp – carmine-red, carmine, rose red, and red.

With regard to the date of issue, the current Wikipedia entry on “Postage Stamps & Postal History of Bhutan” records this as 1954 (the currency is expressed as “Thangkha”). The on-line entry also states that “*the set has been reprinted in the 1950s on paper that varies from the first printing in 1954, while also the colour ink may differ.*” It is additionally reported that the 1961 or 1962 surcharges “10NP” and “25NP” have been identified as fakes originating from Kathmandu, Nepal.

Finally, as regards this first issue, it appears that Trettin’s view that specialists had not seen the overprinted values may now be incorrect. Len Nadybal’s website “Bhutan Stamps, Covers & Postal related History” (www.bhutanstamps.info) illustrates some covers bearing these stamps. He also illustrates copies of both values, referencing them as 10NP on 25shiki and 25NP on 25shiki.

So what are the correct denominations of these four stamps? N G Rhodes wrote an article for *India Post* No. 76 Vol. 17 No.2 (1983) titled “*The Denominations of the First Issue of Bhutan*”. He referenced published material by Frank Warner (1956) which described the values in ‘annas’, and by Arnold Waterfall (*The Postal History of Tibet*, 1965). In his article Rhodes concluded that “*there seems to be no consensus of opinion as to what the denominations are.*”

However a *Linn’s Stamp News* article of 24 July 1989 “Confusion Surrounded Bhutan First Issue” suggested that the consensus today (i.e. in 1989) would be for the denominations to be as described by the Stanley Gibbons catalogue as outlined above (in Rupees). The Wikipedia entry challenges this conclusion by using ‘Thangkha’ as the currency. To conclude, it is noted that elsewhere Wikipedia refers to Tibetan currency as being ‘tangka’ which circulated alongside the ‘srang’.

Subsequent issues

J Barefoot’s revenues catalogue lists a set of 4 stamps (perforated 14) issued c1960. The denominations are – 10ch (carmine), 20ch (carmine), 25ch (pale green), and 1 Nu (sage-green).

Also listed is the 10ch (carmine) overprinted in violet c1970 (It is noted that other circular hand-stamps exist, but it is not known whether these are overprints or otherwise.)

It appears that two of the stamps listed in Barefoot as c1960 may have been issued in 1966 as Wikipedia states that it took until 1966 for the next set (i.e. after the first issue) of revenue stamps to appear. Two denominations in Bhutanese currency were identified as being issued at that date – 10ch (red) and 25ch (jade). There is no mention of the 20ch and 1 Nu values recorded by Barefoot. I do have copies of these two denominations in my collection which may well be those mentioned in Barefoot (see Figure 2).



Figure 2

Four legal or Judicial stamps completed this series (*figure 5*) – 5Nu (green), 20Nu (blue), 50 Nu (orange) and 100Nu (yellow). All of these 1996 issues except for the 1Nu (red) stamp are larger in size than other revenue stamps issued by Bhutan.



Figure 5

As to the distinction between “revenue” stamps and “legal” stamps, Leo van der Velden has advised (pers. comm.) that “legal” stamps are used when agreements are made, while “revenue” stamps are used when payments are made.

Finally there are those stamps seen on the eBay website that are not mentioned in the listings outlined above. 20ch (red) and 5Nu (orange) revenue stamps are described as “2nd issue of Fiscal stamps”, and the 5Nu was annotated “issued sometime in the 1970s”. Also a 25ch (green) was described as part of the 2nd issue but was unissued (the block of 12 had the description “*instead the 20ch pink stamp was issued and in use.*”). However this seems to be at odds with items in my collection that show use of a 25ch green stamp on documents (this may be the same stamp – see Figure 6).



Figure 6

There is also no mention in these articles/listings about the 20ch red and 5Nu orange stamps being issued in reduced size on a white paper (see Figure 7).



Figure 7

Clearly there is much to be clarified and confirmed regarding Bhutan’s revenue stamps. I would be grateful if readers could provide further information and any corrections about these stamps.

Kathmandu Machine Cancellations by Colin Hepper, FRPSL

The first type of machine cancel to be recorded was in 1965 with the first day of cancellations being 11 June 1965. On looking through my collection I realized that all the different types that I have were on airmail letters, except the first one, when in that case it was used as a receiving postmark. So I am not sure if the machine cancels were used exclusively on airmail letters or it is just a coincidence that the letters in my collection were all airmail. The cancellations recorded here were on mail that I received up until the mid 1990's and then the internet took over and mail from Nepal has now almost dried up.



The first type of machine cancel used as an arrival postmark dated 6 July 1966



The second type was on an postcard sent by airmail dated 3 November 1987. It differs from Type 1 as the wording at the bottom is G.P.O. instead of Nepal and the date is in two lines.



The third type is the most scarce of all the machine cancels. The date stamp is the same as type two but there are now seven wavy lines. This was the cancellation on an aerogramme sent on 5 February 1987.





A square datestamp was the design for the fourth type used on an airmail letter to England. This datestamp only records the month and the year which in this case was April 1978.

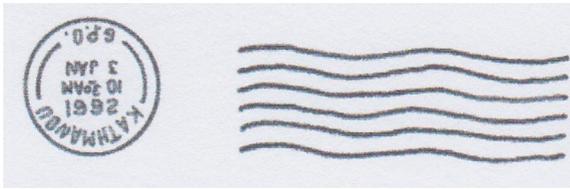


An internal airmail letter sent in 1991 shows that the square datestamp has been dropped and there is now one almost the same as type two, except that the time of posting is now included. The letter is dated 22 August 1991.



An internal airmail letter dated 12 January 1992 has the same cancellation as the cover the previous year, except that the time and year are now reversed.





The machine cancel on this local airmail letter is the same as type two except that apart from the year date all other information in the date stamp is upside down. The letter was sent on 3 January 1992



Machine cancel on a telegramme receipt dated 14 June 1994. The larger datestamp just has the word Kathmandu around the top the date across the centre date band.



A magazine cover cancelled with a machine cancel that is very similar to the one cancelling the telegramme receipt except the there are wavy lines on both sides of the date stamp which has the letters G.P.O. at the bottom. Dated 3 October 2001.

