

Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE
NTPSC Homepage (courtesy of Rainer Fuchs) <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpsc>



Nepalese Postal Carrier—1966

The photo was taken by American Peace Corp Volunteer Joe Hammerman in August 1966 near the village of Lahami in Dang Deukhuri District.

Postal carrier on north-south footpath from Ghorahi to Koilabus. He is carrying a spear with a small bell attached to ward off animals as he crosses the Dudha range of the Siwalik hills. Mail is in the bag over his shoulder. The container he is carrying probably has water. Distance between the two towns is about 50 kilometers. Courtesy of Doug Hall

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Dear Members

Summer seems to have passed all too quickly this year and by the time you receive this issue my wife and I will be relaxing on a holiday in Egypt. Then it will be back to stamp meetings with my local society, supporting the local football team and I expect that the High Street shops will be full of things for Christmas.

You will find with this issue details of a very fine auction listing that Leo has put together. Gathering

the material, preparing and describing the list is a very time consuming task and we are indebted to Leo for his expertise in this field.

Included with the next issue of Postal Himal will be the reminders to those whose subscriptions are due. For those of you who still receive hard copies of the magazine it may be a time to consider having it by email, which would help to reduce the workload of those involved in its production.

Colin Hepper

Roger Skinner Receives the APS 2017 Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award

Study Circle member Roger Skinner is among the recipients of an American Philatelic Society 2017 Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award. The awards are named in memory of the late APS president Nick Carter and are bestowed on volunteers for their national or local service. Roger is honored for a Local Service award, and the citation notes:

“Roger Skinner has provided outstanding service, innovation and leadership for more than 25 years in developing and operating the Western Philatelic Library, Redwood City, California. He also has created an outstanding layout for the Westpex show, allowing maximum usage of space. Key

contributions of Roger’s efforts include two difficult and successful relocations of the library; transition of the library from a manual card catalog to an electronic card catalog; personally subsidizing significant budget shortfalls; and covering library open hours when there has been a shortage of volunteers.”

The Carter volunteer recognition awards were presented at the APS general membership meeting at Stampshow in Richmond, Virginia, on Saturday, August 5, 2017.

Photo of Nepalese Postal Currier

For the past 3 years Doug Hall and his wife have been collecting, digitizing, and cataloging photos taken by Peace Corps volunteers who served in Nepal in the 1962-1975 period. They now have over

19,000 photos in the collection and have provided complete sets to libraries, museums, and other organizations in Nepal.

For more information contact Doug Hall at: doughallnh@comcast.net

Editor’s Ramblings: Thanks is given to all who submitted articles and information to the latest Postal Himal. Your contributions are really appreciated and help provide an informative newsletter. Included with this issue of the Postal Himal is the society auction. Leo Martyn has again done an excellent job

organizing and publishing the latest auction. Volunteers like Leo help make the NTPSC as a thriving organization that it is.

Ken Goss has been extremely helpful in reviewing the newsletter and correcting the typos that inevitably happen.

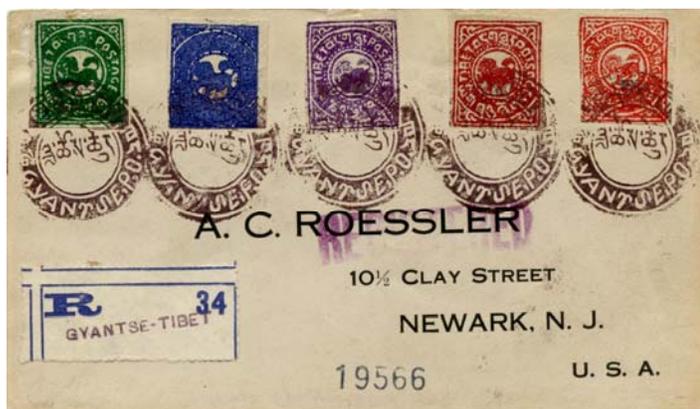
Congratulations!

Edward Gosnell received a gold, the American Philatelic Society research medal, and an Ephemera Society of America certificate at the COLOPEX show in Columbus, Ohio in June for his “Seals, Covers, Documents, and Correspondence: A History of 19th Century Nepal.”

Rishi Kumar Tulsyan received a gold with special prize for “Nepal: The Prestamp and Classic Period 1779-1907” at the Bandung 2017 FIP exhibition held in Indonesia in August. Babu Ram Rasaili received 78 points for “Nepal: Shri Pasupati Era 1907” in the single frame class. Medals are not assigned to one frame exhibits, only points.

A 1914 Tibet Cover to the United States

by Alan Warren



Front of Cover



Back of Cover

Albert C. Roessler was a widely known dealer, cachet maker and servicer of first day and event covers in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of his covers he mailed to himself at his East Orange, New Jersey address. He used a handstamped address, a printed address, and often just a handwritten address, using the name "A.C. Roe."

He was positively prolific with these creations that went beyond FDCs to include naval covers, flight covers, and even covers sent from other countries. Examples are known from Mexico, Canada, Sweden and elsewhere. In 1937 he arranged for King George VI Coronation covers to be sent from twenty British colonies.

Especially surprising is the cover shown here that Roessler arranged to be sent in 1914 to himself, bearing a complete set of the first native issue of Tibet (although the 1/3 trangka blue is heavily over-inked). The stamps were all cancelled at Gyantse and at first glimpse they appear to have overpaid the rate—typical of philatelic mail. However, they did not pay anything towards the journey to New Jersey as they were not valid for use outside of Tibet. The country had not joined the UPU.

Instead the stamps of British India that appear on the back of the cover did the work. The two stamps total 4 1/2 annas which paid the 2 1/2 annas letter rate abroad to non-commonwealth countries and the 2 anna registry fee. The Tibet stamps could pay for domestic postage but the cover originated in Gyantse, Tibet, which was also the point of departure for the letter. The British Indian post office at Gyantse applied the Gyantse Siliguri Base postmark on the Indian stamps.

The base office cancels are dated February 13, 1914. The cover arrived at the New York registry division office March 15 and the Newark, N.J. registry office the next day. The 31-year old Roessler's office was located at the Clay Street address in Newark at the time¹. The cover was not intended to be a first day cover as the stamps were issued in 1912.

Very few commercial covers of Tibet during 1912 -1915 are known. Most are philatelic as Tibetans did not normally send letters, particularly abroad². British soldiers would send them home as philatelic souvenirs.

Albert Roessler has been criticized for his philatelic creations. However, it is also true that many of the special historical events that he captured with his prepared covers might not have been postally documented otherwise.

References

1. Newton, Barry. *Specialized Catalogue of Roessler Cachets*, F.D.C. Publishing Co., Stewartsville N.J., 1977
2. Olsson, Bo. Personal correspondence with the author, 2017.

Two Tibet collections from Sweden for sale at David Feldman:

by Bo Olsson and Bengt-Erik Larsson

David Feldman, auctioneers in Geneva, are celebrating its 50th anniversary holding various auctions in early December. <https://www.davidfeldman.com/auctions/upcoming-auctions/>

One of the highlights are two Tibet collections. They were formed over many years by Bo Olsson and Bengt-Erik Larsson. Bo Olsson is one of the very few experts that can write certificates for the difficult early issues.

The catalogue will be a reference for future Tibet collectors.

Contact Feldmans to buy a hard copy or download the digital version when available.

Of the two collections one is specialized in the various shades/printings and the other in 1933 issue sheets.

A number of the rare Waterlow essays and also native Tibetan proofs will be on offer. Not to mention other interesting items, like Bailey 1924 covers. Col. Baily was the only Westerner to actually see the early stamps printed. A highlight in the Tibet auction is a 13th Dalai Lama scarf cover, c.1925. - Colin Hepper



Bo Olsson

Bo had started to collect Tibet already in 1956, over 60 years ago. He was a schoolboy then and had been fascinated by his teachers telling about the mysterious Tibet.

A Gibbons Simplified catalogue was a Christmas gift in 1956. Soon he contacted Stanley Gibbons to send him a selection of approvals. Their stock of Tibet was very limited and he was sent just a few stamps. Needless to say, he bought them all and that was his start of a lifelong relation with Tibet stamps. His major interest was to study the different printing or colour shades. His checklist completed Waterfall's Handbook list. Only a few impossible printings are missing in his collection, such as the super-rare Pastel-Pink (Bluish Pink) printings of 1 tr 1912 and 8 tr 1914. Bo is more interested in research than mounting on pages, so his only participation in an exhibition was that the Swedish Post arranged at their PostExpo localities in 1988. A special postmark depicting The Potola was available for all posting. Bo was especially happy for all school classes and their teachers who visited the exhibition.

Bengt-Erik contrary to Bo was more interested in testing his collection in stamp exhibitions. His specialty was to display the 1933 values in sheets. His writings are very good and he also received Vermeil medals at National exhibitions. Some very rare items from his collection will now come up for



Bengt-Erik

auction. For example, the items include a rare cover stamped with a bistre stamp and an early registered cover with a 4 tr green perforated among others.



Example from the Feldman auction: Letter sent from Lhasa by Bailey to his wife while visiting Tibet

(See page 15 for another example.)

Nepal Aerogram H&G FG1 Used

by Sandeep Jaiswal



The Nepal aerogram, Wateren Wa1 and H&G FG1, is identified from the second issue because it omitted the swastikas in the four corners of the border by mistake. According to Wateren, in his book *"Nepal Postal Stationery"* page 91 "Mint ones are extremely rare and only one commercially used example exists, registered sent to Bhopal, India, April 20, 1959". Attached please find scans of what I believe is the item noted by Wateren. The inside is blank, and it is clearly philatelically inspired, not commercial, but it otherwise matches his description. What is puzzling is the presence of the First Day of Issue cancel.

Frank Vignola and **Wayne Menuz** reply (abridgement of various emails): It is not clear when this was mailed. The cancel on the back is Bhopal, India. The cancel on the stamps is G.P.O. Nepal, a standard type, but the date is unreadable. As you know, Nepal's first aerogram was issued with the FDC (as on the indicium of the this item), but was quickly withdrawn from sale when the error of the missing swastikas was noticed, which is the reason only a few mint copies are known, and not many more with the FDC. The used example paying the proper 8p rate, apparently, is the one noted in Wateren, which appears to be this example.

According to Wateren "The first printing was never issued, but made available to the collectors after cancelling the aerogrammes with the U.P.U. commemorative postmark."

The item was sold to the customer with the FDC applied, that is, having no postal validity. The

aerogram was issued on April 15 (Waterman says that was the date of "the first printing" without noting if it was the printing date or the issue date). The Bhopal receipt cancel on back is April 20.

An aerogram was considered first class mail, normally priced at a discount from first class. A contemporary rate table shows 10p for airmail per half oz. to India, but also 12p per 1 tola (0.41 oz.) for "surface", but notes "airlift is given to First Class Mails without surcharge for India". The two stamps total 48p, which conforms to 8p for the aerogram rate, plus 40p for registration, ignoring the cancelled indicium of 8p.

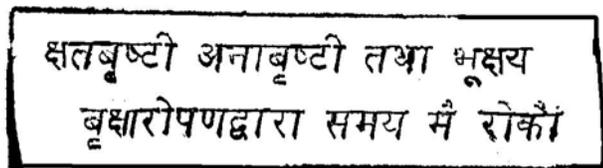
Based on the above, it seems this item is merely a FDC aerogram used as a piece of paper, franked with adhesive stamps to pay the postage. The one hole in this theory is that there are no registration markings of Nepal nor of India. However, it may be that the collector, intending to register it, put on the stamps, but was told by the PO that aerograms could not be registered. In Nepal, the postal clerks will cancel anything that is put in front of them. That said, it is definitely philatelic in origin, not "commercial" as noted in Wateren. We may now conclude there are no used Nepal #1 aerograms (commercial or philatelic) that employed the 8p indicium to pay the postage.

This article was originally published in "Postal Stationery" magazine of Sept-Oct 2017 by the United Postal Stationery Society, Inc, and more information about the UPSS can be found at the website www.upss.org.

Introduction:

This is the continuation of my previous articles on Nepal's Postal Markings in Postal Himal. Theme of the present article is the Postal Slogan markings that are applied at GPO to incoming or outgoing letters to convey the messages on different subjects to increase public awareness. As written by Colin Hepper in his book Postal Markings of Nepal, these are the least interesting areas for postal history collectors. Many times these markings are interesting; they give a message on a particular subject that is important at the time the message is applied to the envelope. For example a postal slogan was applied to increase public awareness of a census being held in the country and encouraging people take in part in the census and provide their demographic information. Other messages captured in this article are on subjects like Forestry and Tree Preservation, Health, Education, regional (geographic) development, Economic, Agriculture and postal significance. have included the slogans that have not been published in the past Postal Himal.

Forestry: Forest were once a very precious and abundant commodity. Now they are depleted seriously with population explosion since late 60s. Many postal slogans appeared during this period and later.



(1975)



हरियोबन पंचायतको पनि धन

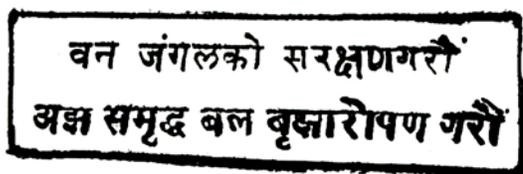
Green Forest is also the Panchayat's wealth

स्वय्य वातावरणको लागी
वृक्षारोपण गरौं

Let's plant the tree for healthy environment

रुख रोपी, बन जोगाऔं

Plant the tree and save forest



(1983)

Health: Most health slogans are related to vaccinations. The period (years) give some indication that during these time contagious diseases such as Smallpox, TB, Cholera, etc. were wide spread in Nepal in the 60s and 70s.

जताततै थुक्नाले क्षयरोग फैलिन

केटाकेटीलाई क्षयबाट बचाउन
बी० सी० जी० खोपाउनुस्

हेप्ति र अरु क्षयरोगबाट

Help Eradicating Tuberculosis by not spitting carelessly; To save children from Tuberculosis take B. C. G. vaccination (1960)

समयमै खोपाई बिफरबाट बच्नुस्

Save yourself from smallpox with timely vaccination (1973)

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



कनेराबाट बन्नु होस् ।

Save yourself from Cholera
(1975)

Economic Development and Regional Development: These slogans shows that Nepal's planners are enthusiastic about economic development of Nepal . These types of messages mostly appeared on incoming letters to increase the awareness of the public.

**देशको सर्वाङ्गीण विकास गराई
आर्थिक दशकलाई सफल पार्नु होस ।**

With the development of all over country make the
decade of economic successful.
(1970)

**आर्थिक दशकको सफलता
नेपाली मात्रको सफलता हो ।**

Success of economic decade is success of the
Nepalese only
(1971)

**आर्थिक समुन्नतिको दशक हाम्रो
राष्ट्रिय बहुमुखी आर्थिक योजना हो ।**

Decade of economic equality is our national
multifaceted economic planning
(1973)



Agriculture: Agriculture is the main occupation of Nepalese. At one period (before 70s) more than 90 % of the populations' main income was agriculture. Still a majority of population earns a living through agriculture.

**कृषि वर्ष, सफल पार्न पंचहस जांगर देखाउन
किसानहरू परिश्रमी होउन श्री ५ बीरेन्द्र**

“To make agriculture year successful, Panchas be
prepare to awaken so that farmers become
hardworking”

His Majesty's King Birendra
(1970)

कम्पोष्ट मल बनाऔं खेत वारी सपारौ

Make compost (organic) fertilizer, improve our farm
(1973)

कृषि पैदावर बढाउनु होस्

Increase Agriculture Products
(1971)

**“उन्नत र प्रसोधित बिउ विजन
प्रयोग गरी उत्पादन बढाऔं”**

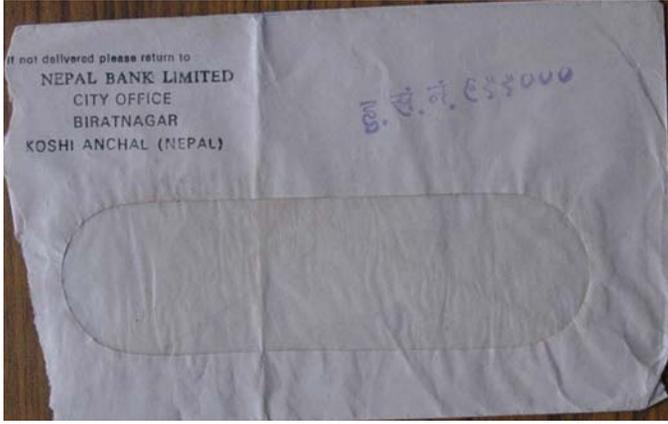
Let's increase the product by using improved variety
of seeds
(1975)

कृषि वर्ष सफल पारौ

Make agriculture Year success
(1976)

(Continued on page 9)

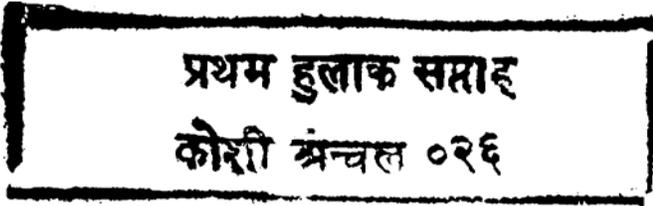
(Continued from page 8)



Post Office: In the 70s post office introduced new postal code for different places. It tried to educate and gently coerce people to use of postal code. Post Office failed to make the people to use postal code when writing address in the envelope.

POSTING UNDER CERTIFICATE

(1971)



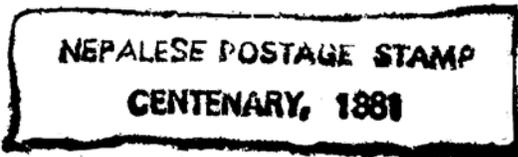
First Postal Week, Koshi Anchal, 026
(1970)

संकेत नम्बर प्रयोग गरी हुलाक सेवालाई सहयोग गर्नु होस् ।

Help the Postal Service by using postal code
(1973)

हु.सं.नं. ९११०००

Postal Code Number 911000
(1978)



Nepal Postage Stamp Centenary, 1881
(1981)



This sign was on a returned letter sent to Kathmandu
RN is assumed to be the abbreviation for RETURN

Census slogans: In 2018 BS (1961) Jesh (Nepal month equivalent to May-June) a nationwide population census was conducted. Postal slogans were created to encourage participation.

२०१८ नेठमा राष्ट्रव्यापी जनसंख्या हुनेछ ।

Announcement of the census
(1961)

कृषि गणना मा सहयोग गर्नु सच्चा राष्ट्र-सेवा गर्नु हो ।

To take part in Agricultural Census is the truthful serving of the Nation
(1961)

जनसंख्या मा सहयोग गर्नु राष्ट्रको विकास योजनालाई मद्दत गर्नु हो ।

To take part in population census is to help in National Planning
(1961)

राष्ट्रिय जनमत संग्रहमा भाग लिनु होस्

Take part in the national referendum (1981)

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



Regional Development was also promoted

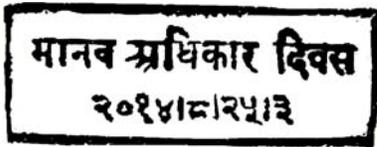
**क्षेत्रीय विकासमा
सबैको सहयोग चाहिन्छ ।**

We need the support form all for the regional
development
(1973)

**सन्तुलित क्षेत्रीय विकासमै
नेपालको प्रगति निश्चित छ ।**

Nepal's progress is certain in the balanced
development or regions
(1979)

Miscellaneous: Of course there are other events
and/or policies that are promoted by postal slogans.
The following are miscellaneous slogans that appear
on the mail.



Human Rights Day
(1958)

घरेलु उद्योगलाई टेवा दिनु होस्

Please support the cottage industry
(1973)



**शिक्षाको गुणस्तर बढाऔं
जनसहभागिता जुटाऔं
शिक्षा दिवस २०३६**

Increase the quality of education, let there be
participation of people, Education Day 2039
(1983)

**गाउँ घरलाई सफा राख्नु होस्
बिस्तारै मोटर हाक्नु होस्**

Keep the villages clean, drive the car slowly
(1969)

**नारीको विकासमा
सहयोग गर्नु होस् ।**

Please Support the Women's Development

Mail from the Nepalese Mobil Post Office



Registration label from the Nepal mobile post office.
The insignia of the Nepalese post office is on the
label. Letter sent to the editor by Sidhartha Tuladhar.

The Negative Postal Seals 1950-1965

by Colin Hepper

During the period 1950-1963 mails can be found that have been cancelled with a negative type cancellation. In his very fine book on Nepalese Postal History, Dr. Ramesh Shrestha lists 14 different post offices that have used this type of cancellation.

These negative seals are in fact the official post office mark to be used on correspondence and envelopes and should not have been used to cancel mail. The practice of using the seal to cancel mail seems to have in general died out after 1965.



Melung Negative Seal

The exception to this seems to have been the Melung Post Office with its five petals design negative seal. The post office was established in 1951 by Liberation Army and all mail was cancelled with this seal.

The example shown in Fig. 3 is a registered cover cancelled at Melung with the date of posting hand written over the lower two right hand stamps, dated 10 March 1960.



The example in Fig. 1 is an official stampless cover showing the correct use of the Bhojpur office seal on the left and the standard Bhojpur cancellation on the right dated 10 January 1958.



Bhojpur
Negative Seal



Fig. 2. A registered letter sent from Bhojpur to Kathmandu cancelled with the Bhojpur office seal instead of the standard postmark. The Kathmandu receiving postmark is dated 11 December 1959.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

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Bhumray (Bhure) Post Office is one other that seems to have used only a negative seal to cancel the mail

The Mulpani Post Office in Eastern Nepal was not established until 1950.



Fig. 5: Registered letter cancelled with the Mulpani negative seal, dated 17 May 1955.

Negative Seals with dating facilities

The next category of seals are those than can be hand dated. A fine example being that of the Gulmi Chandrakot post office with its square negative seal which can be hand dated across a central blank band



Fig. 4: A registered cover cancelled with the Bhumray seal. The receiving postmark is dated 1955.



Fig. 6: Registered cover cancelled at Gulmi Chandrakot dated 10/9/17—1 January 1954.

(Continued on Page 13)

(continued from Page 12)



The Type 2 negative seal is now oval with a central date band.

Fig. 7: Registered cover sent from Gulmi Chandrakot post office cancelled with the Type 2 seal oval seal date 013/10/5 = 18 January 1957.

Himalayan Ephemera

by Leo Martyn

When searching for himalayan philatelic material I occasionally come across interesting, but non philatelic items begging to be purchased. Following are some examples which may be of interests to our readers.

First is a board game titled "Nepal", produced in 2009 by Blue Panther LLC (U.S.), and may have been inspired by the National Geographic article, "Himalayan Caravans" (December, 1993). It requires moving small wooden pieces on the board and claiming trade routes which are printed on cards (4 examples illustrated). There are 3 1/2 pages of detailed rules which make for an interesting challenge.

The game retails for \$40 U.S. and \$45 overseas.

From Tin Can Mail (U.S.) are two rubber stamps



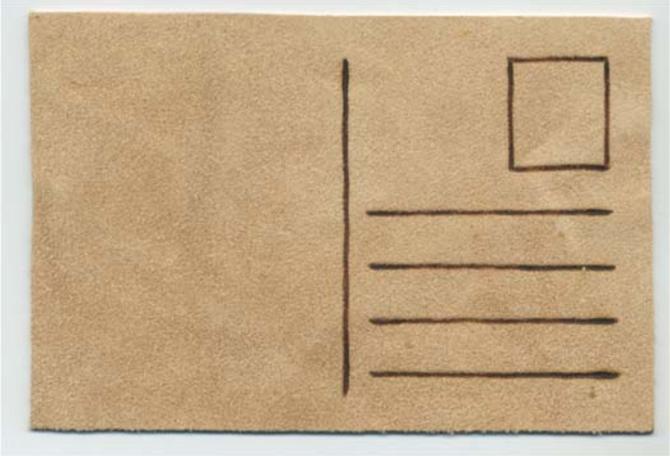
with images of postage stamps.



(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Finally, an artist in Spain creates “travel” articles in leather, including post cards, journals, etc. Here are three from our areas of interest.



'Boxed' and 'No Box' handstamps and the Village Development Committee—Nepal

by Colin Hepper

Quite recently I was looking through my collection of modern postmarks and decided with the help of Wikipedia to try and find any information on these villages/towns. These handstamps dated from 1965 to 2000 with the majority being after 1990. I found that most of the villages/towns were recorded and about 25% of them were listed as village development committees and were from villages with populations between 2500 to 7000 (1991 census).

Village development committees (VDC's) are prevalent and active across Nepal. They are made up of elected village representatives who oversee all sorts of issues occurring at the village level. It is most likely that VDC's replaced village elders. These village committees have, whether voluntary or not, taken on much of the work of implementing government tasks such as government compensations to victims.

So it can be established that many of these handstamps after 1990 came from very small villages from which it is more than likely that very little mail was generated from them and probably very little of it was saved after reaching its destination. Although I am not a regular browser on eBay, I have never seen any of this type of material being offered or indeed have seen any with dealers at stamps shows, so I am making the assumption that they should all fall into the scarce/very scarce category for postmarks.

I am including just two examples of these handstamps on cover.



Letter postmark with Aanga 'No Box' postmark, dated on reverse 045/10/4 = February 1991

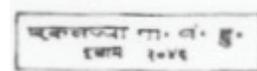
अ. कु. भाइना

Aanga

Aanga village development committee in Panchther District in the Mechi Zone of Eastern Nepal. Population 3500 (1991)



Registered airmail letter postmarked with Ektappa 'Boxed' postmark. The year date 2045 (1990) in the postmark would be the year the post office opened.



Ektappa 'Boxed' Postmark

Ektappa village development committee in Ilam District in Mechi Zone of Eastern Nepal.
Population 4320 (1991)

Example from the Feldman auction

(see page 5)



A highlight in the Tibet auction is a 13th Dalai Lama scarf cover, c.1925.

The XIIIth Dalai Lama sent such covers to high ranking dignitaries at New Year. Enclosed was a large white silk scarf with woven lucky signs and also a small envelope with gold dust.

More Notes on Nepal's Double Framed Postal Cards

By Frank Vignola

The postal card shown in June, 2017's Postal Himal article on Page 16 is Wa 22 and not Wa 18 as labeled. Johannes Bornmann, spotted the misidentification and referenced Dick van der Wateren's excellent book, **Nepal Postal Stationery** that states the Wa 22 is identical to Wa 18, except there is a double frame line. Mr. Bornmann also pointed out that all the copies that he has seen of Wa 22 have the stamp near the top of the card level with the right ornament while examples of Wa 18 has the stamp much lower, typically below the right ornament. The period of usage of Wa 18 is from December 1911 through May of 1912. Wa 22 has usage from October 1920 through May of 1922 with an example used in 1934.

It is unlikely that Wa 18 and Wa 22 represent two different print runs because the placement of the ornament and text and frame lines are identical

and with different printing run, especially separated by several years, show many minor differences. Two possibilities are postulated. The first, is the Wa 22 was printed right after Wa 18 and before Wa 19, 20, and 21. The other possibility is that excess cards from a run using the Wa 18 configuration were put on a shelf without trimming the outer frame lines. At a later date, this cache of untrimmed Wa 18 postal cards was found and put on sale.

With the lack of clear postal records we may never know for sure when these two related varieties were issued, but that is one of the intriguing facets of collecting Nepal and Tibetan postal items.



Examples of Wa 18—From Johannes Bornmann



Examples of Wa 22, Same as Wa 18 except the postal card was not trimmed. —From Johannes Bornmann