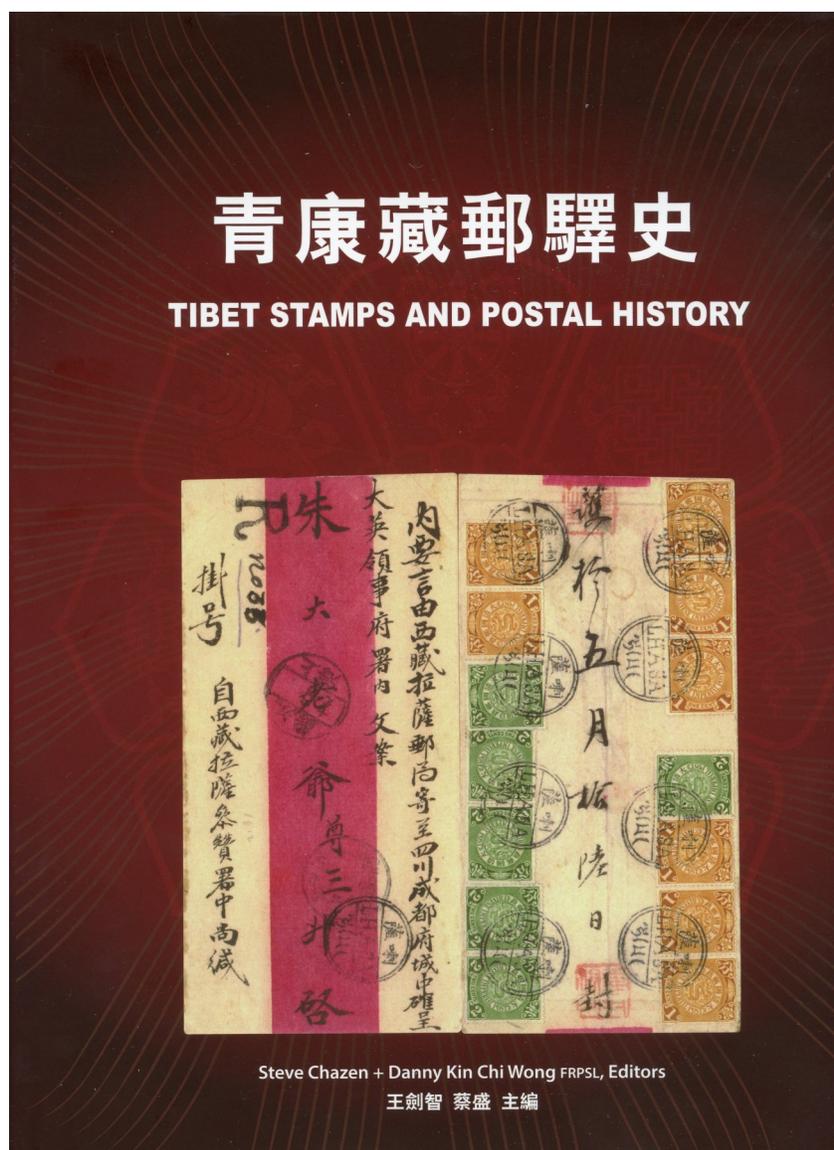


# Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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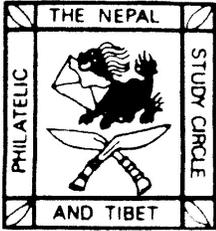


Steve Chazen and Danny Kin Chi Wong have a new book *Tibet Stamps and Postal History*  
See page 4 for a review

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Postal Himal 178 June, 2019



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*Colin Hepper*

One of our long-standing members from the USA, Alan Warren was invited to sign The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the International Stamp Exhibition held in Stockholm at the end of May. Well done Alan, an honour which I am sure is richly deserved. He is now the second member of our Society to have achieved this honour, the first being Wolfgang Hellrigl.

Westpex has been and gone and Leo Martyn gave those members attending a very fine talk on Nepalese forgeries, something he has been working on for many years. We will now all be able to enjoy reading his studies as our editor will be serialising it in the next few issues of the magazine. Thanks Leo.

Looking ahead London 2020 is on the horizon. The exhibition is open from 2 May 2020 until 9 May 2020. I have booked a room, which will hold 30 people for a Society meeting on Sunday 3 May from 12 noon until 1.50pm.

### **Editor's Ramblings:**

A number of Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle members have sent in articles for the Postal Himal. Thank you for your much appreciated contributions. Those articles that didn't get printed in this issue will be printed in the next issue.

These articles are a good way to share your interests and discoveries with other study circle members. Personally, I find the articles interesting and they open up aspects of the hobby that are fresh and exciting. **Please keep those interesting articles coming!**

I would like to thank Alan Warren for the notifications of exhibit winners. He has been doing this quietly since I have been editor and probably before. Thank you!

Over the last several months many members have received awards for their exhibits.

For those interested in exhibiting at Westpex, the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle is a host society for Westpex 2021 and exhibits from the Himalayas are needed. This is two years away, but it takes time to set up an exhibit.

### **Announcements**

Westpex 2020 is April 24-26, and London 2020 is May 2-9

Colin Hepper received a large vermeil for my Nepal Postal History 1810 - 1910 exhibit in the Northern National Exhibition held in Scotland. He also receive a vermeil for a single frame entry on modern postal seals of Nepal.

Leo Martyn received a gold at Westpex in San Francisco in April for his "Nepal: Postal History of the First Pashupati Issues (1907)."

**China 2019 World Stamp Exhibition, an FIP** show that was held in Wuhan, China in June.

Rishi Kumar Tulsyan received a gold with special prize for "Nepal: The Prestamp and Classic Period 1779-1907."

Shyam Prasad Pradhan won a large vermeil for "Revenues of Nepal," and a silver for "The Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal 1875-1950."

Ashok Rana took a vermeil with "Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal 1907-1950."

Frank Vignola received a vermeil at the PIPEX show in Portland, Oregon in May with his "Nepal's Telegraph Issues of 1917-1930: ½, 1, 2, and 4 annas."

Ed Gosnell won a gold, the Columbus Philatelic Club award of excellence, the APS pre-1900 medal of excellence, and the APS research medal at Colopex in Columbus, Ohio in June with his "Seals, Covers, Documents and Correspondence: A Political History of Nepal."

## Review of Tibet Stamps and Postal History

by Alan Warren

*Tibet Stamps and Postal History*, edited by Steve Chazen and Danny Wong. 444 gilt-edged pages, 9 by 12 inches, case-bound, dust jacket, in English and Chinese, Royal Philatelic Society London, London, U.K., 2019. ISBN 978-0-900631-98-6, £55 plus postage from Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, United Kingdom, or <http://www.rpsl.org.uk/home.asp>.

This treatise now becomes the “bible” of Tibetan philately. This is not to say that previous works by Arnold C. Waterfall, Fortune Wang and others do not continue to serve as useful resources in some details. However, this latest entry in the philatelic literature is more comprehensive and corrects a number of errors recorded by these and other earlier sources. Some examples are the actual release dates of the First and Second issues of Tibet, now documented with earliest known uses.

Most collectors of Tibet concentrate on the area known as the Tibet Autonomous Region. However this book includes the broad scope of the Tibetan highlands and several autonomous counties and prefectures. Early chapters of the book focus on the historic and geographical entities that comprise Tibet, and discuss the Imperial Courier Service (yizhan or I-chang). The latter was essentially replaced with the introduction of the Chinese Imperial Post in 1910.

Subsequent chapters deal with relevant Nepali military and civilian mail in Tibet, the British fieldpost

offices (includes the Younghusband expedition), the British Indian post offices in Tibet, Indian censorship of Tibetan mail during WW II, and the Everest mountaineering expedition of 1924. Several chapters are devoted to the introduction of the Chinese Imperial Post in Tibet (including use of the unoverprinted and then overprinted stamps), and related areas like Kham and Amdo.

The Tibet local post stamp issues are described in several chapters followed by the local post rates and markings. These chapters are of interest to Tibet stamp collectors as they detail the First, Second, and Third issues as well as subsequent stamps used for telegraphic and official purposes. The rate information is useful since native postmarks often did not include a date. Tibet local post stamps continued to be used after Communist takeover but the Tibetan post offices were disbanded in 1959.

The final chapters are devoted to military and confidential posts and then the People’s Post in the various Tibetan areas. Appendices document areas related to Tibet like Sikkim, Bhutan, Ladakh and the nearby office at Leh in India. An extensive bibliography and an index conclude the treatise.

The bulk of the text was authored by Danny Wong along with significant contributions from Steve Chazen, Leo Martyn, Jeremy Brewer, Anthony Bard, and Yang Kun. For the Tibet collector, this volume should take an honored space on the bookshelf.

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### Danny Wong at Stockholmia

by Alan Warren



Danny Kin Chi Wong announced the new book edited by him and Steve Chazen at the Stockholmia show held at the end of May and beginning of June this year. The show celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society London. The exhibition, involving many exhibitors and dealers, was

held in the Waterfront Congress Centre in central Stockholm.

The new book, *Tibet Stamps and Postal History*, was published earlier this year. Danny indicated that 500 copies were printed and 400 have already sold. He travels to Tibet at least once each year. He began his talk by showing a scarf letter. The term reflects that the letter was delivered to a dignitary

wrapped in a scarf.

Danny pointed out that misinformation previously reported in many publications has been corrected in the new book. For example, the First Issue did not appear in December 1912 but around March-April 1913. The Second Issue did not appear until 1924 (confirmed by earliest known use), instead of 1914 as previously recorded.

The book received a large gold in the philatelic literature class of the show. In addition to announcing the new book, Danny also had a Tibet related philatelic exhibit. He won a gold for his single frame display “Chinese Imperial Courier Mails in Tibet.”

## Roll of Distinguished Philatelists Signed in Stockholm

by Alan Warren

Each year four philatelists are invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists sponsored by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at their annual meeting. Normally the meetings are held at a town or city in the United Kingdom. This year was an exception and the ceremony was held instead during the Stockholmia Exhibition May 29 to June 2 in conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

The RDP honors collectors who have demonstrated outstanding service or achievements in the hobby. The first person to sign the Roll was King George V in 1921. The signing ceremony is a black tie event and the venue this year was the Hall of Mirrors at Stockholm's Grand Hotel. This is also the site of the awarding of the Nobel Prizes each year.



Alan Warren signs the roll as his proposer Roger Brody RDP looks on.

The 2019 signers were from Thailand, Egypt, France and the United States. The last one was Alan Warren who is a board member at large of the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. He was recognized for his many years of service as an exhibitor, judge, author, editor, and officer in several philatelic organizations.

Previous signers are invited to the ceremony and this year there were a record 44 recipients who attended. Following the signing event the group, accompanied by family members and friends, enjoyed a dinner cruise aboard the M/V *Enköping* in Stockholm harbor. Fifteen of the living signers are from the United States.



The four 2019 signers with their proposers standing behind



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## The French Connection

by Edmond Weissberg

Mails from France to Thibet -and vice versa - are rather scanty, even in the plentiful loads and batches of philatelic letters in the "Pratek Man Tuladhar correspondence", dating from the fifties of past century. (Note 1)

Here is a postcard from France to Thibet, in a terribly shabby state, but still appealing despite its appalling condition. (Note 2) It is just an everyday postcard, [Fig.1 and Fig.2] simply sent and addressed as follows: "J. St Aubyn King / Chumbi / Thibet". (Note 3)

This is a personal X'mas and New Year greetings postcard, and not a "philatelic item". This colour postcard shows on *recto* a view of Grand Hotel Mont Fleuri, a luxury hotel on the French Riviera, with the town of Menton in the background (Note 4). There is a correspondence on this *recto*, as follows: "Many thanks for your postcard, we arrived here yesterday & intend to stay some time!" (Note 5). (The name of the hotel and Menton are underlined, and "France" was added.)

The *verso* also shows a correspondence, viz: "3 Dec 1907 With my very best wishes for X'mas & a very happy New year From Violet Kay"

And this *verso* also bears all the relevant philatelic data, (Note 6), i.e.

\* Manuscript date of writing: 03 December 1907.

\* A 10 centimes French "Semeuse" (sower) postage stamp, glued very high, just over, or sticking out from the postcard's edge.

\* A circular wavy date stamp, partly incomplete and illegible, but to be easily reconstructed as a "railroad post office": VINTIMILLE A MARSEILLE (Vintimille to Marseilles). But collection number, date and month, are illegible; only a faint "7" suggests the year's decade "07". So: the postcard was dropped into the mail van's postbox, at the train's stop in Menton.

\*The remarkably straightforward manuscript address: "Chumbi - Thibet"!

\* Transit "Base Office" dated 23 DE 07. (Proud D4 - page 351) - (Note 7)

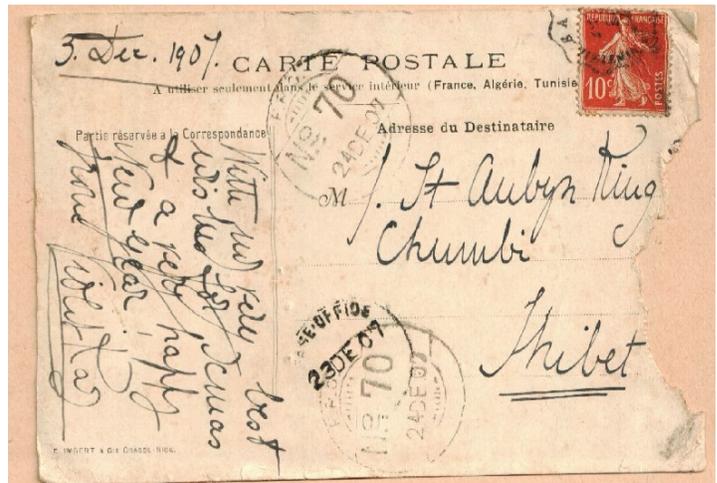


Fig. 1: Postcard mailed from France to Chumbi, Tibet, sent December 3, 1907.



Fig. 2: Front of postcard mailed from France to Chumbi, Thibet, sent December 3, 1907.

\* Two arrival strikes of "F.P.O. N° 70" dated 24 DE 07 - Just in time for Christmas Eve! (Hellrigl Type B8) - (Note 8).

Interestingly enough, the Chumbi Valley was, at that time, still under the British Raj's occupation (1904 - 1908). (Note 9). And mails from this period are somewhat scarce, especially when they are from France. And does not this simple mention of "Chumbi" recall of the much coveted "Chumbi" British-Indian name stamps - registration label or telegraphic cancel - bearing this wording? [Hellrigl (Note 8) Type B61 and Type B130].

Besides, won't it be interesting to try to know

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## The French Connection

(Continued from page 6)

who were those pen pals, Violet Kay, and J. St Aubyn King, just out of sheer intellectual curiosity? This will perhaps lead us far away from philatelic considerations and from faraway Thibet, but just bring us closer to petty historical ramblings and rumours, and to lost horizons!

Despite courteous etiquette, let's begin with J. St Aubyn King.

Firstly, and unfortunately, he is NOT mentioned in Virk (Note 10), as being in the staff of the occupation forces in the Chumbi Valley. But fortunately, I have three other mails sent to him at varied periods, and I have crosschecked this data with available advancement rosters. Here below in *italics* are the data from rosters, and in bold face, the mails in my collection, all arranged in chronological order. This results in:

*\*To be Lieutenants. [...]*

*Lieutenant Jack St. Aubyn King, from the Royal "Warwickshire Regiment". Dated 4th June, 1903, but to rank from 26th April, 1902. (Note 11).*

**\* A postcard sent from Darjeeling on 26 September 1907 to:**

**Lt. J St. A. King - 62 Punjabies - The Mud Hut [!] Phari-Jong.** (Received at Field P.O. N° 81 on 28 September 1907, via Base Office 27 September 1907). See: [Fig. 3].

**\* The present postcard sent from France dated 03 December 1907 to: J. St Aubyn**

**King in Chumbi, Thibet.** (No army rank mentioned). ([Fig. 1 and Fig. 2]).

*\* Lieutenants to be Captains. [...]*

*Dated 4th March, 1910: Jack St. Aubyn King, 62nd Punjabis. (Note 12).*

*\* Captains to be Majors from the dates specified, but without pay and allowances before 1st September, 1916. [...] Dated 4th. March, 1916: Jack St. Aubyn King, 62nd Punjabis. (Note 13)*

**\* A postcard sent from Calcutta on 10 December 1920 to:**

**Major J. Aubyn King** - General Staff - Curzon House - Delhi (received 13 December 1920).

**\* A registered cover sent from Lahore in June 1930, to: Lieut Colonel J. St. Aubyn King** - 10th Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment - c/o Lieut Colonel W.M. Jack, I.M.S. - in Abbotabad. (No receiving mark/cancel).

It therefore appears that the promotions in army ranks are matching with the wordings of the addressee's mails. And that the complete name of the addressee is: JACK SAINT AUBYN KING.

And that he was a lieutenant in the 62nd. Punjabies in Thibet in 1907. Otherwise, research with internet was rather unsuccessful, and answers from genealogical circles are still pending (and will probably be fruitless!) There are however some indicators that this is a well-to-do family from England, with many branches.

And as for the mysterious Violet Kay?

First, she has a remarkable elegant, not to say, elaborate and outmoded handwriting. And she did not write her postcard from a shady hotel! (- I think there are none in Menton!) Grand Hotel Mont Fleuri was indeed a luxury hotel, restricted to upper-class people. So: probably she belonged to the upper crust. Then, after having some quick rummage through internet, I have found:

**\* A certain Violet Kay was fond of horsemanship.**

**\* A certain Violet Kay married an Italian diplomat, (a secretary), Cesaro Alberto Godio,**

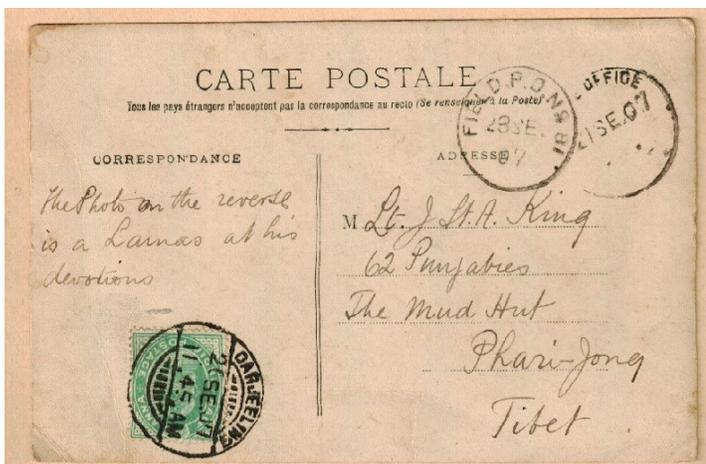


Fig. 3: Postcard mailed from Darjeeling, India to Phari-Jong, Tibet, September 20, 1907.

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## The French Connection

*(Continued from page 7)*

at Christ Church (now demolished due to a collapse risk), near Lancaster Gate, London, on 27 October 1909. By the way, this was in the London district for the foreign embassies, including the Italian one, not so far away (about only 1 ½ km away.)

\*Then, I've found that a certain Violet Kay was involved in the following 1938 news story: (Note 14)

"FINED FOR SMUGGLING ITALIAN LIRA NOTES ON TRAIN - THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED ROME, December 9. The Marchesa Godi di Godio, formerly Miss Violet Kay, an English woman, whose husband is a retired diplomat, a former Jewish stockbroker, Sacerdoti, and a third person, Orta, were fined £3,500 and recommended for banishment to penal islands for trying to smuggle £10,000 worth of lira notes from the country. The banknotes, which were found in the marchesa's sleeping berth on the Ronie-Paris express, will partly defray the fines."

If the reconstruction is exact and accurate, it therefore appears that Violet Kay was some sort of a socialite adventuress.

However, and regrettably, I haven't found any connection / relationship between Violet Kay (or was she Violet Godi di Godio), and Jack Saint Aubyn King. Further investigations by members and readers are welcome, even if they invalidate or contradict my somewhat hypothetical guesses, and especially and above all, if they can add and contribute to shared knowledge!

**(Note 1):** There was nevertheless yesteryear, as far as I can remember, a cover "offered" for auction on e-Bay (or was it Delcampe..., if it matters), i.e.: a cover from south-west France, dating from the early twenties, with a violet stamp, addressed to BAYLEY in Gangtok, Sikkim, but redirected to THIBET, with transit and arrival date stamps. Seems it fetched a rather high bid. This cover is NOT mentioned in: "Frealon Bibbins: A philatelic story of Lt. Col. F.M. Bayley, C.I.E., 1882-1967, - © 2003".

**(Note 2):** If it were a "Gartok B.O. Western Tibet" date stamp, you won't be fussy about the

cover condition, will you?

**(Note 3):** That was sufficient an address in those days for postal workers! Well done, let's have a big hand for them!

**(Note 4):** The building is still there, yet no more as a hotel, but as a joint ownership, and probably still reserved for well-to-do people!

**(Note 5):** Well! I wish I have somewhere in my collection the matching "received postcard" sent from Thibet by J. St Aubyn King to Violet Kay!

**(Note 6):** Almost all of the UPU regulations in force at that time (correct rate, compulsory printed mentions - despite some were obsolete, they still were allowed - , writing on the address side and on the picture side as well), have been respected, except one: the size! This postcard exceeds by about 1½ mm in broad and length the maximum size specified by the new UPU regulations! It was regrettably neither struck with the infamous handstamp "Contrary to Regulations", nor accordingly taxed. What a wondrous bit of spiciness this would have added to this postcard!

**(Note 7):** Edward B. Proud: History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Vol. I, 1854-1913, Proud-Bailey C) Ltd, Heathfield, U.K. (sd).

**(Note 8):** Wolfgang Hellrigl: The Postal Markings of Tibet - 1996 Dr. W. Hellrigl / Bozen / Italy - G. Flack, Vancouver, Canada

**(Note 9):** After the 1904 "Younghusband Expedition", the Chumbi Valley was meant to be occupied for 75 years as a security for payment by the Thibetan Government, in 75 yearly instalments, of the war indemnities, as provided in the 1904 "Lhasa Convention". But after 3 years of payment by the Thibetan Government, the then Imperial Chinese Government cunningly and deceitfully suggested to immediately repay himself the whole indemnity. This suggestion was subserviently and pusillanimously accepted. Accordingly, the British Raj's occupation troops definitively left the Chumbi valley on February 8th. 1908. From that date, there were no more military or F.P.O. in Thibet (constitutionally), but actually, some of the previous cancels and/or date stamps still

*(Continued on page 9)*

## The French Connection

(Continued from page 8)

remained in use for quite a long time in the now remaining civil trade agencies. To add more fun!: In 1943, there was signed in Chungking a treaty between the Republic of China, the U.S.A., and U.K., by which the two latter relinquished all of their remaining extra-territorial rights on the "territory of China". It is a well-known fact, however, that postal arrangements and trade agreements between Thibet and the Raj, and then the Republic of India (which inherited those rights), remained in force until 1954, when the Republic of India relinquished those rights in Thibet in a new treaty with P.R.C. Through a logical and mathematical process of deduction, in 1943, Thibet was therefore not considered as being included in the set of the "territory of China" - QED, and there you are!

**(Note 10):** D.S. Virk: Postal History of Indian Campaigns: Sikkim Tibet, 1903-1908 - New Delhi 1989, Philatelic Congress of India, Army Postal Service Association: page51: the 62nd Punjabis in Chumbi - 10/1906 to 01/1908

**(Note 11):** THE LONDON GAZETTE, OCTOBER 30, 1903. India Office, October 30th

1903: "The KING has approved of the following Promotions among Officers of the Indian Army Indian Medical Service, and Indian Army Departments, and Admissions to the Indian Army made by the Government of India: [...]"

**(Note 12):** THE LONDON GAZETTE, JULY 15, 1910. "India Office, July 15, 1910. The King has approved of the following promotions of Officers of the Indian Army, Indian Medical Service, and Indian Subordinate Medical Department: [...] INDIAN ARMY. [...]"

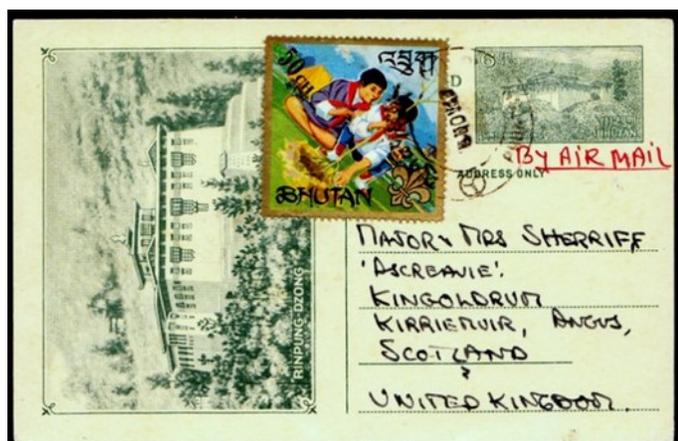
**(Note 13):** THE LONDON GAZETTE, 3 JULY, 1917 "India Office, 2nd July, 1917. The KING has approved the promotion of the following Officers of the Indian Army, Indian Army Departments, and Indian Army Reserve of Officers: INDIAN ARMY. [...]"

**(Note 14)** THE EVENING STAR, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1938.

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**An interesting Bhutan postal card sent in 1967 to an explorer of Tibet and Bhutan, Major George Sherriff**

by Leo van der Velden



In 1967 a postal card with an imprinted 6 Chhetrum stamp, enough for domestic mail, was used for airmail to the United Kingdom. For international mail postage a 50 Chhetrum Boy Scouts stamp was added, issued earlier that year in March. To come across a duly used sample of this postal card is already rare, but to

see one genuinely used for mail abroad is even rarer. On top of this is the addressee Major George Sherriff (1898 – 1967), a British officer who together with the naturalist Frank Ludlow (1885 – 1972) led several expeditions to Tibet and Bhutan between 1933 and 1938, especially collecting botanical specimens, many unknown before to Western science. Their last expedition to Bhutan was in 1949. Major Sherriff retired at the estate Ascreavie in Angus, Scotland, mentioned in the address, where he cultivated a collection of Himalayan plants.

The sender of the postal card was Eric Davidson, a British film-maker, who in 1967 travelled throughout Bhutan filming the documentary "Letter from Thimphu", broadcasted in 1968 in the BBC series "The World about Us". Eric Davidson died in 2018 at the age of 87. Although the cancellation is

(Continued on page 11)

## Speculation on the Woven Pattern on some Classic Nepal Issue Printings during the 1917 – 1930 Telegraphic Period

by Frank Vignola

Recently when I started mounting some classic Nepalese stamps printed during the telegraph period from 1917 – 1930 I noticed that some of the stamps had a woven pattern similar to that seen on cloth. The first example I spotted was on a large sheet of Nepalese 4 Annas stamps printed, probably the third state of setting 11 (see Fig. 1). A majority of the stamps had a woven pattern instead of a solid color as is typical. The stamps appear as if some sort of screen or cloth was used when the stamps were printed.

What could make such a pattern? How common was this phenomena? Looking through the other telegraphically canceled sheets that were on hand, similar patterns were found on the 1 Anna and 2 Annas stamps printed during the telegraph period (see Figs. 2 and 3). No examples of the 1/2 Anna stamps were found to have this woven pattern. In addition, the new plate of the 1 Anna stamps issued around 1926-1927 did not show any woven pattern on the stamps. Since the 1/2 Anna did not have solid colors it might be that it is hard to spot such a pattern on the lines in the design, or that no such dotted pattern appeared. It also may be that the

dies for the 1/2 Anna stamps were made 17 years after the initial classic stamps dies were created using different methods and materials that provided a solid base for the stamp cliché. The new plate that was used to print the 1 Anna design was a single plate of sixty four stamps and these stamps show no woven pattern.

What could cause this pattern and why doesn't it appear on all stamps during this period? There were a large number of 2 Anna setting created during this period and a wide variety of inks were used. It appears that some inks were different. Many of the 2 Anna printings during this period had what appears to be watery inks that may have covered any woven pattern while the stamps that show the pattern appear to a more defined design that show little "bleeding" from the stamp (see Fig. 4). On many of the 2 Anna sheets, the number of stamps showing the woven pattern was limited as in Fig. 3.

At this point the cause of the woven pattern is unknown. However, Richard Frajola mentioned that when some of the Greek Hermes Head stamps were printed, a

*(Continued on page 11)*



Fig. 1: Block of 4 Annas stamps from setting 11 state 3 showing a woven pattern best seen in the center of the stamp.

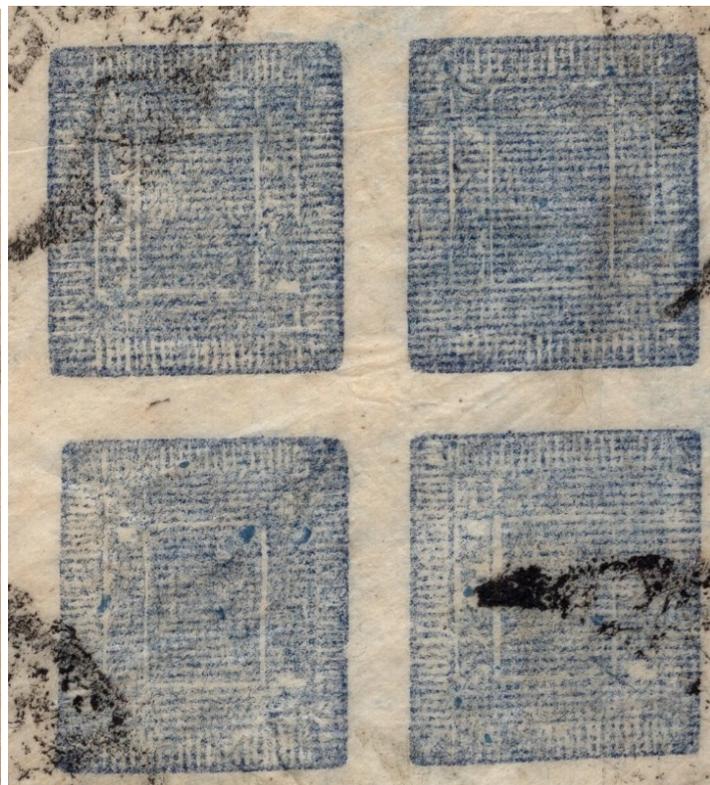


Fig. 2: Block of 1 Anna stamps from setting 27 state 2 showing a woven pattern.

## Speculation on the Woven Pattern on some Classic Nepal Issue Printings during the 1917 – 1930 Telegraphic Period



Fig. 3: 2 Annas block showing a faint woven pattern on the bottom left stamp of Setting 26. Pattern not as clear as on the 1 Anna and 4 Annas blocks shown.

*(Continued from page 10)*

felt padding was placed behind the paper to ensure a more even printing. The height of the clichés during the telegraph printing period were likely to be uneven and a felt pad could have been used to provide a more even printing pressure. A clear example of the uneven pressure applied during the printing process is shown in Fig. 5 of the position G8 (cliché 56) of the fourth state of Setting 11.



Fig. 4: 2 Annas block from Setting 29. Watery ink was used.

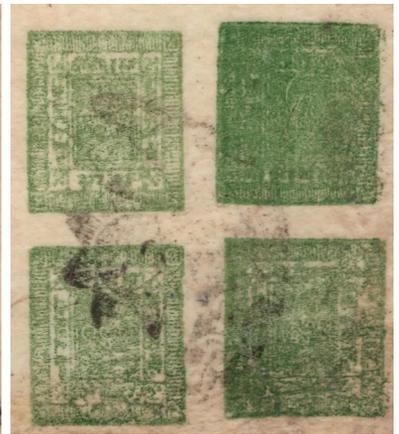


Fig. 5: 5 Annas block from Setting 11 state 4 showing heavy impression of top right stamps.

As with much of the printing history of Nepalese stamps, little or no documentation exists and one has to speculate using the best information available. So my best guess right now is that a woven cloth or woven felt padding was placed behind the native paper to reduce the wear on the clichés. Depending on the quality of the ink and pressure applied during printing, the woven pattern appeared on many stamps printed during the 1917 – 1930 time period. If anyone has a better idea or more information about the Nepalese printing methods during this time period, their input would be appreciated.

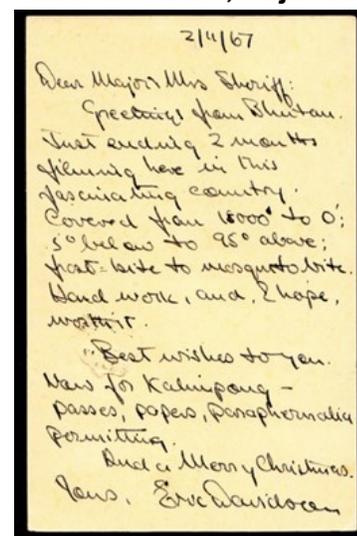
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### An interesting Bhutan postal card sent in 1967 to an explorer of Tibet and Bhutan, Major George Sherriff

*(Continued from page 9)*

vague, the postal card looks to have been posted in Phuntsholing at the border with India, when Davidson was on his way out after 2 months filming in Bhutan.

This 1966 postal card was also the first picture postcard issued by Bhutan Posts & Telegraphs. It shows on the left back side an etched drawing of the Rinpung Dzong (Paro Dzong) while the preprinted postage stamp of 6 Chhetrum shows a drawing of Simtokha Dzong, in the same style and dark green color. This left the front side free for writing of a message.



## More on the Czechoslovakian Trucks to Tibet –1956

by Edmond Weissberg

Tashi Delek Brian!

Further your article in P.H. 177:

This 1958 set of Czechoslovakian stamps showing Tatra trucks, and especially on the highest value 1.25 Korunas: "Tatra ... trucks in Thibet - 1956", is quite not unknown to "thematists". As you write, the Qinghai/Thibet road was opened in 1954, as well as the Si-Kang/Thibet one. (These roads are termed as "highroads", but were, at that time, just "truckable tracks".) They were commemorated by P.R.C. in 1956 (30 March), by a set of four stamps. (Alas, there is nowadays a railroad connection!)

Well, in 1954 / 1955 there were in Thibet two Czechoslovakian nationals, who have been granted the opportunity to join a film unit making a documentary film concerning the opening of the Kang Ting - Lhasa road. They were: Vladimir Sis, and Josef Vanis, and they wrote a book about their adventure: "On The Road Through Tibet" (translated by: Iris Urwin) - Artia for: Spring Books - London - sd - (but probably 1956). On page 201 of the above referenced book, there is an interesting photograph of trucks, titled as: "Yesterday it still seemed a fantastic dream, but overnight it came true: cars were standing at the foot of the Potala gun" (sic\*). This photo is accordingly attached. I am not a specialist in trucks, so I cannot neither



Truck sitting in front of the Potala from On the Road Through Tibet, ca 1956.

ascertain if they are offered Russian or Czechoslovakian trucks, or otherwise salvaged American trucks left in China, or were they already "made in China?"

\* Potala gun: that's a pure stupid nonsense, of course! Everywhere in this book, Potala is put side by side with "gun" - "Potala gun"! Is this due to complete ignorance? In my opinion, "gun", is a real pain to try to render the Chinese term "gong", i.e.: palace, or temple. That seems better an explanation! But it's only mine!

**Auction Report - H.R. Harmer Sale 3025**  
**The Richard Frajola Collection of Classic Nepal**  
by Leo Martyn

On April 30, 2019, H.R. Harmer offered The Richard Frajola Collection of Classic Nepal with a total of 236 lots. The results indicated a strong and vibrant demand for better Nepalese philatelic items. It was a very successful auction with a total sale of \$156,850 (not including the 18% buyers fee), and 15 successful bidders!

The catalog is one to keep as an important reference and the 31 page introduction by Richard Frajola and Dr. Frank Vignola is of great value to understanding the stamps, postmarks and rates.

Several items received strong bids (buyers premium of 18% not included).

**Lot 102:** 1881 one anna, irregular strip of with marginal inscriptions on 3 sides - \$4200.

**Lot 110:** 1881 cover, earliest recorded bearing a one anna imperforate stamp - \$5750.

**Lot 117:** 1881 two annas imperforate, strip of 3 with one inverted cliché - \$16,000.

**Lot 118:** 1881 two annas imperforate, single franked cover (first reported use of a 2 anna) - \$4500.

**Lot 119:** 1881 two annas imperforate, single franked cover (latest known use of a 2 anna) - \$4000.

**Lot 120:** 1881 four annas, rejoined mint block of 15 - \$3500.

**Lot 158:** two annas grey-violet, setting 15 (largest know multiple), block of 18 - \$3250.

**Lot 160:** 1907 cover bearing two annas strip

of 3 and 2 single 1 annas - \$3500.

**Lot 161:** 1907 cover bearing two annas strip of 3, Karnali cancels - \$3250.

**Lot 162:** 1907 cover bearing two annas strip of 3 and a single one anna - \$2400.

**Lot 175:** 1901 cover bearing a pair of four annas - \$3000.

Most group collections brought over starting prices.

Of the 236 lots offered, 38 did not sell, including most of the telegraph stamps:

**Lot 183:** mint one anna recut, wove paper, tete-beche pair including position 64 (\$3500).

**Lot 184:** mint one anna recut, wove paper, block of four (largest known multiple) including position 24 and a tete beche pair (\$7000),

**Lot 185:** one anna recut, wove paper, tete-beche pair (\$2000).

**Lot 214:** mint half-anna, orange-vermilion, tete-beche pair, pos. 7-8 (\$5000).

**Lot 216:** mint half-anna, orange-vermilion, lower half sheet of 32, one tete-beche pair (\$10,000).

Also, two first issue, registered covers did not sell, as their authenticity has not been established (**lots 106** - \$20,000, and **122** - \$12,500). Both covers have been sent to Europe to be expertized, or re-expertized in the case of one that had a previous Geoffrey Flack certificate.

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**Westpex 2019 Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Meeting**

Attending the meeting were Ken Goss, Bill Janson, James Larot (IPPS), Leo Martyn, Roger Skinner, Alan Warren, and Al Zulueta. Leo Martyn gave an interesting presentation on Nepalese forgeries. A series of articles by Leo Martyn describing Nepalese forgeries will be run in the coming issues of the Postal Himal.

Alan Warren discussed the 5 Shokang Official Stamp from Tibet. A image of the 5 Shokang stamp is shown at the right.



S.L.S. The Past & Present of a Philatelist (All in Nepali)  
by Surendra Lal Shrestha

Some of the book's content is listed below.

Lagan Tole is the birthplace in 1941 i.e. the site of the local printed pashupati series. Then he shifted to Bramhatole to Teku to Jaishidewal to "Bagdurbar" (Garden Palace) built by Bhimsen Thapa, then to Tahachal - to Ombahal at the age of 36 - now Surendra is 77 years young!

Believe it or not: style!

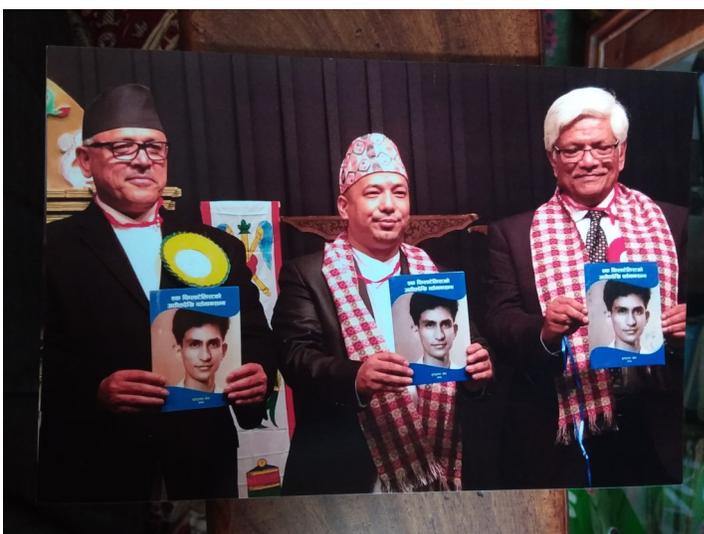
Untold Historical notes: On the younger of Junga Bahadur daughter "Bag ke Kanchhi Maiya" and "Mahila Sahebju" 2<sup>nd</sup> brother of king Surendra Upendra Bikram were the master minds in 1942 B.S. plot.

- Secret meeting of the black magicians called by Janga Bahadur.
- Miracles in the childhood.
- Fall of the Garden Palace after democracy entered in Nepal or the last days of choutaryas.
- Hobby started with the stamp collecting job satisfaction in stamp dealing.
- For the first time took part in the International Exhibition in New Delhi 1973.
- Received "Vermeil" medal for his TIBET collection. Up 'til now, Mr. Surendra is the only Tibet collector in Nepal.
- In the 1983 Bangkok Stamp Exhibition he took part and was awarded a silver Medal for his Nepal collection.
- Travelled several time in India. 1966-1973. Once in 1997 'Indipex' in New Delhi Calcutta to Agra in 1970 to Delhi from Delhi to Patiyala as a stamp dealer.
- Travelled to Malaysia & Singapore then to Bangkok in 1983.
- Travelled many places in the USA.
- Eastern parts in 2006 "Washington 2006" Exhibition and took part N.T.P.S.C. meeting.
- 2nd time tour to U.S.A in 2017 for his grandson's "Bratabandha" ceremony.
- Some stories on his present health condition.
- Shop opened in 1998 at Thamel the International tourist bazaar.
- This book is dedicated to all Philatelic "Path Finders."
- Short story of wonderfull method of foreign whiskey import by Ram Raja.



Surendra receiving the certificate from Director General Mr. Devi Prashad Gyawali (Right) Mr. Shankar Shrestha, President of Nepal Philatelic Society seen on the left.

- Loaded with many more interesting facts of the old days.
- The book first opened by his Excellency Aljun Kumar Ambassador of Nepal to U.S.A.
- And Puskar Prajapati, president of N.O.A.
- etc. etc. and many more facts in the lifetime included visitors book with remarks on Surendra by V.L.P.S. Recently received a lifetime Achievement certificate from Nepal Philatelic Society on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee Celebration.



Photograph of the book publication ceremony

# A Survey of Nepalese Forgeries, Facsimiles, and Fantasies

by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl and Leo Martyn

## Part I

Wolfgang and I were going to publish a book, jointly, on the forgeries, facsimiles/reproductions, and fantasies of Nepalese philately. He sent me his original notes in 2008 but due to his untimely death, the project was shelved.

In April of this year, I gave a presentation of classic Nepalese forgeries based on Wolfgang's extensive notes, including illustrations and examples from my reference collection. I have summarized his notes and included his or mine illustrations. It should be

noted that even though these earlier items are referred to as forgeries, their original intent was probably to be included in packet material and not as true forgeries.

At Colin Hepper's suggestion, this presentation will be submitted in serial form in the Postal Himal, starting with the classic stamps, followed by the Pashupati issues, modern issues and postal stationery. Eventually, I hope to publish a book on this subject and go into greater detail.

(Continued on page 16)

	TYPE	FORMING PART OF SET OF FORGERIES	MINT	'USED' WITH FORGED CANCELLATION TYPE	NUMBER OF FORGED CLICHES	MULTIPLES		APPX. DATE OF FORGERY	FIRST RECORDED OR SEEN
						with tete-b.	without tete-b.		
1 ANNA	1	-	yes	-	1	-	-	1900-20	1944 (Dawson)
	2	1st set	-	N-3	1	-	-	1910-30	1944 (Dawson)
	3	2nd set	-	N-1, N-2, N-41	1	yes	-	1930-35	1941 (Dawson)
	4	-	yes	N-11	1	-	-	1970-76	1976
	5	-	yes	-	64 clichès	yes	yes	1975	1975
	6	3rd set	yes	-	4 clichès	yes	-	1974-76	1976
	7	3rd set	yes	-	1	yes	yes	1974-76	1976
	8	3rd set	yes	-	1	-	-	1974-76	1976
	9	-	yes	-	1	-	yes	1974-76	1975
2 ANNAS	1	1st set	-	N-3	1	-	-	1910-30	<del>recent find</del> c. 1960
	2	2nd set	-	N-1, N-2, N-41	1	yes	-	1930-35	1960 (Ricketts)
	3	3rd set	yes	-	7 clichès	-	-	1974-76	1976
4 ANNAS	1	1st set	-	N-3	1	-	-	1910-30	<del>recent find</del> c. 1960
	2	2nd set	-	N-1, N-2, N-41, N-42	1	yes	-	1930-35	1944 (Dawson)
	3	3rd set	yes	-	1	-	-	1974-76	1976

Wolfgang's spread sheet for the 1, 2 and 4 Annas classic issues. This is Wolfgang's original draft and updates were made as more information became available.

## Nepal: First Type of Forgeries

### Type 1 Forgeries



1 Anna

2 Annas

4 Annas



Fig. 1

Cancel

1900 and 1944

(Continued from page 15)

The first set of forgeries was made between 1900 and 1944.

Made in India or Europe

One native paper, varying from thin to thick.

All copies seem to bear a forged circular cancellation (Fig. 1) with an indistinct control initial, a cancellation that was used exclusively on this first set.

The 1 Anna and 4 Annas are extremely rare—only a handful [of] complete sets are believed to exist.

The 2 and 4 Annas forgeries of this set were unknown to Smythies/Dawson, but first hinted (as type c) in The Postage Stamps of Nepal.

Single cliché forgeries

All copies are cancelled

No multiples recorded

Dawson knew a total of seven forged types:

- 1/2, 1, 2, and 4 Annas of the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of forgeries
- 1 Anna of the 1<sup>st</sup> set
- 1 Anna red “essay”
- 1/2 Anna Tuvim forgery