

# POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL & TIBET  
PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



Fig. 2

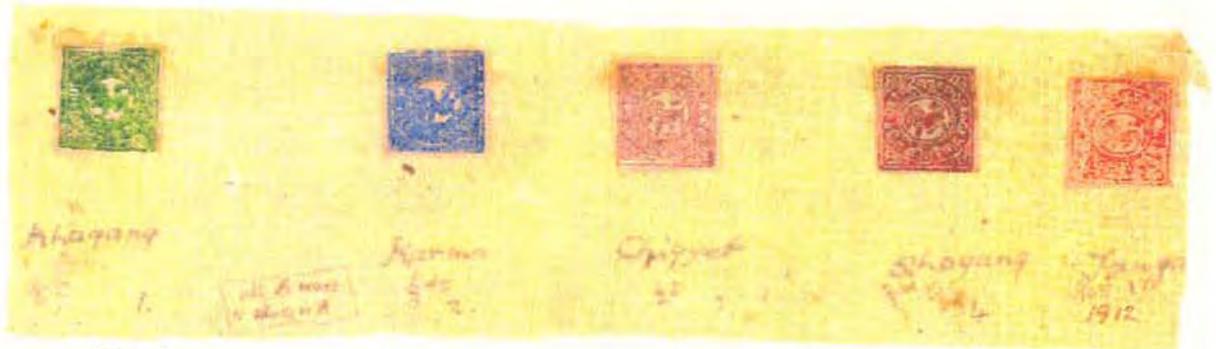


Fig. 1

The Tibetan Souvenir Sheets (see pages 3 & 4)

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

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# Notes from the Secretary's Desk

The International Exhibition in London, *Stamp Show 2000* will soon be upon us and I look forward to being able to meet many of our Society members again. Being retired in Spain can be very nice, but it is a bit of a philatelic wilderness as far as I am concerned, so the London meeting and the international in Madrid in October are well marked in my calander.

On the Friday evening (26<sup>th</sup> May) we are arranging a dinner at an Italian resturante near to Earls Court for our members. I have circulated the details to our UK members, but if there are any overseas members who are coming to London and would like to attend please let me know as soon as possible so that we can have some idea of the numbers attending. We have to thank member Geoff. Rosamond for spending a lot of time trying to find a suitable venue for us.

One final request, the well is dry as far as articles are concerned for the next issue, so please put pen to paper and help us out.

Colin Hepper

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# A RARE COVER

by Dick van der Wateren

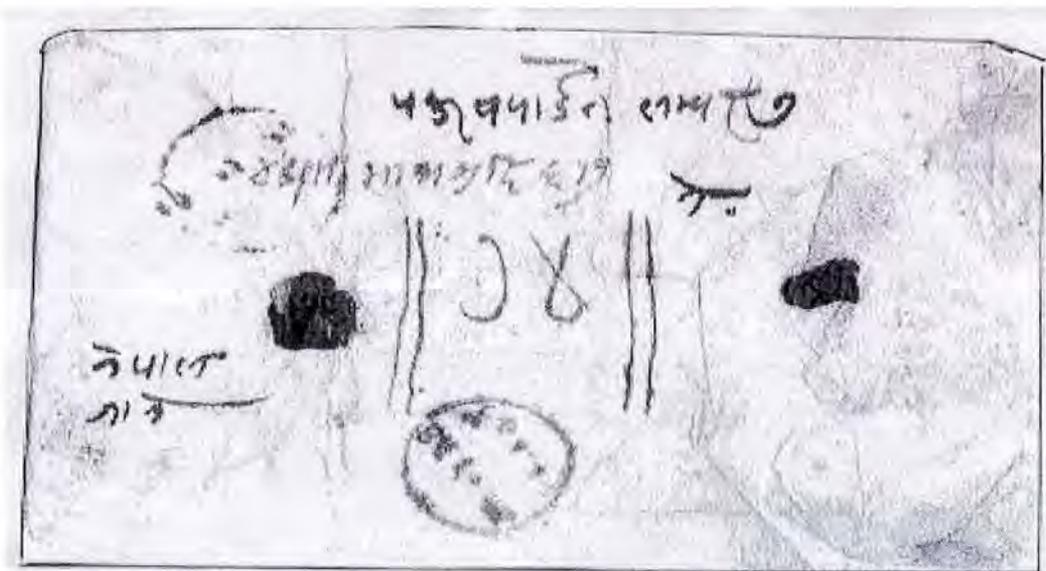
Not every day is a successful one for the specialist collector, in finding good material for his collection. But occasionally you are successful in finding an item that will enhance your collection. Such an occasion happened in the spring of 1999 when I managed to obtain a rare cover franked with a *pair of 4 annas*.

I already knew that covers franked with two 4 anna stamps are extremely rare. In the Feldman sale of the Gupta collection in November 1997, such a cover was offered and I was very pleased to purchase this nice item, qualified in the auction catalogue by Hellrigl as extremely rare.

In the Hellrigl collection I have seen a registered double weight cover with acknowledgement due, sent from Jaleswar in December 1901 and franked with a *pair of 4 annas*. Wolfgang Hellrigl described his cover as follows: "This is the only 8 anna cover with a pair of 4 annas."

Such a statement is of course only valid until a second item is recorded.

I do not know if in the meantime another such cover has been found (I received a photocopy of Hellrigl's cover many years ago). Certainly it has not been recorded in Postal Himal and so it would seem that my acquisition must be the second cover of which I give here the complete description.

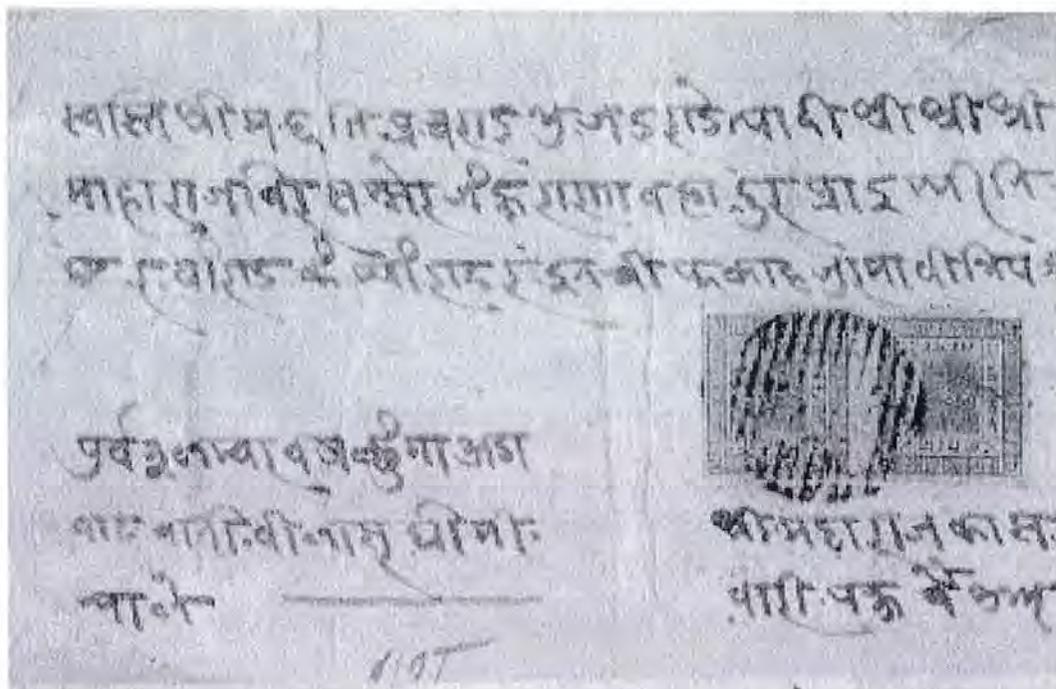


The cover was sent from P.M.'s camp near Okhaldunga to Bir Shum Sher J.B.R. according to the standard circular cancel of Okhaldunga (D24) of 45-10-7 BS and arrived in Kathmandu 3 days later, 45-10-10 BS (KT datestamp XIA(D71)). Both cancels are on the reverse.

The BS date 45-10-7 is equal to the AD date of January 1889, so very early in '89. The period of use of this KTM datestamp XIA is given by Hellrigl for 1889 only.

On the front of the cover is the fine 4 anna pair yellow green on thin native paper, thus most probably of setting 3, though setting 4 is a second option.

The stamps are cancelled by the standard circular cancellation of Okhaldunga (C18), which is 1 year earlier than given by Hellrigl in his Catalogue of Nepalese postmarks.



The rare second cover franked with a pair of 4 anna stamps  
(See article on opposite page)

## TIBETAN SOUVENIRS

By Derrick Dawson

"The Political Officer in Sikkim, Baily Sahib, arrived in Lhasa and was met by the Peak Secretary, Lobzang Jamyang and offered tea in a silver pot, five pieces of bread and a ceremonial scarf of the finest quality". So reads a Tibetan account of the official visit. Of Major Bailey to Lhasa in July 1924, a year of great crisis in Tibet's political history, following the breach between the XIII Dalai Lama and the VI Panchen Lama over a long running taxation dispute which resulted in Panchen's flight to China.

He never returned to Tashilhunpo again. On this visit, Bailey was accompanied by Major J.H.Hislop I.M.S. who served as Medical Officer, Gyantse, from July 1923 until September 1924. Much later, in January 1942 and now the rank of Lt. Col., Hislop was appointed Civil Surgeon Bhutan and Tibet, a post created in 1940 to oversee medical matters in these countries. Though officially based in Gyantse, it came to be regarded as a posting as Medical Officer to the British Mission in Lhasa. Col. Hislop held this position until June 1944. He is described as one who "survived drinking more at high altitude than was previously thought possible".

So much for history. But there is also a philatelic slant to this, as you may have suspected. The Tibetan authorities often presented to high ranking visitors a souvenir in the form of a selection of their postage stamps affixed to a sheet of Tibetan paper and generally, though not invariably, cancelled by one or other of the Lasha cancellors. These strips vary in size. Hugh Richardson told me that these presentation sheets were prepared by Tsarong Shape during the 1920's when he was Master of the Mint (the Trapchi Lekhung). Some time ago I aquired a small collection of Tibetan

stamps brought back by Col. Hislop among which were two sheets, which, at first glance might be regarded as presentation pieces. One sheet bears the 1912 issue, mint; the other has the 1933 set cancelled to order in Lhasa. These merit examination. First the 1912 sheet, which is illustrated on the front cover in colour at Fig. 1.

The stamps are:-

1/6 trangka, shiny olive green,	posn. 9. Waterfall W30
1/3 trangka, shiny cobalt blue	Waterfall W41
1/2 trangka pale reddish purple, shiny group,	posn. 8, Waterfall W51
2/3 trangka, Shiny bright lake,	posn. 2, Waterfall W67
1 trangka, dull vermilion.	Posn. 5, Waterfall W72

Beneath each value is written in faded ink, presumably by Col. Hislop, the Tibetan word for the value and additional notes which seem to have been inserted by some collector who acquired the items. These stamps were in the process of becoming detached from the sheet when I took them over and I remounted them with hinges. The sheet itself is of fine quality Tibetan pelure paper, size 235mm x 75mm, and I would readily accept it as a Tibetan Government presentation sheet.

The 1933 sheet is illustrated on front cover, again in colour, at Fig. 2.

The stamps are:

4 trangka emerald, cliché No.2	Waterfall W208
2 trangka scarlet red, cliché No.10	Waterfall W185
1 trangka scarlet vermilion, cliché No. 4	Waterfall W148
2/3 trangka, pale blue, cliché No. 12	Waterfall W131
1/2 trangka, bistre, cliché No. 7	Waterfall W112

Again Col. Hislop has written in ink above the stamps the Tibetan names of the values and below the stamps, the values in annas. There is an interesting pencilled annotation, "Cancelled in Lhasa in presence of Col. J.W.(sic) Hislop, I.M.S. Values in annas and with names which vary." This must have been written by someone who knew the Colonel and presumably acquired the pieces from him.

The stamps are each cancelled by the Lhasa bilingual postmark, (Hellrigl Type T42) but the impressions vary from poor (2) to fair (3). The thin paper, size 255mm x 78mm, is not Tibetan, but may be Indian or European. These two facts – the quality of cancel and the paper type – lead me to believe that this is not a presentation piece, but one which the Colonel had prepared and had cancelled by favour.

What is significant, however, is the fact that the two sheets each contain one of the rarest of Tibetan stamps. The 1/6 trangka shiny cobalt blue of the 1912 issue is described by Waterfall as "many times more rare than the 1 Sang, only three complete sheets have been recorded. The ink used was totally unsuitable for fine printing – most of them are just recognisable as Tibetan stamps". The Hislop example bears out the latter statement. In almost 30 years of collecting I have only come across one other example of the 1/6 trangka cobalt.

The 1/2 trangka bistre of the 1933 issue is another very rare stamp of the 2<sup>nd</sup> setting of this value (1936-41). Waterfall reports only some 15 used copies and 3 mint sheets of the bistre having been seen. I have never seen a copy previously and my initial reaction on seeing this stamp was that it might be a forgery. I am pleased that I was wrong. I am equally content that in addition to his reported imbibing achievements the good Colonel seemed also to have a most refined philatelic taste!

### **HELP NEEDED AT STAMP SHOW 2000**

Our society is having two frames in the Specialist Society area, which is in the main to help promote the societies taking part. As with all shows volunteers are need to help with the mounting of the exhibition and to man the Specialist Society stand while the exhibition is on.

At present a few more volunteers are needed. If any of our members in the UK are interested in helping to mount the exhibits on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 2pm or to help with manning the Specialist Society stand during the exhibition *Please telephone Phil Kenton at 01932 222864*. You will be able to get into the show free every day including the opening day.

Colin Hepper

**NEPAL:** I am selling Nepalese stamps, errors, varieties and Postal Stationery.

Ajit Shah, GPO Box 2159, Kathmandu, Nepal.

### **WANTED: CASSIC AND PASHUPATI COVERS FROM NEPAL**

I purchase and/or trade better stamps and covers. Also wanted – better “India used in Nepal”, Censored mail from Nepal and Tibet, Nepal/Tibet and Nepal/Indian combination covers, unusual Nepalese covers from the 1050’s and 1060’s.

Leo Martyn, PO Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA 90049 – 0263, USA

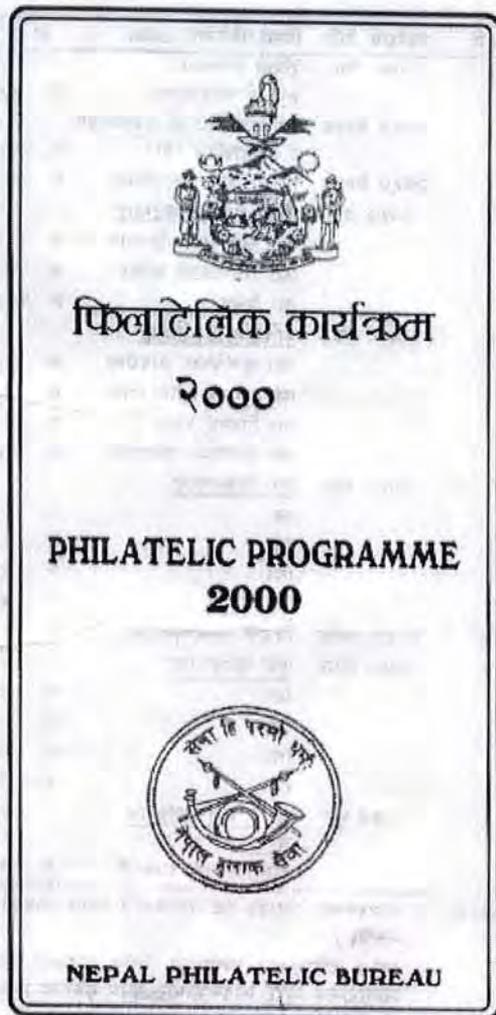
**NEPAL:** Pashupati period covers bearing stamps from the 1907, 1930 and 1935 issues (including mixed issues on cover). Also, a large used block of the 1 Rupee 1930 issue. Offers invited – please send photocopies to:

Wolfgang Hellrigl, PO Box 349, I-39100 Bozen, Italy

For all your philatelic requirements for stamps, postal history, postal stationery, revenues, etc. of **BHUTAN, NEPAL, TIBET, & INDIAN STATES**, please contact us for your general or specific wants, so we can offer items of your choice. Please write or send emails to:

Kalamandir, PO Box 10148, Kathmandu, Nepal. – email: [ramesh@moti.wlink.com.np](mailto:ramesh@moti.wlink.com.np)

Kalamandir is a government registered enterprise which will be dealing in stamps and various other items.



S.N.	Date of Issue	Subject or Occasion	Rate
1.	Apr. 2000	50th Anniversary of Radio Nepal	R. 5.00
2.	May 2000	50th Anniversary of Red Cross & Hepatitis 'B'	R. 20.00
3.	May 2000	Centenary of Gorkhapatra	R. 10.00
4.	June 2000	<u>Visit Nepal Series</u>	
		A. Tsho roipa Glacial Lake	R. 12.00
		B. Dakshinkali Temple	R. 15.00
		C. Mountain	R. 18.00
5.	July 2000	<u>Personality Series</u>	
		A. Krishna Prasad Koirala	R. 2.00
		B. Hridaya Chandra Singh Pradhan	R. 2.00
		C. Thirbam Malla	R. 2.00
		D. Manmohan Adhikari	R. 2.00
6.	Aug. 2000	<u>Bird Series</u>	
		A.	R. 2.00
		B.	R. 2.00
		C.	R. 5.00
		D.	R. 5.00
7.	Sept. 2000	Sydney Olympic Game	R. 25.00
8.	Nov. 2000	<u>Flower Series</u>	
		A.	R. 1.00
		B.	R. 1.00
		C.	R. 2.00
		D.	R. 2.00
9.	Dec. 2000	56th Birthday of HM the King	R. 6.00

**Note:** 1. The above programmes and rates are subject to change as necessary.  
2. The detail information of each issue will be available from Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu from time to time.

### New Issue – Personalities Series, 20 November 1999



1 Rupee - Bhupi Sherchan, Master Mitrasen, Ram Narayan Mishra.  
2 Rupee – Rudra Raj Pandey, Gopal Prasad Rimal, Mangala Devi Singh.  
50 stamps to the sheet, 1 million of each value. Printed Government Printing Office, Vienna, Austria.  
Postal Himal No. 98

**New Issue – Dance Series, 26 December 1999**



3 values of 5 Rupees each value. 50 Stamps to the sheet, 1 million of each value.  
Printed at Helio Courvoisier S.A. Switzerland.

**New Issue**  
**Elimination of Child Labour/ 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday of H.M. The King,**  
**29 December 1999**



Elimination of Child Labour  
Denomination R. 12  
50 stamps to the sheet  
Printing: 1 Million  
Printer: Government Printing Office,  
Vienna.

55<sup>th</sup> Birthday of H.M. The King  
Denomination: R. 5  
50 stamps to the sheet  
Printing: 1 Million  
Printer: Government Printing Office,  
Vienna.

1/2 Anna Centenary Postmark – 29 December 1999



The postal authorities have celebrated the centenary of the 1/2 anna stamp, by issuing a special 100 years postmark, on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1999.



To commemorate this event the Nepal Philatelic Society produced a few souvenir covers, using both a genuine 1/2 anna stamp and the new King's Birthday stamp.

These can be obtained from S.L.Shretha, GPO Box 72, Kathmandu, Nepal. Prices: Souvenir cover £12, Card with Pmk. £2. Both post paid. Cash with order.

### A Postcard Query.

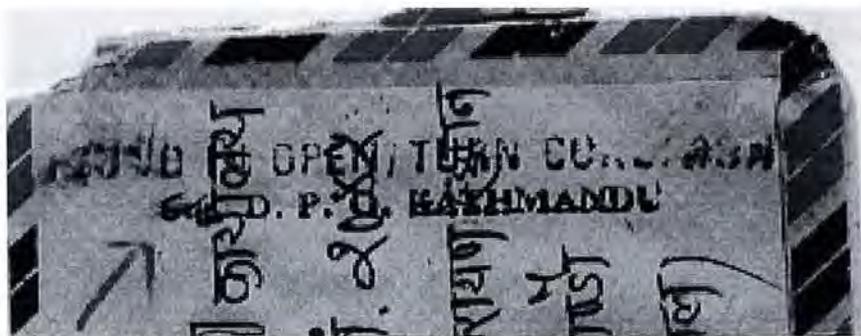


Mr A.K.Agwaral of Kantipur in India has sent in the postcard illustrated above. Although the despatch postmark is not clear the card was sent from Biratnagar in Nepal to Didwana in India. The 8p postcard has had a 2P *Indian* stamp added to make up the correct postage. He would like to know if anyone else has seen anything similar from these exchange post offices, or if anyone can throw any light as the reason for Indian stamps to be used. The Didwana receiving postmark seems to read 16-9-72.

### A Postal Remark Query from Kathmandu

An internal airmail letter I have, had been received damaged at Kathmandu. Two of the outside edges have been repaired with selotape. Across the end of the envelope was a handstamp in English with the following message: -

FOUND / OPEN / TORN COR\*\*\*\*N  
D. P. O. KATHMANDU



As the last word on the top line is not clear, do any of our friends in Kathmandu know what this word is?

# Nepal - Express Delivery Service By Colin Hepper

There are two types of 'Express Delivery' systems (called 'Drut') associated with the modern postal services in Nepal. One is the official express service organised by the post office and the other is a private express delivery service registered by the government. All mail I have seen there has been an additional charge of 1 Rupee for the service.

The post office mail has a number of different handstamps, the basic one being a single line handstamp reading "Express Postal Service" -

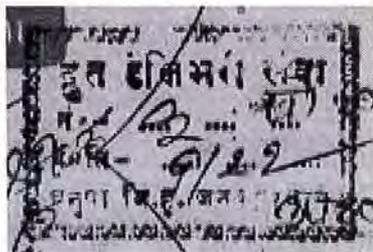
In addition to this handstamp there is usually a further handstamp giving the name of the post office, the delivery number and the date. These can be found in both Devanagari and English.

Some can be found in manuscript only and in these instances a red adhesive label with the word 'Express' in white lettering has been placed at the top left hand corner of the envelope. Beside this have been written the details i.e. Drut No. and date.

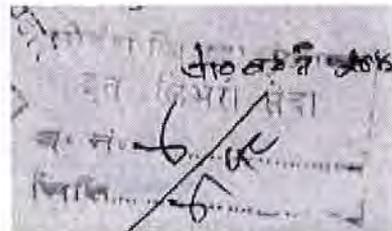
Examples of the handstamps are as follows: -

## Devanagari

Express Delivery handstamp  
from Dhanusu D.P.O.

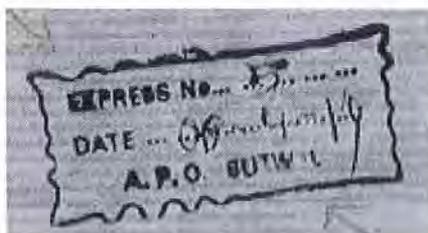


Express Delivery handstamp  
from Morang D.P.O.

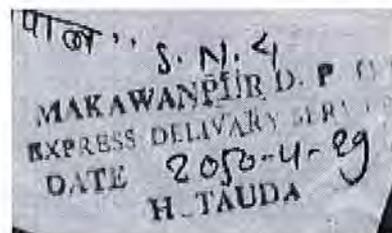


## English

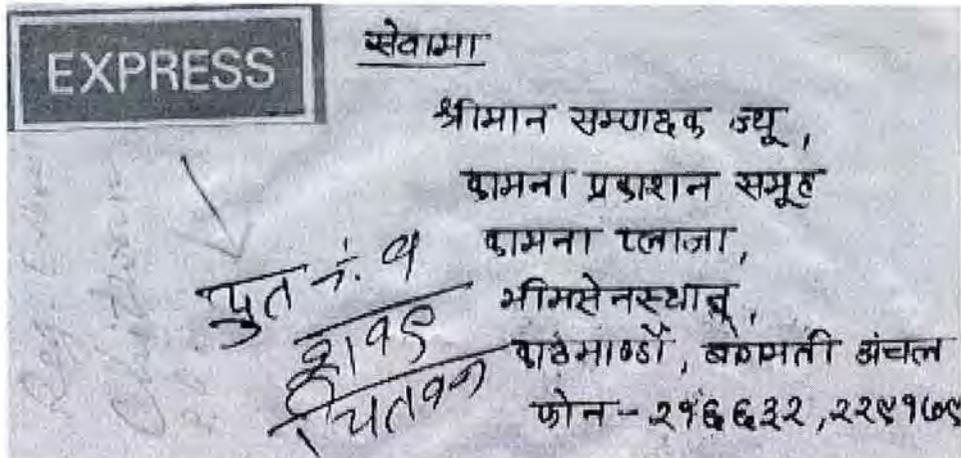
Express Delivery handstamp  
from A.P.O. Butwal.



Express Delivery handstamp  
from Makawanpur D.P.O.



Manuscript.



Registered letter sent by Express Delivery from Chitwan P.O. Manuscript details read; Top line, Drut No.1; middle, 2/19; bottom, Chitwan.

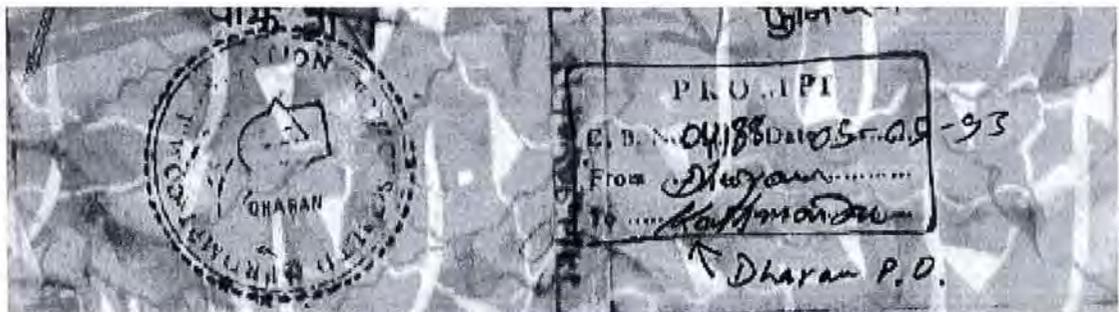
Private Delivery Services

Letters sent by the private express delivery service all have similar handstamps to those sent by the post office except that all the ones I have seen have been in English only. They have EXDEL at the top and the letter number and destination in the lower sections.

Examples: -



A further handstamp I have probably comes from another company, although the details are very similar except that it states "Prompt" rather than "Exdel" and was used on a letter from Dharan to Kathmandu. In addition to this there is a second circular handstamp with the inscription round the outside of the circle reading 'Prompt Communications Services' and in the centre 'Dharan'.



Private delivery service handstamps on letter from Dharan to Kathmandu.

## **NOTES ON THE "BORDERLINE COVER"**

One of our members, Bernard Lucas was showing one of his friends who collects China (Mr J.L. Whiteside) the article "A Borderline Cover" by Derrick Dawson in Postal Himal No.97.

Mr Whiteside had the following comments to make on the cover: -

- A) – The franking of 40 x 50c stamps is insufficient and some must have been removed. From 11<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1949, the rate for a letter was 50 Gold Yan for up to 20gms., thus requiring 100 x 50c stamps. The franking is also insufficient in the very unlikely event that it was a Printed Matter item, as the rate was 30 Yuan for 50gms.
- B) - I would suggest that the postmarks should be carefully checked, as I think the item has gone from Kweiteh, via Sining to Lanchow. I think the Lanchow mark should be looked at again and I think that it may be dated 25 of month 3. On these Red Band covers, the town to which they are addressed is normally the top two or three characters of the right hand address line. On this cover the top two characters appear to be Lanchow. They are definitely not Sining.
- C) – I think the top two characters in the boxed "chop" are probably not Chinghai, but are Kweiteh.
- D) – It is my personal opinion that the description "Chinese franking but a Tibetan cover", is rather specious. Were these places ever under anything but Chinese jurisdiction in respect of their postal services? I have a 1901 Atlas, the map volume of the current Encyclopaedia Britannica, and both Kweiteh and Sining are very clearly shown as being in Kansu province and not in Tibet, as it then was. The border then is shown as about 30 miles south of Kweiteh. The border was, I am sure adjusted later, but were anything other than Chinese stamps ever valid? It is possible that at this early period there may not have been a post office at Kweiteh, but there must have been one at the important town of Shining.

I passed these comments on to Derrick Dawson and received the following reply.

Colin Hepper

### **A response to Observations by Mr J.L. Whiteside via Bernard Lucas.**

Mr Whiteside commented on four specific matters and I deal with them in the order presented to me: -

- A) Having no expertise in the matter of Chinese postage rates I accept the information provided. It is useful. My article did, of course, point out the discrepancy between the vendor's description of the cover as being franked with a block of 80 stamps and the reality, which was a block of 40. The information throws new light on this.
- B) I regret being unable to assist further with the Lanchow postmark. As my article mentioned the date has been completely obliterated. This is due to the cancellor having been positioned over one of the heavily written Chinese characters. However Mr Whiteside's information that the top two or three characters of the right hand line normally indicate the town to which the letter is addressed led me to check and confirm that they are in fact, Lanchow. The cover is thus addressed from Kweiteh to Lanchow via Sining and not Sining via Lanchow as I had supposed.
- C) The top two characters in the boxed chop are not altogether legible but I can accept the probability that they are the town named Kweith rather than the name of the province Chinghai in which it lies.

D) on Mr Whiteside's comments here I must take issue. His opinion is that my description of the cover is "rather specious" which Chamber's Twentieth Century Dictionary defines as "plausibly deceptive", and refers to a map showing both Kweiteh and Sining as being in Kansu Province and not in Tibet. There are doubtless several maps falling into this category. They are not wrong, but simply show the existing *political* boudaries. But there are other maps which clearly show the opposite and place Kweiteh and Sining firmly within Tibet. (I am enclosing three examples of these for the Editor's eyes only, as copyright forbids publication. Interested readers may find examples in "In Exile from the Land of Snows" by John Avedon, pub. Michael Joseph; and "A History of Modern Tibet 1913-51: The Demise of the Lamaist State" by Professor Melvyn Goldstein, pub. University of California Press. There are others). Why then the difference? The answer is that these maps show the *ethnic* or *traditional* boundaries. I expect that Mr Whiteside is aware of this and taking the charitable view, can only conclude that he did not read the article too carefully for I deliberately used the phrase "So here is a cover originating within the area of *ethnic* Tibet".

This raises an important question for all Tibet collectors. What is to be the status of covers originating within present day Chinese occupied Tibet? If we describe them as Tibetan, as many dealers and collectors do, are we all to be branded "rather specious"? They are never under anything else than Chinese jurisdiction and are franked solely with Chinese stamps. In other words they are in a precisely similar category to the Kweiteh cover. Indeed the sole difference is that Kweiteh fell under the control of the rapacious Chinese colonists almost half a century earlier than what remained of Tibet. As to mr Whiteside's question whether anything other than Chinese stamps were ever valid in Kweiteh, the answer is surely obvious. Tibetan stamps did not appear until the end of 1912 by which time the Tibetan province of Amdo (Chinghai to the Chinese) was already disappearing into the Chinese maw.

"Rather specious" or not, I stand by my description. I leave others to form their own opinions.

*The three maps sent by Derrick, with his response all show Sining and Kweiteh within the borders of Tibet. – Colin Hepper*

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TIBET  
BHUTAN  
SIKKIM**

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(Consignments Accepted)

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The India Study Circle for Philately

You can find our website  
At:  
<http://fuchs-online.com/ntpsc>

The Society meeting at  
Stamp Show 2000  
Will be from:  
10.30am – 13.30pm  
on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
in  
Marlborough Room 2

**TIBET**



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### **REPORT OF AUSTRALIA 99'**

Australia 99', Australia's second FIP World Exhibition was held from March 19<sup>th</sup> through to the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, which is on the banks of the Yarra River in the centre of Melbourne. Its central location and an extensive publicity campaign resulted in over 70,000 people visiting the exhibition.

There were three Nepal exhibits and one Tibetan exhibit in the Traditional Philately section. Al Zulueta (USA) received a gold medal for his "Nepal: Pre-Postal and Classic Periods, 1820-1930's". Julie Marshall (Australia) received a large vermeil for her exhibit covering the same period and Gunter Maus (Germany) a silver medal for his display which covered the pre-philately period to the present day. Myra Luxton (New Zealand) received a large silver medal for her exhibit of Tibet which covered all the stamp issues to 1949.

Julie Marshall.

#### **Postal Himal – Back Issues Available**

Newsletter: Nos.1-24 @ \$.30 each

Plus the following postage per issue: USA \$0.29,  
Europe \$0.85, Asia \$0.95

Postal Himal: Nos.25-68 @ \$2.00 each

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