Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Number 140

4th Quarter 2009

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

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Officer's Corner

Dear Members

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was raising the question of Nepalese forgeries that are appearing on the market in the UK. In October Roger Skinner spotted a large consignment of Indian States and Nepalese forgeries all in complete sheets being offered on eBay by a dealer in New York. So after contacting me we decided to purchase them for the sole reason of taking them off the market. There was some quite keen bidding on these but Roger prevailed and we purchased them, over 120 sheets in all, some of which we have given to the APS in the USA and The Royal P.S in London for their forgery reference collections. These sheets were all printed on local native paper and as far as the Nepal sheets go, they were probably copied from Wolfgang Hellrigl and Frank Vignola's book on the classic issues. The printing was poor and many colours not correct (it is the first 2 anna green I have seen) but it would still be possible to cut out those stamps that were a reasonable colour match and clearly printed and sell for genuine. Tibet has been renowned for it's forgeries for many years now but Nepal forgeries seem to be fast catching it up. So for

Editor's Ramblings

We have another article from Wolfgang Bertsch, a non-member who sends articles on any irregular basis. This one regards inscriptions on certain classes of Tibetan stamps. I hope that you will all find it of interest, even if you do not collect Tibet.

Hopefully you have all made your travel arrangements to attend LONDON 2010 in May.

There will be a subscription increase beginning 01 April 2010 for £ and € members. Please see page 7 for details. the Nepal collectors, please be aware of the current spate of forgeries and if anyone should see any other large amounts being offered please let me know.

You should by now all have received the index for Postal Himal, which has amounted to great deal of work by Richard Hanchett to both produce it and publish it, and I think we all owe him a great deal of thanks for it.

I must also thank Geoffrey Flack for giving the presentation on our behalf to the Tibet Library in New York. It turned out to be much larger affair than we thought and entailed many hours of work for him for what was to be a two hour presentation and having some of his material on display for two months.

Next year we will be having our 10 yearly meeting at the International Exhibition in London and I am looking forward to meeting as many members as I can during the exhibition. *Finally if there is anything you wish to be discussed at the meeting please let me know as early as you can.*

My best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Colin

Notices are included for those members whose subscriptions are up for renewal in 2010 and final notices are enclosed for those members who are in arrears. USA members whose subscriptions are up for renewal will be contacted by Roger Skinner. Those paying in £s or \in s may extended their subscriptions before 01 April 2010 at the current rates listed on the inside front cover.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 2010 23-25 April 2009 San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel LONDON 2010 08-15 May 2010 Business Design Center, London (NTPSC meeting on 12 May from10:00 am through 1:45 pm))

LISBON 2010 01-10 October 2010 INDIA 2011 February 2011 New Delhi

The Inscriptions on Tibetan Post, Official and Wireless Stamps by Wolfgang Bertsch

Although research in Tibetan philately has a translation is given. seen many experts who have published countless articles and numerous books on the and I hope that my transcriptions and subject of Tibetan philately and its history, I cannot remember having seen a publication where an exact transcription (i.e. giving the Tibetan letters found in the inscriptions of Tibetan post-stamps one by one by western letters as opposed to a method which tries to render the sounds in western letters) along with extended form² is as follows:

With this article I am trying to fill this gap, translations will contribute towards a better understanding of Tibetan post-stamps and related issues. For the transcriptions I am using the Wylie-system¹ which is the one most widely adopted in academic papers regarding Tibet.

This relatively simple system in its slightly

या'	ka	শে'	kha	मा'	ga	۲,	nga	
요.	ca	Φ,	cha	E,	ja	8	nya	
5	ta	শ্ব'	tha	5'	da	मे.	na	
4'	pa	¥۲	pha	4	ba	21,	ma	
ਝ	tsa	ዲ	tsha	Ę,	dza	ਖ਼'	wa	
(q'	zha	⊐'	za	ď,	'a	જ્ય.	ya	
7,	ra	щ,	1a	9	sha	정.	sa	
5	ha	GV'	a					
ĥĵ'	ki	Ŋ,	ku	गे.	ke	Ť	ko	
त्री'	kI	~		में'	kai	ŤŤ.	kau	
5	krI	創	klI					
5	Та	₽'	THa	7	Da	æ,	Na	
P *'	SHa	\$'	haM	58	ha:			
1	/ #	1	19 0 *	ŧ	<i>~222</i>	#	¥`	/抑入 <ka></ka>

¹Wylie, Turrell V.:"A Standard System of Tibetan Transcription." Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, vol. 22 (1959), p. 261-267.

² Yoichi, Fukuda: "Extended Wylie Method of the Transcription of the Tibetan Characters and the Datebase Project of Asian Languages in the Toyo Bunko". In: Krasser, Helmut et al. (editors): Tibetan Studies. Proceedings of the 7th Sminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Graz 1995, Vol. I, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien 1997, p. 293-297.

The first issue starting in 1912/13 and the srang issue of 1950



One tam (tam gcig)

Upper legend: bod gzhung = Tibetan government First part of the lower legend: yig the 'u = post-stamp

The second part of the lower legend gives the denomination as follows: kha kang = one kha (= $2\frac{1}{2}$ skar = 1/6 tangka) skar lnga = five skar ($\frac{1}{3}$ tangka) phyed brgyad = seven and half [skar] (literally: half eight) (1/2 tangka) zho gang = one sho (2/3 tangka) tam gcig = one tam (one tangka) srang gang = one srang (62/3 tangka)

The second issue of 1924



Four tam (tam bzhi)

Legend in upper panel: bod gzhung yig the 'u tam bzhi = Tibetan government post-stamp four tam (tangka)

The third issue starting 1933



2 tam

Upper legend: bod gzhung sbraD gla = Tibetan government post.

The word sbraD is a loan word from Hindi "dak" ("post", "mail"). The capital "D" is the transcription for the reversed Tibetan letter "da" which in turn is an abbreviated form to write the two Tibetan letters "gs", when they occur at the end of a syllable. Thus the word sbraD is normally written "sbrags". The spelling "sbrag" also exists (both words are pronounced *drak*).

In the middle panels to the left and right the denominations are given as follows: skar 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ is represented by the Tibetan figure for "8" which is crossed by an oblique line which indicates "half", i.e. "half eight") (1/2 tangka) zho gang = one sho (2/3 tangka) taM; 1 = one tam (tangka) taM 2 = 2 tam (tangka) taM 4 = 4 tam (tangka).

The word for "tam" found on the three highest values of this series is spelt with the Tibetan letter for "ta" and a small circle placed above. This circle is borrowed from the Devanagari script (used for writing Sanskrit, Hindi and Nepali) where it is called "anusvara" and is used to represent the letter "m" which closes a syllable. In this case it is transcribed with a capital M.

The official stamps of 1950



One srang (srang gang)

The upper legend: bod gzhung bka' rtags = Tibetan government official stamp (literally: Tibetan government "sealed document")

The official stamp of two sho has a slightly different spelling of the upper legend:

bod gzhung bka' rtaD (here the letter "D" represents the transcription of the reversed letter "da" which, as we have seen above in the word "sbraD", stands for the letters "gs".

The denominations are given in the upper left and right corners and the lower left and right corners of the interior square or rectangle.

Upper angles: bod dngul = Tibetan money (these words are probably meant to make clear that the denominations of these stamps are given in Tibetan rather than Chinese currency units).

Lower angles according to value:

skar lnga = five skar (1/3 tangka) zho do = two sho (= 1 and 2/3 tangka) zho lnga = five sho (= 3 and 1/3 tangka = $\frac{1}{2}$ srang) srang gang = one srang srang do = two srang

The wireless (telegraph) stamps





25 srang

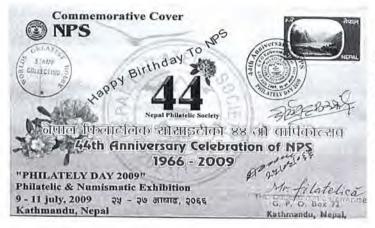
10 srang

These stamps have the shortest Tibetan legends.

The upper central legend: bod gzhung (Tibetan government)

The denominations are given in the upper left and right corner panels as follows: srang 0/5 (zero placed above figure 5) (0.5 srang), srang 1, srang 5, srang 10, srang 25

News from Kathmandu by Surendra Lal Shrestha



A commerative cover celebrating the 44th Anniversary of the Nepal Philatelic Society.

The cover was issued during the Philatelic and Numismatic Exhibition held in Kathmandu in July 2009.



Two covers issued to celebrate the ICC World Twenty Championship 2009.

The covers were issued in Kathmandu in June 2009.

[The only difference appears to be the addition of the Nepalese flag indicia on the second cover. - ed.]



Cover illustrations are courtesy of Surendra Lal Shrestha.



Two new postcards for Global Handwashing Day

Subscription Rate Increases for £ and € paying members in 2010

The new rates (effective 01 April 2010) will be: one-year £18, €20, three-year £50, €55, life £375, 410. Dues paid prior to 01 April 2010 may be renewed at the current rates - see inside front cover for the current rates. These can be sent to Colin in £ sterling or € cheques (*Please make € cheques payable to C. Hepper as this saves on bank charges*) or the amount can be transferred direct to Lloyds bank in London, account number 0106890, sort code 30-96-60 or you can renew through paypal using Colin's paypal address at <u>colinhepper@hotmail.co.uk</u> and he will confirm receipt by email. If you do transfer the amount direct to our bank would you please let Colin know that you have done so.

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Perforation Anomalies of the Perkins Bacon 1907 Sri Pashupati Issues by Colin Hepper

Vignola gave me photocopies of some of the some two years ago. studies he had been doing from his Pashupati collection, showing some printings with a would appear that there were two different types vertical perforation of 13 and others with a vertical perforation of 14. By co-incidence a few weeks after I returned home Ed Gosnell wrote to me asking about perforation differences and at the same time he was good enough to send a large number of photocopies

Figure 1. Block of 10, 2 pice brown dated 11 November 1913 showing a slightly larger gap in the perforation between hole 13 and the horizontal row above.

The 1918 printings are the ones that give the most inconsistencies in the vertical perforations. The comb has 14 vertical holes and, if set correctly, the top hole would locate into the horizontal row above, thus keeping the vertical

When visiting WESTPEX this year Frank of Pashupati printings taken from an eBay sale

On looking at the sheets available to me it of comb perforations used on the 1907 printings. The first had combs with just 13 holes in the vertical and gave clean perforations which had a slightly larger gap between hole 13 and the horizontal row above. The 1913 printings seem consistent with this (Figure 1).

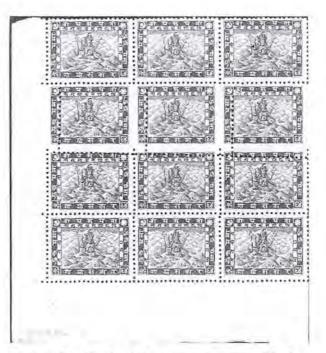


Figure 2. Block of the 2 pice brown with the comb in the third row out of position.

perforation at 13. However, in numerous instances the comb was either just too low, giving an oblong hole at the intersection, or was set low enough to give a clear 14 hole perforation. This can be seen clearly in Figure 2

where the third comb up from the bottom of the block has moved. The two bottom rows clearly show 14 vertical holes with the bottom row not being located in the row above. In the second row from the bottom the 14th hole is sitting centrally along the horizontal gap to line up with the comb above that has moved and the 4th row is lined up correctly and only shows 13 vertical holes.

perforation difference. The bottom row has a clear 14 holes, the second one up has 13 holes, in the next two the 14th hole is not quite in line with the comb above making two holes at the intersection and the top row has a clear 13 holes.

The 1925 printing (Figure 4) seems to have reverted back to using the perforation machine that was used for the 1913 printings as there does not seem to be any perforation problems and they are all a regular 13.

Figure 3 is a fine example of the vertical

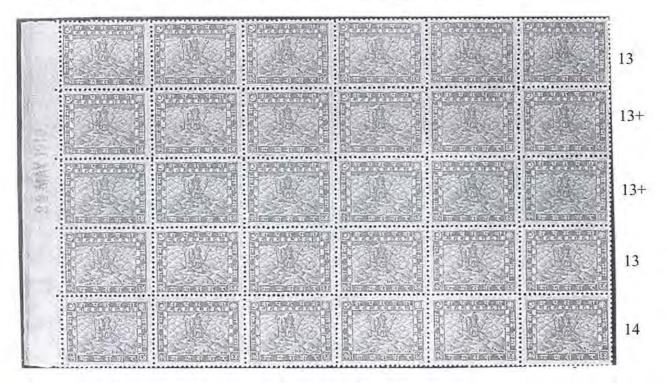


Figure 3. Block of 30 dated 23 May 1918



Figure 4. Block of 10 dated 13 Mar 1925

I have not seen any large 1907 printed blocks, so the first printing is not included.

The conclusion is that the perforation anomalies are all associated with the 1918 printings.

My thanks to Frank Vignola for his studies on this subject and to Ed Gosnell for the information provided for this article.

If any other members have any other input on this subject, we would be more than pleased to hear from you.

Letters to the Editor

The following e-mail was received from Michael Dillon [a new member - see inside front cover. Mr. Dillon has a BA, PhD, FRHistS and FRAS. He is Visiting Professor in Contemporary Chinese Studies, Tsinghua University, Beijing].

Dear Mr Hanchett,

I have only recently joined the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle and have been enjoying reading issue 139 of *Postal Himal*. There is a query on page 7 [More Himalayan Mountaineering Correspondence by Bob Gould 139:7] about where a postcard was posted. This may already have been answered by one of your more long-standing members but if not - the Chinese characters on the postmark are those of Lhasa.

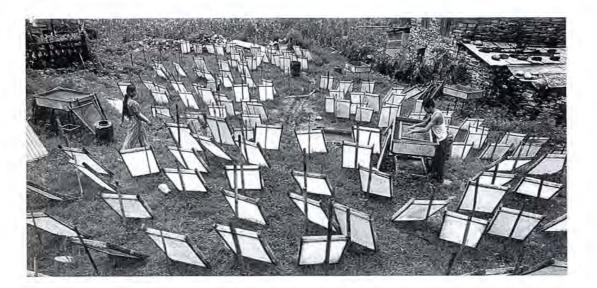
Yours sincerely, Michael Dillon

The following email was received from Ralph Weil, editor of the *China Clipper*. Replies can be made to Mr. Weil at <u>ralphweil@zoomtoon.com</u>

Mr. Richard Hanchett,

If you, or one of your members, would like to write an article about Tibet Philately, I would be glad to include the article in the next issue of the *China Clipper*. There are many members of the China Stamp Society who are interested in Tibet but know little about the philately of Tibet. Thank you,

Ralph Weil, Editor of the *China Clipper*



Mr. Patjar (right) and one of his employees setting sheets of hand-made rice paper to dry. Kathmandu Valley, Nepal [photo submitted by Colin Hepper - ed.]

Forgery of the Tibet Waterlow Issue of 1913 by Rainer Fuchs

Forgeries of Tibet stamps are nothing unusual for the collector and dealer of Tibet. The Waterlow Proofs, however, were, until recently, an exception to that. Some time ago a Waterlow Essay in red-orange was offered on eBay. The image provided immediately proved to me that the item was faked - the fine printing work as seen in the original essays could not be matched, nevertheless, it sold for about \$280. Unfortunately, I did not save a copy of the original offer, but an image of the front and reverse side of the item only.

As mentioned by the seller, the item was

examined by the late Tibet expert Dahnke, but as soon as I had received an image of the reverse side of the item I noted that even the examiner marking was faked.

Shortly after the auction, I was notified by the seller that he had a similar sheet for sale and offered it to me for the same price as the ones sold on eBay, which I respectfully declined.

Please take extreme care when being offered such items which, when genuine, are offered priced in the US \$4,000 - \$5,000 range. The price depends, of course, on the color of the item as some are rarer than others.



Front of Essay Sheet

Back of Essay Sheet with Faked Examiner's Mark



Close up of Faked Essay from Front of Sheet

Forwarded to Yatung Tibet - July 1903 by Geoffrey Flack

Very little is known about British Indian postal arrangements for mail sent into Tibet prior to the Post Office established at Khamba Jong, Tibet in September 1903 and the subsequent "Younghusband" Military Mission which began in January, 1904.

Of course, at this time, there was very little mail destined for Tibet, but there is some evidence of a formal arrangement for mail sent to several westerners (including Captain Parr of the Chinese Customs Service and the missionary, Annie Taylor) who resided in Yatung on the Tibetan side of the border. Below I have illustrated a postcard from Ireland - addressed to "M'Donnell Parr" at "Yatung/ Sikkim Thibetan Frontier". This cover would have been forwarded to Captain Parr in Yatung.

There are several references which pertain to the mail arrangements for Captain Parr in Tullock's diary (see D. S. Virk's Sikkim - Tibet). On February 2nd Tullock (who was in charge of postal arrangements for the Younghusband Expedition) wrote "There were also several articles for Capt. Parr and Mr. Henderson which should have been sent to Captain Parr's bag and delivered at Yatung". On February 8th he wrote "Visited Yatung to settle an argument between Mrs. Anne Taylor and Captain Parr as to who should have the right to look first into the open bag sent out to Yatung from Rinchingong. I arranged the matter by stopping the open bag and substituting a closed bag for each". Other than the address - "Yatung" - and the references in Tullock's diary there is very little known about mail sent into Tibet prior to the British Mission to Tibet in 1903-04. This card to Captain Parr is possibly unique.



Picture postcard (*with personal note*) franked with Great Britain Edward VII 1p Rose tied by WHITEHEAD / BELFAST (dtd JU 3 02), SEA POST OFFICE / B transit (dtd JU 15 03) with KALIMPONG transit (dtd 3 JUL 03) and RHENOCK // B.O. / DARJEELING Receiving Mark (dtd 24 JUL 03).

Captain Parr was an Englishman in the service of the Chinese Government. Employed as a "Chinese Customs Official", at Yatung (Tibet), but his loyalties lay with the British. (Patrick French in "Younghusband, The Last Great Imperial Adventurer" makes a number of references to Parr. French says: "Younghusband found him useful but irritating: a terrible talker and a rather low class man ... but full of information. Among other things he says that the Russians are moving on Lhasa, and at any rate the Tibetans count on their support." Although Parr was meant to be acting both as a Chinese Commissioner and diplomat go-between, he found to his regret that the Tibetan delegates took no notice of him.". It seems that Parr spent some time at Khamba Jong. French wrote: "Parr and Ho found themselves in a difficult position at Khamba Jong, obliged to represent the Emperor's interests yet unable to influence the Tibetans".

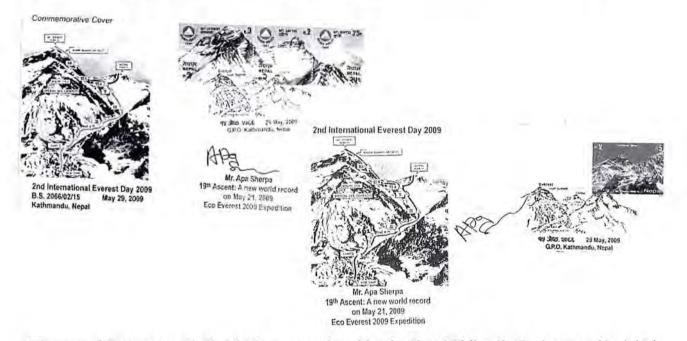
Forged Apa Sherpa Covers by Colin Hepper

On 29 May 2009 Apa Sherpa reached the summit of Mount Everest for his 19th time, more than anyone else in the world, The 49 year old Sherpa, originally from the village of Thamel in Nepal and a resident of Salt Lake City since 2006, has climbed Everest for eight straight years and 19 of the last 20.

Apa carried a sacred two pound vase, called a Bhumpa, to the summit. The high monk Ngawang Tenzin Zang po, Rinpoche of the monastery of Tengboche below the mountain, asked Apa to take the Bhumpa, which was filled with 400 different ingredients, relics, plants and elements, to the summit as an offering to Chomolangma, Mother Goddess of the World, to protect humanity and help deal with climate change.

The Nepal Philatelic Society in Kathmandu organised 400 Special Commemorative covers to record the historic climb of Apa Sherpa. These covers have the seal of the Society on the top back flap with their address underneath. At the bottom of the envelope is stamped 'Quantity 400', the signature of Apa Sherpa is on the front.





The cover illustrated on the left is the one produced by the Nepal Philatelic Society, on the right is a cover that has been produced using some of the details from the genuine cover and the signature of Apa Sherpa has been printed on to it.

I have tried to explain to the individual who produced this cover that he is deceiving the collectors and to sell them with a note that the signature has been printed on does not make it right. This does nothing to help the good name of Nepalese philately and will not be condoned by this society.

Royal Visit by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra to Nepal November 1989 by Colin Hepper

of Princess Alexandra to Nepal, in November Flight arrival and departure on 1st November and 1989. The front of the cover has been signed by 9th November and the RAF Benson postmark Brigadier D. R. Green CBE, MC Commander, dated 15 November 1989. The cover, using the British Gurkhas, Commander N. E. I. Beresford, RAF Officer cancelled in Kathmandu on the day before they Commanding, The Queens Flight to whom the departed. envelope is addressed at RAF Benson in the UK.

the back and verified by Group Captain W.S.O. on the same flight it went out on. Randle.

Special commemorative envelope, for the visit Two of the four back stamps are for the Queens 1978-1980 and Wing Nepalese stamp of their Queen Mother has been

It is a very attractive and unusual philatelic Seven hundred fifty (750) of these envelopes cover which I doubt actually went through the were produced with each one being numbered on postal system, but found its way back to the UK



Auction #73 -- Closing Date February 10, 2010

msd rpm Reg	C = Official Stampless Cover = manuscript date = receiving postmark = Registered cover tmark references taken from	pmk(s) = Postmark(s) npm = negative postmark mpm = manuscript postmark SG = Stanley Gibbons 'A Catalogue of Nepalese Postma				
Lot		Description		£s		
1	3 x OSC 1883-1889 period wi rpm	th fine pmks Dandeldhura, Kalaiya	a, Pyuthan all with Ktm	15		
2	3 x OSC 1883-1889 period wi	th fine pmks Ridi, Pokhara, Chisp	ani all with Ktm rpm	15		
3	4 x OSC 1887-1890 period all Ktm rpm	with pms + msd Trisuli, Taulihaw	va (2), Banke all with	30		
4	5 x OSC 1889-1907 period all with mpm in circle Dahaban, Rasuwa, Palpa, Dalekha all with Ktm rpm					
5	4 x OSC 1889-1907 period all all with Ktm rpm	l with mpm in circle Dahaban, Jale	swar, Pokhara, Kadarban	16		
6	8 x OSC 1908-1911 period all Hanumannagar all with Ktm r	l with npm Chautara (2), Ilam, Jun pm	ıla, Karnali, Baitadi (2),	15		
7	8 x OSC 1893-1911 period all Birganj all with Ktm rpm	l with npm Hanumannagar, Banke	y (2), Kadarban. Pokhara,	15		
8	4 x OSC 1908-1910 period. All with transitional period postmarks Birganj (2) Chitwan, Ktm					
9	5 covers 1910-1914 with 4p Pash cancelled with npm (3) and Birganj pmk P44 (2). All with Ktm rpm. Cover condition poor to good					
10	3 covers with 1 anna re-cut sta Ktm rpm	amps 1904/5 cancelled with npm E	Birganj (2), Palpa all with	15		
11	10 Reg with wax seals 1920-1	930 period all with 1907/1930/193	35 Pash	50		
12	3 Reg with wax seals all using	g locally printed Pash		10		
13	8 x OSC all with 'Sun 7 Moo Trisuli (2)	n' pmks Dandeldhura, Chitwan, Ka	anchanpuri (2), Jumla (2),	8		
14	3 x OSC with large ornament	al pmks Syangja, Syuraj (2)		3		
15	3 x OSC with 'Hulak Arched	' pmks Dhulikhel, Okhaldunga (2)		3		
16	2 x OSC with 'Hulak Adda' p	omks Bhairahawa, Nuwakot		2		
17	5 x OSC with 'Hulak Straight' pmks Lyanglyang (2), Taulihawa, Chainpur, Syuraj					
18	2 x OSC with 'Exchange Nep	al' pmks Jaleswar, Bhairahawa		2 2		
19	9 1955 Reg Pashupati 8p envelop npm Gulmi Chandrakot. Stamps on back have been removed. The Gulmi pmk is hand dated					
20	1959 Reg with 3 x SG 107 np	om Melung with msd stamps		3		
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21	1959 Reg with Service stamps, fine Surkhet 'S' pmk	3
22	1960 Reg with 7 x local Pash + 3 x SG 119. Seal pmk not clear, could be Palung	3
23	1931 cover with 4p Pash, pmk Tatapani pmk P93, stained	2



Ex - Lot 1

Ex - Lot 1

Ex - Lot 7



Ex - Lot 3

Ex - Lot 3

Ex - Lot 3



Ex - Lot 5

Ex - Lot 5

Ex - Lot 9



Lot 19

Lot 20

Lot 21

Postal Himal No. 140

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