

# Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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## Officer's Corner

The last year has gone by very quickly. A very good year for philately, but, unfortunately a very sad year for members of our society. The death of Wolfgang Hellrigl and the loss to Himalayan Philately is second to none. For those of us who knew Wolfgang he will be truly missed, but we know Wolfgang will be remembered for years to come through the important articles and books he wrote on the Postal History of the Himalayas.

In the last year I have had the opportunity to travel extensively in North America, Europe and Asia. LONDON2010 was an opportunity to meet with many of our UK and European members including Rainer Fuchs who has been a friend for years, but a friend I had never met. (A subsequent trip to France allowed me to meet with several other collectors who had not been able to come to London). I also made several trips to India, Nepal and Thailand during the year and was able to meet members of our society - including Richard Hanchett, at INDIPEX in New

Delhi. In Bangkok I was able to spend hours discussing Nepal stamps and postal history with Bruno Le Peut and Jeetendra Gupta and I had the opportunity to learn a great deal from these two very knowledgeable collectors. WESTPEX in San Francisco, at the end of April, was a chance to meet with Colin and other Society members. WESTPEX has always held a special importance to the society and this year was no exception.

Philately is changing and the "world wide web" is here to stay. I think as a society we must embrace changes if we are to survive and if we wish to contribute to the future of Himalayan philately. In this regard, Rainer Fuchs' contributions have been important, but Rainer needs help in "dragging" our society into cyberspace. The success of our society and to a great extent the success of Himalayan philately is dependent on our establishing our presence on the "world wide web".

Geoffrey

## Editor's Ramblings

**SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** to Colin Hepper who has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

With this issue we welcome a new author, Mr. Jeffrey Brown, who is a member of the India Study Circle, but not of the NTPSC. He has kindly sent me a 6 part series of Himalayan Airmail Flights. All of these articles previously appeared in *India Post* and I thank the editor Mr. Sandeep Jaiswal for permission to reprint them in *Postal Himal*. Mr. Brown's first part appears on page 3. Mr. Brown is the author of *Indian Air Mails* and *Indian Air Mail Postage Rates until 1956*, both part of the *Handbook of Indian Philately* published by the India Study Circle. The former is a CD ROM and the latter a handbook; both are available from the author at a cost of £15 (\$25) including P&P.

Your editor has had a major brain freeze. Since issue 142 I have noted in the section UPCOMING that Indipex would be 12 - 18 February, 2011. So when I began making plane and hotel reservations, what date do you think that I used for my stay in New Delhi? Why the 6th to the 12th, of course.

So, I had only one day to spend at the exhibition - 12 February. And as I was standing in line, whose voice called out to me? Why Geoffrey Flack, of course. I did enjoy the one day that I had there. Of the three shows that I have attended during the last year, London and India had the most dealers, Portugal the best lighting and most children and families. London had the poorest light and India wasn't much better, but if you were there for the dealers, there were certainly plenty of them.

**REMINDER** that the next issue will be a remembrance of our co-founder and Past President, Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl. If you have any photos, anecdotes, remembrances or any thing that you wish to share with other members, please get it to the editor [postal and email addresses on inside front cover by 27 August 2011.

Please see pages 9 and 10 for new, revised or updated books for sale. The editors of these books spend a lot of time, effort and money to produce them. Hopefully you will purchase them and gain both knowledge and enjoyment from them.

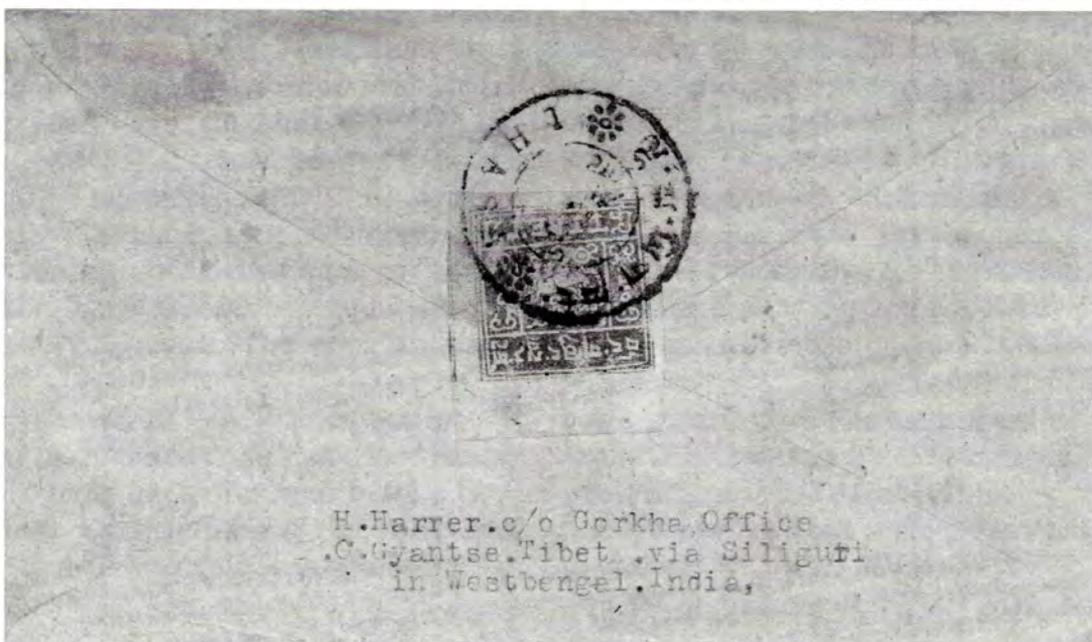
**CONGRATULATIONS** and **UPCOMING** will be found on page 12 for this issue

## Tibet 1948 Heinrich Harrer Cover to India by Rainer Fuchs

In *Postal Himal* Number 141 [1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010 - ed.], Jeffrey Flack has shown a nice cover sent to the Dalai Lama c/o Heinrich Harrer. He stated in the article "... almost nothing relating to Harrer's time in Tibet has been found in the philatelic world." I have had the cover illustrated below in my collection for many years. It was sent in October 1948 from Lhasa (Tibet 2 Trangka stamp of the 1933 issue on the

reverse side, postmarked LHASA) and the sender's name and address "H. Harrer c/o Gorkha Office, P.O. Gyantse, Tibet via Siliguri in Westbengal, India", forwarded to Kalimpong and franked on the front with Indian definitive stamps (6 ½ Annas) and sent by registered mail to New Delhi, India.

Not a rarity, but I thought other readers might be interested in seeing it.



## Himalayan Airmails

by Jeffrey Brown

### Part 1 - Kabul Evacuation Flights

This is the first of a series of articles about flights in the Himalayas in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s on which mail was carried. Such flights would have been hazardous and uncomfortable in a way that modern passengers would find difficult to imagine!

Between 22 December 1928 and 25 February 1929, the foreign community in Kabul was isolated as a result on an attempt by Batcha-I-Sakkao to overthrow the King of Afghanistan, Shah Amanullah. From 9 January onwards, No. 70 (Bombing) Squadron RAF under the command of Squadron Leader R. S. Maxwell (MC DFC) mounted a relief operation, flying in supplies for the legations in Kabul and evacuating personnel. All landings by RAF pilots at Kabul were made under gunfire and one plane was shot down. 586 people of all nationalities (including 153 women and 165 children) were flown out in 84 sorties through the mountains. In all 57,348 miles were flown in what was the world's first ever major airlift and the first evacuation of personnel by air.

Very little mail was carried, consisting mainly of dispatches from the various legations. All outgoing mail was posted at Peshawar. Few items can be confirmed as having been flown from Kabul and only the following are known to me:

1. Cover postmarked Peshawar 11 JAN.29 addressed to Mrs C T Isaacson, Lahore (see Stephen Smith in *Indian Airways Vol III*).
2. Cover postmarked Peshawar FEB.29 from H Kaumann, c/o German Legation, Kabul and addressed to the Postmaster, Peshawar (see Stephen Smith *ibid*).
3. Cover from Cornwall dated 8 January 1929 to Sir Francis Humphreys, The British Legation, Kabul backstamped *SPECIAL INSPECTOR / FOREIGN MAILS / 25 JAN.29* (see Phillips auction of the *Osprey* collection on 3 November

1983).

4. Cover from Walton-on-Thames to G Stranger, British Legation, Kabul, inscribed *Received at Kabul on 10/2/29. By air mail from Peshawar. Pilot Squadron-Leader Maxwell* and signed by Mr Stranger, who is referred to by Stephen Smith as the "Garage Superintendent" at the Legation; backstamped as above but *SPECIAL INSPECTOR / FOREIGN MAILS / 8 FEB.29*.

5. Cover postmarked Peshawar 13 FEB.29 to J Franklin, West Byfleet, enclosing a letter from Mr Stranger confirming receipt of the previous item and returning it to the sender. Mr Stranger was not evacuated until 25 February, so this letter, together with the above cover must have been sent to Peshawar by air.

6. Cover postmarked Peshawar from E Schmidt to Mrs B. Schmidt, c/o Post Master, Peshawar and endorsed *Per kind favor of British Minister* (see *India's Stamp Journal* November 1941).

A R Binns, a renowned collector of Indian Airmails, refers to two covers signed by the Postmaster-General, Calcutta and Field to two covers signed by the Postmaster, Peshawar. None of these items has been seen by me.

With so few covers known and therefore expensive, it seems sensible for me to warn anyone seeking to purchase a cover to take extra care. Clearly, it is best to have provenance such as the above covers show.

[The above article was first published in *India Post* and I thank the editor Sandeep Jaiswal for permission to reprint it here. - ed.]

## The Himalayas on Nepalese Postage Stamps (continued)

by Binod K. Shrestha

### Kanjiroba Himal (6883m)

Kanjiroba system is comprised of ridges forming an amphitheatre at the head of Jagdula Khola, east of Jumla.<sup>69</sup> The complex is dominated by Kanjiroba peak. A stamp depicting Kanjiroba was issued on 30 December 1987 (Scott 462) as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

### Kumbhakarna Himal/Jannu (7710m)

Kumbhakarna, better known as Jannu is the highest peak in the Kumbhakarna Section of the Kanchenjunga Himal which straddles the border between Nepal and Sikkim. Jannu is entirely within Nepal and is the 32nd highest mountain in the world. It was first climbed in 1962 by a team led by the noted French alpinist Lionel Terray. Those reaching the summit were Robert Paragot, Paul Kellar, René Desmanson and Sherpa Gyalzen Mitchu, on 28 April, and Jean Ravier, Lionel Terray and Sherpa Wangdi, on 29 April.<sup>70</sup> A stamp depicting Kumbhakarna was issued 1 December 1991 (Scott 495) as part of the Visit Nepal Series. The alternate name "Jannu" is also given on the stamp.

### Langtang Himal (7246m)

Langtang Lirung is the highest peak of the Langtang Himal. The Langtang Himal forms the western portion of a complex of mountains which also includes the Jugal Himal, home of Shisha Pangma (8046m). Though not high by the standards of major Himalayan peaks, Langtang Lirung is notable of its large vertical relief above the local terrain. The peak was reconnoitered by H. W. Tilman and P. Lloyd in 1949. In 1978, Seishi Wada and Pemba

Tsering, from a Japanese/Sherpa expedition, succeeded in reaching the summit, via the East Ridge route. A stamp in the Visit Nepal Series (Scott 400) was issued on 30 December 1981.

### Machapuchere (6993m)<sup>71</sup>

Machapuchare or Machhapuchhare is a peak in the Annapurna Himal of north-central Nepal. Its double summit resembles the tail of a fish, hence the name, "Fish's Tail". It is also nicknamed the "Matterhorn of Nepal". It is revered by the local population as particularly sacred to the god Shiva, and hence is off limits to climbing. The only attempt was in 1957 by a British team led by Jimmy Roberts. Climbers Wilfred Noyce and A. D. M. Cox climbed to within 50m of the summit via the North Ridge, but did not complete the ascent.<sup>72</sup> They had promised not to set foot on the actual summit. Since then, the mountain has been declared sacred, and is now forbidden to climbers.<sup>73</sup> The first Machapuchere stamp was issued on 26 June 1960 (Scott 126, 5 paisa, claret and brown) with a full-faced portrait of King Mahendra. The stamp is a painting by Bal Krishna Sama. On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) another stamp was issued depicting Machapuchere (Scott 409).<sup>74</sup>

A stamp was issued on 12 December 1978 (Scott C6) to mark the '75th Anniversary of the First Flight of Engine Powered Flight', which depicts Machapuchere with an RNAC Boeing 727 and the plane used by the Wright Brothers on 17 December 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. A stamp issued on 7 April 1973

<sup>69</sup> Gurung page 98.

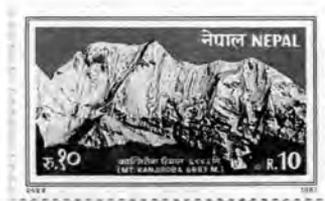
<sup>70</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jannu>.

<sup>71</sup> Sierra Leone issued a stamp on 1 July 2002 (Scott 2555) with a picture of Machapuchere.

<sup>72</sup> It is believed that Bik Denz illegally made a solo attempt in the 1980s and reached the summit. He was killed in an avalanche in 1983 on Makalu so the truth will never be known.

<sup>73</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machapuchare>.

<sup>74</sup> Singer and Gould (page 80 no. 202) wrongly identify the peak as Everest. The twin "fish-tail" is clearly visible as seen from Dhampus or Nau Danda outside of Pokhara.



From left: stamps depicting Kanjiroba (Scott 462) Kumbhakarna (Scott 495), Langtang (Scott 400)



From left: stamps depicting Machapuchere (Scott 126, 409, C6, 269)

(Scott 269) on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the World Health Organization has a picture of Machapuchere to the right of the logo. It is also depicted on several stamps showing the Annapurna Range stamps [see *Postal Himal* 145:6 -ed.].

The Type 4 series of aerogrammes (Wateren 10, 13, 14, 16, 19-21) issued on 1 July 1969, 1 August 1975, 6 February 1977, 1 October 1982 and during 1985-86 also depict the mountain. These aerogrammes are often referred to as “Everest” on eBay.

### Mansiri Himal Range

The Mansiri Himal rises between the Marsyangdi River on the west and the Burhi (Budhi) Gandaki on the east. The Range is also known as the Manaslu Himal and as the Gorkha Massif. The name Mansiri Himal is from H. Adams Carter’s classification.<sup>75</sup> The Range contains of the following major peaks, all ranked in the top 20 among world peaks by elevation: Manaslu 8156m (8th highest), Himalchuli 7893m (18th highest), Ngadi Chuli 7871m (20th highest). A stamp was issued on 17 May 1973 (Scott 272, 1 Rupee) as part of the

Visit Nepal Series and depicts Mansiri Himal in the background with Gorkha Fort in the foreground.

### Nampa (6755m)

Nampa Peak is located in far western Nepal in the Yoka Pahar subsection of the Gurans Himal (as is Api). A stamp was issued on 8 November 1995 (Scott 576) as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

### Nilgiri Himal (7061m)

The three peaks of Nilgiri Himal (Nilgiri North (7061m), Nilgiri Central (6940m), Nilgiri South (6839m)) are located in the western outlier of the Annapurna Range. A stamp was issued on 9 October 2002 (Scott 719) as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

### Nuptse (7861m)

Nuptse is a mountain in the Khumbu region of the Mahalangur Himal. It lies two kilometers WSW of Mount Everest. Nuptse is Tibetan for “west peak”, as it is the western segment of the Lhotse-Nuptse Massif. The main peak, Nuptse I, was first climbed on 16 May 1961 by Dennis Davis and Sherpa Tashi, members of a British expedition.<sup>76</sup> A 25 paisa stamp depicting

<sup>75</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mansiri\\_Himal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mansiri_Himal)

<sup>76</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuptse>



From top left: Aerogrammes depicting Machapuchere (Wateren 10, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21)

Nuptse is part of the se-tenant Khumbu panorama issued on 18 November 1982 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the UIAA - celebrated in Chamonix and Kathmandu.<sup>77</sup>

#### **Pabil (7104m)**

Pabil is located in the Ganesh Himal, named after the Hindu deity Ganesh, depicted in the form of an elephant. In fact, the South Face of Pabil (Ganesh IV) slightly resembles an elephant, with a ridge that is reminiscent of an elephant's trunk. A stamp was issued on 26 September 1979 (Scott 363) as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

#### **Pumori (7161m)**<sup>78</sup>

Pumori (or Pumo Ri), meaning "Unmarried Daughter" in the Sherpa dialect, was named by George Mallory. Climbers sometimes refer to it as "Everest's Daughter". Pumori was first climbed in 1962 by Gerhard Lenser of a German/Swiss expedition.<sup>79</sup> A stamp depicting Pumori (Scott 350) was issued on 26 October 1986 as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

#### **Saipal (7031m)**

The Gurans Himal is a small sub-range of the Himalayas in far western Nepal. It is little-

known, since it does not contain any 8000m peaks, or even any above 7200m. Its highest peak is Api (7132m). The Saipal Subsection lies east of the Seti River, and its highest peak is Saipal.<sup>80</sup> A stamp depicting Saipal (Scott 485) was issued on 24 October 1990 as part of the Visit Nepal Series.

#### **Tukuche (6920m)**

In 1976, the Nepal Police organized an expedition to Mount Tukuche in western Nepal. The expedition (11 members) was under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent of Police Sri Govinda Krishna Shrestha. They started from Kathmandu on 29 August 1976 and reached the summit of Mount Tukuche on 2 October. On the first anniversary of this successful ascent, a stamp was issued on 2 October 1977 (Scott 335) with the peak and the Nepal Police logo as an insert.

#### **Baden Powell Peak (5890m)**

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the World Scout Movement and honoring Lord Baden Powell, the Nepalese Government renamed Urkema Peak as Baden Powell Scout Peak and issued a stamp (Scott 794, 2 Rupees) on 4 September 2007. Scouting was established

<sup>77</sup> Singer and Gould page 79 nos. 187-189.

<sup>78</sup> Pumori is the subject of a stamp issued by the United Nations on 24 June 1994 (Scott 211) showing Sagarmatha National Park.

<sup>79</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumori>.

<sup>80</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurans\\_Himal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurans_Himal).



From left: Stamps depicting Mansiri (Scott 272), Nampa (Scott 576), Nilgiri (Scott 719)



From left: Stamps depicting Nuptse (Scott 404c), Pabil (Scott 363), Pumori (Scott 450)



From left: Stamps depicting Saipal (Scott 485), Tukuche (Scott 335), Baden Powell Peak (Scott 794)

in Nepal in 1952 as Nepal Scouts and Guide Association.

### Himalayan Range on Maps of Nepal

A number of stamps have the Nepal Himalaya outlined in the maps of Nepal. The first of these is a set of three stamps (Scott 170-72) marking the East-West Highway and with a portrait of King Mahendra. These stamps were issued on 19 February 1964. As part of the Regular Series, a stamp (Scott 540) was issued on 22

September 1994 with the National Crest, Flag of Nepal and Crown of Nepal which shows the Himalayan Range. Another stamp (Scott 561) was issued on the occasion of the 49th Birthday of King Birendra on 28 December 1994. This stamp also shows the Flag of Nepal, the Crown of Nepal and King Birendra with the Himalayan Range.



From left: Himalayan Range on Maps of Nepal (Scott 170-72, 540), 561)

[to be continued - ed.]

## A Visit to Nepal - 29 Years On by Colin Hepper FRPSL

[For photos of Colin at a meeting of the Nepal Philatelic Society which was held while Colin was in Kathmandu, see *Postal Himal* 145:14 -ed.]

When I visited Kathmandu in 1981 the streets were crowded with people, bicycles, heavy loads being pushed on carts, a few cars and buses. You were able to walk around the town in comparative comfort. During my visit in March 2010 I saw how progress has developed the town. The streets are full of cars and what seems to be hundreds of motor bikes all blowing their horns. The air is heavily polluted, with policemen on traffic duty wearing masks, as are a good number of people. You can no longer see the snow capped high Himalayas in the background. I am sure that the people of the town now probably enjoy a better standard of living as many of the houses now have running water and the old communal wash areas are just areas for gathering rubbish. However the old Thamel area of the town is still a pleasure to visit with its narrow streets and bazaars giving a good bustling atmosphere for visitors. One thing hasn't changed and that is the systematic shutting off the electricity by sections round the town although the hotels now all seem to have their own generators that start up when the power goes off. The brightly painted 'Holy Men' are to be found on the more regular tourist spots.

After two days we took the 30 minute flight to Pokhara for the start of a walking holiday. Pokhara, sits on the edge of Phewa Tal (lake), has the Annapurna Himalaya range in the background with the town being dominated by Mt. Machapuchha. The town has a wide main street, and an abundance of shops selling trekking equipment, souvenir shops, restaurants and internet cafes. Almost all the tourists here are either on trekking or walking holidays.

We were out walking on three different routes on different days and it would seem that life in the small villages has changed very little and it was not long before you met up with women carrying various loads on their backs and almost

all the houses had an assortment of livestock (chickens, goats, etc.) for food. In the village of Thulakot I managed to find the local post office, but as it happened to be on a Saturday it was closed. This was the only occasion I found anything to do with the postal service.



Thulakot Post Office

A short flight back to Kathmandu and we then moved to Dhulikel for some more time in excellent walking country. About an hours walk from the hotel was a school which had more or less been taken under the wing of tourists using the area and it had benefited from the donation of a computer and desks and benches in the classrooms where they had been previously sitting on the floor. The pupils came from a wide area with some having a long walk to get there I was pleasantly surprised to see that they all wore a school uniform. In the photograph I am with the English and math teachers with the



school classrooms in the background.

During my last days a very pleasant afternoon was spent in Surendra Lal Shrestha's shop in the Thamel area before we went to meet the members of the Nepal Philatelic Society in their office in New Road. I was a little surprised as it was standing room only with around thirty of their members present. I was given a very warm welcome and presented with a Tibetan garland (a long printed silk scarf) by their President

Sagar Shrestha and other gifts from some of the other members. I was particularly pleased to see Mr. C. Tulsyan and Mr. T. Dhakhwa who I had not met since my last visit here. The day was completed with a meal at a Nepalese restaurant for which I was accompanied by around twenty of their members. My thanks to Sagar and all the other Society Members who helped to make it a very memorable day.

### **Paid Advertisement**



### **The Sri Pashupati Issues of Nepal**

This hard backed book comprehensively covers all aspects of the printings of the Sri Pashupati stamps for the Perkins Bacon printings from 1907 to 1935 and then the local printings from 1941 to 1950.

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## A Note on the Location of Dongkur/Gongkur

by Dr. Robert A. Gilbert

In his article 'Tibet Post Marks and Postal Lines 1912-1933'<sup>1</sup>, Bo Olsson suggests that 'Perhaps, we will never solve the puzzle about Dongkur's location'. This, I believe, is being unduly pessimistic.

Assuming that the sequence of stages on Postal Line 1 is correct, and it is borne out by the markings on the official diplomatic mail bag strip illustrated in Armand Singer's *Tibet 1809 – 1975*<sup>2</sup>, then Dongkur must lie between Lhasa and Chushu. This precludes the possibility of Dongkur being identified with the village, and now the site of Lhasa airport, of Gongkur (or Gongkar), which lies to the south-east of Chushu (or Chushul), beyond the confluence of the Kyi-chu and the Tsang-po and away from the route to Gyantse.

Some four miles west of Lhasa, on the road to Chushu, there is a village named Dongkur (more properly Dongkar) that fits both the name and place of the postmark. It is now simply a suburb of Lhasa that receives only passing mention in modern guidebooks to Tibet, but earlier travellers paid it rather more attention.

Shing dongkar, as it was more usually called, lay on the route of the Younghusband Mission of 1904 and it was from here that the military and civilian members of the Mission gained their first real view of Lhasa. Lt. Col. Waddell

thought that the 'old fort with its ruined battlements on the sharp limestone peaks above the village' was 'especially striking', although his drawing of it is, to be kind, uninspiring<sup>3</sup>. But he did interpret the name, Shing dongkar, as 'the village of "The White Alder Tree"'. Perceval Landon, who was the Special Correspondent for *The Times*, was even more impressed, noting that 'even from Lhasa itself it stands out boldly against the sunset', which made him 'somewhat sorry to have taken no photograph'<sup>4</sup>.

There is, however, a photograph of the village, showing the 'The Regent's baggage passing Shingdonka'<sup>5</sup>. Chapman, who was private secretary to B.J. Gould on the British Mission to Lhasa of 1936, kept both a detailed diary of his journey and an extensive photographic record but his only comments on the Tibetan postal system refer to offices in the towns he visited (Lhasa, Gyantse, Phari and Yatung). This seems to confirm that Dongkar as a Post Office had by then already ceased to be.

It seems probable that Dongkar's proximity to Lhasa and relatively short distance from Chushu rendered its Post Office superfluous, and as it possesses neither a large monastery nor any impressive ruins to attract tourists, it is highly unlikely to regain such an office in the future.

<sup>1</sup> *Postal Himal*, No. 144, p.11

<sup>2</sup> 1995, p. 92

<sup>3</sup> *Lhasa and its Mysteries*, 1905, p. 327

<sup>4</sup> *Lhasa*, 1905, Vol. 2, p. 172

<sup>5</sup> Spencer Chapman's *Lhasa the Holy City*, 1938

### Paid Advertisement

#### New Book

### A TRIBUTE TO LATE KING MAHENDRA

on Stamps, Banknotes and Coins from 1955 to 1972

by Kaji Madhusudan Raj Bhandary

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please contact also for Nepal stamps, postal stationeries, banknotes, etc.

## The Papenfus Forgeries - Part I

by Colin Hepper FRPSL

One of the good things that come out of writing any book or article on philatelic subjects, is that it encourages collectors to look in their own collections. to look at what they have that hasn't been included. After my recent publication on the Sri Pashupati Issues I was talking with Leo Martyn at the WESTPEX exhibition when he said that he had a small sheet of the 2 pice local printing where there were only twelve stamps to the sheet and didn't know what it was. I told him that Papenfus had recorded small sheets of nine and twelve stamps which were forgeries, in an article he had written in *The Philatelic Journal* in 1949 and I had noted this in the 'Forgeries' section.

As I had never seen one of these sheets he sent me scans of the sheet and other single 2 pice stamps printed in different colours. These stamps all came from the collection of A. E. Smythies that Leo had bought some years ago. We know that in 1941 the Nepalese were looking at ways to continue producing the Pashupati stamps, as the Perkins Bacon printings were fast running out. Their efforts to print from the old Perkins Bacon plates were a failure, but the collectors at the time thought

that these 'stamps' were forgeries which we know now was not correct.

After seeing the 2 pice stamps in Leo's collection I am of the opinion that when they decided to produce the stamps, by producing photographic plates from the 1935 issue, the small sheets of nine and twelve stamps were in fact proofs printed before the actual 40 image plates were made. It is also significant that the other single stamps are each printed in a different colour which exactly matches the colours used for the 2 pice to 32 pice values, so I am of the opinion that these were in fact colour trials.

The fact the Smythies had access to the post office archives when he lived in Kathmandu would probably add weight to the theory that he obtained these stamps from the archives. So I believe that the information given by Papenfus is not correct and that these stamps are all trials done before the actual production took place.

If any member has any of these small sheets please contact either Leo Martyn or Colin Hepper [himalayan@att.net or colinhepper@aol.co.uk, respectively - ed.].



The 2 pice proof printing

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Gold for his exhibit "India: Dhar Philately" at INDIPEX2011 New Delhi, India

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Gold for his one frame exhibit "India: Jammu and Kashmir Telegraph Stamps" at INDIPEX2011 New Delhi, India

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Large Vermeil in the Literature Class for *India Post* at INDIPEX2011 New Delhi, India

**Alfonso G. Zulueta Jr.** was awarded Large Vermeil for his exhibit "Nepal: The Classic Period 1879-1930" at INDIPEX2011 New Delhi, India

**Shyam S. Agrawal** was awarded Large Silver for his exhibit "Nepal Pashupati Issues 1907-1947" at INDIPEX2011 New Delhi, India

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Single Frame Prix d' Honneur plus Gold for his exhibit "Kotah - The 19th Century Dual Postal System" at the APS Ameristamp Expo, Charleston, SC

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Single Frame Grand Award plus Gold plus The American Philatelic Society Research Medal for his exhibit "Shahpura - A Newly Discovered Stamp Issuing Indian Princely State" at the APS Ameristamp Expo, Charleston, SC

**Sandeep Jaiswal** was awarded Gold for his exhibit "India: Dhar Philately" at Boxborough, MA

**Colin Hepper** was awarded Vermeil plus the NTPSC Award for his exhibit "Nepal - Registered Mail" at WESTPEX 2011 San Francisco, CA

## **UPCOMING**

WESTPEX 2012 April 27-29, San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel. NTPSC meeting April 29, 11:00 am

### **The Answer to the Puzzle**

**by Bo C. Olsson**

[Readers will remember that in *PH* 145:2, Bo posed a puzzle: What was wrong with the second forged Tibet cover (Figure 2)? - ed.]

The following email was received from Bo.

Hi Richard,

I think that I need to tell you the answer to the question. I unfortunately overlooked that Internet and computers are in colour, but *PH* isn't. So, it's necessary that I give the answer myself.

This cover is "stamped" with a 2 trangka stamp in one of the orange shades used from 1950-53. The original cover is from 1934! Correct postage should then be 1/2 trangka, not 2 trangka.

But both stamp and postmark are genuine.

We shan't forget that some of the 1 sang forgeries which came on the market around 1956 are stamped with a genuine postmark from Lhasa. This fits in with the closure of the Tibetan Post late in 1956. Some cancellors apparently came into private hands shortly afterwards,

Kind regards,

Bo

# First Day Covers

courtesy of Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal



a

b



c

d

## Common Details

Color	4 with Phosphor Print
Process	Offset Lithography
Paper	High Quality Stamp Paper
Designer	Mohan N. Rana
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, France

## Unique Details

	a	b	c	d
Subject	Mahakavi Laxmi Prasad Devkota	Mountain Biking Kayaking	Chhath Festival Lahurya Folk Dance	Nepal TV Silver Jubilee
Denomination	Rs 1.00	Rs 10.00	Rs 5.00	Rs 2.00
Composition	50 per sheet	20 per sheet	50 per sheet	50 per sheet
Size	31.5 x 42.5 mm	31.5 x 42.5 mm	31.5 x 42.5 mm	42.5 x 31.5 mm
Quantity	4 million	1 million	2 million	3 million
Format	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal	Vertical

## First Day Covers

courtesy of Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Sundhara, Kathmandu, Nepal



### Details

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Subject	Sadhana Adhikari	Mahasthabir Bhikkchu Amritananda	Bhagat Sarajit Biswokarma	Jibraj Ashrit	Natikaji Shrestha	Bhairab Aryal
Denomination	Rs 5.00	Rs 5.00	Rs 5.00	Rs 5.00	Rs 5.00	Rs 5.00
Color	4 with Phosphor Print	4 with Phosphor Print	4 with Phosphor Print	4 with Phosphor Print	4 with Phosphor Print	4 with Phosphor Print
Composition	50 per sheet	50 per sheet	50 per sheet	50 per sheet	50 per sheet	50 per sheet
Size	31.5 x 42.5 mm	31.5 x 42.5 mm	42.5 x 31.5 mm	31.5 x 42.5 mm	42.5 x 31.5 mm	31.5 x 42.5 mm
Process	Offset	Offset	Offset	Offset	Offset	Offset
Quantity	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Format	Horizontal	Horizontal	Vertical	Horizontal	Vertical	Horizontal
Paper	Security with fibre	Security with fibre	Security with fibre	Security with fibre	Security with fibre	Security with fibre
Designer	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana
Printer	Cartor, France	Cartor, France	Cartor, France	Cartor, France	Cartor, France	Cartor, France

## The Cover with Everything by Colin Hepper FRPSL

I have had this cover in my collection for many years and I have no idea where I obtained it. It was sent by Meghraj Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana in Nepalganj to a Mr. Aaron Binder in New York. The letter was taken over the border to be sent from the Rupaidiha Post Office in India where it was registered and franked with Indian stamps and postmarked 5 October 1942. It then received the 'Passed DHB/18' censor cachet. The final cachet on the front is the 'US Customs/Free of Duty/New York' hand stamp.



The reverse of the cover seems to be totally philatelic, having a full set of the 1935 issue of Pashupati stamps plus the 16p, 1 Rupee and 5 Rupee stamps of the 1930 issue, all of which have been cancelled with what seems to be a Nepalese fancy type cancellor which is not readable. To complete the back, three used classic stamps have been added, with the half anna stamp having the scarce Maharaja's Camp seal postmark. Was this the payment in Nepalese stamps to take the letter to India? There is a fine wax seal reading 'Meghraj Shumsher, Nepalganj' and New York receiving postmarks dated 3 November 1942.

Do any members have any theories about the Nepalese stamps on the back?



**Nepal Post Offices - End of Series**  
Colin Hepper - photos by Jaya Hari Jha



Lubhu Chhoti Hulak  
Lalitpur



Jawalakhel Atirikta Hulak  
Lalitpur