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Officer's Corner

A show of all shows - NY2016 came and went - our Society had a stand there as well as meeting facility in the morning of 30th May, after which many members as old friends had a rare opportunity to gather together and chat over lunch together. Unfortunately yours truly missed the meeting. Nevertheless it is a great show, not least with Rainer showing his fantastic Tibet collection which included proofs as well as early bisect cover that he reported in an earlier issue of *Post Himal*. We are working with *Asian Philatelist* the Chinese language journal of RPSL on a series of articles on Tibet, to be published in August 2016. Contributors include Steve Chazen, Leo Martyn and Danny Wong as well as translations of some classics. Some of these articles may appear in future editions of *Post Himal*. This project is aimed at spreading our collecting interest to a wider and different audience.

Editor's Ramblings

Two great shows have come and gone: WESTPEX 2016 and NY 2016. It was reported that NY 2016 was the largest International Show to date. The number of exhibits was huge and there numerous Society Booths and plenty of dealers to relieve you of any excess cash that you might have happened to have with you. I was able to add some Indian Postal System TOO LATE covers to my collection and was also able to fill in a number of spaces in my Portuguese and Portuguese Colonies collection.

And then there was everything else that NY is noted for: high prices and terrible traffic. I shared a room with two others at the Show hotel

the Marriott Marquis at Times Square. As the walk was rather long we took a taxi both to and from the Show.

Next International in the USA will be BOSTON 2026. Boston is a somewhat easier city to get around in than NY and it isn't so frantic - time to start making your plans to attend. They have a web site already and you might want to check it occasionally.

The next *Postal Himal* will contain reports of both our WESTPEX and NY meetings along with a list of our members who were awarded medals at NY.

UPCOMING:

WESTPEX 2017 April 28 - 30, 2017 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Bayshore Hotel

CONGRATULATIONS

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded the United Postal Stationery Society Single Frame Champion of Champions plus Single Frame Grand Award plus Gold plus the India Study Circle Award for his exhibit "Indian Postal Stationery for China Expeditionary Force" at WESTPEX

Frank E. Vignola was awarded Vermeil plus the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle Award for his exhibit "Nepal: The Two Paisa Horse Type Design Postal Cards, 1887 - 1937" at WESTPEX

Sandeep Jaiswal was awarded Large Vermeil (87) for his exhibit "British India—Queen Victoria Postal Stationery at SINGAPORE 2015

Alfonso Zulueta was awarded Gold (90) for his exhibit "Afghanistan: Amanullah Period, 1920-1929" at SINGAPORE 2015

Johannes Bornmann was awarded Large Gold (91) and a Special Prize for his exhibit "Nepal Classic Postal Stationery (1881-1959) at the Germany/Great Britain Bilateral Exhibition GOTH A 2015

Rainer Fuchs was awarded Large Gold (90) for his exhibit "Tibet 1912-1960" at the Germany/Great Britain Bilateral Exhibition GOTH A 2015

Lost Tibetan treasure found again!
The unknown "missing link" Chomorack has turned up at an auction recently.
by Bo Olsson

Some years ago Wolfgang C. Hellrigl wrote an article in *The China Clipper* named 'Three Early Tibetan Cancellations Re-discovered'. This was about some of the very rare early postmarks from the eastern post route in Tibet.

It all started in 1922 when a brief article in *Sweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung* dealt with Tibetan postmarks. Written by a F. Reinhard, Dechen and Gyamda were illustrated and Medagongkur later thanks to Hellrigl locating them in the market. Two postmarks however never turned up, Chomorack and Shetang. Now, after so many years, a CTO cover with a Chomorack postmark has turned up. Apparently one of Reinhard's original covers and bearing the only known early postmark from Chomorack. And what a surprise, it should have been a so-called flower ornament postmark, but it wasn't. It was of the same type as the Oga Dzong postmark, a so-called ornamental postmark. If Chomorack has survived, Shetang may still turn up. Chomorack is the ultimate eastern post office of the eastern mail route. The odd type of postmark against the others on the line may well tell us the post office in Chomorack was added later than the others.

I do not think the seller, auction company Christoph Gartner or The Royal Philatelic Society had the slightest idea about what a treasure should be auctioned. The text in the auction catalogue gave not a clue to the rarity of this item: 1912-50, philatelic cover bearing 1/6 T. green, 1/3 T. blue, 1/2 T. violet, 2/3 T. carmine and 1 T. vermilion, all dull ink and imperf, clear cancellations, flaw at right, fine and attractive, certificate RPS 2013 (M). The most important thing for the RPS was to tell us the stamps "is genuine". And it is a philatelic cover (sic!).

I think with the right matching this item could have received double against what it got now. Now it sold at 3.800 euros. In my opinion a much too low sum.



Above: The cover

Left: A clear image of the postmark

Excursion Within the Thibetan Marches

by Edmond Weissberg

This is just a fun title to paraphrase the title of the translation of André Migot's book in English¹. More seriously, I submit an Imperial Chinese Post "1 cent" with the trilingual overprint: "ban fen (½ fen) / Three pies / Skar Phyed (½ skar[ma])".

A very common stamp.

It was offered for sale with a somewhat rough description as: "Tibet item cancelled in RATANG". RATANG, indeed? There are no towns in Thibet or China, named "Ratang"! Nevertheless, there is a Thibetan connection: BATANG in the eastern province of Khams (the so-called and alleged province of Si-Kang). Batang lies on the overland mail road from Thibet to China via Ta Tsien Lu. But the "trilingual overprinted stamps" are, up to now, not known used from Batang.

So: a very uncommon stamp? Not so sure! Looking at the partial cancel on the lower part of the stamp, one can easily reconstruct its first letter as a "B" instead of a "R". One can also discern underneath a partial horizontal rectangular box, which should have had the date inside! Probably, below that box, was the town's name in Chinese. We can reasonably assume that this Batang cancel is a bilingual cancel type 11, as shown by Padget p.30². And reasonably as well, that it matches with the Batang transit backstamp example shown by Fortune Wang p. 487³.

At the right side of the stamp there is an arc of circle, without any writing. And presuppose it to be part of a Thibetan cancel. Careful examination reveals in fact two concentric circles, which *ipso facto* excludes the possibility of a Dollar Chop"cancel. This is confirmed by a rough measurement of the curvature degree of the outer circle: it obviously belongs to a smaller cancel. Besides, both outer and inner circles appear to have the same thickness. So excluding Lhasa type C6 [Hellrigl p.23⁴], [Fortune Wang type C1, p.471³] the "arc of the circle" on the right side of the stamp only has the possibility of being Fortune Wang type C2 [p.471³] i.e. Hellrigl [p.23⁴] types C1, C2, C3, C4, or C5. That is to say: Gyantse, Lhasa, Phari, Shigatse, or Yatung. Otherwise, the "trilingual surcharged" stamps were issued in February 2011 only. So, as per Hellrigl [p. 23⁴] this seems to exclude, as per his recorded latest date of use, Gyantse, Lhasa, and Shigatse. However, as per Fortune Wang, all the offices were closed only on November 29, 1911[p.471³]. So: many possibilities remain open.

To conclude: this is neither a common stamp nor an uncommon one. It was probably unglued from an envelope, just to keep the stamp. This was certainly attached to an overland cover from Thibet to China. Possibly, the dispatch cancel from Thibet was applied to a part of this stamp (on the right side). And afterwards, the transit backstamp of Batang was applied partially on the lower part of this stamp, instead of being struck only on the cover.

It may be that a young collector album. Perhaps this is the



unglued the stamp just to fill a space in his explanation of this slaughter?

- (1) André Migot: "Caravanes vers Bouddha", translated by Peter Fleming, (Rupert Hart-Davis, London,1955),s:"Tibetan Marches".
- (2) Peter I. Padget: "The Postal Markings of China", China Philatelic Society of London, 1978.
- (3) Fortune Wang: "Tibet and Postal History & Stamps - The Ancient and Early Postal History & Stamps of Tibet", (Vol. II of 3), Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2008.
- (4) Wolfgang C. Hellrigl: "The Postal Markings of Tibet", [Bozen, Italy, 1996, Geoffrey Flack, Vancouver, Canada, 1996].

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PRESS RELEASE

Major Philatelic Library to be Available Online

The major philatelic library built up by the 26th Earl of Crawford is to be made available online at www.globalphilateliclibrary.org from 30 May (subject to some copyright constraints).

The Crawford Philatelic Library comprises over 1.3 million pages and represents around 95% of the world's published philatelic knowledge at the time it was created.

This major digitisation programme will be launched on Monday, 30 May 2016 during the World Stamp Show in New York. A presentation will be given in Room 1E07 of the Javits Centre at 2pm by Frank Walton RDP FRPSL, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London. All are welcome.

When the 26th Earl of Crawford died in 1913 he left his magnificent philatelic library to the British nation. It has been carefully kept and conserved ever since by the British Library in London, where it is available for researchers in the Reading Room.

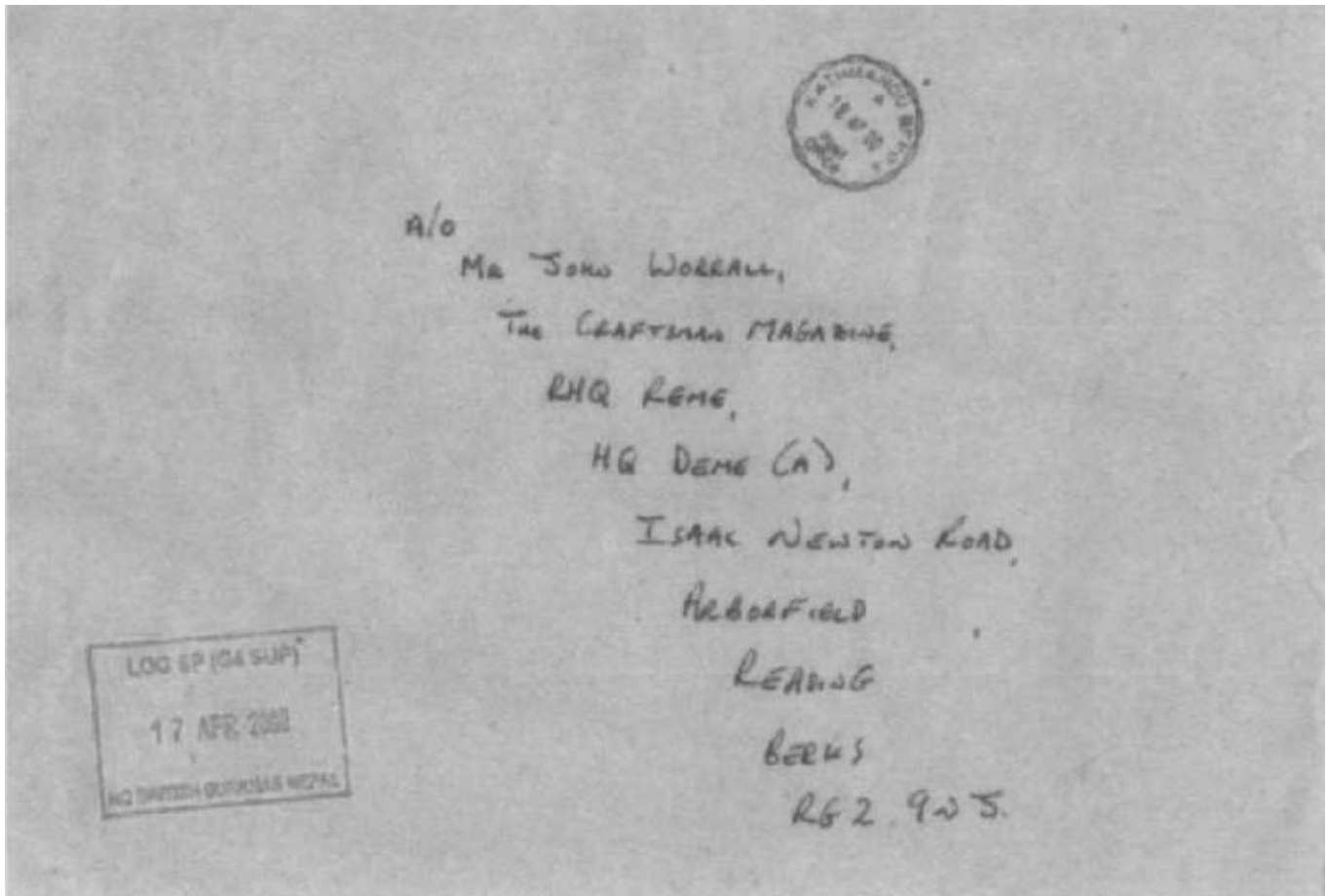
Thanks to creative thinking and IT development by staff at the British Library and volunteers from The Royal Philatelic Society London, a project to digitise every page of every volume is now well advanced. The work has been aided by funding from the British Library, the former British Philatelic Trust, the Philatelic Fund and The Royal Philatelic Society London.

More details of this project were given by David Beech MBE FRPSL, in a supplement published with the March edition of *The London Philatelist*, journal of The Royal Philatelic Society London. The text can be downloaded from the Global Philatelic Library website.

(5 May 2016)

A New Postmark from Kathmandu by Colin Hepper, FRPSL

A cover recently purchased, sent from the Headquarters of the British Gurkhas in Nepal to the UK bears a previously unrecorded postmark, "Kathmandu BFPO 4". The letter was posted on 18 April 2000.



A Strange History, but True

By Bo C. Olsson

A strange thing recently happened on eBay. A sheet of the $\frac{1}{6}$ tranka Tibet 1912 was put on auction at a very low start price. A low start price often, but not always of course, indicates something is fishy with the offered item. But perhaps there was no reason to worry because the item had been examined by the prestigious Philatelic Foundation in New York. A glance at the Certificate and the attached photo told me something was not as it should be and a quick look at the seller's photo of the item at once showed it was a forgery. Tibet has the world's reputation for the most stamp forgeries, so we shan't blame the Foundation too much for this shortcoming. It is easy to make a mistake.

Anyhow, it is a newly done Certificate dated 07/28/15, so the seller must have paid for it having in mind using it for a sale of the item. The price he got at eBay was not a good one. Lowest value sheets are the scarcest of all value sheets of the 1912 set. Such sets usually sell at (much) higher prices.

What should we learn from this story? Always check what you want to buy, even if attached with a Certificate or Opinion. And another side of the story, will the recent buyer later sell it again with his Certificate as genuine?

A collector friend notified me that Philatelic Foundation had their certificates on the internet. I took a look and saw a certificate for a single Tibet. The certificate said it was a forgery, but it was a genuine stamp!

Another strange story. I bought a single Mongolia with the 1926 overprint from a British "paper catalogue" company. It had a certificate from Royal in London stating it was a forgery, type 3. I bought it because it could be good for comparing purposes. It was not fake number 3, None of the other nine types either. I compared it to a genuine copy. I had bought a genuine stamp and my investment now had risen to 500 pounds catalogue value! The stamps on the image "From eBay" was recently offered on eBay. The first stamp upper fold is the same forgery as the one from The Foundation. In fact this type seems to be unusual. Few are seen.



Just An Ordinary Cover From India To Thibet?

by Edmond Weissberg

At first sight, it seems this cover is merely one of many instances of mail just being sent from British India, to an addressee in Gyantse, Thibet, and picked up by him at the British Indian Post Office at Gyantse. Nor was it forwarded through the Thibetan Postal System, (not a combination cover, no Thibetan stamps), nor any trader's mark, (not a commercial cover).

It is rather crumpled and tatty, despite being reinforced with inside cloth lining. Perhaps crumpled as a paper pellet and skillfully dropped into a Thibetan paper bin? But fortunately finally saved! The reverse shows traces of four missing (removed or fallen?) wax seals. So, just a registered cover, franked with 3 Annas King George V, seemingly for the second weight scale and with a clear delivery marking "Gyantse . Tibet/ Siliguri . Base / 11 MY 14" [Hellrigl type B4] on the back.

However, nobody will overlook the fact that the names of sender and addressee have both a Thibetan rendering, nor that there is some writing in the Thibetan language on this cover. Correspondence between Thibetan pen pals ? Certainly not!

Let's first have a look at the datestamp: SIMLA - 2 MY 1914 Doesn't it suddenly click? Try to remember your lectures on Thibetan modern history !

Then, try to read and translate the Thibetan cursive handwritten text. (I must admit it is rather hard and difficult to decipher it!) "TO GYANTSE TO BE DELIVERED TO KHYUNG RAM ... FROM THAI'JI KHRI SMON..... ON MONTH 3 DAY 7 AUSPICIOUSLY SENT". This satisfactorily corresponds with the superscription in English, and precisely matches up the dispatch datestamp: 02 MAY 1914. 1914/1915 was the "Wood - Tiger" year, and the 7th day of the 3rd month of that year was exactly May 2nd, 1914.

Now we have to look into the intervening parties.

- The addressee "KHUNG RAM Kusho" i.e. "Mister KHUNG RAM" was an official of the Thibetan government as a tax collector in the Gtsang province of Thibet. His correct name is Khyung ram (Khyung tse Ram pa; personal name rDo rje rGyal po). It seems he was not directly involved in the affairs of state.

- Concerning the sender "Then chi T Mun" or more correctly, as written in Thibetan: "Thai' Ji Khri Smon", it is quite different. Simply, "Thai' Ji" is a rather high title, and points to of a state dignitary. So, after some quite easy research (if you do not remember all of your lectures!), you will readily find that: Khri smon zhabs pad (nor bu dbang rgyal) (1874-1945?), was promoted to Tai Ji in 1912, and above all, was appointed to be the assistant to the Plenipotentiary Lönchen Shatra at the Simla Tripartite Conference of 1914. He was also the uncle of Rtsis-dpon "Wangchuk Deden Shakabpa" (author of a great history of Thibet¹) the last Finance Minister of Thibet, and also head of the worldwide Thibet Mission 1947/48 (and well known for his renowned Thibetan passport).

The date of the Simla datestamp is also not to be overlooked: on 27th April 1914, the treaty was initialized by all the three contracting plenipotentiaries. However, the Chinese government refused to recognize and ratify the signature of it's plenipotentiary. So, perhaps, the assistant to the Thibetan plenipotentiary wrote something on May 2nd, to an acquaintance of his in Gyantse. (Concerning perhaps, a positive result, of an agreement between the three parties). Afterwards, the treaty was finally signed between the duly accredited plenipotentiary representatives of Thibet and Great Britain, henceforth excluding and depriving China from all benefits it would have gained should it had signed the treaty !

To conclude, despite that it has at first glance, an ordinary poor looking envelope, this is an historical envelope and an historic cover, testifying of the participation of Thibet at The Simla Tripartite Conference between Thibet, Great Britain, and China.

¹ "One hundred and Thousand Moons" - By: Tsepon Wangchuk deden Shakabpa (Brill / Leiden-Boston - 2010 This book has been used for reference: vol 1, pp xxxviii/xxxix, and vol 2, p.767.



The Bhutan 2001 Surcharge Overprint on the 1984 Dzong Definitives by Iiro Kakko, Ulrich Mierwald and Leo van der Velden

On the occasion of World Post Day, Bhutan Post issued, on 9 October 2001 a series of stamp surcharges on four of the six 1984 dzong definitives, as follows:

- 4 Nu on 10 Ch, Dhomkhar Dzong
- 10 Nu on 25 Ch, Shemgang Dzong
- 15 Nu on 50 Ch, Chapcha Dzong
- 20 Nu on 1 Nu, Tashigang Dzong.

Note that Nu stands for Ngultrum and Ch for Chhetrum; there are 100 Ch in one Nu. The overprint is on the “dzong” stamp set according to the Bhutan Post website and “monasteries” series as per Michel and Scott catalogues.



the 2001 surcharge OP on the 1984 Dzong definitive series

The overprint was printed by the well-known local printing and publishing company “Kuensel”, which also publishes the Kuensel newspaper. The Kuensel printing process was clearly not set up to deal with the delicate task to overprint thin, perforated paper sheets of 100 stamps (10 x 10) each, as there are several varieties and errors to distinguish and numerous printing flaws.

The basic and most general type, called here type 1 following Michel Catalogue, has value cancellation bars with regular, mild waves and exist for all four values (illustration 1). It has a number of varieties and an abundance of flaws and errors. Especially the 10 Nu overprint of this type has been extensively used for local mail for over ten years till a few years ago.



Type 1. regular, mild wave



Type 2. bend or hooky wave

The waves of the value cancellation bars of type 2 are described as bend or ‘hooky’ (illustration 2) and exist only for the 4 Nu and 10 Nu overprints. This type has not been used for regular mail, and only a few flaws are known. A few philatelic cancellations are known.

For type one (regular, mild wave) there are at least three major variations and one special feature.



Variation 1. Regular and larger space between the Nu and the 10



Variation 2. The bar of the head of the “1” in a 90° and a 45° angle

Variation 1 exist only for the 10 Nu overprint. Variation 1A has a wider margin between the 10 and the Nu than the regular OP. The German collector Ulrich Mierwald had alerted Michel Catalogue regarding this variation which he had identified for the 10 Nu overprint with a distance between the Nu and the 10 of the value overprint of 2 mm instead of the general 0.5 mm. However, if you measure the distance from the foot of the U of NU to the base of the 1 of the 10, as we have done now, the distance is 1.5 mm for the regular common distance and 3 mm for the scarcer, wider distance.

Variation 2 (see the right illustration above), observed recently for the Nu 10 and Nu 15 overprints, concerns the head of the “1”. The 1 can be found with the small top bar of the head with a sharp 90° angle (normal type, first issued) and also with an angle of about 45° (probably later printings). The common 1,5 mm distance variation has both the 45° angle and the 90° angle variation, but the wider 3 mm variation has been found only with the 45° angle.

Variation 3 concerns fluctuations in the distance for the value overprint and the wave-like value cancellation lines. Mierwald had identified this variation for Michel catalogue, but first only for the Nu 4 surcharge with a distance length of only 11.5 mm instead of the more general 13 mm. We found also variations in this distance for the Nu 10 surcharge value (distances between 13 and 14 mm) and the Nu 15 surcharge (14 to 15 mm), while the one for the Nu 20 value is constant, around 4 mm.

Variation 4 concerns the size and appearance of the ‘Nu 20’ overprint. Comparing full sheets, there are two clear distinct sizes of the overprint, a common one of 3.5 mm x 10.5 mm, and a smaller one of 3 mm x 10 mm, only observed till now in mint only.

The special feature concerns the presence or absence of vertical alignment bars at the corner stamps of each sheet. A number of plates used for type 1 overprints has small vertical lines printed in all four or at least two corners, which occur either within the corner stamps, outside the stamps on the border margin or right on the perforation of the border stamps.



no vertical Bar stamp



vertical bar on perforation lower left corner



vertical bar on stamp right midpoint



vertical bar on stamp upper right corner

The lengths of the vertical bars differ partly for each value, and for each value depending on the corner position. The length of the upper left bar of the Nu 4 surcharge value is 10 – 11 mm, the upper right bar is only 6 to 7 mm and the lower left 11 mm. For the 4 Nu value no bar is known for the lower right corner.



vertical bar on stamp
lower right corner



vertical bar on stamp
upper right corner

For the Nu 10 surcharge value, alignment bars are known with a length of around 9 mm for the right upper and lower corners, 10 mm for the upper left corner, and 12 mm for the lower left side corner. The upper bars of the Nu 15 surcharge are 8 mm long, while those for the lower corners are clearly longer, measuring 11 mm. Also for the Nu 20 surcharge alignment bars have been identified for all four corners, with the upper and lower left measuring around 9 mm, while the upper right is 7 mm and the lower right 10 mm.



double OP



shifted OP



fading and shaking OP



disappearing value

Errors such as double overprints, thick and thin overprints on one sheet, fading overprints (resulting for instance also in waves shorter than regular length), sheets half overprinted only or half double overprinted (as in at least one printing run the sheets were fed folded into the printer apparently) are numerous, and could be found at the Thimphu and Phuentsholing GPOs for sale at the regular face value. Comparing overprinted sheets, it can be concluded that there are very little common errors on each sheet, and the errors observed are not in the same spot for each individual sheet. On each sheet one can observe something different.

It also should be noted that color and paper differences in the original 1984 series can be found back in the overprints as well.

News from Kathmandu courtesy of Surendra Lal Shashtra



18th Earthquake
Safety Day

60th Anniversary of
China/Nepal
Friendship



邮政编码:



Under 19 ICC Cricket
World Cup
Commemorative Cover
issued by the Nepal
Philatelic Society

The Himalayan Times — Apr. 3, 2016
**National postal system in dire
need of restructuring**

- **Offices, staff size require downsizing**
- **New businesses have to be created**

Prakash Acharya

Kathmandu, April 2 (2016)

The 138-year-old government postal service, one of the oldest governmental services, is now in dire of restructuring.

New businesses also have to be created if it is to do well in today's context.

With the practice of sending letters through post offices declining by 80 per cent, Nepal's postal service has not been able to compete with private sector services such as courier service centres and DHL (international shipping, courier and packaging service provider).

As people now have widespread access to modern communication technologies that have virtually phased out letters sent via post, the country's postal service has been left with two options – downsizing offices and staff and creating new businesses under the postal service system.

The government spends Rs 3 billion each year on the postal system that runs under Postal Service Department (PSD).

"Of the total budget of around Rs 3 billion of the Ministry of Information and Communications, the PSD budget covers 71 per cent. However, 90 percent of that money comprises PSD salaries and staff allowances," said Drorna Pokharel, Director General of the department.

Nearly 18,000 staffers, including

6,000 permanent staffers, are work in 4,405 offices under the department across the country although the government has gradually been downsizing postings, according to department director Badrinath Gaihre.

The 4,405 offices include Postal Service Department; five central offices — General Post Office, Postal Training Centre, Central Money Order Office, Central Ticket Store and Nepal Philatelic Bureau; five regional postal directorates; 70 district post offices; 849 area post offices; 3,074 additional post offices and 401 tele-centres.

Seven categories of services are operated under PSD: Express mail service, post boxes for subscribers, financial services including money order service, postal saving bank and remittance service, parcel delivery, general services of delivering letters and newspapers, 401 IT based tele-centres with email, internet, photocopy, printing, scanning, lamination, phone, fax and computer training and others, including philatelic promotion, same day delivery service in urban area and filling up forms for electronic diversity visa programme.

However, these services are not as effective as they should be in comparison with private sector services such as couriers.

"The number of letters sent through postal service has declined by 80 per cent. Twenty per cent of this number covers official letters

and letters from foreigners and individuals. However, parcel service has increased significantly.

"Our postal distributors, *halkara*, used to reach the doors of people with letters in the past. This is now very rare," said DG Pokharel.

Although the scenario has changed with the advent of technology, this service cannot be allowed to collapse as it is a major service sector and there is universal obligation to continue this service as Nepal is a member of Universal Postal Union.

"We have no option but to downsize our offices and staff and create new business by using technology as we cannot allow our service to collapse," Pokharel said.

PSD services have not been able to attract the huge business captured by private sector courier service centres, Pokharel said. "This is because we operate with service motive under many constraints but they are totally motivated by business."

A committee formed under Narayan Prasad Paudel had submitted a report to the Ministry of Information and Communications suggesting restructuring under the federal model and downsizing offices and staff. "However, the report has not been implemented as the restructuring issue is related to setting up new local and federal structures as per the new constitution and the issue is yet to be resolved at the political level," Gaihre said.

News from Kathmandu

NEPAL PHILATELLY IS ALIVE AND WELL

A review of Corinphila's auction of Wolfgang Hellrigl's Nepal Collection

by
Leo Martyn

Corinphila's June 15, 2016 auction of Wolfgang Hellrigl's International Large Gold Medal Collection realized some spectacular prices right across the board. The first 57 lots were devoted mostly to British Office material: highlights included (realizations are the hammer prices in Swiss francs, and do not include the 20% buyer's premium):

1855 cover with the rare (one of two known, Hellrigl B5) Nepaul Bearing postmark (4200).

1826 cover (earliest known incoming cover) and 1832 cover (5500).

1854 large part cover bearing India 1/2a (Die II) which is the earliest recorded usage of a postage stamp in Nepal (20,000).

1855 cover bearing India 1/2a (Die I, 12,000).

1856 cover bearing India 1a (Die II, 12,000).

1855 large part of cover bearing 1854 India 1a (Die I) and two 4a (4th printing, 14,000).

1855 cover bearing India 1854 1a (Die II and two 4a, 4th printing, 25,000).

1855 "Mourning" cover bearing 1854 India 2a and two 4a (1st printing, 28,000).

1879 India 1 1/2a postal stationery card uprated with India 1873 1/2a (die II) used to test the Nepal postal system (4,000).

Most all of the other lots in this first section closed over the starting prices.

The "Local" Nepal issues did exceeding well: Wolfgang had expressed to me some time ago that he was not sure how well this area of Nepal material would do in auction.

1881 1a (setting 1), pin-perf, large part o.g. (500).

1881 2a pin-perf, Kathmandu "Whorl" cancel (700).

1881 2a pin-perf, unused with large part o.g. (900).

1881 1a, 2a and 4a pin-perf, settings 1-3, used 4a pin-perf believed unique (3,000).

1881 1a setting 1, unused imperf strip of six with top and left marginal inscriptions (2,600).

1881 1a setting 3, unused imperf block of six with marginal inscriptions (2,400).

1881 1a setting 3, unused block of twelve (2,800).

1881 (June 25) cover bearing imperf. 1a tied by Kadarban (Rautahat) cancel (2,400).

1884 cover bearing 1a setting 3 tied by Butwal cancel (2,000).

Four other first issue 1a imperforate covers realized between 340 and 1900.

1881 2a complete sheet minus position 1 with full margin inscriptions (19,000).

1885 and 1889 double rate covers bearing imperf. 1881 2A (3,800 and 4,200).

1881 (June 13) double rate cover bearing imperf. 2A tied by Kathmandu "Whorl" cancel (7,000).

1885 registered cover bearing 1881 imperf. 2a and 4a (21,000!).

1890 registered cover bearing locally printed imperf 2a and 4a (2,000).

1886/90 4a complete re-constructed sheet with marginal inscriptions at the top (2,000).

1893 registered/acknowledgement of receipt cover bearing 1a, 2a, 4a (2,400).

1908 cover bearing 1a, routed via India (Jhulaghat postage due hand stamp, 2,200).

1886 cover bearing imperf. 1a tied by Siraha cancel (2,400).

1889 1a complete sheet (setting 21), one of two known (3,000).

1907 registered cover bearing 2a strip of three including T.B. Pair plus 1a (3,000).

1901 registered cover bearing 4a pair, one of 3 covers recorded bearing 4a pair (3,000).

1905 4a single franking cover, only cover recorded bearing single 4a from the classic period (4,600).

1904 official cover bearing 1899 1/2a with manuscript cancel, addressed to the Royal Camp (2,000).

1907 cover bearing pair of 1899 1/2a tied by postal cancel of Birganj, three usages known (2,400).

1901 1a T.B. pair on European wove paper, including recut position 24 (1,400).
 1901 registered cover bearing a strip of seven 1a European Wove paper, largest recorded usage (4,600).
 1901 1a T.B. pair on European wove paper, pin-perf including recut position 64 (3,400).
 1906 cover bearing 1a tied by Dahaban postmaster's seal, sole recorded usage on a cover (550).
 Group of 14 covers bearing 1901/1907 local paper stamps, including rare Rasuwa cancel (7,500).
 Pashupati eighty page exhibit (1907, 1930 and 1935 issues) including Die Proofs, Specimen overprints and plate proofs plus covers. The collection was exhibited in London in 1990 (20,000).
 1917 1/2a orange vermillion, block of four with Chisapani telegraph cancels (1,600).
 Balance group (100 items) of the classic issues including covers (13,000).
 1941/46 Pashupati collection including over 50 covers (6,000).
 1868/1940 Anglo-Indian Post Office in Nepal post history collection, 110 plus items (8,000).

I stayed up all night to view and listen to the auction live. It started on time (2am Pacific Coast time) and took a full 3 hours to offer the 207 lots. I totaled the realizations and came up with a figure of 431,900 Swiss francs which does not include the 20% buyers premium. There were only nine unsold lots including a large block of sixty one pin-perf 1a stamps from Setting 1 of the 1881 issue (starting price of 7,500) and the unused block of 32 (lower half of the sheet including inverted position 57) of the 1/2 orange vermillion which had a starting price of 20,000. The auctioneer did mention that possibly something could be done after the close (possibly offered at a lower price but it is still available as of 6/19).

All of my agent bids were exceeded early in the bidding but I was able to bid on line and was successful on four lots. All in all, I think Corinthila did a splendid job in describing, organizing and offering the lots online. They showed scans of all the individual items within lots, even those containing many items. What was not offered was Wolfgang's research group of forgeries which I would have been very keen to purchase. Wolfgang and I were going to publish a book on the Forgeries and Fantasies of Nepal together: several years ago he sent me all of his original paper work on the subject. I will go forward with the book but the actual items would have been very helpful.

all prices in CHF

PRICES REALIZED

Lot#	Starting bid	Hammer price			
3001	150	260	3025	250	1,200
3003	500	550	3026	200	240
3004	1,000	1,600	3027	200	200
3005	1,000	2,800	3028	200	200
3006	1,500	1,500	3029	10,000	20,000
3007	1,000	1,300	3030	5,000	12,000
3008	200	320	3031	5,000	12,000
3009	150	320	3032	5,000	14,000
3010	150	150	3033	7,500	25,000
3011	1,500	1,500	3034	10,000	28,000
3013	1,000	1,500	3035	1,500	1,700
3014A	200	1,300	3037	250	2,600
3014	500	2,000	3038	200	200
3015	1,000	4,200	3039	300	1,300
3016	250	440	3040	150	600
3017	400	1,000	3041	250	1,600
3018	150	240	3042	150	150
3019	150	220	3043	350	380
3020	200	460	3044	150	260
3021	200	200	3045	150	170
3022	150	150	3046	200	440
3023	250	4,800	3047	500	1,300
3024	750	5,500	3048	400	1,000
			3049	150	150
			3050	180	320
			3051	750	4,000
			3052	150	1,000
			3053	150	220
			3054	200	460
			3055	150	150
			3056	100	550
			3057	300	1,100
			3058	150	500
			3059	150	480
			3061	150	700
			3062	200	900
			3063	180	480
			3064	200	550
			3065	180	500
			3066	750	2,400
			3067	500	3,000
			3068	500	800
			3069	150	500
			3070	1,000	2,600
			3071	200	440
			3072	250	750
			3073	500	2,400
			3074	600	2,800

Lot#	Starting bid	Hammer price
3075	1,000	2,400
3076	1,000	2,400
3077	1,500	1,900
3078	750	750
3079	200	340
3081	1,000	1,400
3082	1,000	2,000
3083	200	850
3084	5,000	19,000
3085	1,000	4,200
3086	1,500	3,800
3087	2,500	7,000
3088	3,500	21,000
3089	1,200	2,400
3090	150	320
3091	1,200	3,200
3092	200	240
3093	1,200	2,400
3094	200	220
3095	200	420
3096	300	750
3097	300	1,600
3098	300	800
3099	100	130
3100	300	800
3101	500	550
3102	400	400
3103	750	2,400
3104	1,200	1,200
3105	400	2,000
3106	400	400
3107	2,000	2,000
3108	200	200
3109	100	320
3110	400	400
3111	500	1,300
3112	500	500
3113	750	750
3115	350	1,500
3116	150	850
3117	300	1,200
3118	350	460
3119	300	2,400
3120	150	700
3121	150	380

3122	250	850
3123	200	200
3124	250	550
3125	300	440
3126	300	300
3127	500	1,500
3128	250	360
3129	300	480
3130	400	750
3131	200	700
3132	200	2,200
3133	150	460
3134	300	2,200
3135	300	1,900
3136	1,000	3,000
3137	250	400
3138	300	360
3139	750	950
3140	300	1,500
3141	400	1,900
3142	200	1,100
3143	200	3,000
3144	200	2,000
3145	300	2,800
3146	300	3,000
3147	400	4,600
3148	300	300
3149	300	300
3150	300	2,200
3151	300	320
3152	150	300
3153	200	280
3154	400	420
3155	400	400
3156	200	440
3157	300	550
3158	400	400
3159	150	240
3160	1,000	2,000
3161	750	1,300
3162	500	1,600
3163	1,200	2,400
3164	350	550
3165	300	420
3166	300	300

3167	500	700
3168	750	1,400
3169	300	300
3170	400	440
3171	400	800
3172	1,500	4,600
3173	200	320
3174	750	2,200
3175	1,000	3,400
3176	300	440
3177	350	1,500
3178	150	170
3179	300	550
3180	250	2,000
3181	350	500
3182	300	850
3183	200	800
3184	400	3,200
3185	500	7,500
3186	300	1,000
3187	150	220
3188	10,000	20,000
3189	300	300
3190	200	420
3192	350	1,600
3193	150	440
3195	300	300
3196	150	280
3197	300	600
3198	150	200
3199	200	320
3201	500	1,500
3202	1,500	13,000
3203	250	2,200
3204	2,000	6,000
3205	2,000	8,000
3206	300	480
3207	200	340

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