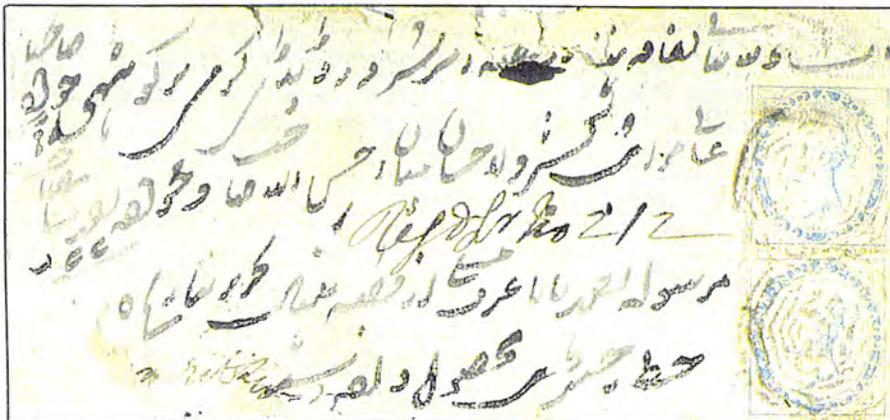


POSTAL HIMAL

QUARTERLY OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET

PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE



The earliest known registered cover from Nepal, dated 9th November, 1860 and addressed to Amritsar. It bears a unique manuscript marking - "Regd. Lr. No. 212" (Hellrigl type B47).



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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Himalayan Views	Leo Martyn	55
Letters to the Editor	A.K. Agarwal, Myra Franks, Nicholas Rhodes	57
"The Early Registration Markings and Labels of Nepal"	Wolfgang C. Hellrigl	62
"Smythies' Ad for Nepal (1945)"	Roger Skinner	73
Philatelic Programme 1997	Nepal Philatelic Bureau	74
New members, Back Issues, etc.		76

HIMALAYAN VIEWS

by
Leo Martyn

Pacific 97, the World Philatelic Exhibition which is taking place May 29 through June 8 in San Francisco will be attended by a good number of Study Circle members. We will have two meetings - June 1 and 7, both from 10:30 to 12:30. Armand Singer and Geoffrey Flack will give presentations at the June 1 meeting and Frealon Bibbins will give a presentation on Col. F.M. Bailey at the June 7 meeting. Also, members are encouraged to bring items for discussion.

Several members' exhibits will be on display - don't miss the opportunity to view some very fine and rare items. Perhaps a group dinner is possible at the very fine Tibetan restaurant, Lhasa Moon, located some 10 minutes from the exhibition site (car pooling is a possibility). We can take a count at the June 1 meeting and make arrangements - June 1 is probably a good night for the dinner.

o o o o o

Our latest Study Circle auction (3) was a big success, with sales totaling more than \$24,000 - a list of the prices realized is included with this issue of the Postal Himal. An 1882 Nepal cover bearing a perforated one anna stamp sold for \$1860 and a set of Tibet's 1912 issue in reconstructed mint sheets plus a complete mint sheet of the 1950 one sang realized \$1800. The next auction will be ready after I catch up with the late issues of Postal Himal.

o o o o o

In reference to "Bogus Tibetan Registration Handstamps" which appeared in Postal Himal # 87 (page 51-52), Surendra Lal Shrestha sent the following illustration of a forged cover bearing Yatung's Custom marking (Hellrigl T110). He states that these types of forgeries were produced in India, sometime between 1990 and 1996.



o o o o o

Surendra has had several "bold and investigative" articles (in Nepali) dealing with the philately of Nepal appear in periodicals published in Nepal. "Postage Stamps of Politics & Religious Importance", "1st Stamp on Mount Everest"; and "New 15p Stamp The Golden Egg For Investment?" appeared in Aajako Samacharpatra ("Today's Newspaper" - a national daily paper), on January 15, January 28 and March 11, 1996 respectively. Surendra stated: "Nepalese public became mad after the copies of Sadhana (Nepali Family Digest) No. 32, published last year (Sept./Oct), when I have place an article on the 'Nude stamps of the World' with many many pictures including GOYA Nude of Spain. 'Guptang dekhine Nagna Tasvir le Hulak - Tiket lai pani Chhodena' was the Nepalese title. This was my 6th article in the same monthly."

o o o o o

Both Colin Hepper (our Secretary) and I have recently obtained e-mail addresses as follows: Colin - hepper@redestb.es me - iano@gte.net
My typewriter is falling apart so it's time to byte-the-bullet and improve my computer skills. I am adding a scanner to my system (Apple - apologies to R.S.) so future images in the Postal Himal should be greatly improved (with the old method I was never sure of the quality of the images until I received the finished newsletter from the printer).

* * * * *

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: FOR MEMBERS ONLY

One Insertion, per line \$1.00 Four insertions, per line \$3.50
To calculate the number of lines your advertisement will require, count 74 letters, numerals, punctuation marks and blank spaces between words. Appropriate headings will be used if not indicated. After receipt, the ad will appear in the next Postal Himal.

WANTED: The following Pashupati items from Nepal.

1. issue: negative stamps - 2p block of 4; 2p regular issue on postal card or cover.
 2. issue: 32p and 1R used on cover or fiscally used on document.
 3. issue: imperforate proofs in blocks of 4 - 2p and 16p.
 4. issue: 16p and 1R full sheets.
- 1959 Pashupati issue (Gurkha Patra Press): 1R full sheet.
All issues telegraphically used in sheets and large blocks.
GOOD QUALITY ONLY! Heinz Schöbel / Hornerstr. 1 / 28203 Bremen / Germany.

NEPAL: I am selling Nepalese stamps, errors, varieties and Postal Stationery. Ajit Shah, GPO Box 2159, Kathmandu, Nepal.

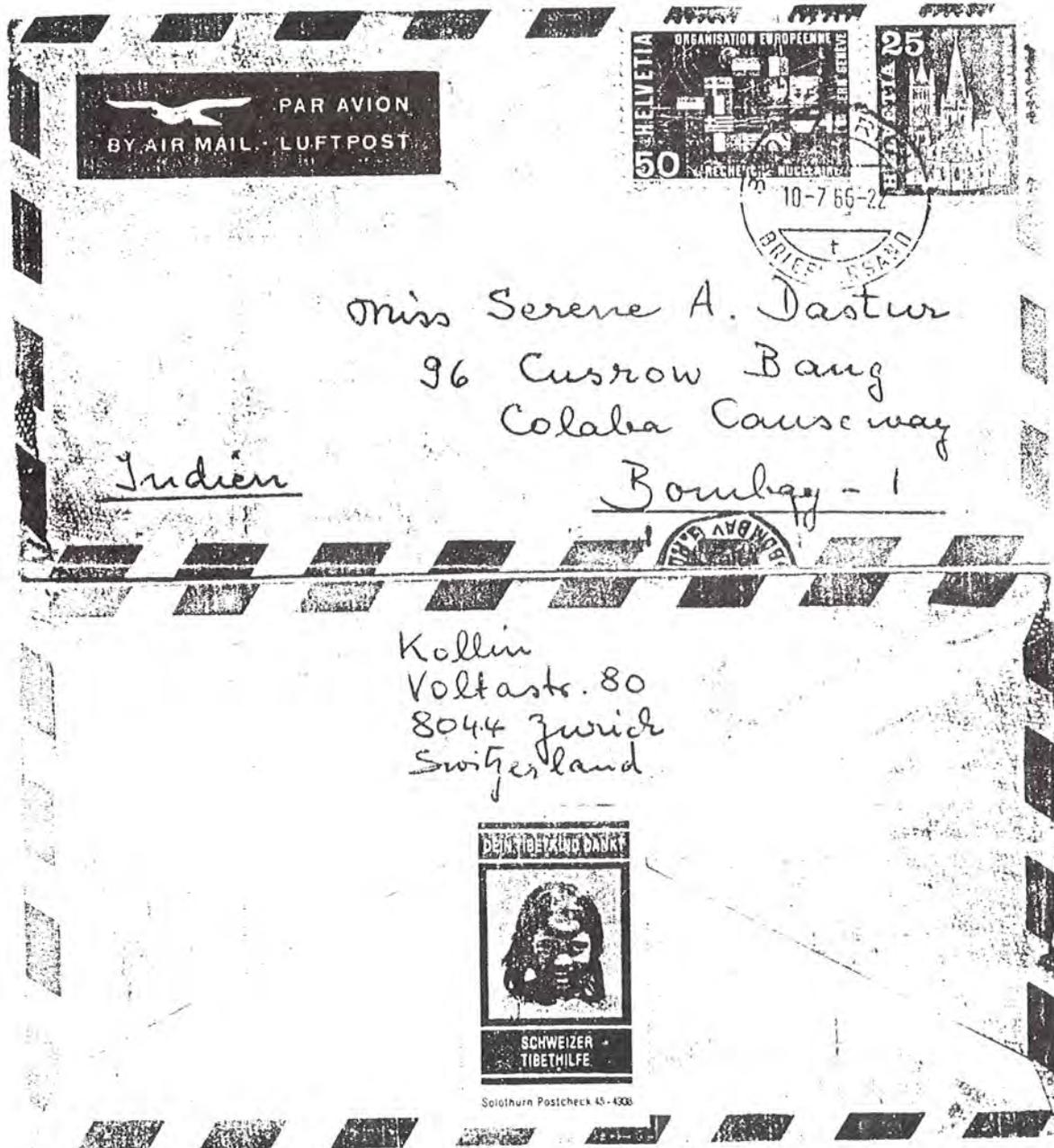
WANTED: CLASSIC AND PASHUPATI COVERS FROM NEPAL. I will purchase and or trade better stamps and covers. Also wanted - better "India Used In Nepal", Censored mail from Nepal and Tibet, Nepal/Tibet and Nepal/India combination covers, unusual Nepalese covers from the 1950s and 1960s. Leo Martyn, P.O. Box 49263, Los Angeles, CA 90049-0263, U.S.A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am enclosing herewith the photocopy of a cover mailed from Switzerland in 1966 to Bombay with a Tibetan label on the back. The color is light yellow, brown and black.

My enquiry is whether there are other such labels recorded from Switzerland promoting Tibetan children's causes?

A.K. Agarwal
Kanpur, India



o o o o o o o o o o o

I have just received my 'Postal Himal', No. 87, and felt I must add to the article by Mr. Hellrigl - 'Tibet - A Spectacular Inward Postcard'.

In my collection I have an Italian postcard to the same Mr. Hung Comptalle, addressed in a different hand but dated 2nd April 1902. The sender, Mounsieur Cesare Hepeisen is offering to exchange illustrated postcards in return for Tibetan postage stamps! The fact that there are now at least two items from Italy to Monsieur Hung Comptalle would suggest that they were in fact delivered and retained by the addressee for some time.

This card, which is obviously not perfect, is postmarked as follows :-

? (Italy)	- 2nd April 1902
Victoria (Hong Kong)	- 6th May
Leh (Kashmir)	- 27th June (twice)
Kalimpong	- 8th July
Rhenock, Darjeeling	- 9th July

There are two further undecipherable marks. The 'via Darjeeling' has been added in red somewhere between Italy and Lhasa and a handwritten inscription in blue (top left hand corner) may have been a postal direction.

VII. Se l'ata autografo della presente si scrive soltanto l'indirizzo.



I will leave it to those with far better knowledge of such matters than myself to add to the above. From a photocopy I have this postcard appears to have been written-up in a journal in 1959 - but I don't know which.

The article by George Russell was published in The Journal of Chinese Philately, Vol. 7, p. 97, April, 1960.

Although the Italian cancellation appears to be illegible, the P.O. of departure must be Fano (which is located in central Italy, near Rimini), as this is clearly written on the reverse, followed by the date.

Wolfgang C. Hellrigl
Bozen, Italy

Readers may be interested in this illustration *, in that:

(1) It is a postal card sent from Italy 57 years ago, addressed to a foreign resident at Lhasa (spelt Lasfa or Lassa), and concerns the exchange of stamps and postcards.

(2) Postal material sent into Tibet rarely leaves the country again, and is much more elusive than mail from Tibet.

(3) At this time (1902) relations between Great Britain and Tibet were very strained due to the terms of a Treaty of that year negotiated between Russia and Tibet. They gave rise firstly to the Tibetan Frontier Commission and, within a short time thereafter, the Younghusband Military Expedition of 1903. For these reasons mail to Tibet in 1902 did not travel over the old Silk Road route through China, but went by a roundabout route as evidenced by the postmarks on this card, viz. Victoria (Hong Kong) 6th May; Leh (Kashmir) 27th June; Kalimpong (Bengal) 8th July; Darjeeling (Bengal) 9th July; plus two unreadable postmarks. Arrival date at Lhasa cannot be fixed with certainty, but the normal time taken by couriers between Darjeeling and Lhasa (via Gyantse, 377 miles) was 9 days. This would therefore make the total transit time from Fano to Lhasa 107 days.

(4) Leh is the medieval capital of Ladakh Province (also known as Little Tibet). It belonged to the old Tibetan Empire until the tenth century. Planes make occasional trips today from Leh to Srinagar (Kashmir), a distance of 160 miles. It was recently reported that China is now laying claim to the 6000 sq. miles of Ladakh Province.



Fano (Italia) 2 avril 1902

C. HEPEISEN

Monsieur Hung Comptalle - Lassa (Tibet)

Si vous m'envoyez des timbres de votre pays en complete collection je vous offre en échange des cartes postales illustrees a la main - aquarelles, artistiques, vues, tableaux, fleurs etc. toutes differentes et nouvelles.

En attendant d'être favorisé de votre réponse, je vous envoie mes salutations sinceres

Respectueux
C. Hepeisen

Following is a translation of the message:

Fano (Italy) 2 April 1902

Mr. Hung Comptalle - Lassa (Tibet)

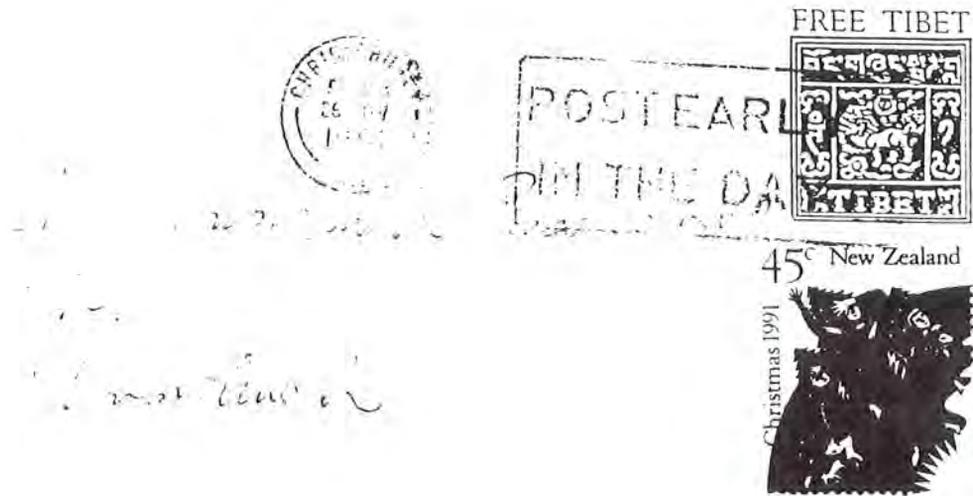
If you send me stamps of your country in complete collection I offer you in exchange hand illustrated postcards - artistic watercolors, views, pictures, flowers, etc. all different and brand new [nouveau-teuse ?].

While waiting to be favored with your answer, I send you my sincere salutations.

Translation by Armand Singer
West Virginia, U.S.A.

As to the 'Free Tibet' label mentioned by Leo Martyn I have a copy on cover, November 1991 Christchurch N.Z. I wrote to the sender to try and obtain further information but received no reply. The labels were not in evidence with the Tibetan Society when the Dalai Lama visited recently.

Hoping some of this may be of interest,



MYRA FRANKS
Christchurch
New Zealand

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Looking through old issues of Postal Himal, I noticed Armand Singer's article in No.44 entitled "Another Route up the Himalayas". This brought to mind a set of three Austrian post cards I acquired some years ago, with stamp-like labels issued by the Austrian Himalayan Society in 1954. The cards are clearly philatelic in nature, show rather dark views of an alpine lake on the picture side, and did not pass through the post. The date, and perhaps the occasion, of issue is indicated by the ordinary Austrian stamps, with a commemorative cancellation of the Vienna International Autumn Fair, held from 12-19th September 1954. The three labels have a mauve cancellation, indicating that the Austrian Himalayan Society was located at the time in the house of the OTK (I don't know what that is short for?), in Vienna, Backerstrasse 16/11. They may be described as follows:-

1. Blue-green - Two heavily laden porters climbing up deep snow, holding ice-axes.
2. Deep purple - View of Kanchenjunga from Darjeeling area, with tents in the foreground.
3. Brown - Head of a sherpa, with snow goggles.

I know nothing further about the circumstances behind the issue of these labels, but I thought that collectors of Himalayan cinderella material might be interested to know that they exist.



HIMALAYAGESELLSCHAFT



Nicholas Rhodes
Kent, England

The Early Registration Markings and Labels of Nepal

By Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

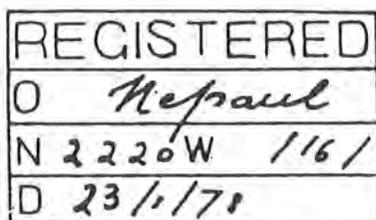
THE HISTORY OF REGISTRATION IN NEPAL

When discussing any aspects of the postal history of Nepal, one has to bear in mind that this Himalayan Kingdom had two distinct postal systems. The first of these was connected with the British-Indian Post Office that operated in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, from 1816 and provided a communications link with India and the rest of the world. In the early days it was normal practice to register automatically all mail "with a view of assisting to trace letters which may have failed in reaching their destinations." Initially, this service was carried out free of charge. In 1851, the "indiscriminate registry of covers and packets" was discontinued and, instead, a special registration made available on payment of a fee. At the beginning, registered mail was endorsed in manuscript (*Figure 1a*)* before special hand-stamps were introduced in the 1870s (*Figure 1b*).



Registered no 2/2

(1860) (a)



(1878) (b)



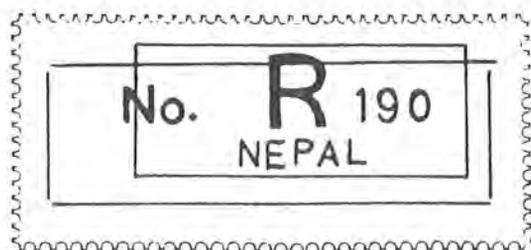
(1882-1904) (b)



(1905-1908) (b)

Figure 1 The earliest registration markings in use at the British-Indian Post Office in Nepal.

* See front cover.



(1909-1910)



(1914-1916)



(1919-1937)



(1932-1935)

Figure 2 A selection of early registration labels at the British-Indian Post Office in Nepal.

The first registration labels made their appearance in 1909 (*Figure 2*). They consisted of numbered and perforated slips on which a variety of registration handstamps and name-stamps, respectively, were impressed. In later years, the name of the P.O. was printed on the labels.

Nepal's second postal system consisted of an independent internal service that was established in 1879 and that saw the issue of its first postage stamps in April, 1881. The following considerations deal exclusively with this "native" system, its manuscript and early mechanical registration markings and, above all, its unique registration labels. The latter are here treated in greater detail for the first time, including the description of several previously unrecorded settings, states and errors.

THE MANUSCRIPT REGISTRATION MARKINGS (c. 1881-1950's)

The Nepalese Post Office presumably introduced the registration of mail at the time of issue of its first postage stamps. The earliest known registered cover, from Jaleswar to Kathmandu, is dated August, 1884. Despite the rather prohibitive cost, registration soon became quite popular with the Nepalese population. Motivated by the senders' fears of potential losses of communications, a surprisingly high percentage of letters was registered.

Initially, the fact that a letter was registered, was recorded by a manuscript endorsement - invariably on the reverse of the cover - that included the word "Registry," phonetically rendered in Devanagari, and, generally, the registration number. Occasionally, the weight of the letter was also recorded. If a receipt was required from the addressee, the words "Pahucha Paune" (Acknowledgement Due) were added to the manuscript registration marking; the fee for this additional service amounted to 1 anna (*Figure 3*).

"Registered"

"Acknowledgement Due and Registered"

Figure 3 Manuscript endorsements for registration and registration with acknowledgement due.

These manuscript endorsements represent, of course, true postal markings. Since they were in use not only throughout the period of the classic stamps (1881-1907), but also during the subsequent decades, they are rather common. After their temporary replacement - between 1910 and 1917 - by the early registration labels, they soon reclaimed the lost ground and continued to be used regularly until 1959, when handstamps and modern registration labels were introduced in connection with Nepal's entry into the U.P.U.

With the exception of official mail, every registered letter was required to have at least five wax-seal impressions on the joints of the envelope. The sender usually applied the impressions with his signet ring or a small seal-cone attached to a string worn around the neck. Occasionally the envelopes and contents were stitched together and the ends of the threads tied with sealing wax, so as to prevent the opening of the letter without cutting the threads or removing the seals. The practice of "sealing" registered mail, which had been copied from the British-Indian Post Office, was abandoned only in 1959.

By an unexpected stroke of luck, some early Post Office records of registered mail have survived. They are in book form, each entry bearing a strike of the official postal seal. An entry in this registration book was proof that the item had been accepted for delivery by the Post Office (Figure 4).

The senders of registered mail were handed receipts, featuring the usual details such as the names and addresses of sender and addressee and bearing the impression of a postal seal, or postmark. These receipts show the typical fancy margins on the left-hand side, a security measure designed to prove that a receipt and its remaining stub were originally joined (Figure 5). Different forms were used for registered letters and parcels.

The Nepalese Post Office charged a registration fee of 5 annas. Incredibly, this amount was to remain unaltered for some seventy years, except that, from the 1907 issue onwards, it was expressed in its equivalent of the new decimal currency, 20 pice.

Since the basic postage amounted to 1 anna (4 pice), the lowest possible franking for a registered letter was 6 annas (24 pice), or, in case of registration with acknowledgement-due, 7 annas (28 pice). Higher frankings are the result of heavier letters, each additional weight unit being charged 1 anna. The Nepalese weight unit was called Tola and corresponded to a rupee coin of 11.66 grams. Only six covers are known with frankings exceeding 8 annas, the highest known amounting to 13 annas.

THE KATHMANDU REGISTRATION HANDSTAMP (1908, 1930-1964)

The G.P.O. of Kathmandu, by far Nepal's busiest Post Office, tried to mechanise the cumbersome manuscript registration by introducing an appropriate handstamp (Figure 6) that was heavily used between 1930 and 1964. It has been ascertained that, during its final period, it was in use at the P.O. of Dilli Bazar, a suburb of Kathmandu. A previously unrecorded strike of this handstamp was recently found on a cover dated Bikram Sambat 1965/8/13 (= November 1908). The use on this early date of an otherwise very common marking represents an extreme rarity. It proves that this handstamp actually preceded the native registration labels and that it was obviously withdrawn after a very brief initial period, only to be revived some 22 years later. Incidentally, the dates of the Nepalese Bikram Sambat calendar can be translated to the Western calendar by deducting 56 years, 8 months and 17 days:

रजिष्टरी पठाउनेलाइ रसिद दिने			
हरायो वा नोकसानपच्यो भने कोसिससाय खोजि हुनेछ			
नं.	तो.	सम्बत १९८ साल	गते
नाम पठाउनेको	नाम		
वतन	वतन		
नाम पाउनेको	नाम		
वतन	वतन		
बुझिलिने कारिन्दाको दसखत्			

Figure 5 A typical registration receipt form of the 1920s.

नेपाल.
नं. _____ रजिद्री
व. _____ तोला.

Figure 6 The Kathmandu registration handstamp.

This registration handstamp bears the following Devanagari inscriptions: first line: Nepal; second line: N[umber]. Registry; third line: W[eight]. Tola.

Analogous abbreviations for Number and Weight had earlier been used by the British-Indian Post Office in Kathmandu (Figure 1). Apparently, the Nepalese Post Office had no hesitation in imitating any features that had previously been tried out and proven to be successful by its British-Indian counterpart.

The fee was inserted in the blank space of the handstamp's 1st line, an oblique stroke separating rupees from pice (e.g., "/24" standing for 24 pice). The amount thus indicated invariably represents the total amount paid, i.e., the postage plus the registration fee.

A crude forgery of the Kathmandu registration handstamp first appeared in the 1940s, in conjunction with forged Tibetan stamps of the 1933 issue and various forged Nepalese postmarks. It is slightly asymmetrical and its inscriptions differ greatly from those of the genuine handstamp (Figure 7). Despite these shortcomings, this type continues to find its way into collections and auction salerooms. The first line reads: Mo[har] Ru[pee]; second line: No.; third line: To[la]. Mohar Rupee was the name given to the Nepalese currency, in order to distinguish it from the Indian Rupee.

THE REGISTRATION LABELS (1910-1917)

When India introduced registration labels, on 1st January, 1909, the idea must have favourably impressed the Nepalese postal authorities, so much so that they decided to fol-

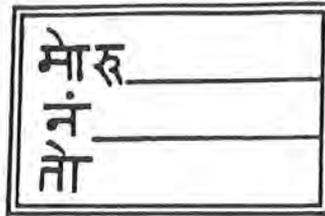


Figure 7 The forgery of the Kathmandu registration handstamp.

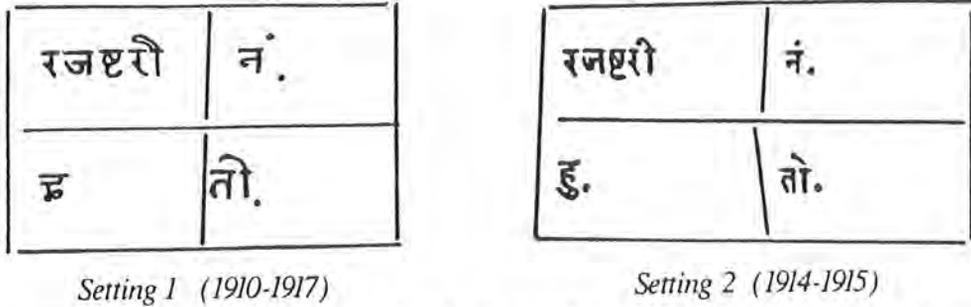


Figure 8 The native registration labels. Setting 2 is here recorded for the first time.

low the example by printing their own labels (Figure 8). If we may assume that this innovation - as indeed most of the Himalayan Kingdom's new systems or reforms - became effective on an auspicious Bikram-Sambat New Year's day, then the Nepalese registration labels were introduced in April 1910. At any rate, the earliest known use, on a cover from Dhankuta, is dated B.S. 1967/2/28 (= June 1910) (Figure 9).

In the years that followed, the labels were adopted throughout Nepal, although many P.O.s continued to use the old system of manually endorsing their registered letters. Of Nepal's 50 Post Offices in existence in 1910, only 21 are recorded to have ever used registration labels. Most of these P.O.s appear to have abandoned the new system, or exhausted their supplies of labels, after a relatively brief period.

I would estimate that the total number of covers known bearing early registration labels amounts to forty-five. They represent a highly interesting chapter of Nepal's history of registration and are keenly sought after by collectors. The use of these labels was definitely discontinued around 1917. It was only over forty years later, when the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention finally came into force in Nepal, that the modern R-labels appeared on the scene.

The early registration labels of Nepal were printed on the same native paper as the classic postage stamps and postal cards. They are imperforate and consist of a framed rectangle divided into four equal sections containing the following Devanagari inscriptions: first line: Registry / No.; second line: Hu[lak]. / To[la].

The word "Hulak," meaning Post, was in this case intended to stand for "Hulak Adda," i.e., Post Office. The registration number was written into the right-hand section of the first line, while the name of the P.O. and the weight were inserted in the respective sections of the second line.

A very recent discovery shows that there are actually two distinct settings of registration labels. The first setting, in use between 1910 and 1917, can be recognized by the wide letters and its shorter length (varying from 43 to 46 mm, measured across, from frameline to frameline).

Due to a progressive damage to the initial "Hu," we can separate these labels of the first setting into three distinct states (Figure 10): the first state shows the initial intact, the second state shows the vowel "u" broken off and the third state shows part of the previously

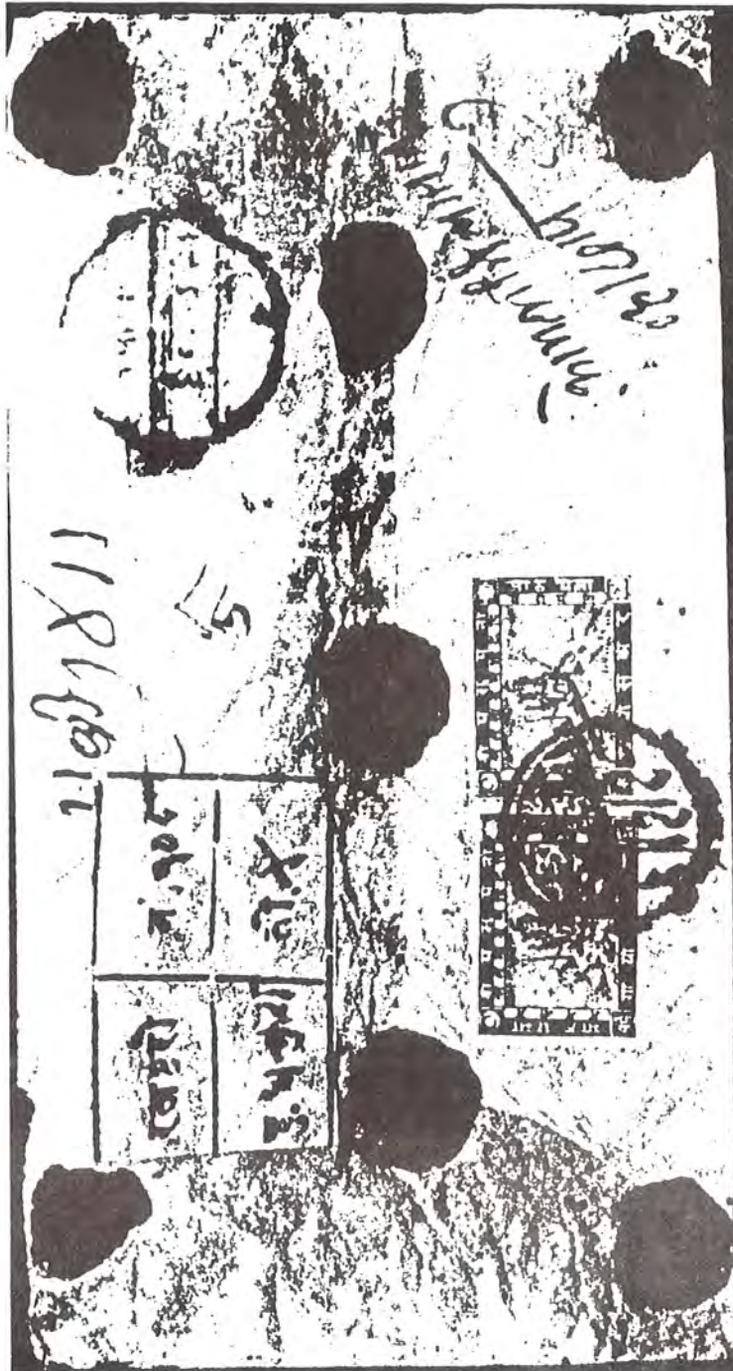


Figure 9 A registered cover from Dhankuta to Kathmandu, dated June 1910, representing the earliest known use of a native Nepalese registration label (author's collection).



First State



2nd State



3rd State

Figure 10 The progressive flaws of the initial "Hu," giving rise to three distinct states of the registration labels (and two states of the parcel labels).

mutilated character deformed. The damage leading to the 2nd state occurred in 1910, that of the third state first appeared in 1911. The first state is scarce, the second state is extremely rare, while the third state accounts for some three quarters of all known labels.

The second setting of the registration label (Figure 8), which I discovered only in 1995, when I came across a couple of covers from Dhankuta and Kathmandu, respectively, shows totally different, narrower characters and is considerably longer (varying from 48 to 50 mm).

The following is a complete list of all known covers bearing early registration labels, stating the respective Post Offices of origin and the periods of use recorded:

Registration labels, Setting 1:

BAGLUNG	1914	LYANGLYANG	1913
BIRGANJ	1913	OKHALDUNGA	1910-1911
BUTWAL	1913-1917	PALPA	1912-1916
DAILEKH	1912	POKHARA	1911-1914
DHANKUTA	1910-1912	RIDI	1912
DHULIKHEL	1910	PYUTHAN	1912
DOTI	1912	SALYAN	1912
JALESWAR	1913	SINDHULI	1913
JHAPA	1912	TAULIHAWA	1912-1916
KADARBAN	1910-1912	TRISULI	1912
KATHMANDU	1912		

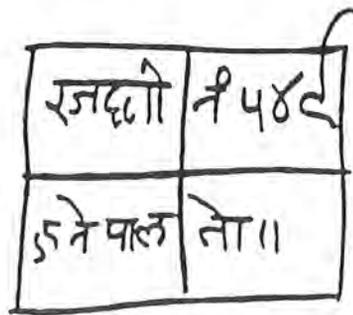
Registration labels, Setting 2:

DHANKUTA	1914	KATHMANDU	1915
----------	------	-----------	------

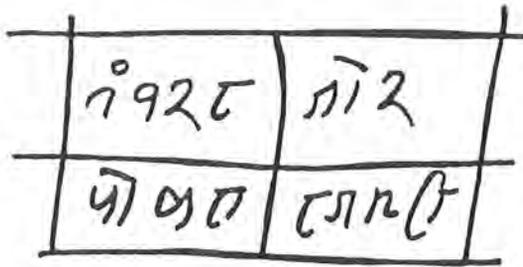
THE MANUSCRIPT IMITATIONS OF REGISTRATION LABELS (1911-1933)

On some rare occasions, when a Post Office had run out of labels, or when the labels had become obsolete, the postal clerk would draw a quartered rectangle on a cover, thereby inserting the same headings (though not necessarily in the correct sequence) and respective details as provided in the labels (Figure 11). As opposed to the earlier manuscript registration endorsements, these markings are invariably found on the front of covers. Less zealous postal clerks provided the usual manuscript types consisting of a single line or, occasionally, a small box containing registration number and weight, which, obviously, are of much lesser interest and appeal.

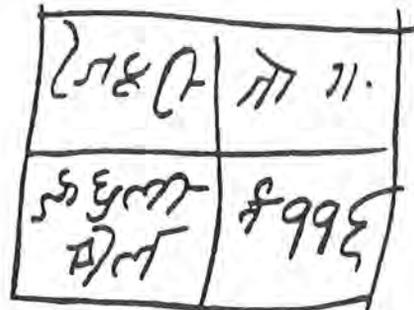
Incidentally, only some twenty covers bearing such manuscript imitations of registration labels have been recorded, making them even rarer than the covers bearing proper labels.



Kathmandu (1911)



Pokhara (1917)



Dhulikhel (1933)

Figure 11 Three typical examples of manuscript imitations of registration labels.

The following is a complete list of all known covers bearing manuscript imitations of the early registration labels, stating the respective Post Offices of origin and the periods of use recorded:

BAGLUNG	1918	RIDI	1924
DHULIKHEL	1933	SYURAJ	1932
KATHMANDU	1911	TATAPANI	1912-1920
POKHARA	1917	THAK	1929
RANGELI	1911	TRISULI	1917-1931

THE PARCEL LABELS (1910-1917)

Another way of coping with depleted stocks of registration labels was to use parcel labels on letters. They are similar to the registration labels, except that they show the word "Pulinda" (packet, parcel) in the first rectangular section. When used as registration labels on letters, the word "Pulinda" was crossed out and overwritten "Registry" (Figure 12). So far, no true use on a parcel has been found, perhaps not surprising when one considers the transient nature of a parcel wrapping.

To date, just four covers bearing parcel labels have been recorded, making these some of the rarest and most desirable items of Nepal's 20th century postal history.

There is a very spectacular, yet unrecorded typesetting error in the earliest setting of parcel labels (1910-1911): instead of containing the initials "To[la]" in the last rectangular section, the abbreviation for "No." is repeated from the first line, as follows: first line: Pulinda / No.; second line: Hu[lak]. / No.

The error was subsequently corrected in setting 2, to show the initials "To[la]" in the last section. (Figure 13).

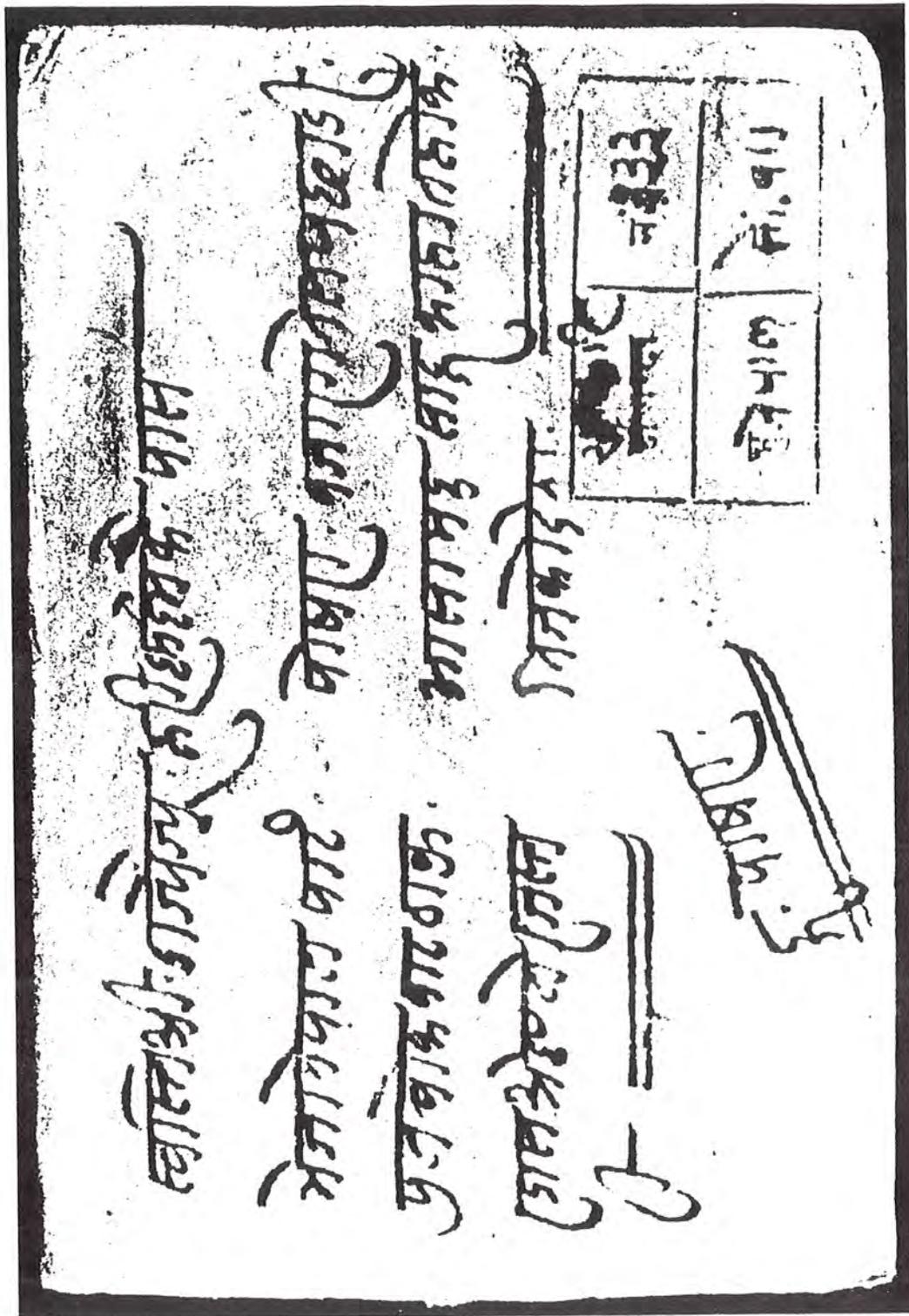


Figure 12 A registered cover from Kathmandu, dated June, 1911, bearing a parcel label (setting 1), overwritten Registry. The printing error in the last section of the label has been manually corrected (author's collection).

पुलिन्दा	नं.
हु.	नं.

Setting 1 (error)
(1910-1911)

पुलिन्दा	नं.
ह.	तो.

Setting 2
(1914)

पुलिन्दा	नं.
हु.	तो

Setting 3
(1917)

Figure 13 The three settings of the parcel labels. Settings 1 and 3 are here recorded for the first time.

The first two settings of the parcel label are closely related to setting 1 of the registration label. In fact, identical characters were used for printing the common sections of these three settings. This is proven by the progressive flaws of the initial "Hu," which are also present in the parcel labels (*cf. Figure 10*): setting 1 shows the undamaged "Hu" of the first state, while setting 2 shows the deformation of the third state.

The earliest known use of a parcel label of setting '1 is represented by a cover from Bhojpur, dated B.S. 67/6/23 (= October 1910), from which the stamps were, unfortunately, removed. The only known use of a corrected label from setting 2 is on a cover from Jhapa, dated August 1914.

The newly discovered parcel label from setting 3, known only on a cover from Karnali, dated 1917, is closely related to setting 2 of the registration labels. In fact, similar, if not identical characters were used for printing the common sections of both these labels. The label from setting 3 measures 46 to 47 mm across. As opposed to all other settings of registration and parcel labels, there is no full stop after "To[la]."

Incidentally, despite the common fonts used for both types of labels, the framing and dividing lines vary considerably in position, inclination and length, and are rarely identical in any two labels, whether registration or parcel. This fact would indicate frequent printings of small numbers of labels, with partial re-setting of the framelines.

This is a list of the four known parcel labels, stating the respective Post Offices of origin and the periods of use recorded:

Parcel labels, Setting 1:	BHOJPUR	1910
	KATHMANDU	1911
Parcel labels, Setting 2:	JHAPA	1914
Parcel labels, Setting 3:	KARNALI	1917

MODERN REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS AND LABELS

During the 1950's, a number of Post Offices introduced boxed multi-purpose namestamps, featuring Devanagari inscriptions, that were used, amongst other things, as registration handstamps. In 1959, after Nepal had become a full member of the U.P.U., a flood of proper registration handstamps set in, comprising the initials "R," or "R.L." (Registered Letter) and providing blank spaces or dotted lines for insertion of the registration numbers.

As another provision connected with its admission into the U.P.U., the Nepalese Post Office introduced modern registration labels. The perforated or rouletted labels were printed in black and consist of a standard frame containing the letter "R" and the registration number, while the name of the respective P.O. was written or handstamped in the centre.

Similar registration handstamps and, to a much lesser extent, registration labels are still in use in the Himalayan Kingdom today. With these innovations, Nepal's postal history finally and irreversibly entered the modern era, leaving behind a fascinating world of the past that lives on through its postage stamps, covers, receipts, handstamps and labels.

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[ed. Wolfgang's study originally appeared in The Congress Book 1996, published by the American Philatelic Congress. Articles appearing in the Congress books are by invitation, and have been issued yearly since 1935. For further information, including membership (includes The Congress Book), contact Janet Klug, Secretary Treasurer, C/O American Philatelic Congress Inc., P.O. Box 250, Pleasant Plain, OH, 45162, U.S.A.]

* * * * *

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IMPERFS, mint and used, in fine singles, pairs, and blocks including inverted cliches, many newly discovered colours and settings.

PERFS, mint and used, London and local prints, including errors of perforation, new shades and colours.

(Profits credited to Red Cross and War Charities.)

Write: E. A. Smythies, C.I.E., Kathmandu, Nepal.

Roger Skinner came across the above ad which appeared on the inside cover of the April, 1945 issue of the Philatelic Journal of India.

* * * * *



फिलाटेलिक कार्यक्रम

१९९७

PHILATELIC PROGRAMME

1997



NEPAL PHILATELIC BUREAU

क्र.सं.	प्रकाशन मिति	विषय/विवरण	दर
१.	२०५३ माघ	श्री ५ महाराजाधिराज सरकारको गद्दी आरोहण रजत महोत्सव	रु २।-
२.	२०५४ वैशाख	नेपाल भ्रमण टिकटमाला क) नेपाल भ्रमण वर्ष १९९८ को प्रतिक चिन्ह (माथिल्लो मुस्ताङ सहित)	रु १०।
		ख) स्याङ्बोचे (सोलुखुम्बु)	रु १५।
		ग) सुनकोशी न्याफ्टीङ	रु १८।
		घ) चांगुनारायण (भक्तपुर)	रु २०।
३.	२०५४ जेठ	हुलाक लेखन सामग्री	
४.	२०५४ असार/साउन	व्यक्तित्व टिकटमाला क) र्द्धि बहादुर मल्ल	रु २।
		ख) डा. के. आई. सिंह	रु २।

S. N.	Date of issue	Subject or occasion	Rate
1.	Feb. 1997	Silver Jubilee of H.M. the King	R. 2.00
2.	April 1997	Visit Nepal Series	
		A. Logo of visit Nepal 1998 (Upper mustang in background)	R.10.00
		B. Syangboche (Solukhumbu)	R.15.00
		C. Rafting Sunkoshi	R.18.00
		D. Changunarayan (Bhaktapur)	R. 20.00
3.	May 1997	Postal Stationery	
4.	July 1997	Personalities series	
		A. Riddhi Bahadur Malla	R. 2.00
		B. Dr.K.I. Singh	R. 2.00

५.	२०५४ साउन/भाद्र	जनजाती टिकटमाला क) ख) ग) घ)	प्रत्येकको रू ५१-
६.	२०५४ भाद्र/असोज	प्राचीन प्रविधि टिकटमाला क) ढिकी ख) जाँतो ग) कोल (तेल पेल्ले) घ) ओखल (च्यूरा कुट्टने)	प्रत्येकको रू ५१-
७.	२०५४ असोज/कार्तिक	फूल टिकटमाला क) ख) ग) घ)	प्रत्येकको रू १२१-
८.	२०५४ कार्तिक/मंसिर	नेपाल जापान औं वर्ष सम्बन्धी	सम्बन्धको ४० रू १८१-
९.	२०५४ पुस	श्री ५ महाराजाधिराज सरकारको ५३ औं शुभजन्मोत्सव	रू २५१-

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