

Postal Himal

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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American Philatelic Society Affiliate #122 British Philatelic Federation Affiliate #435

Secretary: Mr. Colin T. Hepper
12 Charnwood Close
Peterborough
Cambs. PE2 9BZ
England
Phone 01733-349403
email: colinhepper@aol.com

Editor: Mr. Richard M. Hanchett
6 Rainbow Court
Warwick, RI 02889-1118
USA
Phone (401) 738 0466
email: editorofpostalhimal@cox.net

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Change of Address: Mr. David K. Meriney, MD, 3 Chapel Hill Court, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, USA
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Mr. David W. Winter, 2701 Broadway Avenue Apartment 6, Pittsburgh PA 15216, USA
Mr. J. Mark Angelus, P.O. Box 277, Nehalem OR 97131, USA

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Officer's Corner

I am writing this shortly before leaving for the exhibition in Washington, D.C. My Nepal Revenues exhibit is ready to bring to the Commissioner. In two days Peter and I will be leaving in order to arrive for the opening ceremonies. We to meeting some of our friends and members of the NTPSC and the NPS (Nepal Philatelic Society).

Unfortunately, the precarious political situation in Nepal may make it difficult for any of our Nepal friends to visit the show. The last time that I was in Kathmandu, many of my Nepalese friends assured me that they would

attend if possible.

In the meantime the situation seems to be improved a bit and I hope for a better future for Nepal.

My publication on Nepal Revenues of 2002 is still available for the cash only price (no checks) of €20 or \$25. The price includes postage and packing. This book gives you a good survey of all aspects of Nepal revenues and (often rarely seem) fiscal documents.

Dick

Editor's Ramblings

WASHINGTON 2006 has come and gone and it was very good to see so many of our members in attendance at our meeting. We had a society table which we shared with the India Study Circle. Quite a few people stopped by to see us, and it was there that we signed up a new member Ed Gosnell. See inside front cover for other new and rejoined members, as well as address changes.

Please start to make your plans now to attend LONDON2010. If they follow their schedule, that exhibition will be held the later part of May. This will, of course, be a FIP sponsored exhibition and would certainly be a show to attend if at all possible. NTPSC will be holding a meeting during the show.

And there will, of course, be the WESTPEX shows in San Francisco. I would like to have the dates for future WESTPEX shows as soon as

anybody has them.

There do not appear to be any FIP sponsored exhibitions scheduled for India or Nepal.

I had unfortunately misunderstood an item that Roger Fuchs had sent me regarding the NTPSC homepage that he maintains for us. The address of the homepage, as shown on the top of the front cover is now correct. If you go to <http://fuchs-online.com/forum> you will be connected to the forum page **not** the homepage. The homepage is <http://fuchs-online.com/ntpsc>. I am sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused.

I do not yet have a list of those who won awards at WASHINGTON2006, but listed below is the list of our members who exhibited.

Please send any articles that you might have for publishing in PH.

NTPSC Exhibitors at WASHINGTON2006:

Wolfgang Hellrigl Jammu and Kashmir, 1860-1883

Leo Martyn The Development of Nepal's Postal System, 1775-1911

Keshab Man Mulmi Postal History of Nepal

Danny Kin Chi Wong Tibet: A Postal History

Armand Singer Postal History of Tibet

Kedar Pradhan Revenues of Nepal

Dick van der Wateren Nepal Revenues

NTPSC will be having an auction in October with several hundred lots. Starting prices from \$5.00 to \$1000.00. Watch for the catalog.

FABULOUS NEW TIBET DIE-AND PLATE-PROOF FIND

Geoffrey Flack and Armand Singer

The text is mainly by Armand Singer but virtually all the credit and research goes to Geoffrey Flack. A version of these pages and illustrations will be incorporated into Armand's *The Essays & Proofs of Tibet* (Vancouver: G. Flack, 2004). Those who have already purchased the monograph can request the four new pages free from the publisher, Box 16011, Lynn Valley Postal Outlet, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7J-3S9. Tel. 604-986-3898; FAX 604-986-4777; email geoffrey@tibetanpost.com. The enlarged edition itself sells at \$U.S. 40.00, plus postage.

The announcement of the find, which occurred just after Armand's book came into print in 2004, is Geoffrey Flack's:

In October of 2004 a small envelope marked "Tibetan Proofs" was found in the Laden La family house in Darjeeling, India. (Laden La served as the British appointed aide to the Dalai Lama while he was in exile in India.) The envelope contained 21 Plate Proofs as well as the three Die Proofs.

This is probably the major find of Tibetan philately, certainly more important than even the Waterlow proof discovery way back in the twentieth century. The Waterlows were not accepted as stamps to be issued; these were.

This treasure was discovered by Nicholas Rhodes, the well-known Tibet scholar (his wife is Laden La's grand-daughter), in Darjeeling while working with the family papers, from whom Geoffrey purchased the lot. The find has already almost entirely been repurchased by an anonymous collector.

The contents of the envelope are described as follows by Mr. Flack:

1. Two pairs of the 1/6 trangka in violet (Methuen 14F8) on wove paper, the horizontal pair clearly printed, the vertical pair blotchy (and dated

manuscript "May 1912"). Armand notes that the reproduction is clear but the inking imperfect. Both clichés show art work superior to that of the better-inked horizontal pair. Note that not any one of the four clichés is the same as the cliché already illustrated on page 2 of Armand's book, the one he has called "machine paper." Geoffrey calls his four "wove paper." They are certainly all part of the same sheet first seen in London, October 1912.

2. A block of six of the 1/6 trangka in deep turquoise on native paper (Methuen 24E8), the top right cliché showing a white "pre-printing crease" (Geoffrey's description). It is a crease with a displacement upwards and outwards of about one millimeter. No proof previously recorded in this color.

3. A bottom strip of four of the 1/3 trangka, on grayish turquoise native paper (Methuen 24E7), manuscript dated "August 1912."

4. A bottom left irregular block of seven of the 1/2 trangka, on blue native paper (Methuen 24E7, according to both Waterfall and Flack), Waterfall calling it "watery blue."

We have saved mention for last of the rarest of the rare, what could be called the ultimate piece of native Tibetan philately: three clichés – 1/6- and 1/3- trangka and one- sang values – all reproduced on a single piece of native paper in purple (Methuen?). Only these three values were found. Nicholas Rhodes noted that Tibetan coins existed for these three values, which might be the reason they were chosen.

Let us add a few details. The dies are not the dies of the plate proofs and the issued set. There is a white dot in each of the four spandrels, not found in the plate proofs, the issued set, or the belated one-sang green, which

did not emerge until 1950. (The long-standing reluctance on the part of some to authenticate this late-comer is, by virtue of the 1912 proof, pretty well erased.) The three die proofs were examined by Geoffrey and Nicholas and compared to every position in the plate proofs and the set as issued; the die proofs are unquestionably from different clichés. The wider frames found on the die proofs, especially notable in the 1/6 and 1/3 values, are apparently

the result, as Geoffrey points out, of a rolling motion at the moment of the printing.

A note on the piece of paper itself reads, "Tibetan stamps submitted to the Lonchen [Tibet's Prime Minister] at Kalimpong on 20th April 1912," signed "S.W. Laden La."

This die proof piece Geoffrey Flack can without exaggeration call "the most important discovery . . . made in Tibetan philately."



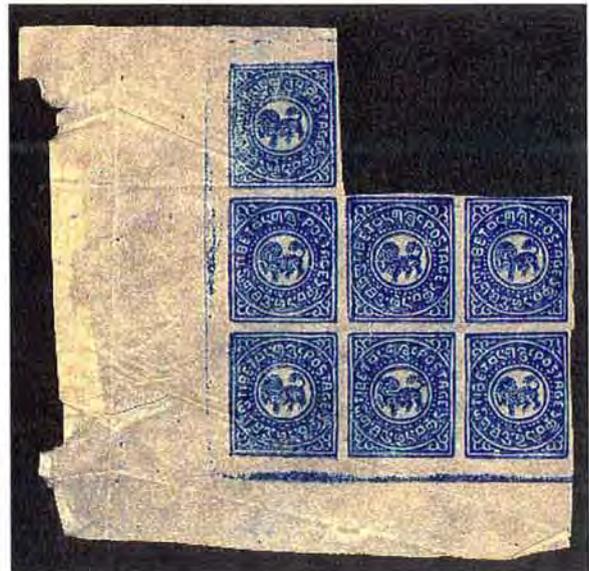
Item #1



Item #2



Item #3



Item #4



The unique three clichés – 1/6-trangka, 1/3-trangka and one-sang values – all reproduced on a single piece of native paper.

Nepal Court Fee Stamps

Wolfgang Hellrigl

After reading Dick van der Wateren's excellent handbook on *Nepal Revenues*, I remembered that some thirty years ago I had made preliminary studies on the Court Fee Stamps of Nepal. When I finally located my old notes, I found that they contained an interesting aspect that has not been recorded before.

Like the classic stamps of Nepal, the Court Fee Stamps were printed from moveable clichés contained in a forme. The sheets consist of six clichés (2x3). The same six clichés were used for all twenty denominations, only the moveable letters and figures inserted in the blank value tablets at the bottom were composed anew for each denomination. In the course of the various printings, the six clichés were sometimes moved around, giving rise to distinct settings.

Each cliché shows minute flaws that enable us to separate the individual positions and, consequently, to plate them. Shown below are the main characteristics by which the six clichés can be identified. There are further, less obvious flaws, but normally the main characteristics are sufficient for plating purposes:

Cliché A: Top left corner rounded;

Cliché B: Outer frameline disappears near lower left corner;

Cliché C: Line at the right end of value tablet curved;

Cliché D: Crescent-shaped flaw above top frameline;

Cliché E: Short dotted line under the double outer framelines;

Cliché F: Line at the left end of the value tablet broken.

So far, I have been able to establish the existence of the following settings: As can be seen, several settings of different denominations are perfectly identical:

– 6, 8, 9 (setting I), 10 rupees;

– 7, 9 (setting II) rupees;

– 15 (setting I), 20 (setting I) rupees; and probably also 1 rupee (only a half sheet is

known);

– 15 (setting II), 20 (setting II), 25 rupees.

This fact proves that the printing forme was repeatedly held in the same position while the value tablets were changed from one denomination to the next. Completely new settings would arise after a general cleaning process of the single clichés, or after an accidental break-up of the printing forme. Every cliché is known to have moved its position at least once. The most mobile would appear to be cliché F - it migrated to all except position 5.

So far, only three denominations (9, 15, 20 rupees) are known to have been printed from more than one setting, but it would be reasonable to expect that various printings were made of every denomination. No doubt, the examination of further sheets will yield more new settings. However, full sheets are quite scarce and far from readily available for research. Alternatively, blocks, strips, pairs and marginal singles should be plated as this may easily lead to part-reconstructions of unrecorded settings.

Until recently I had never seen a full sheet of any of the ten lower denominations. However, at the Washington 06 World Exhibition, the revenue exhibit by Kedar Pradhan contained an unused sheet of the 1 paisa. It is the only paisa sheet as well as the only unused sheet (with full margins, too) I know of. This is definitely an important find. Of the black paisa values, even small multiples appear to be scarce.

A pair of 8 paisa shows cliché C above A, suggesting a setting similar to that of the 1 paisa. Blocks of four of the 2 paisa and 25 paisa (also shown in Pradhan's exhibit) appear to be from two entirely new settings, with cliché A either in position 3 or 5. If I can obtain a copy of these blocks, I should be able to plate them accurately.

The following settings are illustrated in Dick van der Wateren's book:

1 rupee, half sheet (page 80); 4 rupees (page 65); 6 rupees (page 66); 7 rupees (page 67); 8 rupees (page 68); 9 rupees, setting II (page 69); 10 rupees (page 70); 20 rupees, setting I (page 72); 25 rupees (page 73).

Four further settings are illustrated here:

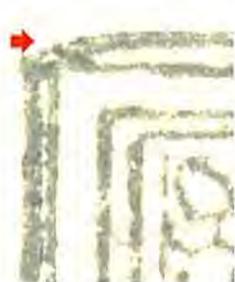
9 rupees, setting I; 15 rupees, settings I and II; 20 rupees, setting II.

Bibliography:

Dick van der Wateren. *Nepal Revenues*. Noordwolde, NL: D. van der Wateren, 2002.

Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank Dick van der Wateren and Shyam Pradhan for their kind assistance in providing photocopies of various sheets.



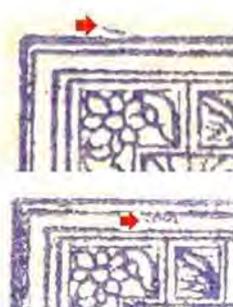
Cliché A



Cliché B



Cliché C



Cliché D

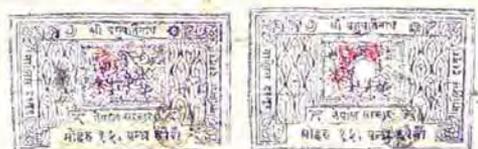
Cliché E



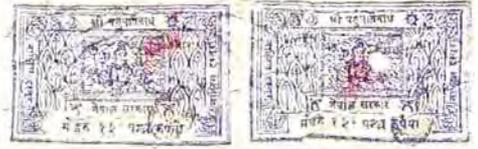
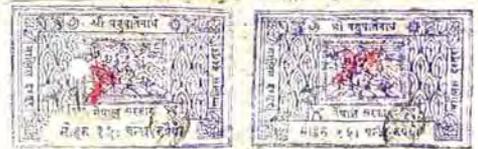
Cliché F



9 Rupees, setting I



15 Rupees, setting I



15 Rupees, setting II



20 Rupees, setting II



Nepal Court Fee Stamps - Table of Settings

1 Paisa

F	E
B	C
D	A

1 Rupee

?	F
?	B
?	D

4 Rupees

A	B
C	F
E	D

6 Rupees

A	D
C	B
E	F

7 Rupees

F	B
D	E
C	A

8 Rupees

A	D
C	B
E	F

9 Rupees (setting I)

A	D
C	B
E	F

9 Rupees (setting II)

F	B
D	E
C	A

10 Rupees

A	D
C	B
E	F

15 Rupees (setting I)

C	F
A	B
E	D

15 Rupees (setting II)

D	B
F	E
C	A

20 Rupees (setting I)

C	F
A	B
E	D

20 Rupees (setting II)

D	B
F	E
C	A

25 Rupees

D	B
F	E
C	A

Nepal Postal History from Nijamati Kitabkhana

Jaya Hari Jha

Nepalese postal history is very well documented thanks to some prominent figures such as Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, Frank Vignola, Colin Hepper, Prof. Dr. Lester Michel, Dr. Derek Pocock, Prof. dr. Armand Singer, Dick van der Wateren, Jit Bahadur Manandhar, and Surendra Lal Shrestha. Their collective and individual contribution is very noteworthy.

As stamp collecting was my hobby, I became a member of the Nepal Philatelic Society in BS 2038. A national level stamp exhibition was also held in the same year. That exhibition sparked an interest in me to investigate and research the history of philately in Nepal. Since I had worked in Nijamati Kitabkhana for 19 years, I felt that I could contribute towards uncovering the history of Nepal philately.

But first let me tell about Nijamati Kitabkhana and the work that it does. Nijamati Kitabkhana was established in BS 1905 by then Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana. Its purpose was to keep proper records of all government employees vis-à-vis the date of appointment, salary scale, current office, transfer records, etc. Without certification by the Kitabkhana no employee would be able to receive their salary.

I read *A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks* by Dr. Hellrigl. I noticed that he has made a list of Post Offices in Nepal on the basis of available postmarks only. However, I was of the view that postmarks cannot be the only absolute proof about the existence of any post office.

Guided by this logic, I started visiting the vaults of the National Archives in BS 2044 (1988 AD). There I uncovered some documents which shed new light on the existing information about Nepalese postal history and supported my view. I photographed the relevant documents. The documents I photographed were the ones handed over to the Archives by Nijamati Kitabkhana for safe keeping. However, I was not able to go through all the documents there. Many such documents remain

there waiting to be explored.

I was not in a position to publish the same then due to my financial problems. So I provided all of my photographs along with my notes to Mr. Jit Bahadur Manandhar. This fact has been acknowledged by Mr. Manandhar in the last paragraph on page 113 of his work *Some Selected Post Offices*.

The materials I provided him contained vital information about the earliest post offices in Nepal. Mr. Manandhar published his work based on this information and some further research of his own. However, he excluded some critical information in his work which has still not come to light.

I felt that if I could not reveal this information to the world and the dignitaries mentioned above in their life time, my research would have gone in vain.

On BS 1935 Poush (29 December 1878) the first staff were assigned to Nepal Hulak Ghar, the first post office in Nepal, as evident by the documents. The staff started earning their salary from 15 Poush, so arguably the first post office was established then. The first postman was Kul Harsha from Kathmandu and his salary was Moru 50 per annum. He was instructed to collect his salary from the revenues generated from the post office, but only after he submitted the proceeds to the government treasury.

Mr. Manandhar has already published an article in *PH* about the first postmaster, Lok Man Siddhi.

Personnel were assigned to the early post as follows:

Ful Parasi Hulak Ghar was assigned with its first staff on BS 1936 Poush 4 (18 December 1879). On BS 1936 Falgun 3 (15 February 1880) the post office was shifted to Dhulikhel. Since then that post office has been known as the Dhulikhel Post Office.

Beni Hulak Ghar was assigned with its

first staff on BS 1936 Poush 1 (15 December 1879). On BS 1936 Falgun 3 the post office was shifted to Lyang Lyang. Since then that post office has been known as the Lyang Lyang Post Office.

Kheshang Hulak Ghar was provided with its first staff on BS 1936 Poush 14 (28 December 1879). It was shifted to Bhojpur on BS 1936 Falgun 3, and has been known as the Bhojpur Post Office since then.

Diktel Hulak Ghar received its first staff on BS 1936 Poush 11 (25 December 1879). It was shifted to Dolakha on BS 1937 Ashwin 1, and has been known as the Dolakha Post Office since that date.

The date personnel were assigned to the post

offices is, in fact, the date that the said post offices began their operation.

The above four post offices (Ful Parasi, Beni, Kheshang and Diktel) existed, though only for a short period. I believe that this is the reason why no postmarks or covers have been discovered from these post offices.

I hope that other prominent researchers will delve into this matter and begin the quest for the postmarks of the above post offices and for additional information on them.

I would not have been able to bring these facts out by myself, as my English language proficiency is poor. I owe thanks to my son, Binect Jha, who has helped me in this regard.

The conversion of the BS dates into AD dates may not be fully accurate as I could not get any calendars from that time period.



Thanks to Surendra Lal Shrestha for sending for sending a copy a new postcard, dated 14 Apr 2006. He reports that only 8,972 exist due to a problem with insufficient card stock.

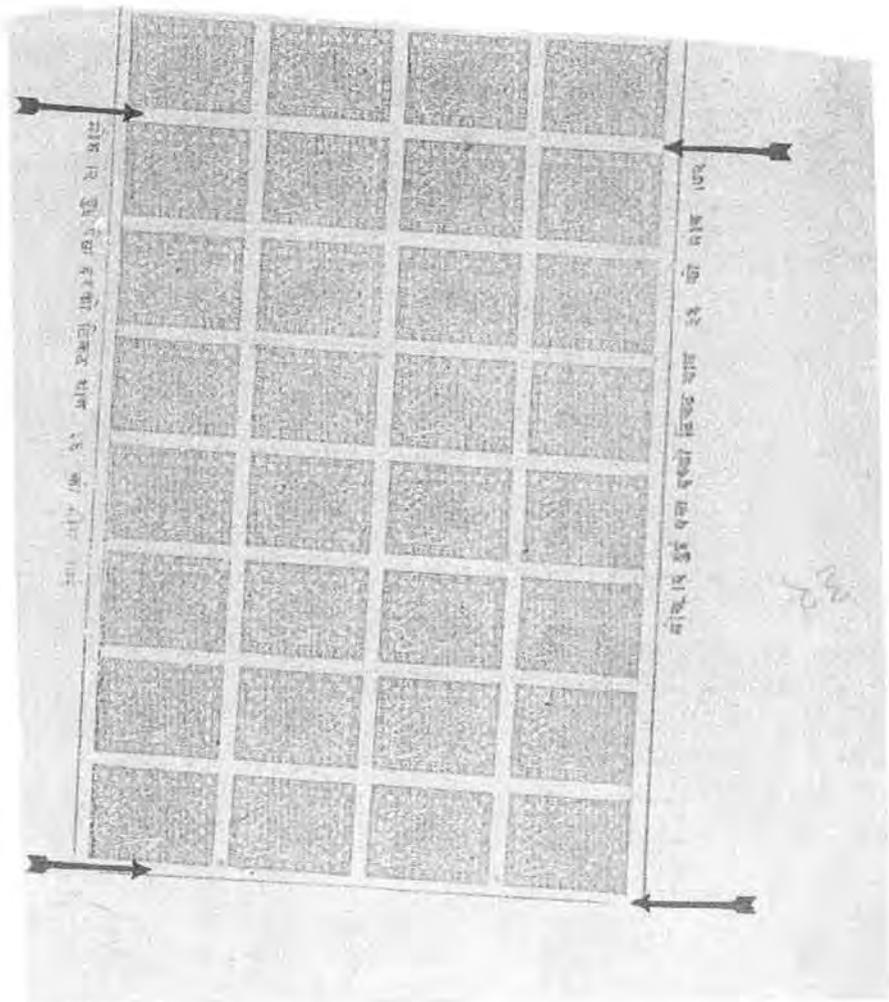
Another 'Star Paper Mills' Watermark

Colin Hepper

Star Paper Mills paper was used for the printing of the latter issues of the local Pashupati stamps in the 1950s. The illustrated 2 pice brown issue from printing 11 is printed on laid paper with the watermark 'Star Paper Mills' inside a large star. Fortunately this was in the center of the sheet and so could be recorded in full.

The size is approximately 115 mm across the tips of the star.

The part sheet shown if the 2 pice brown from printing 11 is imperforate on the rows indicated.



Nepal 1 Anna, New Design (H/V 44)

Wolfgang Hellrigl

In *The Classic Stamps of Nepal*, Hellrigl/Vignola (pp 19, 108-109) gave the date of issue of the 1 anna, new design (also known as Plate II), as 1928. In the postscript, at the end of page 109, this date was corrected to 1927.

Now I found an item that appears to represent the earliest known use of this stamp. The item consists of a block of 15, telegraphically cancelled at Kathmandu, and stuck to a piece of telegraph form that bears the Bikram Sambat date: 82/11/3. This corresponds approximately to 16 February 1926.

Unfortunately, most telegraphically used sheets and blocks were removed from the original forms, leaving us with very few dating aids. However, collectors should make an effort to check their holdings for any earlier dates, not only for this stamp, but also for the various settings of the classic issues in use during the telegraphic period, 1917-1930.



Bhutan Free Mail Campaign 1998 & 1999

Karl-Heinz Michel

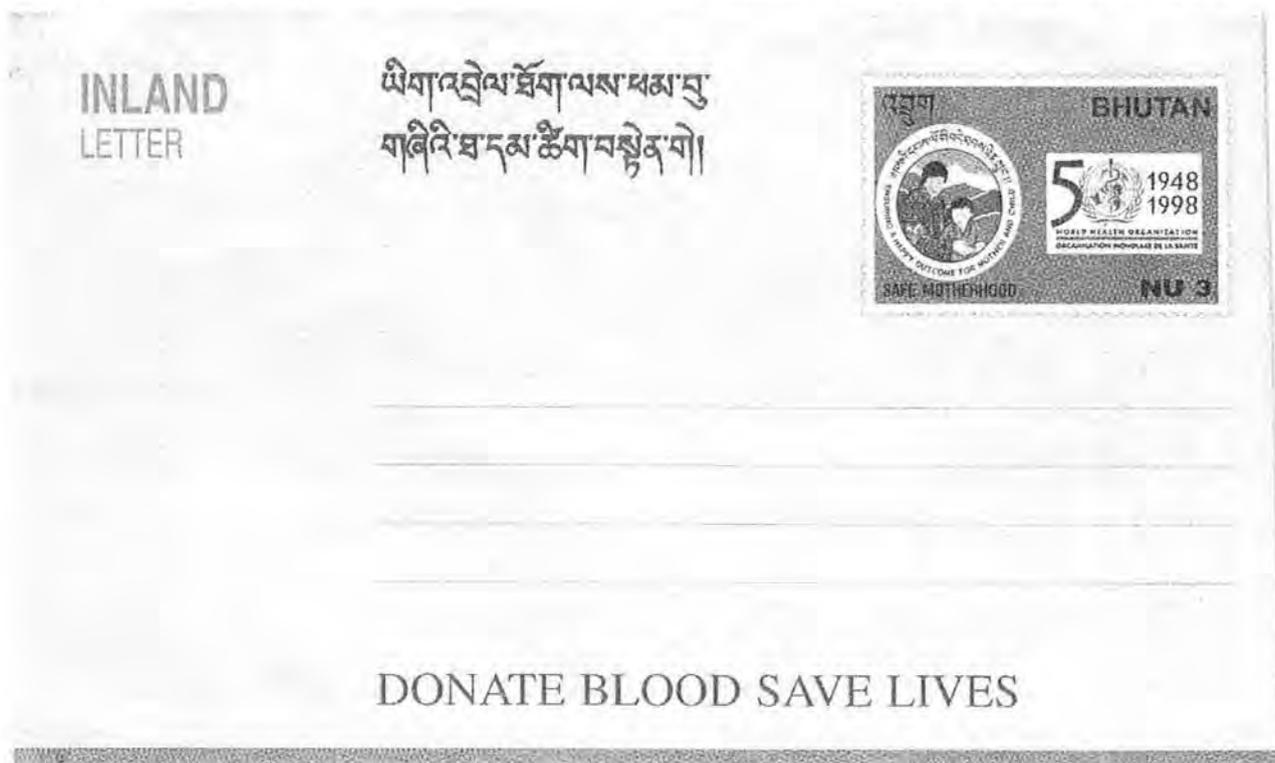
The Bhutan Postal Services launched an unusual advertising campaign from December 11 to December 17, 1998 to make the writing of letters popular among its people.

With a large advertisement in the newspaper "KUENSEL" of December 12, 1998, the readers were informed that during the "Free Mail Campaign" from December 11 to December 17, 1998, mail within the country would be transported free of charge.

with a postage stamp (Michel catalog #1782 (50 Years World Health Organization) at 3 Nu.

In the middle of this letter is an imprint in Dzongkha (liberally translated): "Let us produce a good relationship between parents and children through the exchange of letters". On the reverse is a beautiful image of Paro Dzong. The folding letter was offered without cost.

A similar campaign lasted from June 02



What is of interest to the philatelist is, that for this campaign a folding letter - similar to the aerogramme (airmail letter) was issued (named Inland Letter Form in Bhutanese). Imprinted

through June 12, 1999. This time the occasion was the 25th anniversary of the coronation of King Singye Jigme Wangchuck. Here is postage imprint shows "30 Years Postal

This article first appeared in Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien, and I thank them for permission to reprint it. The article has been translated from German to English by the APS Translation Service.

Service” (Michel catalog #1476 at 3 Nu. This folded letter has the additional imprint “Silver Jubilee Free Post Campaign June 2-12, 1999. On the reverse is the same image of Paro Dzong as described on the above letter now with the corresponding reference on the occasion of the “Free Post Campaign”.

According to the information I have received, the offer of the Bhutan Postal Services was used relatively sparsely. Therefore, used pieces which were genuinely mailed during the “campaign times” are rare. Does anyone know of such pieces?

ཡིག་འབྲེལ་ཐོག་ལས་མཚ་བུ་
གཞིའི་ཐ་དམ་ཚོགས་སྐྱེན་གོ།



INLAND LETTER
SILVER JUBILEE
FREE POST CAMPAIGN
2-12th June '99



Two Interesting Postal Cards

Dick van der Wateren

Regular users of my book "Nepal Postal Stationery" are familiar with the probably unique card Wa 21a with the indicium printed inverted in the lower left corner. "Used" 25 years after its printing makes a normal usage questionable.

Some 3 years ago Mr. Rishi Tulsian showed me his stationery collection and especially one very rare item which is shown below. The card in question is of type Wa 6 (text short!). Unfortunately the card is very dirty but the cancels are clear. In the upper right corner as normal, if the indicium was printed correctly, is the Kathmandu datestamp D79 (1909-1912). The arrival cancel, in the lower left corner, is of the Cross type (Hellrigl P11) of Doti which was in use 1911-1955.

Though I cannot identify the dating of the

card, the card must have been used 1911-1912 and is more acceptable than card Wa 21, since blue cards were not yet printed at that time. Another reason for the rarity of the card is that I know of only two other used copies of Wa 6, one in 1980 and the other in 1892.

The second interesting card is a printing of Wa 9. This copy was sent from Kathmandu and addressed to Kalaiya. It is cancelled with a Kathmandu XI, D70, (1887-1891) and also with Kalaiya, H149 (1889-1893). The later is dated 47-10-7 BS, corresponding to 20 January 1890. This is the earliest recorded so far for this card (the previous earliest date was December 1890). The earliest used card that I have is a type Wa 5 dated 12 February 1888. It is also interesting to note that the card is addressed in Devanagari with an annotation in Urdu.

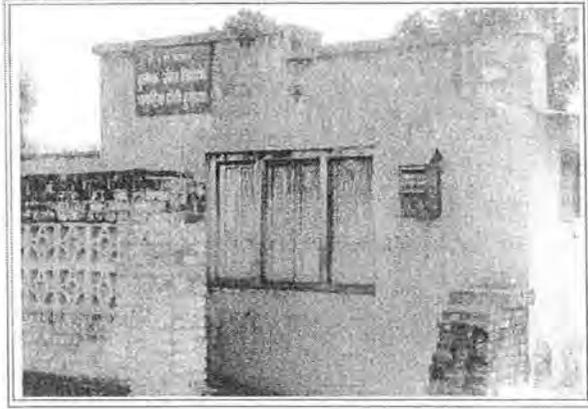


Wa 6



Wa 9

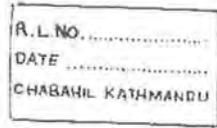
Nepal Post Offices - A Continuing Series
 Colin Hepper - photos by Jaya Hari Jha



Chabahil Chhoti Hulak

Chabahil Chhoti Hulak is in the Bagmati Zone under the jurisdiction of the Kathmandu G.P.O.

चावैल शाखा हुलाक



Supreme Court Chhoti Hulak
 (Sarbocha Adalat)

The Supreme Court (Sarbocha Adalat) is in the Kathmandu District and comes under the jurisdiction of the Kathmandu G.P.O.



सर्वाच्च अदालत हुलाक



a



b

Common Technical Details (a & b)

Individual Technical Details (a & b)

Denomination	Rs 5.00
Color	Four
Sheet	50 stamps per sheet
Composition	
Size	30 x 40 mm
Process	Offset Lithography
Quantity	One million
Format	Vertical
Paper	Security Stamp Paper
Designer	Mohan N. Rana
Printer	Walsall Security Printers Ltd., UK

Subject	(a) Late King Tribhuvan and 55th National Democracy Day
	(b) H.M. Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah and International Women's Day
Date of Issue	(a) 17 February 2006
	(b) 08 March 2006



a



b



c

Technical Details (a, b & c)

	a	b	c
Subject	Golden Jubilee of the first ascent of Mt. Lhotse	Golden Jubilee of the first ascent of Mt. Manaslu	Silver Jubilee of World Hindu Federation
Denomination	Rs 25.00	Rs 25.00	Rs 2.00
Color	Four + phosphor print	Four + phosphor print	Four
Sheet Composition	50 stamps per sheet	50 stamps per sheet	50 stamps per sheet
Size	30 x 40 mm	30 x 40 mm	32 x 32 mm
Format	Horizontal	Horizontal	Square
Quantity	One million	One million	Three million
Process	Offset Lithography	Offset Lithography	Offset Lithography
Paper	Security stamp paper with fiber	Security stamp paper with fiber	Security stamp paper with fiber
Designer	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana	Mohan N. Rana
Printer	Walsall Security Printers Ltd., UK	Walsall Security Printers Ltd., UK	Walsall Security Printers Ltd., UK