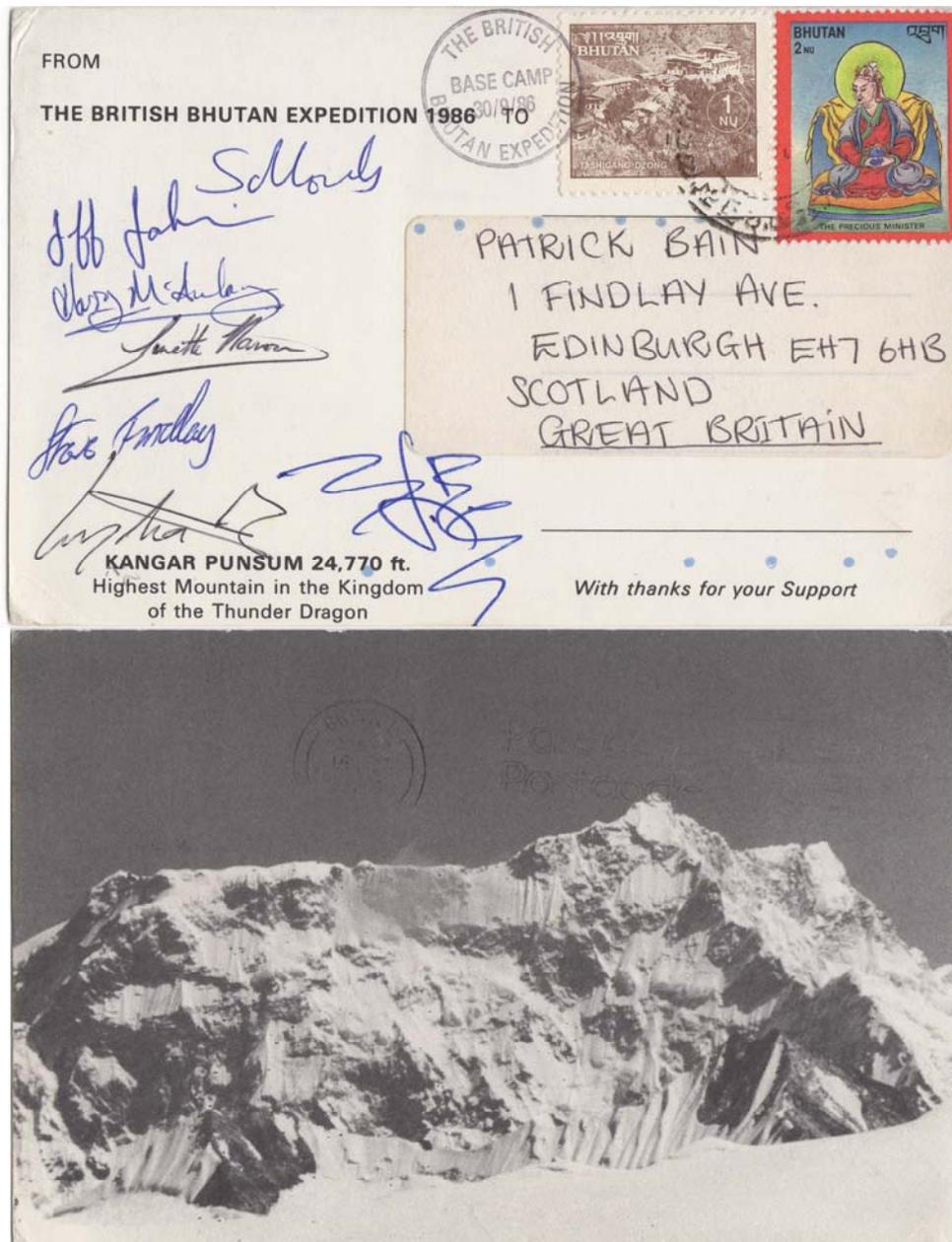


# Postal Himal



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE NEPAL AND TIBET PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

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*Front and back of postcard from the 1986 British Bhutan Expedition to Dangar Punsum in Bhutan*

Number 176

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018



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Dear Members

Another year has passed and it seems that they go very quickly these days. The latest headlines in the philatelic press are that the USA intends to leave the Universal Postal Union, something that it helped to establish 144 years ago.

It has condemned a lack of progress in reforming existing UPU policies and is discontent with aspects of international postage rates. It seems that the Chinese can send a small parcel from Beijing to New York cheaper than a small parcel can be sent from Washington to New York. Mr Trump is of the view that it gives the Chinese an unfair advantage with the amount of trade being done

in areas such as eBay.

The Nepalese Postal Authorities seem to have changed their stamp issuing policy in that during 2017 there were seventeen different issues with a total of fifty-eight stamps. Included were a set of four values at 500Rupees each. So it seems that they are aiming at stamp collectors rather than the needs of the mail which I feel is rather sad as prior to this they had always had a much smaller yearly programme of new issues at prices that reflected more their postal needs.

Finally I would like to wish all of our members a very happy and prosperous New Year.

*Colin Hepper*

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### **Editor's Ramblings:**

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank all those who contributed to the Postal Himal over the past year. It has been a joy to read all the interesting articles that have been submitted. Your contributions have made my task of putting together the Postal Himal easier and more enjoyable. I would especially like to thank Ken Goss for proofreading the copy before it is sent out. He finds some embarrassing typos along edits that improve the readability of the articles.

Again, I would like to request the Nepal Tibet Philatelic Study Circle members to think about submitting articles to the Postal Himal. This is a way to share your interests and discoveries with other study circle members. Personally, I find the articles interesting and they open up aspects of the hobby that are fresh and exciting. **Please keep those interesting articles coming!**

### **For the March 2019 Issue**

Richard Frajola and Dr. Frank Vignola have put together a catalog and website on the Nepal classic issues (1881-1930). The catalog can be found at <http://www.rfrajola.com/nepalcat/nepalcat.htm>. The catalog and the companion website provides the descriptive material and requisite images that should assist a careful user to confidently and correctly identify early Nepal stamps. A valuation guide is included that also provides some guidance on the value of covers with classic stamps.

Richard Frajola's idea for an online catalog of the classic Nepalese issues came from his interest in the unique characteristics of the early Nepalese stamps and the lack of a well-organized catalog for the classic issues. More information on the catalog will be provided in the next issue of Postal Himal.

### **Congratulations!**

At the SESCAL show in Los Angeles in October, Leo Martyn won a Large Vermeil for his "Nepal/India Cross-Border Postal History."

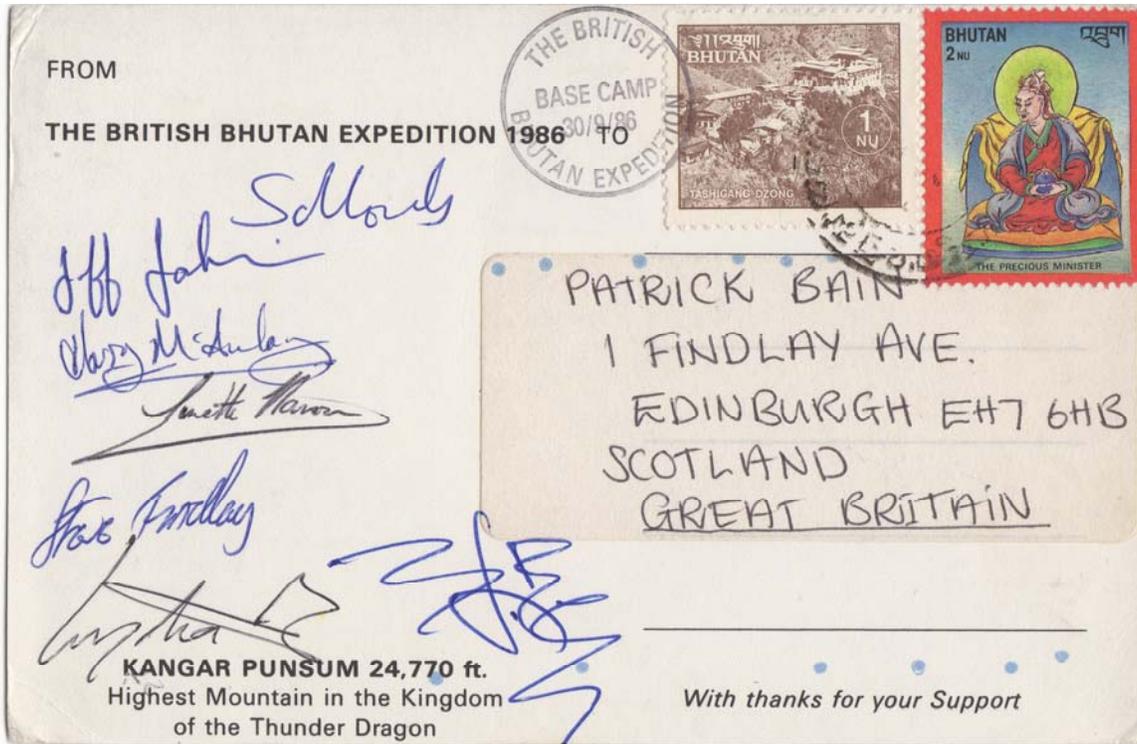
Several Nepalese exhibits received awards at the Thailand 2018 exhibition in November/December Johannes Bornmann won a Large Vermeil for "Nepal, Pre-Philately and Classic."

Dick van der Wateren received a Large Vermeil for his "Nepal Revenues."

A Silver award went to Kun Hoo Rhee for the book *Nepal Korea Flower Stamps and the Short Essays*.

# The 1986 British Expedition to Bhutan

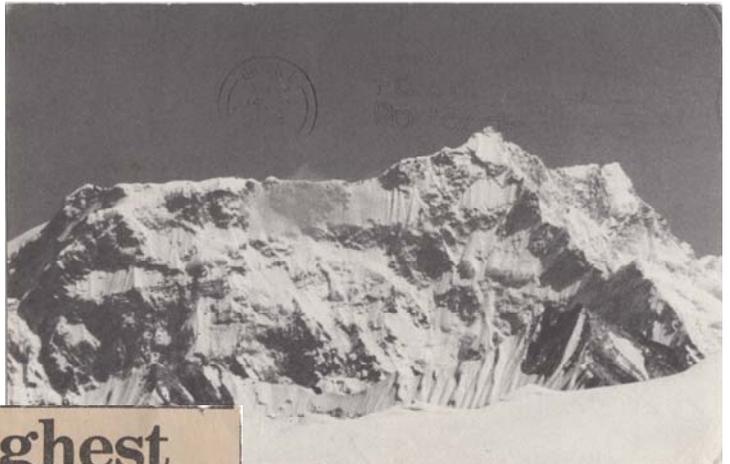
by Brian G Vincent, FRPSNZ



Postcard from the British Bhutan Expedition of 1986.

The front of the postcard shows Kangar Punsum (see below).

This Expedition represented the fourth attempt to climb to the summit of Gangkhar Puensum, the highest mountain in Bhutan at 7,570m. The postcard shown here (picture and address sides) was signed by the Expedition members – Steve Berry (leader), Steve Monks, Harry McAulay, Stephen Findlay & Ginette Harrison (all from Bristol), as well as Jeff Jackson (America) and Lydia Brady (New Zealand). There is a faint Bristol slogan postmark in the sky on the picture side of the



## Britons aim for the highest

A BRITISH climbing team sponsored by The Sunday Times set off yesterday to attempt the first ascent of the world's highest unclimbed peak open to Western mountaineers. The peak, in the isolated Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, wedged between India and China, is called Gangkar Punsum, which in Bhutanese means "the white glacier of the spiritual brothers".

Since 1983, when king Jigme Singhe Wangchuk opened it to climbers, the 24,700ft Gangkar Punsum has defied attempts to scale it by teams from America, Japan and Austria. The American team lost its way in the uncharted forests of the foothills and went up the wrong valley, never actually reaching the mountain.

The Japanese reached a height of 22,500ft before one of them fell victim to pulmonary oedema (water on the lungs) brought on by the high altitude. He had to be carried down and flown out by helicopter. The Austrians, who have just left Bhutan, reached a little lower than the Japanese before giving up because of bad weather.

This leaves the way open to the seven-member British team to be first to the top. The team is led by Steve Berry, an experienced climber from Bristol, four other climbers from Bristol. Steve Monks, Harry McAulay, Stephen Findlay and Ginette Harrison, an American, Jeff Jackson, and a New Zealander, Lydia Brady.

To reach the base of the mountain the team will have to trek for 10 days up remote river valleys towards the Tibetan border. They are being assisted by seven Sherpas, Bhutanese guides and using 70 mountain ponies to carry equipment. After several days, yaks supplied by local tribespeople on the order of the king will replace the ponies to carry the loads to the snowline, where base camp is to be pitched.

From base camp the team plans to make a series of short acclimatisation climbs on the mountain to work out the best ascent. The last-minute withdrawal of a second Japanese team due to climb the peak at the same time means that the British team can try the most favoured route, a direct climb two-and-a-half miles up a sharp ridge to the summit.

But the peak is unmapped and the team only has photographs taken by the Japanese to go on, and as guide an experienced Bhutanese climber who accompanied the Japanese expedition.

The team plans a semi-alpine ascent, establishing one or two camps on the ridge before making an attempt on the summit. With perfect weather the earliest chance for the final climb is the second week of next month.

Representatives of the Bhutanese king last week presented the team with a Bhutanese flag, a dragon on a gold background, which they want planted next to the Union Jack on the top.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to conquer Everest, and now New Zealand high commissioner to India, Nepal and Bhutan, met members of the team here last week.

postcard, while the Bhutan postmark on the stamps is unclear.

All four attempts to reach the summit after Bhutan opened up mountaineering in 1983 were unsuccessful. Bhutan then prohibited climbing their mountains which were higher than 6,000m in 1994. This means that Gangkhar Puensum is likely to remain the highest unclimbed mountain in the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

world. The mountain itself is near the Bhutan – China border and is ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the world for elevation. The name ‘Gangkhar Puensum’ means “White Peak of the three Spiritual Brothers” (reference – Wikipedia).

In 1999 a Japanese Expedition climbed its subsidiary peak Liankang Kangri (7,535m) in China (Tibet).

Also shown here is a contemporary newspaper clipping about the then forthcoming British attempt on the summit in 1986.

### Oddball Cover from Nepal

by Colin Hepper



Front and back of cover

Illustrated is a cover sent to the USA with postal orders being used to pay the postage. Glued to the envelope are two postal orders for 10 Rupees and 20 Rupees and a 10 Rupee revenue stamp to make up a postage rate of 40R's. This was accepted at Kathmandu GPO and sent in October 2005. Whether this was accepted officially or it happened to be that the sender had good friends at the GPO who

passed the letter through will never be known. I would also suspect that the address in the USA was a false one so that it would be returned to the sender. In my opinion a totally contrived cover that could make interesting discussion. If anyone has any comments please let either myself or the Editor know.

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## A Tricolor from the Tri-Junction: The first Swiss Himalaya Expedition

by Edmond Weissberg

So, an airmail cover from British India, with a nice three-coloured franking (K.G.-V) totaling 9-½ Annas, sent on 30 June 1936, probably from the neighborhood of ALMORA: GARBYANG B.O. (Branch Office) cancel, to Switzerland (arrival datestamp: ZURICH - 16 July 1936). (see [Fig.1] recto and [Fig.2] verso).

Coloured stamps, legibly stamped cancel : ordinary?, philatelic? Nevertheless, seems most intriguing, and needing further investigations...

At that time, King Edward VIII was reigning (however no stamps bearing his effigy were issued in India), but the two-coloured K.G.-V: 1935 "Silver Jubilee" commemoratives in large horizontal oblong format were available, and combination of them was possible to reach the 9-½ Annas rate. But those have not been employed. Perhaps only the everyday postage-stamps were supplied to the Branch Offices, and not the commemoratives ?

ALMORA? Next to Kalimpong, Almora in NW India was amongst the major emporia for India-Thibet trade, and also a focus point for pilgrims to and from Mount Kailash and the sacred lakes Mapham (Manasarovar) and Langnak (Raksas).

And about GARBYANG? Somewhat thibetan-sounding, isn't it? Well, you can locate Garbyang on a map, in a remote part of India, about 130 km N-NE of Almora, as the crow flies,

right on the trade and pilgrims' track! And with a striking localization, nearly at the TRI-JUNCTION: INDIA-THIBET-NEPAL [Fig.3]. This village is facing the hamlet of Tinkar in Nepal on the east, across the Kali River. Some 12 / 15 km northwards, there is still the hamlet of Kalapani, before reaching the border with Thibet at Lipulekh Pass, and then the first town in Thibet: Purang Dzong (spu hreng rdzong), also known as "Taklakot" in hindi and nepali. Garbyang is in a very mixed Thibetan (Bhotia - Byangsi) Buddhists / Bön, and Hindu - Hinduist area. This village is nowadays most endangered by recurrent landslides and ground subsidence. The area just north of Garbyang (including Kalapani), is a disputed one between India and Nepal, and much coveted by China, which in addition has also some claims over the Tinkar Khola valley in Nepal, would you believe it! [1] see: [Fig.3 ]: Very rough sketch map of the tri-junction.

Nevertheless, to revert to "the cover", it was sent to "Dr. Job" by "Heim - Almora". So: who were they?

An easy search will quickly confirm that surprisingly enough, someone called Arnold Heim was precisely around there somewhere in 1936! Arnold Heim (1882 - 1965) a renowned

(Continued on page 7)



Fig. 1: Airmail cover from Garebyang, Almora June 30, 1936 to Zurich Switzerland.



Fig. 2: Receival postmark from Zurich, Switzerland, July 16, 1936

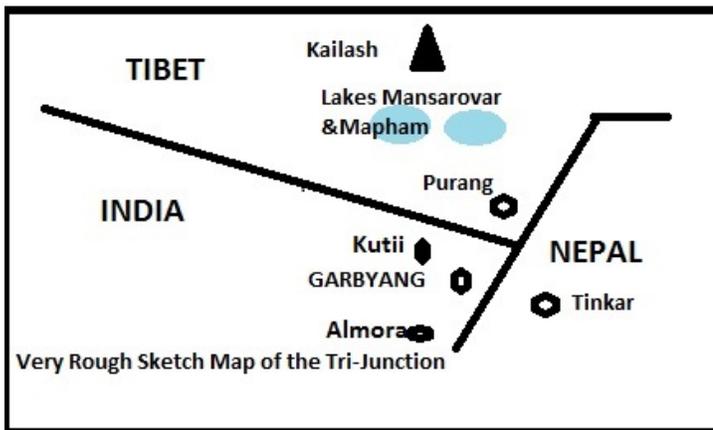


Fig. 3: Location of Garbyang near the Tibet, Nepal and India borders.

(Continued from page 6)

Swiss geologist, (himself son a geologist father and a physician mother), was to lead the First Swiss Himalaya Expedition in 1936, accompanied by Augusto Gansser ( 1910 - 2012), another renowned Swiss geologist, and Werner Weckert, a mountaineer. Soon after departure from Almora, W. Weckert had however to return back, due to acute appendicitis. Their travelogue "Thron der Götter" was published in 1938 [2], and their scientific results were published in 1939 [3]. They also (either together or separately), made some illegal & unauthorized incursions within the indeed undemarcated borders of Nepal and of Thibet, Gansser even going as far as Mount Kailash, and going round it, disguised as a pilgrim!

And concerning "Dr. Job", he was Jakob Job (1891 - 1973), a travel story writer, who indeed was also actually from 1932 to 1956: "Direktor-Intendant der Radiogenossenschaft" in Zürich. [4]

Till now, this seems to be perfectly matching corroboration; but there's however seemingly a snag! [5] From the mentioned book [2], it appears that Heim and Gansser were only present at their first base camp in Garbyang from mid-May until June 15th., and thereafter, from June 18th, they were at their second base camp, some 20 km NW, in the smaller village of Kutii. [6] So: they were therefore NOT in Garbyang on June 30th.! And there was no sort of a "Sub"-Branch-Office in Kutii! But there was the Postal Runner! In this same book, ( p. 98), they relate (from Kutii):

"Right in the middle of our busy schedule, the Runner brings the mail, and even a telegram [...]:" "Hilsener, Wegmann, - Julianehaab" - a greeting from our friends in Greenland, sent on June 15th., "and delivered in Kutii on June 22nd.! Most certainly the first greetings to reach Himalaya from this polar" country, and the first one which will be answered from here towards the polar lands. [my translation]. So, if it was possible to send a telegram per Postal Runner from Kutii to Greenland, (via the Garbyang B.O.), it was in all likelihood possible as well to entrust this postal Runner with a letter to a Switzerland addressee. With instructions (and a baksheesh?), to request the postmaster in Garbyang for a nice franking. (Or did they brought some stamps with them?) [7] And after all, the postmaster in Garbyang wasn't so unknown to Heim and Gansser! At this point, I wish to attempt a translation of their passage concerning the Garbyang Postmaster and the Garbyang B.O. I hope this will shed some light on how did operate a small B.O. in a remote Indian mountain area, perhaps reminiscent of how did work a thibetan P.O. So, this is on p.53 of Heim und Gansser book [2], and here below:

"Many houses are now in mid-May still empty. But people are daily coming up from the valley, and more and more families are settling back again. Among them, there was the old slim postmaster... [8] [...] He can speak a little English, and is very friendly to us. He brings us our mail to our bungalow. He knows well that 1 Rupee is 16 Annas, 1 Anna is 4 Pices, and 1 Pice is 3 Pies; furthermore, that a letter to India costs 9 Pies, i.e. 3 Pices. For this, he has an old pair of scales. But to Switzerland!, and by Airmail!. This we have to explain him. As we came with a sealed parcel of exposed films to be addressed in Zürich for developing, as insured mail, he was then absolutely helpless. So we had to squat near him for hours, calculating to avoid under-franking. And finally, had to rely on the also friendly Indian Postmaster in Almora, to make up for a possible postage insufficiency. From the goat-stable on ground floor, one accesses the Post Office by a narrow staircase. It is a dark and dusty room, with a narrow window. Some mats for crouching are spread out over the clay floor. The full postal inventory, consisting of: postage-

(Continued on page 8)

stamps, forms, and postmarking date stamps, is wrapped in a cloth spread on the ground. [9]

In this same book, there is a B.&W. photograph (photo 54), showing the postmaster sitting at the doorstep of the post office (therefore: the goat-stable!) On the left, hanged to the wall, there is a sign with "POST OFFICE" in English and Hindi, and on the right, an other one with "LETTER BOX", also in English and hindi. Underneath this latter is also hanged something rather indescribable, (a can? a box?), but obviously, "the" letter box.

So, an *a priori* run-of-the-mill cover turns into a more meaningful one attesting the presence of the First Swiss Himalaya Expedition and of their occupations in the Thibet - India - Nepal tri-junction region. I hope this paper (the cover!), will suit and unite all Nepal, Thibet, India, and Himalayan expeditions collectors!

#### NOTES:

- 1) Concerning this "Muddled Status Area", I suggest for further reading: Prisonniers du Tibet Rouge, by Sydney Wignall, Flammarion - Paris - 1959, (translation by: Pierre Singer from: "Prisoner in red Tibet" - 1957). This relates "the First Welsh Himalayan Expedition" in 1955, with the goal of climbing Gurla Mandhata which they (purposely ?) thought was in Nepal. (But, now considered as to be in Thibet near Taklakot / Purang). The narrative of their fake-contrite confession to their gullible gaolers, and of the final use they made of a P.R.C. flag which they notwithstanding had carried as a precautionary measure, are well worth a Marx Brothers' sketch (the one by Karlo?) and especially much laughable. In 1997, Sydney Wignall wrote a new version of his book: "Spy on the Roof of the World", which I didn't read yet, but the title suggests what was subliminal in the first version... i.e.: probably some idle spying matters were indeed involved whenever possible; nevertheless the main goal of the Welsh Expedition was, all the same, mountaineering.
- 2) Thron der Götter - Erlebnisse der ersten Schweizerischen Himalaya-Expedition. Arnold Heim und August Gansser - Morgarten-Verlag A.-G. Zürich und Leipzig -

1938 There exists a translation by Eden and Cedar Paul: "Throne of the Gods", (Macmillan & Co. - London - New York).

- 3) Arnold Heim & Augusto Gansser, Central Himalaya: Geological Observations of the Swiss Expedition 1936, Mémoires de la Société Helvétique des Sciences Naturelles, v. 73, no. 1, 245 p, - Zürich - 1939.
- 4) See a 1936 photograph of Dr. Jakob Job on: Historischen Lexikon der Schweiz Jakob JOB GND: [117140694](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:5:1-117140694) | VIAF: [54918331](https://viaf.org/viaf/54918331) | URL: <http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/textes/d/D11984.php>
- 5) There is possibly a second snag: To the best of my knowledge, there is no mention in Heim and Gansser [2] of meeting with the Austrian mountaineer Herbert Tichy who was seemingly in the area around this time.  
It is reported that Tichy and a Sherpa named Kitar, had attempted (without authorization), the ascent of Mount Gurla Mandhata [see note [1]], around early (spring) 1936, but were not successful. I haven't found any concise reports on this "expedition"; there seems to be very few material available. Anyways, this remains a rather inconclusive negative proof against the authenticity of "the cover".
- 6) This Kuti village in India has absolutely nothing to do with Nyalam / Kuti, this latter being one of the three extraterritorial jurisdictional Nepalese courts in Thibet.
- 7) Perhaps they also requested the Postal Runner to ask the postmaster in Garbyang for the most possible nice franking, with the stamps currently available at the P.O., and to apply a correctly legible datestamp, neither faint nor smudgy!?
- 8) From this piece of information, one can surmise that Garbyang B.O. was a seasonal one, and was not operating during winter time, when the whole area is snow covered. Garbyang is indeed at an altitude of about 3,150 m!
- 9) So, the "old pair of scales" was probably not wrapped in the cloth, but clearly well on display!

## Pratek Man Tuladhar Correspondence from Nottingham & Peterborough, England to Tibet and BACK—1950's

by Brian W Smith



*Pratek Man Tuladhar  
1954 Wearing Tibetan dress.  
Taken in a Lhasa photo  
studio owned by a  
Lhasa Newar.*

Early 1950s combination covers addressed to Pratek Man Tuladhar in Lhasa, Tibet regularly turn up in philatelic auctions and on eBay. I have a number of these in my collection including one from West Bridgford, Nottingham - seven miles from where I live - and one from Peterborough, Northants, the home of our

President Colin Hepper. I also have Pratek Man's covers to these locations in the opposite direction, i.e. to his correspondents.

It might be of interest if I gave some background to Pratek Man Tuladhar. A Nepalese Newar, Pratek Man was born into the pre-eminent Tuladhar merchant family of Kathmandu in 1924. The Tuladhars, along with other Kathmandu families, had traded with Tibet for generations, using trade routes from Nepal and India that had existed for centuries. The merchants had a number of shops or trading houses (Palas) along the Bharkor in Lhasa. A Pala was an Association organised by the Nepalese traders in Tibet to assist in the running of their trade. There were originally 13 in Lhasa but some smaller ones merged. Seven were active till modern times (mid-1960s). The Tuladhar's main shop was Ghorasyar on the Bharkor. They traded in cloth, sheep's wool, yak

tails & pelts. Other Tuladhar traders dealt in musk, coral, tea & textiles, with one supplying gold paint that was used in sacred art in the temples.

The Tibet trade was principally between India, Sikkim, Nepal & Tibet. Calcutta on the East Coast of India was the chief source of much of the manufactured goods that went into Tibet through Kalimpong and the Chumbi Valley. Consequently many Nepalese merchants lived in Calcutta to help facilitate the two-way trade. Many traders covers to Tibet can still be found cancelled Barn Bazaar, CALCUTTA, the district they operated from.

Pratek Man Tuladhar had gone to live in Lhasa when he was very young. In 1942, when he was 18 years old, he began to collect stamps. His main interest was British Colonies, United States and United Nations. In the late 1940s/early 50s he began to correspond with stamp collectors worldwide and exchanged Tibet stamps for foreign ones.

Tibet was not a member of the Universal Postal Union so incoming foreign mail was directed through the British Post Office in Tibet. As there was no British Post Office in Lhasa, incoming foreign mail for Lhasa arrived at the British P.O. Gyantse. It was then passed to the Tibetan Post Office where an agent or postal clerk added the appropriate Tibetan stamps for onward transmission through the Tibetan postal system. A letter posted from Lhasa to an international destination would be franked with Tibetan stamps at the Lhasa P.O. When it reached British P.O. Gyantse (or Pharijong) British Indian stamps were added and the letter forwarded on. Thus was created the

*(Continued on page 10)*

Fig. 2. 1952 cover from Pratek Man Tuladhar, Lhasa, to Nottingham, England. Uprated prepaid 2 Anna India envelope additionally franked at Gyantse with India stamps. Note use of British India Geo. VI 2 Anna 54 years after Indian Independence in 1947.



Fig. 1. 1952 cover from Nottingham, England to Pratek Man Tuladhar, Lhasa, Tibet via Gyantse. Franked with Tibet 1933 1 tr and [extremely rare use of] 1912 1 tr. [late re-printing?].

United Kingdom.

Figure 1. The 1952 Nottingham cover (from a Mr. Khan in West Bridgford) to Pratek Man Tuladhar in Lhasa is franked with a 1933 1trangka with

addition of a [very rare usage] 1912 1trangka - both added at Gyantse. Waterfall in his *Postal History of Tibet* 1965, states that the 1912 issues were in use from 1912-1933 but a number of sheets from the original plates were made for the 1948 Tibetan Trade Mission that visited Europe & America where members presented the sheets to interested parties.

Hugh Richardson, the last British Representative in Tibet suggested that the 1912 plates were destroyed in 1950,"but not before a number of sheets were printed from them". Could this be the source of this very late usage stamp?

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 9)

combination covers that are so collectible today. In the late 1950s Pratek Man left Tibet. He stayed in Kalimpong for a number of years where he kept up his correspondence before returning to Kathmandu in 1961. He died in 1991. Whilst he lived in Lhasa, Pratek Man received covers from 60-70 foreign countries. He corresponded with many well known international Tibet collectors of that time such as Haverbeck, P.H.Cummings, G.S.Russell and Kurt Dhanke: the latter when he was in Lhasa and Kalimpong, the others after he had returned to Nepal. Curiously, he had no contact with the doyen of Tibet collectors, Arnold Waterfall of the

(Continued from page 10)

Figure 4: The Postcard from Joyce Hughes of Peterborough to Pratek Man in Lhasa gives some idea of the scale of his correspondence with the outside world. Joyce writes -"Please write again as soon as possible, as I look forward to your letters". She might well have added "with the Tibetan stamps on"!!

Acknowledgment. I am deeply indebted to Sidhartha Tuladhar of Kathmandu, the son of Pratek Man Tuladhar who kindly supplied me with much of the information in this article on his father. He also supplied the photograph of Pratek Man taken in Lhasa 1954. Sidhartha is the Senior Research Officer of New Era, Pvt Ltd, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Fig. 3. 1953 Cover from Pratek Man Tuladhar, Lhasa to Peterborough, England. Franked with 2x2 trangka 1933 Tibet stamps. Additionally franked with India 4 Annas at Gyantse. Address in Tibetan and English.

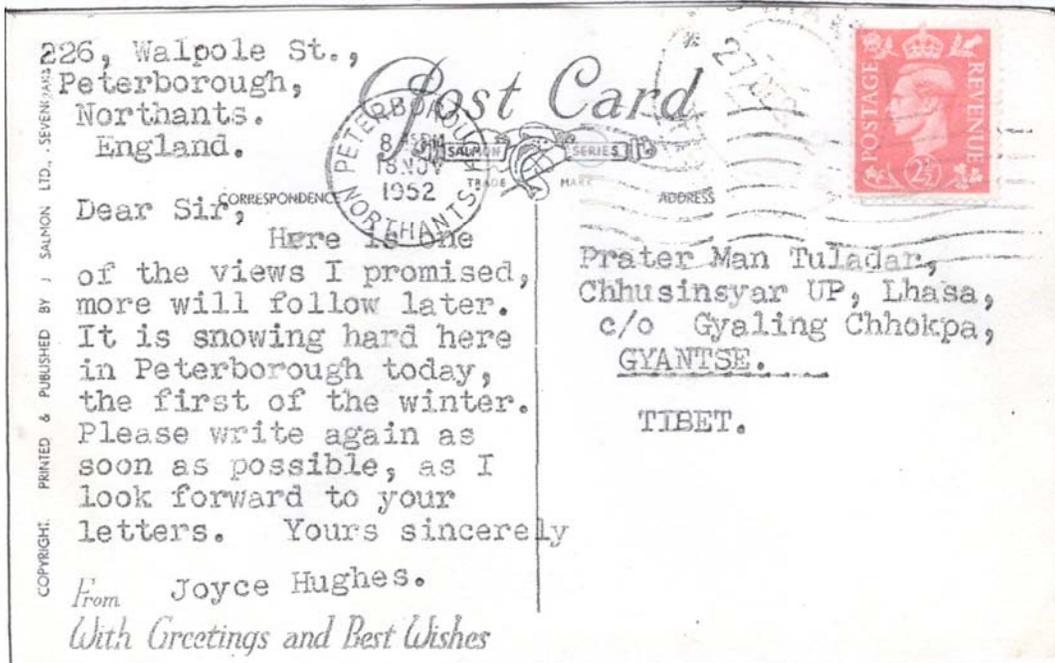
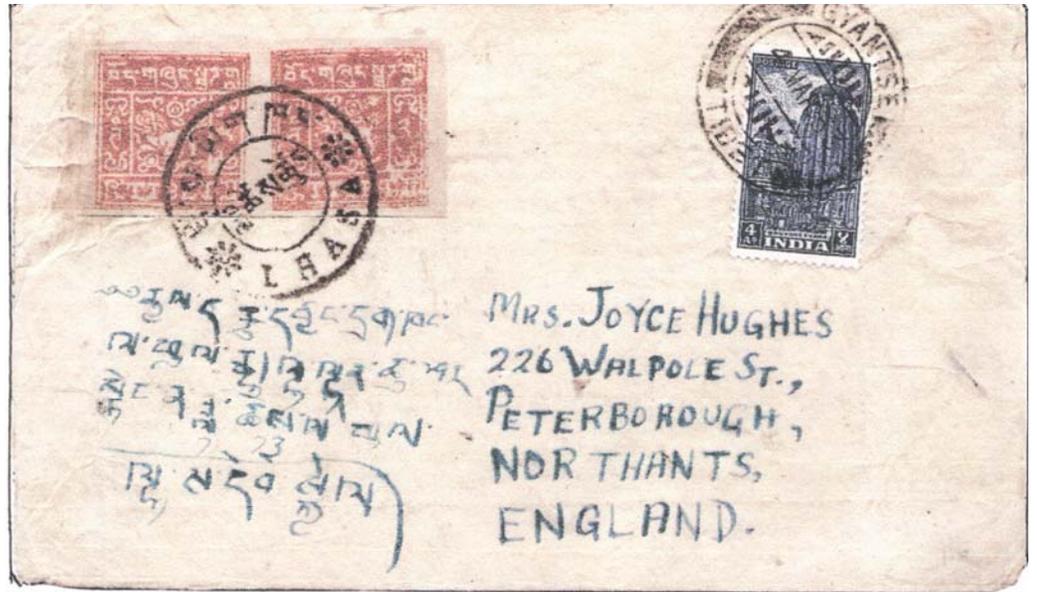


Fig. 4. 1952 (18 Nov) postcard from Peterborough, England to Pratek Man Tuladhar in Lhasa, Tibet, via Gyantse. Indistinct Gyantse receiving mark 27 Dec 1952. Probably privately carried to Lhasa.

# The Hulak Niyamabali (The Postal Guide of 1936)

from John D. Seals

I recently acquired a near pristine copy of the Hulak Niyamabali (The Postal Guide of 1936) and compared it to Wolfgang Hellrigl's translation in Postal Himal No. 83 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1995). My copy appears to have extra content. The photo on the PH cover shows the guide's cover with its first page ("The Postal Guide" Part 1) visible through the thin cover page. My copy does have this page, but it is preceded by a 4-page fan-fold preface of text with a simple patterned border entitled Hulak Wara(?) Notifications – which was obviously missing from copy in the PH photo. My copy also has an additional last page entitled "Amendment Letter" following the 67 articles in the guide . It has a back cover with handwritten paragraph of Devanagari script that I believe starts Shri 3 (Prime Minister?) and an image of a bird in a bush. Since my knowledge of Nepalese Devangari is limited to numbers and a few words, I may not have even gotten the headings correct.

I have several questions:

Are these postal guides scarce?, I have never seen one at auction until I procured this copy.

Do other copies have the fan-fold preface and Amendment letter?

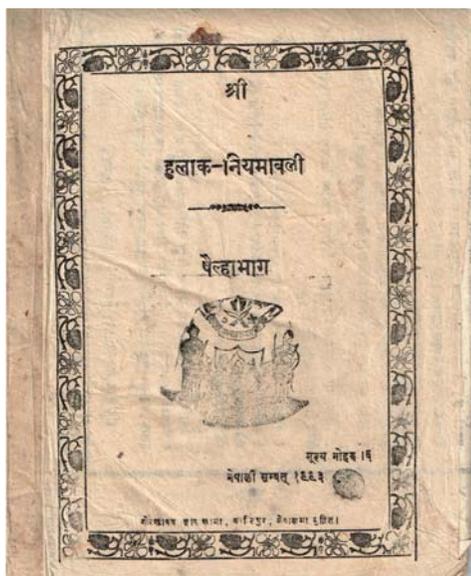
I have attached a six page pdf file containing

- (1) the cover,
- (2&3) the fan-fold "Notification"? preface (apparently missing from Hellrigl's copy) and
- (4) the "Introduction" page (1<sup>st</sup> page in Hellrigl's copy).
- (5) There were several penned ink notations in the 67 articles section of which page 5 shows one.
- (6)The sixth page is the back cover with a penned inscription.

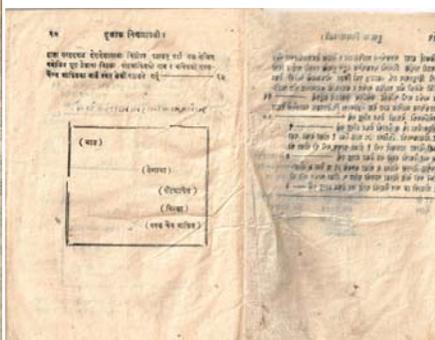
The document is definitely printed and the paper appears to be a bit darkened with age. It is similar to paper used for revenue documents of the same period. The notes and inscriptions are hand written, as the ink has bled through to the back of the sheet and appear somewhat oxidized. The second pdf contains the "Amendment Letter"? page at the end of the 67 articles.

The document is assembled from sheets of odd-even pages that were folded in the middle with the fold edge out, rather than in the binding as is the case with most books and pamphlets (see diagram). It appears that edges opposite the fold were glued in place with a brown glue and about half of the folded edges slit open.

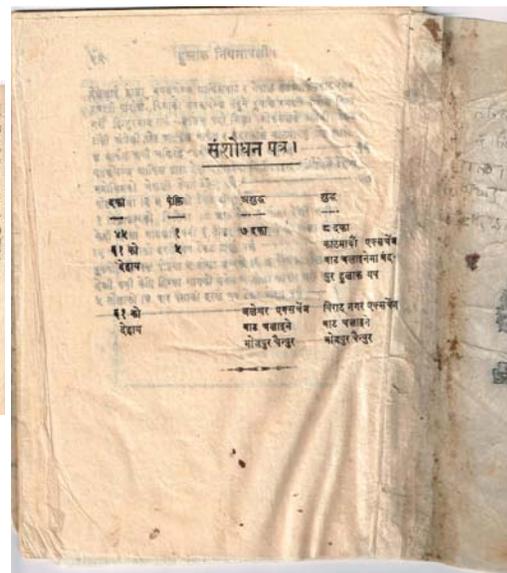
[ed. Are there any comments on this Postal Guide?]



Cover



Page 5



Amendment letter

# The Background of Different Dates of Issue Reported for the Same Sets of Bhutan Postage Stamps between 1966 and Early 1973

by Leo van der Velden

Starting with the issue of the very first set of postage stamps in 1962, the legendary American businessman Burt Todd with his Bhutan Trust/ Bhutan Stamp Agency based in the Bahamas was the agent for the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (P&T) of the Ministry of Telecommunication of “His Majesty’s Government of Bhutan” (changed in time to Royal Government of Bhutan). P&T covered the domestic and Indian markets, while Todd looked after the rest of the world. Todd was mostly also the originator of the idea and design of most stamps issues of those days. Todd’s agreement was cancelled early 1974. The date of issue of stamps during this period is somewhat confusing.

During 1966 – 1974 both P&T and Burt Todd issued each their own First Day Covers (FDCs). Burt Todd missed the first few years, most probably because he was not yet fully convinced of enough interest by collectors. P&T started enthusiastically with 6 different cachets (2 different designs each in three different colors) for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of 10 October 1962. Only with the March 1966 ITU stamp issue did Burt Todd also start issuing FDCs, using his own covers and cancellation seals. Both were remarkable plain, probably in order to save time, effort and costs.

In order to provide their clients at least one offer per month, Todd’s agency would on some occasions split up sets into two or three dates of issue: one set of lower values, released first, and then the next month or so one set of the higher values, often ‘airmail’ stamps or souvenir sheets (S/Ss). On the FDCs the agency would for instance seal the first lower denominations with the date 29 January 1972, and then cancel the higher ‘airmail’ stamps released one month later with 28 February 1972, while for P&T the date of issue for the whole set was on 29 January 1972. P&T date of issue can be checked against their FDCs and their lists in publications and stock listings. For Todd his FDCs are the main source of information, although the Bhutan Stamp Agency also sent out announcements to press, traders and collectors for most issues, with often some information on, at least, their first date of issue. This discrepancy between P&T and Todd regarding dates of issue is also reflected in stamp catalogues like Scott and Michel, which mostly followed Todd’s release information, although both Scott and Michel had on some occasions one or more different dates.

(Continued on page 14)



DOI Birds set 1968,



P&T: 7-12-1968;



Todd: 7-12-68, 28-12-68 & 29-01-1969



Following is an overview of issues with different dates between Bhutan P&T, Todd's agency and the catalogues Scott and Michel:

|    | Year of Issue | Name of issue                   | Date(s) of Issue |                                    |                                     |                               |                               |  |
|----|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|    |               |                                 | P&T              | - -----                            | T o d d                             | ----- -                       | Scott                         | Michel                                     |
| 1  | 1966          | Abominable Snowman (Yeti)       | 10 Oct 1966      | 12-10<br>1 – 50 Ch                 | 15-11<br>1.25 – 5 Nu                | 04 – 03 -<br>1967<br>6 & 7 Nu | 12 – 10<br>& 15-11<br>(incl.) | Same as Todd                               |
| 2  | 1967          | Space 3D                        | 30 Oct 1967      | 01-08-1967<br>SS high<br>value     | 30-10-1967<br>stamps &SS            |                               | All<br>30 - 10                | All 30 - 10                                |
| 3  | 1968          | Pheasants                       | 20 Jan 1968      | 20-01:1Ch -<br>4Nu & 7Nu           | 23-04<br>5 & 9 Nu                   |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 4  | 1968          | Butterflies 3D                  | 20<br>May'68     | 20-05<br>stamps                    | 23-10 S/Ss                          |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | 20-05 and<br>22-10 (!)                     |
| 5  | 1968          | Paintings (embossed)            | 8 July 1968      | 08-07<br>ordinary<br>values        | 05-08 S/Ss<br>of ordinary<br>values | 28-08<br>airmail<br>and S/S   | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 6  | 1968          | Bhutan Birds                    | 7 Dec 1968       | 07-12-1968<br>2-15Ch, 30<br>& 50Ch | 28-12-1968<br>20Ch, 1.25 &<br>2 Nu  | 29-01-<br>1969<br>airmail     | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 7  | 1969          | Steel stamps                    | 2 June 1969      | 02-06<br>stamps                    | 30-06 S/Ss                          |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 8  | 1969          | Birds 3D                        | 5 Aug 1969       | 05-Aug-<br>1969<br>stamps          | 28-08-1969<br>S/Ss                  |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 9  | 1969          | Apollo 11 3D                    | 11 Nov 1969      | 03-11<br>ordy. values              | 20-11<br>airmail                    | 20-12<br>S/Ss                 | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 10 | 1970          | Famous Paintings 3D             | 19 Jan 1970      | 19-01<br>stamps                    | 25-02 S/Ss                          |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 11 | 1970          | Paintings of Flowers (embossed) | 6 May 1970       | 06-05-1970<br>ordinary<br>stamps   | 28-05<br>airmail & S/S              |                               | All<br>06-05                  | Same as Todd                               |
| 12 | 1970          | Animals 3D                      | 20 Sep 1970      | 17-09-1970<br>ordinary             | 15-10 airmail                       |                               | All<br>15-10                  | Same as Todd                               |
| 13 | 1970          | Apollo 13 3D                    | 17 Nov 1970      | 09-11-1970<br>ordinary             | 30-11 airmail                       | 18-12<br>S/Ss                 | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 14 | 1971          | Automobiles (Classic cars) 3D   | 5 June 1971      | 20-05 2<br>– 60 Ch                 | 10-06<br>75 & 85 Ch,<br>1 - 2.5 Nu  | 05-07<br>airmail<br>values    | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | 20-05, 10-06<br>and 22-06 (!)<br>(airmail) |
| 15 | 1972          | Paintings (embossed)            | 29 Jan 1972      | 29-01 ordy.<br>val. & S/S          | 28-02 airmail<br>values & S/S       |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |
| 16 | 1973          | European Dogs                   | 1 Jan 1973       | 01-01-1973<br>ordy. values         | 15-01-'73 S/<br>S airmail           |                               | Same<br>as<br>Todd            | Same as Todd                               |

# A Far-Reaching Tibetan Newspaper Wrapper

by Edmond Weissberg

This seemingly insignificant document is a newspaper wrapper for the well-known "Tibet Mirror" (n.1 & n.2), published by Tharchin "Babu" in Kalimpong, at the "Mirror Press" in Mackenzie Cottage. (n.3) It was sent from Kalimpong (India), on January 15th, 1937 [see FIG. 2], to a "Dr Johannes Schisberty", at the University Library in Leipzig [see FIG. 1] No country name was mentioned, but (almost) everybody knew that Leipzig was then in Germany, not on Clipperton island! (Well, post-war, it was in G.D.R., and now again in Germany after reunification). There is also an undecipherable (for me) pencil notation in bottom-right corner. However, aren't you curious to know who was "Dr. Johannes SCHISBERTY"? At first sight, doesn't sound like a German name... Well, the handwriting is rather handsome and very legible. But, perhaps copied from a far less legible list of subscribers. Let's try something: Just drop the final "Y", and replace the inside "I" by an "U". Now you get: "SCHUBERT". A perfect German name. Especially as Dr. Johannes SCHUBERT (1896 - 1976), was a well known philologist in Tibetan Studies! He was awarded Ph.D. in Tibetan language and literature (Dr. Phil. in Tibetischer Sprache und Litteratur) in 1928 in Berlin. Afterwards, he always remained in Leipzig University, and especially from 1930 to 1945, was Scientific Library Keeper of the University Library in Leipzig and Specialist Expert in

Eastern Studies. (Wissenschaftlicher Bibliothekar an der Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig und Fachreferent für Orientalistik).

Besides, Dr. Johannes Schubert was also certainly interested in philately: amongst his many mainly scholarly works, he also wrote some papers, such as: - Tibet und seine postalischen Verhältnisse. In: Berichte des Vereins Leipziger Briefmarkenbörse 1932 (13) S. 65-69. - Mongolei und Tannu-Tuwa. Eine philatelistische Skizze. In: Berichte des Vereins Leipziger Briefmarkenbörse 1933 (14) S. 1-9; S. 17-26; S. 33-41; S. 49-55; S. 65-71 u. 81-84. (n.4). If someone can have access to those papers (Rainer !...?), it would be wonderful to publish them. I however fear those papers (as well as the Gebrüder Senf - Senf Brothers - replicas /facsimiles of Tibet 1912 stamps), are forever lost, having being destroyed during the air raids over Leipzig during WWII.

Thus, the examination of this purported meaningless wrapper leads to unsuspected far-reaching facts of historical interest.

(n.1): Full title and translation: "Yul phyogs so so'i gsar 'gyur me long" - i.e.: "The mirror of news from every country". (n.2): Reflections in the Tibet Mirror: News of the World 1937-1946, by: Isrun Engelhardt. In: Mapping the Modern in

(Continued on page 16)



Fig. 1: Newspaper wrapper sent to Dr. Johannes "Schisberty"



Fig.2: Canceled Kalimpong, India, January 15, 1937.

(Continued from page 15)

Tibet - Gray Tuttle - 2011 (n.3): For a comprehensive (and almost exhaustive) biography of the redactor/publisher/ editor/ printer of the "Tibet Mirror", please read: "Called from Obscurity: The life and Times of a True Son of Tibet...Gergan Dorje Tharchin..." by: H. Louis FADER. - Kalimpong, Tibet Mirror Press. 3 Volumes -2002, 2004, 2009. [The full title is so lengthy (more than 3 lines !), that I have had to abridge it with "..."]. (n.4): [https://research.uni-leipzig.de/agintern/CPL/PDF/Schubert\\_Johannes.pdf](https://research.uni-leipzig.de/agintern/CPL/PDF/Schubert_Johannes.pdf) (acceded 24/11/2018).

And otherwise, concerning Tibetan "newspapers", I suggest for further reading: "The First Tibetan Serial" (A.H. Francke's La dvags kyi ag bâr) - facsimile 1904-1907" by: Hartmut Walravens With a contribution on Tharchin's "Tibet Mirror" by Isrun Engelhardt, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Neuerwerbungen der Ostasienabteilung - Sonderheft 22 - 2010 ISBN 978-3-88053-161-1

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The Not-So-First Stamp for Nepal on the 2015 Guyana Stamp Set  
"First Postage Stamps of the United Nations Member States"

*Note by Leo van der Velden*



Guyana is a well-known producer of so-called "wall paper" stamps, so we should not take it too seriously that they added the 2P of the 1949 local motives set as the 1<sup>st</sup> 1881 postage stamp of Nepal on their recent 2015 stamp series of First Postage Stamps of the United Nations Member States... Nobody is perfect!

Attention to Assistance to Nepal on 2018 Jersey Stamp

*Note by Leo van der Velden*

Jersey Post issued, on the occasion of 50 years Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA), a six stamp set on 12 July 2018. The 82 pence stamp "Nepal: Economic Development" pays attention to the assistance by JOA to improve rural livelihoods in remote areas of Nepal

