

THE
**POSTAL
HISTORY**
OF
TIBET



By Arnold C. Waterfall

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of
TIBET

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1965

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P R E F A C E

The following notes have been collected together for the past 30 years and more during which time Tibetan philately has given me hours of study and exciting discoveries, in a field where competition in the early days was nil, but has since grown out of all proportion to the amount of material available. I doubt it would have been possible to devote all this spare time to the subject, if I had been in any other occupation than a Bookseller, for by supplying my wife with unlimited reading, she has been able to pursue her hobby, and thus allowed me the time to study my own particular branch of philately. Nevertheless without her help and encouragement, these notes, started at the suggestion of Sir David Roseway, would never have been completed.

It has been a fascinating study, unravelling many of the problems that have cropped up from time to time. Many others may remain unsolved no doubt, but with Tibet the unexpected is always just around the corner, which adds to its fascination. It has also brought me into contact with many interesting friends, notably of course, Col. Bailey, who has been able to think out some of the problems as they would appear to the Tibetan mind, and thus offer a clue which has been able to resolve some difficulty or other. So many friends have helped me that I have no desire to enter into any professional v. amateur argument when I mention Robson Lowe and the late E. F. Hurt as being great encouragers in the early days, to a "mad student who could think of nothing else but Tibet."

Many are the names that come to mind as I turn the pages of my album; friends who have swapped their unique Tibetan items for items of other countries, so that my collection could be the more complete; non-philatelists who have parted with mementos given to them by Tibetan friends, but who have felt their value to the philatelist is greater than being tucked away in their own bottom drawers. The Bell "find" was such a one. To all these friends my heartfelt thanks for enabling this collection to be as complete as it is now, and if eventually broken up, may it give as much pleasure to future owners, as it has given me.

Thanks too are due to my typist, who had to struggle not only with strange Tibetan names—but what was much worse—my handwriting! Fortunately I was able to spot such mistakes as Beer Bottle Green for near Bottle Green, though so accurate was the mistake I nearly left it in.

Thanks too, to the proof readers and their infinite patience; the photographer and the printers, all of whom have helped to make this book possible.

Before I start though, there was no personal note in Haverbeck, or Holmes, as to why they started collecting Tibet, and yet it is the one question that has always been asked each time I have exhibited my Tibets to Societies. I'm always asked, "Why Tibet?"

In my dreams as a youngster, I was always the one to reach the summit of Everest first. Thus all Everest Expedition books were avidly read, and as all the Expeditions in those days passed through Tibet, the books aroused my interest in that country. It was only a short step then, for me to combine my outdoor sport of Mountaineering (embracing Potholing, Rock Climbing and Ski-ing), with my indoor hobby of Stamp Collecting.

The attraction of Tibetan Philately soon became apparent. So much was unknown about Tibetan Philately, that it became a challenge to me, just as much as the unexplored underground of the Yorkshire Dales limestone area has been to me. It is doubtful whether one could still find a philatelic country with no official records at all, over a period of 60 years. It was easy to collect complete sheets, their size being such that one could get two on a normal sized album page. There are no queries about gum; one can roast oneself in front of a winter's fire with no curling troubles, or sit at a sunny window, or do your stamps on a clammy day, with no effect on these gumless Tibetan stamps. Nor will their fast colours, produced from dull or shiny enamel paints, fade or alter.

The second question*is always "From where did you get all this material, so much of it unique"? That was another attraction. It had to be sought, privately and in Auction Lots. I have mentioned the generosity of many friends, but in the early days many finds were made at Auctions and in Dealers Stocks, and although my knowledge at that time was limited, it was just a little bit more than that of most people, the pre-requisite for finds.

Then too, six other Tibetan collections, and the best material out of at least another dozen, have been absorbed into the collection at one time or another.

One has to be very patient, for many are the rebuffs one gets when asking for Tibet, and the witticisms, and the nicknames gained! Major Hopkins at one function introduced me to a famous Classics collector, as the "Chief Lama of Tibet." Later in the evening he came up to me and asked me to speak at Birmingham, and I replied in the affirmative, thinking in terms of the local philatelic society. But no! It was a Public Lecture on the "Lamas of Tibet" that was required. Fortunately for me it was quickly erased from his diary.

I hope therefore that the following pages will be of interest and use to fellow Tibetan philatelists of the future.

Just one more plea—will fellow philatelists please point out any errors, any omissions, or any improvements that can be made, so that if sufficient new material can be reported, addenda can be sent out to all owners of this handbook. There must be many things that we do not know about yet, remembering the series of Postal markings only found this year of 1964, used in the early 1920's! And if each reader had only one new paragraph to add it would make an interesting supplement. Each contribution would of course be acknowledged. So do write to the address below—should you want any further Tibetan information that may come along.

A. C. WATERFALL,
10, SHEEP STREET,
SKIPTON,
YORKSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION

One might have thought when H. R. Holmes published his excellent book on Tibetan Stamps in 1941, that here was the ultimate in Tibetan Postal History. It was a lucky day for me when I was able to acquire his collection, and combine it with my own to make the basis of a study which has lasted many years.

About the same time, Theodore M. Newman began to write up his findings in the American Collectors Club Philatelist. Previously the first man to write up Tibet, was F. P. Renaut in Gibbons monthly Circular (June 1923), and it may have been this article that inspired Holmes to collect Tibet. It was Renaut who first listed the pretty fretwork cancellations which were described by Boggs in the 1930's as forgeries, and though never presenting any difficulties in Britain, were re-discovered in 1948 by Haverbeck as genuine. Such are the vagaries of Philatelic writings; hence my plea that any corrections needed to this article should be sent to me, to distribute at a later date.

In 1942 a stranger walked into Robson Lowe's office, wanting to exchange some Tibetan material for a new album or two. That was the introduction between Robson Lowe and Col. F. M. Bailey. No philatelist at that time had ever heard of Col. Bailey, or could have imagined what an impact that name was going to make on Tibetan matters.

As Robson Lowe stated "It would be impossible to name any other man in this part of the century, whose correspondence written during his years of service in Asia, has contributed so much knowledge and pleasure to the addicts of the hobby of philately and postal history"—for practically the whole of his correspondence was kept in the original covers, and Col. Bailey will be the first to admit he was no philatelist—but liked collecting things!

The main bulk of the Tibetan Postal History concerned the 1903-4 Expeditions, and Robson Lowe published his findings in the "Philatelist" issues of July and September, 1942. Next year—in the June 1943 Philatelist, the Young-husband Correspondence of the same period was described. Having examined all this material—and further items in Col. Bailey's possession—I collected all the information then known and sent it to G. S. Russell, who printed it in a series of articles he was writing in New Zealand (for the "China Clipper.")

About this time E. F. Hurt—the "Local" dealer who has done much for Postal Historians—discovered the Waterlow proofs—and he it was who was able to supply me with my one or two missing links in the plating of the 1933 issue, (The Philatelist April 1953).

Further F.P.O. discoveries were made and then in 1952 The Collectors Club of America published a Tibetan Handbook, written by Haverbeck and based on Holmes' Handbook, Newman's article and Russell's "China Clipper." This collation was extremely valuable—though there were a number of errors and omissions—the F.P.O. list being based on my listings sent to Russell 9 years previously. Unfortunately, he was not aware of the work which had been going on in this country, so no mention was made of the 1933 platings, nor the 61st cliché. Adgey-Edgar's fine article on the most likely way the 1933 stamps were produced was published in the December 1953 issue of the Stamp Magazine.

During this period (1950) many fresh items of news came forth from Tibet, items which collectors on both sides of the Atlantic avidly fought for at Auctions—only to realize later that still more items were to deflate the earlier high prices. For the first time we heard of Tibetan “Officials” which even gained catalogue status in America and Germany as Tibetan Stamps issued for postage; the 1912 1 sang “Only 6 sheets positively exist!” quantities of the rare 4 and 8 tr. (reprinted in Pale colours); perfs. around 1950 stamps (including a large machine-cut (!) perf.);—New Forgeries.

Thus, when Haverbeck’s handbook was reprinted in 1958, it was a great surprise to find that so much had been left out—in spite of a “wealth of information that had been written in the intervening years.” Not only that but its revision was scantily done—e.g. on one page “There is surprisingly little variation in colours”—yet on the opposite page, there was my then current listing of 47 shades of the five 1912 stamps.

It is because of this lack of background to recent events that the China Society asked me to write down *my* opinions of the past few years. I stress that they are *my* personal opinions—but these are backed by a study and experience over many years of Tibetan Collecting, and the sight of many Tibetan Collections on this side of the Atlantic. My one regret is that I have not been able to see the major collections across the Atlantic—though having had some kind correspondents—they have given me a picture of what is happening over there. At the same time there are quite a few things I wish to record that have not been recorded before concerning my collection, and observations over the years of Auction Material that has not come my way, but now rests in other collections. So I feel I must begin at the beginning of the Postal History of Tibet, without dallying in History itself—which, in a potted form, has been done so well by Holmes, Haverbeck and Russell. Before starting—may I mention two things.

A points system has been adopted in an attempt to convey the relative scarcity of the various shades and settings, etc. British collectors may find some resemblance to the sterling shilling as at 1964, though exceptions would have to be made at the top end of the scale. From this day forth, I shall never criticise any valuations made by any catalogue editor, and the value of this part of the book can only be enhanced by valid criticisms. May each reader of these notes send in to me his own valuations, and then from all these opinions, a means might result that would be even more helpful to us all; and it is a good exercise for everyone!

One of the most controversial problems in Tibetan philately is that of colour. Yet the specialist has to tackle it if he wishes to put his stamps in chronological order. So varied were the inks used, that the normal catalogues cannot do much about it. I have used as a basis the “Methuen Handbook of Colour.” This book is the nearest to the impossible I’ve seen, ‘The perfect colour guide for the philatelist.’ The reference number after each colour in the check lists refers to their coding, though I’ve kept to the old colour names where possible. Originally published in Denmark, should anyone have any difficulty in obtaining one, we can supply at 36/-. There are over 1,250 different colours, and the way these are displayed makes it quite easy to give some idea of the colour of any particular stamp.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF TIBET

CHAPTER ONE

British Mission and Field Post Offices in Tibet

A large part of Tibetan postal history is connected with either British or Chinese military forces. Without going into Chinese-British foreign relationships too much, however, the British Mission came into being because of the Tibetan raids over the southern border into Sikkim—a native State then under British protection. The full history can be read in Waddell's "Lhasa and its Mysteries" and briefly in Holmes' "Tibet."

The latter is a philatelic handbook, but published before most of the story of the F.P.O.s was known. Indeed, without the foresight of one man, Col. F. M. Bailey, little would still be known—but he retained all his correspondence, and thanks to him—and the courtesy of Robson Lowe, who handled the material and allowed access to it—the major part can be recorded.

No official records have been kept of the handstamp dies. I have full lists of the number of mules and amount of baggage, the list of personnel and dates of joining and leaving the expedition; but of handstamp dies—none! That would have been too easy, however, and would not have made room for the excitement of the chase for the lost pieces of this still incomplete jig-saw puzzle.

The material is divisible into three groups.

- (a) **THE TIBETAN FRONTIER COMMISSION.** This was an attempt to come to terms with the Tibetan authorities at Khamba-Jong, just north of Sikkim over the Tibetan border. The headquarters were at Gangtok.
- (b) **THE MILITARY MISSION TO LHASA** on the failure of the above, with the base at Siliguri.
- (c) **THE CONTINUED USE OF F.P.O. HANDSTAMPS** at the Trade Centres set up by the Mission after it had left Tibet.

THE FRONTIER COMMISSION.

Sir Francis Younghusband was appointed leader of the Expedition which was to meet the Tibetans at Khamba-Jong, and the advance guard arrived on July 7th, 1903—after climbing over the 16,000 ft. Kongra Pass. For five months they waited for the Dalai Lama's representatives to appear, but it soon became clear that the Tibetans had no intention of meeting the British. Indeed, reports came in of further border incidents to the south. This brought about the withdrawal of the Commission from Khamba-Jong on December 11th, 1903. During this five-month period the following special types of cancellations were used.

(Notice the absence of all references to Military F.P.Os. for it was still hoped, at this stage, that the incidents could be settled by negotiation).

FRONTIER COMMISSION HANDSTAMPS.*

Item.	Handstamp.	Recorded period of use.	Situation and remarks.	Points (for covers).
TYPE B1.				
1.	Temporary P.O. "B"	9.7.03 to 4.9.03	Khamba-Jong	240
1a.	Temporary P.O. "B"	7.9.03 to 6.12.03	Tongu	100
2.	Experimental P.O.C.46	8.8.03 to 28.9.03	Khamba-Jong	260
3.	Khamba-Jong, Tibet	19.8.03 to 4.12.03	—	300
(The latter two items can be found with day and month transposed).				
4.	Temporary P.O. "D"	26.4.03 to 28.9.03	Gangtok	60
TYPE B.2.				
5.	Temporary P.O. "B"	7.8.03 to 25.8.03	Khamba-Jong	300
6.	Khamba-Jong, Tibet	25.9.03 to 4.12.03	Khamba-Jong	300
(For one short period the year numerals became reversed and preceded the month, but the datestamp is the same, and not a different type as classified by Russell and Haverbeck. Both the items illustrated in the latter works are in my collection, any differences being due to tracing).				
7.	Temporary P.O. "K"	3.12.03	Khamba-Jong (only known copy)	500
TYPE B.13.				
8.	"C"	1.9.03 to 11.9.03	Khamba-Jong (Only seen on Younghusband's correspondence).	300
TYPE B.14.				
9.	Too Late	31.10.03 to 28.11.03	Khamba-Jong	500

Not until August 31st was a daily post available from Khamba-Jong. Two postcards reveal that all was not as smooth as clockwork. One card posted from Tangu to Khamba-Jong suggests that the Abominable Snowman might have captured some chairs assigned to the Commission! They had become lost between Gangtok and Khamba-Jong. Another card from Darjeeling to Khamba-Jong states that certain "casks" had arrived from Calcutta but were too heavy for the coolies to carry along the tracks in Sikkim. I wish I had the reply to that one!

Later Col. Bailey told me the story behind the casks. Barrels had been ordered instead of Firkins of Beer—smaller casks which can be carried on a man's back. Thus whilst advance posts were denied their beer—Darjeeling must have been enjoying itself with the Barrels that were too heavy to carry forward.

So far—no registered mail has been seen from Khamba-Jong.

Experimental P.O. C45 is known—but whether from this area or another part of India, has not yet been proved. The date was after the Commission date, January 2nd, 1904.

The normal Gangtok (Sikkim) datestamps were also in use during this period, types B.1. and B.2.

*Illustrations p. 13

TYPEWRITTEN PROVISIONALS.

There are 16 recorded examples of a typewritten overprint "Tibet" on Indian stamps through the 1903 period—and used from the Expedition. Two typewriters were evidently used, easily distinguishable by (a) first "T" of "Tibet" has no serifs, Points value 300, and (b) the "T" has drooping serifs, Points value 350. These were unofficial but are most interesting.

THE MILITARY MISSION.

The Commission now became the Military Mission. At first, in order to use the element of surprise, an advance party was sent on ahead before the Commission returned from Khamba-Jong. This was in spite of the fact that it was in the midst of winter, with the Jelap La to cross at over 14,000 ft., and a similar climb up the Tang La, before the third of the way to Lhasa was reached on January 6th, 1904. Here, nearly 15,000 ft. high, the advance body dug in for the winter whilst the main body wintered at Chumbi.

From Tuna, an advance was made on March 31st, 1904, and having overcome resistance at Guru, they reached Gyantse by April 11th. There, the advance party was besieged by the Tibetans for two months—and not until August 3rd was Lhasa reached, after going over more 16,000 ft. passes. The Treaty took until September 7th to be signed. On the return march India was reached at the end of October. No effective military opposition was met, supplies and transport being the two vital difficulties over this rugged territory.

There now follows a listing of all the known postal marks belonging to the Military Mission, plus a few that were used at a later date with F.P.O. datestamps. Not being familiar with the details of military postal history I cannot say on what system—if any—the numbers were allocated or why some are given as "F.P.O." and some as "Field P.O." This, however, does not affect the record given below.*

Note : B.1., B.2., etc. indicate type of cancellation. Earliest and latest known dates are given in parenthesis.

	<i>Points</i>
10. BASE OFFICE: B1. (19.1.04?– 10.04) Siliguri, India. 26mm.	10 Black 100 Violet
11. BASE OFFICE: B1. (25.7.04 only). With bridge across for date, and DELY above. Siliguri.	60
12. BASE OFFICE: B2. (25.6.04–25.7.04). Siliguri. 29mm. Although Base Office was not on Tibetan soil, the above 3 items—and item 48—are on many Tibetan covers of this period, generally item 10, the others are scarce.	100
13. TEMPORARY P.O.1: B2. (10.12.03–21.1.04). This has only been seen on Col. Younghusband's correspondence and was first thought to be Tuna—but as this was not occupied until January 8th, it must have been used en route—as Younghusband advanced.	200

(Temporary P.O.4. Types B1 and B20 were used in India).

*Illustration p. 13

TYPES (B1 etc.) AND NUMBERS OF THE BRITISH P.O. CANCELLATIONS AND HANDSTAMPS



2.



3.



27.



32.



37.



38.

ALL B1



72.



58.



39.



85.



73.

ALL B1



B2.



5.

B2.

6.



B2.

71.



B7a.

66.



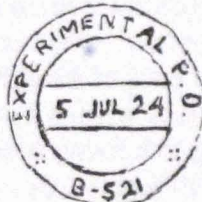
B7.

80.



B2a.

29.



B3.



B3.

62.



B4.

63.



B5.

64.



B6.

65.



B6.

83.



B8.

68.



B12.

79.

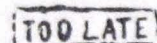


B11.

78.



B1 Bridge 11



B14.

9.

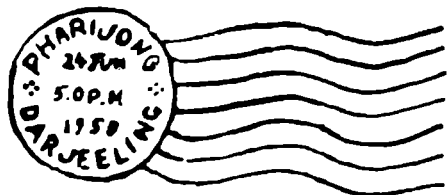


B13.

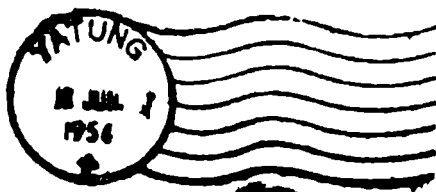
8.

	<i>Points</i>
14. TEMPORARY P.O.K. B1. (2.12.03–2.1.04). Probably used at Rhenok in Sikkim where large supplies were stored. Not to be confused with Type B2 used at Khamba-Jong.	100
15. FIELD P.O. No. 21: B2. (6.1.04 only.) Being three days from Gangtok was probably at the head of Chumbi Valley (Gautsa?).	300
15a. FIELD P.O. No. 23: B1. (21.4.04–4.5.04). Ralung? 5 days from Base. One item was taken from the Earl of Beauchamp's wastepaper basket—for the Indian stamps) and placed in an old fashioned scrap book, where it lay for 53 years. It was signed by P. L. — Percy Landon, the Times correspondent.	500
16. FIELD P.O. No. 24. B1. (4.2.04–15.10.04). Covers up to 4.4.04 were used at Tuna during the winter months when temperatures of 57° of frost were recorded and a postal clerk died of frostbite. Then en route from Salu (a small village near Kangmar), on April 8th. After April 11th it was used at Gyantse. This datestamp is the only one without the "O" in the year "04"—and may have been used by the 23rd Pioneers. About 14 exist, mainly poor strikes.	160
17. FIELD P.O. No. 24: B2. (23.1.04–5.10.04). The history of this one is similar to the previous one. First used at Tuna, April 4th, then on a letter from Chalu (near Dochen) on the 5th, and one from April 11th at Gyantse. Wimberly, a medical officer, obligingly wrote on the back of his covers the place and date of posting. One letter was written two days before it started on its journey. Owing to a heavy attack on the Gyantse Post by the Tibetans, the mail had to leave during the early dawn to get through the Tibetan lines. Captain Ryder, who supervised the fortifications, posted a letter on June 11th which took nine days to reach Base instead of the usual seven, owing to greater activity of the Tibetans on that day and the next.	100 Black 200 Violet
17a. FIELD P.O. No. 25: B1. (18 Feb. 05.)	300
18. FIELD P.O. No. 25: B2. (15.1.04–21.6.04). Gyantse	} 160
19. FIELD P.O. No. 26: B2. (22.2.04–29.10.04). Chumbi	
I bracket these two datestamps together. F.P.O. 26 can easily be dealt with—for it has not been found other than at Chumbi. F.P.O. 25 was listed as Gyantse by Lowe in the original Bailey Sale of September 25th, 1942, but on close examination I thought all three copies to be F.P.O. 26—the "6" of which is often malformed with flat top, and I should like to have confirmation of clear F.P.O. 25 Type B2s, with dates of use and back-stamps. Not one has been illustrated, Haverbeck having copied Russell's very imaginative drawing.	

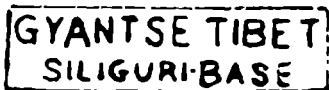
FURTHER HANDSTAMPS



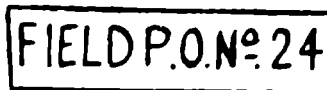
No. 76. Type B9.



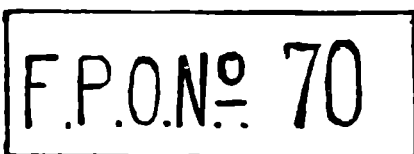
No. 84. Type B9.



No. 49a. Type B20.



No. 42. Type B21.



No. 46. Type B22.



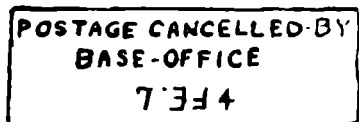
No. 51. Type B23.



No. 59. Type B10.



No. 49. Type B24.



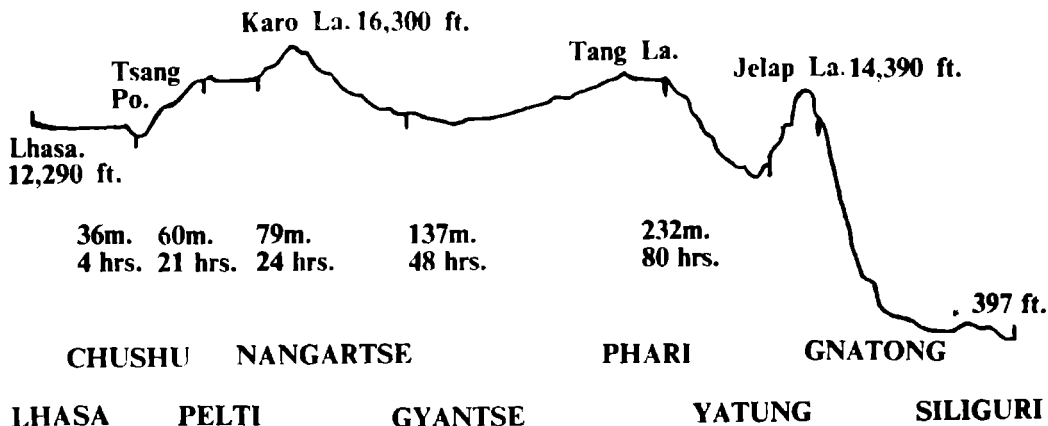
No. 48. Type B25.



No. 79a. Type B26.

THE NATIVE POSTAL RUNNERS HAD SOME TOUGH COUNTRY TO CROSS

The sketch below shows the mileage and hours taken from Lhasa, on the Indian Mail route, and the vertical distances climbed. The mighty Tsang Po River is now no doubt bridged, but it was previously crossed by ferry, often at the cost of human lives, as happened when the British Expedition crossed in 1903-4. One Official bag took 5 days, and one wonders what really delayed the mail on this occasion? Is there a "salvaged from the Tsang Po ferry" cachet to discover?



	<i>Points</i>
20 FIELD P.O. No. 26: B1. (21.1.04–27.10.04). Here again Chumbi is the site of this F.P.O. This can be found in conjunction with the fancy typed Sikkim-Tibet hand-stamp Type B24.	200
21. FIELD P.O. No. 27: B1. Only known copy on Service p.c. posted from Camp Dotha (10 miles south of Phari) to Tuna, 8.3.04.	400
22. FIELD P.O. No. 29: B1. Only known copy on reverse of cover. Lingmo has been suggested as place of origin. This cover is one of the three known expedition covers with “No stamps available” in manuscript on the face.	500
23. F.P.O. No. 31: B1. (8.5.04.) Tuna.	300
24. F.P.O. No. 31: B2. (2.6.04–18.6.04.) Situated south of Phari—two days from Base—probably Langram.	240
25. F.P.O. No. 32: B1. (16.5.04–5.10.04). A travelling datestamp used by the advance guard between Gyantse and Lhasa. In the “32nd Sikh Pioneers” history, Col. Bailey found the following passage:— “A Field Post Office arrived at Gyantse on the 16th May.” We know that there had previously been a Field Post Office for a month but the one quoted arrived on the day of the first recorded item of this datestamp and it evidently stayed with the 32nd Sikhs who were in the advance to Lhasa. This has been recorded used from Gobsha, July 15th; Ralung, July 18th (Base office eight days away); Chaksam, July 27th (Base office 11 days away. This was on the south bank of the Tsangpo River which took the Expedition six days to cross, with the loss of five lives by drowning); Chagla, July 30th (on the north bank of the Tsangpo); Dongkur, August 3rd (the last camp before Lhasa which was reached that evening, a camp site being selected to the north-west of the city from which this cancellation was used before the Lhasa one came into use the same day). What happened to this after August 3rd is not known, but by October 5th the mission was back at Gyantse. This datestamp exists with month before date and vice versa.	200
26. F.P.O. No. 32: B2. (14.5.04–5.10.04). Gyantse.	300
27. F.P.O. No. 34: B1. (5.8.04 only). Camp Champetang. This remarkable cover and letter comes from the Natu La route into Tibet which was opened as a second route into the Chumbi Valley. Champetang lies over the pass towards Chumbi. It is doubtful whether there was another F.P.O. along this route (for Gangtok used its normal datestamps).	500
27a. F.P.O. No. 34: B2. 8.10.04. Used during the Chumbi Valley withdrawal. Only two items recorded. (F.P.O. 35—doubtful if Tibet—only known 1902).	400

	<i>Points</i>
28. F.P.O. No. 68: B2a. (28.5.08 only). (Base: June 1st.) Pharijong. Only one recorded, after the Mission had left Tibet.	500
29. F.P.O. No. 70: B2a. (27.1.07–1911). Similarly this is only known after the Mission had left Chumbi. This is found in conjunction with items Nos. 46, 49 and 51.	200
30. (a) FIELD P.O. No. 81: B1. (16.1.03–25.1.03.) The early dates only known with reversed date and wrong year. (b) Ditto. (Last date 11.6.08.) Pharijong. Date corrected.	200 100
31. FIELD P.O. No. 81: B2. (16.1.04, earliest date recorded.) One of the commonest F.P.Os. in use until 1909 at Pharijong. During the beginning of January 1908 the year numerals are missing.	100
32. FIELD P.O. No. 83: B1. (20.5.04). Situated three days from Base—probably Lingmatang. The only example of this datestamp on cover was on one sent from Gyantse, during the seige of the Garrison by the Tibetan troops—a seige that lasted for two months. The ½ anna stamp is cancelled F.P.O. No. 32 (B1.), 16 May '04. and was then sneaked through the enemy lines early one morning, reaching Chumbi safely where it received the backstamp Field P.O. No. 26 (B1.), 20 May '04. The latter is cancelling a label inscribed "Wrongly dealt with by P.O. Please return to Postman for enquiry and notice." Label, yellowish paper. (This is also known cancelled Temporary P.O. 'B'.) On the same day it received the Field P.O. No. 83 postmark. During this time it received two manuscript directions on the back— "Try F.P.O. 81" (Phari). "Try F.P.O. 84" (Tuna). Addressed to Col. Bailey—it appears he and his Mounted Infantry must have been elusive figures at that time. The letter, from Capt. Ryder, refers to the monotony of the daily Tibetan bombardment—and goes on to query the charging of some large tins of sausages (8 in a tin) when those received were small ones (4 in a tin). The last item of the Bill is "To losings at Bridge. . . . 6 Rupees!"	300
33. FIELD P.O. No. 83: B2. (26.4.04–20.7.04). Again presumed to be at or near Lingmatang—being 3 days from Base.	250
34. FIELD P.O. No. 84: B2. (25.7.04–2.10.04). The only cover recorded is one of the Grierson Registered Post Cards (a picture of the Tuni Tso Lake), which also possesses hand-stamp item No. 47. Two pairs of Ed. VII ½a. are also known with this datestamp. Possibly used at Langram near Chumbi. One card was written on the Siku La (Pass).	400

	<i>Points</i>
35. FIELD P.O. No. 85: B2. (2.11.04.) Three copies recorded. One from Col. Bailey whilst at Shigatse—the last communication from him before he went with Ryder, Wood, and Rawlings into the unexplored Upper Tsangpo valley to Gartok, where they were to establish the Trade Mart. Although Lowe reported Gyantse, this may well have been a travelling stamp, for I have a copy back-stamped “Base Camp” only two days later.	300
36. FIELD P.O. No. 86: B1. (13.1.04–21.1.04). Two only recorded copies, two days from Base, at Chumbi.	300
36a. FIELD P.O. No. 87: B2. (31.10.04). This only exists on an odd stamp, the date being just 4 weeks before the closing down of the F.P.O.’s. on Nov. 28th—so presumably this must have been near the border.	400
37. LHASSA: B1. (3.8.04–22.9.04). The commonest of all Mission datestamps, and even though most are Cancelled to Order they are sought after more than any other for Lhasa has an aura of mystery to both philatelists and non-philatelists. One variety exists when, for a short period, the month preceded the day. The date-stamp is still in existence in the Post Office Museum and in 1953, on the occasion of the successful climbing of Everest, two strikes in Violet were made dated 10th August 04.	120 Black 200 Violet Pieces 20
38. LHASSA: B1. An attempt was made to correct the spelling, though the double“ss” still persisted. This is one of the scarcest of the cancellations and was in use from late in August until September 20th. On September 8th, the month precedes the day. The Indian stamps used on the Expedition were those current in India, both ordinary and officials—including both King Edward VII and Queen Victoria values to 10 Rupees—the higher values generally Cancelled to Order. Two covers from Lhasa (26.8.04 and 13.9.04) are inscribed, “No stamps available.” Another thus endorsed is from F.P.O. 29. (29.4.04). Items Nos. 10, 17 and 37 are known in violet as well as black. F.P.O. 82 is an unconfirmed report from America. In addition to the above, there are the following, which include the name of the place as well as the F.P.O. number.	400
39. YATUNG F.P.O. No. 70/Via Siliguri. B1. (23.9.08 only). The only datestamp linking F.P.O. 70 and Yatung.	500
40. PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81: B1. (6.4.12).	120
41. PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81: B2. (29.5.11). Still in use in 1920s.	40

REGISTERED MAIL.

The above list includes all the known circular datestamps so far recorded. In addition to the above there are certain rectangular handstamps which are even scarcer than the above. These, with one exception, were put on registered mail, a service that was little used.*

	<i>Points</i>
42. FIELD P.O. No. 24: B21. Situated at Tuna. Size: 50 × 12½mm.	300
43. FIELD P.O. No. 26: B21. Situated at Chumbi. Size: 49 × 12mm.	300
44. F.P.O. No. 31: B21. Situated at Gyantse. Size: 44½ × 12 mm.	300
45. F.P.O. No. 32: B21. Situated Gyantse to Lhasa. Size: 47 × 12mm.	300
46. F.P.O. No. 70: B22. Situated at Chumbi. Size: 63½ × 22½ mm. (a giant!).	400
47. FIELD P.O. No. 84: B21. Situated at Langra? Size: 42 × 11½mm.	300
48. Postage cancelled by Base Office, Siliguri, in violet and Bright purple. Size: 53 × 17mm. B25.	200
49. TYPE B24. Sikkim-Tibet (11.7.06-3.12.06.) Size: 45 × 8mm. (no frame). In violet. (Used in conjunction with F.P.O.s. 26 and 70).	300
49a. GYANTSE—TIBET/SILIGURI BASE. B20. 49 × 13. Though this may be a civilian mark—it is placed here with like marks for convenience. The only postal mark linking Gyantse and Siliguri.	100

OTHER HANDSTAMPS.*

Other handstamps were :—

TYPE B23.

50. R/FIELD P.O. No. 24. At Tuna. Size: 41.5 × 16.5mm.	300
51. R/CHUMBI, F.P.O. No. 70. At Chumbi. Size: 41 × 16.5mm.	240
52. R/FIELD P.O. No. 81. At Phari. Size: 42 × 17.5mm.	300
53. R/TEMPORARY P.O. Y, 1906-08. At Gyantse. Size: 40 × 15mm.	80

TYPE B11.†

54. PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81/Due/. . AS	60
55. BASE CAMP/A/Due/One Anna.	200

And two registration handstamps, recorded elsewhere.

56. YATUNG-TIBET/F.P.O. No. 70. 1911-1915.	50
57. PHARIJONG/F.P.O. No. 81. 1912-1915.	50

*Illustrations p.p. 15, 166 †Illustration p. 13

One report from America, (in an otherwise excellent article by A. E. Singer) suggests that covers addressed to Col. F. Bailey, were self-addressed, philatelic covers. This was not so, for the Col. F. M. Bailey of whom we all know, was not a Colonel in those days, but his regular letters home were addressed to his father, who was Col. F. Bailey. That does not exclude the possibility that he may have sent some items through the post, addressed to himself at another town in Tibet, but even these used the Tibetan postal services, and were not simply C.T.O's.

THE 1939-45 WAR.

Thus we have over 60 different handstamps—and more may yet be discovered. We may too have to add some from the last war period, I have letters sent from a doctor on a leave spent in Tibet. They bear these markings:—

26th Oct. 1944. No. 12 Advanced Base Post Office. Censor? triangle.

29th Oct. 1944. Yatung (bridge type, pink). Censor? triangle.

31st Oct. 44.. 9/Set 3. (Posted at Pharijong).

17th Nov. No. 12. Advanced Base Post Office. Censor B453. Circle.

19th Nov. 1944. F.P.O. No. 134 (2). Censor U96 circle.

Can anyone trace "No. 12 Advanced Base P.O."—perhaps Sikkim? Presumably F.P.O. No. 134 was in India?

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF COL. BAILEY'S CONTACTS WITH TIBET *as printed by Robson Lowe's, in their Sale Catalogue of Bailey's "Tibet."*

In 1901 to 1903 he served with the 17th Bengal Lancers when he transferred to the 32nd Sikh Pioneers at Jhelum (Punjab). The regiment was ordered to Sikkim and left by slow troop train on 13th March, 1903, reaching Siliguri on the 20th. They proceeded by road to Rang Po (Sikkim) where they arrived on the 24th; here letters were cancelled in manuscript. The regiment then built the road to Gangtok (the capital of Sikkim) and on the 21st June, Lt. Bailey marched with two companies under Capt. Bethune to Gangtok. Here there was a British Indian Post Office.

TIBETAN FRONTIER MISSION 1903.

On the 24th June, the Mission camped at Chung Tong (later called erroneously NYIMA on the Post Office datestamp for they asked the first native the name of the place and, misunderstanding the question, he gave his own name) and on the 26th arrived at Tangu. On July 4th they left and camped at Giacong (claimed as the frontier by Tibet but disputed by the British as it was south of the watershed). Two days later, the small force crossed the Kangra La (pass) and arrived at Khamba Jong in Tibet on the 7th July where Lt. Bailey stayed until the 11th December. The Bailey correspondence and that of the leader of the mission, Col. (later Sir) Francis Younghusband, gave philatelists their first record of the Indian post office in Tibet. Lt. Bailey travelled south passing Chung Tong on 19th December and stopping at Gangtok from the 24th to the 27th.

THE TIBETAN EXPEDITION 1904.

Passing over the Jelep La, Bailey re-entered Tibet at the Chumbi Valley on 1st January. Some years later he was to live there for many months; it was at first called "New Chumbi" then "New Yatung" and later "Yatung." His later movements during this year were:

January 4th Lungmotang, 5th Dotha Tang, 6th Phari Jong, 7th Chugya, 8th Tuna, 10th Chugya, 11th–28th Phari, 28th Tuna, 30th Phari. Major Tulloch, who was in charge of the field post offices for the expedition, arrived at Phari on the 27th.

February 1st–4th Phari, 5th–29th Tuna. The postmaster at Tuna was Gillespie. The sub-postmaster Lewis (or Louis) died of frost-bitten feet there.

March 1st–9th Tuna, 10th–31st Phari. On the 26th the telegraph arrived at Tuna. On the 31st, fell the first engagement with the Tibetans and subsequently the expedition marched to Gyantse by the following stages, accompanied by the field post office.

April 5th Chalu, 6th Kala, 7th Mendza, 8th near Kangmar, 9th probably Kangmar, 10th Saugang, 11th Gyantse. On the 19th Bailey started to return—Saugang, 20th Kangmar, 21st Mendza, 22nd Kala, 23rd Dochen, 24th Tuna, 25th Phari, 26th Gautsa, 27–30th Lingmotang (about five miles from Yatung where letters were posted).

May 1st–27th Lingmotang, 28th Gautsa, 29th Phari, 30th on the road, 31st Tuna.

June 1st–18th Tuna where the main force arrived on that day with H.Q. post office, 19th Dochen, 20th Kala, 21st Samada, 22nd Kangmar, 23rd with flying column to Niru, 24th Kangmar, 25th Saugang, 26th Gyantse (troops were in action en route at Naini). There was a good deal of fighting around Gyantse for some days.

July 1st–9th Gyantse, 10th Kangmar 12th Gyantse, 14th the expedition advanced from Gyantse, 16th Ralung, 19th Nangartse, 22nd Pe-Te (Pelti).

August 3rd Lhasa until

September 23rd when Bailey took some Mounted Infantry as personal escort to General Younghusband, 26th Pe-Te, 27th Nangartse, 28th Ralung, 30th Gyantse.

EXPLORING WESTERN TIBET 1904.

On the 10th October, 1904, a party of four (Ryder, Rawling, Wood and Bailey) left Gyantse, 13th–18th Shigatse, and then up the Tsang Po to its source and on to Gartok. Shipki (23rd December), crossing into India 24th and arriving at Poo (a Moravian Mission Station) on the following day, reaching Simla on the 11th January, 1905.

Bailey remained with his Regiment at Umbala until he went on leave to Gangtok, Phari (19th Sept.) and Yatung (21st Sept.) and did not return to Umbala until the 2nd December when he went to Darjeeling.

BRITISH TRADE AGENT AT GYANTSE 1905-09.

At this time, Bailey joined the Indian Political Department and was appointed British Trade Agent at Gyantse. He left Darjeeling on 13th December, 1905, and travelling through Yatung (17th), Phari (19th), Tuna (20th), Kala (21st), Kangmar (22nd), arriving at Gyantse on the following day.

On the 2nd January, 1906, he started on a return journey arriving at Siliguri on the 10th to meet the Tashi Lama who had been to India to meet the Prince of Wales (later King George V), and they returned to Gyantse where they arrived on the 3rd February. On the 9th Bailey visited Shigatse and returned to Gyantse on the 12th. His later movements during this year were Phari (30th June), Yatung (1st July), Phari (3rd July), Gyantse (12th July), Phari (8th Dec.), Yatung (9th Dec.), Gangtok (13th Dec.), Yatung (17th December to 1st January, 1907). At this time he took over the duties of Assistant Political Officer with headquarters at Yatung.

In 1907 his movements were Phari (2nd Jan.), Yatung (31st Jan.), Gangtok (2nd Feb.), and so to India, returning to Gangtok (23rd Feb.), Yatung (4th Mar.), Phari (5th April), Yatung (6th April), Gangtok (13th April when he visited several monasteries returning on the 26th), Darjeeling (July 1908), Bailey spent the next two years at Yatung, Phari and Gyantse, leaving Tibet on 4th June, 1909 for leave in Great Britain.

THE FAR EAST 1911-1913.

On the 29th January, 1911, Bailey left for India via St. Petersburg (3-15th Feb.), Shan Hai Kwan (26th Feb.-5th March), Peking (8-16th March), Hankow (18th-23rd March), ship wrecked (2nd April), Wan Hsien (6th-9th April), where he stayed with the Postmaster, an Italian Ortolani, Chengtu—capital of the Suchuan Province (22nd-27th April), Ya Chou (30th April), Ta Chienlu (9th-19th May), Nagchuka (23rd May), Lating (28th May), Batang (2nd June) and finally arrived at Sadiya in Assam on 7th August.

Early in 1913 he crossed the Mishmi range into Southern Tibet accompanied by the late Capt. Morshead, R.E., and succeeded in exploring the course of the Brahmaputra. For this work he was awarded the Gold Medal by the Royal Geographical Society. He returned to India from Tibet on 16th November, 1913.

SIKKIM-TIBET 1921-28.

From 18th June, 1921, until 16th October, 1928 he was Political Officer at Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, and during these years he spent much of his time in Tibet. His duties took him frequently to Yatung, Phari and Gyantse, but he also visited Talung (August 1922, Lhasa, Nangatse, Pe-Te, Chushul, Samye and Ralung (July-August 1924), and noted in his diary on the 14th August that he saw the Tibetan stamps being printed at Tsuk Lakang (Lhasa).

In addition to an occasional journey to India, he also visited Bhutan (1922, 1924, 1925, 1927), Nepal (1922, 1923, 1927), and Assam (1927). He left Sikkim and Tibet for good 16th October, 1930.

CHAPTER TWO

British and Indian P.Os. in Tibet*

The main philatelic outcome of the Tibetan Treaty signed at Lhasa, was the appointing of Indian Postal Agencies at Gartok, Gyantse, Pharijong and Yatung—the former in far Western Tibet, and others on the Indian-Lhasa trade route.

This resulted in a variety of Postal markings from each place—here taken alphabetically. The stamps used were the current Indian, whether ordinary, service, or commemorative issues.

GARTOK.

Very little is known of this Postal Agency. Holmes states that it was opened about 1909—and mentions that it was not included in the most recent additions of the Indian Post and Telegraph Guide—which would mean the late 1930s. I rather doubt that there were datestamps available for the whole of this period. The postal route went via Shipki and the Sutlej River to Rampur the chief town in Bussahir State. The cover in my possession is dated 25th August—and backstamped at the latter place on 18th September 1933—24 days to cover the 300 miles.

The only other pieces seen were from the same period—do any others exist? Any collectors who have dated Gartok datestamps could help to broaden our knowledge by publishing the information so that all interested in Tibet can see it. In the absence of our own Tibetan Philatelic Study Group—I'm sure the Chinese Society, London would publish anything that would help us to gain more knowledge of the very many doubtful points that exist in our study.

The single circle type of datestamp was used (Type B.1.) worded "Gartok B.O. Western Tibet." There was also another postal mark used, type B.10, from which Haverbecks Fig. 5 II was taken, (via Russell). He quotes my guess, that this was used for one month in each year, at the Gyanima September Fair, six days march from Gartok. This was culled from a Travel book. It may also have been used as a Registry mark, for the only copy recorded is on piece, not on a cover, circa 1933. Very few pieces of mail must have been sent from the Gartok area, any official correspondence from India or Lhasa would be sent by Courier as of ancient custom, without recourse to postal markings of any kind. This primitive but beautiful area is described by Harrar in his "7 Years in Tibet."

GYANTSE.

An important town situated at the junction of two main trade routes—Shigatse—Lhasa and India—Lhasa. At 13,000 ft. above sea level—it is 137 miles from Lhasa and 147 from Gangtok (Sikkim). The first British Trade Agent here was Capt. (later Sir Frederick) O'Connor, to be followed at a later date by George McDonald—whose Mother was a Tibetan.

**Illustrations pps. 13 & 15*

The first "Gyantse" datestamps—as opposed to the F.P.O.s in use until 1906—were types B.1. and B.2—both worded "Gyantse-Tibet/Siliguri Base." The former is known from 1.2.06–20; the latter from 3.2.06–20. Inverted dates are known of type B.1; month missing in type B.2.

One type B.1. cancels a bisected 2a. Edward VII Indian stamp, which with another 2as. makes a 3a. rate. (30.5.11). These are also known from Pharijong of the same period, and it is believed they were philatelically inspired. (In 1964, one such brought £17 at auction).

The next cancellation chronologically is type B.7.—a "Telegraphic" cancellation generally found on stamps of high face value, and known used between 1910 and 1921, probably later too.

There are two variations of this datestamp, found by Kurt Dahnke of Wolfsburg, differing in the shape of the lettering :—

Type I. The original type, recorded between April 1910 and 29.5.1917. Tall letters; the letter A sloping to the left; overall length of Gyantse, 15mm.; 1st stop to last of G.T.O. —9.5mm. Both measurements in straight line.

Type II. Recorded from 26.5.1910 to 12.11.1921. The letter Y has wide stretched arms; the A is even; the NTS more squat; Gyantse — 14mm.; G.T.O. — 7mm.

Type B.3. was introduced about 1920 and was still in use twenty years later. Similarly type B.4. known in 1921 was in use until the disastrous flooding in the Nyang Valley in 1954—a flood that swept away not only all the post office equipment but all of the staff too, 300 in the valley losing their lives.

The illustrations in Haverbeck of these latter two types (H.IV and V) are far too large in comparison with the others.

Type B.3. however, underwent a change about 1936, which has remained unrecorded until now. The two ornaments between the words Gyantse and Tibet instead of resembling a Cross Pattee—are represented by a solid diamond cut by two white lines. The Bridge of the datestamp altered in width from 9mm. to 8mm. in this new type B.5. A slighter modification took place again, there being further differences in the spacing of the letterings and ornaments, though when it occurred is not yet certain. Unlike the B.7. variation—there is no difference in the actual type of the datestamp.

Type B.6. was a temporary measure in use after the flood mentioned earlier:—"Temporary P.O.—C.622." The new situation of the P.O. was at Saugang. Nearly all the strikes seen have been very poor and its use was restricted to about 9 months; between July 1954 and April 1955. Chronologically this was the last of the B.P.O. postal marks—but there is one other that has been used as a "postmark"—albeit in error—Type B.8. inscribed Gyantse/Tel/X. The letter was sent from Lhasa by Lieut. Col. Huby—but apparently under diplomatic cover as far as Gyantse. He mentions that "there is now a permanent mission in Lhasa, Ludlow was here but has just been replaced by Sherriff" (Wed. August. 27, 1943).

Before leaving Gyantse there are two Horse Shoe Postage Due marks to record—Type B.11. The one inscribed :—

GYANTSE TIBET / DUE / AS.

The other :— GYANTSE TIBET / DUE / ONE ANNA.
these are known from early 1920's to 1948.

In the Adgey-Edgar Sale there was a cover from Gyantse (1928) inscribed in ink "P.O. No. 88."—but I know nothing further of this item.

PHARIJONG.

This is recorded as the highest permanent post-office in the world—at an altitude of 15,000 ft. It is situated on the edge of the high plateau above the Chumbi Valley, en route for Lhasa.

The earliest datestamps, used mainly by the small garrison of Indian troops—retained the F.P.O. No. 81 until the 1920's. The first new one—(i.e. not used formerly by the Younghusband Expedition) is one worded Pharijong F.P.O. No. 81. type B.2. and this is known between 1911–20. At about the same time one with a similar wording but type B.1. was used, but this latter only remained in use during 1912 and is very rare.

During the change-over from the F.P.O. datestamps to the Civilian—there appears an Experimental B.519. P.O. (type B.1.) 7th February 1922. There is also a similar inscribed datestamp, but B520, type B.3. It is not known whether this was from the Tibetan side of the border. That it was used in the Tibetan area is quite likely—for there is yet another Experimental Post Office B521 on correspondence from a member of the Everest Tractor Party, one of whose covers has the Mt. Everest Tractor Party cancellation in combination with B521.

Yet another Experimental P.O. turned up in the Schrader collection, D-92, used on piece, and dated 25.11.1924. No evidence is known to connect this with Tibet, except that it was in this Tibetan album. Can any reader help?

A large type B.3 followed, Pharijong/X in 1922—and remained available for at least 17 years. Type B.4 quickly followed (1924) and was still used in 1954. There is an unconfirmed report from America of a variation to B.4—the solid bar is only 2/3rds the length— and there is nothing within the inner circle except the date, 29th January/55 (Quote A. E. Singer). One strike of B.4 is known on a G.B. George V. 1½ Reply Card. The final Pharijong datestamp was type B.9, of which one can find various varieties of the loose type in the centre. It is found (a) complete (b) no year and (c) no time and year; in use between 1948 and 1956, worded Pharijong X Darjeeling.

In 1954 someone conceived the idea of asking the postmasters of Gyantse and Phari to send them a specimen of each of the postal marks available. The Pharijongs included types B.4., B.9, and B.11—two registration marks recorded elsewhere and three other marks. A type B.1. inscribed Pharijong X Money Orders X and a type B.26. worded Pharijong/Darjeeling with date in centre; and the surprise, a British Negative marking, type 12. A photostat of this was kindly sent to me by Kurt H. Dahnke of Germany. The use of the latter three on covers remains to be recorded.

Once again there are 2 types of the horseshoe Postage Dues—type B.11, in use between 1925–48.

Pharijong F.P.O. No. 81 / Due /As.

Pharijong / Due / One Anna.

The former is known inscribed in manuscript $\frac{1}{2}$ an; 2 as; or 4 as.

The latter type is known surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ by the postmaster, together with his signature.

I have two accounts of the Post Offices at Pharijong. The first was that used by the Field Post Office.

“A grim humorist had selected the topmost garret as the Post Office. This selection gave the postmaster, who was also of a like mind, the vastest entertainment. Each man as he went off duty, went head down to the Post Office. At the 15,000 ft. level, the climb of several hundred feet of rough Tibetan passages and staircases was a great strain on the lungs. The Postmaster sat in his office cool and comfortable, whilst all day long, everyone filed through for their mail, arriving panting, with tongue hanging out, and quite unable to speak for some minutes. The Postmaster made a point of politely asking everyone what he wanted at the very moment of his arrival, and grinned diabolically at the desperate efforts of the latter to splutter out his name and address. He later admitted it was the best fun he had whilst in the army.”

The second concerns the Native Post Office in 1944 from an Army Doctor. “He led us to the Post Office. We flitted from street to street by passing through houses, in the dim smokey interior of which children, dogs, kittens, goats and even ponies could be seen—and from these tenements we frequently escaped via a ladder and a hole in the roof, on to the village walls, down the steps and into the street again. Finally, we emerged into a room in which were a baby, a child, a young girl, two males eating tsama, three grandmothers counting their beads and muttering, an old man, four dogs and a kitten. We were asked to sit down. The room was not small and contained a firewood screen, some excellent (but smoke-blackened) wood paintings of Chinese type—a filthy half Yak (ripening for consumption)—much cloth—and a seductive picture of a girl of European type, which bales of cloth and wool must contain before they are accepted. The problem of buying stamps in the Post Office was by no means easy—as no new ones were available, but a handful of used ones were finally obtained.” (Dr. Goodall).

YATUNG.

Yatung is situated near the head of the Chumbi Valley on the main route between India and Lhasa. This thriving valley community is divided into Yatung—the old village;—Chumbi—further north; Pipitang, the Chinese Customs House; and New Chumbi, which became the headquarters of the British Expedition, and the present day Yatung.

The Tibetan name, Dhomo, means the Wheat Country; Chumbi — The Bend of the Waters. Philatelically—Chumbi was used until 1908 (when Yatung first appeared on a postmark) but only two marks with that name are recorded.

The first—a type B.7 with Chumbi/G.T.O. This is extremely rare, only two or three copies being recorded. The second, a Registration mark which connects F.P.O. No. 70 with Chumbi, type B.23.

A still more remarkable datestamp is on a Registered Chinese cover from China to Tibet. The cover is addressed to “Pepitang (Chumbi)” and is backstamped with an excellent strike of a B.1 datestamp worded “Yatung F.P.O. No. 70/via Siliguri” and dated “23 Sept. 08”—here linking Yatung and F.P.O. No. 70. This, so far, is the only survivor of this datestamp and must have been in use for a very short time before those worded Yatung only. The latter were in types B.1. and B.2. both worded Yatung—Tibet/Via Siliguri, and both having an equally long use from 1909 to 1950.

With the change in India from British to Dominion status, the Yatung datestamps changed too. Type B.6—worded as the previous types, and very seldom seen in fine condition—was in use between 1950 and 54.

Type 9 with only Yatung at the top and a cross at the bottom, and seven wavy lines, was the last cancellation before the Chinese took over, and was used during 1954–5.

A further type B.1 postal mark is Yatung-Tibet X Money Order X (1954) though none are known on cover. It is possible to find pairs and strips of Indian stamps (Rupee values) cancelled telegraphically by an indelible pencil, “Yatung”; or “Y” on each stamp. This may mean that the Chumbi G.T.O. handstamp was lost early on, and they had to cancel as above, which would account for the scarcity of the Chumbi G.T.O. cancellation.

Russell reports an “Experimental Post Office B-34” (10.3.53), which his informant says came direct from Lhasa, with Lhasa and Gyantse backstamps.

The protocol handing over the Indian P.Os. to China was signed on April 1st '54—the actual handing over exactly one year later.

Further to the regular cancellations—it is possible by diligent searching to find letters from places within Tibet that have no handstamps, but are marked in manuscript denoting the place from whence the cover has come. Such a one is from F. L. Ludlow who sent a letter from Molo, in the South East of Central Tibet. Dated the 24th May, it took runners until 14th June to deliver it at Gyantse, after traversing paths that normally would have no regular postal runners, through Koman and Nedong (Shetang) Dzong to the Yamdok Tso. It was stamped and cancelled at Gyantse before being sent on to Katmandu—Nepal.

There is a series of letters from N. Dhondrop (a Tibetan friend of Col. Bailey's) who did a lot of travelling about. He sent a letter from Camp Tuna on the 12/1/25 and Kangmar on the 14/8/25. Both these places featured in the 1903–4 Expedition. The Covers were both cancelled at Phari two days later than the mms. date on the cover. Another interesting one is signed by R. B. Norbhu and sent on 3/12/32 from Kamba Bartha. This took five days to reach Gyantse, where it was registered and postmarked on Dec. 8th.

In a recent Nepal auction lot there were two covers from Koti, a small Tibetan village on the Shigatse-Khatmandu route. Both had been sent over the border by runner to the nearest Nepalese P.O. (Tatapani). Here they received a Nepalese stamp and cancellation, and both backstamped Chautara, on the way to the capital. One was dated 1918, the other, 1924. These are very rarely seen.

Yet another similar example is an Indian registered letter, with Rudok in manuscript, (Western Tibet), addressed to Tsarong Shaphe. This travelled over the border into Kashmir, thence through India and Sikkim, onto the usual Yatung-Lhasa mail route.

A further series of a similar nature, is from the Mt. Everest 1936 Expedition, the covers bearing an oblong cachet into which the Expedition's Postmaster could write the place of despatch. These are, however, mentioned in a later chapter.

Many borderland datestamps of Sikkim and India add interest to a Tibetan collection. Teesta Bridge; Rhenok; Rangpo; Chungtang; Kumarikhat; Naksalbari; Gnatong; Galgalia; Baksaduar; Natipotha; Kumargramonda; Panabasti; Raisen; Naggar; Kula, etc., etc. Many of the above can be found on Tibetan covers. The list includes the highest military post in the world—Gnatong. Some are border villages which Col. Bailey had to visit, in order to check the frontier stones that the wild elephants enjoyed rooting up with their trunks.

British Indian P.O.s. changed to Indian P.O.s. on 15.8.1947.

BRITISH AND INDIAN P.O.s. CHECK LIST OF CANCELLATIONS AND HANDSTAMPS.

No.	Place	Type	Points on Cover	On piece
58	GARTOK	B1	600	400
59		B10	750	600
60	GYANTSE	B1	20	10
61		B2	20	10
62		B3	20	8
63		B4	20	8
64		B5	25	12
65		B6	100	20
66		B7a	100	25
67		B7b	100	25
68		B8	120	35
69		B11	75	— (----As)
70		B11	60	— (One Anna)
71	PHARI	B2 (No. 41)	40	20
72		B1 (No. 40)	120	100 (F.P.O. No. 81)
73		B1	120	80 (Exp. B519)
74		B3	20	10
75		B4	20	10
76		B9	25	12
77		B11	50	— (----As)
78		B11	120	— (One Anna)
79		B12	—	— (Negative type)
79a		B26	—	— (P—Darjeeling)
80	YATUNG	B7 (Chumbi)	—	250 (Points for on stamp)
81		B1	20	5
82		B2	20	5
83		B6	50	15
84		B9	40	12
85		B1	—	— (Money Order)

Covers from Tibetan villages with no post offices, and place of departure written on cover — — — 100 to 150 points.

I have not listed the Indian stamps used abroad in Tibet, for there were few that were not, either commercially or philatelically, used during their period of use. At one time, one had to pay a premium for an unusual Indian stamp used in Tibet, but the prices of Tibetan covers have increased so much—that relatively the type of stamp used has little bearing on the value of the cover as a whole. This was borne out by my December 13th, 1961 Sale, when little interest was taken of either commemoratives or unusual values in the British Indian lots. Perhaps some Indian Used Abroad specialist might help us here.

BRITISH INDIAN REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS AND LABELS.*

It was not long before I noticed the many differences in the Registration Handstamps and Labels. The latter were Indian, the former were purely Tibetan—and used nowhere else. No one had seemingly attempted to collate the information—so I started a side collection—which is now a full album—of various types of handstamps, used on a variety of registration labels.

The easiest way of dealing with these is by the following table and illustrations which are all hand traced—and therefore there may be slight differences in the exact shape of the lettering.

The earliest types were used direct onto the cover, though labels have been used since 1911. 16 different labels have been recorded, and 15 Tibetan Handstamps, not counting those listed earlier in the British Field P.O. section.

GYANTSE.

The most common of the registration handstamps are from Gyantse. 90% of these are the one type (E) and they are found on 15 different Registry Labels. The scarce item is one used provisionally on a plain toned piece of paper.

The Small "Gyantse" (Type G.B.) is the scarcest followed by the large fancy type (G.C.)—though there are some very scarce coloured ones of the "Gyantse-Tibet" (type G.D.).

Some of the large Registry Labels with the last type of the Gyantse handstamps are to be found on small pieces of card, with holes in them. These were luggage labels that were tied on to the legs of wild fowl, which were then posted to Sikkim—hence the inscription "Not to be delayed on route."

PHARIJONG.

These are the scarcest of the three P.Os. (none are known from **Gartok** the fourth British P.O. in Tibet—and it is doubtful if they were ever used there).

One retained the F.P.O. 81 inscription until 1914, probably later.

There was a shortage of registry labels at Pharijong during one period, and the handstamps were applied either:

- (a) direct on to the cover (an example is posted 4.6.25).
- (b) on to a plain piece of paper stuck on to the cover. (27.6.25).

*Illustration p. 31

REGISTRY HANDSTAMPS.

REGISTRY LABELS.



G.



GA.

GYANTSE

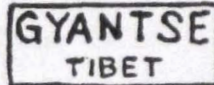
GB.

GYANTSE

GC.

GYANTSE-TIBET

GD.



GE.

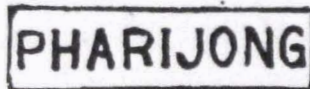
PHARIJONG
F.P.O. NO. 81

PA.

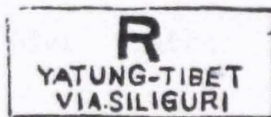
PHARIJONG

PB.

PHARIJONG
PC.



PD.

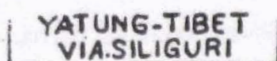


YB.

YATUNG-TIBET
F.P.O. NO. 70

YC.

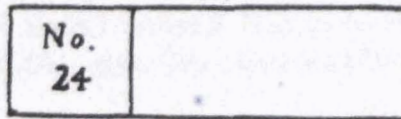
YATUNG-TIBET
YD.



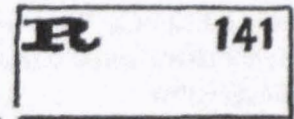
YE.

YATUNG-TIBET

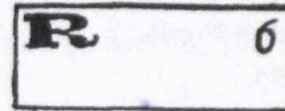
YF.



BR.1.

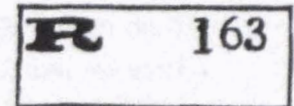


BR.2. Figures Sans-Serif.

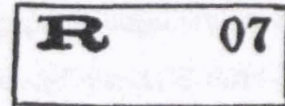


BR.3. Narrow Figs.

R
close to
side

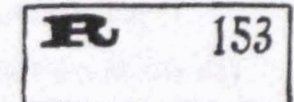


BR.4. Wide Figs.

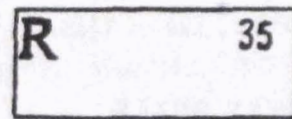


BR.5. Wide Figs.

R
away from
side

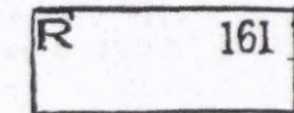


BR.6. Narrow Figs.

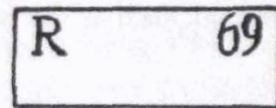


BR.7. Tall Thick R.

R
close to
side

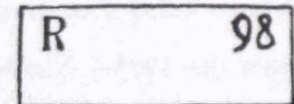


BR.8a. Squat R.

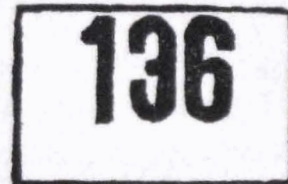


BR.9. Thin R. Large Figs.

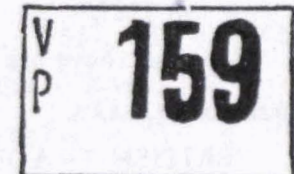
R
away from
side



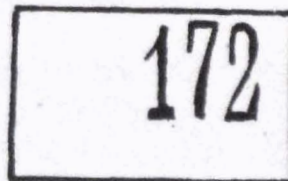
BR.10. Narrow R.



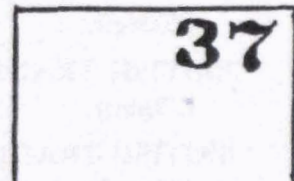
BR.11. Central Figs.
BR.12. Figs. to right.



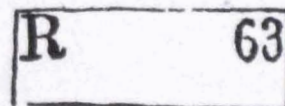
BR.13. V.P. Label.



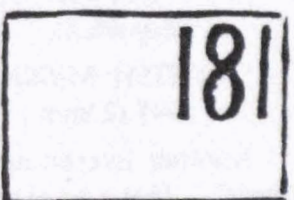
BR.14. Thin Figs.



BR.15.



BR.
8B.



Labels 1-10 are all Blue on
White or toned.
11-15 Black on Buff
or Yellow.

16 Yellow on toned. BR.16. Printing in Yellow.

The only items seen are those where the points numbers are printed. For instance, of items Nos. 1 and 2, these are only known used direct on cover; item 6 has only been seen on type 11 Registry Labels, whereas item 12 is known on Registry Labels from type 2 to 16 inclusive. All are in Black except those listed below.

Items on lines 4, 10, 13 and 17, are in Red.

Items on lines 5 and 20 are in Purple.

Item on line 3 is in Reddish Purple.

Item on line 7 is in Brown.

Item on line 8 is in Violet.

Item on line 9 is in Slate Violet.

Type PD is also found on a plain piece of paper. (100 points).

The rise in the Indian Postal rates is shown by four registered covers with imprint stamps as follows :—

1922 . . 2as + $\frac{1}{2}$ a. 1926 . . 2as + 1a.

1935 . . 3as + 1a 3p. 1950 . . 3as + $1\frac{1}{2}$ as.

WAX SEALS.

There are quite a few wax seals of interest connected with Tibet's Postal History, other than those of local origin, such as the following items :—

From the 1903-4 Mission.

“LHASA MISSION” in Red with central coat of arms. (22mm).

“TIBETAN FRONTIER MISSION” in Brown. ($33\frac{1}{2}$ mm). Known used in 1927.

Both the above are seldom seen.

From the B.P.O's.

“BRITISH TRADE AGENCY, GYANTSE.” Large oval in Red. 1907 (33mm).

“BRITISH TRADE AGENCY, GYANTSE.” Brown circular. 1926 (20mm).

“BRITISH TRADE AGENCY, YATUNG.” Circular in Brown. 1920 (28mm).

“BRITISH TRADE AGENCY, YATUNG.” Circular in Red. 1927 (28mm).

“BRITISH TRADE AGENCY, YATUNG.” Small seal in Red. 1926 (Reported).

“BRITISH MISSION, LHASA.” Black oval, coat of arms. 1945 (23mm.)

Another interesting seal, is that of the “GYANTSE SCHOOL, TIBET.” (20mm). This school was opened in 1921 for Tibetan children, with an English Master.

From the C.P.O's.

"CUSTOMS HOUSE YATUNG TIBET." Small circular in Red. 1911 (23mm).

FENG WEIPING's, Postmaster of Lhasa, square red seal. 1910 (19mm)

RUBBER STAMPS.

A few of the more Official Rubber Stamp markings found on Tibetan covers are as follows :—

Officer Commanding Gyantse, Tibet. Oval with "Recd. No. Despd." in centre. 50mm. wide. 1926.

British Trade Agency, Gyantse, Tibet. Round. 1923. 41mm.

British Trade Agency, Yatung, Tibet. Oval Belt, with "Receipt. File No. Date" inside. 1925. 49mm.

Head Clerk, British Trade Agency, Gyantse, Tibet. Unframed in Violet. 1927. 47 × 16mm.

Clerk, British Trade Agency, Gyantse, Tibet. Unframed in Purple. 1932. 49 × 16mm.

Clerk, British Mission Lhasa, via Gyantse, Tibet. Unframed in Purple. 1945. 50 × 14mm.

Clerk, British Trade Agency, Yatung, Tibet.

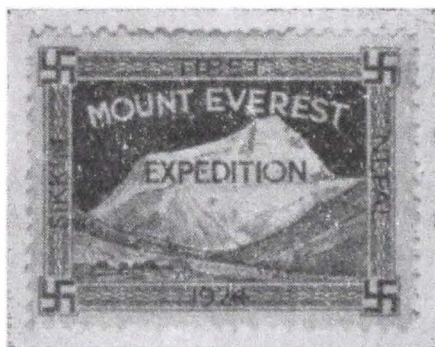
Supdt. of Post Offices; Post Office Darjeeling; Sikkim, Tibet, Da. (rjeeling) In Purple. 1925. 44 × 14mm.

There are two printed envelopes as follows :—

British Trade Agent, Yatung, Tibet. Two lines in Black. 1927. 37 × 8mm.

Head Clerk, British Trade Agency, Yatung, Tibet. 3 lines in Black, 1923.

The former cover also has a printed Crest in Red on the flap of the envelope, and British Trade Agency, Tibet.



The 1924 Mount Everest Local

Mount Everest Expeditions

No collection of Tibet can be considered complete without some representation of the Postal History dealing with these Expeditions. Without going into too much early history, it was through Sir Charles Bell in Lhasa that permission was granted in December 1920, (by the Dalai Lama, to the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club) to explore the Everest area.

A small survey party, under Howard Bury explored the approaches in 1921 and found the most feasible route up Everest from the Tibetan side.

It was impossible to get permission at that time to explore the easier southern side through Nepal.

THE FIRST EVEREST EXPEDITION followed in 1922 under General Bruce, and the climbers, both with and without oxygen, reached a height of 27,000 ft. This was 10,000 ft. above Base Camp, but 2,000 ft. below the summit. There were no mailing facilities accorded these two visits.

THE SECOND EXPEDITION in 1924, was a mammoth affair, and included postal arrangements. This was the occasion when Mallory and Irving disappeared into the mist, never to be seen again. Speculations have been made as to whether they reached the summit or not. It seems highly improbable that they did. One of their ice-axes was found by a later expedition. Norton again reached a height of 27,000 ft.

The 1924 Stamp.

A Capt. Noel, who had also been on the 1922 Expedition, was the one who first thought of a special stamp. I have a stamp mounted on a white card which is inscribed, "Captain John Noel, Mt. Everest Expeditions 1922 and 1924, originator of the Mt. Everest Expedition stamp."

(Col. Thompson, joint author of an interesting article on this expedition and its stamps in the *Philatelic Folio*, September, 1952, names a Francis Helps as the artist designer of the stamp—probably under the direction of Capt. Noel).

The stamp itself depicts the Base Camp, Rongbuk Glacier, and Everest itself, taken from a photograph. In the border are the names of the three countries associated with the expeditions—SIKKIM—TIBET—NEPAL, with the year, 1924, in the bottom border. Over the central design are the words MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION. There is no value expressed, and in each corner is a swastika.

During the war, the remainders came into my possession in complete sheets—hundreds of them. And believe it or not—in one solid block. Col. Thompson reports them as being issued with no gum!! No gum indeed! Thereafter my wife and I were denied the pleasure of a hot bath for days, for the bath was full of complete sheets of these stamps in soak. So porous was the paper, it was nearly impossible to save sheets, hence their scarcity, with or without gum. With gum, sheets are rare, and singles are now seldom seen. The ungummed remainders were jobbed off to a wholesaler.

Regarding the printing of this stamp little is known, but the forme of the sheet is interesting, and as far as I know this has not been previously mentioned. Originally it seems there were 12 subjects on a plate, three horizontal by four vertical. (See fig. a. below). These were then placed side by side. (Fig. b.). Not content with 24 subjects to a printing plate, the original forme was split horizontally across the middle, the top half being placed under the first twelve, the bottom half under the second twelve. (see Fig. c.).

1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
10 11 12

(Fig. a.)

1 2 3 1 2 3
4 5 6 4 5 6
7 8 9 7 8 9
10 11 12 10 11 12

(Fig. b.)

1 2 3 1 2 3
4 5 6 4 5 6
7 8 9 7 8 9
10 11 12 10 11 12
1 2 3 7 8 9
4 5 6 10 11 12

(Fig. c.)

Thus making a sheet of 36 stamps, 6 × 6, by the time they were printed. It does not end there however, for when the later printings were made, the left-hand 18 subjects became the right-hand half of the sheet and vice-versa. This was first noticed through the small dot on Everest, mid-way between the R of Everest and the O of Expedition. This is constant on the 10th impression of the stamp, and as can be seen on Fig. c. there are three of these to the sheet. On the first setting they occupy positions 19, 22, and 34. On the second setting, with the half sheets reversed, 19, 22 and 31.

An early report (E. F. Hurt) stated that the stamps were printed in two panes of 36 subjects, side by side. In the sheet margins in the bottom and top corners I have noted four varieties of guide-lines.

- a) A horizontal line in the bottom left-hand corner.
- b) A horizontal line in the bottom right-hand corner.
- c) A vertical line in the bottom left-hand corner.
- d) A vertical line in the top left-hand corner.

This rather points to at least two panes.

My check list for this issue would be as follows :—

All perf. 11, either rough or clean cut. Minute dots around the swastikas and in the white lettering are the main means of help to plating this issue. Constant flaws that go through all settings and printings include :—

- 19, 22 and 34. Thinning of white line to right of M of Sikkim.
 - 21, 24 and 36. Elongated leg of first K in Sikkim.
- (positions on sheet are of First Setting).

Setting Ia. Dark Blue.

Constant white flaws or spots include :—

- No. 20. Star left of Expedition, and stop after Everest.
21. Geyser just above Base Camp, a very noticeable variety.
23. Star to left of Mount.
27. Flaw in scroll to left of Tibet.
32. Meteors in sky, above North Col.—and on right of centre.
33. Rocket trail in sky to right.

Marginal mark—Horizontal line at right bottom corner.

Setting Ib. Dark Blue.

Few flaws.

No. 21. Large white flaw under O of Mount.

Marginal mark—Vertical line in top right corner.

Setting IIc. Light Blue. } Few flaws, No. 29 being the most interesting,
II d. Pale Blue. } the remainder being "Stars in the sky."

No. 11. Above second E in Expedition.

14. Vertical dash below ES of Everest.

19. Above M and below O of Mount.

29. Small i in Tibet.

30. Above T of Everest, and D of Expedition, dash above.

33. Above ST of Everest.

Marginal mark—Horizontal line at left bottom corner.

Setting IIe. Dark Blue } Many white vertical scratches, particularly on
II f. Pale Blue. } Nos. 13, 14, 16, 19, 23, 26, 28. They do not
appear to be so bad on the darker shade.

Marginal mark—Vertical line at left bottom corner.

Points value	on cover from Tibet	Mint Sheet	Unused Sheet	Mint or Used	Unused
Setting I.	250	260	200	10	5
Setting II	—	150	100	5	3

(It is doubtful if Setting II saw either Tibet or even India).

Cancellations.*

These are of two types, four different in all :—

TYPE I. A violet single lined 33mm circle, with the inscription "Mt. Everest Expdn. Tractor Party," within the circle, and "Tibet 1924" in the centre.

This I have on two covers, one from the Expedition in Sikkim, where the Tractor Party was abandoned. The other cancelling a strip of three on a registered cover. The Indian stamps put on at Yatung are placed on top of the cancellation, and dating this strip as Setting I.

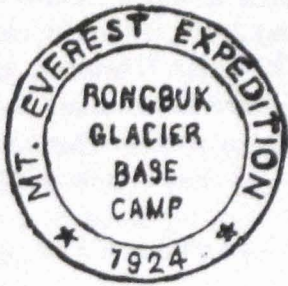
Points Value. Contemporary Sikkim or Tibet Cover 300
On piece 80

TYPE IIa. A large double circle (39mm.) between which is inscribed "Mount Everest Expedition × 1924 ×" and across the centre "Rongbuk Glacier/Base Camp." This is the one used on the souvenir cards, and is by far the commonest. Found in either red or black (and in violet on 'per favour' pieces).

Points Value. Contemporary Sikkim or Tibet Cover 150
On Darjeeling or Calcutta cards—Red 20
Black and Violet 30

*Illustrations p. 37

MOUNT EVEREST CACHETS AND CANCELLATIONS.



IIa.



IIb.



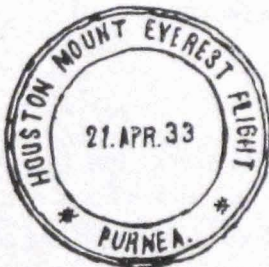
I.



XI.



IIc.



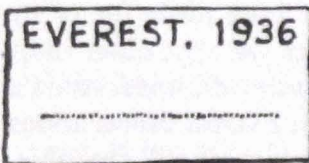
IX.



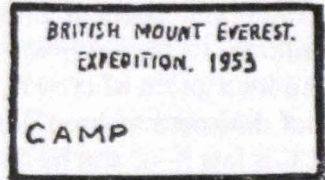
III.

— HOUSTON-MT EVEREST —
 — FLIGHT —
 — 1933 —

X.



IV.



VI.

DAILY MAIL

Himalayan Expedition 1954

Dola Chat Camp

American Fliers
 In "Starland", Biplane

VIII.

VII.

UNDER CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

V.

TYPE IIb. As Type IIa, but with "Tibet" between two parallel lines in the centre—in Black only. This is much scarcer. One block of four, cancelled by this type, reached Phari, where it received the Indian stamps, and backstamped Gyantse. Another card from the Expedition with this type received the datestamps of Phari, Raisen (Kangar), Kulu, and Naggar a small village high in the Himalayas to the west of Everest, thus nearly accomplishing a round trip.

Points value.	Contemporary Sikkim or Tibet Cover	200
	Piece	50

TYPE IIc. **THE RARITY**, still has the same double lined circle and inscription, but the central inscription now reads "Rongbuk Glacier" around the inner circle, and "Main Base Camp 17,000 ft." across the centre, again in black only. I have only seen four copies, and one on cover. Col. Thompson in his article doubted its existence, so America has evidently not seen many.

Points value.	Contemporary cover	500
	Piece	200

Col. Thompson quotes E. F. Hurt's figures of scarcity as follows :—

Type I	22%	My figures would be nearer	10%
IIa.	65%		84.9%
IIb	13%		5%
IIc.	—		00.1%

Type IIb. is listed in grey and black in the same work, but the grey is a feint impression of the black, for on the card mentioned above there are both.

The stamp had a local status between the Expedition and the official Indian P.Os., and covers from Tibet are very scarce indeed. The vast majority of cancelled copies were used after the Expeditions return, from Darjeeling or Calcutta, on cards advertising the forthcoming film of the Expedition. These cards contained the photo of the Base Camp from which the stamp was designed, and a facsimile of Noel's signature, who claimed he had posted over 40,000 of them. In lieu of the genuine items from Tibet they have become an interesting souvenir.

In the late 1950's I came across self-made covers, with potato cut hand-stamps and peculiar addresses. They appeared to have been made for or by children, to play at postmen. On the back of each however were the outer rings and inscription of type II, but no centre bits. If this still survives, it is fortunate that damage has been done to it, so that any flood of Mt. Everest cancellations at this late hour can be checked, even if the centre movable bits are still available, which seems unlikely.

THE THIRD EXPEDITION 1933.

The Third Expedition, under the leadership of Hugh Ruttledge set out in 1933. Those who climbed highest were Wyn Harris and Wager and Smythe and Shipton. The latter fell ill on the final attempt, and Smythe continued alone to just over 28,000 feet, returning to spend the night alone at Camp Six—pitched at a height of 27,400 feet.

There was no stamp provided for this expedition but a Rubber Stamp Cachet—struck in Violet—was used by its members which told the Gangtok P.O. authorities that they should affix the necessary stamps thereon and charge accordingly Type III. One of the covers in my collection is signed F. S. Smythe, a letter sent home just before his attempt at the summit.

A Tibetan Postal Agent, Lobsang Tsering, was commended for his business-like methods and efficiency—his job being to see that a relay of postal runners kept the expedition in touch with Gangtok.

Points value. Cover from Expedition with H/S. 250

THE FOURTH EXPEDITION 1936.

The Fourth Expedition (1936) was once more under the leadership of Hugh Ruttledge—but bad weather would not allow the climbers to reach the heights of the 1933 attempts.

Again, a rubber stamp was employed Type IV—this time in a rectangular format inscribed EVEREST 1936, and underneath a line of dots. The dotted line was for the insertion of the place-name and date from whence the cover was sent. It was on this occasion that most of the mail was stolen. The last mail to arrive safely was sent from Tengke Dzong on April 10th—and from that date until the beginning of June, no mail reached its destination without a long delay.

It turned out that the culprit was employed by the Gangtok P.O., and his action brought forth an interesting philatelic memento. When the mail was finally recovered buried in a tin in the Sikkim forest—each piece of mail was endorsed by a typewritten slip, worded :—

“Suffered detention in Gangtok Post Office owing to the Postmaster’s failure to affix postage stamps, and to forward them in time. The Postmaster has been sent to jail for his offence.”

The covers of this Expedition are extremely interesting, when found, for they bring a record to the stamp album of Tibetan villages, not served by a normal mail route and yet were at this time connected by postal runners with India. Examples are known from the villages of :—

- a) Khamba Jong— made famous by the 1903 Expedition. Dated 1.7.36 and with Kempson’s signature, he being in charge of the postal arrangements. Indian stamps cancelled Darjeeling
- b) Tengyke Dzong— due west of above, and half way between Everest and Gangtok. This is dated 11.4.36, and signed by P. R. Oliver. Stamps cancelled at Gangtok.
- c) Jikyop— between the latter and Shekar Dzong, sent by Ruttledge leader of the Expedition, and was one of the batch that was stolen.
- d) Shekar Dzong— the most N. Westerly en route. Again, no stamps, but with a large red impression of a 2½” oval rubber stamp, inscribed “Political Office, Sikkim,” and a central coat of arms. Across this was pasted the afore-mentioned typewritten slip.

- e) Cho Dzong— the last village before the famous Rongbuk Glacier Monastery. Dated 17.6.36. Stamps cancelled at Darjeeling.
- f) Base Camp— This has the words Base Camp inscribed in capital letters along the bottom of the rubber stamp, and with dotted line above for the date, in this case 30.4.36. Again initialled by Kempson, no stamps, slip and rubber stamp.
- Cover b) represents the covers sent before the theft.
 c), d), f) represent those that were stolen.
 a), e) represent those that were sent after the discovery of the theft, and were sent through Gangtok to Darjeeling.

Points value. 200.

THE FIFTH EXPEDITION.

Owing to these unfortunate thefts the Fifth Expedition (1938) did not use a special cachet with the words "Mount Everest" thereon. They did use an "Under Certificate of Posting" cachet and additionally a single line dater. They were then dated on arrival at Gangtok—stamps put on and cancelled in the normal way. This expedition was a much smaller party under Tilman. Once again too much snow was encountered high up though Camp Six was once more pitched, the pairs occupying the lofty abode being Smythe and Shipton, and Lloyd and Tilman.

These are known dated 4.5.38. in Violet. (Type V).
 31.5.38. in Purple.

Points value. 100.

The next attempts, after two British Survey parties, were from the south, through Nepal. The Swiss in 1952 were beaten (it is said) by tactical errors before the mountaineers reached the mountain, though they reached a record height of 28,200 ft. Their struggle was a help to the British Expedition the following year, and no excuse can be made for missing out an example, from a Tibetan collection, of the cachet used on this successful attempt, for surely the Summit is half Tibetan.

The rubber stamp is rectangular $44 \times 24\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and is inscribed "British Mount Everest Expedition, 1953." Beneath is the one word "Camp" in the bottom left hand corner, with a space in which to put the camp of departure.

These are known on envelopes and Air Letters, the cachets generally being struck in red at the bottom left hand corner of the cover.

They are known posted en route and also inscribed Base or I, II, III, and IV according to the camp of departure. The postal arrangements were under the supervision of Alf. Gregory. The postal runners took six days to reach Khatmandu.

For those who cannot find one of these scarce pieces, the Indian Government commemorated this historic event by issuing a pair of stamps depicting the Everest Range from an Aerial photograph. They also issued an Official Ist. Day Cover, showing the photo Hillary took of Tenzing holding aloft his ice-axe on the summit.

Another First Day Cover (B. D. S. Products) showed portraits of Hillary and Tenzing above a view of Everest, but no doubt there are a few such unofficial covers.

Special Indian datestamps were used, that of Bombay depicting Everest in a centre circle.

Points value.	Expedition Cachet on cover	150	(Type VI)
	Indian stamps	4	
	First Day Cover	6	
	Special Commem. cancellations	5	

For those interested in the high mountains, there are many examples for the Postal Historian as a result of the various mountaineering expeditions. There is the Yeti Expedition (Cachet); Italian Conquest of K2 (Datestamps); American Makalu Expedition (Labels); Saltoro Expedition (Labels); Kangchenjunga (Cachet—I have a cover from Camp V at 25,300 ft. which might be the highest postal item from terra firma, and not, no doubt, so firma!) etc., etc. For further details, Mr. J. Bingham, Redcar, Yorks. is the expert to seek.

The Yeti Handstamp is illustrated as type VII.*

There are 5 British meter slogans which relate either to the Himalayas or Tibet :—

- 1) "Seven Years in Tibet—one of the greatest travel books of our time."
 - 2) "Tibetan Marches, by Andre Migot—A prodigious adventure—Sunday Times."
 - 3) "Seven Years in Tibet. Now a Pan Book, 2/3."
 - 4) "Tents in the Clouds—Story of the Scottish Women's Expedition to the Himalayas."
 - 5) "Rum Doodle—The tallest story yet of the highest mountain ever."
- The respective dates of the above, 1954; 1955; 1956; 1956; 1956.

THE EVEREST FLIGHTS.*

So much for the Climbing Expeditions. Let us turn now to the Flights. The first proposed attempt was by the famous American author-traveller, Richard Halliburton, in his plane "The Flying Carpet." Unfortunately the Nepalese Government would not allow the Everest flight—though other Himalayan peaks were flown over. Signed covers were flown with handstamp cachet "American Fliers in Stearland Biplane," and etiquette worded "This cover was transported by The Flying Carpet NR 882N Messrs. Halliburton and Stephens." Type VIII. Points value 40

In 1933 the British Houston Expedition was granted permission by the Nepalese Government to make an attempt to fly over Everest. Foreign planes had been first over both the North and South Poles, and it was felt that it should be British planes and equipment that should be the first over Everest.

By the beginning of April everything was ready at Purnea, a small village in the north of India near the Nepalese border. On the 3rd, weather reports were satisfactory, and Clydesdale and McIntyre took off with Blacker and Bonnet as their respective photographers. About noon, 3 hours and 10 minutes after they had set out, they returned with their flight successfully accomplished.

*Illustrations p. 37

Twenty-five letters were carried in the plane piloted by McIntyre, including some addressed to the King, Prince of Wales, and Lady Houston. These were flown and cancelled, on the return of the plane, with the Expedition's special datestamp. Unfortunately the date thereon is April 5th, the mail having been forgotten in all the excitement caused by their success. The special cancellation reads "Houston Mount Everest Flight Purnea" with the date across the middle (36mm. diam.). Type IX. This exists in blue-black and red. In addition some covers have a large handstamp, 75mm. × 26mm. in blue-black. (Type X).

Houston Mount Everest	
_____ Flight _____	
_____ 1933 _____	Points value. 300

On April 7th the Secretary of the India Air Mail Society saw Blacker and Fellowes, who consented to carry a souvenir mail on a survey flight over the Himalayas. One guinea each, in aid of charities, was to be charged. Eighty-seven covers were flown with a special cachet and a large round violet handstamp. The covers were then posted at Purnea in the normal way, and are found dated 8th April. (Type XI).

Points value. 150

The sponsors of the Everest flight were satisfied and telegraphed no further flights. However, the local fliers were not pleased with some of the photos, and with the first flight experiences behind them, they once more set off and flew over the mountain a second time on April 20th. Photographically this was much more successful. A smaller mail was carried, and this time was promptly despatched. The special datestamp and large handstamp were again employed, known in blue-black and dated April 20th. (Type IX).

Points value. 360

There exist one or two covers with the special datestamp in violet and magenta dated April 21st, the last day at Purnea. These may have been flown over the summit and not cancelled until the following day. The wavy line cachet exists on the latter covers in the same colours. These covers, in addition, were flown by Lord Clydesdale to Karachi. The Delhi Flying Club machine broke down at Jodhpur and he collected the Imperial Air Mail and flew it to Karachi. (Type IX).

Points value 200

The covers flown over the summit were until the last war the only covers known to have been flown over Tibet. During the war, with the many planes flying between India and China over "The Hump," it is quite possible that some flew over Tibetan Territory. In fact one American plane made a forced landing (off route) near Penam, and so startled were the Tibetans, none of whom had seen a plane before, that the crew were held captive for days before the order for release was received from the Dalai Lama.

Points value. 20

Since the Chinese Army went into Tibet, no doubt there has been much aerial activity over Tibet, though it is doubtful at the time of writing whether there have been Air Mail flights as yet—other than by military aircraft. A transport plane flew from Peking to Lhasa in ten hours on 26.5.1955—but the report did not mention mail.

Chinese Post Offices in Tibet

During 1909—the Chinese occupied Tibet—the Dalai Lama fleeing over the border into Sikkim and India. There were however Chinese communities in Tibet before the invasion—and there is at least one cover that has survived from this period. (Col. Thompson reports none).

This is a letter sent and signed on the cover by a “Wen Tsung-yao, Lhasa.” On the reverse is a small strip of red paper on which are four Chinese characters—denoting registration. The cover was sent by courier to Gyantse British Post Office, where it received 3 × 1 a. Indian Stamps, cancelled 3 Jan. 09, and the Gyantse Registry Handstamp type G.A. (300 points).

After the invasion Chinese stamps were used—and special Chinese date-stamps were used at Chabdo; Gyantse; Lhasa; Pharijong; Shigatse and Yatung. All contemporary “cent” values have been noted used in Tibet except the 16c.

Col. Thompson in his article, published in Livingstones (U.S.A.) Philatelic Folio, mentions five other possible place names for datestamps—but no evidence has come forward so far as to their ever existing. These are Sobando and Gyanda, plus the garrisons of Lharigo, Tingri and Tra-ya, (the article in question is the most detailed study of the early C.P.O’s. to date).

Covers of this period are very scarce and much sought after by both Chinese and Tibetan specialists. A very fine cover from the “Bell” find, is a combination cover from Lhasa type C.1. datestamp on a strip of 3 × 2c Chinese stamps, together with a pair of Ed. VII 3 pies Indian stamps cancelled with Gyantse datestamp of 17.12.1910. The sender was one Tsien Shih Pao.

Another with the same datestamp, but cancelling a strip of 3 × 10 cents Chinese stamps, has the rare double R Registry handstamp—and backstamped at Chengtu and Shanghai. This type has only been seen on unsurcharged stamps. A contrasting cover—from the same correspondence—has 8 × 1c and 6 × 2c with eight clear strikes of the Lhasa type C2 and one Registry R handstamp. Printed 1c. postcards exist with this rare type of handstamp from Gyantse and Shigatze—and type C1. of Lhasa.

The Chinese found that by using ordinary Chinese stamps in their own currency they were losing money sending most of their correspondence via India (for it was quicker than overland), so they surcharged them in three languages, Chinese, English and Tibetan. There were 12 values :—

3 pies.	½ anna.	1a.	2a.	2½a.	3a.	4a.	6a.	12a.	1 Rupee.	2R.
½c.	2c.	4c.	7c.	10c.	16	20	30	50	1	2

Most of them were surcharged in 2 panes of 20 stamps, 5 rows of 4. The exceptions were the 2as. and 3as.—50 stamps—(2 panes of 25,—5 × 5) and the two highest values, (48 stamps arranged in 1 pane of 48 stamps 6 × 8).

Differing perms. may be found between 14 and 16. The 3 as. produced two varieties, the major one on the 14th stamp of the right hand pane of 25, concerns the final S of Annas—which is inverted and of a larger type. The other is an error in the Tibetan surcharge, and not being as noticeable to most philatelists, is much rarer. The 3rd character has a loop beneath it rather like an open 6 on its back, which becomes more like a squashed reverse S on its back, on the 23rd stamp of the left hand pane of 25. This was first seen at the London International Exhibition 1960, shown by Sir Percival David. Another surprise at this Exhibition was the showing by the same exhibitor of a complete pane of the Three Pies with inverted surcharge (one of two such). It is doubtful whether the latter ever saw Tibet—whereas the two 3 as. errors were issued to the Chinese P.O's in Tibet. The reporting of the 3 Pies with inverted S must have been an error for 3 Annas. (See page 55 for Tibetan error).

The Retouch on the 1 Rupee, known to Chinese Specialists on the original stamp, and similarly the Re-entry on the 2 Rupees, are both known with the Tibetan surcharge.

Haverbeck records the 3as/12cts. imperf. between and considers them false, whilst both he and Col. Thompson report a 3c. with a blue Republic of China overprinted—which cannot be a legitimate issue, according to the date of issue. This for the surcharged stamps was early March 1911—and one can find, with a lot of luck—combination covers of unsurcharged and surcharged Chinese stamps. One cover has the rare Gyantse type C3 datestamp with a pair of 1c. unsurcharged used with a 1a surcharged. This is a local cover to Yatung, with latter's backstamp. A fine large registered cover from Lhasa, with a block of four 2 as./7c (type C3 datestamp) was handed over to the British Post Office at Yatung, having both Chinese and Indian datestamps on respective stamps. The registry handstamp is Lhasa type C.R.2. This was addressed to C. A. Bell, Sikkim, and signed by Lo Change Chi, "Left Councillor and Chief Secretary, Lhasa, Tibet." (Datestamps, Lhasa 2/5/11; Yatung 6/6/11; Gangtok 8/6/11).

Another piece from Lhasa, type C4 datestamp, has 2½a/10c; 3a/16c; 6a/30c; and 1 Rupee/1 Dollar—this latter with U for O in One, which has been seen more than once. This has the scarce combination of the Yatung Registry H/S—YB. on Label B.R.1.

Then there are the covers that travelled overland along the old silk Road—between Lhasa and Peking. One such has both the 1 Rupee and the rare 2 Rupees—with Lhasa C4 datestamp and Registry Handstamp type CR2, and additionally the rare large Lhasa "Acknowledgement of Receipt" Handstamp. This is backstamped en route at Batang, Tatsienlu, Yachowfu and Peking.

Mention perhaps should be made of some very crude heavily printed forgeries of this surcharge. They would not fool any Philatelist—and are totally unlike all Catalogue illustrations. A set is in the Royal's reference collection, "used" with a crude cancellation inscribed "Tibet."

Recently I have come across a more dangerous forgery in Colonel Schrader's collection of the Ia/4c. In fact it was the cancellation of which I was first suspicious—for it was Chinese. On examining the surcharge—the “O” of One is top heavy to the right and with the central space more pointed at the top. The foot of the 3rd Tibetan character bends towards the 4th instead of being vertical. From the same source are two genuine stamps “used” with Chinese cancellations.

CHINESE CANCELLATIONS.*

There are no fresh datestamps to record since Haverbeck's—but his table 3 of these is somewhat confusing with types I to VIII listings, when there were only four types—and his illustrations vary considerably in size.

Lhasa	Type C1.	C2.	C3.	C4.	
Chabdo	—	—	C3.	—	
Gyantse	—	C2.	C3.	—	Dashes mean that
Pharijong	—	C2.	C3.	—	so far no such
Shigatse	—	C2.	C3.	—	datestamp exists.
Yatung	—	C2.	C3.	—	

Type C1 was only used at Lhasa—for which reason it is believed to be the first. Type C2 is the first for the other towns' cancellations—both types being rare.

Most of the Phari (PHAGRI) type 2 are seen as backstamps, on covers from Yatung.

Of the type 3 datestamps, Chabdo and Pharijong are the scarcest. One of the few Chabdo covers existing is one with a 1a and 2as, with two superb strikes on a local cover. It is said to have been still in use in 1918, three or four times as long as the remainder, and yet it is one of the rarest.

FORGED CANCELLATIONS.

There are some very dangerous forgeries which have not been listed properly before.

The Lhasa types C1. and C2. forgeries came to light in 1955—when an article in a Chinese Philatelic Magazine described the finding by one of China's foremost specialists of some rare Chinese used in Tibet. (See page 55).

Examples of these were sent to me—and they proved to be excellent forgeries—especially the Chinese and English lettering. The Tibetan characters however proved the forgeries were not Tibetan, for the easily recognisable differences are there, for which see the illustrations.

The Lhasa type C4 was also forged—probably from India pre-1940. Occasionally these turn up with genuine stamps on large native type covers. Here again the forgeries are good—but not good enough for the Specialist. The first A in Lhasa in the forgery, is large and tall—in the genuine smaller than the other letters. The final T of Tibet is touching the outer circle—not in the genuine. The second Tibetan character has a large blotch, on its vertical tail, which isn't there on the genuine. The Chinese date is always the same (12th of 7th month) and the Chinese characters are all bad imitations.

*Illustrations p. 47

The latest to be found is the Yatung C3—again very, very dangerous the best of them all in fact. The appearance is as if they have been “printed” with a very much thicker outer circle in the forgery. The 4th Tibetan character has a much smaller tail and the dates are always the same, 14th of 7th month. The inner circle to the left of the date is thinner than the outer circle—but in the genuine it is very thick. (Plate Page 55).

There is one more forged cancellation, but so crude it would not fool anyone. Whether it exists as a full cancellation or not—I have only seen the top half TIBET in large capitals between two arcs—a square before and after the word—and vertical lines beneath and within the inner circle. These are found on the crude stamp forgeries mentioned earlier.

MAIL ROUTES.

The main Chinese mail routes of which examples have been mentioned are:—

- (a) The Lhasa—Indian route, thence by sea to China.
- (b) The Overland route between Lhasa and Peking via Chamdo, Batang, Tatsienlu, Yachowfu and Chengtu.

There was certainly a Government route northwards to the border via Nagchu-Dzong—but there is no Philatelic evidence of this. There was also another route which was the same as route (a) until Rangoon was reached. There it took to the land again and went via Bhamo on the Burmese border across to Teng Yueh on the Chinese side—The old Burma Road.

One large registered cover was posted at Lhasa on 12/6/1911 receiving the Registry mark—but no stamps or handstamps—being an “ON POSTAL SERVICE” cover. It received the Yatung datestamp and Registry label of the Chinese Post Office, and it received also a vertical strip of $9 \times \frac{1}{2}$ a Ed. VII Indian stamps cancelled on June 21/11. Nine days later it had reached Bhamo—and 6 days later Teng Yueh—another 6 to Yunnanfu—and finally reaching Chengtu 39 days after posting, on a journey of over 3,000 miles. As the vulture flies, 800 miles. A cover in the reverse direction took 15 days between Teng Yueh and Siliguri in Sikkim (9 days from Bhamo to Siliguri).

One interesting cover—was sent from London on November 17th 1911, and was addressed to the Chinese Postmaster at Gyantse. This did reach the British Gyantse Post Office on Dec. 12th 1911. A typical British understatement was endorsed on the cover in red ink “Returned to Sender as Chinese P.O. has since been closed.” In more than one account—one reads of the Postal Officials having to flee for their lives. It also received a “Parti left” and another Gyantse datestamp of 14 Dec. 1911. There was a Chinese Customs House situated at Yatung BEFORE the Chinese occupation of 1910. No postal markings are known but certain covers do provide a link, such as the following:—

- a) A registered cover to Ma Chi-fu, Bibithang (Customs House at Yatung). Dated 27.1.09. Pre-occupation.
- b) A registered cover to Kao Tzu-Heng, Pipitang. Another spelling. Dated 24.9.10. Post occupation.

CHINESE CANCELLATIONS AND REGISTRY MARKS.



Type C1.

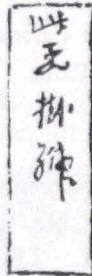
Type C2.



Type C4.



Type C3.



Lhasa Registry (1909)



CR.3.



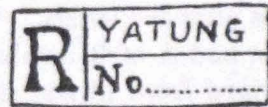
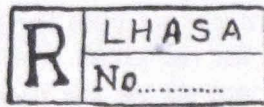
CR.4.



CR.5.



CR.1.



Types CR.2.

- c) On service cover, with printed address, "The Commissioner of Custom Yatung, Tibet."
- d) The most recent find was in the Adgey-Edgar Sale, an undescribed cover from Yatung, with the official wax seal of the Customs House still intact. This was inscribed "Customs House/Yatung, Tibet" around 3 Chinese characters, all contained in a double circle 23mm. diam. The cover is similarly endorsed in ink, with the addition of the date, 9.3.1911, and the "No. 17." It was posted at the Indian P.O. and backstamped at Shanghai Ap. 5. and Peking Ap. 9. 1911. This is the only such seal I have seen.

CHINESE REGISTRY HANDSTAMPS, 1909-11.

The first registered letter—previously mentioned, had the small unofficial red slip of paper with the appropriate letters thereon—sent by a Chinaman in Lhasa during 1909. (Plate Page 47).

During the use of the unsurcharged Chinese stamps—a large letter R with serifs was handstamped onto the cover to denote registration. Occasionally, two R's were put side by side, and the two covers I've seen thus, both had a higher rate of postage than the single R cover, and both were from Lhasa with the same destination. In this case weight did not come into it. These Rs were used at Lhasa and Shigatse.

The only other type used by the Chinese was a very Europeanised one—type CR2, for Gyantse, Lhasa and Yatung. These have not been seen at Shigatse and Phari as yet.

There are also three Acknowledgement of Receipt Handstamps. The largest from Lhasa, Type CR3, a double lined circle 30mm. in diameter with large A R in seriffed letters in Black. This cover went overland from Lhasa to Peking.

On a combination cover, with the Chinese P.M.G's wax seal (Feng-Weiping) is another Acknowledgement of Receipt Handstamp in Cerise, but in sans-serif block letters, within a double lined circle (26mm.) Type CR4. It is uncertain where this was put on. It could have been put on at Lhasa or Yatung—where the C.P.O. handed it over to the B.P.O. If the latter, it could be either of the latter Post Offices. 1½ as. was the charge for the A.R. Service.

There is a Pharijong piece of 1913—well after the Chinese withdrawal, with another type of A of R handstamp. This is 27mm. in Mauve, with square stops after the letters. This proves that both the Chinese and British P.O.'s in Tibet had A of R handstamps, for the Lhasa type CR3 is on a cover that went overland from Lhasa, and did not go via the Indian P.O.'s. and the Pharijong cover did not go through the Chinese P.Os.

Points value of Chinese stamps used in Tibet.

Surcharged Chinese stamps.

CANCELLATION TYPES

Town	C1.		C2.		C3.		C3.		C4.	
	Cover	Piece	Cover	Piece	Cover	Piece	Cover	Piece	Cover	Piece
Lhasa	500	160	500	160	400	100	250	50	150	30
Chabdo	—	—	—	—	—	—	700	200	—	—
Gyantse	—	—	600	200	500	100	300	150	—	—
Pharijong	—	—	600	300	—	—	600	300	—	—
Shigatse	—	—	600	200	500	100	250	60	—	—
Yatung	—	—	600	160	400	100	250	75	—	—

Beware of the forgeries of Lhasa, Type C4, and Yatung, Type C3, though their points value due to their scarcity must be about 15 and 30 respectively, and on forged cover even more. (See Illustrations below)

Regarding the value of the normal mint and used surcharged stamps, I will not compete with the regular catalogue publishers. There is no doubt that there are many sets lacking the topmost value, and I know of perfect copies changing hands at 25% above catalogue price. Used, it is many more times scarcer, and either Rupee value on cover is seldom seen, and are worth a premium on the above points.

The large inverted "S" variety on the 3as. is another very rare variety to which I would give 500 points. The more recently discovered wrong Tibetan character on the same value must be worth very much more than that, a value of at least 600.

The Three Pies inverted surcharge at the moment may be worth about 400 points but it must be remembered that there are two complete panes existing, all of which are safe for collectors, whereas many of the two former varieties have been lost to collectors. Auction prices for the inverted have varied between £20 and £40, but with 40 being saved for Tibetan specialists, I doubt its points value is much above 400.



Forged Types C3 and C4.

CHAPTER FIVE

1951 Chinese P.O.s. in Tibet

In regard to the present phase of Tibetan Philately, just as Bailey was responsible for most of what we know about the F.P.O.'s, and the period up to 1930, so is C. W. Chiu mainly responsible for our knowledge of what has happened in Chinese controlled Tibet.

The majority of cancellations that have been obtained are not commercial but Philatelic, though they have done postal duty—and are one stage better than 'cancelled to orders.' Chiu has written these up in various Supplements he publishes, and Haverbeck has reproduced many of his illustrations in his latest handbook.

What has been most valuable has been Chiu's map which is the best available of the eastern part of Tibet. He does not commit himself to the boundaries—which have always been in dispute. Ethnographically—Tibetans spread over a much wider area than any map shows. I have always taken the Yangtse River as a boundary for my own personal convenience.

The Chinese have changed their boundaries since they arrived at Lhasa, which has confused the issue still further. I have excluded any cancellation with the Szechwan characters (3 vertical lines at top right). This more or less corresponds to my Yangtse River line. Tatsientlu for instance was a town quite Tibetan in character, but is now part of Szechwan.

It would be difficult to collect each and every village cancellation—but one can collect either the different types—or represent each route. (Plate page 52)

No doubt it would be possible to arrange these in districts, but I prefer with my limited knowledge to arrange them alphabetically.

There are many varieties of type to be found even in the same cancellation should one wish to go to extremes. The same datestamp with and without the hour of posting; with or without bar between hour and date; inverted dates; stops at head of figures (instead of at foot); or stops between the four figures of the year, etc.

All the current Chinese stamps are valid for postage in Tibet—and there is a large variety of both ordinary and commemoratives—swelled by the stamped envelopes that Philatelists have sent out to be returned to them from Tibet. Postal stationery is also quite common from Lhasa.

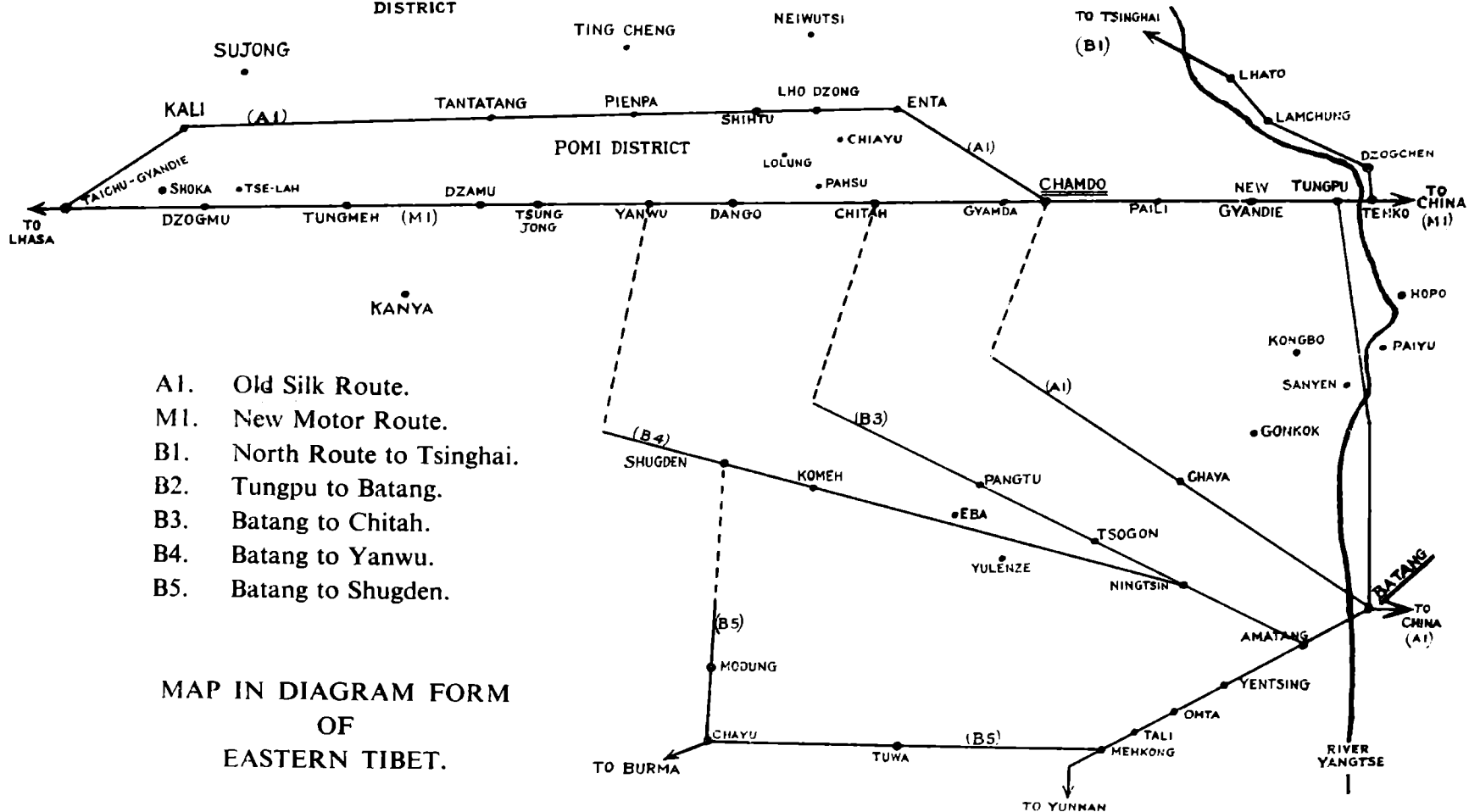
The first datestamps were the Military ones, which can be found on covers without stamps—or cancelling stamps. G. S. Russell reported one from Hongma (nr. Rudok) sent on 24 Oct. 1953—with the military number 43060 and Theo Klewitz, another from Shigatse with the number 48266, Type M.1.

The remainder I have divided into 8 types, not in chronological order, but according to the dotted circles or single line circles, and the combination of languages used thereon.

There are many names on my list which have no type number of datestamp against them. These are villages marked on Chiu's map which most probably have or had datestamps—but which I have not come across. Many post offices have been opened and closed—and some opened again—according to the feelings of the local populace. Some of these early datestamps may become extremely hard to obtain, because in many places the Chinese were often besieged, sometimes routed, by the Tibetans. For types, see illustrations on page 55.

- BATANG** (Paan). Although this is on the east bank of the Yangtse river, and classed as Szechwan, it is one of the main gateways into Eastern Tibet and is included for that reason alone. Type 7.
- CHAMDO** Type 8. Exists with numbers 3, 5 (Aug. 56), 8 and 10. No. 3 in both Blue (March 56) and Black. Important junction town and capital of the area—lying on the Mekong River. Roads go North, West, East, Southwest and Southeast. Was on the old Silk route—and is on the modern lorry route. It was here that the Englishman Ford had his Wireless Station, captured early on by the Chinese. One of the lowest places in Tibet, 3,700 ft. above sea level. The English date is known 5. 6. 4. 2. for 56. 4. 2. (No. 10).
- CHAYA** Type 8. Known only with number 1. (May 56). On the old Silk route S.E. of Chamdo, on the Mekong River.
- CHAYU** (Rima). Type 8—No. 1. only. (March 56). Situated in the Southwest corner of the Eastern Tibet area—near to the North Burma border. Known with different type founts in the date.
- CHIAYUCHIAO** South of Silk Road, West of Chamdo.
- CHITAN** Type 8. in slate grey (March 56). South of Chamdo on the lorry route. Later found in Black (May 57).
- DANGO** On the lorry road—north of Yanwu.
- DZAMU** Type 8. No. 3. (May 56).
No. 5. (May 59). On the lorry route from Chamdo, in the Pomi district.
- DZOGMU** On the lorry road—east of Old Gyandie.
- EBA** Southwest of Ningstin.
- ENTA** On the Silk road west of Chamdo.
- GARTOK** Western Tibet. Type 10. With figures 4. (Aug. 59). Since the Chinese occupation—this area has become an important military base. Date on my copy is 19. 5. 9. 8. 11! It was here a British P.O. operated for a short while.
- GON HSIEN** Type 8. Numbers 1 (May 56) and 2 (April 56). Known also as Kungka and Gonkok. Lies to the west of the Yangtse Valley—south of Gartok.
- GYANDA** South of Chamdo on the lorry road.

**39 TRIBES
DISTRICT**



- A1. Old Silk Route.
- M1. New Motor Route.
- B1. North Route to Tsinghai.
- B2. Tungpu to Batang.
- B3. Batang to Chitah.
- B4. Batang to Yanwu.
- B5. Batang to Shugden.

**MAP IN DIAGRAM FORM
OF
EASTERN TIBET.**

TIBETAN PLACE NAMES AND ANGLICISED VERSIONS.

ཇོ་མོ་གླང་མ་	Chamdo (Changtu)	པང་ཏུ་གླང་མ་	Pangtu (Bomda Gompa)
ཉལ་ལྷོ་མོ་	Chaya (Draya Yamdun)	པེ་ཏི་	Pelti
ཇའུ་རི་མོ་	Chayu (Rima)	པེ་མམ་	Penam
ཇི་ཏུ་མོ་	Chitan	པམ་ལོ་མོ་	Phari
ཇོ་མོ་རྩ་མོ་	Chomorak (Tsomo)	རལ་ལུང་	Ralung
ཇུ་ལུ་མོ་	Chushu	ས་ཡེན་	San Yen
ཇེ་ཇོ་ཇོ་མོ་	Dechen (Dochen)	ཇེ་ལུ་མོ་	Shetang
དོང་ཀུར་	Dongkur	ལྷི་གུ་ཇོ་མོ་	Shigatse
ཇུ་ལུ་མོ་	Dzamu (Showa)	ཤི་ཏུ་མོ་	Shihtu (Shobando)
གཱུ་ཀུ་ལོ་	Gartok	ཤོ་ཀ་མོ་	Shokah (Holka)
གོང་ཀོང་	Gonkok (Gon Hsien-Kungka)	ཤུ་གེ་ཇོ་མོ་	Sujong (Shodzong)
གྱའུ་མོ་	Gyandie (Taichi)	ཇའི་མོ་	Taichu
གྱའུ་ལུ་མོ་	Gyantse	ཏིང་ཇན་	Tingchan
ཇེ་ཏུ་མོ་	Hei-Ho (Nagawache)	ཏོ་པ་	Toba
ཇོ་མོ་	Lhasa	ཏེ་ལཱ་ཇོང་	Tse-Lah-Jong
ཇོ་མོ་	Lhato (Tangko)	ཏོ་སོ་གུ་ཇོ་མོ་	Tsogon (Dzokang)
ཇོ་མོ་	Lolung Jong (Lhd Dzong)	ཏོ་སོ་ཇོང་	Tsung Jong
ཇོ་མོ་	Medagongkur (Jenchimli)	ཏུང་མེ་	Tung-Meh
ཇོ་མོ་	Nangartse	ཏུང་པུ་	Tungpu (East Gantok)
ཇོ་མོ་	Neiwutsi (Riwoche)	ཡན་ལུ་	Yan Wu
ཇོ་མོ་	Ningsin	ཡའུང་	Yatung
ཇོ་མོ་	Pahsu	ཡེན་སིང་	Yentsing

Most of these were illustrated in Chiu's Supplement (Vols. 4 and 5)
and reproduced in Haverbeck.

GYANDIE (Taichi) Type 8. Number 3. (Jan 56). An important town—where the silk road meets the lorry road. This originally had a square fret native cancellation. (New Gyandie—See Taichu).

GYANTSE Types 5. (Jan 55). On the Lhasa-Indian Road.
Types 7. (May 55).

HEI-HO (Nagawache) Types 5. (May 55).
Types 7. (May 55).
Types 9. (Jan 58). Situated on the northern route from Lhasa to Tsinghai (Korko Nor), probably the last postal town before crossing the 16,760 ft. Tang Pass.

JENCHIMLI Type 7—though very slightly larger. (March 56). Seen both in Blue and in Violet. This is the old Medagonka—east of Lhasa on the route to China.

JONG YEN North of Yentsing.

KALI (Lali) on the silk road—north of old Gyandie.

KANGYE South of the lorry road—S.E. of old Gyandie.

KO MEH South of the lorry road. S.E. of Yanwa.

KONGBO North west of San Yen.

KUNGKA See GON HSIEN.

LHASA Type 5. May 54. Various varieties of this datestamp—the commonest of this type. English and Chinese figures mixed in date. Large figures. Stops at top of figures instead of the foot. Inverted date. With and without bars between hour and date etc.

Type 7. Sept. 54.

Type 8. Number	6.	in Black	(1.56).
	7.	in Blue	(11.59).
	9.	in Black	(9.58).
	9.	in Violet	(11.55).
	13.	in Violet	(10.58).
	14.	in Black	(10.57).
	16.	„ „	(10.58).
	17.	„ „	(7.56).
	19.	„ „	(10.60).
	20.	„ „	(7.60).
Type 9. Number	2.	„ „	(1.55).
	3.	„ „	(3.55).
	4.	„ „	(5.55).
Type 11. LASA.	„	„	(12.60).

In addition to the normal cancellations there is a Lhasa Returned Letter, and a Dead Letter mark, both in Blue, and the mark of the Lhasa Post and Telegraph Office, illustrated in Haverbeck—probably Black. There is also at least one large Commemorative type, from Lhasa in Red, inscribed, “The 10th Anniv. of Founding of Communist China—1949-59—Lhasa.”

CHINESE POST OFFICES IN TIBET.



Military Cancellation.



Type C.10.



Type C.5.



Type C.6.



Type C.7.



Type C.8.



Type C.9.



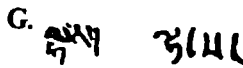
Type C.11



Type C.12.



Chinese Directional Marks. (?)



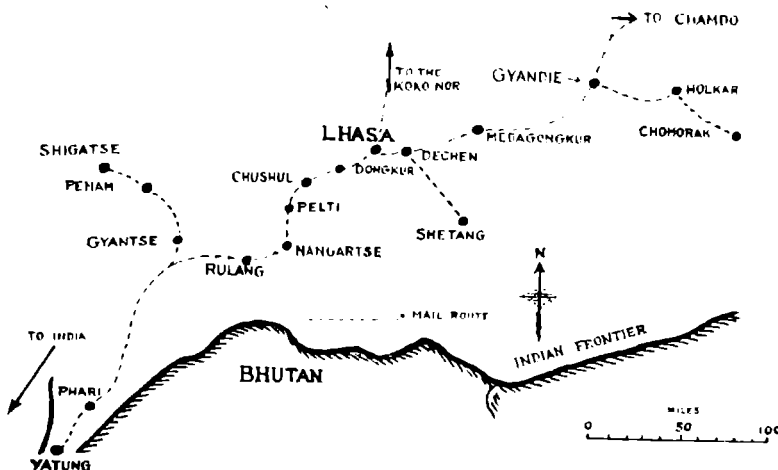
Type I. Type II.

Bottom half of 3rd. Tibetan character on 3as/16 cents.

Normal. Variety.

Forged and Genuine Tibetan characters, in Types I and II Chinese Lhasa cancellations

Area of Tibet using Native Cancellations



- LHATO** (Tangko) Type 8. (March 56). The most northerly Tibetan datestamp on the route between Tatsienlu and Jyekundo in Tsinghai Province.
- LOLUNG JONG** Type 8 Number 1 (May 59), and 2. (Jan 56). South of the silk route in the Pomi district.
- NEIWUTSI** (Riwoche) Type 8. (May 56). North of the silk route—and west of Chamdo. There are few villages in this nomadic area.
- NINGTSIN** Type 7. Reported in Haverbeck.
Type 8. No. 1. (Aug 56). An important junction town not far from the Yunnan border. South West of Batang.
- OMTA** South of Yentsing.
- PAHSU** Type 8. in Violet. (Mar 56). Just west of the lorry road, south of Chamdo.
- PAILI** On the lorry road East of Chamdo.
- PANGTU** Type 8. No. 2. (Mar 56). East of the lorry route, south of Chamdo—en route for Ningsin.
- PHARI** (Pali) Type 6. No. 1. (Jan 56). On the Lhasa-Indian Road
- PIEMPA** Type 7. (Mar. 56). On the silk road and halfway between Chamdo and old Gyandie. This is backstamped with a special pictorial type (a flagpole sprouting from some Old English Stocks (!) with clouds around the pole) dated 1956.10.1.
- POMI DISTRICT** Type 7. No. 3. (Jan 56). This is roughly the area between the silk and lorry routes between Chamdo and Old Gyandie. Haverbeck lists this under Dzama—though Chiu differentiates this in a letter to me. The Chinese characters are quite different—and are not Dzama.
- RULANG** Type 7. with characters added on bridge for year, month and day. In the west of Tibet (?). Near Gyantse there was a Rulung—which may be the same.
- SANYEN** Type 8. (Nov 56). On the Gartok-Batang road on the west bank of the Yangste. Also known as Wucheng.
- SHETANG** (Nedong). Type 5. (Reported in Haverbeck).
Type 12. In Blue. (July 57).
Type 9. No. 1. In Reddish Violet. (Dec 59)
Black (Dec 59).
This is reported as having a 1912 fret cancellation—though none recorded—and is south east of Lhasa, across the Tsang Po. The type 8 gives a very poor print and it is thought may be a wood block for temporary use. Like Rulang—this has the characters for Year, Month, Day in the centre bridge.

- SHIGATSE** Type 5. (Jan 55).
 Type 6. No. 1. (May 57).
 Type 7. (Aug 56).
 The traditional seat of the Panchen Lama—lies north west of Gyantse, now on the lorry road between Lhasa and Gyantse.
- SHIHTU** Type 7. No. 2 (June 55).
 Type 8. (March 56).
 On the silk road between Chamdo and Old Gyandie.
- SHOKAH** (Sholah, Holka). Just north of the lorry road east of Gyandie.
- SHUGDEN** S.E. of Yanwu.
- SUJONG** (Szokujong) Type 8. No. 1. in Blue (Jan 56). To the north of the silk road in the 39 Races district—famous for its salt deposits, (now Communised) and its grazing grounds.
- TAICHU** (New Gyandie). Type 12. (Oct 55).
 Type 8. Nos. 1. (Haverbeck with no number) (Jan 56).
 2.
 3.
 North East of Chamdo—on the lorry road.
- TALI** South of Yentsing.
- TANTA TANG** On the silk road—West of Chamdo.
- TEHKO-Kangtu** Type 10. (Dec 58). Although this is a Szechwan datestamp certain Tibetan places may well have this new type. There is a Tehko (Dege Goncha) on the Yangtse—on the lorry route to Chamdo.
- TIN CHAN** (Ting-tsing) Type 8. Nos. 1. (March 56).
 Nos. 2. (May 57).
 Between Neiwutsi and Sujong to the North of the Silk road.
- TOBA** Type 8. (Aug 56). North of the lorry road just east of Chamdo. This is another datestamp found with inverted date.
- TSE-LAH JONG** Type 7. No. 2. (Sept 55).
 Type 9. No. 1. Violet. (March 57).
 Black.
 Is situated on the northern bank of the Tsang Po. This is the southernmost point of the lorry route, east of Old Gyandie, and before the motor road was constructed was not on an official mail route.
- TSOGON** Type 8. (March 56). North-West of Ning-Tsin.

- TSUNG JONG** Type 7. No. 1. (June 55).
 Type 8. No. 1. (June 57).
 Type 8. No. 2. (March 56), on the lorry route South of the Po-mi Area—West of Yanwu.
- TUNG-MEH** Type 7. (Oct. 55).
 Type 8. No. 1. (March 56). On the lorry route in the Po-mi district, east of Old Gyandie.
- TUNG-PU** (East Gartok) Type 5. Reported in Haverbeck under Gartok.
 Type 8. (July 56). On the lorry road where it crosses the Yangtse River.
- YAN-WU** Type 7. (Oct. 55).
 Type 8. (May 56). On the lorry road—south of Chamdo—with roads branching off to the south (Cha-yu) and east to (Ningtsin).
- YATUNG** Near the Indian Border, on the Lhasa-Indian route.
 Type 7. (July 54). (Reported by Dougan, U.S.A.)
 Type 11. (April 55).
 5. (May 55).
 6. (Sept 55).
 9. (May 57). No. 3.
- YENTSING** (Yen-ching). On the Mekong River, just over the border from Yunnan, south of Ningtsin. Illustrated in Haverbeck, but no number.
 Type 8. (June 56). No. 1.
 (Jan. 57). No. 2. Blue.
 (July 57). No. 2. Black.
- YULEHSZE** South west of Ningtsin.
- MOBILE
 DATESTAMP** This was supplied to a lorry (lorries?) and mail was collected en route between Tibet and China, and cancelled accordingly. It is now said that this no longer operates, due to the constant attacks of Tibetan Guerrillas. (Similarly the P.Os. at Lhato, Gartok, Pahsu, Jenchinli, Szokujong, were all closed in mid 1960, the latter two “for a long time,” and Toba “closed earlier than the others.”) See Chiu’s Journal Type 7. (Oct 56) inscribed “Tibet/Mobile Team No. 2.”

The dates in brackets are the earliest that I have seen. They are not conclusive in any way, for in many cases only one date has been seen, the only known copies having come from the one source. Because of this fact it has been difficult to put even a points value on them.

Those from Lhasa can be found around 5 points; Gyantse, Phari and Shigatse and Yatung, around 8; the remainder varying considerably between 20 and 70. Two collections have come on the market since these were available, and the latter covers went very much cheaper than when bought individually, I rather feel that these buyers may turn out to be the lucky ones.

There is still a great deal of research to be done on these modern Tibetan-Chinese handstamps; one can only hope that there is someone on the spot collecting together postal history material, and who will be able to pass on his information to us in the future. Thanks are due to Mr. Chiu of Hong Kong for supplying us with as much material and knowledge as he has been able to do.

Combination covers of this period are seldom seen. I have one dated 9.5.55, the Chinese stamp being one of 400 dollars, the Tibetan 4tr. Another with similar stamps dated 29.1.57. Reported by Russell, is one with a Tibetan 1tr., 2tr., a pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ tr., and a $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Orange (!) bisected, dated 27.9.54. This was a registered letter, and had 4 \times 800 dollar stamps thereon. From Lhasa to Shigatse. (Presumably the $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Orange should read 2tr. Orange; there would be no postal necessity to bisect a $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. stamp).

CHINESE REGISTRY MARKS SINCE 1951.

Only a sketchy view can be given at present of the recent registry marks.

- A. In the early 1954 days, these were written on the cover itself, often just with the "noughts and crosses" cross, and a number. These I have from Lhasa, Changu, and Hei Ho, so that this practice is found irrespective of the size, or the whereabouts of the office.
- B. At the same time, even small offices used small vertical handstamps, of either three or four Chinese characters, struck in red onto the cover.
 - (i) 4 Characters 9×36 mm. seen from Chamdo; Chayu; Hei Ho; Ralung.
 - (ii) 3 Characters 8×36 mm. seen from Lhasa; Neiwutsi.
- C. A Registry handstamp, in red, was also used direct onto the cover, with the letter R in a small panel on the left of the rectangle 38×16 mm. on one inscribed in red ink Shigatse/Tibet, China; on another 39×16 mm. inscribed Lhasa/Tibet China.
- D. Then followed printed labels, but still a blank space for the filling in the name of the office of issue. Again there are at least two types.
 - (i) 37×13 mm. in deep red. (Phali; Gyantse; Yatung) H/S Numbers.
 - (ii) 40×17 mm. in scarlet. (Lhasa, 11.55). Printed Numbers
- E. What appears to have been a provisional one, a thin piece of white paper, with a vertical panel at left, and two horizontal ones at right. There are Chinese characters in the left and bottom panels, and a red number has been struck on the label. (1957).
- F. Another temporary method is seen on a cover from Yatung, as Type E. but hand-drawn onto the cover. (April 57).

- G. The last one to be received, is the label as Type Di. but the number is part of the label. (i) Red, (ii) Carmine.
- H. Also used, is the large registry receipt, generally stuck on the back of the cover and as often as not missing. There are two different, (a) with the two printed rings for the datestamps horizontal, and (b) with the two rings vertical.

Other Chinese postal marks include :—

Dead Letter Office, Lhasa, described and illustrated in Haverbeck as a Returned letter stamp. My cover from Macau has two strikes, setting off on its journey on 19.10.56, arriving Lhasa 3.12.56. After receiving the two strikes, and the signature of the Lhasa P.M.G. (?), Chio Pat Tsung, it was received back in Macau on 2.1.57.

A letter from Hong Kong (9.3.58) received two large marks, both probably returned letter marks, one 74 × 51mm, in Blue. the other in Red from Lhasa 66 × 27mm. It was received back again at Hong Kong on 17.5.58.

There is also a perforated Returned Label, printed in Chinese and French, from Lhasa. Size of printed border, 36 × 16mm. Toned off white paper.

During September and October 1955, particularly on letters between Lhasa and Kalimpong, there appear three types of small red handstamps, two with 5 Chinese characters each, within a frame 19 × 7mm. and a similar one with 3 characters each 12 × 6mm., this time on letters between Lhasa and Nepal. These are thought to be directional marks. (See plate page 55).

Printed stationery can be found from Tibet. In 1955 a bright green letter sheet (800 vertical Temple of Heaven stamp). In 1956 an envelope with a grey-green horizontal 8 Temple of Heaven; and a similar one in 1960 but in bottle green. The latter sheet also has the communist star, and two children with a banner, all in pink.

CHINESE STAMPS WITH TIBETAN MOTIFS.

There are a few Chinese stamps with Tibetan connections, which add interest to a Tibetan collection.

(a) The four stamps issued to commemorate the Liberation of Tibet, March, 1952. Two designs :—

- (i) The Potala Palace. 400 Red. 800 Claret.
- (ii) Tibetan Yaks ploughing. 800 Green. 1000 Violet.

These were later reprinted by the Chinese Government, but fortunately they added a secret mark to each design. On the first design it consists of a small Chinese character, on the whiter step of the chorten, in the bottom left-hand corner of the design. On the second design, it is in the same position just under the figure of value. The originals can be found used in Tibet but were never plentiful there.

(b) In 1956 three stamps were issued on the opening of the Sikong-Tibet highway and Chinghai-Tibet highways. These illustrate :—

- (i) Convoy of mules and map of highways. 4f. Blue.
- (ii) Bridge over Tatu River. 8f. Brown.
- (iii) Opening ceremony at Lhasa. 8f. Red.

(c) A set named The Rebirth of the Tibetan People was issued in 1961.

These are said to represent :—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| (i) Tibetans rejoicing. | 4f. Brown/Buff. |
| (ii) Tibetan Sower. | 8f. Brown/Turquoise. |
| (iii) Celebrating bumper crop. | 10f. Brown/Yellow. |
| (iv) Responsible Citizens. | 20f. Brown/Red. |
| (v) Tibetan Children. | 30f. Brown/Grey. |

In addition there is the stamp commemorating the wanderings of the communist armies in the early days, when they occasionally crossed over into Tibet.

1957. 8f. Brown. Crossing of the Yangtse River at Yentsing.

And the latest to date, the Tibetan Fiddle Dance, in the Chinese Traditional Dancers set. There may be many facets of this 1950 to the present day period, that are only touched upon, or perhaps missing entirely, but I must confess that this period does not provide the same interest to me as the Postal History of the Independent Tibet of old. Perhaps someone will fill the gaps and cross the "t"s that are not crossed here.



Tibetan Sowing



Tibetans Dancing



The Potala



Yaks

Tibet's First Issue of Postage Stamps, 1912.

Prior to the first stamps, letters were sent by couriers, generally folded within silk scarves and long pieces of native paper. Private messages were often sent on small black slates, which were sprinkled with white chalk. The message was then scratched on the chalk, the slates put in a leather thong, and sent by runners. Should there be a chance of the message falling into the wrong hands, the message could be wiped out.

I have a set of five slates— $8\frac{3}{4} \times 2$ inches—the two outer ones single sided with decorated outer sides. The inner three are double sided, the writing surfaces being inset, so that the message was not rubbed out in transit. There is still a message visible on the slates, which still have their leather thong.

The first hint of a set of postage stamps for Tibet was made by a newspaper correspondent on the 6th June, 1912, "The official in charge of the new postage stamps, has prepared a number of sets of dies (in blocks of 12) and has been busy experimenting with different colours of ink. The stamps will be issued shortly after the arrival of the party in Tibet." (This refers to the return of the exiled Dalai Lama to Tibet, after the Tibetans had taken over from the Chinese).

NATIVE PROOFS.*

The first sheet to be seen was exhibited in London (October, 1912). It was of the $1/6$ tr. value in Violet. The value of the stamps are expressed in trangkas, 1 tr. at this time being worth about sixpence. Later a 1 sang was added which equalled $6\frac{2}{3}$ tr. The central motif was the White Lion of Tibet in colour, surrounded by a circle of colour, and a further circle of white pearls. These in turn were surrounded by the words "Tibet Postage" in English, and Tibetan characters for "Tibetan Government Letter Post" and the value, all in white on a coloured background. A spandrel at each corner, similar to the 1a. Edward VII Indian stamp, completes this compact design.

It was imperforate and printed on ungummed white wove machine made paper. Although described elsewhere as from a metal block, they were assuredly printed from wooden blocks, hand-carved. Later—a further sheet appeared, exactly like the former and also one printed in the same shade on native hand made paper. Both the latter sheets were split. In 1943, at one of Robson Lowe's sales, three more sheets appeared. A $1/6$ tr., purple on wove; $1/3$ rd. tr. in Indigo Black on native paper; and $1/2$ tr. in a Watery Blue on native paper (the values of the latter were wrongly described by the compilers of the sale catalogue and also by Haverbeck). Two further singles of the Watery Blue $1/2$ tr. have been found on native paper. In 1960, amongst Sir Charles Bell's effects, a block of $4 \times 1/6$ tr. Bright Purple on native paper was found.

To date, that is the complete picture of the 1912 proofs—as can be judged—extremely scarce, and much sought after, for not even the splitting of the complete sheets would satisfy everyone.

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GENUINE 1912 and HIGH VALUES



Waterlow Proof.



1 Sang.



"Potsage."



1/6 tr.



2/6 tr.



3/6 tr.



4/6 tr.



1 Trangka.



4 Trangka.

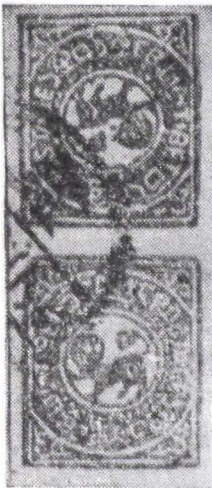


C.P.O.



8 Trangka.

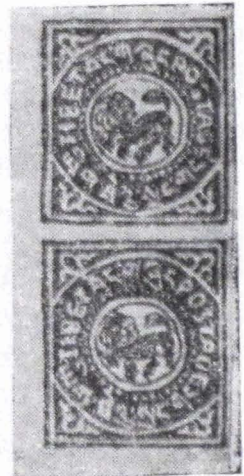
FORGERIES.



Tete-beche.



8 Trangka.



1 Sang.

ESSAY AND DIE PROOFS.*

Not until many years later did a further page of Tibetan Postal History turn up—belonging to this period. Seemingly, when the Dalai Lama had instructed one of his retinue, who were with him in India, to design a stamp—it was sent to Waterlows for them to quote for the production of Tibet's first stamp. The Essay was based on the then current King Edward VII, 1a stamp of India, with the Tibetan Lion in place of the King's head. This is a fine piece of Indian Ink work measuring 41 mm. × 48mm. on a piece of poor quality wove paper 100mm. × 83mm. Fortunate it is, that we still have this unique piece available to us, for it is the only Tibetan Essay known. From this drawing—Waterlows executed some wonderful Die proofs from a single steel engraving.

Various coloured proofs were sent to the Dalai Lama—on different papers, some perforated, some not. We do not know why these were turned down, whether it was because of price—or some more obscure reason, but they were not approved.

Although certain colours of these at one time were quite plentiful the market appears to have absorbed them all. More Blues are known, followed by Yellow, Green, Albino, Yellow Green, Red, Orange and Carmine in the Imperfs. Only one set of perfs is known, in Mauve, Yellow Green (on Cartridge Paper), Deep Blue-Green and again an Albino (all perf. 14). All are of the 1/6 tr. value—the design measuring 23mm. × 19mm.—the overall size of the plate being 100mm. × 63mm. A few of the sheets have parts of the watermark in double-lined letters—Jas. Wrigley and Son Ltd., 202.

THE ISSUED STAMPS.*

It is thought that the stamps were first issued in December 1912, in Lhasa. There were five values issued, all in miniature sheets of 12—three rows of four subjects—in the uniform design of the Proofs. The characters denoting the value of the stamp being those immediately after the English "POSTAGE."

There is little use in plating this issue—for the 12 designs were not, like the later 1933 issue, separate clichés—but were carved from one wooden block. Haverbeck, on page 30 states "Iron blocks"—and on page 39 "Wooden." Bailey saw them and said they were metal, but highly polished wood blocks can look like metal and the finished product suggests wood. They were issued Imperf and with no gum.

The papers on which the stamps were printed varied a great deal—both in thickness and colour. H. R. Holmes gives extracts from 2 books where paper making is described. Certain printings of the stamps are found on a particular paper—for instance the 1/2 tr. Pale Emerald is always found on a Pelure Paper; at the other extreme, there is a thick brown paper confined to one printing of the 2/3 tr. (Brownish-Red).

In exceptional cases the thickness varies in the same sheet. Thus, in spite of one Tibetan Specialist, the late T. F. Mariner, who tried to distinguish various printings by the thickness of the paper—there is little point in collecting paper varieties as such, throughout the values.

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The "inks" used were small tins of Enamel Paint. This was spread on to the wood block, then the paper was placed on the top of the block and rolled. At certain periods, between 1922 and 1932 a Glossy Enamel was occasionally used—obviously, from the results—of little use for stamp production. They are however, much sought after—for though two of the values are seen quite commonly used (the 1/6 tr. and 2/3 tr.), they are scarce mint, and in complete sheets—rare.

There is of course, as with all Tibetan Postal History—no records of the various printings and it has been a fascinating study trying to obtain evidence in order to date the various shades.

In use from 1912–1933, the 5 stamps have many shades between them—varying according to how much each value was used. The fact that the colours were all "fast"—excludes normal exposure changes.

Double prints of all values occur—more in the nature of Kiss Prints, due to the method of hand printing. Variations are also found caused by paper folds and creases, and though interesting are hardly of sufficient philatelic importance to be separately listed. At least two of the original plates were in existence when the Tibetan Trade Mission visited Europe and America in 1948—they brought stamps of this issue and presented them to interested people. Then too, certain additional printings appear to have been made around 1950 of the 1/3 and 2/3 tr. values.

It was about this period too that a higher value in the same design was issued. The controversial 1 sang, which unlike other Tibetan stamps has dropped in value from £40 to 40/-. But more about that later as well as the fact that two values (1/6 tr. and 1/2 tr.) were later found Pin Perf. from the mid-1920 period.

Let us now take each of the five 1912 values in order of face value.

THE 1/6 TRANGKA GREEN.

This value—the humblest—with a face value in 1912 of about one penny—was the original rate for an unregistered local letter. Although the postal charges were supposed to be founded on a "distance travelled and weight of letter combination"—in practice it wasn't strictly adhered to. In fact, many letters were still sent without stamps—as "a small present to the postman more often got a letter through than the stamp itself" (from McGovern's "To Lhasa in Disguise"). The commonest value found on covers—there is a very fine range of shades to be made, which fall into three rough groups. The early brighter shades, the glossy prints, the dull shades.

The first shades were Bright Green and Green—these are the shades generally found in the complete sets on one cover. More of this issue were used during 1912–15 in this way than any other period—due to the activities of W. T. Wilson (the Birmingham dealer) and other like philatelic minds who wanted a cover from the romantic Forbidden City on the Roof of the World. Owing to this demand—two more printings of Blue-Green and Deep Green quickly followed—and all these shades were generally distributed up to 1916. One fine registered commercial cover exists with a complete sheet of the 1/6 tr., Blue-Green, in two blocks of 6 with fine Registered Shigatse Hand-stamp. A total of 2 tr., which for a pre-1920 cover, was a high rate of postage.

The Emerald group also belong to the pre 1920 period. One notable printing of this early period is the Pale Emerald shade which is always accompanied by a thin pelure paper—one of the scarcer of the 1920 shades, especially on cover or in complete sheets. This has only been seen used from Gyantse and Lhasa and may not have been generally distributed.

Still more noticeable—is the very rare Turquoise Green—only one cover from Lhasa having been seen—and a few mint copies probably in use circa 1918.

From 1920 the Dull Grey-Greens took over with some very flat prints. One fine canvas piece contains a complete sheet of the Dull Green plus a single of the 1/3 tr. Bright Blue all with Lhasa type 3 cancellation. Again, a high franking power of 2½ tr., though in this case the canvas was part of a parcel. Another fine registered cover with a 1/6 tr. Dull Green is cancelled with Lhasa type V—and backstamped with Lhasa registration handstamp Type IIa dated Gyantse 8.6.1920. This is addressed:—

“To the Footstool of the excellent C. A. Bell. C.M.G., C.I.E., Minister and Administrator in Sikkim, who is exalted by the Glory of the 100 perfect accomplishments. This shirt letter is submitted by the humble Rai Sahib Palhese.”

This honorific address, from a Tibetan of one of the highest of the noble families, is indeed a great compliment to Sir Charles Bell, an Englishman. The “Shirt” letter we generally call a “Scarf” letter—the cover paper that covered the silk scarf which contained the letter and of a comparative size to 15 inches × 4 inches.

A local letter from the British Trade Agency at Yatung, bears a pair of ½a. George V. Service stamps (28.5.23), and is addressed to Tsarong Shaphe c/o Gyantse, where it was backstamped 31.5.23. It was then transferred to the Tibetan P.O. where a Dull Yellow-Green was put on and cancelled with type I and dated in red ink. This cover also bears a strike of the large round rubber stamp British Trade Agency/Gyantse, Tibet.

The Shiny Prints.

The next group of 1/6 trs. are the shiny prints, beginning with the Olive-Greens, earliest recorded date that I have seen 14.4.1922—from Gyantse. They were sent to most post offices for they are to be found used at Phari, Gyantse, Lhasa and Shigatse. Then came the shiny Bright Yellow Greens. Occasionally one finds a Dull Yellow-Green used during this period but whether this is a case of a poor shiny impression, or old stock from the Dull Green period it is difficult to say. Then followed the rare shiny Bottle Green, and it is doubtful if more than one mint sheet of this has survived. I have only seen this used from Lhasa. It must have been a very small printing in 1925.

There is a distinctive new shiny Apple Green, (again only one complete sheet recorded). The sheet has a Bright Lake ink smudge in the sheet margin, ink used for a printing of the 2/3 tr. value during 1928–9.

One fine piece of this period is part of a canvas cover, insured for 1,000 Rupees, with a complete sheet of the shiny 1/6 tr. Olive-Green together with a half sheet of the shiny 2/3 tr. Lake. Another sheet of the 1/6 tr. deep Olive-Green—heavily smudged, was cut into three pieces—a block of six, a block of 4

and a bottom right hand corner pair, all used on canvas from Lhasa. I have brought together the 2 larger pieces on to one album page—and am now on the look out for the pair of the 11th and 12th stamps.

I have yet to find a 1/6 tr. shiny enamel used after 1930. There are some good kiss (double) prints of the shinies—and one mint Olive-Green Stamp has a very clear offset of the 1 tr. value Orange-Vermilion on its reverse side. The 1/6 tr. shinies—although fairly common used—are scarcer mint—and scarcer still in sheet form.

The periods when most 1/6 trs. were used were 1912 to 1915 and 1925 to 1929. I have not seen a dated cover with a 1/6 tr. between 1917–19 inclusive.

1/3rd TRANGKA BLUE.

In this value there is less variety of shades than in the first value. This is understandable for its use was very restricted—generally being found in pairs making the 2/3 tr. registered rate.

The majority are found in the philatelically used sets of 1912. Peculiarly—most of the dated commercially used covers are from the 1917–1920 period—a period when there are less dated covers of other values than any other time, in fact I've not seen a dated cover other than the 1/3 tr. used in the years 1918–1919. This to some extent may be coincidence—but unless we Tibetan Collectors record such items we shall not be able to tabulate this type of information. Very few are known after 1920, so a good deal of guesswork (intelligent I hope) is the rule regarding the sequence of printings.

The first printings were a clearly printed blue, followed by a blotchier bright blue. Then a very bright ultramarine keeps appearing, generally on philatelic covers. One commercial cover with this shade is from Lhasa sent by Phalatse (bearing his square seal). The stamp however, was not put on the cover until Gyantse was reached, receiving the black backstamps of Chushu, Pelti and Nangartse en route. The translation reads :- “Please forward the enclosed quickly to Bell Sahib, Chi-kyah Lon-chen in Sikkim, through the Chang-Lo office at Gyantse. Sent by a son of the Pahla family on the first day of the fourth month, an auspicious date.”

Many Tibetans would not send a letter unless they had been assured that it certainly was an “auspicious date.”

Phalatse was of noble birth, a member of one of the highest families in Tibet, and was Sir Charles Bell's Tutor in the Tibetan language. They became devoted friends, Phalatse visiting this country at Sir Charles Bell's invitation.

Dull or Milky Blue printings followed. One mid-1920 cover has a pair printed on paper as thin as tissue. So clear in fact—that the postmaster at Lhasa gummed the wrong side—and stuck them face down on the cover—with the design showing in reverse—so that instead of the usual philatelic variety :- ‘Stamp printed on gummed side of paper’—we have:—
‘Stamp gummed on printed side of paper.’

There are also two dark shades of blue—one of them an Indigo shade which is hard to find used on cover. One of the darks is found on a cover from the head of the Mohammedan community of Lhasa (with his seal) “To the feet of the most learned, the great Trade Agent McDonald.”

Used multiples other than pairs are rarely seen. I have only seen four strips of 3; four blocks of 4; and a grand block of 10 off a parcel with Lhasa type VI cancellation.

So little was this value used, that the smaller post offices probably retained their first deliveries for many years. A commercial cover from Phari—dated 1928 had a Bright Blue, one of the earliest printings.

Most of the Dalai Lama letters are franked with either one or two of this value. A 1915 cover has an irregular strip of 3 Dull Blue—again from Phalatse. I have come across a pair, a strip of three, and a single on cover from Chushu, of a deep bright blue with a shiny appearance. The first time I came across this I dismissed it as an over-inked specimen. Having come across the other specimens, it may well have been a separate shiny printing.

Of the next stamp, there is no doubt of its status as a shiny printing, nor that it is a very rare and desirable item, many times more rare than the I sang, only 3 complete sheets having been recorded. I refer to the 1/3 tr. Shinions in two slight shades of Cobalt. The ink used was totally unsuitable for fine printing—most of them are just recognizable as Tibetan Stamps—they are only known used from Lhasa. Multiples—mint or used—are real rarities and it will be surprising if any further sheets turn up, as they did of the I sang. No dated cover is known—probably about 1932—just before the change over to the 1933 design.

A final printing is a non-shiny Dull Grey-Blue—known with the 1940 type Lhasa cancellation. I fancy they were of the 1950 period and are very flat and unattractive. This ink is similar to the 4 tr. late printings—or reprints, and it may be in the same class, for they are found in complete sheets, cancelled to order. One such was described as possibly unique in the Adgey Edgar sale, but there are quite a few about, and often on a brownish paper, with silky appearance.

1/2 TRANGKA VIOLET.

This value is the scarcest of the four low values prior to 1928, used on commercial covers. There seems to have been little use for it, and smaller printings (after the 1914–16 period) were made of each shade, but of which there are more printings than either the 1/3 or 2/3 trs.

The first recorded are the Violets, (including a very deep shade) followed closely by the Lilacs and Purples. As I have recorded only ONE dated cover between 1915–1929, it can be realised how little can the shade sequence be recorded accurately. Certain cancellations, correspondents personal seals, and their use with known shades of other values that can be dated, are the only clues.

The use of this value appears to be nearly exclusive to the two periods 1912–15 and 1928–33.


The shiny prints belong to the latter period, when more dated copies are to be found around 1930 than any other period. The majority are found on covers to Nepal through India. The depth of shininess varies considerably—and in some cases almost negative—only the shade identifying them with this period. The Reddish-Purples—the first of this group—vary considerably

from poor to ordinary shininess. The Dull Purple is excessively shiny—a beautiful shade—and so indeed is the Bright Purple. The design in the Claret-Purple, and also the Slate-Purple, is only just perceptible. These in sheet form make a wonderful display compared with the Violet and Lilacs, but they are practically non-existent.

There is one shade of the Reddish-Purple on cover which looks fluorescent.

One interesting cover was sent from Lhasa with a shiny Slate-Purple stamp, and bears the cancellation of Gyantse, 6th June, 1933. In addition it has two impressions of the Nangartse type VIII—which is an extremely early date for this, and no doubt the earliest recorded.

Another 1/2 tr. in Reddish-Purple is on a scarf cover, cancelled with Nangartse type I (rare cancelling stamps), and hand-dated 11th. hour, 29th. day, 7th. month—but no year.

Yet another beautiful cover has a very shiny Dull Purple stamp from Lhasa, backstamped with type IIb of the small Lhasa Registration handstamp. The address is in a very neat educated hand in Black and the written Registration mark is in a Bright Blue Ink contained in a square surround as compared with the usual ogee arch and surround. ( = ogee arch)

A combination cover is franked by a 1/2 tr. non-shiny Purple and 1/3 tr. Bright Blue cancelled with the earliest recorded Lhasa type VI. It also received the Lhasa Registration type I—and is sealed with the usual five personal seals of the sender. It was backstamped at Nangartse on the way to Gyantse, where it was transferred to the British Post Office on the 21st June, 1917—a very scarce period for dated covers. The Gyantse cancellation type B.1 cancelled 3 × 1A George V Indian stamps, and it also received the scarce fancy lettered registration handstamp type GC in Violet on type B.R.2. registration label.

I have two commercially used complete sheets off parcels, from Adgey-Edgar's Sale (Oct. 1962). The first a lovely bright shade of the rare Reddish-Purple printing, cancelled with Lhasa type VII from the 1928 period. The second an earlier Dull Violet, of equal rarity, this time cancelled with Lhasa type II, of the pre-1920 period. A block of ten commercially used with Lhasa type VI came from the Schrader collection in Violet, as well as a block of four in Lilac, cancelled Lhasa type IV. From the same source came a lovely shiny Dull Purple sheet, the only one seen; this was a gift from the Dalai Lama. Another sheet is a deep Reddish-Purple. Both are cancelled to order.

2/3 TRANGKA CARMINE.

This value was the most used of all values after the 1/6 tr.—being the normal registration rate for a letter to India. It has attracted more attention than the other values—because it contains a variety sufficiently interesting to be catalogued by the general catalogues. The two middle stamps of the sheet of 12—the 6th and 7th positions—both have the mis-spelling POTSAGE for postage—thus a block of four of this value cannot exist without a POTSAGE error. This was never corrected during the forty odd years the stamps were being printed.

There is another variety which occurs on many sheets—in various stages—but it is doubtful whether it is a plate variety—because it is not constant. It concerns the letter P of Postage on the 12th stamp of the sheet. Holmes describes it as “being caused by wear. In the later printings the P of Postage became worn and damaged,” so that it appears as an “E” or “P” dot. Unfortunately it isn’t quite as simple as that—for the very latest reprint sheets of 1950 are perfect. In the following listing of shades, I have mentioned the stage in which one finds the 12th stamp where it is found other than normal (E or P dot). One thing to bear in mind which Smythies forgot in placing some of his 1933 settings, is that printing flaws can get progressively better if that flaw has been caused by grease. A Tibetan hair falling from the Postmaster’s printer on to the printing plate has been known to make a white line across the finished sheet of stamps—not as one would have thought a coloured one. This variety, may have been caused by a coincidental grease spot together with a cut in the printing block which later became filled in and printed normally. There is little chance that the fault was intentionally corrected, whilst the “Potsage” errors remained unaltered during the plates lifetime.

The first printings were in Rose-Carmine and a Carmine-Rose—the former being a deeper colour than the latter and has a P dot. A Carmine shade has a P dot. A used $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet of Rose-Carmine has P dot, as well as two singles.

The Brown-Reds and Deep Scarlets were the next to appear very shortly after the Carmines—and are generally found on a brownish paper. Here I have three varieties of the P—“normal” (very heavily printed), P dot and the full “E” for P both in clear printings. More sheets of these two shades exist than all other printings put together—again because the largest printings of these stamps were made in 1912–15 to supply Mr. Wilson’s demand. Then during the 1915–1924 period, the Great War and its aftermath put Tibetan Philately out of the minds of most people—indeed it was not revived until Stanley Gibbons offered complete sets of the new issue of 1933 on cover. (5/- per cover—and nearly all the original perfs!!).

The Dull Carmine-Lakes followed—scarce because they were of the War years. They have Normal and P dot. One dated copy 1923.

The Salmon-Carmines have P dot and these are found both in a flat ink and also in a different shiny ink (late 1923).

The next shinies were a reversion back to the Carmine-Rose—including a bluish tinged shade sometimes referred to as Magenta-Pink. A complete sheet of the former used on canvas piece from Lhasa has “E” for P on the 12th stamp.

The shiny Lakes are a lovely rich colour belonging to the 1928–30 period. They can be classified into Dull Lake, Lake, Bright Lake and Deep Lake. Latter two “P dots.” Allied to these is what may well be a unique sheet of a peculiar Purplish-Lake—with no trace of shininess at all. One of these on cover could at first glance be taken for $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Purple shade.

The Rose-Pinks, flat printing again, belong to the 1930s; the Carmine-Pinks—no trace of a P variety—in the same colour as the 8 tr. reprints, belong to the 1950 strain. The latter shade being found in complete used sheets with Lhasa single lined cancellation of the same period.

One fine scarf cover—with a shiny Bright Lake was sent by Timon—a member of the Dalai Lama's Cabinet—to an official at Phari. The Phari fret cancellation was hand dated, and the year was inscribed on the cover—the "Earth Dragon" year, corresponding to our 1928. The Tibetans have a 60 year cycle, linking the elements:—Wood, Fire, Earth, Iron and Water with twelve creatures thus:—

Earth Snake	1929.	Fire Mouse	1936.
Iron Horse	1930.	Fire Ox.	1937.
Iron Sheep	1931.	Earth Tiger	1938.
Water Ape	1932.	Earth Hare	1939.
Water Bird	1933.	Iron Dragon	1940.
Wood Dog	1934.	Iron Snake	1941.
Wood Hog	1935.	Water Horse	1942.

until the 60th year, when the sequence starts again.

Another Scarf Cover has a shiny Rose-Carmine from Lhasa—again from one of the Cabinet Ministers—with the Gyantse backstamp of 14th April, 1925.

A 2/3 tr. Salmon shiny with Phari cancellation is dated "Wood Mouse"—our 1924. Another has a block of four shiny Salmon-Pinks with two POTSAGE errors used from Lhasa and backstamped Gyantse in black shoe-polish.

I TRANGKA.

Holmes gives exactly one line for describing this, the highest value of the 1912 series—just that it exists in two shades, Vermilion and Orange-Vermilion. Yet since his book was published—further discoveries have made it a most interesting value for study.

Here again any used dated covers are rarities—commercial covers being as scarce as the 1 sang on cover. So far I have only seen 1912–1914 philatelic covers—commercial covers used during 1924–6 and a shiny print in 1932. Thus the chronological order of the shades cannot be determined with certainty but I believe it to be as follows:—

The Vermilion and Orange-Reds were the original printings which, owing to their little use lasted until about 1925.

These were followed by the Dull Vermilions, known used in 1924–5 and the Brownish-Vermilions are known used in 1925–9.

One much travelled registered cover—was sent from Lhasa—with 1 tr. Vermilion—to Yatung. On the way, it received two pairs of the 1 anna Rose Service George V—cancelled Gyantse—and then backstamped at Yatung 7th September 25. It was then returned to Phari—and re-addressed once more to Bhulat via Yatung. This was one of the Bailey covers, and he thinks the Bhulat a mistake for Bhutan.

Another, Orange-Red this time, was used with a 2/3 tr. and a 1/3 tr.—all cancelled Lhasa type VI, on a cover dated at Gyantse 12th August 24.

Three covers seen have had the peculiar combination of a 1 tr. and a 1/6 tr. all being large registered covers of the mid 1920's.

Used multiples of this value are very rare indeed, and nearly all the commercial items seen, were from one source. Six blocks of four, and a block of six, all off parcels and cancelled with Lhasa type VI, valuable acquisitions indeed. One unique piece is a block of four in a Blush Pink, the unusual ink that was used for one printing of the 8 tr. mentioned later. This is an outstanding colour, with a fluorescent appearance.

Finally, we get a major variety—the value printed in the colours of the 2/3 tr. I first noted this when I found a used block of four of a Rose-Carmine stamp. Looking for the Potsage error—which is always found on one stamp at least of a 2/3 tr. block of four—and not finding one, I thought this to be a forgery until I noticed the distinctive bottle like character of the 1 tr. This set up a real search amongst the Tibetan stockists, (there were a few in those days). A few singles and pairs, a strip of 3—but no further blocks. H. W. R. Clarke was amazed when I pointed out two odds in his collection, amongst his 2/3 trs. Since then two or three sheets have turned up—but they are extremely rare in sheet form. All are scarce to whichever of the printings they belong—the Salmons, Rose-Carmine, or Carmine-Reds, one of the latter being extremely dark.

All these colours belong to the Shiny printings of the early 1930's—though one of the Salmon shades is only just perceptibly shiny.

It is interesting to record that one large piece with a 1 tr. Rose-Carmine, also has a Lhasa Registration handstamp type IIa—a late use for the latter.

This value used outside Lhasa is seldom seen.

The Rose-Carmine is the colour of the stamp claimed to be a “bisected 1 tr.” It certainly is cut in half—and tied—and commercially used (29th February, 1932)—but it is doubtful if there was any intent for it to be a bisect in the philatelic meaning. It is more than likely that 1 tr. was paid to the postmaster—an unpaid servant of the Government—and that another 1 tr. was paid by someone else for the other 1/2 for another cover, thus giving the postmaster a 1 tr. profit!

H. E. Richardson, who has spent much of his life in Tibet, suggests that the 1912 plates were destroyed in 1950—but “not before a number of sheets had been printed from them.” (Presumably for the above mentioned Trade Delegation, to give out to those interested).

THE 1912 PERFORATIONS.

Many years ago I found a 1912 1/2 tr. perforated, and as Stanley Gibbons catalogued it not, I put it amongst my curios and forgot about it. Little did I realize that I was to find twenty years later a few covers amongst a correspondence with some pin perf. 1912's tied on cover—and obviously commercially used in the 1920 period. There is no question of any philatelic influence being brought to bear on the senders. They appear to be a genuine experiment by the Master of the Mint (Tsarong Shaphe) to make it easier to separate the stamps on the sheet. Shortly after, when the 1933 stamps were issued—the experiments were used to a larger degree by the Postmaster—quite probably on the instructions of Tsarong Shaphe.

The covers to hand are as follows :—

1. A large cover—bearing the crest of the Tsarong family on the envelope flap—on which is an unsevered pair of the 3rd and 4th stamps on the sheet—of the 1/6 tr. Grey-Green. The perforations are only between the stamps—therefore the top and right hand side of the pair are not perf.—but the other two sides—and the space between the two stamps are clearly perforated. This was on a cover from Lhasa, with Tsarong Shaphe's handwriting.
- 2 & 3. Two similar covers to the above—but in each case one stamp of an original pair has been taken off after postmarking—but quite probably this was done in Lhasa.
4. A cover with 1/6 tr. Blue-Green from Gyantse.
5. A cover with 1/6 tr. Blue-Green and 1/2 tr. Violet—both perforated—from Gyantse. It is obvious, due to matching perf. irregularities, that the 1/6 trs. on covers 4 and 5 were at one time adjoining stamps on the sheet. Both these are addressed in Mary Tsarong's hand-writing.

It is doubtful whether the exact status of these perms. will ever be worked out—but whether they be “trial” or “private”—they are obviously the remnants of an interesting experiment. They were issued for postage, and made by the “Master of the Mint”—an experiment which was followed by the issuing of similar pin-perfs stamps when the next issue was placed on sale.

There is another 1/6 tr. Grey-Green pair on piece which is genuine—and this proves more than one sheet of this shade was perforated, for they are the 3rd and 7th stamps of another sheet. Three further single stamps have been found in addition to the covers, though it would be a difficult matter to expertise odd stamps.

1/6 tr. Blue-Green, tied on piece with Lhasa type VII.

1/6 tr. Emerald, tied on piece with Lhasa type III.
(ex. H. W. R. Clark's collection).

1/2 tr. Violet, with Phari Postmaster's Seal used as cancellor.

ARROW LETTER

A very recent addition to my collection is a fine Arrow Letter—a large piece of fine red cloth 4ft × 2ft sewn at one end onto a symbolical bamboo arrow. Eight lines of Tibetan characters, the full width of the flag, is a message to the headmen between Yatung and Lhasa - that they must give every facility to the bearer, so that he may go swiftly and directly (as the arrow flies) to his destination. This has been endorsed by a dozen such headmen and has also two black seals. Col. Bailey has only seen one other (on a yellow cloth) but this was seemingly lost.

CHAPTER SEVEN

1 SANG—1912 TYPE BUT ISSUED 1950

When the 1933 stamps were issued—it was never thought that a reversal back to the 1912 design would be made—and yet that is what happened. From 1950 a further value was to be found more and more—a 1 Sang Green, which had a face value of 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ tr. Why, is a mystery, and like many other Tibetan mysteries—I doubt will be solved. Was it a reversal to the 1912 type?—Or was the plate engraved many years earlier, lost, and found, and brought into service again about 1950? It was never contemporary with the other 5 values. And why a 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ tr. stamp when there was already a 4 tr. and 8 tr. from 1914–1920 period? The latter plates were still in use as witness the 1950 reprints of these two values.

The most unsavoury part of this 1 Sang mystery—is the way it appeared onto the philatelic market. In 1952 Mr. Theo Klewitz received two used green stamps in a lot from Kalimpong, which he put with his 1/6 tr. He then noticed a difference and sent them to Haverbeck—who thought they were forgeries of the 1/6 tr. Then towards the end of 1952—two mint sheets of 12 found their way to America, and Haverbeck obtained one of these sheets. He immediately contacted Klewitz, and told him he thought his two stamps classed as forgeries, were in fact 1 Sang—which they proved to be, together with a further mint single—and a little later a further sheet. So far, so good—but now, tall stories became rampant. They were found, it was stated, “by a High Official in Western Tibet, i.e.:—the forbidden part, only 6 sheets were found—two went to U.S.A., one to Germany, and three remained in Tibet, which owing to the political situation were no longer obtainable—and no further copies exist.” Since then over 100 copies have passed through my hands. I have never paid over 30/- for any of my 1 Sang stamps either on cover—in mint sheet—or genuine used. I was offered the mint single for £40 in 1954—which I refused, for I did not accept the story of their discovery. They were first sent to a Mr. Cummings, who was also the first recipient of the so-called ‘Officials.’ In 1956 a genuine sheet was advertised at 450 dollars and 100 dollars for four sheets of the 1 sang forgeries.

What is my explanation? I believe the block to have been made in Lhasa around 1950. I doubt it was made officially in the first instance, but that it did finally get into the hands of the Lhasa Post Office cannot be denied. Official or not—the first few sheets were quickly augmented, and it was generally distributed to the Post Offices—certainly Shigatse, Lhasa, Gyantse and Phari.

No record of use earlier than 1950 has come to light. In spite of Haverbeck’s appeal for collectors to search their collections for 1 Sings, none was found. As I’ve explained in the chapter on Cancellations, use of an old type does not date a cover alone, for it may have been placed on a cover long after its normal use, the old cancelling dies not having been destroyed.

In Adgey-Edgar's Sale (1926) there were two or three covers bearing 1 Sangs. These were dated covers between Nepal and Tibet, and vice versa, but I'm quite sure the genuine 1 Sang and the genuine Lhasa cancellation were added to the cover at a much later date in Lhasa. My own example is dated 12.1.1929, but the date of the additions, around 1950.

Just to put the records straight, the lot described by Robson Lowe's in their catalogue sale (Sept. 1956), as "pair of 1 Sangs on Dalai Lama cover," were indeed the 1/6 trs.

Another conjecture follows from rather a peculiar thing that I have noticed. The vast majority of covers are from Gurkhas in Tibet. Was the 1 Sang rate connected with this fact? Did the plate originate from the Nepalese in Lhasa in the first instance, and was then transferred to the Lhasa Post Office. Many of the Tibetan forgeries have been traced to Nepalese sources.

It has been suggested that it was a postal forgery made by the Nepalese to defraud the Tibet P.O., but I do not subscribe to this view at all.

I can only suggest that someone has tried to take us all for a very long ride, on the back of a broad Tibetan Yak. That this and other stories are not believed by all America (the home of the Tallest Stories), is shown by an article by Stanley Radowski and Armand Singer in the Weekly Philatelic Gossip of 20.9.1958, on matters about which I hinted in Gibbons Stamp Monthly of February 1956.

From the Tibetan side, the producers of the stamp have done no wrong—merely supplied a demand—for I doubt there would be any criminal law against the making of special stamps in Tibet as long as the Government did not suffer. The way the 1 Sangs increased with such alarming alacrity naturally brought down the price—which meant that some innocent people did get their fingers burnt. Such goings on are always worrying and were unheard of in Tibetan Philately until the 1950 era.

Of the stamps themselves, there have been at least four printings distinguishable by shade. The Light and Dark Grey-Greens; a Blue-Green; a Dull Emerald Green.

The difference in the characters between the 1 Sang and the 1/6 tr. are illustrated. They are worth learning—for as recently as 1964 one lot, in a world-renowned collection, was described in the Auction Catalogue as a 1/6 tr. There are 4 characters (the first a double one) denoting the value of the 1 sang, whereas the 1/6tr. has only three.

1/6tr. ཁ་གཅ ກ ກ 1 Sang འ ກ ກ ກ

Many are found with the Telegraphic wavy lines cancellation, in either Black or Violet, but whether that points to a definite use for the 1 Sang is not known.

One fine 1 Sang cover from Gyantse, also has a 1956 printing of the ¼ tr. value, all nicely tied, and yet not philatelic.

CHAPTER EIGHT

1914-20. 4 and 8 Trankas.*

We know to within six months the date of issue of Tibet's first stamps. We only know to within six years of the date of issue of the second type—composing of the 4 and 8 trs.—two much higher values. They were first reported by H. R. Holmes in the *Philatelic Journal of G.B.* for April, 1942. Little wonder there is some doubt as to when they were issued. None have come to light on covers earlier than the 1924 period—and but for Col. Bailey, they may not have been discovered as early as they were. Practically all existing original printings are due to Col. Bailey's foresight in putting one or two sheets aside, and using a few on letters to his wife and friends.

Once announced—there were not sufficient to meet the demand—and by the time 1950 had reached they were off the market altogether. Then a few single copies, both mint and used trickled out, and one or two sheets appeared, but in different shades to the first printings. Around 1952—the flood came of “Governmental Reprints”—one dealer boasting that he had “gotten over 100 sheets of each value.” These, by the way, came along just after a report in the “Golden Carp” of “the Official defacement of 5 out of the 6 blocks in each plate, and that they were under seal in the Government Archives.” Was this timing a coincidence? Fortunately, the washed out colourings of these reprints are recognisable—and the covers are very philatelic looking.

Owing to the larger size (29–30mm square) they were in sheets of only 6 subjects, carved from one piece of wood. The main motif is once more the White Lion of Tibet—and it is white against a coloured background, in contrast to the first issue. Two circles surround the lion—the outer one bearing the Tibetan characters for “Tibetan Government Postage” and the value, and in the lower segment, the words in English “Tibetan Postage.” The spandrels at the corners differ in the two values—a point that helps to identify the forgeries. The small rays from the rings point inwards on the 4 tr. and outwards to the corner in the 8 tr.

4 TRANGKAS.

According to a letter (31.8.37) written by a Mr. W. P. Rosemeyer (In charge of the British P.O.'s and Mail carrying between Gyantse and India) “these were printed long ago for parcels and telegrams, but not much used. According to the old rate of exchange they would be 1 Rupee each—but now they are only $\frac{1}{2}$ of a rupee.”

Whatever the date—the first 4 tr. printing is quite distinguishable by its brightness of colour—a Deep Bright Blue—of which only three complete mint sheets are known to have survived. More single copies are known used on cover than any other way.

Illustration p. 63

The second printing is an insipid Grey-Blue generally on a well toned paper. The dullness separates it from the Pale Milky Blues of the 1950 reprints.

The Indigos were next—from Bright to Dark—and all shiny enamels. The majority of these to be found are commercially used singles.

The third printing—a Dark Blue well printed.

The final printings—are the Pale Milky Blues, reprinted because of the incessant demand for the originals that were not available. These pale printings are found in mint or used complete sheets—or on entires with Phari or Lhasa cancellations.

The only known 4 tr. variety is a complete double print—a good $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. shift to the west side—from the 2nd printing.

8 TRANGKAS.

The first printings again are very distinctive in colour—a Vermilion of which only three complete sheets again have survived, only one or two mint singles, probably half a dozen on covers.

Unlike the 4 tr. there wasn't another printing until the Shiny prints, but we have three distinctive shades of these—Lake-Carmine, Carmine-Red, and Rose-Carmine. The only known sheet being Carmine-Red.

A further flat printing was made in Carmine-Pink and a mysterious startling shade of Blush Pink—quite unlike any other colour in the Tibetan range. I have seen only three copies of this distinctive shade, all commercially used. It is the same colour as the recently found block of four Itr., having a fluorescent look in daylight.

The final reprints were Rose-Pink, again found in cancelled to order sheets and covers. There are similar covers of both the normal second (one from Phari 29.12.50), and third printings as well as these reprints, the cancellations generally being Lhasa types IV and VIII.

Few commercially used copies exist of this value, fewer than the 4 tr., and when found are usually Lhasa types VI or VII.

The doubly-printed variety also exists in this value in Carmine-Pink with a $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. shift to the north of the whole design.

There is an 8 tr. with large clean cut perfs. These are mentioned in the 1950 perfs. section. They are not genuine Tibetan perfs. and were probably manufactured by a member of the Nepalese Legation at Lhasa.

QUANTITIES ISSUED.

There are no figures of quantities issued of any Tibetan native stamp. They were printed haphazardly at the whim of the Lhasa P.M.G. as necessity arose. The only way to hazard a guess, is for all Tibetan collectors to make an inventory of their own material. This information could then be pooled, and the relative scarcity found out.

STATISTICS.

Of the total number of 1912-14 types in my collection,

24%	are	1/6 tr.	of which	1/3rd	are	shiny prints
14%	are	1/3 tr.	„ „	1/7th	„ „	„
17%	„	1/2 tr.	„ „	1/3rd	„ „	„
24%	„	2/3 tr.	„ „	1/3rd	„ „	„
13%	„	1 tr.	„ „	1/8th	„ „	„
2%	„	4 tr.	„ „	1/4th	„ „	„
3%	„	8 tr.	„ „	1/4th	„ „	„
3%	„	1 s.	„ „	—	„ „	„

It must not be forgotten, that to find sufficient material for study, there is a larger percentage of the scarcer items than the commoner ones. An attempt has been made to judge scarcity value in the check listings. Two further tables do show the scarcity of multiples on cover, and the percentage of different values found on Commercial Covers.

The incidence of Commercial Covers is as follows:—

40% - 1/6 tr. 15% - 1/3 tr. 8% - 1/2 tr. 35% - 2/3 tr. 2% - 1 tr.

Included in the above are the following combinations of values used together :—

Seven covers with 1/6 tr. and 1/2 tr.

Three covers each with (a) 1/6 tr. and 2/3 tr. (b) 1/6 tr. and 1 tr.

Two covers with two 1/6 tr. and 1 tr.

One cover each (a) 1/3 tr. 2/3 tr. and a 1 tr. (b) Twelve 1/6 tr. and six 2/3 tr.

(c) Two 1/6 tr. and 1/3 tr. (d) Twelve 1/6 tr. and 1/3 tr.

(e) Four 1/3 tr. and 1/6 tr. (f) Four 1/3 tr. and 2/3 tr.

In addition there are the philatelically used covers with complete sets. These have done postal duty, but don't represent any particular rate of postage, which the others may.

Commercially used multiples of covers include:—

Value	Number of stamps						
	Pairs	Threes	Fours	Fives	1/2 Sheet	Tens	Full Sheets
1/6 tr. ..	7	2	10	3	3	—	3
2/6 tr. ..	11	4	4	—	—	1	—
3/6 tr. ..	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
4/6 tr. ..	5	1	3	—	2	—	1
1 tr. ..	3	1	7	—	1	—	—

The above do not include the cancelled to order items.

Tibet never became a member of the U.P.U., so that her stamps were only valid within her own country. Thus combination covers were the rule when mail was sent out of the country. This was also true of the first (1910) Chinese occupation, and the first few years of the second.

Mail was transferred from the Tibetan P.O.'s to the British (or Indian) P.O.'s at either Gyantse or Yatung. Phari was generally used on the inward journey. With Chinese stamps in general use throughout Tibet there is no longer the necessity for Tibetan stamps, though one would have thought that the Chinese might have used special stamps for propaganda purposes, similar to the various issues from the Antarctica.

CHAPTER NINE

1933 Issue.

In June 1934—Gibbons Stamp Monthly reported a new issue of Tibetan Stamps that had been issued a year earlier—probably on May 1st 1933. I have some covers posted to Col. Bailey in Kashmir to show him the new stamps (all perforated) and they are dated August 23rd—but no year. Whether these were sent on issue (May 1933) or were three months late (August 1933) we have not yet been able to prove—but no first day covers are known to exist.

The first issue had been in general use for twenty years, during which time the postal rates had been increased—and it was probably in view of this that a new issue was decided upon. One wonders why the 1914 4 and 8 tr. were dismissed too—for the 1933 4 tr. became the most used stamp of all. Maybe it was for the same reason that our own postal clerks do not like the accounting of present day double sized commemoratives, for the new issue was once more of twelve stamps to the sheet, against the six of the 1912 4 and 8 tr. Maybe it was that the original white lion of Tibet was in the colour of the stamp—and the Tibetans wished their white lion to be white on a coloured background!

The old values of 1/6 tr. 1/3 tr. 1/2 tr. 2/3 tr. and 1 tr. now became:—1/2tr. 2/3tr. 1tr. 2tr. and 4tr.—the 2 lower values being dropped, with the addition of the 2 and 4 tr. The 1/6 tr. letter rate became 1/2 tr. and very soon it jumped again to 2 tr.—the registered letters went from 2/3 tr. to 2 tr. and later to 4 tr. So far—the details of the new stamps—five values—12 stamps to the sheet—three horizontal rows of four—followed the pattern of the first issue. Both the design (approx. 22mm. square without the frame line), and the printing plates, however, differed substantially.

The central motif is the white lion in a square with certain squiggles above and below the lion. The top and bottom horizontal panels run the length of the stamp and two small side panels fill the square, which should be surrounded (found in various stages of completeness) by two coloured frame lines.

The top panel has eight Tibetan characters which translated mean “Tibetan Government Postage.” The bottom panel has “TIBET” between two scrolls—and the side panels contain the value in Tibetan figures and characters—again between scrolls. There only remains the squiggles above and below the lion to interpretate—and Mr. Denis Way seems to have solved this very nicely. The small circle above the lions’ back—is the Yin Yang symbol of good luck and reproduction—symbolising the male and female elements; the circle beneath the lions’ raised paw is the Night shining pearl—portrayed on the early Chinese Dragon stamps; the squiggles, the flames of everlasting fire.

Now to the printing plates. Holmes, in describing the 2/3 tr., stated that “on all sheets of this value except those of the 1st printing—the 7th stamp is noticeably out of square with the rest.” When his collection came into my hands—these two sheets were compared and the discovery made that the printing plate, unlike the 1912 issue of one block of twelve subjects, was one of

twelve separate clichés bound together to make one printing plate. Little did he realise that though he dismissed the first 8 years of the 1933 issue into only 2 pages of his book—that he had given me the key to an absorbing study, in his description of that crooked 7th cliché.

That was in 1942—sixteen years before Haverbeck misleadingly printed on page 42 of his Handbook (2nd. Ed.) “Subsequent to the publication of the Postage Stamps of Tibet in 1952—two leading Philatelic scholars took up the study of the 1933–39 issues.” It is an important point to mention, for during these intervening years, and indeed earlier, I was obtaining current material, which experience was denied collectors who started a decade later, and who could not understand the sequence of philatelic events. E. A. Smythies’ findings backed up my earlier publication, because he had spent a week-end with me and my collection, taking notes of whatever he pleased. This personal note creeps in for the sake of historical accuracy.

How the twelve clichés were produced—each hand engraved, and very well matched—is not recorded. Of the various suggestions made, that of Adgey-Edgar’s is the most convincing—which was published in Stamp Magazine of December 1953. A master outline of the whole of the design, which was then printed onto the blocks which were to be individually carved, and the twelve clichés then bound together with wire or thongs.

The blocks, I have always felt, were once more of wood, which view Adgey-Edgar supports—even though reports of brass come from so-called “reliable sources.”

1933 PROOF SHEETS.*

Small proof sheets of two clichés were made. Whether this was merely to test the colours and clichés, or to send to the various post offices to show the post-masters what the new stamps were to be like—we do not know, but these first printings are fine examples of local printing. Only four out of the five values have been found in this form, and only two clichés of each have been noted.

2/3 tr. Dark Blue.	Clichés 5 & 3.
Prussian Blue.	Clichés 5 & 3.
1 tr. Lake.	Clichés 5 & 12.
2 tr. Scarlet.	Clichés 9 & 8.
4 tr. Emerald.	Clichés 3 & 1.

How many exist it would be difficult to ascertain. The 2 tr. Scarlet is the commonest—of the 2/3 tr. I’ve seen 7 sheets and 4 halves; of the 1 tr. only 3 and only the one of the 4 tr.

My 1 tr. came from the late Sir Frederick O’Connor, who had it sent to him by a **Shigatse** official—as ordinary postage stamps. A sheet of the same value was bought at the **Phari** Post Office in 1935. The 2/3 tr. and the 2 tr. are known cancelled to order with the contemporary **Lhasa** cancellation. Another 2/3 tr. mint sheet—(found in 1960 in the window of a London Dealers shop with about 20 other stamps for 25/- the page)—is of the different Prussian Blue shade. The finest piece is a registered Commercial cover from Lhasa—franked by no less than three of the known seven proof sheets of the 2/3 tr. Blue.

**Illustration p. 131*

In each case—the clichés used for the proof sheets are not normally found se-tenant in the complete sheets, so that anyone who can plate the issue has a chance of finding cut-down sheets used for postage as normals.

The 4 tr. is the rarest of them all. First reported from America—was a cut sheet that had been put together again! No verification has since come forth as to whether this has been expertised or what clichés were represented. Since then I have found an interesting pair—commercially used from Gyantse—which has evidently been on a parcel. Rather dilapidated—but a large margin at the top and irregular large margins on the other 3 sides; the clichés are unmistakably 3 and 1. This was only discovered because I thought the second stamp was a cliché 4, and when it turned out to be No. 1. with the malformed white line above TI of TIBET—there was great excitement checking all other possibilities.

So far—no 1/2 tr. proof sheets have ever been recorded—but all other pairs should be checked—even though the colour of the 1/2 tr. makes plating an eye straining affair.

ISSUED STAMPS.

The normal stamps were perforated or not at the whim of the postmaster. All the proofs seen have been imperforate—but the earliest examples of the stamps were nearly all perf. The 1933 perforations varied from 6 to 15—and it is thought that these were produced by more than one perforating wheel. Presumably nails would be inserted in the wheels—at varying spaces—and this crude perforating machine would be wheeled across the sheets. For further particulars see the chapter on Perforations.

The perforated stamps, with the exception of the 4 tr., did not last long, and are very scarce—and rare in sheets or used on covers. The 4 tr. is not recorded imperf. in this first setting and it is difficult to reason why—unless a stock was perforated to begin with—and the demand for the 4 tr. in the early years was not up to expectations. I intend to take each value on its own—and go through the various printings, states and settings as far as it is possible, commenting on anything unusual. A new setting is where the clichés have been changed about—a new state, where the clichés are in the same position—but may have moved slightly in relation to the surrounding clichés—a new printing, may only be a different shade of ink.

1/2 TRANGKA.*

SETTING I. (1933-6).

The first sheets were Orange and Yellow-Orange, and their period of life was about two years. The percentage of perf. and imperf. was about 50/50, but after 1935 few perfs. are seen. In that year quite a few letters from Kalimpong to Lhasa were sent by the son of the Dalai Lama's War Minister, and on being handed over to the Tibetan P.O. at Phari, were stamped there with perforated stamps.

**Illustration p. 85*

As this man Tsarong-Shaphe, was also the man responsible for the Mint and the 1912 perforations—no doubt he was the chief advocate of the perforations for this issue, he being a man who had seen India's Postal arrangements at close quarters.

During 1935—a new colour appeared—lasting about 12 months only, the Lemon shade, and so far this has only been seen imperf. In blocks or sheets it is very scarce, with its widely spaced stamps. Single stamps are hard to check. My complete sheet—may well be the only survivor. Mr. Clark had a complete sheet of this stamp and he cut it into 3—top left corner block of 4—bottom left pair—and a right hand half sheet. Having found the two blocks—I'm now looking for the pair to complete this reconstructed sheet. There is a peculiar variety on cliché 4 which does not re-occur. The inner frame line (there isn't an outer at this point) under the E of TIBET is bent upwards towards the E. On all later printings this appears as a straight line.

SETTING II. (1936-41).

The first printing in this setting was identical in colour (Lemon)—though the stamps are noticeably nearer together and fairly well aligned. The clichés have been put together in a different order—but note that clichés 4 & 10 are in their old positions. Late 1939 a change was made to Bright Chrome. This was followed by some remarkable changes in colour—and at the same time there was a loosening of the clichés, for the forme of the full sheet is more ragged. The 1st and 5th clichés (now in positions 5 and 11) are both tilted down to the S.E. The first surprise was a Yellow-Ochre with pale and deep shades quite different to any colour that had been before, followed quickly by a Bistre. These came along at a time when most people had other things to think about than collecting stamps—1940—and there would be few contacts with Tibet. Not until after the war did I suspect either printing. Since then only about fifteen used of the Bistre have been seen and a similar number of the Yellow-Ochre. Fortune it is that at least one complete mint sheet of the Yellow-Ochre has been preserved and three of the Bistre. A fine registered cover with a pair of the latter thereon, is tied with an April '41 Phari cancellation and all the mint sheets known were bought at Phari Post Office. This true Bistre almost has a greenish tinge, and must not be confused with a very late printing of Setting IV. There is a Yellow-Bistre shade which exists in a block of 4, and on cover dated March 1940, but once seen the rare Bistre cannot be mistaken.

SETTING III. (1941-1950).

Late 1941 must have brought forth a second printing of the Yellow-Ochre for I have a vertical strip of 3 clichés—Nos. 10, 12 and 3 in positions 3, 7—11. I have tested this many times—but never does it take more than the first glance that this is from a setting/colour which I have never seen in sheet form. This stamp often has a yellow offset on the back. Thus there were four small printings of this value between 1940–42, for by 1943 the normal Chrome-Yellows were being used again in setting III, and were still in use at the end of 1945. This period produced the “printed on both sides” sheet—described by Klevitz as being “Yellow-Bistre on one side, and Bright Yellow on the other.”

These were followed in 1945-6 by the Yellows and Deep Yellows (Golden-Yellow), the latter being hard to fit into the colour chart—coming between page 4 and 5 in Methuen's Handbook. Another quite different colour follows—an insipid Greenish-Yellow in Light and Dark shades—one of the latter being very nearly described as a Bistre Yellow. Any over inking of this colour makes these stamps very bad to plate, indeed most of the yellow printings can be difficult, especially when used. It is in setting III that Adgey-Edgar reports a retouch to the penultimate character in the top panel of Cliché 10— but I haven't been able to prove this. I have some fine used blocks of four of this setting, and a block of eight from Lhasa.

SETTING IV. (1950-60).

By 1950—the thongs binding the clichés together had once more burst asunder—and a fourth setting was the result, the first colour being a continuation of the Dull Greenish-Yellow. This is indeed a rarity as far as this side of the Atlantic is concerned. It must be pointed out here—that scarcity value may differ entirely between stocks (where they exist) in India, America and Europe. What is common in one—may be scarce in another. Of this sheet I have only seen four examples.

The commoner Setting IV's, are a Pale and Deep Chrome with not quite so much brightness and a shinier surface than the early Chromes. These were in use between 1952-8. In 1958 came a sickly Canary Yellow the last to be reported until 1952 when a sheet of Olive-Yellows turned up on a Brownish native paper (the latter was described in the sale catalogue as the scarce Bistre!). Stamp No. 9 on the sheet of Olive-Yellows leans down towards the top left hand corner of Stamp 10—I've found this stamp hard to find. A unique strip of three (Setting IV Pale Chrome) is cancelled by two strikes of the Penam cancellation. Another dated cover has a bottom strip of 4—(Setting III Greenish-Yellow) cancelled Gyantse and dated August 20th/49; and a native cover with two blocks of four (Setting III Chrome) from Lhasa.

The positions of the clichés in the different settings are as follows, the measurements being the overall length of the bottom clichés across the bottom of the sheet :—

I.				II.				III.				IV.			
1	2	3	4	7	11	6	4	9	5	10	8	12	5	4	6
5	6	7	8	1	3	12	2	7	4	12	2	11	2	8	10
4	10	11	12	8	10	5	9	6	11	3	1	1	9	7	3
150mm.				130mm.				105mm.				102mm.			

This lowest value is by far the scarcest—and seldom is it seen used, multiples being desirable.

2/3 TRANGKA.*

SETTING I. (1933-4).

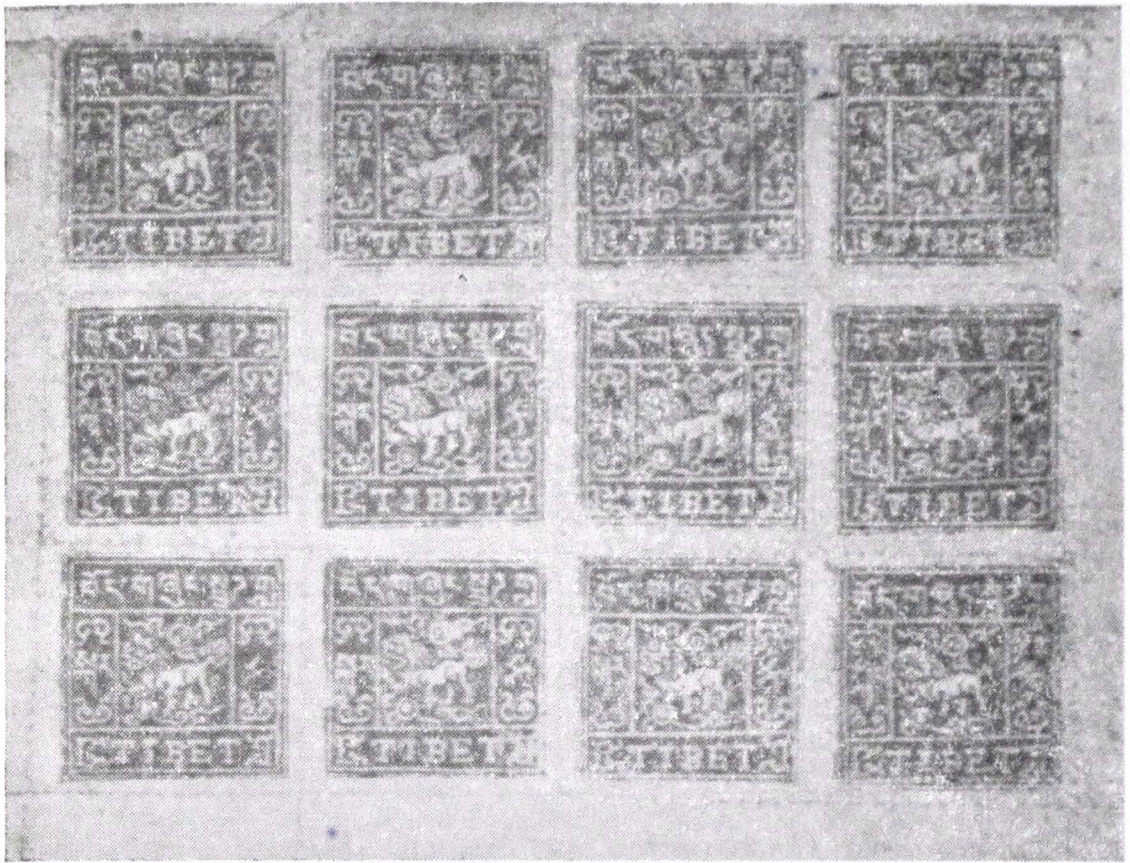
The least interesting of the values in regard to shades—and therefore the harder to sort out into different printings. The original shade was very dark and probably all were perforated. Shortly after—a lighter Prussian Blue
**Illustration p. 89* *(continued on page 86)*

Plating Table

1/2 TRANGKA.

Clichés

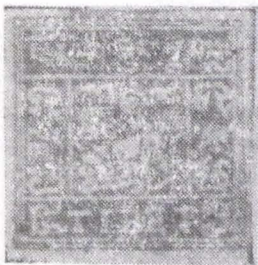
- 1 Thick white line of inner square. Straight tail with small hook. Short rounded hook beneath hind leg.
- 2 Thin groin lines. Well hooked upright tail. 4th character in top panel, well separated (top and bottom halves).
- 3 Large upper line in Yin-yang. Well hooked tail. Hooks well joined. After first setting, outer line above 5th character broken.
- 4 White line between solid top panel and inner frame line, curved. Wide open tail. Hooks under feet just touching.
- 5 Tiny thick tail. Disjointed hook under hind leg. Wide scroll nearly touching final 'T.'
- 6 6th character sits well on white line. Wide rounded tail. Wide throat to lion.
- 7 Tiny tail. Thin groin lines. Dot joining hooks. After setting 1, snick in frame line above 4th character. During setting 2 a large white blob appears on top of left scroll in bottom panel.
- 8 Scroll in left panel at bottom, slopes down from left to right. Curled tail.
- 9 Small tail. 4th character well separated (top and bottom halves).
- 10 Large curled tail. Hooks joined. Dot to right of Yin-yang joined to circle.
- 11 Thick white line to left of lion. Large open tail.
- 12 Break in inner frame line above 3rd character.



GENUINE 1/2 tr. PERF. SHEET, 1st SETTING.

A clear print. Plating used specimens of this issue is a fascinating pastime.

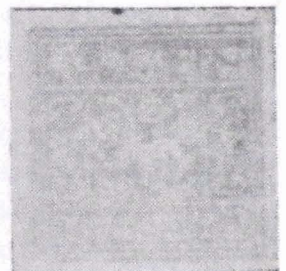
FORGERIES.



1st. SET.



2nd. SET.



3rd. SET.

appeared—and in this case both perf. and imperf. though the latter is scarcer, and of the imperf. sheet, I know of only one. Cliché 10 has dropped slightly, the N.E. corner being beneath the corner of cliché II. Imperf. Setting I are extremely scarce in used condition.

Two or three copies are known with double perf.—the vertical line between the 3rd and 4th vertical rows—and more than one sheet were thus perforated at the one operation. Cliché 5 has the horizontal Yin Yang, which once noticed, soon led to the discovery of the different settings.

There is a Dark Ultramarine printing in this setting, which is very scarce.

SETTING II. (1935-41).

This was the first value to require a second setting—after only two years use—a much narrower setting again—and 2 shades of Dark Blue and a distinctive Pale Blue which is scarce. This in spite of a long term of use. No perfs. are recorded of this setting. The 7th stamp of the sheet is crooked. The Pale Blue was in use at the same time as the $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Bistre. I have a fine Bright Pale Blue used block of four (1940). Dated Covers are very scarce—blocks of four were often used.

One peculiar example of a native paper exists in setting II—having the appearance of a linen surfaced paper.

SETTING III. (1942-50).

Three shades of this setting. Grey-Blue, and Light and Deep Indigo. This setting can be found used in half sheets (for the 4 tr. rate) and is one of the commoner used stamps of this issue. Complete sheets used commercially are also known, caused by the increase in the postal rates during this period.

SETTING IV. a and b. (1951-60).

The inks used for this setting (IVa.) were similar to the last, a Deep Blue-Black (1951-3) a Grey-Blue and an Indigo (1953-56). Two later printings of these (IVb.) were on the Brown Silky native paper in a Dark Indigo Shiny ink, and a Lighter Indigo on a White Silky paper—quite different from earlier native papers.

These two printings can be identified by cliché 2 which has become loose and its N.E. corner is beneath the N.W. corner of cliché 3 in IVb.

The final printing of this value was in quite a different ink—a Violet-Blue, on a normal Tibetan paper again, cliché 2 still twisted—and usually a very clear printing in comparison to the previous two.

The clichés of the various settings were altered as follows :—

I.				II.				III.				IV.			
1	2	3	4	5	7	12	2	12	5	6	3	9	7	6	8
5	6	7	8	1	4	10	6	1	2	4	10	11	10	5	1
9	10	1	12	8	9	11	3	11	9	8	7	2	12	4	3

1 TRANGKA.*

Once more, four settings for this value, though note that only four clichés changed places between the first settings, and the second, Nos. 1 and 5, and 6 and 11. Similarly when Setting 3 changed to Setting 4, only clichés 12 and 1, and 9 and 2 altered their position. Thus it is possible in either of these cases to get a block of four, and not be able to plate it by the clichés alone, though still possible by colour or printing flaws.

SETTING I. (1933-40).

The first two printings were Carmine-Lake and Rose-Lake, the latter being found in a paler shade. The majority of these were perforated only, the Rose-Lake being found imperf. I have a nice block of four on cover from Lhasa in this state—a plateable block of course, for the same shade is found in Setting 2, which is not scarce. Also a strip of three in a Bright Aniline shade.

Double perms. exist of this value, but are now very seldom seen. The rich Deep Lake colour of the Proofs, was used for a short time; I have a cover from Shigatse dated August, 1936, and also a used copy from Phari, so that it was probably sent to two post offices. I have not seen this perforated.

The Carmine-Rose and Rose-Carmine shades were the next, 1936-8—imperf. only. I have two used copies of a Pale Pink shade—aniline in appearance and showing distinctly through the back of the stamp—postmarked Shigatse and Phari respectively. A sudden switch to Scarlet-Vermilion (deep to pale) came in 1938, and were in use until 1940. This period already having produced some peculiar colours in the $\frac{1}{2}$ trangka brings us to a Scarlet-Red (enamel paint) in this value. From its appearance it looks like a very late printing, so clean and bright looking it is, and one wonders whether this was the first case of using the 2 tr. ink for the 1 tr. value.

SETTING II. (1941-48).

There was a reversal to Dark Scarlet-Vermilions in the first change of setting. Only two pairs of clichés changed places—Nos. 1 with 5 and 6 with 11, so that for plating it is not possible to distinguish from which setting every pair or block of these Scarlet-Vermilions comes, unless a printing flaw or shade gives a clue. There was a Brown-Red printing—a very fine shiny print in Scarlet-Vermilion—and a very Deep Brown-Red which Hurt named Cardinal Red (10E8). Of the latter, I have only seen the one copy—stamp No. 12 of the sheet (Cliché 12) used from Shigatse, probably about 1941.

Then followed a lovely Bluish-Red shade—in pale and deep shades, quite distinctive from any previous printings. I have a beautiful block of four on cover from Phari, and the bottom strip of four used from Lhasa. These lasted from 1946 to late '47, when another startling change occurred, to Bright Orange, which though generally released, was short-lived, and the last of this setting. The depth of the Orange varies from light to deep, and a very shiny print has been seen in block of four used at Gyantse.

**Illustration p. 93*

(continued on page 90)

Plating Table

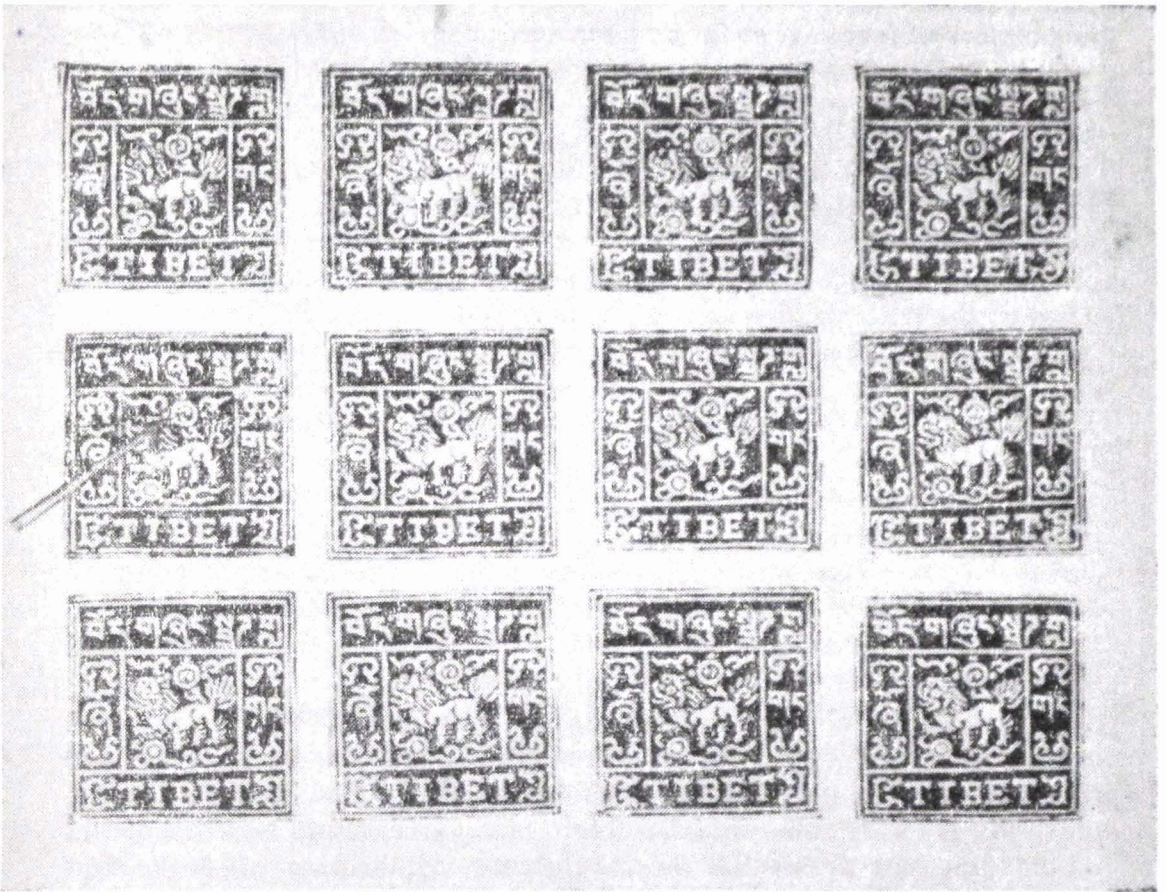
2/3 TRANGKA.

Clichés

- 1 Raised paw, a small vertical line. No protrudence from top of lion's throat. Longish tail.
- 2 Small tail, and no hair **below** its hook to the right. Top of pearl has flattened look.
- 3 Top of panel above 4th character bends upwards. Hooks touching. Dot on top of 7th character.
- 4 Top of Yin-yang circle, dented by pearl above it. Left hook away from large unequal pearl.
- 5 Horizontal Yin-yang. Hooks joined.
- 6 Hook beneath Yin-yang joined to circle. Small curl at left, in bottom left panel.
- 7 Hook beneath Yin-yang well joined to circle, as well as hook on right. Hook on left joined to dot. High tail to hook beneath rear leg.
- 8 Straight tail to rear hook beneath lion. Hook to right of Yin-yang very near sometimes touching dot. Small tail.
- 9 Left top scroll in left panel, nearly touches character depicting value. White vertical line at left, thickens at top. Left side of central square protrudes into top panel.
- 10 Triangular Forehead to lion. Uneven broad white line opposite rear leg.
- 11 White flaw to left of second T of Tibet. (Not 1st Printings). Large tail. Line above bottom panel, gradually thins on reaching right panel.
- 12 White vertical line opposite hair of tail, thins. Left hand hair joins tail.

Later flaws.

- 1 Break in frame line above 2nd character. Also to left of top ornament in left panel. (Settings 3 and 4).
- 2 Two top hairs of rear leg joined. (Settings from 2).
- 7 White splodge low on scroll to left of first T. (Settings 2, 3 and 4).
- 8 In left panel, lower right ornament and value joined. (Setting 2, spur only; settings 3 and 4 joined).
- 9 Right panel, left scroll of ornament beneath value has white flaw. (Last of settings 2, 3 and 4).



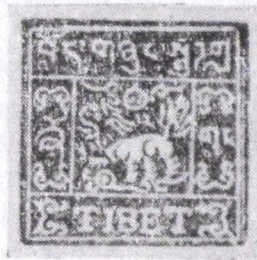
GENUINE 2/3 tr. PERF. SHEET, 1st SETTING.

Note Cliché 5 with its horizontal Yin Yang, and straight Cliché 7. It was these two clichés that first led to the discovery of the 1933 Settings.

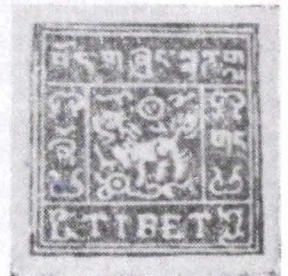
FORGERIES.



1st. SET.



2nd. SET.



3rd. SET.

It was in the life time of this setting, that the major error mentioned in Haverbeck's handbook is found. A 1 tr. "Carmine," most likely my Bluish-Red, printed on both sides of the paper. A single on cover, a vertical strip of three, and a block of four have so far been recorded; a find of 1951.

SETTING III. (1948-53).

A new colour for the start of this setting—more associated with the 2 tr. value—Pale and Bright Scarlet-Reds (1948-9) followed quickly by an Orange-Red and an Orange-Vermilion. The Orange-Red—a thick shiny ink— blotchy printing; the Orange-Vermilion, less shiny but still very blotchy. Very few dated covers of this setting exist and it is hard to say which came first or last, but these could be around 1950. By 1951—the Salmon shades had arrived and whether pale or dark, very uninspiring. About this time some very thick papers are to be found. The Reddish-Vermilions were the final printings 1952-3.

This is the setting which caused some controversy when Smythies attempted in vain to prove that this was really Setting IV not III, but he had not even started collecting Tibet when these first appeared. He persuaded Haverbeck to list his interpretation of the settings, thus throwing Haverbeck's listing wrong. Yet in spite of my having pointed this out to Haverbeck, it remained unaltered in the second edition.

I have a pair of 1 tr. Dull Brown, used with the old Type I Nangartse negative cancellation, the important stamps Nos. 11 and 12 on the sheet: and also the vital stamps (for plating), Nos. 3 and 4 and 8 and 12 used in pairs on covers, the former from Shigatse—the latter from Lhasa. The stamps Nos. 4, 8 and 12 on the sheet, have a white line running right through them starting in the right panel at the top in No. 4. and finishing through the E of Tibet on Stamp 12. It is this continuous line that is the easiest way of proving this to be Setting III, and the next setting—when the line is broken up—Setting IV.

SETTING IV. (1953-60).

In this last setting—only four clichés were altered—clichés 2 and 9, and 12 and 1 change positions in the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 12th positions in the sheet.

Thus the vital last vertical row of stamps was altered, the three which had a continuous hair line across them. In this setting only cliché 12 in the 8th position is affected with the grease mark—the other two having been cleaned.

This then is not an easy setting to plate—especially as the first colour is the same as the last Setting III, Reddish-Vermilion (1953-4). The next Scarlet-Red (1954) was quickly followed by another surprise—a shiny Orange-Brown and a Dull Brown (1954-5). The latter also appeared on the Brown softer paper. Then in 1955 a Light Brown-Orange and a Deep Orange (1956-7) (these two were often found cancelled to order at Lhasa). Appearing about 1958 a Bright Orange was thought to be the final printing until a commercial cover turned up with a 1 tr. Pale Yellow used at Shigatse together with a 2 tr. Dull Brown. Another 1 tr. in Orange-Yellow has been found used at Gyantse. No exact date can be offered for the last two pieces.

SETTINGS	I.	II.	III.	IV.
	1 2 3 4	5 2 3 4	6 4 2 12	6 4 9 1
	5 6 7 8	1 11 7 8	5 10 3 1	5 10 3 12
	9 10 11 12	9 10 6 12	11 7 8 9	11 7 8 2

2 TRANGKAS.*

The original colour for the 2 tr., was Scarlet, to compare with the Deep Lake of the first 1 Trangkas. The Tibetans, however, had great difficulty with their Red Inks—and as seen in the case of the 1 trangka listing—many shades and colours have resulted. So with the 2 trangka—for nearly every colour used by the 1 trangka was also used by the 2 trangka, though not generally in the same period

COLOUR	1 TRANGKA	2 TRANGKAS
Carmines	1936-7 and '46-7	1946-7
Vermilion	1938-45	1943-6
Scarlet Red	1940	1933-40
Scarlet Red	1954	1949-50
Orange	1947-8	1951-4
Red	1948-9	1941-2
Brown	1954-5	1950-1
Brown-Orange	1956-7	1951-3
Pinks	1951	1947-9

The Vermilions had a period when both values in the same colour might have been used together, and covers can be so found and one could class the 2 tr. Rose-Carmines with the 1 tr. Bluish-Reds, both available in 1946-7.

SETTING Ia. (1933-1945).

The thongs that held the 2 tr. clichés together, must have been strong, for not until a period of sixteen years had elapsed, was another setting found. This was a longer time than any other value, the ½ tr. approaching setting IV by this time. Like the last value, printing flaws abound on the 2 tr. clichés, right from the first printings in Scarlet (1933-9), the Pale Scarlets (1929-41), and a Deep Scarlet in shiny ink. The first Scarlets were found both imperf. and perf., with an occasional double perf. variety, and only in the very first printing are the top clichés in alignment. A Carmine-Red and a Bright Scarlet appeared in the next period, 1941-2. Here again is a period with very few dated covers, from 1939-46. The Scarlet-Vermilions followed (1944-5) including a scarce very deep shade.

Sometime about 1945, there was a shift in some of the clichés. This is of little importance except in helping to place sheets in chronological order.

The two points to watch on the sheets are :—

- (a) Cliché 2's N.E. corner is **below** the N.W. corner of Cliché 3 in 1st. state.
Cliché 2's N.E. corner is **above** the N.W. corner of Cliché 3 in 2nd. state.
- (b) West corners of clichés 5 & 9 are above one another in the 1st. states.
Cliché 5 has been pushed slightly into the margin in the 2nd. state.

*Illustration p. 97

(continued on page 94)

Plating Table

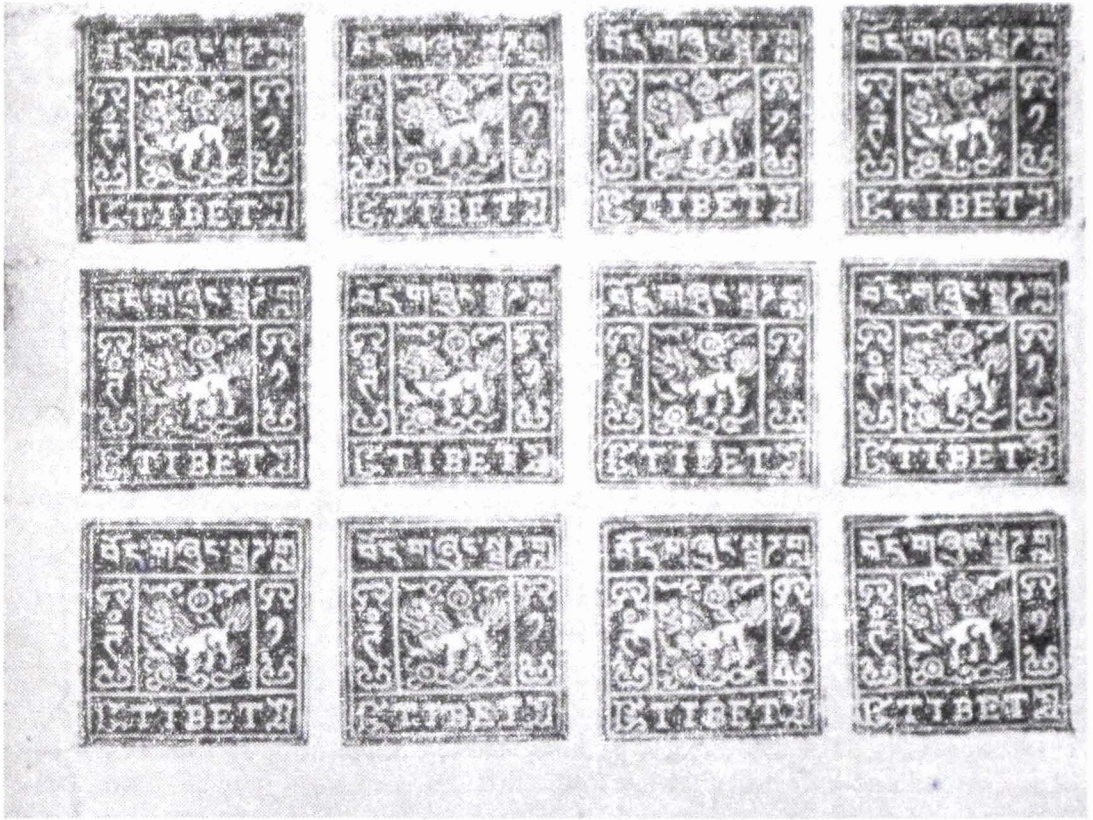
1 TRANGKA.

Clichés

- 1 Squiggle above lion's head like w. Dot at right touches Yin-yang circle. Short second hook.
- 2 Strong tongue from roof of mouth. Tail a long hook. Strong bottom hair to tail reaches frame.
- 3 Lion's front paw dents vertical line. Break in thick frame line above 3rd character. Right squiggle joined to dot. Break in thick frame line near top left panel. Tiny tail.
- 4 Dash after mid-stroke of E. Break in frame lines just below last character. Horizontal base of 6th character, well away from vertical stem.
- 5 Hooks joined. Round tail with no stem.
- 6 Hook above lion joined to Yin-yang. Tall straight tail. Dot after T.
- 7 Damaged top loop of B.
- 8 No horizontal tip to right arm of hook below lion. Tail of hook points to boil on lion's rump. This 'boil' is also to be found on clichés 2 and 7.
- 9 Dot after 7th character like inverted comma. Twisted squiggle above lion's head, though not as much as cliché 1. Inner frame line broken near top of left panel.
- 10 Tail short with stem, with round, often closed hook. Heavy vertical line joins top and bottom parts of last character.
- 11 Progressive flaw on 3rd character, often filling loop entirely. As second paragraph of cliché 10, but tiny tail. Right hook an eyelet.
- 12 Hooks well joined. Flaw on white line below 3rd character. Hook above lion joined to Yin-yang.

After the second setting the following appeared.

- 3 White mark above figure of value.
- 4 Large white patch over top of pearl and lion's second leg.
- 5 Scratches across first character and top left squiggle. (From middle of 1st Setting).
- 7 Scratch to left of Yin-yang and blotch on hook above lion.
- 8 White dot to right of 2nd character's foot.
- 10 Line across figure of value at right.



GENUINE 1 tr. PERF. SHEET, 1st SETTING.

Beginnings of what became more prominent flaws on later printings can be noted.

FORGERIES.



1st. SET.



2nd. SET.



3rd. SET.

SETTING Ib. (1945-1950).

A Dark Scarlet-Vermilion is the first shade, followed by a Dark Brick-Red. These are both scarce (1945-6). They were followed by the distinctive Rose-Carmines (1946-7). In direct contrast to these rich printings, were the Salmon-Pinks and Dull Salmons, which were poor colours (1947-9). The last printings of this setting were Bright Scarlet-Red and the Carmine-Reds (1949-50). A small batch of these are known used in 1954-5, but I doubt these were another printing, but probably old stock. Unless constant, late dates of use are not of much consequence, but earlier dates of anything recorded in my notes will be gratefully received.

SETTING II (1950-60).

In *The Philatelist* (April 1953), the first time these settings were recorded in print, a Setting II Pale Orange-Brown, was recorded. This I recorded without having seen it, a mistake I have since tried to avoid, without a special mention of "reported only." The mistake arose through a correspondent new to Tibet, who had described his sheet as

"Stamp 1 on the sheet as the 12 Cliché" instead of
"Stamp 12 on the sheet as the 1st Cliché."

A little later I came across what was then set down as the third setting, but which in reality was the second. This means that :—

9	11	12	2
6	4	5	3
10	8	7	1

is the **second** and **only** other setting to the first.

Many new printing flaws are to be found, and the 12th cliché has become very crooked, down at the S.E. corner.

The first two printings were a Brown and Orange Brown (1949-50). Then followed a whole series of Orange printings from 1950, Bright Orange; Dull Orange (always a very smudgy one); two Dull Yellow-Oranges, both a smudgy and a clear print; finally a Bright clear Yellow-Orange, with one printing in a thick shiny enamel. These eight printings were in the space of five years; the above order as I received them from Tibet, though no guarantee of date order.

Another surprise in 1954 was not only a reversal back to Scarlet, but a printing on a new type of paper (for Tibet). Still a native one—but a silky Chinese type—generally brown in colour, but also known in yellow-toned and white, again varying in thickness from tissue to near card. The white is the scarcest type for those interested in these native papers. These were soon replaced in the following year (1955) with the ordinary Tibetan type native paper. There were three printings—a normal Scarlet—a very pale distinctive Dull Scarlet, and a Rich Deep Scarlet. Probably about 1958—there was quite unusual colour, a Brown-Red, slightly shiny print. This appears to be scarce, and I have seen no dated copies. Nor of the scarcer following printings—a Dull Brown—and a Chrome-Yellow to match the last printing of the 1 trangka.

One wonders why these two yellow printings were made at all—at the same time—and in an obviously wrong colour. The Dull Browns are known used from Gyantse, Lhasa and Shigatse, the Yellows from Shigatse only so far.

One such I have bears a 1 tr. Yellow and a 2 tr. Dull Brown tied to a Commercial Cover from Shigatse—probably used in 1959. Any more information regarding these extra late printings or spare sheets for comparison will be welcome.

One cover with a 2 tr. Scarlet is a warning to collectors to check Nepalese-Tibetan covers. Sent from Nepal in November 1933, and addressed to Tibet, it was made a combination cover by the addition of a 2 tr. Tibetan stamp, with a Tibetan cancellation both genuine. Unfortunately, the printing of the 2 tr. stamp was a printing which could not have existed before 1953—twenty years after the original posting. The cover bears the name of Ratna Bahadur, whose name can be found on forged Tibetan Covers.

Robson Lowe—in one of his Auction Catalogues—mentioned a Stitch watermark. This was merely a line of diagonal $\frac{1}{4}$ " indentations across the sheet, no doubt caused by the paper makers frame.

One peculiar paper used at one time was what appeared to be a type of linen-faced paper, resulting in a printing of scarlet coloured dots, previously noted in the 2/3 tr. value.

Thus ends the 2 tr. story—with it's only two settings—yet numerous printings, for this turned out to be the commonest value after the 4 trangkas, many being used in pairs to make the normal 4 tr. registered rate.

4 TRANGKAS.*

The highest value, yet the commonest, is probably the most interesting of the five. Although once again only two settings, there are five different states of the first setting. Though these different states are of minor importance in themselves, they have been of great help in placing the various printings in chronological order.

SETTING Ia. (1933-7).

The first printings were Emerald—including a deep rich shade—and so far, all perforated only. Why this is so is another Tibetan mystery—as is the wide range of perfs. found. Normally $11\frac{1}{2}$ – $12\frac{1}{2}$ —they exist from perf. $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 16.

If all were done by perforating wheel—there must have been more than one. Irregular spacing of the pins on the wheel would account for the irregular perfs. on the one side of the stamp. All these perfs. were recorded long before anyone was particularly interested in collecting sheets of Tibetan stamps, and there is little doubt about their genuineness.

The eighth cliché was undamaged in the very first printings—but the lion's chest very soon became a white sunburst instead of the small triangle. Undamaged it is a very rare stamp and the first printings with this in complete sheet are eagerly sought after. I would imagine the damage was caused during the first few months, just in time for a Yellow-Green with undamaged 8th. cliché to appear. This piece has treble perfs. down the right hand side of the sheet.

Another sought after cliché is No. 4—for it was this cliché that was lost during 1937, and was never found again. One fine piece on canvas from Gyantse, has the vertical strip with clichés 4, 8 and 12, the 8 after damage. I have only come across one "cliché 8 before damage" used.

*Illustration p. 101

(continued on page 98)

Plating Table

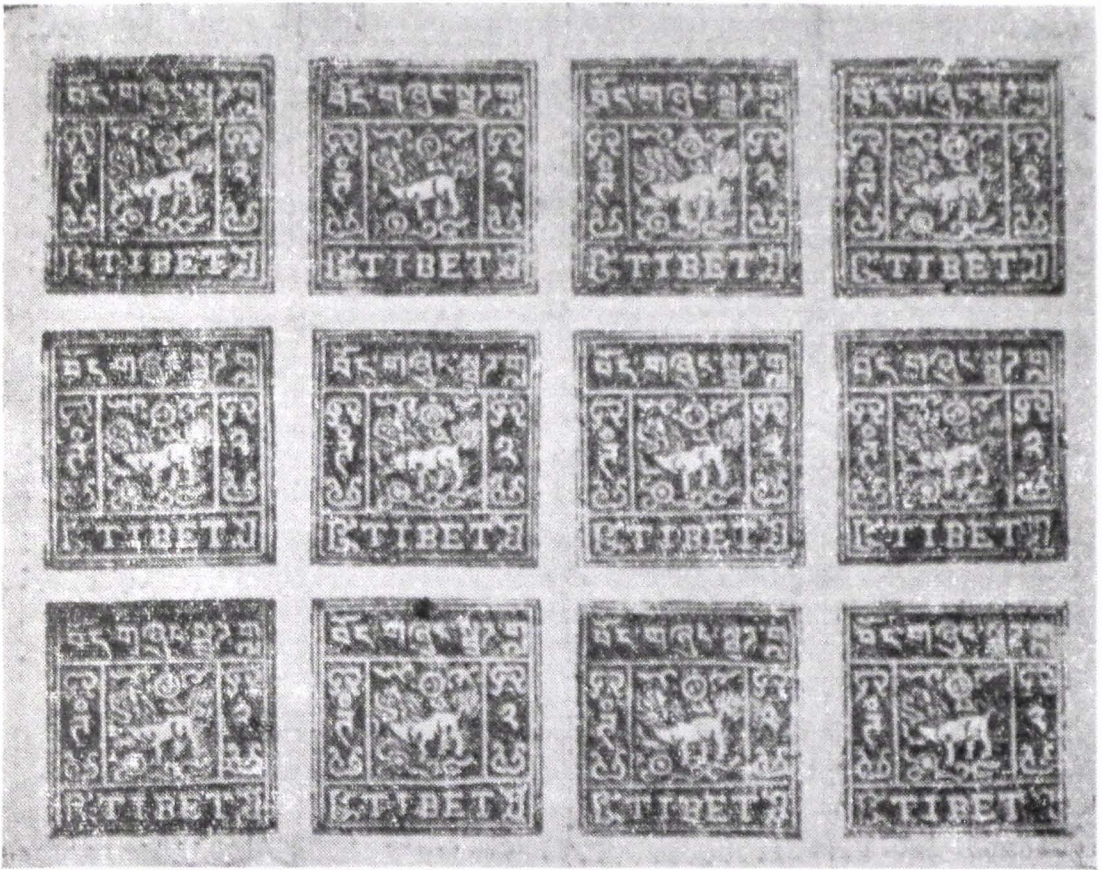
2 TRANGKA.

Clichés

- 1 The two parts of the 4th character well apart. Two parts of the 8th character well joined by vertical line.
- 2 Left hook thins line below it. Yin-yang horizontal.
- 3 Right hook's tail turns vertical. Very thin line above TIBET especially at left.
- 4 Short tailed right hook stands on its head. Top hair of lion's head, left squiggle and left spot, all close together. Cut in thick frame line above 4th character.
- 5 Thick solid line around central square. Many breaks in left frame lines, on all but 1st printings.
- 6 Figure in right panel large and low in panel. Flaw across final T of Tibet, sometimes just to right of its vertical. Line beneath 6th character broken.
- 7 Right hook's tail horizontal and short. Flaw on second character (all except 1st printing).
- 8 Hooks well joined. Flaw on back of 3rd character. Seven hairs on tail instead of six.
- 9 Yin-yang reversed C. Hooks joined. Dots between lion's mouth and squiggle above. Damaged frame lines above 3rd character.
- 10 Flaw in white line above BE of Tibet, and crack from it above ET.
- 11 Long tailed right hook stands on its head. Front shoulder comma very tiny. Back thigh comma large.
- 12 Dot, sometimes line, to right of 1st T of Tibet, near foot of T.

In later printings there are a number of very prominent white flaws, such as:

- 2 Above and to right of final T.
- 9 The large flaw on IB of Tibet.
- 10 To right of right hook.
- 11 Between 7th and 8th characters.
- 12 Between T and I of Tibet.



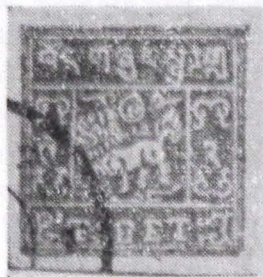
GENUINE 2 tr. PERF. SHEET, 1st. SETTING.

There are few flaws compared with later printings of this stamp.

FORGERIES.



1st. SET.



2nd. SET.



3rd. SET.

SETTING Ib. (1938-39).

This change-over is known as the first of the Missing Cliché printings—the fourth cliché having disappeared, the stamps were now printed in sheets of eleven. At first they appeared with a loose stamp from another sheet stuck into the space left by the missing cliché—probably to keep their accountancy correct—but later this practice was discontinued. The first shades were Olive-Green and Deep Olive-Green—followed by a rare Sage-Green in 1939. This group is a very distinctive batch of shades, and seldom seen, especially rare used.

The Olive-Greens I have used from Lhasa, Gyantse and Shigatse, including two dated covers—whilst the Sage-Green only from Lhasa, on cover and piece.

SETTING Ic. (1940-45).

This, owing to the period of its use, is not often seen. Still the missing 4th Cliché—Cliché 7 is tilted with its N.E. corner up; the first cliché's N.E. corner is barely above the N.W. corner of Cliché 2. The outer edge of the first vertical row is fairly straight. Two shades—a Bright Yellow-Green heavily shiny ink—and a Pale Yellow-Green, very slightly shiny. This is the last printing without the prominent B flaw on cliché 8, and is known from Gyantse, Lhasa and Shigatse. (A large white spot on the top of the B).

SETTING Id. (1945-7).

Cliché 7 is still tilted up. So is cliché 1—but this is now a full millimetre above cliché 2. The outer edge of the first vertical row is broken by the middle cliché—being set back about 1mm.

The same shade as the last state plus a fine Emerald shade once more. This must have been the last of this state of setting 1d for it is the first to show the E flaw on cliché 7, another rare sheet. (The E flaw has a white vertical line closing the top and middle limbs).

SETTING Ie. (1947-51).

Cliché 7 has the N.E. corner tilted down. The first printings were Apple Green—which changed to a more Yellow-Green shade. Then in 1950, another distinctive shade a Bottle Green—both pale and deep. I have one sheet of this colour with a 10mm.—12mm. gap between the 3rd and 4th vertical rows! This was caused by a paper crease, but looks impressive. The Apple Green shade I have in a complete sheet, from the Rivers collection, printed double.

The Bottle Greens are seen used on turned covers which are from Moscow to Gyantse, with former cancellations of 1953 and in one case a Par Avion cachet. One wonders which route they took—via China, or is this proof of an early move of a direct link between Russia and Tibet! Covers can be found with three 4 tr. stamps—a high rate of 12 trangkas.

SETTING II. (1951).

After 14 years of the 4 tr. sheets of eleven clichés—what a surprise it was to find a sheet of twelve subjects once more. Thinking the lost cliché had been found—it was a still bigger surprise to find a new cliché altogether—a cliché that was

quite obviously different, carved by a different artist. Besides being much larger—this new cliché in Number 12 position in the sheet, has one easy means of identification—the squiggle beneath the lions' rear feet now kneels in supplication, instead of standing on its head. Then too, the lions' forehead is a segment of a circle rather than the previous line.

The first two printings were Dull Green and Green turning later to a smudgy shade of Blue-Green. If one wishes to use the U.V. Lamp, they can be subdivided again—for the first two printings were non-fluorescent turning later to fluorescent. The Blue Green was fluorescent only—period of use 1951-3, the non-fluorescents being in use for only 12 months.

Then follows (1953) a very clear Deep Blue-Green; a near Bottle or Dark Green, a scarce sheet; and a Bright Jade (1954). 1955 brought quite a change—a reversal to the lighter coloured greens—a Bright Yellow-Green, and a Pale Yellow-Green. The first colour was on the Brown silky native paper, the other on the ordinary Tibetan native paper. One sheet issued thus during the period 1955-7, was a Bright Sage-Green in very shiny ink, a rare item.

The 4 tr. sheets from 1955 on, are all shiny prints to some degree, until there was a reversal to the Dull Greens once more in 1957-8. A final printing was a Bright Emerald—which came out with the 2/3 tr. Violet-Blues—the 1 tr. Bright Oranges and 1/2 tr. Canary Yellows—probably 1959. Thus in the space of nine years there were at least 13 different printings—probably more—for during one period of the early Dull Greens (1952) there was a pale smudged printing barely shewing the design. I never obtained a mint sheet—but managed after many months to complete a reconstructed sheet and all copies seen were from either Lhasa or Shigatse.

For the statistically minded, of the 1933 stamps in my collection, the percentages are approximately :—

10% are ½ tr. 18% are ⅔ tr. 20% are 1 tr. and 52% divided equally between the 2 tr. and 4 tr.

Of these, less than 10% are the original perms., which I might suggest is probably double the normal average. The 4 tr. accounts for 3%; the ⅔ tr. and 1 tr. 2% each; the 2 tr. for 1½% and finally the ½ tr. with 1%. The lower the face value of the stamp, the scarcer it is used.

This is noticeable too on cover—there being more 4 tr. covers than any other value. The high figures of the 2/3 tr. are boosted up by the 1/2 sheets (4 tr. rate) which were a feature at one period; and the 1/2 tr. tend to be higher than normal because of my search for used multiples for plating purposes.

In regard to used multiples the figures are as follows:—

	Pairs.	Threes.	Blocks of 4.	½ Sheets.	Blocks of 8.	Full Sheets.
½ tr.	17	2	7	—	1	—
⅔ tr.	6	6	9	7	—	4
1 tr.	61	11	12	1	—	—
2 tr.	97	1	3	—	—	—
4 tr.	2	2	—	—	—	—

(continued on page 102)

Plating Table

4 TRANGKA.

Clichés

- 1 Malformed white line above TI of Tibet. Small tail pointing to side.
- 2 Very thick inner white line down right side of stamp. Large plain hook for tail.
- 3 Bird like accent over first character very strong. Left white line of inner square very thin beneath raised paw. AFTER 1st setting—void top left corner and white spot above last character.
- 4 Strong first hair joins forehead. Squat squarish hook forming shoulder of lion. Fourth hair joins ear. Outer frame line very weak above 4th–7th characters.
- 5 Drop in white line below I and B of Tibet. Thin Yin-yang. AFTER 1st setting, right scroll in top of right panel joined to frame. Head of 5th character enlarged.
- 6 Projection from centre of character in left panel. All four hairs join head.
- 7 White circle around Yin-yang with dent in top. Small tail points to corner.
- 8 Right side to square projects into top panel. Top line of square dented under characters 4, 6 and 8. Hook under lion's raised paw, springs from circle and points back.
- 9 Top left scroll in left panel very thick. Yin-yang like inverted horse shoe. AFTER 1st setting, flaw from white line above E.
- 10 Inverted comma forming shoulder, more like tadpole, the tail sprouting from the middle of its head. Setting 1 only, outer frame line nicked above 7th character. Setting 2 only, head of 3rd character a white splodge.
- 11 Tail, a tall narrow hook with bottom hair strongly joined to side of square.
- 12 Three tiny hairs on top of head instead of two. Hooks well joined. Lines above I thickens.



GENUINE 4 tr. PERF. SHEET, 1st. SETTING.

The extremely rare 1st. state before damage to the Lions chest on the 8th. cliché.

FORGERIES.



1st. SET.



2nd. SET.



3rd. SET.

The above do not include the cancelled to order sheets, blocks and pairs, which of certain printings—especially the 4 trangkas—were particularly numerous. Regarding the combination of varying values—or multiple singles on cover, there is a much greater field than the 1912 issues.

Unusual rates (on commercial covers)—not covered by a single stamp or value include :—

- 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ tr. and 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ tr. — once each.
- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ tr., 5 tr., 7 tr. and 12 tr. — twice each.
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tr., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ tr., 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. and 6 tr. — four times each.
- 3 tr. — eight times.

2 tr. BISECTS AND 4 tr. QUADRISECT.

Tibetan Bisects have been noted previously—in the British Indian section—and the odd 1 tr. 1912—but in neither case was there anything official about them.

Sometime about the end of 1953 however,—bisects began to appear on commercial mail, which were apparently planned. They appeared from Lhasa, Shigatse and Gyantse—and in each case—they were 2 trangkas stamps bisected and used as a 1 trangka.

They were all registered packets. All seen except two having been sent by Nepalese (the address in most cases being in Nepalese and Tibetan). It may have been this which led some people to believe that this bisecting was a secret sign to the Chinese postal workers, that these letters did not need censoring. I do not believe the latter to be correct, but believe this was a case of a shortage of 1 tr. stamps. I have seen very few covers of the period between 1949–1959 on which this value has been used. My supplies of mint sheets during one period consisted exclusively of 2 tr. and 4 tr. values, with an occasional 2/3 tr. The $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. and 1 tr. sheets were not coming through. The belief is—that the registered rate went up to 5 tr.—and that with only 2 and 4 trangkas stamps on hand—the 2 trangkas were bisected and the 4 trangkas quartered. Further printings of all values were made later—but for this short period bisects arrived from Lhasa, Shigatse and Gyantse, on commercial mail. The stamps so used were :—

	Seen from			Bisected		
	Gyantse.	Lhasa.	Shigatse.	Vert.	Horiz.	Diag.
2 tr. Orange Brown	x			x		
Dull Yellow Orange	x		x	x	x	
Bright Orange	x			x		x
Dull Orange	x			x		
Scarlet (Brown Paper) ..	x	x	x	x		x
Scarlet (White Paper) ..	x			x		x
4 tr. Green Quartered	x					
Dark Blue Green Quartered			x			
Bright Yell. Green Quartered	x					

Having placed on record the above information which I believe to be authentic—I must also place on record three covers from Gyantse (violet cancellation) all made of native paper—all registered, all from Nepalese. The one with a 2 tr. Scarlet ONLY—the other with a 2 tr. scarlet plus a tied 2 tr. scarlet BISECTED diagonally (3 tr. rate). And yet another 2 tr. scarlet tied with a 4 tr. Bright Yellow-Green BISECTED diagonally (4 tr. rate). I believe these to have been philatelic follow ups to the original bisects. The bisected 2 tr. and the quartered 4 tr., I believe did serve a useful function and form a part of Tibet's Postal History.

PERFORATIONS - FROM 1933 AND 1950.

So far there has been an omission regarding one aspect of the contemporary Tibetan philatelic scene. The tempo of Tibetan philately until 1946 was one that suited me, and one of the reasons why I took to specialising in it. There was no rush or bustling finding new issues. Rather was it a case of new issues finding me.

By 1950—that had changed. World interest had been aroused in Tibet. British and American Missions had been to Tibet—planes had flown over it to supply the Chinese—and by 1952—Harrer's book "Seven Years in Tibet" had been read by thousands all over the world.

This had its effect on Tibetan Philately, though not on my supplies. I still did not get what I asked for. I still got items I did not know existed. After receiving one parcel with some bisects in, I only received one more—in spite of asking for same repeatedly. Another parcel contained half a dozen 1 sangs with the note "Sorry for big price—cannot help—8 Rupees a piece."

There was one section in particular that was not obtainable in sufficient quantity to satisfy the upsurge in Tibetan philately—the 1933 perfs. They never were plentiful—and in miniature sheets of 12—impossible. India, Sikkim, and Nepal were all inundated by enquirers. Offers grew worthwhile—and in order to get those valuable British pounds or American dollars—perforated sheets were wanted, so perforated sheets were manufactured. Sewing machines—hand punches—ladies hair pins no doubt, were all pressed into service. I found a machine that would perforate sheets anywhere between 10 and 16; and a type of pastry cutter that made a lovely roulette; the Tibetan who started cutting out his stamps with pinking shears gave me that idea! Shameful? Is it? My experiments were confined to blank native Tibetan paper. To a Tibetan or Nepalese, there's nothing in his code of living which says: "Thou shalt not perforate stamps for gullible collectors and ask many times more for this service."

Fortunately for specialists who had Tibetan Philately at heart—it was distasteful—but not disastrous—for the original stamps weren't there to perforate. Indeed there are one or two early settings scarcer imperf. than perf. They'd already been obsolete for many years, in their easily recognisable colours.

Thus we had the birth of a fresh lot of perfs. on later settings than originals—and depending on the source of supply—as to which type of perf., for it was noticeable that one obtained a certain type from a certain source, according to whether it was Tibet, Nepal, Sikkim or India.

During the whole of this time—I kept receiving batches of commercial covers from Tibet's various towns—and yet it was not surprising that none of these contained these phoney perfs. The 1 sang and the bisects came through, but I had to go to other contacts to get these perfs. and the so-called officials.

From them, of course, came the patter too. How a perforating machine had been carried across the Himalayas on porters' backs—after only 2 or 3 dozen sheets had been perforated—it broke down—it was then thrown on the scrap heap, not being understood—and finally—the oft repeated words—“there will be no more like these.” This refers to the marketing of the large clear cut perfs.—9 to 11, vouched for by veteran collectors (though not veteran as regards Tibetan Philately) on both sides of the Atlantic. Only a casual glance at these perfs. will show that no machine produced these holes, that walk around crooked clichés—and that are irregularly spaced. These are of course obtainable on cover—covers that are occasionally deliberately dirtied in an attempt to make them “commercial” covers. These were manufactured privately in Lhasa—probably by a Nepalese—who would be breaking no law. At the same time as the above were a series of pin-perfs., varying considerably in gauge even on the one side of the stamp—one 4 tr. stamp having a perf. $7\frac{1}{2}$ on one side—12 on two sides and $13\frac{1}{2}$ on the fourth. Two sheets of the $\frac{2}{3}$ tr.—both setting III have contrasting pin perfs.—both about 12—one very tiny holes—the other larger, neither lines of perfs. being straight.

There is another large clear cut perf. 10, in straight lines between the stamps, probably from an Indian source. One such sheet is a 4 tr. Setting Id.

There may be an unofficial status attached to some pin perfs. that appeared between 1948/50—though there is not sufficient material to study them—for there was more than one perforator at work. The earliest to appear were some commercially used $\frac{2}{3}$ tr. with a fine pin perf. about 16, between stamps only. Then another commercially used 4 tr. Apple Green (Setting 1e) small pin perfs. about 8 and a commercially used cover with a 4 tr. Bottle Green p. 10-11 with a squarish perf. came later—and a mint block of four, obviously again made with an angular pin this time p.16.

The roulettes—whether straight or zig-zag are not worthy of consideration at all—nor are the large zig-zags cut out by a pair of of pinking scissors. All the so called “commercial”—and the vast majority of made to order covers, were used from Lhasa.

For those interested in these 1950–60 perfs., the following is a list of recorded items (crossed) not necessary complete—for naturally any imperf. sheet of the period could be perforated. The original 1933 perfs. are included for comparison purposes.

Colour	Clear Cut			
	Settings	Originals	Pin-Perfs.	Perfs. Roulette
1/2 tr. Orange	I	x	—	—
Orange-Yellow	I	x	—	—
Greenish-Yellow	III	—	x	x
Chrome	IV	—	x	—
2/3 tr. Dark Blue	I	x	—	—
Prussian Blue	I	x	—	—
Grey-Blue	III	—	x	x
Dark Indigo	III	—	x	x
Light Indigo	III	—	—	x
Light Indigo	IV	—	x	—
1 tr. Carmine-Lake	I	x	—	—
Scarlet-Red	I	—	x	—
Brown-Orange	II	—	x	x
Dark-Salmon-Pink	III	—	x	x
Orange-Vermilion	III	—	x	x
Reddish-Vermilion	IV	—	x	x
2 tr. Bright Scarlet	Ia	x	—	—
Dark Scarlet-Vermilion	Ia	—	x	—
Bright Scarlet	Ib	—	x	—
Orange-Brown	II	—	x	x
Dull Orange	II	—	x	x
Orange	II	—	x	x
4 tr. Emerald Green	I	x	—	—
Yellow-Green	I	x	—	—
Apple Green	Ie	—	x	—
Bottle Green	Ie	—	x	—
Green	II	—	x	x

The 1933 original perfs. vary considerably even on one stamp—but generally the variations are between 11 and 12½ in all values except the 4 tr. So irregular are the latter that the following have been noted. Perf. 6¾; 8½ × 11, 9 × 10 and 16. I do not consider a full listing, even if it could be compiled, necessary. How they were done is not clear—the spiked wheel seems to be the consensus of most writers—but if this method was used—more than one wheel must have been employed. One sheet I have, has a complete uninterrupted semi-circle in the sheet margin between one horizontal line of perfs. and the next, which suggests the wheel theory, or a sewing machine.

Double perf. varieties exist—as well as a treble perf. 4 tr. Larger holes or smaller—depends on whether the sheets were on top of a pile—or the bottom when more than one sheet was perforated at a time. One 2/3 tr. pair has been found double perf. and mixed perf., the whole of this paragraph referring to the original 1933 perfs.

This brings us to the end of the 1933 Settings, States, Shades etc., which it has been a real privilege to explore. I got as much thrill out of this virgin ground as no doubt did Col. Bailey and other early explorers, actually finding their way through the unexplored Tibetan Highlands.

The "end" is only my story here, by the time these words are printed there may be fresh finds to record—or alterations to make. Other specialists may well have certain Key covers that may alter slightly the dates in which some cases have had to be conjecture. I am sure of the settings being in their correct order—and the majority of printings have been checked and cross-checked with other values on multiple value covers. Occasionally a mint sheet has had to be fitted into the jigsaw puzzle, which may later have to be placed up or down a place in the chronological ladder. This has happened to my earlier list of 1953. Only by the fullest co-operation between collectors can further progress be made.

Regarding the individual clichés—I have tried to describe some of the more important features of the design. I have always found the centre square the most informative part—the Lions' tail and tongue; the Yin-Yang in the circle above the Lion; the shape of the squiggles, and the hook at each side and beneath the circle; and the two hooks beneath the Lion. The thickness of the white lines forming the panels—and the frame lines can also be helpful.

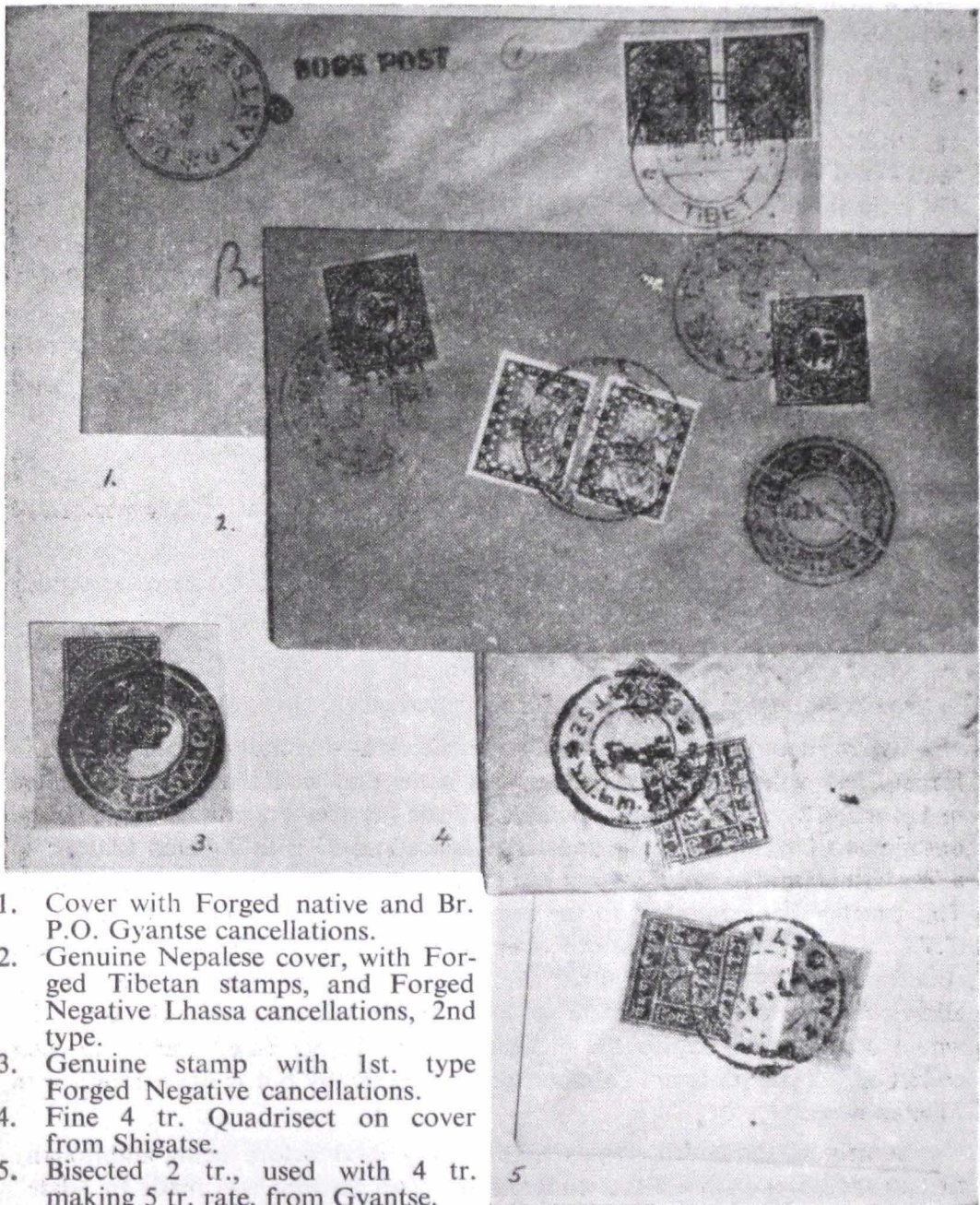
Damage to the clichés—and printing flaws (which can get progressively better or worse) are mentioned where necessary. (See Smythies tables published in Haverbeck for further flaws, though some of these are not as permanent as he then believed).

An interesting exercise for the Tibetan specialist, is to try and get as many of the enlarged new 12th cliché, in its various printings, as possible. So far my score is 9, including 6 on cover. It would be hard to duplicate this lot to-day, though dealers on the whole do not distinguish this from the other clichés, and one can find them "as normals."

Rumour has it that the Chinese have the printing blocks of this issue—and are again printing Tibetan stamps. It is nearly 10 years since the Chinese took over the Tibetan Postal Administration and I have yet to find any evidence that the plates have been so used.

It is time that more should be said about the 1950 period—for there is still Tibetan material about fetching too high a price. Two Americans have remonstrated in a mild way against this material in the Weekly Philatelic Gossip (Messrs. Radgowski and Singer) but I doubt strong enough to be effective. I do hope their article "The 1 Sang and Related Problems," gained much publicity in American Tibetan Circles, the reason why I mention it a second time.

They go to great length to argue the date of issue of the 1 sang. They need not doubt the fact that the 1 sang is a product of this period. I note that their commercial cover is from Shigatse, and from a Nepalese. This ties up with my observations—that the 1 sang and the 2 tr. Bisects were generally used by the Nepalese in Tibet.



1. Cover with Forged native and Br. P.O. Gyantse cancellations.
2. Genuine Nepalese cover, with Forged Tibetan stamps, and Forged Negative Lhasa cancellations, 2nd type.
3. Genuine stamp with 1st. type Forged Negative cancellations.
4. Fine 4 tr. Quadrisect on cover from Shigatse.
5. Bisected 2 tr., used with 4 tr. making 5 tr. rate, from Gyantse.

Mr. Singer asks, "how did the 1 sang become so common?" The answer is, "it has NEVER been scarce!" High priced,—Yes! except to a few. The market was well played regarding this item.

It should be also borne in mind that in the Lhasa Nepalese Legation was a Nepalese Gentleman, who had had a lot of dealings with a Western Philatelist over a long period—and he knew the difference for instance between perf. and imperf.—1 sang and 1/6 trangka.

The so-called "Officials" are not postage stamps—all covers are per favour. As has been repeatedly said—"if any kind of "STAMP" or label was put on an envelope—any Tibetan Postmaster would only be too pleased to cancel same—and send it through the post—as long as the postal fee was paid to him. His only thought would be "These Mad Westerners." The same goes too for Radio or Wireless Telegraph Stamps. Neither set was produced for the payment of postage, nor legally did they ever serve that purpose. They belong to one of the many groups that exist in Tibetan Postal History, such as:—

- (a) Genuine Commercial Cover—correct postal fee with current stamps.
- (b) Cover that has many stamps thereon—but has done postal duty, with current stamps.
- (c) As, last, but the stamps are of the wrong period.
- (d) Genuine stamps and cancellations—but no postal service performed (C.T.O.).
- (e) Genuine stamps and cancellations added at a later date to a genuine cover, making a normal cover into a combination cover.
- (f) Forged Covers—in part or whole.
- (g) Non-Postal adhesives genuinely cancelled.

Types (a) and (b) are worthy of any collection—naturally with a preference for (a), but without (b) there are certain items that would not be represented in the majority of Tibetan Collections. Type (c) are very misleading—I have one or two covers obviously addressed and stamped with Tibetan Stamps in a Western country—and then sent out to Tibet to be returned through the post. This practice has continued to the present Chinese Tibetan era. Type (d) the C.T.O.'s, are common the world over, and has become the practice of most countries to-day—to satisfy either the "used at all cost" stamp addict—or to allow the price of complete sets to come within the purse of collectors who would otherwise be denied the inclusion of the higher faced stamps in their collection. Type (e) is not common practice generally but is often found with Tibetan items.

Sometimes the added stamps were already used before being additionally tied to the cover with another cancellation. An attempt was made to "date" 1 sang covers to an earlier period than 1950 by this method. Type (f) in regards to Tibet can be genuine stamps with forged cancellations; forged stamps with genuine cancellations, forged stamps with forged cancellations,

Type (g) brings us back to the so-called Officials—found used with contemporary Postage Stamps—or used by themselves; and the Wireless Telegraph Stamps—which can be found in "complete sets on registered covers."

Mr. Singer reports seeing these in "large quantities" cancelled to order—in Kalimpong. I have bought a quantity of the "Officials" including sheets and large blocks at 3d. each. Interesting to the Tibetan addict at the right price, as long as they are placed with the Curios and Tibetan Bank Notes (which are as interesting as their stamps) in a section apart from the Postage Stamps.

Another fact mentioned in Mr. Singer's article is the surge of 4 and 8 trangkas that came on the market. They do not quote the American Chinese Magazine that reported that 5 out of the 6 clichés on the plates of these stamps had been purposely rendered useless by defacing the block. Nor the fact that as soon as this was reported—the market became full of the 4 tr. Milky Blue and 8 tr. Pale Rose reprints—in mint sheets, cancelled to order sheets, cancelled to order on envelopes. Nor the fact that an American dealer boasted that he'd had 100 sheets delivered. Fortunately they were nowhere near the colours of the original stamps nor the shiny prints. (Though the latter may be found on cancelled to order Covers, they are nearly as rare as the originals).

Much later than the low values—and after the report that the "perforating machine had broken down"—the 8 tr. Pale Rose came along with large clear cut perfs. Here again they can be classed as spurious items.

Then finally—there were the various forgeries—described elsewhere—which appeared during this period. The 1 sang and the 8 trangkas—and both found with genuine Lhasa cancellations—though not dangerous in themselves when one knows for what to look.

After 10 years one can judge these items in a truer perspective—which are phoney, which are genuine, and which are still doubtful.

That Haverbeck has perhaps changed his opinion during these years is rather evident from his writings between his two handbooks. He issued a supplement to the first edition—where he not only illustrated the 1950 perfs., but gave a brief description of the 1 sang discovery, and later surprisingly omitted these mentions from the second edition of his handbook. A description of the 1 sang is omitted, yet three pages are devoted to the so-called officials!

It is not just the existence of the false material, but it is the continued deception, with the remunerative desires, which has carried on long after the material has left the Tibetan borders far behind, that is distressing. There is no evidence at all to warrant the suggestion that has appeared in the American Philatelic Press, that the Chinese may have had something to do with this phoney material.

The last indignity suffered by Tibetan Collectors—was the attempted foisting on them of a Human Rights issue of 3 denominations, purporting to have come from Tibet. It is thought they first appeared in Nepal. The values are, 100 Orange; 250 Red Brown; 500 Dark Olive Green. The design of the stamp is a seated Buddha with Lotus symbol behind, and "Human Rights" below. A colourless panel top left has the word TIBET—and top right, Tibetan characters for Tibetan Government. The values in English and Tibetan are in panels at bottom left and right respectively. The cancellation is large, single-lined, with a bridge, and with a large "Tibet" in the lower segment.

CHART OF DATED COVERS OF THE 1933 ISSUE.

	1									1										1								
	9									9										9								
	3									4										5								
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

1/2 TRANGKA

Setting I.	Orange	x	x																								
	Yellow-Orange		x																								
	Lemon		x																								
II.	Lemon			x	x	x	x																				
	Chrome Yellow					x																					
	Yellow-Ochre					x																					
	Bistre					x	x																				
III.	Yellow-Ochre																										
	Chrome Yellow																										
	Yellow													x	x												
	Green-Yellow											x		x													
IV.	Gr.-Yellow																x		x	x							
	Chrome																					x					
	Canary Yellow																										

2/3 TRANGKA.

Setting I.	Blue	x	x																								
	Ultramarine																										
II.	Dark Blue		x	x	x	x																					
	Pale Blue			x	x																						
III.	Grey-Blue													x													
	Indigo															x											
IV.	Dark Indigo																				x	x					
	Grey-Blue																										
	Indigo																										
	Violet-Blue																										

1 TRANGKA.

Setting I.	Lake	x	x	x																									
	Carmin			x	x	x																							
	Vermilion				x	x	x																						
	Scarlet-Red					x																							
II.	Vermilion											x	x	x	x														
	Bluish-Red													x	x	x													
	Orange																x	x											
III.	Red																												
	Red-Orange																		x										
	Pale Vermilion																				x								
	Pink																						x	x					

1	1	1	1
9	9	9	9
3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7
8	9	0	1
2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	0	1

1 Trangka—continued.

IV. Pale Vermilion	x x
Scarlet-Red	
Brown	x
Bright Orange	
Bright Orange	
Yellow	

2 TRANGKA.

Setting I.	Scarlet	x	x	x							
	Red			x	x						
	Scarlet-Vermilion					x					
Ib.	Scarlet-Vermilion										
	Rose-Lake					x	x	x			
	Pink							x	x		
	Scarlet							x	x		
II.	Brown										
	Bright Orange							x	x		
	Bright Orange							x	x	x	
	Pale Orange								x	x	
	Scarlet								x	x	x
	Bright Scarlet										
	Brown Red										
	Yellow										

4 TRANGKA.

Setting I.	Emerald Green	x	x							
Ib.	Olive-Green			x						
	Sage-Green				x					
Ic.	Yellow-Green					x				
Id.	Yellow-Green									
	Emerald Green									
Ie.	Apple Green					x	x	x	x	
	Bottle Green							x	x	x
II.	Green							x		
	Dark Blue-Green							x	x	x
	Bright Jade								x	x
	Br. Yellow-Green								x	x
	Bright Green									

This shows that:—

The $\frac{1}{4}$ tr. Setting I was in use for 4 years, during which there were 3 main shades

	II	5	4
	III	8	4
	IV	8	4
$\frac{2}{3}$ tr. Setting	I	2	2
	II	7	2
	III	10	2
	IV	6	4
1 tr. Setting	I	8	4
	II	8	3
	III	5	4
	IV	4	6
2 tr. Setting	Ia	12	3
	Ib	5	4
	II	8	8
4 tr. Setting	Ia	5	2
	Ib	3	2
	Ic	4	1
	Id	3	2
	Ie	4	2
	II	6	5

It is very obvious that there were many printings with only a few months life.

Native Cancellations and Handstamps, 1912-50*

In his admirable handbook on "The Postage Stamps of Tibet," H. R. Holmes states, "the acquisition and listing of all the different postmarks, employed by the postal service is impossible of achievement—and the notes that follow, probably touch no more than the fringe of the subject." That quote is as true to-day (in 1965) as it was in 1941, with a slight reservation on the word impossible. Quite a few interesting discoveries have been made since, however, and I feel a resumé should be made to bring this line of research more up-to-date. Little has been done on the cancellations and the Renaut, Newman and Holmes listings are now all dated, including Haverbeck's more recent listing.

I intend to take the cancellations of the capital—Lhasa—first, and then follow with other places in alphabetical order. To put these in chronological order is barely possible at the moment, for two reasons. As a new cancellor was carved the old ones were not destroyed but used haphazardly. Thus a letter posted from Lhasa about 1924 might have any one of five cancellations stamped thereon. Secondly, on dated cover, the Tibetans seldom wrote the year—only the month, day and time of day.

All measurements refer to the diameter from the inner edges of the outer circle. Thus, the width of the outer line which varies often considerably, is not measured. All are black—unless otherwise stated.

LHASA.

The first three types have English Letters based on the outer rings, spelling LHASA; the next four types IV, V, VI and VII, are all based on the inner rings spelling LHASSA, whilst the 1933 type (Type VIII) reverts to the older but correct LHASA spelling and letters based on the outer circle again. References : "The Postage Stamps of Tibet" H. R. Holmes; "Tibet" G. S. Russell in *China Clipper Mag.*, 1949-50; "The Postage Stamps of Tibet," Haverbeck, 1952. "Tibet" F. P. Renaut, *Gibbons Mly. Circular*. June 1923.

Type I. (Holmes I; Haverbeck VII). This has been referred to as either the reversed or negative type, having the lettering white on a black background. It is known in (a) Black, (b) Prussian Blue, (c) Deep Bright Blue, (d) Greenish-Blue, (e) Mauve, (f) Violet, (g) Ultramarine. Diameter 29½mm.

Type II. (Holmes III; Russell, Fig. 10; Haverbeck unlisted). Probably the scarcest of the Lhasa types. Known used around 1915-16. Diameter 29½mm. Normal with letters in black.

Type III. (Holmes, unlisted; Russell, Fig. 11. Haverbeck X). Very similar to type II, but with double inner ring, used about 1915-16. Diameter 30mm.

*Illustrations pps. 115 & 121

Type IV. (Holmes II; Haverbeck VIII). This is the largest of all Tibetan cancellations, and used commercially is very rare, most examples being philatelic, on pieces or as backstamps—and indeed at one time was suspect. Commercial covers are now known between 1914 and 1925. Diameter 38mm. (a) Black. (b) Blue.

The next three types have been previously listed as one type—but they are quite distinct, though of a similar pattern—a smaller edition of Type IV.

Types V, VI and VII.

Type V.	Type VI.	Type VII.
1. Narrow "O" in Lhasa P.O.	1. Larger irregular "O"	1. Large regular "O"
2. Square topped A's.	2. Pointed topped A's.	2. Square topped A's.
3. Both S's Square with centre.	3. Second S falling forward, large top loop.	3. Second S falling but loops equal.
4. Stop between last Tibetan characters.	4. No stop.	4. No stop.
5. Diameter 29mm. known early to mid 1920's (a) Black; (b) Grey. (Unrecorded).	5. Diameter 29½mm. Mid 1920's 1919-1925. (Haverbeck IX; Holmes Fig. 4; Russell Fig. 3). No differentiation noticed previously.	5. Diameter 32mm. Mid 1920's to early 1930's.

Less than 10% of those seen are Type V. The commonest—type VII.

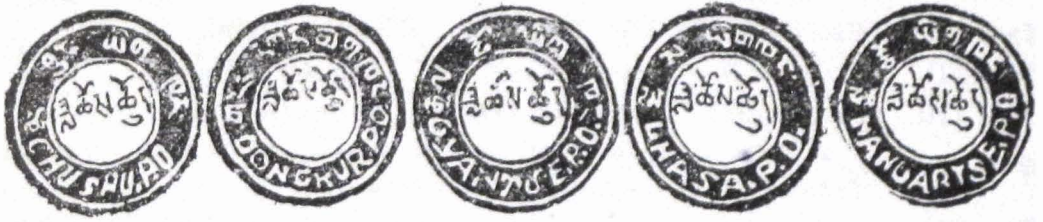
Type VIII. (Holmes type VII; Haverbeck XI). Back to correct spelling again, but without P.O. following Lhasa. This is found in two stages; (a) two outer circles, 32½mm. (1933). Described by A. Singer as being very rare in America. (b) one outer circle, 31½mm. This appears in Black and Violet. Some time about 1937 the outer circle suffered damage and soon disappeared altogether, the final stage probably resulting from the cutting away of the remnants. It is surprising that a new one was not cut, for Lhasa had five registration stamps cut and used during ten years, and yet, on an average, they were only handstamped on one in every 50 registered letters.

This brings us to the occupation of Lhasa by the Chinese, and what has happened since may not be fully known for quite a while, but it is doubtful whether there will have been any change in the native cancellations. There will no doubt, be more to interest the specialists in Chinese stamps used abroad.

However, to revert back to our subject—during this period the provincial towns and villages were using types in most cases not yet described.

Type IX. (Haverbeck, Figs. 43 and 44). Very similar to Lhasa Type VIII, but with no English inscription. Diameter 32mm. Contemporary with Type VIII.

TIBETAN NATIVE CANCELLATIONS, 1912-1930s.



Type I.



DECHEN & MEDOGONKAR.
Type XIII.



GYANDIE.
Type XII.



SHIGATSE.
Type XVI.



PHARI.
Type XV.



PHARI.
Type XIV.



GYANTSE.
Type XV.



PENAM (?)
Type XV.



Type II.



Type IV.



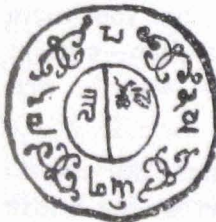
Type III.



Type V.



Type VI.



PENAM.
Type XI.



Type VII.



SHIGATSE.
Type XI.



PHARI. Type X.



DHOMO. Type XVII.

- Type X.** (Holmes 5. Russell, Fig. 5. Haverbeck, Fig. 38). Small fret, Diameter 28mm.
- Type XI.** (Haverbeck, Fig. 39). Large fret. Diameter 32mm.
- Type XII.** (Haverbeck). Square fret positive. Diameter 29½mm.
- Type XIII.** (Unrecorded). Square fret negative. Diameter 32mm.
In all these types the characters at the 12 o'clock and 3 o'clock positions signify the name of the village.
- Type XIV.** (Unrecorded). This is the small seal of the Postmaster at Pharijong. It may have been his own personal Ring Seal, brought into use when the Phari cancellor was not to hand.
- Type XV.** (Unrecorded). Illustrated in Holmes' Handbook, as a private layman's seal, this has now turned out to be a Postal Mark, one of a series used as backstamps, as acknowledgement of receipt, as well as a cancellation, though this could not be proved until 1964.
- Type XVI.** (Unrecorded). Similar to last—but all Tibetan characters. Two sizes 21mm. and 25mm.
- Type XVII.** See under Dhomo in following list.

Consideration is now given to the purely native cancellations, in which are here recorded in alphabetical order, with alternative spellings in brackets.

All Cancellations are in Black unless otherwise described. The majority of coloured impressions are rare, exceptions being Type I Lhasa and Gyantse in Blue and in Violet.

CHO-MO-RAK. (Chomohra, Choragha, Tshomora, Tsmo-Rag). This was first reported by Renaut as a fret. My guess is Type XII, but no-one appears to have seen one. The second type used was Type IX—diameter 33mm.

The village is approximately 200 miles due east of Lhasa, 75 miles down the Gyamda valley, before its confluence with the Tsang-po. So far, the farthest east of any reported native Tibetan cancellation, though various post offices are stated to have existed beyond this point—but connected with the Chinese system.

CHUSHU. (Chushul, Chusur, Gna-Shi). Situated on the Indian-Lhasa Mail route, 50 miles south west of Lhasa, on the north bank of the Tsang-po. This is represented by Type I in (a) Black, (b) Blue, (c) Bluish-Green, (d) Deep Blue. This is Renaut's "Gna-Shi." Type VIII followed Type I. Diameter 32mm. both types.

DECHEN. (Dachen, Dhejan, Dochen, Ta-chen). Situated on the main Chinese road about 15 miles east of Lhasa. This is Renaut's Ta-chen—a point missed by earlier recorders. Fret Type XIII, diameter 32mm. was the first used. Followed in 1933 by Type IX—32mm. diameter.

DHOMO. A mystery cancellation is reported by G. Russell (owner Cummings?) consisting of a single 32mm. circle with Tibetan characters across the centre as in previous types, day, month, hour, town name above (with no dividing line) and blank space below for date. Not known cancelling stamp. Type XVII.

DONGKUR. (Gongka, Konako, Kong-Ko). This is one of Renaut's omissions and it is the more surprising because it was on the Lhasa-Indian Mail route. No modern type has been recorded. Type I exists in (a) Black, (b) Bluish-

Green, (c) Slate-Violet, (d) Grey, (e) Grey Blue. All 28½mm. Doubtful if open since 1933.

GYANDIE. (Ghamtha, Gyamda, Gyamtha, Taichao) is a junction town about 120 miles east of Lhasa on the eastern Chinese route. Renaut was the first to record this fret type XII (diameter 29½mm.) The 1933 cancellation is type IX—diameter 34mm. (Haverbeck, fig. 43). Kingdon-Ward visited this Post Office and mentioned it in his book, *Assam Adventure*.

GYANTSE. (Gyangtse). Is 137 miles south-west of Lhasa—147 miles from the Indian border. One of the three most important towns in Tibet, and the centre of the famous rug-making industry, as well as having had an Indian Trade Agent and Post Office.

Type I is known in quite a galaxy of colours; (a) Black, (b) Boot-polish Black, (c) Black-Violet, (d) Slate-Violet, (e) Violet, (f) Mauve, (g) Purple-Brown, (h) Claret, (i) Bluish-Green, (j) Brown, (k) Grey, (l) Rose-Carmine. 30½mm. in diameter. (b) Feb. 1927, (f) July, 1933.

Type Ib looks exactly as if a tin of boot-polish had been used instead of the normal ink.

Type Ic was probably made by switching over from black to violet, without cleaning the handstamp. Gyantse post office is called a clearing house by the Tibetans—as it was here that the Lhasa-Indian mail handed over to the Indian P.O. at Gyantse.

Type XV was the first of the small postal markings found on cover, and on acknowledgement of receipt slips. Printed in Black—22mm. diameter—it was inadvertently illustrated as a writer's seal in Holmes' page 5 (Inverted too!!)

Type VIII followed in 1933. (The outer circle quickly disappeared as explained under Lhasa type VIII). It can be found in Black or Violet (from 1956).

HOLKAR. (Holgha, Holdga, O Kha, Wolkha, Wosel). Situated south-west of Giamda—a terminal village off the main Chinese route. Only Type IX. Diameter, 34mm.

MEDAGONGKUR. (Malghung, Medu-Kongkar, Meto-Ghynka). This is another of Renaut's omissions and Newman stated that a Post Office was inaugurated in 1932. However, there was an earlier Post Office here—which used the fret Type XIII—32mm.—surely one of the rarest. Newman's reference was to the type which followed in 1933—Type IX, 33mm.—which is more often seen. The village is about 40 miles east of Lhasa on the Chinese route.

NANGARTSE. (Nargache, Nagartse). A small village on the shores of the Great Tibetan Lake, Yam-Dok, 76 miles south-west of Lhasa—again on the Indian mail route. Although only a small place, no doubt Type I was used with the English inscription because so much mail passed through. Though rare on cover cancelling the stamp, it is quite common used as a backstamp. It occurs in six colours:— (a) Black, (b) Grey, (c) Deep Violet, (d) Brilliant Cerise, (e) Bright Mauve, (f) Grey-Blue. 29½mm. in diameter. The modern Type VIII has changed the spelling—dropping the second "N" and is 33mm in diameter.

PELTI. (Pai-li, Palti). Like Nangartse, is on the Yam-Dok shores; a small fishing village 16 miles to the North of Nangartse. Here again, though a very small village, Type I was used. Although known only in black, two types of ink were used; (a) an oil-bound ink and (b) a water colour type of ink. This was Renaut's Pai-li. Again often seen as a backstamp—but rare cancelling stamps.

Type VIII is the modern usage, diameter 33mm.

PENAM. (Pena). A small village with an important monastery. 40 miles north-west of Gyantse, near to Shigatse. A large fret, Type XI was used here, measuring $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.—and as with most frets, clear impressions are very rare. The ink used on all copies seen has been a watery brown-black. It appears that many covers with Penam backstamps may have been sent from Penam, and at the time of sending, no stamps were available there. This view is endorsed by a cover from the Penam postmaster himself which has the Penam cancellation on the cover, and a stamp cancelled on its arrival at Shigatse, for its transmission to its final destination. A Type XV is known, cancelling a pair of 2 tr.—the central character being very much the same as that at 12 o/c on the Penam Type XI.

The last used was Type IX—33mm. diameter.

PHARI. (Phagri). The most southerly of the native post offices, though there is an Indian Post Office on Tibetan soil at Yatung. There is no record of a Tibetan Post Office in the Chumbi Valley. Mail from India is transferred to the Tibetan Post Office at Phari—and also certain mail to and from Bhutan.

The Type X fret was used at Phari (the clearest fret type found), 28mm. in diameter (Russell, Fig. 4).

In the Burrus collection, Type XV was found on a 1912 type cover. Measuring 21mm. in diameter, it contained a central negative square containing the first two characters in the small Phari fret cancellation.

The small seal, Type XIV, mentioned earlier was used by the postmaster to cancel stamps, 14mm. diameter. Later Type VIII was in use, 38mm. diameter.

SHETANG. (Chetung, Nedong, Rtse-thang, Tseche, Tsetang). Situated 50 miles south-east of Lhasa in one of the most fertile parts of Tibet. The road from Lhasa branches south at Dochen, Shetang being on the south side of the river. It was described as having 50 shops in 1905! Although no cancellation is recorded other than in Renaut's list, it is only the second that has not turned up on his early listing and is probably a fret similar in type to Phari's Type X. Some years ago I wrote to Russell, saying I had a seemingly different fret—that it might have come from Shetang, but was undecipherable—a possibility that was too vague for publication, but found its way into both Russell's and Haverbeck's publications, so confirmation of an existing fret type for Shetang is still awaited.

SHIGATSE. (Digatche). Second only in importance, to the Tibetans, to Lhasa. The home of the Panchen Lama (sometimes erroneously called the Tashi Lama), who is looked upon by some Tibetans as the first Holy Man in Tibet. The town is situated near the confluence of the Tsang Po and Gyantse Valleys, 50 miles from Gyantse.

The large fret, Type XI, (Russell's fig. 8) was used here and is found in (a) Black, (b) Blue-Green. 32mm. diameter. The latter has been found on two covers, and is the only coloured fret type recorded. There are two sub-types of this cancellation to record. One has a much larger and thicker outer-ring overall measurement of 35½mm. diameter—against the smaller type with an overall measurement of 33mm. It may be another case of wear, though all covers seen can easily be divided into the two types without measuring. Recently there appeared a cover in the Burrus collection, a Negative type Shigatse mark on a 1912 type cover. This measured 24mm. with a triangle of dots at the top of the thick outer circle. Previously I had found such a mark in the Bell's collection, but this was only 21mm. The native characters in both cases are the same as are found on the Type VIII from Shigatse, and read "Shigatse Government Post." This is Type XVI. Type VIII was the last to be used—diameter 33mm.

This gives the Tibetan student a list of over 70 varieties of cancellations for which to search—some advancement, at any rate, on Holmes' 1941 article (24) Russell's 1949 article (28) and Haverbeck's 1952 handbook (30). Within another year, the number of Tibetan cancellations was doubled again—with the introduction of the Chinese-Tibetan types—described more fully elsewhere.

OFFICIAL MAIL BAGS.

A word might be added here regarding the strips of native paper or linen which are found with half a dozen cancellations thereon—all Type I—and often with Tibetan characters surrounding them.

These are part of the Official Bags in which Mail was carried—and also presumably the sealed diplomatic mail. They were generally sent by the Tibetan Ministers in Lhasa to the Tibetan representatives in India—with instructions that each Postmaster along the route should backstamp the bag with the time of arrival and departure. This was done, and they give a fine picture of the time it took the mail to traverse from one post office to another—and also give us a wonderful assortment of the rare coloured cancellations—some of which had not been seen previously.

Details of five of these are appended.

	Lhasa.	Dongkur.	Chushu.	Pelti.	Nangartse.	Gyantse.	Phari.
1.	Prussian Blue	Slate-Violet	Bluish Green	Black	Deep Violet	—	—
2.	Bright Blue	Bluish-Green	Black	Brownish-Black	Bright Cerise	—	—
3.	Mauve	Bluish-Green	Black	Black	Black	Deep Claret	Black Seal
4.	Ultra-Marine	Grey-Blue	Black	Black	Bright Mauve	Violet	Black Seal
5.	Mauve	Grey	Black	Black	Grey-Blue	Deep Claret	Black Seal

Points value of Nos. 1 & 2 — 175 points. Nos. 3, 4 & 5 — 250 points.

All are Type I except the Phari Seals—Type XIV. This I have on cover—and on two further single stamps, and it is a very interesting emergency cancellation. Not until the above pieces had been found was it possible to identify the seals on the stamps (Type XIV).

Check List of the coloured Type I Cancellations.

	Chusu.	Dongkur.	Gyantse.	Lhasa.	Nangartse.	Pelti.
Black	x	x	xx	x	x	xx
Grey		x	x		x	
Grey-Blue		x			x	
Ultramarine				x		
Deep Bright Blue	x			x		
Prussian Blue				x		
Bluish-Green	x	x	x	x		
Mauve			x	x	x	
Violet			x	x		
Slate-Violet		x	x			
Deep Violet			x		x	
Claret			x			
Purple-Brown			x			
Brown			x			
Rose-Purple			x			
Cerise					x	

The Nangartse “Mauve” is very bright. The extra cross in the Black Gyantse is for the Boot Polish Black, the one in the Pelti position, for a Brownish water-colour Black, also found as normal in the Penam fret type.

A typical address on these Official Bags is as follows :—

To Delhi in India. To be delivered to the great Lonchen Shatra of Tibet. Sent by the Tibetan Government at Lhasa on the 24th of 10th month at 2 o'clock in the daytime. Despatched immediately from Dongkur Post Office on the 24th of 10th month. Despatched from Chushu Post Office on the 24th of 10th month at 6 o'clock. Despatched from Gyantse Post Office on the 26th of the 10th month. Received at Phari Post Office on the 28th day at 9 o'clock. Received by the Chief Minister of the Tibetan Delegation at Delhi.

The average time that it took these Diplomatic Bags between the Tibetan places is as follows:—

Lhasa to Chushu. 36 miles in 4 hours. No major obstacles.
 Chushu to Pelti. 60 miles in 17 hours. Crossing of the mighty Tsang-Po River. No doubt this is now crossed by a road bridge built by the Chinese, but previously by ferry, often at the cost of human lives, as happened when the British Expedition crossed in 1903-4. One Diplomatic Bag took 5 days between these points, and one wonders what really did delay the mail on this occasion.

1933 CANCELLATION TYPES.



CHOMORAK.



DECHEN.



GYANDIE.



HOLKA.

Type IX.



Type VIII.



MEDOGONKAR & PENAM. Type IX.



FORGERIES OF TYPE IX.

TYPES USED ON 1912 FORGERIES



Type I.
On 1 & 2.



Type II.
On 1, 2 & 6.



Type III.
On 3 & 2.



Type IV.
On 4.



Type V.
On 5.



Type VI.
On 7.



Type VII.
on 7.



Type VIII.
On 7 and genuine.



Type IX.
On 4.

The numbers beneath show the set of forgeries on which found.

Pelti to Nangartse. 19 miles in 3 hours.

Nangartse to Gyantse. 58 miles in 24 hours. A barrier of mountains to cross through the Karo La, at a height of 16,600 ft.

Gyantse to Phari. 95 miles in 32 hours. Over the windswept plateau, and the 15,000 ft. Tang La.

Phari to the Indian Border and down to Siliguri, another 127 miles.

This includes a drop of 5,000 ft. to Yatung; a climb up the Jelap La of 9,000 ft. to a height of over 14,000 ft. and a final plunge down to sea level.

Some of the fine pieces in my collection of cancellations are as follows:—

Block of 7— $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Violet used with five strikes of Lhasa Type IV.

A Scarf Cover—registered from Lhasa, with Type I Lhasa Registration handstamp. Franked with one of each value—two of which, the $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ trs., are cancelled with Type III. The others are pen-cancelled in black with spiders web—the same ink being used for the following English inscription “no custom of seal for this kind of stam(p).” What that means to convey is a mystery.

A Tsarong Shape large crested envelope—with 3 large black seals in wax and a pair of 1/6 tr. Bright Yellow Green shinies cancelled with Type IV.

A 1/6 tr. Bright Green with Violet Lhasa Type I—backstamped Chushu Type I in a Deep Bright Blue—hitherto unrecorded. The Native Cover is inscribed:—

“Sent from Meron, Lhasa by Zingag Locko on the 24th of 8th month, to be delivered to the Trade Agent Khandung of Gyantse. This letter being very important, the Postal Authorities are requested to deliver it properly.”

A deepish 1/6 tr. Grey-Green, cancelled with Chushu P.O. Type I in Greenish-Blue—the only recorded coloured Chushu cancelling a stamp. Another with a Blue Chushu cancellation, which although across the stamp has been used as a backstamp.

The finest extant Dongkur P.O. in Grey-Blue with a lovely Ultramarine Lhasa—both Type I on piece of canvas. This was despatched from Chushu P.O. at 4 o'clock in the morning!

A superb unique cover from Medagonkur to Gyantse, backstamped at Dechan with the very rare negative fret cancellations Type XIII indeed the only known examples. Both are hand dated; showing that the particular runner did not loiter on the riverside—for the 35–40 miles were covered in 7 hours. The cover is addressed to Mr. McDonald, who did much good work in connection with Anglo-Tibetan relations. In fact his Father was a Scot, his Mother a Tibetan Sikkimese—and he himself married a Nepalese.

A 2/3 tr. Salmon on cover with Black Pelti cancellation—a rare item to find cancelling a stamp on commercial cover. On pieces, with the same type, a 1/3rd. tr. Bright Ultramarine; a 1/2 tr. Shiny Purple and a 1 tr. Salmon-Carmine. From the Burrus collection—a set with the Potsage (2/3 tr.) error—on cover from Pelti.

A cover that has apparently been trampled underfoot by a caravan of Yaks—but nevertheless—because of its rarity, is worthy of a place in any Specialists album. It has a 1/6 tr. Dull Green—and a ½ tr. Violet both cancelled with the large Shigatse fret type in Bluish-Green, one of only two recorded coloured frets on cover.

A cover from Gyantse to Singapore, Tibetan stamps cancelled with Type I in (Light) Brown—a rare cancellation.

A Phari cover with 1/6 tr. cancelled with Postmaster's Ring Seal.

An Acknowledgement of Receipt slip with Shigatse Type XVI (21mm.), a surprise find in 1960—which may be 30 years old—and inscribed “Shigatse Government Letter.”

A Shigatse native cover with Type XVI, 24mm., and Type XI—both cancelling stamps, the only use seen of the former, from the Burrus collection; and from the same source a Pharijong native cover with Type XV on front of cover—the stamps being cancelled by Type X.

1912-32 NATIVE REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS.*

A large proportion of Tibetan mail was registered, hence the use of the 2/3 tr. stamp. The fact that they were registered was inscribed on the cover, sometimes by the sender, sometimes by the postmaster. The native characters are generally found beneath a squiggle like a flat ogee arch. Occasionally they are found in an oblong box, or just the characters alone.

There are no records to show when or why the first handstamps came into use, but I have recorded nine different, plus an only one from Chushu, which may or may not be a handstamp.

CHUSHU. A crude affair, 20 × 50mm. with the characters in a baseless frame. Covers from Chushu are extremely rare with 1912 stamps; in this case, there are 2 pairs of the 1/6 tr. Dull Green with Type I in Black, and is the only registered cover seen from Chushu. (300 points).

GYANTSE. This I have seen only twice, 22mm. high on a 40mm. base. A nice cover represents this, with a 1/2 tr. shiny Reddish-Purple (most unusual for registered rate)—inscribed “Registered” in English and Tibetan in mms.—with 5 black wax seals of the Government Bankers at Gyantse (LACHMANDAS RAM CHANDRA). There are also three impressions of a small double-ringed seal 12mm. in diameter—in the same ink as the Registration mark and cancellation. These may be the impressions of a ring seal. The cover was from Gyantse to Lhasa. (300 points).

**Illustration p. 125*

PHARIJONG. The last to come to light, and only two were found in a large collection of covers. Different to the rest this is a double lined rectangular handstamp 18×50 mm. long. As often is the case, the sender's own Mss. registry marks were on both. (400 points).

LHASA. A surprise six different handstamps here, Type I being the largest and the commonest. 18×40 mm. long, this accounts for at least three quarters of the total of known Lhasa handstamps. (100 points).

Of the other five smaller types, only about a dozen are known altogether. It is amazing—that out of the dozen seen, five different types have survived. They differ in size and shape of both the Tibetan characters and the surrounding frames. There is no way of listing these chronologically, the earliest dated cover with Lhasa Type I is 1920—the earliest of Type II is 1922. I should like to hear of any dated covers with these Registrations handstamps upon them.

- 11a. 16×37 . *P* to *L*, but leans *R*.
LS slopes up. *RS* is Horizontal. 200 pts.
- 11b. $15\frac{1}{2} \times 238$. *P* to *L*, Vertical.
LS slopes up. *RS* is Horizontal. 200 pts.
- 11c. $16\frac{1}{2} \times 36$. Round *P*, *C* and Vertical.
LS slopes up. *RS* is Down. 400 pts.
- 11d. $15\frac{1}{2} \times 37$. *P* Central and Vertical.
LS High, level. *RS* is Low, round 400 pts.
- 11e. $15 \times 36\frac{1}{2}$. *P* to *L* and Vertical.
LS Horizontal. *RS* is Down. 400 pts.

P — Point of Arch. *C* — Central.
RS — Right Shoulder. *L* — Left.
LS — Left Shoulder. *R* — Right.

The native characters are always the same, but differ in size and shape. Adhesive stamps and cancellations on the covers seen, are from the 1919–24 period.

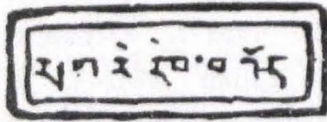
SHIGATSE. The most handsome of all, measuring 28×56 mm. Once again the same ogee shape. (100 points).

1933 REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS.

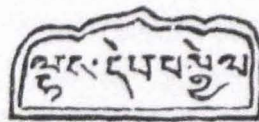
There is less interest in the Registration marks during the 1933 period. The 1912 handstamps had ceased to be used before the 1933 issue arrived, and there was a lapse of about 15 years before Rubber stamps became the rage of the Tibetan Letter writers for addresses, Seals, Directional Marks and the Registration Marks. The latter are known from Gyantse, Lhasa and Pharijong.

GYANTSE. Small framed oblong in Black, size 21×15 mm. 1951–4. 30 points.

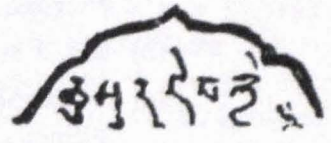
1912 REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS.



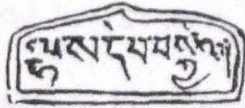
PHARI.



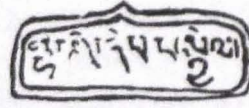
LHASA I.



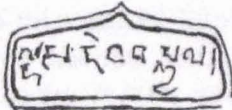
CHUSHU.



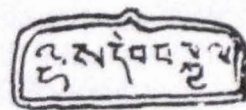
LHASA IIa.



IIb.



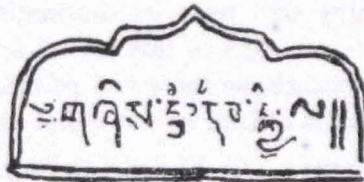
IIc.



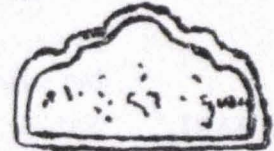
IIId.



IIe.

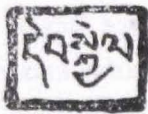


SHIGATSE.

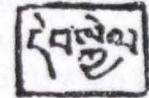
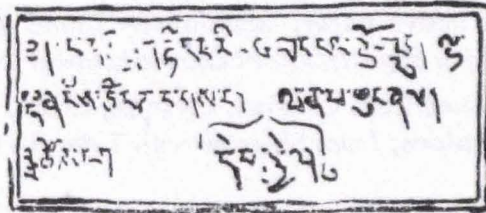


GYANTSE.

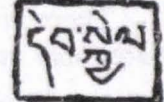
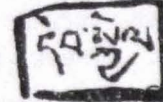
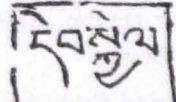
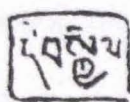
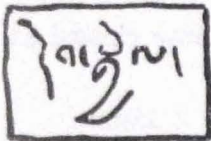
1933 HANDSTAMPS.



PHARI.



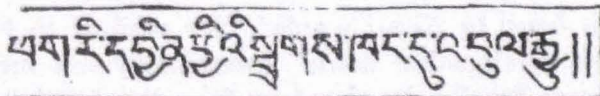
GYANTSE.



Five LHASA Registry H/S and large combined Registry/Forwarding H/S.

ཕ་མི་ལྷན་སྐྱོད་ལུ་འཇམ་དཀར་པོ་འཛོམས་ལས་ལྷོད་རྒྱུ།

Two types of SHIGATSE Forwarding Handstamps.



- LHASA.** (a) Large framed oblong in (i) Blue-Black. (ii) Carmine. (iii) Purple. (iv) Violet. 32 × 22mm. 1948-50. 10 points.
- (b) Small squarish, Purple. 19 × 15mm. 1952-3. 25 points.
- (c) Incomplete oblong, no base. 25 × 15mm. 1952-3. 20 points. This is sometimes found together with a directional mark, 93 × 36mm.
- (d) Violet irregular oblong. 24 × 16mm. 1954-5. 15 points.
- (e) Black oblong, clear straight sides. 23 × 16mm. 1954-5. 15 points.
- (f) Very large double-lined rectangle. 76 × 33mm. 1952-5. 30 points. (i) Orange. (ii) Black. (iii) Violet.

This has 2½ lines of Tibetan characters (a Lhasa-Phari directional mark) with registry mark. The Orange hand-stamp is on a combination cover from Lhasa, with 4 tr. Jade, cancelled Lhasa Type 8. It was then handed over to the Chinese P.O. where it received Chinese stamps and cancellation before being sent onto its destination, Kalimpong.

Combination covers of this period are scarce. 100 points.

In addition to the above there is a printed framed Registry mark, but whether this is official or not is not known.

- PHARI.** Similar to Gyantse. (i) Violet. (ii) Blue. 22 × 17mm. 1953-4. 40 points.

REGISTRATION RECEIPTS.

Long narrow slips of native paper, occasionally found with Tibetan writing and one cancellation, are registration acknowledgement of receipt labels.

These have been noted from Chushul, Gyantse, Lhasa, Nangartse and Pelti, with Type VIII cancellations; from Shigatse with Type XVI; from Gyantse and Phari, with Type XV.

DIRECTIONAL MARKS.

There are many varied rubber stamp impressions, which I have classed as directional marks. Five are as follows:—

- (a) From Lhasa—a large framed three lined Violet mark 77 × 28mm.
- (b) From Gyantse—an unframed two-lined mark in Black, 77 × 20mm. Neat.
- (c) From Gyantse—an unframed two-lined mark in Violet, 65 × 30mm. Irregular.
- (d) From Shigatse—a single-lined fancy framed mark in Violet the latter reading “convey to Gyantse and then by proper authority.” 99 × 17mm.
- (e) ditto. On letter to Nepal worded “for sending to Phari, and after that to the continuation house” (presumably this meant the British Post Office at Phari). Reported by Russell. 5 points each.

INSURED MAIL. 1912-1953.

Mail could be insured in Tibet. One cover is franked by a pair of 1912 $\frac{3}{4}$ trangka Deep Lake Shiny Prints both POTSAGE errors, and inscribed in English and Tibetan "Insured for Rupees 50/" so presumably $\frac{3}{4}$ trangka was the extra postage needed for the insurance rate of 50 Rupees—for a letter between Lhasa and Gyantse. A 1940 cover insured for 10 Rupees, was franked at Lhasa with a 4 tr. Yellow-Green and a pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ trangka Yellow-Olive—an unusual rate at that time—1 trangka evidently being for the insurance. Yet another, "Insured for 5 Rupees"—was franked with a 4 tr. Dull Green and a $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Greenish-Yellow.

A long envelope with a pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Bright Blue—two $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. singles of a Dull Blue, and a $\frac{3}{4}$ tr. Salmon-Carmine (POTSAGE variety), cancelled with six strikes of the Phari Fret type—was insured for 30 Rupees. Presumably $2\frac{3}{4}$ tr. was the amount paid for insurance between Phari and Lhasa—though we know not the weight of this letter, which was sealed by seven black wax seals.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Tibetan Miscellany

OFFICIALS (so-called).

For the record only, the so-called Officials are:—

			<i>Approx. Sizes from outside white lines</i>	<i>Points Value</i>
1	Karmanga	(.05 sang) Bronze Green	Reported 31mm. square	40
2	Khakang	(.05 sang) Grey-Slate	26½ × 35½	2
1	Shokang	(.10 sang) Pale Brown. Dull Brown	31mm. square	3
1	Trangka	(.15 sang) Orange		
		Reported by T. Klewitz, as similar to the 2 Khakang, but	33 × 47mm.	20
2	Shokang	(.20 sang) Sage Green	41mm. square	5
1	Sang	Blue-Slate. Deep Slate-Grey	64mm. square	10

These all appear to come in sheets of 12 hand engravings on one block of wood except the 1 sang—in sheets of 8.

The designs all have the Lion of Tibet as their central motif, surrounded by a circle with Tibetan characters, and the English word STAMP at the bottom. The whole is contained in a square with a decorated surround on the outside, and another square. The spaces between the labels are solid colour. The 2 khakang and 1 trangka are oblong instead of square.

Col. Bailey's translation of the Tibetan characters is "Tibetan Govt. Order stamp," but he was unable to guess from that, what their usage could be, if they ever had a use in Tibet, which doubt becomes stronger each year that passes. He had never seen such stamps whilst he had been in Tibet. Some of these labels are on covers printed with "Tibet Commercial Corporation, P.O. Gyantse, Tibet." Some covers are stamped with a large buddha-like design, and endorsed in Nepalese characters Sri Ratna man, a gentleman's name that has been connected with other philatelic dealings. The first contact with the Western world was through an American, a Mr. Cummings. One Airmail (sic) cover is addressed to Haverbeck, C/O Postmaster Lhasa, and has four different values cancelled with the Gyamda datestamp. Russell put some on some covers himself, sent them to Lhasa with the request that they should be returned to him. They were all neatly cancelled, but enclosed in another cover.

Genuine commercial covers from Nepal to Tibet exist with these labels added and tied to the cover at a later date. H. E. Richardson said that the Tibetans would never use the word Stamp in connection with a postage stamp, but would use Ticket instead. Denis Way had a Tibetan contact in the Telegraph Dept. in Lhasa, and the latter wrote that he had no knowledge of such stamps. An English dealer recently returned from Nepal, where he met a Nepalese in Khatmandhu who admitted making certain Tibetan stamps! A. C. Scarlet of

Williamsville, N.Y. sent 2 values to the Dalai Lama's Secretary who replied that they were not Tibetan stamps. Even Smythies, who had been sent phoney material in 1953, admitted in a letter dated 12.9.54, that these labels were never intended for postal use.

Stamp collectors will collect what they will, I would not deny that sentiment, but they should be warned of items that may cost them dear. At the moment the I Kharmanga is considered as rare as the I sang was, when it was first discovered — I repeat, **At the Moment**. (Collectors who paid £40—and there were some—for the I sang, could have bought the same stamps for less than one tenth of that amount, had they waited a few months longer). I trust in the face of these remarks, Michel's and Scott's catalogue editors will think again as to whether these labels are really worth the space that they take up in their valuable catalogues.

In spite of the foregoing—a set of the four of the commonest values brought £8 at a Harmer Rooke Auction in 1964—the same four on a philatelic cover—£10. A block of 9 2 Khakangs—£10—against the 27 pence I paid for mine!

THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

Little more can be said of the use of these than appeared in Haverbeck. They would not normally appear in a philatelic treatise of Tibet, but so much mention has been made of them in philatelic circles—that they cannot be ignored.

Here again, they appeared around 1950 in 5 denominations.

		<i>Points Value</i>
½ sang	Yellow—Orange-Yell.—Olive-Yell. Size 25 × 21mm.	3 each
1 snag	Pale and Dark Violet—Carmine Size 28.5 × 22	3 & 30
5 sang	Green—Pale Sea Green Size 31 × 25	10 & 30
10 sang	Blue—Pale Blue—Bluish-Violet Size 35.5 × 26.5	20 each & 30
25 sang	Vermilion—Brownish-Red Size 29 × 33	40 each

All are imperf. and printed in sheets of 4. There are kiss prints of the 10 sang Blue. The common design is once again the Tibetan Lion, but it is more distinguishable by being set in front of some white Himalayan Peaks. "Tibet" appears in English at the foot of the stamp, and Tibetan characters at the top for Tibetan Government, and the value in Tibetan currency in the corner squares. All are upright except the 25 sang which is horizontal, and one finds two lions facing one, stood on their hind-legs—or they may even be a pair of Abominable Snowmen.

These may be found in complete sets used on cover, complete used sheets and in combination with Tibetan stamps, cancelled to order—indeed the full treatment.

The majority of "used" copies are cancelled with 7 serpiginius (R. Lowe's descriptive word!) parallel lines in violet or black. This is the cancellation which of course can be found on the 1 Sangs.

The high face of the top value is far and away above any similar "stamp" value, though it bears little relationship on the price that was first asked by the Eastern stamp market. As curios, they will always find buyers no doubt.

Robert Ford—who was an Englishman employed in the Tibetan Wireless System—wrote in his book “Captured in Tibet”:- “I had to go to the Finance Officer in Chamdo to hand over the money taken at the radio station. Every telegram and call was recorded and backed with a receipt with a cancelled stamp.”

How far one wishes to go with Telegraphic items, depends on the individual collector—but quite as interesting as the above stamps is the Rubber Stamp cancellation from Lhasa—found in violet or black. These were first shown to me by Mr. Dahnke. It is a double-lined mark, oval in shape, 31 × 53mm, inscribed “Supdt. Telegraph Office Lhasa” in English along the bottom arc, and in Tibetan characters along the top arc between two stars. Another single-lined oval within, contains the date in a straight line, Dahnke informing me that he has seen them dated from 1943 to 1950. Normally in Violet, during part of 1944 Black ink was used, and they are found on Indian Telegraph Forms.

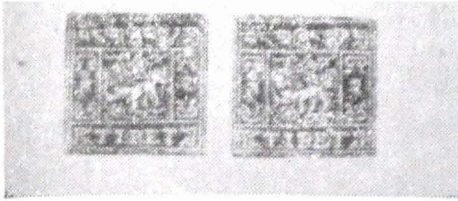
The Nagawache (Nagchu), mentioned by Haverbeck, as having a Telegraph Station, is now known as Hei-ho, and is situated on the main Lhasa-Tsinghai route about 125 miles north of Lhasa.

BANK NOTES.

Another colourful side line for Tibetan Philatelists, are the Tibetan paper Bank Notes. Of varying denominations, up to 100 sangs, varying in size according to value, the higher the value, the larger the note. Some interesting picture stories are obviously depicted on them. The 100 sang, for instance, has the design of the 25 sang Telegraph stamp, in red on a yellow background. The size of this design is 182 × 118mm. and it has two seals, hand-stamped in red and black, probably the counterpart of the signature on our own notes. On the reverse is a peaceful willow pattern scene, with a seated Buddha having tea. On his left is a small figure of a man, holding up a cup, but the Buddha is pouring out the tea with his right hand, into a garden fountain. Animals, birds and flowers surround the figures, and overhead is a tree with a ceremonial scarf hung on one of the branches, two bats flying above the tree. What this symbolizes I have yet to find out, but the whole of this side is done in Yellow, Red, Green and Dark Blue. Of this colourful series I have 5 different notes—of another issue, in single colours, two. A 5 tr. green, and a pink 10 tr. which is illustrated in Haverbeck. All are watermarked with black characters (Black printing between two layers of paper), and all appear to be hand numbered. On the recent Chinese occupation of Tibet, Chinese notes were introduced and these were surcharged in Tibetan.

PICTORIAL COVERS.

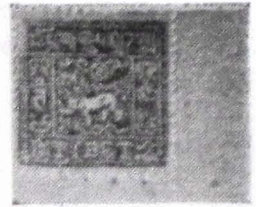
Mention perhaps should be made of these, though there are no officially issued ones. For that reason no list can be given. They are found in Floral designs, with Greetings; Pictorial landscapes; a Sports motif has been seen (a Hurdling Horse). More recently, under the Chinese, there is a delightful “Children at Play” series.



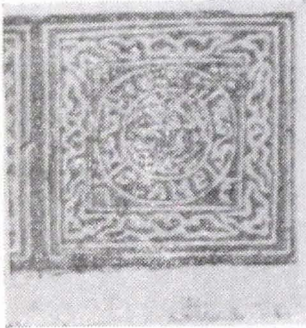
1933 Proof Sheet.



4 tr. 8th Cliché.
"Flaw on Chest."



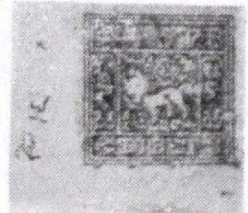
13th. Cliché with
Bogus Perfs. 4 tr.



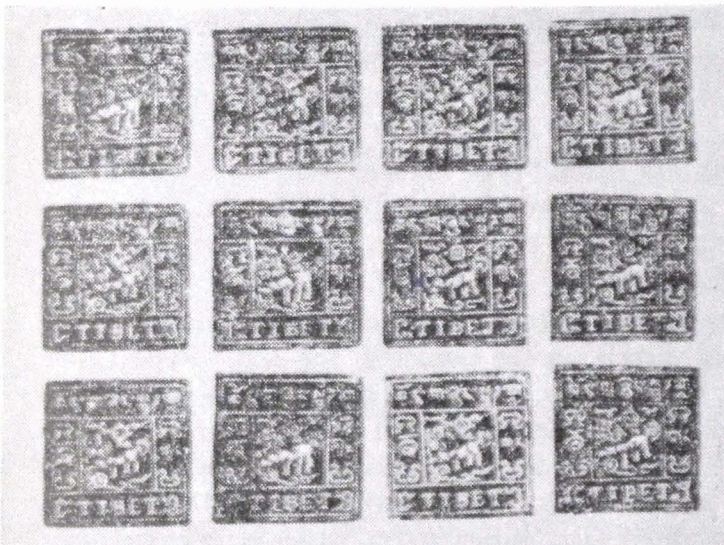
Bogus Official.



Wireless Telegraph.



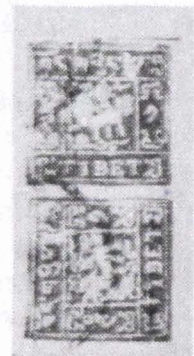
4 tr. Red Forgery
4th. Possibly 5th.
Set.



Forged Sheet of 2/3 tr. Only 4 Clichés used.
Row 1. 2, 3, 3, 4. Row 2. 3, 2, 4, 1. and
lastly Row 3. 3, 2, 3, 1.



Bogus Issue.



Sideways Cliché
1933 Forgery.

1949 PROPOSED DESIGNS.

In 1959, an exhibition of Tibetan items was held in Germany, staged by Heinrich Harrer, amongst which was a miniature sheet 207 × 133mm, which consisted of three designs for a new issue of Tibetan postage stamps. These were said to have been designed by Harrer in Lhasa in 1949. The designs measure 43 × 34–35mm.

(i) Black. Wheel of life above a lotus flower, with 3 characters at each side. Inscribed at the foot in Tibetan, "Tibetan Government."

(ii) Brown. Chorten, inscribed "TIBET" at foot of stamp, and with the same characters at the top as those at the foot of (i). Value "2."

(iii) Deep Olive Green. Sun, broken by solid pyramid, at foot of which are two Tibetan Lions; a Yin-yang, and a tree. Again inscribed "Tibet" at foot and Tibetan characters at the top, including the afore-mentioned. Value "3."

The sheet is marginally inscribed in black, "Briefmarken für Tibet Entworfen von Heinrich Harrer in Lhasa, 1949. Holgstich von stock gedruckt."

Theo Klewitz kindly sent one of these to me, enclosed in a cover from the exhibition, at the bottom corner of which was a red cachet, 36mm. square. This was a large reproduction of the centre square of the 1933 issue (29mm.) surrounded by the wording, from the top left corner, "Sieben Jahre in Tibet/Frankenhau, Hessen/Heinr. Harrer stellt aus/Mai-September 1959."

SEALS AND CRESTS ETC.

In addition to the postal markings on Tibetan covers, one can find a great deal of interest in:—

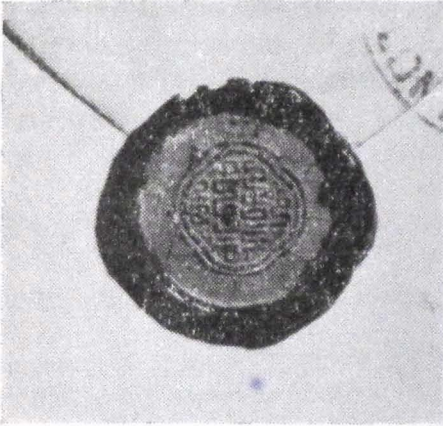
- (a) Wax seals.
- (b) Red or black seals in Ink.
- (c) Colourful crests and printed envelopes.
- (d) Certain rubber stamps which can add interest to a cover.

Wax Seals.

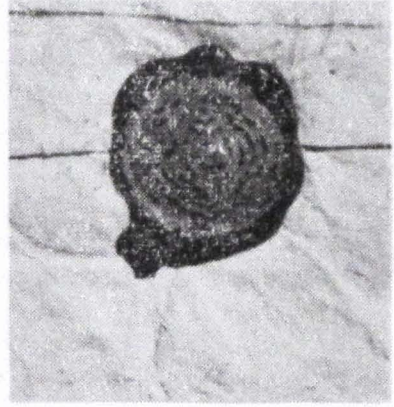
These are found in Red and Black. The latter are for lay-men but the Red seals are only for the use of "Incarnate Lamas, Terton Lamas (those who have discovered hidden revelations), and the Khenpos (Abbots), together with the Prime Minister in his official capacity." Quote by McDonald.

Naturally the most sought after seals are those of the 13th Dalai Lama. There are two, differing only slightly, in the border of the seal. Type I, the rarer, has three dots in the plain border, above the circular design; Type II, has a crescent and dot instead of the three dots. (It must be borne in mind that it does not necessarily follow that a seal with either a crescent or three dots in the border of a wax seal, is a Dalai Lama seal). His small seals, types I and II, have two lines of stylized Tibetan characters vertically in the centre. At each side is a twisting snake-like line, cut by a vertical line.

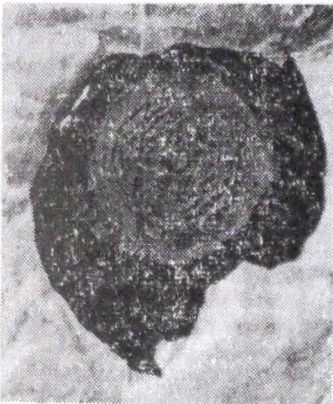
Probably the finest philatelic piece of these seals is a linen envelope, addressed in one line of Tibetan characters, in his Private Secretary's handwriting. It has then been re-addressed in English, "Sir Charles Bell, Silchester, Hants, England," and in the corner is "From H. H. D. Lama, Lhasa, Tibet." There



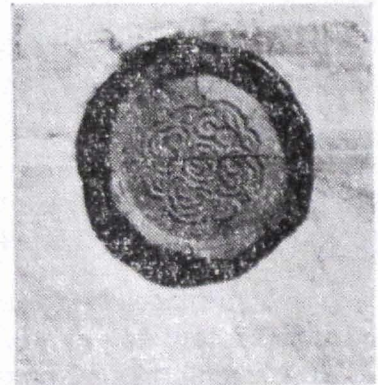
13th DALAI LAMA SEAL
Type 2.



PANCHEN LAMA SEAL
Type 6.



MAHARAJAH OF BHUTAN
SEAL. Type 10.



PRIME MINISTER SEAL
Type 9.

is also the Registry Label B.R.2, with the Gyantse handstamp GE. The reverse has two perfect seals in Red of type 2. Two blocks of four $\times \frac{1}{2}$ a. and a single 1a. (Geo. V) stamps, all cancelled with Gyantse type 4 (16.1.23), and back-stamped London (12.2.23). Evidently this was carried per diplomatic bag, or special runner between Lhasa and Gyantse.

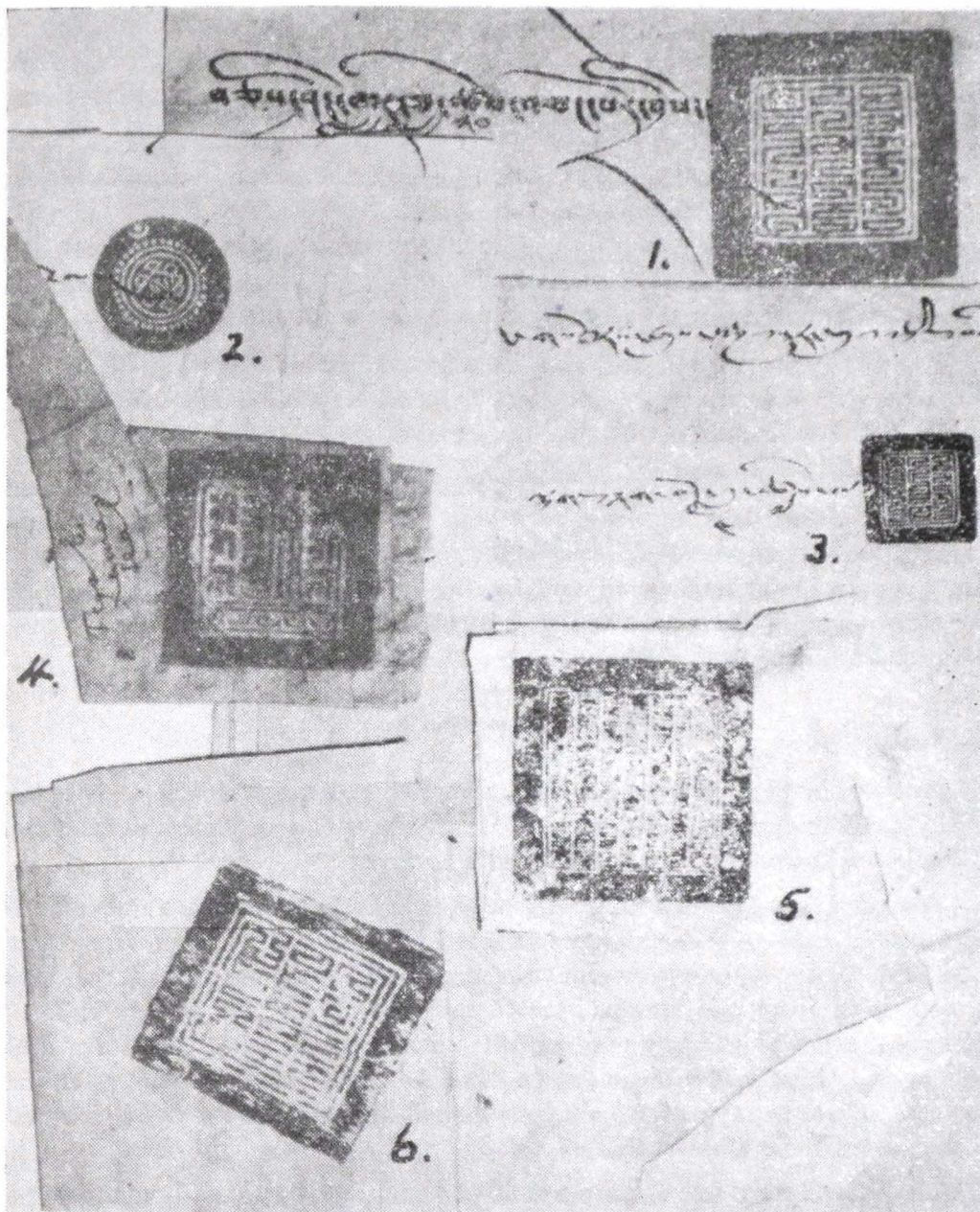
Few of the Dalai Lama covers travelled beyond Sikkim. Further covers with his wax seals thereon, are mainly scarf-type covers, some with the original silk ceremonial scarves, a few with small bags of gold dust which were often enclosed with the letter. Some have Tibetan stamps, others have no stamps at all, being carried by personal runners. One of the former with Lhasa post-mark cancelling a $\frac{1}{6}$ tr. Grey Green and a $\frac{1}{3}$ tr. Blue, is backstamped Phari (Type X), and addressed, "Through Lading, 4th. Rank Official, Trade Agent, Tromo and Gyantse." The Tromo is interesting, as it refers to Yatung. (See also Dhomo). In 'Tibet Past and Present' Sir Charles Bell starts to describe five seals of the Dalai Lama but only describes two, two being illustrated on the back and spine of the book, which are mentioned in the Ink Seals section.

By far the scarcer seal, is that of the Panchen Lama, a rather less significant seal. Its design is similar to a broad diamond, with rounded corners, within a circular seal, and of course in red (22mm. dia.).

This I have on a scarf cover, addressed, "To the presence of the Excellent C. Bell, Administrator and Minister in Sikkim, glorious by his good deeds, truly exalted." Another is on a beautifully crested, silk-lined yellow envelope $6\frac{1}{4}'' \times 5\frac{3}{4}''$. The crest, 56×47 mm. high, is hand coloured in green, blue, red and black, depicting a lion's (?) head, on each side of which are outstretched wings. From underneath the wings stretch two hands, holding a serpent which the face also grasps in its mouth. The two pages of the letter both have the crest at the top, together with "BAN CHAN TIBETAN," and no doubt the equivalent in Chinese. (Ban Chan being the anglicized form of the more common form "Panchen" Lama).

The Prime Minister's seal (or as he is known in Tibet, Lon Chen Shokang), can be found in Red or Black, the former for official business, the latter for his own private correspondence; the only layman to be able to use a red seal. In the centre of four round floral shapes is a rounded clockwise swastika (21mm.).

The Ti-Rimpoche's seal has a central dot surrounded by eight dots, a circle and a further four dots in brackets with three surrounding dented circles. As he was the highest ranking Lama other than the incarnations of Buddha, he uses a 17mm. red seal. Whilst Sir Charles Bell was in Tibet, he acted as Prime Minister, and he negotiated the 1904 Treaty on behalf of the Dalai Lama. One large native cover has a fine $\frac{1}{3}$ tr. Ultramarine and inscribed, "To be delivered to the Trade Agent Khenchung of Gyantse. This being very important, each different Post Office should forward it immediately. This leaves the great Palace of Potala in the evening of the 6th. of the double 5th. month." A further example of the way the Tibetans avoided inauspicious dates, in this case by calling the 6th. month the double 5th. month. It carries the backstamps of Chusu, Pelti, Nangartse and Gyantse, all hand dated.



INK SEALS

1. The large Innermost Seal of the 13th Dalai Lama, Type 3 in Red.
2. The Personal letter seal of the 13th Dalai Lama, Type 4 in Red.
3. 14th Dalai Lama's 4 Grand Secretaries seal, in Black, Type 9.
4. Large Red seal of the Panchen Lama, Type 7.
5. Probably a seal of the Tibetan Cabinet, in Red, Type 8.
6. 9th Panchen Lama's Red seal (Two inner frame lines).

The Trimon Shaphe's Seal is very similar to that of the Prime Minister's but as he was a lay minister, the chief lay minister of Tibet, he could only use black seals. The centre is a three legged swastika, surrounded by two circles (22mm. diam.). One cover with his seal is dated 7th. of 4th. month—Earth Dragon Year, (1928), and has a $\frac{2}{3}$ tr. shiny Lake stamp.

A commercial cover with $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. Reddish-Purple, cancelled with Nangartse type I, has two beautiful red seals, the designs being similar to eight double horse shoes, based on a small central circle, in which are two characters like capitals GI. (20mm.). The Tibetan hand-writing on this cover is very neat, and obviously penned by a well educated and high ranking Tibetan.

Another important red seal, and one scarcer than the Dalai Lama's, is that of the ruler of Bhutan, known as "Dera Dharma Rajah." The 15mm. diam. design is rather reminiscent of two crossed Dorji.

Black seals are of course very numerous, most Tibetans having personal finger rings which they could use as a seal. Tsarong Shaphe had more than one seal, a small one with a character in the centre, and a large oval type (33mm.) with his name both in Tibetan and English. Similarly Palhese had a small round one and a large square one, but it would be pointless listing further items, so varied are they.

Ink Seals.

Here again the red seals are the more important, few black seals being worthy of consideration. As these were little used on covers, but generally on the letters themselves, not as many have survived.

There are four Dalai Lama seals that have been seen, but only three ink impressions. I have only seen Type I in wax. The seals themselves were cut in Jade, and the most important one was the large Innermost Seal, which was handed down from one Dalai Lama to the next. This is the large Type 3, 44mm. square, and the one used on all official business. The personal seal used by the Dalai Lama on letters to official friends was Type 4, by far the scarcest. These two types have not been seen in wax, and are the two illustrated on the covers of Sir Charles Bell's Trilogy.

One letter I have was written by his personal secretary, hand-dated by the Dalai Lama, and impressed by him with type 4 (24mm. diam.) On the cover was a wax impression of type 2. Another letter, has the large Innermost seal both at the foot of the letter, and on both sides of the paper thong that was wound around the folded letter (12" × 2" folded, over 20 inches square unfolded). In addition it has an impression of Type 2 on the outer side of the letter, the most common in wax but seldom seen in ink.

There appears to have been a change in the Innermost Seal, for the present 14th Dalai Lama's, for I have a very similar seal to that of the 13th's, but with two thin inner frame lines, and measuring 44 × 42mm. instead of 44mm. square.

The seals of the Panchen Lama are rarer and slightly smaller. The large square one is 37 × 39mm. and generally found with an ink which has a pastel like finish. One large letter has an impression at the foot of its message and

his smaller round seal (17mm. diam.) on the back of the cover. The latter is the same as the wax seal. The paper thong from this letter has two further impressions of the larger seal.

The Cabinet's seal measures 43mm. square and my impressions are in a Reddish Brown. I have a further three red seals which I have not as yet been able to identify, two on letters and another on a tiny cover.

Another type of ink seal, is that used by the Chinese representatives in Tibet, which has large bi-lingual seals (Chinese-Tibetan). One such is from the Chinese Military Representative in Gyantse to the British Trade Agent, informing the latter of his appointment, and of his settling in at Gyantse. A second is from the Chinese Representative at Yatung, to the British Trade Agent, announcing a new Chinese Amban. In this case the man named, was, in 1960, a very old gardener in the employ of Mao Tsung the Chinese Communist leader. The latter's seals are in blue, three on the cover, two on the enclosed letter (measuring 65 × 91mm.); the former in red.

An interesting letter exists which translated reads:—

To Nena Dawa Sha.

From Hemi Monastery. 29th day of 3rd month of the Fire Tiger year. (1926). Please send per bearer, one box of the best tea. I shall pay the price next time we meet.

With Greetings, Hezim.

Another:—

To the Gurkha King Artini Wang Girvana yudha Bickrum Shaha. Written under the order of the Chinese Emperor by the Lhasa and Bhutan Governors, Sri Chun Li Sichan and Si Uthan Tin Sin. Our term of service has come to an end in this country and the Emperor has called us back to China, and we leave on the 11th of 5th month. Fu Tarim remains to assume the Lhasa Governorship, and Thin Tarin will soon come from China in my place. If you have any business to discuss, you can apply his instructions. Live in harmony with your neighbours and their sons; the Emperor will be pleased under these conditions. We shall be pleased to hear from you from time to time, even in China. We wish you happiness.

Dated this 2nd day of 5th month of Chachian, 9th year (1902).

An unusual postcard posted from Frendenberg, Germany, 13.4.02, is addressed to Mr. P. Manes, L'hassa, Tibet (Asien), with a later addition in red ink "Via Skardu." This arrived at Hong Kong and was sent to the German P.O. at Shanghai 17.6.02., departing for India on the 19th, after receiving the British, German and Chinese cancellations of Shanghai. It arrived at Tuticorn, India on the 10.7.02., Srinagar 22.7.02. and Skardu on 27.7.02.

It is doubtful of course, if it ever saw Tibet, but if it did, it would then have to travel up the Indus to Leh, then to Gartok and then right across Tibet to Shigatse and Lhasa. Was there ever a person called Manes? The message on this German card reads in French, "The Clichés have been sent, Fischer"!! I fear we shall never know whether the clichés referred to were a proposed 1902 issue of Tibetan stamps!

An interesting letter is one addressed to Col. Schraker from "The Four Grand Secretary's," with their black square seal, and dated 22nd May, 1950. This is a reply to the request for stamps—and enclosed were the first printings of the 4 and 8 tr. and the 1/6, ½ and 1 tr. shiny prints—all C.T.O. Lhasa. The cover is a native papered envelope—linen lined and has a small black wax seal—with tiny central swastika. This was carried via Diplomatic Bag to Kalimpong—where it was cancelled 5 June, arriving Chicago on June 13th. This is probably the most important of the Black seals.

Envelope Crests.

Mention has been made of the fine Panchen Lama's Crest, and there are many more to form a side-line collection. The Tsarong Shape's is another handsome one, again hand coloured in various colours. Two lions are standing on a bar, holding on to a mountain, with the sun on its peak, and two rivers running down the mountain side. The latter split the crests into three types:—

- (a) The right hand tributary has only one branch, on the right, flowing from the right.
- (b) ditto, but latter flows from left, before joining on the right.
- (c) There are two branches to the right hand tributary.

Tsarong Shape was killed in Lhasa after the re-occupation of Tibet by the Chinese. He was by this time a very old man, a man who had always been a staunch friend of the British. In 1947, Mr. de Riencourt found that Shape alone of the elder statesmen agreed with him that Tibet should initiate diplomatic relationships with the great powers, to safeguard Tibet's Autonomy. As an untitled young man, he was given command of a handful of Tibetan soldiers to fight a rearguard action against the Chinese, whilst the 13th Dalai Lama fled to India in 1909. So successful was he, that on the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet, he was given the lands, title and charming wife, of a Tibetan nobleman who had elected to stay behind.

The Bhutan Agent around 1927 had a gold Dorje for a crest, with the words "Deb Zimpon" (For Valour) beneath.

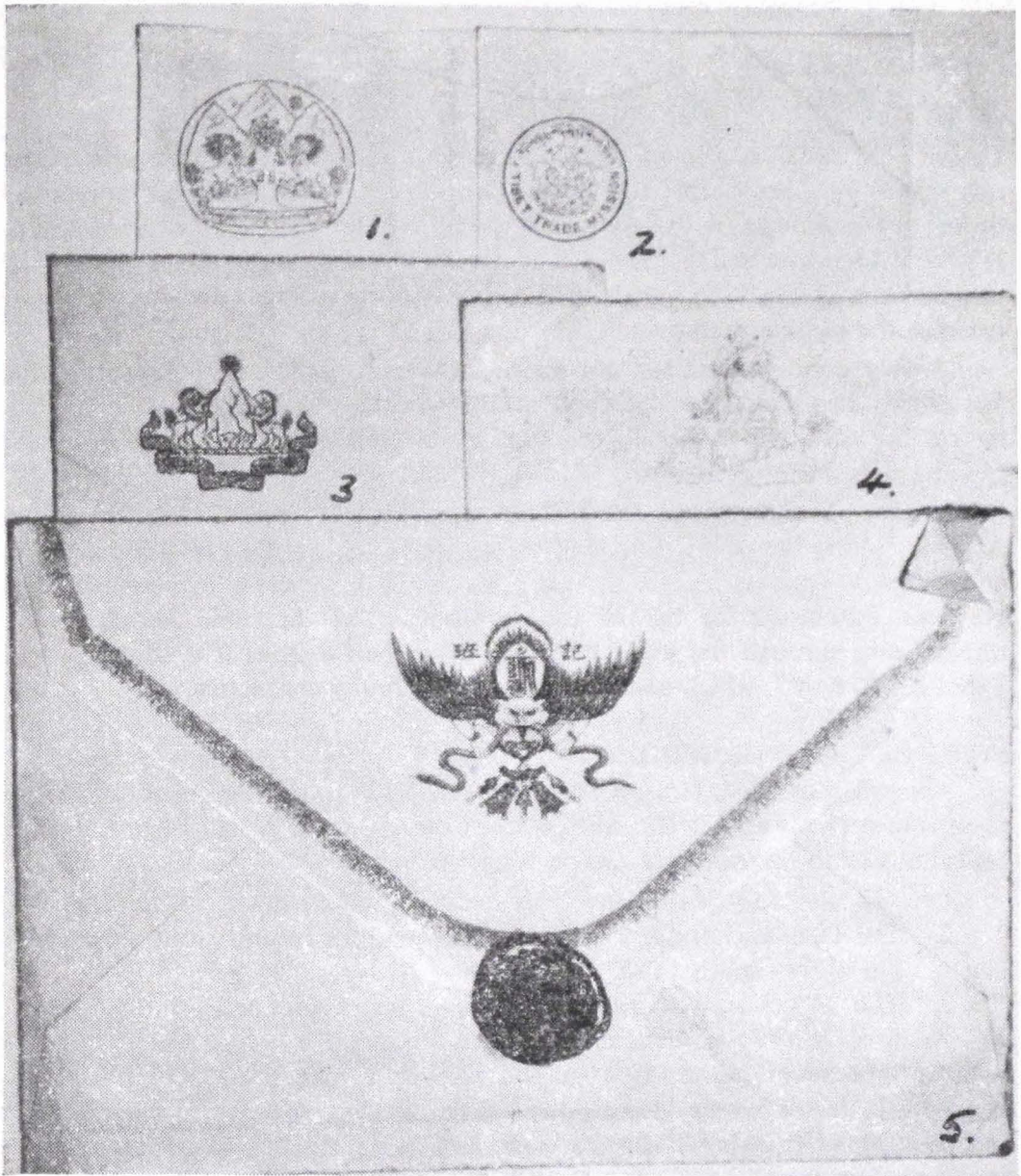
"Dzasu Thubten Samphel" is included in a crest in which a lion holds the world in its paw, with a mountain and two stars behind.

Another has two lions holding the world with crossed dorjes on top; and another one a green tiger.

The 14th Dalai Lama is using two die stamped crests at the moment:—

- (a) Two lions on a lettered scroll holding up a wheel of life. Three mountains are in the background with rivers; a sun and crescent moon in the sky. 31 × 26mm.
- (b) As above but larger and with coloured line surround. 38 × 34mm.

On the occasion of the Tibetan Trade Mission's visit to the West, they used crested stationery. The central motif was the Tibetan lion, mountains in the background, and "Tibetan Trade Mission" within a single lined circle, in both English and Tibetan.



CRESTS

1. 14th Dalai Lama's Letter Heading and Envelope Crest in Red. Larger size.
2. Tibetan Trade Mission's Crest.
3. Tsarong Shaphe's hand coloured crest.
4. Dzasu Thubten Samphel's crest, orange.
5. Crest of Panchen Lama, on cover with his wax seal and silk lined envelope.

Forgeries of the 1912 Issue *

I have here classified the forgeries of the first issue of Tibet into sets of my own choosing. Six out of the seven I am fairly sure will be in chronological order; the oddments in the sixth are probably different clichés of earlier sets. It should be mentioned at the outset that a suspected forgery should be checked against each of the 12 originals in a genuine sheet, so great are the variations between the genuine stamps.

A very good general test for all the sets of forgeries, is the shape of the Tibetan character at the 6 o'clock position, which can be likened to the English figure "3." In the forgeries the bottom loop is rounded, whereas in the genuine it is flat or elongated.

Another useful general test for the forgeries is to put a ruler across the corners, cutting the stamp diagonally, and noting the position of the characters and letters so cut. In the 1/6 tr. value, for example, all the dangerous forgeries are soon accounted for by the top-right/bottom-left diagonal, which in the original cuts through the word POSTAGE; in the forgeries it does so only in Types 3, 4(i) and 7, which can be eliminated by faulty characters.

FIRST SET OF FORGERIES.

According to H. R. Holmes ("The Postage Stamps of Tibet," London, 1941) these appeared around 1920 on the Continent. They are often found in collections of this period, but are no longer common. General characteristics:

1. The lion does not fill the inner circle as adequately as in the originals.
2. The Tibetan characters in the circle around the central motif are correct, but differ slightly in shape and size.
3. The "3" character, mentioned above, has a rounded bottom loop.
4. The Lion's tail is generally thin and horizontal.

More detailed characteristics of the first set of forgeries are:—

1/6 tr. Colours pale; yellow-green, sage, olive-green, olive (shiny enamel). The G of POSTAGE is a large C and the T is at 3 o'clock. The character "3" at 6 o'clock is nearer 7 o'clock and leans backwards.

There are at least two types:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(a) Round topped 3 at 1 o/c.
Long tail to 3 at 7 o/c.
No heel to front raised leg.</p> | <p>(b) Flat topped 3.
Short tail.
Front leg with heel.</p> |
|---|--|

The tail on this value is slightly thicker than the other values.

2/6 tr. Dull Blue to Greenish-Blue. Characters to the right of "3" (F open) are wrong. The G of POSTAGE is a large C. The T of POSTAGE is horizontal but lower than 3 o'clock.

A further stamp has turned up, with the distinctive thin tail but with a thicker outer frame line, making the stamp 1mm. larger all round. This is in Ultramarine, with a thick "U" for the "O" in POSTAGE.

* First published by the China Philatelic Society of London—here revised.

1912 Forgeries



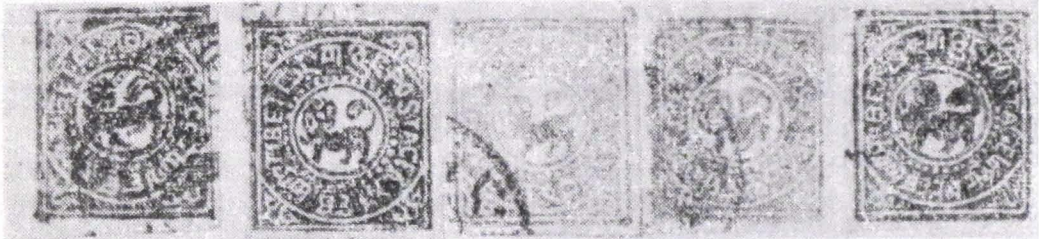
FIRST SET.



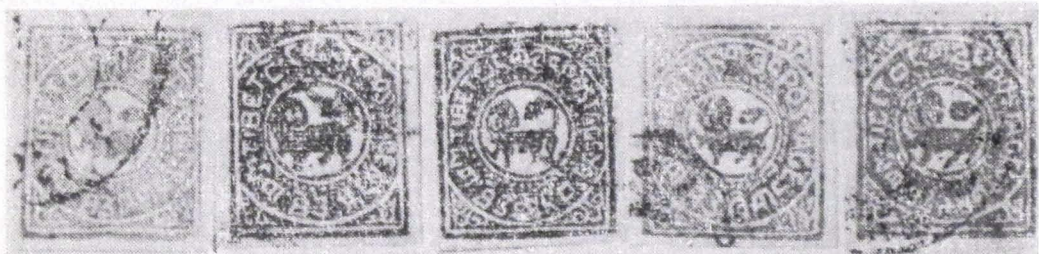
SECOND SET.



THIRD SET.



FOURTH SET.



FIFTH SET.

3/6 tr. Bright Purple, Slate-Purple, Dull Mauve. In the diagonal test (top right, bottom left) the three characters beneath TIBET all fall to the left of the diagonal; in the originals only 2 or 2½ do so. The pearls around the centre circle, to the left of GE of POSTAGE, run together and look like part of a cogwheel in the majority. TIBET appears squashed.

Two types:—

- (a) Character at 12 o/c upright.
Cogwheel affect as above.
3 nearer 7 o/c position.
- (b) Leans down to left.
Cogwheel affect absent.
3 nearer 6 o/c position.

4/6 tr. Red, Vermilion, Deep Carmine. The E of POSTAGE is nearer the outer circle than the inner (the reverse is true of the genuine stamps). The "3" at 6 o'clock leans backward instead of forward. There is a wide space between the hairs on the lion's head and the circle.

Two types:—

- (a) Large I in Tibet.
Line over box after Tibet thin.
- (b) Small I in Tibet.
Line thicker often touching box.

1 tr. Red, vermilion. The lion's head does not turn far enough over its shoulder. All T's have small cross-pieces.

SECOND SET OF FORGERIES.

First appearance, 1920.

The General Characteristics:—

1. Thick, Regular outer frame line, giving impression of depth.
2. Placing of Lettering very similar to 1st. set.
3. Bushy Tails.

1/6 tr. Bright Green, Pale Green. Farther back-leg is detached from body. Tail often touches Lion's cheek.

2/6 tr. Dull Deep Blue. Thin drooping Tail. PO at POSTAGE near outer circle. S of POSTAGE practically horizontal.

3/6 tr. Pale Violet. Deep Violet. 5th Character from left badly formed. Low box character in bottom line (Genuines all high). Two raised legs often disjointed.

4/6 tr. Vermilion, Carmine, Rose-Carmine. The lion's eyes are horizontal and staring. There is a wide space (over 1mm.) between the outer circle and the top frame line. The character at 6 o'clock has a long proboscis.

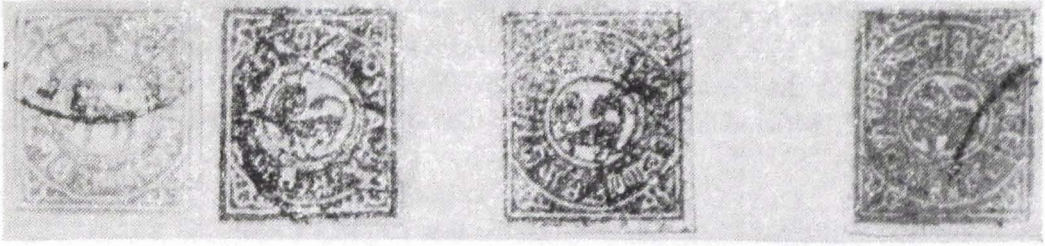
1 tr. Carmine-Pink, Rose-Pink. Again the wide space under the top frame line. The lion has a heavy head, taking up the full height of the circle. All the lion's feet tend to converge together.

THIRD SET OF FORGERIES.

First appearance, mid -1930's.

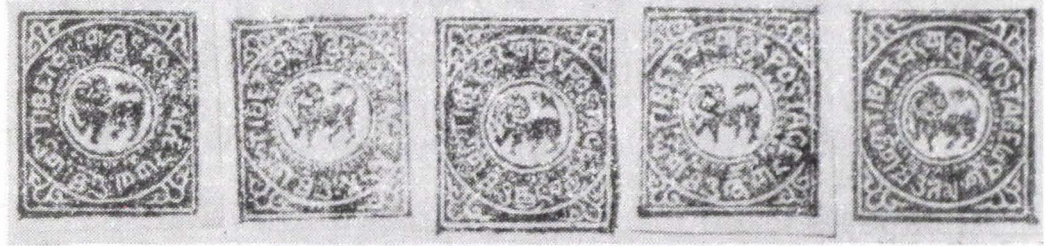
Lithographed on European laid paper. Tibetan characters very crude, especially those at 12 o'clock, UI for the one gibbet like Tibetan character.

1912 Forgeries

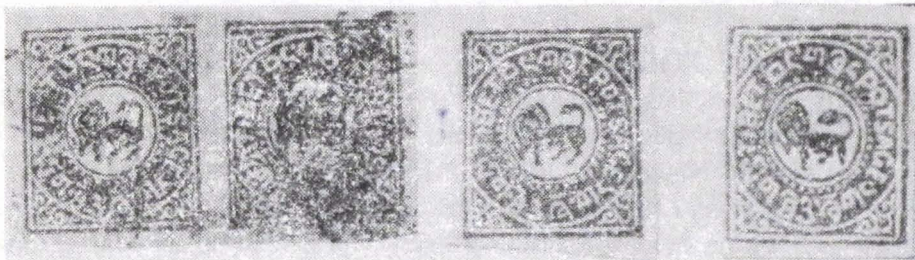


SIXTH SET.

1/6 tr. RED.



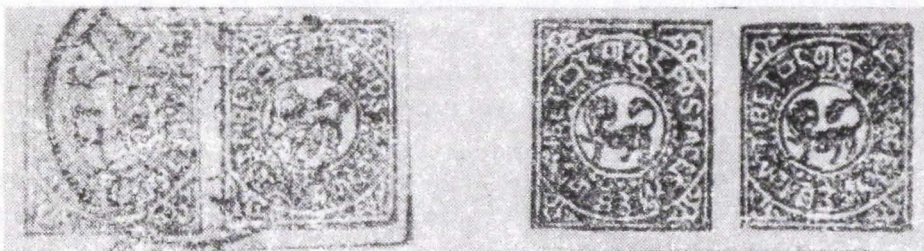
SEVENTH SET.



POTSAGE ERRORS.

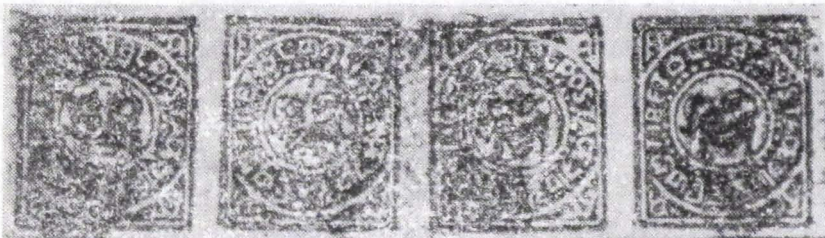
7th. SET.

5th. SET.



4th SET. TYPES A & B IN PAIRS.

1/6th & 1/3rd. tr.



DITTO 2/3 tr. RARE STRIP. ALL SAME TYPE.

Not quite as interesting as the other forgeries, though the top values for some unaccountable reason, are very hard to find. Their manufacture may well have been of Western influence. Inks used vary, from what looks like an oil-bound colour, to a watery ink. The paper varies from medium to thick. Gaze reported in the Great Wall Vol. I No. 2, that his 2/3 tr. and 1 tr. were on wove paper, which I rather doubt, for the laid effect is hard to see on the thicker papers.

- 1/6 tr. Green. Deep Green. Bright Yellow-Green.
5th and 6th Characters at bottom, like English Capitals.
H.T. Exists with inverted Q for O in POSTAGE.
- 1/3 tr. Prussian Blue. Cobalt Blue. Milky Blue.
5th Tibetan character again totally unlike original.
Two types (a) Normal T with midriff at 6 o'clock.
(b) Two characters as iA. Seldom seen.
- 1/2 tr. Violet. Claret.
A missing A in Postage variety exists. The 5th character in the 6 o'clock position is a reversed 3.
- 2/3 tr. Carmine.
5th character at bottom again different to genuine.
- 1 tr. Rose-Carmine.
Characters below E of Postage as those at 12 o'clock (UI.).

FOURTH SET OF FORGERIES.

First appearance, late 1930's.

A large parcel of these came on to the market about the same time as some large quantities of Nepalese stamps. This set is an interesting study, with mysteries still to solve, concerning its issue and its clichés. There are two types of Forgeries. These exist se-tenant in pairs—both tête-bêche and ordinary—and the same types have been seen together. The late Mr. Hurt, who had a few of these, stated that in his opinion, they were probably printed in strips of four. He did not commit himself to the number of clichés he thought there were. My belief at the moment is, that there were not more than three clichés for each value, and that they were probably just held whilst they were printed. General characteristics is a large bushy tail pointing into the back of the lion, except the I tr. which points at the head.

A recent discovery is a 1/6 tr. in Yellow-Green and in CARMINE, another error of colour. These are most like this set and have been included here as Type C. If these differences are merely different clichés, it is surprising that some types are so much scarcer than others.

Multiples are so rare that they do not help as much as they could. One vertical pair discounts the strips of four theory. The latter pair may mean they were printed in sheets of 12 with only two or three clichés, as the 1933 first set of forgeries.

- 1/6 tr. Green. Emerald Green.
Type A. (i) Circle incomplete, broken by Lion's Mane.
(ii) Small box after TIBET.
Type B. (i) Circle complete.
(ii) Longest box in all the forgeries.

- Type C. (i) 3 nearly at 5 o'clock—with space on left.
(ii) Above resulting in 5th and 6th characters crushed.
(iii) 5th character at top wide open.
(iv) All four legs standing on circle.

With Type C being found in Green and Carmine, one wonders whether this will turn up in other colours, someone may be hoping to forge sets of five with the one cliché, as later the 8 tr. was forged in both Blue and Pink, imitating the colours of the 4 tr. and 8 tr.

I have a tête-bêche pair of this value, both Type A, and two normal pairs of Type A and B se-tenant. The latter pairs were a block of four, further evidence that this set was printed in blocks as well as strips.

1/3 tr. Blue. Bright Blue.

In all three types, the last character in the bottom arc is entirely wrong.

- Type A. (i) Fat 3 just past 12 o/c, with closed top.
(ii) Large box after Tibet.
(iii) Second T in Tibet points to straight side.

- Type B. (i) Slim 3.
(ii) Medium box.
(iii) T upright points to corner of spandrel.

- Type C. (i) Fat, 3 open top.
(ii) Medium box.
(iii) T upright as last.

1/2 tr. Violet. Bright Mauve. Dull Violet.

The hind leg, and the two front legs are all joined to the circle.

- Type A. (i) Cross of T and dash over box, one long line.
(ii) T resting on first limb of A in Postage.
(iii) Forward back leg thick.

Type B. Opposites to the above can be found, but this is a very badly printed stamp and in many cases the white portions of the stamp are enlarged. A horizontal strip of four, two pairs, one tête-bêche, are all Type A.

2/3 tr. Rose. Rose-Carmine. Salmon.

Again a poorly printed stamp, except for the salmon shade. (The top left corner of latter is square, whilst remainder are rounded). Common to all, the 5th character at bottom is like a 3 legged milk stool. Differences between A and B are slight.

- Type A. (i) Width of stamp 18½mm.
(ii) Lion has swollen stomach.

- Type B. (i) Width of stamp 19½mm.
(ii) Normal stomach.

A strip of 4 in a deep shade, and a tête-bêche pair are all Type B.

1 tr. Carmine. Vermilion.

Only one type known so far. Lion's left eye lower than right. Character at 6 o'clock is like giraffe looking to right. There is a strip of three and a tête-bêche pair.

FIFTH SET OF FORGERIES.

First appearance, late 1930's.

Colours and styles rather like the last set. Lettering rather spidery.

- 1/6 tr. Pale Green. Green. Low bushy tail. High chin.
3 in 6 o'clock position.
- 1/3 tr. Pale Ultramarine, Indigo. 'S' of Postage—horizontal.
Penultimate character in bottom arc wrong shape. Thickening of
Blue circle at top. Generally poor prints.
- 1/2 tr. Dull Violet. Violet. Shapely raised rear leg. Fern-like tail, nearly
touching cheek. Malformed 'S' in Postage. Last but one character
at bottom is badly formed.
- 2/3 tr. Carmine. Rose-Carmine. Two types.
(i) Large POSTAGE. Bushy tail pointing at cheek, back leg does
not touch circle. Bottom 3 leans back. Tall head. Chin high.
(ii) POTSAGE error. Large upright 3 at bottom. Tall head.
- 1 tr. Vermilion. Carmine. Wing-like projection between Lion's neck
and Circle. Character at 6 o'clock like giraffe looking back to left.

SIXTH SET OF FORGERIES.

There is no proof of another set, this is a pigeon-hole for odd items that do not appear to fit into the normal sets. They are perhaps linked with the first set, for they have Type II cancellations.

- 1/6 tr. Olive (i) Very thick lettering.
(ii) Small c for G in Postage.
(iii) Tiny thick box after Tibet.
(iv) Spidery coloured circle round Lion.
- 1/6 tr. Grey-Green (i) Thick horizontal tail, thicker than first.
(ii) Lion's right eye above left.
(iii) GE of Postage larger than Olive 1/6 tr. above, other-
wise points 1, 3 and 4 of above similar.
- 1/3 tr. Blue (i) Thin drooping tail.
(ii) Detached forward back leg.
(iii) PO of Postage near outer circle.

SEVENTH SET OF FORGERIES.

This set needs little description—mainly because of the amount of white beneath the Lion—especially beneath the near front leg. The hairs on the head of the Lion are more like horns.

Again, there is an exception. The Lion on the 1 tr. practically fills the inner circle—though it appears to be more like a kitten with its back up.

Another general characteristic—the upright of the T of Postage is horizontal.

The $\frac{2}{3}$ tr. exists with the POTSAGE error, otherwise all values appear to have only one cliché. The POTSAGE is found in pair with normal.

- 1/6 tr. Deep Green. Grey-Green. Dull Green.
- 1/3 tr. Pale and Dull Ultramarine.
- 1/2 tr. Purple. Violet. Grey-Purple. Mauve.
- 2/3 tr. Carmine. Lake. Rose-Pink.
- 1 tr. Orange Red. Vermilion.

THE 4 & 8 TRANGKA FORGERIES.

Inevitably, forgeries of these two high values soon appeared. Or at least so it appeared at first glance, in Dull Blue and Scarlet Red respectively. Closer examination reveals them as both of the 8 tr. value.

The Blue colouring is a close match to the 4 tr. reprints, but the colour of the 8 tr. is not dangerous. (This has also been reported in Green, but I have not seen an example).

As were the originals, they were printed in sheets of six, but unlike the originals the sheets have not got a coloured line of colour around the margin of the sheet.

Six different clichés were carved in one block, and the sheets are found cancelled with the genuine Lhasa Type 8.

The way to check the forgeries is to compare the spandrels in the corner of the stamps. In the forgeries, the three small circles are quite independent of the rays. In the genuine, the rays spring from the small circles.

The 4 tr. therefore has not been forged, and it should be remembered that this value has a circle right in the corner of the stamp, with rays going from it, whilst on the 8 tr. the rays go from the circle to the corner of the stamp.

I believe that all Tibetan Forgeries have been made for philatelists and not as postal forgeries to defraud the Government. I have, however, an interesting cover, commercially used, with an 8 tr. Blue forgery from Gyantse.

They are known "used" with the wavy telegraphic cancellation and cancelled to order with the genuine Lhasa Type 8.

1 SANG FORGERIES.

No sooner had the controversy of the original I Sang died down, than the forgeries appeared on the market. At first they were described as a new issue from new plates, but this fallacy was soon exposed, and their true nature broadcast.

These appeared in 1956, in sheets of 12, on native paper, from Lhasa. They came in five colours and the 6th cliché was a POTSAGE error! There is Yellow, Salmon-Pink, Dull Green, Sage Green and Slate-Blue. The Dull Green is a very dangerous production to the unwary, especially when used with a genuine Lhasa cancellation. All colours are found cancelled to order in sheets, and tied to covers with genuine Lhasa Type 8 cancellation.

The main point to watch is the Lion's Eyes. In the forgeries these are small white dots. In the originals, they are white circles. The letter B of Tibet is more like a figure 8 in the forgeries. The coloured line round the Lion is thin in the forgeries, thick in the genuine. The white line inside the outer frame line is thick in the forgeries, fine in the genuine.

THE FORGED CANCELLATIONS.*

The cancellations on all the forgeries described so far, are themselves forgeries, and I think the illustrations are self-explanatory. The tracings are made up of several "bits" from various stamps, for few forged covers or pieces exist with complete cancellations, except those belonging to the 7th set. One finds the stamps of the latter are added to genuine Nepalese covers and tied with forged cancellations.

There are two negative types:—

- (a) The wider outer circle forgery of Lhasa Type I, a very dangerous one, almost always found on genuine stamps, but rarely on covers.
- (b) Lhasa spelling, and the words based on the inner circle, which is not dangerous, and found only on forgeries.

Another forged cancellation found on genuine stamps is very dangerous, Type 8 of the forgeries. Peculiarly enough, it is very seldom seen, or perhaps noticed.

Two interesting covers, sent to me by Dr. Orth of Germany, might be mentioned here, with crude forgeries of the Dechen and Medagongkur cancellations, Type 9. However, Dr. Orth states these were illustrated in a Swiss Auction Catalogue in 1929, four years before the genuine Type 9 are known to have been issued! I have classed them under my forgeries. The covers are blatantly philatelic, and one of the stamps has been previously cancelled. They appear to belong to the same workshop as the covers with forged Chinese-Tibetan and the Type I cancellations.

Before leaving the 1913 issue, mention should be made of the facsimile sheets of twelve, of the 1/6 tr. Yellow-Green and Blue-Green, printed on cheap European wove paper. These were merely handouts produced in Australia for a stamp journal. These have unfortunately been described as proof sheets of 12 in more than one Auction Catalogue and received bids of 50/-.

**Illustration p. 121*

The 1933 Forgeries

These are somewhat less complicated, the four sets being easily separated. The first announcement of the first set of forgeries, was a full-page advertisement in Stamp Collecting, only six years after the originals were issued. "Revealing to the world, the uncatalogued, unchronicled and almost unknown New Issue of Tibet, which is already obsolete. These were issued prior to the 1933 set, and were apparently on sale for a few months only." In such words were these items broadcast to the world. Yet in spite of their "infinitesimal stocks," the price was 6s. 3d. a set. Later "Brian R. Hall" wrote a series of articles in Stamp Collecting on these and some of the 1912 forgeries, stating that he had written evidence of their genuineness. The passage of time has proved otherwise.

FIRST SET OF 1933 FORGERIES.

These were lithographed on European laid paper, either horizontal or vertical (the scarcer). In smudgy or clear printings. At first it was thought that these could be divided into two issues, but this is now doubtful. There were three or four printings of some values, both perforate and imperforate. The white lines forming the central square and panels are finer in appearance than the originals, but it is the paper that is so easy to spot.

The most interesting observations to be made about this issue, is that they were printed in sheets of 12, but with only a few clichés of each value. Multiples are scarce, and it will be noticed in the arrangement of the clichés, why some clichés are scarcer than others.

½ TRANGKA.

Chrome Yellow, Pale Yellow, Pale and Deep Yellow- Buff.

Only four clichés, all differing entirely in one respect to the originals. The second hook beneath the Lion is upside down.

- Cliché
1. Thick hook in top right corner of square.
 2. Large rounded hook right corner of square.
 3. Coloured mark on white rear of Lion.
 4. Wide open round top to 4th character. Large "E" leaning back.

Two complete sheets have been recorded with following cliché arrangement:-

1	2	2	4	2	4	1	1
3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3
4	3	2	1	2	4	2	1

¼ TRANGKA.

Dark Blue, Pale and Deep Ultramarine.

Here it is quite obvious that there has been two printings, and unlike the division in the ½ tr., they can be separated by the horizontal or vertical laid paper, and the smudgy or clear prints.

- Cliché 1. No stop after penultimate character, top panel. Large Lion's tail.
2. Flattened small B. Large mid-serif on E. Small tail.
3. Thickening on 2nd Hook under Lion. Thick malformed hook under circle. Tiny tail.
4. Break in inner frame line above last character in top panel. Long straight tail.

The complete sheets seen have the cliché arrangements :—

1	2	3	2	2	3	3	4
2	1	1	4	3	2	4	1
1	4	4	3	3	2	3	1

1 TRANGKA.

Lake. Carmine. Pink.

Once more there are four types of clichés.

- Cliché 1. Hook above Lion, joined to its back.
2. Coloured smudge along body of Lion.
3. Tall open hook for tail. Small thin o in left panel.
4. Safety catch on right hook beneath Lion. Hook above Lion joined to circle.

I have a pair of cliché 1 in Lake, with the right-hand cliché sideways on its right side. Hall illustrated "the only known sideways cliché" in Stamp Collecting with the same stamp on its left side. A perforated strip of three has one normal and two on their right side.

2 TRANGKA.

Scarlet. Vermilion.

Four clichés so far have been recorded. The differences in the scarcity of the clichés is amazing, in the various values. Out of a dozen of one value, one can easily find four clichés in the proportion of 5: 3: 2: 2.

- Cliche 1. Large forward leaning B. Large open 2nd hook under Lion.
2. Body of Lion in three parts. 3rd character is a square 9 for the gibbet character.
3. Thin characters in top panel, tiny 3rd one. Small first T in Tibet.
4. Similar to 3, but large 1st T in Tibet. Scroll at foot of right panel goes down to right.

4 TRANGKA.

Light Green. Green.

Four clichés to report here, and only a slight shade. The body of the Lion in all clichés is very thin.

- Cliché 1. Small B tilting back. 2nd hook under Lion joined to side-line of square. Large tail.
2. Dropped B. Small tail.

3. Large B. Tibetan figure in right panel, narrow and horizontal.

4. No serif to top of I. Tail thick base. 1st character larger.

Only a pair seen in multiples, clichés 3 and 4.

FORGED CANCELLATIONS.*

Those seen have all been forgeries of the genuine type 8, from Phari, Gyantse and Lhasa. The first of these has the English word for Phari and the Tibetan characters for Lhasa! These are the forged types 10, 11, 12. The Yatung type B2 forgery is also found on these stamps.

SECOND SET OF 1933 FORGERIES.

Not as interesting as the first, although on native paper. Again, I have seen no multiples and cannot say whether there are any. The main differences are:—

(1) "TIBET" is centered low in the bottom tablet.

(2) The hooks beneath the Lion's feet are thin and flat.

(3) The last character in top panel is always as one, instead of two halves.

No perforations found as yet, they may still be to come! The vast majority are used, with a variety of cancellations.

½ TRANGKA.

Orange, Orange-Yellow, Buff, Brown, Dull Yellow, Yellow-Brown.

All have the second hook the correct way round. A real variety of shades and all seemingly from the same cliché except the Dull Yellows. They have the following characteristics:—

(a) No dot before last character.

(b) Curled tail.

(c) Taller TIBET, especially the letter E. (Obviously from a different cliché to the other colours).

⅓ TRANGKA.

Dark Blue, Blue, Ultramarine.

No major varieties or variations. A shiny ink was used for one Dark Blue and one Blue printing.

1 TRANGKA.

Lake. Carmine. Rose. Dull Red.

Again no major variations seen. The central hook appears to change but this may only be printing blemishes.

2 TRANGKA.

Dull Red. Deep Red. Pale Scarlet. Scarlet.

Here we have another cliché at variance to the general run, but only in the Scarlet printing. Characteristics are:—

(a) Curled tail.

(b) Curled hook to right of circle.

(c) Longer hairs to tail.

**Illustration p. 121*

4 TRANGKA.

Yellow-Green. Dull Green. Deep Green.

Some of the Dull Greens are to be found with only one frame line along the top. It is doubtful whether this is a separate cliché, for there is a niche in both types, in the line just above the 5th character, and also in the panel, beneath and to the right of the last character.

FORGED CANCELLATIONS.*

The three cancellations of the first set of 1933 forgeries are found on this issue, together with type 6 and the second negative type from the 1912 forgeries.

THIRD SET OF 1933 FORGERIES.

I have only seen one set of these—ex Col. Schrader's collection. These were on poor quality yellow-toned wove paper—which when held up to the light shows up a mottled appearance similar to the native hand made paper. The designs are very clear especially the coloured frame lines, which are strong and unbroken.

FOURTH SET OF 1933 FORGERIES.

So far, and only thanks to Dahnke, I have seen the $\frac{1}{2}$ tr. value in Scarlet. A forged sheet of 12 with very well matched clichés—though crude in design.

The most obvious differences common to all clichés are:—

- (a) The Yin Yang (the two comma like marks within the central circle above the lion) is a single white spot.
- (b) The hook on its right, is an eye.
- (c) The two outer frame lines are consistantly well printed.
- (d) The groins of the lion are two solid lines of colour, not inverted commas.

They are printed on normal Tibetan native paper, and on the sheet seen, No. 9 cliché is tilted to the right, No. 11 to the left.

Since writing the above, Klewitz has sent me a 4 tr. Scarlet—of native manufacture—on Tibetan paper. This has a resemblance of the genuine 13th cliché, being the width of an outer line larger, and the "hook" underneath the lion's rear legs is again kneeling rather than standing on its head. This copy has no inverted commas on the lion's body and the two outer lines of the stamp are regular and widely spaced.

**Illustration p. 121*

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Bhutan.

Throughout the history of Bhutan—as in Tibet—a runner service existed between the fortified Dzongs and Lamaseries, though covers are scarcer to find than those of Tibet.

One or two such survivors were sent by Bhutan's ruler—the Dharma Rajah of Bhutan, sealed in red with his wax seal with a central design the shape of crossed Dorji. They were addressed:— “To be offered in the presence of my friend, the five times excellent Bell Sahib, the Great Commissioner, from Buntang in Bhutan.” These were sent in the 1920's. A like seal in an auction lot recently was described as from the Dera Dharma Lama to Nepal BUT Oct. 1873. (250 points).

The official seal of Bhutan's Ruler is a terrific affair, 115mm. × 112mm. A thick outer border surrounds a large wheel (of life?) with 16 tablets as the spokes—each one with an inscription. Four Conch shells are in the corners between the circle and surround—whilst in the centre are five Tibetan characters, including the characters of Bhutan. This has been part of an Official Parchment document. (400 points).

The first stage of the Postal History of Bhutan goes back to two British Expeditions in 1826 and 1864–6. According to Robson Lowe (1951) in his Encyclopadia Vol. III he states that no covers are known from the first. A few stamps are known off cover from the second, and one cover has been found since 1951, with the special B-F-F-4 cancellation. (Cover 600—piece 200 points).

Little was heard of Bhutan after that, until a series of letters were found in Col. Bailey's Tibet. These were signed and dated with places of departure in bottom left corner of the cover—and belong to the 2nd stage of Bhutan Postal History.

BHUTAN DISPATCH.	DATE.	TRANSIT POSTMARK.
PARO	26.6.35	YATUNG 1.7.33
PUMTHANG	12.10.27	YATUNG 18.10.27
HA DZONG		YATUNG 7.9.29
CAMP CHALIMAPHI		YATUNG 1.8.28
?	14.4.28	YATUNG 3.5.28
?	21.1.?	PHARI 1.2.?

(200 points each).

The third stage, was the issuing of four stamps the latter half of 1954. These were lithographed, perf. 12½ on unwatermarked wove paper in sheets of 50. Where they were printed is a mystery, probably India.

The central design is the traditional Dorji*—the symbol of the male element (the bell being the symbol of the female element)—the thunderbolt of Bhuddism. BHUTAN is panelled centrally at the foot—between small boxes with the figures of value. Above the Dorji in a semi-circle are native characters reading “Bhutan Government.”

*A Sacred Sceptre

The values are 1 Blue—2 Red—4 Green and 5 Orange, presumably annas? Gibbons state (G.S.M. Dec. 56) that they are fiscal stamps—being used experimentally for postal services. There appears to have been two printings of the 2 and 4—there being quite different shades of these two values.

They have been seen on covers to Kalimpong—and the U.S.A.—with no extra stamps to pay postage—though the country is not a member of the U.P.U. (40 points).

They have also been used on combination covers in conjunction with both Tibetan stamps (rare), Indian stamps, or latterly, Chinese stamps. (100 points).

BHUTANESE CANCELLATIONS.

Those seen so far are as follows:—

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| Ha-Dzong | - Black | Small Round Black Seal type. Diameter 18mm. |
| Paro | - in Violet | Large round fancy type 34mm. diameter, characters white on coloured background. |
| Shee Lok Duk | - in Red | Fancy Oval type, 28mm. long × 21mm. high. |
| Thimpu | - in Black | Fancy Oval type, 31mm. long × 27mm. high. |
| Official Paid | - in Violet | 26mm. diameter. No stamps. Backstamped Kalimpong. |
| Punakha | - | Similar to Paro but Black. (Reported by G. S. Russell). |

We have seen that there was a regular mail route from Bhutan into Tibet in the 1920's, and this is now confirmed with this third stage of Bhutan's postal history—where the combination covers are stamped and cancelled at Yatung.

The Rajah's visit to this country in 1950 may well mean that he is thinking of modernising his country (we trust not civilising—unless he avoids the pitfalls into which the Western civilisations have fallen) and the Pictorial sets of stamps are the beginning of the fourth stage. It is to be hoped that if they fall for the Agency method of marketing their stamps—it will be run on respectable lines.

The first issue of this type of large pictorial stamp was in 1962, when wholesalers were informed that they could order Bhutan stamps from their agent in the Bahamas! (or was it the Bermudas!—if it matters). And the order was to be for at least 100 sets! However, they are being used in Bhutan. The printers were Messrs. Harrisons & Sons Ltd. of London, and they are thematic types, depicting Yaks-Archers-Postal Runners, etc. They are to be found on commercial covers to London.

Two further stamps were issued in 1962 to commemorate World Refugee Year (only two years late). There are two of the pictorials that have been surcharged 10np./1a. and 25np./1a. One of the latter is on an Air cover inscribed "First Flight Phuntsholing (Hasimara) to Calcutta."

A Commemorative cancellation was used on the first day, but it was also used after that occasion. It is 32mm. diameter with crossed Dorji and a pair of Dragons in the centre. There are two surrounding circles, the outer with the inscription, "Inauguration of Bhutan Rinpung Dzong," the inner, "Post and Telegraph System, 10th October, 62."

A new Paro type, 24mm. diameter, is a single lined circle, divided into 9 sections by two pairs of parallel lines, each segment containing a symbol or character. There is also a similar one from Wangdi Phodrang (?), but 21mm. and with double lines dividing the circle.

No doubt there will be many more stamps and cancellations of Bhutan to report in the near future, for already there have appeared Freedom from Hunger, Olympics, Miniature Sheets, and a "gorgeous" Bhutanese Dancers set, bringing colour to the Bhutanese pages with a vengeance. I trust this digression from Tibet will be forgiven, but Bhutan has always had close links with Tibet, and I felt that a description of these items might be useful for record purposes.

Sikkim State Stamps

The stamps of Sikkim State have been described in varied terms. Doubtless there is more to be learned about them.

They can be found on covers which have travelled legitimately through the post. Two such covers are cancelled, "Magan/B.O./Sikkim, 8th Oct. 28." and backstamped at Gangtok 9th Oct. 28.

It is believed these were Revenue Stamps—some people have bought them over the Post Office Counter—others say they were refused. The central design is the south east face of Mount Siniolchu—which is to the north of Gangtok. Taken from a photograph by Hoffmann, it was used to illustrate Claude White's book—"Sikkim and Bhutan." It was not climbed until 1936—and is considered the world's most beautiful mountain.

The words SIKKIM STATE are in the top panel of the stamp—with the value in English in the bottom panel. The side panels have Tibetan characters, presumably the same wording as are in the top and bottom panels. In each top corner between the panels is a circle (the bottom corners square) containing a swastika. The size of the design is 25mm. square, printed on European surfaced paper, clean cut perf. 14. Dennis Way states:—

- (a) A 1a. Yellow was first reported by Stamp Collecting, on March 27th. 1920. IMPERF.
- (b) That they were printed in sheets of 30 denominations of 1a. Yellow, 8a. Indigo., 1 Rp. Red and 5 Rps. Dark Red.
- (c) The Rev. Nyss received a cover posted from Gangtok to Darjeeling with a pair of 1a. stamps—and no others thereon—and that he bought some 1 anna stamps in Darjeeling Post Office.
- (d) Some exist overprinted with a large letter R. These were seen at Garjing P.O. and I have 1 anna with the R on top of the pen cancel, 'Sheo Doya' and without the R, pen cancelled 'Aitasin.' (Are these place names, or part signatures?)

My copies of the 1a. are a Bright Canary Yellow—the 8as. a Palish Blue, and the 1 Rupee value in rose red.

I have also received a 1a. Orange on unsurfaced paper—the size of the design being 25 × 30mm. high, though all details of this design are the same, except the shading of the sky is cross-hatched instead of being horizontal lines.

My latest discovery is a pair of 8 annas nearer an Indigo Blue as first reported above—but the hatching of the panels and sky are diagonally downwards from right to left. It is a much cruder stamp, ½mm. taller than the original stamps described above, on wove unsurfaced paper, and roughly perforated 10½. This pair is imperforate at the bottom edge—whilst the others are marginal sheets with a line round the sheet.

If forgeries had been produced one would have thought they would have become available in larger quantities to the philatelic world. Obviously, two plates have been made for the 1 anna—does the latter pair denote another plate or issue? The 1928 covers are of the original set described above, so where do the 1920 imperforates fit in? Should anyone have any of these stamps, I should be glad to know if the shading of the sky is horizontal, diagonal, or cross hatched.

The ruling family of Sikkim are Tibetans—and one can find the fine crested seals of the state in Gold or Dark Blue embossed on the envelope flaps—with a motto in Tibetan. The Maharinas seal, also with a Tibetan motto underneath, is found in Orange.

It was in this area too, that quite a lot of experimenting was made with mail carrying rockets. These were thought little about in 1935—but to-day, they are seen as the forerunners of much larger projects. Small goods and messages were sent across deep ravines, and great interest was shewn by the Royal Family—the Maharajah and his eldest daughter firing some of the rockets. Various Imperf. Stamps, 57mm. long and 22mm. high inscribed SIKKIM ROCKET EXPERIMENT, were affixed to the messages, depicting a traveller crossing a high mountain pass with his dog, and various cachets were employed on the different fifteen firings—the first on Sept. 27th, 1935.

Another design (58mm. × 35mm.) included King George V and Queen Mary's portraits and overprinted "Rocket Mail Experiment by sanction Sikkim Durbar."

No doubt Francis J. Field, the Air Mail expert of Sutton Coldfield, England, will have all the details of these early experiments in mail-carrying rockets, which cannot be explored in this volume, although they are worth a mention.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Check List

1912 ESSAY.		Colour Ref.	Points Value				
1	1/6 tr. Black		1000				
1912 PROOFS, MADE BY WATERLOWS.							
2	1/6 tr. Blue	21E8	Imperf.	300			
3	Orange	5A8		350			
4	Green	27D8		350			
5	Yellow-Green	28C8		400			
6	Red	9A8		350			
7	Yellow	3A8		350			
8	Carmine	11A9		500			
9	Albino Impression			100			
10	Mauve	13D4	Perf.	600			
11	Deep Blue-Green	27E8	„	600			
12	Yellow-Green	28C8	„ (Cartridge)	600			
13	Albino Impression		„	400			
1912 PROOFS, FROM ACCEPTED TIBETAN BLOCKS.							
14	1/6 tr. Violet	14F8	Wove Paper	400			
15	Violet	14F8	Native Paper	450			
16	Purple	13F8	Wove Paper	450			
17	Bright Purple	14E8	Native Paper	500			
18	1/3 tr. Indigo Black	20F8	Native Paper	450			
19	1/2 tr. Watery Blue	22D8	Native Paper	450			
1912 STAMPS.							
				Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
20	1/6 tr. Bright Green	27D9		3	4	30	15
21	Green	26B8		3	4	30	15
22	Blue-Green	26D7		5	4	80	20
23	Deep Green	26C6		6	5	80	25
24	Bright Emerald	26A9		5	5	80	25
25	Pale Emerald (Thin Paper)	27A4		8	10	150	30
26	Turquoise Green	26B6		100	120	1000	200
27	Dull Grey-Green	26D5		6	4	80	20
28	Dull Yellow-Green	29D7		8	5	120	30
29	Apple Green	29C7	Shiny Print	40	20	500	40
30	Olive Green	28E8	Shiny Print	10	5	300	15
31	Pale Olive Green	28E6	Shiny Print	10	5	300	15
32	Yellow-Green	28C8	Shiny Print	20	10	400	25
33	Bottle Green	27F6	Shiny Print	40	20	800	60
34	1/3 tr. Blue	21B8		4	6	50	30
35	Bright Blue	20D8		4	6	50	30
36	Milky Blue	21C6		5	8	100	40

				Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
37	Dark Blue	21D8		8	12	120	50
38	Indigo Blue	21F8		20	20	600	60
39	Deep Ultramarine	20B8		20	15	600	50
40	Cobalt	22C5	Shiny Print	100	100	1000	200
41	Grey-Blue	22D4	Shiny Print	100	100	1000	200
42	Bright Blue	20C8	Shiny Print	100	100	1000	200
43	Dull Grey-Blue	22B4	Poor Dull Print	5	5	60	20
44	1/2 tr. Violet	16F6		6	10	75	40
45	Deep Violet	16F8		6	10	75	40
46	Dull Violet	16E5		10	15	200	50
47	Deep Lilac	17D8		8	12	80	40
48	Lilac	17C8		8	12	80	40
49	Purple	16D8		10	15	150	50
50	Dull Purple	14D3		10	15	150	50
51	Pale Reddish-Purple	13D4	Shiny Print	25	15	300	40
52	Reddish-Purple	13E5	Shiny Print	25	15	300	40
53	Dull Purple	14E3	Shiny Print	40	40	600	50
54	Bright Purple	15E7	Shiny Print	40	40	600	50
55	Claret-Purple	12F5	Shiny Print	40	40	600	50
56	Slate-Purple	15F4	Shiny Print	40	40	600	50
57	Grey-Lilac	17D4	Shiny Print	40	40	600	50
58	2/3 tr. Rose-Carmine	11B8		8	8	150	25
59	Carmine-Rose	11A7		8	8	150	25
60	Dull Rose	11B7		20	30	300	75
61	Dull Carmine	11C8		15	25	200	75
62	Brown-Red	10D8		10	8	150	25
63	Salmon Carmine	10B6		20	15	300	35
64	Rose-Carmine	11B8	Shiny Print	15	10	250	35
65	Salmon Carmine	10B7	Shiny Print	20	15	300	35
66	Dull Lake	11C6	Shiny Print	15	10	300	35
67	Bright Lake	11D8	Shiny Print	15	10	200	30
68	Deep Lake	11D10	Shiny Print	15	10	200	30
69	Purplish-Lake	12C6	Shiny Print	150	150	1000	150
70	Bright Rose-Pink	10A6		20	20	250	40
71	Carmine-Pink	11A6		8	8	120	25
"POTSAGE" varieties of 2/3 tr. multiply figures of mint, used and covers by 3.							
"EOSTAGE" varieties of 2/3 tr. multiply figures of mint, used and covers by 1½.							
72	1 tr. Vermilion	9B8		15	20	200	200
73	Orange-Red	9A8		15	20	200	200
74	Dull Vermilion	9A7		20	25	250	200
75	Brownish-Vermilion	9C8		25	25	300	200
76	Salmon Carmine	10B7	Shiny Print	50	45	600	300
77	Rose-Carmine	11B8	Shiny Print	50	45	600	300
78	Carmine-Red	11C9	Shiny Print	60	70	750	300
79	Blush Pink	13A5		500	500	2000	500

Broken tail—No. 12 on all but first printings. Multiply figures by 1½.

				Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
80	1 Sang	Light Grey-Green	27D3	40	40	400	200
81		Dark Grey-Green	27F4	40	40	400	200
82		Blue-Green	27D5	40	40	400	200
83		Dull Emerald	27D7	40	40	400	200
84	1/6 tr.	Blue-Green	26D7	Perforated	—	450	— 750
85		Dull Grey-Green	26D5	Perforated	—	450	— 750
86	1/2 tr.	Violet	16F6	Perforated	—	450	— 1000

Used items of 84, 85 and 86 must be tied 'on piece,' or on cover.

87	4 tr.	Deep Bright Blue	20D9		300	250	1500	300
88		Dull Grey-Blue	21E5		200	200	1000	250
89		Indigo	20F8	Shiny Print	300	150	1500	300
90		Dark Blue	21F6		150	150	800	250
91		Milky Blue	22D6		60	60	360	80
92	8 tr.	Vermilion	9C8		400	350	1750	300
93		Lake-Carmine	11C8	Shiny Print	300	250	1500	250
94		Carmine-Red	10B8	Shiny Print	300	250	1500	250
95		Rose-Carmine	11B9	Shiny Print	300	250	1500	250
96		Blush Pink	13A5		500	400	2000	500
97		Carmine-Pink	11B6		100	100	600	150
98		Rose-Pink	11A5		60	60	360	80

Dated covers are, of course, worth a premium to the philatelist searching for evidence of date of use. The "cover" points are for commercial covers. Those of a philatelic nature, such as those with all values on one cover, are not worth the full points. For example, the 1912 1 tr. Vermilion on cover has been given 200 points, but a 1912 philatelic cover with one of each value upon it, would be not worth more than 50 points, about the sum of the 5 values used.

For "kiss" or double prints, multiply by five, all values being so found.

For used blocks of four multiply by five for the 1/6 tr. and six for the 1/3 tr., 1/2 tr. and 1 tr.

Blocks of the 2/3 tr. including of course at least one POTSAGE error, multiply by seven.

There are no genuine rouletted stamps as listed by Michel, nor a genuine 8 tr. Rose-Pink perforated.

Nos. 79 and 96 have the appearance in daylight of being fluorescent—though this does not show under the lamp.

1933 PROOF SHEETS.

			Mint or Used.	½ Sheet used, with wide margins
99	½ tr.	Orange, if exists	—	Not Yet Seen
100	¾ tr.	Dark Blue	21F8	400
101		Prussian Blue	21E7	500
102	1 tr.	Lake	11D8	500
103	2 tr.	Scarlet	10A8	400
104	4 tr.	Emerald	27C8	600

1933 ISSUE.

				Setting	Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
105	½ tr.	Orange Perf.	6A8	I	10	10	250	50
106		Yellow-Orange Perf.	5A8	I	10	10	200	50
107		Yellow-Orange Imperf.	5A8	I	8	8	200	50
108		Pale Yellow	4A6	I	8	8	400	40
109		Pale Yellow	4A6	II	8	8	100	30
110		Bright Chrome	4A10	II	4	6	60	25
111		Yellow-Ochre	4D7	II	50	45	600	200
112		Bistre	4B9	II	45	40	600	150
113		Yellow-Bistre	4B6	II	40	30	500	150
114		Yellow-Bistre	4B6	III	40	30	600	150
115		Bright Chrome	4A10	III	4	6	48	25
116		Yellow	4A7	III	4	6	48	25
117		Deep Golden-Yellow	4A9	III	4	6	48	25
118		Bistre-Yellow	3B7	III	10	15	150	30
119		Greenish-Yellow	3A6	III	3	5	40	25
120		Deep Greenish-Yellow	3A7	III	3	5	40	25
121		Greenish-Yellow	3A6	IV	3	5	150	25
122		Pale Chrome	4A8	IV	3	5	40	25
123		Lemon	4A6	IV	3	5	40	25
124		Canary Yellow	2A7	IV	3	5	36	25
125		Olive-Yellow	3C7	IV	10	10	150	30

Known printed on both sides of the paper, in Setting II (No. 110) 750 points.

126	⅔ tr.	Dark Blue Perf.	21F8	I	8	8	200	45
127		Prussian Blue Perf.	21E7	I	8	8	250	45

No. 127 is known with **double perfs.** (100 points).

128		Drk. Ultram'ne Imperf.	21E8	I	15	15	400	50
129		Prussian Blue	21E7	I	5	5	400	60
130		Dark Blue	21F8	II	3	4	40	30
131		Pale Blue	21E6	II	15	15	250	60
132		Grey-Blue	21E5	III	3	3	40	20
133		Indigo	21F7	III	3	3	40	20
134		Deep Indigo	20F8	III	3	3	40	20
135		Deep Blue-Black	20F9	IVa	5	5	60	25
136		Grey-Blue	21E5	IVa	3	3	36	20
137		Indigo	21F7	IVa	3	3	36	20
138		Dark Indigo (Shiny)	20F9	IVb	4	4	50	30
139		Dull Indigo	21F5	IVb	3	3	36	20
140		Violet-Blue	19F8	IVb	3	5	36	40

The TT BET catalogued by Michel was first recorded in a check list of forgeries. In the genuine it might be any of clichés 6, 7, 9 or 12 and is of little interest.

141	1 tr.	Carmine-Lake Perf.	11B9	I	10	8	250	50
142		Rose-Lake Perf.	11B7	I	10	8	250	50
No. 142 is known with double perfs. (100 points).								
143		Rose-Lake Imperf.	11C8	I	15	12	250	80

				Setting	Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
144	1 tr.	Deep Lake	11D8	I	20	20	300	120
145		Rose-Carmine	11A8	I	6	8	80	30
146		Carmine-Pink	11A7	I	20	20	250	40
147		Pale Scarlet-Vermilion	10C7	I	10	8	120	30
148		Deep Scarlet-Vermilion	10C8	I	10	8	120	30
149		Scarlet	9B8	I	6	6	80	30
150		Deep Scarlet-Vermilion	10C8	II	10	8	120	30
151		Brown-Red	10D8	II	20	15	240	40
152		Bluish-Red	12B8	II	6	5	100	30
No. 152 (?) is known printed on both sides of the paper. (750 points).								
153		Bright Orange	7A8	II	10	8	120	40
154		Pale Scarlet-Red	10A7	III	3	4	40	15
155		Bright Scarlet-Red	10B9	III	3	4	40	15
156		Orange-Red (Shiny)	8CB	III	4	4	40	20
157		Or. Vermilion (Shiny)	8B8	III	4	4	50	20
158		Dark Salmon	9C7	III	4	5	50	20
159		Salmon Pink	9B6	III	4	4	40	15
160		Reddish-Vermilion	8A7	III	4	4	60	15
161		Reddish-Vermilion	8A7	IV	4	4	40	15
162		Scarlet-Red	10A8	IV	3	4	36	15
163		Orange-Brown	6C7	IV	5	6	60	40
164		Dull Brown	6D8	IV	10	10	120	50
165		Light Brown-Orange	6B7	IV	6	8	80	30
166		Bright Orange	7B8	IV	6	8	80	30
167		Deep Bright Orange	7B9	IV	3	6	36	30
168		Lemon	3A7	IV	40	40	500	100
169		Bright Chrome	4A10	IV	40	40	500	100
170	2 tr.	Scarlet Perf.	10A9	Ia	15	15	200	60
No. 170 is known with Double Perfs. (100 points).								
171		Pale Scarlet Perf.	10A8	Ia	15	15	200	60
172		Scarlet Imperf.	10A9	Ia	5	6	60	15
173		Pale Scarlet	10A8	Ia	5	6	60	15
174		Carmine Red	10B8	Ia	6	7	80	15
175		Bright Scarlet-Red	10B9	Ia	6	7	80	15
176		Scarlet-Vermilion	10C7	Ia	8	9	100	30
177		Dark Scarlet-Vermilion	10C8	Ia	12	10	150	45
178		Dark Scarlet-Vermilion	10C8	Ib	12	10	150	45

			Setting	Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
179	2 tr.	Dark Brick Red	10D8	Ib	15	12	180 100
180		Rose-Carmine	11A8	Ib	8	8	100 30
181		Carmine-Lake	11B8	Ib	8	8	100 30
182		Rose-Pink	11A6	Ib	8	8	100 30
183		Salmon-Pink	9B6	Ib	5	6	50 25
184		Dull Salmon	9C7	Ib	5	6	50 25
185		Bright Scarlet-Red	10B9	Ib	6	7	80 15
186		Chestnut Brown	7D8	II	10	12	120 50
187		Orange-Brown	7C8	II	5	6	50 25
188		Bright Orange	7B8	II	3	5	36 20
189		Dull Orange	6B8	II	4	5	50 20
190		Dull Yell.-Orange(Clear 5A7)		II	4	5	50 20
190a		„ „ „ (Smudgy 5A8)		II	4	5	50 20
191		Yellow-Orange	6A7	II	4	5	50 20
192		Bright Scarlet	10A9	II	6	5	70 25
No. 192 is known on a thick native paper, quite Brown in colour, and totally unlike any preceding native paper. Also on a thin Yellow paper. The points value are for these items. It is slightly scarcer on the normal Tibetan type of paper of this period.							
193		Pale Scarlet	10A8	II	4	5	50 20
Nos. 187 to 193 are all known bisected on cover for use as a 1 tr. stamp. (200 points if tied to cover).							
194		Dull Red	10BB	II	4	5	50 20
195		Deep Lake	10E8	II	10	10	120 30
196		Dull Brown	6D7	II	8	8	100 30
197		Yellow	4A6	II	40	40	500 100
198	4 tr.	Yellow-Green Perf.	28C10	Ia	15	10	500 100
Double perfs. and a treble perf. are known of No. 198. (100 points).							
199		Emerald Perf.	27C8	Ia	15	10	500 25
The above are the first printings before the damage to the 8th cliché.							
200		Emerald Perf.	27C8	Ia	15	10	300 25
201		Deep Emerald Perf.	27C9	Ia	20	25	360 30
202		Olive-Green Imperf.	29D7	Ib	20	30	250 50
203		Deep Olive-Green	29E8	Ib	20	30	250 50
204		Sage Green	30E7	Ib	40	100	500 200
205		Pale Yellow-Green	28B7	Ic	10	5	150 15
206		Bright Yellow-Green	28B8	Ic.	10	5	150 15

			Setting	Mint	Used	Sheet	Cover
207	4tr.	Bright Yellow-Green	28B8	Id	10	5	150 15
208		Emerald	27C8	Id	10	5	150 15
209		Apple Green	28B9	Ie	10	5	120 15
210		Yellow-Green	28B8	Ie	10	5	120 15
No. 210, one sheet doubly printed. (600 points).							
211		Dark Bottle Green	26F6	Ie	15	8	180 20
212		Light Bottle Green	26E4	Ie	15	8	180 20
213		Dull Green	27D6	II	6	4	60 10
Quadrisect 200 points.							
214		Green	27D8	II	6	4	60 10
215		Blue-Green (Smudgy)	27D9	II	8	12	100 15
Quadrisect 250 points.							
216		Dp. Blue-Green (Clear)	26E8	II	10	6	120 20
217		Dark Green (Nr. Bottle)	26F8	II	10	10	180 20
218		Bright Jade	26C8	II	15	8	150 20
219		Bright Yellow-Green	29B9	II	8	6	100 10
Quadrisect 250 points.							
220		Pale Yellow-Green	29B8	II	8	6	100 10
221		Bright Sage Green (Shiny)	29D8	II	20	30	200 40
222		Dull Green (Shiny)	27C7	II	10	10	200 40
223		Bright Apple Green	28B9	II	6	6	60 10

Nos. 219-221 are on the silky brown paper.

The 4th cliché of the 4 tr. is sought after, (75 points), but the real rarity is the 8th cliché before damage. (200 points).

The 13th cliché of Nos. 213-223 (Position 12 on sheet) is valued at 3 times the normal.

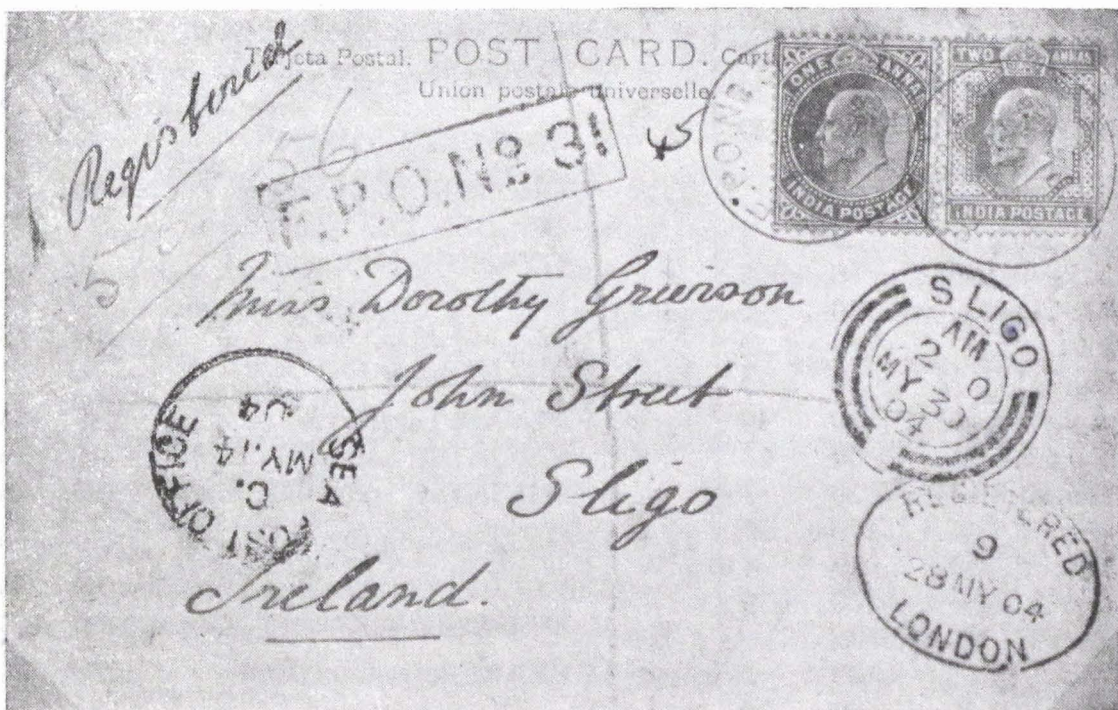
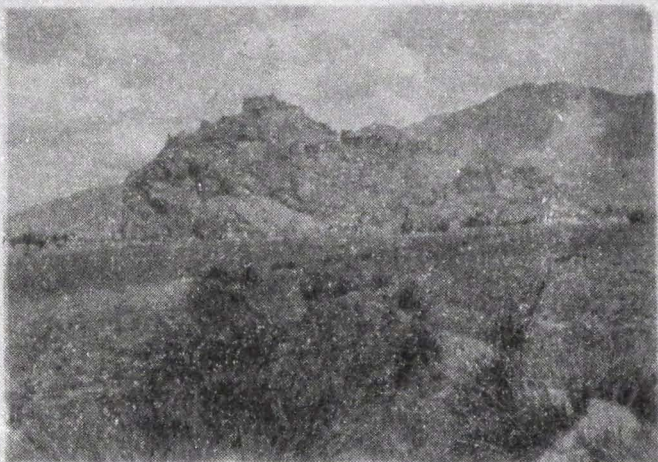
Plateable multiples of all values, especially of the first settings are worth a premium, as are dated covers.

There are no genuine rouletted stamps. The unofficial 1939-56 perfs. are catalogued by Michel. It is noted that they are only given the same value as the ordinary imperf. which is as it should be, and I feel that if they are to be mentioned at all in a general catalogue, a footnote would be sufficient and that their value is as normal.

CHECK LIST OF CANCELLATIONS—with additional points to add to "on cover" points in the stamp check list. Column 2 is for backstamps. Example:- 1/6 tr. Br. Green on cover = 15 points, plus 5 points with Chushu backstamp; or used from Chushu, plus 120 points.

		On Back-Cover stamp			On Back-Cover stamp
Type 1	LHASA		Type 2	LHASA Single Inner Ring	80 10
Black		Normal	3	LHASA Double Inner Ring	40 8
Prussian Blue		10 2	4	LHASA Large Size Black Blue	60 5 80 10
Deep Bright Blue		15 2	5	LHASA Narrow "O"	50 15
Ultramarine		30 5	6	LHASA Pointed "As"	20 5
Greenish-Blue		20 2	7	LHASA Large wide "O"	Normal
Mauve		30 5	8	LHASA 1933 2 outer rings 1 outer rings	40 5 Normal
Violet		10 2	Type 8	CHUSHU 1933 type	30 15
CHUSHU				GYANTSE 1933 type Black Violet	Normal 10 5
Black		120 5		NANGARTSE 1933 type	25 5
Blue		120 40		PELTI 1933 type	30 5
Bluish-Green		120 40		PHARI 1933 type Black Soot Black	5 2 8 4
Deep Bright Blue		120 40		SHIGATSE 1933 type	Normal
DONGKUR			Type 9	CHOMORAK 1933 type	60 30
Black		200 120		DECHEN 1933 type	50 25
Bluish-Green		200 120		GYANDIE 1933 type	60 30
Slate-Violet		200 120		MEDAGONGKUR 1933 type	50 25
Grey		200 120		PENAM 1933 type	100 50
Grey-Blue		200 120	Type 10	PHARI Small Fret	10 5
GYANTSE			Type 11	PENAM Large Fret	150 25
Black		Normal		SHIGATSE Large Fret Black	10 5
Boot Black		20 5		SHIGATSE Large Blue Green	100 50
Black-Violet		30 5	Type 12	GYANDIE Square Pos. Fret	400 200
Slate-Violet		30 5	Type 13	DECHEN Square Neg. Fret	400 200
Violet		10 2		MEDAGONGKUR Sq. Neg. F.	400 200
Mauve		30 4	Type 14	PHARI Postmasters Seal	200 100
Purple-Brown		30 10	Type 15	GYANTSE Seal type 22mm.	200 120
Deep Claret		50 20		PHARI Seal type 21mm.	200 120
Greenish-Blue		20 3		PENAM (?) Seal type 19mm.	200 120
Brown		100 30	Type 16	SHIGATSE Seal type 25mm.	200 120
Grey		10 4		SHIGATSE Seal type 21mm.	200 120
Rose-Carmine		100 30	Type 17	DHOMO Single circle 32mm.	200 120
NANGARTSE					
Black		100 2			
Grey		100 20			
Deep Violet		120 40			
Bright Cerise		150 60			
Bright Mauve		120 40			
Grey-Blue		120 40			
PELTI					
Black		150 2			
Brownish-Black		150 2			

The destruction of the
 Strongest Fortress in
 Central Asia. This
 shows the first
 explosion during the
 demolition of Gyantse
 Jong. To the right is
 the smoke of the
 explosion. Otherwise
 the Jong is untouched.
 This photo was taken
 on July 7th or the
 morning after the
 capture of the Jong.



TWO POSTCARDS FROM THE GRIERSON CORRESPONDENCE

1. A photograph taken at the time of the destruction of Gyantse Jong. Others depict Tibetan scenes and groups of Officers.
2. A registered card with F.P.O. No. 31 cancelling the stamps—and the only recorded item 44—the oblong F.P.O. No. 31 handstamp.

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ABBREVIATIONS used in Bibliography.

CC China Clipper.

CCP Collectors Club Philatelist.

CSB China Society Bulletin.

CSJ Chambers Stamp Journal.

GSM Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

GW Great Wall.

JCP Journal of Chinese Philately.

PJGB Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.

LP London Philatelist.

PM Philatelic Mag.

S Stamps.

SC Stamp Collecting.

SM Stamp Monthly.

TP The Philatelist.

WPG Weekly Philatelic Gossip.

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