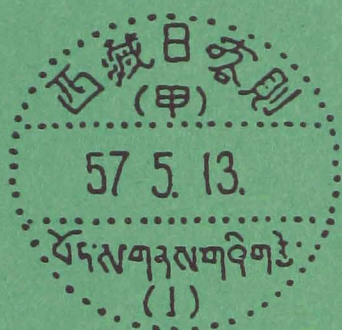
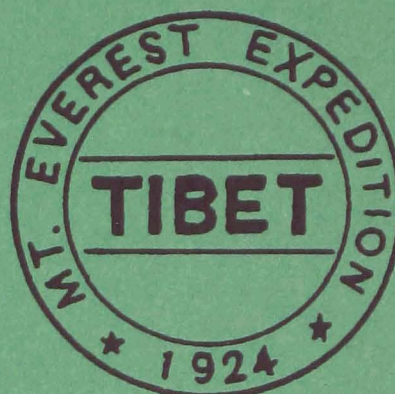
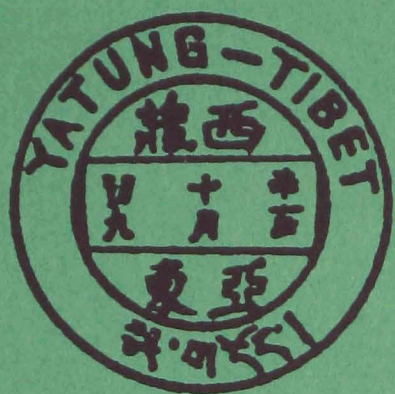


THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF
TIBET



A Catalogue of the British-Indian, Imperial Chinese,
Independent Tibetan and Chinese People's Republic's
postal markings in use in Tibet between 1903 and 1959

by

Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, RDP, FRPSL

Published by Geoffrey Flack

1996

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF TIBET

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PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

I am very pleased to be associated with the publication of Wolfgang Hellrigl's *The Postal Markings of Tibet*. I believe it is an important addition to the already rich philatelic history of this fascinating country.

The study has brought together, in one volume, all the known Tibetan postal markings in use between 1903 and 1959. Each marking has been clearly illustrated and this should prove invaluable to new collectors and specialists alike. I believe the information on dates of use and scarcity is also a major contribution to our knowledge of Tibet's postal history.

Over the years Tibet has been collected and studied by a number of important philatelists. Through their efforts and writings Tibet has become a "modern classic" whose stamps and postal history are respected at the highest levels of philately. Wolfgang Hellrigl's contributions are well known. The number of research articles he has written and the quality of his work have put him at the forefront of studies relating to the stamps and postal history of Nepal and Tibet.

Wolfgang has been President of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle since 1989, but his reputation and standing go far beyond the Himalayan area. The philatelic world has acknowledged his literary contributions, honouring him with numerous awards including International Gold Medals. In September 1994 the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain invited him to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. In the philatelic world, an honour second to none.

This work, *The Postal Markings of Tibet*, is an important addition to the philatelic literature. To attract collectors, researchers and writers of the level of Wolfgang Hellrigl speaks well of the tremendous possibilities offered by Himalayan philately. This is a very exciting area for the collector, a field with a rich future, with books still to be written and mysteries to be solved.

Geoffrey Flack

INTRODUCTION

"In collecting the stamps of a country like Tibet, where the number of letters written and received is extremely small, the acquisition and listing of all the different postmarks, employed by the postal service is absolutely impossible of achievement, and the notes that follow probably touch no more than the fringe of the subject."

H.R. Holmes, RDP, 1940

While the postage stamps normally constitute the focal point of any philatelic collection, the postal markings can contribute considerably towards a better understanding of the circumstances under which the various issues were introduced, used and eventually replaced. In the specific case of the postal history of Tibet, much of its fascination would be lost if we had no knowledge of, say, the postal markings of the Younghusband Military Expedition, or the cancellations of Imperial China.

Over the last seventy years, several philatelists have written about some aspects of the postal markings of Tibet. The names of H.R. Holmes, Robson Lowe, Theodore M. Newman, George S. Russell, H.D.S. Haverbeck, Robert D. West, C.W. Chiu and, above all, Arnold C. Waterfall, readily come to mind. Between them, they have recorded most of the markings we know today.

Nevertheless, I feel that the present Catalogue can claim a number of significant improvements on the works of these pioneers, such as a comprehensive listing, an entirely new classification, a simple, but efficient numbering system, clear drawings of the over 300 markings treated, a thorough revision of all periods of use, and a uniform point system. As a special feature, the numerous forged markings of Tibet – containing many previously unrecorded types – are listed and illustrated.

Since the periods of use constitute the heart of this Catalogue, I have taken great pains in checking literally thousands of dates. With the exception of a few absolutely reliable sources – notably Waterfall – any dates quoted by earlier references have largely been ignored. Although I was able to introduce and/or extend numerous periods of use, there are, obviously, still several gaps. The greatest difficulties in this respect arise with the dateless markings of the independent Tibetan period, to which an approximate date can normally be attributed only when they are found in conjunction with markings of other postal administrations; hence, these markings had to be recorded with the year of use only, while all other types are quoted with the DAY, MONTH and YEAR (in that order).

Unless otherwise indicated, all postal markings are in black ink. Where strikes in different colours are known, they are listed under the same type-number, but in separate lines. For simplicity's sake, I made no distinction between rather similar colours of ink, e.g., violet and purple.

In order to establish a uniform Point Valuation System for the postal markings of the different periods of Tibet's postal history, the following rarity scale has been devised:

Points	Degree of Rarity	Approximate Number of Covers Known
100	Extremely rare	1 - 4
90 - 95	Very rare	5 - 9
80 - 85	Rare	10 - 19
55 - 75	Scarce	20 - 49
30 - 50	Medium	50 - 100
5 - 25	Common	over 100

This Catalogue contains every known postal marking used on Tibetan territory, from 18th August, 1903 to 10th March, 1959. The 1903 date refers to the earliest recorded Khamba-Jong marking of the Tibet Frontier Commission.

A recently recorded datestamp of the Experimental P.O. C-7 was allegedly used by the Sikkim Field Force of 1888 at a camp just inside the Tibetan border, but, in my opinion, the evidence at hand is not sufficiently strong to prove beyond doubt that this P.O. operated on Tibetan territory.

The final date sadly coincides with the abortive Tibetan revolt against the Chinese invaders, which led to the flight of the Dalai Lama to India, the official dissolution of the Tibetan government and the loss of human rights for the Tibetan population.

I am most grateful to the many collectors, who, over the years, have shown me their holdings or sent me photocopies featuring postal markings of Tibet. In particular, I would like to thank those who have kindly granted me permission to reproduce illustrations from their earlier publications: the American Philatelic Society (for the use of some sixty of Robert West's drawings of markings of the Chinese People's Republic, published in *The American Philatelist*); the Collectors Club of New York (for the use of twelve illustrations from H.D.S. Haverbeck's book, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet*, that were later used to create photographically reproduced forgeries); Mr. Robson Lowe (for the use of four illustrations from his booklet, *The Gee-Ma Forgeries*).

My appeal goes to all collectors of Tibet, to check the postal markings in their collections against the types and periods of use quoted in the present publication. If any new types or unrecorded dates are found or if anything can be added to complete the date tables, would readers please contact me or, alternatively, publish their findings in the pages of *Postal Himal*, the quarterly journal of The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. If sufficient new material can be collected, a second edition of this Catalogue might be considered.

Wolfgang C. Hellrigl

THE BRITISH-INDIAN PERIOD (1903-1955)

In 1903, British India sent a special Frontier Commission into Tibet to negotiate a trade agreement and settle incidents in the Sikkim border area. In the course of this mission, the first British-Indian Post Office in Tibet was opened at Khamba-Jong, the base of the Commission. The earliest known postal marking on Tibetan territory (Type B30) was applied there on 18th August, 1903.

This unsuccessful attempt was followed, in 1904, by the Younghusband Military Expedition to Lhasa. This mission was provided with full postal facilities and several Temporary, Experimental or Field Post Offices were established between the Base Office located in Siliguri, India, and Lhasa, the furthest point reached by the expeditionary forces. The exact locations and subsequent movements of the various types of Post Offices that operated during these two missions, can be traced in Brig. D.S. Virk's handbook, *Sikkim-Tibet 1903-1908*, to which interested readers are referred.

The present listing is strictly confined to Tibet and therefore does not include types or dates of any postal markings applied at either the Tibet Frontier Commission's or the Younghusband Expedition's Post Offices located in Sikkim.

The Post Offices of both missions used British-Indian stamps and standard-type cancellations, datestamps, namestamps, handstamps, etc. It should be noted that the impressions of the postal markings of this early period are usually faint and poor.

As a result of the Military Expedition, which saw the defeat of the Tibetan army, a Treaty was signed at Lhasa that included a provision for the appointment of permanent British-Indian Postal Agencies in Tibet. Thus, upon the withdrawal of the British-Indian troops from Tibet, in November, 1904, the Field Post Offices of Gyantse, Pharijong and Yatung were converted into Agencies of the British-Indian Post Office, though some F.P.O. markings were retained in use for some more years. A fourth P.O. was opened at Gartok, in Western Tibet, but this appears to have functioned only temporarily and is reported to have been closed down in 1943.

These four civilian Post Offices were primarily intended to maintain a communications link between the British Trade Agents in Tibet, and India. Since they formed part of the British-Indian postal territory, inland rates applied to mail sent from Tibet to India (including Nepal), and vice-versa.

The British-Indian postal authorities also established various Government Telegraph Offices (G.T.O.s) in Tibet, but telegraphic markings have only been recorded for Chumbi and Gyantse.

Following India's independence, in August, 1947, the three remaining British-Indian Post Offices were taken over by the Dominion of India and continued to operate until they were officially closed down on 11th April, 1955.

CANCELLATIONS



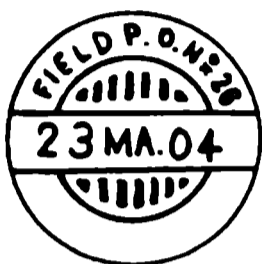
B1
KHAMBA-JONG



B2
FIELD P.O. No. 24



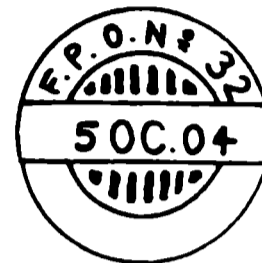
B3
FIELD P.O. No. 25



B4
FIELD P.O. No. 26



B5
FIELD P.O. No. 31



B6
FIELD P.O. No. 32



B7
FIELD P.O. No. 34



B8
FIELD P.O. No. 70



B9
FIELD P.O. No. 81



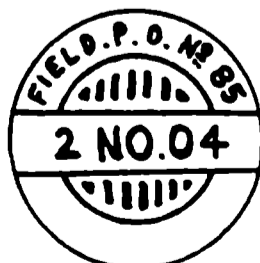
B10
PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81



B11
FIELD P.O. No. 82



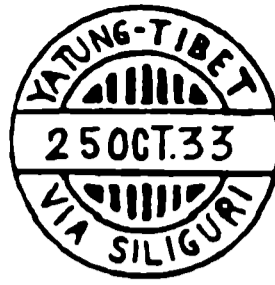
B12
FIELD P.O. No. 83



B13
FIELD P.O. No. 85



B14
GYANTSE



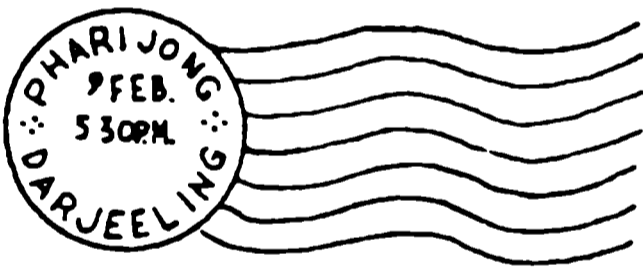
B15
YATUNG



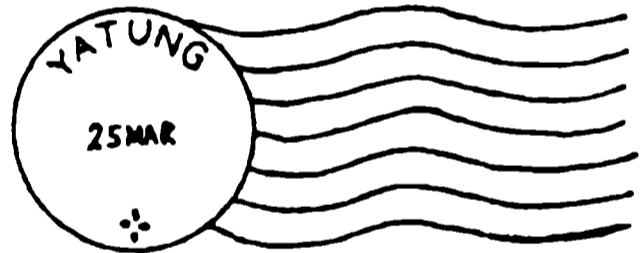
B16
GYANTSE



B17
PHARIJONG



B18
PHARIJONG



B19
YATUNG

CANCELLATIONS

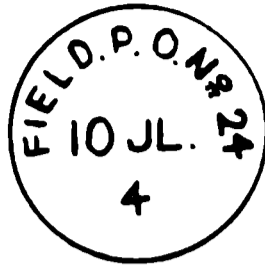
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B1	KHAMBA-JONG	08.09.1903	04.12.1903	100
B2	FIELD P.O. 24 Black	23.01.1904	05.10.1904	95
B2	” ” ” Violet	1904		100
B3	FIELD P.O. 25	15.01.1904	21.06.1904	95
B4	FIELD P.O. 26	18.02.1904	10.05.1905	95
B5	FIELD P.O. 31	02.06.1904	18.06.1904	100
B6	FIELD P.O. 32 Black	08.05.1904	05.10.1904	95
B6	” ” ” Violet	24.08.1904		100
B7	FIELD P.O. 34	28.07.1904	08.10.1904	100
B8	FIELD P.O. 70	17.01.1907	11.06.1908	95
B9	FIELD P.O. 81	16.01.1904	22.05.1909	95
B10	PHARIJONG F.P.O. 81	02.05.1911	12.01.1915	95
B11	FIELD P.O. 82	31.01.1904 ¹⁾		100
B12	FIELD P.O. 83	26.04.1904	20.07.1904	95
B13	FIELD P.O. 85	02.11.1904		100
B14	GYANTSE	03.02.1906	21.09.1918	35
B15	YATUNG	04.04.1909	05.04.1940	55
B16	GYANTSE	13.05.1918	02.01.1954	25
B17	PHARIJONG	30.05.1920	02.04.1955	25
B18	PHARIJONG	24.12.1948	20.01.1955	50
B19	YATUNG	16.05.1952	25.03.1955	65

¹⁾ B11: The year digits are erroneously shown as "03."

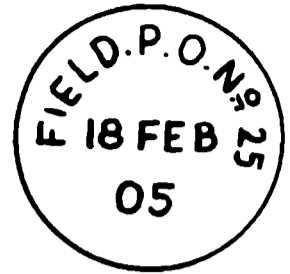
DATESTAMPS



B30
KHAMBA-JONG



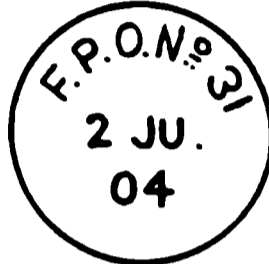
B31
FIELD P.O. No. 24



B32
FIELD P.O. No. 25



B33
FIELD P.O. No. 26



B34
FIELD P.O. No. 31



B35
FIELD P.O. No. 32



B36
FIELD P.O. No. 34



B37
FIELD P.O. No. 70



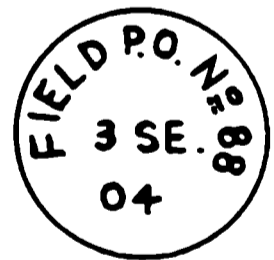
B38
FIELD P.O. No. 81



B39
PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81



B40
FIELD P.O. No. 83



B41
FIELD P.O. No. 88



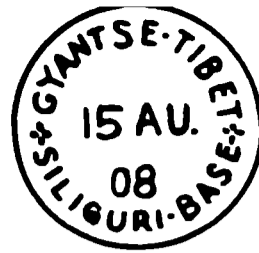
B42
LHASA



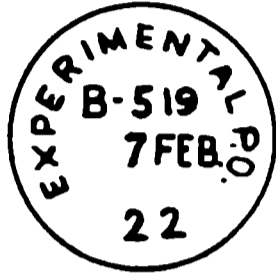
B43
LHASA



B44
GARTOK



B45
GYANTSE



B46
EXPERIM. P.O. B-519
(PHARIJONG)



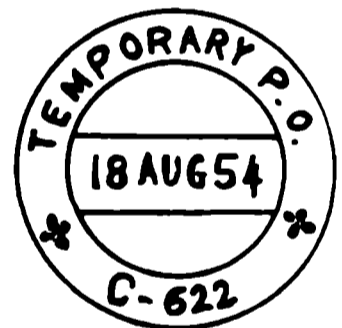
B47
YATUNG



B48
GYANTSE
(Die 1)



B48
GYANTSE
(Die 2)



B49
TEMP. P.O. C-622
(GYANTSE)



B50
PHARIJONG



B51
YATUNG

DATESTAMPS

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B30	KHAMBA-JONG	18.08.1903	04.12.1903	100
B31	FIELD P.O. 24	04.02.1904	05.01.1905	95
B32	FIELD P.O. 25	08.02.1904	18.02.1905	100
B33	FIELD P.O. 26	21.01.1904	27.01.1907	95
B34	FIELD P.O. 31	08.05.1904	02.06.1904	100
B35	FIELD P.O. 32	10.05.1904	06.10.1904	95
B36	FIELD P.O. 34	05.08.1904	21.08.1904	100
B37	YATUNG F.P.O. 70	23.09.1908		100
B38	FIELD P.O. 81	16.01.1904 ²⁾	08.01.1910	95
B39	PHARIJONG F.P.O. 81	02.02.1910	05.01.1913	95
B40	FIELD P.O. 83	20.05.1904	20.07.1904	100
B41	FIELD P.O. 88	03.09.1904		100
B42	LHASA ("LAHSSA")³⁾	03.08.1904	22.09.1904	75
B43	LHASA ("LHASSA")	31.08.1904	20.09.1904	100
B44	GARTOK	15.09.1913	14.06.1936	100
B45	GYANTSE	15.11.1905	16.05.1918	35
B46	EXPERIMENTAL P.O. B-519	07.02.1922		100
B47	YATUNG	27.02.1909	02.07.1932	45
B48	GYANTSE (Die 1)⁴⁾	20.05.1919	02.03.1935	15
B48	GYANTSE (Die 2)⁴⁾	03.04.1936	19.05.1954	10
B49	TEMPORARY P.O. C-622	31.07.1954	04.1955	95
B50	PHARIJONG	29.05.1918	28.09.1953	10
B51	YATUNG	11.11.1949	18.06.1954	80

The datestamps were used as departure, transit and delivery markings and as cancellations, respectively.

²⁾ B38: The year digits on the earliest strike are erroneously shown as "03" instead of "04."

³⁾ B42: The strikes in violet, dated 10.08.1904, are favour impressions made in the 1950s.

⁴⁾ B48: Die 1 has a wider dateband; the right fleuron stands higher, and the word GYANTSE is narrower than in Die 2.

REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS



B60
FIELD P.O. No. 24



B61
CHUMBI F.P.O. No. 70



B62
FIELD P.O. No. 81



B63
TEMP. P.O. Y (GYANTSE)



B64
GYANTSE



B65
YATUNG

REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B60	FIELD P.O. 24	14.09.1904	14.09.1906	100
B61	CHUMBI F.P.O. 70	17.05.1907	11.12.1907	100
B62	FIELD P.O. 81	09.04.1908	1912	100
B63	TEMPORARY P.O. Y	30.03.1906	20.10.1908	95
B64	GYANTSE	03.01.1909	25.04.1912	90
B65	YATUNG	07.01.1911	04.03.1913	80

BOXED NAMESTAMPS

FIELD P.O. No. 24

B70
FIELD P.O. No. 24

FIELD P.O. No. 26

B71
FIELD P.O. No. 26

F.P.O. No. 31

B72
FIELD P.O. No. 31

F.P.O. No. 32

B73
FIELD P.O. No. 32

F.P.O. No. 70

B74
FIELD P.O. No. 70

GARTOK
BRANCH OFFICE
WESTERN-TIBET DISTRICT

B75
GARTOK

GYANTSE-TIBET
SILIGURI-BASE

B76
GYANTSE

GYANTSE
TIBET

B77
GYANTSE

PHARIJONG

B78
PHARIJONG

PHARIJONG
1 JULY 54
DARJEELING

B79
PHARIJONG

YATUNG-TIBET
VIA-SILIGURI

B80
YATUNG

OTHER NAMESTAMPS

GYANTSE

B81
GYANTSE

SIKKIM-TIBET

B82
SIKKIM-TIBET (CHUMBI)

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

B83
YATUNG F.P.O. No. 70

**PHARIJONG
F. P. O. NO. 81**

B84
PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81

GYANTSE

B85
GYANTSE

GYANTSE-TIBET

B86
GYANTSE

PHARIJONG

B87
PHARIJONG

PHARIJONG

B88
PHARIJONG

YATUNG-TIBET

B89
YATUNG

YATUNG-TIBET

B90
YATUNG

**YATUNG-TIBET
VIA SILIGURI**

B65A
YATUNG

NAMESTAMPS

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B70	FIELD P.O. 24	08.04.1904	10.07.1904	100
B71	FIELD P.O. 26	01.07.1906	31.12.1906	100
B72	FIELD P.O. 31	08.05.1904		100
B73	FIELD P.O. 32	26.08.1904		100
B74	FIELD P.O. 70	19.05.1907		100
B75	GARTOK	1933?		100
B76	GYANTSE	24.04.1908	26.10.1908	90
B77	GYANTSE	07.12.1923	19.05.1954	35
B78	PHARIJONG Black	1922	1955	85
B78	" Red	1924		85
B79	PHARIJONG	01.07.1954		100
B80	YATUNG	25.02.1921	02.07.1932	95
B81	GYANTSE Violet	1912	21.06.1917	95
B82	SIKKIM-TIBET Violet	01.07.1906	19.05.1907	95
B83	YATUNG F.P.O. 70 Violet	29.08.1911	04.09.1911	80
B83	" " " Black	02.09.1911	03.04.1915	80
B83	" " " Red	04.03.1913	15.05.1913	85
B84	PHARIJONG F.P.O. 81 Red	27.04.1912	14.08.1913	90
B85	GYANTSE Purple	1911		75
B86	GYANTSE Brown	04.04.1913	02.09.1913	75
B86	" Violet	26.02.1914	21.05.1921	75
B86	" Red	1917	1922	75
B86	" Black	1917	25.07.1922	75
B87	PHARIJONG Red	29.05.1918	1920	80
B88	PHARIJONG	08.08.1935	02.04.1955	60
B89	YATUNG Violet	13.03.1917	10.10.1917	55
B89	" Black	1921	1922	55
B90	YATUNG	02.01.1923	1955	50
B65A	YATUNG	17.04.1922		50

The majority of these namestamps was used as registration markings, and was either applied directly to covers, or to registration labels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-OF-RECEIPT MARKINGS



B100
PHARIJONG

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-OF-RECEIPT MARKINGS					
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
			earliest	latest	
B100	PHARIJONG	Mauve	1913		100

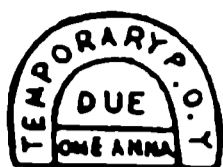
TOO-LATE HANDSTAMPS

TOO LATE

120
KHAMBA-JONG

TOO-LATE HANDSTAMPS					
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
			earliest	latest	
B120	KHAMBA-JONG		31.10.1903	28.11.1903	100

POSTAGE-DUE HANDSTAMPS



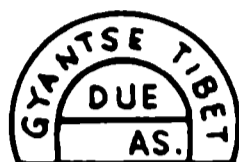
B110
TEMP. P.O. Y
(GYANTSE)



B111
TEMP. P.O. Y
(GYANTSE)



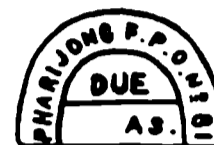
B112
GYANTSE



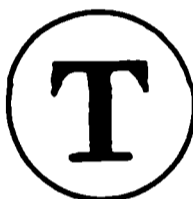
B113
GYANTSE



B114
PHARIJONG



B115
PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81



B116
(PHARIJONG?)

POSTAGE-DUE HANDSTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B110	TEMPOR. P.O. Y (GYANTSE)	30.09.1908	21.01.1918	100
B111	TEMPOR. P.O. Y (GYANTSE)	21.09.1918		100
B112	GYANTSE	11.04.1922	31.08.1928	95
B113	GYANTSE	08.03 1922	03.09 1934	85
B114	PHARIJONG	26.05.1922	01.07.1954	85
B115	PHARIJONG F.P.O. 81	27.05.1927	04.12.1943	55
B116	"T" (PHARIJONG?)	30.05.1904	10.09.1904	95

TELEGRAPHIC MARKINGS



B130
CHUMBI



B131
GYANTSE (Die 1)



B131
GYANTSE (Die 2)



B132
GYANTSE

TELEGRAPHIC MARKINGS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B130	CHUMBI	20.04.1908	22.05.1908	100
B131	GYANTSE (Die 1) ⁵⁾	11.04.1910	25.09.1917	90
B131	GYANTSE (Die 2) ⁵⁾	26.05.1910	01.07.1925	90
B132	GYANTSE	27.08.1943	10.03.1953	85

⁵⁾ B131: Die 1 features slightly larger characters and a narrower "Y" in GYANTSE. Die 2 shows a very wide "Y."

MONEY ORDER MARKINGS



B140
PHARIJONG



B141
YATUNG

MONEY ORDER MARKINGS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
B140	PHARIJONG	01.07.1954		100
B141	YATUNG	18.06.1954		100

THE IMPERIAL CHINESE PERIOD (1910-1914)

In late 1909, China sent an expeditionary force to occupy Lhasa, prompting the Dalai Lama to seek refuge in India. Following the example of British India, the Chinese established Imperial Post Offices at Lhasa, Gyantse, Shigatse, Pharijong, Yatung (all opened about July/August, 1910) and Chamdo (opened in 1911). Official sources claim that Chinese Post Offices were also opened at Gyamda and Shobamdo, but, so far, no postal markings of these two towns have been reported. Initially, Chinese stamps were used at the Imperial P.O.s, but they were replaced, in February, 1911, by a special set of trilingually surcharged stamps. The use of the unsurcharged Chinese stamps in Tibet is particularly rare. However, the highest level of rarity of this period is represented by covers bearing a combination of unsurcharged and surcharged stamps.

A considerable number of surcharged stamps was philatelically used. Some covers bear short sets of this issue while others bear odd frankings (often made up by a pair and a single stamp) that do not represent correct postal rates.

As a result of the fall of the Manchu Dynasty, the Chinese were forced to leave Tibet. Their P.O.s in central Tibet were closed in December, 1911, with Pharijong and Yatung following in 1912. Only the Chamdo P.O., in Eastern Tibet, was retained, allegedly until 1918 when Tibetan authority was re-established in that area.

Of the markings of the Imperial Chinese period, only the large "dollar-chops" are dated, whereby the dates of the 1910-1911 period are expressed according to the Chinese (lunar) calendar; from 1912 onward, the Gregorian (solar) calendar came into general use in China.

Since dated covers are worth a premium, every possible effort should be undertaken to date such markings. The following steps must be followed in order to establish the exact date of a "dollar-chop":

- 1st step: literal translation of the Chinese date characters - which are always shown in the sequence Day/Month/Year;
- 2nd step: consultation of a special conversion chart, in order to find the Gregorian equivalent of the Chinese date. Incidentally, the Hsuan-T'ung 3rd year (which began on 30.01.1911 and ended on 17.02.1912) comprised an intercalary month between the 6th and 7th Chinese month.

Commercial combination covers bearing Chinese stamps (whether unsurcharged or surcharged) and British-Indian stamps are rare. Since China was not a member of the U.P.U. until 1914, mail originating from the Chinese Post Offices in Tibet and addressed to India or beyond, had to be handed over to the British-Indian P.O. at Yatung, where the British-Indian stamps were cancelled.

EARLY IMPERIAL MARKINGS



C1
GYANTSE



C2
LHASA



C3
PHARI



C4
SHIGATSE



C5
YATUNG



C6
LHASA

EARLY IMPERIAL MARKINGS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
C1	GYANTSE	10.09.1910	10.01.1911	100
C2	LHASA	01.08.1910	02.01.1911	95
C3	PHARI	31.12.1910	29.11.1911	90
C4	SHIGATSE	03.11.1910	23.12.1910	95
C5	YATUNG	09.08.1910	03.05.1912	100
C6	LHASA	07.09.1910	07.01.1911	100

DATESTAMPS ("DOLLAR CHOPS")



C10
CHAMDO



C11
GYANTSE



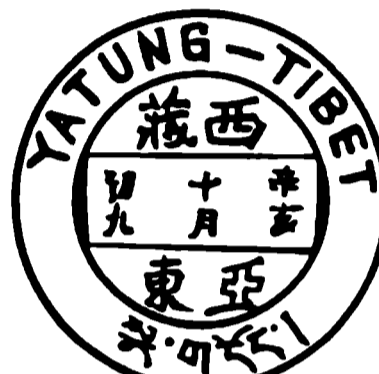
C12
LHASA



C13
PHARI



C14
SHIGATSE



C15
YATUNG

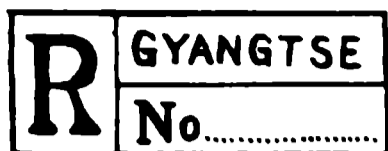


C16
LHASA

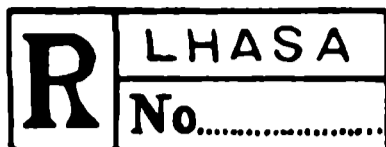
DATESTAMPS ("DOLLAR CHOPS")

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
C10	CHAMDO	15.06.1913	20.04.1914	95
C11	GYANTSE	21.12.1910	20.11.1911	90
C12	LHASA	09.01.1911	29.06.1911	85
C13	PHARI	15.06.1911	28.10.1911	100
C14	SHIGATSE	07.01.1911	05.10.1911	85
C15	YATUNG	23.03.1911	29.11.1911	80
C16	LHASA	21.06.1911	28.11.1911	85

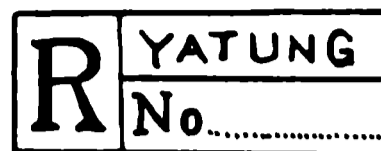
REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS



C20
GYANTSE



C21
LHASA



C22
YATUNG

REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
C20	GYANTSE	29.08.1911	01.11.1911	100
C21	LHASA	14.12.1910	24.09.1911	90
C22	YATUNG	01.09.1911	27.11.1911	90

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-OF-RECEIPT HANDSTAMPS

RR

C30
GYANTSE

RR

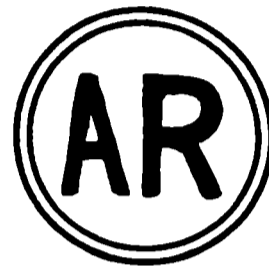
C31
LHASA

RR

C32
SHIGATSE



C33
LHASA



C34
YATUNG ?

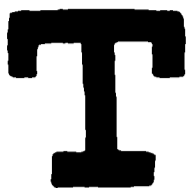
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-OF-RECEIPT HANDSTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
C30	GYANTSE	1910		100
C31	LHASA	11.1910		100
C32	SHIGATSE	24.02.1911	08.07.1911	95
C33	LHASA	14.12.1910	20.09.1911	95
C34	YATUNG (?) Cerise	1911?		100

RR stands for "Registration with Return Receipt."

AR stands for the internationally recognized "Avis de Reception."

A.C. Waterfall also claims the existence, "during the use of the unsurcharged Chinese stamps," of single "R" handstamps of Lhasa and Shigatse, respectively. Since I have never seen these single "R"s, I prefer not to include them in this Catalogue, but – if confirmed – they would definitely qualify as separate types of registration handstamps.

POSTAGE-DUE HANDSTAMPS



C40
GYANTSE

POSTAGE-DUE HANDSTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
		earliest	latest	
C40	"T" (GYANTSE)	21.03.1911		100

THE INDEPENDENT TIBETAN PERIOD (1912-1956)

In 1912, following the withdrawal of the Chinese and the subsequent return to Lhasa of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan government decided to establish an autonomous postal service for the conveyance of internal mail. Apparently, four Tibetan Post Offices were opened in 1912 (Lhasa, Nangartse, Gyantse and Phari) and nine more followed soon thereafter. In December, 1912, the Tibetan postal authorities issued a first set of stamps and introduced appropriate postal markings. New types of postal markings were subsequently brought into use together with the third set of stamps, issued in May, 1933.

It is interesting to note that the allocation of the different types of postal markings of independent Tibet followed a geographic pattern: with a couple of exceptions (Oga Dzong and Penam), the Post Offices located in particular areas (e.g., east of Lhasa; on the main route from Lhasa to Gyantse; within the central triangle Lhasa-Shigatse-Phari) all had specific types of markings that distinguished them from those of other areas.

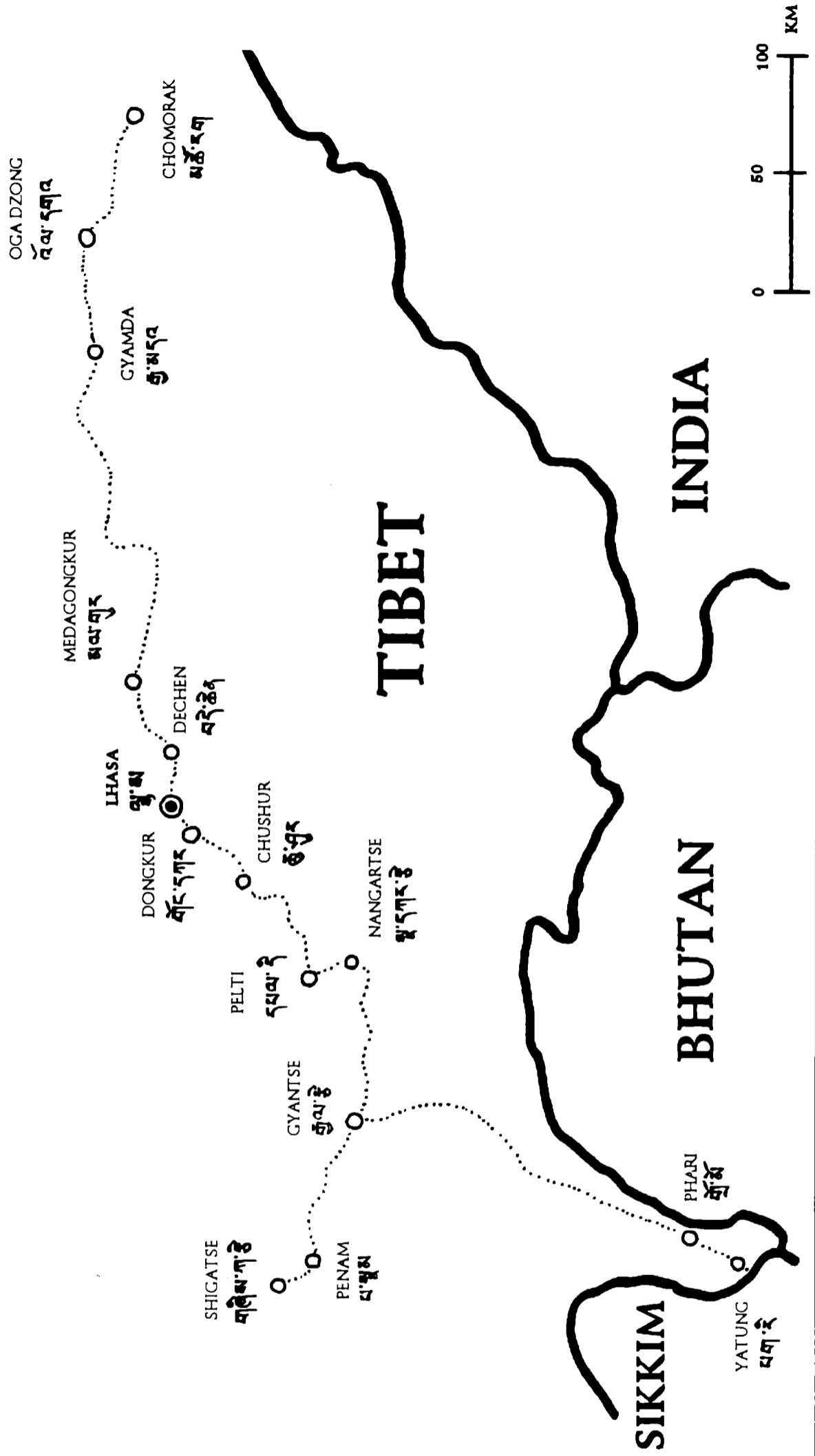
The postmarks of independent Tibet are undated. Their inner circles are inscribed with the Tibetan characters for "Month," "Day" and (in most cases) "Hour," but only a negligible fraction actually bear the intended manual dates; the Year, however, is never shown. For this reason it is virtually impossible to date internal covers. On the other hand, covers addressed to, or arriving from abroad and bearing markings of other postal administrations, enable us to date the Tibetan markings thereon, at least approximately. However, since this method does not allow us to pinpoint a date to the exact day, I have recorded only the years of use. The additional column "presumed period of use" should merely serve as a provisional, rough guide, in view of the numerous gaps amongst the recorded periods of use. Between 1953 and 1956, in the course of the so-called "peaceful liberation" of Tibet, the Chinese opened their own Post Offices, which led to the repression and definite closure, by 1956, of all Tibetan Post Offices.

The postage stamps of independent Tibet can be found in the following combinations with the stamps of other countries:

- a) with British India (1912-1956): These combinations occur on mails from India (including Nepal) to Lhasa, and from Lhasa to India and beyond.
- b) with Nepal (1937-1956): These combinations occur from 1st March, 1937 onwards (Indo-Nepalese postal agreement), on mail originating from Nepal and addressed to Lhasa.
- c) with the People's Republic of China (1953-1956): These mixed frankings would only be justified on commercial mail leaving Tibet. However, in my view, almost all such combinations are unnecessary and, therefore, presumably of philatelic origin.
- d) with any other countries (1912-1956): Numerous combinations exist, most of which are addressed to a Mr. G. Tuladhar. All those covers where the Tibetan stamps were cancelled on arrival, at Lhasa, are clearly cases of favour-cancellations. The dates of such markings have been disregarded in this Catalogue. The only combination covers that might possibly pass the test are inward covers to Lhasa bearing Tibetan stamps cancelled at Phari or Gyantse.

THE TIBETAN POST OFFICES

1912 - 1956



BILINGUAL NEGATIVE POSTMARKS



T1
CHUSHUR



T2
DONGKUR



T3
GYANTSE



T4
LHASA I



T5
NANGARTSE



T6
PELTI

BILINGUAL NEGATIVE POSTMARKS

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
			RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T1	CHUSHUR	Black	1915	1913 - 1933	95
T1	"	Blue		1913 - 1933	100
T1	"	Green		1913 - 1933	100
T2	DONGKUR	Black	1924 - 1926	1913 - 1930	100
T2	"	Blue		1913 - 1930	100
T2	"	Violet		1913 - 1930	100
T3	GYANTSE	Black	1913 - 1933	1912 - 1933	35
T3	"	Brown	1913 - 1914	1912 - 1933	60
T3	"	Blue		1912 - 1933	70
T3	"	Violet	1914 - 1933	1912 - 1933	60
T3	"	Rose		1912 - 1933	90
T3	"	Red		1912 - 1933	90
T4	LHASA I	Black	1913 - 1914	1912 - 1920	75
T4	"	Blue	1914	1912 - 1920	60
T4	"	Violet	1915	1912 - 1920	70
T5	NANGARTSE	Black	1915 - 1933	1912 - 1933	90
T5	"	Blue		1912 - 1933	100
T5	"	Mauve	1933	1912 - 1933	100
T6	PELTI	Black	1916 - 1920	1913 - 1933	90
T6	"	Violet	1915	1913 - 1933	100

BILINGUAL LHASA POSTMARKS



T10
LHASA II



T11
LHASA III



T12
LHASA IV



T13
LHASA V



T14
LHASA VI

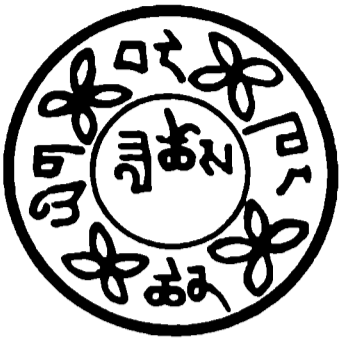


T15
LHASA VII

BILINGUAL LHASA POSTMARKS

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
			RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T10	LHASA II	Black	1914 - 1925	1913 - 1933	80
T10	"	Blue		1913 - 1933	100
T11	LHASA III		1916	1915 - 1917	100
T12	LHASA IV			1915 - 1917	90
T13	LHASA V		1917 - 1928	1916 - 1930	35
T14	LHASA VI		1920 - 1924	1919 - 1925	80
T15	LHASA VII		1926 - 1950	1925 - 1950	30

ALL-TIBETAN FLOREAL POSTMARKS



T20
DECHEN



T21
GYAMDA



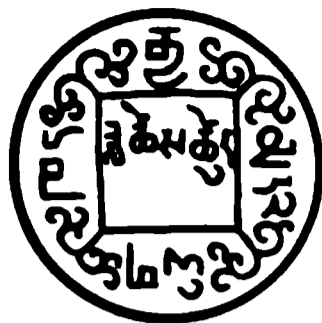
T22
MEDAGONGKUR

ALL-TIBETAN FLOREAL POSTMARKS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
		RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T20	DECHEN		1913 - 1922	100
T21	GYAMDA		1913 - 1922	100
T22	MEDAGONGKUR		1913 - 1922	100

ALL-TIBETAN ORNAMENTAL POSTMARKS



T30
DECHEN



T31
GYAMDA



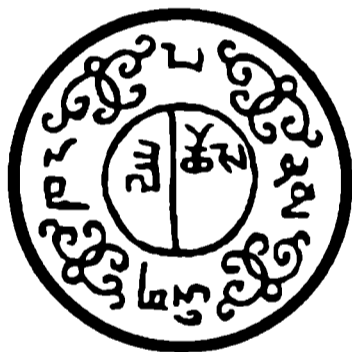
T32
MEDAGONGKUR



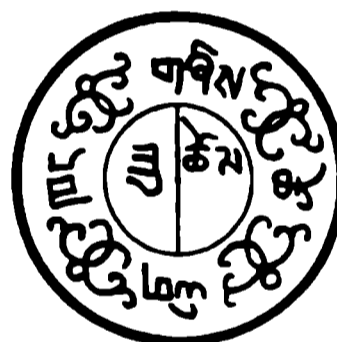
T33
OGA DZONG



T34
PHARI



T35
PENAM



T36
SHIGATSE

ALL-TIBETAN ORNAMENTAL POSTMARKS

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
		RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T30	DECHEN		1920 - 1933	100
T31	GYAMDA		1920 - 1933	100
T32	MEDAGONGKUR		1920 - 1933	100
T33	OGA DZONG		1913 - 1933	100
T34	PHARI	1916 - 1933	1912 - 1933	35
T35	PENAM	1916 - 1926	1913 - 1933	70
T36	SHIGATSE	Black 1915 - 1932	1913 - 1933	50
T36	"	Blue-Green 1914	1913 - 1915	100

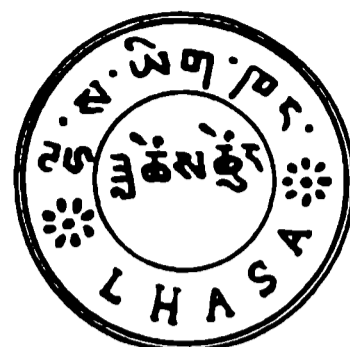
BILINGUAL POSTMARKS OF 1933



T40
CHUSHUR



T41
GYANTSE



T42
LHASA



T43
NANGARTSE



T44
PHARI



T45
PELTI



T46
SHIGATSE

BILINGUAL POSTMARKS OF 1933

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
		RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T40	CHUSHUR		1933 - 1956	85
T41	GYANTSE⁶⁾	Black	1933 - 1955	10
T41	"	Violet	1956	100
T42	LHASA⁶⁾		1933 - 1956	10
T43	NANGARTSE		1933	80
T44	PHARI		1933 - 1952	10
T45	PELTI		1954	80
T46	SHIGATSE		1936 - 1955	40

⁶⁾ T41 & T42: Due to heavy use and wear, later strikes of Gyantse and Lhasa show one thick outer ring instead of double rings.

ALL-TIBETAN POSTMARKS OF 1933



T50
CHOMORAK



T51
DECHEN



T52
GYAMDA



T53
MEDAGONGKUR



T54
OGA DZONG



T55
PENAM

ALL-TIBETAN POSTMARKS OF 1933

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
		RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T50	CHOMORAK		1933 - 1956	90
T51	DECHEN		1933 - 1956	90
T52	GYAMDA		1933 - 1956	90
T53	MEDAGONGKUR		1933 - 1956	90
T54	OGA DZONG		1933 - 1956	90
T55	PENAM		1933 - 1956	90

POSTAL INK SEALS



T60
GYANTSE



T61
PENAM



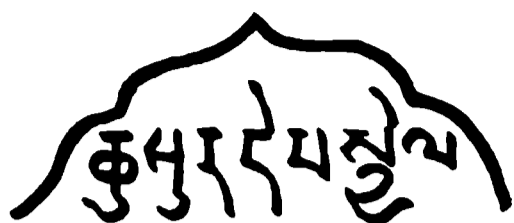
T62
PHARI



T63
SHIGATSE

POSTAL INK SEALS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
		RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T60	GYANTSE	1917	1915 - 1925	100
T61	PENAM		1920 - 1933	100
T62	PHARI	1922 - 1933	1920 - 1933	100
T63	SHIGATSE		1915 - 1930	100

EARLY REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS



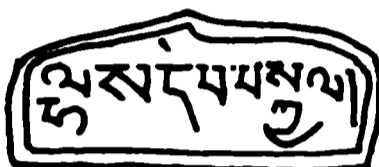
T70
CHUSHUR



T71
GYANTSE



T72
LHASA I



T73
LHASA II



T74
LHASA III



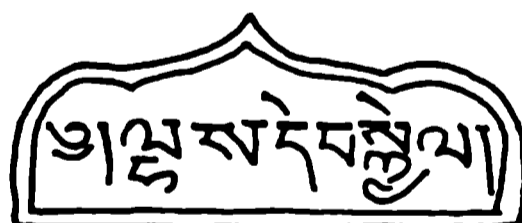
T75
LHASA IV



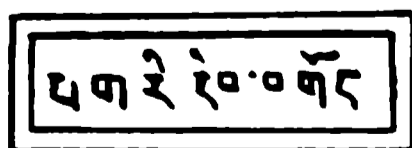
T76
LHASA V



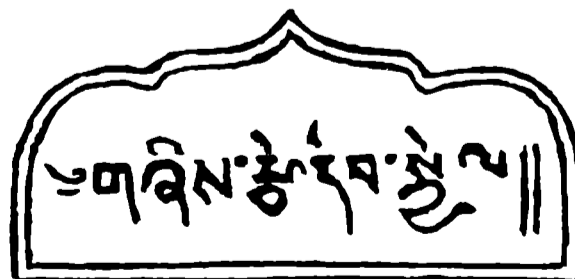
T77
LHASA VI



T78
LHASA VII



T79
PHARI

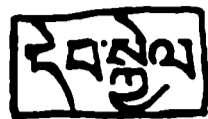


T80
SHIGATSE

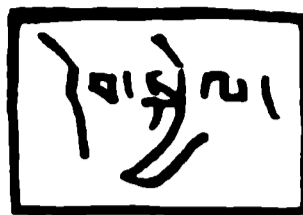
LATE REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS



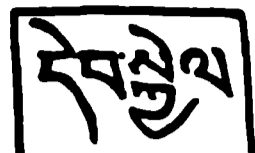
T90
GYANTSE



T91
LHASA VIII



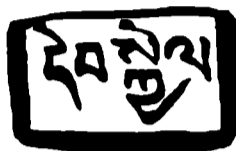
T92
LHASA IX



T93
LHASA X



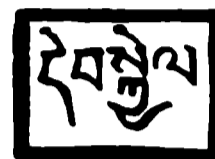
T94
LHASA XI



T95
LHASA XII



T96
LHASA XIII

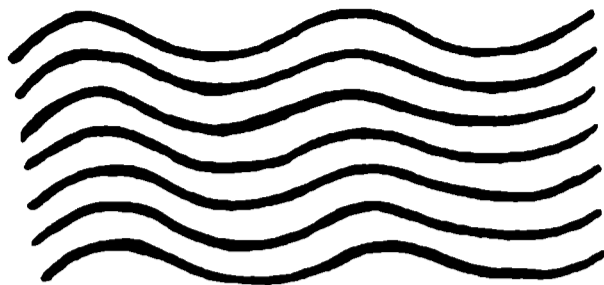


T97
PHARI

REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
		RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T70	CHUSHUR		1913 - 1933	100
T71	GYANTSE		1913 - 1933	100
T72	LHASA I	1916 - 1920	1912 - 1925	95
T73	LHASA II	1920	1920 - 1933	95
T74	LHASA III		1920 - 1933	95
T75	LHASA IV		1920 - 1933	95
T76	LHASA V	1928	1920 - 1933	95
T77	LHASA VI		1920 - 1933	95
T78	LHASA VII	1930	1920 - 1933	100
T79	PHARI		1913 - 1933	100
T80	SHIGATSE		1913 - 1933	90
T90	GYANTSE	1951 - 1956	1945 - 1956	75
T91	LHASA VIII	1946	1945 - 1950	100
T92	LHASA IX	Blue	1948 - 1950	80
T92	" "	Carmine		80
T92	" "	Violet		80
T93	LHASA X		1952 - 1953	75
T94	LHASA XI	Black	1952 - 1953	70
T94	" "	Purple		75
T95	LHASA XII	Violet	1954 - 1955	50
T96	LHASA XIII		1954 - 1955	50
T97	PHARI	Violet	1953 - 1954	75
T97	"	Blue		75

TELEGRAPH CANCELLATION



T100
LHASA

TELEGRAPH CANCELLATION					
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
			RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T100	LHASA	Black	1950	1950 - 1956	70
T100	"	Violet	1950	1950 - 1956	80

CUSTOMS MARKING (ཅ)



T110
YATUNG

CUSTOMS MARKING (ཅ)					
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		PERIODS OF USE		POINTS
			RECORDED	PRESUMED	
T110	YATUNG			1933 - 1935	100

THE EARLY PERIOD OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (1953-1959)

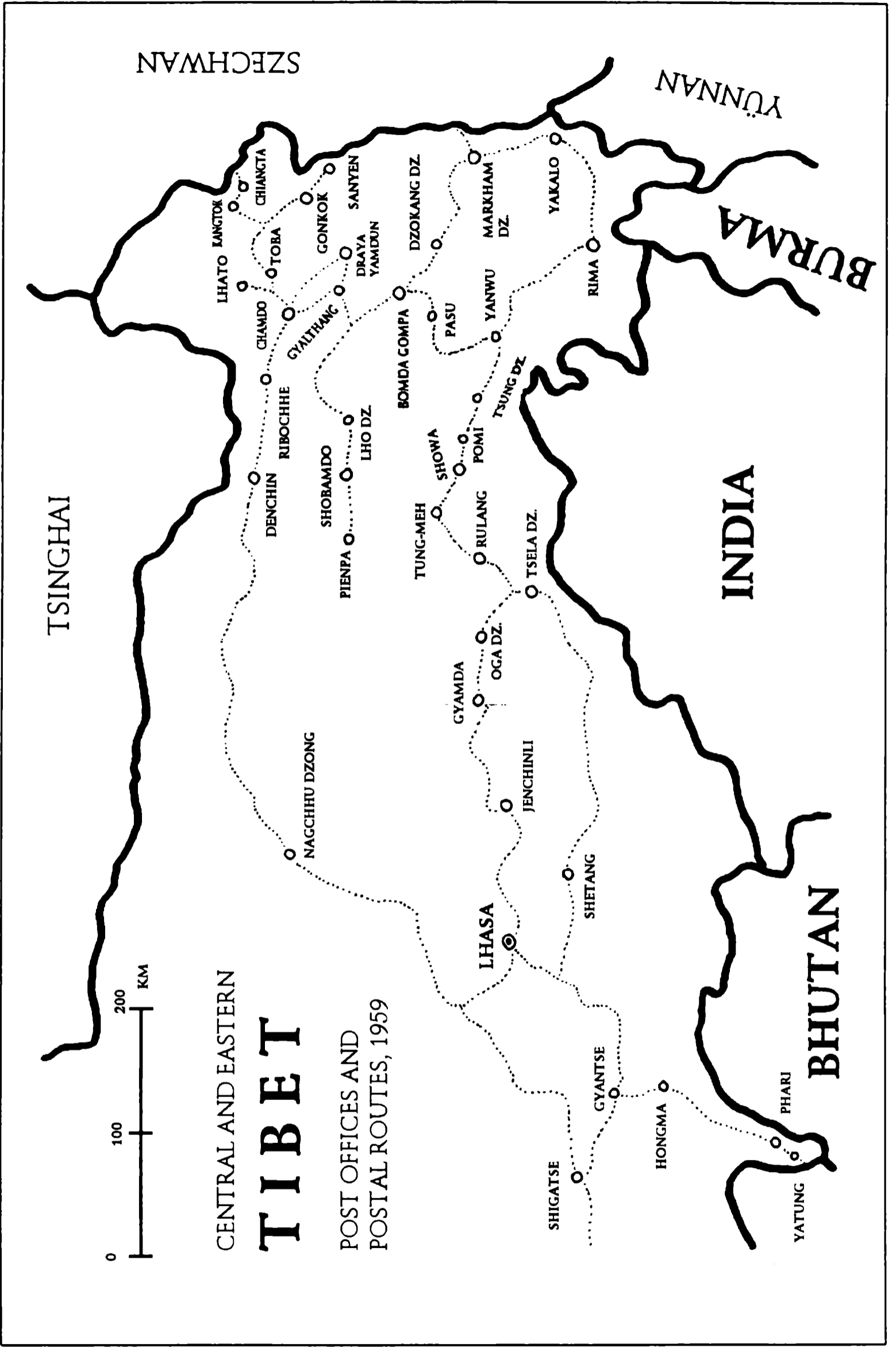
The People's Republic of China was proclaimed on 1st October, 1949. The following years saw the beginning of the so-called "peaceful liberation" of Tibet, by thousands of troops, which led to Chinese rule being gradually established over the whole country. Between 1951 and 1955 the Chinese constructed major lorry roads to connect central Tibet with China. In 1953, the Chinese authorities established various Military Post Offices, their earliest known markings being dated August, 1953.

During the period from 1953 to 1956, some forty civilian Post Offices. were opened in Central and Eastern Tibet. Unconfirmed reports place the opening dates of the earliest P.O.s on 1st July, 1953. Obviously, Chinese stamps had to be used to prepay the postage. The earliest types of postal markings in use at these Post Offices bear all-Chinese inscriptions, showing the name of the Province of Tibet in the upper segment, and the name of the respective towns in the lower (Types C150-C191). Incidentally, six of these towns situated in Eastern Tibet were originally allocated to the Province of Sikang, dissolved in 1955, and bear the latter's name (Types C154, C156, C160-C162, C190).

The next group of postal markings shows the Chinese names of the respective towns in the upper segment and their Tibetan names in the lower (Types C220-C226). The markings of the two most important P.O.s show the bottom inscriptions in English instead of Tibetan (Types C200-C201). The final group of early postal markings features similar inscriptions, but now the name of the Province, in Chinese and Tibetan, respectively, is placed before the top and bottom inscriptions (Types C230-C294). Of this group, Waterfall lists the markings of Gyandie, dated 25.2.1956, and Kerong (Girang Dzong), dated 14.3.1956, that I have never seen and, hence, not listed.

The dates of the markings of the Chinese People's Republic follow the Gregorian calendar and are expressed in the sequence Year/Month/Day and, occasionally, Hour. Although for a certain period (1953-1956) Tibetan and Chinese Post Offices appear to have co-existed, the presence of covers bearing mixed frankings of these two distinct systems, would primarily indicate philatelic use.

As stated in the introduction, this Catalogue lists all known markings up to 10th March, 1959, the day of the abortive Tibetan revolt against Chinese rule. These early types of postal markings represent the most interesting period of the current era and are far scarcer than the subsequent types of the Autonomous Region of Tibet (Xizang), proclaimed on 9th September, 1965. From the 1960s to this day, many more Post Offices were opened throughout Tibet and new types of standard bilingual (Chinese/Tibetan and Chinese/English, respectively) postmarks replaced the markings listed in this Catalogue. The main articles dealing with these later types are included in the Bibliography.



ALL-CHINESE DATESTAMPS

MILITARY MARKINGS



C100
MILITARY P.O.
No. 40332



C101
MILITARY P.O.
No. 43060 (HONGMA)



C102
MILITARY P.O.
No. 48266 (SHIGATSE)

ALL-CHINESE DATESTAMPS

DOTTED CIRCLE



C150
GYAMDA



C151
GYANTSE



C152
JENCHINLI



C153
LHASA



C154
MARKHAMDZONG



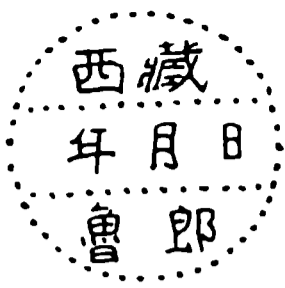
C155
NAGCHHUDZONG



C156
PIENPA



C157
POMI



C158
RULANG



C159
SHIGATSE



C160
SHOBAMDO



C161
TSELA DZONG



C162
TSUNG DZONG



C163
TUNG-MEH



C164
YANWU

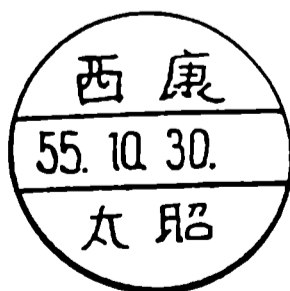


C165
YATUNG



C180
MOBILE P.O. No. 2

**ALL-CHINESE DATESTAMPS
SOLID CIRCLE**



C190
GYAMDA



C191
SHETANG

ALL-CHINESE DATESTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	P.O. Nos. in datestamp	EARLIEST DATE RECORD.	POINTS
C100	MILITARY P.O. 40332		09.08.1953	95
C101	MILITARY P.O. 43060 Blue		24.10.1953	95
C102	MILITARY P.O. 48266		17.03.1956	95
C150	GYAMDA		04.10.1955	70
C151	GYANTSE		21.01.1955	60
C152	JENCHINLI Black		25.03.1956	70
C152	" Blue		11.05.1956	90
C152	" Violet		24.10.1956	80
C153	LHASA Black		14.09.1954	30
C153	" Violet		09.06.1954	60
C154	MARKHAM DZONG *		22.11.1955	70
C155	NAGCHHU DZONG		28.05.1955	70
C156	PIENPA *		26.03.1956	70
C157	POMI	1, 2, 3	07.01.1956	70
C158	RULANG		05.11.1956	70
C159	SHIGATSE		15.08.1956	70
C160	SHOBAMDO *	2	28.06.1955	70
C161	TSELA DZONG *	2	27.09.1955	70
C162	TSUNG DZONG *	1	16.06.1955	70
C163	TUNG-MEH		22.10.1955	70
C164	YANWU		19.10.1955	70
C165	YATUNG		19.07.1954	50
C180	MOBILE P.O. No. 2		28.05.1956	95
C190	GYAMDA *		30.10.1955	70
C191	SHETANG Black		09.07.1957	70
C191	" Blue		25.07.1957	90

* These markings bear SIKANG Province inscriptions.

BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/ENGLISH)



C200
LHASA



C201
YATUNG

BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/ENGLISH)				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	P.O. Nos. in datestamp	EARLIEST DATE RECORD.	POINTS
C200	LHASA Black		31.03.1954	45
C200	" Blue		06.09.1960	90
C201	YATUNG		25.04.1955	40

**BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/TIBETAN)
SMALL DOTTED CIRCLE**



C220
GYANTSE



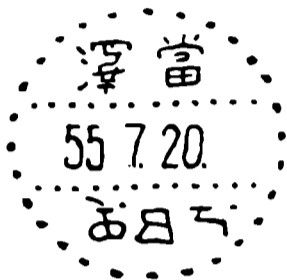
C221
KANGTOK



C222
LHASA



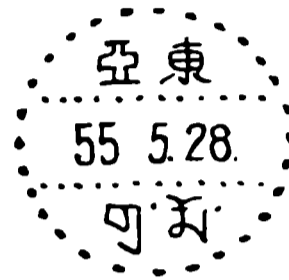
C223
NAGCHHU DZONG



C224
SHETANG



C225
SHIGATSE



C226
YATUNG

**BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/TIBETAN)
LARGE DOTTED CIRCLE**



C230
PHARI



C231
SHIGATSE



C232
YATUNG

BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/TIBETAN)

TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	P.O. Nos. in datestamp	EARLIEST DATE RECORD.	POINTS
C220	GYANTSE		31.01.1955	60
C221	KANGTOK		12.06.1955	70
C222	LHASA		15.09.1953	35
C223	NAGCHHU DZONG		25.01.1955	70
C224	SHETANG		20.07.1955	70
C225	SHIGATSE		20.01.1955	60
C226	YATUNG		28.05.1955	55
C230	PHARI	1	23.04.1955	70
C231	SHIGATSE	1	26.04.1957	70
C232	YATUNG	1	08.09.1955	70

**BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/TIBETAN)
SMALL SOLID CIRCLE**



C250
BOMDA GOMPA



C251
CHAMDO



C252
CHIANGTA



C253
DENCHIN



C254
DRAYA YAMDUN



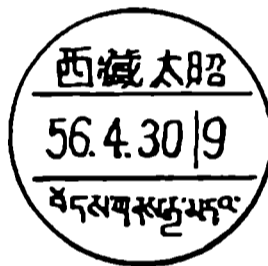
C255
DZOKANG DZONG



C256
GONKOK



C257
GYALTHANG



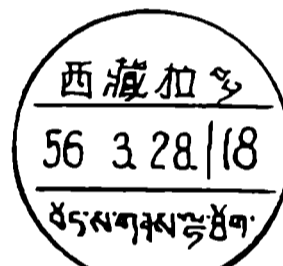
C258
GYAMDA



C259
KANGTOK



C260
LHASA



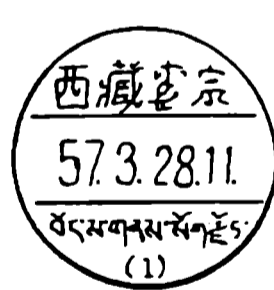
C261
LHATO



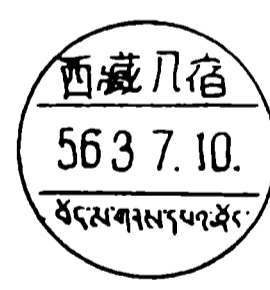
C262
LHO DZONG



C263
MARKHAM DZONG



C264
OGA DZONG



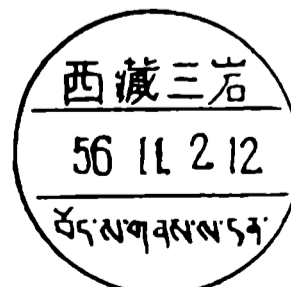
C265
PASU



C266
RIBOCHHE



C267
RIMA



C268
SANYEN



C269
SHETANG



C270
SHOBAMDO



C271
SHOWA



C272
TOBA



C273
TSUNG DZONG



C274
TUNG-MEH



C275
YAKALO



C276
YANWU

**BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/TIBETAN)
LARGE SOLID CIRCLE**



C290
LHASA



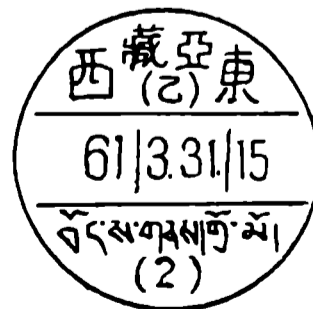
C291
NAGCHHU DZONG



C292
SHIGATSE



C293
TSELA DZONG

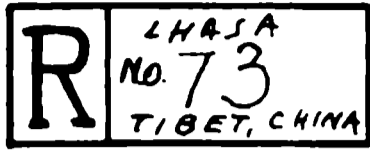


C294
YATUNG

BI-LINGUAL DATESTAMPS (CHINESE/TIBETAN)				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE	P.O. Nos. in datestamp	EARLIEST DATE RECORD.	POINTS
C250	BOMDA GOMPA	2	03.03.1956	75
C251	CHAMDO Black	3,5,8,9,10	27.12.1955	70
C251	" Blue	3	04.03.1956	75
C252	CHIANGTA	1,2,3	31.01.1956	70
C253	DENCHIN	1,2	16.03.1956	70
C254	DRAYA YAMDUN	1	14.03.1956	70
C255	DZOKANG DZONG		22.01.1956	70
C256	GONKOK	1,2	14.03.1956	70
C257	GYALTHANG		18.03.1956	70
C258	GYAMDA	1,2,3,4	01.01.1956	70
C259	KANGTOK		28.09.1955	70
C260	LHASA Black ⁷⁾		30.11.1955	25
C260	" Violet	9,13	11.1955	60
C260	" Blue	7	11.1959	75
C260	" Red	6	07.12.1963	75
C261	LHATO		28.03.1956	70
C262	LHO DZONG	1,2	28.01.1956	70
C263	MARKHAM DZONG	1	25.03.1956	70
C264	OGA DZONG Blue	1	14.01.1956	80
C265	PASU Violet		07.03.1956	70
C266	RIBOCHHE		07.05.1956	70
C267	RIMA	1	26.03.1956	70
C268	SANYEN		02.11.1956	70
C269	SHETANG Black	1	31.12.1959	70
C269	" Violet	1	12.1959	75
C270	SHOBAMDO		16.03.1956	70
C271	SHOWA	2,3,5,6	30.03.1956	70
C272	TOBA		17.08.1956	70
C273	TSUNG DZONG	1,2	22.01.1956	70
C274	TUNG-MEH	1	08.03.1956	70
C275	YAKALO Black	1,2	09.04.1956	70
C275	" Blue	2	01.1957	75
C276	YANWU		08.12.1955	70
C290	LHASA	1,2,3,4	19.12.1954	40
C291	NAGCHHU DZONG	2,3	31.01.1958	70
C292	SHIGATSE	2	23.05.1957	60
C293	TSELA DZONG Black	1	27.09.1955	70
C293	" Violet	1	17.03.1957	75
C294	YATUNG	1,2,3	28.08.1956	60

⁷⁾ C260 LHASA exists with P.O. Nos. 3,6,7,8,9,13,14,16,17,19,20. P.O. No. 14: In an attempt to create fake combination covers, strikes dated "1.58 2 14." were subsequently added to a number of otherwise genuine covers.

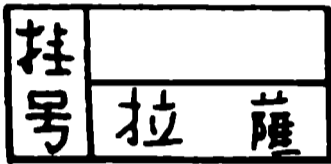
REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS



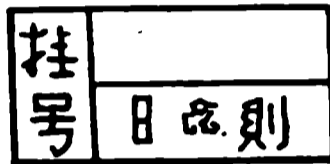
C400
LHASA



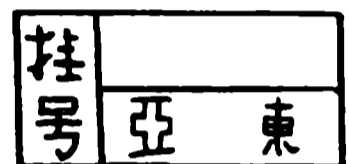
C401
SHIGATSE



C410
LHASA



C411
SHIGATSE



C412
YATUNG

REGISTRATION HANDSTAMPS				
TYPE NO.	POST OFFICE		EARLIEST DATE RECORD.	POINTS
C400	LHASA	Red	29.04.1955	75
C401	SHIGATSE	Red	23.03.1956	75
C410	LHASA	Red	1957	75
C411	SHIGATSE	Red	05.09.1958	75
C412	YATUNG	Red	29.07.1959	75

PRIVATE EXPEDITION CACHETS (1924-1939)

This chapter includes only those private markings that were actually used on expedition mail emanating from Tibet. Hence the following categories of markings are listed:

- a) cachets used on expedition mail sent from Tibet and postmarked in Tibet;
- b) cachets used on expedition mail actually carried by private runners from Tibet into Sikkim or India and postmarked in Sikkim (Gangtok) or India (Darjeeling).

The following categories are excluded from this Catalogue, since the mail in question did not actually travel on Tibetan territory:

- a) cachets used on philatelic expedition cards sent from Calcutta;
- b) cachets used for various Everest flights;
- c) cachets used on expeditions that attempted to reach Everest from the Nepalese side.

The first seven types of cachets listed in this Catalogue were used by British Everest expeditions. The eighth cachet, however, was used by a German scientific expedition whose aim was to explore central Tibet.

The cachets of the 1924 Everest expedition were used to cancel a private "local stamp," specially designed for the private conveyance of mail between the expedition camps and British-Indian Post Offices.

PRIVATE EXPEDITION CACHETS



E1



E2



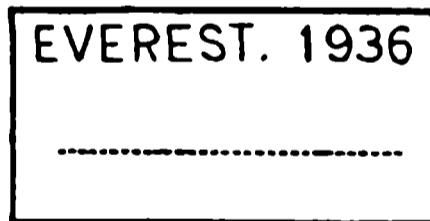
E3



E4



E5



E6

UNDER CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

E7

Deutsche Tibetexpedition
Ernst Schäfer

E8

PRIVATE EXPEDITION CACHETS

TYPE NO.	EXPEDITION CARDS/COVERS		PERIODS OF USE RECORDED		POINTS
	POSTMARKED IN TIBET/INDIA		earliest	latest	
E1	PHARIJONG	Black	25.06.1924	29.06.1924	90
E1	YATUNG	Black	25.06.1924	25.07.1924	90
E2	YATUNG	Black	09.07.1924		100
E3	PHARIJONG⁸⁾	Black	29.06.1924		85
E3	DARJEELING⁸⁾	Red	18.08.1924	03.09.1924	50
E4	YATUNG	Violet	23.06.1924	25.07.1924	95
E5	GANGTOK	Violet	16.05.1933	08.07.1933	85
E6	GANGTOK	Violet	22.04.1936	01.06.1936	85
E6	DARJEELING	Violet	17.06.1936	14.07.1936	80
E7	GANGTOK	Violet	04.05.1938	31.05.1938	50
E8	LHASA & GYANTSE	Violet	09.03.1939		100

⁸⁾ E3: The souvenir cards sent from Calcutta, bearing red or black impressions of the cachet (October, 1924) did not emanate from Tibet. The violet strikes, on piece, represent favour impressions.

FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS (1920-1993)

The existence of a large number of forged and bogus postal markings of Tibet has made it absolutely necessary to include relevant details in this Catalogue. The purpose is to give the reader a clear indication of which forgeries he may come across. While this is certainly not the right place to emphasize the finer points of distinction between genuine and spurious markings, the illustrations should make it relatively easy to identify the forgeries.

This is a fairly comprehensive listing of all forged and bogus markings of Tibet that have appeared on the scene, from c. 1920 to this day. Some of the early forged markings were first recorded by A.C. Waterfall. Unfortunately, the 1970s and 1980s brought a flood of new types, resulting in so great a variety of forgeries that it would be difficult to name another country that has been plagued to the same extent. With regard to the newer forgeries, George Bourke has done important research work, placing a number of types on record. I must thank him for kindly bringing various new markings to my attention.

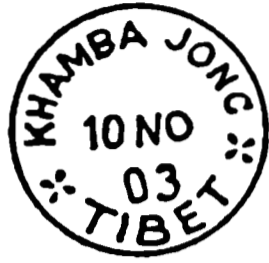
The approximate dates indicated in the following charts refer to the earliest records of the various types of forged markings. Several types were photographically reproduced, by the forgers, from illustrations in Haverbeck's book, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet*. Since these forgeries are identical with the original illustrations (except for the scale), I copied the latter and brought them down to exactly the same size as that used by the forgers. These perfect copies should definitely help in identifying the forgeries in question.

Recent technological improvements have made it relatively easy to create dangerous imitations. For example, the very latest postmark forgeries were not produced from conventional dies but were photocopied onto stamps and/or covers. This means that we must continue to take every possible care in unmasking any unrecorded types of forged markings if and when they should arise.

**FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS
BRITISH-INDIAN PERIOD**



F1



F10



F11



F12



F2



F17



F18



F13



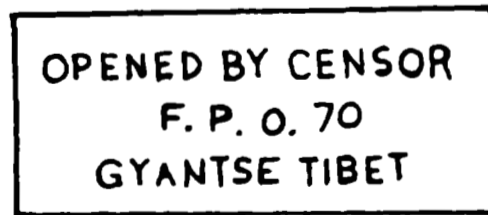
F14



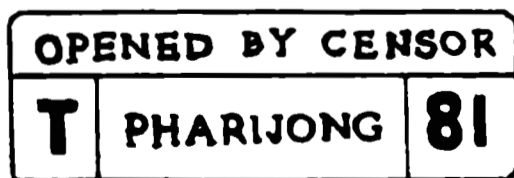
F15



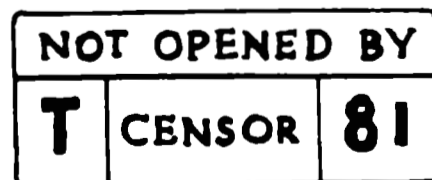
F16



F30



F31



F32

FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS

IMPERIAL CHINESE PERIOD



F50



F51



F52



F54



F57



F60



F70



F71



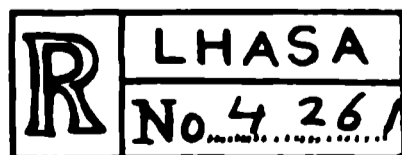
F75



F76



F77



F80

FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS
INDEPENDENT TIBETAN PERIOD



F100



F101



F102



F103



F104



F105



F106

FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS
INDEPENDENT TIBETAN PERIOD



F100



F101



F102



F103



F104



F105



F106



F120



F121



F122



F123



F124
(partial drawing)



F125



F126



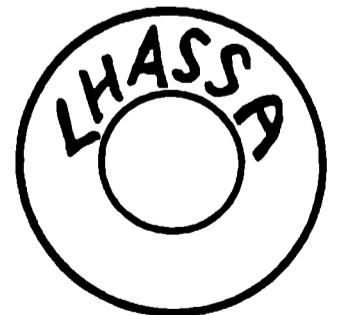
F127



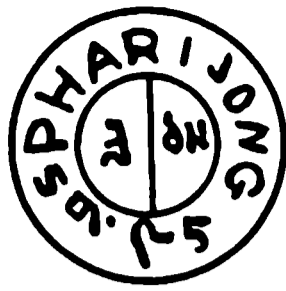
F128



F129



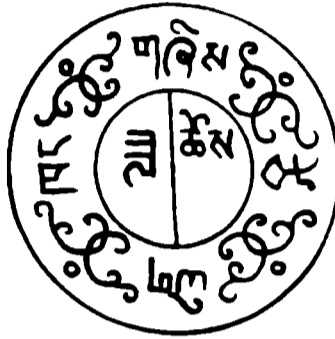
F130
(partial drawing)



F140



F141



F142



F143



F150



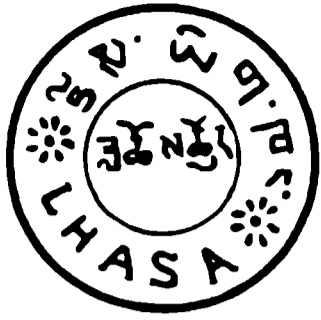
F151



F152



F168



F160



F161



F162



F163



F164



F170



F171



F172



F173



F174



F180



F181



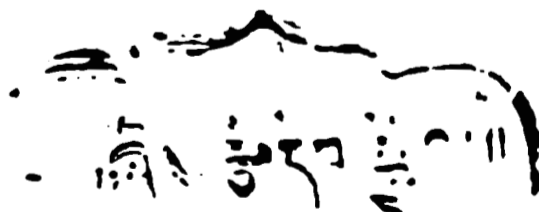
F190



F191



F192
(partial drawing)



F200

FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS

FORGED TYPE	IMITATION OF TYPE		APPX. DATE	REMARKS
F1	YATUNG	B15	1940	on 1933 forgeries (1st set)
F2	PHARIJONG	B17	1978	on genuine British-Indian stamps
F10	KHAMBA-JONG	B30	1993	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F11	LHASA	B42	1993	on genuine British-Indian stamps
F12	YATUNG	B47	1970	undated; on genuine 1912 stamps
F13	GYANTSE	B48	1920	on 1912 forgeries (2nd set)
F14	GYANTSE	B48	1938	on genuine British-Indian stamps
F15	GYANTSE	B48	1990	used in combination with F164
F16	GYANTSE	B48	1990	used in combination with F164
F17	PHARIJONG	B50	1978	used in combination with F141
F18	PHARIJONG	B50	1979	used in combination with F173
F30	GYANTSE	-	1983	by Lodha; bogus censor mark
F31	PHARIJONG	-	1983	by Lodha; bogus censor mark
F32	PHARIJONG	-	1983	by Lodha; bogus censor mark
F50	GYANTSE	C1	1993	on genuine unsurcharged stamps
F51	LHASA	C2	1955	by Gee-Ma; on unsurcharged stamps
F52	LHASA	C2	1991	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F54	PHARI	C3	1993	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F57	YATUNG	C5	1993	on genuine unsurcharged stamps
F60	LHASA	C6	1955	by Gee-Ma; on unsurcharged stamps
F70	LHASA	C12	1955	by Gee-Ma; use unknown
F71	YATUNG	C15	1935	on genuine surcharged stamps
F75	LHASA	C16	1935	on genuine surcharged stamps
F76	LHASA	C16	1955	by Gee-Ma; use unknown
F77	LHASA	C16	1994	on genuine unsurcharged stamps
F80	LHASA	C21	1935	in combination with F75 and F71
F100	CHUSHUR	T1	1989	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F101	GYANTSE	T3	1973	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F102	GYANTSE	T3	1989	ditto, but smaller
F103	LHASA	T4	1937	on 1912 and 1933 forgeries
F104	LHASA	T4	1920	only on genuine stamps
F105	LHASA	T4	1973	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F106	LHASA	T4	1989	ditto, but smaller

FORGED AND BOGUS POSTAL MARKINGS

FORGED TYPE	IMITATION OF TYPE		APPX. DATE	REMARKS
F120	LHASA	T10	1973	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F121	LHASA	T10	1989	ditto, but smaller
F122	LHASA	T13	1973	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F123	LHASA	T13	1989	ditto, but smaller
F124	LHASA	T13/15	1935	on 1912 & 1933 forgeries
F125	LHASA	T13/15	1937	on 1912 forgeries (4th & 5th set)
F126	LHASA	T13/15	1937	on 1912 forgeries (4th & 5th set)
F127	LHASA	T14/15	1939	on 1912 & 1933 forgeries
F128	LHASA	T14/15	1978	on 1912 forgery (1/6 tangka)
F129	LHASA	T14/15	1980	on 1912 & 1920 forgeries
F130	LHASA	T13/15	1990	bogus; on 1933 forgery (2 tangka)
F140	PHARIJONG	-	1990	bogus; on 1933 forgery (2 tangka)
F141	PHARI	T34	1978	on 1912 forgery (1/6 tangka)
F142	SHIGATSE	T36	1955	on 1 sang forgeries
F143	SHIGATSE	T36	1989	reproduced from Waterfall's book
F150	GYANTSE	T41	1937	on 1933 forgeries (1st set)
F151	GYANTSE	T41	1937	on 1912 & 1933 forgeries
F152	GYANTSE	T41	1973	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F160	LHASA	T42	1937	on 1933 forgeries (1st & 2nd set)
F161	LHASA	T42	1970	on bogus 3 tangka revenue stamp
F162	LHASA	T42	1973	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F163	LHASA	T42	1979	on 1933 forgery (2/3 tangka)
F164	LHASA	T42	1990	on 1912, 1920 & 1933 forgeries
F168	NANGARTSE	T43	1989	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F170	PHARI	T44	1939	on 1933 forgeries (1st & 2nd set)
F171	PHARI	T44	1970	on genuine stamps
F172	PHARI	T44	1970	on genuine stamps
F173	PHARI	T44	1979	on 1933 forgery (2/3 tangka)
F174	PHARI	T44	1989	reproduced from Haverbeck's book
F180	GYAMDA	T52	1980	on genuine 1933 & on 1 sang forg.
F181	OGA DZONG	T54	1970	on genuine stamps
F190	-	-	1920	bogus; on 1912 & 1933 forgeries
F191	GYANTSE	-	1937	bogus Nepal-type backstamp
F192	-	-	1959	bogus; on bogus Human Rights set
F200	SHIGATSE	T80	1989	reproduced from Haverbeck's book

THE POST OFFICES IN TIBET

(An alphabetical list of the Post Offices in Tibet, 1903-1959, with their different names and/or spellings)

BOMDA GOMPA	PANG-TA, PANGTU, BAMDA
CHAMDO	CHABDO, CH'ANG-TU, CH'A-MU-TO, CHANGDU, QAMDO
CHIANGTA	JIANGDA, "NEW GYANDIE," TAICHU
CHOMORAK	CHOMOHRA, CHORAGHA, TSHOMORA, TSOMORAG, CHOMO DZONG, TSU-MU, CHÜEH-MO
CHUMBI	
CHUSHUR	CHUSHU, CHUSHUL, CHITSHUT, CH'Ü-SHUI, KÜSHUI, QÜXÜ, XOI
DECHEN	DACHEN, THACHAN, DOCHEN, DHEJAN, TE-CH'ING, TA-TZU, DAGZE, DEQEN
DENCHIN	TEHCHIN, TING-TSIN, TING-CH'ING, TIN CHAN, DENG-CHEN, DENGQEN
DONGKUR	DONKAR, DUNGGAR, GONGKA, KONGKA, KONG-KO, KONAKO, KUNG-KA,
DRAYA YAMDUN	CHAYA, ZHAG'YAB, YEN-TO, YENDUM
DZOKANG DZONG	TSOKUNG, TSOGON, ZOGANG, YA-CHUNG, WANGDA
GARTOK	GAR, KUTAKO
GONKOK	GON-HSIEN, KUNGHSIEN, KUNG-CHIEN, KUNGKA, MO-LO, GONJO
GYALTHANG	CHITAN
GYAMDA	GYANDA, GYAMTHA, KUNG-PU-CHIANG-TA, GONGBO-GYAMDA, TAIZHAO, T'AI-CHAO
GYANDIE	TAICHI
GYANTSE	GYANGTSE, GYALCHE, CHIANG-TZU, GYANGZE
HONGMA	KHANGMAR
JENCHINLI	RINCHHEN LING
KANGTOK	GANGTO, "EAST GARTOK," TUNG-PU, RANGSUM, JOMDA?
KHAMBA-JONG	KANG-PA, KAMPA, GAMPA, GAMBA
KERONG	KIRONG, GIRANG DZONG, GYIRONG ZONGGA, CHILUNG, KIULUNG

LHASA	LHASSA, LASA
LHATO	LA-TO, TENCK'O, TANGKO
LHO DZONG	LOLUNG DZONG, LHORUNG, RULAND
MARKHAM DZONG	MARKAM GARTOK, MARKAM, GARTOG, NINGCHING, NINGTSIN
MEDAGONGKUR	MEDAGONGKAR, METO-GHYNGKA, MEDU KONGKAR DZONG, MALGHUNG, MAIZHOKUNGGAR, MO-CHU-KUNG-K'A, KUNG-K'A, KUNGGAR
NAGCHHU DZONG	NACHU, NA-CH'Ü, NAGACHU, NAGAWACHE, NAGQU, HEI-HO
NANGARTSE	NAGARTSE, NAGARZE, NANGARCHI, GNACHI, LANGKOTSE, LANGGEZE
OGA DZONG	HOLKAR, HOLGHA, HOLDGA, WOLKHA, WOSEL, SHOKA DZONG, SHOKAH, SHOLAH, SZOKU, O-KHA, HSÜEH-PA, HSÜEH-K'A, SUJONG, DONGJUG?
PASU	PAHSU, BASU, BAXOI, BAIMA
PHARI	PHARIJONG, PHAGRI, PAGRI, P'A-LI, PALI
PELTI	PAILI, PAYLY, PALTU, PEDE, PEHTE DZONG
PENAM	PANAM, PENA, PAI-LANG, BAINANG
PIENPA	PEMBAR, BIANBA, BANBAR, BARI
POMI	BOMI, BOWO
RIBOCHHE	RIWOCHHE, RIWOQHE, LEI-WU-CH'I, NEIWUTSI, LAIWUQI
RIMA	LIMA, CHAYU, ZAYÜ, CHI-KUNG, GYIGANG
RULANG	LULANG, LUNANG
SANYEN	KUNGCHIAO, WUCH-ENG
SHETANG	TSE-TANG, ZETANG, TSECHE, CHETUNG
SHIGATSE	JIH-K'A-TSE, ZHIKATSE, XIGAZE, DIGARCHE, SHICHE
SHOBAMDO	SOBANDO, CHOBANDO, SHO-PANDO, SHUO-PAN-TO, SHUMLA, SHIHTU, ZITO
SHOWA	DZAMU, CHA-MU, PAKRAMO
TOBA	TO-PA
TSELA DZONG	TSE LHA, NYINGCHI?
TSUNG DZONG	SUNG-TSUNG, SUMZOM
TUNG-MEH	T'UNG-MAI, TANGMAI, TANG, PELUNG
YAKALO	YENTSING, YENCHING, YANJING
YANWU	JAN-WU, RAWU, RHAHU
YATUNG	YADONG, CHOMO, DHOMO, GROMO

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