

Number 11
July 72

THE Gobi Times



"Bhutan is an independent state on the southern slopes of the Himalayas as to which very little information is to be found in the recognized authorities. There was a war, or rather a punitive expedition in 1863 as a result of outrages on British subjects. The Deb Raja is practically an independent ruler and might someday issue stamps not for his illiterate subjects, but for the philatelic market."

METROPOLITAN
PHILATELIST
6 July 1907
page 107

The Gobi Times

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Advertising rates on request.

BHUTAN

ཕྱི་རྒྱལ་

Miscellany & New Material
Part One

C-2848 CALCUTTA



Mr. Karl-Heinz Michel,
67 Ludwigshafen A.RH.,
Kallstadter Strasse 117,
West Germany.

The puzzling "C" numbered post offices of Bhutan show up here in this cover from the Trade Commissioner for Bhutan in Calcutta. In the cancellation is "Bhutan Gov't C-2848. The full inscription to the left of the postmark reads in full "Buy Druk Products."

DEOTHANG NEGATIVE MARK

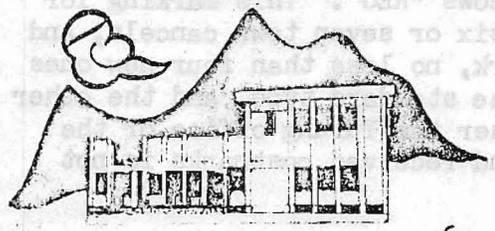
While highlighting Karl Heinz Michel's materials, here's another little gem he received not too long ago. This mark was provided by the postmaster at Deothang when requested to supply copies of his office cancellation marks on blank sheets of paper. What it's used for, whether all offices have a similar mark, when it came into use and whether it's still used is yet to be known. This example is in brown-black.



CANCEL UPKEEP

TWO FDC TYPES

FIRST DAY COVER

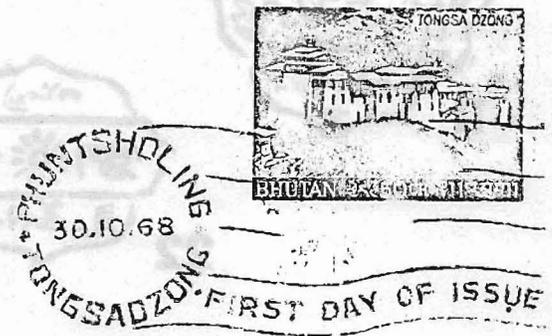


INAUGURATION OF G.P.O. BUILDING,
PHUNTSHOLING • 2nd MAY, 1967.

It's recently come to our attention that there are two types of this cachet. The type pictured here is most common, and the second type has no little cloud below the word "first." Also, most of these pictured here are at the top of the envelope and the others without the cloud are usually at the bottom. If you consider position on the envelope as a "type" then you have three distinct differences.

THIS DATE SHOULD BE CORRECT

In GT #8 of last July we asked about the cancellation on a cover from the Bahamas dated 10 October 1968. Nassau's date is wrong. This Phuntsholing mark shows 30 October and actually came from Bhutan. The other FDC cancel was the normal P.ling type without special wording used in Nassau for agency produced material.

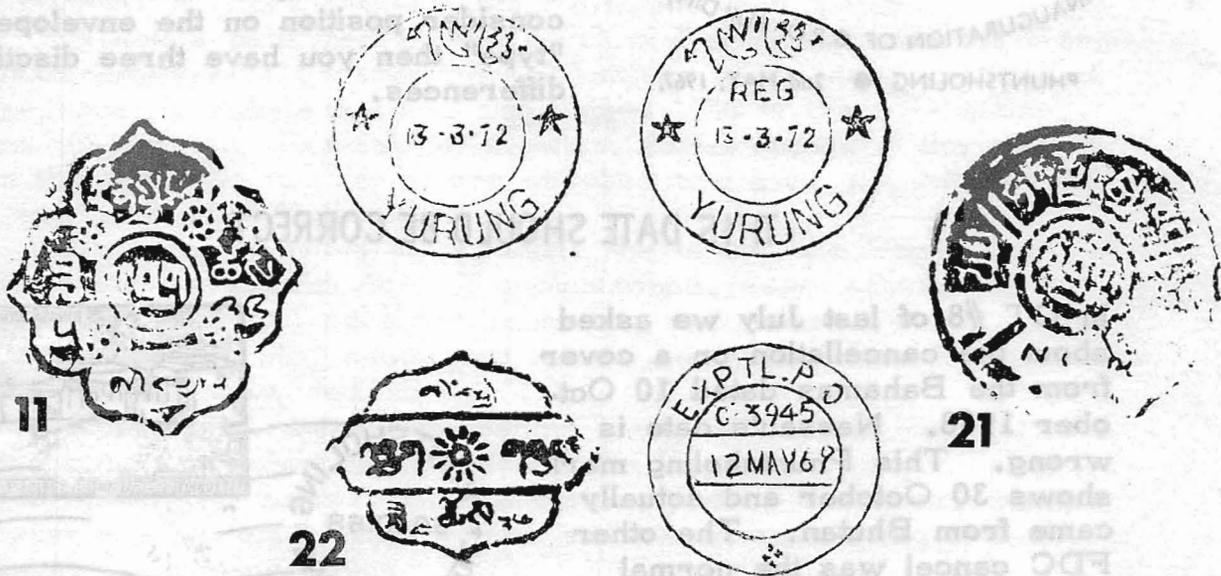


<p>ཡུལ་ Panda T</p>	<p>The Philatelic Office, Govt of Bhutan P&T, Phuntsholing, has the pleasure to announce the release of a set of stamps commemorating International Book Year. 300,000 of each denomination (2,3,5 & 20ch) were prepared in sheets of 35 stamps, over a common design. No imperforates, souvenir sheets or First Day Covers were prepared. There is no special cancellation device. Supplies of these stamps may be had by mail through this office. Remittances should include charges for packing and return postage. Sales are governed by the rules and regulations of the Philatelic Bureau. Date of release is 15 May 1972. Government of Bhutan Posts & Telegraphs</p>
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CANCEL UPKEEP

Developments in the field of cancellations include items about the six postmarks pictured below.

The Yurung marks in the center mark the most important late development in the overall workings of the Bhutan P&T. You can see the right-hand Yurung cancel shows "REG". This marking for registered items has been seen on six or seven town cancels, and in the case of the Phuntsholing mark, no less than four new ones are in use. One is a new copy of the standard type, and the other three show PAR, REG and RCD. Whether the Yurung office or the other small offices have parcel and received postmarks is not known.



The two Tibetan language marks at upper right and left are shown here to fill in a couple missing from the listing shown in the number 9/10 G.T. of December 1971. The belong in the spaces shown by the numbers under the illustrations. Number 11 is reportedly from Paro and number 21 is reportedly from Ha Dzong. Number 21 is a new type, provided through courtesy of Karl-Heinz Michel of Ludwigshafen, West Germany. At lower left is another type of those reputedly from Thimpu. Herr Michel has it on pre-fiscal cover, and the editor has a copy in purple on the back of a modern cover, not cancelling stamps. It is also a new item.

The last "ditty" is something that has languished in the files for quite some time. Cancelled on an Indian stamp, this EXPTL number is unknown on the list of the post offices in Bhutan, yet the cover was carried from Phuntsholing to Thimpu (and is postmarked there on the reverse of the cover.) Beyond that ???

NEPAL

Part Four

Word from Kathmandu

1972 PROGRAM REORGANIZATION

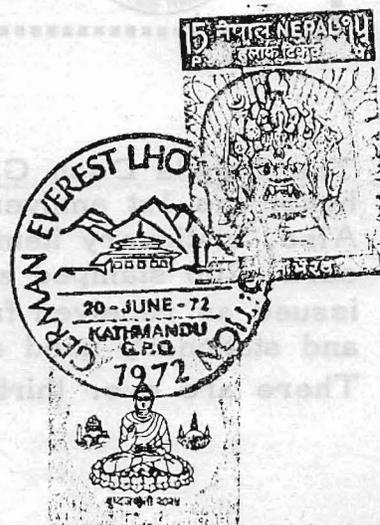
The Nepal Philatelic Bureau, Kathmandu, has announced some changes in the 1972 stamp program from that announced last January. Already issued this year were the "Arniko" issue of 15p, the first day of sale being 13 April last. The remainders are as follows:

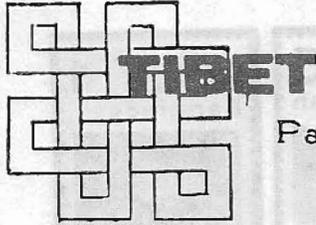
International Book Year	5p, 2p and Re 1,-	8 September
Costumes	25p, 50p, 75p & Re 1,-	9 October
World Health Day	Re 1,-	6 November
Mahendra Jayanti	25p	15 December
King Birenda Birthday	50p	28 December
Visit Nepal series	25p, 50p & Re 1,-	28 December

The birthday issue of 28 December is for the king's 28th birthday and the 25p costume stamp pictures a costume of the northern border people, the 50p a costume of the hill people, the 75p a costume of the Kathmandu valley and the Re 1,- is a costume of the people of the Terai area.

FIRST COMMEMORATIVE CANCEL

With the assistance of the Nepal Philatelic Society, the Kathmandu GPO came forth with its first commemorative cancellation in honor of the joint Everest-Lhotse expedition of German geologist-mountaineer G. Lenser. Special cacheted covers were prepared and sold in order to assist in financing the ascensions.





Part Two

NEW LOCALS

According to South Australian sources, four new stamps of Tibet have been issued by the government of Tibet in exile in India.

Nelson Eustis of Adelaide, South Australia, said four stamps have been prepared in the old Tibetan "trangkha" denominations, and totalled together, have an approximate dollar value of 50 cents.

The denominations, 1, 2, 4 and 8 trangkha picture a Snow Leopard, Antelope, a Himalayan Bear and a Yak, respectively.

The issue is of modern production, totally unlike the usually seen woodcut types of old Tibet.



It is said the issue is valid for use within the Tibetan refugee center in North India, but whether at the sanction of the Indian government, whose territory the center is on, is not known at present.

The stamps, designed by E. W. (Ted) Roberts were printed in sheets of 25. Apparently, there is no compunction on the part of the Tibetans to hide the money making reason for the issue. The issue is even more strictly local in nature than the old issues of Tibet. In the next few days, the G.T. offices should have sets available at face value for interested collectors.

Bangla Desh

Part Three



TAKA ISSUE A FRAUD

Bangladesh postmaster general, Mr. A. M. Ahsanullah has announced the recently appearing definitive set of 15 Bangladesh adhesives in Taka denominations are not valid stamps.

A notice published by the GPO in Dacca indicated the Bangladesh government ordered new definitives in the denominations of the recently released coins and money bills of the new nation, but the printer, Format, in London, found copies of the stamps in the philatelic market before supplies had ever reached Bangla Desh post office authorities.

Now, in an effort to repudiate the issue, the Bangladesh postoffice has confiscated all copies found, especially large quantities sent to Dacca for cancelling and return by mail. The Dacca officials also announced letters posted with the Taka stamps will not be forwarded.

Apparently, stamps of Bangla Desh will carry Rupee denominations while the Taka and the Poysa (100 to a Taka) will appear on coins. Bhutan currently does the same, stamps being in Chetrum/Nultam values and the coinage being that of India, for the most part.

In an ancillary story, government officials in Dacca have indicated that the surcharged Pakistan stamps we featured and indicated in the No 8 GT last July as being phoney are indeed real. The Bangla Desh postmaster at Dacca said in a letter to the GT, stamps of Pakistan, especially postal stationary, are still being utilized to a great extent after being overprinted with "Bangla Desh." Pakistani stamps overprinted before independence did see extensive use in what was formerly East Pakistan. So, the GT stands corrected. We have been promised an article about the Muktani post offices operating during the strife in Bangla Desh last year and the postal routes operated there. We'll feature it in the next Gobi Times.

মহান একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারী
শহীদ স্মরণে

THE GREAT 21st February
in Memory of the Martyr's



A Commemorative Stamp of 20 paise denomination has been issued to commemorate the memory of the Martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952. The 21st February, 1952, a red letter day in the history of Bangladesh, is a day of awakening of Bengali nationalism which paved the way for the liberation of Bangladesh. May the souls of the martyrs rest in peace and their memory remain eternal.

Size : 39.1 x 29 mm

Perf. : 13 x 13

Stamps in sheet = 35

Colour : Deep green & red

Process : Photogravure

Quantity : 1.5 million

Printers : India Security Press,

Nasik, India.

ORDERS FROM OVERSEAS

Overseas orders for the supply of the new Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover may be addressed, with full particulars, to the Senior Postmaster, Dacca G.P.O., Dacca, Bangladesh and should be accompanied with a bank draft or crossed cheque encashable in Bangladesh.

JAI BANGLA



Issued by the :—

Director-General, Bangladesh Post Office,
G.P.O., DACCA-2, Bangladesh.

BANGLA DESH STATIONARY

The Bangla Desh GPO, Dacca announced issue of a 20p stamp to honor the 1st anniversary of Bangla Desh independence, 25 March. Also, stationary items; Aerogrammes of 15p, 20p & 75p, 10p postal card, 20p stamped envelope and various revenue stamps, will be issued as received from Nasik Press. Current stamped envelopes and stationary used are those of Pakistan handstamped Bangladesh. There are over thirteen various Pakistan items currently in use.



Wendup Dorji