

No. 7
March 1971

THE Gobi Times

A Newsletter specialising in the philately
of Mongolia, Tuva, Bhutan, and the surrounding
areas.

A great breakthrough in information about Bhutanese issues NOT printed through agency arrangements came through after many months of searching and dozens of letters.

Through the labor of the Nasik Security Printers in India, the G.T. is pleased to offer something specific about non-agency Bhutanese issues; namely printing statistics of stamps intended for in-country use.

For the first time, specific figures are available for stamps available to the general public in Bhutan. These figures are a great indication of the extent of the volume of mail -non philatelic mail- handled in the day to day operations of the three and a half dozen Bhutanese post offices.

Most current, and most important to many, are the statistics listed in this issue for the surcharged down series of 1966 and 1970.

The statistics for the first surcharged set of eight show the extreme scarcity of the two low values of the set. Statistics on the 1970 surcharges show some values to be scarcer than the 1966 pair.

These figures, when studied carefully, also show the respective usage of some of the high value stamps issued in agency produced sets that are commonly accused of being for collectors "use" only.

A big hurdle has been leaped with these figures. Now only remaining is the last hurdle; the statistics on the long commemorative sets and the innovation issues. When we get them, you will, too.

A hearty thanks and statement of appreciation to Mr. N. P. Sarnaik of Nasik Press for his many hours of work on our behalf.

Leonard A. Radford

BHUTAN

འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་

HA DZONG CANCELLATION

Last issue (#6) we made comment about the cancellation device of Ha Dzong. We are pleased to reproduce it here, through the courtesy of Mr. Bob West, who first mentioned that it was still in use. The Bhutan P & T Director recently said that Ha is the old name for Wangchuklo Dzong. He also iterated that the new Wangchuklo device for cancellation of mail superceded the Ha marking.

Apparently, postal clerks at Ha still dig up the Ha cancellation occasionally. Also in issue #6, we illustrated the registration mark from Ha, and the postoffice designation on the cover was also, interestingly enough, Ha.



DEFINITIVE SET PRINTING STATISTICS

Part one of Mr. Sarnaik's Report

5ch Rinpung Dzong	sheets of 45	500,500
15ch Simtokha Dzong	sheets of 45	1,103,500
20ch Simtokha Dzong	sheets of 45	1,103,500
50ch Tongsa Dzong	sheets of 35	199,100
10ch Tashichho Dzong	sheets of 48	501,160
20ch Ghandi Centenary	sheets of 48	100,080
2.-N Ghandi Centenary	sheets of 48	100,080
75ch Daga Dzong	sheets of 35	50,050
1Nu Lhuntsi Dzong	sheets of 35	50,050
5ch Wangdiphodrang Dzong	sheets of 42	309,090
10ch Wangdiphodrang Dzong	sheets of 42	309,090
15ch Wangdiphodrang Dzong	sheets of 42	309,090
20ch Wangdiphodrang Dzong	sheets of 42	309,090

Revenue/Fiscal (See issue No. 6, December 1970)

10ch Dorji ("Banderol" Red)	sheets of 320, panes of 80	1,018,000
ditto, second printing	sheets of 320, panes of 80	2,036,000
25ch Dorji (Jade Green)	sheets of 320, panes of 80	1,018,000

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The Post as a Factor in Economic and Social Development

Dasho Lam Fenjor,
Information Officer and Post &
Telegraph Director for
the Bhutan Royal Govt.

The post is a privileged means of communication and exchange, an efficient instrument of economic development, a dynamic structure for development. The post, we believe, is an essential part of the infrastructure of the society and it is also essential for the economic growth of the community; as for instance, efficient system of transport.

Few people in the world are unaware nowadays of the existence of the post. However, it is only when its services suddenly become unavailable that its full significance is realised. The post is so deeply rooted in the habits of the people that the action of sending or receiving mail is all but automatic. As an institution at the service of everyone, the post gradually comes to appear as an extension of each individual's activity. As a result, the public is inclined to take little interest in or at least be aware of the problems involved in ensuring the flow of postal traffic. The post must be able to make its services available to all for the general flow of communications and exchanges which is one of the vital currents of our times and a tangible proof of the social, political, cultural and economic development of human societies.

Throughout history, men everywhere have used their imagination and ingenuity to find semantic and practical ways of exchanging ideas and goods. In our age, the extraordinary speed at which technology has developed - seeming to shorten time and narrow space - has modified and hastened mankind's need to communicate and exchange. This need, more and more intensely felt by individuals and society, has created new problems. Everyone wishes to be more independent as regards his knowledge. Knowledge however, is still, and will doubtless long continue to be transmitted largely by the written word, which is a sure and practical means of recording and controlling all types of human relations. It is impossible at present, to conceive any administrative, economic or cultural activities without the use of the written word. In every country of the world, its essential role of the post is to deliver accurately and regularly to all the inhabitants the written messages addressed to them. Its presence everywhere and the function it performs of providing contacts and delivering communications are its fundamental purposes: it is here the post contributes

to the coordination and coherence of all national activities: it is here that, more generally, it brings a new qualitative and quantitative dimension to the need to communicate as a result of changing situations, the growing complexity of systems of production and trade and the interdependence of individuals.

The range of its economic activities - although imperceptible when each operation is taken separately - becomes clear when all the operations it performs - operations that lead to large scale traffic - are considered as a whole. The role of the post is then seen in its true relation to development. Moreover, the post shows or may show itself to be an activity that lays the foundations for other activities. Owing to the number of items conveyed, the geographical area it must cover by the nature of its function, the uniform rates and services it must establish for all addressees and senders, and the need for sound and simple management methods, the post is an element on which a general policy of communication may, in most cases, be built.

Recent studies have shown that postal activities in many respects indicate a country's economic and social development. The post, as a gauge, provided the readings are interpreted strictly and carefully, may provide considerable information. Besides, it is inconceivable that a system of production could develop without the establishment and adjustment of a system of communications to facilitate contacts between persons separated by large distances. Lastly, without the necessary means of communications and exchange no society could be brought into the technical and economic life of the world. One of the major concerns at present should be to extend the post's activities in the developing field of communications, connections and exchanges and to enable it to carry out efficiently the functions for which it is best equipped. Though the costs involved must not be overlooked, it should be borne in mind that they will be largely offset by the profits derived.

The post, a means of liaison and development is the public service which has the greatest number of contacts with the public. When its facilities are properly used, the post may, besides become one of the principle employers of the country, be a generating force of the economy by fostering the expansion of various activities. As a large scale transport undertaking, it provides for the collection, forwarding and delivering of all types of postal items; letters, newspapers, printed matter, parcels, etc. The development of a country depends on the establishment and maintenance of a political, legal and social order, together with a certain continuity of action by the state. A government can act effectively only if it is able to establish quick and reliable communications with the various regions of the country. Being a financial and monetary instrument, the post facilitates transfers of fiduciary money. Transactions and exchanges of all kinds involve an intense circulation of money. To fulfill its function properly, money must

circulate with speed and security. However, fiduciary money (bank notes and coins) is difficult to transport and centralize. The post renders an appreciable service by enabling the public to make payments by means of money orders. Moreover, this is virtually the only means that persons who do not use banks or the postal giro service (where such exists) have of transferring funds.

From the forgoing it is clear that as its activities become more intensified, the post will increasingly occupy a strategic position in relation to development. It is one of the essential bases of political, economic, social and cultural life and an indispensable link between persons and groups that can only be strengthened by the complex and diverse aspects of contemporary civilization. Although any development unquestionably presupposes, among other things, the integration of rural areas into the nation's life, and increase in exchanges of all kinds, capital formation, and intensified international relations. It is equally unquestionable that it is precisely in these fields that the work of the post is indispensable and irreplaceable.

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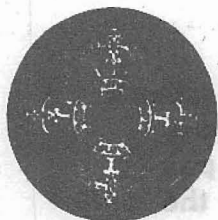
June 1971 PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS ON ISSUES
OF PAKISTAN:

14 values, mint condition	\$14.00
on cover, addressed internally (odd values on different covers)	8.00 per cover
on cover, external addressees, (odd values on different covers)	6.00 per cover

July 1971 FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE

8 values, mint condition	\$ 3.00
First Day Cover	4.00

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India



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Government of Bhutan

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BHUTAN'S REVISED RATES OVERPRINT ISSUE

Quantity	Bhutan's Revised rates overprint issue.	Price per set of 13 stamps		
	Set of 13 5 @ (55ch) 8 @ (90ch)	Nu.9.95	\$1.39	
	Bhutan stamp handling		\$1.00	
	Postage & Registration			
Total enclosed				

Mail Service: 2nd Class Registered airmail
Air Parcel
Surface.

Overpayment should be: Refunded
Held to account.

PLEASE PRINT NAME & ADDRESS CLEARLY.

I wonder where my order for stamps is.
It should have been here long ago.

Since issue #5 of the Gobi Times, the different contributors and the editors have received numerous queries regarding orders for stamps that have not been acknowledged or apparently filled by the philatelic office at Phuntsholing.

One of the initial reasons behind the establishment of the Bahamas agency was to make distribution to the trade easier and more reliable than is possible from Phuntsholing, still considering the area as primitive by western standards, and taking into account the distance from any point on the Western Hemisphere and even from Europe.

It has recently become known that there are significant reasons for the most current "epidemic". Firstly, the reliability of the Indian postal system is questioned. All through its history, India, because of her vast expanse has never had what would be considered effective control over all her territory. Mail, in short, is bound to get lost, stolen by poverty stricken people who realise that mail to a philatelic agency will most likely have some sort of fund enclosed. Secondly, informed sources just recently pointed up that "quite a group of envelopes turned up in Calcutta which were mailed to Bhutan's customers overseas and deposited by that government in the Indian post offices. The contents of the envelopes were stolen and the thieves had the audacity to sell the franked envelopes." This brings up another point. It evidently isn't too advisable to have attractive stamps. They just plain make things too tempting. I have had dozens of letters arrive from all parts of Bhutan with the 3D, silk, coin and Steel issues affixed that had the stamps stolen right off the envelopes. I'm just thankful in many instances that the letters were still intact.

After some communication with those people who are in a position to act, I have assurances that India security people have been informed of problems in this particular area, and also that the managing staff of the philatelic office are investigating other means of securing their mailings. They point out that all mail leaving the agency is registered if it contains stamps, that problems encountered are of such nature that solutions are difficult at present, but that they are also very localized. The situation evidently is not an impossible one. The situation is very much against their aims as well as those of collectors.

I also believe that those who order from Phuntsholing are aware of the challenge they face, Bhutan being an "out-of-the-way" place.

This is just another one for all you adventurers.

James H. Halden

BHUTAN GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICE

Last June, a proposal was placed before the Bhutanese National Assembly to carry mails on government busses rather than on mail vans in an effort to save costs. The complete timetable of the bus service is reproduced below.

Phuntsholing to Thimpu (daily)

0700 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1500 hrs
0800 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1700 hrs

Phuntsholing to Siliguri (India) (daily)

0730 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1130 hrs
1530 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1930 hrs

Phuntsholing to Samdrup Jongkhar (Sundays)

0700 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1900 hrs

(Tuesdays)

1900 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0700 hrs

Phuntsholing to Paro (Saturdays, Wednesdays)

0800 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1600 hrs

(Sundays, Thursdays)

1600 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0800 hrs

Phuntsholing to Hasimara (India) (daily)

0745 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0830 hrs
0945 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1030 hrs

1445 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1530 hrs
2030 hrs \longleftrightarrow 2115 hrs

0930 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0845 hrs
1145 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1100 hrs

1645 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1600 hrs
2215 hrs \longleftrightarrow 2130 hrs

Thimpu to Paro (daily)

0830 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1130 hrs
1430 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1730 hrs

Thimpu to Wangdiphodrang (daily)

0830 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1300 hrs
1830 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1400 hrs

Thimpu to Ha Dzong (Fridays)

0900 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1700 hrs

(Saturdays)

1700 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0900 hrs

Paro to Duga Dzong (daily)

0900 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0930 hrs
1015 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0945 hrs

1600 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1630 hrs
1715 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1645 hrs

Samdrup Jongkhar to Rangia (India) (daily)

0600 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0900 hrs
1800 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1500 hrs

Samdrup Jongkhar to Tashigang (daily)

0800 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1700 hrs

Sarbhag to Kokrajhar (India) (daily)

0730 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1030 hrs
1930 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1630 hrs

1100 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0800 hrs
1500 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1800 hrs

Gelephu to Bongaigaon (India) (Mondays through Saturdays)

0830 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1100 hrs
1130 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0800 hrs

1430 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1730 hrs

(Sundays)

1600 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1900 hrs
1100 hrs \longleftrightarrow 0800 hrs

Gelephu to Shemgong (daily)

0900 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1430 hrs

Gelephu to Kokrajhar

(Monday through Saturdays only)

0700 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1000 hrs
1700 hrs \longleftrightarrow 1400 hrs

*** Arrows (\longleftrightarrow) indicate busses leave both places at the same time.

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7 <u>Stuttgart</u> 81	or Canoga Park, Calif
Kelley Barracks	91304 USA
Germany	

1966 SURCHARGED DOWN SERIES PRINTING QUANTITIES

Part two of Mr. Sarnaik's report

Definitive series

15ch on 1.30Nu Yak	sheets of 50	41,500
15ch on 70ch Archer	sheets of 50	40,000

Refugee Year

5ch on 1.00Nu	sheets of 50	3,750
5ch on 2.00Nu	sheets of 50	4,200

Dancers

10ch on 70ch	sheets of 50	8,650
10ch on 2.00Nu	sheets of 50	14,700
20ch on 1.00Nu	sheets of 50	14,700
20ch on 1.30Nu	sheets of 50	14,700

1970 SURCHARGED DOWN SERIES

Printing Statistics Made Available

Through the good graces of Mr. N. P. Sarnaik of the Government of India Security Printers at Nasik, India, the story about the printing quantities of the 42 surcharged down stamps and their respective scarcity may now be told.

The 22 stamps listed below for June issue includes 19 actually issued and three not issued until november, when the additional 20 printed for November were issued. The November listing includes only those printed for November release.

JUNE ISSUES

Freedom from Hunger (sheets of 50)	
20ch on 1.50Nu	20,000
Animals (sheets of 25)	
20ch on 1.50Nu	10,000
20ch on 2.00Nu	15,000
20ch on 3.00Nu	15,000
20ch on 4.00Nu	15,000
20ch on 5.00Nu	15,000
Battle of Britain (sheets of 25)	
20ch on 2.00Nu	2,500
20ch on 4.00Nu	2,500
Pheasants (sheets of 25)	
20ch on 2.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 4.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 7.00Nu	5,000
UPU Membership (sheets of 20)	
20ch on 1.05Nu	2,500
20ch on 1.40Nu	2,500
20ch on 4.00Nu	2,500
Yeti (sheets of 50)	
20ch on 1.25Nu	2,500
20ch on 2.50Nu	5,000
20ch on 3.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 5.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 6.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 7.00Nu	5,000
Boy Scouts (sheets of 40)	
20ch on 1.25Nu	12,000
20ch on 4.00Nu	16,000

NOVEMBER ISSUES

Enchanting Flowers (sheets of 25)	
20ch on 4.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 5.00Nu	5,000
Bhutan Birds (sheets of 50)	
20ch on 30ch	30,000
20ch on 50ch	45,000
20ch on 1.25Nu	40,000
20ch on 1.50Nu	5,000
20ch on 2.00Nu	55,000
20ch on 2.50Nu	7,500
20ch on 4.00Nu	2,500
20ch on 5.00Nu	7,500
20ch on 10.00Nu	7,500
Mythology (sheets of 50)	
20ch on 4.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 5.00Nu	5,000
20ch on 10.00Nu	5,000
5ch on 30ch	5,000
5ch on 50ch	7,500
5ch on 1.25Nu	35,000
5ch on 1.50Nu	5,000
5ch on 2.00Nu	10,000
5ch on 2.50Nu	5,000

BITHEKA POST OFFICE SLATED TO OPEN

The Bhutan P & T Directorate advises that 9 May is the opening date for the Bitheka postoffice near Paro. Mail exchange between Paro will be on a biweekly basis by runner. Stamps, parcel service, mail receipt and delivery and money order services will be available at the new office.

NEPAL

for 1971

Recently announced by the philatelic office in Kathmandu, is the program of new issues for 1971:

11 December the 25th Anniversary of UNICEF will be marked by a one rupee stamp.

28 December a set of stamps to promote travel in Nepal will consist of five values. The "Visit Nepal" set will consist of a 25np adhesive picturing Mt. Ganish Himal, a 50np with Mt. Himalchuli, a 1 rp. with Mt. Dhaulagiri, a 1.80rp and a 2.50rp with Kanchenjunga and Mount Everest, respectively.

These stamps, along with other issues of 1971, and past issues may be ordered through the Nepal Philatelic Officer, Kathmandu.

First Day Covers may be ordered in advance through the offices of the Nepal Philatelic Society, Post Office Box 108, Kathmandu. The organization supplies cacheted envelopes, with explanations of the stamp, printing quantity, item commemorated and date of issue.

LHENDUP DORJI LOCATED IN NEPAL

For a number of years, nine to be exact, the editor has tried to locate the former self-styled Bhutanese "postmaster-general", Mr. Lhendup Dorji. It was Mr. Dorji who, in 1962, was the primary "cause celebre" in the revenue stamp surcharges and the person most responsible for the physical development of the Bhutan postal system in its early beginning.

Now in an effort to bring the story of Mr. Dorji and the true facts behind the revenue surcharging, as well as hundreds of other small but historical items, the editor has found Mr. Dorji in Nepal where he has resided since the abortive coup attempt in Bhutan when the king was in Switzerland five years ago. Mr. Dorji was declared persona non grata in Bhutan, and has not, to this day left to resume residence in Bhutan.

Currently, Mr. Dorji is part owner of a casino in the Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu.

LIST OF NEPALESE POST OFFICES

With the help of Roger D. Skinner, 1020 Covington Rd., Los Altos, California, and through the courtesy of the Nepal Philatelic Society of Kathmandu, the C.T. is able to present this listing of the post offices in Nepal, by category, as of 1969.

The categories of Nepalese post offices are "main," "sub," "branch," "exchange," and "foreign," annotated in the list below by the letters "m, s, b, e and f," respectively.

MECHI ZONE

Jhapa District

Rhadrapur (E)
Chandra Cadi (S)
Sanischaray (B)
Dhula Bari (B)
Jhapa (B)
Gauri Ganj (B)

Ilam District

Ilam (S)
Pashupati Nagar (S)
Rabi (B)
Mangalbaray (B)
Jajure (B)

Panch Thar District

Phidia (S)
Manayhalbotay (B)
Yasok (B)
Nambuba Vajayang (B)
Chang Thapu (B)

Tapley Jung District

Tapley Jung (S)
Sinam (B)
Olang Chung (B)

NARAYANI ZONE

Chitwan District

Bharatpur (S)
Rampur (B)
Narayanghat (B)
Harinagar (Madi) (B)

Makwanpur District

Hitauda (S)
Bishphedi (B)

Parsa District

Birgunj (M)
Rani Gunj (B)

Bara District

Kalaya (S)
Simara (B)
Chatauna (B)

KOSHI ZONE

Morang District

Biratnagar (M) (F)
Rangley (B)
Madhu Malla (B)
Haraicha (B)
Rani Sikiyahi (B)
Biratnagar Bazar (B)
Chunimari (B)

Sunsari District

Bijaya Pur (S)
Dharan Cantt (S)
Enerwa (B)
Mahendranagar
Chakraghatti (B)
Ithari (B)
Chatara (B)
Duhabi (B)
Bhutha (B)

Dhankuta District

Dhankuta (M)
Arikhulay (B)
Chunguung (B)
Muga (B)
Layguwa (B)
Pakhribas (B)
Chaubisay
Rajarani (B)

Tehrathum District

Terathum (S)
Mulpani (B)

Sankhuwa Satha District

Chainpur (S)
Khandbari (B)
Madi (B)
Haydangana (B)

BAGMATI ZONE

Kathmandu District

Goswara Hulak
Kathmandu (F)
Kathmandu Mail
Center
Tribhuban
University (S)
Dilli Bazar (S)
Sinha Durbar (S)
Kirtipu (B)
Kathmandu (B)
Chief Court of
Justice (B)
Gauchar (B)
Pharping (B)
Sankhu (B)
Balaju (B)
Thankot (B)
Chabbil (B)

Lalipur District

Lalipur (S)
Sri Durbar Tole (B)
Godavari (B)
Chapagown (B)

Rasuwa District

Sybra (S)
Rasuwa (B)

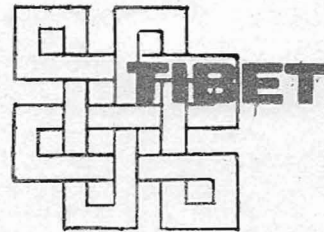
Dhading District

Dhading (S)
Sunkham (B)

Sindhu Palchowk District

Dhulikhel (S)
Banapa (B)
Panchakhal (B)
Dolalghat (B)
Phanlataya (B)
Panauti (B)

Continued in G. T. No. 8



CHANGMU, TIBET

by Robert D. West
P. O. Box 366
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Recently I came into possession of two Tibet covers carrying postmarks I had not seen before. One cover was sent to me by George Russell of New Zealand. Where the other came from, I don't know.

One cover - a registered item - has the stamps cancelled with the Changmu marking. It is the standard marking now in use throughout China and Tibet. Around the top are seven Chinese characters, while at the base are two Chinese characters and "CHANGMU" in English. The date through the center is "196.8.4.29" (April 29, 1968). The attached hand printed registration label is inscribed in the center with "NIELAMU". There is also a receiving mark of Lalitpur, Nepal on the face of the cover, dated November 4, 1968. There is a total of 58 Chinese fen in fees affixed.

The other unregistered cover carries the same postmark as the first and is dated in the same manner "196.84.23". The Lalitpur, Nepal receiving mark shows November 4, 1968. There is no return address and there is a total of 23 Chinese fen in fees affixed.

A check of all available maps shows no such place as "Changmu". Letters of inquiry have been sent to such renowned "Tibetologists" as A. C. Waterfall of England, Ted Allen, Jr., of Arizona and George Russell of New Zealand. The consensus is that "Changmu" as a new, possibly new name for Nielamu, although no one has any definite facts. I hold this opinion also.

Perhaps the Chinese thought "Nielamu" was too much like Nyalam Dzong which is the original name for this community. This also follows an all out Chinese effort to eradicate everything Tibetan. The main puzzle is why the cancellation mark bears one name and the registration label has the old. Maybe a postal clerk just "forgot" to use the new name.

Anyone who has specific information about Changmu, especially the location, please write to me at the above address.