

Tibet 1912 - 1960

The stamps and their usage



Tibet,

the name of this country is synonymous with exotic, esoteric and mystic, yet, its stamps and their usage is comprehensive and diversified.

The present exhibit provides a detailed overview of Tibetan local / native Post that was in operation from 1912 - 1960. In this time frame a total of 13 stamps (main catalogue numbers) were issued. In addition to these, some Official- and Telegraphstamps were also issued but these are excluded from this exhibit due to their controversial status.

The stamps were printed on demand by the mint in Lhasa using locally produced colors, those resulting in a relatively high number of color shades described on the preceding pages.

The printing blocks of the first two issues were made of wood blocks, one for each denomination, and all stamp clichés were carved into that block. For the third issue (1933) however, individual clichés for each of the denominations were produced, bound to printing blocks of 12 stamps each. That printing method produced a number of settings and states described on the respective pages.

To demonstrate the usage of the stamps, commercial covers are shown with a wide variety of frankings and postmarks including registration handstamps.

The exhibit is divided into 5 chapters as follows:

1. **Issue 1912** with proofs, essays, single stamps, multiples and complete sheets in different colors as well as commercial covers.
2. **Issue 1914** with single stamps and complete sheets in different colors as well as covers.
3. **Issue 1933** with proofs, single stamps, multiples and complete sheets of different settings and colors as well as commercial usages.
4. **Issue 1933**, postage rates, represented by single -, multiple - and mixed frankings.
5. Bisected and quadrisected stamps on covers.

Major Highlights of the collection

- Several so-called "Waterlow Essays" of issue 1912 which are known in few copies only in addition to three so-called "Native Proofs".
- A good number of complete sheets of issue 1912 including sheets in shiny color.
- Several sheets of 1914 including the extremely rare 4 Trangka blue. Noteworthy a 4 Trangka and 8 Trangka of this issue with double print
- The issue 1933 is represented by several proof sheets, furthermore a large number of sheets including the very rare first settings of every denomination.
- The covers represent some extremely rare usages, postage rates and postmark in addition to early registration markings which are known in single-digit quantities only.
- Covers from issue 1933, bisected franking in combination with colored postmarks.

Research

- The sub-setting 4A-B of the 1 Tschakey denomination and well as the sub-setting 4D of the 1 Shokang denomination from issue 1933 have been discovered by me and were subsequently published.
- The earliest known bisected stamp of issue 1933 on commercial cover.
- Several previously unknown rate combinations have been discovered and published.

Selected Literature

Kurt H. Dahnke, "Tibet, Handbuch und Katalog der Marken und Stempel. 1978/81".

Arnold C. Waterfall: "The Postal History of Tibet, Editions 1965 and 1981".

Frealon Bibbins: "Tibet, First Series, 1912 - 33, Plating Notebook".

Frealon Bibbins: "Tibet, Second Series".

Bibbins and Flack: "Tibet, Third Series, 1933 - 60, Plating Study".

Wolfgang C. Hellrigl: "The Postal Markings of Tibet".

Fortune Wang: "Tibet Postal History & Stamps, Band 3".

1. Issue 1912

1.1. Proofs, Waterlow Essays

It is not known when the idea on introducing an organized State Postal System in Tibet was born, however it is believed that the inspiration came from the 13th. Dalai Lama who experienced the accuracy of the Indian Post during his Exile there during 1909-1912 and returned with the idea of introducing a similar system in his country. In any case, after the return by the Dalai Lama to Tibet, a draft design was prepared which was sent to the then famous Printing House Waterlow & Sons who in return prepared a number of Essays, all in the denomination of 1 Karmanga which are now known as the Waterlow Essays. The size and design of these initial Tibetan stamps, with their round inner circle and ornamental corners was similar to the 1902-06 Indian stamps that were used by the British-Indian Post in Tibet and of which the Tibetan Government had been familiar with. Due to the size of the complete essays, the watermark is, if at all, only visible in parts. It is unknown if paper with or without watermark was used or if the Watermark existed only on a few parts of the paper. In any case, these Essays are known to exist with, as well as without, Watermark and, when the watermark is present, it is always located on different places of the Essay.



India
Queen Victoria



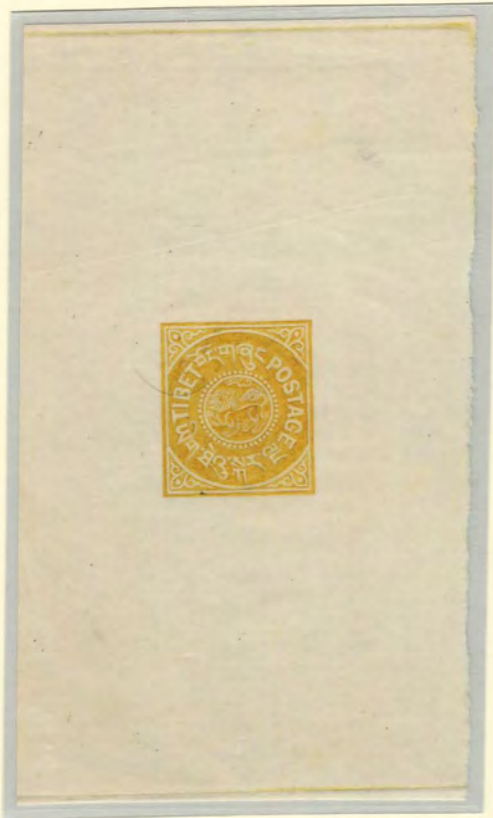
Waterlow Essay in blue



Waterlow Essay in blue with
Watermark

1. Issue 1912

1.1. Proofs (Waterlow Essays) - Continuation



Waterlow Essay in yellow



Waterlow Essay in red with parts of the Watermark "Jas. Wrigley and Son Ltd".



Waterlow Essay in Albino

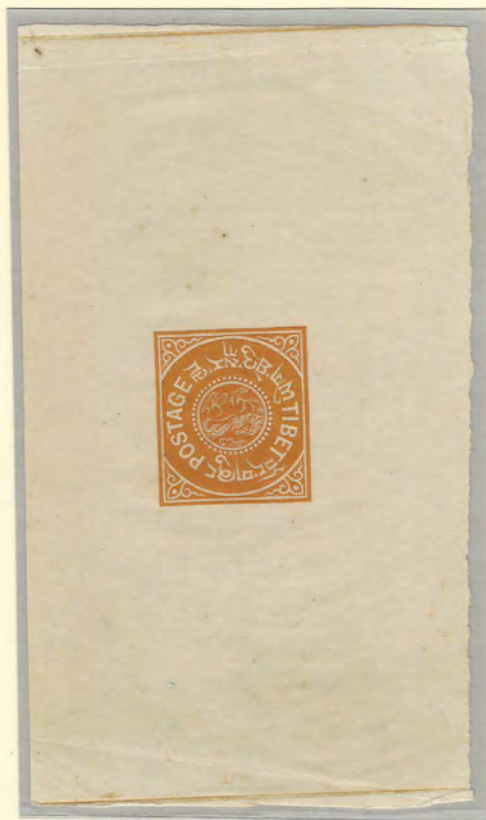
It is believed that the Albino Printing has been prepared to check the depth of the engraving of the cliché.

The contract to print the stamps of Tibet has not been awarded to Waterlow & Sons, most likely due to financial reasons, instead, the stamps have been printed in traditional ways by Tibetan printers. These essays are extremely rare and known in very few copies only.

1. Issue 1912

1.1. Proofs (Waterlow Essays) - Continuation

1.2. Proofs, Native Proofs



Waterlow Essay in orange with parts of the Watermark "Jas. Wrigley and Son Ltd".



Waterlow Essay in grün with parts of the Watermark "Jas. Wrigley and Son Ltd".

Native proofs from the issue 1912 are the rarest items of the Tibetan stamps as extremely few copies have been produced. The native proofs have been prepared since the Waterlow Essays have not been accepted by the Tibetan Government due to the costs involved to have them printed in England. Therefore, locally printed proofs have been prepared based on the Waterlow Essays, however in other colors and denominations.



The shown native proofs are in the denomination of 1/6 Trangka in violet color printed on wove paper and the 1/2 Trangka, blue, is printed on native paper

From the violet proof in the denomination of 1/6 Trangka only one sheet of 12 proofs was known which has been split up. From the blue proof in the 1/2 Trangka denomination only one sheet of 12 stamps in addition to 2 single stamps are known. It is not known if the single proofs as shown are from the known single copies or copies from the sheet of 12 proofs

1. Issue 1912

1.2. Single stamps

The first stamps of Tibet have most likely been issued in December 1912 in Lhasa. The Waterlow Essays / Native Proofs were taken as sample and 12 clichés have been carved into one wooden printing block and due to that, every stamp differs slightly from each other. The stamps had been printed on demand - based on requisition from the individual post offices - on native paper and native printing colors. This is the cause that every printing is printed on different paper and different color shades, the shades may differ even within one sheet which makes the classification of printing colors very difficult. The following table shows the number of different (main) colors from the respective denominations.

Denominations	Colors
1 Khakang (1/6 Trangka)	15
1 Karmanga (1/3 Trangka)	10
1 Tschakey (1/2 Trangka)	14
1 Shokang (2/3 Trangka)	14
1 Trangka	8

The denomination in Tibetan script can be found one each at around 5 o'clock position in the ring around the lion, directly after the word „POSTAGE“.



1 Khakang



1 Karmanga



1 Tschakey



1 Shokang



1 Trangka

1. Issue 1912**1.3.1 Denomination 1 Khakang, Printings and Colors**

The 1 Khakang value is the most commonly used stamp of the first issue of Tibet, nevertheless, complete sheets are quite rare.



The sheet shown is from the first printings of around 1912, green (26B8), Waterfall No. 21.



From 1916 onwards there were printings in blue green shades (26D7), Waterfall No. 22.

1. Issue 1912

1.3.1 Denomination 1 Khakang, Printings and Colors - Continuation

From 1922 on, the stamps all of a sudden have been printed in some sort of shiny color. It was believed that these printings were done with so-called enamel paints imported from abroad. Latest research however has shown that the shiny appearance was caused by locally produced clear lacquer that has been mixed with the printing ink. The clear lacquer was produced from scale insects which are commonly found in the Himalaya Region.



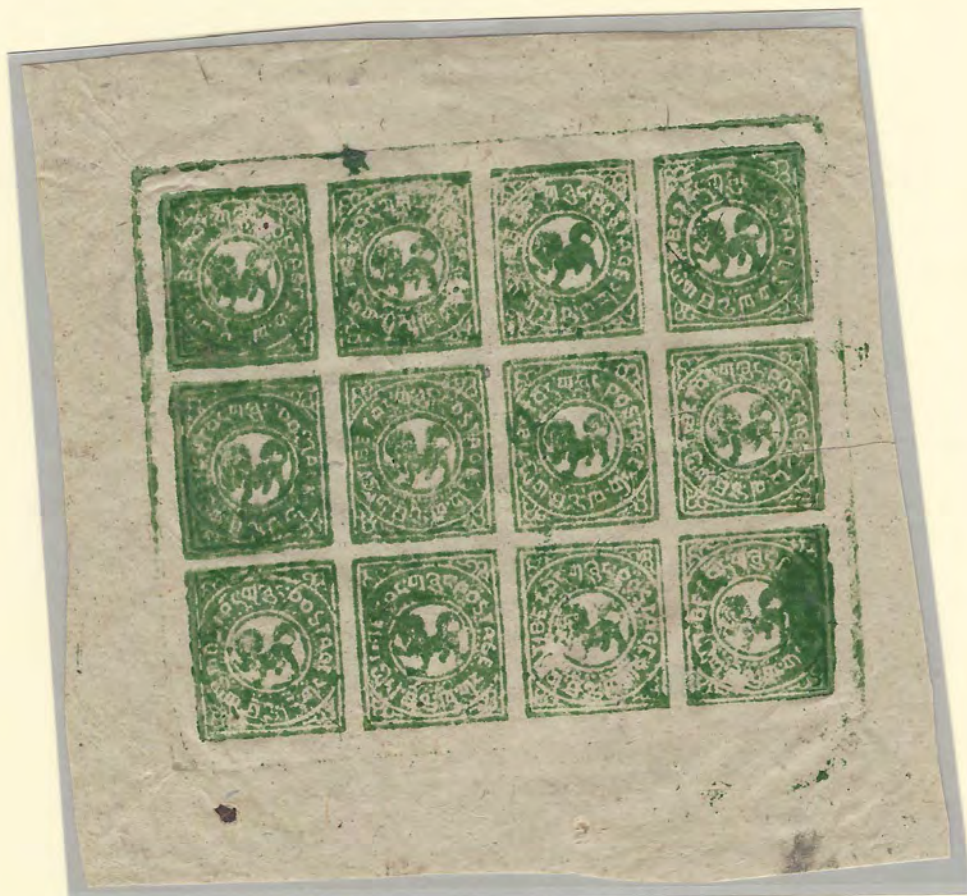
A complete sheet in shiny pale emerald (27A4), Waterfall No. 25).



Another sheet in shiny color, color shade bright green (27D9), Waterfall No. 25).
While single stamps in shiny printings are already uncommon, complete sheets printed in shiny colors are extraordinary rarities

1. Issue 1912**1.3.1 Denomination 1 Khakang, Printings and Colors - Continuation**

This colour shade on shiny bottle green (27F6, W33) had been printed in around 1925 and was one of the last shade printed. The literature states that only one complete sheet is known.



This sheet with large sheet margins from the time of the shiny printings in deep green shade was previously not known in the literature. The printed sheet margins show that it is a sheet of a very late printing since the early prints of this denomination do not show such printed sheet margins.

1. Issue 1912

1.3.2 Denomination 1 Khakang, Single frankings



Local cover from LHASA (ca. 1916) to GYANTSE from the time of the first rate period, franked with 1 Khakang (colour 26D8, blue-green), cancelled with LHASA Type I (Hellrigl T4). Despite that LHASA was the capital of Tibet, covers originating from Lhasa are quite scarce.



Another local cover from LHASA (ca. 1916) from the first rate period, again franked with 1 Khakang, cancelled LHASA Type I (Hellrigl T4) in blue color. The color of the postmarks was generally black, however, in some rare cases blue, brown and green (shades) were used.

1. Issue 1912

1.3.2 Denomination 1 Khakang, Single frankings - Continuation



Local cover from LHASA, canceled with the extremely rare postmark of Type II (Hellrigl T11), in addition, transit postmarks of PENAM, NANGARTSE and GYANTSE.

Only about 5 covers with LHASA Type II postmarks are known.



Local cover from LHASA to SHIGATSE, franked with 1 Khakang, deep green shade (early printing), cancelled with the very rare postmark LHASA Type III (Hellrigl T12), in addition transit postmarks NANGARTSE Type I (Hel. T5), GYANTSE Type I (Hel. T3) and PENAM Type XI, (Hel. T35).

Only about 5 covers with LHASA Type III postmarks are known.

1. Issue 1912

1.3.3 Denomination 1 Khakang, Multiple frankings

The majority of covers are single frankings and only very few multiple frankings are known.



Local cover from GYANTSE (approx. 1924). Most likely at that point of time the postage rate for local covers has increased from 1 Khakang to 1 Karmanga (2 Khakang), the franking therefore consists of a vertical pair of 1 Karmanga stamps, cancelled GYANTSE Type 1 (Hellrigl T3).



Local cover from GYANTSE (approx. 1930). Again an increase of postage rate for local covers from 1 Karmanga (2 Khakang) to 1 Tschakey (3 Khakang), the franking therefore consists of a irregular strip of three 1 Karmanga stamps (shiny color), cancelled GYANTSE Type 1 (Hellrigl T3).

1. Issue 1912

1.3.3 Denomination 1 Khakang, Multiple frankings - Continuation

1.3.4 Trial Perforations



Registered cover from SHIGATSE to LHASA from the time of the first rate period, ca. 1915. Postage 2/3 Trangka (4 Khakang), franked with a block of four of the 1 Khakang denomination, cancelled with SHIGATSE Type XI (Hellrigl T35) in addition, transit postmarks PENAM, GYANTSE and PELTI. Furthermore, the extremely rare registration handstamp from SHIGATSE (Hellrigl T80).

Only about 5-10 covers with this Registration handstamp are known.



Shape Tsarong, the then Minister of Finance of the Government of Tibet was also in charge of the Tibetan Mint and in this capacity he had prepared some perforated sheets of the 1 Khakang denomination. The stamps were perforated between the stamps only but not on the outer margin of the sheets. Very few copies are known to exist. Shown are a single stamp and a horizontal pair each in shiny colors, cancelled with LHASA Type V (Hellrigl T13).

1. Issue 1912

1.4.1 Denomination 1 Karmanga, Printings and Colors

Since this denomination has been used very little, only few printings have been done, resulting in much less shades compared to the 1 Khakang stamp. The stamps have mostly been used as single franking for local letters of the second weight class or as pairs to reflect the 2/3 Trangka postage rate for registered covers.



The first printings of this denomination were done in clear to bright blue. Here a sheet in bright blue (20D8), Waterfall No. 35.



The second printing of this denomination was done in milky blue (21C5), Waterfall Nr. 36, shown again a complete sheet

1. Issue 1912

1.4.1 Denomination 1 Karmanga, Printings and Colors - Continuation

After the first printings in bright blue till dark blue, from 1930 on some printings were done in shiny color which are extremely scarce, especially in complete sheets. The rarest of these shades is the cobalt blue shade. This ink was totally unsuitable for printing purpose, resulting in stamps almost unrecognizable as Tibetan stamps.



Fragment, cancelled Lhasa
Type T15



Block of four



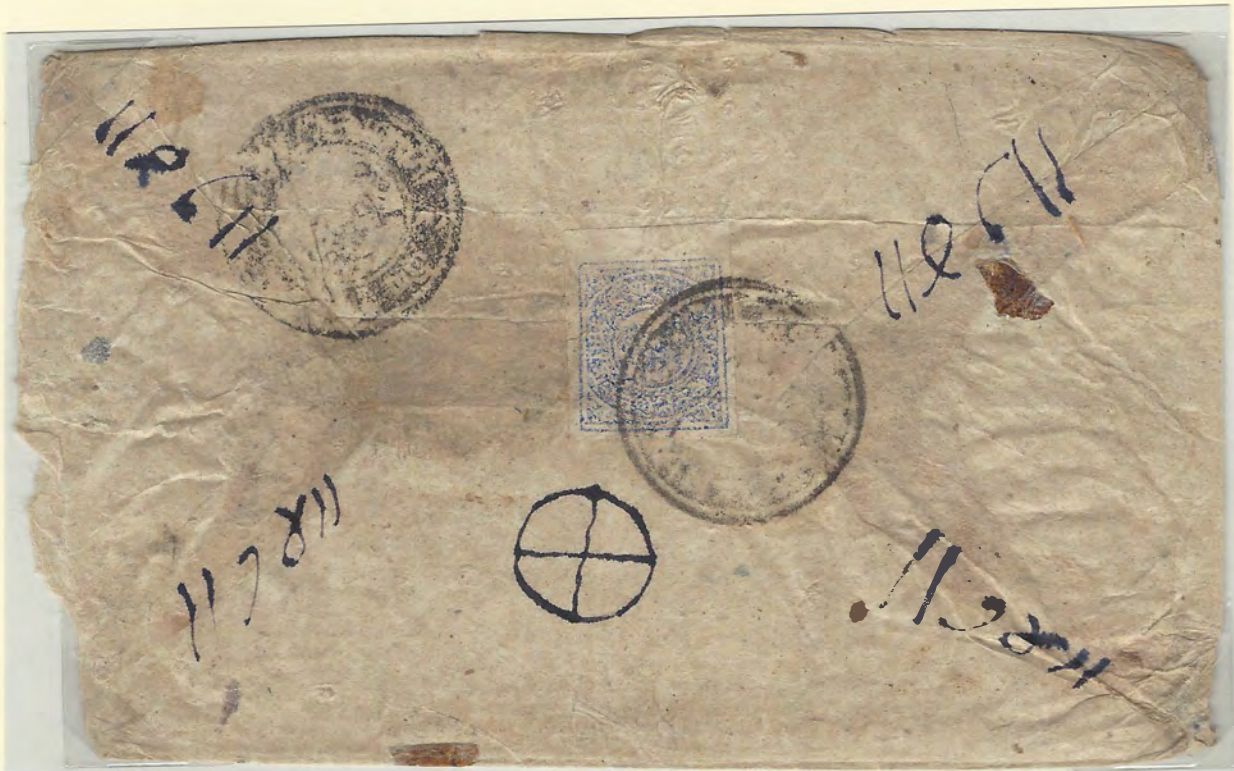
Complete sheet in cobalt blue shade (22C5), Waterfall No. 40.

1. Issue 1912

1.4.2 Denomination 1 Karmanga, Single frankings



Local cover of second weight class from GYANTSE to LHASA (ca. 1915-20), franked with 1 Karmanga, blue (21B8), cancelled with GYANTSE Type I (Hellrigl T3), transit postmark PELTI Type I (Hellrigl T6). The blue shade of the stamp is from the first printing of this denomination.



Local cover of second weight class from GYANTSE to LHASA (ca. 1915-20), franked with 1 Karmanga, milky blue (21C5), cancelled with GYANTSE Type I (Hellrigl T3), transit postmark NANGARTSE Type I (Hellrigl T5).

1. Issue 1912

1.4.2 Denomination 1 Karmanga, Single frankings - Continuation

1.4.3 Denomination 1 Karmanga, Multiple frankings



Local cover of second weight class from LHASA to GYANTSE (ca. 1920-24), franked with 1 Karmanga, cancelled with LHASA Type I (Hellrigl T4) in dark blue color. The color of the postmarks was generally black, however, in some rare cases blue, brown and green (shades) were used.



Registered letter from LHASA to GYANTSE (ca. 1916-1920), franked with 2 stamps of the 1 Karmanga denomination (Color 20D8, bright blue) representing the registered postage rate at that time. Postmark LHASA Type I (Hellrigl T4), in addition the very rare registration handstamp LHASA Type I (T72),

Only about 5-10 covers with this Registration handstamp are known.

1. Issue 1912**1.5.1 Denomination 1 Tschakey, Printings and Colors**

The first printings of the 1 Tschakey denomination were done in violet shades. Here a complete sheet from the first printing from 1912 in violet color (16F6), Waterfall No. 44. Complete sheets of this denomination are very scarce.



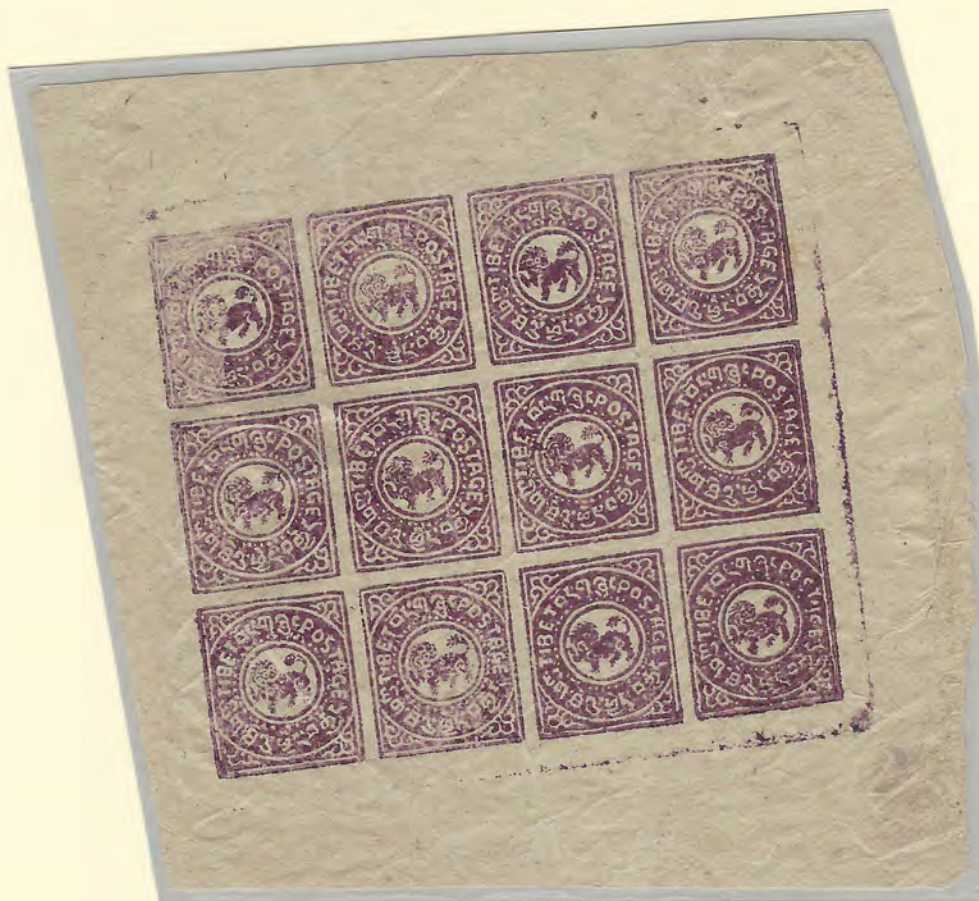
The late printings of the 1 Tschakey denomination again were done in shiny colors. Here such a sheet that had been printed in around 1930 in the color shade pale reddish purple (13D4), Waterfall No. 51.

1. Ausgabe 1912

1.5.1 Denomination 1 Tschakey, Printings and Colors - Continuation



One of the last printings of this value was in (shiny) grey purple (15F4), Waterfall No. 56. **The sheet shown here is very rare. Even single stamps in this shade are described in the literature as "almost non-existing".**



This sheet has been printed in around 1930 in dark purple (14E6) shade. The sheet is from the shiny period and printed in shiny colors.

This color shade is not recorded in the philatelic literature for Tibet.

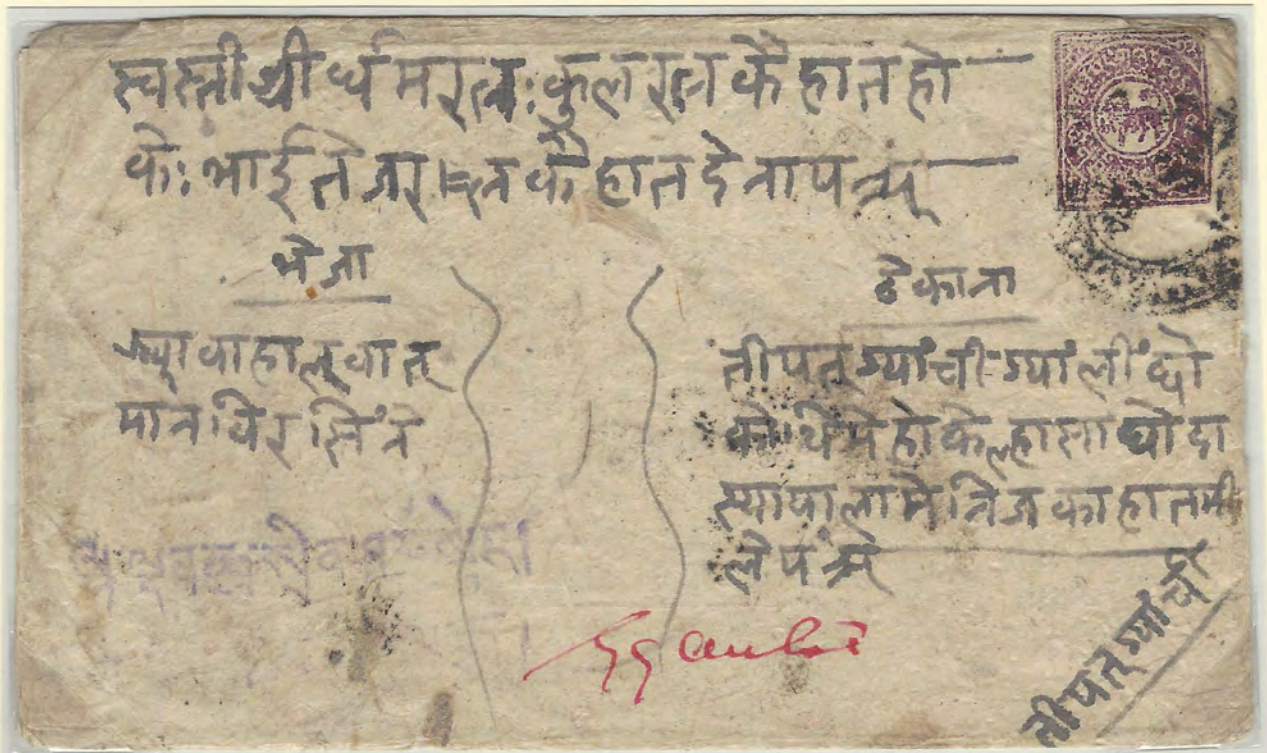
1. Issue 1912

1.5.2 Nomination 1 Tschakey, Single frankings



Covers with the violet 1 Tschakey stamps are only known from the time 1912-1916 and are very scarce. Here a registered cover franked with a 1 Tschakey stamp (violet), cancelled GYANTSE (Hellrigl T3), furthermore, the cover bears a very rare registration handstamp from GYANTSE (Hellrigl T71).

Only 1-4 covers with this registration marking are known.



Cover from Nepal (1930) via GYANTSE to LHASA, on reverse franked with a stamp of India. On front a 1 Tschakey stamp, reddish purple (shiny) (W-52) as postage for an ordinary cover from that period. Postmark GYANTSE Type I (Hellrigl T3). Furthermore a directional handstamp "To LHASA".

This is the earliest known cover with a directional handstamp which are otherwise only know from the years 1940-50.

1. Issue 1912

1.5.3 Denomination 1 Tschakey, Mixed frankings



Large fragment showing a very rare combination of stamps and postmarks. Covers with the violet 1 Tschakey stamps are only known from the years 1912-16. This fragment is franked with a 1 Karmanga stamp (blue) and a 1 Tschakey stamp (violet), cancelled with the extremely rare postmark LHASA Type III (Hellrigl T12) of which only about 5 covers with this postmark are known to exist. Transit postmarks GYANTSE and NANGARTSE of Type 1. Furthermore, equally rare registration handstamp from LHASA Type I (Hellrigl T72) of which again only 5-10 covers are known.

This is the only known item with such a combination of stamps and postal markings. UNIQUE



Registered cover from SHIGATSE, franked with a 1 Karmanga and 1 Tschakey stamp, cancelled with SHIGATSE postmark (Hellrigl T36), furthermore the very rare registration handstamp from SHIGATSE (Hellrigl T80).

Only 5-9 covers with this registration handstamp are known, in this combination of stamps and markings most likely UNIQUE.

1. Issue 1912

1.5.3 Denomination 1 Tschakey, Mixed frankings - Continuation



Parcel address from LHASA, franked with a 1 Karmanga and 1 Tschakey stamp, cancelled LHASA (Hellrigl T-4), furthermore the very rare registration handstamp from LHASA (Hellrigl T72).

Very rare combination of stamps and postmarks. Only 5-9 covers with this registration handstamp are known.



Cover from GYANTSE, franked with a 1 Khakang and 1 Tschakey stamp, cancelled with GYANTSE postmark of Type (Hellrigl T3), Extremely rare combination of stamps.

1. Issue 1912**1.6.1 Denomination 1 Shokang, Printings and Colors**

The 1 Shokang denomination is the second most commonly used stamp issue 1912 after the 1 Khakang denomination. What is also interesting is that the stamps of position 6 and 7 in the sheet show a permanent flaw "POTSAGE" instead of "POSTAGE" in the inscription. During the 40 years in which these stamps were printed, the flaw was never corrected.



Complete sheet from the first printing of around 1912, pink-carmine (11B8), Waterfall No. 58.



Complete sheet from the second printing, carmine-pink (11A7), Waterfall No. 59.

1. Issue 1912**1.6.1 Denomination 1 Shokang, Printings and Colors - Continuation**

From 1923 onwards the stamps have been printed in shiny colors. Here is a complete sheet in (shiny) bright lilac carmine shade (11D8), Waterfall No. 67.



A very rare complete sheet from the shiny period that has been printed around 1928-30 in brownish carmine. This sheet has a very shiny appearance.

1. Issue 1912

1.6.1 Denomination 1 Shokang, Printings and Colors - Continuation

1.6.2 Platte Flaw EOSTAGE



Another peculiarity of this denomination is the error "EOSTAGE instead of "POSTAGE" found on stamp position No. 12 (lower right corner) in the sheet. It appears that this error has been corrected during the period of printing as the error is not seen in later printings. Complete sheets showing this error are very scarce. Here is such a sheet printed in brownish red shade (10C8) Waterfall No. 62



Enlarged detail showing the „EOSTAGE“ flaw.

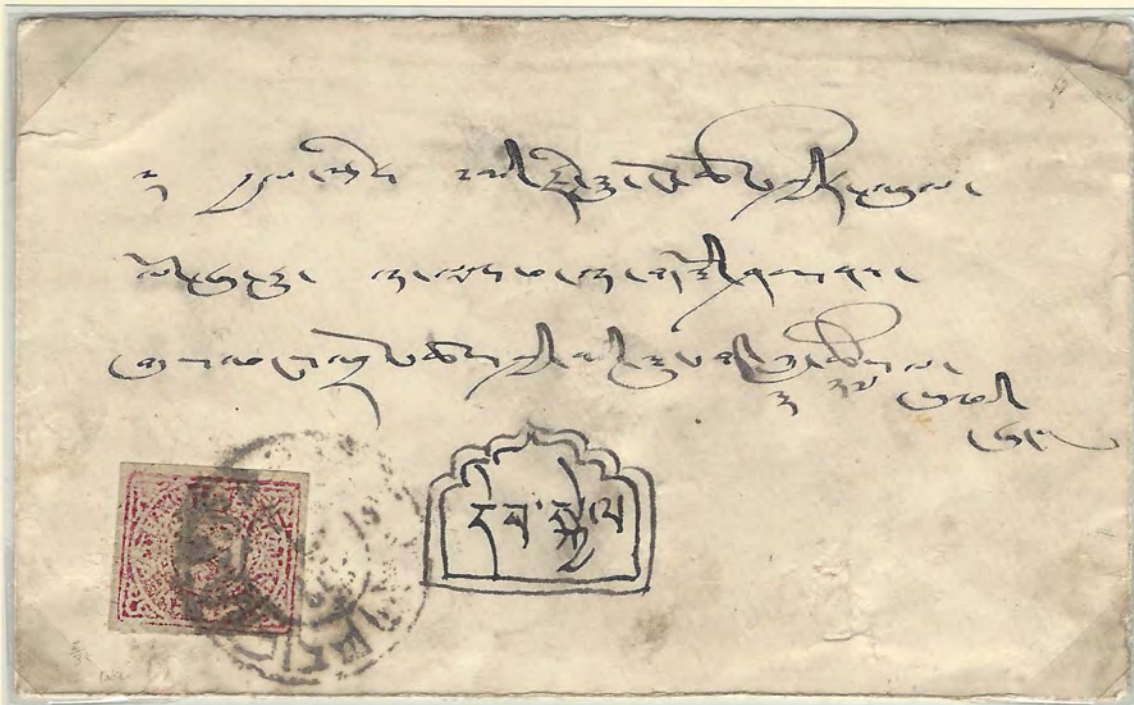


Another complete sheet showing the "EOSTAGE" flaw in stamp position 12. This sheet is particularly interesting as it is commercially used, most likely as a franking on a parcel. Commercially used multiples are already very scarce, a complete sheet as the one shown is a rarity. The sheet is cancelled with the postmark from LHASA of Type V or VI.

1. Issue 1912

1.6.3 Denomination 1 Shokang, Single Frankings

The denomination of 1 Shokang was used mostly as single franking for registered letters of the first weight class, in use from 1912 - 1933. Despite that this stamp was much used, strangely enough very few covers have survived.



Registered cover from LHASA, franked with a 1 Shokang stamp, color lilac carmine (shiny), cancelled with the postmark of LHASA Type 7 (Hellrigl T15). On the left side, beside the stamp, the registration marking, as usually only as manuscript marking.



Sealed registered cover from PHARI to LHASA, 1 Shokang stamp in dull carmine shade, cancelled with the postmark of PHARI Type 10 (Hellrigl T34). Below the stamp the registration marking, as mostly only as manuscript marking. That cover is from the Angdrugtshang Correspondence which was discovered in Lokda, Tibet in 2007. The Angdrugtshang family was a famous Tibetan trader family located in Kham.

1. Issue 1912

1.6.3 Denomination 1 Shokang, Single Frankings - Continuation



Sealed registered cover from LHASA to GYANTSE, the 1 Shokang stamp is from the lilac carmine (shiny) shade. Cancelled with LHASA Type VII (Hellrigl T15). The manuscript registration marking can be found on the reverse side of the cover.



Registered cover from GYANTSE, franked with a 1 Shokang stamp, cancelled with a GYANTSE (Hellrigl T3). The cover bears the crest of Shape Tserong, the then Minister Finance of the Government of Tibet and Master of the Mint.

1. Issue 1912**1.7.1 Denomination 1 Trangka, Printings and Colors**

This stamp, the highest denomination of the issue 1912, is also the least used which is the reason that very few printings have been carried out, resulting in very few color shades.



Complete sheet from the first printing in scarlet red shade (9B8), Waterfall No. 72.

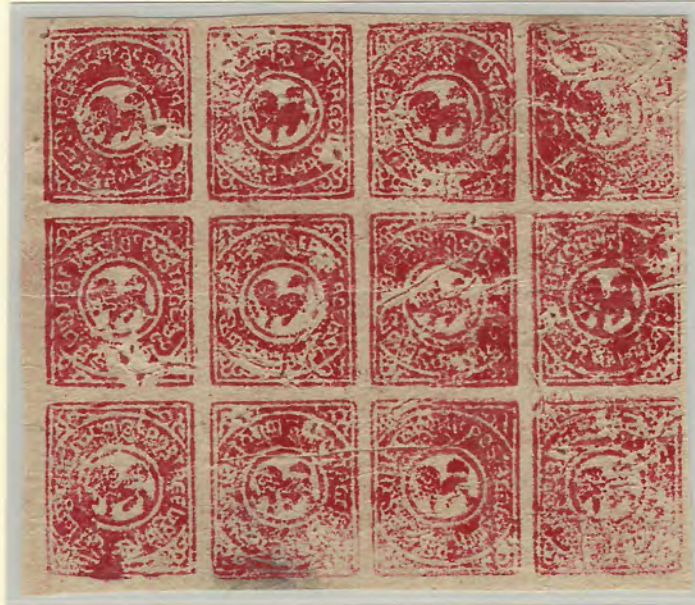


Complete sheet from the second printing in orange red shade (9B8) Waterfall No. 73.

1. Issue 1912

1.7.1 Denomination 1 Trangka, Printings and Colors - Continuation

Around 1930, by mistake, some sheets of the 1 Trangka denomination had been printed in the color of the 1 Shokang (2/3 Trangka) denomination. While single stamps are already scarce, complete sheets are very rare.



Since the stamps were printed during the "Shiny-Period", this ink had also been used for these printings. Here a complete sheet in color shade (shiny) carmine red, (11C9), Waterfall No. 78.

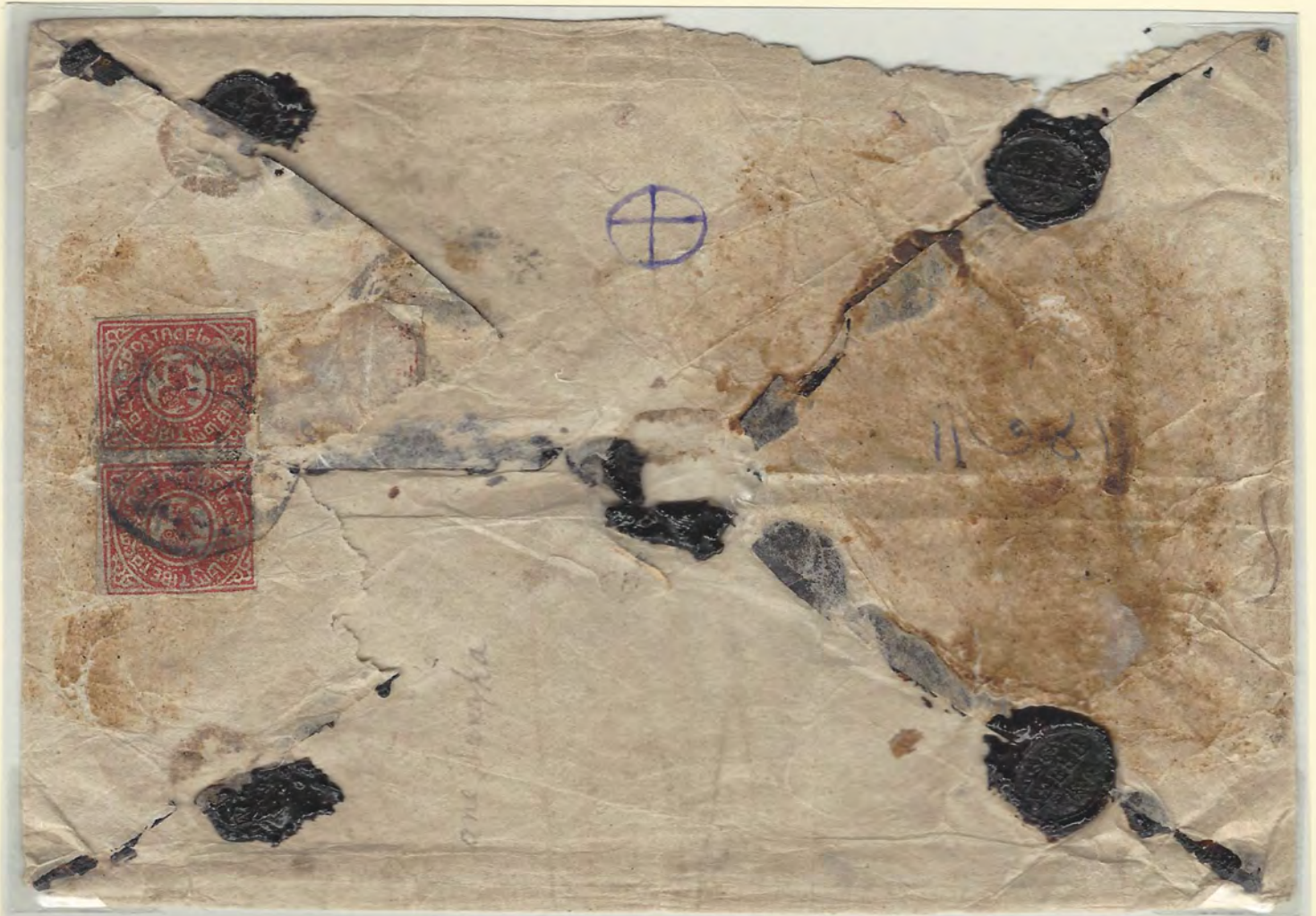


This sheet is a new discovery. The stamps are printed in shiny carmine red shade (11C/D9).
This color shade is not listed in the philatelic Tibet literature.

1. Issue 1912

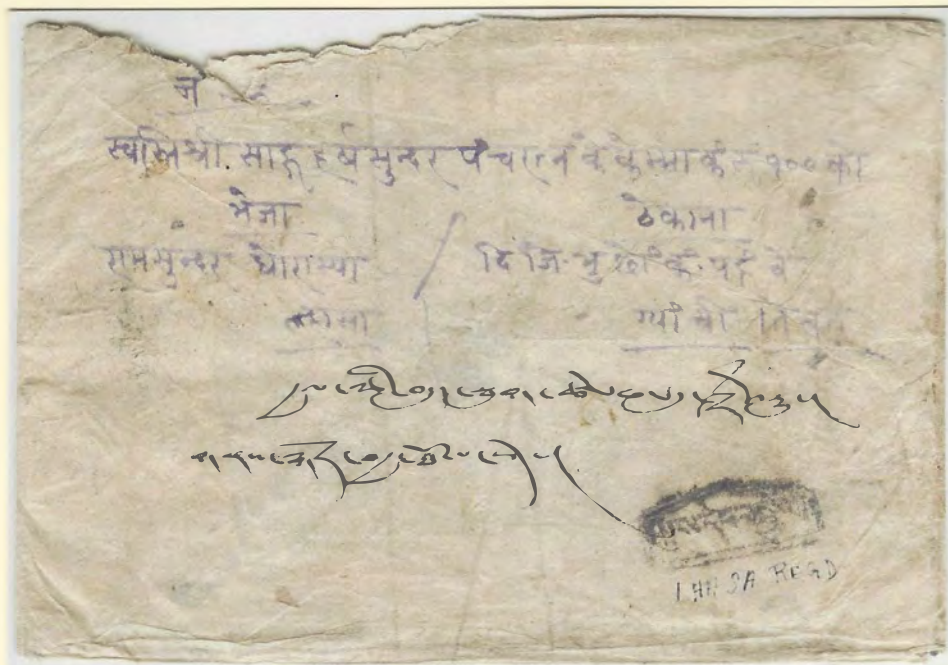
1.7.2 Denomination 1 Trangka, Multiple frankings

The 1 Trangka denomination of issue 1912 was used very little and apparently only in Lhasa.



Registered cover from LHASA, franked with a horizontal pair of the 1 Trangka stamp to make up the registered rate of a triple weight cover. On reverse the extremely rare registration handstamp of LHASA (Hellrigl) Type T75,

Only 5-9 covers with that registration handstamp are known, in this franking UNIQUE.



Reduced copy of the reverse side, showing the registration handstamp.

1. Issue 1912

1.8.1 Denomination 1 Sang, Printings and Colors

In 1952 green stamps were observed which were initially believed to be ordinary 1 Khakang stamps until a collector noted the different denomination in the inscription of the stamps. The newly discovered stamp had the denomination of 1 Sang, equal to 6 2/3 Trangka. Until recently it was a mystery for many years why these stamps in the design of the 1912 issue were only issued in 1952 when some proofs/essays of this denomination were discovered. These proofs/essays were printed together with other denominations of the 1912 issue on paper strips and proved that the 1 Sang value indeed was already designed in 1912 but only issued in 1952 and was used primary for telegraphic purpose (fee 1 Sang per word).

ཁ་གཏ

Denomination in Tibetan script
1 Khakang

འདྲུག་གཏ

Denomination in Tibetan script
1 Sang

The denomination can be found in the 5 o'clock position of the stamps



Block of four, blue-green (25D5)



Block of four, blue-green (24D5)



Multiples or complete sheets from this stamp are hard to find. The sheet shown has the color shade blue-green (27D5), Waterfall No. 82 and is printed on very thin paper.

2. Issue 1914, 4 and 8 Trangka

2.1 Mint Stamps, Printings and colors

The 1914 issue consisting of two stamps only, contrary to the previous issue, were printed in sheets of 6 stamps, most likely due to the size of the stamps which are considerably larger than the previous issue. Also these stamps have been carved into one printing block of wood and only printed on demand, again causing different color shades. The stamps were only discovered in 1924, but based on very few known covers, the year of issue was determined to be 1914.



Indigo



Indigo



Dark Blue



Dull Grey-Blue

Due to its rarity, the 4 Trangka stamps are often called
"The Blue Mauritius of the Far East".

Shown are four stamps in different color shades.



Vermilion

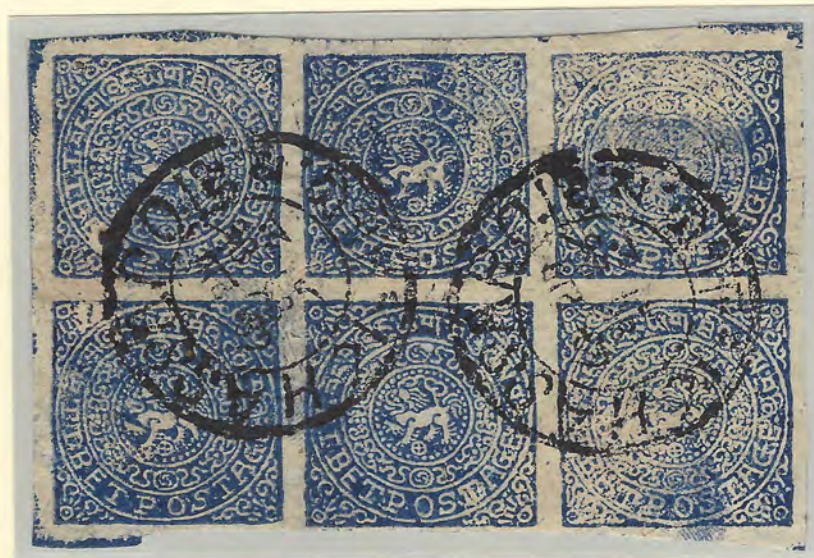


Lake-Carmine

The 4 und 8 Trangka stamps appear to be very similar. The main criterion for separating them is the ornaments in the corners of the stamps. For the 4 Trangka stamps the small rays from the ring point inward, while for the 8 Tr. stamps the small rays from the ring point outward.

2. Issue 1914, 4 and 8 Trangka

2.2 Denomination 4 Trangka, Complete Sheets



Complete sheet with cropped sheet margins. Color shade indigo (Shiny) (20F6), (W-89), cancelled with LHASA Type II (Hellrigl T10)



Complete sheet with cropped sheet margins. Color shade dark blue (21F6), (W-90), cancelled with LHASA Type II (Hellrigl T10).

2. Issue 1914, 4 and 8 Trangka

2.3 Denomination 4 Trangka, Variety - Double Print

2.4 Denomination 4 Trangka, Usage

Despite the very crude printing method, very few printing errors are known from Tibet, even double prints are rare and from the double print shown apparently only one sheet of 6 stamps was printed out of which 3 stamps are currently known to exist.



4 Trangka stamp, blue, from the second printing with clear double print, cancelled with LHASA postmark.



Commercial covers franked with the 4 Trangka stamps of this issue are basically nonexistent since the postage value was too high to be used on covers. Even philatelic covers such as the one shown are extremely rare.

2. Issue 1914, 4 and 8 Trangka

2.5 Denomination 8 Trangka, Complete Sheets



Complete sheet with cropped sheet margins. Color shade carmine (shiny) (10C8), (W-94), cancelled with LHASA Type II (Hellrigl T10).



Complete sheet from the late printings (ca. 1955), color shade carmine (11B6), Waterfall No. 97.

2. Issue 1914, 4 and 8 Trangka

2.6 Denomination 4 Trangka, Variety - Double Print

2.7 Denomination 4 Trangka, Usage

Similar to the earlier shown 4 Trangka stamp with double print, also from the 8 Trangka stamp very few stamps with double print are known. From the double print shown here apparently only one sheet of 6 stamps was printed.



8 Trangka stamp from position 5 of the sheet of 6 with very clear double print.



Registered cover from LHASA (ca. 1950-55). Mixed franking of a 1 Tschakey stamp (violet shade) from the 1912 issue and a 8 Trangka stamp (color carmine) from the 1912 issue, cancelled LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42). Late use of both stamps as the postmark of Type 8 (Hellrigl T42) was in use from 1933 only.

3. Issue 1933

3.1. Proof Sheets

Prior to the distribution of the new issues in 1933 the mint in Lhasa has sent such small proof sheetlets to the post offices so they are aware of the new issues. Two clichés were printed on small paper strips but with larger space between the stamps then later on in the original sheets. Such cliché combinations are not found in the later original printings.

The proof sheets were not specially marked and have been many times cut into individual stamps and used as ordinary postage stamps.



Proof sheetlet from the 1 Shokang value, Clichés 5 and 3, dark blue (21F8), W-100), cancelled LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42). Only two such cancelled proof sheetlets with large margins are known.



Proof sheetlets of the 1 Shokang value, Clichés 5 and 3, dark blue (21F8), W-100. Only two - three more mint sheetlets from this value are known.



Proof sheetlet of the 1 Trangka value, clichés 5 and 12, dark carmine (11D8), W-102. Extremely few (two - three) such mint proof sheets of this value is known.

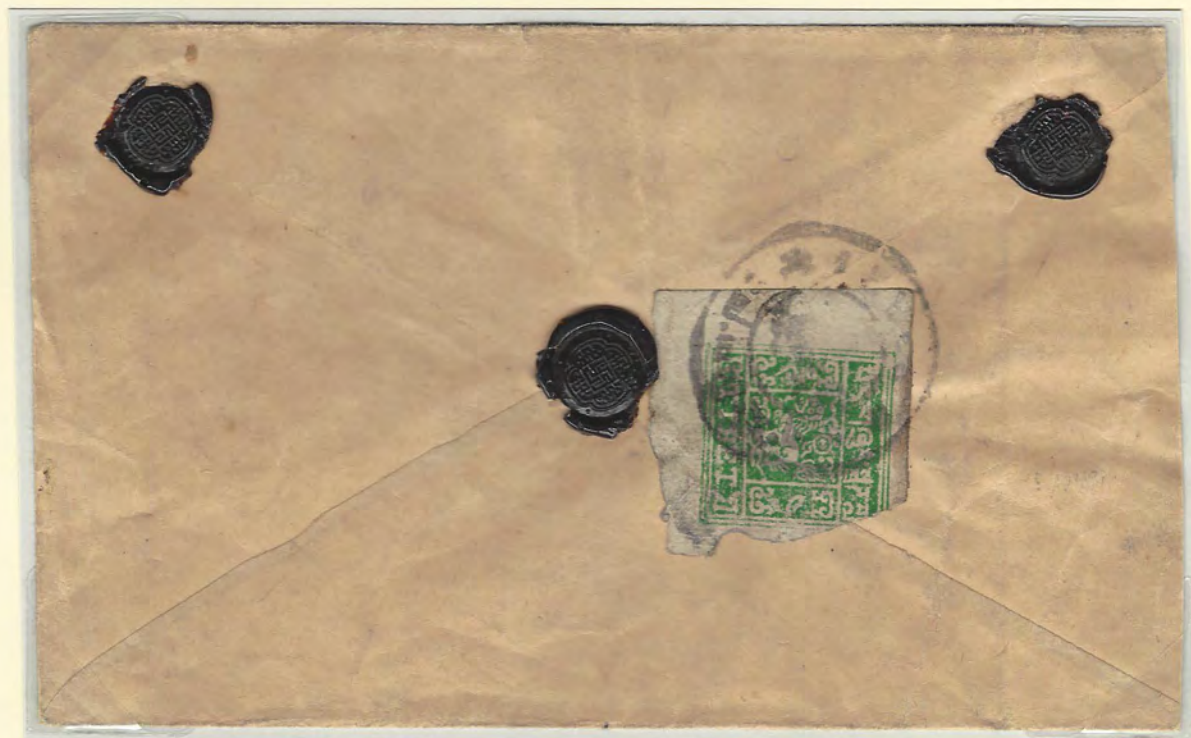
3. Issue 1933

3.1. Proof Sheets - Continuation



Proof sheetlet of the 2 Trangka value, clichés 9 and 8, dark carmine (11D8), W-102.
Extremely few such complete mint proof sheetlets are known.

Proof sheets from the 4 Trangka denomination are the rarest proof sheets of the 1933 issue of Tibet with no mint copy known.



Registered cover from LHASA, franked with a half proof sheetlet which is recognizable by the wide margin on the left, right and lower margin as well as on the double outer frame lines of the 4 Trangka value, cancelled with LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42) postmark. Additionally 3 small black wax seals from the Prime Minister of Tibet, The seal were described by Waterfall as "Four High Secretaries". These small black wax seals with the Swastika in the centre are doubtless the most important black wax seals of Tibet.

3. Issue 1933

3.2. Single stamps

Contrary to the previous issue where the stamps have been carved into one printing block, the printing block for these stamps consisted now of 12 separate clichés, bound together to make one printing plate. After a certain number of printings, the clichés were filled with ink remains, so the printing plates have been separated, the clichés cleaned and bound together again to complete the printing plate. However, since the separate clichés have been carved by hand, they were slightly different from each other and several different settings could be identified, numbered with Arabic numbers from 1 to 4.

With the time, the strings tiding the 12 separate clichés together got loose and sometimes a cliché got tilted, producing so-called "states". These states as they are called are identified with figures A-E.

The stamps have been printed on demand and therefore, as from the previous issues, exists a large number of different colors and shades.

Perforated stamps exist from this issue but only the very first printing are perforated officially, however, privately perforated stamps exists also from the later issues.

Denomination	Printed in the years from	Setting	State	Colors
1 Tschakey	1933 - 1936	1	A-B	4
	1936 - 1941	2	A-B	5
	1941 - 1950	3		7
	1950 - 1960	4	A-C	5
1 Shokang	1933 - 1934	1	A-B	4
	1935 - 1941	2		2
	1942 - 1950	3		3
	1950 - 1960	4	A-D	8
1 Trangka	1933 - 1940	1		9
	1941 - 1948	2		4
	1948 - 1953	3	A-B	8
	1953 - 1960	4		9
2 Trangka	1933 - 1950	1	A-B	16
	1950 - 1960	2	A-B	18
4 Trangka	1933 - 1951	1	A-E	18
	1951 - 1960	2		22



1 Tschakey



1 Shokang



1 Trangka



2 Trangka



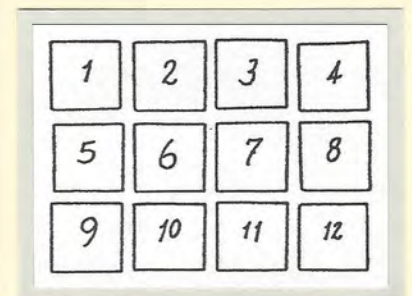
4 Trangka

All stamps above are from the first setting of the relevant denomination, originally perforated L11.

3. Issue 1933

3.3. Settings and Colors

3.3.1. Denomination 1 Tschakey, Settings and Colors



Setting 1, orange (6A8), (W-105). Sheet from the first printing, genuine perforated L10. The right sheet margin shows staple holes which is a specific of the first settings. Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1933 - 1937.

Setting 1
Cliché allocation



Setting 1, complete sheet, orange, (5A8), (W-107), imperforated. Imperforated sheets from that setting are much scarcer than perforated ones.

3. Issue 1933

3.3.1. Denomination 1 Tschakey, Settings and Colors - Continuation



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

Setting 2, bright chrome yellow (4A10), (W-110). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1937-1941.

Setting 2
Cliché allocation



In this specific color shade the sheet is a new discovery. The shade is from the bistre shade which were used at the end of the printing of setting 2 and the beginning of the printings of setting 3.

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

Setting 3, bistre (5D7-8) (W-114), Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1941-1950.

Setting 3
Cliché allocation

3. Issue 1933

3.3.1. Denomination 1 Tschakey, Settings and Colors - Continuation

Setting 4 can be differentiated by three different states, their characteristics and differences are shown here.

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

Setting 4A
Cliché allocation

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

Setting 4B
Cliché allocation

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

Setting 4C
Cliché allocation

In Setting 4A cliché 7 (position 11) tilts to the left, whereas in Setting 4B and 4C it is fairly well aligned. In Setting 4A cliché 1 (position 9) is fairly well aligned, while in Settings 4B and 4C it tilts to the left. In Setting 4C cliché 11 (position 5) tilts more to the right than in Setting 4B as does cliché 2 (position 6).



Setting 4A, lemon yellow, (4A6), (W-123). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1950-1960 and in this particular color in around 1957.

3. Issue 1933

3.3.2. Denomination 1 Tschakey, Usages



Cover from India to Phari(jong), on reverse side arrival postmark from the British-Indian Post in Tibet, Lhasa, 19 June 1933, franked 1 Tschakey stamp, perforated, cancelled by PHARI, Type 8 (Hellrigl) T44. **This is the earliest known cover franked with the 1 Tschakey stamp of the issue 1933 .**



Cover from Nepal (Postmark of the British-Indian Post in Nepal) dated 17 October 1933 via Gyantse (19 October 1933) to LHASA. 1 Tschakey stamp, perforated, cancelled GYANTSE Type 8 (Hellrigl) T41.

3. Issue 1933

3.3.2. Denomination 1 Tschakey, Usages - Continuation



Cover from Gyantse (ca. 1935/36), perforated 1 Tschakey stamp, cancelled GYANTSE Type 8, (Hellrigl T41). The stamp is either from the last printings of Setting 1 or the first printings of Settings 2.



Registered cover from PENAM to LHASA (ca. 1943), franked with a horizontal strip of 4 from the bottom row of the sheet, setting 3, cancelled by PENAM Type IX (Hellrigl T55).

Extremely rare cover. Practically all known covers with this postmark are philatelic inspired, as commercial cover with such a franking UNIQUE.

3. Issue 1933

3.4. Settings and Colors

3.4.1. Denomination 1 Shokang, Settings and Colors



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

Setting 1, dark blue (21F8), (W-126). Sheet from the first printing, genuine perforated L10. The right sheet margin shows staple holes which is specific to the first settings. Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1933 - 1937.

Setting 1
Cliché allocation



Setting 1, dark ultramarine (21F8), genuine perforated L10.
New discovered color shade of this setting and denomination.

3. Issue 1933

3.4.1. Denomination 1 Shokang, Settings and Colors - Continuation



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

Setting 2, dark blue (21F8), (W-130). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1937-1944.

Setting 2
Cliché allocation



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

Setting 3, indigo, (21E5), (W-133). Pre-printing paper folded through stamps 5 and 9 (clichés 1 and 11) as well as stamps 7, 8 and 12 (clichés 4, 10 und 7).

Setting 3
Cliché allocation

3. Issue 1933

3.4.1. Denomination 1 Shokang, Settings and Colors - Continuation



Setting 4 A-I, dull indigo (21F5, (W-139). From that setting several states are known. In setting/state A1, stamp No. 1 (cliché 9) is above stamp No. 2 (cliché 7). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1950-1960.

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

Setting 4A-I
Cliché allocation



Setting 4 A-II, grey blue, (21E5, (W-136). The difference to setting/state 4A-II is stamp No. 1 (cliché 9) which is now on same height as stamp No. 2 (cliché 7). Furthermore, stamp No. 7 (cliché 5) is tilt to the right.

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

Setting 4A-II
Cliché allocation

3. Issue 1933

3.4.1. Denomination 1 Shokang, Settings and Colors - Continuation



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

Setting 4 B, dark blue, (21F8, (W-136). This setting is very easy to recognize by stamp No. 1 (cliché 9) which in this setting/state is bent to the right.

Setting 4B
Cliché allocation



Setting 4 B, dull indigo, (21F5, (W-139).

3. Issue 1933

3.4.1. Denomination 1 Shokang, Settings and Colors - Continuation



Setting 4 C, violet blue (19F8), (W-140). In this state, stamp No. 1 (cliché 9) is again well aligned while stamp No. 7 (cliché 5) is bent to the right. This sheet is printed very clear.

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

Setting 4C
Cliché allocation



Setting 4 D, dark indigo (21F5), (W-139). The difference to setting/state 4C can be best noted at stamp No. 7 (cliché 5) which is now, compared to setting/state 4C, somewhat straightened whereas stamp No. 2 (cliché 7) is bent slightly more to the right than in setting/state 4C.

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

Setting 4D
Cliché allocation

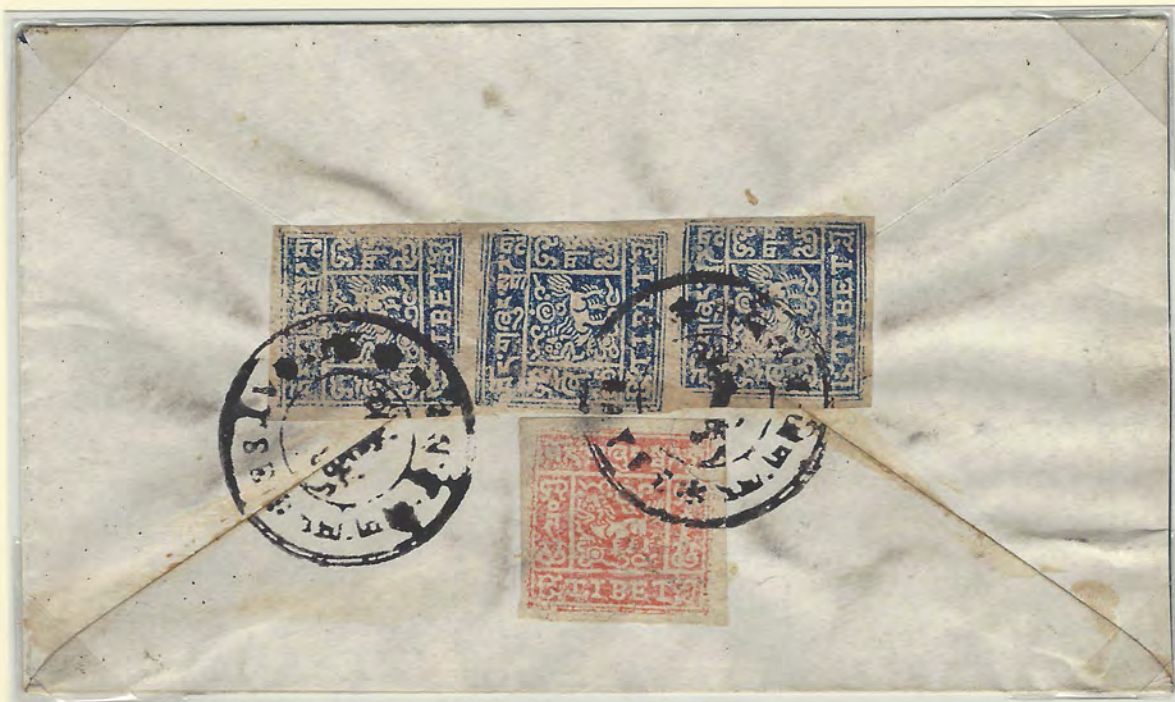
3. Issue 1933

3.4.2. Denomination 1 Shokang, Usages

The postage rate for a single 1 Shokang stamp was in use for a very short time only, therefore very few covers with a single 1 Shokang stamps, especially those with a perforated stamp of setting 1, are known.



Cover from Phari, single franking with 1 Shokang stamp from Setting 1, perforated, cancelled PHARI Type 8 (Hellrigl) T44.



Registered cover from SHIGATSE (ca. 1950) franked with a horizontal strip of three of the 1 Shokang (2/3 Trangka) denomination (Setting 4A) plus a single copy of the 2 Trangka value to make up the 4 Trangka registration rate in use from 1943-1855. Postmark SHIGATSE Type 8 (Hellrigl T46).

3. Issue 1933

3.4.2. Denomination 1 Shokang, Usages - Continuation



Registered cover from GYANTSE (ca. 1952), franked with a half sheet of the 1 Shokang (2/3 Trangka) denomination, setting 4A-II, clichés 6-8, 5-1, 4-3, to make up the registration rate of 4 Trangka. Postmark GYANTSE Type 8 (Hellrigl T41).

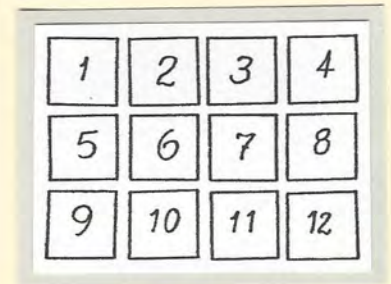


Registered cover from LHASA to GYANTSE (ca. 1950-55), again franked with a half sheet of the 1 Shokang (2/3 Trangka) denomination, setting 4C, indigo shade, to make up the registration rate of 4 Trangka. Postmark LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42).

3. Issue 1933

3.5. Settings and Colors

3.5.1. Denomination 1 Trangka, Settings and Colors



Setting 1, deep carmine (11B9), (W-141). Sheet from the first printing, genuine perforated L10. The right sheet margin shows staple holes which is specific to the first settings. The bottom row shows double perforation. Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1933 - 1940.

Setting 1
Cliché allocation

This is the only known complete sheet of setting 1 with double perforations.



Setting 2, cherry-red-carmine (11A7), (W-146), Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1937-1944.

3. Issue 1933

3.5.1. Denomination 1 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation



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

Setting 2, bright orange (7A8), (W-153). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1941-1948.

Setting 2
Cliché allocation



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

Setting 3
Cliché allocation

Setting 3 has been printed from 1949-1953. Also from that setting two states are known. Here setting 3B in orange-carmine (8B8) (W157a) shade. Setting 3B has the same cliché allocation as setting 3A, the difference is in the right stamp column (stamps 4, 8 and 12), (clichés No. 12, 1 and 9). These clichés are cracked, starting in the upper right corner of stamp No. 4 and ending in bottom right corner of stamp No. 12.

3. Issue 1933

3.5.1. Denomination 1 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation



Setting 3: On the previously shown sheet, the damage of the right column of stamps (stamps 4, 8 and 12), (clichés No. 12, 1 and 9) was visible only by a white line. On the sheet shown here, the cliché parts are complete broken. **This is the only sheet known.**



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

Setting 4, reddish-vermillion (8A7), (W-161). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1953-1960.

Setting 4
Cliché allocation

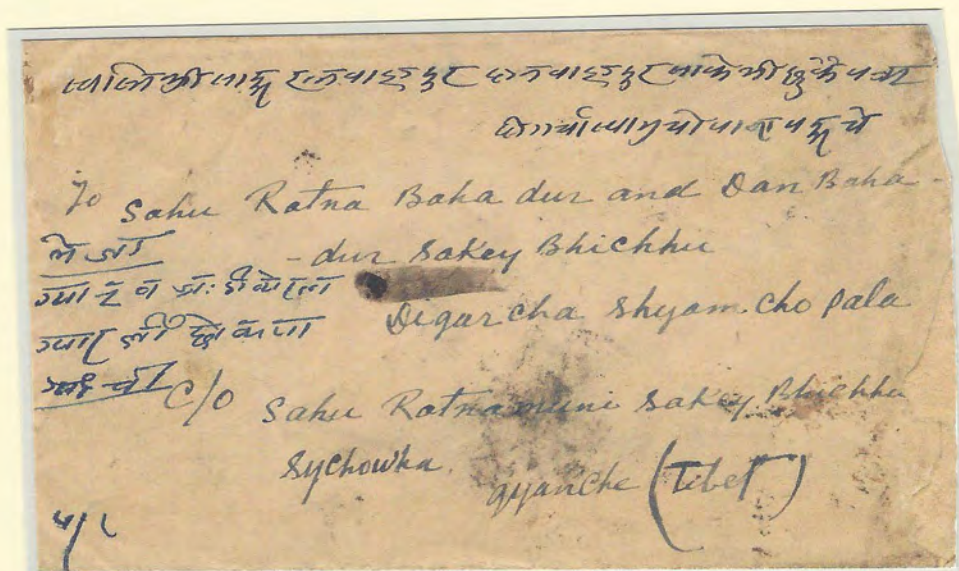
3. Issue 1933

3.5.2. Denomination 1 Trangka, Usages

The cover shown is not franked with a 1/2 Trangka stamp which was the postage rate for an ordinary local cover at that time. Instead, it is franked with a bisected 1 Trangka, perforated from setting 1. Bisect (and Quadrisect) stamps of Tibet are known from 1953/55 onwards (see chapter 5 of this exhibit). The cover shown is the first and so far the only cover franked with a bisected stamp dated 1933, the year of issue of the stamp.



Bisected 1 Trangka red on cover dated June 1933 from Kathmandu via Gyantse to Shigatse. The cover has been sent thru the British-Indian Post in Nepal and therefore franked with Indian stamps, postmarked Kathmandu "NEPAL / 22.JUN 33 /...", transit postmark Gyantse, 1 July 1933. In Gyantse the bisected 1 tr. stamp for the onward transport by the Tibetan Postal system has been added and cancelled by Bi-Lingual GYANTSE handstamp (Hellrigl T 41) and consequently forwarded to Shigatse. The 1/2 tr. postage was the then current postage rate for an ordinary local letter.



From the time when that letter was mailed, no shortage of 1/2 Trangka is reported. It is therefore assumed that temporarily no 1/2 Trangka stamps were available and therefore a bisected 1 Trangka stamps was used and accepted by the Tibetan Post, or the 1/2 Trangka stamps were not yet issued at that time which may be the explanation that no 1/2 Trangka proof sheets are known.

3. Issue 1933

3.5.2. Denomination 1 Trangka, Usages - Continuation



Local cover from PHARI (ca. 1940), franked with a 1 Trangka stamp, cancelled PHARI Type 8 (Hellrigl T44). The stamp is from setting 1, genuine perforated but with **perforation variety "imperforated on left and right side"**.



Combination Cover from Calcutta / India via Phari(jong) to LHASA. The cover was mailed from Calcutta with an India stamp, canceled Bara Bazar March 1938 from where it was forwarded to the British-Indian Post office in Pharijong/Tibet (Transit Postmark 10 March 1938) from where it was handed over to the Tibetan Post Office, additionally franked with the 1 Trangka stamp, color shade rose carmine (W-145), cancelled PHARI Type 8 (Hellrigl T44) and carried to LHASA.

3. Issue 1933

3.6. Settings and Colors

3.6.1. Denomination 2 Trangka, Settings and Colors



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

Setting 1, scarlet (W-170). Sheet from the first printing, genuine perforated L10. The right sheet margin shows staple holes which is specific to the first settings. Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1933 - 1945.

Setting 1
Cliché allocation



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

Setting 1A (Variety), bright scarlet (10B9), (W-175). imperforated. The difference to Setting 1 is Stamp No. 1 (cliché 1) which is tilted to the right.

Setting 1A (Variety)
Cliché allocation

3. Issue 1933

3.6.1. Denomination 2 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation



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

Setting 1B, orange red (8C8). In setting 1B, stamp No. 1 (cliché 1) is still tilt to the right, but stamp No. 9 (cliché 9) is now tilted left and stamp No. 12 (cliché 12) is tilted right.

Setting 1B
Cliché allocation



Setting 1B, orange vermillion

3. Issue 1933

3.6.1. Denomination 2 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation



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

Setting 2A. Also from that setting two states exists, in addition to a large variety of color shades. Here a complete sheet in an unlisted deep red shade (10E8). Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1950-1960.

Setting 2A
Cliché allocation



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

Setting 2B, dull orange (10E8). In Setting 2A, stamp 12 (cliché 1) is very bent strongly to the right, whereas in Setting 2B it is well aligned.

Setting 2B
Cliché allocation

3. Issue 1933

3.6.1. Denomination 2 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation



Setting 2B, deep red (10E8) This shade was newly discovered by me and previously not known from that setting/state.



Setting 2B, dark brick red (10D8).

3. Issue 1933**3.6.1. Denomination 2 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation**

This last printing of the 2 Trangka denomination has been done in two different shades of yellow. Both shades are shown here of which the scarcer one is the lower sheet. These yellow shades are by far the scarcest shades of the 2 Trangka denomination.



Setting 2B, yellow (4A6).



Setting 2B, dark yellow (4A8).

3. Issue 1933

3.6.2. 2 Trangka, Usages

Similar to the other denominations of the 1933 issue, the perforated stamp of the first setting are very rarely used on covers.



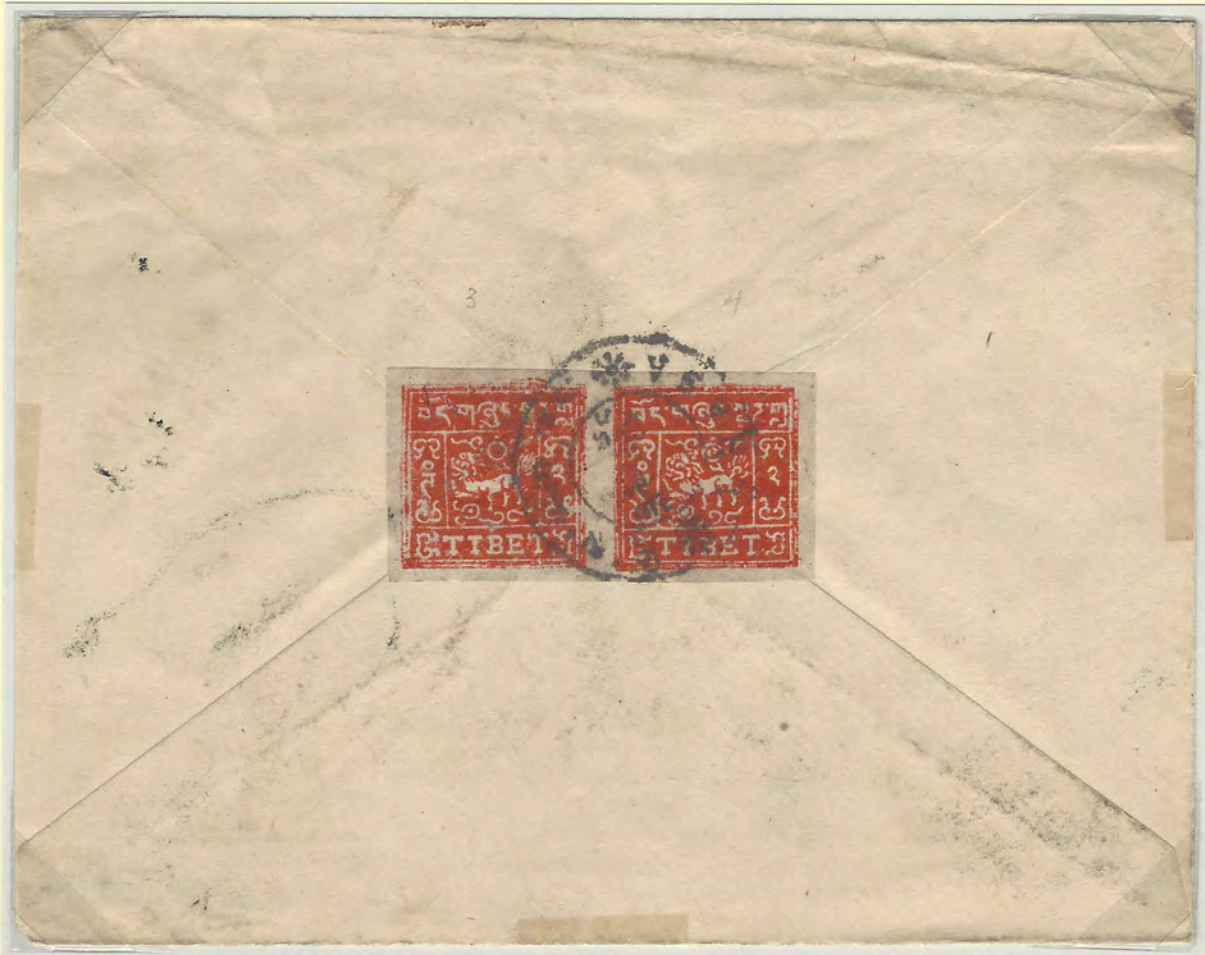
Registered cover from GYANTSE to LHASA, franked with a 2 Trangka stamp, setting 1, genuinely perforated. Manuscript dated on front 15 May, as usual without indication of year.



Registered cover from PHARI (ca. 1940) franked with a 2 Trangka stamp, setting 1, genuinely perforated, cancelled with PHARI Type 8 (Hellrigl T44). The postage rate of 2 Trangka for a registered cover was valid from around 1936-1943.

3. Issue 1933

3.6.2. 2 Trangka, Usages - Continuation



Registered Cover from LHASA to PHARI (ca. 1949-50, franked with a imperforated horizontal pair of the 2 Trangka stamp, setting 1, clichés 3 and 4 in a new discovered shade of deep red-orange, cancelled LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42). Furthermore, on front side of the cover two directional handstamps of type K "FROM LHASA TO PHARI" in addition to a new discovered late registration handstamp, similar to Type Hellrigl T95, however struck in black color.



Registered cover from PHARI to LHASA (1954), franked with a horizontal pair of the 2 Trangka stamps from setting 1B. Late use of stamps of setting 1B from the time when setting 2 was already printed since 4 years earlier. Cancelled PHARI Type 8 (Hellrigl T44). The postage rate of 4 Trangka for a registered cover was valid from around 1943-1955.

3. Issue 1933

3.7. Settings and Colors

3.7.1. Denomination 4 Trangka, Settings and Colors



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

Setting 1A, emerald (27C8), (W-199). Sheet from the first printing, genuine perforated L10. Stamp No. 8 (cliché 8) is not yet damaged. The right sheet margin shows staple holes, specific to the first settings. Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1933 - 1951.

Setting 1A
Cliché allocation

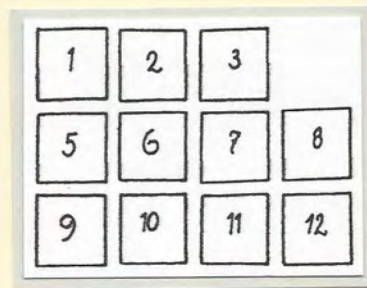


Setting 1A, emerald (27C8), (W-199). Sheet from the first printing, genuine perforated L10. Stamp No. 8 (cliché 8) is already damaged, showing the chest of the lion enlarged. Printed in this setting in various colors and shades from 1933 - 1951.

3. Issue 1933

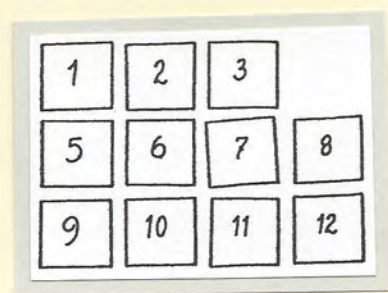
3.7.1. Denomination 4 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation

Soon after the first printings of settings 1A, cliché 4 was lost and the stamps in that denomination were printed in sheets of 11 only.



Setting 1B from the first printings of that state in emerald shade (27C8), (W200). Printed in this setting/state in various colors and shades from 1938-1939.

Setting 1B
Cliché allocation

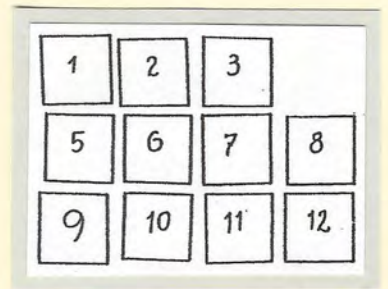


Setting 1C, Block 6 six stamps in green color shade (28E8). That setting/state can be recognized by the color shade as well as on stamp No. 7 (cliché 7) which is tilt to the left. Printed in this setting/state in various colors and shades from 1940-1945.

Setting 1C
Cliché allocation

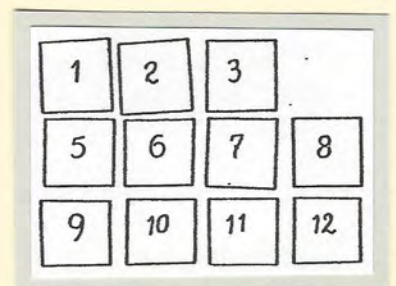
3. Issue 1933

3.7.1. Denomination 4 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation



Setting 1D, emerald shade (27C8), (W-208), in Setting 1D, cliché 1 has become quite tilted, its upper left corner now being a full millimeter above cliché 2. Printed in this setting/state in various colors and shades from 1945-1947.

Setting 1D
Cliché allocation



Setting 1E, yellow green, (28B8), (W-210). In Setting 1C and 1D, cliché 7 is tilted to the left, but in Setting 1E it is tilted to the right. Printed in this setting/state in various colors and shades from 1947-1951.

Setting 1E
Cliché allocation

3. Issue 1933

3.7.1. Denomination 4 Trangka, Settings and Colors - Continuation

For over 13 years sheets have been printed with 11 stamps only. From 1951 onwards again sheets of 12 stamps were printed. While it was initially believed that the lost cliché has been found again, soon it was noticed that a new cliché (No. 13) has been carved that it is 1 mm larger and completes the sheet size of 12 stamps. The new, larger cliché 13 can be found in setting 2 at the bottom right corner of the sheet



Setting 2, blue-green 27D9 (W-215). This color had been used from about 1953-1955.

10	2	9	6
12	8	11	7
3	5	1	13

Setting 2
Cliché allocation



Here is a sheet of Setting 2 in bright apple green (28B9), (W-223). In this shade the last stamps of Tibet had been printed from 1957-1960. The sheet is printed on very thin, almost transparent brown Chinese silky paper. Many more color shades exist from this setting.

3. Issue 1933

3.7.2. Denomination 4 Trangka, Usages

Surprisingly, covers with the perforated 4 Trangka stamp of setting 1 are very rare. It is believed that the stamps printed in 1933 were placed away due to the lack of postage rate where they could be used for. Only years later, after the imperforated stamps had been printed in setting 1B till setting 2 and postage rates were higher for the proper use that the stamps had been found again and used-up. That theory is proven by the postmark on the covers since these stamps are only known from LHASA with the postmark without the double outer ring, used in the late years of the Tibetan Postal system.



4 Trangka stamp, cliché 2, perforated, setting 1, on cover from LHASA. cancelled with LHASA type 8 (Hellrigl T42).



4 Trangka stamp, perforated, setting 1, cliché 5, emerald shade, on cover from LHASA. cancelled LHASA type 8 (Hellrigl T42)

3. Issue 1933

3.7.2. Denomination 4 Trangka, Usages - Continuation



Registered cover from LHASA (ca. 1955), franked with the new, larger, cliché No. 13.



Registered cover from CHUSHU to LHASA (ca. 1955), franked again with the new, larger, cliché No. 13, color shade apple green, printed on very thin, brown, almost transparent Chinese silk paper.

The only cover franked with the stamp from the large cliché used from CHUSHU.

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

- 4.1 Ordinary Covers
- 4.2 Registered Covers
- 4.3 Insured Covers

Official postage rate tables do not exist for Tibet, however, based on the existing dated covers a rough postage rate table with dates of when these rates have been in use could be created.

Time frame	Ordinary covers	Registered covers
1933 - 1935	½ Trangka	1 Trangka
1939 - 1943	1 Trangka	2 Trangka
1943 - 1955	2 Trangka	4 Trangka
1955 - 1960	3 Trangka	5 Trangka

Aside from that, a few "insured covers" are known.

The covers shown on the following pages document on one hand the known postage rates, and also that there was a number of intermediate rates in use. Whether these sometimes very rare rates were based on weight or distances or combination of both is not known. Usually covers were franked with single stamp or multiple frankings, in some rare cases, to make up the intermediate postage rates also by mixed frankings.



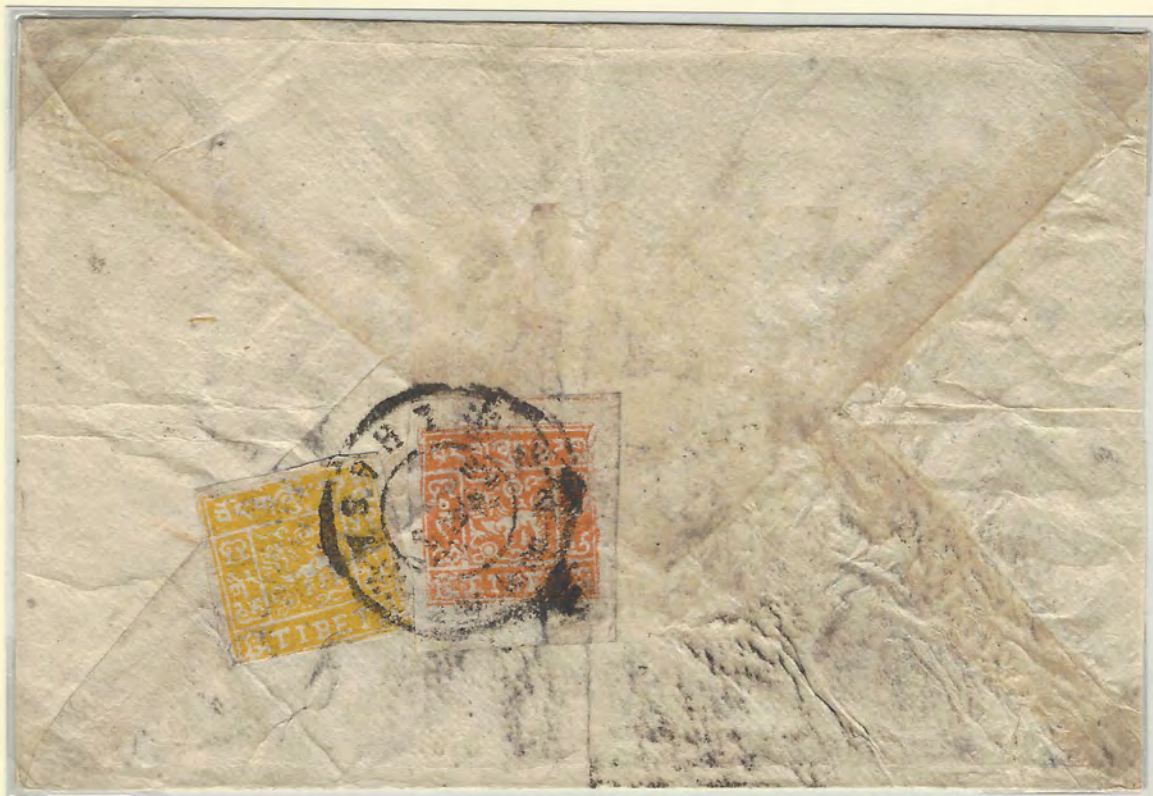
Ordinary cover from LHASA to GYANTSE (ca. 1933), Postage rate 1/2 Trangka, represented by a single 1 Tschakey stamp, setting 1, perforated, cancelled Lhasa Type 8 (Hellrigl T42).

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.1 Ordinary Covers - 1 Trangka & 1 1/2 Trangka Rate



Cover from Gyantse (ca. 1935), franked with a horizontal pair of the 1 Tschakey (1/2 Trangka) denomination, chrome yellow shade from setting 2, clichés 7 and 1, to make up the 1 Trangka rate for ordinary covers, cancelled with GYANTSE postmark (Type 7, Hellrigl T14).



Cover from LHASA to GYANTSE (ca. 1945), postage rate 1 1/2 Trangka, consisting of a 1 Tschakey stamp, color shade chrome yellow and a 1 Trangka stamp, salmon red color shade.

Only three covers with this rate are known.

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.1 Ordinary Covers - 1 2/3 Trangka Rate



Cover from LHASA to PHARI (ca. 1945), postage rate 1 2/3 Trangka, consisting of a 1 Shokang stamp, gray blue shade and 1 Trangka stamp, orange shade.



Cover from LHASA to PHARI (ca. 1945), postage rate 1 2/3 Trangka, consisting of a 1 Shokang stamp, Prussian blue color shade and 1 Trangka stamp, red color shade.

These are the only known covers with the 1 2/3 Trangka postage rate.

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.1 Ordinary Covers - 2 2/3 Trangka and 3 Trangka Rate



Cover to LHASA (ca. 1950), postage rate 2 2/3 Trangka, consisting of a 1 Shokang stamp, blue color shade and 2 Trangka stamp, brown orange color shade.



Cover from GYANTSE to LHASA (ca. 1955), postage rate now 3 Trangka. In 1955 the rate for an ordinary cover has been raised from 2 Trangka to 3 Trangka. This cover has a combination of a 1 Trangka stamp and 2 Trangka stamp. Furthermore, the cover carries a directional handstamp Type C „TO LHASA“.

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.1 Ordinary Covers - 3 Trangka Rate



Cover from SHIGATSE to LHASA (ca. 1955) postage rate 3 Trangka, consisting of a vertical strip of three of the 2/3 Trangka stamp (shiny printing) setting 1, clichés 4,, 8 und 12 (late usage) as well as two single stamps of the 1/2 Trangka stamp. The stamps are cancelled by the SHIGATSE postmark Type 8 (Hellrigl T46).

This is up to know the only cover with that combination of stamps.



Cover from GYANTSE to LHASA (ca. 1955), The franking is a combination of a horizontal pair of the 1/2 Trangka stamp (yellow) and a 2 Trangka (orange) stamp. The cover furthermore carries a directional handstamp Type C „TO LHASA“.

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.2 Registered Covers - 4 Trangka Rate



Registered cover from GYANTSE to SHIGATSE, franked with a block of four of the 1/2 Trangka (yellow) stamp as well as an irregular strip of three of the 2/3 Trangka stamp, blue, to make up the total postage rate of 4 Trangka. Postmark Gyantse Type 8 (Hellrigl T42) in addition to arrival postmark Shigatse Type 8 (Hellrigl T46).



Registered cover from LHASA to GYANTSE, franked with a horizontal strip of 3 of the 2/3 Trangka stamp (blue), setting 4A, clichés 7, 6 and 8) in addition to a 2 Trangka stamp, pink shade. Total rate 4 Trangka. Postmark Gyantse Type 8 (Hellrigl T42) in addition on front side, directional handstamp „LHASA TO GYANTSE“.

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.2 Registered Covers - 4 1/2 Trangka and 4 2/3 Trangka Rate

In 1955 the postage rate for an registered cover has been raised from 4 Trangka to 5 Trangka. As the two shown covers demonstrate, there must have been some intermediate rates in use.



Registered cover from LHASA (ca. 1955). Postage rate 4 1/2 Trangka consisting of a 1 Tschakey (yellow) stamp and a 4 Trangka (green) stamp. Only few covers with the 4 1/2 Trangka postage rate are known.

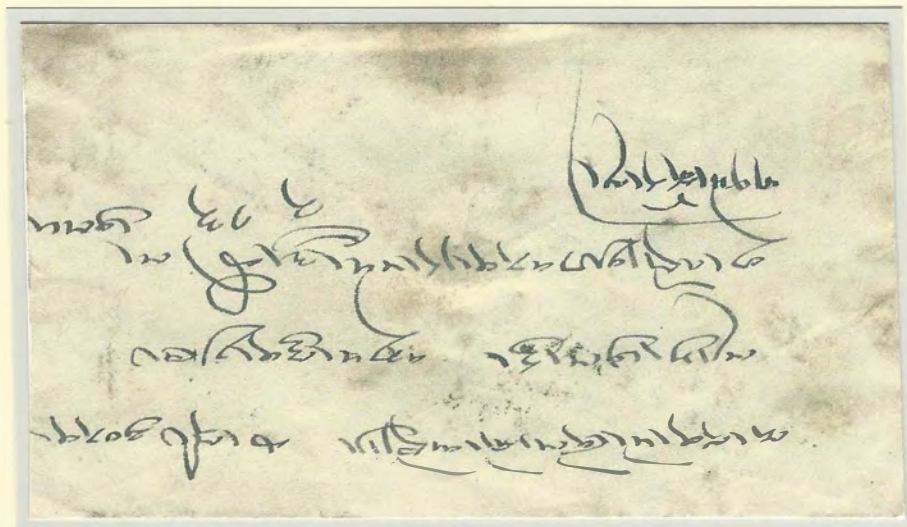


Registered cover from LHASA (ca. 1955) franked with a total of 4 2/3 Trangka, consisting of one 4 Trangka stamp (green) and one 2/3 Trangka stamp (blue), cancelled with the postmark of LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42).

4 Issue 1933, Postage Rates and Franking Combinations

4.3 Insured Covers

Very few insured covers are known, most in the postage rate of 6 Trangka as the cover shown below. Due to the rarity of insured covers no precise dates of when these rates had been in use could be determined.



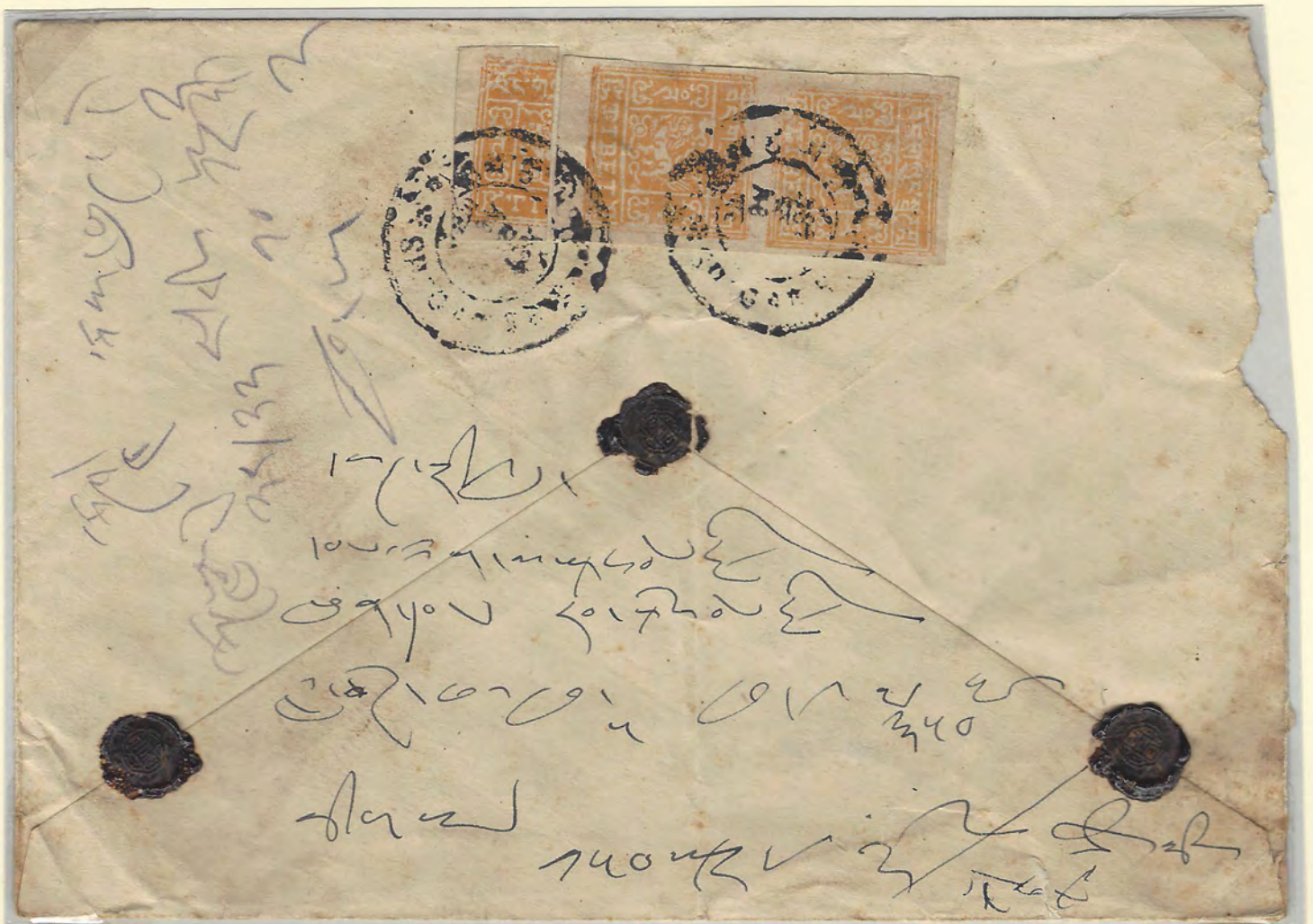
Reduced image of the front of the cover, in the upper right corner the manuscript marking "Insured for 5 Rupees". Rupees was the currency in India and Nepal, however, merchants in Tibet which were the majority of users of the postal system in Tibet used that currency often concurrently with the Tibetan currency which is the reason for the insurance value inscribed in Rupees.



Registered cover, insured with 5 Rupees, sent from SHIGATSE to LHASA (ca. 1955) postage rate 6 Trangka, consisting of a vertical strip of 3 of the 2 Trangka stamp, Setting 2B, clichés 11, 4 und 8. brown red color shade. The cover is cancelled with the postmark of Shigatse, Type 8 (Hellrigl T46) as well as the manuscript dated arrival postmark of LHASA Type 8 (Hellrigl T42).

5 Issue 1933, Bisects and Quadrisects**5.1 Bisects**

After the invasion and occupation of Tibet in 1950 by the troops of the Peoples Republic of China, the mint in Lhasa stopped both printing and delivery of new stamps to the post offices. As a consequence, stamps in some post offices were depleted. Furthermore, Tibetan Post increased the postage rates from 2 Trangka to 3 Trangka for ordinary letters and from 4 Trangka to 5 Trangka for registered letters. Due to that, from 1953/54 onwards the post offices in Lhasa, Gyantse, Shigatse and Dechem bisected then still available 2 Trangka stamps and from ca. 1955/56 in Lhasa and Gyantse quadrisect the available 4 Trangka stamps to produce 1 Trangka stamps as additional franking to make up the 3 Trangka and 5 Trangka rates. The stamps have been bisected horizontally, vertically as well as diagonally.



Sealed 5 Tr. rate "bisect" commercial cover from SHIGATSE to PHARI, franked with a pair and a bisected 2 Trangka orange stamp to make up the 5 Trangka rate, cancelled by SHIGATSE Type 8 (Hellrigl T46).
(Certificate Flack)

The majority of bisects were philatelically inspired. Commercially used Bisects are very scarce.

5 Issue 1933, Bisects and Quadrisepts

5.1.1 Bisects, 3 Trangka Rate

The 3 Trangka postage rate is known from the period between 1953/54 – 1960, usually made up by a strip of 3 of the 1 Trangka denomination or the combination of one each of the 1 Trangka und 2 Trangka stamp. In some very rare cases, as demonstrated by the two covers shown, also bisected 2 Trangka stamps on combination with a 2 Trangka stamp had been used.



Cover from Dechen, franked with a combination of one 2 Trangka stamp as well one bisected 2 Trangka stamp, canceled by the very rare postmark of Dechen, Hellrigl Type T51 of which only very few strikes are known. Hellrigl values this postmark with 95 points (5-9 covers known).



Cover from Gyantse franked with a combination of one 2 Trangka stamp as well one bisected 2 Trangka stamp, canceled by the very rare postmark of Gyantse in violet. Hellrigl Type T41 (violet) of which only very few strikes are known. Hellrigl values this postmark with 100 points 1-4 covers known).

Both covers in the combination of "Post Office Dechen and Bisect" as well as "Post Office Gyantse with violet postmarks and Bisect" UNIQUE.

5 Issue 1933, Bisects and Quadrisepts

5.1.1 Bisects, 5 Trangka Rate



Cover from Shigatse (postmark SHIGATSE Type T46 in black), franked with a 4 Trangka stamp (dull green) and a bisected 2 Trangka stamp (dull red). Bisect diagonal upper left to bottom right.



Cover from Shigatse (postmark SHIGATSE Type T46 in black), franked with a 4 Trangka stamp (bright apple green) and a bisected 2 Trangka stamp (dull red). Bisect vertical, left half side of stamp.

5 Issue 1933, Bisects and Quadrisepts

5.1.2 Bisects, 5 Trangka Rate - Continuation

5.2 Quadrisepts



Cover from Gyantse (postmark GYANTSE Type T41 in black), franked with a vertical pair of the 2 Trangka stamps (dull red) and a bisected 2 Trangka stamps, setting 2, clichés 4 and 5 (dull red) and a bisected 2 Trangka stamp (dull red). Horizontal bisect, bottom half of stamp.

After 1955/56 even the 2 Trangka stamps were not available at Gyantse anymore so at the affected post offices quadrisepted 4 Trangka stamps were used to complete the postage rate of 5 Trangka for registered letters. These quadrisepted stamps are only known used from Gyantse.



Cover from Gyantse, postmark GYANTSE Type T41 in black, franked with a 4 Trangka stamp as well as a quadrisepted 4 Trangka stamp (blue green shade), bottom right quarter of the stamp.