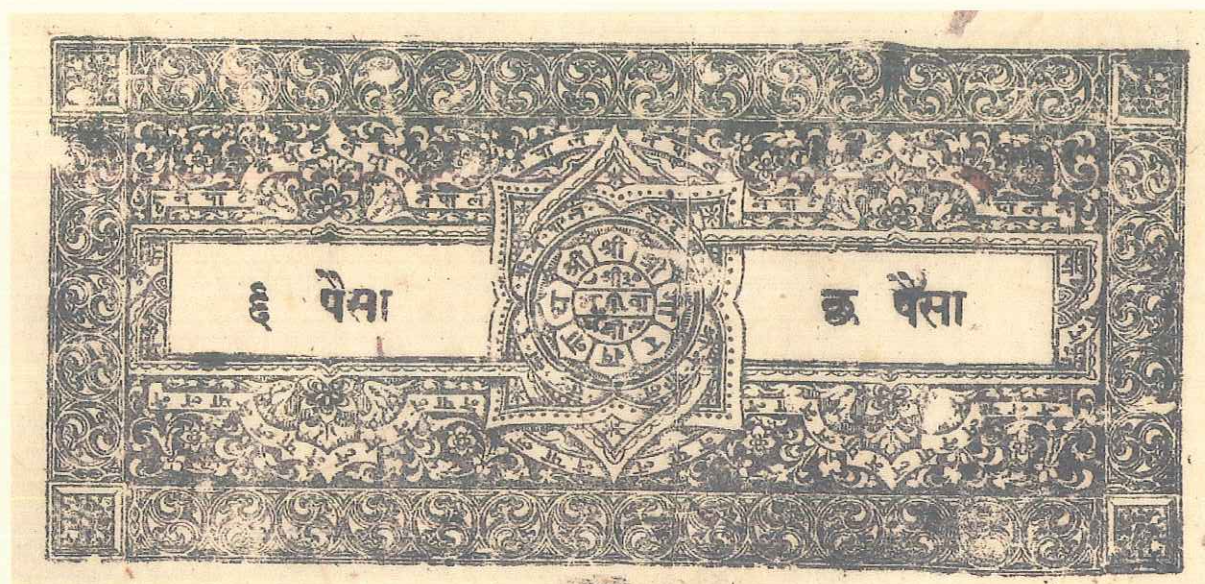


The Pashupati Post Marks of Nepal

1907-1949



Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

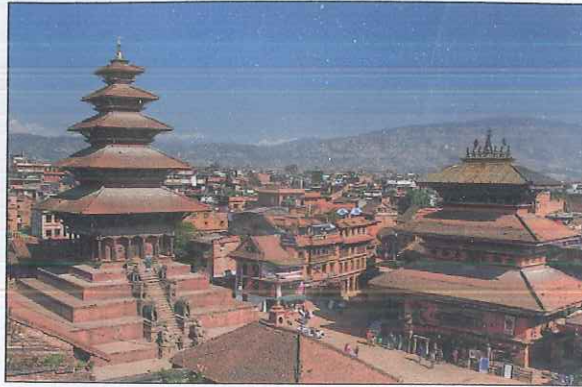


Bandipur

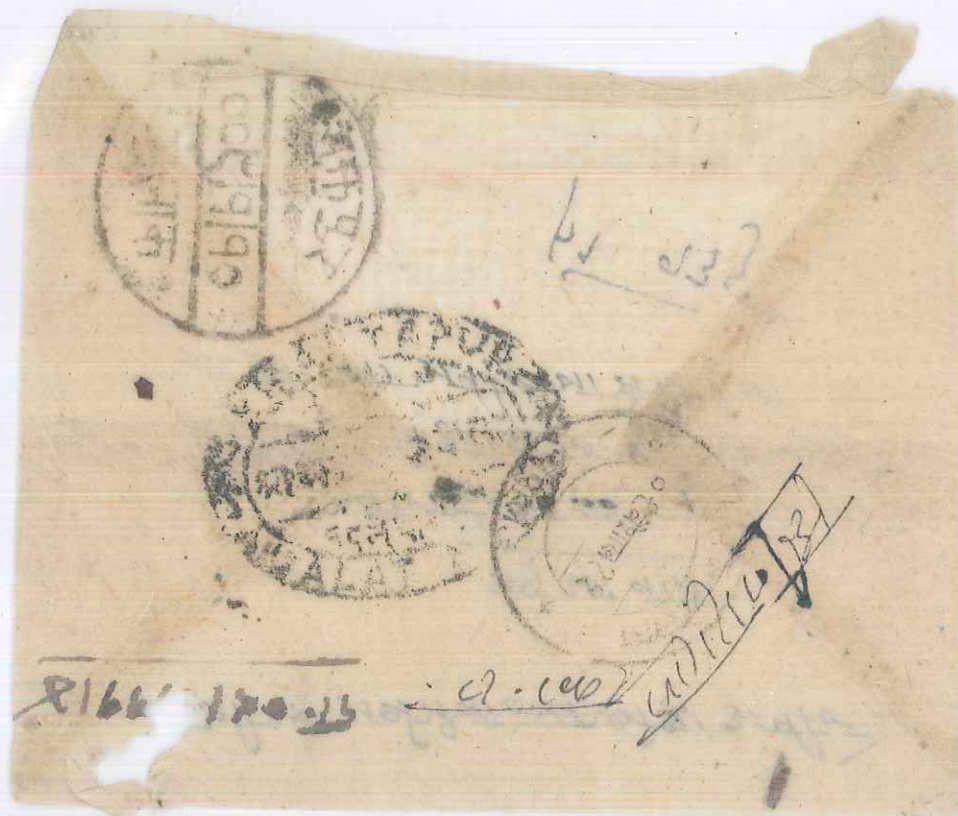


An interesting cover since it bears one of the relatively rare ornamental cancels of the 1930s. These were used in only four regions: Syangja, Syuraj, Kalaiya and, as this one, Bhandipur. It is accompanied by a Sun & Moon Cross type for Pokhara dated 8-2-31.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Bhaktapur



The undated central mark, unusually in English and Nepalese, is the Bhaktapur Post Master's stamp. In the top left, is the mechanically dated Bhaktapur straight HULAK type dated 3-3-1955. This is outside the Pashupati period, but the Post Office stamps evidently continued in use for many years. The more modern postmark, likely to be a receiving mark, is unfortunately too faint to be read. Bhaktapur, literally 'the place of devotees' is a UN World Heritage site by reason of its ancient temples. It is situated in the Eastern corner of the Kathmandu valley.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Bhaktapur Temples



Bhaktapur cover with the straight HULAK cancel for this region dated 14-4-1956. Front has what appears to be a calculation for the postage – probably by the Postmaster. The result is three 1954 King Tribhuvan stamps, 2, 6 and 12 Pice respectively, and a further 1954 Map of Nepal stamp to the value of 6 Pice. Letter closed with an impressive intaglio seal upon the usual black wax.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Bhojpur



This cover has the rarest type of Pashupati postmark, the Sun within Crescent type (1911-1956). It is for BHOJPUR in the Eastern part of the country. Hellrigl & Hepper have this postmark being used from 1919-51. This is dated 9-9-19, right at the beginning of that period.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Biratnagar



Two strikes of the Step Pyramid Type (1911-1957) for BIRATNAGAR विराटनगर dated 10-8-1945. They tie 1935 Siva Mehadeva Stamps, 32 and 4 Pice respectively. Biratnagar (literally 'big city' aptly enough) is an industrial city in the South East of Nepal.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Birgunj

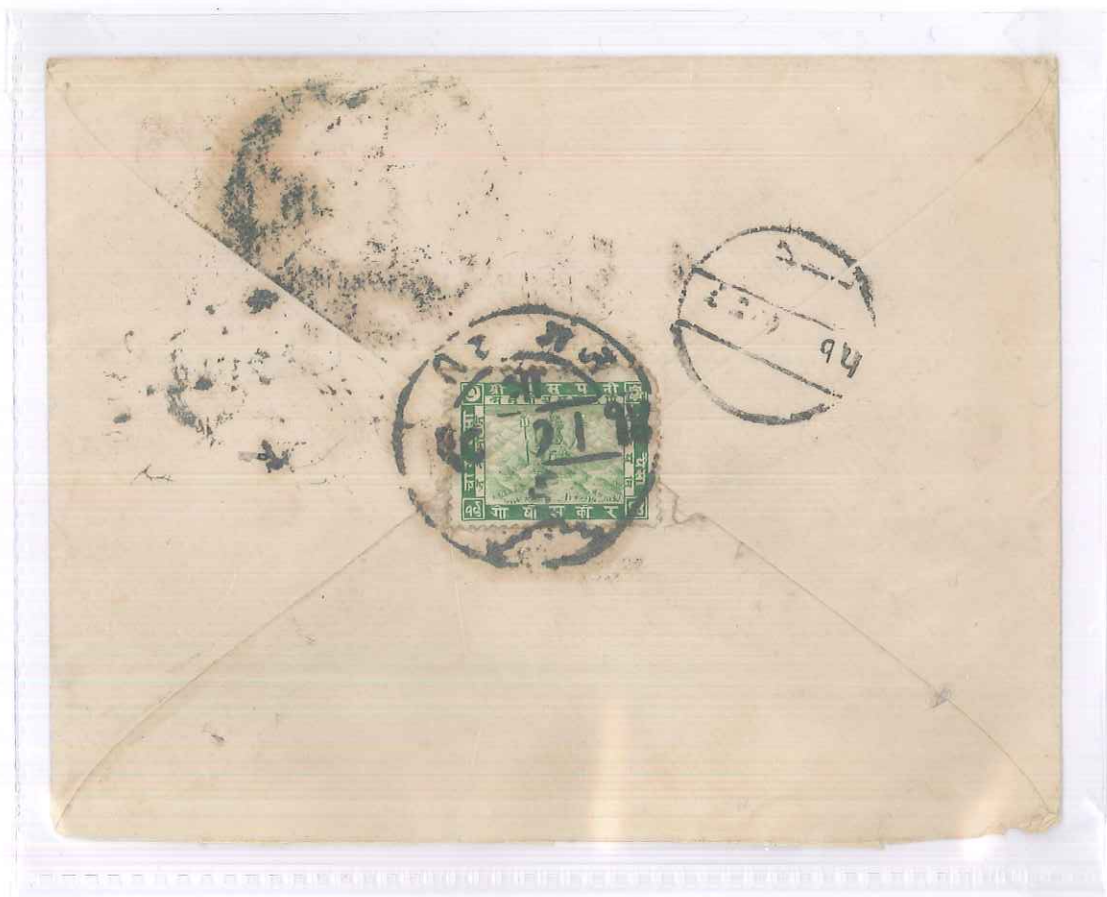


A cover which has transitional marks from the Classic period to the Pashupati. It emanates from the Prime Minister's Office and bears his seal. The Bahadur dynasty of Prime Ministers effectively seized power from the Nepalese Kings who became kings only in name. The early Birgunj (or Birganj) stamp is hand-dated 16-8-1907, arriving in Kathmandu the next day.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Birganj



A 'Step Pyramid' Type postmark for Birganj (BIRGANJ I) accompanied by what appears to be a late classic date stamp (25.5 mm) for Kathmandu. The Birganj date looks like 7-9-1944 which would still be a late use for the date stamp.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

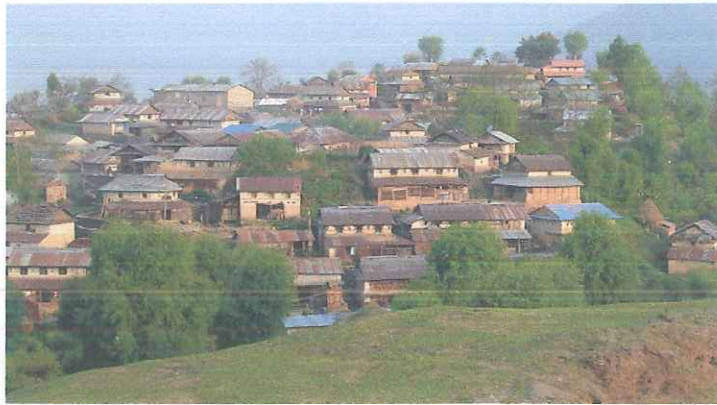


Dang Ghorahi



Interesting cover with two different types of Pashupati cancels – unfortunately difficult to decipher. One is the rarer Sun Enclosed in Moon type and the other is most likely to be a Straight HULAK type. The latter has the date 4-5-1959. The only clue to the post office is the Postmaster's Seal which appears to read DANG GHORAH, Nepal's seventh largest city situated in the mid-West of the country.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Dhading Village



The main hand stamp is of the Step Pyramid Type (1911-57) for DHADING with the date 8-5-1953. This is likely to be the departure stamp since the Post Master's oval seal clearly reads DHADING HULAK (Hulak = Post Office). The second cancel is one of the modern All-Devanagari small type – small lettering (1949-1964) and is for the Kathmandu GPO Exchange III. Dhading Region in one of the most remote in Nepal. Many of its villages are not accessible by road even today.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

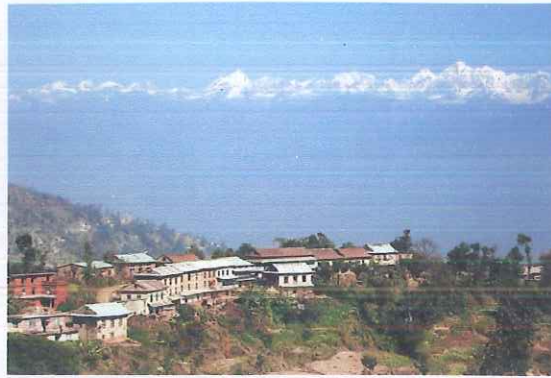


Dhulikhel



Five fine black seals with intaglio impressions and three arched HULAK type cancels for Dhulikhel. They tie a pair and a single of the 1941 8 Pice Siva Mehadiva stamps. The postmarks date the cover to 9-1-1946.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Dhulikhel



Interesting cover which has examples of two different types of postmark. To the right, above the Postmaster's seal, is the Arched HULAK type for DHULIKHEL. To the left, is the Straight HULAK type for BHAKTAPUR. Evidently, one is a despatch cancel and the other receiving – I am inclined to think that the journey was from Bhaktapur to Dhulikhel since the latter stamp encroached on the Postmaster's seal. They are dated the same day, 5-12-1957 which is not surprising since they are only separated by 15 kilometres.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

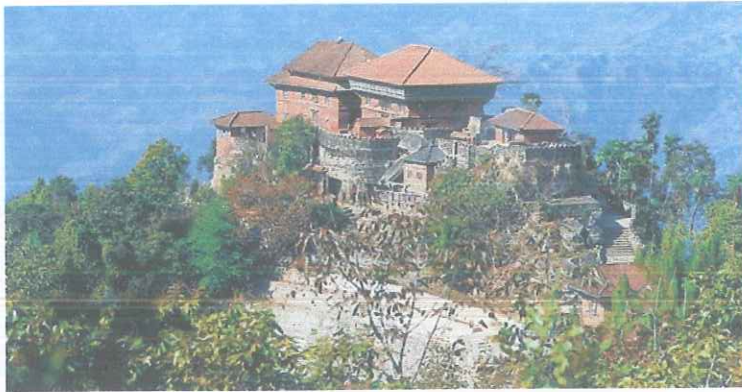


Dhulikel



A further ARCHED HULAK postmark for Dhulikel dated 9-8-1952. There is also a small personal seal in a 'key' shape with the typical sun and moon symbols at the top.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Gorkha



The old and the new. Two different Pashupati postmarks – a Nepal Type (1937-56) for G.P.O. VI and an earlier type, the Sun & Moon Cross Type (1911-1959) for GORKHA. The G.P.O. postmark is dated 3-5-1948 and is probably a receiving mark since the Post Master's seal looks like that of Gorkha. This region is in Western Nepal and is the home of the Gurkha people.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Ilam Tea Estate



This cover has the rarest type of Pashupati postmark, the Sun within Crescent type (1911-1956). It is for ILAM, a hilly region in the Eastern part of the country. This is dated 10-6-1949. It is accompanied by the Post Master's stamp overprinted by an arrival cancel for 'Nepal' i.e. Kathmandu Type GPO VI. There is also a small personal seal.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

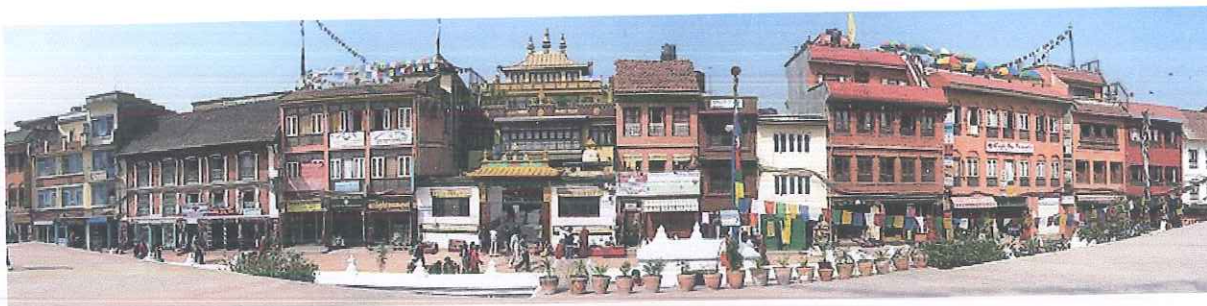


Jumla

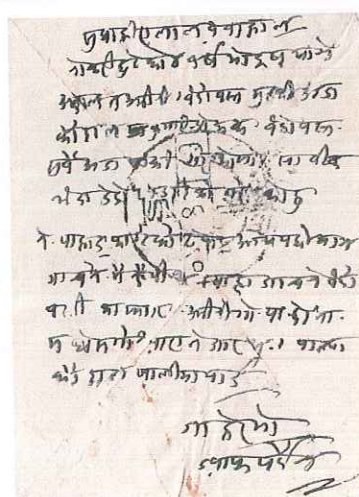


Jumla is a province (anciently, a kingdom) in the eastern half of Nepal. This cover has the Cross-Type Moon & Sun mark for Jumla dated 6-5-1949. It also bears a Post Master's seal and a personal seal. The arrival mark is a 'Nepal' type (1937-56) for GPO VI.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

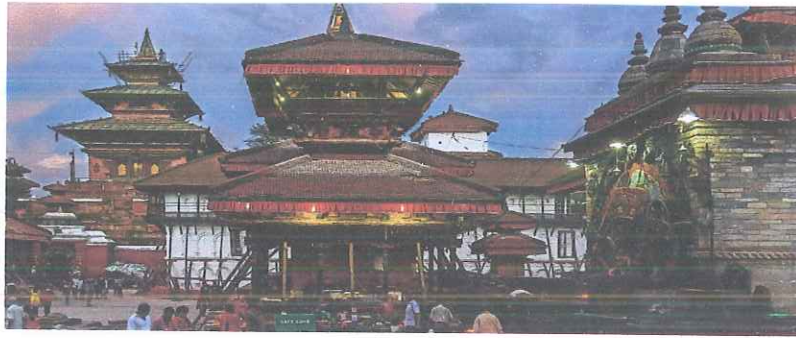


Kathmandu



Step Pyramid Type (1911-57) for KATHMANDU II dated 2-6-1945. Unusually, the letter in this case has been written directly onto the envelope, like a postcard. Cancelled also on the letter side.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Kathmandu



A cover, date illegible with an Exchange Nepal Type postmark (1937-50) KATHMANDU II. The cancel ties a trio strip of 1949 8 Pice 'Local Motives' stamps, so I would guess a date in the early 1950s.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Kathmandu



A cover dated 13-4-1944 with an Exchange Nepal Type postmark (1937-50) KATHMANDU II. The cancel ties a 1941 Siva Mehadeva 4 Pice stamp – a local printing. The addressee is the 'Forest Advisor' of the Nepalese Government in Lainchouk – an embassy area of Kathmandu where the British Legation was also situated.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Kathmandu



Cover dated 3-5-1945 with a NEPAL type cancel for GPO VI Kathmandu. There's a small personal seal, but what is most striking is the unusual star-shaped seal – too faint to decipher.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Lalitpur



Pre-paid stationary cover with three HULAK ADA (Sub Post Office) Cancels for LALITPUR (also known as PATAN). At left the cancel on the front of the envelope. The reverse as displayed above has the two further Lalitpur cancels and a more modern type (small lettering and thin ring) which is difficult to decipher but could be DOTI. The cancels tie a block of four 1949 Local Motives 4 Pice stamps and a single scarlet 8 Pice. The usual black wax seals do not have an intaglio seal design impressed upon them. The Lalitpur cancels are dated 9-4-1963 which shows how long the Pashupati postmark cancellers stayed in use into modern times.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Lalitpur Temples



Cover with the postmark of LALITPUR (also known as Patan) one of the three ancient cities in the Kathmandu valley. The cover is dated 7-7-1955 and has six of the 1954 12 Pice stamps showing King Tribhuvan in his ceremonial robes.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Terraced Cultivation



One of the group of later postmarks, the Nepal Type (1937-56) where Nepal does mean the whole country rather than just Kathmandu. This is for G.P.O. I and is dated 6-2-1938.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Bidur Palace, Nuwakot



With Laitpur and Bhairahawa, this mark from Nuwakot is one of the three HULAK ADDA postmarks (1937-57) known to Hellrigl & Hepper. ADDA indicates that it is a sub post office. This cover is dated 11-9-54 and also has a smudged personal seal and a heart-shaped hand stamp which was probably the Post Master's. The post mark is known between 1940 and 1957.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Hill-top Farming in Nuwakot



A further postmark for Nuwakot West No4 Sub-Post Office (HULAK ADDA). It is accompanied by an interesting cancel I haven't seen before which has nothing on it but a date. This is for 1956. The month is given the Nepalese name Asadh (equivalent roughly to June-July) and it has the 24th day. There is no indication of Post Office.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

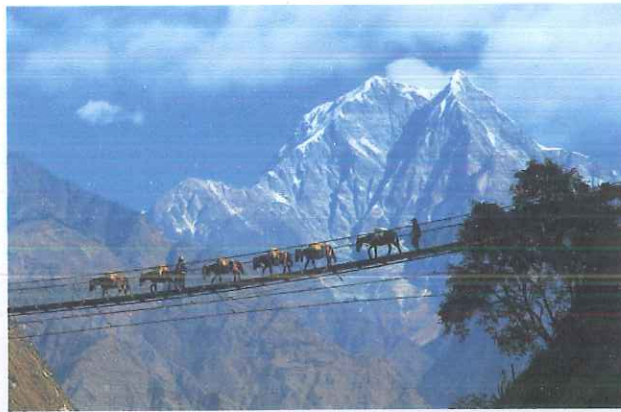


Monastery in Palpa



A great deal of postal history on a small cover. There is the Cross type (Sun & Moon) for PALPA – a region in the South-Central part of Nepal, the town of TANSEN is the regional capital. The second postmark is fainter and looks like GPO IV of KATHMANDU. The date is illegible, but Hellrigl & Hepper date the two marks with an 'overlap' of 1937-9 – so the cover is probably dated accordingly. There is also a 'rising sun' stamp similar, but not identical, to the telephone stamps – it might be associated with local government. Finally, there is a small, elegant, personal seal.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Valley Bridge in Pokhara



Cross type cancel for POKHARA accompanied by personal seal and Postmaster's seal. Date is a little difficult to read but looks like 8-3-1954. Pokhara is a city on Phewa Lake, in central Nepal. It's known as a gateway to the Annapurna Circuit, a popular trail in the Himalayas. Tal Barahi Temple, a 2-story pagoda, sits on an island in the lake.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal

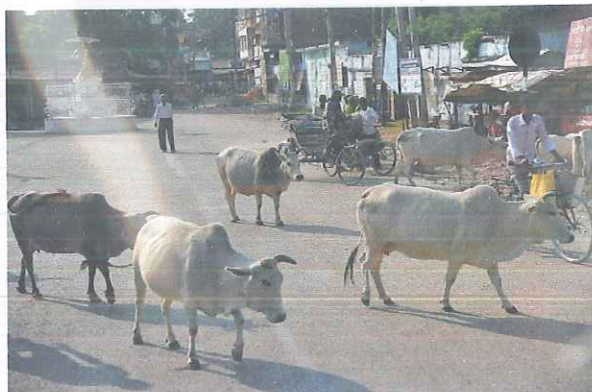


Religious Festival in Syuraj

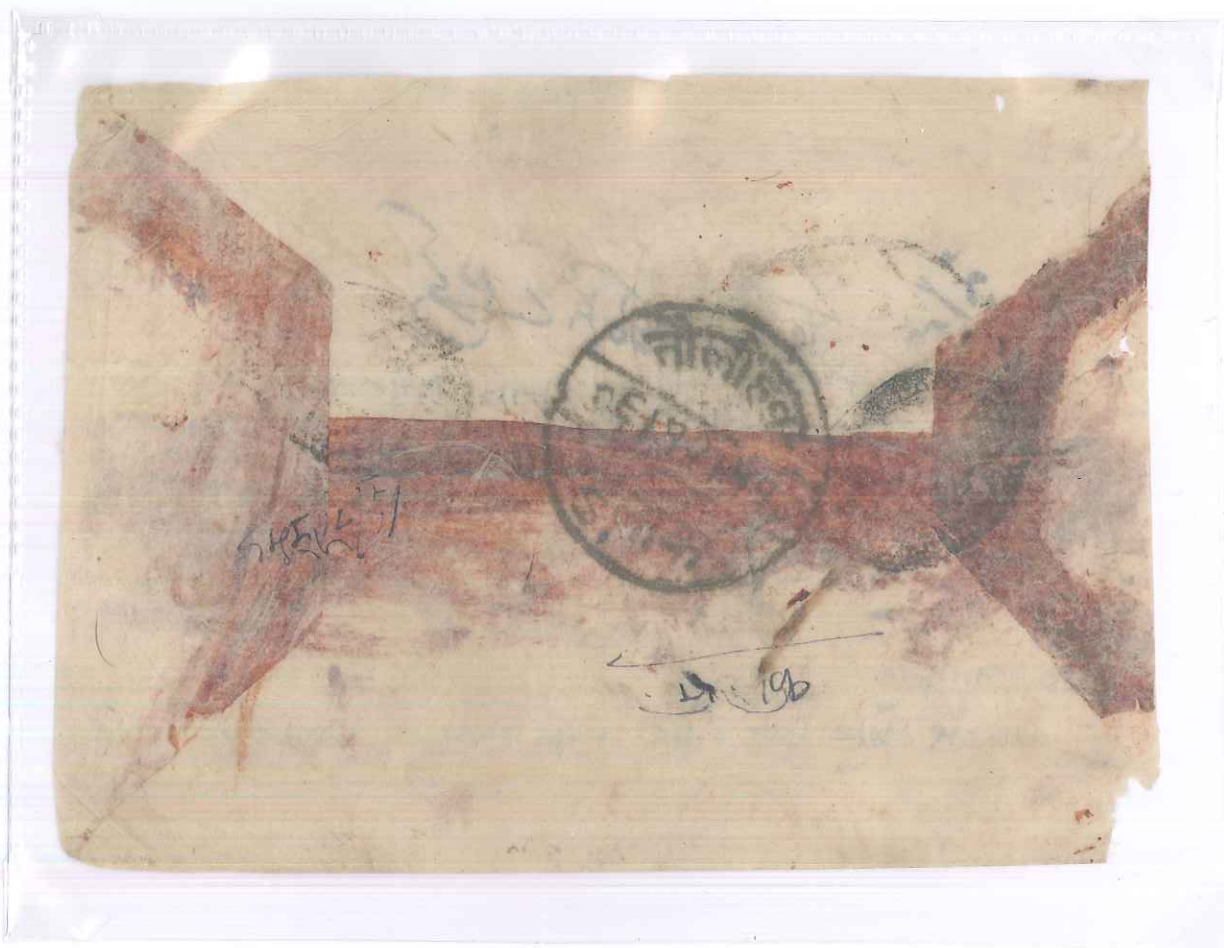


The disputed regions of Syuraj and Butwal became the pretext for the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16 (also known as the Gurkha War). This cover has the straight HULAK mark for SYURAJ dated 10-4-1955. The large negative hand stamp is a Pashupati seal.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Taulihawa Street Scene



A Straight HULAK Type cover dated 4-4-1950. The faint larger stamp is probably the Post Master's stamp. The same stamp can be seen on the following cover. Taulihawa is in Southern Nepal about 25 kms from the birthplace of Gautama Buddha.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Taulihawa Temple

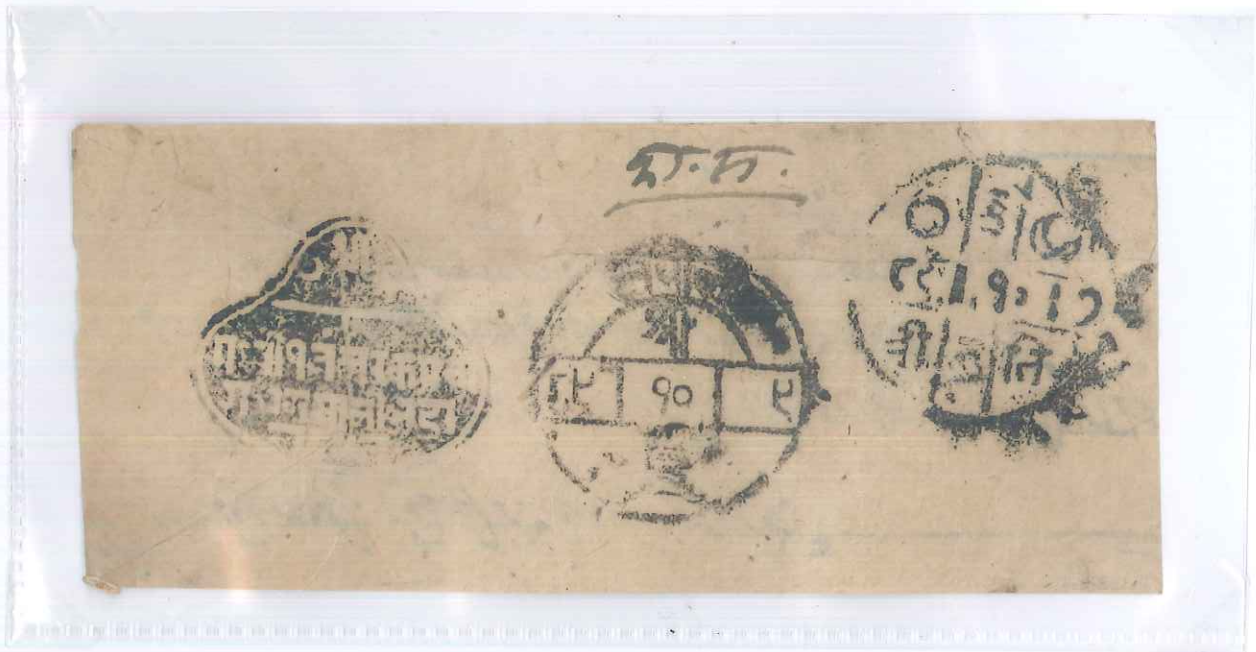


Second Straight HULAK Type cover dated 5-2--1950. Again, the faint larger stamp is probably the Post Master's stamp.

Pashupati Postmarks of Nepal



Trishuli River



Three interesting hand stamps. The central one is a 'step pyramid' regional mark for Kathmandu (Kathmandu II) dated 8-2-1929. The right-hand postmark is one of the three regional Cross types where the positions of the Sun and Moon in the upper third are reversed. This is from the TRISHULI region, NNW of Kathmandu noted for the river of the same name that runs through the area. It is dated from the day before. The 'shamrock-shaped' stamp to the left is one of the Pashupati Period Seal stamps which may be that of an individual or perhaps a public or religious institution like a monastery.