



TIBET



INTRODUCTION

History and tradition of this mysterious Asian country on top of the Himalaya mountains between China and India would fill more than one book and cannot be part of this brief introduction. Even the philatelic story is very difficult and unusual, same as the country and its people...

Tibetan stamps have been issued from 1912 after the first Chinese occupation until the early 1950s before the second, and ongoing Chinese occupation. Since 1959, when the last Tibetan Post Office had to close, only Chinese stamps are valid in Tibet. In those ca 40 years of free and independent Tibet, only three definitive sets with a total of 13 basic stamps have been issued plus some Officials and Telegraph Stamps. All of them were hand printed with simple wooden printing blocks on local hand-made paper in small sheets of six, nine or twelve stamps only.

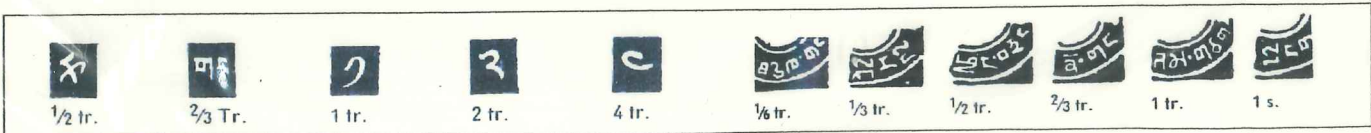
Tibetan stamps have no watermark, gum or perforation. They were cut with scissors at the post office and had to be stuck on covers with ordinary paper glue. It was attempt to perforate the stamps, but it didn't work with the handmade paper. This natural paper was used for the stamps over the whole period and varied from strong brownish packing paper type which was also used for envelopes, to extremely thin and almost transparent rice paper in natural off-white and ivory colour shades. Many varieties are also existing in the hand carved wooden printing blocks and the natural colours that were used over the years. Most stamps exist in all possible shades of the basic colours red, blue, green and yellow plus some very different proofs and colour trials. Colours were usually matt and dull. Glossy colours were only used from 1950 onwards.

It was easy to print fake copies of Tibetan stamps with no watermark and perforation and is quite difficult even for experts to distinguish between genuine stamps and good forgeries. There also might be some forgeries found in this collection as one cannot get certificates for each end every stamp... The traditional design of Tibetan stamps shows always the National Emblem, the Tibetan Snow Lion in the centre, surrounded by ornaments of Tibetan art and calligraphic letters and numbers.

The face value on the stamps is showing always Tibetan numbers and is not visible for foreigners. Only the words: "Tibet", "Postage" and "Stamp" are showing in English, same as the earlier postmarks.

The Tibetan currency Trangka is extremely complicated to understand. For example the six stamps of the first definitive set was issued in the following denominations: 1/6 Trangka (=equivalent to 1 Khasang), 1/3 Trangka (=1 Karmanga), 1/2 Trangka (=1 Tshaky), 2/3 Trangka (= 1 Shokang), 1 Trangka, and as the highest value 1 Sang (= 6 2/3 Trangka). Find also a table of Tibetan currency and numbers at the bottom.

You see how much fun it can be and how confusing it is as a philatelist and collector of Tibetan stamps. Indeed a science on its own which need to be studied comprehensively before starting a collection...





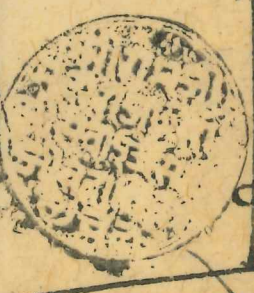
TIBET



TWO ENTIRES FROM TIBET OF THE PRE-STAMP PERIOD BEFORE 1912 ARE SHOWN ON THIS PAGE

9/8
 सवत १९८२
 माती आसजेवदीर कीतवार
 ज्ञोत हेवीजसह
 १९५५
 १९५५
 १९५५

१२६
 १९५५
 १९५५
 १९५५

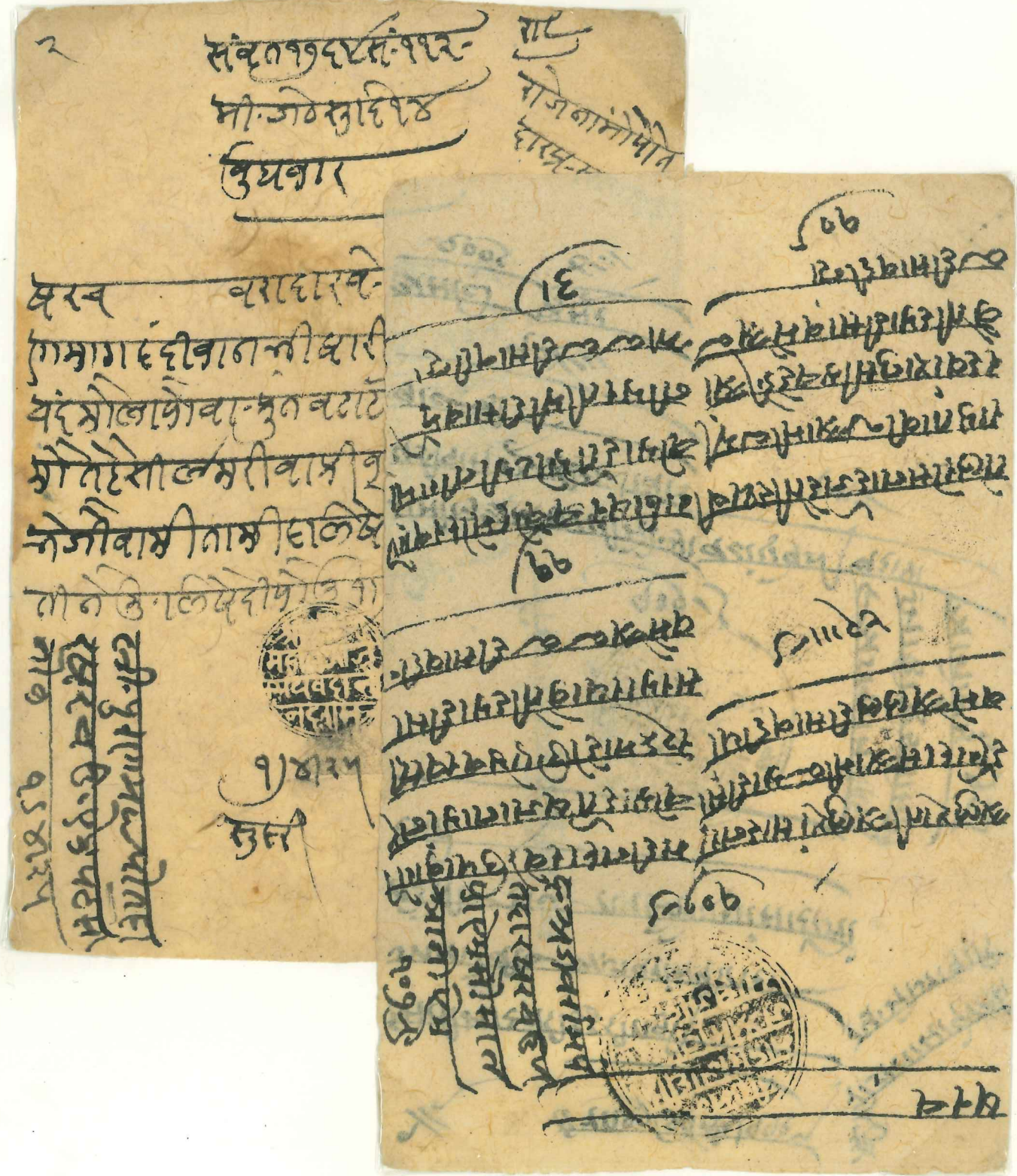




TIBET



TWO ENTIRES FROM TIBET OF THE PRE-STAMP PERIOD BEFORE 1912 ARE SHOWN ON THIS PAGE





TIBET



TWO ENTIRES FROM TIBET OF THE PRE-STAMP PERIOD BEFORE 1912 ARE SHOWN ON THIS PAGE

1/3 मवत १७२२
 मीतीप्रतीस्रहाचसामेवा
 ज्ञातेवेजिसारीव
 ज्ञामाठि
 दसाहिवारपीसा (आसाया)



1/3 मवत १७२२
 मीतीप्रतीस्रहाचसामेवा
 ज्ञातेवेजिसारीव
 ज्ञामाठि
 दसाहिवारपीसा (आसाया)





TIBET



THE FIRST DEFINITIVE STAMPS OF TIBET WERE ISSUED IN 1912 AS A SET OF 6 STAMPS, PRINTED FROM WOODBLOCKS ON HAND-MADE PAPER WITH NO WATERMARK OR PERFORATION. NATURAL COLOUR EXISTS WITH MANY DIFFERENT SHADES.



TWO PAIRS WITH COLOUR VARIATIONS, PRINTED ON THIN RICE PAPER WITH CANCELLATIONS OF LHASA.



COMPLETE SET OF FORGERIES (NEW PRINTS), ISSUED LATER.

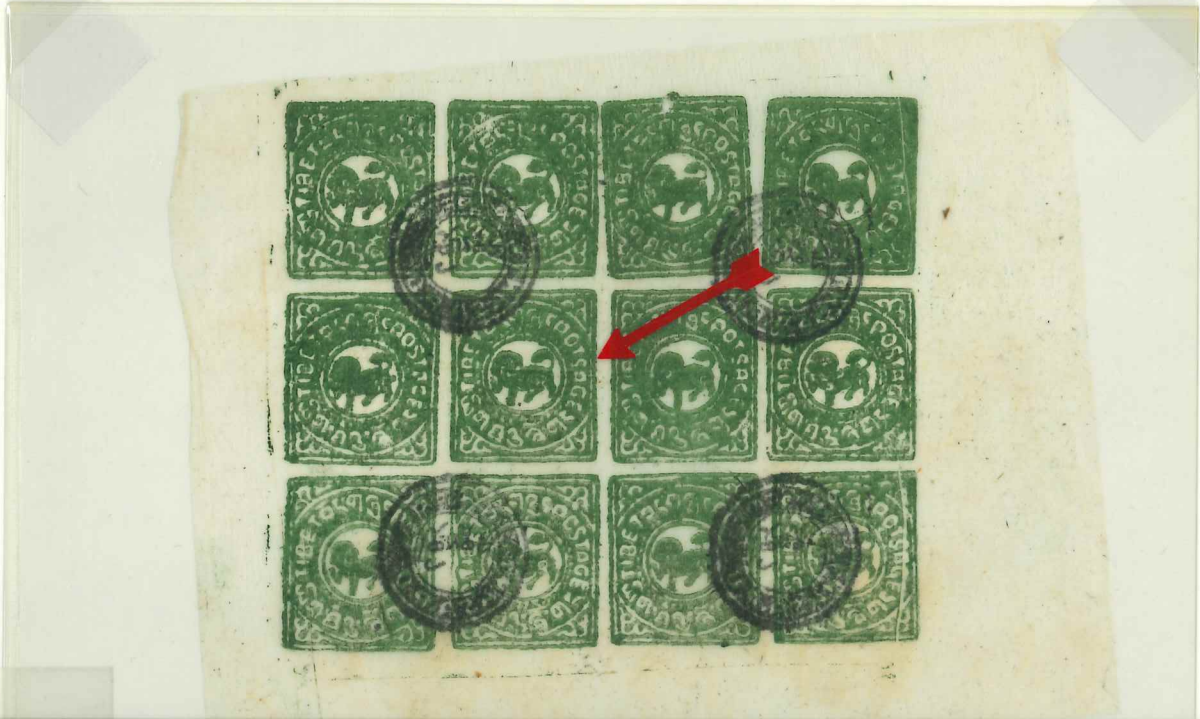




TIBET



FULL SHEET OF 12 OF THE 1/6 TRANGKA, GREEN, PRINTED ON RICE/PAPER WITH ERROR ON 2. STAMP OF 2. ROW: "POTSAGE" INSTEAD OF POSTAGE.



FULL SHEET OF 12 OF THE □ TRANGKA, BROWN, PRINTED ON RICE PAPER. BOTH SHEETS CANCELLED TO ORDER.

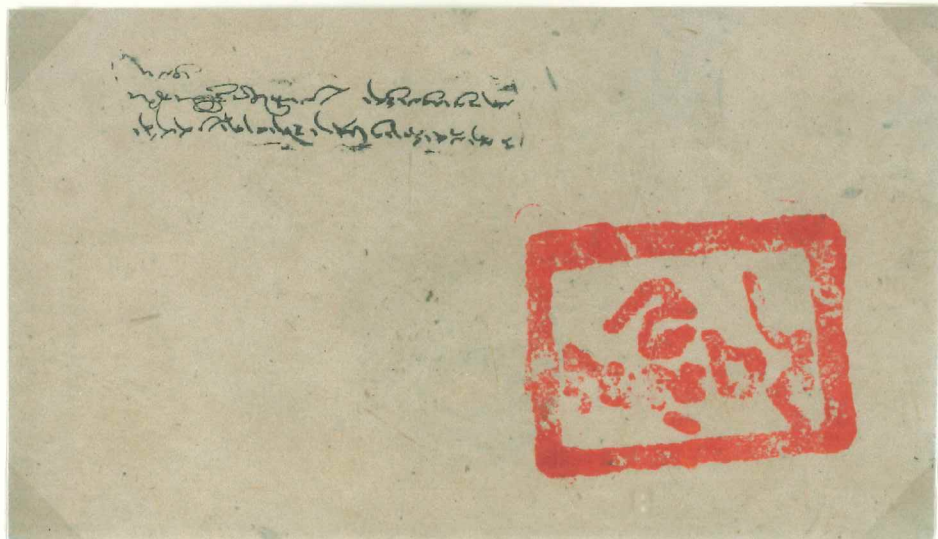




TIBET



COVER FROM LHASA WITH TWO STAMPS OF THE FIRST SET OF 1912 ON THE BACK AND FRONTAL A RED RUBBERSTAMP (SEE SCAN).

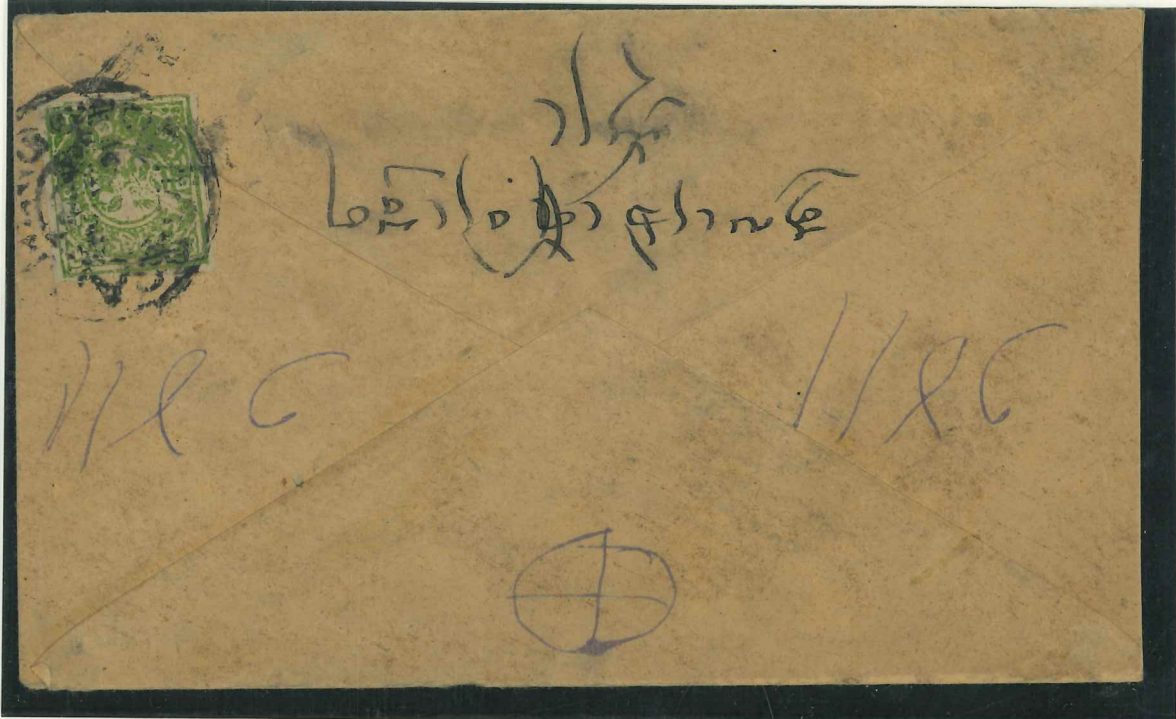




TIBET



COVER TO GYANTSE, FRANKED WITH 1/6 TRANGKA STAMP AND PRINTED ADDRESS AND SENDER. (SEE SCAN)



श्री साहु हर्षसुन्दर सानुगुभाजुके देना
 दी० जी० भु० छोंकं पहुँचे
 ग्यांची, तीब्त्
 To
 Sahu Harshasundar Sanugubhaju
 D. S. Phu. Chhonkang
 Gyantse TIBET.



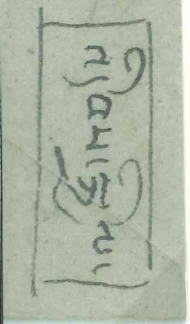
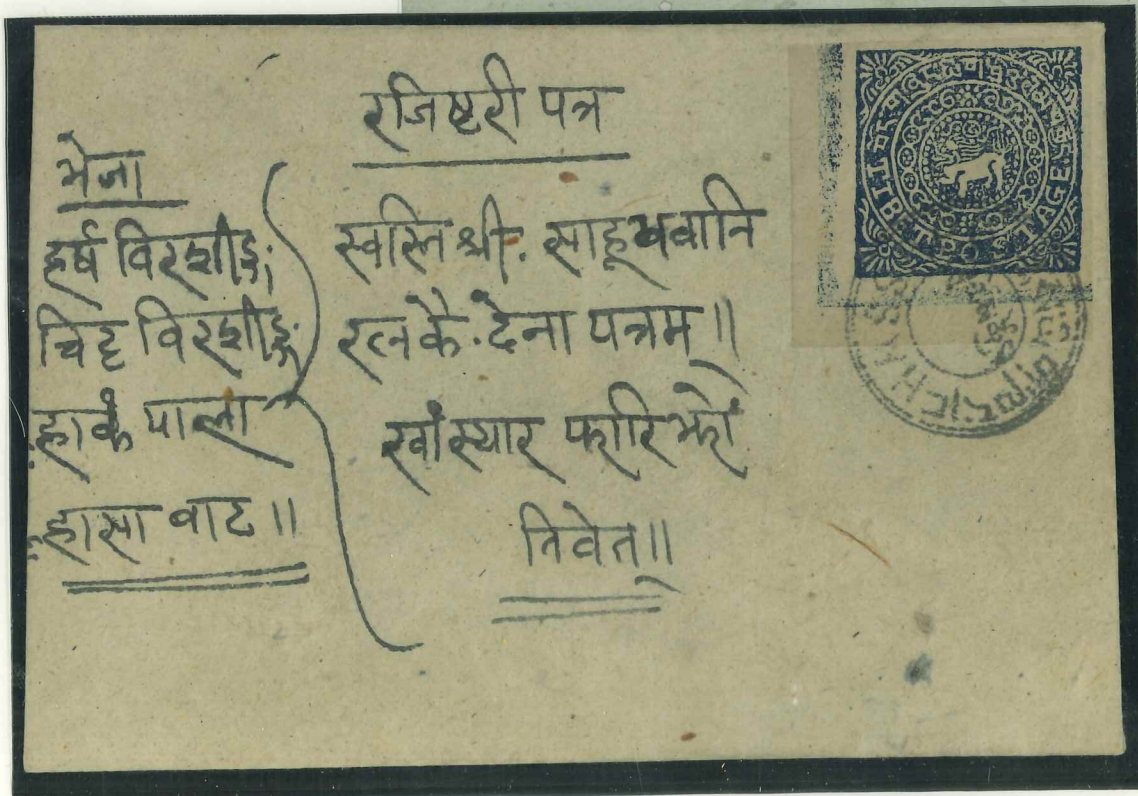
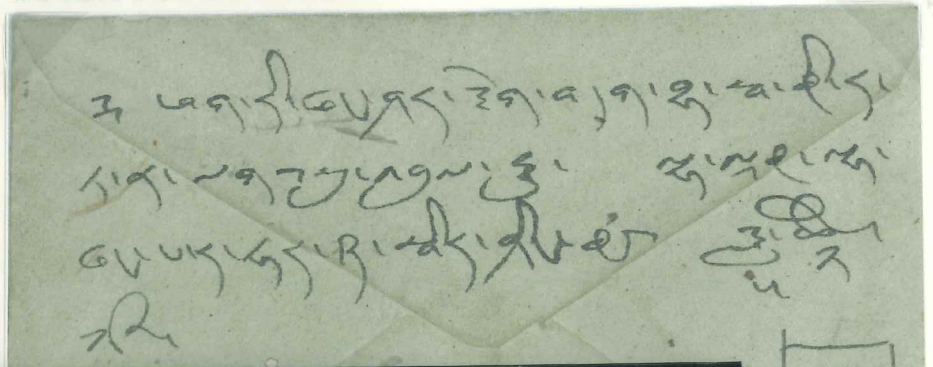
TIBET



SECOND SET OF 1920 WITH ONLY 2 STAMPS OF 4 AND 8 TRANGKA. ALSO IMPERFORATED AND PRINTED WITH NATURAL COLOURS ON HAND MADE PAPER. JUST IN LARGER FORMAT.



COVER FROM LHASA, FRANKED WITH 4 TRANGKA STAMP. REAR SIDE OF COVER SHOWN AS SCAN.





TIBET



TWO FULL SHEETS OF 6 STAMPS EACH OF THE 4 AND 8 TRANGKA STAMPS IN COLOUR VARIATION ON HAND-MADE RICE PAPER.





TIBET



THE THIRD DEFINITIVE ISSUE WAS RELEASED IN 1933 AND VALID UNTIL THE END OF INDEPENDENCE 1959. LIKE ALL PREVIOUS ISSUES ALSO SHOWING THE TIBETAN SNOW LION AND ORNAMENTS AND PRINTED WITH WOODBLOCKS ON VARIOUS HAND-MADE PAPERS FROM CARDBOARD TO RICE PAPER. MANY COLOUR VARIATIONS. HERE SHOWN ONLY THE HALF TRANGKA VALUE.





TIBET



ON THIS PAGE THE 2/3 TRANGKA VALUE OF THE THIRDISSUE, MINT AND USED IN VARIOUS COLOUR SHADES AND ON PIECE.



THREE PAIRS ABOVE IN TÊTE-BÊCHE VARIETY.



TIBET



ON THIS PAGE THE 1 TRANGKA VALUE OF THE THIRD ISSUE, IN PAIRS, BLOCKS OF FOUR AND VARIOUS COLOUR SHADES.





TIBET



ON THIS PAGE THE 2 TRANGKA VALUE OF THE THIRD ISSUE, AS SINGLES, BLOCKS OF FOUR AND VARIOUS COLOUR SHADES.





TIBET



ON THIS PAGE ALSO THE 2 TRANGKA VALUE OF THE THIRD ISSUE, AS SINGLES, BLOCKS OF FOUR AND VARIOUS COLOUR SHADES. PRINTED ON THICK, NORMAL AND RICE PAPER AND A SINGLE USED STAMP PROVISIONALLY PERFORATED.





TIBET



ON THIS PAGE THE HIGHEST VALUE 4 TRANGKA VALUE OF THE THIRD ISSUE. WE SEE VARIOUS COLOUR SHADES OF USED SINGLE STAMPS AND A BEAUTIFUL CORNER BLOCK OF FOUR.





TIBET



HERE A FULL SHEET OF 12 STAMPS OF THE 2 TRANGKA IN BROWN PRINTED ON RICE PAPER.

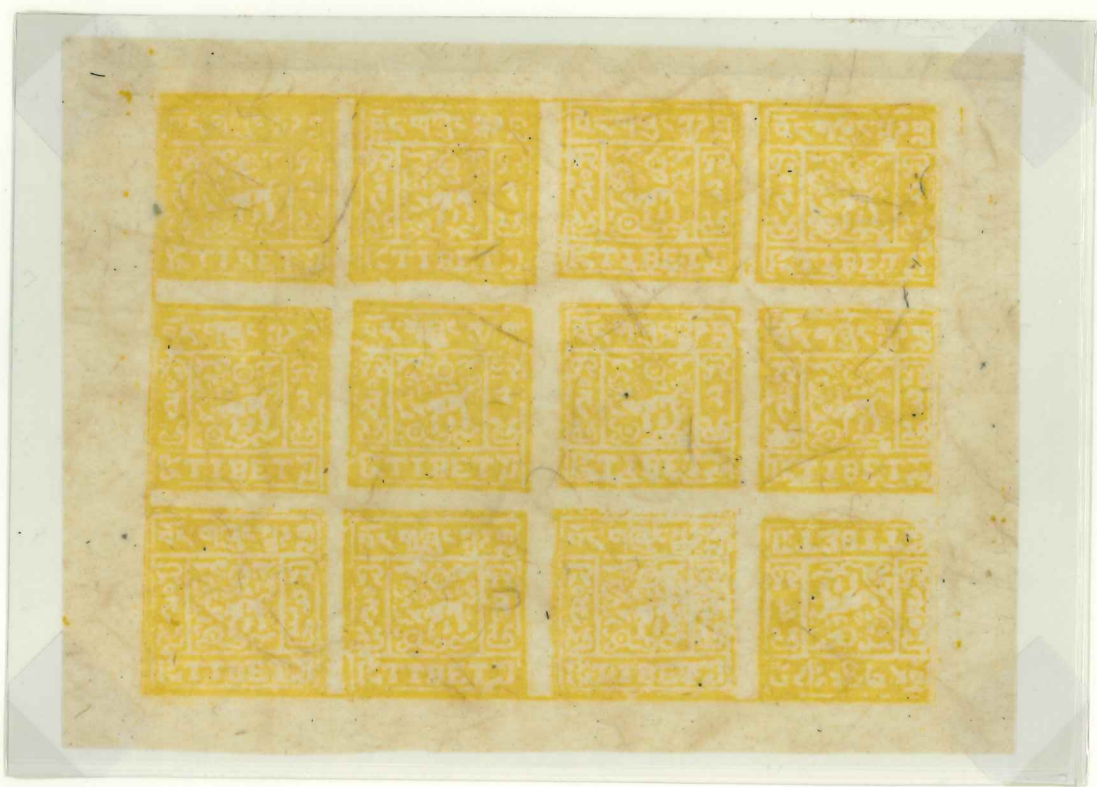




TIBET



HERE A FULL SHEET OF 12 STAMPS OF THE 2 TRANGKA IN LIGHT YELLOW PRINTED ON RICE PAPER AND HARD TO IDENTIFY.





TIBET



ANOTHER A FULL SHEET OF 12 STAMPS OF THE 2 TRANGKA IN RED PRINTED ON RICE PAPER.

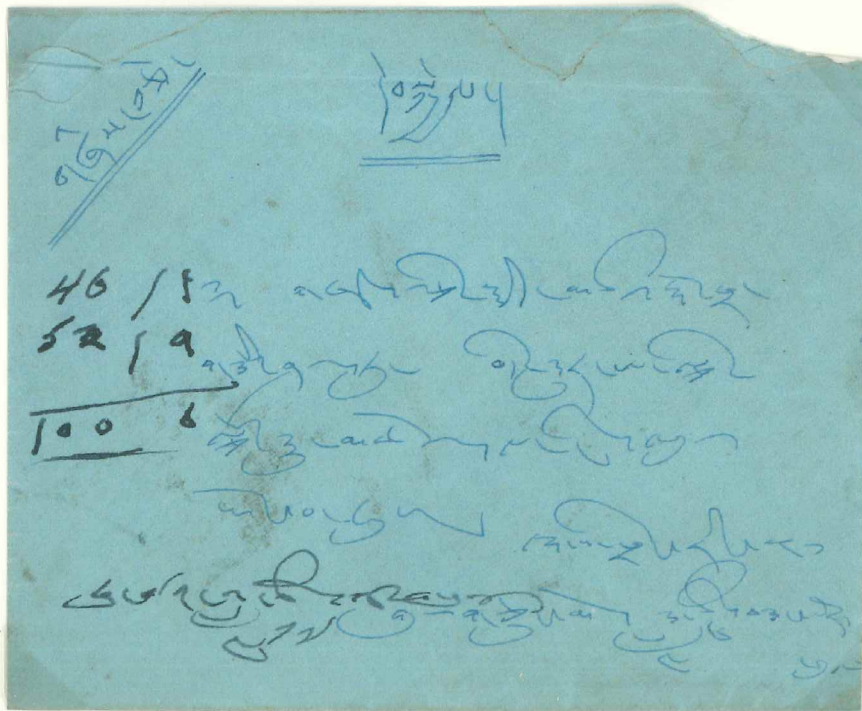
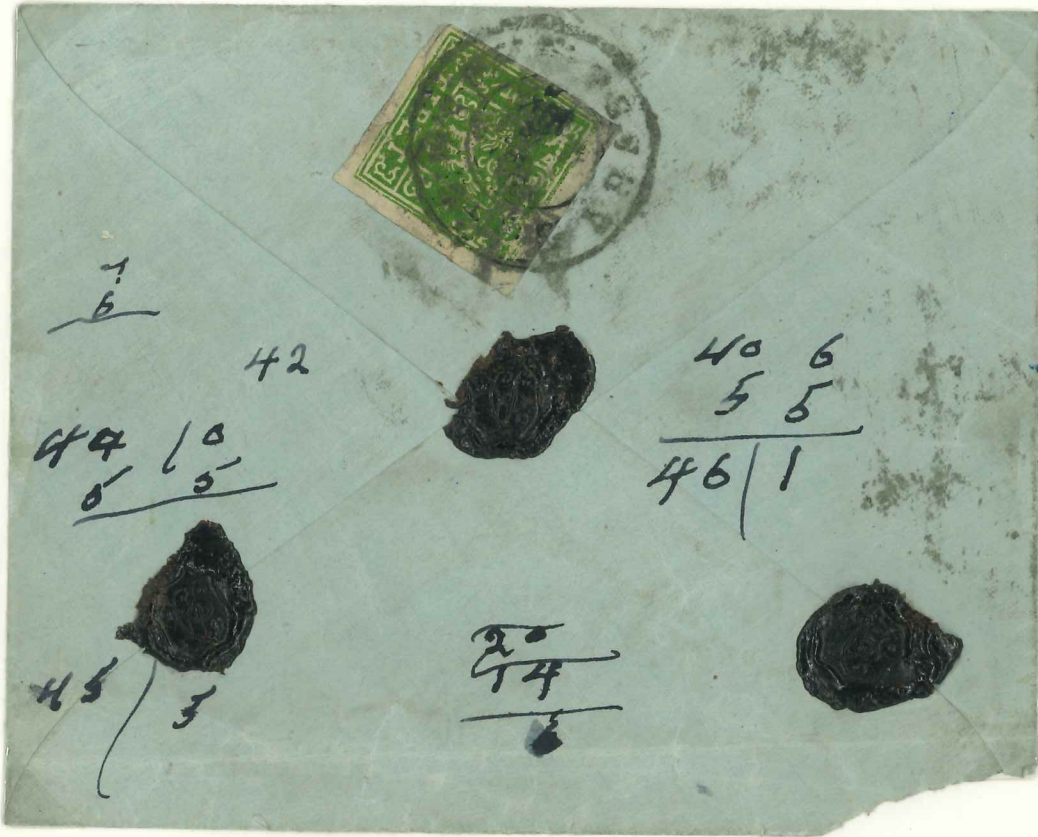




TIBET



COVER FROM LHASA FRANKED WITH A 4 TRANGKA STAMP, THREE BLACK SEALS AND NOTATIONS IN INK ON REVERSE. FRONTAL ADDRESS SEE SCAN.





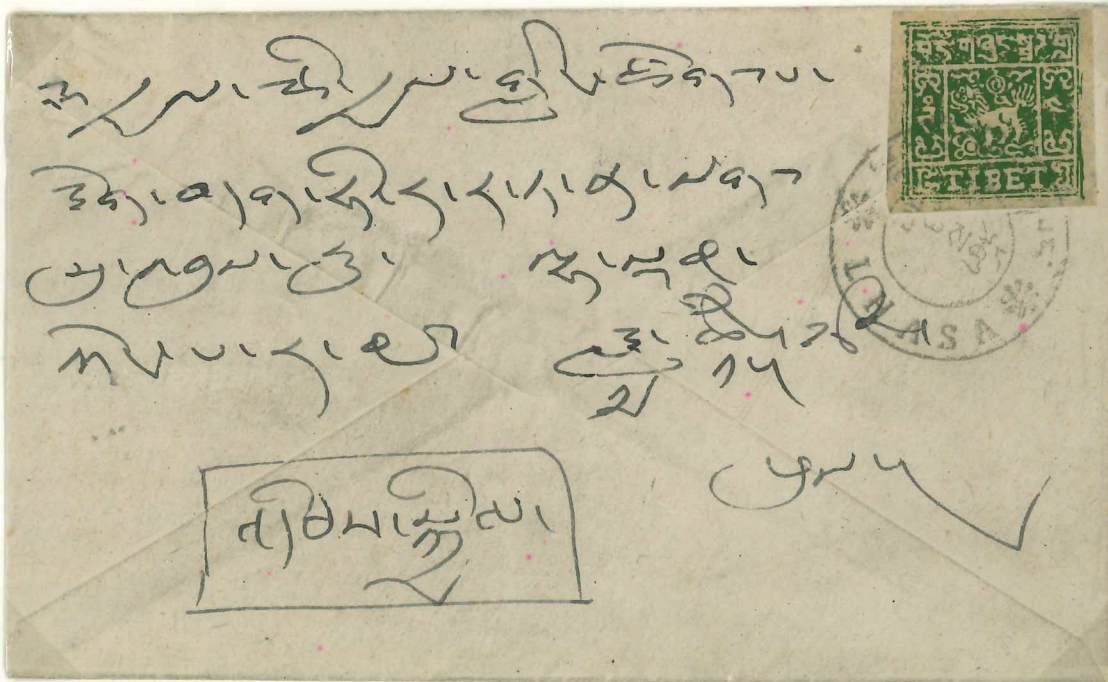
TIBET



TOP: COVER OF 1953 FROM LHASA TO GYANTSE, FRANKED WITH 3 DIFFERENT STAMPS OF THE THIRD SET OF TOTAL 4 1/2 TRANGKA



BOTTOM: COVER FROM LHASA, FRANKED ON REVERSE WITH A 4 TRANGKA STAMP.

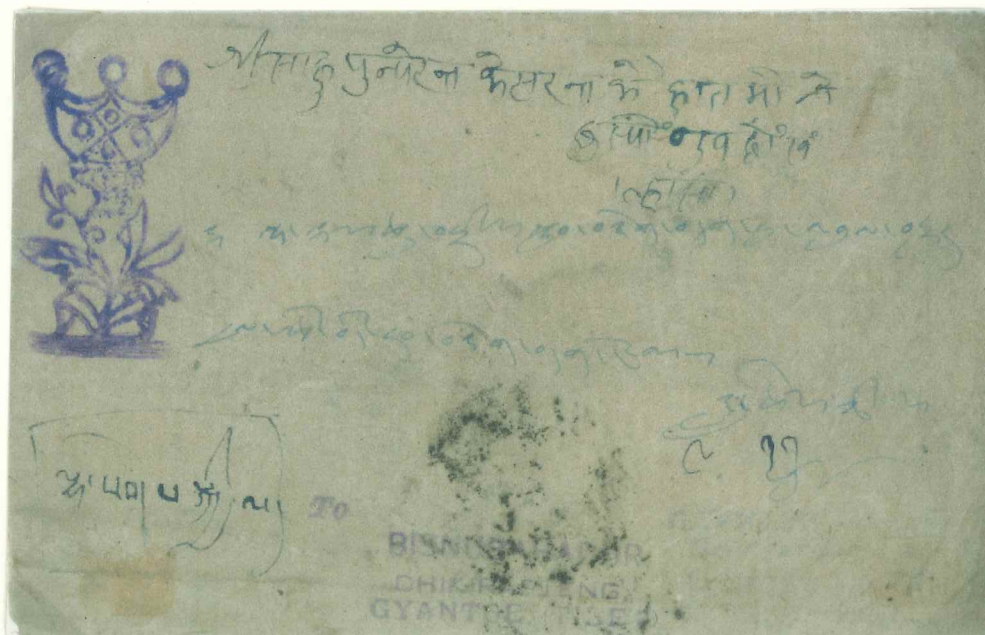




TIBET



COVER FROM GYANTSE, FRANKED WITH CORNER PAIR OF THE 2 TRANGKA STAMP IN ORANGE RED. ADDRESS AND ARTISTIC RUBBER STAMP ON REVERSE (SEE SCAN).

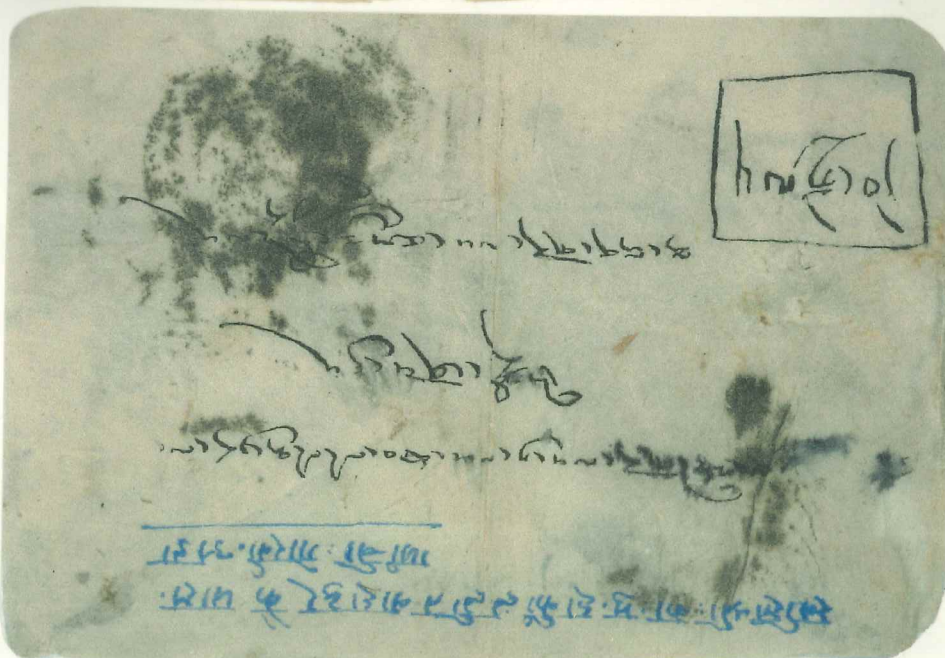
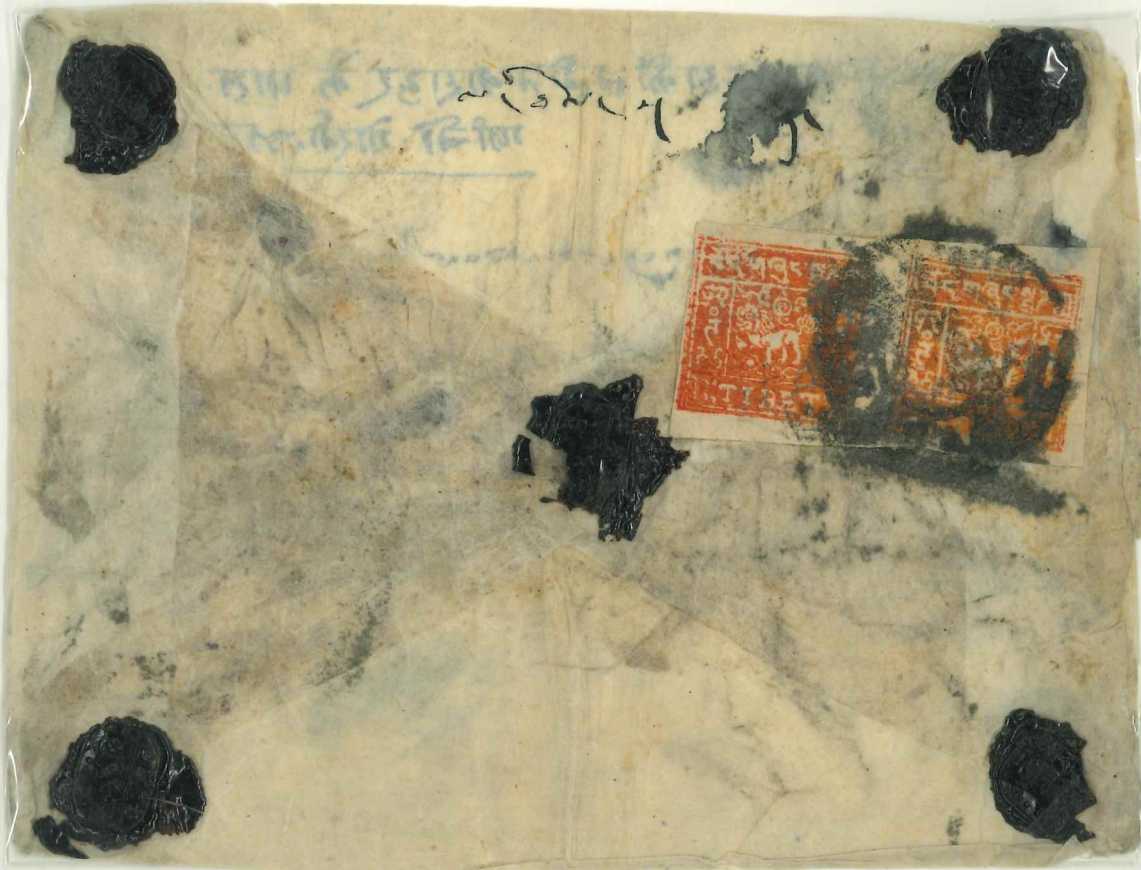




TIBET



COVER WITH UN-IDENTIFIABLE POSTMARK ON A PAIR OF TWO TRANGKA STAMPS IN ORANGE-RED ON REVERSE PLUS FIVE BLACK SEALS. FRONT SEE SCAN.





TIBET



COVER OF 1954 FROM KENOSHA/WISCONSIN/USA TO GYANTSE/TIBET. FRANKED WITH 2 U.S. STAMPS (A THIRD ONE WAS REMOVED) AND A 4 TRANGKA ARRIVAL STAMP ON REVERSE, PROBABLY AS POSTAGE DUE.





TIBET



OFFICIAL STAMPS OF TIBET

I SHOKANG OFFICIAL STAMP SHOWN AS TWO BLOCKS OF FOUR AND A SINGLE STAMP ON PIECE.





TIBET



OFFICIAL STAMPS OF TIBET

**I SHOKANG OFFICIAL STAMP SHOWN AS A FULL SHEET OF 12 STAMPS
PRINTED ON RICE PAPER.**



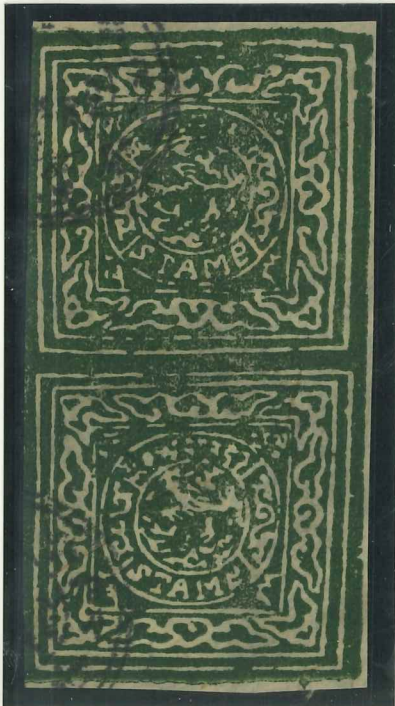


TIBET



OFFICIAL STAMPS OF TIBET

2 SHOKANG SAGE GREEN OFFICIAL STAMP IN SIZE 41 X 41 MM SHOWN AS PAIR, BLOCK OF FOUR AND AS A SINGLE ON PIECE.





TIBET



OFFICIAL STAMPS OF TIBET

**2 SHOKANG OFFICIAL STAMP IN SIZE 41 X 41 MM AS COLOUR VARIATION
IN LIGHT OLIVE GREEN, SHOWN AS FULL SHEET OF SIX.**





TIBET



OFFICIAL STAMPS OF TIBET

I SANG OFFICIAL STAMP IN SIZE 64 X 64 MM IN BLACK, SHOWN AS SINGLE AND PAIR CANCELLED.





TIBET



OFFICIAL STAMPS OF TIBET

**I SANG OFFICIAL STAMP IN SIZE 64 X 64 MM IN SLATE GREY, SHOWN
BLOCK OF FOUR WITH PAPER FOLD ERROR.**





TIBET



TELEGRAPH STAMPS OF TIBET

FULL SET OF THE FIVE TELEGRAPH STAMPS OF TIBET: 1/2 SANG YELLOW AND 1 SANG LILAC SHOWN AS MINIATURE SHEETS OF FOUR. HIGHER VALUES SINGLES ARE 5 SANG, DARK GREEN, 10 SANG BLUE AND 25 SANG RED. THESE STAMPS WERE OCCASIONALLY ALSO USED AS POSTAGE STAMPS.

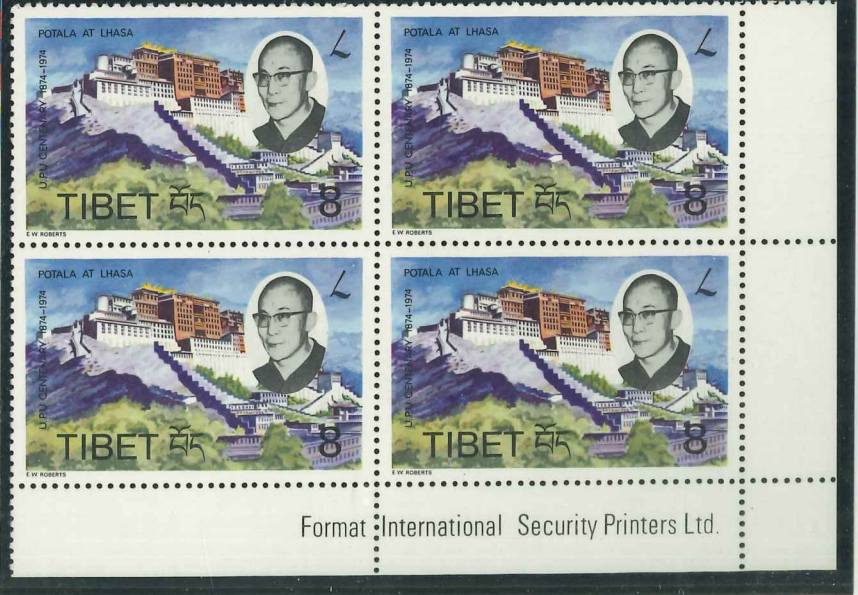
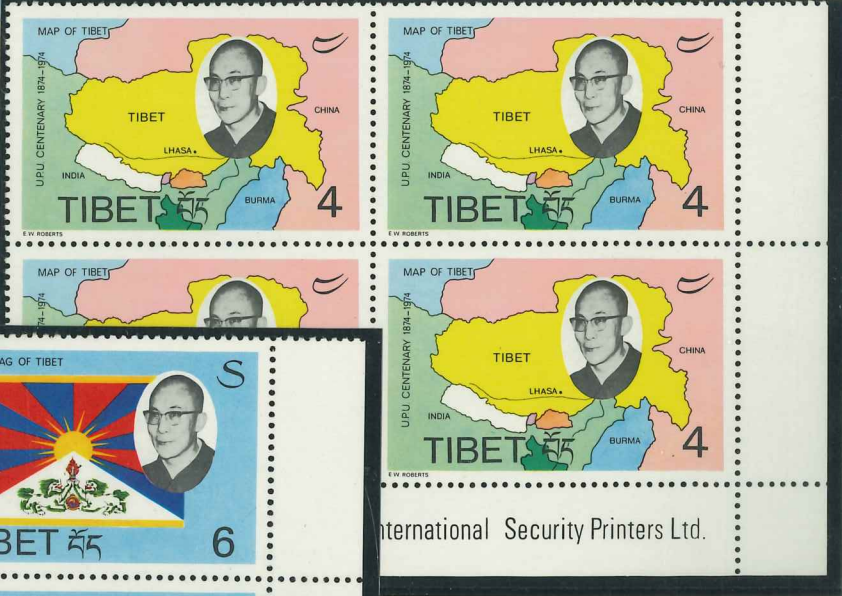




TIBET



THE POSTAL STAMPS ISSUED 1974 BY THE TIBETAN EXILE GOVERNMENT IN INDIA FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY AND FUNDRAISING BY SALE TO THE PHILATELIC MARKET OVERSEAS. THREE SETS WERE ISSUED.



Format International

International Security Printers Ltd.

Format International

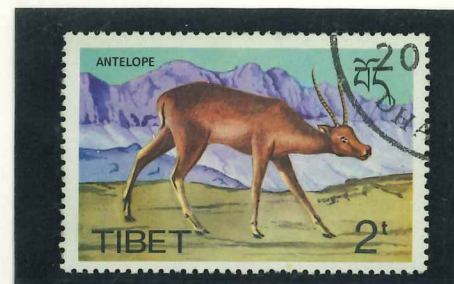
Format International Security Printers Ltd.



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TIBET



ADDITIONAL TIBET-RELATED STAMPS:

PANE OF 10 POLITICAL STICKERS "FREE TIBET" PRINTED 1959 IN NEW ZEALAND.



REPRINT OF 4 TRANGKA STAMP OF 1920 ON A CURRENT 0.55 EURO STAMP OF AUSTRIA.

China says 'no' to Austrian Dalai Lama stamp
 Austria Post has been forced to abort plans to issue a stamp designed to honour the Dalai Lama due to pressure from the Chinese government. The design included a portrait of the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader in his traditional orange robes, and bore the inscription: 'His Holiness the Dalai Lama'. Chinese authorities strongly disapproved of the stamp, and the project was quickly abandoned to avoid damaging economic relations between the two countries.





TIBET



INTERNATIONAL STAMPS SHOWING THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADER OF TIBET, HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA.

1. SINGLE STAMP AND MINIATURE SHEET OF 1995 ISSUED BY TUVA.



2. TWO COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF 2002 "HELP FREE TIBET" ISSUED BY "OCCUSSI AMBENO".



3. PRIVATE STAMP SET FOR THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF THE DALAI LAMA. DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY VOLKER JANSSEN, SIMONS TOWN.



PHILATELY

COLLECTIONS of STAMPS

VOL 16

TIBET

