

1953 Conquest of Mount Everest



Mount Everest is in the **Himalaya mountain** range located between **Nepal** and **Tibet**, an autonomous region of China. At **8,849 meters (29,032 feet)**, it is considered the tallest point on Earth. In the 19th century, the mountain was named after **George Everest**, a former Surveyor General of India. The Tibetan name is Chomolungma, which means "Mother Goddess of the World." The Nepali name is Sagarmatha.

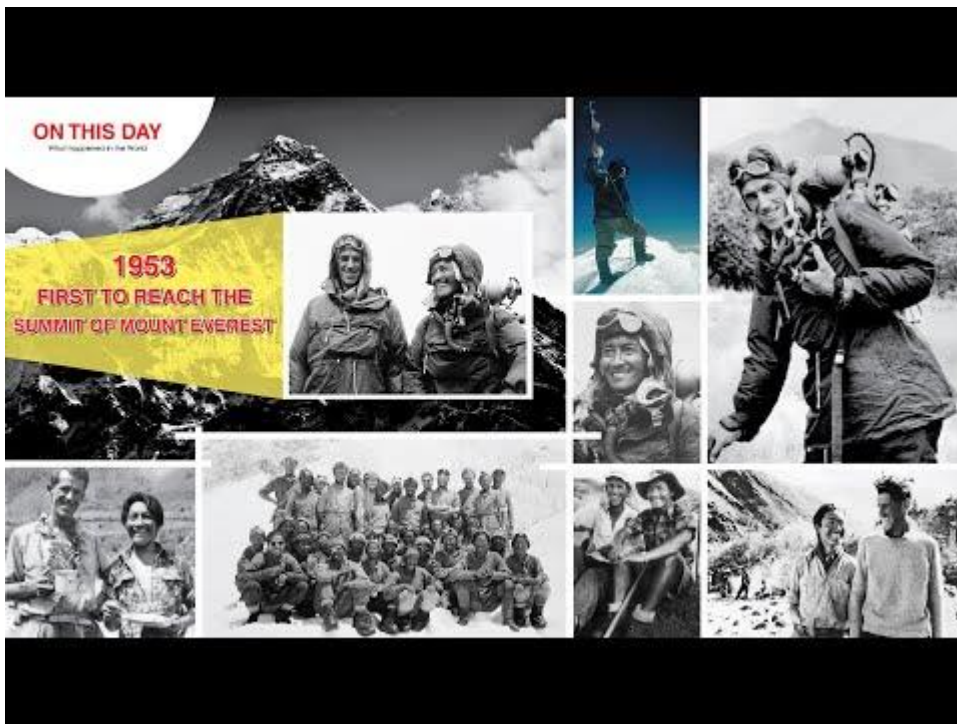
The **1953 British Mount Everest** expedition was the ninth to attempt the first ascent and the first confirmed to have succeeded when **Sherpa Tenzing Norgay** and (**later Sir**) **Edmund Hillary** reached the summit on 29 May 1953. Led by **Colonel John Hunt**, it was organised and financed by the **Joint Himalayan Committee**. News of the expedition's success reached London in time to be released on the morning of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation on 2nd June.

The conquest of **Everest** caught the imagination of the world. So, there are many commemorative & souvenir issues & first day covers. Consequently, it can make a good philatelic theme.

This display shows just a small selection of what is available.



This Indian first day cover shows a photo, taken by Edmund Hillary, of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay on the summit.



Postcard - Edmund Hillary, Tenzing Norgay & Sir John Hunt's Expedition Team



Sir John Hunt (L), leader of the British Everest expedition, and Sir Edmund Hillary (R) arrive at Lancaster House for reception being given in their honour. Earlier they had been received by Queen Elizabeth who knighted the two men.

Edmund Hilary Quotes

“People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.”

“It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves”

“No-one remembers who climbed Mount Everest the 2nd time.”

Tenzing Norgay Quotes

“If I know I make this much trouble, I never climb Everest.”

“If it is a shame to be the second man on Everest, then I will have to live with this shame.”

The Himalayan mountains have long been home to indigenous groups living in the valleys. The most famous of these are the **Sherpa** people. The word “**Sherpa**” is often used to mean mountain guide, though it actually refers to an ethnic group. The **Sherpa** have valuable experience in mountain climbing & most climbs of **Everest** would be impossible without the **Sherpas’** logistical help and knowledge. Because they live at such a high altitude all year round, they are accustomed to the low oxygen levels.

Climbing **Mount Everest** is a dangerous undertaking:-

- It requires a lot of mountaineering experience and a trained Nepalese guide.
- The snow and ice on the mountain create deadly hazards like avalanches.
- There is only a limited climbing season due to bad weather conditions.
- Rescue by helicopter is limited to the Everest Base Camp at 17,900 feet on the Nepal side in good weather. China doesn’t allow helicopters to fly on the Tibet side.
- Perhaps the biggest danger is the altitude. Most climbers are not accustomed to the high altitude and low oxygen levels and rely on bottled oxygen they have to carry with them. This is why the area above 8,000 meters (26,000 feet) elevation is called the “**death zone.**” Climbers who spend long periods in this region can develop altitude sickness and even brain swelling.



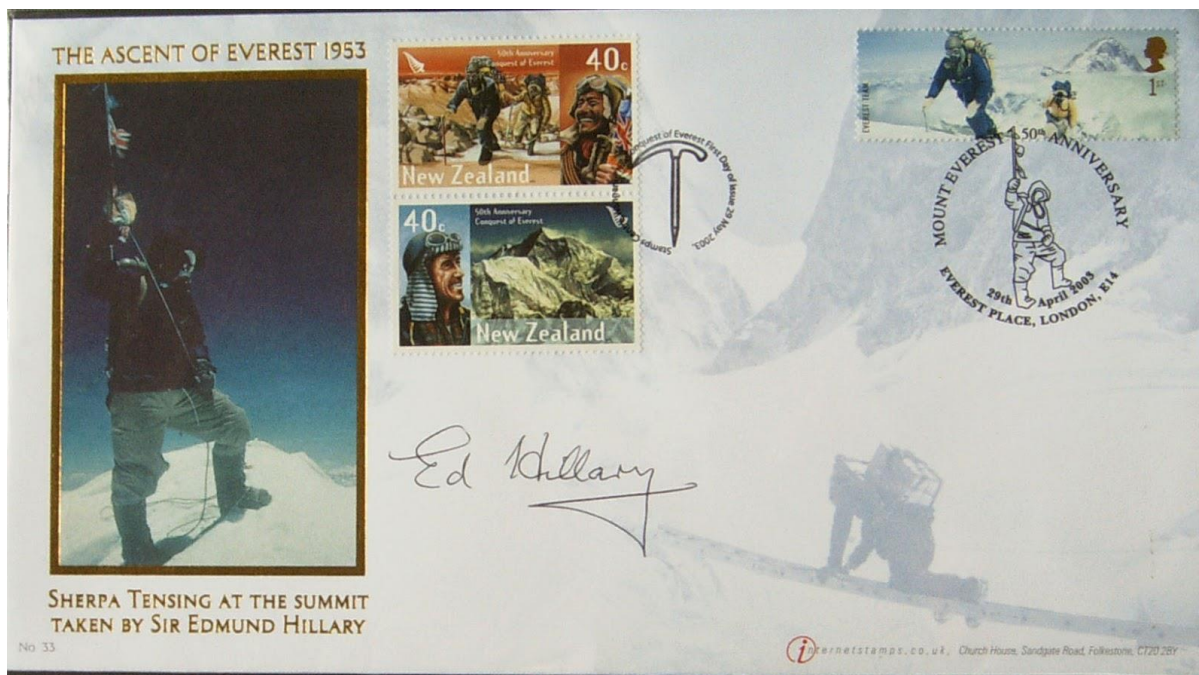
1978 – 25th Anniversary of Conquest

Nepal 1st Day Cover signed by Expedition Members



2003 - 50th Anniversary of Conquest

New Zealand 1st Day Cover



2003 cover, signed by Sir Edmund Hillary, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the conquest contains a New Zealand pair of stamps and a British stamp.



From New Zealand 1994 “The 1950’s” stamp set



2003 India – 50th Anniversary of Conquest



2013 Nepal - 60th Anniversary of Conquest



Sir Edmund Hillary 1919 – 2008

2008 New Zealand Commemorative Set

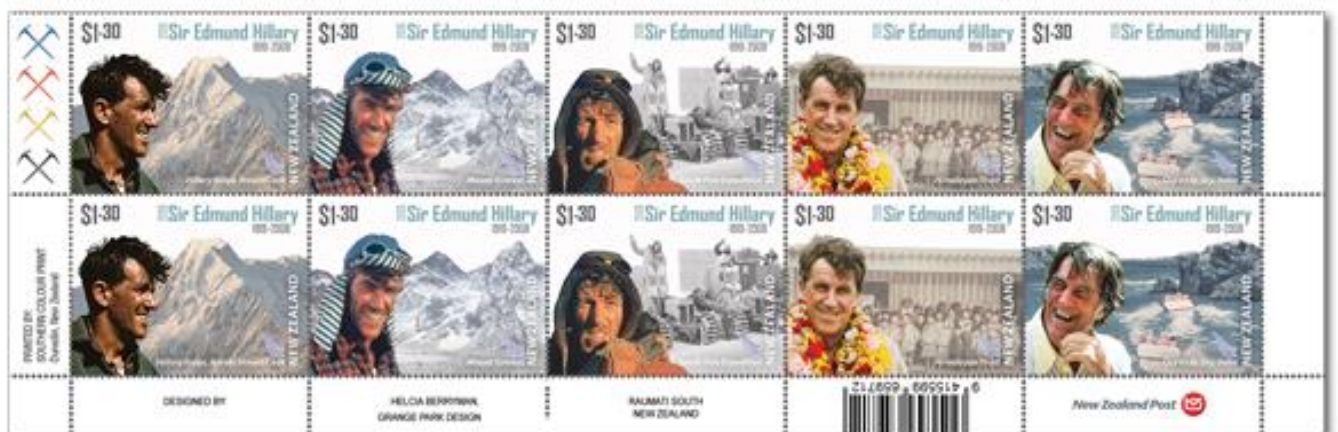
100^e anniversaire d'Edmund Hillary



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2019 Republic of Togo

Commemorating 100th Anniversary of birth of Edmund Hillary



2019 New Zealand

Commemorating 100th Anniversary of birth of Edmund Hillary