

INDIAN - PERSIAN POSTAL RELATIONS OVER TWO CENTURIES

Collaboration and Rivalry (1862 to the 1930s)

Purpose: A research study to show the postal communications, treaties and difficulties between India/GB and Persia from 1862 until the 1930s, a period when Great Britain (and Russia) forcefully controlled Persia. So the two Great powers political, economic and military policies affected Postal Communications in the region. As Great Britain favoured an economic development with the Gulf, making treaties with the local sheiks and rulers it also saw the Persian Gulf as their "own" territory.

Although GB/India opened post offices on both sides of the Gulf. In this research the development of the Indian postal services in Persia and the interrelationships between the Indian and the Persian Postal Services is underlined. It will emphasise the official agreements and co-operations but also highlight the difficulties Persia's own postal system was facing and how it was hampered in the south due to rivalry but not the least GBs overwhelming power policy in the region.

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- proving certain cooperation with the respective Persian counterpart post office	
- Showing evidence how Persia handled the new situation after having all Indian POs closed end March 1923	

Explanation of the organization: Due to the complexity of the subject, the exhibit is divided into two main parts.

The **first** part deals with the Indian postal services in Persia/The Gulf in general. An **innovative approach** is made in the sense that the development of the postal services provided in the area as well as the political implications are emphasised. While the marco philately is only a part of the whole.

A majority of the Indian POs in Persia were both exchange- and ordinary post offices. To distinguish between them the exchange POs, mail via both the Indian and the Persian counterparts are introduced here. The purpose is further:

- to show in kind postal communications from 1862, when the first regular postal communications of mail steamers started between Bombay and the Gulf, till the 1930s, how it benefited and how it at times also gave birth to complicated political disturbances between India and Persia.

- to show the various but rarely emphasized postal services that the India postal system provided in the Gulf with an emphasize on Persia. Note that the Gulf Parcel Post (I. C.4) is shown after the Overland parcel route for convenience.

The **second** part presents the Indian post offices in Persia functioning as ordinary post offices established between 1864 and 1923 and their respective Persian counterparts. Here mostly the postmarks will tell the difference of the Indian post offices. These POs were treated as ordinary inland offices and the stamps used were all Indian.

Marco philately and important postal events due to the political developments are combined. Where both Indian and Persian post offices are established Persian mail will also be shown. Persian POs were only established - as a result of the 1922 agreement of the closure of the Indian POs in Persia from April 1923 - afterwards in Abadan and Maidan-i-Naphtun. Examples are shown of the sort of postal services that replaced the Indian services in Arabistan.

Treatment: The box on upper left shows the section number as in the organization charter. The head-line on the top of each page refers back to the sections name in the organization charter but can varie to facilitate the story of a particular page. The box to the right gives further information of relevance. Above each postal item there is a introduction head-line. Below follows details such as rates, routes, markings and notes.

Note that some scanning are done directly to the page. Due to quality concern some are printed out glued to the page.

References: F B O'Shea: 1888, revised 1905, entitled Memorandum of the British/Indian Post Offices the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia; This memo is a most important paper. **Jal Cooper:** India used Abroad, 1950; **W. Renouf:** Early Indian Cancellations & Postmarks, 1919; **N Donaldson:** The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia & the Gulf, 1975; **P. Cockrill:** Series. Indian Postal Agencies & The Campaign 1868-1921. **V.S.Dastur:** India used Abroad. **Martin & Blair:** Overseas Letter Postage from India 1854-1876. **D. Hammond Giles,** The Handstruck Stamps of India. **A. Parson:** The Indian Postal Agencies in The Persian Gulf Area. 2001; **D.S. Virk:** Indian Postal History, 1991; Articles in Bulletins of the **India Study Circle**, UK, and the **Iran Philatelic Study Circle**, UK, and other publications. On-going consultations with leading authorities such as H. Clarke and Max Smith both from the UK. Any faults in the write-up I take full responsibility for.

Research: see the synopses

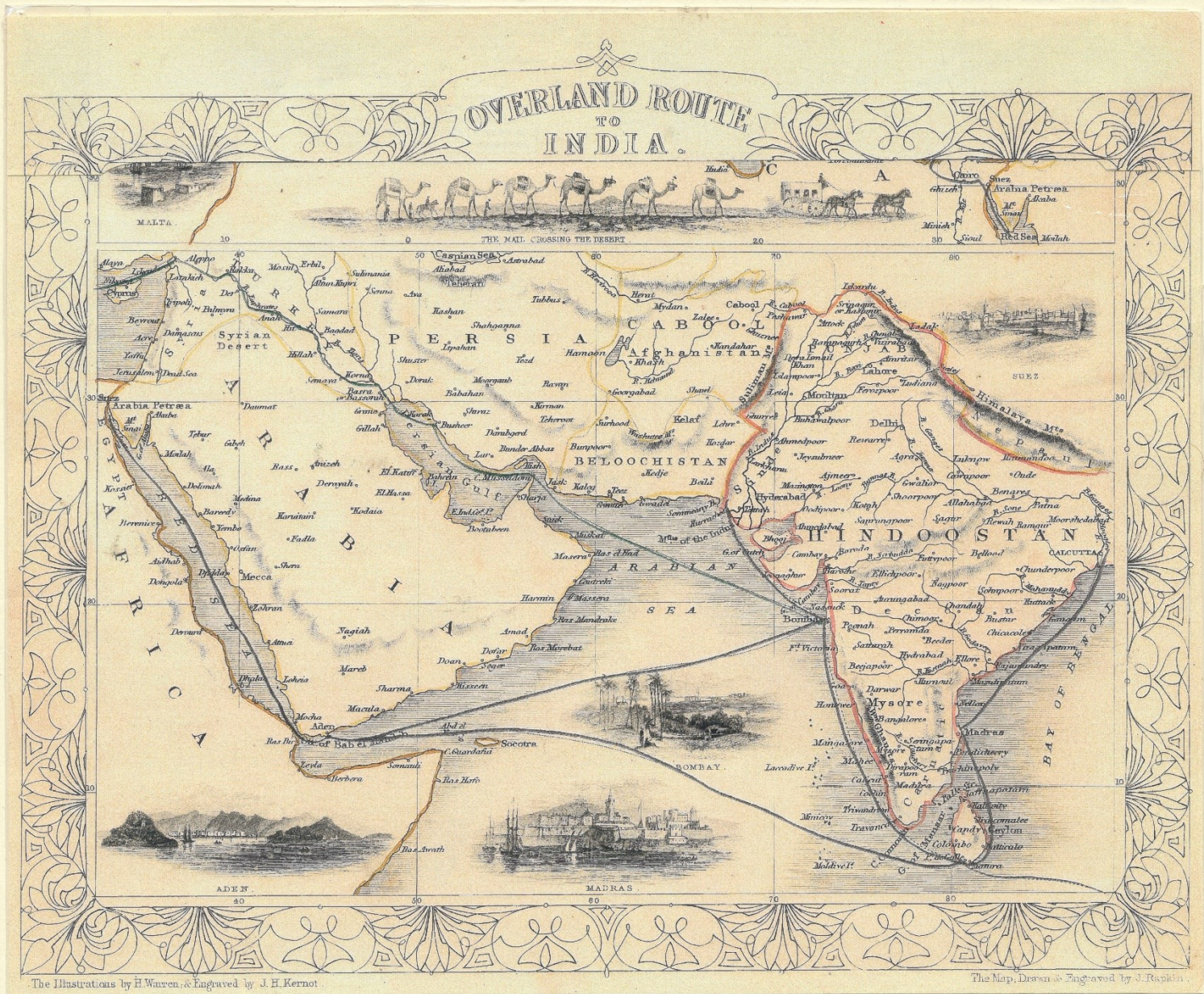
*As the Indian postal system in the Gulf was part of the overall Indian postal system and thus fully integrated, the exhibitor has in order to show all available services in the Gulf as complete as possible included a few examples related to other non-Persian Indian POs in the Gulf

During the Qajar period, ended 1925, the Persians were using the Islamic calendar shortened to "H" in Hergeisa

Abbreviations: PO = Post Office. E PO = Exchange Post Office. IPO = Indian PO. PPO = Persian PO

I. Early Mail related to the Gulf

Part Map of the Overland Postal Routes between India, The Gulf and Europe from mid-1800s
Engraver J Rapkin.



Great Britain "ruled" India and the Persian Gulf from the first half of the 19th century. For political and economical reasons the Gulf was gradually becoming a most strategic area. Trade expanded. Piracy flourished but was crushed by the British Navy and by local treaties with ruling Sheiks. Indian merchants, who were British subjects, began to settle in the small Arab sheikhdoms and along Persia littoral. The Indian textile industry needed markets. The British were there to look after its interests. Other competitors were locked out!

As a consequence regular mail services between Bombay, the trade center, and the trading outposts in the Gulf were felt needed. A monthly steamer ship line was inaugurated in 1862 and which carried mail. In 1864 the Indian postal inland administration were asked to open the first IPOs in the Gulf, in Bushire, Persia, and in Muscat only to be followed by many more during the nest 60 years of its lifespan. Although the IPOs on the Arabian side were opened as part of treaties the IPOs along the Persian littoral were in fact illegal since agreements with the Persian Government was never discussed. Simply it was never involved or informed. Local Governors were usually positive though when they realized the positive affects on the trade.

The Indian POs were nominally under the India Postal Administration but were set up by the British/Indian government and the Whitehall (London) and mostly run by the local British Agents.

East India and Indian stamps were used. Each IPO had its own obliterators

Introduction to Regular Postal Communications

between India, the Persian coast and the Gulf, 1862 to 1877

Regular mail communications existed between India and the Gulf including Persia but in **1862** the first regular, every sixth-week, line of mail steamers under the Indian postal authorities was introduced. In 1866 the service converted into monthly service and a fortnightly in 1870. British/Indian post offices opened gradually in various Gulf ports, **Bushire and Muscat in 1864 followed by Bandar Abbas and Linga 1867, etc.** The only way to distinguish Indian PO's in Persia from each other is by the cancellation. India inland rates applied as the Indian post offices in the Gulf including those at Persia littoral until 1903 were part of the Indian inland postal system.

1877 postal agreement: British India and Persia concluded for the exchange of closed mail. Among the **principal provisions** were: that Bushire became exchange office and that correspondence between India and Persia should be subject to certain inland and union rates of postage. Other post offices were established along the Persian coast. In the east an organized Overland mail service opened in 1902 and Koh-i-Malek-Ziarat inside the Persian border became the exchange offices for both India and Persia replaced by Duzdab in 1919.

Notes: The main part of mail between 1864, when Bushire opened, and 1878 when the 1877 postal agreement between India and Persia started is found under part II. Indian post offices in Persia (frames 4-8)

Mail with INSUFFICIENT + 1AN from 1873. A combination for postage due

For a few years in the 1870s this combination was in use. Both are rare. Of the "INSUFFICIENT + 1AN (or 2AN, etc) only two covers recorded (the other one is damaged).

Sent to and charged at Calcutta upon arrival in 1873. BUSHIRE in serifs + "26" in duplex



Rates: 1½ as + 1AN in postage due

Routes: Bushire endorsed 3/3/1873 via Bombay 24 Ma/73 to Calcutta by train backstamped 27 March

Notes: Endorsed "via Bombay"

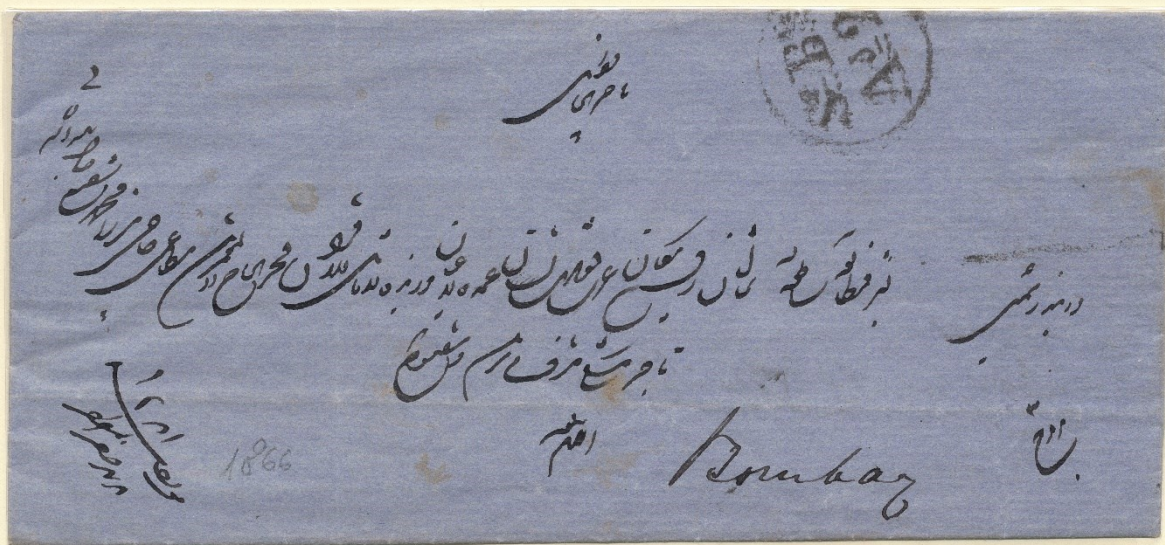
Map showing the Indian post offices in the Gulf



Mail put in letter boxes onboard or non-contractual mail between Persia and Bombay

Such mail never went through the Bushire or other Indian PO in the Gulf

Early mail from the Persian Gulf (or elsewhere) arriving Bombay by ship received special markings by the postal authorities to indicate the amount pre-paid or to be paid by the receiver including also the ship fee to non-contractual ships. The contents only would reveal place of departure. (HG = Hammond Giles)



Receipt
Stamp Circle
S6B/As 2
(HG; SR 20)
From Bushire
In H 1281 =
1864/65
Content



Receipt
Stamp box
**BOMBAY/
SHIP LETTER/
BEARING 1A**
HG SR 9
(1866-67)
From Bushire
Sent H 1283=
1866-67
to Bombay
arriving
SP 13/66
Letter up-side
down
Content



Receipt
stamp
rectangular
box
**BOMBAY
Bearing 4 Annas**
HG SR 14
(1860-67)
From Bushire
Sent H 1283 =
1866-67
to Bombay
arriving
NO ?/66
Content

Postal treaties/regulations : India joined UPU (GPU) in 1876 and Persia in 1877 and an agreement between the two countries for exchange of closed mail was signed in **1877** (see later). Persia established post offices at Bushire and Bandar Abbas to work in unison with the Indian postal and exchange offices at those places. **1893** saw an arrangement for exchange of **parcels**. A new was concluded in 1903 when Persia joined the Parcel Post Union. **1901** saw a discontinuance of mail originating from Indian POs in Persia to its interior. As from June **1903** India agreed to use UPU rates i e inland rates were abolished related to mail to Persia. An Overland postal service between eastern Persia and India opened in 1902

Indian postal rates : Inland rates applied till 1903 when India decided upon pressure from UPU to apply UPU rates for commercial mail between India and India PO's in Persia, Basrah and Baghdad while ordinary inland rates were retained with Muscat, Bahrain and Guadur. Rates for Service (Official) mail remained.

Certain Indian inland rates applied between 1866 and 1903 for Indian POs in Persia. From 1903 foreign rates continued to be used for mail to the interior but now also applied for mail for the Indian POs

Letters	1866	1869	1898	1903 Now external rates
½ anna	Less than ¼ tola	½ tola	½ tola	
1 anna	" " ½ tola	Less than 1 tola	Less than 1 ½ tola	
+ 1 anna etc	for each ½ tola	" " 2 tola	" " 3 tola	
2 ½ as				1/2oz (14 gr)

1 tola = 11,664 gr = 2 ½ miscals. 7 miscal = 1 ounce(oz). 1 chahi = ½ penny. 1 anna = 3 1/3 chahi

Letter from Karachi to Bushire in 1867



Rates: ½ anna

Routes: Karachi 6 DE 1867 to Bushire.

Markings: Arrival markings not always applied

Rates continuation:

From 1.1.1891 to UK & all countries, whether Union or not, became 2 1/2as per 1/2oz (14gr). This did not apply to the IPOs in the Gulf area until 1903 when the IPOs in Persia also introduced to the external rates. In Dec 1898 Imperial Penny Post was inaugurated. Letters to all UPU countries became 1a per 1/2oz (14gr) and postcards 1a. Rest of the world 2 1/2as and 1a. Of which the letter rate increased to 3as in Feb 1922

Postcard rate: 1/4a. From April 1922, ½a. To UK: 1 ½ as. Decreased to 1a in 1892

Reg fee: 4as decreased to 2as from 1.8 1881 for both letters and post cards. From Feb 1922, 3as

Postage due: Double the deficiency charged on delivery on unpaid or insufficiently paid letters

Currency: 1 Kran = 20 Chahis = 6 annas. 1 anna = 12 pies = 3 1/3 chahi

The earlier PO's in the Gulf were first under the Bombay Circle. Between 1869 and 1879 the IPO's came under the Sind Circle (Karachi). The cancellations then generally applied had a "K" for Karachi initialed during that period.

In 1879 all Gulf Offices were regrouped under the Bombay Circle

Jask - Muscat - Bombay - England in 1873

Jask. Indian post office opened in 1880

JASK had informal arrangements before the Indian post office opened in 1880. Mail via Muscat 1873

Optional routes known either via Muscat, Bandar Abbas, Guador or Karachi. **Muscat "309"** applied



Rates: 6 annas to UK

Routes: Jask August 10th, 1873 in m/s, via Muscat AU 7/73 and Bombay 5 SE 73 to Spilsby, England 8 Oct 73

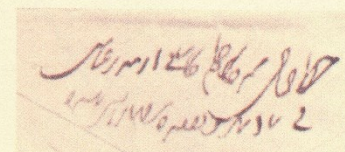
Notes: The British Telegraph Office supplied Indian stamps and "Jask" was written in m/s across the stamps

Bandar Abbas. Persian territory but leased to Muscat. The lease ended late 1868

Letter from 1866 to Bombay. Bandar Abbas Indian post office opened as experimental office in 1867

This 1866 letter is the **only recorded from Bandar Abbas under Muscat rule during the pre-post period**

Regular mail steamers from Bombay plied many Gulf ports from 1862. Casual ships plied all frequently



Bandar Abbas in Arabic
script top left at back
Reduced to 70%

Rates: 2 as bearing

Routes: From Bandar Abbas on March 14, 1866 (9 Zee Ghadeh 1282) to Bombay 6 April

Markings: Bombay Bg:2as applied and a Bombay small circular delivery mark. Also a red oval Bombay "un-paid" mark at reverse

Notes: Bombay shipping records list only the important vessels. Not the "native" ones. The closest arrival was "Penang" (McCullum) on 3d April 1866

I. C.1. Early mail
Persian Gulf

Postal Notice

Mail steamer
service

British Steam Navigation Company

In 1862, a regular six-weekly mail service between Bombay and Basra in Mesopotamia was undertaken by the British India Steam Navigation Company. In 1866, it became a monthly service to be followed by a fortnightly service in 1870. In 1874 a weekly between Karachi and Basra was set up

Date of departure of the Persian Gulf Mail Steamers 1881

Original notice published by the Post Master General's Office, Bombay, 3d September 1881

POSTAL NOTICE.

Dates of departure of the Homeward and Persian Gulf Mail
Steamers on and after the 29th September 1881.

Beginning with Thursday the 29th September 1881, the Homeward Overland Mail Steamers will leave Bombay, until further notice, on Thursday of each week; and beginning with Tuesday the 4th October 1881, the Mail Steamers for the Persian Gulf *via* Karachi will leave Bombay, until further notice, on Tuesday of each week.

BOMBAY;
Post Master General's Office,
3rd September 1881.

A. U. FANSELAWE,
Offg. Post Master General.

The ports of call were 1862: Bombay-Karachi-Gwador-Muscat-Bandar Abbas-Bushire-Basra and return

The ports of call were 1870: Bombay-Karachi-Guador-Muscat-Bandar Abbas-Bandar Linga-Bushire-Fao-Basra

In the contract of 1904, the service was divided into separate weekly services between Karachi and Basra: one slow at 8 knots (as before) and a "fast" doing 13 knots. The slow mail made the round trip in about 20 days and the fast in about 12 days.

Postal Agreement with Persia 1877

India joined UPU (GPU) in 1876 and Persia in 1877

Bushire Indian Post Office

An agreement of 1877 between India and Persia for the exchange of closed mails was concluded

The principal provisions were that the Persian and Indian Post Offices in Bushire and that of Bombay should be Offices of Exchange and in closed mail. Be subject of certain Union rates

Inland rates applied between all Indian Post Offices in the Gulf. Foreign rates to and from the Persian POs as from 1903 Mail from any of the ports where Indian post offices were established no Persian mail to abroad would be accepted probably because the Indian foreign rates were on the whole more expensive than the Persian foreign rates

However, routing the same Persian letter via Russia postal system would be again much cheaper and probably explains why about 98% of all Persian franked mail went via Russia

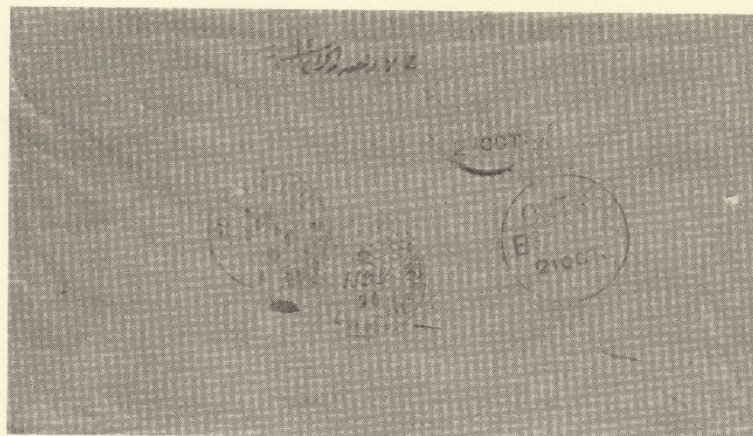
Letter from the Indian post office in Bushire to Egypt in 1878

Guides: Indian postal guides 1878 & 79



Rates: 5 annas for ½ oz indicating the letter 's weight based on 1R 4as was more than 1½oz = 42gr+

Routes: Bushire OCT 9 (1878, H 11 Shawwal 1295 in m/s), Bombay 21 Oct and (Sea Post Office) to Egypt 2 NOV 1878



Reduced

Markings: BASHIR Duplex K-5 (1870s-early 1880s) = Bushire

Postal Agreement with Persia 1877

Outgoing

Bushire and Bombay Exchange Offices

The agreement of 1877 for the exchange of closed mails was implemented as from February 1878

The British played hardball with Persia!

Persian mail via the Indian exchange system in the south was charged much more than if same mail was sent via Russia

Persian registered letter to Egypt in 1881 via the Indian postal system in the south

Posted from the interior, Schiras, in 1881, to Egypt. As it was sent by option via the Indian postal system the charge was 12 ch for 1st weight class to be compared with 5 chahi only via Russia i.e. 2½ times more!

The number 27963 in m/s is suspected to be the sea sorting number. The 3341 is the Bodou number (both above the stamps)



Rates: 12 chahi (0,6 kran) for 1st weight class. (3,6 chahi) **Registration fee:** 10 chahi (valid until April 1884

Routes: Shiraz 28 May (1881) via Bushire Persian P O 9 June. Transferred on 1? June from Bushire Persian E PO (canc not clear) or put in closed bag via (Bombay and Sea Post Office) to Cairo arriving 5 JL 1881 via Suez

Notes: Registration no 514 at front. A small bit tord off of the front

Persian rates via Boushire and Bombay to foreign countries except India and the Gulf

Not exceeding 3 ½ miscals = 1st weight class. 1 tola = 11.664 gr = 2 ½ miscals. 7 miscal = 1 ounce(oz). 1 chahi = ½ penny. 1 anna = 3 1/3 chahi

This is part of the *complete rate table published soon after the Indian-Persian 1877 agreement for postal exchange was concluded
Until 2009 most of the overseas rates via the Indian system for Persian mail were totally unknown among the philatelists

Letters		1875		1877/78		
Weight	class	dom	foreign	foreign via		
				dom.	Russia*	Bouchir*
Normal rate	I	5	8k+ 5	5	5	5 12 14
Normal rate	II	10		10	10	10 24 28

There was a huge difference in rates vis-a-vis the other outlets via Russia or Mesopotamia

Via Bushir: For all Europe, GPU members in Asia, Australia, Africa and America. **Orange column.** (6 recorded)

Also via **Bouchir:** For USA, Great Britain, and France. **Blue column** (none recorded)

But for British India, Bussorah (Basra), and Bandar Abbas; same rates as **via Russia**

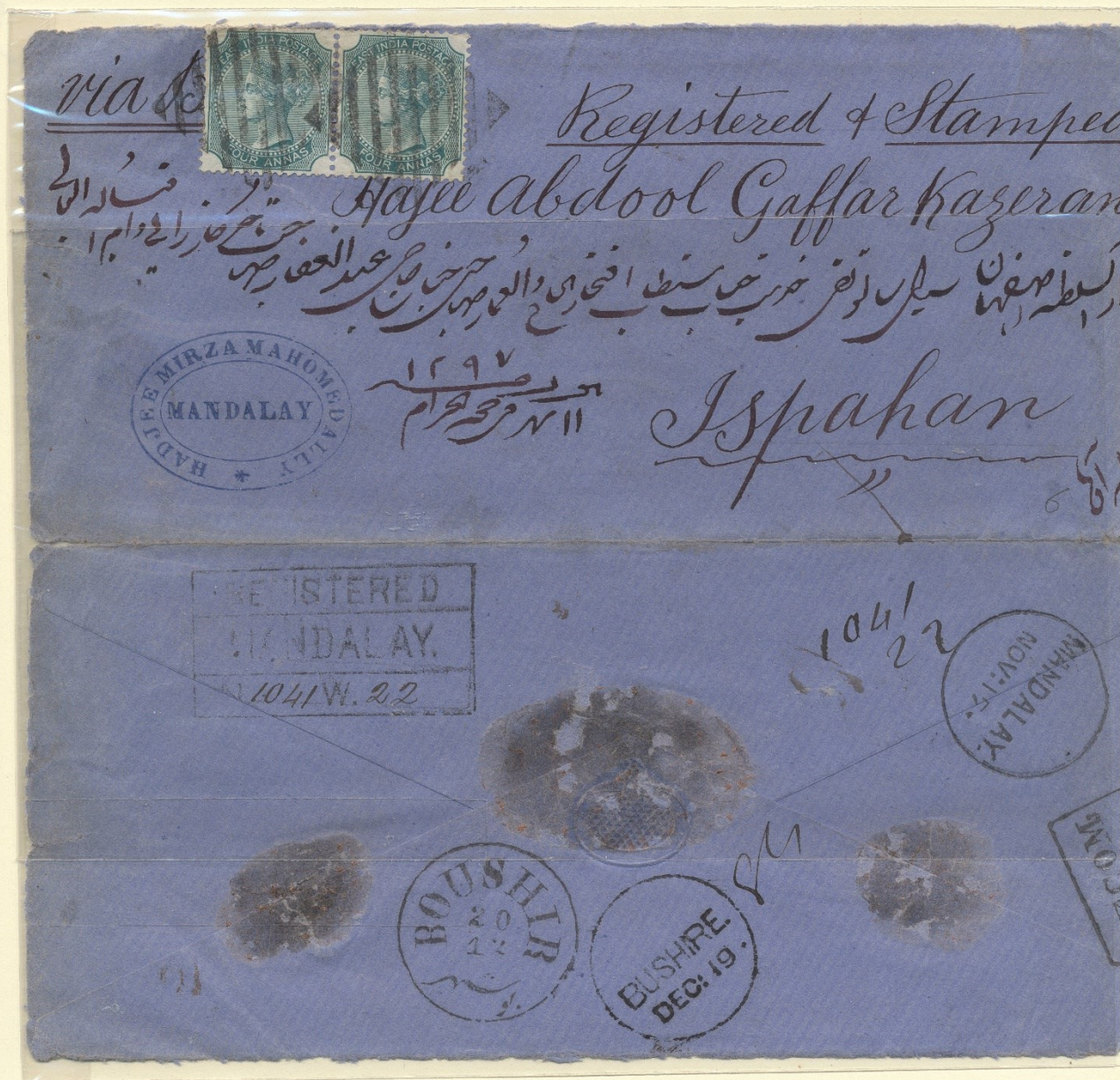
* **Rates source:** Admin. Report of the Persian Gulf political residence and Muscat political Agency for the year 1877-78

I. C.2 Regular mail arrangement

Bushire Exchange Offices

Incoming 1880

Incoming registered mail from Burma 1880



Rates: 4as (2as per Oz). Registration fee: 4as

Routes: From Mandalay, Burma, 17 Nov 1880 via India to Bushire IEO 19 December. Handed over to PEO 20 December. Forwarded to Isfahan in central Persia

Markings: Bushire Indian EO circle exchange mark, 25mm

Part boxed registration mark "RECOM..." struck by the Persian Exchange Office at Bushire. First type introduced 1878

Notes: Mr Kazerani was a well-known merchant

**Indian Avis de Reception = Acknowledgment using the Persian postal system for
the interior 1887**

The **only** document **recorded** proving that registered articles could be sent via the Indian postal system into the interior of Persia via the Persian postal system as per exchange agreement 1877

A^{bis}.

MINISTRATION DE L' INDE BRITANNIQUE.
MINISTRATION OF BRITISH INDIA.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

d'un objet recommandé enregistré sous le No., et adressé à

For a registered article entered under No. 650, and addressed to

M. Mehraban Khursand à le 188.....

M. Mehraban Khursand at Shiraz on the 13/6 188.....

Timbre du bureau
Stamp of the despatching



Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse susmentionnée et pro-

The undersigned certifies that a registered article to the address mentioned above

venant de a été dûment

and originating from Bombay has been duly

d'origine.
office.

livré le 188.....

Timbre du bureau
Stamp of the delivering

delivered on the 188.....

Signature (*)

Signature (*)

de destinataire :
of the addressee.

du chef du bureau distributeur :
of the head of the delivering office.

distributeur
office.

(*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sous enveloppe et renvoyé, sous recommandation, par le premier courrier.

(*) This intimation should be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of delivery permit it, by the head of the office of delivery, and it should then be placed in an envelope and returned registered by the first mail.

Ketihoooro Mehraban Khursand

Used from Bombay June 13, 1887 for a registered article addressed to Shiraz in Persia via Bushire I EO that transferred the article to the Persian EO on 1st July for onforwarding to Shiraz. No further marking

I. C.2 Regular mail
arrangements

Bandar Abbas Exchange Offices

Serving Kerman &
Yezd provinces

The southern route to Bombay via the Indian exchange post offices in Bandar Abbas, Persia



Rates: 20 Hongkong cents

Routes: Hongkong in FEB 20/1883, via Bombay to Abbasee (Bandar Abbas) 23 March to Yezd in Yezd province

Markings: No arrival mark. Per (in m/s) Ganges (ship) via Bombay

Yezd province outgoing mail via Bandar Abbas to Bombay. Extra charge of 2 chahi

The rate was 7 chahi to abroad in 1892. The **2 chahi extra** seems to have been a fee applied to Persian foreign mail originating from the interior using the Indian postal system about 1891-93 or earlier



Rates: 7 chahi. Registration fee: 14 chahi. Extra charge: 2 chahi

Routes: Yezd 23/1 (1892) via Bandar Abbas Indian EPO 5 FE to Bombay FE 13/92 (both backstamped)

I.C1 Indian & Persian
mail arrangements

Bandar Abbas Exchange Offices

Servicing Kerman &
Yezd provinces

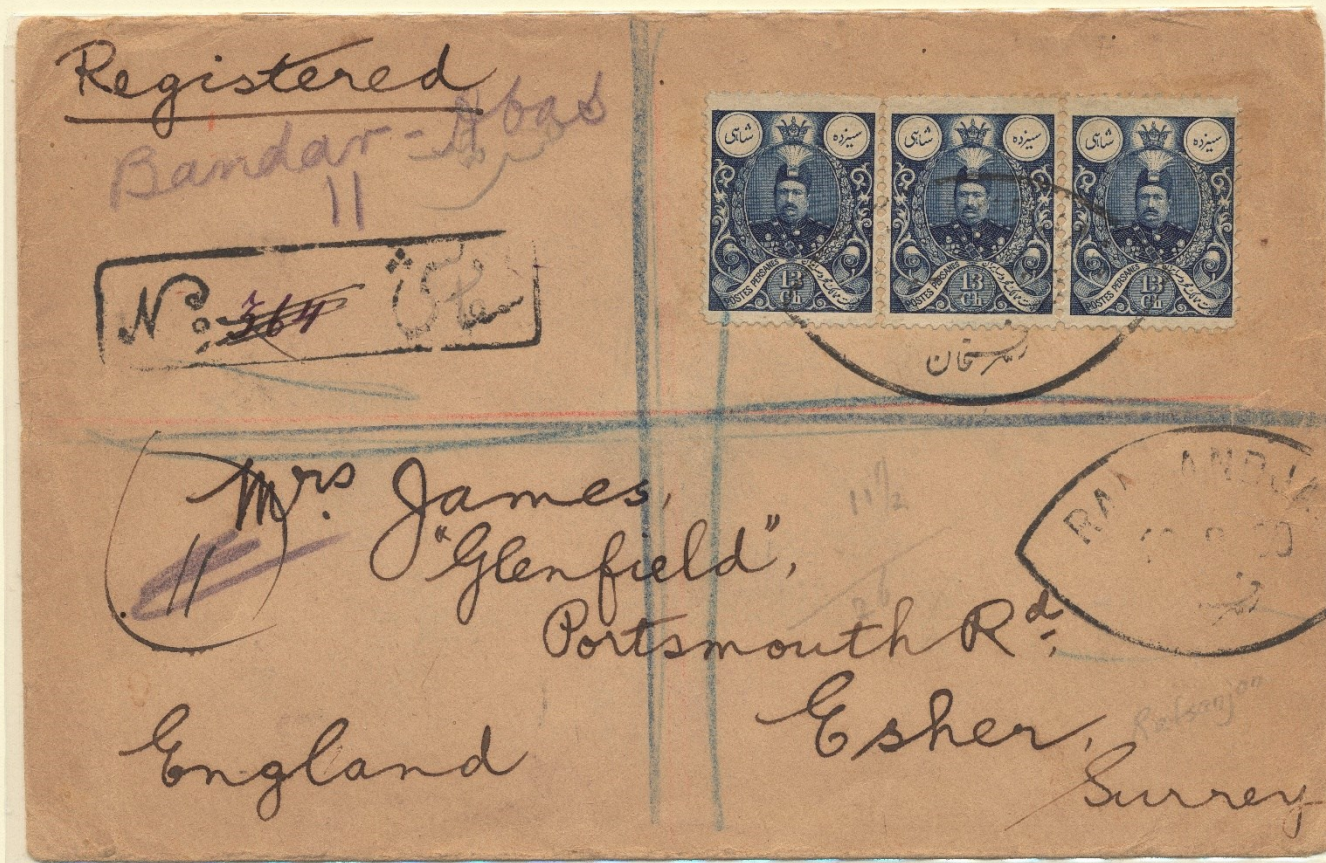
Incoming from Uruguay



Rates: 3 centimos (Uruguayan)

Routes: Montevideo June 1906 via Europe and Sea PO to Bombay Bandar Abbas Indian EPO 4 Sep 1906, forwarded to Persian EPO 5 Sep, Isfahan - Koum 20 10 to Sultanabad

Registered letter from Rafsanjan to England



Rates: 13 ch. Reg. Fee: 26 ch double registration

Routes: Rafsanjan 18 Sep to Bandar Abbas P EPO. Handed over to IEPO 4 Oct 1909

I. C.2. Indian & Persian
postal arrangements

Bushire & Bandar Abbas
Exchange Offices

Two different exchange
POs involved at two places
i

**Persian letter redirected and registered in Bombay to Persia in 1909/10 probably for
security reasons due to internal upheavals in Persia**

Two Indian & Persian exchange POs at two different places involved

Route: Isfahan – Bushire EPOs – Bombay – Bandar Abbas EPOs - Kerman



Photocopy ca 70%

Rates: 13 chahi single rates to Bombay via Bushire..From Bombay 2 ½as plus 2as for registration

Routes: Isfahan 21-12-1909, via Bushire Persian EO 16-1-1910, (and Indian EO), arriving its destination Bombay on 22 JA 1910. Rerouted from Bombay to *Kerman **REGISTERED** on 25 JA 1910. As Kerman province was served by Bandar Abbas Indian EO, (and Persian EO), the letter went through there 1 FEB 1910

*As Mr Raaflaub from the wellknown Siegler company established since many years in Persia

It was not unusual that senders put postage stamps at the back which is the reason that the first sender in Isfahan put the Persian stamp at the back. Thus in Bombay there was ample space to be used for putting the Indian stamps later.

I.C.2 Indian & Persian mail arrangements

Mohammerah Exchange Offices

Important exchange office for Arabistan and Isfahan

Used primarily for mail using the Lynch-route to Isfahan
Incoming letter. Small size, 25 mm, Indian MOHAMMERA mark. Elusive

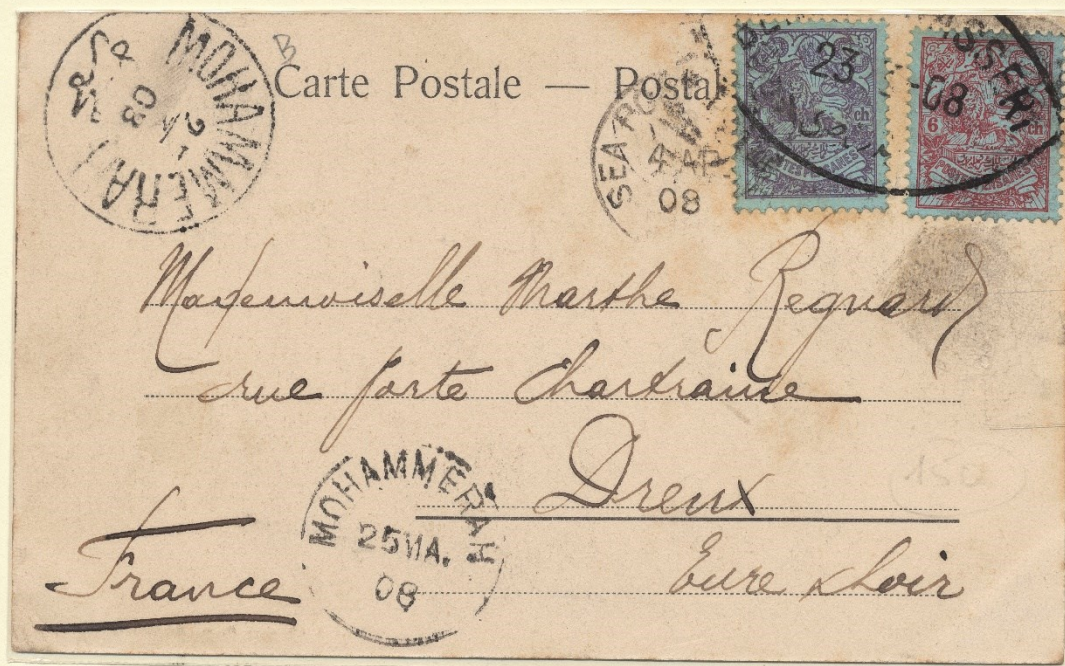


Rates: 2 ½ as

Routes: Bombay 2327 Nov 1913 via Mohammera Indian EPO 4 DE/19. Transferred same day to Persian E PO and sent via Bandar-Nasser, then Lynch route arriving Isfahan 4 Jan 1914

Notes: The Lynch Brothers, the same firm that was running the Tigris and Euphrates Navigation company, also opened a road from Shustar in Arabistan via Isfahan to Teheran in the 1880s

Persian Mohammerah large sized, 30 mm, mark here used as E PO postmark. Elusive



Rates: 6 ch (1ch overpaid)

Routes: Bender-Nasseri (Ahwaz) 23 MA 1908 to France via Persian EO 25 March and same day Indian EO. Sea PO 4 April 1908

I.C.2 Indian & Persian
postal arrangements

Linga Exchange Offices

Linga serving
Lar

Linga had postal exchange with Bombay. Nevertheless very seldom used exchange office

Noted that Persian mail from Linga is very scarce and via Linga IPO elusive

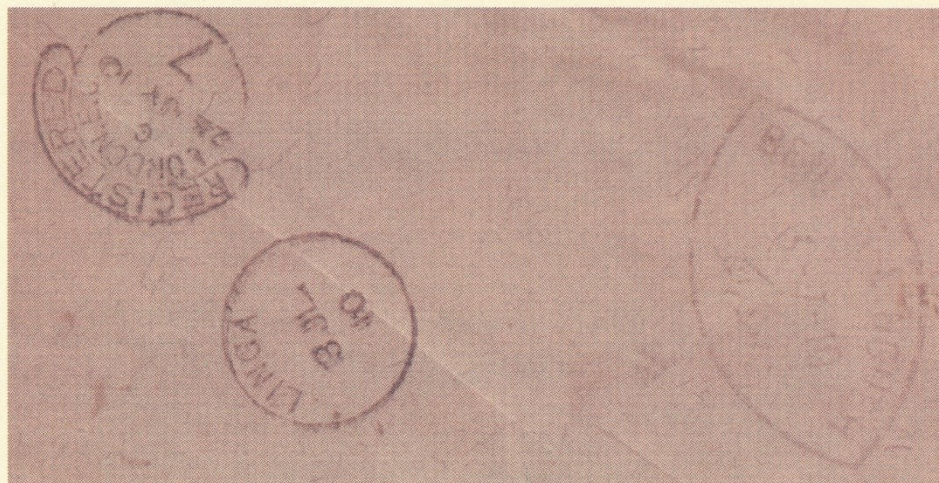
Registered letter to England



Rates: 4 Kran 3 chahi. **Registration fee:** 13 chahi. Breakdown of this high rate not possible

Routes: Bender-Lingue Persian PO 29-6-10 via its Persian E PO 3-7-10 and same day transferred to the Indian E PO 3 JL/10. Closed mail to Bombay, then Red Sea and Europe. Transiting London 23 July and reached destination Leeds on the 24th of July 10

Notes: The low registration number "48" in m/s. (No 2 probably private)



The size of the postmarks 100%

The Linga canceller is a circle 25mm with name, date, month/year

I. C.2 India and Persia
postal arrangements

Indian Sea Post Offices

Bombay – Aden Sea PO
Bombay – Karachi Sea PO

Bombay – Aden. Sea sorting

The Indian Sea Post was the largest ever. Began sorting mail in 1868 including Persian mail before reaching either Bombay or Aden. Abolished in 1914. The marks were all sorting marks.



Bombay-Aden special mark

Mail from
Shiraz in
Persia to Cairo
1908
via
Bouchire
21 June 1908
and
Bombay-Aden
Sea post office
27 July 1908
Arrived Cairo
8 July
Rates: 13 chahi
1st weight class

Combination of the Seal of the Bombay - Aden Sea Post Office and the Karachi Sea PO. Received torn

The Bombay Sea Post Office received this damaged envelope as per m/s, "Received torn from the Karachi Sea P.O. Officially sealed by Bombay – Aden Sea P.O." signed.....12-7-13. The letter was sent registered from Kerman, Persia, via Bandar Abbas ?-6 1913 to London



I. C.2 India and Persia
postal arrangements.

Indian Sea Post Offices

Bombay – Karachi Sea PO
Purpose: sorting mainly

Bombay – Karachi Sea Post Office. 1890s to c. 1925

Sorted mails and cancelled residual mail carried by the Persian Gulf steamers that connected at Bmbay the P & O
A very early letter obliterated by the Bombay – Karachi Sea Post Office and sent to Isfahan via Boushir

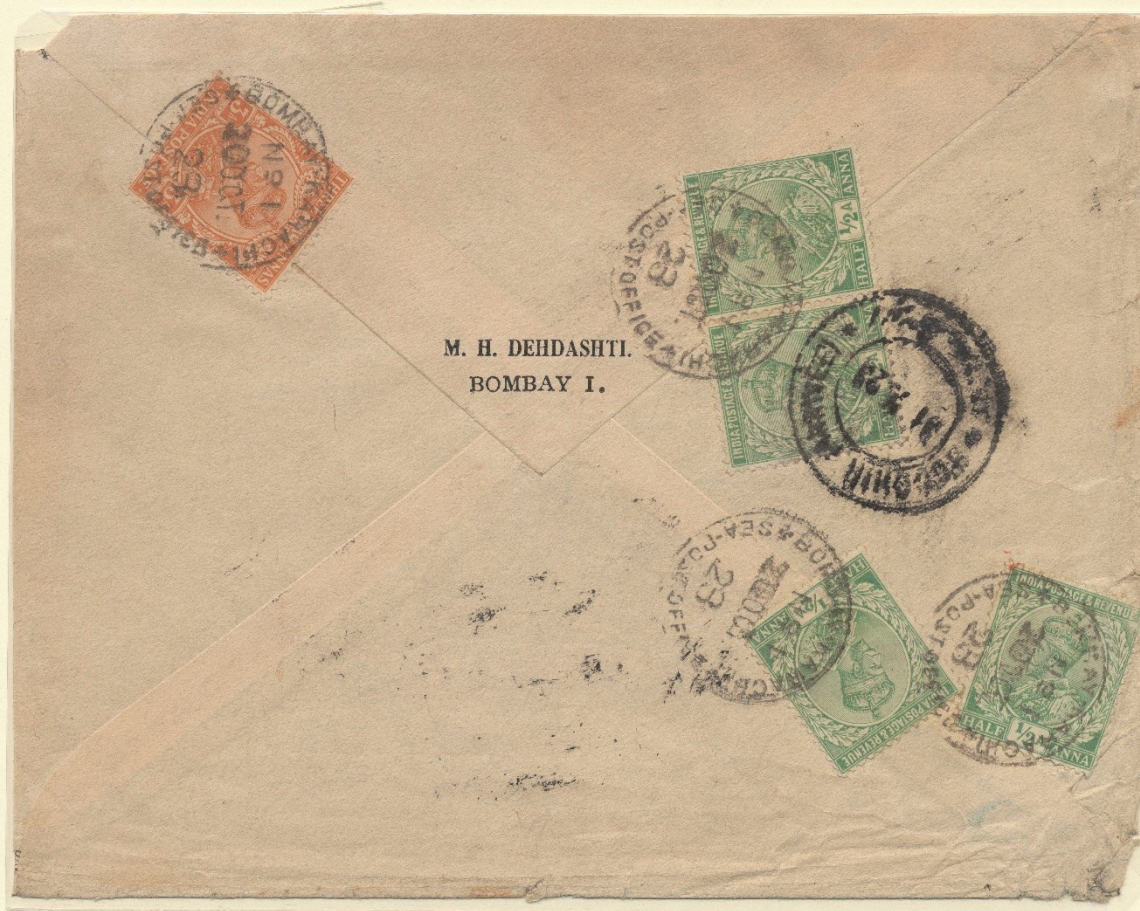


Rates: 2 annas

Routes: B-K Sea Post Office 14 Dec 1890 (h 1308) via Bushire Persian E PO 22 December 1890 addressed to Isfahan as per m/s

Markings: Small “squared circle” with 4 thin bars. A private large oval company cachet from Bombay

A letter from 1923 to Isfahan



Rates: 5 annas

Routes: B-K Sea PO 20 OCT /23 via Bushire Persian PO 31 X 23 addressed to Isfahan as per m/s cachet

Markings: Bombay Karachi Post Office in a 25mm circle

Temporary Overland route to India

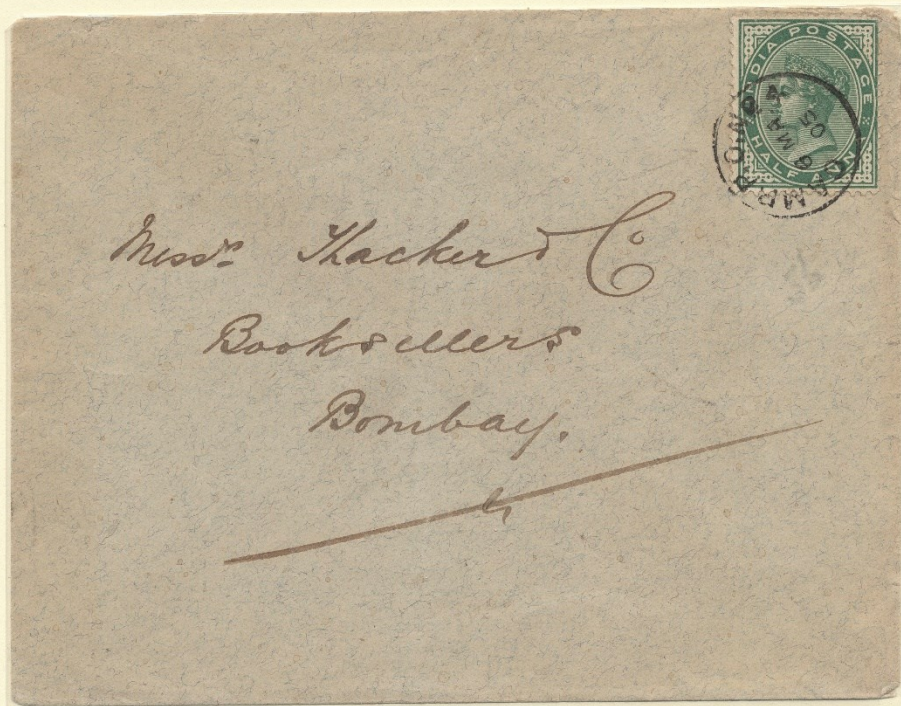
Seistan Arbitration Commission 1903-05

While doing the survey of the river banks the mobile camp was mainly staying at the Persian side of the border

During this period a temporary camel post service between the Camp and Quetta in Baluchistan, India, was created
A special mobile canceller "**Camp No 4**" was accredited by the Indian authorities

This letter was sent while the Commission was at Camp Kohak on the Persian side of the border
Six items recorded from this expedition

Internal rates applied after special permission though external rates were otherwise applied since
1903 between India and Persia



Rates: ½ anna

Routes: Sent 6th of March 1905 from Camp Kohak in Persia to Bombay via Quetta arriving 12 March 1905

Notes: Due to changes of the river banks at the frontiers where Persia and Afghanistan meet, the British government suggested to create a joint border commission, the Seistan Arbitration Commission to solve a potential serious border dispute. It was led by the British officer Colonel McMahon who had already completed another border arbitration between China and India the so called "McMahon line".

The commission consisted of a group of experts from the three countries and some hundreds of support troops, carriers, etc.
The camp moved at several times up and down the river banks but mostly stayed on the Persian side of the banks.

I. C.3. New
route via overland

Overland Route to India

Various types
of postmarks

Koh-i-Malik-Siah-Ziarat (KMSZ) Exchange Office

The Persian KMSZ negative postmark in different colors. Used for Departure, transit and incoming



Rates: 6 chahi

Routes: Sistan-Nassirabad 1-7-06 via KMSZ Persian EPO & Indian EPO 2 JL/06 forwarded on to Sea Post (date eligible), via Suez Canal to Belgium (no arrival mark)

Markings: The negative Persian KMSZ postmark in use between 1906 - 08. Found in black, red, blue

Registered letter from Nushki, Indian Baluchistan, to Meched, Khorasan, in 1916



Rates: 2 ½as. Registration fee: 2as

Routes: Nushki, Beluchistan, 31 July 1916 via KMSZ Indian EPO 6 August and the Persian EPO 8 August, then via Nassirabad-Sistan(DEPART) ? VIII 16 arriving Meched 21 August 1916

I. C.3 New route
overland

Overland Route to India

Serving Seistan, Khorasan, Kirman & Yezd

Duzdab Indian and Persian Exchange Offices

Indian Post Office: After the completion of the extension of the railway to Dozdab in Persia 1920 (70 km from the border), it replaced both exchange POs at Koh-i-Malek-Siat-Ziarat same year. Three different exchange obliterations

Persian Post Office: exchange office that replaced Koh-i-Malek-Siah-Ziarat EO. Two different exchange obliterations

Registered letter from Birjand, Khorasan, to England



Rates: Double 24 chahi. **Registration fee:** 12 chahi

Routes: Birjand, Khorasan, 25 June 1921 via Dozdab EPO 5-7-21, Indian EPO 5 Jul 21, via (Quetta and Bombay) to UK w London Reg mark 4 AU

Markings: Type I of the "Duzdab Indian Exchange PO.". Birjand registration mark very elusive

Notes: Endorsed on front in Persian "via Quetta and Bombay"

Combination of Indian, 1a, and Persian, 1 Kr, stamps used on part cover from Duzdab 1923 Stamped by the "ADMINISTRATION DE DOUANES/BUREAU DE DUZDAB"

Dozdab,
no date
via

Mail Guard
no 3

BALUCHISTAN
28 NOV 23
Arriving
Karachi
2 DEC 1923
(faint arrival
mark)

The only such
combination
and obliteration
recorded



I. C.3 New route
via overland

Overland Route to India

Introducing **Type II**
mark Duzdab E PO

Duzdab Indian Exchange Office + KMSZ Persian E PO

A new **type II** "Duzdab Indian Exchange Office" with "**killer**" at bottom. 1923. Very elusive
Indian letter sent to Kirman in 1923



Rates: 4 ½as

Routes: Bombay 3 JI 23 via Persian PO of KMSZ 10 July and Duzdab Indian EPO 11 JUL 23 to Kirman 22 VII 1923
Notes: No known explanation why the letter was first cancelled at KMSZ before being processed by the Duzdab Indian EPO

Type I remains in use concurrently with Type II **Indian One-anna p st envelope used to Khorasan in 1924**

Rates: 2 ½as

Routes: Bombay 29 May 24 via Persian PO of KMSZ 24 V 24 and Duzdab Indian E PO same date, then to Meched 10 June



I. C.3 New route
via overland

Overland Route to India

Introducing **Type III**
mark Duzdab E PO

Duzdab Indian & Persian Exchange Offices. KMSZ E PO replaced

Type III "DUZDAB INDIAN EXCHANGE OFFICE" introduced in 1925. The Persian Exchange PO now in Duzdab

Letter from Bombay to Khorasan 1925



Rates: 3 annas

Routes: Bombay 31 OCT 25 via Quetta (endorsed) and Duzdab Indian and Persian E POs 6 NOV 25 to Meched (date not legible)

Type III used on mail from Persia in 1926

Postal card from Khorasan to England. Normally mail to Europe had gone via Russia but that route was closed several years as from about 1922 due to civil war in Russia and political decisions by Soviet later

Rates: 9 chahi. **Routes:** Meched 15 June 26 (m/s) via Duzdab Persian and Indian Exchange offices 30 June addressed to London



I. C.3 New route
via Overland

Overland Route to India

A little known
post office

Mirjawa (Exchange Office?)

Indian Post Office: established Jan 1921. Very little is known about this post office situated just inside the border of Persia near to India. Created during the construction of the railway line between India and eastern Persia for the use of the Indian workers possibly as a temporary post office. Also according to official documentation there were sincere discussions between the Governments of India and Persia/Iran in the late 1920s about its status and the possibility of establishing Mirjawa as the exchange office between the two countries
No mail cancelled at Mirjawa has been recorded but a few recorded covers from Afghanistan addressed to Iran in the 1930s were endorsed in red crayon "**Mirjawa Exchange**"
Some postal stamps of India cancelled in Mirjawa are recorded. (see Robson Lowe). Seem to be CTO

Persian Post Office: probably established during the reign of Reza Shah as an ordinary small post office. There is no record that it also served as an exchange office

There are two sorts of Mirjawa cancellations recorded used on postage stamps. These are the same as two types used in Muscat called type 13 and 14 by Donaldson. Recorded examples are all CTO



Reduced to 85%

Letter endorsed "Mirjawa Exchange" on front

Registered letter from Afghanistan via Mirjawa 1938 to Zahedan



Rates: 75 poulis for first 20g. Then 45 poulis for extra 20g. **Registration fee:** 75 poulis. Total 2.40 Afghanis i e overpaid by 5 poulis.

Routes: From the Persian embassy in Kabul, 1st Jan 1938, via Torkham and Landikotal, Mirjawa to Zahedan

Notes: As the "Mirjawa Exchange" is endorsed in red, the official postal colour, one has to assume that it was postal authorities that wrote it



PARCEL POST

TO

PERSIA.

ON and after the 1st of July next, reduced rates of

British Information Leaf regarding Parcel Post to Persia in 1904.

It deals with both the Persian and the Indian postal systems (repaired)

The only recorded document related to Parcel Post with Persia

ROUTE.	in Weight		not exceed- ing 7 lb.		not exceed- ing 11 lb.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
By P. and O. Line to Bombay and thence by British India Line	2	0	3	0	4	0
Overland to Marseilles or Brindisi and thence as above	3	0	4	0	5	0

Parcels addressed to places other than the frontier towns of Bushire, Bunder Abbas, Jask, Linga, Mohammerah, and Kuh-Malek-Siah-Ziareth will be subject to an additional charge for onward conveyance to destination. This charge will in every case be collected from the addressee.

Parcels addressed to the Postal Agencies maintained by the Indian Post Office at Bushire, Bunder Abbas, Jask, Linga and Mohammerah may still be prepaid at the rates of postage applicable to parcels for India.

When the revised rates of postage come into force, parcels for Persia will be accepted up to 11 pounds in weight, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length or 6 feet in length and girth combined.

Parcels for Persia cannot be insured through the Post Office.

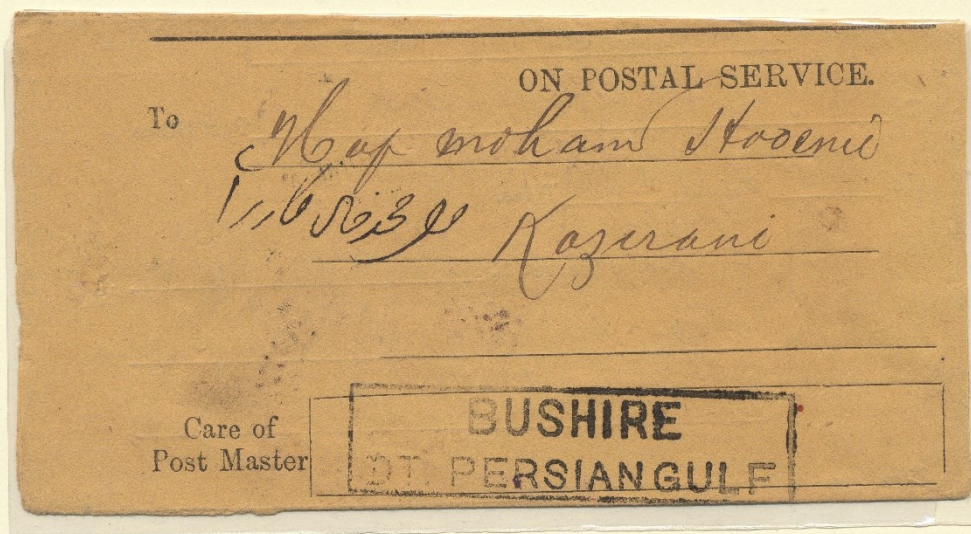
By Command of the Post Office

ON POSTAL SERVICE document from Bushire PO to Bombay PO

Parcel sent to Bombay to a value of 9700Rs in 1888 or 1889 as per printed and m/s info inside the folded document

The probably **only recorded** parcel document **from** any IPOs in Persia or in the whole Gulf area up till 19104

The only recorded hand stamp **BUSHIRE/DT PERSIAN GULF**. 59 mm long



Routes: Bushire (no date) to Bombay arriving 29 April 188 ? . Delivered May 1

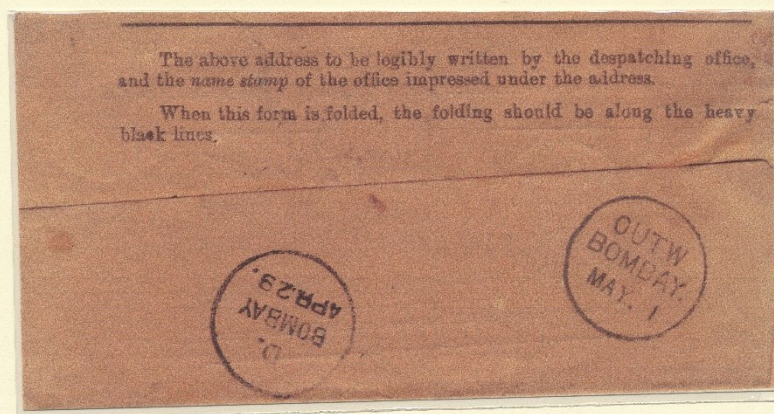
Notes: Inside the folded document the following text is found printed among others

“Date of delivery.....188 . (Not filled in as postmark date would be sufficient. But it has no year date. My italliks)

Examine the outward appearance of the parcel, and if there be any visible etc.....”

This document is a very elusive physical proof recorded that parcel service existed between India and the whole of the Gulf area in the 19th century and till about 1920 at least within the Indian postal system

Below a reproduction of the back



Indian Parcel Label, used via Bushire

This parcel label was used for registered parcel sent from Calcutta about 1915/16 bearing at front 4 1/2 as Registration fee was 2as. The parcel was sent to Isphahan via Bushire.

A PASSED CENSOR KARACHI/1 in violet double circle applied

Parcel post items of any kind related to the Gulf and Persia elusive



Sent via
Karachi.

Unusual
route
from India
to Bushire

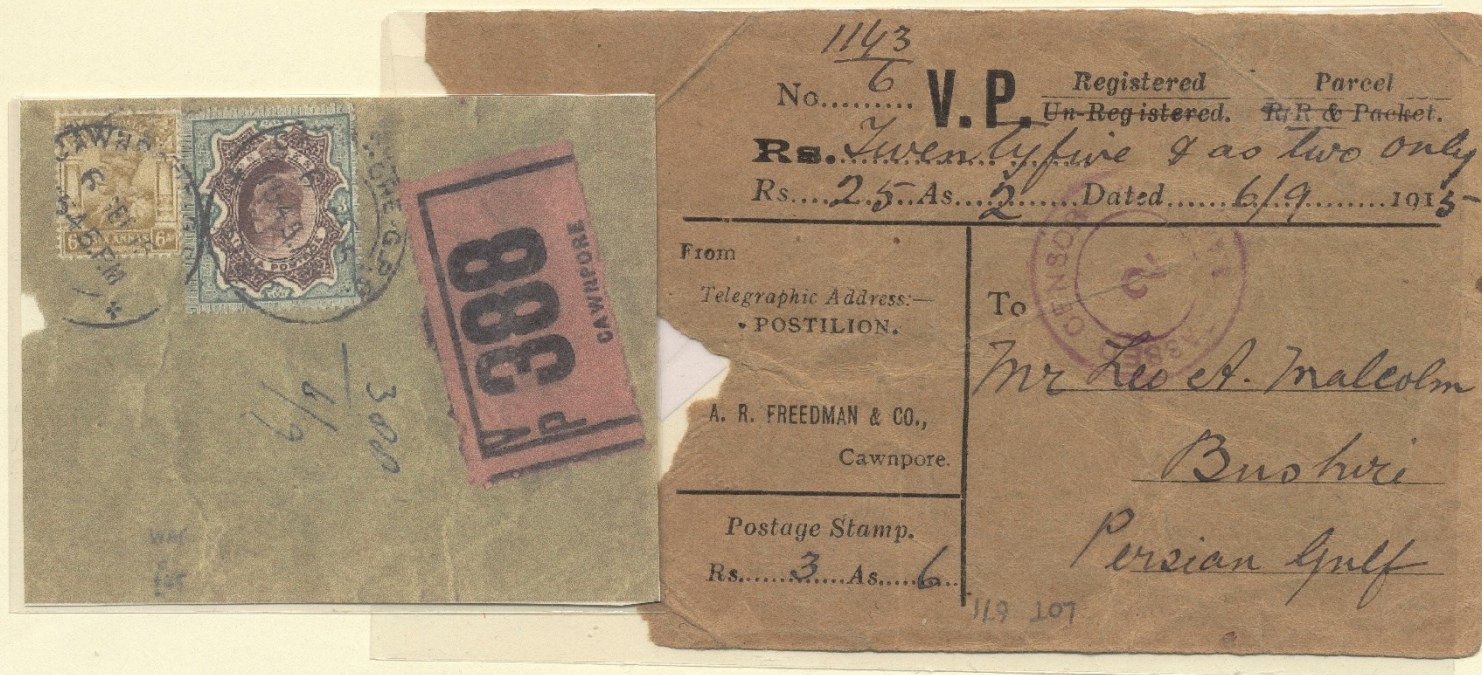
The label
faded by
humidity.



Registered V.P. (Value Post) Envelope

Value Post from Cawapore, India, 6 September 1915 sent via Bombay as per circled violet censor, Karachi nr 2, and addressed to the firm Malcolm in Bushire. m/s Value Rs 25 As 2.

Postage Rs 3 As 6. Adhesives and label nr 388 on reverse



Envelope damaged

I. C.5. Foreign
rates not always

Foreign rates applied/not applied for internal mail

Indian mail for
the interior

Bandar Abbas to Yezd (Yuzd) in the interior of Persia. 1880

Duplex + 1/K-5 in bars



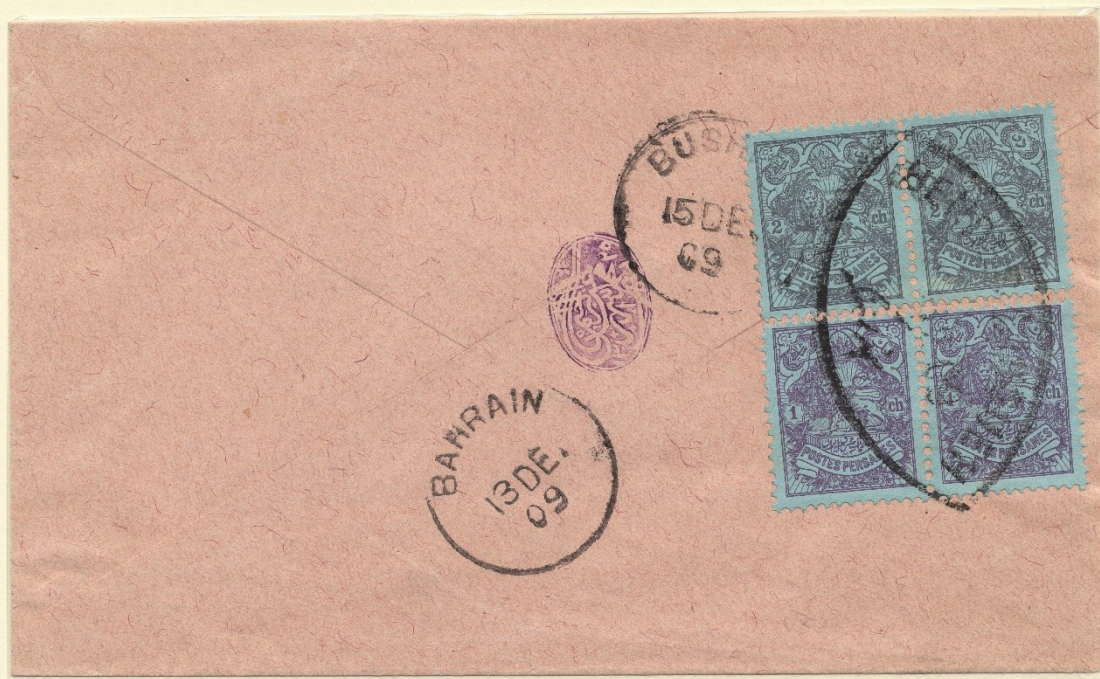
75% reduction

Rates: 2 annas

Routes: Bandar Abbas IPO 13 May 1880 (H1297) via Bushir (BASHIR) IPO May 16, transferred to Persian PO 13 May to Yezd or Yuzd (no arrival marking)

Persian internal mail Lingah to Bushire via Bahrain. Internal rate. Very elusive

With – probably - private arrangement the Persian PO in Linga had this letter forwarded to Bushire via Bahrain to catch up with the mail steamer coming down from Basra. Much time would be saved that way. The Captain on the private ship was probably paid for the service of handing over such mail to the Indian PO in Bahrain.



Rates: 6 chahi = internal single rate

Routes: Linga 8 Dec 1909 via Bahrain IPO 13 DE (19) 09 to Bushire IPO 15 DE (19) 09

To the interior of Persia Indian mail was using foreign rates

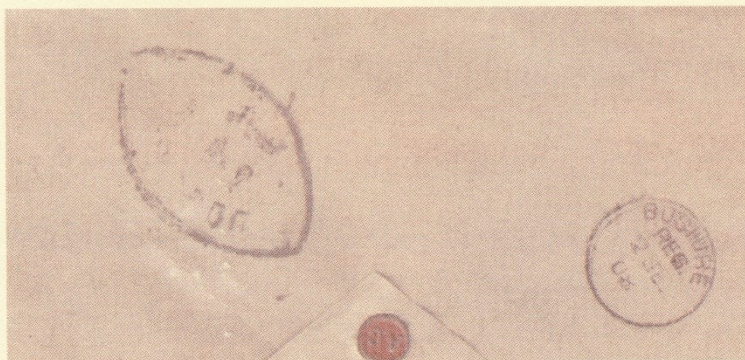
Registered letter from Muscat to Teheran in 1908

Routes Options. The dates suggest option II only

Option I: Muscat-Bombay-Bushire-Teheran

Option II: Muscat-Bushire-Teheran

Mail from any Indian post office in the Gulf addressed to the interior of Persia was charged foreign rates from 1903. Very elusive



Size about 70%

Rates: 2 ½. **Registration fee:** 2as

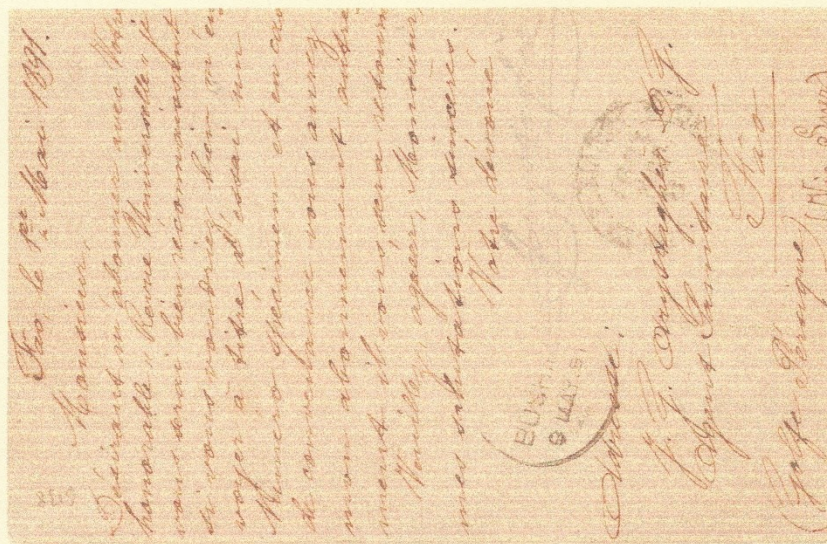
Routes: Muscat 31 AU 08 to Bushire Indian EPO 2 SE/08. Transferred to Bushire Persian EPO (date not clear)

Markings: The Muscat registration mark was in use between 1886 and 1908

FAO Island

Bushire used as transit for Fao Island which had no post office of its own

Card to France. Returned. Postage Due 1891



A Turkish 20 paras card to Paris with m/s "1er/5/91. The transit office for Fao Bushire IPO applied a postage due "T" 9 May 1891 and forwarded it via Bombay Sea PO 16 May and Konstantinople-Galata 8 June to Paris

The receiver was not available. The postage due was paid in Paris and then the card was returned as per RETOUR L'ENVOYEUR and the French adhesives 50 ctms

Fao, south of Kuwait, was the home for both the Indo-European Telegraph and the Turkish Telegraph. No post office existed. A few officials from GB and Turkey lived there. Casual mail via Bushire by private arrangement. Turkish mail not accepted.

Unusual/Seldom routings

Purpose: speed
up delivery

Route: Bushire to Bombay via Bahrain

If in rush the sender could organise that his mail was taken from Bushire to Bahrain to catch up with the mail steamer to Bombay coming down from Basra reaching Bombay much earlier



Rates: 2 ½as to Egypt

Routes: Bushire 24 Oct 98, Bahrain 25 Oct. Left 5 Nov. Sea PO 19 Nov, Suez 27 Nov and Cairo 29 Nov 98

Notes: The letter must have missed the mail boat from Basra as it was hold up 10 days in Bahrain

Linga – transit Henjam – Muscat

The **only recorded** item transited via Henjam. Blue colour mark

Rates: 2 ½as. Routes: Linga 25 Dec 16 to Muscat (illegible date) via Henjam 2 Jan 1917



From Mohammera Indian P O to the interior of Persia via Ottoman Baghdad. Foreign rate
Endorsed "Via Bagdad et Kirmanchah". Ottoman Bagdad exchanged with Kirmanchah, Persia



Rates: 2 ½as

Routes: Mohammera 30 April 1904 (I PO) via (Basra) and Bagdad IPO 7 May. Transferred to Ottoman PO 9 May

Markings: Faint Persian transit or arrival marking on front

CIVIL WAR. Southern route cut-off. Mail diverted via Suez Canal & Russia - instead of the normal route via the Gulf

The postal route Bushire - Shiraz cut-off due to internal disturbances

Routes: Calcutta 26 Aug 1909 to Bombay or Karachi by train, then via the Red Sea to (Batumi) and Baku Russia 3 9 1909 (Julian)
by sea to Enzeli in Persia to the destination Recht arriving 18 September 1909. Rates: 2 ½as



Unusual/Seldom routings

Dubai – Bombay via Linga. Treated as foreign mail

Dubai to Bombay had inland rate 1/2a but mail via Persia IPO was treated as a foreign destination The sender preferred to pay extra for catching up the mail steamer going southbound via Linga



Rates: 2 ½as

Routes: Dubai 11 Oct/1912 via Linga 13 Oct to Bombay arriving 19 Oct 1912

Civil disturbances in Persia due to Constitutional crisis Mail diverted

Bombay mail via IPO in Baghdad, transferred to Ottoman system to Persia

Normal route via Bouchir in the south but cut-off



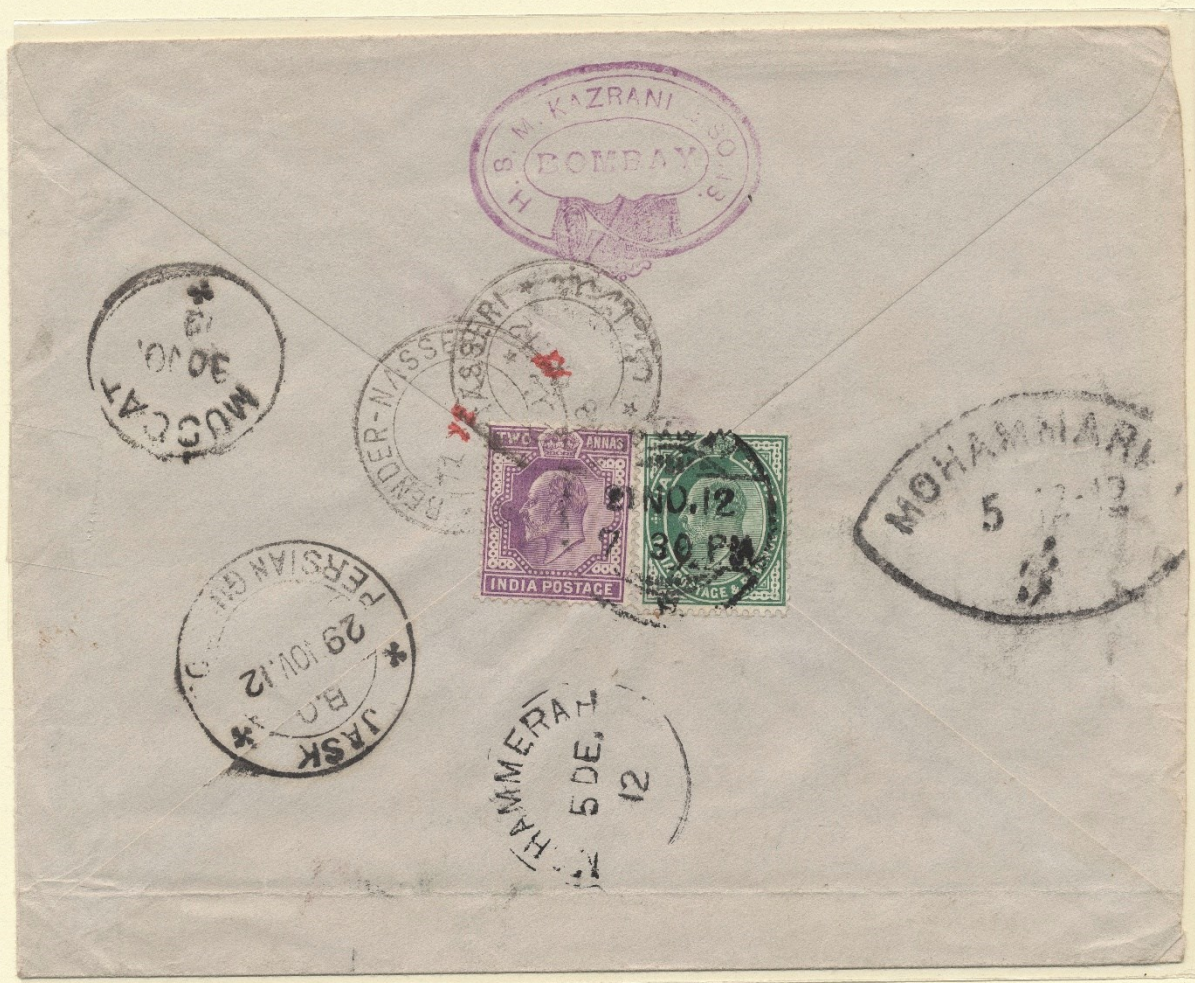
Routes: Dutch East India 7 Nov 1908 Tuttcorin, India, 20 Nov, Bombay 23 Nov, Bagdad 11 De, Teheran 23 Dec to reach Enzeli at the Caspian Sea (no arrival mark)

Unusual/Seldom routings

Jask used as a transit office in 1912. A most unusual routing

Bombay - Isfahan, via the Indian POs of Jask, Muscat, and Mohammerah. At Mohammerah, the exchange office the letter was handed over to their Persian counterpart who forwarded the letter via Bandar-Nasseri (Ahwaz) to its destination Isfahan.

Double circle with "PERSIAN GULF DT" and B.O. (branch office). (1915 - 20)



Rates: 2 ½as

Routes: Bombay 21 Nov 1912 via the Indian P O at Jask 29 Nov, in Muscat 30 Nov, and at Mohammerah IEO 5 Dec and the Persian EO same day. Then via Bandar-Nasseri (Ahwaz), 8 Dec, departure 11 Dec reaching Isfahan 15 January 1913

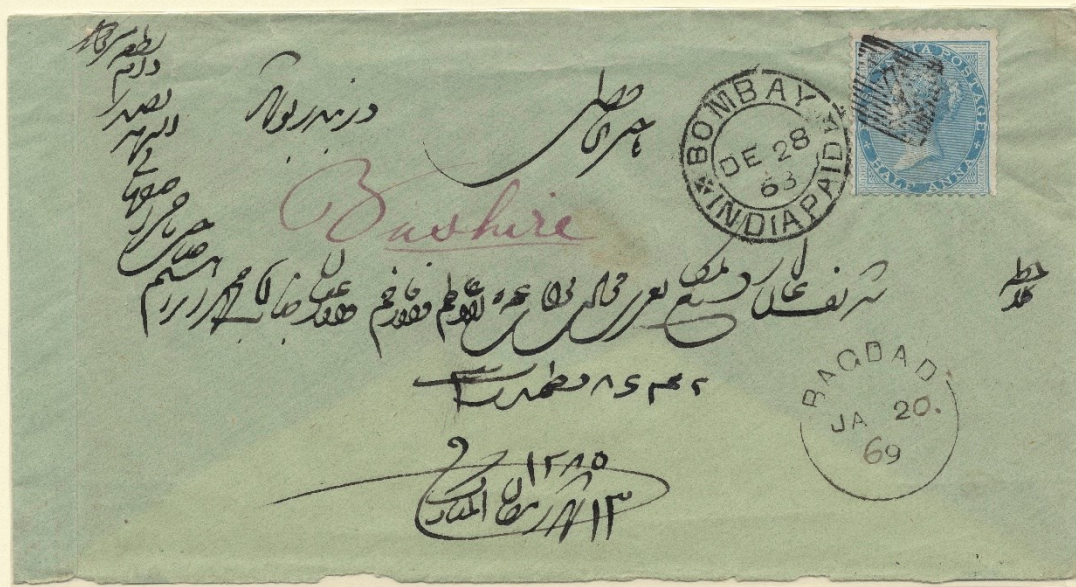
A possible reason why the letter was cancelled at Jask at all could be that it was transferred to another ship heading for the northern part of the Gulf from Muscat to save time

I. C.7. Special
treatment

Special treatment

Missent

Missent to Baghdad instead of Bushire, 1869



Rates: 1/2a

Routes: Bombay DE 28/68 to Bushire. Missent to Baghdad, backstamped at IPO JA 17/69 and forwarded the letter on JA 20/69. No further marking

Missent to Busrah instead of Bushire by the sorting section of the Sea Post Office

mal direcé

16mm Here enlarged



Rates: 10 milliemes

Routes: Cairo 16 III 98, Sea Post Office 21 March 98, via Bombay to Busrah IPO 9 April 98. Redirected to Bushire IPO AP 22 98 and handed over same date to Bushire Persian PO to be forwarded to Isfahan

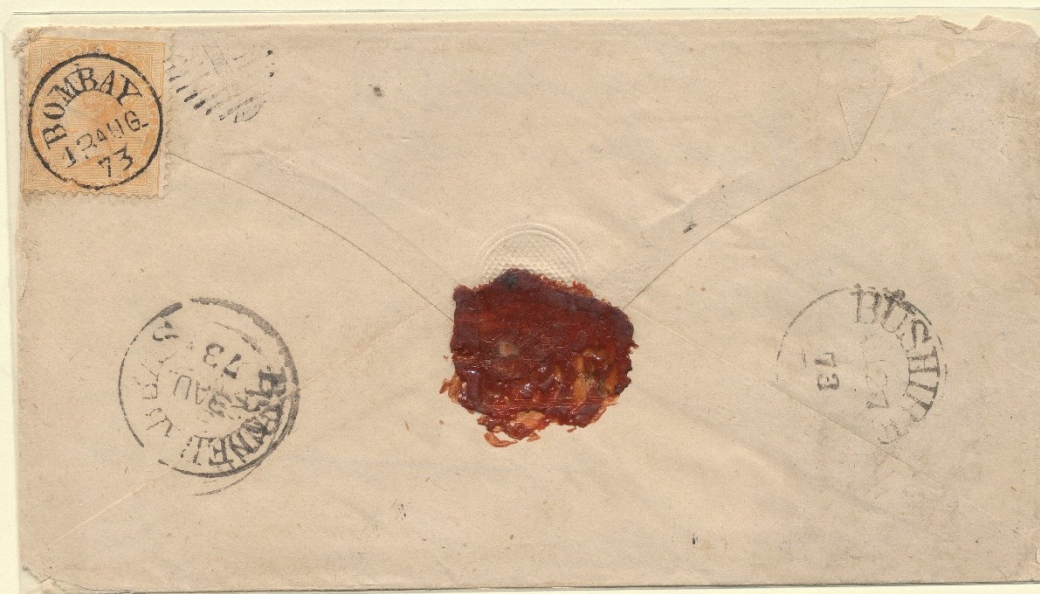
Notes: The "mal direcé" handstamn not found in the literature

I. C.7 Special
treatment

Special treatment

Missent
Redirected

From Bombay to Bunder Abbas. Redirected to Bushire



Rates: 2as

Routes: Bombay, cancelled 13 AUG/73 addressed to Bander Abbas. From there redirected to Bushire. The Bander Abbas IPO postmark reads 23 AU/73 and the Bushire IPO receiving mark AU 27/73

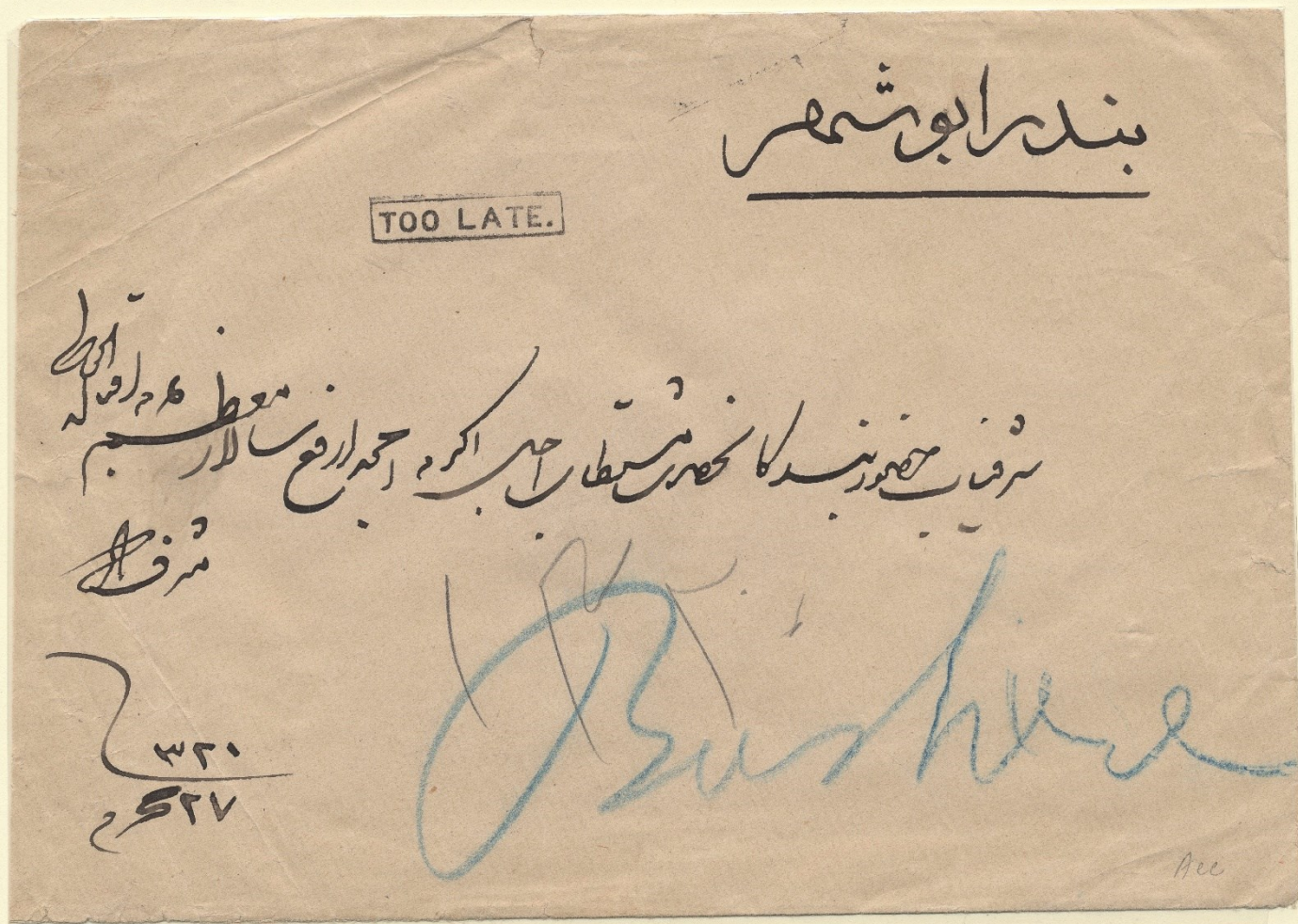
TOO LATE.

Impressed on covers posted after the mail for the day had been despatched

Supplied to all head- and sub-offices which were not furnished with date stamps with hour type

Rates: 1 anna

Routes: Busrah 10 MY 1902 to Bushire (no arrival marking)



C.7. Mail from
Bahrain not accepted

Special treatment

1933 Political
Postage due!

Overprint BAHRAIN on Indian stamps cause Persian outcry in 1933

Bahrain a British "protectorate"

Persia/Iran, Shia Muslim country has never really accepted that Bahrain which long ago was part of Persia became a British protectorate under the ruling Sunni Al Khalifa family

When Indian stamps were overprinted BAHRAIN in 1933 Persia simply did not accept mail carrying such stamps

Such mail addressed to Persia was treated as not paid and a postage due fee, double the amount, was levied

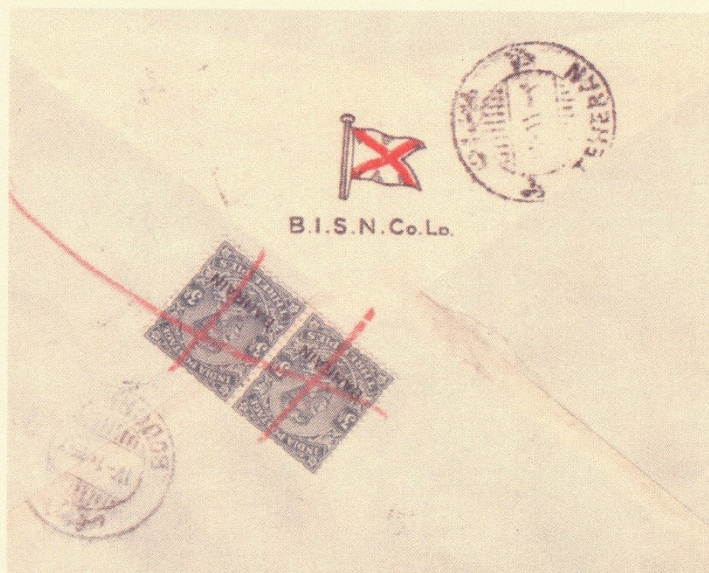
Pre-printed air mail envelop mailed by ship to Bouchir as air mail connection non-existent



Rates: 3 as 6 pies

Routes: Bahrain by ship to Bouchir dated 17 January 1939 (Iranian calendar 17-10-27) and sent to Teheran arriving 24 January (Iranian calendar 17-11-04)

Markings: A square postage due mark of Bouchir applied. 3 Kran to be paid (1 Kr 10ch x 2) by the receiver



Size 75%

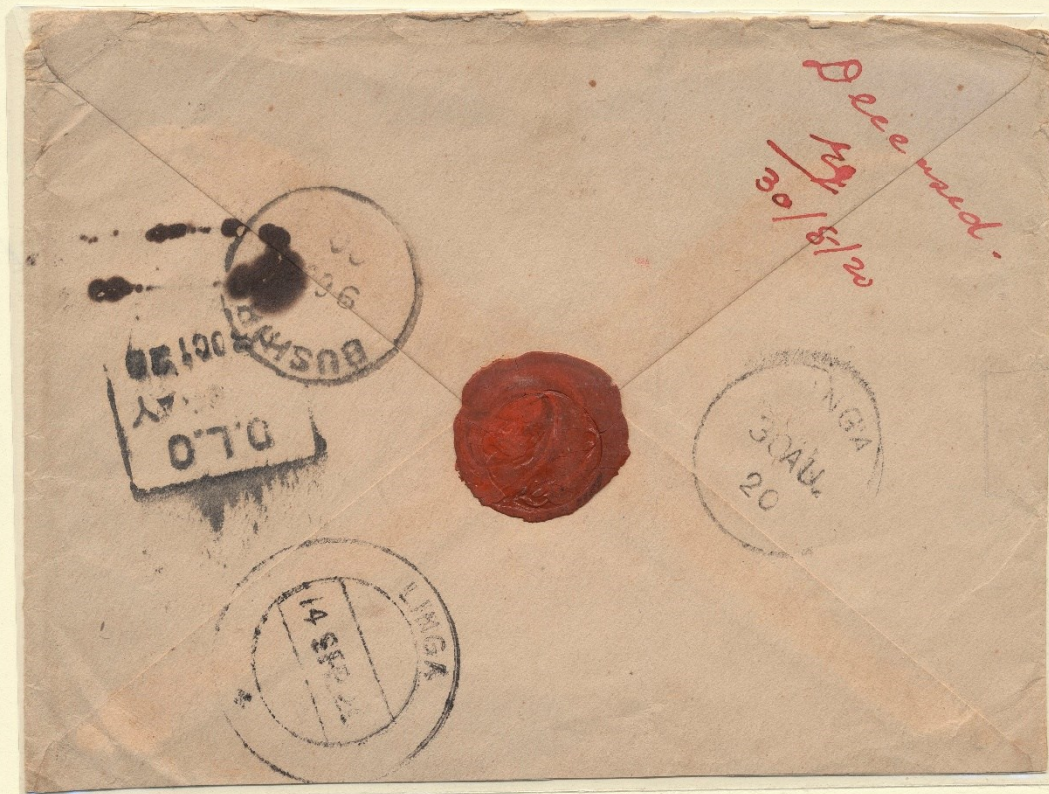
I. C.7. Labels for
special treatment

Special treatment

Dead Letter Office
D.L.O. for deceased

Dead Letter Office. D.L.O.

Letter to Linga. Deceased. Letter sent to Bushire HQ then returned to Bombay and into D.L.O.
Endorsed in Linga IPO in red ink "Deceased 30/8/20"



Rates: 5 annas from India

Routes: India (uncertain) to Linga IPO 30 AUG/20. Left 14 Sep 20 for Bushire. Forwarded 9 Oct to Bombay, Ending up at D.L.O. 18 Oct 1920

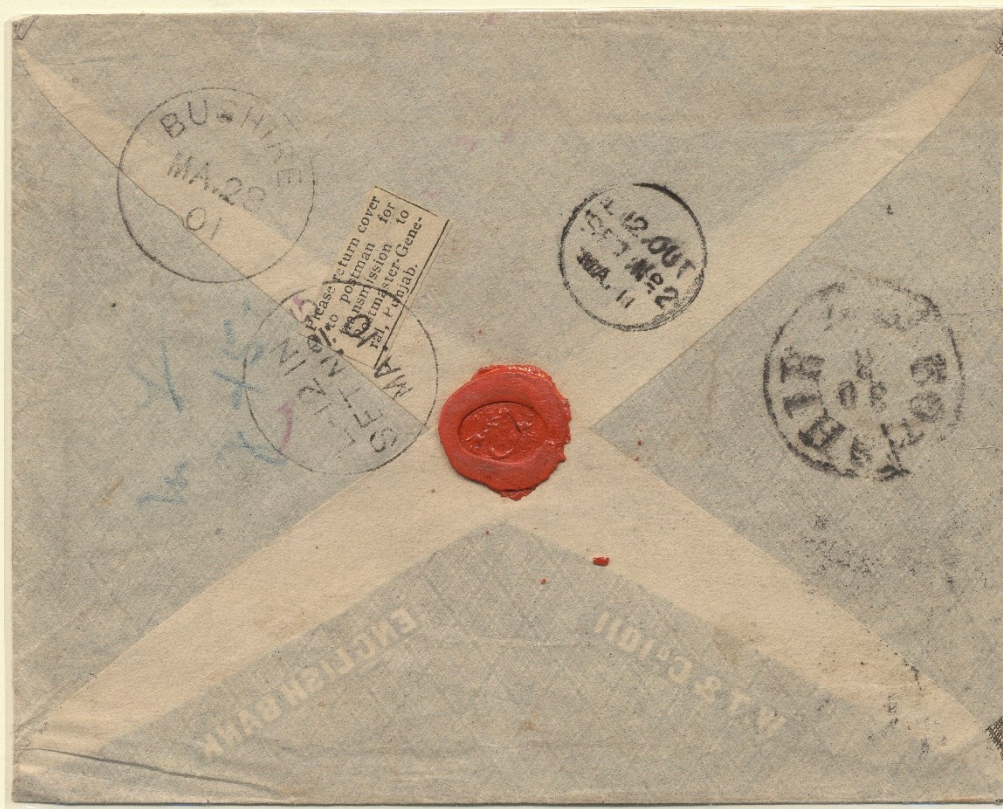
Markings: The large Linga 33mm double circle w ornament very elusive

Retour a l'envoyeur. Destinataire décédé. In both French and Persian

Three recorded labels. Used on part envelope from India to Shiraz, Persia. Returned. November, 1919



Label used by the Postmaster General in Punjab to request the return of a cover from the addressee
Missent to Punjab. An "error" such as "missent" was committed (See Virk p 192)



Rates: 2as 6pies

Routes: Bombay 8 Jan 1901, Punjab in India (mistake) 10 March, back to Bombay. Correctly sent via Bushire Indian EPO arriving MA 28/1 and transferred to the Persian exchange office 30 MA

A Persian cover sent to Busrah in 1893. No obvious "error"

Still a label used for requesting the return of the cover to the Postmaster General in Bombay was put on. The **rate was 7 chahi** to abroad in 1893. The **2 chahi extra** seems to have been a fee applied to Persian mail originating from the interior using the Indian postal system about 1891-93. 6 covers recorded

Route: Isfahan 24 5 (93) via Bushire Persian E PO ? 5 and IPO ? JUN 93. No further marking



Reduced

I. D.1.
Special services

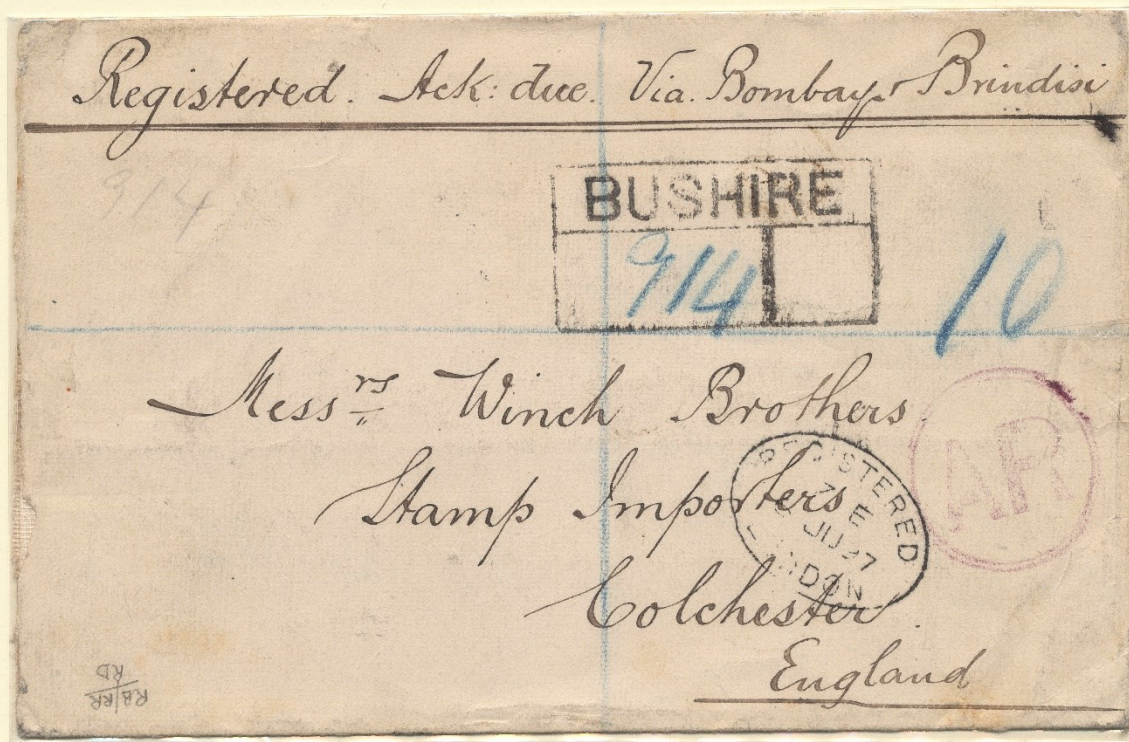
Avis de Reception, Bushire

Bushire IPO
Avis de Reception

Under this headline various special postal services related to the Persian Gulf are presented. To present thoroughly the various services available in the Gulf physically it is important that they come under their own headline. As will be understood material of each service are **very elusive**.

Registered letter with paid acknowledgment, AR, from Bushire in 1897

This is one of five "AR" letters recorded from any Indian post office in Persia. These offices are Linga, one, Bushire, three, and Mohammerah one.



Rates: 8½as; **Registration fee:** 2as; **AR-fee** 1a

Routes: Bushire IPO 4 May 1897 to Colchester, UK, via Bombay, Brindisi and London arriving 6 June

Notes: AR-mark in violet applied in Bushire. Two recorded



Reduced

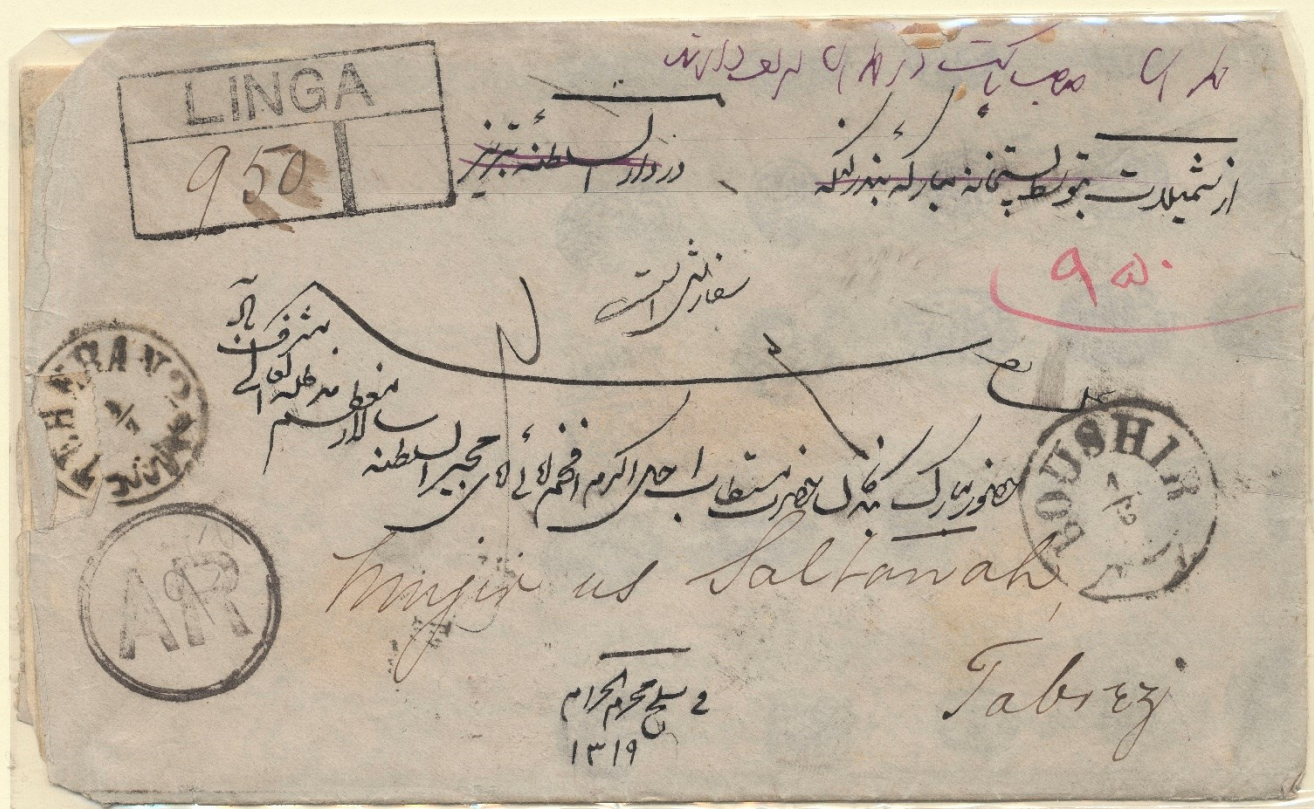
I. D.1.
Special services

Avis de Reception, Linga

Indian external
rates applied

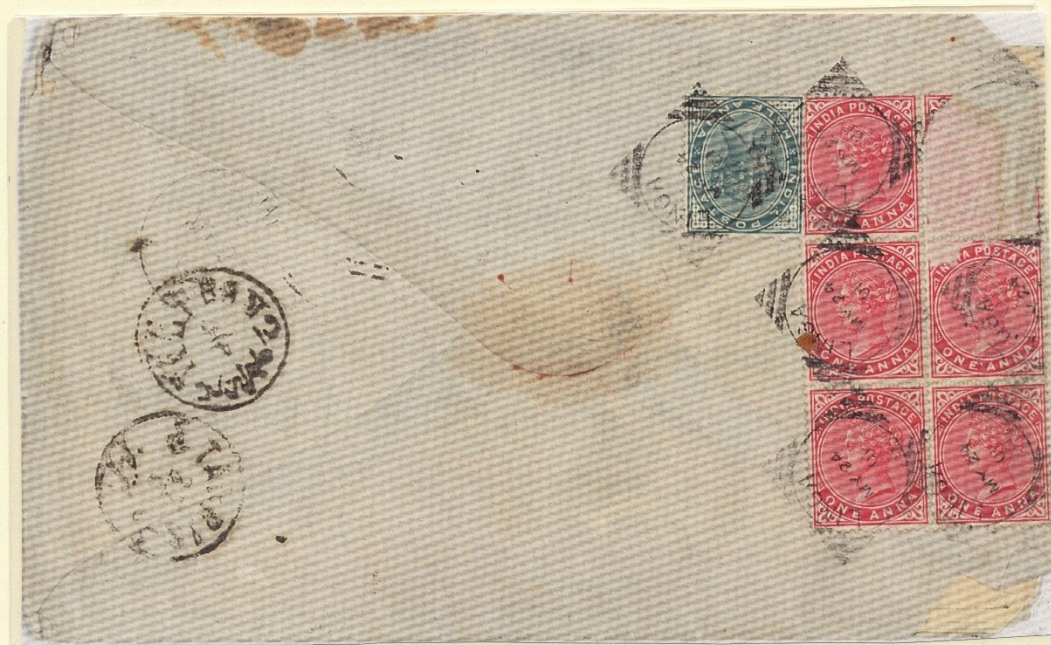
Interior - Linga IPO - Bushire IPO/EO - the interior 1901
Linga Indian "AR" mark. Foreign rates applied. Most unusual usage

Until 1903 Persian Indian P O mail was allowed to be sent to the interior but must use external rates



Faint
Deposit
IPO
Postmark
Large seize
25 mm

Both the
Tabriz and
the Teheran
postmarks
are of small
seize type
only
used for
special mail



One
1a-stamp
missing
Picture
reduced

Foreign rate: 3 1/2as. Reg fee: 2as and the AR-fee 1a. In all making a total of 6 1/2as

Routes: Shamilat (m/s) in the South, Linga IPO 24 May 1901, by ship to Bushire. There the IPO put in the deposit (faint canc) on the 27th before it was forwarded 1st of June to the Persian Bushire P O. entering the Persian postal system. Forwarded to Tabriz, arriving 1 July 1901. As the addressee had left Tabriz for Teheran the letter was redirected as per m/s in Persian. As this letter was sent via an IPO in Persia before 1903 it was treated as external

Notes: A petition letter to Tabris in northern Persia. Originated from Shamilat, a small place in the interior and was taken to Linga Indian P O under some private arrangement as requested by the sender (m/s in Persian). The Persian Linga P O probably had no own mail connection with the north.

Using the Persian postal system had been much cheaper.

I. D.1.

Special services

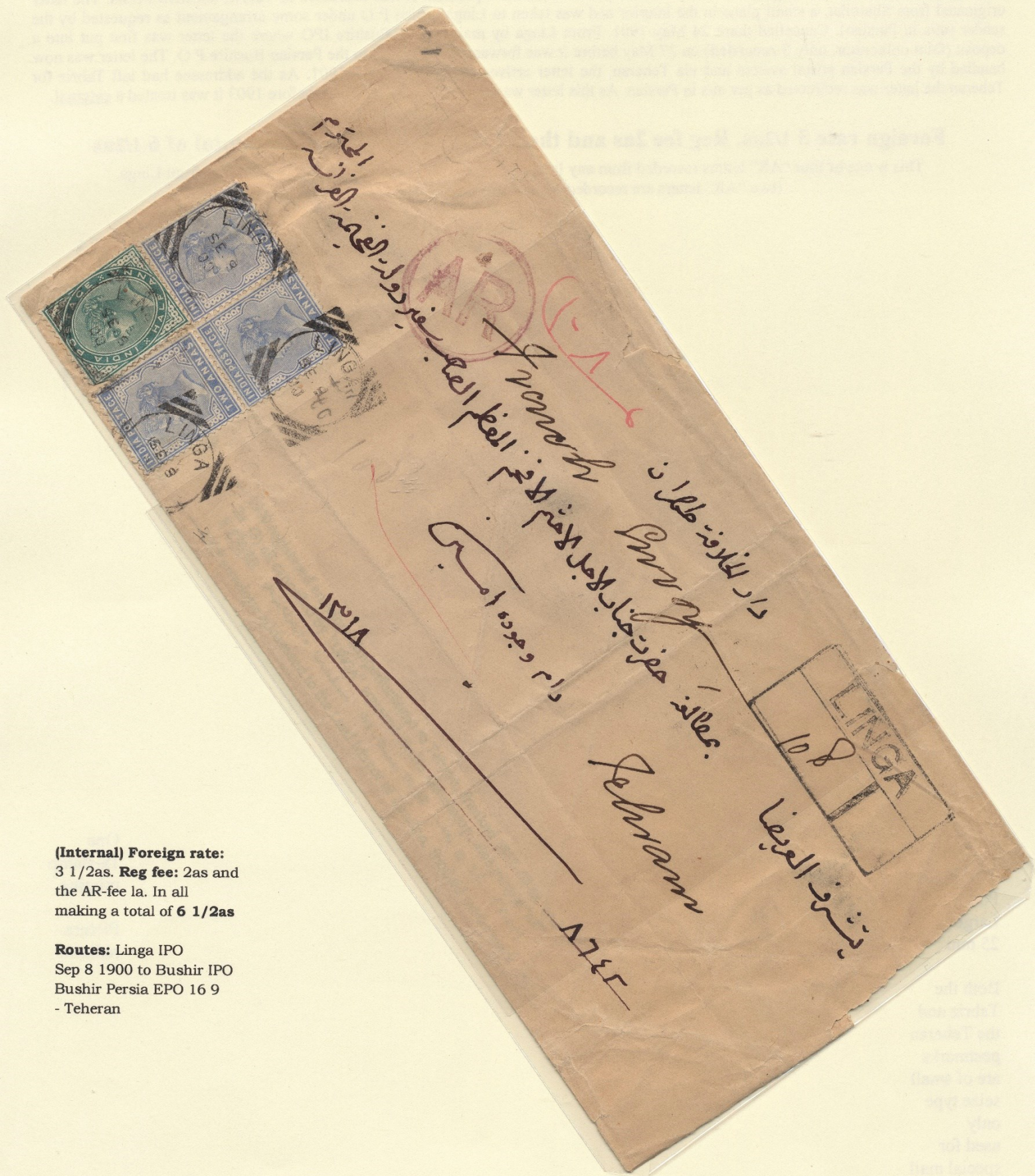
Avis de Reception, Linga

Indian external rates applied

Linga IPO - Bushire IPO/EO - Teheran 1900

Linga IPO was sub-office to Bushire and had no own "AR" service. The violet AR applied at Bushire. Foreign rates applied

Only **two** AR-covers from Linga **recorded**. One black and one violet. Both applied at Bushire



(Internal) Foreign rate:

3 1/2as. **Reg fee:** 2as and the AR-fee 1a. In all making a total of **6 1/2as**

Routes: Linga IPO

Sep 8 1900 to Bushir IPO
Bushir Persia EPO 16 9
- Teheran

Acknowledgment (Avis de Reception)

Insured Letter/Parcel/Article Acknowledgement

Form official number "R & P. -4"

Sent from Bombay to Bushire and returned about 1888/89

The only such acknowledgment recorded used for registration purposes related to the Gulf area and only used within the Indian postal system

On Postal Service

To

227 K 511

Goolam Hossein
Madikhana Fort.

ES
22-35
1888

Name stamp of office of posting.

BOMBAY

BUSHIRE
REC
SE
89

R & P-4

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

(To be returned to office of posting for delivery to sender.)

Space for postage stamp.

Received a *paid letter* No. *627* addressed to—

(Name) *Aga Hashad Ali Bushire*

Signature of addressee *[Signature]*

Date of delivery *1888*

* Here enter "registered article" or "parcel," as the case may be.

75% reduction

Sent from Bombay (no date) to Bushire where it was received 10 September and returned after delivery to the receiver on "date not clear but the small Bushire mark has a **reg** under Bushire"

The same small "reg" postmark can be found used on covers as departure or receiving mark

Registered letter/article Acknowledgment

From June 1877, a paid acknowledgment service was instituted. The form was prepared by the office of posting and was sent direct to the sender on postal service by the office of delivery after getting it signed by the addressee

I. D.2.
Special services

Postage Due/Insufficiency

Postage due
Rectangular type

Bushire, Bandar Abbas & Linga rectangular Postage Due. 1st type (ab 1873 - 1900s)



Bushire

Rates: ½a +
POSTAGE DUE/
ONE ANNA
26 x 12mm

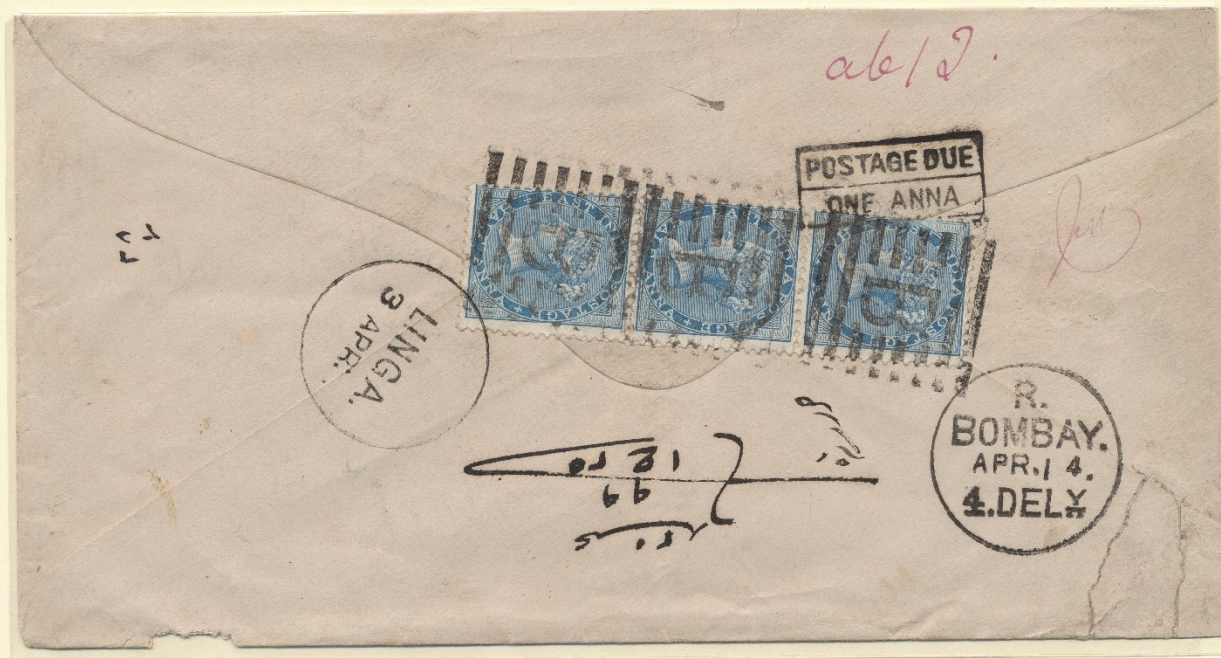
Routes:
Bushire April 14
to Bombay in
H 1285 = 1878



Bandar Abbas

Rates: ½a +
POSTAGE DUE
+ 1 a in m/s
(26 x 12mm long)

Routes:
Bandar Abbas
Aug 17 1880
(H 1297) to
Bombay
arriving
Aug 28, 1880



Linga

Rates: 1 ½as +
Postage due
One anna

Routes: Linga
3 April 1882 =
(H 1299).
to Bombay
April 14 and
via Muscat
as per m/s.

Notes: Mail
originated from
the interior of
Persia and often
the writer did
not know the
exact postage.
When the amount

I. D.2.
Special services

Postage Due/Insufficiency

Postage due
Horse shoe type

Mohammerah horse shoe (early 1900s to April 1923)

6 chahi correct rate but Persian mail NOT accepted as per agreement. Very elusive



Postage due applied (w/o amount) by the Mohammerah IPO. They cancelled the card (but not the embossed stamp) 2 Aug 1915. The card addressed to UK went via Bombay Head PO the embossed stamp was cancelled there on 10 Aug 1915 after a control
Notes: Not censored

Ahwaz (Bandar-Nasseri) horse shoe. Very elusive



Rates for letters: 2 ½ as. So applied 1 ½ as is 1a insufficient. Thus postage due with in m/s "2" AS
Routes: Basra (Mesopotamia) 5 June 1920 to Isfahan 13 July, Persia. Transited Ahwaz IPO 14 June and Mohammerah IPO 17 June 1920
Using the Lynch route from Arabistan to Isfahan
Markings: A red M.E.F. censor applied at back

I. D.2.
Special services

Postage Due/Paquebot

Postage Due
Paquebot

Bushire Horse shoe Postage Due and Paquebot in combination

The Paquebot is unrecorded

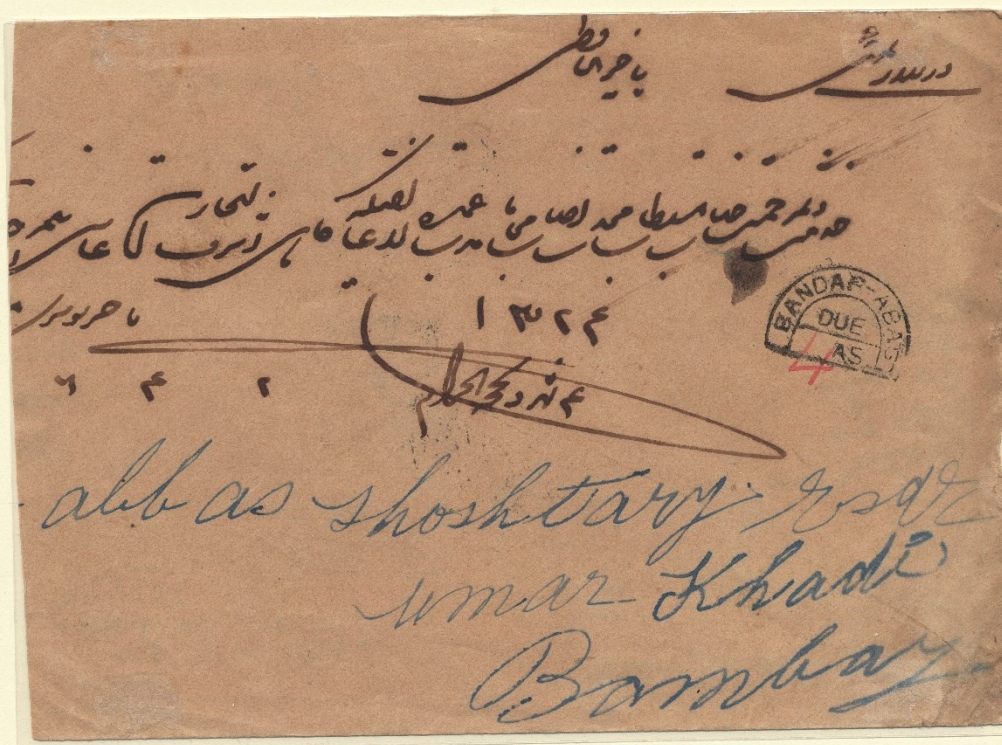


Rates: 2 1/2as. Paid only 6 pies= 1/2a

Routes: Posted on ship 1911 and received a red violet paquebot mark. When calling due at Bushire the Bushire IPO added a postage due of "4" As to make up for missing 2as. Postmasters "Bombay unpaid" in oval green at back

Bandar-Abbas horse shoe type

In the 1903 regulation the Indian postal system agrees to use external rates from IPOs in Persia



Rates: 2 1/2as but paid only 1/2a.

Routes: B Abbas 20 JA 1907 to Bombay. Thus a postage due of "4" AS.

Markings: A green Bombay "Postmasters Unpaid stamp 2 FE 07 on reverse. This latter stamp is a warning mark

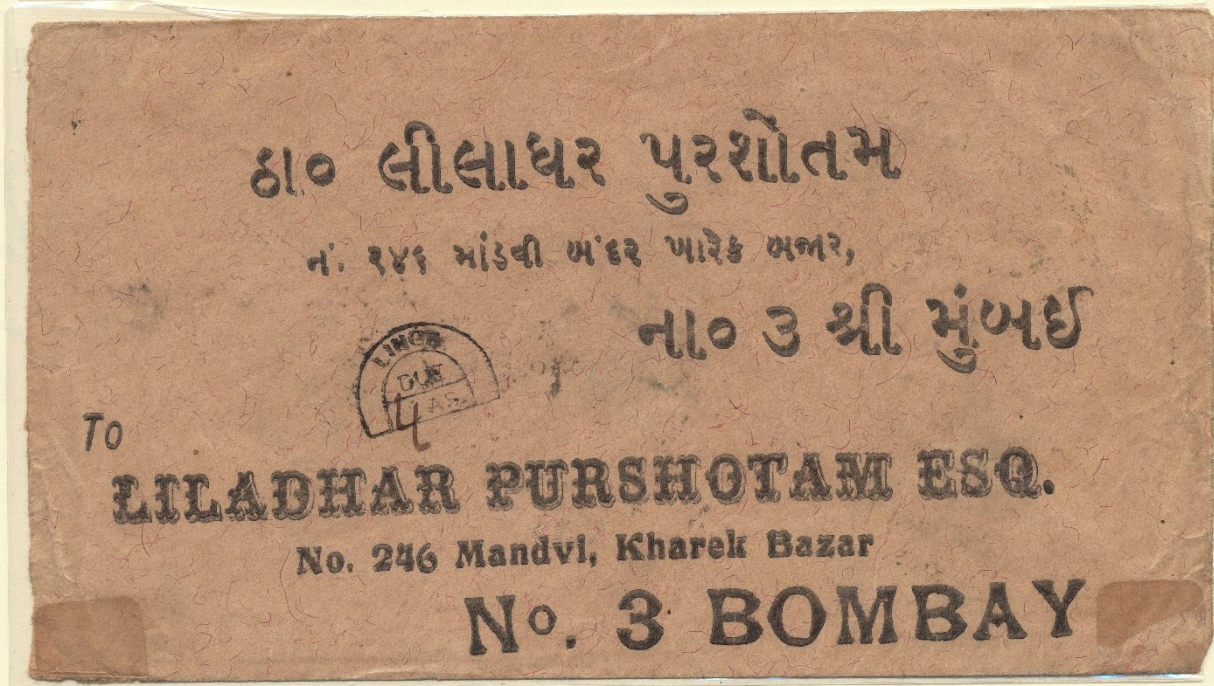
Notes: Spelling "BANDAR-ABAS"

I. D.2.
Special services

Postage Due/Insufficiency

Postage Due

Linga horse shoe type, early 1900s to April 1923 (for IPOs in Persia only)



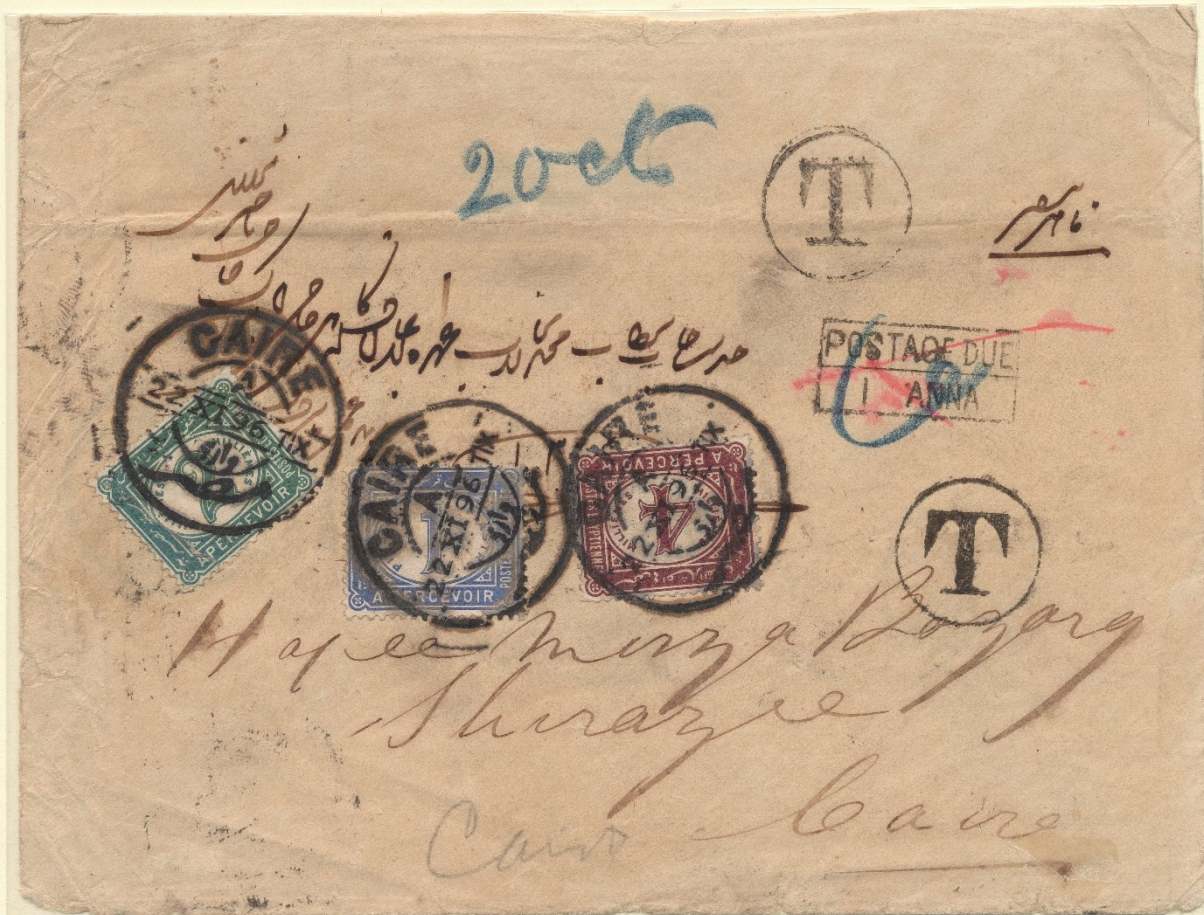
Rates: 2 ½as so 1/2a not sufficient. 2as missing thus a postage due of "4" as to be paid

Routes: Linga 25 March 1911 to Bombay 3 April 1911

Letter from Buchire to Cairo 1896. 1/2 a missing. Boxed POSTAGE DUE/1 ANNA applied

1/2a only on letter sent OC 31/96 to Cairo via Suez. In addition to the boxed postage due, two "T" in round circle applied, the lower in Buchire and the other probably in Suez. M/s 20ct=centimes.

In Cairo 1 Piastre 6 millemes applied in the form of postage due stamps. At reverse, transit and arrival marks of Sea PO, Suez and Cairo



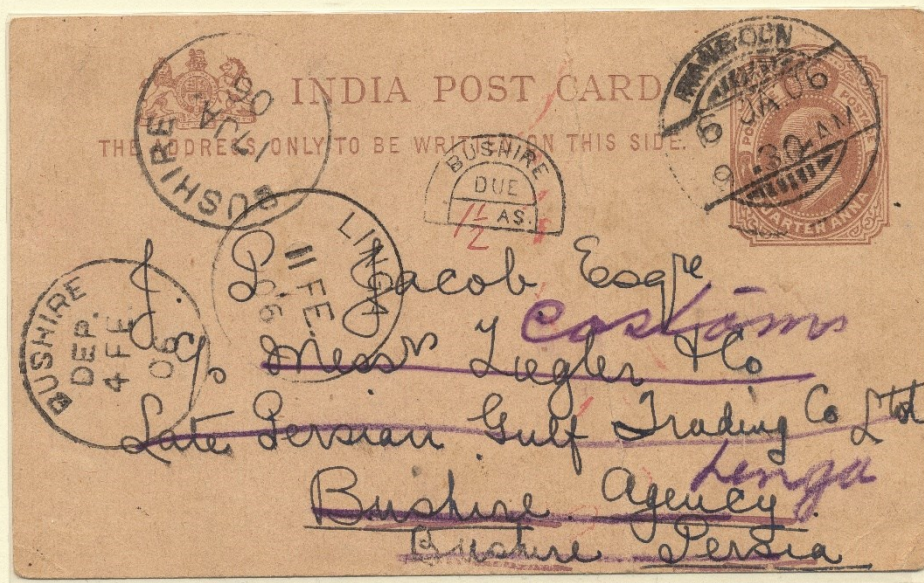
I. D.2.
Special services

Postage Due/Insufficiency + Depot

Postage due
Horse shoe type

Incoming post card from Burma. Redirected in Persia. 1906

¼ anna insufficient to Bushire as rate to abroad was 1 anna. When redirected to Linga IPO a postage due of 1½a was applied to cover up for the missing 3/4a



Rates. 1/4 anna to Bushire. However 1 anna to Persia from abroad. Bushire the border for Indian inland services

Routes: Rangoon 6 JA 1906 via India to Bushire arr 17 Jan/06. Bushire DEP (depot) 4 FE/06. Redirected Linga IPO arriving 11 FE/0

Notes: Since Bushire was part of the Indian postal system it had the right to apply a postage due though normally should have been applied already at Rangoon

Incoming un-paid mail from Bagdad to Isfahan in 1918

Bagdad IPOs postage due horse type. No amount mentioned but rate 1 as for post card to abroad



Rates: 1 as to abroad. Double to be paid in Persian currency in Isfahan. No note about that

Routes: Basra (Mesopotamia) 5 June 1920 to Isfahan 13 July, Persia. Transited Ahwaz IPO 14 June and Mohammerah IPO 17 June 1920
Using the Lynch route from Arabistan to Isfahan

Markings: A red M.E.F. censor applied

Mail posted in the Gulf onboard and/or carried by non-contracted ships received a special
BOMBAY/SHIP LETTER/POSTAGE DUE incoming stamp (issued in 1873)

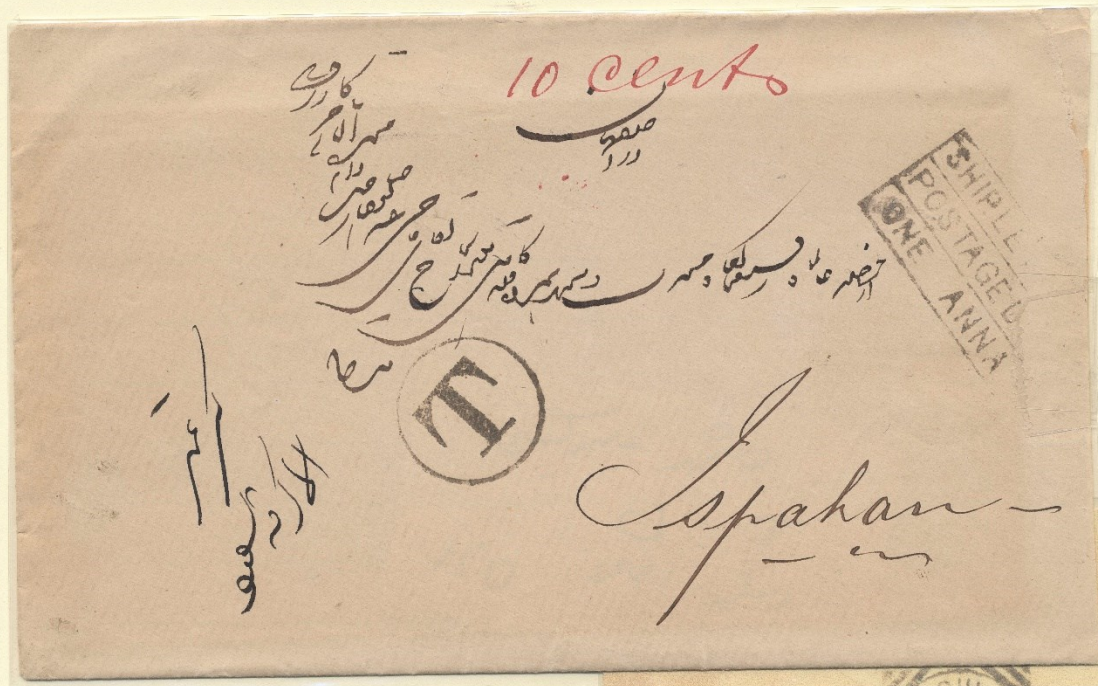
Letter in Persian and delivered to Bombay PO arriving Oct 27 in Hegeira 1300 = 1882/83



Bushire Ship Letter Postage Due + Deposit Department

Letter posted on and/or carried by a non-contracted ship calling at Bushire 1893 received a **SHIP LETTER/ POSTAGE DUE/ONE ANNA** stamp and in m/s "10 cents" in red. Addressed to Isfahan

As the letter was addressed to the interior the sender had franked 2as 6p, the external correct rate for 1st weight class
As probably the letter was too heavy a charge of 10 cents and a T-mark were applied



The letter was
forwarded from
Bushire IPO on
21 Oct 1893 to
Isfahan. No
arrival mark.

Picture reduced



The Ship letter was received at Bushire IPO 18 Oct 1893 and put into the **Deposit Department, (DEP)** = (safe custody pending disposal) as per small cicled 20 mm obliterator same day, at back. Elusive postmark

The DEP stamp device was only delivered to the head post offices in the Gulf such as Bushire and possibly to Muscat and Basra

Muscat. Remitters receipt returned by the post office of Issue 1887

Rectangular **MUSCAT DI ARABIA**

A very elusive usage from Muscat

Nothing to be written by Remitter on the reverse.

Amount of Order (in figures) Rs. 50

Name of Remitter } *Mickey Hassan*

Address " } *Muscat*

Name Stamp to be impressed by Post Office of Issue.

MUSCAT DI ARABIA

MAZGAON U. S. SEP 25 1887

MUSCAT 10 OCT 9 1887

50 Rs sent to Muzgaon, near Bombay, 25 Sep 1887, forwarded by Bombay PO same day to Muscat. And handed over to the remitter on 9 October 1887

Below a 75% reproduction, of the back

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

While is a duplicate Receipt which will be returned by the Post Office to the Remitter.

I acknowledge to have received payment of Money Order No. , for the sum specified on the reverse.

Y. Hassan & Co. Muscat

27 1887 Date Signature of Payee (in ink)

***Postal history:** An acknowledgment for the receipt of a money order by the payee was provided to the remitter from the inception of the money order service by the postal services in 1880

I. D.4.
Special Services

Senders Receipts

Receipt for
Sender

Receipt for Sender "Received a registered letter...."

Formulas related to the Gulf elusive

for Insurance Notices see reverse.

No. **126** Stamps affixed (if a parcel) — Rs. As. Date stamp.

Received a registered *

Write here "letter," "post-card," "packet," "paid parcel" or "unpaid parcel," as the case may require, with the word "insured" before it when necessary.

Insured for Rs. (in figures) (in words)

Insurance fee Rs. As. Weight (in words) Rates Tolas

Name and address of sender.

Routes: Abadan ab 1920 to Trivanderum, Kerala, south India

Receipt for Sender

"Received a Registered" receipt re registered letter addressed to the French Consulate dated Muscat 18 Aug 1903

This type of formula **two recorded**

Notes: Mr Goguyer, the French Consul, supplied clandestinely weapons to Arab tribes among the Trucial States to stir up problems for the British. Everybody was happy except the British!

No. **50** **3 bis**

RECEIPT FOR SENDER.

A. GOGUYER
18 AOUT 1903
MASCATE (Arabie)

Date stamp of
MUSCAT
18
Office of

Weight (in rates) when not insured. (In words) Rs. As.
Postage (including registration fee) Rs. As.

To be filled up only in the case of Insured articles.
Insured for Rs. (in figures) (In words)

Insurance fee Rs. As.

Weight (in words) RATES TOLAS

Received a registered*
addressed to
Post-town of destination

*Write here "letter," "postcard," "packet," "paid parcel" or "unpaid parcel," as the case may require, with the word "insured" before it if the article is to be insured.

Notice (1)—The Post Office is not responsible for loss or damage in the case of registered articles, unless they are also insured.
(2)—The special conditions and restrictions as to insurance, which will be found in the current edition of the Indian Postal Guide, are binding upon every sender of an insured postal article by virtue of rules prescribed under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

Initials of Receiving Officer.

I. D.4.
Special Services

Money Order Service

Acknowledgment

Abadan and Mohammerah

This service played an important part of the Indian postal services in the Gulf in particular at the oil fields where there were a lot of Indian and British employees who remitted regularly money to their families back home

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. (On Postal Service.)

Name of payee *N. S. Pillai*

Amount of order (in figures) Rs. *50* As. *00*

Name and address of remitter. *N. S. Pillai*
Abadan R. Gulf

Date-stamp of the office of payment. *19 MAR 1920*

Name-stamp of the office of issue. **ABADAN**

Received the sum specified above on *14/1/20*

Signature (in ink) of payee, or thumb-impression of payee. *N. S. Pillai*

Remittance receipts

Abadan 1920

Mohammerah 1913

Punch holes made by the post office

Amount of order (in figures) Rs. *20* As. *00*

Name and address of remitter. *N. S. Pillai*
Abadan Refinery
Mohammerah
Persian Gulf

Date-stamp of the office of payment. *20 MAR 1913*

Name-stamp of the office of issue. **MOHAMMERAH PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT**

Received the sum specified above on *2/1/13*

Signature (in ink) of payee, or thumb-impression of payee. *N. S. Pillai*

Internal Remittance Receipt from Bushire IPO to Muscat IPO in 1895

Only **two recorded** of the very elusive Muscat Money Order obliterator

On Postal Service.

EAST INDIA POST CARD.

(The address only to be written on this side.)

THE POSTMASTER

of *Muscat*

MUSCAT 31 JAN 1895

BUSHIRE 26 JAN 1895

No 89 of 1895

Received 26 Jan 1895

To Sub Postmaster
Muscat

Forty-eight quint

MUSCAT 31 JAN 1895

Postmaster

This internal official receipt was sent by the Postmaster at Bushire on 26 Jan 1895 to his counter partner, actually the sub Postmaster, at Muscat. Received 31 Jan 1895. The picture reduced to 70%

***Notes:** An acknowledgement for the receipt of a money order by the payee was provided to the remitter from the inception of the money order service provided by the postal services in 1880