

Persia Postal History Across Two Centuries

The Objectives: to give an understanding and explanation of the vastness and richness of Persian postal history before the Great War, WWI; to show some of the political implications for Persia being "squeezed" between the super powers own interests, i e the Russian and the British interests at the time of the so called Great Game and its result on Persia's postal history.

The Scope: The exhibit studies the postal history of Persia from early 19th century and up to WWI. The selected items contained in this exhibit demonstrate the significance of Persian postal history in its geopolitical setting in middle Asia. In early 19th century, desert mail, British military campaigns mail of 1839 and 1857 and Russian pre-UPU consular mail from Persia are shown. Thereafter follows the development of Persia's own postal system that was reorganised by Austrian administrators from 1875. (the history of the Indian post offices in Persia are excluded in this exhibit - except when relevant to the title as such - as it is already covered in another of my exhibits).

Routes and new postal services constantly developed. A number of rate changes took place. Until the beginning of the 20th century there is only scant official Persian postal documentation available both in Persia and the UPU recorded leading to substantial information gaps. However, the exhibitor now has the pleasure of being able to introduce the hitherto "unknown" **first complete official UPU-rates** for Persian mail in particular mail to abroad via Bushire exchange post offices and Bombay from 1877/78.

Belgian administrators took over the postal administration in 1902 that led to sustainable improvements. Between 1902-06 occurred a number of very rare surcharges and overprints due to distribution problems as a result of both financial troubles and internal struggles. In spite of overwhelming odds, overland mail between eastern Persia and India as well as exchange offices with Russia were established.

For the last 20 years the exhibitor has deliberately excluded the so called **Bagheri issue** of 1869-1874 because until 1875 there were no obliterations. Proving genuine seems still to be impossible scientifically.

Plan	Main selection	Frames	III	
I		1	a	7
a	Pre-UPU mail: Gulf mail, Desert mail		- opening of new offices in the Gulf ports	
b	Campaign mail		- the opening of overland route between eastern Persia and India	
c	Russian mail		- internal money order service	
d	British & French couriers and Agency mail		- postal exchange offices with Russia and the Ottoman empire	
e	Ship's bag system of the Royal Navy		- agreement for parcel post with abroad	
II		2-6	- various surcharges due to shortages	
a	Attempts to organise mail within Persia 1851-70s followed by the Austrian Administration 1875-79		b	8
- introducing modernized system, canceler device, exchange agreements, new routes, new services			- tax on incoming newspapers	
b	Persian administrative control 1880 - 1890's		- the Lynch mail route, Ahwaz - Isfahan,	
- Bandar Abbas exchange offices with India			- the Lar rebellion	
- dual currency, money order service with France			- Russian invasion of Azarbadjan	
c	Administration of Mr Arnold 1890s - 1898		- Russian support of the ex-Shah	
- the farming system 1898 - 1901			- Relais services: Teheran and Recht	

Rarity: The exhibit is the very best of Persia that has been assembled in the postal history category. The items belong - one way or another - to the unique, rare and very scarce category. There is not only a completeness of the material in relation to the scope of the exhibit but also the material chosen is amongst the very best recorded within each category. Included are many of "the earliest" and "the highest rate recorded". Also shown are **about 10 Persian postage stamps on documents** of which so far **only one of each** is recorded on commercial mail. There are about **20 rare destinations**. **Treatment:** The story about the development of Persia's postal system follows in general a chronological order starting from early 19th century onwards. Exceptions are made in some cases for better clarification. Further in-depth information is found under each section. Each page have references to the relevant period on the very top left. Each page has its own title relevant to the period. At top right other relevant information about the reason for the mail may occur. Rare and interesting postal markings are included as occur. For further information about the postal item's rates the relevant rate tables in the exhibit are referred to.

References: Persian postal history literature is in short supply. Important are the following. (see also synopsis)
Foremost is the Bulletin published regularly by the Iran Philatelic Study Circle (IPSC), UK, since the early 1970s to which the exhibitor is contributing regularly. Also of importance is "Iranian Philatelic Discussion Group", a very active Yahoo group formed 2003 by B Nassre with a constant dialogue with other leading members/experts of Persia philately. "Ghajar Covers and Postal History" by I. Eftekhar in 2003; "Concise Postal History of Persia" by G Migliavaccia; "The Lion Stamps of Persia" by Dr Dadkhah; "Postal Markings of Iran" in 2001 by Hassan Shaida; "Stamps of the Russian Empire, used abroad", part III, 1958 by S D Tchilinghirian; "Memorandum of the British/Indian Post Offices in the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia" by F B O'Shea, 1888, revised in 1905; Indian Postal History, 1873-1923, by D.S. Virk; "The Gazetter of the Persian Gulf, Oman and Arabia" by Lorimer.

Research & knowledge: The exhibitor has done "research" at the National Archives in India during several visits between 2004 and 2006 where a substantial and important amount of documentation from the British Indian governmental period covering several hundred years is available. Where applicable new information has been incorporated such as the first complete rate tables. The exhibitor has written a number of articles in the IPSC Bulletins for the last 30 years and major articles for the Swedish Philatelic Federation and other publications.

Note: There is a discrepancy between Gregorian and Julian calendars, equivalent to 12 days in the 19th and 13 in the 20th century.

Entire letter from Shiraz to England 1821

Between 1745 and 1833 a "Desert Mail" between Basrah (Mesopotamia) – Aleppo – Konstantinople was encouraged by the British to facilitate correspondence between GB and India via the Gulf. Copies of original letters were sent this way

Foreign Missions in Persia organized a courier system to connect with the "Desert Mail" system as Persia had no official communication with abroad by itself



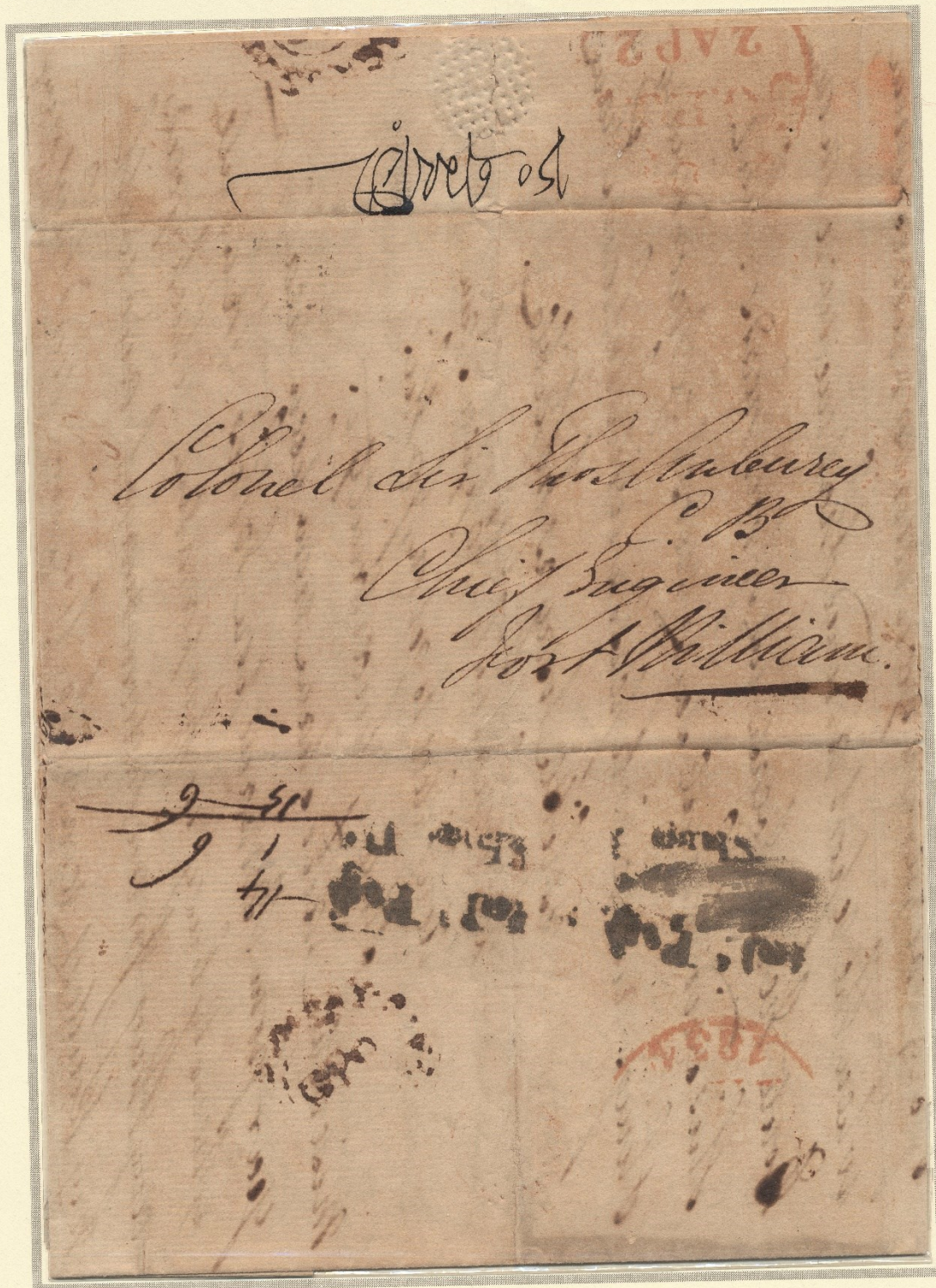
Consular mail from Shiraz to London would be sent via Mesopotamia to join up with the Desert Mail route – Baghdad to Aleppo – and from there overland to Italy and England

This letter was addressed to an M.P. in London). Normally the M.P.s were granted "free post" by the general postal services, as per the faint oval mark above the big "2". In this case, however, the letter would have to cross London to reach him. A local charge of 2d was then charged the M.P. upon delivery as seen from the big "2". The arrival mark was put at the back (on top of the out folded letter)

Bushire to India 1834

Letter from Bushire to Fort Williams, India 1834

Prior to the establishment of Indian Sea Post Offices in the Persian Gulf in 1864 mail was conveyed casually by the Indian marine or private ships



Bushire, the main port at the Gulf, on 12 February 1834 to Fort William in India. In addition to some notations in ink there is a red circled obliterator reading "Calcutta 2 April 1834"



Routes: Tabriz dated 17 June 1834 – Khoi – Maku (all in Persia) – Erzerum – Trebizonde – Konstantinople – Great Britain - to West Springfield, Massachusetts, redirected to Albany, New York transiting February 20, 1834.

A special courier was used to get the letter out of Persia

Rates: Special courier rate from Persia. Amount not known and partly privately arranged. In USA. M/s "12 ½" cents. Internal US rate for the distance New York -Massachusetts (between 80-150 miles). Redirected to Albany 10 cents (30-80 miles).

22/2 is a date in m/s probably by the post office

Letter to Scotland in 1837. Disinfected en route



Rates: Special courier out of Persia to Scotland and the rate partly privately arranged and thus not known. Rate from London to Scotland charged 1 sh 2d as per m/s. The square with 1/2d is a tolltax applied at the Scottish border

Routes: Tabriz 6 June 1837 as per m/s to Falkirk, Scotland arriving 31 July 1837, backstamped, via London. Disinfected along the route by spiking. A Lazaretto smeared stamp on the back

Letter to London 1838

Disinfected against the plague



Rates: Courier service by private arrangement. Rate to GB not known.

4d had to be paid for the distance- between 8 and 15 miles – in London

2d had to be paid due to the redirection within London

Routes: Teheran 6th September 1838 to London arriving 27 September 1838

In London the letter was redirected twice and 2 and 4d had to be paid by the receivers

Notes: Major (later Sir) Rawlinson to James Fraser, the famous Scottish traveler

1837 - 1870s

Letter from Bombay, Muscat - via Bushire - Mesopotamia - to Madeira in 1839

With the opening of the Red Sea route via Suez to England in 1833 the desert mail was abolished. Reestablished in 1837 as for security as it was important for the East India Company and officials to be able to send copies of original letters using another route than the Red Sea one.



Rates: M/s on the letter 1/10 for double rate from India to UK and 10d for up to quarter ounce via Marseille

Routes: Bombay, Muscat - via Bushire - Mesopotamia - to Madeira in 1839

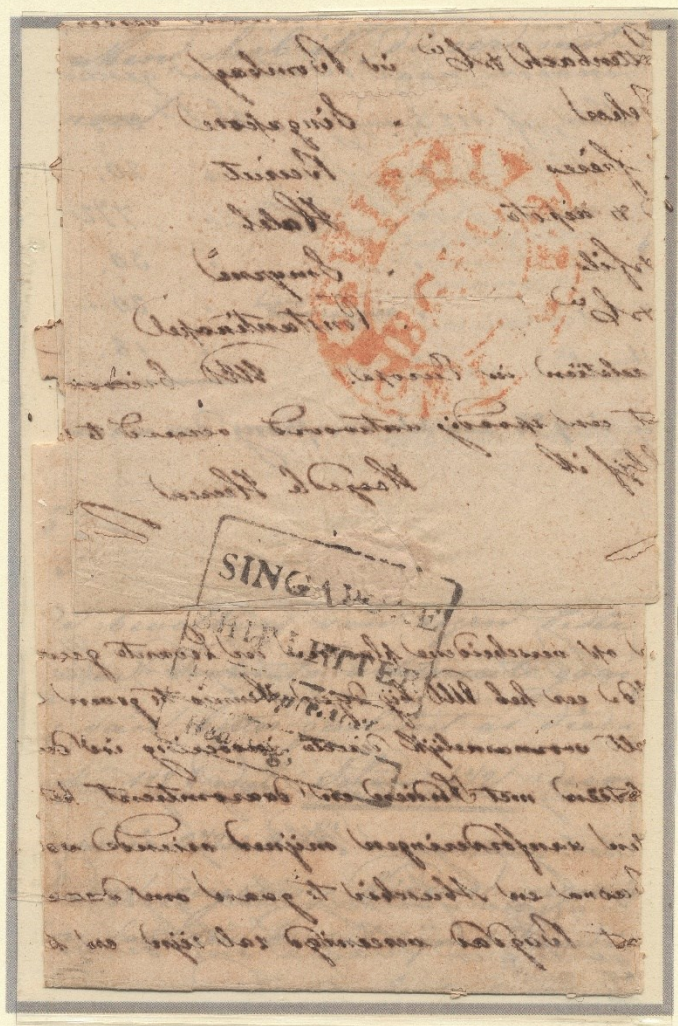
During the monsoon between June and August it was favorable to sail from Bombay to the Persian Gulf via Muscat. This letter left Bombay on the 2nd of August with "Zenobia" and arrived Muscat 9th of August. Then it sailed via Bushire to Khorramshar (Mohammerah) from where a dromedar caravan took the mail to Bussorah (Basra), then Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut. From there by ship via Malta to Marseille across the continent to London. Then from Fulmouth to Madeira. No arrival cancellation.

However in 1837 the East India Company restarted a new camel post service from Beirut via Damascus to Khorramshar (Mohammerah) at the outlet of Shatt-el-Arab. But this route should be used only as a back up service so only duplicates of letters should be sent this way according to the company instructions

Two different business letters in one entire from 1847

Letter I. From Bagdad to Bushire, via the Red Sea

Letter II. From Bushire to Singapore via Bombay



Rates: A bearing rate and not stated clearly

Routes: *First route: Baghdad-Damascus (by Dromedary Post) 27 January 1847 - Beirut-Alexandria-Suez-Bombay-Bushire. No dates shown

Second route: Bushire 16 April 1847 - Bombay - Singapore

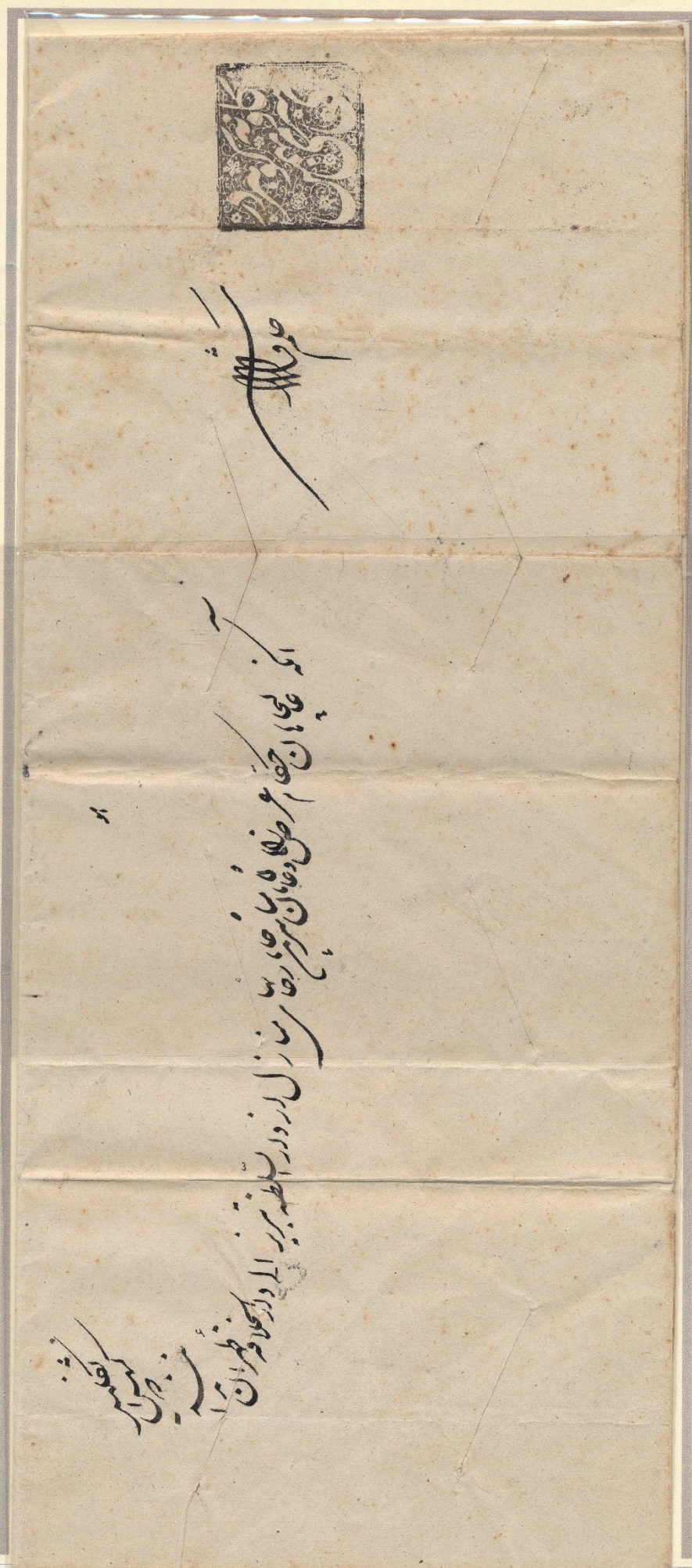
Markings: A red ship mark "B.G.P.O." = Bombay General Post Office. Used as transit mark
Singapore rectangular mark "SINGAPORE SHIP LETTER/September/Bearing". Date and rate not stated

Notes: The normal route was the British Dromedar Post between Baghdad and Damascus, then to Alexandria via Beirut. From Alexandria the letter was taken to Suez and then by ship on the Red Sea via Aden to Bombay and from Bombay to the Gulf by a casual ship

*The route: There was also the option for the letter sent from Baghdad that it would be sent via Bussorah (Basra) and forwarded by ship to Bushire

Letter of introduction of a very special person

This introduction letter was given to Reverend Wolff, a Brith MP, to facilitate his journey on his way to Bukhara on a rescue mission. The letter was slit for fumigation.



Entire letter from His Royal Highness Prince Bahman Mirza, Governor of Tabriz, in 1844 for the use of Reverend Wolff, ordering every horse station Dar es Khalafe along the route Teheran-Tabriz to supply Rev Wolff with five Post Horses on his rescue mission to Bokhara where two British citisens were in captivity in a snake pit.

Letter from Kharg Island to UK

Afghanistan was the gateway to the British "Crown Jewel", India. GB was always preoccupied and worried that Russia would find a pretext of invading Afghanistan. So GB and Persia were at loggerheads re the Shah's interest in occupying Herat in western part of Afghanistan. The Shah was told by the British not to pursue that policy!

Nevertheless, the Shah did occupy Herat in 1838. This led to a British occupation of Kharg Island in the Gulf in early 1839 with a threat of invading the main land

A small force of mainly Indian soldiers remained there until 1842

An alleged love affair between the British Ambassador and a high lady of the Court would eventually lead lead up to the next expeditionary force sent in 1857!



This letter is dated Kharg Island on the 15th of August 1839 and was written by the military authorities to a family back in Surrey informing them of the death of their son due to illness. The letter was brought via naval ship to Bombay as suggested by the "India Letter". From Bombay letters would be carried by East Indiaman around the Cape of Good Hope. A India Letter Liverpool rectangular mark was put on the letter.

The circular mark is an India Soldiers 3/ London which is a special soldier's concession rate.

Five letters are recorded from this military campaign

The Shah had against the advice of Great Britain occupied western part of Afghanistan including Herat. A British expeditionary force was sent out from India to occupy some places in the Persian Gulf requesting the withdrawal

The first introduction of postage stamps and canceller in Persia. "131" earmarked for the expedition

A postmark, #131, and two circle obliterations "**FIELD FORCE/PERSIA/date/Pd(or/Bg)**", red "**Pd**" = postage paid or a black "**Bg**" = bearing

Letter sent in July 1857 to Scotland via Bombay. Only paid to India



Back of the envelope reduced

The letter was sent from the Gulf on 5 July 1857 to Scotland via Bombay received 2nd of August 1857

The black "bearing" Field Force canceller was applied, back stamped, and in Bombay the boxed "India unpaid" was added
Both were applied to indicate that the recipient would have to pay as well, in this case 2/4d. **Rate to India 1a prepaid**

The "CR" stands for the Scottish "Caledonian Railways"

The Field Force was granted a **concession** by the Indian authorities of paying the **inland rate** for mail **to India**. It was common to send non-franked mail within the Indian mail system

Ultimately three P.O.s were established, the first at Bushire in December 1856, the second at Mohammerah in March 1857, and the third on the Island of Kharg in June 1857. There is no way to distinguish mail from any of these places unless it is stated in manuscript in the accompanying letter

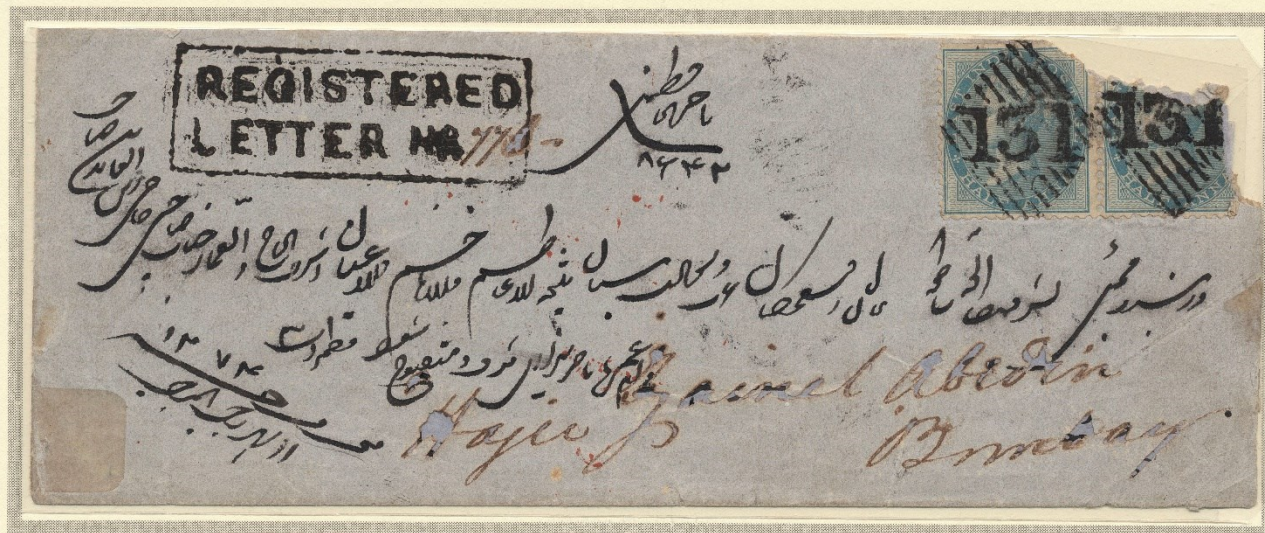
I.a

The Persian Field Force 1856-58

The first registration mark used on Persian soil. Introduced by the Indian Military

One of two recorded registered letters from the Field Force. Not in the best condition. But the significance in documenting the first usage of registered mail on Persian soil can not be sufficiently emphasized

FIELD/FORCE/DATE/pd/PERSIA in red. "Pd" stands for "Paid". On the back



Scanned picture of part of the back. Not reduced

Rates: 1 anna double inland rate. **Registration fee:** 4 annas. Was only shown on the receipt and not on the cover!

Routes: From the Field Force 6 Feb 1858 to Bombay arriving MA22 1858

Notes: The canceller allotted was #131 (later reissued to Billimora in Central India)

Mail from UK to India. Forwarded eventually to the Persian Field Force

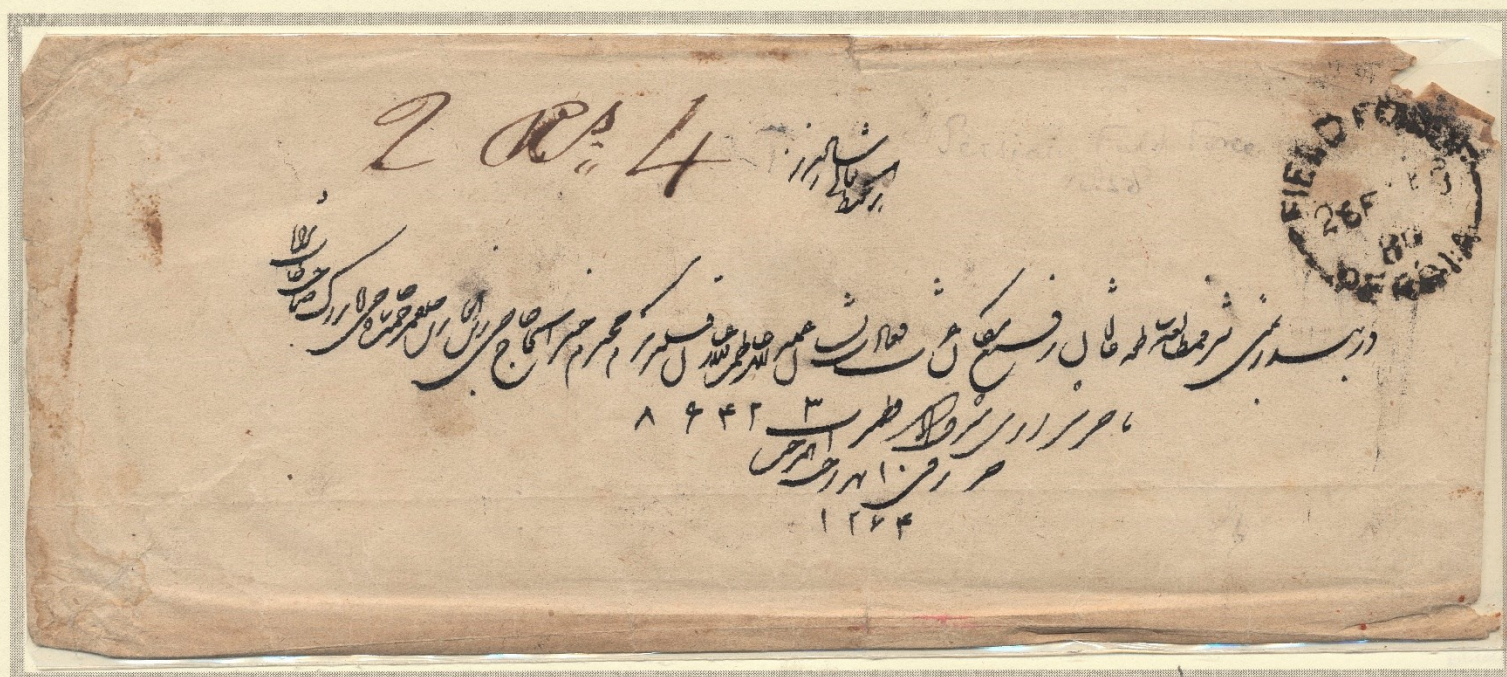
FIELD/FORCE/DATE/pd/PERSIA in red. "Pd" stands for "Paid"

Rates: 9d (via Marseilles route)

Routes and Markings (by date)

London	Red JY 10/57	Dharwar	Black rec DITARWAR/1857 NOV 18
Bombay	Red 5 AUG/PAID + (in front) faint red 8?	Amhedabad	Black 2 DE 1857/Bg
"	Black 5 AUGUST 1857 (rect Bombay bearing 5 oct)	Kohlapoor	rectangular bearing, date not clear, but re-forwarded
Kurrachee (Karachi)	Black 26 Oct 1857 bearing (circled)	Persia Field Force	Red on front 21 DE 57/Pd = paid
Bombay	GPO Blueblackish mark on left front ? NO/1857		

Insured letter 2 Rupees 4 as to Bombay
The highest insured mail recorded during the campaign



Sent 26 February 58 to Bombay arriving 22 March 1858. Two letters recorded

Letter to Dutch Indies

Only a few letters from this campaign recorded to other countries besides India and UK



Entire letter to Surabaya in the Dutch Indies bearing a strike of the "Bg" with m/s "1" above along with "30" for delivery charge and a strike of Bombay ship letter. Also a Bombay circled postmark reading Nov(ember). Reverse with a strike of the Singapore bearing (Proud type 10)

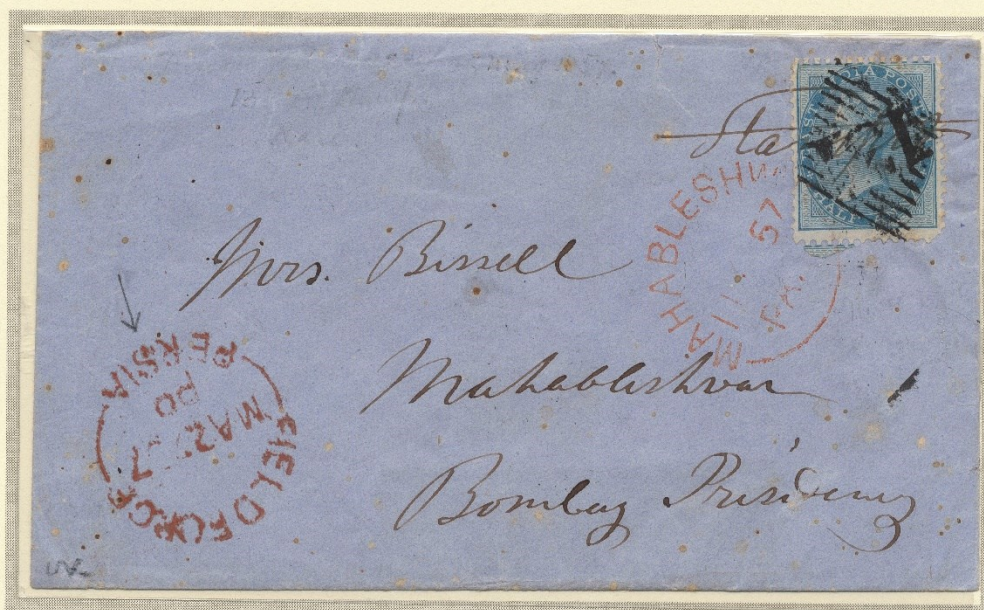
From Persia with "Bg" to Bombay and there boxed "TOO LATE"

TOO LATE implicates that the mail bag if it had already been closed could against a fee be reopened



The letter was sent on 1 Jan 1858 to Bombay, arriving 26 Feb. "Bg" obliterator applied and "6 as" in m/s. The TOO LATE cachet most probably applied in Bombay

Letter sent paid to India. Red "Pd" = paid



Rates: 1/2a for 1/2 tola

The letter was addressed to Mrs Bissell, wife of Rev. P.W. Bisell. Chaplain to the Field Force at Bombay, bearing East India 1/2 a cancelled by "131" sent 27 March 1857 as per Field Force cancellation and arrived on 11 May 1857

Letter sent to India with a black "Bg" = bearing obliteration

Scarce usage of "2as" in m/s inside the obliteration



Rates: 2 annas

Routes: Field force at Persia 10 September 1857 to Bombay ?? 57

Mesopotamia Overland Route

Letter 1861 from London to Bushire, Persian Gulf. Elusive

Letter from a large London firm in 1861 who had an account with Lombard Street Foreign office for postage.



1d prepaid in postage stamps and 2/- (the rest of the postage fee) was put on the account, so stamped **Lombard Street/Paid** for mail to Egypt or beyond with weight $\frac{3}{4}$ oz to 1 oz via Marseille

UPU from 1878

Ship's Bag System within the Royal Navy

Letter from Bushire to UK in 1878. This system required British stamps. The only recorded from Persia

British officers could mail other navy officers worldwide through the "Ship's bag system". British stamps were used. Rates depended on which port in the world the Navy ship was calling. Another navy ship calling the same port would bring the navy bag to UK.

The J & S A Malcolm was a leading trading company in Bushire



Rates: Prepaid 8 d, the rate for the Persian Gulf via Brindisi

Routes: Commander captain R.N.Wodehouse of H:M:S: Teazer sent this letter from Bushire to a relative in England on 10th of Feb 1878. Same evening the steamer "Punjab" sailed for Aden (as per log log of both Teazer and Punjab). The P. & O. "Deccan" left Aden for Suez on the 18th, and mails continued by the "Bokhara" to Brindisi. Mail arrived London on March 2nd. A Portsmouth back stamp of same date

I.e Pre-UPU mail **British Courier system via the Bouchir political agent**

The British Missions in Teheran and Isphahan run a "gholam" - runners service via Shiraz to Bushire

Non-franked courier letter from Teheran sent to India early 1860s



M/s from Teheran via Bushire. Received a Bombay ship mail cachet and m/s 2as. No date

Unpaid letter from Isphahan probably in the 1860's to Bombay



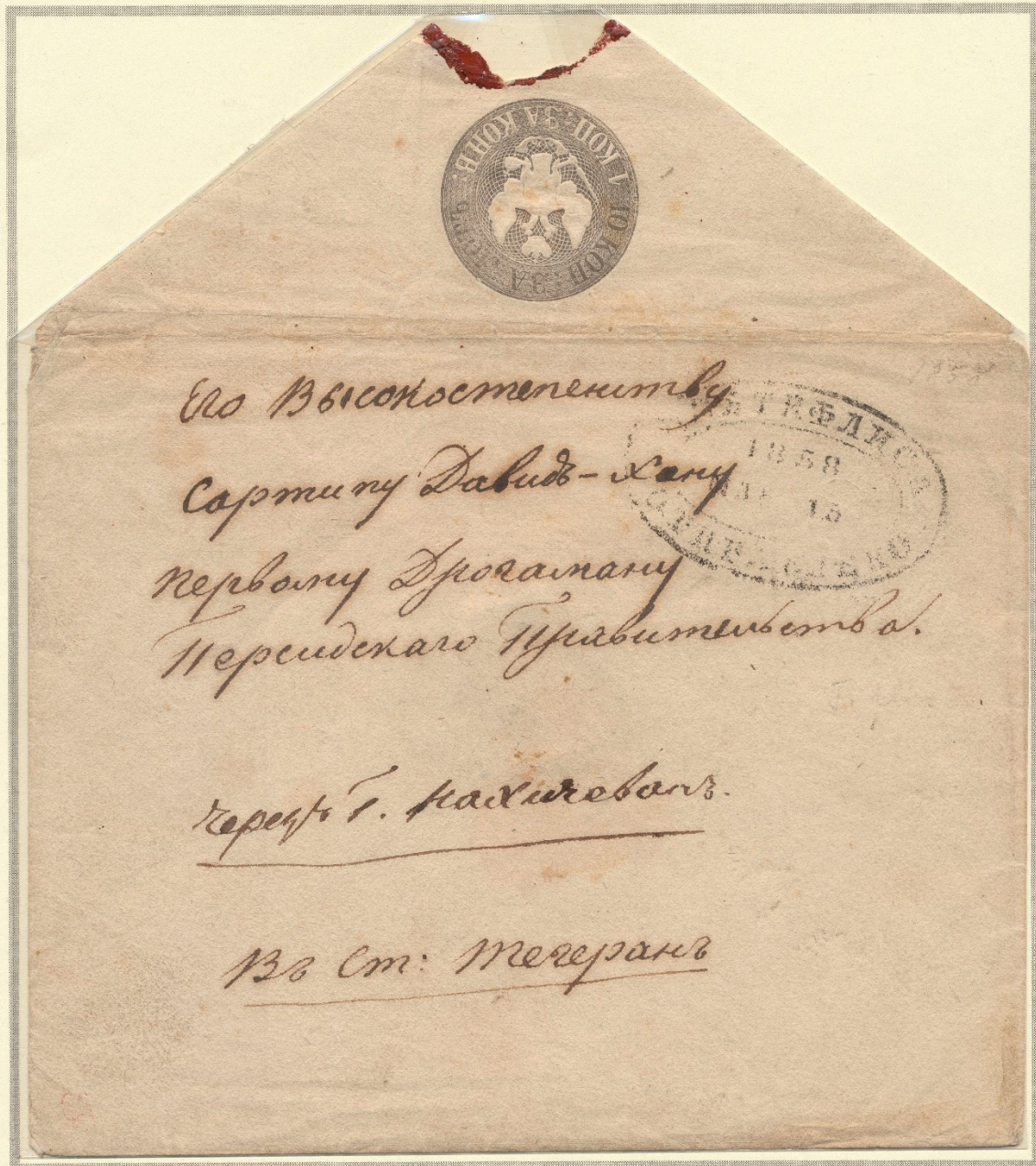
M/s Isfahan. Received a Bombay ship mail cachet with bearing in m/s 1 anna. No date

Part Bombay circled postmark AU 28 but year not clear at reversal

Note: When the Bushire Mission received the mail bags they were handed over to Local ship agents who would put the bags on ships to Bombay. The Missions allowed "friendly" Persians and Europeans to use this diplomatic mail service. British stamps could be provided before 1864. After that the

Introduction: Russia had since long been trading with northern Persia. Before 1877 Persia had rudimentary postal services and only courier services with abroad. Any mail had to use a courier system to and from abroad

The 2nd earliest incoming letter from Russia recorded. In 1858. Via Nachjavand near the Persian border
Russian Scientific Expedition* to Khorasan, eastern Persia and Afghanistan



Rates: 10 kopek from Russia to abroad

A 10-kopek Russian postal stationery envelope sent from Tiflis as per mark, a double oval reading "sent from Tiflis May 15 1858" (Iz Tiflisa Otravleno), Nakhchevan, Tabriz to Teheran

Notes: Addressed to the Eminent David-Khan, First Dragoman of the Persian Government

Addressed to Tabriz, northern Persia and annotated to be forwarded to Rescht
The only Russian forwarding letter in Persia



From Russia franked 10 kopek sent via Tiflis in Georgia to a Greek merchant at Tabriz and then forwarded to Rescht. M/s via Tiflis, Georgia.
Before reaching the border town Julfa, the letter went via the nearby Naschichervan 23 ? 1861 (Julian calendar)

There is strong reason to believe that the Russian Mission at Tabriz, capital of the Persian province of Azarbadjan, also assisted in receiving mail to be forwarded to other places by a forwarding agency possibly as early as the 1850s. However, the Russian Mission had not by 1861 yet established its consular post office it seems

Russian postal services from Northern Persia to Russia pre-dated the Persian postal services to abroad that started only only in 1877 when Persia joined the General Postal Union. The Russian mail services in Persia had no relationship with the rudimentary Persian postal system. Three letters are recorded, two of which are displayed here

A rectangular marking "**TABRIZ + date**" in Russian, assumed to have been used by the Russia Consular Postal services

Letter sent 1867 to Tiflis, Georgia. Russian foreign rate 10 kopek applied



Rates: 10 kopek to abroad. A 10-kopek stamp of 1864/5 issue was applied

Routes: M/s Tabriz 14 August 1867 to Tiflis in Georgia, Russia via the border town of Julfa

Markings: The rectangular obliterator in Russian reads "TABRIZ 19 AUG 1867" (Julian calendar), together with a Cyrillic straight line "DESPATCHED FROM JULFA 24 AUG 1867" in Russian. Also a truncated "870" cancel applied on the stamp. Whether the postmark was applied already in Tabriz or only at Julfa is still debated. Most probably though at Julfa

This is the earliest of the three recorded Russian letters from Tabriz

Certificate Holcombe

Letter sent to Paris in 1877

Foreign rate 8 kopek. Changed from 10 to 8 kopek in 1877

The latest of the three recorded covers from Tabriz



Map of postal routes

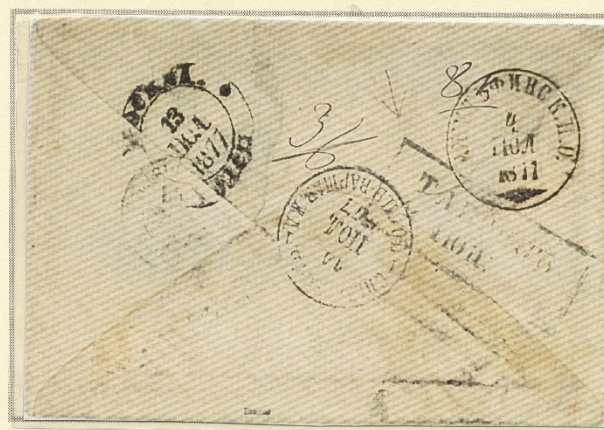
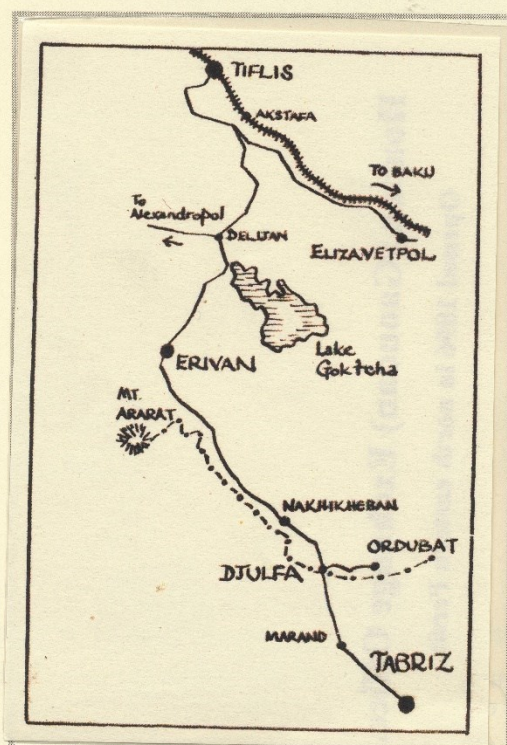
Tiflis – Nachdjavand – Tabriz (until 1864)

Tiflis – Julfa – Tabriz

(from BJRP No 10, 1952)

Julfa Russian P O opened in 1864

Julfa Persia Exchange P O opened late 1877

Photocopy of the back
Reduced to 75%

Rates: 8 kopek. The rate for abroad had lowered from 10 to 8 kopek

Routes: Tabriz June 1877, Julfa border station 4 July (Julian), Moscow 13 July, arrived Enquelines, France, 29 July

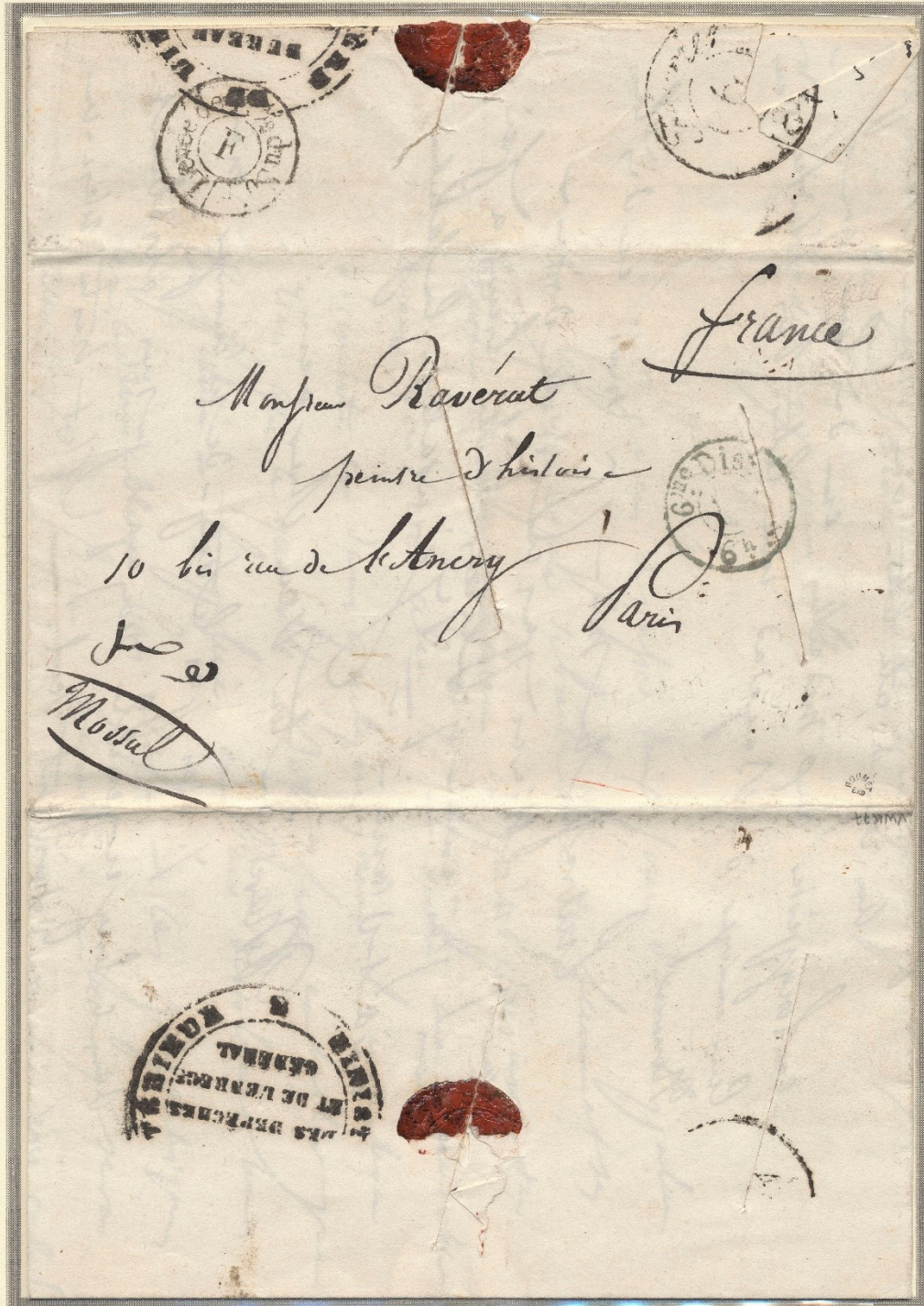
Markings: A Moscow-Warsawa mark.

I.e

French Courier system via eastern Turkey

Official letter from Mosul, Mesopotamia 24 December 1844 to the Ministry of Interior in Paris

The letter as per written instructions was taken to the French consul at Erzerum in eastern Turkey who forwarded it to the French Mission in Teheran. Sent by diplomatic courier that left twice per month via Erzerum and Trebizonde and Konstantinople (all three in Ottoman Turkey), to Paris



Route: Mosul, Mesopotamia (24 December 1844)-Erzerum (Turkey)-Teheran-Tabriz-Urmia (Persia)-Erzerum-Trebizonde (Turkey)- Konstantinople-Marseille – Paris (arrival date not mentioned)

The letter is quoted in the "Bureaux Français à l'Étranger 1561 – 1948" published by Jean Pothion in 1982

On page 5 under the heading BUREAUX CONSULAIRES: the text in French says

"Un citoyen se trouvant dans un pays où il n'existe pas de services postaux, n'a que la possibilité de confier ses lettres aux agents consulaires qui feront suivre le courrier en France par la valise diplomatique.

Par exemple la lettre reproduite ci-dessous est datée de MOSSOUL en Irak, au nord de Bagdad. Confiée au consul de France à Erzeroum, puis au chargé de mission de l'ambassade de France de Tehéran, qui la fait parvenir directement au Ministère de l'Intérieur à Paris, qui la poste au Bureau Central. (etc, etc....)"

I.e Pre-UPU mail

French postal agent H. Arnaud in eastern Turkey

Franked letter using French adhesives in 1862

Mail was taken to Trebizonde by private courier from Tabriz in north western Persia.

Trebizonde Postal Agency, Eastern Turkey



Rates: 50 centimes to France from Trebizonde, eastern turkey

Routes & Markings: From Hanhart & Cie at Tabriz 1 June 1862 by courier via Erzerum to the French postal agency in Trebizonde where the letter was cancelled "4016" and with "TREPZONDE TURQUIE D'ASIE/21 JUIN/62". The circular went via the French post office in Konstantinople on 21 June 62. Then by sea mail to Lyon as per mark "MEDITERRANEE A LYON B/3/JUIL/62" i.e. the same date as the arrival mark of Lyon

Notes: The four recorded letters bearing French adhesives stem from Hanhart et Cie at Tabriz a Swiss trading company. Either they had an account at H. Arnaud or they had their own supply of French stamps

H. Arnaud was a trading representative in Trebizonde. He was also in charge of a postal agency as well as acting as a forwarding agency. Existed as from 1857

I.e Pre-UPU mail

French postal agent H Arnaud in eastern Turkey

Un-franked letters to France in the early 1860s. 7 recorded from Persia via the Agent
Letter to France in 1862. Fee to be paid 10 centimes as per m/s



Rates: The large "10" in m/s means that the receiver should pay an additional **10 centimes**

Routes & Markings: From Tabriz 7 July 1862 via forwarders **H Arnaud of Trebizonde** as per c.d.s "Trebizonde 19 Juil 62". Back stamped "Bureau Francaise de Constantinople 23 Juil" "Mediterrane a Lyon 30 Juil 62" "Paris 31 Juil 62" "Reims 1 Aout 62" at the destination

Un-paid letter to France in 1863. Fee to be paid 20 centimes as per m/s



Rates: The large "10" in m/s means that the receiver should pay an additional **20 centimes**. M/s "valeur" i.e insured

Routes & Markings: Tabriz 7 June 1863 through forwarders H Arnaud at Trebizonde. Backstamped "Bureau Francaise de Constantinople 23 Juin", "Mediterranee a Lyon 2 Juil 63", and "Valreas" in Provenance
Rectangular **MER NOIRE** i.e the Black Sea

I.e Pre-UPU mail

Courier mail via Agent H. Arnaud in Erzerum

Italian letter addressed to Recht in 1866



Rates: 130 ctmes

Routes: Milano 29 April 1866 via Bologna 29 April, Konstantinople to Trebizonde.
Then via courier to Tabriz in Persia and forwarded to Recht

Non-franked mail sent in bulk from Persia to Switzerland 1862 and there franked



This letter dated "Tauris (Tabriz, Persia) 1er Juin 1862" contains important information about changes in the ownership of the company. It was necessary to inform the clients in Switzerland. Letters to the clients were probably sent in bulk to the Hq in Zürich. 5 Rappen in stamps were then put on at the Zürich Hq before having the mail distributed

Mid-19 century a Swiss trading company, mainly in silk, by the name of Hanhart et Cie, with offices in Tabriz and Rescht. This company was using the French agent Arnoud in Erzerum in eastern Anatolia for mail services

II.

A Modernised Postal System

Introduced by Austrian Postal Administrators based on European principles

Introduction: There were Postal Reforms 1851, 1865, 1868 and 1870. However only the 1868 and 1870 had some impact. There was a constant demand for a organised and reliable postal services

Postage stamps, the Bagheri issue, were introduced already in the late 1860. Might have been used only for a shorter period until late 1870.

A canceller was not used. Without such use it is in my opinion almost impossible to know if an item is genuine.

However, in 1875 a proper postal organisation according to European pattern was established by Austrian postal administrators. Mr. Riederer, the appointed Administrator printed the first Persian postage stamps in 1875, called the Lion issue. A canceller device was now introduced. The first postal line was opened between Teheran and its summer area Shimran same year. The rate was 5 chahi. No items have survived. In 1876. this rate was lowered to two chahi and immediately this became a great success. However, again, no postal items seem to have survived.

As from 1876, routes were gradually opened between Teheran and Tabriz, Recht, Meched, Zendjan, Kazvin and Isfahan. Single rate was 5 chahi = 25 ctms in accordance with UPU. This new development became very successful

Only franked mail could be sent within Persia between 1875-1877. Until Persia joined the General Postal Union (GPU) in September 1877 Russian adhesives to a value of 8 kopek had to be added for mail to abroad. Only eight combination covers are recorded of which two are shown in this exhibit

1851

First attempts at organized mail in Persia

Letter from Tabriz to Teheran. Sent 1858 (H 1275) as per m/s



For a number of reasons the postal reform of 1851 was a failure. In 1865 and 1868 new postal reforms were introduced The Post was conceded, farmed out, to a "Grand Person" to derive from it an income. It was farmed to a "Khan", Commander of the Royal Horses and the owner of horses in the chaparkhane. The systems did not work

All the attempts in 1851, 1865 and 1868 were failures. In 1870 stamps designed by Mr Barre in Paris were printed locally and called "Bagheri". They are said to have been on sale but still the attempt was a failure and the project closed in the beginning of 1871. No canceller device were in use until 1875. Any Bagheri-cover is disputed for that reason

Outline of the Austrian administration's, 1875-79 major postal achievements in Persia

- * The printing of the new 1875 Lion issues to be used together with a canceller as per international standard
- * Services for the sending of letters, ordinary and registered as well as parcels, were initiated under the Austrian administration
- * Persia joins The General Postal Union (later UPU) in September 1877. Russia closes its Consular post office in Tabriz. Julfa becomes Exchange post office between Persia and Russia in a postal agreement commencing 1878
Until then mail to foreign destinations needed have Russian adhesives as well
- * Postal Agreement with India about exchange of closed mail in 1878. Bushire to be used by both countries for their respective exchange offices

Route: Tabriz - Teheran. Opened for mail 13 February 1876



Reduced photocopy of the back

Rates: Single inland rate 5 chahi

Routes: Tabriz 14 September 1876 to Teheran

Markings: No further transit or arrival marks

Notes: Cover bearing a sheet of four and a single of 1-chahi black.

Two covers with 4-block of 1 chahi recorded

Waybill sent to Recht



Rates: 3 kran 10 chahi

Routes: Teheran 7 October 1876 to Recht

Markings: A red Recht arrival cancel applied at back. No tranist marks

Parcel Post Table

The Parcel Post table is shown to understand how the rates and fees were calculated. However, there is **not sufficient information on the waybills to enable working out the costs on any given waybill**

Cost of Conveyance		
Zone	Distance	Rate per 100 miskals
1	Up to 50 farsakhs*	10 chahi for 100 miskals
2	Above 50 and up to 80 farsakhs	15 chahi for 100 miskals
4	Above 80 and up to 120 farsakhs	20 chahi or 1 Kran for 100 miskals
5	Above 120 and up to 200 farsakhs	30 chahi or 1 ½ kr for miskals
	Above 200 fasakhs	2 Kran 10 chahi for 100 miskals
	1) 1 farsajhs = 6720 meters	
Insurance Fees		
	Distance	Fees
	up to 100 farsakhs	½ per cent or 10 chahi per 10 tomans
	above 100 and up to 200	1 per cent or 1 Kran per 10 tomans
	above 200 farsakhs	1½ per cent, or 11/2 Kran per 10 tomans
	Parcels insured for 500 Tomans and more	
	pay a uniform fee of 1 ½ per cen	

The service was introduced in 1876 but was only used within Persia untill 1893 re India and 1906 re Russia. Postage & fees according to weight and distance. A non-obligatory insurance fee existed. See table below

Domestic: introduced in 1875. Foreign: introduced in 1877 (member of GPU); via **Russia** or **Turkey**; 1878 via **Bouchir**

New foreign rates list discovery. Complete early 1877-78 rate list** now completely revised

Foreign postage. Same rates for mail **via Russia** (recorded) and **Turkey** (none rec). Both confirmed

Hitherto rates via **Bouchir** unknown. Recent discovery reveals a huge difference in rates visavi the other outlets
Via Bouchir: 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 Abbass (leased to Muscat); same rates as via Russia

Reasons for the little use of the Persian postal services via the Gulf were that the Indian postal rates in use from an Indian PO in Persia were much cheaper and it was allowed to use

Letters

For the different colors see above text

LETTERS		1875		1877/78 foreign via Turkey		March 1884		1891		Feb 1894		June 1894		1895		14.5.1905		COMMENTS
Weight	class	dom	foreign	dom.	Russia* Bouchir*	dom	foreign	dom	foreign	dom	foreign	dom	foreign	dom	foreign	dom	foreign	
Normal rate	I	5	8k+ 5	5	5 12 14 (5)	5	6	5	7	5	8	5	10	5	12	6	13	Weight could differ Member of UPU 1877 8k = 8 kopek
Normal rate	II	10		10	10 24 28 (10)	10	12	10	14	10	16	10	20	10	24	9	26	
Near rate	I			2														Only between certain cities Rescht - Enzeli Bushire-Kazerun- Shiraz
Near rate	II			4 etc														
Local rate	I													2				Within 13 km radius in major cities
Local rate	II													4				

* Russian route sent by Julfa, (& Enzeli, Barforoush and Astarabad). Turkish route via Baghdad Both follow same rate

* Indian route via **Bouchir** more than double. However, for British India, Bussorah (Basra) and Bandar Abbass same rates as via Russia

1st weight class : for domestic mail 3 miscals while for foreign mail 3 ½ miscals was allowed. One miscal = 4.608 gram

Rates for post cards, wrappers, printed matters, books and samples will be presented later

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

Note: Mail via Turkey, Baghdad (red) or Bushire to blue destinations has not been recorded



Rates: Single inland 5 chahi

Routes: Tabriz 17 August 1876 to Teheran

Markings: As usual no transit or arrival markings at this early development

Combination of Lion and 1st portrait issue

This contains the largest amount of 4-blocks of the Lion issues recorded on any item



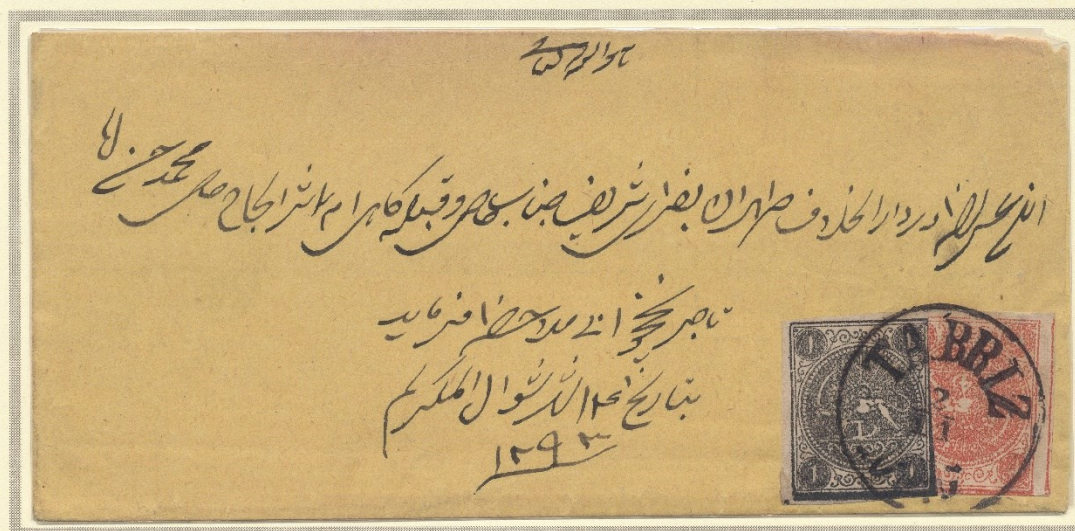
Reduced photocopy of the back

Rates: 18 kran 10 chahi. Break down not possible

Routes: Yezd 12 May 1877 to Teheran 23 May

Notes: 4 x 1-kran of 4-blocks. Combination with 10 chahi of 1st portrait issue

Route: Tabriz - Teheran
Letter sent from Tabriz to Teheran



Rates: Single inland rate 5 chahi

Routes: Tabriz 2 November 1876 (H 14 Shawwal 1293) to Teheran

Markings: Very clear Tabriz strike. No transit and arrival marks as normal during this early period

Route: Zendjan - Teheran

This waybill is bearing the **highest recorded** value of the Lion issues, 27 kran 5 chahi

In fact the value is the highest on any item until 1890

There is no other item bearing the 4 kran yellow. Out of six stamps one is a pair



The stamps were put on the back. Two stamps, a 1 kran and a 4 kran were cut out and later put back.

Date unclear 30 September probably 1876

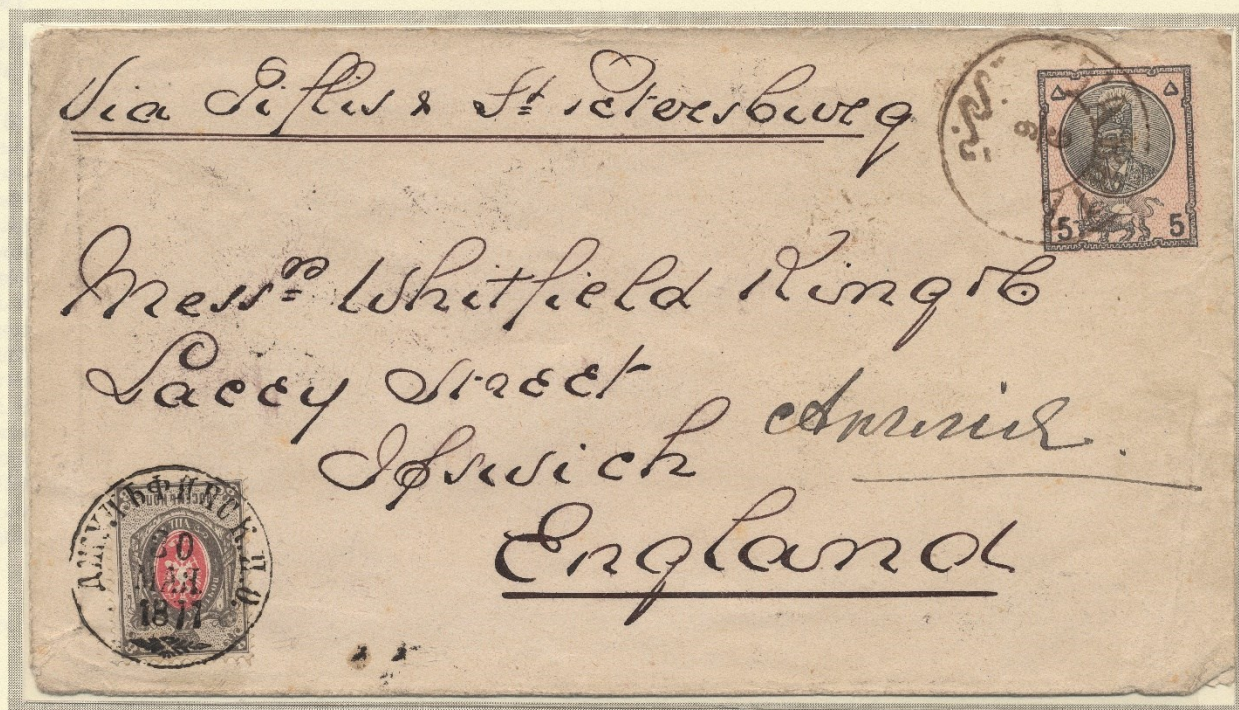
Pre-GPU/UPU Postal Services to Abroad

Via Julfa (not yet official exchange office)

Before Persia joined the General Postal Union (later UPU) on 1st September 1877 mail to abroad needed Persian stamps for postage to the Russian border at **Julfa** and 8 kopek being the Russian external rate. Official exchange of mail as per GPU between Russia and Persia commenced on 1st of December 1877. **Julfa** then became the first official **exchange office** between Russia and Persia. Russian stamps were available at the main post offices in Persia

Combination of 5-chahi postal stationery envelope and 8-kopek Russian stamp. 5 recorded

Letter to England 1877

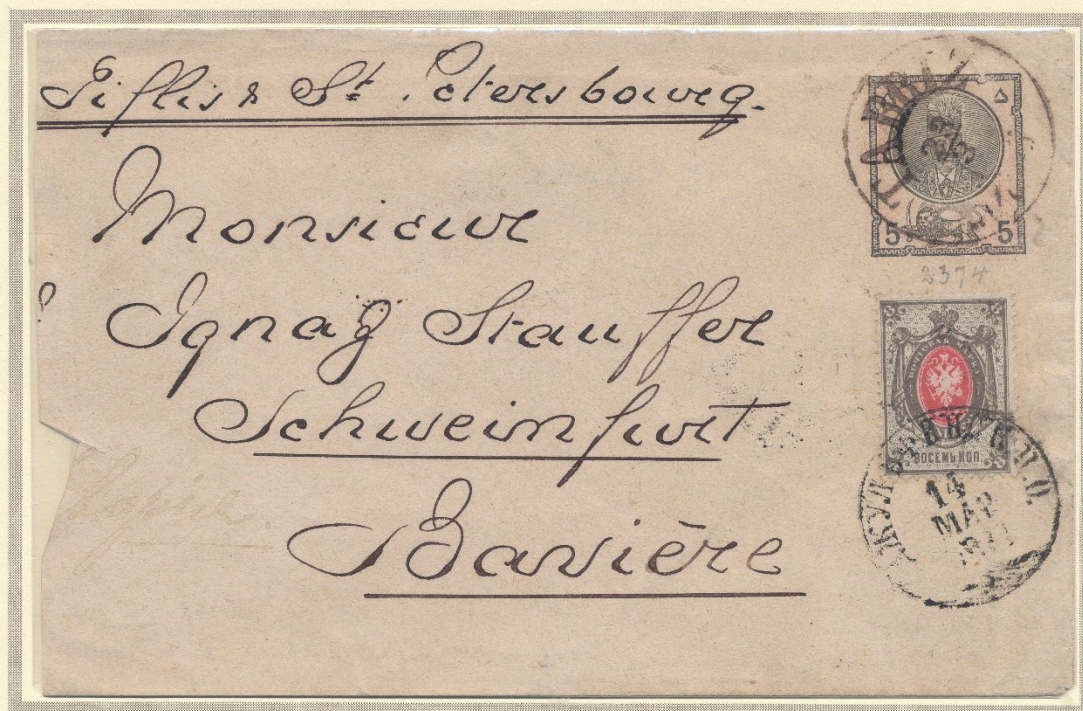


Rates: 5 chahi inland single rate + 8 kopek Russian rate for abroad

Routes: Tabriz 9 June 1877, via Julfa Russian border station 30 May (Julian), Moscow 8 June, S:t Petersburg 8 June ????, England by ship

Markings: The Russian cancellations of Moscow and S:t Petersburg are on the back. Also the Ipswich one

Letter to Germany 1877



Rates: 5 chahi inland single rate + 8 kopek Russian rate for abroad

Routes: Tabriz 23 March 1877 via Julfa Russian border station 14 March 1877, Moscow 26 March (both Julian) and Schweinfurt, Germany, 11 April 1877

Markings: the Moscow and Schweinfurt cancellations at back

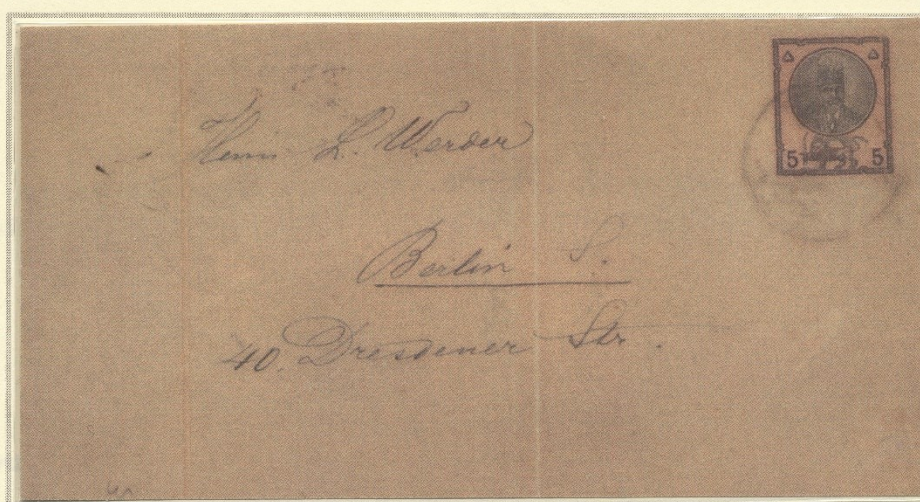
Julfa Postal Exchange Office

The only exchange office with Russia until 1886. In operation as from 1st December 1877

Introduction: As Persia became a member of GPU (UPU) in 1877 the Russian post office at Tabriz closed. However, as the main outlet for Persia to abroad was via Russia (the other but less important was via the Indian postal system in Bouchir in the Gulf opened January 1878) indirectly Russian postal politics affected Persia's postal communications on the international level until the 1920s.

During 1875–1890, the amount of foreign mail via Julfa Russia, and Bouchir via India was quite limited. Curiously the famous Lion issue on covers recorded between 1875 to 1878 (about 50 domestic and 4 foreign)) are only a little less than the two following issues with portrait of the Shah in 1878 and 1879 together! Any mail up to 1890 are very scarce used to abroad and often also used domestically. Exceptions are certain 5-ch stamps used domestically and the 1879 issued 2½-chahi postal card (domestical and foreign) and the 1879 issued 5-chahi stationery envelope

Letter to Germany. The earliest recorded via Julfa Exchange post office. Early January 1878



Front reduced to 65 percent

Rates: 5 chahi being both for single domestic and for abroad

Routes: Tabriz (date unclear) via Julfa EPOs, Tiflis, Moscow to Berlin 28 January/78

Markings: Faint Tabriz cancel. Two of same Berlin date stamps

Notes: As the train journey across Russia to Berlin would take 12 to 14 days an intelligent guess is that the letter was sent about the middle of January 1878

Postal Agreement with India in 1877

Bushire Persian & Indian exchange post offices. Inaugurated in February 1878

The principal provisions were:

- that the Indian Post Offices at Bushire and Bombay should be Offices of Exchange
- that all correspondence for India and for countries served through India should be placed in a closed mail for Bombay
- that all correspondence for places in the Persian Gulf and for Al-Basra and Baghdad in Turkish Iraq should be sent in a closed mail to the Indian P O at Bushire, from where it will be dispatched to the Indian Post Offices at those places
- that correspondence between India and Persia/Iran should be subject to certain Union rates of postage. i.e. that Indian mail to Persia was treated as internal Indian mail

An official Free franked letter to Bermuda sent from the Postal HQs in Teheran

Earliest recorded mail via the newly inaugurated Bushire Persian & Indian Exchange post offices

**Rates:** Free of charge. Official letter between two postal administrations**Routes:** Teheran 24 March 1878 via Bouchir 15 April, Bombay 28 April, Brindisi 17 May, Paris (unclear), London 18 and 19 May, via West Indian packer service to Bermuda (unclear)**Markings:** The rectangular stamp for registration was the very first introduced in Persia and used solely up to about 1882/83
The postal free franking concession mark seen used till about 1879/80

II.b 1878

Northern route. Via Julfa

5 ch applied to England 1878



Rates: 5 chahi to abroad

Routes: Recht 23 May 1878 via Teheran (backstamp unclear) to Peterboro, England 17 July 1878

Registered letter to USA 1878

Rate 5ch and registration fee 10ch. Fumigated



Rates: 5 chahi to abroad. Registration fee: 10 chahi

Routes: Tabriz 31 December ? to New York

Markings: New York, blue three line back stamp "REGISTERED/?? 1879/NEW YORK, N. Y."

Notes: Transited via Berlin as per registration label

II.a 1878

Higher rates using the Southern Route to some areas

Newly discovered rates table finally reveals odd rates via the Indian postal system

Mail to Egypt 2 ½ times more expensive than using the northern route via Russia. In use 1878 – ab 1883

Only five covers recorded using this expensive route



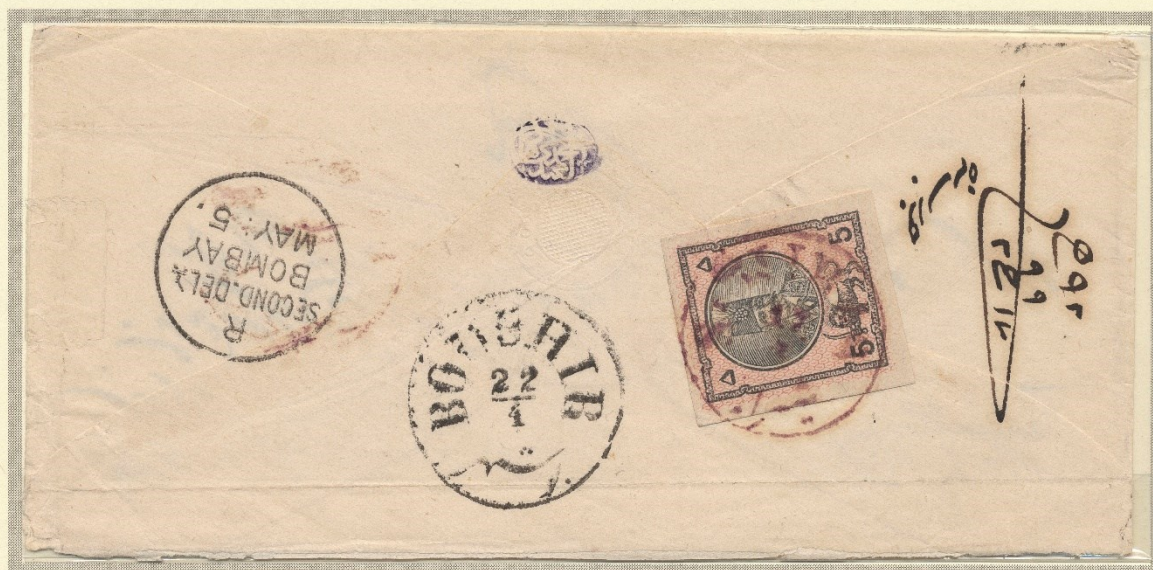
Rates: 12 chahi for single letter to Asia (contra 5 ch only via Julfa the northern route). **Reg fee** 10 chahi

Routes: Shiraz 13 July 1878 via Bouchir Indian PO 18 July, Bombay 1 August, Suez Italian PO, (Poste Egiziane), on 16 August and forwarded to its office in Cairo arriving 20 august

Markings: Shiraz and the Registration mark in front. Bouchir, Bombay, and the two Italian in Egypt at back

5 chahi applied to India in 1882 as per lately discovered rate table. Three recorded to abroad

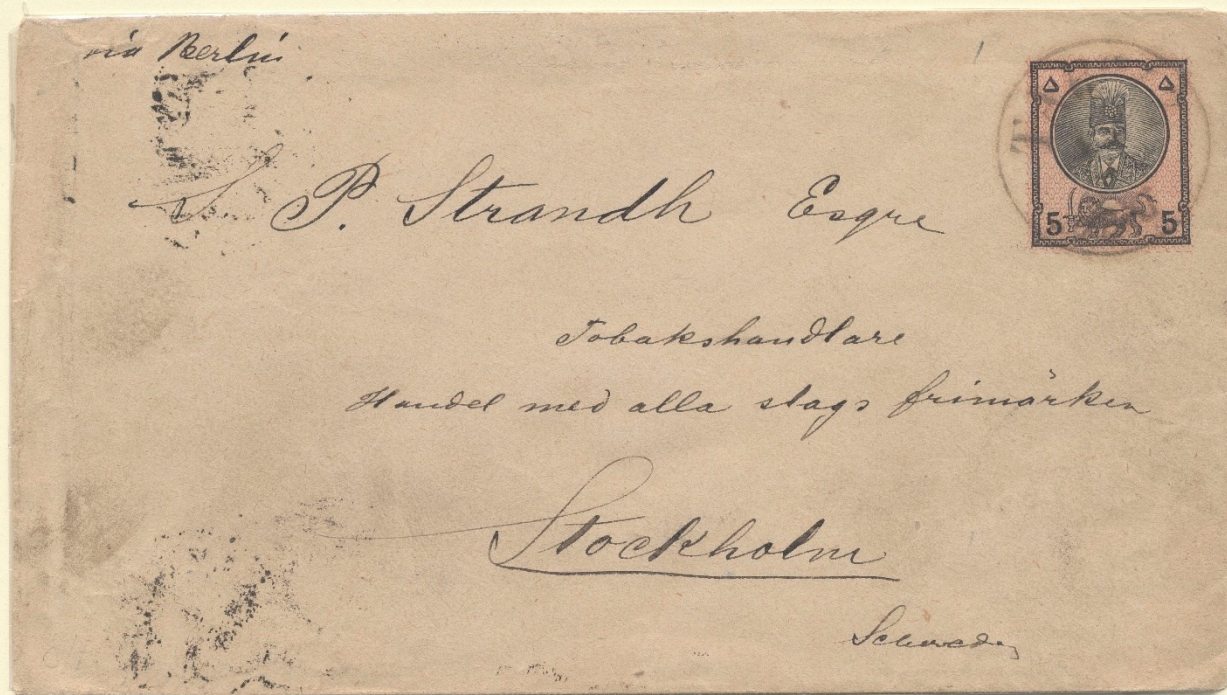
The 5 ch cut-out from the 1879 envelope was officially made. Used to abroad very elusive



Rates: 5 chahi single rate to British India

Routes: Shiraz 17 April 1882 via Bouchir Exchange post offices 22 April to Bombay 5 May

Markings: Shiraz red mark elusive

Letter to Sweden in 1878

Rates: 5 chahi

Routes: Tabriz – Julfa – Russia – Berlin – Stockholm 1 June 1878

Notes: Endorsed "via Berlin"

Avis de Reception internal receipt






Rates: 5 chahi applied

Routes: The "AR" receipt from Teheran in H 1297 = 1878/79 to Isphahan

Notes: No stamps for AR on the postal item. Only on the internal postal document

A registered letter had been sent with a requested receipt of return, AR, from Teheran to Tabriz

The AR-fee was half of the registration fee, i e 5 chahi

۱۲۰ ۶۰	قبض بر کفران سفارش	
فرستاده	پاکت سفارشی شده	
	از پستخانه مبارک کمر در	
	از جانب لاله سین	
	بغیر از	
تسلیم شد	توسط پستخانه مبارک سر	
۱۲۹۱	شهر تبریز	تبریز
	محل امضاء و مهر صاحب پاکت	

Rates: 5 chahi. Half of the registration fee

Routes: Teheran to Tabriz 10 May 1881

Already in 1878 the Postal Director of Azarbadjan, Persia, F. Stahl, used Russian formula cards to introduce – non-authorized – the first provisional post card of Persia. He used half face value i e 2½ chahi, of ordinary letter rate of 5 chahi. He used a 2-chahi adhesive and simply cut a 1-chahi adhesive into two

Non-authorized 2 ½ chahi postal cards of Russian design introduced in Azarbadjan in March 1878



Domestic

Rate: 2 ½ch

Routes:

Urmia
27 June
(1877?)
to Tabriz

Markings:

No transit or
arrival mark

Foreign

Rates:

2 ½ch to
abroad

Routes:

Tabriz m/s
20 March
1878 to
Ipswich
England
7 April
at back

Markings:

Ipswich
At back

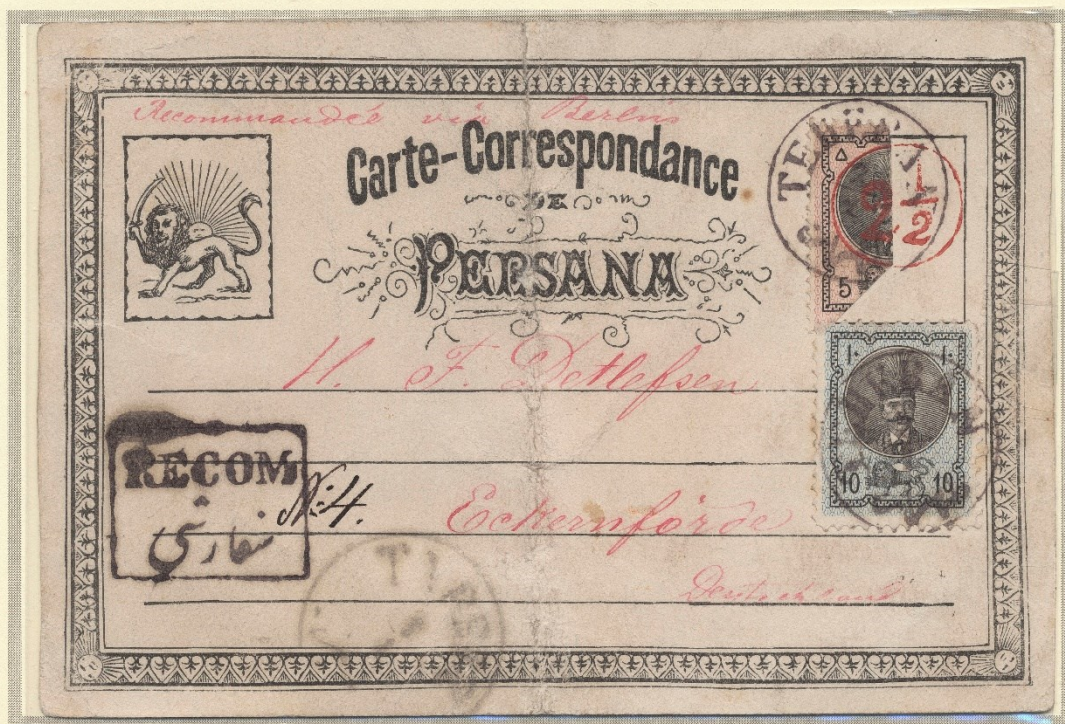


Post card rates

Post cards	8.6.1878	Early 1890	Feb 1894	1895	14.5.1905	21.10.1913
Internal	2 1/2		2			
External	2 ½	3 1/2	4	5	6	5

A Persian made formula card introduced in late 1878

Used registered to Germany 1879. Two recorded registered cards of any stamp design

**External****Rate:** 2 ½
Chahi**Reg fee:**
10 chahi**Routes:**Teheran
in 1879
via Tabriz
to
Eckenforde
Germany
received
29 Jan
1879**Markings:**A German
cancel
circle
A.U.S.G./29/
1/NO 1

2 1/2 ch in similar bisect design as the Russian card. Now used on the Persian formula card

Four recorded of this stamp design

**External****Rates:** 2 ½
Chahi**Routes:**Urmia in
north western
part of
Azarbaijan on
2nd Jan 1879
via Tabriz on
8 January to
Massachusetts,
transited
New York
15 February**Registration fees*. Same fees applied regardless of type of item**

Registration of letters & cards	1878	1884	1890	Feb 1894	June 1894	End 1895	1904	21.10.1916
Internal	10						15	12
External	10	12	14	16	20	12	13	12

*Note that if the sender wanted to add a registration label he would sometimes be charged an extra 1 chahi

Double inter-city rate: 2 x 2ch

Inter-city rates seen used between: Teheran - Shimran, Recht - Enzeli, Shiraz - Bouchir



Rates: 4 chahi double inter-city

Routes: Shiraz 13 June 1879 - Bouchir

Intra-City rate: Bouchir - Shiraz

The **highest** non-registered intra-city rate **recorded**, 12 chahi, and includes all 5 routes in Persia

Rates: 12 chahi = 6 x 2 ch

Routes: Bouchir 29 April 1879 - Shiraz

Markings: Only Bouchir. No other markings

Double inter-city rate: 2 x 2ch

Inter-city rates seen used between: Teheran - Shimran, Recht - Enzeli, Shiraz - Bouchir



Rates: 4 chahi double inter-city
Routes: Shiraz 13 June 1879 - Bouchir

Intra-City rate: Bouchir - Shiraz

The **highest** non-registered intra-city rate **recorded**, 12 chahi, and includes all 5 routes in Persia

Rates: 12 chahi = 6 x 2 ch
Routes: Bouchir 29 April 1879 - Shiraz
Markings: Only Bouchir. No other markings

N^o 44

339

RECOMMANDÉE

قبض بر کردن

La présente lettre RECOMMANDÉE N^o 44 par M. A. Stahl

de Stehuran

POUR M. Carl Haase

Lai a été délivrée par le bureau de Ragnit, Prusse

LE 27 mai 1879

SIGNATURE DE DESTINATAIRE

Handwritten signature: Stahl

Handwritten signature: Carl Haase

بایکست سفارش شده از جانب

بجته

نیویست پستخانه مبارکه

تاریخ

محل مضام صاحب کپن

Routes: Sent as per m/s 2nd May 1879 but cancelled Teheran 5 May 1879 to Ragnit, Germany, 27 Maj 1879
Returned signed to Teheran on 30 June 1879

Route: Semnan- Teheran

"Postkhane Semnan (=Semnan post office)" rectangular local postmark the **only recorded**



Rates: 5 chahi

Routes: Semnan 5 June 1880 to Teheran 9 June

Markings: The Seman circled date and year stamp very elusive

Introduced from the very start. The AR-fee was half of the registration fee i.e. 5 chahi. AR could be used for both domestic and external service. Both most elusive

The **earliest** of the three Persian AR-receipts **recorded** to abroad until 1910. All three shown here

Type I. A rudimentary local printed type used from Teheran 11 Nov 1878 to Germany and returned

N^o 92

Reçus, au renvoyer,

Le soussigné destinataire certifie qu'une Lettre Recommandée

Valeur déclarée Nil


Arrivée à Berlin

À l'adresse de Herrn Joh. Braunsberg

Lui a été remis par le bureau de

Le Julfa 1878

2.18/12 Joh. Braunsberg



Type III. To conform with UPU-design a form in both English and Persian (Farsi) was introduced. The only recorded
Probably introduced in May 1879

N^o 301

Monsieur Stahl

à Teheran

expédie une lettre adressé لاغد
un paquet میرستد عدد

à Monsieur Heinrich Koch آقای
Eltville à Rhein Hel. Koch

et prie l'adreset de lui و خواهش میکند وصولی
annoneer آرامر قوم و معضی فریاند

le reçu en signant cette carte

Vom Auslande
Eingeschrieben.

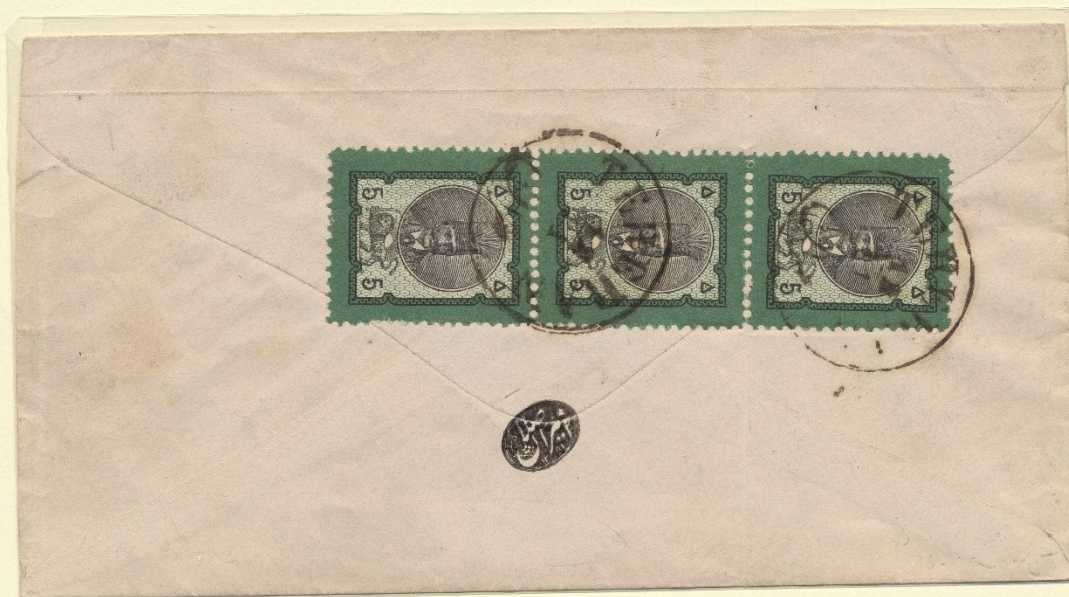



Routes:

Teheran
1st of May
probably
in 1879
via Tabriz
when Stahl
was the
Postal
Director
Returned
to Teheran
18 June
(back
stamped)

Internal mail

Teheran – Kermanchah



Registered letter from Teheran 18 Nov 1879 (H 1296) to Kermanchah. No arrival mark. Normal registration mark on reversal. Single rate 5 chahi. Registration fee 10 chahi

Isfahan – Shiraz



From Isfahan 28 July 1881 (H 1298) to Shiraz. No arrival mark as normal. Single rate 5 chahi

Dual currency on parcel receipt



Rates: 6 kran 10 ch (or 6 francs and 50 centimes)

Routes: Teheran m/s 1299 = 1882 to Astarabad

Inter-postal document. (Multamese Amanat)



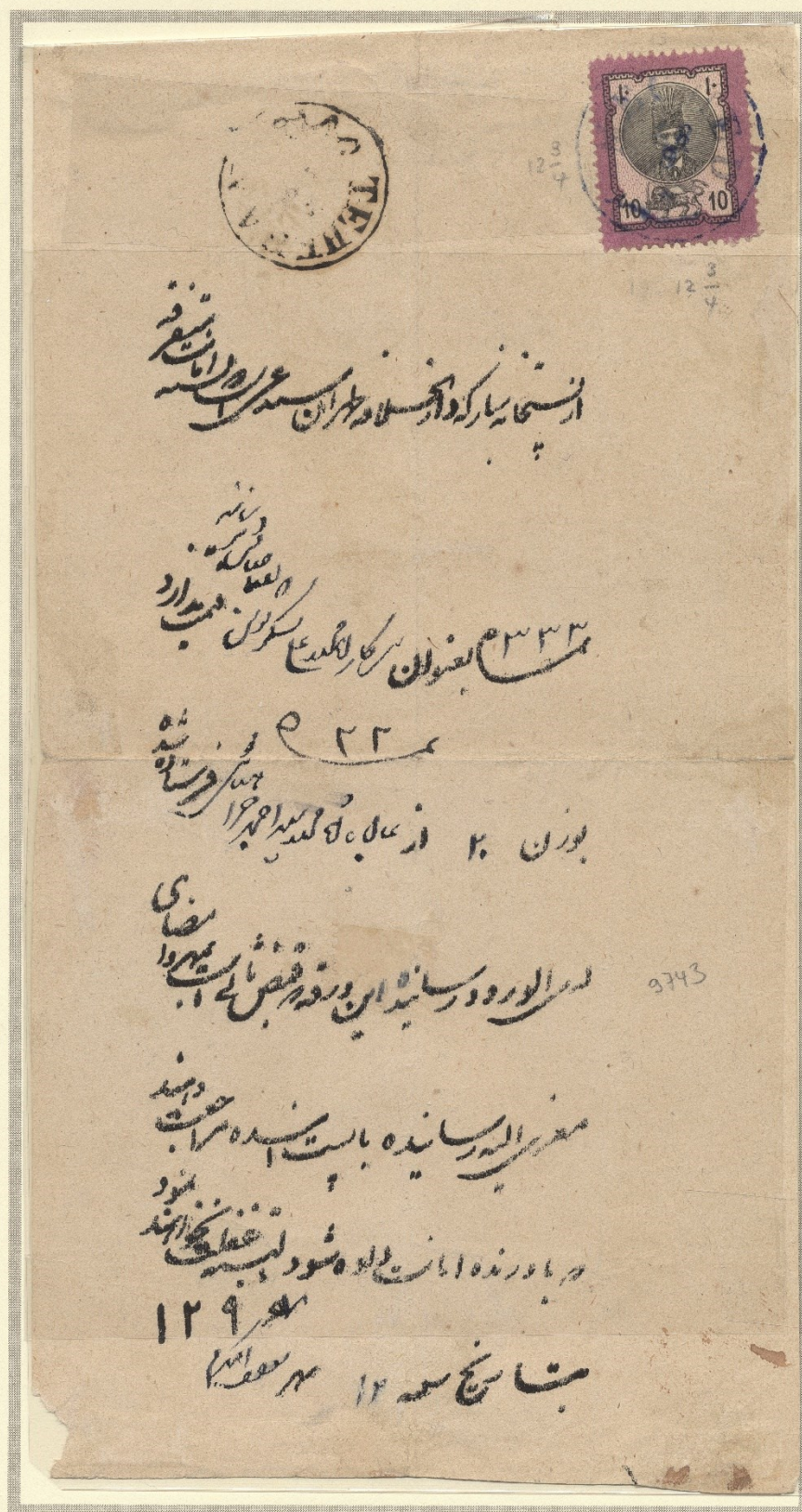
Rates: 10 chahi

Routes: Teheran 8 May 1881 (H, 4 Jumada althania 1298) to Meched

Markings: Meched blue elusive

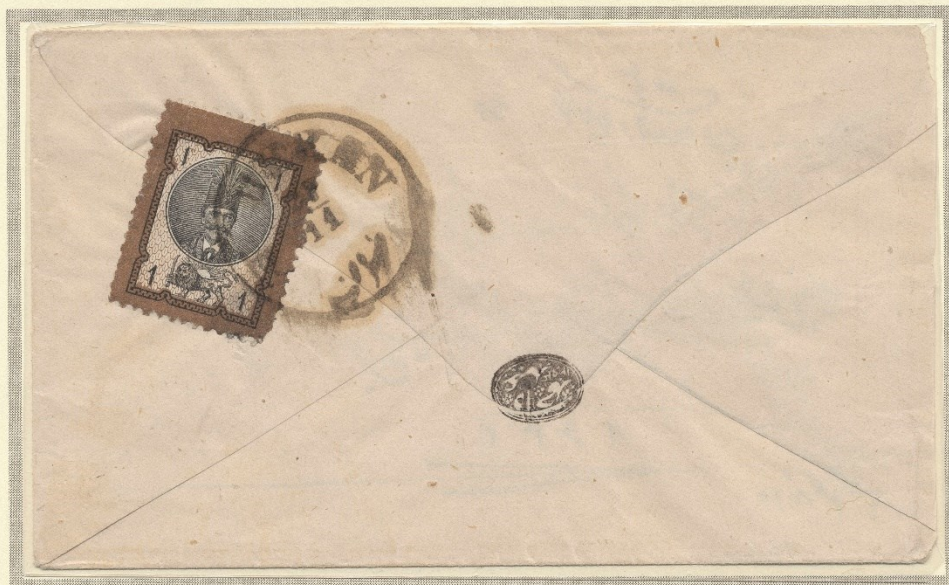
Duplicate receipt advice

The Tehran post office is referring to a registered parcel No.312 dated 1880 (H. 9...1297) from Meched requesting that it should be treated as a duplicate receipt to be signed by the addressee and sent back by return post

**Rates:** 10 chahi

Routes: Meched Sep 1880 (H 1297) to Teheran

Registered letter to Nain



Rates: 10 ch double rate

Registration fee: 10 ch

Routes: Teheran 26 Nov 1882 to Nain. No further marks

Unofficial registered letter from the Post Master General to Austria 1879

Combination of two issues



Rates: 5 chahi. Registration fee: 10 chahi

Routes: Teheran 9 October 1879, via Tabriz and Julfa, to Vienna 29 October

Markings: Back stamped are Tabriz with unclear date, Wien arrival and Wien rectangular delivery cancel of 30 October

Notes: As not an official letter postage stamps were necessary

Registered letter to USA 1880

Postmark. Rectangular Khiaban (Teheran)



Rates: 5 chahi single. Registration fee: 10 chahi

Routes: Teheran Khiaban 8 August 1880, Tabriz, Julfa, Berlin, New York 15 September to Boston on 16 September

Markings: The Khiaban post office was used for mail to abroad

A German registration label was put on in Berlin. A blue New York three-line registration mark applied on reverse plus a Boston circle registration mark also on reverse

Registered letter to Russia in 1880

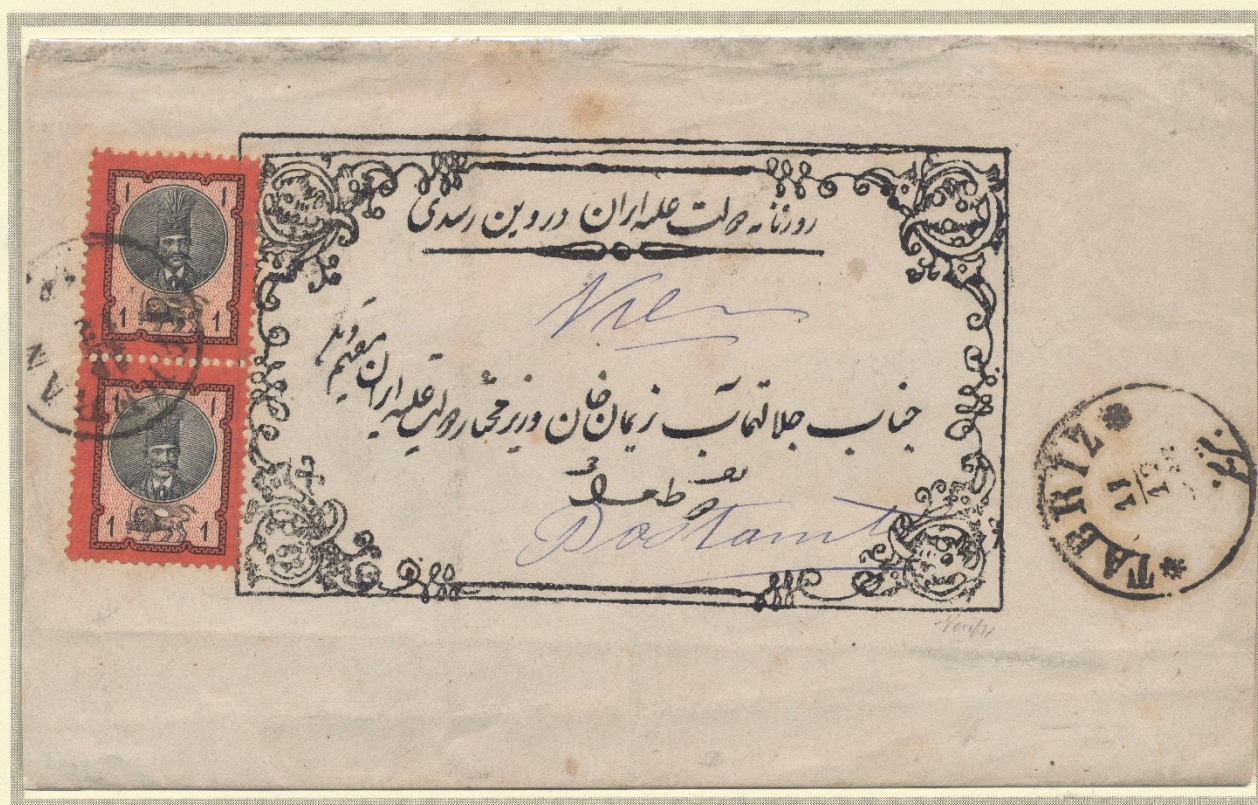


Rates: 5 chahi single. Registration fee: 10 chahi

Routes: Teheran 3 February 1880 (m/s H=1297) to Baku 20 February 1889 (Julian)

Markings: The registration marks on the reverse

Private wrapper with pre-printed frame made for a newspaper sent to Austria



Newspaper sent to Vienna (Wien in m/s) via Tabriz about 1880. Rate 2 chahi. 1st weight class

Rate table* for wrappers, printed matter, books and samples, valid from 1877-1878

Recently discovered and hitherto unknown

Foreign Postage

For all Europe and countries, members of the General Union, in
Asia, Australia, Africa and America

	By route of Russia or Turkey	By way of Bouchir
Not exceeding 14 miscals	2 ch	3 ch
Exceeding 14, and not exceeding 28 miscals	4	6
For every additional 14 miscals	2	3

For United States of America, Great Britain
and France by way of Bouchir

For British India, Bussorah (Basra) and
Bundar Abbass by way of Bouchir

Not exceeding 14 miscals	4ch	Not exceeding 14 miscals	2
Exceeding 14, and not exceeding 28 miscals	8	Exceeding 14, and not exceeding 28 miscals	4
For every additional 14 miscals	4	For every additional 14 miscals	2

Domestic

Not exceeding 10 miscals	2ch
Exceeding 10, and not exceeding 20 miscals	4
For every additional 10 miscals	2
Persian newspaper per number	1

The maximum weight for letters and packets under wrappers is fixed at 100 miscals

*Source: Administration report of the Persian Gulf Political Residency and Muscat Political Agency for the year 1877-78

Registered letter. Rate: 75 centimes = 15 chahi



Rates: 5 chahi. Registration fee: 10 chahi

Routes: Kermanschah in 1882 (H 1299) to Teheran

Markings: The very first type of registration mark from 1878 applied at back in red violet like the Kermanschah postmark. No further marks

Dual currency: Tabriz – Teheran route

Combination of litho and 1882 engraved issues



Rates: Double rate 10 chahi

Routes: Tabriz 1882 (1880 not correct) to Teheran

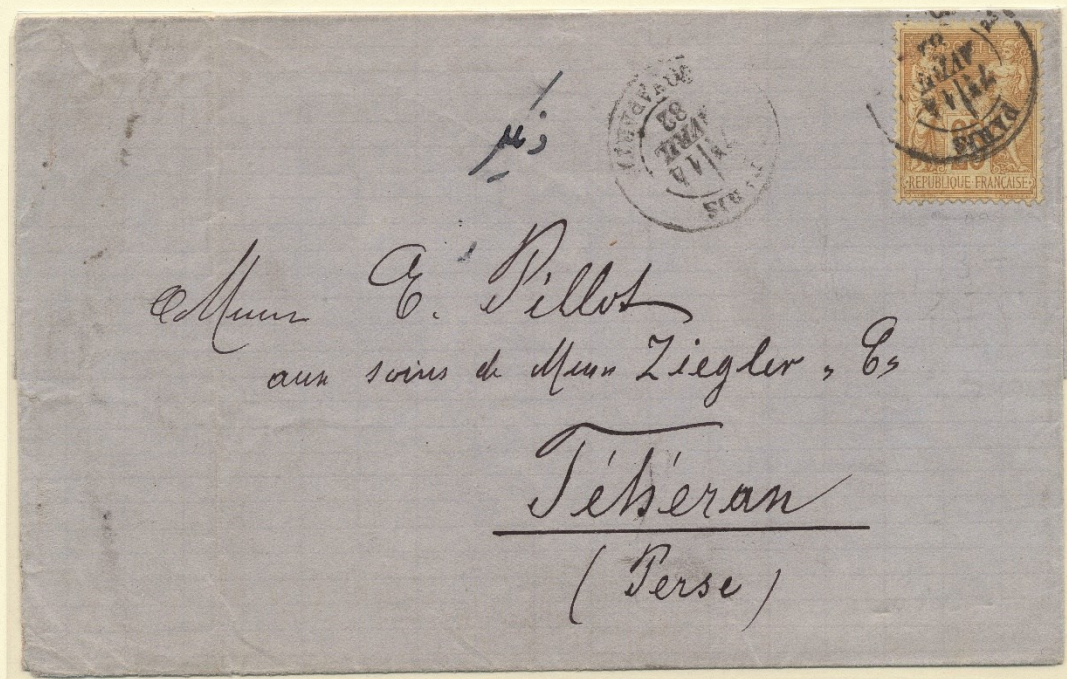
Markings: The Tabriz date is not correct. Often the clerk did not bother to change. A Teheran postmark at back indicates the month of June that leads to the conclusion that the year is 1882 (and not 1881)

II. 1882

Julfa Postal Exchange Office

Early incoming from France and French PO in Turkey

From Paris to Teheran via Julfa and Tabriz in 1882



Rates: 25 centimes (French)

Routes: Paris 14 April 1882, via Russia, Julfa, Tabriz and Teheran 9 May

French P O in Trebizonde, Turkey, via Batoum in 1891



Rates: 25 centimes

Routes: Trebizonde French PO 12 Sep 1891 via Batum 1 IX, Tiflis 3 Sept (both Julian) to Tabriz

To Mexico in 1882



Rates: 2 ½ ch for postcard

Routes: Teheran Khiaban PO 4 February 1882 and London red mark 2nd March to Mexico

Markings: No marks on the back

To Canada, registered, in 1882

The abolition of dual (French) currency, end of 1882



Rates: Double 10 chahi. Registration fee: 10 chahi

Routes: Teheran November 1882 via Tabriz, Berlin and London early January. Then by ship to Halifax, Canada 25 December 1882

Markings: Tabriz very faint and Halifax, both on reverse. A German registration label applied at Berlin

Astarabad - Teheran



Registered single letter from Astarabad about 1882-84 (no precise date in m/s) addressed to the Post Master in Teheran. It is uncommon with two registrations, a cachet and a reg. label. Rate 5ch. Reg fee 10ch

Astarabad - Charoud

10ch double rate



From Astarabad 1304 = 1886 to Charoud. Double rate 10ch. Reg fee 10ch

In 1881 the Shah introduced the dual currency system by using also French denominations. 1 chahi was equivalent to 5 centimes. In November 1882 the French currency was abolished due to its unpopularity. However, stamps with French denominations continued to be used till the end of the 1880s due to stamp shortages

Bouchir to Isfahan

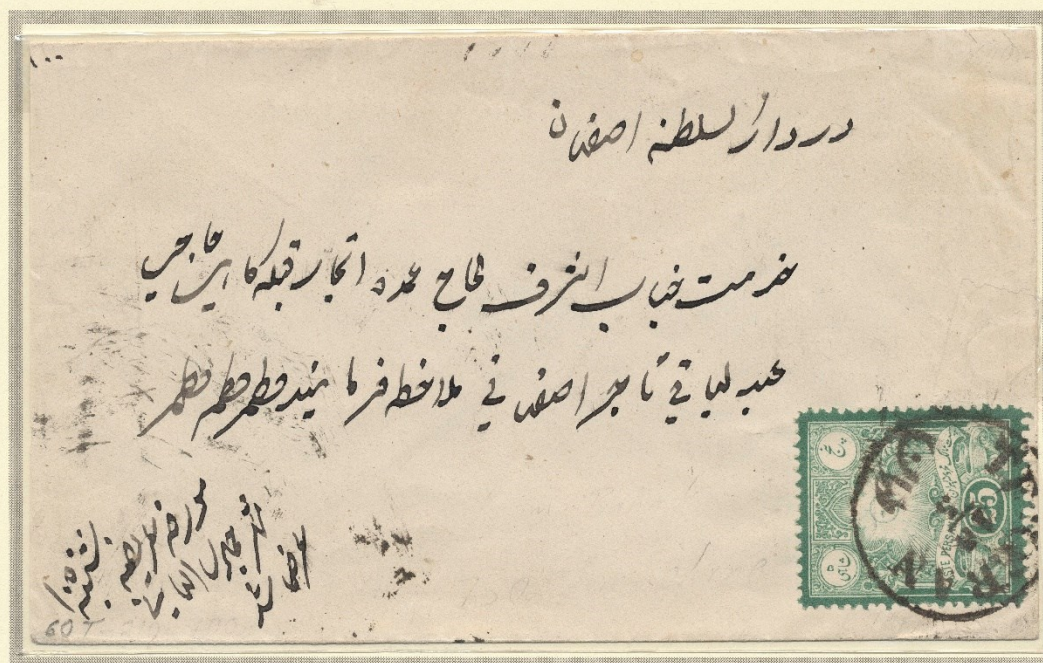


Rates: 5 chahi or 25 ctms

Routes: Bouchir 18 October 1881

Teheran to Isfahan

The 25 ctms postage stamps very elusive



Rates: 25 ctms (= 5 chahi)

Routes: Teheran 15 March about 1880 to Isfahan

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



The earliest recorded mail using this exchange post office

Rates: 30 cents (Hongkong)

Routes: Hongkong in March 1882, via Bombay 7 April Abbasee (B Abbas) 18 April, Serjan to Yezd in Yezd province

Markings: No arrival mark

Per (in m/s) *Bokhara* (ship) via *Bombay*.

Sirjan recorded on three covers only

The ABBASEE is the earliest recorded

Notes: Serving Yezd & Kerman provinces

Persian and Indian combination of registration marks at Bandar Abbas. Two recorded

The Indian postal authorities at the B Abbas exchange office applied there own registration mark
A rectangular box with reg no m/s "322" in blue crayon in addition to the local Persian one



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

Routes: Yezd ? May 1898 via ABASSI (Bandar Abbas) 24 May 5, handed over next day to the Indian Exchange P O and sent to Madras in India arriving 5 June. Redirected to Seesen in Germany 27 June 1898 as per backstamps.

Unusual route. Via Konstantinople to England



Rates: 12 chahi double

Routes: Teheran 5 November 1884, Tabriz 10 Nov, Julfa Tiflitz, the port of Poti presumably, then by ship to Konstantinople, to finally reach Camberley in England on 29 November

Markings: There are two Konstantinople marks. A large blue arrival 12 November and a smaller departure 25 Novembre.

Note: Only four days from Konstantinople to England. Must have gone by railway across the European continent.

Letter to USA

Combination of French value and Persian value 1+5ch = 6 chahi



Rates: 6 chahis

Routes: Urmia 23 Nov 1884, Tabriz (unclear date), Julfa EPO, Konstantinople 6 Jan 1885. Left Konstantinople 20 January and reached destination in USA 9 February 1886

Registered letter receipt. 1884

Nain negative postmark. About 1882-84.
Two recorded

Rates: 5 chahi i e half of the registration fee

Routes: Nain 8 Jan 1884 (H 1301) to
Hamadan via Teheran 21 Jan

The receivers seal at the lower left corner

پاکت سفارشی شده
از پستخانه مبارکه ناین
از جانب سرکار پستخانه مبارکه
بغیر از جانب سرکار پستخانه مبارکه
بست پستخانه مبارکه
تاریخ ۹ شهر
محل امضاء و مهر چاب

پستخانه مبارکه
ناین
۵۲۵۵

پستخانه مبارکه
ناین
۵۲۵۵

ملفستانت
نمره
از پستخانه مبارکه
امانت فرستاده شده از جانب سرکار
بجهت جناب سرکار پستخانه مبارکه
محتوی
مهر و ثبت
بوجز
تاریخ ۱۰ شهر
محل امضاء صاحبان

پستخانه مبارکه
ناین
۵۲۵۵

پستخانه مبارکه
ناین
۵۲۵۵

Registered Parcel receipt

Amol native postmark (the earliest recorded use)

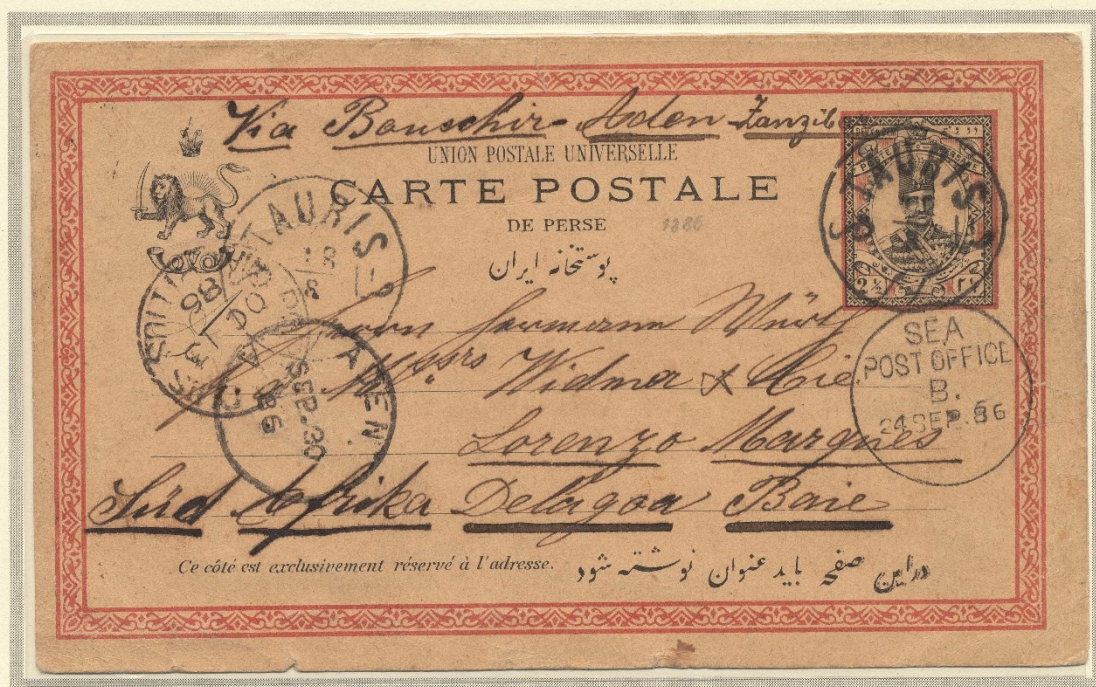
Rates: 5 chahi (25 ctms)

Routes: Amol to Teheran arriving
4 May 1882

A cut, or sometimes a punch-hole, hitting the postage stamp(s) used on these kind of internal postal documents were made by the postal clerks and signify that the demanded postal services had been completed and final

Persian mail using Southern route via Bouchir E P O**To Lourenco Marques via Zanzibar, Mauritius and Cape Colony**

The rates via Bombay were now the same as via Russia. Seems to have changed about 1883/4



Rates: 2 ½ ch also for abroad

Routes. Tabriz 18 8 86 via Bouchir – Bombay – Sea Post Office 24 September to Aden 30 September. Most probably changed to another south-bound ship for Zanzibar, Mauritius 13 October, Port Elisabeth, Cape Colony 10 November and forwarded to Lourenco Marques in Mozambique

Markings: Bouchir and Port Elisabeth on the back

Route: Shiraz – Bouchir – Bombay in 1883

Dual currency used i. e. Persian and French



Rates: Double rate 10 chahi. **Registration fee:** 10 chahi. Together 1 Kran = 1 franc

Routes: Shiraz 7 May 1883 (m/s 7 Shaban 1303) via Bouchir EPOs to Bombay 25 May

Markings: The first type of registration mark still prevailing. Bouchir and Bombay marks at back

Notes: The 1 franc blue is very elusive. Only recorded on three letters to abroad

Sample post

The service of sample post was made from the beginning

However, the postal rates for the whole group of imprimés, sample posts, etc, during the 19th century are uncertain and cannot be specified. There are **no records known.**

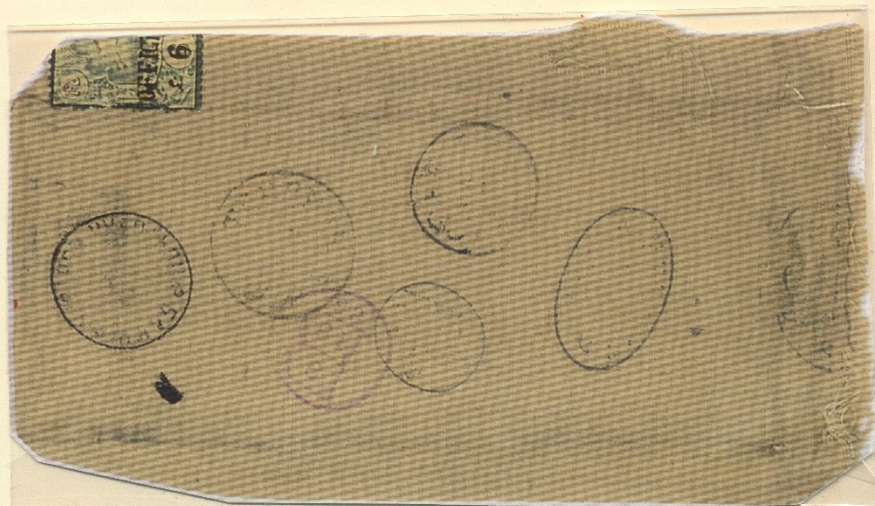
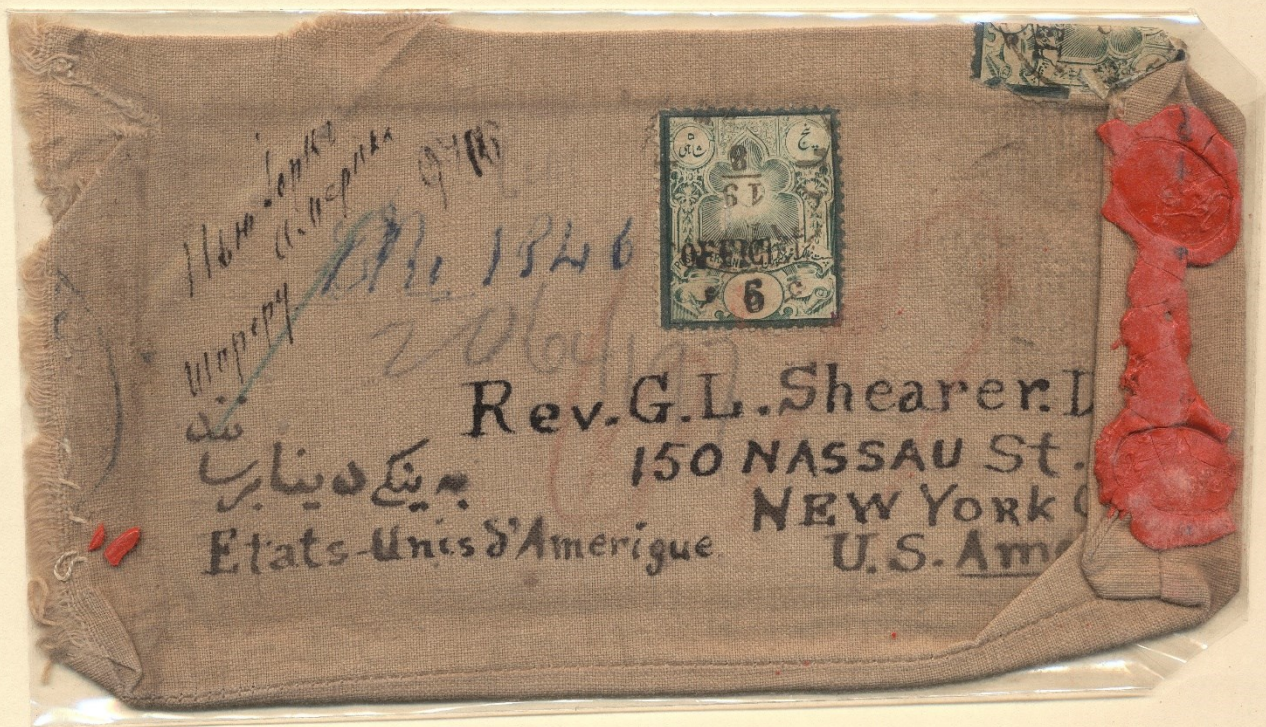
This sample post is possibly the earliest recorded from Iran and was sent from Teheran 18 June 1886, via Baku to USA in 1886.

1881 and 1882 issues surcharged with new values in 1885 and 1886

In order to use up the old stock it was thus convenient to surcharge them with the new values of 6, 12 and 18 chahis and 1 Toman in 1885. In 1887 the surcharges of 3 and 8 chahis were added. Together with the surcharges the word "OFFICIEL" was also overprinted. As this overprint had nothing to do with official mail the more likely explanation is that the word was added for controle purposes.

On the back there are several faint postmarks of which can be seen those of Enzeli, Baku and an American but the dates are not legible

As there seems to be one or more postage stamps missing it is impossible to know the rate. However, the mail has a registration number which fee then was 10 chahis.



II.b 1886

New route. *Enzeli – Baku exchange offices. Ship mail

Service letter from the Post to Berlin in 1886



Official letter from the Postal authorities in Recht sent 6 May 1886 via Enzeli 10 May, Baku 30 April (Julian), Tiflitz, etc to Germany arriving 21 May

Route Teheran – Kermanchah

Waybill
sent from
Teheran
29 Dec
1885
(H1 303)
to
Kermanchah

