

Persia Postal Stationery

The Qajar Period. 1877 – 1925

Purpose: To show a study of the development of postal stationery of Persia; envelopes, postal cards and wrappers during the Qajar period in a chronological order, both mint and used. However, due to limitations of space the commoner items of mint ones are omitted.

Envelopes: Postal stationery came into use in Persia in the beginning of 1877 when 5-chahi envelopes were printed by the Austrian Government Printing company in Vienna. Austrian postal administrators, under Persian contract, were since 1875 in service to build up a modernized postal system based on European principles and knowledge. Envelopes of different designs and values including overprints and surcharges were issued until 1904

Post cards: Probably inspired by some European countries the Postal Director of Azarbadjan in northwestern Persia, F. Stahl, used Russian formula cards to introduce the first provisional post card of Persia in 1877. He followed the pattern in Europe by using half face value i.e. 2½ chahi, of a ordinary letter rate of 5 chahi. To do this Mr Stahl used a 2-chahi adhesive and as there was no ½-chahi value, he simply cut a 1-chahi adhesive into two. Soon afterwards Stahl printed a Persian formula card headed PERSANA as replacement. This was the second provisional post card of Persia. Also the same card was issued in various colors and overprinted "service".

Only a year later, in 1878, Mr Stahl's idea was adopted officially by the Postal Authorities. When the first official post card was ordered from Austria, the nominal value was 2 ½ chahi!

Various designs of post cards were issued and/or surcharged until the end of the Qajar period.

Wrappers: Different designs were used on 1888 and 1894 issues. The later issue was also overprinted with 5 different kind of control marks for accounting purposes. All five of which three are exceedingly rare are shown. Further, some overprinted control issues are so far only recorded mint. The reason could be that wrappers in general belong to the "very scarce to rare"-category anyway so used have still to be found.

Control marks: Due to the farming system each farmer, between 1898-1902, overprinted part of the stock with a mark enabling the farmer to control the revenue. Noted, however, that when the farming system ended in 1902 the postal authorities continued to use them to finish the stock and collect the revenue! There are two possibilities for classifying the postal stationery with control marks. Either to let them follow directly after each postal stationery be it envelopes, cards or wrappers or the one that the exhibitor has chosen which is to have a special section under each category

Original contribution by the exhibitor: A classification of the first envelope 1878 and of the second provisional post card 1878 including the use of "Service" cards. The re-known catalogues give only limited and often incorrect information. The main reason for this is certainly the scarcity of recorded material enabling meaningful studies. The result of the "research" by the exhibitor represents almost thirty years of knowledge and experience gained from the collecting and studying of these issues.

The exhibitor has contributed to Mr Farabakhsh's book on Persia postal stationery (see below)

Disposition: The exhibit is divided into three sections:

I. Envelopes	Pages 1 - 32	II. Post cards :	pages 33 - 112
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1876, 1888, 1894 & 1898 issues- control marks, I-IV, used with 1894 & 1898 issues- "Service" envelopes- Meched issue		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- formula cards 1878-79- "service" cards 1879- 1879, 1894 & 1897 issues- control marks I-IV used with 1897 issue	
III. Wrappers <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1888 and 1894 issues- control marks, I-IV, used with 1894 issue	113- 128	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- essays- 1914 issues- provisionals- 1924 issue	

Items of particular interest: six unique essays out of a total of nine recorded for Persia, 1 unique + 1 of two similar proofs and nine unrecorded postal stationery. Many items of which only two of each are recorded. Persian reply-card used correctly registered from Switzerland, two intact double-cards used both directions internally. Many items recorded as the earliest known. Many elusive destinations in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe. Wrapper section: ten registered wrappers of which four with complete contents.

Difficulty in acquisition: Most of the elusive material was located in the 1980s. Similar has hardly been seen since then.

References: Ascher is the most reliable. A catalogue was published by the Iran Philatelic Study Circle (IPSC) in 1990. Iran Postal Stationery 2003, by F.N.Farahbakhsh. For information of the provisional cards of 1878-79, Friedrich Schuller's "The Persian Post and the Postage Stamps of Persia" published 1893 is highly recommended. Discussions with leading experts/members of IPSC.

Note 1: Colors and shades have been worked out with the leading Swedish philatelic color expert Mr Olle Petterson

Note 2: to avoid a lot of text transit or arrival dates as well as postage stamps on the revers will not always be mentioned

Note 3: Mail related to Russia may have both Julian and Gregorian dates. There is a date discrepancy of 12 days.



Darker rose

**Rose
Internal use**

From Kazvin
20 January
1879 to
Teheran

Rate 5 chahis
for internal
Registration
fee 10 chahis



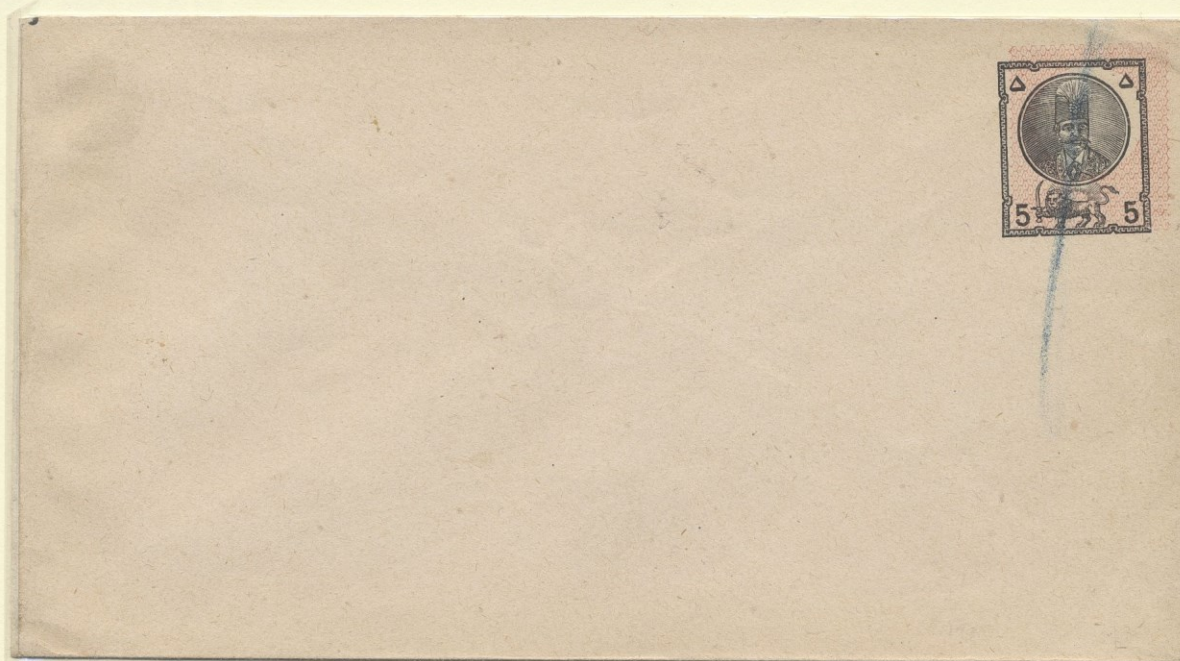
**5 ch cut-out used
as ordinary stamp**

The envelope was
was popular.
To retrieve the
printing costs the
Persian authorities
allowed the 5 ch
printed stamp
to be cut out and
used as adhesive
in 1879

From Boroudjerd
in March 1881 to
Teheran

The Sabzevar
registrstion mark
is the only
recorded



**Light rose**

Picture heavily
displaced
to the right

Thus the
envelope
was refused
as per crayon
mark across

**Darker rose****Registered to
England**

From Tabriz
in 1878
and sent via
Russia and
Berlin, Germany
as per German
registration
label to London
Received
26 Oct 1878
(reverse)

Darker rose**Registered
locally**

No reg. fee.
Official use

From Mianeh
to Tabriz 9/1

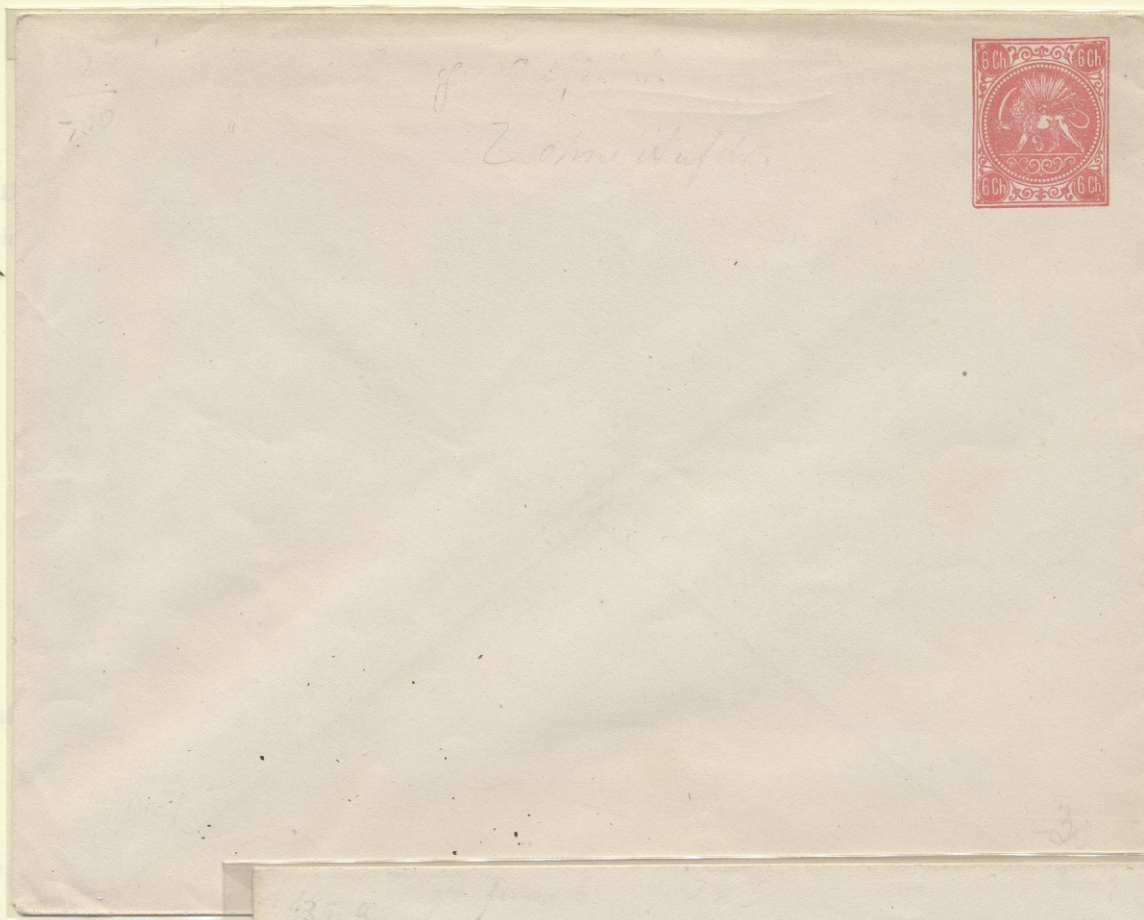


I. 1888 issue

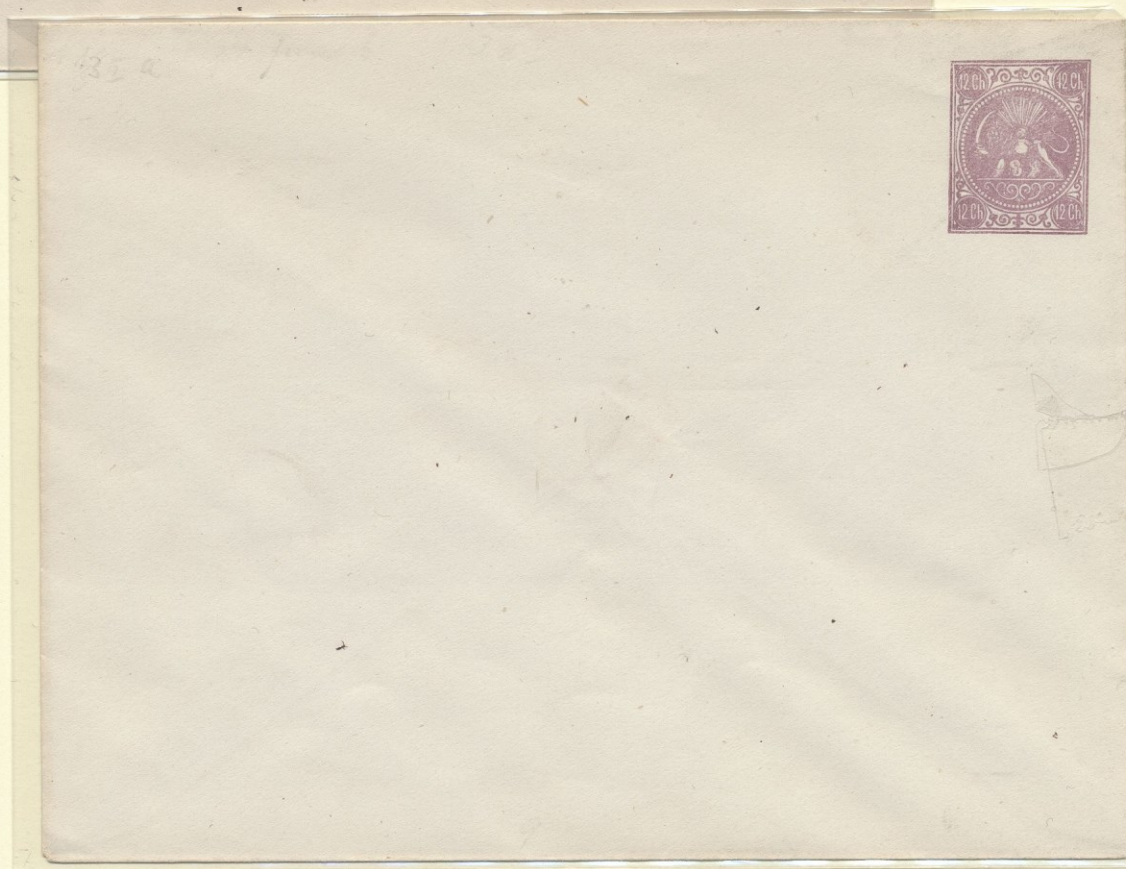
Coat of Arms

New colors & values

Two values: **6 ch rose** and **12 ch rose-lilac**. Two sizes: **size I**: 145 x 111 mm; **size II**: 150 x 120 mm



Size II
6 chahis
rose



Size I
12 ch
rose-lilac

Without overprint. Never postally used, the reason being that a huge quantity found its ways to stamp dealers before officially issued. Said to have been typographed in Paris, on white paper

Based on the Lion issue of 1875, a stamp design was made by using a cliché taken from a **5 Kran cliché**- according to Friedrich Schüller of 1893 - or from an **8 ch cliché** according to IPSC. Said to have been typographed in Paris

Used without overprint

Supposed to never have been postally used. A huge quantity found its ways to stamp dealers before officially issued. Said to have been typographed in Paris, on white paper

A few have slipped through without overprint

Size I. 6 chahi. Light red

A 6-chahi envelope used to Baghdad in H 1305 = 1888



Rates: 6 chahi

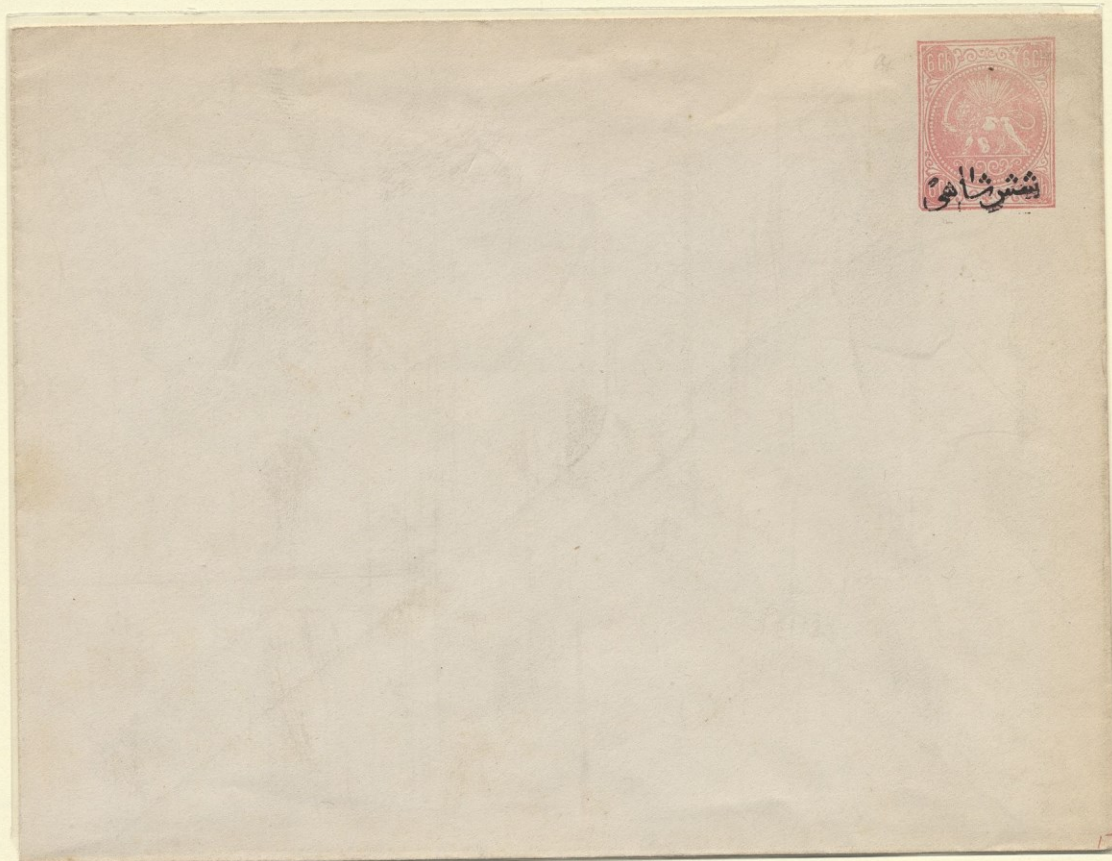
Routes: Teheran 1888 to Baghdad

Markings: No further markings. Teheran had exchange of closed bags with Baghdad

I. 1888

6ch on 6 chahi

Size I



Thick letters

Light rose



Thin letters

Light rose

Schimeran
11 August
1889 to
Germany
received
3 Sept 1889

Varieties



Misplaced
surcharge
to the left

Thin letters

Light rose

Malabar Coast

Teheran
1891
via Bombay

rate 7ch
registration
fee 14 ch

Foreign rate
increased in
1890 from
6 ch to 7ch

6mm spacing between upper side of the stamp and the envelope

Thin letters

Rose

From
Sultanabad
13 September
1891 to
Zurich

Rate 21ch
(3d class)
Registration
fee 14ch



I. 1888

6ch on 6 chahis & 12ch on 12chahi



6ch on 6 chahi

Thin letters
Size II

Light rose

From Sultanabad
February 1888
received
May

Rates: 12 chahi

Routes: Sultana-
bad via Teheran
to Wien 11 V

12ch on 12 chahi

To Spain
Earliest known

Thick letters
Size I

Darker lilac

From Teheran
about 1888/9
to Barcelona in
Spain date
not clear

Rate: 24 chahi
Double
registration
fee 24 chahi

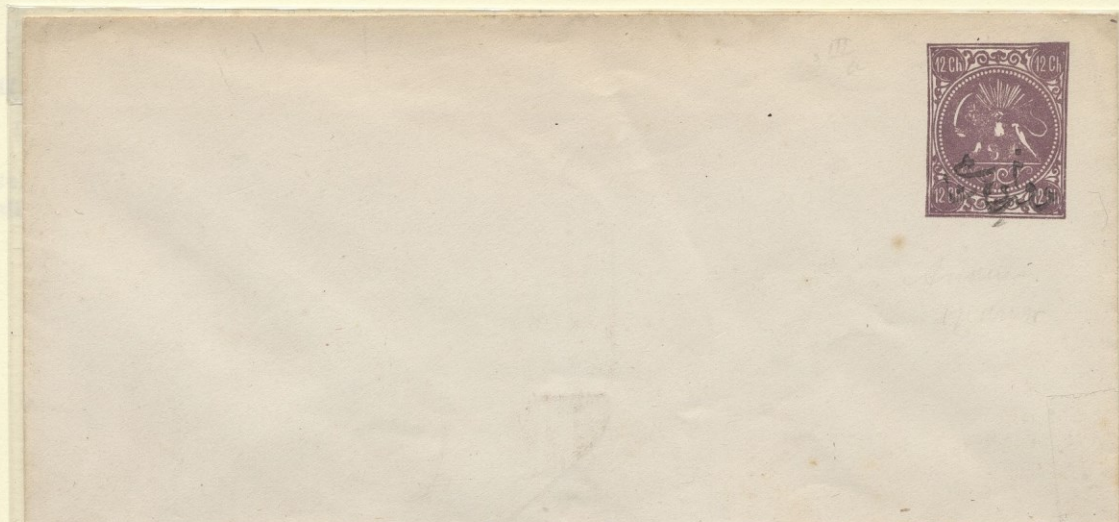


I. 1888

12ch on 12 chahi

Size I & II

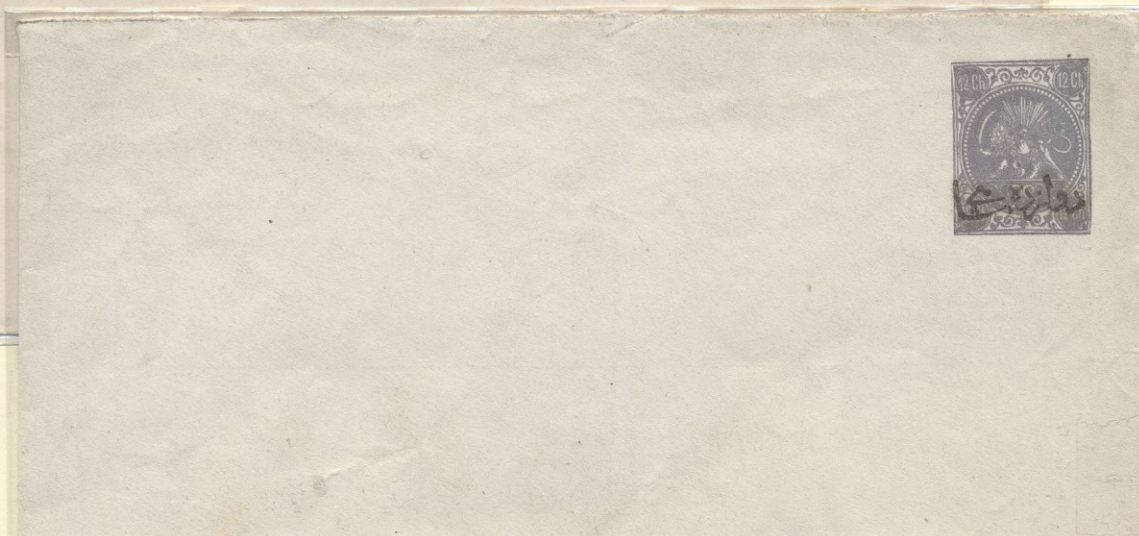
Two types of overprints; Thin and thick letters (Ascher)



Type II ovpt

Size I

Thin letters
Red lilac



Type I ovpt

Size II

Thin letters
Grey violet



Type I ovpt

Size I

Red lilac

Schimeran
1888 to Paris

French Mission
cancellation
Seen used on
only 4 items
instead of
normal Persian
cancellation



Type I

Light red
lilacFrom
Sultanabad
1891 to
GermanyRate 7ch
Reg fee 14ch

Type I

Red lila
Darker shadeFrom
Sultanabad
(date
illegible)
via Teheran
to Germany
ab 1888/9Rates:
6 chahiRegistration
fee: 12 chahi

I. 1894 issue

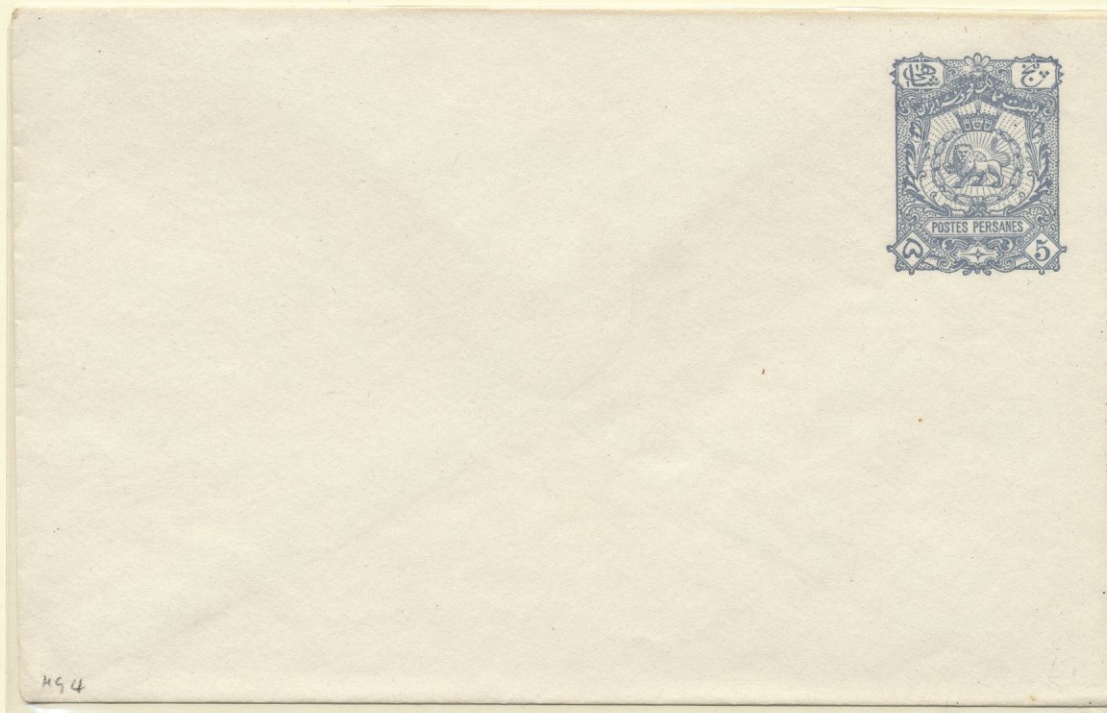
Coat of Arms

5ch blue for internal use

New colors & values

Size I = 145 x 92 mm

Size II = 141 x 108 mm



Size I

Greyish blue

Size I

Greyish blue

Internal

From
Sarough

No further
markings



5 chahis blue for **internal** use. Typographed by J. Enschede & Zonen, Haarlem, Holland. Delivered 1st Sep 1894

Quantity: 10 000 of each size

5ch blue for internal use



Size I

Greyish blue
To Argentine
External
registration

Teheran
23 4 1896
to
Buenos Aires
June 1896

Rates:
24 ch double
Registration
Fee 12 chahi

Stamps at
back

Size I

Greyish blue

Internal

From
Teheran
3 (1896)
to
Berne
Arriving
30 IV 1896

No further
markings



I. 1894 issue

Coat of Arms

New colors & values

5ch blue for internal use

Size I = 145 x 92 mm

Size II = 141 x 108 mm



Size I

Greyish blue

Internal
registration

From
Sultanabad
14 Sept ?
to Tabriz

Double rate
10 ch
registration
fee 10 ch

Size II

Greyish blue

Internal

From
Mehallate
1897
via
Teheran
to Recht



I. 1894

8 chahi brown

Size: 141 x 108 mm

Water Mark The Saunders 1892

(See picture at 16 chahi)

Two recorded



8 chahis foreign rate. Quantity 20,000. The foreign rate increased from 8 ch to 10 chahi in May/June 1894. When the envelopes were delivered in September 1894 the 8 ch rate did not apply any longer. Only uprated exist

I. 1897

12 ch rose

Only size II

Foreign rate Quantity 40 000

Light rose



Internal

Rose

The earliest
recorded

Sultanabad
27 March 1898
via Teheran
to Tabriz
3d weight level
15ch
registration fee
10 chahis



**Internal use****Brown**

Double rate
10 chahis

From Teheran
to Bushire

No year
mentioned

External use**Brown**

Foreign rate
increased from
10 chahis
to 12 chahis
about
May/June 1895

Sultanabad
31 Aug 1897
to Germany
received 16 Oct.

16 chahis rose
stamp only
recorded on
four items





External use

Brown

Rates
12 chahi

From Teheran
4 11 1895
to London
2 December

Redirected

8-chahi envelopes still in stock, but non-valid, sold and used privately in the late 1920s

Used
Privately
By a
Society as
Wrapper
Sent to
France



I. 1894

16 chahi

Size II

New double foreign rate but not delivered in time. Thus normaly uprated. Quantity 16,000



Light rose

Rescht
via Baku
to
Constantin-
ople
21 ? 96



I. 1894

16 chahi

Size II

New double foreign rate but not delivered in time. Thus normally uprated. Quantity 16,000

With WM elusive



Dark rose

Water mark

"The Saunders
1892"

Few recorded

From Tabriz
12 April 1896
to
Konstantinople
received
28 April 1896

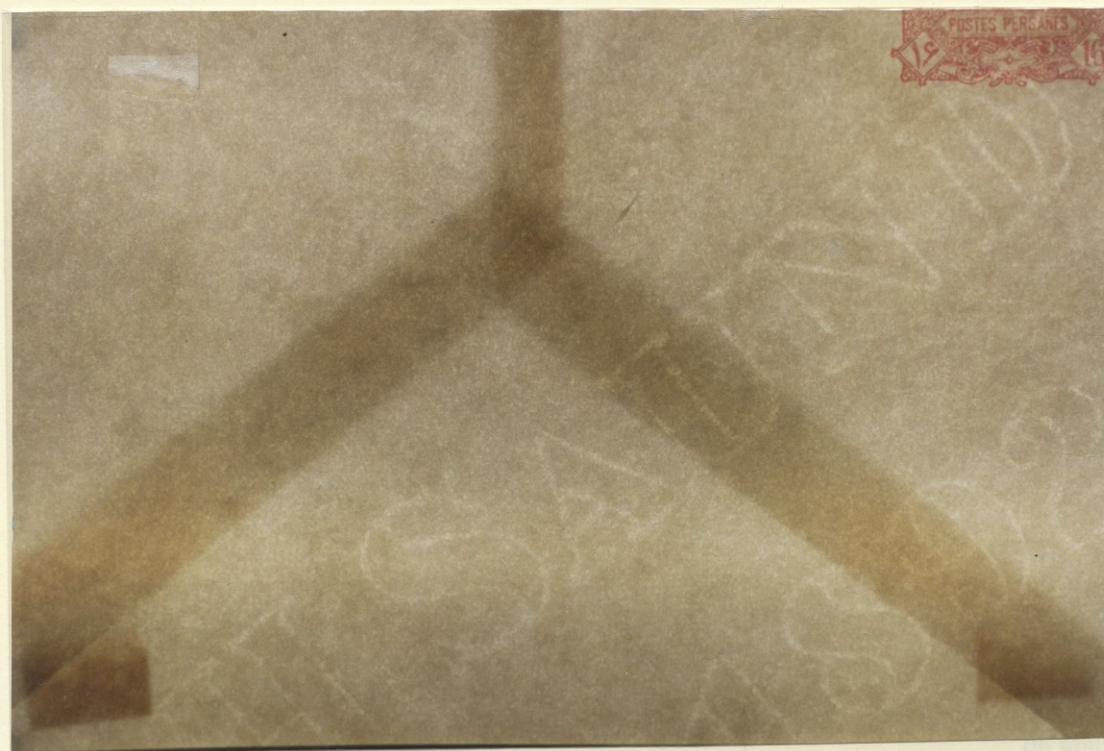


Photo of
Water mark
Valid for
Both
8 and
16 chahi

I. 1897 issue

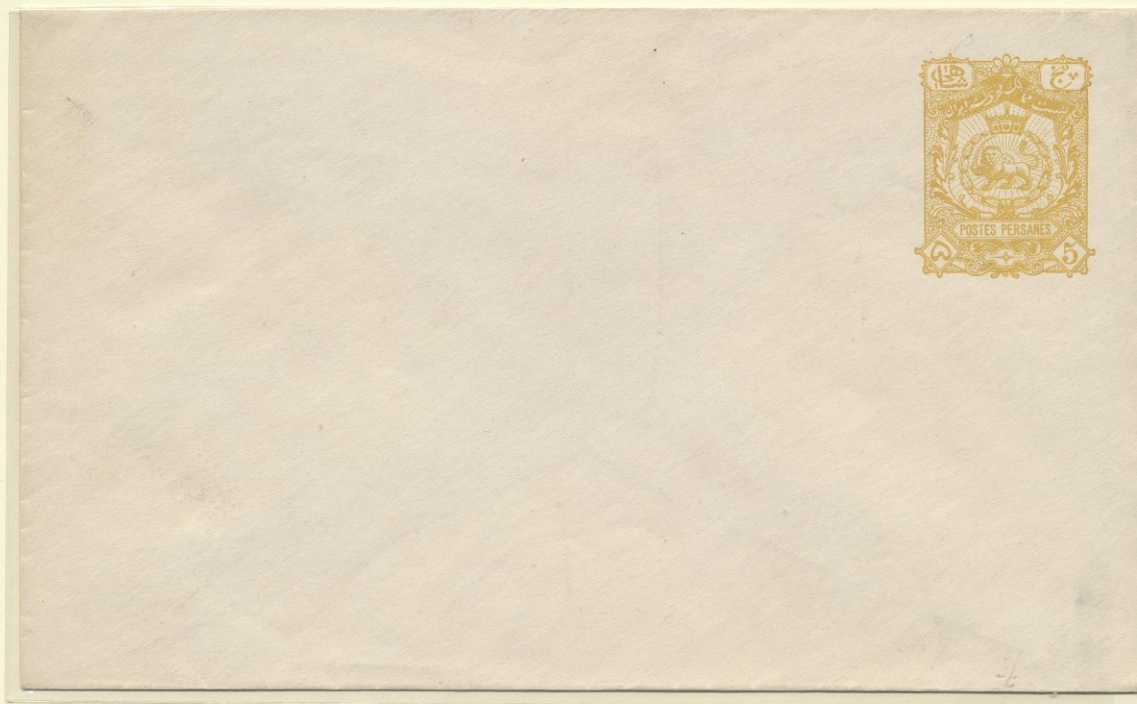
Coat of Arms

New colors & values

5ch yellow for internal use. Qty 20 000 each

Size I = 150 x 91 mm

Size II = 141x108 mm



Size I

Yellow

Size II

Yellow



I. 1897 issue

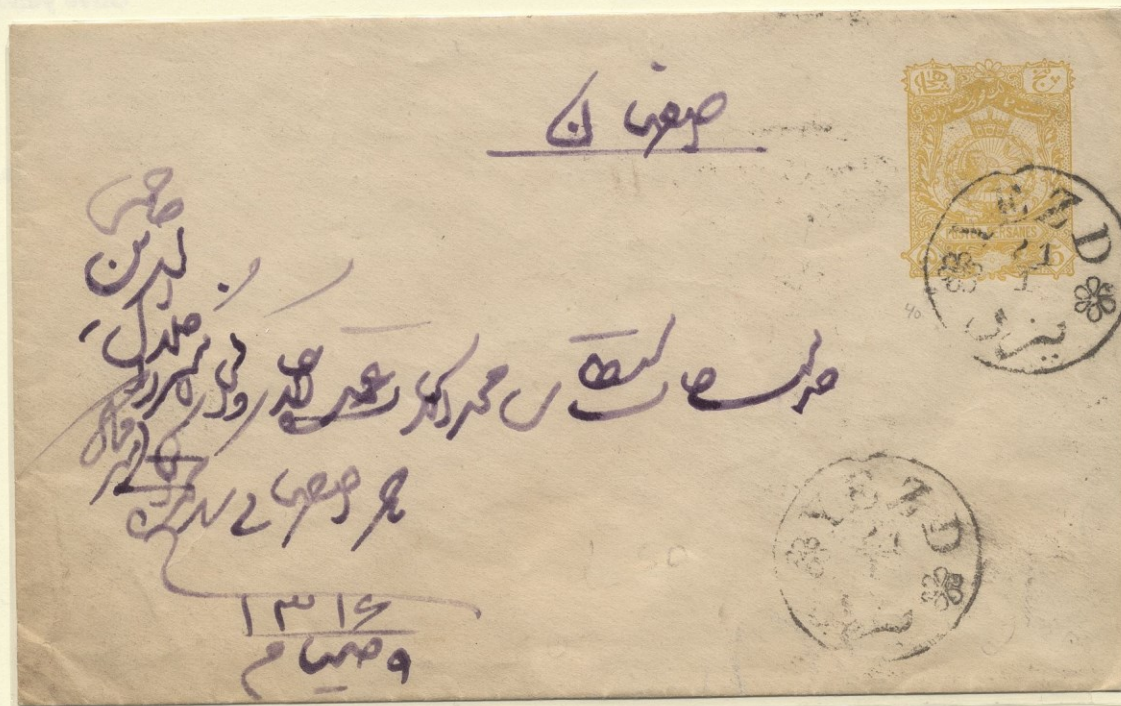
5ch Yellow

New colors & values

5ch for internal use. Qty 20 000 each

Size I = 150 x 91 mm

Size II = 141x108 mm



Size I

Olive yellow

Yezd

21 1 1897

to

Isfahan

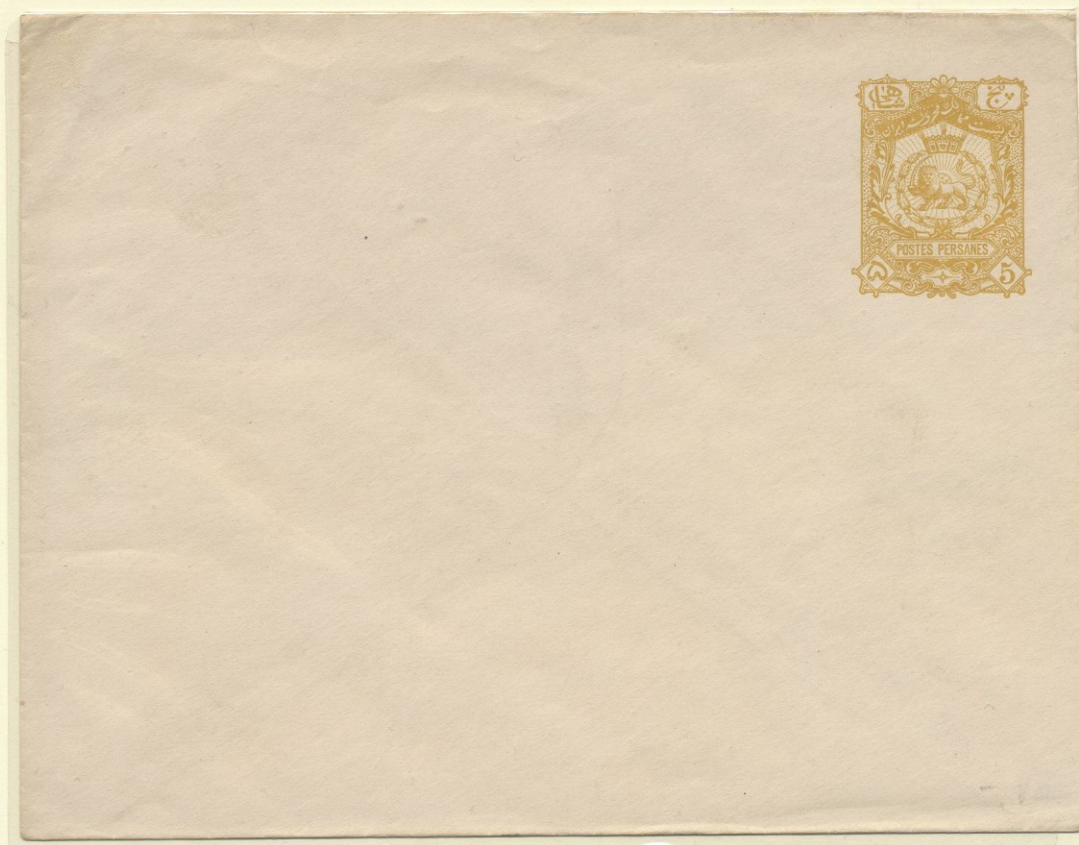
Rate 5 chahis

Internal

rate

Size II

Olive yellow



I. 1897 issue

5ch Yellow

New colors & values

5ch for internal use. Qty 20 000 each

Size I = 150 x 91 mm

Size II = 141x108 mm

Imprime 5 ch to abroad

Size II

Olive yellow

Tabriz
26 5 1898
via Julfa
to
Manchester
Rate 5 chahis
Imprime
rate
Elusive rate



Size II

Olive yellow

Sultanabad
via Teheran
to Germany

No year date
stated

Rate 12ch
reg fee 12 ch

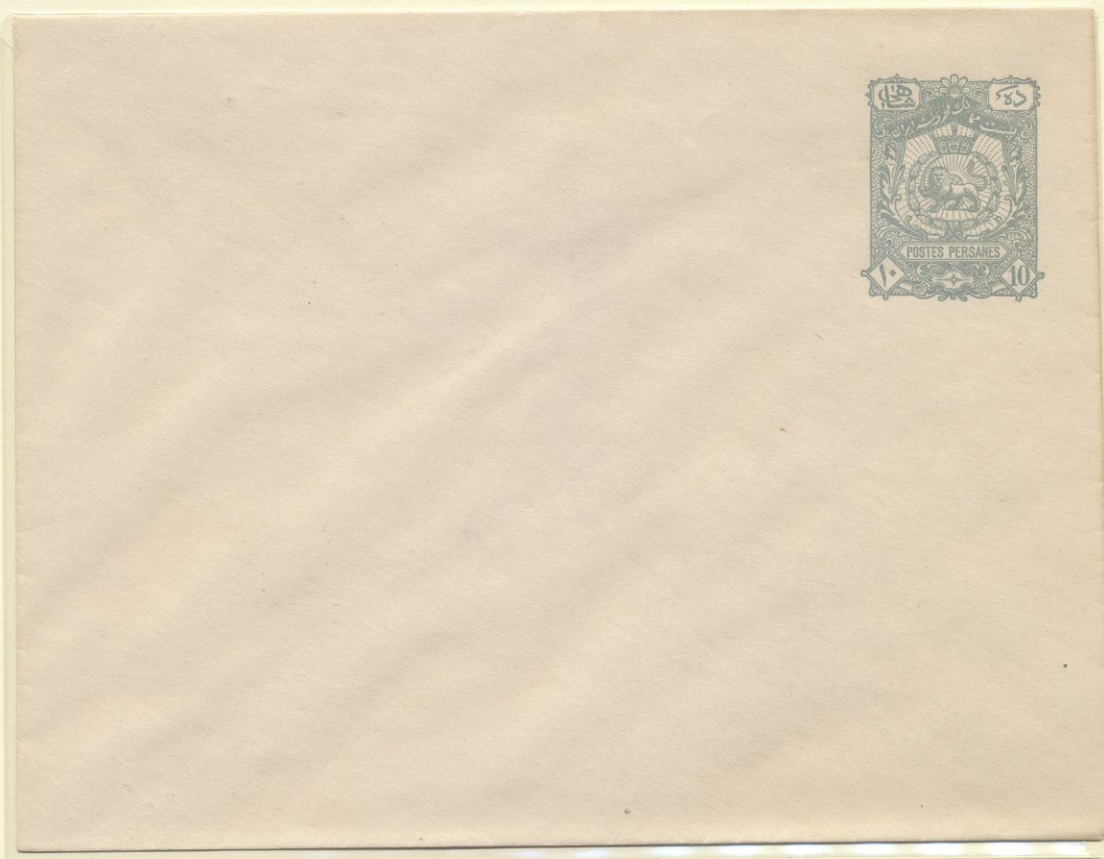


I. 1897

10ch Grey blue

Size II

Double rate. Quantity 40,000



Grey blue

Grey blue

External use

Registration label
replaced by
1ch-stamp

Sultanabad
9 July 1899
via Teheran
to Germany

Registration label
fee was 1 chahi.
If labels unavailable
a 1ch-stamp
could replace it
Across it
was written
"Recommandé"
+ reg number.

Double rate
24 chahis
Reg fee 12 ch



I. 1897

12 ch rose

Only size II

Foreign rate Quantity 40 000Rose



Rose

External use

Registered

Sultanabad

Endorsed

4 Sep 1898

via Teheran

10 9 98

to Zurich

6 X 98

Rate 12 ch

Reg fee 12 ch

Note: The 1-ch
stamp cancelled
in Teheran

The reg label
- optional -
costed 1 ch
extra

Rose

External

Registered

Sultanabad

Endorsed

31 Mar 1901

via

Teheran

7 April 01

to

Germany

Arrival date

unclear



Foreign rate Quantity 40,000.

Mint

Light lilac

External use

The earliest recorded

Mesopotamia

Djulfa
27 August 1898
via Teheran
to Baghdad

Double rate 24 ch
Reg fee 12 ch



London

Lilac




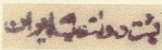


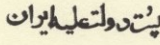
From Tabriz
4 May 1899
to
London

Rate
12 chahis
reg fee
12 chahis



Type I-IV Control marks 1899 -1904

Table with reduced sizes of the four control marks

Type I	Type II	Type III (I+II)	Type IV
control mark left of the stamp	overprint at lower half		overprint 1 cm below the stamp
			
			

Type I Control mark

5 chahis olive yellow envelope for internal use. **Size I:** 150 x 91mm **Size II:** 141 x 108mm

Size I
150 x 91mm

Olive yellow

External use
Registered

Sultanabad
29 Sept 1899
to Germany
redirected to
Switzerland

Rate 12 chahi
Reg fee 12 chahi
Overpaid by
1 chahi.

1ch-stamp
replaced the
1ch-registration
label which was
out of stock.



At the turn of the 20th century the Government often "leased out" governmental services, such as the postal services. To be able to differentiate the stock of stamps from the predecessors Mr Arnold, the Director of Post, ordered that the stamps and postal stationery should be overprinted with new and different control marks on each new appointment of a lessee

There were **four** different **types** of control marks, used between **1899 and 1904** and all on 1897 envelope issue. The quantities overprinted were in general quite small and in some cases very small. Exact numbers are not known. No records seem to exist. Though they are not really new postal issues, and thus the controle marks should be put under each value of its real issue, among collectors the controle marks are treated as different issues for simplicity. The exhibitor has decided to follow the same line not to confuse the matter.



Internal use

Olive yellow

Teheran
28 Sept 1899
to
Kermanchah



External use

Olive yellow

From
Sultanabad
June 1899
via Teheran
Switzerland
received
27 August 1899

External rate
12 chahis
registration fee
12 chahis.

The earliest
recorded

I. 1899 Type I

10ch blue & 1kr violet

Only size II



Blue

Overprint
misplaced

Internal use

Yezd 10 Dec
to Mehed
about 1900

Triple rate
15 chahi

Blue

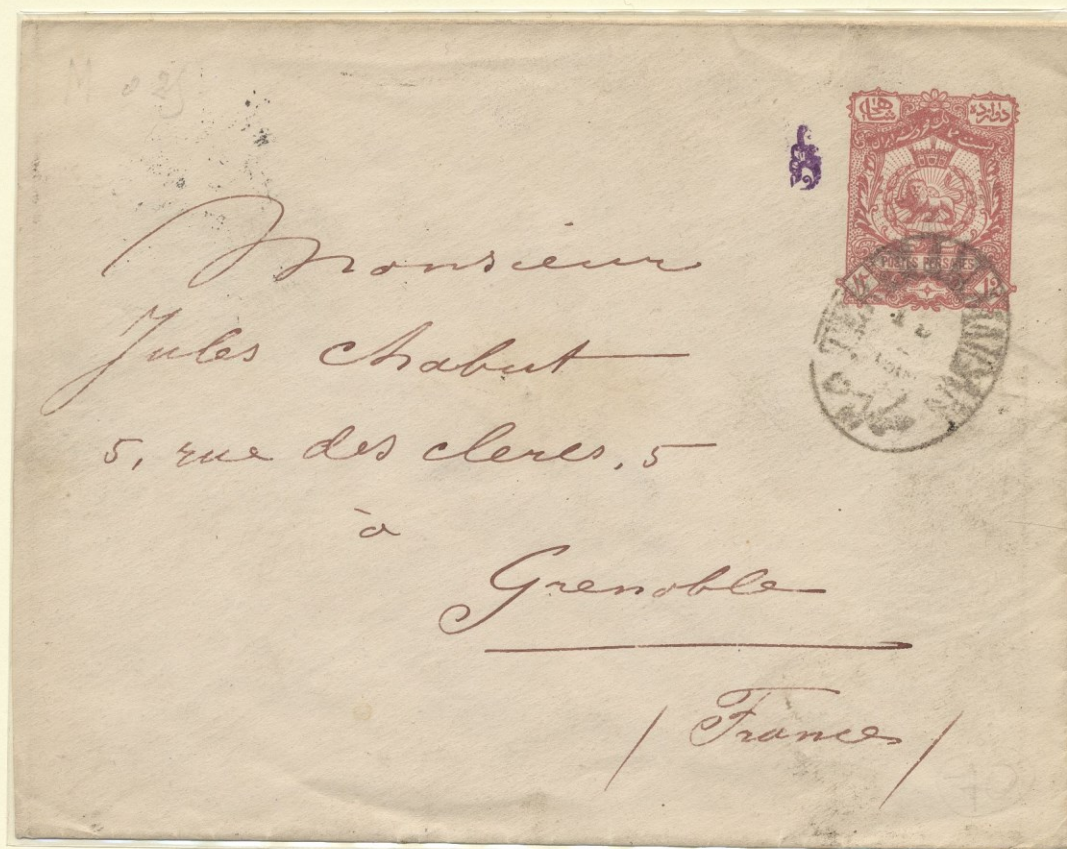
Internal

Sultanabad
29 Sep 1899
to
Teheran

Rate
10 chahi
double rate



Dark Rose
External rate



From Teheran March 1900 to Grenoble, France 15 April 1900

Rate: External 12 chahi

Violet

External

Registered

Sultanabad

Endorsed

3 Sep 1899

to

Zurich

No arrival

mark 10 Dec

Rate 12 chahi

Reg fee 12ch



Darker violet

External

Registered

Teheran

endorsed

15 June 99

to

Zurich

arriving

13 July.

Rate

Double 24 ch

Reg fee 12 ch

The 16-ch

stamp

w. ovpt

elusive



I. 1902-03

Control type II. "PROVISOIRE 1319"

5 chahi olive yellow. Only size I: 150 x 90mm

Olive yellow



Olive yellow

Uprated for
abroad

Kamerun

Teheran
31 March 1902
via Baku to
Kamerun
West Africa
Rate 12 chahis



Mr. James.
Flora House.
England Kew, Surrey.

Olive yellow

Registered

Internal

From
Sultanabad
per m/s
22 March 1902
to Tabriz

Double Rate 10ch
Reg fee 10 chahis

1-ch stamp used
as registration
label





Light grey blue

External use

England

Teheran
?March 1903
England

Rate 12 chahis
Up rated
2 chahis



Light grey blue

External use

Registered

Sultanabad
7 March 1903
via Teheran
to
Germany

Rate 12 chahis
reg fee
12 chahis

Rose

External

Teheran
Maidan
1 Nov 1902
via Baku
to
Hague 26 Nov
Rate 12 chahi

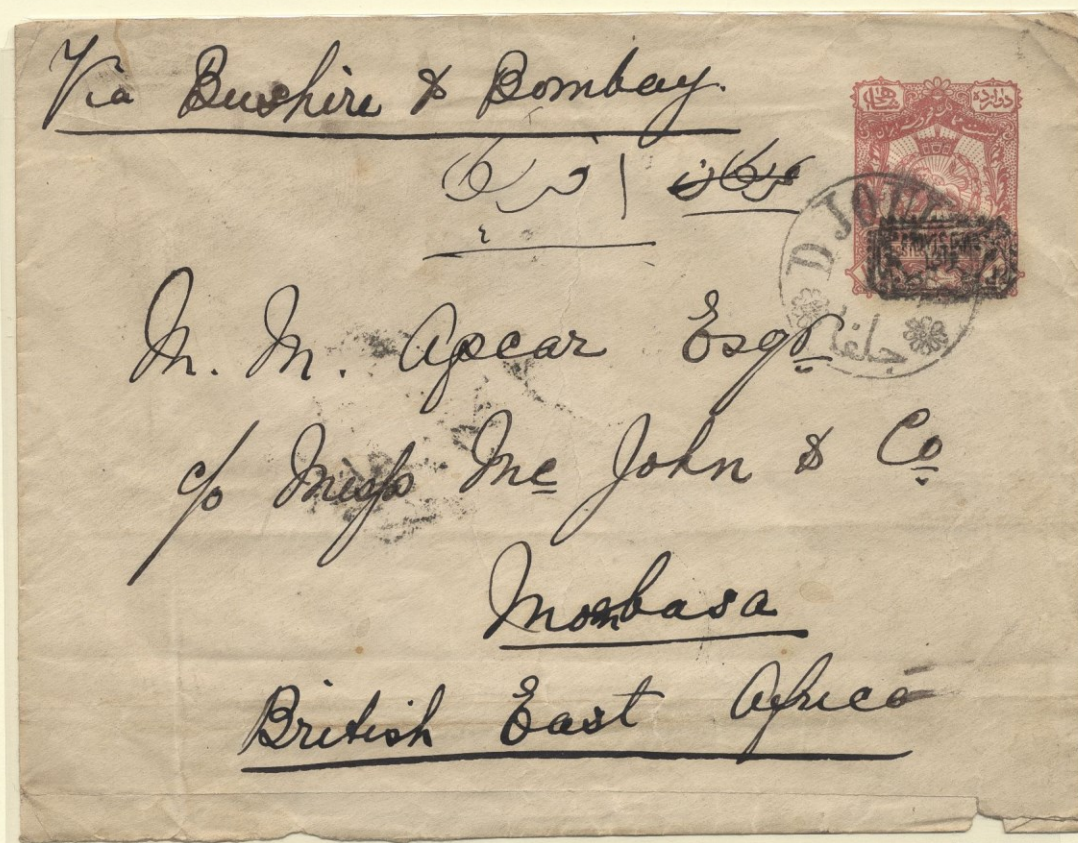


Dark rose

External

British East
Africa

Djoulfa
Nov 1902
via
Bouchir 30 12
transferred
to the Indian
postal system
via Bouchir
Indian EPO
arriving
Mombasa
9 Feb 1903
Rate 12 ch
Reg fee 12 ch



12 chahi rose + 1 Kran

12 ch Rose

Registered

Chiraz

? 3 03

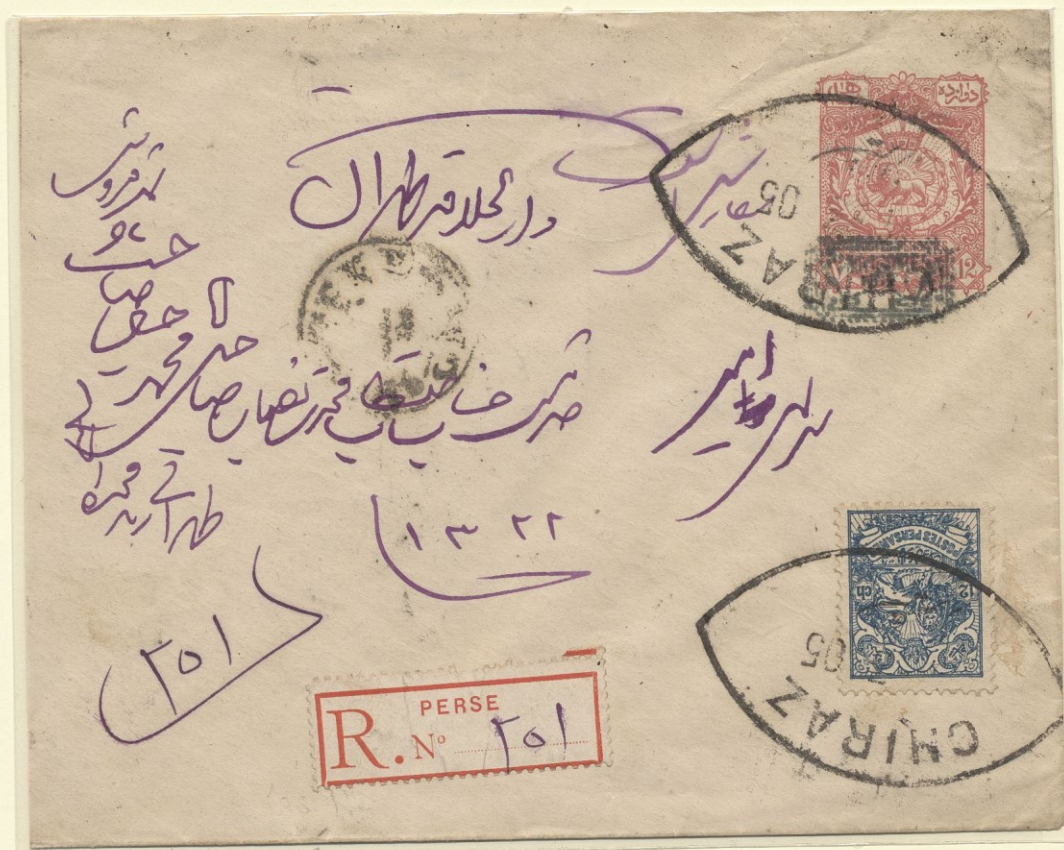
to

Teheran

12 3

Rate 12 chahi

Reg fee 12 ch



1 Kran

Violet





Darker shade

External

Registered

Tabriz
Nov 1902
via Russia
and
Austrian
Levant
postal service
to
Konstantinople

Rate 12 chahi

Double
registration
2x12 ch =
24 chahi

Lighter shade

External

Registered

Schimeran
30 8 1902
via
Baku 29 VIII
(Julian) and
London
18 Sep 1902
addressed to
Hove Brighton



I. 1902-03

Control type III = I+II

5 chahis printed for internal use Size: 150 x 91 mm. **5 ch not listed** in any catalogue. Amount overprinted very small



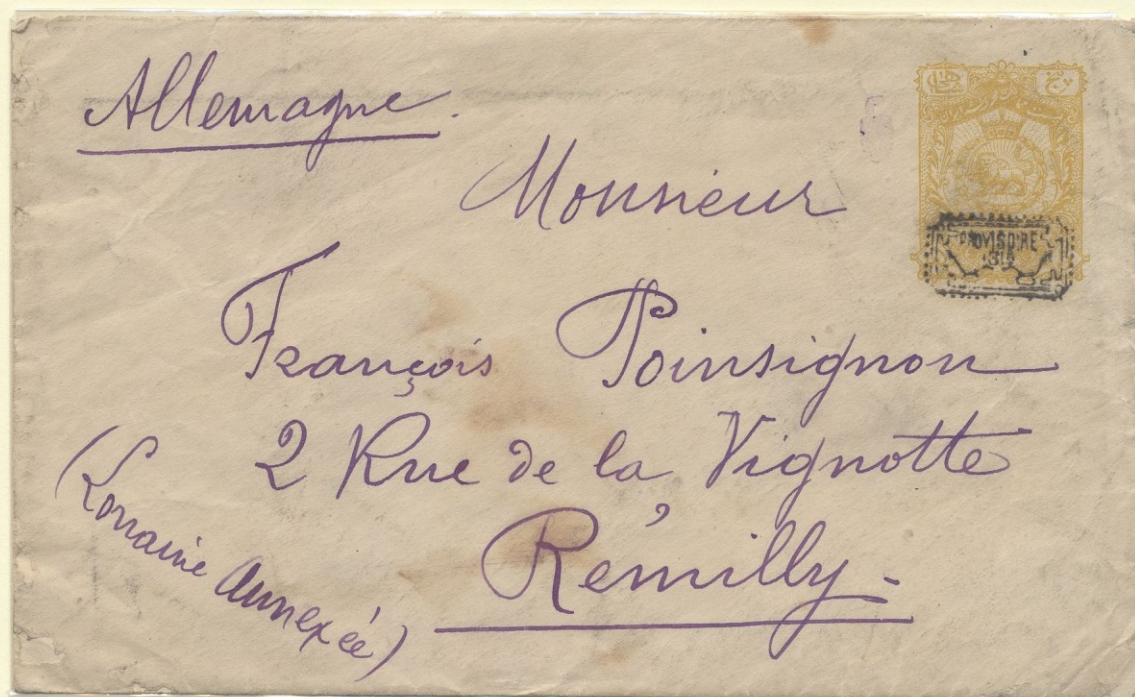
Olive yellow

Two recorded

External use

Tabriz to
Konstantinople
redirected
to Mardin.
in Turkey

Three different
postmarks, but
none indicating
the dates
clearly



Yellow

Two recorded

External use

Tabriz
17 Dec 1903
to France

Rate 12ch
(stamps at
back)

Control type III. Type I+II in combination

Not catalogued in H&G or Farabakhsh. Three recorded used

Internal double rate



Internal use

Registered from Teheran endorsed 10 July 1902 to Tabriz

Rate + reg fee. Total 31 chahis (nine at back). Two options. Neither visible

Option I. Rate double 10 chahi. Double registration 20 ch + 1
probably for wax seal at back

Option II. Rate Four double 20 chahi. Registration 10 ch + 1 ch probably
for wax seal at back

I. 1904

Control type IV. "Imperial Post" (in Persian)

5 chahis blue **size I**: 141 x 108mm; 12 chahis rose & 1 Kran violet **size II**: 145 x 92mm



5 chahi

Blue

From
Teheran
20 Nov ?
(about
1907/8)
to
Sultanabad

Rate: 6 ch

Note: The
1-chahi
adhesive is
almost
brown
instead of
violet

1 Kran

Violet

Registered

Sultanabad-
Arak
Endorsed
19 APL 1907
via Teheran
24 4 07
to
Zurich
arriving
15 V 07

Rate 9 ch
Double
Reg fee 16 ch
+ 1 chahi
for red
wax seal
probably



REGISTERED.

**Rose****Misplaced Overprint****Registered**External use
Double
RegisteredTeheran
1905
to
AustriaRate Triple
13 ch x 3 =
39 ch

Reg fee 13 ch

Rose**Australia****Registered**Isfahan
Oct 1904
and via
Indian
postal system
at Bushire
and
Bombay
There
forwarded
to
Australia
Arriving
20 Sep 04



Double Overprint

Violet

Internal

Registered

Teheran

Bazaar

28 4 08

to

Isfahan

Rate 12 chahi

double

Reg fee 13 ch

Mr Kachani

Famous

stamp

dealer

Misplaced

Dark violet

Internal

Registered

Sultanabad-

Arak

15 Nov 1907

via Koum

18 11

to

Isfahan

Rate 12 chahi

Double

Reg fee 13 chahi



I. 1902/03

1897 Coat of Arms surcharged with new values

5 CHAHI in **black** on 1 Kran violet. Very limited amount surcharged. 8 recorded in total



With **black** surcharge among the **rarest** of all Qajar stationery

Internal use

Teheran
28 Dec 1902
to Isfahan.

The **earliest** recorded w
this surcharge

Double rate
10 chahis
reg fee
10 chahis

Two recorded
registered

Internal use

From
Teheran
to
Sultanabad
(no dates)



I. 1902/03

5 chahi surcharge in blue on 1 Kran

Dark blue



Dark blue

External use

Registered

From Meched
via Gaudan
Persian EPO
14 2 (1904)
and Russian
EPO.

Endorsed
via Askabad
Transited
Moscow
8/2 1914
(Julian)
arriving
London
24 FE 1904

Rate: 12 ch
Reg fee: 12 ch

Special registra-
tion cachet in
violet plus
large "R" also
Meched and the
Small "R" put
on in Russia



I. 1902/03

5 chahi surcharge in blue on 1 Kran



Dark blue

External

Registered

Sultanabad
16 May 1903
via Teheran
22 May and
Baku 15 May
(Julian) to
Switzerland
3 June

Rate 12 ch
Reg fee 12 ch
+ 1 ch stamp
for
replacement
of registration
label

Surcharge
Misplaced

Light blue
External use

From Shiraz
to Austria
28 May 1904

Rate 12 ch



I. 1902/03

6 chahi black on 10 chahi

6 chahi in black on 10 chahis blue. A rate increase for internal letters from 5 ch to 6 chahis took place early in 1904



Grey blue

External

Teheran
20 6 (05)
to
New York
Backstamped
? July 1905

Rate 13 ch

Grey blue

Internal

Registered

Sultanabad
23 Oct 1905
to Tabriz
via Teheran
27 Oct 1905

Rate 6 chahis
reg fee 15 ch



I. ab 1900

"Service" envelopes

Of the stamp embossed on the flap of the envelope a similar but lose type exist in different colours exist which were stuck on the back of official letters from the postal authorities about 1890 to 1900.

Only mint exist



118x90 mm

With
bandage

Red
embossed
stamp

154x123 mm

Red
embossed
stamp



I. ab 1900

"Service" envelopes

Only mint exist. Probably essays. Three recorded



250x12 mm

Blue
Embossed
stamp

Brown
envelope

Postcards

Persia's First Provisional Post Card 1878

Russian formula card

*Rate: by affixing a 2 chahis and a bisected 1 chahi of 1876 issue to the card



Russia
formula card
pre-cancelled

This card from Tabriz, faint postmark, but m/s Tabriz 20 March 1878 was sent to Ipswich, UK and arrived 7 April 1878

The General Director of Posts in Azarbadjan, the northwestern province of Persia, Mr F. S. Stahl, created on his own initiative and no doubt inspired by the postal development in Europe Persia's first postcard in early **1878**. Mr Stahl purchased from Tiflis, Georgia, **Russian unfranked formula cards**. On these he used Persian postage stamps to a rate of 2 1/2 chahis which was half of an ordinary letter's rate - 5 chahis by affixing a 2 chahis and a bisected 1 chahi of 1876 issue to the card. Mr. Stahls initiative followed the order of 1876 by the Persian postal authorities of having postal envelopes printed in Vienna.

As per UPU regulations a country wishing to introduce the use of postcards should use a rate of at least 40% - with possibility of some small alteration - of that of an ordinary letter rate. At this time Germany already having introduced their postcards with a postal rate of half (10 pf) of that of an ordinary letter (20 pf) probably gave Mr Stahl the idea of also using 50 % of the Persian letter rate. Mr Stahls initiative was not authorized by the GPO. However, his high position gives these postcards at least a **semi-official status**. In any case, during 1878, Mr Stahl was appointed General Director of Persia Postal Services. He then issued a new designed set of cards in 1879 now with **official status**.

Postcards with the 2 1/2 chahis already affixed by the PO at **Tabriz**. Distributed to **Khoi, Dilman, Maragha, Ardebil, Urmia and Zenjan**. Maybe sold precancelled

The 1-ch stamps were cut in different positions

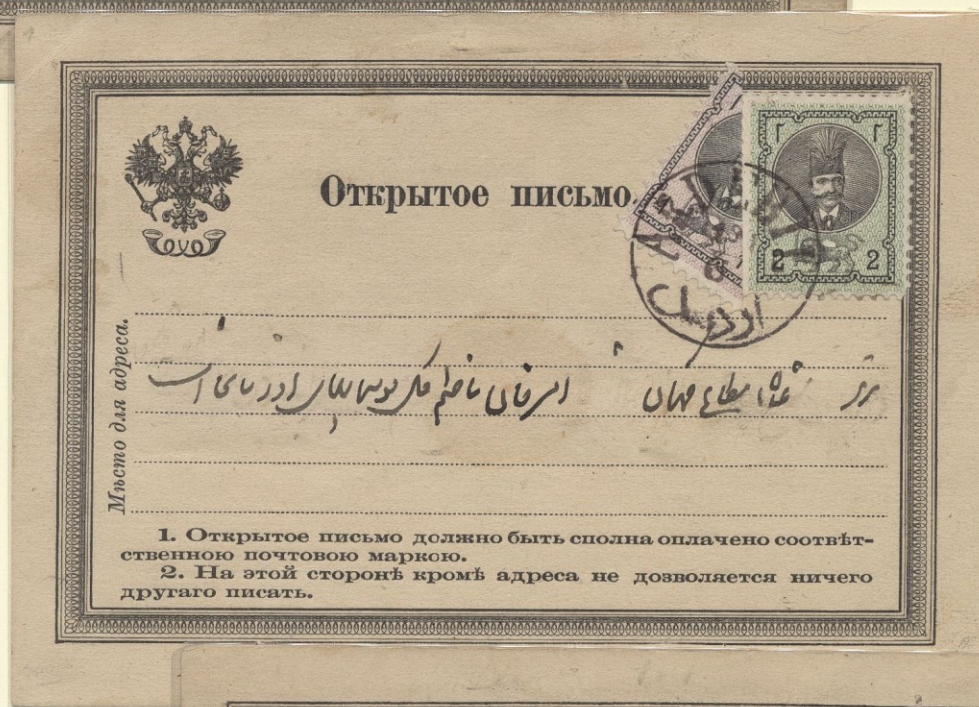
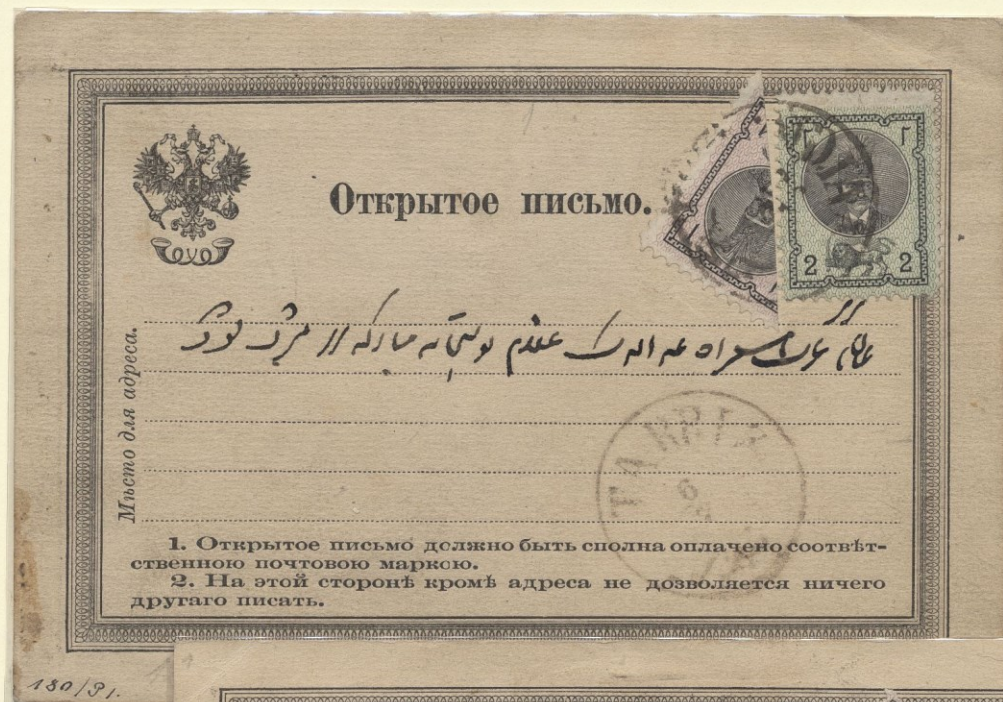
All internal

Head down left

Zendjan to Tabriz

Head up right

Ardebil to Tabriz.



Head up
Right

Khoi
to Tabriz

F. Stahl printed in 1878, a second provisional card now with a Persian design without a stamp printed thereon



Missing part
of the frame
at printing

Research:

Of the two recognised postcard catalogues, Ascher and Higgins & Gage, only Ascher mentions but very briefly that the second, Persian type, formula card, consisting of **two types of bisects**, also have been overprinted "**service**". Thus the exhibitor has undertaken research on this total issue.

For proper use stamps had to be affixed. Again 2 1/2 chahi rate was chosen to comply with certain international norm. Two types were introduced. So printed cards without stamps were not postally used except for "service" cards (free of charge)

No research have ever been recorded on these two issues certainly due to the very limited material available. The exhibitor is herewith presenting his result - after almost 30 years of painstaking search for proper material and study on the subject i.e. these issues status. His conclusion is that they are **semi-official and official respectively**. Main reasons are Mr Stahls position as well as that there are a number of items which have gone through the mail.

The exhibitor is proving that these postcards really did exist and were properly used from different post offices within Azarbadjan and Teheran. Cards with small different designs and at times with strong coloured background exist postally used including the **only recorded service card sent to abroad**.

There exist **three different lengths** possibly as a result of the cutting process of different printings. The length is about **130 mm (only on "Service"-cards), 137 or 145 mm** here called **size I, II, and III**, respectively.

Size III is the most common (ca 85 %). Note that the frame is always of the same size. The cards paper thickness is about 0,32 mm and are white or cream.

The "Service" cards have more colored background though. The overprint "service" can be found in different shapes.

The paper of the printed cards without affixed stamps are of two different colors. In this form the cards were never used as mail. See below

Registered Persian formula card. Two recorded of either type I or II. **Size II** (Very elusive size)**Size II****External use**

Teheran
26/5 1879
sent
via Tabriz
29 May to
Germany

M/s via Berlin

Cream card

**Size III****External use**

Tabriz
8 X 78
sent
via Tabriz
to
London
7 Ja 79

Cream card

M/s via Berlin

Genuine
Commercial
Hildebrand
& Stevens/
Tabriz

All size III. Postally used. To abroad elusive



Internal

From
Ardebil



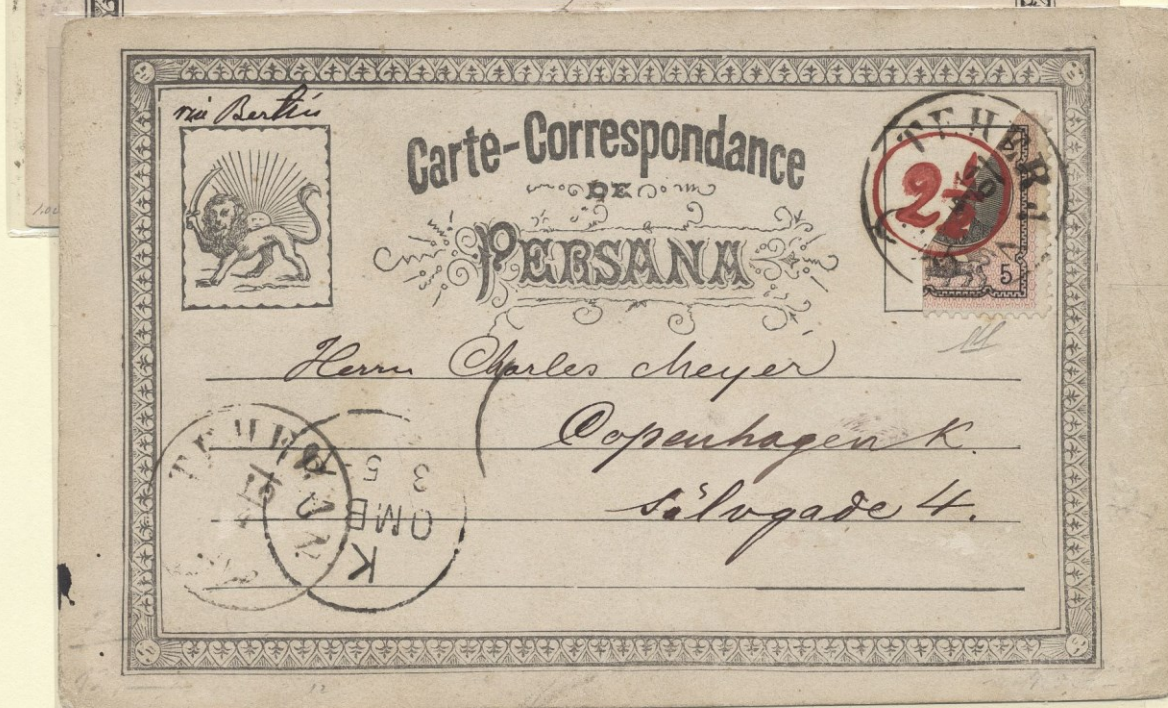
External

Tabriz
to Vienna
24 6 79



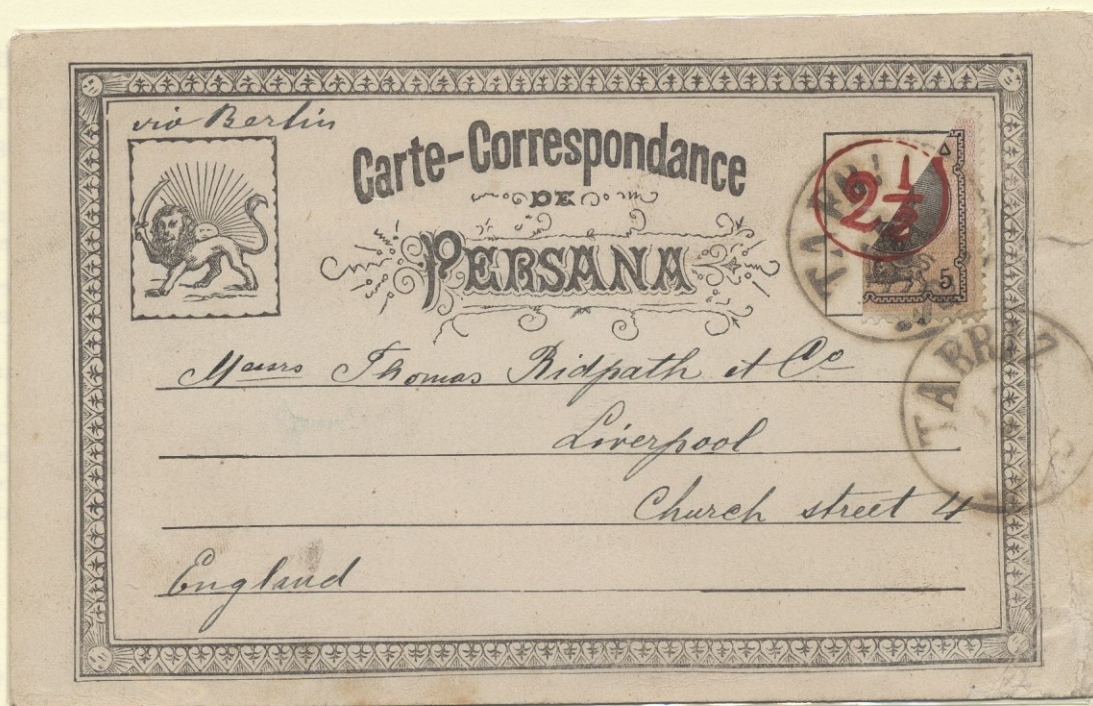
External

Tabriz, m/s
18 Oct 1878
to New York



External

Tehran
10/4 1879
to
Copenhagen
3 5 79



Size III

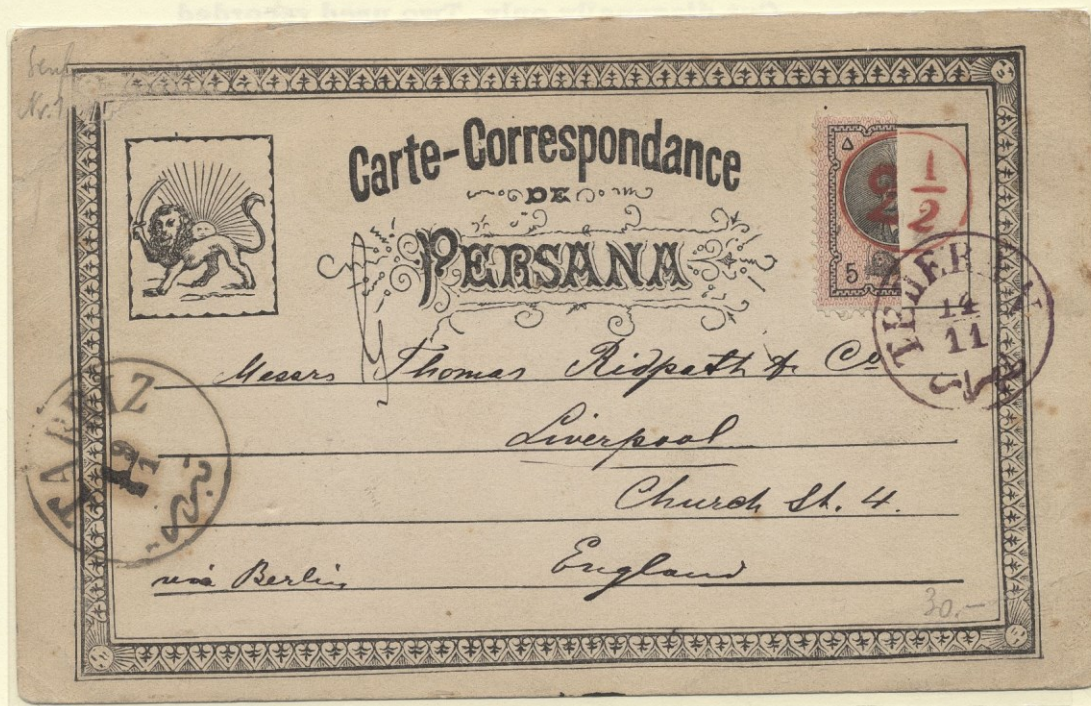
External use

To England

From Tabriz
15 June 1878
to Liverpool

The sender
Mr Stahl
Postal Director
of Azarbadjan
writes that the
4 Kran yellow
(Lion issue)
replaced by
4 Kran blue

Cut diagonally only. Two used recorded



Size III

External use

To England

From Teheran
14 Nov 1878
via Tabriz
19 November
to Liverpool

Only **two** recorded w/o the 2 ½ in oval. Both shown below

Size II

External use

USA

From Teheran
Cancelled
Khiaban
m/s May 19th
1879
to Ohio, USA
via New York
3 July



Size II

Internal use

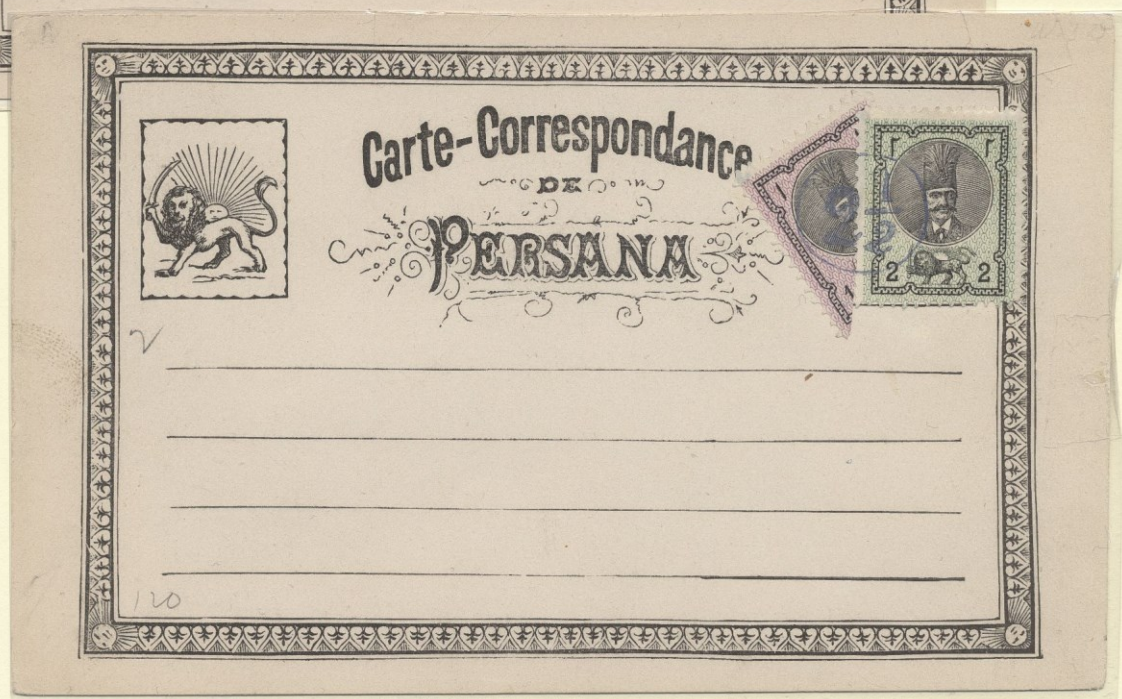
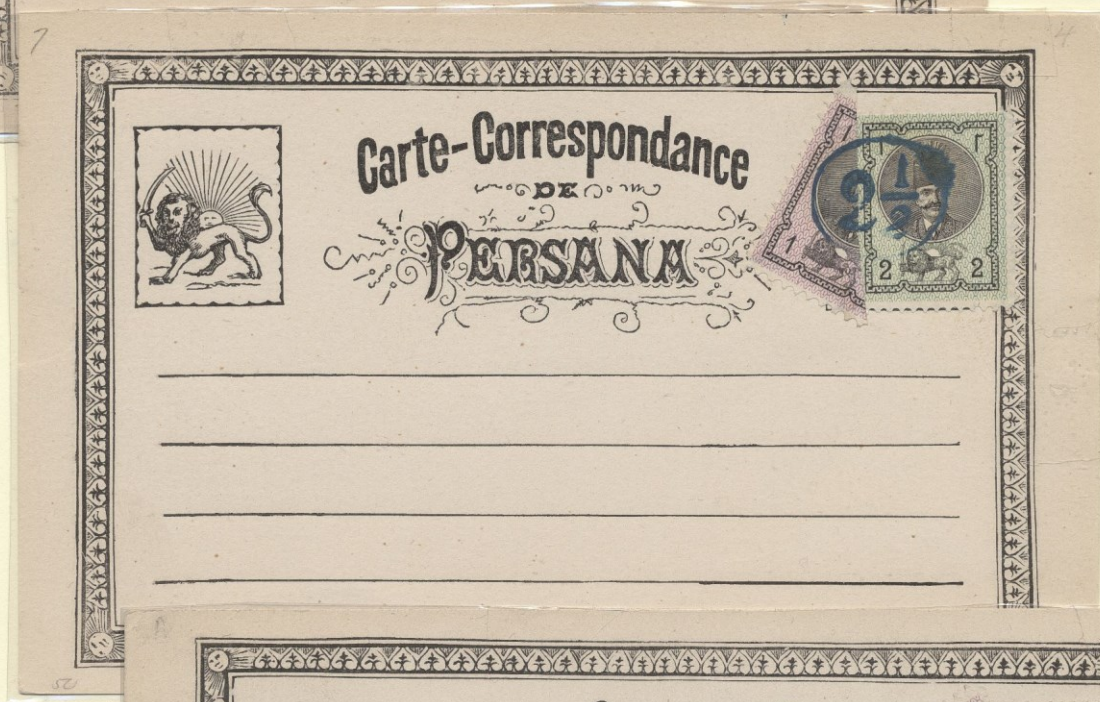
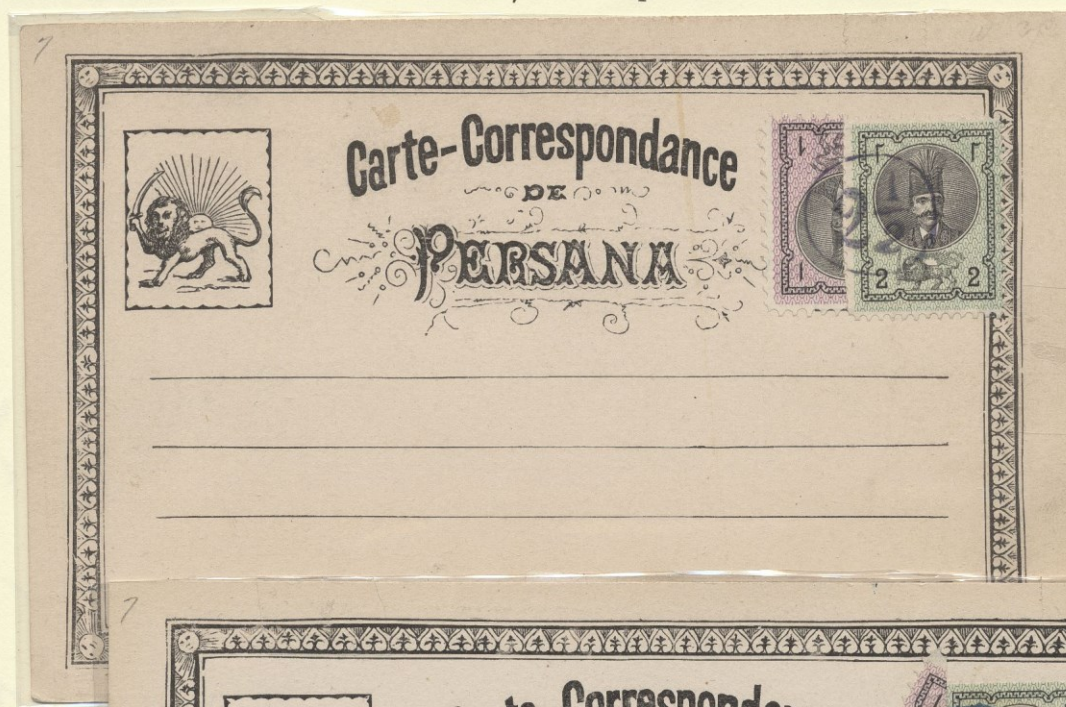
Teheran
m/s Aug 2
(1879)
to
Urmia

II. 1878, 2nd prov

Type II. Bisect 1ch in different cuts

Size 145 x 90 mm

The 1878 formula<z card in cream with a 2-chahi adhesive and a bisected 1-chahi, surcharged with 2 1*/2 in ovaql in blue, 17x16 mm



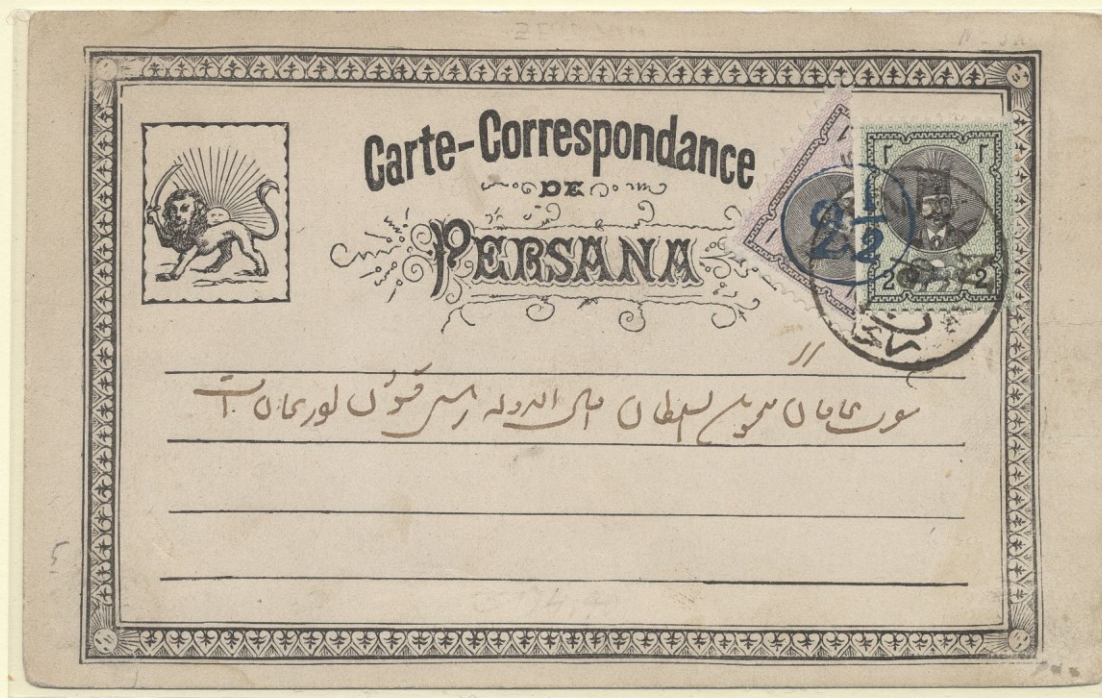
Normally the size is of size III. One card has been found in size I



Size I

Internal use

Khoy
to



Size III

Zenjan
To
Tabriz



Internal Use
Head of Shah
up right
 Maraghra
 to
 Tabriz
 Date in m/s
 H 1295
 = 1879



Head of Shah
down right
 Ardebil
 to
 Tabriz



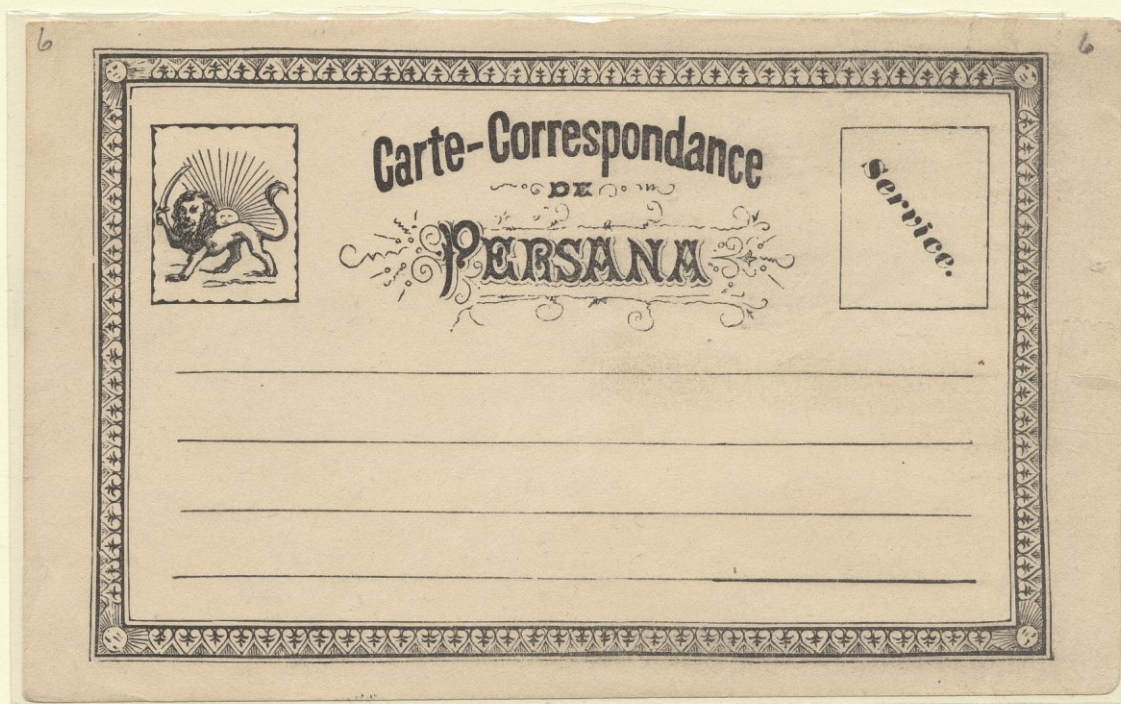
Head of Shah
up left
 Dilman
 to
 Tabriz

The 2nd Provisional Postcard was overprinted in **cursive "Service"** in different manners. To be used for official purpose. Introduced in 1879. A black **"free mail"** obliterator in negative was stamped across "Service" to prove that the mail had been sanctioned as **"official"**

Essay/Colour proof in yellowish. Size III

As card thickness is only **0,13 mm** (normal 0,32 mm) this card is most probably an essay or colour proof, as the card's paper is too thin for either writing a message on it or using it for mailing.

"Service" with full stop printed diagonally (**45 degree**) towards the lower right corner



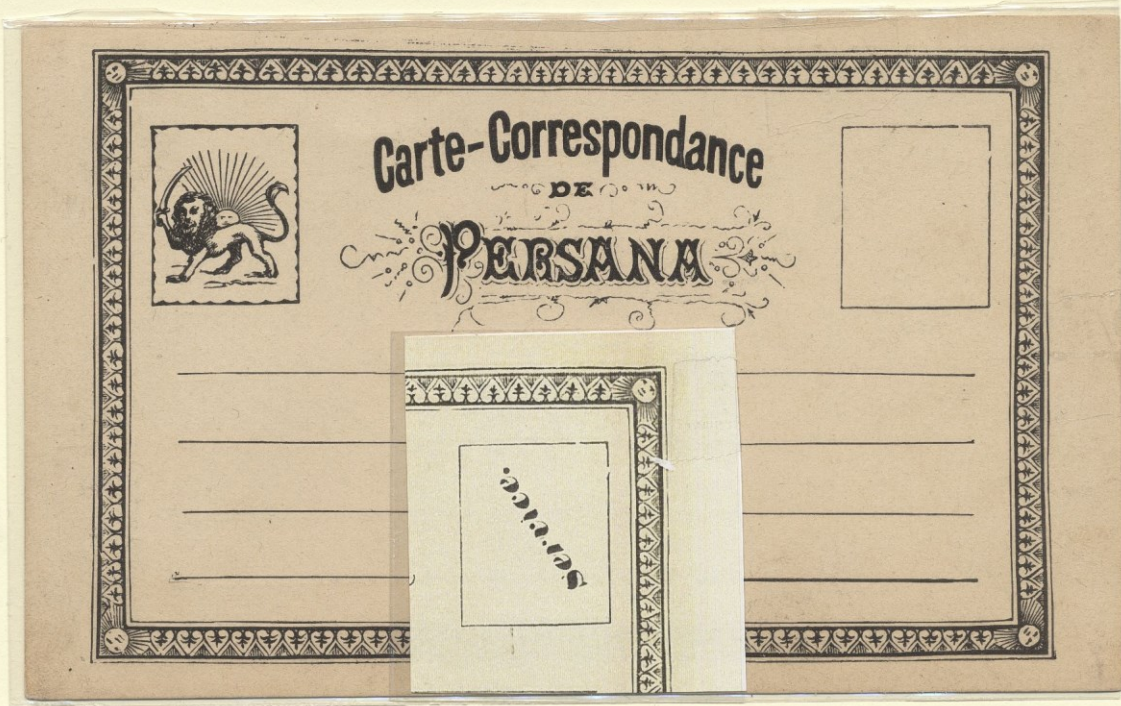
"Service" was normally printed diagonally in either **45 degree** incline or but less **50 degree** incline.

The card used was in different colours such as white, cream, buff, yellowish, grey, pink, blue, light violet, olive and red

Three sizes of the card can be distinguished

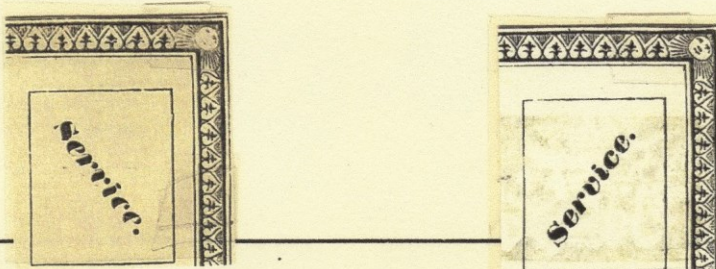
130 x 90 mm = Size I 137 x 90 mm = Size II
145 x 90 mm = Size III

"Service" inverted. 50 % incline



Square empty
on one side
"Service"
printed
inverted on
other side

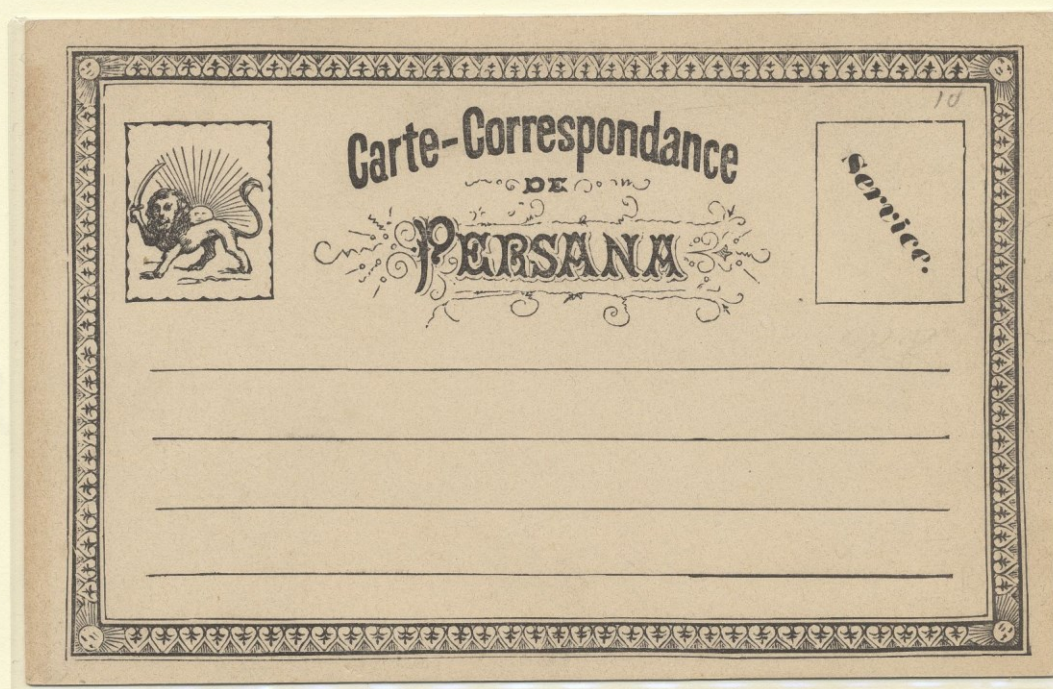
The exhibitor is here presenting a table of his classification of his own "study" of the various types of "Service" overprints and colors of the paper and which are currently known to members of the Iran Philatelic Study Circle. The Roman figures stand for size



colour	Service. 45°	Service. 50°	Service. 45°	Service. 50°
white	III (no dot)			(I)x(III III
cream	II+(II), III+(III)			(III)+III
buff	II+III, (II)+(III)	III		III
olive		(III)	II.	
red orange				(III)+III
blue				(I)
blue violet		III+(III)		III
red colour		III (no dot)		
grey	III (no dot)			

without () means mint; with () means used

45% incline w "dot". Upper left to lower right



Cards were
pre-
cancelled
in post
offices in
Azarbadjan
and
Teheran

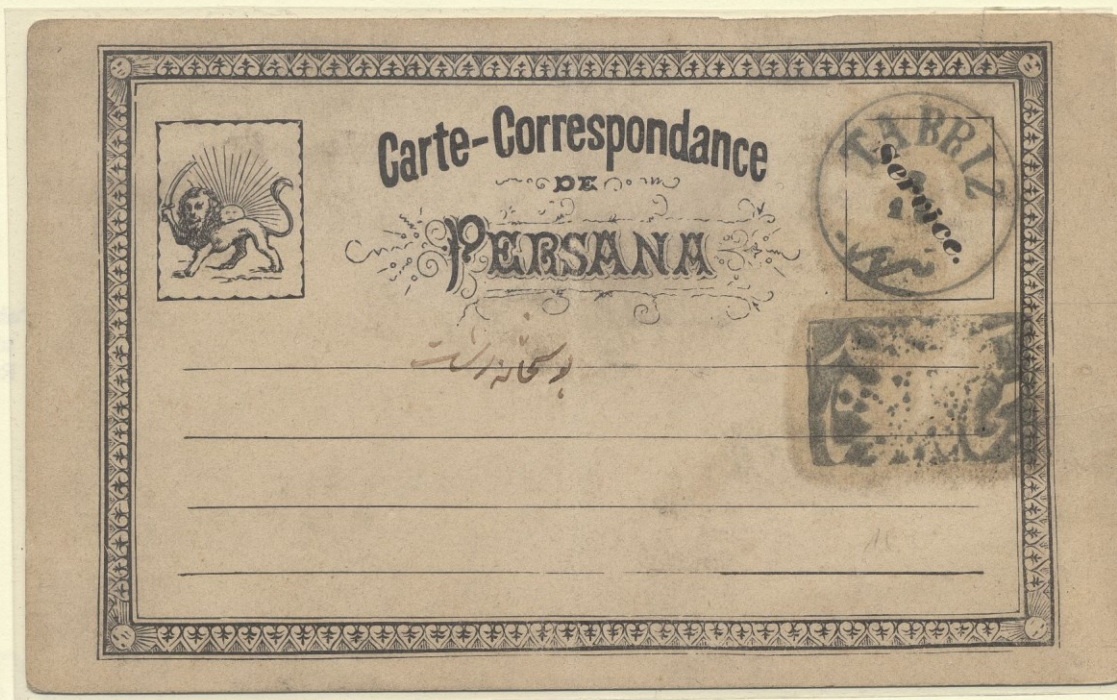
Maraghara
to
Teheran.
No
year date
given



Seen precancelled from Khoi, Dilman, Maragha, Ardebil, Urmia and Zenjan post offices

45% incline. Upper left to lower right

Year date rarely found on internal cards

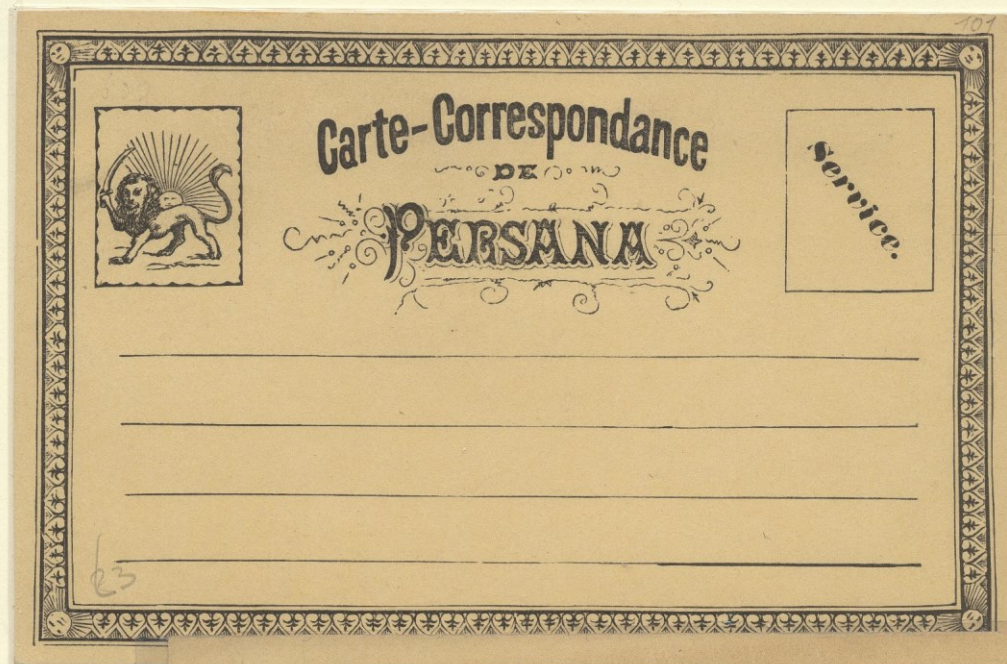


Tabriz
to
Recht



Khoi
to
Kazvin

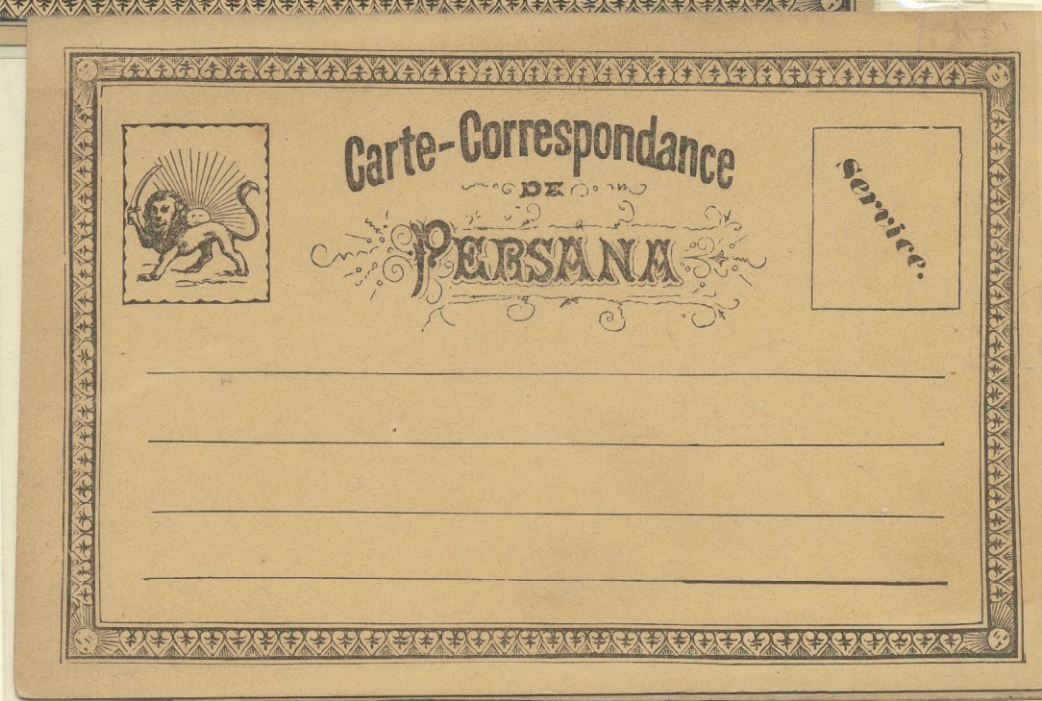
45% incline w "dot". Upper left to lower right



Different sizes

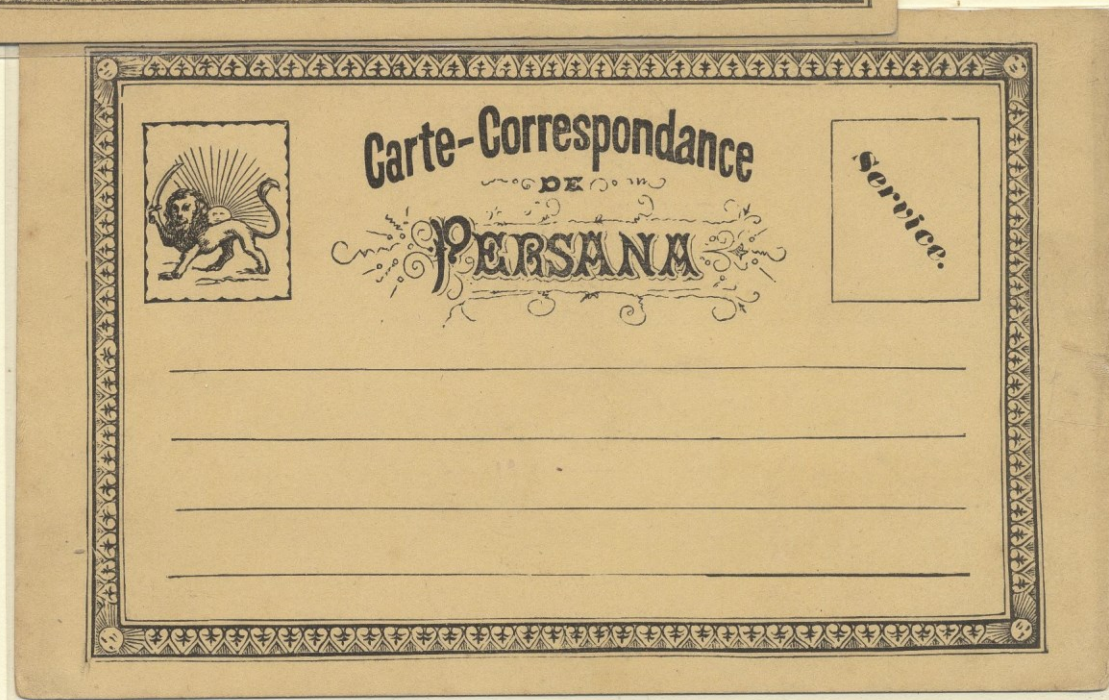
Size I

black



Size II

Grey
black



Size III

Black

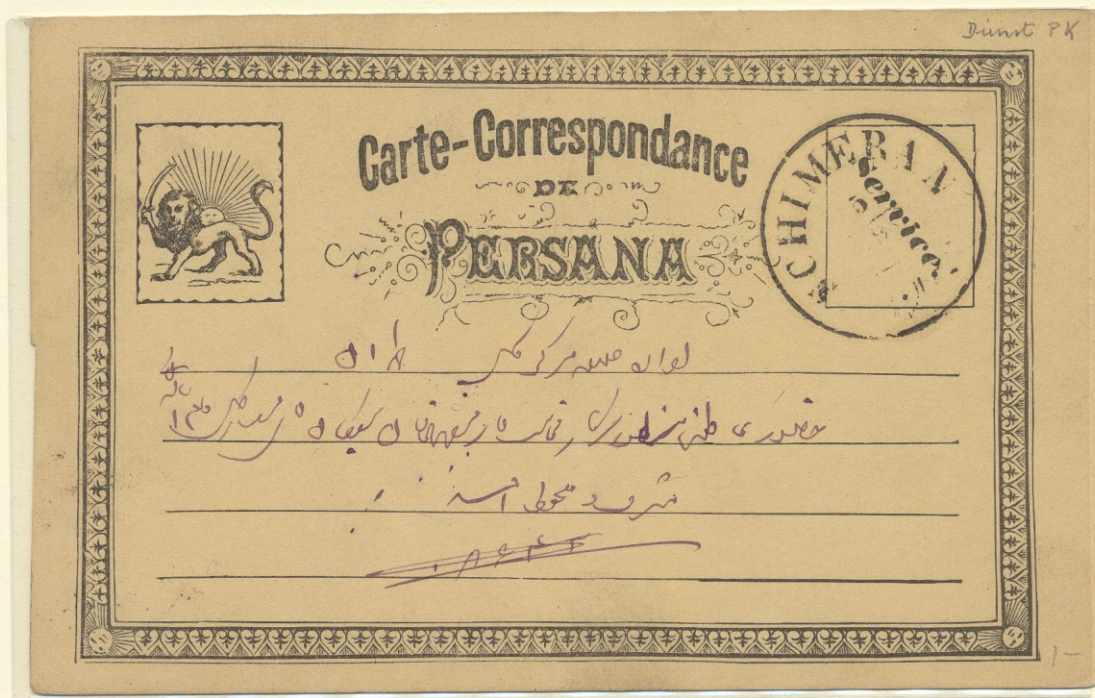
Buff Card

"Service" was printed diagonally in 45 degree incline from upper left corner to lower right corner

Seize III

This card was used **without** the negative "free mail" obliterator, most probably because the post office at the Schimeran, summer residence suburb for the Diplomatic Cour to Teheran, had not been supplied with such an obliterator.

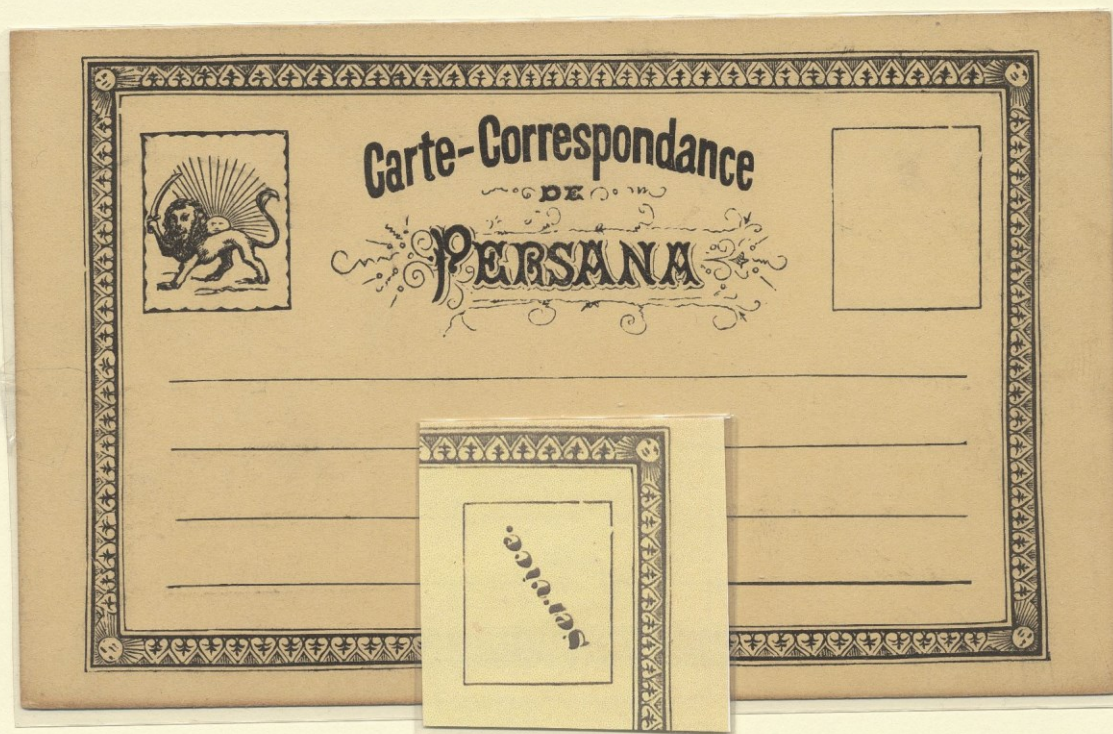
This is the only postcard recorded properly postally used without the "free mail" obliterator.



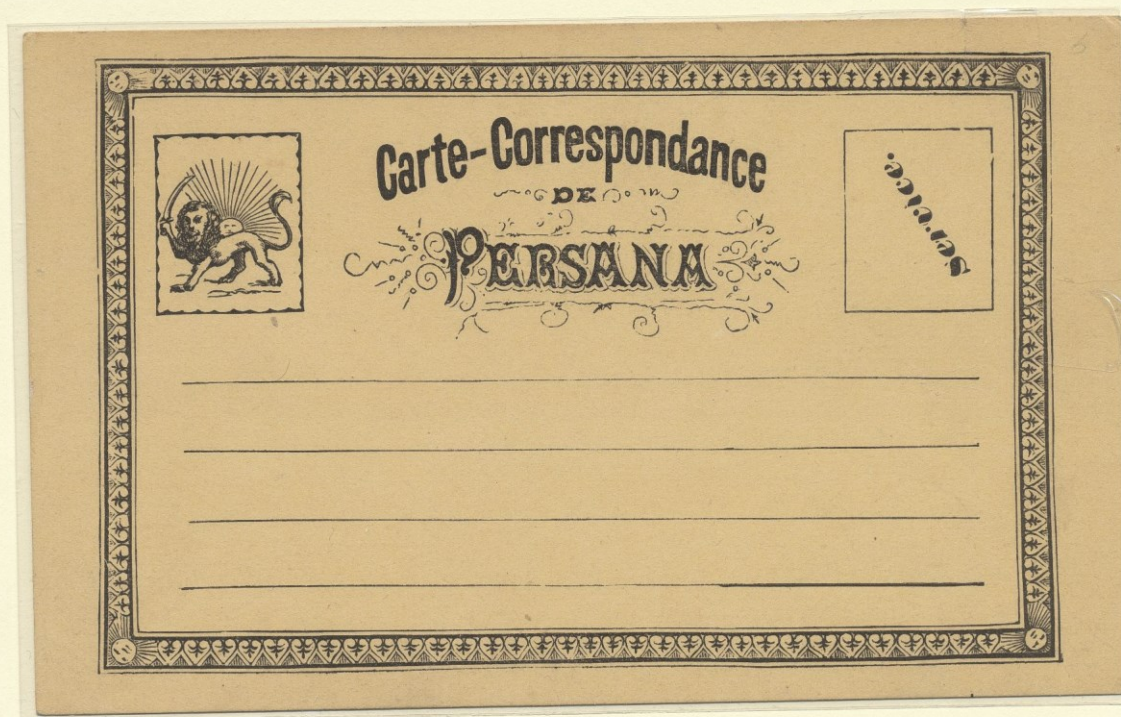
This postcard was sent from Schimeran, a suburb of Teheran, to Teheran with arrival cancellation at back. No year date indicated

Buff. Printed on both sides & inverted

On the one side there is no "service" in the square. On the other side the "Service" is printed from lower right corner towards upper left corner and with 50 degree incline

Size III**Inverted**

"Service" w/o stop printed diagonally in 50 degree incline from lower right corner to upper left corner



50% incline with "dot". Upper left to lower right

Pre-cancelled at various post offices. Normally no year dates

Urmia
to
Tabriz

With year date

From **Tabriz**
on
15 July 1879
as notated
to Teheran
where the
card
received
arrival mark



45% incline w "dot". Lower left to upper right
Two recorded of the blue color



Blue card
Zendjan
to Tabriz.

White

The only recorded white card of size 1



Mianeh
to Tabriz.

45% incline w "dot". Lower left to upper right



Two
recorded
from
Khoi

Khoi
to
Tabriz



The only
recorded
from
Ardebil

Ardebil
to
Tabriz

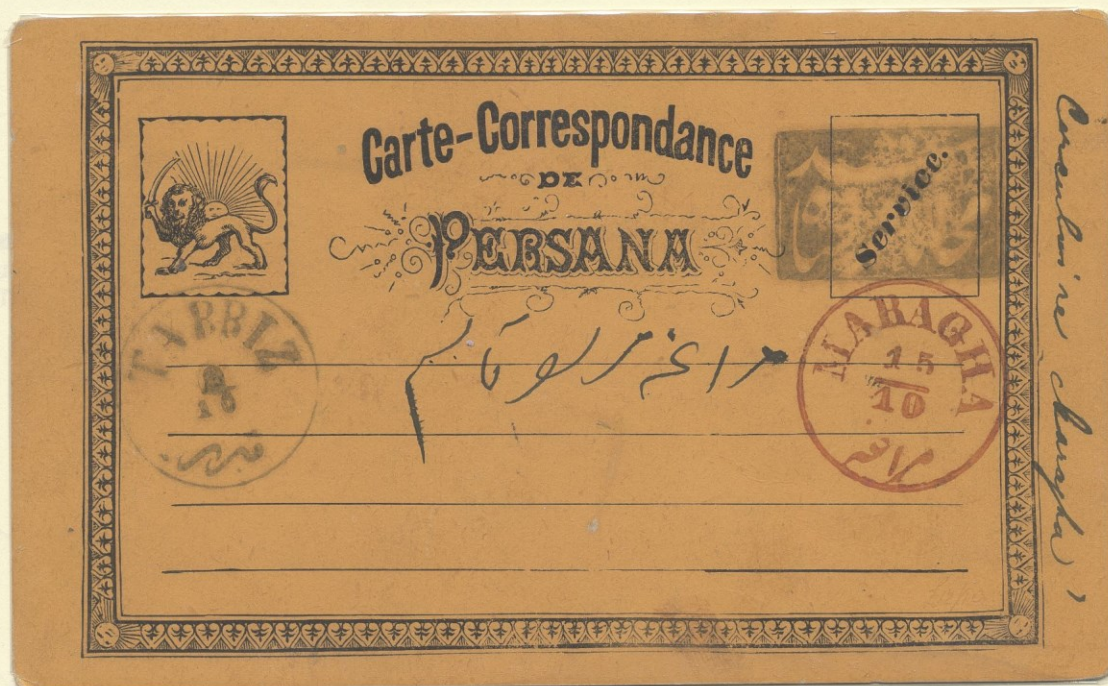
45% incline. One recorded



Sent from Maragha in north western Azarbadjan to Tabriz

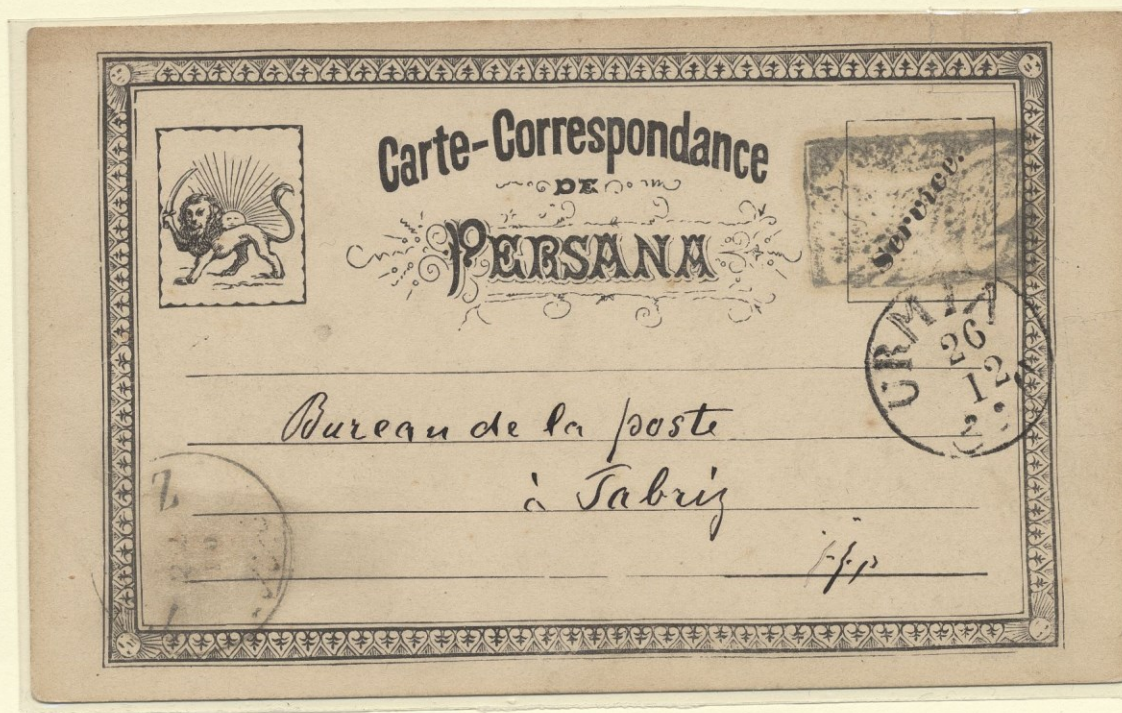
No year date indicated as usual

45% incline w "dot". Lower left to upper right



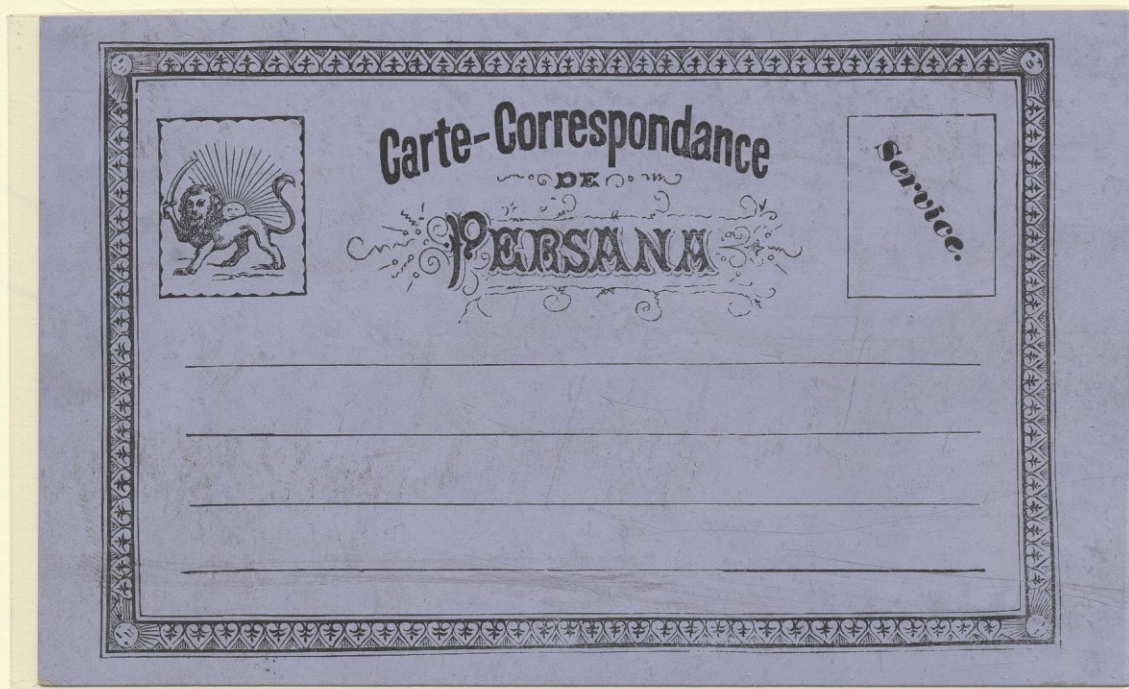
Maragha
to
Tabriz

White



Urmia
to
Tabriz

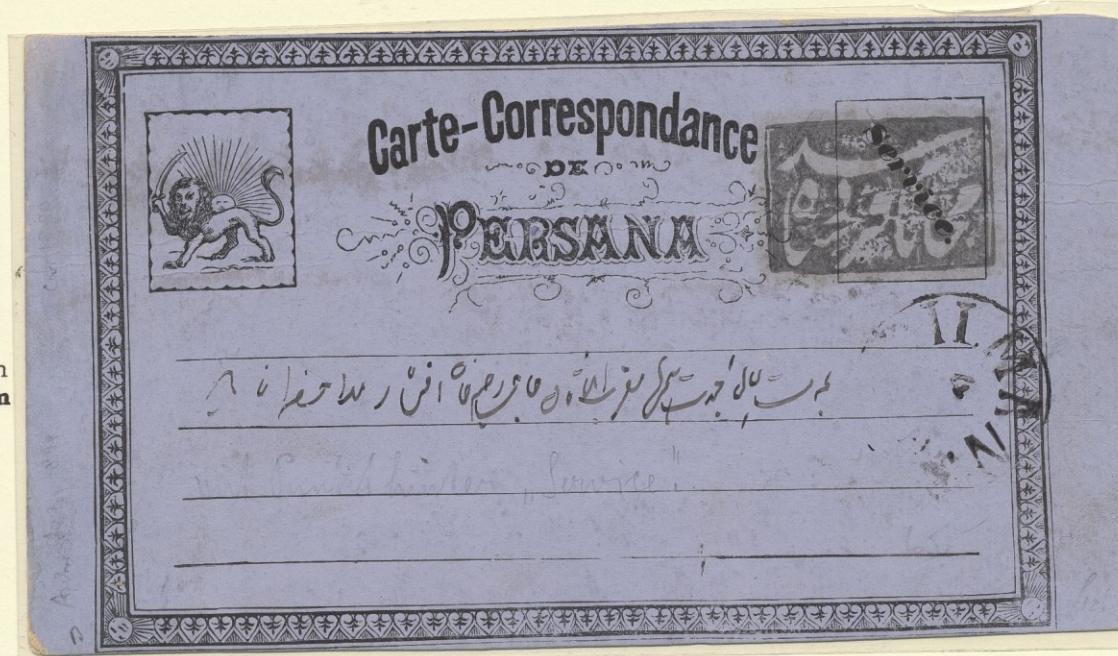
45% incline with "dot". Upper left to lower right



Only **one recorded** postally used

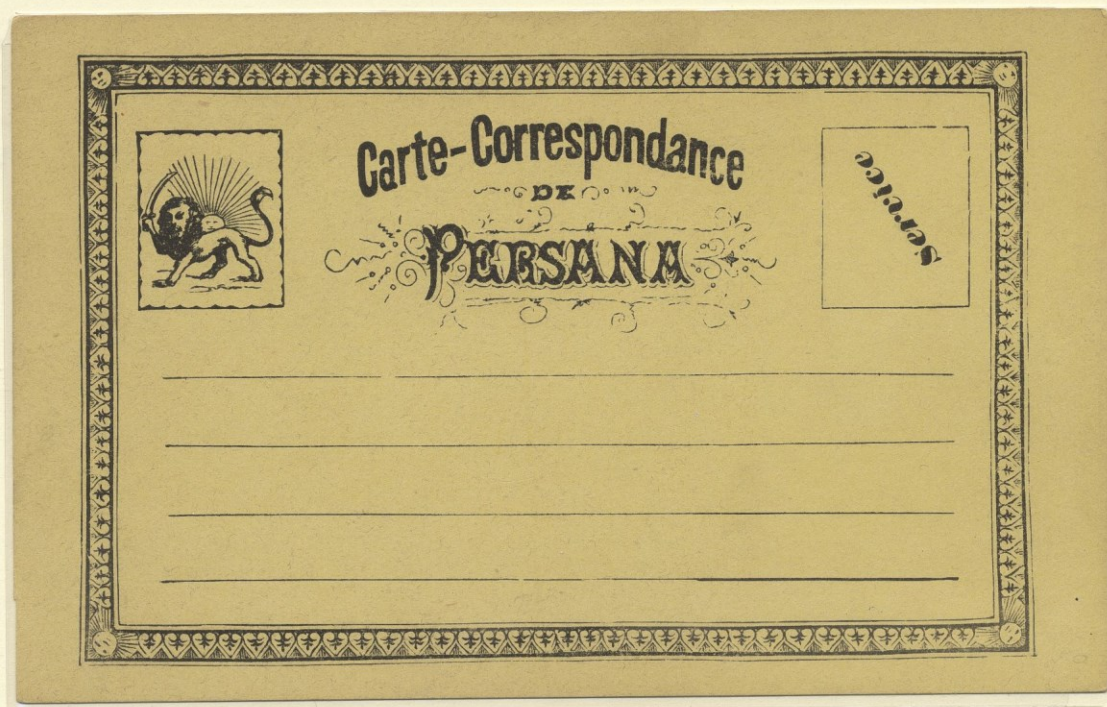
Dilman
to Tabriz

Normally
a card has
90 mm in
height
In this case
the cut
was made in
only 80 mm



50% incline w/o "dot". Upper left to lower right

Inverted



Two recorded mint. Used not recorded