

Russia and Persia Interpostal Relations 1850s-1926

An uneasy relationship based on Persia's geopolitical position. How a forceful neighbor opened up Persia and with other military input indirectly transformed it into a geopolitical state of importance

Scope & Statement: How Russian geopolitical power politics in Caucasus and Central Asia had a significant role in the development of Persia's international communications with Europe and beyond from the middle of the 19th century until the end of the Qajar period i.e. 1925/26. For a Persian postal system to function successfully it had to rely on and interact with primarily its northern neighbor, Russia, more than with either the Ottoman or the British-India at least in its early stage. In reality Persia was almost dependent- being the underdog – upon its relations with Russia (and GB though less) which both had capitulatory status that Russia took full advantage of. The Russian policy for political, economic, military influence, trade and postal matters was usually done by “force” – military or psychological – undermining the Shahs and their Governments. In addition both Russia and GB acted as loan sharks by demanding exorbitant interest rates for huge loans to the Shahs!

Purpose: - to show the importance and effects of Russian presence during both the Great Game and up to 1925/26 and how its political, economic and military pressure affected the development of Persia including its postal system and postal communications with Russia and beyond from the middle of the 19th Century until 1926.

- to present primarily relevant Russian and Persian philatelic items in each section based on known but at times uncertain ground, balanced with results of ongoing research at the Br. Library and the Br-Indian archives which cover all British and other relevant powers activities in the area during the period

- to present a picture of the revolutionary period and the constitutional crises and the Russian meddling and support to a very anti-democratic Shah; its consequences and how the creation of a Swedish-led Gendarmerie that first was supported by Russia but soon turned against it as it became a “threat”!

- how the Great War affected Persia badly as it became a war theater. The “Entente” w. Russia & GB and the Central Powers i.e. Germany & Turkey and its threatening Berlin-Constantinople-Bagdad railway project

- how Gilan was overtaken by communists who created the Gilan Soviet Socialist Republic 1920-21 and crushed.

- Feb 1921 Coup d'Etat by the Cossack Colonel Reza Khan who four years later created a new reign: Pahlavi!

- it should further be emphasized that the philatelic material in each section is of high rarity and can't be matched.

Part I. 1850's - 1905. Persia opens up.

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Persia opens up slowly in the Shadow of the Great Game. Pre-UPU routes and postal manners | 1 |
| B. Postal rules and regulations; Russia joined GPU/UPU 1875 and Persia September 1877. Other treaties with Russia 1877 & Turkey 1884 & 1892. Exch. P Os established | 2 |
| C. Ship mail on the Caspian Sea. Only Russian ship lines Its Exchange Post Offices for mail and parcel post | 3 |
| D. 1904 UPU Parcel Post Treaty. Parcel Exchange P Os | 3 |
| E. Insured Money Letters. Three totally different types. Conseil Sanitaire Convention | 4 |
| F. Russia strengthens its influence, International Disinfection schemes, Trade & Commerce, More Russian Consulates established | 4 |

Part II. Early 1900's-1926. Russian strength & might

- | | |
|---|---|
| G. Constitutional and Revolutionary times; Russian military. and political meddling. Russian Imperial Mission | 4 |
| H. Russian Consulate P.O.s & State P.O.s. from 1910s to WWI. Interaction activities, Germany's pre-war preparations, Rebellion groups against the Government | 5 |
| I. 1914-18 The Great War. Persia neutral. Russia & GB form Entente against the Turks and Germany. Rebellions against the Governm. Scarce censors. Von der Goltz Persian group | 6 |
| J. Russian occupation Northern-Persia, end WWI. War cont. Dunster- & Norperforce: strive for oil and fou against Communists & Jangali. | 7 |
| K. SSIR. Soviet Socialist Republic of Iran. Cossack units, Governm. & other censors. Irregular border mail. End of reign Pahlavi new! | 8 |

Treatment; Part I; 1850s–1905, pre-UPU mail and early postal routes, UPU-related postal treaties, rates and new routes and how various postal services could be established and how Persia benefitted from new Exchange post offices with Russia; how Russian influence affected the early development of Persian mail service not always in a positive manner.

“Part II” 1900s to 1926; a different type of headline is used due to the complexity of the story line: Often rectangular boxes assist in explaining specific events. Added to the title of the page. The emphasizes are about the consequences of the constitutional changes, democratic reforms, revolutions, Russian field Pos and foreign invasions, rebellions, etc; the pure philatelic aspects are here mostly of less importance.

Note: a page may have the information **Earliest recorded in red** or an item is marked by one or two **red** small circles to indicate their respective relevance in the story line though one could state that almost all items belong to the very scarce or rare groups. Personal investigation and research and other collectors and specialists in Russia itself, as well as ROSSICA and Iran Philatelic Study Circle have been very important for my understanding of the subject. My own contributions in research are also found in articles and books. See below.

A **blue small circle** indicates a new acquisition.

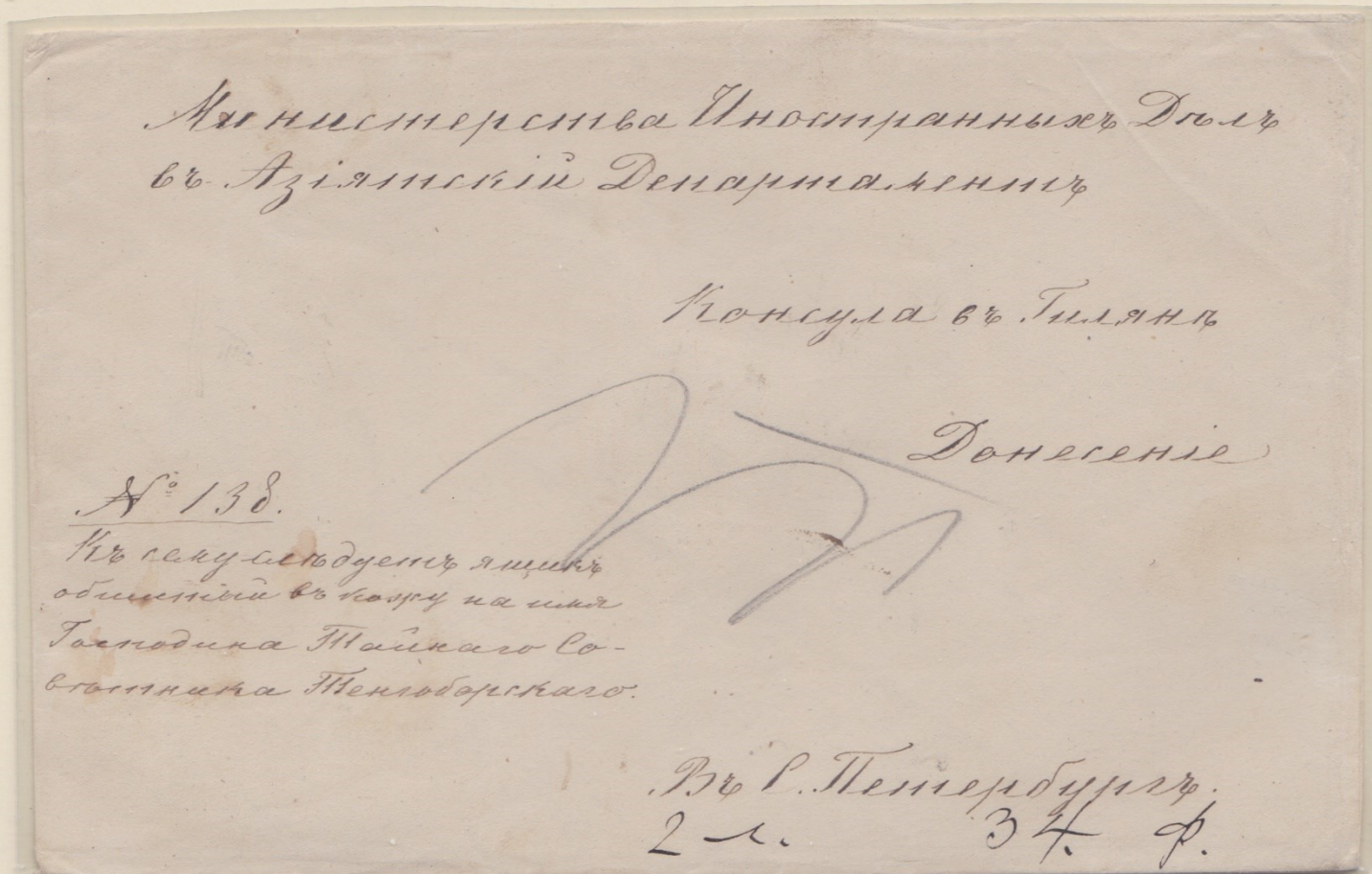
Important references. S.D.Tchillinghirian “Stamps of the Russian Empire Used Abroad,” Part 3, 1958; L. Ratner. Auxiliary post-offices of the Russian Post Offices, 2012; B. Sohrne. “Russia's postal presence and relationships with Persia till the 1920's” in AEPs OPUS 2012 p. 166-197; G. Migliavacchi. Concise Postal History of Persia; Imperial War Museum, UK, in 1987 published “Operations in Persia 1914-1919; A. Vinokurov/A. Epstein. The Russian Field Post, 1914-1918; F Mossavar-Rahmani & B Sohrne: Illustrated postmarks of Iran, 1876- 1925; IPSC & ROSSICA(US) & GBRJ Bulletins; Discussions with specialists and members of ROSSICA notably Howard Weinert, USA, Alexander Epstein, Andrey Averkiev, Dr. Casey (deceased), and within Iran Philatelic Study circle; Farzin Mossavar-Rahmani, G. Migliavacchi. Behruz Nassre, Iraj Eftekhari, Bernard Lucas, Mano Amarloui and others.

Note: The Julian (Russian) calendar was 12 days behind the Gregorian from 1800 to 1900; 13 days thereafter

Persian letter to Russia, 1855. Earliest recorded in private hands

With Russia's victory over Persia and the 1828 Peace Treaty of Turkmenchai Russia got economic and military hegemony: to establish consulates anywhere in the North of Persia to promote trade and the importation of solely Russian products with trading and monopoly of trade on the Caspian Sea w. Russian shipping lines

No normal postal services existed in Persia until 1876. Mail, incoming or outgoing, had to use the courtesy of the Russian consular **courier** system such as in this case. The letter was sent by the Russian consul in Recht, in Gilan province via the port of Enzeli at the Caspian. By ship to Astrakhan at the north of the Caspian Sea then by the Russian postal services, delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St Petersburg, via Astrakhan 13 July 1855 (Julian)



The consul M. Gamazov in Recht, Gilan (1854-1856) on behalf of his assistant Adolf Tengoborsky sent to his relative Ludwig Tengoborsky at the Asiatic Dep of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St P.

At the lower left, in m/s: "to accompany the leather box to Privy Councilor (Ludwig) Tengoborsky



Ludwig Tengoborsky 1793-1857, was an economist and chairman of the Tariffs Committee of the State Council

The wax seal reads "Imperial Russian Consulate in Gilan"

Below is an enlarged (115%) rectangular postmark of Astrakhan



The Opening Up of Persia

Pre-UPU

The earliest incoming Russian mail to Persia. Mar 1858

The famous **Khorasan Expedition** (N.E.Persia) scientific and scientific expedition to Persia 1858 to promote Russian influence and commerce, and counter Britain's It had its center in Dorpat and Tiflis. A courier service involving Russian Consulates in Persia was organised

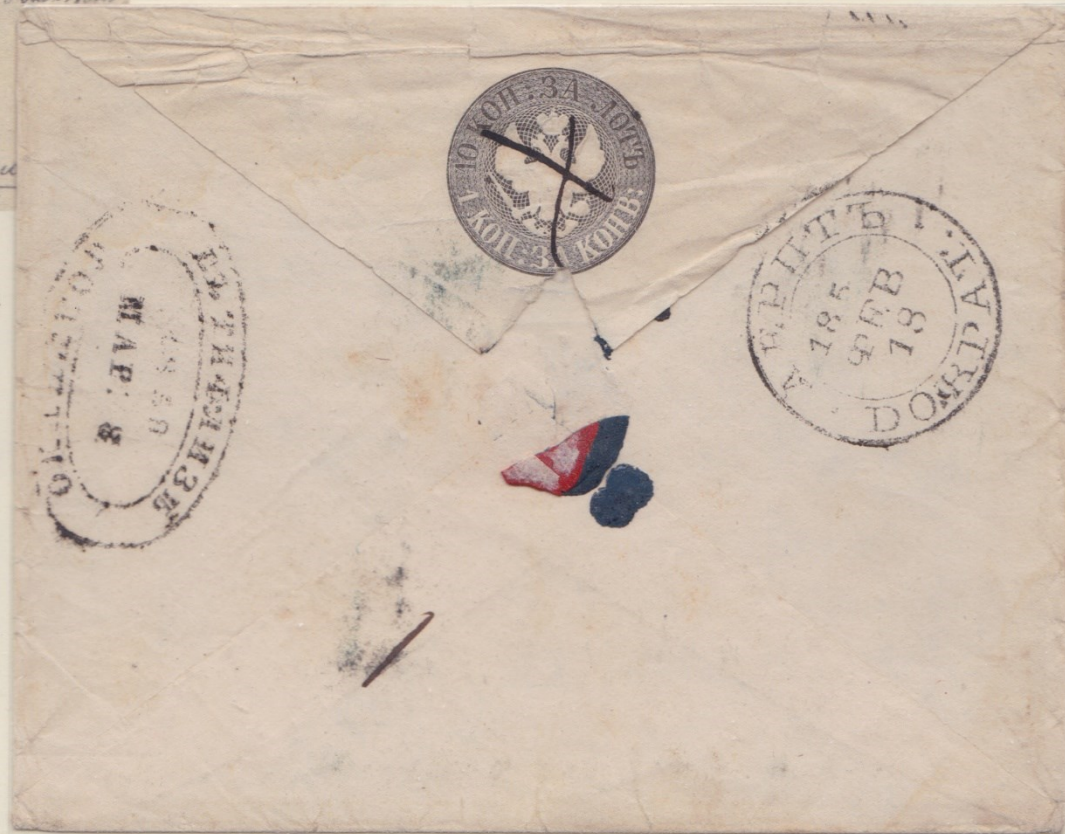
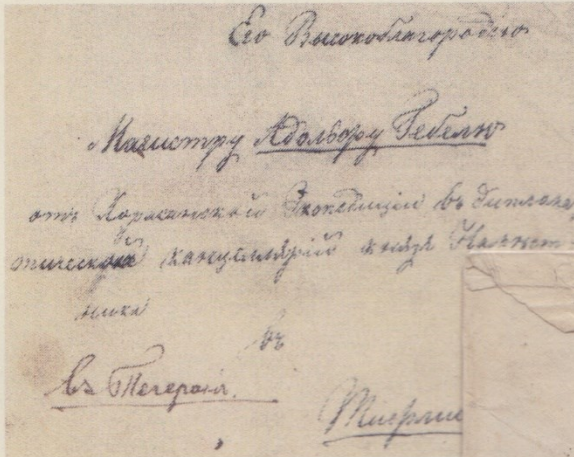
Early taste of the Great Game. Rivalry!

Postmarked in Dorpat 18.2.58) and Tiflis (8.3), both Julian. Courier routed via Nakhichevan to Teheran. Addressed to Adolph Goebel, the leader and geologist by profession

Rates: Either to Persia from Russia or to Russia from Persia the total postage was 1 ruble i.e. 10 kopek prepaid and the other 90 kop collected for the courier service on arrival from the addressee. P. stat. envelopes cost the face value + 1 kop for the envelope.

Markings:

The postage stamp is no 2 in Scott. First issue.



Schedule of expedition:

Jan 1858 in Tiflis **March:** Baku
April: via Baku by ship to Ashurada

May: explored Mazanderan and Khorasan, N & N E Persia

June/July Meched; **Aug:** Herat

End 1858: Sistan then Khorasan

1859 - Jan-June Keman, Isfahan Yezd to Teheran

20 June. Expedition Disbanded

Its mail in care of the diplomatic chancellery of the Caucasian viceroy in Tiflis

Map showing Persia's territorial losses and gains to Russia and the Ottoman Empire

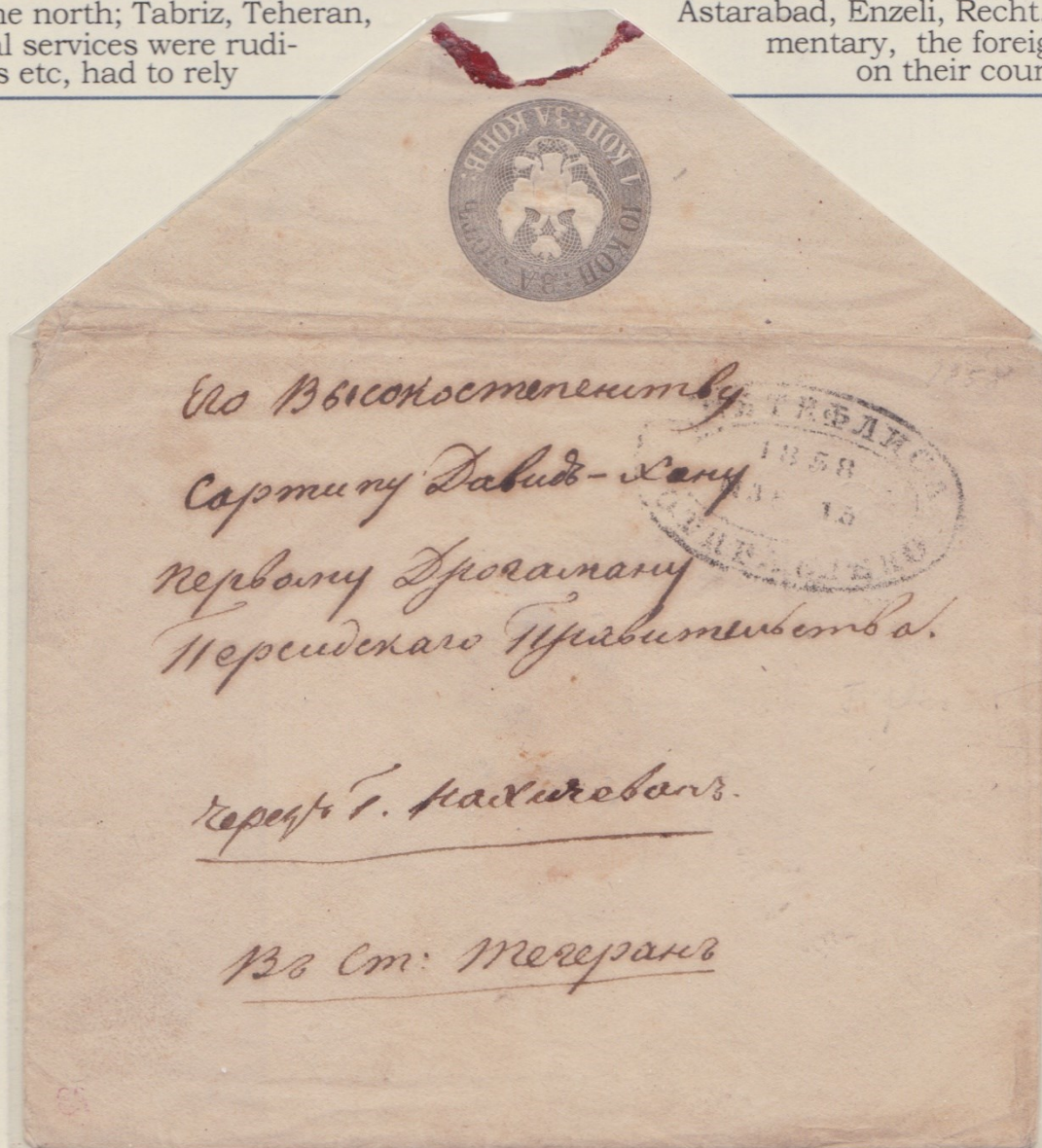
since 1813. Also no right own shipping lines at the Caspian. Russian goods paid no custom duty. Russia could open consulates any place in the North



The Opening Up of Persia

Russian mail to Persia. March 1858 from Tiflis via Nakhichevand to Teheran

Early mail from the **Khorasan Expedition 1858-60** and the **third earliest** recorded incoming **from Russia**. Russian Consulates in Persia was already established in important trading cities in the north; Tabriz, Teheran, Astarabad, Enzeli, Recht. As the Persian postal services were rudimentary, the foreign missions on their courier services



Rates: 10 kop abroad until 1877; 90 kop extra for courier service in Persia

Russian Power Game

Enlarged map showing Russian penetration in the Caucasus and Trans-Caspian areas overtaking previously hold Persian territories in the 19th century



The Opening Up of Persia

The **second earliest** known mail from Persia to Russia and the **first franked**. 1858

Early Postal Routes between Russia and Persia

From the 1850s mail from Baku or Tiflis to Europe travelled by the Russian-Military Road across Caucasus to Vladikavkaz, then Rostov, S:t P-burg and on to the border of Europe. Mail entering Russia at Baku prior to Nov. 1899, most went to Tiflis (from May 1883 by rail to Baku). Some went via Astrakhan (see p.1) to north Russia. After Nov. 1899, mail from Baku by rail via Dagestan. Another possibility developed in the 1850s by ROPIT that took mail from Odessa to Poti along the northern side of the Black Sea. Then Poti (and later 1878 changed to Batum)

Letter from Astrabad, Persia, via Nakhichevan, Tiflis, Vladikavkaz, Rostov, S:t Petersburg to Dorpat (Tartu in Estonia) in 1858



Rates: Astrabad Russian Consulate supplied the stamp 10 kopeks and 90 kopeks for the Courier the courier service

Routes: From Astrabad, Persia by courier to Nakhichevan. on 6 June 1858 [Friday] arriving DERPT+ POLUHENO (= "Dorpat received") on 25 June. Mail left Nakhichevan for Tiflis on Fridays

Markings: NAXIHEVAN and a rectangular DERPT POLUHENO (at back)

Sender: Sent by Adolph Goebel [1826-1895] to himself



German was the language of instructions at the university of Dorpat that was reopened 1802. Originally opened by Sweden in 1632 when the area was a Swedish province, Livonia

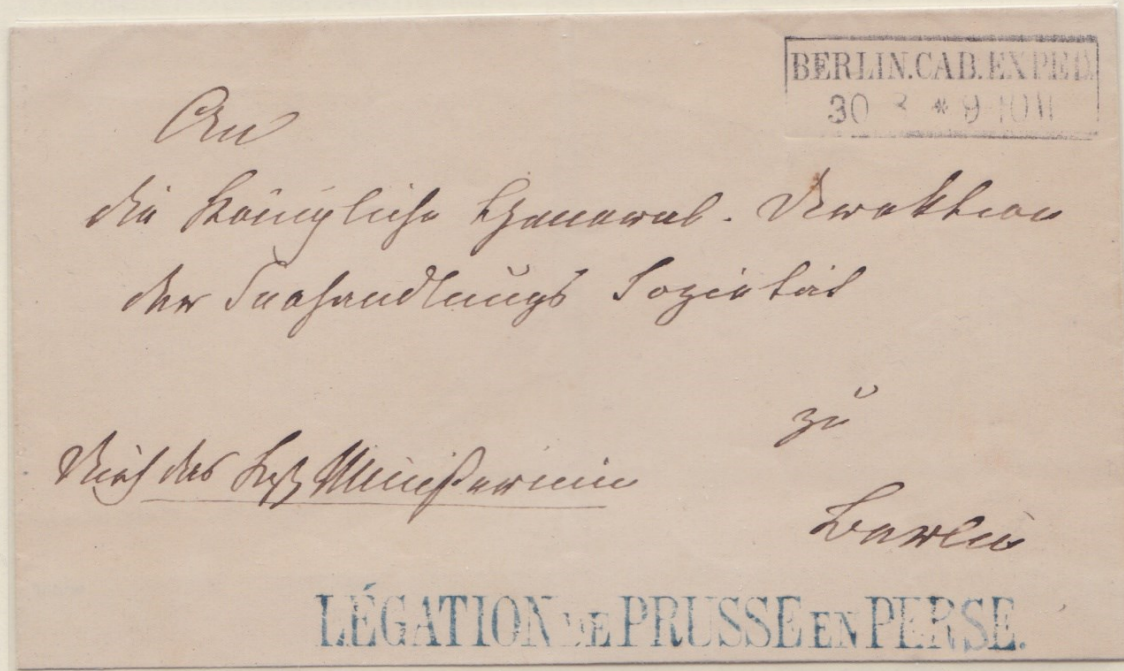
Preussen Promotes Diplomatic Mission in 1860

LÉGATION DE PRUSSE en PERSE

Mail Route "via Vienna": Tabriz-Tiflis-Poti-Trabesont-Constantinopel-Wien-Berlin

A Special Mission to Persia 1860/61 led by Count Julius von Minutoli, the famous ex-police chief of Berlin, was sent to open a permanent mission in the country. Minutoli's position was Prussian Minister-president and Consul-General to Persia. He died of cholera in Shiraz in southern Persia on the 5th of Nov 1860. The Mission was dissolved.

Letter sent from Persia to Berlin about July 1860



Purpose: Preussen supported the Shah of Persia's interest in opening up his country and its need to promote closer diplomatic relations with the more important countries of Europe for that purpose

The route and time of arrival: von Minutoli used the **Russian courier** system to keep in touch with Prince Wilhelm von Preußen, My of Commerce and "die königliche General-Direktion der Seehandlungs Societät". (see below)

L. von Minutoli's own hand writing (acc. to the Minutoli Society. Germany. See below)

As stated in the book of Minutoli. (Free translation); Mail was taken by courier to Tiflis, the capital of Russian Georgia. From there by Russian courier through Caucasus to Trabezunt and Istanbul from where the mail was taken care of by a German Courier sent via Vienna and Berlin

In German; "Durch einen diplomatischen Kurier waren sie von Teheran nach Täbris, dann nach Tiflis transportiert worden. Über einen russischen Kurier gelangten sie durch den Caucasus nach Trapezunt, von dort nach Istanbul. Dort hatte sie ein deutscher Kurier übernommen und sie nach Wien, dann nach Berlin gebracht. Hier wurde auf die einzelnen Umschläge rechts oben ein Rahmenstempel aufgedrückt."

And the "auf die einzelnen Umschläge rechts oben ein Rahmenstempel aufgedrückt, z.B." means the text in small rectangular box to be understood as "**BERLIN CABINETT EXPEDITION**" and dated **30.8.[18]60** and the time are given therein. Without this **very important information** it would be quite difficult if not impossible to find out the date of the cover as the content is not include

The Society of the family von Minutoli" (Minutoli-Gesellschaft Berlin e.V.)

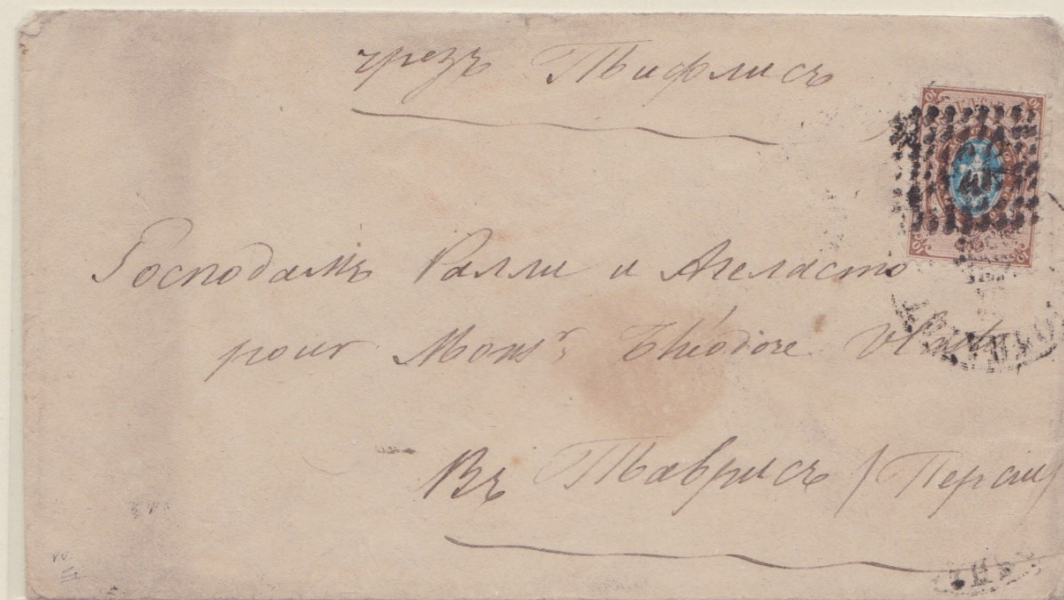
There is a Minutoli Society in Germany that has published a set of three books about Julius von Minutoli's life and stay in Persia: **See** "Reisen im Auftrag preussischer Könige gezeichnet von Julius von Minutoli", ed. by Dorothea Minkels who is President for "the Society of the family von Minutoli" (Minutoli-Gesellschaft Berlin e.V.)

Early Incoming Courier Letter from Russia in 1860

By courier from Tiflis to Tabriz via Nakhichevan as no proper Persian postal service existed in Persia until Sep. 1877

There is substantial reason to believe that the Russian Consular Mission at Tabriz in Azarbadjan province in the N.W. also assisted in handling certain privileged mail to be forwarded to other places via an agency possibly as early as the 1850s. However, the Russian Mission did get a regular consular postal services it seems in 1866 and after Djulfa replaced Nakhichevan as the new border station with Persia the same year.

Letter from Taganrog, Russia, via Vladikavkaz, Tiflis and Nakhichevan 1860
Only a **few earlier incoming letters from Russia recorded** by then



Taganrog
date stamp

Rates: 10 kopek for abroad

Routes: From Taganrog, a port in southern Russia. The dotted postmark, #121, used at Taganrog. A circular date stamp of Taganrog 16 Dec. 1860, at back. Same postmark is mirrored on the front overlapping the stamp (accidentally)

The letter went via Vladikavkaz, across the Caucasus to Tiflis, Georgia as per m/s on front
The letter entered Persia via Nakhjavan end 1860/early 1861 by courier to Tabriz

Addressed to Ralli and Agelasto, Greek merchant company in Tabriz, capital in Azarbadjan province situated in NW of Persia

Remarks: The French inscription on the back was written by Vlasto. The first line is "1860/61". The second line is "Taganrog le 4+ 10 Decembre". The third line is "reponse le 23/4 Fevrier". So the letter inside the envelope was written on two dates: 4 Dec. and 10 Dec. (both old style), but not mailed until 16 Decem. Vlasto answered the letter on 23 Jan. 1861 (old style) or 4 Feb. 1861 (new)

The Ralli family was Greek who owned one the largest shipping, trading, and banking company in the world. They had offices in Constanople, France, Russia, Turkey, Persia, and all through the Mediterranean. The firm in Taganrog as called Ralli and Scaramanga (1837-1866). They operated in Liverpool, Constantinople, Trebizond, and Tavriz under the name Ralli and Agelasto (1837-1871). Vlasto was the son of one of the Ralli women.

Forwarded Letter from Russia in 1861

**Addressed to Tabriz. Redirected to Recht, both in northern Persia
via Nakhichevan (Nakhjavan) Post Office**

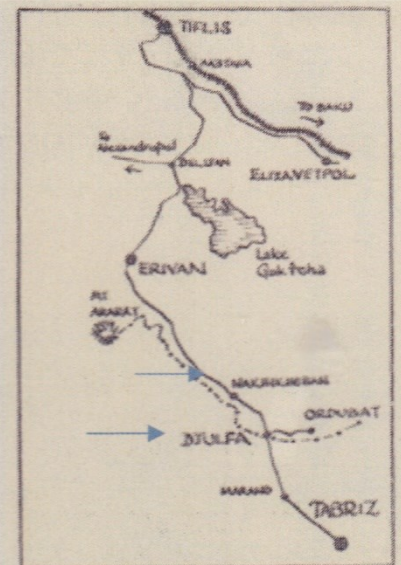
There is a possibility that the Russian Mission at Tabriz in Azarbadjan province in the N.W. of Persia also assisted in handling merchant mail to be forwarded to other places via an agency possibly as from the 1850s. However, the Russian Mission's "regular" postal services for privileged customers seems to have started in 1866. See later

Russian PO at the border station Julfa was only established in early 1864
(Russian Post Office Notice #4 dated 20 Jan. 1866)

Only **two pre-UPU forwarded letters from Russia** are recorded. (Indian mail excluded)



Map of route
Tiiflis to Tabriz
via
Nakhichevand



Nakhichevand



Rates: 10 kopek for abroad

Routes: Folded letter sent from Russia via Tiflis, Georgia as per m/s and Nakhjavan arriving 23 Feb 1861 and dep. 26 (Julian calendar) postmarks. Addressed to a Greek merchant in Tabriz, capital in Azarbadjan province, situated in NW of Persia.

Forwarded to Recht in the Gilan province as per m/s,

AUSTRIAN ROUTES FOR PERSIA AND TURKEY IN ASIA

Organized routes for mail to this area have existed since centuries

To reach Persia after the Russian-Persian peace treaty at Turkmenchai in 1828, mail could be taken from Trebizond by ship – instead of via Bayazid - to Poti and later Batum at the Georgian Black Coast, now Russian territory in Caucasus. Transiting via Tiflis through Armenia and Nakhdjivan and later Djulfa at the border between Russia and Persia to reach Tabriz and Teheran.

This printed Postal Notice from England in 1862 informs the public about the handling of mail to Persia, etc.



LETTERS

FOR

PERSIA, TURKEY IN ASIA, OR
ASIA MINOR,

FORWARDED BY AUSTRIAN MAIL PACKETS.

INFORMATION has been received from the Austrian Post Office that Letters for Erzeroum, and other parts of the interior of Armenia, or for Persia, intended for transmission by the Austrian Packets, should be sent to the care of some Agent at Samsoun or at Trebizond, who will forward them to their destination; and that all Letters addressed to those places in Turkey in Asia and Asia Minor in which there are no Austrian Post Offices, should be addressed to the care of an Agent residing in the nearest port at which an Austrian Post Office has been established.

When not addressed to the care of an Agent, the postage of such Letters as far as the port of disembarkation **MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE**; but, even in that case, the further transmission of these Letters cannot be depended upon.

By Command of the Postmaster-General,

ROWLAND HILL,

Secretary.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

29th November, 1862.

1527

Printed by W. P. Colverton & Co. Stationers, 10, Abchurch Lane, London, W.C.

Russian Consular Postal Service. Tabriz in NW Persia

In function two periods: 1866/67-Aug 1877

Reopened: at least between 1914 to 1918

The Russian Consular Postal Service from Tabriz, NW Persia to abroad via Julfa, the border station in Armenia, Russia, predated the Persian Postal Services to abroad. It lasted until the 1st of September 1877 when Persia joined the GPU/UPU. The service seems to have included Russian subjects as well as privileged foreign/Persian companies and persons. Mail, franked with Russian stamps but not cancelled was taken in a diplomatic bag to Russian Julfa where it was cancelled by the civil PO with the dot type. The Russian service had no relations with Persia's own rudimentary postal service at the time. During WWI, it is known it gave assistance to the Persian postal service at times

This is the earliest of the four known letters from Tabriz

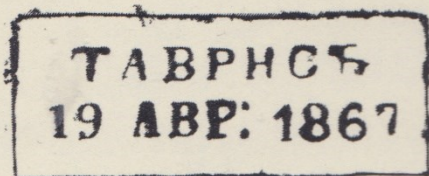
It is one of the most important of all Russian mail used anywhere abroad

Tabris Consular Post Office

From Djulfa 31 Aug 1867, via Djulfa 5 Sept 1867 and arrived Tiflis 8 Sept 1867

Tabriz

Tabriz despatch date 19 Aug 1867
(Julian calendar)



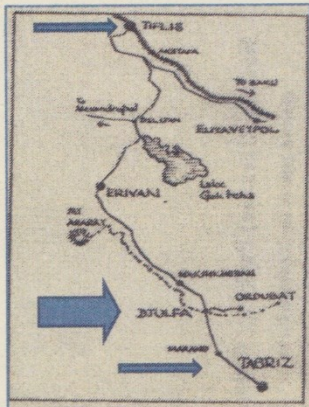
Djulfa Russian PO

Truncated triangle



Djulfa despatch date
24 Aug 1867
(Julian calendar)

Map of the Route Tabriz - Djulfa - Tiflis



Service in 1867
L. Akhmed

Provenance. Dr Casey

Dr Casey has written extensively about the history of this - the earliest cover in "The POSTRIDER" No 11, 1982. P 33-35.

Russian Consular Postal Service. Tabriz in NW Persia

In function two periods: 1866/67–Aug 1877

Reopened: at least between 1914 to 1918

The **latest of the four recorded** Russian letters from the Russian Consular Post Office in Tabriz. Soopen afterwards, 1st of September 1877. Persia joined GPU/UPU and Russia consequently closed its service

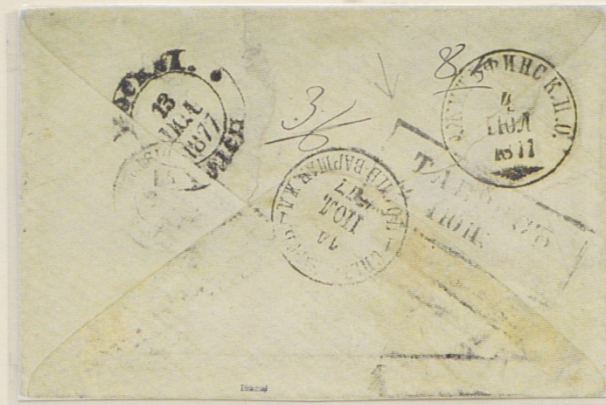
Tabriz Consular Post Office

Letter sent from Tabriz 1877 to Paris

Russian foreign rate 8 kopek introduced in 1874

Reference: Liphschutz & Maslowski, BJRP No 43, p 23

Dr. R. Casey: Three items of Persia Interest, The POST RIDER, No 11, 1982



Rates: 8 kopek to abroad. Changed from 10 to 8 kopek in 1874. An 8 kop stamp of 1875 issue was applied

Routes: Tabris by mail bag via Djulfa border station. The Russian P O cancelled 4 July 1877 (J), Tabriz (not clear), Moscow 13 July/1877, Warsaw 14 July/77 (all Julian) to Paris

Markings: The rectangular obliterator in Russian reads "TABRIZ 19 AUG 1867" (Julian) together with a cyrillic straight line "DESPATCHED FROM DJULFA 24 AUG 1867" in Russian

Russian Route used by French Courier

Letter to Sweden via Paris 1872

French-Swedish Postal Treaty 1 Feb 1868 – 31 Dec 1875

French courier to Paris went – most likely - via Tiflis, Batum, Trebizond to Istanbul and Paris

The French Foreign Service in Paris posted it to Sweden as postage due in accordance with the Treaty

Sent by Dr Fagergren* probably in April or May 1872 by French courier to Paris arriving 23 May and transferred to Sweden in a closed bag

One of the earliest recorded letters to Sweden from the Middle East



Hakim (Doctor)
Fagergren
Seal



Enlarged

Swedish Railway
postmark



Enlarged

The notes "3" and "168" shows the postage due for the 3d weight class (56 öre for the 1st weight class and 112 öre for the 2nd = 168 öre). The postage due had to be hand written since there was no postage due. handstamp for the 3d weight class which is the case here. The cancellations inform that the letter was sent in closed bag from Paris. The bag was opened and then cancelled by the postal compartment on the Southern Main line (Södra stambanan)

Both Paris and Södra Stambanan were exchange POs as regulated in the 2nd postal treaty

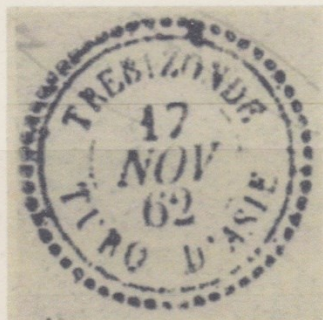
*The sender **Dr Conrad Fagergren** was at the time the only Swedish person in Persia. He was a medical doctor and a high ranking officer residing mainly in Shiraz in southern Persia about 1846 to 1878. He was married to a local Armenian lady. The seal Fagergren. Hakim. (=doctor) This is the **only cover from Persia** by Fagergren in private ownership The addressee was "Palmgrens Mekaniska Verkstad" a company set up in 1871 specializing in business cards and other office documents. The company soon changed its name to "Motala Mekaniska Verkstad" and became an important company in the development of Swedish industrialization.

Route Rivalry between Russia & Turkey

Europe to & from Persia, "via Trebizonde" would likely prefer Turkish Route

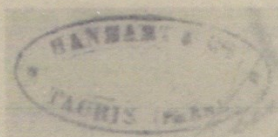
Letter sent by Hanhart & Cie at Tabriz to Italy by courier that reached the agent

"G. Hochstrasser & Co/Trebizonda" in 1862

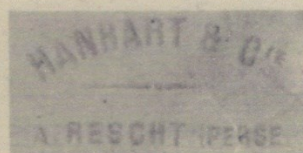


TREBIZONDE TURQ D'ASIE

17 NOV 62 transit postmark

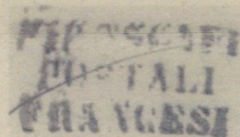


HANHART & C^{IE} TAURIS (PERSE)



HANHART & C^{IE} RESCHT (PERSE)
watermark

Note: Existence of watermark paper from Rescht is indicative of high level of French company operations in Persia.



FIROSCAPI POSTALI FRANCESI

Rates: Double 20 ctms

Routes and markings: Tabriz, Oct 1862, via Bayazid border station, Trebizond 17 Nov, Constantinople 28 Nov. Then French steamer as per red handstamp **FIROSCAPI POSTALE FRANCESI**, probably via Malta, another vessel to Genoa 5 Dec, onforwarded via Torino and Lario

A number of postmarks explained in the text or shown by picture "per Genoua" in m/s

Austrian Route for Persia and Turkey in Asia

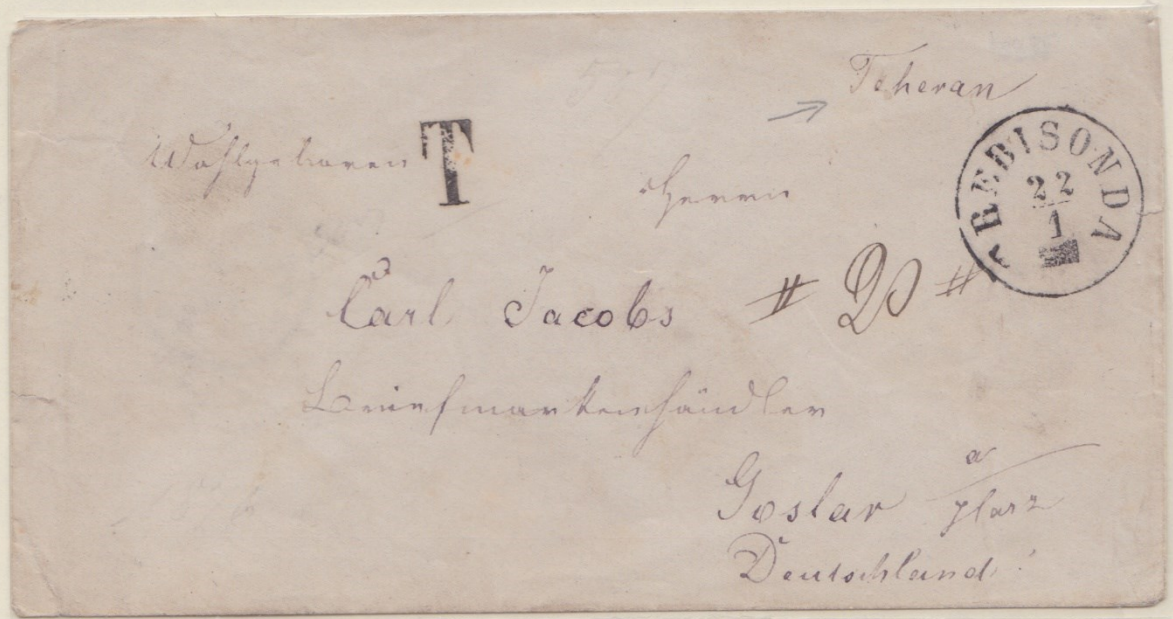
Wien – Danube – Varna – Constantinople – Trebizond – Tiflis – Tabriz

The Shah, during his first visit to Europe in 1873, got much impressed by the efficiency of the Austrian postal services. He requested the assistance of the Austrian Emperor to get some postal experts to help modernise the Persian administration following European principles which was endorsed

Von Riederer with assistant arrived to Teheran in early 1875

Before von Riederer's new administration, from early 1876, the only possibility to send a franked letter abroad was to use the Russian Consular PO as already explained

This practice ended in Sep 1877 when Persia became a member of UPU



A 2nd option was to use the courier system to an agent in Trebizond either via Bayazid or via Tiflis and Batum

In any case this letter was sent from Teheran – as endorsed by the sender – via Courier to an Agent in Trebizond. It seems the sender had no account so the letter was handed over to the Austrian Lloyd mail service unfranked

The “Trebizonda” circled postmark was of a Lloyd type used in the 1860s. Initially with the year shown and later replaced by a slug

(See Hans Smith: The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant, p 170)

The “T” was probably put on either at Trebizond or Constantinople by Lloyd before the letter was forwarded by Austria Post/Lloyd to Germany via Varna and on to the Danube and the Black Sea Railway to Ruschuk, then again by steamer to Alt Orsova whence it travelled by train to Vienna and Germany

There are **very few surviving letters** by von Riederer in private hands



Rate: Courier rate to Trebizond no known. Postage due 20 soldi

Route: Teheran end December 1875, Trebizond 22/1 (1876), German postmark AUSG/9/2/No 2 (see also above)

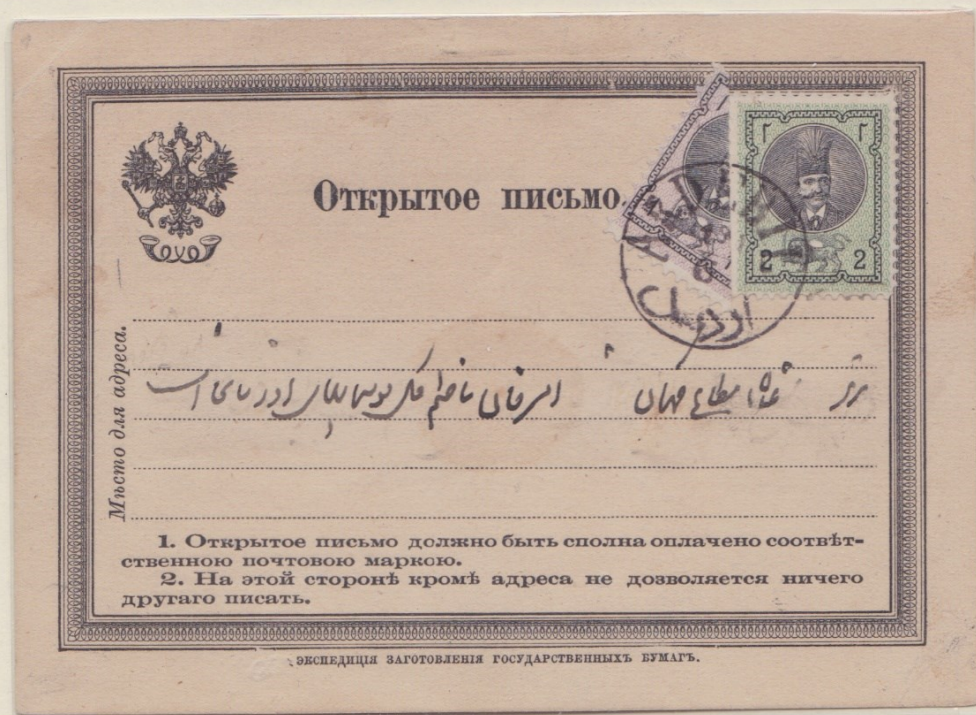
Note: The Goslar family was a well-known family in Goslar

Russian Formula card used in Persia as postal stationery card

Inspired by the UPU new rules promoting the use of post cards

The Russian Postal Director of Azarbadjan Province, later to become the Postal Director of Persia, on his own initiative, used Russian formula cards to introduce the first provisional post card in Persia. He used the half face value i.e. 2ch ordinary letter rate of 5 ch per UPU-regulations by using a 2-chahi adhesive and a 1-chahi of 1876 that was cut into half

Semi-authorized bisected 2½ ch postal card of Russian design introduced in Azarbadjan province only, Feb 1878



From
Ardebil
30/6 1878
to Tabriz

Semi-official cards replaced by now officially Russian-inspired Persian designed cards by Stahl, the new Post Director, in late 1878. Two types

Stahl had now become the Postal Director of Persia when he replaced the Russian cards by his own designed first Persian card in late 1879. again only to be used in Azarbadjan. However, these cards must now be looked upon as officially authorized. **Two types.** Type I: A 5-ch adhesive cut in various shapes. Type II: a 2ch adhesive + a 1-ch cut into half in various shape

2½ ch Persian card sent registered to Germany in January 1879

Only **two registered** formula cards **recorded**



Rate: 2½ ch;
Registration fee:
10 ch
Route:
Teheran
2 Jan 1879
via Tabris,
Probably
via
Vladikavkaz
to Germany
AUS.G/29/1/NO 1

Russian cards used in Russia & Persia

Djulf Exchange P O Opened in Sep. 1877 when Persia joined UPU

Russian PCs inspired Mr. Stahl, a Russian born postmaster in Persian Azarbadjan to use in Persia. He put on such cards Persian stamps 2ch+1ch cut in half = 2½ch = 5ch normal letter rate as UPU had suggested. Though he was not authorized to undertake this kind of activity it is still classified as semi-authorised since he had followed the UPU-objective.

Russian card from Tabris, Persia to UK. Very early usage

This is a
typical
card
made by
Stahl.
Intro-
duced in
Febr
1878



Foreign
destination

Rates:
2 ½ch to
abroad

Routes:
Tabris m/s
20 March
1878 to
Ipswich
England
7 April
at back

Markings:
Faint Tabriz
Ipswich
At back

Russian 4-kopek card from Tiflis to US missionary in Urumia in N W Persia Oct 1878. Sent via Djulf and Tabriz

Incoming
from Russia
1878

Sent from
Tiflis
1 Oct 1878
via Tabriz
7/?
To
Urumia



Postcard rates

Post cards	18.2.1878	1891- 3-94	3/94- 6/95	6/95- -5/05	6/06-- 10/13	11/13- -8/21	8/21- -10/21		10/21- -7/25	09/25- 1926..
Internal	2 1/2	2	2	2	2	2	5		5	2
External	2 ½	3 1/2	4	5	6	5	12	12		9

From Pre-UPU to UPU. The Transition. A Combination Cover

Pre-UPU Persian mail only internal. Russian 8-kop added for transiting Russia

Before Persia joined the GPU/UPU on 1st September 1877 Persian mail to abroad needed 5 ch franking to reach the Russian border at Julfa. From there an additional 10 kop - later lowered to 8 kop - was necessary to add for transiting. Russian stamps could be purchased at the major Persian POs and would be cancelled at Julfa. So far 11 such covers have been located. Ten of them have the 1st weight class franking of 5 ch + 8 kop and the 11th envelope of the 3d weight class bearing 15 ch+24 kop (3 x 8 kop). This cover is **considered a Russian gem, particularly for mail used abroad.**

This practice was abandoned when Persia joined UPU as from 1st of September 1877

3d weight class cover bearing 5+10ch and 3x8 kopek Russian stamps, making the total rate, 15 chahis + 24 kopek in total, to reach USA



Part of reverse



Route: Teheran, late June 1877, via Djulfa border station with Russia where Persian mail got cancelled by the Russian Post Office 4 July 1877 (J), continued via the hub Tiflis and Moscow 13 July 1877 (J) and New York AUG 10

Postal Routes from Northern Persia towards Europe & Suez

1. From Baku by ship to Persian ports ad hoc service long before regular lines established
2. **Constantinople/Trebizond hubs via Bayazid to Tabriz, avoiding Russia**
3. " " " " or via Russia, Poti/Batum, to Tiflis and Tabriz
4. Via Odessa & Poti/Batum with R.O.P.I.T. then to Tiflis & Tabriz
5. **via north western Russia to Rostow, Vladikavkaz in Caucasus across to Tiflis**
6. North Caspian Sea via Baku to Persia
7. **fr.1886 via Tiflis & Baku at the Caspian Sea. Then by ship to Enzeli/Persia**
8. Enzeli across the Caspian Sea to Turkestan, Ashabad & Meched/N E Persia
9. **Via Boushir using the Indian postal services. F ex for parcels after Russian revolution 1917 and their closing of the Russian borders and Caucasus for mail**
10. Air mail via Bagdad 1922; 11. Overland to Bagdad 1922 then bus to port for Europe

Tiflis the Diplomatic and Commercial hub in Caucasus since long

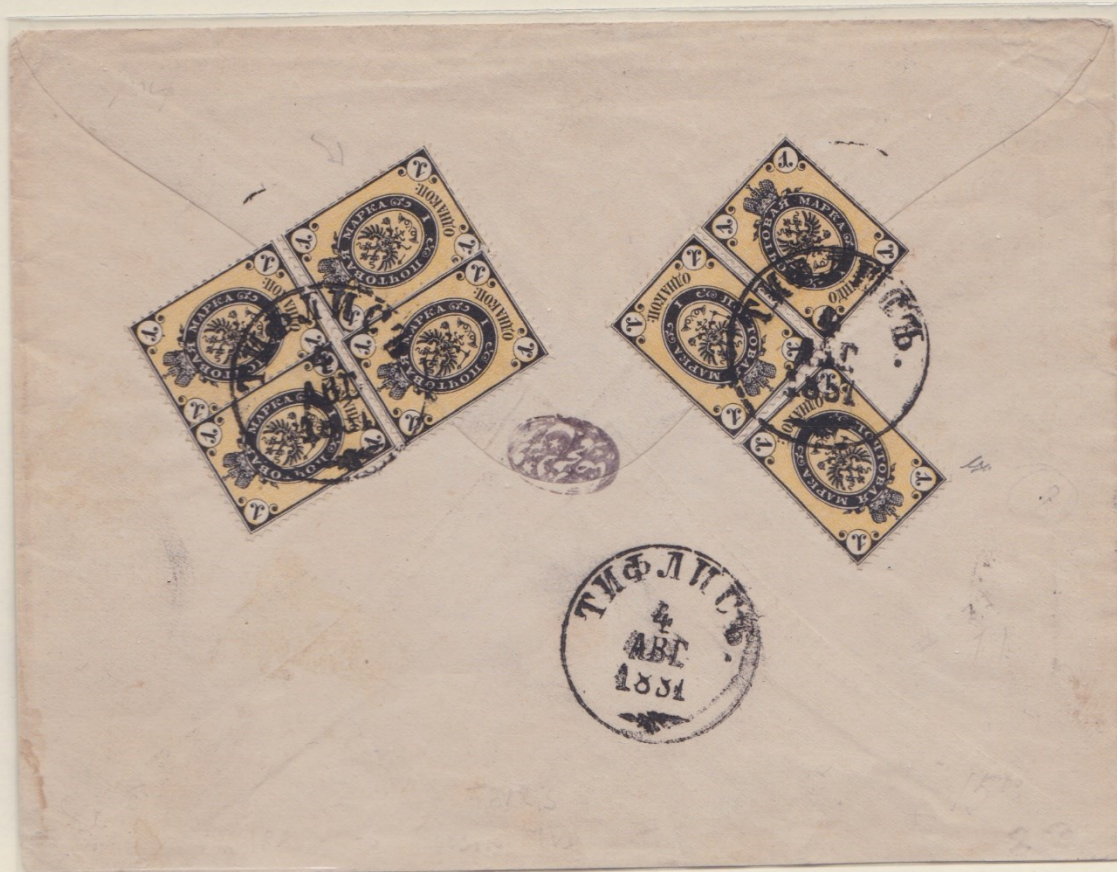
Double
Registered
and
Avis de
Recepcion

To London
from Tabriz
? Oct 1878
via Djulfa
& Tiflis
arriving
London
Oc 26/78



Tiflis the central point in Caucasus since long, both Diplomatic
and Commercial Postal hub

Letter from Tiflis to Tabriz 1881



Rate:
7 kopek
1st weight
class

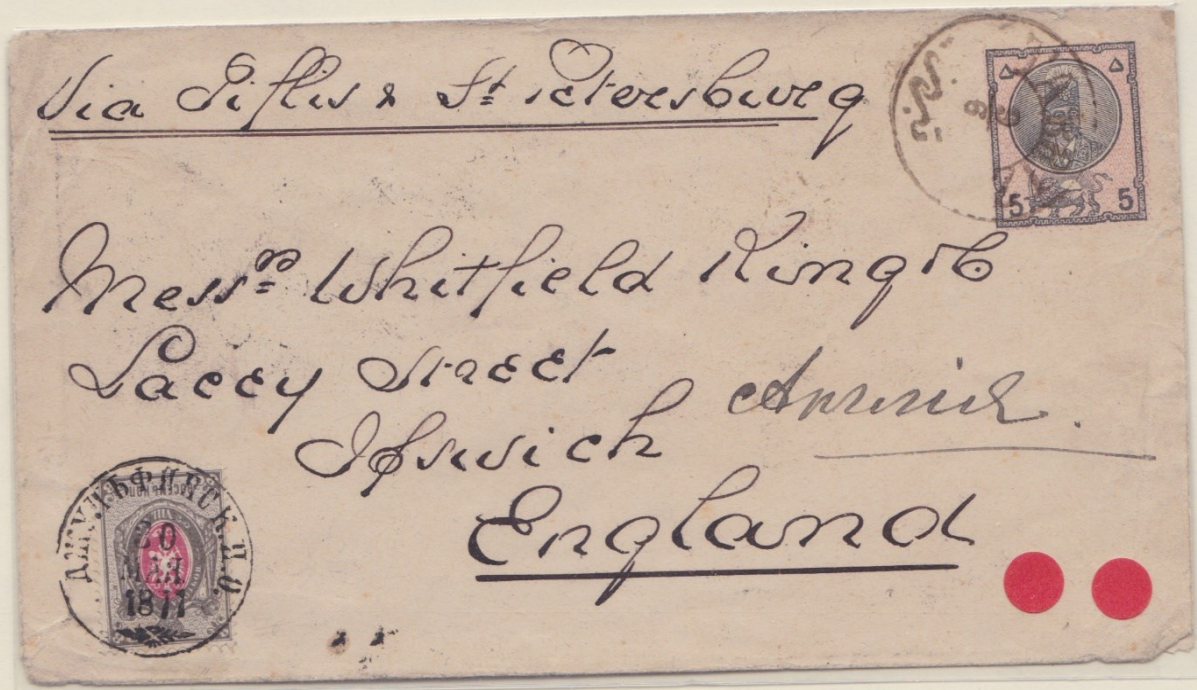
Route:
Tiflis
4 Aug 1881 (J)
No other
markings

The Transition from Pre-UPU to UPU. Sep.1877

Before joining GPU/UPU in 1877 mail to abroad from north Persia could only be arranged by private means or good contacts with an Embassy. The Russian Consulate in Tabriz organised a postal service for privileged persons or merchant companies from 1867 until Sep 1877. No public service. The rate was 5 ch to the border and 10 kop, later reduced to 8 kop, had to be added and bought at the post offices. Thus, Persia's joining the UPU in Sep 1877 was a blessing. The first Exchange P Os were Djulfa on both sides of the river/border.

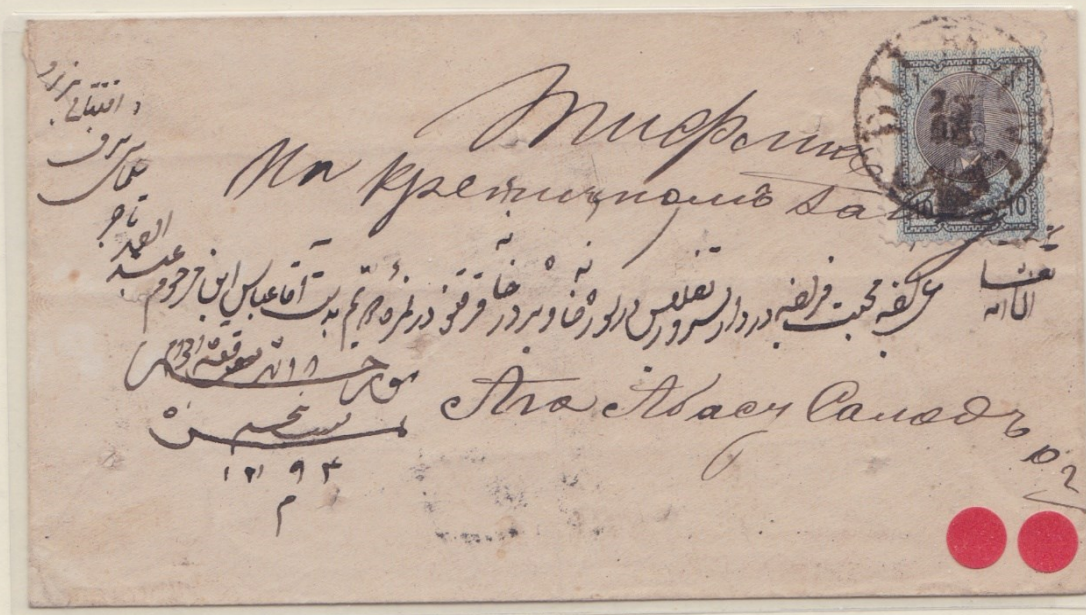
Combination cover of a 5-ch p stat envelop with 8 kop Russian stamp

Sent from Tabriz 9 June 1877 via Djulfa Ex. P.O. 30 May (J) and Tiflis. Forwarded to Moscow 8 June (J), a faint S:t Petersburg to Ipswich in England 25 July 1877



Persia joins GPU/UPU on 1st of September 1877

To Tiflis. The **earliest recorded 15 November 1877**



Rate: 2nd weight class. 10 chahi, Double rate

Route: Dilman 15 Nov 1877 via Tabriz 27/11 to Tiflis (no arr canc.)

Julfa Postal Exchange Offices

Registered cover from Tabriz to Wien, Austria. 1878

Recently discovered cover with a single 1-Kran stamp of the **1878 Lion issue** (SG 18a) used on a double rated registered letter. One of three known Lion covers used after Persia joined UPU

A total of eight covers franked with Lion issue stamps are recorded to abroad. Only three were used after Persia joined the GPU/UPU in late 1877 and only one has used a single Lion to pay up for the total postage



The only recorded Lion cover used to abroad after Persia joined the GPU/UPU



Part of backside showing the Wien arrival mark

Rates: 10 chahi double rate. Registration fee: 10 chahi

The Russian route: Tabriz 1st of June (1878), Julfa E POs, Nakhichevan, Erivan, Aleksandropol to Tiflis whence north through Russia into Europe, arriving Vienna back stamped 17 June 1878

Markings: The first type of registration mark used by the Persian postal services. A rectangular mark size 25mm x 20mm

Stahl, a Russian, new Postal Director 1878 after von Riederer

Clearification of some values' of the Lion issue printed during his mandate

Why the 1 Kr stamp **carmine on **yellow paper** was created**
The STAR of the Lion issues, 1 Toman **bronze in 1878 also EXPLAINED**

A.F. Stahl explains in a Russian p st 3 kopek card to Mr Fouré the reason for printing some values in 1878. He writes that the first proposal of the 1 Kran looked very much the same in color as 1876 issue and the Minister ordered another print in carmine but on yellow paper. See the cover on next exhibit page. ➡

The 3kop p st card was sent 21 January 1881 (J) and arrived Moscow 5 days later

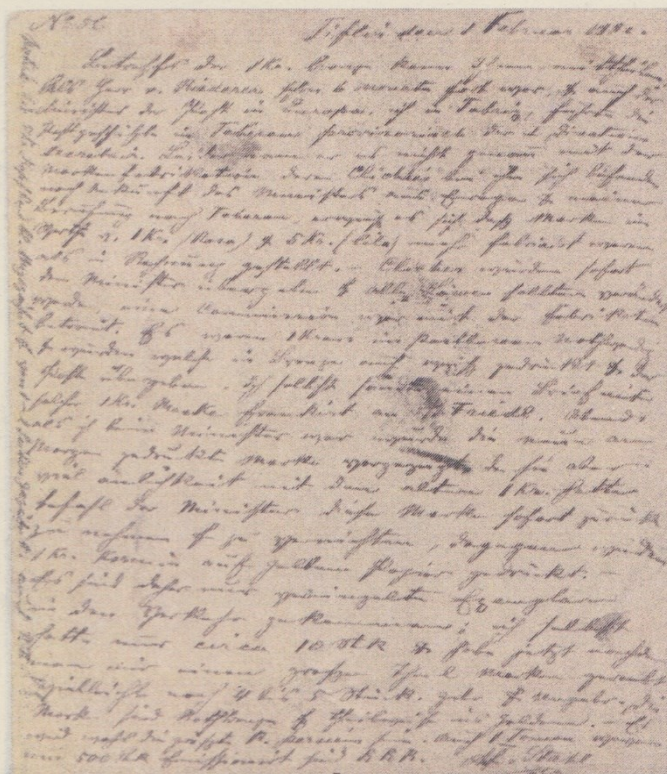
Stahl also mentions that the famous 1 Toman bronze was printed in 500 copies. Around this issue there was a lot of rumours that it was a fake.



1 Toman bronze



Enlarged



Script: Tiflis, February 1881

"In the matter of

same morning, was presented to him. The new stamp looked very much like the old one and the Minister gave the order to immediately withdraw and destroy this stamp and to print new 1 Kr. stamps in carmine on yellow paper. Therefore, only very few copies of

become the greatest Persian rarity. The 1 Toman, issued in only 500 copies.

Signed A.Stahl

The Austrian Gustav von Riederer (1830–1907) was appointed Postal Director to organise a regular postal system on the Austrian model in 1875 until Spring 1878. He was replaced by A.F. Stahl. During this period all the values of the Lion issue of 1875 design were issued. Stahl exploited his position by manufacturing and selling philatelic material. As from 1880 he lived in Tiflis. From there he wrote the 3 kopek p. stat. card in 1881 to G. Fouré, who was a stamp dealer and forger.

Julfa Postal Exchange Office

Austrian Route. Cover to England in 1878

From Recht via Teheran where it was put into a closed mail-bag. Forwarded via the Russian route via Julfa, Tiflis, Batum, Trabizond, Constantinople the important hub for mail passing through the Black Seam then onforwarded to London

Rates: 5 chahis abroad for 1st weight class

Routes: Rescht 23 May 1878 via Teheran date ? (back) via Julfa, Tiflis and the Austrian route to England arriving 17 July 1878



Registered letter from Tabriz, Azarbadjan, in NW Persia to New York

Fumigated against cholera



Rate: 5 ch abroad

Reg. fee 10 ch

Routes: Tabriz 11 Dec 1878 or 1879, Julfa, Tiflis, Austrian Route to Vienna and Germany and Hamburg. In Germany it received a registration label. Then ship to NY

Markings:

At back a part blue handstamp "New York REGISTERED /??/18??/NEW YORK. N.Y." It is not known where the letter got fumigated

Avis de Reception (AR) for abroad

The **earliest** of the four Persian AR-receipts **recorded** to abroad until 1910

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.

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

No 92

Reçepisse de renvoyer

Le soussigné destinataire certifie qu'une Lettre Recommandée

Valeur déclarée Nil


Arrivée à Berlin

À l'adresse de Herrn Joh. Braunschweig

Lui a été remis par le bureau de

Le 10 Mai 1878

7.18/12 Joh. Braunschweig



A UPU-designed form in English and Persian (Farsi) was introduced. The only recorded

No 1

Monsieur *A. Stahl*

à *Teheran*

expédie *une lettre* adressé *لاغذ*

un paquet *ميفرستد عدد پاكٲ به*

à Monsieur *Reinrich Koch* *Joh. Koch* آقای

Eltville à Rhein

et prie l'adreset de lui *و خواهش ميكنند وصولي*

annoneer *آزامر قوم وممضى فرياند*

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)

Russia-Turkey war 1878-9. Trebizond-Persia mail cut off

Batum now part of Russia. Mail: Tiflis-Batum-Odessa with R.O.P.I.T

The Konstantinopel-Trabezond-Erzerum-Bayazid trade route leading straight into Khoy and Tabriz in Persia was cut off. Poti as a port declined. The Russian port, Batum, took over. The postal route for both Courier and normal postal services had to switch. Already in 1872 after the railway between Poti and Tiflis was completed the Russian mail services with Trebizond had become more important while simultaneously the Turkish Route via Bayazid had declined. Until Persia joined GPU/UPU in Sep 1877 this route took only courier mail, consular and merchant private couriers. The Russians could bring ordinary mail from Tiflis to the Djulfa border station but from there it had to continue to Tabriz by the only known Courier service from Djulfa, that of the Russian Consular postal services in Tabriz

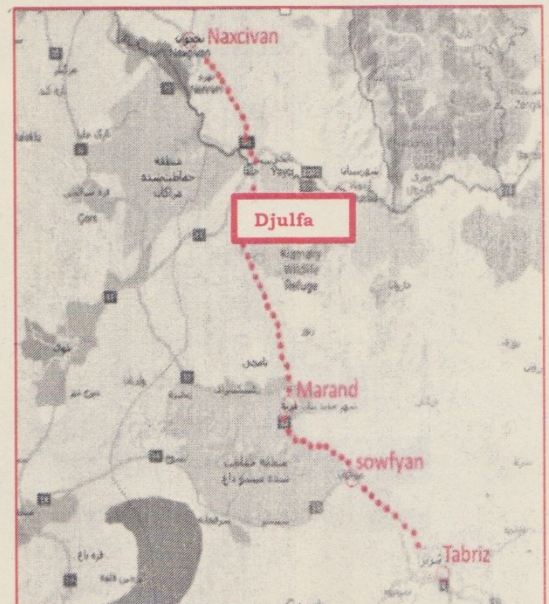
Registered commercial letter, Tabriz to Konstantinople in 1882, endorsed "via Tiflis & Poti"



Arrived on m/s 23 Sep 1882. The sender was the well-known Swiss-owned firm "Hildebrand. F. Stevens" in Tabriz

Rate: 10 ch for postage; Reg. fee 10 ch; Stamps on reverse (one torn)

Overall map of North Eastern routes; Turkey to Persia
Local maps of Bayazid area and of the Tabriz-Tiflis route



Julfa the 1st Exchange PO

Registered single rate letter to Russia in 1880

Persia Opens Up



Baku postmark
25mm
About 1880
Three recorded

Rate: 5 chahi. **Registration fee:** 10 chahi Registration mark at back

Route: Teheran 3 Feb 1880 (m/s H = 1297) to Baku arriving 20 Feb (Julian)

Registered single rate three-colored franked letter to USA 1880

A rectangular Khiaban (Teheran). Only three three-coloured items recorded of the 2nd portrait issue



Route: Teheran, "Khiaban", 8 Aug 1880, Tabriz, Julfa E PO, Berlin, New York 15 Sep. to Boston, USA arriving 16 Sept. M/s Berlin

Rate: 5 chahi. **Registration fee:** 10 chahi.

German registration label applied at Berlin. In New York a violet three-line reg mark on reverse plus a Boston circled mark

Postal rates. Letters. Domestic & abroad via Russia (in red). Via India different rates

LETTERS		1875		8.6.1878		1884		1891		Feb 1894		June 1894		1895		14.5.1905		21.10.1913		COMMENTS
Weight class		int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	int.	ext.	
Normal rate	I	5	8k+ 5	5	5	5	5	5	7	5	8	5	10	5	12	6	13	6	12	Weight could differ Member of UPU 1877 8k = 8 kopek
Normal rate	II	10		10	10	10	12	10	14	10	16	10	20	10	24	9	26	9	24	

Julfa the 1st Exchange PO

New rates to abroad. Increased to 6 chahis during 1st half of 1884

Unusual route. Via Tiflis and Konstantinople to England



Rates: 12 chahi double

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

Markings: Two Konstantinople marks. A large blue arrival 12 Nov 1884 and a smaller departure 25 Nov.

Note: Railway across the European continent to England. Four days

Due to shortages of certain values stock of 1882 issue surcharged in 1888

Registered letter via Julfa to USA

Urmia negative registration mark **twice recorded** only



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

Routes: Urmia in Azarbadjan (Persia) in July 1888 to New York 18 August 1888

Markings: No further transit marks indicating that "closed bag" was used from Tabriz

Note: Dr Dadkhah's personal expertisation seal

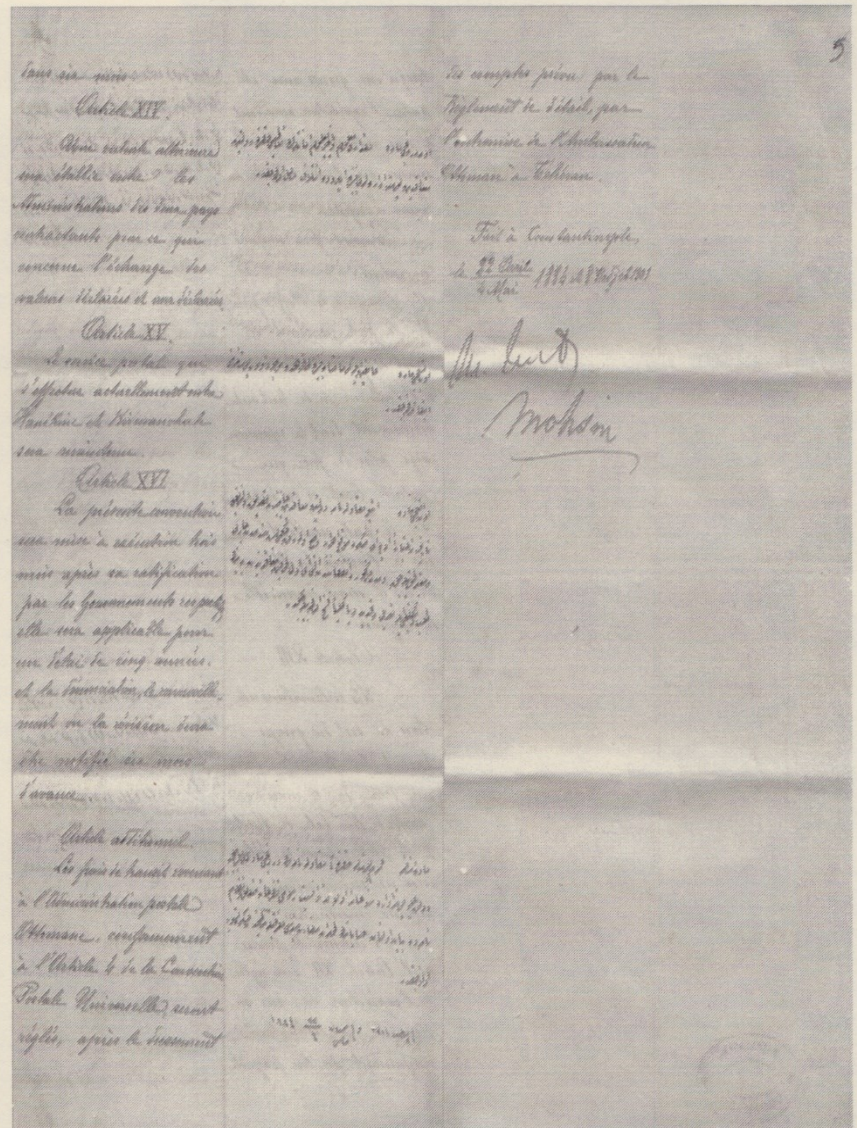
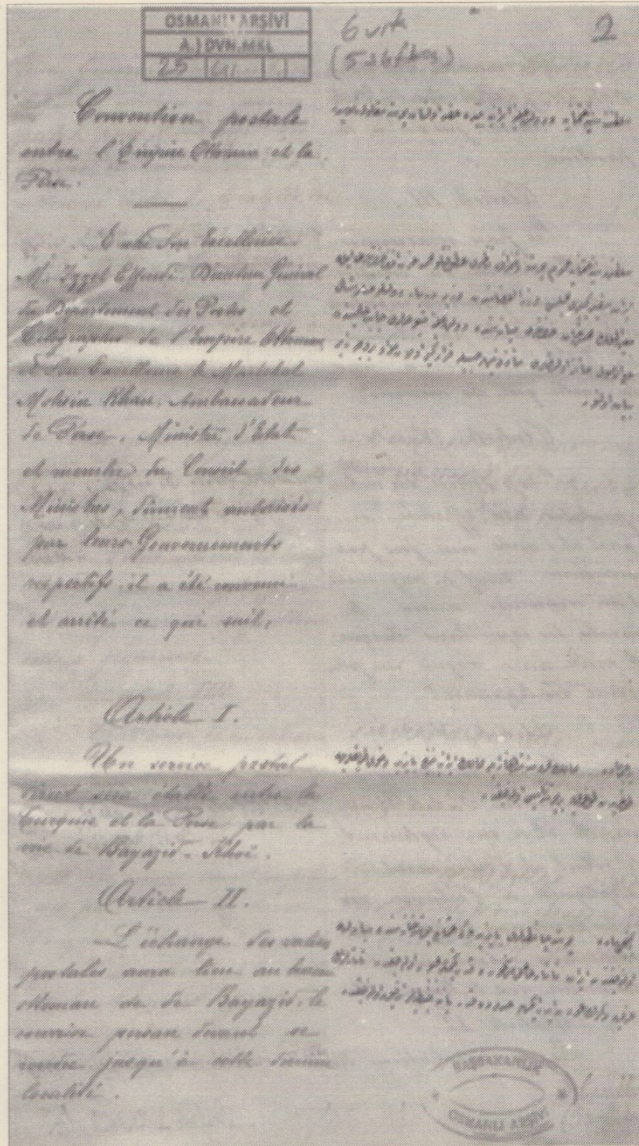
1884. The First Postal Treaty: Ottoman & Persia Empires

To avoid the Russian services Poti/Batum via Tiflis to Persia
Via Bayazid Exchange P O/Turkey – Khoy to Tabriz. Parcel services excluded
but introduced in the 1892, 2nd Postal Treaty

Thanks to the exhibitor's initiative, this 1884 "unknown" Treaty was rediscovered*

*MEPB No 25

Below extracts from: The treaty's final version in writing at the National Archive Istanbul
Further below: Same now in print. Forwarded by British Embassy in Teheran to the
British foreign Affairs in London



Postal Convention between Turkey and Persia.

A P E 107-108

No. 107.

No. 4, dated Teheran, 21st May 1884.

From—RONALD F. THOMSON, Esq., Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran,
To—EARL GRANVILLE, K.G., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a French copy of the Postal Convention recently concluded between the Ottoman and Persian Governments for the establishment of a direct postal service between the two countries by the Bayazid-Khoy route, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court.

No. 108.

Convention Postale conclue entre la Turquie et la Perse.

ARTICLE I.

Un service postale direct sera établi entre la Turquie et la Perse par la voie de Bayazid-Khoy.

ARTICLE II.

L'échange de valises postales aura lieu au bureau Ottoman à Bayazid, le courrier Persan devant le rendre jusqu'à cette dernière localité. Le courrier sera escorté par des Zaptiés tant à l'aller qu'au retour jusqu'à la frontière.

ARTICLE XV.

Le service postal qui s'effectue actuellement entre Khanekin et Kermanschah sera maintenu.

ARTICLE XVI.

La présente convention sera mise à l'exécution trois mois après sa ratification par les Gouvernements respectifs; elle sera applicable pour un délai de cinq années et la dénonciation, le renouvellement, ou la revision devra être notifiée 6 mois d'avance.

Article additionnel—

Les frais de transit revenant à l'administration Postale Ottomane, conformément à l'article 4 de la convention universelle seront réglés après le dressement des comptes prévues par le règlement de détail par l'entremise de l'ambassadeur Ottoman à Téhéran.

Signé à Constantinople Dimanche le 22 Avril (4 Mai) 1884 par L.L.E.E M. Izet Effendi, Directeur-Général de l'Administration de Telegraphes et Poste de l'Empire Ottoman et Mohsin Khan Moin el Mulk, Ambassadeur de S. M. le Schah près S. M. I. le Sultan.

End.—T. L. A. -27-8-84.

The upper part is an unused "International Money Order document". Used ones none is recorded

The Tabriz post office seal is the only recorded from Tabriz, Sent 24 March 1888 to Paris arriving 11 April

MINISTÈRE DES POSTES DE PERSE

Bureau d *وزارت جلیله پست ایران* ۹۶°

Timbre du Bureau expéditeur.

MANDAT D'ARTICLE D'ARGENT INTERNATIONAL

Somme en chiffres.

Payable par le Bureau d *برائت پستی تبریز*

POSTES DE PERSE

Papez à la personne nommée dans ma lettre d'avis de ce jour n°

ou à son ordre, la somme de (**)

A Monsieur le Receveur des Postes

le 188 .

LE RECEVEUR,

ARTICLE D'ARGENT

Recu le montant du mandat ci-dessus à le 188

MINISTÈRE DES POSTES DE PERSE

AVIS DE L'ÉMISSION

D'UN

MANDAT D'ARTICLE D'ARGENT INTERNATIONAL

Pour le Receveur des Postes

du Bureau de *la place de Bourse St.*

Désigner ici le pays étranger auquel appartient le bureau.

France

Paris

Timbre du Bureau payeur.

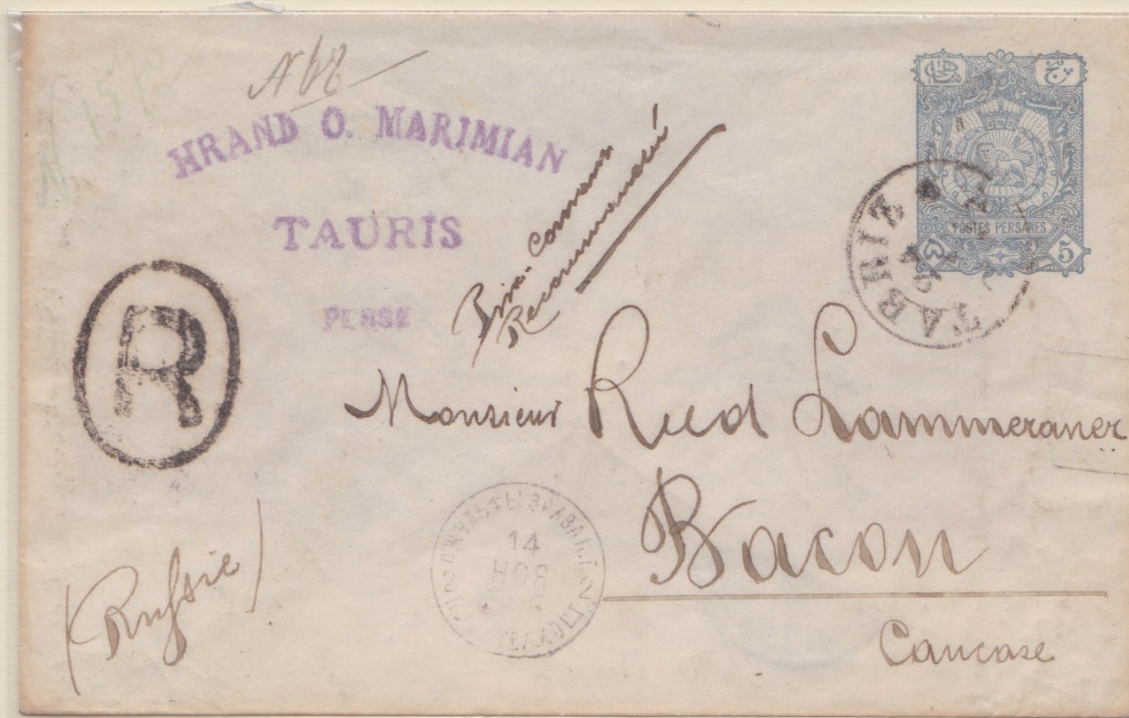
The seal of Tabriz post office

An agreement with France & Algeria was signed in 1886. Less than 10 Mandat d'Article d'Argent International" are recorded. Due to mismanagement the service was suspended in 1889

An internal postal money order service in cooperation with Agence Ziegler which had offices throughout Persia was established in 1877

Julfa Exchange Postal Offices

Registered printed matter, unsealed, to Russia

**Rate:** 5 ch to abroad. **Reg fee** 10 chahi (stamps at reversal)**Route:** Tabriz 24 Nov 1895 to Baku arriving 22 Nov (Julian) at reversal**Note:** Three recorded unsealed registered printed matters during the 19th century from Persia**From Tiflis to Tabri. 2 chahi probably postage due**

Persia postal authorities rarely charged for postage due

**Rates:** 10 kopek + 2 chahi postage due**Routes:** Tiflis 20 5 1914 (Julian) via Julfa to Tabriz 11 6 1914**Notes:** There is no postage due mark. Any other reason for this charge is not known

Julfa Postal Exchange Offices

Postage due

Incoming from Russia in 1888

As the address "**cherez julfa persiskii chaparu** = **via Julfa Persian town** was not clear the letter somehow ended up in Meched, Khorasan, north eastern Persia

Postage due charge 13 chahi to the receiver

There is no explanation why this cover was redirected to Meched. This is one of two addressed similar



The address

чрез Джулу
Персидский чару

Rates: 21 kopek in Russia

Postage due: 13 chahi

Routes: Jerevan, Armenia, 10 October 1888, via Julfa 12 October (both Julian)
The date of the Meched postmark is 31 X ?

Opened March 1886. The railway from Tiflis extended to Baku in 1883

Serving all parts of Persia except for Azarbadjan that continued using Julfa via Tabriz

Incoming from Riga in February 1886. The earliest recorded via this route



Rates: 3 kopek for cards to foreign destinations

Routes: Riga 28 February 1886, via Tiflis 7 March and Baku 8 March (all three Julian). Transited Enzeli EPO on 25 March and arrived Teheran on 29 March

From Persia to Vienna March 1886. The earliest outgoing recorded via this route



Rates: Triple foreign rate 18 chahi. **Registration fee:** 12 chahi

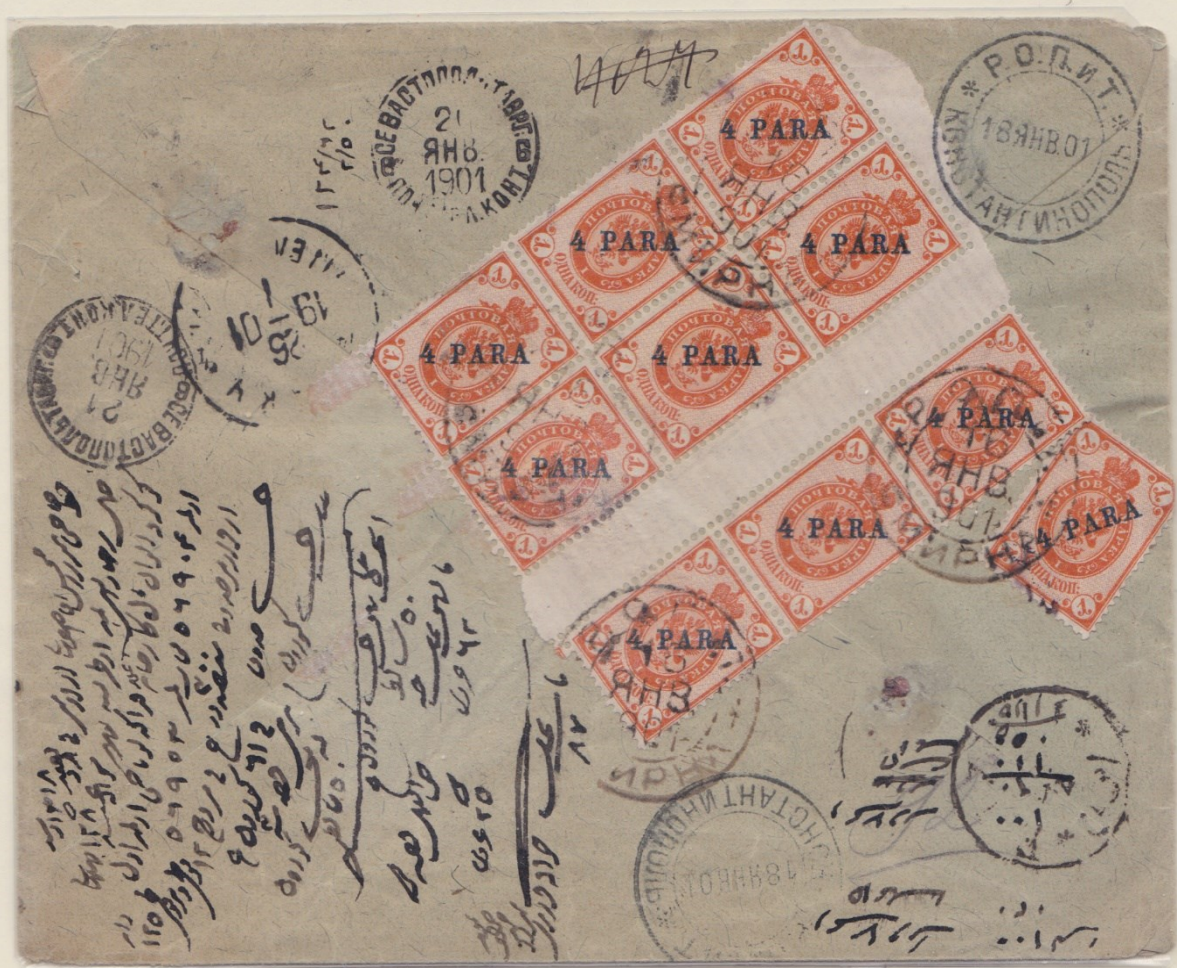
Routes: Teheran 18 March 1886 sent via Enzeli EPO 25 March, by ship to Baku 17 March (Julian, backstamped) arriving Vienna 6 April 1886

Baku-Enzeli the 2nd Postal Exchange Office

1-ch postal stationery wrapper used to Tiflis in 1890

**Rate:** The total rate not known as additional stamps often were put onto the item itself**Route:** Teheran 4 Sep 1890 to Tiflis 15 Sep 1890 (Julian) via Recht (oval canc) and Baku 13 Sep (J)**From the Russian P O, R.O.P.I.T. at Smyrna, Turkey via Sevastopol at Krim to Isphahan 1894**

Very scarce routing via Krim for mail to Persia

**Rates:** 2nd class weight 1 piaster. **Reg. fee** 1 piaster**Route:** From R.O.P.I.T., Smyrna 16 Jan 1894 (Julian=J) via R.O.P.I.T. Konstantinople P O 18 Jan (J), Sevastopol 21 Jan (J) to Baku 26 Jan (J) into Persia via Enzeli to Isphahan, no arrival mark

Exchange of closed mail. Inaugurated in 1902. Very small amount of mail

From Central Asia to Ardabil in Persia near to Astara at the Russian border

Note that Persian mail had earlier come across the border at Astara presumably privately and duly cancelled and forwarded by the Russian post office since long established**Postage Due.** Very few recorded from abroad properly charged in Persia during the Qajar period**Rates:** 7 kopek = 3 kopek underfranked. **Postage due:** 10 chahis**Routes:** Samarkand (in Uzbekistan today) 9 July 1902 to Ardebil vis Baku 13 VII and Astara exchange offices (all Julian calendar)**Notes:** : Astara is a border town and a port between Persia and Azarbadjan (Russia) on the western coast of the Caspian Sea

The Russian P O on the Russian side of Astara had opened many years earlier.

Astarabad and Bander-Gez exchange office are used simultaneously

From
Astarabad
Posted at
Bander-Gez
the port
serving
Astarabad
on 3 5 05
to Belgium
arriving
13 May
via Baku

Rate 13ch
Reg fee 13ch

Elusive

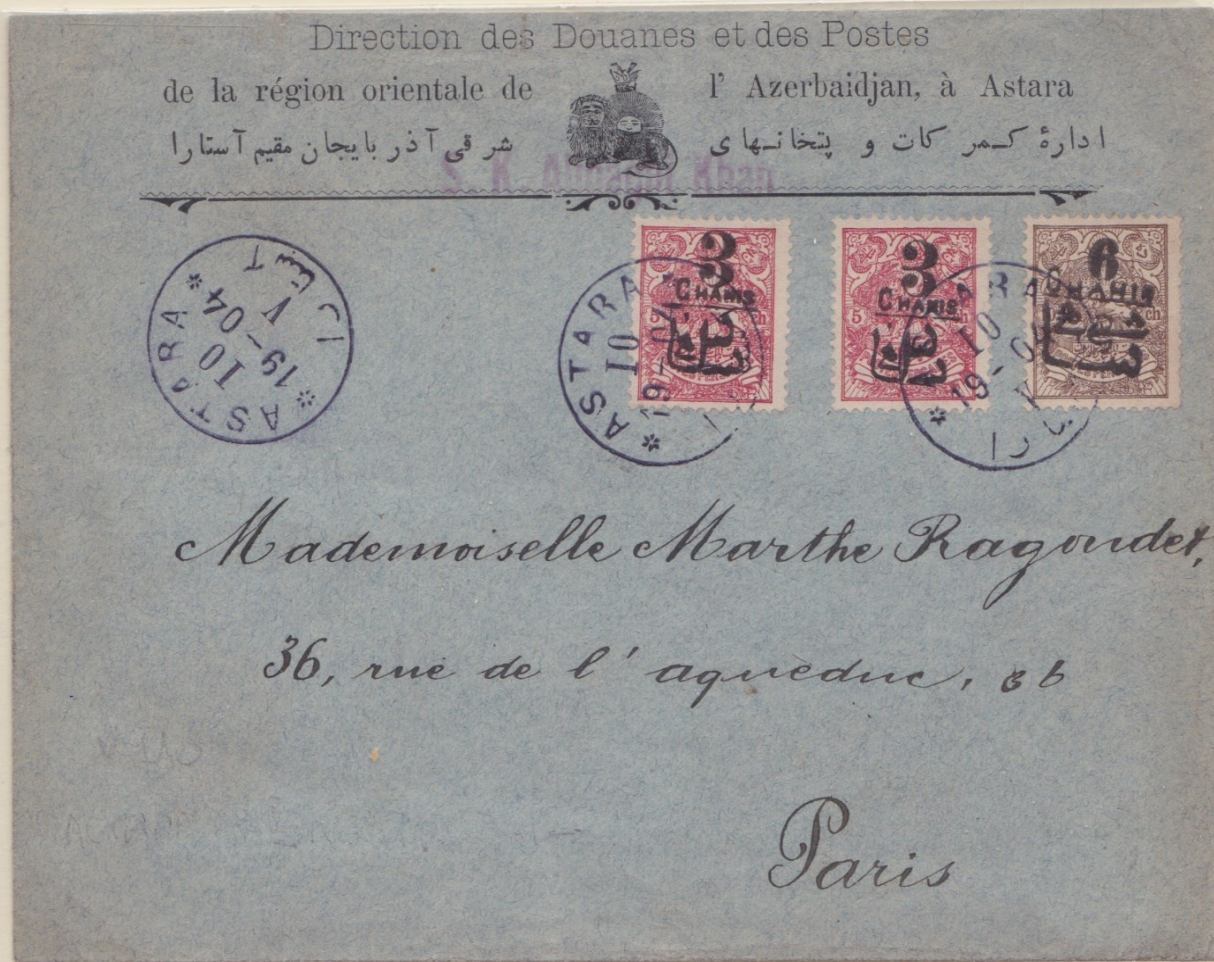


Astara the 4th Exchange Place

From
Astara,
Persian
side
10 V/1904
(elusive
cancel)
via Astara
Russian P O
27 April
(Julian)
to Paris
19 5 04.

Endorsed
via Bacou
At back

Rate 12 ch



The "Russian Route" Applied

From Recht, Persia, 1890, via Enzeli-Baku Ex POs via R.O.P.I.T.
and Konstantinople to Brousse in Turkey



Rates: 7 ch

Route: Recht 30 12

90 Enzeli 30 12 90

Baku 20 DEC 90 (J)

Batum 22 12 (J)

R.O.P.I.T:

Konstantinople

2912 (J)

Brousse Ottoman PO

26 April

(at the back)

Registered cover 1891 from Recht sent to Egypt via Konstantinople
On the front is a circled "R" for



Teheran 8/9
(1890)

via Enzeli 17.9
and Baku 5 SEP
(J) Ex POs to
Batum 10 Sept (J)

R.O.P.I.T

Konstantinople

17 Sep (J to
Alexandria 4 X 91
and forwarded to
Ramle Oct 91

Trade/Postal routes between Russia and Persia untill 1925

- via Baku to Caspian Sea ports since centuries from Astarabad in northern Caspian Sea
- a) Moscow-Astarabad-Baku-Enzeli or other Persian ports
- Moscow-Rostov-Vladikavkaz-overland to Tiflis & Djulfa or also fr 1886 by rail to Baku, etc
- Foreign POs in the Black Sea via Trabezund-Batum/Poti to Tiflis - Tabriz or Baku-Enzeli. etc
- R.O.P.I.T.'s own lines via Trabezund or from Odessa via Batum/Poti & Tiflis as above
- Baku by ship to Turkestan via Ashabad & Houdan Exchange PO to Meched in N E Persia
- Persian ports in the Gulf via Aden-C-nople. Then suitable onward conections as above

Registered: R.O.P.I.T. Smyrna - Konstantinople - Odessa - Poti to Tiflis and Tabriz



REGISTERED
 R.O.P.I.T.
 Smyrna
 9 NOV 93 (J)
 R.O.P.I.T.
 Konstantinople
 14 NOV 93 (J)
 Odessa 3 Dec (J)
 via Poti to Tiflis
 9 Dec 1893 (J)
 Tabriz 1 Jan (1894)
 via
 Djulfa Exch P O

Eoute: via Tiflis and Odessa to Germany in 1891

As per m/s. Rarely seen



From
 Savodboulagh
 N W Persia
 28 6 (1891)
 via
 Tabriz 30/6
 via Tiflis
 and Odessa
 Forwarded to
 Germany

The Turkish or the Russian Route as Choice

In spite of a Turkish-Persian Postal Convention 1884, the first ever,
the Russian route via Tiflis almost always preferred

The French Post Office in Trebizonde

Mail from this - **rarely used French** - P.O. to Persia was sent in 1891 via Batum to Tabriz
using the Russian route and NOT the Turkish route via Bayazid

*An indication that the Russian route was more in demand even to Trebizond in Turkey
Well known for better service and security*



Rates:
25 centimes

Route:
Trebizonde
French PO
12 Sept 1891
via **Batum**
Russian PO
1/IX 1891
and
Tiflis
Russian PO
3 Sep
(both Julian)
and forwarded
via
Djulfa
Exchange P.O.
to Tauriz

From Tabriz to Trebizonde in 1892

A 2½-ch p stat card sent in February 1892 (date uncertain) from Tabriz
to Trebizonde arriving 1 March 1892 cancel Turkish PO

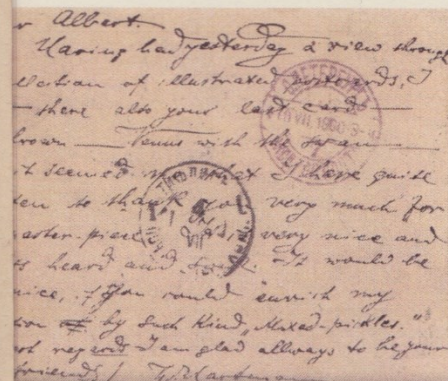
Here it is not possible to know which route has been chosen

If it did go in a closed mail-bag, quite possible, there is no sign of it. On the other hand there
are no other transit marks either



Almost all
recorded items
after 1884
(about 30) that
has m/s
"via Bayazid"
are lacking any
Bayazid transit
mark and may
have only a
Trebizonde
Transit or arrival
cancellation as
well

10 kop stamp added for the Russian registration label from St-Petersburg
The only recorded Persian returned registered p st card from Russia. Qajar period



Route: From Elisavetpol, presently Gyandzha in Azerbaijan, 11 VI 1916 (J), by ship Baku-Enzeli Exchange post offices and forwarded to post office Teheran 8, 1 VII 1916 from where the card was forwarded to Gulahek (the Royal Palace) ? VII 16. As the Shah was travelling the card was redirected to ORDOU arriving 2 VIII 16

No Russian & NE Persian exchange POs until early 1896

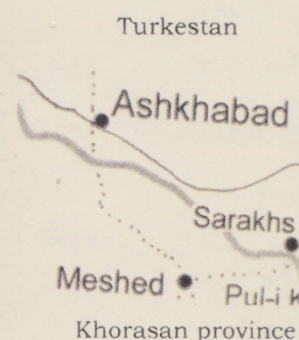
A cart-road to Meched in Khorasan was by diplomatic "pressure" completed and forced upon Persia by Russia in 1892 to support Russian trade & commerce. A postal exchange service was inaugurated in 1896. However, it seems as there was by 1895 a Persian postal service from Ashgabad into NE Persia. Mail using a Persian 5ch stamp for internal rate for mail addressed to Persia using the cart road has appeared. So far only **three covers** have been **recorded** all from 1895. A special cancellation of "native" type i e only in Persia was used. Mail from Persia received at the Persian PO in Ashgabad has so far not been recorded. Presumably this Persian PO was closed in early 1896 when the official exchange service was established. Russia seems thus to have "tolerated" this Persian postal service until the inauguration of the official exchange postal line. In the meantime any other mail was using the official mail route via Baku-Enzeli or Djulfa EPOs in north western Persia. It was an extensive detour! See previous page.

Cover from Ashgabad to Yezd via Meched in Hegira 1313 = 1895/96

The importance of this cover's usage - based on my **personal research and discovery** - is emphasized by the address that was printed in the letter head in both Russian and Persian stating clearly "**Ashabad. Russie**" i e of Russia (and not f. e. the insignificant village of Ashkabad in southern Khorasan)

The cover is addressed to Yezd and thus has a transit cancellations of Meched (at back), and Tabasse quite correct

As no official archives exist from the Persian postal authorities during the 19th century there is little possibility to have this private arrangement officially confirmed



Rate: 5 ch internal rate

Route: Ashgabad, Russia, 27 August 1895 across the border via Meched 20.9 and Tabasse to Yezd



Ashgabad. Enlarged



Transit mark of Meched in Khorassan in NE Persia
Date reverted. Ca 80% in size

Forerunner to Russia's and NE Persia postal exchange before 1896

1887 letter from the Head of Transcaspian Territory, Lieutenant-General A. V. Komarov to Naser al-Molk the Governor of Khorasan in N.E Persia, erroneously sent to Kherson (Russia), readdressed to NE Persia

The only recorded from the Transcaspian Territory in 1880s or earlier sent to NE Persia

Russian official mail not franked. The postal clerk missread Khorasan (in Persia) for Kherson in Russia. The letter was returned to Askhabad where the postal clerk added Persia. No charge up to the border at Julfa. Either the Persian postmaster at the Persian Julfa E PO "overlooked" this "problem" as the letter was addressed to the Governor of Khorasan or more likely there were special arrangements for official mail. Remnants of a label at the back might have given the real answer about the treatment.



23.04 Askhabad
26.04 Baku
03.05. Nickolaev
03.05. Kherson

10.05. Tiflis
17.05. Ashkabad-
27.05 Julfa, Armenia

(All Julian)

No Persian postmarks. Official mail probably delivered
Under special arrangements.



Seal real size*

From Askhabad 23 April 1887, missent to Kherson in Ukraine instead of Khorasan. ("Persia" not stated). Mailed via Baku 26 April, Nikolaev, to Kherson where the postal clarc wrote: "There is no such governor general in Kherson." On the front "return to Askhabad" in m/s. Returned via Tiflis 10 May to Askhabad 17 May. There "Persia via Baku" was added in m/s at bottom. Still the letter entered Persia via Julfa (Dzhulfy), 27 May. From there to Meched probably by special agent as there are no Persian postmarks.

*The **seal** reads "Packet" across the center, and "Staff of Transcaspian Territory" around the edge

The opening of north eastern Persia in 1896 after Russian pressure

In a border treaty of 1892 Russia demanded that a cart road between Ashkabad in Turkmenistan and Meched in Khorasan province to be built. It went via the Gaudan pass. In 1896 postal communications were established. Later **Disinfection** control was set up at **Gaudan**. In function during two periods

The **earliest recorded** via Russian Gaudan 8 March 1896. Sent to London

Route:

From
Meched
5 March
1896 via
Gaudan
24/II 1896
(Julian)
Departed
Gaudan
2/III
(Julian)
"Anglia"
in m/s
No further
Markings
of import-
ance

Rates:

5 chahi
to abroad
for car



The **earliest incoming** known via Gaudan. 11 Oct 1896. From Cape of Good Hope to Teheran but misdirected to Meched via Gaudan



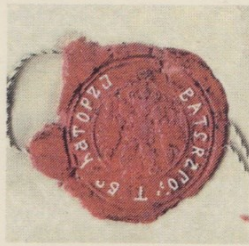
Rates: 2 ½d

Route: Beaufort (date not clear), via Cape Town 12 Sep 1896, "via England" as per m/s, Tiflis 30 IX 96(J) Gaudan Russian E PO 30 IX 96(J) to Meched 27 10 96. Presumably sent to Teheran as per m/s in Persian

Markings: Gaudan #1, 27mm. Large size "I"

Transcaspian border stations serving "unofficial" mail transiting between Turkestan & neighbours, incl. Khorasan, NE Persia

Transcaspian section of the Turkestan customs district at the NE border of Persia consisted of 14 border stations. These seem also to have functioned for mail service across the long border between Russia and Khorasan province in NE Persia in addition to the Ashkabad/Gaudan and Houdan/Badjguiran Exchange PO. The locals mainly illiterate. Mail related to border crossing w/o using EPOs most unusual. Only **four of this category** recorded

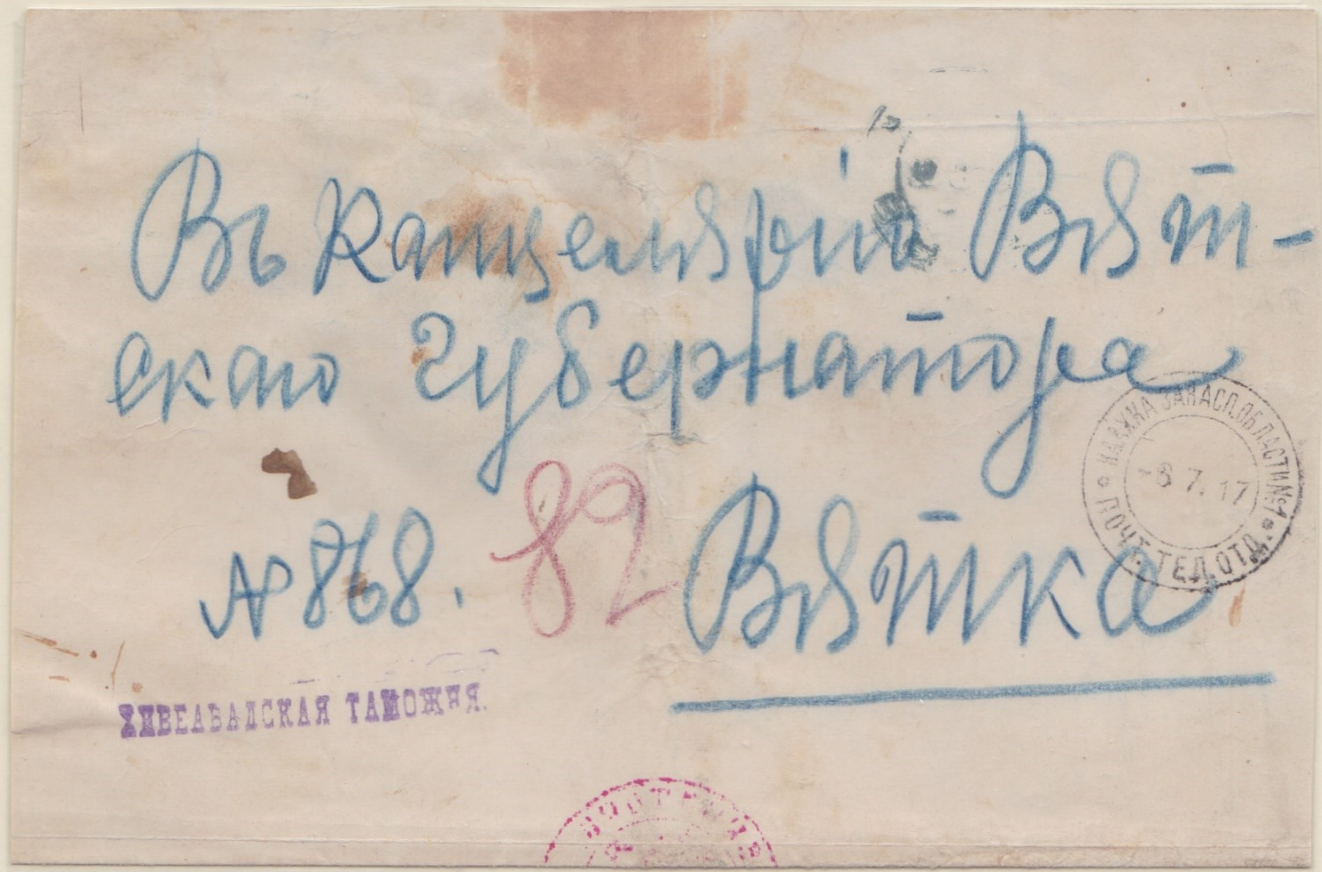


Seal of Vyatka governor
Central Russia

ХИВЕАБАДСКАЯ ТАМОЖНЯ

Khiveabad customs (enlarged)

The wrapper sent on 6 July 1917 from Kaahka, TransCaspian Region (Oblast), to the Governor's office at Vyatka in central Russia. On the back it is a machine postmark of Vyatka, the wrapper itself is stiched and sealed with a wax seal of the Vyatka Governor. Before the wrapper was folded a red handstamp, with invisible text. Reason to believe it was a COA of the Customs. The violet Khiveabad single-line stamp proves the border relations between Khiveabad of Russia and the Persian region across the border nearby



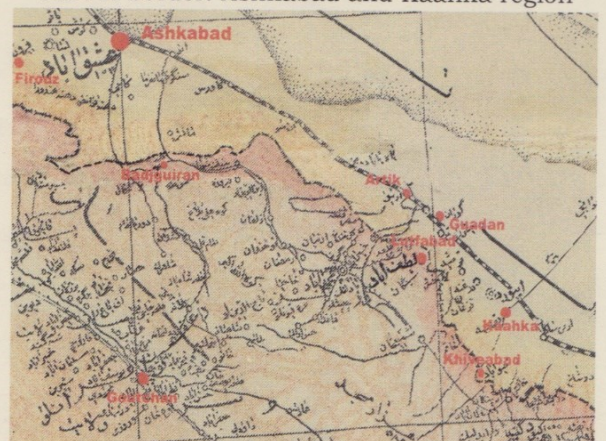
Revert side of the wrapper



Rate: Free of charge. Official letter

Reduced

Part of border: Ashkabad and Kaahka region



Map of Kakkaheh (Kaakha & Khiveabad)

Imperial Russian Ship Mail in the Caspian Sea

Russian special ships were built for postal communications between Astrakhan and Persia already during the reign of Empress Anne (1730-40). By 1847 several lines and the newly formed ROPIT subsidiaries for the Caspian and for inland river traffic had amalgamated into the "**CAUCASUS & MERCURY**" Steam Shipping Company, a private company, in 1858 which later became the leading Russian mail line between Baku and the Persian ports of Enzeli, Meched-i-Sar and Astara.

After the completion of the railway line to Baku in 1884 mail between Persia and Russia or transiting Russia was transported primarily with the Caucasus & Mercury line. Persian mail in **closed bags** for transiting to Europe or vice versa would be cared for by the **Enzeli and Baku exchange post offices** started operating in **1885**. Mail could also handed over directly to the shipping agents or the captains in the ports of calling or given directly to them or put into "letter boxes" on the open sea. The mail would then be handed over to the Persian postal authorities at Enzeli port or the Russian PO in Baku. In Baku all mail were cancelled while mail to Persia could have anilin cross-outs, or be cancelled by the Persian PO in Enzeli or at the arrival point inland. Probably Russian stamps were available onboard and could be used in BOTH directions to and from Baku. Only by having certain information in manuscript or hand stamps on the mail items and/or in combination with foreign rates if addressed to a place either in Russia, Persia or beyond Russia it is possible to distinguish whether it was sea mail via Baku or ordinary inland or foreign mail from Baku. A typical example is the registered cover to Holland by the Baku PO in 1898 shown below.

The shipping agents or the ships had no permission for an officially organized postal service until 1912. Before 1912 most Russian mail would not be cancelled or received a pen mark in anilin although some were cancelled by either the Enzeli Persian post office or at the final destination in Persia such as Isfahan, Rescht or Teheran. It is not known whether Russian stamps were sold on board (more likely) or brought along by private hands.

A very early registered ship mail from Persia to Holland via Baku in 1898. Baku disinfection strike

Handed over to an agent at Enzeli or at sea. Could only be handled in Baku

Only **two registered** sea post items between Persia and Baku have been confirmed since the 1890s to 1918



Rates: 20 kopek double rate **Registration fee:** 20 kopek

Route: via Enzeli shipping agent or posted directly onboard, but handled by Baku PO 26/XI 1898 (Julian) arriving Amsterdam 18 December 1898. From Baku by train through Russia

This item must have come from Persia as verified by the three wax seals at the back reading "**POSTE TOKO TEHERAN**". Also we know that this item was coming from abroad since there was a regular mail- and passenger ship between Baku and Enzeli. And only mail from abroad, at the Caspian Sea it means Persia, would be disinfected

Map of Russian shipping routes



POSTE TOKO TEHERAN
Wax seal (three at the back)



Russian Ship Mail at the Caspian Sea

Pen strokes used on Russian unconcealed ship mail

Russian 4-kopek imprime used on business document from Baku posted on a Russian vessel calling at Enzeli
20 VII 1912, via Teheran arriving Isfahan 19 August. 2nd part Xerox of the content

Usage of Ship Mail and Russian FPO in Persia in combination **not previously recorded**

Rate: 4 kopek
imprime

Oval(faint) s/s
cancel Baku-
Enzeli (17-5-17)
mailed through
Russian etappen
FPO #243
(19-5-17) then
operating out
of Enzeli(Persia)

Censored in
Peterburg. П.В.О.
ПЕТРОГРАДСКИЙ
ВОЕННЫЙ ОКРУГ =
PETROGRAD
MILITARY
DISTRICT + 91

Russian Ship Mail at the Caspian Sea

Caucasus & Mercury Shipping Line. Special ship cancellation in use 1912-16

The Persian items prove that also Persian mail was accepted to be posted at sea between Persian ports and Baku on the Caucasus & Mercury line. Only **five** such Persian items are **recorded**

Paquebot cancel at bottom on Persian mail to Bacu. Two recorded

BACU-MECHEDISSER oval ship cancellation. The **only recorded on Persian mail**
Two recorded on Russian mail



Rates: 5 chahi to abroad

Routes: Mechedisser-Bacu in Nov 1913 by ship. Train to Tiflis and Belgium

Markings: "540" in small circle used by Belgian postman

Paquebot + Transit

Paquebot used on Persian mail in combination with oval ENZELI-BAKU ship cancellation, type II as transit

The **only recorded** ship mail mark used with Paquebot in **combination**



Rates: 5 chahi to abroad

Routes: Posted at sea on August 1914 via Bacu, Tiflis, Europe to Switzerland

Russian Ship Mail at the Caspian Sea. A Rare Postmark

During the period 1912 – 1917/18, the Mercury line was provided with postal cancellations

Baku – Lenkoran – Astara Line. Ppc sent to the Red Cross, Copenhagen

No mail from Astara recorded in Tchilinghirian. But **three recorded** by 2023. Astara port situated in Persia

The postmark, type with “b”, is either **black** or **violet**. The other type has a letter “a”

Not franked. Probably the steamer had run out of stamps. Three similar postage due, applied. No explanation

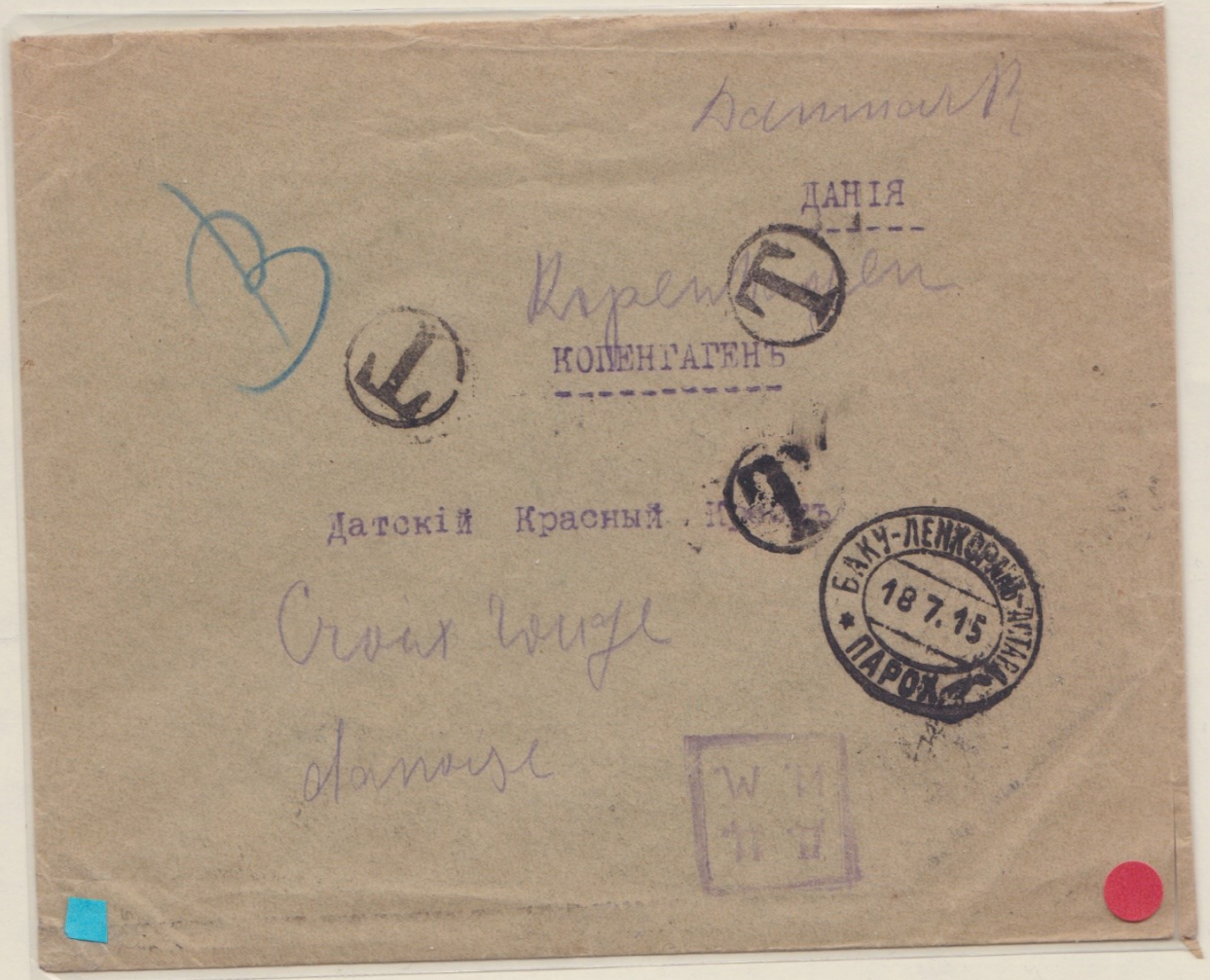


The “a” type



Two censor marks from Petrograd at back

MAP



Date: Russian Ship cancel 18 7.15 – Petrograd 31 VIII 15 (both Julian) and Copenhagen (date illegible)

Rate: 10 kop to abroad. The paid 5 kop insufficient

Markings: The B-L-A pmk with “b” applied onboard. The “T” applied at Baku and/or the ship

Ship line: (Baku) – Krasnovodsk – Chikishlar 1918 to Persia. Postage due

The **only recorded** on the route **to Gunbad-i-Kabuz** in Persia



MAP



4.1.18 (Julian) Ashabad + postage due. By train

6.1.18 Krasnovodsk by ship

7.1.18 Chikishlyar
15.1.1 overland to

Gunbad-i-Kabuz in Persia across the border

Rate: 15K but used 5K.

Thus postage due
10Kx2 = 20K

Baku - Enzeli Line. Registered mail

A proof that the TPOs could handle registered and money order mail though both extremely rare

This **registered mail and the insured Money Order used on the Baku-Mechedisser line (see separate) are the only two special items** recorded amongst the existing mail of only 1st weight class and occasionally 2nd or 3^d weight class after the introduction of TPOs, (Travelling Post Offices) on the "C&M" lines in 1912

Sent to London in 1914. Boxed Baku military cachet applied in violet reading D. Ts. I. M. (passed by censor I. M.)



Rate: 10 kopek; Registration fee 10 kopek

Routes: Baku-Enzeli line 30 11 14 (Julian); Baku 1 12 14 (Julian)

Two London registration marks of 4/29 DE 14/41. One red, the other black

Markings: BACU-ENZELI/PAROX (Bacu-Enzeli/Shipping line)



Size: ca 75% of original. Ex Casey

Russian Ship Mail at the Caspian Sea

An Enzeli departure mark & a Russian ship cancellation used as "Transit"

Persian p st
card cancelled
at Enzeli

From Enzeli
8 XII 12

At sea the
card received
the Russian
ship can-
cellation,

Baku-Enzeli
type II, dated
26 11 12
(Julian)
addressed to
Belgium
arriving
17 12 12

No
explanation
yet found for
this rare
combination



Rates: 6 chahis to abroad

Paquebot used on Russian mail from Baku. The **only recorded**



Russian cover posted at sea on 24 April 1914 (in Hijra 24 Jumada al Ula 1332, as per m/s on front), via Recht 22 IV 14, Teheran 27 IV 14 to Isfahan arriving 2 V 14

Rates: 10 kopek to abroad

Insured Money Letter Service Abroad not available in Persia

Persian Customs letter sent as Insured Money Letter from Djulfa Russian P O

In 1884 a Money Transfer Treaty was signed between Persia and France. It was active only for some years. There was also the Indian postal system in southern Persia offering remittance to India for its thousands of Indian oil workers and merchants families residing there. For the ordinary Persians there was no such service. However, the Persian post administration did use the Russian postal services provided at Russian border towns. About ten ordinary covers and **two Insured money orders recorded.**

Insured Money Letter Djulfa 26 3 07 (J) to Belgium. Official Persian "SERVICE" customs env. used



Money packet containing 1000 rubles." In Russian m/s (across top front)

Weight: 89.5 grams. At left

Weight fee: 10 kopeks for each 15 grams or part thereof. This should have been 60 kopeks but the accounting on back shows the sender was charged 70 kopeks in error.

Insurance: charged at the rate of 10 kopeks for each 112.5 rubles of value (or part thereof). 1000 rubles insurance requires a fee of 90 kopek (on the back)

Registration fee: 10 kopecks

Total postage: 170 rubles (should have been 160 rubles).

Red is the equivalent amount in Belgian money.

The wax seals are inscribed Dzhulfinskaya P. T. Kon. Eri

The basis of the evaluation of money transferred to another country was French Franc

In this case 1000 Russian Rubles = 89 French franc. Then the Francs were evaluated in the Belgian currency.

The wax seals are inscribed Dzhulfinskaya P. T. Kon. Eri = Julfa post/telegraph office, Erivan (gubernia)



Insured Money Letter via Caspian Ship Line

The only recorded of such service used on a Caspian ship line

The Russian Mercury Line was provided with oval postal cancellations in 1912. The oval cancellation "BAKU-MECHEDESSER STEAMSHIP" (in Russian) used here is only recorded on 3 covers and as well on this Insured Money Letter which in turn is the highlight of all mail on the Caspian Sea. It further proves that various types of postal services were provided by the Mercury Line



The letter

contained 200 Rubles
Official letter from the Persian Custom in Meched-i-Sar (Mechedisser) A Persian port at the Caspian Sea sent to Berlin

Rate: Total 54 Kopeks

Route: Probably handed to the Shipping Agent in Mecjedisser which in turn handed this and other mail over to the ship. Cancelled by ship 19 9 13. Received Berlin 13 10 13.

Baku-Mechedisser
(ship cancellation)



Other items known



Persian Customs

Enlarged wax seal
A/D = Administration Douanes



*The Russian postal services in Persia NEVER involved themselves with the Persian mail services. However, during WWI, they did assist in forwarding mail bags where the war made it difficult for the bags to get through otherwise. In particular the Kazvin Russian PO was a big hub during WWI.

Insured Money Letter accepted by Russian Consular P.O. with the Russian Field Forces Postal administration in Persia

The **only recorded Russian** item used internally in Persia & delivered to the addressee.
by Russian Military courier to the Russian Consular PO in Tabriz

The Russian postal services in Persia **NEVER** involved themselves with the Persian mail services. However, during WWI, they did assist the Persian postal services in forwarding mail bags when the war made it difficult for the bags to get through. In particular the Kazvin Russian P. O. did that!
Insured Money Service not available by or via Persian Postal Administration



The cancellation reads
**POLEVAJA ZAPAS
POCHT KONT.119**
by the old Field
Post Office as well
as and also by the
Corps FPO
attached to the 7th
Caucasian Army
Corps that took
over
**TABRIZ
ROSSISKOE
KONSUL**
is the Tabriz
Consulate

Rate: 20x25 kopeks = 5 Rubels

Route: Corps Field Post at Urmia, N.W. Persia 10.11.17 (Julian) and the Tabriz Consulate 11 11 17
It was addressed to a commander stationed in Tabriz area

A similar postal service did not exist in Persia except by the Indian postal services in southern Persia, for ex at the oil fields, etc and only to abroad. In 1886, a kind of similar service **MANDAT D'ARTICLE D'ARGENT INTERNATIONAL** was signed with France and Algeria for an International Money Order Service. As it did not function well it was later abolished.



Backside

1904 Parcel Post UPU Treaty affecting the North

Russia had been an obstacle since long against UPU re parcel transit
 Persia received special arrangement as parcels had to be sent via Agent at the border
 exchange posts at Julfa, Baku-Enzeli, Astara, Gaudan, Mechedisser & Bender-Diez
 Border agent parcel document used at Julfa Exchange PO in 1910. The ONLY recorded

БЮРО
 ПЕРСИДСКИХЪ ТРАНСПОРТОВЪ.

 ДЖУЛЬФА
 АГЕНТСТВО.

№ 461

ноябрь 26 1910 года.

Счетъ

Госпо *г. Эрзеруми*
 За доставку *плат*

№ № квитанцій.	Число мѣсть.	В Ъ С Ъ .		Рубли.	Коп.
		Пуды.	Фун.		
<i>Бюро</i>	<i>Батумской ВО.</i>				
<i>199620</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>по квитанции</i>	<i>214 29</i>
				<i>машинно-расхода</i>	<i>3 97</i>
				<i>Итого</i>	<i>218 26</i>
<i>Двести восемнадцать руб. 26 коп.</i>					
АГЕНТЪ БЮРО ПЕРСИДСКИХЪ ТРАНСПОРТОВЪ ВЪ ДЖУЛЬФѢ					



For parcel mail there were special arrangements as parcels would only be delivered to the border points of where private agencies had to take care of the border "crossing" formalities. So parcel cards would thus, at least till about 1910, be cancelled only at the exchange border post offices although the UPU-cards were available at the major post offices.

Package of tea from Persia had been cleared at the Russian customs by the Persian Transport Agent on 26 January 1910. The package will be delivered to its office in Batum as per m/s in Russian

Довѣряю получить _____
 которому благоволите возвратить также и вышеозначен _____ квитанц _____
 съ роспискою на н _____ въ пріемъ клади.

Handwritten signature and date: 26 ноября 1910

Parcel Post Treaty with Russia 1904. UPU-supported

In northern Persia parcel post treaty existed already between Turkey and Persia in the Postal Treaty of 1892 via Bayazid in Turkey. It was not successful. Russia had so far not accepted the UPU transiting policy until 1904 when Russia after pressure by UPU would finally agree. An agreement between Russia and Persia was signed for parcels of up to 5 kg free of charge. **The earliest recorded** parcel post document from/via Russia is from 1906 and shown here.

However, see below, a PCC from Meched, Sept 1904, the Custom Director of Persia writes this service is now in function although the earliest known so far is the one shown here.

Coupon.
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.

EMPIRE DE PERSE.

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION.

Ci-joint *un paquet*

Valeur assurée *cinquante francs*

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur
*Ed. Reinecke
Khoy*

A *M. Reinecke*

(Lieu de destination) *Schwenleben Allemagne*
(rue et no) *an Schwenleben*

Poids. <i>4545</i>	Droits de douane (1). <i>1190 330 000</i> <i>Requiescit</i>	Acheminement: <i>4 520 P.</i>
-----------------------	---	----------------------------------

(1) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

IMPRIMERIE "PHAROS" - TEHRAN



*Je vous envoie par la poste
commande le tarif des
postaux, qui passeront 5 kilogr.
qui passeront par la Russie pour
venir jusqu'en Perse.
Bonne nuit, avec salut
à tous
Cuvillier*

Route: From Khoy, via Enzeli Ex. PO 19 June 1907 and Germany arr 7 July

Total rates: Total rates incl. insured value of 50 francs = 4 kr 13 ch

Sometime between 1907/08 and 1909 the stamps were ovpt **COLIS POSTAUX** by local handstamp at the Exch P.Os. This parcel item is the **earliest recorded** and the **ONLY w/o any overprint**.

Postage and insurance fee were charged though the insurance fee is not stated. An Agent, by law, at the border exchange office, had to handle all parcel post – incoming and outgoing – and had to organise the custom formalities, etc.

Parcel Post Treaty with Russia 1904 with UPU-support

Baku-Enzeli Exchange POs. Russian route

In 1892 the Postal Treaty between Turkey and Persia was concluded and which included parcel post for the first time. There were two exchange postal offices: either via Bayazid or Khanekin in Mesopotamia. This followed by a treaty with Russia 1904 that only included parcel post. It stipulated free transit and no custom charge for parcels up to 5 kg transiting Russia.

Russian P O in Constantinople

Received this parcel from Teheran 1908 via Poste Russe route i e via Enzeli-Baku, Tiflis, Batum and ROPIT

Coupon.
Peut être détaché par le destinataire

Timbre du bureau d'origine

Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:

*C. Molitor,
Directeur général
des Postes Teheran*

EMPIRE DE PERSE

Administration des Postes

Service de Colis Post

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

Ci-joint *un* colis portant l'adresse ci-dessous:

Valeur assurée *Trois cents francs*

A Monsieur le Docteur Arie

(Lieu de destination) *Péra (Constantinople)*

(Rue et N°) *Rue agha n° 2*

Poids.	Droits de douane (1).	Acheminement:
<i>3500</i>	<i>8-24</i>	<i>Poste Russe</i>

(1) A remplir par le bureau d'échange d'entrée du pays de destination.

Poste Russe

Ap
tim
ou
de

Colis Postaux

26 ch

3 ch

There are about ten similar Parcel Doc. recorded during 1907-09 all franked and with the Colis Postaux handstamp - in various design - and applied at three Ex. POs



Part of the back side. Shows the "machine ovpt" and the Enzeli postmark. Only two waybills are recorded franked with the 26ch overprinted by machine

Route: From Teheran, m/s, via Enzeli Exchange PO 8 June 1908 and Baku Ex PO to Batum,

Rate: 9 Kran 7 ch; Valeur assures "Trois cents francs"

Between 1907 and 1909 the stamps were overprinted with a **machine cancel** on 26ch "Colis Postaux", at Enschede Printing Co in Holland. All other values had the "Colis Postaux" overprinted by handstamp at the exchange post offices which are known applied at three of the five different exchange post offices

Postage and insurance fee charged though the insurance fee not shown. An Agent at the border exchange office handled all parcel post - incoming and outgoing - and organised the custom formalities. e

*(all according to the 1909 Official Russian postal regulations - Postanovlenie po Pochtovoi Chasti (1909) in the case of Turkey/Persia

The sender was the Postal Director of the Persian Post, Belgian Postal Director, Camille Molitor

A reluctant Russia finally agrees on the creation of Parcel Exchange

Parcel form used from **Shanghai Russian PO** on 25.5.16. Sent to an Agent at Enzeli port via Baku

After 1910 special arrangement was made so parcels were addressed directly to Teheran and Meched. Thus no need for using an agent as also custom clearances could be done for such parcels

Rate: 20 kran 10 chahi. In fact it is not known what was then the rates and fees of different parcel services

Russia strengthen its influence

Russian presence
always around
the corner!

Russian naval base at Ashur-Ade Persian island 1841 to 1921

In 1841, in accordance with the Turkmanchay Treaty of 1828, which reaffirmed Russia's exclusive right to maintain a naval fleet on the Caspian Sea, Persia relinquished the Russian Empire the right to build an island military base at the entrance to the Gulf of Astrabad.

Letter addressed to a naval officer stationed at Ashur-Ade 1876. No post office ever existed there

The only letter recorded related to the Ashu-Ade Naval Base

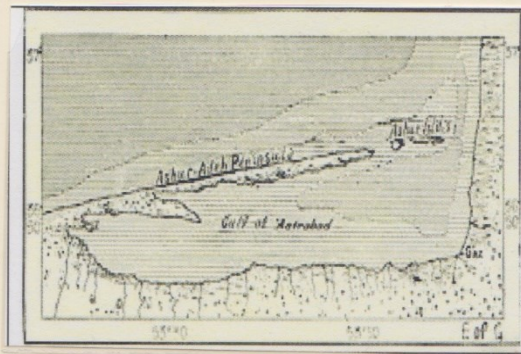
The address reads: To the warship of Peter Petrovich Eikhen, via Baku to the island of Ashur-Ade at Astarabad (Persia) on the transport "Aista" (probably small vessel to the island)

During the **Russo-Japanese War**, Eichen was a Lt. Col. in the naval pilots corps



Rate: 7 kopek

Route: From Astrakhan via Baku 17 Sept 1879 assumingly to Astrabad.
From there forwarded to Ashur-Ade



Ashur-Ade Island in the bay of Astarabad
Early drawing



Ashur-Ade situated at the SE corner of the
Caspian Sea

In 1842, the Astarabad station of the Caspian flotilla was transferred to Ashur-Ade, by that time uninhabited. The reason put forward was to counteract the Turkmen robbery.

Since 1846, the Astrabad Bay began to receive vessels of the company "Elizarov, Baranov, Rakizov and Co.". Since 1862 - steamers of the society "Caucasus and Mercury".

From 1842 to autumn 1917 Russian ships of the Caspian flotilla were permanently based in the Astrabad station on Ashur-Ade (and in the port of Anzali). After the revolutionary events of 1917 the Astarabad station ceased to function, and in 1919 it was destroyed by a British detachment.

Russia obsessed of a port also in the Gulf/Indian Ocean

Russia could eventually establish a Consulate in 1901

This envelope of the Russian Imperial Government General Consulate in Bushire in both Russian and Persian was used in the beginning of the 20th century and addressed locally to the Salar Moazam = Governor General Mirza Reza Gholi Khan who was in charge in Bushire province at the turn of the century. Sent by courier. **Two** Russian consulate items **recorded**

Ports, especially warm water ports, have long played an important role in Russian foreign policy. Long ago Russia had no port at the Baltic Sea. Hundred of years Russia has had problems with ports at the Black Sea as Turkey can stop any traffic at any moment. So there has been a wish to get access to a warm port in the Indian Ocean. Bushire was the answer at the time.

Russia also tried to establish a ship line plying the Gulf ports but it did not succeed

حضرت دروغ جناب شوکت و جلال اہل اکرم دوست مکرم مفتی میرزا رضا خان لاہور عظیم ان کل نا درجہ
مشرف شود

№ 92.

ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО Россійскаго Генеральнаго Консульства
въ ВЕНДЕРЪ-БУШИРЪ.

از طرف جنرال قزوین لکری است و دو فقره رسیدگی

The Russian
Imperial General
Consulate in
Bushir covering
the Gulf was a
most important
and strategic
Russian consulate



Seal on the back
Enlarged

This local letter, forwarded by courier is addressed to the Governor of the Bushire province Salar Moazam = Governor General Mirza Reza Gholi Khan

Trade & Commerce Important Diplomatic Tools

Russia had great interest in extending its commercial interest in the South

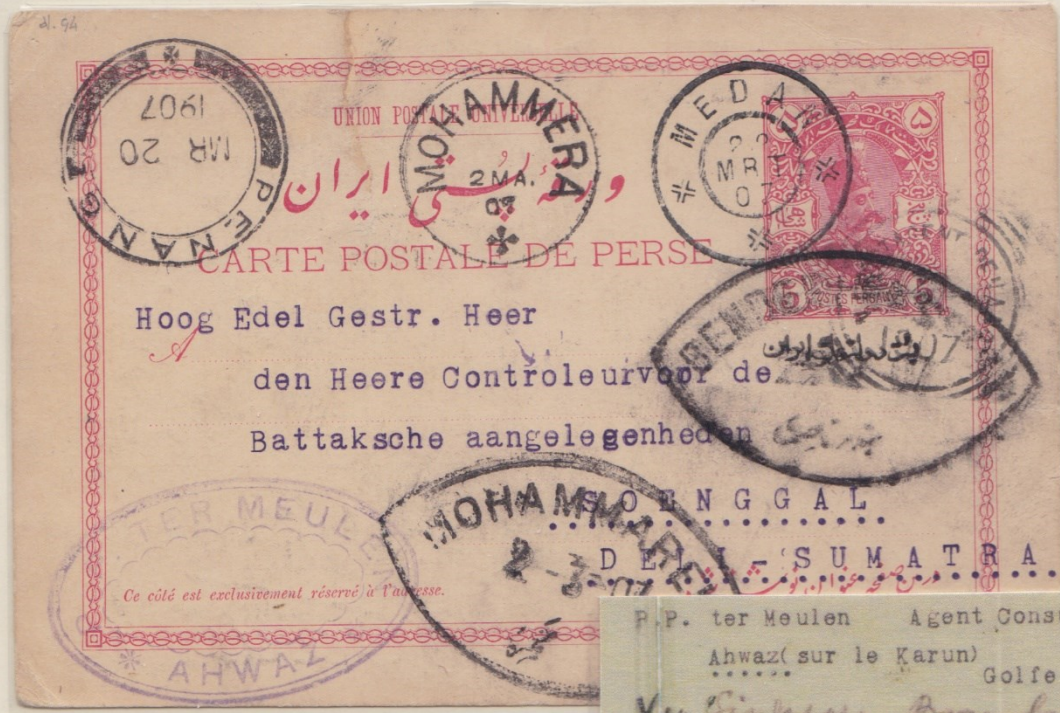
Trade via a commercial/consulate agent to further its political influence

After initial difficulties Russia were at last allowed to open a real Consulate in Bushire

The Russian Consulate & Trade agent was P. Ter Meulen, a Dutch trading company established in Ahwaz, an important trade center near the Karun river

From Ahwaz
27 Feb 07 (m/s)
via Persian P O
Mohammerah
Handed over to
Indian Ex P O
Mohammerah
2nd March to
Bombay
Exchange office
Forwarded via
Penang
20 March 1907
to the Dutch
exchange office
at Penang
N-I. POSTAGENT
PENANG.
Transiting to
Medan (Deli)
in **Sumatra**
29 March

Rate 5 chahi



P. P. ter Meulen Agent Consulaire de Russie
Ahwaz (sur le Karun) Golfe Persique
Via Singapore - Bombay -
Hoogachtend

Although a real Russian Consulate had been established in Bushire, the agent Ter Meulen Co was still active during the WWI at Ahwaz

The Consulate had a huge blue violet handstamp
"Agence Consulaire Imperiale/de/RUSSIE"



Indian cover
from Ahwaz
3 Jan 1917
sent via
Bombay,
Aden, Suez
Canal
arriving
Holland
12 II 17

Rate: 2 1/2 as
1st weight
class

Disinfection Protection in Persia

Turkey & Russia in support of 1866 Convention

Kermanschah control outbreak in Mesopotamia 1889

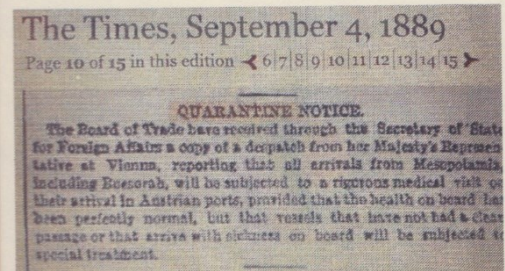
There were a number of disinfection outbreaks in different places in the M.E. and Indian continent during the 19th C. European states, not least Russia, very concerned. An international sanitary conference in Con-ple in 1866, Russia included, decided to take defensive measures in the "Orient". So So when cholera struck Ottoman Mesopotamia in Sept. 1889, Kermanschah in Persia which was the postal exchange hub for mail from Bagdad used an "**Disinfection/Kermanschah**" negative marking.

Two **recorded Persian disinfection** marking dispite of many outbreaks in and outside of Persia



Disinfection/
Kermanschah

The severity leads to
Announcement in
The TIMES
Sep 4, 1889



From Najaf in H 1307 via Bagdad
to Yezd via Teheran transit 7/10 1889
at back. Stamp removed. Rate: ?

The 1866 disinfection convention was for both the Ottomans and Russia very important. Russia was extremely aware of the various plagues that could enter via caravans from Persia. Thus, Russia passed a law in June 1896: Any mail from plague infested locations will be subject to steam disinfection and stamped "disinfection" in Russian

When an outbreak of plague broke out in Bombay in 1897, a Cordon, 300 km long and 200 km south of the Russian border in Khorasan was installed

Russian disinfection posts were installed at Gaudan Exch PO in Russia near the Persian border in May 1897 together with Baku & Djulfa Ex P Os also)

Used during two periods; **Period I**; May 1897- 8 June 1901; **Period II**; 1904-05



ОБЕЗПРАВЛЕНИЕ
Disinfection

This
Disinfection
Cover
EARLIEST
recorded
from Period I

Note
Double
registration
marks
The violet
from Meshed

The small
circled
"R"
from the
Russian side

Rates: 1st class:12 ch; Registration fee:10 ch = 21 ch (1ch underpaid!)

Routes: Reg. cover from Meshed (7.97), via Persian Gaudan 29.7.97, (17.7 old style) Russian Gaudan (17.7 and 18.7), and Cleve, Germany (10.8). Both Persian & Russian Reg marks

Info: The Russian P O in Gaudan opened in Feb. 1896

The Russian-owned "Enzeli Port - Teheran Highway"

For Russia important to be able send troops quickly to northern Persia. Russian-owned

Enzeli was the most important entry point for visitors to Iran. The postal authorities decided – on an experimental and shortlived period in 1911/12 – to offer to the owners of the horse-relais stages between Recht and Kazvin a 10% discount on postage stamps which were overprinted "RELAIS" in French and Persian to avoid a resale to other merchants. A special wave-type cancellation was used for each stage

Only 3 items recorded using special arrangement during official period

ROUDBAR

via Recht, cancelled 12 May 1912, Enzeli, Baku going to Leipzig in Germany.

Rate: 3 cl = 24 ch. Here is 2ch

Franked w 28 chahis 26ch for 2nd cl. = 2ch overrated
Probably the stage owner had run out of lower denominations.



Letter from the Enzeli-Teheran Road Company. Kazvin Office to the Accounting and Loan Bank of Persia in Teheran

УПРАВЛЕНИЕ
ЭНЗЕЛИ-ТЕГЕРАНСКОЙ ДОРОГИ
КАЗВИНЪ (Персія).

DIRECTION DE LA ROUTE
ENZELI-TÉHÉRAN
KAZVIN (Perse).

Registered letter from Kazvin to Teheran.

About 1904-6

Postmarks not clear.

Rate: 9ch 2nd cl. (1904-20)

Reg. fee: 12 ch (1904-25)

Both Kazvin and Teheran cancellations have no year date.

