



## a postal history of BRITISH & QAJAR dynasty PERSIA [1857-1924]

Great Britain declared a war Persia in November 1856, because of violation of treaty by occupying of Herat on the afghan border and then disembarking an Indian Expeditionary Force under Sir James Outram near Bushire. The mails from Persia were operated by two Administrations i.e British and Persia itself. Before entering the UPU in 1877, the mails from Persia also had the Russian adhesives on covers. After 1877 this practice was discontinued and only Persian adhesives were used. The registration label was used as the 1shahi as the postage was not in vast quantity in few cites. Various surcharges and overprints were done from 1900-1925. Postal Rates were revised for both Inland and Foreign destinations at different Regimes. New Postmarks were also introduced during 1897-1925.

This comprehensive exhibit comprises of extensive study of the postal history of Persia comprising the British Indian Administration period from the Field force 1857 until the the closing of P.Os in 1923 covering Abadan, Bandar Abbas, Bushire, Linga and Mohemmerah P.Os. In the Persian Administration Era by Qajar Dynasty (till 1924) covers the earliest usages from Persia, Revision of Rates, only known covers, Unrecorded and very few in existence usages of postmarks are also discussed in detail. The mail routings are also discussed which includes via Sea Post (Bombay-Aden), Russia & its Post Office at Tehran, Pacific Routes, African Continenet and Far East Mails with rates study and maps. Many exceptional postal history items covering P.Os in Abedeh, Ardebil, Barfroush, Bouroudjird, Boushire, Djoulfa, Enzeli, Gaoudan, Hamadan, Ispahan, Jahrom, Kazvin, Kermanshah, Khoj, Kuni, Maidan, Medjed, Mohammerah, Rescht, Sari, Sarvistan, Savoutchboulag, Schimeran, Schiras, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Tauris, Tedjrich, Tehran, Toko, Torchiz, Urmia, Yezd and others are discussed in detail with historical backgrounds and illustrated study of the datestamps for the first time in history with colour types.

Frame 1 to 3: British Administration (1857-1923) / Persian Administration (Nasser-ed-Din Shah 1877-1897)  
The first one and a half frame comprises of the early exceptional examples usages on cover under the British Administration QV, KEVII and KGV period, which includes the exceptional usages of Indian P.O under Bombay & Sind Postal Circle mails, Semi Public Imperial Post after Joining U.P.U Mails with the study of rates for articles and routes. Brief discussion of Imperial P.O at Bushire and Linga with study of exceptional usages on covers & postmarks. Exceptional Stationery usages are also discussed. The British P.O in Persia mails which includes exceptional usages from Bandar Abbas P.O, Mails before WWI with Bushire damaged canceller, After WWI correspondences from Linga bearing censor makings, usage offices Indian Exchange Offices at Koh-i-Malik Siah Ziarat, Imperial P.Os at Mohammerah and Abadan are discussed with extreme rarities. Mails just before the closing of Imperial P.Os at Persia (1923) are also discussed in detail.

From the Second half of the frame comprising of Nasser-ed-Din Shah period, early mails discussed right after development of National Postal System and after Joining U.P.U. Exceptional range of correspondences from 1879 covering the U.P.U dictated postal rates for articles on covers, which includes domestic and foreign mails with the detailed study of routes from different origins. Various domestic Mails, Persian Gulf and Middle East Mails from different origins of Persia with routing are discussed with exceptional usages on covers including the comprehensive study of their Postmarks. Reveision of Rate in 1897 and usage of the Stationery and Far East Mails via Sea Route are discussed in detail.

Frame#4 to 6 (Nasser-ed-Din Shah 1877-1897) / (Mozzafar ed-Din Shah 1897-1907)

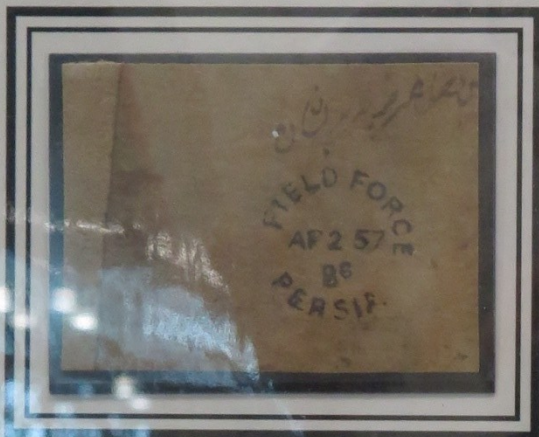
Exceptional Mails to Austria, Belgium, MiddleEast, usages of Stationeries for Inland and Foreign usages, revision of postal rates in 1897(in Mozzafar-al-Din Shah period), and exceptional usages of Control marking over stamps used on cover are discussed in detail. Types of Registration Cachets, Revision of Rates, 1897 and Registered Label used as Postage, 1897 is discussed. The study of Postal Rates for U.S.A, U.K, Europe and African Continent with the study of routes and postmarks, Unusual Manuscript surcharged postage on cover, Mails Constantinople (Ottoman Empire), Less rated Mails routing from Russia, Uncommon mail from Tehran Maidan and Adoption of New Cancellor types are briefly discussed. The Local Tehran Prints of 1902 used on Inland & foreign mails, exceptional early & late usage of overprinted postcards, Introduction of new U.P.U based Stationery and Revised Postal Rates in 1903 are explained with exceptional range of covers and postmarks usages including the Self Styled P.O at Tehran / TOKO. New Proposed Inland Rates of 1903 Mails with Surcharged Issues, New Postmarks Types, 1905, Local Tehran Printing postages exceptional usages on mails, Surcharged Stationery for Foreign Mail.

Frame#7 and 8 (Mozzafar ed-Din Shah 1897-1907) / (Mohammad Ali Shah 1907-1909 / Ahmed Shah 1909-1924)  
Revision of Inland Rates after throne given to Mohammad Ali Shah in 1907 with Unusual Comb inations on Cover, Revision of Rate, 1907 and Pre-Abdication of Throne Mails. The usages during Ahmed Shah Throne 1909, Variations in Postal Rates and Control "C" markings. The Russian P.O at Tehran using its own postage but Tehran obliterations (Extremely Scarce Cover), WWI mails with Persian & British Censorship Mails, The Role of Duzdab and Kouh Malek Siah Ziarat Indian & Persian Exchange Offices and Rates, and concluding chapter of Qajar Dynasty mails.

References: Extensive study of Postmarks and history has been done from, Tomkins, T. L. C, The Persian Gulf, Persiphila, Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin, Various Notes, Catalogues and Articles etc.

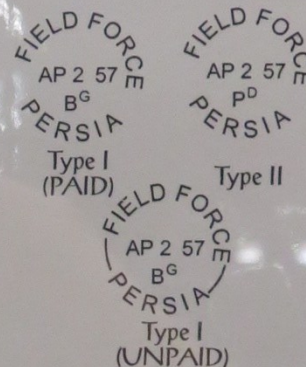
## Indian Field Post Office in Persia

After declaration of war against Persia by Great Britain due to violation of treaty in November 1856, a field post office accompanied the Force was the first recorded case in which regular Indian Postal personnel accompanied by a military force on active service. For that F.P.O, a Military paymaster of the Persian Expeditionary force was appointed to take control. The First F.P.O was established at Bushire in December 1856. The second at Mohammerah in March 1857 and the island of Kharg in June the same year.



### First Day Usage of F.P.O / Persia **RRR**

A field post accompanied the initial Field Force (which became The 1st Division), being authorized on 31.10.56, with a staff of seven (head clerk, 2 clerk, munshi, and four persons), under Ex.officer Postmaster (the paymaster, Brevet Major H. J. Barr). Another FPO accompanied the 2nd Division to Mohammerah.



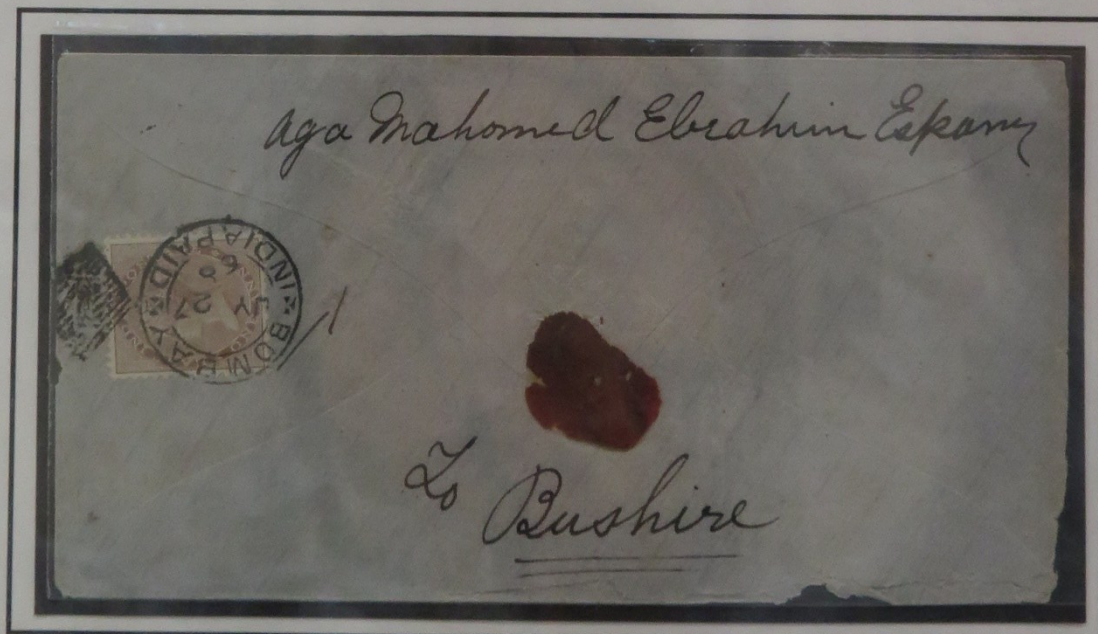
At that time there was no regular packet service to the Gulf and so the Force had to mainly rely on its own vessels for its mail service. Two routes were maintained. This piece was posted from Bushire on 21.4.57 (Type UP1), FIRST DAY USAGE, by Elphinstone to Mohammerah. This is one of the two examples known. Two types are known illus.1 BG illus.2 PD instead of BG. FIELD FORCE/DATE/BG/PERSIA in black in circular form but with small arcs only at the sides for unpaid letters. The unpaid amount is found entered in manuscript.

## Indian Post Office in Persia under Bombay Postal Circle, 1864-68

The first Imperial (British India) Post Office was opened at Bushire on May 1864 under the Bombay Postal Circle. India postage stamp was used and postal rates were followed till 1923.

Example from Bombay bearing 1 Anna struck with duplex "1" obliterator was destined to Bushire due to existence of Indian P.O handling mail for Imperial and deliver the same in Persia.

**RRR**

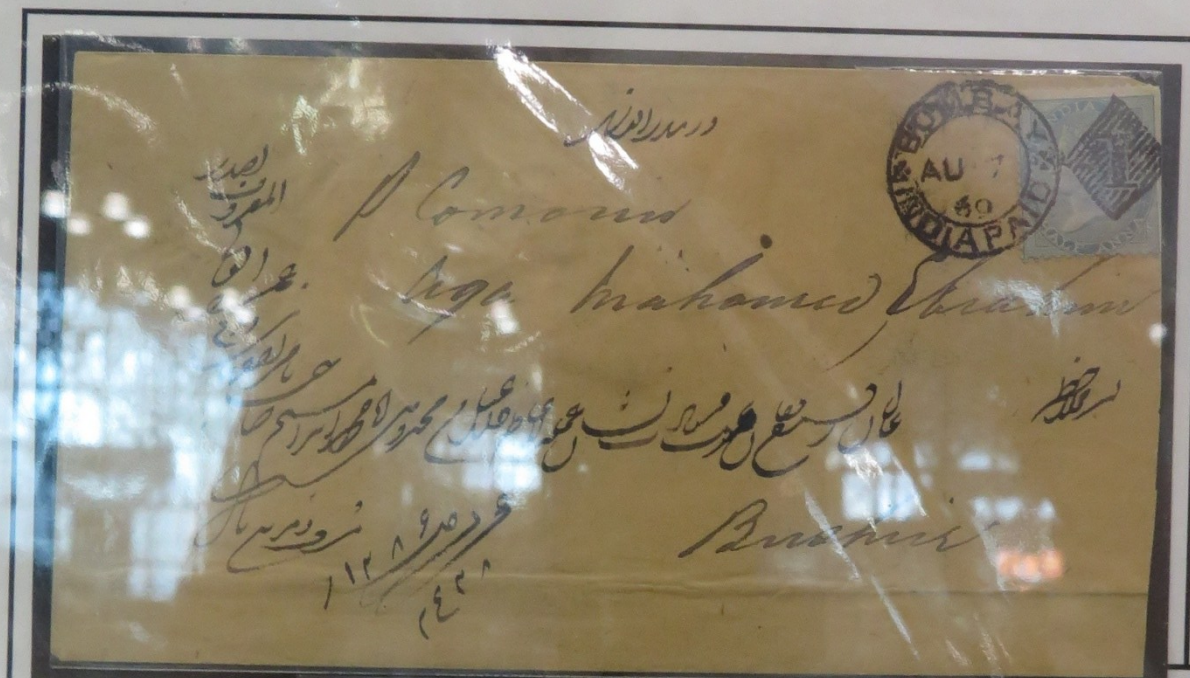


Note: Since Indian Postal Rates were followed, this letter was charged 1 Anna as it was exceeding □ tola. Other wise it would be bearing a standard letter rate of ½ Anna.

## Indian Post Office in Persia under Sind Postal Circle, 1869-78

In regular steamship sailings between Bombay and the Persian Gulf were initiated, and there was pressure on the Persian government to permit Indian-controlled post offices in the Persian Gulf ports to handle mail destined for Bombay. The entire system was controlled by the postmaster general in Bombay, letters were franked with Indian stamps carrying pictures of Queen Victoria, and Indian postal rates were charged. However, in 1869, it was transferred from Bombay to the Sind Postal Circle (Karachi), almost for a decade.

### Letters carrying Standard Letter Rate for Persia



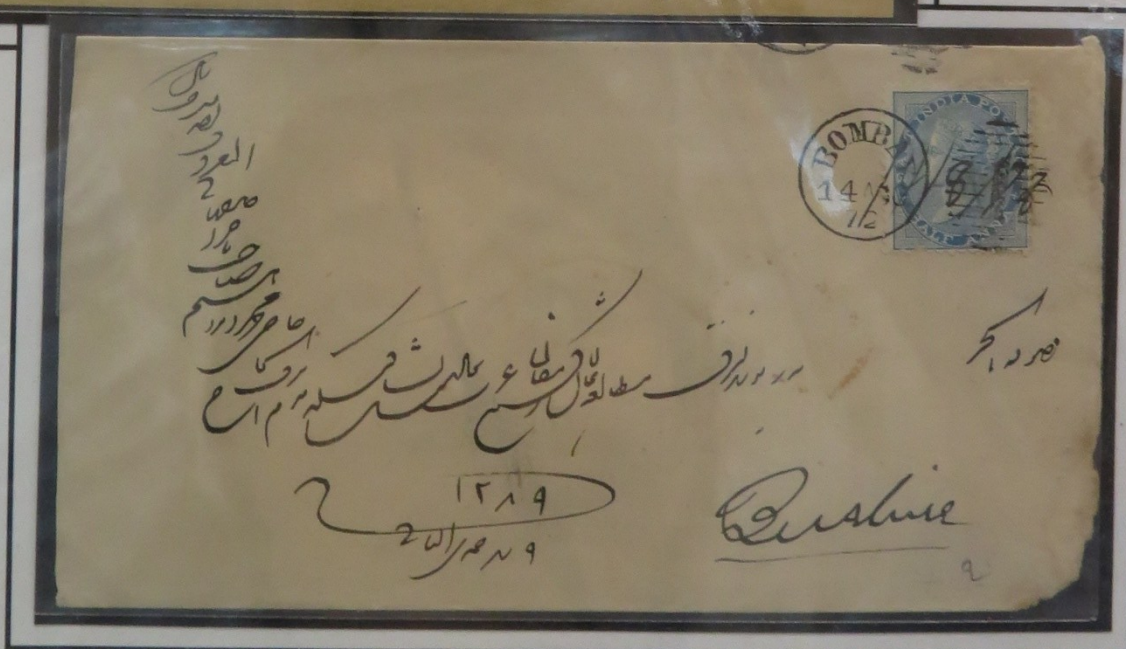
Since the Persian follows the Islamic Calendar, one can see Persian Scripted cover with a date in Hejri at front after the address.

Here on this cover the date reads as:-

28 Rabi us sani  
1286 ~  
7 August 1869.

And on this cover the date reads as:-

9 Ramzan 1289  
10 November  
1872. In this case it is actual written date, not posted.

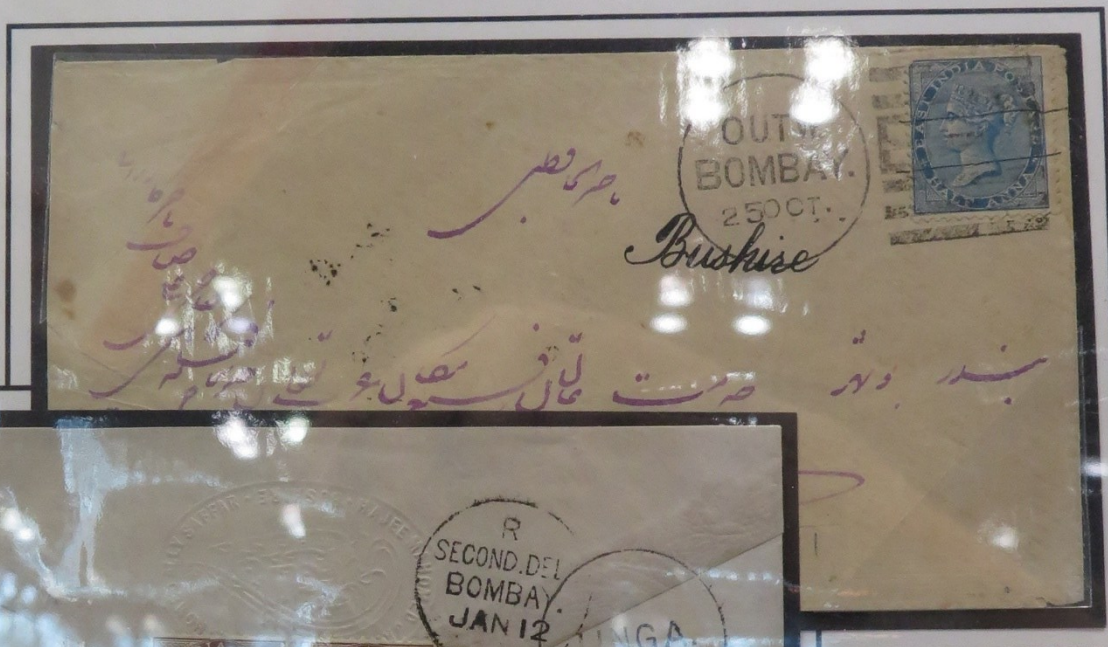


Two example from Bombay bearing standard letter rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna, struck with duplex "1" obliterator for Top, usage August 7, 1869 and Oval bar "1" duplex on bottom example, usage November 14, 1872. Both were addressed to Bushire, Persia which was handled by the Sind Postal Circle during 1869 to 1878. This makes the above two covers exceptional during that decade. **RRR**

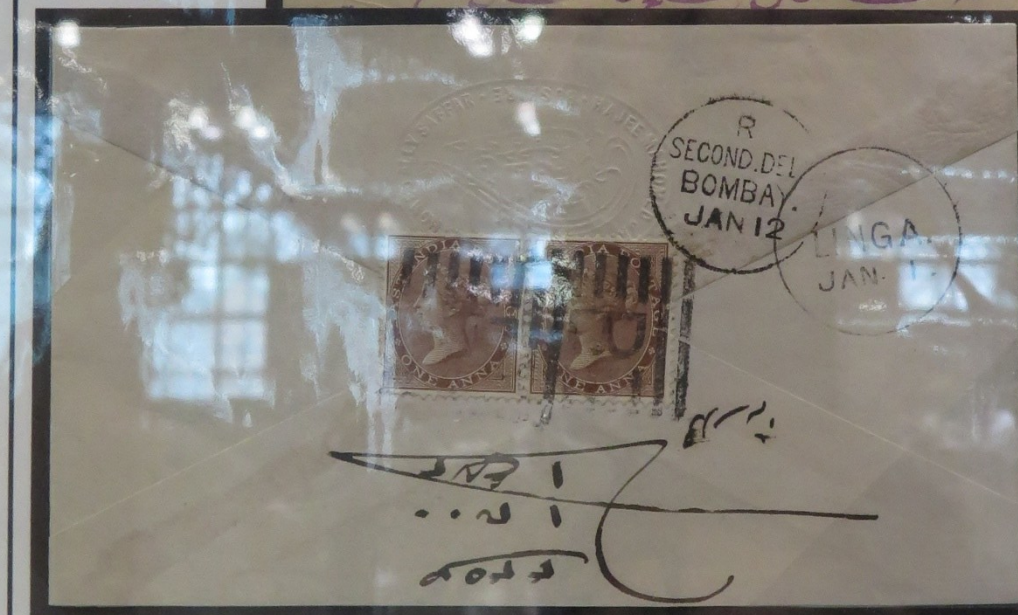
## Indian P. O's in Persia under Previous Postal Circle, 1879

After finding that Sind Circle was not good for routing, the powers were transferred back to Bombay Postal Circle in 1879 and lasted till the dissolving of Indian P.O from Persia in 1923. Meanwhile, the new datestamps were provided to Bushire. When returned to the Bombay Postal Circle, "B" square bars was normally used on covers, non duplex. The town spelt "BUSHIRE" in single circle seen accompanied the same from 1879. Similar type was also provided to controlled regions; spelt - Bandar-Abas and LINGA, showing date and month only.

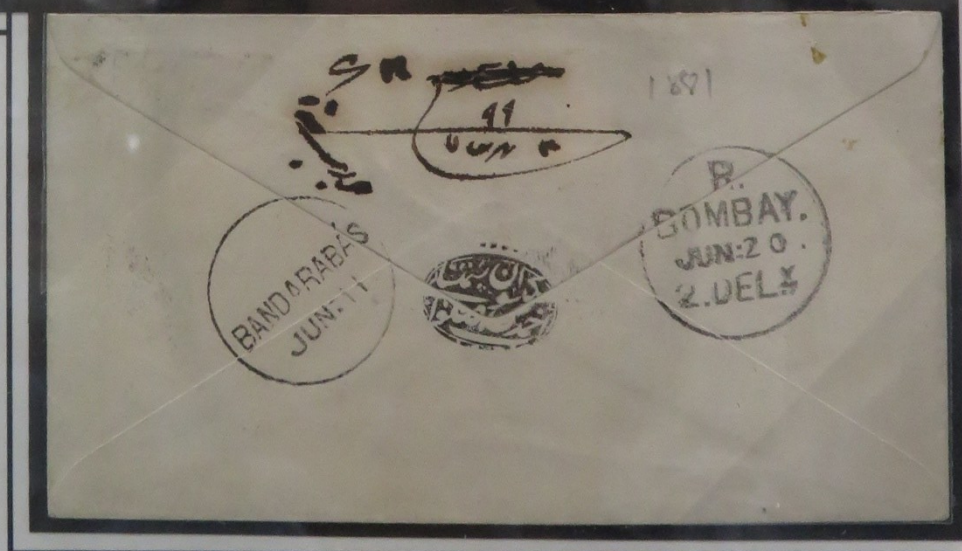
1881. A cover from Bombay posted in October 25 received at Bushire on November 5, as shown at back right-corner. **RRR**



1882. Cover from LINGA to Bombay shows "B" square bar and circular datestamp of January 1 (with stops). **RRR**



1881. Imperial  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna envelope from BANDARABAS to Bombay shows "B" square bar (at front) and circular datestamp of June 11 (with colon between month and date). **RRR**



All such Imperial datestamps which do not have the year existed till the new version was adopted, in which the year was made available, as they cannot understand the Hejri date

## Semi-Public Imperial Post in Persia After Joining U.P.U

The entire system was controlled by the postmaster general in Bombay, letters were franked with Indian stamps carrying pictures of Queen Victoria, and Indian postal rates were charged. The British service thus became a semipublic postal system between Bushire and the rest of Persia, as the legation couriers would deliver mail along their return routes to Tehran. Persia soon joined the International Postal Union, in August 1879.

### Standard Letter Rate to British India

A cover from Bushire prepaid with QV  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna (green), addressed Bombay.

It was tied by the new squared with four thin bars at corner version, measuring 19mm diameter of circle, hence considered as the Bushire Small Type BS1, dated May 13, 1886

This cover bore standard  $\frac{1}{2}$  tola letter rate. Arrival Bombay, May 25, 1886. **R**



### Letter exceeding 1 tola Rate



This correspondence bearing 2 Annas (QV) vertical pair, used at Bushire on a mail to Bombay refers to Letter rate of 1869 Imperial India, in which the 1 Anna was charged additionally for every 1 tola and above. Hence, this mail followed the same, posted on November 23, 1890 from Bushire and received at Bombay on December 10.

**RRR**

## The Imperial Postal Rate of 1869 - 1898 used in Persia.

As per the postal notice of 1869, now the letters were calculated per  $\frac{1}{2}$  tola and 1 tola. The previous was  $\frac{1}{4}$  tola and 1 tola till 1866. The variation of rates found on Persian cover are very uncommon. The large diameter "Bushire" datestamp cover was not witnessed before 1892 as the small ones were leading till 1891.

### $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna for $\frac{1}{2}$ tola; Normal rate

A cover sent from Bushire prepaid with QV  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna (green), addressed Bombay.

It was tied by the Bushire Type BS1, dated July 13, 1891.

This cover bore standard  $\frac{1}{2}$  tola letter rate. Arrival Bombay, July 29, 1891.  
Uncommon!



### 1 Anna for over $\frac{1}{2}$ tola; Uncommon rate



Mail from Bushire for Bombay prepaid here with the 1 Anna Imperial postage, which means this letter must have exceeded the half tola rate.

Such mails are uncommon from Bushire. Posted on December 8, 1891 and delivered to Bombay P.O. after 10 days, normal estimated limited. **RRR**

This cover bore the latest usage of the small barred Type BS1 of Bushire, as from this date onwards, the large datestamp takes the lead, Type BL1.

## Mail to Uncontrolled Imperial Bushire

As discussed previously, Bushire was controlled under both, Imperial and Persian Authority till 1915 when British took control of the entire Bushire and established a F.P.O which operated till 1923. These are found with a receiving of Persian receiver of Bushire, considered exceptional during that period or was hardly possible.

## Mail from Bombay to Bushire with Mystery!!



This exceptional mail from Bombay prepaid with the corrected rate of 2 Annas, addressed to Isphahan, Persia.

What makes this cover mystery usage:-

This cover was posted from Bombay (May 6) traveled by Sea to Aden (May 7) upon arrival it was established that this mail was actually addresses to the uncontrolled Imperial regions of Persia, therefore it was posted back from Aden (May 12) accompanied the "MISSENT IN INDIAN MAIL" cachet, which means cover was received in a post office which should not have come for delivery.

Hence, forwarded by Bombay Sea P.O on May 16 to Bushire P.O in Persia controlled region where it was sent through Tehran to Isphahan on June 4. **RRR**\*

## Allotment of Small Circular with Corner Bars to Linga P.O

The small diameter, 20mm, circular datestamp with thick corner bars (like the one for J&K known as Tavi Type), was allotted by the Imperial office for Linga as well before Bushire, Type BS1, in 1887 which was used till 1895. The worn-out Impression started from 1894 and hence abandoned in 1895.

An exceptional mail from Linga prepared with the pair of 1 Anna Imperial Postage. Tied by the Linga, Type LS1, dated February 24, 1892. Arrival marking of Bombay affixed on the same of May 4, 1892. **R**



Type LS1  
(1887-1895)



**RRR**

This example from Linga bore the flat letter rate from Persia to Bombay. The Linga, Type LS1 affixed over the postage shows an error of "Tail" variety of datestamp. The "month" and "date" shows elongated lines from letters. Unlisted



Variety!

### Mail from Imperial Linga P.O

Linga, a port about 96 miles from west of Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf Coast. It was known as a port of call for British Indian Steam Navigation Company's Steamers. The first Indian post office was established in April 1867, first on temporary basis, and permanent P.O by the end of the year. It was closed in 1923.

An exceptional mail from Linga to Bombay was prepaid two Imperial 1 Anna postage, tied by the small Linga canceller, Type LS1, dated May 3, 1893. Delivered at Bombay on May 13, as shown on the same side.



This small Linga canceller like Bushire measure 20mm diameter. It was known used from 1887-95.



Although large types were known from January 1892, but no large types noticed as found in this cover from Bushire.

Mail from Bushire to Bombay, dated July 1893. The above cover bore more than 1 tola letter rate whereas this example is least 1 tola. **RR**

During this period no deformation of letters occurred neither for Linga nor for Bushire until 1897.

## Mails from Bushire by Bombay - Aden - Suez Route

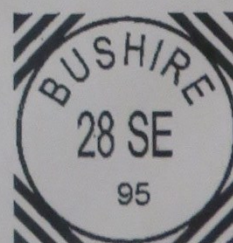
The Bombay - Aden - Suez Sea Post Office service was introduced in 1866 to speed the delivery of mails to and from India. It was operated by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company on their steamer service from Suez to Bombay, via Aden. The sorting of the mails in either direction was carried by up to six teams under the control of the Indian Post Office. An intermediate stop was made at Aden for the discharge and collection of mails to and from East Africa and the Arabian coast, as well as for refueling the ships.

### An Important 1895. Official Embossed Crest on Official Stationery Of Trade Department



Official stationery of Persian "AMINUTTOJJAR" (Trade Department) showing embossed crest of Persian Lion in turquoise-green. The envelope on cream wove paper, measures: 152 x 124mm.

The cover bears  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna and 1 Anna x 2 Queen Victoria adhesives tied by the medium squared circle datestamp of "BUSHIRE" (early version, undamaged "E"), posted on September 28, 1895 for Cairo. The cover carried to Bombay where transferred to P.Os "S.S. Himalaya", Sea Post Office (Oct. 12) for voyage to Suez and received on Oct. 20 transit along with the Cairo receiver postmark, dated October 21, on the same side. Very few examples exist! **RRR**



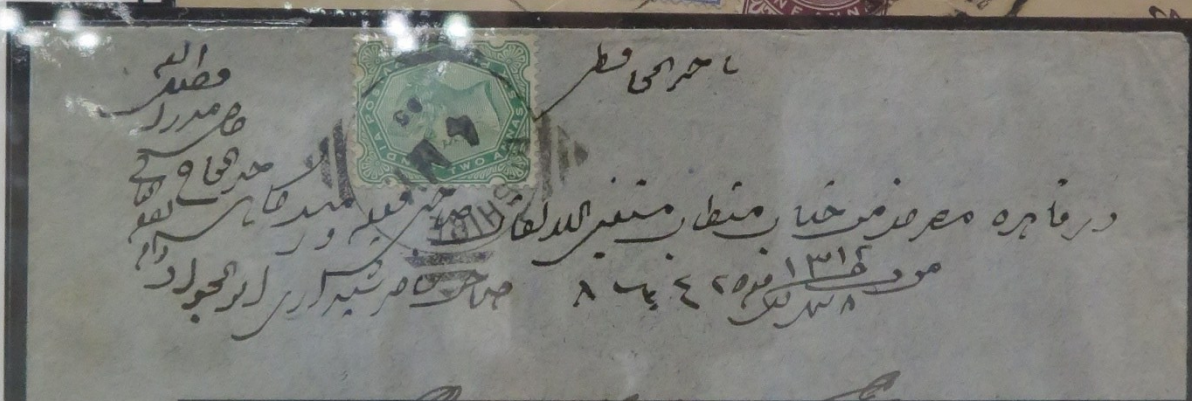
Large squared circle datestamp, Type BL1



### Mails from Bushire Suez Route & Rate

It became the most common route for Britain and Europe, via the Suez Canal. There were stopovers in Port Said in Egypt and Port Aden. From there, the ships traveled across the Indian Ocean to the Western Australian Port of Fremantle. Before crossing the equator, they stopped at Bombay (India) and similar for return route. Hence, the mails from Persia awaiting at Bombay were prepaid with 2½ Annas, reached Cairo after a month.

Three  
different  
year  
usage:  
1894  
(top),  
1895  
(middle)  
and  
1896  
(bottom)



RR



All three  
Mails from  
Bushire to  
Cairo were  
treated by  
the  
mentioned  
Route but  
Top and  
Bottom with  
heavy letter  
rate.

## Mails from Linga Suez Route & Rate

The similar treatment was done for Mail from Linga. They usually bore 2 ½ Annas letter rate of Sea Mail. However, the mails from this port is much scarcer than Bushire. Normally the mail from Imperial Persia took 3 days to reach Bombay by Sea.

This exceptional mail from Linga (Persia) was prepaid with the discussed postage of Imperial and was tied by the three strikes of Linga, Type L1, dated May 23, 1896. The voyage begins as under:-



This mail was first carried to Bombay where it was transferred to the P&Os SS. Ganges, another Steamer Ship, cancelled Sea Post C, dated June 5, 1896 to Suez (received on June 16). **RRR**



The example at left from Bushire and top from Linga confirms that, both reached Bombay on the 13th Day of dispatch. **RRR**

This example shows latest usage of large Bushire, Type BL1, without broken or damaged letters, used in January 1897. It was previously reported that this obliterator had damaged "E" & "R" in 1897, this discovery confirms it happened in late 1897 not early.

# The Damaged Letter of Bushire, Type BL1 (A)

Now, it has been established by us that the bottom leg of "E" in BUSHIRE" found dropped off as early as October 20, 1897 not January. Another damaged occurred was of "R", noticed starting from 1899 period.

## BUSHIRE AS BUSHIRF (3 Bars Cancel)

The first sub-type of BUSHIRE, type BL1 appeared now as early as January 21, 1902 showing the spelling as "BUSHIRF" due to dropping off bottom leg of "E", Type BL1 (A).



This cover bore three exceptional rarity on one cover, 1) usage from Bushire to Muscat (Feb 1), 2) Franked with a pair of 3pies pair of Queen Victoria Adhesives and 3) The early usage of canceller with spelling error due to damaged "E". **RRR**



Type BL1 (A)

Normally, the example seen from October 1897, therefore we have established that this type was known as early as October 1897, like the mail at left from Bushire (Oct. 23) to Bombay (Nov.5).

**RRR**

## Another Damaged Letter of Bushire, Type BL1 (B)

Reported in October 1899, right after two year of the first sub-type, another example of BUSHIREF was witnessed in which the front leg of "R" was found damaged. One thing common was the month and date are larger than the year, the year is too small, resulting in its often failing to register in the cancellation.

### BUSHIRE AS BUSHIRF (3 Bars Cancel)

One thing which was not reported before was the inter-changing of Month and Date randomly throughout its existence. The type remains the same only positions changes, that is, we witness damaged "R" example accompanied with damaged "E".



UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION - UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

BRITISH INDIA

INDE BRITANNIQUE

POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

*B.C. Town Esq.  
Springfield  
Willesley Road  
Barnesbury  
London S.W.*



Type BL1 (A)



Type BL1 (B)

**Top:** This example bearing the 1 Anna Imperial postage was tied by the Bushire, Type BL1 (A), dated November 28, 1898, almost a year ago before another damage occurred.

**RR**

**Bottom:** 1 Anna Imperial U.P.U Postcard used from Bushire to London carried by S.S Orient from Bombay via Brindisi, on Dec. 1, 1902, Type BL1 (B). **RRR**

## The Registered and Un-registered Mails

Since Imperial controlled regions followed the rate of Imperial India, the registration rate for letter was charged similar to the postage for letter. Since the letter rates revised in April 1, 1905 through which the normal rate for the mails outside Persia to East set to 2 ½ Annas and obviously registered mails bore double postage.



### Mail from Bushier to Muscat

As per postal notice, this mail bore the 2 □ Annas, Imperial postage when mailed outside Persia, rate not for Europe.

#### Usage:

Bushire: April 14, 1907, Arrival Muscat:

April 17. **RR**

However, in this case, from Bombay, the mail traveled through Imperial Bushire to Persian Boushir to Tehran then to Isfahan. Therefore took almost a month to deliver.

This was the registered mail from India carrying double letter rate. No registration label imposed but manuscript besides the "Via Bushire" scripting, denoting its registration. Unusual method although reg. label and cachets were available.

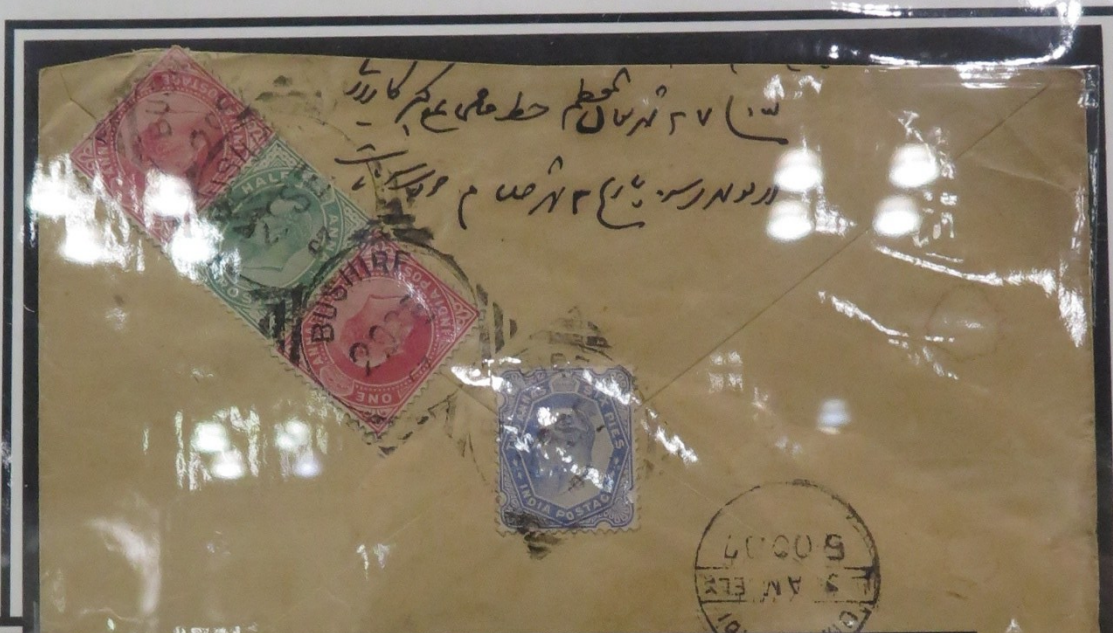


### The usage of Umar Khadi P.O (Bombay); 1907-1912

It was noticed that from 1907, the Umar khadi P.O was used to delivery mails within 6 days instead of 13 days. The mails from Bushire was noticed bearing that damaged second sub-type, used till the close of the Imperial Post Office in 1923. Throughout these years no other sub-type except new types of canceller known.

Similar  
approach  
found on  
this cover,  
Bushire,  
dated  
29  
September  
1907

Arrival  
Umar  
Khadi  
P.O  
(Bombay)  
on  
5 October,  
1907



Cover  
from  
Bushire to  
Umar  
Khadi  
P.O of  
Bombay,  
dated 15  
December  
1907.

Reached  
Umar  
Khadi  
P.O on 21  
December  
, i.e  
within 6  
Days!

### Mail from Imperial Bandar Abbas P.O

It is another port located in southern Persia at the narrowest point of the Straits of Hormuz. The first Indian P.O or Imperial P.O was opened on April 1, 1867 and after its great demand by the traders, specially it was made permanent P.O under Bombay Postal Circle in July 1868. When the Postal headquarters was transferred to Sind (Karachi) Postal Circle, it was included like the other controlled and then became the first ever sub-post office of Bushire in 1872-73. Again when headquarters returned to Bombay, this was relocated.

### Registered Mail with Markings



An exceptional registered mail (split-open) prepaid for Persian Gulf rate of 4½ Annas from Bandar Abbas to Muscat. Tied by the three datestamp strikes spelt, "Bandar Abas", of August 16, 1909 with the receiver Muscat August 18, 1909 alongside.

The beauty of the cover not only ornamented with the registered usage but also the usage of Locally made registered label with No.115, which was cancelled by large "R" [registered] boxed marking with the word "BANDAR ABAS" below. This defines its rarity! **RRR**

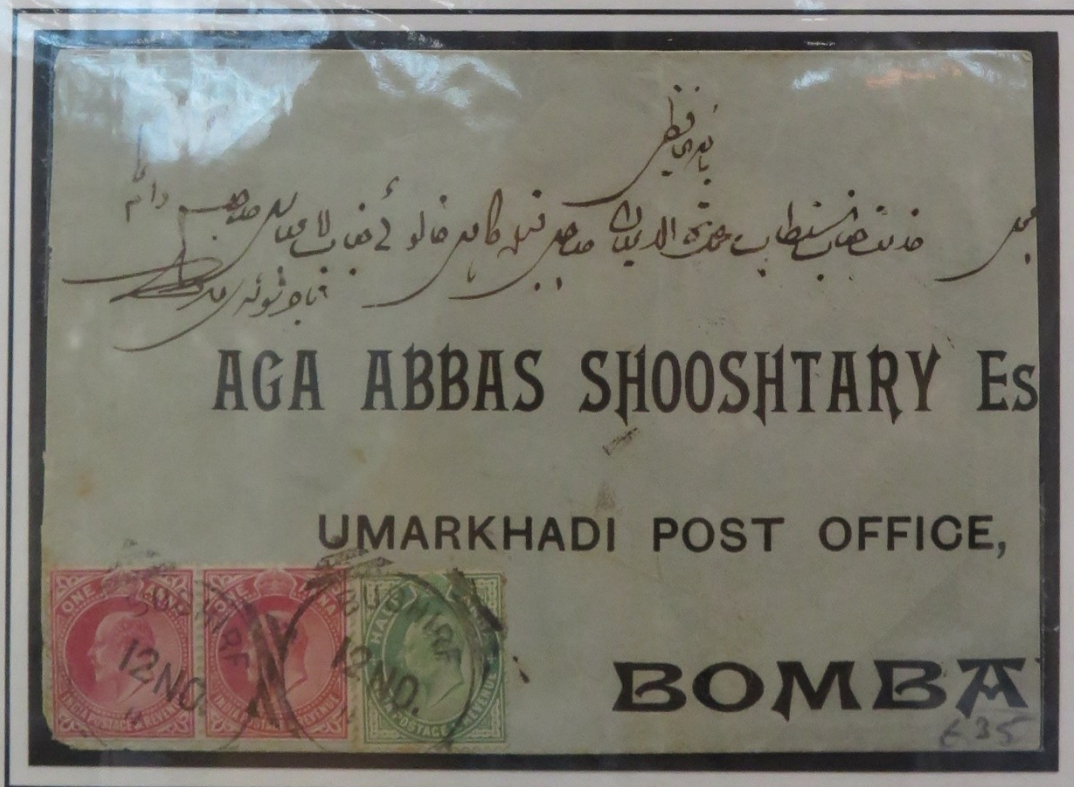
### Before WWI usage from Bushire

Meanwhile in 1907, the Native postal service was separated from the customs department, and later it was elevated to a Ministry. The mail route used was the Bombay - Aden - Suez route until the WWI started in 1914. Even before that Balkan War of 1912-13, also affected the correspondence not only for Persia but also for Ottoman Empire. The rate of 2 Anna & 6pies (half anna) which was imposed before WWI continued similarly afterwards.

A cover (back) affixed with the three  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna and 1 Anna tied by the three strikes of "BUSHIRE" Type BL1 (B), dated of August 13, 1911. Arrival datestamp of Umarkhadi, Bombay, dated August 19, cancelled on the same side. Uncommon!



Type BL1 (B)



Another cover for the same destination prepaid with  $\frac{1}{2}$  Anna and a pair of 1 Anna, tied by the two strikes of "BUSHIRE" Type BL1 (B), dated of November 12, 1911. Arrival datestamp Umarkhadi, Bombay cancelled on back shows arrival date of November 18.

Although the Bushire datestamp contain an error but it was ignored and used till the closing in 1923.

### After WWI usage from Linga

During WWI, in August 8, 1915, Bushire was entirely occupied by the British Troops. The F.P.O was opened at Reshire near Bushire on August 16, F.P.O No.319 and 347 (1918). All these Indian P.Os were closed in April 1923 when Persia completely took control of Bushire. Meanwhile, Linga was still in Imperial control and administration was handed over to Persia with Bushire and others.

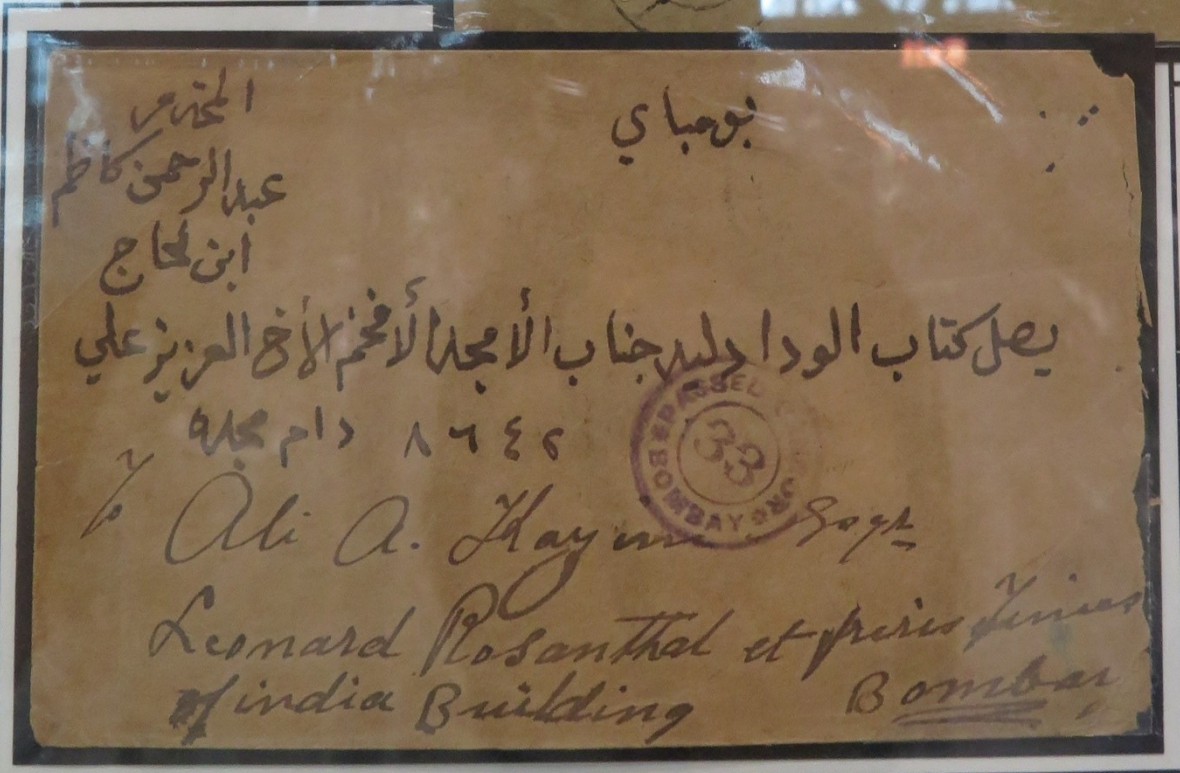
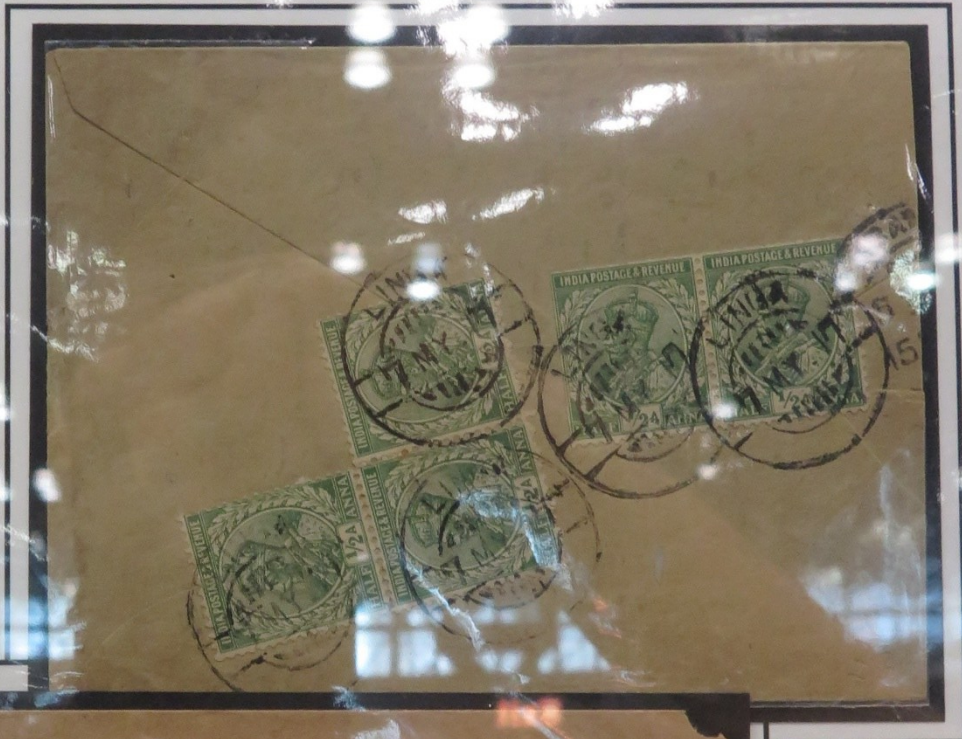
### Mails from Persia censored at Bombay

This cover from Linga bearing Annex 5 example (unusual) filed on the cover backside by the LINGA, double circle bride datestamp with bars, Type LD1, dated May 7, 1917.

Since F.P.Os at Bushire was still running during that period, therefore the mail from Persia to Bombay was censored upon arrival, like this one. Then delivered to destined location.

In this case the 6 day time was increased to 9 days maximum.

The arrival date of Bombay May 15 confirms the same theory, datestamp found on the corner at the same side.



Another cover with the similar treatment hence the front side show the Censor No.33 of Bombay which was tied upon arrival from Persia (Linga, July 2, 1917) at Bombay (July 11).

**RRR**

It may be mentioned that Persian stamps surcharged "BUSHIRE under British Occupation" were used at Bushire in August that year.

### Mail to Persian Territory via Land Route

Koh-i-Malik is at the tri-junction of Persia, Afghanistan and Baluchistan (Pakistan). The cover below extends by 5 months the period that Indian Base PO 'L' is known to have been in Baluchistan, before being relocated to Duzdalan in Persia within the following few weeks.

### Mails to Persia via Koh-i-Malik-Siah-Ziarat-Indian-P.O



1917 (Sep 17) commercial cover to "Marshes (Persia)" with Indian 2s.6p, ultramarine, tied to reverse by Calcutta R.M.S (Railway marking). First received at 'KARACHI' (Sep 18), forwarded via Quetta (Baluchistan), for Indian P.O, superb transit fine 'KOH-I-MALIK-SIAH-ZIARAT-INDIAN-PO/27. SEP. 17' cds, and Persian-type 'KUH MALEK SIAH ZIARET/28.9.17' bilingual cds, 'NASSIRABAD-SISTAN/29.9-17' bilingual cds on the face & 'MERCHED 10.10.17' arrival bilingual datestamp affixed on the back. A wonderful transfer office cover. **RRR**\*

As per postal archives we found that the permission granted to line staff of Indian Telegraph Department for proceeding short distances beyond frontier at Koh-i-Malik Siah for repairing of telegraph line was given in 1913. This was previously unknown.

### Increase in Day of Arriving

The arrival of sea mail from Persia at Bombay was increased, 10 to 12 days, from 1918 onwards. The examples of the same are discussed below. However, postal rates remains the same.

### Mails from Linga to Bombay

An exceptional mail from Linga prepaid with the standard letter rate, tied by the Linga, Type LD1 (A), dated July 21, 1919. Arrival marking of Bombay affixed on the back of July 31. **RR**

This cover shows the worn-out impression of the datestamp of LINGA. The serious damage was found at date "21" in which "1" is missing.



Another exceptional mail from Linga, dated April 8, 1919. Arrival marking of Bombay affixed on the back of April 24.

i.e Arrived after more than 12 days. Very unusual usage. **RR**



## Mail from Imperial Mohammerah P.O

It is located near Abadan. This port serves as an important outlet for the oilfields in the Ahwaz and Abadan areas. An Indian P.O was established on July 19, 1892 as a sub-office of Busmire. When it was closed in April 1923, the entire control was handed over to the Persian Administration.

An exceptional mail from Mohammerah to Karachi (India) prepaid with the standard letter rate of 2as.6p, tied by the Mohammerah, Type MD1, dated October 22, 1919. Delivery marking of Karachi struck on the same side, dated November 1919.

**RRR**



The datestamp of LINGA, Type LD1 and MOHEMMERAH, Type MD1 are quite similar except the size;

Type LD1 measure 22mm diameter whereas Type MD1 is 21mm. The usage of the Linga datestamp shown on cover depicts the variety of shifting of "22" upwards and gutter margin usage of postage KQV makes it scarcer!

**RRR**

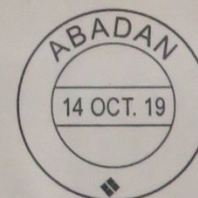


## Registered Mail from Imperial Abadan P.O

A small Island acting as a fueling port near Mohammerah on the river Kuren. The Indian P.O was opened during WWI and also acted as the center for telegraphic communications. It was closed in April 1923. Similar postal rate adopted but for airmail 9 Annas was affixed for by Airmail letters to London, via Baghdad-Cairo. However, surface rate remains as it was for the other Imperial P.Os.

An exceptional registered mail from Abadan P.O bearing the standard rate of 5 Annas, tied by the double circle bridge datestamp of Abadan dated October 14, 1919. The usage of Registration label and the small serif "ABADAN" violet handstamp makes this cover very scarce!

The Sea Mail from this point was forwarded to Bombay and from their P&Os Streamer Ship carried the mail via Brindisi route to United Kingdom. **RRR**



Type AD2  
(1918-1923)

In 1909, Britain created the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (known today as British Petroleum or BP) and this mail was sent from the that Company to Scotland, which makes this cover one of a kind.

## End of Days of Imperial P.O.'s in Persia, 1923

In 1923, all Indian Postal Agencies in Persia closed down as Persia went under complete control of the Reza Shah, when he became the Prime Minister of Persia.

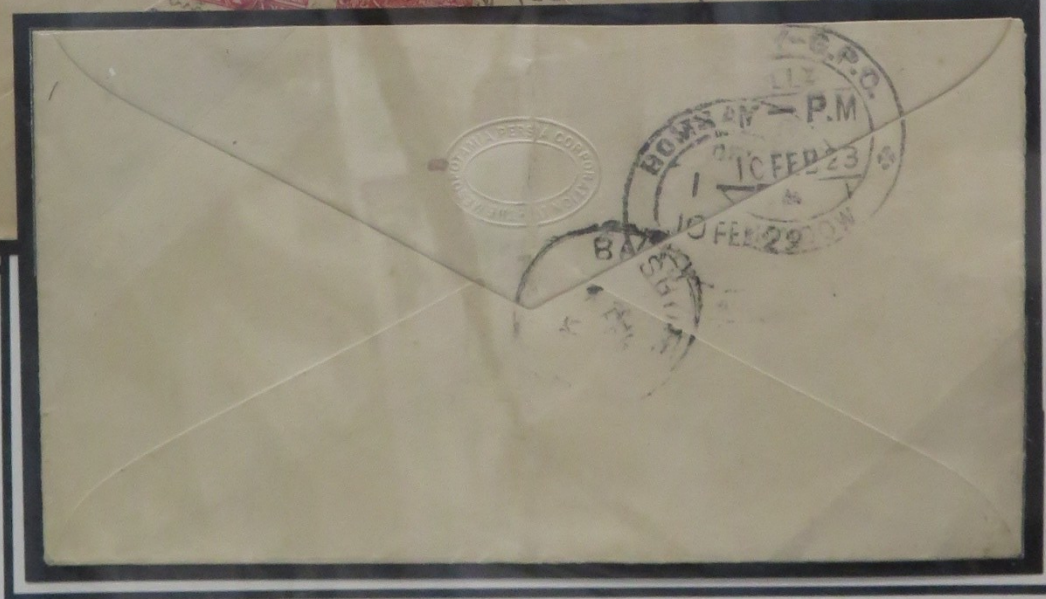
A mail from  
Linga P.O.  
bearing the  
standard rate by  
exceptional  
gutter margins  
KQVI  
adhesives, tied  
by the double  
circle Killer  
datestamp of  
January 1, 1921.  
**RRR**



A cover with  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  tola rate,  
from Linga  
(1922)



Latest usage in  
1923 from  
Bushire,  
February 4.  
Arrival Bombay  
February 10.  
Unusual set of  
Bushire making  
both sides with  
3 Annas (KQV)  
adhesive.

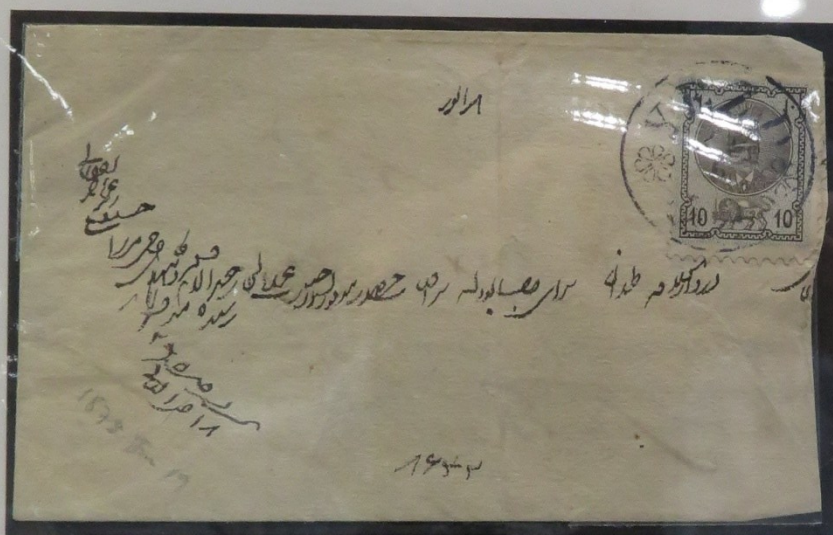


The Persian Administration, Nasser-ed-Din Shah (till 1897)

The U.P.U Early Period-1879

### The National Postal System of Persia, 1873 onwards

Until the 1860s communications in Persia were still quite limited. The first organized delivery of letters and packages dates from about 1850, when regular postal service was established between Tehran and the main provincial cities. In 1873 the government inaugurated a national postal system, and later in November 1874, Gustav Readerer, an Austrian consultant, was hired to direct it. He arrived at Tehran in February 1875 along with his colleague Von Monowarda and began work from the same day. Under his direction, Persia joined the Universal Postal Union, in September 1877.



Small cover prepaid with 10sh as the registered mail from Yezd, dated June 21, 1878. Early mail with the example of Yezd datestamp in violet.

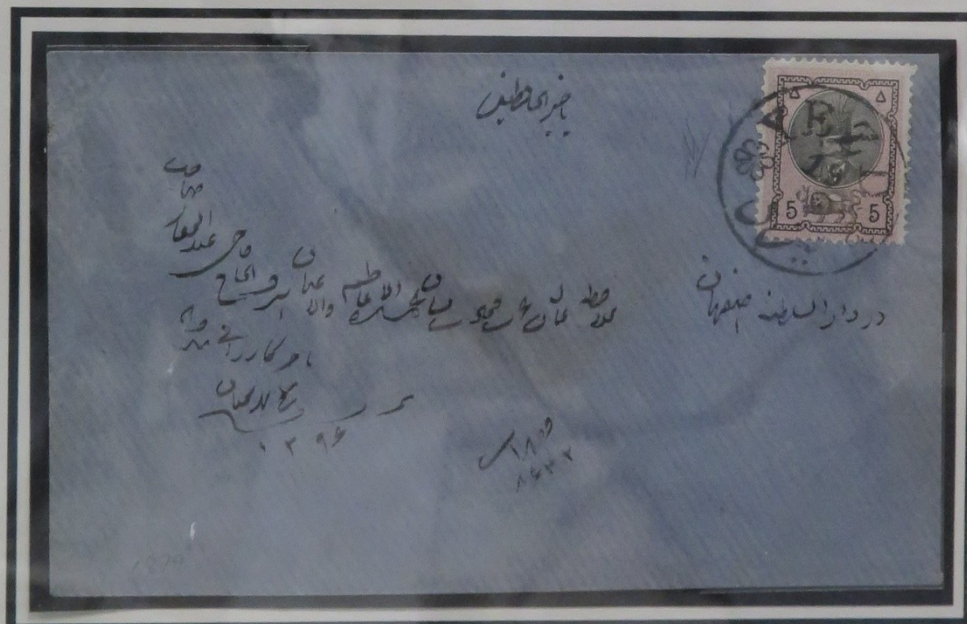
RRR



Type YF1

An exceptional Inland mail from Yezd to Isfahan prepaid with 5 shahi, Nasser-ed-Din Shah Effigy, 1876 adhesive, tied by the single circle flureon datestamp of August 19, 1879.

RRR



In the postal history of Persia, this was the first ever issue of Persia which consist of Portrait of Nasser-ed-Din Shah

### Mail from Persia to Europe

Before entering U.P.U, the mails from Persia to Europe was sent via Russia. All such mails must bore 5 shahi plus Russian franking of 8k and these were cancelled by both, Persia & Russia. But after they joined U.P.U, this practice was discontinued but route remained the same, via Odessa.

### Tabriz to Constantinople via Russia



An exceptional Imprint, 5 Shahi, envelope (split-open) showing the mail first carried by the private courier, dated June 24, 1879 then handled by Tabrez Persian P.O from where it traveled via Odessa (June 27) Russia. Forwarded on June 30. It was received by the Russian P.O at Constantinople on July 2. Since these envelopes did not prove to be worthy, it was allowed to use the postage on this cover, to increase the sale. Therefore, with and without postage are equally scarce. The stamp applied differ the imprint size. RRR

### Mail from Ispahan



Exceptional Inland mail from Ispahan prepaid with 5 shahi, Nasser-ed-Din Shah Effigy 1879, adhesive, tied by the Type ISa datestamp of December 15, 1880. **RRR**



Type ISa



Type ISb

Two early type of Ispahan are differentiated with the thicker letter and Inverted date type. The thicker type ISa had quite clear appearance whereas the type ISb had narrow and inverted date.

### Mail from Schiras



Cover with 5chx2 tied by the two datestamp strikes in purple of Schiras (Chiraz), posted on February 18, 1881. Exceptional Mail!

It was observed that the early type spelt Schiriaz which later read CHIRAZ. The early types on cover with such combination are exceptional. **RRR**



Type S1

### The Early Circular Datestamp & Colour

The early datestamp contains name of the Post Office in English and Persian: the letters in Serif at top and Persian at base. The datestamp like Schiraz known in purple and greenish blue at early stage, upto 1882.

### The UPU based Persian Postcard, 1882

Following the rates of the UPU, Persian authorities prepaid a postcard which was as per standard of UPU in 1881. This postcard value 2½ Shahi was used scarcely.



Mailed at Tabriz, dated October 4, 1881. Arrived viz Berlin (Germany) to Iowa (USA) on November 10, 1881. Re-directed and delivered to New York same day, shown on the same side. This 2 ½ Shahi, Imprint Postcard usage is considered rarest today! **RRR**



Standard 20g letter rate of 5sh applied to this cover from Ispahan, dated March 15, 1885.

The First Existence of Nam  
"PERSIA"



Mailed at Kazvin to Tehran, dated March 27, 1882 with one of the first ever postage, 5sh (25c-1881), which was issued with the name of Persia.



Mailed at Schiras, dated November 29, 1883 with one of the first ever postage, 5sh (no cents value, re-printed 1882), which was issued with the name of Persia.

The Persian Administration, Nasser-ed-Din Shah (till 1897)

The Datestamp

### Mail from Shiraz

The first datestamp spelt: SCHIRAS, known in greenish-blue, purple or violet and black. This city was famous for its popular trade route. It was noticed that blacks were used from 1883.

### Schiras, Type S1 in Greenish-blue

1886. This cover bore 5 Shahi (1882) on back and tied by the two strikes of Schiras, dated October 25 in greenish blue, which is the second scarce colour.

It was noticed that during those days the covers cancelled by the negative seal of the P.O clerk over the back folding

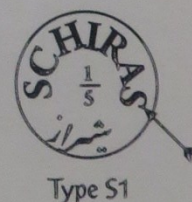
**RRR**



### Schiras, Type S1 in Black



1884. Another cover from Schiras, was prepaid with standard letter rate of 5 Shahi, used locally. It was tied by the Type S1 in black.



Type S1

The domestic postal service initially depended upon riders and delivery on foot and was limited to the main routes throughout Persia.



Registered Mail with 10sh & 5sh from Schrias dated December 10, 1886 (for above 20g).



Registered Mail but with letter rate exceeding 50g with 5sh and 1k, dated December 6, 1888.

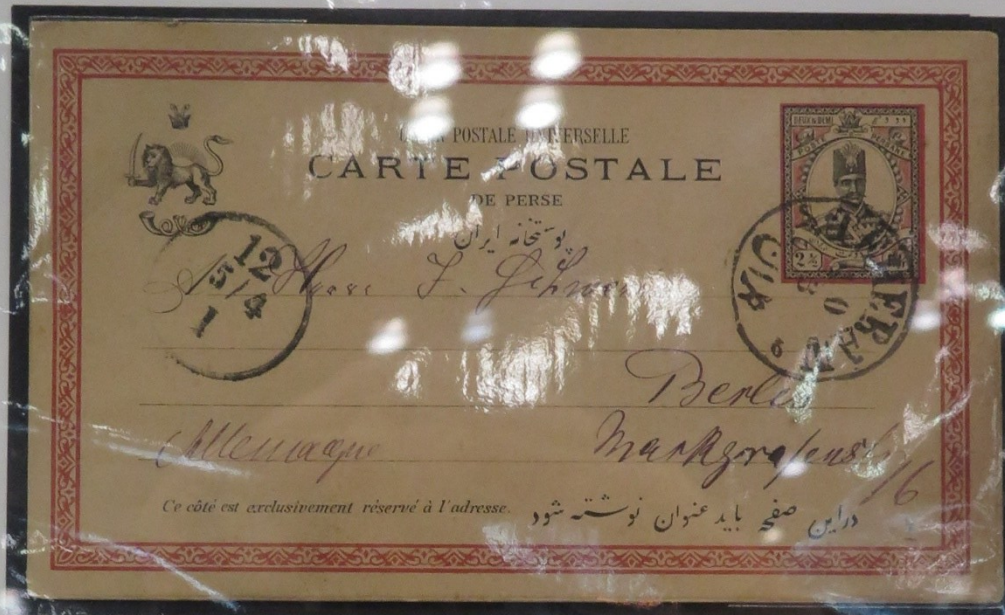
### Registered Mail with letter Rate Exceeding 20g

The domestic postal service initially depended upon riders and delivery on foot and was limited to the main routes throughout Persia. Later, Mirza Ali Khan Amin-al-Dawla was awarded the contract to operate the post office. The letter rate exceeding 20g bore the additional 5sh and another 5sh for registered mail.

Mail from Persia to Germany

The mails addressed to USA sent via Berlin route. This was second route after Odessa which was used for mails for USA and Germany only. For postcards, 2 ½ Shahi, and letters 6 sh was required.

Mailed at Tehran,  
dated March 10,  
1887. Arrived at  
Berlin (Germany)  
dated April 5,  
1887. **RR**



6sh, lion  
(rose)  
stationery  
uprated with  
12sh for  
foreign and  
registration  
rate.

Posted from  
Tehran, tied  
by the Type  
TII, dated  
28.Oct.1889.

Arrived at  
Berlin  
19.Nov.1889

**RR**

### Tehran Early Datestamp

Just like Schiras, the Tehran early type T1 also known in purple apart from greenish-blue and black. However, the covers bearing the same are very uncommon.



Mailed at Tauris, dated June 31, 1888. Two strikes of Arrival Tehran Type T1 in purple at back. This is the uncommon datestamp colour of Tehran. **RR**



This cover from Schiras bore the greenish-blue type which was also used for Tehran, Type T1. Posted on March 12, 1890. **RR**



### Mail from Hamadan

Cover (split-open) from Kermanschah to Hamadan mailed on April 22, 1890.

Prepaid with 5sh standard single letter domestic rate. **RR**

This cover bore the greenish-blue Type H1 of Hamadan dated, April 25.



Type H1

## The Inland and Registered Mails

We find 5 shahi commonly on letters as it was domestic rate within Persia. For registration, the letter bore double the Inland, i.e 10 shahi. The usage of single high values are very uncommon.

### The Registered Inland Mail from Tehran

1890. Mail at Tehran,  
dated April 22.  
Delivered at Hamadan  
on April 25.

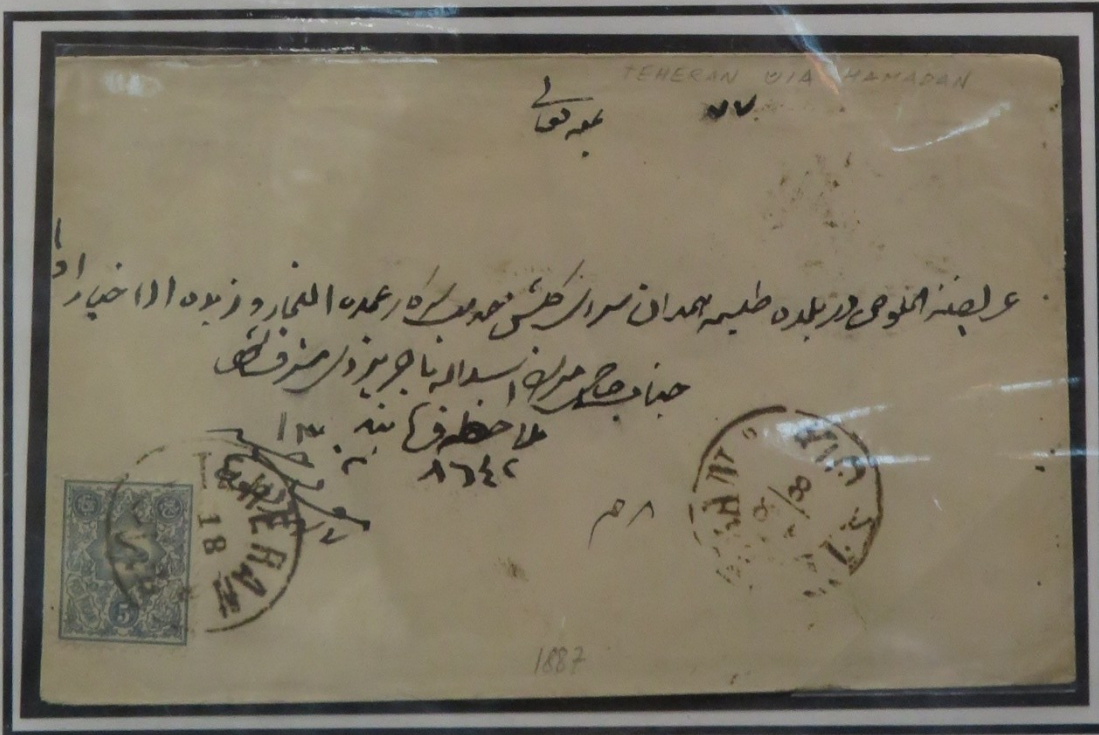
This cover bore the  
standard registered  
letter rate prepaid with  
second small portrait  
stamp of Shah having  
denomination  
10 Shahi  
(1889).

Another rarity found  
on this cover was of  
INVERTED DATE in  
Tehran datestamp,  
Very unusual variety!

**R R R**



### The Domestic Mail from Tehran



1887. Mail at  
Tehran, dated  
August 18.  
Delivered at  
Hamadan on  
August 21.

This cover bore  
the standard  
letter rate  
within Persia  
of 5 Shahi.

Two strikes in  
greenish-blue  
of Tehran was  
struck on front  
and arrival at  
back in same  
colour, but dull.

**R**

The Persian Administration, Nasser-ed-Din Shah (till 1897)

Mails

### The "8" Variety in Datestamp

One thing is common in both examples below, the last letter "S" of "SCHIRAS" appears as "8". This variety was previously unlisted.

#### Schiras, Type S1a in Greenish-blue

1890. This cover bore 5 Shahi (1889 Lion) on back and tied by the two strikes of Schiras, dated April 30.

RR



#### Schiras, Type S1a in Black



1891. Another cover from Schiras, was prepaid with standard letter rate of 5 Shahi, used locally. It was tied by the Type S1 but this time in black.

RR



Type S1

### Unusual Practice between 1890-1891

After reporting of inverted datestamp error, the P.O started two strikes of the canceller, one over postage and the other besides the postage. This was just to make sure no error occurred. few example from the same period are discussed below, which was never listed.



1890. Mailed at  
Bouroudjird, dated  
May 8, used  
locally.

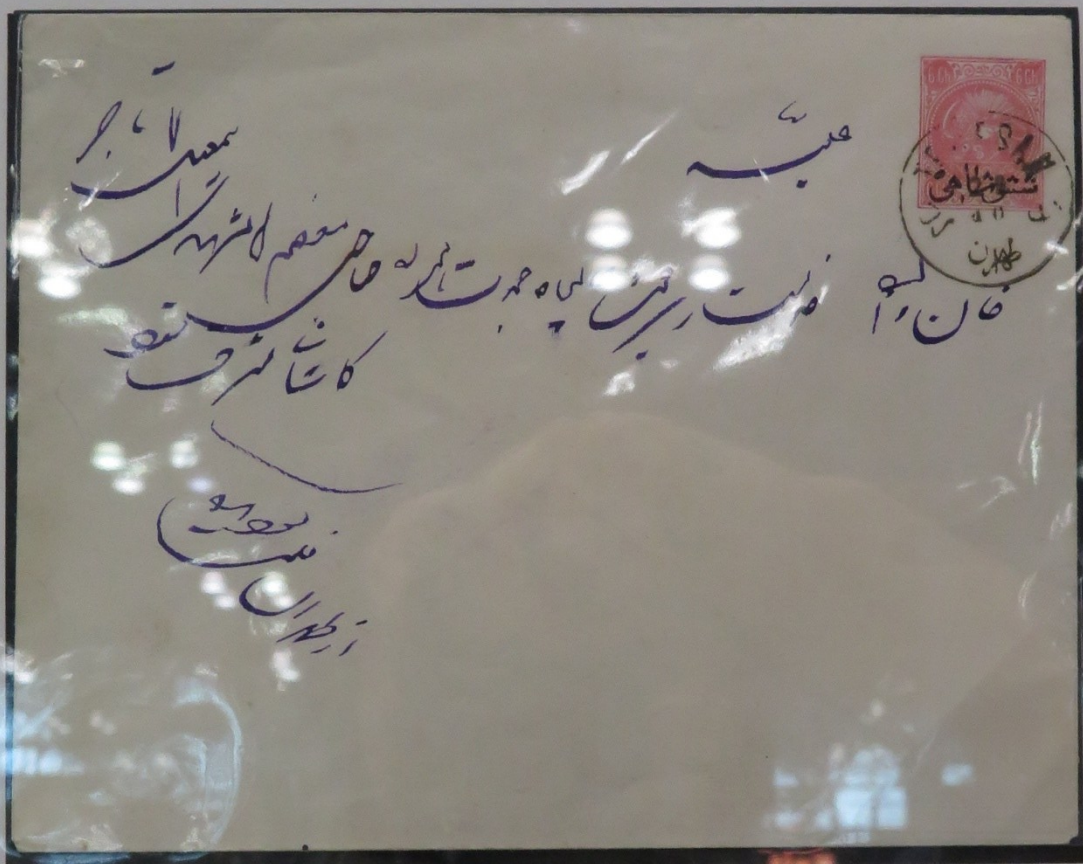
Inverted center  
date-field error



1890. Mailed at  
Shiraz, dated  
May 21, used  
locally.



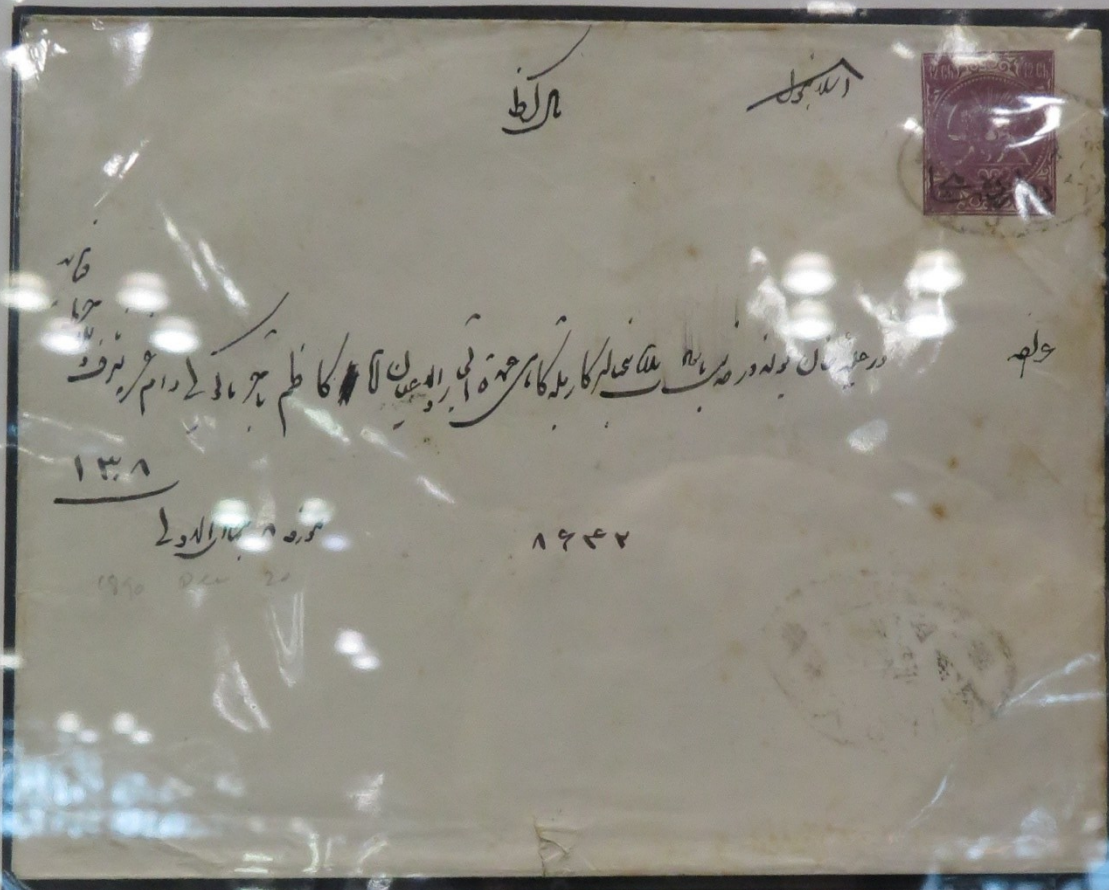
1891.  
Mailed at  
Yezd, dated  
Feb. 29.  
Transit  
Tehran  
Mar. 7 and  
arrived  
Hamadan  
on  
Mar. 13.



6sh for Domestic Mail

This 6sh (Lion) Imprint used for the Domestic mails only.

This mail was prepaid at Tehran with the TI in greenish blue datestamp of October 23, 1890. **RR**



### 12sh for Foreign Mail

This 12sh (Lion) Imprint used for the foreign correspondences.

This mail was prepaid at Khoy with the KOI in greenish blue datestamp of December 20, 1890.

Arrived at Stamboul (Constantinople) on January 5, 1891, as shown at reverse side. **RR**



(Enlarge image of the reverse)

## Mail from Tehran

The san-serif datestamp spelt: TEHRAN, known commonly in black but scarcely in greenish-blue. This was the first datestamp which was produced in san-serif letters with small flureon (inner circle).

### Tehran, Type TS1 in Greenish-blue

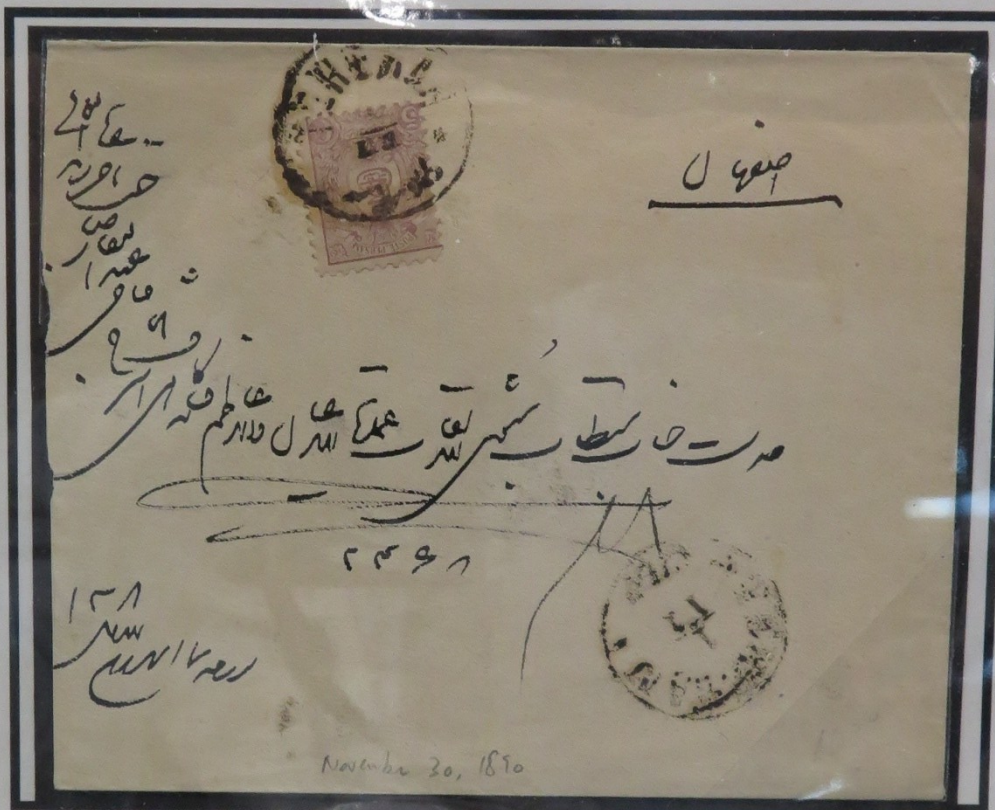
1890. Mailed at Tehran, dated December 1 and received at Isfahan the next day.

This cover bore two strikes of Tehran, Type TS1 in dark greenish-blue, which is uncommon.

**R**



Type TS1



### Tehran, Type TS1 in Black



1891. Cover used locally with the 5 Shahi franking, tied by the Tehran, Type TS1 in black, dated May 30.

This is the uncommon marking in black. **R**



Cover was sealed by negative cachet at three positions.

## Mail from Kermanchan

The first datestamp spelt: Kermanchan, known in greenish-blue and violet. It is near Iraqi border than to Tehran.

### Kermanchan, Type K1 in Greenish-blue

1891. Mailed at Kermanchan, dated January 27 and received at Hamadan on January 30. **R**

This standard days of delivery to Hamadan was within 3 days.



Type K1



It was further noticed that if the postage tied on front, the seal was must, otherwise postage and canceller tied at back to make sure it was not opened before.

### Kermanchan, Type K1 in Black



It was noticed that from 1891 the greenish blue and the new black datestamp were used simultaneously.

This cover was used in late September that year addressed to Hamadan. The black one for this regions is very scarce!

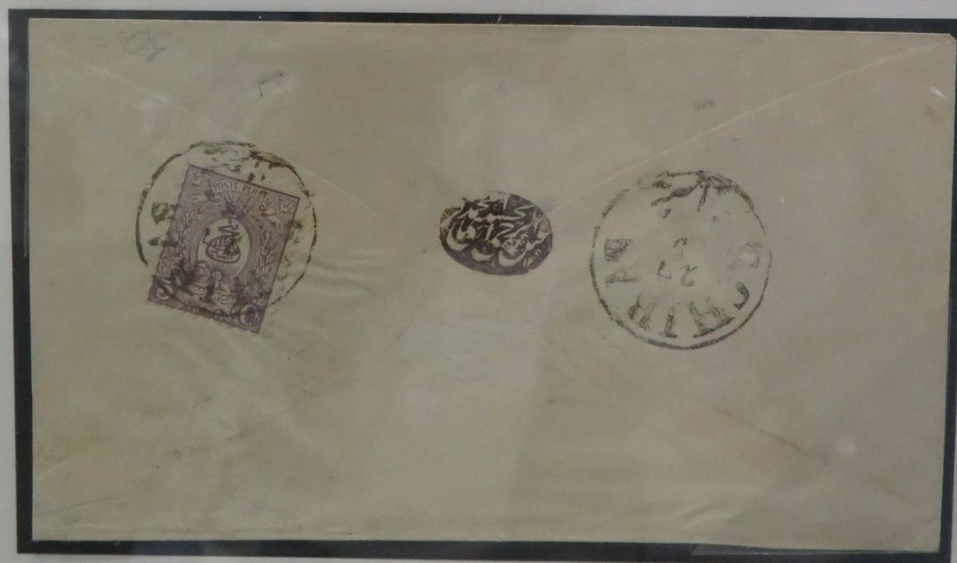
**RRR**

The 1889, lion stamp used during these period known in different shapes in sizes.



### Mail from Rescht

Posted on March 3, 1891 to Tehran, with very uncommon 5sh missing perforation.  
From 1889 new octagonal datestamp were provided to Rescht. **RR**



However, this type was not provided to other regions like Schiras.  
Usage: May 27, 1891.

## Mail from Yezd

Unlike the other, this region had the early bilingual type with large Flureon at two side (inner circle), Type YF1 known in greenish blue, black and violet.

### Yezd, Type YF1 in Greenish-blue

1891. Mail from Yezd with 5 Shahi, tied by the two strikes of datestamp, Type YF1 in greenish-blue, dated May 31.

An early type of Tehran transit marking in greenish-blue, Type TSD1 affixed on the other side alongwith Hamadan, INVERTED "10" date canceller. **RRR**



### Yezd, Type YF1 in Black



1891. Mail from Yezd with 5 Shahi, 1891, scarce postage on covers in blue) tied by datestamp, Type YF1 in Black, dated Dec. 5.

Inverted "12" date on Tehran Transit canceller. **RRR**

## Tehran as a Transit Station

Tehran was the hub of the road network, which connected it to cities like Rašt, Mašhad, Tabriz, and Kermanšāh. Therefore the main P.O was Tehran from which these mail passed through. That is why it acted as the transit station and to separate the same via canceller study, a type was developed in both: Serif and San-Serif incorporating the word "SADER" (for arrival & departure).

### Tehran, Type TSD1 in black

1891. Mail from Isfahan with 5 Shahi, tied by the two strikes of Isfahan datestamp, Type TSD1 in greenish-blue dated July 8.

An early type of Tehran transit marking in black, Type TSD1 affixed on the same side which shows the mail arrived at Tehran on July 10.

**RRR**



<--Type TSD1

Type TSD2-->



### Tehran, Type TSD2 in Greenish-blue



1891. Mail from Meched with 5 Shahi, tied by the two strikes of datestamp, Type M1 in black, dated December 28. Transit Tehran on the next day and finally received at Hamadan on January 2, 1892. Uncommon usage! **RRR**

## Mail to Austria & Belgium

Kum as an ancient town at the edge of the Central Desert, 140 km south of Tehran. It is the major rail and road junction linking Tehran to Isfahan, Kashan, Shiraz, and the southeast. The first bilingual datestamp used for a long time which was superceded by the shield oval datestamp issued after 1906. Foreign mails are exceptional. Except for U.K the letter rate was 6 Shahi, hence postcard was uprated, as seen at Tehran.

## Mail from Kum to Austria

1891. A.U.P.U  
Persia based  
postcard imprint  
postage depicting  
Shah Portrait was  
used from the  
very uncommon  
origin, Kum.

It was sent to  
Austria after  
cancelling by the  
black Type K1,  
dated July 13.  
Transit Tehran on  
July 18. An  
arrival Austrain  
canceller struck on  
the same side  
dated August 11,  
1891. **RRR**



## Mail from Tehran to Belgium



1891. Another  
U.P.U Persia  
postcard posted from  
Tehran. Since the  
postcard rate was 3  
Shahi, therefore it  
was uprated with 1  
Shah, as no lower  
denomination  
postage existed!

Unusual usage of  
two Serif (at left) and  
San-Serif (over  
postage, depart  
type), dated  
December 12, were  
used together in this  
postcard. Arrived  
Belgium on 26.1.92  
**RRR**

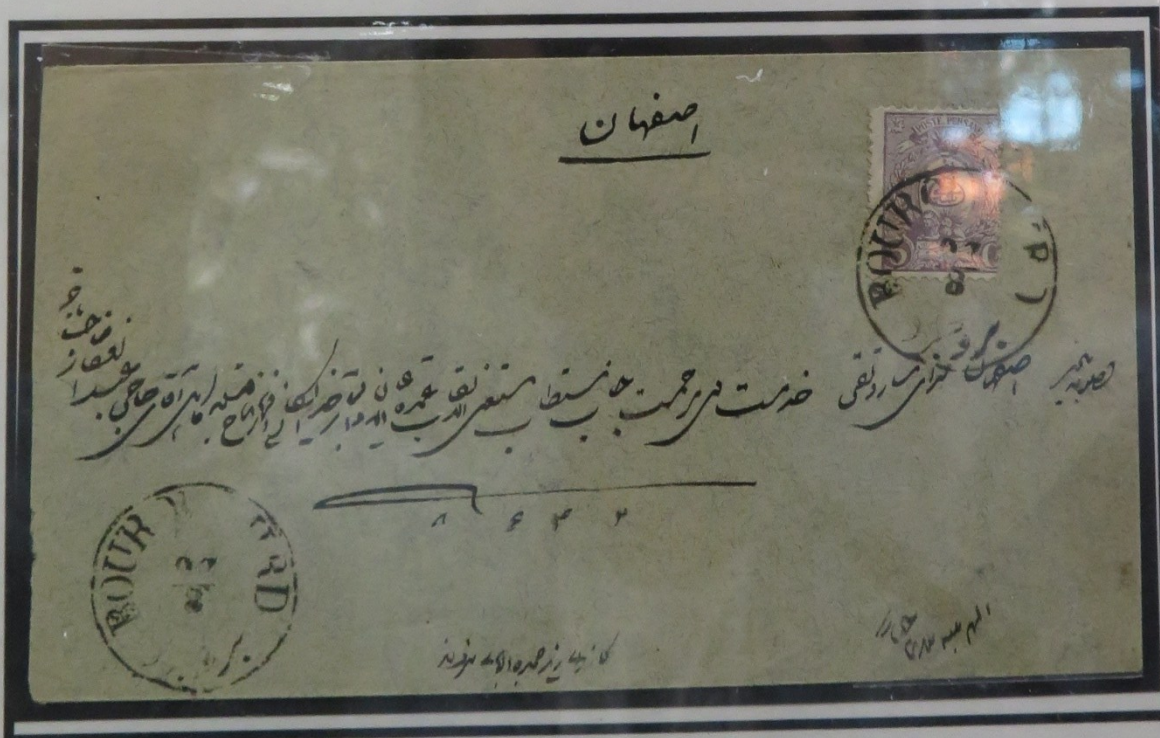
## Mails from Borujerd

Just like Kermanshah, this station also directly reported to Hamadan and no transit Tehran marking was seen on any of the covers. Mails in winter were less as compared to summer since temperature were -20c often.

1891. Mailed at  
Bouroudjird to  
Hamadan was  
sent directly on  
October 14 and  
received at  
Hamadan on  
October 16 (after  
2 days); canceller  
on same side of  
the cover.

The datestamp  
was in greenish-  
blue strikes.

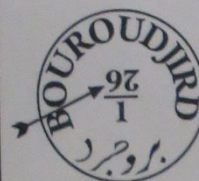
RRR



Another mail  
from the 1891  
period had the  
marking in black  
also.

Here, the  
datestamp  
noticed having  
inverted "26"  
date, unreported  
example!

RRR



Type B1

This datestamp was superceded in 1906 by the oval shield handstamp.

## Mails from Shiraz & Meched

In the chapter of Persia, the early usages are also defined by the scarcity of the datestamp used, often, by colour applied of the datestamp. Similar in case of Shiraz and Meched was noticed in which Black is rare for Shiraz and Greenish for Meched. Both were linked with Tehran in order to send mail onwards.

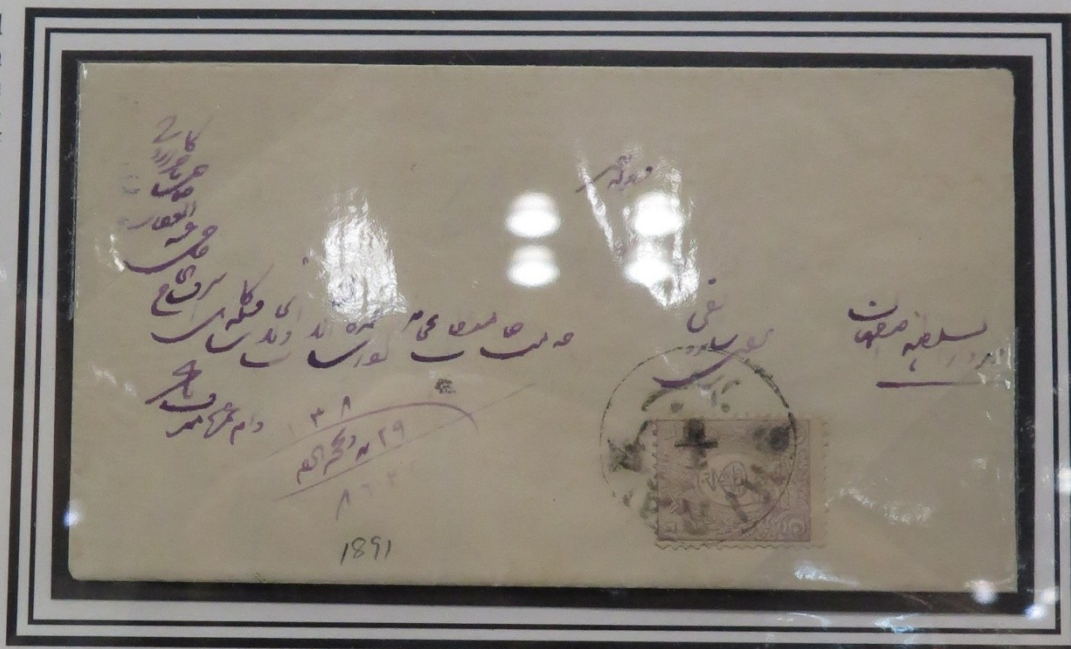
### Shiraz Unrecorded Datestamp

1891. Exceptional entire local mail from Shiraz posted on August 3 shows the usage new type of Shiraz, Type S2 in black, which is Unrecorded in Postal Marking of Iran by Hassn Shaida, Spelt **SHIRAZ**.

**RRR\***



Type S2



### Meched Uncommon Usage



1891. Mailed at Meched, dated November 11, transit Tehran (December 16) and delivered at Hamadan on December 19.

**RRR**

The delivery time of about a month is very unusual, most predicted reason is due to winter carrying mails by riders was not easy. Therefore reached Tehran. further Transaction found on this was normal by 3 days.

In 1890, Persia signed a postal agreement with the Ottoman empire, and similar were later signed with other States.

## Mail from Rescht

The first ever Hijri year is reported for Rescht. The dates recorded are from 1306 to 1313 (1889-1886 AD). Apart from deep greenish-blue, which was used as early colour, black was also used from 1892.

### Rescht, Type R1 in Greenish -Blue (1303~1891)



Mailed at Rescht on December 30, 1891 with Type R1 in greenish-blue. **RR**

### Rescht, Type R1 in Black (1310~1892)



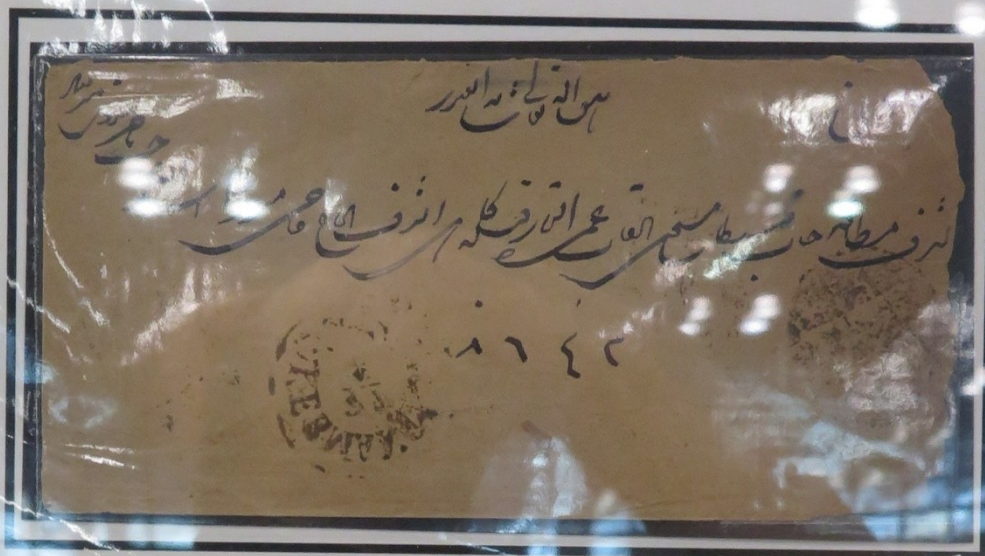
Mailed at Rescht on November 21, 1892 with Type R1 in black. **RR**

### Mails from Kermanshah

It was noticed from the early days that the mails addressed to Hamadan were delivered directly as Hamadan comes between Kermanshah and Tehran.

1880s Mailed at Kermanshah to Hamadan was sent directly on April 27 and received at Hamadan on April 29.

The datestamp has inverted "27"  
RRR



Similar usage and no error in cds of origin

Even in 1892, the mail sent directly to Hamadan, as seen on the cover at right, dated March 1 and delivered on March 3, on front. R



## Mails from Kerman and Kazvin

One common thing between two cities is that they are agricultural & industrial spots of Persia. We noticed that for Kazvin no Flureon type listed but the cover below shows the same whereas the Kazvin type KZ1 is listed correctly. This type was discontinued in 1906 whereas Kerman was superceded by its later two types.



1893. Mailed at Kerman for Hamadan, sent directly on August 8 and received at Hamadan on August 12 (after 4 days), canceller on front & back The datestamp in black is Type KR1. **RR**



This cover bore the new Lion Issue of 1894 in ultramarine. That set was reprinted later many times. Therefore must go through the colour usage also to segregate the same from Muzaffar-ed-Din period (1897-1906).

1895. Mailed at Kazvin for Tehran, posted on August 13 and received at Tehran after 4 days), canceller are on the same side. The datestamp in black is Type KZ1 with flureon, which is not listed in any literature. **RR**

## Mail from Tehran to Middle East

Similar 6 Shahi rate was adopted for the Middle East. The mails addressed to such destinations are exceptional. The letter exceeding normal weight were charged 1 Shahi additional.

## Mail to Baghdad

1894. An exceptional 6 Shahi Imprint Lion stationery used from Tehran on November 4, tied by the three strikes, one mistakenly as "3" and other two with "4" actual date.

Further, it was noticed that it was uprated with additional 1 Shahi (Lion) at left corner, for weight. Such mails from Persia to Iraq are very uncommon!

RRR



1892. This example from Kermanshah bore the Inland letter rate of 5 Shahi.

Only one shahi difference for mail for Middle East.

The private cachet applied at back for seal of courier, origin mentioned Baghdad est.1880.

R

## Foreign Mail from Urmia

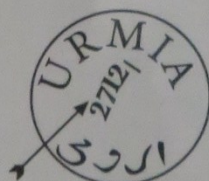
The mails for France also bears the same 12 Shahi postal rate on covers. It was noticed that the mail from Urmia, town west of the similar named lake, goes inverse to Tabriz and from there it went onward to France. The exceptional example of the same is discussed below. Foreign mails are always uncommon, Whether Europe or across the Pacific.

### Urmia - Tauris - France



1895. A scarce franking of 2shahi (Lion) and 10shahi (Shah Portrait) issued tied together by the small Urmia single circle "Sader" datestamp of December 27. Transit Tauris (Tabriz) December 30. Received after 25 days at France on January 22, 1896. **RRR**

The datestamp of Urmia shows unrecorded misplacement of date-field, at center of canceller. This is the New Discovery for Urmia Type U1. This usage is seen till summer of 1906.



Type U1  
(with error of date  
misplacement)

## Mails from Jahrom

This town is located 200 km from southeast of Shiraz. No date canceller known till 1905; oval shield type. It also spelt as Djahrom over Persian mails. The usages reportedly started from 1895.

A beautiful franking of 1sh and 2shx2 tied on the cover back by the circular Persian cachet of Jahrom. **RRR**

Since this did not have the date, we decoded the date from the Hejri written by the sender.  
9 Shaban 1313 ~  
25 January 1896



## Mails from Tabriz

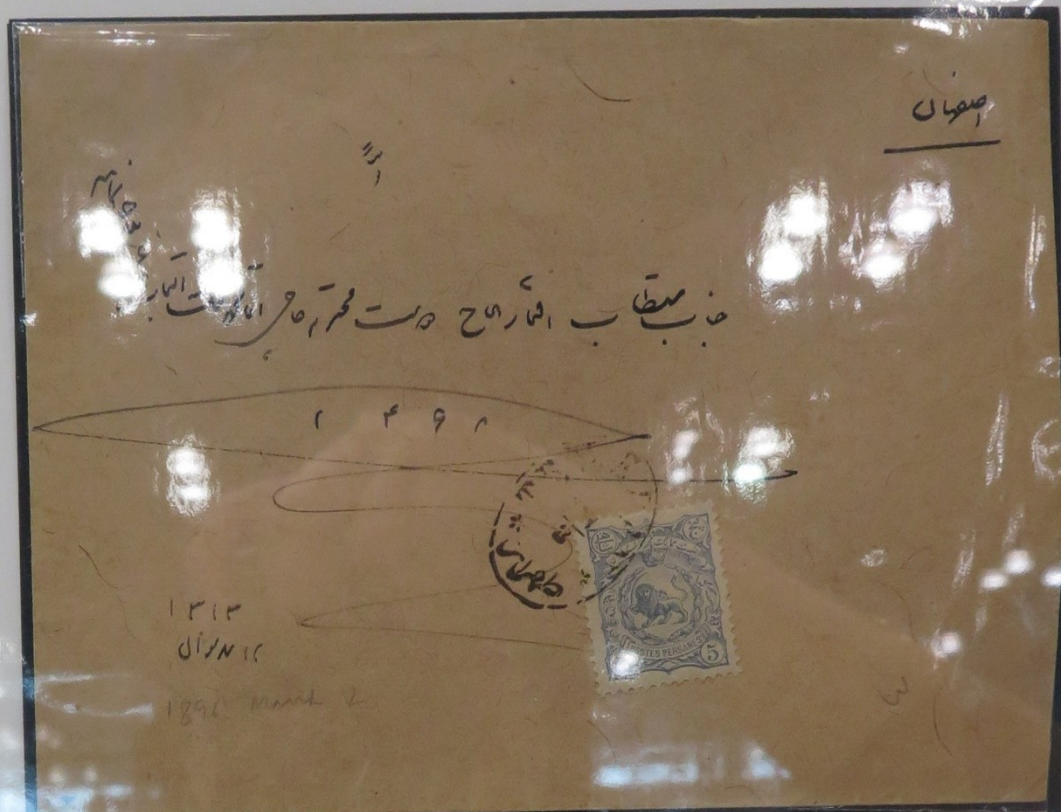
This city is located 620 km from Tehran, a major road and rail hub. The type used on cover below was issued in 1895 and was discontinued in 1902. The mail from this region was usually sent through Urmia to other parts. Similar treatment was done for foreign mails and no variation in postal rates.



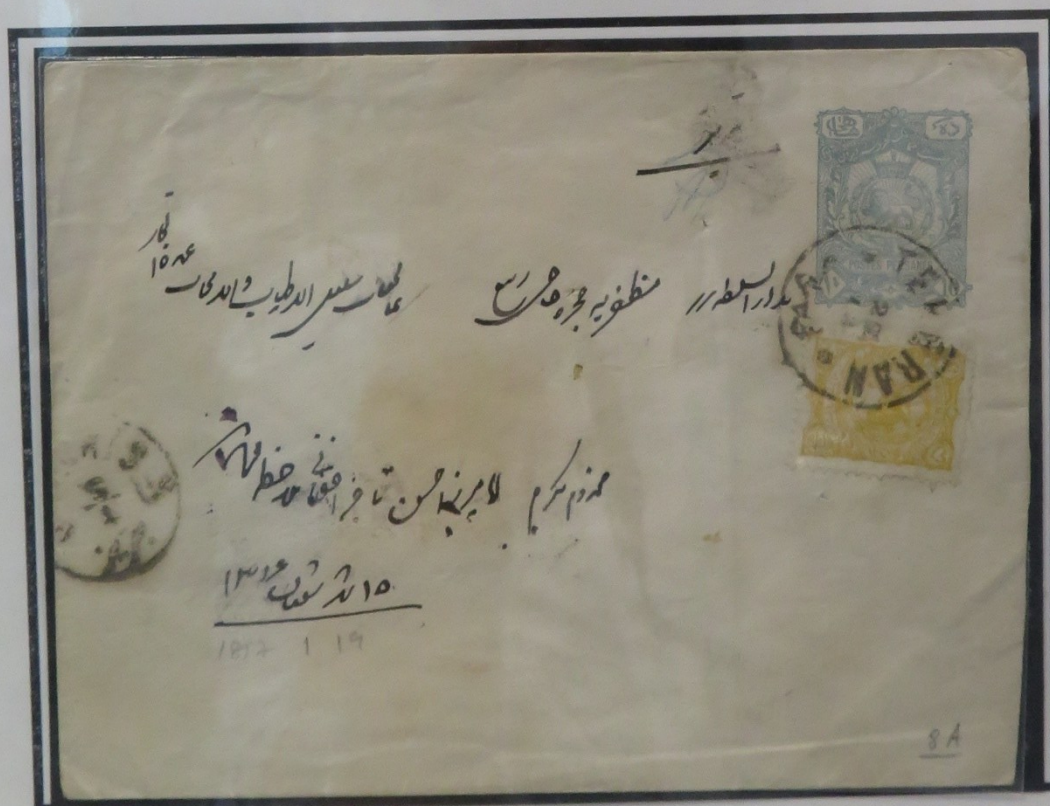
A cover with standard letter rate, 5sh, posted from Tauris (also Tabriz), on May 8, 1895, tied by its small canceller, Type TV1.

As discussed, it first went through Urmia (May 11) and reached Tehran on June 21 to Hamadan (June 23).

**RRR**



Mailed at Tehrarn, dated March 2, 1896 prepaid with 5sh as single letter rate



1899. This 10sh stationery for the foreign mails used for domestic use and uprated with 5sh.

The Persian Administration, Nasr-ud-Din Shah (till 1897)

Revision of Rate

### Revision of Rate in March 1896

Two months before the Mozaffar ad-Din Shah regime, the postal rate for letter and postcard were revised in March 1896. The letter rate exceed from 5sh to 8sh and postcard to 4sh.

#### Upated 4sh Postcard

Since the postcards were prepaid under the Inland postal rate of 4sh, these were uprated with 1sh to meet the foreign postcard rate of 6sh.

Mailed at Meched,  
dated March 3,  
1896.

Earliest mail after  
revision. **RRR**



#### Upated 8sh Envelope

Since the letters were prepaid under the Inland postal rate of 8sh, this registered mail was prepaid with additional 8sh for registration and 16sh franking for insured mail.

Usage: Sultanabad,  
dated 5 Oct. 1896.

**RRR**



The Persian Administration, Nasser-ed-Din Shah (till 1897)

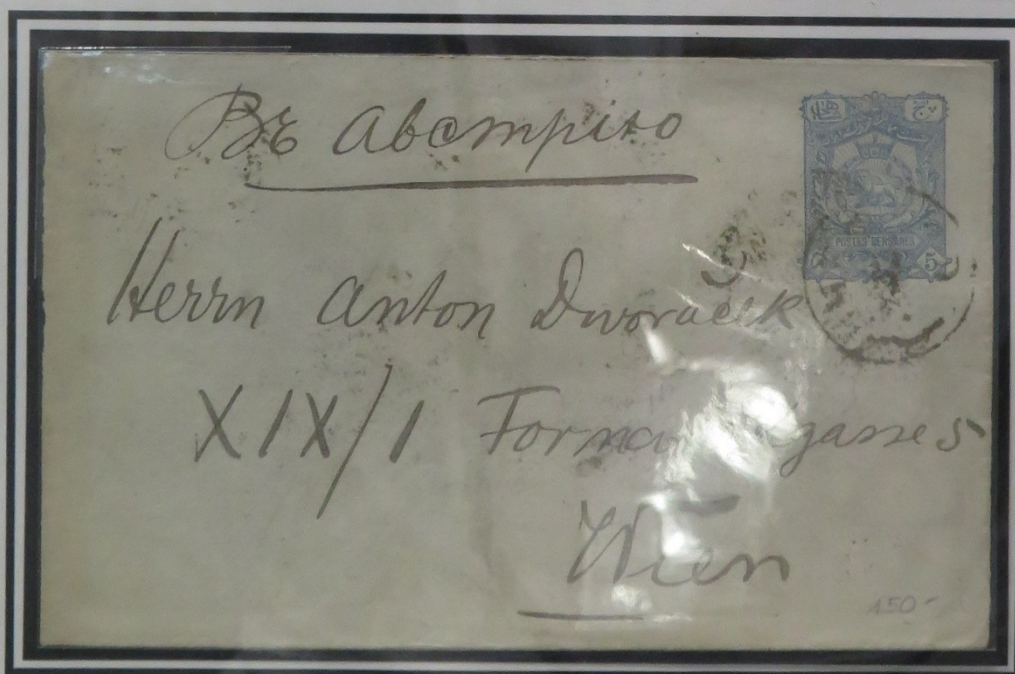
Mails

### The Stationeries carrying Inland and Foreign rate

The previous 6 Shahi stationery was discontinued and new 16 Shahi and 5 Shahi envelopes were introduced in late 1894. Two example below shows the exceptional usage of the same.

1896.  
Imprint 16  
Shahi  
envelope  
(foreign  
only) used  
from Tabriz  
on March 3  
for Istanbul.

Since it was  
registered it  
was further  
affixed with  
6 Shahi at  
back. Sent  
through  
Russian  
P.O on  
Mar.31 to  
Russian  
P.O where  
received at  
Istanbul on  
April 5.  
**RRR**



1897.  
Imprint 5  
Shahi  
envelope  
used from  
Meched on  
June 18 for  
Austria.

As per  
notation at  
top this  
cover was  
carried by SS  
Abompiso  
to Austria.  
Very  
Uncommon  
Mail.  
**RRR**

Persia to Iraq



Revision of Rate in March 1896 for Middle East

The rate for Middle East was set to 12sh. The above two example to Baghdad (Iraq) bore the 12sh franking for single letter rate, posted on October 1896 (Tehran) and January 1897 (Meched).



**Letter to Indonesia via Boushire, Bombay, Colombo Route**

This exceptional example from Djoulfa dated April 19, 1897 was prepaid with 12sh which traveled all the way to Boushire (24 April) - Bombay (7 May) - Colombo (11 May) to Macassar (Indonesia) 27 May.



The most common route from Britain and Europe was via the Suez Canal. There were stopovers in Port Said in Egypt, Port Aden in what is now Yemen and Colombo in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) From there, the ships traveled across the Indian Ocean to the Western Australian Port of Fremantle.

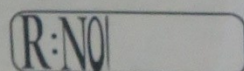
## Types of Registration Handstamps 1896 onwards

Although registration label was provided in 1880s since it had been used as 1 Shahi in 1897, it seems that this was less frequently used to avoid any confusion. Therefore, this gave a birth to two handstamp types known used from 1897 onwards. Both are unlisted so far.

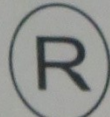
Covers  
Often  
seen with  
this first  
Greg.  
Label  
with  
name of  
"Persia"



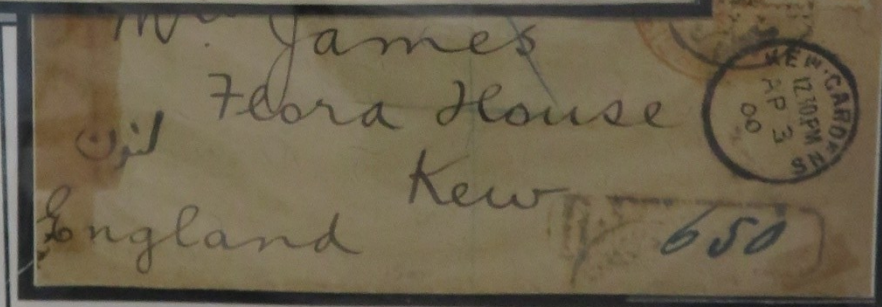
Top & Middle  
example used  
handstamps  
1890s



Type RG 1



Type RG 2



### Foreign Mail from Djoulfa (Suburb of Isfahan)

The foreign mails to France, Germany and Switzerland bears the same 12 Shahi postal rate on covers. It was noticed that the mail from Djoulfa, a suburb of Isfahan, first obviously went to main P.O at Isfahan then to Tehran for further movement to Foreign destination.

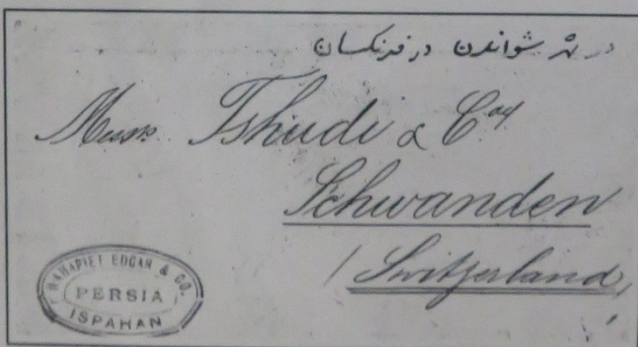
### Djoulfa - Isfahan - Tehran - Switzerland



1896. A scarce franking of 1shahi (Lion)x2 and 10shahi (Shah Portrait) tied by the Djoulfa single circle "flureon" datestamp of April 12. First reached Isfahan on April 20 and arrived at Tehran same day, shown on the same side. Received after a month at Switzerland on May 18, 1896. **RRR**

The month "4" noticed damaged as this type. Similar error noticed in Tehran (arrival "Sader" making", which "4" look as "1". These datestamps were always found in black strike. Unrecorded Types!

The front side of the cover shows the Isfahan private courier cachet who delivered the mail to Tehran. Another noticeable thing is, this cachet bears the spelling of "Ispahan" whereas the canceller had "Isfahan"



(reduced image of the front)

Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar was assassinated in May 1, 1896, the crown was passed to his son Mozaffar-e-din Shah.

The Persian Administration, Mozzafar-al-Din Shah (1896-1907)

Mails

### Foreign Mail from Meched via Gaoudan

The foreign mails to Austria bears the same 6 Shahi postal rate on covers. It was noticed that the mail from Meched addressed to Austria must go through Gaoudan, located on the border of Iran next to Russia. The normal Inland rate was provided to cover going through Russia, previous practice. Such mails are very scarce.

### Meched - Gaoudan - Russia - Austria



1897. A scarce franking of 5shahi (Lion with margin at top) franked with 2 Shahi, 1 Shahi to complete the 6shahi rate and another 1 Shahi was for the exceeding weight of normal letter.

It was dispatched from Meched after canceling thrice on the back on April 14. Transit at Gaoudan on April 16. Since it was addressed to Austria, it passed through the Russian P.O on April 18 (as per two strikes of the different number datestamps). Arrived at Austria from Russian after 12 days, April 29, as shown on the same side. Not more than 10 example known. **RRR**



Type M1



Type G1

There are two type of Gaoudan, distinguished by the last "N" position. This cover bore the first one as the "N" is straight. The other type had slanting leg of "N". This was the only datestamp of the region and did not have the chance to issue another set as it was occupied by Russia in late 19th Century. The name was also in Russian Spelling, in Persia known as Houdan.

## The Revision of Postal Rates

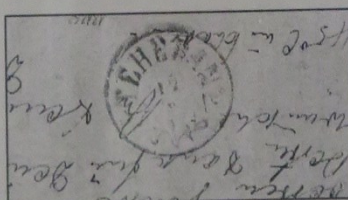
It was noticed that till late 1897, the postage issue of Nasser al-Din Shah were used. When the postal rates were revised to 4 Shahi for postcards, a new set of postcard were issue earlier 1897 having the portrarit of Nasser al-Din Shah on Imprint stamp. Only foreign mail (Germany) rate was revised.

### Boushire to Germany



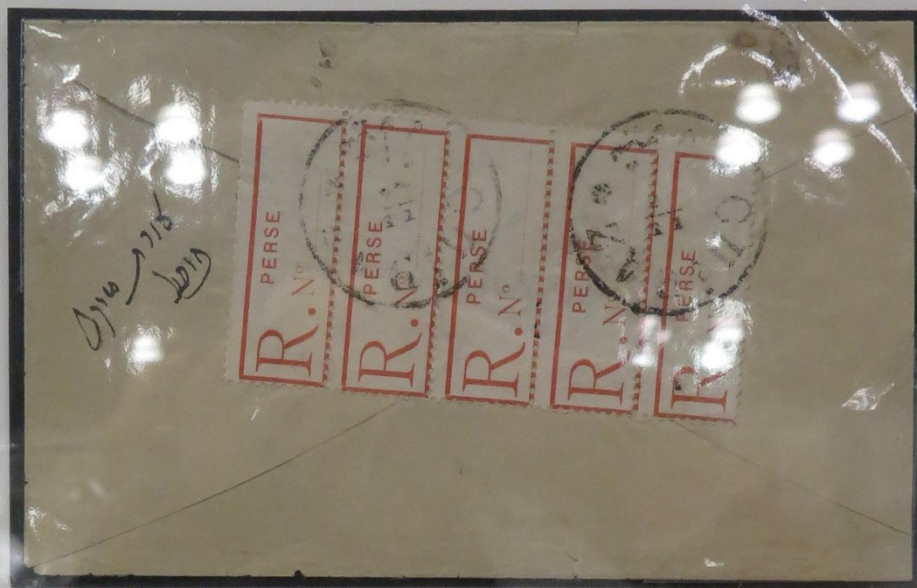
1897. Mailed at Bushire for Germany dated June 5. Transit Tehran on June 17. Arrived Cassel, Germany on July 7, after a month traveling from Boushire using the sea route.

By Comparing with the previous postcard, it was established that 1 □ Shahi was increased and similar in case of letters, therefore uprated with 2 shahi, as no less than known. This is the earliest example known bearing the revision of rate from Boushire. **RRR**



(enlarge image of the reverse showing Tehran transit marking)

Since the Port of Boushire was under British control at that time, therefore instead of using that port the mail was forwarded to Tehran, from where it was transmitted further by sea route to Germany. Therefore took a month to deliver such kind of mails.



### Registration Label as 1 Shahi

Owing to a shortage of 1 shahi stamp, registration label were used in many towns as 1 shahi. The above covers bore the usage of 5 labels means it cover the domestic standard rate of 5sh.

Yezd: November 29, 1897 and Chiraz: November 24, 1897.

Early Examples known so far!