



### Mail from Tehran / Toko

A self styled post office privately set up in a shop by a Dutchman who was the agent for Enschede, the Dutch Security printers. He evidently called his shop "Toko" a Dutch East Indies word for shop, and applied his own postmark to letters delivered to him to forward abroad. The post office was not officially recognized. The postmark is known in greenish-blue and violet.

The above postcard was posted locally within Tehran, usage, 1898, which also states that the services was also established for local mails. New Discovery!



The Only datestamp used  
for this private P.O



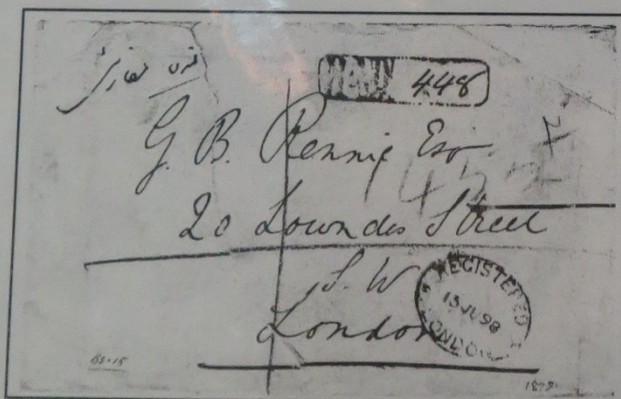
### The Registered Mail for London (England)

It was noticed that by the revision of rates, the postal rate for England for single letter was 16 Shahi and the registered examples hence bears 24 shahi = 2 Kran. Such mails are very uncommon in the following regime.



1898. An exceptional registered cover from Tehran prepaid with the new rate of 2 Krans, franked and tied at back by the oval bilingual datestamp of Tehran, dated May 15.

It was noticed that instead of using any registered label, this cover was struck with a black handstamp for registration at front with number, 448 (manuscript). After sea voyage of about a month, canceller first with a rusted red London /Registered marking of June 15 accompanied by the small circular datestamp at back. Very Uncommon Mail. **RRR**



Tehran Type TO1  
(1898-1899)

The oval type of Tehran used for dispatch and arrival purpose but abandoned after a year. Therefore, covers bearing this type are considered very scarce.



### No Change for Inland Rate

Only mails rates destined outside Persia were revised in 1898. No change was made for the Inland rates and even the registration rate remained the same.

1898. This cover posted from Hamadan to Tehran bears the normal 5 Shahi, yellow, rate, tied by the single circle bilingual datestamp of May 6.

Arrived at Tehran on May 9, as shown on the same side, Type T6. **RR**

This value was reprinted in yellow on March 1898, therefore this is one of the early usage.



### Inland Registered Rate



1898. Another mail from Hamadan to Tehran bears the double letter rate of 5 Shahi, yellow, x2, referring to its registration. Tied by the single circle bilingual datestamp of May 29.

Arrived at Tehran on June 4, as shown on the same side, Type T6. **RR**

The first reprinting of previous Lion issues were made in new colours to issue the first Muzaffar-ed-Din Shah issues from March 1898.



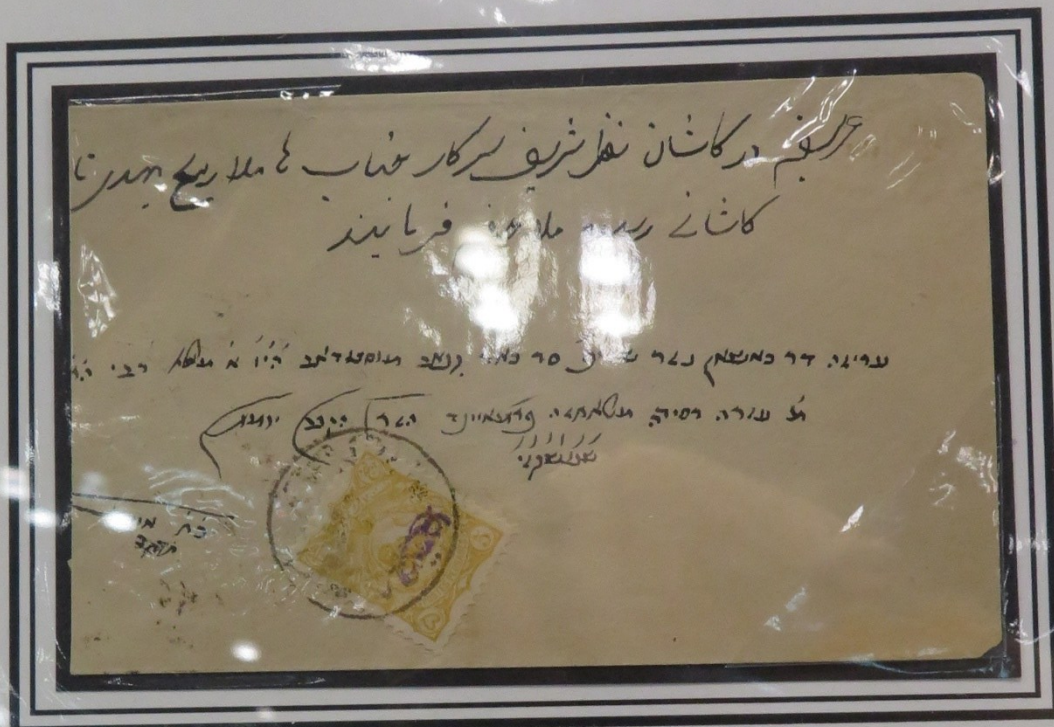
## The Control Marks

The change of postal agent prompted M. Arnold, the Postmaster General to overprint all existing stock of issues with control marks in violet, handstamp. This was done in June 6, 1898, after 3 months of previous making.

1898. This cover bears the 5 Shahi with control mark issue, tied by the single circle bilingual latestamp of June 8.

Arrived at Tehran on June 9, as shown on the same side, Type T6.

**NRR**

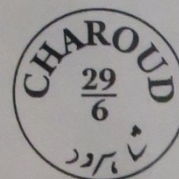


Since this issue was made in June 6, this cover bore Earliest usage of the same.



1898. This cover prepaid in the same month with normal postage of 5 Shahi (yellow), which means it was not used at all regions.

Mailed at Charoud, town, dated June 29. Received at Tehran on July 1. **R**



The Shahrud are known without a separating line between date and month, Type SH1.



### The Registered Insured Mail for London (England)

Since the registered examples bears 24 shahi = 2 Kran. The insured rate was 1 Kran & 12 Shahi. Such mails are very uncommon in the following regime.



1898. An exceptional registered and Insured cover from Urmia prepaid with the new rate of 3 Krans and 12 Shahi with additional 1 Shahi, franked by the very unusual combination of postage including 1 kran of 1898 in ultramarine. It was tied by the old single circle Urmia strikes at front, dated July 17.

It was noticed in place of registered label, this cover was struck with a oval black "R" handstamp at front with number besides, 130 (manuscript). Since it was close as compared to Tehran, it reached after 18 days sea voyage. Cancelled first with a black London /Registered marking of August 3 accompanied by the small circular datestamp of St Albans at back. Very Uncommon Mail. **RRR**

The enlarge image of the reverse shows the uncommon usage of Wax-Seal. To protect such articles, wax-seal was used rarely with very small crown cachet



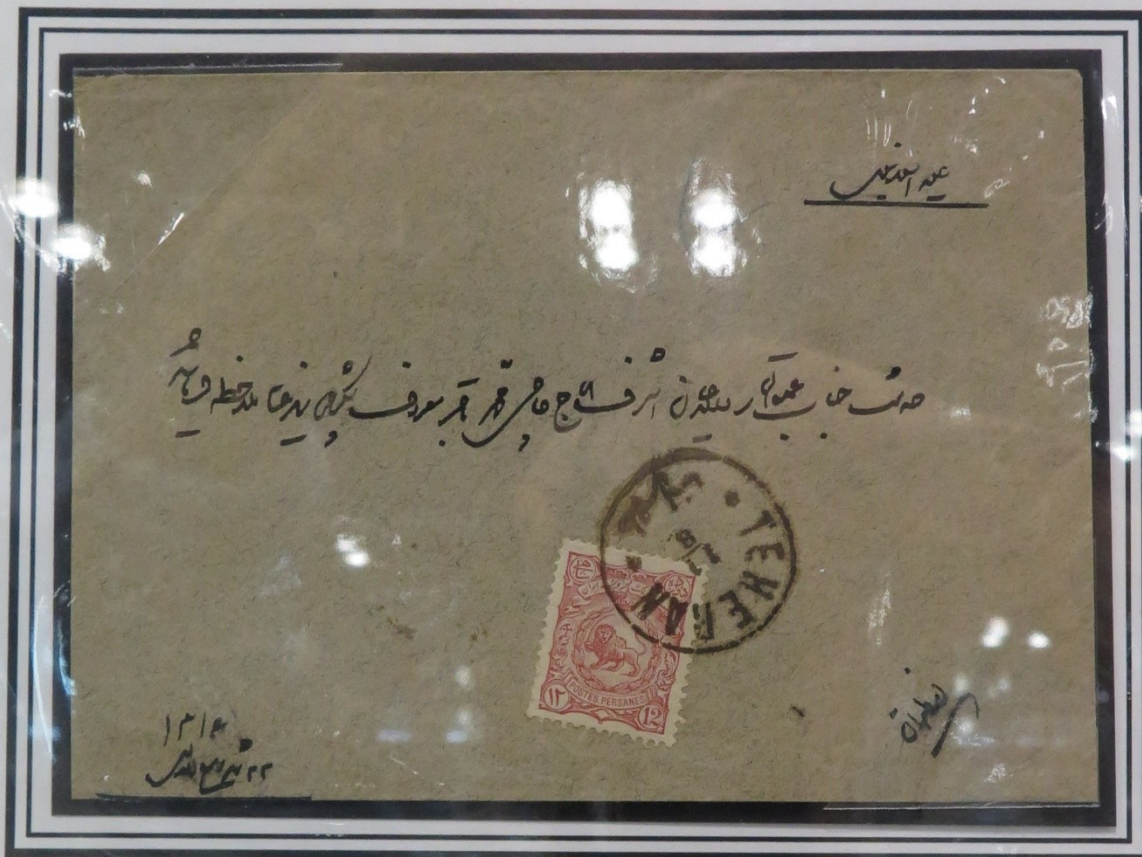
### Mails to Constantinople, Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

For European countries, the rate was increased from 6 Shahi to 12 Shahi. The registered articles are identified by the double letter rate on such mails and are very uncommon.

1898. An exceptional mail from Tehran for Galata (Constantinople) sent on August 11 and reached Galata after a month traveling on September 12, as shown on the back side of this cover.

12 Shahi rate was for the Europe. Not more than 10 examples known.

**RRR**



### Mails to Cairo, Egypt (Africa)

Similar rate, 12 Shahi, was used from the African continent.

Mailed at Chiraz (Sep.3) Transit Bushire (Sep.12) and Bombay-Aden (Sep 24) to Cairo (Oct.3).

**RRR**



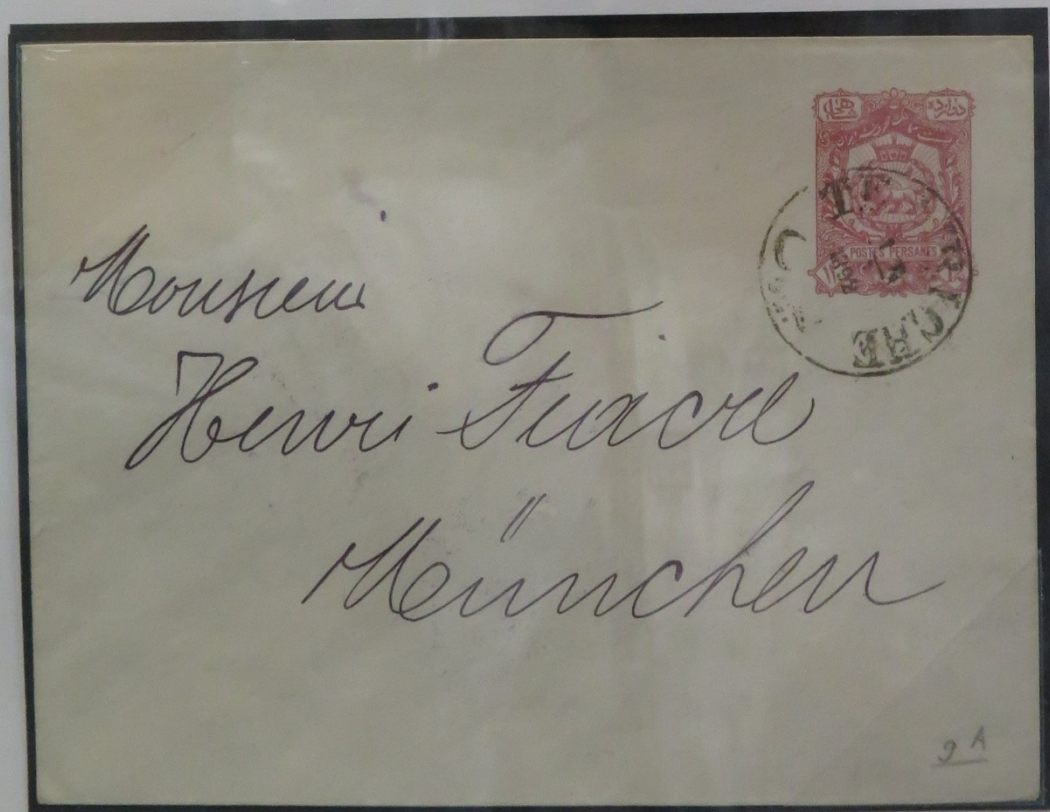


## Mail from Tedjriche

A suburban example of Shimran group of villages north of Tehran, can also be considered as the sub-post office. This is the only region which was provided with large bilingual circular type with year.

Exceptional reply  
postcard from  
Tedjriche, dated  
August 14, 1898  
delivered to Munich  
(Germany) on  
September 10, 1898.

RRR



12sh Imprint  
envelope posted  
on August 12,  
1892 and  
delivered on  
September 8.

RR

Both examples  
bore the greenish  
blue datestamp of  
Tedjriche, Type  
TD1.



### Mail from Persia to Europe and Africa Continent

The registered articles are identified by the double letter rate on such mails and are very uncommon. Tehran also used oblong registration handstamp in which the number is filled with manuscript. The large oval type was introduced in December 1898 in which year was also incorporated but too small. For African continent, such mails usually goes through Boushire- Bombay-Aden to Suez than land route to Cairo. Whereas for Europe it went via Russia but it was noticed that from 1899 covers did not have the same inscription anymore.

This registered cover from Tehran for Constantinople was prepaid with 2 Krans franking, tied by the new oval shaped handstamp of December 12, 1898. Unusual Austrian Constantinople receiver tied at back dated January 4, 1899, since it was destined to European Branch Office (Ortakuey)

This type is not recorded previously including the boxed "R.No" oblong handstamp for registration purpose.

RRR



As discussed above, this cover from Chiraz (Dec.18) transit Boushire (Dec.26). Reached via Bombay to Aden (Jan.7) and finally delivered to Cairo via Suez port on Jan.16.

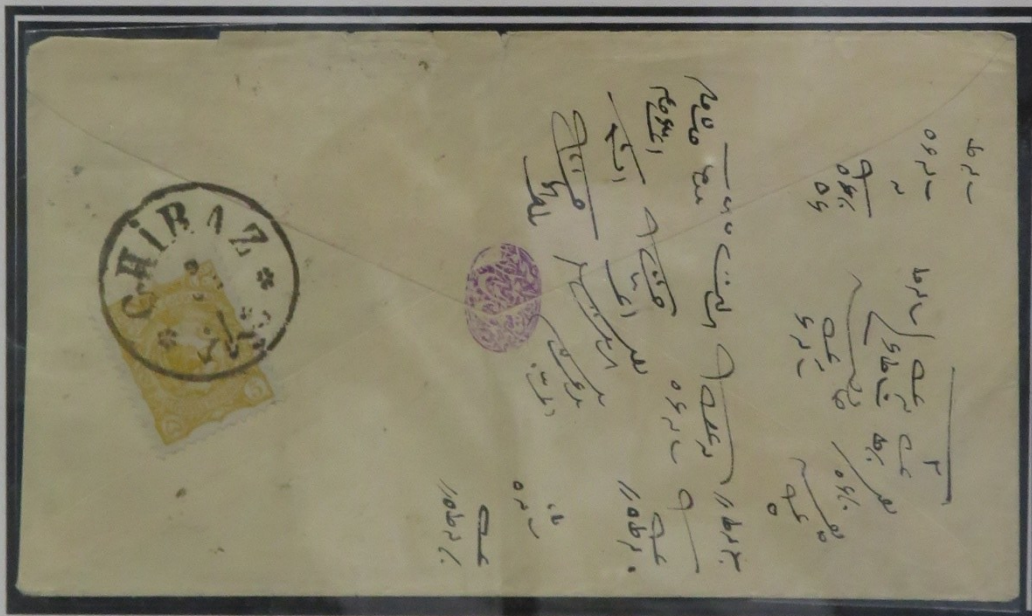
The postal rate remains as above.

RRR





This cover from Boushire, dated April 15, 1899 bore the control mark postage, 5sh.



Mailed at Chiraz, dated December 9, 1899. This example shows that without control marks were also in use.

### The Control Marks Usages, 1898

A change of postal agent prompted M. Arnold, the Postmaster General, to overprint all existing stocks with a control marks of eight types.



5ch, For Foreign Use



Mailed to Holland on September 4, 1899. Received on September 29.

2ch, For Domestic Use



Mailed from Schimeran (Tehran Sub-P.O) dated August 8, 1898 to Tehran.



### Mail from Persia to Ireland (Europe)

The mails addressed to Ireland are much rarer than the other European region. Similar treatment was done when it comes to postal rate category.

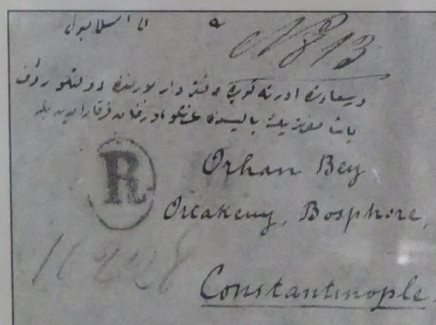


The above two exceptional cover from Tehran, Top: Regular Mail dated September 29, 1899, reached Ireland on October 20 whereas Bottom: with Registration rate of 2 Krans with Oval unrecorded Type of Tehran, dated October 16, 1899 arrived Ireland on November 8. Very Uncommon Mail with very scarce early usage of 1899 postage. In 1899, the previous 1898 set was reprinted on greenish toned paper. The usage of such issue are noticed on covers from October 1899 not November as previously listed. RRR





1899. Registered mail from Tehran (October 8) to Constantinople (November 5) cancelled with "R"[egistration] oval cachet at front whereas the Type 12 of Tehran two strikes observed on back. **RRR**



Missing Area

### New Discovery of Registration Marking of Tehran & Datestamp

Oval type of "R"[egistered] cachet is not reported previously. The Type 12 is the only datestamp with English letters and date only which was not used earlier than 1899. This shows the only example of the same.



## Printed Matter Mail from Khoy

Since 4sh postcard was prepaid for International Mails, the 2sh postcards became handy when posted at a printed matter rate.



This is the best and the rarest example showing the usage of the same from Khoz (October 19, 1899) via Tubris to Germany (November 11).



Mailed domestically dated November 11, 1899.



Mails

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

Unusual Handling of Mail at Tehran

As previously in 1897, the old stock of 1898 like 8 Shahi was surcharged with 5 Shahi due to shortage of postage, includes 2 Shahi and 1 Shahi. Although new set comprised of 8 Shahi but it seems it was not printed in a large quantity, therefore manuscript surcharge was witnessed for a month at Tehran, year 1900.

Manuscript Surcharge Allowed in 1900?

1900. The above cover bears an unusual treatment done actually at Tehran. The postage 5 Shahi was surcharged manually by pen, both corners right in English "8" and left with Persian numeral "۸".

It must have been approved by the P.O at Tehran since it was not objected. However no strike of Tehran "Sader" TS10, tied over postage except the one at right, dated February 14. Transit Tabriz February 26 (at front) and Reached Ardebil on March 18. This datestamp had the Inverted date error, which was not recorded previously. Very Unusual mail with Handling from Tehran. RRR

The road map from Tehran to Tabriz was fine and goes like this:-  
Tehran- Kasbin-Zenjan-Minaeh-Tabriz

But for Ardebil, located east of Tabriz, the land route was not quite good, as mostly it was agricultural area, at that time. Therefore maximum days of arrival from Tabriz was 5 days.



### Mail to Constantinople handled by Austrian P.O

The mails addressed to Constantinople were sent to its European Branch Office and from there it was forwarded to Austrian P.O. at Constantinople.

### Unrecorded Tabriz Cancellor



A registered cover from Tabriz with a very uncommon franking of 5shx2 and 2sh, making up 12 Shahi registered letter rate for Constantinople. Mailed on July 9, 1900 and arrived at Constantinople Austrian P.O on July 23, as shown on the same side.

It was noticed that the single circle datestamp with small flureon tied thrice on back is unrecorded type with year below the date/month. This canceller was used from 1900 to 1905. **RRR**



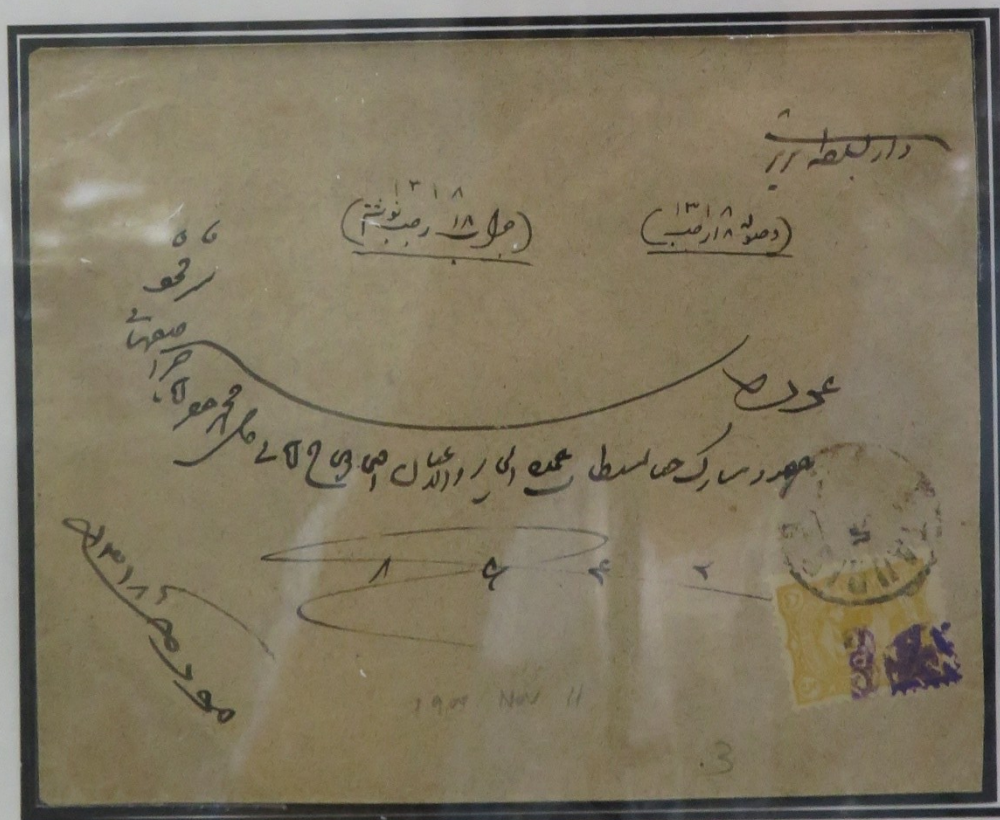
Type TB7 (Unrecorded)  
(diameter: 24mm)



Exceptional usages on Covers!



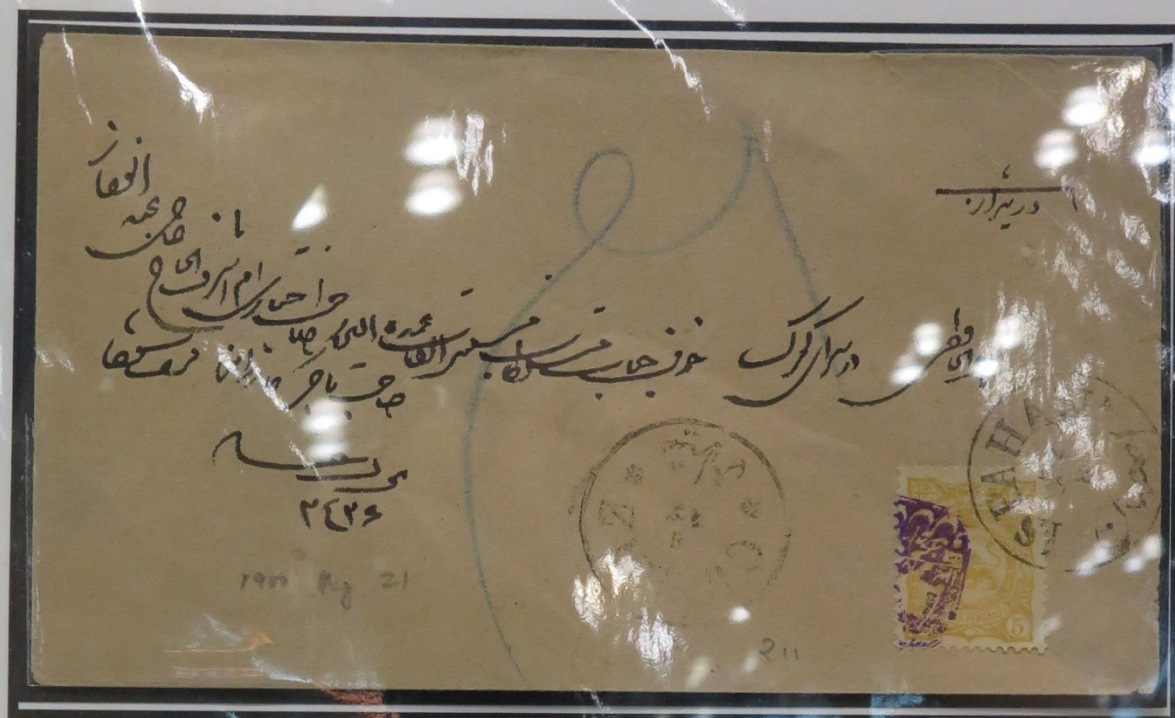
This cover from Ispahan dated August 21, 1900 bore the 1899 period inverted control mark.



Cover from Tauris, dated November 11, 1900 bore the 1898 and 1899 control marks on single postage of 5sh which makes this example as very uncommon!



The Control Marks Usages, 1898-99



This cover from Ispahan dated August 22, 1900 bore the 1899 period control mark.



Whereas this cover dated May 28, 1900 bore the 1898 period control mark.



### Mail to Galata handled by German P.O

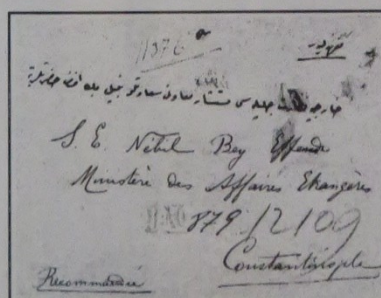
The mails addressed to Galata-Constantinople were sent to its European Branch Office and from there it was forwarded to German P.O. usually.

### Exceptional Registered Consular Mail



This registered mail from Tehran prepaid very scarce pair of 12 Shahi, tied at back by the Tehran oval large datestamp of September 12, 1900. A oblong registration was tied on the front side. It arrived at German P.O at Galata on October 11, 1900 and delivered to local Galata P.O the same day.

It was addressed to Ministry of Affairs at Galata, which makes this cover very scare. **RRR**



The reduced image of the front showing registered marking with nos. Also the name of Minister of Affairs at Galata, the main hub where all Foreign P.Os were established.



## The Registered and Insured Mail for Africa Continent

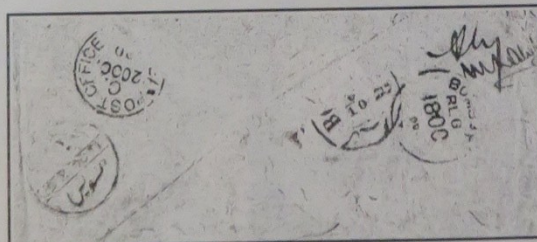
Since the Persian examples bears 24 shahi = 2 Kram. The insured rate was 12 Shahi for Egypt. Such mails are very uncommon in the following regime, as financial crisis increased.

### Chiraz to Egypt via Bombay - Aden



The insurance of articles was started when reports regarding the missing letters increased at Persia. This registered letter was franked with very scarce strip of three of 12 Shahi, covering not only the registration but also the insured rate. Such mails are not seen often, therefore very scarce.

It followed the designed route; This mail from Chiriaz (October 9) first delivered to Boushire the same day and forwarded to Bombay (October 18). From there it was carried by the Steamer Ship via Aden (Oct. 20) and reached Suez (October 29). Finally delivered to Cairo after land route from Suez Port. **RRR**



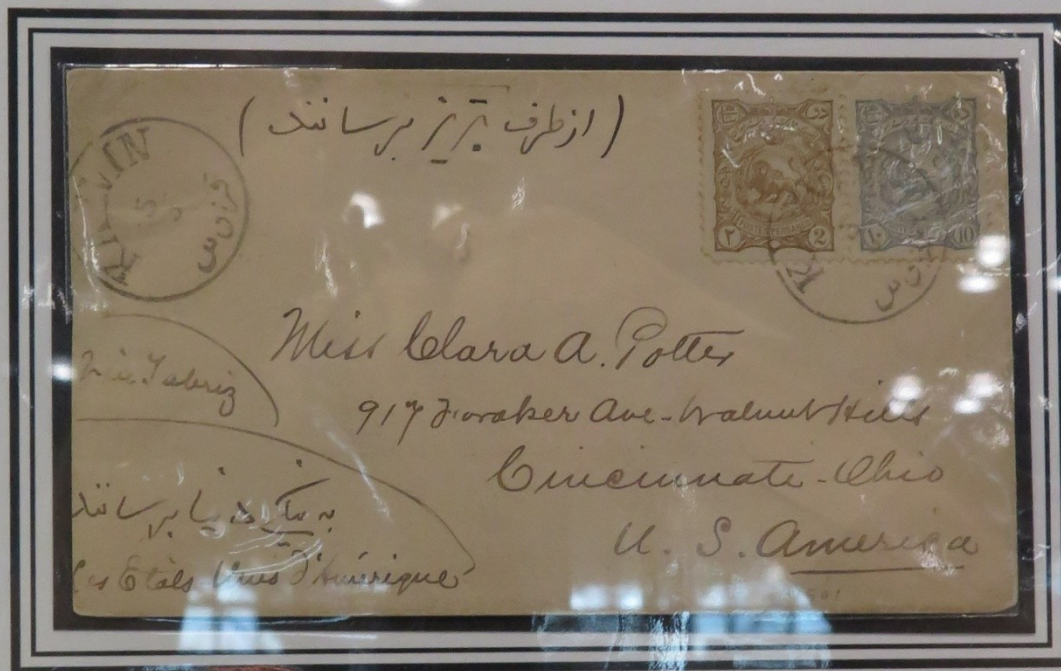
The reduced image of the back showing markings, Boushire, Bombay, Sea Post (Aden) and Suez.



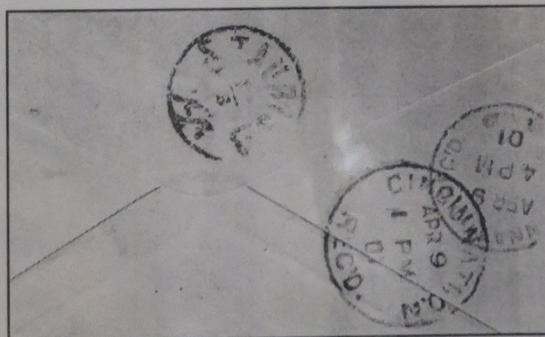
## The Mail across Pacific (United States of America)

The mail addressed to U.S.A are very uncommon from Persia. The sea mail was carried by the British Steamer Ships leaving for U.K and then to U.S.A via Brindisi route. The postal rate of 12 Shahi normally applied.

### Kazvin via Tabriz to U.S.A



1901. This exceptional mail from Kazvin for U.S.A posted on March 5 transit Tabriz since it was near from the Urmia port from which British Steamer Ship carried mail to London and New York (USA).



Therefore, it chooses Tabriz (as shown by black line on map) and dispatched on March 12. Surprisingly no Urmia cachet was noticed on back side of the cover (as shown in enlarge scan above) neither front. It reached Ohio, United States of America on April 9, 1901 after 21 days of voyage. **RRR**

Boushire, Linga and Mohemmera was still under Imperial control. Therefore mail went through other ports from Persia.



## Mail from Tehran Maidan

This was the district existed during the Qajar and early Pahlavi era only. It was razed to give way to a city park during Tehran modernization by Reza Shah. Therefore, the mails from this regions are considered exceptional. The unreported type of Tehran is displayed below, which is known only in 1901-1907 period.



1901. An exceptional local mail posted from Tehran Maidan, also known as Chale Meidan, dated April 29, 1901.

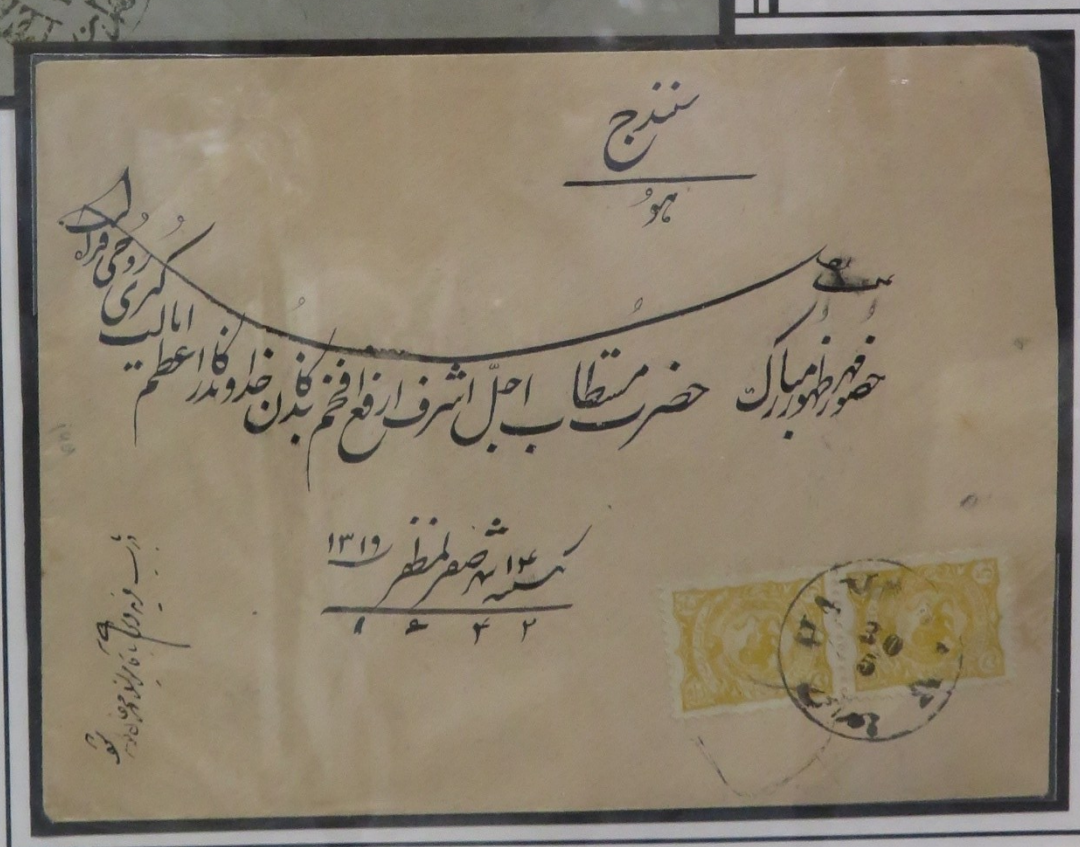
Tied by the unrecorded Tehran Maidn, oval Type TM2. This was the only datestamp which reads "TEHERAN MAIDAN" whereas previous two types reads "TEHERAN - TSCHAL MEIDAN".

This cover shows the new discovery of the datestamp, which was never reported before. **RRR**

No further change in postal rate known till 1902, as can be seen by the two examples here:

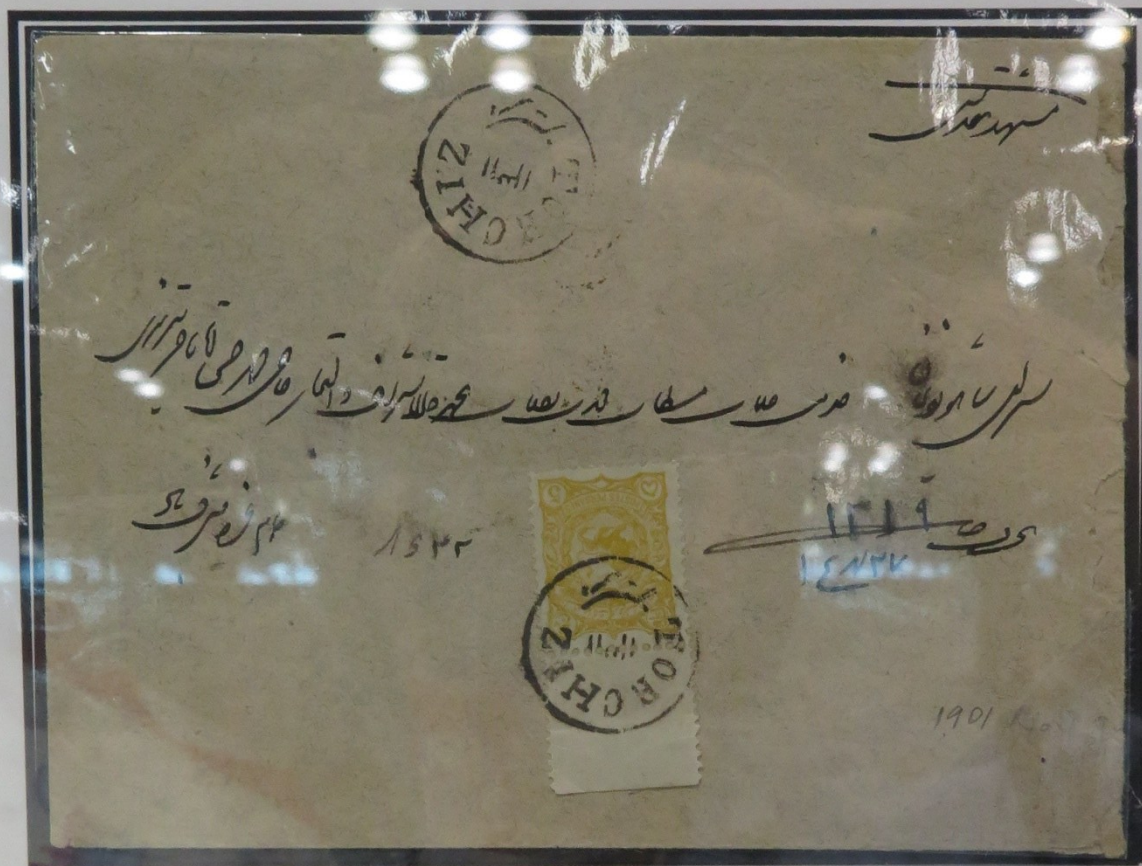
Top: with 5 Shahi standard rate.

&  
Bottom: with double letter reg. local rate from Hamadan.





### Mail from Torchiz



Mailed at Torchiz, dated 14 Rabi Awal ~14 July 1901.

This is the scarce mail since this town name was changed to KASHMAR during the Pahalvi period.



Type TZ1

This is the only region which was provided with the such datestamp containing the Hijri only (1311 ~ 1892) which refer to the issue date of the datestamp.  
This reportedly used until 1902 on very few covers.



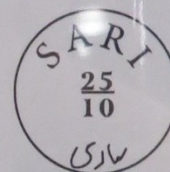
## Change in Datestamps from Meched and Sari

Not until 1901 November, Meched used black cancellation on covers, similar to Type M1 but close letters. Tehran and Sari (town near Caspian Sea), still using the greenish-blue markings. This was not reported previously. The new datestamp type was noticed for Meched from 1901.



1900. Very unusual small cover from Sari addressed to Tehran was cancelled by the single circle bilingual datestamp, type SR1, dated October 25.

It was linked to Tehran by a fine road map via Amol. It reached Tehran therefore, the next day. **RRR**



This was the only circular datestamp which was replaced by the oval shield in 1907



The above example used in 1901 December bore the new Meched Unrecorded Type M3 whereas the bottom cover shows the usage of previous type M2 in June same year.

Type M2: 28 mm diameter  
Type M3: 27 mm diameter



### Less rate for England via Russia

The cover sent to England via Russia route were charged low as compared to other. A total 10 Shahi was seen on cover below used as standard new letter rate.

### Exceptional Registered mail with New Discovery!



1901. An exceptional usage of 1kr (Imprint Stationery) used from Djoulfa uprated with a pair of 2 Shahi since it was registered mail. by looking at the rates we found out that 10 Shahi was for letter and another was for registration. This was previously unlisted.

Further a new type of "Registration Marking" was applied on this cover, early usage. Tied by the two strikes of Djoulfa circular datestamp, dated December 22. Upon arrival at Tehran, it was tied by the two most scarce datestamp; "Sader" (without year and san-serif "Harakat" (with year", dated January 1, 1902.



Transit Russian P.O on January 19 and finally received at England on January 22. **RRR**

Early usage of Tehran, Type TY1 (Harakat) known in the cover above.



Pre-Local Tehran Print Usage

Reports of irregularities and unreliable deliveries encouraged the Persian government in 1902 to place the postal system under the direct management of Joseph Naus, the Belgian director of customs, with instructions to reorganize it. Meanwhile reports of shortage of postage circulated but due to lack of funds no new issues were printed.



The Top cover was used from Tabriz on December 28 and arrived Switzerland on January 10, 1902. Whereas the bottom cover addressed to Cairo was mailed on December 26, 1901 transit Boushire (January 1, 1902), Bombay, Aden (January 18) and received at Suez on January 27. Delivered to Cairo the next day. Both usage were made before the printing of local issue allowed to Tehran in 1902 **RR**





During the Provisional Period the stock were overprinted and provided to Post Offices for use since new printing was not possible at that time. The usage of such are very uncommon on covers. The stationery was also cancelled with the same. The combination of that period usages from Chiraz (top) and Tabriz (middle and bottom) and shown above. These were not used more than a 9 months. Usage: 1902



### Local Tehran Printing, 1902 (For Local & Foreign)

Due to the depletion of the stock of stamps printed by Enschedé of Holland and lack of funds to order a new stock, Pharos printing firm in Teheran was commissioned to produce a set of typeset stamps using regular newspaper printing method. Till March 1902, the previous stock was used. The basic stamp was handstamped at the office of the General Director of Posts with a controlling overprint to validate their usage. These stamps were used throughout the country from early 1902 until mid 1903 at which time the new issue arrived from Enschedé.



The Top cover was used locally at Boushire with 5 Shahi franking and tied by the circular bilingual datestamp of March 3, 1902 (Early Usage).

However, the bottom example posted from Tabriz in October 1902 was franked with foreign letter rate of 12 Shahi and received at Constantinople Austrian P.O on November 6. The Rarity speaks for itself. **RRR**



## Persia - Russia - France

Very Unusual  
Postcard prepaid  
with 5sh  
Provisional luse  
and tied by the  
Tehran  
datestamp of  
November 5,  
1902.



## Persia - Russia - Holland



Another mail of 5sh  
from Persia to  
Holland bore the  
transit datestamp of  
Russia.

Usage:  
December 14, 1900

The trade  
development and  
agreement made in  
1898 which resulted  
such access from  
Russia for Persia.

## To and From Europe via Russia, 1902

There is a service twice a week to and from Europe via Resht or Tabriz and Tiflis (letters to be marked 'via Russia'), and a weekly service to India via Bushire. In March, 1901, the farm system was abolished and in 1902 the post office was joined to the Customs Department worked by Belgian officials, but as to the number of letters, postcards, parcels, &c, conveyed, no statistics are obtainable.



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

The Crisis

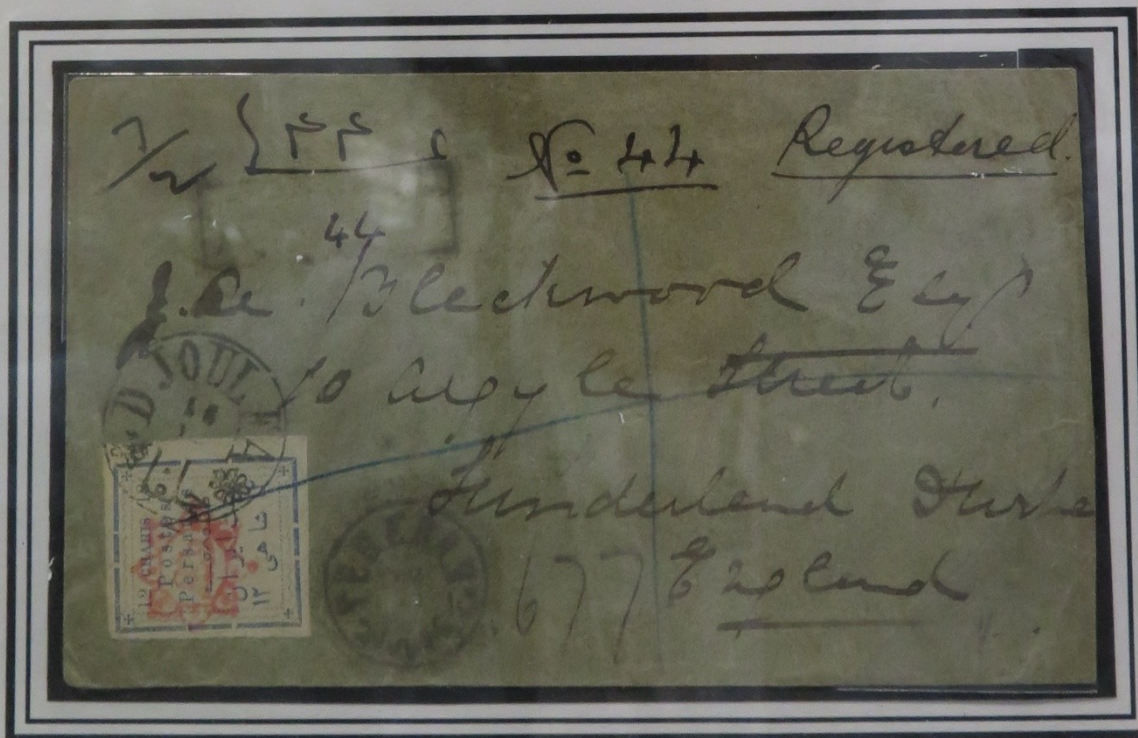
### Exceptional Foreign usage of Local Prints

Stamp which were handstamped at the office of the General Director of Posts, with a controlling overprint to validate their usage, noticed used on foreign mail also for a year only. Therefore, those mails are considered exceptional. Limited towns of Persia had the privilege to use it.

1902. This cover bearing two stamps of Tehran Print, 2 Shahi and 10 Shahi, were used from Isfahan on November 11. Transit Tehran (Nov.15) and reached via Russia (Nov.19) to Paris. **RRR**



Since it was a Regular Mail, the word "registered" obliterated by pen.



1902. This cover bearing two stamps of Tehran Print, 12 Shahi (front) other at back. Posted from Djoulfa on Nov.16 Transit Tehran (Nov.18) and reached via Russia (Nov.19) to England (Dec.9).

**RRR**



### The adoption of New Postage & Stationery before Revision of Rates

The new design set but quite similar depiction of previous with new colours were provided by the J. Enschede which were printed at Haarlem. Although they were provided from December 1902 but most frequent usages only are seen during 1903 as they were surcharged later due to revision of rates in 1904. The stampless picture postcard usages also seen during this period in which the material was copied from the old stock of Persia.

### Mail from Enzeli (Resht)



This 5 U.P.U based picture postcard was affixed with 5 Shahi (1902) was actually posted from Enzeli on 30 June (1903). The postage was cancelled on transit at Tehran by the "Harakat" bilingual circular datestamp of July 2. Since it was addressed to Paris, it went through Baku (Russia) where mistakenly applied 19.19.03 instead of 9.07.03. Arrived surprisingly at Pairs the same day. Such example are exceptional.

RRR\*



This word "ENZE" were in Serif whereas "LI" were in san-serif. Unusual type of datestamp, Type EZ1, replaced in 1906.

Enzeli is one of the Persia (Iran) leading port located on the Caspian Sea, 35 KM north of Resht. Its name was changed to Bandar Pahlavi (Port Pahlavi) but has since the Islamic Revolution been reinstated.

The Sea Route map from Enzeli to Baku (Russia) is clearly depicted over the map by the dotted lines.





### The adoption of New Rates from December 1903 (not 1904)

By the help of below example, we established that the revision of rates were done in 1903 December not February 1904 as stated in Iran Catalogue. The Inland rate changed to 6 Shahi and 12 Shahi separately for registered article, which is double the regular rate. Previously similar value was adopted for registered articles.

### New Rate of Inland and Registration Mail



This exceptional earliest usage of domestic registered postcard mail from Tauris (Tabriz) to Isfahan was franked with 6 Shahi and further uprated with 12 Shahi for registration. All tied by the circular datestamp of Tauris dated December 14 (1903) carried by the Private Courier to Isfahan via Tehran December 16. Arrived at Isfahan on December 23 (canceller at back). **RRR\***

This postcard bore the French based "RECOMMANDEE" single handstamp, used only on postcard, in violet means "Registered" alongwith Persian "246" (246) manuscript number. This exceptional usage establishes the early date of revision of rates.



Very Scare Tauris  
(Sader) datestamp,  
Type TBS1.

Road Map: Tabriz - Zenjan - Kazvin - Tehran - Kum - Kasha - Isfahan.



# Late usage of "Provisional" Postcards from Tehran and Sarvistan

This 5 Shahi U.P.U based postcard with overprint was sent to Palumpure, Punjab (India) via Quetta (now Pakistan) from Sarvistan (Persia small town southeast of Simaz) tied with the two exceptional negative cachets, Black and Rose-red. The existence of two over one example is Unique.

RRR\*



Mailed on December 14, 1903 transit Quetta to Dewanchah (Dec.31) to Palampur (January 1, 1904) delivered to Kangra P.O on January 3 and finally received at Meean Meer on January 5.



1903. Mailed from Tehran Nov.3 via Russia (Baku) Nov.19 to Germany Nov.30.

The "provisional" overprint was done in January 1902, on old stock of postage and 5 Shahi postcards. These examples were used scarily in 1903 and 1904 as new stationery was provided alongwith new set of postage issue in late 1902, i.e, reportedly December.



New Inland Rate of 1903 till 1906 (December)

As discussed, the new Inland rate was revised from 5 Shahi to 6 Shahi in December 1903 and because of this the 10 Shahi issues were surcharged with 6 Shahi to use that for foreign mails.

Inland Mail

A pair of 3 Shahi surcharged on 5 Shahi, affixed on the cover back by the Meched April 29 (1904). Arrived at Tehran on May 9. Very uncommon example with the faded surcharged issue. **RR**

New Surcharge values were: 1 Shahi, 2 Shahi, 9 Shahi and 12 Shahi apart from shown on this page.

Regular Foreign Mail (U.K.)

This cover was prepaid with that new surcharged 10 Shahi pair according to the new foreign rate for U.K, 12 Shahi, Regular letter.

Posted from Tehran on January 21 and received at England on February 17, 1905 as found on the reverse side.

**RRR**

The usage of 6 Shahi on 10 Shahi surcharge issue on foreign Mail is very uncommon.







**Mails from Tehran - Maidan**

The above two mails from the formerly Tehran fruit and vegetable market post office, named Tehran Maidan, posted on November 1904. This post office and the market was razed in the Reza Shah Period.



## Arrival of New Shield Datestamps in 1905

Not before winter of 1905, the new shield (pointed oval) handstamps were introduced, first at Tehran and later, reportedly 1906-1907. In the datestamp of Tehran measuring 51 mm, the second "E" was in French "acute" accent.

## Early Usage of Datestamp from Tehran to Arak



This exceptional registered mail from Sultanabad Arak (city on the Trans-Persian Railways line 295 Km southwest of Tehran), prepaid with new rate of 13 Shahi + 13 Shahi. Posted on September 22, 1905. Reached Tehran via Rail route on September 23. Forwarded and Received at German P.O on October 10, as shown on the reverse side of the cover. **RRR\***



Three Rarity found on this cover:-

1. Strips and Pair of 3 Shahi surcharge.
2. Combination with 2 Shahi of previous without surcharge issue.
3. The early recording Tehran and Sultanabad Shield datestamp, September 1905 (not known before). Apart from that Intact Wax Seal of Sultanabad found at back, which makes this cover quite scarce.



**Simultaneous Usage: Postage & Datestamps, 1905-1906**

During 1905 and 1906, the oval pointed shield datestamp was not allotted to all regions of Persia. Tehran used the circular (Sader) type of 1900 even the new type was provided. It was then used as a transit marking only. Similar in case of postage was witnessed. The old which can be applicable for new rates were used without hesitation but such usages are very scarce in 1906.

**Tabriz Mail with "Inverted Datestamp Error"**

This exceptional regular mail from Tauris (Tabriz) prepaid with a pair of 3 Shahi (1902). Tied by the shield datestamp of December 25, 1905. Transit Tehran (Sader) dated Jan. 1 and arrival Meched canceller of similar type dated January 18, 1906 was affixed on the same side.

INVERTED  
"25"  
datestamp  
Unlisted error  
found on  
Tauris  
canceller.



Tauris (Type TO1)  
"Inverted Date Error"  
**RRR**

This piece shows the usage of 3 Shahix2 tied by the Shield handstamp with a transit Tehran (Sader) small type, affixed besides, dated February, 2 (1905).



### Local Tehran Printing, 1906

Although the values in French were also used in 1904 but did not establish the situation for postal authority as the political position was truly affecting the economic position of Persia. Therefore in 1906, again Tehran was authorized to print the issues which were struck with Provisional marking to approve it.

#### Exceptional Mail from Barfroush

This part cover prepaid with the Imperforated pair of 3 Shahi, Tehran Local Print 1906, with Provisional marking in black, from Barfroush, dated April 19, 1906.

This cover not only shows the early usage of this origin canceller but also the usage of Tehran Local Print, which makes this cover very scarce.

RRR



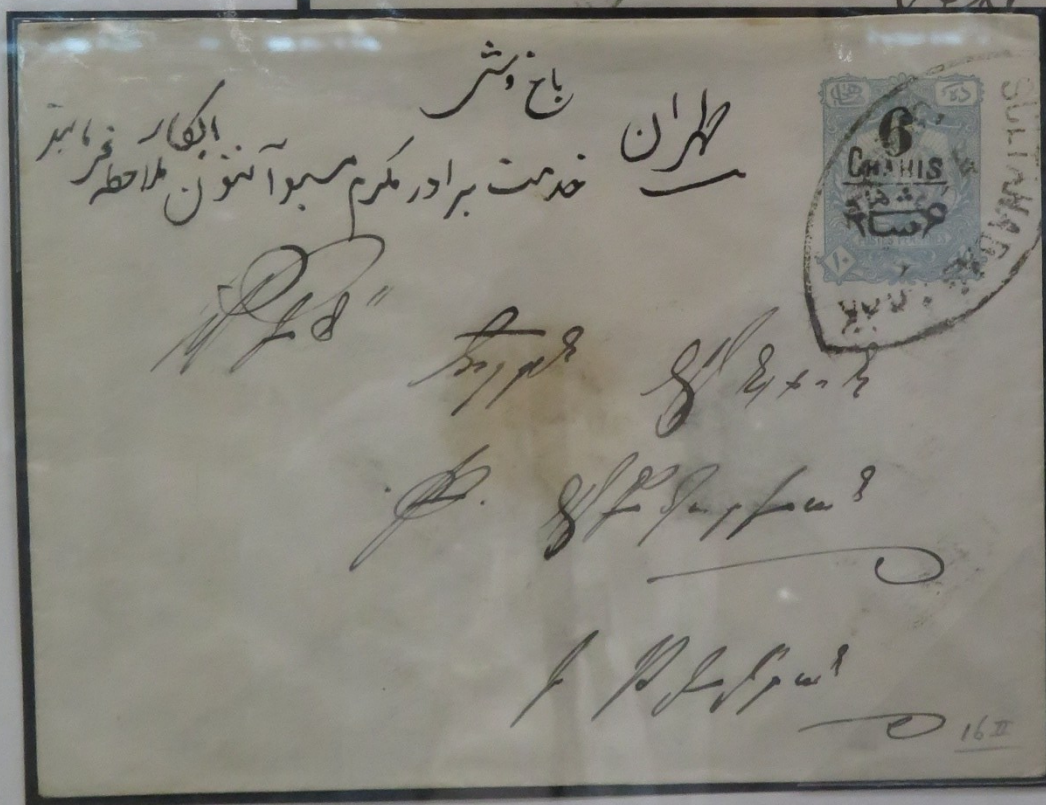
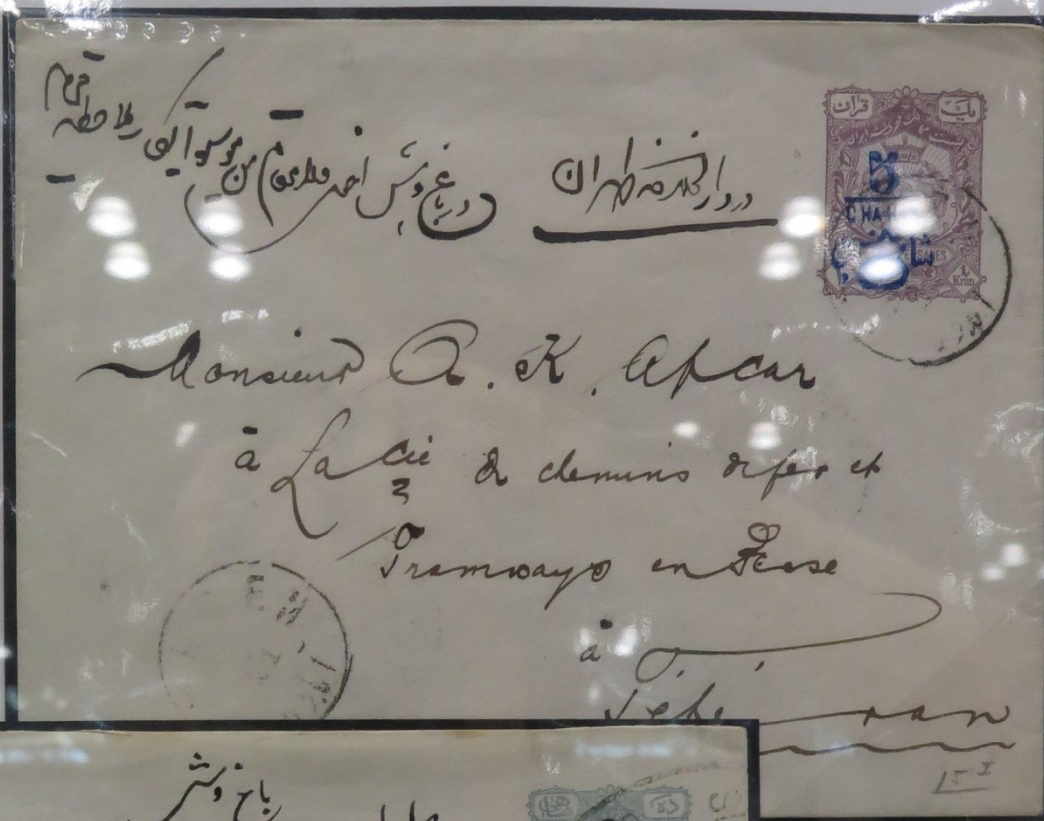
#### Scarce Usage from Kazvin

Following the rate of 6 Shahi, the cover bearing apart from 3 Shahi for local usage are noticed very scarce.

The similar usage noticed from Kazvin on 28 October 1906 for Isfahan (11. November.). This is early usage for both Shield types. RR







Revision of Rate for Domestic Mail, 1906

The top mail from Abadeh posted in 1905 with a domestic rate of 5sh whereas the bottom example with the new revised rate of 6sh, posted on September 7, 1906 from Sultanabad (Irak).



## End of Mozzafar-al-Din Shah Regime in 1907

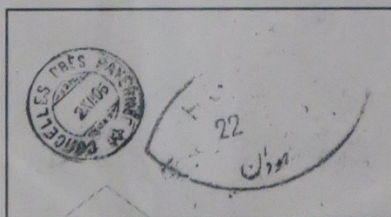
After the hectic situation in Persia against the Shah, an elected parliament, or Majles was organized and new constitution was proposed. The shah signed the constitution on December 30, 1906 and died five days later. In 1907 the postal service was separated from the customs department, and later it was elevated to a ministry.

### Exceptional usage of Surcharged Stationery; 5 Shahi



This exceptional registered mail from Meched to Switzerland was prepaid with new suggested rate of 1903; i.e 5 Shahi stationery was uprated with 1 Shahi alongwith 1 Kran. Tied by the two strikes of the Meched circular type in black, dated November 18 (1906).

Since it was a registered mail, two types of registration marking was struck, Large one at Meched and circular "R" at Hamadan. Transit Hamadan Shield datestamp of November 22, 1906 was tied at back. Besides shows the arrival datestamp of Switzerland, dated December 2, 1906. **RR**



Reduced image of the reverse showing Transit Hamadan at right and Arrival Switzerland at left.





**Increase of Rate for Domestic Mail, late 1906**

From December 1906, the rate for domestic mail increased to 9sh which were officially used from January 1907. However, mail of late December 1906 bore the usage of the same which is very uncommon. The above example bore the usage of the same in December 25, 1906 from Ispahan.

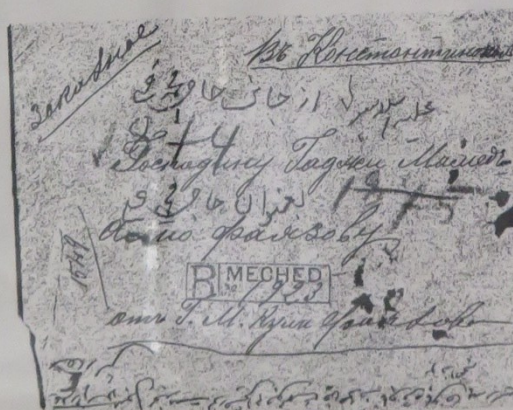
The franking on this cover is very scarce!





### Registered Mail from Meshed

Exceptional usage on cover from Meshed to Istanbul bore the block of 11 of 3sh franked with 1ch provisional issue. All tied by the oval datestamp of January 17, 1907. This registered mail bore the new boxed type of Meshed in violet on front.



Reduced image of the front showing the Registration cachet



## The Revision of Inland Rates in 1907

This time the Inland rate was increased from 6 Shahi to 9 Shahi. These rates were implemented from January 1907 when the throne given to Mohammad Ali Shah. This was a result of economic downfall created by the rising tensions between Shah and the Majlis.

### New Inland rate of 9 Shahi

1907. An early mail from Hamadan bearing the 9 Shahi franking, all tied by the circular bilingual datestamp of January 24. Transit Tehran on January 29 and Delivered at Tauris (Tabriz) on February 4, 1907. This cover bears the very uncommon early domestic usage.

RRR



Local mail from Boushire prepaid with as above example, franking but in quite dark shade of green.

Tied by the Shield datestamp of Boushire, dated July 7, 1907.

RR



## No Revision of Foreign Rates in 1907

It was noticed no change was made for foreign correspondence whether to Europe or across Pacific. Rates were 6 Shahi +1Kran for Registered Mail for Switzerland and 13 Shahi for Constantinople (regular mail).

## Exceptional Consular Mail from Arak



An exceptional registered mail from Sultanabad - Arak was posted on August 8, 1907, prepaid with 6 Shahi + 1Kran (unscharged issue of 1902-03 of Mozzafer-ed-din Period) tied by the shield datestamp of Sultanabad - Arak. A single line San-Serif "Registered" Handstamp was struck on front. Transit Tehran on August 21, 1907 (as shown on reverse).

After 1900, the German had the proper railway system, mostly covering all regions. Those mails which transit Germany from Persia and Constantinople bore, if registered, label of the R-Bahnpost (Train Post).



(Reduced Image of the Reverse)

Similar treatment was done with cover when transiting Germany on September 4. Finally arrived at Swiss Post the next day. **RRR\***

By looking at the wax seal at back we found out that this was actually posted by the British Vice-Consulate - Sultanabad, which indeed makes this cover exceptional rarity of Consular Mail, as shown on the reverse side of the cover.



### Mails before Abdication of Throne

The postage related to Mohammad Ali Shah provided in late 1907. The previous printing was done on new type of paper. After several disputes with the members of the Majlis in July 1909 Shah left the throne in favor of his Son. The franking with previous issues are very uncommon.



This Mozzafar-ed-din period postcard used at Khoy addressed to Germany. Therefore uprated with 1 Shahi, on green paper just like the below, 3 Sh.

Arrival datestamp of March 20 also struck on the same side which makes it uncommon.



Mailed at Boushire, dated February 18, 1908. Received at Shiraz after two days.



### The usage of Previous Stock at Persia till 1907

After Mohammad Ali became Shah of Persia, the new set was provided in late 1907. Meanwhile the old stock related to his father was kept in use for some time.

Mailed at  
Savoutchboulag  
(former town of  
Mahabad),  
dated August  
27, 1907.

Received at  
Constantinople  
on August 29,  
as shown on the  
same side. Scarce  
mail with  
previous issue  
franking of 13  
Shahi.

RR



Another  
scarce mail  
from  
Shiraz  
prepaid  
with 9  
Shahi  
Surch.  
Issue of  
1902-  
1903.

Posted on  
16  
December  
1907.  
Received  
at Bushire  
on 22  
December,  
1907.

RR



Persian Administration, Ahmed Shah (1909-1925)

Mails

### The Ahmed Shah throne, July 1909

On 16 July 1909, Mohammad Ali Shah's 11 year old son, Ahmad Shah was on the throne. However, official coronation never occurred until 1914.



### Persian P.O:

Mailed at Mohammerah dated 22, April 1909.

This postcard bears a rarity of being posted to Switzerland via British controlled port, and sent on April 24.

Delivered on May 14, as shown on the same side. **RRR\***



The Persian Administration, Ahmed Shah (1909-1925)

Mails

### Mail from Mohammerah

The usage of previous stationery noticed used till 1910 at both sides, Persian and British.



### British P.O

Mailed at Mohammerah dated 10, Dec. 1910.

Since they were only allowed to use the Imperial postage, they uprated the same with 1 Anna KEVII adhesive.

Delivered on Nov 30, as shown on the same side. **RRR\***



### Variation of Inland Rate, 1910-1911

No postage issue was provided until 1911. Meanwhile, from 1909, Coat of Arms issue of Mohammad Ali Shah was used. The covers bearing that issue noticed having variation of old and new rate when used domestically throughout 1910. However, official announcement of rate made in 1911, which was the attempt to stabilize the same.

9 Sh,  
Inland  
regular  
mail.

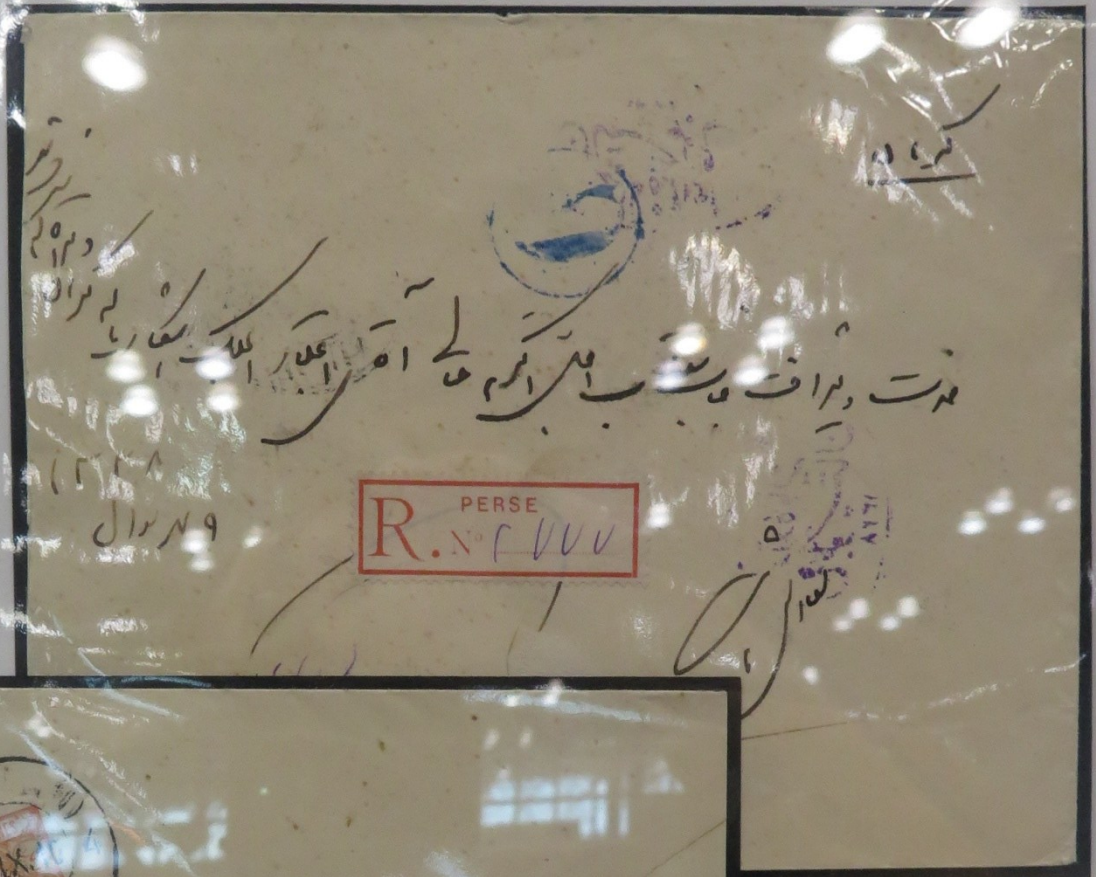


6 Shahi,  
Inland  
regular  
mail.

Was  
dependent  
upon  
distance.

Two domestic covers above, Top Tehran to Kazvin dated May 18, 1910 bears the ongoing 9 Shahi domestic letter rate. Whereas the bottom example from Hamadan to Tehran bore 6 Shahi which was used till 1907. Since these issues noticed used for two years only, therefore considered scarce on cover. **RRR**





### The Control Mark, Type 1 in Violet / Blue

Registered Mail posted on October 13, 1910 from Tehran bore the Control Marking Type 1 in blue which is much scarcer than the violet ones as shown in the bottom example of September 20, 1910





**The Control Mark, Type 1& 2 in Black**

Apart from the two colours of each, these types are also known in black as found on the cover above.  
Top: Usage February 12, 1911 with Type 1 and Bottom: Usage February 10, 1911 with Type 2



## The Russian Post Office in Tehran, 1908-1918

Russian post offices operated from 1908-1918 in northern Persia (Tehran), using stamps of Russia only. This post office was opened during the Mohammad Ali Shah period for the convenience of trading companies established in the city. Such covers bear Russian postage but Persia cancellations. Survived examples are very few in existence.

### Mail from Tehran to Isfahan



An exceptional regular mail bearing Russian franking of 1kx10 (orange-yellow, coat of arms), tied by the four strikes of Tehran double rim bilingual datestamp of February 17, 1911.

Forwarded to Isfahan from Tehran on February 18 and was delivered the next day. A shield datestamp of Isfahan was also struck on the same side. **RRR**



Tehran double circle  
datestamp used  
on cover





The Control Mark, Type 1 & 2 in Magenta?

In the same year of its existence, it was observed that some covers were cancelled with the very unusual oily type of Type 1 & 2 and the colour of which resembles to the magenta tone. This is unrecorded.

The covers here bore the usage of the same used in February 22, 1911 (top) and February 23, 1911 (bottom). Exceptional Examples!





The Control Mark, Type 3 in Purple

The Type 3 is only known in purple which looks quite similar to type 1 but narrow width. Two covers posted from Tehran on February 1911 bore the usage of the same.





### The Control Mark, Type 2 in Violet / Purple

Mail from Tehran to Kazvin at top bore the control marking type 2 in violet, dated March 9, 1911. Whereas the bottom example to Germany bore the cachet in purple, which is uncommon on foreign mail.





**The Control Mark, Type 4 in Purple**

A larger version of the Type 2 as Type 4 known to be used from March 1911. At early stage it is known in the purple colour only. The usage of the same is shown the top example of March 17, 1911 whereas the smaller version Type 2 is shown on the bottom cover used in the same month.



## The Control Marking "C"

As per recordings, the "C" handstamp, used other than by Hamadan, were referred to as Persia control handstamps indicating dis-agreement (rates/usage). It was once also presumed as Censor Marking. These were used from 1910 and in the meantime Tehran double rim bilingual cancellors were introduced, including others

Mailed at  
Isfahan, dated  
Nov 13, 1911.  
Received at  
Tehran on  
Nov, 20.

The Control "C"  
Marking was  
applied on the  
front side in  
black.

**RRR**



Mailed at  
Tehran, dated  
April 16, 1911.  
Received at  
Kazvin on  
April 18. The  
Control "C"  
Marking was  
applied on the  
back side in  
magenta / violet.

Both had one  
common  
similarity of Old  
postal rate: 6  
Shahi (regular)  
and 12 Shahi  
(registered)

**RRR**





The Control Mark of Hamadan, Type 1

This control cachet known in three colours, black, greenish-blue and deep purple. This type appeared not earlier than October 1911. These two covers bore the usages of the same in November 1911 which makes than earlier examples from Hamadan in greenish blue and deep purple, which is rarest in this category.





### The Control Mark Type 5 in Purple and Black

The Type 5 had less height narrow edges of "C" touching the outer circle. This appear not earlier than November 1911. The usage of the same in December 1911 (top) in purple and in black on February 1912 (bottom) are discussed for the first time. Unlisted Discovery!



## The Stability of Domestic Postal Rate, 1911

It was noticed that from later 1911 onwards, the rates were stabilized to 6 Shahi again for Inland regular mails. But for some destination often seen with "C" control marking, affixed either sides of the cover.

An exceptional regular mail bearing 3 Shahi (pair), tied by the Tehran datestamp of January 28, 1912.

Accompanied by the "C" control marking in Violet (Unlisted).

Received at Kashan on February 9, 1912.

**RR**



Another mail from Yezd prepaid with similar domestic rate for Ispahan but no control marking applied on it.

**R**

Sultan Ahmad Shah was born 21 January 1898 in Tabriz, and succeeded to the throne at age 11, youngest Shah of Persia but officially crowned in late 1914.

By 1912-13 the system had expanded to include 158 offices, 15 substations, 263 post houses (manzel), 2,370 horses, 632 coaches and carts, and 260 riders and postmen.

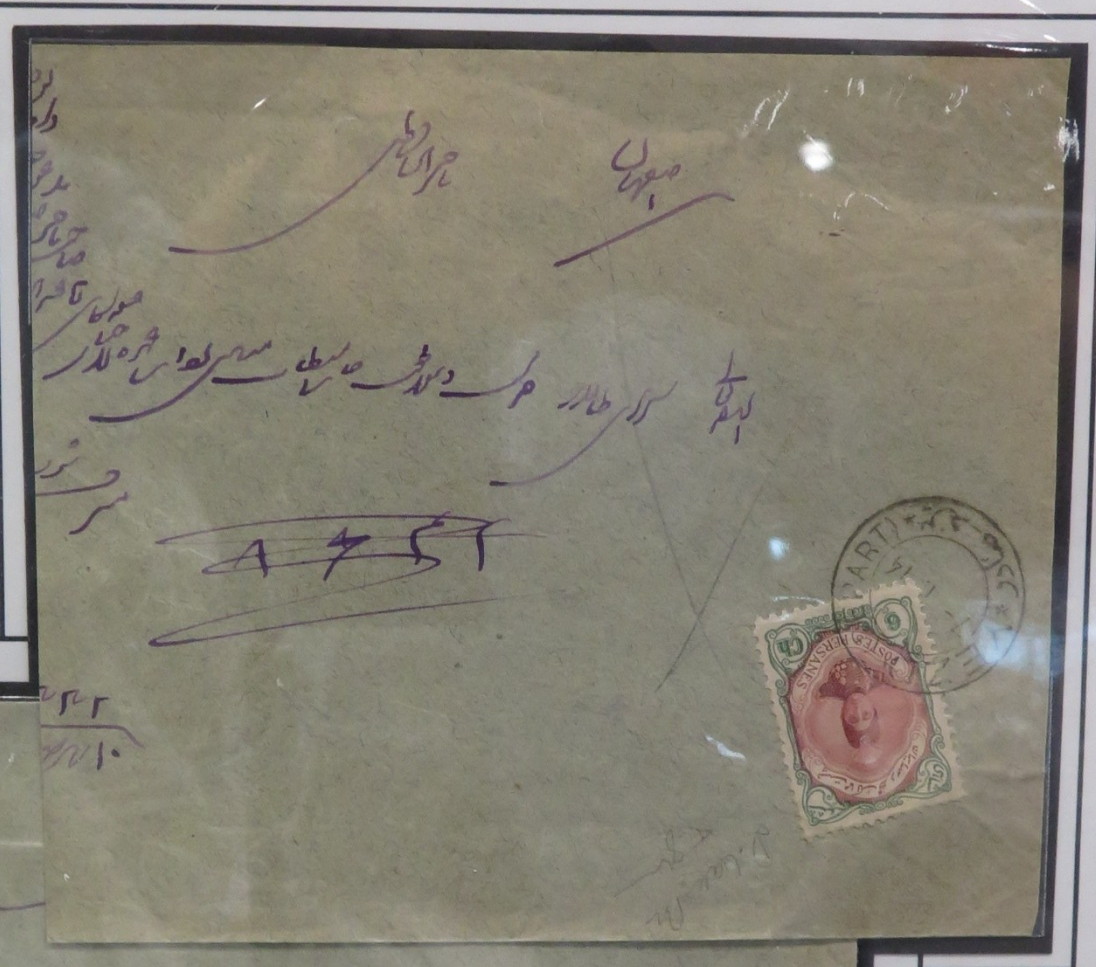


## The Coronation of Ahmed Shah, 1914

The official coronation of Ahmed Shah was held at July 1914, but due to WWI the supply of new stock of postal material was not received from Holland until 1915. Therefore, all remaining stock was used. It was noticed that from later 1911 onwards, the rates were stabilised to 6 Shahi again for Inland regular mails.

Mailed At Yezd on  
January 7, 1914 and  
delivered to Isfahan  
after 2 days. **RR**

As new series of  
bilingual double circle  
datestamps were  
provided to Postal  
Station from 1911  
with a proper  
instruction of usage.  
Even the Post Nos.  
were also allotted like  
the Tehran, shown in  
example below.



This mail  
was posted  
after the  
Coronation  
of Ahmed  
Shah, dated  
10 Nov.  
1914. Posted  
from Tehran  
and delivered  
to Isfahan,  
upon arrival  
noticed that  
an inverted  
"12"  
datestamp  
was applied.  
**RRR\***



## British Censorship of the Domestic Mails of Persia

The censorship of the mails continued from 1914 to 1920. Different methods of censorship were adopted during those years. The mails posted domestically in Persia were censored by British WWI markings. In the labels, the most uncommon method was the use of typewriter written strips of paper, as shown below. During 1914, Boushire was temporarily captured by the British troops.

A cover bearing 7 shahi franking was posted from Tehran on March 12, 1919, tied by the two strikes of the Tehran No. 15 and one Tehran No. 6. Upon arrival Tauris (Mar. 22), it was censored by the British "DUNSTERFORCE" censorship bilingual label and circular handstamp, tied both sides over label. **RRR**



The above censor handstamp was used in the Caspian region only.

Whereas this cover censor label was used at Hamadan and the Censorship handstamp of "PASSED BY BRITISH MILITARY CENSOR", used for several years after the war.



### The Old Rates maintained

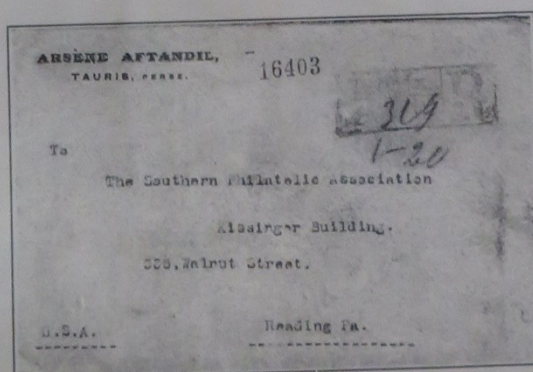
The previous rates were maintained for foreign correspondences. The mails posted without censorship were noticed for USA between 1919-1920. These are very scarce examples with proper receiving markings.

### Registered Rate 24 Shahi, for U.S.A



This exceptional registered mail from Tauris bears a pair of 12 Shahi, tied by the two strikes of bilingual double circle datestamp of August 30, 1919. A very unusual green wax seal was applied at back.

After effects of WWI still causing the time during of mails delivery as some Sea routes for British Steamer Ships were not cleared. Therefore reached U.S.A after about 2 months, November 8, 1919. **RRR**



The reduced image of the front showing a new version of Registered Handstamp in violet, used in Tabriz only.



The Persian Administration, Ahmed Shah (1909-1925)

Rates / Mails

## The Role of Duzdab Indian Exchange Office for Persia

Duzdab, an oasis near the border with Pakistan (today). Its name was changed to Zahidan and is now the sea of Iranian Baluchistan. The British Indian postal authorities had an exchange office in the town. These offices operated till 1924 for mails addressed to Quetta, Peshawar and even in very rare cases for Switzerland.

This is the very late usage of the 4 Shahi postcard, used from Kerman and tied by its datestamp of February 25, 1922.

This exceptional mail was sent via Duzdab Persian and Indian Exchange P.O dated March 6. From there it was forwarded to Quetta to Bombay where S.S Orient carried it for Switzerland.

RRR\*



A cover prepaid with new postal rate of 1921, with the Control marking postage of 1922, 1kr franking. Posted from Kouh Malek Siah Ziarat, on January 1, 1923. Received Duzdab same day and delivered to Peshawar on Feb.5. RRR\*

In accordance with the U.P.U congress held at Madrid, the rate of postage on a regular mail and postcards addressed to foreign destinations from Persia must bear 1 Kran for letters. The postage stamps were surcharged accordingly. Later in 1922 when stock of postage stamps stolen while in transit from Holland to Tehran during the WWI, the authorities were obliged to overprint all existing stock of Ahmed Shah stamps. The use of 1911 issue was prevented from January 1, 1923, few months before the British closed its offices at Persia.



## The Role of Kouh Malek Siah Ziarat Indian Exchange Office for Persia

This post office was linked with Kouh Malek Siah Ziarat, a frontier post between Iran (Persia) and Pakistan (British India) and Afghanistan. It was maintained by both, Persia and British.

### Mail from Karachi (British India) - Meshed (Persia)

via Duzdab (Indian) - Kouh Malek Siah Ziarat (Persian) Exchange Offices



A commercial cover to "Meshed (Persia)" with Indian 1 Anna x 2 (chocolate) with 1/2 Anna (green) KGV adhesives. Tied to reverse by 'KARACHI' double circle killer datestamp of June 1, 1924.

Superb transit markings of DUZDAB INDIAN EXCHANGE P.O with almost very fine Persian-type 'KUH MALEK SIAH ZIARET/21.6.24' bilingual cds, tied on the same side. Arrival 'MESCHED/26.6.24' bilingual datestamp affixed on the same side.

A wonderful transfer office cover. **RRR\***

