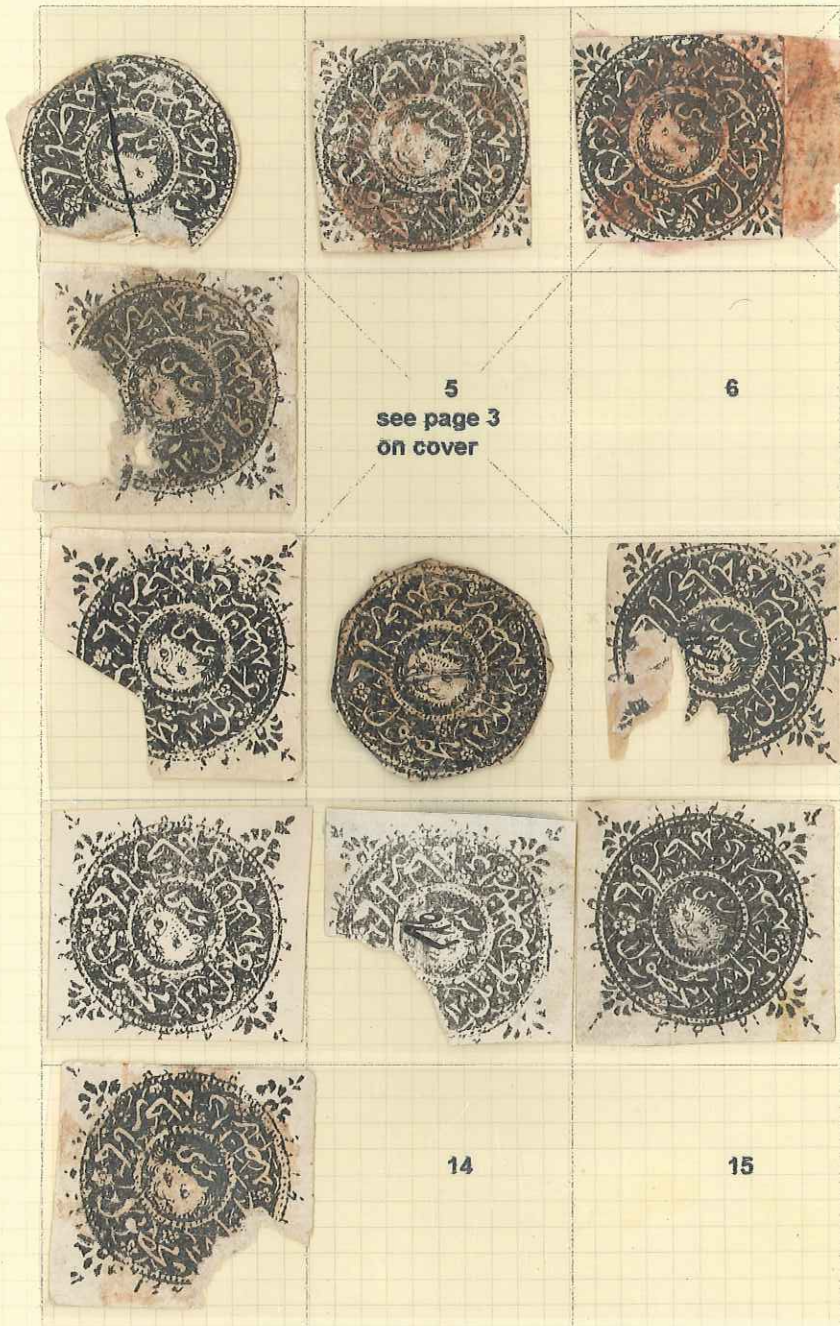


AFGHANISTAN

1870 - 71

1288

PLATE 'C' **ABASI** - 5 types (vertical row 1)
SANAR - 5 types (vertical row 2)
SHAHI - 5 types (vertical row 3)



ABASSI

SANAR

SHAHI

The stamps shown have combinations of
 Ink + Tear-off
 or
 Ink+Ochre smudge
 or
 Ochre smudge+tear-off
 cancels.

*8 and *11 have the
 Ink "Tashkurghan"
 cancel



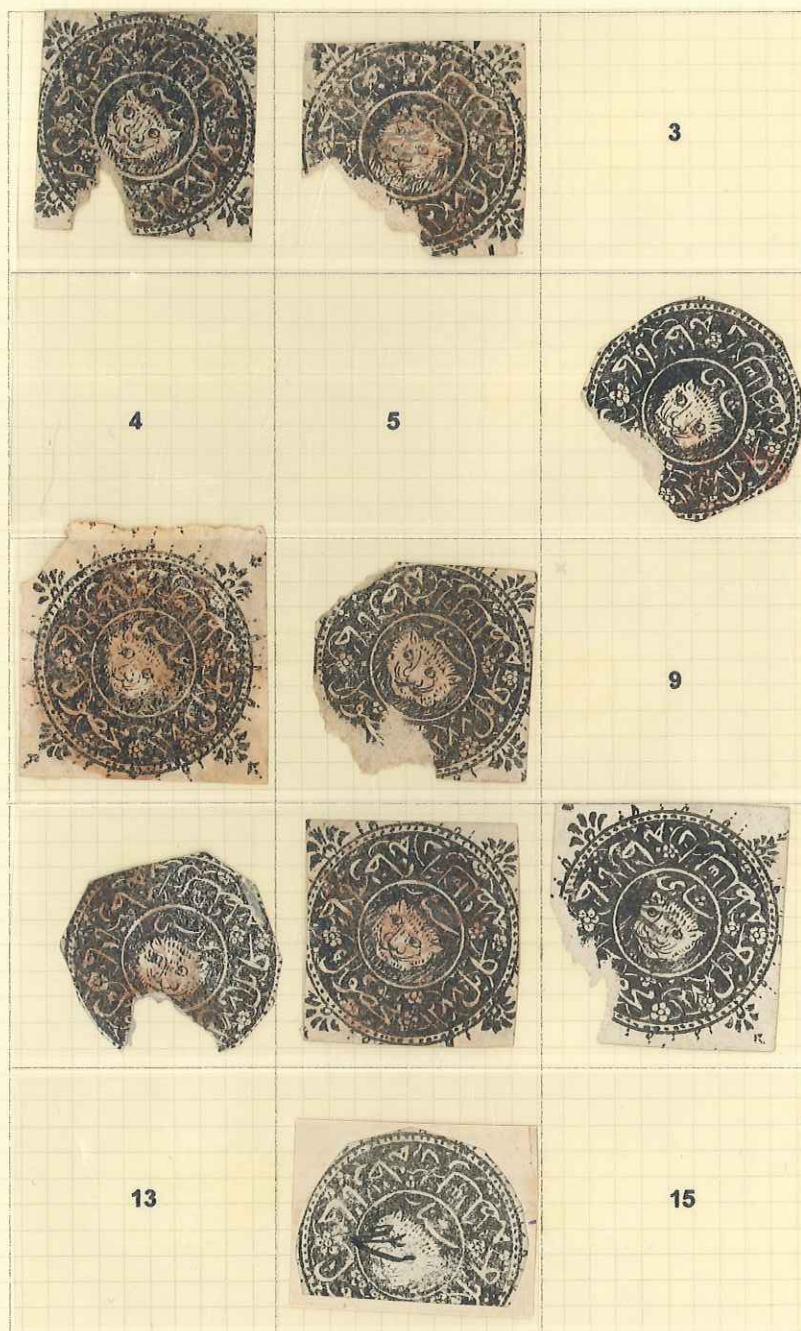
AFGHANISTAN

1870 - 71 ۱۲۸۸ (1288)

Outer circle dotted - inner circle plain

PLATE 'D' **ABASI** - 5 types (vertical row 1)
SANAR - 5 types (vertical row 2)
SHAHI - 5 types (vertical row 3)

Printing: lithographed from a stone, every unit separately drawn.



ABASSI

SANAR

SHAHI

Cancellation:

Dietrich states that cancellations generally fall into two periods - the first five years 1871-1876 (1288 - 1293) and the second period after 1876 (1293).

The stamps show combinations of both cancellation periods even though this is an 1870 - 1871 issue. This tends to indicate that they remained in use for several years for the Tashkurghan ink manuscript was used from 1876 according to Dietrich

Tear-off
 or
 Ink + Tear(cut) off
 or
 Ochre smudge+tear-off
 cancels.

NOTE:

the portion torn off for cancellation should be Mahsul

(located at 6 o'clock) but this is not always so.

*2, *12 and *14 have the Ink "Tashkurghan" cancel introduced about (according to Dietrich) during the second Sher Ali cancellation period c1876-1877 (1293AH).

AFGHANISTAN

1870 - 1871 AMIR SHER ALI KHAN

Piece showing:

Two SANAR values

1. Ochre smudge cancel

2. Tear-off cancel

Indian ½ anna blue (SG37)

3. 21x23mm Indian barred
8-1 cancel

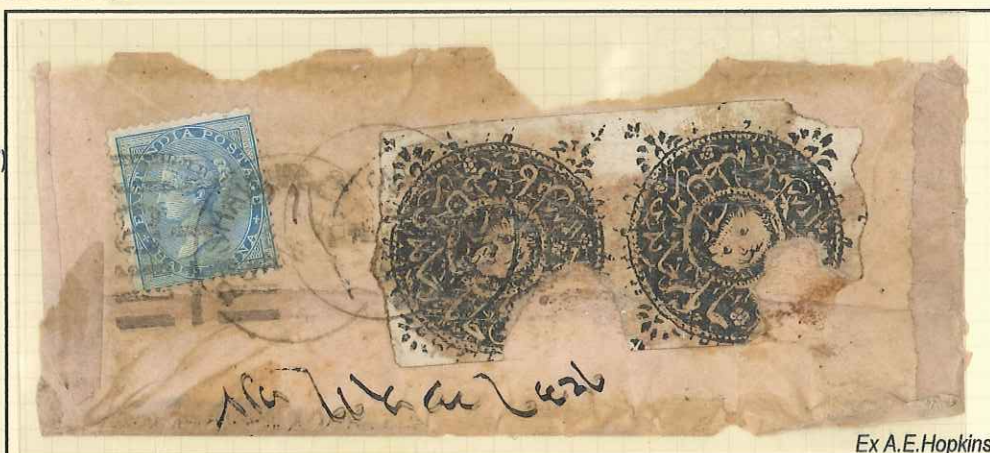


4. Peshawar 25mm diam.
single line cancel

5. Indian SHERA 25.5 mm
cancel Jan 6.

Weight: ¼ Misqal to ½ Misqal (1/5 oz) = Sanar.

As there were only 4 post offices at this time this cover had to come from Tashkurghan to Peshawar, via Kabul, and pay the double internal rate of one SANAR for country mail to Kabul i.e. another SANAR for Kabul to Peshawar. The Indian half anna was added at the border, probably at the Indian border post of Landikhana in the Khyber Pass.



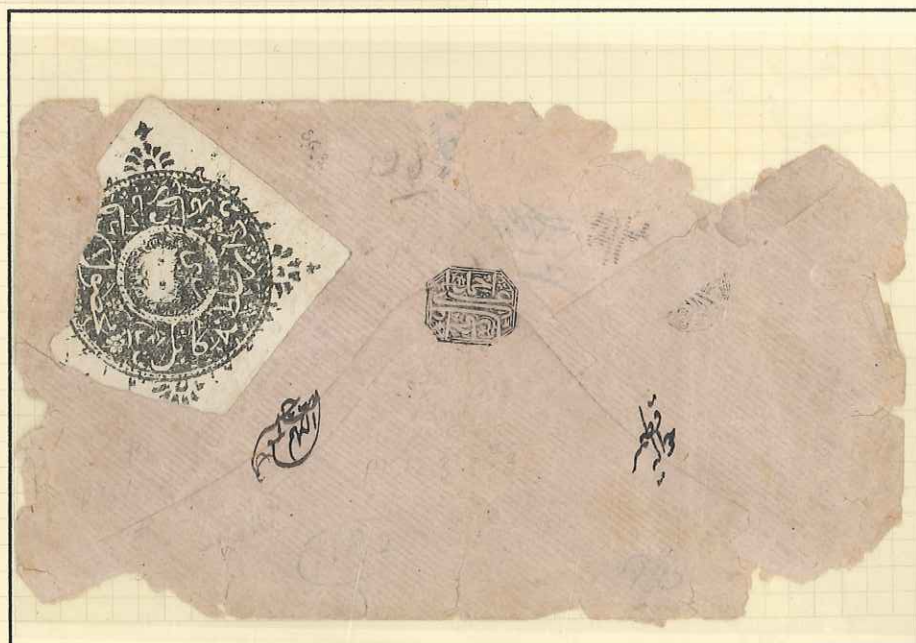
Ex A.E. Hopkins

Plate 'C' #5 *B.



Handmade entire to Peshawar with 1 SHAHI (Plate C #9) cut round to reduce weight and with tear-off cancel and black Indian triangular strike (postage due?) plus Indian 'SHERA 72'

Entire Kabul to Peshawar with 1 SHAHI (Plate C #3) with tear-off cancel and black seal on the flap which has been used on other issues as a cancel?.



AFGHANISTAN

EMIR SHER ALI KHAN

1871 - 72 ۱۲۸۹ (1289) Rare high value issues - The first coloured issues of Sher Ali's reign.

The Peshawar Afghan Agent was a family member of the Emir of Afghanistan, and acted as an Ambassador, handling all mail for Kabul. For some special mail items he applied a special postmark to the 6 Shahi and 1 Rupee issues he used. These may also receive some standard Sher Ali postal issue cancels - tear off, ink strokes or ochre smudges, combined or singly.

The Agent's special cancel was reserved for 6 Shahi and 1 Rupee issues and appears to represent a special courier or tax payment.

Design: Similar to the 1288 issues with identical corner ornaments. The One Rupee and 6 Shahi values are written in Dari in the centre circle. The word **سنة** "Senna" (year) was added to the inscription and is placed in the area between outer and inner circles under the 1289 date.

محصول چاپار خانه دارالسلطنه کابل سنه ۱۲۸۹

1289 Senná Kábül Sūltánát ul Dār Khâna Chápár Mâhsûl,
1289 - Year - Kabul - Kingdom whose capital is - Office Post - Tax (duty)

Printing: Plate 4 (2x2)
lithographed from stone,
each issue separately
drawn.

Printed usually on thin pale
buff laid paper but variations
exist where the paper has
faded to almost white.

۶ شاهي 6 Shahi shades
- dull Reddish Purple
- Bottom two units

*3 & *4

۱ کروپي 1 Rupee shades
- dull Reddish Purple
- Top two units
*1 & *2



#4

6 SHAHI

tear off cancel at top right the
position of the "Mahsul"
script in the design..



#2 (ex Hopkins)

1 RUPEE

Special cancel only.

Post Office cancel used only on 6 Shahi and 1 Rupee high values.

Applied by Afghan Agent at Peshawar



افغانستان محصول داکخانه پوسته

Posteh Khana Dar Mahsul Afghanistan

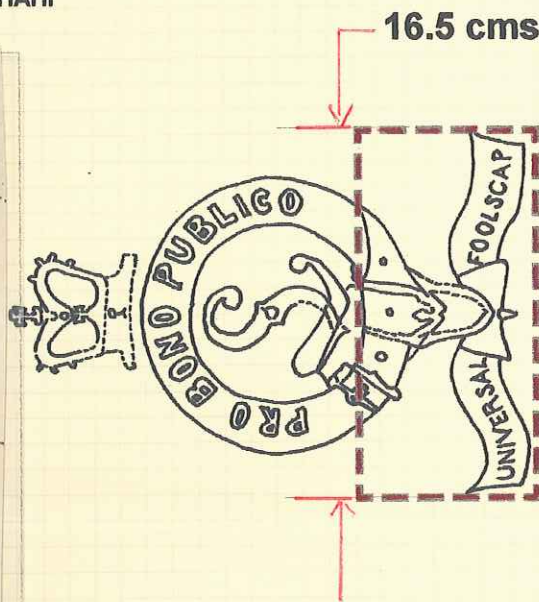
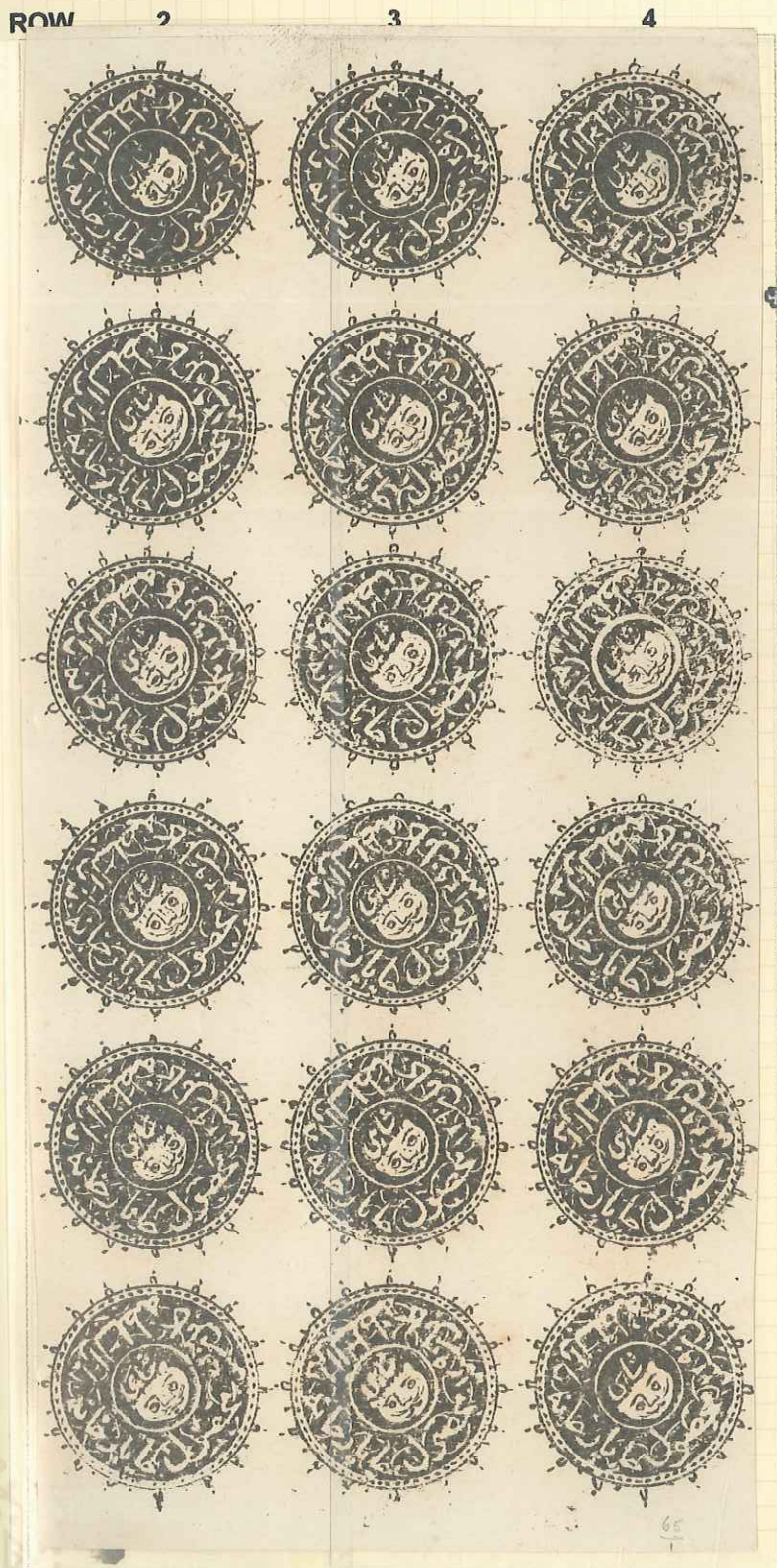
(POST COURIER SERVICE FEE AFGHANISTAN)

Normally a Sher Ali stamp issues are cancelled by tearing-off part of **محصول 'Mahsul'** (fee or tax) in the stamp design and also applying ink or smudge cancels. For the 6 Shahi and 1 Rupee issues applied by the Afghan Agent at Peshawar to mail for Kabul, they were also cancelled with this special black 'seal'.

AFGHANISTAN

1873 - 74 ۱۲۹۰ (1290)

Plate "A" - Lithographed in black on medium white watermarked laid paper. Part sheet from LOWER half of plate
There are two plates - **UPPER** 30 types (5 x 6) - all **SHAHI**
- **LOWER** 30 types (5 x 6) - all **SHAHI**



WATERMARK

Paper used to print these issues contains a "Universal Foolscap" watermark seen above. The RED dotted lines indicates that area of the complete watermark that is shown on this part sheet.

STAMPS

The great majority of mint material was obtained by the British Army in India during the Anglo-Afghan wars. When war broke out the Army seized stamp stocks held by the Afghan Agency in Peshawar. Normally it was impossible to obtain mint stamps by ordinary means as the post office attached all postage stamps to the letters or packets and then cancelled them.



½ Rupee
black, *10
from Plate VIII

AFGHANISTAN

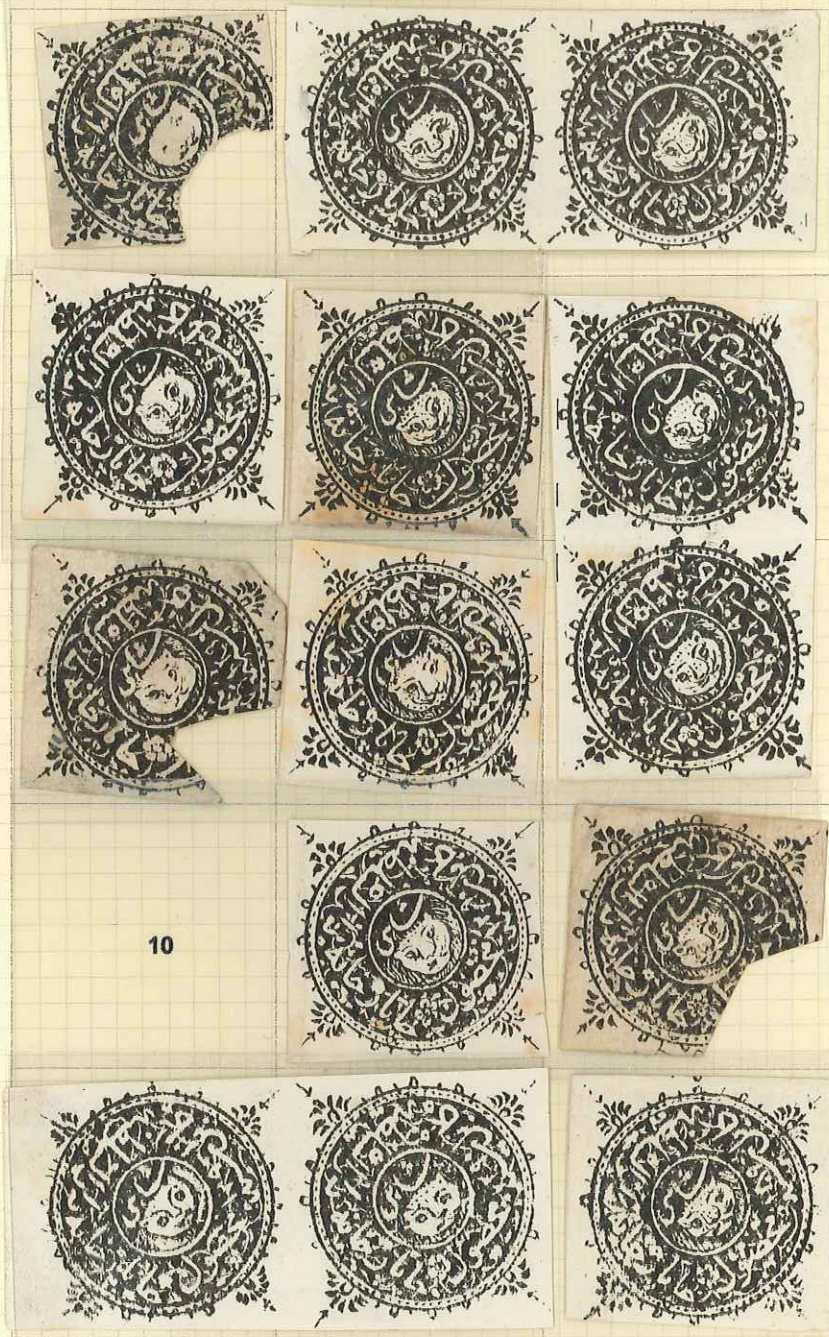
1873 - 74

۱۲۹۰

(1290)

Plate "A" - Lithographed in black on medium white laid paper.

One plate of 15 types (3 x 5) - all SHAHI



*6 Corner ornament
retouch.

10

Pair →
#13 - #14

Reconstructed Plate 'A'

Note: *6 is the Retouched corner variety where Kabul printer clumsily tried to add the corner ornament when he discovered that he had forgotten it in the original design on the 'transfer paper'.

AFGHANISTAN

1873 - 74 ۱۲۹۰ (1290)

Plate "A" - Lithographed in black on medium white laid paper.

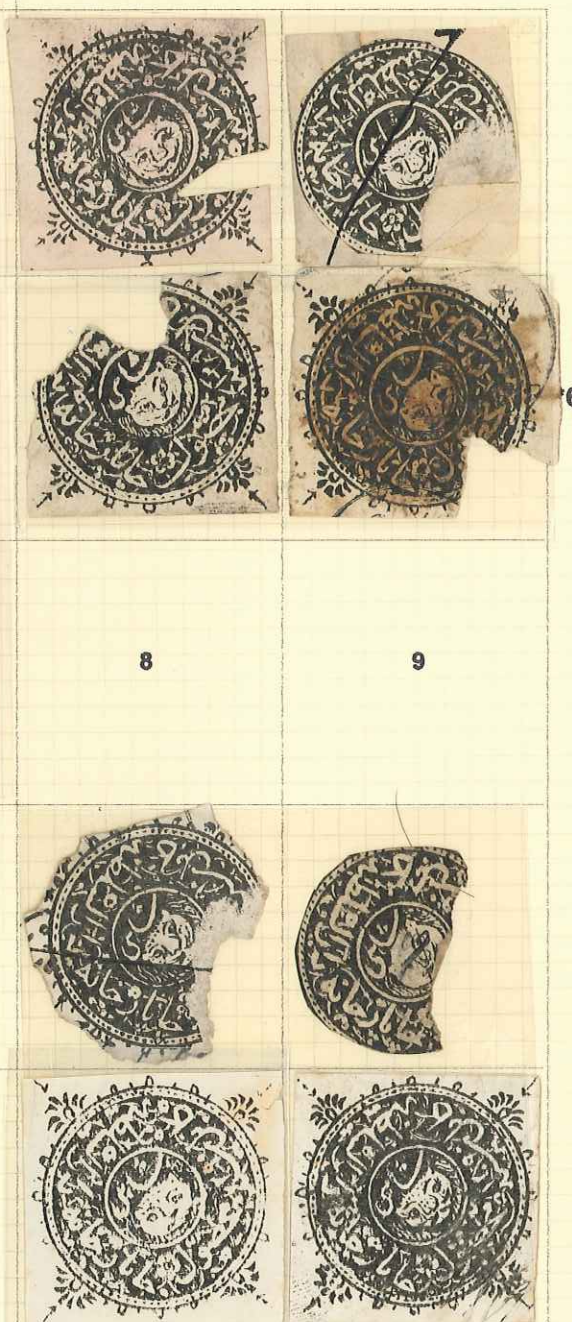
One plate of 15 types (3 x 5) - all SHAHI

Cover - KABUL to PESHAWAR with two
SHAHI values = 1 Sanar, *4 & *7.

1 Sanar for ½ Misqal letter weight.

Note - stamps cut round to reduce
delivery cost by postal Dak Wallahs.

Cancels - Pen and Tear-off.



AFGHANISTAN

1873 - 74 ۱۲۹۰ (1290)

Plate "B" - UPPER PLATE 30 types (5 x 6) - all SHAHI Clichés 1 - 30
 LOWER PLATE 30 types (5 x 6) - all SHAHI Clichés 31 - 60

Lithographed in black on medium white watermarked, laid paper.

UPPER PLATE



5



27



8,
13,
18

LOWER PLATE



60

1874 - 75 ۱۲۹۱

(1291)

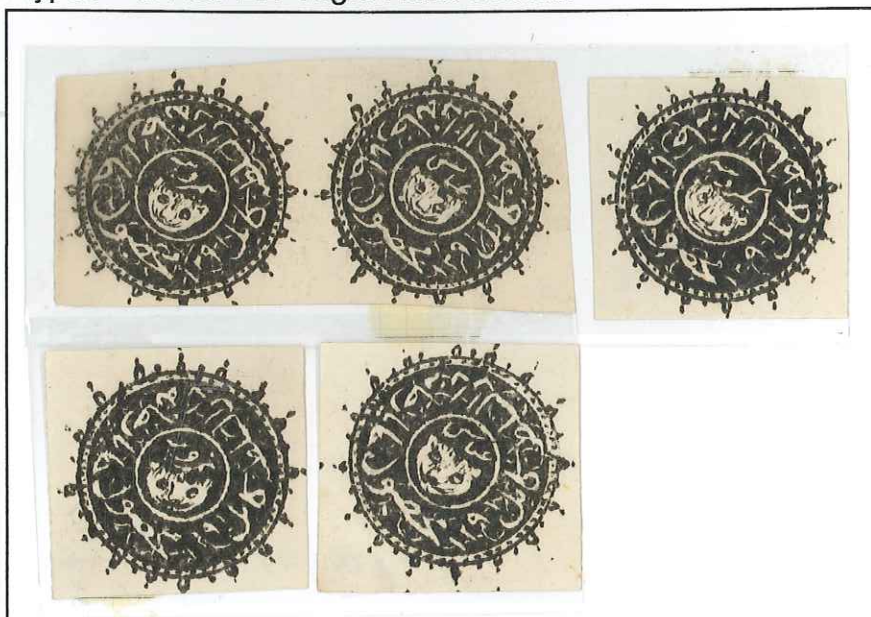
AFGHANISTAN

Plate of 15 Types - (3 x 5)

Lithographed in black on medium white laid paper.

5 types **1 RUPEE** Left Hand column
5 types **1 ABASI** Centre column
5 types **½ RUPEE** Right Hand column

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15



4 5 6
7 8

1875 - 76 ۱۲۹۲

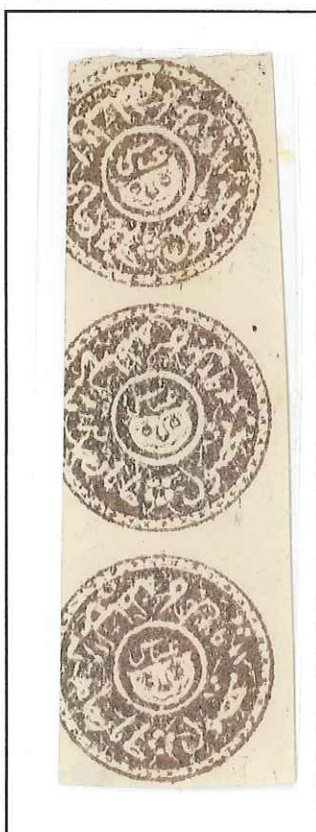
(1292)

Plate of 15 Types - (3 x 5)

Lithographed in black on medium white laid paper.

5 types **1 ABASI** Left Hand column
5 types **1 SANAR** Centre column
5 types **1 SANAR** Right Hand column

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15



1
4
7

9



15



wider outer circle.

1873 - 74 ۱۲۹۰ (1290)

AFGHANISTAN

Plate "B" LOWER - Lithographed in black on medium white watermarked laid paper.

There are two plates - **UPPER PLATE** 30 types (5 x 6) - all **SHAHI**
- **LOWER PLATE** 30 types (5 x 6) - all **SHAHI**

COVER:: The SHAHI issue is cut round and is from Lower Plate "B" - *13.
The cancellations are the usual tear-off and single ink stroke like a sword.

Addressed **KABUL** to
TASHKURGHAN by *Mian Ghulam Mohammed*.

The writer has added a mark on the cover the rendering of an Arabic word meaning **"CANCELLED"** but has a similar appearance to the Greek 'Chi Rho' used by Christians.

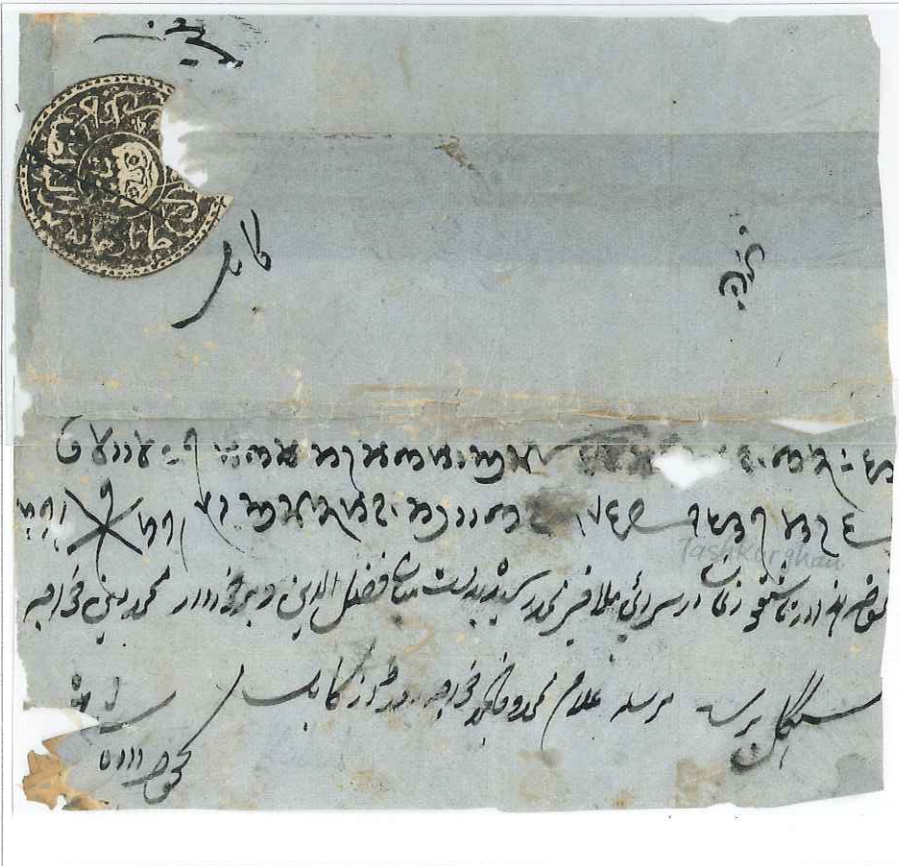


to which was added mystic numbers "691" meaning

"In the name of GOD Gracious and Merciful"



This was to give the letter and its courier a prayerful protection for safe delivery. In the modern era this has been replaced by the security implied by the application of the Post Office cancel.



1875 - 76 ۱۲۹۳ (1293) "TABLET ISSUE"

Plate of 24 Types - (4 x 6) Lithographed in black on white laid paper.

6 type A 1 SHAHI



6 type B 1 SHAHI



1 type C 1 ABASI



2 type C 1 ABASI



3 type D 1 SANAR



3 type E ½ RUPEE



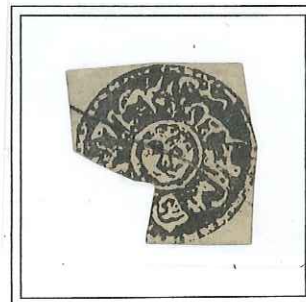
1 type F 1 RUPEE



2 type F 1 RUPEE



'Tablet issue' - so named because of the white value tablet at bottom centre of the design.



SHAHI type 'B' #10

Cut-out & pen cancel.
All known copies in used condition.

(Ex late Maj. A. Hopkins MC)

AFGHANISTAN

FIRST POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

1875 - 76 ۱۲۹۳ (1293)

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Matt Grey- Bluish Grey- Clear Grey- Brownish Grey- Dark Grey - Peshawar

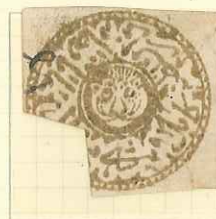
Green - Brownish Green - Yellow Green - Dull Green -
Grey Green - Slate Green shades - Kabul

Brown Black - Jalalabad

Deep Purple - Red Purple - Dull Brownish Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

The Tashkurghan issues can fade to a distinct brown (these are not the Kabul issues). Cancelled issues with cut/tear-out and a rectangular ring seal in black and sometimes a manuscript mark like an ampersand etc. identifies the faded colour

Black & clear Green - forgeries or unauthorised reprints on different paper.



SHAHI Type II - *3 Plate 'A' 'Brown' with MSS and cut-out cancels - a Tashkurghan issue

PRINTING

Two Plates of 24 Types - (4 x 6)

Plate 'A'	24	1 SHAHI values
Plate 'B'	12	1 SANAR
	6	1 ABASI
	3	½ RUPEE
	3	1 Rupee

PAPER:

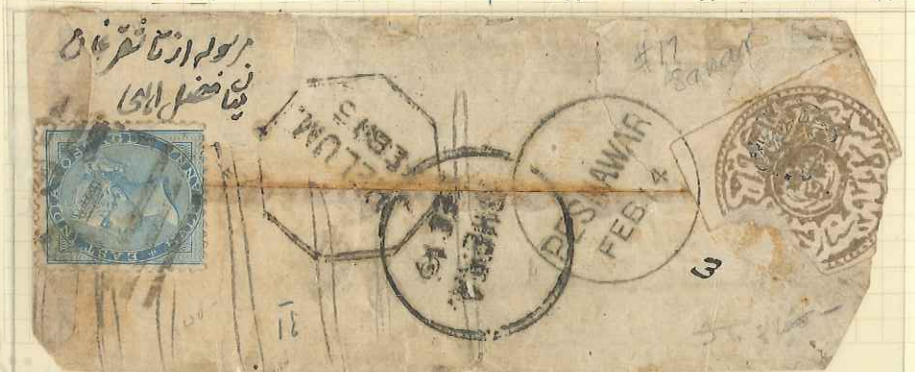
Lithographed in black on white laid paper by local printers. Sheet watermarks "Pro Bono Publico" and "Leschallas". (Plate 'B' issues on textured wove paper, less sharp, little blurred, colours faded are *forgeries*.)

DESIGN Inscription: Outer circle, reading clockwise from 10 o'clock.

محصول	(value-see below)	۱۲۹۳	کابل	السلطانیه	خانه	چاپار
Mahsul	-	1293	Kabul	ul-Sultanat	Khana	Char-par
Fee or Tax	-	1293	KABUL	KINGDOM	OFFICE	POST

VALUES:

	شاهی	شاهی	سانار	عباسی	نیم روپیہ	روپیہ
	SHAHI type 1	SHAHI type 2	SANAR	ABASI	½ Rupee	RUPEE
PLATE 1	20 types	4 types				
PLATE 2	-	-	12 types	6 types	3 types	3 types



TASHKURGHAN to PESHAWAR
Cover with East India ½ Anna and 1 SANAR 'Brown'. The Sanar is cancelled with ring seal and tear-off indicating it is one of the 'purple' Tashkurghan issues. Cover additionally shows Indian Jhelum octagonal, a 25mm Shera & 25mm Peshawar cancels. The SANAR is the double rate charge for mail to Kabul then on to Peshawar

G. F. RAPKIN LTD.

PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

AFGHANISTAN

FIRST POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

1875 - 76

(1293)

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Matt Grey- Bluish Grey- Clear Grey- Brownish Grey- Dark Grey - Peshawar

Green - Brownish Green - Yellow Green - Dull Green -

Grey Green - Slate Green shades - Kabul

Brown Black - Jalalabad

Deep Purple - Red Purple - Dull Brownish Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

The Tashkurghan issues can fade to a distinct brown (these are not the Kabul issues). Cancelled issues with cut out and a rectangular ring seal in black and sometimes a manuscript mark like an ampersand etc. identifies the colour

Black & clear Green - forgeries or unauthorised reprints on different paper.

PRINTING

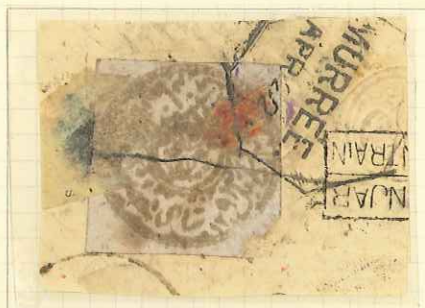
Two Plates of 24 Types - (4 x 6)

Plate 'A'	(a)	20	1 SHAHI (value type 1)
	(b)	4	1 SHAHI (*3, *9, *11 & *12 - value type 2)
Plate 'B'	(c)	12	1 SANAR
	(d)	6	1 ABASI
	(e)	3	½ RUPEE
	(f)	3	1 Rupee

Plate 'A'

a	a	b	a
a	a	a	a
b	a	b	b
a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a

Yellow indicates issue displayed in collection.



Piece with Plate 'A' - type 1 - SHAHI 'brown' *5, with vermillion smear (indicating its use as a 'Peshawar transit' mark) & ink cancel.

This combination indicates that the piece came from Tashkurghan to Kabul then to British India for which a double rate charge is payable - i.e. 1 SANAR = 2 SHAHI. It also shows "MUREE Apr 22" & "PUNJAB DOWNTRAIN" cancels.

Plate 'B'

c	c	d	f
c	c	d	f
c	c	d	f
c	c	d	e
c	c	d	e
c	c	d	e

Yellow indicates issue displayed in collection.

Cover:

PESHAWAR to KABUL with Plate "A" 1 SHAHI, *15, Grey with tear-off and ink cancel. East India postage of ½ ANNA blue with L-8 over 6 bar cancel.

Other cancels:

24mm dia. 'PESHAWAR 21AUG'

23mm octagonal 'UMBALI 23 AUG'

25mm dia. 'UMRITSU 23 AUG'

NOTE: SHAHI cut round and use of flimsy paper for envelopes reduces weight & minimises high postage charges of ½ ANNA for 1/10 ounce.



G. F. RAPKIN LTD

PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

AFGHANISTAN

1875 - 76

(1293)

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Matt Grey- Bluish Grey- Clear Grey- Brownish Grey- Dark Grey - Peshawar

Green - Brownish Green - Yellow Green - Dull Green -

Grey Green - Slate Green shades - Kabul

Brown Black - Jalalabad

Deep Purple - Red Purple - Dull Brownish Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

The Tashkurghan issues can fade to a distinct brown (these are not the Kabul issues). Cancelled issues with cut/tear-out and a rectangular ring seal in black and sometimes a manuscript mark like an ampersand etc. identifies the faded colour

Black & clear Green - forgeries or unauthorised reprints on different paper.

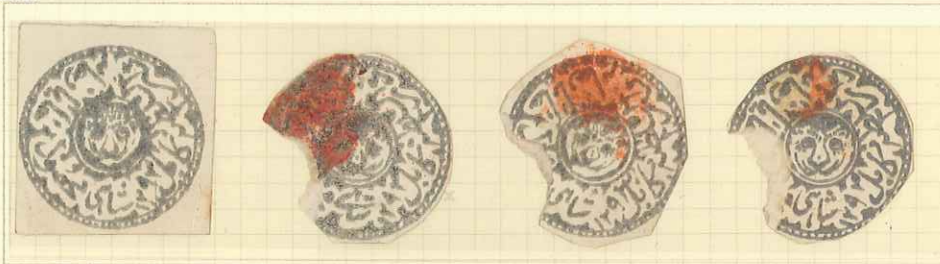
PRINTING

Two Plates of 24 Types - (4 x 6)

Plate 'A'	(a)	20	1 SHAHI (value type 1)
	(b)	4	1 SHAHI (*3, *9, *11 & *12 - value type 2)
Plate 'B'	(c)	12	1 SANAR
	(d)	6	1 ABASI
	(e)	3	½ RUPEE
	(f)	3	1 Rupee

Plate 'A' issues:

Grey



SHAHI - type 1
*2 - unused

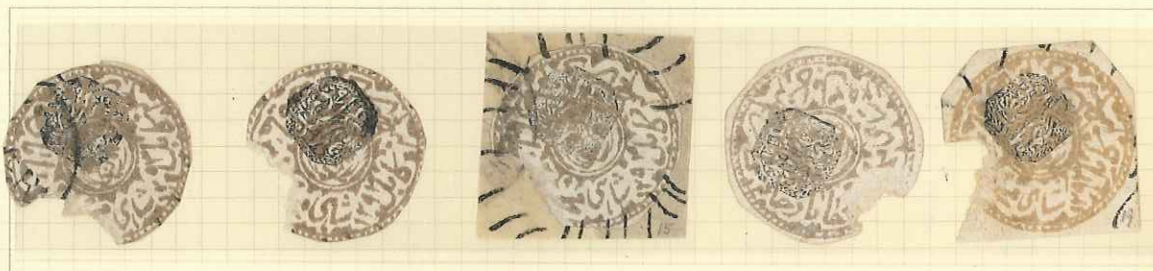
SHAHI - type 2
*5

SHAHI - type 1
*12

SHAHI - type 1
*15

The examples with Vermillion smudges and tear-off cancels are issued from PESHAWAR.

Brown



SHAHI - type 1
*7 & Tashkurghan
ring cancel

SHAHI - type 1
*8 & Tashkurghan
ring cancel

SHAHI - type 1
*15 & Tashkurghan
ring cancel

SHAHI - type 1
*16 & Tashkurghan
ring cancel

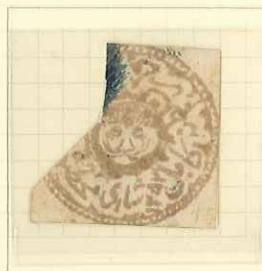
SHAHI - type 1
*19 & Tashkurghan
ring cancel

Purple



SHAHI - type 1
*21
Tashkurghan

Brown



SHAHI - type 1
*24
Kabul

AFGHANISTAN

1876 - 77 ۱۲۹۳ (1293)

Plate 'A' : Plate of 24 - (4 x 6)

Plate 'A'	20	1 SHAHI (value type 1)
	4	1 SHAHI (*3, *9, *11 & *12 - value type 2)

Peshawar
Stamp Issues



SHAHI Grey

*5
Type 1



*11
Type 2



*15
Type 1



*19
Type 1



Peshawar to Tashkurghan
PESHAWAR stamp issues, *1, *5, on piece with 'tear-off' and 'vermillion smudge' cancels applied by the Afghan Peshawar Post Office.

The letter carries two SHAHI type 1 stamps indicating a double rate charge for a $\frac{1}{4}$ Misqal letter going beyond KABUL.

The postal charge at this time was 1SHAHI per $\frac{1}{4}$ Misqal between post offices. This letter was either just under $\frac{1}{2}$ Misqal weight for a single journey between post offices OR it represents a double charge for a $\frac{1}{4}$ Misqal weight letter going beyond the first Post Office to another Post Office requiring additional 1 SHAHI.



Peshawar to Kabul
Piece with PESHAWAR issue 1 SHAHI type 1 *6 with 'tear-off' and Peshawar Afghan Post Office 'vermillion smudge' cancels.

Peshawar to Kabul
Piece with cut round 1 SHAHI *8 type 1 for a single journey letter weight of $\frac{1}{4}$ Misqal. Stamp shows tear-out and ink cancel.



AFGHANISTAN

1876 - 77

(1293)

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Matt Grey- Bluish Grey- Clear Grey- Brownish Grey- Dark Grey - Peshawar

Green - Brownish Green - Yellow Green - Dull Green -

Grey Green - Slate Green shades - Kabul

Brown Black - Jalalabad

Deep Purple - Red Purple - Dull Brownish Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

The Tashkurghan issues can fade to a distinct brown (these are not the Kabul issues). Cancelled issues with cut/tear-out and a rectangular ring seal in black and sometimes a manuscript mark like an ampersand etc. identifies the faded colour

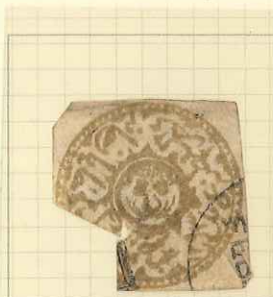
Black & clear Green - forgeries or unauthorised reprints on different paper.

PRINTING

Two Plates of 24 Types - (4 x 6)

Plate 'A'	20	1 SHAHI (value type 1)
	4	1 SHAHI (*3, *9, *11 & *12 - value type 2)
Plate 'B'	12	1 SANAR
	6	1 ABASI
	3	½ RUPEE
	3	1 Rupee

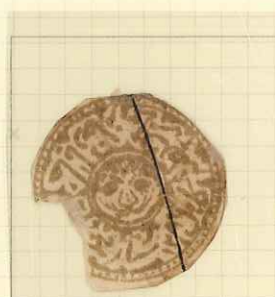
Plate 'B' Issues:



ABASI - type 2
*2 with cut-out &
Indian cancel.
TASHKURGHAN



SANAR - type 2
*14 . Grey issued at
PESHAWAR



SANAR - type 2
*18 with tear-off
& ink cancel.
TASHKURGHAN



RUPEE - type 2
*12 . Grey issued at
PESHAWAR



RUPEE - type 2
*4. Brown purple *Grey*
issued at
TASHKURGHAN



Piece KABUL to PESHAWAR - with SANAR -
type 2 *18 and cut-out cancel & 24mm dia
"PESHAWAR APR 24" cancel.

AFGHANISTAN

SECOND POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

1877 - 78

۱۲۹۳

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Grey	- Peshawar
Greenish shades	- Kabul
Brown Black (later Yellow Brown); Yellow	- Jalalabad
Purple	- Afghan Turkestan

PRINTING

A plate of 40 Types - (5 x 8)

'C'	'D'	'D'	'E'	'E'
b	'B'	'B'	'C'	c
'B'	'B'	b	'B'	'B'
a	'A'	'A'	a	'A'
a	a	'A'	a	a
'A'	'A'	a	a	'A'
a	'A'	'A'	a	a
'A'	a	'A'	a	a

- 25 a 1 SHAHI (last five rows *16 to *40)
- 8 b 1 SANAR - 2nd & 3rd rows (*6 to *8; *11 to *15)
- 3 c 1 ABASI - 1st & 2nd rows (*1, *9, *10)
- 2 d ½ RUPEE - 1st row (*2, *3)
- 2 e 1 Rupee - 1st Row (*4, *5)

The Plate layout lists all the examples displayed in the collection with a **capital** letter e.g. 'A' (Shahi); 'E' (Rupee) etc.

PAPER:

Closely laid paper, 30 vergueres per 2 cms used on all stamps. The Greenish printings on wove paper are considered by Dietrich to be fakes. Intense blacks are plate proofs or fakes. Issues with watermarks are scarce.

Cover **KABUL** to **KHULM** in Afghan Turkestan.

Cover has an ABASI issue *1, with its colour faded from the purple, the colour of the issuing province, and displaying both the tear-off and ochre smudge cancels.

There are only three ABASI issues in this plate of forty so they are relatively scarce.

Postal Charges: The charges are now a standard single rate for delivery regardless of origin or destination.

DESIGN INSCRIPTION "A":

The inscription on the stamp design commences at about 7 O'clock and based on outer rings, read in a clockwise direction - following the script below, right to left, matches the script in the design.



۹۳ or ۱۲۹۳	کابل	چاپارخانه	دارالسلطنه	مخبر
value 1294	KABUL	ul-Sultanah	Dar	Khana
- or 94	Kabul	Capital of (the Kingdom of)	Post Office	Fee or Tax

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AFGHANISTAN

Plate reconstruction:

1877 - 78 ۱۲۹۳ (1294) - SECOND POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

All 1x1
۱۲۹۳ → ABASI
value



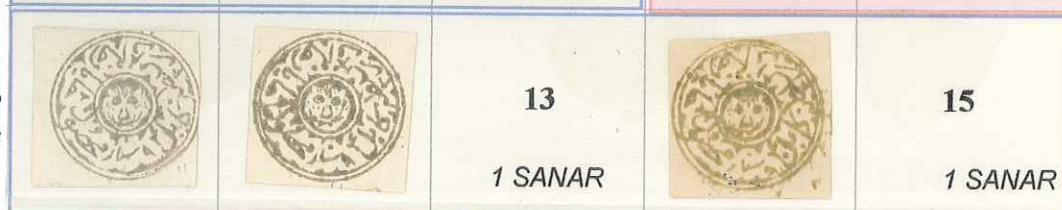
(1 x 2) + (1 x 2)
½ Rup 1 Rup
values values

۹۴ 3x1
SANAR
values



1 x 2
ABASI
values

۹۴ 5x1
SANAR
values



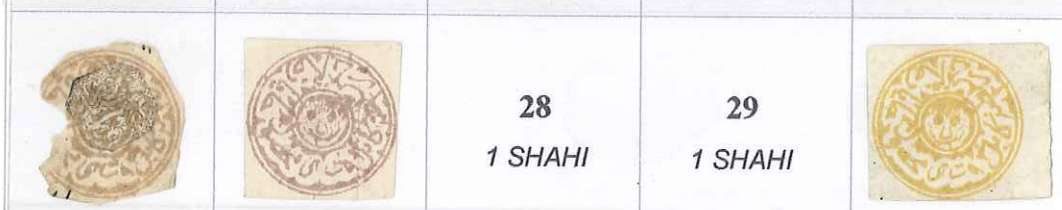
۹۴ 5x5
SHAHI
values



۹۴



۹۴



۹۴



Ab	½R	½R	R	R
S	S	S	Ab	Ab
S	S	S	S	S
SH	SH	SH	SH	SH

PLATE:
Yellow
squares
indicate
issues
displayed in
the
collection.

۱۲۹۳ →



۱۲۹۳

۱۲۹۳

AFGHANISTAN

SECOND POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

1877 - 78 ۱۲۹۴ (1294)

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Grey - Peshawar

Greenish shades - Kabul

Brown Black (later Yellow Brown); Yellow- Jalalabad

Purple - Afghan Turkestan

PESHAWAR - INDIA piece with SANAR Grey *15 dated 94 issued at PESHAWAR with cut-out cancel.

Other cancels are 27 x 5 mm boxed "TOO LATE" +3 line 25mm dia.

"2 DELY/ SIALKOT/ MAR: 9." cancels



Cover-

AFGHAN-TURKESTAN to PESHAWAR and on into India to "SHIKARPOR APR .."

The handmade cover has a ½ Rupee purple (faded) to brownish, with tear-off cancel and displaying the PESHAWAR Ring Seal used as a transit mark.

There is also the remains of another stamp written over with an address in Pushtu and the two East India

Half Anna postage stamps (with barred cancel) cover a previous address indicating this cover was reused.

The cover front shows a 24mm dia. "SHIKARPOR APR..." strike in black.

The Afghan Postal charge of ½ Rupee is to pay for a weight of 1½ Misqal = 6.9 grammes, the normal foreign rate during the 1868-1898 period. For ½ - 1 Tola (equivalent 1½ Misqal) weight India Post required payment of 1 ANNA.



Handmade cover from CHARIKAR (north of KABUL) via KABUL to PESHAWAR to SHIKARPOR.

The cover from Afghan Turkestan has 1 Rupee Purple (faded to brown) *5, cut round, and 1 Abasi Purple (faded to brown) *9. The Abasi & Rupee have tear-off and ink cancelled edges. The 1 Rupee issue has a PESHAWAR Ring Seal cancel as a transit mark. These are combined with (2 ANNAS) 4 x ½ ANNA QV East India postage stamps with 21 x 23mm L-8 barred cancels. Front of cover has 24.5mm dia. black two line strike "PESHAWAR / DEC 9"

WEIGHT: This Indian postage pays for a weight of 1.6 Tola which from 1868 - 1898 was charged at 1 ANNA for the first Tola (= 3 Afghan Misqal) and 1 ANNA for each additional Tola or fraction thereof.

AFGHANISTAN

1878 ۱۲۹۵ (1295) - THIRD POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Grey - Peshawar
Greenish - Kabul
Brown - Jalalabad
Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

The Tashkurghan issues can fade to a distinct brown (these are not the Kabul issues). Cancelled issues with cut/tear-out and a rectangular ring seal in black and sometimes a manuscript mark like an ampersand etc. identifies the faded colour.

PRINTING

Two Plates of 40 Types - (5 x 8)

Plate 'A'	40	1 SHAHI
Plate 'B'	(a) 30	1 SANAR
	(b) 6	1 ABASI
	(c) 2	½ RUPEE
	(d) 2	1 Rupee

PLATE "B"

b	c	c	d	d
b	b	b	b	b
a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a



	معصول	چاپارخانه	کابل	سنة ۹۵	بارس سل	
SHAHI	Barras Seal	95	Senna	KABUL	Khana	Cha - par
or other value	Era of the Leopard	95	year of	Kabul	Post Office	Fee or Tax



Cover KHULM via KABUL, PESHAWAR to DERAISMAILKHAN.

Cover shows a Plate "B" SANAR black(?) *17, with tear-off cancel. British Indian Transit postmarks are 25mm dia. "PESHAWAR CITY AUG..." and dull black rectangular 28 x 13mm twoline boxed "POSTAGE DUE / ANNA", plus black 25mm dia. two line "PESHAWAR / AUG30". The 25mm dia. received strike of "DERAISMAILKHAN 2DEL^y / SEP: 3." is shown in black.

The black SANAR issue on cover is unusual for many researchers believe they may only be proofs but this cover indicates they could also have been used postally.

AFGHANISTAN

1878 ۱۲۹۵ (1295) - THIRD POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Grey - Peshawar
Greenish - Kabul
Brown - Jalalabad
Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

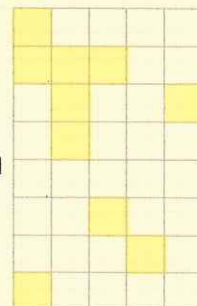
The Tashkurghan issues can fade to a distinct brown (these are not the Kabul issues). Cancelled issues with cut/tear-out and a rectangular ring seal in black and sometimes a manuscript mark like an ampersand etc. identifies the faded colour.

PRINTING

Two Plates of 40 Types - (5 x 8)

Plate 'A'	40	1 SHAHI
Plate 'B'	(a) 30	1 SANAR
	(b) 6	1 ABASI
	(c) 2	½ RUPEE
	(d) 2	1 Rupee

PLATE "B"
Issues displayed
shown in yellow.



SHAHI PLATE 'A'



ABASI PLATE 'B'



SANAR PLATE 'B'



AFGHANISTAN

1878 ۹۵ ('95) - THIRD POST OFFICE COLOURED PLATE "C" Skeleton Issues

This SHAHI Plate "C" design was stripped to barest essentials of an outer ring of two lines and lettering against a white background and the tiger's head in the inner circle. The value is below the tiger's head with the inscription varying slightly from that used on Plates "A" & "B". (Read from right to left.)



شاهی

Shāhi
Shahi

۹۵

95
95

مل

Seeāl
Era of the Leopard

بارس

Báras

سنه

Sennā
Year of

کابل

Kābül
Kabul

چاپار خانه

Khānā Chá-pār
Post Office

موصول

Māhsül
Fee or Tax

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Grey - Peshawar Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)
Greenish - Kabul Brown - Jalalabad

PRINTING A Plate of 40 Types - (5 x 8) . Plate 'C' 40 all SHAHI.

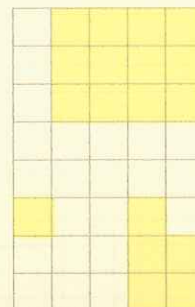
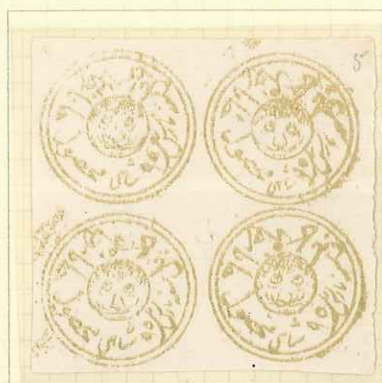
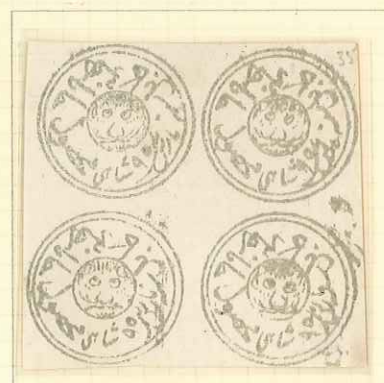


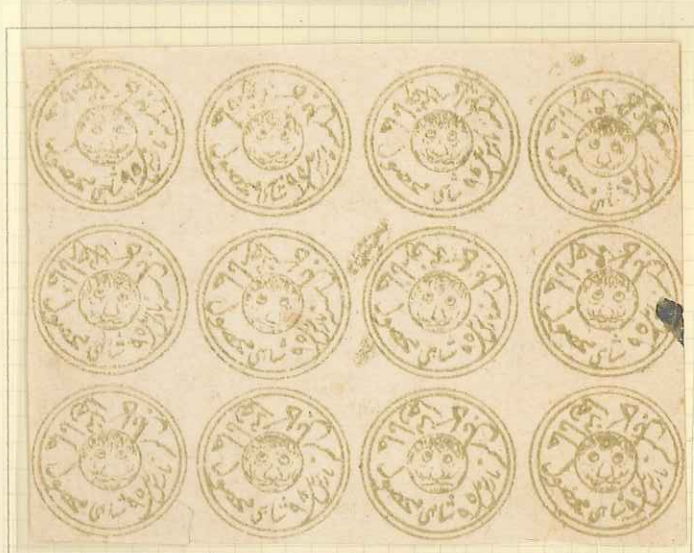
PLATE "C"
Issues in
collection
shown in
Yellow.



Block of four
*4 -*5; *9 -*10 Greenish
KABUL



Block of four *34-*35; *39 -*40
Grey **PESHAWAR**



Block of twelve *2 - *5 & *7 - *10 & *12 - *15
Greenish - **KABUL**



*3 **KABUL**



*26 **PESHAWAR**



*29 **JALALABAD**



*34 **JALALABAD**

with tear-out and ink cancel

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AFGHANISTAN

1878

(1295) - THIRD POST OFFICE COLOURED ISSUES

STAMP ISSUE COLOURS: Separate colours were used for specific post offices:-

Grey - Peshawar
Greenish - Kabul
Brown - Jalalabad
Purple - Tashkurghan (Khulm)

Part PLATE "B"

Lower three rows of PLATE "B" all SANAR values -

Row 6 - *26 to *30

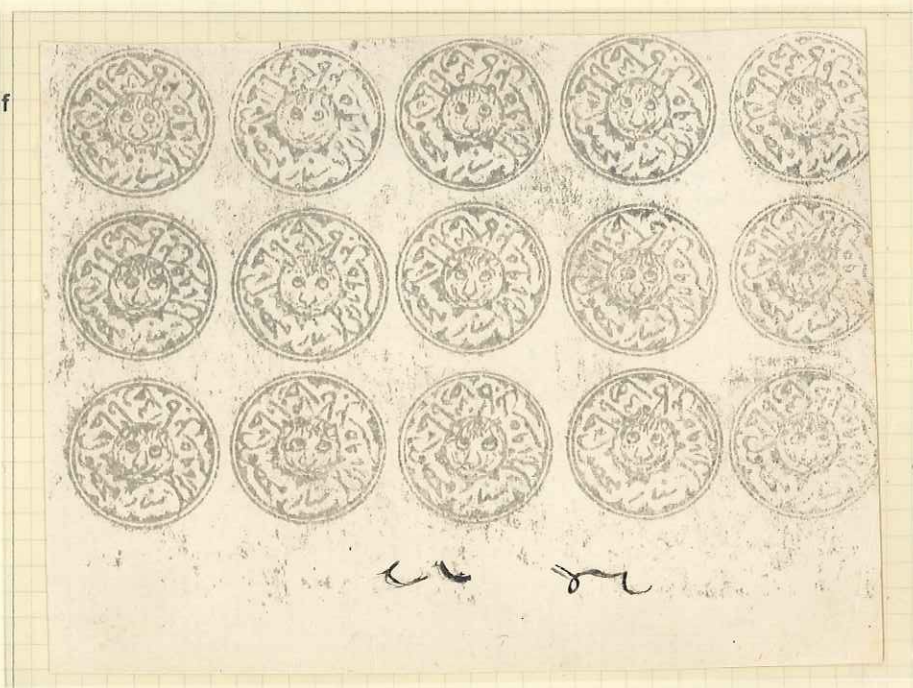
Row 7 - *31 to *35

Row 8 - *36 to *40.

*26 shows part of the crown from the 'Britannia in Crowned Oval & M& H, in old English Capitals' watermark listed in Uyehara & Dietrich 'Afghan Philately 1871 - 1989' p72.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40

*26 has portion of sheet watermark



AFGHANISTAN

November 1878 - April 81 - SECOND ANGLO - AFGHAN WAR

Military Posts

1878 - AMIR SHER ALI of KABUL, would not agree to the stationing of a British Mission in Kabul, and was under extreme diplomatic pressure from the new inexperienced British Indian Viceroy, *Lord Lytton*, the most powerful bureaucrat in India. He was determined to "persuade" the Afghans to accept the stationing of a British Mission in Kabul, as the Russian Mission had received approval. *Lytton*, on 21st November 1878, directed the British Indian Military to declare war on the Amir of Kabul. The second Anglo-Afghan war commenced against reluctant Afghans who did not want a war. The Afghans lost the war and *Amir Sher Ali* fled north. The British military occupied JALALABAD, KABUL and KANDAHAR, establishing military posts between these locations. A British Mission was established in Kabul but its members were soon slaughtered, and the war recommenced. A second British military occupation ensued, with very harsh reprisals and mass executions. The Imperial Government in London, was outraged at the Viceroy's interference with Afghanistan's sovereignty. *Abdur Rahman*, half brother of *Amir Sher Ali*, was subsequently offered by the British the vacant throne of Kabul, which he accepted. The British Government changed - *Lord Lytton* was sacked - the *Marquis of Ripon* replaced him and the new Viceroy of India immediately negotiated with *Amir Abdur Rahman*, who turned out to be an astute negotiator. They finally agreed to terms and then the British suffered their greatest disaster as its British army of about 2,800 was wiped out at Maiwand in the south of Afghanistan, by one of *Sher Ali's* son with a force of 25,000 from Herat. He wanted his father's vacant Throne of Kabul. This British defeat threatened the agreement with *Abdur Rahman*. A second army defeated the Afghan army and *Abdur Rahman's* position was safe. The incompetent *Lytton*, expressed amazement at the storm of protest about what, he considered, were his 'loyal' actions. The British military left Afghanistan on 27 April 1881 and *Amir Abdur Rahman*, set about restoring his war ravaged country, and reorganising his postal service and stamp production, after twenty-eight months of *Lytton's* wars.

MILITARY POSTS 1878 - 1881



POSTMARKS



August 1880 - Second Anglo-Afghan Military Cover with 4½ ANNAS East India Postage from **CABUL (Kabul)** Via **BRINDISI, BOMBAY** to **LONDON**. The British Indian postage is manuscript marked "**Stamped**" and later **Killer Strikes** were added.

The letter was sent just after the Viceroy Marquis of Ripon's representatives met with Emir Abdur Rahman outside Kabul to negotiate a settlement. General Roberts was on a forced march to Kandahar to recover control of the south from Ayub Khan whose Aghan army had just annihilated the entire British force of 2,800 at Maiwand. This result now threatened the outcome of the talks with Emir Abdur Rahman.

CABUL strike - 24mm dia.



AFGHANISTAN

April 1881 - 1901

AMIR ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1881 April - With the control of Afghanistan now returned to the Amir, after the British Army of occupation withdrew, he found he had not retained any notable expertise in stamp production. It did not appear that the terms of the war settlement included any assistance from the Office of Survey, such as that provided to his half brother Amir Sher Ali Khan in 1869.

During the war Afghan stamp printing and postal services ceased and during the war period the British Military postal service provided some relief from this collapse of the Postal Administration.

April 1881 Abdur Rahman adopted an 1878 rule as his new Postal Rule 167.

"Letters from **CABUL**, if fully prepaid with ordinary Indian inland postage, are forwarded to the Indian Frontier Post Office at Peshawar and there made over to the Postal Agent appointed by the Ameer of Kabul for delivery under local arrange and rates of charges. (Foreign Post, para 5). Mails leave Peshawar twice a week and take about five days in transit (to Kabul)." In April 1888 **CANDAHAR** was added to the rule.

STAMP ISSUES: ۱۲۹۸ (1298) The "**Anything Goes Period**"

1881 - 1890

First Period - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.



Amir Abdur Rahman - (no it isn't actor Robert Morley in a N.W frontier film)

ABASI - two types "A" & "B"

2 ABASI

1 RUPEE

SHEET SIZE - approximately 12 to 19 per sheet, with as many impressions as could fit on the sheets of various sizes. All three values appear on the same sheet but there is no standard arrangement. Many sheets were produced for philatelists with rainbow colours on one sheet and these are classified as special printings. Paper varieties are numerous. No production pattern is evident and this era of Afghan philately is 'difficult if not impossible' according to Boggs. The coloured paper issues fall into this category. Only the market place will determine what collectors think of this period of disorganisation.

INSCRIPTION: Similar to previous issues except word "*Tikat*" adopted for 'postage'. The words are based on the inner ring, opposite to the Sher Ali issue design. The date is scattered throughout the design as shown below. The value is in the centre.



تکت دار السلطنه، کابل ۸

8 KABUL
8 Kabul

1 ul-Sultanah-i
1 Capital of (Kingdom of)

2 Dar
2 of

9 Tikat-i
9 Stamp



1 ABASI
Type "A" 26.5mm

2 ABASI
27mm.

1 RUPEE
25mm.

AFGHANISTAN

April 1881 - 1901

AMIR ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1881 - 1890 First Period - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.

ABASI - two types "A" & "B"

2 ABASI

1 RUPEE

1 ABASI



Type "A" value tablet



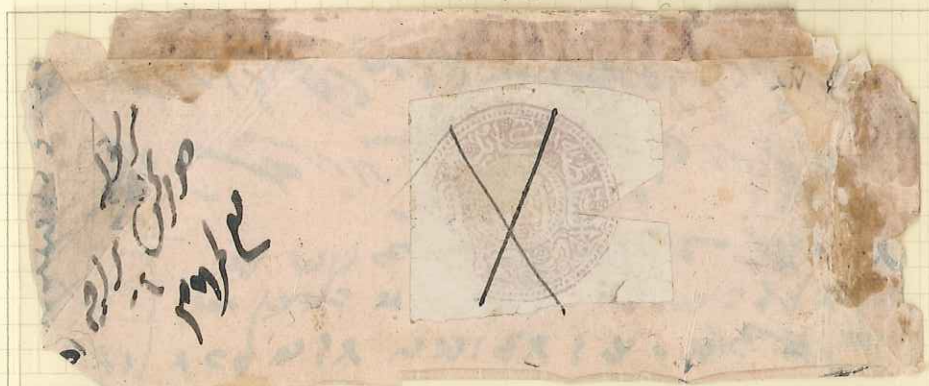
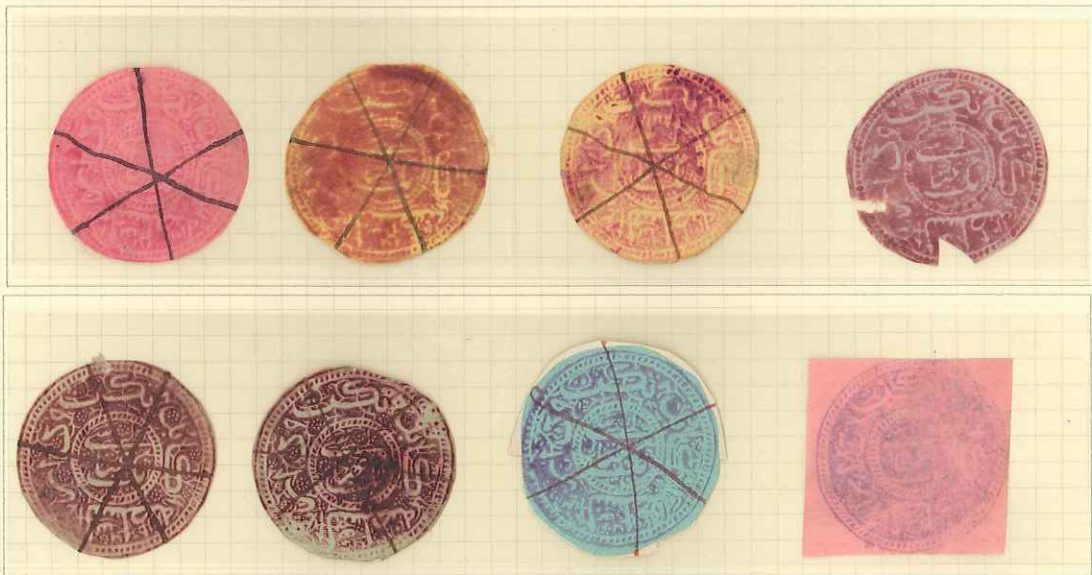
Type "B" value tablet

Type "A" ISSUES: 1 ABASI

Printing colours vary and no particular emphasis is placed on this. Some show ink cancels of one, two or three crossed lines and sometimes in combination with the cut-out cancel. The coloured papers were probably cheaply obtained from the Kabuli Market and used for a variety of reasons.

It seems that Amir Abdur Rahman was busy on other matters and left the control of the postal system to others to work out, but of course he would want a strict accounting of the income. They did their best to meet demand and make money as well as provide for the demands of ardent collectors - supplying anything if the price was agreed. Researchers have placed the coloured paper issues in the "Special Printing" section and copies are listed below.

'Special' Printings



PESHAWAR Cover with 1 Abasi Type "A" purple on white paper with double line ink cancel and cut-out.

Address: " *This letter in Peshawar in Tarosi Chowk (Bazaar) - hand to Khan Sahib Haji Mohammed Jon and Khan Sahib Mohammed Dhin Faqroodin.*"

AFGHANISTAN

April 1881 - 1901

AMIR ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1881 - 1890 **First Period** - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.

ABASI - two types "A" & "B"
2 ABASI
1 RUPEE

1 ABASI



Type "A" value tablet



Type "B" value tablet

Type "A" ISSUES: 1 ABASI



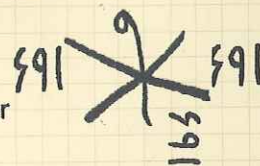
Part cover - **PESHAWAR to KABUL**
1 Abasi Brownish black type "A"



Entire (with letters) **PESHAWAR to KUSKH** (a western frontier town north of Herat).

1 Abasi purple has single line ink cancel with letter manuscript written over it.

The cover also has three 691 mystic symbols drawn on the cover meaning "In the Name of God, Gracious and Merciful" as a protection for the courier and safe delivery of the letter.



AFGHANISTAN

1881 - 1890 First Period - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.

ABASI - two types "A" & "B"

2 ABASI

1 RUPEE

1 ABASI



Type "A" value tablet



Type "B" value tablet

Type "B" ISSUES: 1 ABASI - Type "B" are slightly larger in overall diameter with a wider outer ring with dashes rather than dots.

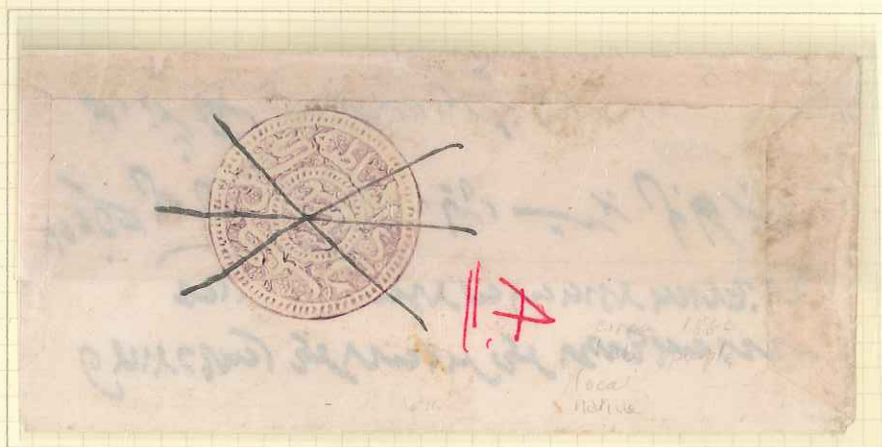


Type "B"



Type "B"

"Special"



KABUL to PESHAWAR cover with 1 ABASI Type "B" (broad border)
purple with three line ink cancel

AFGHANISTAN

April 1881 - 1901

AMIR ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1881 - 1890 **First Period** - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.

ABASI - two types "A" & "B"

2 ABASI

1 RUPEE

1 ABASI



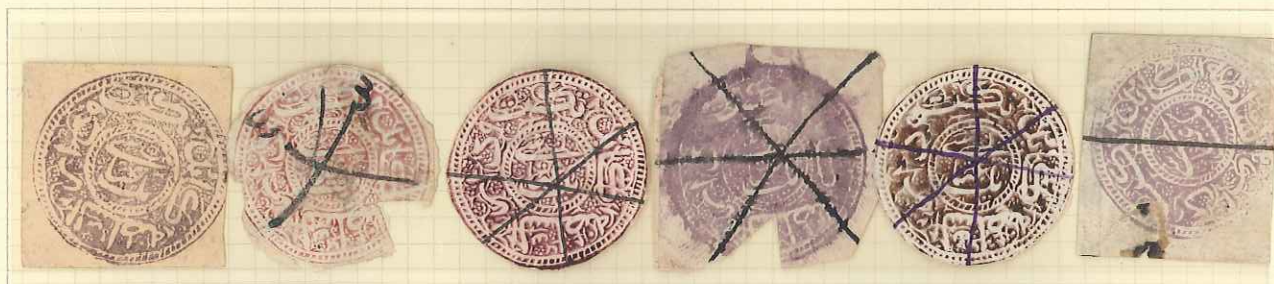
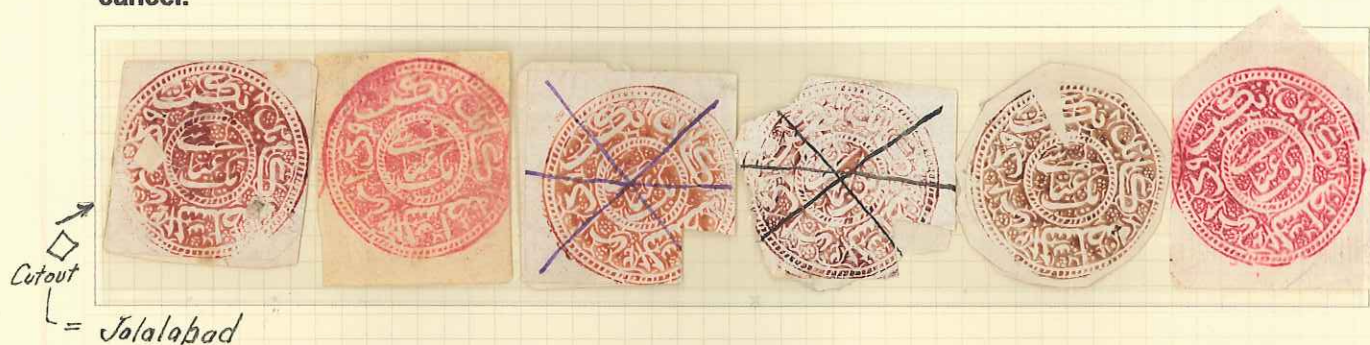
Type "A" value tablet



Type "B" value tablet

Type "A" ISSUES: 1 ABASI

Colours vary and no particular emphasis is placed on printing colour. Some show ink cancels of one, two or three crossed lines or the "SV" mark and sometimes in combination with the cut-out cancel.



Careless arrangement & overlapping.

AFGHANISTAN

April 1881 - 1901

AMIR ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1881 - 1890 First Period - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.

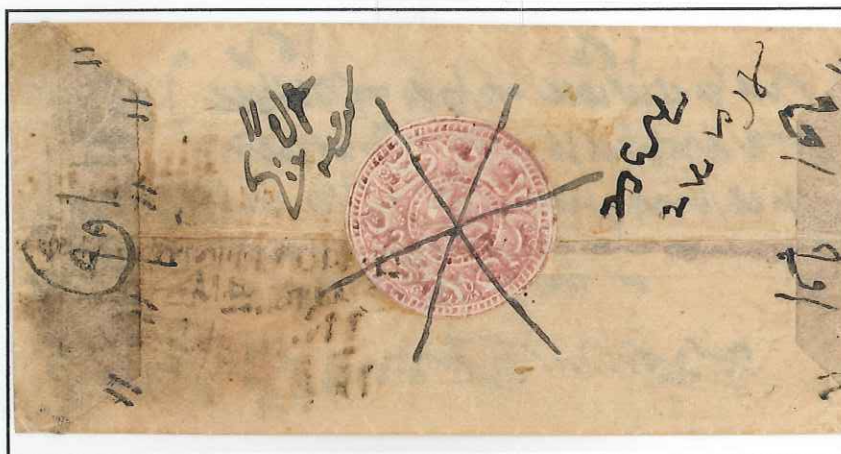
ABASI - two types "A" & "B"
2 ABASI
1 RUPEE

2 ABASI

Manuscript postmat: "SV"



2 Abasi



Postal Rate: Generally between 1871 - 1920 the charge was
 1 ABASI for 1 Misqal (4.56gm) or
 1 SHAHI for ¼ Misqal (1.14gm).
4 SHAHI = 1 ABASI

TASHKURGHAN to PESHAWAR - cover with **2 ABASI** lake, cut round, with three line ink cancel.

The 2 Abasi paid for a 2 Misqal weight of 9.12gm. the double rate for mail beyond KABUL.

KHULM (Tashkurghan) to PESHAWAR

- hand made cover with **2 ABASI** red on yellow, cut round, with three line ink cancel.

In this case the red on flimsy yellow paper issue is genuine, so not all coloured papers are "Special" printings. However forged covers were made.



Two Abasi Red -
 Yellow paper. Value
 inscription "do Abasi"



Khulm (Tashkurghan) is 389 miles NW of Kabul by road over the Hindu Kush mountain range.

This road had 4 distinct sections:

1. Kabul-Dera Shakari - 128 miles of narrow

valleys & passes through the Hindu Kush mountains.

2. Dera Shakari to Pul Khumri 90 miles - difficult, snow bound prone; mountainous and narrow.

3. Next 80 miles - sandy desert.

4. last 85 miles - wide undulating plains.

Postal couriers (dak wallahs) earned their pay on this route.

AFGHANISTAN

April 1881 - 1901

AMIR ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1881 - 1890 First Period - circular, flimsy paper, watersoluble inks. Printed from dies engraved on metal.

ABASI - two types "A" & "B"

2 ABASI

1 RUPEE

1 RUPEE



1 Rupee with three
line pen cancel



TASKURGHAN to PESHAWAR via KABUL, cover with cut-round

1 RUPEE brown lake issue (i.e.=12 Shahi).

The basic rate from 1870 to 1920 was 4 Shahi for 1 Misqal. This indicates a 3 Misqal rate or 1.2 Tola for which the Indian charge was 2 Annas. As no charge was made it is assumed that the letter was picked up at the Afghan Agency.

Cover addressed " *In Tashkurghan in the Market of Mullah Ismail Khan - hand to Mian Moha-med Bakhsh Paracha Zemariyal - from Peshawar - sent by Shahrullah - the duty has been paid*"

Transit Times:

Tashkurghan to Kabul 160 miles - 7 days minimum.

Kabul to Peshawar 200 miles - 7 days minimum.

AFGHANISTAN

1890 - 1901

Amir/ King of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

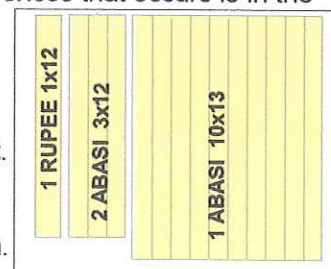
1891-1901 "SECOND Period" - Ungummed Pelure paper - toned & Pinkish, Lithographed in Kabul.

A major design change from the circular stamps of the last twenty years. A new single die was prepared for each issue engraved on agate, transferred to 'transfer' paper, one at a time, so the only differences that occurs is in the skill of the transfer. The three values were lithographed on one printing sheet:-



- 1 RUPEE 1 x 12 on left with a 12-13mm margin,
- 2 ABASI 3 x 12, with a margin 14-15mm,
- 1 ABASI 10 x 13.

Total of 178 issues to a sheet.



1 ABASI 2 line border Bluish slate - Sheet of 130 (10x13) Size: 24.0 - 24.5x16-16.5mm.

2 ABASI 2 line border Bluish Slate - Sheet of 36 (3x12) Size: 24.5 - 25.0x18.0mm

1 RUPEE no border Bluish Slate - Sheet of 12 (1x12) Size: 23.5 - 24.0x18.0mm

1891 - 1892 1309 REGULAR SERIES

مصول کاغذ داکخانه ۱۳۰۹ دولت افغانستان

"Afghanistan daulat 1309 da-khana khagaz Mahsul"

"Tax Post Office of *Kinadom of Afghanistan* 1309"

في مثقال يك عباسي

"For each Misqal Yek (one) Abasi"

- Amir Abdur Rahman from this point called himself Amir of Afghanistan rather than *Amir of Kabul*.

Registration stamps introduced. Specific cancel (coloured for post offices) introduced, but cut-out still persisted.

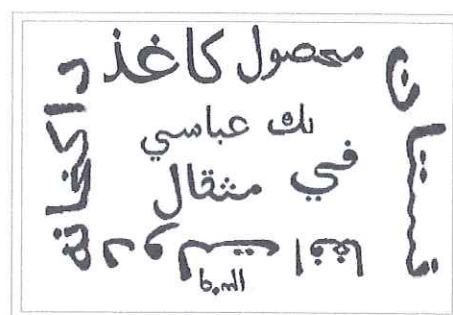
Postmark Cancel: Colours violet, brown black - KABUL

violet, - KANDAHAR

violet, -one with dark blue ink and one red - HERAT

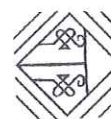
green - TASHKURGHAN

reddish orange - PESHAWAR



1 ABASI Stamp Design

Inscription locations



"SV" Cancel



1 Abasi
Ring Seal

1 Abasi
Violet SV cancel

1 Abasi

2 Abasi
Violet SV cancel

1 Rupee
Black SV Kabul cancel

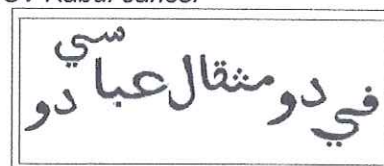
1 Rupee



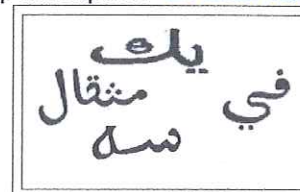
2 Abasi



2 Abasi on piece - black "SV KABUL" cancel



Stamp Inscription - 2 Abasi Value



Stamp inscription - 1 Rupee Value

AFGHANISTAN

1891 - 1901

King of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN



1892 SECOND Period - ۱۳۱۰ (1310) - Introduction of **REGISTRATION** stamps.

Abdur Rahman, in his first ten years 1881 - 1891, achieved, for the first time, almost total control of Afghanistan. Not unexpectedly, in 1891, he changed his title of 'Amir of Kabul' to 'Amir of Afghanistan' as a signal to British India and others that a major change had been reached in the control of 'his' country. During this period he was forced to accept the 1893 Durand Commission's findings establishing the Afghan borders - confirmed by British India and Russia (without Afghan agreement) and including the 'Wakaan Corridor' to the north preventing Russia and British India from having a common frontier. Afghanistan was now the neutral ground separating these two empires. This new Registration issue therefore reflects ongoing changes as the stamp inscription also includes the words "Kingdom/Government of Afghanistan". It was not until 1895 that he was to win the final battle for Kafiristan (Nuristan), uniting the last disputed area of Afghanistan. He had done more to unify Afghanistan than any other before him.

PRINTING: Ungummed Pelure paper - Lithographed in Kabul. Printed in sheets of 110 (10 x 11).

**35 inverted to create the imperfect sheet as no one but Allah is perfect.*

VALUE: 1 Rupee slate blue - same format as the previous issue except stamp design size is larger - 31 x 22.5mm.

NOTE: The introduction of this issue met with total buyer resistance because of its high value. Whilst it was officially issued no genuinely used example has ever been found. Postmarked copies are either per favour or forged.

INSCRIPTION: (read right to left)

محصل کاغذ داخانہ دولت افغانستان رجستری فی مثال روپیہ یک

Yek	Ru-piya	Misqal	Fi	Registri	Afghanistan	Daulat	Da Khana	Khagaz	Mahsul
-----	---------	--------	----	----------	-------------	--------	----------	--------	--------

One	Rupee	Misqal	for each	Registration	Afghanistan	Kingdom	Post Office	Label	Tax/Fee
-----	-------	--------	----------	--------------	-------------	---------	-------------	-------	---------



*Tête Bêche pair
#34, #35 inverted*

AFGHANISTAN

1891 - 1901 **SECOND Period** ۱۳۱۰ 1310 GENERAL ISSUES

1893 - Lithographed on various coloured tissue papers.

Paper colour shades are in six main groups:

Red; Green; Yellow; Carmine; Purple and Blue. Blue is rare.

Printed in sheets of a. 63 (9 x7).

b. 56 (8 x7)



Red Papers: Rose, Salmon Pink, Crimson,



Ochre red "SV" cancel on piece.

G. F. WATKIN LTD

PRINTED AND MADE IN ENGLAND

AFGHANISTAN

1892 - 1901

AMIR of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1891 - 1901 **SECOND Period** ۱۳۱۰ (1310) **GENERAL ISSUES**

1893 - Lithographed on various coloured tissue papers.

PRINTING: Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed coloured flimsy wove papers.

Paper colour shades are in six main groups:

Red; Green; Yellow; Carmine; Purple and Blue. Blue is rare.

Printed in sheets of a. 63 (9 x7).

b. 56 (8 x7)

YELLOW Issues



Postmarks: Kandahar

Kandahar

Kandahar



Yellow

Orange-yellow

Orange



Part Entire used at PESHAWAR (with letter on flimsy paper). It appears that the letter was torn in two and this portion survived. It is cancelled with the Orange Red "SV" colour at Peshawar

AFGHANISTAN

1892 - 1901

AMIR of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1891 - 1901 **SECOND Period** ۱۳۱۰ 1310 **GENERAL ISSUES**

1893 - Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed coloured flimsy wove papers.

PRINTING: Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed coloured flimsy wove papers.

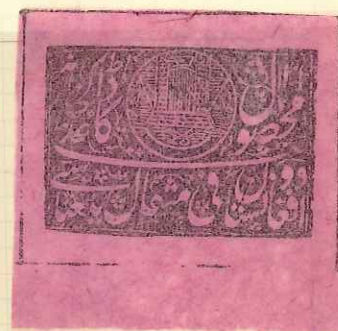
Paper colour shades are in six main groups:

Red; Green; Yellow; Carmine; Purple and Blue. Blue is rare.

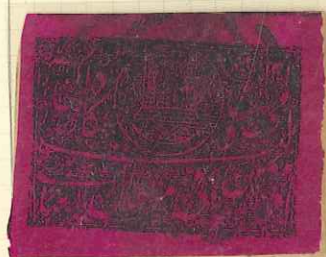
Printed in sheets of a. 63 (9 x7).

b. 56 (8 x7)

Purple Papers: Purple, Red Purple, Lilac, Lilac Rose, Violet, Magenta,



Brownish purple with purple "SV"
postmark of KANDAHAR and
Indian border CHAMAN strike.



Purple Papers: Purple, Red Purple, Lilac,
Lilac Rose, Violet, Magenta,

Piece with reddish purple ABASI with
Red Batila "SV" cancel of KABUL



Cover: MAZAR-i-SHARIF to KABUL with Brown Rose 1 Ababsi with Purple "SV" cancel. Purple was usually used by KANDAHAR so the cancel colours now do not always represent the Post Office location.

AFGHANISTAN

1892 - 1901

AMIR of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

SECOND Period

1898 - 1899 ۱۳۱۶ (1316)

The last issues of Amir Abdur Rahman's Reign

These issues replaced the "Skeleton" issues and reintroduced the date within the stamp design.

PRINTING: Tyopographed in black in Kabul on ungummed flimsy wove coloured papers.

Paper colours: Green, Red, Purple, Yellow and Blue shades. Size: 42 x 33mm

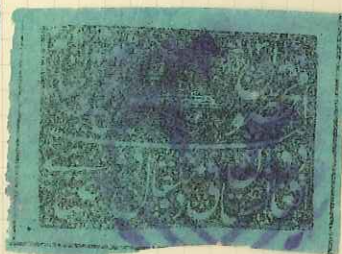
Printed in sheets of 63 2 ABASI (9 x 7)

INSCRIPTIONS: - read from right to left starting at top RH corner.

۱۳۱۶	محصول	کاغذ	داکخانه	دولت افغانستان	فی مثقال دو عباسی				
1316	Mahsul	Khagaz	Dah Khana	Afghanistan	Abasi	Do	Misqal	Fi	Abasi
1316	Tax	Paper label	Post Office	God Given	Abasi	Two	Misqal	for each	Abasi



Blue



Blue-green



Orange yellow



Purple



Brown-Lilac



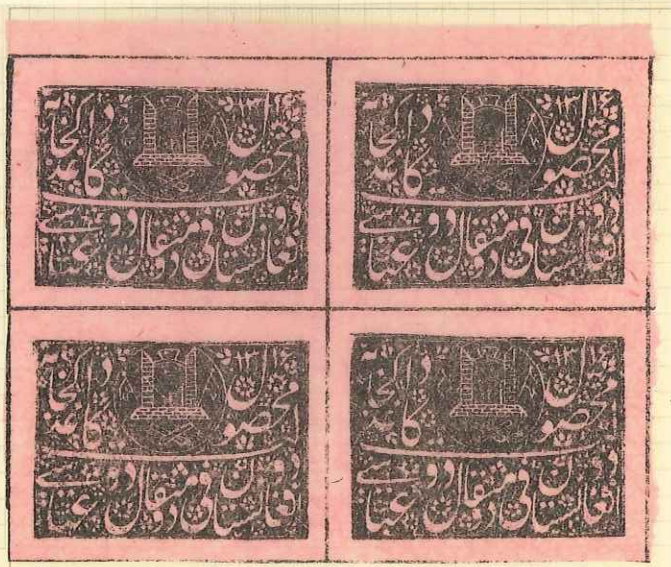
Lilac



Salmon pink



Deep Red



Lilac Rose

These issues were printed in the reign of Abdur Rahman but on his death in 1901 his son Habibullah Khan took over and continued using old stocks of issues for three or four years. These new 1316 issues, whilst publicly available were not used and very few have been found on cover and even these appear to be for a collector living in Kabul who mailed them to himself in Peshawar. Habibullah Khan was to introduce radically new engraved designs in 1907 - 8.

AFGHANISTAN

1892 - 1901

AMIR of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1891 - 1901 SECOND Period ۱۳۱۰ (1310) GENERAL ISSUES

1893 - Lithographed on various coloured tissue papers.

PRINTING: Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed coloured flimsy wove papers.

Paper colour shades are in six main groups:

Red; Green; Yellow; Carmine; Purple and Blue. Blue is rare.

Printed in sheets of a. 63 (9 x7).

b. 56 (8 x7)

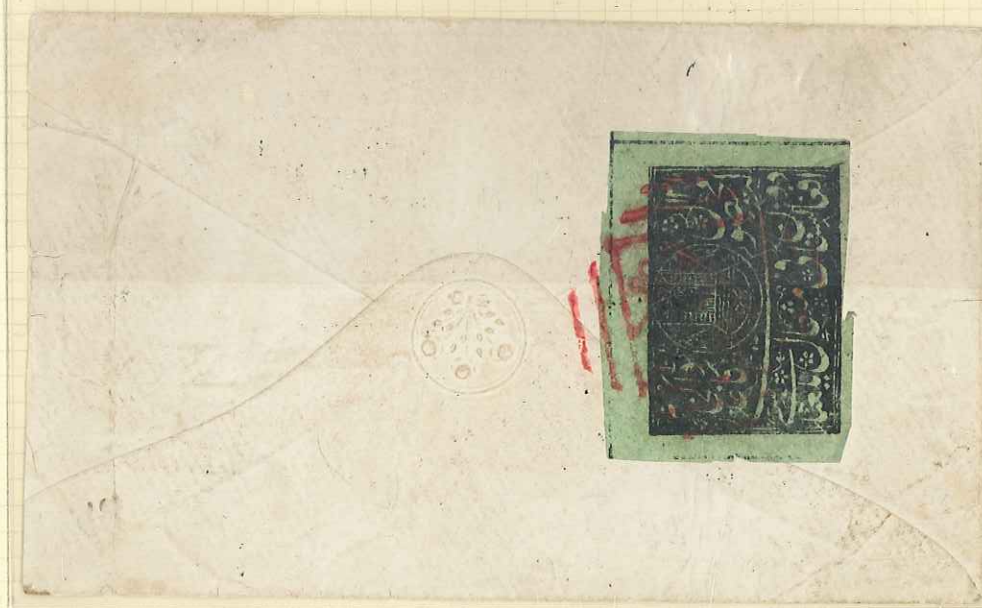
GREEN Issues



*Pinks: Blue--Mazar-i-Sharif
Red: Kabul
Purple: Kandahar.
: Kandahar.*



Piece with orange-red "SV"
PESHAWAR cancel on ABASI -
Green issue.



**PESHAWAR to
KABUL** Cover with 1
ABASI and Red "SV"
cancel used at Kabul.
**Address reads "This
letter in the City of
KABUL in the Chowk
(Bazaar) of Posteen
(sheepskin) Market in
the shop of
Mohammed Aslam,
Postenn seller - Hand
it to Raheem Kiraam
Abdul Majeed - This
from Fageer
Mohammed.
I hope it (the letter)
doesn't give you a
headache - Thursday
17th Jamadi, Sani
1313 from Peshawar"**
(8th November 1895)

AFGHANISTAN

1892 - 1901

AMIR of AFGHANISTAN - ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

SECOND Period ۱۳۱۱ (1311)

1894 - 1 RUPEE REGISTRATION issue -

Designed and printed but buyer resistance, soon made it clear to the Government of the Amir of Afghanistan that 1 Rupee was too high a charge for registration. It suffered the same fate as its immediate forerunner the 1 Rupee Slate Blue registration dated 1310. Round two to the general public.

The registration rate was very reluctantly lowered 33% to 2 Abasi (3 Abasi = 1 Rupee) for subsequent issues. Only two genuine used copies of this 1 Rupee value have been seen on cover with genuine red "SV" Batila cancellations of Peshawar.

Unused copies of this 1 Rupee (probably the entire printing) were sold by the Kabul Post Office in 1912 and used copies seen are CTO, per favour of the post office.

PRINTING: Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed Green flimsy wove papers.

Printed in sheet of 55 (5 x 11). Some clichés are able to be plated as the transfer from the paper to the lithographic stone created detectable differences in the printed sheet.e.g *10 & *16 shown below.

INSCRIPTION: Stamp design - read from right to left starting at top RHS at date 1311.

۱۳۱۱ رجسټري داکخانه دولت خداداد افغانستان في مثال يک روپيه

Ru-piya	Yek	Misqal	Fi	Afghanistan	Khudadad	Daulat	Dah Khana	Registri	1311
Rupee	One	Misqal	for each	Afghanistan	God Given	Kingdom	Post Office	Registration	1311

Clear flaw top left margin

Canted upwards at right hand end within outer border

1 RUPEE



*16

*10

AFGHANISTAN

Amir ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1893 SECOND Period

۱۳۱۰ (1310) GENERAL ISSUES

PRINTING: Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed coloured flimsy wove papers.

Masson & Jones reports "a sheet of lithographic transfer paper, about 15 x 9.5 inches, was first plain ruled into 7 horizontal rows of 9 oblongs varying from 41.5 to 42.5 x 32 to 34 mm. Within each oblong an impression was stamped from the block engraved on wood or agate (Boggs). This was transferred to the lithographic stone and the sheets printed off."

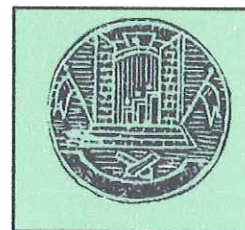
A report states that up to 37 paper colour shades were detected but have been simplified as follows.

PAPER COLOUR SHADES - six main groups:

Red; Green; Yellow; Carmine; Purple; Blue (rare).

PRINTING: sheets of
a. 63 (9 x7).
b. 56 (8 x7)

DESIGN: This design was used in the last ten years of Amir Abdur Rahman's reign. The inscription is similar to the earlier issues but with a circular 'seal' added comprising stylised arched altar of a Mosque, the *Mihrab*, flanked by flags. Underneath are crossed cannon. Inside is a *Momber* (elevated pulpit). This design was used on many documents and stamps from this period.



SIZE: 36 x 25mm (approx.)

INSCRIPTION: (read right to left) See numbers on inscription and match with labelled issue below.

Yek Abasi	Misqal	Fi	Afghanistan	Daulat	Da Khana	Khagaz	Mahsul	1310
يك عباسي	مشقال	في	افغانستان	دولت	داخانه	کاغذ	محصول	۱۳۱۰
1 Abasi	Misqal,	for each,	Afghanistan,	Kingdom of,	Post Office	Label	Tax/Fee	1310
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

VALUE: 1 Abasi - coloured papers have no significance to post offices of issue. However coloured postmarks of newer "Batila" design are listed by Patterson as follows:
Orange Red - PESHAWAR; Purple - KANDAHAR; Green - MAZAR-i-SHARIF;
Rusty Red -KABUL;



4 3 2 1



9 8 7 6



AFGHANISTAN

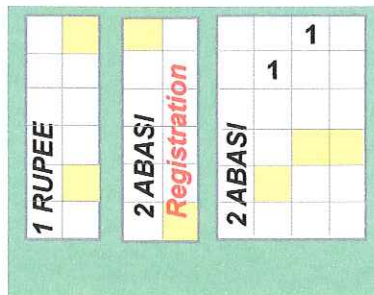
KING of AFGHANISTAN ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1894 - 1895 "Skeleton Issue" - SECOND Period

PRINTING: Lithographed in black in Kabul on ungummed Green flimsy wove papers. Designs drawn separately on lithographic transfer paper and transferred to litho stone. Slight design differences allows them to be plated.

Printed in sheets of 48: 2 ABASI 24 (4 x 6)
 1 RUPEE 12 (2 x 6)
 2 ABASI 12 (2 x 6) - REGISTRATION

SHEET LAYOUT: composite value sheet shown - issues displayed in this collection indicated in yellow.



INSCRIPTIONS: (a) 2 Abasi Registration stamp - read from right to left starting at top RH corner. No date included in design.

محصول	کاغذ	رجستري	داکخانه	دولت	خداداد	افغانستان	دو	عباسي
Mahsul	Khagaz	Registri	Dah Khana	Daulat	Khudadad	Afghanistan	Do	Abasi
Tax	Paper label	Registration	Post Office	Kingdom	God Given	Afghanistan	Two	Abasi

NOTE: Weight designation "for each Misqal" text is deleted from Registration stamps design.



2 ABASI Registration ^{۴/۱}



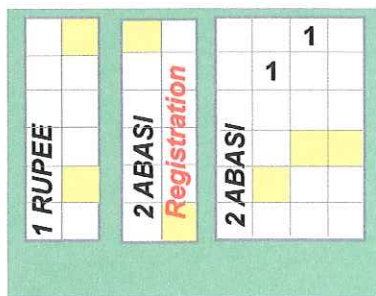
2 ABASI Registration ^{۴/۲}

AFGHANISTAN

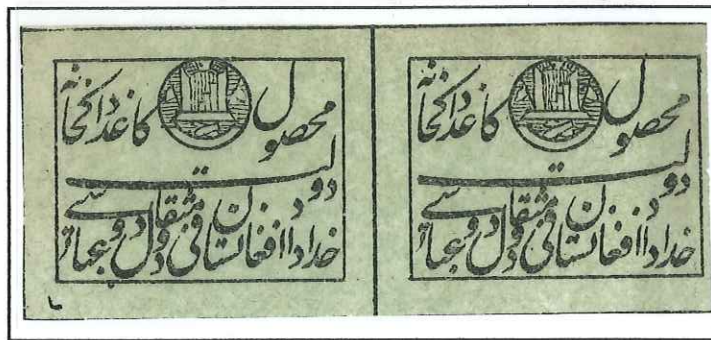
ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1894 - 1895 "Skeleton Issue" - SECOND Period

(b) 2 Abasi & 1 Rupee Postage Stamps have similar inscriptions to previous issue.



SHEET LAYOUT: composite value sheet shown - issues displayed in this collection indicated in yellow.



2 ABASI
*15; *16

NOTE 1: *3 & *6 in 2 Abasi general issue plate have **error - missing inscription**

روپيه	يك	ميشقال	سه	في	افغانستان	خدا داد	دولت	داخانه	كاغذ	محصول
Ru-piyah	Yek	Misqal	Se	Fi	Afghanistan	Khudadad	Daulat	Dah Khana	Khagaz	Mahsul
Rupee	One	Misqal	for	each	Afghanistan	God Given	Kingdom	Post Office	Paper label	Tax
عباسي	دو	ميشقال	دو	في						
Abasi	Do	Misqal	Do	Fi						
Abasi	Two	Misqal	2	for each						



1 RUPEE *1

1 RUPEE *2



1 RUPEE *10



2 ABASI *18

AFGHANISTAN

Amir ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN

1898 - 1901 2 Abasi REGISTRATION - unissued, undated printings.

Last printings of Amir Abdur Rahman's Reign. They were to follow the previous 'Skeleton' registration stamps but never officially released for sale. A few covers are found with these issues attached per favour of post office, but are not considered genuinely used.

PRINTING: Typographed black in Kabul on ungummed flimsy wove papers coloured: **Orange yellow; Salmon Red; Pale yellow; Green, Lilac rose; Dark rose; Red Purple; Violet; Grey blue; White.**

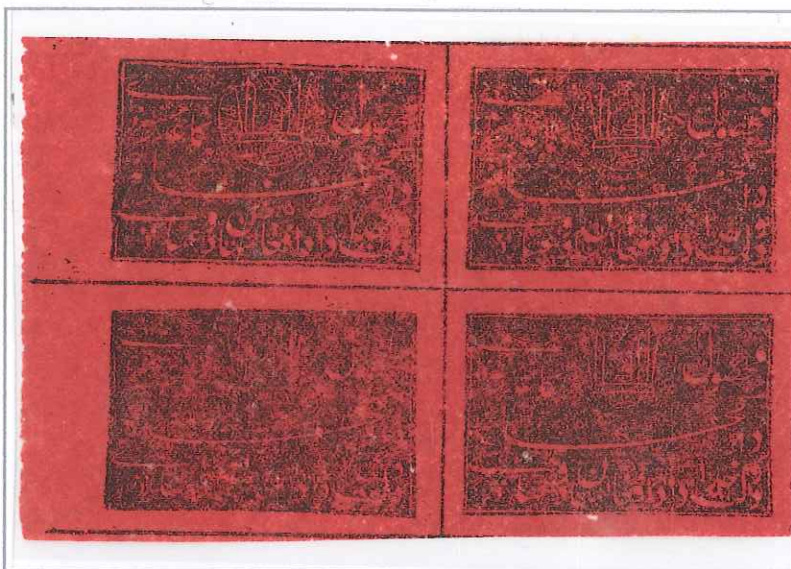
SIZE: 39 x 26.5mm - design dimensions

PRINTING: sheets of 49 (7x 7) - no outer frame.

INSCRIPTIONS: - read right to left starting top RH corner.

محصول کاغذ رجسٹری دہلی نہ دولت افغانستان خدا داد دو عباسی

Abasi	Do	Khodadad	Afghanistan	Daulat	Dah Khana	Registri	Khagaz	Mahsul
Abasi	Two	Kingdom	Afghanistan	God Given	Post Office	Registration	Paper label	Tax

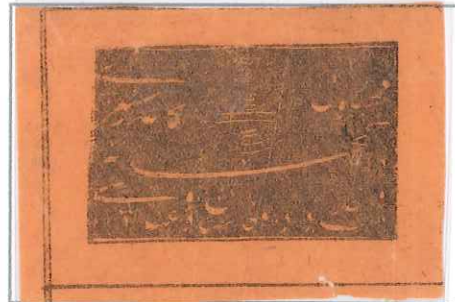
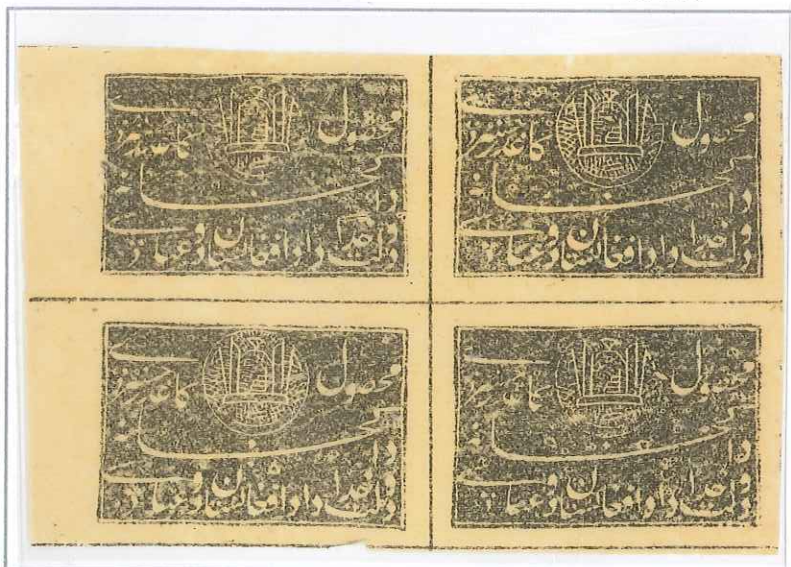


Red



Grey blue
Orange ; Violet
Green

Pale Yellow



AFGHANISTAN

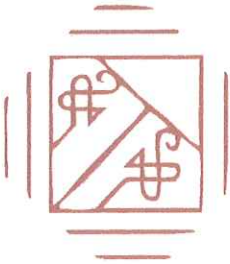
1903 - 1906

This "Batila" handstamp was used on two specific occasions, 1903 and again in 1906, during the reign of AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN. The Amir continued to use stamp issues produced during his father's (Abdur Rahman) reign but he was faced with lack of stock on two occasions before the new engraved issues of 1907-8 were introduced. On these occasions the Amir instructed that, in place of stamps, covers were to be stamped with the "Batila" (SV) cancel indicating that postage had been paid.

In this he introduced, as an interim measure, some of Afghanistan's first items of postal stationery.

Masson & Jones reported that *"the envelopes could be purchased at the Amir's Post Office at Peshawar, just as embossed envelopes can be purchased at Indian Post Offices."*

Maj. Adrian Hopkins MC. recorded in 1957 that *"genuine covers franked with a "Batila" grid in rusty brown were issued by the post office in 1903 and again in 1906, rather on the lines of postal stationery . . . irritatingly genuine covers sold had added to them grey "registration" stamps tied with a forged dull gritty black "batila" cancel in other colours including carmine"*.



Rare cover addressed to Peshawar utilising the Batila cancel to indicate postage had been paid. Classified as Interim Postal Stationery. It was only three years later that the first postal stationery was issued.



Lunar date:

۱۳۲۴ ش به
1324 Shab-ban Sé

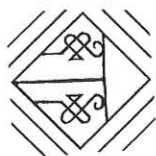
22nd. September 1906

الشیخ الاسلامی افغانی در شهر پشاور متصل منظمی سید در زمر
به کان بهار پشاور کجریل برادر رسیده مدافعه دیوان پشاور
مسموم شهر جدید آباد در جانب افغانستان
لوم غنیمت شهر شعیب

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 1908 AMIR of AFGHANISTAN - HABIBULLAH KHAN

For the first few years of Habibullah's reign he continued using stamp issues produced during his father's reign. These ran out on two occasions before his new engraved issues of 1907-8 were issued. The Amir gave instructions that during these shortages covers were to be stamped with the "Batila" "SV" cancel indicating that postage had been paid, creating the first postal stationery items.



باطل 'Batil' = Invalid (or paid)



'Batil' stylised



'Batil' further stylised for use in an overall postmark design - referred to as "SV" as it resembled an intertwined S and V.

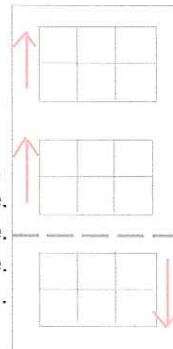
1907 - 1908 ۱۳۲۵ First Issued 1 Muharram 1325 (14 February 1907)

VALUES: 1 ABASI; 2 ABASI & 1 RUPEE - Basic design National Coat of Arms stylised Mosque as Defender of Faith of Islam, surmounted by Royal Head Dress (fur Koula)

PRINTING: Printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper. Each stamp image in the plate is separately engraved, taille douce (line engraved), on copper by a Turk, Nahmud Nasi.

Printing layouts:-

18 x 1 ABASI Blue (1907) : 19 x 24 mm - 3 Panes of 6 (3 x 2) vertically arranged, one pane tête béche.
 18 x 1 ABASI Green (1908) : 19 x 24 mm - 3 Panes of 6 (3 x 2) vertically arranged, one pane tête béche.
 18 x 2 ABASI Blue (1907) : 18.5 x 22.5mm - 3 Panes of 6 (3 x 2) vertically arranged, one pane tête béche.
 12 x 1 RUPEE Blue (1907) : 18.5 x 23.5mm - 3 Panes of 4 (2 x 2) vertically arranged, one pane tête béche.
 16 x 1 RUPEE Green (1908) : 8.5 x 23.5mm - 4 Panes of 4 (2 x 2) horizontally arranged, one pane tête béche..



INSCRIPTIONS:

داکخانه

Top centre

"Da-Khana"
Post Office

Under Crest

دولت خداداد افغانستان

"A-fgha-nista-n Khada-dad Dau-lat"
God Given Kingdom of Afghanistan

Across Bottom

مثقال يك عباسي

"Aba-si Yek Misq-al"
1 Abasi for Misqal weight.

or

دو عباسي قیمت

"ghêimat Aba-si Do"
Two Abasi price.

or

يك روپيه

"Ru-piya Yek"
One Rupee.

POSTAGE: 1 Abasi per Misqal weight (4.56gms). 3 Abasi = 1 Rupee



1 ABASI *5
Blue
1907

*6
Green
1908

2 ABASI *3
Blue
1907

1 RUPEE *3
Green
1907

*4
Blue-green
1908



1 ABASI:- *6 Blue
1327 Muharram 22
13 Feb 1909
'Tashkurghan'

*4 Blue-green
1329 Rabi II 22
22 Apr 1911
'Jalalabad'

*6 Blue-green
1325 Jamadi II 10
21 Jul 1907
'Tashkurghan'

*4 Blue
1326 Safar 26
30 Mar 1908
'Kabul'

*2 Blue-green
1325 Rabi II 3
12 Jun 1907
'Kabul'

Postmarks

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 1908

۱۳۲۵ (1325)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

123
456



VALUE: 1 ABASI

PRINTING:

Recess printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper about 72 x 210mm in size.

Each of 6 stamp images (1 to 6) was separately engraved on copper in 3 x 2 format and this was used to make three impressions of the Plate 'A' 3x2 copper engraving on the paper stock to produce 18x1 ABASI Blue (1907) issues per sheet.

The printer fed the sheet stock into the machine and made the first 3x2 impression. The sheet was then fed in further to make the second impression (sometimes they overlapped). The sheet was removed, reversed and fed it into the machine again for the third impression, this final impression being tete beche wrt the other two impressions on the sheet.

The gutters between plate impressions vary from 0 to 30mm but are more generally found to be 15mm between the first two impressions and from 25 to 30mm between the third tete beche impression and central 3 x 2 impression.

The sheets were issued imperforate and unevenly hand gummed.

956
123

AFGHANISTAN

1908 ۱۳۲۶ (1326) AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

1 ABASI Plate 'B' & 'A'

Recess printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper.

This 1 ABASI Plate B printing is recognised by :

- crisper and a more solid appearance.
- wreath much heavier - most leaves touch the strengthened stem system.
- double lined outer frame continuous in lower left corner instead of intersecting.

Plate 'B'



1 ABASI Green *2
with watermark "N" -part
of sheet watermark
'Howard & Jones
London'
Pmk:
"MAZAR-i-SHARIF"
1325 Rabi I 9
29 May 1907

1 ABASI Emerald-green *2
Pmk:
"KABUL"
1326 Rabi II 2
4 May 1908

1 ABASI Green *3
Pmk:
"KABUL"
1326 Zi'lqa'd 21
15 Dec 1908

1 ABASI Green *3
Pmk:
"KABUL"
1326 Shawal 5
1 Nov 1908



1 ABASI Emerald-
green *5
Pmk:
"JALALABAD"
1326 Rajab 8
6 Aug 1908
Plate 'B'



1 ABASI Blue-green *2
From top pane in sheet of
18.
Pmk:
"JALALABAD"
1325 Jamadi I 12
23 June 1907
Plate 'A'



1 ABASI Green *6
Pmk:
"KABUL"
1326 Rajab
July 1908
Plate 'B'

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 1908

(1325)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

VALUE: 1 ABASI

PRINTING: Recess printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper.

Each of 6 stamp images separately engraved on copper in 3 x 2 and 2 x 2 format.

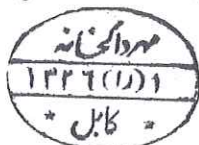
Numbers printed unknown but are scarce.

Printing layouts:-

Plate A - 18x1 ABASI Blue (1907): 19x24mm - 3 Panes of 6 (3x2) vert. arranged, one pane tete beche.

Plate B - 18x1 ABASI Green (1908): 19x24mm - 3 Panes of 6 (3x2) vert. arranged, one pane tete beche.

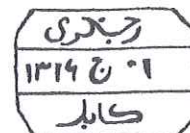
Postmarking: With this issue there was also introduced a new orderly visual system of postmarking that proved to be most effective, lasting for about twenty years.



Originating Post Office



Receiving Post Office



Registration Postmark on cover only



Cover:

1 ABASI Green *5 Plate A
KABUL to PESHAWAR
- letter under 4.56gms.

Pmarks:

'Oval' Kabul:

1326 Rabi II 1

3 May 1908

'Circular Peshawar':

1326 Rabi II 5

7 May 1908

1907 Plate A issues:



Blue *1.

Pmk:
'Mazar-i-Sharif'
1325 Rabi II 21
3 June 1907



Green *4
on part cover.

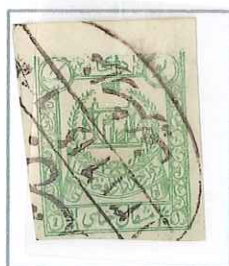
Pmk:
'Kabul'
1326 Rabi II 19
21 May 1908



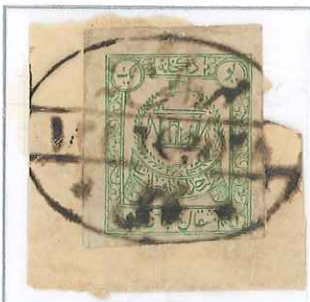
Green *3.

Pmk:
'Kabul'
1325 Jamadi I 7
17 June 1907

1908 Plate B issues:



Emerald-green
*3
Pmk:
'Mazar-i-Sharif'
1326 Zi'l-hajj 6
30 Dec 1908



Emerald-green
*5.
on piece.
Pmk:
'Kabul'
1326 Rajab
28
26 Aug 1908



Emerald-green
*5.
Pmk:
'Herat'
1326 Jamadi I
20
20 June 1908

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 1908

۱۳۲۸ (1325)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN



VALUE: 1 ABASI Plate 'A'

Recess printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper.

This sheet is ungummed.

Upper half of sheet of 18 printed in 3 blocks of 6 (3 x 2).

This upper block and half the second block are separated by a 5mm gutter.

1 2 3

4 5 6

1 2 3

Part of the 'Howard & Jones London' printing paper watermark "LONDON" is shown inverted on *1 *2 *3.

There does not appear to be any attempt at arranging the watermark in any particular standard position so it can be found normal, reversed and inverted. What the proportions are for each printing has not yet been determined.



VALUE: 1 ABASI Plate 'A'

Recess printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper.

This sheet is ungummed.

Upper half of sheet of 18 printed in 3 blocks of 6 (3 x 2).

This upper block of 6 and second block of 6 are overlapped due to careless printing.

1 2 3

4 5 6

1 2 3

4 5 6

Part of the watermark 'Howard & Jones London' "HOWARD & LOND"

is shown on *4 *5 *6 of the second pane.

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 8 ۱۳۲۵ - ۱۳۲۶ (1325-6) AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

1 ABASI Plate 'A' Trial Perforation "B" - perf 11.75

As the first trial zig-zag perforation was clearly not a success by June 1908 they were experimenting with another perforation trial. A fairly clean cut perforation 11.75 was first used on the Rupee stamp, the other two values following soon after.

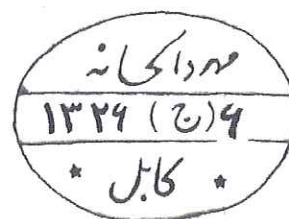
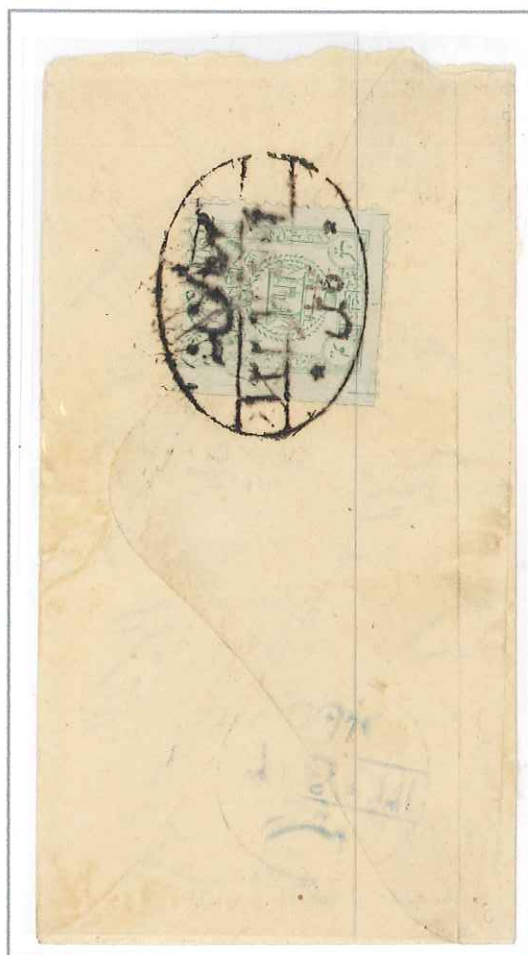
Patterson commented:

"the operation was inexpertly done and the centering poor. The vertically arranged sheets were generally left imperforate on the outside margins. The Rupee was the exception. This trial was conducted in parallel with the normal issue of imperforate stamps. The perforated 1 Abasi Plate "A" seems to have been in use for not more than three months and is difficult to find."

This trial perforation was carried out on only a few sheets, and was soon replaced by the new typographed stamp issues of January 1909.

(#6)

KABUL to Jalalabad Cover shows the 11.75 x imperf 1 ABASI Plate "A" green is the first 1 Abasi stamp from perforation trial "B", in any condition, seen by this collector in forty years of collecting and he classifies them as very scarce.



Type PM2 Cancel
'KABUL' 1326 Jamadi 1 - 6th.
(6 th June 1908)



Type TPM5 cancel
'Jalalabad' 1326 Jamdi 1 - 8th
(8th June 1908)

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 1908

۱۳۲۵ (1325)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

1 ABASI Plate 'A' - Items of interest.

Recess printed on 'HOWARD & JONES LONDON' watermarked paper.



Pmk:
"GHAZNEEN"
1325 Rabi II 16
29 May 1907

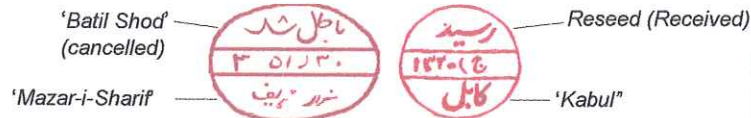
1 ABASI dull blue-green - **DOUBLE IMPRESSION**
Listed in Masson & Jones 1908 publication.

'Mazar-i-Sharif' Oval Lunar Pmk. - **KABUL Received** Circular cancel.
1325, (Rabi II), 3 rd. 1325 (Jamadi I ?)
16 May 1907 (12 June to 12 July ?) 1907

The Oval cancel might read 30th day, but as Rabi II has only 29 days in the month, 30 is not considered correct, although an error by the postal official is always possible. If the dates chosen are correct then it has taken about 5 weeks to bring the letter from Mazar-i-Sharif in the north over the passes in the Hindu Kush mountains and down to Kabul. This could be reasonable period of time depending on the state of the weather at that time and the depth of snow through which the Dak Wallahs or a caravan had to carry the mail.

Lunar Months

- 30 Muharram
- 29 Safar
- 30 Rabi I
- 29 Rabi II
- 30 Jamadi I
- 29 Jamadi II
- 30 Rajab
- 29 Shah'ban
- 30 Ramadan
- 29 Shawal
- 30 Zou'iqad
- 29 Zou'lhajjah



The 'Mazar-i-Sharif' post office was reported opened in November 1907. However the red OVAL pmk of Mazar-i-Sharif and the CIRCULAR red receiving postmark of Kabul on the adjacent copy indicates an earlier opening date. This copy shows that date of the opening of the Mazar-i-Sharif post office is May-June 1907?. Another red cancel seen reads 3 June 1907 for Mazar-i-Sharif, so the opening date has to be earlier than November 1907. Kabul is recorded as using RED ink between the beginning of June 1907 to as late as November 1907 but its use was concentrated in June & July 1907. Red cancels were used elsewhere but mainly in Kabul.

Patterson speculated that RED postmarks possibly indicated 'Registered' mail. As the octagonal 'Registration' cancel RPM4 was introduced in 1909, it is possible that the Red colour may have been used a registration mark forerunner before the actual introduction of the RPM4 cancel.



1 ABASI Green
Blurred **DOUBLE IMPRESSION** with
red cancels.

Pmk: Green
"Tashkurghan"
1326 Rabi II 16; 29 May 1908



1 ABASI *4 Blue-green

Patterson speculated that Green postmarks of this period indicated TRANSIT mail. As this example is an OVAL postmark it seems unlikely this would be used as a Transit cancel when postoffices were generally supplied with CIRCULAR received cancels. If this was a transit mark it would seem more logical to use the Received Cancel. It is considered this is an originating postmark only and the colour may not be very significant.

AFGHANISTAN

1907

۱۳۲۵ - ۱۳۲۶ (1325-6)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

1 ABASI Plate 'A' - Trial Zig-Zag Perforation "A"

In June 1907 sheets were perforated using a zig-zag roulette cutter, 10 - 10.5 gauge 1.5mm deep, as a trial on a few sheets of 1 Abasi, 2 Abasi and 1 Rupee values for about an 8 week period commencing about two weeks after the imperforate issues were released. Copies of the 1 Rupee are reported but have not been seen.

The few postmarked copies reported or seen indicate use in Kabul and Kandahar from about mid April to early June 1907 - a very short period of issue. This may explain the very scarcity of these trial perforation issues estimated to be about 50 in total known to survive in collections today.

Rouletting so weakened the paper the sheets could not withstand normal post office handling and the trial was quickly abandoned. Examples below show the imperfections which arose from the post office staff handling of these weakened rouletted sheets as they tore stamps from the sheets, with varying results, to affix them to covers.

Patterson records seeing a dozen copies used in Kandahar and Kabul postmarked Lunar Rabi 1 & Rabi 2 - 1325 (14 April to 11 June 1907). *Dietrich* records his copies were used in Kandahar in Jamadi II (12 July to 10 Aug 1907).

The 4 copies postmarked Kabul from 22 May to July 1907, shown below, add to their research. These are among the rarest of the 20th century items.

All used in "KABUL" type PM2 cancel:



#2

1325 Jamadi 2
1907 June

#3

1325 Rabi 2 -16th
1907 May 29th

3 x 2 plate types (6)
1907 May/June



#5

AFGHANISTAN

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

1908 ۱۳۲۹ (1326)

2 ABASI Blue - Imperforate



Deep Blue *1

Pmk:

'KABUL'

1326 Rabi II 19

21 May 1908

Blue *3

Part "HOWARD & JONES
LONDON" watermark.

Pmk:

'PESHAWAR'

1326 Ramazan 22nd

18 Oct 1908

Blue *3

Pmk:

'KABUL'

1326 Rabi II 22nd

24 May 1908

Blue *3

Pmk:

'JALALABAD'

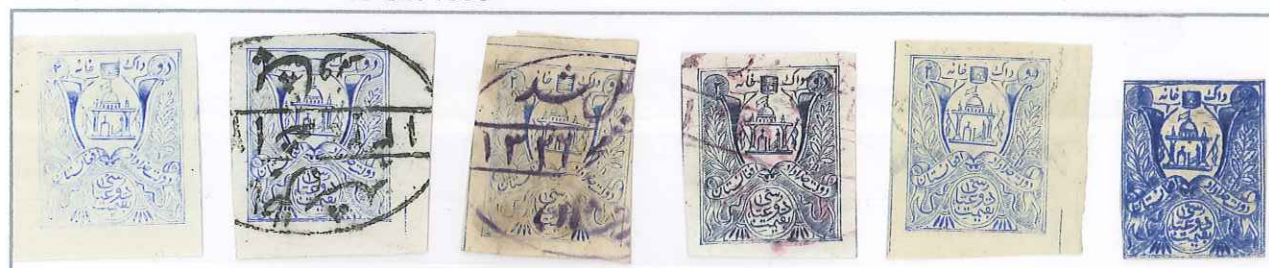
Blue *5

Pmk:

'HERAT'

1325 Rabi II 22nd

28 Nov 1907



Blue *4

Deep Blue *6

Pmk:

PESHAWAR

1325 Shawal 12th

18 Nov 1907

Blue *5

Pmk:

'FAIZABAD'

1326 Muharram

Feb 1908

Deep

Ultramarine

*5 Pmk:

Black Violet

Blue *6

Ultramarine *6

pre trimmed to

reduce weight

2 ABASI Blue - Trial perforation "B" -11.75 on 2, 3 or 4 sides; used for short period only.
These were soon replaced by the new perforated typographed issues of 1909.



1908 Trial perforation 11.75

Centre block of 6 (3 x 2). Soon replaced by the
new 1909 typographed issues.



Blue *3
perf 3 sides

Pmk:

'KABUL'

1326 Shawal ?

Nov 1908

Deep Blue *6
perf 3 sides

Pmk:

'PESHAWAR'

1326 Rajab 15

15 Aug 1908

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 8 (1325)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

2 ABASI Blue

Like 1 Abasi it is printed on medium crisp white paper in blocks of 18 - 3 panes of 6 (3 x 2), the lower pane tête beche wrt to the upper two panes. The full printing sheet size is 56 x 40 mm.

The sheets have portion of the two line HOWARD & JONES LONDON watermark in sans serif double line capitals which appears 4 times per sheet of paper.

This watermark partly appears only once on each full 28 x 20mm sheet on which a triple pane of 6 is printed.

The stamp design inscriptions are indential to the 1 Abasi issue.



**Abasi imperforate
Medium blue
watermarked
sheet**

*The lower block is tête
béche wrt to the upper
two blocks.*

*These complete sheets
of 3 blocks of 3x2 have
portion of the paper
maker's watermark
'HOWARD & JONES
LONDON' showing.*

*Use of brownish gum,
hand applied, tones the
paper over time.*

*The gutters between
the blocks of six are not
standard. They are
known to vary from
zero to the spacing
shown on these
examples.*

AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 8 (1325)

AMIR

HABIBULLAH KH/۱۳۲۵

2 ABASI Blue

Like 1 Abasi - printed on medium crisp white paper in sheets of 18 - 3 panes of 6 (3 x 2), the lower pane tête beche wrt to the upper two panes. The full printing sheet size is 56 x 40 mm.

The sheet has a two line HOWARD & JONES LONDON watermark in sans serif double line capitals 4 times per sheet. This watermark appears only once on each 28x 20mm sheet on which a triple pane of 6 is printed.

The stamp design inscriptions are indential to the 1 Abasi issue.



*1 *2

*4 *5

9* 9*

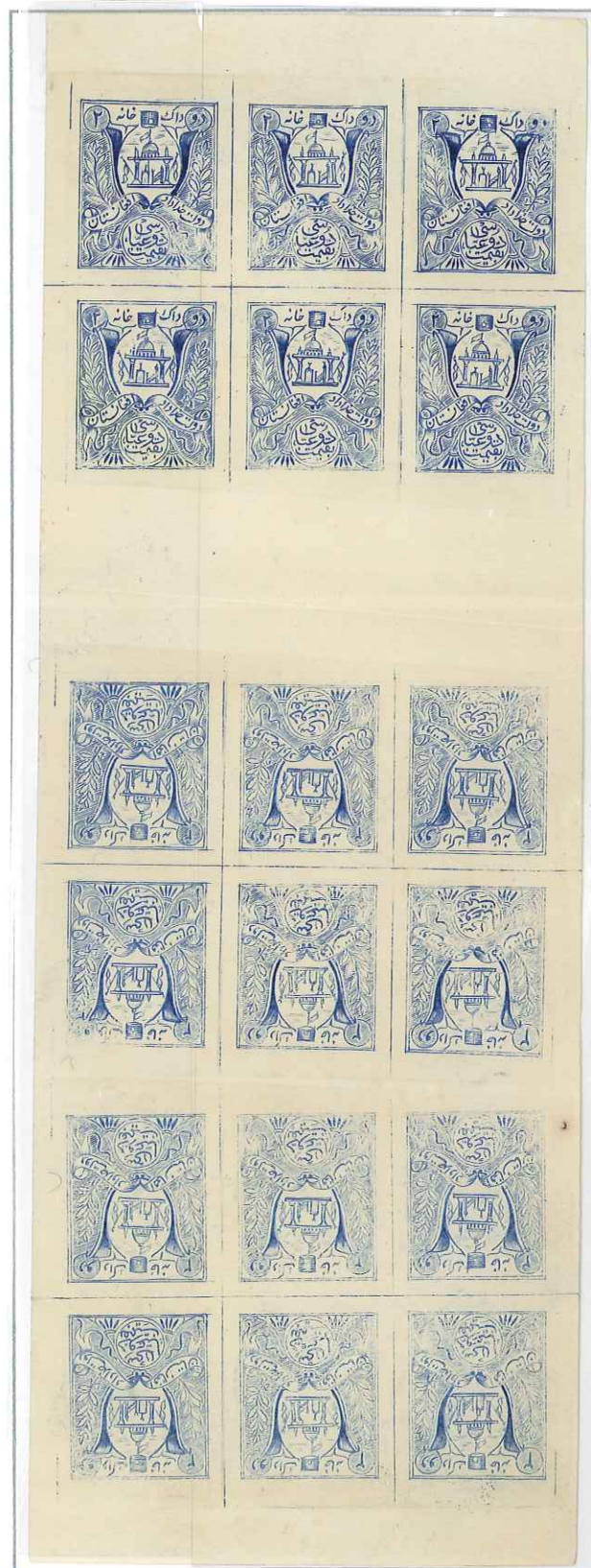
۳* ۷*

2 Abasi Ultramarine & Medium blue part sheet and complete sheet.

Imperforate full sheet and part sheet of 8 of lower two blocks.

The lower block is tête bêche wrt to the upper blocks.

The complete sheet of 3 - (3x2) has hand applied gum which, depending on the composition, discolours over time.



AFGHANISTAN

1907 - 8

(1325)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

1 RUPEE Green

Like other issues of this series it is printed on medium crisp white paper. Stamp design inscriptions identical except for value shown in *Dari* script in upper left, and *Pushto* upper right. Lower left western number, lower right *Dari* numeral 1.

Printings: 1907 sheet of 12 - 3 panes of 4 (2 x 2) arranged vertically,

1908 sheet of 16 - 4 panes of 4 (2 x 2) arranged horizontally, 4th RH pane tete beche.

Lighter vs Darker impressions on same sheet: Horizontal printing format is four blocks (2 x 2) with panes 1 & 3 having a lighter printing than panes 2 & 4.

Printing paper is about 22 x 16 inches and is cut into 16 (11"x 8") sheets for the 4 (2x2) panes. The lighter and darker printing sequence occurs when the small sheet is fed into the press for the first printing impression (2x2), removed and rotated and fed in again for the next impression without re-inking. This produces a darker printed Tete Beche block (the first impression) followed by a lightly printed No1 pane at the other end of the sheet. Ink is then re-applied to the plate and panes No.2 & 3 are printed in quick succession without re-inking resulting in pane No3 being lightly printed. This pane is now next to the more heavily inked impression of the first printed block, which is now tete beche. It seems the printer needed a small part of the sheet showing for him to be able to manually hold the sheet end as he feeds it into the press. The sheet has a two line HOWARD & JONES LONDON watermark.



1 RUPEE imperforate part sheet - 3 (2x2) panes with the right hand tete beche block missing. Note the light-dark-light printing of the three blocks/



Green

Green

*1 *4



Blue-green *2

Mazar-i-Sharif

"Shawal 1st"

7th Nov (1907)

FDI?

Dull turquoise
blue *3



1908 Trial perforation: perf 11.75

Dull turquoise blue & green.

*1

*3

*3

AFGHANISTAN

1909

۱۳۲۷

(1327)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

Official Government Stationery

It is considered that these were part of a number of different official envelopes used around this period.

At present it is not known how these covers were transported whether by special messenger or the post.

They may have been for inter-departmental use. Research is continuing.



Envelope: 120 x 93 mm envelope with Dark Blue National Star on flap and 20mm Dark Blue Inscription 10mm down from top centre of front of envelope.

Paper: Thin soft dull white laid paper.

Use: Government Ministry - 1911

Address: "Nayeb Sultaneh.

I ask you (with words most respectful) nayab Sultenah to visit your car house of the factory with Mohamed Omer Khan, Your servant Molla . . Majeed 1333" (lunar)

Value: none

The cover has a manuscript 17 in top left.



Envelope: 121 x 95 mm envelope with dull Gold National Star on flap and 28mm Dull Gold Inscription 10mm down from top centre of front of envelope.

Paper: Thin soft dull white laid paper.

Use: Used exclusively by the Amir or Prime Minister - 1916.

Value: none

The cover has a manuscript 21 in top left.

AFGHANISTAN

1909

۱۳۲۷

(1327)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

Afghan Post's first Postcard.

1 SHAHI Red Brown 147 x 107 mm. POSTCARD

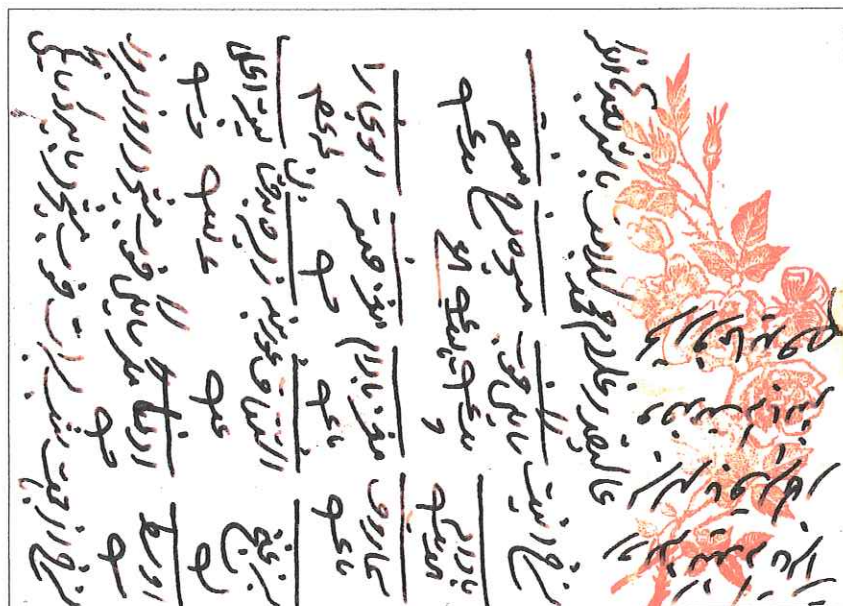
Paper: Typographed on soft thin light cream card.



Scarce postally used entire PESHAWAR to KABUL
Postmark type PM2 1329 Rajab 11th (9 July 1911)



Card reverse:
blank area for writer
to use and card
embellished with
line drawing of
spray of roses.



AFGHANISTAN

1909

۱۳۲۷ (1327)

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

With the issue of the 1 Abasi, 2 Abasi, 1 Rupee, 'Regular' typographed issues of 1909 - 10 the Afghan Post issued its first **Postcard**.

1 SHAHI Red Brown 147 x 107 mm. POSTCARD

Patterson records that earliest date seen is 9 Zou'l-hajjah 1326 (3 Jan., 1909) 'Peshawar'.

Paper: Typographed on soft thin light cream card.

Card Design: a double-lined frame on three sides, plus a decorative border across the top only, with stamp imprint in upper right corner. Immediately under this border is a block inscription in Farsi reading:

وَرَقْدَاکِ دَوْلَتِ اَلِیَّاهِ خُدَادَادِ افغانِستَا
 "Waraq dak doalat aliyah Khudadād Afghanistan"

(postal card of the Supreme Divinely-appointed Government of Afghanistan)

Then two rows of instructions and below these instructions are two interrupted dotted lines:

Upper line - name & address of sender,

Lower line - name & address of recipient.

Stamp Design: Resembles current series but with only one inscription at the base.

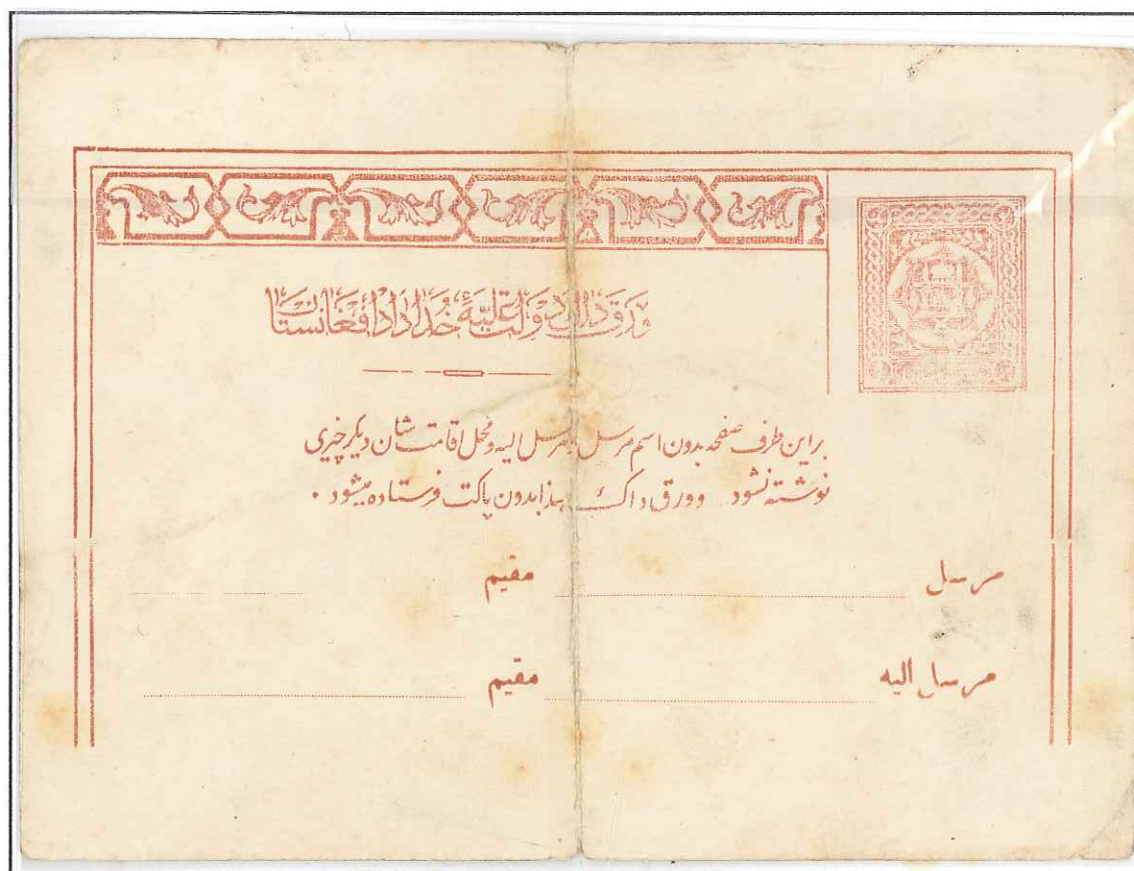
Card reverse: blank except for the embellished line drawn spray of roses.

Value: Patterson & Higgins & Gage disagreed as to the value - SHAHI vs ABASI.

"beh qimat yek shahi"
 Value One Shahi

Patterson reported that in November, 1908, the following appeared in the Lahore (British India) 'Statesman': "Sardar Nasrullali Khan recently submitted a report to the Amir regarding the introduction of postcards into Afghanistan. The Sardar pointed to the small revenue owing to the high rate of postage charged and urged that if a comparatively cheap postcard were issued, the people would use it freely and thus postal receipts would expand. The Amir has accepted the suggestion and ordered that postcards be printed and issued at the price of one anna each."

Kabuli Rupee was broken down into 15 Annas or 3 Abasi (4 Shahi=1 Abasi) i.e. 12 Shahi=1 Kabuli Rupee. This makes 1¼ Shahi = 1 Anna closer than 1 Abasi = 5 Annas. Patterson was correct.



AFGHANISTAN

1909-10 ۱۳۲۷ (1327) AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN

REGULAR ISSUES - 1 Abasi, 2 Abasi, 1 Rupee

Issued around January 1909 (1327) these issues were typographed in Kabul, perforated 11.75 and gummed in sheets 50 (10 x 5) on "Howard & Jones London" watermarked papers. The previous engraved issues remained valid until 1915.

Papers: 1327 standard wove.
1335 thin/medium wove, wove batoné, medium soft pseudo laid.
1336 thin, hard, medium and thickish.

Gum Varies from yellowish to brownish, often crackly, frequently puckering the paper causing fine wrinkles on some stamps.

Perforation: 11.75 - some 1 & 2 Abasi stamps known imperforate in 1910, 1912 & 1915.

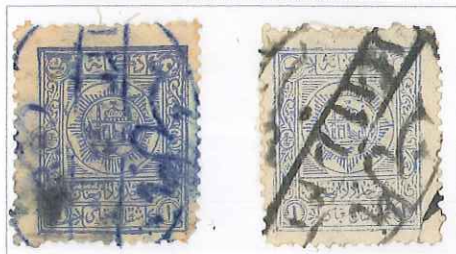
Printing Colours: Stamp printing colours are not uniform resulting in shades which Patterson states is probably due to World War 1 ink shortages.

1 ABASI: Colour - Dull Blue & Ultramarine.

Design Inscriptions: Top frame: داخانه Da Khana (Post Office)

Written Numeral 'One'

Top Left (Dari) يك Numeral 1 (Dari) - bottom right
Top Right (Pushto) يو 1 (Western) - bottom left



Pmks: 'Ghazneen'
(Ghazni)
1328 Shawal 10
18 Oct 1910

'Maimana'
1329 Zou'ihajjeh 4th
26 Nov 1911

Below Star:

دولت خداداد افغانستان
Afghanistan Khodadad Daulat
Afghanistan Divinely Appointed Government of

Bottom Frame:

يك عباسي منقال
Abasi Yek Misqal
ABASI One up to 1 Misqal



Ultramarine
& Dull Blue

Imperf.
1327 (1909)
early issue



Block of 4 from bottom two rows of sheet



Pmks: 'Maimana' 31 May 1909 'Maimana' 16 Apr 1914 'Qandahar' 15 Oct 1912 'Jalalabad' (Purple) oval cancel 'Kabul' Rec'd circular cancel 'Tashkurghan' (Green) 18 Mar 1909

AFGHANISTAN

1909-10 ۱۳۲۷ (1327) AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN
REGULAR ISSUES - 1 Abasi - Ultramarine, Dull Blue



Cover:
 KABUL to PESHAWAR

Postmarks:
 'KABUL' (oval)
 1329 Shawal 4th
 1911 Sept 28th
 'PESHAWAR' (circular)
 Afghan P.O.
 1329 Shawal 8th
 1911 Oct 2nd.

Cover Address " In the City of Peshawar the Shop of Mian Haji Baksh and Mian Haji Abdul Rashid, Koja Road." This letter took 4 days through the Khyber Pass carried by horse and foot runners (Dak Wallahs).

Cover:
 KABUL-PESHAWAR

Postmarks:
 KABUL
 1332 Jamadi I 15th
 1914 April 11th

PESHAWAR
 1332 Jamadi I 19th
 1914 April 15th



This cover sent by the same route taking four days again, nearly three years later.



Piece:
 This is piece of comercial mail & has 7 Abasi postage paid. This would attract 10 Anna Postage Due in India. This was now the period of the Great War of 1914-18 during which Afghanistan remained neutral.

Dated:
 KABUL
 1333 Safar 22nd
 1915 January 9th

(Ex Hopkins)