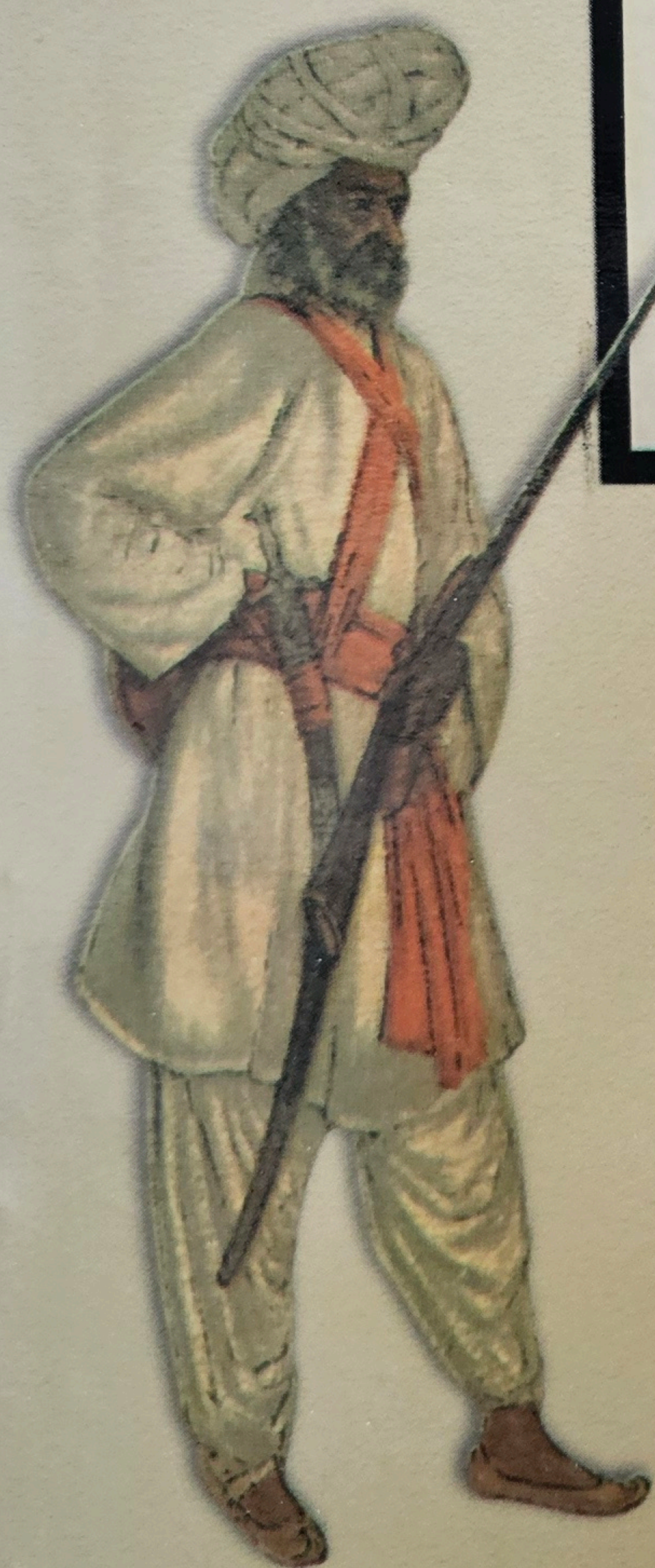
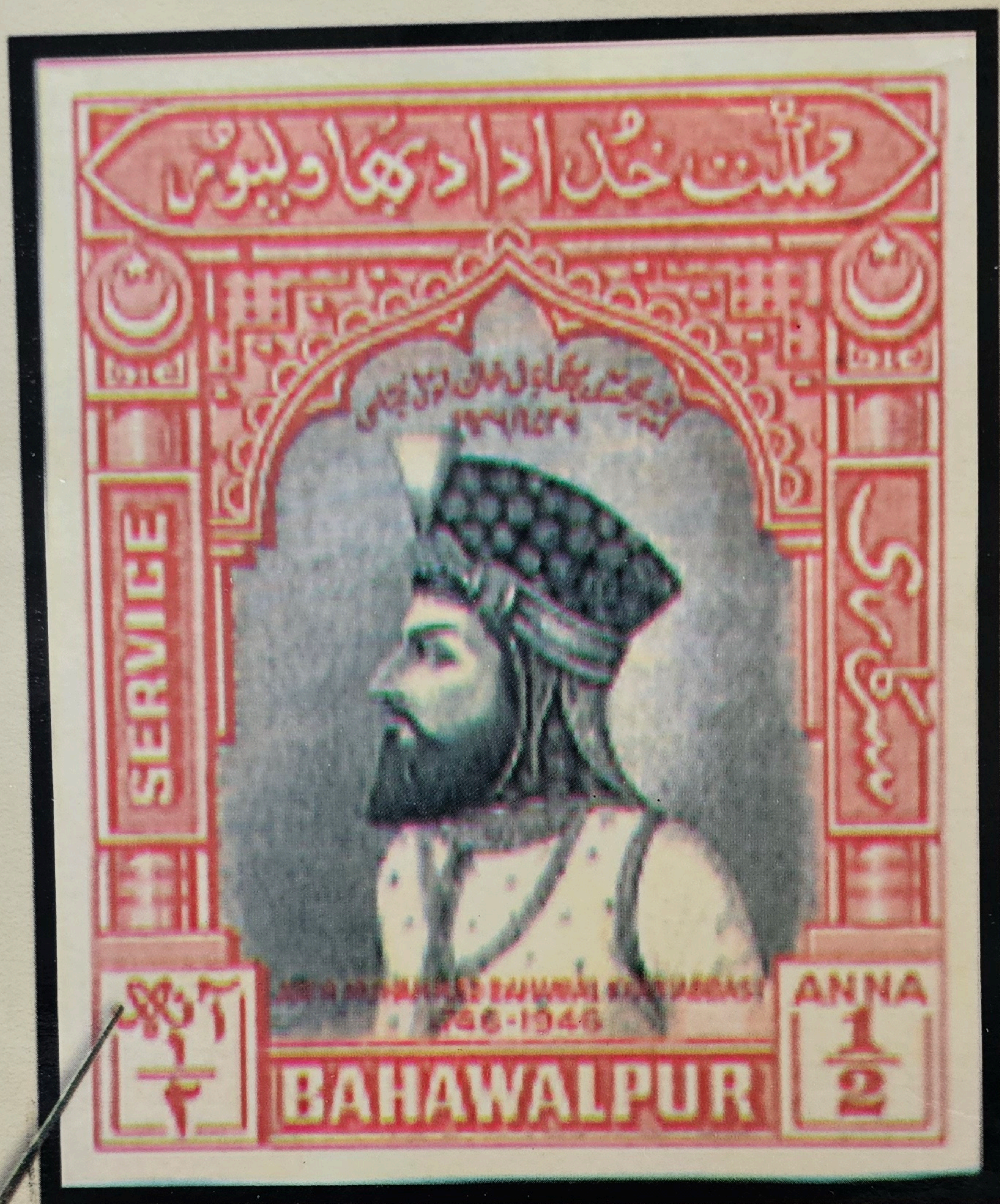
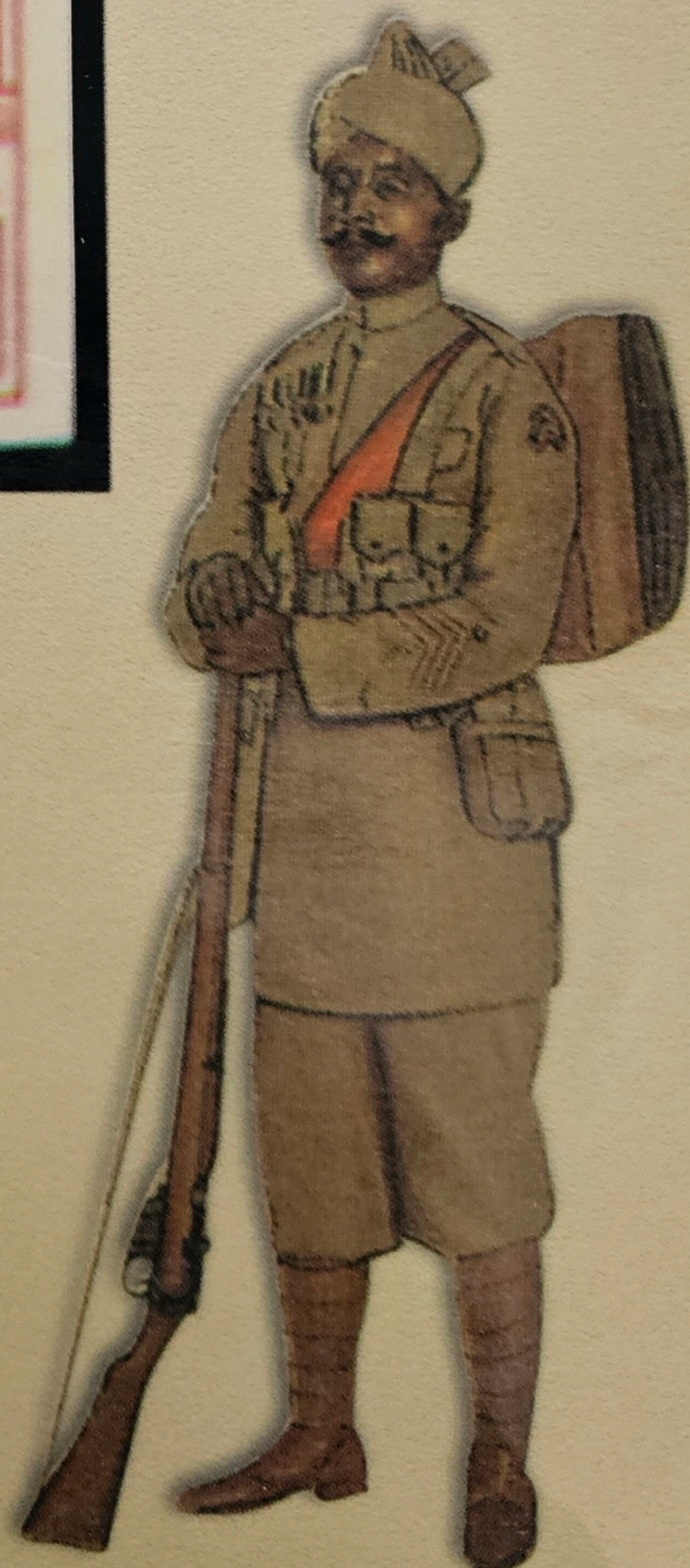


THE AMIRATE OF BAHAWALPUR

Postal History & Stamps
(1932 - 1949)



Dr. Captain U.A.G. Isani
Syed Abid Hussain



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Dr. Captain U.A.G. Isani
Syed Abid Hussain

Pakistan Postal Services Management Board



Chairman Director General

MESSAGE

MAJOR GENERAL (R) AGHA MASOOD HASAN
CHAIRMAN DIRECTOR GENERAL, PAKISTAN POST

The postal system in any country plays a vital role in connecting people. The postal services provide an invisible link that unifies a country. This has been the endeavor of the Pakistan Post Office ever since its inception. Pakistan Post is the inheritor of the proud traditions of the postal system of British India. Pakistan Post did not sit upon its laurels but has gone from strength to strength and today it is one of the few enterprises in the public sector which has a handsome operating surplus. Pakistan Post has also introduced a variety of services ranging from the Post Bank, Pension payments, Postal Life Insurance to a diversified system of expeditious and trustworthy handling of mail. We can be justifiably proud of our achievements and in any international forum, Pakistan Post stands very high.

While looking to the future, Pakistan Post is not unmindful of its heritage. It is with the object of knowing our heritage better and bringing our history before our people that Pakistan Post has encouraged Philately on sound lines. As a part of this, we are encouraging researchers to go deep into different aspects of our postal history and to bring record the facts which have been ignored so far.

Pakistan Post greatly appreciates the efforts by Dr. Capt. U.A.G. Isani, Vice Chancellor Iqra University who has produced a scholarly work on the postal history of the State of Bahawalpur pertaining to the period when it was authorized to print and use its own stamps. It is indeed fascinating how the British Indian System and the State postal system worked, hand-in-glove for the efficient handling of mail. Pakistan Post would like to encourage all researchers in the field of postal history and philately of Pakistan.

February 22, 2006

(Agha Masood Hasan)

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Pakistan Postal Services Management Board



Zia-ur-Rahman Zabeeh
Member Board
Addl. Director General(O)

MESSAGE

ZIA-UR-RAHMAN ZABEEH

MEMBER BOARD / ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL,

PAKISTAN POST

It is my privilege to have been a member of the Pakistan Postal Services for more than 35 years. In this period, I have had the privilege to see the Pakistan Post grow into a great instrument of national integration and also to become a financially viable government organization, able to complete in the open market. This transformation has been possible only through the dedication and hard work of countless employees of the Pakistan Post. I am proud to be one of those.

The Pakistan Post is not an ordinary government organization. It is required to function within the control and the policy parameters set by the Government. It is also perceived by the policy makers to be an organization for rendering social service. At the same time, the Department is expected to be efficient so that it can compete with the courier services and other competitors. In other words, it must have the ability to deliver like an efficient business organization.

Pakistan Post is consequently under two extreme opposite requirements. Apart from the above requirements, it has to work as an instrument of national integration and also repository of the history and culture of this country.

One of the instruments through which Pakistan Post can preserve and propagate awareness about the culture and heritage of our country is through philately. Pakistan Post throughout its existence has excelled in producing stamps which have shown the richness and diversity of our culture and the natural beauty of the land. Pakistan Post is also one of the few organization around the world that has not financially exploited philately.

The former State of Bahawalpur was permitted by the British Indian Government to print and to issue stamps of its own for use on mail within the State. The persistent efforts of the Nawab of Bahawalpur with the British Government to obtain this permission has been clearly brought out in this Book by Capt. Isani. The use of the stamps in various places has again been shown in detail for the first time as so far there was no record to show their usage.

For the first time, the Book brings out the facts that there was a network of Post Office run by the Bahawalpur Government, which served Military Cantonments, educational institutions, the Government Departments and the Palaces. It has shown that there was a harmonious linkage between the State Post office and British Indian Post Office.

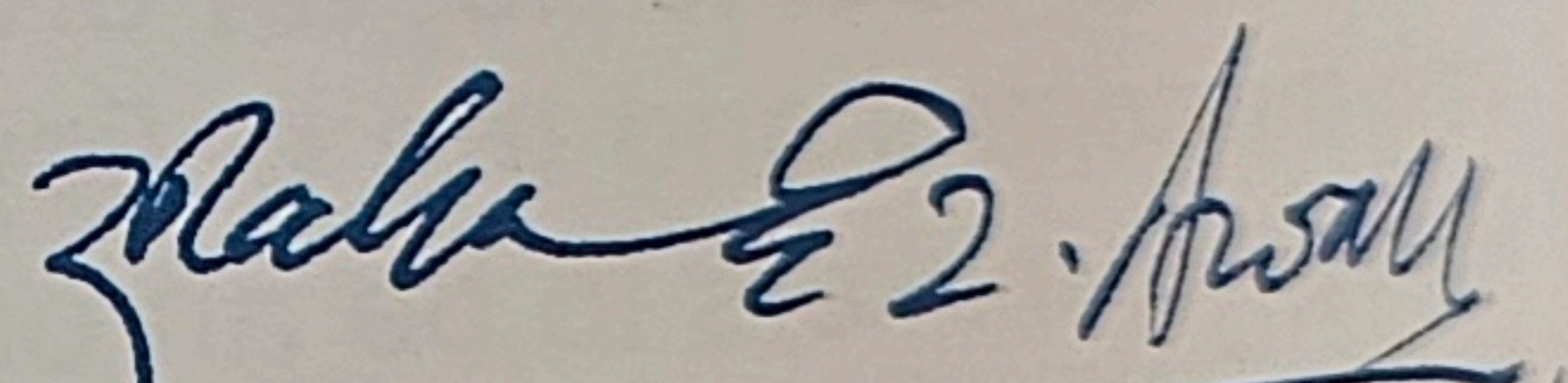
The Book also brings out along with evidence the strict control that the Government of British India kept on the State Administration, with particular reference to the printing, distribution and the use of the State's stamps. The Government of the State of Bahawalpur had to get permission from New Delhi for the printing of the stamps and the total annual face value of the stamps that the State could issue. After printing, the stamps were required to be sent to the Security Printing Press at Nasik and it was the Master of this Press who would then issue stamps to the State on demand.

The condition obtaining in the country due to the upheaval caused by the partition was monumental and its impact on the postal service has also been brought out.

The Government of Bahawalpur had the good sense of getting their stamps printed from M/s De La Rue in London. Their workmanship was excellent and the stamps that they have produced can easily stand as some of the most beautiful stamps in the world.

Pakistan Post appreciates the hard work and education with which Capt. Isani has worked to produce this Book. It will throw new light on the postal history and the stamps issued by the State of Bahawalpur. Pakistan Post has sponsored the printing of this Book through the Pakistan Post Foundation Press as another step towards the preservation of the history and culture of Pakistan.

February 22, 2006



Zia-ur-Rahman Zabeeh

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PREFACE

Undoubtedly, the most colourful part of the Postal History of Bahawalpur pertains to the period when H.H. Sir Sadiq Mohammad Khan Abbasi (1907 – 1966) was the Amir of Bahawalpur. Distinct postage stamps of Bahawalpur were all issued between 1933 and 1949. It is this period that has made Bahawalpur a popular collecting area with excellent response in various auctions.

Writing in his memorandum to his solicitors dated 2 Feb 1949 (annexure II), the Amir has remarked:

“I much regret that no one has been able to compile a record or write up the various details of the numerous issues of the State stamps, as apart from myself there is no one interested in Philately or matters relating to the question of postage stamps etc. and I personally have not time to attend to such matters.”

Though, so far the wishes of the Amir have been unknown to others these wishes have been honoured by most catalogues with simple listings of the stamps of Bahawalpur. These have been capped by excellent works by Messrs Ron Wood, Haverback, Pollard and M.I. Chaudhary. Their writings raise many issues. To lend strength and credence to their works has been the formidable collection of Bahawalpur built up by Mr. Wilson Wong. Whoever is the new owner of that collection can be justifiably proud of it. I hope it will be displayed somewhere.

The inheritance question of the estate of H.H. the late Sir Sadiq Mohammad Abbasi has been disputed since 1966 and the properties sealed. It is only recently that a settlement has taken place. Unfortunately, time, lack of care and the vagaries of weather have taken their toll. Mr. Salman Qureshi writing in the Pak Post has the following remarks:

“The death of Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad was followed by family disputes and litigation resulting in the palaces with their official records etc. being sealed. Prince Salahuddin had told me that records contained details about the printing of this issue (this referred to the Mumlekat-e-Khudadad and Star/Crescent overprints on the stamps of India) and he thought that printing had been done in Nasik. When the palaces were unsealed, much of the record had been destroyed by damp and rot (apparently this was due to rain-water getting inside due to leaking roofs and broken window panes).”