

14/1984

PERSIAN STAMPS

The first attempt to issue stamps in Persia was started in 1865 when Nasser-Ed-Din Shah Qajar returned from his visit to Europe.

An Iranian delegation was sent to Paris to contact postal authorities in order to make the necessary preparations.

Mr. Albert Barr, a French coin designer who had designed the first stamps of France, was introduced to the Iranian delegation.

Barr prepared five clichés for each of the four following values: 1 Shahi, 2 Shahi, 4 Shahi and 8 Shahi.

Barr printed sheets of proofs in 40 stamps, the upper twenty of which was in Tête-Bêche.

In fact for each value he had printed five stamps in one row.

He had made these proofs in four colours, violet, green, blue and red.

Therefore all values in four different colours are seen.

The proof sheets are perforated as follows: in violet the two Tête-Bêche rows, in green the second row, in red third row and in blue the fourth row stamps are perforated all round.

This way of perforation presumably indicates that the designer had thus suggested the above mentioned colours for each of the values.

These proofs had been accepted and he had submitted to the Iranian Postal Officials only four clichés for each value which served for printing the Lion stamps of Persia.

In the meantime another designer called Martin Riester who had been informed of the Persian government's intention had prepared and submitted some proofs showing a seated lion with a sun above it; putting his inverted monogrammes (M.R.) at the right hand bottom side of the stamps, to Persian authorities.

Postal officials rejected his proposal, returning back the proofs together with a strong rude letter.

The first official Persian stamps were issued in 1868 printed by an Englishman named MacLaclan in Tehran.

The first issue is called "Bagheri"; and the origin of this wording remains unknown.

This issue comprises four values: 1 Shahi printed in violet, 2 Shahi in green, 4 Shahi in blue and 8 Shahi in red colour.

During the period of its use 1868 - 1875 no cancellation hand stamp (postmark) was used so that those Bagheri stamps which are cancelled have been to favour the collectors.

During the second visit of the Shah to Austria, he showed interest to receive an expert in postal administration. Francois Josephe welcomed his wish and he sent Mr. Riedler to Iran.

Riedler re-organized the Persian postal administration and in order to make Iranian stamps understandable to Europe and Europeans he ordered the clichés to be engraved in Latin numerals, by means of engraving European numerals below the lion's abdomen, so that there appeared four different types of number in each value (types A, B, C and D).

The first stamps were printed in blocks of four, the second issue in horizontal strips of four and later on still in blocks of four.

In one case 2 values, one Shahi and two Shahi black, were printed in vertical strips of four.

Since one of the four clichés pertaining to the value "4" was damaged, the four Kran blue was printed in horizontal sheets of three.

In 1879 since the postal use had developed they needed higher values such as 5 Kran and one Toman (10 Kran). They had printed 5 Kran in violet later on in gold, in red bronze and finally by mixing the remainder of violet and bronze they printed 5 Kran bronze-violet.

The aim of this display is not to show Persian stamps chronologically.

I would like to introduce first few major issues along with some uncommon varieties as well as some peculiar fields such as: Meshed issues, revolutionary stamps, charity, few covers of 1915 issue overprinted 21. February 1921 "Coup d'Etat" of Reza Shah which was a turning point of Persian history and finally Persian Postal Stationeries.

In this connection it seems imperative to emphasize that the second postcard with Nasser-Ed-Din Shah's portrait was printed in 1893 and not in 1894 as described by catalogue publishers.

The album made by John Enschede, submitted to Persian Imperial Government comprising stamps, postal stationery and other labels printed in 1892 to 1904 which is on display is the proof.

There are a selection of few rarities, such as a cover with 1893 issue overprinted and called "Satdjian" addressed to Mr. Satdjian in Paris.

A cover 1881 issue with hand stamp "Telegraph Service" mailed to Calcutta is the only recorded.

Another cover with 1911 issue overprinted "RELAIS" along with blocks of 4 of the same issue, one of the 2 covers recorded.

A pair of 1925 issue with one in "Centre inverted" the only one recorded in a pair.

Finally a selection of Post Office "Sundugh" hand stamp control mark indicating right postage has been paid.

Frame

No.

1-2 Lion stamps
"Bagheri" issue
Postal Forgery

A cover bearing 5 Shahi rate; an entire sheet of one Shahi as well as a copy of 1 Shahi of same issue mailed and cancelled by X hand stroke which has been in practice in some post offices.

It is dated on front and arrival date is written by addressee on its reverse.

Mixed Franking

An unusual cover with 1868 issue 8 Shahi red together with a Barr essay of 2 Shahi green all round perforated, mailed from Tabriz to Austria.

This cover has served as a base up to recent years to all catalogue publishers, assuming 2 Shahi green all round perforated "Printed in Paris" the first Persian official stamp.

Frame

No.

- 3-4 A study in One Shahi black to grey settings is leading to discover a new and unrecorded setting AD BC.
Four Kran blue in strips of 3 and a mint copy of 5 Kran gold 1879 issue with extra large border are noticeable. One Kran red on yellow paper unused is one of the rarest stamps of Iran.
- 5 1876 issue, the first stamps with portrait of the Shah.
- 6 1879-80 issue was printed by 1876 cliches with solid coloured borders. A block of 18 of 10 Shahi imperforate on yellowish paper is the only recorded. A copy of 2 Shahi and a 5 Shahi one side imperforate.
- 7 Lithographed issue, with covers in French currency.
- 8 Engraved issue
The only entire imperforate proof sheet of 50 stamps of 5 Shahi 1882 issue on thick paper shows printing mistake "YOST" instead of POST in plates 6, 16, 26, 36 and 46 and clarified the question of its plating.
Two other imperforate proof sheets of 50 centimes and 10 francs of 1881/82 issue on thick paper are the only sheets recorded.
Giving a balance to this frame some " Official Postal Labels" unused and on covers are shown.
The only recorded cover of 1881 issue overprinted diagonally "Telegraphe Service" is added.
- 9-10 Some values of 1885 "officiel" overprint on 1881 issue in blocks of four, also used on various covers are amongst the rarities.
- 11 High values of 1883 issue, 5 Kran overprinted 1 Kran, 2 Kran, in complete sheets,
11a pairs of 1883 issue imperforate and a cover of the same issue overprinted and called "SATDJIAN" addressed to Mr. Satdjian in Paris are deserving attention.
- 12 Covers with 1902 issue printed at Tehran.
- 13-16 1902 Meshed issues comprising all values used on cover "except 3 Shahi".

Revolutionary stamps:

- 17-21 A - Lar issue of 1908-1909.
Covers displayed are those in existence.
Two forged covers enhance the comparison between genuine and false stamps and its cancellation postmark "Post Office of Lar Nation".
- B - Al-Sultan, Mohamed Ali Shah Qajar
All values 1 Shahi to 26 Shahi used in this issue on covers.
- C - Mellate - Kazeron
Kazeron Nation overprinted on 1911 issue.

Frame
No.

22-23 Charity

Tabriz and Teheran charity stamp on covers.

24 "Coup d'Etat"

1915 Ahmad Shah's coronation issue overprinted 21 February 1921 on occasion of Coup of Reza Shah.

25-30 Persian Air Mail

Shows all air mail stamps in blocks of 4.
Complete set of first Persian Air Mail 1926 issue in blocks of 4 on covers.

31-51 Postal Stationery

A - Russian Form

With Russian Royal Coat of Arms printed in Saint Petersburg was used initially in Persia.

Russian form's front face:

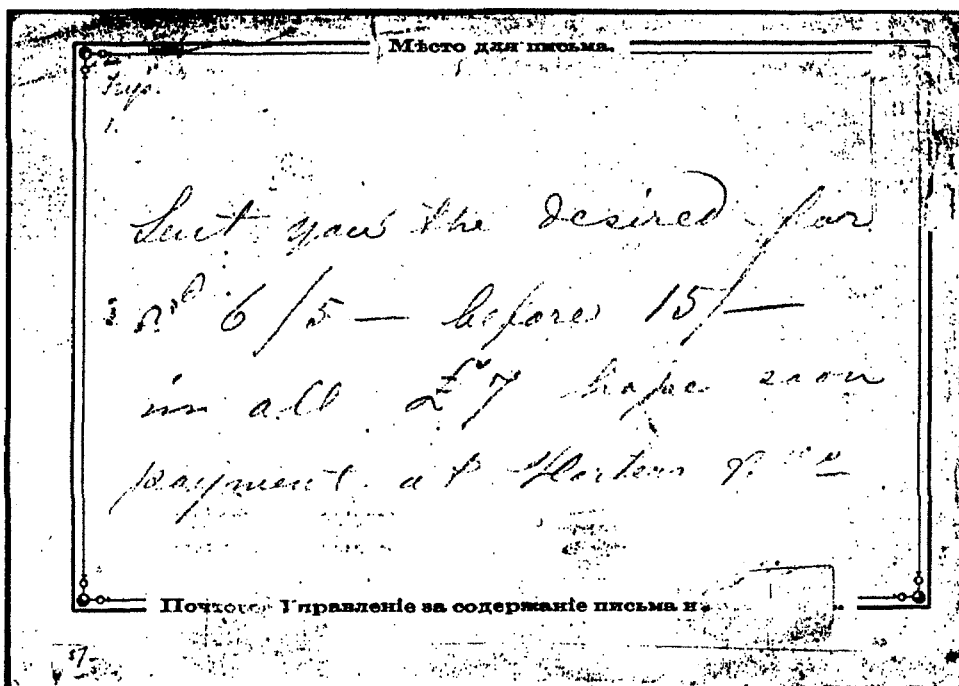


It reads as follows:

OPEN LETTER

1. Open letter that has to be paid fully by a corresponding stamp.
2. On this side apart from the address nothing should be written.

Russian form's reverse side:



It reads as follows:

Post Office Administration is not liable for the contents of the letter.

B - Persian form

with Iran's Coat of Arms and inscription "Carte Correspondance de Persana".

C - First postcard with portrait of Shah in 2½ Shahis printed in Paris. Some cards are used with bisected 1891 issue 2 Shahi.

D - New design with larger portrait of the Shah printed by John Enschede in 1893.

It seems to be noticed that catalogue publishers date this issue as 1894 which obviously is not correct.

The album prepared by J. Enschede comprising stamps, postal stationery and other labels from 1892 - 1904 comprising stamps, postal stationery and other labels submitted to the Persian Imperial Government proves this claim.

E - Each postcard is displayed in one section showing its various overprints and sometimes re-overprints.

F - 1915 Postcards overprinted "Bushire Under British Occupation", and specially the postcard mailed to Bombay on "The last day of Occupation" is the only one recorded.

52

A selection of "Sundugh" Post Office handstamp control marks indicating that the right postage being paid, on covers in different cities shows the attention of Post Offices to the matter.

Frame
No.

52 A - Three values of 1910 as well as 4 values of 1911 issues overprinted "Relais" in blocks of 4 are of interest.

Same issues used on cover indicate the usage of these issues.

Another cover overprinted "Relais" is known and recorded.

B - Two Kran 1925 issues, both in centre inverted, is the only one recorded in pair.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London
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