

The Classic Stamp Issues of Nepal

The first postage stamps of Nepal were issued in April 1881. The central design feature of the stamps was the Nepalese crossed kukris (a curved knife) with the royal feathered crown above. The stamps, in three denominations, went through several printings using the same cliches until 1907. A one-half anna denomination, of a slightly different design, was added in 1899 for official mail from the royal camp but saw very limited use. These classic design stamps were replaced for postal purposes in 1907 by a pictorial issue.

1881 crossed kukris designs



one anna



two annas



four annas

1899 new denomination



one-half anna

When the new 1907 issue arrived from England, remaining sheets of the previous classic issue stamps were placed into storage. In 1917 when a telephone / telegraph line was established, those stamps were pressed into service to pay the fees. When the sheets that had been stored ran out, new printings were commenced using new settings. All printings after 1917 were valid for postage but were intended for telegraphic use. These stamps can be easily distinguished based on colors, papers, and the distinct telegraphic cancels used. In 1930 the printing of the classic design stamps ceased.

All of the classic issue stamps were printed at the Chapakhana Press in the capital city of Kathmandu. No genuine essay or proof material exists. The stamps were issued imperforate and without gum, unless otherwise noted. The pin-perforated stamps, after the initial sheets issued in 1881, saw limited use and were available upon request in the 1898 to 1901 era. None of this material is common by normal philatelic standards and postal uses of the two and four annas stamps are exceptional. None of these stamps were valid for postage outside the country.

The exhibit is organized as follows:

1. First Period (1881 to 1885), frame 1
2. Second Period (1886 to 1898), frames 2-3
3. Third Period (1898 to 1907), frames 3-6
4. Telegraphic Period (1917 to 1930), frames 7-8

First Period Printings, 1881 to 1885

The first period printings, issued between April 1881 and 1885, were on European white wove paper. Before June 1881 sheets were gummed and pin-perforated. Further prints were issued without gum and imperforate. Sheet size was 64 subjects arranged in eight rows of eight stamps. Multiple settings, with slight variations, were used for each denomination.



1 anna



2 annas



4 annas

Complete Set on Cover



October 1881 Jaleswar registered cover to Kathmandu, prepaid 7 annas
earliest of three known uses with complete set of the first period

Pin-Perforated

Only the initial sheets printed between April and June 1881 were pin-perforated and gummed. Very few of the pin-perforated stamps were actually used. Only one example of the four annas is known used.



1 anna



2 annas



4 annas

Kathmandu cancels



1 anna



2 and 4 annas

the 4 annas is the only used example reported

Pin-Perforated

The pin-perforated stamps were issued with white or brown gum.

One Anna



white gum



white gum



constant flow, split cliché
position 48, white gum



brown gum



brown gum

Two Annas

frameline at left
(setting 3)



white gum



white gum



brown gum



brown gum

Four Annas



white gum



brown gum



brown gum

Pin-Perforated



The first setting was the only one that included side inscriptions and ornamental borders.



1 anna, setting 1
positions 57-60, 63-64

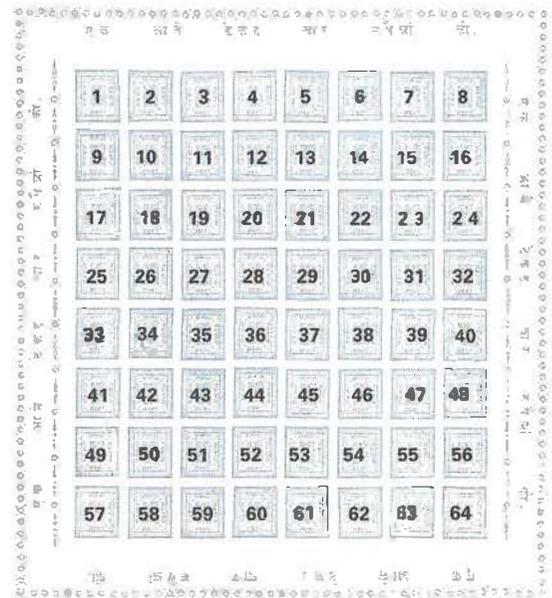


Diagram of sheet layout (64 stamps) annotated with position numbers.

Imperforate

After June 1881 stamps were issued only imperforate and without gum.

One Anna



positions 20-22
position 20 flattened corner



position 39
corner dent

Two Annas



Four Annas



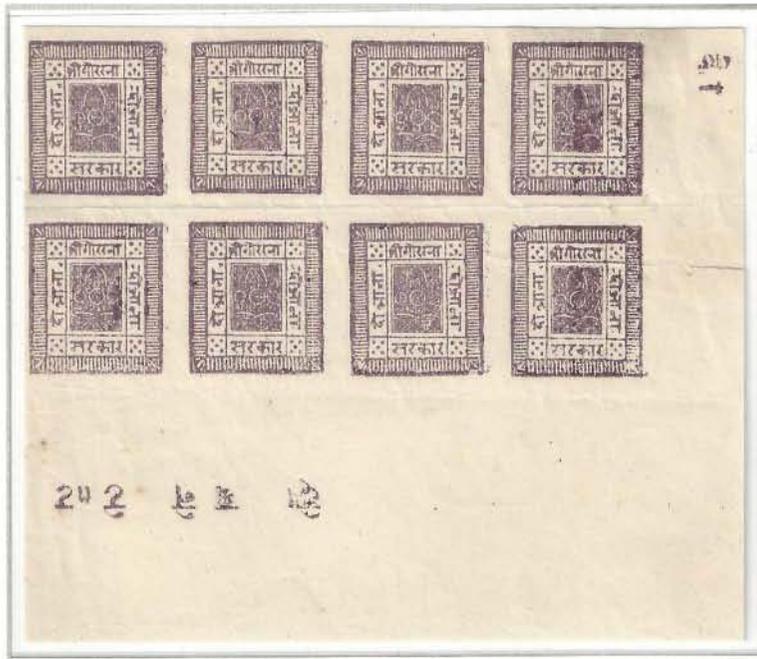
Unused Multiples



1 anna, positions 2-3/10-11
constant flaw: position 3 corner dent



2 annas, setting 3 shade
positions 38-40/46-48



2 annas, setting 2, positions 53-56/61-64

The two annas second setting is identified by inward-reading marginal inscriptions.



4 annas, setting 1 shade
positions 17-19/49-51

The First Tête-Bêche

The first inverted cliche in Nepal philately occurred in the third setting of the two annas denomination. Two unused pairs and the used strip below are known. Surprisingly, a strip of three is the largest used multiple of any of 1881 to 1885 printings and no four annas used strips are known.

Inverted Cliche



<< inverted cliche >>



ex Singer

center stamp, position 22, the inverted cliche
**only known used example and
 largest two annas used multiple**

Earliest Use of One Anna Imperforate on Cover

Mail was required to be prepaid with stamps. The rate for a single weight letter, under one tola (equal to weight of one rupee coin), was one anna. Single rate uses of the one anna stamp account for about 50 of the 60 reported first period stamp uses on cover.



Kalaiya datestamp on reverse and "Ka" in bars cancel



16 June 1881 Kalaiya to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna
earliest reported use of the one anna imperforate

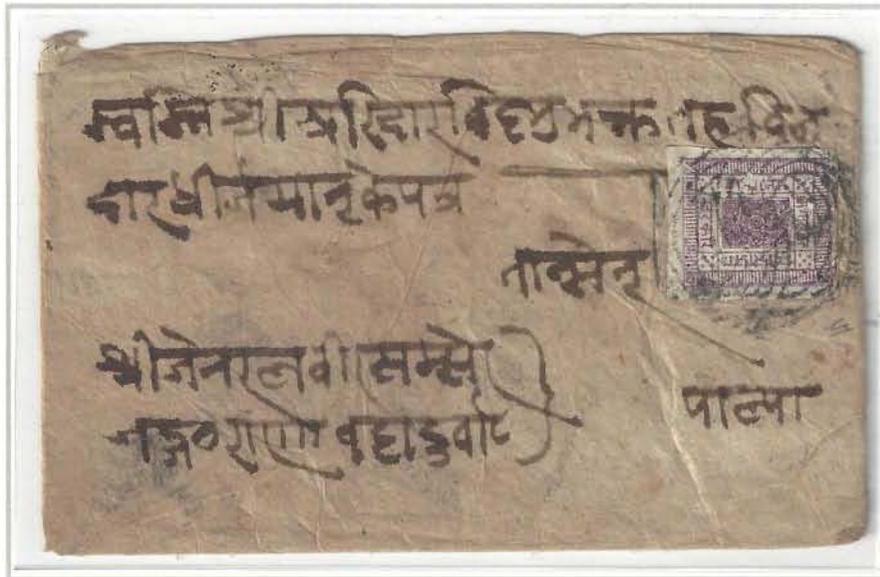
Nepal postmark dates were rendered according to Bikram Sambat (B.S.) calendar. Thoroughly equivalent A.D. date may be calculated by deducting 56 years, 8 months and 17 days. This cover is dated (19)38/3/3 B.S. = 1881/June/16 A.D.

Earliest Use of an Imperforate on Cover

The rate for a double weight letter, weighing between one and two tolas, was two annas. There are six reported uses of the first period two annas on cover; three are included in this exhibit.



swirl cancel with initial "Ne" (Nepal) used
at the capitol city of Kathmandu

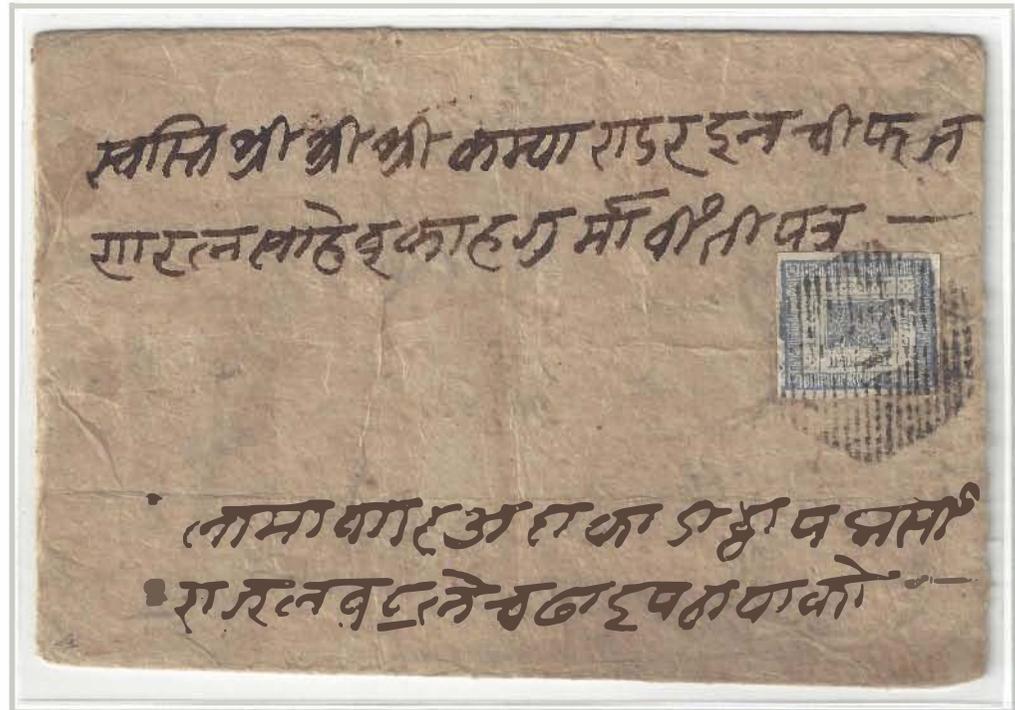


13 June 1881 Kathmandu double weight cover to Palpa, prepaid 2 annas
earliest reported use two annas
earliest reported use of any imperforate issue on cover

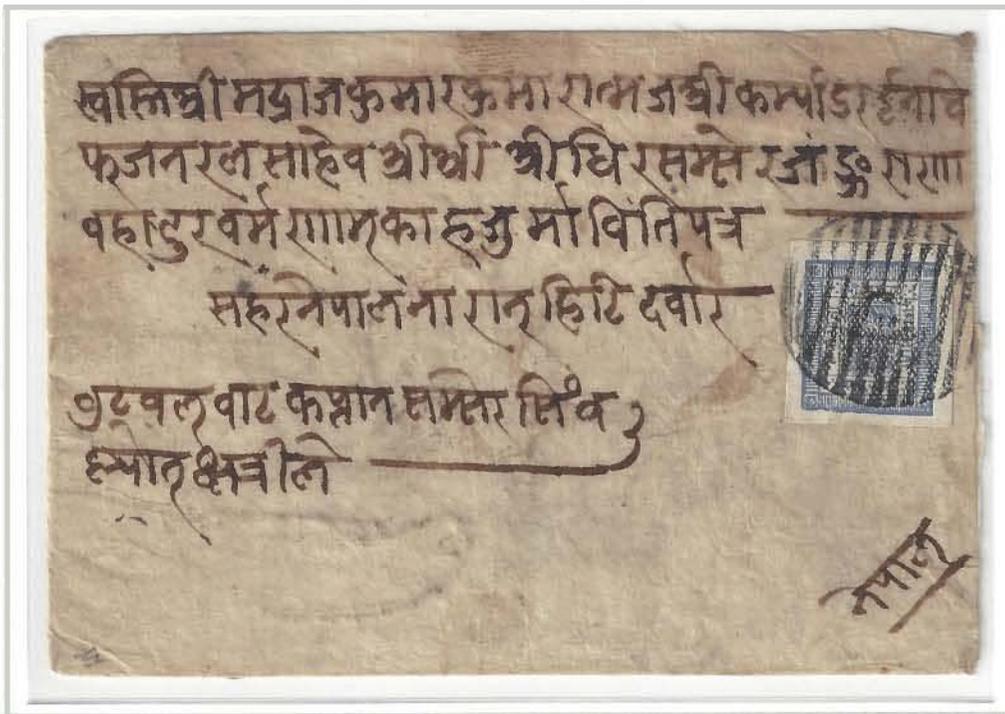
Uses on Cover



Dolakha



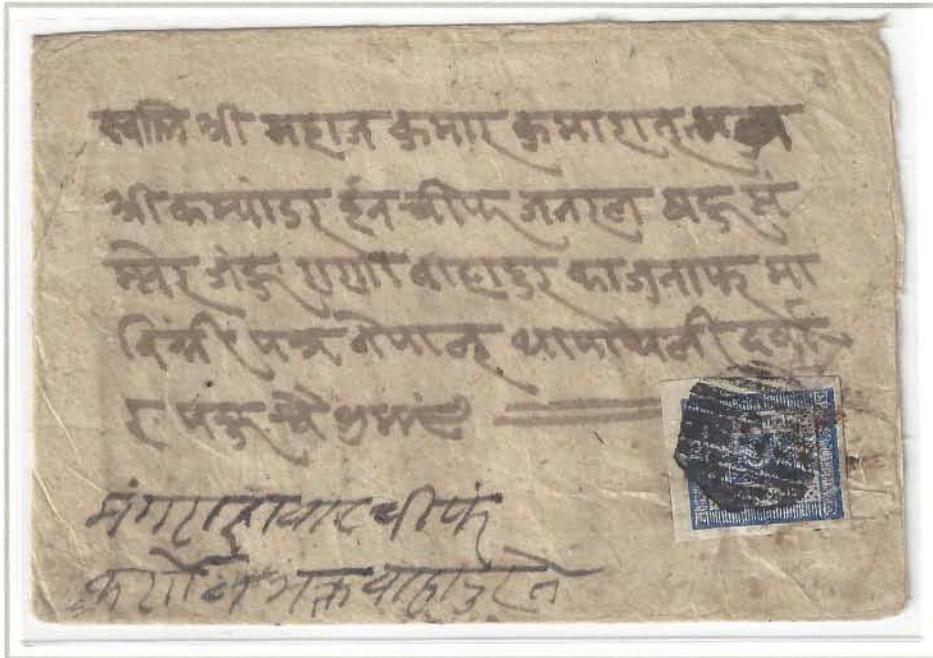
November 1883 Dolakha to Kathmandu, prepaid one anna single weight



Butwal

January 1884 Butwal to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna single weight

Uses on Cover

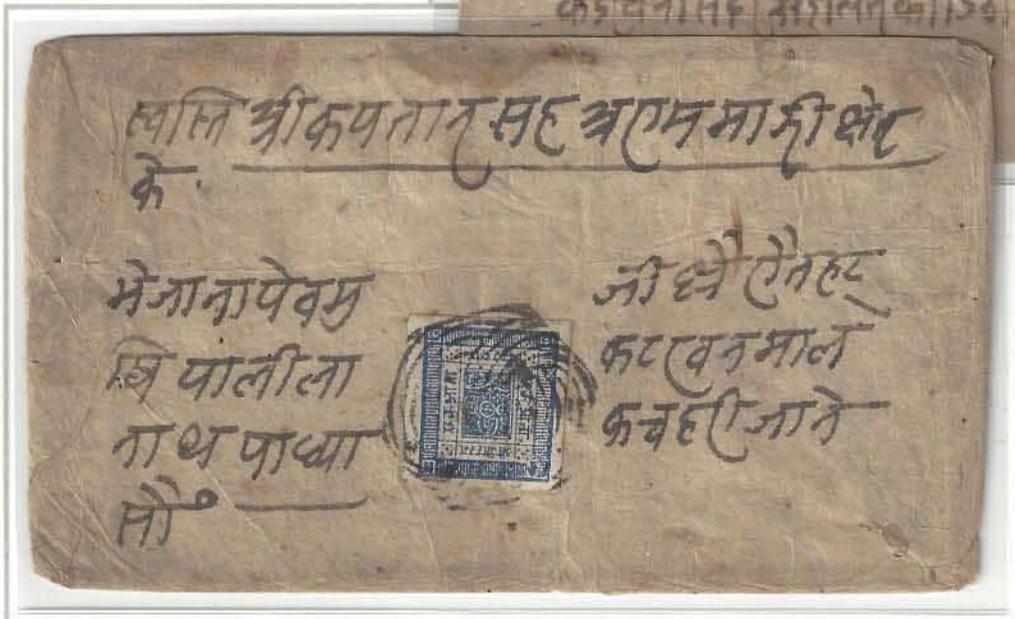


Siraha

March 1886 Siraha to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna



25 June 1881 Kadarban to Kathmandu, an early use



August 1883 Kathmandu to Kadarbin

Kalaiya Cancels



inked "tree" in stamped rim, 1 and 4 annas



inked "Ka" on 1 anna



blue postmark used as cancel
also Kathmandu swirl cancel
1 anna pin-perforated



"Ka" in bars struck in blue-green
1 anna pin-perforated and 2 annas imperf



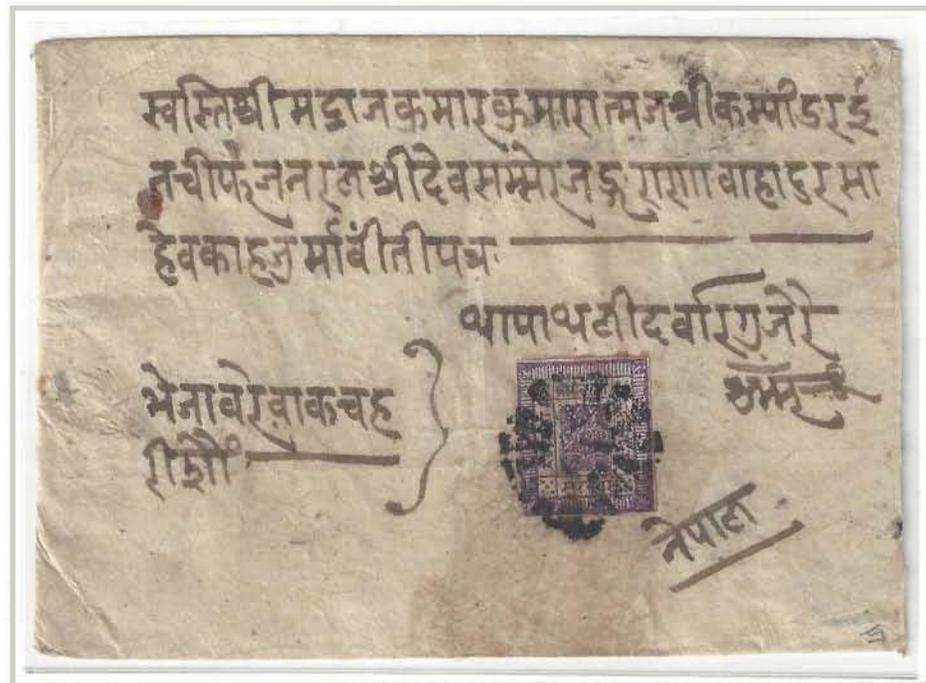
"Ka" in bars
in black

December 1884 Kalaiya to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Double Rate Cover



Kalaiya



October 1889 Kalaiya double weight cover to Kathmandu, prepaid 2 annas
latest of six reported uses of the two annas on cover

Kathmandu Cancels



1 anna
the largest reported used multiple

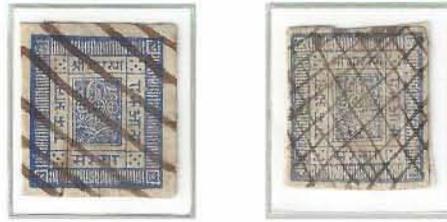


July 1883 Kathmandu to Trisuli, prepaid 1 anna



2 annas

Unusual Cancels



manuscript cancels, 1 anna
fewer the six known



Bhagwanpur, 1 anna

Taulihawa, 1 anna

Dhankuta, 1 anna

The use of blue ink for cancels was generally abandoned by 1883.



Taulihawa past office seal cancels, 1 and 2 annas
fewer than 5 known on first period stamps



Lyangyang, 2 annas

Jaleswar, 2 annas



Sarlahi, 4 annas

Second Period Printings (1886-1898)

Printings on native paper began in 1886. The paper was manufactured from the bark of a native evergreen. Early prints were mostly very clearly printed on thin to medium paper. Later prints were slightly blurred on medium to thick paper.

early (1886 to 1889) clear prints on thin to medium paper



one anna
settings 4/8



two annas
settings 4/6



four annas
settings 3/4

later (1889 to 1898) blurred prints on thicker paper



one anna
settings 9/17



two annas
settings 7/9



four annas
settings 4/8

Complete Set on Cover



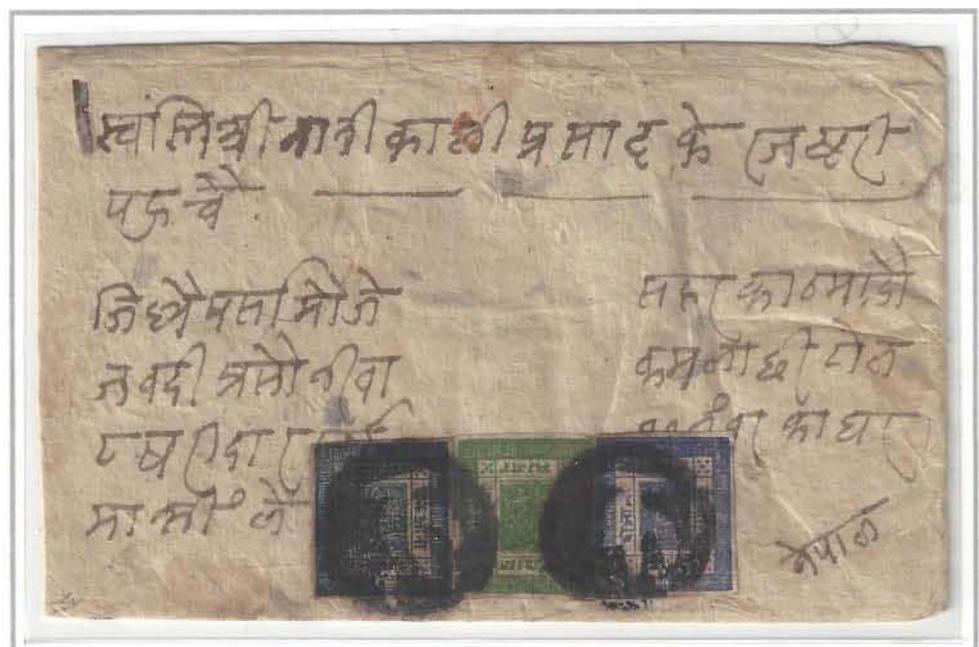
Kalaiya

जस्टि पञ्चपाउने

Registry +

"Pahucha Pahune"

endorsement on back



1893 Kalaiya registered cover with acknowledgment of receipt, prepaid with 1, 2 and 4 annas fewer than five known covers with the entire second printing

Early Second Period Cancels



Udaipur pen cancels on 1 and 2 annas stamps
initial between parallel lines mimics the classic handstamped cancels

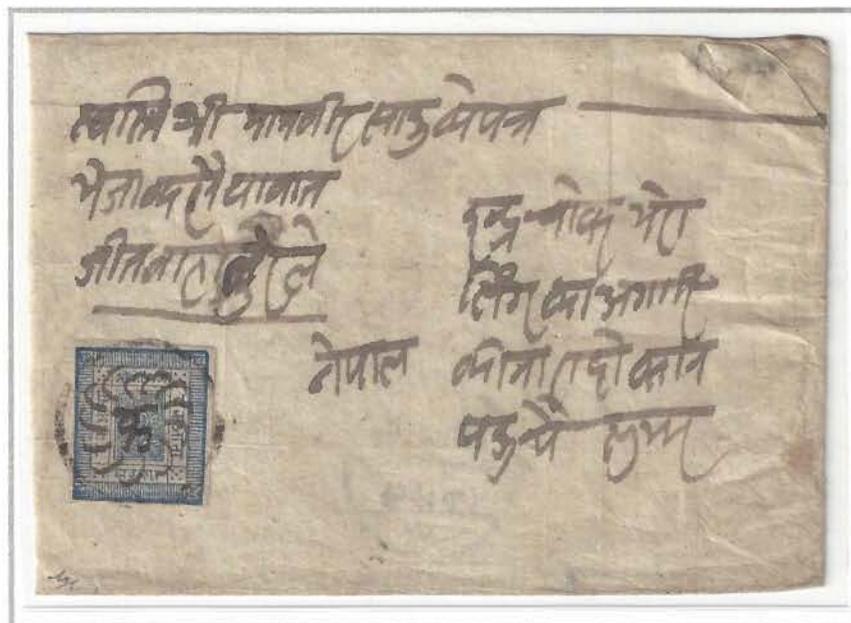


Kathmandu "Ne" (Nepal) in hexagonal swirl cancels on 1 anna, 2 annas, and 4 annas

Earliest Reported Use of a Native Paper Stamp



Kalaiya



November 1886 Kalaiya to Kathmandu, prepaid with 1 anna
Kalaiya manuscript initial ("Ka") and swirl drawn inside handstamped circle cancel
their manuscript dispatch postmark on reverse drawn within handstamped circle
the only reported example of cancel

Inverted Cliches

One Anna

settings 4 to 17 each contained between 1 and 4 inverted cliches



1 anna, positions 57-59, Tauiwaha postal seal cancels
tête-bêche pair at right (cliche 59 inverted)

Two Annas

settings 4 to 7 each contained a single inverted cliche in position 21



tête-bêche pair, positions 20-21



tête-bêche pair, positions 21-22



positions 20-22, center stamp (cliche 21) inverted

Four Annas

settings 4 to 8 each contained a single inverted cliche in position 54



4 annas, positions 54-56, tête-bêche pair at left (cliche 54 inverted)

Seal Cancels

Most seal cancels bear the word 'Hulak' (= Post) in their inscriptions. Others may be personal seals of the postmaster or custom house agent. All are uncommon to rare.



Tatapani customs seal
2 annas



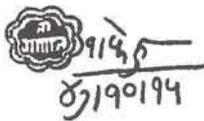
1 anna



2 annas



4 annas



Banke



October 1891 Banke to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna single weight postage
Banke postmaster seal cancel, manuscript dispatch postmark and seal on reverse

Setting 6

Setting 6 was the first setting with inverted cliches in both positions 52 and 62. The cliches were restored to an upright position, or transferred to another position, before setting 11 went to press.



positions 37-38/53-54



positions 3-4



positions 21-24/29-32

Setting 8



positions 52-53, tête-bêche pair
(cliche 52 inverted)



positions 61-62, tête-bêche pair
(cliche 62 inverted)

Shades and Varieties



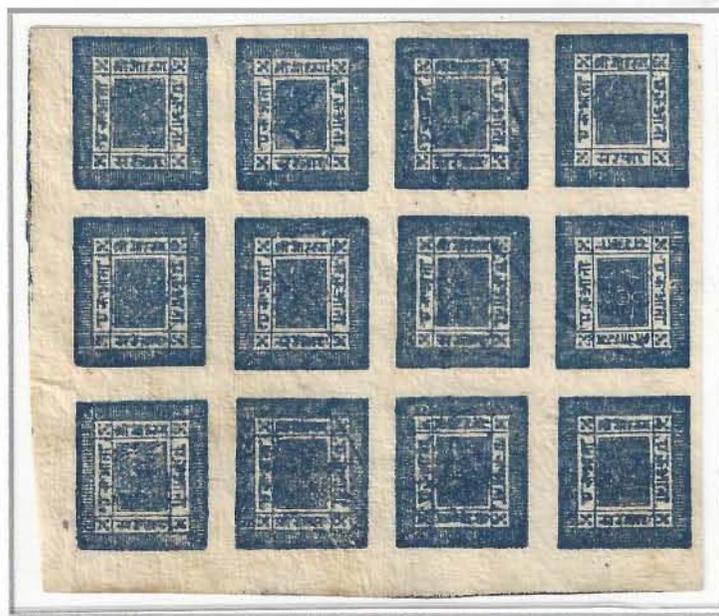
steel blue, positions 1-4/9-12



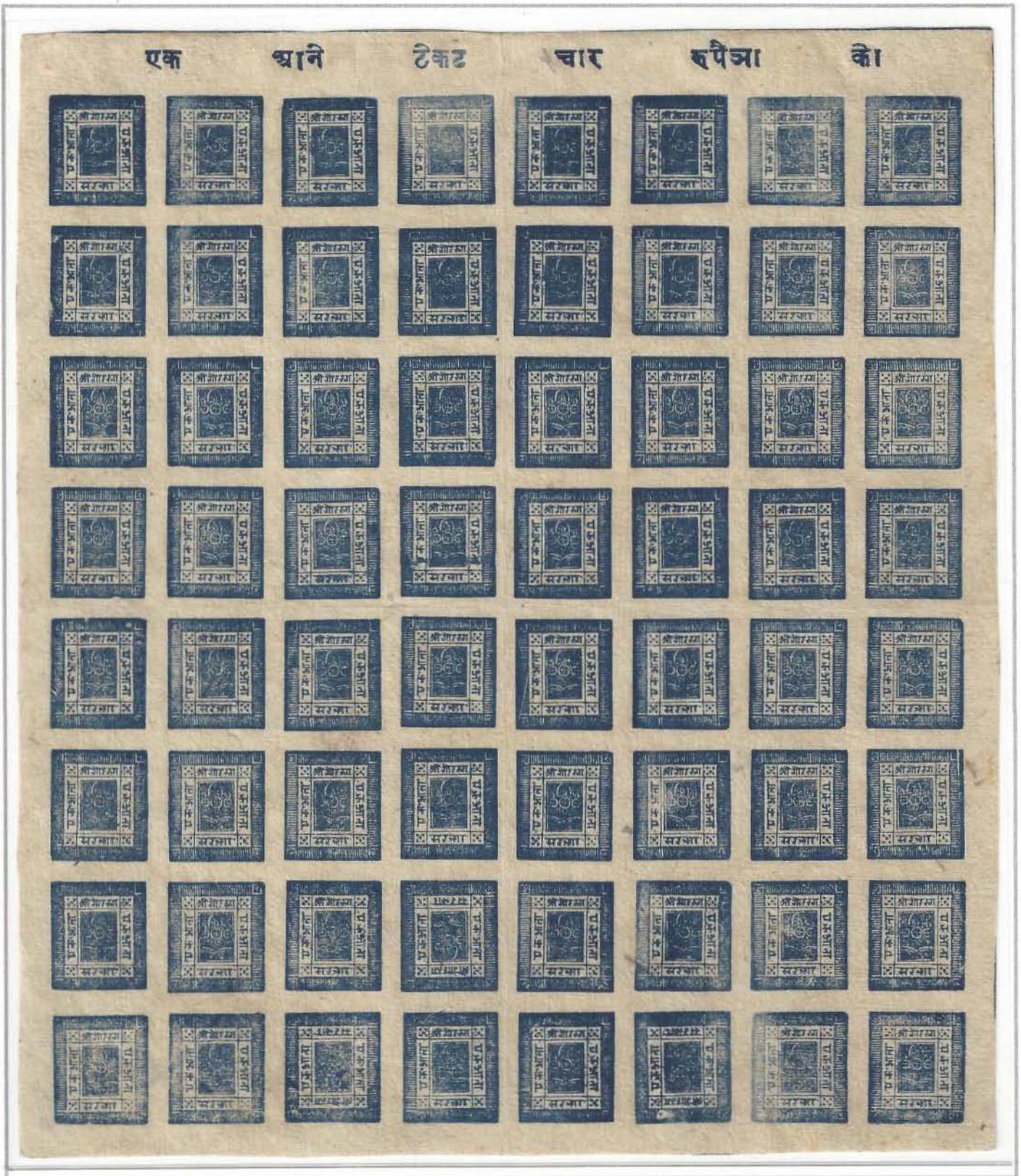
deep steel blue, positions 5-8/ 13-16



bright steel blue, positions 17-20/33-36
dented frame at foot, position 25



dark blue, positions 41-44/57-60
inverted cliche, position 52



inverted cliches positions: 52, 59 and 62 (in bottom two rows of sheet)

52

59

62

Setting 9



positions 5-6/13-14



positions 2-3



positions 43-44/51-52
inverted cliché position 52

Setting 14



positions 49-52/57-60
inverted cliché position 52

Setting 15



positions 63-64, tête-bêche pair
cliché 64 inverted, shows the first stage of recut center and frames done before setting 14

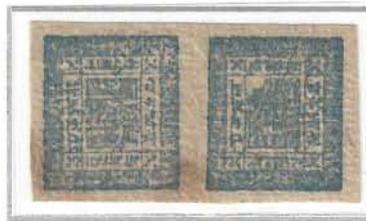
Setting 16



positions 49-50/57-58
bottom frame line



positions 15-16/23-24
inverted cliche position 23



positions 46-47
tête-bêche pair, cliche 46 inverted

Setting 17



positions 1-2/9-10
damaged frame, position 9

Split Cliche Flaw, Position 48

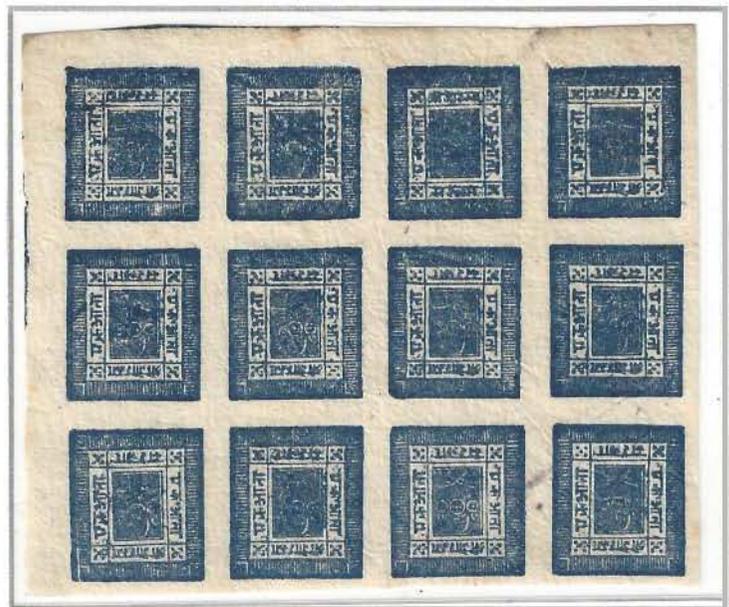


The cliche in position 48 was damaged by a split at top right when it first appeared in setting one. It is a major constant flaw that remained prominent until the frames of all the cliches were recut with setting 26.

The position 48 stamps below are arranged in chronological order.



positions 46-48/62-64
position 62 is inverted cliche



positions 45-48/61-64
position 62 is inverted cliche



positions 47-48

Multiples, Varieties and Uses

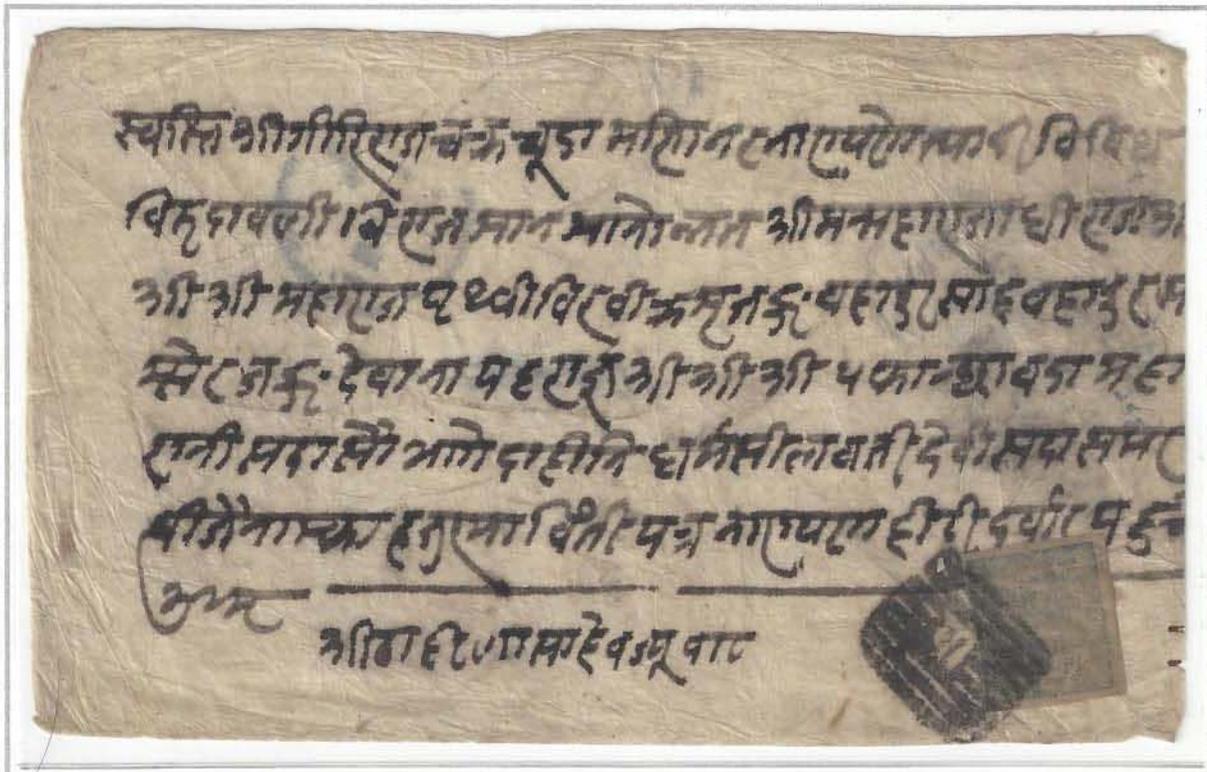


Dandelhdura

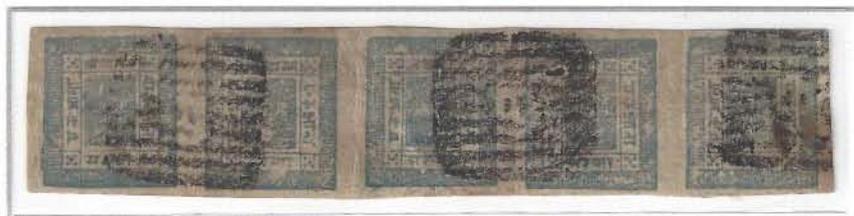


Dandelhdura cancels, positions 33-35/41-43
white disk flaw in top frame, position 33

Dandelhdura cancels, positions 17-19
bottom frame uneven, position 18



June 1898 Palpa to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

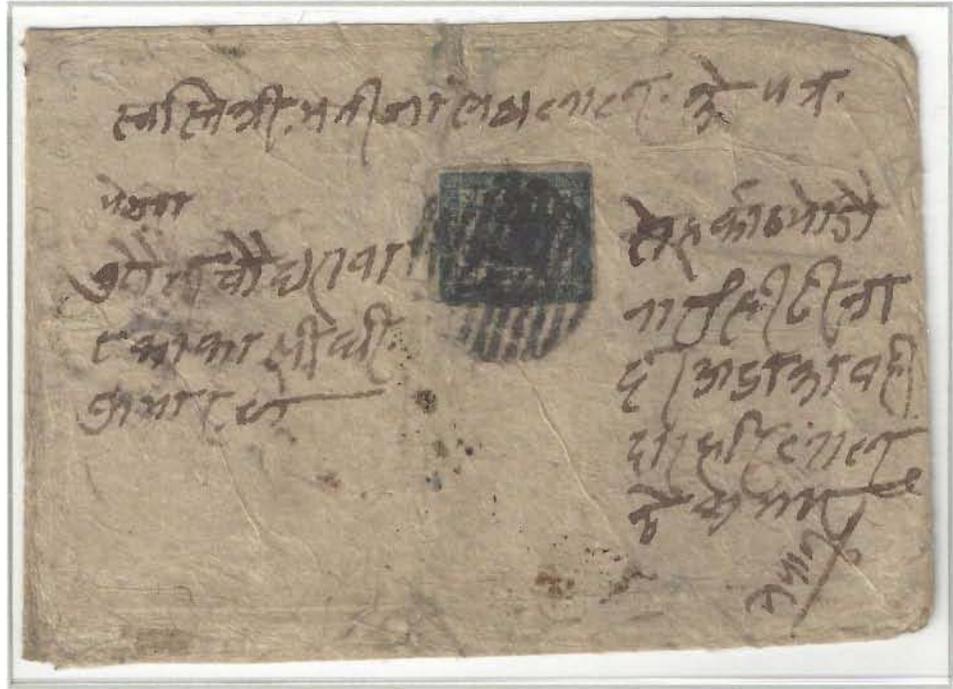


Pyuthan cancels, positions 59-63, irregular horizontal spacing
frame flaw at left, position 59

Uses on Cover



Butwal



October 1896 Butwal to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna
Butwal cancel and dispatch postmark



Chisapani

April 1897 Chisapani to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna
Chisapani cancel, postmark without date, and negative dispatch postmark

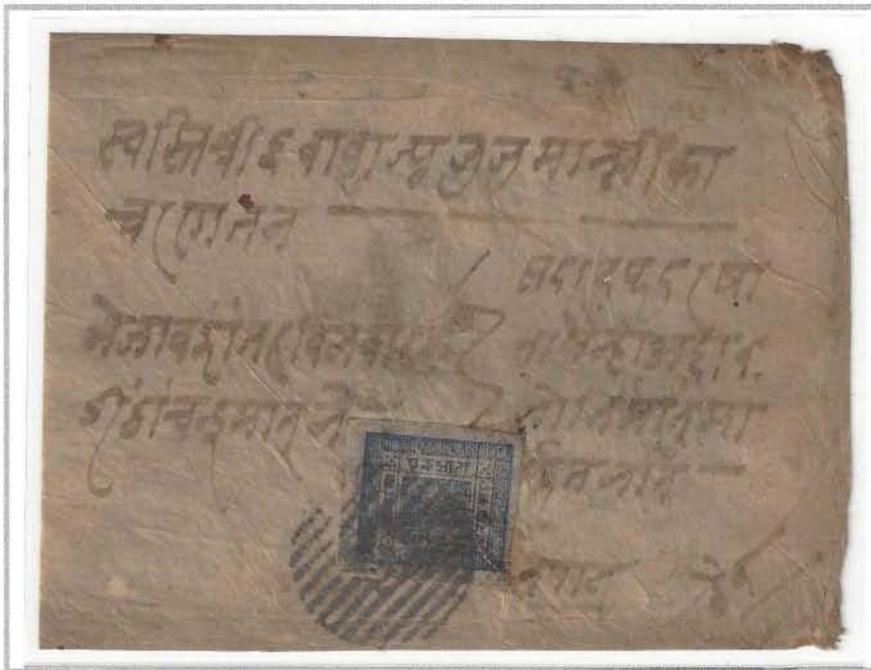
Uses on Cover



Salyan



March 1889 Jarjarkot (first word, first line in manuscript at lower left) to Kathmandu entered mails at Salyan with their circular cancel as Jarjarkot did not have post office
Salyan dispatch postmark and Kathmandu arrival backstamps

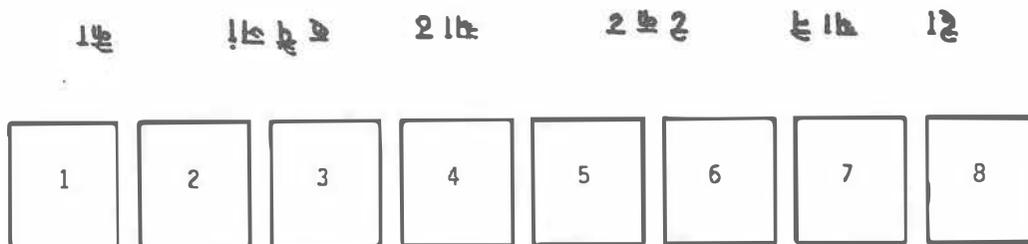


Doti

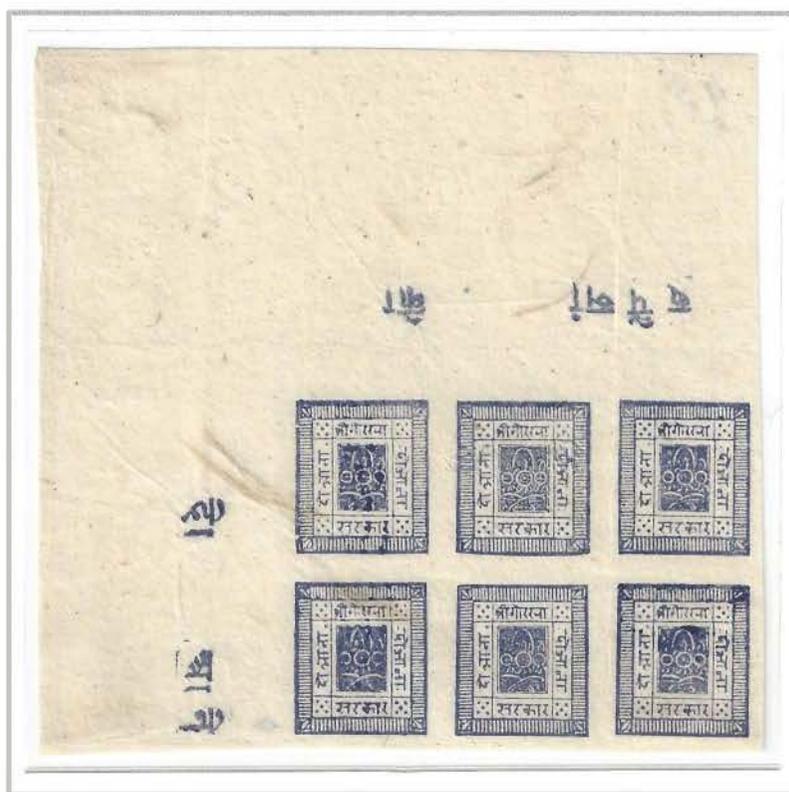
August 1893 Doti to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Setting 4

Five settings were used to print two annas stamps between 1886 and 1898. The earlier settings (4 to 7), composed with care, included a single inverted cliché in position 21.



outward-reading inscriptions as found on each side of sheet on setting 4



setting 4, positions 1-3/ 9-11, bright violet shade
 margins showing outward-reading inscriptions, no framelines
one of three known multiples showing parts of marginal inscription
 (no complete sheets are known)

After the change to native paper in 1886, the first settings used to print each denomination had inscriptions reading outward rather than inward.

Varieties and Settings



pin-perforated



pin-perforated



setting 4, position 64
damaged corner, the last setting with flaw in this position



setting 5, positions 4-5
marginal word aligned over position 4



setting 6, positions 37-40/45-48



setting 8, positions, 55-56/63-64
dented frame position 63

The "Ragged Cliche"



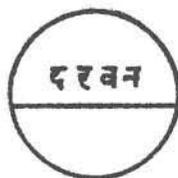
position 4, the "ragged cliche"
six used examples reported

The position 4 cliche was damaged before setting 9 was put to press. The cliche was discarded when setting 13 was composed in 1899. This "ragged cliche" is considered to be one of the great rarities of Nepal.

Cancels and Varieties



tête-bêche in strip, left stamp inverted cliche, Pyuthan cancels



Dahaban postmark used as cancel



dent in left frameline, position 8

Two Annas Blue Error of Color

The two annas error of color from setting 5 was first described by Hellrigl in 1984. He wrote that, "these are undoubtedly genuine errors of colour, since the deep blue shade of the contemporary 1 anna deep blue is matched in every respect."



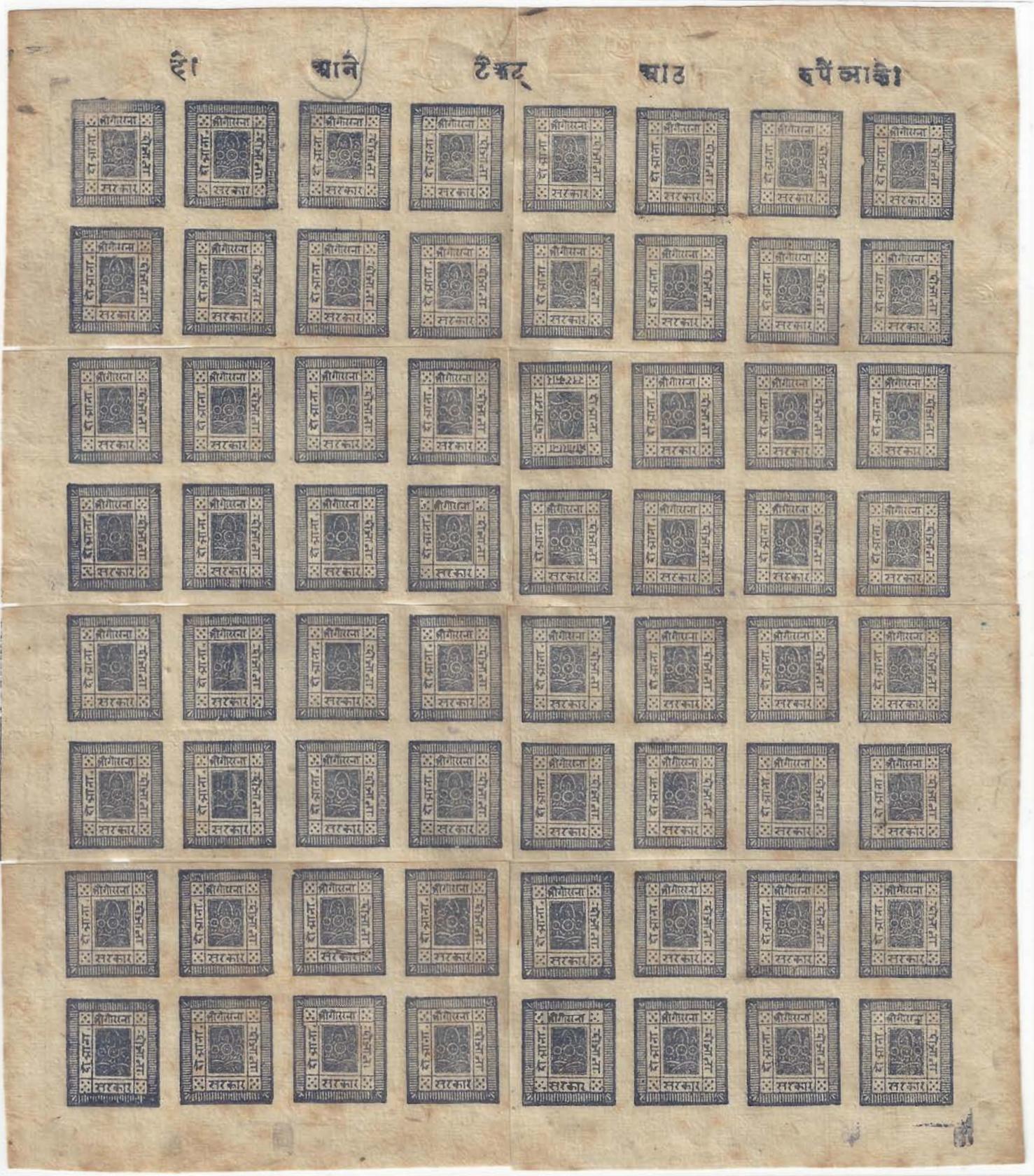
fewer than ten reported used examples

Two Annas Blue Violet (the normal color)



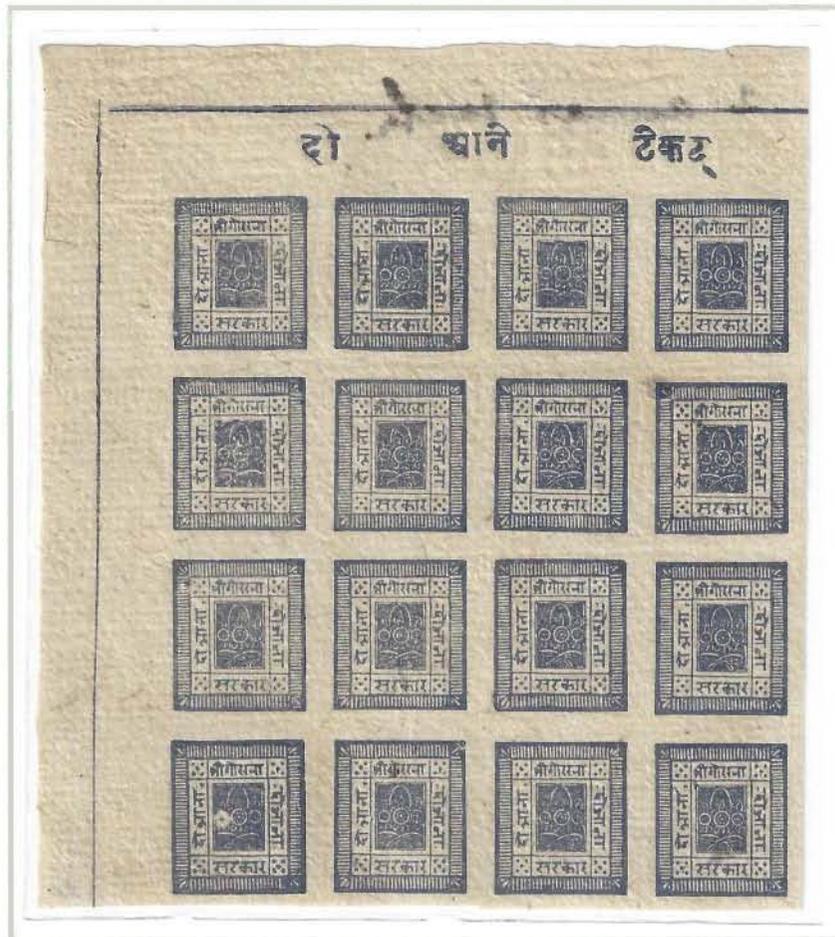
setting 8, positions 45-48/53-56/ 61-64

Setting 6



rebuilt complete sheet which was cut into blocks of eight, possibly by post office inscription shifted slightly to right in this setting, **inverted cliche** position 21

Setting 7



inward-reading inscriptions, framelines, positions 1-4/25-29



deep shade, positions 19-22/35-38, cliché 21 inverted



Kadarban

May 1892 double rate cover, to weight of two tolas weight, from Kadarban, prepaid 2 annas

Stamp with Marginal Grill Impressions



Kathmandu
heptagon



setting 7, marginal copy showing gripper grills and two outer framelines, position 61
cover from Kathmandu with their heptagonal cancel
the only reported example showing grill impressions on cover



pin-perforated, setting 4
positions 34-35/42-43



setting 6
positions 1-2/9-10

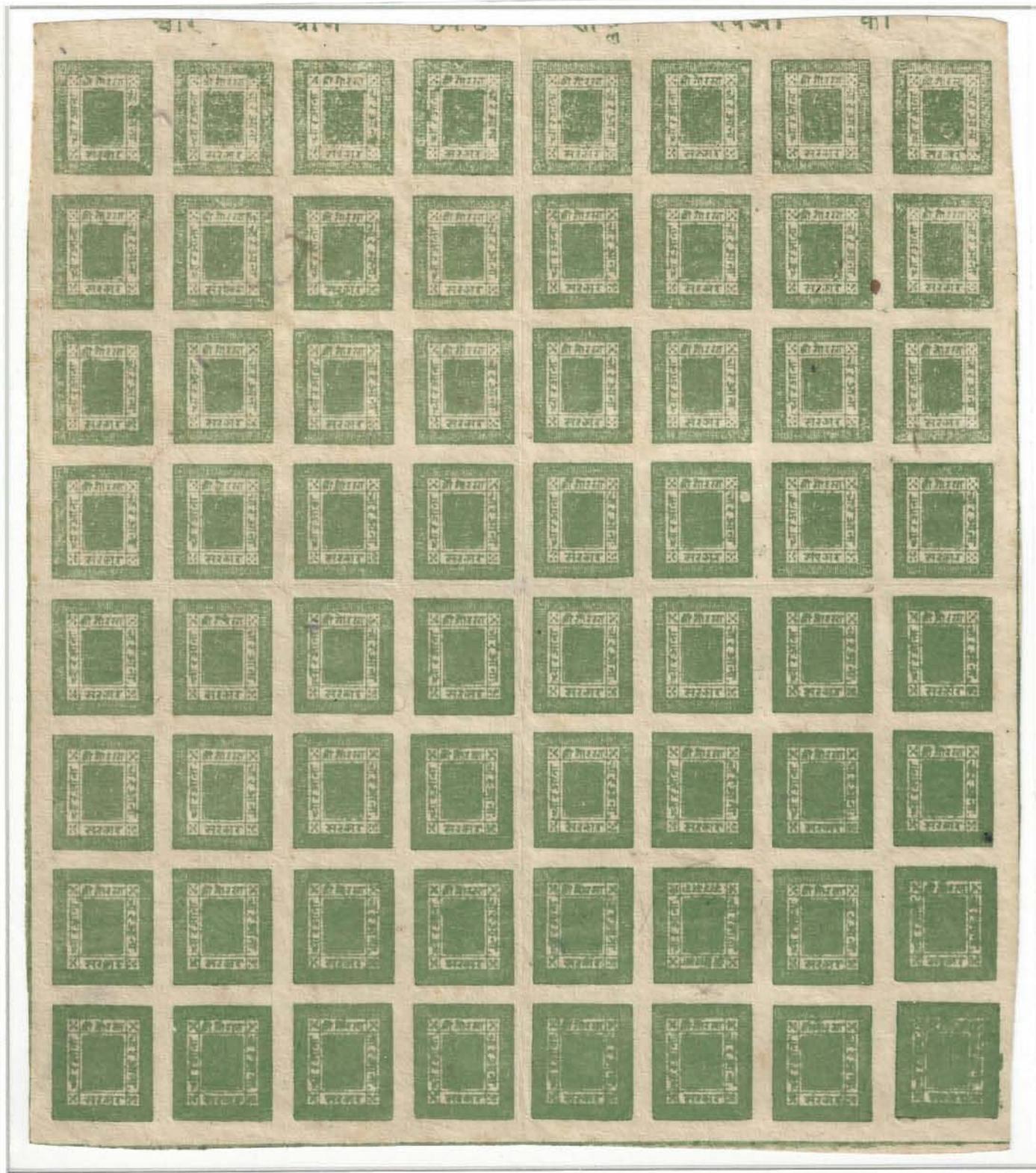


setting 5, positions 25-28/33-36



pin-perforated, setting 8, positions 1-8/9-16

Setting 8



first state of inscription, complete sheet, inverted cliché in position 54

Used Multiples

These used multiples of the four annas were probably removed from parcels.



pin-perforated, setting 8, Birganj cancels



setting 4, positions 18-24, Pokhara cancels



Kathmandu heptagonal cancels



Butwal cancels

**Four Annas Combinations on Cover
Registered, Single Rate with One Anna Stamps**



Dhankuta

January 1890 registered cover from Dhankuta, rated 5 annas registry fee plus postage of 1 anna prepaid 6 annas registered rate with 4 annas and two copies 1 anna (one on reverse)



May 1898 registered cover from Dhankuta, rated 5 annas registry fee plus postage of 1 anna prepaid with 4 annas pin-perforated and two copies 1 anna blue (on reverse as shown left) fewer than five reported examples of pin-perforated four annas on cover

Four Annas on Cover
Registered, Single Rate
Combination with Two Annas



Bhojpur



April 1890 registered cover from Bhojpur to Kathmandu
6 annas registered rate (5 annas registry fee plus postage of 1 anna)
prepaid with 2 and 4 annas
barred circle Bhojpur cancel, dispatch postmark and arrival on reverse

**Four Annas on Cover
Registered, Double Rate
Combination with One Anna Stamps**



Dhankua cancel and dispatch postmark



November 1898 registered double weight cover from Dhankuta to Kathmandu
7 annas total rate (5 annas registry fee plus double weight postage of 2 annas)
prepaid with 4 annas and three copies 1 anna, **pin-perforated** (separated by scissors)

Third Period Printings, 1898 to 1907

Except for a brief period in 1901, the 1898 to 1907 printings were very blurred and printed on thin native paper of poor quality. In 1898 pin-perforated stamps were available upon request. For a short period in 1901 the one anna stamps were printed on imported, high quality European wove paper.

In 1898 it became necessary to recut some of the one anna cliche frames. In 1901, when setting 26 was being prepared, the frames of all 64 sheet positions were recut. This recutting occurred at the same time the European paper was briefly used and created the most important rarities of the one anna issues. Native paper soon replaced the imported paper and both print and paper quality deteriorated further until the end in 1907.

A new one-half anna denomination in a new design was issued in 1899. This section of the exhibit includes covers from 30 of the approximately 50 offices in operation during the period.



Ridi



Pokhara



November 1904 Pokhara registered double rate cover, prepaid with 1, 2 and 4 annas
7 annas total rate (5 annas registry fee plus 2 annas for double weight postage)
fewer than ten known covers bear the complete third period set of three

One Anna Greenish Shades

The one anna printings from this period include a range of green, grayish green and bluish green shades. Some authors have considered them to be errors of color for the normal blues. They come from multiple printings over a long period of time and many examples were pin-perforated.



← recut frames



pin-perforated, setting 23, positions 14-16/22-24, position 24 showing recut frames
 double tête-bêche, middle stamp in each row is inverted cliche (positions 15 and 23)
this block and one sheet are known



pin-perforated



pin-perforated

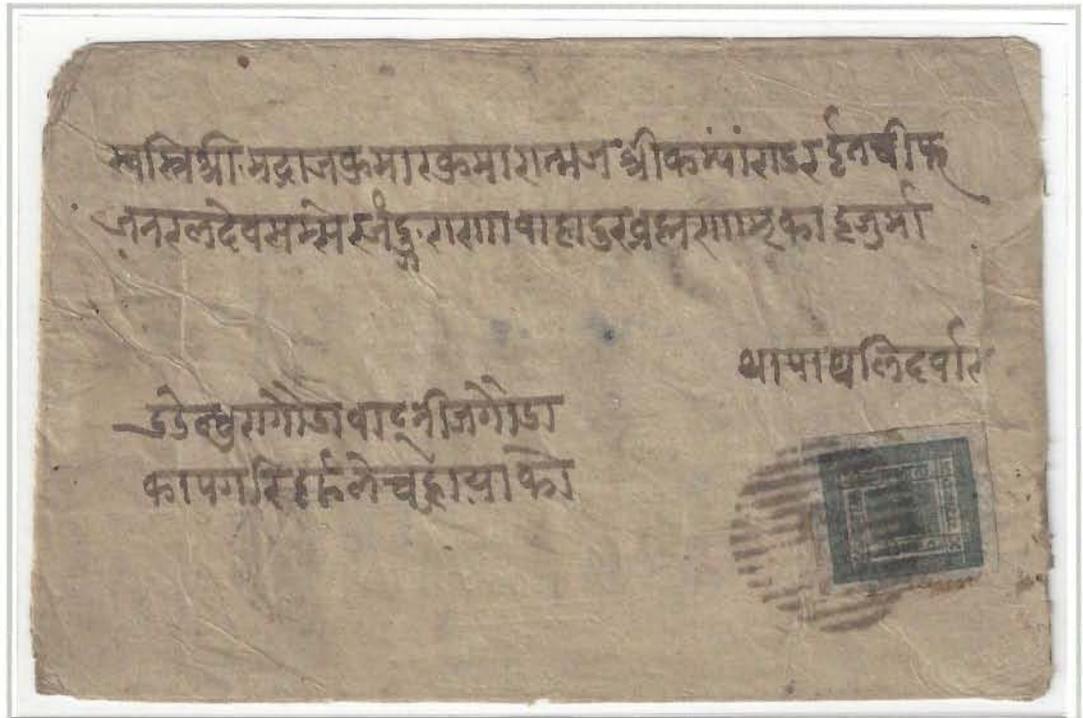


pin-perforated
 gashed cliche constant flaw, position 48

One Anna Greenish Shades on Cover



Dandeldhura



June 1899 Dandeldhura to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna rate
1 anna deep green shade, pin-perforated



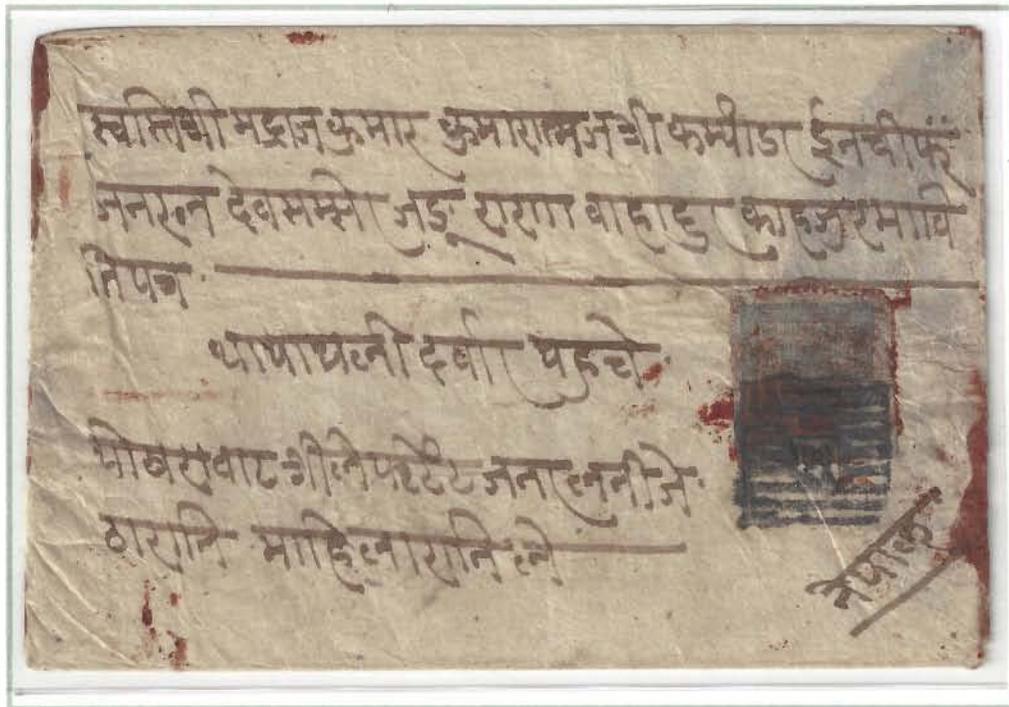
Palpa

June 1899 Palpa to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna rate
1 anna grayish green shade, pin-perforated

One Anna Greenish Shades



pin-perforated
Birganj cancel



June 1899 Pokhara to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna, pin-perforated

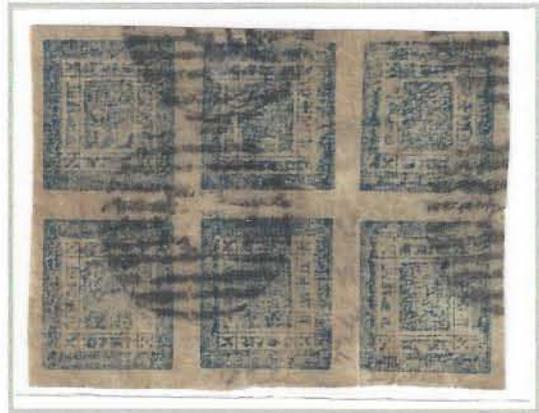


imperforate
Taulihawa seal cancel

One Anna Blue Multiples



positions 3-6, 11-14, Bhagwanpur cancels
inverted cliche position 11



Parasi cancels



Jaleswar cancels



Rangeli cancels



Siraha cancels

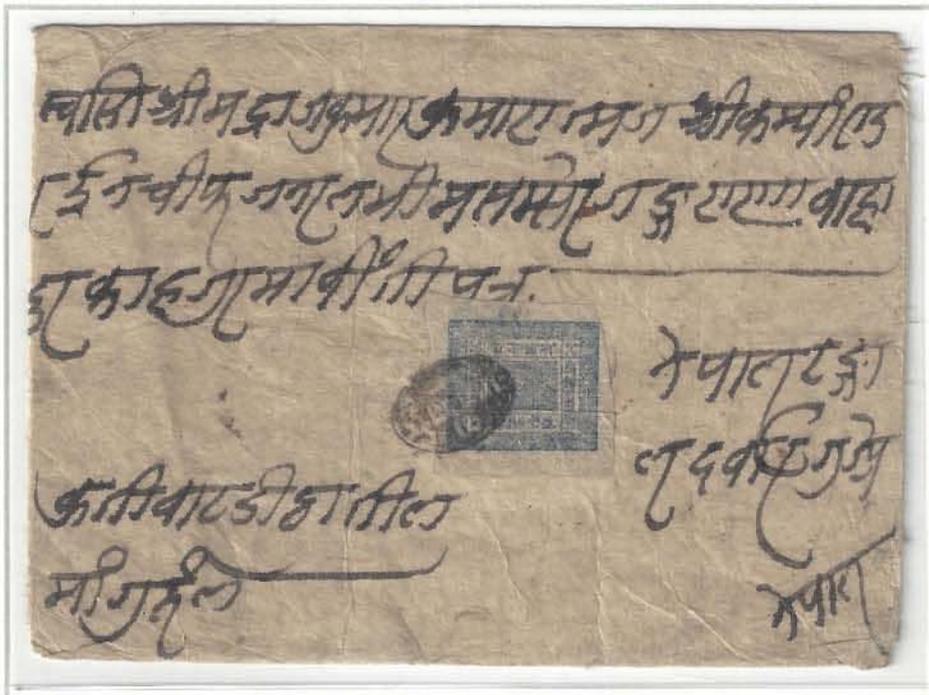


position 24
recut frames
Salyan cancels

Used From Tibet

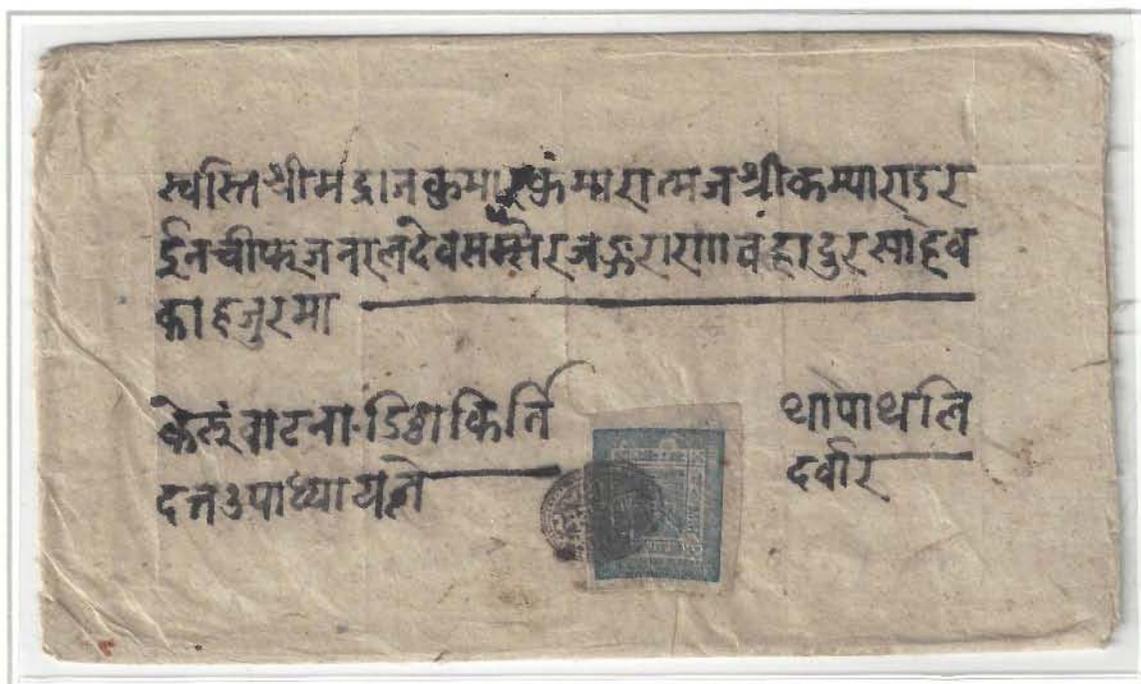


Nepalese administered courts were located in the Tibetan towns of Kerong and Kuti. Mail was carried by Nepalese messenger from Kerong to the Nepalese border town of Rasuwa.



Rasuwa seal

October 1899 Kerong Court in Tibet, entered the Nepalese mails at Rasuwa with seal



September 1899 Kerong Court in Tibet, entered the Nepalese mails at Rasuwa with seal cancel

Circle of Bars Standard Cancels

The standard "initial in circle of bars" cancel devices were supplied to the majority of post offices in Nepal during the period before 1908. Some twenty-six different are recorded. The initial was generally the first letter of the post office name. Additional types of cancels that were used include the hexagon of bars and the rectangle of bars shown following. Other postmasters used seals or non-standard types including their dispatch postmarks as cancels.



Jumla cancel, tête-bêche pair



Dailekh cancel



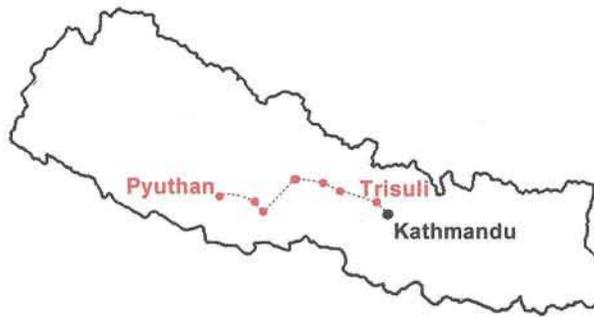
Baglung



April 1901 Baglung to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Square of Bars Cancels used on Trisuli to Pyuthan Route

The "initial in square of bars" cancel devices were used only by the seven towns along the main east - west route in central Nepal as shown in red on the map below. The towns, from east to west, were: Trisuli, Gorka, Parewadada, Pokhara, Palpa, Ridi and Pyuthan.



Ridi



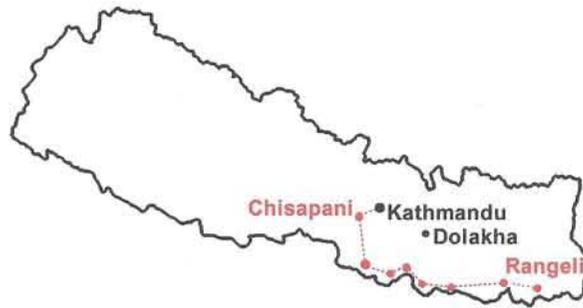
Palpa



March 1900 Palpa to Doti, prepaid 1 anna for single weight cover

Hexagon of Bars Cancels used on Southeast of Kathmandu

The smaller "initial in hexagon of bars" style cancel devices were used only by the eight towns along the main route in southeast Nepal as shown in red on the map below. The towns, from east to west, were: Rangeli, Hanumannagar, Siraha, Jaleswar, Sarlahi, Kadarban, Kalaiya, and Chisapani. Two towns, Kathmandu and Dolakha, used larger cancels.



Dolakha



Sarlahi



February 1900 from Sarlahi to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Recut One Anna Printings, 1901 to 1907

The one anna settings 26 and 27 were used for several print runs during the 1901 to 1907 period. Setting 26 was the first setting to have the outer frames of all of the clichés recut. The initial printings from this setting were made on high quality European white wove paper. Of this printing Hellrigl wrote that, "This stamp ranks amongst the rarest of Nepal with only 200 to 250 copies believed to exist." No full sheets are known and the largest multiple is the block shown below. A very few pin-perforated examples are known and the one tête-bêche pair shown on next page.

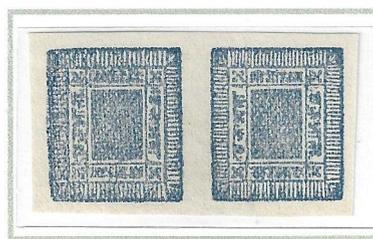
In 1903 additional printings from a second state of setting 26 were made on native paper. Further printings on native paper from setting 27 began late in 1903 and continued until 1907. A second state of setting 27 was utilized during the telegraphic period beginning in 1917 and material from the second state is included in that section.

1901 European Paper Printing Setting 26



*the ex Garrett-Adams
and Armand Singer block*

positions 23-24/31-32, top pair is tête-bêche, cliché 23 inverted
the only reported block and the largest multiple of the European paper printings



positions 26-27, tête-bêche pair, cliché 27 inverted
twelve tête-bêche pairs reported on European paper

1901 European Paper Printing

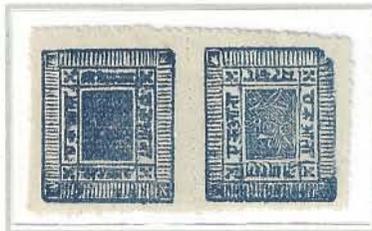
The Damaged Cliche

The position 64 cliche (located at bottom right corner of the sheet setting) was recut in stages between settings 14 and 25. A further recut caused damage to the lower left corner. It was placed into setting 26 inverted. The flaw worsened in later printings.



position 64 cliche
(shown upright)

Pin-Perforated



positions 63-64, tête-bêche pair, cliche 64 inverted
the only reported example

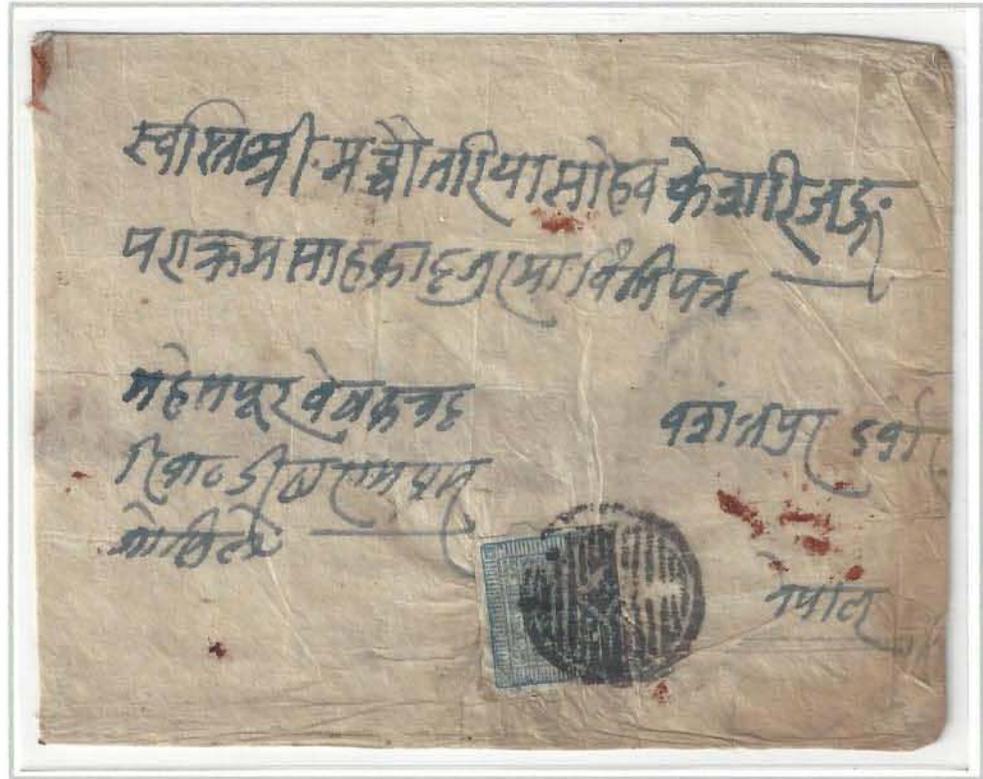
Imperforate



position 64
the only reported used example



Birganj



September 1902 Barganj to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna rate



March 1903 Barganj to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna rate

Although the earliest reported use of the one anna on European white wove paper is November 1901, most of the twenty to thirty reported covers date from 1902 and 1903.

The Damaged Cliche

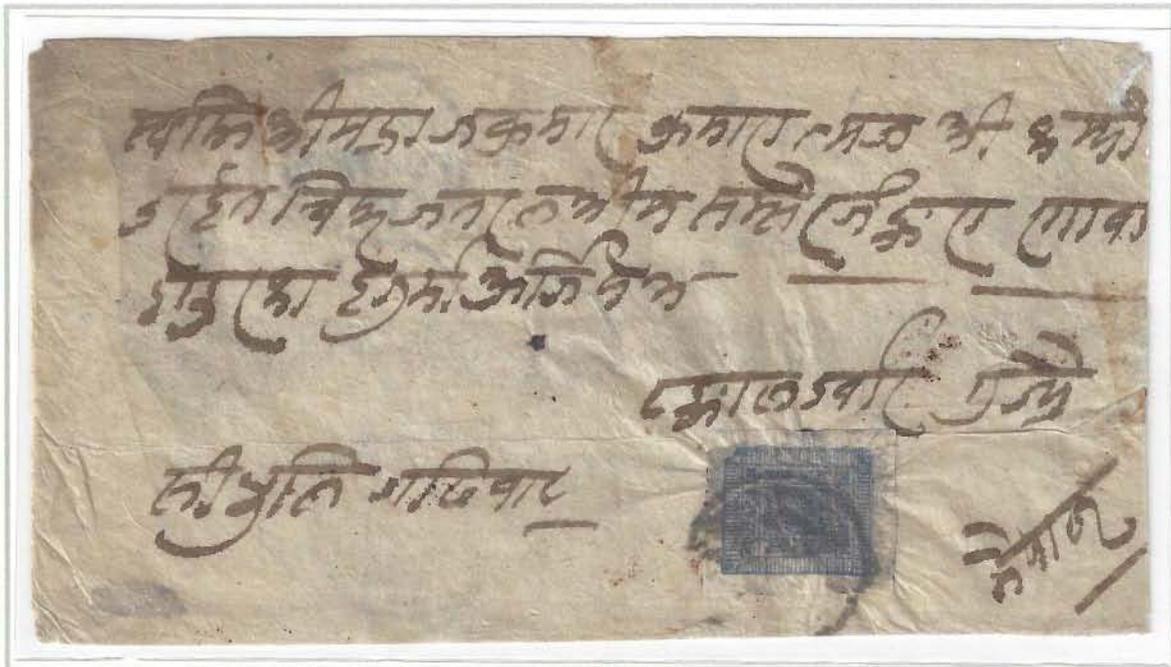
The damaged diche, found inverted in position 64, also occurs in the native paper printings from settings 26 and 27. These settings were at press between 1902 and 1907.



position 64 cliche
(shown inverted)

positions 63-64, tête-bêche pair, cliche 64 inverted

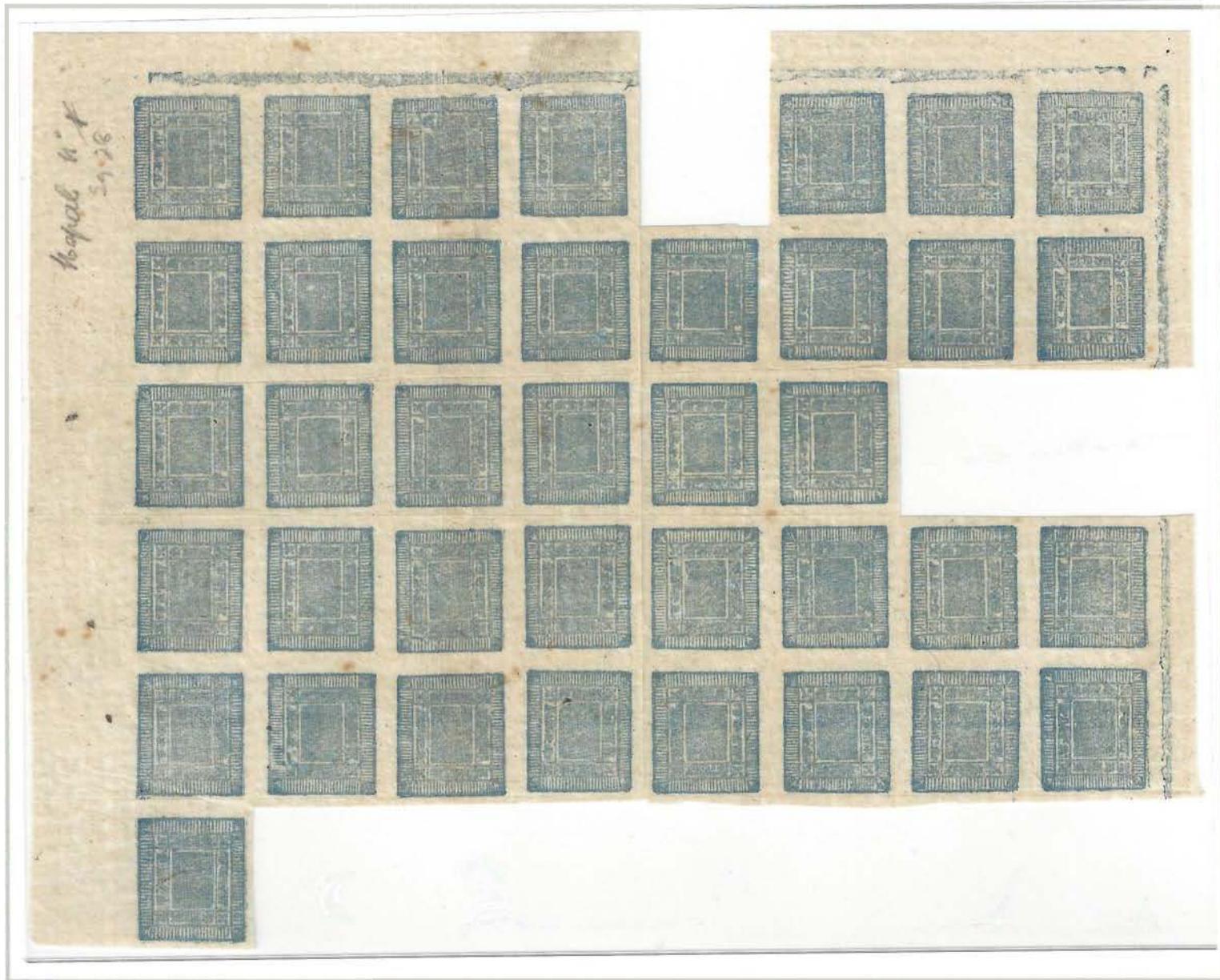
Sindhuli undated
postmark used as
cancel



May 1908 Sindhuli to Kathmandu, 1 anna damaged cliche, position 64
the only reported single franking of the position

Setting 27, First State

The recut one anna printings from the first state of setting 27 have no gash flaw at position 10. The telegraphic era printings from this setting do have the flaw.



recut 1 anna, inverted cliches positions 15, 18, 27, 37, 40 and 41

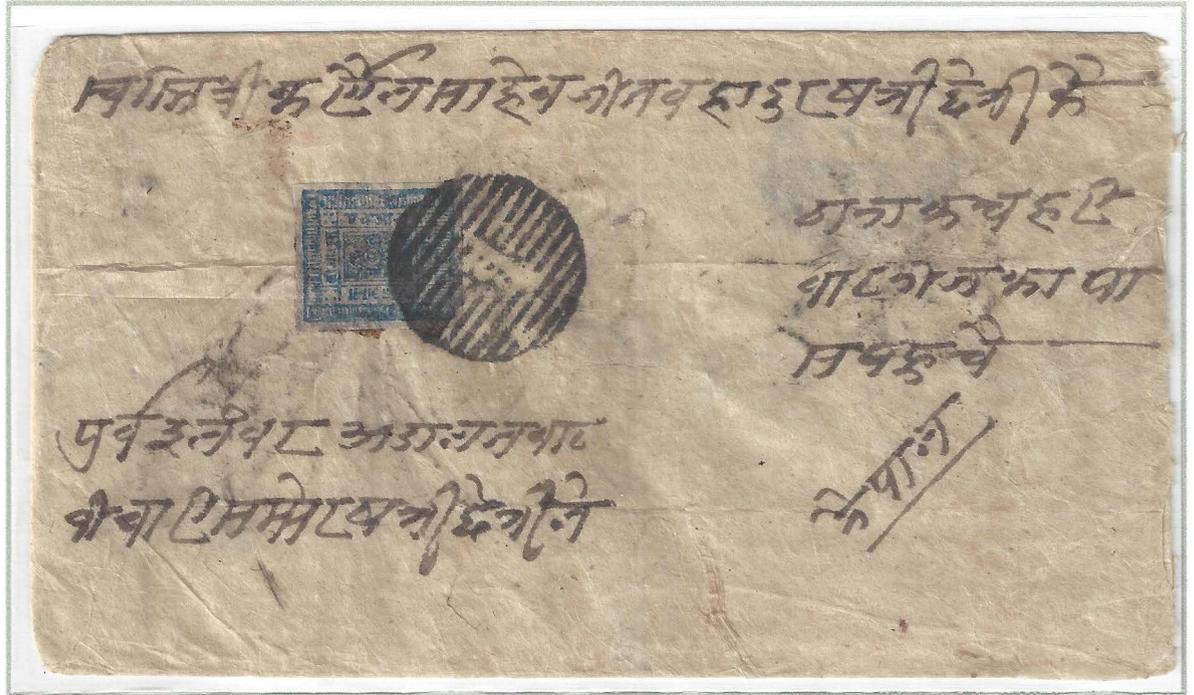


Position 24 on Cover

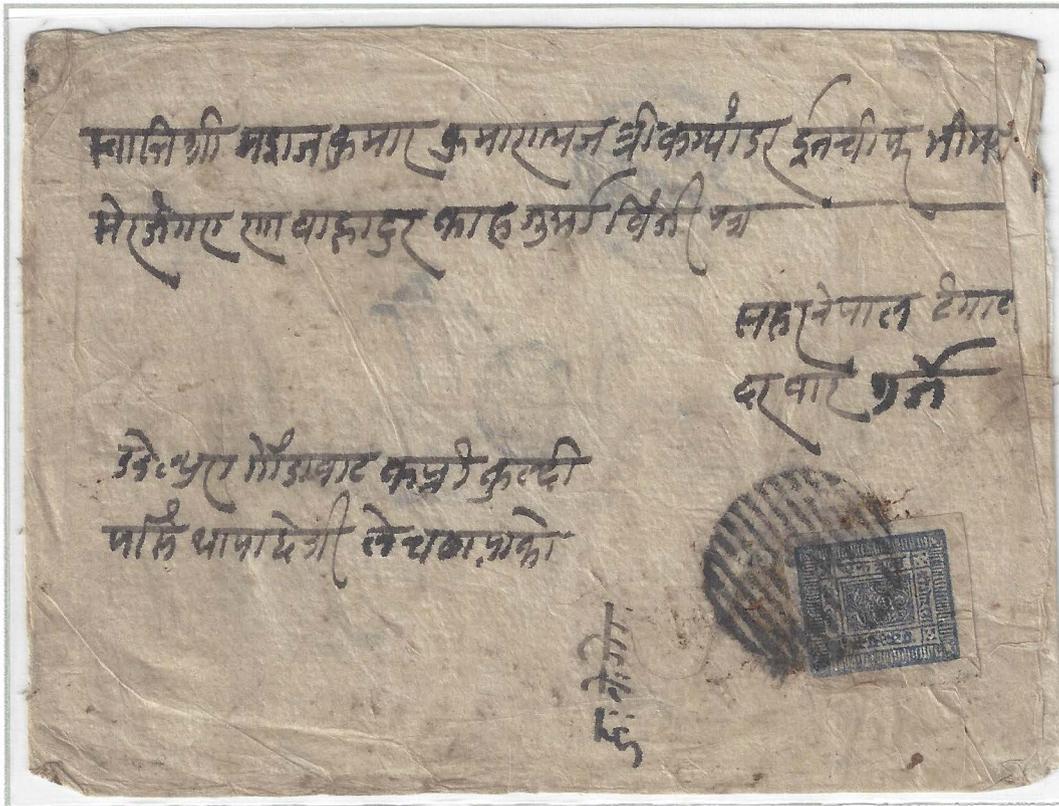
In 1898, position 24 was completely recut. In 1901, all cliches in setting 26 were recut.



Okhaldunga



April 1903 Okhaldunga to Kathmandu, recut 1 anna, position 24



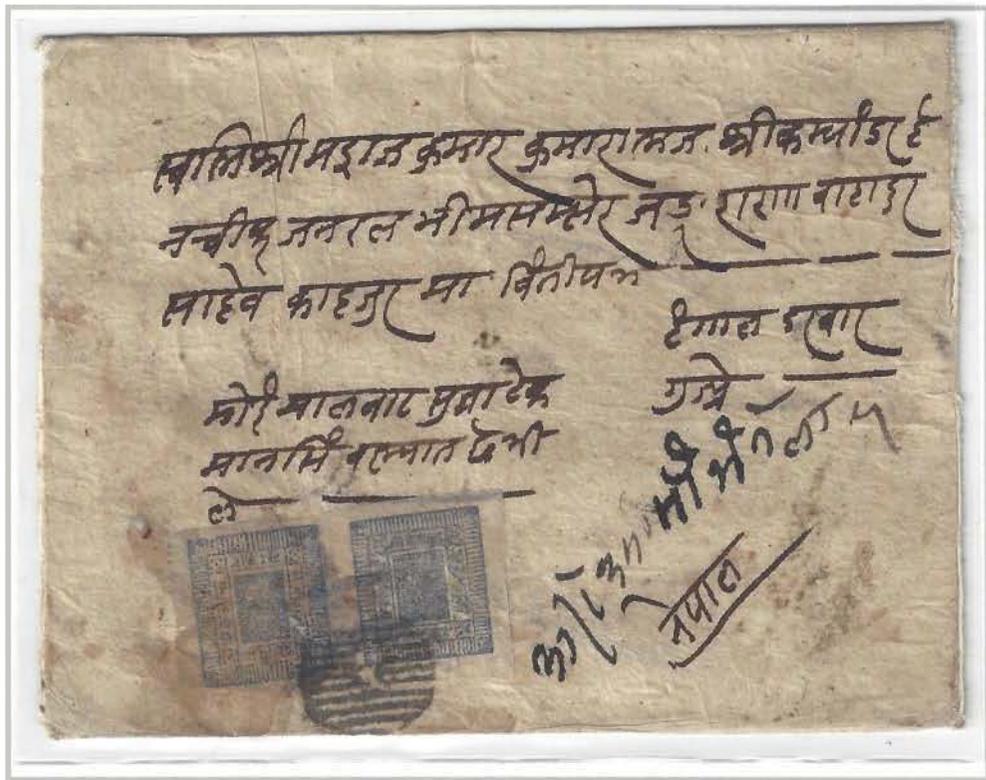
Dandeldhura

August 1908 Dandeldhura to Kathmandu, recut 1 anna, position 24

Tête-Bêche Pair Shades on Cover



Kadarban

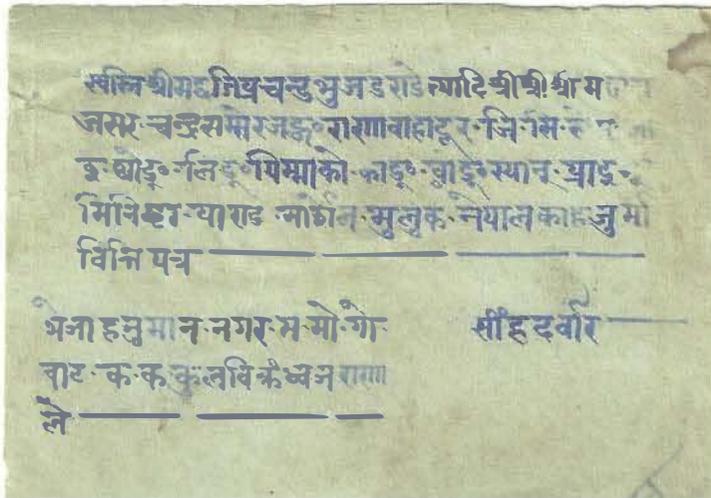


October 1907 Kadarban, 1 anna violet blue tête-bêche pair



August 1904 Kadarban, 1 anna blue tête-bêche pair

Atypical Hexagon of Bars Cancel



Hanumannager cancel and postmark

May 1905 Hanumannager to Kathmandu addressed to Prime Minister Chandra Shamsheer Jung Bahadur Rana

Prime Minister Chandra Shamsheer Jung Bahadur Rana, shown above, was the fifth Prime Minister of Nepal. He held office from June 1901 until 1929.

Circle of Bars Cancels

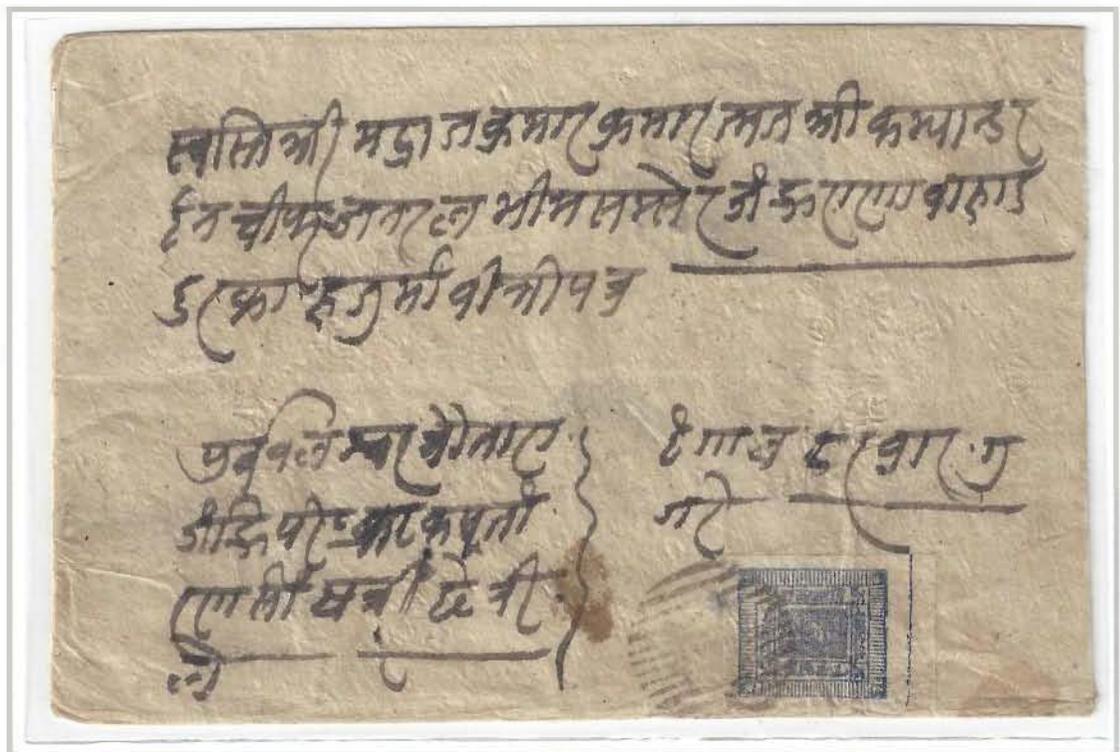


Dhulikel

August 1908 Dhulikel barred circle cancel
three covers are known with this cancel



Chautara

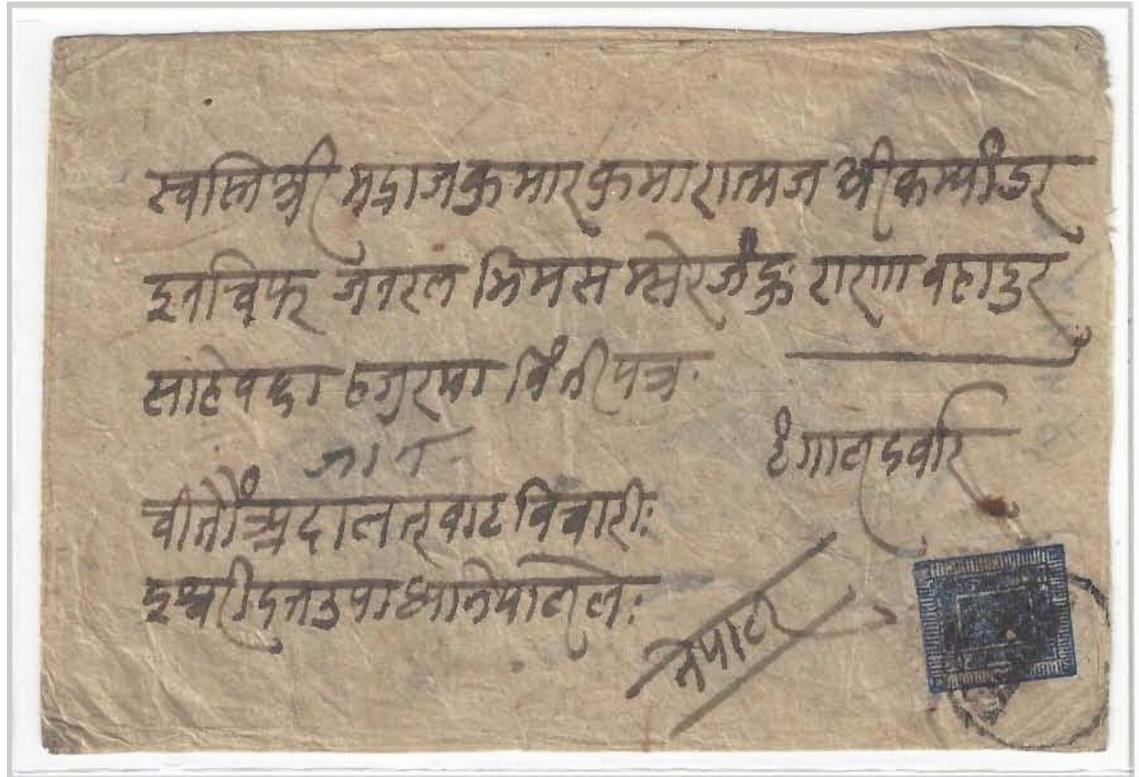


August 1907 Chautara barred circle cancel
three reported covers with this cancel

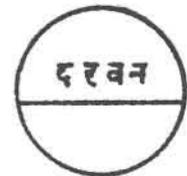
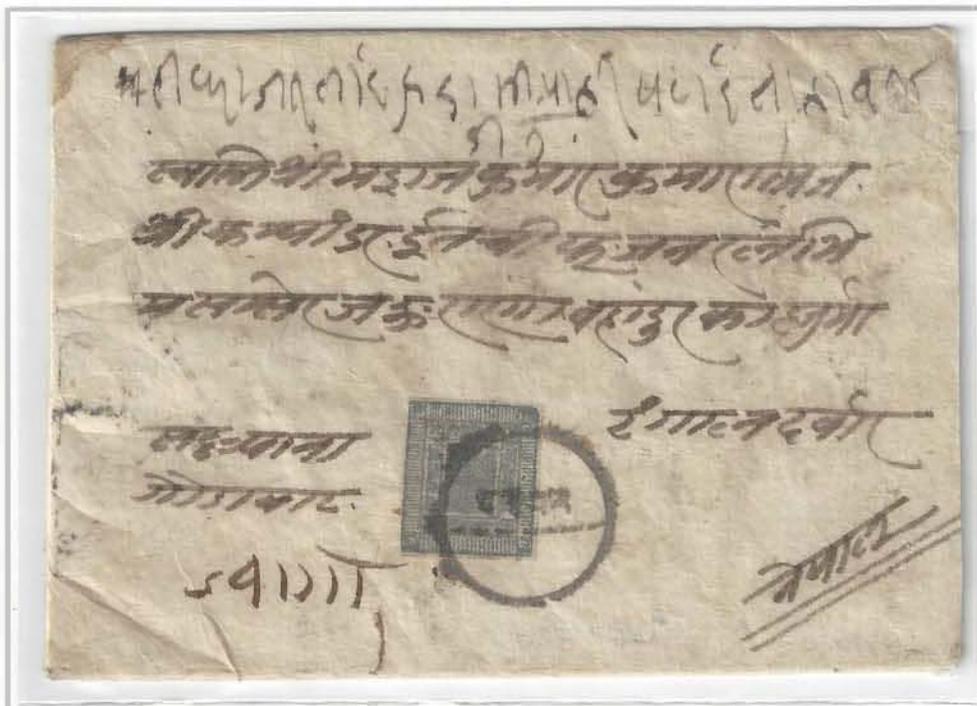
Non-Standard Cancels



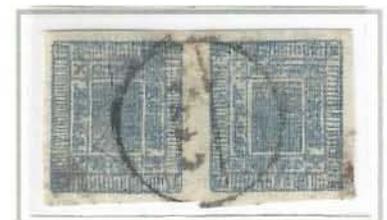
Chitwan



August 1907 Chitwan negative postmark used as cancel

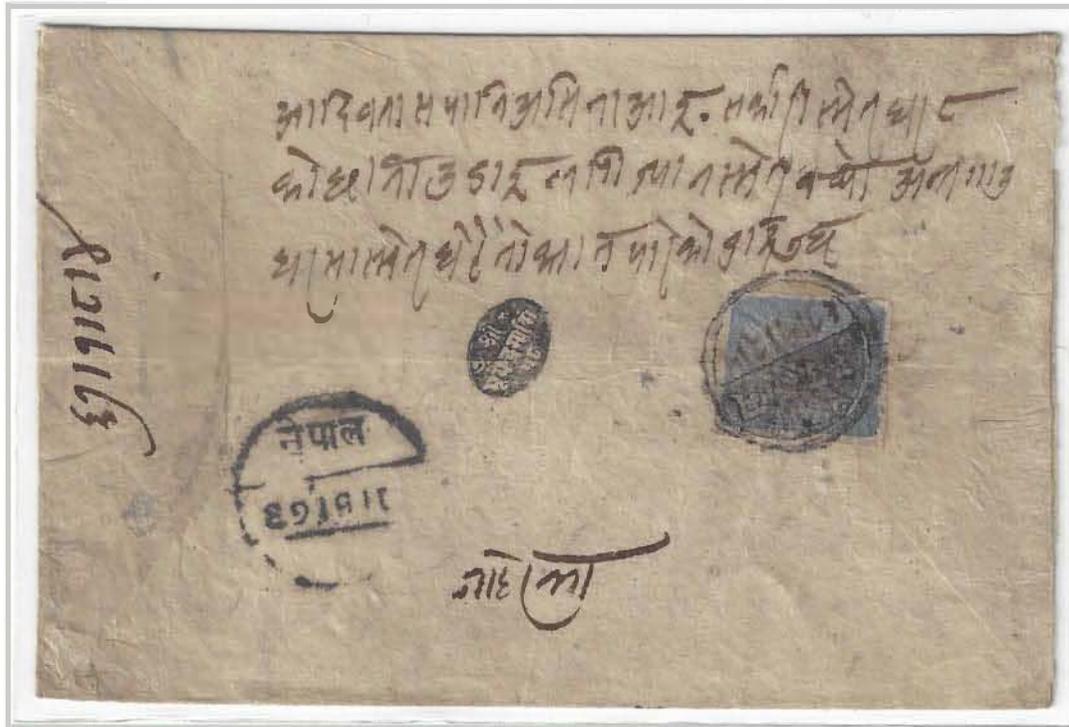


Dahaban



June 1905 Dahaban to Kathmandu, the postmark normally hand-dated is here used as cancel

Non-Standard Cancels



Ilam

May 1910 Ilam negative postmark used as cancel on single rate cover

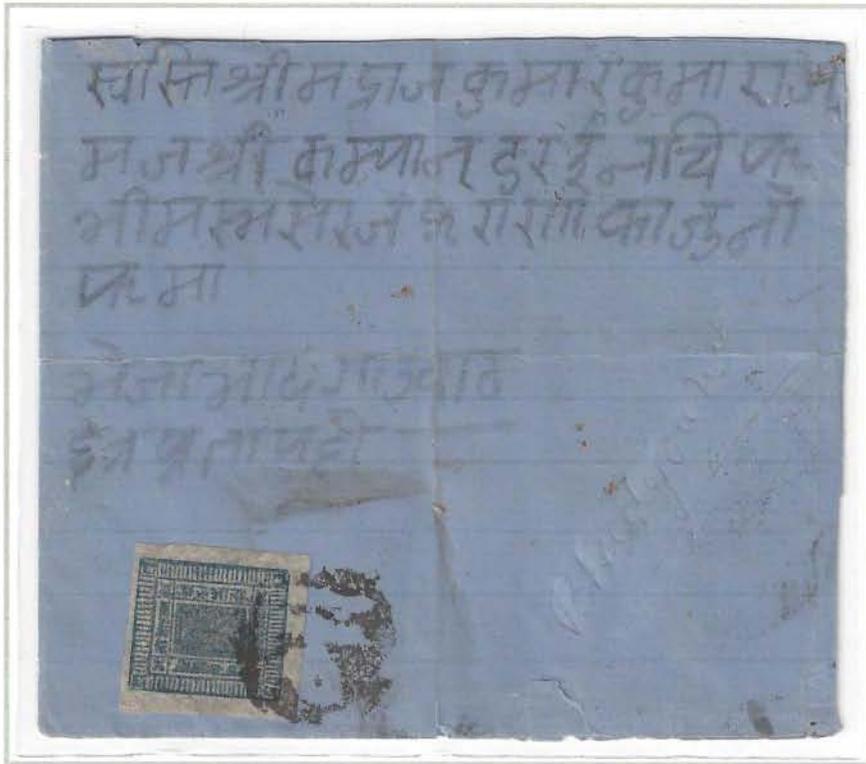


Sindhuli postmark used as a cancel and also at left as a dispatch postmark with date added.



November 1904 Sindhuli, double rate cover, prepaid with 1 anna pair

Non-Standard Cancels

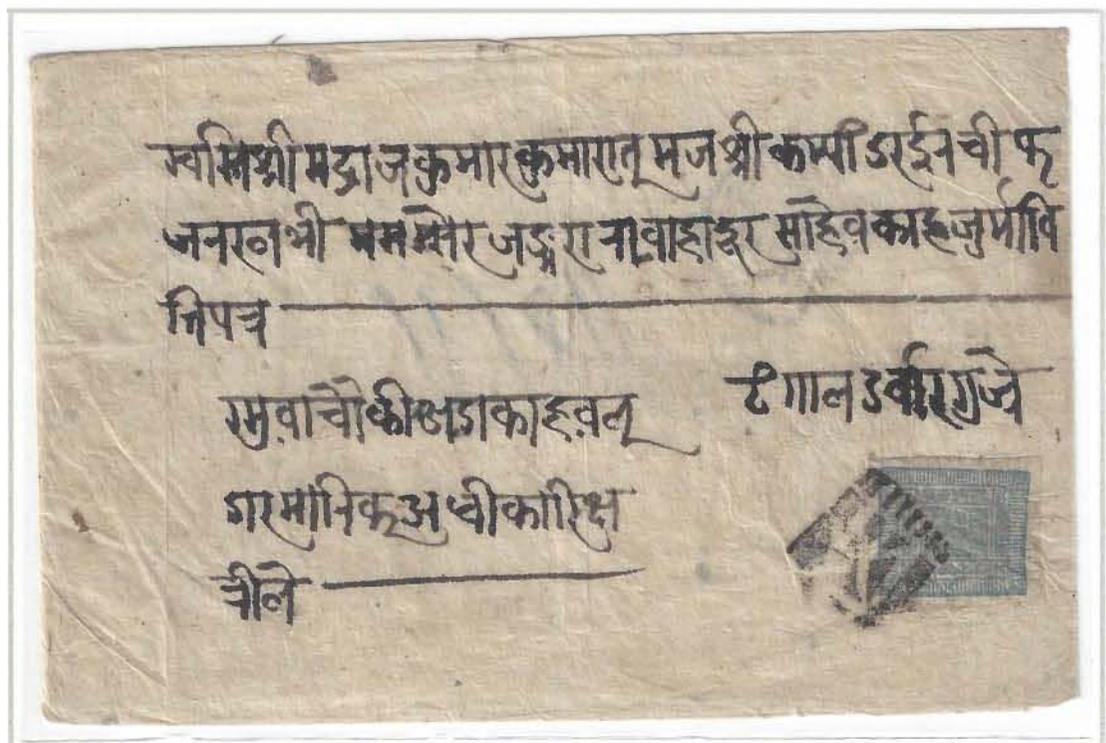


Bhadgaon

November 1904 Bhadgaon negative cancel, the only reported example of this cancel



Rasuwa



April 1905 Rasuwa to Kathmandu, two known covers with this negative cancel

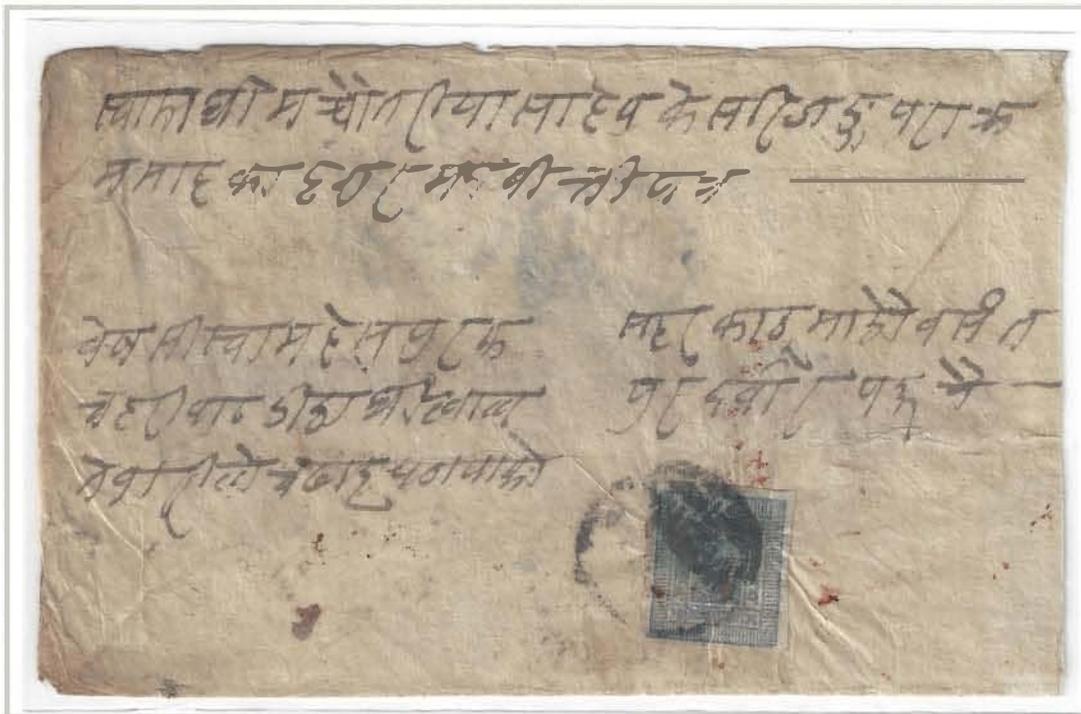
Non-Standard Cancels



Birganj

October 1905 Birganj to Kathmandu

1 anna dark grey shade, ex Hellrigl who noted, "unrecorded shade of greatest rarity"



Birganj

March 1904 Birganj negative postmark used as cancel

Single and Double Rate Covers



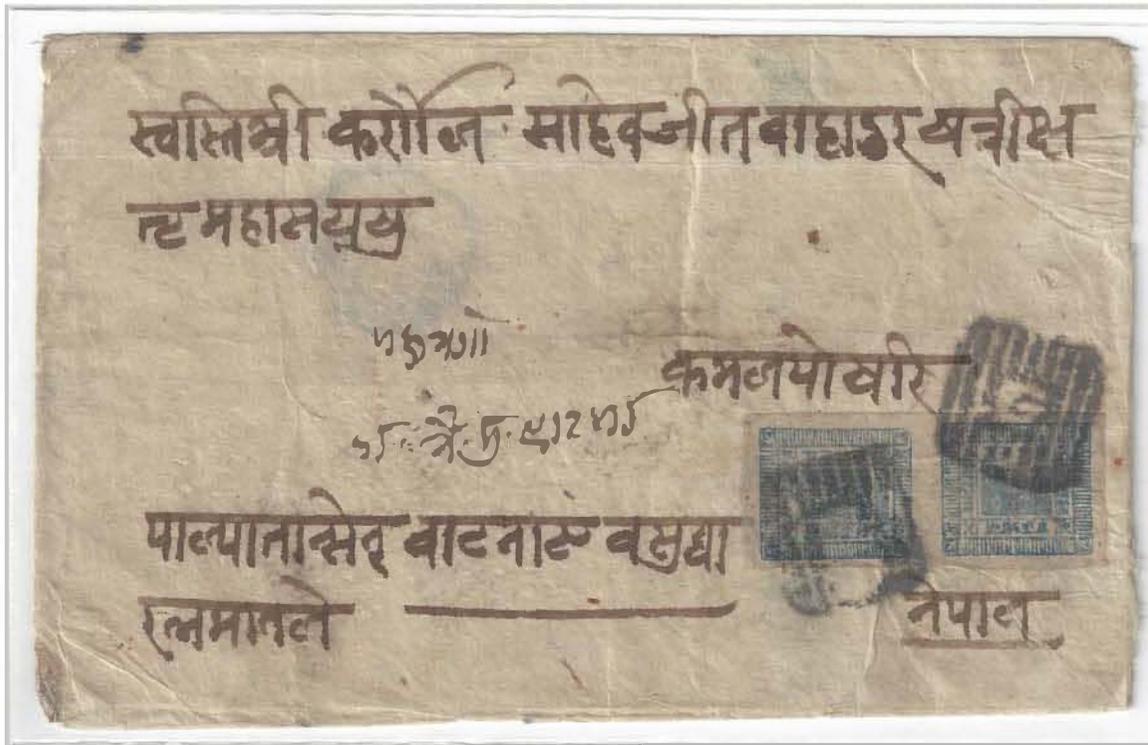
Bhagwanpur



June 1902 Bhagwanpur, via Ridi, to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna single rate



Palpa



April 1903 Palpa to Gorka, double rate cover prepaid with pair 1 anna

Tête-Bêche Pairs on Cover



Doti



December 1904 Doti to Kathmandu, double weight cover prepaid 2 annas rate with 1 anna tête-bêche pair



Birganj

May 1905 Birganj single weight registered cover prepaid 6 annas rate with 1 anna, two singles (one on front) and strip of four inverted cliche is the far left stamp in strip

**Double Weight, Registered Use Cover
Paid with Tête-Bêche Pair**

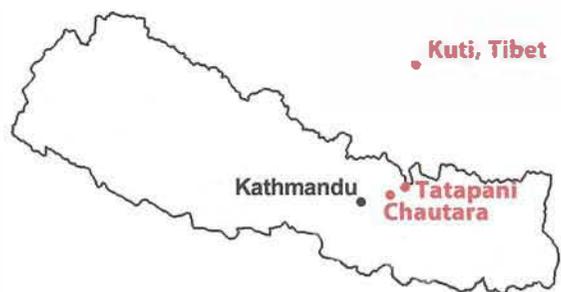


Dailekh



November 1908 Dailekh double weight registered use to Kathmandu
prepaid 7 annas with single and three pairs 1 anna
tête-bêche pair at lower left

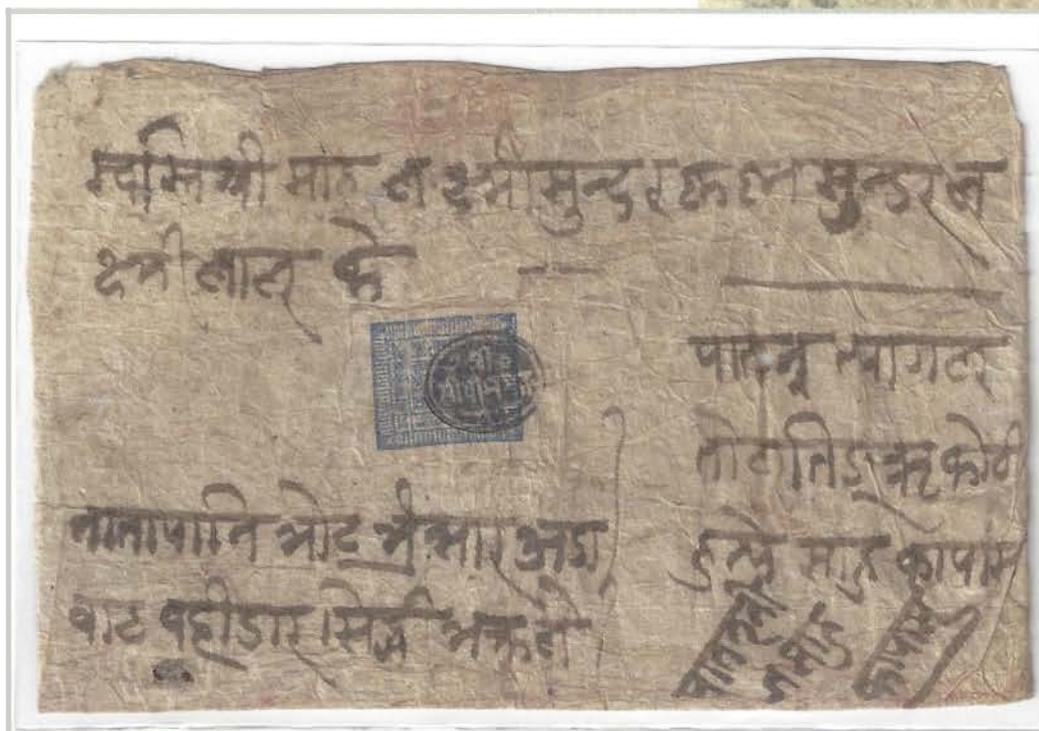
Used on Cover From Tibet



Nepalese administered courts were located in the Tibetan towns of Kerong and Kuti. Mail from the courts was carried by Nepalese messengers from Kuti to the Nepalese border town of Tatapani.



Tatapani seal cancel



March 1908 Kuti Court in Tibet, via Tatapani and Chautara to Kathmandu
 1 anna stamp tied by ring seal cancel of postmaster Bahidar Shiddibhakta
 manuscript Tatapani postmark on reverse (just to left above the seal handstamp)
 Chautara negative transit postmark (below seal) and Kathmandu arrival (top left)

Pin-Perforated

The two annas pin-perforated stamps were been made available in the 1898 to 1900 period. They are substantially scarcer than the one anna and four annas perforated stamps.



setting 13, positions 1-2/ 9-10,
pin-perforated



setting 14, positions 1-2/ 9-10, pin-perforated
double row of horizontal perfs between, double row of vertical perfs at left
the **sole example of a double perforation error** in the classic issues

Setting 15 Proving Piece with Transferred Cliche

Settings 15 was a new discovery by Wolfgang Hellrigl in 1984 with the block on this page his "proving" piece for the classification as a new setting. The setting has very thin sheet framelines and is without sheet inscriptions.



setting 15, positions 41-46/49-54/57-62

the largest known multiple of the setting and the proving piece for the setting



position 53 is now the former position 8 cliche showing dent in left frameline

Varieties and Settings



setting 19, positions 1-2/9-10
over/under tête-bêche pairs
positions 1 and 9 inverted



tête-bêche strip, positions 6-8
position 8 inverted



setting 17, positions 50-55/58-63, Hanumannagar postal cancels
progressive flaw position 55 (see below for later state), position 58 dent at foot

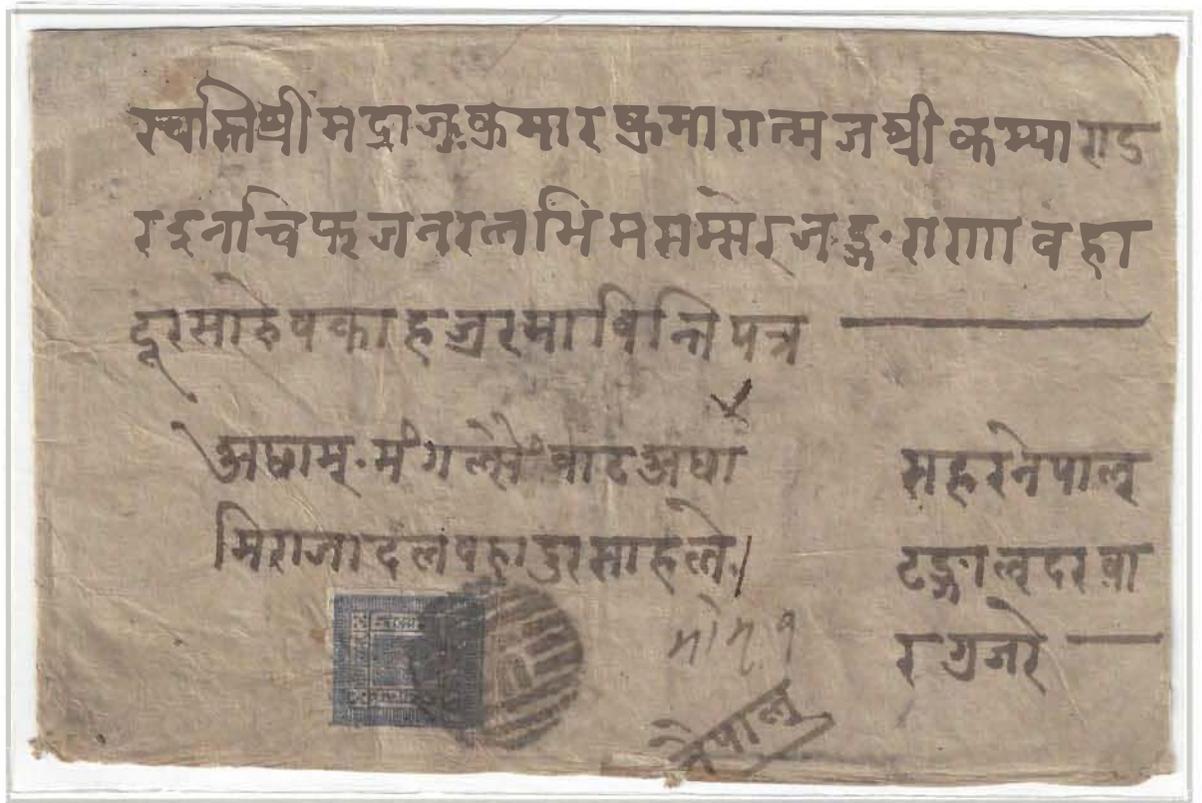


position 55 (setting 18)
progressive frame flaw



setting 18, pin-perforated, left stamp center row is position 55

Double Rate Covers



January 1906 Karnali to Kathmandu, double weight use prepaid with 2 annas



October 1905 Pokhara to Kathmandu double weighty use postage (weight between 1 and 2 tolas) prepaid with 2 annas

Double Rate Covers, Shades



Dhankuta



October 1904 Dhankuta to Kathmandu, prepaid 2 annas, blurred print



August 1907 Dhankuta to Kathmandu, 2 annas deep shade from cleaned plate

One and Two Annas Combination on Triple Rate Cover

The postal rate for a triple weight letter to
three tolas weight was three annas.



Dhankuta



October 1904 Dhankuta to Kathmandu
triple rate postage (weight between 2 and 3 tolas)
prepaid with 2 annas plus 1 anna recut
fewer than five reported examples of this rate make-up

Registered, Single Weight Cover
with Tête-Bêche



Karnali non-standard style cancel used only in 1907



September 1907 registered cover from Karnali to Kathmandu, 6 annas total rate
5 annas registry fee plus 1 anna single rate postage
prepaid with 2 annas strip with tête-bêche pair (right-hand pair as mounted above)

**One and Two Annas Combination Cover
Registered Double Rate Use**

The registry fee was five annas. Added to the fee was the two annas rate for double weight postage for weight to two tolas.



Doti

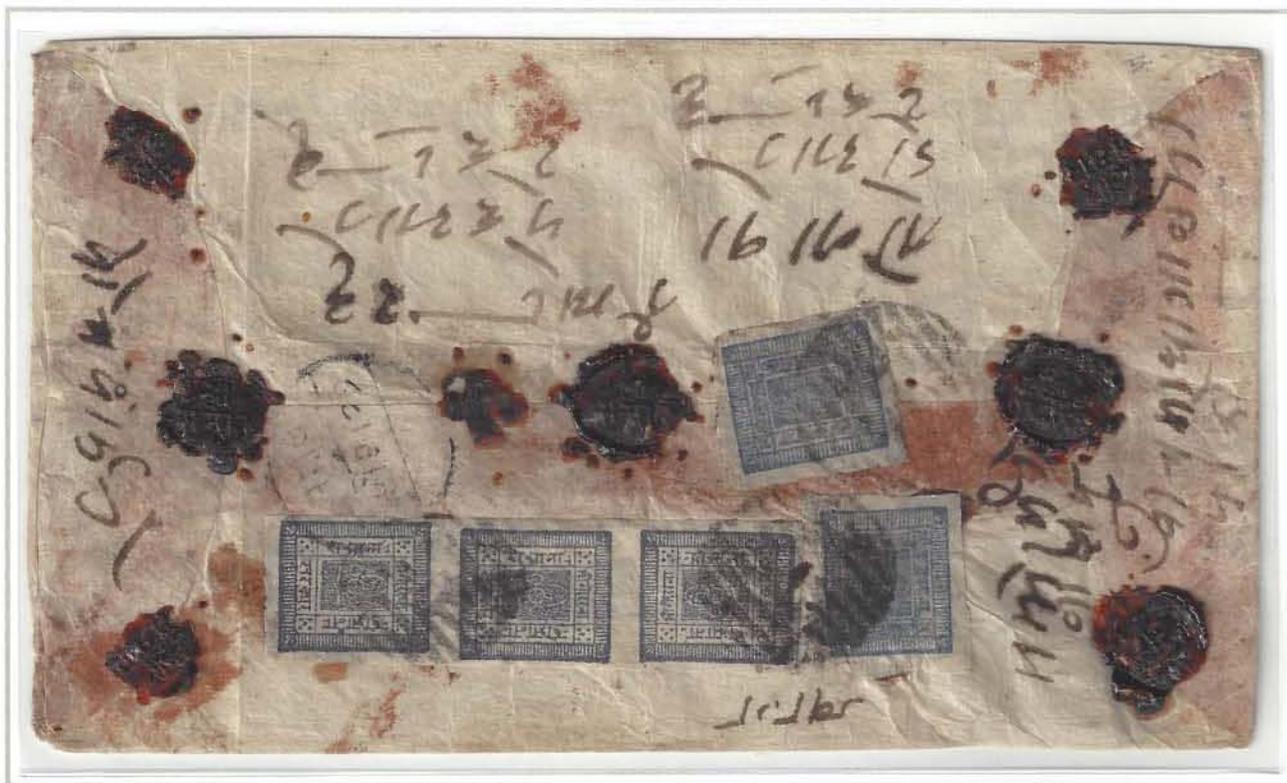


September 1907 registered double weight use from Doti to Kathmandu
7 annas total rate prepaid with 2 annas strip of three and single 1 anna recut

**One and Two Annas Combination Cover
Registered, Double Rate, Acknowledgment of Receipt
with Two Annas Tête-Bêche**

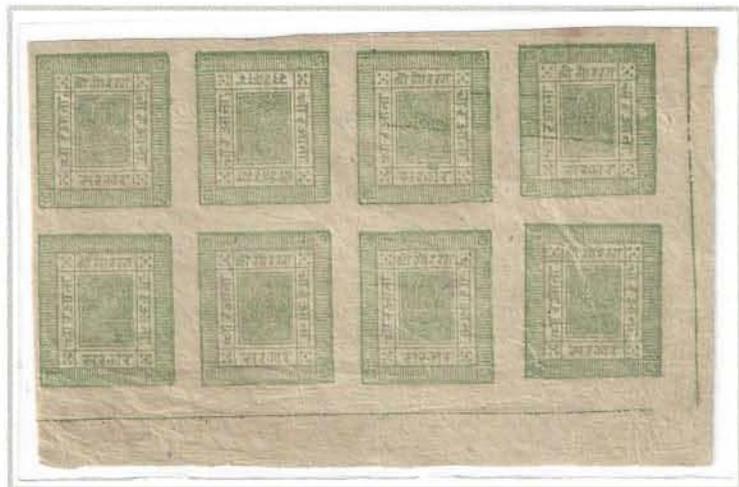


Kanchanpur, a small post office, was established in 1880.



September 1907 registered cover from Kanchanpur to Kathmandu with acknowledgment of receipt
8 annas total rate (5 annas registry, 2 annas double rate postage, plus 1 anna AR fee)
prepaid with 2 annas strip, positions 8/16/24, position 8 inverted, plus 1 anna recut
the only reported example of this rate make-up

Settings, Varieties



setting 9, positions 53-56/61-64
position 54 inverted cliche

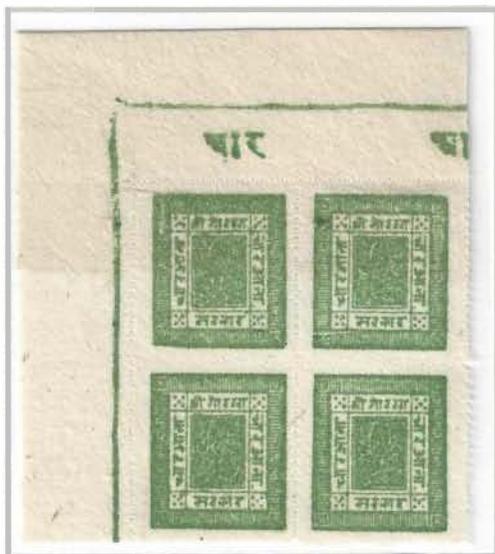
Position 54 is inverted
in all three settings.



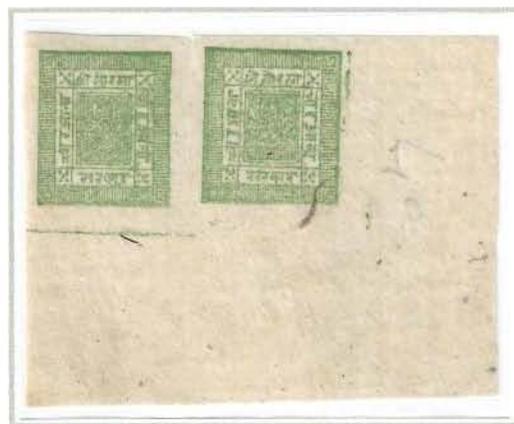
setting 9, pin-perforated
tête-bêche pair, positions 53-54



setting 10, positions 17-24/25-32, variant state with frameline at left only
this variant state is known only by this piece as reported by Singer



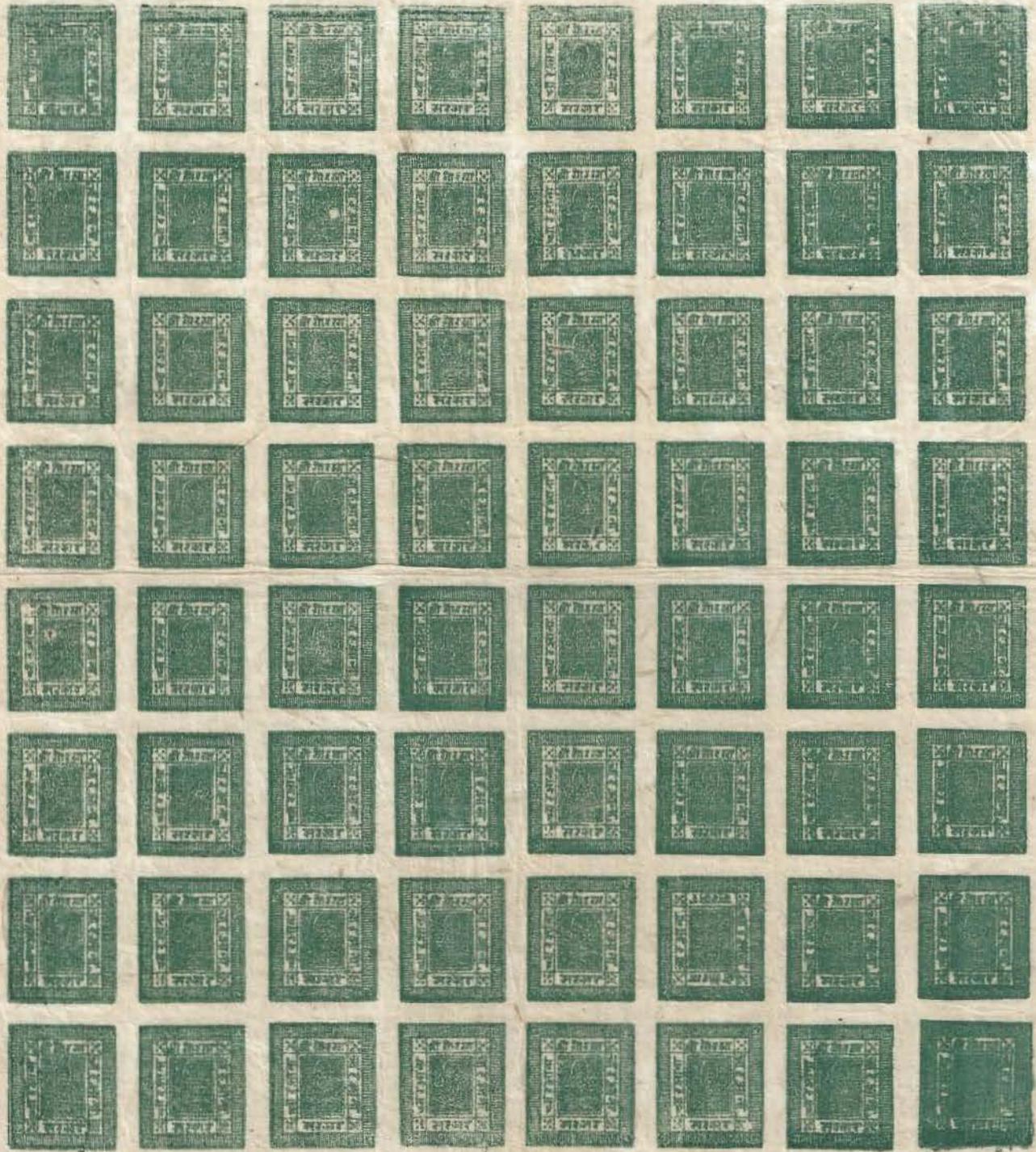
setting 9, pin-perforated
positions 1-2/9-10



setting 11, First State, positions 63-64

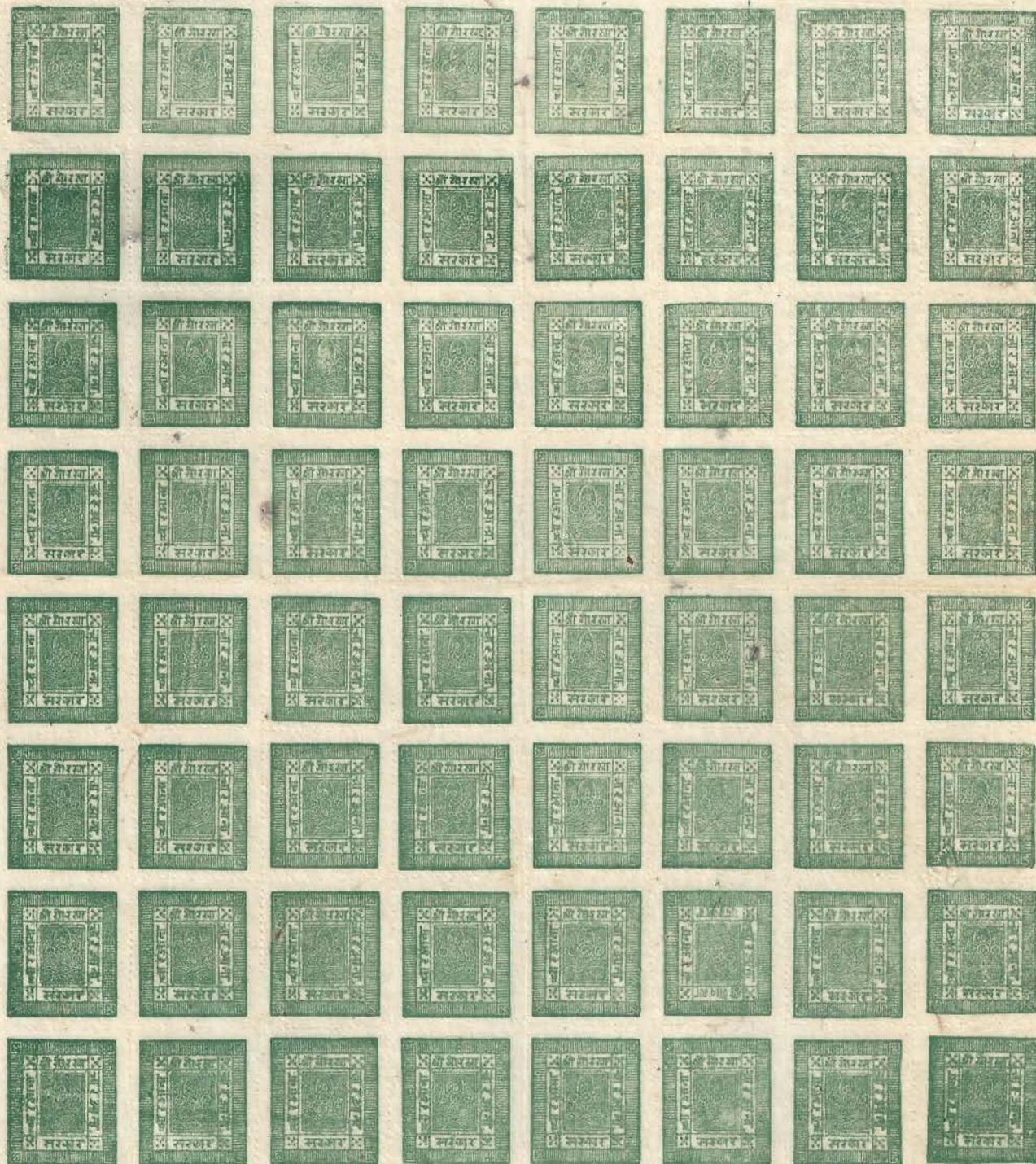
Setting 11, First State

inverted cliché position: 54



Setting 11, First State

inverted cliché position: 54



Used Multiples Kathmandu Postal Cancels



Most postally used four annas stamps from the final printings, originate from parcels sent from Kathmandu. No intact parcels are known.



setting 9, late printings that show prominent outer rim



setting 11, first state in distinct bluish green shade
Kathmandu postal cancels from a worn device

Quadruple Rate Cover

For each one tola in weight (the weight of a silver rupee coin), the postal rate was one anna, prepaid. Most of the few known four annas uses on cover are combination frankings on registered covers.



Hanumannagar

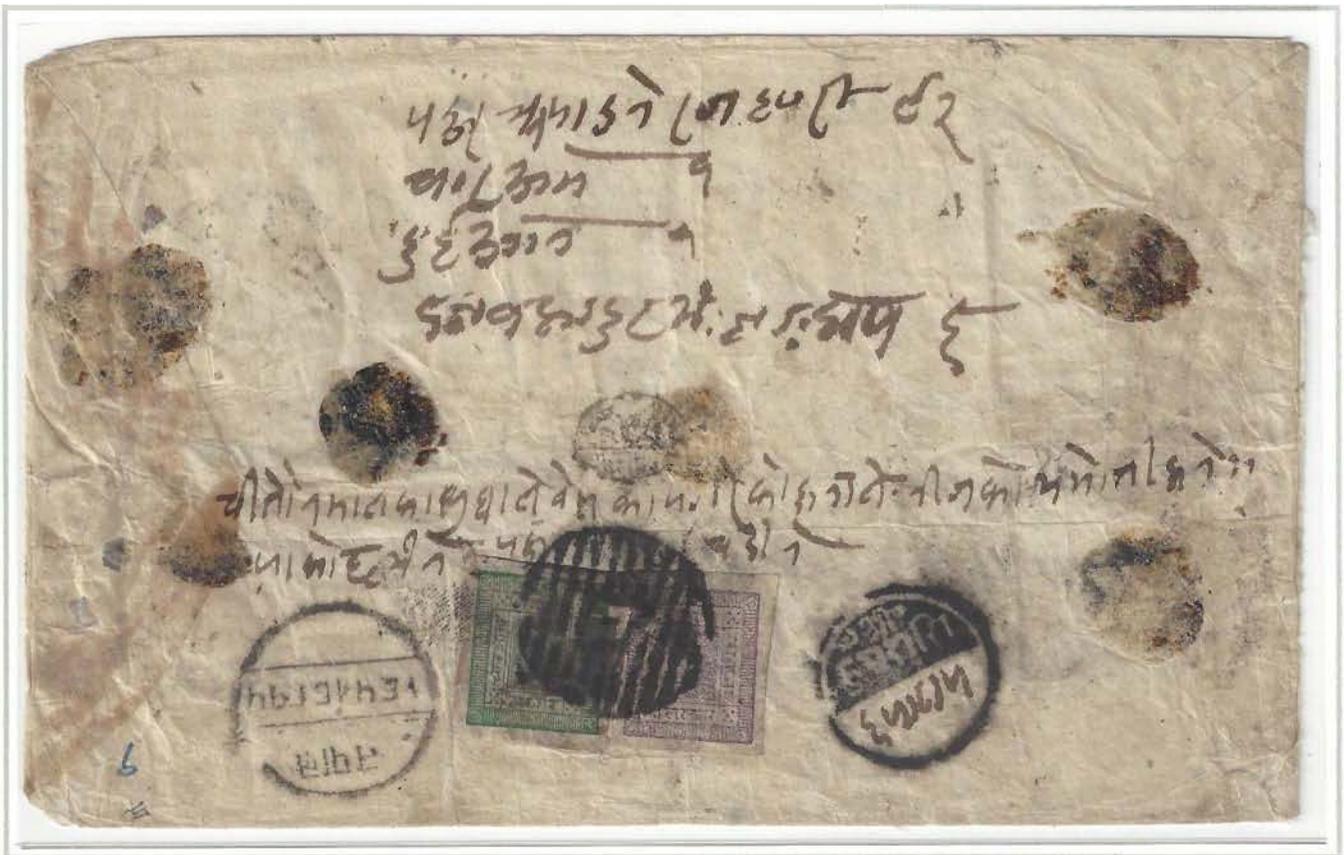


October 1905 quadruple rate cover from Hanumannagar to Kathmandu prepaid 4 annas for rate to 4 tolas weight with a single 4 annas green stamp **the only reported example of any 4 annas postal rate during the classic period**

Two and Four Annas Combination
Registered Single Rate Cover



Parasi



November 1908 registered cover from Parasi to Kathmandu
6 annas total registered rate prepaid with 4 annas and 2 annas
addressed to Commander in Chief Bhim Shamsheer

Six annas rate (5 annas registry fee plus 1 anna
postage for single weight letter postage).

**Pair on Double Weight Cover
Registered with Acknowledgment of Receipt**



Jaleswar non-standard cancel



December 1901 registered double weight cover from Jaleswar with acknowledgment of receipt
8 annas total rate prepaid with 4 annas green pair
two reported examples

Eight annas rate (5 annas registry fee, 2 annas double weight postage plus 1 anna fee for acknowledgment of receipt).

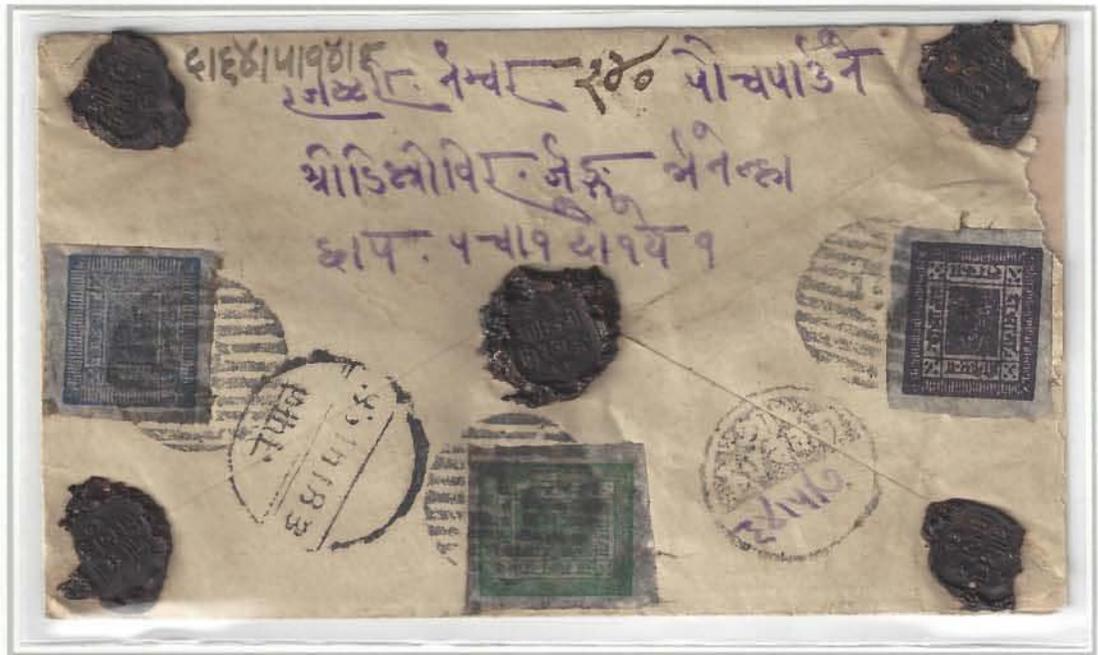
Complete Set on Cover
Registered with Acknowledgment of Receipt

Registered १००१

पौचपाडने Acknowledge Due



Dhankuta



August 1907 Dhankuta registered cover with acknowledgment of receipt prepaid 7 annas rate, franked with 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas fewer than ten known covers with the set of 1901 - 1907 printings

Seven annas rate (5 annas registry fee, 1 anna single weight postage plus 1 anna acknowledgment of receipt).

One-Half Anna Black, 1899 to 1907 Printings

A black one-half anna stamp of a new design was issued in January 1899. It was issued for use in paying the new one-half anna postal rate for letters sent between the Maharaja's royal hunting camp in southern Nepal and Kathmandu. The stamps were also valid for all postal rates. There are very few known genuine uses on cover.

Between the date of issue in 1899 and the final printing intended for postal purposes in 1907, five different settings were utilized. The majority of stamps sold were left imperforate but were also available pin-perforated upon request.

Setting 1

The first setting was the only setting with framelines on four sides. The earliest printings were on thin paper while later printings were on thick paper.



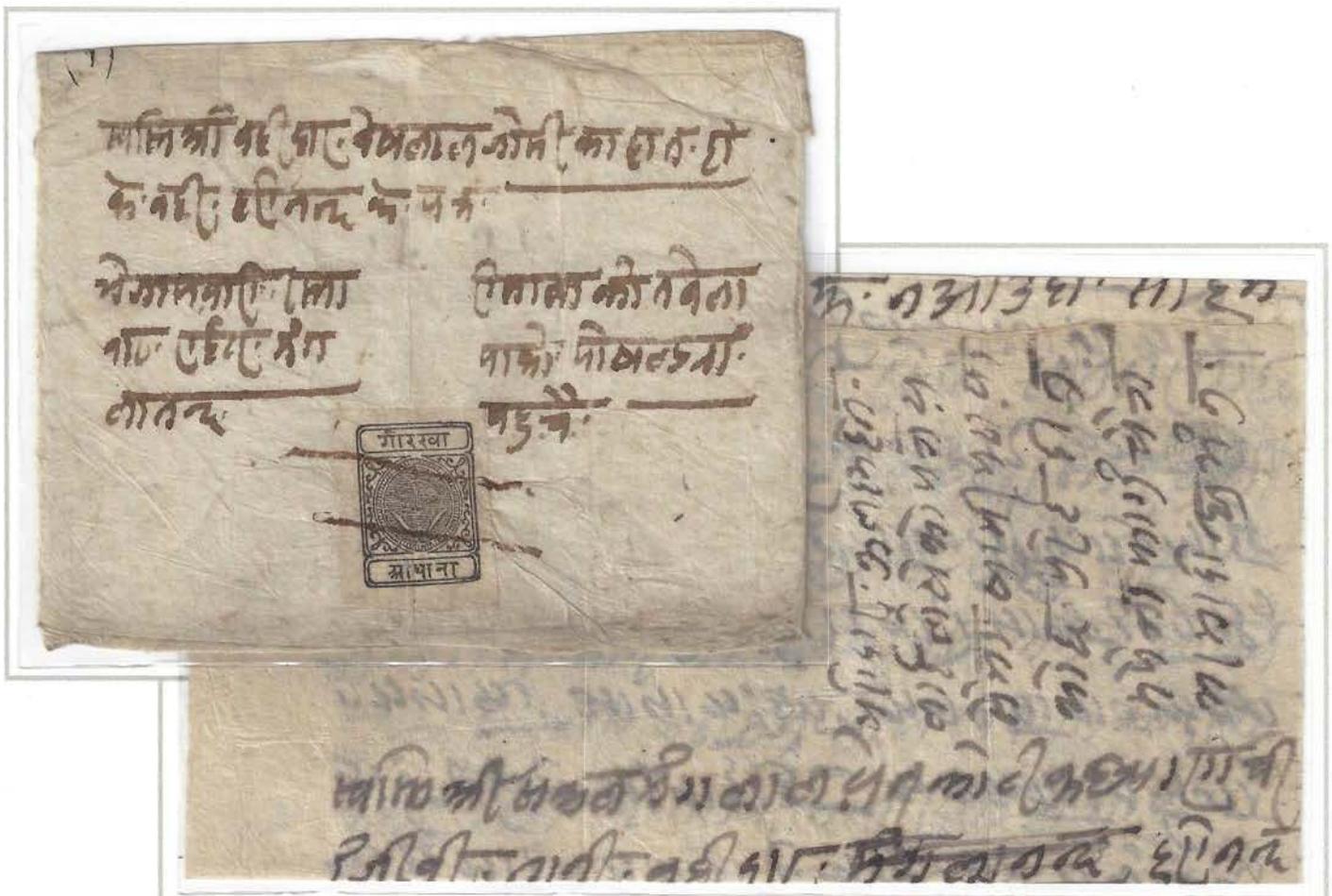
pin-perforated, this pair is the **only known multiple**



imperforate marginal blocks showing framelines at side
on thin paper (pos. 39-40/47-48) and on thick paper (pos. 47-48/55-56)

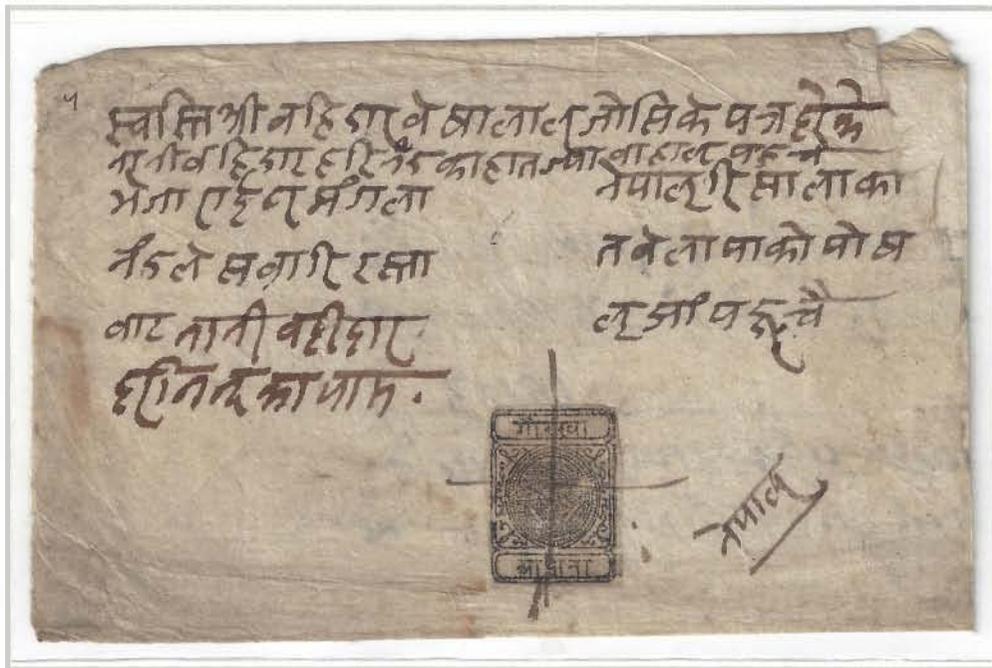
Single on Cover

Temporary "camp" post offices were established in the Terai Region for the handling of mail from and to the Maharaja's yearly hunting expeditions in the area. From 1899, mail that had previously been sent free was subject to the new one-half anna rate. Mail from these camps was franked with one-half anna stamps which were pen canceled.



22 December 1912 dated letter and cover, royal hunting camp to Kathmandu, prepaid 1/2 anna six reported covers franked with a single one-half anna stamp

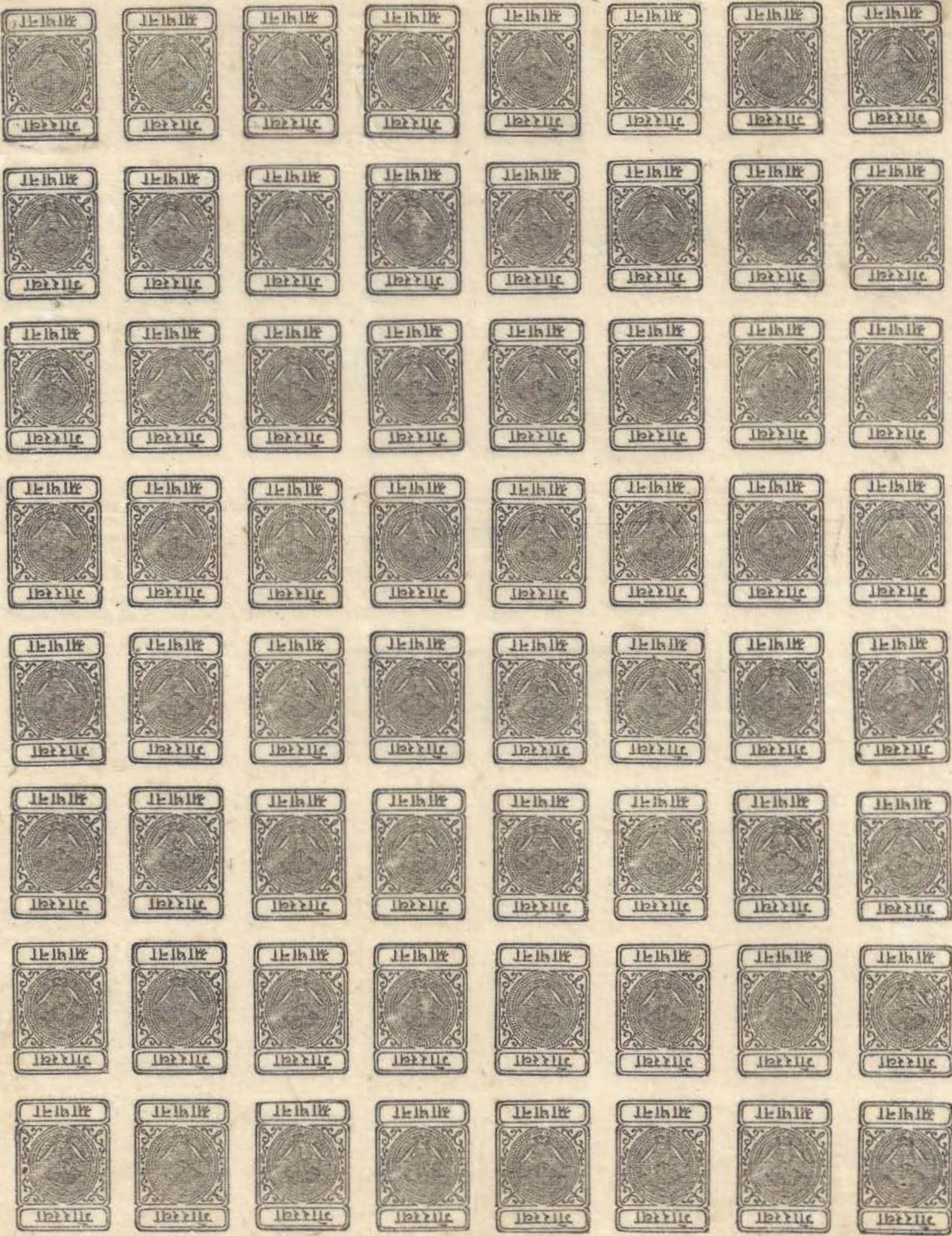
Uses on Cover



December 1910 cover from royal hunting camp to Kathmandu, prepaid 1/2 anna
 six reported covers franked with a single one-half anna stamp



Bhaktapur to Kathmandu, a late use, prepaid one anna rate with pair 1/2 anna
 stamps tied by postmaster's ring seal, Bhaktapur post office cachet with crossed kukris



Setting 1, Early State



early state of the setting on thick paper, blocks showing framelines with wide corner breaks
positions: 1-5/9-13 and positions: 7-8/15-16

Setting 1, Late State



late state on thin paper, positions 1-8, top frameline with small breaks and corners nearly closed
reported by Hellrigl as a variant state (state C) based only on two corner margin singles
this multiple, found since the report, proves the variant state
the only known multiple

The "Notched" Cliche

The "notched" frameline cliche is located upright in position 7 in settings 1 and 2. In setting 3 it is in the same position but is inverted. In setting 5 it was moved to position 6 and remains inverted.



setting 1 (imperforate) and setting 3 (pin-perforated)
notched cliche flaw in position 7



setting 1, positions 7-8/23-24
position 7, notched cliche normal



setting 3, positions 6-8/14-16,
position 7 notched cliche inverted

setting 5 (imperforate and pin-perforated) tête-bêche pairs
notched cliche flaw now in position 6



positions 5-6 and positions 6-7 tête-bêche pairs, position 6 inverted in both

Settings



setting 2 (no inverted cliches), pin-perforated, positions 1-2/9-10



setting 2, thick buff paper, positions 1-3



setting 5 (1 inverted cliche, position 57), tête-bêche pair, positions 57-58

Setting 3

The third setting had one inverted cliché in position 7.



tête-bêche pair
positions 7-8



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions 33-40/49-51



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions 33-40/49-51

Telegraphic Period Printings, 1917 to 1930

In October 1907, when a new issue of pictorial postage stamps arrived in Nepal, remaining sheets and the printing plates of the previous classic issue stamps were placed into storage. In 1917 when a telephone / telegraph line was established, those stored stamps were pressed into service to pay the telegraph fees. When the stamps that had been stored ran out, additional printings began again and new settings were composed when needed. Although valid for postal use, the stamps printed after 1917 were intended for telegraphic use. Such stamps can be easily distinguished based on colors, papers, and the distinct telegraphic cancels that were used. In 1930 the printing of the classic design stamps ceased.

This section of the exhibit is arranged by denomination and setting. Settings can be differentiated and ordered by noting the placement of inverted cliches. These are shown with large multiples and sheets. Additional varieties include important errors of color caused by ink misapplication and the one anna error of color that resulted when a cliché of a one anna stamp was placed in a four annas setting.

One-Half Anna Orange-Vermilion Setting 6, 1917

A short print run of the one-half anna in orange-vermilion rather than black was printed from a new setting (setting 6) in 1917. A single full sheet was discovered in 1921 by W.G. O'Sullivan, a British postal inspector serving in Nepal.



ex O'Sullivan, Helbrigg and Singer

block from the O'Sullivan discovery sheet, setting 6, positions 18-19/26-27
the spot at foot confirms original position attached above the half-sheet shown on next page

Largest Multiple of the "Most Famous Stamp of Nepal"

The one-half anna in orange-vermilion was printed in 1917 from a new setting. Only about 100 unused examples and 300 to 400 used examples are known. Referring to this stamp, Hellrigl coined the phrase, "Most Famous Stamp of Nepal."



bottom half of the O'Sullivan discovery sheet found in 1921, setting 6, positions 33-64
inverted cliché position 57 (bottom left corner stamp)

ex O'Sullivan, Watts, Dawson and Hellrigl

Used Tête-Bêche Pairs and Blocks

The one-half anna orange-vermilion was printed from a new setting, setting 6, produced at the start of the telegraphic period in 1917. The setting included three inverted clichés. All are shown in used pairs below.



inverted position 7 shows
flattened base flaw



tête-bêche pairs, position 6/14, 7-8 and 49/57

inverted clichés positions 6,7 and 57

three of the eight used tête-bêche pairs known



block of twelve, positions 43-46/51-54/50-62 and block of four, positions 2-3/10-11

fewer than ten known used blocks, most being blocks of four

One-Half Anna Lemon Shade

The one-half anna printed in the so-cataloged "lemon" shade, or more accurately, orange-yellow, is known only in four used singles and one cover.



½ anna lemon, position 3, Kathmandu telegraphic cancel
four known used examples of this shade



January 1921 cover from O'Sullivan in Ghumdhang, via British office in Kathmandu, to India
 philatelic overpayment with ½ anna lemon plus additional Nepal and India stamps
the only reported example of this shade on cover

ex Singer

Telegraphic Period (1917-1930)

One-Half Anna Black Printings

Setting 7 was the first used for the black printings during the telegraphic period.



setting 7, clear printing, positions: 6-8/14-16 (three vertical tête-bêche pairs)
inverted position 7 flattened base flaw

Telegraphic Cancels used 1917 to 1930

When service started in 1917 the telephone line connected the main office at Kathmandu with Birganj near the border with India. Messages were written out on a special form and transmitted verbally by telephone to the receiving office where they were transcribed. The charges for use of this "telegraphic" service was three-fourths anna per word. Stamps were affixed to the reverse of the special forms and cancelled.



Amlekganj cancel
a circa 1927 use



telegraph form, 10½ annas fee for 14 words paid with ½ anna single and 2 annas block

Telegraphic Period (1917-1930)

Telegraphic Cancels used 1917 to 1930



Special cancels designating the office of origin for telegraphs were introduced in the three main offices in 1917. An additional office was added in 1927.

Cancel of the Telephone Head Office, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Kathmandu.



Cancel of the Telephone Sub-Office 1, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Chisapani.



Telegraphic Period (1917-1930)

Telegraphic Cancels used 1917 to 1930



Cancel of the Telephone Sub-Office II, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Birganj.



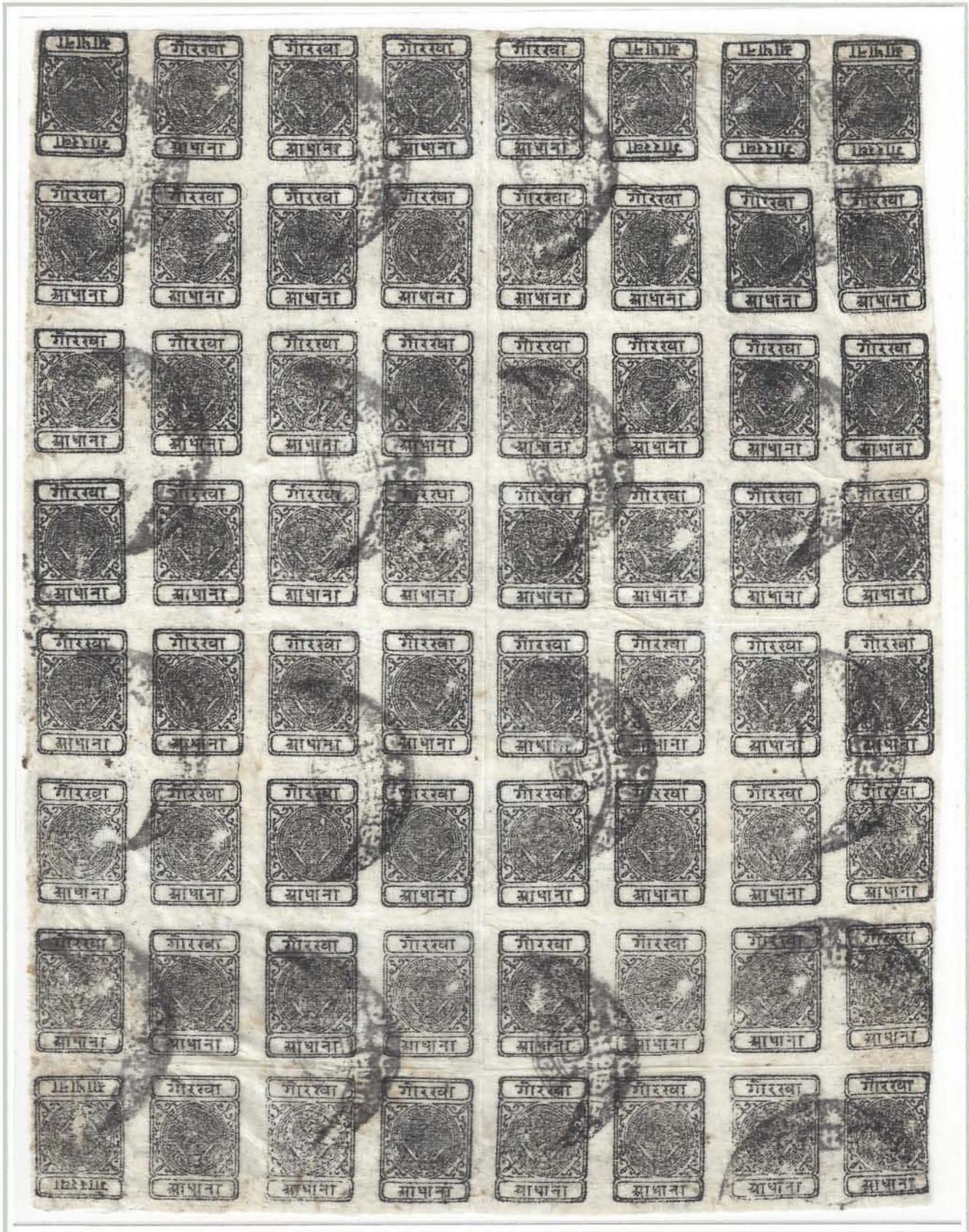
top pair is tête-bêche



Cancel of the Amlekanj office internally dated 1927. This office was added when the railway was completed in 1927.

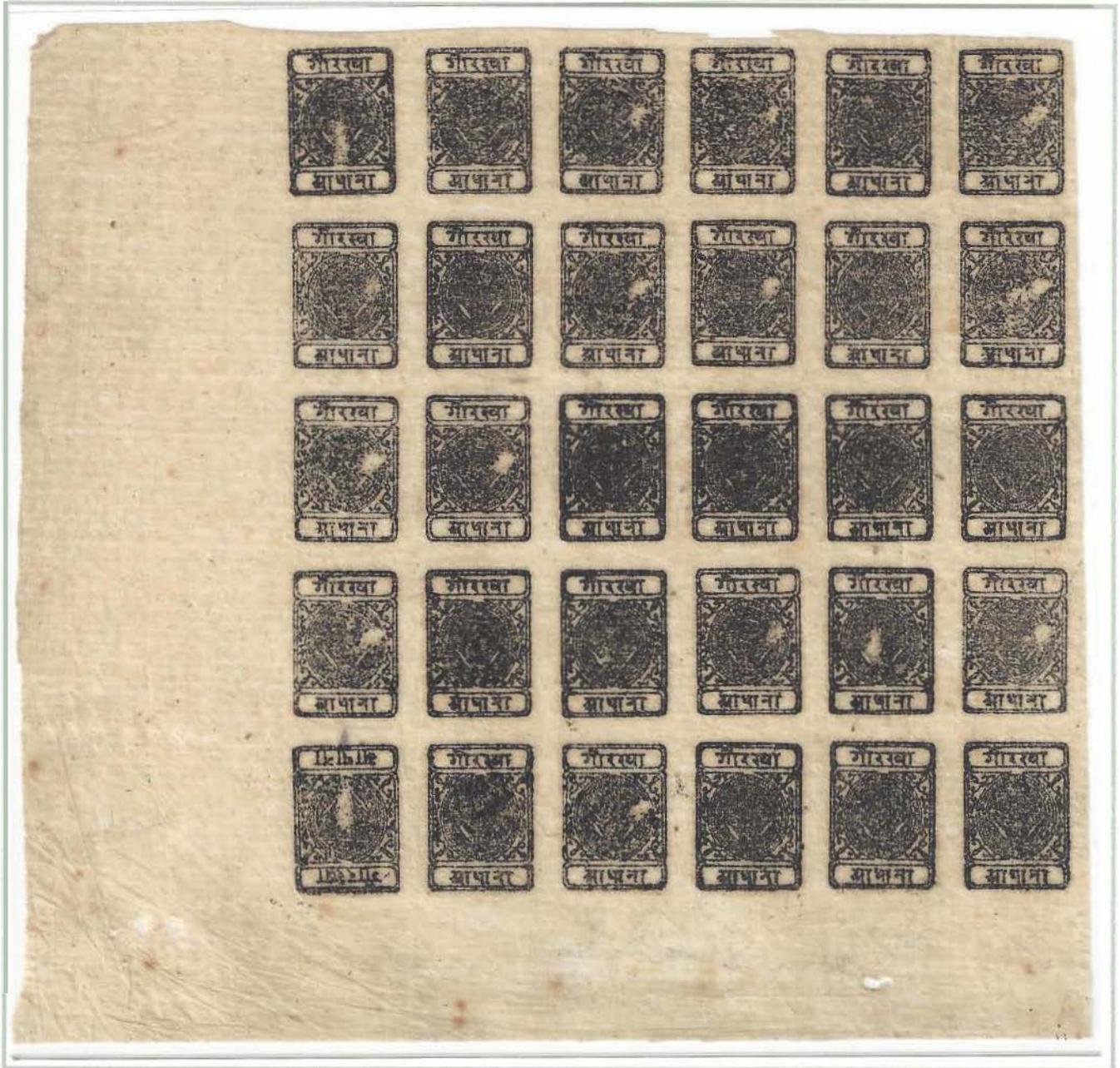


Setting 7



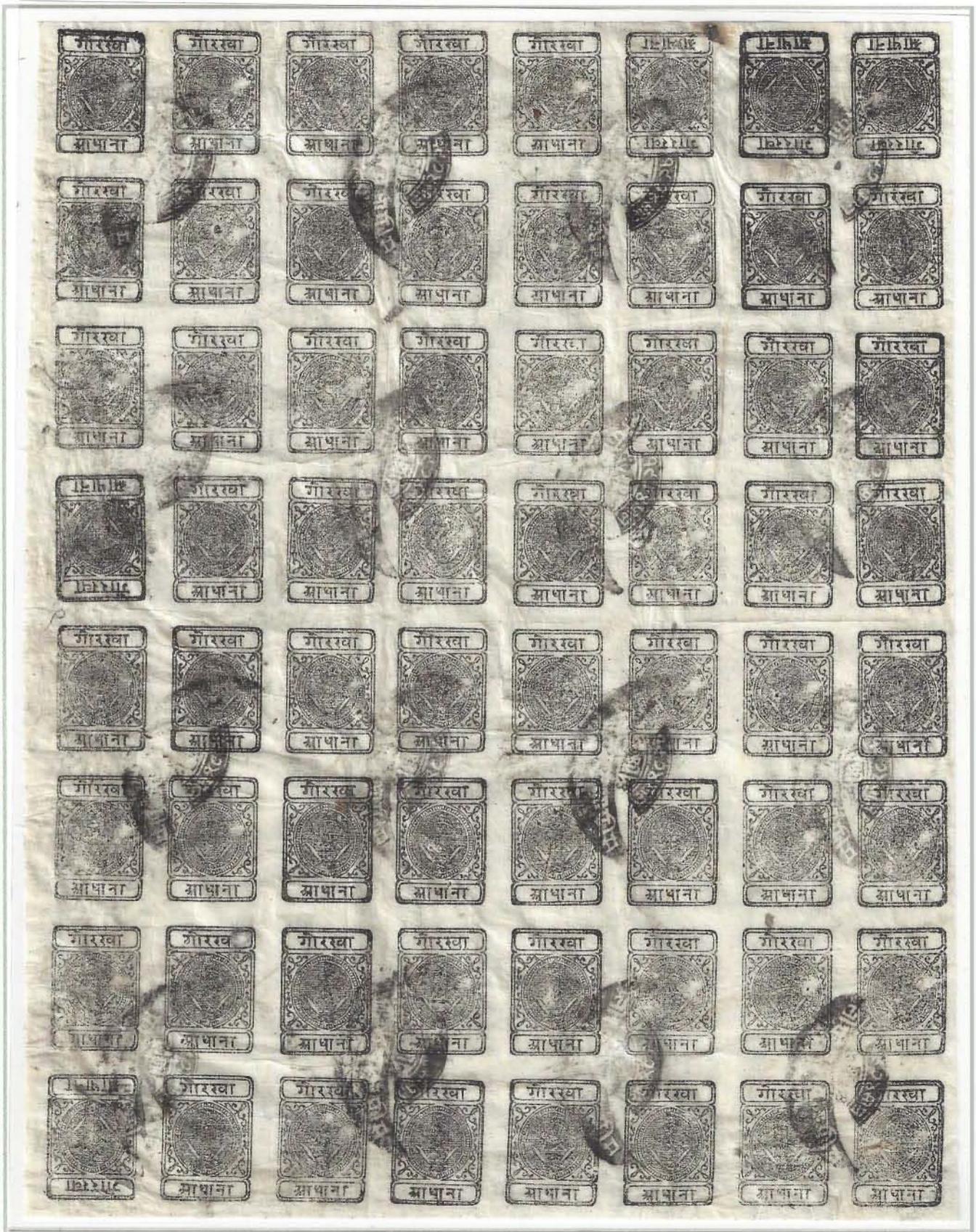
inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, 8 and 57; flattened base in inverted position 7

Setting 8



corner block of 30, inverted cliché position 57 (bottom left corner position)
second largest unused multiple

Setting 10



inverted cliche positions: 6, 7, 8, 25 and 57, flattened base cliche transferred to position 1

Setting 11

The Blister Flaw

position 42
earliest state
largest multiple



positions 33-34/41-42
discovery block



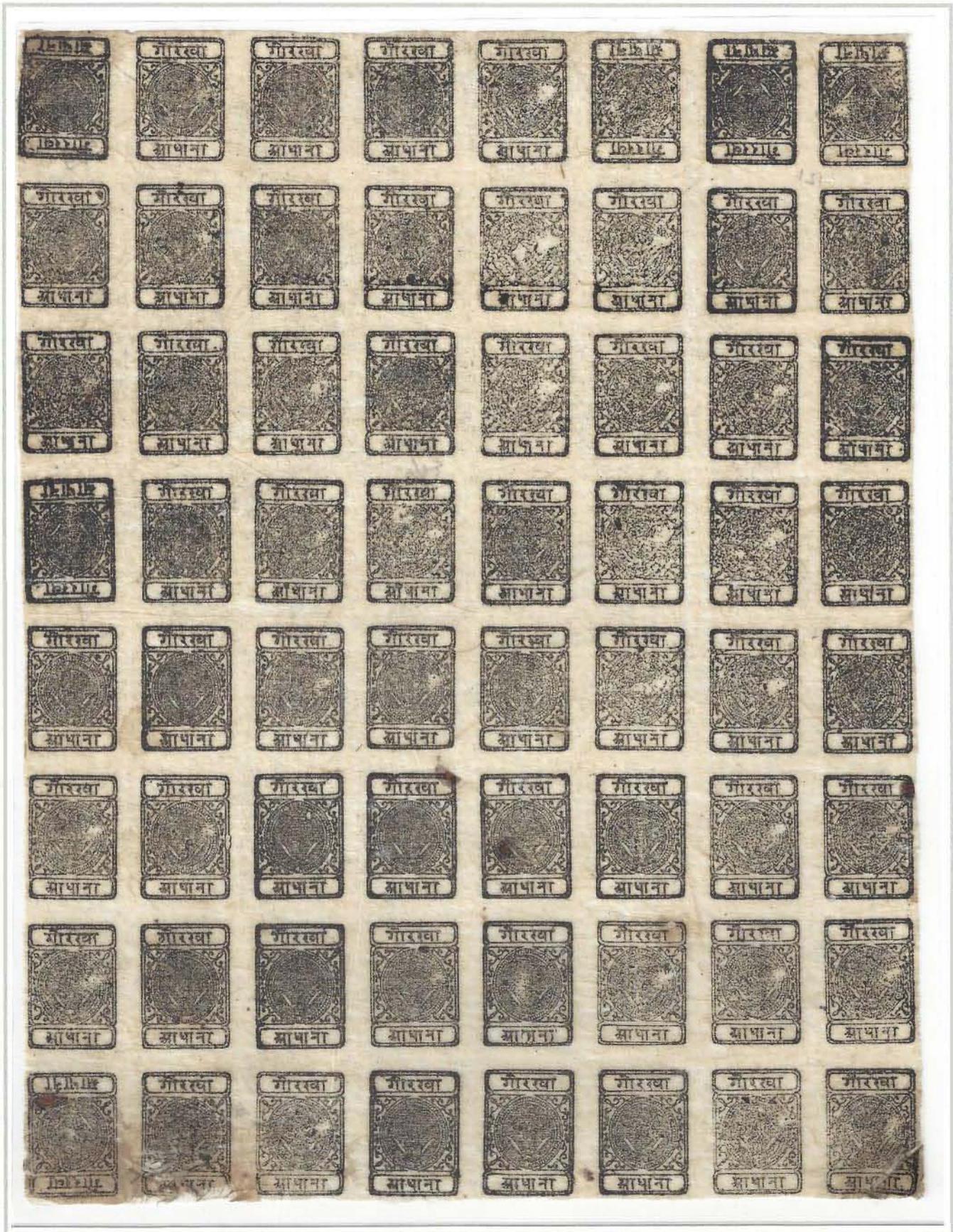
>>

single blister flaw
earliest state which
shows slash to left



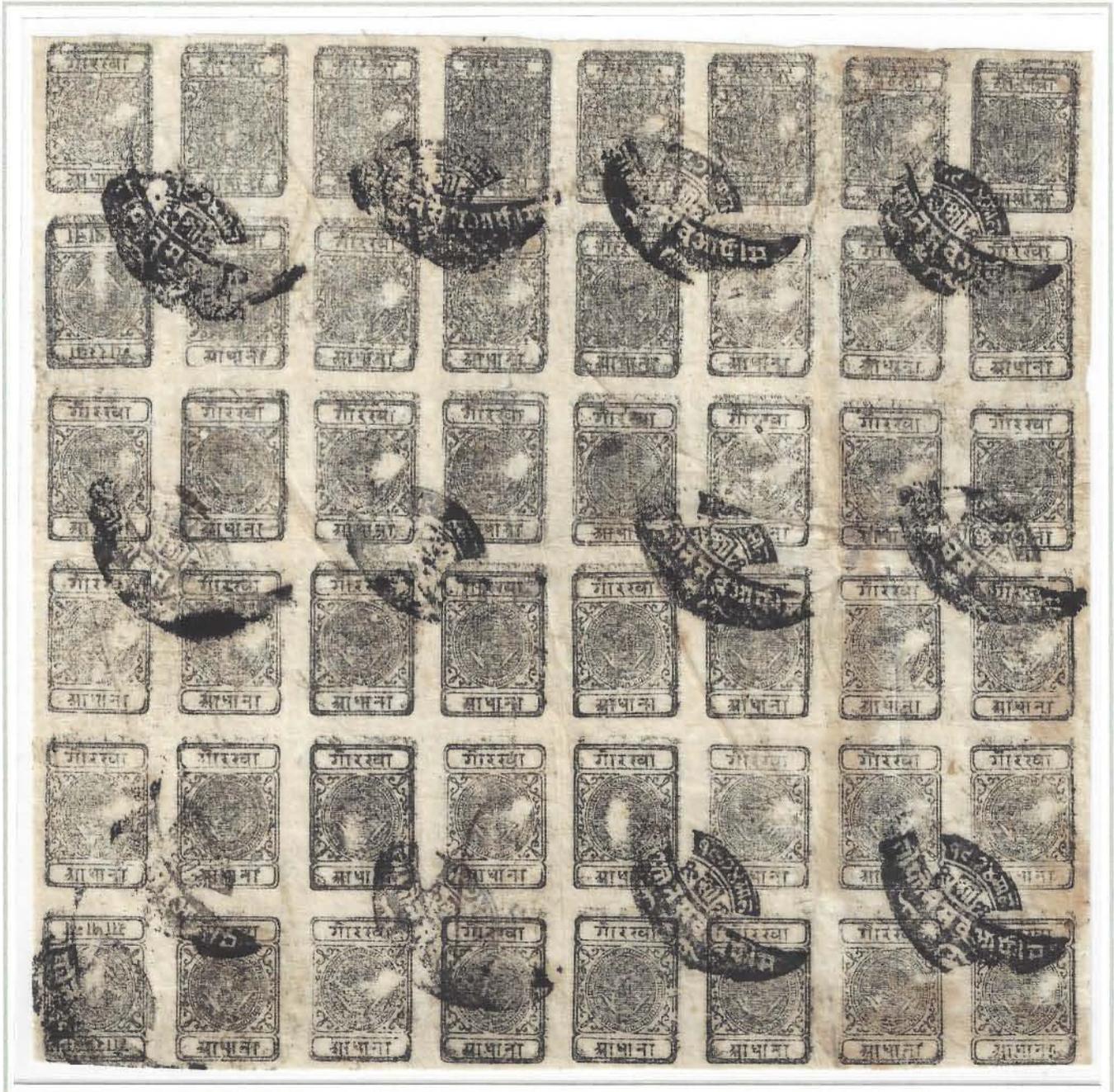
earliest appearance of blister flaw in position 42, inverted cliché positions: 1, 25 and 57

Setting 13



inverted cliche positions: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25 and 57; double blister flaw position: 42
four reported mint sheets

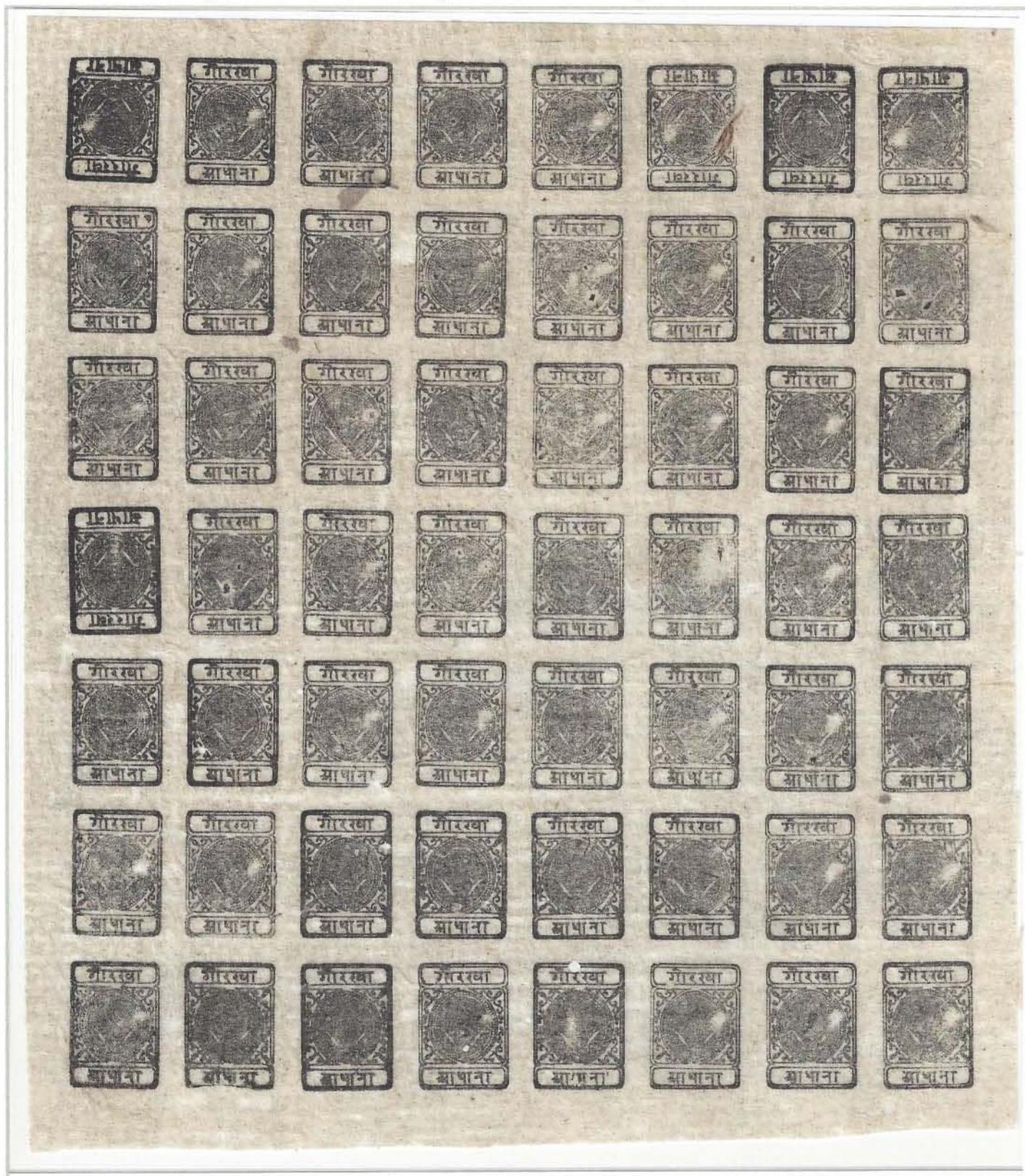
Setting 13
Double Impression



lower six rows of sheet, positions 17-64, inverted cliche positions: 25 and 57
missing double blister flaw usually found on position 42

Setting 14

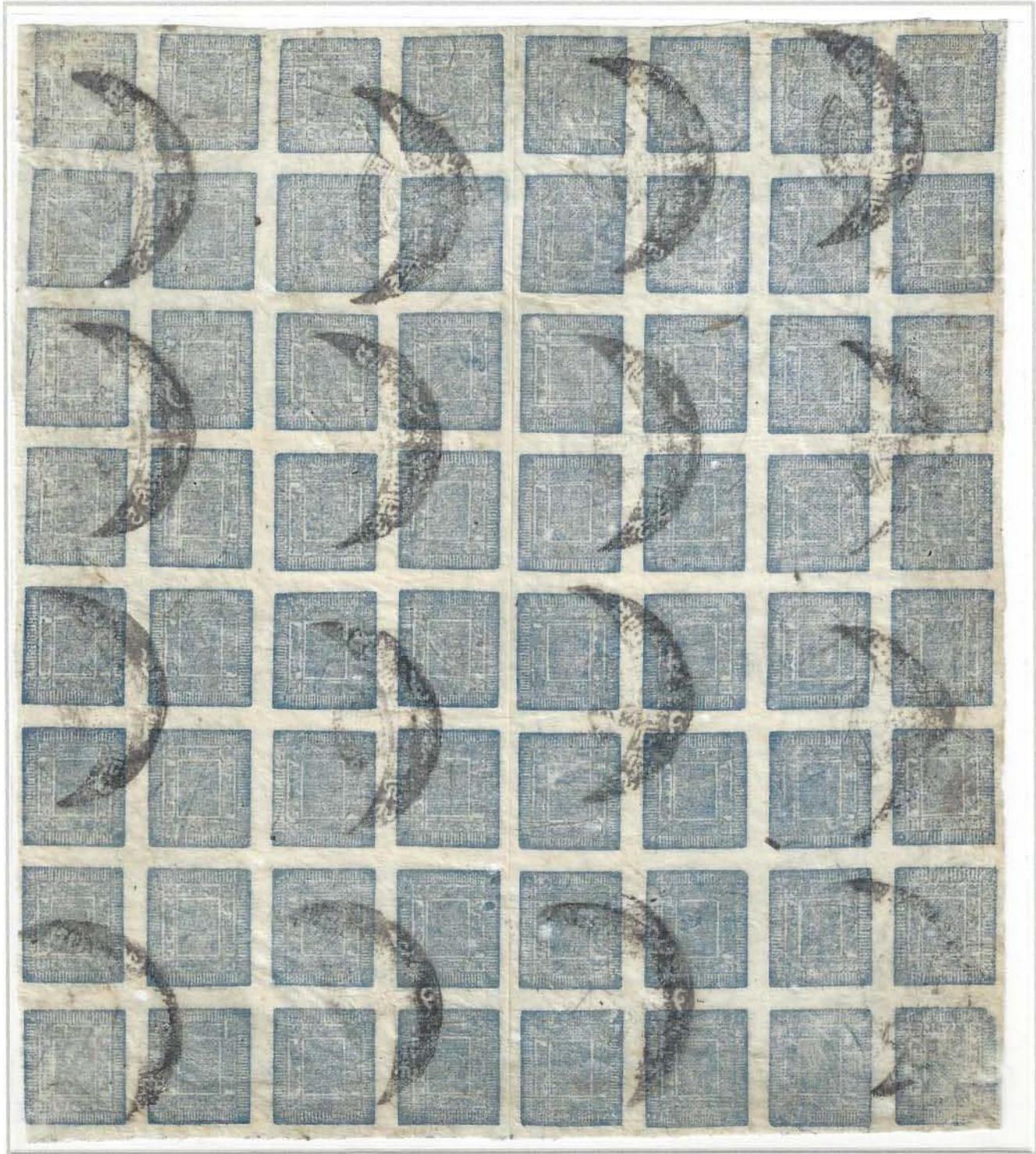
Setting 14, with only 7 rows instead of 8, was the last setting used to print the one-half anna stamps. Used copies are unknown.



inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, 8 and 25;
with the removal of row 8 in this setting, position 50 was damaged at foot

Setting 27, First State

A remainder sheet that had been stored in the Treasury from 1907 until after 1917.

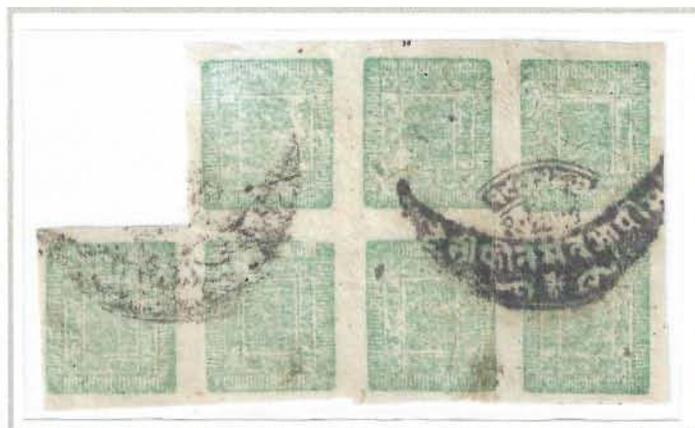


inverted cliche positions: 15, 18, 23, 27, 37, 40, 41, 51 and 64; Birganj telegraphic cancels
no gash flaw at position 7, inverted cliche position 64 shows corner flaw

Setting 27, Second State

Emerald One Anna Error of Color

The one anna printed in emerald shade of the four annas stamps are from the earliest printings of the period. The prints in green are slightly later. Neither are not known unused.



emerald shade error of color, Kathmandu and Birganj telegraphic cancels

Green One Anna Error of Color



"Kumari Chauk"
(Auditor General) cancel

This cancel was unknown to Hellrigl when he wrote his book in 1984. This is one of two blocks from the same sheet that were discovered in 1992.



block positions: 6-8/ 14-16/ 30-32, inverted cliche: position 15

Plate II

Plate II was not a form of individual cliches as previous but rather a true plate of identical subjects of a new design. Note the "teardrop" corner ornaments.

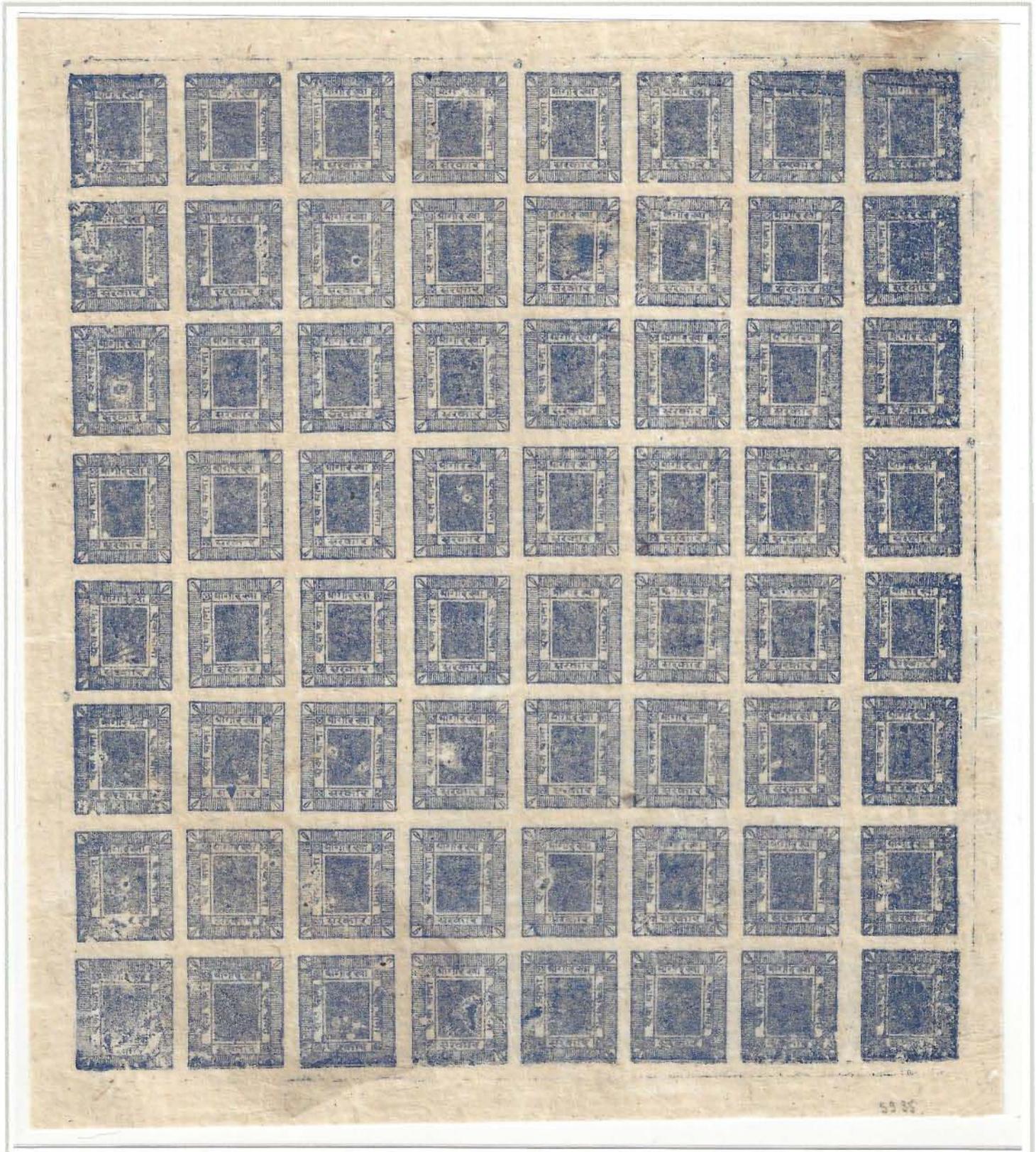
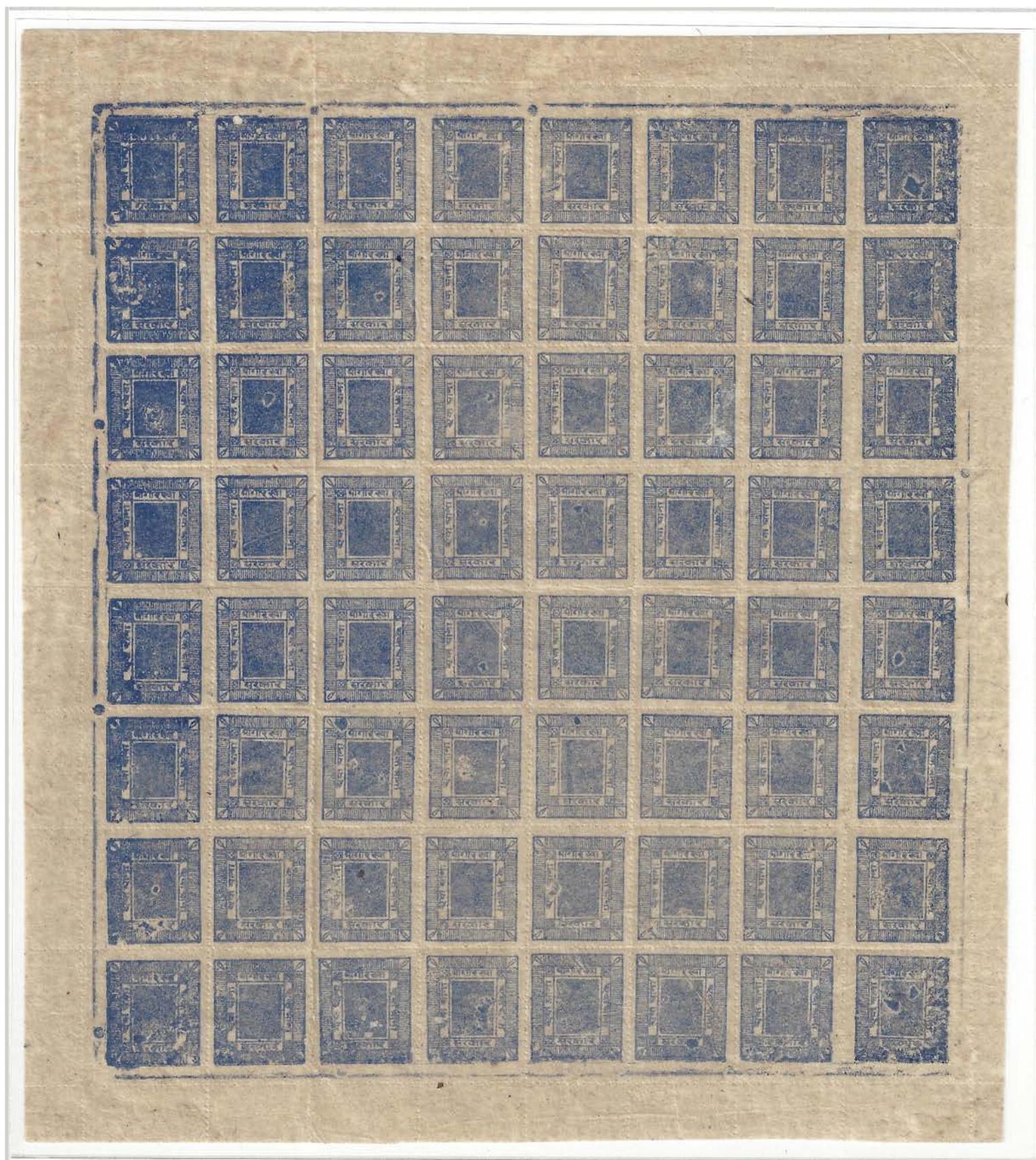


Plate II, Pin-Peforated

Pin-perforated plate II stamps are not known to have been used.

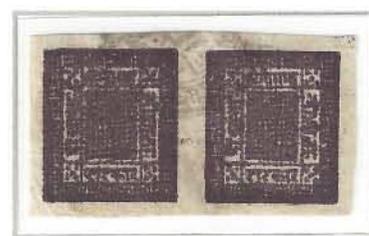
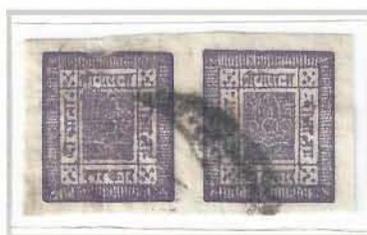


Remaindered two annas sheets from setting 20 that had been stored were pressed into use in 1917. New printings were then made from that setting as well as from settings 22 to 31.

Shades

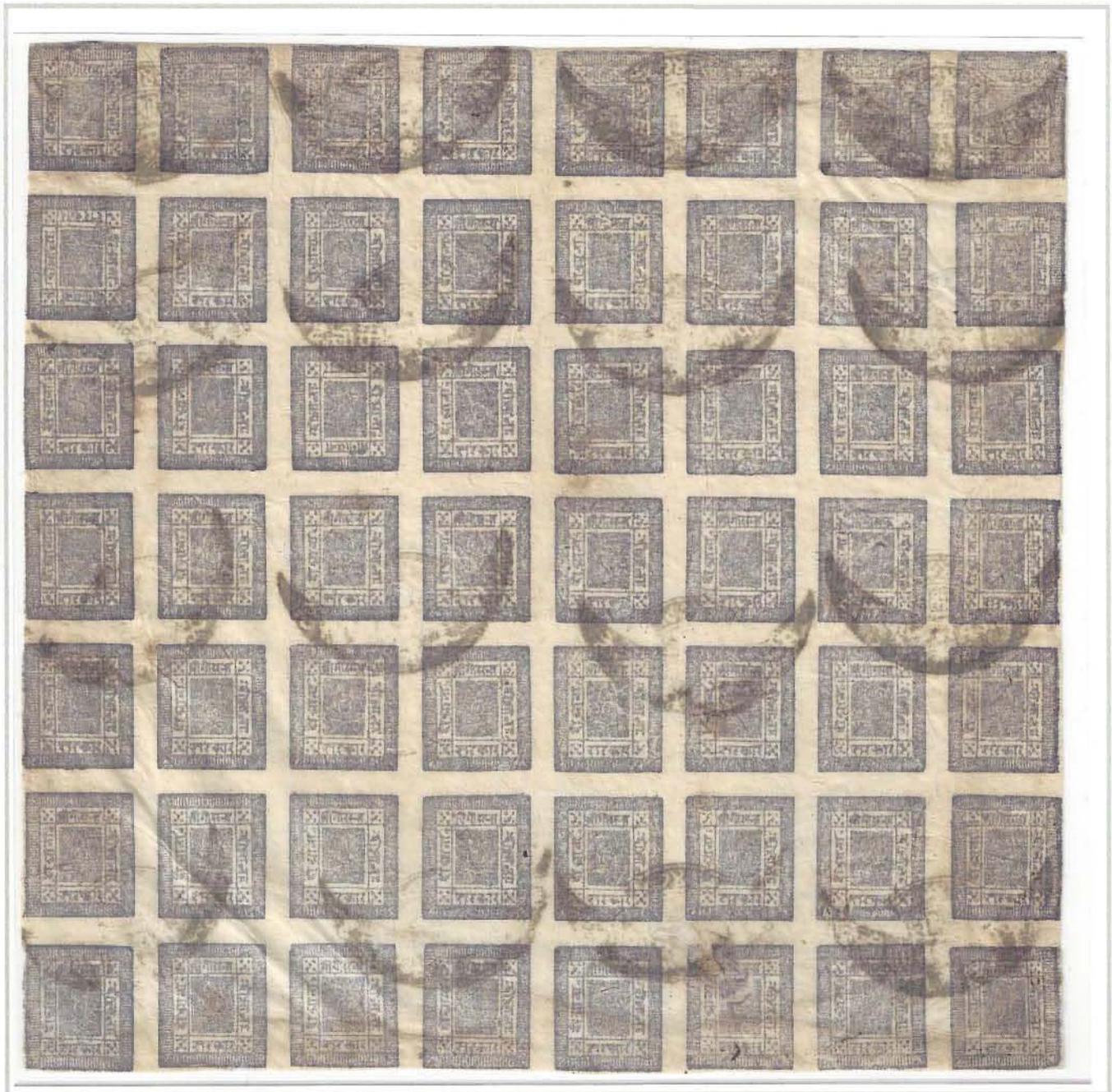


positions 5-8/13-16/20-24
inverted cliches positions: 8, 15



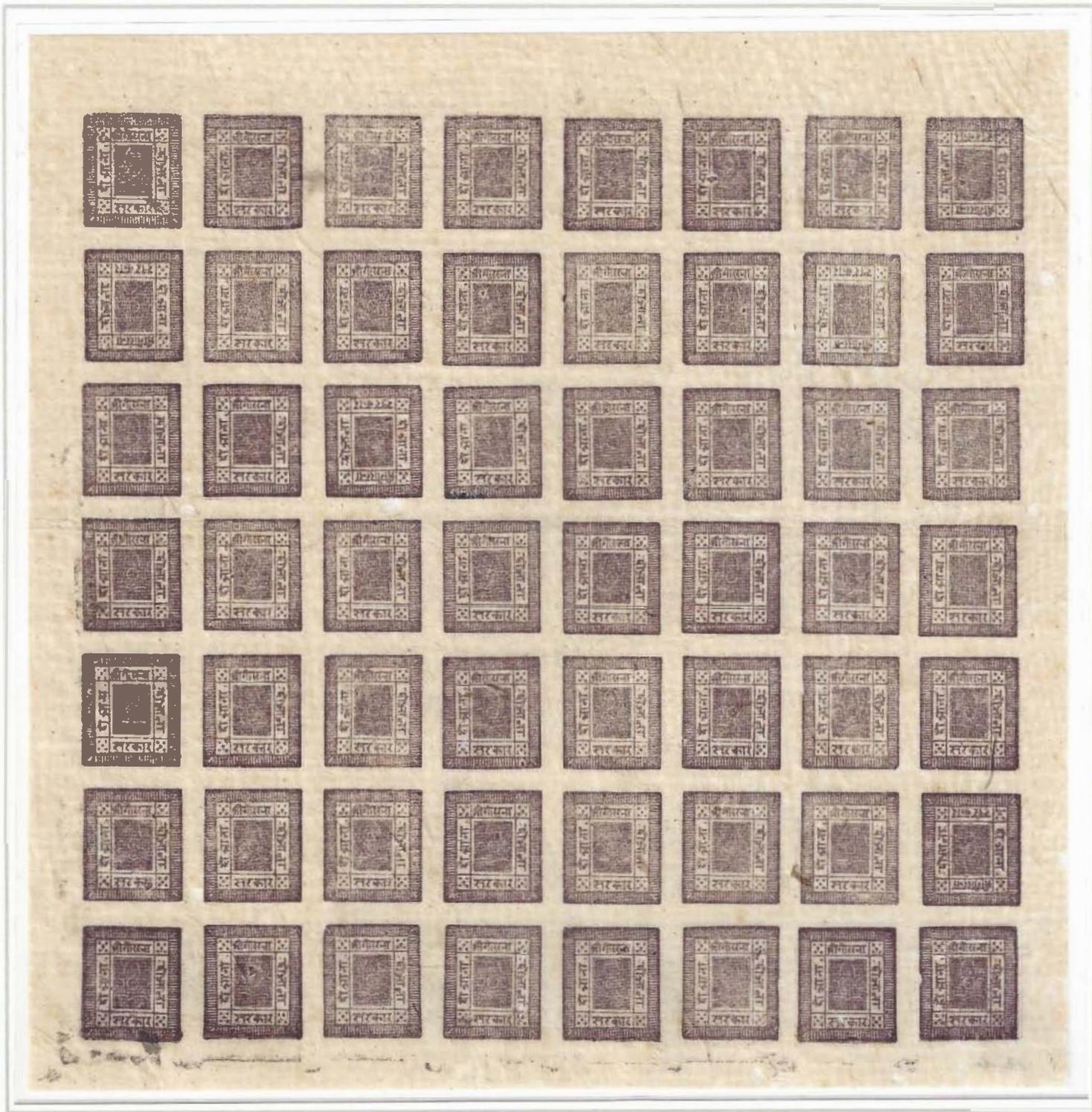
Setting 20

Remainder sheets from the 1905-1906 printings of setting 20 that had been stored in the Treasury were used telegraphically after 1917.



setting 20 (a remainder sheet) inverted cliché positions: 7, 8, 9, and 19; Birganj telegraphic cancels
two known complete used sheets of 56 subjects

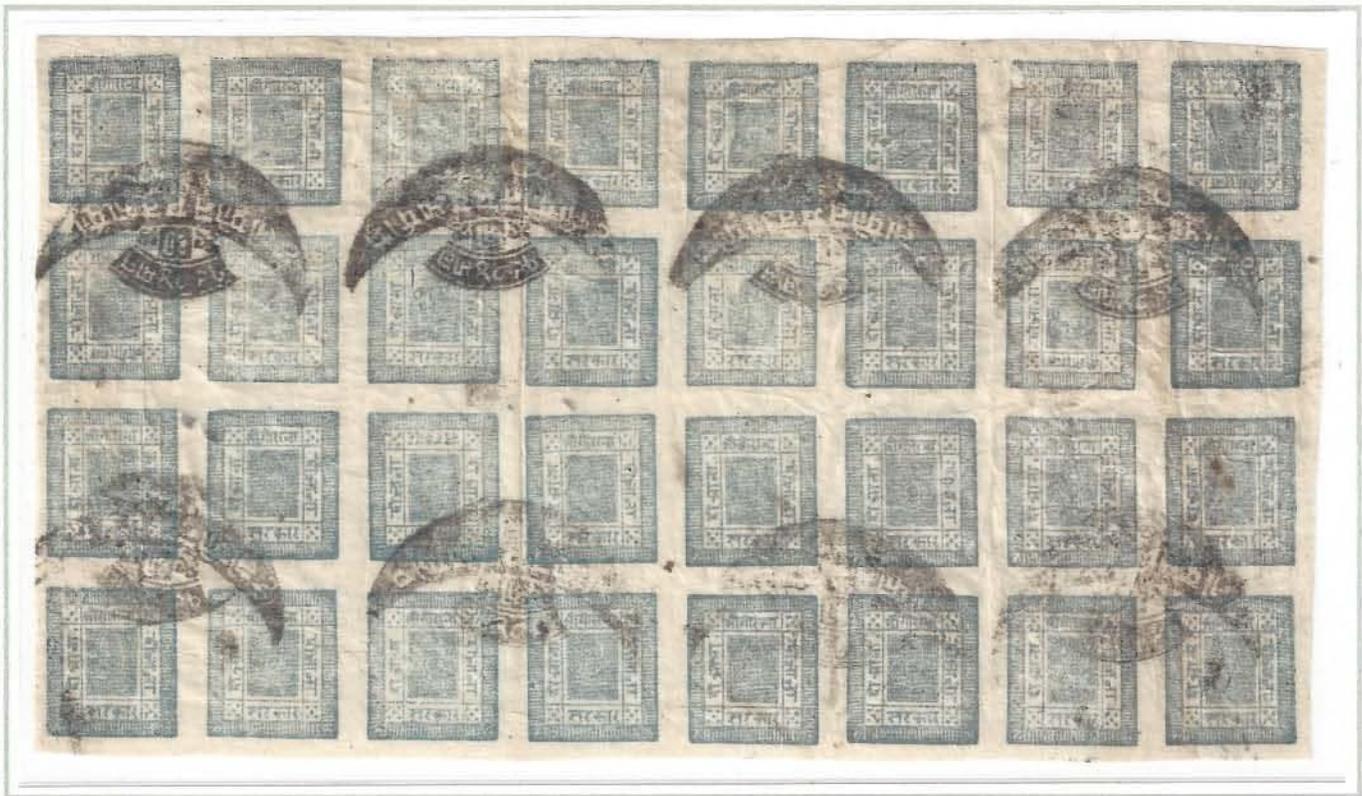
Setting 23



**brown-purple shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 9, 15, 19 and 48
two known complete unused sheets of 56 from this setting**

Pale Blue Two Annas Error of Color Setting 23

This block of the two annas in the pale blue shade of the one anna stamps rather than the normal range of purple and brown shades was considered by Dr. Aemand Singer to be an error of color and published as such.



top four rows of sheet, inverted cliché positions: 8, 9, 15 and 19; Birganj telegraphic cancels
the only reported block of this error of color

Setting 24

Setting 24 is the first two annas setting with the cliché in position 14 inverted.



claret shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 9, 14, 15, 19 and 48, Birganj telegraphic cancels
two complete sheets known of this setting

Setting 26

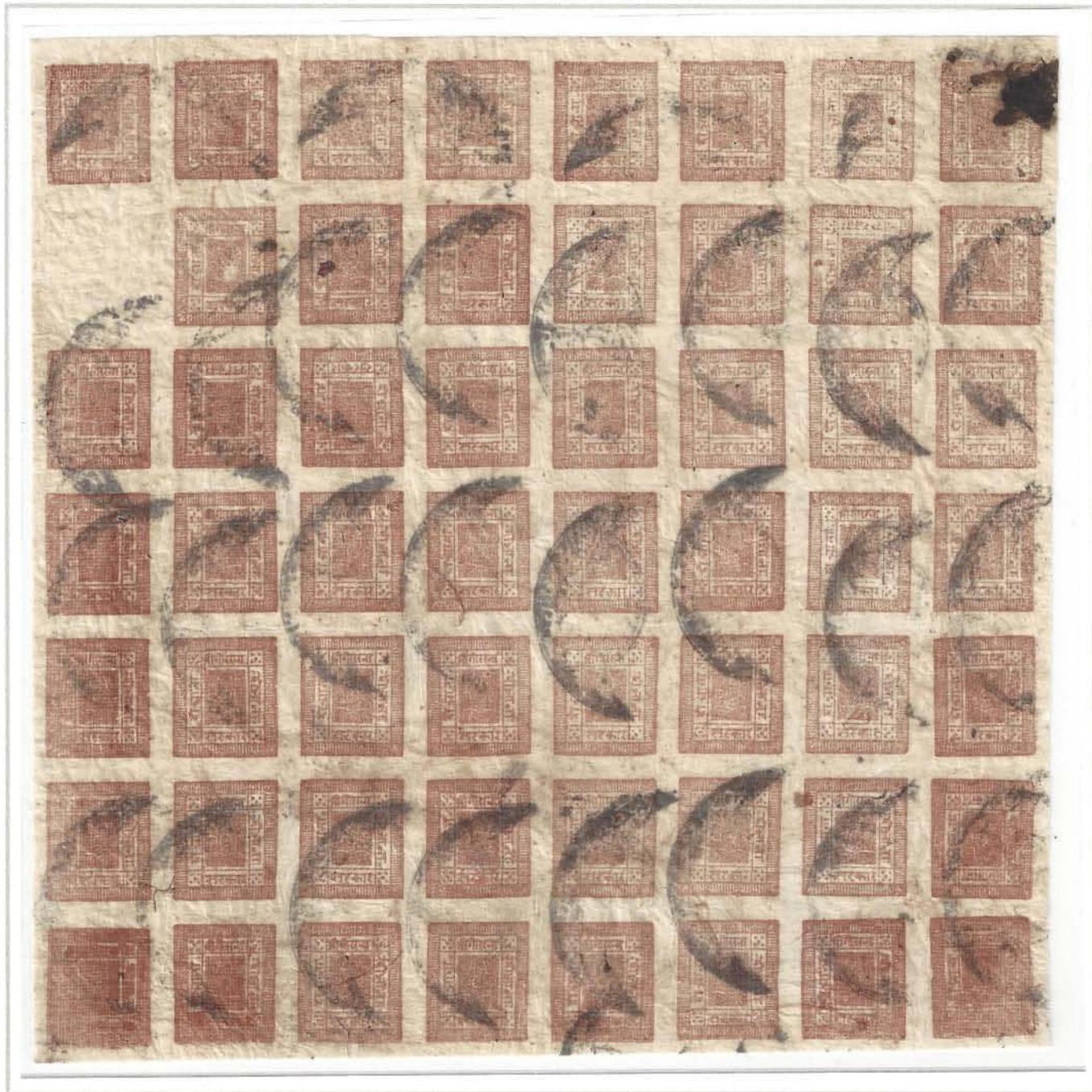
This setting, with eight inverted cliches, contains the largest number of inverted cliches of any in setting used in the period.



claret shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 48
Kathmandu telegraphic cancels

Setting 28

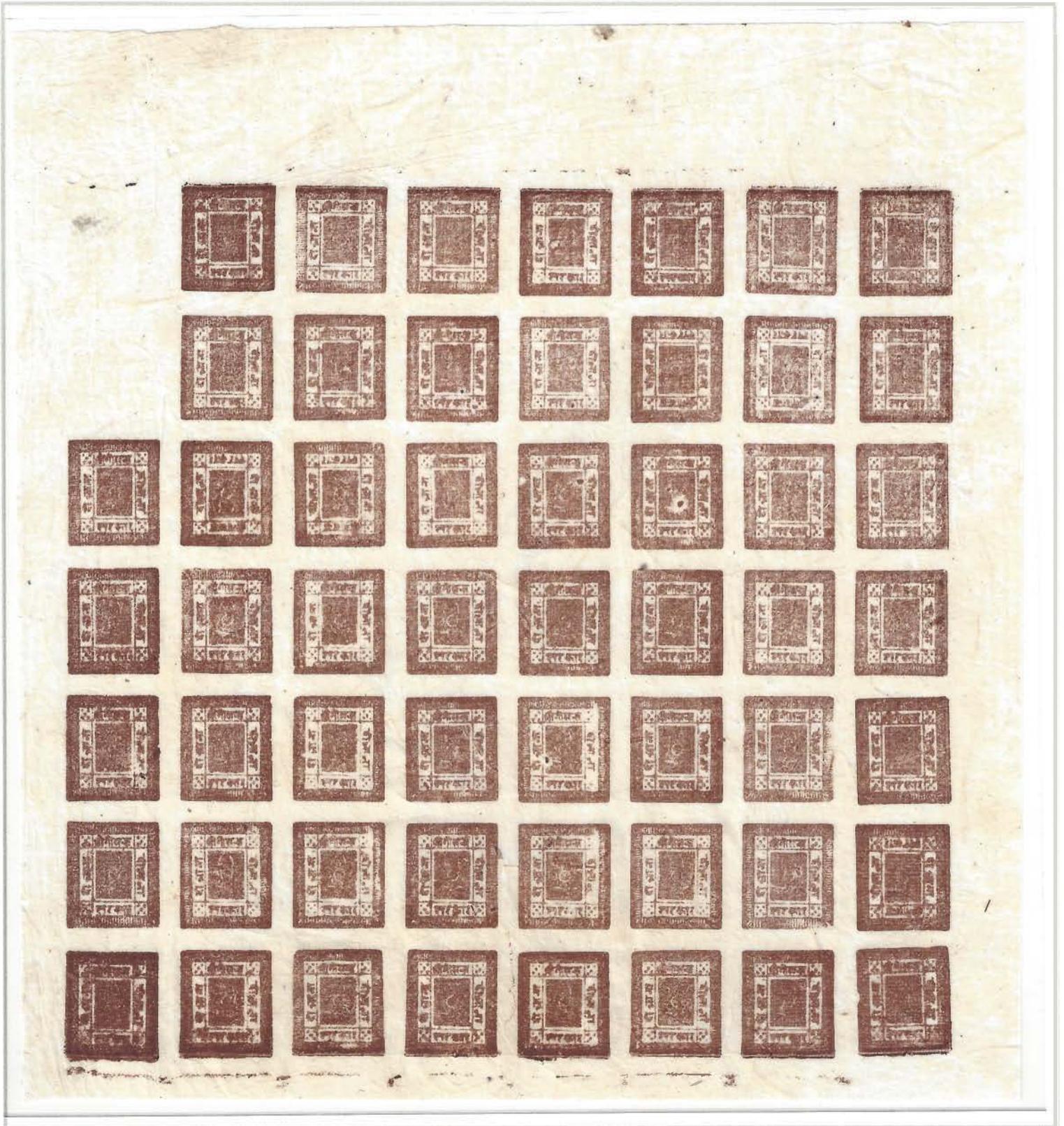
Setting 28 was the first to contain only 55 cliches. There is a blank space in position 9.



chestnut shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 48
Chisapani telegraphic cancels

Setting 29

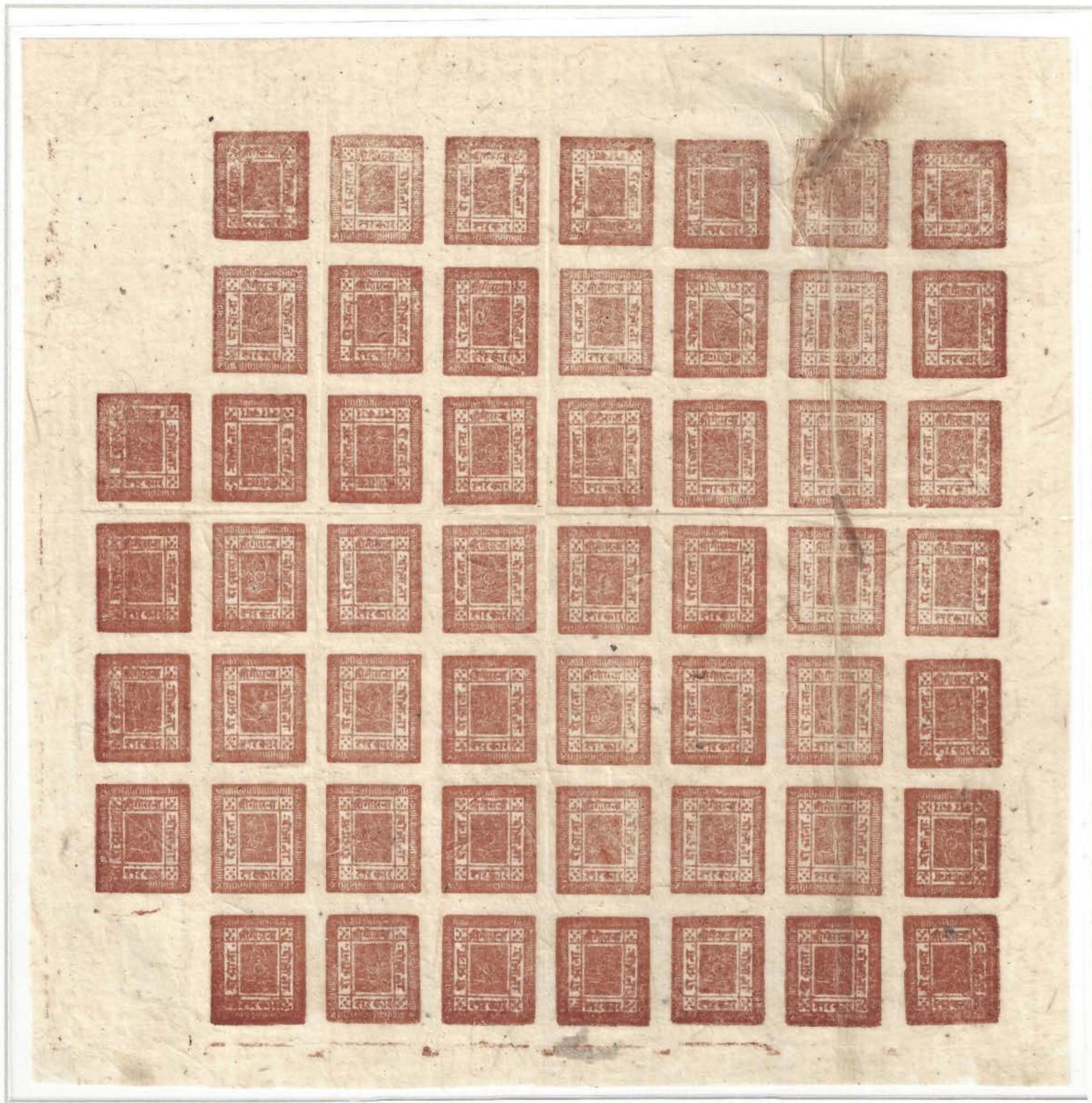
Setting 29 has cliches 1 and 9 missing. It is the last setting known used.



pale brown shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 48

Setting 31, Pin-Perforated

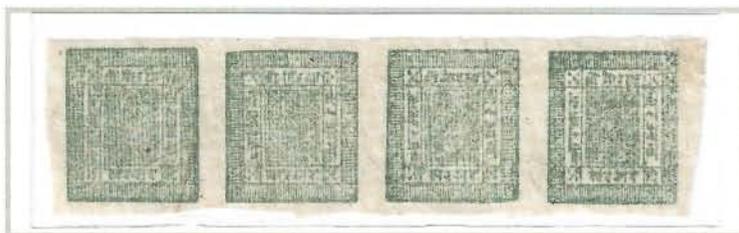
Setting 31 has cliches 1, 9 and 49 missing. It was printed but not used.



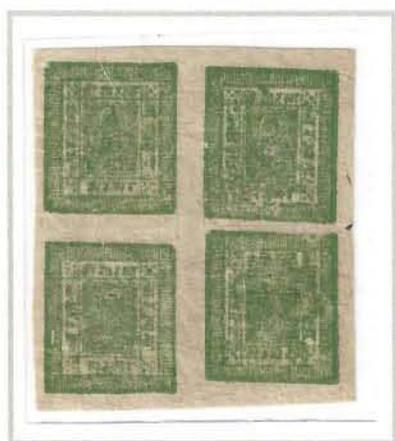
chestnut shade, inverted cliche positions: 8, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 48
the only reported pin-perforated sheet

Sheets of the four annas from setting 11, first state, that had been stored in the Nepal Treasury were issued for telegraphic use in 1917. New printings were then made from later states of setting 11 and from a setting 12 during the period from 1917 to 1930.

The four annas setting 12 produced one of the great errors of Nepal philately as shown at the foot of this page and in sheet form in a following page. A single cliché of the one anna was inserted in position 8 (the top right corner position). Hellrigl estimated that only 50 to 60 mint copies exist.



setting 11, third state (1924-1926), positions 21-24
the only unused examples reported from this state



setting 12, positions 47-56
inverted cliché position 56



setting 12, position 2
 gash flaw at left



setting 12, positions 44-55

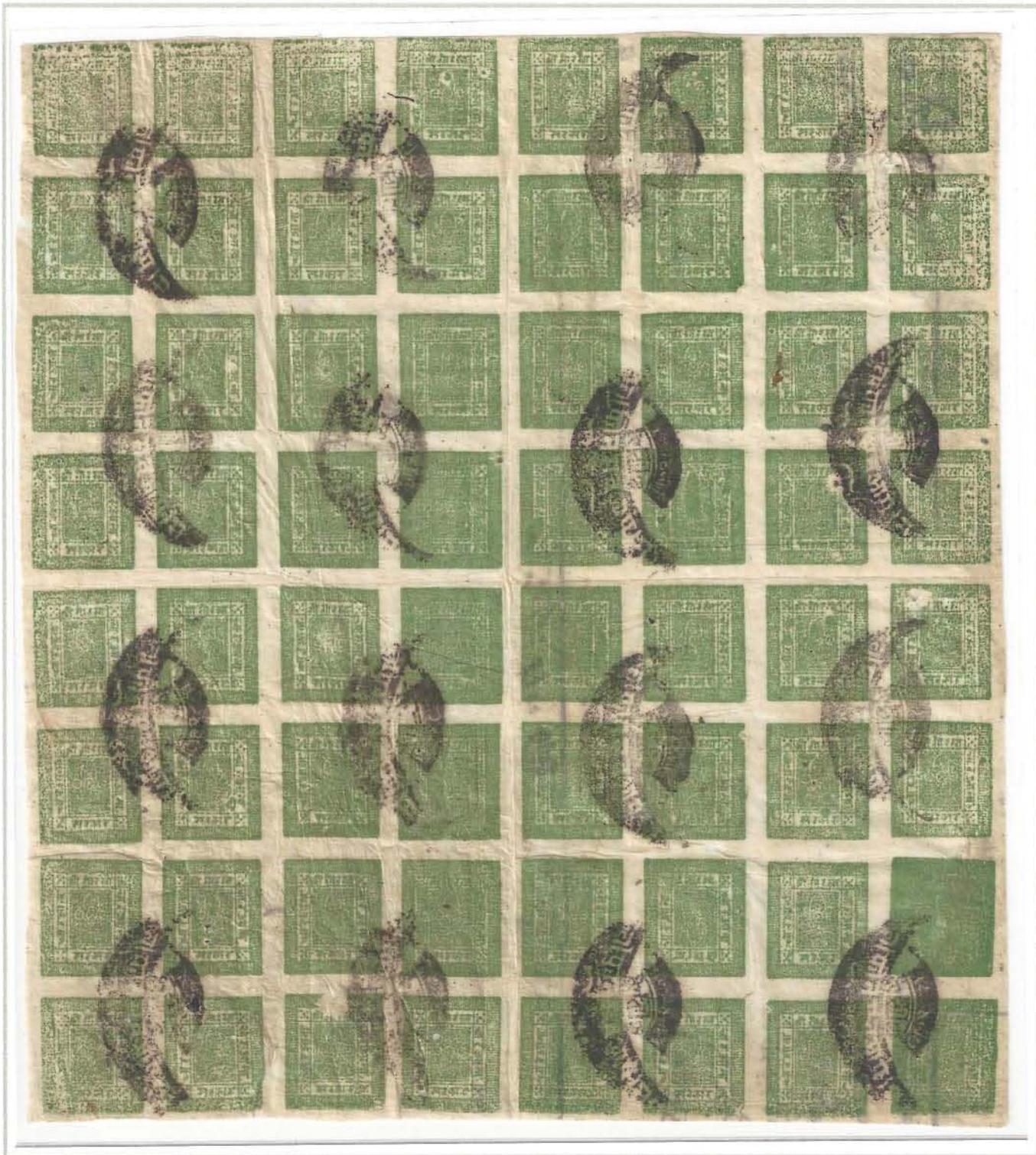
One Anna in Pair with Four Annas



tête-bêche pair, 4 annas se-tenant with 1 anna, setting 12, positions 7-8
the one anna error cliché was placed into position 8 inverted

Setting 11, Third State

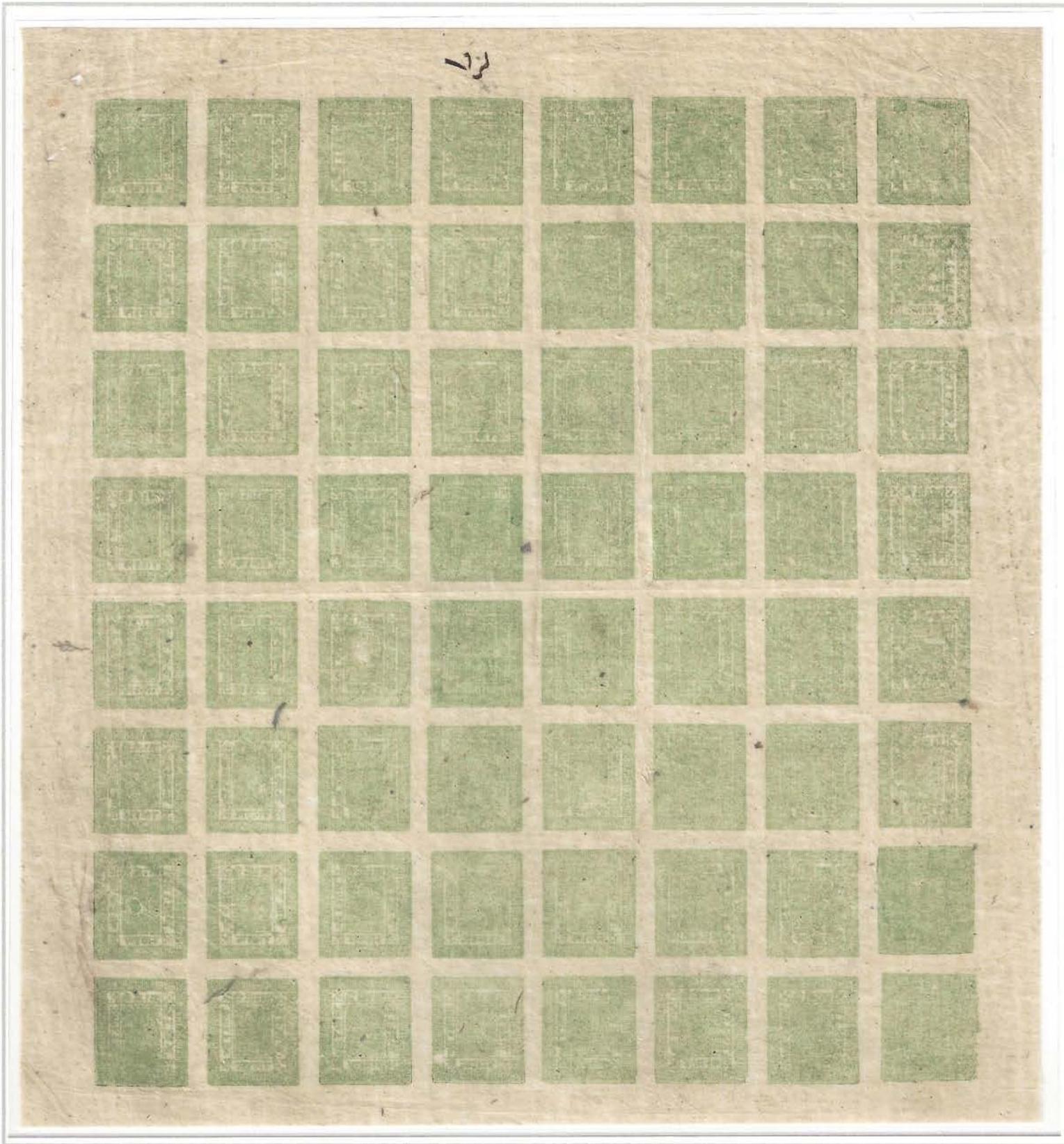
Position 56 has now become virtually a solid block of color in the third state.



inverted cliche position: 54, Birganj telegraphic cancels

Setting 11, Fourth State

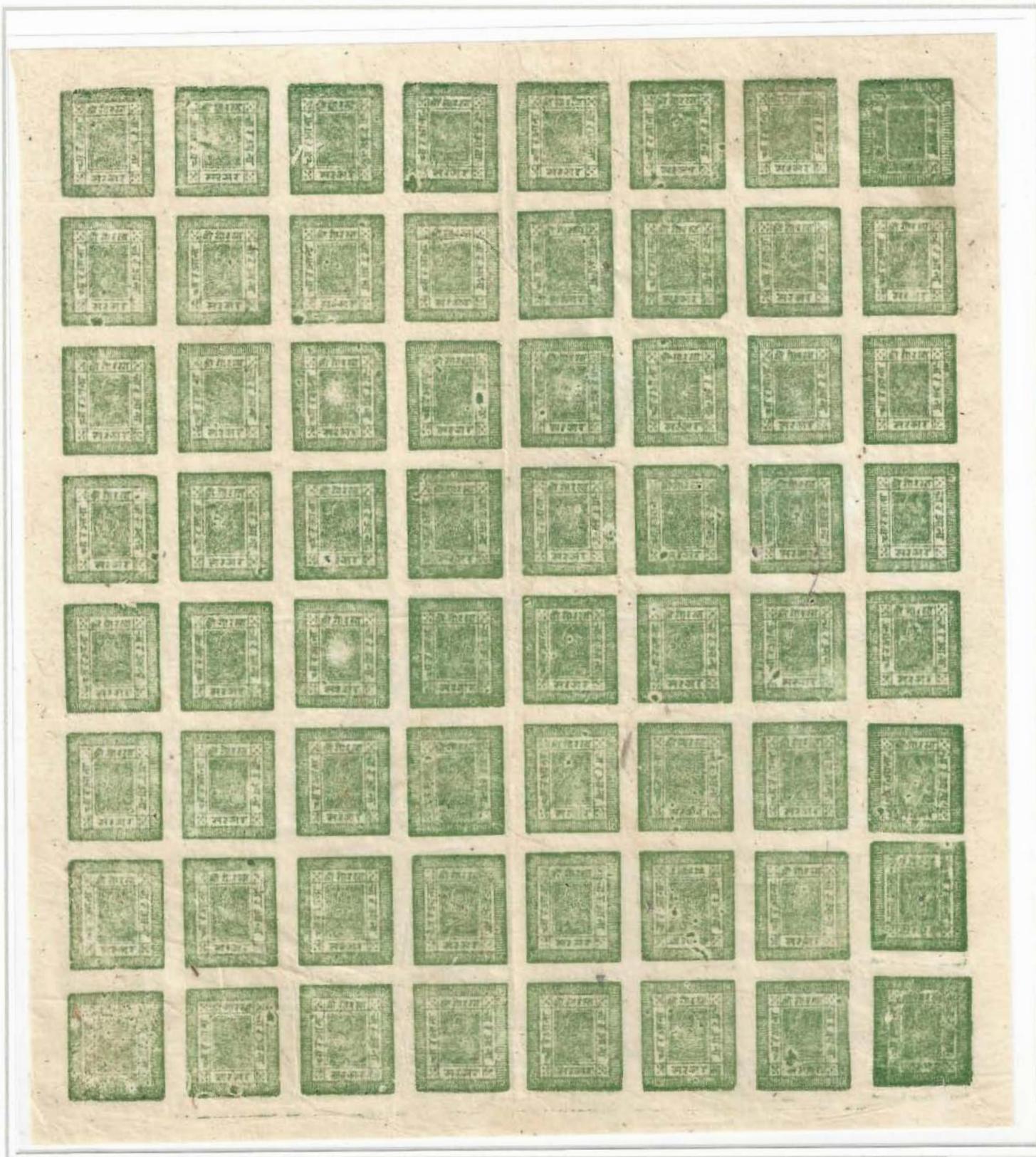
Positions 14 and 33 now show prominent flaws. Position 56 is still a heavily impressed block of color.



inverted cliché position: 54

Setting 12

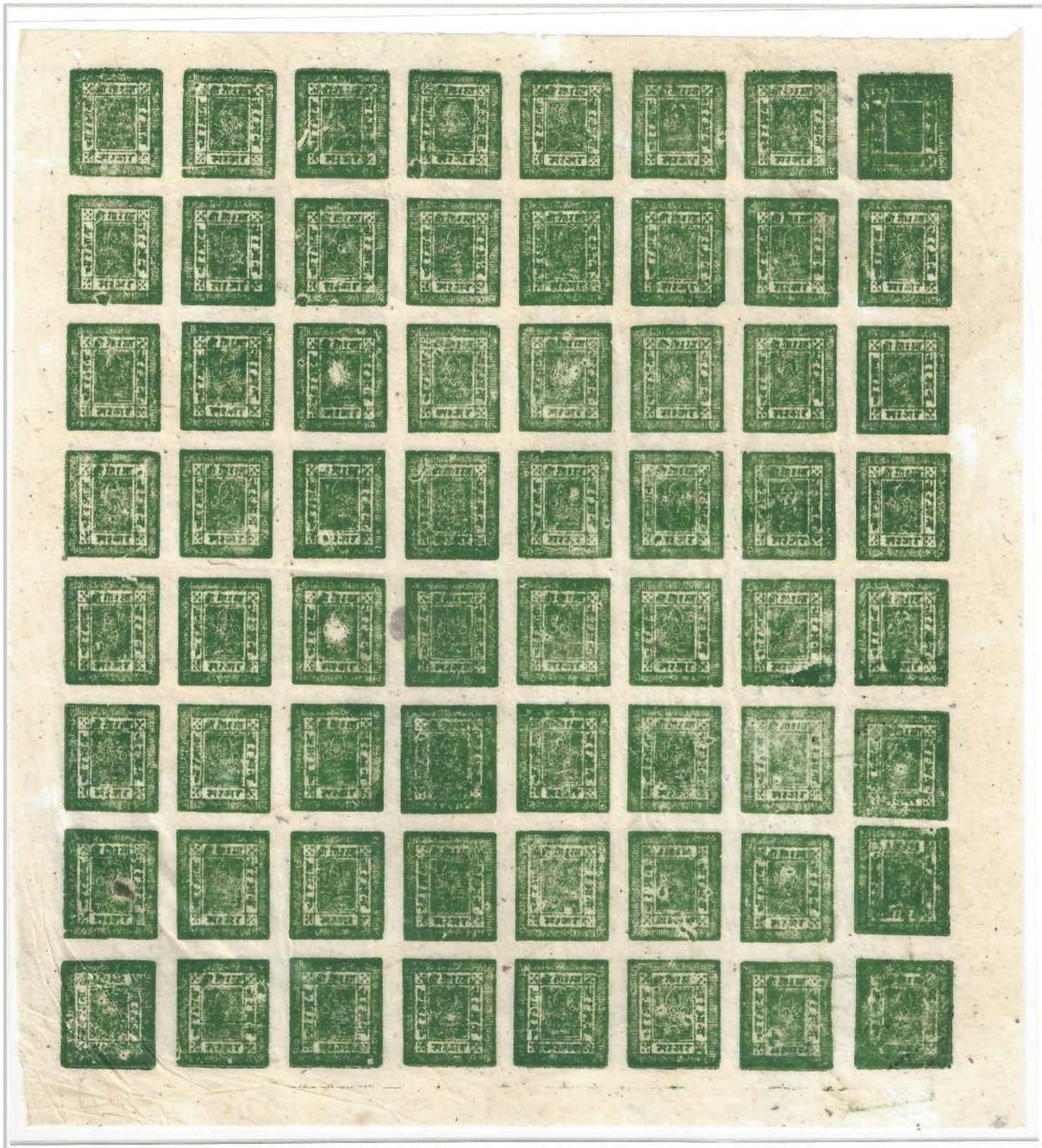
Green One Anna Error of Color in Four Annas Sheet



substituted 1 anna cliche in position 8, inverted cliche positions: 8, 54, 56 and 57

Setting 12

Dark Green One Anna Error of Color in Four Annas Sheet



1 anna cliché in position 8, inverted cliché positions: 8, 54, 56 and 57, two known sheets in this shade