

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

1899 new denomination



one anna



two annas



four annas



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 stamps are imperforate, without gum as issued, unless otherwise noted. 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

1881 to 1885 Printings

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
the earliest of three known uses with complete set first printings

Pin-Perforated

Only the initial sheets printed between April and June 1881 were pin-perforated and gummed. As a result, 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 a white gum or a brownish gum.

One Anna



white gum



white gum



constant flaw, split cliché
position 48, white gum



brown gum



brown gum

Two Annas

setting 2 or 3 with
frameline at left



white gum



white gum



brown gum



brown gum

Four Annas



white gum



brown gum

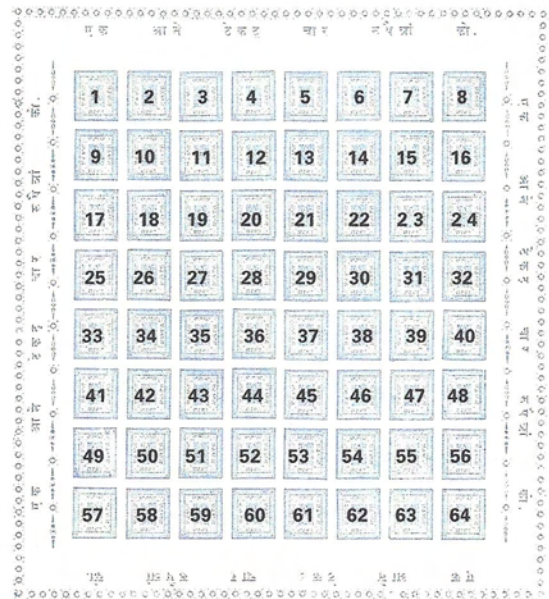


brown gum

Pin-Perforated, Setting 1, 1881



Diagram of sheet layout annotated with position numbers as used throughout this exhibit. First word of inscription on each side is the denomination.



The first setting was the only one that included inscriptions as well as the ornamental borders.



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

Imperforate

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

One Anna



positions 20-22
position 20 flattened corner



position 39
corner dent

Two Annas



Four Annas





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



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



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

The two annas second setting included inward-reading marginal inscriptions.



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

The First Tête-Bêche

The first inverted cliché in Nepal philately occurred in the third setting of the two annas denomination. This setting was used for the last printing before the switch to native paper in 1885. Only two unused pairs and the used strip below are known.

two annas with inverted cliché



<< inverted cliché >>



center stamp, position 22, the inverted cliché

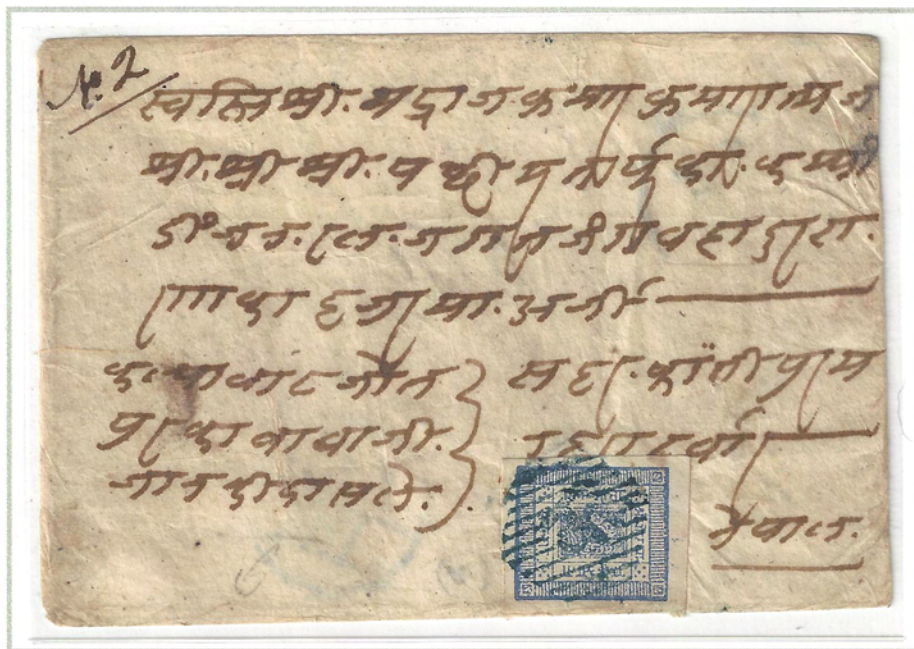
the only known used example and largest reported used multiple of any denomination

Earliest Use of One Anna Imperforate on Cover

Mail was required to be prepaid with stamps which were only valid within the boundaries of Nepal. The rate for a single weight letter, under one tola, was one anna. The tola unit of weight was equal to an British India one rupee silver coin. 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 the earliest reported use of the one anna imperforate

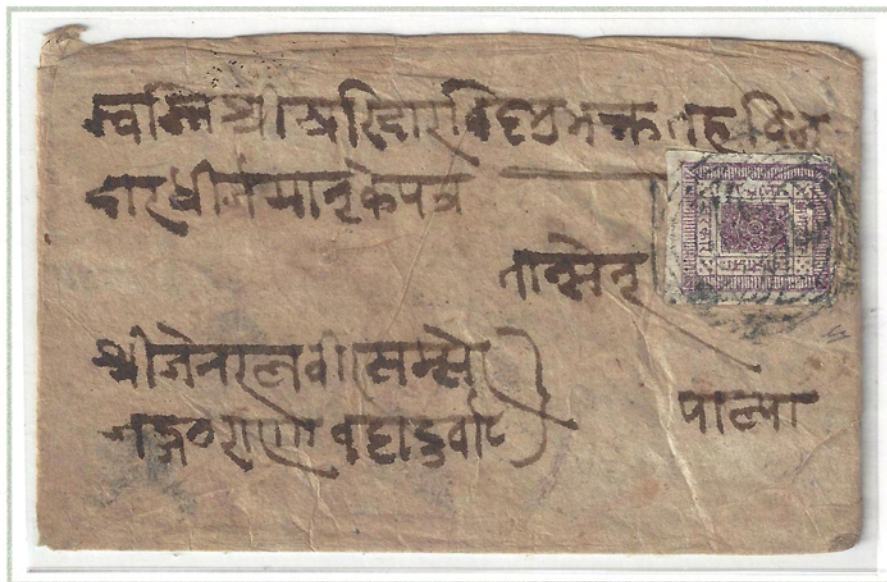
Nepal postmark dates were rendered according to Bikram Sambat (B.S.) calendar. The roughly equivalent A.D. date may be calculated by deducting 56 years, 8 months and 17 days. This cover is dated (19)38/3/3 B.S. = 1881/June/16 A.D.

Earliest Use of Two Annas on Cover

The rate for a double weight letter, weighing between one and two tolas, was two annas. The tola unit of weight was equal to the weight a British India one rupee silver coin. There are six reported uses of the first period two annas on cover; three are shown here.



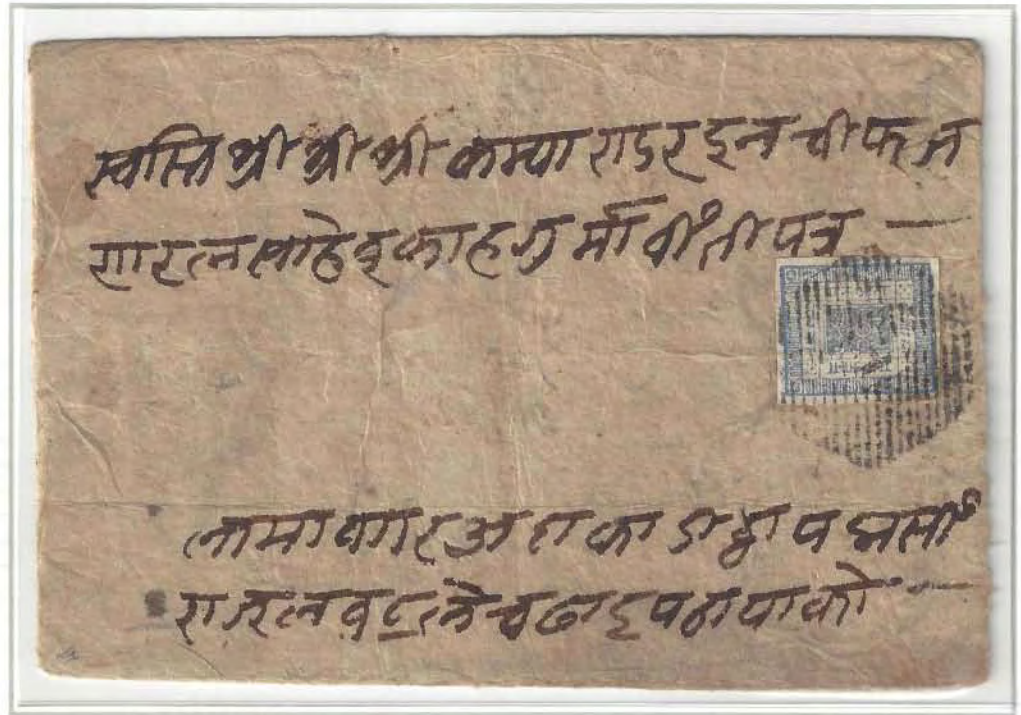
swirl cancel with initial "Ne" (Nepal) used at Kathmandu



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



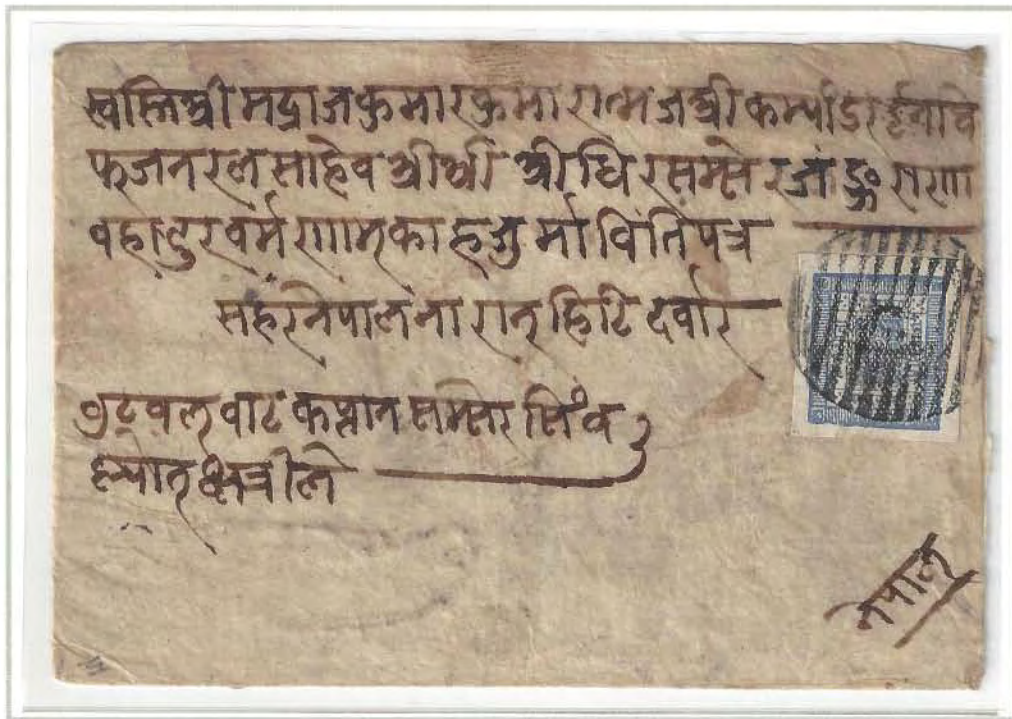
Dolakha



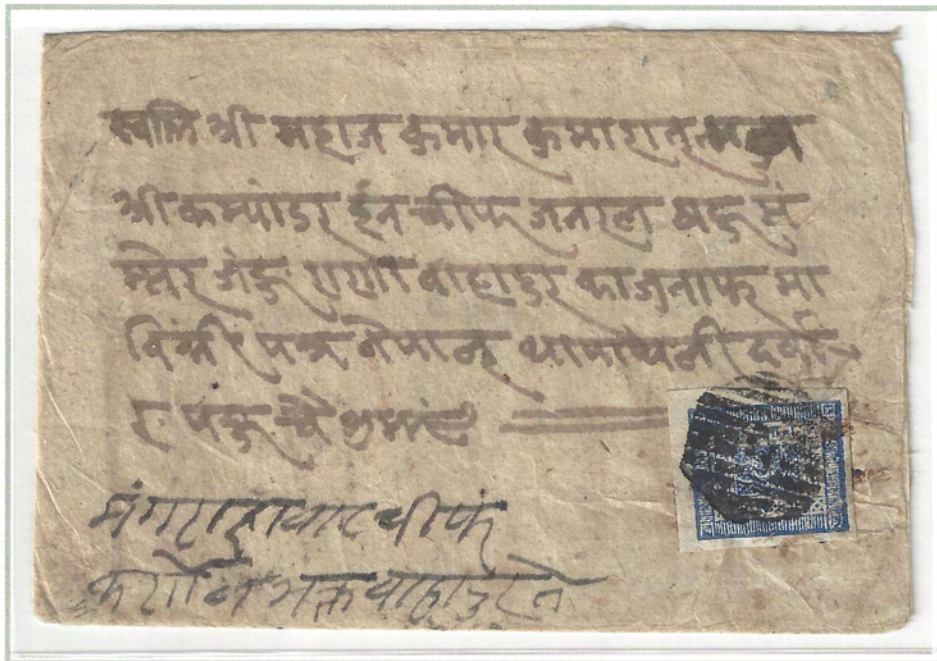
November 1883 Dolakha to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna



Butwal



January 1884 Butwal to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

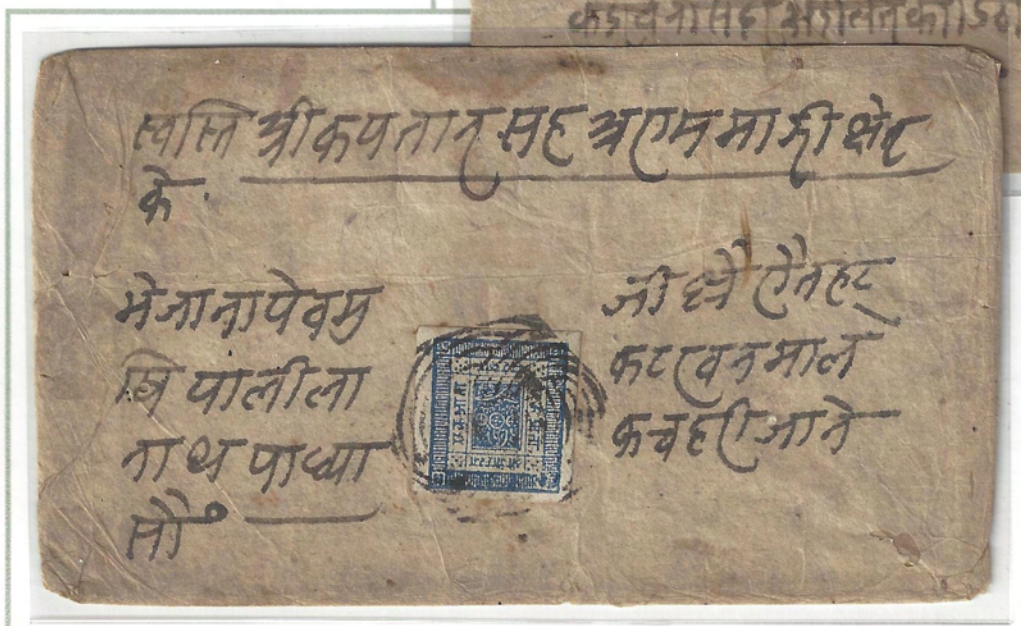
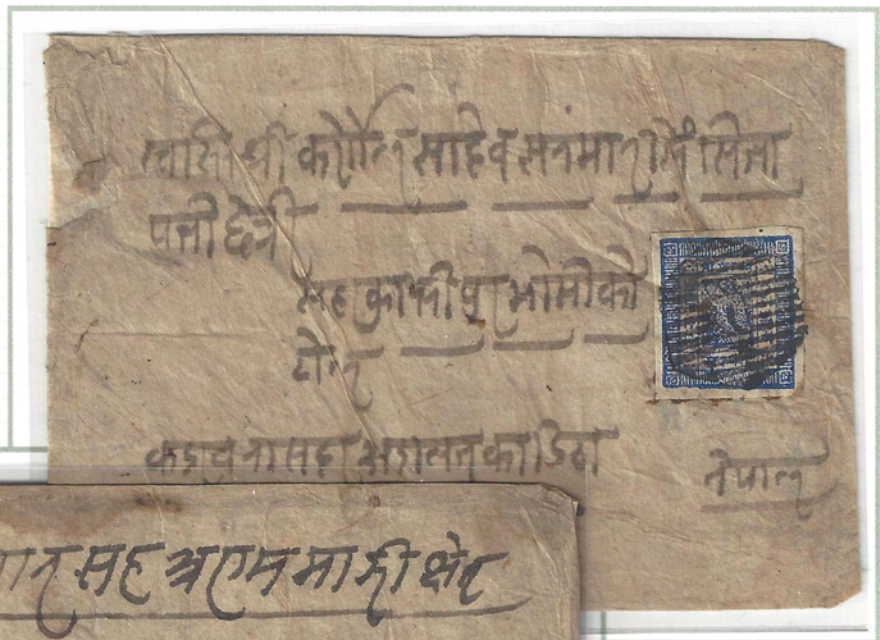


Siraha

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



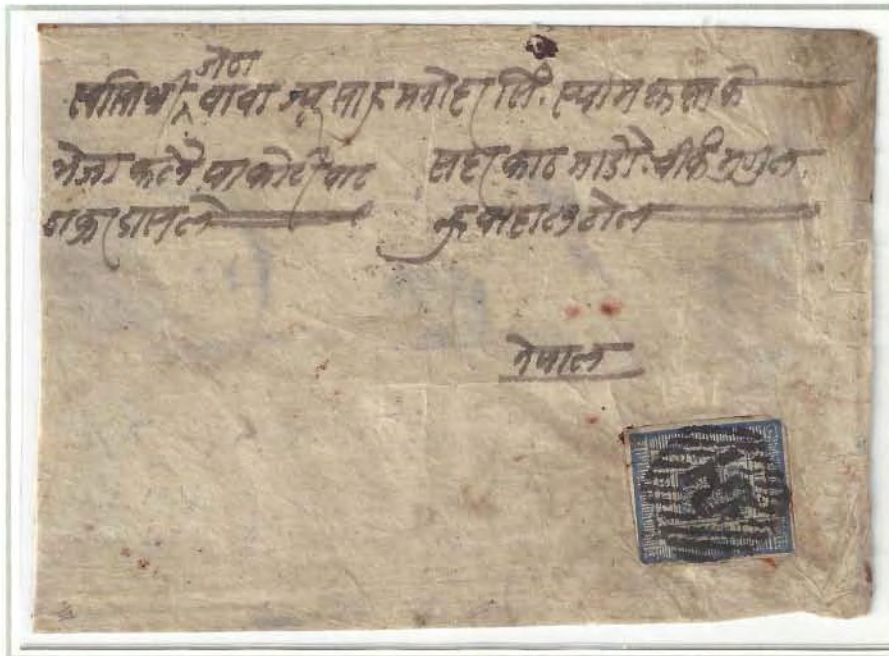
inked "Ka" on 1 anna



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



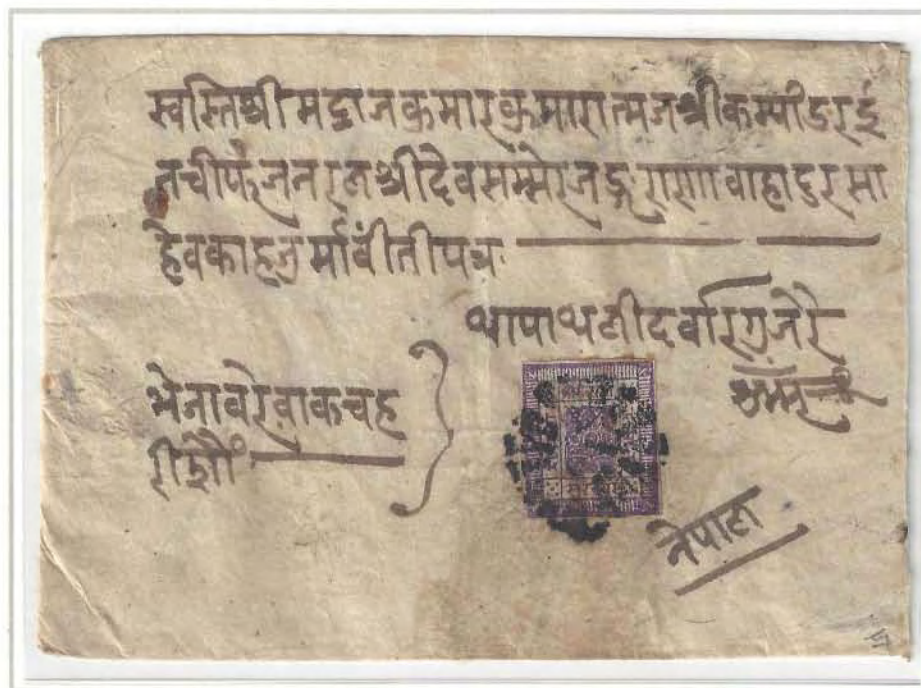
"Ka" in bars
in black

December 1884 Kalaiya to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Double Rate Cover



Kalaiya



October 1889 Kalaiya double weight cover to Kathmandu, prepaid 2 annas
the latest of six known uses of the two annas first period stamps on cover

Kathmandu cancels



1 anna

the largest reported used multiple of any denomination first printings



July 1883 Kathmandu to Trisuli, prepaid 1 anna



2 annas



manuscript cancels, 1 anna
fewer the five known



Bhagwanpur, 1 anna



Taulihawa, 1 anna



Dhankuta, 1 anna

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



Taulihawa post office seal cancels, 1 and 2 annas
fewer than 5 known in first period, marking in use from 1888



Iyangyang, 2 annas



Jaleswar, 2 annas



Sarlahi, 4 annas

Printings on native paper began in 1886. The paper was manufactured from the bark of a native evergreen. Early prints were mostly clear on thinner paper, later prints were blurred on thicker 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

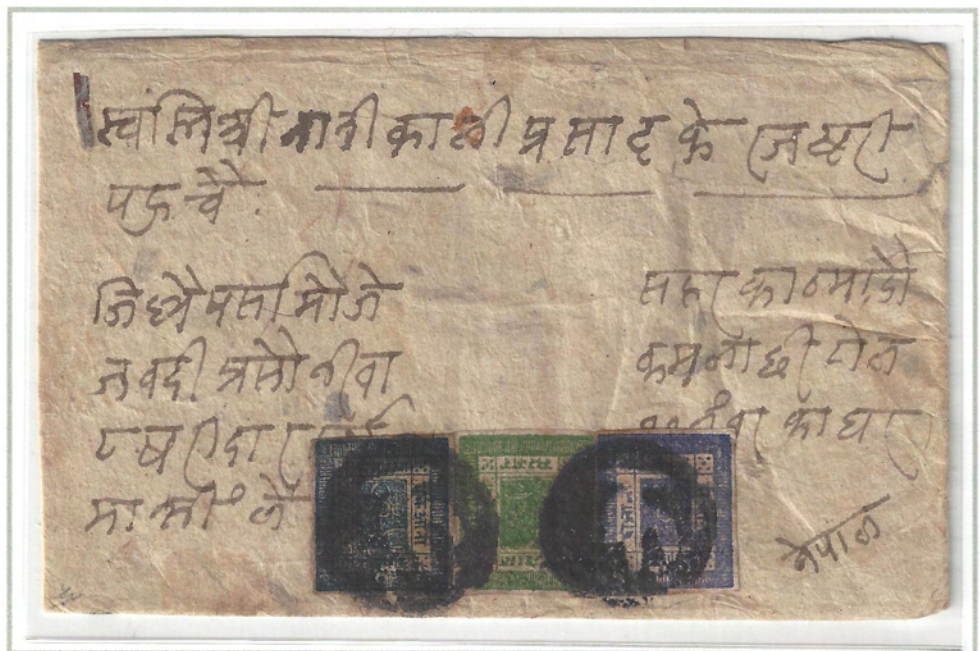
Complete Set on Cover



Kalaiya

जसटि पञ्चपाउने

Registry +
"Pahucha Pahune"



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 Native a Paper Stamp



Kalaiya



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

Inverted Cliches
(all are rare postally used)



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

*Two Annas - position 21 was the only
inverted cliche in settings 4 to 7.*



tête-bêche pair, positions 20-21 tête-bêche pair, positions 21-22



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

*Four Annas - position 54 was the
only inverted cliche in settings 4 to 11.*



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 customs house agent. All are uncommon to rare.



Tatapani customs seal
2 annas



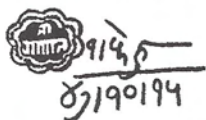
1 anna



2 annas



4 annas



Banke



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

Setting 6

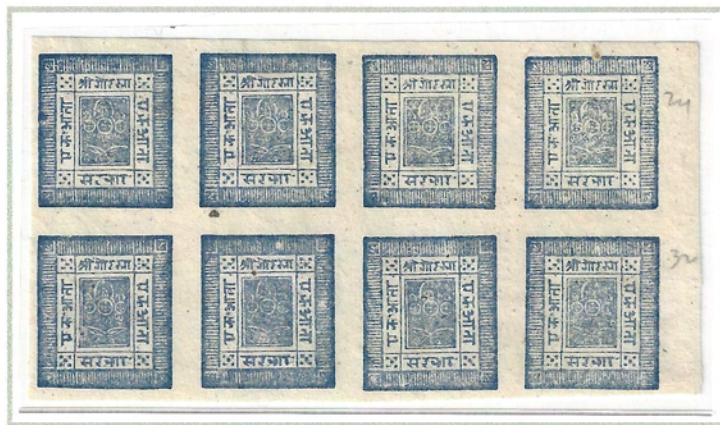
Setting 6 was the first setting with inverted cliches in both positions 52 and 62. The position 62 cliché remained inverted until 1892 printings while position 52 was not corrected until 1896.



positions 37-38/53-54



positions 3-4

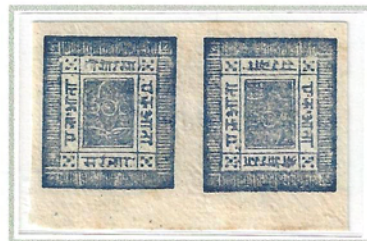


positions 21-24/29-32

Setting 8



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



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

Shades and Variations



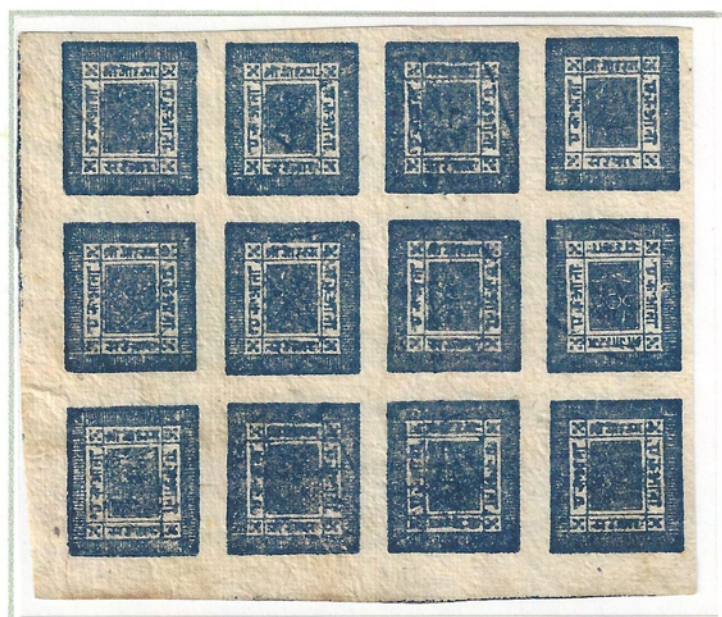
steel blue, positions 1-4, /9-12



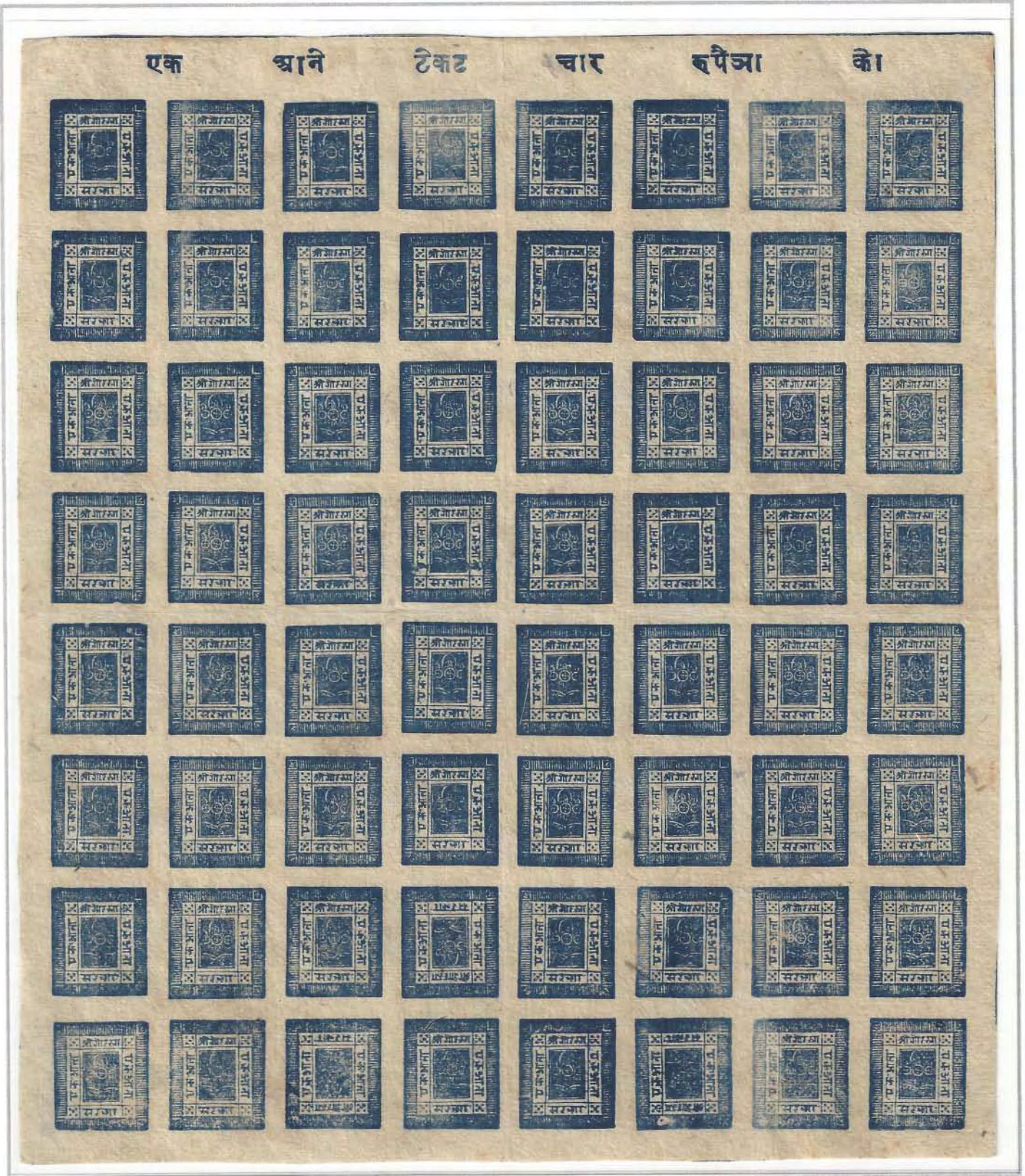
deep steel blue, positions 5-8 / 13-16



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



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



dark blue on thick paper, inverted cliches positions: 52, 59 and 62 (in bottom two rows of sheet)

Setting 9



positions 5-6/13-14

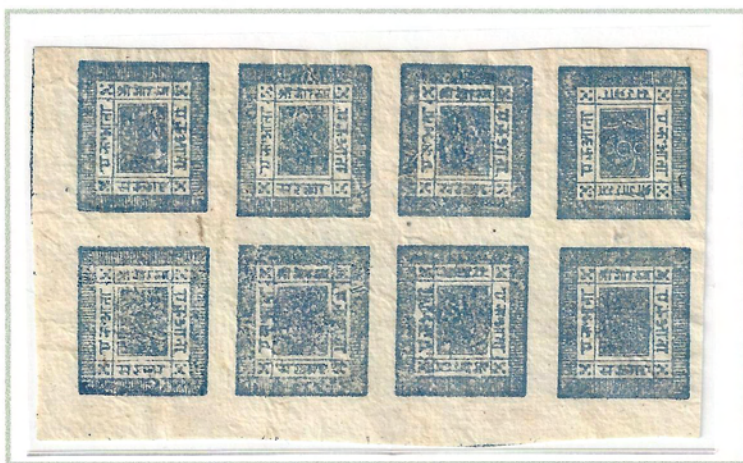


positions 2-3



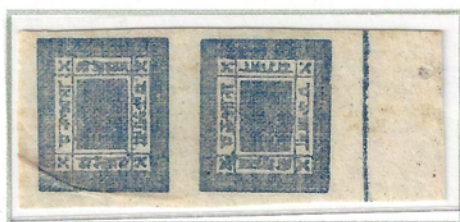
positions 43-44/51-52
inverted cliché position 52

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)

Setting 16



positions 49-50/57-58



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



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

Setting 17



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

Settings 4/17, 1886-1898

Split Cliche Flaw, Position 48

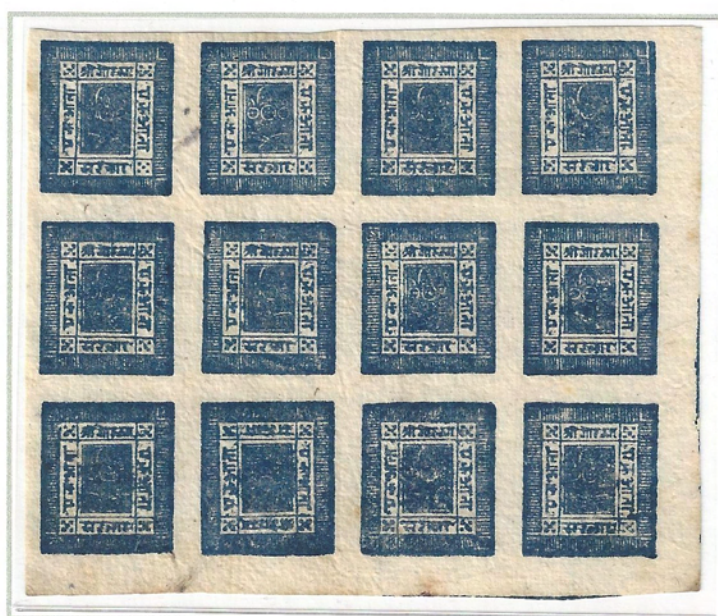
The cliche in position 48 was damaged by a split at top right when it first appeared in setting one. It is a major constant flaw that saw no further damage and remained prominent until the frames of all the cliches were recut with setting 26.



The position 48 stamps below are arranged in chronological order. The printings range from clear prints on thin paper, to blurred prints on thick paper to blurred prints on thin paper.



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



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

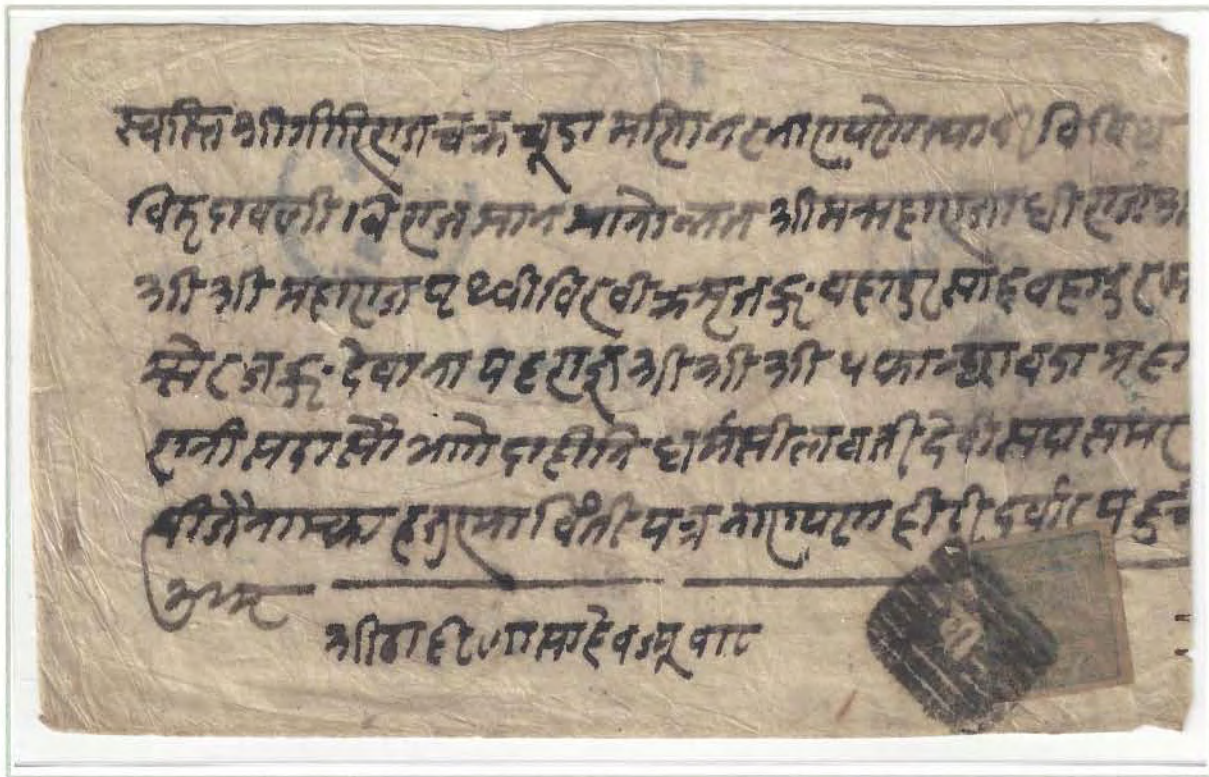


positions 47-48



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

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



June 1898 Palpa to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna



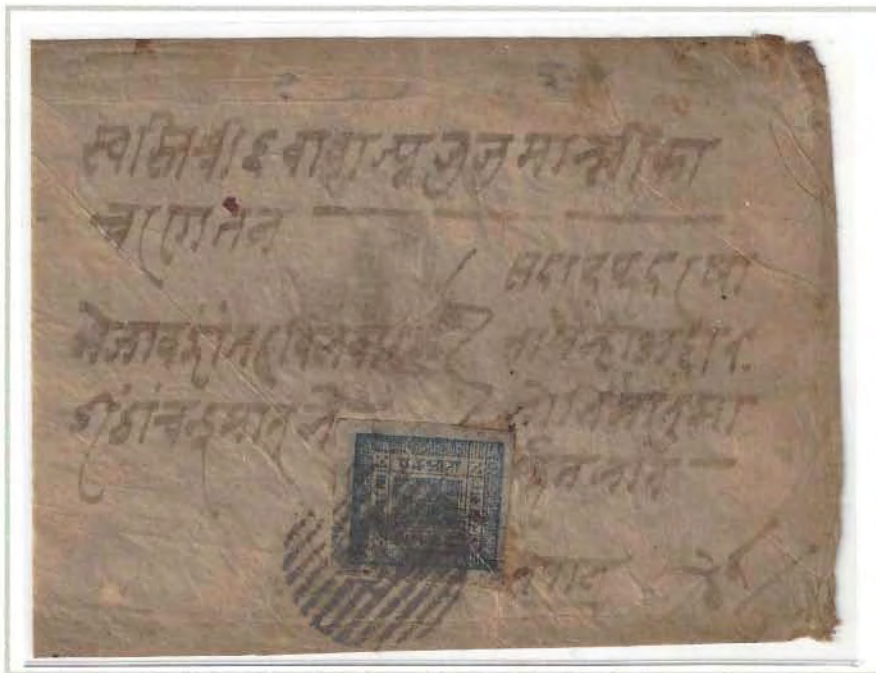
Pyuthan cancels, positions 59-63, irregular horizontal spacing
frame flaw at left, position 59



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

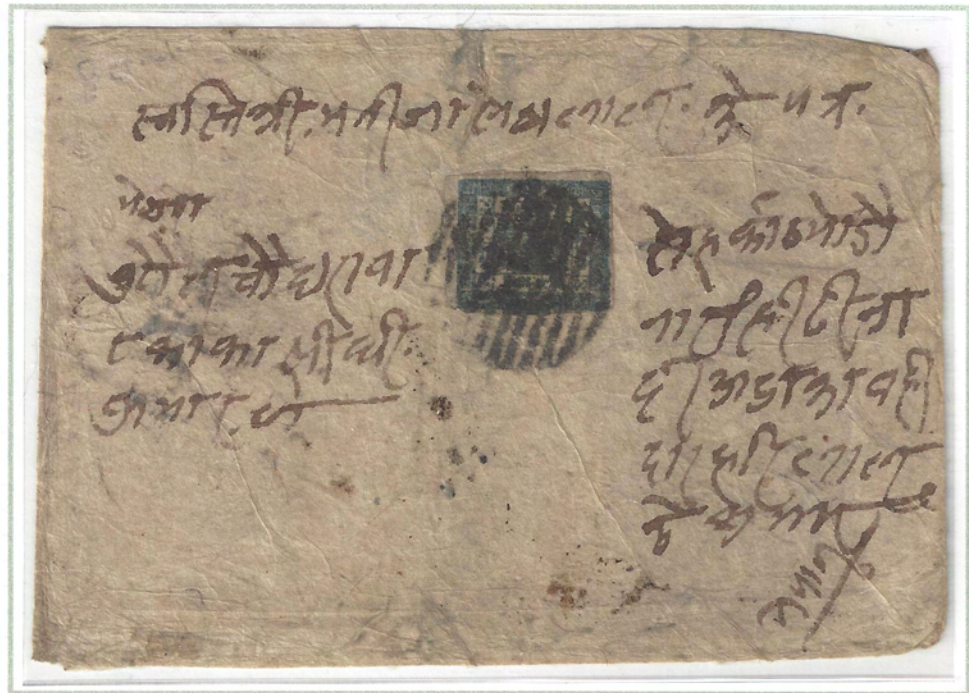


Doti

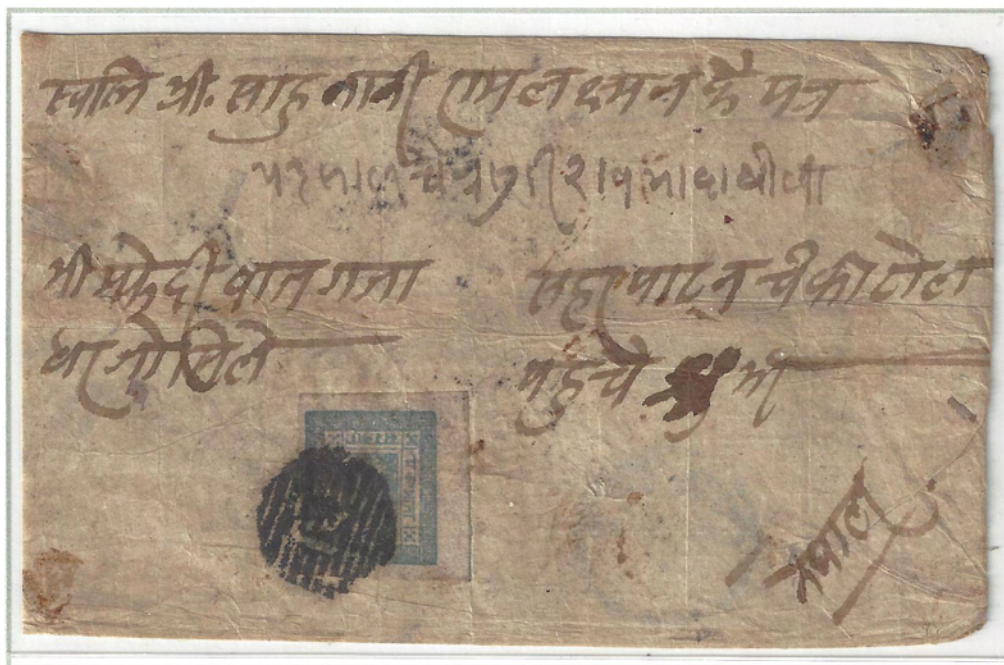
August 1893 Doti to Kathmandu, 1 anna prepaid rate to one tola weight



Butwal



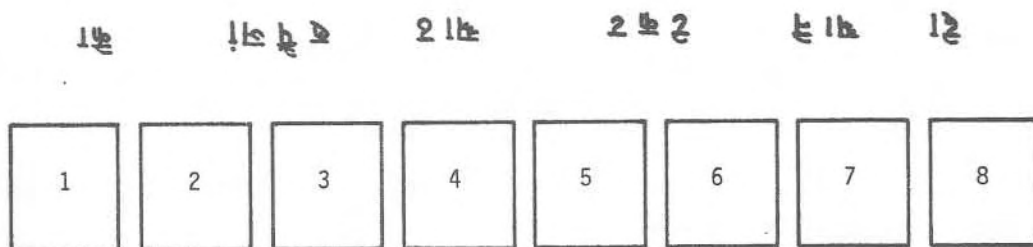
October 1896 Butwal to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna for single rate
Butwal cancel and dispatch postmark



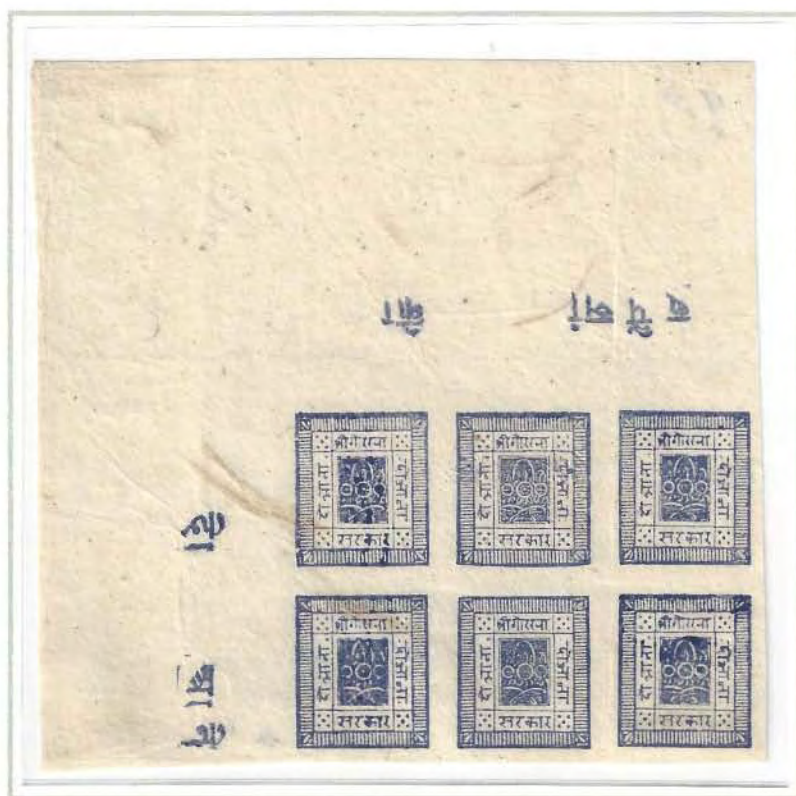
Chisapani

April 1897 Chisapani to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna
Chisapani cancel, reverse with postmark without date and negative despatch postmark

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

After the change to native paper in 1886, the initial settings used to print each denomination had a unique characteristic in that the inscriptions read outward rather than inward.



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*



setting 6, positions 37-40/45-48



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

The Ragged Cliche

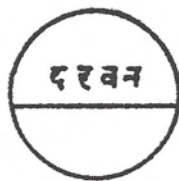
The position 4 cliche was damaged before setting 9 was put to press. The cliche continued to be used until setting 13 was composed at which time it was discarded. This "ragged cliche" is considered to be one of the great classic rarities of Nepal. That cliche, as well as seven others, was discarded when making setting 13 which had only 56 stamps.



*position 4, the "ragged cliche"
6 used examples reported*



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



Dahaban postmark used as cancel



dent in left frame line, 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."

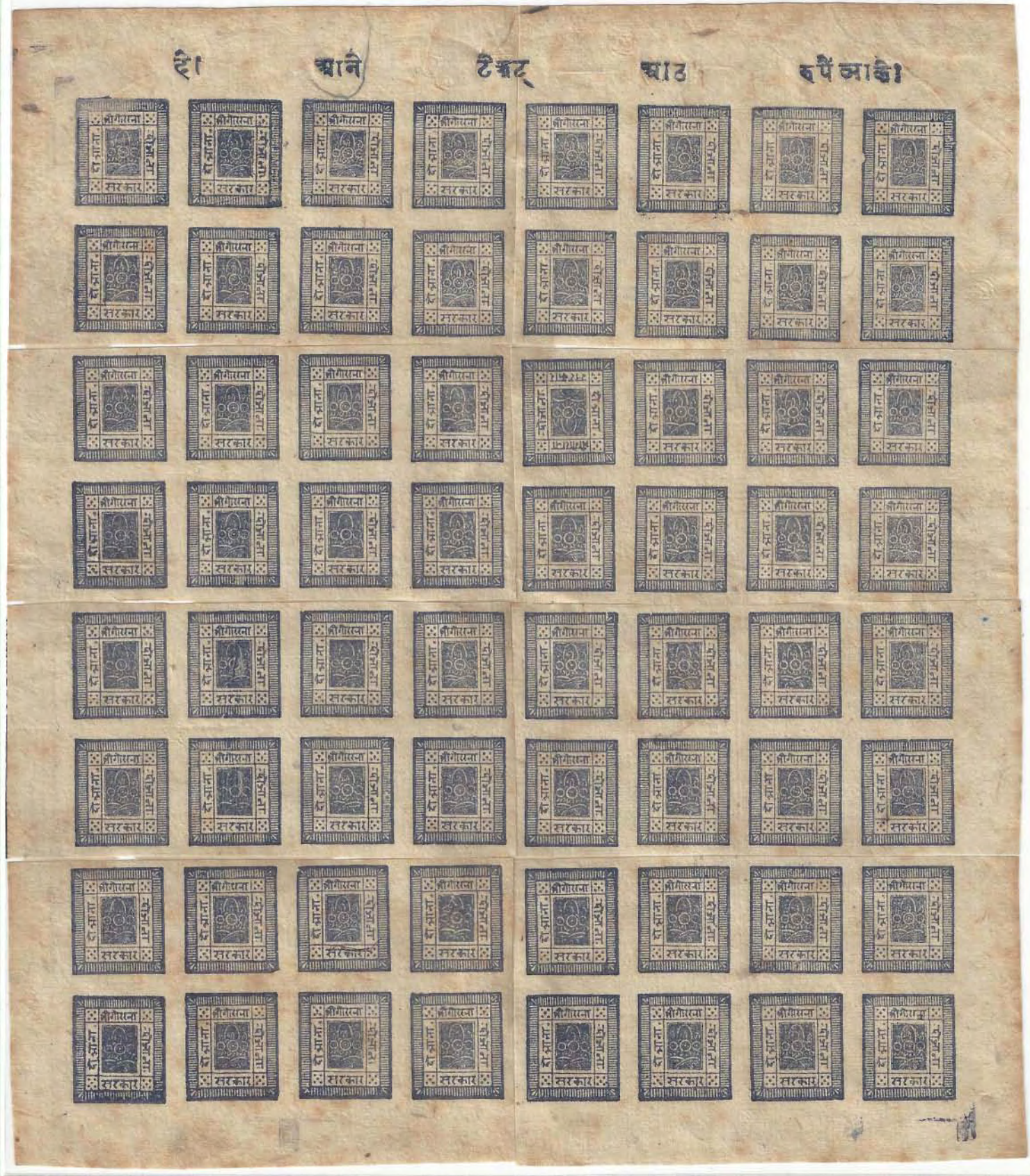


fewer than ten reported used examples

Two Annas Blue Violet, Normal Color



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



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



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



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



Kadarban

May 1892 double weight cover 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



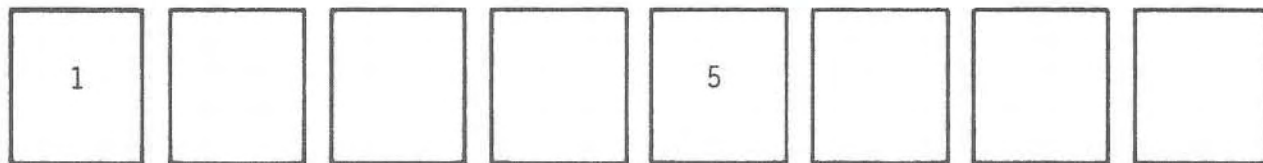
setting 5, positions 25-28/33-36



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

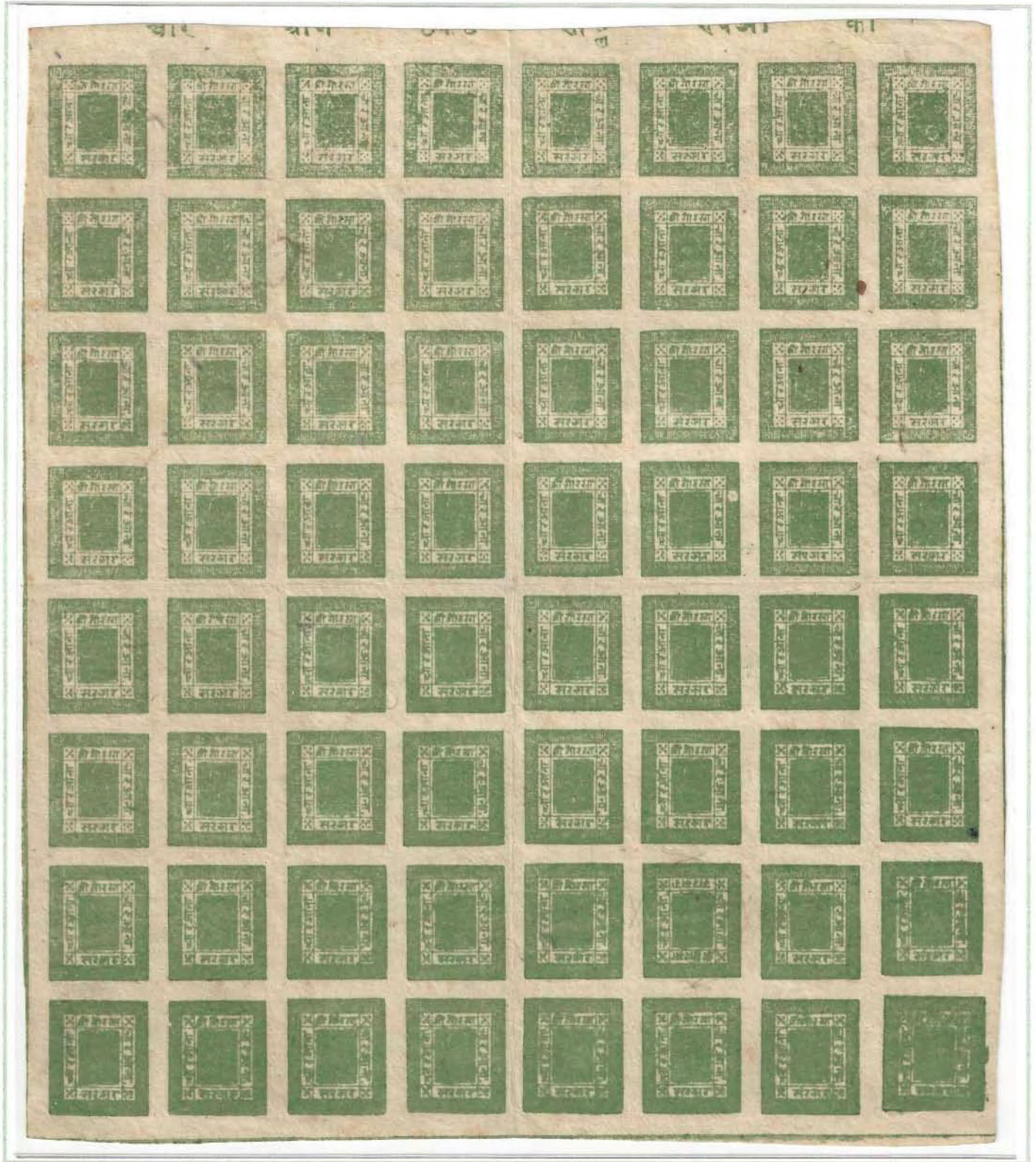
चार

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*setting 7, marginal piece with traces of inscription, positions 1-8/25-32, 35-40
position of first and fourth words of inscription not placed as with other settings*

*this is the proving piece for the setting
the largest reported multiple from this setting*



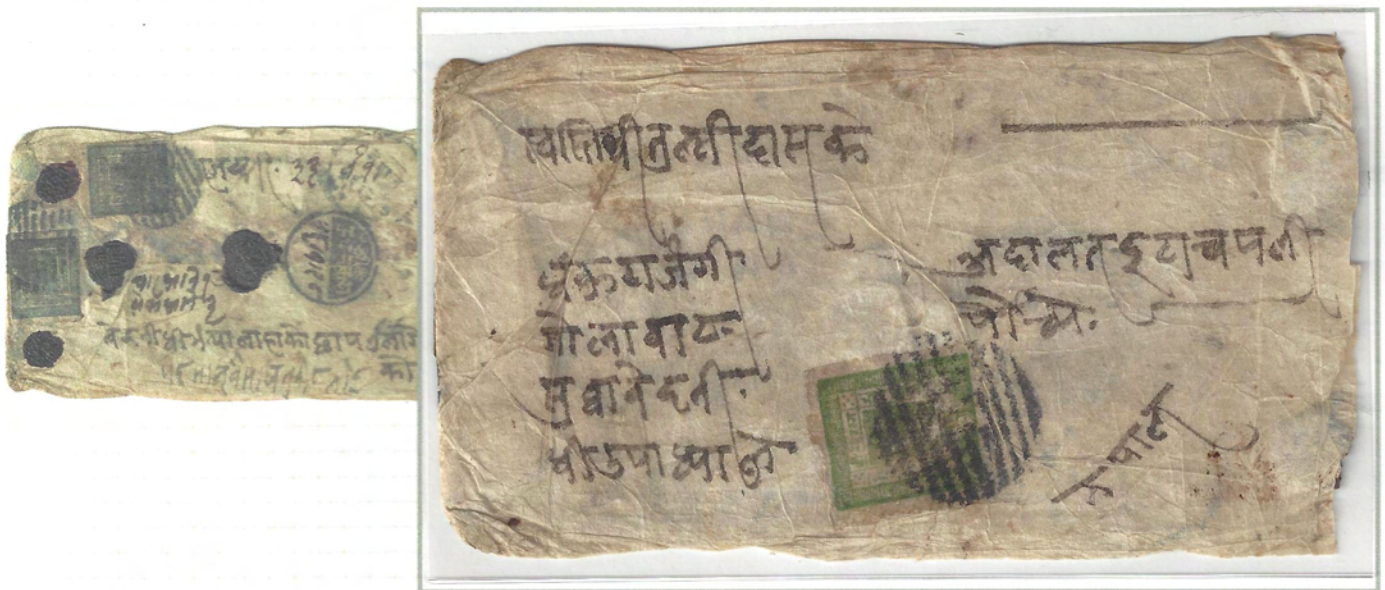
first state of inscription, complete sheet, inverted cliché in position 54

Registered Single Rates



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

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 cancels



Kathmandu cancels



Butwal cancels

Registered Use



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

Registered Double Rate



Dhankua cancel and dispatch postmark



November 1898 registered double weight cover from Dhankuta to Kathmandu
7 annas registered 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)

Except for a brief period in 1901, the 1898 to 1907 period printings were very blurred and printed on thin native paper of poor quality. The exception occurred for a short period in 1901 when one anna stamps were printed on high quality white European wove paper.

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

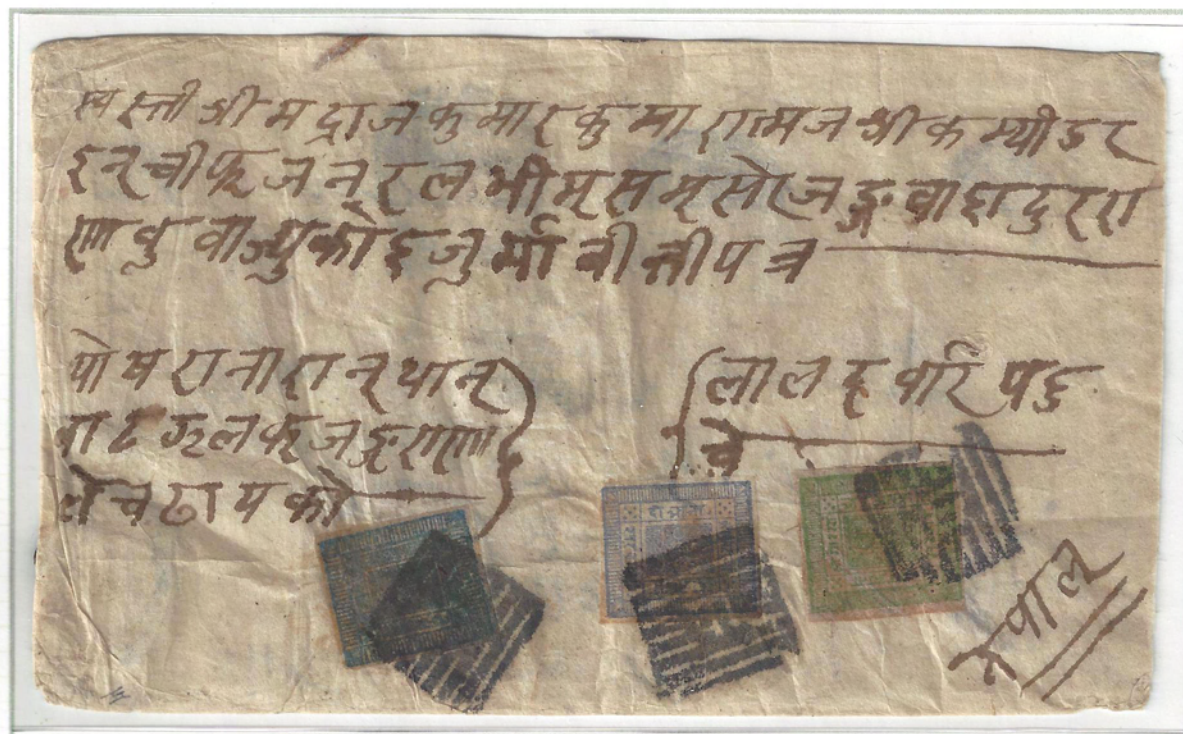
A new one-half anna denomination in a new design was issued in 1899 and pin-perforated stamps of all values were available upon request in 1898. This section of the exhibit includes covers from 30 of the approximately 50 offices in operation during the period.



Ridi



Pokhara



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

The Greenish One Anna

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. They come from multiple printings over long period of time. Many examples are pin-perforated.



position 24
recut



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



pin-perforated



pin-perforated

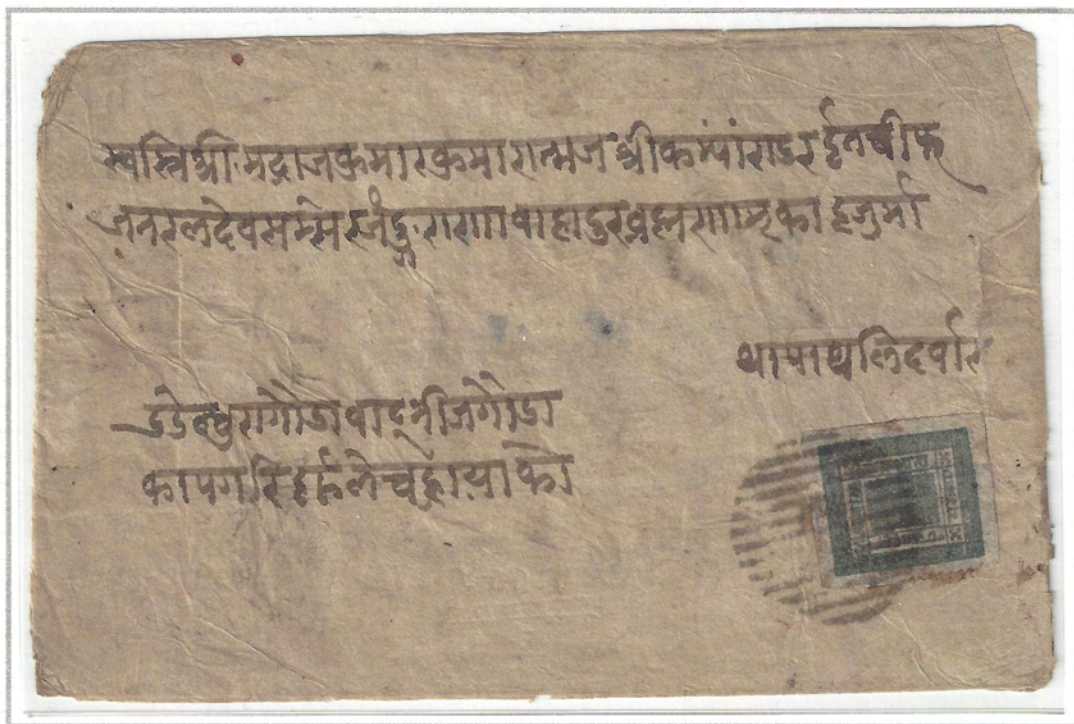


pin-perforated
gashed cliché constant flaw, position 48

One Anna Greenish Shades



Dandeldhura



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



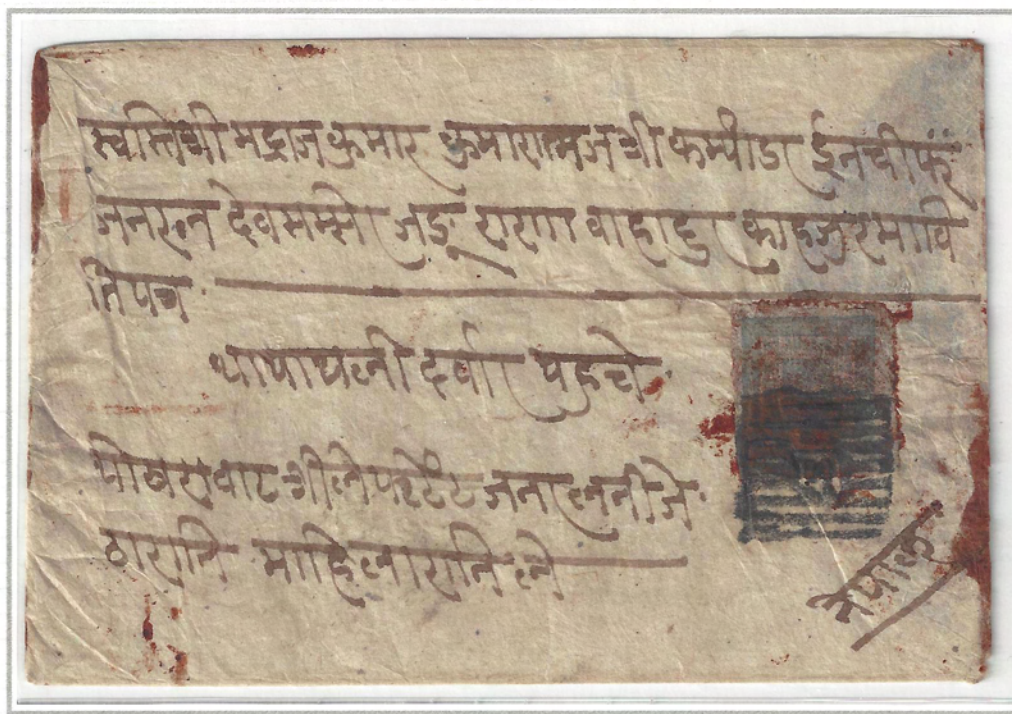
Palpa

June 1899 Palpa to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna
1 anna grey-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



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



Parasi cancels



Jaleswar cancels



Rangeli cancels



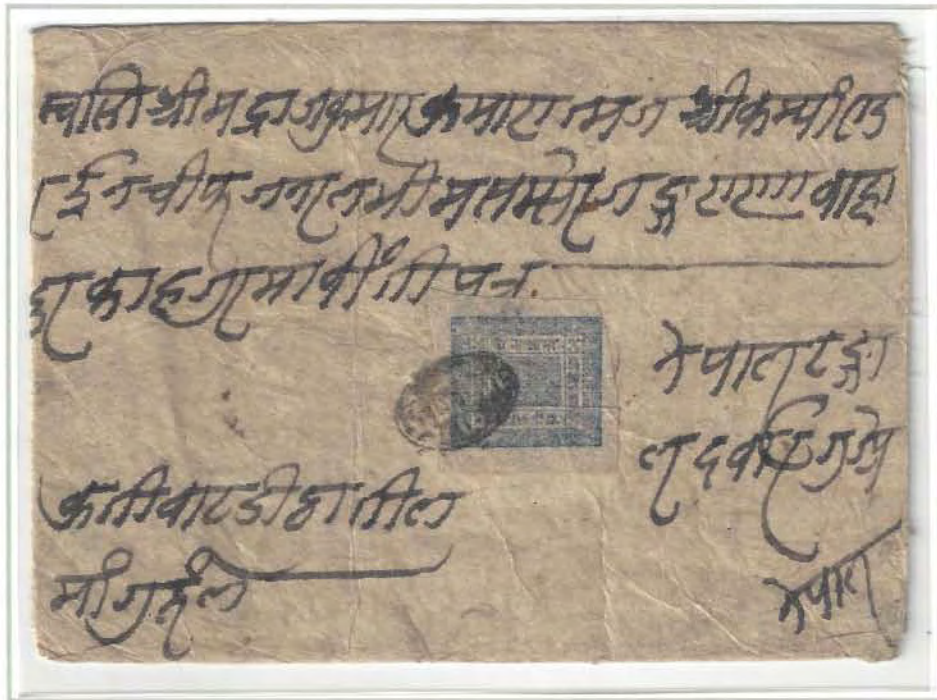
Siraha cancels



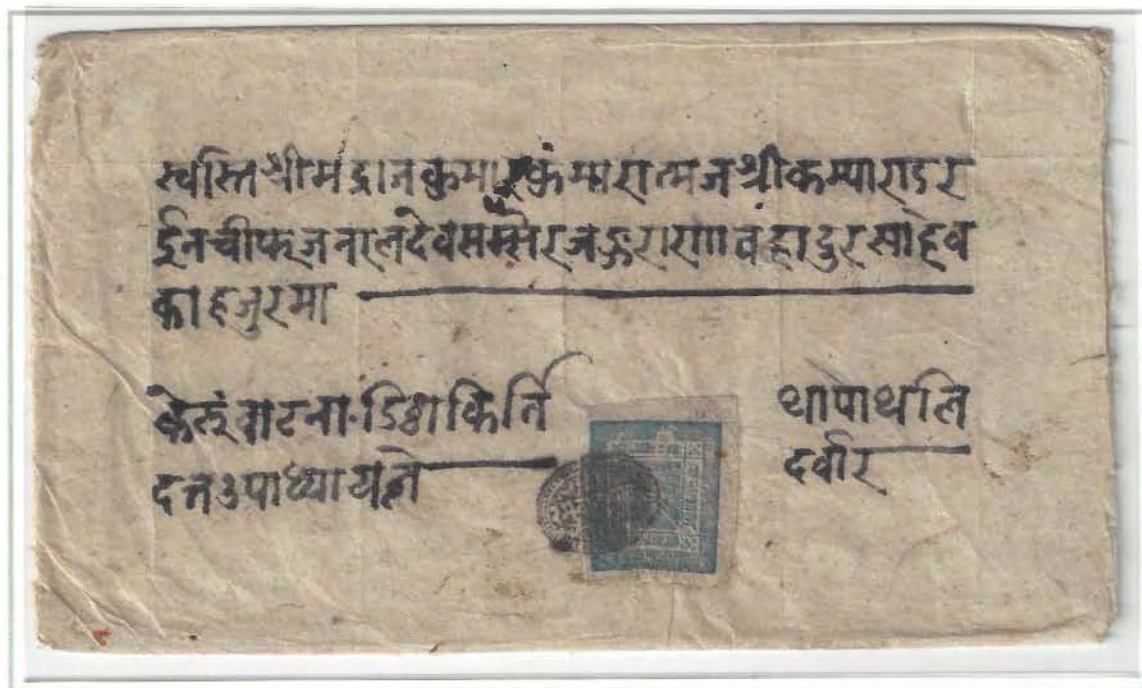
position 24
recut frames
Salyan cancels



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.



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



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 postmarkers as cancels.



Jumla cancel, tête-bêche pair

Dailekh cancel



Baglung



April 1901 Baglung to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Bar Cancels used on Trisuli to Pyuthan Route

The "initial in square of bars" cancel devices were used only by the seven towns positioned 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

Hexagonal Cancels used on Route 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 Nepal post office printers utilized two plate settings, settings 26 and 27, in several print runs for their supply of one anna stamps during the 1901 - 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 was made in blue on high quality European white wove paper. Of this printing Hellrigel wrote in 1984 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 only tête-bêche pair is shown.

In 1903 additional printings from a second state of setting 26 were made in blue 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, bottom pair is tête-bêche, cliché 32 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

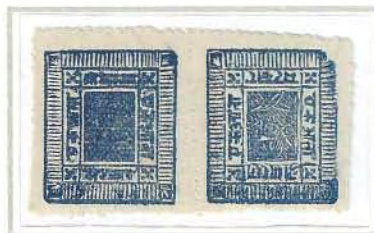
The Damaged Cliche

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

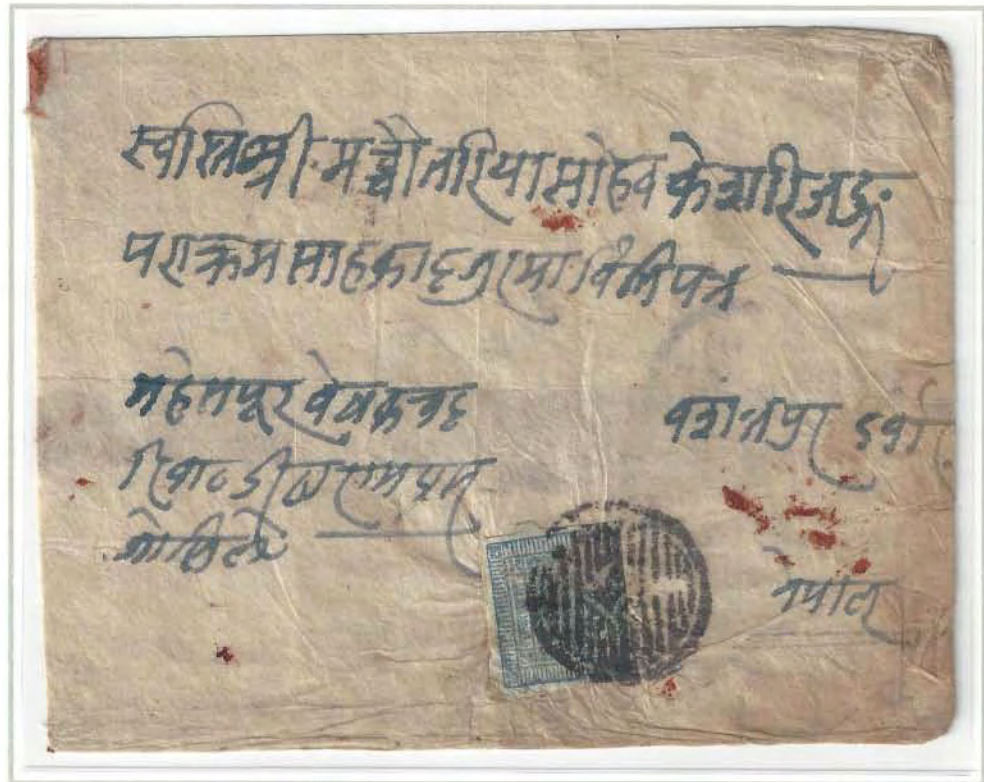


position 64
the only reported used example of the position

1901 European Paper Printing



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.

Native Paper Printings

The Damaged Cliche

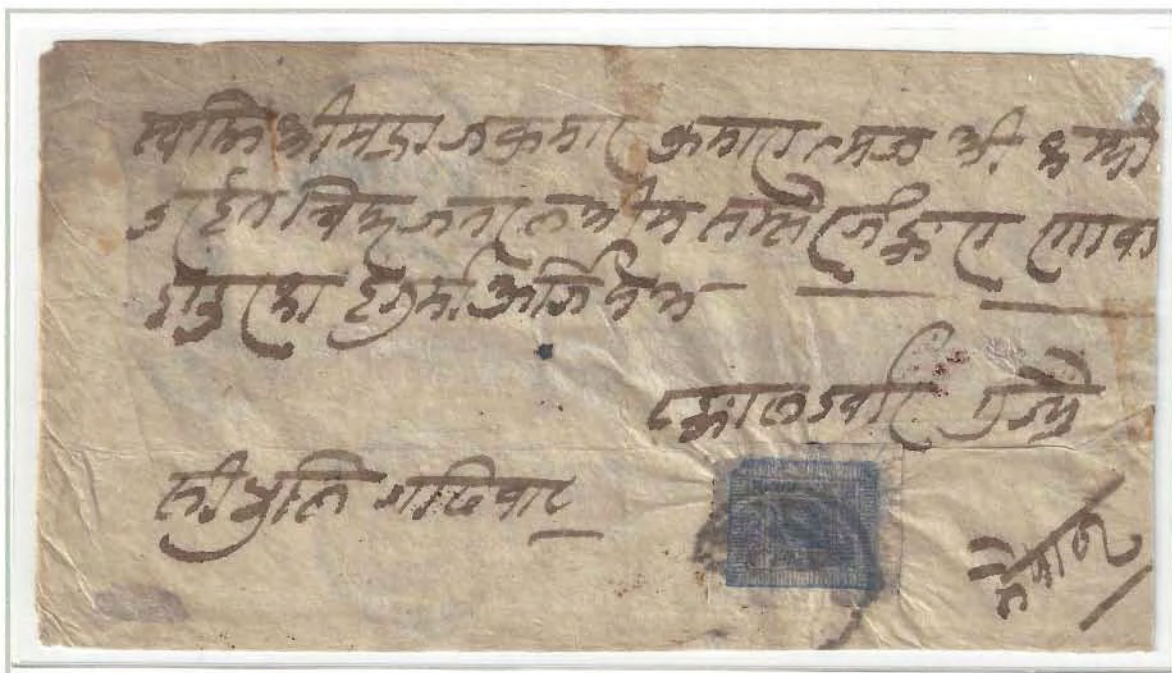
The damaged cliche, found inverted in position 64, also occurs in the native paper printings from settings 26 and 27. These settings were at press between 1902 and 1907.



position 64 cliche (shown inverted)

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

Sindhuli undated postmark used as



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



position 64 cliché (shown inverted)



pin-perforated

The Damaged Cliché on Registered Cover

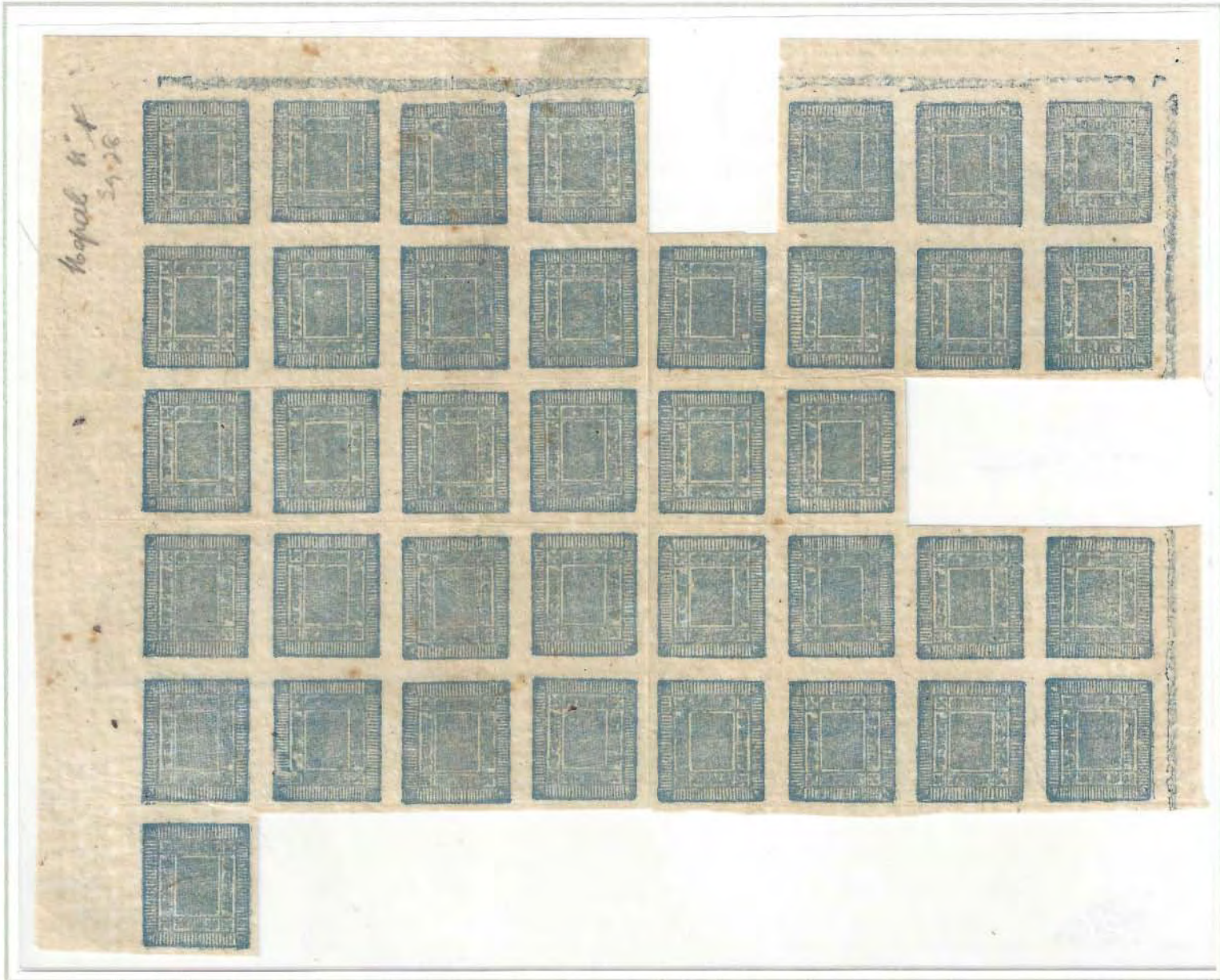


Pokhara



April 1903 Pokhara registered use to Kathmandu, prepaid 7 annas
1 anna damaged cliché, position 64 at top right
used in combination with 1 anna pair and single 4 annas
the only reported example

The 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.



light ultramarine shade, inverted cliches positions 15, 18, 27, 37, 40 and 41

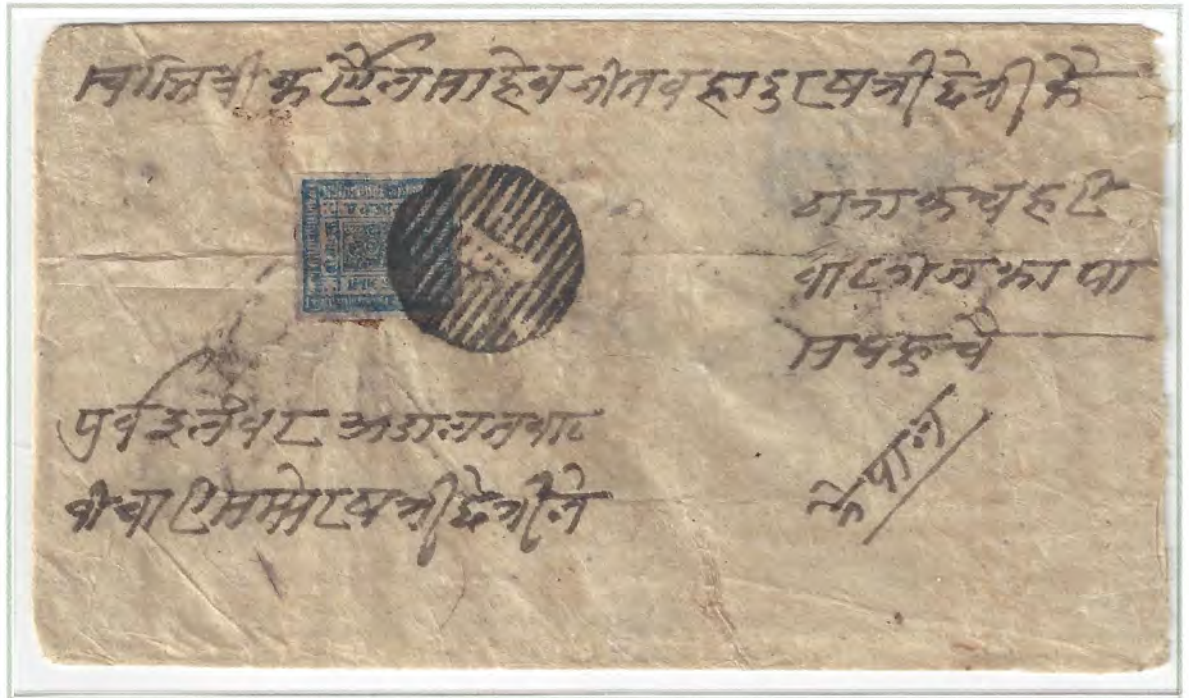


Position 24 on cover

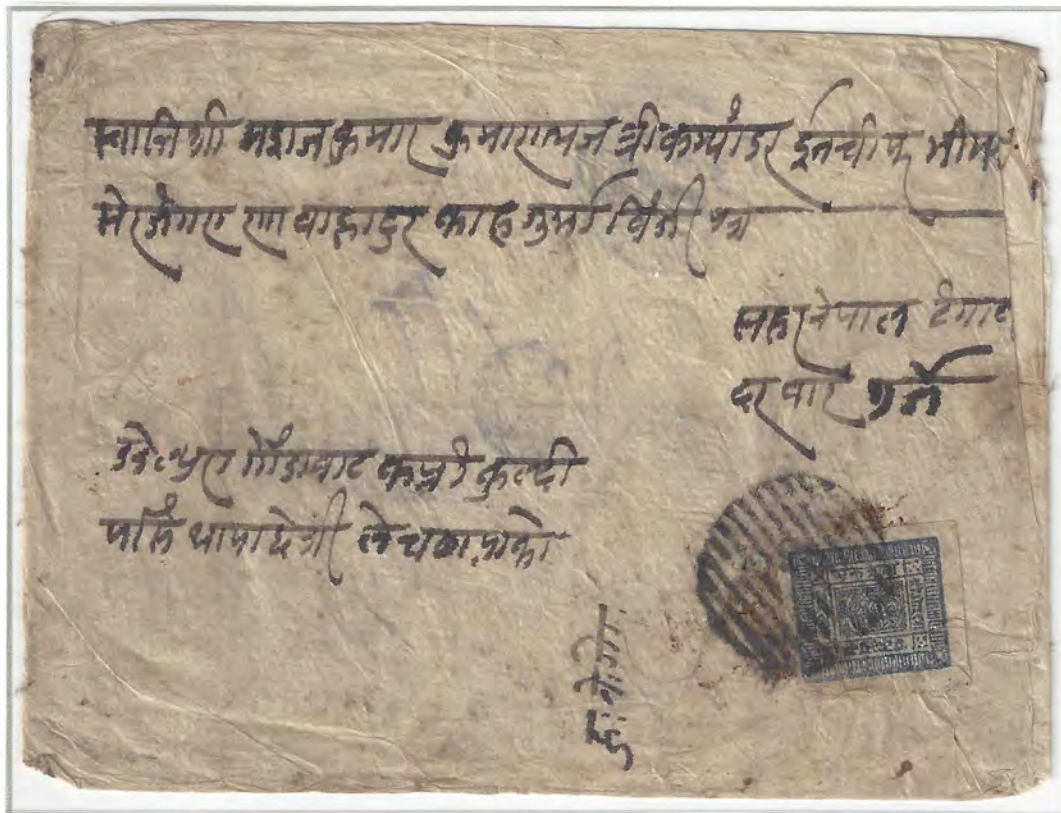
In 1898, position 24 was the first to have outer framelines recut. In 1901, setting 26 became the first to have all cliches recut, except the previously recut position 24.



Okhaldunga



April 1903 Okhaldunga to Kathmandu, 1 anna position 24



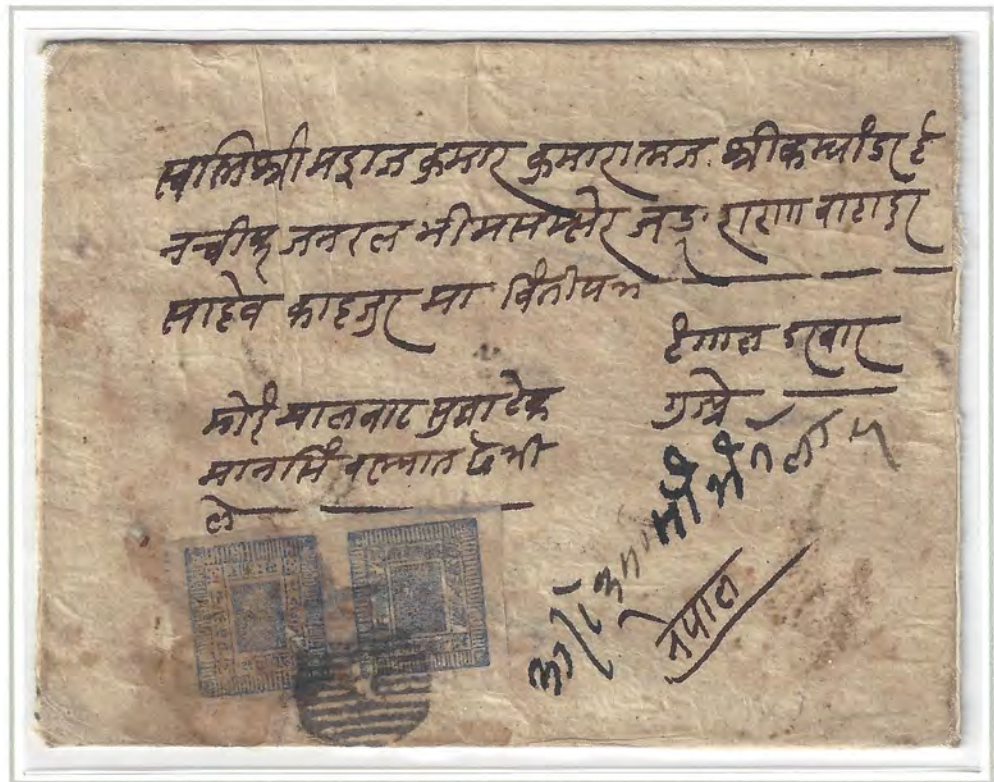
Dandeldhura

August 1908 Dandeldhura to Kathmandu, 1 anna position 24

Shades, Tête-Bêche Pairs on Cover



Kadarban



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



August 1904 Kadarban, 1 anna blue tête-bêche pair

Hexagon of Bars Cancel

स्वस्ति श्रीमद्विष्णुचन्द्र भुजङ्ग राडे त्वादि श्रीश्रीश्री महा
 जस्य चन्द्रसमरजङ्ग राणावाहादुर जिगीस र प
 इ धोङ्ग नलिङ्गिमाको काङ्गु वाङ्गु स्यान् प्राङ्ग
 मिनिशर चाराड भाङ्गन भुलुक नयाल काङ्गु मा
 विभिन्न पत्र

भेजा हनुमान नगर म सो गो सींहद्वार
 वाट क क कुलविक्रम भवन राणा
 ले



Hanumannager cancel and postmark

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

Chandra Shamsheer Jung Bahadur Rana, imaged above, was the fifth Prime Minister of Nepal serving from June 1901 until 1929.

Circle of Bars Cancels

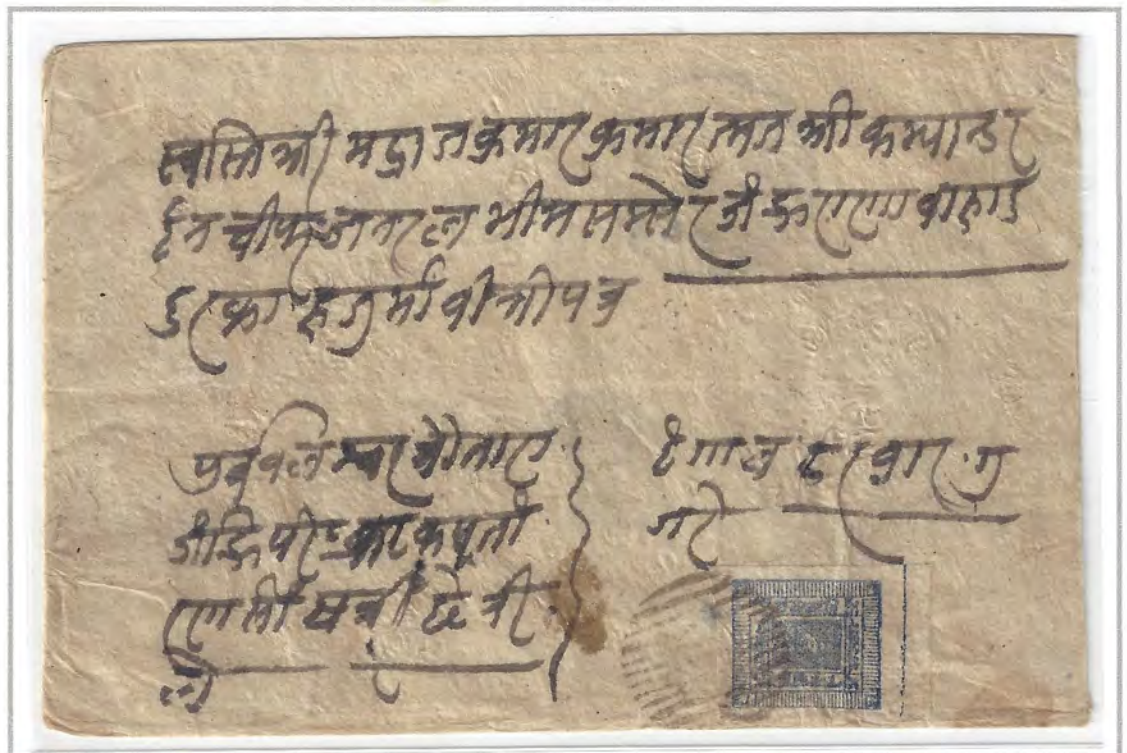


Dhulikel

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



Chautara

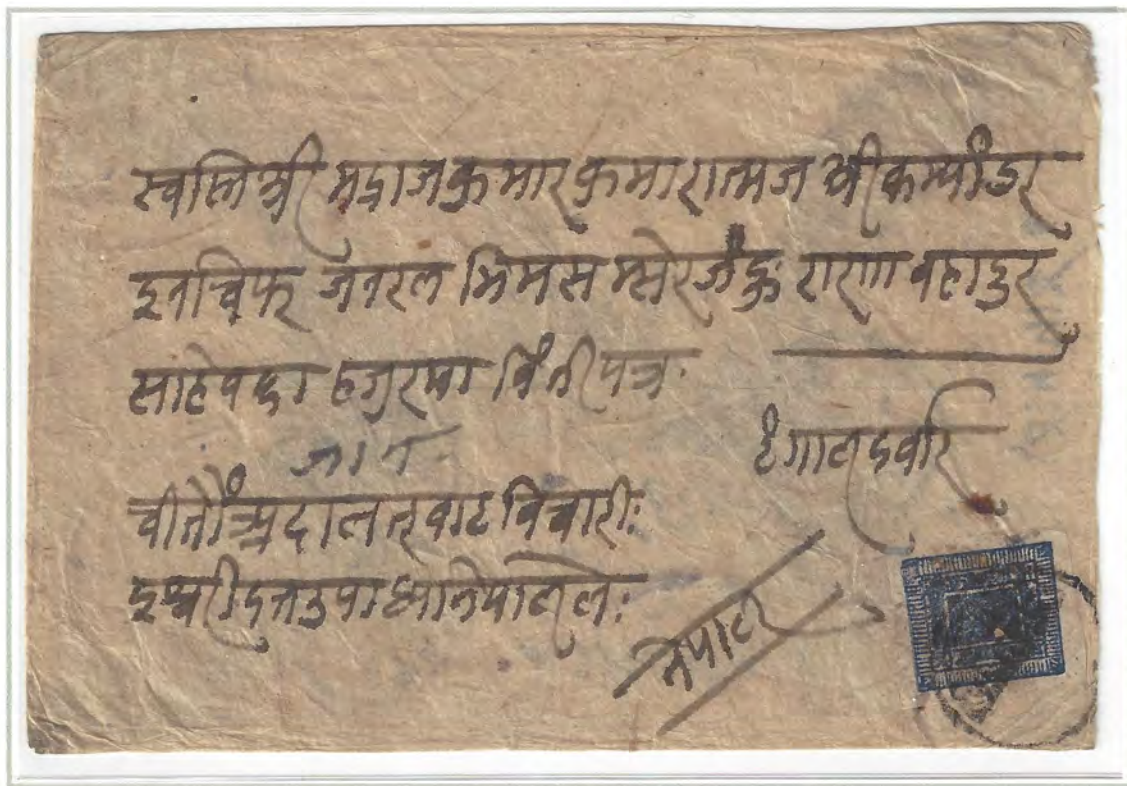


August 1907 Chautara barred circle cancel
three reported covers with this cancel

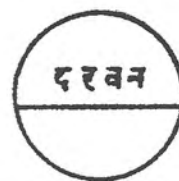
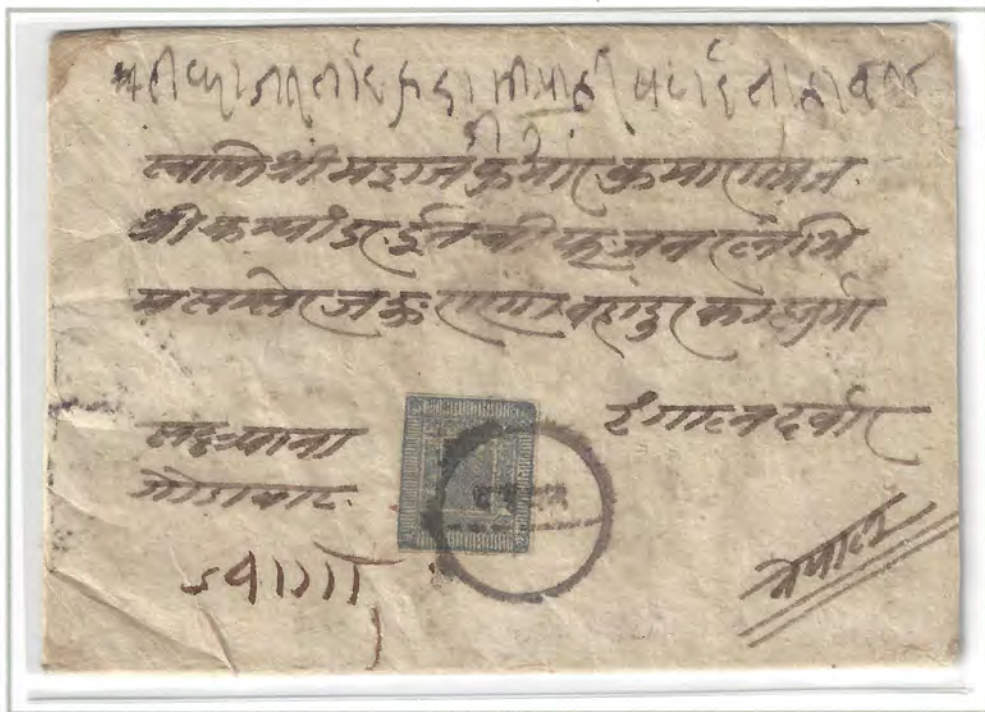
Non-Standard Cancels



Chitwan



August 1907 Chitwan negative postmark used as cancel

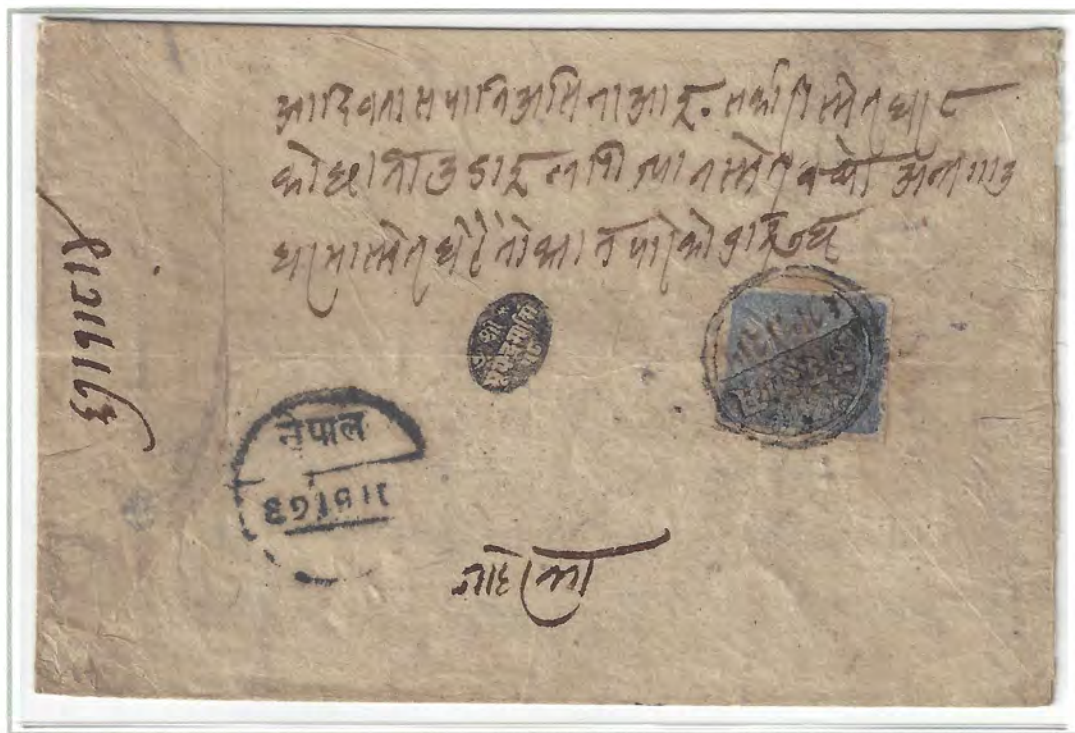


Dahaban



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



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



November 1904 Sindhuli, double rate cover

Non-Standard Cancels

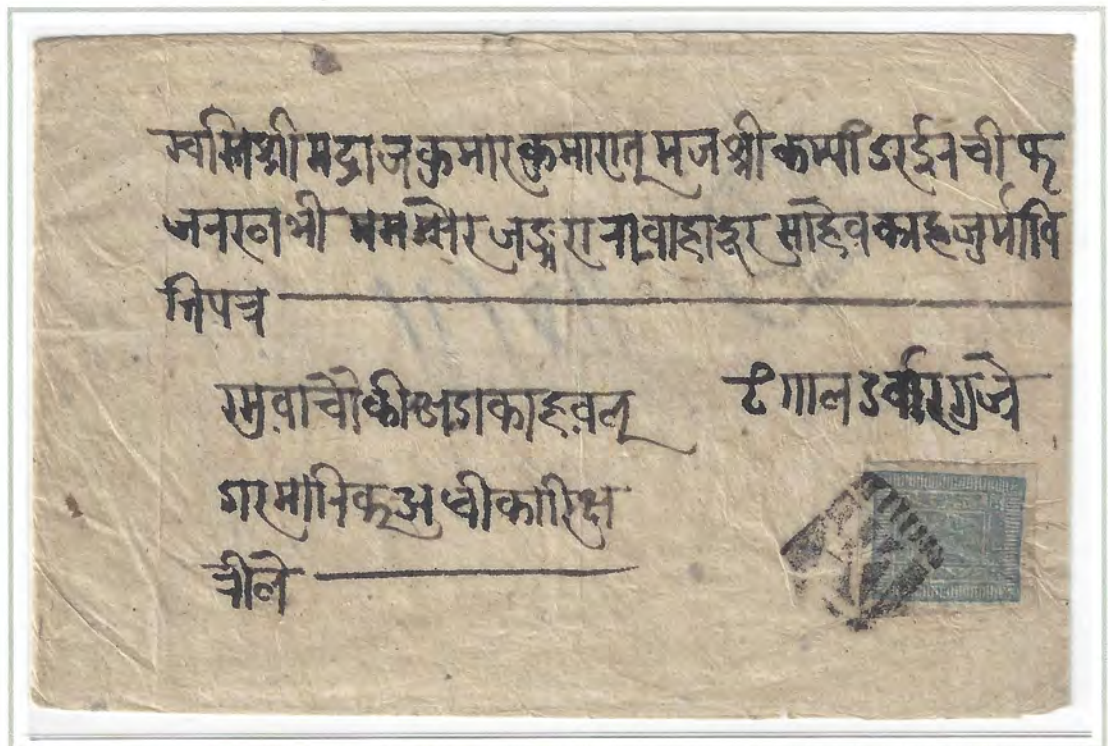


Bhadgaon

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

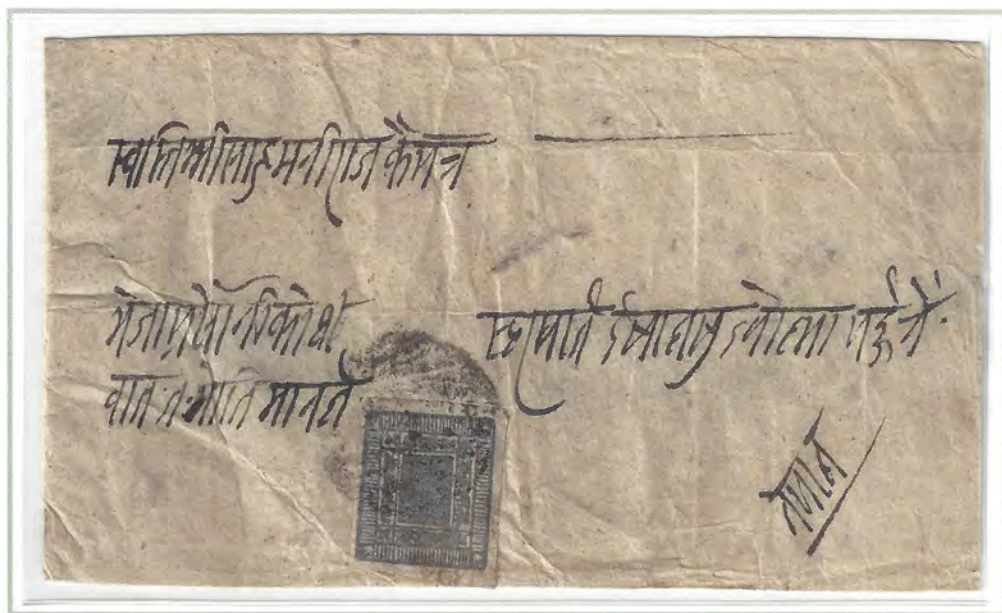


Rasuwa



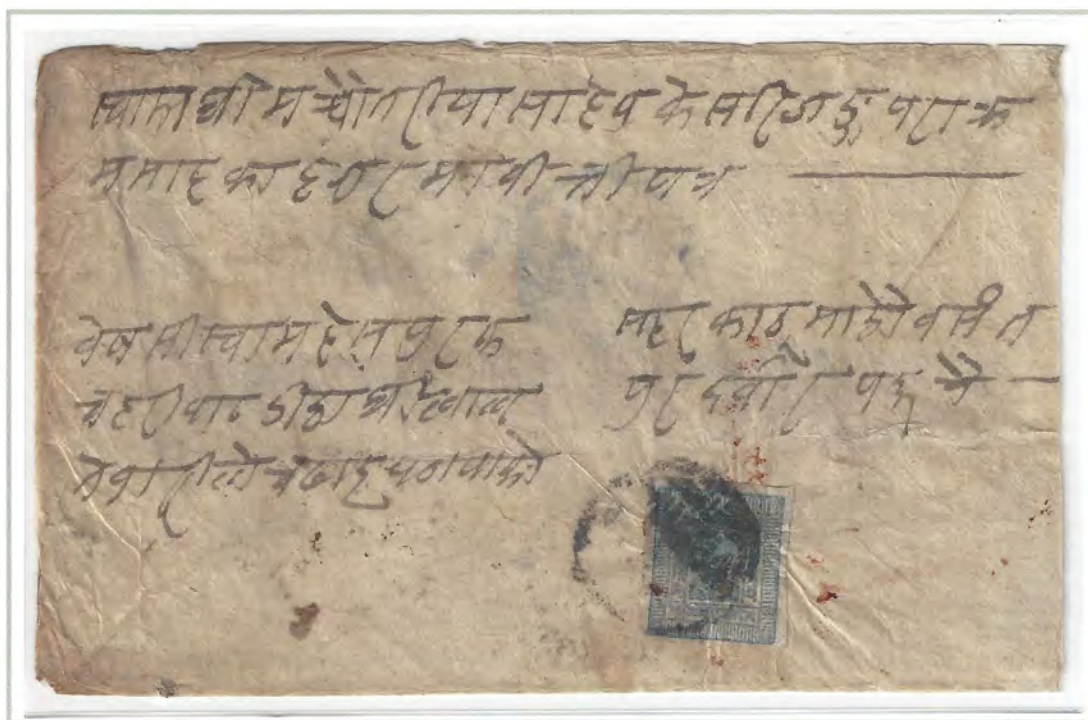
April 1905 Rasuwa to Kathmandu, two known covers with this negative cancel

Non-Standard Cancels



Birganj

October 1905 Birganj to Kathmandu
1 anna dark grey shade, ex Hellrigl: "unrecorded shade of greatest rarity"



Birganj

March 1904 Birganj negative postmark used as cancel

Single and Double Rate Uses



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

Rates Paid with Tête-Bêche Pairs



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 5 annas rate with 1 anna, two singles (one on front) and strip of four tête-bêche pair at far right of the strip

Double Weight, Registered Use
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 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.

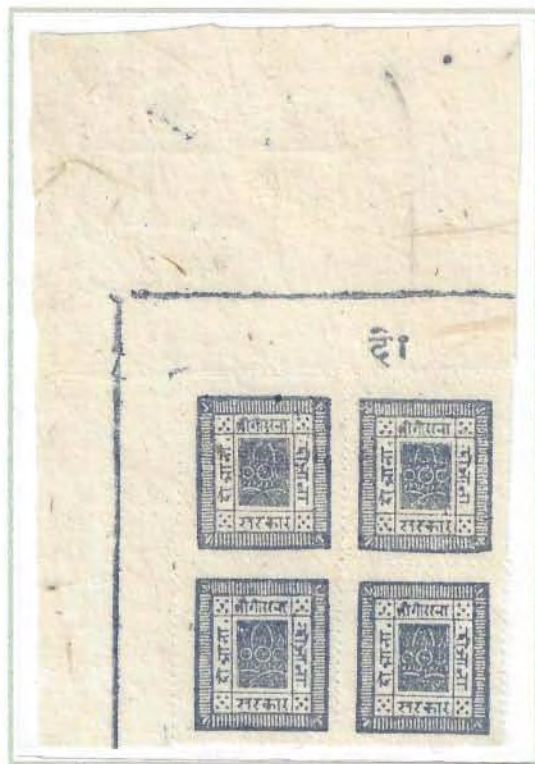


Tatapani seal cancel



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

Two Anna Pin-Perforated



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



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

Setting 15 Proving Piece
with transferred cliché

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 cliché showing dent in left frameline



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



setting 17, positions 50-55/58-63, Hanumannagar postal cancels
position flaws: position 55 progressive flaw, position 58 dent at foot



position 55
progressive flaw
(setting 18 state)



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



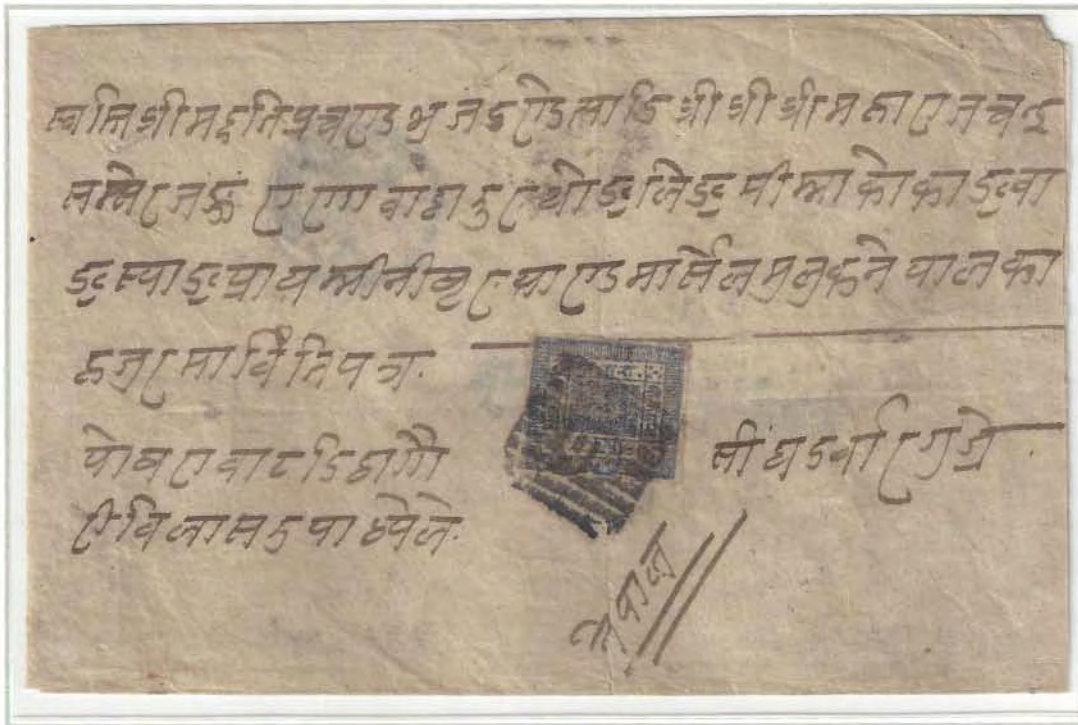
Karnali



January 1906 Karnali to Kathmandu, prepaid with 2 annas



Pokhara



October 1905 Pokhara to Kathmandu

Double Rate Covers



Dhankuta



October 1904 Dhankuta to Kathmandu, double weight cover, prepaid 2 annas



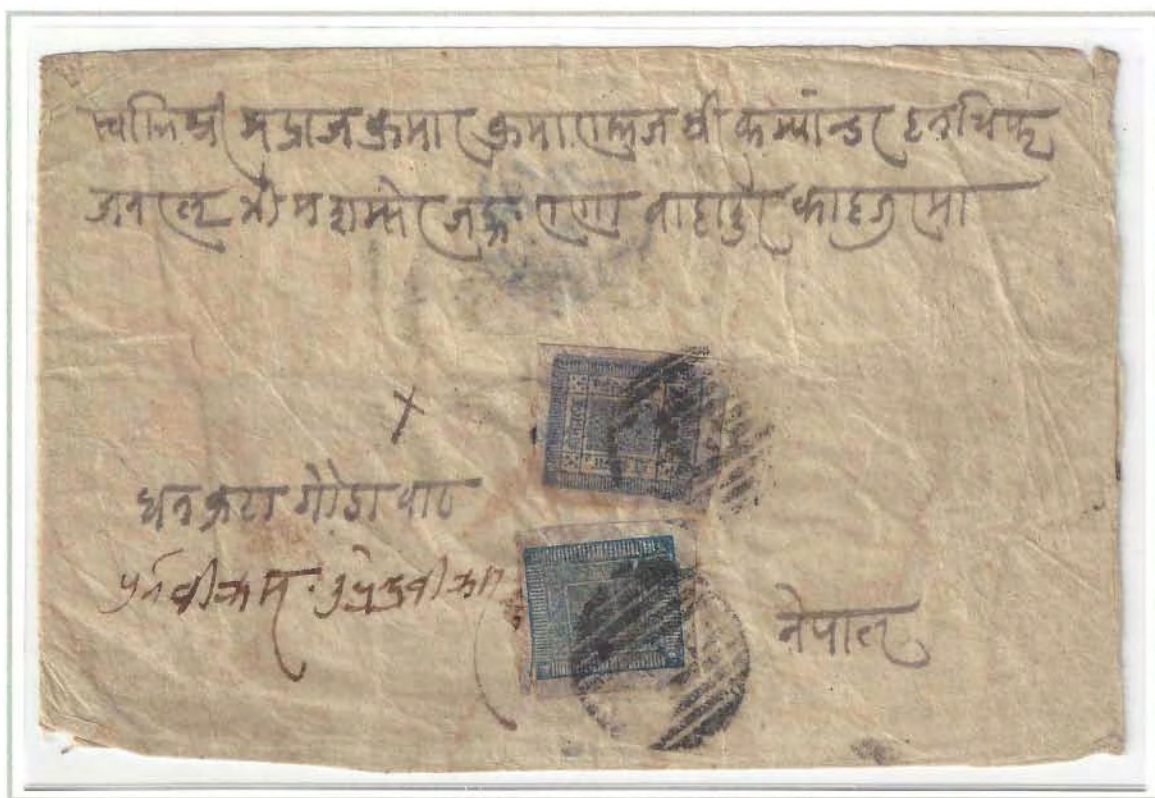
August 1907 Dhankuta to Kathmandu, double weight cover, prepaid 2 annas

Triple Weight 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 Rate
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)*

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

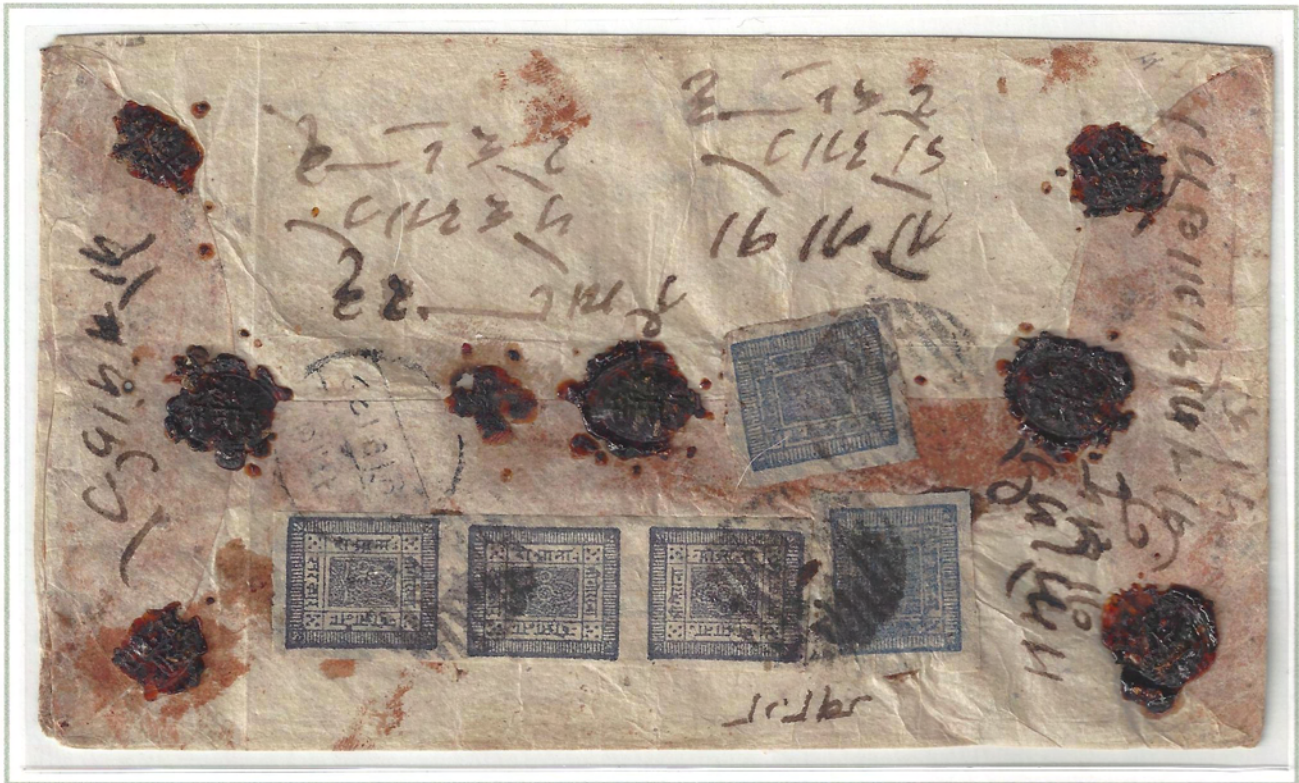


September 1907 registered double weight use from Doti to Kathmandu
7 annas total rate prepaid with 2 annas strip of three and single 1 anna recut

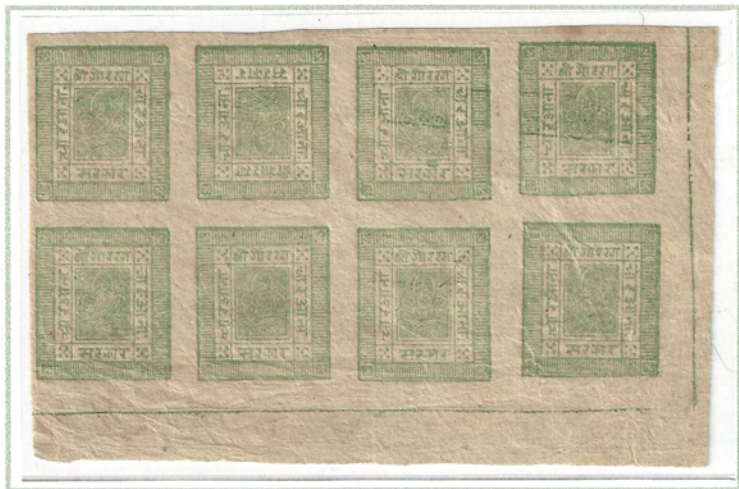
Registered Double Rate plus
Acknowledgment of Receipt
(with tête-bêche)



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*

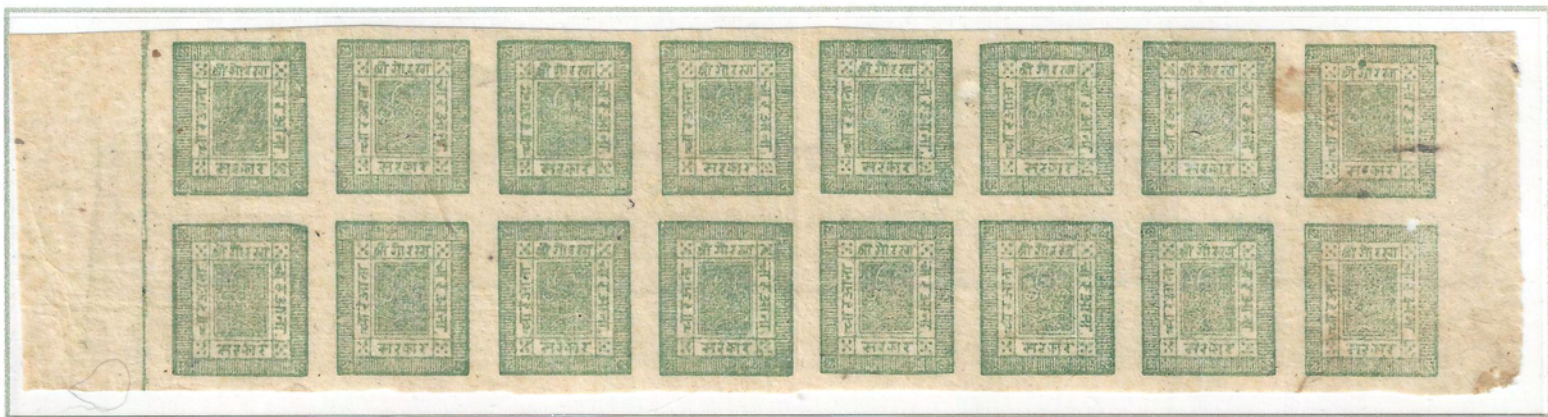


setting 9, positions 53-56/61-64
position 54 inverted cliché

Position 54 is inverted
in all three settings.



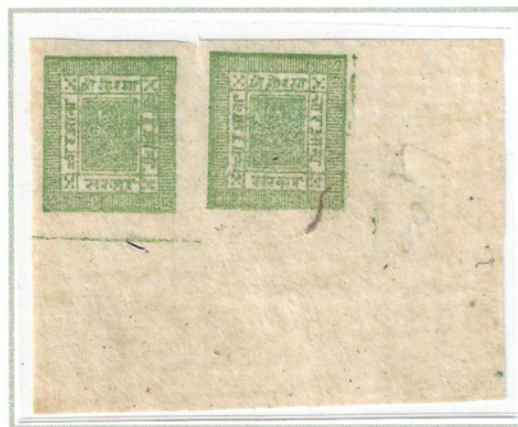
setting 9, pin-perforated
tête-bêche pair, positions 53-54



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



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



setting 11, First State, positions 63-64

Third Period

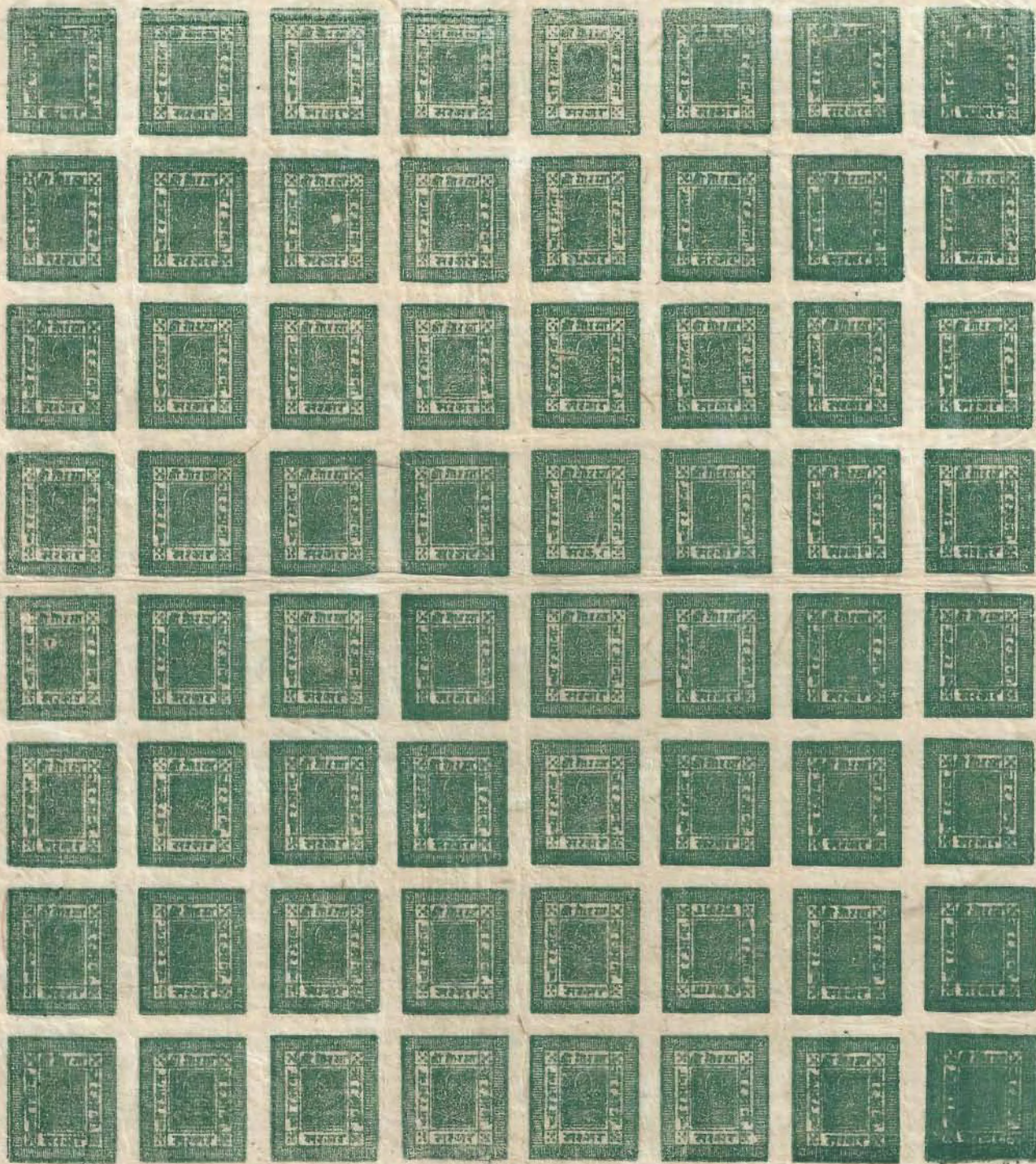
Nepal

4 Annas

Native Paper Printings

Setting 11, First State, 1901-1907

inverted cliché position: 54



Third Period

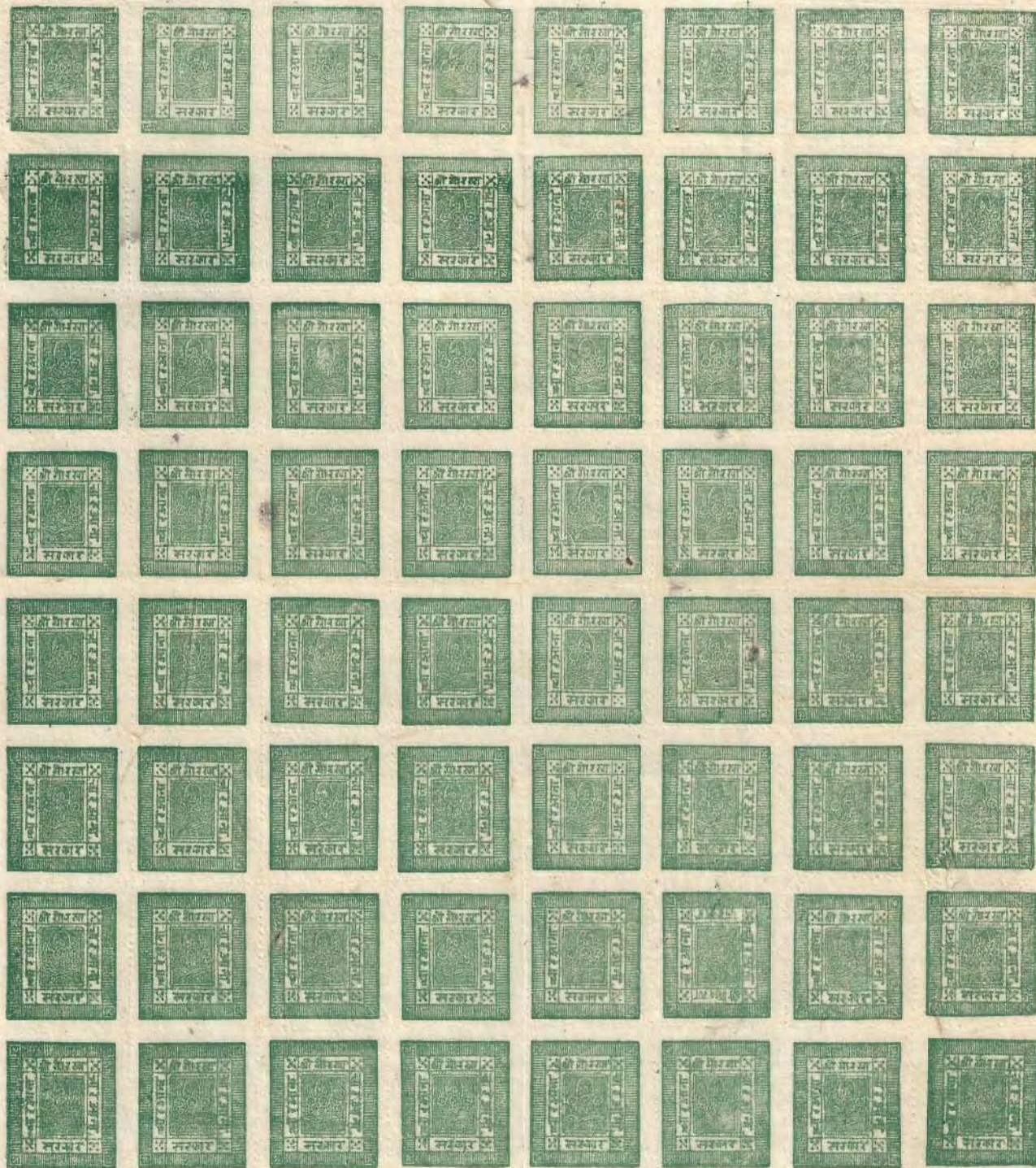
Nepal

4 Annas

Native Paper Printings

Pin-Perforated, Setting 11, First State, 1901-1907

inverted cliché position: 54



Kathmandu postal cancels (used 1899-1907)



Most postally used four annas stamps from the final printings originate from parcels sent from Kathmandu. No intact parcels with stamps 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 stamp

three reported examples of 4 annas single franking

Registered Single Weight Cover

The registry fee was five annas. Added to the fee was the one anna rate for single weight postage.



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 Shamsher

Four Annas 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 pair

two reported examples

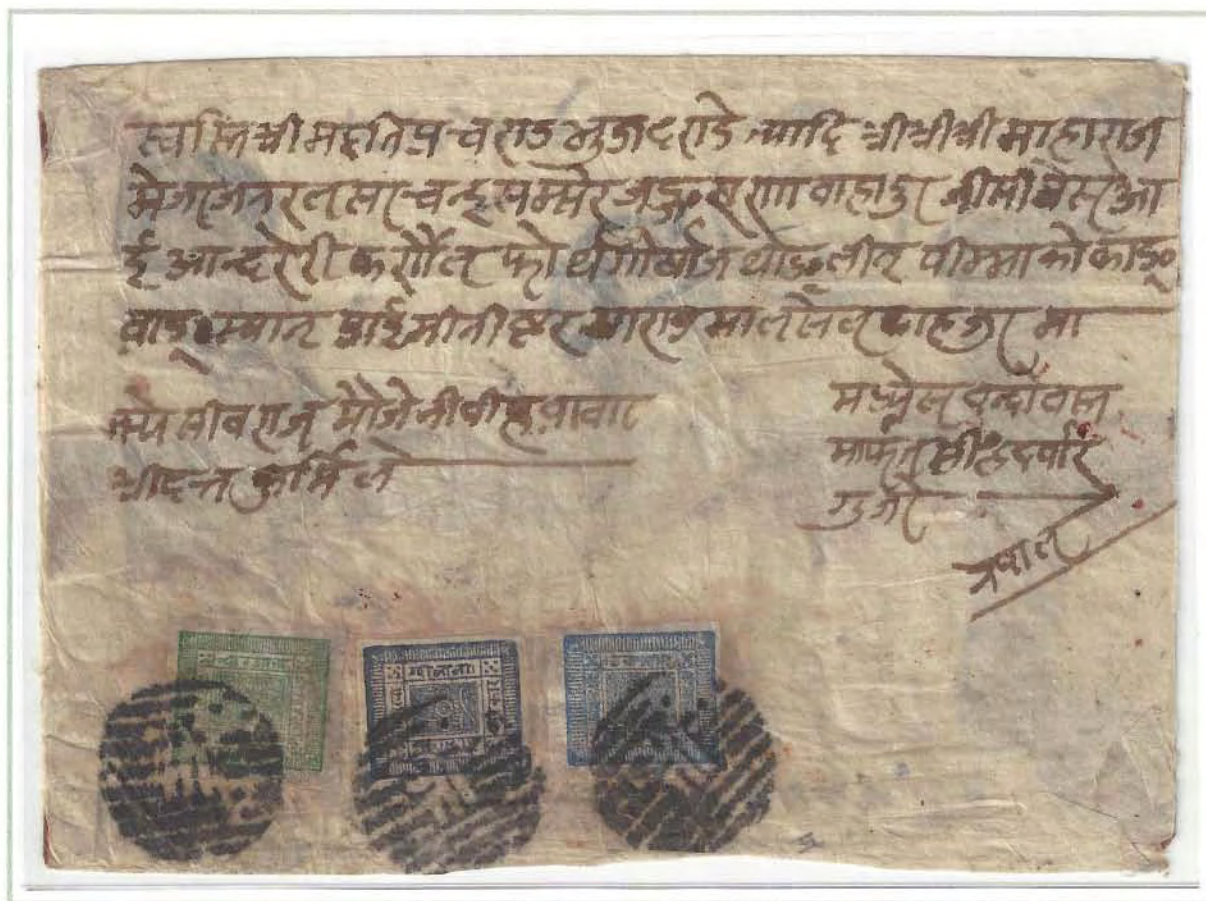
Eight annas rate (5 annas registry fee, 2 annas double weight postage
plus 1 anna fee for acknowledgment of receipt).

Complete Set on Cover
Registered Double Weight Use

The registry fee was five annas. This was in addition to the postal rate by weight of one anna per tola of weight. A double weight cover was charged two annas.



Taulihawa



August 1907 Taulihawa double weight registered cover to Kathmandu prepaid 7 annas rate, franked with 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas fewer than ten known covers with the entire set of 1898 - 1907 printings

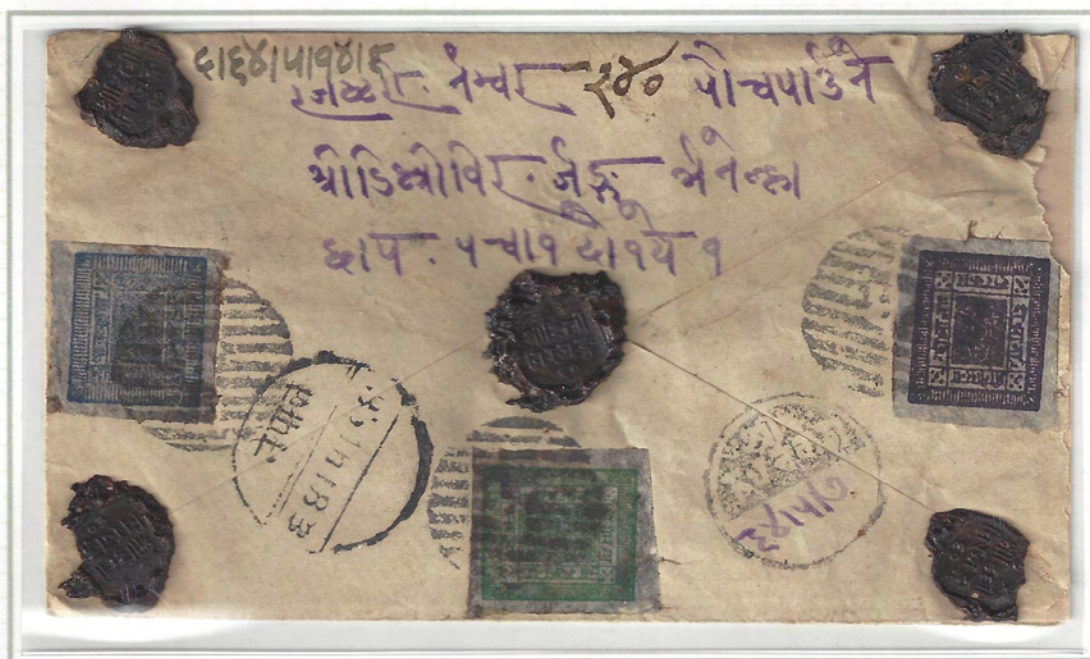
Complete Set on Cover
Registered with Acknowledgment of Receipt

Registered *जखरी.*

पौचपाउने 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 entire set of 1898 - 1907 printings

Seven annas rate (5 annas registry fee, 1 anna single weight postage plus 1 anna fee for 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 and first recorded by Major Evans in March 1899. Issued for prepayment of the new 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, 1899

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

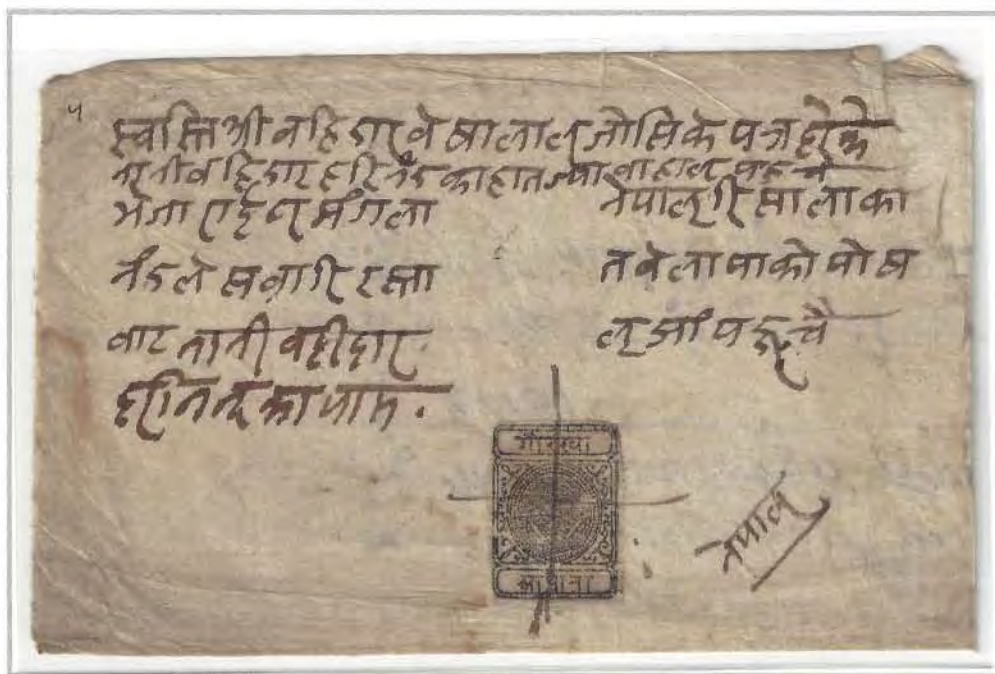


imperforate marginal blocks showing framelines at side on thin paper (pos. 39-40/47-48) and on thick paper (pos. 47-48/55-56)

Temporary post offices were established in the Terai Region for the handling of mail from the Maharaja's yearly hunting camps in the area. 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



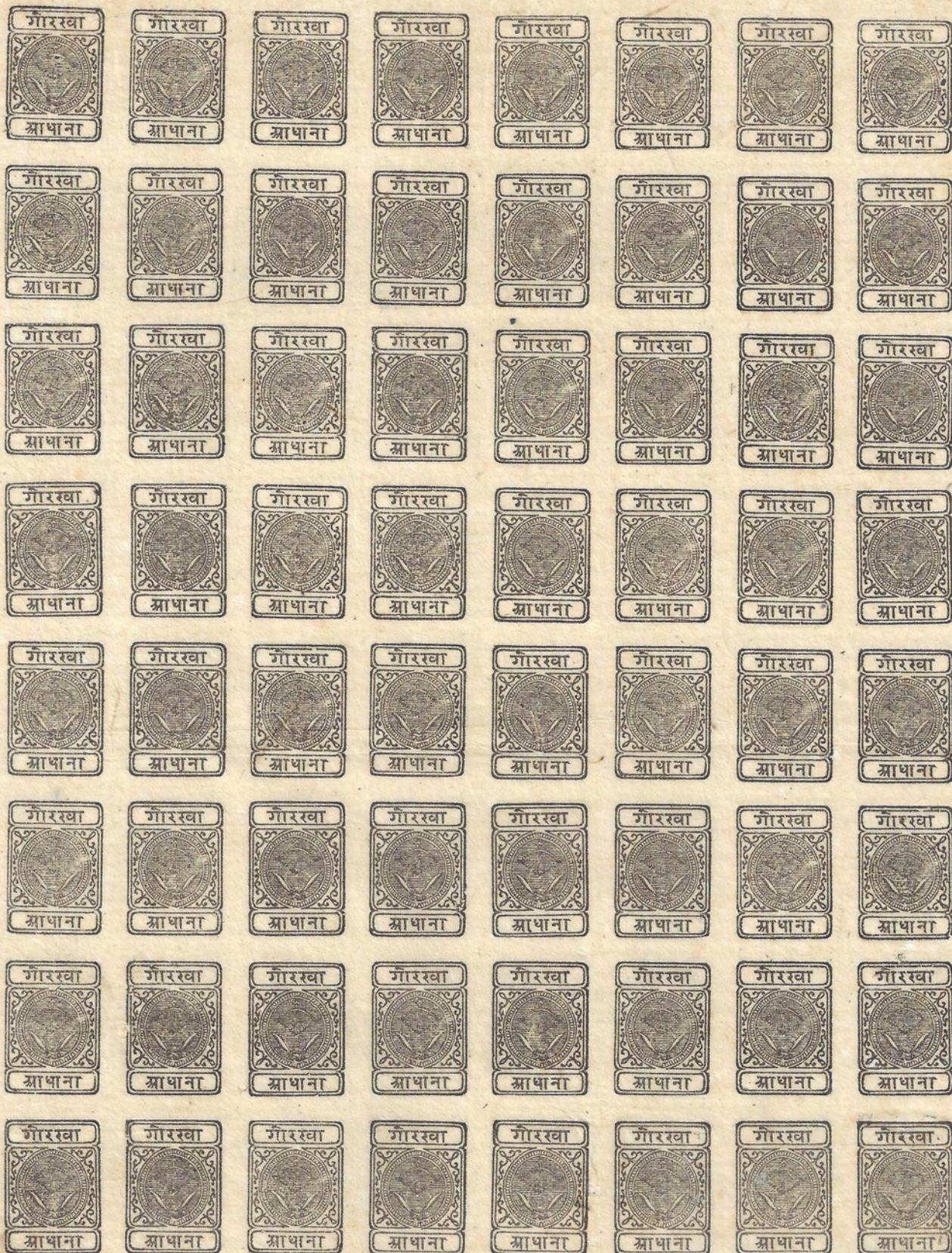
10 December 1910 cover from royal hunting camp to Kathmandu, prepaid 1/2 anna six reported covers franked with a single one-half anna stamp



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

four reported full sheets

Black, Setting 1, 1899-1900





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 Variant, 1899-1900



late state on thin paper, positions 1-8, top frameline with small breaks and corners nearly closed
reported by Hellrigel 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" frameline cliché 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 cliché flaw in position 7



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

6 7 8



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

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

5

6



6

7



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



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



setting 2, thick buff paper, positions 1-3



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

The third setting had one inverted cliché in position 7.



tête-bêche pair
positions 7-8



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions 33-40/41-48



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions 41-43/49-51

Nepal

Telegraphic Period Printings, 1917 to 1930

In October 1907, when a new issue of postage stamps arrived in Nepal, remaining sheets 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 sheets that had been stored in the Treasury ran out, new printings were commenced using new settings. 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 the placement of inverted cliches and other printing flaws. These are shown with large multiples and sheets. Additional varieties include important errors of color caused by ink misapplication or by a cliché of a one anna stamp being placed in a four annas setting.

$\frac{1}{2}$ 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.



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.



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

ex O'Sullivan, Watts, Dawson and Hellrigel

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: positions 6, 7, and 57. All three are shown in used pairs below.



*inverted position 7 shows
flattened base flaw*



*tête-bêche pairs, position 6/14, 7-8 and 49/57
three of the eight used tête-bêche pairs known, believed to be the only set*



*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 are blocks of four*

Lemon Shade, Setting 6, 1917

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



1/2 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 1/2 anna lemon plus additional Nepal and India stamps
the only reported example of this shade on cover

The first setting used for the one-half anna black in the telegraphic period.



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

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, 10 1/2 annas fee for 14 words paid with 1/2 anna single and 2 annas block

Nepal

Telegraphic Cancels, 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 I, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Chisapani.



Nepal

Telegraphic Cancels, 1917 to 1930



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

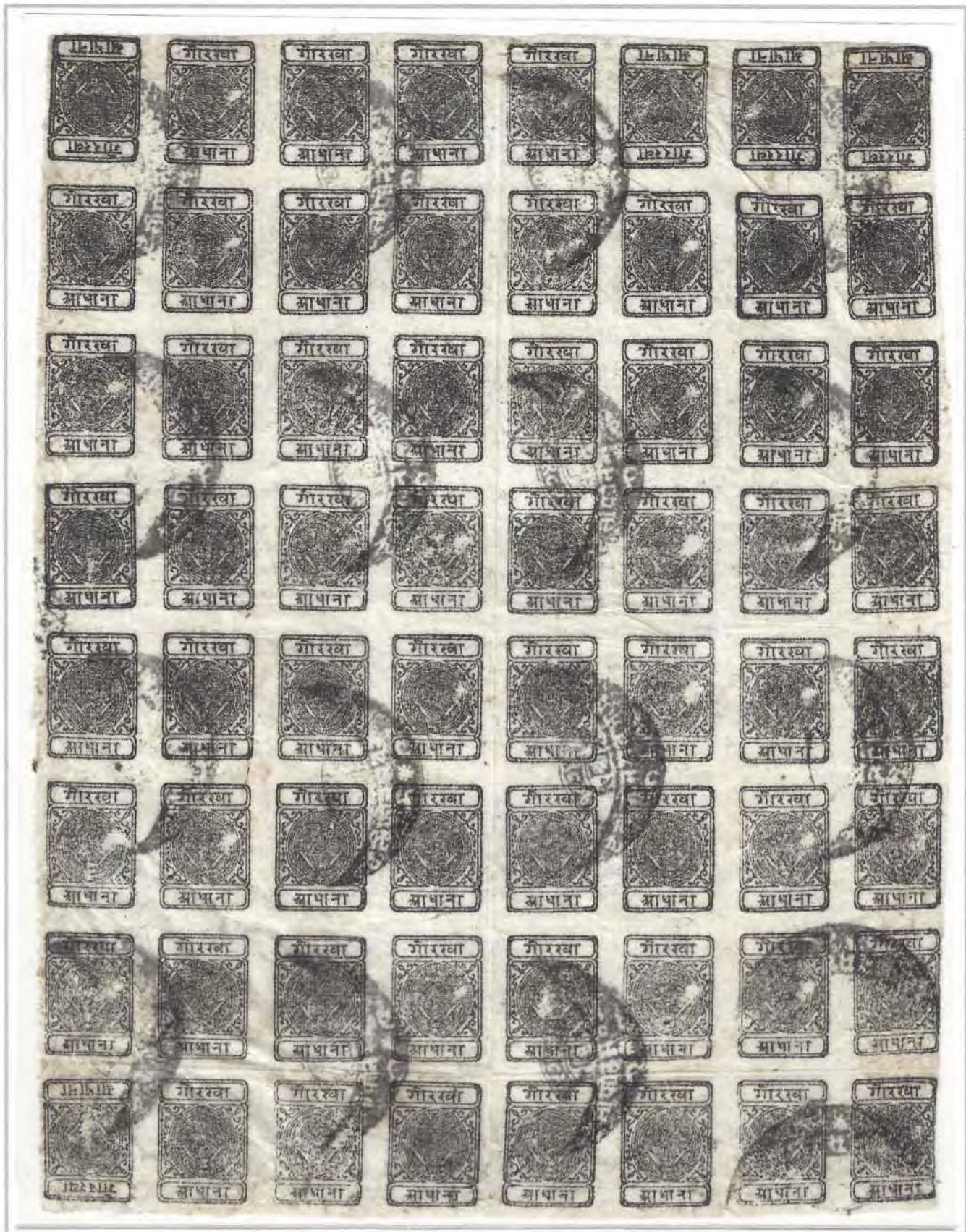


top pair is tête-bêche

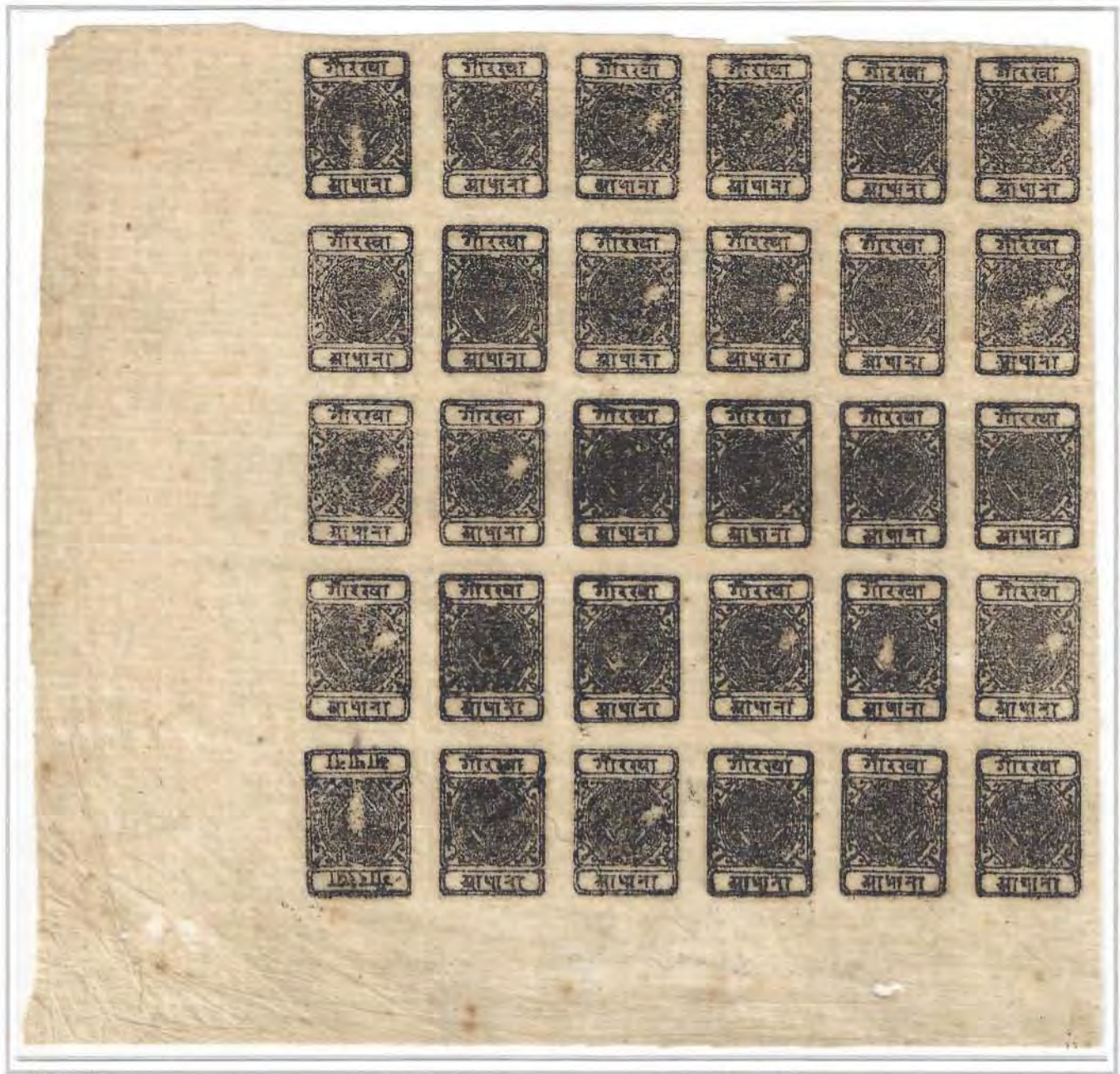


Cancel of the Amlekanj office internally dated 1927. This office was added when the railway was completed in 1927.





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



corner block of 30, inverted cliché position 57 (bottom left corner position)
 largest reported unused multiple of this setting excepting one full sheet



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

The Blister Flaw

*position 42
earliest state
largest multiple*



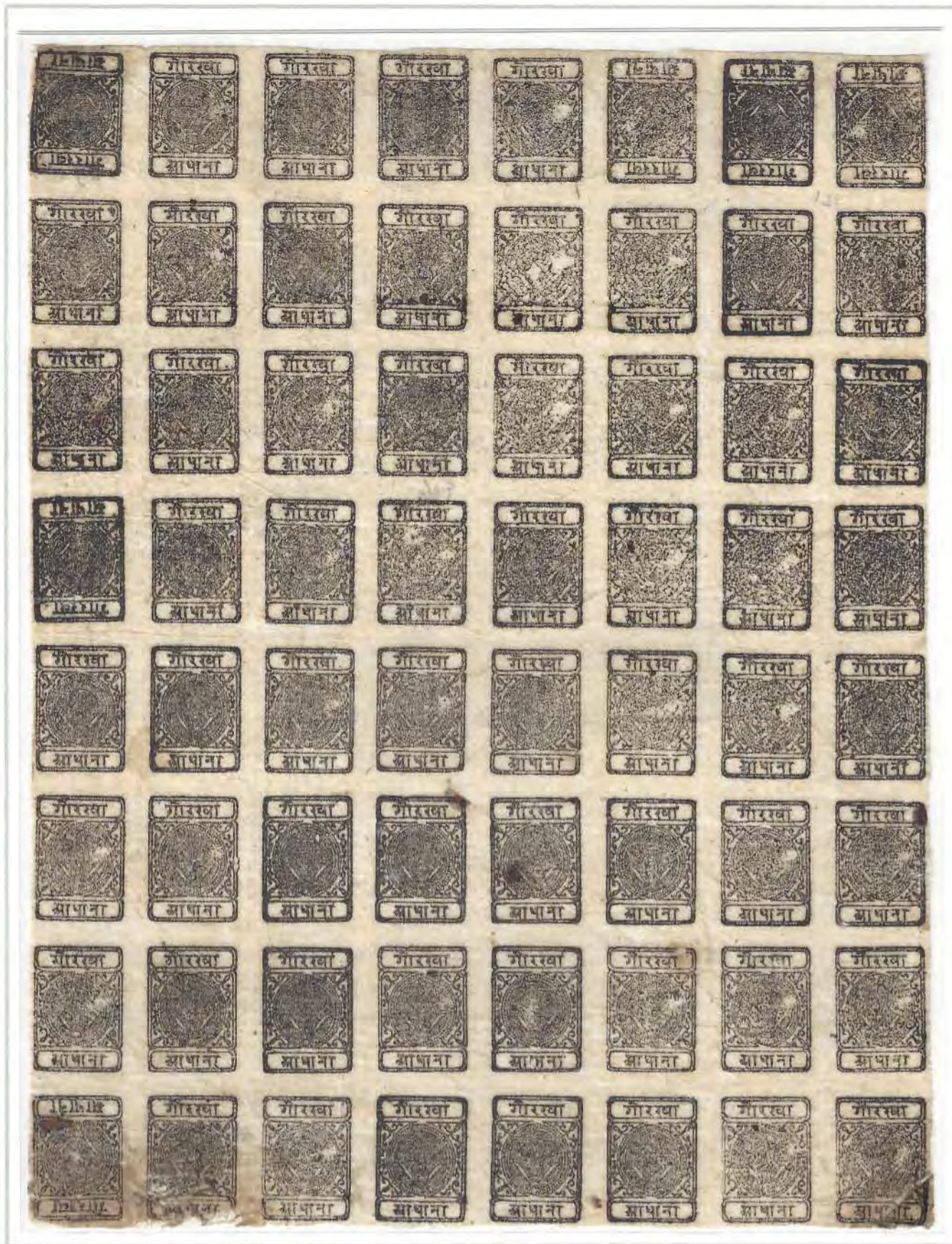
*positions 33-34/41-42
discovery block*



*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



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

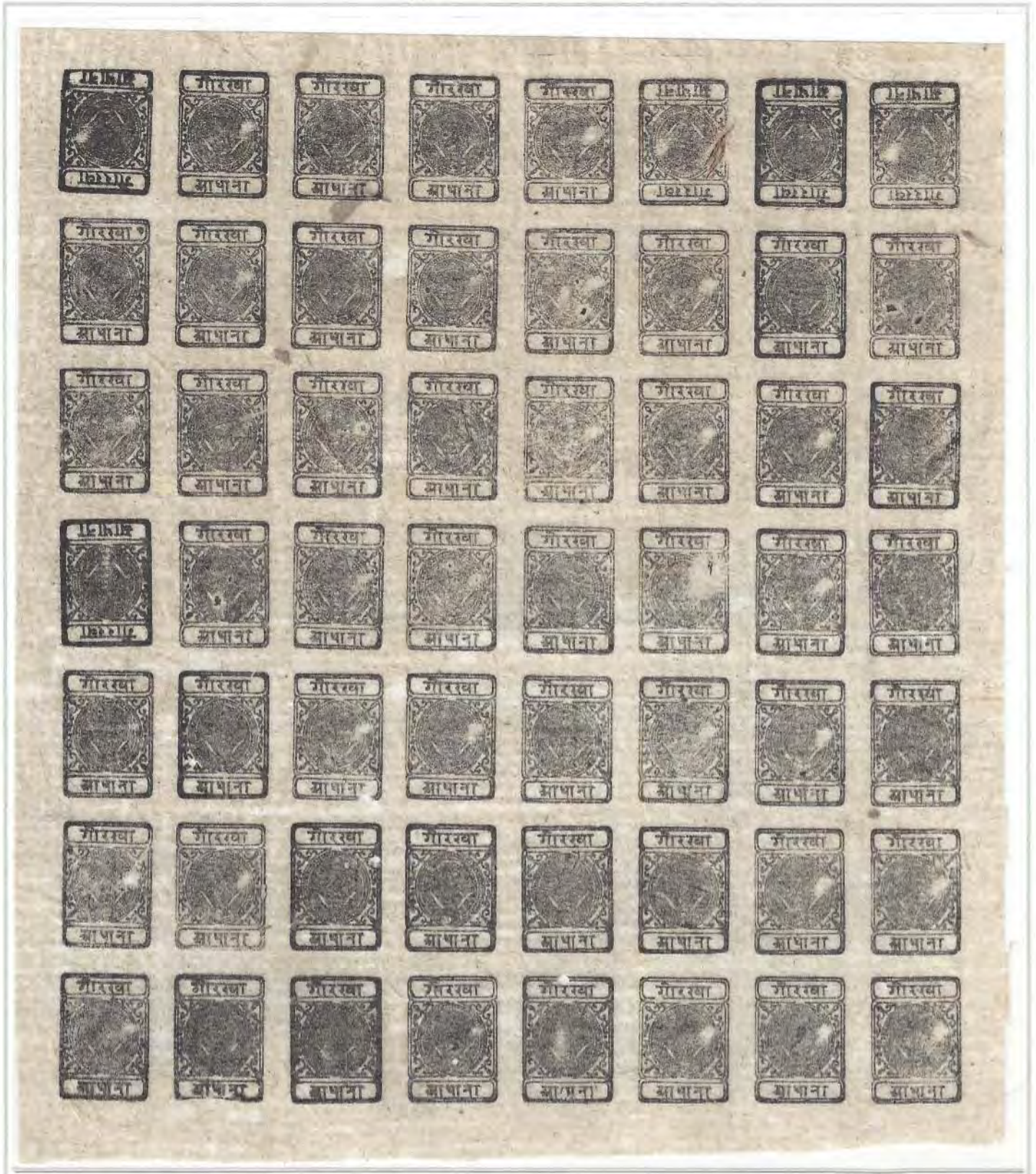
Double Impression



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

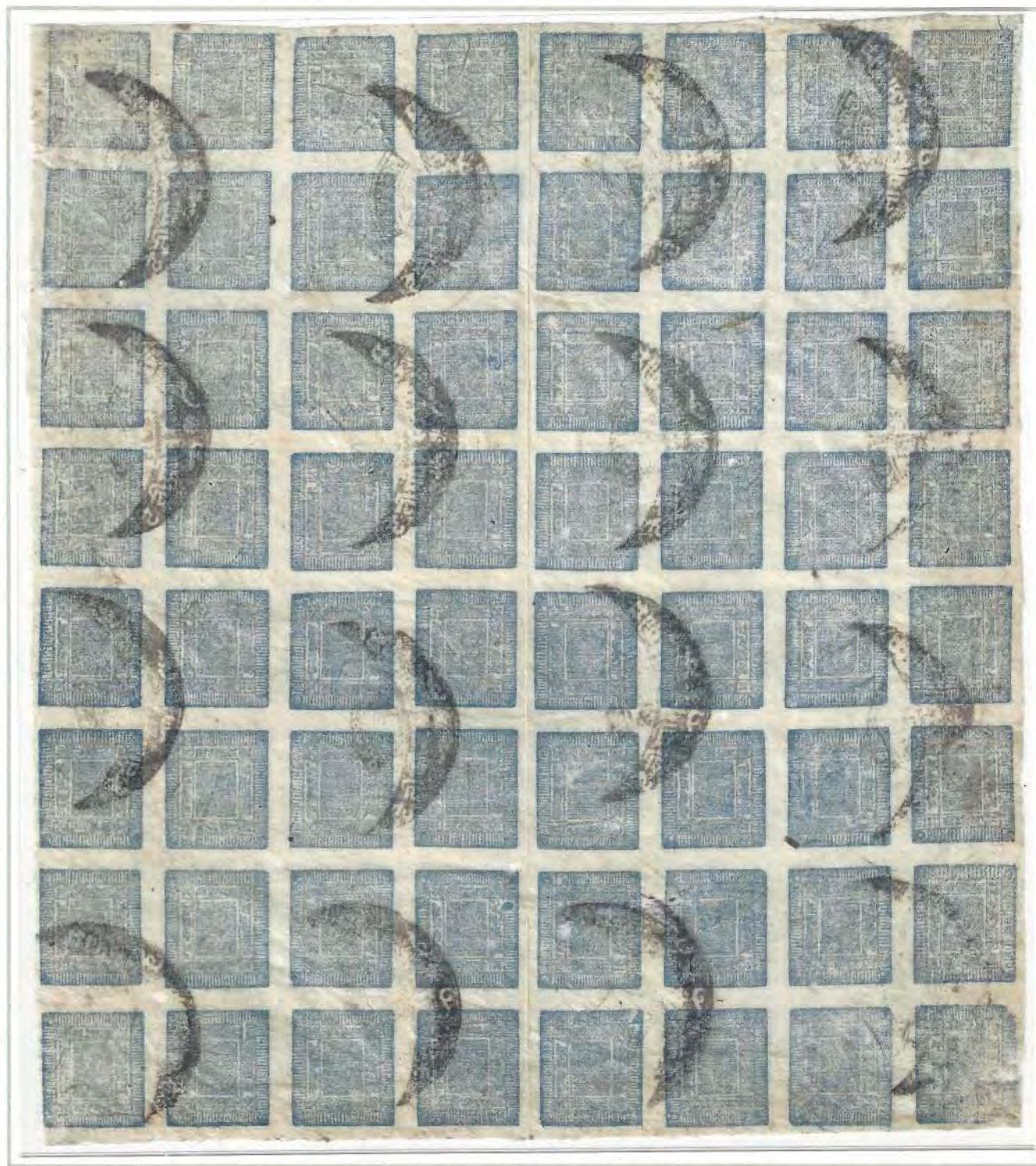
Setting 14, 1929-1930

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*

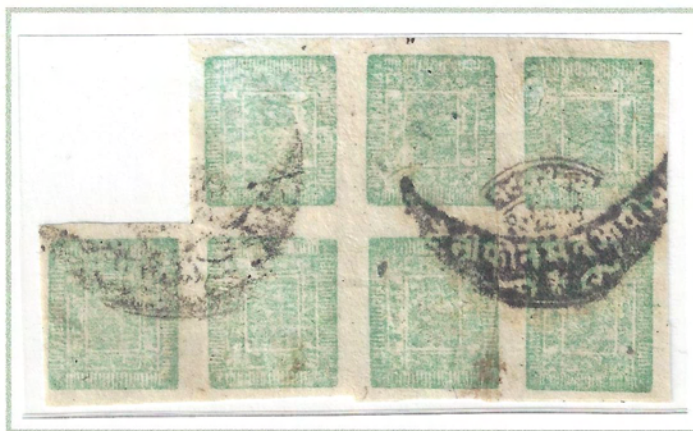
A remainder sheet that had been stored in the Treasury from 1907 until used after 1917.



*inverted cliche positions: 15, 18, 23, 27, 37, 40, 41, 51 and 64; Birganj telegraphic cancels
no gash flaw at position 10, inverted cliche position 64 shows corner flaw*

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 discovered in 1992.

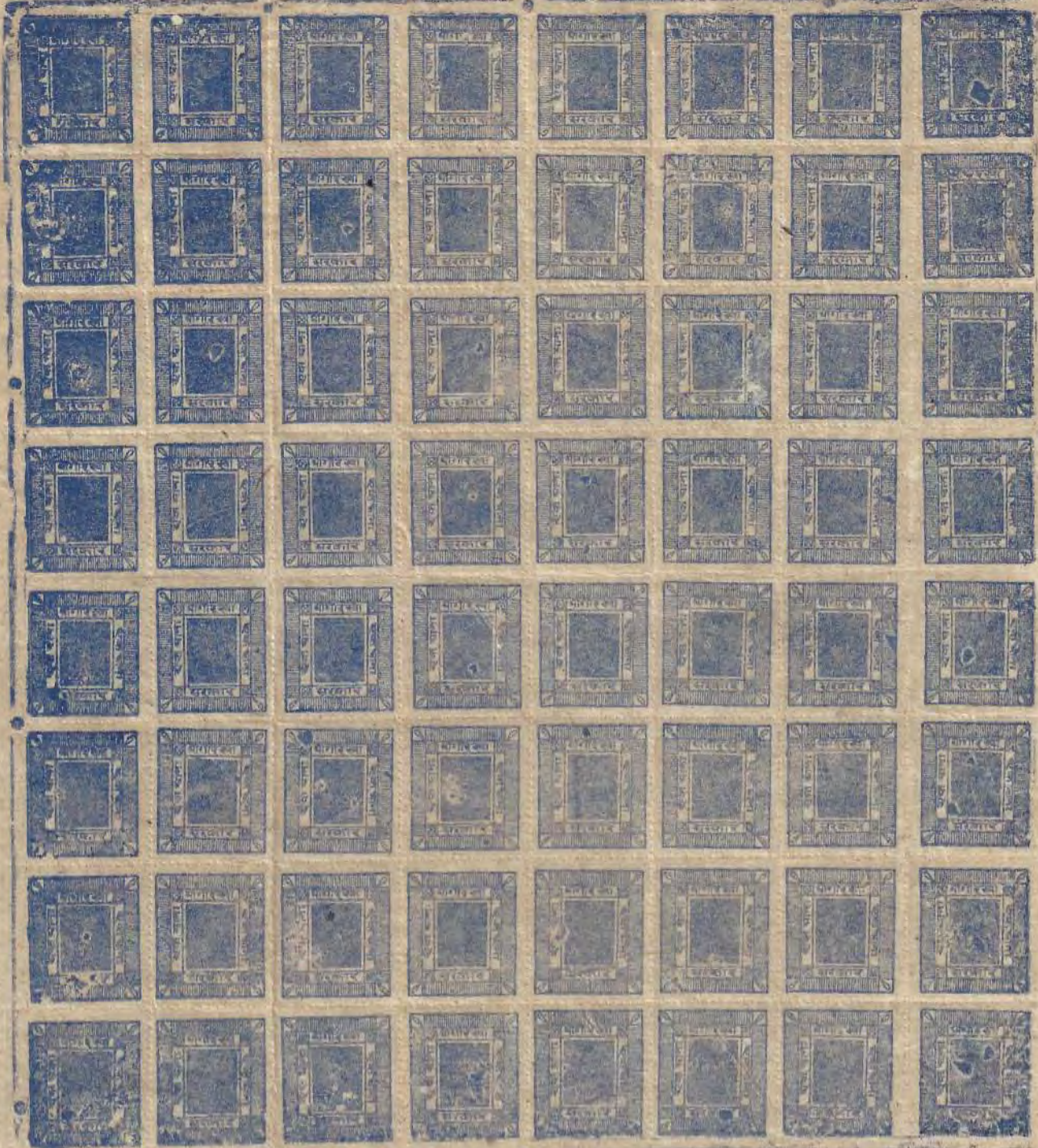


block positions: 6-8/ 14-16/ 30-32, inverted cliche: position 15

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



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

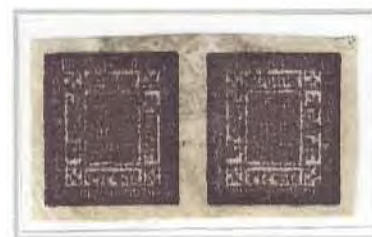


Sheets from setting 20 that had been stored were pressed into use in 1917. New printings were then made from settings 20 as well as from settings 22 to 31.

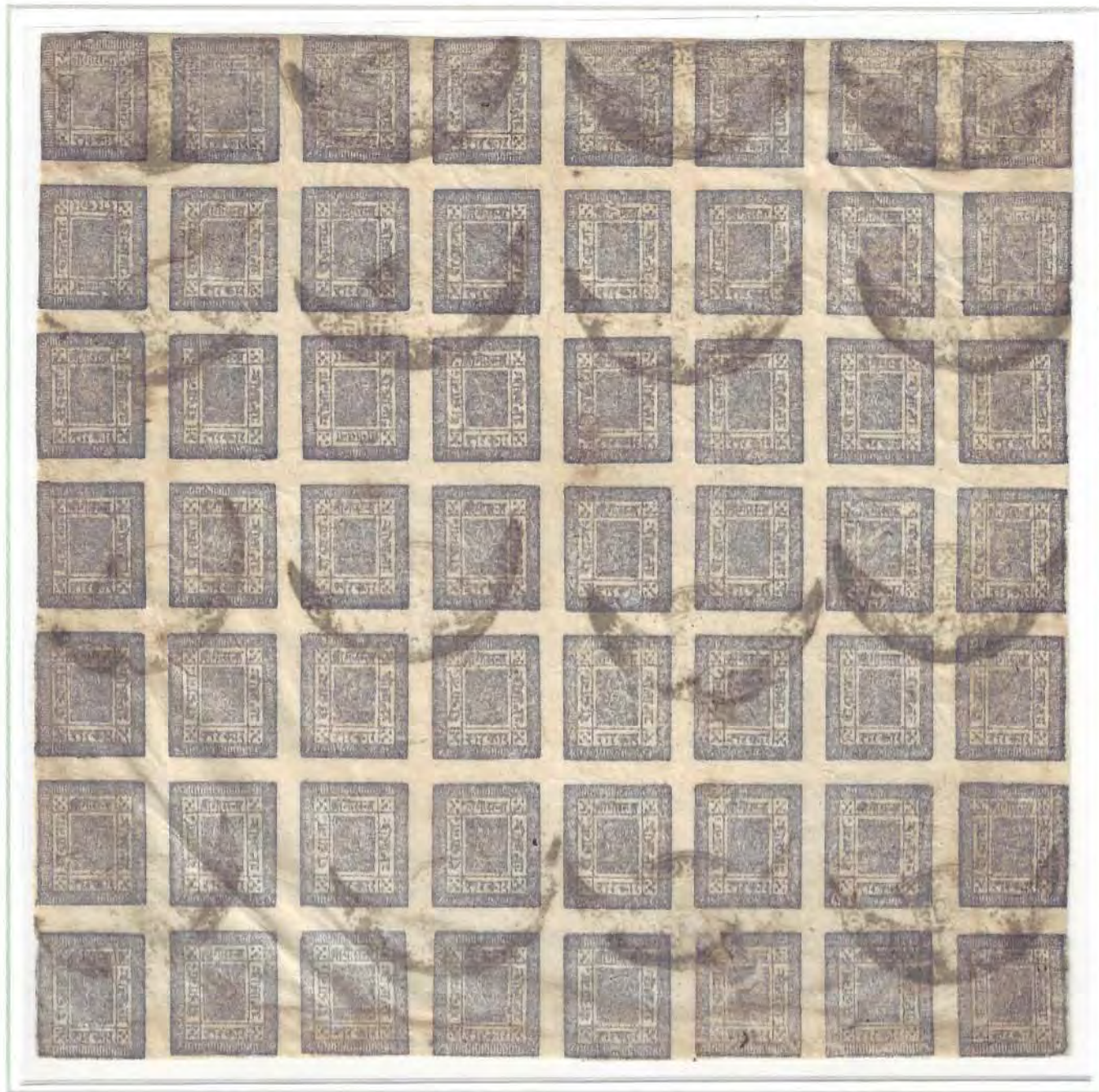


positions 5-8/13-16/20-24
inverted cliches positions: 8, 15

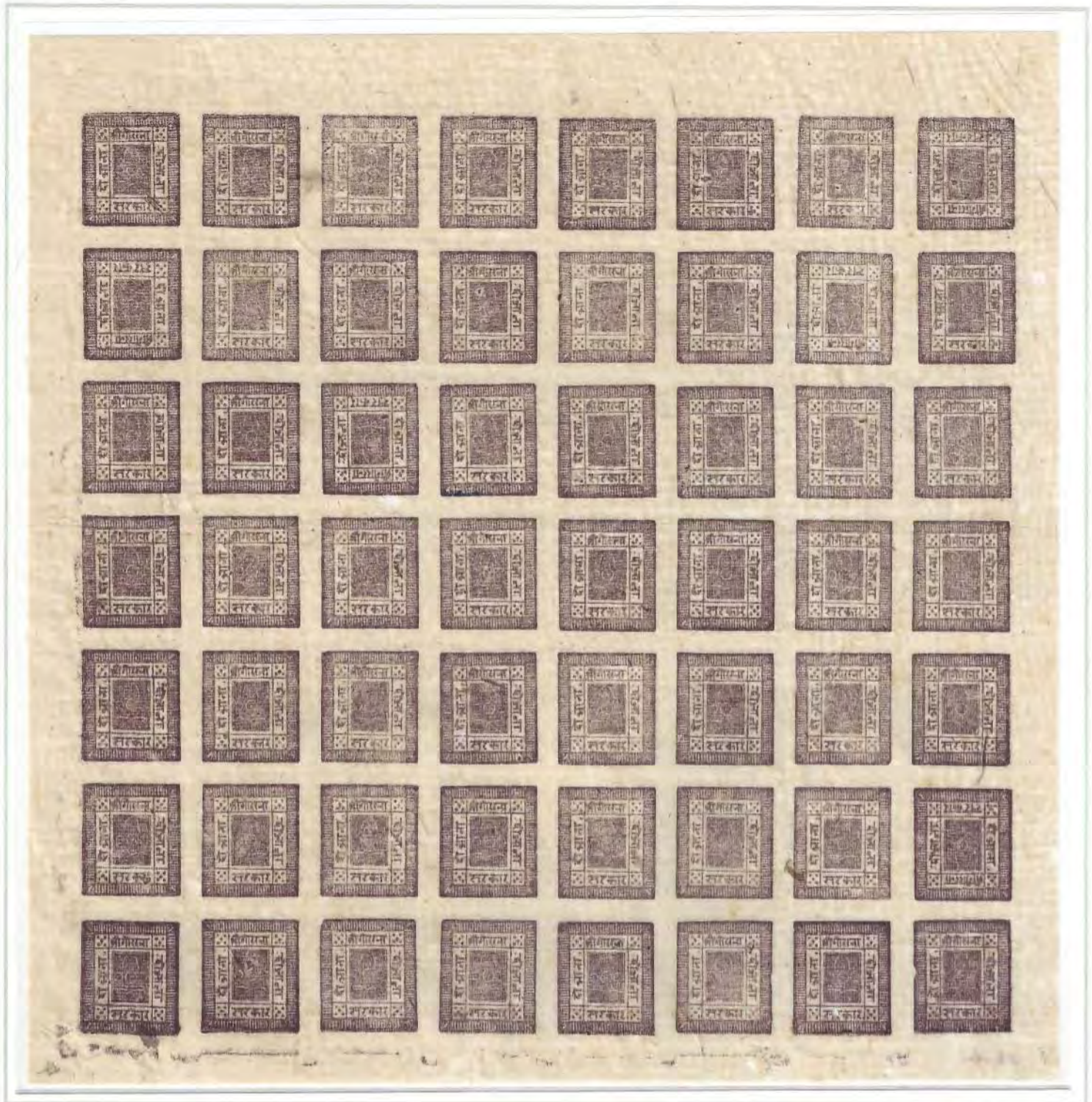
Shades



Remainder sheets from 1905-1906 printing that had been stored in the Treasury were used telegraphically after 1917.



*inverted cliche positions: 7, 8, 9, and 19; Birganj telegraphic cancels
two known complete used sheets of 56 subjects*



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

Pale Blue Two Annas Error of Color

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



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

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



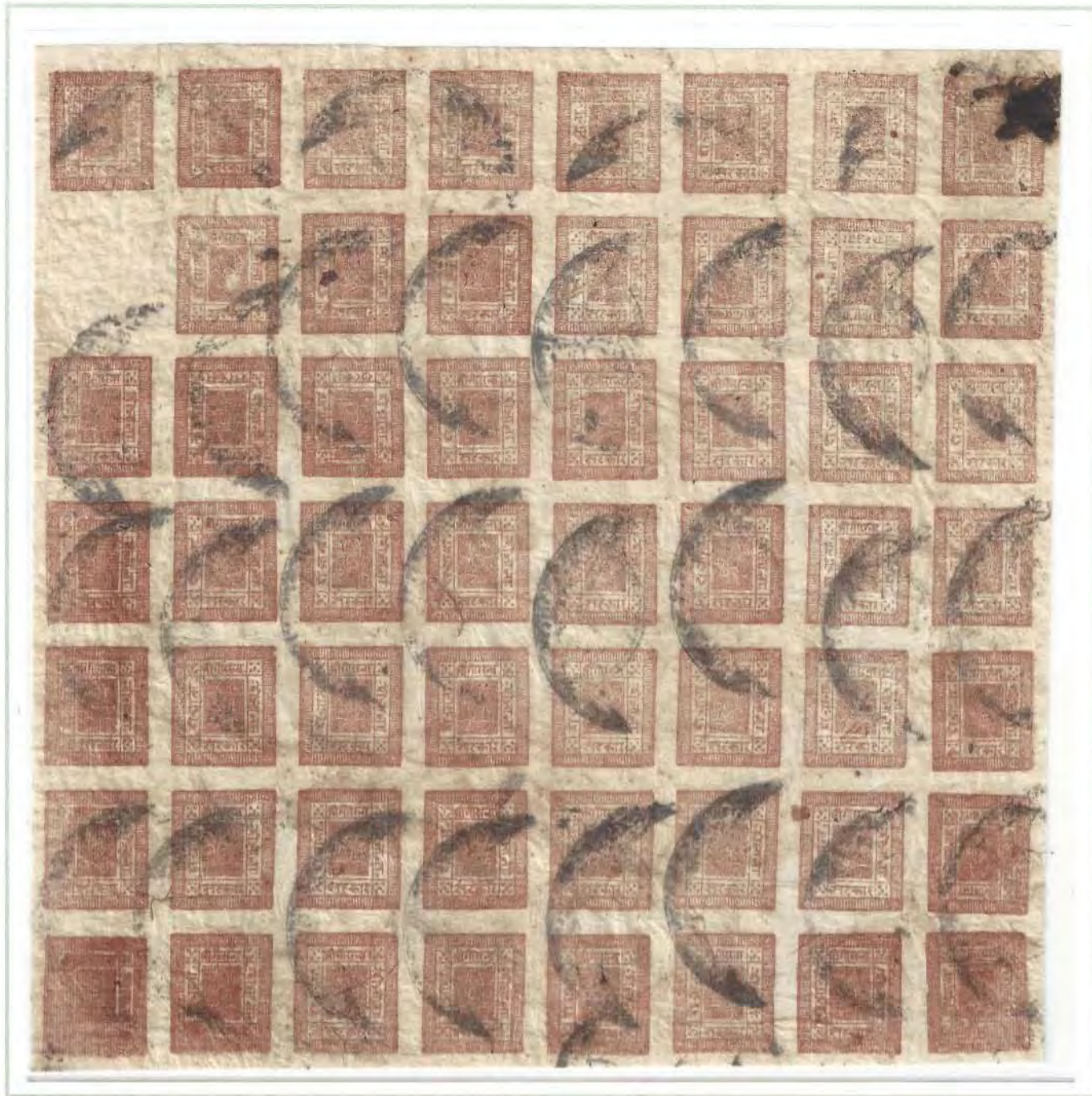
claret shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 9, 14, 15, 19 and 48, Birganj telegraphic cancels only two complete sheets known of this setting

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



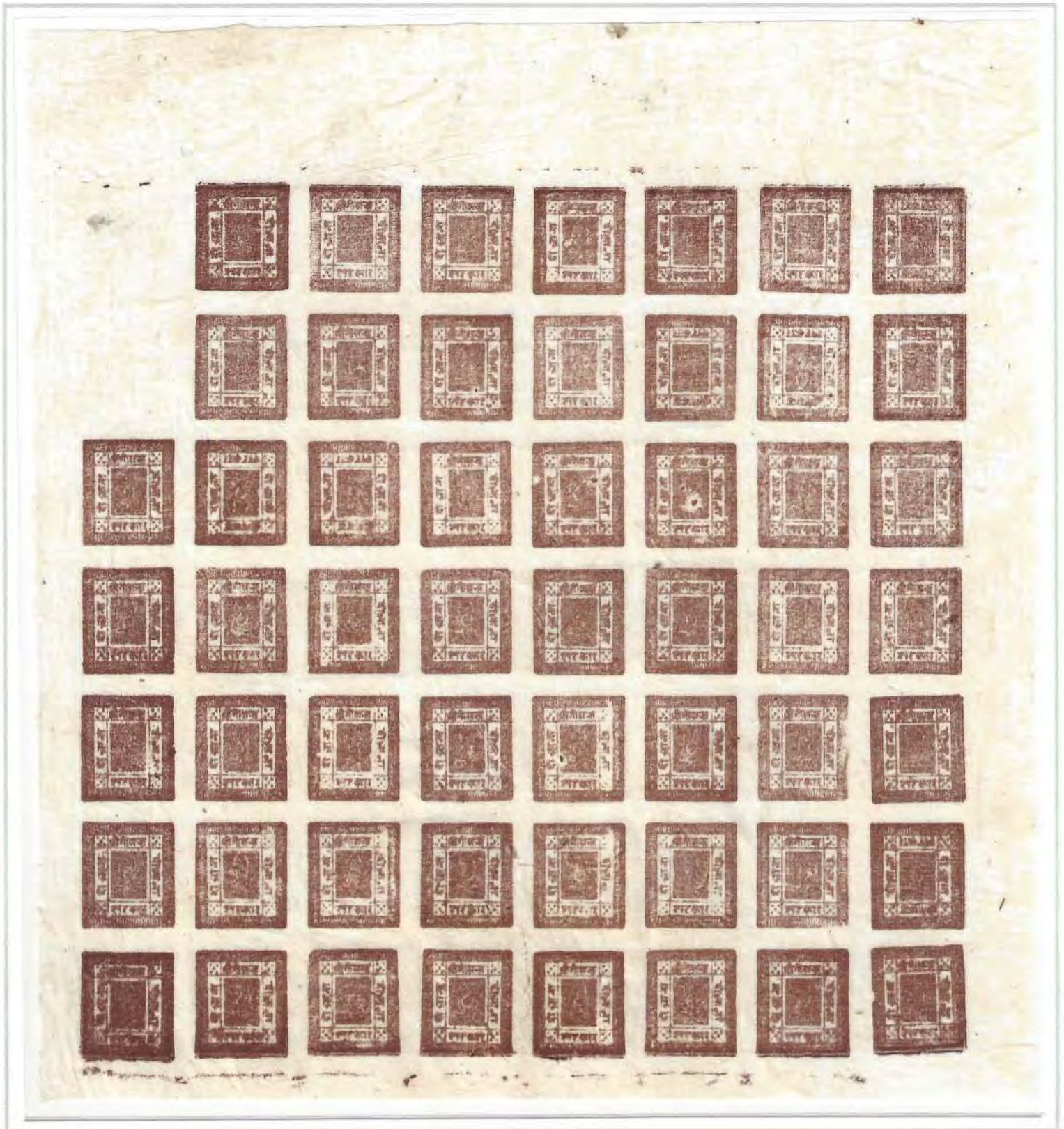
*claret shade, inverted cliché positions: 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 48
Kathmandu telegraphic cancels*

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



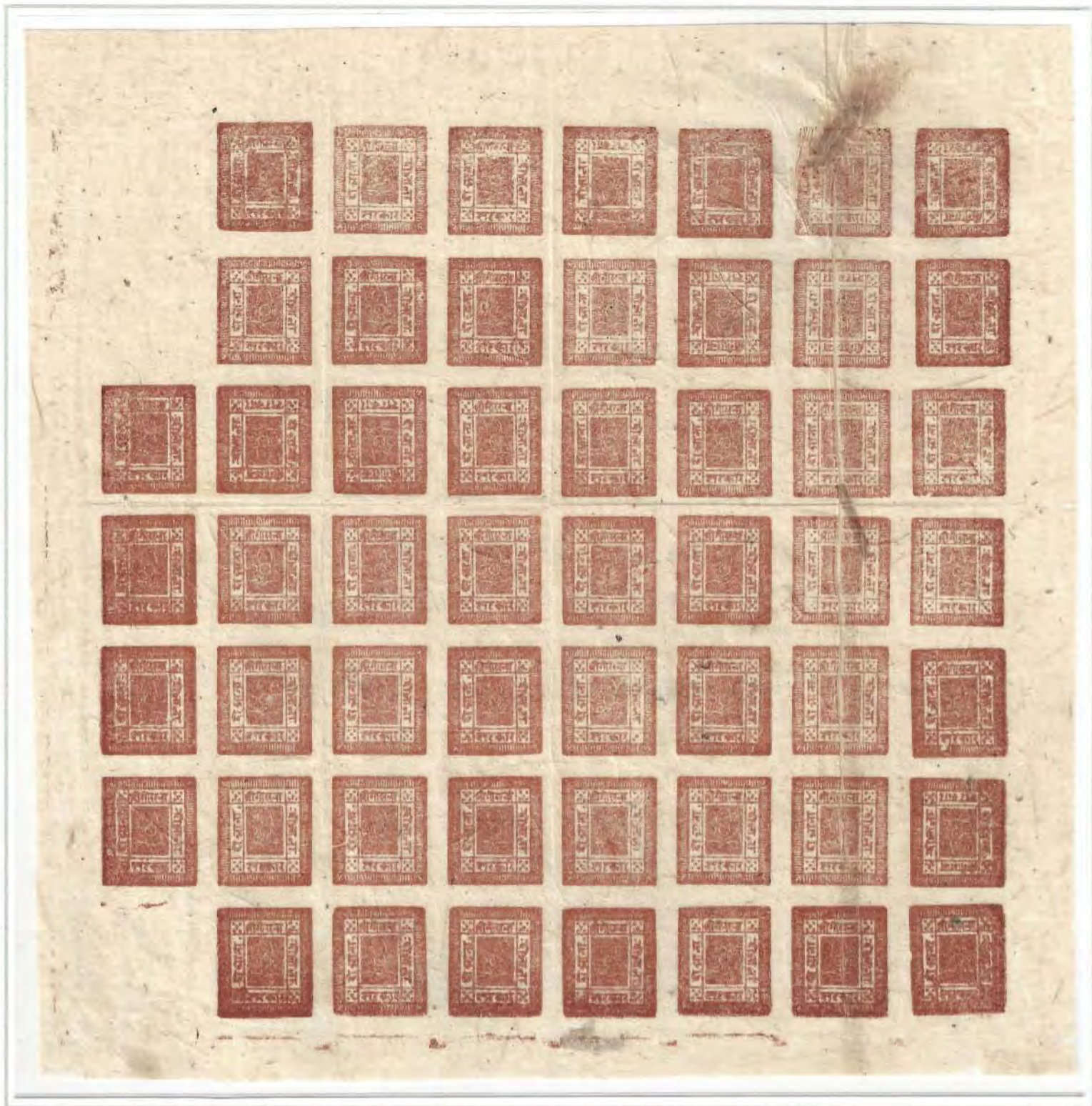
*chestnut shade, inverted cliche positions: 8, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 48
Chisapani telegraphic cancels*

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



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

Setting 31 has cliches 1, 9 and 49 missing. it was printed but not issued.



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

Setting 11/12, 1917-1930

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 new 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



*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*

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



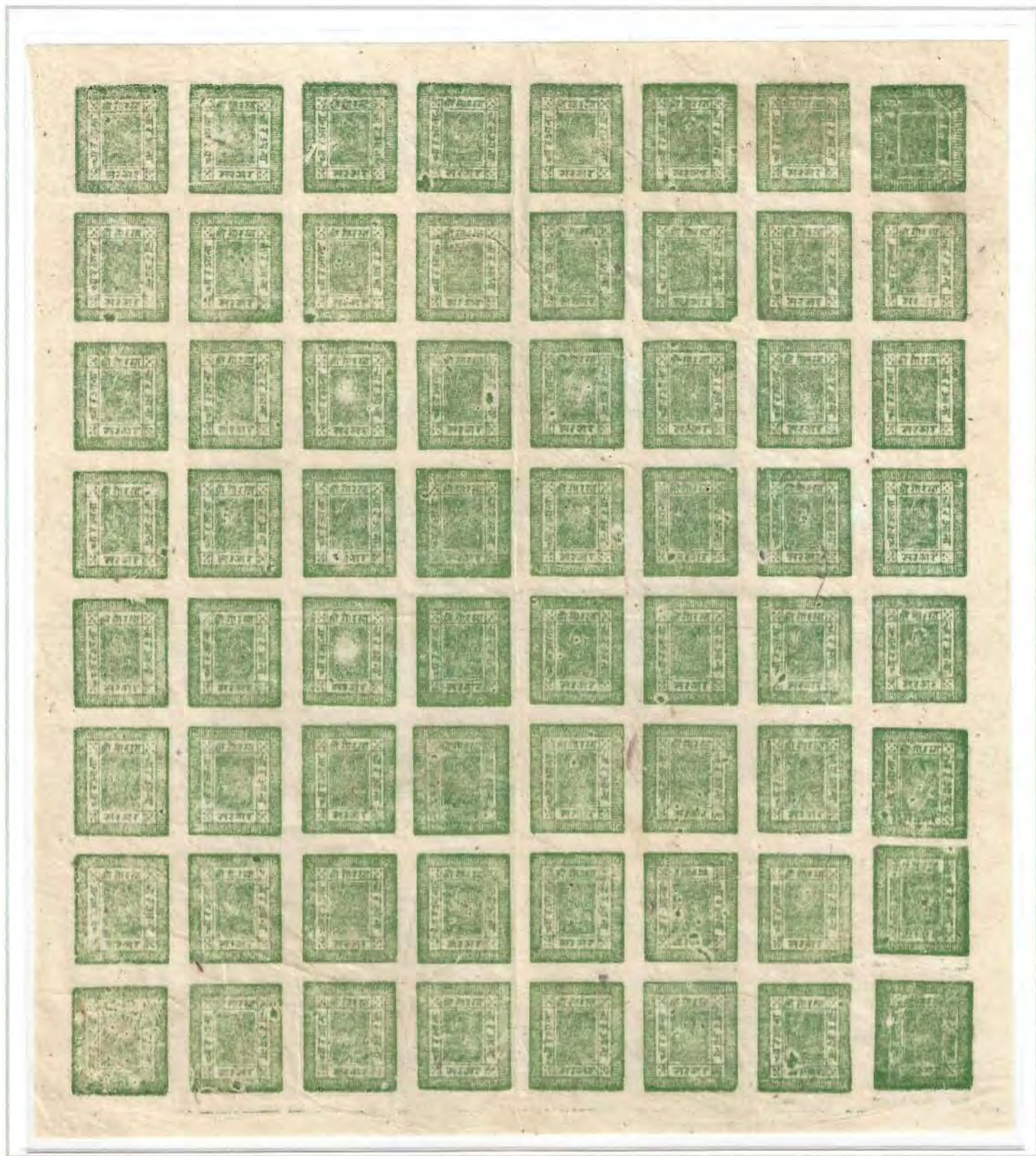
inverted cliché position: 54, Birganj telegraphic cancels

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

23

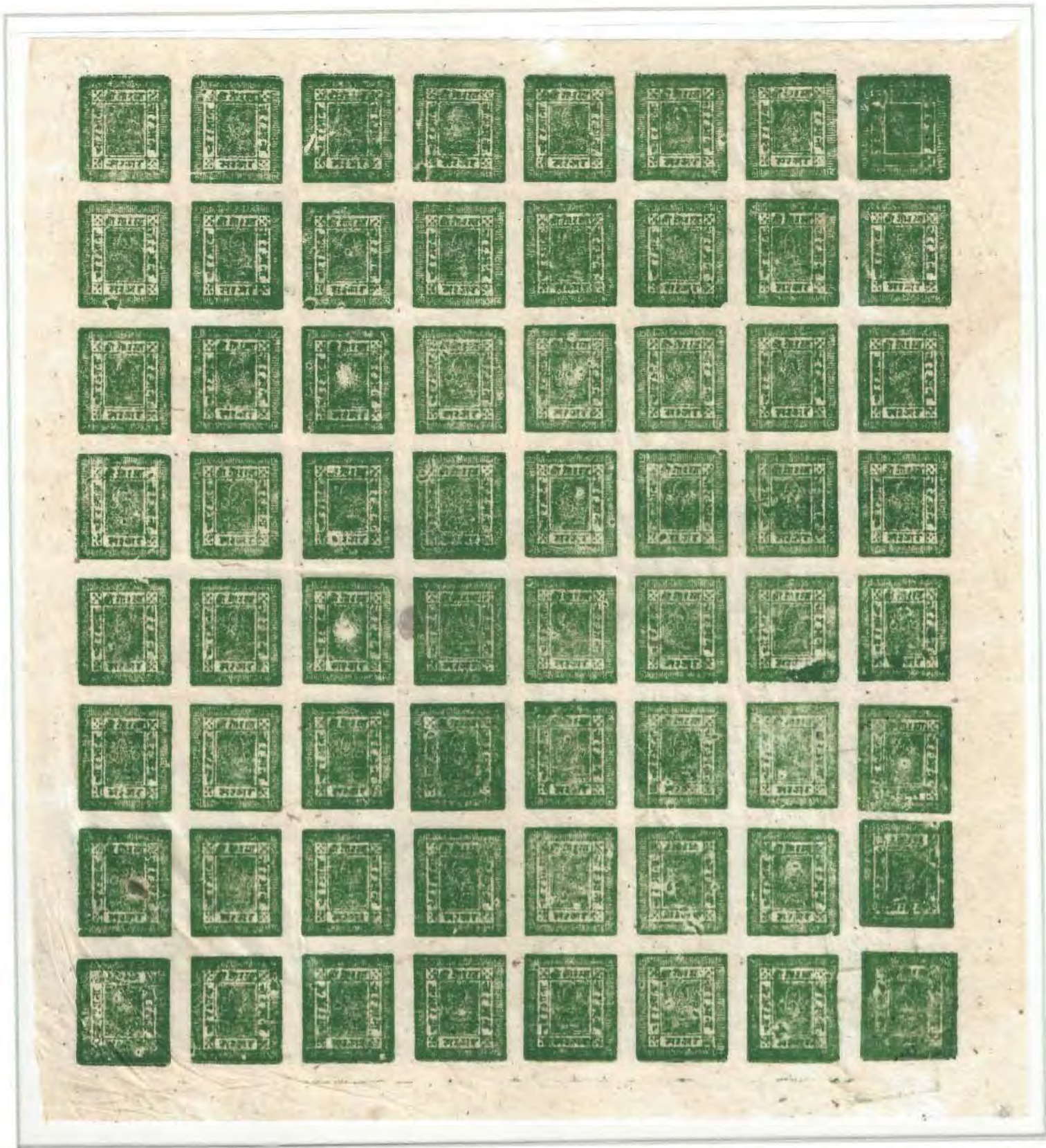


Green One Anna Error of Color in Four Annas Sheet



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

Dark Green One Anna Error of Color in Four Annas Sheet
The rare shade of this substituted cliché error.



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