

# Forgeries, Fakes and Curiosities

This section is only intended to be a survey of some of forgeries that are known. It is always best to understand the characteristics of the genuine item rather than to itemize every known forgery. As soon as the characteristics of a forgery are described, a new forgery is produced that corrects the previous flaws.

For the purposes of this section, I define a forgery as an item that is made afresh from new materials and is fashioned so as to copy or mimic a genuine item. A fake is an item that has some portion, portions, of a genuine artifact that has been manipulated or altered so as to make it appear to be something it is not. An example of a fake would be a stamp added to a genuine stampless cover. I will use the word curiosity to mean an artifact that can be only imperfectly explained or categorized.

This section includes items contributed by Leo Martyn (LM) and Johannes Bornmann (JB) as well as the authors.

## Curiosities

No genuine essay or proof material exists of the Nepal classic design stamps. The 1 anna denomination "stamp" hand painted in red on wove paper was once thought to be an essay. In 1945 it was described by Smythies /Dawson as a forgery as every detail of the design is wrong. The current authors also consider it not to be a genuine essay. More recently a set of three 1881 imperforate stamps was sold in a 26 January 2017 Spink auction described as proofs. After the sale, they were deemed by an expert committee to be regular issued stamps rather than proofs. The authors concur with that opinion.



**1 anna hand-painted "stamp" once thought to be an essay (LM)  
(shown enlarged slightly)**

Another Curiosity is the so-called "Nepal Cavalry Mail" stamp shown below that was first described in the philatelic press circa 1906. It is supposed to have been used to carry government mail on horseback. Although Nepal's army did not have a horse unit, theoretically horses could still have been used. Government documents referring to this stamp are not particularly creditable. A copy is supposed to lie in the King George V royal collection in London. This curiosity is described by Leo Martyn at length in a 2000 article in the *Postal Himal* journal (100/103).



**Nepal "Cavalry Mail" stamp, an early Nepal bogosity (circa 1875)**

Forgery - Once thought to be a one-half anna essay. In fact, it is a forgery.



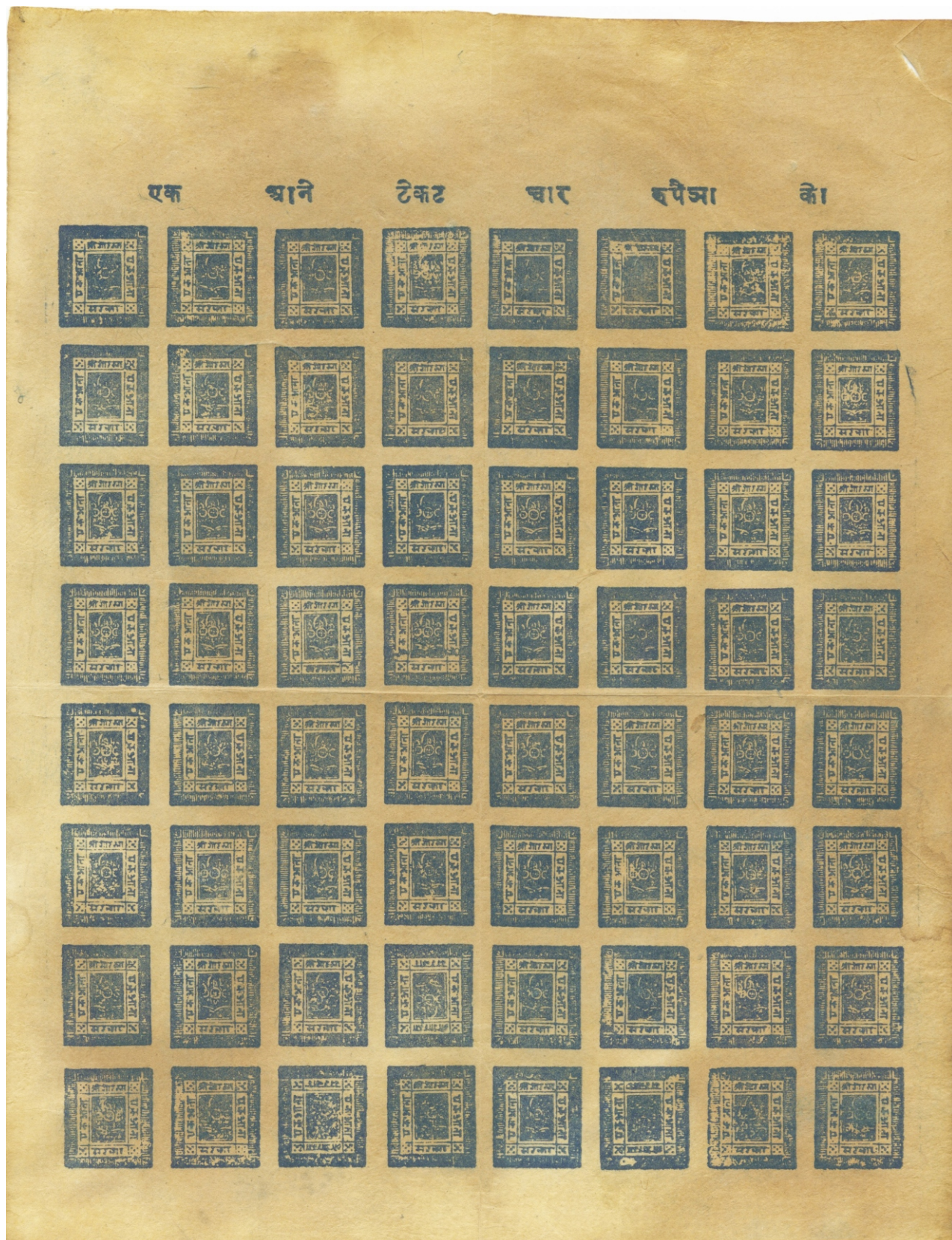
Forgery - Once thought to be a one-half anna essay. In fact, it is a forgery. (JB)



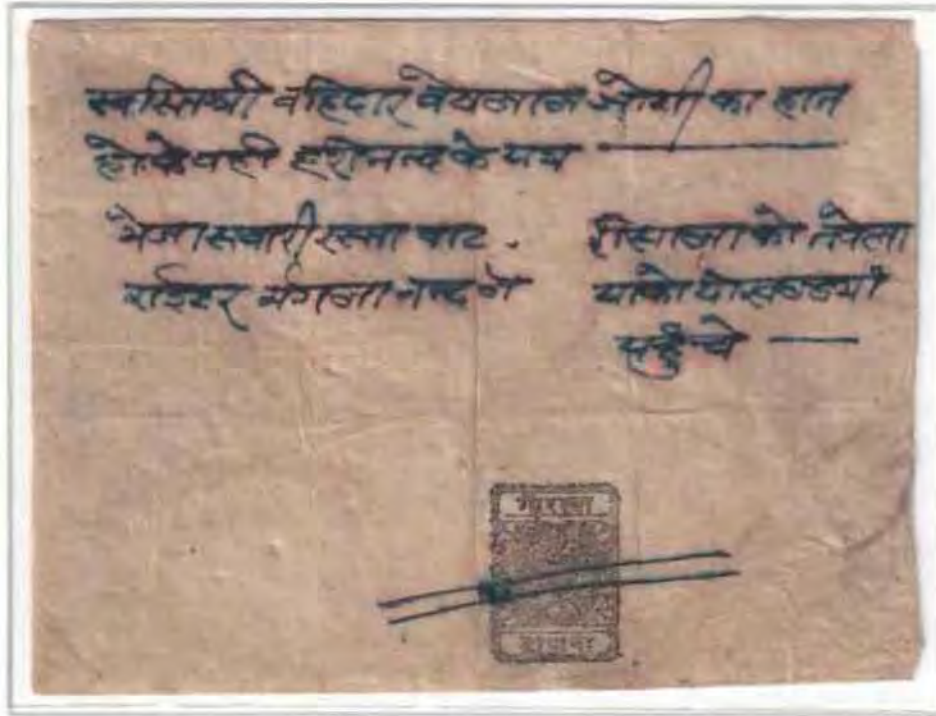
Forgery - one anna sheet (JB)

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Forgery - 1 anna, setting 8, photographic forgery (LM)



Genuine and Fakes



genuine unused stamp tied to forged cover by fake pen cancel



genuine used block  
faked double print  
(overprinted with forgery)



genuine used block of ten on thin paper  
genuine double impression  
ex Singer, illustrated on page 105

Genuine and Forgeries



genuine used  
Kathmandu cancel



forgery, tête-bêche pair with fake cancel



forgery



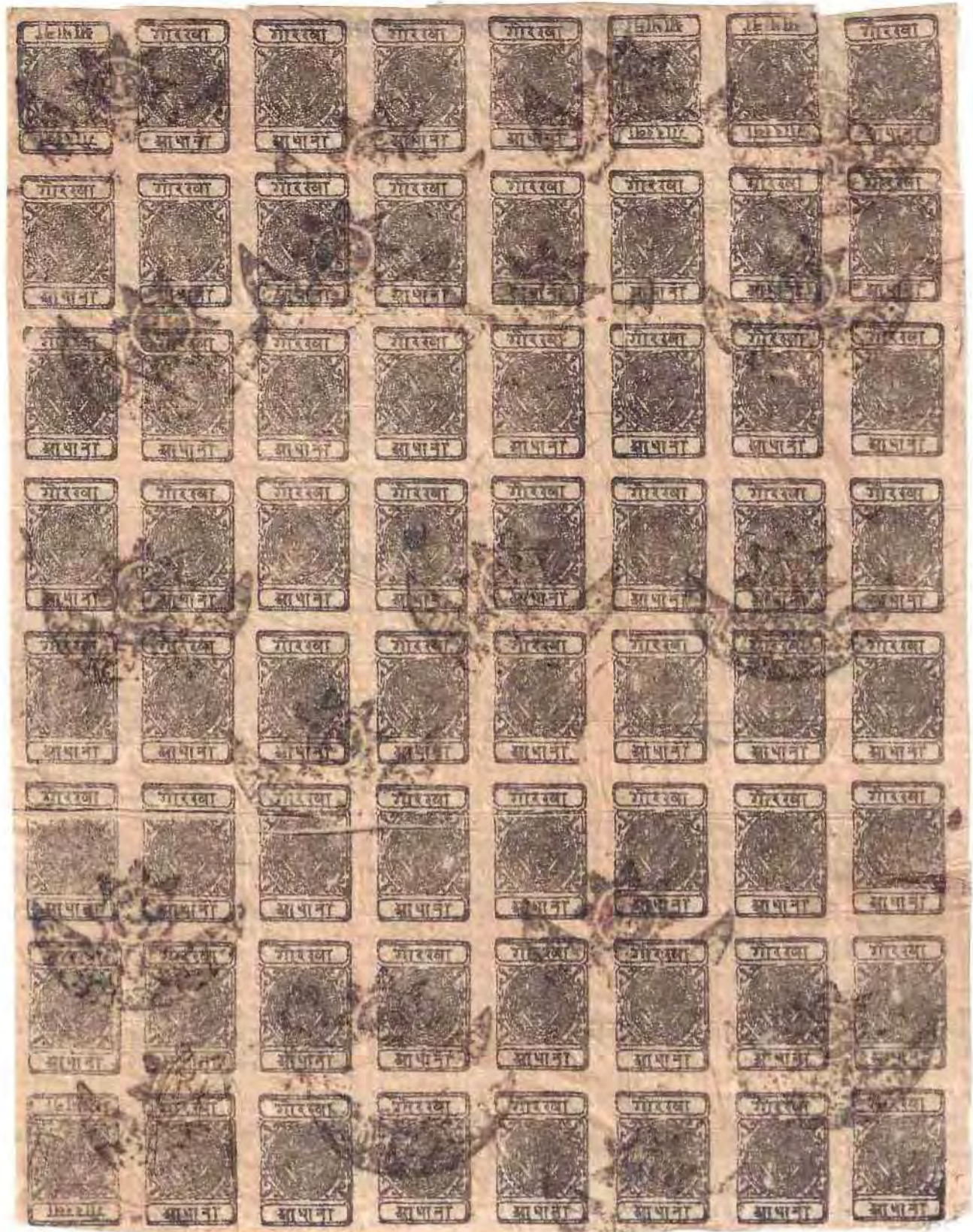
forgery with fake cancel

Forgery shows dot of color in right frame at midpoint. Ex Armand Singer, illustrated on page 107.





Forgery Sheet



inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, and 57, same cliché used throughout  
Kathmandu cancels faked (?)