



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 stamps printed after 1917 were valid for postage but were primarily 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 by typography in Thapathali, 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 1903 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 ordered as follows:

1. First Period Printings, 1881 to 1885, on European Paper
2. Second Period Printings, 1886 to 1898, on Native Paper
3. Third Period Printings, 1898 to 1907, on Poor Native Paper
4. New One-Half Anna Denomination, 1899 to 1907 Printings
5. Recut One Anna Printings, 1901 to 1902, on European Paper
6. Recut One Anna Printings, 1903 to 1907, on Native Paper
7. Telegraphic Period (1917 to 1930)

Unused

Some of the initial sheets of stamps printed between April and June 1881 were pin-perforated and gummed. A clear white gum, or a thick brown gum, was applied by brush. At least three settings were used to print the one and two annas stamps while two were used for the four annas stamps.

One Anna



Shades range from ultramarine (setting 1), to blue (setting 2) and milky blue (setting 3).

Two Annas



Shades range from deep to pale purple. Margin stamp with single frameline is from setting 3.

Four Annas



Shades range from bright yellow green to pale green.

One Anna, Unused



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



setting 1
positions H1-H4, H7-H8

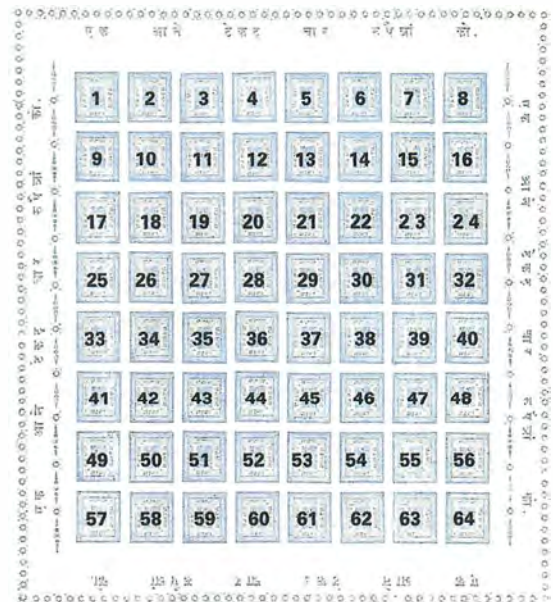


Diagram of sheet layout (64 stamps) annotated with cliché numbers. However, position numbers are noted by row (A to H, and column 1 to 8).



the major constant flaw, split cliché position F8, all settings

Cancels



1, 2 and 4 annas, Kathmandu cancels, according to Hellbrigl
the four annas is the only reported used example
set is ex Hellbrigl



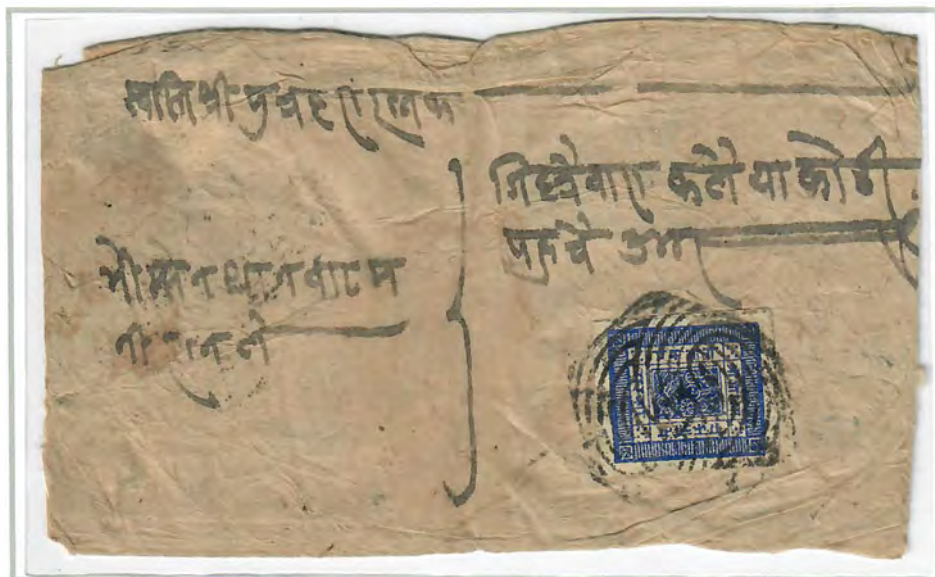
1 anna, blue Kalaiya
 postmark struck over
 Kathmandu swirl cancel



1 anna, greenish "Ka" in
 hexagon of bars cancel of
 Kalaiya



Pin-Perforated One Anna on Cover



ex Singer

25 April 1885 Kathmandu to Kalaiya, prepaid with 1 anna, partially scissors separated
 Kathmandu swirl cancel with initial "Ne" (Nepal), origin datestamp on back
the latest of the five reported uses of one anna pin-perforated on cover

Four known uses from Kathmandu (1881 to 1883) and one from Jumla (1881).

Pin-Perforated Two Annas on Cover

Registered Combination with One Anna Imperforate



Rautahat (initial "Rau") cancel used at Kadarbin and dispatch datestamp



23 June 1881 Kadarban double weight registered cover to Kathmandu prepaid 7 annas rate (5 annas registry fee plus 2 annas double weight postage) prepaid with pair and single 2 annas pin-perforated plus 1 anna imperforate
the only known use of two annas pin-perforated on cover
the only known multiple of any denomination of 1881 to 1885 printings on cover

ex Gupta and Singer

This cover has a paper pouch inner envelope. The pouch was hand-sewn closed and the side flaps were affixed with wax seals (note the small holes in flap where the wax was removed).

Unused

After June 1881 stamps were issued only imperforate and without gum. The same settings that had been used previously were also used for the imperforates.

One Anna



positions C4-C6
position C4 flattened corner



position E8
corner dent

Two Annas



Four Annas



Unused Multiples

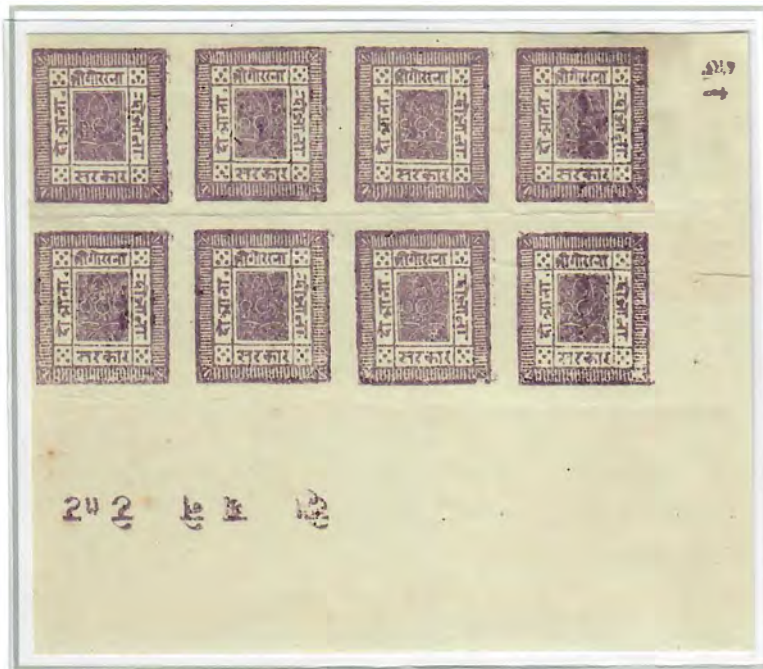
After June 1881 stamps were only issued imperforate and without gum.



1 anna, positions A2-A3/B2-B3
constant flaw: position 3 corner dent



2 annas, setting 3
positions E6-E8/F6-F8



2 annas, setting 2, positions G5-G8/H5-H8

Setting two is without ornaments and the inscriptions are positioned closer to the stamps than those in setting three.

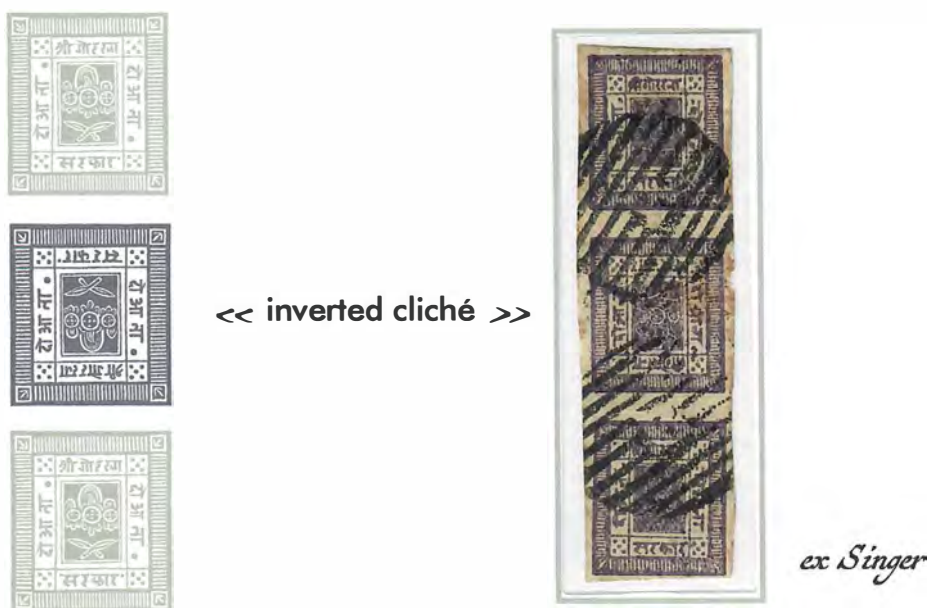


4 annas, setting 1
rejoined positions C1-C3/G1-G3

Tête-Bêche Strip

The only inverted cliché in the Nepal first issue 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.

Inverted cliché, Setting 3



center stamp, position C6, the inverted cliché
only known used example
largest two annas used multiple

**One, Two and Four Annas on Cover
The Earliest Use of a Four Annas**



Jaleswar in barred hexagon cancel



ex Gupta

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

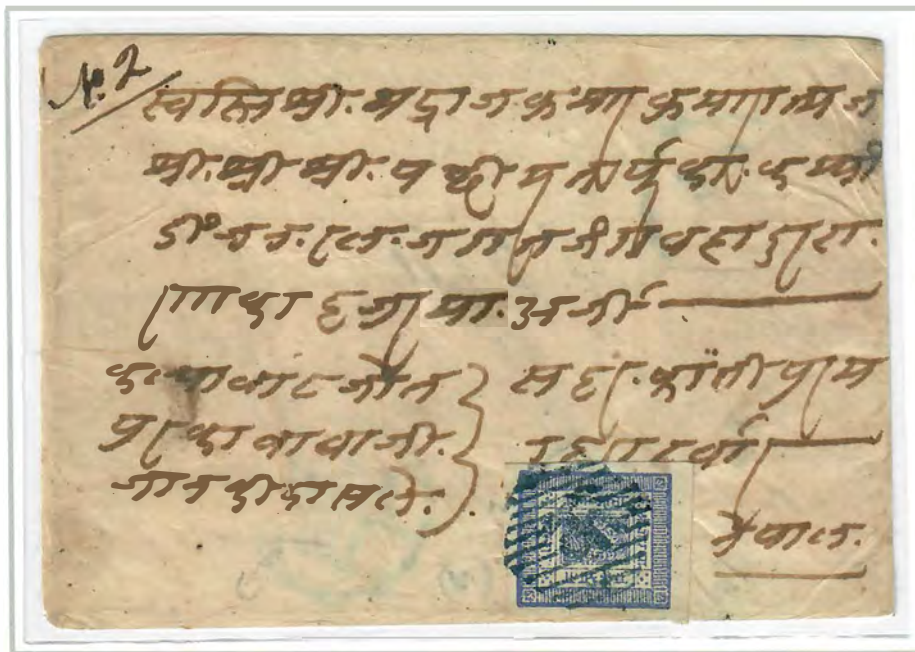
The rate for a registered cover was five annas plus postage. For a double weight letter, weighing between one and two tolas, the postage amount was two annas. There are three reported uses of the complete first issue on cover. This is the earliest of the three.

Earliest Use of One Anna Imperforate on Cover

Postal service in Nepal only extended to domestic mail. Single rate uses of the one anna stamp account for about 50 of the 60 reported first issue stamp uses on cover.



Kalaiya datestamp on reverse and "Ka" in bars cancel



ex Pattiz

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

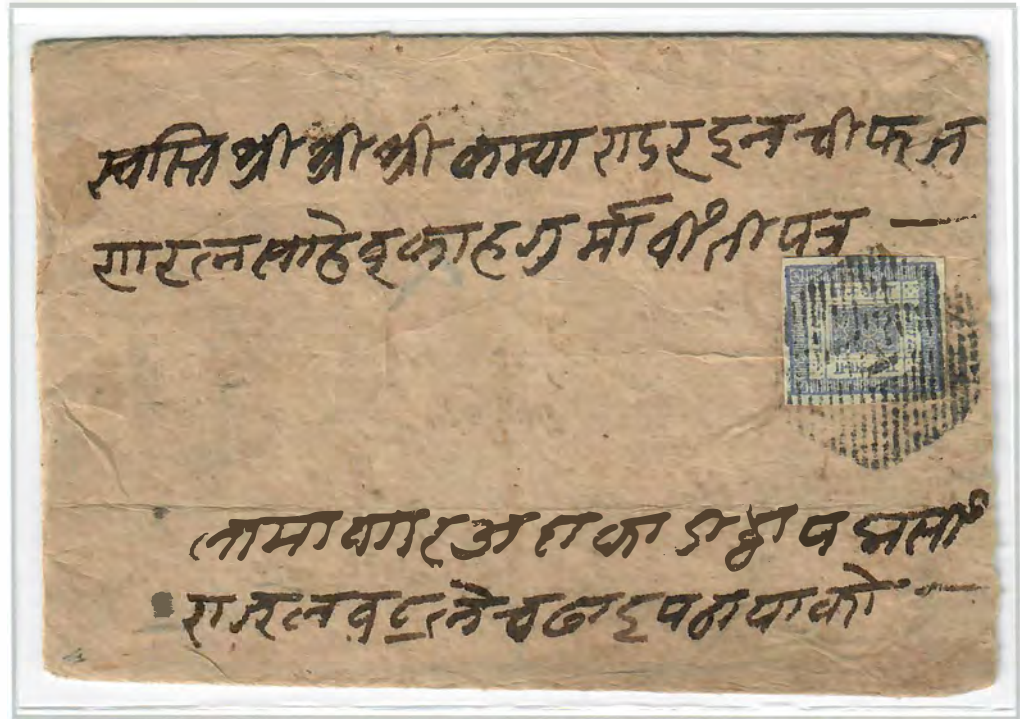
Nepal postmark dates were rendered according to Bikram Sambat (B.S.) calendar. The roughly equivalent A.D. date may be calculated by deducting 56 years, 8 months and 17 days. This cover is dated (19)38/3/3 B.S. = 1881/June/16 A.D.

The one anna rate was for a letter weighing up to one tola in weight sent any distance within

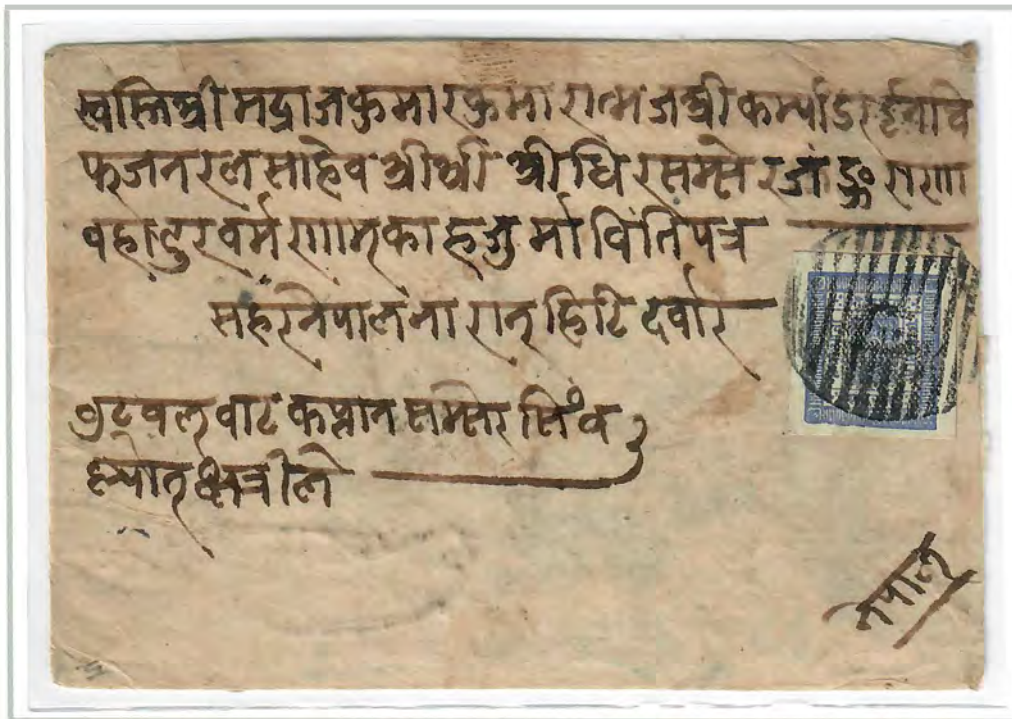
One Anna Uses on Cover



Dolakha



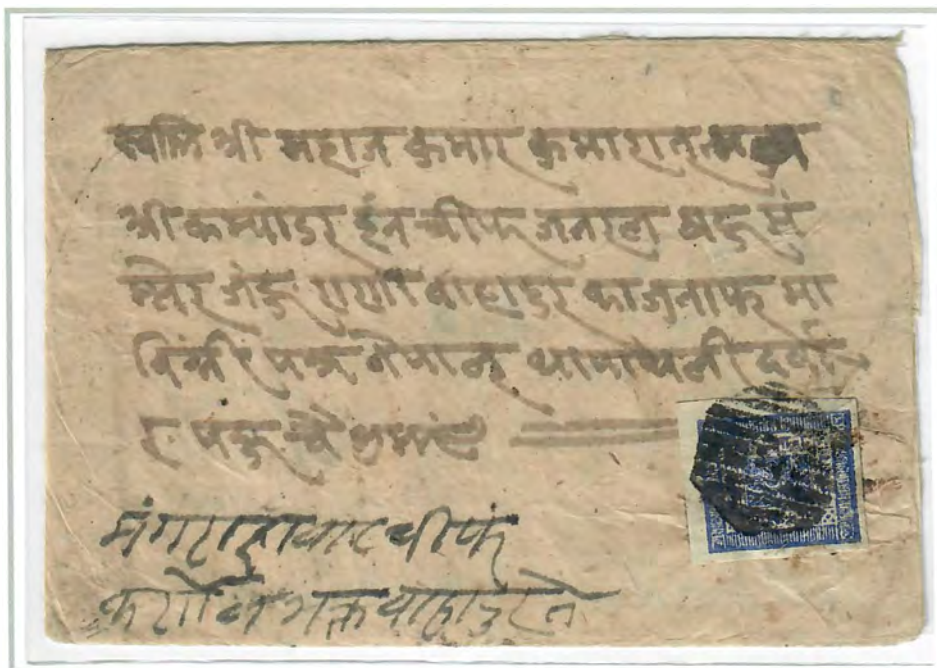
November 1883 Dolakha to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna



Butwal

January 1884 Butwal to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

One Anna Uses on Cover

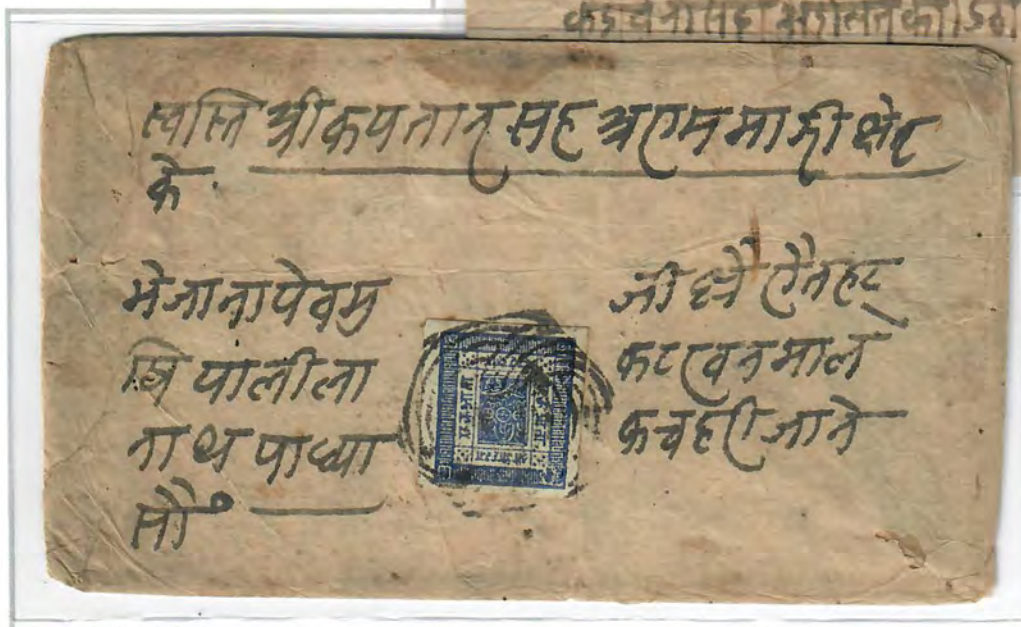


Siraha

March 1886 Siraha to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna



25 June 1881 Kadarban to Kathmandu, early use

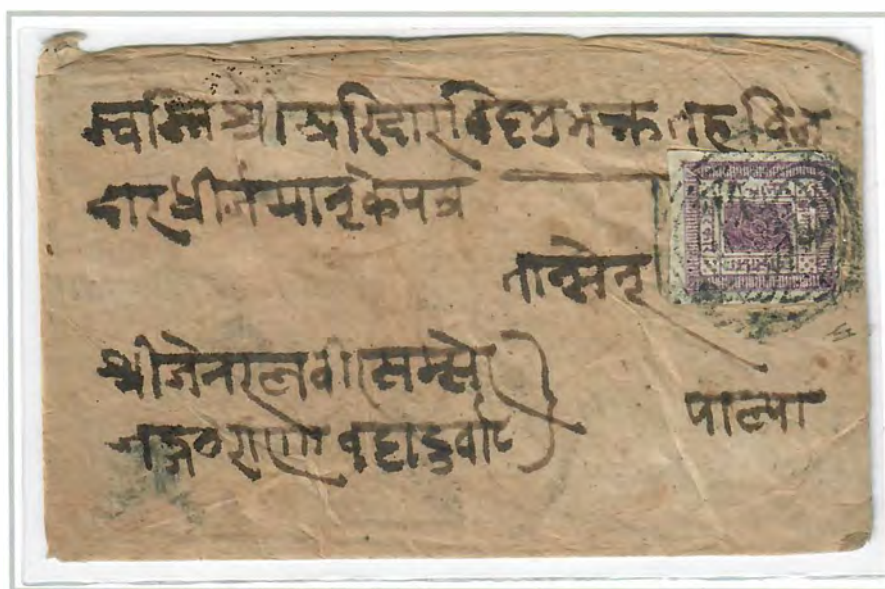


August 1883 Kathmandu to Kadarbin

Two Annas on Cover
The Earliest Use of Any Imperforate



Kathmandu swirl cancel

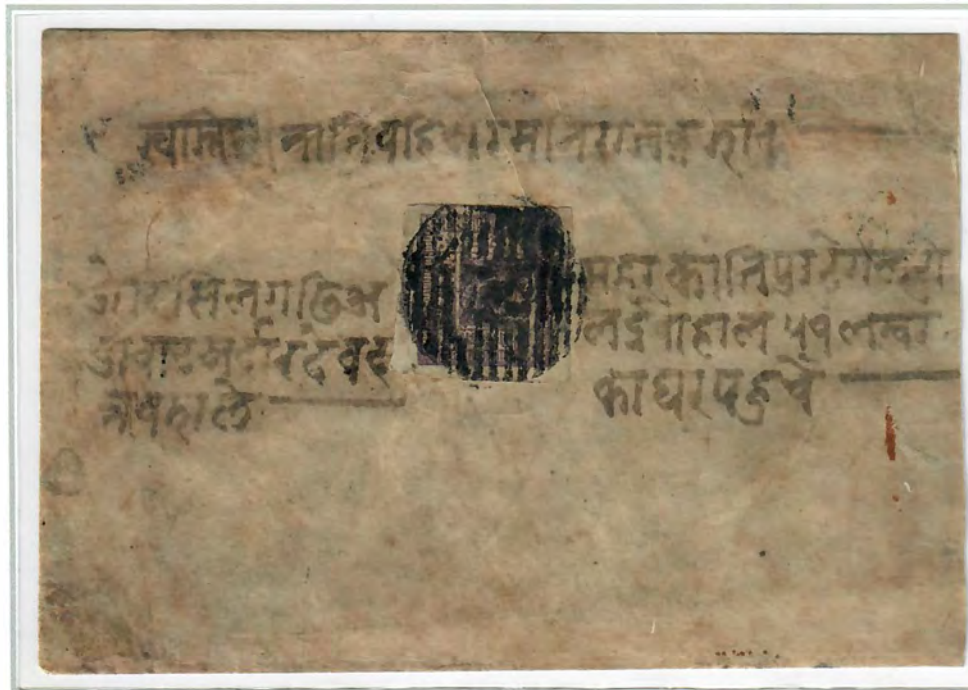


ex Hellrigl

13 June 1881 Kathmandu double weight cover to Gen. Shamsheer in Palpa, prepaid 2 annas
earliest reported use two annas
earliest reported use of any imperforate issue 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 issue two annas on cover paying the double rate.

Two Anna Uses on Cover



Doti

August 1884 Doti double weight parchment cover to Kathmandu, prepaid 2 annas six reported uses of the two annas on double rate covers



Kalaiya



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

Kathmandu Cancels



1, 2 and 4 annas stamps with "Ne" swirl cancel as used at Kathmandu from 1881 to 1886



1 anna

the largest reported used multiple



July 1883 Kathmandu to Trisuli, prepaid 1 anna



2 annas

The "Ne" in heptagon cancel is known used between from 1886 to 1895.

Kalaiya Cancels



inked "tree" in handstamped circle
on 1 anna and 4 annas

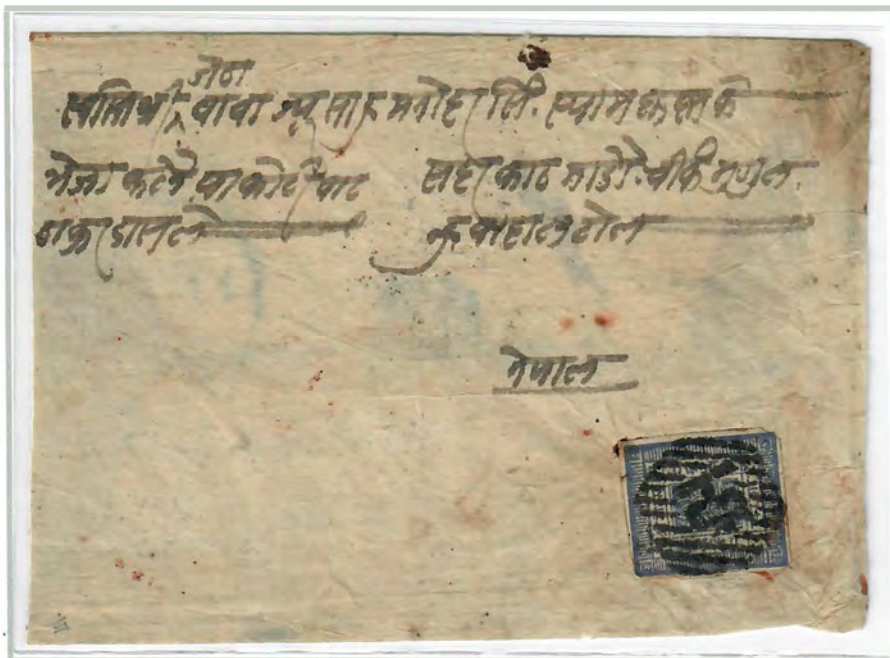
fewer than five reported examples, one known on 4 annas



"Ka" in hexagon of bars struck in blue green
on 2 annas



inked "Ka" on 1 anna



"Ka" in bars
in black

December 1884 Kalaiya to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Unusual Cancels



manuscript crisscross cancels, 1 anna
fewer than 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 ten known on first issue 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 Prints (1886 to 1889, clear impressions on thin to medium paper)



one anna
settings 4/8



two annas
settings 4/6



four annas
settings 3/4

Later Prints (1889 to 1898, blurred impressions on thicker paper)



one anna
settings 9/17



two annas
settings 7/9



four annas
settings 4/8

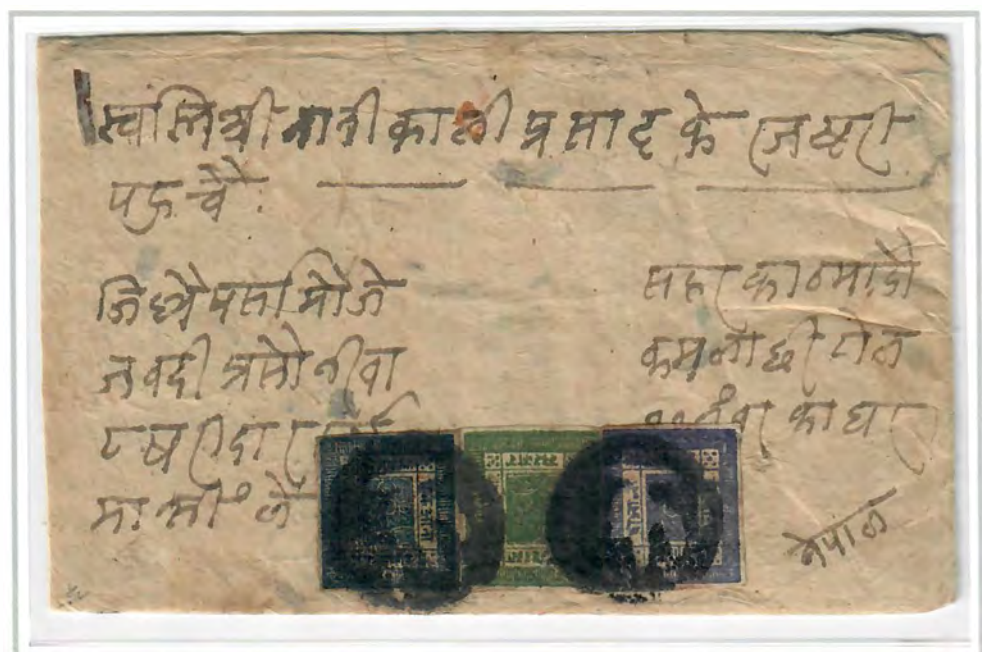
Complete Set on Cover



Kalaiya

जुष्टि 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

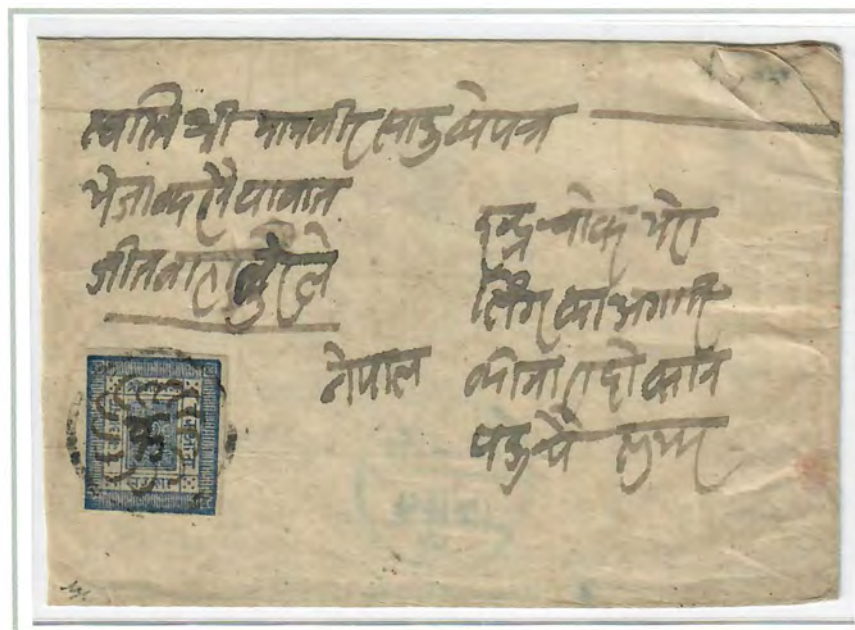


Udaipur pen cancels on 1 and 2 annas stamps
initial between parallel lines mimics the classic handstamped cancels

Earliest Reported Use of a Native Paper Stamp



Kalaiya manuscript in handstamped circle cancel
and manuscript dispatch postmark on reverse.



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

One Anna

settings 4 to 17 each contained between one and four inverted clichés



1 anna, positions H1-H3, Tauliwaha postal seal cancels
tête-bêche pair at right (position H3 inverted)

Two Annas

settings 4 to 7 each contained a single inverted cliché in position C5



tête-bêche pair, positions C4-C5

tête-bêche pair, positions C5-C6



positions C4-C6, center stamp inverted

Four Annas

settings 4 to 8 each contained a single inverted cliché in position G6



4 annas, positions G6-G8, tête-bêche pair at left (G6 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

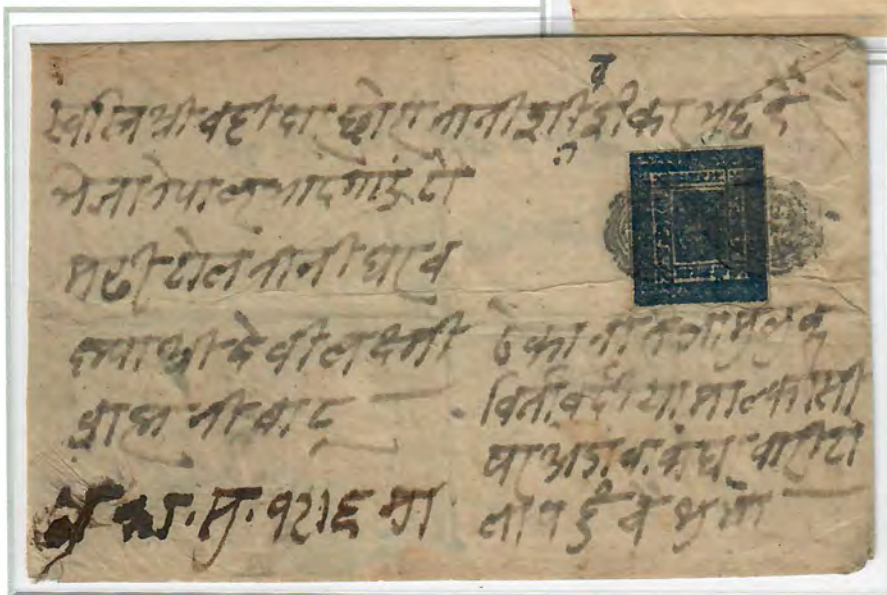


4 annas



०१/११/९५

May 1890 Taulihawa to Nabha prepaid 1 anna, Taulihawa post office seal cancel, manuscript dispatch postmark on reverse



१/५/९५
०१/१०/९५

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

Setting 6, 1886

Setting 6 was the first setting with inverted clichés in both positions G4 and H6. The clichés were restored to an upright position, or transferred to another position, before setting 11 went to press.



positions E5-E6/G5-G7



positions A3-A4



positions C5-C8/D5-D8

Setting 8, 1888-1891

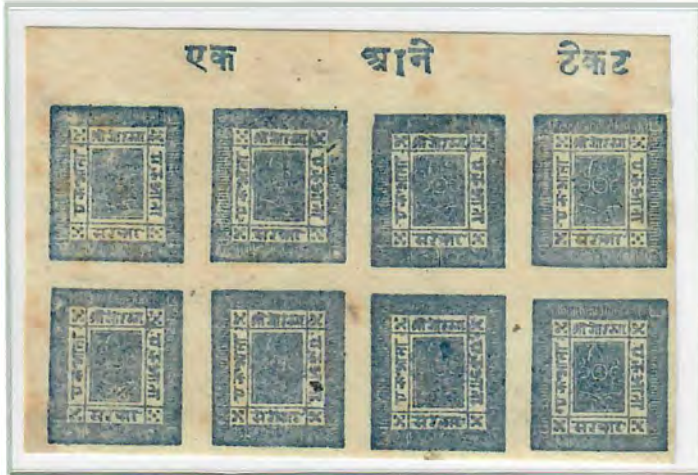


positions G4-G5, tête-bêche pair
(G4 inverted)



positions H5-H6, tête-bêche pair
(H6 inverted)

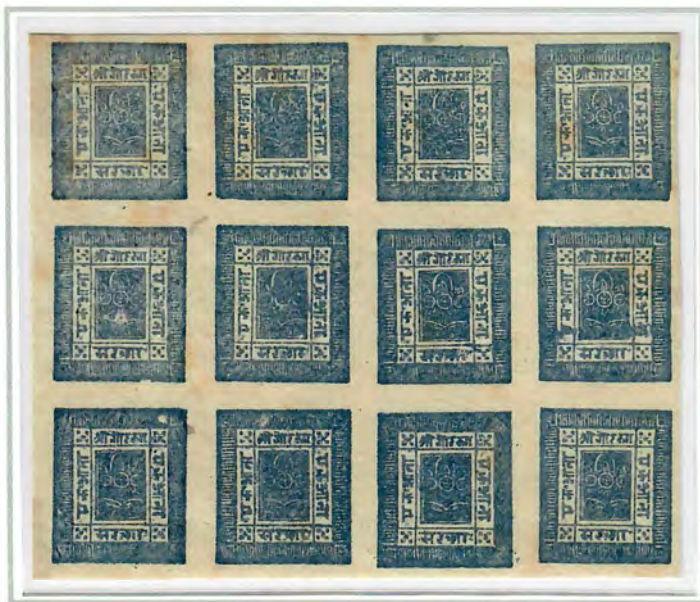
Setting 8, Shades and Varieties



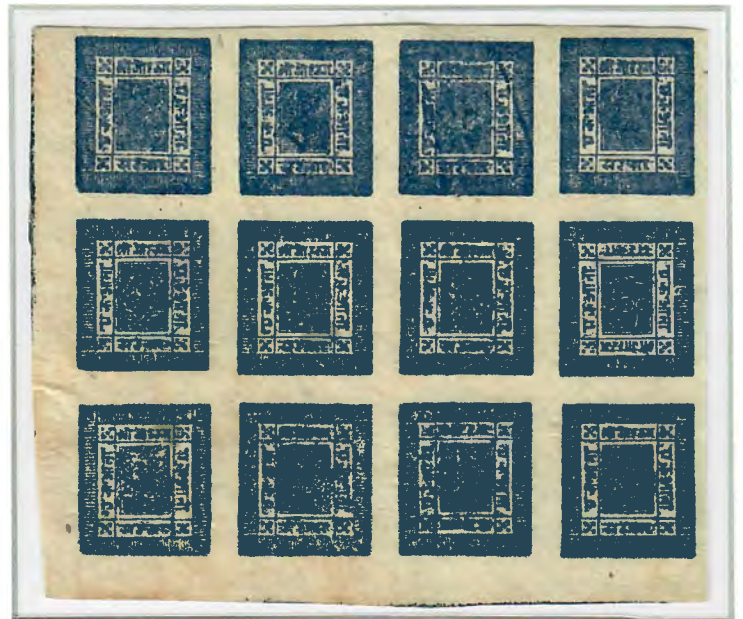
steel blue, positions A1-A4,/B1-B4



deep steel blue, positions A5-A8/ B5-B8

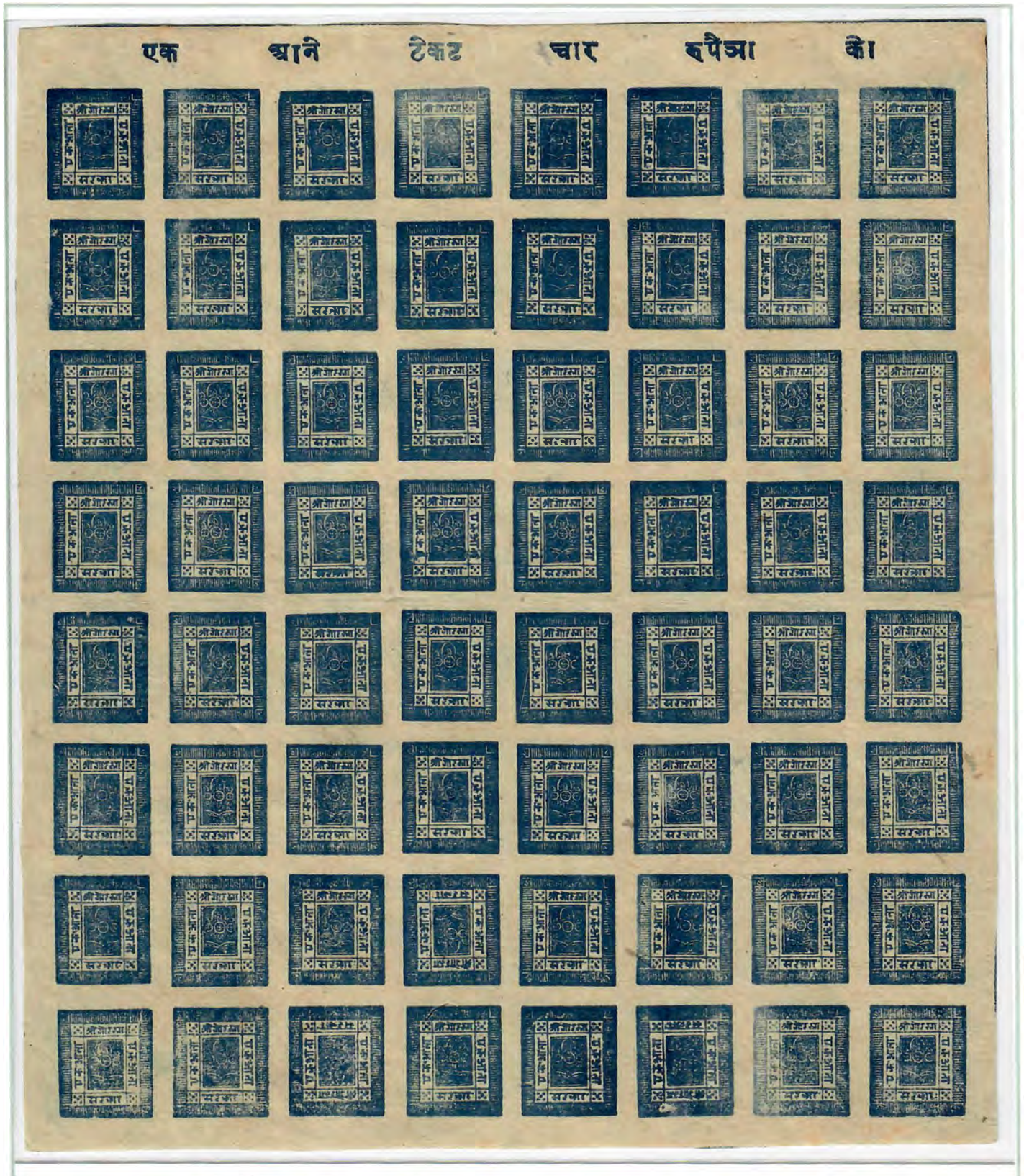


bright steel blue, positions C1-C4/E1-E4
dented frame at foot, position D1



dark blue, positions F1-F4/H1-H4
inverted cliché, position G2

Setting 8



inverted clichés positions: G4, H3 and H6 (all in bottom two rows of sheet)

Setting 9, 1891-1892



positions A5-A6/B5-B6

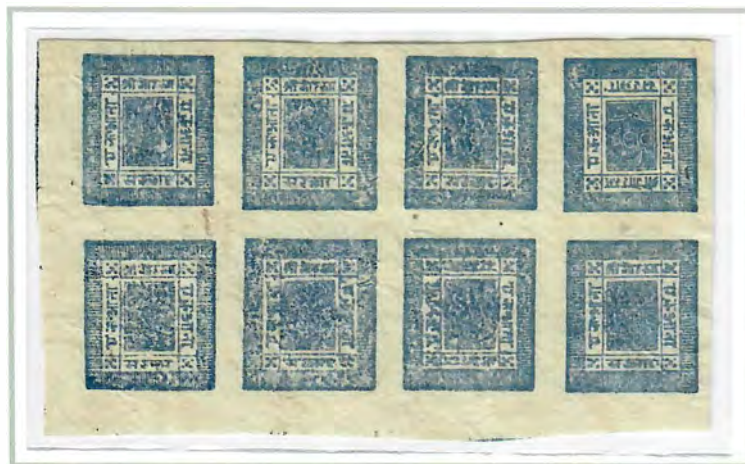


positions A2-A3



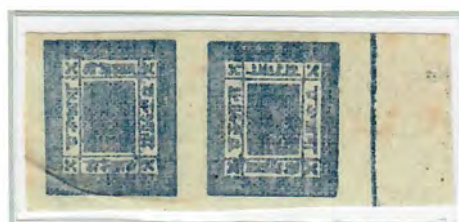
positions F3-F4/G3-G4
inverted cliché position G4

Setting 14, 1895-1896



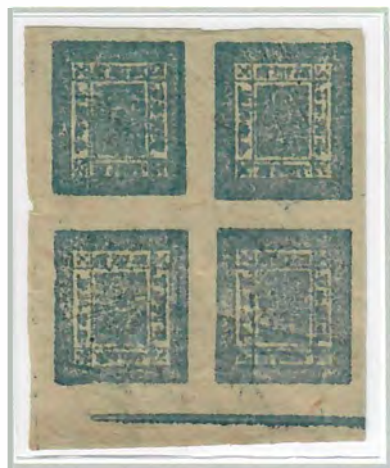
positions G1-G4/H1-H4
inverted cliché position G4

Setting 15, 1895-1896



positions H7-H8, tête-bêche pair, H8 is cliché 64
cliché 64 inverted, shows the first stage of recut center and frames done before setting 14

Setting 16, 1896-1897



positions G1-G2/H1-H2
bottom frame line



positions B7-B8/C7-C8
inverted cliché position C7



positions F6-F7
tête-bêche pair, F6 inverted

Setting 17, 1896-1897



positions A1-A2/B1-B2
damaged frame at left, position B1

Split Cliché Flaw, Position F8

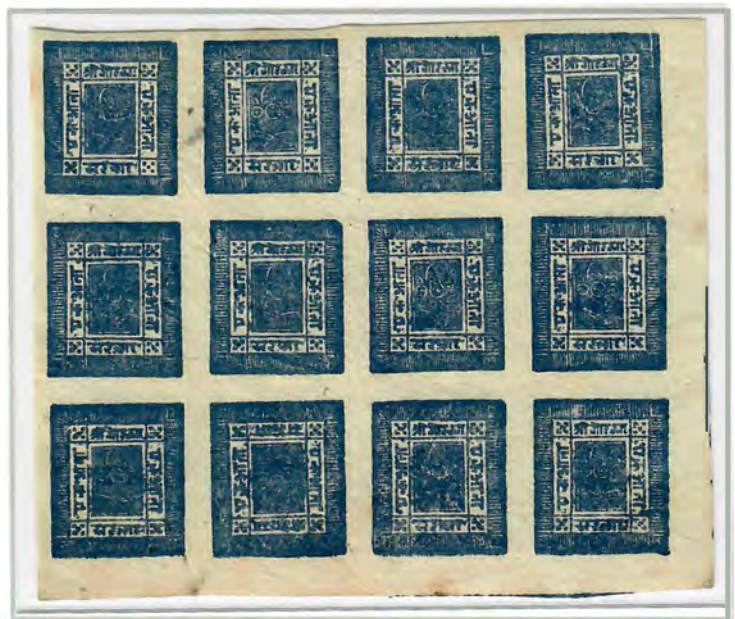


Cliché 48 in position F8 was damaged by a split at top right when it first appeared in setting one. It is a major constant flaw that remained prominent until the frames of all the clichés were recut with setting 26.

The position F8 stamps below are arranged in chronological order.



positions F6-F8/H6-H8
position H6 is inverted cliché



positions F5-F8/H5-H8
position H6 is inverted cliché



positions F7-F8

Varieties and Uses

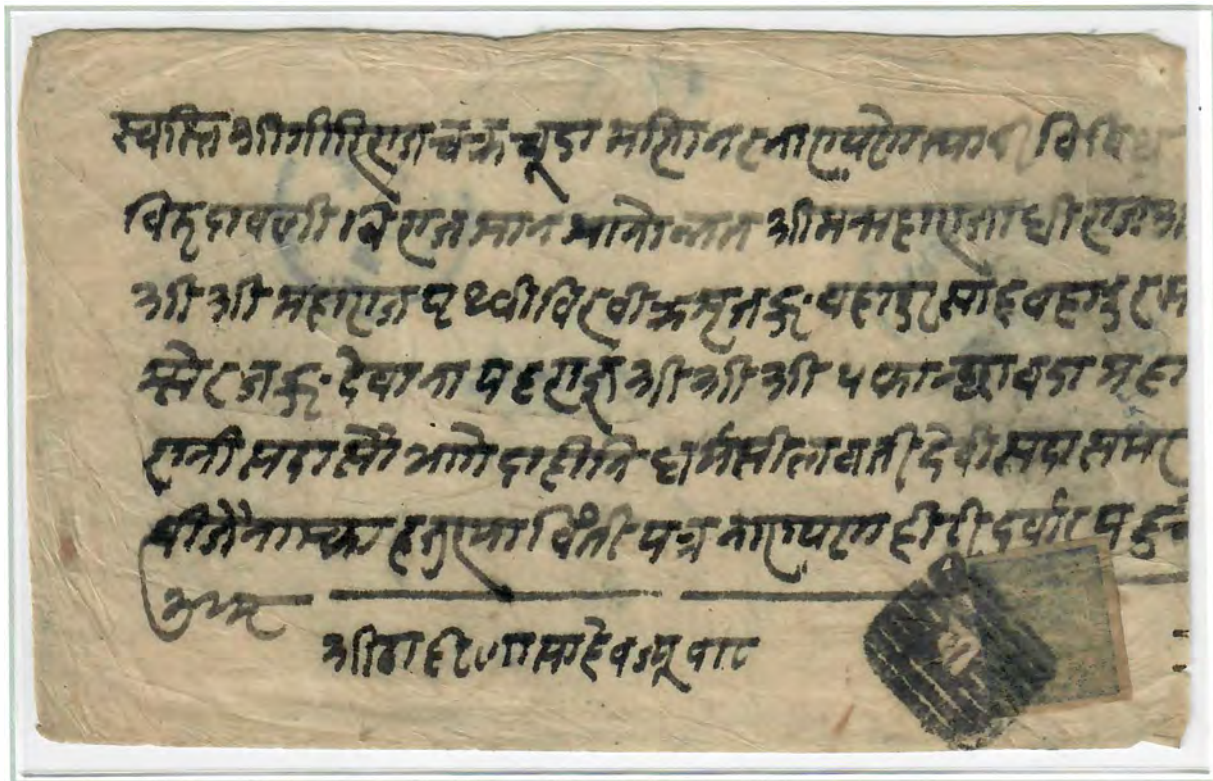


Dandeldhura



Dandeldhura cancels, positions E1-E3/F1-F3
white disk flaw in top frame, position E1

Dandeldhura cancels, positions C1-C3
bottom frame uneven, position C2



June 1898 Palpa to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna greenish blue shade

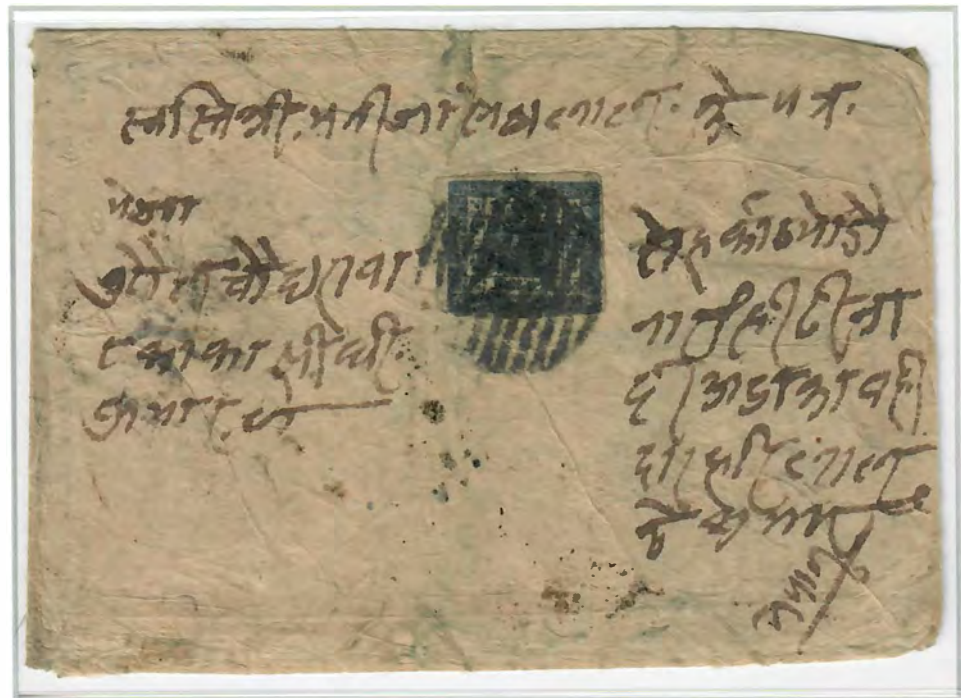


Pyuthan cancels, positions H3-H7, irregular horizontal spacing
frame flaw at left, position H3

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 despatch 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

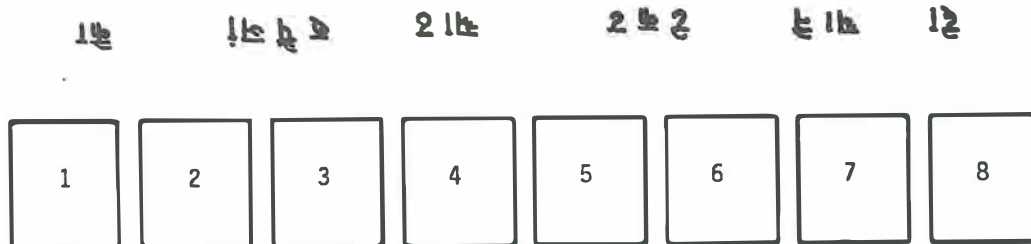


Doti

August 1893 Doti to Kathmandu, prepaid 1 anna

Setting 4, 1886

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 A1-A3/ B1-B3, 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 H8
damaged corner, the last setting with flaw in this position



setting 5, positions A4-A5
marginal word aligned over position A4



setting 6, positions E5-E8/F5-F8



setting 8, positions, G7-G8/H7-H8
dented frame position H7

The "Ragged cliché"

The position A4 cliché was damaged before setting 9 was put to press. Later the cliché was discarded when setting 13 was composed in 1899. This "ragged cliché" is considered to be one of the great rarities of Nepal.



position A4, the "ragged cliché"
six used examples reported

Cancels and Varieties



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



Dahaban postmark used as cancel



dent in left frameline, position A8

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."



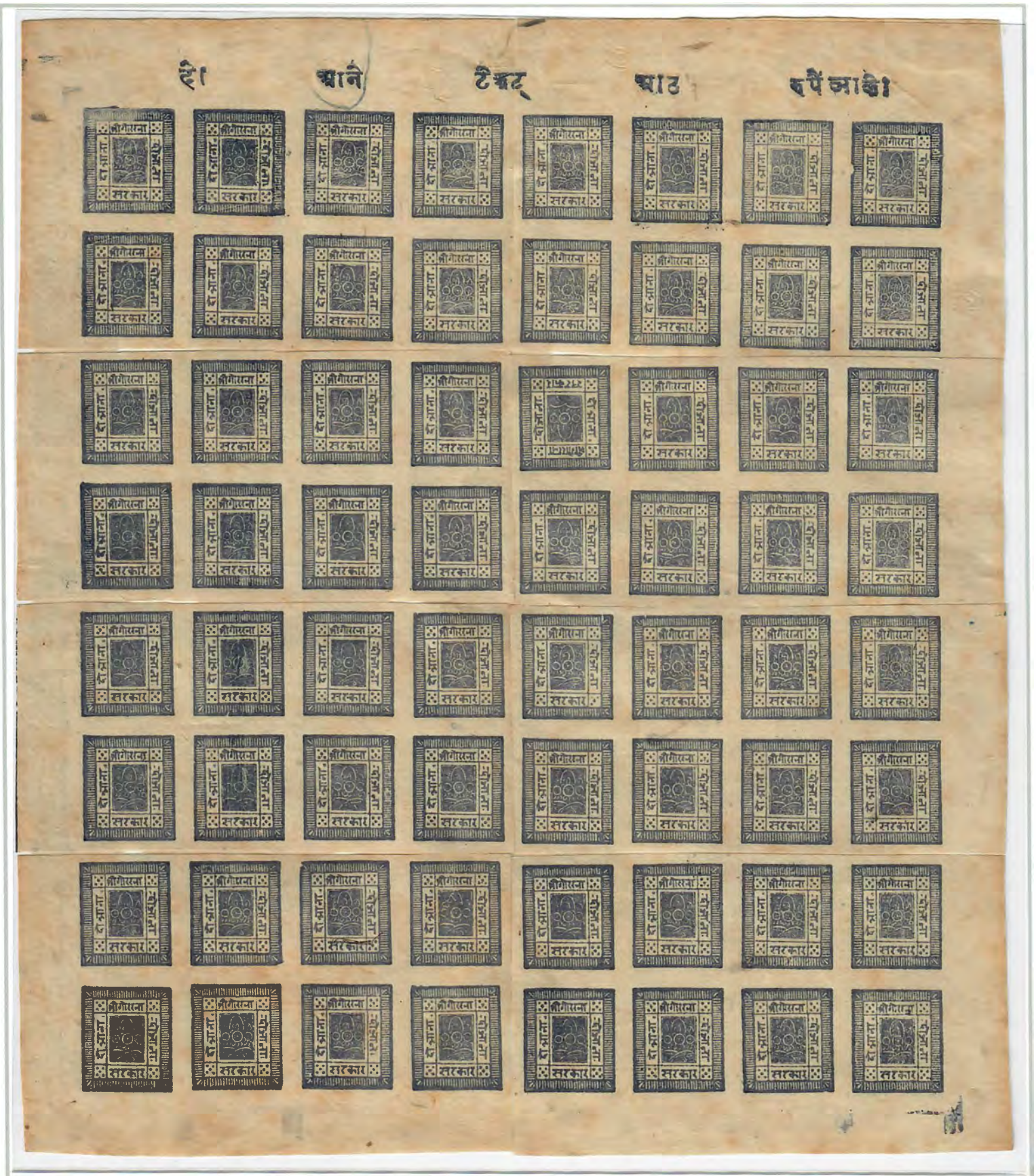
fewer than ten reported used examples

Two Annas Blue Violet (the normal color)



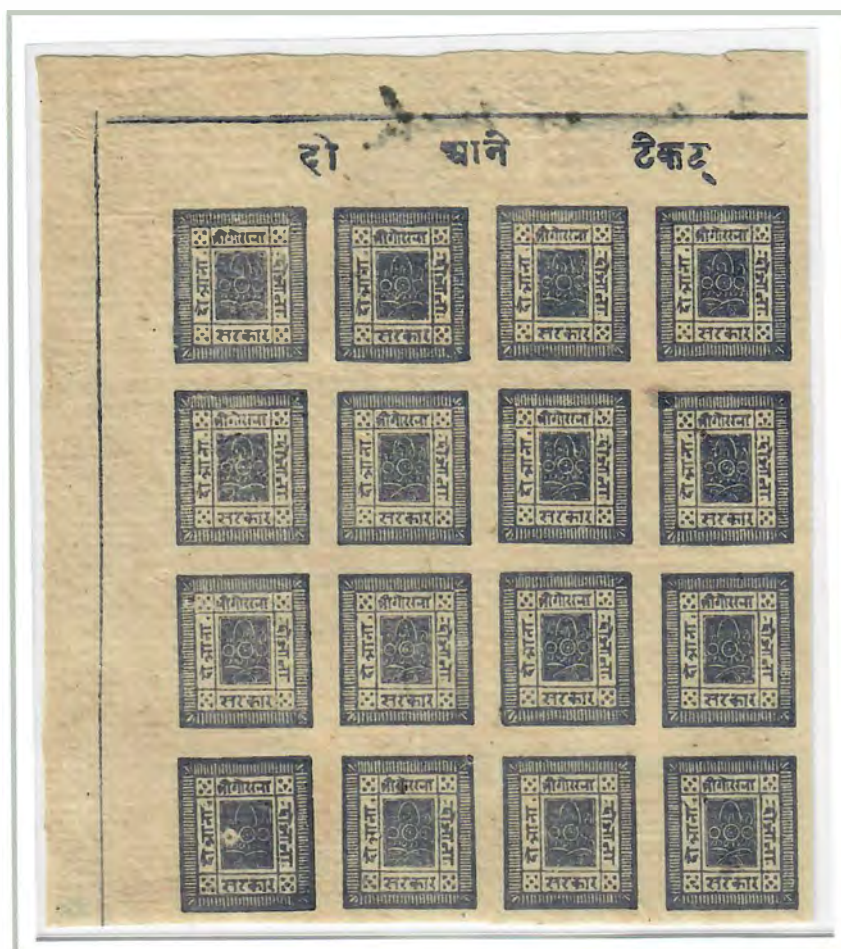
setting 8, positions F5-F8/H5-H8

Setting 6



rebuilt complete sheet which was cut into blocks of eight, possibly by post office inscription a top shifted slightly to right in this setting, inverted cliché position C5

Setting 7



inward-reading inscriptions, framelines, positions A1-A4/D1-D4



deep shade, positions C3-C6/E3-E5, position C5 inverted

Uses on Cover



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 H5 cover used at Kathmandu with their heptagonal cancel the only reported example showing grill impressions on cover

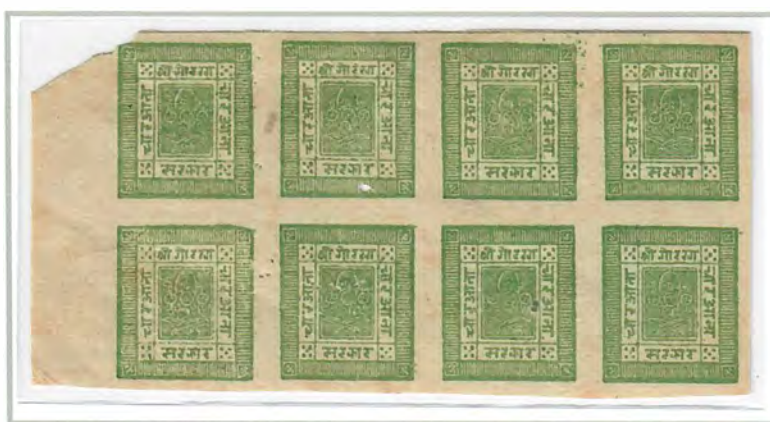
Settings



setting 4, pin-perforated
positions E2-E3/F2-F3



setting 6
positions A1-A2/B1-B2



setting 5, positions D1-D4/E1-D4



setting 8, pin-perforated, positions A1-A8/B1-B8

Setting 7

बार

सो



setting 7, marginal piece with traces of inscription, positions A1-A8/D1-D8, E3-E8
 position of first and fourth words of inscription differs from other settings

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

Used Multiples

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



setting 8, pin-perforated, Birganj cancels



setting 4, positions C2-C8, Pokhara cancels

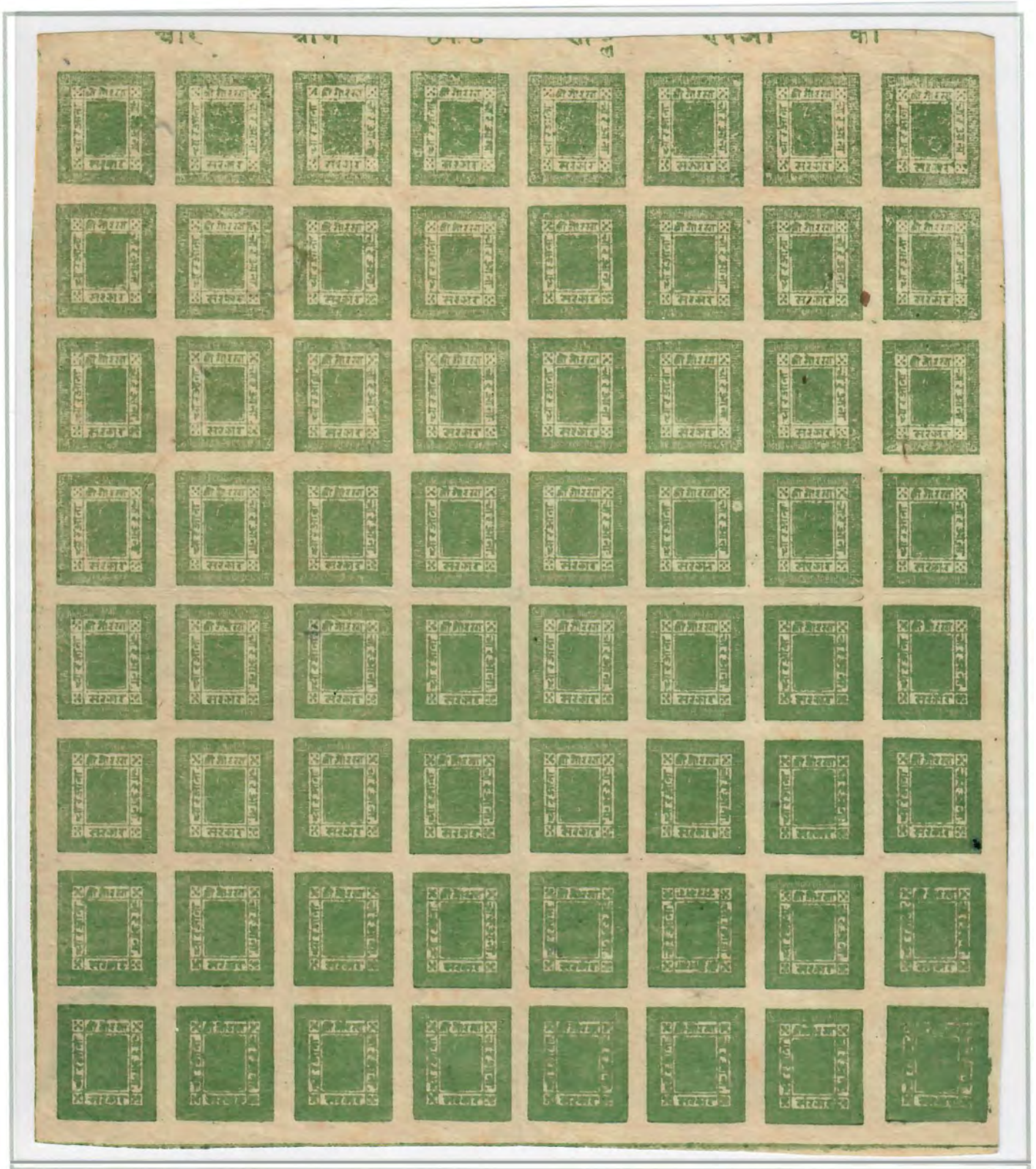


Kathmandu heptagonal cancels



Butwal cancels

Setting 8



first state of inscription, complete sheet, inverted cliché in position G6

Registered Combination Uses with One Anna



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

Registered Combination Use 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

Registered Double Rate
Combination Use 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 cliché 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

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 B6-B8/C6-C8, position C8 showing recut frames
double tête-bêche, middle stamp in each row is inverted cliché (positions B7 and C7)
this block and one sheet are known



pin-perforated



pin-perforated



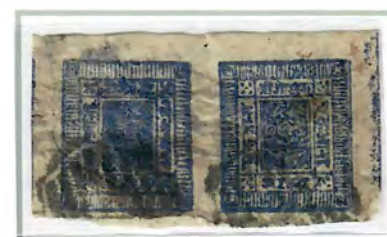
pin-perforated
gashed cliché constant flaw, position F8

Cliché 24 Recuts

The cliché 24 (in position C8) was completely recut and cleaned in 1898 when setting 19 went to press. The stamps printed from the recut cliché now show more clarity in central design and frames. In 1901, all 64 of the one anna clichés were cleaned and the frames recut when setting 26 was prepared. The stamps on this page, all from position C8, are from 1898 to 1907.



tête-bêche pairs, pin-perforated, all position C7-C8, position C7 inverted

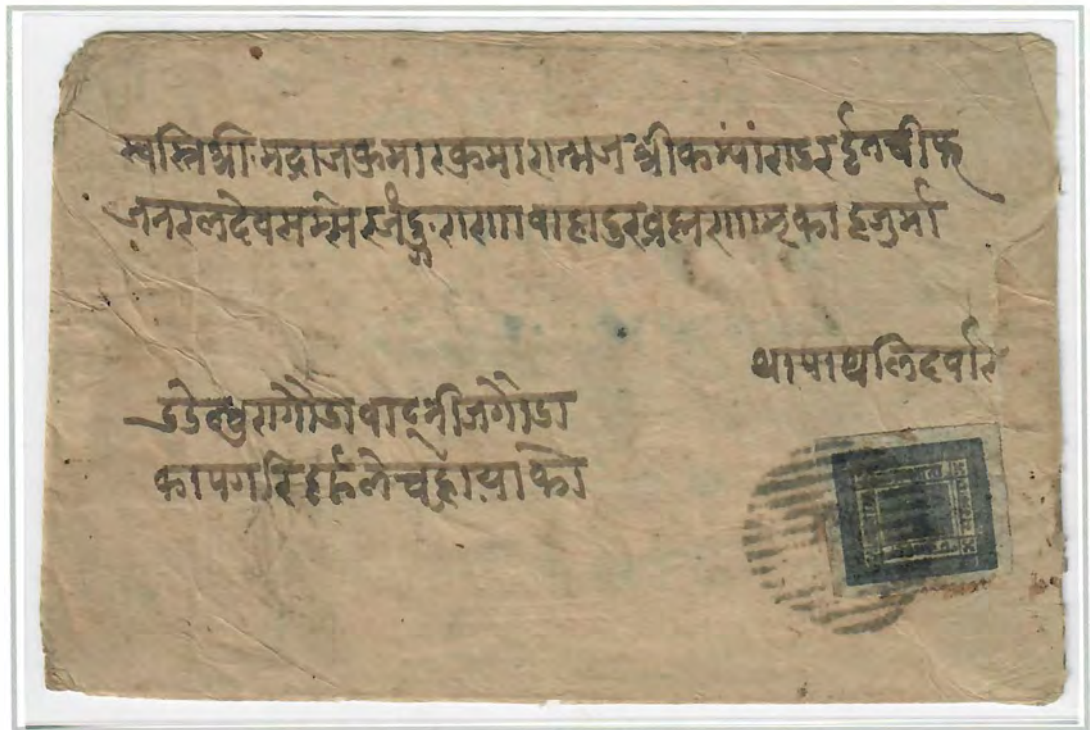


tête-bêche pairs, imperforate, all position C7-C8, position C7 inverted

Pin-Perforated Greenish Shades on Cover



Dandeldhura



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



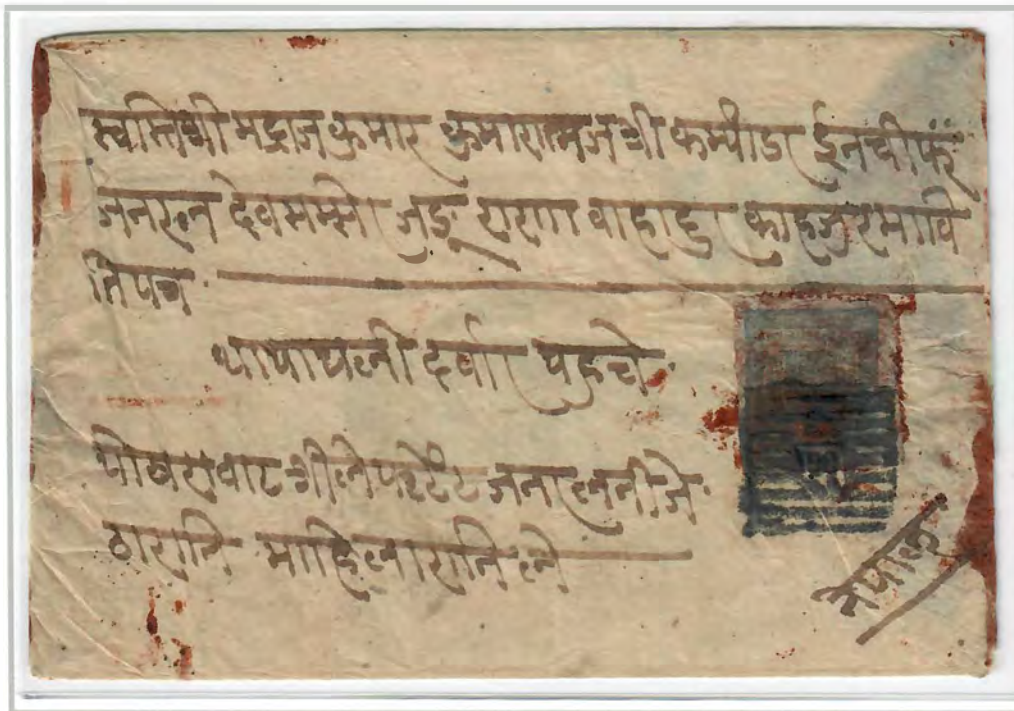
Palpa

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

Pin-Perforated / Imperforate Greenish Shades



pin-perforated
Birganj cancel



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

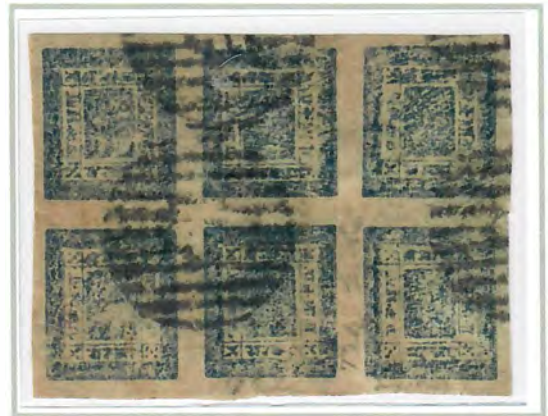


imperforate
Taulihawa seal cancel

Blue Shade Multiples



positions A3-A6, B3-B6, Bhagwanpur cancels
inverted cliché position B3



Parasi cancels



Jaleswar cancels



Rangeli cancels



Siraha cancels



«

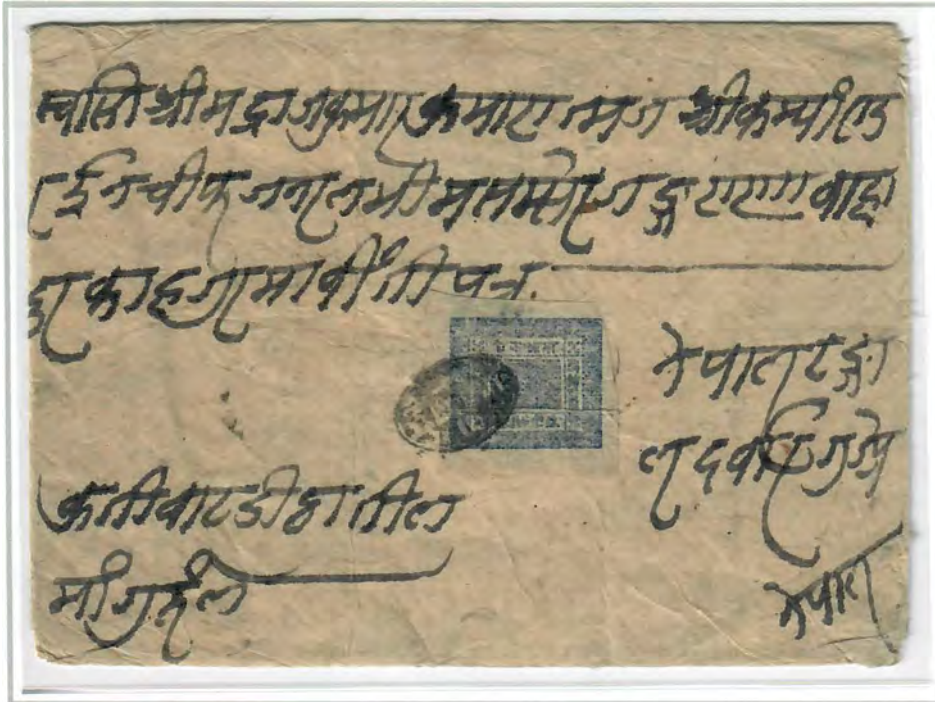


cliché 24, position C8
recut frames
Salyan cancels

Used from Tibet

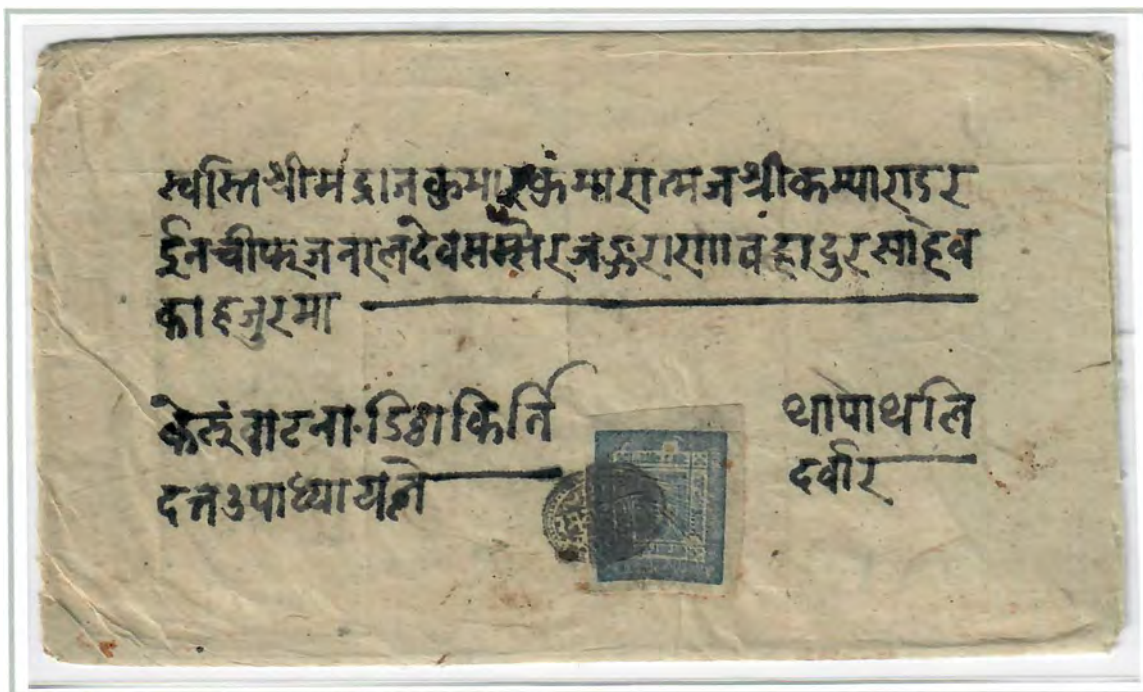


Nepalese administered courts were located in the Tibetan towns of Kerong and Kuti. Mail was carried by Nepalese messenger from Kerong to the Nepalese border town of Rasuwa.



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

Initial in Circle of Bars 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

Uses on Cover



Dhulikel

February 1898 Dhulikel to Kathmandu, circle of bars cancel
three covers are known with this cancel



Kathmand



1 anna adhesive with major paper fold used on cover
January 1900 use from Kathmandu

Initial in Square of Bars Cancels

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

Initial in Hexagon of Bars Cancels

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

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 was 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



*ex Garrett-Adams
and Dr. Singer*

positions C7-C8/D7-D8, bottom pair is tête-bêche, position D8 inverted
the only reported block and the largest multiple of the European paper printings



positions D2-D3, tête-bêche pair, position D3 inverted
twelve tête-bêche pairs reported on European paper

The Damaged Cliché

The cliché in position H8 (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 H8 cliché
(shown upright)

Pin-Perforated



positions H7-H8, tête-bêche pair, position H8 inverted
the only reported example

Imperforate

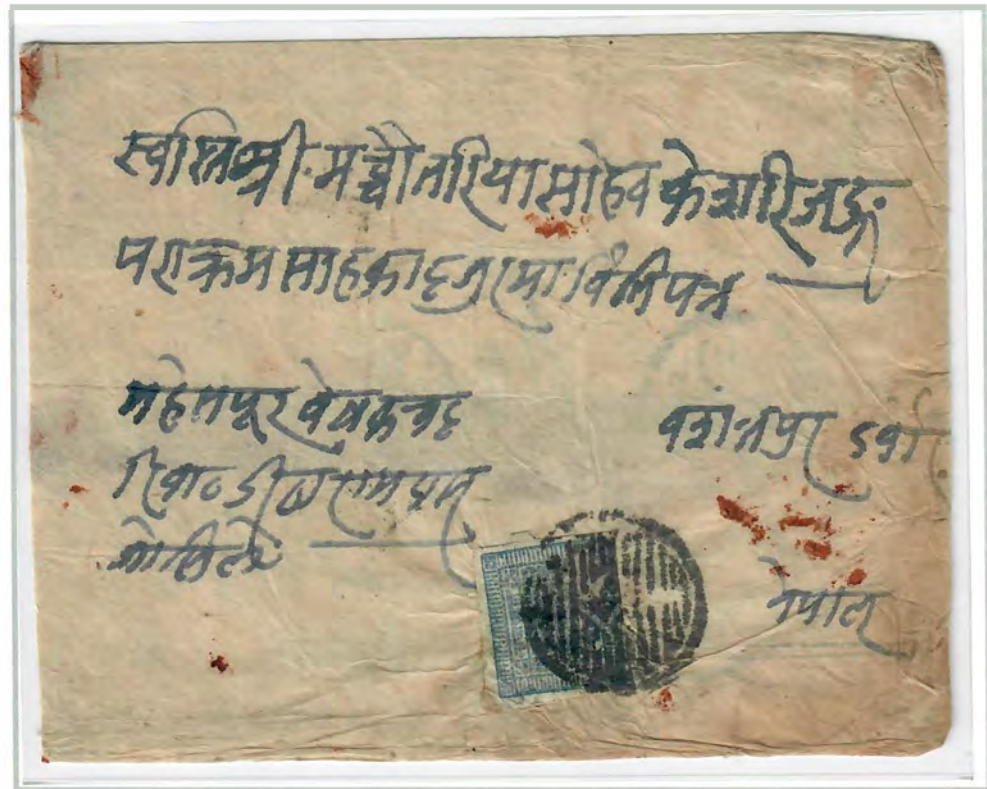


position H8
the only reported used example

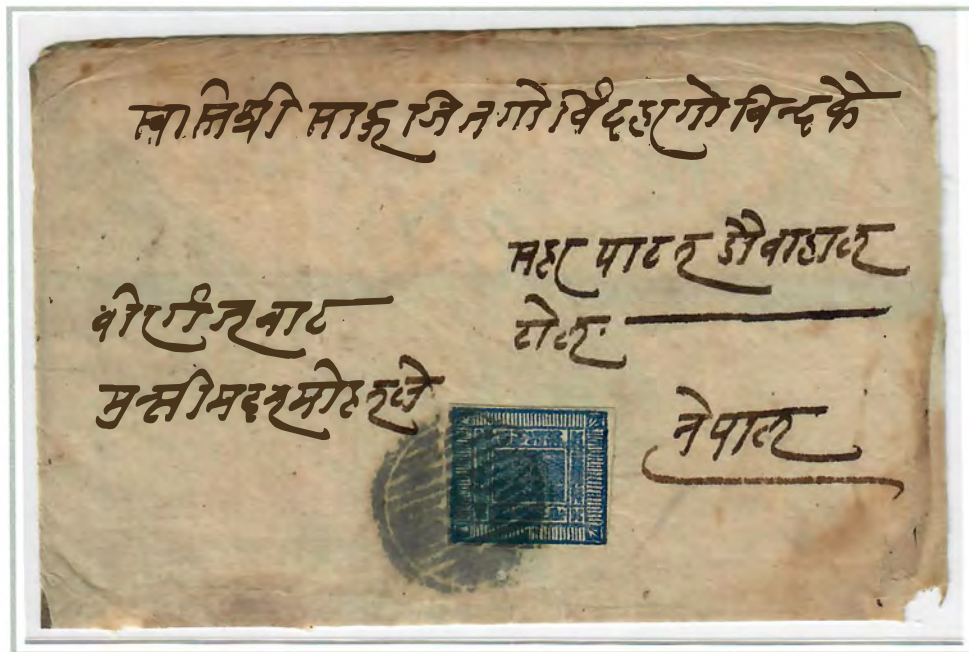
Uses on Cover



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 Cliché

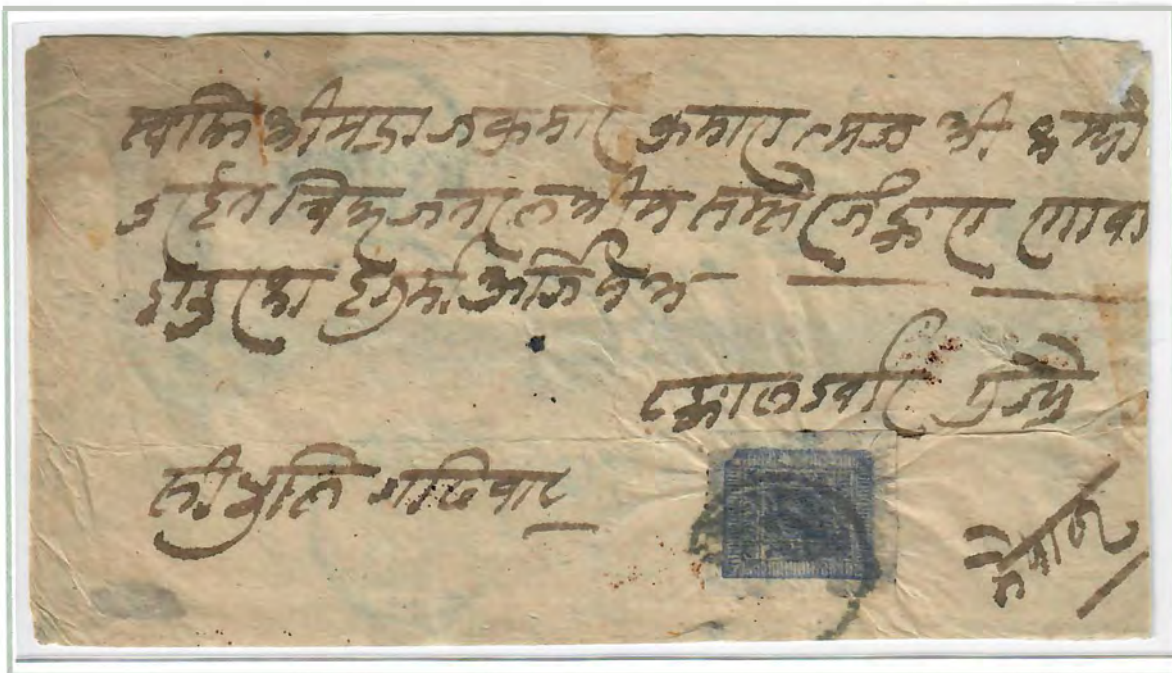
The damaged cliché, found inverted in position 64, also occurs in the native paper printings from settings 26 and 27. These settings were at press between 1902 and 1907.



position 64 cliché
(shown inverted)

positions 63-64, tête-bêche pair, position H8 inverted

Sindhuli undated
postmark used as
cancel



May 1908 Sindhuli to Kathmandu, 1 anna damaged cliché, position H8
the only reported single franking of the cliché

The Damaged Cliché



position H8 cliché
(shown inverted)



imperforate



pin-perforated



imperforate

Used on Registered Cover



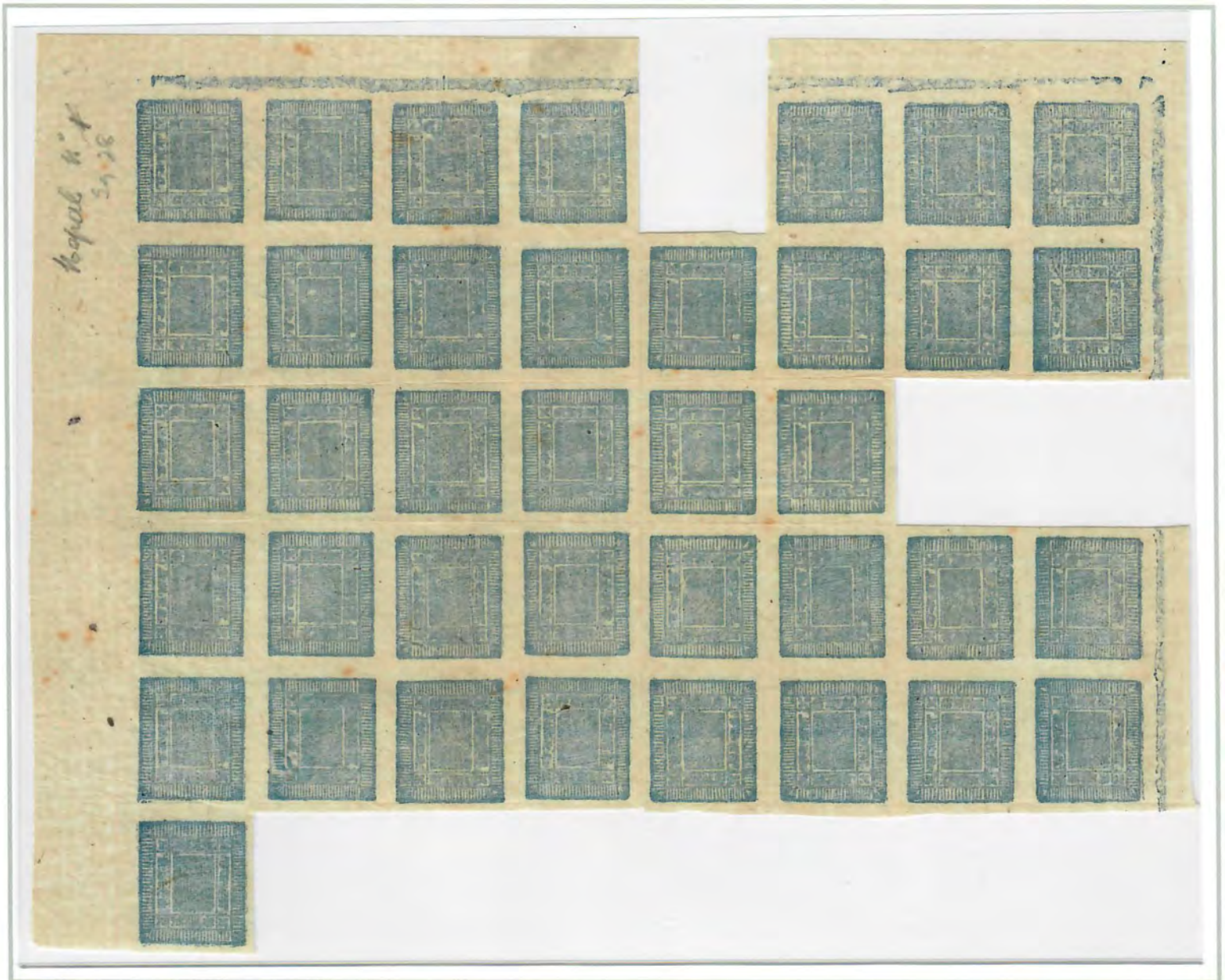
Pokhara



April 1903 Pokhara registered use to Kathmandu, prepaid 7 annas
recut 1 anna damaged cliché, position H8 at top right
used in combination with 1 anna pair and single 4 annas
the only reported example of such a use

Setting 27, First State

The recut one anna printings from the first state of setting 27 have no gash flaw at position B2. The telegraphic era printings from this setting do have the flaw.



irregular block with complete or portions of rows A to F
includes inverted clichés in positions B7, C2, D3, E5, E8 and F1
the full setting included three additional inverted clichés in positions C7, G3 and H8

Position C8 (cliché 24) on Cover

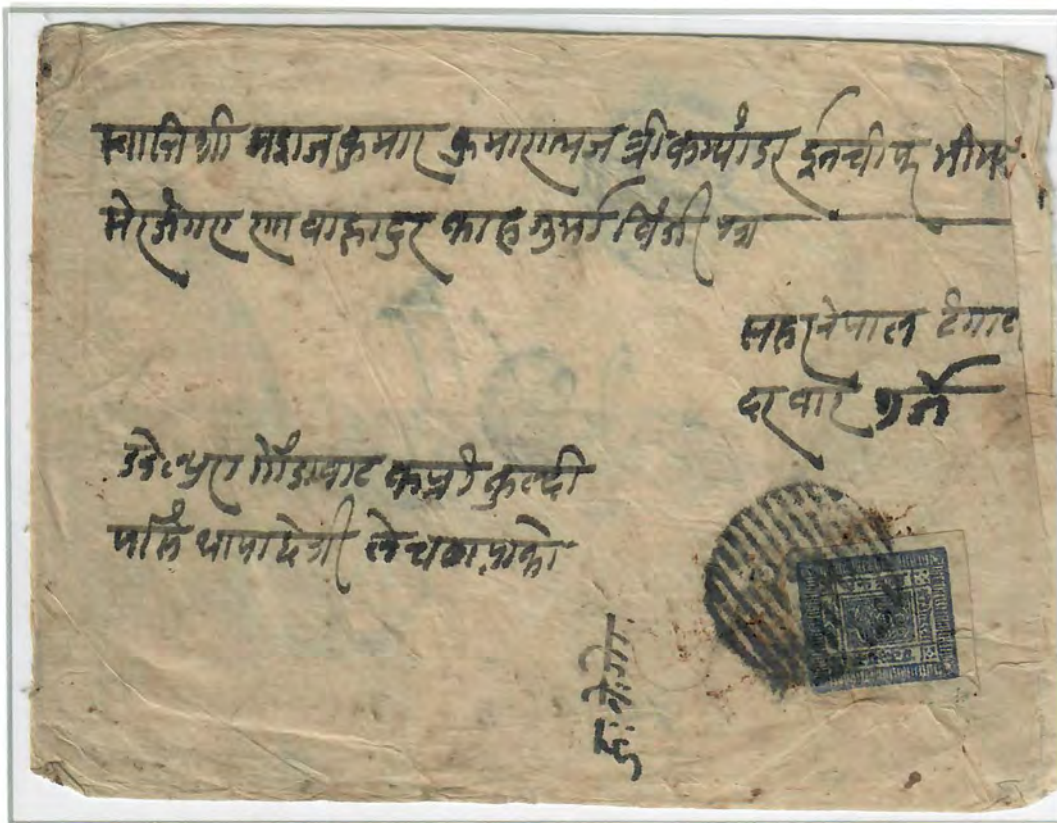
In 1898, cliché 24 was the first to have outer framelines recut resulting in fewer lines in the frames. In 1901, setting 26 became the first to have all the clichés recut.



Okhaldunga



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



Dandeldhura

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

Tête-Bêche Pairs on Cover, Shades



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

स्वस्ति श्रीमदभियचन्द्र मुजुड राडे न्यादि श्री श्री श्री मन्त्र
जसर चन्द्रमफेरजङ्ग राणावाहादुर जिगिमेरु प
इ थोइ लिइ पिमाको काइ वाइ स्थान थाइ
मिनिहर थाराड नाशिन मुलुक नेपाल काइ जु मा
विनि पत्र

भेजा हनुमान नगर म मो गो सीहदबोर
वाट क क कुलविके भज राणा
ले



Hanumannager cancel and postmark

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

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

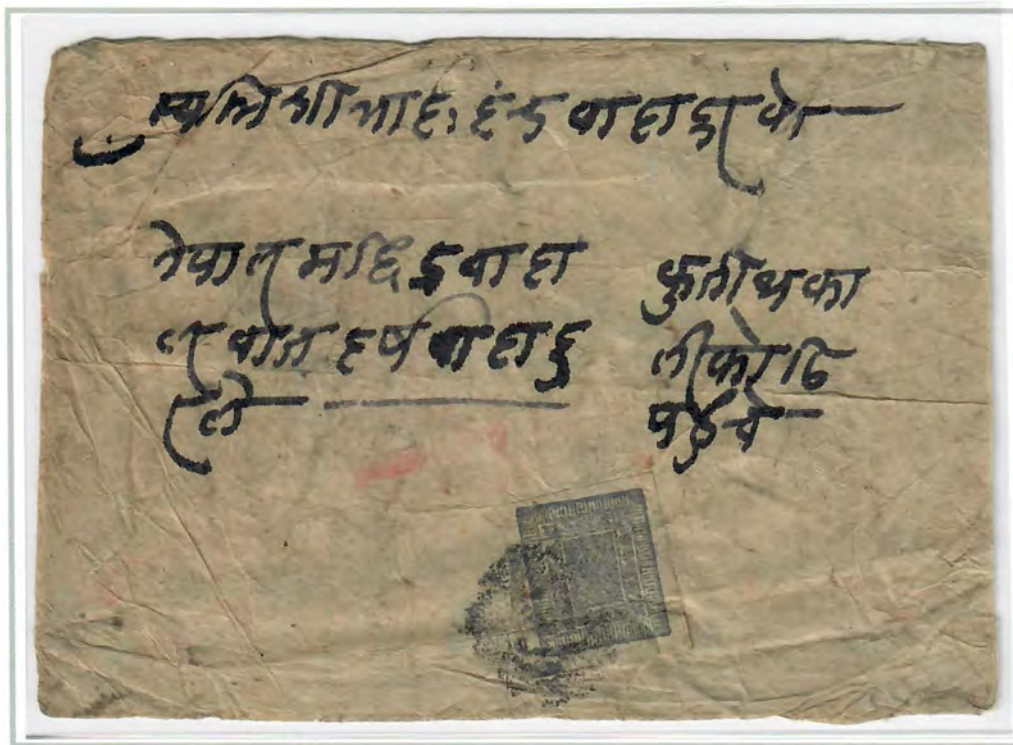
Used to Tibet



Nepalese administered courts were located in the Tibetan towns of Kerong and Kuti. Mail was carried onward into Tibet by a Nepalese messenger to Kuti.



Kathmandu



August 1905 Kathmandu to Kuti Court in Tibet
 1 anna light grey shade (Hellrigl: "unrecorded shade of greatest rarity")

Circle of Bars Cancels

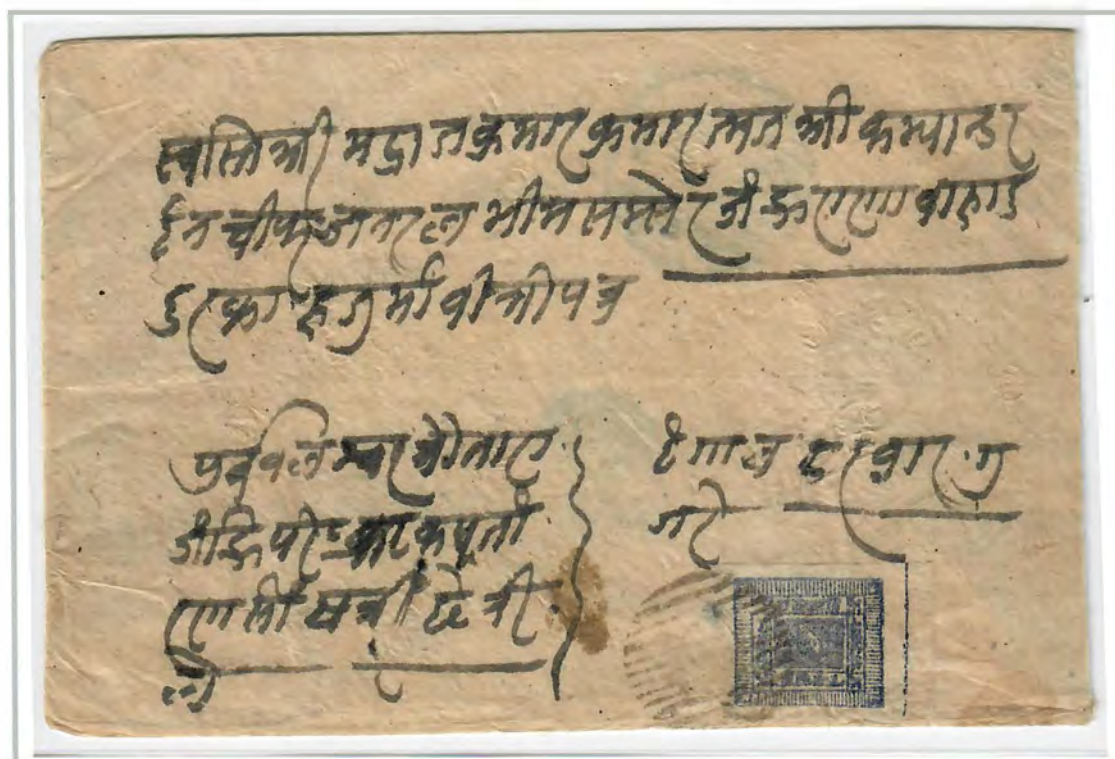


Dhulikel

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



Chautara

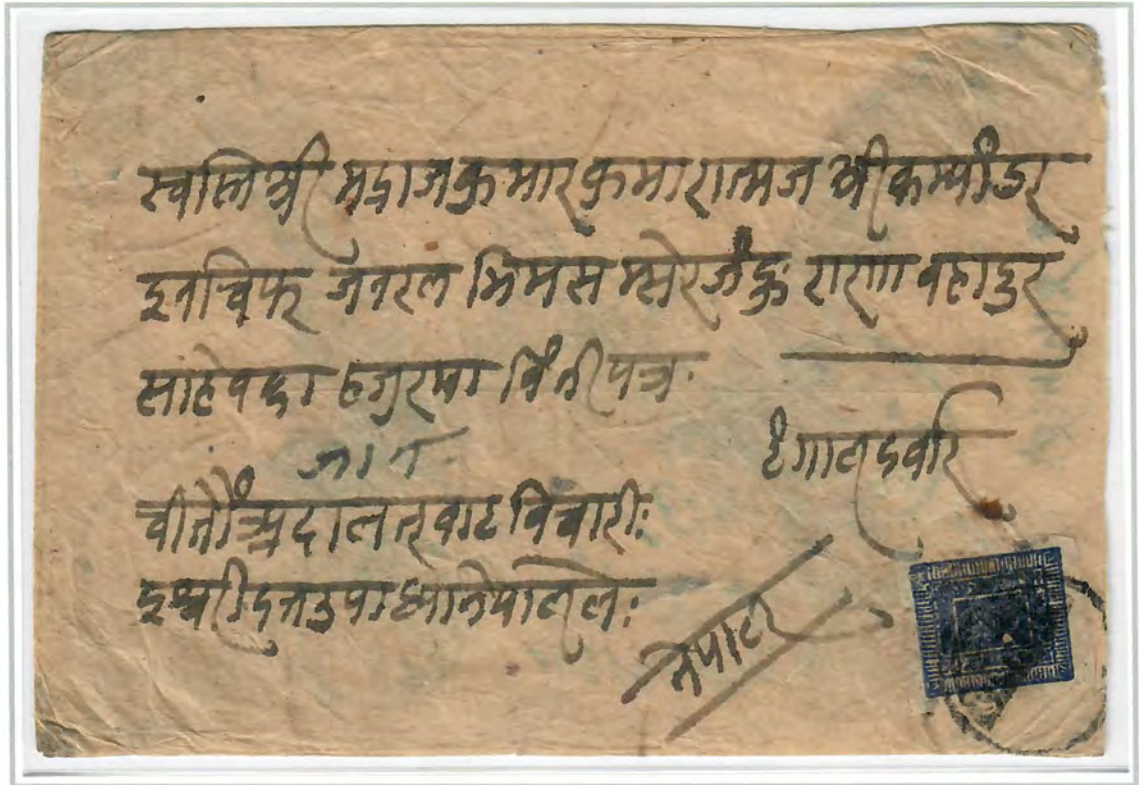


August 1907 Chautara barred circle cancel
three reported covers with this cancel

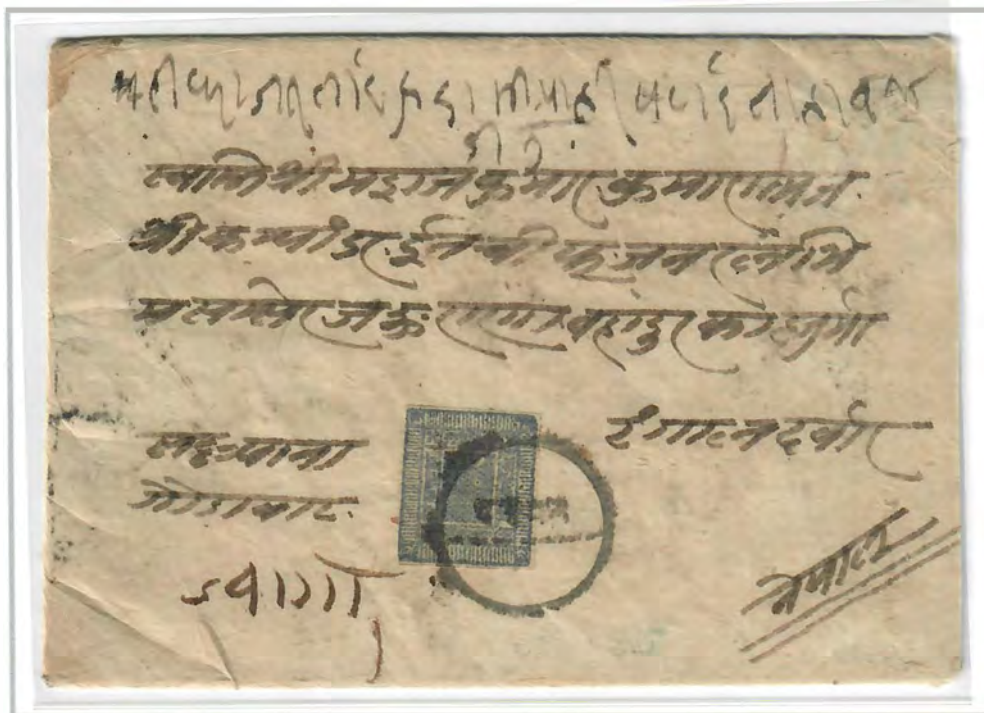
Non-Standard Cancels



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

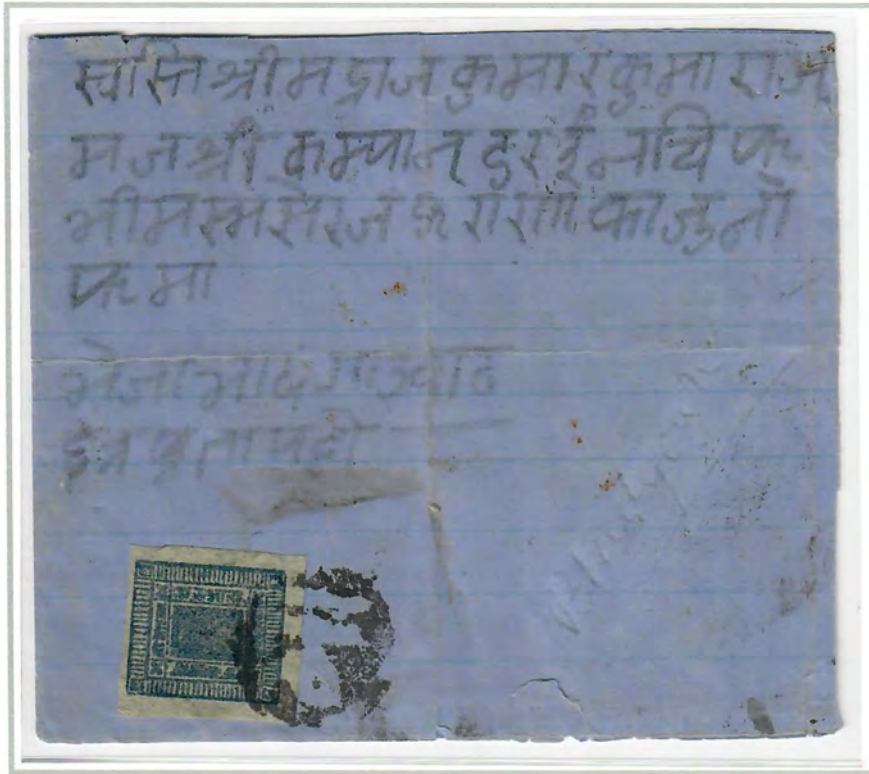


Sindhuli postmark used as a cancel and also at left as a dispatch postmark with date added.



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

Non-Standard Cancels

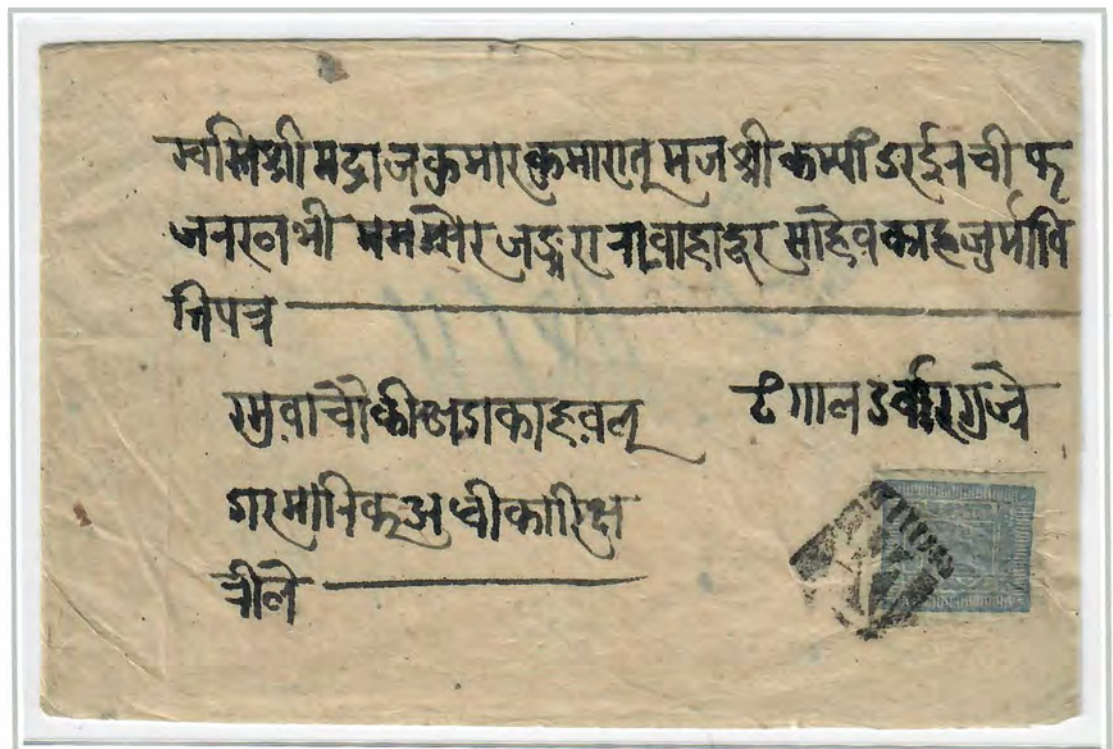


Bhadgaon

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



Rasuwa



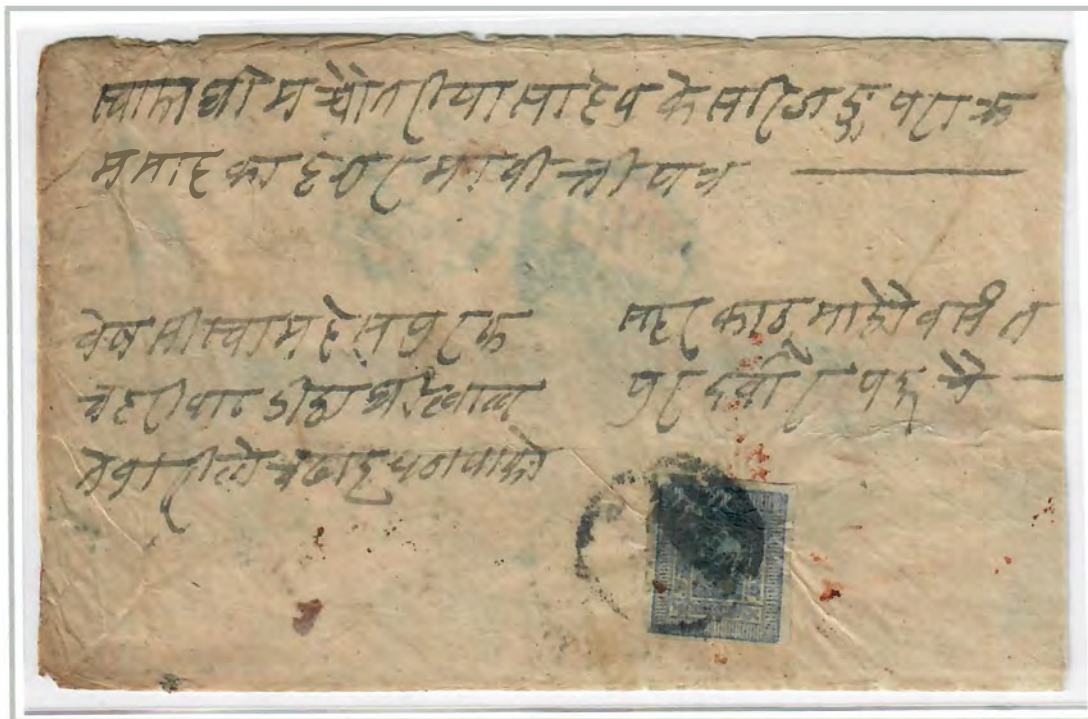
April 1905 Rasuwa to Kathmandu, two known covers with this negative cancel

Non-Standard Cancels



October 1905 Birganj to Kathmandu

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



March 1904 Birganj negative postmark used as cancel

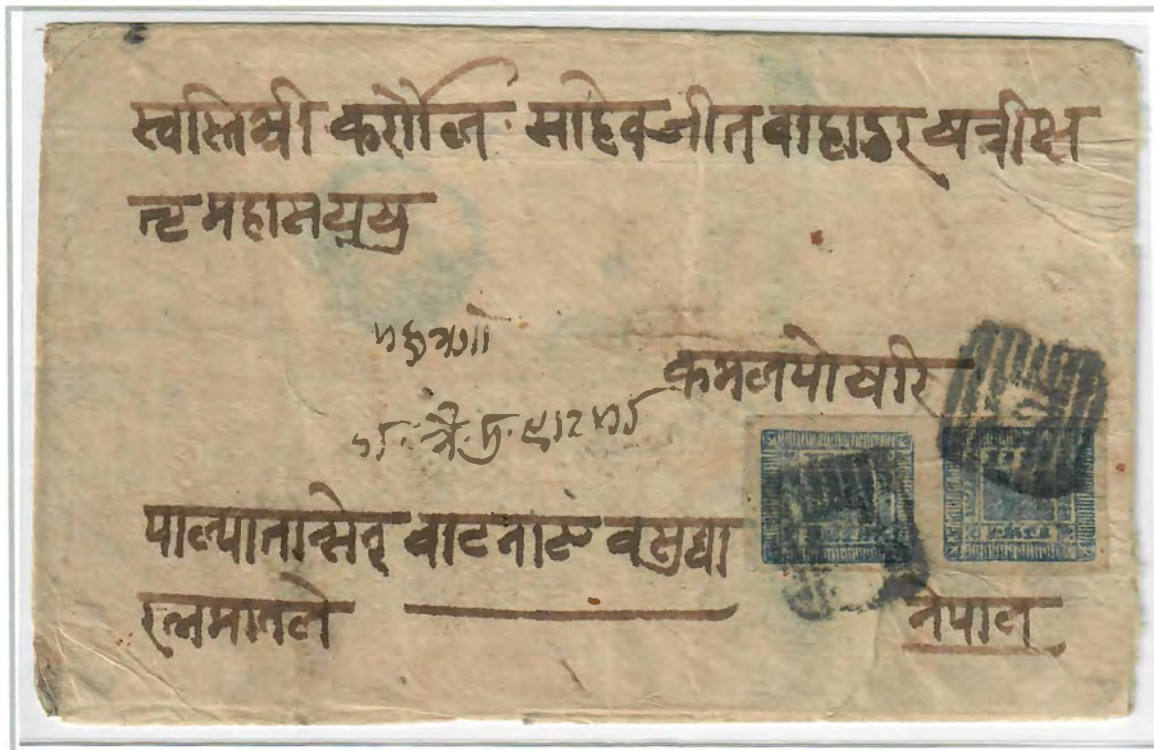
Single and Double Rate Uses



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

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 cliché is the far left stamp in the strip

**Double Weight, Registered Cover
Prepayment Includes 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

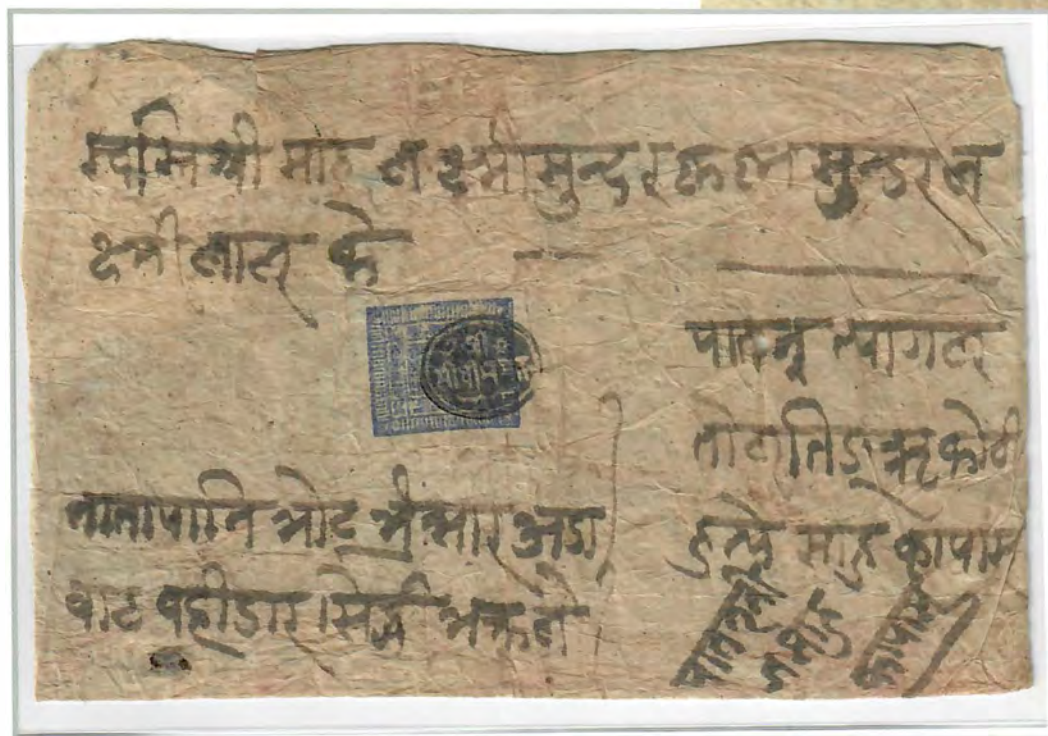
Used on Cover From Tibet



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.



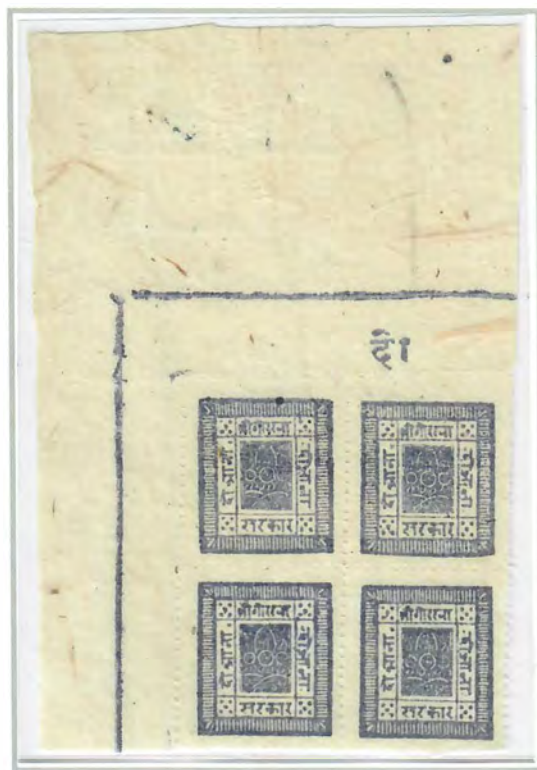
Tatapani seal cancel



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 A1-A2/ B1-B2,
pin-perforated



setting 14, positions A1-A2/ B1-B2, 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 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 F1-F6/H1-H6

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



position G5 is now the former position A8 cliché showing dent in left frameline

Varieties and Settings



setting 19, positions A1-A2/B1-B2
over/under tête-bêche pairs



tête-bêche strip, positions A6-A8
position A8 inverted



setting 17, positions G2-G7/H2-H7, Hanumannagar postal cancels
progressive flaw position G7 (see below for later state), position H2 dent at foot



position G7 (setting 18)
progressive frame flaw



setting 18, pin-perforated, left stamp in center row is position G7

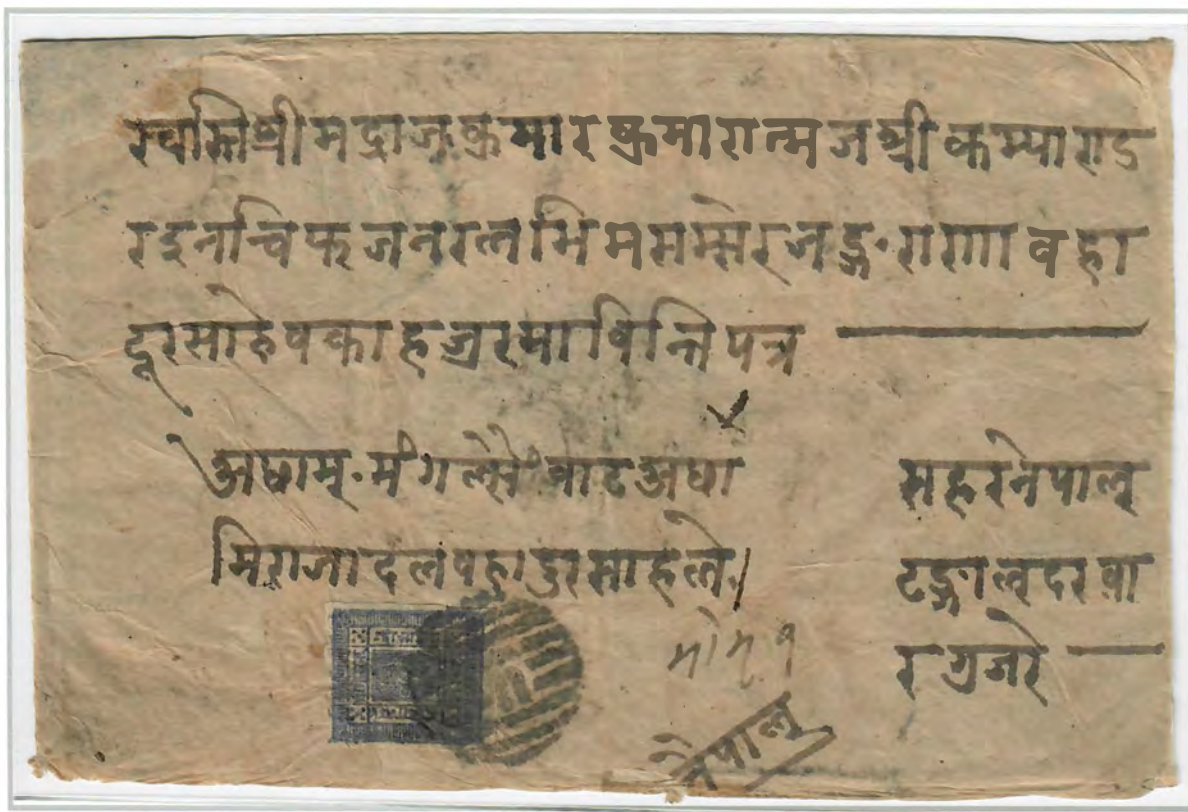
Setting 20

This setting had four inverted clichés.



part sheet with gripper marks at foot, inverted cliché positions: B1 and C3

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



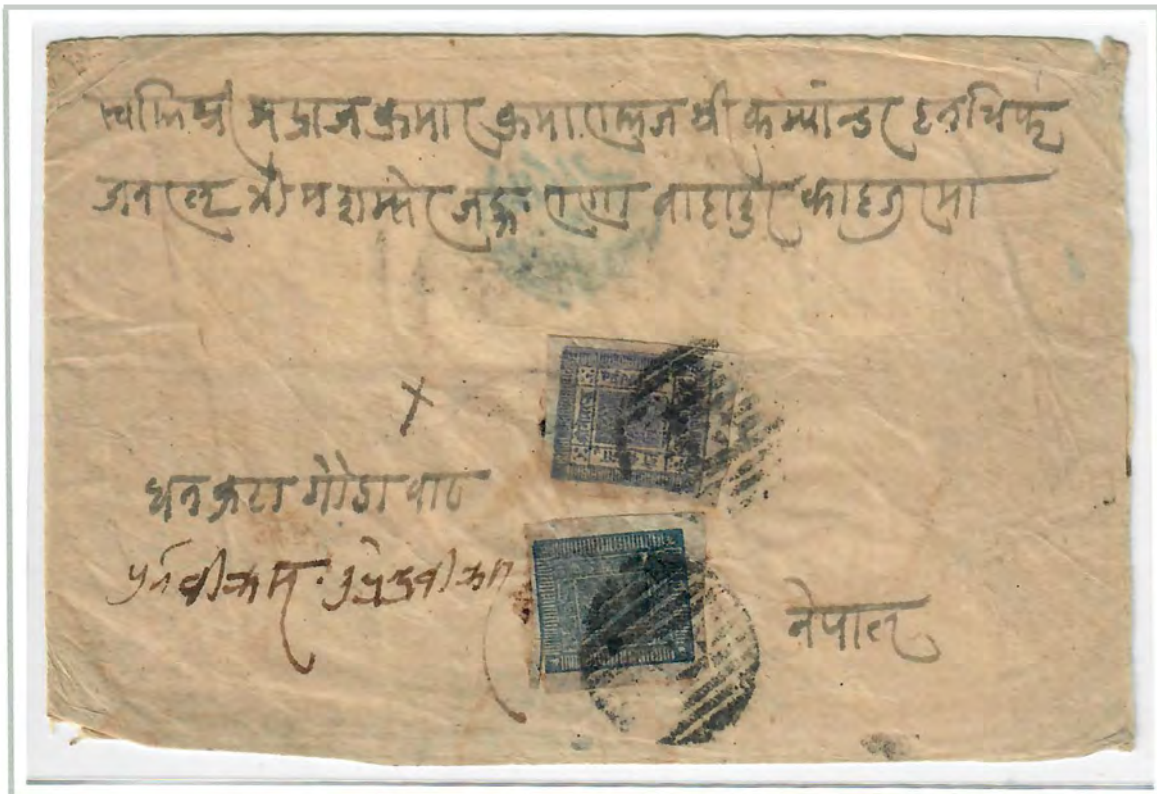
August 1907 Dhankuta to Kathmandu, 2 annas deep shade from cleaned plate

**Triple Rate Cover
Combination with One Anna Recut**

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 Strip



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
Combination with One Anna Recut**

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 Use, Double Rate with Acknowledgment of Receipt
Tête-Bêche Strip Combination with One Anna Recut

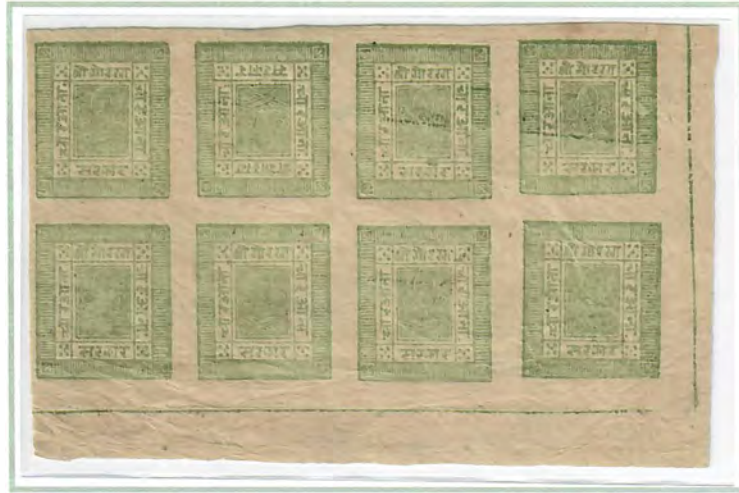


Kanchanpur, a small post office, was established in 1880.



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 A8/C8, position A8 inverted, plus 1 anna recut
the only reported example of this rate make-up

Settings, Varieties



setting 9, positions G5-G8/H5-H8
position G6 inverted cliché

Position G6 is inverted
in all three settings.



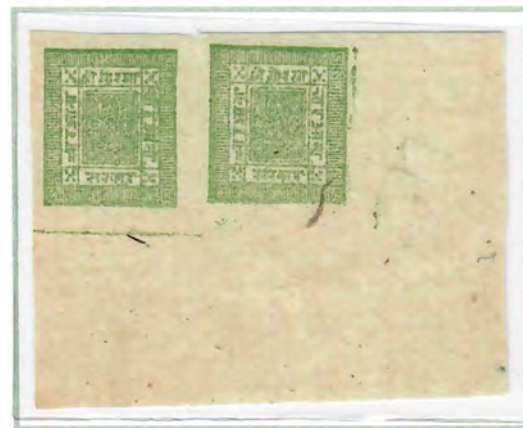
setting 9, pin-perforated
tête-bêche, positions G5-G6



setting 10, positions C1-C9/D1-D8, variant state with frameline at left only
this variant state is known only by this piece as reported by Singer

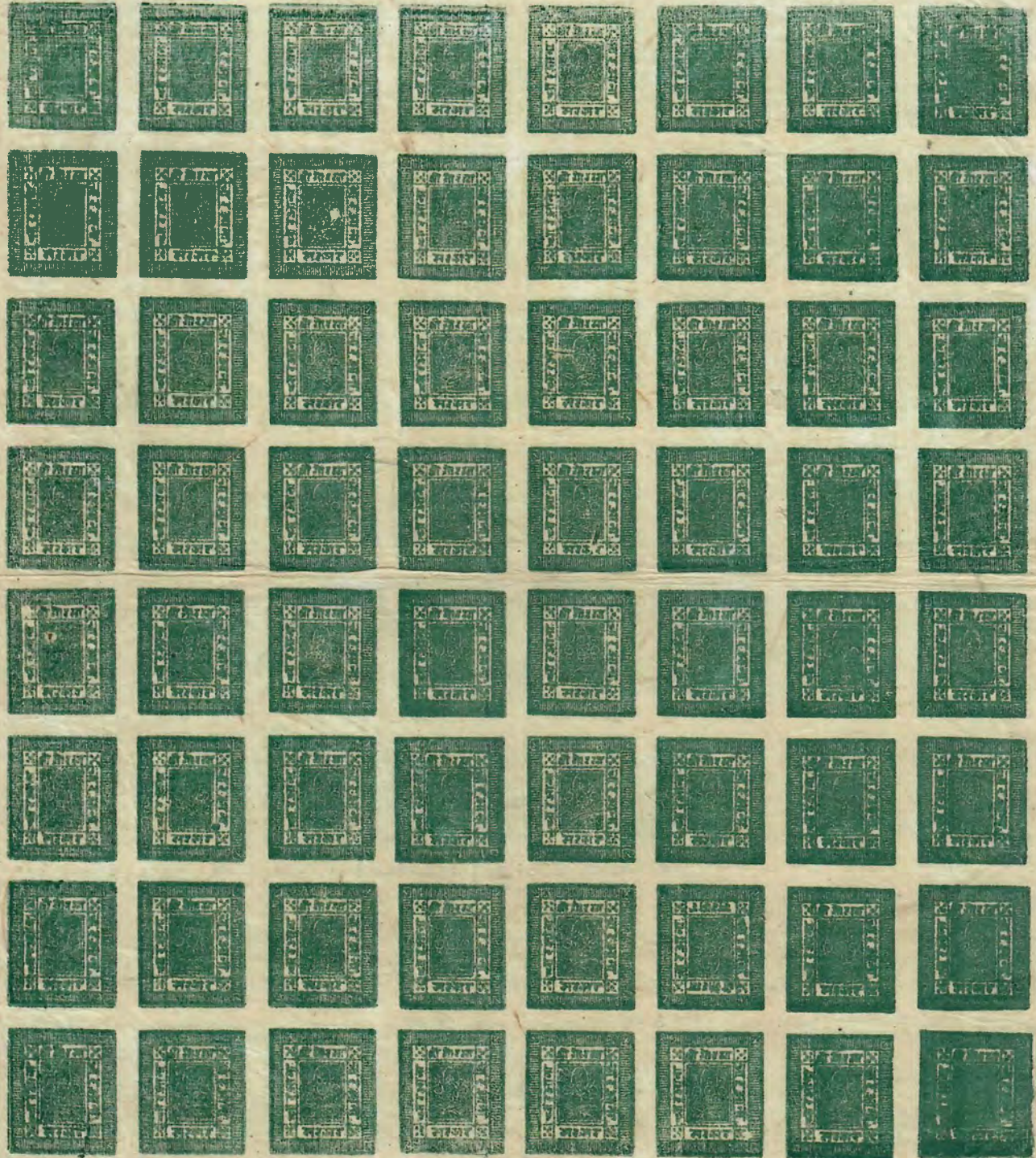


setting 9, pin-perforated

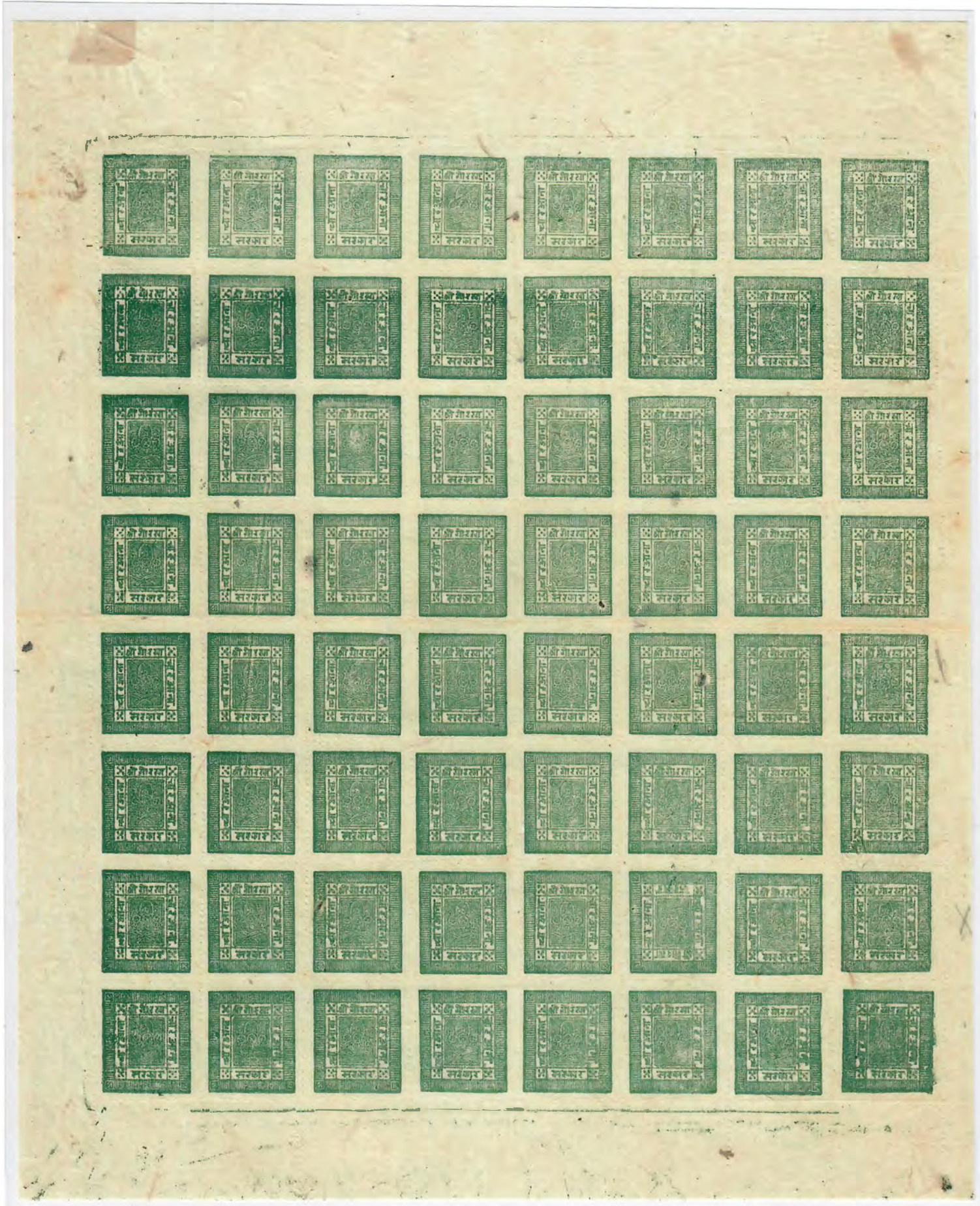


setting 11, first state, positions H7-H8

Setting 11, First State
inverted cliché position: G6



Pin-Perforated, Setting 11, First State
inverted cliché position: G6



Used Multiples with 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 show a more 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

Registered Single Rate Cover
Combination with Two Annas



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

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

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



Jaleswar non-standard cancel



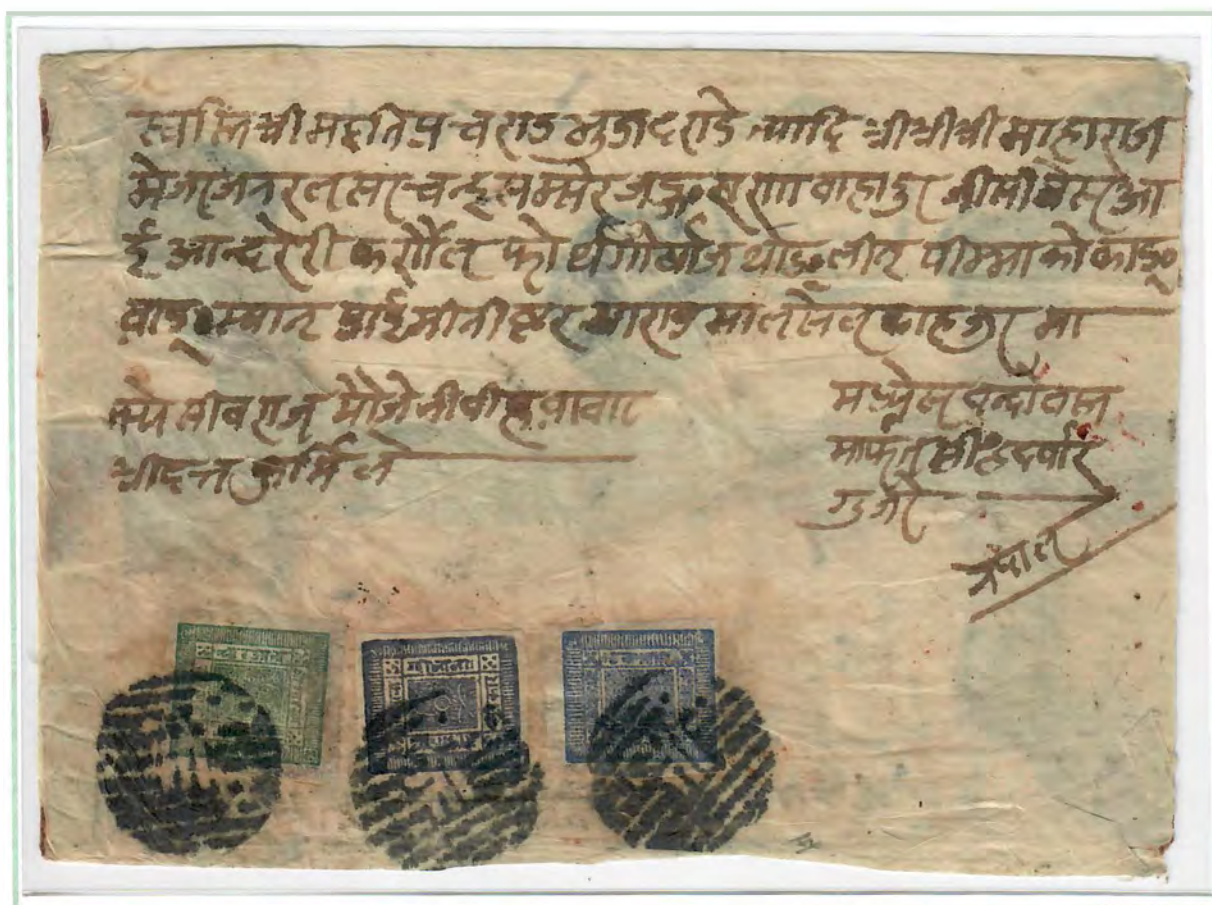
December 1901 registered double weight cover from Jaleswar with acknowledgment of receipt
8 annas total rate prepaid with 4 annas green pair
two reported examples

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 Double Weight Use



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 1901 - 1907 printings

Seven annas rate (5 annas registry fee plus 2 annas double weight postage).

Complete Set on Cover
Registered with Acknowledgment of Receipt

Registered जखरी पोचपाउने Acknowledge Due



Dhankuta

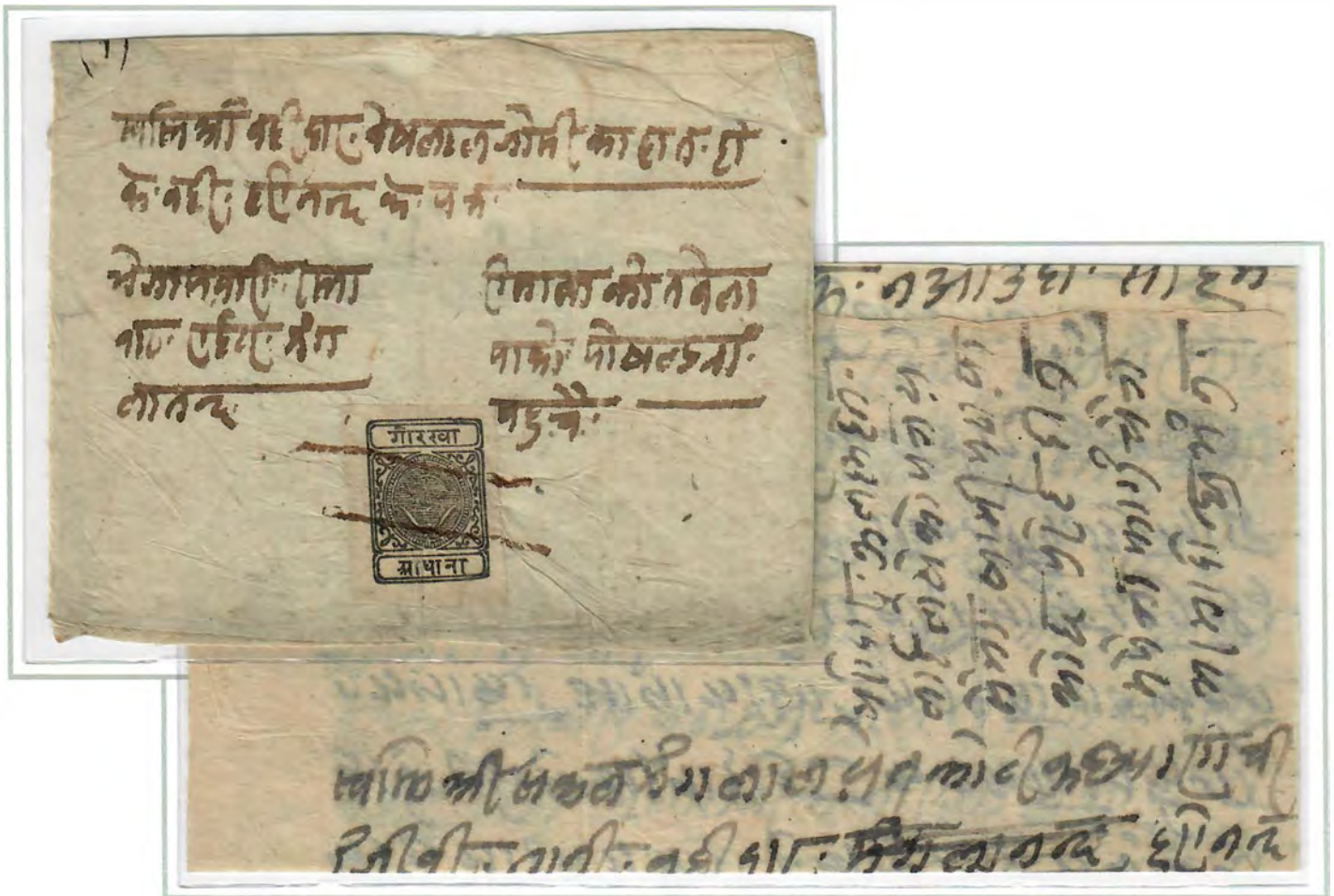


August 1907 Dhankuta registered cover with acknowledgment of receipt prepaid 7 annas rate, franked with 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas fewer than ten known covers with the set of 1901 - 1907 printings

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

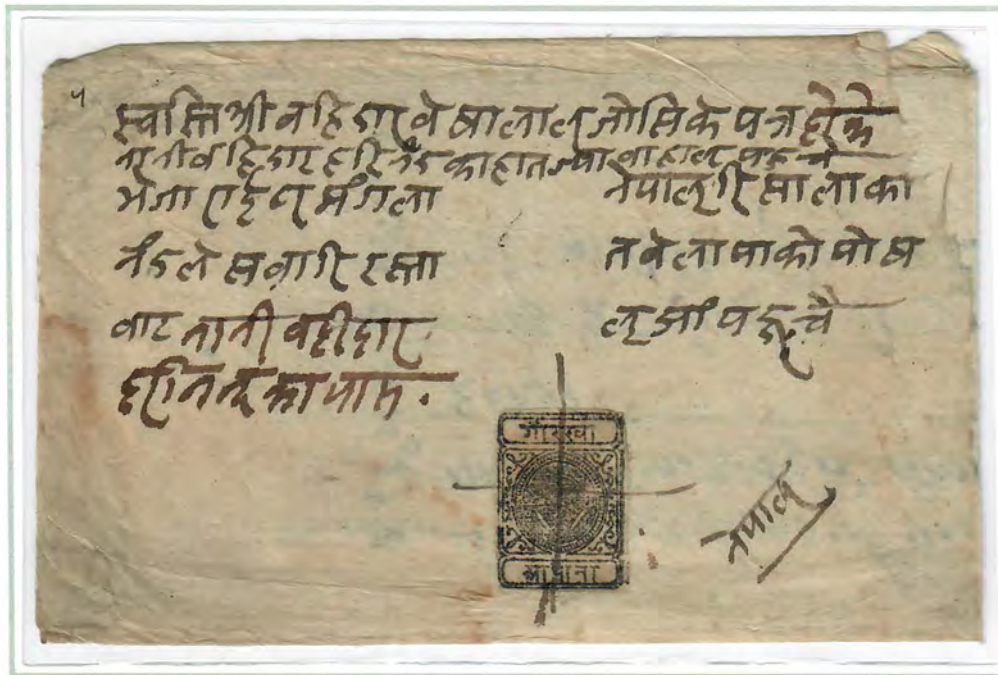
Single on Cover

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.



cover with 22 December 1912 letter dated 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 ½ anna
six reported covers franked with a single one-half anna stamp



Bhaktapur to Kathmandu, a late use, prepaid one anna rate with pair ½ anna
stamps tied by postmaster's ring seal, Bhaktapur post office cachet with crossed kukris

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, 1899-1900

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. E7-E8/F7-F8) and on thick paper (pos. F7-G8/G7-G8)

The "Notched" Cliché

The "notched" frameline cliché is located upright in position A7 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 A6 and remains inverted.



setting 1 (imperforate) and setting 3 (pin-perforated)
notched cliché flaw in position A7



setting 1, positions A7-A8/C7-C8
position A7, notched cliché normal



setting 3, positions A6-A8/B6-B8,
position A7 notched cliché inverted

setting 5 (imperforate and pin-perforated) tête-bêche pairs
notched cliché flaw now in position A6



positions A5-A6 and positions A6-A7 tête-bêche pairs, position A6 inverted in both

Settings



setting 2 (no inverted clichés), pin-perforated, positions A1-A2/B1-B2



setting 2, thick buff paper, positions A1-A3



setting 5 (1 inverted cliché, position H1), tête-bêche pair, positions H1-H2

Setting 1, Early State



early state of the setting on thick paper, blocks showing framelines with wide corner breaks
positions: A1-A5/B1-B5 and positions: A7-A8/B7-B8

Setting 1, Late State



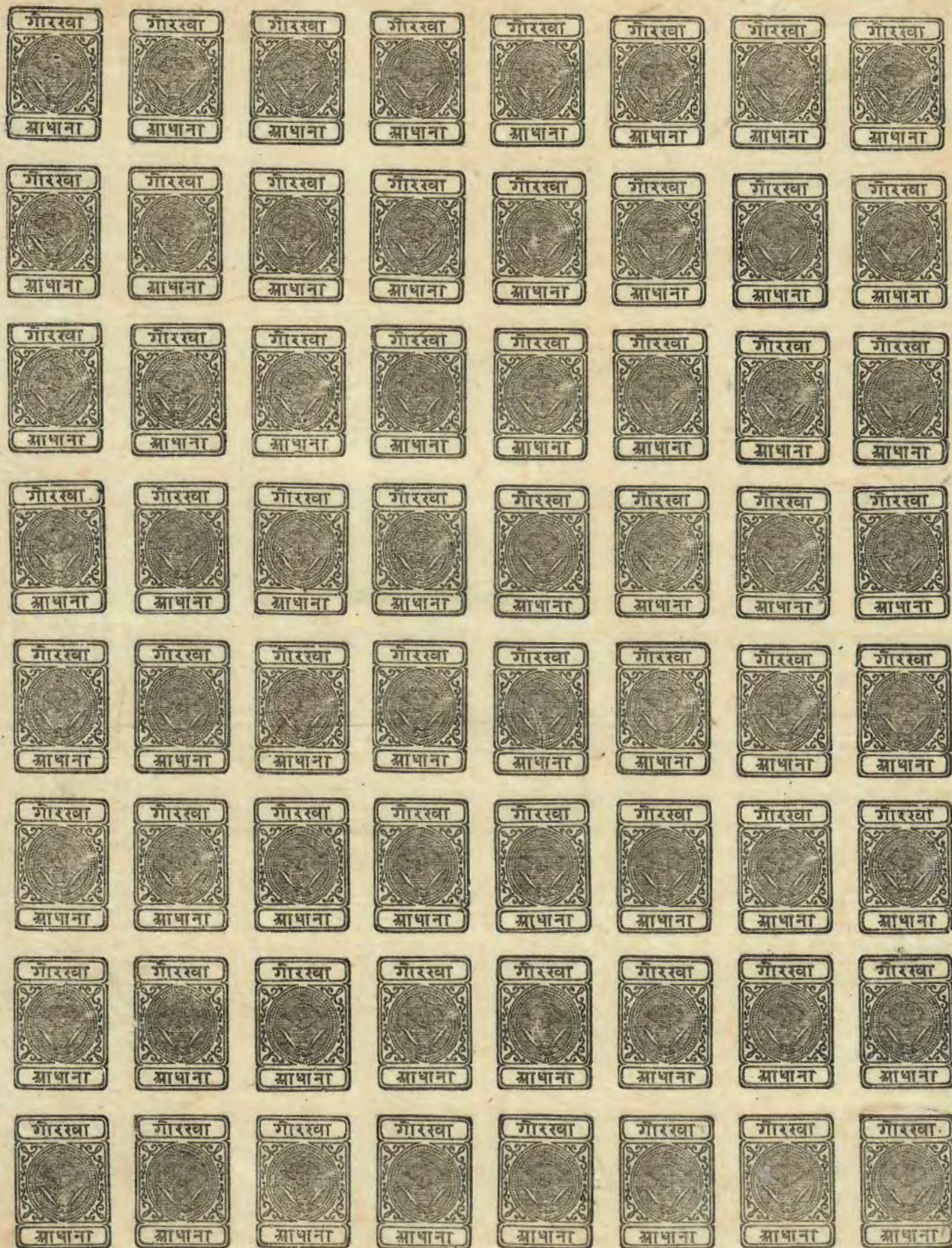
late state on thin paper, positions A1-A8, frameline with small breaks and corners nearly closed
reported by Hellrigl as a variant state (state C) based only on two corner margin singles
this multiple, found since the report, proves the variant state
the only known multiple

Setting 1, Early State, Thin Paper

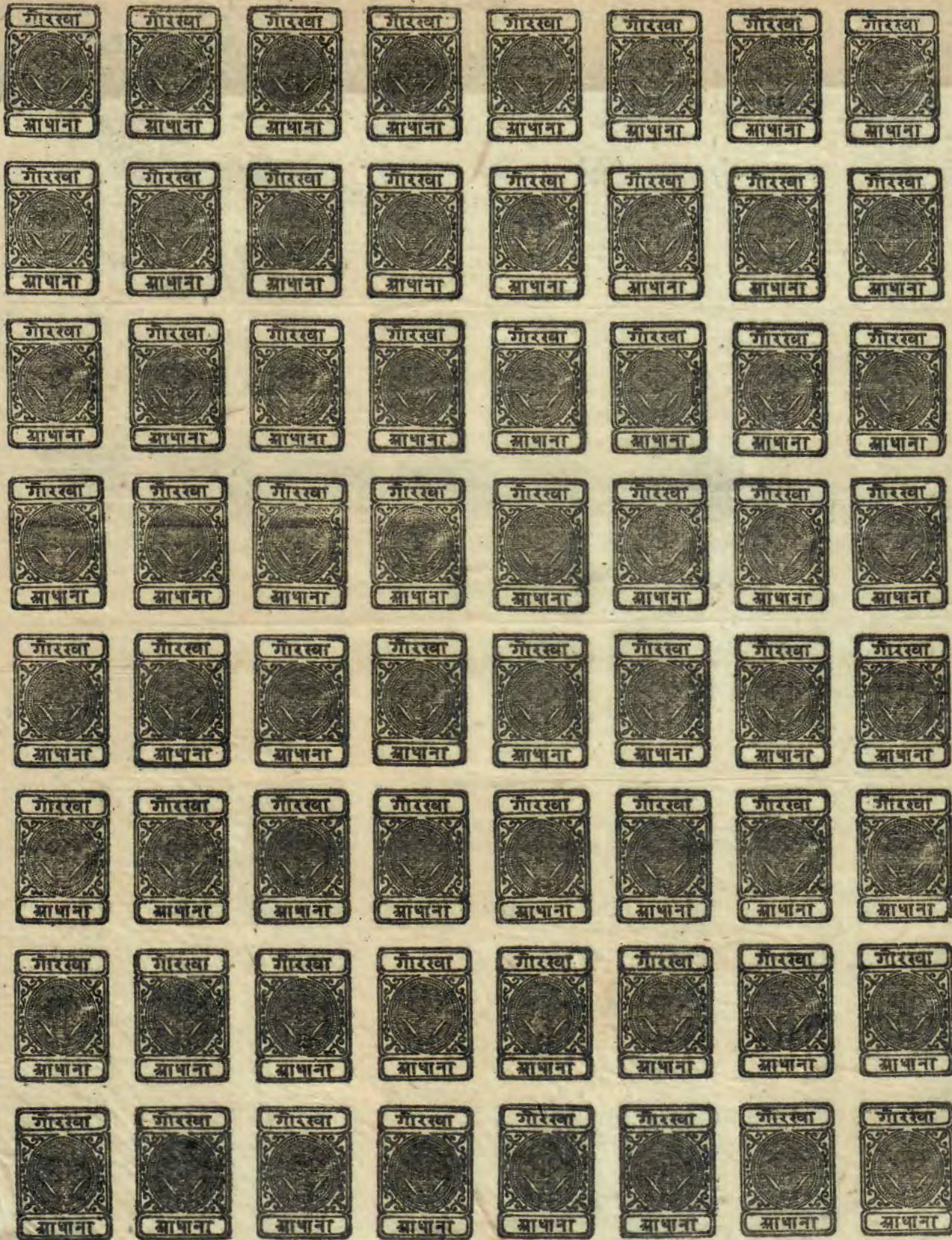


early state of the setting on thin paper, blocks showing framelines with wide corner breaks
positions: A1-4 / F1-4, G1

Setting 1, Early State, Thin Paper, three reported full sheets



Setting 1, Early State, Thick Paper, the only reported full sheet



Setting 3, 1903-1905

The third setting had one inverted cliché in position A7.



tête-bêche pair
positions A7-A8



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions E1-E8/F1-F8



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions F1-F3/G1-G3

Setting 3, 1903-1905



imperforate, thin paper, block of 56 missing first row
this block and five sheets known

Setting 4, 1905-1906

Setting 4 had one inverted cliché (position H1) and was printed on thin paper. It is the last one-half anna setting that was available for postal use in pin-perforated format.



imperforate and pin-perforated tête-bêche pairs both are positions H1-H2, position H1 is inverted



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions E5-E8/H5-H8