

NEPAL

Nepal, Pre-Philately and Classic

Nepal is a landlocked country, bordering India in the west, south, east and China (Tibet) in the north. With 100 to 140 miles in breadth and some 500 miles in length, the country is situated along the high mountains of the Himalaya. In 1768 Prithvi Narayan Shah, the 1st King of Nepal, unified many small kingdoms, thus establishing a country, which remained as the last Hindu Kingdom until it became a Republic in 2008.

Due to the absence of a mutual postal agreement with other countries, Nepalese stamps were valid for national use only, until the "Indo-Nepalese Postal and Telecommunications Agreement" was signed in 1936. By then the British-Indian post office attached to the Nepal Residency in Kathmandu was in charge of postal connections to other countries.

This exhibit demonstrates the characteristics of the numerous settings of the "classic" stamps. Thereby, normal and rare or unique usages are illustrated. Forerunners as well as examples of early postal connections to foreign countries indicate the development from the first Government postal runners up to the postal system of the "classic" era with a nationwide service for the general public. Catalogue- and postmark numbers refer to Wolfgang C. Hellrigl and Frank Vognola, *"The Classic Stamps of Nepal"*, 1984 and to Wolfgang C. Hellrigl, *"A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks"*, 1982 respectively.

Genuine essays or proofs are not recorded so far.

Items with a written certificate are signed with "(Cert)".

Sequence of this exhibit:

- A. Pre-Stamp Postal Service Mail (1879-1881)**
- B. Period of Classical Stamps (1881-1907)**
- C. Private Couriers and Precursors of a Postal System**
- D. Postal Connections to Foreign Countries**
- E. Telegraphic Printings of Classic Designs (1917-1930)**

Inland postal rates during the period of the classic issues:

Postal Cards	½ Anna
Letters up to 1 Tola (about 11,6 gm)	1 Anna
Letters, Rate for each additional Tola	1 Anna
Registration Fee	5 Annas

The postmarks are pictured with their original date. During the specified period in Nepal the Bikram Sambat calendar (BS) was in use which is ca. 56 years, 8 months and 17 days ahead of the Gregorian calendar (AD).

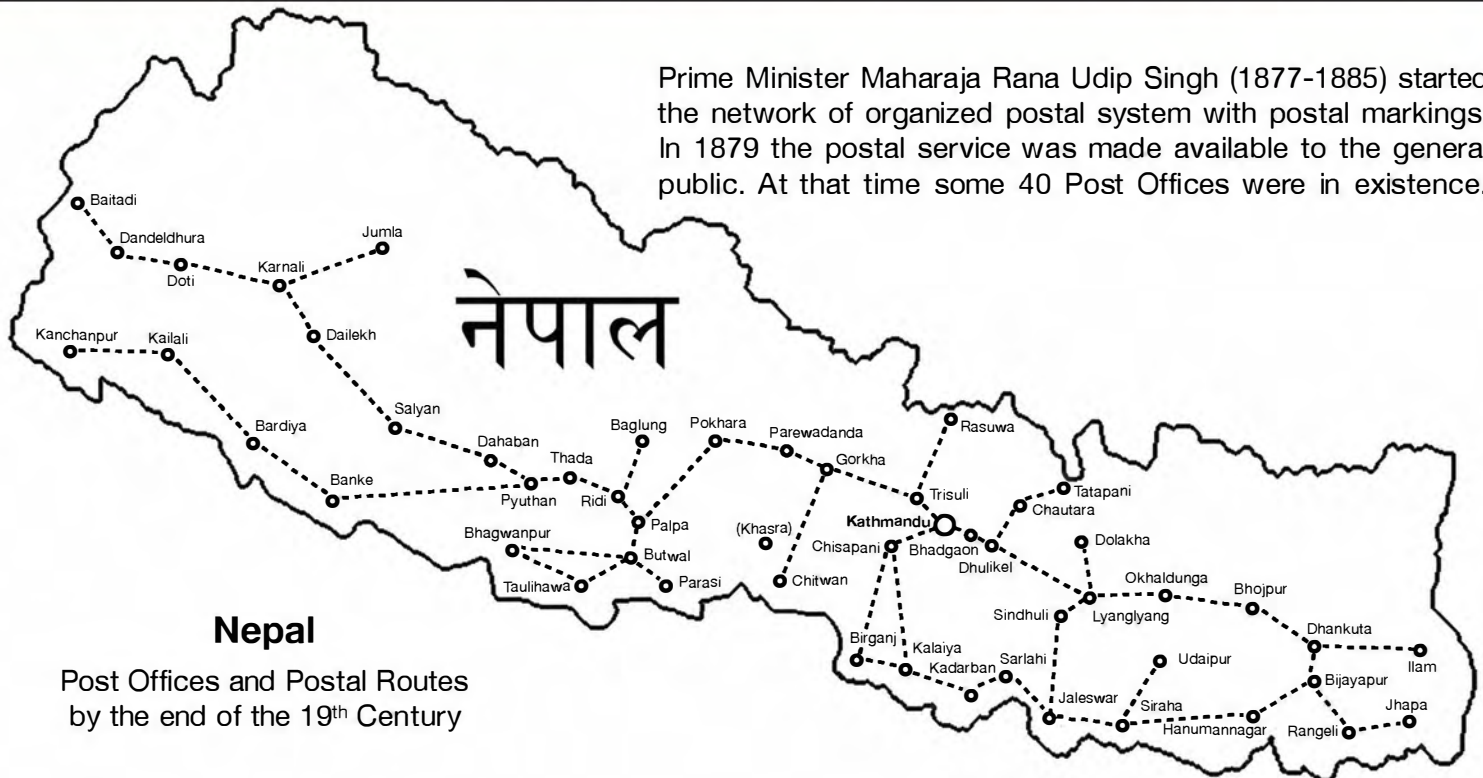
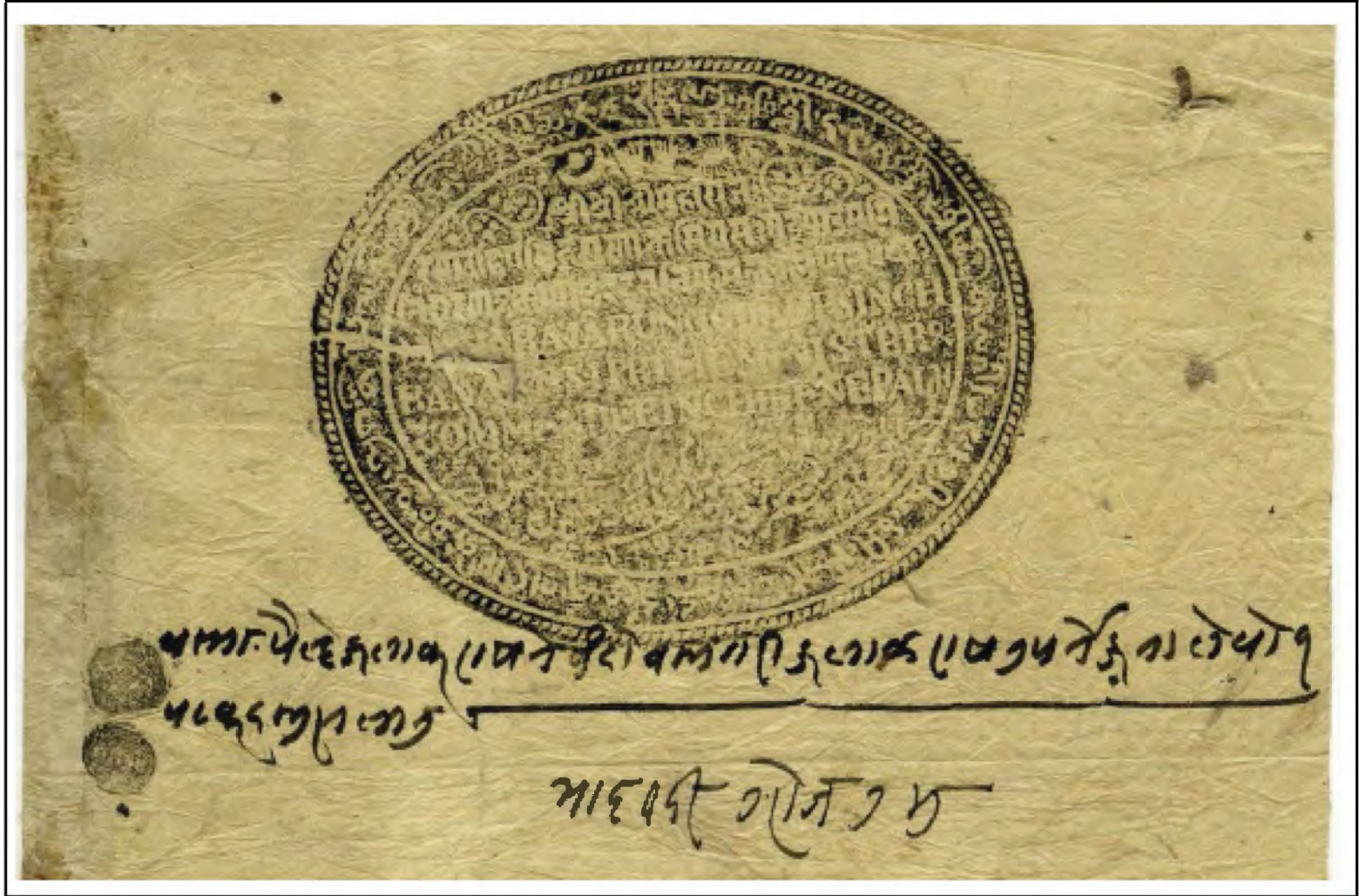
Bibliography (extract):

- Hellrigl, W.C. *Nepal Postal History*, Turin 1991
- Hellrigl, W.C. and F. Vognola. *The Classic Stamps of Nepal*, Bozen 1984
- Hellrigl, W.C. *A Catalogue of Nepalese Postmarks (1879-1935)*, 1982
- Singer, A.E. *Nepal 1772-1961 and beyond*, Santa Monica 1997
- Shrestha, R. *Nepalese Postal History*, Kathmandu 2009
- Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien e.V., newsletters *Indien-Report*
- The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle, newsletters *Postal Himal*
- Bornmann, J. "Die Geschichte Nepals", *Indien-Report* 90/2003 and 91/2004
- Bornmann, J. "Die frühe Postgeschichte Nepals", *philatelie* 9 and 10/2015



A. Pre-Stamp Postal Service Mail (1879-1881)
Document with the seal of Maharaja Rana Udip Singh

1879, document with an order to open a "Hulak Ghar" (Post Office)



Prime Minister Maharaja Rana Udip Singh (1877-1885) started the network of organized postal system with postal markings. In 1879 the postal service was made available to the general public. At that time some 40 Post Offices were in existence.



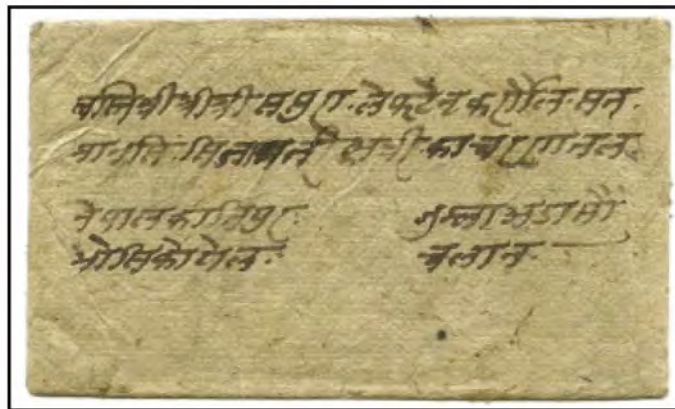


Pre-philatelic era, hand-dated postmark “Mahasul-Chukti ½ Anna” (Fee Paid ½ Anna)

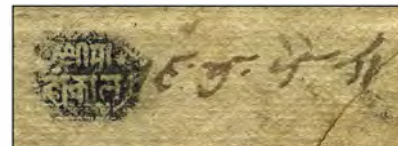
July 1880, cover from Jumla to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Kathmandu IV (D 63)



“Mahasul Chukti” endorsement

Manuscript postmark “Mahasul-Chukti 1/2 Anna” combined with postmaster’s seal

Handwritten date in Jumla (top left), dated 37/3/23 BS = July 6, 1880 AD.

Arrival: blue datestamp Kathmandu IV (D 63), dated 37/4/5 BS = July 18, 1880 AD.

In 1879 the postal service was made available to the general public. The senders had to pay postage fee in advance, which was ½ Anna for a standard letter. Government mail was forwarded free of charge.



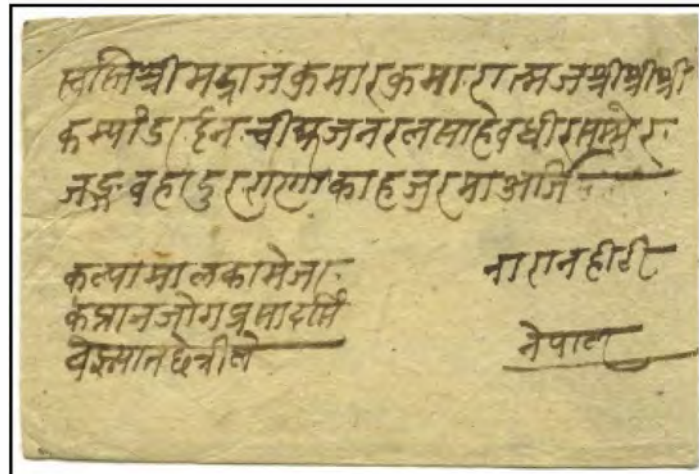


Pre-philatelic era, hand-dated postmark "Kaj Sarkari" (Government letter)

January 1881, cover from Kalaiya to Kathmandu



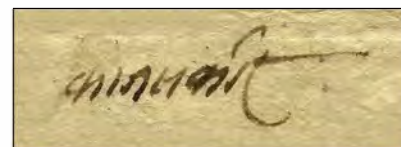
Scan of the reverse side:



Kalaiya (H 3)



Kathmandu IV (D 63)



"Kaj Sarkari" endorsement

Early hand-dated postmark Kalaiya (H 3), dated 37/10/6 BS = Jan. 19, 1881 AD.

Endorsement: "Kaj Sarkari" (Government letter)

From Major Captain Jog Prashad Singh Basnyat in Kalaiya to Commander-in-Chief General Sahib Dhir Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, Narayanhiti Durbar, Kathmandu.

Arrival: blue datestamp Kathmandu IV (D 63), dated 37/10/7 BS = Jan. 20, 1881 AD.





B.1 One, two and four Annas, Printings on European Paper (1881-1885)

The design of the first stamps



first stamp



old Nepalese coat of arms



first postcard

Fortunately I could find an old Nepalese coat of arms that perfectly corresponds to the design of the first stamps and of the first postcard as well. It shows three stylized lotus flowers with a “chakra” (wheel) as a symbol of the Hindu-God Vishnu inside of each. Above the middle chakra the “sirpech” (Crown of Nepal) is arranged, decorated with feathers of the bird of paradise. Beneath these chakras are two crossed “khukris” (Nepalese swords).

The first stamps of Nepal (1 Anna, 2 Annas and 4 Annas) probably were issued on the first day of the Nepali Bikram Sambat year 1938 = April 14, 1881 AD.

The first stamp issue of 1881 pin-perforated

Different colours of the 1, 2 and 4 Annas pin-perforated (No 1 - 3)

1 Anna



ultramarine (No 1)



dull deep blue (No 1a)



milky blue (No 1b)

2 Annas



bright purple (No 2)



pale purple (No 2b)



lilac-purple (not listed)

4 Annas



yellow-green (No 3)



green (No 3a)



pale green (No 3b)





Printings on European paper (1881-1885)
The first stamp issue of 1881 imperforate

used examples:

1 Anna



2 Annas



4 Annas



Kathmandu I (C 65)



Kalaiya II (C 35)



Lyanglyang (C 17)



1 Anna milky blue, Postal seal cancellation Taulihawa (S 5)
Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R!R! greatest rarity (100+ points)"

Different colours of the 1, 2 and 4 Annas imperforate (No 4 - 6)

1 Anna



ultramarine (No 4)



dull deep blue (No 4a)



milky blue (No 4b)

2 Annas



bright purple (No 5)



pale purple (No 5b)



lilac-purple (not listed)

4 Annas



yellow-green (No 6)



green (No 6a)



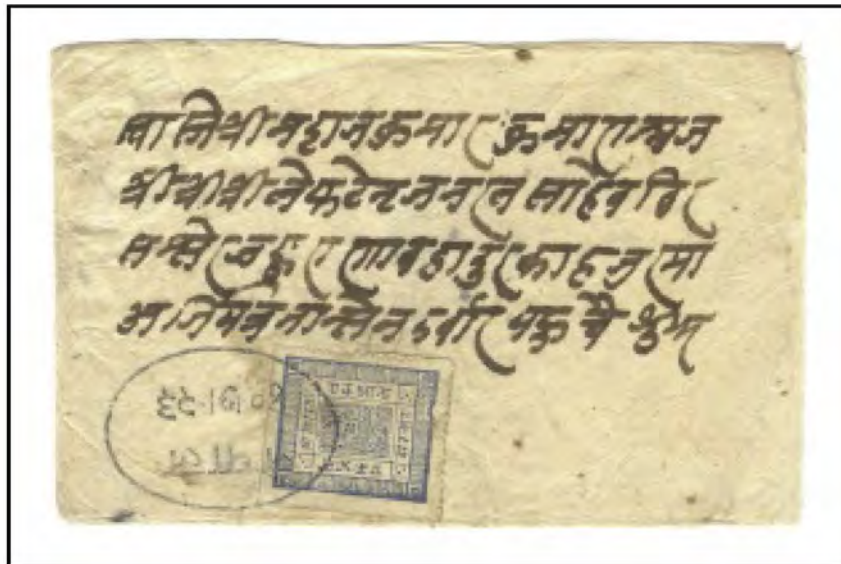
pale green (No 6b)





**1 Anna milky blue pin-perforated, European paper
very rare single-weight cover**

November 1883, cover from Kathmandu to Tansen



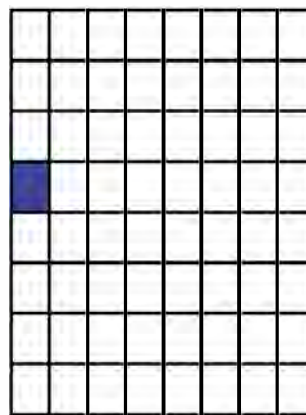
Kathmandu VI (D 65)



Sri Tilak Ram Thapa



cliche 25, double size



position of cliché 25

This cover is addressed to General Bir Shumsher (Prime Minister 1885-1901), Tansen palace, Palpa,

franked with a 1 Anna pin-perforated, milky blue on European paper (No 1b), setting 3,
the stamp shows the flaw "Large Dent" in the bottom margin - cliché 25 of the sheet.

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola (about 11,6 gm).

Cancelled with the datestamp Kathmandu VI (D 65), dated 40/7/23 BS = Nov. 6, 1883 AD.

**This is the first recorded and also very rare usage of this datestamp as a cancellation.
Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R!R! greatest rarity, with not more than 4 covers known" (100+ points)**

Reverse side: seal of the sender "Sri Tilak Ram Thapa".
No receiving mark, since Tansen had no post office then.





1881, 4 Annas yellow-green, imperforate, European paper, Setting 1, no inverted cliche. The only recorded complete sheet

चा र आ ने टे क ट् सो ङ रु पै जां को .

को .



चा र

रु पै जां



आ ने

सो ङ



टे क ट्

टे क ट्



सो ङ

आ ने



रु पै जां

चा र



को .

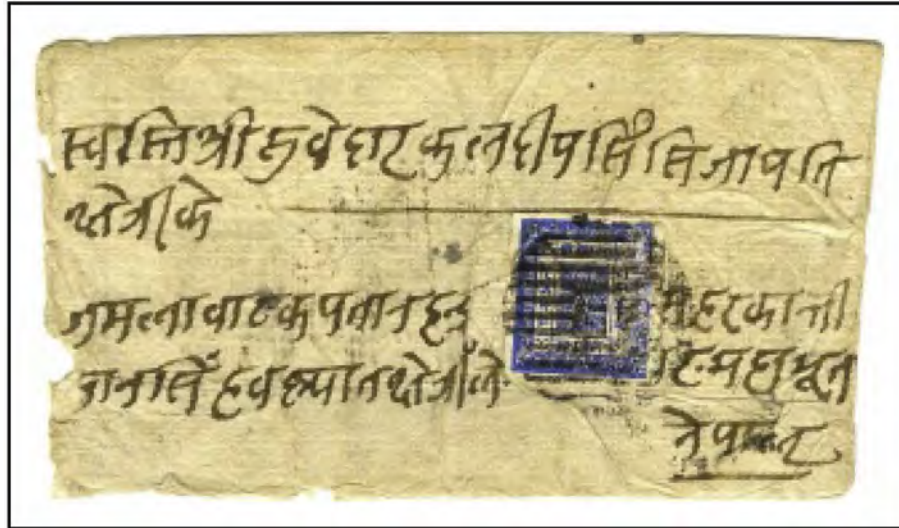


चा र आ ने टे क ट् सो ङ रु पै जां को .



1 Anna ultramarine imperforate, European paper exceptionally rare single-weight cover

April 1882, cover from Jumla to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Jumla (C 14)



Jumla datestamp original size



Jumla datestamp original size



Kathmandu V (D 64)

1 Anna imperforate, ultramarine on European paper (No 4), setting 1

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola (about 11,6 gm).

Strike of the uncommon standard circular cancellation Jumla (C 14).

Dr. Hellrigl: "R! rare" (90 points)

Reverse side:

Unique strike of a previously unreleased Jumla datestamp, dated 38/12/23 BS = April 6, 1882 AD.

No Jumla datestamp before 1887 was recorded till now.

This is the earliest recorded cover dispatched from Jumla.

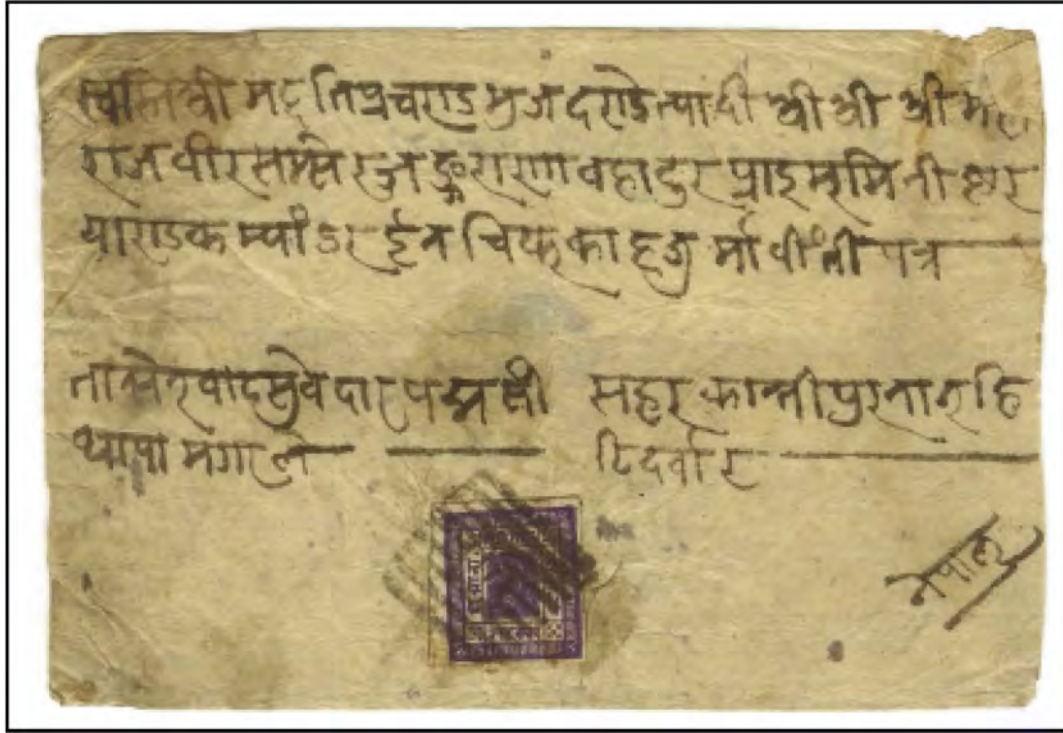
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu V (D 64), dated 39/1/3 BS = April 16, 1882 AD.





**2 Annas bright purple imperforate, European paper
rare double-weight cover**

1885, cover from Palpa to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Palpa (C 81)



Palpa (H 156)

2 Annas imperforate, bright purple (No 5), setting 1-3

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Strike of the standard square cancellation Palpa (C 81).

Only 6 covers are recorded bearing the 2 Annas, European paper.

Reverse side:

Manuscript postmark in a circle Palpa (H 156), dated 42/8/23 BS = Dec. 5, 1885.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu VII (D 66), illegible date.

Handwritten date of arrival, dated 42 Magh 5 day 6 BS = Friday, Jan. 21, 1886 AD.

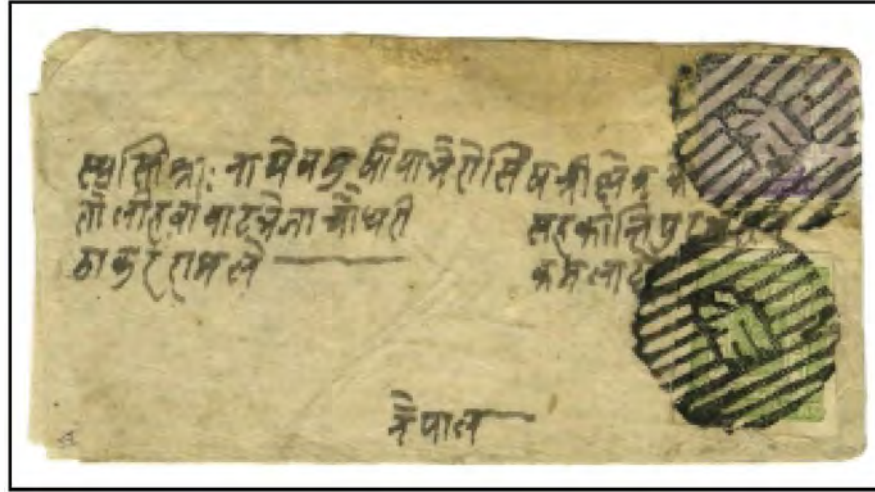
Total transit time 47 days!





2 Annas pale purple and 4 Annas yellow-green imperforate, European paper unique registered single-weight cover

1885, cover from Taulihawa to Kathmandu



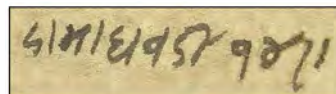
Scan of the reverse side:



Taulihawa (C 21)



Taulihawa postal seal



Handwritten date of arrival: 41 Magh 14

2 Annas imperforate, pale purple (No 5b), setting 1-3,
4 Annas imperforate, yellow-green (No 6), setting 1-2

Postage: 6 Annas (1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard circular cancellation Taulihawa (C 21).

This is the only recorded registered single-weight cover first issue, European paper.

Reverse side:

Postal seal Taulihawa (S 5) with handwritten date 41/9/25 BS = Jan. 8, 1885 AD.

Arrival:

Handwritten date of arrival, dated 41 Magh 14 BS = Jan. 30, 1885 AD.

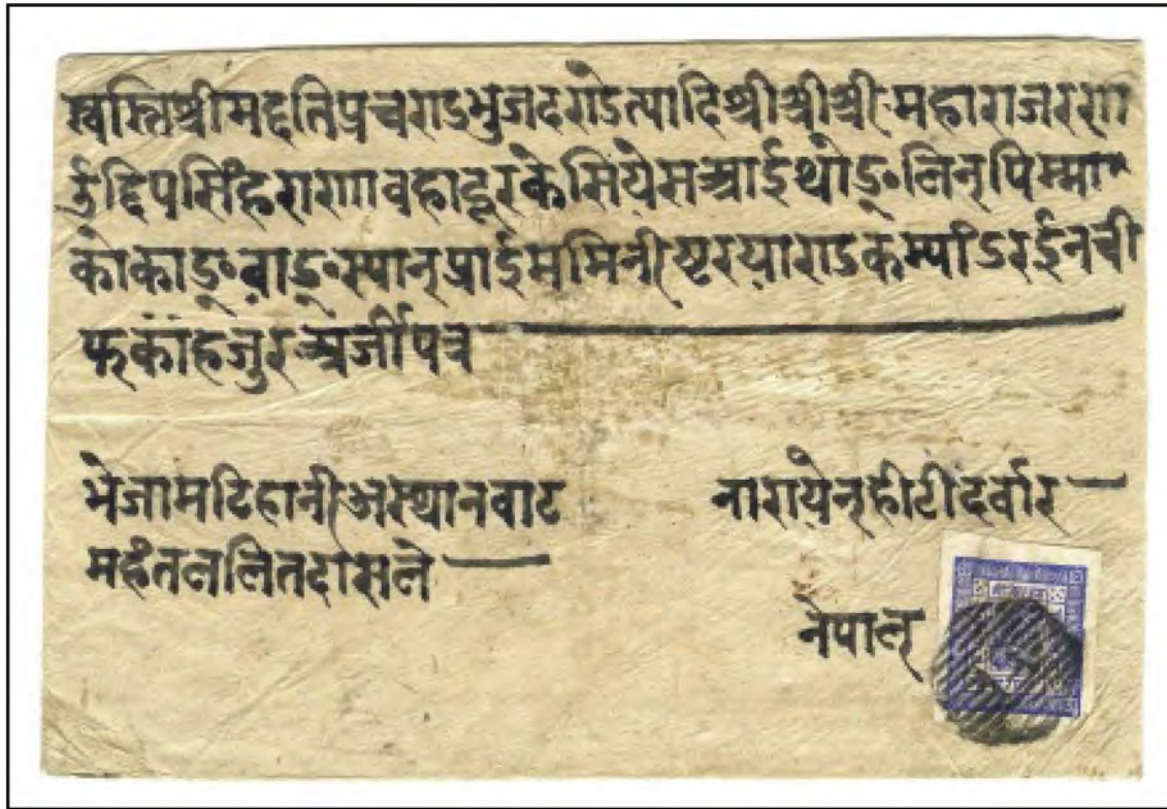
Total transit time 22 days!





1 Anna ultramarine imperforate, European paper
rare single-weight cover

August 1882, cover from Jaleswar to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Jaleswar I (C 51)



Jaleswar (D 16)

1 Anna imperforate, ultramarine on European paper (No 4), setting 1

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the rare standard hexagonal cancellation Jaleswar I (C 51).

Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R! very rare" (100 points)

Reverse side:

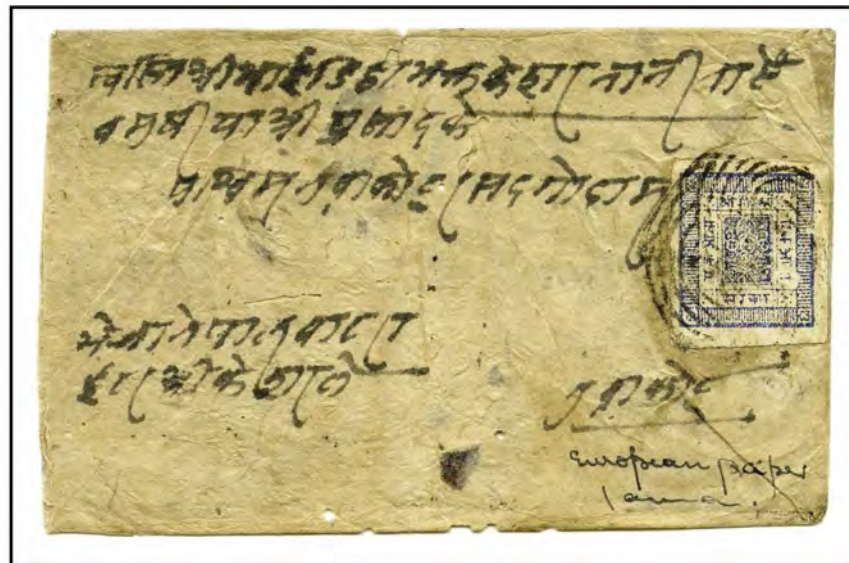
Datestamp Jaleswar (D 16), dated 39/5/8 BS = Aug. 21, 1882 AD.





1 Anna dull deep blue imperforate, European paper
rare single-weight cover

August 1883, cover from Kathmandu to Trisuli



Scan of the reverse side:



Kathmandu I (C 65)



Kathmandu (D 65)



Trisuli (D 36)

1 Anna imperforate, rare dull deep blue on European paper (No 4a), setting 2

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the non-standard hexagonal cancellation Kathmandu I (C 65).

Reverse side:

Datestamp Kathmandu VI (D 65), dated 40/4/26 BS = August 9, 1883 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Trisuli (D 36), dated 40/4/? BS = August ?, 1883 AD.

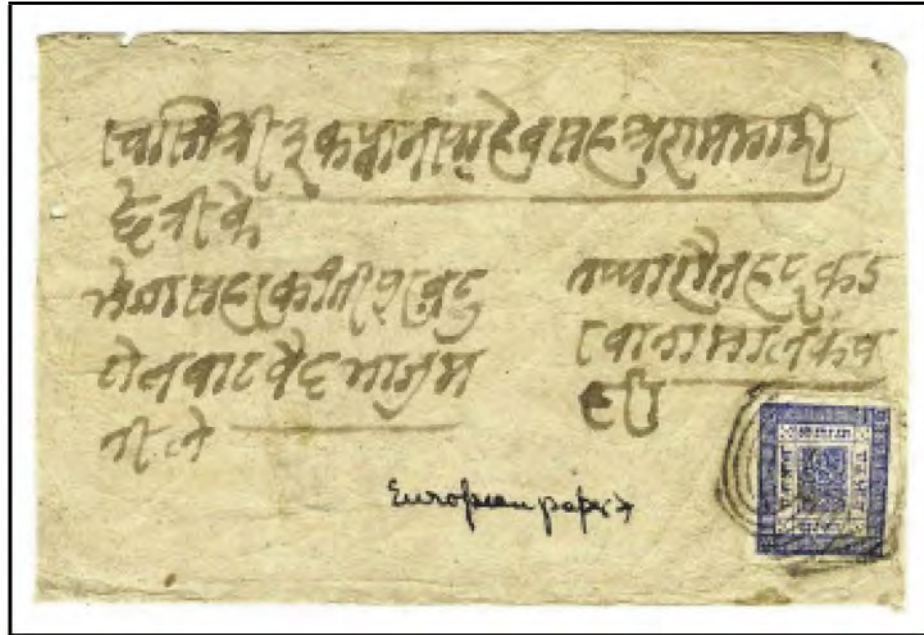
The cover bears the expert's handstamp HEDDERGOTT BPP.





**1 Anna ultramarine imperforate, European paper
single-weight cover**

July 1883, cover from Kathmandu to Rautahat (Kadarban)



Scan of the reverse side:



Kathmandu I (C 65)



Kathmandu (D 65)



Rautahat (D 18)

1 Anna imperforate, ultramarine on European paper (No 4), setting 1

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the non-standard hexagonal cancellation Kathmandu I (C 65).

Rare destination "Rautahat" (Narayani Zone), south-east of Nepal.

Reverse side:

Datestamp Kathmandu VI (D 65), dated 40/3/32 BS = July 15, 1883.

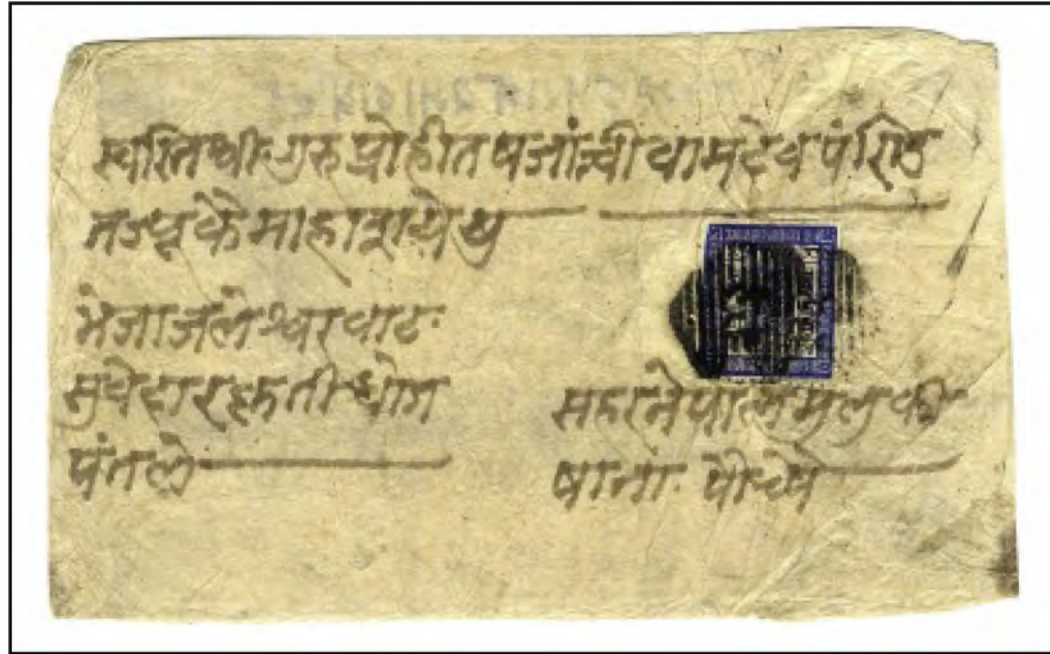
Arrival: datestamp Rautahat (Kardaban) (D 18), dated 40/4/1 BS = July 17, 1883.





**1 Anna ultramarine imperforate, European paper
rare single-weight cover**

May 1882, cover from Jaleswar to Kathmandu



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl

Scan of the reverse side:



Jaleswar I (C 51)



Jaleswar (D 16)



Kathmandu V (D 64)

1 Anna imperforate, ultramarine on European paper (No 4), setting 1

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the rare standard hexagonal cancellation Jaleswar I (C 51).

Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R! very rare" (100 points)

Reverse side:

Datestamp Jaleswar (D 16), dated 39/2/3 BS = May 16, 1882 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu V (D 64), illegible date.





B.2 One, two and four Annas, Printings on Local Paper (1886-1907)

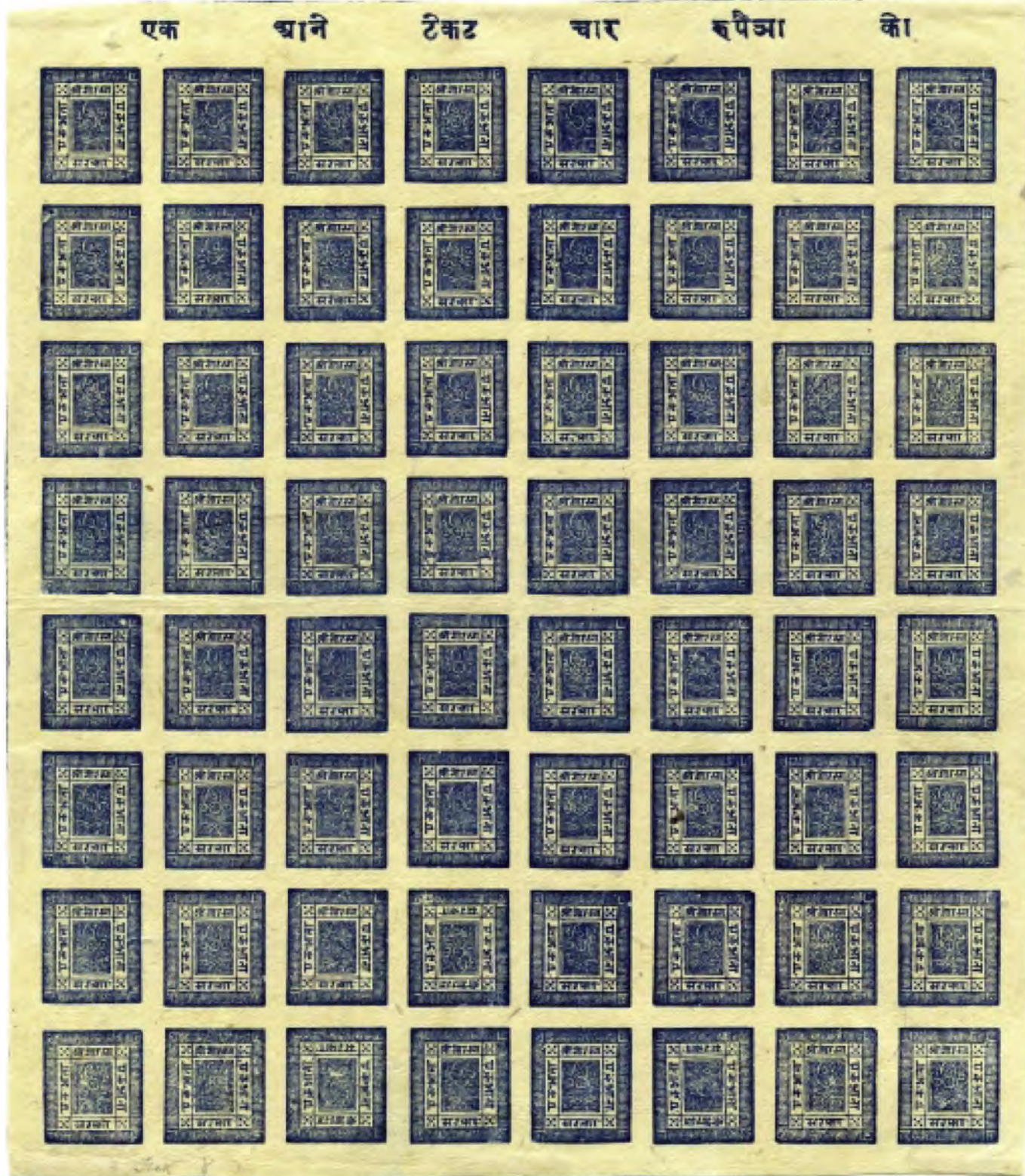
1887-1889, 1 Anna dark blue, imperforate, Setting 8,1 (No 7b), inverted cliches: 52, 59, 62

Medium local paper, unused sheet with full sheet inscriptions.
Setting 8, first state - bottom margin of cliché 18 without blue disc.

Distinctly and visibly flaws:

bottom margin uneven at left - cliché 18
large dent in bottom margin - cliché 25
white disk in top margin - cliché 33

diagonal scratch in left margin - cliché 37
bottom right corner dented - cliché 39
vertical split in top right margin - cliché 48





1890-1894, 2 Annas violet, imperforate, Setting 7 (No 12), inverted cliché: 21

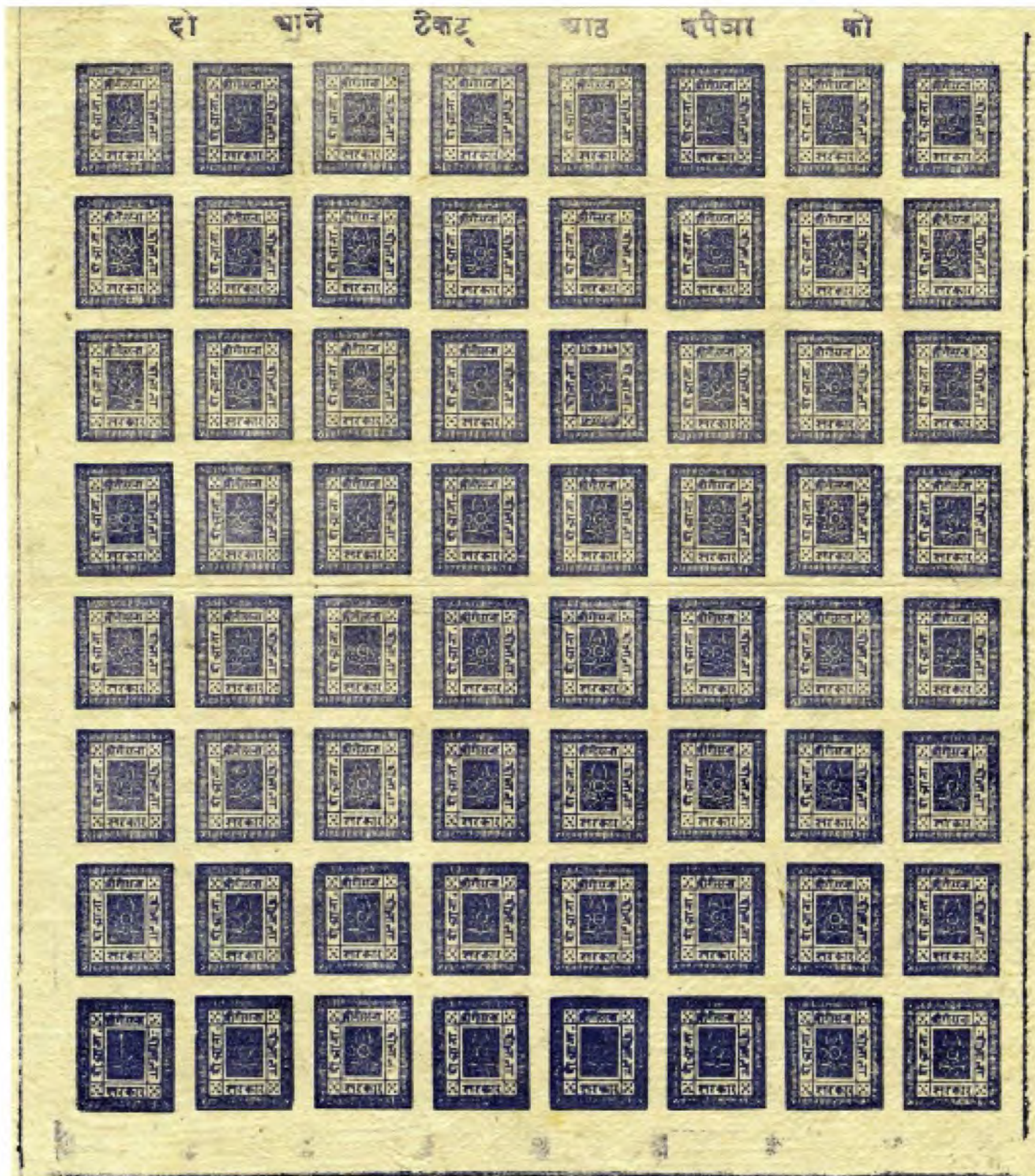
Medium to thick local paper, unused sheet with full sheet inscriptions.

Only two complete sheets are recorded of this setting.

Distinctly and visibly flaws:

large dent in left margin - cliché 8
top left corner broken - cliché 51

dent in left margin - cliché 58
NA of ANNA, right side, partly missing - cliché 59



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





1898-1900, 4 Annas green, imperforate, Setting 8 (No 13), inverted cliche: 54

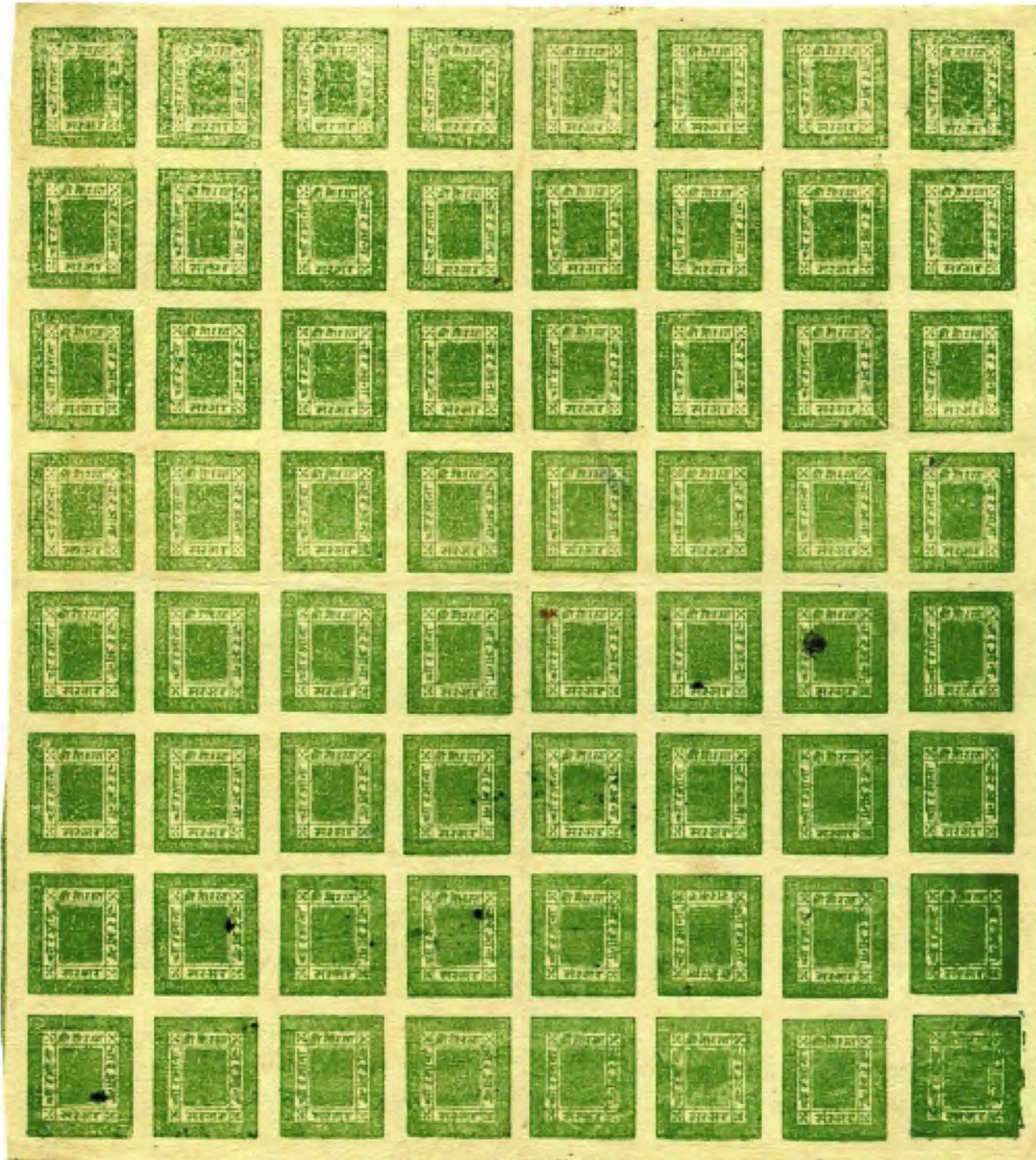
Medium to thick local paper, unused sheet.

The sheet inscriptions at the top were trimmed off, and on the other three sides the sheet was trimmed at the sheet framelines. This practice was applied at the majority of the sheets of this setting.

Distinctly and visibly flaws:

flattened bottom left corner - cliche 1
horizontal split - cliche 2

top margin curved - cliche 22
top right corner flattened - cliche 25



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





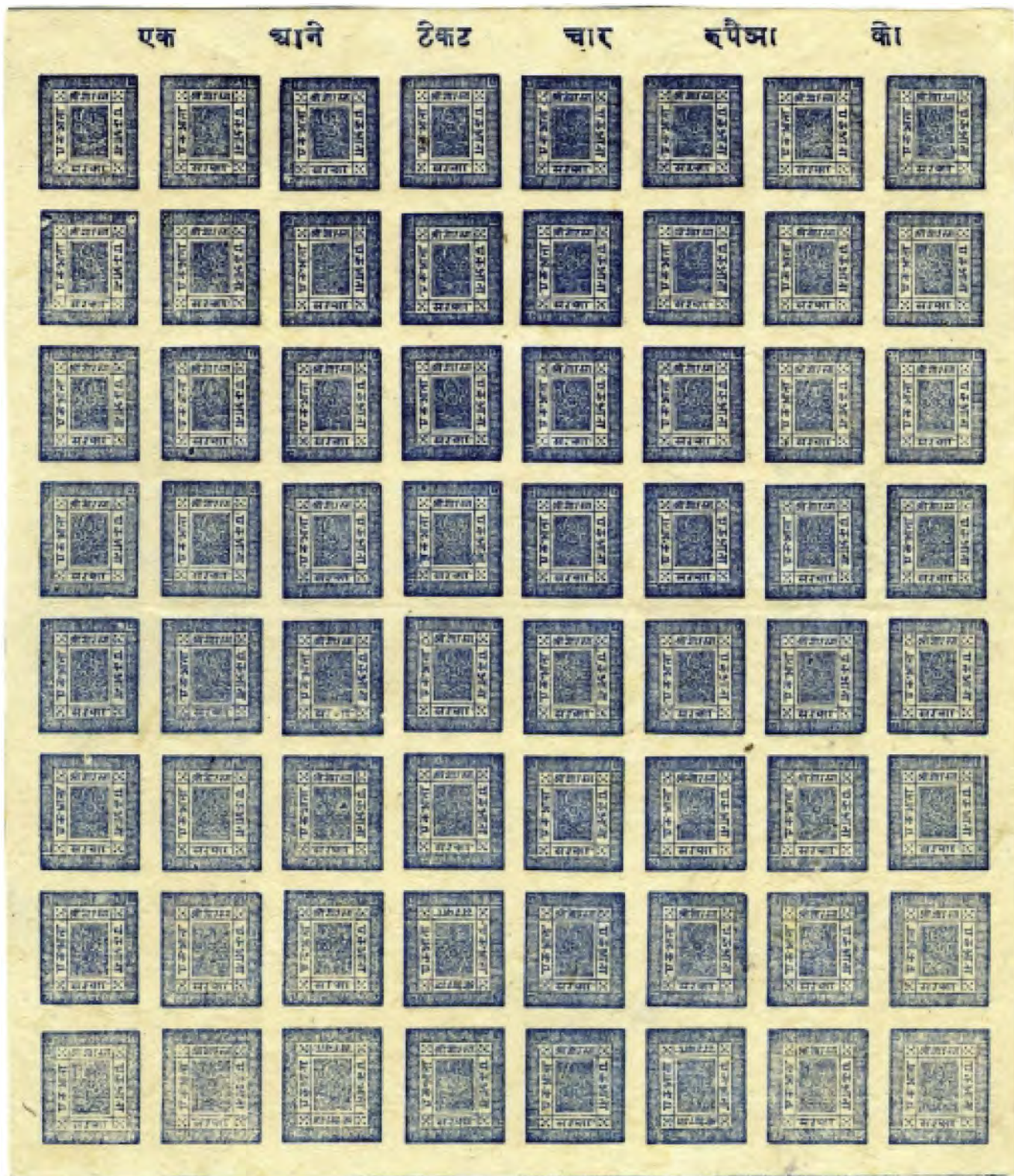
1887-1889, 1 Anna grey-blue, imperforate, Setting 8,2 (No 7), inverted cliches: 52, 59, 62

Medium local paper, unused sheet with full sheet inscriptions.
Setting 8, second state - bottom margin of cliché 18 shows a blue disc.

Setting 8,
first state,
shows cliché 18
without blue disc
(double size)



Setting 8,
second state,
shows cliché 18
with a blue disc
(double size)



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl

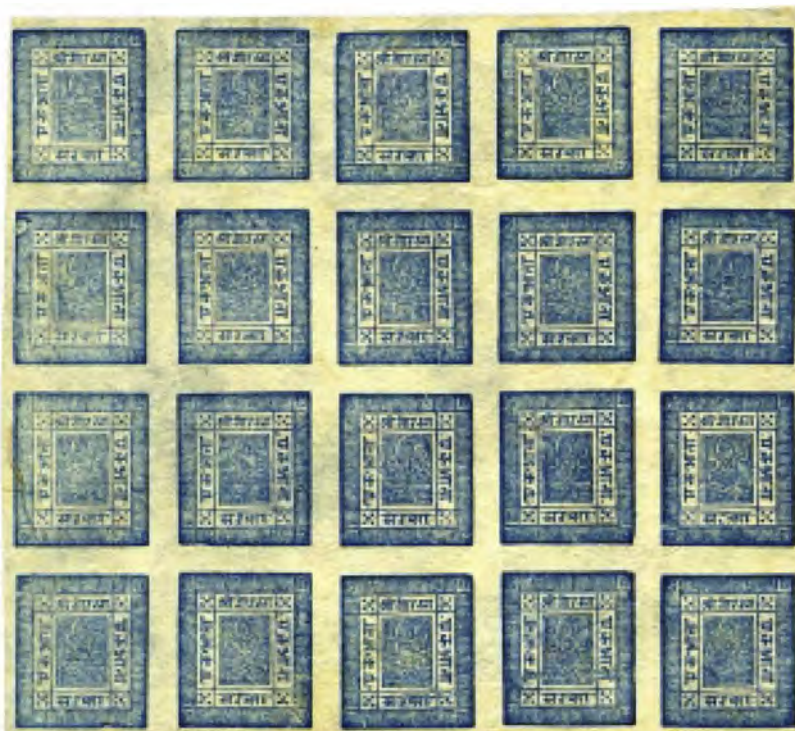
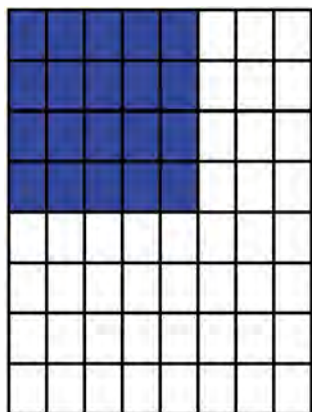




1886-1898, Printings on Local paper of good quality, 1 Anna, imperforate

different states

(the significant differences of cliche 18 were never recorded before)



1886-1889, grey-blue, No 7, setting 8 first state, clear printing, cliches 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, 25-29, cliche 18: bottom margin without blue disc.



1889-1898, grey-blue, No 11, blurred printing, cliches 17-21, 25-29, cliche 18: bottom margin with blue disc.

1889-1898, dark blue, No 11d, blurred printing, cliches 2-3, 10-11, 18-19, 26-27, cliche 18: bottom margin with blue disc.

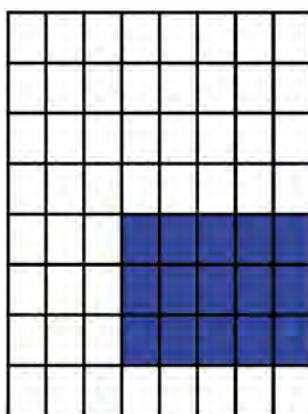




1886-1898, Printings on Local paper of good quality, 1 Anna, imperforate
different states



1886-1889, grey-blue, No 7, setting 8,
clear printing, cliches 36-40, 44-48, 52-56,
cliche 37 - diagonal scratch in left margin,
cliche 48 - vertical split in top right margin,
cliche 52 - inverted.



1886-1889, grey-blue, No 7, setting 8,
very clear printing, cliches 38-40, 46-48,
cliche 48 - vertical split in top right margin.



1891-1892, dark blue, No 11d, setting 9,
blurred printing, cliches 2-4, 10-12.
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





1886-1898, Printings on Local paper of good quality, 2 Annas and 4 Annas, imperforate
different states



1886-1889, 2 Annas violet, No 8, setting 6,
cliches 1-3, 9-11, 17-19.



1886-1889, 2 Annas violet, No 8, setting 6,
cliches 5-8, 13-16.



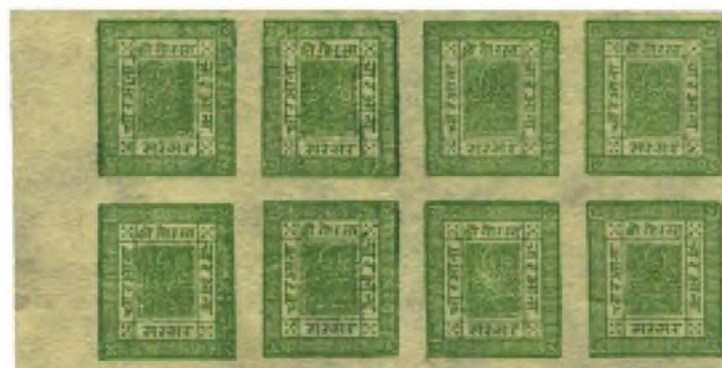
1886-1889, 2 Annas violet, No 8, setting 6,
cliches 21-24, 29-32,
only 1 inverted cliche in the sheet: cliche 21.



1886, 2 Annas deep blue, No 9 (error of colour),
Setting 5, cliches 3-4, 11-12.
**Extremely rare deep blue colour, which only appears in
this setting 5, in contrast to Setting 6 which shows the
sheet inscription shifted 6 mm to the right - see above.**



1886-1889, 4 Annas green, No 10b, setting 3,
clear printing.



1889-1898, 4 Annas yellow-green, No 13b, setting 4,
cliches 9-12, 17-20.





1886-1898, Printings on Local paper of good quality, 1 Anna, 2 Annas and 4 Annas, imperforate
tête-bêche pairs



1888-1892, 1 Anna blue, No 11c,
setting 8-9, cliches 59-60 **with gum**,
inverted cliche: 59.

**Dr. Hellrigl: "Classic stamps on native paper with gum are extremely rare.
This is the only known tête-bêche pair on native paper with gum."
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl**



1888-1892, 1 Anna blue, No 11c,
setting 8-10, cliches 59-60,
inverted cliche: 59.
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



1888-1892, 1 Anna dark blue, No 11e,
setting 8-9, cliches 51-52,
inverted cliche: 52.
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



1890-1898, 2 Annas violet, No 12a
setting 7-9, cliches 21-22,
inverted cliche: 21.
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



1890-1898, 2 Annas grey-violet, No 12c
setting 7-9, cliches 20-21,
inverted cliche: 21.



1886-1900, 4 Annas green, No 13a
setting 4-8, cliches 53-54,
only 1 inverted cliche in the sheet: 54.
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



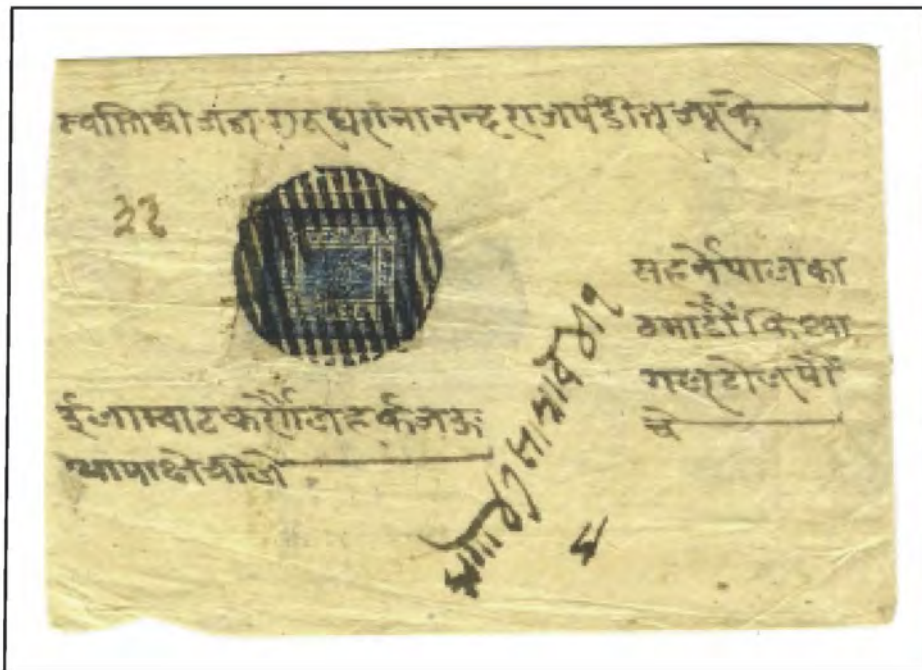
1886-1900, 4 Annas yellow-green, No 13c
setting 4-8, cliches 54-55,
only 1 inverted cliche in the sheet: 54.





1 Anna, Printing on Local paper of good quality
very rare single-weight cover

April 1890, cover from Ilam to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Ilam (C 13)



Kathmandu IV (D 63)



1 Anna imperforate, grey-blue, early printing,
on Local paper of good quality (No 7), setting 4-8

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the very rare standard circular cancellation Ilam (C 13).
Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R!R! greatest rarity, with not more than 4 covers known" (100+ points)

Handwritten date: 47 / Baisakh 4/1 BS = Sunday, April 17, 1890 AD.

Reverse side:

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu IV (D 63),
dated 47/2/2 BS = May 15, 1890 AD.

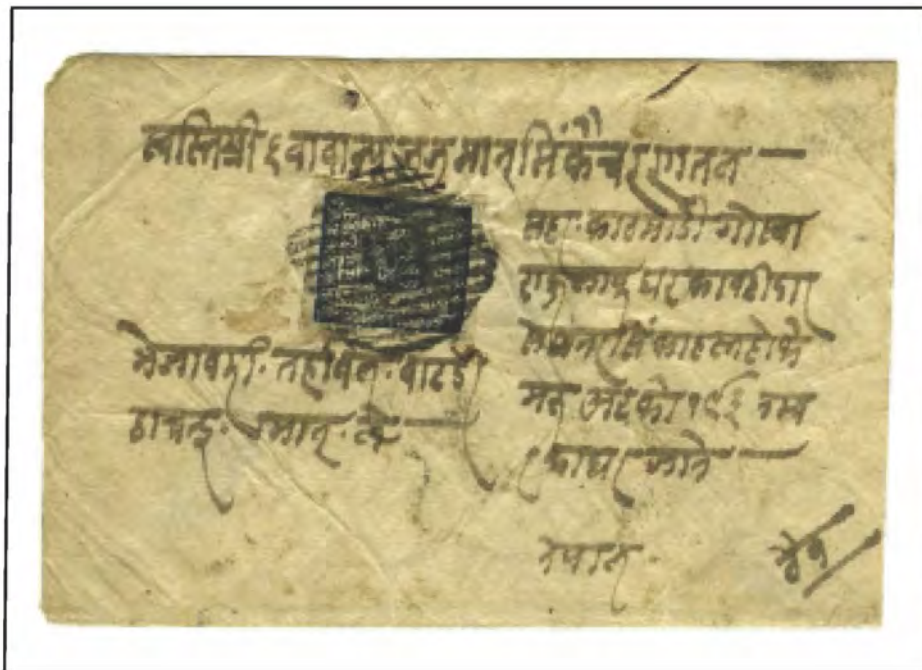
Total transit time 28 days.





1 Anna, Printing on Local paper of good quality
rare single-weight cover

September 1892, cover from Doti to Kathmandu



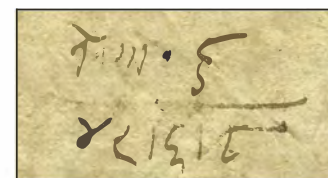
(Cert) by Geoffrey Flack



Doti (C 12)



Doti (H 141)



Kathmandu (H 22)

1 Anna imperforate, steel-blue, late printing,
on Local paper of good quality (No 11d), setting 9-17

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the standard circular cancellation Doti (C 12).

Reverse side:

Manuscript departure postmark Doti in a circle (H 141),
dated 49/5/26 BS = Sept. 9, 1892.

Arrival: manuscript postmark Kathmandu (H 22),
dated 49/6/8 BS = Sept. 21, 1892.

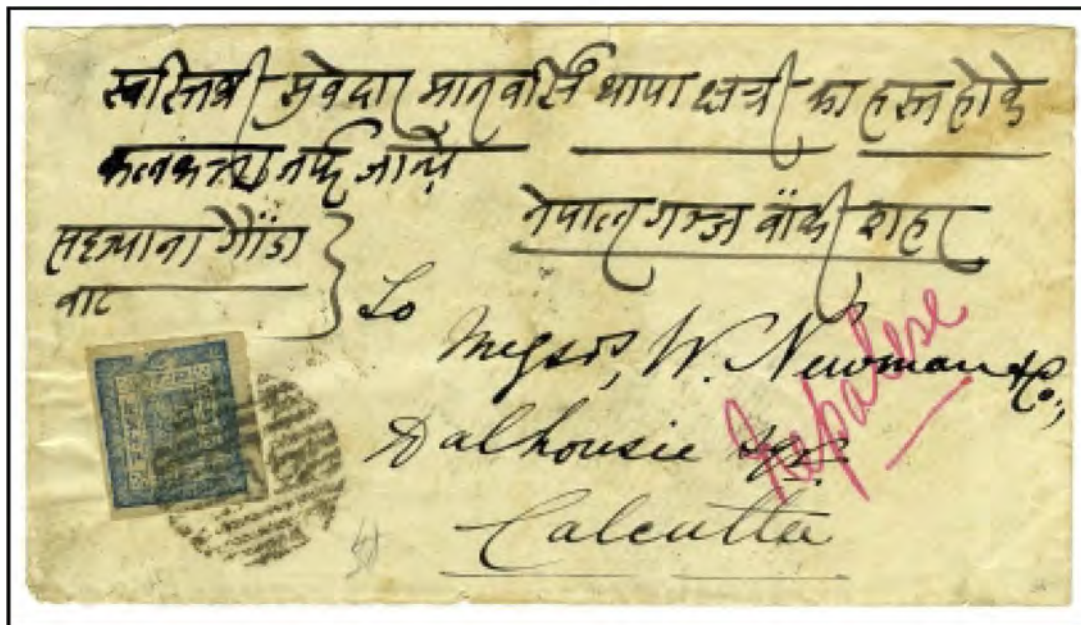
Total transit time 12 days.





Extremely rare Nepal/India combination cover

March 1896, cover from Salyan to Calcutta (India)



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl

Scan of the reverse side:



Salyan (C 20)



Salyan (N 49)



Calcutta delivery



Banke (N 3)

This is an early example of an unofficial postal exchange between Nepal and India. The Nepalese stamp paid the postage from Salyan to the Indian border (at Banke), while the Indian stamp paid the postage from there to Calcutta.

Nepal: 1 Anna imperforate, light blue on Local paper of good quality (No 11),
India: ½ Anna deep blue green, 1882-1888 issue (SG No 84).

Strike of the standard circular cancellation Salyan (C 20).

Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmark Salyan (N 49), dated 52/11/30 BS = March 13, 1896 AD,
negative hand-dated postmark Banke (N 3), undated,
illegible grid cancellation covering the Indian stamp,
a faint strike of a datestamp (Dr. Hellrigl: "probably Jamnaha or Rupaidiha"),
two strikes of the Calcutta delivery datestamp, dated March 17, 1896.

Dr. Hellrigl: "Commercial combination covers of this period are extremely rare, particularly if they are addressed to a place other than Kathmandu."





Printings on Local paper of good quality
registered single-weight cover

July 1893, cover from Dhankuta to Kathmandu



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



Dhankuta (C 10)



Dhankuta (N 21)



Kathmandu XII (D 72)

This cover is addressed to Maharaja Bir Shumsher Jung Rana (Prime Minister 1885-1901),

franked with 2 Annas imperforate, violet (No 12),
4 Annas imperforate, yellow-green (No 13b),
late printings on Local paper of good quality.

Postage: 6 Annas (1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strike of the standard circular cancellation Dhankuta (C 10).

Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmark Dhankuta (N 21),
dated 50/4/8 BS = July 21, 1893 AD.

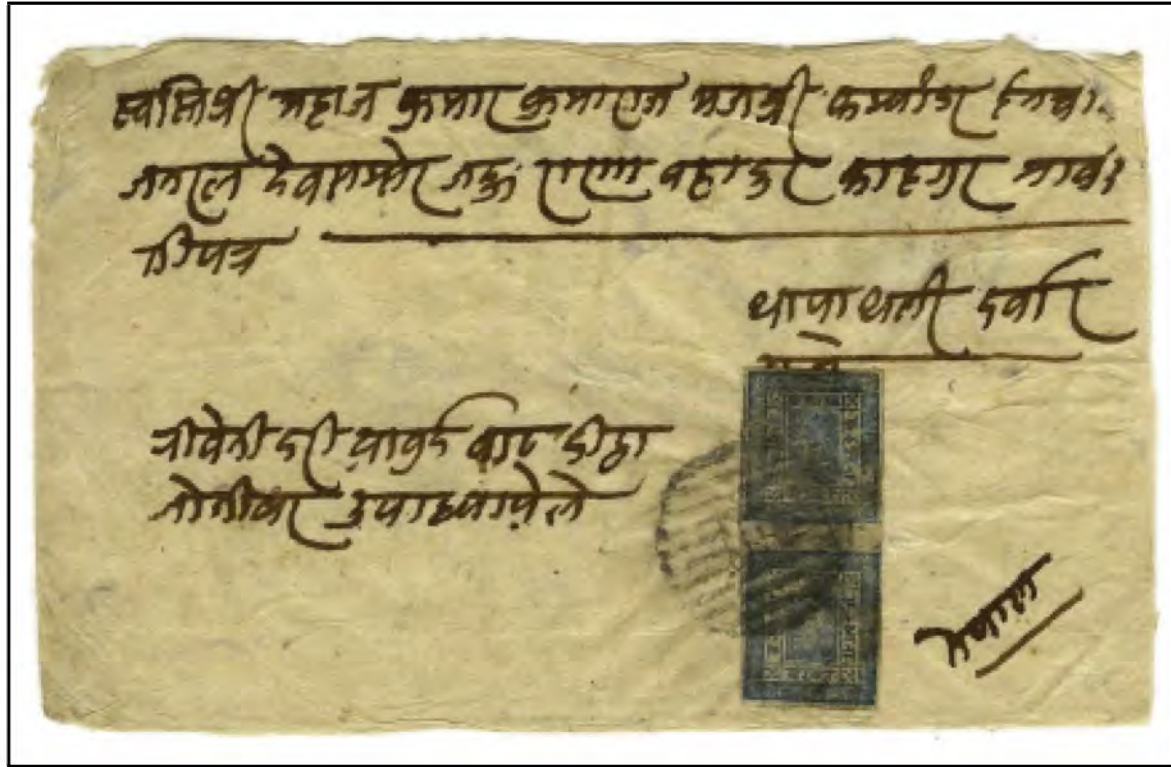
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XII (D 72), illegible date.





1 Anna, Printing on Local paper of good quality
rare double-weight cover

October 1898, cover from Bhagwanpur to Kathmandu



Bhagwanpur (C 4)



Bhagwanpur (N 7)



Parasi (N 42)



Palpa (N 41)



Kathmandu XV (D 75)

Pair of the 1 Anna imperforate, grey-blue,
late printing on Local paper of good quality (No 11).

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Strike of the standard circular cancellation Bhagwanpur (C 4).

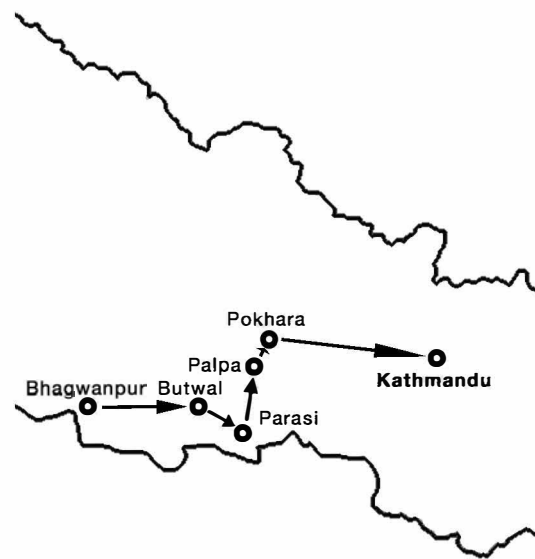
Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmark Bhagwanpur (N 7),
dated 55/6/30 BS = Oct. 13, 1898 AD.

Negative hand-dated postmark Parasi (Ramgram) (N 42),
dated 55/6/30 BS = Oct. 13, 1898 AD.

Negative hand-dated postmark Palpa (N 41),
dated 55/7/2 BS = Oct. 15, 1898 AD.

Arrival: Kathmandu datestamp XV (D 75),
dated 55/7/12 BS = Oct. 25, 1898 AD.



Postal route:
from Bhagwanpur on a previously
unreleased route via Parasi (Ramgram) to
Palpa, thereafter to Pokhara (no postmark)
and finally to the destination Kathmandu.





Printings on Local paper of good quality
registered single-weight cover

November 1887, cover from Dhankuta to Kathmandu



Dhankuta (C 10)



Dhankuta (D 9)



Kathmandu XI (D 70)

Registered cover

franked with 2 Annas imperforate, violet (No 8),
4 Annas imperforate, yellow-green (No 10),
early printings on Local paper of good quality.

Postage: 6 Annas (1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard circular cancellation Dhankuta (C 10).

Reverse side:

Datestamp Dhankuta (D 9), dated 44/7/25 BS = Nov. 8, 1887.

Arrival:

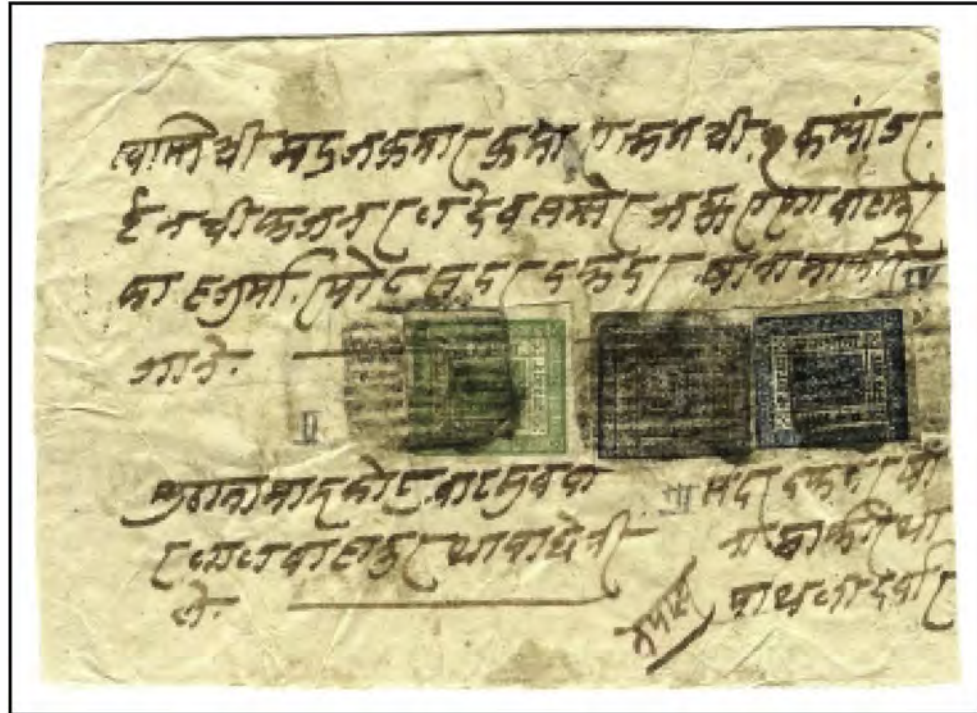
Datestamp Kathmandu XI (D 70), dated 44/7/30 BS = Nov. 13, 1887.





**Printings on Local paper of good quality
rare registered double-weight cover - three colour franking**

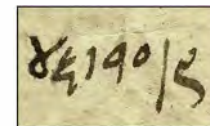
January 1890, cover from Pyuthan to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Pyuthan (C 84)



Handwritten date of departure: 46/10/9

This cover is addressed to Commander-In-Chief General Deva Shumsher Rana
(Prime Minister 1901), Thapathali Palace, Kathmandu,

franked with 1 Anna imperforate, dark blue (No 7b),
2 Annas imperforate, violet (No 8),
4 Annas imperforate, yellow-green (No 10),
early printings on Local paper of good quality.

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tola, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard square cancellation Pyuthan (C 84).

Reverse side: another strike of the Pyuthan standard square cancellation (C 84).

Handwritten date of departure: 46/10/9 BS = Jan. 22, 1890.





**Printings on Local paper of good quality
local cover with a three colour franking**

December 1893, cover from Kathmandu to Kathmandu

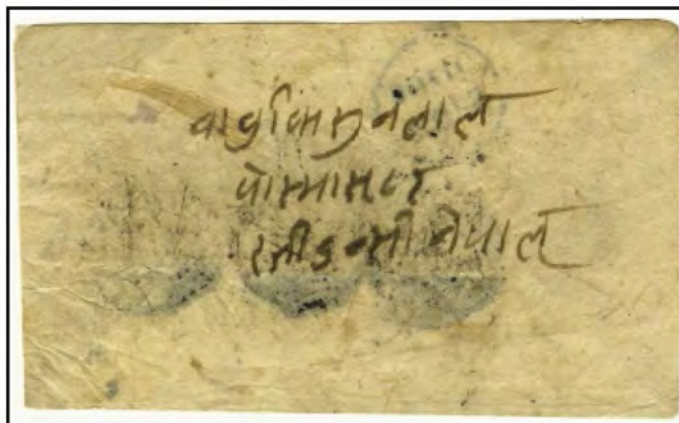


(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl

Scan of the reverse side:



Kathmandu II (C 70)



Kathmandu XIII (D 73)

Local cover with a three colour franking:

- 1 Anna imperforate, dark blue (No 11),
 - 2 Annas imperforate, violet (No 12),
 - 4 Annas imperforate, yellow-green (No 10),
- printings on Local paper of good quality.

Dr. Hellrigl:

“Although the rate corresponds to a registered double-weight letter,
the cover appears to be philatelically inspired. It nevertheless represents a scarce use.”

Strikes of the heptagonal cancellation Kathmandu II (C 70).

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XIII (D 73),
dated 50/9/1 BS = Dec. 14, 1893 AD.

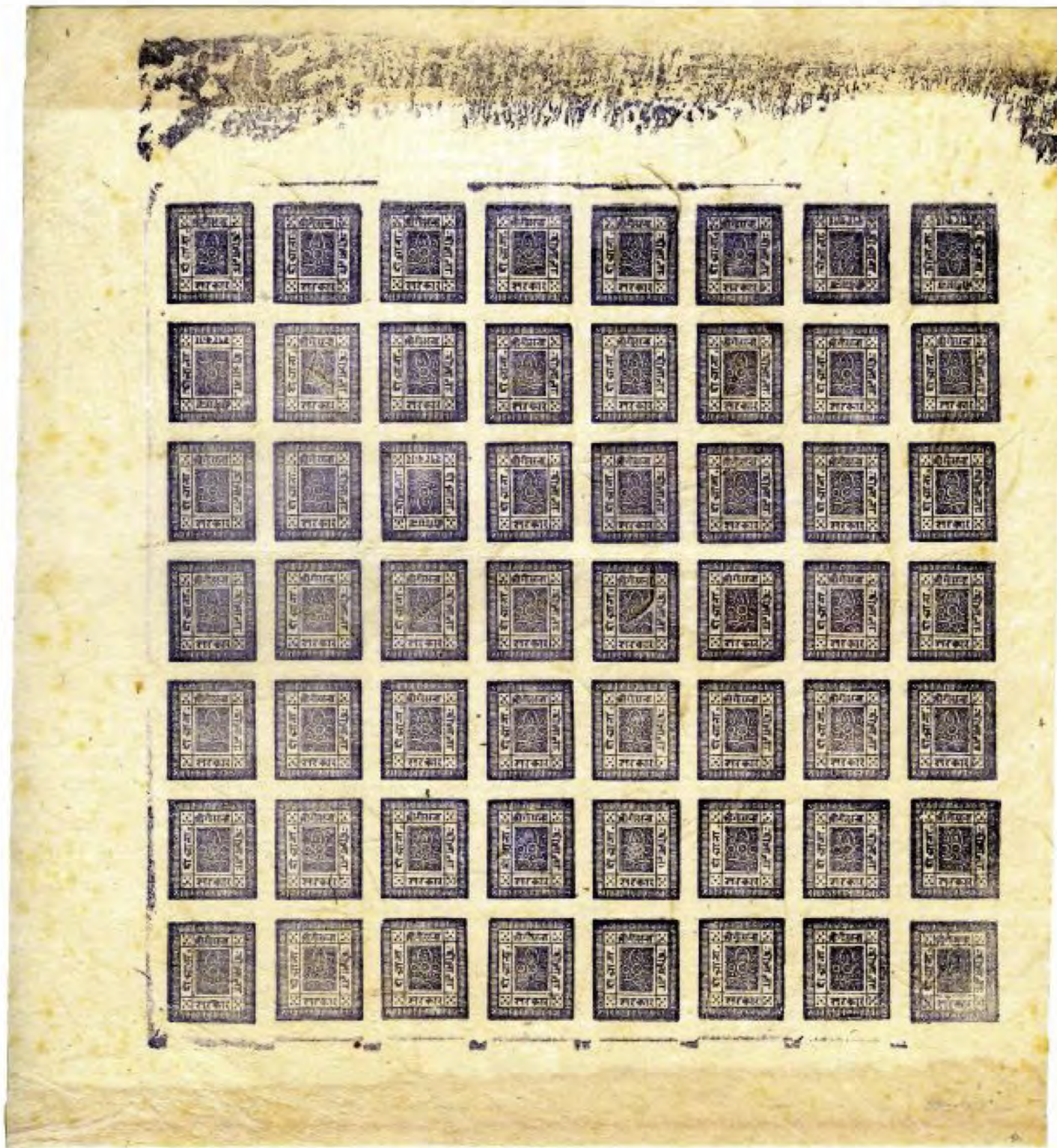




**Printings on Local paper of poor quality
1905-1906, 2 Annas violet, imperforate, Setting 20 (No 16)**

Inverted cliches: 7, 8, 9, 19.

The sheet is reduced to the top 7 rows, i.e. 56 stamps. 4 unused sheets are recorded.





1898-1907, Printings on Local paper of poor quality, 1 Anna, 2 Annas and 4 Annas

imperforate and pin-perforated, different colours



Tête-bêche pair, imperforate, 1 Anna blue (No 14)



Tête-bêche pair, imperforate, 2 Annas rosy mauve (No 17b)



Tête-bêche pair, imperforate, 4 Anna yellow-green (No 18)

1 Anna pin-perforated:



blue (No 19)



1899, 1 Anna bluish green, No 15, imperforate, setting 21, cliches 42-43, 50-51, inverted cliche: 51

2 Annas pin-perforated:



violet (No 21)



bluish green (No 20)



light violet blue (No 21b)



grey-green (No 20b)



1899-1900, 4 Annas yellow-green, No 22, pin-perforated, setting 9, cliches 6-8



purple (No 21f)



1899-1901, 4 Annas dark green, No 18b, imperforate, setting 9-11, cliches 4-8, 12-16, all stamps bear the expert's handstamp HEDDERGOTT BPP on the reverse.





1 Anna, Printing on Local paper of poor quality
Cover with a rare postal route

May 1908, Cover from Dandeldhura to Kathmandu



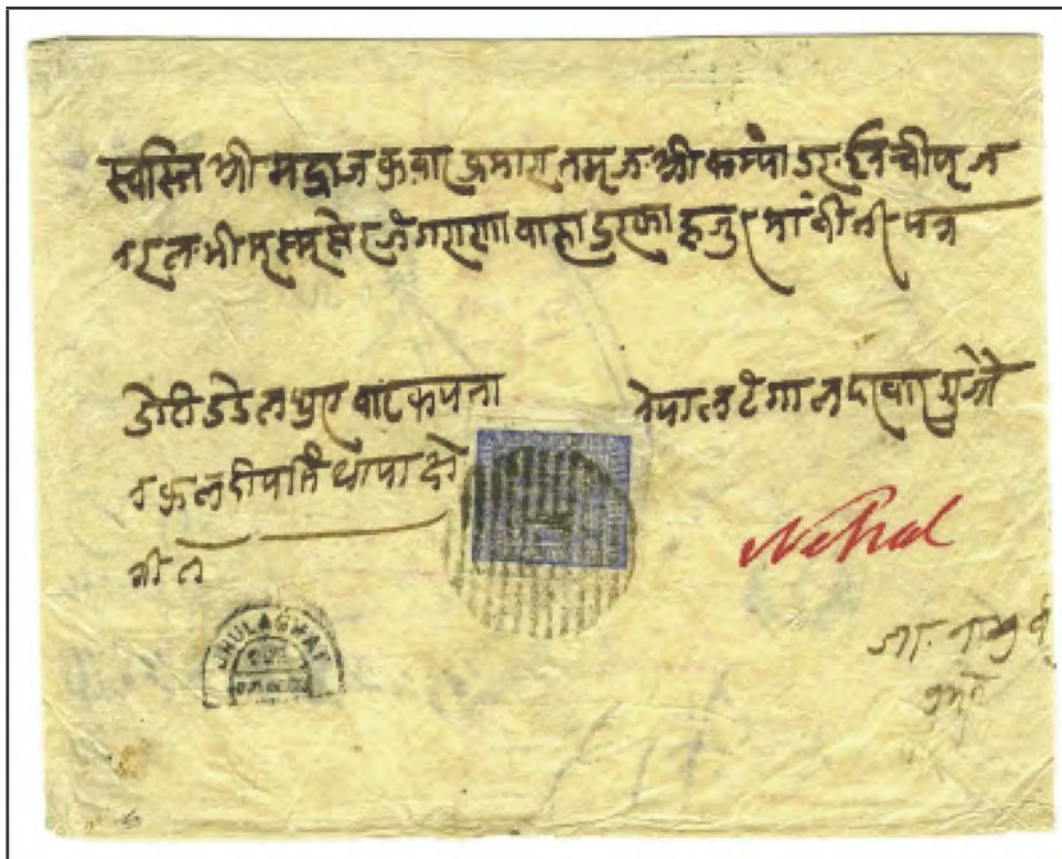
Dandeldhura (C 9)



Dandeldhura (N 20)



Jhulaghat/Almora



Postage-due fee



Motihari



Nepal Residency



Cover with a rare postal route, franked with a 1 Anna blue (No 14)

Strike of the standard circular cancellation Dandeldhura (C 9).
Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola for the normal internal route via Pokhara.

However, it travelled west, to Baitadi, then crossed into India at Jhulaghat and passed through Almora (India) before re-entering Nepal, at Birganj. In Jhulaghat a postage-due fee (1 Anna) was levied by the British-Indian Post.

Reverse side:

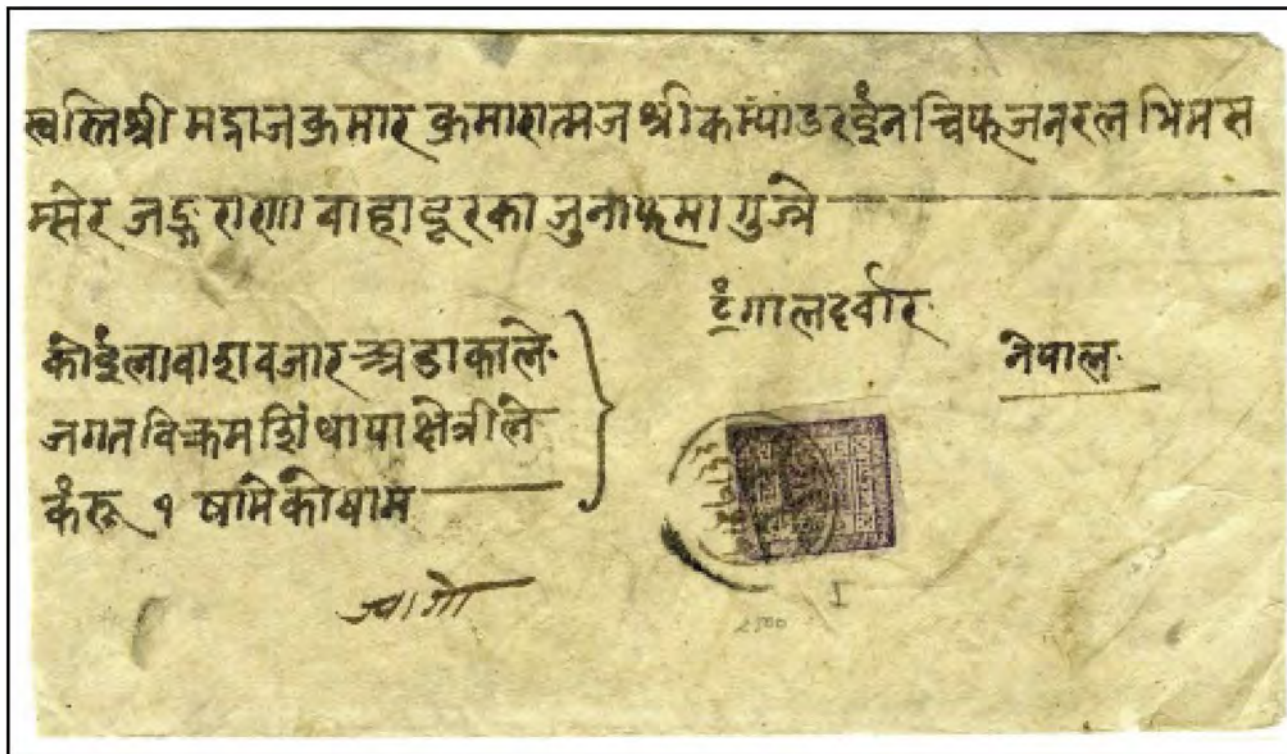
Negative hand-dated postmark Dandeldhura (N 20), dated 65/2/8 BS = May 21, 1908 AD.
British-Indian datestamps: Jhulaghat/Almora, dated May 28, 1908 and Motihari, dated June 1, 1908.
Arrival: datestamp of the Nepal Residency P.O. (B 27), dated June 3, 1908.



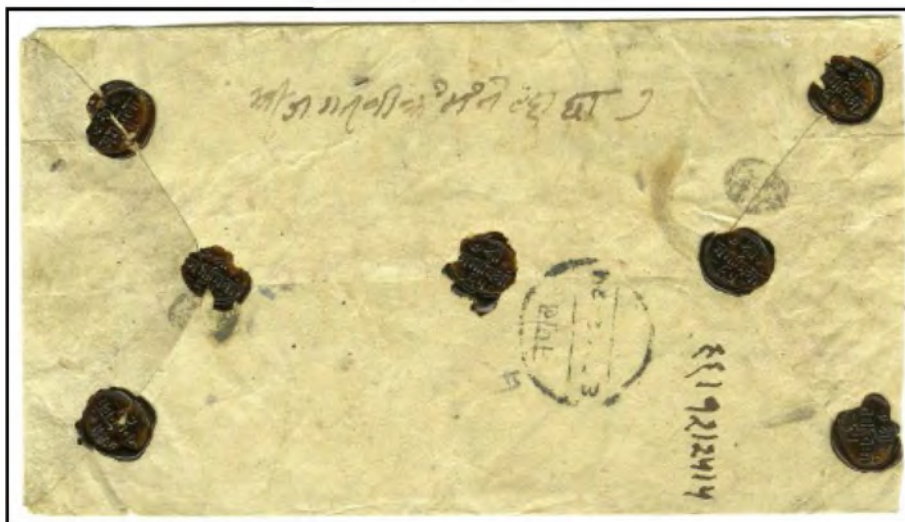


Printings on Local paper of poor quality
rare double-weight cover

March 1910, cover from Banke to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Banke II (N 4)



Kathmandu XVIII (D 79)

This cover is adressed to Sri Commander In Chief,
General Bhim Shumsher Rana (Prime Minister 1929-1931),
franked with 2 Annas imperforate, violet on Local paper (No 16).

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Cancelled with the negative hand-dated postmark Banke II (N 4),
dated 66/12/17 BS = March 31, 1910 AD.

Reverse side:

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79), dated 66/12/25 BS = April 8, 1910 AD.

Rare late usage since the Pashupati stamps were issued on October 16, 1907.



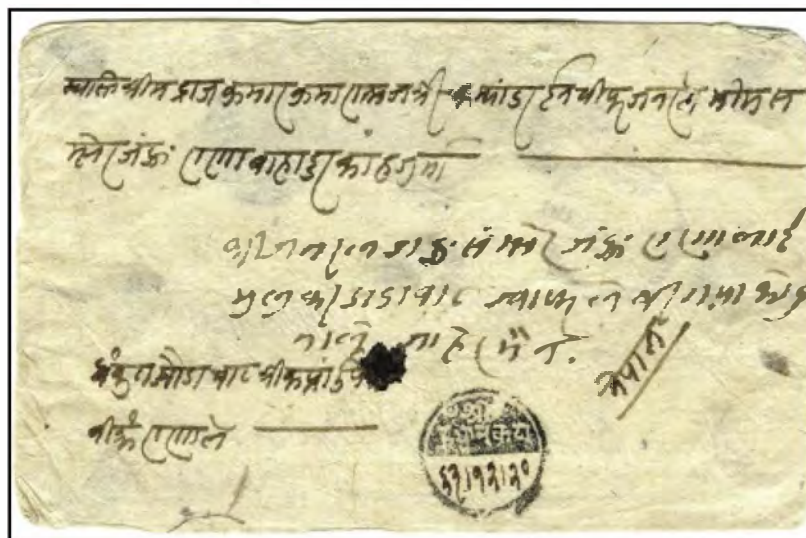


Printings on Local paper of poor quality registered single-weight cover

April 1907, cover from Dhankuta to Kathamandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Dhankuta (C 10)



Dhankuta (N 21)

This cover is addressed to Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Rana (1901-1929), franked with a strip of three 2 Annas imperforate, violet-blue on Local paper (No 16b), **the right stamp is inverted. Tête-bêche pairs on cover are very rare.**

Postage: 6 Annas (1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard circular cancellation Dhankuta (C 10).

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79), dated 63/12/24 BS = April 7, 1907 AD.

Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmark Dhankuta (N 21), dated 63/12/20 BS = April 3, 1907 AD.

The new Sri Pashupati stamps were issued later the very same year.





**Printings on Local paper of poor quality
local covers with a three colour franking**

May 1899, cover from Kathmandu to Kathmandu



Kathmandu III (C 71)



Kathmandu III (C 71)

Pin-perforated stamps: 1 Anna grey-green (No 20b), 2 Annas light violet blue (No 21b), 4 Annas yellow-green (No 22).

Strikes of the octagonal cancellation Kathmandu III (C 71).

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XV (D 75) on the reverse side, dated 56/2/16 BS = May 29, 1899 AD.

June 1901, cover from Kathmandu to Kathmandu



Kathmandu II (C 70)



Kathmandu XVI (D 76)

Imperforate stamps: 1 Anna blue (No 14), 2 Annas violet (No 16b), 4 Annas dark green (No 18b).

Strikes of the heptagonal cancellation Kathmandu II (C 70).

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVI (D 76) on the reverse side, dated 58/2/23 BS = June 6, 1901 AD.

Although the rate of these covers corresponds to a registered double-weight letter, they appear to be philatelically inspired. They nevertheless represent a scarce use.



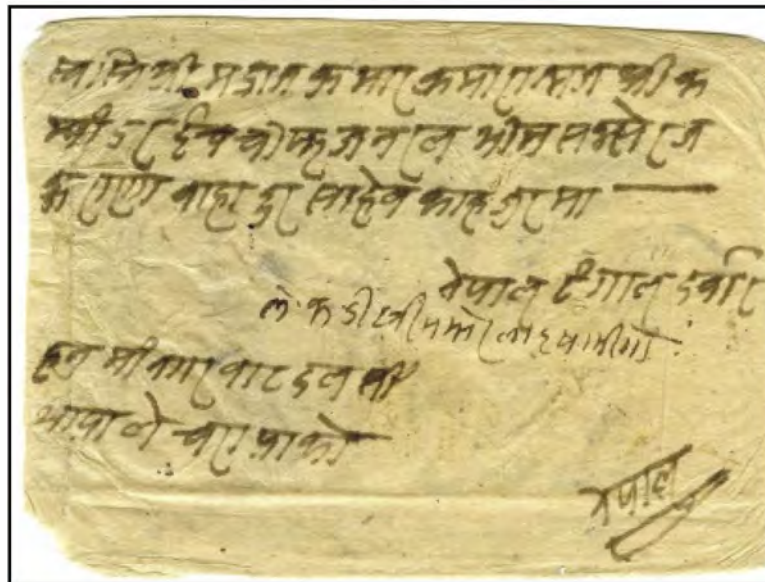


Printings on Local paper of poor quality
rare registered double-weight cover

September 1903, cover from Hanumannagar to Kathamandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Hanumannagar (C 61)



Hanumannagar (N 26)

One pair and one single 1 Anna imperforate, blue on Local paper (No 14),
additional 4 Annas imperforate, yellow-green on Local paper (No 18).

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Anna for a letter up to 2 Tolas, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the non-standard hexagonal cancellation Hanumannagar (C 61).

Negative hand-dated postmark Hanumannagar (N 26), dated 61/6/10 BS = Sept. 23, 1903.

Arrival: datestamp Kathamandu XVIIA (D 78), dated 61/6/17 BS = Sept. 30, 1903.



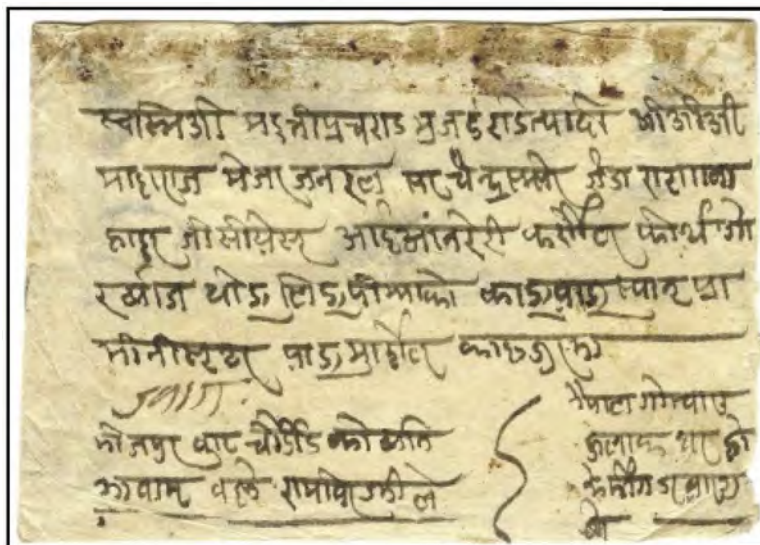


Printings on Local paper of poor quality
rare registered double-weight cover

March 1907, cover from Bhojpur to Kathamandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Bhojpur (C 5)



Bhojpur (N 8)

Strip of three 2 Annas imperforate, grey-lilac on Local paper (No 17),
additional 1 Anna imperforate, recut frame variety, blue on Local paper (No 27).

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Anna for a letter up to 2 Tolas, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard circular cancellation Bhojpur (C 5).

Negative hand-dated postmark Bhojpur (N 8), dated 63/12/3 BS = March 19, 1907 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79), dated 63/12/11 BS = March 24, 1907 AD.

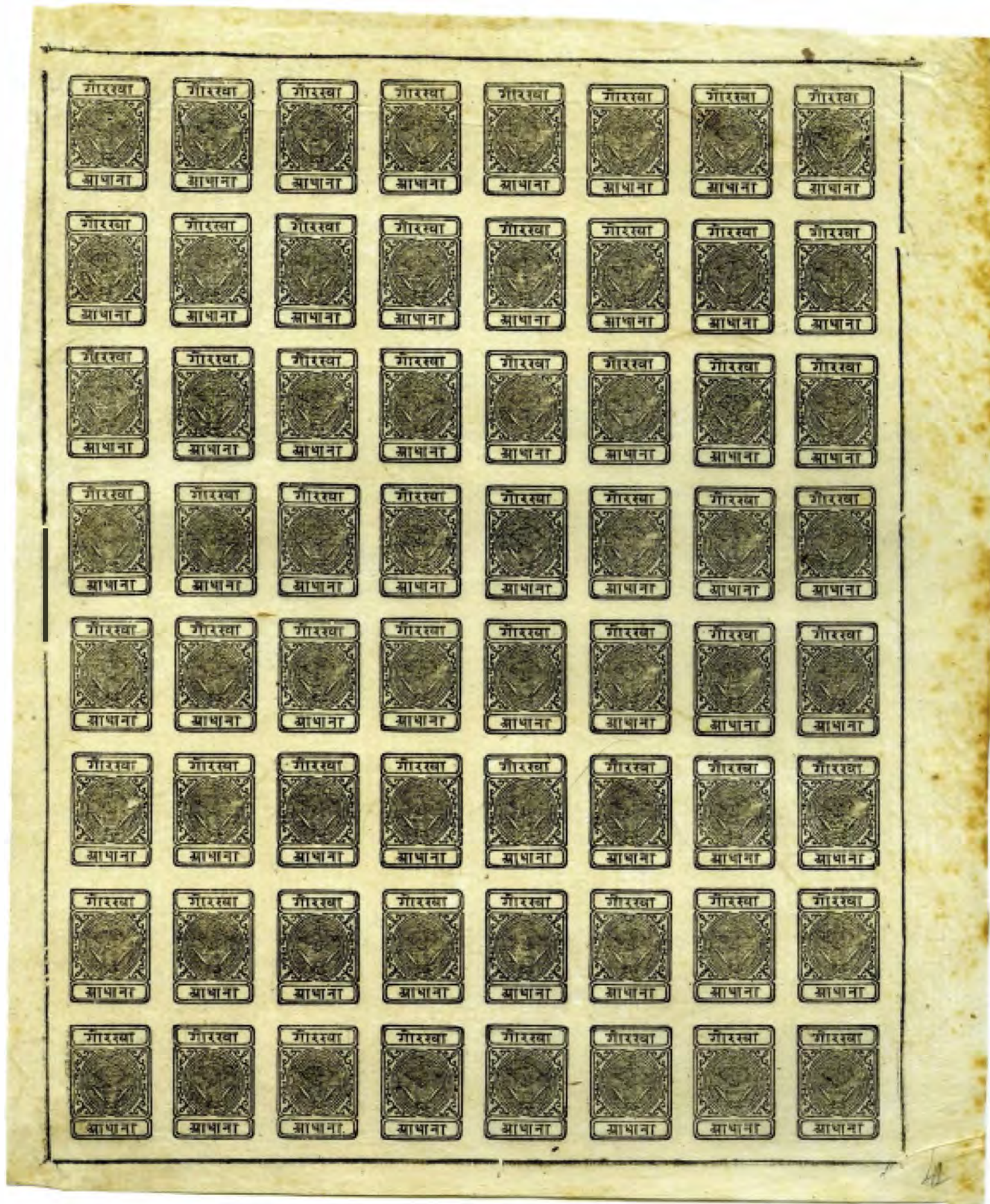
The new Sri Pashupati stamps were issued later the very same year.





B.3 1/2 Anna, Early Printings (1899-1907)

1899, 1/2 Anna black, imperforate, local paper, Setting 1B (No 23). Four complete sheets are recorded





1903, 1/2 Anna black, pin-perforated, local paper, Setting 3 (No 23). Five complete sheets are recorded

This is the first setting of the 1/2 Anna black showing an inverted cliché (pos. 7).

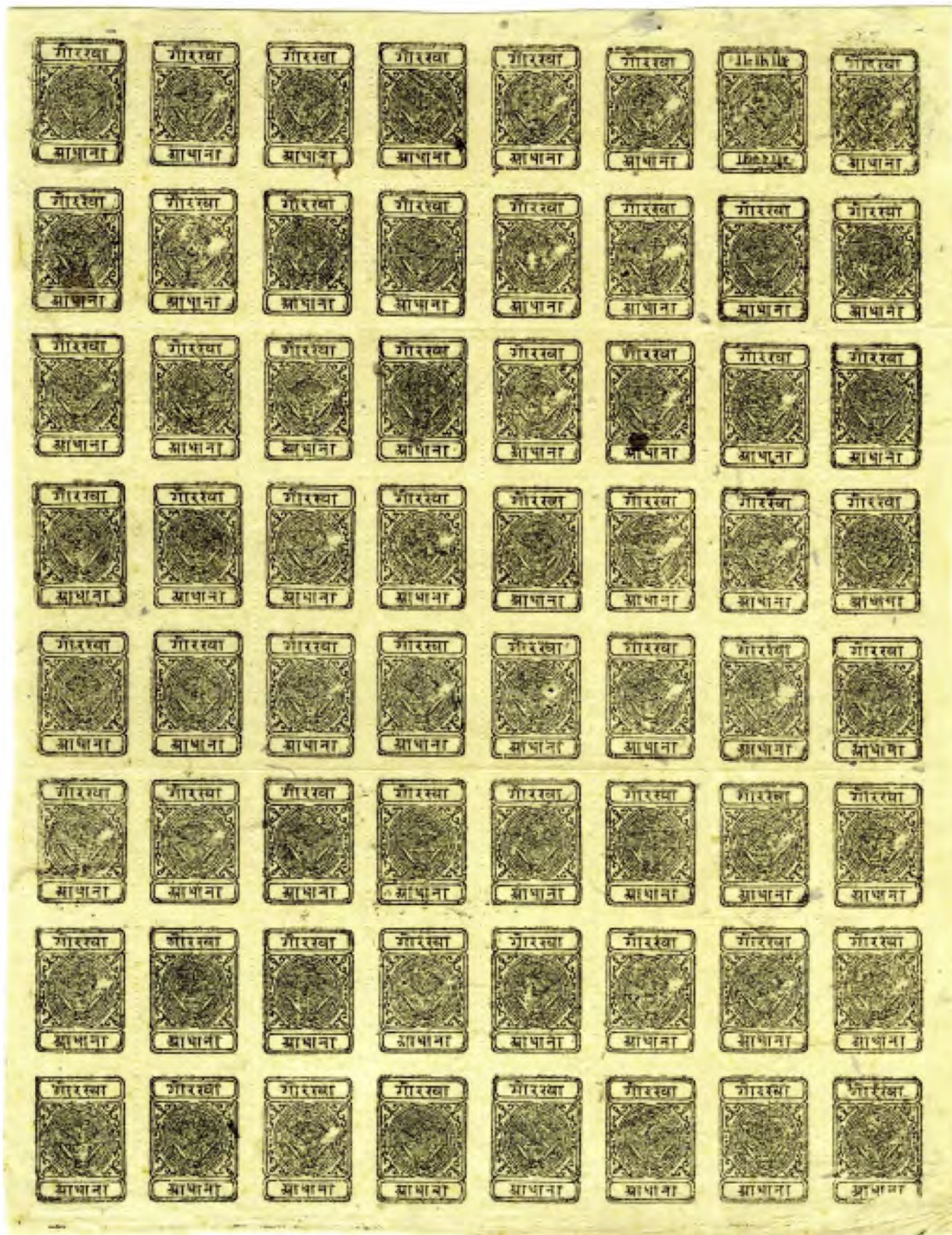
Distinctly and visibly flaws:

flattened base - cliché 6

dent in outer frameline - cliché 7

break above KHA of GORKHA - cliché 35

damaged bottom right corner - cliché 48





1899-1900, 1/2 Anna black, imperforate, Local paper, early Settings



1/2 Anna imperforate, black, No 23, setting 1, cliches 1-2, 9-10.
Only sheets of setting 1 (printed in 1899) have framelines.
Dr. Hellrigl: "Blocks and marginal multiples of the first setting are very scarce."



Sawari Hunting Camp in Khasra, (D 112)
dated 68/9/12 BS = Dez. 20, 1911 AD.
Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R! very rare" (100 points)

This strip of 3 comes from the very rare setting 5. It shows cliches 5, 6 and 7.
Cliches 6 and 7 changed their positions, in which now cliche 6 is inverted.
It is the first setting to show the cliche with the "flattened base" on pos. 7.

The strip bears an almost complete strike of the Sawari Hunting Camp (D 112)
used only during King George V's visit to Nepal from 18th to 28th December, 1911.
The camp of the "Big Game Hunting" was located at Khasra in the Terai region.



1/2 Anna imperforate, black,
No 23a, setting 3-5 postally used,
datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79).
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



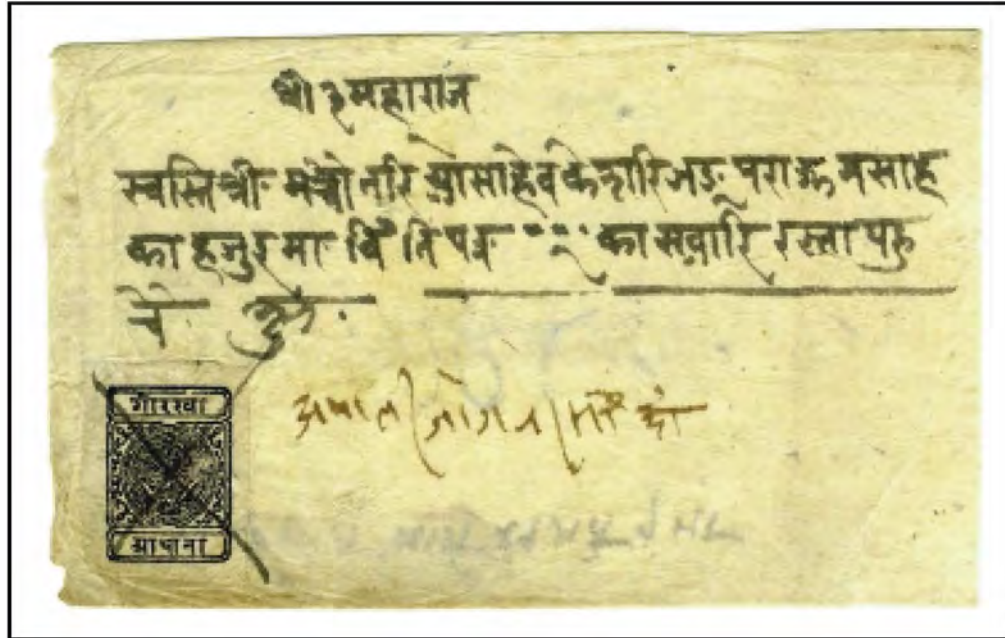
1/2 Anna imperforate, black,
No 23a, setting 3-5 postally used,
datestamp Kathmandu (P 70).
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





Extremely rare cover adressed to the Maharaja of Nepal

January 1904, cover adressed to Maharaja Chandra Chumsher



cliche 35, double size

½ Anna black (No 23), setting 1-5

The stamp shows the flaw “break of the inner top frameline above KHA of GORKHA” - cliché 35 of the sheet.

Typical pen-cancellation of the ½ Anna stamp.

The ½ Anna stamp was issued intended for use for the correspondence between Kathmandu and the camps of the Maharajas in the South of Nepal (Terai). Between 1899 and 1907 this stamp was used almost exclusively for this determination. This postal rate was valid for letters and for postcards respectively.

6 covers franked with the ½ Anna are recorded.

Dr. Hellrigl: “Genuine postal use of the ½ Anna stamp is extremely rare. Apart from the standard obliterations, both pen- and seal-cancellations are known.”





B.4 One Anna Recut Frame Variety (1901-1907)
tête-bêche pairs on European and on Local paper respectively

A new setting of the 1 Anna was printed with the outer frames of all clichés recut in 1901-1907 - an attempt at improving the battered printing plate that had produced the blurred impressions of the previous settings.

In addition to printings on local paper, for the first time European paper was used again after the first settings (1881-1885) - particularly rare!

The “One Anna Recut Frame Variety” was printed on European paper in 1901-1902, whereas the printings on Local paper lasted until 1907.

European paper

Hellrigl/Vignola: “Tête-bêche pairs (on European paper) are exceedingly rare. We estimate their total number in existence - including imperforate and pin-perforated - at only about a dozen pairs!”

(The Classic Stamps of Nepal, page 103)



1901-1902, 1 Anna grey-blue, No 25a,
European paper, imperforate,
setting 26A, clichés 41-42, inverted cliché: 41.
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



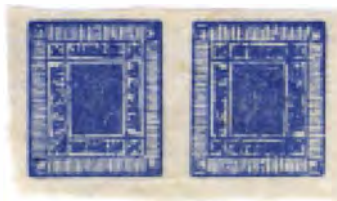
1901-1902, 1 Anna grey-blue, No 26a,
European paper, pin-perforated,
setting 26A, clichés 41-42, inverted cliché: 41.



1901-1902, 1 Anna blue, No 25c,
European paper, imperforate,
setting 26A, clichés 23-24, inverted cliché: 23.

Local paper

Printings of Setting 26B are very clear to slightly blurred, whereas Printings of Setting 27 appear always blurred.



1901-1903, 1 Anna dark blue, No 27a,
Local paper, imperforate, setting 26B.



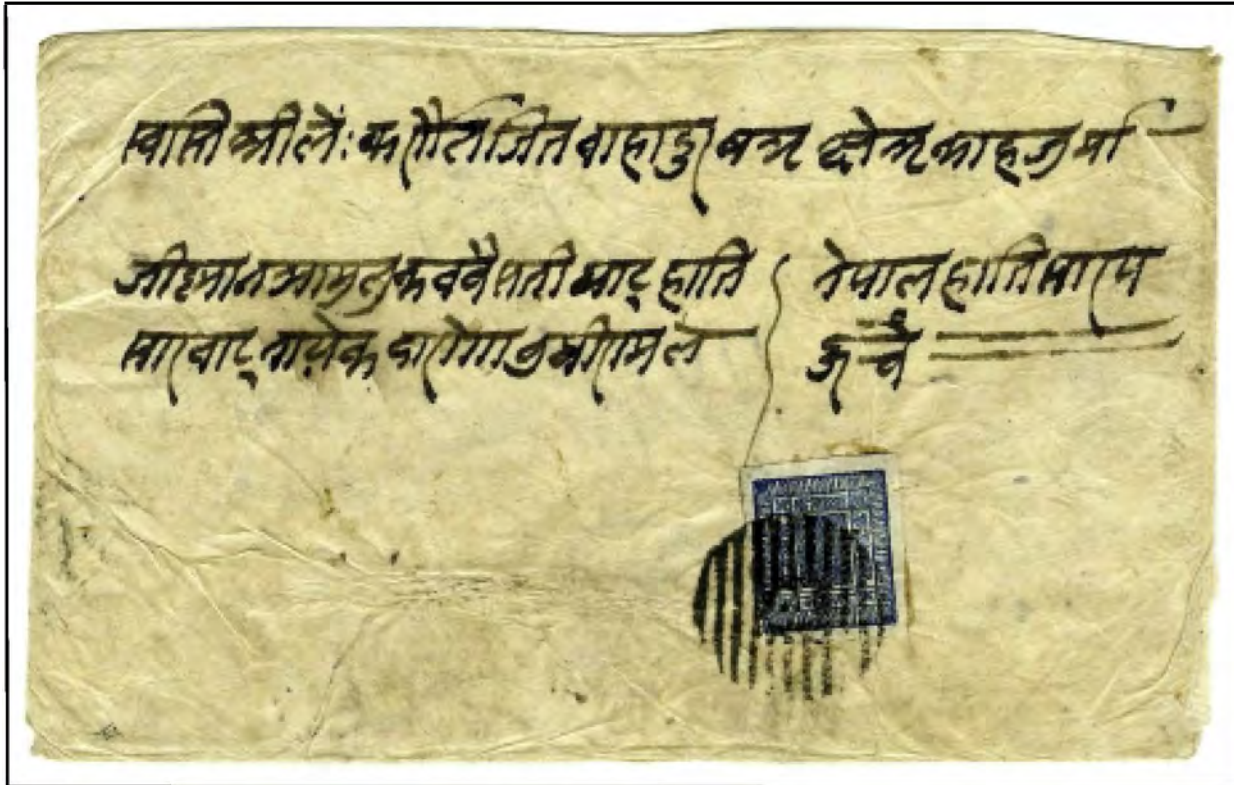
1903-1907, 1 Anna pale ultramarine, No 28e,
Local paper, pin-perforated, setting 27.





**1 Anna recut frame variety, European paper
very rare single-weight cover**

May 1903, cover from Bardiya to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Bardiya



Bardiya (N 5)



Dahaban



Kathmandu XVIIA (D 78)

1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
blue on European paper (No 25b), setting 26A

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tolas (about 11,6 gm).

Unique strike of a previously unlisted circular cancellation Bardiya.

Negative hand-dated postmark Bardiya (N 5), dated 60/2/16 BS = May 13, 1903 AD.

Unrecorded hand-dated transit postmark Dahaban, dated 60/2/17 BS = May 14, 1903 AD.

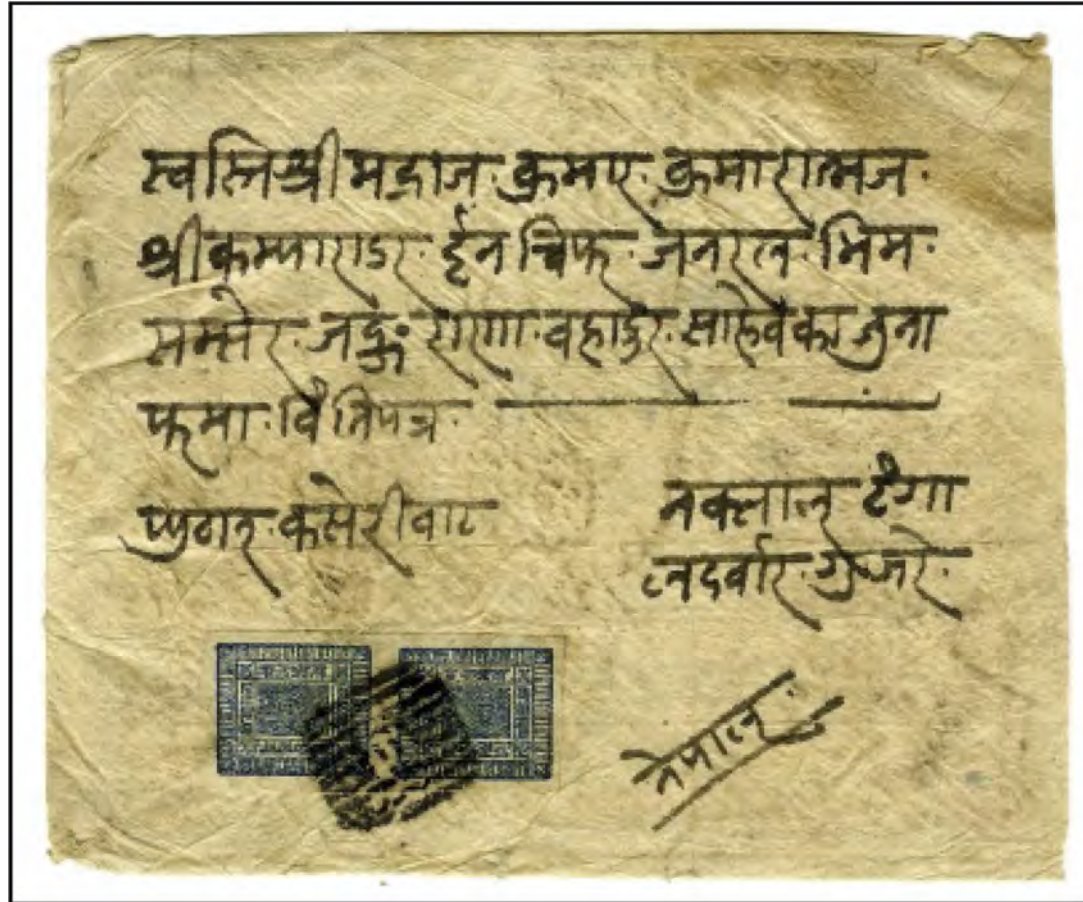
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIIA (D 78), dated 60/2/26 BS = May 23, 1903 AD.





**1 Anna recut frame variety, European paper
unique double-weight cover with a tête-bêche pair**

December 1904, cover from Pyuthan to Kathmandu



Pyuthan (C 84)



Pyuthan (N 45)



Kathmandu XVIIIA (D 78)

This cover is addressed to Commander in Chief General Bhim Shamsher Junga Rana Bahadur,

franked with a tête-bêche pair of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
dark blue on European paper (No 25c), setting 26A.

This is the only recorded example of the 1 Anna recut on European paper, as a tête-bêche pair on cover.

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Strike of the standard square cancellation Pyuthan (C 84).

Reverse side: negative hand-dated postmark Pyuthan (N 45), dated 61/8/18 BS = Dec. 1, 1904 AD.

Arrival: damaged datestamp Kathmandu XVIIIA (D 78), dated 61/8/24 BS = Dec. 7, 1904 AD.

Hellrigl/Vignola call this cover "one of the great rarities of Asian philately"!

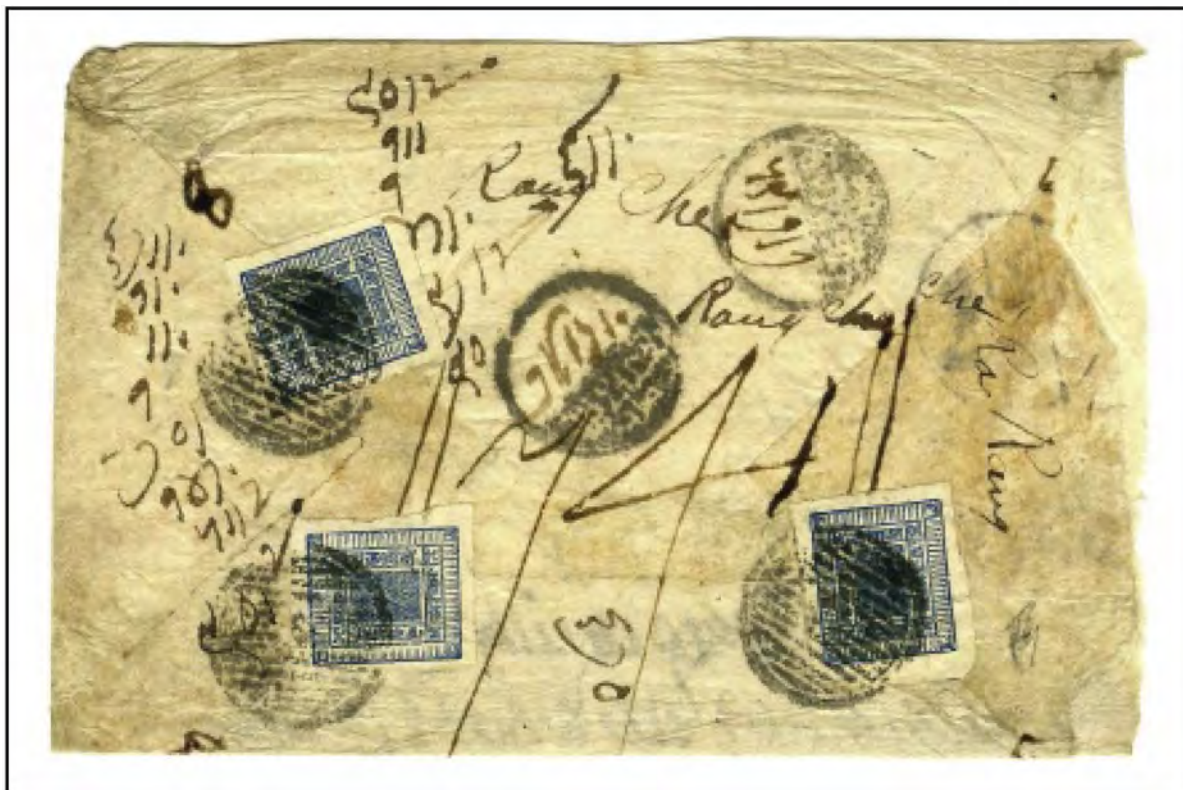
(The Classic Stamps of Nepal, page 103)





**1 Anna recut frame variety, European paper
unique triple-weight cover**

November 1902, cover from Birganj (Gahawa) to Kathmandu-Lalitpur (Patan)



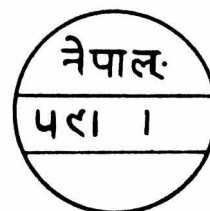
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



Birganj I (C 31)



Birganj I (N 10)



Kathmandu XVII (D 77)

**This is the only recorded triple weight cover
with the 1 Anna, recut frame variety on European paper,**

franked with 3 copies of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
dark blue on European paper (No 25b), setting 26A.

Postage: 3 Annas for a letter up to 3 Tolas.

Strikes of the non-standard circular cancellation Birganj I (C 31).

Two negative hand-dated postmarks Birganj I (N 10):

- 1) dated 59/7/7 BS = Nov. 20, 1902 AD
- 2) dated 59/7/8 BS = Nov. 21, 1902 AD

This cover stayed one day in Birganj before it was sent out for Kathmandu.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVII (D 77), illegible date.

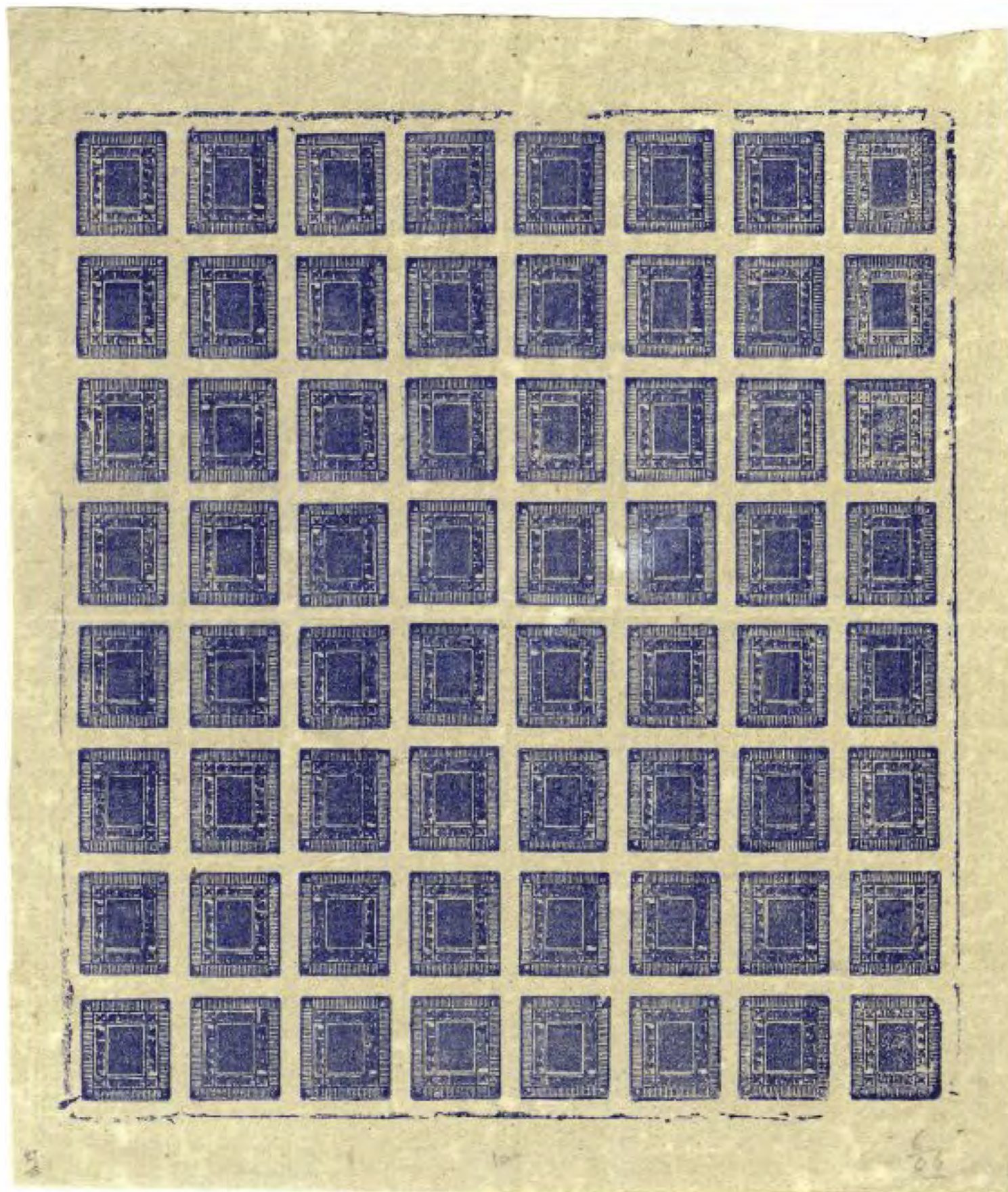




**1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
1903-1907, 1 Anna bright ultramarine, imperforate, Setting 27 (No 27)**

Inverted cliches: 15, 18, 23, 27, 37, 40, 41, 51, 64.

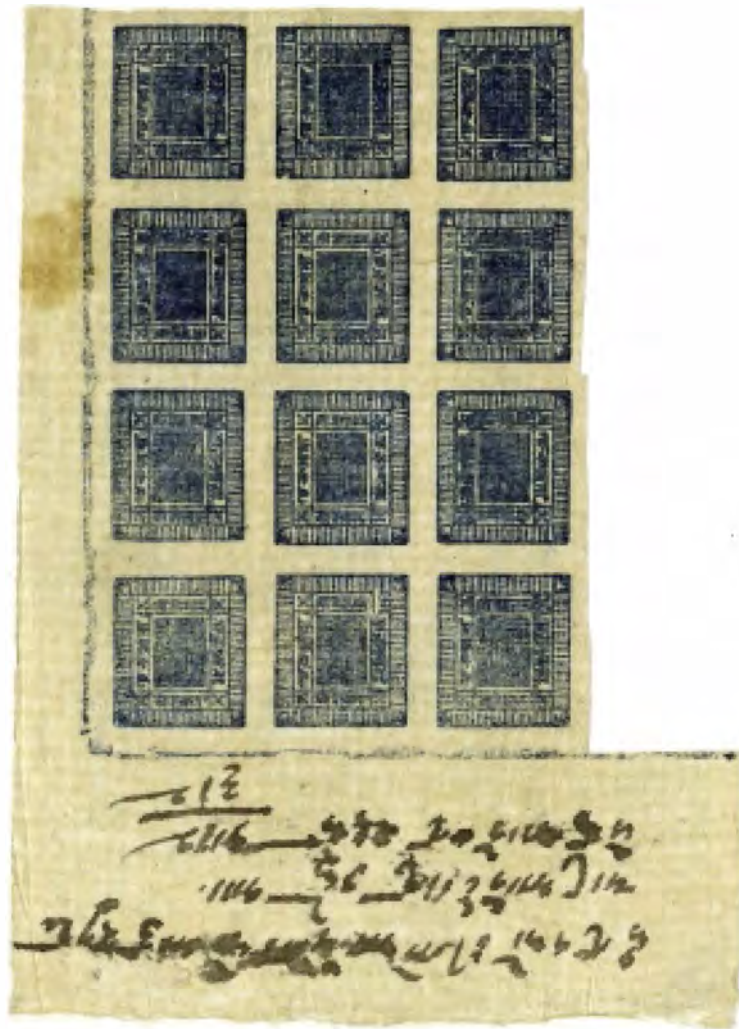
This is the only recorded complete sheet in the rare bright ultramarine color.



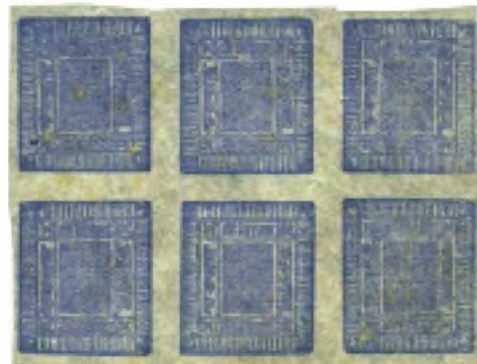


1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper

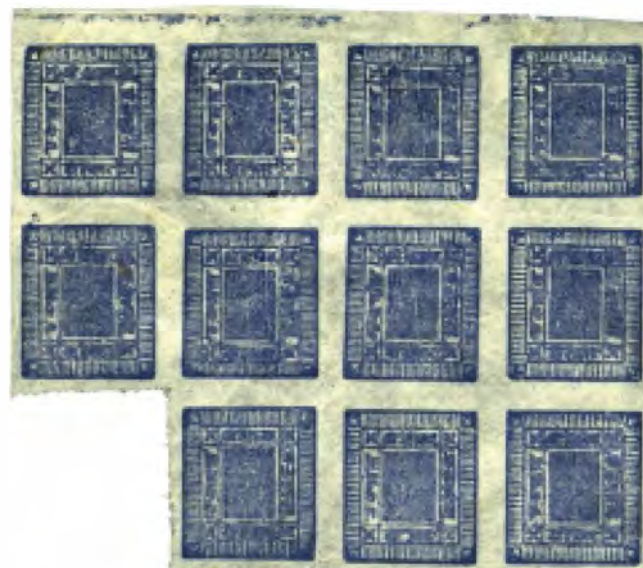
imperforate and pin-perforated
different colours



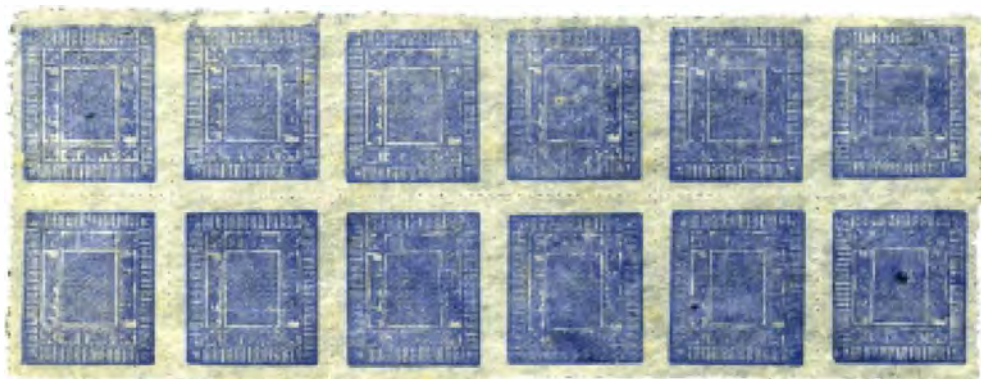
imperforated, blue, No 27,
setting 26B-27,
cliches 33-35, 41-43, 49-51, 57-59,
inverted cliches: 41, 51.



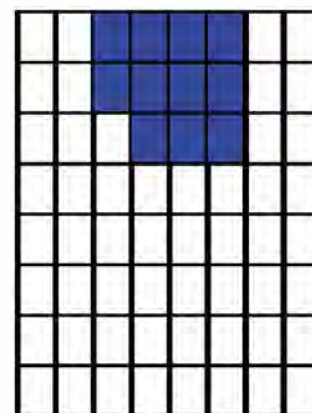
imperforate, light blue, No 27b,
setting 26B-27, cliches 4-6, 12-14.



pin-perforated, blue, No 28,
setting 26B-27, cliches 3-6, 11-14, 20-22. ↓



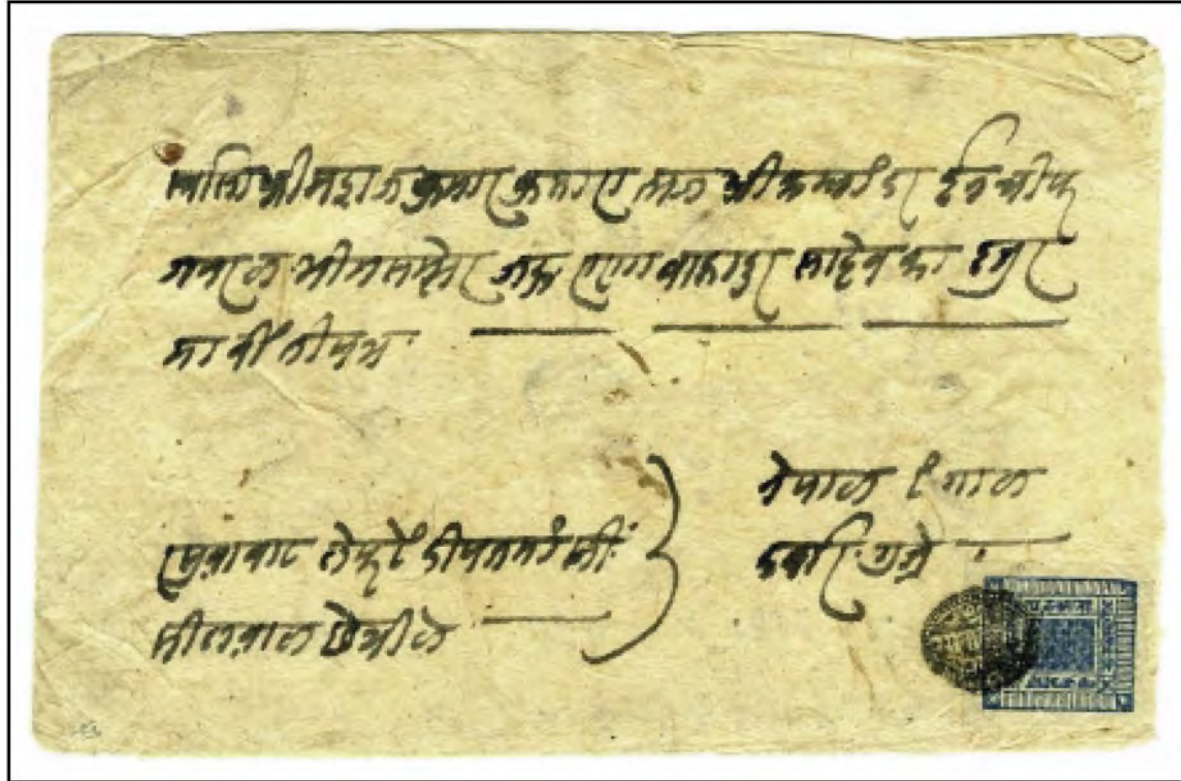
pin-perforated, pale ultramarine, No 28d,
setting 27, cliches 1-6, 9-14.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare single-weight cover

May 1903, cover from Rasuwa to Kathmandu



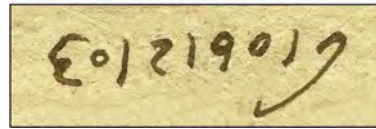
Rasuwa (H 162)



Rasuwa (S 4)



Trisuli (N 55)



Handwritten date of arrival: 60/2/10/7

Cover addressed to Commander-in-Chief Bhim Shumsher, Tangal Durbar, Kathmandu

franked with a 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
ultramarine on Local paper (No 27d), Setting 27.

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Postal seal cancellation Rasuwa (S 4).

Only 3 covers with this cancellation are recorded.

Reverse side:

Manuscript postmark in a circle Rasuwa (H 162), dated 60/2/6 BS = May 19, 1903 AD.

Negative hand-dated transit postmark Trisuli (N 55), dated 60/2/9 BS = May 22, 1903 AD.

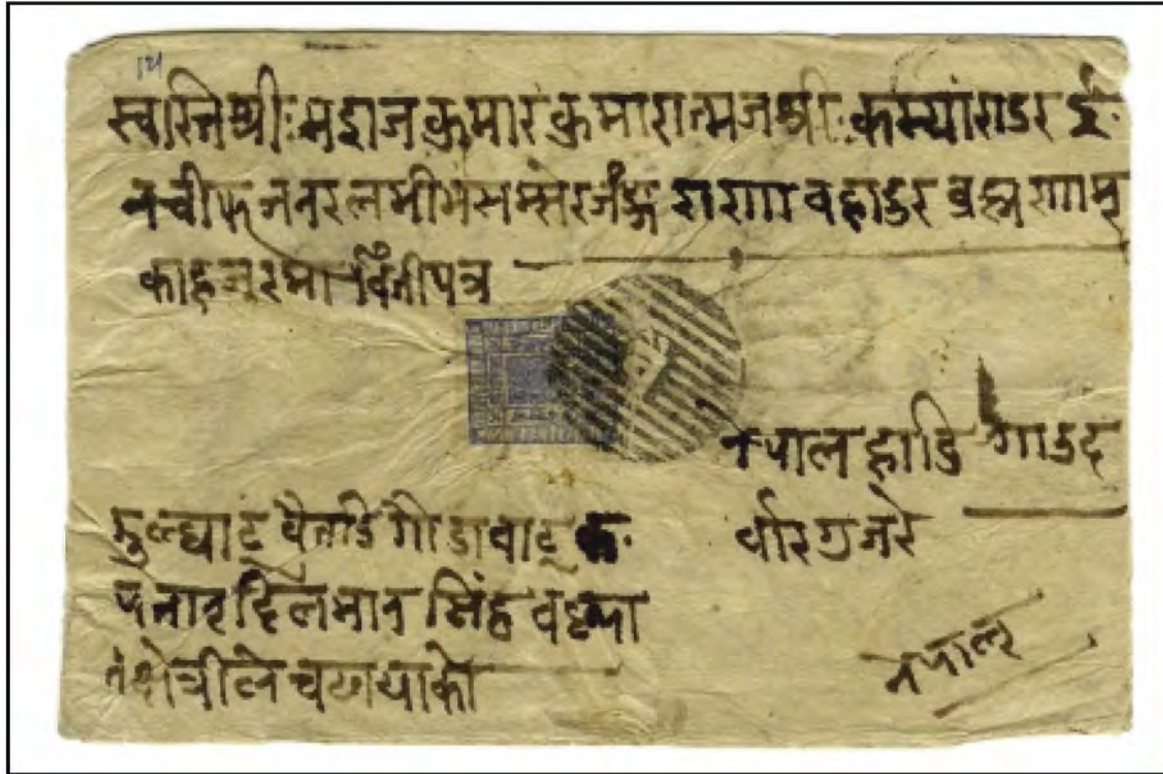
Handwritten date of arrival: 60/2/10/7 BS = Saturday, May 23, 1903 AD.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
single-weight cover

March 1907, cover from Baitadi to Kathmandu



(Cert) by Geoffrey Flack



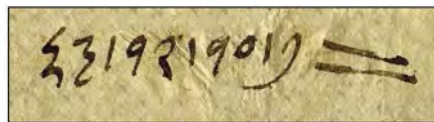
Baitadi (C 2)



Baitadi (N 2)



Kathmandu (D 79)



Handwritten date of arrival: 63/12/10/7

1 Anna imperforated, recut-frame variety,
blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 26B/27

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the standard circular cancellation Baitadi (C 2).

Reverse side:

Two negative hand-dated postmarks Baitadi (N 2):

- 1) dated 63/11/24 = March 7, 1907 AD
- 2) dated 63/11/25 = March 8, 1907 AD

This cover stayed one day in Baitadi before it was sent out for Kathmandu.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79), dated 63/12/10 = March 23, 1907 AD,
handwritten date of arrival: 63/12/10/7 = Saturday, March 23, 1907 AD.

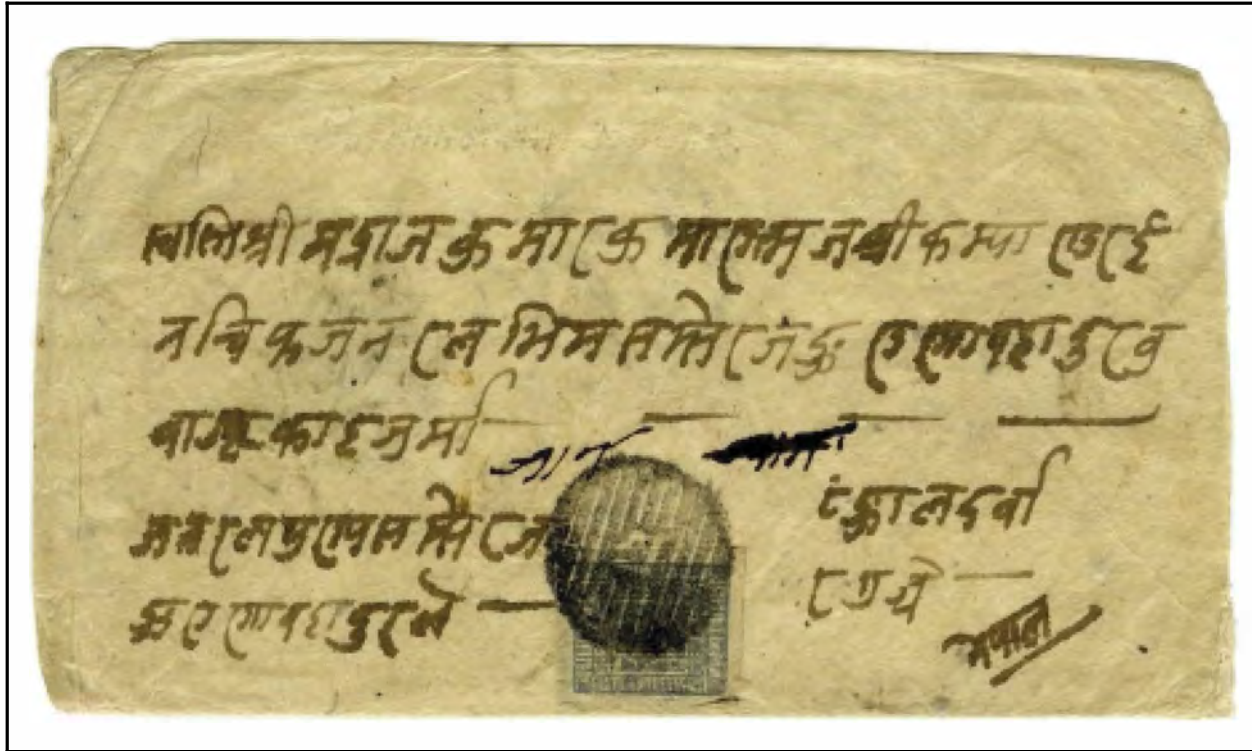
Total transit time 15 days.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
single-weight cover

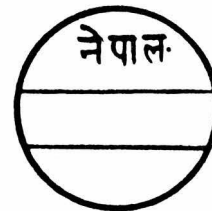
June 1906, cover from Salyan to Kathmandu



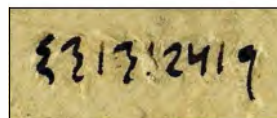
Salyan (C 20)



Salyan (N 49)



Kathmandu (D 79)



Handwritten date of arrival: 63/3/25/1

1 Anna imperforated, recut-frame variety,
light blue on Local paper (No 27b), setting 26B/27

Postage: 1 Anna for a letter up to 1 Tola.

Strike of the non-standard circular cancellation Salyan (C 20).

Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmark Salyan (N 49), dated 63/3/16 BS = June 29, 1906 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79), illegible date.

Handwritten date of arrival: 63/3/25/1 = Sunday, July 8, 1906 AD.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper double-weight cover

October 1902, cover from Birganj (Gahawa) to Kathmandu-Patan



Scan of the reverse side:



Birganj I (C 31)



Birganj I (N 10)

Horizontal pair of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety, blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 26B-27.

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Strike of the non-standard circular cancellation Birganj I (C 31).

Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmark Birganj I (N 10) dated 59/7/1 BS = Oct. 14, 1902 AD.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper double-weight cover

October 1904, cover from Pokhara to Kathmandu



Pokhara (C 83)



Pokhara (N 44)

Places where the covers of this exhibit were dispatched from



Vertical pair of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety, light blue on Local paper (No 27b), setting 27.

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Strike of the standard square cancellation Pokhara (C 83).

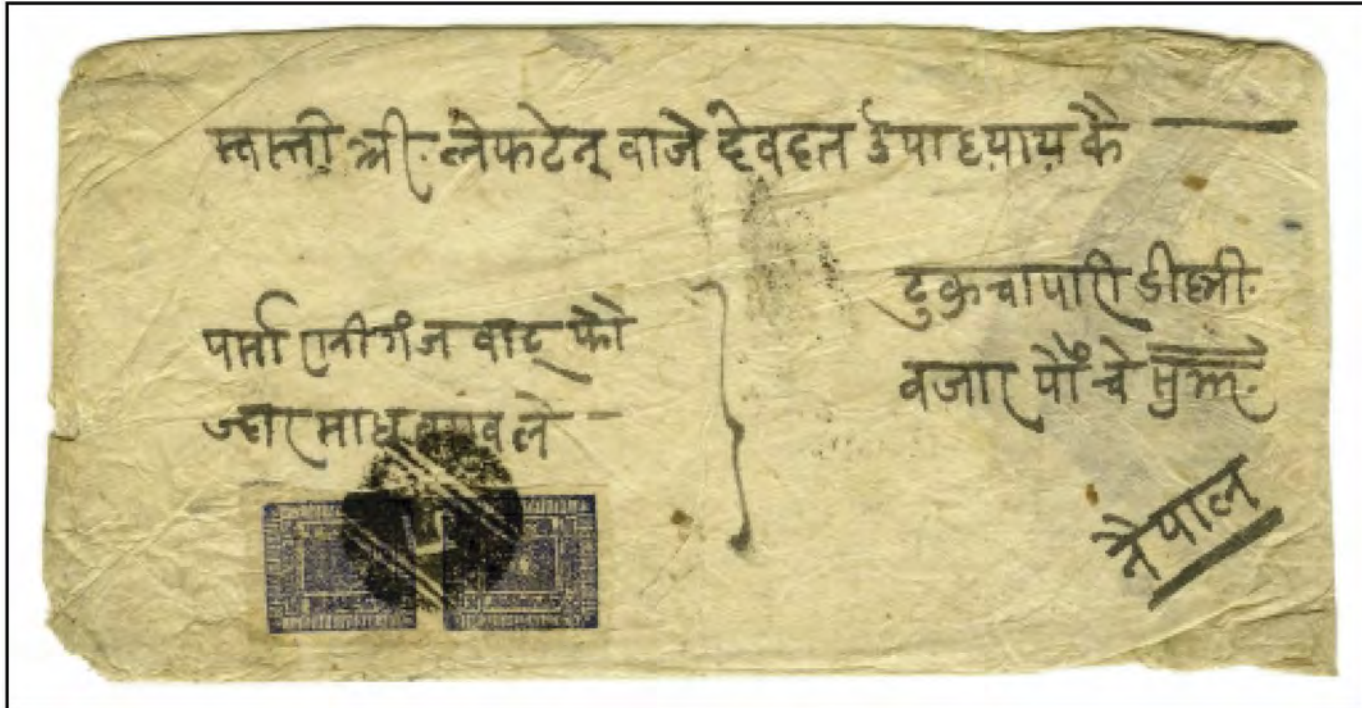
Negative hand-dated postmark Pokhara (N 44), dated 61/7/15 BS = Oct. 28, 1904 AD.





**1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare double-weight cover**

February 1907, cover from Birganj (Gahawa) to Kathmandu



(Cert) by Geoffrey Flack



Birganj II (C 32)



Birganj I (N 10)



Birganj I (N 10)



Kathmandu XVIII (D 79)

Vertical tête-bêche pair of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 26B-27,
cliches 23 (inverted) and 31.

Tête-bêche pairs on cover are very rare.

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

Strike of the non-standard circular cancellation Birganj II (C 32).

Two negative hand-dated postmarks Birganj I (N 10):

- 1) dated 64/4/19 BS = Feb. 8, 1907 AD
- 2) dated 64/4/20 BS = Feb. 9, 1907 AD

This cover stayed one day in Birganj before it was sent out for Kathmandu.

Reverse side:

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79),
dated 64/4/21 BS = Feb. 10, 1907.





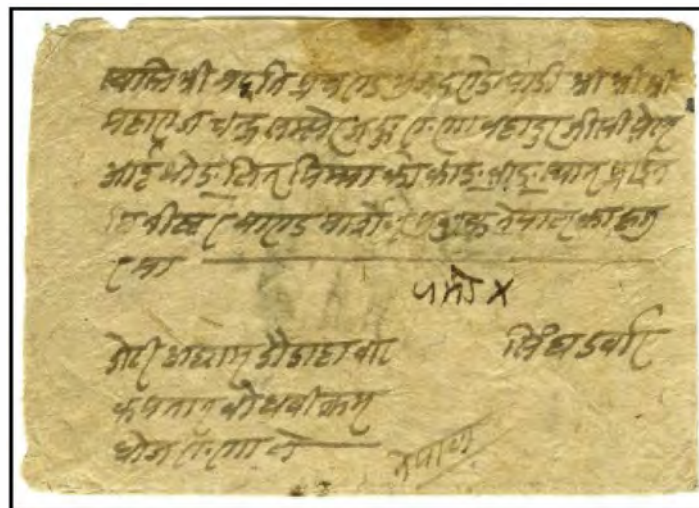
**1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare double-weight cover**

January 1906, cover from Karnali to Kathmandu



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl

Scan of the reverse side:



Karnali (C 38)



Karnali (N 36)

Two copies of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
light blue on Local paper (No 27b), setting 27.

Postage: 2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas.

**Strikes of the non-standard circular cancellation Karnali (C 38).
Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R! very rare" (100 points)**

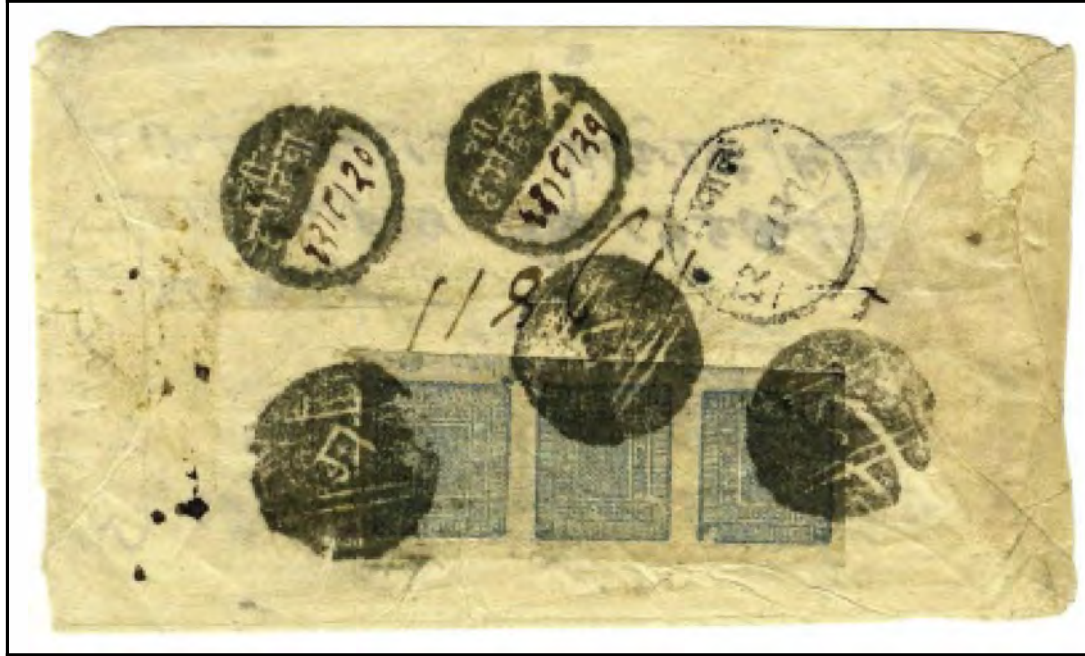
Negative hand-dated postmark Karnali (N 36),
dated 62/9/29 BS = Jan. 12, 1906 AD.





**1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare triple-weight cover**

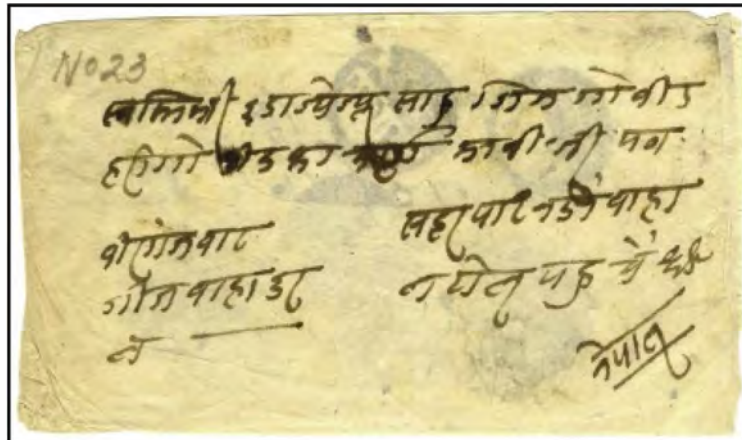
December 1905, cover from Birganj (Gahawa) to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Birganj II (C 32)



Birganj I (N 10)



Kathmandu XVIII (D 79)



Birganj I (N 10)

Strip of three of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety, light blue on Local paper (No 27b), setting 26B-27.

Postage: 3 Annas for a letter up to 3 Tolas.

Strikes of the non-standard circular cancellation Birganj II (C 32).

Two negative hand-dated postmarks Birganj I (N 10):

- 1) dated 62/8/20 BS = Dec. 3, 1905 AD
- 2) dated 62/8/21 BS = Dec. 4, 1905 AD

This cover stayed one day in Birganj before it was sent out for Kathmandu.

Arrival:

datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79),
dated 62/8/22 BS = Dec. 5, 1905 AD.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare triple-weight cover

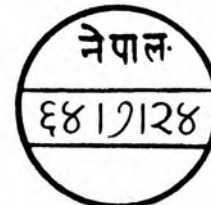
October 1907, cover from Doti to Kathmandu



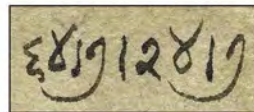
Doti (C 12)



Doti (N 24)



Kathmandu XVIII (D 79)



Handwritten date of arrival: 64/7/24/7

Strip of three of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 26B-27.

Postage: 3 Annas for a letter up to 3 Tolas.

Strikes of the standard circular cancellation Doti (C 12).

Reverse side:

Negative hand-dated postmarks Doti (N 24),
dated 64/7/10 BS = Oct. 23, 1907 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79),
dated 64/7/24 BS = Nov. 6, 1907 AD.

Handwritten date of arrival: 64/7/24/7 BS = Saturday, Nov. 6, 1907 AD.

Scarce late usage since the Pashupati stamps were issued on October 16, 1907.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper registered double-weight cover

January 1903, cover from Gorkha to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Gorkha (C 80)



Gorkha (N 25)

Strip of four and a strip of three of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety, blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 26B-27.

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard square cancellation Gorkha (C 80).

Reverse side: Two negative hand-dated postmarks Gorkha (N 25), 1) dated 59/9/28 BS = Jan. 11, 1903 AD, 2) dated 59/9/29 BS = Jan. 12, 1903 AD.

This cover stayed one day in Gorkha before it was sent out for Kathmandu.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu, illegible date.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper registered double-weight cover

March 1904, cover from Pokhara to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Pokhara (C 83)



Pokhara (N 44)

Strip of three of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety, light blue on Local paper (No 27b), setting 26B-27, **(the middle stamp of the 1 Anna strip of three is inverted)** plus an additional 4 Anna yellow-green on the reverse side (No 18).

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard square cancellation Pokhara (C 83).

Arrival: damaged datestamp Kathmandu XVIIIA (D 78), illegible date.

Reverse side:

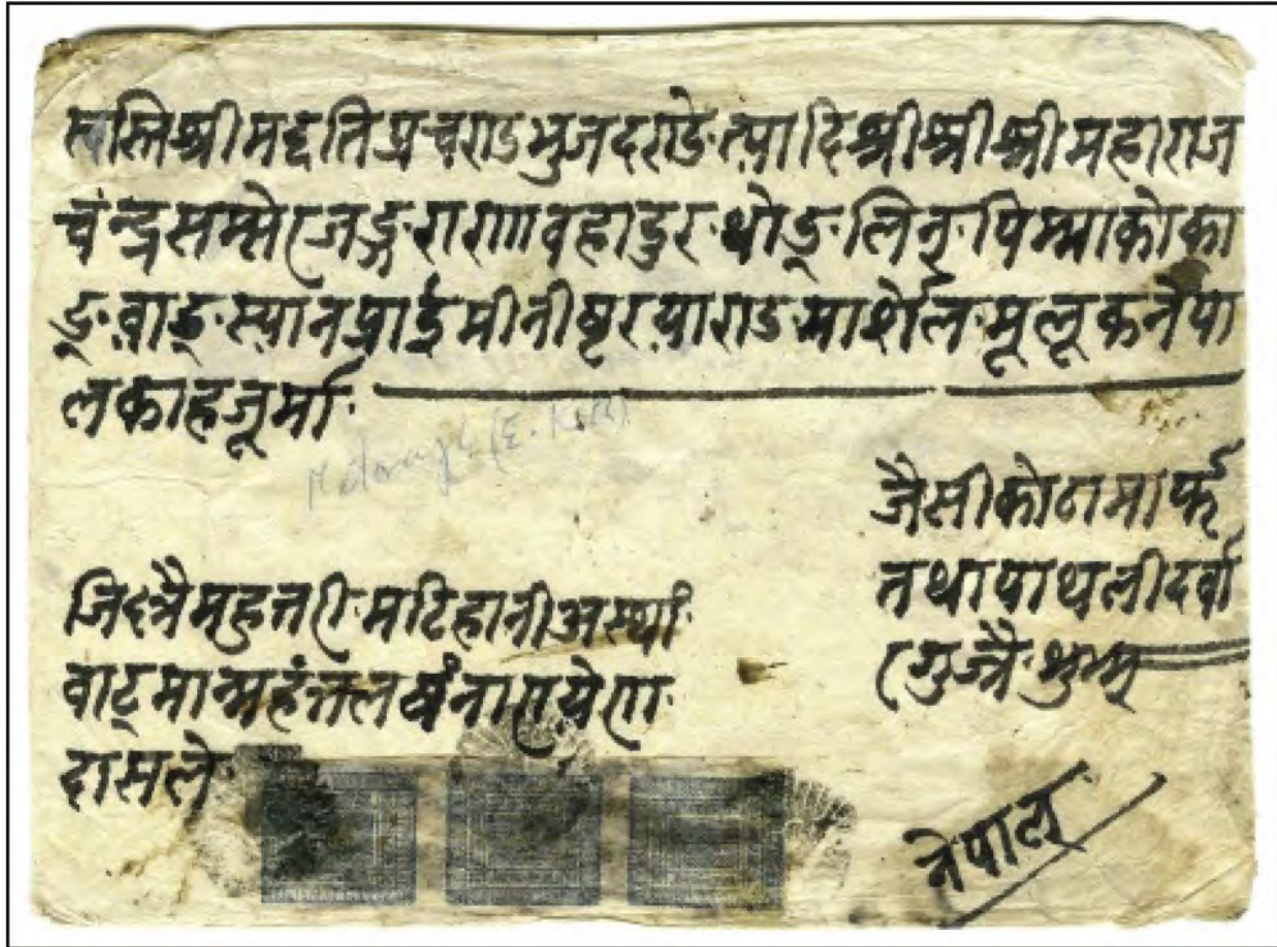
Negative hand-dated postmarks Pokhara (N 44), dated 60/12/6 BS = March 19, 1904 AD.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
registered double-weight cover

May 1904, cover from Jaleswar to Kathmandu



Scan of a part of the reverse side:



Jaleswar III (C 63)



Jaleswar (N 29)

Strip of three and a strip of four of the 1 Anna imperforate,
recut-frame variety, blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 26B-27.

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas, 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the non-standard hexagonal cancellation Jaleswar III (C 63).

Reverse side: Negative hand-dated postmarks Jaleswar (N 29),
dated 61/2/13 BS = May 26, 1904 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu, illegible date.

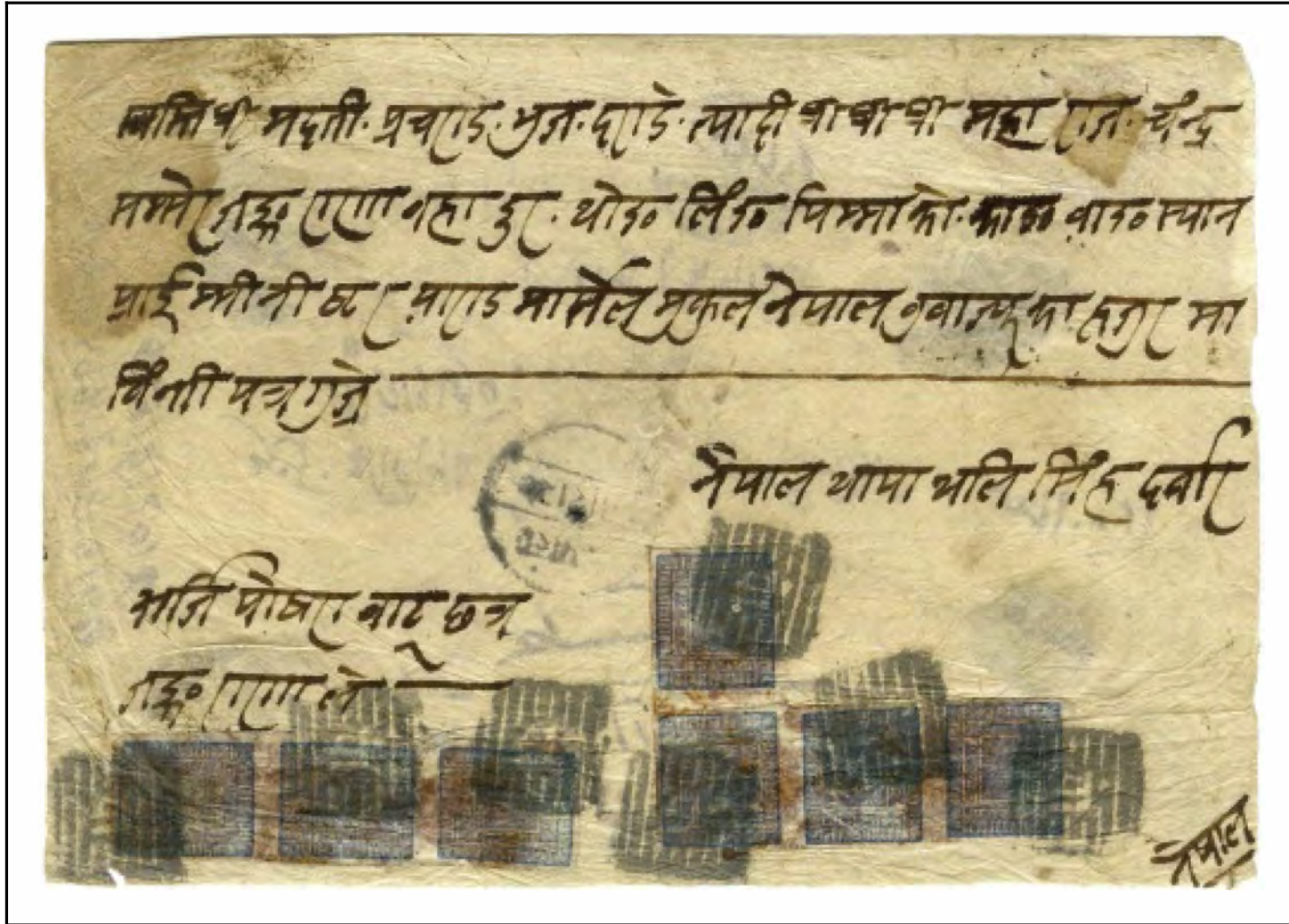
Handwritten date of Arrival, dated 61/2/17/1 BS = Sunday, May 30, 1904 AD.





1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare registered double-weight cover

May 1904, cover from Pokhara to Kathmandu



Pokhara (C 83)



Pokhara (N 44)



Kathmandu XVIIA (D 78)

This cover is addressed to Prime Minister Maharaja Chandra Shumshere Rana,
franked with 7 copies of the 1 Anna imperforate, recut-frame variety,
light blue on native paper (No. 27b), strip of 3 and strip of 4, setting 27.

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas + 5 Annas registration fee).

Strikes of the standard square cancellation Pokhara (C 83).

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIIA (D 78),
dated 61/2/20 BS = June 2, 1904 AD.

Reverse side: negative hand-dated departure postmark Pokhara (N 44),
dated 61/2/16 BS = May 29, 1904 AD.



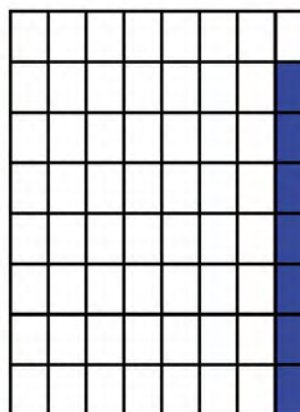


**1 Anna recut frame variety, Local paper
rare registered double-weight cover**

February 1909, cover from Taulihawa to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Taulihawa I (N 53)



Kathmandu XVIII (D 79)

Strip of four with cliches 16, 24, 32, 40 (cliche 40 inverted)
and a strip of three with cliches 48, 56, 64 (cliche 64 inverted)
of the 1 Anna imperforate,
recut-frame variety, blue on Local paper (No 27), setting 27.

Postage: 7 Annas (2 Annas for a letter up to 2 Tolas, 5 Annas registration fee).

Cancelled with negative hand-dated postmarks Taulihawa I (N 53),
dated 65/10/29 BS = Feb. 12, 1909 AD.

Reverse side:

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XVIII (D 79),
dated 65/11/6 BS = Feb. 19, 1909 AD.

Scarce late usage since the Pashupati stamps were issued on October 16, 1907.





B.5 Classic Cancellations and Postmarks

Classic Nepalese postal markings can be divided into two distinct types: cancellations and postmarks (datestamps). Cancellations obliterated stamps to prevent their reuse. They appeared with the issuance of the first stamps in April, 1881. The most common forms of cancellations are derived from contemporary British-Indian styles consisting of a barred geometrical shape with a centered letter denoting the particular post office.



Bhojpur (C 5)
circle



Gorkha (C 80)
square



Hanumannagar (C 62)
hexagon



Kathmandu (C 70)
heptagon

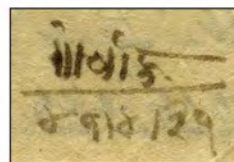


Kathmandu (C 71)
octagon

Postmarks were used to denote any informations, particularly the date of a letter's departure and arrival, as well as, occasionally its transit through an intervening post office. The covers illustrated in this section show seals of government offices. They bear no frankings as government mail was forwarded free of charge.

1. Unbounded manuscript postmarks

August 1884, cover from Gorkha to Kathmandu



Gorkha (H 19)



Kathmandu VII (D 66)

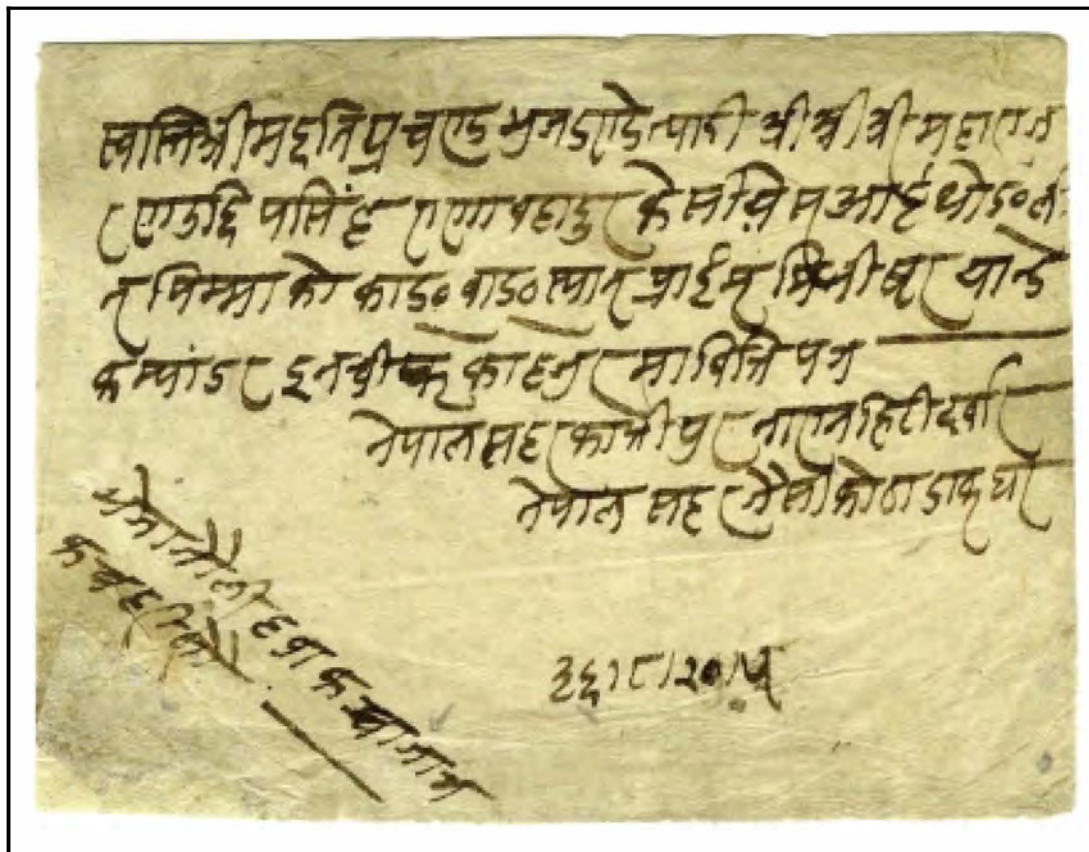
Gorkha manuscript postmark (H 19), dated 41/4/31 BS = Aug. 17, 1884.
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu VII (D 66), dated 41/4/32 BS = Aug. 18, 1884.



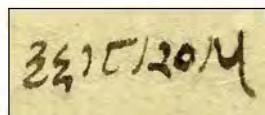
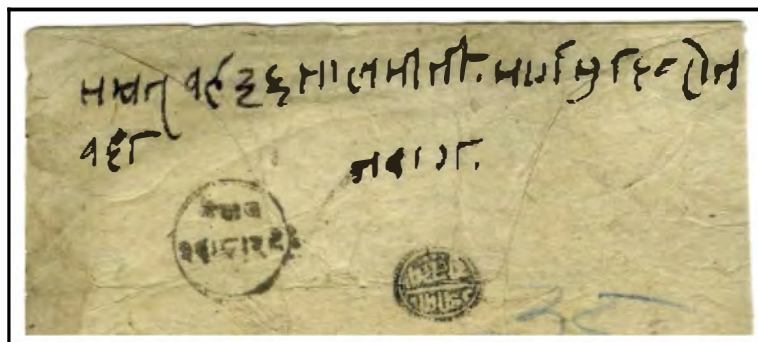


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
1. Unbounded manuscript postmarks

December 1879, cover from Taulihawa to Kathmandu



Scan of a part of the reverse side:



Manuscript date Taulihawa (H 34)



Kathmandu II (D 61)

Manuscript date notation Taulihawa (H 34) dated 36/8/20/5 BS = Thursday, Dec. 3, 1879 AD, only the date is mentioned, the name of the post office is missing.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu II (D 61), dated 36/8/29 BS = Dec. 12, 1879 AD.

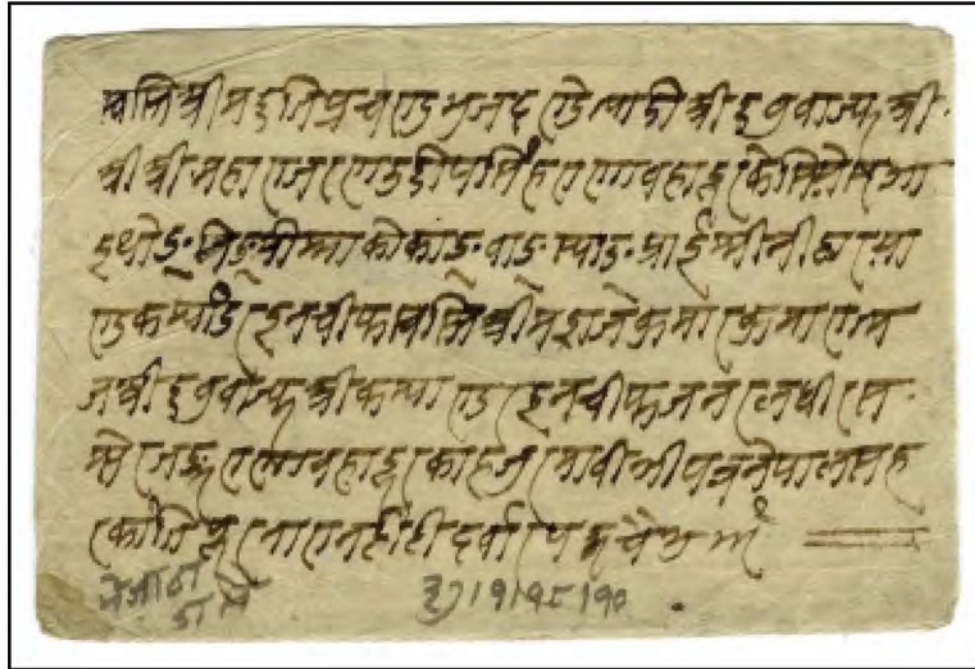




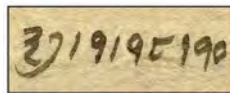
Classic Cancellations and Postmarks

1. Unbounded manuscript postmarks

May 1880, cover from Thada to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Manuscript date Thada (H 35)



Kathmandu II (D 61)

From Thada to Prime Minister Maharaja Rana Udip Singh (1877-1885) in Narayanhity Palace, Kathmandu.

Extremely rare manuscript date notation Thada (H 35),
Dr. Hellrigl: "R!R!R! greatest rarity, with not more than 4 covers known" (100+ points)
dated 37/1/18/10 BS = May 1, 1880 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu II (D 61), dated 37/1/26 BS = May 9, 1880 AD.



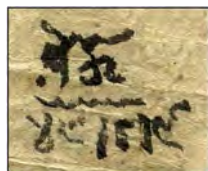
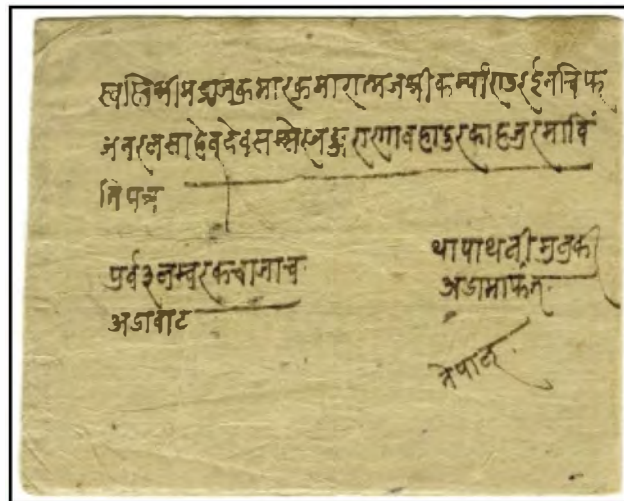


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
1. Unbounded manuscript postmarks

November 1892, cover from Okhaldunga to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Okhaldunga (H 25)



Kathmandu XIII (D 73)

Okhaldunga manuscript postmark (H 25), dated 49/8/9 BS = Nov. 22, 1892.
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XIII (D 73), dated 49/8/12 BS = Nov. 25, 1892.

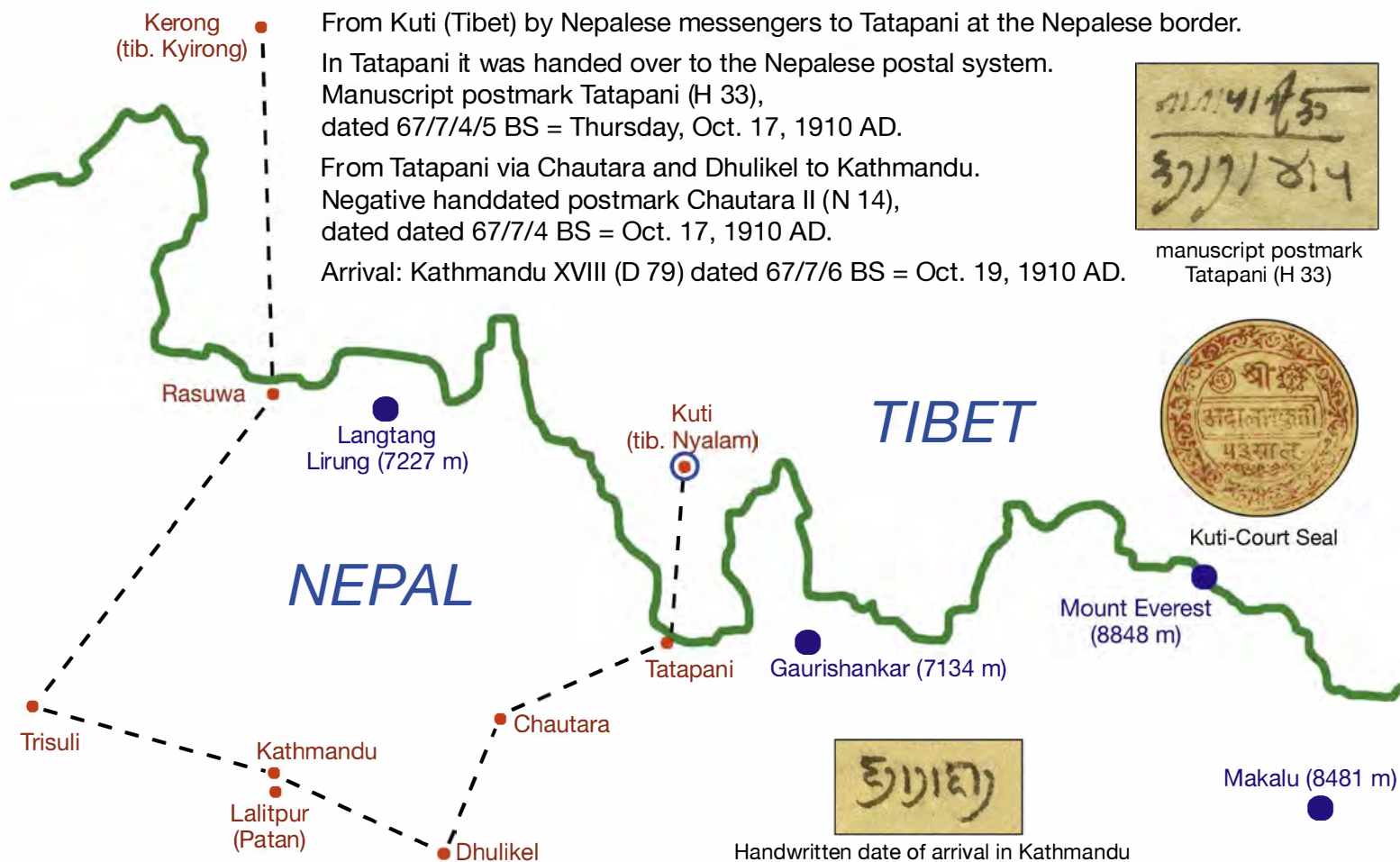




Classic Cancellations and Postmarks 1. Unbounded manuscript postmarks

The Nepalese-Tibetan War ended with the “Thapathali Treaty” in 1855. From now on Nepalese merchants were allowed to trade in Tibet. In order to deal with any discrepancies Nepalese administered courts were established in the Tibetan towns of **Kerong** and **Kuti**. Official mail was carried by Nepalese messengers across Tibetan territory between the Nepalese border town Rasuwa and Kerong in Tibet and between the Nepalese border town Tatapani and Kuti in Tibet.

October 1910, cover from the Nepalese administered court in Kuti (Tibet) to Kathmandu



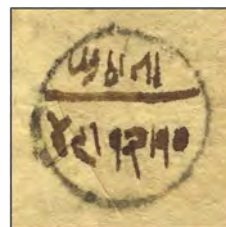
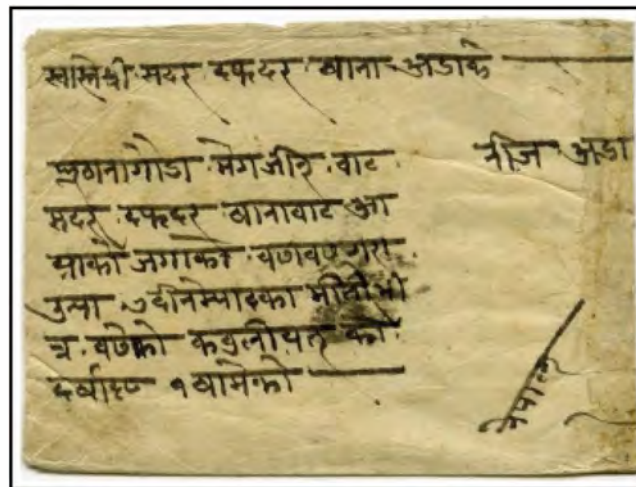


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
2. Bounded manuscript postmarks

March 1893, cover from Pyuthan to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Pyuthan (H 161)

Manuscript in circle, Pyuthan (H 161), dated 49/12/10 BS = March 23, 1893 AD.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XII (D 72), illegible date.



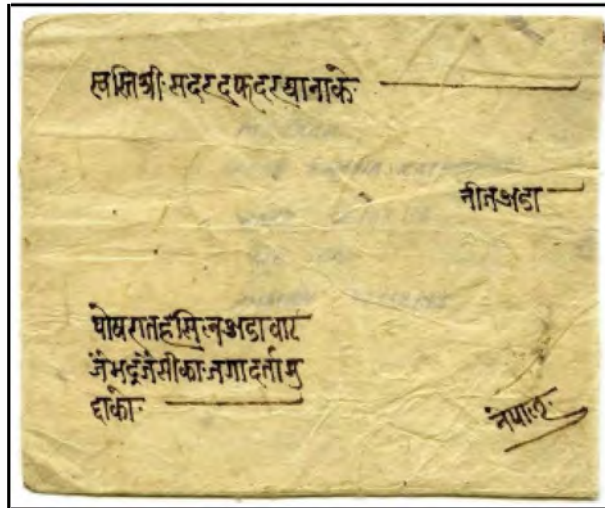


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
2. Bounded manuscript postmarks

April 1893, cover from Pokhara to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Pokhara (H 160)

Manuscript in circle, Pokhara (H 160), dated 49/13/12 BS = April 25, 1893.

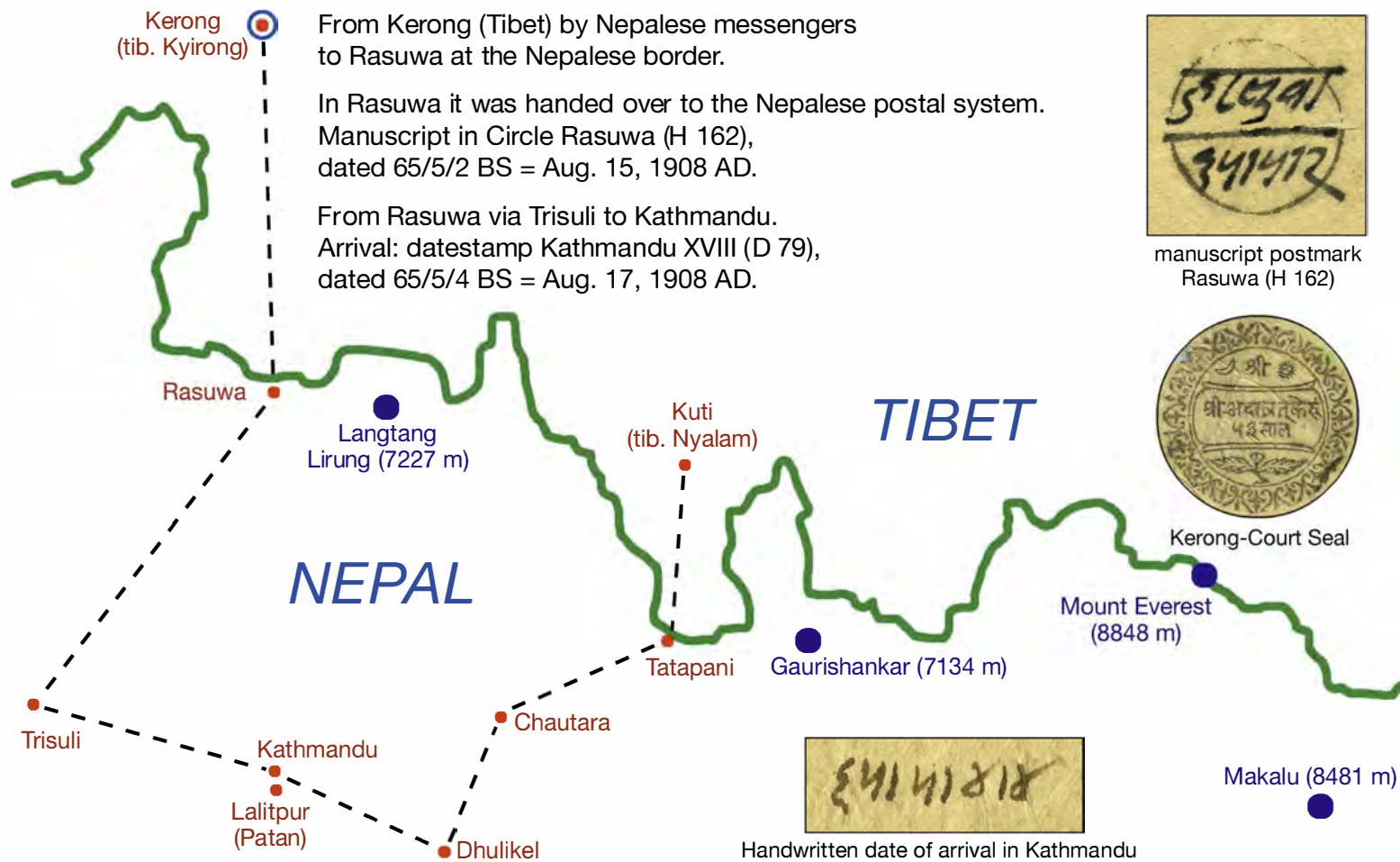
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XII (D 72), dated 49/13/16 BS = April 29, 1893.





Classic Cancellations and Postmarks 2. Bounded manuscript postmarks

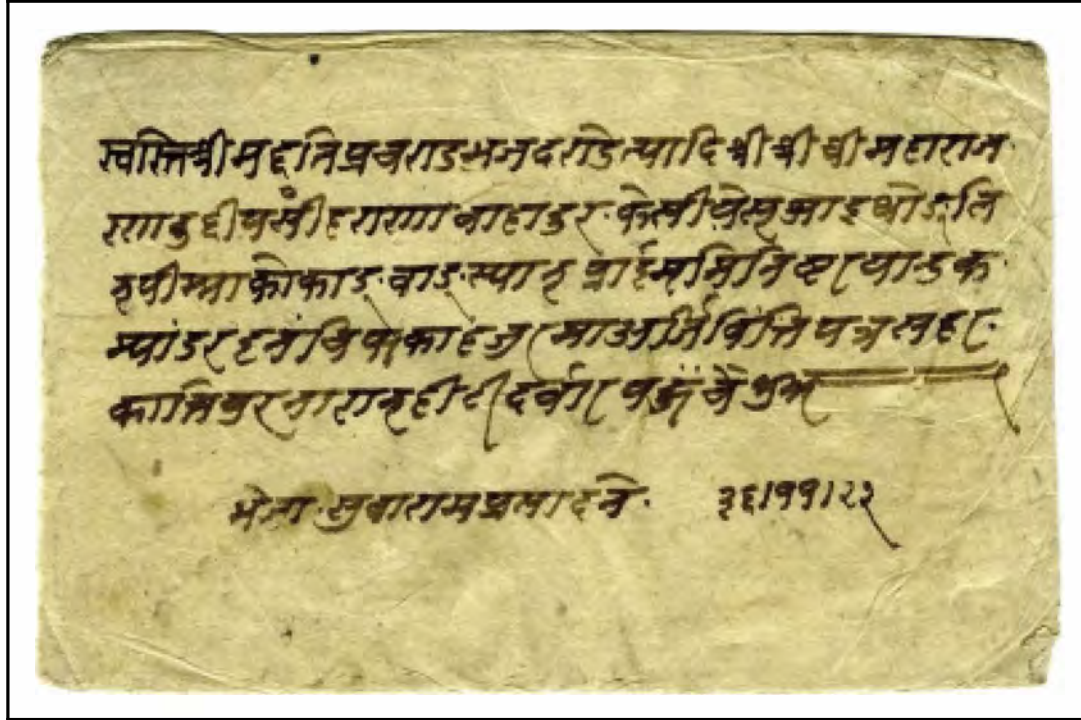
August 1908, cover from the Nepalese administered court in Kerong (Tibet) to Kathmandu



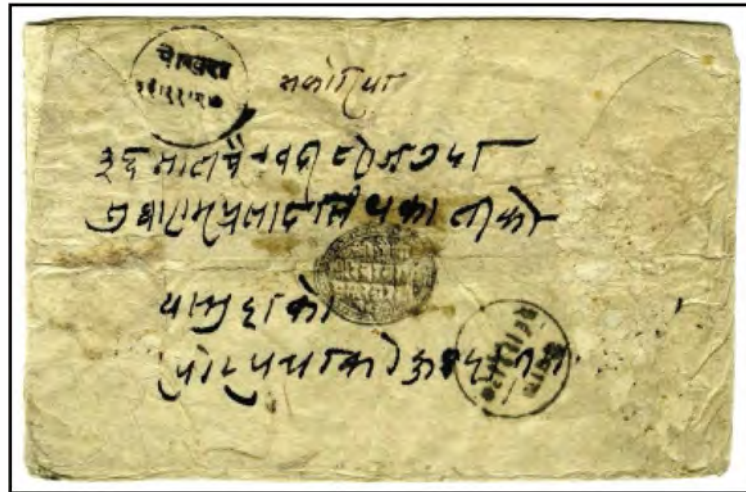


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
3. Early mechanical datestamps

March 1880, cover from Pokhara to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Pokhara (D 28)



Kathmandu III (D 62)

Datestamp Pokhara (D 28), dated 36/11/22/ BS = March 5, 1880 AD.

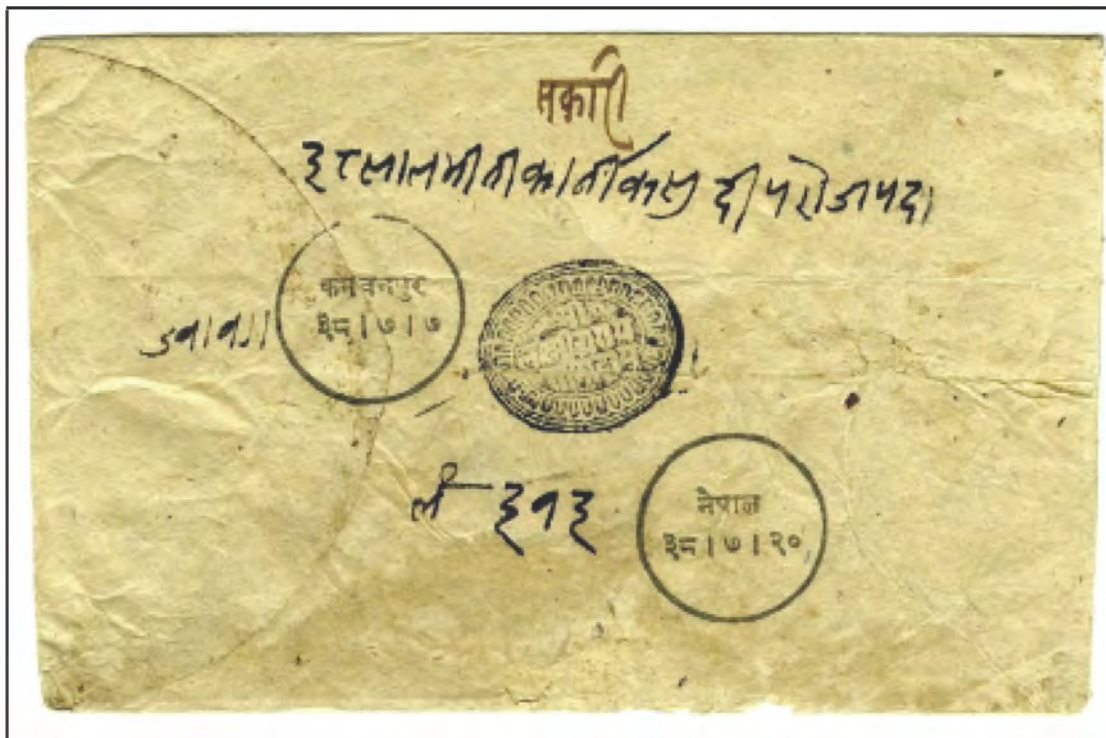
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu III (D 62), dated 36/11/27/ BS = March 10, 1880 AD.



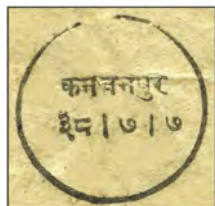


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
3. Early mechanical datestamps

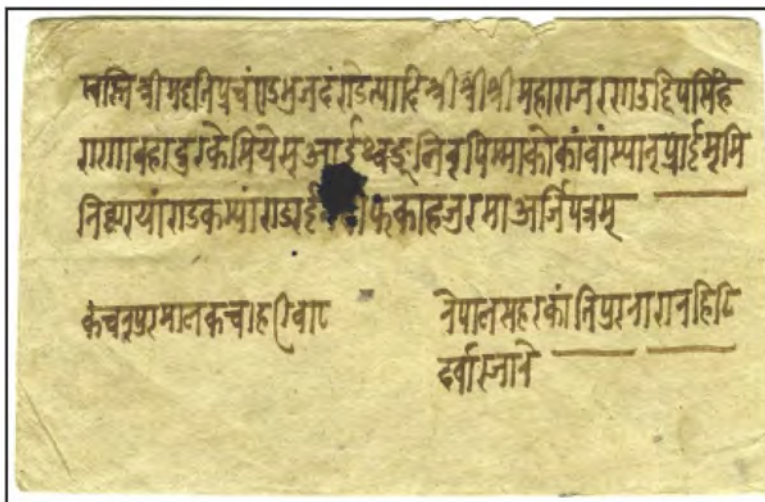
October/November 1881, cover from Kanchanpur to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Kanchanpur (D 21)



Kathmandu V (D 64)



Letter from the High Court, Kanchanpur, far west of Nepal, to Prime Minister Rana Udiph Singh, Najayanhiti, Durbar, Kathmandu.

Datestamp Kanchanpur (D 21), dated 38/7/7 BS = Oct. 20, 1881.
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu V (D 64), dated 38/7/20 = Nov. 2, 1881.



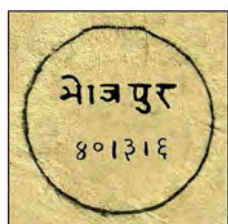


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
3. Early mechanical datestamps

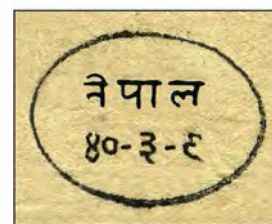
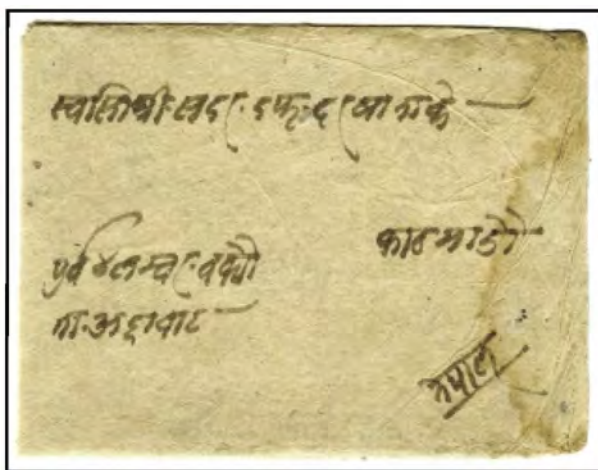
August 1883, cover from Bhojpur to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Bhojpur (D 4)



Kathmandu VI (D 65)

Strike of the rare datestamp Bhojpur (D 4),
dated 40/3/6 BS = August 19, 1883 AD.

Arrival:

datestamp Kathmandu VI (D 65),
dated 40/3/6 BS = August 19, 1883 AD.

The letter arrived in Kathmandu the same day!
The distance between Bhojpur and Kathmandu is some 150 km!





Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
3. Early mechanical datestamps

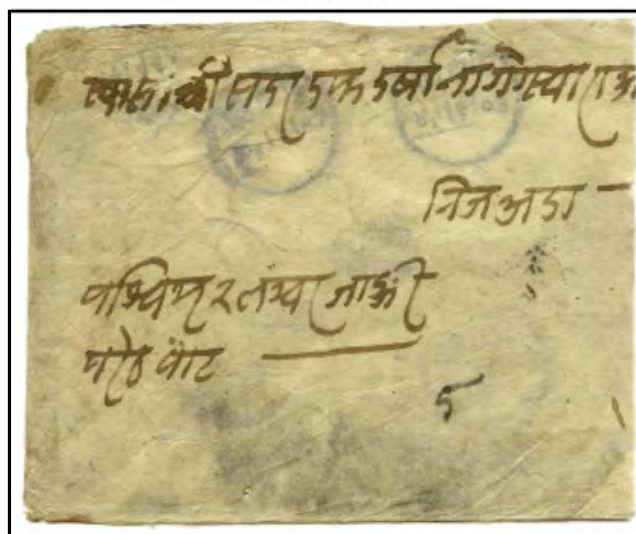
June 1903, cover from Gorkha to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Gorkha (D 93)



Kathmandu XIIA (D 78)

Four strikes of the rare datestamp Gorkha (D 93):
dated 60/3/13 BS = June 26, 1903 AD,
dated 60/3/14 BS = June 27, 1903 AD,
dated 60/3/15 BS = June 28, 1903 AD,
dated 60/3/16 BS = June 29, 1903 AD.

This cover stayed four days in Gorkha before it was sent out for Kathmandu.

Arrival: damaged datestamp Kathmandu XIIA (D 78), dated 60/3/17 BS = June 30, 1903 AD.



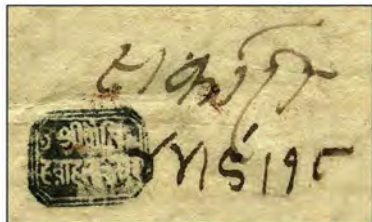


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
4. Manuscript with seal postmarks

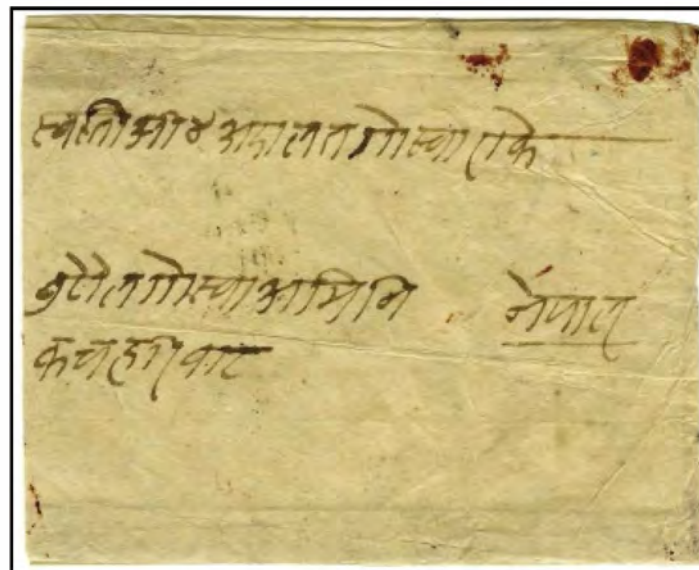
January 1888, cover from Taulihawa to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Taulihawa (H 67)



Kathmandu XI (D 70)

Manuscript with seal postmark Taulihawa (H 67), dated 44/9/18 BS = Jan. 1, 1888 AD.
Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XI (D 70), dated 44/9/23 BS = Jan. 6, 1888 AD.



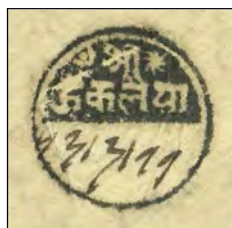


Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
5. Negative handdated postmarks

June 1896, cover from Kalaiya to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Kalaiya (N 34)

Negative handdated postmark Kalaiya (N 34), dated 53/3/10 BS = June 23, 1896,
Negative handdated postmark Kalaiya (N 34), dated 53/3/11 BS = June 24, 1896.

This cover stayed four two in Kalaiya before it was set out for Kathmandu.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu XV (D 75), dated 53/3/12 BS = June, 25 1896.





Classic Cancellations and Postmarks
5. Negative handdated postmarks

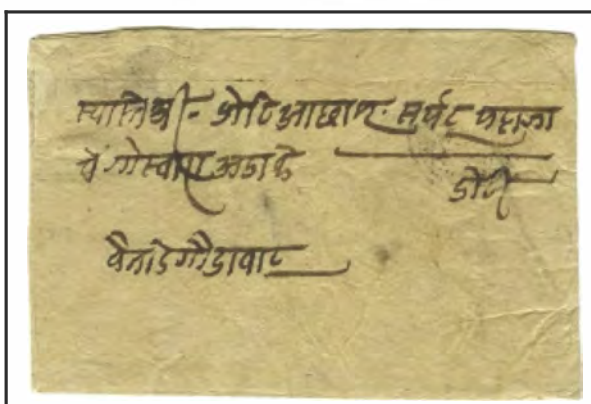
December 1896, cover from Baitadi to Doti



Scan of the reverse side:



Baitadi (N 2)



Doti (N 24)



Rare cover from Baitadi to Doti (far west of Nepal)

Departure:

negative handdated postmark Baitadi (N 2), dated 53/8/27 BS = Dec. 10, 1896 AD.

Arrival:

negative handdated postmark Doti (N 24), dated 53/8/28 BS = Dec. 11, 1896 AD.



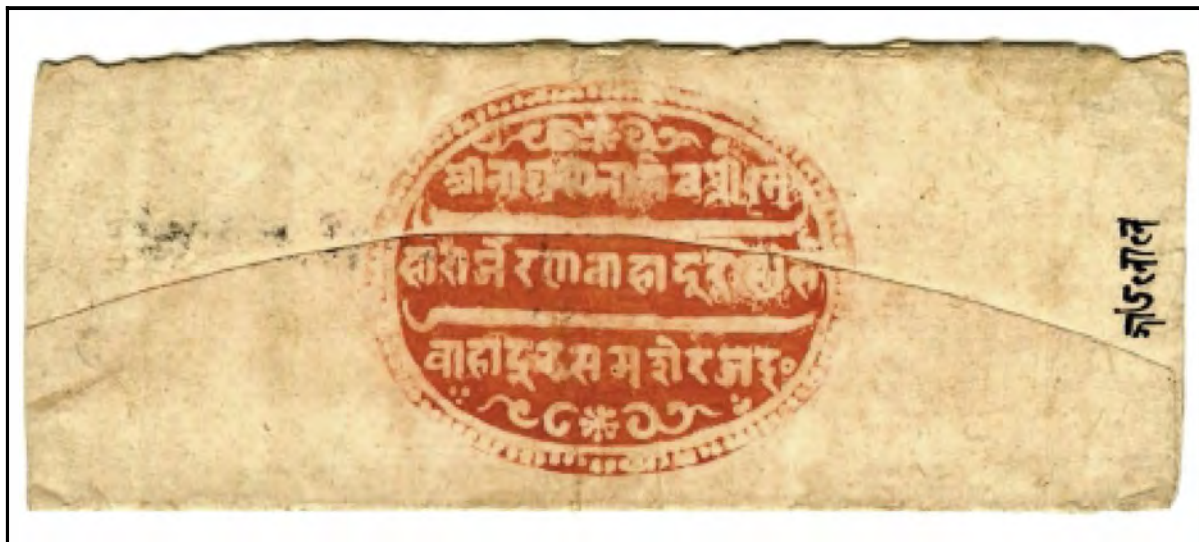


C. Private Couriers and Precursors of a Postal System
Cover sent by King Rana Bahadur Shah (ca. 1795)

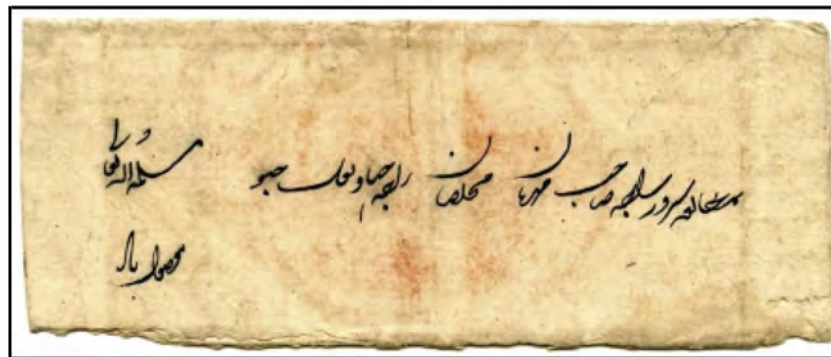
In 1768 the Gorkha-King Prithvi Narayan Shah unified many small kingdoms, thus establishing the modern country "Nepal". In order to achieve a good infrastructure of communication and to control the far lying territories successfully, government messengers and runners were assigned to carry official orders and documents ("**Kagate Hulak**" - **Paper Post**) and government goods ("**Thaple Hulak**" - **Burden Post**) respectively. This service was not available to the general public until the Postal Service Mail started in 1879.

Nepal's further conquering of territories such as Sikkim in the east or Kumaon and Garhwal in the west, resulted in the first contacts - and conflicts - with India and the rising power of the "British East India Company".

ca. 1795, cover with the private seal of King Rana Bahadur Shah (1777-1799)



Scan of the reverse side:



In those days mail was carried by postally appointed runners.
The mail of the monarch was of primary importance.

The inscription of the seal:

"SRI NATHASYA NAYAB SRI 5 MAHARAJE RANA BAHADUR SHAH BAHADOOR
SAMA SHER JUNG"

The adress is written in Persian language which was the official diplomatic language
of the British East India Company at the time.

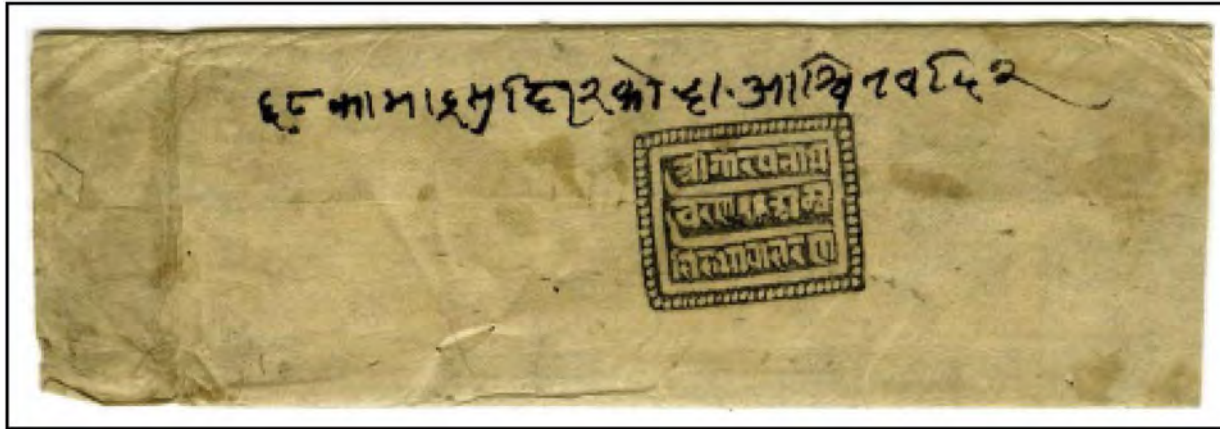




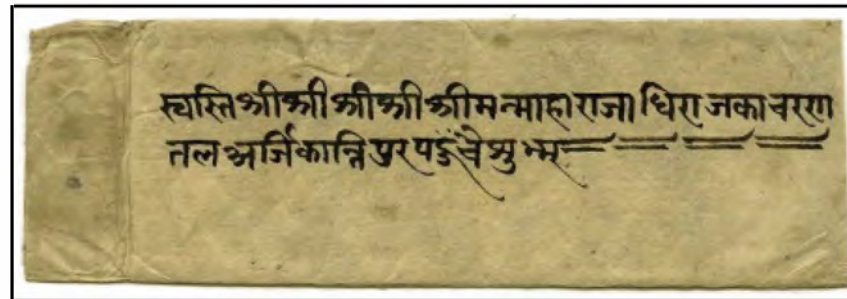
Two covers sent from Amar Singh Thapa to the King of Nepal (1811 and 1813)

In 1806 Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa sent troops to Palpa (Lumbini District) under the command of Amar Singh Thapa, who conquered this last independent state of the strategic important "Chaubisi Rajya" (24 principalities). Amar Singh Thapa became Governor of Palpa. In 1809 King Girbanyudha Bir Bikram Shah installed the first official postal routes in consideration of the upcoming war against the "British East India Company".

1811, cover with the seal of Amar Singh Thapa sent to King Girbanyudha Bir Bikram Shah in Kantipur (Kathmandu).



Scan of the reverse side:



Handwritten date of arrival: (18)68 / Ashwin / 2 BS = Sept. 9, 1811 AD.

The cover above bears an early seal of Amar Singh Thapa).

1813, cover sent by Amar Singh Thapa to King Girbanyudha Bir Bikram Shah in Kantipur (Kathmandu).



Handwritten date of arrival: (18)69 / Chaitra / 7 BS = March 20, 1813 AD.





Final stage of the Anglo-Nepalese War, Cover from Makwanpur to Kathmandu sent to Prime Minister General Bhimsen Thapa and Sri Kaji Ranadhoj Thapa (1816) Presumably the most Important Letter in the History of Nepal

Inscription above the seals:
handwritten date: (18)72 Phalgun Badi 9 roj 4 (BS)
= Wednesday, March 13, 1816 AD

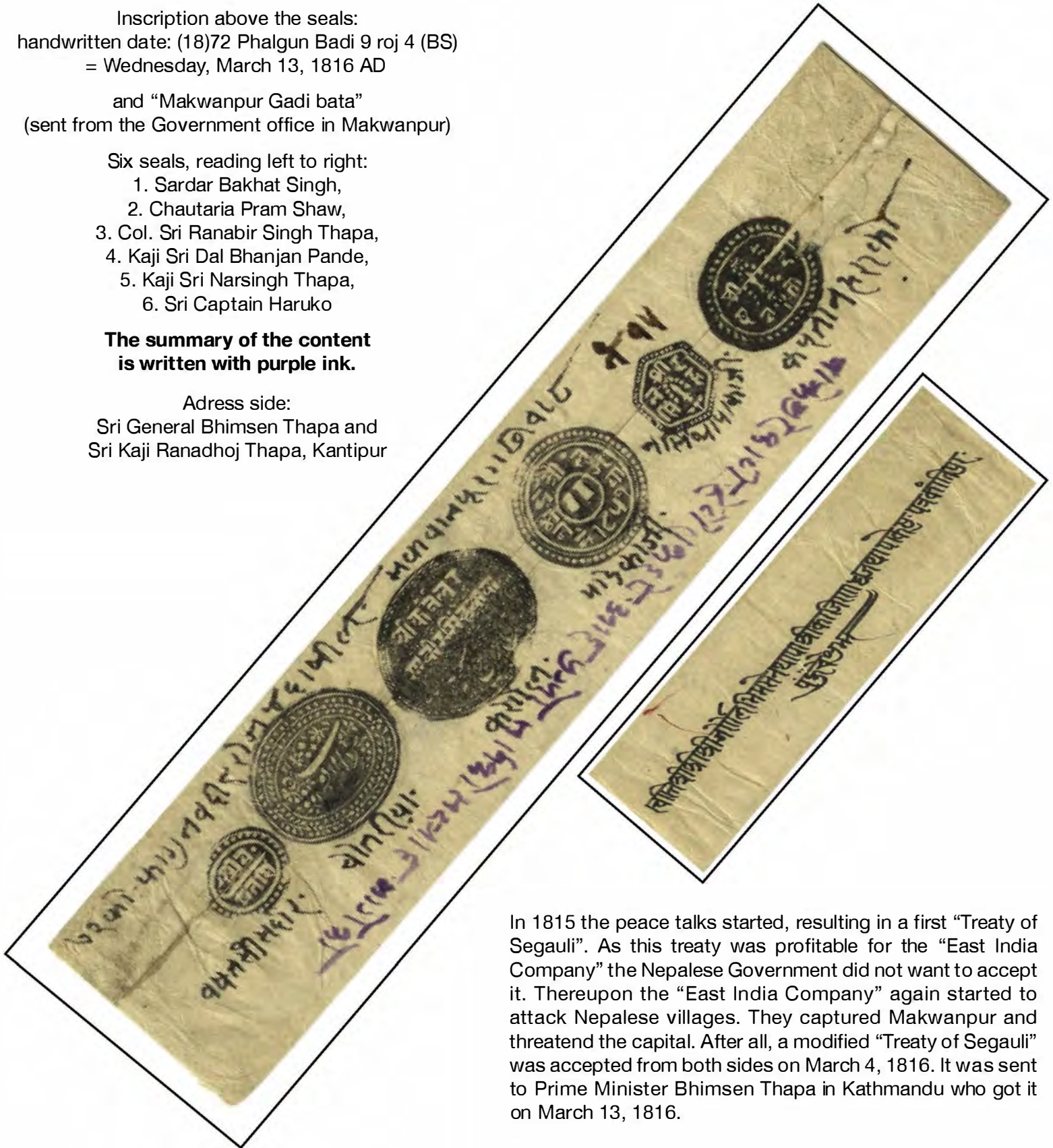
and "Makwanpur Gadi bata"
(sent from the Government office in Makwanpur)

Six seals, reading left to right:

1. Sardar Bakhat Singh,
2. Chautaria Pram Shaw,
3. Col. Sri Ranabir Singh Thapa,
4. Kaji Sri Dal Bhanjan Pande,
5. Kaji Sri Narsingh Thapa,
6. Sri Captain Haruko

The summary of the content is written with purple ink.

Adress side:
Sri General Bhimsen Thapa and
Sri Kaji Ranadhoj Thapa, Kantipur



In 1815 the peace talks started, resulting in a first "Treaty of Segauli". As this treaty was profitable for the "East India Company" the Nepalese Government did not want to accept it. Thereupon the "East India Company" again started to attack Nepalese villages. They captured Makwanpur and threatend the capital. After all, a modified "Treaty of Segauli" was accepted from both sides on March 4, 1816. It was sent to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa in Kathmandu who got it on March 13, 1816.

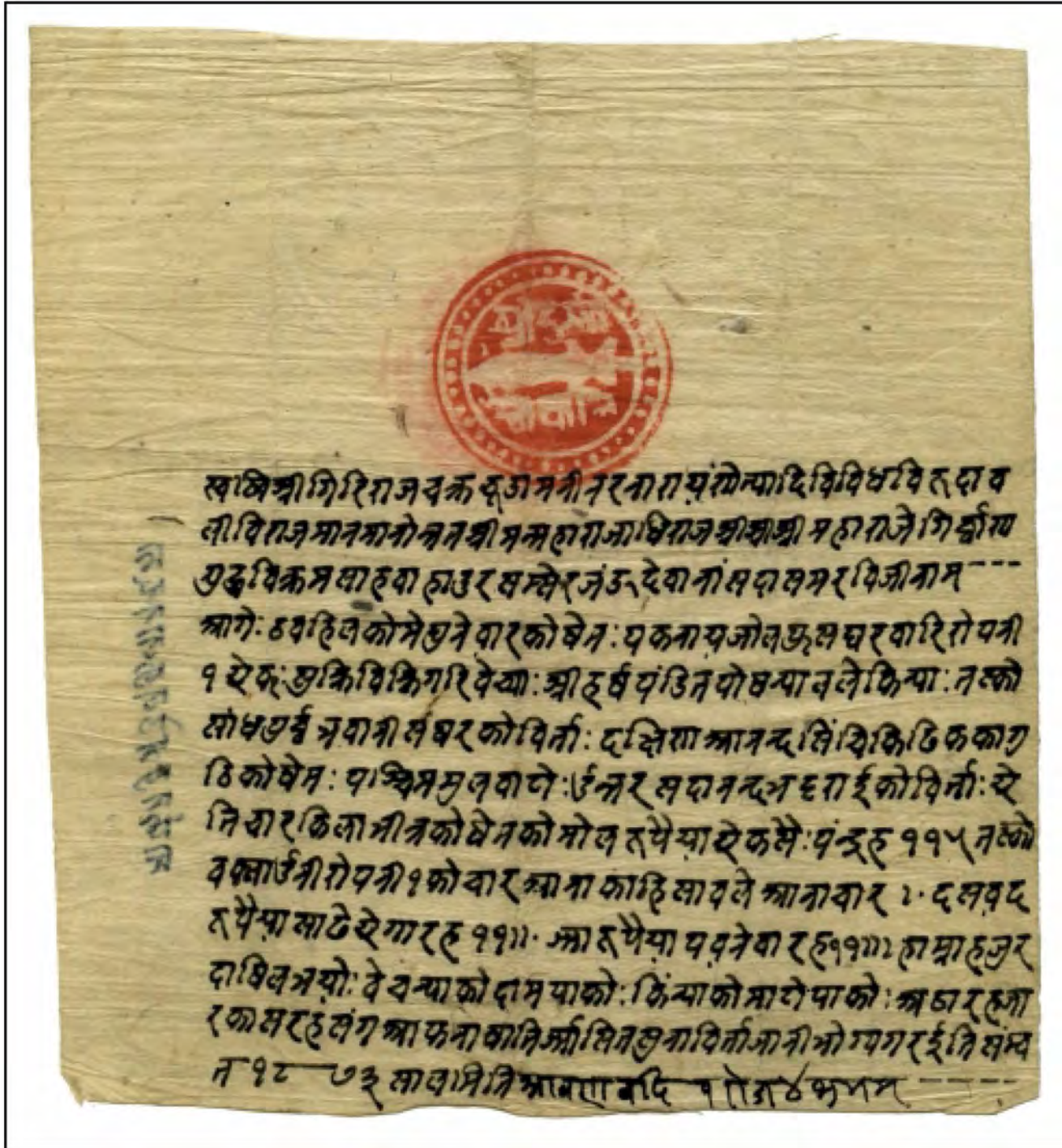
This is the cover that presumably contained the revised and final version of the "Treaty of Segauli", determining Nepal's borders as on the whole valid until today.





Document with the red "Lal Mohur" seal of King Girbanyudha Bikram Shah (1816)

1816, Document with the seal of King Girbanyudha Bikram Shah (1799-1816)



Government documents with the red "Lal Mohur" seal of the King were used to proclaim laws or confer land grants and titles. These official orders and documents were carried by Government messengers and runners. The mail of the monarch was of primary importance. This document is dated (18)73 = 1816 AD (last line of the text).



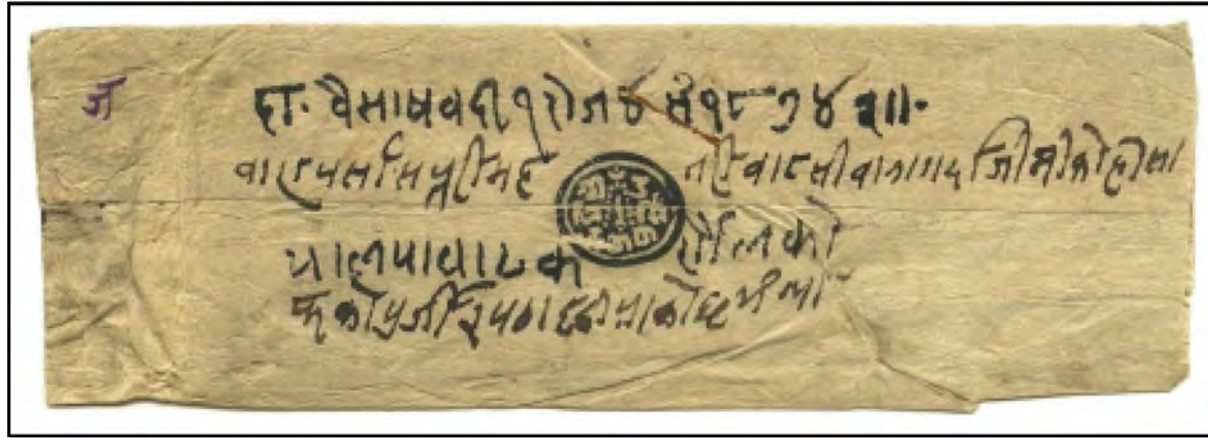


Discussion about the boundary between Nepal and the British territories

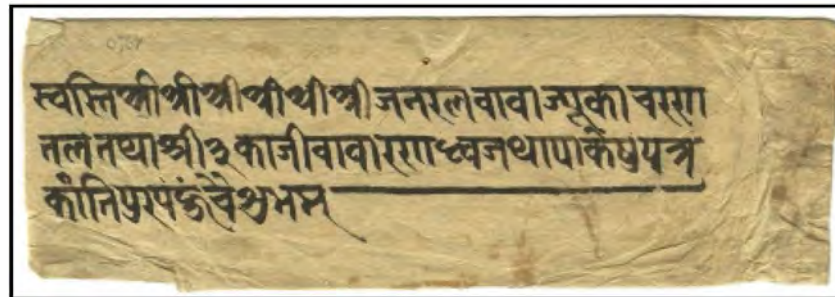
With the "Treaty of Segauli" the Anglo-Nepalese War was officially finished. However, even after the conclusion of the war, the border issue was not yet settled. Though a subsequent agreement was made in December 1816 according to which Nepal got all the low lands (Terai) the boundary between Nepal and the British territories remained as a matter of discussion. Colonel Ujir Singh Thapa, the commander of Mid-Western front (Butwal-Palpa) in Anglo-Nepalese War, was the responsible authority for that area.

Cover with the seal of Ujir Singh Thapa (1817)

April 1817, cover to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Handwritten date of arrival: (18)74/1/1 BS = April 14, 1817 AD.





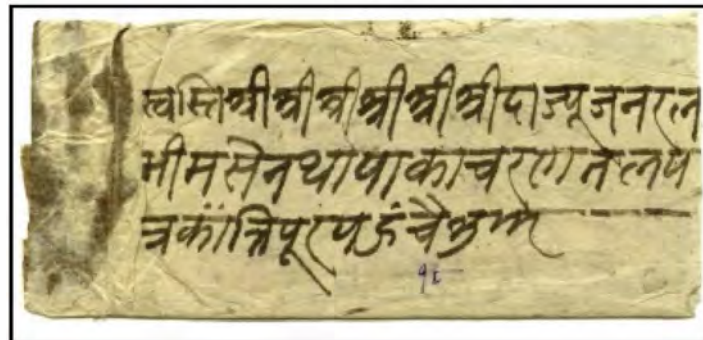
Discussion about the boundary between Nepal and the British territories

2 covers with the private seal of Ujir Singh Thapa, commander of the Mid-Western front (Butwal-Palpa) in the Anglo-Nepalese war

May 1821, cover sent by Colonel Ujir Singh Thapa, Palpa to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu

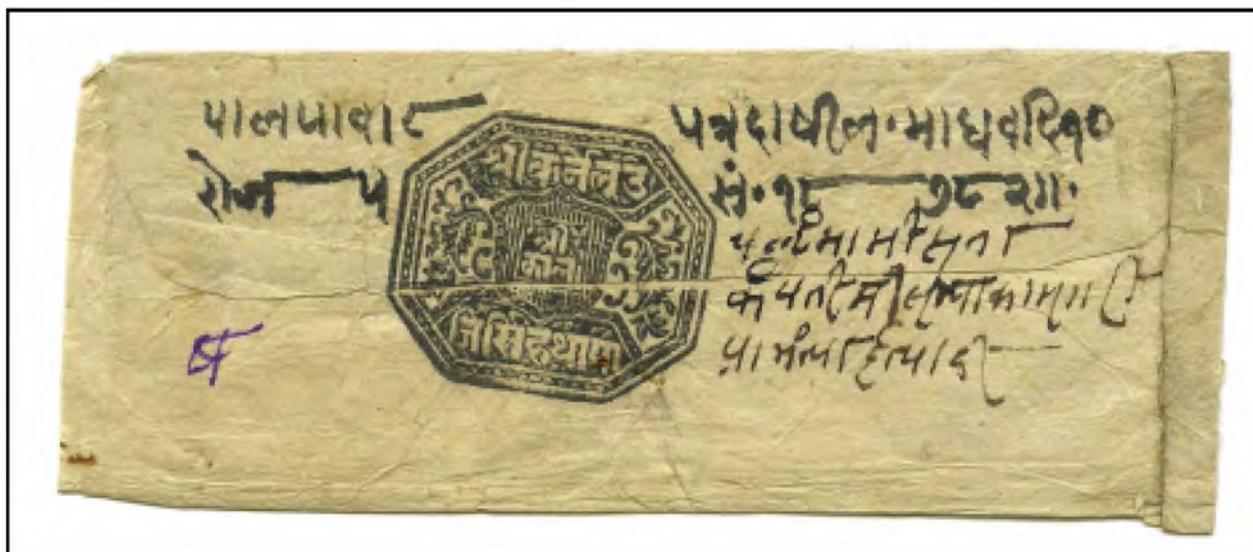


Scan of the reverse side:



Handwritten date of arrival in Kathmandu: (18)78/2/7/5 BS = Friday, May, 20, 1821 AD.

January 1822, cover sent by Colonel Ujir Singh Thapa, Palpa to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu



Handwritten date of arrival in Kathmandu: (18)78/10/4 BS = January 17, 1822 AD.





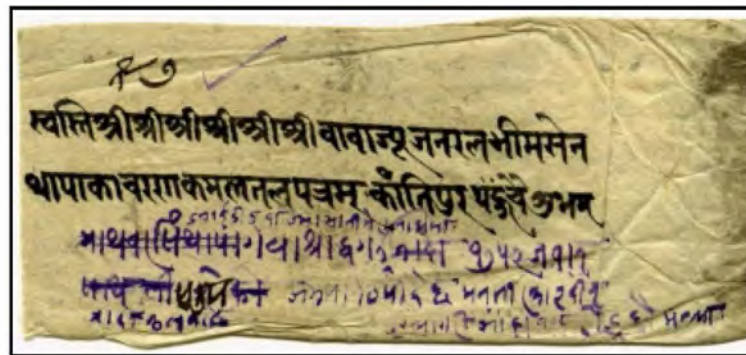
Discussion about the boundary between Nepal and the British territories

2 covers with the private seal of General Mathbur Singh Thapa (Prime Minister 1843-1845)

January 1828, cover from Hetauda (Makwanpur) to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Handwritten date of arrival in Kathmandu: BS (18)84 Magh Sudi 12 Roj 6 = Friday, January 25, 1828 AD.

BS ("Bikram Sambat") (18)84 correlates to the year 1827/1928 AD,

"Magh" is the tenth month in the Nepali year. It correlates to middle of January - middle of February,

"Sudi 12" is a denotation of the moon calendar, indicating day 12 after new moon,

"Roj" specifies the day of the week, starting with Sunday. "Roj 6" means Friday.

January 1829, cover from Hetauda (Makwanpur) to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu



Handwritten date of arrival in Kathmandu: BS (18)85 Magh Sudi 13 Roj 6 = Friday, January 26, 1829 AD.





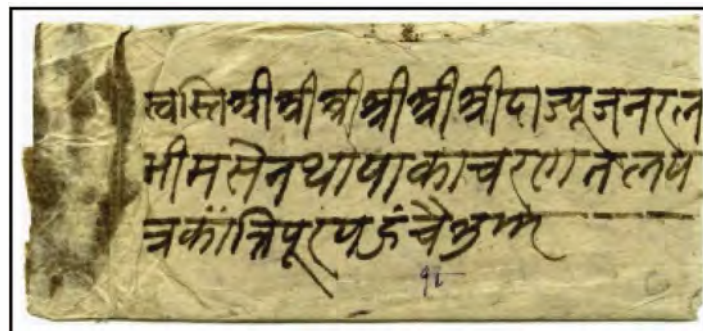
Cover with the private seal of General Ranabir Singh Thapa (1835)

After the Anglo–Nepalese war a time of political disorder in Nepal began. Actually, not the King but Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa was the political leader at that time. He was making all the administrative decisions of the country. King Rajendra never dared to express any doubts regarding Bhimsen's decisions. To make sure that the King was insulated from influences of other people, Bhimsen had instated his youngest brother, General Ranabir Singh Thapa, in the royal palace to keep a watch on the King and the royal family.

August 1835, cover sent by General Ranabir Singh Thapa to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



This letter was sent by General Ranabir Singh Thapa to his brother Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa, Kathmandu.

Handwritten date of arrival: (18)92 Bhadra / 5 / 6 AD = Friday, Aug. 18, 1835 AD.





Cover with the private seal of King Rajendra Shah (1846/1847)

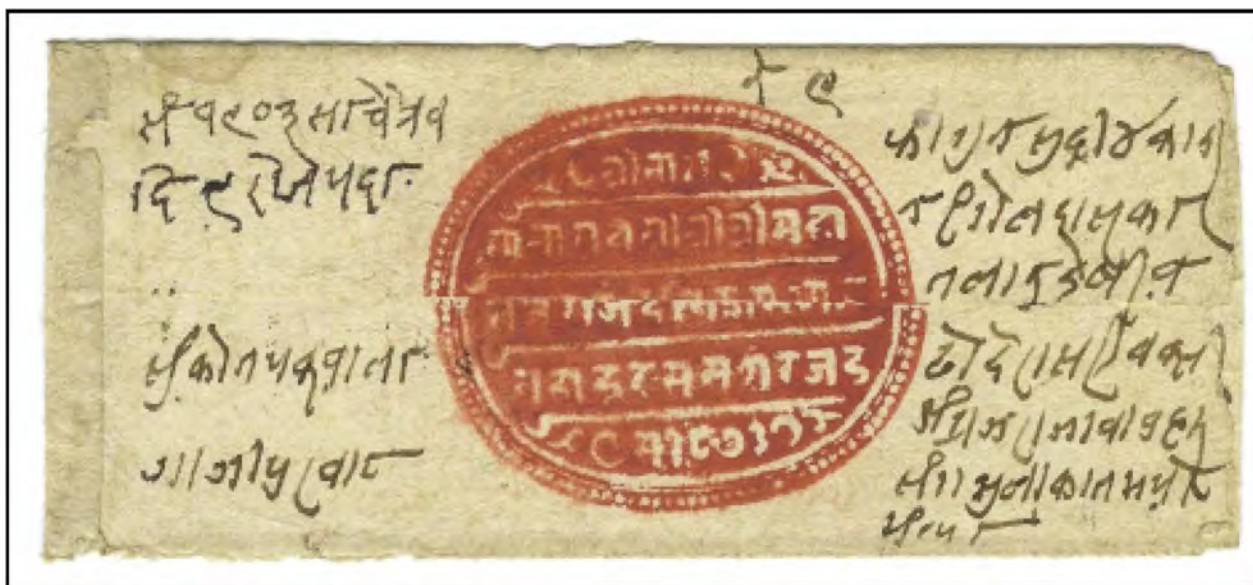
The “Kot massacre”

On 14 September 1846 Jung Bahadur and his brothers killed about 40 members of the Nepalese Government. He made himself Prime Minister immediately after the massacre and sent King Rajendra into exile in Varanasi (India) along with the Queen.

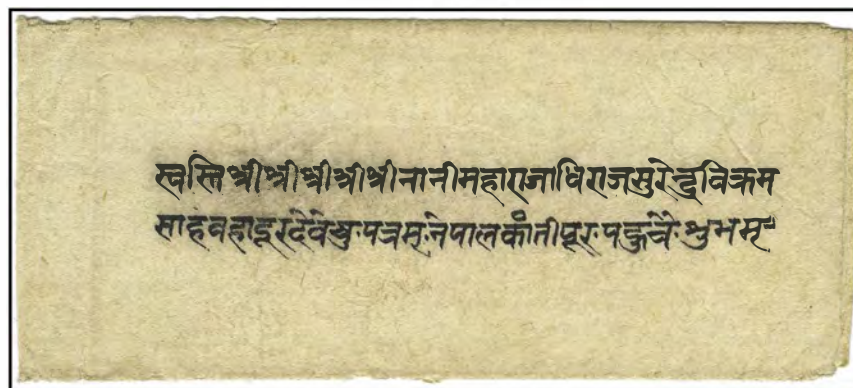
In 1847 Jung Bahadur announced King Rajendra’s dethronement and elevated Rajendra’s son to the throne as King Surendra Bikram Shah.

In 1848 the ancient Indian royal name “Rana” was awarded to Jung Bahadur. Since then he was Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana.

1846/47, Cover with the private seal of King Rajendra Bikram Shah (1816-1847), sent from the exile in India to his son, the future King Surendra Bikram Shah (1847-1881)



Scan of the reverse side:



This letter was carried by private courier.

The inscription of the seal:

“SHREE NATHAYA NAYEB SHREE 3 MAHARAJE RAJENDRA BIKRAM SHAH BAHADUR SHAM SHER JUNG SHAH”





Two Sepoy Rebellion covers, 1857 and 1858

“India’s First War of Independence” was a mutiny of the native troops known as “Sepoys”. Nepal sent Gurkha soldiers to the “Sepoy Rebellion” of 1857 to support the British. General Jagat Shumsher was Commander of the South of Nepal during the rebellion.

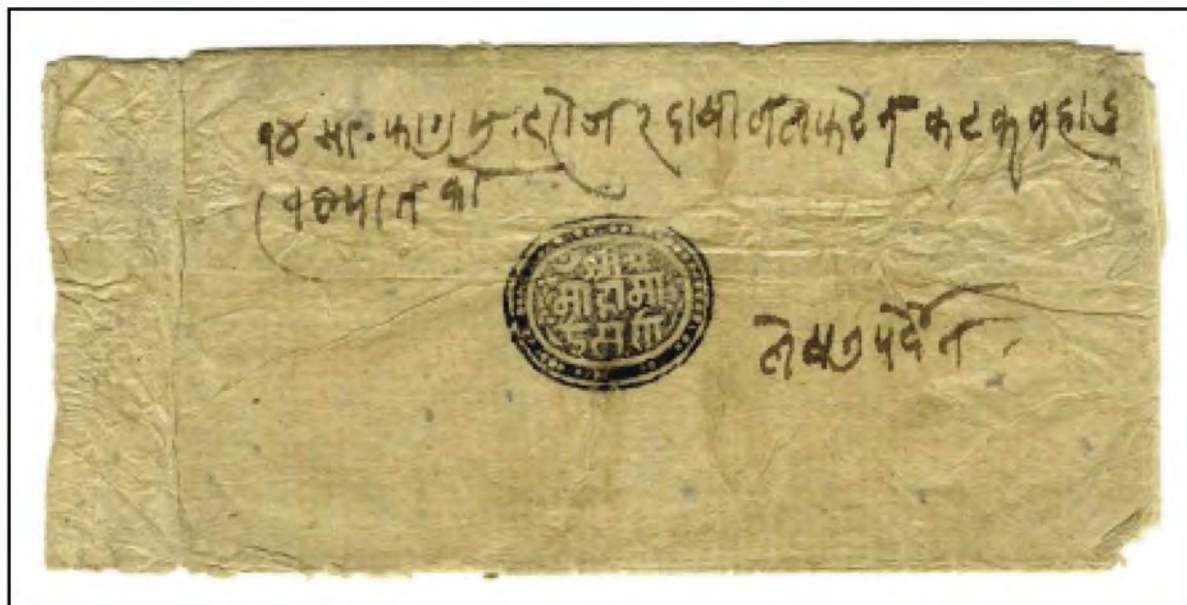
August 1857, cover sent by Mir Subba Ratna Man at Kadarbana to General Jagat Shumsher



Departure: 1914/4/ Sudi 11 BS = August 1, 1857 AD.

Arrival: 1914/4/ Sudi 15 BS = August 5, 1857 AD.

February 1858, cover sent by Lieutenant Katak Bahadur Basnyat to General Jagat Shumsher



Departure: 1914/11/ Sudi 4 BS = February 16, 1858 AD.

Arrival: 1914/11/ Sudi 9 BS = February 21, 1858 AD.



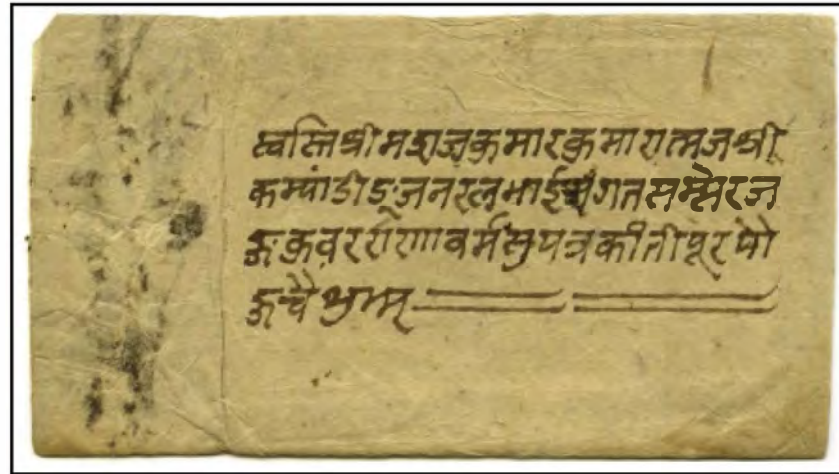


Cover with the private seal of Jagat Shumsher (1860)

March 1860, cover sent by Jagat Shumsher Jung Kunwar Rana to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Commanding General Jagat Shumsher Rana (1827-1879)
was the second youngest brother of
Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana.

Handwritten date of arrival: (19)16 / Caitra / 6 / 4 BS = Wednesday, March 19, 1860 AD.





Cover with the private seal of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana (1874)

June 1874, cover from Kathmandu to Jajarkot



Letter sent by Prime Minister Sri Sri Sri Jung Bahadur Rana (1846-1856 and 1857-1877) to Jung Bahadur Shah, King of Jajarkot. Coincidentally both bear the name Jung Bahadur.

Handwritten date of arrival:
BS (19)31 Ashadh Badi 5 Roj 7
= Saturday, June 18, 1874 AD.

This is the only recorded cover with this seal of Maharaja Jung Bahadur Rana.



The original visiting card of Jung Bahadur Rana

Jung Bahadur Rana is the most fascinating and important figure in the history of Nepal. He inaugurated the "Kot massacre" in 1846 and was the founder of the Rana dynasty who ruled the country for more than 100 years.



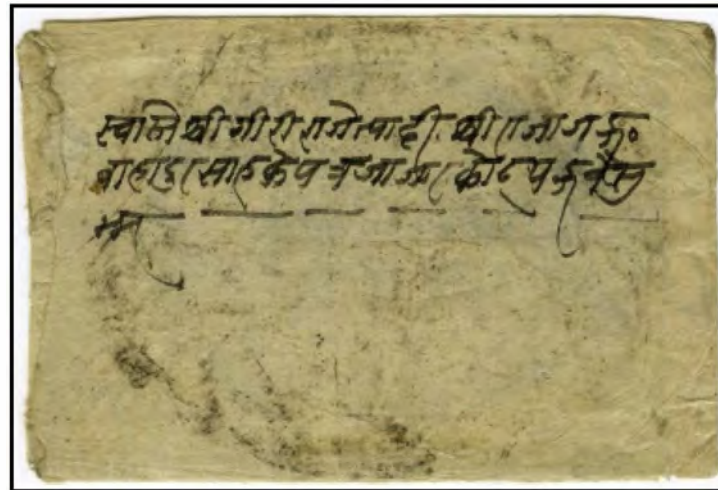


Cover with the private seal of Prime Minister Rana Udip Singh (1875)

1875, cover from Kathmandu to Jajarkot



Scan of the reverse side:



Letter sent by Prime Minister Maharaja Rana Udip Singh (1877-1885)
to Jung Bahadur Shah, King of Jajarkot.

Handwritten date of arrival: (19)32 BS = 1875 AD.

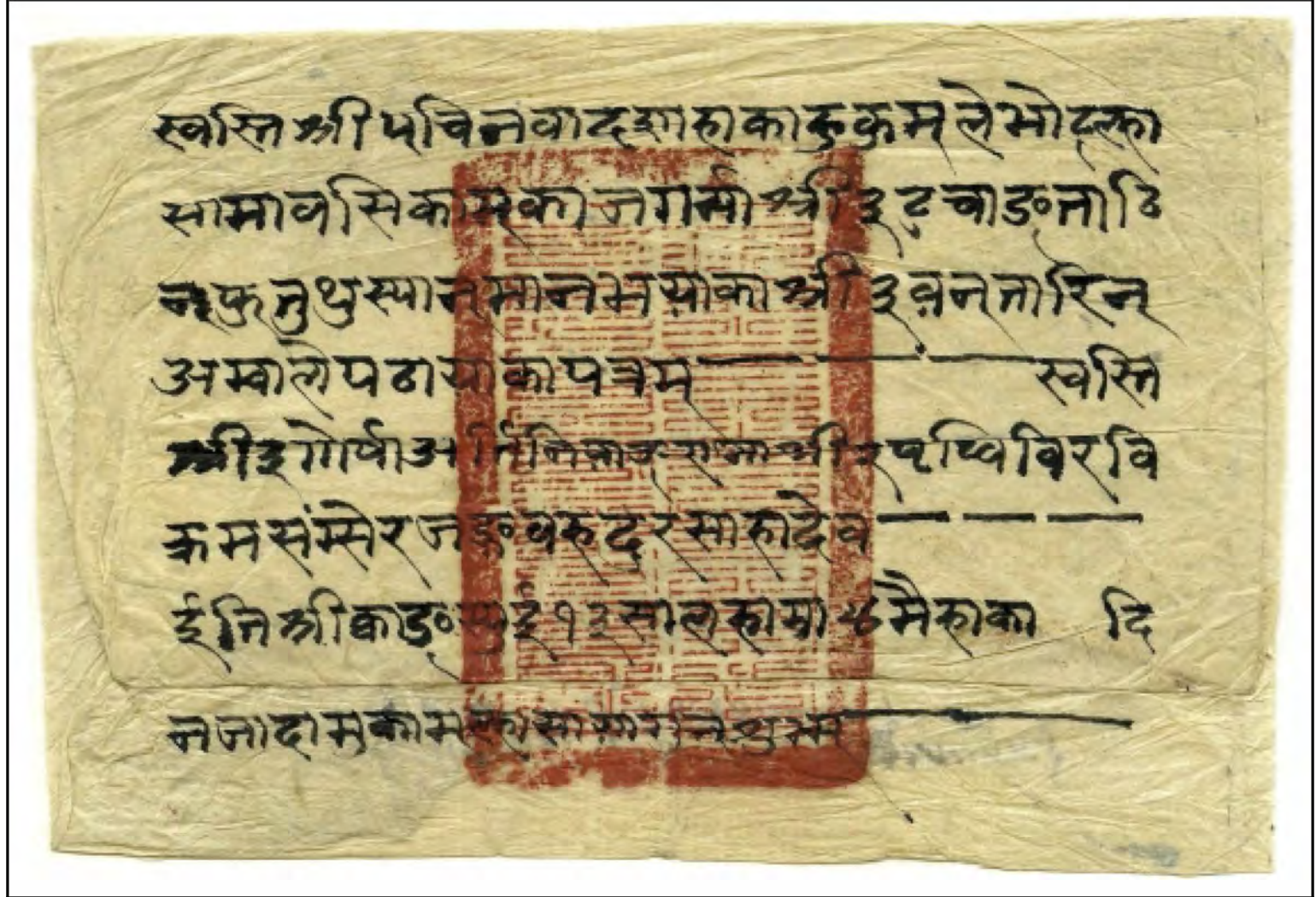




Letter with the red seal of the “Amban” in Tibet (1887)

After the Nepal-Tibet-China War (1789-1792) a correspondence between the King of Nepal and the emperor of China or the “Amban”, his viceroy in Lhasa, Tibet was arranged. This correspondence was carried by Government messengers. Hence, these covers bear no postal marking.

June 1887, cover from Lhasa to Kathmandu



Amban cover, adressed to King Prithvi Bir Bikram Shah (1881-1911)

Reverse side: handwritten date of arrival: “44 Ashadh Badi 8 Roj 2”.

“Bikram Sambat” (19)44 correlates to the year 1887 AD,

“Ashadh” is the third month in the Nepali year: middle of June - middle of July,

“Sudi” and “Badi” are notations of the moon calendar:
the days after new moon are “Sudi”, the days after full moon are “Badi”,

“Roj” specifies the day of the week, starting with Sunday. So “Roj 2” means Monday.

Thus the complete date is:
monday, the 8th day after full moon of the month Ashadh in the Nepali year (19)44 Bikram Sambat:
Monday, June 13, 1887 AD.





D. Postal Connections to Foreign Countries

D.1 Outgoing mail

The only recorded letter sent by the British Resident Edward Gardner (1825)

On 4th March 1816 General David Ochterlony signed the “Treaty of Segauli” for the East India Company. Subsequently, Nepal had to accept the observation of its politics by the British Residency in Kathmandu. Edward Gardner became the first Resident after the war (1816-1829).

16th May 1825, entire letter from Kathmandu to Delhi, redirected to Dehrah



Edward Gardner sent this letter to his friend, the artist and writer William Fraser. Previously, both were David Ochterlony’s assistants.



(B 1)

Octagonal handstamp
“NIPAUL / POST OFFICE / POST PAID” (B 1) with the rate (1 Rupee & 12 Annas) and date (16th May 1825) in manuscript.

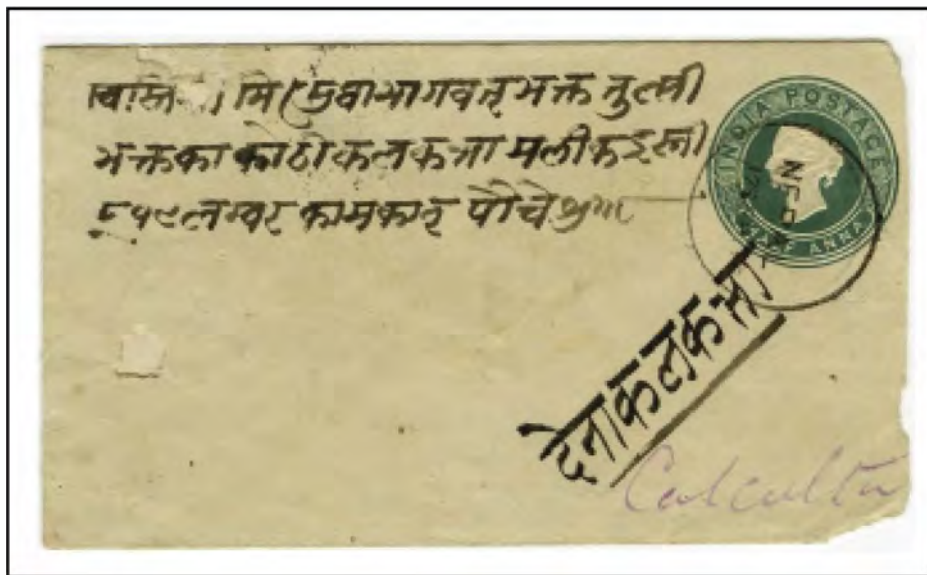
This is the earliest type of a postage stamp in Nepal, in use at the British Indian P.O., affiliated to the British Residency, Kathmandu.





Outgoing mail, sent from the British Residency in Kathmandu

September 1888, Indian Postal Stationery envelope (Jain E 11)
from Kathmandu to Calcutta (India)



British-Indian
datestamp (B 25)

Cover (½ Anna)
from Kathmandu to Calcutta.
The datestamp (B 25),
dated Sep. 17, 1888,
performs the exceptional
function of a cancellation.

**Only three covers are recorded
with this datestamp
used as a cancellation.**

Scan of the reverse side:



datestamp Segowlie

Reverse side:
datestamp Segowlie,
dated Sep. 19, 1888.



Calcutta, Bara Bazar

Arrival:
Calcutta, Bara Bazar,
dated Sep. 20, 1888.

May 1905, Indian Postal Stationery envelope (Jain E 20)
from Kathmandu to Bombay (India)



"Swiss-type"
double-circle (B 15)

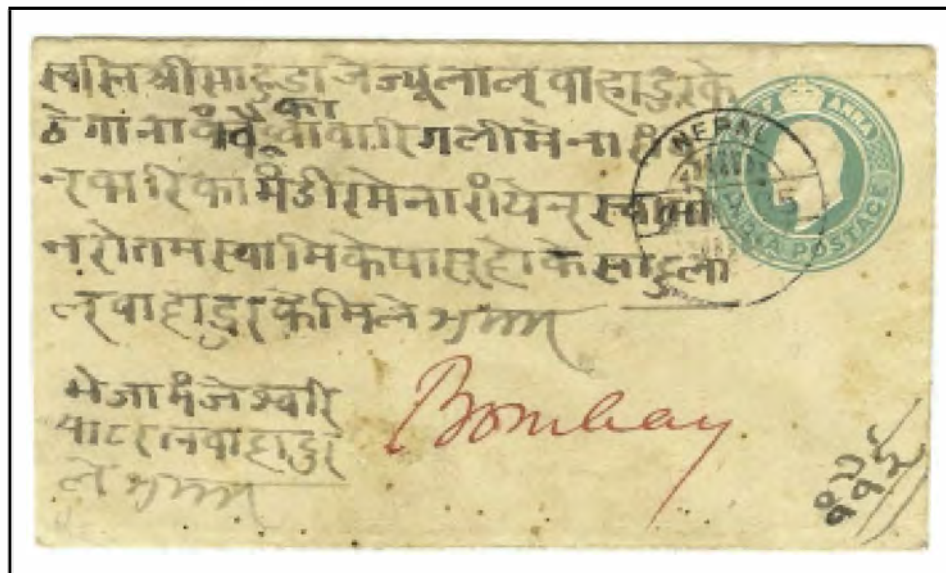
Cover (½ Anna) from Kathmandu
to Girgaon (Sanskrit: mountain-village)
in Bombay.

"Swiss-type" double-circle
cancellation (B 15), dated May 26, 1905.

Reverse side: arrival postmark
Girgaon, dated May 30, 1905.



Girgaon
datestamp





Rare cover sent to Germany (1891)

December 1891, Indian Postal Stationery envelope (Jain E 15)
from Kathmandu to Erfurt (Germany)



Scan of the reverse side:



British-Indian datestamp (B 26)



Bombay datestamp



Segowlie datestamp



SEA POST OFFICE

Cover (2 Annas and 6 Pies surcharged in black on 4 Annas and 6 Pies)
from Kathmandu via Segowlie and Bombay to Erfurt (Germany)

British-Indian thimble-sized datestamp (B 26), dated Dec. 17, 1891
thimble-sized datestamp Segowlie, dated Dec. 19, 1891
datestamp Bombay, dated Dec. 22, 1891
SEA POST OFFICE: dated Dec. 26, 1891
Arrival: Erfurt, dated Jan. 11, 1892
Total transit time 23 days.

**This is one of three postal articles recorded
with the thimble-sized datestamp (B 26) being used as cancellation.**

Only two covers from Nepal to Germany in the 19th century are recorded.





Postcard sent to Germany (1898)

May 1898, Postal Stationery postcard from Kathmandu to Görlitz (Germany)



Scan of the affixed answer card:



Delivery datestamp



British-Indian postmark (B 14)

German reply card sent by Postmaster Kishen Lal, returned from the Residency P.O. in Kathmandu to Görlitz, Germany.

British-Indian delivery datestamp (B 32) on the answer card.

“Squared-circle”-postmark (Hellrigl B 14), dated May 4, 1898. This cancellation was correctly applied, according to U.P.U. regulations.

Arrival: datestamp Görlitz, dated May 25, 1898.

This is the earliest recorded usage of a reply card to and from Nepal.

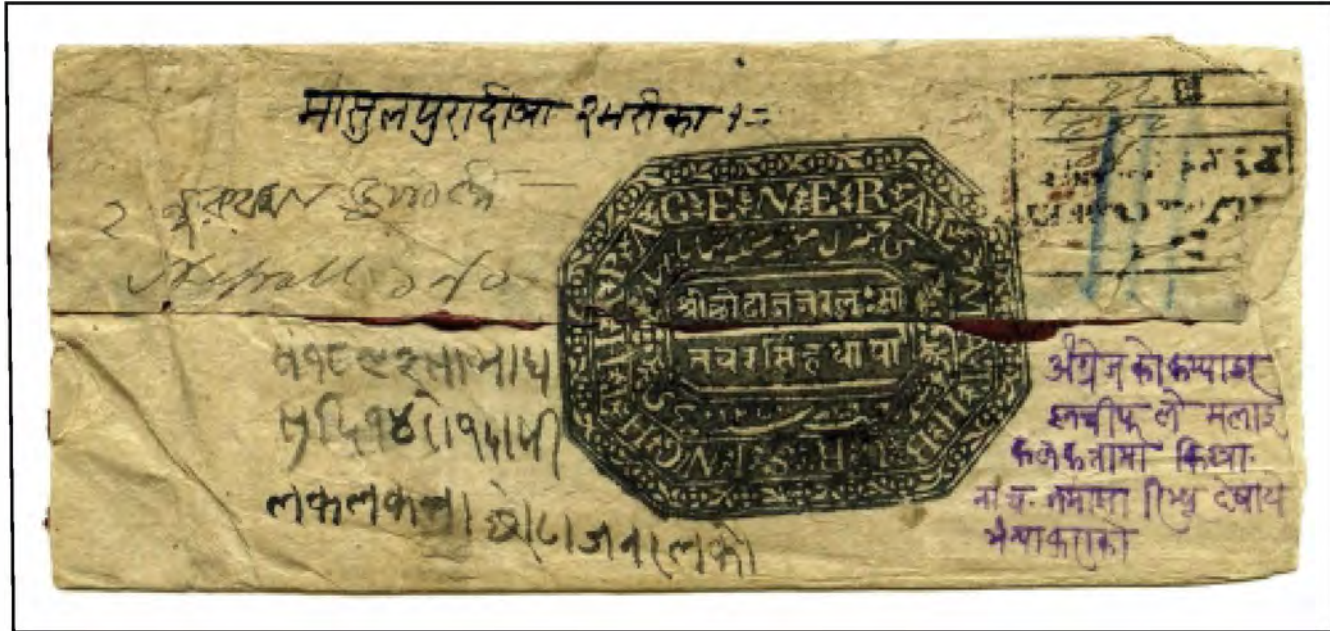




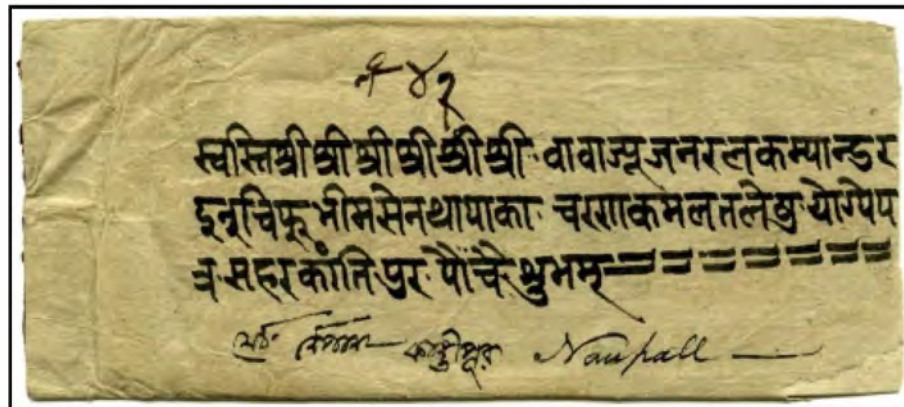
D.2 Incoming mail

Prepaid cover with the private seal of General Mathbur Singh Thapa (1836)

January 1836, cover from Calcutta (India) to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



This letter was mailed by General Mathbur Singh Thapa (who later became Prime Minister [1843-1845] and was killed by Jung Bahadur), addressed to Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa.

It was sent by the Indian post (rectangular postmark "Calcutta paid") to the British-Indian Post Office at the British Residency in Kathmandu.

Handwritten date of arrival (to the left of the big seal of Mathbur Singh Thapa):
Sambat 1892 Magh Sudi 14 Roj 1 = Sunday, Jan. 26, 1836 AD.

As usual no postal markings were applied on arrival at Kathmandu.



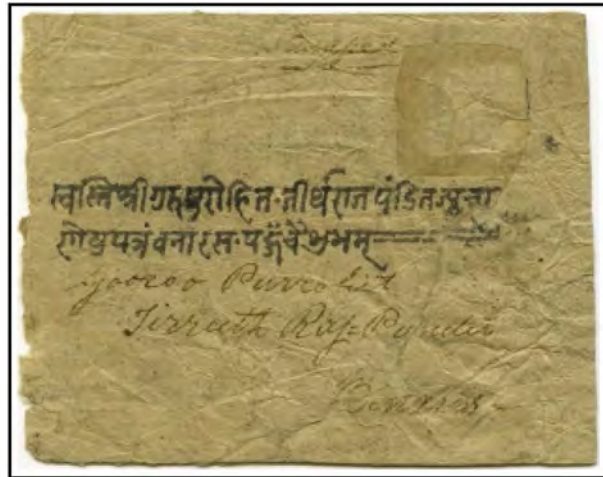


Prepaid cover with the private seal of Commander-in-Chief Sri Krishna Bahadur Kunwar (1860)

February 1860, cover from Benares (India) to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Kathmandu (B 21)

This letter was mailed by Commander-in-Chief Sri Krishna Bahadur Kunwar Rana Sarana, a brother of Maharaja Jung Bahadur Rana.

An Indian postage stamp was fixed on the reverse side (with handwritten "stamped"), as usual it was removed.

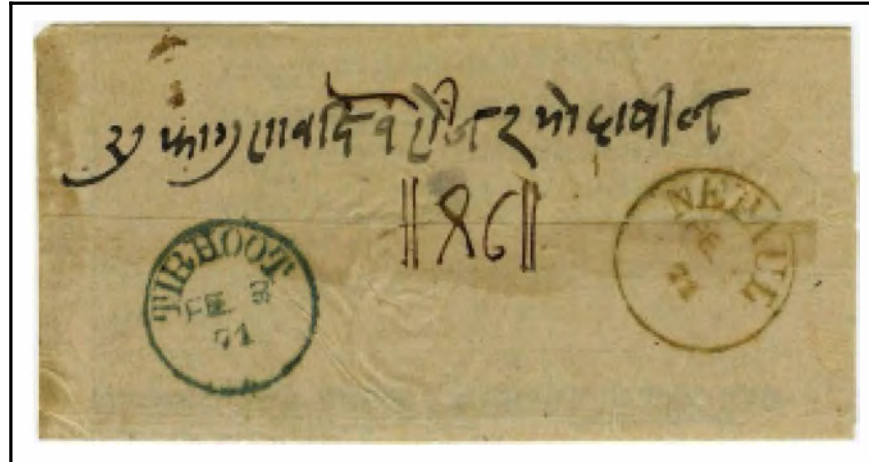
Arrival: postmark of the British-Indian Post Office at the British Residency in Kathmandu (B 21), dated Feb. 3, 1860 AD.



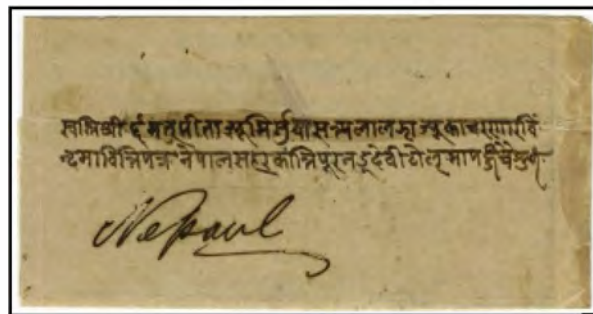


Unpaid cover with a rare arrival datestamp (1871)

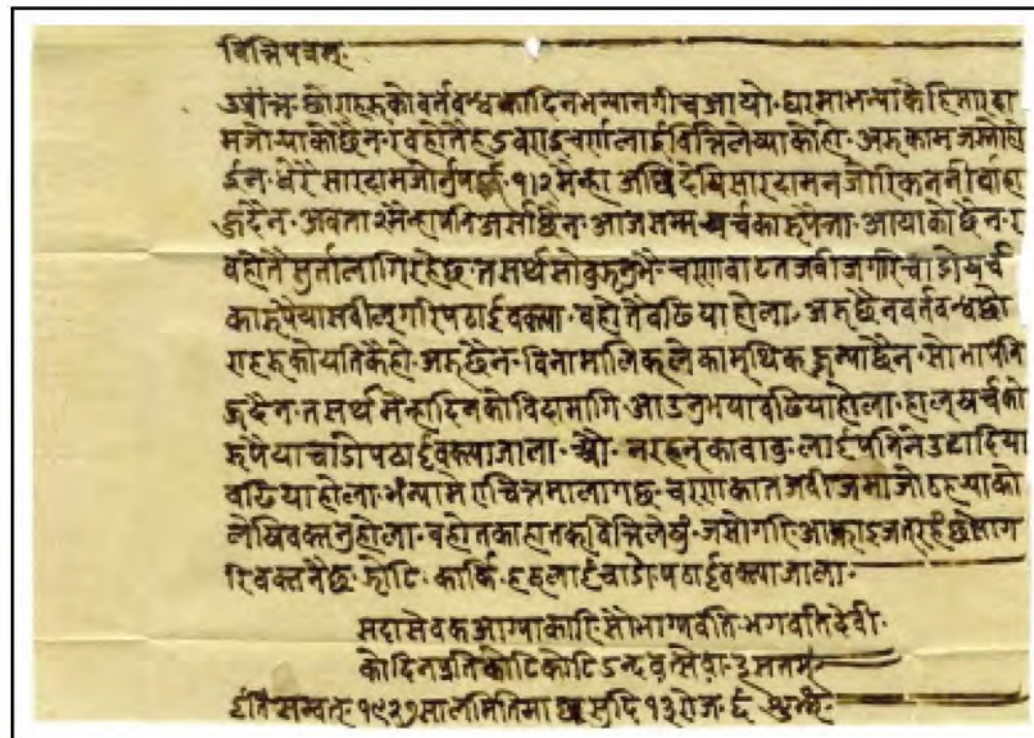
February 1871, cover from Tirhoot (India) to Kathmandu



Scan of the reverse side:



Datestamp (B 23)



Unpaid cover dispatched from Tirhoot (in Bihar, India) on February 3, 1871. Tirhoot (in Bihar, India) is situated between Patna (India) and Janakpur (Nepal).

Arrival in Kathmandu:

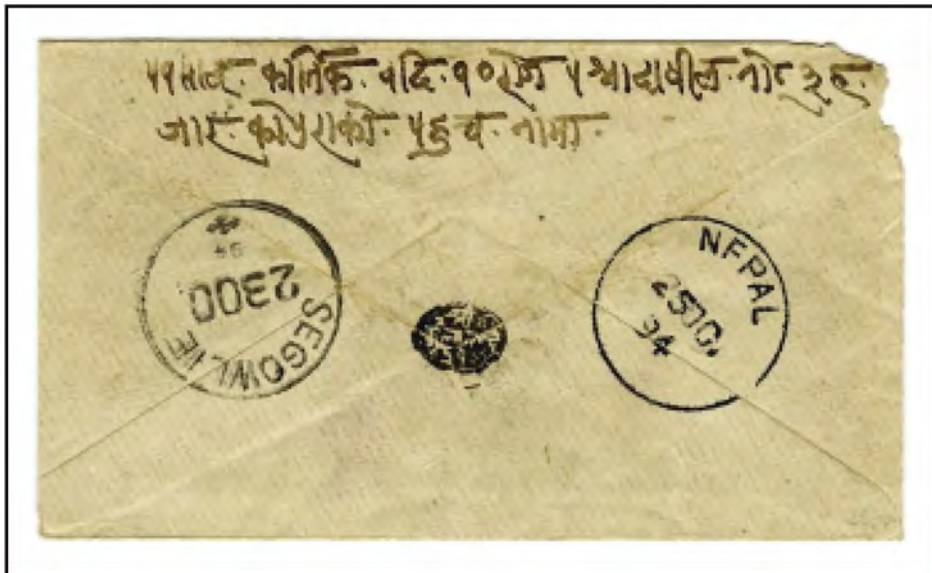
rare NEPAUL datestamp (B 23) (Dr. Hellrigl: "RR"), dated Feb. 6 (?), 1871.





Incoming covers with the "NFPAL" variety of the datestamp

October 1894, cover from Dharmatala (Calcutta) to Kathmandu



Transit datestamp Segowlie



Datestamp Kathmandu (B 27) "NFPAL" variety

Cover (½ Anna) dispatched from Dharmatala on Oct. 22, 1894.
Transit datestamp Segowlie, dated Oct. 23, 1894.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu (B 27), dated Oct. 25, 1894.
"NFPAL" variety of the datestamp (instead of NEPAL)

November 1894, cover from Kashipur (Nainital) to Kathmandu



Transit datestamp Segowlie



Datestamp Kathmandu (B 27) "NFPAL" variety without year digits



Registered cover dispatched from Kashipur on Nov. 7, 1894.
Transit datestamp Segowlie, dated Nov. 10, 1894.

Arrival: datestamp Kathmandu (B 27), dated Nov. 12, 1894.

Only two strikes are recorded of this datestamp without year digits. This one features the "NFPAL" variety.





E. Telegraphic Printings of Classic Designs (1917-1930)

1917, ½ Anna, Setting 6. The first Setting printed exclusively for telegraphic use

Between 1917 and 1930 the classic stamps were printed again exclusively for telegraphic use.
(denominations: ½ Anna, 1 Anna, 2 Annas and 4 Annas)

In addition to existing postmarks new cancels especially for telegraph purpose were introduced.



½ Anna, vermilion, No 34,
imperforate, setting 6 (1917), cliché 59
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



½ Anna, lemon, No 34,
imperforate, setting 6 (1917), cliché 9
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



Chisapani
telegraph cancel (T 4)

Setting 6 is the rare orange-vermilion printing of the ½ Anna.
All other settings of the ½ Anna are printed in black or black-brown.

Only some 100 mint copies and
about 300 to 400 telegraphically used copies in existence.

**Orange-vermilion is the normal colour of the rare setting 6,
whereas the ½ Anna lemon shade is a hitherto uncataloged variety.**

Jochen Heddergott, the German expert for Nepal examined this lemon stamp thoroughly. His conclusion:
no discoloration, no (possible chemically) fading of colour nor any attempt for a forgery, absolutely genuine.

The lemon shade seems to be a unique variety of colour.

Dr. Hellrigel expresses explicitly in his certificate that he personally knows only this one example of this stamp.

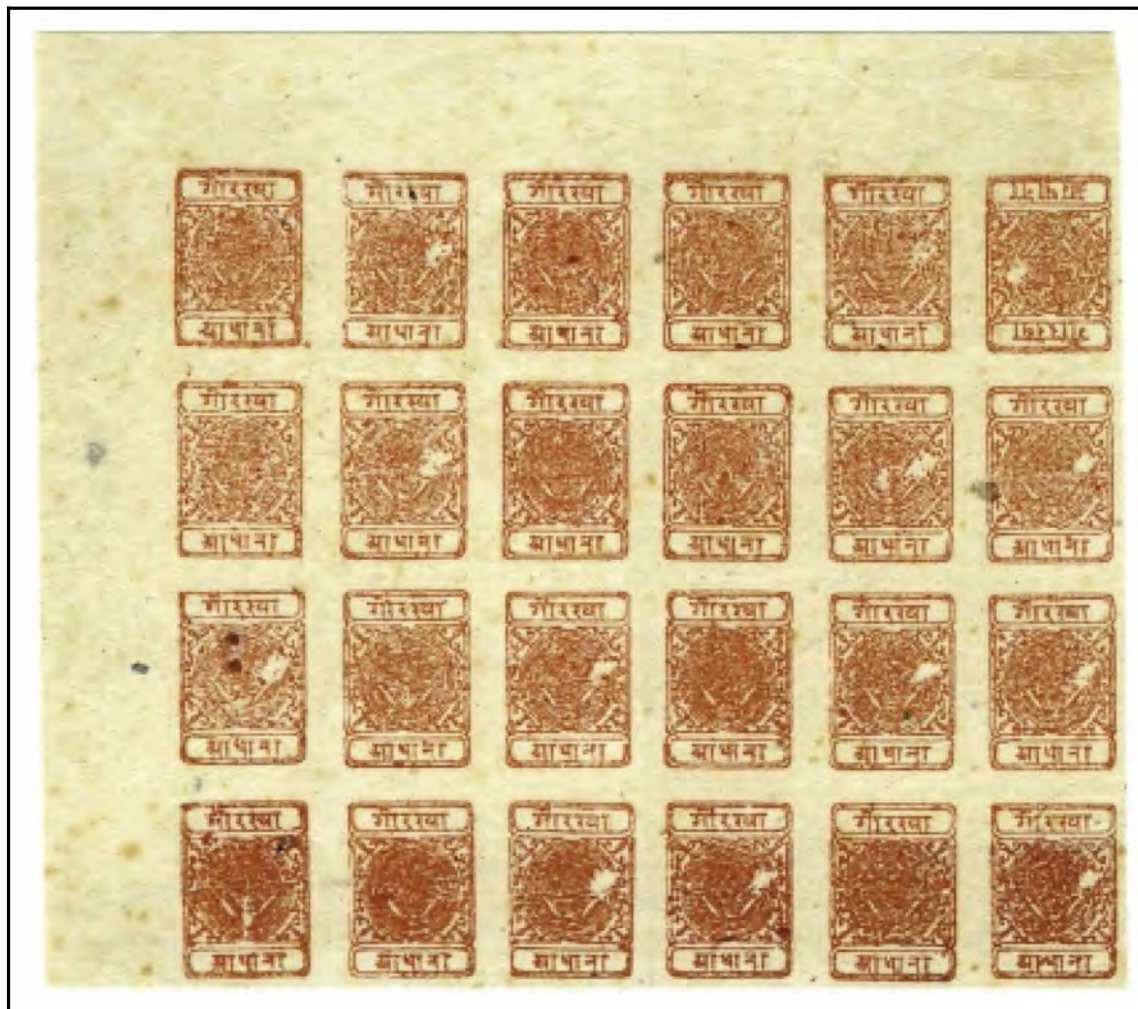
Strike of the Chisapani telegraph cancel (T 4).



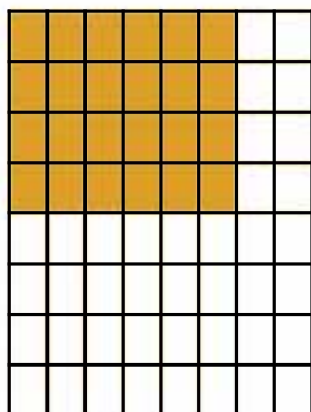


½ Anna orange-vermilion, Nepal's most famous stamp

Exceptionally rare unused block of twenty-four of this rare stamp



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



½ Anna, vermilion, No 34,
imperforate, setting 6,
cliches 1-6, 9-14, 17-22, 25-30

inverted cliche: 6



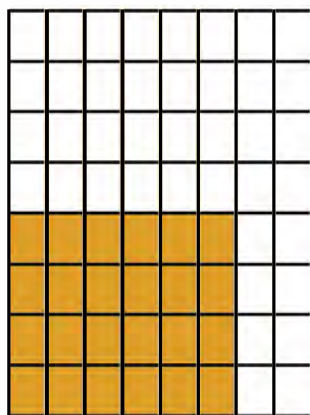


½ Anna orange-vermilion, Nepal's most famous stamp

Used block of twenty-four



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



½ Anna, vermilion, No 34,
imperforate, setting 6,
cliches 33-38, 41-46, 49-54, 57-62
inverted cliche: 57

Telegraphic cancellation of Birgunj (T 3)





The only recorded type of postal use of the ½ Anna orange

January 1921, registered cover from Ghumdhang to Hazaribagh (India)



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl



British-Indian
cancellation (B 16)



Exchange Post Office



Sun-within-Crescent Type
Ghumdhang (P 87)

**Indian Postal Stationery Envelope ½ Anna George V (Jain E 23),
cancelled with the rare Sun-within-Crescent Type, Ghumdhang (P 87),
dated 77/10/14 BS = Jan. 27, 1921 AD.**

W.G. O'Sullivan, Superintendent of Nepalese Post Offices,
discovered Nepal's most famous stamp, the ½ Anna orange-vermilion.

The cover bears 5 classic stamps: ½ Anna black, ½ Anna orange-vermilion, 1 Anna, 2 Annas, 4 Annas (No. 33, 34, 35, 39b, 43d), registered at the British-Indian Post Office in Kathmandu, Indian stamp 2 Annas SG 168, cancelled with postmark (B 16), with oval marking of the KTM Exchange Post Office (Type 1). Reverse side: arrival in Hazaribagh (India), dated Jan. 31, 1921. W.G. O'Sullivan sent this letter from Ghumdhang, a town 50 miles north-west of Kathmandu, to his wife in Hazaribagh (India).

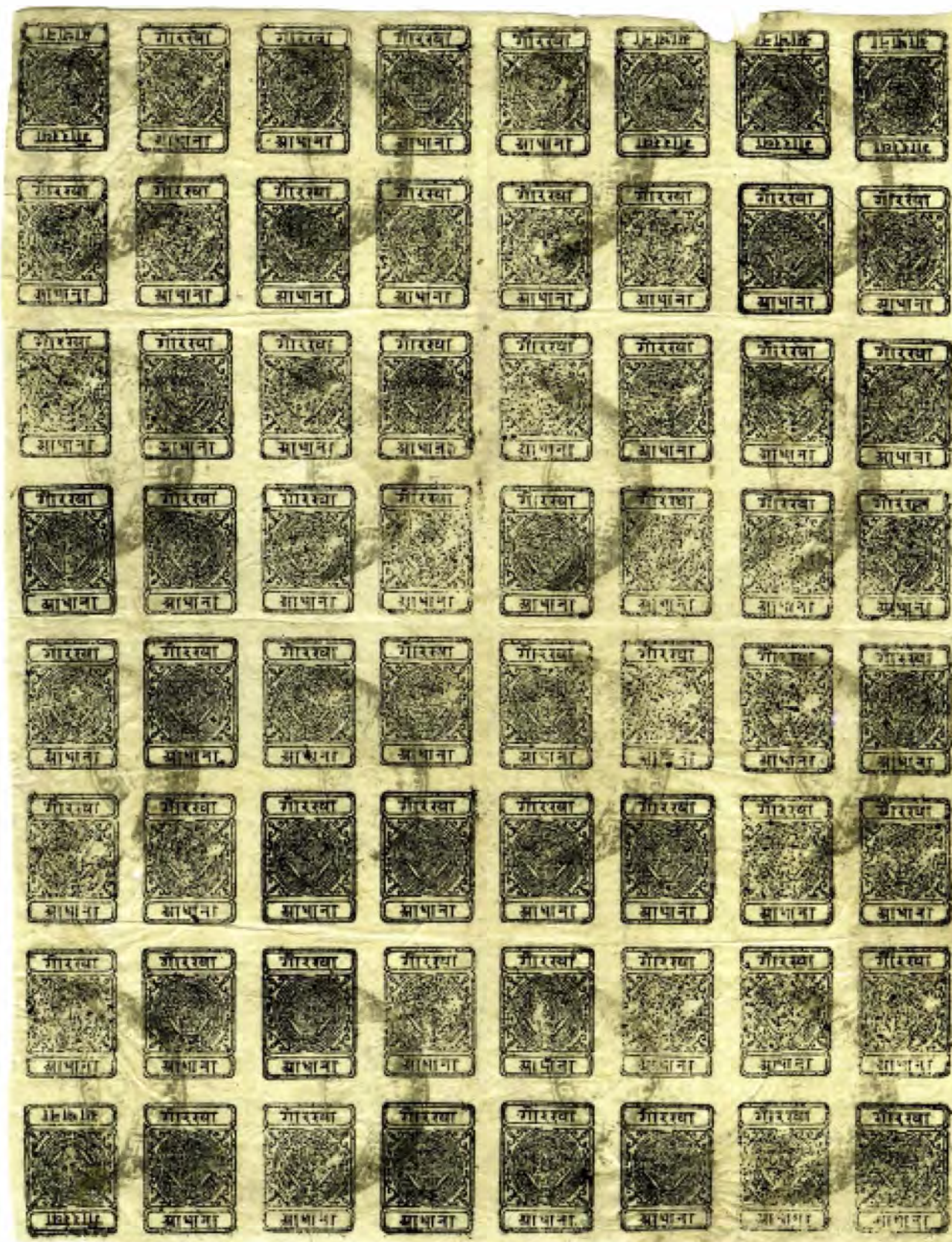




1917-1919, 1/2 Anna, Setting 7. The first Setting printed in black exclusively for telegraphic use

1/2 Anna black, imperforate, setting 7 (No 33), inverted cliches: 1, 6, 7, 8, 57.

Birganj telegraph cancel (T 3)



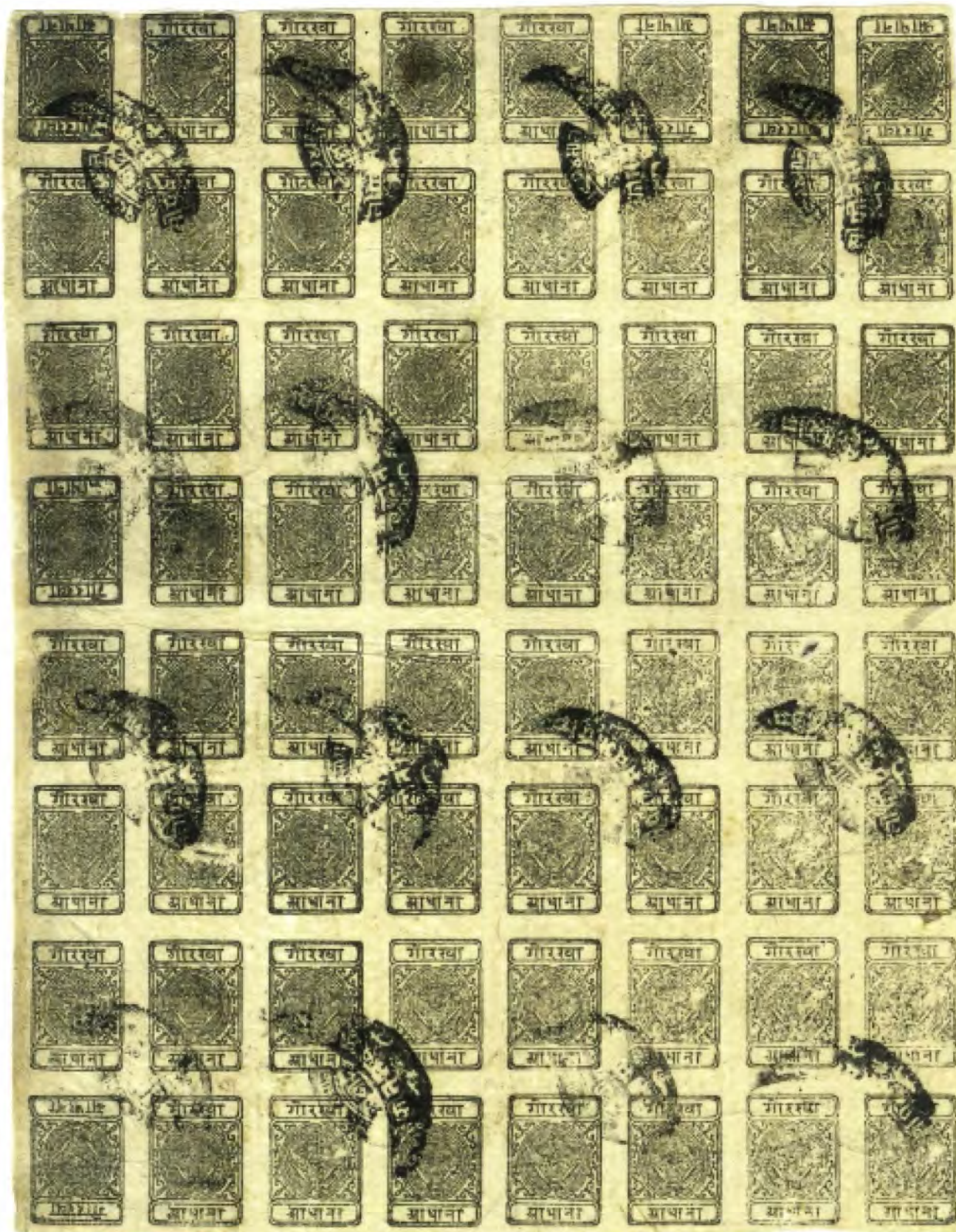


1924-1925, 1/2 Anna black, Setting 11 (No 33). The only recorded complete sheet of this Setting



"singe-blister" (double size)

Inverted cliches: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25, 57.
Setting 11 is the earliest setting featuring a prominent progressive flaw on pos. 42. It appears as a "singe-blister".





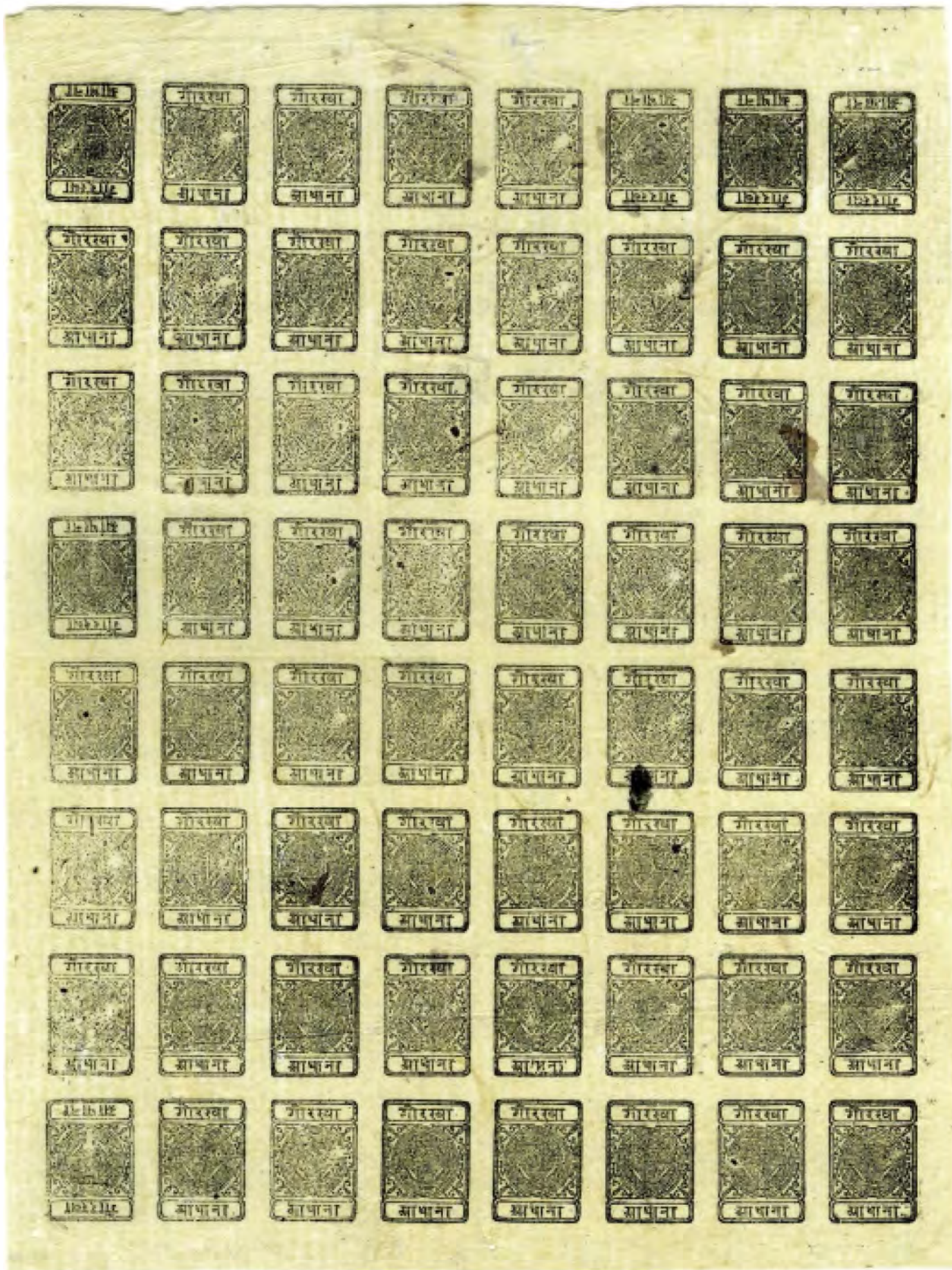
1926-1930, 1/2 Anna black, Setting 13 (No 33). Four complete mint sheets are recorded



"double-blister" (double size)

Inverted cliches: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25, 57.

In setting 13 the prominent progressive flaw on pos. 42 appears as a "double-blister".





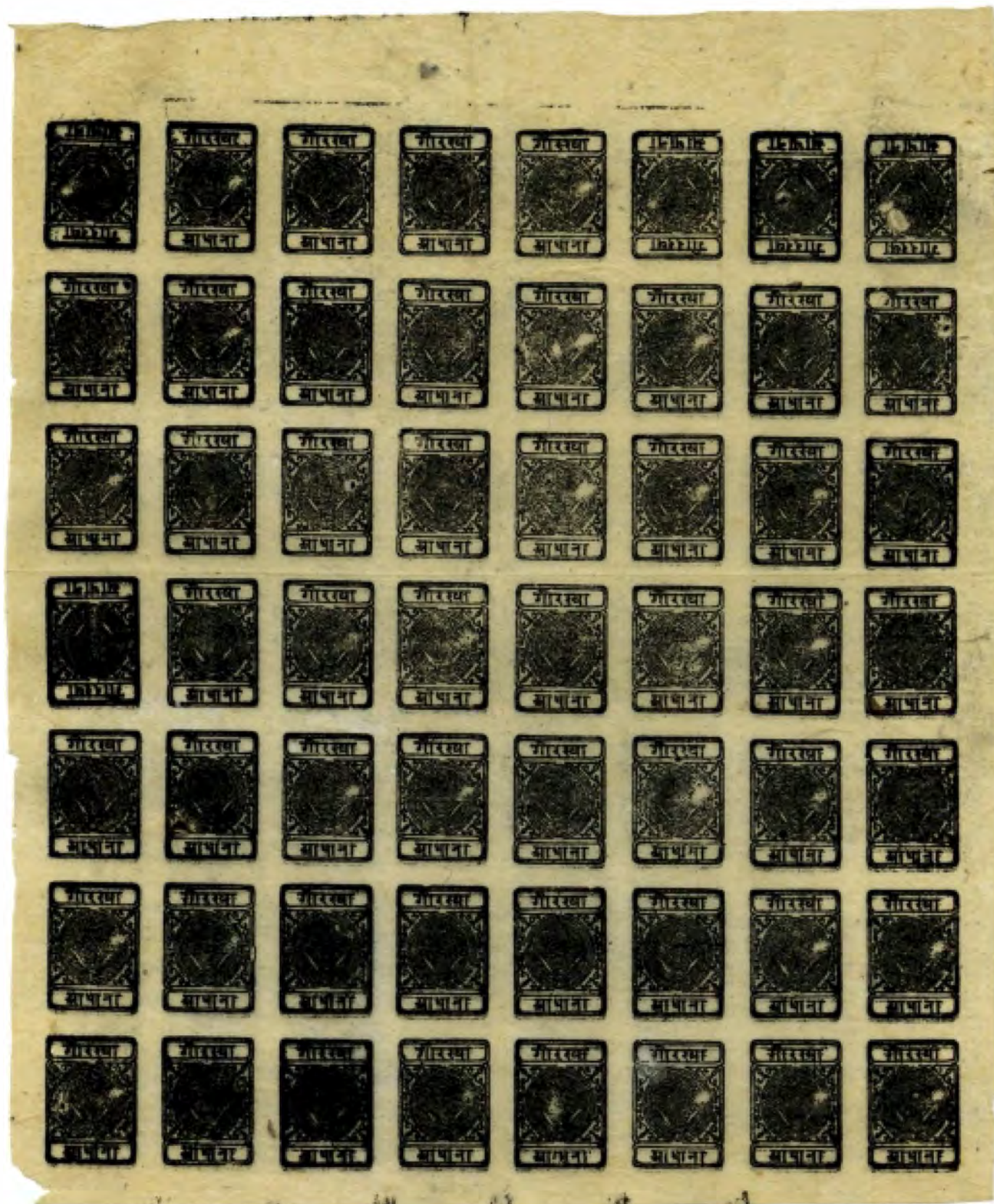
1929-1930, 1/2 Anna, Setting 14, 2nd state. Complete sheet of the final Setting

1/2 Anna black, imperforate, setting 14, 2nd state (No 33), inverted cliches: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25.

This setting shows the sheet reduced to 56 stamps, by removing the bottom row of the original plate. The first state of this setting shows the plate untrimmed, therefore blank spaces instead of the bottom row are visible.

In this second state only the upper part of these blank spaces are still visible.

As no used copies of this sheet are recorded, this setting can be regarded as prepared for issue but not issued.





1917, 1 Anna, Setting 27, 2nd state. The first Setting printed exclusively for telegraphic use

In 1917 the 1 Anna stamp very soon was printed with the entire plate inadvertently in emerald colour. Hellrigl/Vignola believe that the normal blue shades of colour were printed afterwards.



1917, 1 Anna dark emerald (error of colour), No 36,
extremely thin local paper, imperforate,
setting 27, 2nd state,

No mint examples of this error of colour have ever been recorded.

Hellrigl/Vignola suppose this error of colour is approximately as rare as the contemporary 1/2 Anna orange-vermilion in used condition.

Tête-bêche pairs are particularly rare.



1917, 1 Anna emerald (error of colour), No 36,
extremely thin local paper, imperforate,
setting 27, 2nd state,

cliches 6-8, 14-16, inverted cliche: 15.

clear strike of the Kathmandu H.O. telegraph cancellation (T 5).



Kathmandu H.O.
telegraph cancel (T 5)



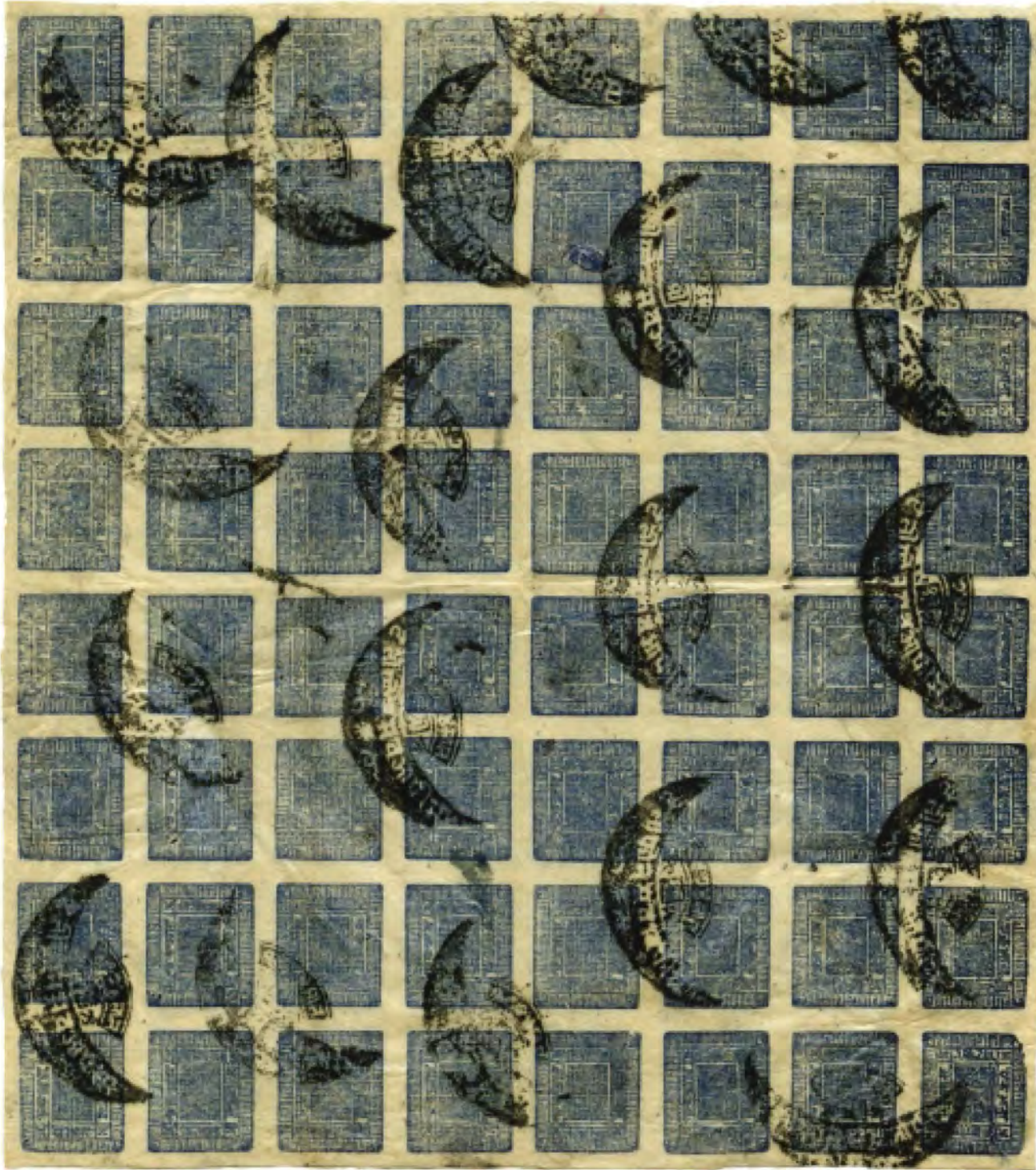


1917, 1 Anna, Setting 27, 2nd state. The first Setting printed exclusively for telegraphic use

1 Anna light blue, imperforate, setting 27, 2nd state (No 35), inverted cliches: 15, 18, 23, 27, 37, 40, 51 and 64.

Not known by Hellrigl/Vignola in "The Classic Stamps of Nepal" but confirmed by Dr. Hellrigl in his certificate, this 1 Anna sheet of Setting 27, 2nd state shows cliché 10 undamaged. He writes: "Da das Feld 10 im vorliegenden Bogen jedoch noch keine Einkerbung aufweist, muß angenommen werden, daß es sich um einen seltenen, ganz frühen Druck der Auflage von 1917 handelt." - translated about: As cliché 10 in the sheet at hand does not yet show a denting, **it must be assumed that it is a rare and very early printing of the 1917 setting.**

Strikes of the Birgunj telegraph cancellation.



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





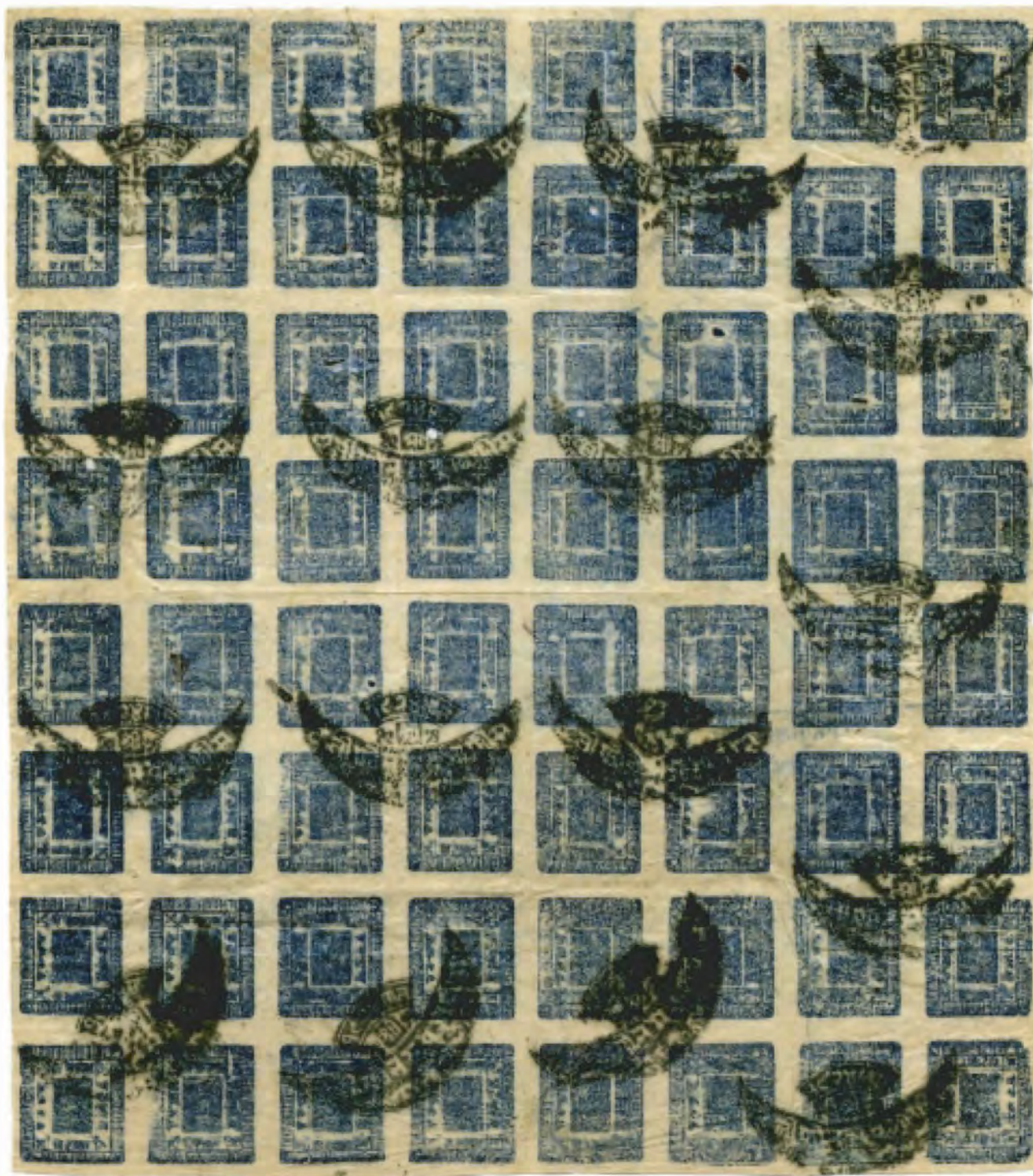
1928-1929, 1 Anna, Setting 27, 2nd state, "cleaned lettering"

1 Anna dark blue, imperforate, setting 27, 2nd state (No 35b), inverted cliches: 15, 18, 23, 27, 37, 40, 51 and 64.

A remarkable variety in the 1 Anna second printing state of setting 27 is known as the "cleaned lettering" printings, showing large white patches around the letters of the inscriptions - made around 1928-1929. Since the cliches were considerably ink-clogged after excessive usage they were cleaned and scrubbed in an attempt to improve the appearance of the printed stamps.

Only three complete, telegraphically used sheets of this variety are known.

Strikes of the Birgunj telegraph cancellation.



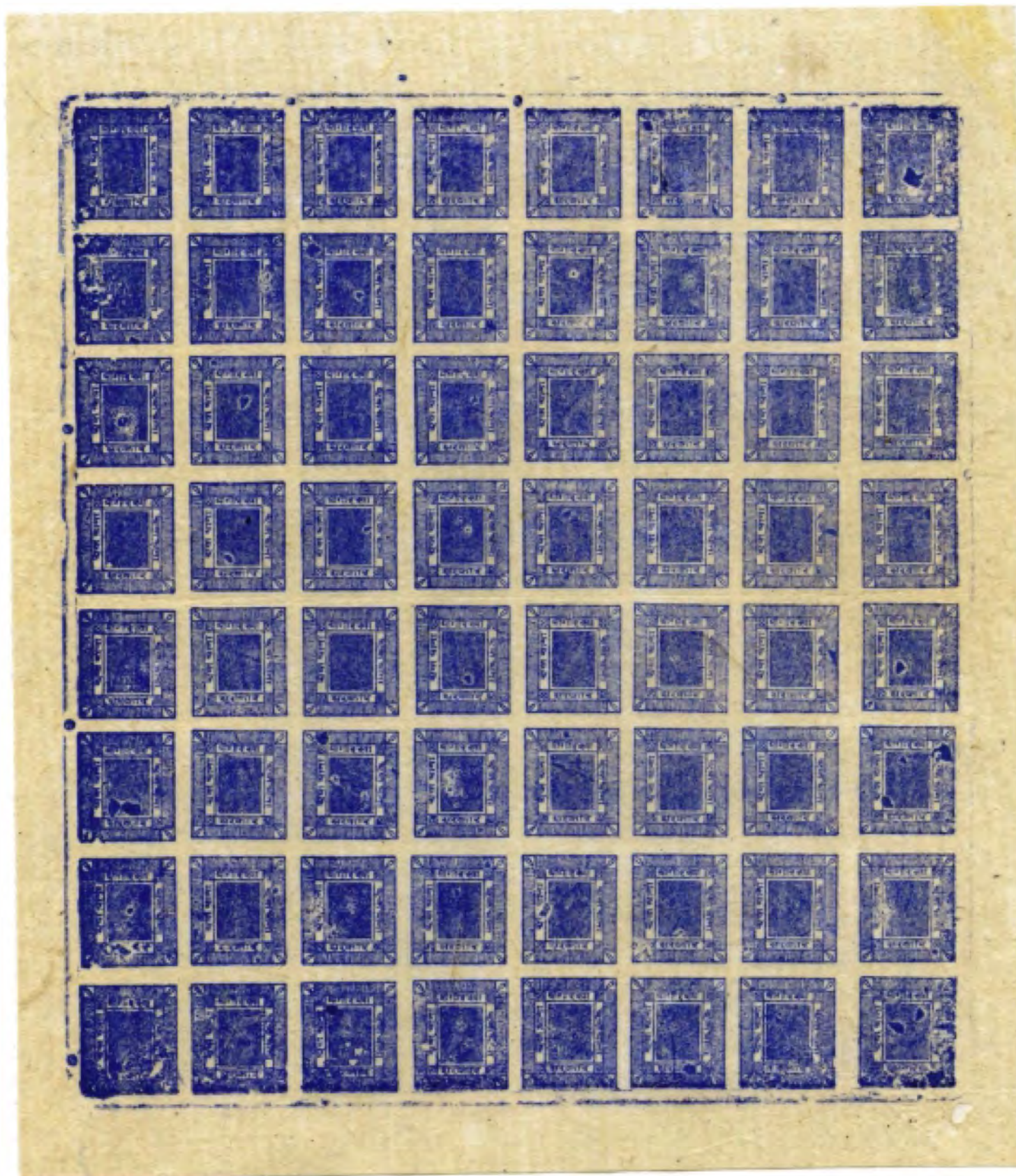
(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





1927-1930, 1 Anna, Plate II, printed for telegraphic use

1 Anna bright ultramarine, imperforate, Plate II with a new design (No 44d), no inverted cliche.





1905-1906 and 1917, 2 Annas, Setting 20, classic Setting used telegraphically. Complete sheet

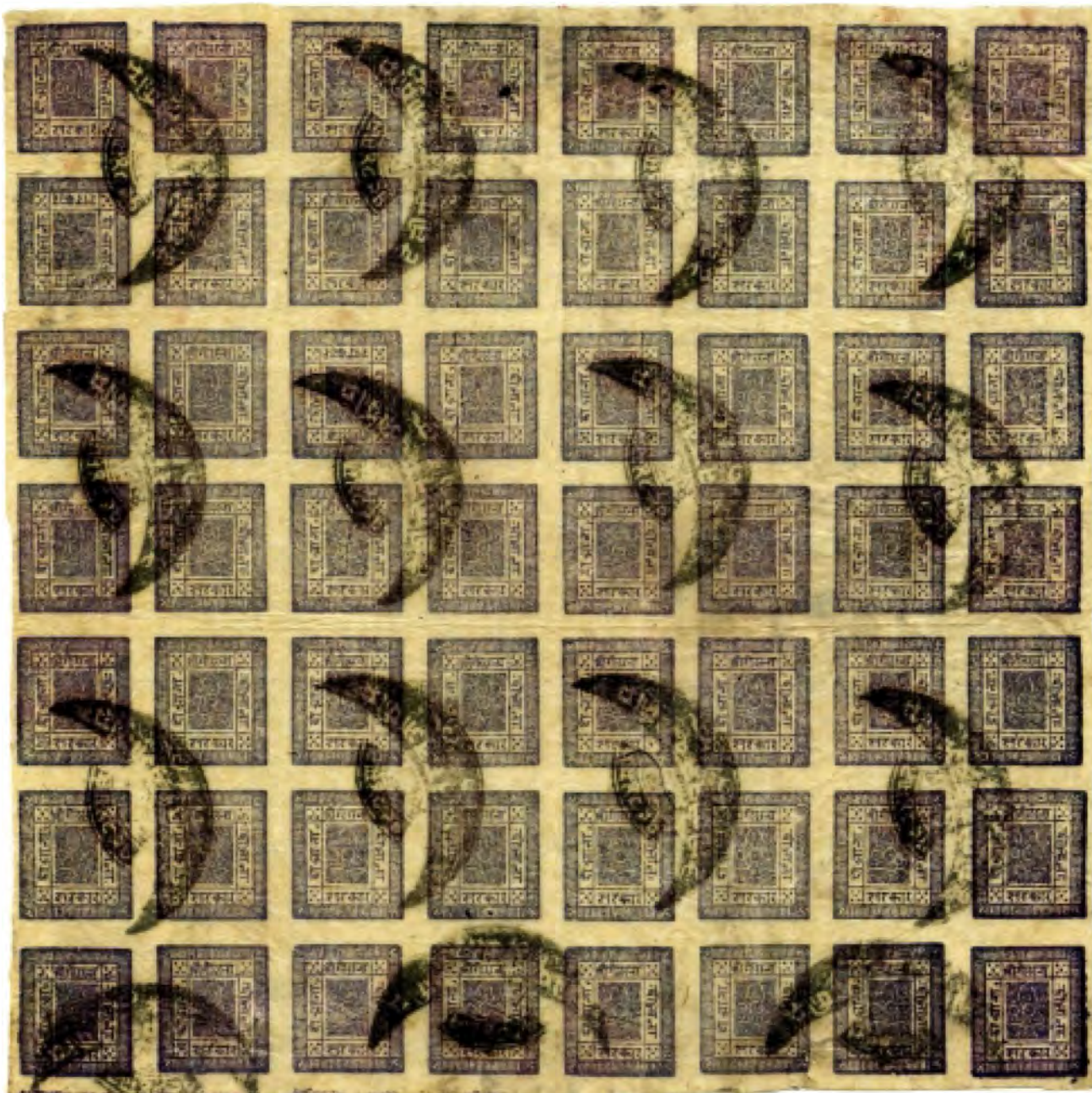
Since 1899 the 2 Annas sheets are reduced to the top 7 rows, i.e. 56 stamps.
2 Annas gey-violet, imperforate, setting 20 (No 17), inverted cliches: 7, 8, 9, 19.

An existent remainder stock of the classic period was used up
and the old plate was put into use again for telegraphic usage.

Only three telegraphically used sheets are recorded



Birgunj
telegraph cancel (T 3)



(Cert) by Dr. Hellrigl





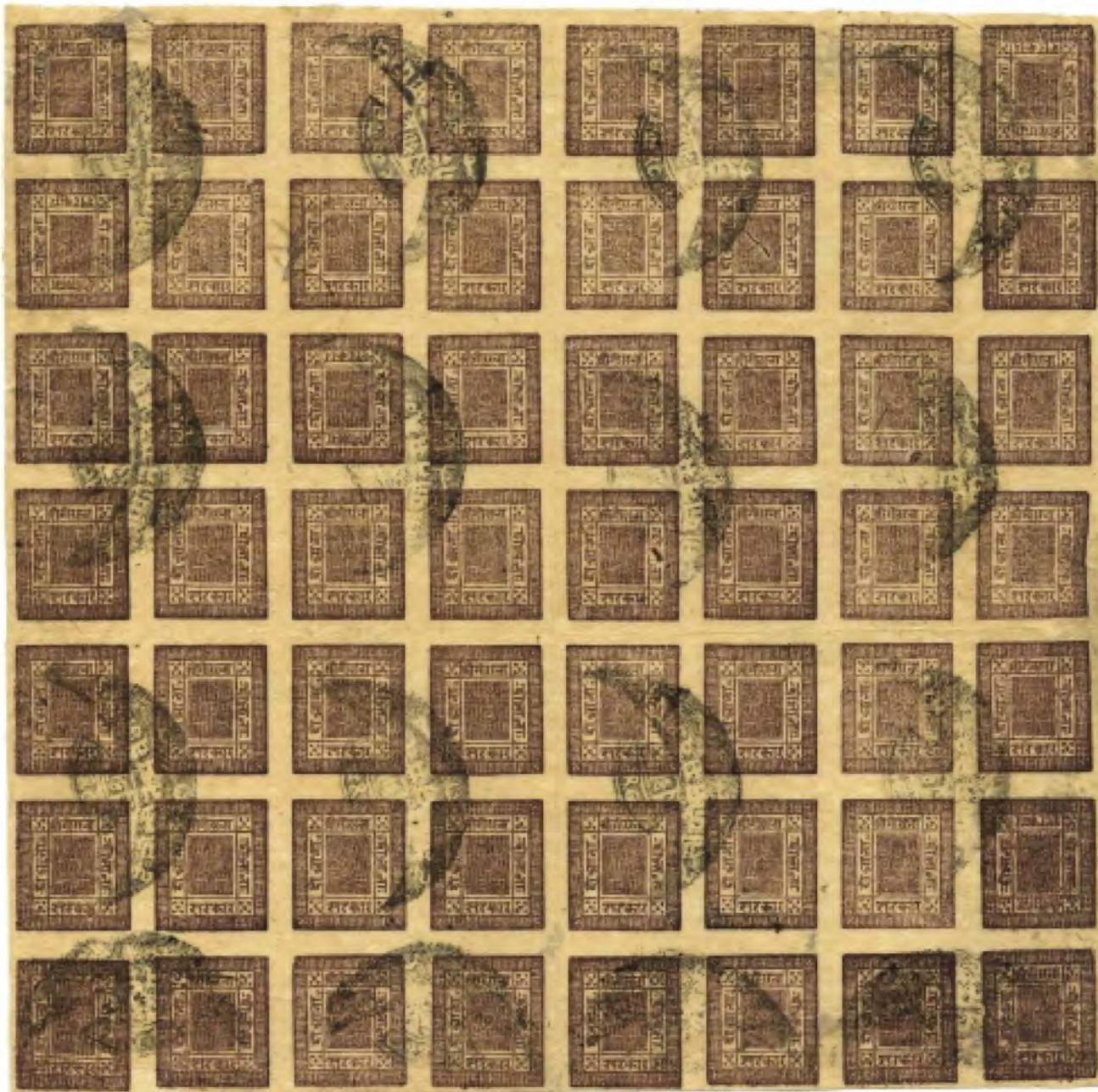
1917, 2 Annas, Setting 22 The first Setting printed exclusively for telegraphic use, complete sheet

2 Annas maroon, imperforate, setting 22 (No 41 f), inverted cliches: 8, 9, 19, 48.

Compared to the sheet of setting 20 which obviously derived from the remainder stock of the classic period, this printing is more blurred.



Birgunj
telegraph cancel (T 3)





1920-1922, 2 Annas, Setting 25, printed for telegraphic use. Complete sheet

2 Annas aniline carmine, imperforate, setting 25 (No 38), inverted cliches: 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 48.



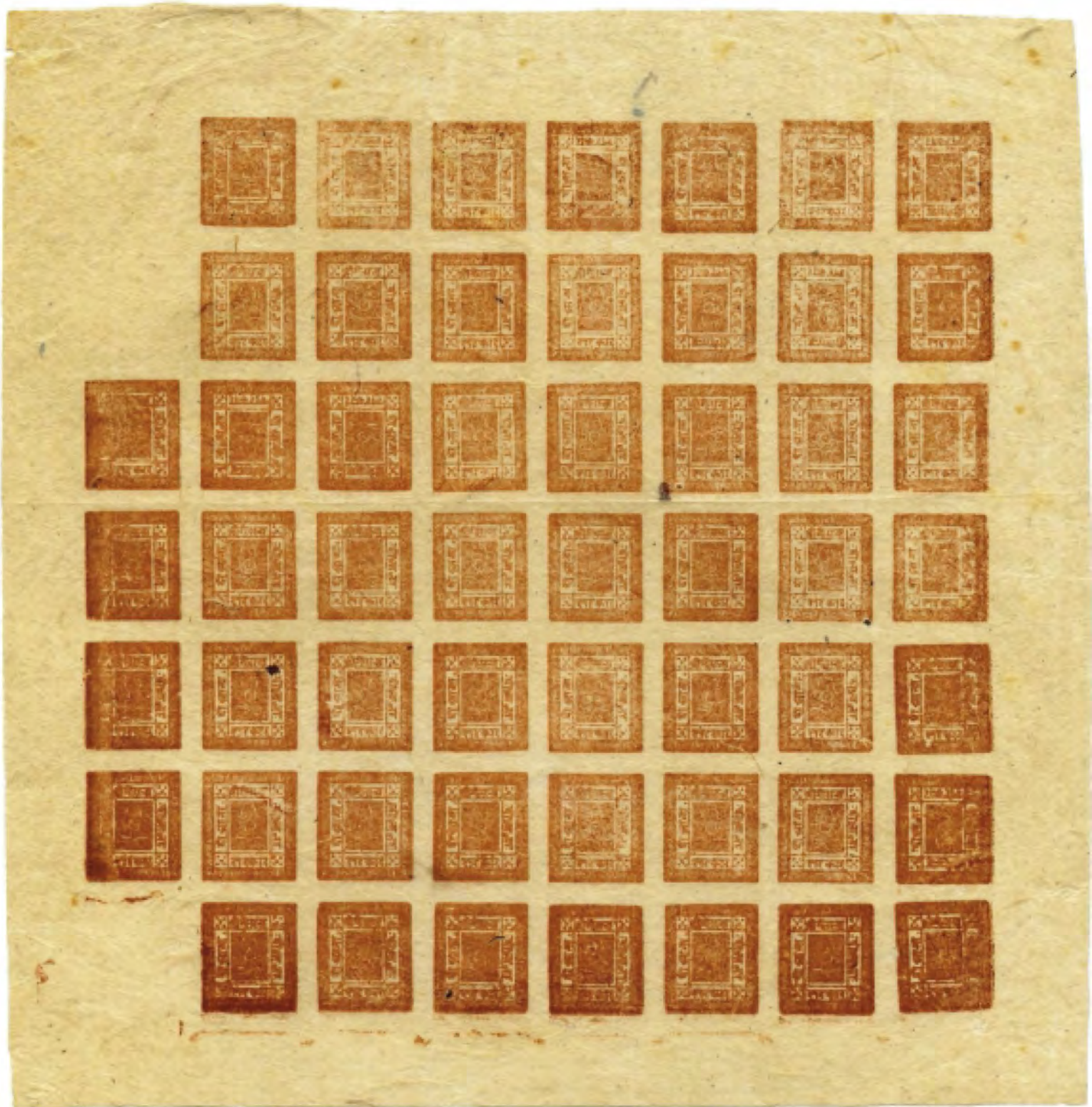
Birgunj
telegraph cancel (T 3)





1929-1930, 2 Annas, Setting 31. Complete sheet of the final Setting

2 Annas orange-brown, imperforate, setting 31 (No 42f), inverted cliches: 5, 8, 14, 15, 18, 19, 48.
There are now only 53 cliches in the sheet, pos. 1, 9 and 49 showing blank spaces.





Mosaic of Colours in 2 Annas

1/4

A large quantity was needed to meet the ever increasing demand of stamps for telegraphic use. Numerous settings created many new shades of colours, particularly in the 2 Annas stamp:

all tête-bêche pairs,

telegraphic cancelled, colours as per Gibbon's colour key.
(total: 44 shades)



brown



light brown



bistre brown



orange brown



chestnut



deep brown



purple brown



rose carmine



dull rose





Mosaic of Colours in 2 Annas
2/4
all tête-bêche pairs



light reddish brown



dark reddish brown



blackish brown



deep
chocolate



sepia



chocolate



agate



brown lake



dark red brown



carmine



dull claret



deep claret





Mosaic of Colours in 2 Annas
3/4
all tête-bêche pairs



brown purple



claret



lake



deep reddish purple



crimson



maroon



lake brown



reddish brown



red brown



deep rose lilac



blackish lilac





Mosaic of Colours in 2 Annas
4/4
all tête-bêche pairs



grey lilac



slate purple



lavender



dull purple



deep lilac



violet grey



grey blue



dull violet blue



dull blue



deep grey blue



slate blue



slate violet





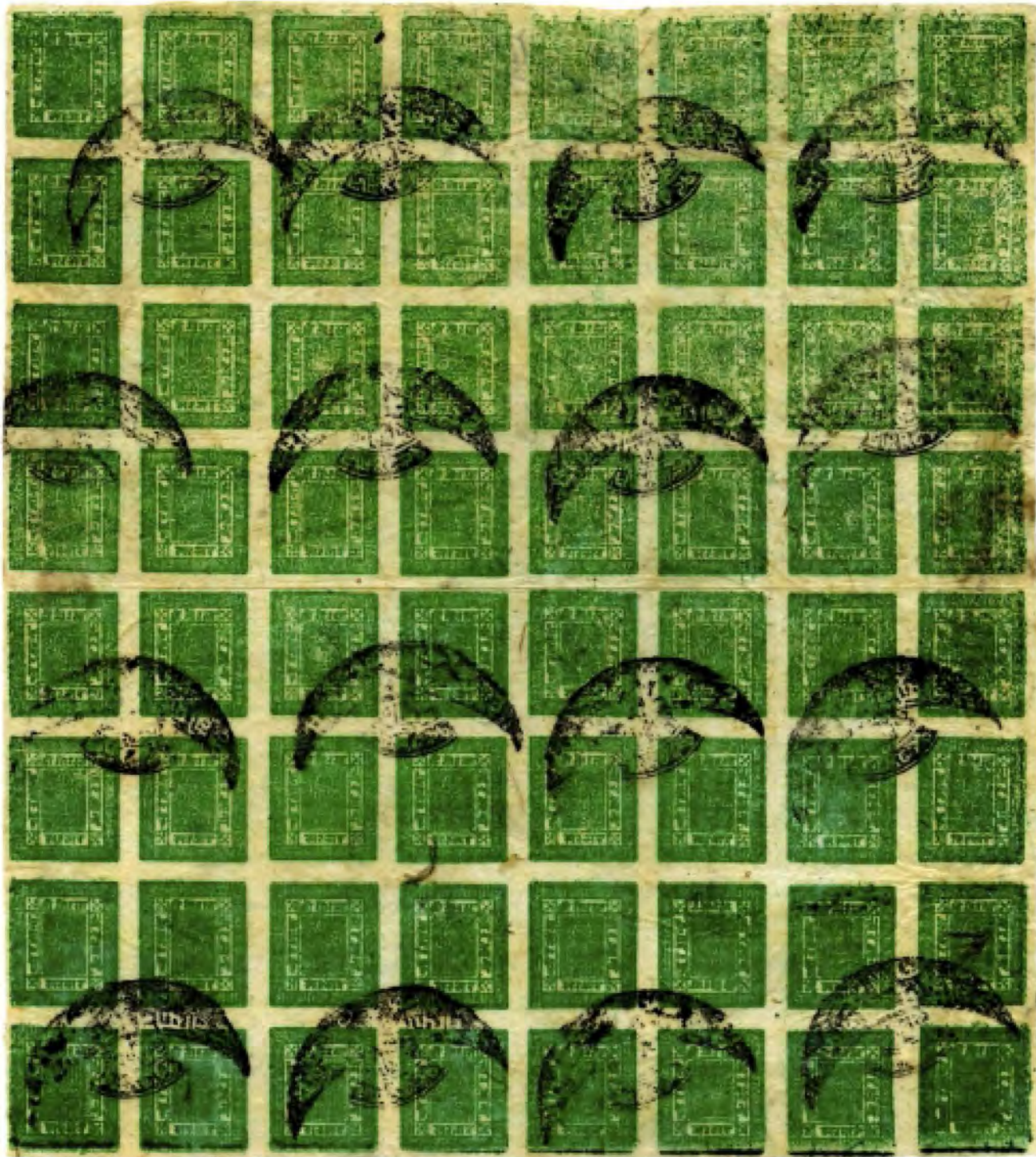
1917-1924, 4 Annas, Setting 11, 2nd state. The first Setting printed exclusively for telegraphic use

4 Annas smaragd, imperforate, setting 11, 2nd state (No 43d), inverted cliché: 54.

With this printing a new colour of the 4 Annas appeared: smaragd.



Birgunj
telegraph cancel (T 3)





1917-1929, 4 Annas, Setting 11, 4th state, printed for telegraphic use

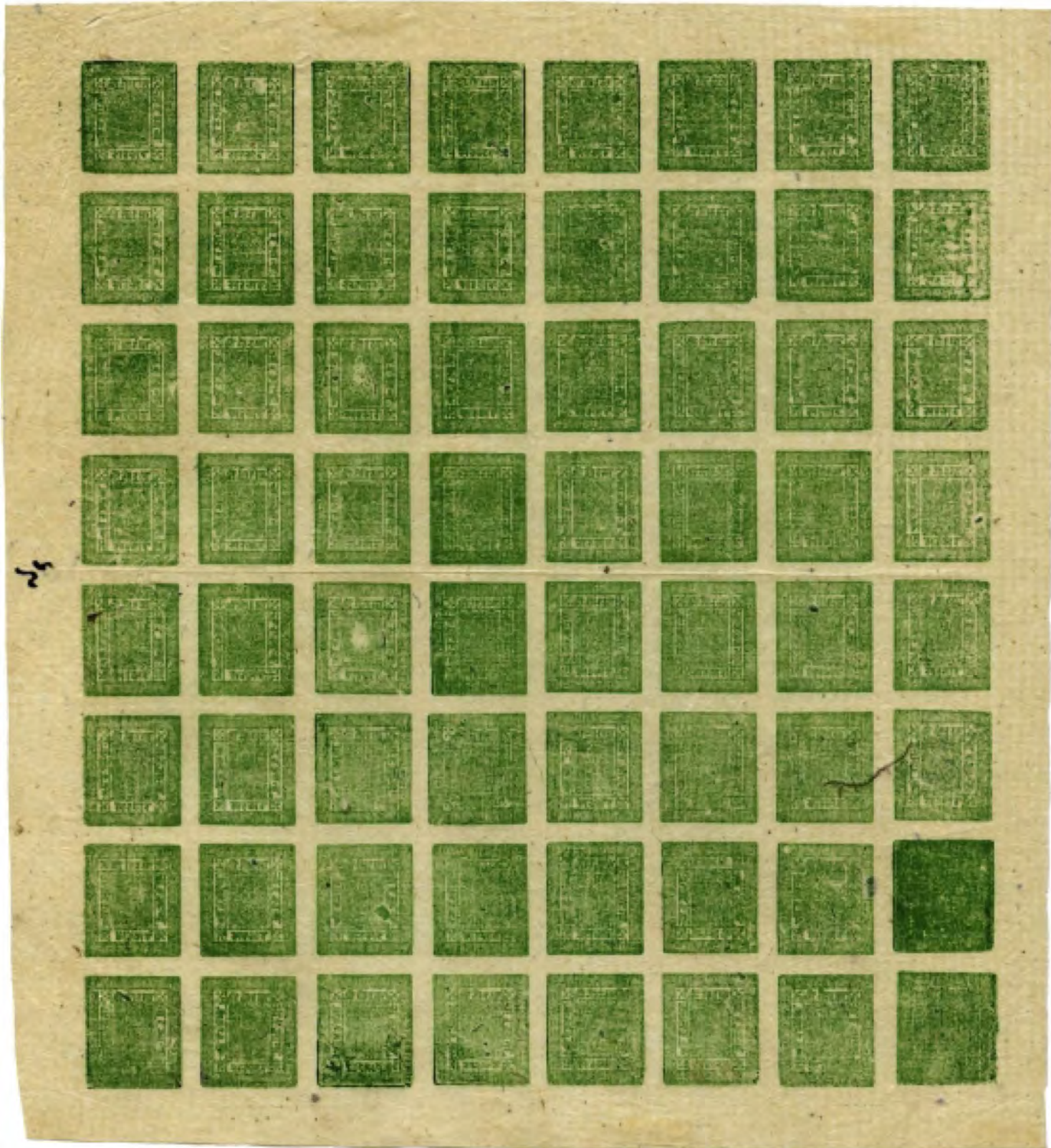
4 Annas yellow-green, imperforate, setting 11, 4th state (No 43f), inverted cliché: 54.

Distinctly and visibly flaws:

bottom right corner cut off - cliché 14

large cut into top margin - cliché 33

Cliché 56 has become virtually a solid block of colour



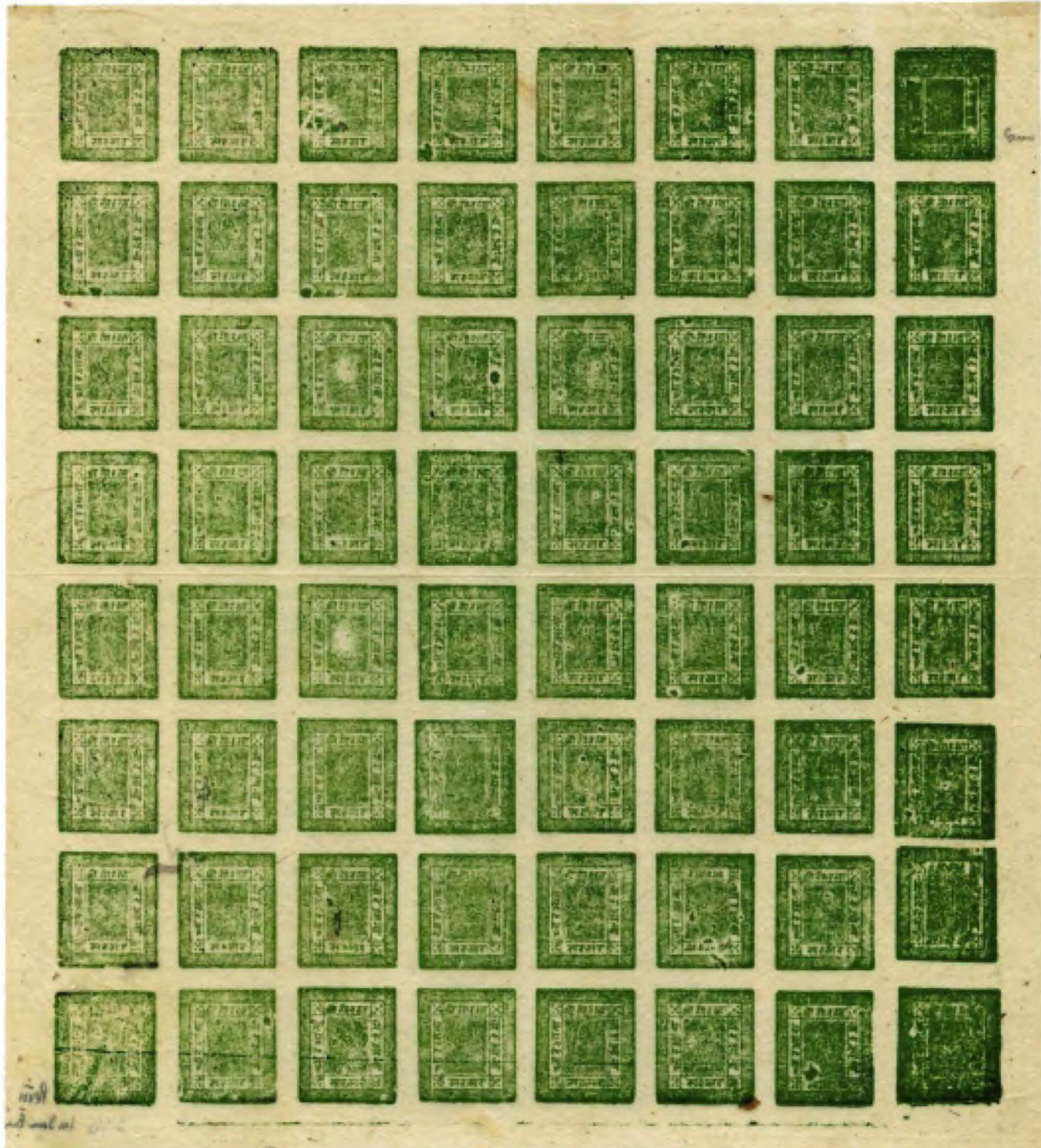


1929-1930, 4 Annas, Setting 12. Complete sheet of the final Setting

4 Annas dark green, imperforate, setting 12 (No 43h), inverted cliches: 8, 54, 56, 57.

The final 4 Annas setting is most interesting as it features the famous substituted 1 Anna cliche, in pos. 8. It inadvertently was taken from the 1 Anna plate of setting 27 and was placed into the 4 Annas sheet inverted.

**The famous error of colour of the 1 Anna stamp cliche 8 is rare.
Hellrigl/Vignola estimate just 50 to 60 mint copies in existence.**





1929-1930, 4 Annas, Setting 12. Complete sheet of the final Setting

4 Annas yellow-green, imperforate, setting 12 (No 43f), inverted cliches: 8, 54, 56, 57.

In contrast to the preceding one, this sheet does not show a frame at the bottom.

In setting 12 cliché 56 is inverted and much out of alignment.
In this sheet it shows a frame in the normal position of the cliché.

