

انجمن مطالعات تبرشاسی ایران

Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin No. 195 November 2014



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NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be held at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1 on **Saturday 6th December 2014** at 2 p.m. when the **Reza Khan Pahlavi - 1931-32 Definitives** (Part 5J, SG 703-715, Far. 642-652) will be displayed and discussed.

For details of meetings in 2015, see the Minutes, below.

IRAN PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 18 October 2014 at 2pm at Congress House, 23/28 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.

Mr N R N Gooch was in the chair and Messrs D Davies, R Jack, J Stone and D Tanner were in attendance.

Apologies were received from Messrs B Lucas and J A Scannell.

As a novelty the chairman presented a map of Persia, Afghanistan and Baluchistan produced for Tourists and Travellers by George Philip and Son in the early part of the last century.

As a new acquisition Jeremy Stone showed a Taxe Percue boxed cachet on a letter from Chiraz to Palestine via Cairo. Coincidentally the chairman had brought an internal Taxe Percue item showing a purple cachet **PAYE 5** on a cover from Meched to Ghoutchan (*illustrated below*).

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2014 had been previously published in the journal. They were taken as read and approved by the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

The editor of the bulletin indicated that he had sufficient material for the next issue.

The chairman advised the meeting that Lloyds Bank had written to Bernard Lucas advising him that they could no longer maintain an account in the name of the Iran Philatelic Study Circle as it appeared to them from our website that the society was trading with Iran. The facility had therefore been withdrawn and society funds were currently being held by Bernard Lucas. The meeting asked Jeremy Stone, the new honorary treasurer, to attempt to open a new bank account and it was agreed to use the title Persia Philatelic Study Group for this purpose. Members present passed over cheques and cash for their 2015 subscriptions to use as opening funds.

The chairman introduced a discussion regarding the frequency and location of meetings for 2015. After some discussion it was decided to arrange quarterly meetings during the year on 7 March, 6 June, 5 September and 5 December. Additionally, in view of the travelling involved by some members, it was agreed that the meeting on 7 March would be hosted by Robert Jack at his home in York and the meeting on 5 September would be held by David Davies at his house in Congleton. The other two meetings would be held at the current venue in London.

Subjects for the meetings were discussed and the following programme determined:

7 March 2015: 1906 Typeset issue for Muzzafer-ed-Din (SG 292-297, Farahbakhsh 279-284) and Taxe Percue markings in general.

6 June 2015: 1894 Definitive issue for Nasr-ed-Din (SG 102-122, Farahbakhsh 81-91)

5 September 2015: "Back of the Book" and other unlisted items.

5 December 2015: 1915 Coronation of Shah Ahmed (SG 426-O476, 510-516, 540-550, Farahbakhsh 408-424, 444-450, 475-485, S29-S45, P1-P17,

The chairman asked David Tanner to lead a display of the 1902 typeset issues and other overprinted and surcharged definitives of Muzaffer-ed-Din to 1906. From their collections members contributed further stamps and covers.

The chairman closed the meeting at about 4-15pm and thanked the members for their attendance. He indicated that the next meeting would be held on 6 December 2014 to consider the 1931-32 definitive issue for Reza Khan Pahlavi (SG 703-713, Farahbakhsh 642-652)



Taxe Percue item showing a purple cachet **PAYE 5** on a cover from Meched to Ghoutchan.

Cover to Swedish Gendarmerie General in Persia by Bjorn Sohrne

I am very pleased to be able to announce for the IPSC Bulletin an interesting huge cover (about A5) sent in 1915 from Sweden to a Captain Hjerta in Kazvin, one of the Swedish Gendarmes who was working for the Iranian government to create the Gendarmerie General (le GG).

It now happened that Hjerta was killed in August 1915 near Kazvin when his troops were fighting some local chiefs or whatever. So, when the cover arrived at Kazvin it was returned and a rose label “décédé” was applied. These kinds of label are very rare from Persia and particularly so if the label is tied to the envelope by a postmark.

On the back you will find an unrecorded type for Recht No 2 postmark. No 1 I have still not seen.

As you may know this type of postmark is very rare indeed and normally only found used from about twenty smaller places and Recht suburbs (two different ones), and now also in Recht itself as pictured.

Of further interest to a Russian specialist is the Moscow censor mark in violet found at the back. I have so far never seen it used on any mail related to Russia and Persia mail communication. I assume that this censor was applied when the registered letter arrived in Moscow from Sweden on its outbound journey.

In any case it is one of the more exciting covers related to the Gendarmerie General that I have come across so far.

Rekommenderas

سند
صاحب کتبخانه و شمس آباد
دارت

M. Philip & Fierla

Handwritten signature and address in Persian script

Capitaine de la Gendarmerie Gouvernementale

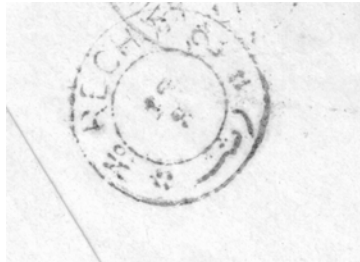


Modèle N° 275
Retour à l'envoyeur
فرستنده مسترد شود
Destinataire décédé
گیرنده مرحوم شده است

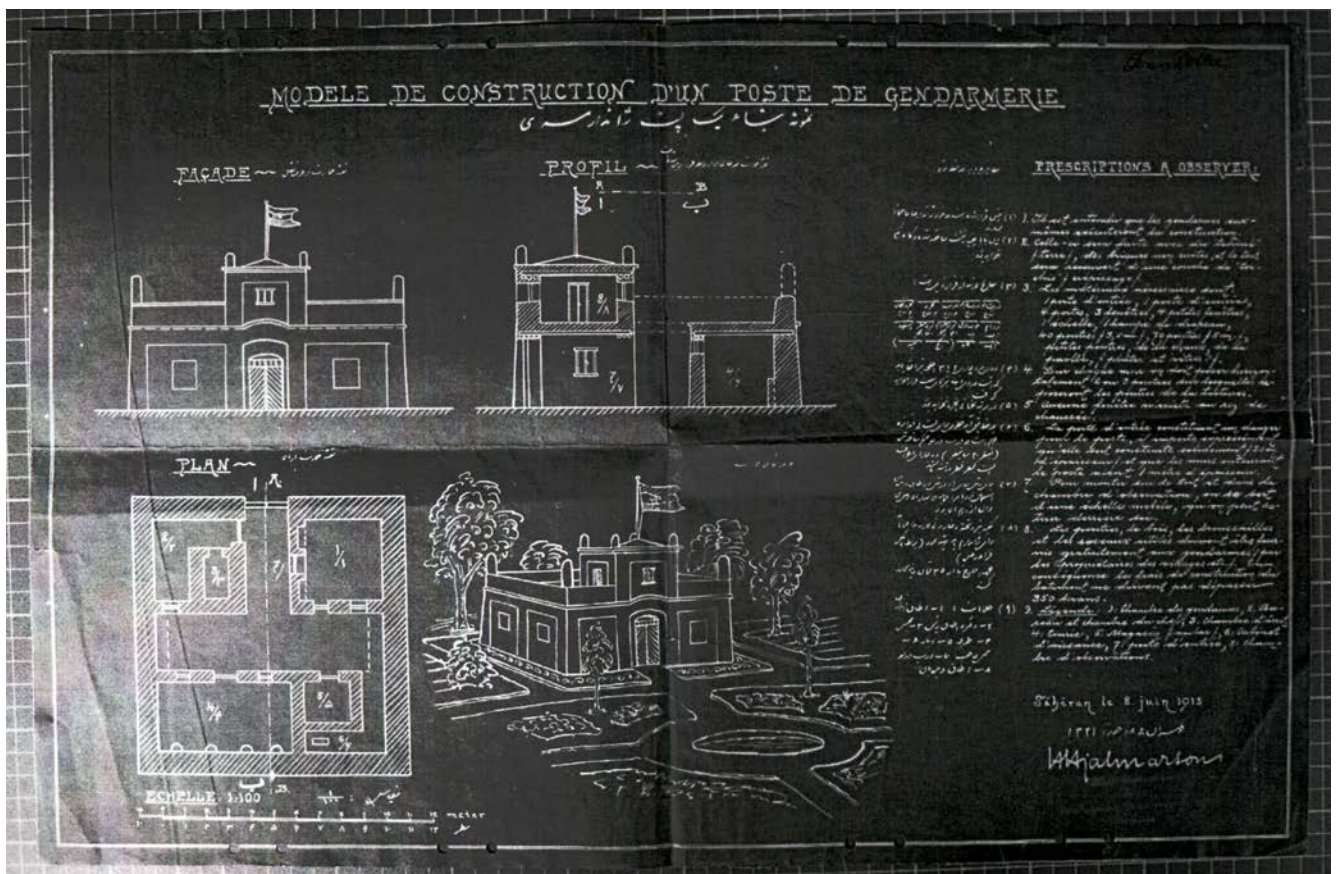
Handwritten signature

B
Järna
N.º 478





Bjorn has also supplied a plan for the construction of one of the Gendarmerie posts.



Congratulations

Congratulations are due on the following successes achieved recently by members–

At Philakorea 2014 in Seoul (7-12 August 2014)–

Behruz Nassre: Gold medal for 1902 Provisional Typeset Issue of Teheran.

(This exhibit can be seen on the IPSC website)

Massoud Novin Farahbakhsh: Large Vermeil for Qajar Postal Stationery (1976-1925)

Tamouchin Shahrokh: Large Vermeil for Local postmarks during 1875-1937

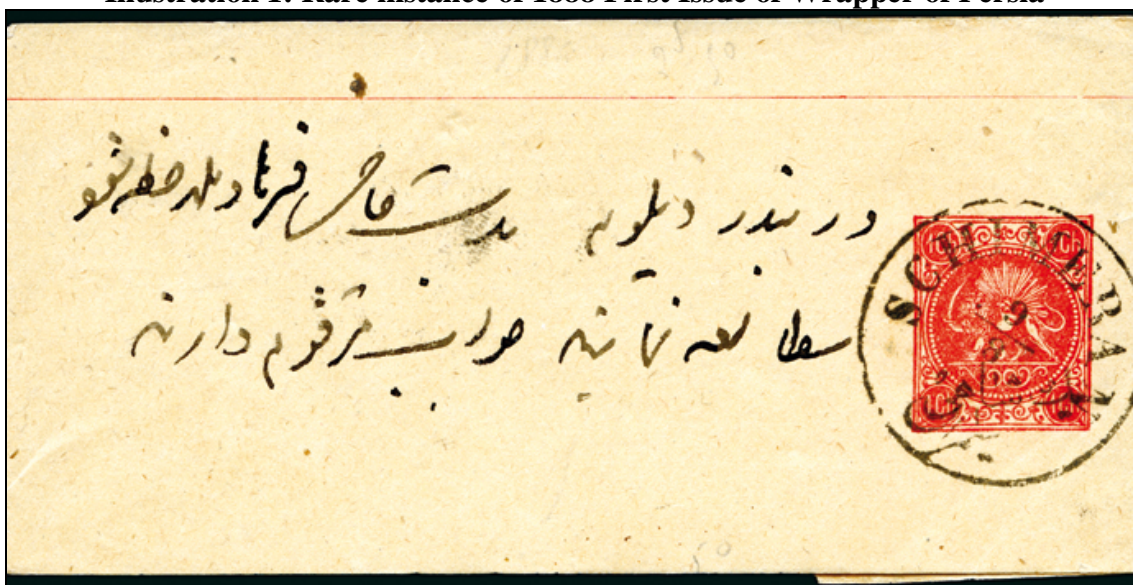
Massoud Novin Farahbakhsh: Vermeil Censor Markings during 1910-1945

At ROSSICA 2014 in Moscow (27-29 October 2014)–

Rainer Fuchs: Gold for his website www.fuchs-online.com/overlandmail

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the post office postal stationery wrappers of Persia are elusive, perhaps even scarce, and in at least one case rare. The first issue of a 1 shahi Lion (E1 using Higgins & Gage catalogue “E” numbers) appears to have been printed in December 1885 in Paris from plates produced by M. Barré for earlier postage stamps - presumably from the 1875 8s stamp cliché (Sc14). The design shows a crude 8 beneath the Lion with 1ch in all four value circles. The quantity of 6,000 copies was delivered for issue on 1 January 1888 in the size 56x318mm, typographed on buff paper with thin red border line along the top. This E1 wrapper is known used. The David Feldman Auction in May 2011 describes this wrapper as: “1888 newspaper wrapper: Lion type 1ch red, neatly cancelled by SCHIMERAN 9.8cnds, addressed internally to Tehran, fine and extremely rare internal usage, apparently only 3 recorded as such”. This wrapper is reproduced as Illustration 1 with due acknowledgement to David Feldman Auctions.

Illustration 1: Rare instance of 1888 First Issue of Wrapper of Persia



Fabius Boital, a French engineer and entrepreneur, who had become close to the Imperial Court was commissioned to order the printing of postal stationeries and postage stamps. In so doing a quantity of this E1 wrapper found their way to dealers in Europe before stocks were delivered to the Persian Postal Authorities. To avoid any loss of official revenue and to apprehend fraud, the Tehran Post Office overprinted the indicium in black in Farsi ‘yek chahi’ for ‘one Chahi’. It may be that the overprint was considered to be a control mark of the new postmaster.

There are at least two used copies of this wrapper with the correct overprint which is known also with at least two forged variations. These forgeries are carefully illustrated in Sadri (2012, p.84) and shown in Illustration 2. Wrappers with authentic postal use are shown in Illustration 4 later in the paper.

In 1893 a Coat of Arms (Persian Lion and Sun) design was issued, typographed on buff paper by J. Enschede & Zonen, Haarlem, Holland. The wrapper size was wider at 125x300mm with twelve wrappers printed to a sheet and chamfered with the top flap tapering to 96mm. The denomination was 1 Shahi and with a colour change to lilac. The quantity printed of this E2 wrapper was 31,700 in two printings: 11,826 on 1 October 1893 and 19,874 in November 1894.

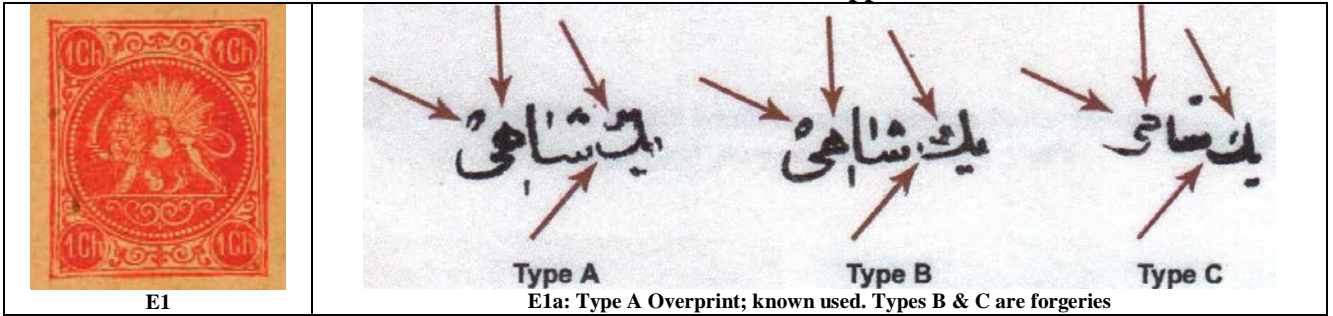
A third issue using the same Coat of Arms design was issued in 1897 but in a revised format of 83x300mm with chamfering tapering to 53mm in sheets of 18 wrappers. Using the same die face it was printed also by J. Enschede & Zonen, Haarlem, Holland in three denominations: 2 shahi brown (E3), 3 shahi purple (E4) and 6 shahi orange (E5). All three denominations had two deliveries, the first being 40,000 each with delivery to Tehran on 18 February 1897. For the 2ch the remainders were 1,769, for the 3ch 1,729 and for the 6ch 1,814. It is thought that these remainders were sent to Mirza Hadi (a dealer with a questionable reputation for selling [Boer War] remainders) in Paris on 27 March 1908.

In 1899 an overprint was added to stocks of this Coat of Arms series. A violet control Arabesque mark was overprinted to the left of the indicia (E2a, E3a, E4a and E5a). The purpose behind this was to differentiate the stock of Sani Eddauleh from his predecessor, he being the new “lessee” or “farmer” of the postal revenue appointed by the Director of Posts, M. Arnold. This practice of adding a control mark to the stock was deliberate because “when the postal system was 'farmed' out to someone they have to pay fees to the government. When the contract changed, in order to invalidate older stock (or to take inventory) these types of control markings were added to the remaining stock (Behruz Nassre, private correspondence).

This segregation of inventory explains why in 1902 each of these Coat of Arms issues was overprinted, first with “PROVISOIRE 1319” in black, and then in 1904, overprinted with “Imperial Post” (i.e., the eminent government of Iran) in Farsi in black beneath the indicium. An control mark included in the Gold Medal exhibit of Bjorn Sohrne shows a black mark to the left of the indicium (this control mark is unrecorded in any of the catalogues). In Illustration 4 there are examples of these control marks on postally used copies.

The several indicia and control marks are shown in Illustration 1 with due acknowledgement to Jan Kosniowski for the images that appear in his forthcoming Catalogue of Worldwide Wrappers (2015). The images of forged overprints are reproduced from Mehrdad Sadri, *Postal Stationeries of Iran (1876-1979)*. The images of the control marks of 1902 and following are reproduced from the Gold Medal exhibit of Bjorn Sohrne with permission.

Illustration 2: Indicia and Control Marks on Wrappers of Persia



<p>E2</p>	<p>E3</p>	<p>E4</p>	<p>E5</p>	
<p>Control Mark on E2a-E5a</p>	<p>Control Mark on E2-E5</p>		<p>On E2</p>	<p>On E3</p>
<p>On E4</p>	<p>On E5</p>	<p>Control marks on E3</p>	<p>Control marks on E4</p>	
<p>1899 & 1904 Control Marks</p>	<p>1904 Control Mark</p>	<p>1904 Control Mark</p>	<p>1904 Control Mark</p>	
<p>Unrecorded control mark</p>	<p>Unrecorded control mark</p>	<p>Unrecorded control mark</p>		

To appreciate the availability and markings of the wrappers of Persia, the remainder of the paper follows two sections. Part A deals with the supply and demand of the wrappers of Persia that have been listed for sale on the Internet site eBay over the past decade. While eBay is a large and growing international market forum, it is not the only source of wrappers of Persia. The more difficult to find and expensive wrappers tend to be offered for sale by the traditional philatelic auction houses and directly to known collectors by dealers who have been able to track down this material. Part B, therefore, deals with selected wrappers that are in the collections of Behruz Nassre, the editor of this journal, and Bjorn Sohrne, the owner of the Gold Medal Exhibit of Persian postal stationery. Both gentlemen kindly supplied scans of exotic and difficult to find material and gave permission that such images could be included in this article.

Part A: the eBay Story

In September 2003 the author commenced building a computer database of used worldwide post office postal stationery wrapper images listed on eBay. This Internet site was chosen as a proxy of what has appeared for sale on the international market and also because the data is transparent, objective, freely available and is listed in a continuous flow. Images of what have been listed for sale have been hand-collected daily and the overall database has 33,000 different images, organised by country and H&G catalogue number.

It is a comparatively easy task to partition the wrappers of any one country and count the number of different used wrappers that have been listed in more than a decade. For Persia there are 30 used post office wrappers in the database and a summary of the frequency of listing of each E type, together with other demographics is shown in Table 1. This low frequency of appearance is indicative of the relative scarcity of these wrappers. It implies too that the wrappers of Persia are being offered for sale by the more traditional philatelic auction houses because of their scarcity and high listing prices.

Table 1: Summary of PO Used Wrappers of Persia listed on eBay since September 2003

H&G E #	Brief Description	Number Listed	Local Usage	Non-Persia Destinations*	Uprated
1	1 ch red Lion	0	0	0	0
1a	1 ch red Lion, type 1 overprint	1	0	Germany (1)	0
2	1 ch lilac Coat of Arms	7	2	Germany (2); Turkey (1); Switzerland (2)	2
2a	1 ch lilac, purple overprint	0	0	0	0
3	2 ch brown	5	5	0	0
3a	2 ch brown, purple overprint	2	1	GB (1)	0
4	3 ch violet	8	2	Germany (4); Spain & Switzerland (1)	0
4a	3 ch violet, purple overprint	4	3	Germany (1)	0
5	6 ch orange	2	0	G'y & Switzerland (1)	0
5a	6 ch orange, purple overprint	1	0	Dutch Indies (1)	0
		30	13	17	2

*Germany 9, Switzerland 4, and Turkey, GB, Spain and Dutch Indies (Java) one each.

The 30 used wrappers of Persia listed over the 129 month data gathering period represents an appearance of one wrapper per quarter on average. However, for E1a and E5a only one each was listed during this period, i.e., one each in more than a decade. None were listed for E1 and E2a. Only E4 has appeared more regularly than the other types but at a rate of one per 16 months. On most rarity scales the wrappers of Persia listed on eBay are elusive.

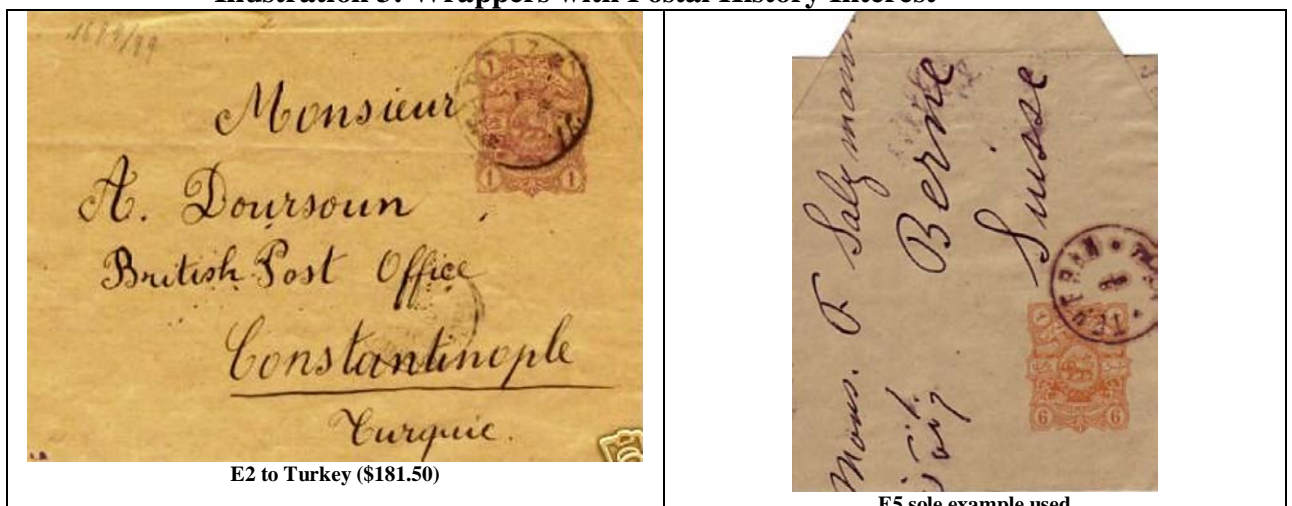
There were 13 wrappers or 43% addressed to local destinations, assuming the appearance of Farsi writing on wrappers can be attributable to internal delivery. There were six countries represented for non-Persia mailing addresses with Germany representing slightly more than half of all non-local addresses. The Java address would likely be viewed as an exotic destination and this is shown as wrapper three in Illustration 3.

The first wrapper in Illustration 3 is an example of E2, and as shown in Table 3 it sold for the second highest recorded sum at \$181.50 with five bidders. The second wrapper is the sole example of E5, the sole example of E5a (not shown) differs only with the addition of the purple Arabesque marking to the left of the indicium. It was this wrapper that sold for the highest recorded amount of \$195 with a sole bidder.

The two uprated wrappers were actually the two cases of registration usage and these wrappers are shown also in Illustration 3. The first wrapper is addressed to Zurich, Switzerland and the second to St. Gallen, Switzerland. Both wrappers show the Registration etiquette 'PERSE' being French for PARS (or Persia). The top wrapper has *Chargé* in manuscript, the lower wrapper *Registered* also in manuscript. Neither wrapper bears a blue crayon cross, the traditional symbol for registered mail. Both were listed at \$700 each – neither sold on eBay.

With regard to the other 28 wrappers, one showed the merchant handstamp A. K. *Aftandiloff*, Tauris, Perse on a copy of E2. There were no postage due markings, no censor marks, no shipping or route directions, no auxiliary marks, and no upratings other than the previously mentioned registered wrappers.

Illustration 3: Wrappers with Postal History Interest



E2 to Turkey (\$181.50)

E5 sole example used



E5 with Arabesque control mark



E2 Registered usage to Zurich, Switzerland



E2 Registered usage to St. Gallen, Switzerland

Sales Transactions

The author has also hand-collected daily approximately 13,000 eBay sales transactions of used post office wrappers since March 2006. Of this total, only 15 were of post office wrappers of Persia. Table 2 is a summary of these transactions for each type of wrapper showing the realized price and the number of bidders in parenthesis.

Note that number of bidders and number of bids is not the same, the latter often being much higher. A rule of thumb is that an average of 2.5 bidders is the tipping point in assessing demand, a score which is higher than 2.5 is a signal of a stronger bidder interest and a score below 2.5 implies a weaker bidder interest. The overall bidder score is 3.20. Of the seven post office types recorded five had a score above 2.5. It is unusual to find such a high bidder interest overall.

An analysis of bidder interest per transaction revealed there was one transaction with six bidders, four transactions with five bidders, one transaction with four, three transactions with three bidders, three transactions with two bidders, and three transactions with one bidder only. That profile reveals that 60% of sales transactions had more than two bidder interest.

Table 2: eBay Sales Transactions of Persia Wrappers (2006-2014)

H&G E #	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) & Number of Bidders per Sale (in Parentheses)	# of Sales	Mean # of Bidders
1	No sales recorded	0	0
1a	34.33 (5)	1	5
2	40.00 (1), 102.50 (5), 181.10 (5)	3	3.67
2a	No sales recorded	0	0
3	15.50 (3), 28.00 (3)	2	3.00
3a	No sales recorded	0	0
4	10.50 (2), 21.00 (4), 22.51 (5), 40.00 (1), 46.00 (6)	5	3.60
4a	15.50 (2), 57.00 (2)	2	2.00
5	97.56 (3)	1	3.00
5a	195.00 (1)	1	1.00
	Total	15	3.20

Some country studies undertaken by the author reveal that 85% or more of sales are of modest sums not exceeding \$20. For Persia, however, this percentage is reversed with 87% of sales above \$20 and three sales (20%) above \$100. The lowest realized price was \$10.50 for a copy of E4, while the highest sales price was \$195 for a single copy of E5a, the only example listed in more than a decade. The likely interpretation is that when used wrappers of Persia are listed for sale, despite there being a small collector base, there is keen bidder interest within that small postal stationery and single country collector community.

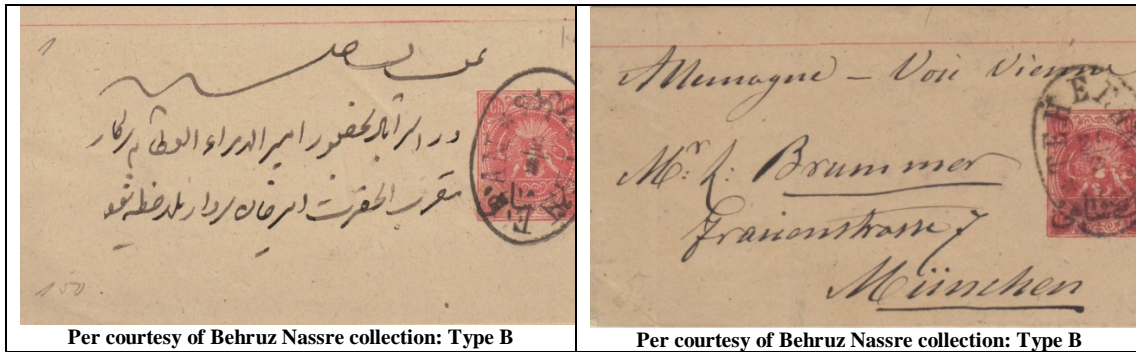
Part B: Gold Medal *et al* Story

An opportunity arose to add scans from the collections of Behruz Nassre as well as from the Gold Medal Exhibit of Bjorn Sohrne. An analysis of the flow of material that has passed through eBay over the past decade is a useful and objective starting point in seeking to understand the supply and demand of the wrappers of Persia. This source though is limited, especially for unique material that only knowledgeable specialists have gathered over dedicated periods of study and collecting. This section adds additional information and images to expand our overall understanding of this area of postal stationery.

There are at least four known examples of E1 with overprints postally used and these are shown as Illustration 4. A study of the actual overprints of the wrappers is necessary for accurate identification. From the images it appears as though there are two examples of Type A while the other two examples appear to be Type B.

Illustration 4: Examples of 1st issue with Overprint Postally Used





Per courtesy of Behruz Nassre collection: Type B

Per courtesy of Behruz Nassre collection: Type B

Little is known about the control marks applied to the wrappers of Persia – their design, application and quantity. The catalogues mention the 1899 violet Arabesque type, the 1902 PROVISIORE control overprint located at the lower section of the indicium and the 1904 overprint control with “Imperial Post”. However, a fourth control mark in black located to the left of the indicium is not recorded in any of the catalogues and we are indebted to Bjorn Sohrne for this information and for his postally used examples of these overprinted wrappers. What has not been documented with examples before is the dual appearance of control marks on postally used copies and several examples of these are shown in Illustration 5 negating any concern about the status of these wrappers.

Illustration 5: Examples of Control Marks on Postally Used Wrappers

All wrappers in Illustration 5 per courtesy of Bjorn Sohrne’s Gold Medal Exhibit

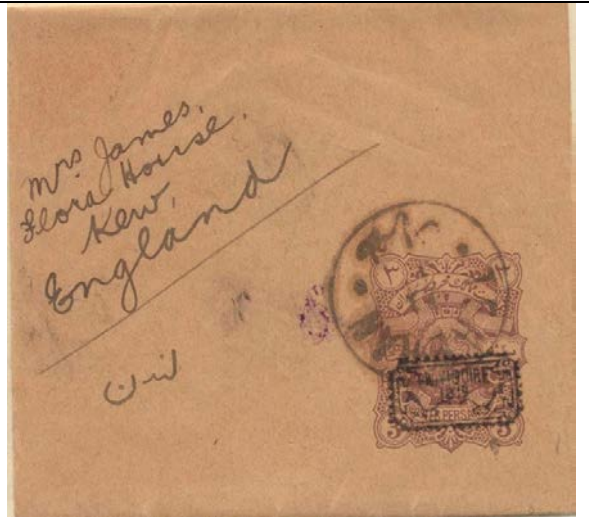


On top variety of location of violet Arabesque

Arabesque control mark.
Wrapper to Dutch Indies



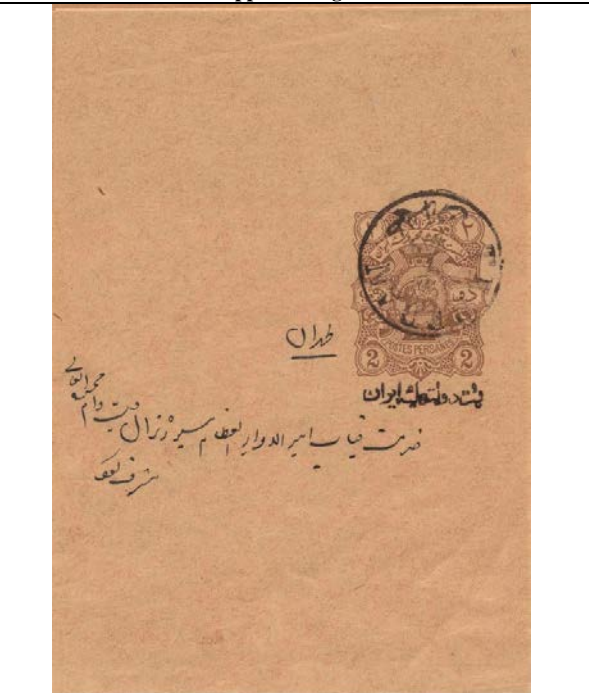
Arabesque control mark



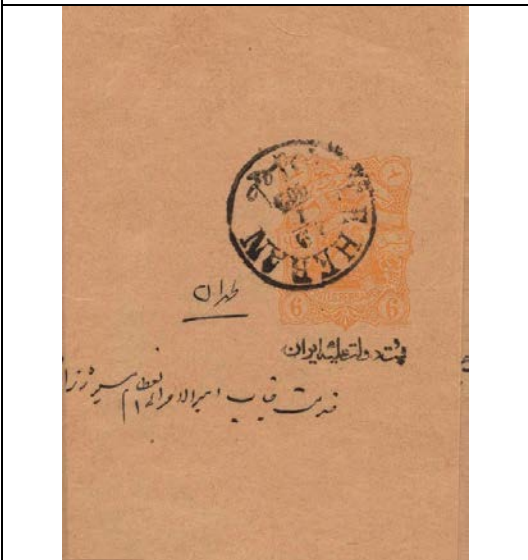
Two different control marks
Wrapper to England.



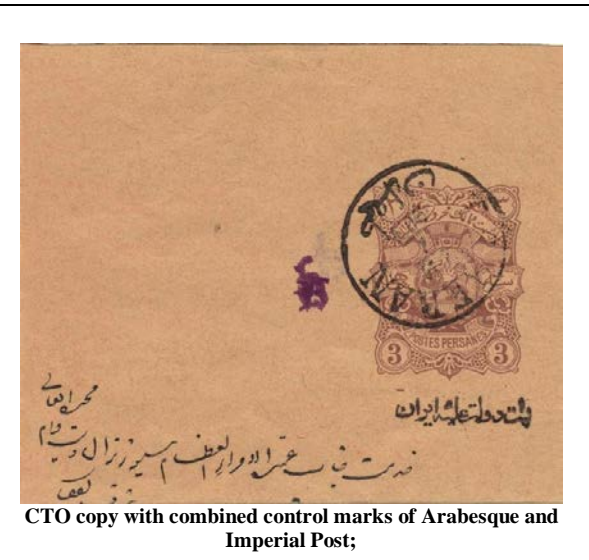
Eminent Iranian Government control mark



Eminent Iranian Government mark



Eminent Iranian Government mark



CTO copy with combined control marks of Arabesque and
Imperial Post;

Conclusion

No one claims eBay to be the only source of examples of used wrappers of Persia. This becomes obvious when the Gold Medal Exhibit of Bjorn Sohrne is examined where examples of combined control marks and registered usage are presented. The editor too, from his own collection, has revealed many used copies that have been acquired from non-eBay sources. While it is true that some sought-after copies have appeared on eBay, the implication is that the “hard to find material” requires a good deal of searching on the more traditional philatelic outlets.

What has been listed for sale on eBay over more than a decade does generally reinforce the belief that these wrappers are both elusive and relatively expensive. Only 30 used copies have appeared: 50% of these are E2 and E4. The other eight post office types have appeared with frequencies ranging from none or one per decade, one per five years or one per two or two and a half years. It seems obvious that the ‘top end’ material is not being listed on eBay.

Apart from two examples of registered usage of wrappers sent to Switzerland, the postal historian would have little opportunity to become too excited from the eBay listings. One wrapper was addressed to Dutch Indies and this would likely be viewed as an exotic destination; it was sold to one bidder for \$195, the top realized price recorded. Otherwise, however, the wrappers of Persia that appear in the database are unremarkable with no observable auxiliary markings.

The two registered copies of E2 sold for sums in excess of USD100, each with five bidders. Indeed all but two of the 15 recorded sales sold for sums in excess of \$20. Bidder interest is high with an overall bidder score of 3.20. The wrappers of Persia are elusive, relatively expensive and in demand because they are scarce.

References

- Iran Philatelic Study Circle (1981), *A Catalogue of the Stamps and Postal History of Persia/Iran*, Bulletin No. 51, Part 10 Wrappers, December, unpaginated.
- Kosniowski Jan (2015 forthcoming), *Newspaper Wrappers: Catalogue of Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers from the Whole World*.
- Sadri Mehrdad (2012), *Postal Stationeries of Iran (1876-1979)*.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks are given to Allan Gory and Jan Kosniowski for reading and commenting on an earlier draft and to Behruz Nassre and the Gold Medal Exhibit of Bjorn Sohrne for generously supplying images of non-eBay material with permission to include them in this paper.

A Postcard from Tiflis sent by A.F. Stahl (1881), by Howard Weinert

TIFLIS+ 6 POHTOVOE UPRAVLEN?E 6 (21 Jan. 1881)

MOSKVA (26 Jan. 1881)

Sent by A. F. Stahl¹ to Georges Foure². The message, datelined No. 56, Tiflis, 1 February 1881, reads, "In the matter of the 1 Kr. bronze, I can inform you as follows: Six months after Mr. v. Riederer³ left, the Postal Minister was also absent in Europe and I was in Tabriz. During that time, the first secretary provisionally carried out the functions of the Postal Director in Teheran. He had the clichés, but unfortunately he did not strictly adhere to the instructions for stamp production. After the Minister returned from Europe, I was summoned to Teheran, and it came to light that more 1 Kr./rose and 5 Kr./lilac stamps had been produced than were indicated on the accounts. All the clichés were immediately handed over to the Minister, and all the lions were to be altered⁴. A commission was charged with the printing. The post offices needed 1 Kr. stamps and some were printed in bronze on white. I myself sent a letter franked with such a 1 Kr. stamp to S. Friedl⁵. One evening when I visited the Minister, the new stamp, printed that same morning, was presented to him. The new stamp looked very much like the old one and the Minister gave the order to immediately withdraw and destroy this stamp and to print new 1 Kr. stamps in carmine on yellow paper. Therefore, only very few copies of the withdrawn stamp were sold. I myself had only about 10 copies. But many of my stamps were stolen, and I now possess only 4 or 5 copies used and mint. I believe it will become the greatest Persian rarity. The 1 Toman, issued in only 500 copies, also is RRR. Please note: The 5 Kr. with head, margins in blue, imperforate or perforated only on 1-2 sides, is also RR."

¹ Alexander Friedrich Stahl [1850-?], a Russian, was Postmaster of Azerbaijan Province [Summer 1876-Spring 1879] and then Postal Director [Spring 1879-Summer 1880]. He made extra money by exploiting his position to manufacture and sell Persian philatelic material to collectors and dealers.

² Georges Foure [1844-1902] was a stamp dealer and forger.

³ Gustav von Riederer [1830-1907] was an Austrian postal official who was appointed Persian Postal Director in order to establish a regular postal system after the Austrian model. He worked in Persia from early 1875 until Spring 1878.

⁴ That is, re-engraved.

⁵ Sigmund Friedl [1851-1914] was an Austrian philatelist and stamp forger.



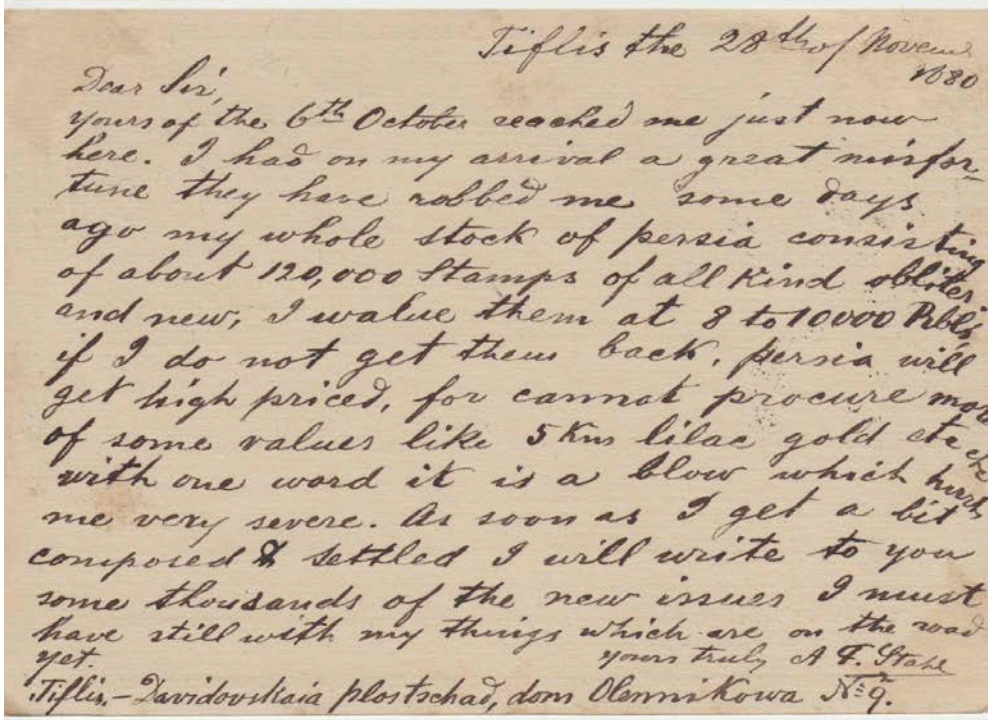
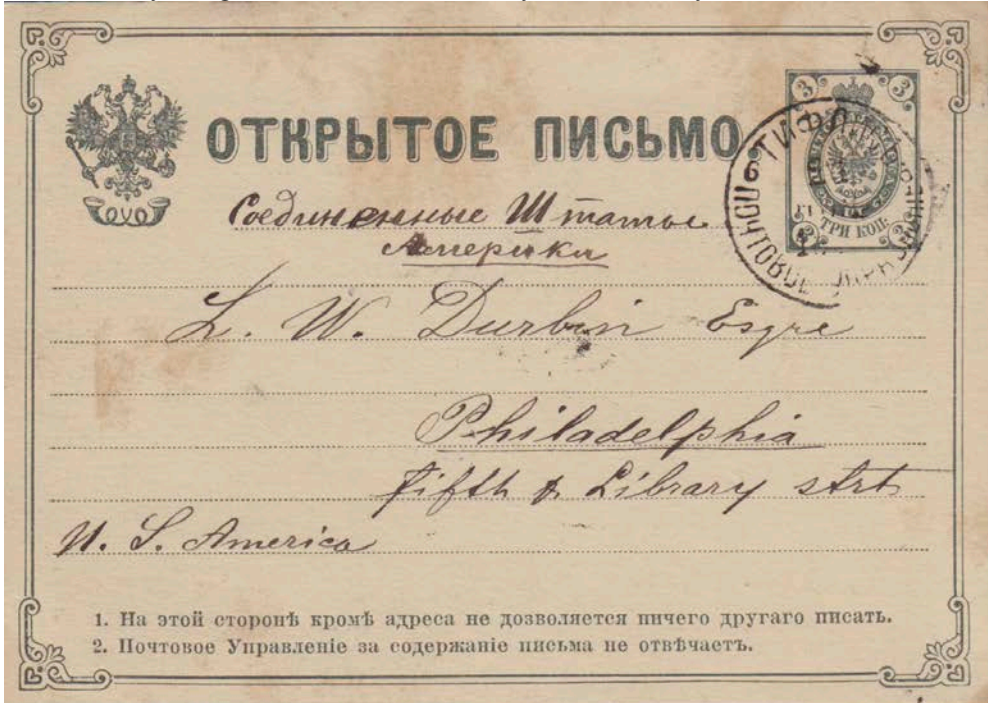
№ 56
 Tiflis den 1 Februar 1890.

Letztlich der 1 Kr. Kupon kann Ihnen mitteilen
 dass für v. Piederer schon 6 Monate fast war, & auch die
 Dienstzeit der Post in Europa, ist in Tiflis, ferner die
 Postgeschäfte in Teheran provisorisch die 2. Direktion
 Secretair. In diesem Zusammenhang ist nicht genau mit der
 Markenfabrikation der Clischer bei den sich befinden
 auf demselben der Ministerial mit George & seinen
 Verbindung nach Teheran, wogegen es sich dass Marken in
 (Post v. 1 Kr. (Kara) & 5 Kr. (Lila) nach fabriziert waren
 als in Russland gestellt. - Clischer werden sofort
 der Ministerial vorgegeben & alle Länder sollten vordrucken
 werden, eine Commission war mit der Fabrikation
 betraut, ob wenn 1 Kraus in postharen notwendig
 & werden welche in Louvre auf weiß gedruckt & der
 Post vorgeben, ist selbst sendet, einen Brief mit
 gelber 1 Kr. Marke frankirt an St. Friedl. Abends
 als ich dem Ministerial war wurde die neuen am
 Morgen gedruckt Marke vorgegeben, die sie aber
 nicht anlässlich mit dem alten 1 Kr. fatter
 befaht der Ministerial diese Marke sofort drucken
 zu lassen & zu versenden, dagegen werden
 1 Kr. Kupon auf gelbem Papier gedruckt. -
 Es sind aber mit grüner gelber & englischen
 in dem Postkupon zu kommen; ist selbst
 fatter mit circa 10 Stk & sehr gutt wasser
 man mit einem großen Pfund Marken gemacht
 größtenteils nach 4 bis 5 Stk. K. gelb & Ungarn. Die
 Marke sind Kottungen & theilweise im gelben. - Es
 sind wohl die größte. P. persien in. auf 1 Tonne wasser
 mit 500 Stk. fraktioniert sind R.R.R. Hoff. Stahl
 20

A Postcard from Tiflis sent by A.F. Stahl (1880), by Behruz Nassre

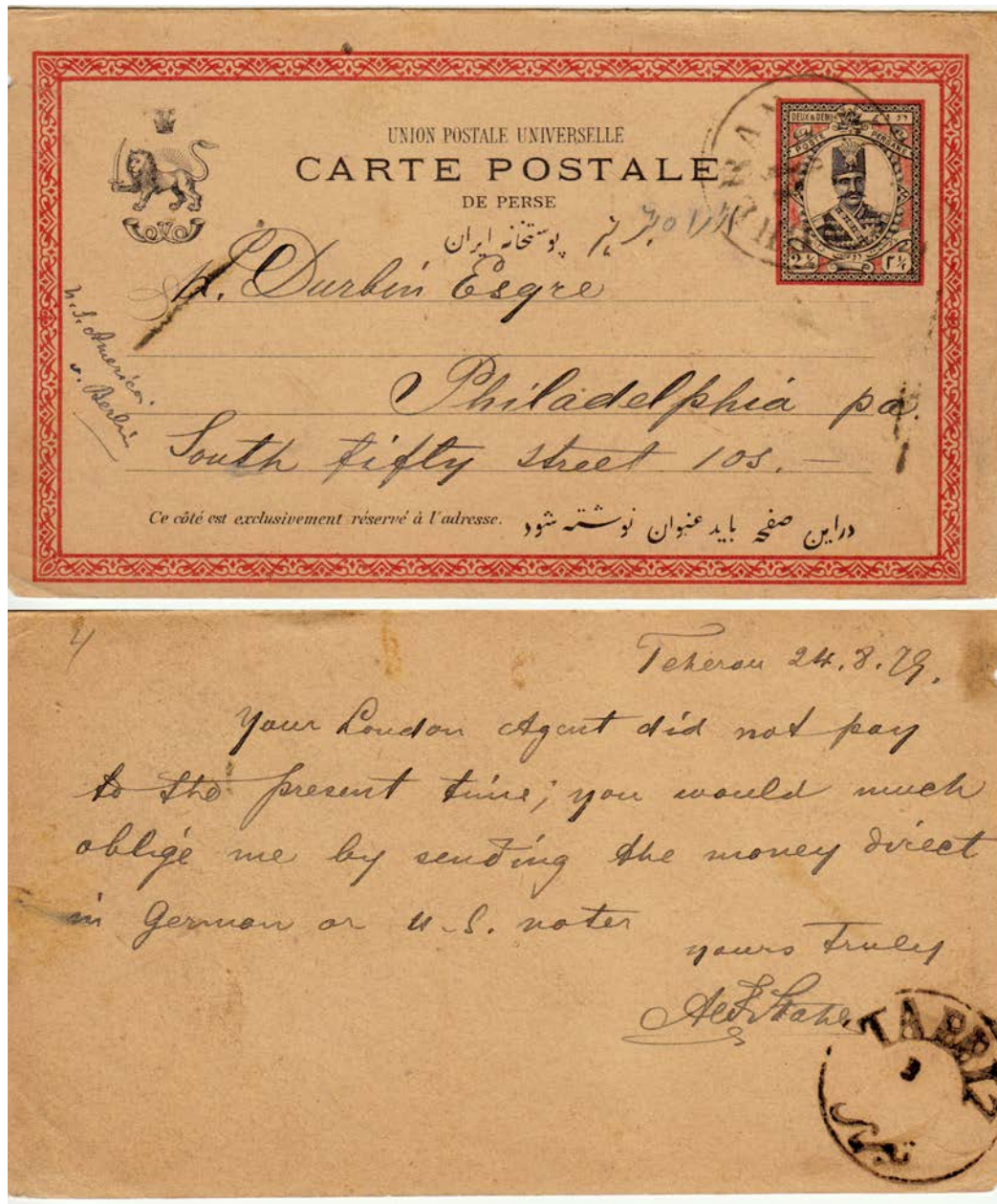
I recently found a very interesting Russian postcard written by A.F. Stahl while he was in Tiflis dated 28 November 1880 to W. Durbin, a stamp dealer in Philadelphia. The text is as follows—

"Yours of the 6th October reached me just now here. It has on my arrival a great misfortune they have robbed me some days ago my whole stock of Persia consisting of about 120,000 stamps of all kinds obliterated and new. I would value them at 8 to 10000 Roubles. If I do not get them back Persia will get high prices, for cannot procure more of some values like 5 Krs lilac gold etc etc. With one word it is a blow which hurt me very severe. As soon as I get a bit composed and settled I will write to you some thousands of the new issues I must have still with my things which are on the road yet. Yours truly, A.F. Stahl"



I wonder what happened to all these stolen stamps :-)

I also have another correspondence from Stahl to the same dealer dated 24 August 1879 from Teheran which is one of the earliest usages of the 2.5ch postcard.



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