

انجمن مطالعات تمبرشناسی ایران

Iran Philatelic Study Circle

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at on **Saturday 19th May 2018** at 2 p.m. at Leicester Language Academy, 23 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE when the Overprints and Surcharges on the first Ahmed Shah Portrait Definitives will be displayed and discussed.

REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2018

1st September: Reza Shah Pahlavi 1935 Definitive (SG 787-800, Farahbakhsh 726-739) (in Congleton)

1st December: Reza Shah Pahlavi 1927 & 1929 Definitives (SG 628-641, Farahbakhsh 562-575) (in London)

IRAN PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 2 September 2017 at 2pm at Altair, Off Woodland Avenue, Congleton.

Mr N R N Gooch was in the chair and Messrs D Davies, S Dunn, G Harries, R Jack, J Stone and D Tanner were in attendance. Apologies were received from Mr B Lucas who is currently in a care home. Robert Jack advised that he hoped to visit Bernard shortly and the members asked him to convey their best wishes.

As a novelty Jeremy Stone showed stamps from the 1925 definitive issue for Ahmad Shah cancelled Karachi – the opinion was that these had been cancelled on arrival.

As a new acquisition the chairman showed a registered cover from the French Legation in Teheran to their colleagues in Tabriz bearing 13 copies of the three chahis stamp from the provisional issue of 1924. [*illustrated next page*]

The minutes of the meetings 6 May and 8 July 2017 were approved by the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

The editor of the bulletin made an appeal for articles for the Bulletin.

The chairman introduced the topic of meetings for 2018. After discussion it was decided to arrange four meetings during the year on 10 March, 19 May, 1 September and 1 December. The meeting on 10 March would be hosted by Robert Jack at his home in York, on 19 May we would meet in Leicester at a venue arranged by our new member Gwynne Harries, the meeting on 1 September would be held by David Davies at his house in Congleton. The final meeting would be held at 41 Devonshire Place, the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

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

10 March 2018: AGM and Commemorative and Definitive issues of Iran 1966 to 1970.

19 May 2018: Overprints and Surcharges on first Ahmed Shah Portrait Definitives.

1 September 2018: Reza Shah Pahlavi 1935 Definitive (SG 787-800, Farahbakhsh 726-739).

1 December 2018: Reza Shah Pahlavi 1927 & 1929 Definitives (SG 628-641, Farahbakhsh 562-575).

All members present contributed to a display of items from the Pharos Press Printings of 1902, 1903 and 1906 with a selection of stamps, forgeries and postal history.

The chairman closed the meeting at about 4-45pm and thanked David Davies for his hospitality and the members for their attendance. He advised that the next meeting would be held on 2 December 2017 at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London to view items from the Enschede Archives



Anton Zonneveld 1926-2017

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of long-standing member Anton Zonneveld on the 25th September 2017 at the age of 91. Known as either Ton or Tony he was for many years a regular at IPSC meetings and a prolific contributor to the IPSC Bulletin. This appreciation of his life is drawn from recollections both from IPSC members and Ton's relatives.



Born in Amsterdam on 16th January 1926 Ton grew up in Rijkstraat which was in what was then a new part of the city. His schooling was interrupted by the war during which time it was Ton who took care of arranging food for the family, as he was very clever in arranging and negotiating deals. After the war he got married and started his career in printing ink. In the mid-1960s he switched career and studied chemistry, subsequently taking up teaching. His last position was at the ‘company college’ at Hoogovens.

After retirement and the early death of his wife in 1988 Ton fully focused on his garden, his clocks and his stamps – or rather postal history and the related logistics – and came to be especially interested in Persia. To this end he even went to Leiden University to study the language. As many will know he then spent several years researching at the archives of Johan Enschedé, the Dutch printers who were involved in so many of the Persian issues from the 1890s to the 1920s. This research he referred to as his “work”. His working life meant that he had both a deep scientific knowledge of printing and inks, as well as 20 years of practical experience. Such know-how – both theoretical and practical – is immensely valuable to any serious philatelist and Ton used it to the full. As research was his main interest he did not always go for the more expensive items as it was not necessary for him to have them, but over the course of many years he accumulated a mass of stamps and covers which he used meticulously in his research. If you had a query, Ton could always give you a good answer and an answer you could trust based as it was on his scientific approach to philatelic research. He was always open and willing to share the fruits of his research even though there were on occasion those who disagreed with his conclusions – sometimes very vocally – but Ton’s research methods were always meticulous and beyond question.

He travelled widely throughout Europe to auctions and fairs and generally his travel was ‘low-cost’ before that term had been invented! He joined the Iran Philatelic Study Circle in 1987 and was a regular at IPSC meetings in London to which he would drive from Holland via the Hook of Holland-Harwich ferry. He always came with a stockbook or two of covers related to the subject of that day’s discussion from which wonderful treasures would emerge one by one to be explained with considerable knowledge and modesty. He was also a prolific contributor to the IPSC Bulletin his last contribution being published in Bulletin 197 (April 2015) and these fruits of his research will remain as a lasting testament to a great student of Persian philately.

Ton had a good heart and always had a twinkle in his eyes, a smile on his lips and a willingness – indeed keenness to help fellow collectors – even to the extent of sharing philatelic material with them without caring much for financial gain. On two occasions when he made fortuitous purchases, he offered material to fellow IPSC members at well below market price: once when he had procured dozens of 1894 issue waybills in a large lot, and again when he had obtained a large lot of covers with BENADERS overprinted stamps. He could easily have sold them for a much higher price at auction. Instead he only recovered his own costs and made sure that the lots were equitably distributed to other members.

Ton’s contribution to Persian philately is immense and he will be remembered long, not least by those collectors who value the scientific approach to our beloved hobby which he embodied. His articles will continue to be consulted and relied upon by the students not only of today but also of the future. He will be greatly missed and his passing leaves Persian philately much the poorer.

Bernard Lucas FRPSL: 1931 – 2018

The death of Bernard Lucas, aged 87, on 3 January 2018 brings down the final curtain on the philatelic lifetime of one of the greats of Iranian philately. He was always ready to comment on, assist with and explain the detail of the many and varied displays which we were always privileged to share and he will be sorely missed.



Bernard's first love was the postal history and philately of Iran born out of business trips, as a chartered accountant and auditor, to that country in 1957-1960 but he had other philatelic interests covering Nepal, France, Germany and Pneumatic Mail.

As a member of the Iran Philatelic Study Circle he produced and edited the first Bulletin published in March 1966 and remained in this post until the end of 1989. In September 1966 he had become both secretary and treasurer, jobs he did not relinquish until February 2011 and February 2014 respectively. He was a constant presence at meetings until failing health made attendance too difficult and his great depth of knowledge about Iranian philately so freely dispensed will be sorely missed.

Bernard joined the Leeds Philatelic Society in November 1955 and during his membership served as treasurer, journal editor and president. He was proposed for membership of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1968 and was elected a fellow in 1974 after which he served on their Council.

He was a staunch supporter and committed attendee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, acted as Chairman of Congress in Harrogate in 1979 and received the Congress Medal in recognition of his dedication and voluntary service to organised philately in 1982.

In that same year he became an associate member of the Society of Postal Historians and subsequently held the post of Hon. Treasurer between 1988 and 1993, was promoted to fellowship in 1996 and much to his delight was made a Life Fellow in 2017 for although his mind remained sharp and active it was his legs that made attendance at meetings impossible.

Outside philately he was a member of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club and regularly attended Headingley followed by some spicy food, the hotter the better, washed down with the odd pint or more of lager.

Although he was a private person who lived with his sister until a year or so ago, Bernard was extremely good company with a lively sense of humour. When you were with him you were never far away from a laugh and a drink!

Two interesting covers by Werner Lade

The postal history with its wide range of postal transport, postal rates, markings and regulations is for me what they say *that extra something*. Sometimes I come across a cover which really asks me a riddle. That does not happen often in my favourite collecting interest, the relatively recent period from 1950 to 1989. I like to present two covers with whom I have occupied myself for a long time.

As you will see, the focus for these two covers was not on the Iranian stamps or markings but the handling in transit or receiving countries.

Figures 1 and 2 show a cover posted in Tehran on 16.IV.53 for Vienna, Austria:



Figure 1



Figure 2

The letter was correctly franked with 9.50 rials plus 50 dinars postal tax. The air fee amounting to 3.50 rials was calculated for Switzerland.

Aside from the Tehran datestamp the cover shows three other markings. On reverse the Geneva dispatch datestamp 20.IV.53. At that time there were no direct flights from Iran to Austria. Air mail was carried to Switzerland and from there by rail to the destination.

In Austria incoming registred mail was marked with a R; at this time a green rectangular postmark.

The censor strip and the single ring cancellation “Allierte Zensurstelle – 212 – Z. 1” (Allied Censor’s Office) are especially remarkable. After the end of the Second World War in 1945 Austria was occupied by the Allied Forces and divided into four zones. Inland and foreign mail were censored by the occupation forces. The Central Censorship Office in Vienna was responsible for incoming mail from January 1946 to 15.8.1946. There exist many different censor’s markings.

The next cover, figures 3 and 4, show a cover sent from Abadan to the small village of Madaras in Hungary on 29.I.57:



Figure 3



Figure 4

The letter in the envelope shows that this was sent by a collector to another collector. The multiple franking and the clear postmarks are rather unusual for commercial letters from that time.

The letter was lightly overpaid with 13.20 rials plus 50 dinars postal tax. The correct amount for a letter at the second was 13 rials plus 50 dinars, calculated with the air fee for Switzerland.

The cover shows six FARAHABAD datestamps combined with the ABADAN registration postmark. On the reverse of the cover you see a ZURICH dispatch datestamp 1.II.1957. Air mail was carried to Switzerland and from there by rail to the destination. There is a light receiving postmark BUDAPEST with no more readable information. The arrival postmark at the final destination MADARAS 57-FEB-5 is very clear.

What I really puzzled for a long time is the red B stamp on the front of the cover. With help from a member of the German Hungary philatelic research group I got to know that this letter stands for "BETÉT" which means "ENCLOSURE". Registered mail in a sealed bag with multiple items was handed over at the frontier and signed in this way. This handling was usual until the 1980ies for Hungary.

Compulsory surcharge obligation 1979 to 1982, by Werner Lade

The effects of the revolution in 1979 on regular stamp issues and the handling of mail are widely known. There is some knowledge respectively the compulsory tax stamps in favour of "Red Lion and Sun of Iran", but there are still open questions. So it is unclear whether some overprints or marks stamped on mail were officially initiated or made by activists on their own initiative. The postal treatment of compulsory tax stamps on national and international mail as well as that of waybills (*barnameh*) are evident, but cannot be substantiated by official regulations. As far as I know, there are no documents from this period in the field of the telegraph offices.

We know that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the International Red Cross Committee of the adoption of the Red Crescent organization instead of the Red Lion and Sun organization on 4 July 1980 (Circular No. 72 of the International Committee of the Red Cross). From the existing items it could be concluded that the usage of the stamps for registered mail and also in the parcel service was terminated earlier.

Two of the IPSC members, who were working on this topic passed away many years ago and cannot help in the further research. In Bulletin No. 75 (1989, pages 1022 - 1031) Dj. Chariffan had presented covers with revolutionary overprinting. Unfortunately, there is no indication of the whereabouts of his items. In Bulletin No. 76 (1990, pages 1047 - 1050) Bodo Hartmann had responded. He mentioned in his article the information by the Iran Philatelic Society that the usage of compulsory tax stamps had been finished on 7 May 1981. I have not seen usages of 50 dinars stamps on registered mail later dated than 31 March 1980 and 2 rials stamps on waybills from 5 May 1980. However, this is not a significant finding in terms of the waybills, as they should not be handed to the public at all.

I was able to get copies from a book entitled–

مصوبات شورای انقلاب ۱۳۵۹ - ۱۳۵۷

but I could not find any regulations on the compulsory tax stamps. There are many regulations on the postal, telegraph and telephone systems in this book.

A very important question is whether the overprint in Figure 1 only on the 50 dinars stamps was based on official rules and at all post offices:

Figure 5



The imprint shows the new coat of arms and the inscription:
جمهوری اسلامی ایران
Islamic Republic of Iran

I have never seen such an overprint on the 2 rials stamps.

In the article by Dj. Charifian is shown on page 1029, Figure 9B, an overprint “Provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran”. The full Farsi inscription is not visible on the copies so that I cannot describe the original text. To this day I have not been able to see a document of this kind in the original. Is there any further evidence in the hands of our members and could we get copies or scans for further research?

After the introduction of “Red Crescent Iran”, the idea of a surcharge for registered letters of 50 dinars was continued. There are foreign letters with a box stamp:

هلال احمر
۵۰ دینار
Figure 6



In my collection, there is a stamp from February 1982 and another one from January 1981. Perhaps these stamps were not always paid attention and they still rest unnoticed in some collections. For me, the question arises, from when to when a fee

was charged in this way and whether it was also raised for domestic letters. All information regarding the postal tax stamps of this period is welcome. Please contact me by email to ghajar.lade@t-online.de or write your own post.

“C” Markings used in 1910-1912, by Beruz Nassre

There has been many discussion on the IPSC groups about the purpose of the ‘C ‘ markings used in 1910-1912. The only ‘official ‘ mention I have seen about these is in a letter which I have shared with the group addressed to a collector a few years after 1912 stating that the it showed that the postal authorities check the rate and ensure it was correct.







Below is a very interesting INCOMING letter from Karbala to Kerman. the letter was routed through Kermanshah, Sultanabad and Tehran on its way to Kerman. it has received ‘C ‘ marking in Sultanabad as well as Tehran. This is totally unexpected if the idea of the ‘C ‘ marking was to check to ensure proper postal rate. Why would an incoming letter get checked for rates like this? Even if it was checked, why would the Tehran postal clerks mark this cover again after it was checked in Sultanabad?



Persia in the 1894 Senf Catalogue, by Bjorn Sohrne

Illustrated are the Persia pages from the famous Gebrüder Senf stamp catalogue of 1894 provided by Bjorn Sohrne who thought they might be of interest to today's collectors.

Bjorn wonders if readers see anything remarkable about the first page not to be found in modern catalogues (answer at the end of the illustrations!).

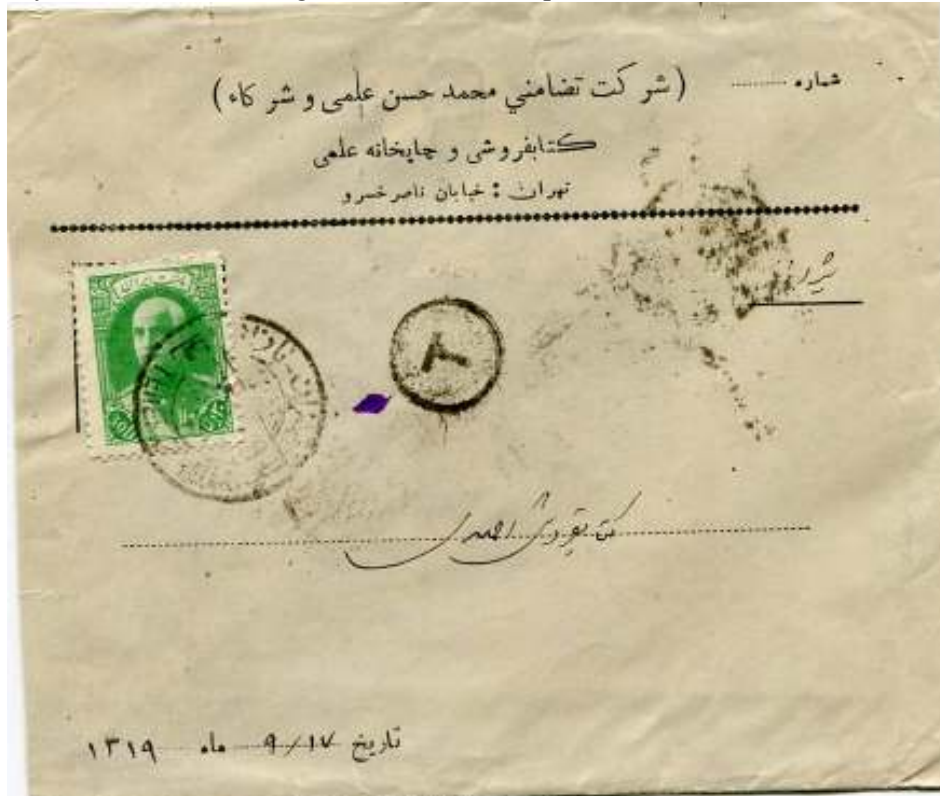
424 Persien.		Persien.		425									
Persien.													
Freimarken *)													
	1808. Wappen (Löwe) im Kreise; in den vier Ecken (persische) Wertziffern; gezähnt.												
	1. 2 Schahi grün	25	—										
	1809/70. Desgleichen, ungezähnt.												
	2. 1 Schahi violett, lila	4	— 15										
	3. 2 " grün	2 50	18										
	4. 4 " blau	2	— 15										
	5. 8 " rot, karmin	3 50	20										
	1875. Desgleichen, jedoch mit Wertziffer unter dem Bauch des Löwen; senkrecht oder wagrecht durchstochen.												
	6. 1 Schahi schwarz, grau	4	— 3										
	7. 2 " blau	5	— 4										
	8. 4 " rot	5	— 4										
	9. 8 " grün	5	— 4										
	1875/76. Desgl., ungezähnt. A. dickeres Pap. B. dünnes Pap.												
	10. 1 Schahi schwarz	3	— 2 50	3	— 3								
	10a. Abart m. farb. Schattentönen	4 50	—										
	11. 2 Schahi blau, graubl.	3	— 3	4	— 4								
	12. 4 " rot	3 50	2 50	4	— 4								
	13a. Abart m. farb. Schattentönen	4	—										
	13. 8 Schahi grün	2 50	3	4	— 4								
	14. 1 Kran karmin	—	—	5	— 2								
	14a. Abart a. gerippt. Papier	—	—	8	—								
	14b. Fehldr., doppelseit. bedruckt	—	—	5	—								
	14C. 1 Kran karmin, II. Type (m. weissumrandeten Eckziffern, verschwomm. Dr.)	1 50	2	— 1	—								
	15. 4 Kran <table border="0" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>a.</td><td>schwefelgelb</td><td>10</td><td>— 2 50</td></tr><tr><td>b.</td><td>bronzegelb</td><td>10</td><td>— 2 50</td></tr></table>	a.	schwefelgelb	10	— 2 50	b.	bronzegelb	10	— 2 50				
a.	schwefelgelb	10	— 2 50										
b.	bronzegelb	10	— 2 50										
	15a. Abart a. gerippt. P.	—	—	5	—								
	1876. Bildnis des Schah im Kreise; mit farbigem Netzunterdruck; gezähnt 13 oder 10 ^{1/2} .												
	a. eng ges. b. weit ges.												
	16. 1 Sch. schw. u. lila	4	— 2	— 60	— 30								
	17. 2 " " " grün	— 60	— 25	—	—								
	18. 5 " " " rosa	1	— 20	1 50	— 25								
	19. 10 " " " blau	1 25	— 45	1 50	— 50								
*) Antiliche „Neudrucke“ von den Marken No. 10 bis 15, No. 23 u. 25 bis 39, welche von teilweise nachgravirten Platten auf glattes, weisses (Originals grauweiss) Papier gedruckt wurden und sowohl ungestempelt als gestempelt ebenfalls häufig (schon für etwa ein Fünftel der Originalpreise) vorkommen, sind, richtiger bezeichnet, nichts anderes als offizielle Fälschungen von sehr fragwürdigem Sammelwert. — Dasselbe gilt von eigen. Neudrucken v. No. 16—19.													
	1877. Marko No. 11 (Wappenzug) in geändert. Farb.												
	20. 2 Schahi schwarz	15	—										
	— Aushilfsausgabe. Halbierthe Marko No. 10 mit blau-grünem od. blauschwarzem Aufdruck d. neuen Wertes.												
	21. 5 Schahi a. 10 Sh. schw. u. blau	25	— 25										
	22. 5 Schahi a. 10 Sh. schw. u. blau	25	— 25										
	1878. Marken No. 14 u. 15 (Wappenzug) in geändert. Farben.												
	23. 1 Kran hellgelb	35	—										
	24. 4 " blau	4	— 3										
	1878/79. Wappenzug im Muster d. Aug. 1875.												
	25. 1 Kran karmin a. gelb	10	— 3 50										
	26. 5 " lila u. weiss	7	— 5										
	27. 5 " golden a. weiss	20	— 8 50										
	28. 5 " a. violettbronz a. w.	15	— 15										
	29. 5 " b. rostbronz a. weiss	15	— 25										
	29. 1 Toman violettbronz a. blau	30	— 30										
	1879/80. Bildnis des Schah im Kreise; mit farbigem Rande; gezähnt.												
	30. 1 Schahi schwarz u. rot	1	— 1										
	31. 2 " " " gelb	1 50	— 1										
	32. 5 " " " grün	1 50	— 30										
	33. 10 " " " violett	2	— 50										
	34. 1 Kran schwarz u. braun	2 50	— 30										
	35. 5 " " " blau	8	— 50										
	36a. Abart: 5 Kran ungezähnt	—	—	10	—								
	1881. Grösseres Format mit Sonne in verzierten Rahmen; Stahlstich; gezähnt.												
	36. 5 Cent. violett	— 25	— 50										
	37. 10 " karminrosa	— 50	— 50										
	38. 25 " grün	1	— 40										
	— Desgleichen, Steindruck.												
	39. 5 Cent. violett	— 60	— 60										
	40. 10 " rosa	— 75	— 40										
	41. 25 " grün	20	— 2										
	1881/82. Grösseres Format mit Bildnis des Schah; dreifarb. Druck; gezähnt.												
	42. 50 C. schw., gelblich u. gelbrod	2	— 1 25										
	43. 1 Fr. schw., hell- u. dunkelblau	2	— 50										
	44. 5 Frs. schw., rosa u. dunkelrot	5	— 50										
	45. 10 " schw., gelb u. rot	2	— 75										
	— Aushilfsausgabe. □ Ausschnitte d. Briefumschlags No. 1 antlich als Freimarken ausgegeben.												
	unges. ges. a. Brief.												
	46. 5 Schahi schwarz u. rosa	—	— 50	— 75	— 75								

Boxed delivery time markings, by Mehdi Esmaili

Boxed delivery time markings are listed by Mr Shaida and Mr Sadri for Teheran and Recht. The mark was applied at the central post office to indicate the time of distribution, but the trial was discontinued. Until recently I only had these for Teheran but below are two covers with delivery times of ١٠ (10 am) and ١٨ (6 pm) for Recht.



Below is a cover from Tehran Bazar to Shiraz with delivery time of ۱۲ (12 Noon).
Shiraz is not listed as having boxed delivery time markings.
If anyone has such markings from other cities, please let us know.



Notes on the history of the stamp issue of 1876, an article reprinted from IPSC Bulletin 40.

I include this piece in memory of Tony Zonneveld, one of our most prolific contributors to the IPSC Bulletin. Following one of my frequent appeals for articles for the Bulletin, Tony emailed me as set out below. Members should remember that the “1 metre long row of historic Bulletins” to which Tony refers is now available on the IPSC website. Last year Tony donated his non-philatelic library of books on Iran to the Society and I would like to record the Society’s thanks to members Frits van Beekum and David Davies who collected them in Holland and transported them back to the UK where they now await cataloguing.

Robert Jack, Editor, IPSC Bulletin

“Forgotten, or perhaps worse. **Not used information.**

For some reason I had to reread a page from the Bulletin. Quite back in time, March 1978, far before my IPSC time. And was shocked when I checked neighbouring pages, information I never saw before, not even had a clue it was available. Not one subject, but many. I can certainly recommend members, still having access to their 1 metre long row of historic Bulletins, to have a try. These nearly forgotten members did not only accumulate Persian material, they really did serious research. And shared their work, their knowledge.

An example. The first, Austrian issues. What do we know? Not much more than Riederer, the hired Austrian postmaster, in 1875 primitively printing the lion stamps, setting up the first postal routes, getting Persia a member of UPU, went back home early 1878.

Any particulars? No, not with me, not in our catalogues, not in our standard books. Except our Bulletin! Publishing a complete record of research by Edwin Müller from Vienna. Translated in English by late member J.F. Hoppe. In: *Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin*, No.40, March 1978, pp.471-481. Hoppe ‘s comments at the end are valuable as well.

An overview:

The new issue was ordered 1876 by Riederer via the Persian Embassy in Vienna, Austria. At the ‘State Printers ‘. Just a description of what was needed, no proofs were sent. The last part of this issue was sent 1878. When Riederer (now “von Riederer”) was back in Vienna, the 1879, coloured border issue, was ordered.”

Notes on the History of the Stamp Issue of 1876 of Persia by Eng. Edwin Miller of Vienna.

Translated by Erik J.F. Hoppe.

In the sixties and seventies of the past century it became for the first time the task of the Austrian State Printers, the reputation of which already had reached beyond the country ‘s boundaries, to produce stamps for foreign states. Starting in 1866 this was done for Serbia; in 1874 Montenegro followed and in 1876 it was Persia. As concerns the first two mentioned countries it may not be a surprise that they had their first issues printed in Vienna, due to their connections to the Austrian postal organisation. As concerns Persia, which already had earlier printed stamps themselves, there is no immediately understandable connection.

While looking through the archives of the Austrian Post Administrator a task which occupied me for several years, lately with the assistance of Mr Ludwig Kalmus, I also found the documents on these printing commissions from foreign post administrations. The highly interesting acts concerning the origination of the first Montenegro issue I have already published in the volume 1929 (page 10). On the first Serbian stamps there are no documents containing information of any importance present, as the

negotiations were made directly with the State Printers. The very informative writings concerning the Persian stamps printed in Vienna will be commented on here.

The Persian Government decided in 1874 to reorganise the postal operations, which at that time hardly functioned any more, and to this end engage foreign specialists. Thanks to the reputation the Austrian Post had gained in the Orient - and perhaps also as a result of the Shah 's visit to the World Exhibition in Vienna one year earlier 1873, which he viewed with enthusiasm – an inquiry was made to the Austrian Post Administration to propose such officials, which would be suitable for this task. So it happened that at the end of 1874 the Austrian Postrath Gustav von Riederer went to Tehran, where he arrived in January 1875, and was appointed General Director of the Persian Post. An Austrian post functionary, named Manowarda accompanied him as an assistant. He however returned to Europe in the summer of 1876. Riederer devoted himself energetically to the task; he wanted to bring together the pieces quickly. He started new routes and also a regular reception and distribution service, and it can rightly be said that he is the creator of the Persian post. Certainly he could not accept the primitive stamps produced locally in the country. Already the 26th March 1876, von Riederer turned to the Austrian Envoy in Tehran, Count Dubsky, with the following letter:

“After the postal route between Tehran and Tabriz has now become operational in such a manner that a break down of this or of the practiced routines should not be expected, it becomes my task to try to organise similar services in the other provinces.

For this I need a greater quantity of stamps than I could possibly produce with the means available in Tehran, and I must foresee as well that I will have stamps which would not be easy to imitate, as due to the immense extension of the country and also the lack of trustful functionaries I will not be able to exercise a strict control.

Under the prevailing circumstances, as I cannot procure such stamps in Persia, I am counting upon the postal administration of my Fatherland to give me support, and that they, so that my civilising work may succeed, would contribute to it in such a way that they would mediate the ordering of suitable stamps and their early despatch.

With this assumption I am taking the liberty to beg your most Honourable Count to use your highly esteemed influence so that the K.K. Austrian Ministry of Trade will accept my request for a supply of stamps and soonest inform me by cable within what time and at what cost a delivery from Vienna of such stamps, for the moment in values of 1, 2, 5 and 10 chahis (per mille) can be had, and also if in the same period and at what price medium sized (Austrian formats) envelopes with printed on stamps of 5 chahis can be supplied.

As concerns the design of the stamps I will only state that they shall carry the portrait of H.M. the Shah and that the value figures shall be Persian as well as those known to us as Arabic.

A portrait of the Shah can be found on photographic copies anywhere in Europe, so I do not find it necessary to supply one from here, I would only add that a portrait with the “Kollah” (the hat with the diamond studied plume) should be used. A drawing of the Persian figures is enclosed. The remaining art work (engravings) I will completely leave to the selection of the engraver. The choice of colours I will leave to the producer of the stamps. Evidently an alignment to the colours as generally accepted by the majority of countries for equivalent values would be practical. As a sample of excellent and beautiful stamp design I would indicate the newest 8 kopek Russian stamp.

If the manufacturer of these Persian stamps could design and execute a similar product, I should prefer this to any other stamp design known to me; as second to this I would point out the latest Hungarian issues. At all events I want for the Persians, who are accustomed to gaudy colours, stamps with several and bright colours.

The most important for me, however, is an early delivery, and I therefore ask that emphasis will be given thereto.”

This letter was forwarded by Count Dubsky, with his recommendation, to the Foreign Ministry in Vienna on 28th March, which Ministry transferred it on 29th April to the Ministry of Trade with the following letter:

“By enclosed communication, dated 28th last month, Nr 3-HP, Count Bubsy is warmly recommending a request made to him by the Persian General Director of the Post, Mr G. Riederer, that the K.K. Ministry of Trade may arrange the execution and delivery of the new Persian stamps and letter envelopes, to be issued shortly. The more precise demands and wishes of Riederer, as concerns quality and execution of these stamps, would the K.K. M. of T. find in the enclosed letter from the mentioned Postrath? The thing we want to do is to inform Riederer by cable about the price and the delivery time as well as about our readiness to accept his proposal.

By means of an active participation, whereby the K.K Ministry would follow up the successful labours of Riederer, which not to the least include advancement of our country 's ' interests, the Foreign Ministry hopes to receive a favourable as well as a speedy conclusion of the affair and we

have therefore the honour to ask for a comprehensive reply, in order to be able to cable a definite reply to Riederer by way of the Tehran Embassy.”

The Ministry of Trade turned to the State Printers on 2nd May 1876.

“The Postrath Gustav Riederer, to whom is entrusted the organisation of the Persian post, has through the K.K. Envoy in Tehran asked that the stamps as well as stamped envelopes needed for Persia should be manufactured here and forwarded to Tehran.

The management is hereby invited to inform soonest, based on the enclosed excerpts from the letter of request by Riederer and the therein noted Russian and Hungarian stamps, within what time and the lowest cost these Persian stamps and letter covers and in accordance to the indicated types and quantities, can be delivered through the K.K. Hofu. Staatsdruckerei. The necessary samples can be supplied later.”

The State Printers replied on 7th May 1870:

“In accordance to the esteemed demand of 2nd May t.y., Nr 13110, your humble management wants to bring to your appreciated knowledge that the Court and State Printers do have the possibility to print the stamps and envelopes required for Persia fully in accordance to the indicated requirements.

The cost as estimated would be for the preparations approximately 200 Fl. and then further for each 1,000 stamps printed in two colours, inclusive of print, gum, and perforation 50 Kr. and for 1,000 complete finished envelopes 3 Fl.

The delivery of a corresponding supply can be made within six weeks after approval of the samples, which have already been started, and which we should be able to submit within a few days time.”

Then the Ministry of Trade informed the Foreign Ministry on 11 May:

“In reply to the esteemed note of the 29th l.m., Nr 1316-HP, I have herewith the honour to inform the honourable Ministry, in connection with the report of Count Dubsky in Tehran, that the Court and State Printers are able to manufacture the required Persian stamps and stamped envelopes exactly in accordance to given instructions. We hope that it will be possible for the honourable Ministry to continue the negotiations and to inform us about the result.”

The Foreign Ministry cabled then to Tehran and received the following reply by cable from the Austrian envoy on 21st May 1876:

“Riederer asks kindly to have ordered, 1 million of 5 chahis, 250,000 each of 1, 2 and 10 chahis and 300,000 envelopes at 5 chahis. Proofs not required, please despatch as soon as a quantity is ready.”

The Foreign Ministry conveyed the cable to the Ministry of Trade on 26th May, which however, after an unexplained delay, gave the order for printing to the State Printers first on 22nd July 1876:

“In conclusion to the report of 7th May this year, Nr 1551, we are herewith requesting the management, in accordance to a cable received here from Tehran, to manufacture the under-specified quantities of stamps in the already decided execution and in accordance with the agreed conditions, for the account of the Persian Post administration, immediately ; 1,000,000 stamps at 5 chahis (red) 250,000 stamps at 1 chahi (violet) 250,000 stamps at 2 chahis (green) 250,000 stamps at 10 chahis (blue) and 300,000 letter envelopes at 5 chahis (red)

As soon as a greater quantity has been prepared, these are to be packed in small cases, suitable for transportation by caravan, with the address of K.K. Postrath Gustav Riederer in Tehran, and to be sent prepaid to the K.K. Embassy Post Office in Constantinople and further to inform us immediately about the despatch.”

The State Printers needed a good six weeks as was quoted, in order to make the first delivery on 13th September 1876.

“With reference to the honourable order of 22nd July this year Z.16.333 the undersigned management herewith takes the liberty to inform that today, after careful checking and counting, the first partial delivery of the Persian stamps was made in one carefully packed case, by the Austrian Lloyd to the K.K. Embassy Post Office in Constantinople for further despatch to K.K. Postrath Gustav Riederer in Tehran.

The case in question contains:

200 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 1 chahi.

200 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 2 chahis.

1,000 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 5 chahis.

200 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 10 chahis.”

In the meantime Riederer became impatient. He cabled to the Ministry of Trade on the 15th September 1876:

“Have Persian stamps already been despatched, otherwise please send soonest a few thousand of each by letter post.”

and next day received the reply:

“First part Persian stamps despatched already by Lloyd.”

The Ministry of Trade also sent the following letter to Riederer on the 21st September 1876.

“Confirming the above referred to cable of 16th September this year we herewith inform you that on 13th September this year one case containing Persian stamps was despatched with Austrian–Hungarian Lloyd to the K.U.K. Embassy Post Office in Constantinople for further despatch to Tehran. The case contains (details as above). The manufacture of the remaining Persian stamps will require a time of approximately 14 more days, one part will however be despatched already today by letter post to your address via Trebizond.”

The last paragraph of the letter referred to the fact that the Ministry of Trade had arranged that Riederer could receive the first stamps sooner by the despatch of a small quantity by letter. The State Printers informed moreover about the despatch of a second part delivery made on 22nd September 1876.

“The humble undersigned management takes the liberty to inform that they have today despatched seven parcels in accordance to your request, as follows:

3 parcels of 100 pcs envelopes, 25 each in a wrapper, at 5 chahis.

1 parcel with 160 quarter panes stamps of 25 pcs at 1 chahi.

1 parcel with 160 quarter panes stamps of 25 pcs at 2 chahis.

1 parcel with 160 quarter panes stamps of 25 pcs at 5 chahis.

1 parcel with 160 quarter panes stamps of 25 pcs at 10 chahis.

(meaning 4,000 stamps of each value and 300 envelopes) to the K.u.K. Austrian–Hungarian General Consulate in Trebizond by registered letter mail for further despatch to K.K. Postrath Gustav Riederer in Tehran.

We have also despatched besides this, the second part delivery of the Persian stamps on 21st September this year in six cases, as follows:

Case Nr 1. 200 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 1 chahi.

200 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 2 chahis.

1,000 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 5 chahis.

200 quarter sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 10 chahis.

Cases 2 to 6 total 32,000 pcs envelopes at 5 chahis.

In the same manner as was the first delivery to the K.K. Embassy Post Office in Constantinople for further despatch to the named Postrath. The remainder of the issue will follow within three weeks.”

The State Printers thereafter informed about the delivery of the remainders on the 12th October 1876:

“The undersigned management have herewith the pleasure to humbly inform that the 4th partial delivery of the Persian stamps and envelopes was made on 5th October this year, and included 11 cases nrs 17 to 27 inclusive; containing in case nr 17:

1,000 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 1 chahi.

1,000 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 2 chahis.

1,000 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 5 chahis.

1,000 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 10 chahis, and

10 cases nrs 18 to 27 inclusive, 64 pcs letter covers at 5 chahis, and further on the 12th October the 5th part delivery, completing the whole issue, including 25 cases nrs 28 to 52 inclusive and containing in 3 cases nrs 28, 29 and 30:

1,060 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 1 chahi.

1,060 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 2 chahis.

6,960 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 5 chahis,

1,060 sheets of 100 pcs stamps at 10 chahis, and

in 22 cases nrs 31 to 52 inclusive 139,700 letter envelopes at 5 chahis to the K.K. Embassy Post Office in Constantinople for further despatch to K.K. Postrath Gustav Riederer in Tehran.

At the same time the humble management give a summary of the complete deliveries in an enclosure for your disposition; we also want to inform that all printers waste, emanating from the printing of these Persian stamps and envelopes will be kept in the department for stamp manufacturing under seal until further.”

The Ministry of Trade wrote to Riederer on 30th October 1876:

“In accordance with the cable to the Foreign Ministry dated 31st May this year, from the K.u.K. Envoy of the K.u.K. Mission in Tehran and ditto of 21st May this year, we have manufactured for the Persian Post Administration the following stamps, namely 1,000,000 stamps at 5 chahis, 250,000 stamps each of 1, 2 and 10 chahis and finally 300,000 letter envelopes of 5 chahis through the K.K. State Printers here.

In accordance to information from the K.K. State Printers there were forwarded 11 cases as a fourth part delivery on 5th October this year and 25 cases containing the fifth and final part delivery of the

total issue to the K.u.K. Embassy Post Office in Constantinople for further delivery to Tehran, and hereby is enclosed a summary of all made deliveries of Persian stamps and letter envelopes.

An invoice of the manufacture and packaging of these is being requested from the K. K. State Printers and will be submitted as soon as possible in order that settlement can be made as soonest.”

The requested account was submitted by the State Printers on 8th November 1876 as follows :

“In accordance to the honourable request of 30th October this year Z.31.849, we herewith inform that the account of printing. In accordance to enclosed specification, totals 3,053Fl.31Kr. This total includes part of the preparation costs, which will not be required at an ordering of further printings :

Items 1 to 4 inclusive for the stamps 191 Fl. 10 Kr.

Item 16 for the letter envelopes 81 Fl. 13 Kr.

Total 272 Fl. 23 Kr.

Further as items 9, 10, 17, 18, 19 and 20 our costs, for checking, despatch, cases and packing materials, total 438Fl. 74Kr. which all together makes 710 Fl. 97 Kr. The total costs for the production therefore remains at 2,342Fl. 34Kr.

Of these later costs comes for the production of the delivered 17,500 sheets of 100 pieces, equal to 1,750,000 stamps, according to items 5 to 8 inclusive 1,336 Fl. 58 Kr. or for each 1,000 pcs approximately 76 4/10 Kr.

For the delivered 300,000 letter envelopes comes according to items 11 to 15 inclusive 1,005 Fl. 76 Kr. or per 1,000 pcs approximately 3 Fl. 35 2/10 Kr.

In comparison with our humble estimate of 7th May this year, Z 1551 this shows an increase according to the following :

(a) for the preparation costs 272 Fl. 23 Kr.
compared to the proposals 200 Fl. _____
of 72 Fl. 23 Kr.

(b) production cost per 1,000 stamps 76 4/10 Kr.
compared with the proposals 50 _____ Kr.
of 26 4/10 Kr.

(c) production cost per 1,000 envelopes appr. 3 Fl 35 2/10 Kr.
compared to the proposal 3 Fl. _____
of 35 2/10 Kr.

As concerns the excess at the preparation works this is due to requests from the honourable Ministry to make alterations in the original engraving and the thereby required repeated proofs.

At the production of the envelopes the excess cost is due to that originally the stamp printing on these was to be in one colour, but later it was decided to make it two colours, requiring two printing operations.”

The invoice was remitted to Riederer, who however confirmed as follows first the 21st March 1877:

“Yesterday the 20th March I finally came into possession of the last part of the stamps printed by the K.K. Austrian State Printers delivered to here.

The K.K. State Printers have however enclosed the receipt and count documents inside the cases and I am first able to countersign them when all the cases have been opened.

It does not however suit me to open all the cases immediately, as I prefer, due to the security reasons, to open the well closed cases one by one in accordance to requirements, and it will therefore take a long time until I will have all the documents in hand.

I will take the occasion to express my sincerest thanks to the honourable K.K.Ministry of Trade for the kind acceptance of my request and for the thereby assured support of my organisation work for the post. Further I assure to do my utmost to arrange that the invoice forwarded by the honourable letter of 23rd November 1876, Z 34.731 shall be settled.”

The stamps produced in Vienna, show all the features of the State Printers ‘ products. Specially the perforations were the characteristic line perforations gauging 10½, 12 and 13, whereby the first delivery should have been perf. 13 and the following deliveries were perforated 10½ and 12 and also compound. Riederer went back to Europe in March 1878 and arrived in Austria in May 1878. At his departure he had, according to a later published official record, handed over the remaining stock of existing stamps. They should have been the following quantities:

1 chahi : 1 closed case and three opened packets 136,000 pcs.

2 chahis : 1 closed case and six opened packets 166,000 pcs.

5 chahis : 5 closed case and 6 opened packets 606,000 pcs.

10 chahis : 1 closed case and three opened packets 136,000 pcs.

5 chahis letter envelopes : 44 closed cases, 1 case with 6,400 pcs and two opened packets with 200 pcs 291,800 pcs.

Should these figures be correct, then there would have remained at the end (sic) of 1878, which means

after more than one year in use, still approximately two thirds of the issue unused. There were of the values 1, 2 and 10 chahis the whole quantity (1 closed case = 106,000 pieces) and moreover 3 packets of 10,000 pcs = 30,000 pcs of the 1 and 10 chahis, 6 packets of 10,000 pcs = 60,000 pcs of the 2 chahis, probably coming from the fourth delivery, still in stock. The remainders of the 5 chahis were the main part of the 5th delivery, of which only 90,000 pcs had been distributed. It is therefore not quite understandable why at that time provisional local type stamps in the same values were again required. Further, Riederer had hardly arrived in Austria before a new set "in better colours", as he wrote, those issued in 1879, were ordered. As there do not exist any remainders, as far as can be established, it must remain unexplained what really happened to the above specified considerable stamp quantities. Cut outs of the 5 chahis letter envelopes, of which during one year hardly 3% of the issue had been sold, were used as adhesives from 1879.

For the issue of 1879, as well as for the following Vienna printed stamps, the negotiations were made by Riederer directly with the Stats Printers, and there is consequently no more documentation to be found. (From *Die Postmarke*, Vienna 1934, p.80. Zur Geschichte de Freimarken-Ausgabe 1876 von Persien).

Erik Hoppe comments on the above article as follows :

The Muller notes are extremely interesting and of importance and give inducement to a multitude of observations. It seems to me that the article has been grossly overlooked by the philatelists. The Kohl handbook mentions the article in its bibliography, but completely It satisfies itself by repeating old assumptions without checking with later writings, of which this is one, when writing on the first Shah Nasser-ed-Din portrait stamps.

Of some interest is the observation which can be made, that to travel from Vienna to Tehran takes approximately one and a half months, which of course depends on the weather and the selected route and size of luggage. The way Riederer selected is not mentioned, but the quickest road seems to have been by ship to Trebizond and, then on horseback to Erzerum, Byazid, Khoi, Tabriz and Tehran, including some packhorses and servants as followers for the trip.

An Austrian Embassy courier letter took a little less than 1 month and this also went by Trebizond.

At 26th March 1876, Riederer apparently had the line Tehran-Ghazvin-Tabriz in operation and was satisfied enough to think of extending the postal routes. He dared not do this without having, the stamp supply secured. The situation in March seems to have been that the McLachlan stamps were finished, at least as concerns the 4 chahis, and the block printings were going on. These manipulations could keep pace with the existing consumption but not with an enlarged one. The Ghazvin - Rasht branch was already added. Increased utilisation of these lines may have incited the request of 15th September by cable for a few thousand stamps of each. As we shall see, such a delivery would never have been of any great help for an extended system.

As concerns the stamps themselves we have here indisputable information on the numbers of the issued stamps, information which has not been used in later publications. Further we find that the sheets were each of 100 stamps arranged so that they very practically could be divided into quarter panes of 25 pieces. Could it be anything else than 10 x 10 stamps?

The generally assumed issue date for these stamps is August 1876. We find now that the first despatch was made on 13th September from Vienna. Even using a Concorde would not have made the shipment that speedy. If the Muller information is correct and I cannot see any reason not to believe that, the issue date must be revised to become sometime later. How much is rather a difficult question however, because we cannot find any information on the arrival of the first consignment. The final one we know left Vienna on 12th October 1876 and arrived 20th March 1877. It was on the road for more than five months. March is the time when the roads on the high lands are again free from snow, which starts to stop traffic in December, caravan-wise counted. Two; possibly three months would perhaps be the normal delay to count with; thus we would have the arrival time of the first part delivery in November/December, the second later in December, whilst the fourth perhaps arrived in March. The third part delivery by Trebizond would have arrived in early November. The arrival of this small delivery would consequently signal the time of issue, but so far this is only a guess, maybe with some pretension of reasonable accuracy.

Müller goes somewhat wrong in estimating the use-up of the issue. He makes some sort of error in locating March at the end of the year. The estimate becomes:— one third of the issue was used up between December 1876 and March 1878, approximately 14 to 15 months. During this time there was an intense activity in extending the routes and adding post offices. The stamp consumption gradually increased and as approximately 400,000 5 chahis stamps were used up in this time the monthly consumption should have been 30,000 stamps. The next issue is dated 1st January 1880 and this means a time of 21 months from the day Riederer left. Without any increase in consumption of these stamps which we surely must assume was taking place, the remaining 606,000 5 chahis stamps would have lasted 20 months. They did not, and this perhaps answers Müller's question of what happened to the stamps. They were used up. As

concerns the parcel post delivery of 4,000 of each stamps it can now easily be seen that 4,000 5 chahis stamps would perhaps have lasted one but not two weeks if they were used to start up new routes. I consequently do not think that Riederer had this in mind when he asked for their delivery.

In view of the before mentioned it is also difficult to find a fit in for the generally accepted reason of the issue of the vertical strips. Only the first part delivery should have been enough to help Riederer out to the end of March, especially as the prevailing winter must have meant a slowing down in the organisational work. Another explanation for this vertical strip issue must be looked for.

Müller also mentions an unexplained delay by the Ministry of Trade in ordering the stamps. One gets an impression that the Ministry had slumbered, but such was not surely the case. The meantime was used to negotiate the conditions and to submit samples and to get them approved, by an agent in Vienna, probably the Ambassador. This explains also the references made by the Ministry to such agreement and to approved samples in their order, because nothing the like is ever mentioned in the Riederer correspondence and further there was no time to send samples to Tehran, which Riederer in his way had indicated.

PIPEX 2018

PIPEX 2018 is an APS World Series of Philately event presented by Portland Philatelic Exhibitions on behalf of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs.

The show will take place on May 11, 12, and 13, 2018 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach, located at 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, in Portland, Oregon. The hotel, located on the southerly bank of the Columbia River, offers special room rates to show attendees, free airport shuttle for PIPEX attendees flying into Portland, and free parking for those who drive to the show. Admission is free. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The show features a 40 booth dealer bourse, 3800 pages of exhibits, a Stamp Collecting Pavilion, *Stamp Buddy* for beginning or returning adult stamp collectors, *Grandma's Attic* for evaluation of stamp collections, specialist society meetings and many seminars and programs.

Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries will conduct an auction on Sunday, May 13. The lots may be viewed each day at the show and online at: www.harmerschau.com.

For youth, free stamps by the bucket will be offered each day.

PIPEX 2018 is the annual exhibition of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, which will hold its annual general meeting at the show.

As a World Series of Philately show, the single frame and the multiframe grand award winners' exhibits are expected to compete in the APS Champion of Champions competition.

More details about the show will be available in the future on the show website at: www.pipexstampshow.org.

IPSC is one if the guest society at this year's PIPEX show. You can get further information about the show at:

<http://www.pipexstampshow.org/>

This is the first time IPSC has been guest society at the National Show and members are encouraged to attend. IPSC is also sponsoring an award for best exhibit related to Iran and the Iranian diaspora. There will be at least 10 Iran related exhibit and hopefully a few more. There will also be an IPSC meeting on the Saturday.

The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019. For this occasion an international exhibition will be held in Stockholm. H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be the Patron.



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