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Rajit Singh "Lion of the Punjab" awarded Jammu and Kashmir to his general, Gulab Singh and Poonch to Gulab's younger brother, Dhyan Singh. One of Dhyan Singh's sons, Raja Moti Singh (1859- 1892) ruled during most of the quarter century that Poonch issued postage stamps. He was succeeded by a son, Buldeo Singh who reigned during the last two years (1892-1894) that Poonch had a State Post Office 1. Poonch is small, about 2% of the size of Jammu and Kashmir and lies on the Western side of Kashmir. It is reached more easily from the plains of the Punjab, which lies to its east, than through Kashmir ¹.

The Stamps

The first Designs:

1876 6 pie red (SG 1)

The engraver of the 1876 6 pie of Poonch was Ruhāt Ju, a seal-cutter from Srinagar , who also engraved a number of the Jammu and Kashmir dies, plates and the Dak Zaruri^{3, 4}

The stamp measures 22 x 21mm and is printed on yellowish white, wove paper² (Fig. 1). The inner most circle shows the denomination: 6 pai (6 pies= ½ Anna) in Persian² . The year date 1933 in the Samvat dating system corresponds to 1876 ; [the Samvat calendar is about 57 years ahead of the Gregorian calendar except between January and March when 56 years is deducted.]

Persian and Nagari scripts read "seal stamp, state, Poonch, 1876"². The entire design is enclosed by double frame lines which are usually blurred into one line. The outer panel has 5 rosettes within circles. Two rosettes are at the left end of the bottom panel². The presence of the double rosettes in the left corner is often the feature that easily helps identify this stamp when the value is obscured. The 1877 6 p. may look somewhat atypical if it over inked (Fig. 2).

Unused copies 1876 6 pie red (SG1): Only 3 unused are reported, all from the Masson collection ^{2,5} (Fig. 3).

Used copies of 1876 6 pie red: Estimated in the hundreds. The used stamp is only somewhat scarce on or off cover.

Early copies of the 1876 6 pie red show handwritten cancellation; copies used later generally are obliterated with the First Poonch Seal except for a short period (1882-1883) when hand canceling was again used ⁶.

Date of Use of SG 1: July 1878-April 1884.

The earliest reported use of SG 1 on cover is July 20, 1878 (dated in the Samvat calendar manuscript 6 Sawan 1935)⁶. The SG1 has been hand canceled and is on a 1 Anna India QV postal stationery envelope with the embossed lion on the back. The First Poonch seal was used as an endorsement and a Kabuta CDS as transit



Fig.1. 1876 6p. red yellowish white coarse paper. Double frame lines. These are frequently blurred.



Fig. 2. 1876 6p.

EMBOSSER HORN ON THE BACK. THE FIRST POONCH SEAL WAS USED AS AN ENDOUSEMENT AND A KAHUTA CDS AS TRANSIT

mark. The cover traveled to Choya Saidan Shah via Rawalpindi and Pind Dadan Kahn ⁶. Other early copies of SG 1 on cover are dated August 5, 1878² and November 1878⁵.



Fig. 3. Unused 1876 6p.
Only three unused copies are reported.
Reproduced from the Robson Lowe
Auction January 10, 1967, lot 488.



Fig. 4. 1876 6p. late use April 1884.



Fig. 5. 1876 6p. Three copies = one and half Anna.
Tied by First Poonch seal. 2 Anna in British India stamps
(1 and 1/2 Anna on back). Dated Bhadon 9 1938=
August 23, 1881. Also dated in Merchant Script '1938'=
1881-1882. To Choya Saidan.

The latest recorded date of use of SG 1 is early April 1884 (Fig. 4). Another late date of use of SG 1 is March 17 1884⁵. Multiple examples of the first issue on cover are rare, and the most copies of the 1876 6-pie recorded on the same cover is three⁷ (Fig. 5). A semi tete beche pair (one stamp sideways) is known⁵ as is a pair one stamp sideways used on cover in the Chatterjee collection.

1877, ½ Anna red (SG 1a)

The stamp measures 19 x 17 mm and is on slightly yellowish-white wove paper and is more rectangular as compared to the almost square SG 1⁵. The ½ Anna denomination is present in a small inner oval rather than the circle of the 1876 6p.⁵ The year date (which is very hard to identify in the few copies known) is 1934 in the Samvat calendar corresponding to AD 1877². A total of two rosettes are present (again difficult to recognize on the copies known). One is at the left end of the top panel and one inside a circle at the left end of the bottom panel².



Fig.6. 1877 1/2 Anna.

Unused: 2 copies of SG 1a are reported (Fig. 6)

Used: Two copies used have been recorded².

The earliest recorded use of the 1877 1/2Anna is 10 June 1879 (6 Har 1936); the latest: 1 October 1882².



Fig. 7. 1879 1/2 Anna pair used. This pair was part of

1879 ½ Anna (SG2)

The stamp measures 21 x 19 mm and is printed on yellowish-white wove paper. The value, ½ Anna in Persian, is considerably larger than the 6 pie value of SG 1 or the ½ Anna of the 1877^{2,5}. The date is now Samvat "1936" which is 1879². The Persian value characters are set lower in the oval⁵. One rosette is present near the left end of the lower panel. The stamp has two frame lines

the Ferrary and Tapling exchange for an unused Mauritius 2d. end of the lower panel. The stamp has two name lines which may blur into one.

Post Office. Reproduced from the Robson Lowe Auction January 10, 1967, lot 499.

Unused: 1 copy is recorded².

Used: about 9 used copies reported². The most well known 1879 1/2 Anna (SG2) is the used pair on piece hand canceled and tied by the First seal Obliterator and Postage due and arrival date CDS that Ferrari exchanged with Tapling for an unused Mauritius 2d "Post Office" (Fig. 7).

The Earliest use reported for SG 2 on cover is: 16 April 1880 and the latest recorded is 9 June 18852.

Proofs of the First Designs:

Two First Period proofs were found in the proof book of the seal cutter Rahat Ju.:

1. This proof is identical to the 1879 ½ Anna (SG 2) but is in black instead of the issued red color⁵.
2. This proof somewhat resembles SG 2 but differs in a) the value is 1 Anna instead of 1/2 Anna b) the date in Persian is S. 1933=1876 instead of S. 1936 c) different numbers of rosettes are present and d) the Nagari for "Poonch" is misspelled "Paloch"² (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. The 1 Anna proof found in the book of Rahat Ju. Reproduced from the Christie's Robson Lowe Auction 2 March 1993 lot 1170.

Defacement of the Dies of SG 1, 1a, 2.

No record of the defacement of these dies has been recorded.

The Second Designs

The fourth Issues:

These stamps are quite different in design from the first 3 issues and were originally issued in 1880 in 1/2, 1, 2 and 4 Anna denominations. An additional value (1 pice) was subsequently added in 1886 or early 1887 for use on post cards⁵ (Fig. 9-13).

Distinguishing features among the 4th Issue stamps include 1) their color: red for routine postal use (SG 3-56b) and black for Service stamps (SG 01-010), 2) their denominations 3) the inks: a) watercolor and b) aniline 4) their papers.



Fig. 9. The 1/2 Anna on white laid batonne paper.



Fig. 10. The 1 Anna on white laid batonne paper.



Fig. 11. The 2 Anna on white laid batonne paper.



Fig. 12. The 4 Anna on white laid batonne paper.

Fig. 13. The 1p. red on white laid batonne paper.

It is the last feature- the papers- that is most vexing and contributes to either the charm or the considerable frustration in studying Poonch stamps. The relatively large number of paper varieties and the various colors, some of which are difficult to separate, poses an intellectual effort in identification that some find challenging and others find trivial and annoying. The effort to classify the various paper colors used in the fourth Issue is further compounded by chemical changes, such as induced by sunlight and heat, which may alter paper color. The early literature suggests that the selection of papers was hap-hazardous and subitaneous. The collector who feels uncomfortable when a stamp is not readily identifiable may find Poonch frustrating.

Although the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth catalog is a very good reference, it does not cover some of the paper varieties that are found.

(SG 3-6) Yellowish White Wove paper

The first complete set of four stamps (1/2, 1, 2 and 4 Anna)(SG 3-6) is inscribed '1880'⁸. The stamps are square and a horizontal line divides the stamp into two panels. "In the upper half the Nagari reads "State of Poonch" followed by the value. In the lower half is a similar inscription in Persian with the addition of the Samvat date 1937 (AD 1880)⁵. The paper of SG 3-6 is "the same coarse yellowish wove" generally used for SG 1-2⁸. Douie noted that yellowish white wove paper continued in use until 1887⁵.

Unused: The 1/2, 2 and 4 unused are reported as very scarce⁵. The 1 Anna is not scarce⁵.

Used on Cover: An early 1/2 Anna on yellowish white wove (SG 3) cover has arrival CDS of "Choya-Sai-Dansharh" 11 April 1884^{5,9}. Thus, a considerable time period elapsed from the '1880' on the die and the appearance of these stamps in postal use.

1/2 Anna on yellowish white wove used on covers:
~April 1884-January 1886⁹, October 1886- Dec 1887^{6,9}
(Fig. 14).



Fig.14. 1885 December 1/2 Anna on yellowish white wove paper obliterated by the First Poonch Seal. (SG3).

Douie postulated that the 1/2 Anna (SG3) was not the first 4th issue stamp on yellowish white wove paper but that the higher values were issued first based on his finding of 'pieces showing combinations of the first issue used in conjunction with both the one Anna and two Anna values' [of the 4th. issue]⁵.

1 Anna: A cover is known with a 5 one Anna fourth issue stamps tied by the First Poonch Seal sent to Amritsar and dated August 8, 1883⁹. This date is about 9 months earlier than the earliest recorded for the 1/2 Anna. Whereas it can be questioned whether this very early date is accurate, it may well be because the 'Kahuta' date stamp on this cover does not contain the year date suggesting that the 1 Anna was introduced prior to March 1884.

2 Anna: A registered cover with two 2 Anna on yellowish white wove paper sent to Major Evans by the Poonch Postmaster dated April 20, 1885 is known (Fig. 15). A 2 Anna on a cover dated July 84 has also been seen⁹.



Fig. 15. The 2 Anna on yellowish white wove on an 1885 cover to England.

4 Anna: A 4 Anna used stamp on yellowish white wove paper obliterated with the First Poonch seal is known⁹.

At this point, the chronology of the various papers listed by Stanley Gibbons becomes confusing and problematical. The main reason for this is that several somewhat similar papers were used for printing within a short time period. These papers included the the toned wove batonne papers (SG 7-10) and white laid, white ribbed and wove batonne papers of (SG 11-15) (Fig. 15a). Douie noted "There is little doubt that several kinds of thin

batonne paper were used indiscriminately at this period. The white batonne papers used were of several varieties, laid, ribbed [SG 11-15], and wove [SG 7-10]. It is probable that there was no intention on the part of the authorities to make any change, but that any white or whitish thin paper procurable was used indiscriminately. Possibly it would be more satisfactory to describe the issues as on thin batonne paper, white or toned."⁵.

Although ½ stamps on batonne papers were introduced by 1885, ½ Anna stamps printed on yellow white wove paper (SG 3) were concomitantly used and remained employed into late 1887^{5,8}.

1885 SG 7-10 Toned wove batonne paper

The stamps on this paper (toned wove batonne SG 7-10) are sometimes gummed⁵ (Fig. 16-17) .

The ½ Anna on cover is seen used in October 1885⁹. Toned wove batonne paper was again used in 1891-93. Stamps from 1891-93 on toned wove batonne paper may be recognized if they are impressed with "Under Quarter Tola", which was not applied to the earlier sheets⁵.



Fig. 16 the 1/2 Anna on toned wove batonne paper. These stamps are sometimes found gummed. (SG7)



Fig. 17 The back of the stamp in fig. 16. The stamp is gummed.



Fig. 15a. Laid lines and batonne lines. Back of the 4 Anna on blue green laid batonne showing horizontal and vertical widely spaced batonne lines and vertically oriented closely spaced laid lines.

SG 12-15 White laid batonne or ribbed batonne (Fig 9-13).

Laid lines in water mark fluid may usually be seen on SG 12 when it is on cover. Occasionally laid lines may be seen when the stamp is on cover even without watermark fluid. An early use of the ½ Anna on thin laid batonne paper is recorded on a cover back of October 1885 (Fig. 18). Another early use is reported on a cover dated late November 1885⁵. White laid batonne paper was again used with some frequency during 1891-August 1894 with an occasional earlier use from November 1888 (Fig. 18a,19).



Fig. 18. 1885 Oct cover back 1/2 Anna white on laid paper. Tied by Poonch First Seal. A partial J&K State P.O. 'Masul' Postage Due cachet and State cds. An early use of SG 12.



Fig. 18a. 1888 August 1/2 Anna red on laid white batonne (SG12). Most are seen in 1891 and later.



Fig. 19 1894 August. Late use of the 1/2 Anna on white laid batonne. (SG 12).

1885 Unlisted four Stamps on thick Azure Paper.

In April 1885, Major Evans received four different stamps mailed to him from the Poonch Postmaster in a letter that contained 1/2 (10 copies), 2 (9 copies) and 4 (8 copies)

Anna stamps on very thick azure laid paper (Fig. 20-22). The letter also contained a very clearly printed 1 Anna (9 copies) with wide margins on yellowish or toned wove paper¹⁰. The status of the stamps received by Major Evans is uncertain. Major Godfrey considered them issued stamps. Since they have not been found used on cover or even obliterated, some experts classify these as 'proofs'.



Fig. 20. 1885 cover to Major Evans which contained 1/2, 2, and 4 Anna stamps on Azure blue laid paper and a very clearly printed 1 Anna on yellowish wove.



Fig. 21. The 4 Anna on thick Azure laid paper.



Fig. 22 Back of the 4 Anna on thick stiff Azure laid paper. Sent by the Poonch Postmaster to Major Evans in 1885.

1886 SG 22-26 White laid paper

About 1886 SG 22 -26 on medium white laid to thick laid paper appeared. This paper may be quite stiff⁸. The 2009 Stanley Gibbons catalog does not list these used although they have been recorded⁵. (Fig. 23-24).



Fig. 23 The 1/2 Anna on thick, stiff white laid paper obliterated with the First Poonch Seal (SG 23).



Fig. 24 The back of the 1/2 Anna on thick white stiff paper. Watermark fluid on the lower half shows laid lines (SG 23).

1/2 Anna Used: the earliest recorded used 1/2 Anna (SG 23) is on a cover dated December 29, 1886 which was delivered to Sialkot⁵.

1 Anna used. A 1 Anna originally on piece is recorded⁵.

1886-1887 (SG 11) 1 p. on white laid batonne

A 1 p. (1/4 Anna) value on white laid batonne paper was introduced for postcards⁵ (Fig. 13). The stamp measures 20 x 20 mm and is almost similar to the 1876 6 pie red (SG 1) The value in the small inner circle was wrongly engraved as 1 pie (Ek pai=1/12 Anna), instead of 1 pice or 1 piasa =1/4 Anna. The post card rate was 1/4 Anna. Godfrey states that this mistake was copied from an obsolete East India Company's coin⁴.

The previous Poonch stamp dies had been engraved on copper by Rahat Ju. The new 1p. value was engraved on a blood stone by a stone cutter whose name is not certain^{4,8}.

The 1p. on white laid batonne (SG 11) was first recorded in May 1887⁵. Douie had a number of 1p. copies obliterated with the First Poonch Seal suggesting that the 1 p. was in use possibly somewhat earlier⁵.

From this point on, the dates of use for various stamps cataloged by Stanley Gibbons become far less certain. Although it is usually possible to correctly identify both the color of the stamp paper and the stamp ink on cover, it is often not possible to differentiate the paper type: i.e.: wove, wove batonne, laid and laid batonne. Several important writers on Poonch philately maintained that the selection of papers was haphazard and indiscriminate and was dictated by what was available in the market place at the time the State Post Office purchased new supplies of paper. Captain Godfrey, who was Assistant Resident for Jammu and Kashmir, and wrote several early articles on Poonch philately noted that "No official record was kept of any change in the color of the paper, possibly, because the niceties of philately were not appreciated in Poonch....Stamps of the same value but of different shades and on different papers are frequently found on the same document and were purchasable at the Poonch post office."⁴

However, Douie thought that, although prior to 1887 the use of various colored paper for different values was possibly haphazard, starting in 1887, he concluded that it was the general intention of the Poonch officials to assign one paper color to each stamp value and that this rule was adhered to unless there was a shortage of the correct paper as probably occurred in the weeks prior to the end of 1894⁵.

- 1/2 a. white or toned
- 1 a green or blue green
- 2 a. lavender
- 4 a. yellow or orange buff

Douie compiled a chronological listing for the 1p. and 1/2 Anna which include paper types. It is in Appendix 1. I have simplified Douie's information by omitting the paper types and arranging the listing only by paper color, ink color (red or rose), thickness (thick or thin) and occasionally paper surface which are qualities the

color, ink color (red or rose), thickness (thick or thin) and occasionally paper surface which are quantities the collector can usually identify without lifting the stamp from the cover. I have expanded the listing to include higher values but have not, as yet, included data from most auction catalogs. A 'P' and a number refer to the listing found under Philatelic Covers. The reader is hopefully aware that even with this simplified listing serious mis-categorization will occur. It is sometimes difficult to decide if a paper, which is now toned, was originally white or toned, is thick or thin or even to identify its original paper color! On occasion, I have mentioned that a paper is "laid" if the laid lines can be seen on the cover with the aid of watermark fluid.

1p.

White paper (thin): Early 1887- July 1887, Jan 1, 1895

Toned (off) white papers:

Blue: July 1887 -July 16, 1888, September 1888- May 1889, May 1894-December 1894 (Fig. 25).

Aniline dyes; July 1887 to July 16 1888 (Fig. 26) .

Yellow and Orange Buff: May 1888⁹-August 1888, May 1890-August 1894 (Fig. 27).

Lilac: November-December 1894 (Fig. 28).

Gray-blue: Dec: 1894¹¹.



Fig. 25. 1889 April 1p. red on blue paper.



Fig. 26. 1888 16 July 1p. Aniline rose on blue paper. Late use. Not catalogued used by SG 2009.



Fig. 27. 1891 1p. yellow.



Fig. 28. 1894 November 1 p. lilac.

½ Anna

Yellowish white paper coarse: April 1884-December 1885, October 1886- Dec. 1887.

Yellow or Orange Buff: January 1886-September 1886, July 1887, April 1892²¹ (Fig. 29).

Yellow-green: early in the period starting September 1887.

Thick whitish or toned papers between October 1886-July 1887, April 1891⁹, August 1893.

Thin white or toned papers: 1885, April 1888-onward. Toned white paper more likely in 1891-93, 1894⁹ .

Bluish paper 1894⁹.

Blue Green July 1891 (P3).

Aniline dyes: July 1887 -April 1888, May 1, 1888, October 1888 (P3), May



Annule dyes: September 1887-April 1888, May 1, 1888, October 1892 (P2), May 1893.

Fig. 29. 1886 1/2 Anna on yellow. First Poonch Seal.

In general, thin papers occasionally found between April 1884- December 1885. Thin papers used nearly exclusively with only occasional exception from August-September 1888- to the close of the Poonch State Post Office at the end of 1894.

1 Anna

Yellowish white paper 1884

White paper 1889 (P- 4)

Blue-green : February 1891-July 1891(P-3), September 1894⁹

2 Anna:

Yellowish white paper 1885 (Fig. 15).

Lilac 1891

4 Anna:

Yellow October 1889²², 1892 (P2)

Officials:

The 1 p., 1/2, 2 and 4 Anna were printed in black for official use on both toned wove and white laid batonne papers. Both papers were probably used indiscriminately. Unused copies are occasionally found gummed.

Dates of Use: The 1/2 Anna was issued prior to July 1887 based on Douie's having a black 1/2 Anna obliterated with the First Poonch seal⁵. An early cover from Poonch to Srinagar bearing a 1/2 Official and dated 18 September 1887 is reported⁶.

"The 'Service' stamps were printed from the same dies as the 'ordinary stamps' but were printed in black instead of in red. They appear to have been used purely for postal purposes¹².

1887 Official on white paper

1p. black: 1892 (Fig. 33)

½ Anna black: May- September 1893

1 Anna black: November 1891, October 1892 (P2), Sept 1893, July 1894 (Fig. 34)

2 Anna black: November 1891-1892 (P2) (Fig. 34).

4 Anna black: November 1891; July 1894



Fig. 33. 1892 1p. x2 on white paper paying the State 1/2 Anna letter rate.



Fig. 34. 1891 November 1 and 2 Anna Officials on white laid paper on a cover with 3 Annas (2 and 1 Anna) QV stamps.

Official 1887 on Toned paper

1p. black: November 1891

1p. black pair one stamp sideways: November 1893

1 Anna black: June 1894

4 Anna black: June 1894

Uncatalogued Stamps: This section of Uncatalogued stamps and Fiscals is highly problematical. Hopefully, as new information becomes available, this section will undergo extensive correction and revision.

1 p. red on blue laid paper tete beche (sheet of 80 with 8 tete beche pairs)⁹.

1/2 Anna on coarse buff or toned [wove]paper which was thicker than the the usual toned wove batonne. These are dated August 1886-September 1888⁵.

1/2 Anna on yellow laid batonne⁹.

1 Anna on yellow green laid.

4 Anna on blue wove batonne.

4 Anna on pale greenish laid paper⁵.

Douie noted that the following three stamps probably issued in 1895 or later are either fiscals or possibly reprints⁵.

1/4 Anna on buff laid paper (A reprint?).

1 Anna aniline rose on pale green laid paper.

4 Anna red on buff laid paper.

4th Issue Printing Methods, spacing, tete beche stamps, gum, double prints

Printing methods:

Prior to printing, horizontal and vertical guidelines were often drawn on the paper to aid the printer in properly placing the impressions.

The 1p. was printed from a carved blood stone⁸.

The 1/2, 1, 2, and 4 Anna were printed from brass dies.

O'Shea's description of the printing process is picturesque: Each stamp is impressed singly by means of a brass die fixed into a handle like an ordinary post office seal. The operator sits cross legged on the floor, before him is a thin cloth pad, on the palm of the left hand is a dab of red color, a sheet of paper is laid on the pad and moistened with a damp cloth; the die is then taken in the right hand and impression after impression produced...."¹³.

Tete beche and semi tete beche multiples:

The 1876 6 pie pair one stamp sideways is very rare.

Pricing in the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth catalog suggests that 1p.tete-beche and semi tete-beche (one stamp sideways) pairs are common; moderately common on yellow wove batonne, yellow laid batonne, yellow laid, orange buff wove batonne, blue wove batonne, aniline rose on blue wove batonne; quite scarce on white laid batonne, gray blue laid, lilac laid (**Fig. 35**) and aniline rose on buff laid papers. In addition 1p. tete-beche pairs have also been noted on gray blue laid paper⁹.



Fig. 35. 1894 December 1p. pair red on lilac laid, variety one stamp sideways.

The Stanley Gibbons catalog lists tete-beche pairs and semi tete-beche pairs for the 1/2 Anna on white laid, 1 Anna white laid batonne, 2 Anna on yellow wove batonne, 2 Anna on lavender wove batonne, 4 Anna on toned wove batonne, 4 Anna on white laid batonne, and 4 Anna aniline rose on yellow laid paper. The 1/2, 1, 2 and 4 Anna tete-beche and semi tete-beche stamps are either rare or very rare.

Douie who was both an outstanding collector and wrote with great knowledge about Poonch opined "As all the stamps of Poonch are hand stamped singly it is natural that tete-beche and semi tete-beche pairs should

are stamps of 1 p. which are hand stamped singly, it is natural that tete-beche and semi tete-beche pairs should occur. These varieties, to my mind, have no interest"⁵.

Recently several tete-beche pairs were sold at auction, some of which were probably not previously catalogued. The prices realized showed that some collectors find these of great interest.

The relatively large number of 1p. tete-beche and semi tete-beche pairs suggests the possibility that these were produced to satisfy collectors. The Poonch State postal authorities were usually quite stringent in their printing requirements and except for the 1p. tete beche stamps, few printings errors are known. Double prints are rare. One has been reported on the 2 Anna on thin lavender wove batonne²¹. Occasionally other printing flaws are found (Fig. 36).

A number of Poonch stamp sheets were signed and dated on the back by Baldeo Singh, Raja of Poonch under his statement, "These stamps were part of the postal stock of my territory and stamped off in the year 1937" (1880) (Fig. 36a). Several of these sheets are printed on papers which were not documented as used prior to the close of the Poonch State Post Office.

A number of stamps including some in the sheets signed by Raja Baldeo Singh were printed far apart. It is uncertain why.



Fig. 36. 1p. on yellow laid batonne.

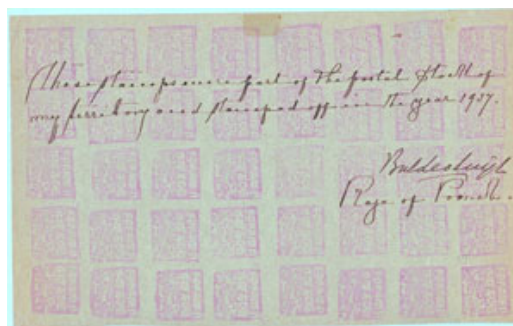


Fig. 36a. Back of the 1 Anna Aniline Rose on green laid paper. "These stamps were part of the postal stock of my territory and stamped off in the year 1937" Baldeo Singh, Raja of Poonch.

Gum:

Gum is sometimes found on stamps on toned wove batonne (SG 7-10) (Fig. 17) and has also been noted on the 2 Anna on lavender wove batonne, the 2 Anna on thin pale yellow wove batonne²¹ and some Officials.

Paper embossing of "Under Quarter Tola" is not uncommon on the 1p wove batonne papers. It has also been seen on the ½ Anna on yellow wove⁹, white batonne paper (not recorded as white or laid)⁹, and on the 2 Anna Lavender batonne⁹. A "Lion in Oval" embossing has been noted on the ½ Anna lavender wove batonne²¹ and on the 1p. Black on wove paper¹⁴.

Batonne lines run horizontally and vertically although very rarely stamps were printed on papers in which the batonne lines run diagonally⁹.

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Obliterators, Seals and Cachets used on Poonch Mail:

Pre- Adhesive Obliterator:

1871 Colonel Martin recorded a duplex with a '290" numeral obliterator for 'Kahoota (Poonch State-Rawalpindee)' which had been officially listed in 1871¹⁵.

British India Post Office (at Kahuta):

1. L-6/7 in use from 1877- 1889. From September 1877 to March 1884, the L-6/7 was used to obliterate both

British India stamps and British India prepaid postal stationery. After March 1884, it was used only to obliterate British India stamps both on registered and ordinary mail but was not used to obliterate prepaid British India QV postal stationery. After 1884 it was used sporadically on overseas mail until late in 1889⁶ (Fig. 37). A registered cover with 11 Anna in British India postage obliterated with the L6/7 and a Poonch 4 Anna was sent March 5, 1889²².



Fig. 37. L-6/7 Obliterator.

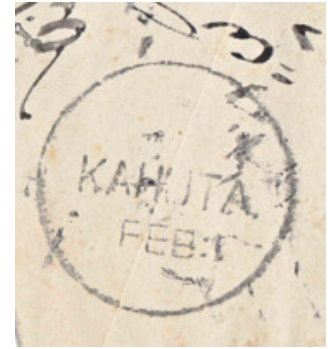


Fig. 38. 'Kahuta' Circle (2 line. No year date).

2. Circle (2 lines. No year date) Sept 1877 (prior to issuance of Poonch stamps⁶) -March 1884. 'Kahuta' is present in the center on the first line. On the line is the month and the day but no year date. Used as a transit marker (Fig. 38).

3. Circle (2 lines with month, day and year date on second line). As type 2, but with year date on second line (Fig. 39). It is seen canceling British India embossed QV postal stationery and British India post cards from 1885- 1892 (Fig. 39). April 1887 – November 1893 it was used as transit marker on mail lacking British India Postage (Fig 40).



Fig. 39. 1892 July 'Kahuta' 2 line with year date. Late use.

- 3a. "Kamuta" (Fig.41). Date uncertain. May 1894? At first, I thought this variation resulted from grime but the same variation is present in Registration Type 2a.



Fig. 40. 1892 Feb. 'Kahuta' circle (2 line with day, month and year). The cover has no British postage and the 'Kahuta' 2 line circle is used as a transit marker



Fig. 41. 1894 'Kahuta' 2 line circle with day, month and year. Variation 'Kamuta'. Hand dated in Persian S:'47' or 1894.

4. 'Kahula' in 26mm diameter circle with cross at bottom and the date is in two horizontal lines in the center. Douie reported it and believed it was only used on registered letters⁵. I have not seen it.
5. Circle in barred square April 1891-94 with Kahuta in arc and date in two horizontal lines. It was introduced by April or May 1891 for canceling the QV printed on postal stationery (Fig. 42) and British India stamps (Fig. 43). It is also recorded in green⁶.
6. Circle (3 line) with 'Kahuta' in arc at top, month and day on second line and year on bottom line. Recorded used in May 1894 and in June 1894 on a Value Payable Postage cover⁶ (Fig. 44).



Fig. 42. 1891 May 'Kahuta' circle in square.



Fig. 43. 1891 November 'Kahuta' circle in square canceling British India stamps.



Fig. 44. 'Kahuta' in Arc. Reproduced from Christie's Robson Lowe 21 September 1993, Lot 873.

Registration markers:

1. Rectangular two line box with top line 'KAHUTA' and bottom line blank except for a vertical line between the 'T' and 'A' of Kahuta. Seen in June 1886 and 1887⁹.
2. Rectangular two line box with top line 'KAHUTA' and bottom line blank except for a vertical line below the 'A' of 'KAHUTA'. From 1885-1894 (Fig. 45).
- 2a. Variation "Kamuta" June 1894 (Fig. 46).

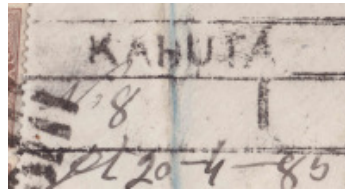


Fig. 45. 1885 April Registered cover with vertical line below 'A' in 'KAHUTA'.

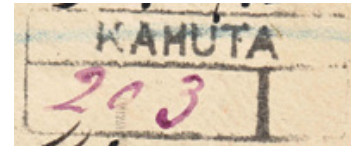


Fig. 46. 1894 Registered cover with 'Kamuta'.

Postage Due:

1. Rectangular two line box with 'POSTAGE DUE' in the top line and a blank bottom line. In use until 1884⁶ (Fig. 47).
2. Rectangular two line box with 'POSTAGE DUE' in the top line and 'ONE ANNA' in bottom line. In use from 1884-1894 (Fig. 48) .



Fig. 47. 1884 April 6p. tied by First Poonch Seal on piece. "POSTAGE DUE/ (blank)". Much of the lower blank box has been trimmed. Ex Haverbeck. Formerly in author's collection



Fig. 48. 1887 July "POSTAGE DUE/ONE ANNA".

Too Late

(Uncertain if this is related to the British India Kahuta Post Office).

1. Rectangular box "Too Late.". Seen on two Postcards, 1891, (and one date illegible), to Rawalpindi. (Fig 49).

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Poonch State Post Office:

The First Poonch Seal dated 1933. (also called the 'Punch' Seal⁶)

The First Poonch seal was originally used on pre-stamp covers; subsequently it was struck on covers as a transit mark until at least Feb 25, 1879⁹ (Fig. 50) and then finally by June 20, 1879 or earlier it was used to obliterate Poonch postage stamps⁶ (Fig. 51). The First Poonch seal was used until at least mid July 1887 (Fig. 52).



Fig. 50. First Poonch Seal used as a transit mark. 1876 6p. is hand canceled. The BI L-6/7 obliterator and the Kahuta Circle tie the stamp to the cover back. It is unusual to have British India markers tie Poonch stamps unless the Poonch stamps are in close proximity to the British India Postage and both are struck.



Fig. 49. 1891 "TOO LATE" cachet.



Fig. 51. 1882 July 21 (Sawan 8, 1939) 1876 6 p. tied with the First Poonch Seal. The British India 1/2 Anna is obliterated with the British India L-6/7.

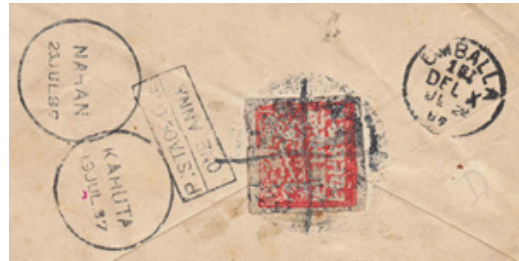


Fig. 52. 1887 July 1/2 Anna red. Missing British India postage which resulted in 1 Anna postage due. Very late use of the First Poonch Seal. The Kahuta circle was applied as a transit marker if British India postage was missing.

Rahat Ju, the Kashmir Die cutter, engraved the First Poonch seal⁴.

On some strikes of the First Poonch seal, the fourth line may be difficult to visualize either because the ink is more watery or the inking is heavy.

A 1892 ¼ Anna post card is known in which the QV is canceled by the Kahuta circle in square and the Poonch stamp is obliterated by a large Poonch seal and the 3 square obliterator⁹.

The Second Poonch Seal dated Samvat 1939 (1882-83) (also called the Kahuta Seal⁶):

Mr. H. Garratt-Adams originated the term "Kahuta Seal" for the Second Poonch Seal. Mr. A. Bard called the First Poonch Seal the "Punch seal"⁶ and following the notation proposed by Garratt-Adams, Mr. Bard called the Second Poonch Seal the "Kahuta Seal"⁶. Dr. F. Staal has questioned the accuracy of the locational

attribution of use to Kahuta¹⁶. I prefer to avoid this controversy by calling the seals: First and Second Poonch Seals which denotes their chronological appearance.

The First Poonch seal has the top four lines in Nagari; the Second Poonch seal has only the top 3 lines in Nagari (**Fig. 53**).

The second Poonch Seal postdates the introduction of the square obliterator⁶. Only a few copies have been recognized. It was not used as an obliterator but is found impressed as a transit marker⁶.

Period of Use: 29 May 1886 to November 1890⁶.

The first use recorded of the Second Poonch Seal is on a cover from Srinagar with a Jammu and Kashmir 1/2 Anna New Rectangular. It

arrived on May 30, 1886 and received a Kahuta British India circular date stamp and the Second Poonch seal⁶.



Fig. 53. The Second Poonch Seal

3. **Dak Sarvis (Poonch Service Post) Poonch obliterator.** This is very rare and has been reported on one cover¹⁷ and several stamps. It is unclear if these 'several' stamps were service stamps⁶ or ordinary stamps¹⁸. The Dak Sarvis cover was addressed to Srinagar, pre-paid with a 1/2 Anna Poonch Service stamp and dated 3 Assu S. 1944 (Sept. 18 1887). The cover is endorsed with the J&K 10 bar strike and the Srinagar State Post Office date stamp⁶ (**Fig. 54**).

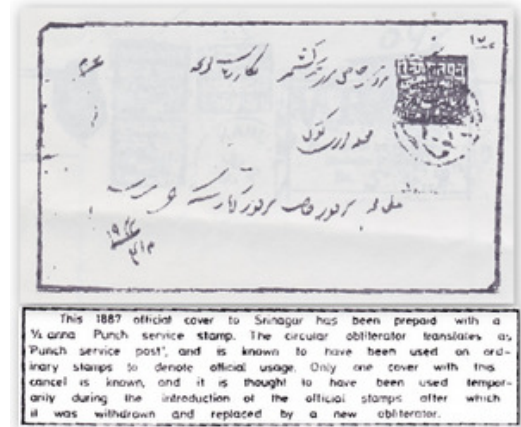


Fig. 54. Dak Sarvis obliterator reproduced as a collage from only part of the album page from the Garratt-Adams auction Christie's Robson Lowe 21/9/1993 Lot 875.

4. **Three box square:** Three diminishing squares surrounding a dot. In use from September 1887⁹ to the close of the State Post Office and used to obliterate all Poonch stamps. The First Poonch seal was used as an obliterator until at least July 19, 1887 leaving about a 2 month period of uncertainty as to when the square obliterator was introduced (**Fig. 55**). State Post Office personal were mostly careful in applying the three square State obliterator so that it did not touch British India postage. It was used on Poonch stamps on covers sent both via Kahuta and the via the Uri route suggesting that it was applied in Poonch town¹⁶.

5. Poonch stamps were sometimes obliterated with J&K obliterations. Mr. Bard speculated that this occurred when "the Poonch obliterator had been too lightly applied" and also "to indicate that there was no further postage payable on an item of mail where only Poonch postage had been pre-paid"⁶. There may possibly be other usages in addition to those proposed (**Fig. 56**).



Fig. 55. The three square. In use from ~Sept 1887 to the close of the State Post Office. It was the only postal obliterator used on Poonch stamps in this period.



Fig. 56. 1893 1/2 Anna QV stationery to Jammu via Kahuta in which the Poonch stamp has received strikes of both the 3 square Poonch State obliterator and the British India Jammu 'Dely' CDS.

Postal Practice in Poonch:

exceptio probat regulam in casibus non exceptis

Poonch stamps were used nearly exclusively on mail sent to destinations outside of Poonch. This included British India and foreign destinations. Both British India and Poonch postage was required (Fig. 26, 51) If British India postage was lacking, a penalty, generally 2x of the omitted postage, was usually imposed and the cover often marked with a "Postage Due" obliterator (Fig. 52). Letters from British India with British India stamps but no Poonch stamps were treated as bearing and added postal fees were levied on delivery¹². The amount levied on incoming mail to Poonch is unclear. Godfrey noted that "while unstamped letters from British India were treated as bearing in the Poonch capital and double postal fees levied on delivery¹², Evans quoting an earlier article noted "levied on all letters from British India for delivery in Poonch territory a sum equal to the amount prepaid in Indian postage stamps"¹⁰.

Mail from Poonch to Jammu via Kahuta prior to the opening of the Uri route in July 1887 generally required both British India and Poonch postage, and, if British India postage was not present, a postage due cachet was applied. According to Mr. Bard, besides British India and Poonch postage, mail from Poonch also required Jammu and Kashmir prepaid postage and if Jammu and Kashmir stamps were not present, the cover received a strike of the Dogri postage due cachet as well as the Sialkot's agent' duplex"⁶. After January 1891, mail from Poonch via Kahuta to Jammu, still required both British India and Poonch postage (Fig. 58) and, if British India postage was absent, the British India Post Office applied a postage due cachet unless transmission was outside its delivery range; in which case the Jammu State post office applied a dual language postage due cachet, and crossed out the British India Post Office 'Postage Due. Final delivery was then made by the Jammu State Post Office⁶.

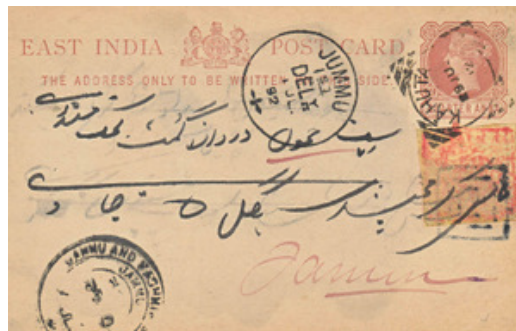


Fig. 58. 1892 Postcard to Jammu via Kahuta showing both British India Postage and Poonch postage.

However some mail from Poonch via Srinagar to Jammu has only Poonch stamps but no British India postage and 'no Postage Due' cachets. Examples are known from 1890 (Fig. 59) and 1894⁹.

Poonch-Jammu mail which traveled via Kahuta and Sialkot required British India postage. At least, some Poonch-Jammu mail that went via Srinagar did not. It is not yet clear if this omission of British India postage from mail to Jammu traveling by way of Srinagar reflected a post office practice of exempting such Poonch-Srinagar-Jammu mail or was simply an oversight.

Mail from Poonch sent to Kashmir after the opening of the Uri route through the Haji Pir pass did not usually, require British India stamps but only Poonch stamps^{6,12} (Fig. 60). The practice prior to July 1887 is not clear, but there is at least a ½ Anna embossed British stationery envelope dated July 1886 addressed to Kashmir that has the embossed ½ Anna British India postage obliterated with the Kahuta circle and ½ Anna Poonch stamp tied by the First Poonch seal. Thus, this cover traveled to Srinagar via the British India Post Office in Kahuta and presumably onward to Sialkot and Kashmir and is some evidence that British India stamps were required⁹. It may be that Poonch covers that were sent to Srinagar by way of Kahuta and Sialkot and crossed British India territory required British India postage. Once the Haji Pir pass route opened in 1887, Poonch covers could travel to Srinagar without crossing into British India, and these covers did not routinely require British India postage. Between July 1887- January 1891 mail sent from Poonch to Srinagar shows a single circle Srinagar date stamp; after January 1891 the unified 3 circle CDS was used⁶.



Fig. 59. 1890 Cover from Poonch to Jammu via Srinagar. No British India postage. Dated in Persian S.1947 Jeth 11= May 23, 1890. The Srinagar State cds reads Jeth 19= June 9, 1890. The Jammu State cds is Jeth 20 (or ?25)=June 1, 1890(or ?June 6, 1890). Addressed to Jammu. SG 12



Fig. 60. Poonch cover to Srinagar without British India postage. Probably philatelic but illustrating that covers at this time period from Poonch to Srinagar did not require British India postage.

Indirect evidence overwhelmingly shows that the Poonch State Post maintained an extraterritorial office in Kahuta in British India. Captain Godfrey, who was the Assistant Resident in Jammu and Kashmir stated that "It was decided that Raja Moti Singh should have a branch office of his postal system at Kahuta in the Punjab"¹². There was no British India Post Office in Poonch until 1895 after the close of the State Post Office¹³. Until mid 1887, all mail gathered in Poonch was carried to the extraterritorial Poonch State Post Office at Kahuta where it was transferred to the British India Post Office for onward transmission in British India, and foreign destinations. Mail for Jammu prior to mid 1887 traveled via the extraterritorial Poonch State Post Office in Kahuta to the British India Post Office in Kahuta and then onward to the British India Post Office in Sialkot. In 1887, the route from Poonch to Srinagar via Uri opened and mail to Kashmir and some mail to Jammu and southward went via Uri¹². The earliest recorded mail to Poonch is a letter from Srinagar bearing the Second Poonch Seal and dated May 1886 which went Srinagar-Jammu-Sialkot-Kahuta⁶. A year later after the Uri route from Poonch opened a similar cover presumably may have traveled Srinagar to Poonch via the Haji Pir pass.

Postal rates in Poonch were probably similar to the those current in India⁶ with a 1/2 Anna single-letter rate for weights up to about 5.8 g (1/2 tola) and an extra 1/2 Anna for each additional 1/2 tola¹². In 1893 covers sent from Poonch abroad required a minimum of 1/2 Anna in Poonch postage for delivery into the British India mail system for onward transmission. This rate differs from covers sent abroad from Jammu and Kashmir which usually required a minimum of 1Anna. The Kashmir practice of allowing foreign visitors a preferential mailing rate did not exist in Poonch.

In 1880, the Fourth Issue one-Anna was introduced for heavier letters, and a new four-Anna stamp was issued which could pay the registration rate (which was the same rate as in Jammu and Kashmir) prior to 1882. During 1882 the registration rate decreased to 2 Anna. On some registered non-foreign destination covers the amount paid in Poonch stamps was the same or close to that paid in British India postage (Fig. 61, 62). However, on still other registered non-foreign mail, the amount paid in British India stamps differs from of the amount in Poonch postage. Hopefully, further study will bring a better understanding of the postal regulations that determined proper franking. A significant number of the Poonch covers sent abroad were mailed by the Poonch Postmaster in response to inquires or requests for Poonch stamps from stamp collectors or dealers. Quite a few of these letters were addressed in the distinctive handwriting of Abdullah (Abdoolla) Kahn (Fig. 63).



Fig. 61. 1897 Registered. 2 1/2 in Poonch Postage matched by 2 1/2 in British India Postage. English script probably that of Abdullah Khan, Superintendent of the Poonch State Stamp Office.



Fig. 62. 1894 Registered Jawaab cover with 5 Anna in Poonch postage and 5 Anna in British India postage on front.



Fig. 63. 1891 Registered cover to Germany. 6 1/2 Anna of British India stamps and 2 1/2 Anna of Poonch postage.

The take over of the Poonch State Post Office by the Imperial Post Office of British India was 1 Nov. 1894, and stamps of Poonch were withdrawn from use on 31 December 1894¹². Covers are occasionally seen with proper marking which passed through the postal system for a while after closure.

Postal Stationery:

British India Queen Victoria embossed ½ Anna blue postal stationery is usually seen used in conjunction with the 1877 6p or 1880 ½ Anna on yellowish white wove. A late date of use is December 4, 1885 (Fig. 64).

British India Queen Victoria embossed ½ Anna green postal stationery is by far the most common postal stationery used in Poonch. (Fig. 29, 41).

The 1 Anna brown embossed Queen Victoria postal stationery used in Poonch is rare. It is known used in July 1878 and intermittently to June 1894 (Fig. 65).

The 2 Anna Queen Victoria Registered postal stationery is rare used in Poonch. An example is dated December 1889 (Fig. 66).

The 2½ Anna yellow QV is rare used in Poonch. A philatelic example is shown (Fig. 67).



Fig. 64. 1885 Dec. 'Kahuta' Circle (2 lines the month, day and year date on second line).



Fig. 65. 1894 The One Anna postal stationery with Kahuta Circle in Square CDS.



Fig. 66. 1889. Two Annas Registered stationery with Kahuta Circle in square CDS.



Fig. 67. Illegible date. Registered philatelic cover to Ullman, Delhi showing overfranking. P1 1 p. pair has one stamp sideways.

Post Cards:

Unlike Kashmir, Poonch did not have State Post Cards. The post card usually used from Poonch was the East India Quarter Anna embossed Queen Victoria which required a 1p. (1/4 Anna)

Poonch stamp which was usually obliterated by the 3 squares (Fig. 28).

Universal Postal Union cards are very rare from Poonch. An 1889 German reply paid UPU card from Poonch to Berlin, Germany is known which has an added 1p. (1/4a.) obliterated by the Poonch three square obliterator¹⁹. Most of the Kashmir UPU cards seen have an added 1 Anna J&K New Rectangular stamp. Other Kashmir UPU cards have no J&K postage. Apparently Poonch and Kashmir differed in the minimum rate in State stamps required for UPU covers sent abroad.

Value Payable:

A VP service (like our COD) service was present in Poonch but apparently originated shortly prior to the close of the State P.O. A June 1894 cover bearing three 1 Anna rose on blue and a "VP1" label tied by Kahuta in arc is dated July 2 94 CDS¹⁹.

Philatelic Covers:

Several different groups of correspondence from Poonch are known in which a number of the covers are overfranked or carry implausible frankings.

The addressees include:

P1) Messrs. Ullmann, Hirschhorn and Co, Delhi. At least some of these covers are addressed in an English script in purple ink that resembles that of the Superintendent of the Poonch Stamp Office, Abdullah Khan and on the one imaged the rate is proper (Fig. 61). Other covers to the same address but not in the Superintendent's handwriting may have implausible frankings (Fig. 67).

P2) Messrs J. C. Bechtler & Co., Allahabad. Some of these are properly franked. Many are not. An arrival date in Allahabad of "24 October 1892" is common although September 1892 arrival dates are also seen (Fig. 68).

P3) Addressed to Kashmir with Poonch stamps obliterated with the Srinagar State Post Office 9 Bar 9 Obliterator and 3 Ring cancels of Srinagar, Gulmargh and Sopur dated 1891. Although a number of these covers are over franked (Fig. 69), others do pay plausible rates. These covers do follow the practice that covers from Poonch to Srinagar via the Uri route did not require British India postage.

?P4) Volkart Brothers, Bombay. Two items, that I know about, were sent to this address using either postal stationery that was rare used in Poonch, had rare seals or both. They are dated July 1889 and December 1889.



Fig. 68. 1892 October 2 Anna Black on white with 1/2 Anna British India Philatelic P2



Fig. 69. 1891. Poonch, Srinagar, Gulmarg, Sopur 3 ring 'Unified' CDS. 9 bar '9' Srinagar State P.O. Philatelic P3 cover

Reprints and Fiscals:

The 6p., 1/2 Anna. and 2 Anna may possibly been reprinted between January 1895-October 1896⁵.

Forgeries:

A number of forgeries are known^{8,23} (Fig. 70-77). Some are illustrated here. For those interested in the subject, on-line auctions provide an excellent source of material. I hope in the next revision to describe salient features of some of the forgeries and possibly include more images.

Captain S.H. Godfrey warned about Poonch stamps obliterated with the "L" obliterator which was not used in Poonch and also obliterated with the postmark of the British Post Office at Poonch, which was not opened till after the stamps became obsolete²⁴.



Fig. 70. 1 p. forgeries. Row 1/1 is the 1p. Hellrigl Type 1 and row 1/2 is the 1 p. Hellrigl Type 2 forgeries.



Fig. 71. 1p. forgery. Image reproduced from the internet.



Fig. 73. 1 Anna Forgeries. Row 1/1/ and 1/2 are the same.
Row 1/3 and 1/4 are the same.

Fig. 72. 1/2 Anna Forgeries



Fig. 74. 2 Anna forgeries. Row 1/4 is the 2 Anna Hellrigl Type 1.
Row 1/3(strip of 3) is the 2 Anna Hellrigl Type 2.

Fig. 75. 4 Anna Forgeries. Row 1/4 and 2/4 images reproduced from the internet.



Fig. 76. 1876 6 p. Forgeries (top row). 1879 1/2 Anna Forgeries (bottom row).



Fig. 77. 1876 6p. Forgery. Image reproduced from the internet.

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Defacement of the Dies:

"In October 1896, the dies of the 1/4a. 1/2a and 2a. were handed to Capt. Godfrey for safe custody. The dies of the 1 a. and 4 a. values were not handed over until July 1898 as stamps of these values were still used as fiscals"⁵.

Captain Godfrey wrote "I forwarded an unofficial inquiry whether the Kashmir and Poonch Durbars would consider the defacement of the dies of their stamps, to prevent further printing and protect the interest of collectors who might have bought stamps of genuine postal issue. They both agreed. The ceremony of defacement was carried out at a meeting in the Kashmir Sate at which the following were present: The Governors of Jammu and Kashmir, a representative of Poonch, the State Postmasters of Jammu and Kashmir concerned, who brought the dies, and by invitation, which had been asked for, a representative of the British Post Office from the Punjab, and myself as a representing the Kashmir Residency. The carving of these dies was too artistic to be entirely destroyed. They were lightly filed across and the defaced dies were then returned to the keeping of Kashmir and Poonch respectively. The latter [the Poonch dies] were, on my leaving Kashmir offered to me personally by Raja Buldeo Singh of Poonch in memory of five years friendly collaboration." The 5 defaced dies and obliterator were presented to the Royal Philatelic Society London by Lt-Col. Godfrey²⁰.

On July 7, 1899 the dies were defaced at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of India. (Fig. 78-80).

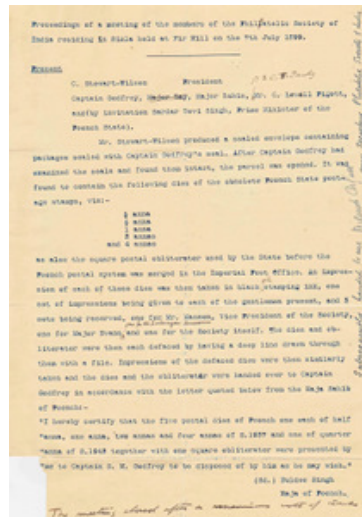


Fig. 78. The defacement proceedings.

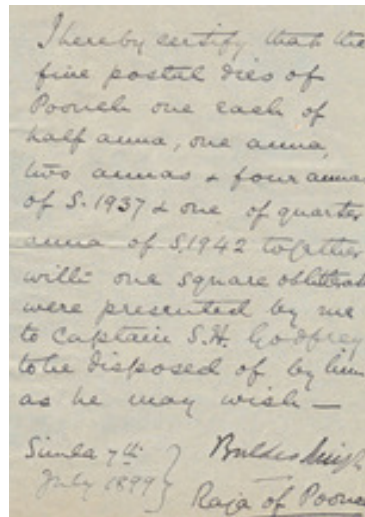


Fig. 79. Baldeo Singh defacement letter.



Fig. 80. The dies before and after defacement.

Present at the meeting were C. Stewart-Wilson, President, Captain Godfrey, Major Lukis, Mr. C.T. Jacoby, Mr. Lovell Pigott, and (by invitation) Sardar Devi Singh, Prime Minister of the Poonch State.

“Mr. Stewart-Wilson produce a sealed envelope containing packages sealed with Captain Godfrey's seal. After Captain Godfrey had examined the seals and found them intact, the parcel was opened. It was found to contain the following dies of the obsolete Poonch State postage stamps, viz- ¼ anna, ½ anna, 1 anna, 2 annas, and 4 annas, as also the square obliterator used by the State before the Poonch postal system was merged in the Imperial Post Office. An impression of each of these dies was then taken in black oil stamping ink upon thickish toned wove paper, one set of impressions being given to each of the gentlemen present, and four sets being reserved, one for Mr. Masson, Vice-President of the Society, one for Major Evans, one for the Srinagar Museum, and one for the Society itself. The dies and obliterator were then each defaced by having a deep line drawn through them with a file. The quarter-anna die had pieces chipped out of two of the edges. Impressions of the defaced dies were then similarly taken, and the dies and the obliterator were handed over to Capt. Godfrey in accordance with the letter quoted below from the Rajah Sahib of Poonch:

“I hereby certify that the five postal dies of Poonch, one each of half-anna, one-anna, two-annas, and four-annas of s. 1937, and one of quarter-anna of S. 1942, together with one square obliterator, were presented by me to Captain S.H. Godfrey, to be disposed of by him as he may wish.

Buldeo Singh
Raja of Poonch

The meeting closed after an unanimous vote of thanks to Raja Buldeo Singh .

Ten copies of the dies were taken before and after obliteration in black on thick toned wove paper of which 8 came into private hands. The [three square] obliterator was defaced at the same time and impressions in violet ink were taken before and after obliteration⁵.

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Appendix

Douie analyzed over 100 1/2a. covers April 1884-Dec. 1885 generally course yellow white paper of the first issue although thin batonne papers were also used.

Jan. 1886- Sept. 1886 always on yellow or orange buff batonne paper [in GA say yellow wove battonne or orange wove battonne]

Oct 1886- July 1887 the original paper was reverted to although the stamp is thick, white laid paper. [Garratt Adams has

In August or September 1887, the course yellow white ends and thin batonne papers are used from here on

September 1887-April 1888 was an experimental period:

Yellow green laid used early in this period

Rose stamps printed in aniline dye colors

All Douie's aniline 1/2 color stamps were used in 1887-1888 with the exception of a 1/2 a rose aniline used May 1893

(Douie, Philatelic J. of India, 36, 68, 1932)

April 1888- white or toned thin batonne papers, the toned predominating in 1891-3 when a cheap paper impressed with

' Under Quarter Tola' appears

(Douie, Philatelic J. of India,36, 68, 1932).

The 1/4 anna (6p) stamp was printed on thin white laid batonne until July 1887. From July 1887 to June 1888, it was printed on blue wove batonne. The 1/4 anna (6p) aniline dye stamps were also used in this period. In August 1887, yellow laid batonne paper was in use. From September 1888-May 1889, blue paper again came back into use for the 1/4 anna. Douie did not have any examples of the 1/4 anna used between May 1889 to May 1890. From May 1890-May 1894 yellow wove or laid batonne and orange buff batonne papers were used for printing the 1/4 anna. From May 1894 until the middle of December 1894, blue wove batonne was mostly

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