

From the Stamp Specialist: **Jammu and Kashmir, Part 2**

By Winthrop S. Boggs

*(From The Stamp Specialist Blue Book, #6,
published in 1941, with new images)*

Continuing where we left off last month the last group of these stamps, the [Jammu & Kashmir} New Rectangulars, afford a most interesting field to those with limited budgets, but who enjoy plating, paper varieties, etc.

The catalog should have a notation above #74 and #103, that the impressions are in ordinary printers ink, not oil or watercolor. Otherwise the listing is fairly correct. There is, however, no real distinction between #91 and #106, since the colors shade into each other. Again the early printings of #103 had turmeric in them (which stains everything it comes in contact with), so that #126 is merely an early printing of #111. Continuing, #118, 124, O8, and O15, were never issued for use, such cancelled copies that are known being cancelled to order. #122 doesn't exist, and #123 should be headed, "Printed in watercolor," as that is the only way it is known on this paper. Watercolor printings of this stamp are also known on thin wove paper, and should be listed as #112b.



*Jammu & Kashmir,
New Rectangular, 8
anna, Sc. 96*

These later rectangular issues fall into three distinct groups, viz:

Issues of 1878-82, #74 to #102 .

Issues of 1883-94, #103 to #123.

Official Issues of 1878-94, # O1 to O20.

Since all of these stamps were produced from one series of plates the arrangement of these plates requires consideration.

The 1/8a, 1/4a, and 1/2a were printed from plates of

The rarest and earliest of the bisects, the Jammu & Kashmir 1/2a orange, Sc. 99, actually functioning as 1/2a postage (not half that, as is often the case with bisects). The example shown above,



one of only two or three known, is an external cover from Leh to Amballa dated 27 April [1883] on the reverse. When stocks of the new rectangulars in Leh were exhausted, bisection was introduced as a temporary measure.

fifteen subjects (3 x 5). The 1a, and 2a plates consisted of 20 subjects each, (4 x 5). All but the 1/2a plate are surrounded by a floreate ornamental border.

The 4a, and 8a were from a composite plate, arranged as in the 20 subject plates (4 x 5). The upper two rows were 4a, while the lower two rows, were 8a. The center horizontal row was merely blank. Only one denomination was printed at a time, so that there is no chance of finding an error of either stamp in the color of the other.

The plates were made of brass, and were engraved by two seal cutters, one doing the 1/8a to 2a, and the other the composite 4a + 8a plate, as well as the plate for the unissued 1/4a.

There is some reason to believe that the stamps for Kashmir were to be in blue or violet, while those for Jammu were to be in red as before. At any rate there were printings made in violet, blue and shades of these colors, of the 1/2a, 1a, and 2a. These colors only exist on laid paper, usually horizontal, but rare examples are known on vertically laid. An excessively rare printing of the 2a in a fugitive dull ultramarine shade is known. Less than twenty five copies have so far been found.

The only attempt at perforating the stamps of Kashmir was made late in 1878, when two crude perforating machines were made, one to fit the fifteen subject plates, and one for the twenty subject plates. Only the one for

the fifteen subject plates was in use for any time, and the 1/2a in red, and more rarely in violet, on laid paper occur perforated by this primitive machine at Jammu. The 1/2a black, Official stamp was also perforated at the time the 1/2a red was, but so far only two copies (both on cover), are known.

The other machine was in use for so short a time that stamps so perforated are very scarce, only the 1a red on laid paper being known. As can be inferred from the remarks above, both machines perforated an entire sheet at a time, and gauge very irregularly 10 to 13.

Investigations have shown that all of the printings in blue, slate, and violet shades were made in Jammu, as were the early printings in red. The plates were then removed from the press and taken to Srinagar, where all the subsequent printings of these stamps were made. The Jammu red stamps can be told from the Srinagar printings in red only when in full sheets.



Notice the partial impression of a repairing screw-head in the floral margin of this Jammu & Kashmir 1a red, the result of re-bedding in Srinagar.

When the plates were disbedded from the press and taken to Srinagar, large screws, in place of small rivets were used in re-bedding them, so that a second state of all plates, except the 1/8a, which was only printed from in Srinagar, is known. In addition the 1/2a, the most used denomination, was further altered, creating a third state of that plate. To summarize, the first state of the plates were Jammu printings, the other states were Srinagar printings, excepting the 1/8a as mentioned before.

Before leaving the Jammu printings we must call attention to the rare 1/4a ultramarine, watercolor, on thin laid batonne paper (#103). This stamp was used only in Kashmir for a brief



Jammu & Kashmir 1883-94 New Rectangular 8a dark ultramarine, with rough perfs, Sc. 114.

period during 1880, for the payment of the half rate on post cards, a privilege granted to visitors. The special rate was soon extended to Jammu also, so the necessity for a distinctive 1/4a stamp was obviated, hence the rarity of this watercolor stamp.

The idea of a distinctive color for each province was abandoned by the middle of 1879, all denominations being printed in red only. The red printings exist on laid paper, and also on wove, normally thin to medium thickness, but the 1/4a, 1/2a, 1a and 2a occur on a very thick almost card paper. The 1/4a is an uncataloged variety, and the 2a is very rare.

Early in 1880 when the plates were transferred to Srinagar, printings in red were made on thin wove of the 1/4a, 1/2a, and 1a only. There is no example of the 2a, 4a, or 8a in red, printed in Srinagar known, but it is not impossible that a copy may be found.

The middle of 1881 saw the red color dropped, and a distinctive orange shade was used for all values. Curiously enough the 1a orange UNUSED is extremely rare, and copies at catalog price are bargains indeed. All of these orange stamps exist only on thin wove paper.

We now come to the second group of these stamps, namely the colored issues of 1883-94. It was in the spring of 1883 that a distinctive color for each denomination was adopted. All the old plates were used, in State II, except the 1/2a which was in state III, and the 1/8a, a new value added to the series.

The colors adopted were as follows:

1/8a yellow. Early printings had turmeric in them.

1/4a brown. Several distinct shades.

1/2a red. Numerous shades.

1a green. Rather fugitive, and fading to a dirty gray.

2a red on yellow paper.

2a red on green paper.



*Jammu & Kashmir
1886-94 1/8 anna
yellow, Sc. 121
(half of one-quarter
anna, in Persian,
as interpreted by
the Dogri script at
the top).*

4a green. Several shades.

8a blue. Varies to lilac.

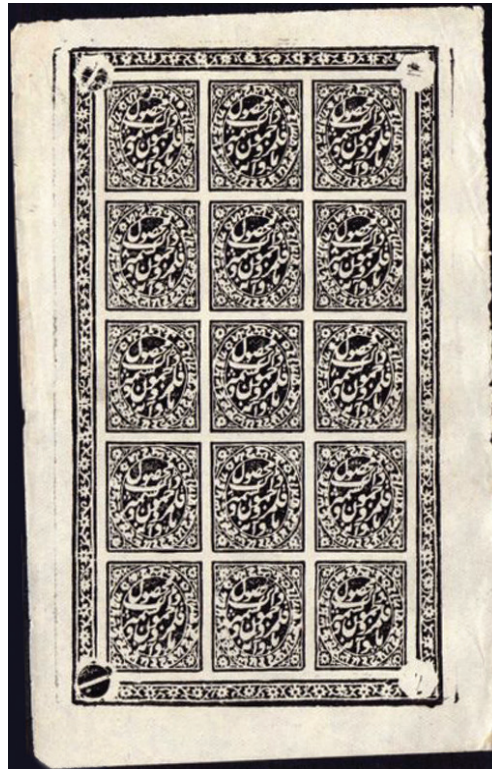
Generally speaking these stamps are printed in ordinary printing ink, on thin wove paper, of varying texture and tone. Specialists can divide the paper into fine or coarse, pure white or yellowish.

In 1887 a batch of thin creamy laid paper was used, and only the 1/8a to 1a, appear on this paper. The 4a doesn't exist on this paper, and the 8a is printed in watercolor. Why hasn't been established. This 8a watercolor also occurs on the thin wove paper.

The 1/4a, -Type A20, plate of twelve subjects was prepared, and impressions taken, but the stamps were never placed in use, as the need for a distinctive 1/4a stamp had ceased, as mentioned when discussing the 1/4a watercolor. [Scott still shows an illustration of this 1/4a, but does not designate it as a design Type and notes that the stamps of this design were never placed into use.]

The third and last group of these stamps consists of the Official Issues of 1878 to 1894 (#O1 to O20). All of these stamps were printed in black from the same plates as the regular issues, and include all but the 1/8a value. The first printings were made in Jammu, and consisted of the 1/2a, and 1a, on wove and laid papers, and the 2a on wove only. All plates in State I of course.

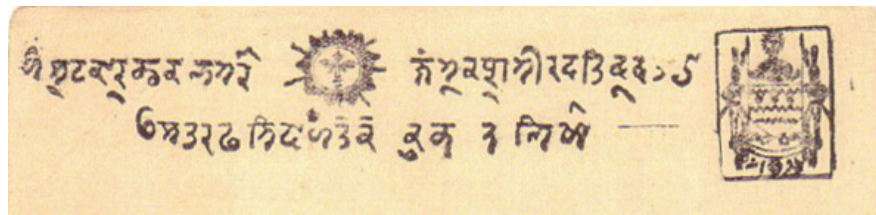
In 1880 when the plates were transferred to Srinagar, all values were made on wove and thin laid papers. The thin laid varieties are scarce, particularly the



Complete sheet of 15 of 1/4a Official, Sc. O12

2a, used copies of which are great rarities. The thin laid is deceptive, and can be seen better by reflected than transmitted light. There is another very scarce variety, the 1/4a on stout white wove paper, of which so far about a dozen copies have been found. The 1/4a, and 1a, are known double printed on thin wove paper. These must not be confused with the blurred prints which are comparatively common, and are due to the plate being loose in the press during the printing process.

The postal stationery of Kashmir is limited to a 1/4a post card in varying shades of red, issued in 1883, and continuing in use until the end of the native post in 1894. The inscriptions are known in three settings, one of which comes in two states. Up to 1887 a laid paper was used, and after that various grades of wove. The 1/4a black card for Official use was prepared but never issued.



The 1/4a postcard. The Dogri to the left of the sun emblem reads “post-kard kalamro”—postcard of the realm. To the right: “jammu kashmir va tibbat hi”—Tibet etc.—refers to ‘Little Tibet,’ that is, Ladakh, Baltistan, etc. Interpreted, the second line reads: this side except address, do not write anything. The denomination inscription in Persian can be found at the bottom of the coat-of-arms on the stamp.

Forgeries of all these issues are well known, and unfortunately a series of photographically produced counterfeits were made in Brighton, England in 1900. They include all but the 1a denomination. Except when in abnormal colors, or on a paper never used for the genuine stamps, they are rather dangerous, and can only be told by specialists. Other forgeries of these issues are usually crude, and those having a frame around the stamp can be detected immediately. Several forgeries to deceive the post are known. They are in watercolor, and only the 1/2a, and 1a values are known. They are sufficiently scarce to be worth a great deal more than the genuine.

A familiarity with the cancellations, and postal markings which occur on all the stamps of Jammu and Kashmir is necessary to prevent errors of classification of some of the issues.

The Postal markings may be divided into five groups, viz:

1. Jammu and Kashmir Seals. 1866-79.
2. Special killers of the State P.O.s. 1879-90.
3. British P. O. Cancellations. 1866-90.
4. The three ring unified cancellations used in both the Native and British P. O.s. 1890-94.
5. Other markings, not cancellations.

The first group of cancellations (1866-79) consists of watercolor impressions from a seal engraved with a Persian inscription, which is rarely if ever decipherable. The seals were used as follows:

This negative seal, 18mm in diameter, was used by the Srinagar post office from 1866 to 1877 in brick red and then in black up to 1879.



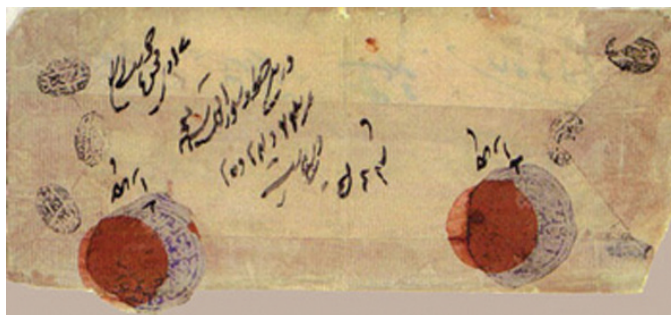
Cover showing two strikes of the Srinagar black seal.

SMALL CIRCULAR (18 mm in diameter).

In brick red indicates Kashmir use (Srinagar or Leh, most probably Srinagar, see page 20), between 1866 and late 1877.

In magenta, indicates Jammu use from 1868 to 1870, or Kashmir use in 1878 or 1879.

LARGE CIRCULAR SEAL (28 mm in diameter), indicates



A cover dated 11 zelqa'de [1283] (17 March 1867) on reverse of this Srinagar to Amritsar cover without British postage. There is a “do tola” letter-weight notation upside down at the center so the cover would be expected to bear 1a + 1a in postage; instead, those stamps are both marked 4 annas for a total of 8 annas.

Right, the Large Leh Seal in black used as a transit marking. This is the latest known use, a detail from a cover dated December 17, 1882.



use in Leh, a part of Kashmir called Little Tibet (see page 20). This seal is in red during 1866-67, and black thereafter. (Care should be taken not to confuse this with the seal of Poonch, which also is known on these issues, but the Poonch seal is frequently quite legible).

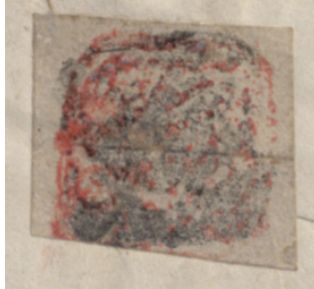
S M A L L
SQUARE SEAL
(19 mm), with rounded corners indicates Jammu use between 1870 and 1879. Stamps used from the other native post offices than those named above were precancelled.



1877-78 1/2a red, Sc. 39, with black rectangular seal, possibly three or four known.

In 1879 the old seal obliterations were withdrawn and a duplex postmark and cancellation was allotted to each of the native offices. This type consists of a single circle 20 to 23

Sc. 60, the rare Jammu 1/2a “iron mine” red. The Jammu square obliterator (the “iron-mine” seal) was used to produce this rose-red watercolor on native paper. To the right a restrike of the seal.



The red watercolor was always carefully self-obliterated in black.

mm in diameter, with the name of the post office in Dogra, while the killer consists of a lozenge or square of lines or bars, in the center of which is a symbol similar to the minim sign in music, but which is really the abbreviation for the Persian word “Sihih” meaning “correct.” These cancellations are rarely other than black.



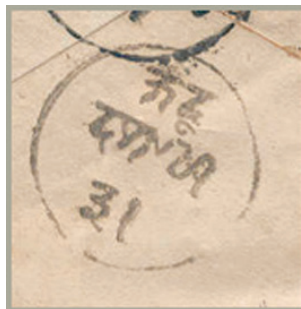
A cancellation indicated as that of Srinagar by the name at the top.

In 1887 a similar cancellation came into use, but the circle is 28mm in diameter.



The Dak Jammu cancel was struck in black watercolor and enjoyed a long, if sporadic, period of use from perhaps October 1876 into the New Rectangulars period. The Persian on the seal is “mohr-e dak jammun—seal (of the) post (of) Jammu.

On the left is the Jambu (Jamvu) Circle in Dogri, first seen in early July 1878. On the right, the spelling of Jammu was changed, perhaps in August



1886. The middle line on both is occupied by Dogri renderings of the Samvat dating, here baisikh and katik.

The Jammu “12-bar-1” obliterator, which is to say, the Dogri unit “1” in an array of 12 bars. This long-lasting implement is known from perhaps July of 1879 to early 1891 when the 3-ring cancellations come into use (see page 22). It was used in purple and mauve inks for official purposes.



The 9-bar-9 obliterator was used at Srinagar from spring 1887 to autumn 1891.

There are several types of the barred killer, varying in the number of bars, and in the over all size of the lozenge or square.

During this period there were two British Post Offices in Kashmir, at Srinagar and Leh respectively. These offices used various types of cancellations. The early types up to 1875 had “Kashmir” spelled “Cashmere.” Black is the usual color, but red is occasionally

seen. The Leh office at first used gray brown watercolor, but later used the regular oil black.

Before leaving the British Post Offices, mention should be made of the fact that Sialkot, in India (Spelled “Sealcote” until 1877), was the exchange office for mails between British India and Kashmir. The numerous cancellations and other postal markings used by this office are therefore, of considerable importance in the study of these stamps.

Late in 1890 a unified system of cancellations was introduced, consisting of three concentric rings, the extreme diameter being 28 mm. The name of the post office and date appears in English and Dogra. These cancellations continued in use until the merging of the Kashmir Post with the Imperial Indian Postal System on November 1, 1894.



SRINAGAR 3-ring cancel dated in the center magh 31 [19]47 (10 February 1891). What looks like an “89” at the bottom of the central ring is the native ‘47’.

The remaining postal markings include Registry, Postage Due, and similar cancellations. Registry cancellations are known as early as 1871. They give the name of the office, number, and weight of letter, and date. Such cancellations are of great value in the classification of covers.

The postage due markings are either in English or Dogra. The English markings are obvious, but the Dogra cancellation is in a rectangle, 31 x 11mm, with five native characters signifying "Postage Due."

The other types of markings consist of unusual cancellations in use for a brief time or only by one office, etc. They are scarce to very rare, and sufficiently distinctive to be readily recognized.

Before leaving the subject of cancellations we wish to call attention to a cancellation reading "Srinagar Se 4 91" in a circle, with three heavy bars at each corner to form a square. This date was used in cancelling many of the remainders and reprints of the circular and old rectangular issues.

It is impossible in these notes, which have already grown beyond their original scope, to touch upon the proofs, reprints, and forgeries, or the question of post-



Described by Boggs as "A typical Kashmir Post Office," it is believed that these actually are runners at a postal transfer station.

age rates, routes, despatches, and many other points of interest concerning the Postal History of Jammu and Kashmir.

We do hope, however, that these notes, brief as they are, will serve to arouse new interest in these classic stamps, all of which are native products, and have a fascination that always enthralls those who succumb to the lure of Indian Native States.

In conclusion we wish to thank Mr. Donald S. Haverbeck for suggestions, and the loan of material to illustrate this article....