

Morvi Fancy Markings

by Kusum and Dhirubhai Mehta

An interesting, colorful, and unusual marking is used on a registered 6-pies stamped green envelope from Morvi. The cover also bears a registration slip No. 30 on the front and a 2-anna violet stamp affixed to the back, bringing the postage to a total of two annas plus six pies.

The cover, which originated from Morvi City, is addressed to Vanalia and is booked as a registered article. The cancellation is not easily readable, but it is presumed to bear the date July 3. The cover was received in Vanalia the next day.

It was at the receiving office of the Vanalia Post Office that the interesting pictorial postal marking illustrated here was used. In the space created in the ornamental design by the double line oval is the name of the "Vanalia" post office. Above the name, written by hand in Gujarati is "AA," an abbreviation of "AVAK," which, freely translated, means arrival or "inward." Below the name of the post office is the date "4.7.44" (the date of the receipt of the

letter at Vanalia, also handwritten).

An identifiable postal marking appears on the cover for the outward transmission of the letter. The letter was returned to the sender using the same postal marking with the handwritten inscription "Ja" in Gujarati, an abbreviation of "Javak" or "outward." In this case, the letter could not be delivered and, therefore, was returned to the sender.

In Morvi, we have seen round and oval shaped postal markings and cancellations in different sizes, sometimes handwritten, bearing the name of the post office ("J.A.," "AA") or the date. The one illustrated, however, is quite unusual in design. The question remaining is: Was it supplied to the postmaster, or did the enterprising postmaster buy it himself and use it to reduce the amount of handwriting he had to do? We would welcome any comments on the same from collectors and students of Morvi postal history. Our address is: 101/103 Dalamal Chambers, 1st Floor, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Marg., Bombay-400020, India.

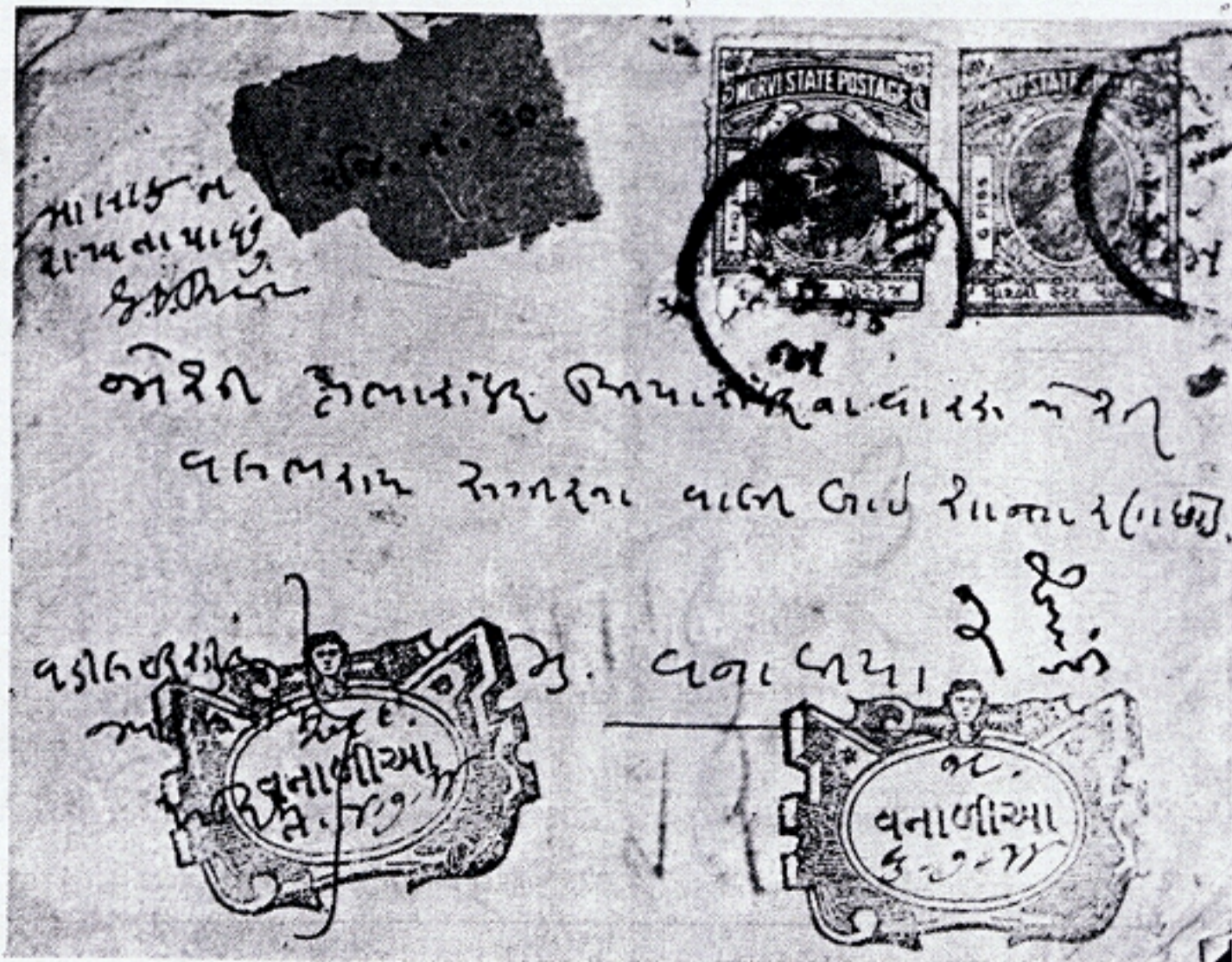


Figure 1.