

# Stamps of British India Used in Persia

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AN ESSAY, "Japanese Stamps Used in Korea," was published in the August, 1961, issue of *The American Philatelist*. I was the author of that essay, and in conclusion I referred to the correspondence of my parents, who, at about the same time, were using native Persian as well as British India mail services.

In the summer of 1961, I traveled to Vienna to visit the scenes of my childhood, and also to meet the younger generations of our family. To be expected, there are stamp collectors among them who had an opportunity to go through my grandfather's old desk, which stood no longer in the old home place in the city. It had been removed to the garden district, north of the town proper, where fierce fighting occurred near the end of World War II. They discovered three philatelic items of my parents' correspondence, with all of the postal markings still intact. I submit these three items:

(1.) A post card, that my father wrote to my mother in Vienna. He had stopped at Aden on his first trip to Persia, where mail from home awaited his arrival. This item is an ordinary British India 1½-anna post-card, dated Nov. 4 (1890), and postmarked "ADEN NOV 5. 90." It is backstamped "ALSERGRUND WIEN 16. 11. 90."

(2.) A post card that my mother wrote to her brother in Vienna. It was mailed at Bushire, Persia, where she had accompanied my father so that she could be with him in business travels to the rather remote districts of that faraway land. It is also an ordinary British India 1½-anna post card, surcharged ONE ANNA. The address side has the penned address of my grandfather in Vienna. It is dated Nov. 14, 1892. The postmark reads "BUSHIRE NO 14. 92." There is a transit postmark, "BOMBAY F NO 25 92", in a circle, a further transit mark, "SEA POST OFFICE B NO 26 92", also in a circle, and the Vienna receiving postmark, "WIEN 9/1 66 BESTELLT 12.12 92 10 V." It is somewhat mutilated and has a bullet hole in it.

(3.) An envelope that contained a letter my mother wrote to her parents in Vienna. The front side contains my grandfather's address, without any postal markings. On the back side there are affixed five India half-anna stamps (Scott's #36), one pair and three singles. The singles are intact, the left stamp of the pair is torn, and the right one apparently mutilated by a Russian bullet that found its way into grandfather's desk during those fateful days near the end of World War II. The bullet hole perfectly matches the hole ripped in postcard No. 2. Each of these five stamps carries the cancellation "BUSHIRE 17. AP 93." There is also a circular transit postmark, "SEA POST OFFICE C APR. 29."



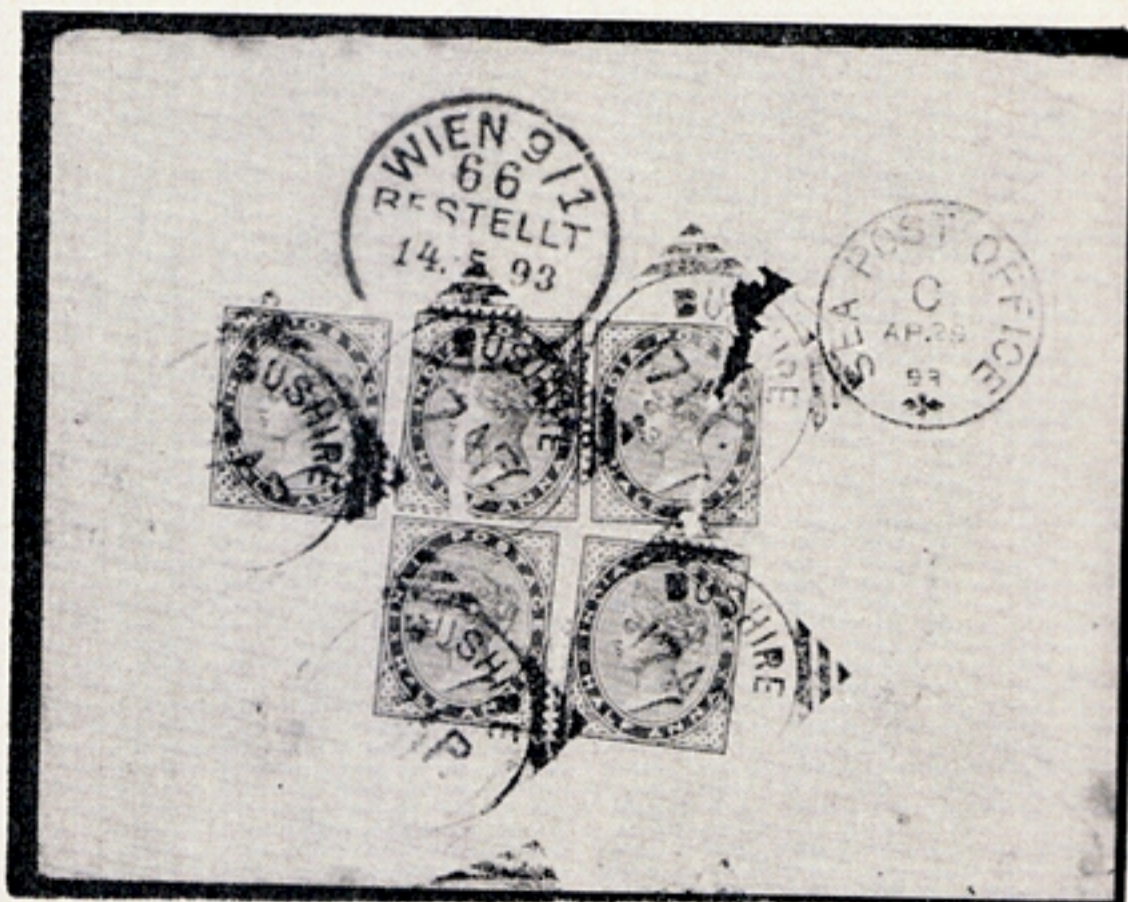
Three "socked-on-the-nose" cancellations on British India stamps used abroad. The postmarks were applied (from left) in Aden, Persia, and Zanzibar.



A British India 1½ anna post card postmarked Aden.



A British India 1½ anna post card surcharged 1 anna and used in Persia. A postmark at Bushire, a major port of Persia (and now Iran), and several transit markings are visible. Notice the bullet hole at the right of the Wien (Vienna, Austria) receiving postmark. This card was in a desk of a house situated in the midst of heavy fighting in the Vienna region near the end of World War II.



This cover was franked with five British India ½-anna stamps, postmarked at Bushire, Persia. There also are transit markings. The cover was addressed to Vienna, Austria. It, too, was a World War II philatelic "victim." Notice bullet hole that ripped through the top right stamp. The bullet could have come from a Russian or Nazi German rifle during heavy fighting near house where covers were locked in the desk of the author's grandfather.



93," and finally the receiving postmark, "WEIN 9/1 66 BESTELLT 14.5.93."

I also submit three British India stamps (*see illustration*) of that era to show postmarks of Aden, then a part of the Ottoman Empire; Bushire, then (as now) the main naval port of Persia (Iran), and Zanzibar, then an independent sultanate situated off the east coast of Africa.

These "socked-on-the-nose" cancellations clearly illustrate how Great Britain's post office established offices abroad to provide reliable postal services in far-away lands where British subjects were engaged in business and government service.

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# The Scrapbook

Newsy philatelic notes and articles of general collector interest gleaned from the pages of A. P. S. Chapter publications. Credit lines appear at the end of each item. Chapter editors who desire to have their publications reviewed for recognition in The Scrapbook column should mail each issue to: James M. Chemi, Editor, 5932 N. 14th Place, Phoenix 14, Arizona.

## Collecting Town Postmarks: Odd Names Reveal History

Collecting post office (town-name) cancellations can be an interesting diversion to philatelists, and there are many such collectors. Every state has towns with unusual names, and we often wonder why they were so named.

Nineteenth century cancellations—particularly from Western towns where post offices long have been extinct—offer an interesting field for this type of collecting. Places that once housed hundreds, and even thousands, of people have now been reclaimed by the desert. Today, it is lucky if you can find an old sign post or a grave marker where some townsites were located.

Weekend, and vacation trips, can be made doubly interesting if one is inclined to drive off the beaten path and seek these places in remote areas where you can browse and see unfamiliar sights.

Get your cancellation first, then obtain all the information you can about the place, such as: the name of the county, the date the post office was established, and the date the post office was discontinued. Local residents, historical groups, and the public libraries, can furnish you with details.

It is preferable to mount one cover to a page, and you can often obtain an old picture post card of the locality which will help dress up the page. Take your camera along and snap a photograph of the place, as it now appears. If you are interested in the early history of your state, this is an interesting method to obtain it.

Why should places be named *Bakeoven*, *Blitzen*, *Follyfarm*, *Horse Heaven*, *Noti*, *Plush*, *Wagontire* and hundreds of other such peculiar names in Oregon and all of the other states? Many of our Oregon landmarks' names are derived from Indian origin.

Let's start with *Bakeoven*. There is a good name, and it was not named because it was a hot spot, although it does get warm there in the summer. It was located in Wasco County, and the post office was established in 1875; discontinued in 1918.

During the pioneer gold excitement, an enterprising trader started from The Dalles with a pack train of flour. After crossing the Deschutes River, his horses were driven off during the night by Indians, and he was left with his supplies. He constructed a rough clay and stone bakeoven and made bread which he sold to the miners and prospectors.

There was once a place called *Blitzen* in Harney County, Oregon. The *Blitzen* post office was established in 1888, and closed in 1943. If the name reminds you of thunder and lightning, you are correct. The place was named for the Donner and *Blitzen* River, which flows nearby. But the town is not mentioned on current road maps.

The river was named during the Snake Indian War of 1864 when troops crossed it during a thunderstorm and gave it the German name for thunder and lightning. There is still a small settlement in the district.

*Follyfarm* also had a post office. The town was located in the extreme southeastern corner of Oregon. Recently I visited there and ate lunch beside a dilapidated windmill and vacant farm buildings. The former site of the post office looked like a small general store and had a mail slot under one window.

The place was deserted, but there was evidence that cattle branding had been going on. The post office was established in 1909; closed in 1949. The community was named because of the farming operations of an individual who attempted to irrigate land under adverse conditions.

*Horse Heaven*, in Jefferson County, had a post office established as recently as 1938, but was closed in 1946. It was named 70 years ago because at that time springs and green grass were accessible to wandering herds of wild horses.

Just what is the significance of the name *Noti*, which is in Lane County and still an active community? In 1912 the place was called *Portola* and in 1913, changed to *Noti*. The story comes from the early days when an Indian and a white man were traveling together from a point on the coast to the Willamette River with one horse between them.

In order to make rapid progress they were doing what was known as "*riding and tying*." One would take the horse and ride a distance ahead, tie the horse and proceed on foot. When his companion reached the point where the horse was tied, he, in turn, mounted and rode a given distance beyond his partner and tied the horse again.

It is said that the white man had agreed to tie the horse at a point where *Noti* Creek joins Long Tom River—the spot where the present town of *Noti* is now located), but instead he double-crossed the Indian and rode on to Eugene, leaving the Indian to walk. When the Indian discovered that he had been crossed he is said to have exclaimed, "*Him no tie*." That's how *Noti* received its name.

*Plush* is located in Lake County and sounds like it might be a rich country in agriculture. It is actually located in high plateau country with stock, range, and ranches, but it got its name from a local Indian celebrity of the Piute Tribe who was framed in a card game and was dealt a flush. Another member of the party held a better hand. The Indian could not pronounce the word "*flush*", and called it "*plush*". The post office was established in 1888 and is still active.

*Wagontire* post office, established in 1919, was discontinued in 1943. It is in Harney County and is