

INDIAN STAMPS USED IN ZANZIBAR

AN Indian Post Office was first opened in Zanzibar towards the end of 1868, but early in 1869 it was closed on the grounds of the "unpleasant relations to which it seems to give rise with foreign Consuls." Following strong pressure from business interests the Post Office was re-opened at the British Consulate on 1st October, 1875.

The story of the struggle to establish an office at Zanzibar has been very fully described in a series of articles in 1938 by Mr. A. Craig in the *Philatelic Magazine*. The following notes will not deal with that aspect of the postal history of Zanzibar. They merely attempt to co-ordinate information with regard to cancellations used on Indian stamps in this period. They are derived in the main from various already published sources, which are listed at the end hereof, and to which full tribute is paid. Whilst they do not contain much that is new and a great deal has still to be added, it is hoped that they may stimulate others to fill in the deficiencies.

Information is almost completely lacking with regard to the cancellations of the 1868-9 period. It is suggested by Mr. W. Robson Lowe that the cancellation may have taken the form illustrated as Type 1.

● India used abroad is a fascinating side-line with a huge army of collectors and here, our contributor concentrates on those used in Zanzibar. He has collated all material in the hope that others will be able fill in any gaps.

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From the opening of the office on 1st October, 1875, until its close on 10th November, 1895, a number of different cancellations were used. Type 2 consisted of a rhomboid formed by ten diagonal lines of dots. Type 3 was a circular mark of a diameter of approximately 28 mm., across the centre of which is the word "ZANZIBAR" in capitals, with the date below. Type 4 was a variation of Type 3. It took the form of a circle 25½ mm. in diameter, across which are the words "BRITISH — P.O. — ZANZIBAR" in sans serif capitals in three lines, with the date (month and day only) below. The word "ZANZIBAR" including the full stop measured 23 mm.

Types 3 and 4 may be found singly or in duplex with other marks. Both Type 3 and Type 4 may be found in duplex with Type 5 or Type 6. Type 5 consisted of a capital letter "B," approximately 6½ mm. x 10½ mm., framed by a rectangle 21 mm. x 23 mm., composed of thick



Type 1.



Type 4.

horizontal lines, having two thick lines above and below and four short lines on either side of the letter "B."

Type 6 was also a large letter "B," but was contained in a circular frame of thick horizontal lines, of which there are also two above and below and four on either side of the letter "B." Type 4 is reported in conjunction with Type 7, which I have not seen.

As illustrated by Mr. W. Robson Lowe, it took the form of "B-20" in a frame of thick horizontal lines. The three lines at the top are broken in the centre to allow the insertion of the figure "1" and the two lines at the bottom are also broken centrally by the figure "8." The cancellation is similar to Renouf's Indian cancellation Type 32 (ii) and Jal Cooper's Type 32c. It is presumably branch office No. 8, under

non-disbursing office No. 1, subordinate to disbursing office No. 20, in the Bombay Circle.

Various name cancellations followed. Type 8 was a squared circle. The circle was some 19 mm.

in diameter with the word "ZANZIBAR" in sans serif capitals in a curve within the top portion of the circle and the date below—the day and month appearing across the centre and the year below. The circle was framed by three graduated bars forming each corner of the square. Type 9 was a similar but



Type 5.



Type 6.

slightly larger mark, with heavy bars at the corner.

Type 10 was a registration mark formed from Type 9 by the inclusion of "REG" between "ZANZIBAR" and the date. A further registration mark (Type 11) consisted of a single line circle 20 mm. in diameter with the word "ZANZIBAR" round the inside of the top of the circle, with "REG" below, and the date (day and month) across the centre and year at the foot.

Type 12 was a more complicated cancellation. It consisted of a double circle, across the centre of which was a date tablet which divided the inner circle into two segments. The outer circle was 26 mm. in diameter. Between the lines of the top portions of the circle was the word "ZANZIBAR" in sans serif capitals. The spaces between the inner circle and the date tablet were filled in with seven short thick graduated bars.

The Post Office was closed on 10th November, 1895, when it was transferred from Indian to British East African administration. The Indian stamps remaining in stock were transferred and overprinted with the word "Zanzibar" at the office of the *Zanzibar Gazette*. The report of the Director-General of the Post Office of India for 1895-6 stated:—

"The Indian Post Office at Zanzibar has been closed after an existence of just twenty years, and the British Protectorates of Zanzibar and British East Africa entered the Post Union. The management of the posts of the island was taken over by the Postal Administration of British East Africa."

Although the Indian Office was closed, Indian stamps without overprint in the hands of business houses in Zanzibar appear to have been accepted for some time afterwards, and may be found with Zanzibar cancellations dated up to 10 years after this time. Usually either Type 12, or the later cancellation used on the Zanzibar stamps, illustrated as Type 13, were used.

Type 14 was a back stamp for marking mail on arrival and consisted of a single line circle 22½ mm. in diameter. The word "ZANZIBAR" appeared inside the top of the curve of the circle, with the day and month of the date across the diameter of the circle and the year below.

REFERENCES.

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Various articles.

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N.B.—It should be noted that Type 5 or 6 struck upon Indian stamps does not necessarily denote use in Zanzibar. Identification is only certain when the duplex cancellation is shown in full.—Editor.



Type 8.



Type 7.



Type 12.



Type 13.



Type 14.



Type 11.