Classic Persia

Purpose of this Traditional exhibit is to present the Classic Era of philately in Persia. The exhibit spans from the early 19th century pre-stamp period, through the famous "Lion" issues, and ends shortly after joining of UPU in 1878.

Background - The first documented postal system was created in the Persian Empire during the reign of Cyrus the Great in sixth century BC. Emperor Cyrus created the bill of human rights which was to be applied to all subjects. Recognizing that communication was essential to determination that these rights were being enforced, military couriers were tasked to carry communications between the subjects throughout the vast empire.

Despite such a rich heritage, Persia had to turn to Europe in the mid 1860's in order to modernize its postal system.

1808 Persia prior to losses to Russian and British Empires

Importance - This exhibit provides specific significance in:
- Key philatelic items of **exceptional rarity**
- Connection to **significant historic** personalities and events
- **Technical analysis**: characterization of print positions, errors, paper types, and color varieties
- Demonstration and documentation of **research results**

Plan -

Frame 1 presents the era prior to Persian stamps. This section highlights the influence of foreign powers in Persia during the 19th century: Russian expedition in the Northeast, American mission in the Northwest, and British Field Force in the South. Operation of India (Great Britain) Post Offices in the Persian Gulf ports is also addressed.		**Frame 5** addresses the 1876 Special Lion Printings, including vertical strips-of-four 1 and 2 Shahi; and blocks-of-four 1, 2 and 4 Shahi, demonstrating several actual print settings. Highlights are extremely rare Special Print covers, on-piece with all 4 stamp types, and group of four blocks of 2-Shahi blue in color varieties.	
Frame 2 demonstrates the essays proposed by European experts as well as labels used on letters in the early period. Highlights include examples on cover; color and paper varieties of the Riester essays; and full sheet plating of the Barre essays.		**Frame 6** demonstrates various issues of the 1-Kran Lion stamps, including non-issued 1875 yellow 1-Kran, Official Reprint 1-Kran black, 1876 1-Kran red and 1878 re-engraved 1-Kran. Highlights are 1 Kran Parcel Post Receipt, plus 1 Kran re-engraved on-piece.	
Frame 3 addresses the first Lion issue (1870 "Bagheri"). Highlights include only known example on a postal document (also tied to the Postmaster General, Herr Gustav Riederer), examples on cover and color varieties, including new reportings.		**Frame 7** displays the 1-Toman Lions, bronze red on blue paper, 1-Kran red on yellow paper, the 4 Kran yellow block-of-four Lions, and the 4 Kran blue strip-of-three Lions. Highlights are newly reported 1 Toman variety, tête bêche 1 Kran yellow-paper block, and unused setting of 1 Kran yellow paper.	
Frame 4 presents the 1875 "Kardi" Lion issue, including a unique grouping of very early covers, unique on-piece bisect, tête-bêche error, and several original strips-of-four print varieties.		**Frame 8** presents the variety of 5-Kran Lion stamps as well as the first issue with the king's portrait. One highlight is new reporting of 5 Kran Bronze Gold. Key items are the 10-Shahi bisect cover, the pre-UPU cover to Austria with addition of Russian stamp, as well as the early presentation panel to the UPU.	