

# Persia, Picture Postcard Tax of 1903-1908

This revenue exhibit chronicles the establishment and usages of a 2ch tax placed on privately printed picture postcards. In 1898 privately printed picture postcards made their way to Persia. In April 1903 the government of Persia also released a set of picture postcards in addition to normal blank postcards. The arrival of French postcards showing nude North African and Arabic women caused uproar within the religious community. They demanded a total ban on all picture postcards but as a compromise (in order to continue selling its own postcards and put a road block in front of the competition) the postal authority issued the following order dated November 1903:

*"Certain persons have imported and placed on sale in Persia, picture postcards of unveiled Persian women. This is contrary to our religion and all post offices are to confiscate any cards of this character that they may find. Moreover, in order to prevent abuse, all persons who are dealing picture postcards other than those placed on sale by the Central Postal Administration at Teheran must submit their cards to the Central Postal Administration at Teheran who will apply a control mark on those approved. Any card not bearing this mark will not be allowed through the post. A tax of 2 Chahis per card will be charged on application for the control. The control will be applied at the Central Post Office.*

*The Minister of Customs and Posts, Y. Hans"*

Although the postal tax rule was put in place in November 1903, it was not enforced until late December. The earliest known example bears the manuscript date of 24 December 1903 (Teheran and Esfahan). The tax was in place until 30 June 1908 at which time the postal authority removed the tax.

## Exhibit Plan

Although the 2ch tax was in place throughout the country, special overprint was mainly prepared and used in Teheran. Due to this fact, the exhibit is organized by location rather than chronological:

- I. Usage in Teheran showing various overprints as well as postal tax rate added without any overprint.
- II. Usage in various provinces with or without special postal tax overprint.
- III. Usage on internal postcard.
- IV. Usage as regular postage.

## Postcard Rates

	Domestic	Foreign Oct 1895 - May 1905	Foreign Jun 1905 - Oct 1913
Postcard	2ch	5ch	6ch
Imprimés	2ch	3ch	3ch
Registration	10ch	12ch	13ch
A.R.	5ch	5ch	6ch

Special item ●

Monetary System: 20 Chahi = 1 Kran, 10 Kran = 1 Toman

## I: Teheran

### I.1: Hand Written Contrôlé Mark

December 1903 to January 1904 - While 2ch stamps with Contrôlé overprint were being prepared, the central post office authority wrote by hand with black ink on the stamp, "Contrôlé" and signed it "G. Lepeche".

6 January 1904 – Teheran to  
Ulverstone, Tasmania. 5ch postcard  
rate + 2ch postcard tax with  
"Contrôlé Glepeche" hand written  
on the stamp.

Six recorded.

*Contrôlé  
Glepeche*

