

STAMPS OF THE INDIAN PRINCELY STATE OF JHALAWAR

BACKGROUND: The State of Jhalawar located in Rajasthan India issued two stamps which were used between 1887-1900. The 1 pice SG1 was issued on July/August 1887 and ¼ anna SG2 issued on July/August 1890. These stamps were printed with typograph printing methods in strips of 12 on vertically laid paper. These stamps were only used internally for local mail. There is also a long-standing mystery about the design of the two postage stamps and is believed to be an image of a dancing nymph. The stamps were printed horizontally in strips of 12 which makes a sheet using typograph method where the design die was fastened over printing paper with screw heads to facilitate proper design transfer. I have collected these stamps for a decade and now trying to display the full spectrum of these stamp designs, printing methods and its usage within and outside the state for incoming and outgoing mail.

RESEARCH: I have done original research to address the following:

1. De-mystify the design of the stamp: is it a nymph? Archival material and supporting proof will be presented to show that the design depicts “Garuda” the vehicle of Lord Vishnu and not a nymph.
2. Showcase the evolution of design from initial Essays, proofs and color trials
3. Identified different types of paper used to print these stamps. Systematic study of the printing paper will be discussed
4. Identified a plethora of watermarks found on the paper.

HISTORY OF JHALAWAR STATE: The Government of India took some of the territory from Kotah and Jaipur in Rajasthan for a new Jhalawar State, which was bestowed to Bhawani Singh the ruler of the state in 1899. Bhawani Singh was indirect descendant of Faujdar Zalim Jhala, the family name of the Jhalawar State. The former Jhalawar state had many parganas, the new rump state consisted only of the four Chamahala parganas (Awar, Dag, Gangdhar, and Pachpahar), Jhalrapatan including the town of Jhalrapatan and the Chaoni, and Suket to the south of but including the villages of Panchakheri, Kaliakheri, Runji, and Bhilwari.

The Political Agent H.W. Trevelyan provided 'postal privileges in his State in 1839 to the Maharaj Rana, who banned private daks from Jhalawar. In 1865-6, the British set up post offices in southern Rajasthan at Deoli, Bundi, Kotah, and Jhalrapatam, A. N. Bruce, the Political Agent for Haroti Agency (which included Jhalawar), complained to the Postmaster General of North-Western Provinces, about mail delays since the dak runners carried parcels as well as letters. A'Bamnee' [Brahmini] Dak was maintained by the efforts of a few individuals, who combined themselves independently without any aid or assistance from the bankers. This dak maintained communication with the capitals of Bundi, Tonk and Jaipur, on the North and Jhalawar, Jaora, and Ratlam to the South, but its main object was to carry letters to such places as were uncovered by any British postal line. It was dispatched at dawn, and received next morning.

During Maharaja Rana Zalim Singh II (ruled 1875-1896) reign the first known postmarks, Persian seals inscribed with the Christian year (18)83, were introduced, as also two postage stamps, a One Paise in 1887 and a Quarter Anna in 1890 are known to have been printed. Another ruler HH The Maharaja Rana Sir Bhawani Singh (ruled 1899-1929) also overlapped during the stamp producing years.

OUTLINE OF EXHIBIT

I: First issue of 1 Pice (1887-1890)

Proofs and Color trials

Issued stamps

Study of the paper and varieties

II : Second Issue of ¼ Anna (1887-1890)

Color trials

Issued stamps

Study of paper and varieties

III : Postal Usage of the stamps

IV: Postal system after 1900



A Rare Essay from Jhalawar Showing clearly “Garuda” Design holding a bow in left hand and arrow in right hand with beak, wings and a tail. The letters “Raj Jhalawar” in Hindi and Urdu transposed horizontally from the final issued design Printed in BLACK on Thin Wove Paper

An item of highest importance in Jhalawar philately and possibly UNIQUE This clearly solves the long standing debate that the design depicts “Garuda” the Vishnu avatar in eagle form and not a Dancing Nymph “Rhembha” as described in Stanley Gibbons catalog since past six decades