

Jammu – Kashmir

The state, consisting of the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir, was founded in 1846 with the recognition of British supremacy during the reign of Maharaja Ranbir Singh. Between the capital cities of both provinces, Jammu and Srinagar, a regular, free-of-charge postal service existed since 1847. In 1858 fees were charged. These were revised in 1866 by the issuing of their own stamps, and were distributed in domestic traffic for the weight of $\frac{1}{4}$ tola = $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, between $\frac{1}{4}$ and 1 tola = 1 anna, for each additional tola = 1 anna (1 tola = 0,4114 ounces = about 11,6 grams). Mail to India was $\frac{1}{2}$ anna + 1 anna British-Indian fee. Foreigners who were only allowed to visit the country during the summer period between April 15 and October 15 received a portomoderation ($\frac{1}{4}$ anna). The time was calculated both according to the Samvat calendar as well as the Muslim Hijra calendar. The year 1866 corresponds to the year 1923 (Samvat) and 1283 (Hijra). The postal service in the feudal state ended on 1th November 1894.

Structure:

1. The Pre-stamp Period 1859 (1861) – 1866
2. The Circular Stamps for Jammu 1866 – 1878
3. The Jammu Old Rectangular Stamps
4. The Kashmir Old Rectangular Stamps
5. The New Rectangular Stamps for Jammu & Kashmir 1878 – 1894
6. The Official Stamps
7. The Postal Stationery

Literatur:

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2. Dawson, L.E.; E.A. Smythies. The Postage Stamps of Jammu & Kashmir simplified. 1937, Phil. Soc. of India, Lahore.
3. Staal, F. The Stamps of Jammu & Kashmir, 1983, Collect. Club New York.
4. Nanjee, I.H. Jammu & Kashmir, Vol. 1, 2013, PFP, Karachi.
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1. The Pre-Stamp Period 1859 (1861) – 1866

1.1 The Octogonal Franks

When a regular postal service was established between Srinagar and Jammu, two octogonal intaglio seals were prepared and used as ‚Franks‘. One seal was allocated to the Jammu P.O., while the other to Srinagar P.O. The Jammu seal was struck in dull red, the Srinagar seal in orange-red. No more than 20 covers are known, two were used in 1861, other in 1864, 1865, 1866 and 1867 and one as late as April 1873.

Anthony S. Bard archives state an early item for 3 August 1861.

Probably the earliest known ‚Frank‘ with orange-red intaglio seal from Srinagar to Jammu with date 18 March 1861.



Cover from Srinagar with the octogonal orange-red seal to Jammu. The date on the cover is 5th Siam 1278 = 18. March 1861. Siam is another name for Ramadan. The Srinagar seal reads as (english): „By the grace of Sri Gadadhar – Post Office Srinagar – 1861 AD“.

Information.

On the reverse of this envelope has been written in Persian:

"In shah Allah t'ala... Dār dārūl Sūltānat Jammu, dar
"barārī Kammāt, ba dūkān Lalā Āmīr Chānd rasidā, ba sharfi
"mut'allah, makhdūmī mūtā'a mu'arāmi dām lutfau han,,
"gāmi masrat.- malsul bād." On the side of Seal: "Ar Kashmir
"mārurā Kamtarūn Akram Shah o Sunnā Jū.- 5 Siām 1278. Shambā."

English translation:

"If it pleases God, may this letter reach the Capital Jammu, the
Baraar Kammāt, and Lalā Āmīr Chānd's shop, the distinguished reader
(and be read by) the honourable and respectable (here the name has
been torn from envelope) in prosperous time. - Postage paid."

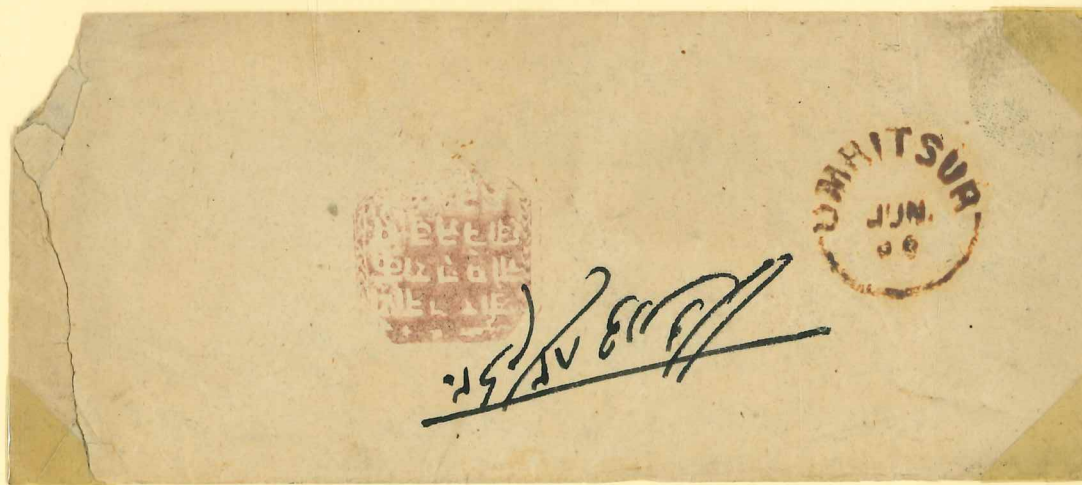
On the side of seal: "From Jam Kashmir, this humble petition has
been sent by Akram Shah o Sunnā Jū. 5th Siām⁽¹⁾ 1278⁽²⁾ Saturday."

(1) Siām: is another name for Rāmzām or holy (fasting month) for the Muslims.
(2) 1278: corresponds with 1260 A.D. These seals were used from 1858 until
1866, when the postage stamps were introduced into Kashmir.

1. The Pre-Stamp Period 1859 (1861) – 1866

1.1 The Octagonal Franks

Outgoing mail from Jammu in the neighboring British-India went via Sialkot in the Panjab in British-India where they received the British-Indian stamp ½ anna, were cancelled and further promoted. Transit postmark in Sialkot was the SEALKOTE+54 duplex. It was in use from June 1865 in the pre-stamp period into perhaps early September 1867. The Jammu dull red seal reads as: „By the grace of Sri Raghunath – Post Office Jammu – 1859 AD“.



Cover from Jammu with the octagonal dull red seal to Amritsar with ½ anna British-Indian stamp, cancelled with SEALKOTE+54 duplex. On reverse (below) UMRITSUR arrival cds. All dates are from June 1866.