

# BIOGRAPHY OF INDIAN POST CARDS - PART 2

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fig. 1: cut-outs used on postcards in 1907.

“Time takes its toll”. Completing 74 years in December this year, I realized that the machinery of my body is getting old, that is why I missed out a lot of information in my article on postcards.

Contemplation often throws a light on the minute details that we often forget to emphasize initially. So here I am with an addition to my article on Post Cards, highlighting the points and details I missed out in the first article.

Cut-outs of imprinted postcards were allowed to be used as adhesive stamps in Great Britain from the beginning. In India, the cut-outs of imprinted Postcards were found used in the reign of

King Edward during 1904 to 1907, as reported in the book *Encyclopedia of Indian Postal Stationery* by Sri Manik Jain.

By 1907, the Indian P&T Department prohibited the use of cut-outs from postcards. Examples are found with Queen Victoria and King Edward postcards; figs. 1 & 2.

Examples carry more weight than the written



fig. 3: paper attached exceeds maximum



fig. 4: message occupies too much space



fig. 5:  
(see text)



rules. The rule says, if a postcard has paper attached larger than 2 x 3/4 inches, it will be treated as an envelope and it will be taxed accordingly. Fig. 3 shows a postcard posted in the first week of November 1923 from Sitamarhi to Ramgarh with a paper attached on the face. It was delivered on 13 November 1923 with postage due of one anna (with credit given for the half anna already paid).

Another rule says that the space on the front side of the postcard is divided into two equal parts-one is for message and other is for address. If infringement takes place double deficiency of an envelope, would be payable. Fig.4 shows the message was written on more than 75% of space, so it was taxed one anna.

The postcard in fig.5 was posted on 15 March 1954 from Delhi to Patiala with 9 pies stamp (correct postage), but postage due of 9 pies was charged at Patiala on 17 March 1954. Close inspection of the postcard reveals that it might be

a Reply-paid card or with a Business Reply card which (in my opinion) did not have the required postage stamp, which was mandatory. So the card was charged 9 pies. And when the second half would be used, the sender should put a stamp of 9 pies. Thus, double the deficiency would be recovered.

A private origin postcard dated 21 December 1937 shows the (then) maximum authorized size of a postcard, which was printed on the face of the postcard; fig.6.

After 1992, the size of Postcard was once again increased in the year 2003 from existing 140 x 90mm to 145 x 95mm to give more space to house a bar code on it. Both sizes are found in 2003 as in fig.7 (old size) and fig.8 (new size).

Under the heading 'commemorative postcards', I inadvertently omitted Gandhi postal stationery postcards. The first commemorative postcard of



fig. 6:  
maximum  
size, 1937

Independent India was issued on 2 October 1951 to commemorate Gandhiji. It was in a set of four postcards. The second set of three postcard was issued on 2 October 1969, again on Gandhiji.

The Indian P&T Department issued a set of four Picture Postcards with imprinted stamp on

North Western Railway in 1935. And they issued a set of four Picture Postcards on the scenery of Jammu & Kashmir on 14 May 1937.

For many years now, the Department of Posts has issued Picture Postcards from time to time without imprinted stamps.

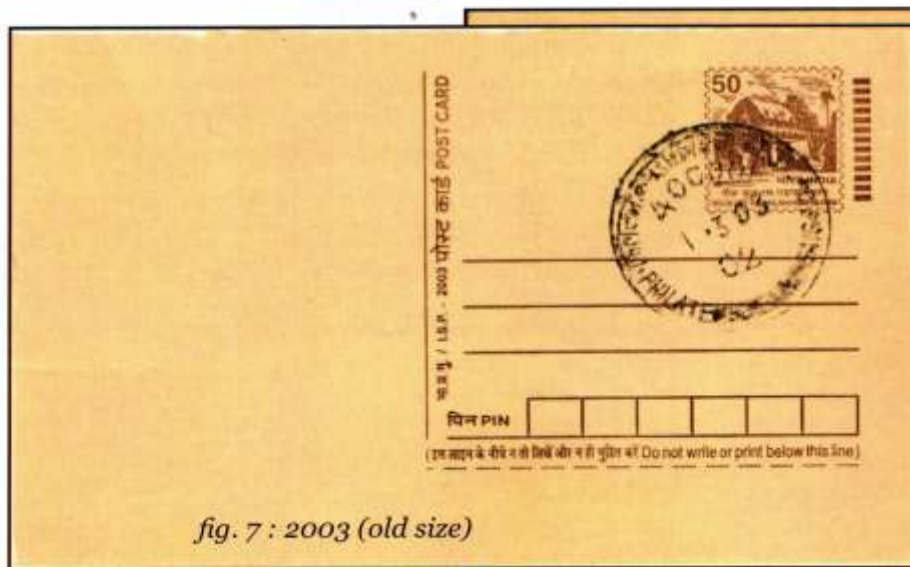


fig. 7 : 2003 (old size)



fig. 8 : 2003 (new size)