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 \* REGISTRATION MARKINGS AND LABELS OF BUNDI \*  
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by P. M. MEDHORA.

Mr. R. J. Benns' handbook on the Sacred Cow Issues of Bundi is a very fine publication covering almost all facets pertaining to these issues. I have enjoyed reading all the chapters because I also have contributed some useful information on Bundi in some of my articles. Now we know about various clichés, indentification of settings, the Service overprints and something about postmarks and cash coupons, and now the point arises as to what is left out. It struck me that so far no one has touched upon the registration markings and labels of Bundi, and since I have handled scores of Bundi covers, registered as well as ordinary, from S.G.1 to the last issue, I have decided to throw some light on this interesting topic. I am providing herewith a record of what I have come across and I am hopeful that other members of the I.S.C. will come forward to throw some further light on the subject.

Bundi started issuing its own stamps from 1894 and I have come across covers bearing S.G.1 onwards. It is my experience that from 1894 to 1920 one hardly sees any registered covers, but after the issuance of the Sacred Cow designs many registered covers are to be found. In the dagger type issues registered covers are difficult to find and the few covers that I have seen bearing the high values of 4as. and 8as. are nothing but philatelic covers made to order.

The postal service in Bundi became more active after the issuance of the Sacred Cow stamps, as can be seen by the number of ordinary as well as registered covers bearing these stamps. It seems official registration labels were not supplied to all post offices by the postal authority and that is why the counter clerks used to write by hand the registered number on a registered cover. As there was no hard and fast rule laid down by the post office as to how to write a registered number on a cover, we come across the following types:-

1. Only the name of the post office and the word 'Registry' in Hindi, without registered number;
2. नं. 208 either in brackets or without;
3. नं.  
३६
4. On some covers the name of the post office as well as the registered number - for example, नैनवा नं. ३०५
5. Some clerks used to write in English, such as R.L. No.253;
6. This is an unusual registered label, rectangular in shape with a floral frame line as illustrated. The letter 'A' in English is sideways in the centre and the registered number '24' is also printed in English. It was used from Nainva on 4th April 1925. Maybe it is the first registered label issued by the Bundi Post Office. Examples are scarce.



Another rectangular registered label, quite different from the previous one. This registered label was widely used as it is found on many registered covers. This label and the previous one are both printed on dark orange background with the wording and frame line in black.

8.

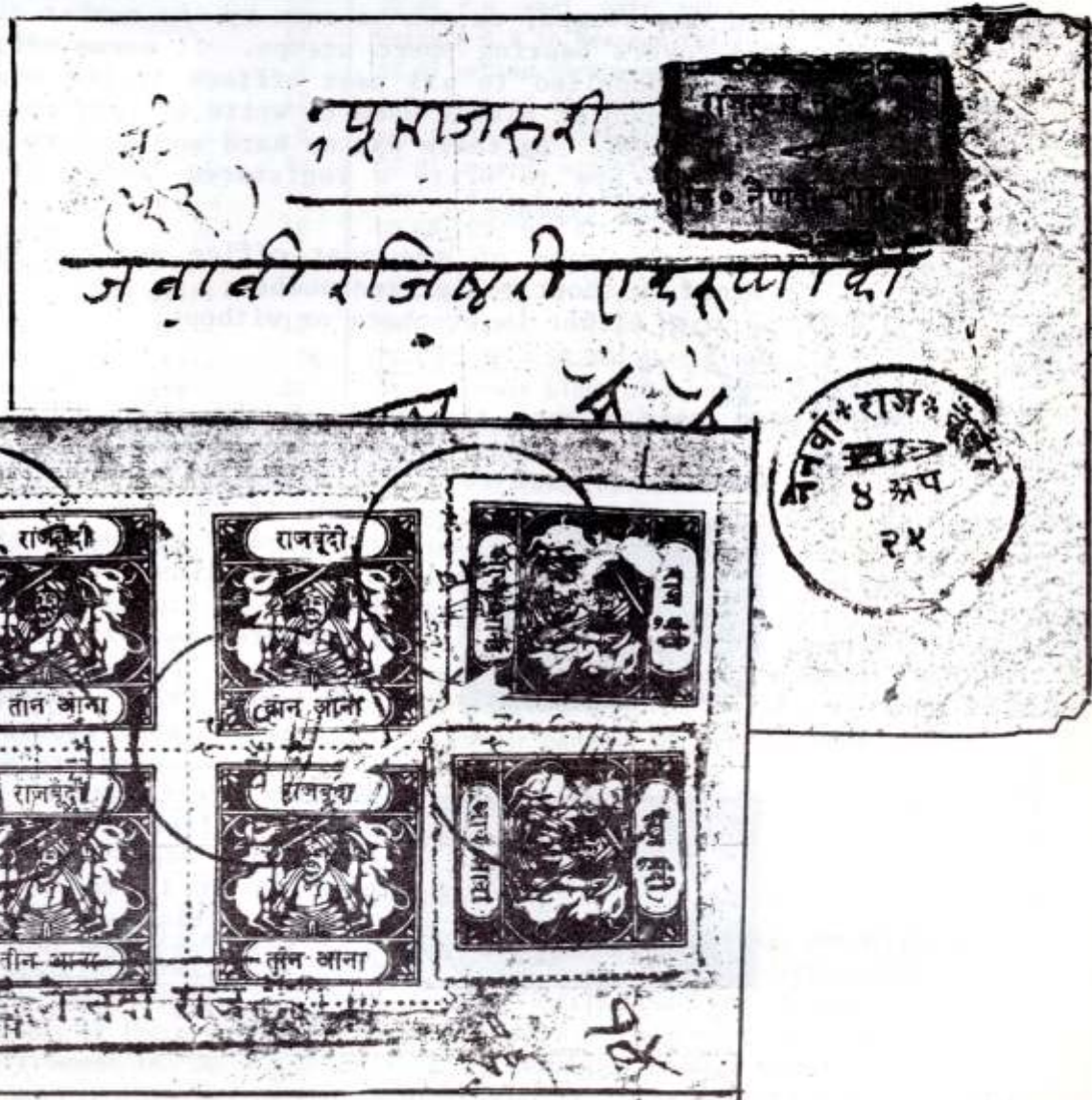


On covers bearing the later issues of 1941-47, a handstamped registration marking appears as illustrated.

The majority of letters, either ordinary or registered, are found addressed to the Diwan Saheb, the Land and Revenue Office, or are Court Notices. Letters written by one individual to another, or to and from relatives or friends, were few and far between. No doubt there was some business correspondence from one merchant to another, but not on a big scale. Most of the correspondence was done by land and revenue officers, the secretary to the Diwan and Court Clerks, addressed to defaulting persons, or were replies from the parties concerned to the respective Government departments.

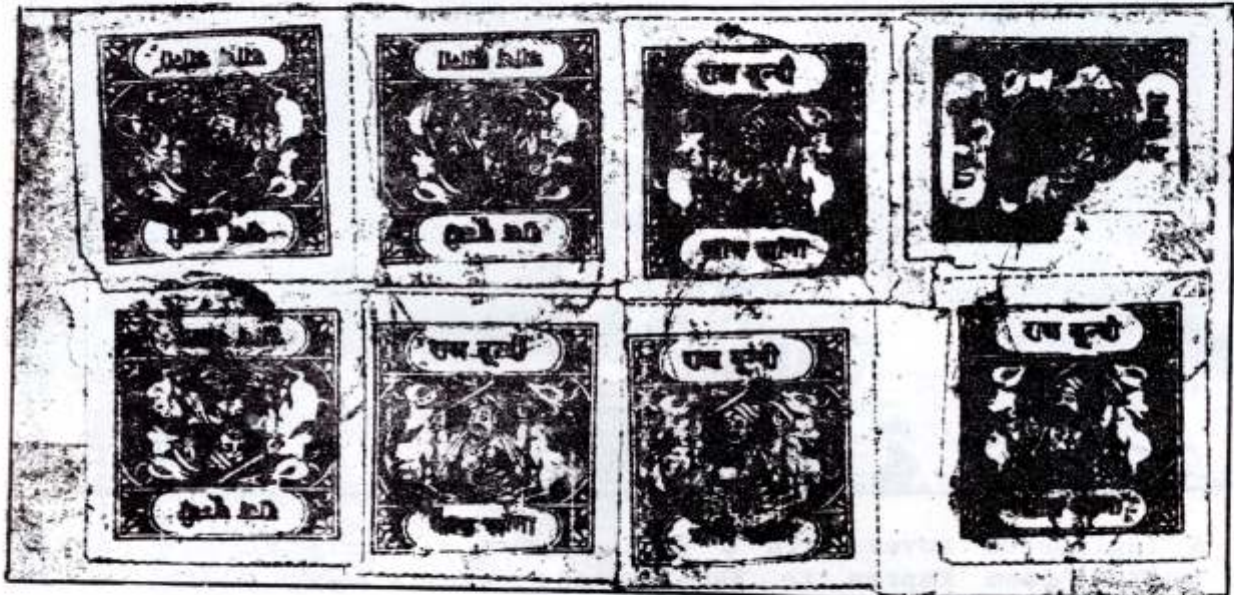
Compared to the dagger issues, covers bearing Sacred Cow stamps and those of the later period 1941-47 were once to be seen in good number, but now they are hardly to be found. Some covers bearing stamps and with registered labels, posted from different post offices are indeed interesting, so I feel it will not be out of place if I illustrate a few of them for the benefit of readers.

The covers illustrated, and many more, were in my collection, but at a later date I passed them on to my philatelic friend Mr. A.M.Pakvasa, who, incidentally, formed a very fine Indian States collection.

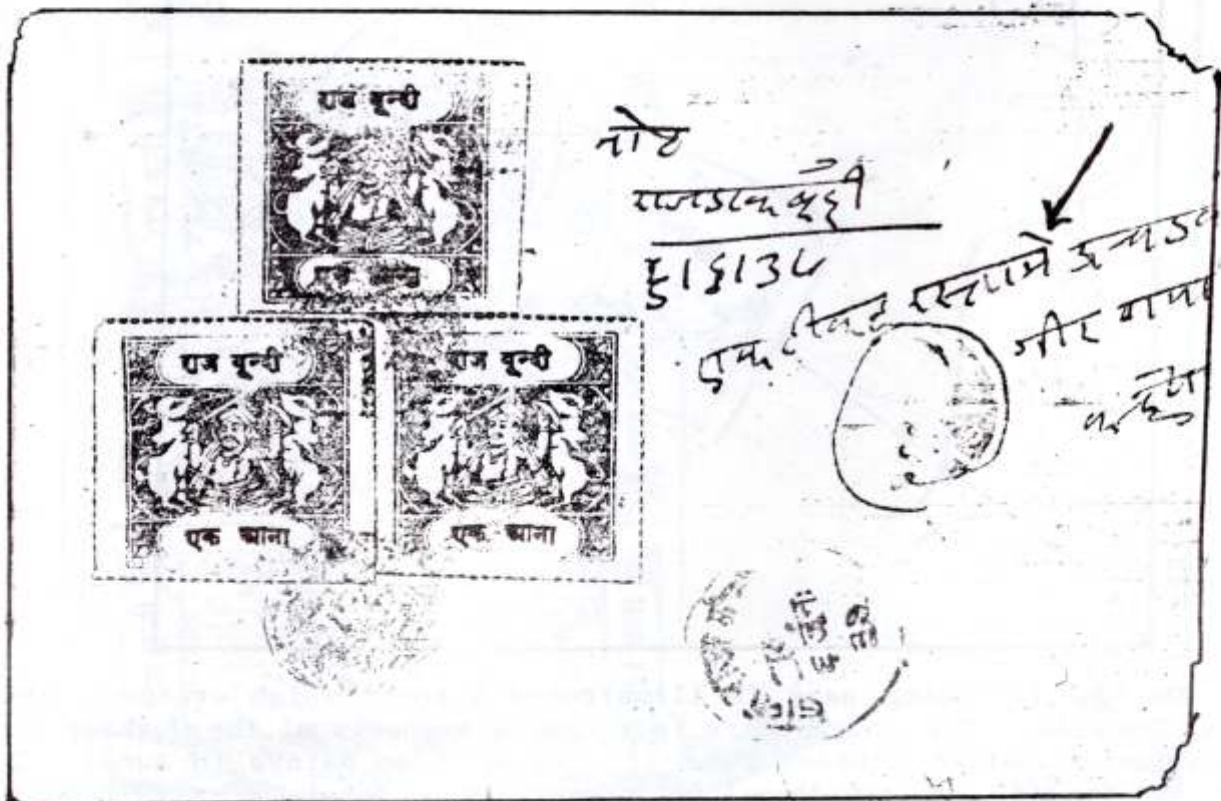


This JAWABI REGISTRY COVER, bearing one rupee in postage stamps, from Nainva to Bundi, posted on 4 April 1925, bearing the registered label shown above as Type 6. Examples of such Jawabi Registered Letters are rare. Note the big rectangular strike inset with the words 'Nainva Raj Bundi' with two daggers at the sides. The cover bears two ½a. Gibbons Type 14, a single and a complete sheet of four 3as. Gibbons Type 15 showing semi-circle and dot missing, and is a very interesting cover indeed.

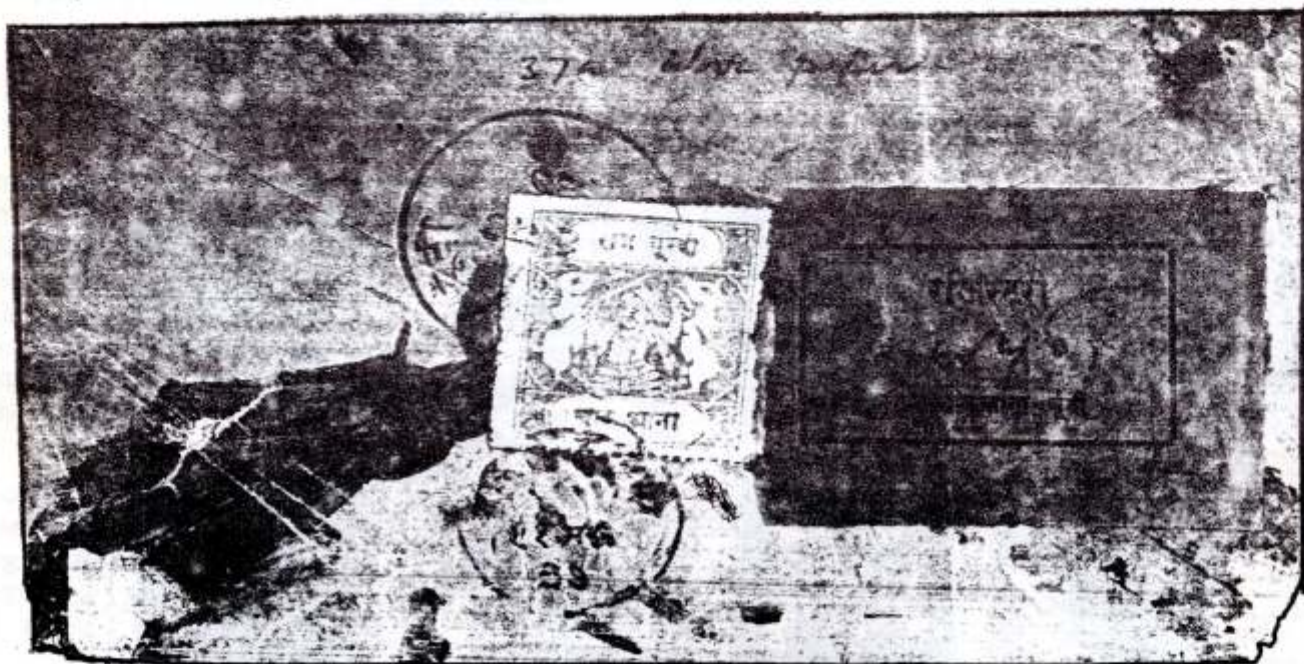
Below is a registered cover bearing eight ½a. black Gibbons Type 17 stamps, printed on laid paper - another fine cover.



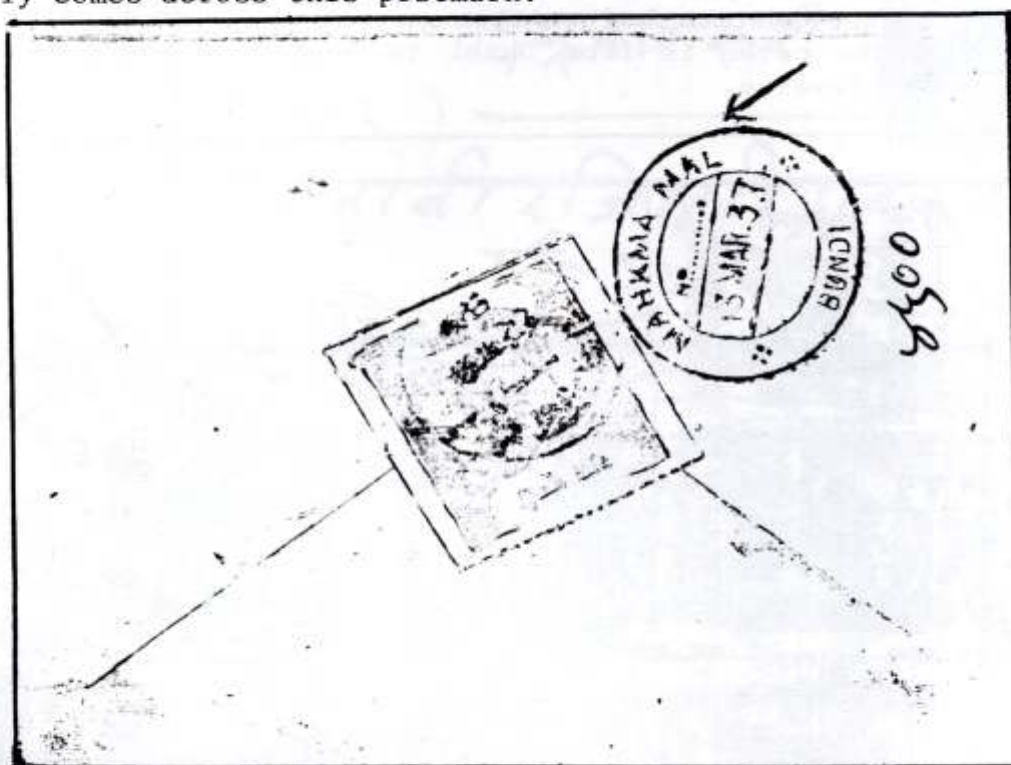
On the registered cover illustrated below, actually there were four stamps of 1a. red Gibbons Type 17 on laid paper, but one stamp had fallen off in transit, so the postman had written on the cover in Hindi, as can be clearly seen. The cover is from Dhabi to Bundi and there is a registered label on the reverse.



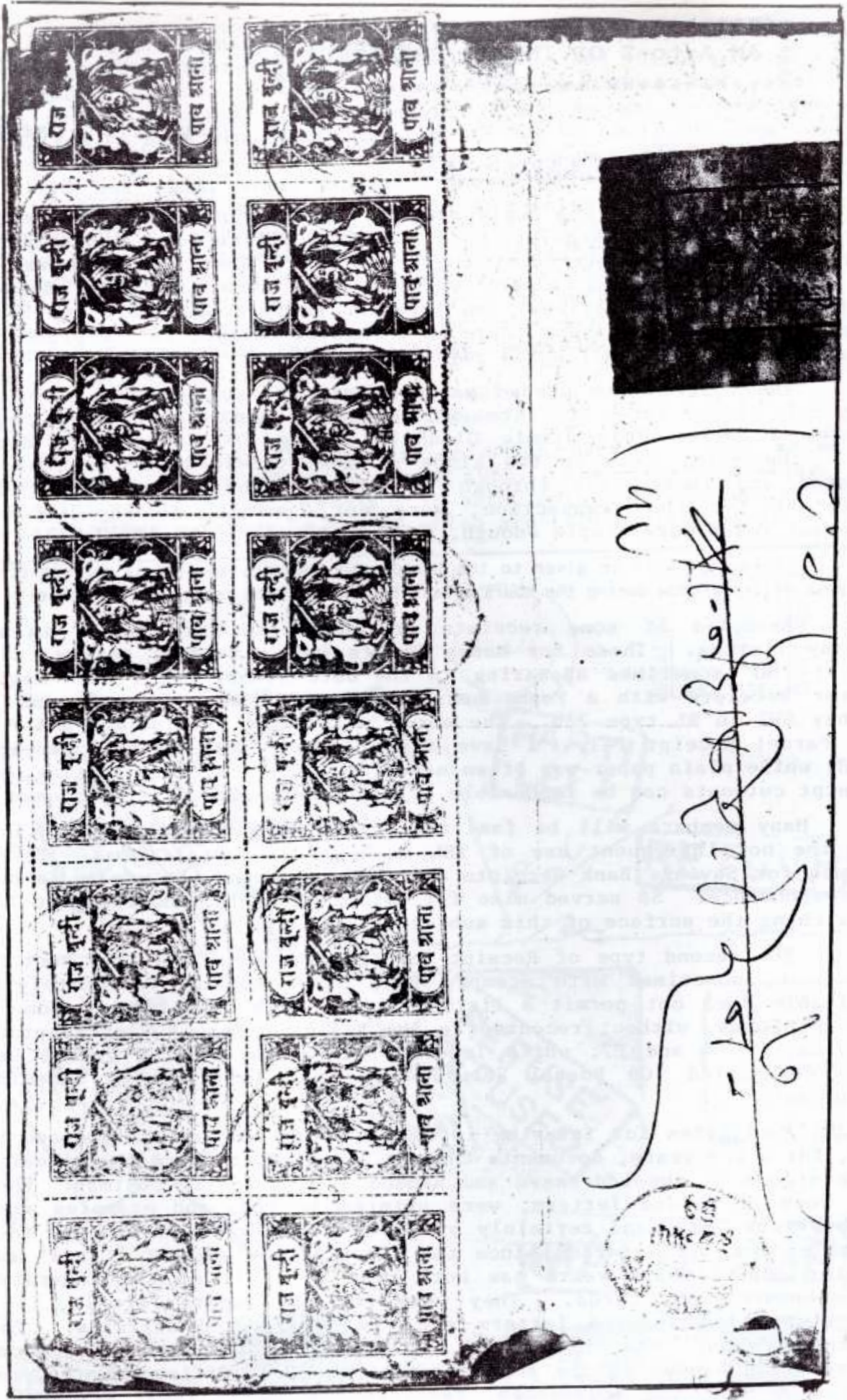
Examples of the 4as. Gibbons Type 17 printed on wove paper are scarce either mint or used. Here is a registered cover bearing a 4as. value on wove paper posted from Nainva on 8 May 1937, reaching Bundi on 11 May 1937. Registration label on front.



A registered cover with a 4as. Gibbons Type 17 printed on laid paper, posted from Kapran to Bundi with a registration label on the reverse. There is an interesting postmark in English in a double line circle reading MAHKMA MAL/BUNDI and the date 13 March 1937 in the centre. One rarely comes across this postmark.



On the following page is illustrated a cover which everyone would like to possess. The cover bears four complete sheets of the Quarter Anna ultramarine rouletted Gibbons Type 18, posted from Nainva to Bundi. The cover is opened out to show the registration label on the reverse. Posted from Nainva on 22nd April, reaching Bundi on 25th April.



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