

India Registration—History

Dr. Akshay Y. Kantharia

(Continued from page 32 of Jan.-March '85 issue)

Chapter I of this article evoked a lot of interest in our readers. Further information has been sent by Mr. A.R. Singhee, a reputed philatelist of Hyderabad. Before Chapter II begins, we publish his letter and also a diagram prepared by the author on "Sender-DLO Cycle of the redirected, refused or unclaimed registered article" for the benefit of our readers —Editor

Mr. Singhee writes:

I have read the very interesting and informative article 'India Registration—History' by Dr. Kantharia published in the Jan-Mar 1985 issue of "Signet". I think the following details about the 'Redirection Charges' will be of interest to the author and other readers:

Redirection fee for Letters

- 1 October 1854: Letters from abroad were re-directed free of charge.
- 1 February 1856: For every re-direction in India on letters from overseas, inland postage was charged as re-direction fee payable by the recipient.
- 1 July 1876: The re-direction fee within the UPU Countries was abolished as per the UPU rules.
- 1 September 1877: The re-direction fee was abolished for inland registered letters.
- 1 April 1878: The re-direction fee for ordinary letters within India was also abolished.

The above information has been extracted from the book 'Overseas Letter Postage From India 1854-1876' by Martin and Blair.

Redirection fee for Parcels

The April 1919 Post Office Guide with me does not prescribe any re-direction fee for parcels, but it appears that some time later, the re-direction fee for parcels was re-introduced, as Clause 68 of the 1965 Post Office Guide reads as follows:

"68. Re-direction fee on parcels—A parcel re-directed to any place by the inland post will, save where the original address and the substituted address are within the delivery of the same post office or are within the same post town, be chargeable in

(Turn to page 38) ✓

respect of each-re-direction with further postage amounting to half the prepaid rate. Such re-direction is not, however, undertaken unless the addressee or his agent gives written instruction in the matter.

Note: No re-direction fee will be recovered from the sender where a parcel has been returned as unclaimed or refused for delivery to him within the delivery area of the post office of issue or the same town. In other cases, a re-direction fee amounting to half the prepaid rate is chargeable from the sender in respect of each re-direction."

CHAPTER II

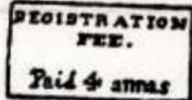
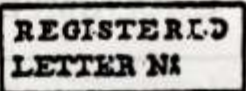
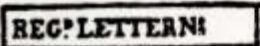
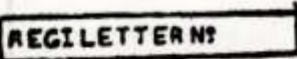
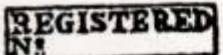
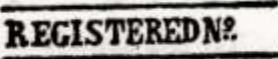

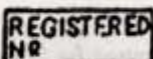
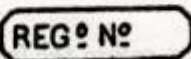
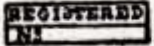
REGISTRATION MARKINGS


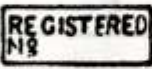




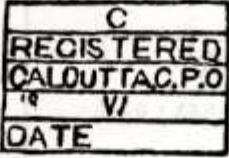
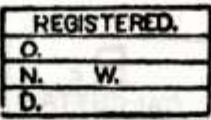
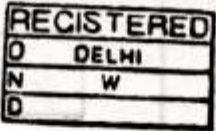
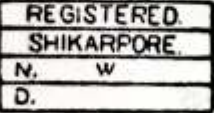
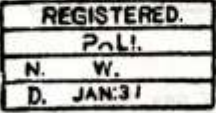
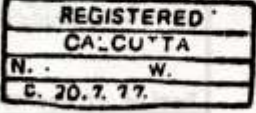
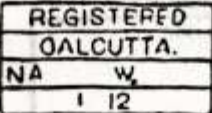
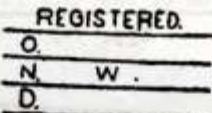
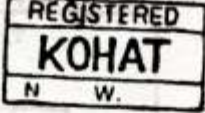

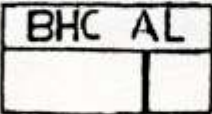
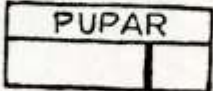
Mr. R.S. Nuttall, in his 'Hand Book of Indian Philately, India Study Circle, Dec. 1977 has superbly classified the Registration Markings of India. Since the classification of different types is excellent, I do not see any reason to classify them again and to give new type numbers.

I have included only research work of Registration Markings in this chapter. The research work either contains some unrecorded Registration Markings or new revised dates of 'Period of Use' of some types which revise the dates mentioned by R.S. Nuttall.

So, I am first giving a list of different Registration Markings, their period of use and their numbers given by R.S. Nuttall for reference purpose of readers. Then I have illustrated my research work.




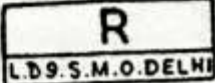
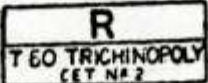

A list of Registration Markings, their period of use, their type numbers, according to Mr. R.S. Nuttall.

<p>Type 1</p> 	<p>Type 2</p> 	<p>Type 3a</p> 
<p>Type 3b</p> 	<p>Type 3c</p> <p>REGISTERED</p>	<p>Type 4</p> 
<p>Type 5a</p> 	<p>Type 5b</p> 	<p>Type 5c</p> <p>REGISTERED</p>
<p>Type 6a</p> 	<p>Type 7a</p> 	<p>Type 8</p> 

<p><i>Type 9</i></p> 	<p><i>Type 10</i></p> 	<p><i>Type 11a</i></p> 
<p><i>Type 11b</i></p> 	<p><i>Type 12</i></p> 	<p><i>Type 13</i></p> 
<p><i>Type 21</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 27.12.1869 to 30.5.1870</i></p>	<p><i>Type 22a</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1869 to 1891</i></p>	<p><i>Type 22b</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1874 to 1877</i></p>
<p><i>Type 22c</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use : For Bombay G.P.O. 31.7.1871 to 11.12.1872 For other 1871 to 1892</i></p>	<p><i>Type 22d</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1873 to 1884</i></p>	<p><i>Type 22e</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1877</i></p>
<p><i>Type 22f</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1877 to 1882</i></p>	<p><i>Type 22g</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1878 to 1882</i></p>	<p><i>Type 23a</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1878 to 1904</i></p>
<p><i>Type 23b</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use</i></p>	<p><i>Type 24a</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1882 to 1904</i></p>	<p><i>Type 24b</i></p>  <p><i>Period of use 1882 to 1902</i></p>

SIGNET—APRIL-JUNE 1985

<p>Type 24c</p> <p>BIKANEER</p> <p>Period of use 1888 to 1891</p>	<p>Type 24d</p> <p>PANIPAT</p> <p>Period of use 1897 to 1910</p>	<p>Type 24e</p> <p>NIHTOR</p> <p>Period of Use 1884 to 1903</p>
<p>Type 24g</p> <p>AGRA</p> <p>Period of use 1882 to 1904</p>	<p>Type 24h</p> <p>FEROZEPORE</p> <p>Period of use 1882 to 1885</p>	<p>Type 24i</p> <p>DIDWANA. W.</p> <p>Period of use 1880 (Approx)</p>
<p>Type 25a</p> <p>R HOTI</p> <p>Period of use 1884 to 1949</p>	<p>Type 25b</p> <p>R_F CALCUTTA</p> <p>Period of use 1901 to 1902</p>	<p>Type 25c</p> <p>R BACHHRAWAN. RAE-BARELI DZ.</p> <p>Period of use 1927</p>
<p>Type 25d</p> <p>R CIVIL & MILITARY HOTEL LUCKNOW</p> <p>Period of use 1903 to 1907</p>	<p>Type 26</p> <p>EXPERIMENTAL R.O. A-1</p> <p>Period of use 1887</p>	<p>Type 27</p> <p>R CHURU.</p> <p>Period of use 1925</p>
<p>Type 30a</p> <p>REGISTERED. FROM A. ETAVAH N. W.</p> <p>Period of use 1881</p>	<p>Type 31a</p> <p>MA AGRA</p> <p>Period of use 1884 to 1911</p>	<p>Type 31b</p> <p>M.A. PESHAWAR</p> <p>Period of use —</p>
<p>Type 31c</p> <p>M.A. MADRAS</p> <p>Period of use 1882 or 83</p>	<p>Type 31d</p> <p>G 80 SEC. REWAREE</p> <p>Period of Use 1890 to 1892</p>	<p>Type 31d</p> <p>B.78. SEC. VICTORIA TERMINUS</p> <p>Period of Use 1880 to 1892</p>

<p>Type 32a</p>  <p>Period of Use 1885 to 1905</p>	<p>Type 32a</p>  <p>Period of Use 1885 to 1905</p>	<p>Type 32b</p>  <p>Period of Use 1893 to 1902</p>
<p>Type 32c</p>  <p>Period of use 1908 to 1920</p>	<p>Type 32c</p>  <p>Period of use 1908 to 1920</p>	<p>Type 33</p>  <p>Period of Use 1870</p>

TOWN MARKS & MANUSCRIPTS IN TYPES 22a and 22g

Types 22a and 22g are having four tiers. First compartment is having the word 'REGISTERED', second is having 'O' and a space for filling in the name of the Post Office which is receiving the registered letter. Different methods were used to fill in this space. Some post offices were simply using 'Manuscript method' and were filling in the space by hand writing while some post offices had prepared special Town Marks for this purpose. Some of these Town Marks were having frames while some were without frames.

First I illustrate an example of early use of type 22a red, showing the name of the Post Office written in Manuscript.

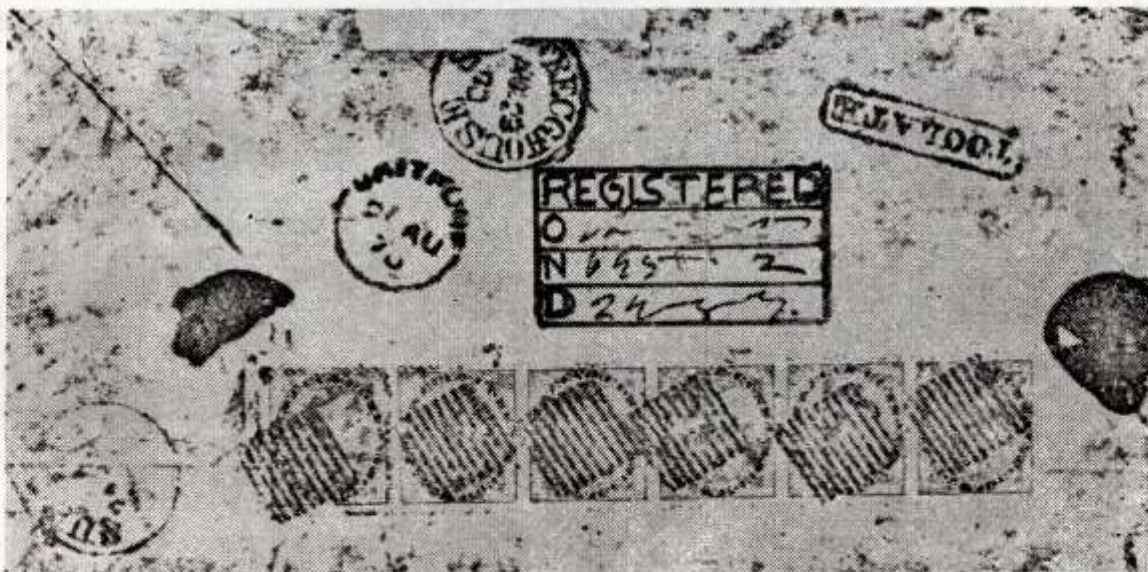


Fig. 14

A registered cover shown in Figure 14, from SURAT received on 23rd August 1870 by SURAT RECEIVING HOUSE and registered on the subsequent day i.e. 24—August 1870 showing type 22a red, having used 'manuscript method' for filling in the name of Post Office.

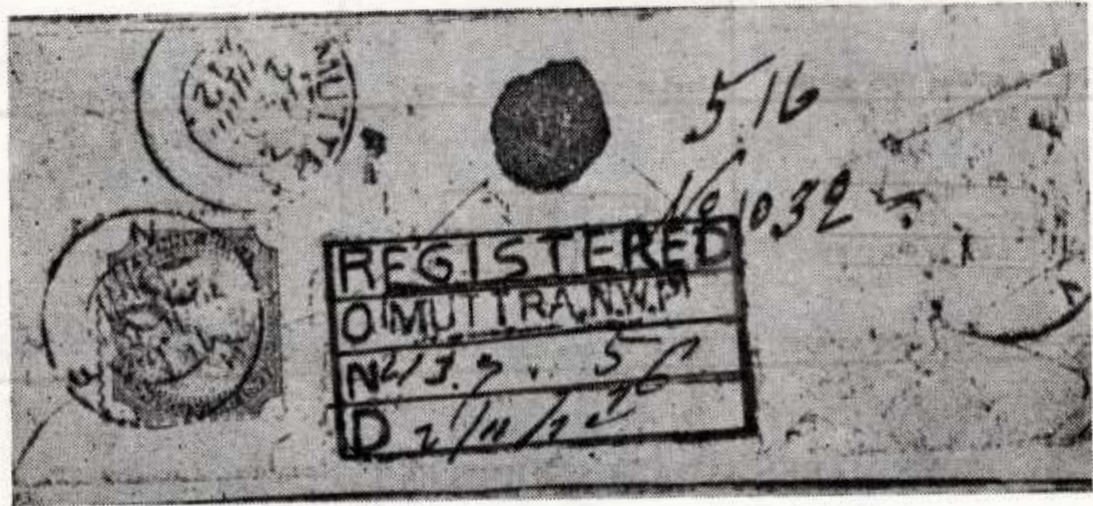


Fig. 15

A registered cover shown in Figure 15, from 'MUTTRA' N.W.P. dated 21-11-1872 shows types 22a red, having used 'Town Mark' (with frame) method to fill in the name of Post Office.

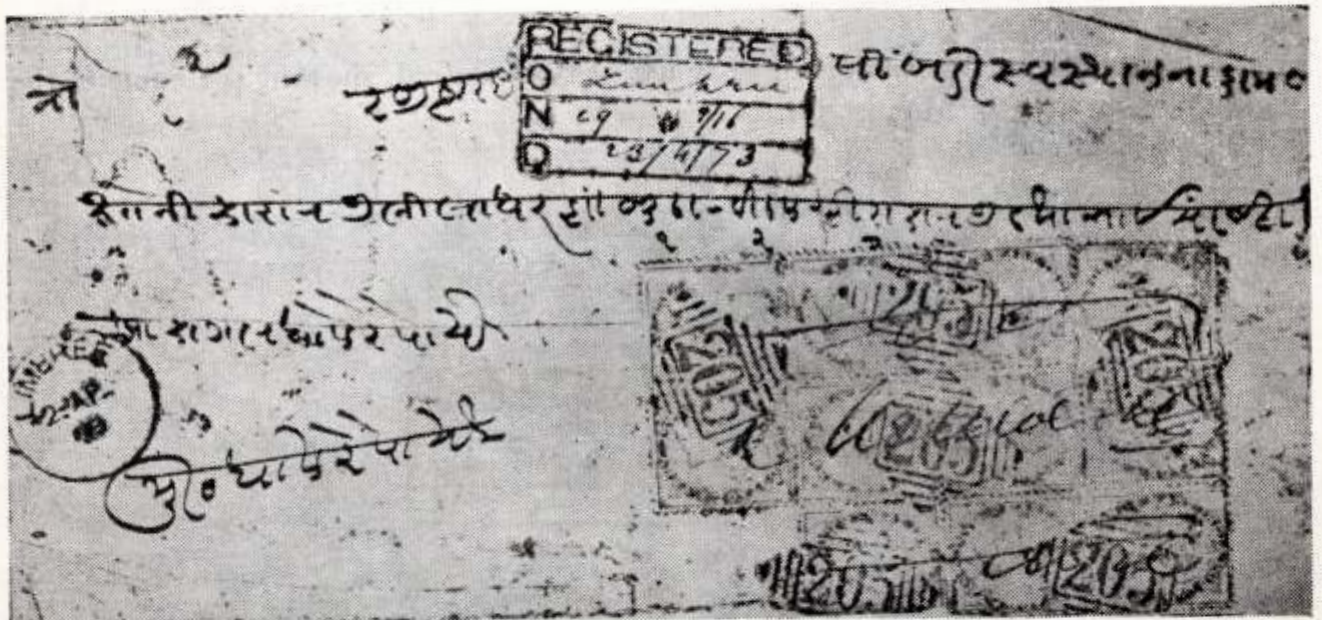


Fig. 16

A registered cover shown in Figure 16, from 'LIMBREE' dated 23-4-1973 shows type 22a (black) having used manuscript method.

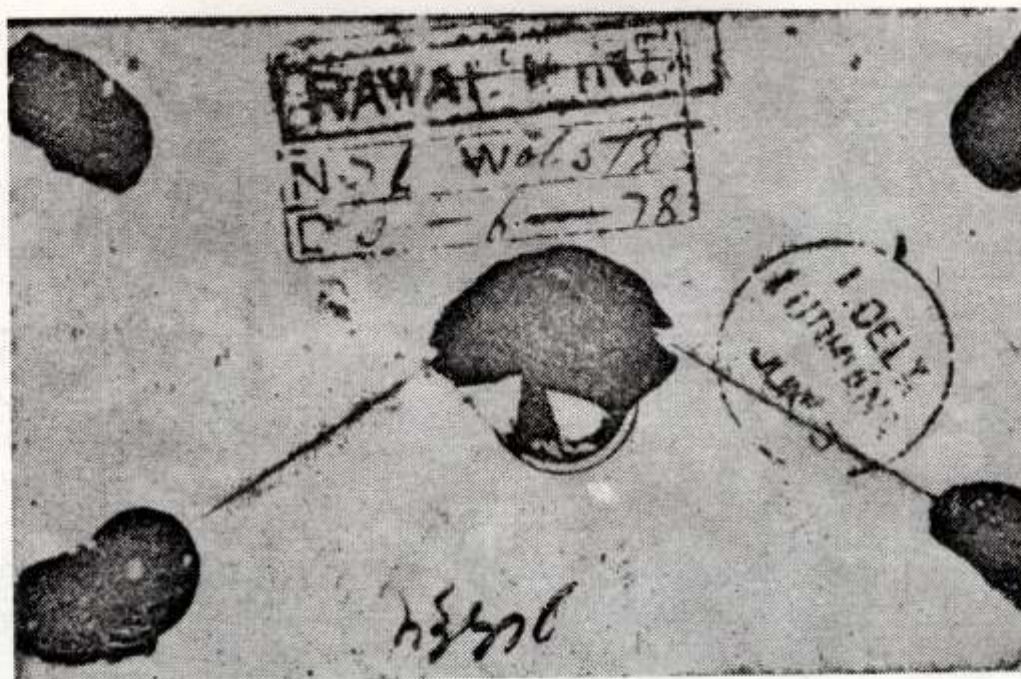


Fig. 17

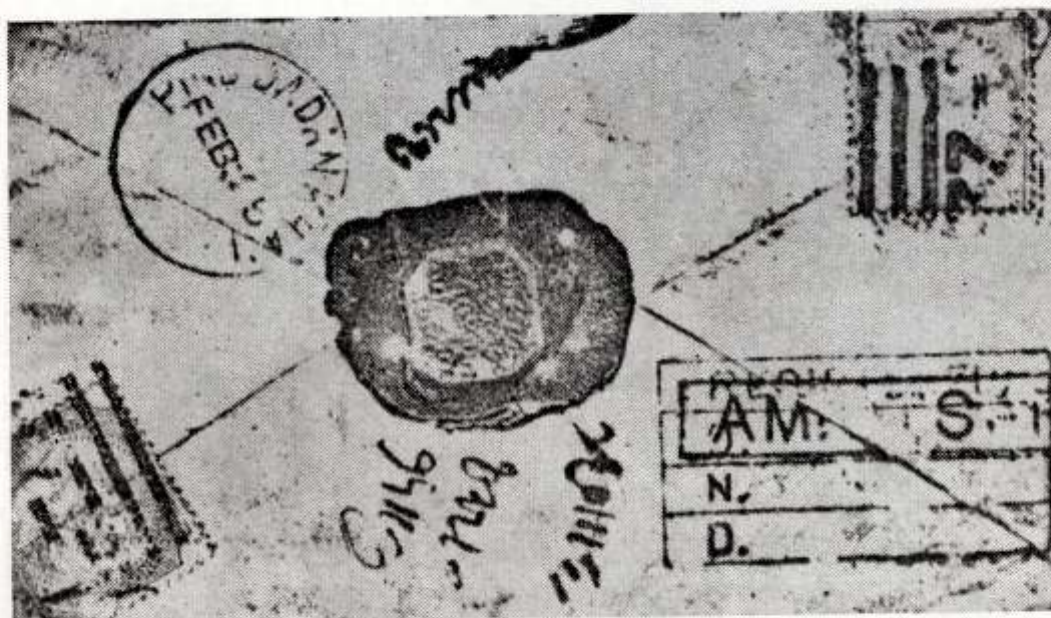


Fig. 18

Two registered covers from 'AMRITSUR' and 'RAWALPINDI' shown in Figures 17 and 18 respectively, show type 22a (black) in different sizes, having used 'Town Mark' (with frame) method.

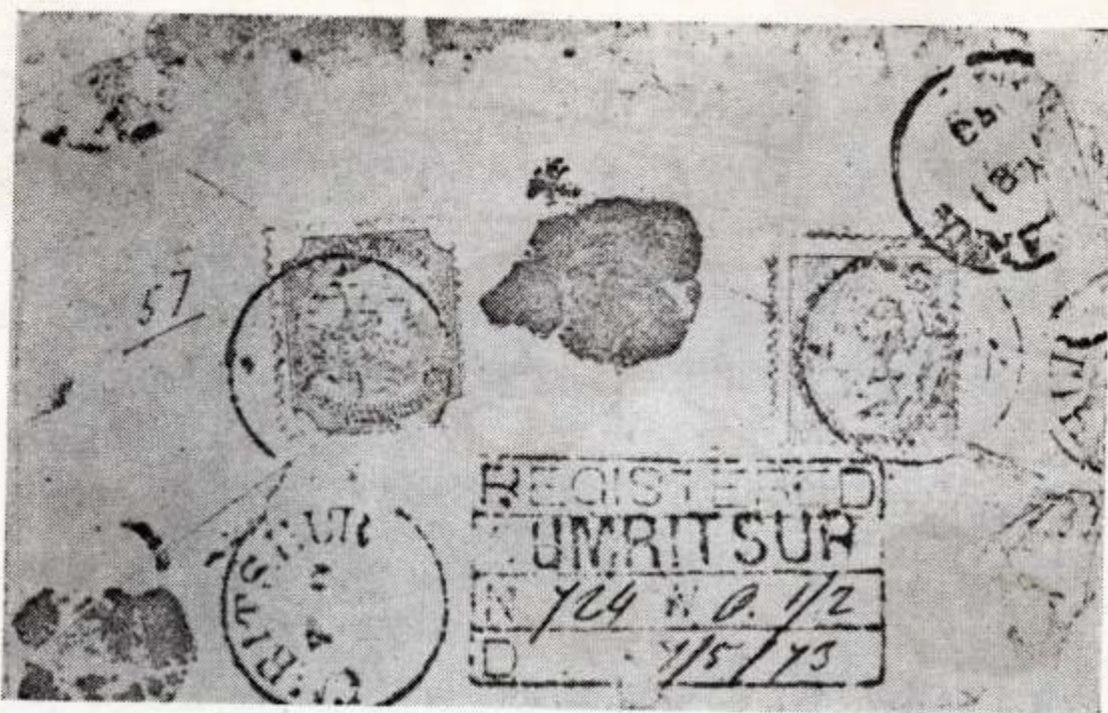


Fig. 19

A registered cover shown in Figure 19, from 'UMRITSUR' shows type 22a, black, having used 'Town Mark' (without frame) method.

Type 22g



Fig. 20

A registered cover shown in Figure 20, from 'ABBOTTABAD' shows type 22g, having used 'Town Mark' (with frame) method.

SOME REVISED DATES

Type 22c
(Red)

This type shows the word 'O' for office removed and the name is an integral part of the stamp.

According to Mr. R.S. Nuttall, the dates for Bombay G.P.O. are from 31-7-1871 to 11-12-72 (all in red).



Fig. 21

But the cover shown in Figure 21 of my collection showing much early date. The registered cover number 25047 from Bombay G.P.O. showing the date 22-March-1870. This cover expands the period of use of type 22c (Bombay G.P.O. Red) from 31-7-1871 to 22-3-1870 i.e. at least a year and few months early.

Type 22c
(Black)

A registered cover (Fig. 22 and 23), dt 23-2-1901 posted from Ahmedabad expands the later date of use of type 22c from 1892 to 1901.



Fig. 22 (Front side)

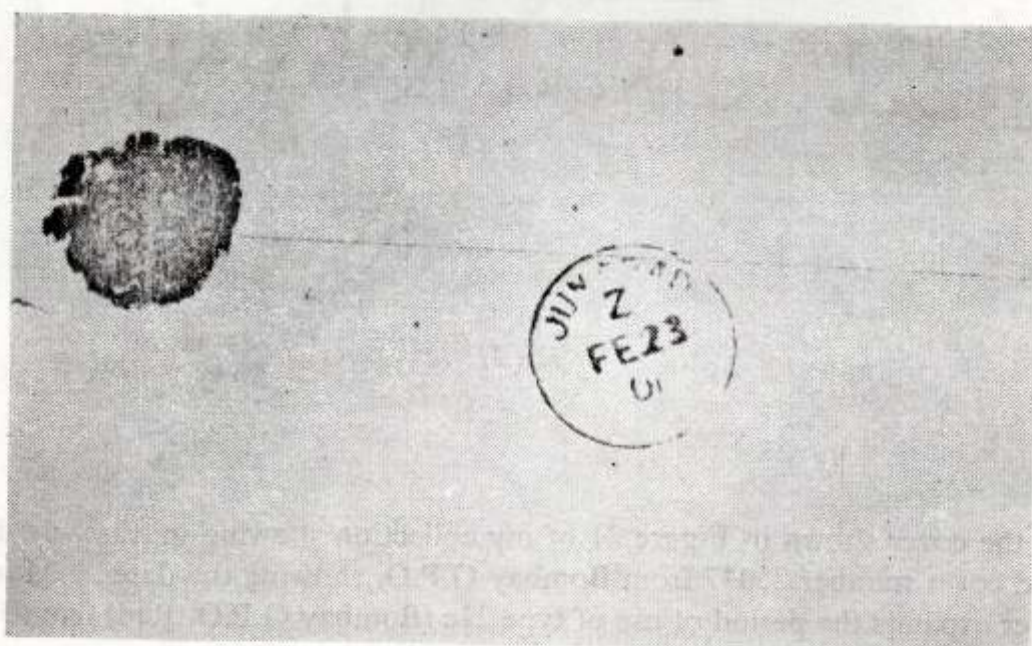


Fig. 23 (Back side)

A registered cover shown in Figure No. 24 dated 10-5-1910 posted from Garhwa expands the later date of period of use of type 23a from 1904 to 1910. The stamp is applied on the slip IRS 3. Because, in 1910 registration slips were already introduced for use.

Type 23a

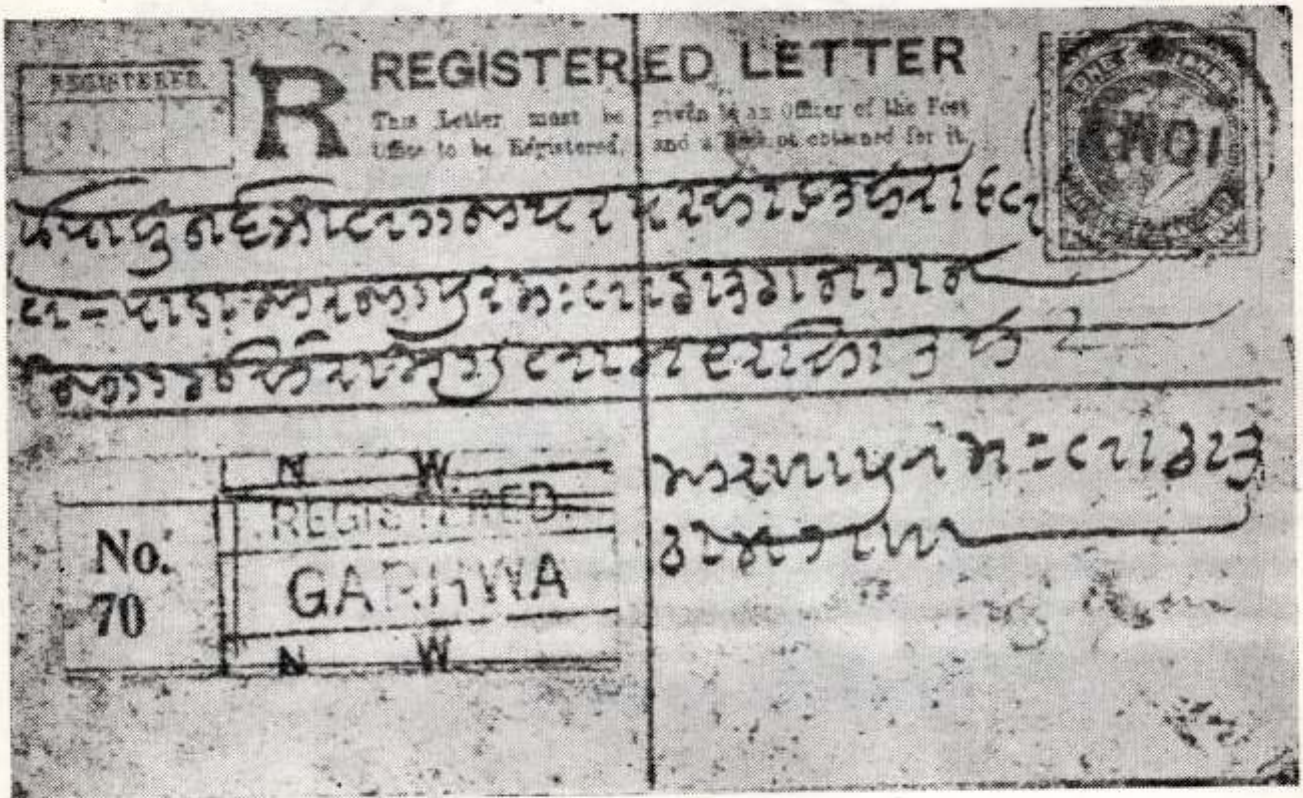


Fig. 24

The period of use of this type mentioned by R.S. Nuttall is 1882 to 1904. But I have two specimens in my collection expand the early date from 1882 to 1881 (Fig. 25 & 26) and later date from 1904 to 1920 (Figure 27).

Type 24a

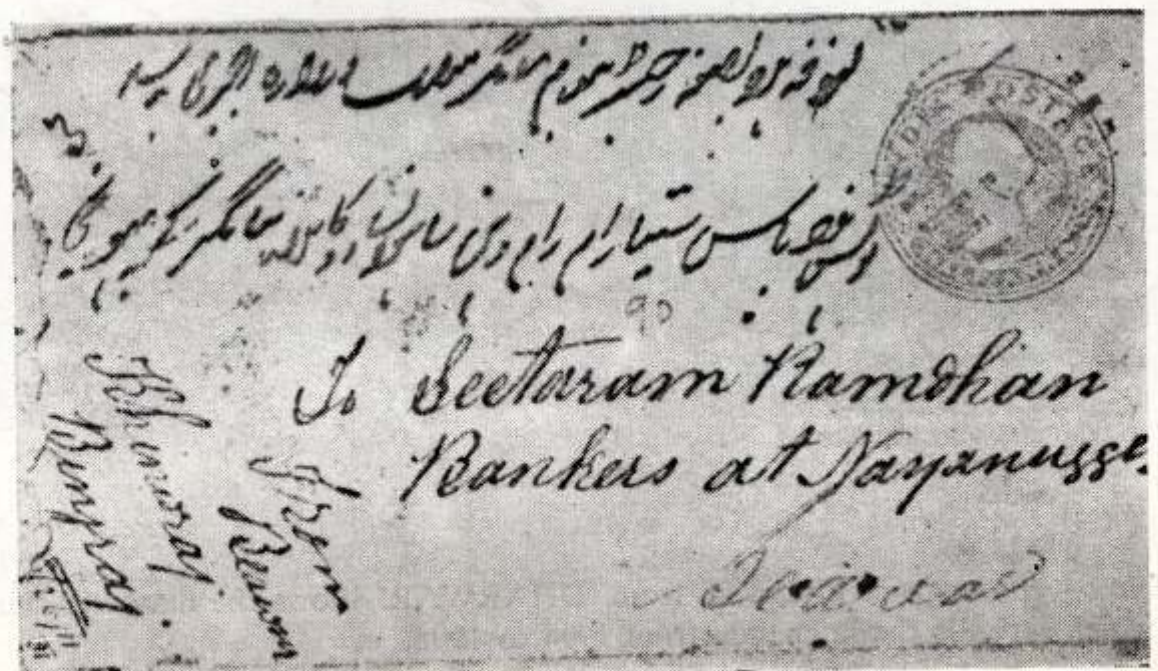


Fig. 25 (Front side)

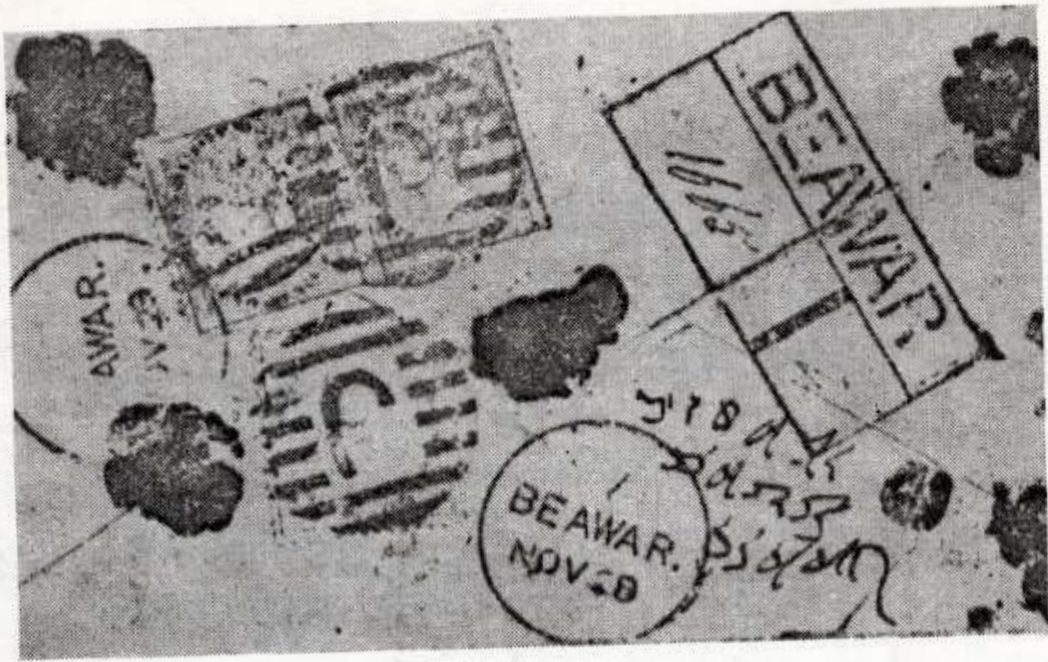


Fig. 26 (Back side)



Fig. 27

The cover shown in Figure 28 from 'DHARWAR' shows the date 18th January 1905 which expands the later date from 1904 to 1905.

Type 24g

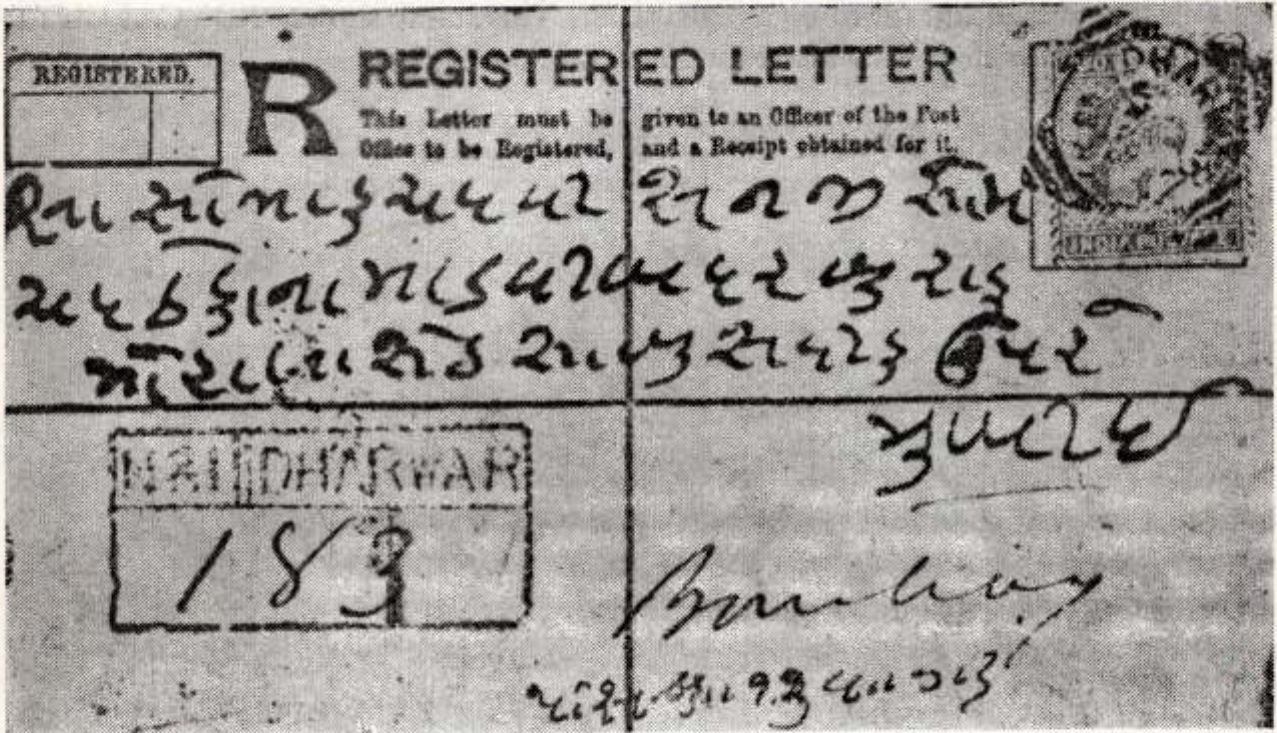


Fig. 28

A registered cover shown in Figure 29 No. 854 dt 19-10-1888 posted from SAHARANPUR expands the period of use of type 24h from 1885 to 1888.

Type 24h

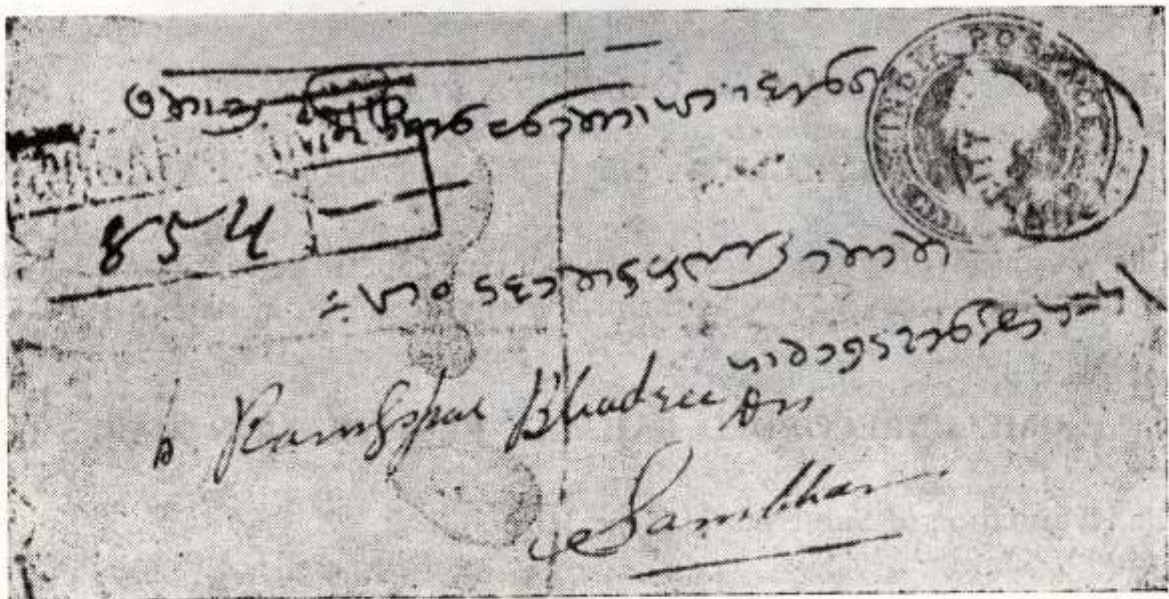


Fig. 29

Type 25 b

This type was meant for foreign registration. This stamp shows "R.F. CALCUTTA" words. But I illustrate a very interesting and rare cover here.



Fig. 30

The above cover was sent from CALCUTTA to TURKEY. The date is 6-2-1908. The Registration mark is same in size and shape as type 25b. But the only difference is that this stamp shows 'CALCUTTA G.P.O.' instead of only "CALCUTTA".

Can we consider this type as an example of type 25b? If we consider it as type 25b, then the date of this cover expands the period of type 25b from 1902 to 1908.

SOME UNRECORDED RAILWAY REGISTRATION MARKS

1. The Hybridation of Sub-types of Type 31b:

As illustrated on page 40 the type 31b shows either word M.A. or R.S. in first compartment. Mr. R.S. Nuttall mentions that in place of M.A. can be found R.S.

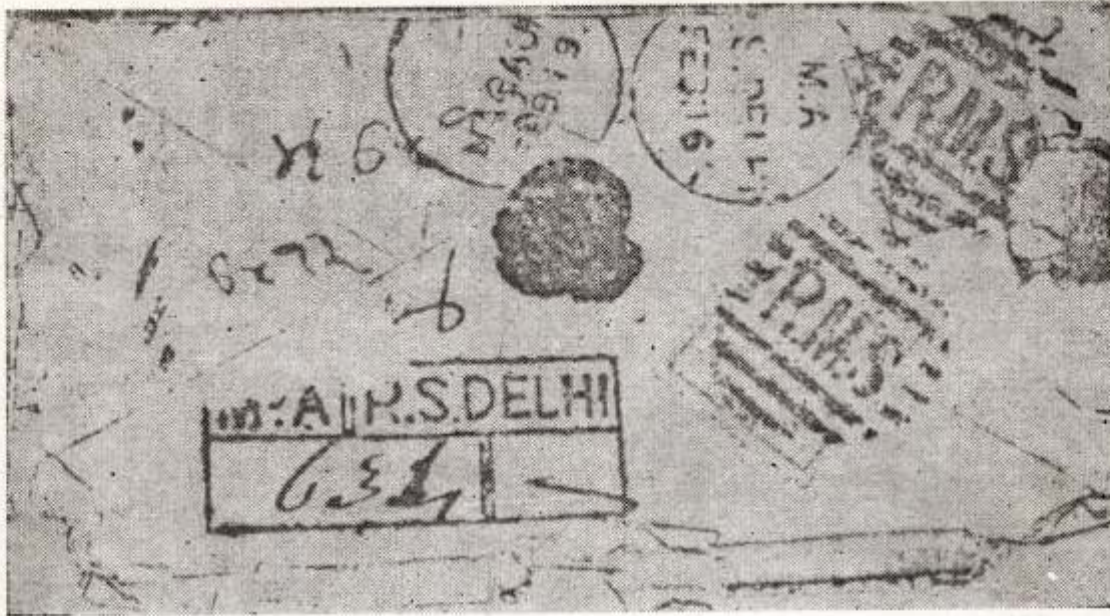


Fig. 31

But the cover shown in Figure 31, shows both the words i.e. M.A. & R.S. in one stamp. The year is not given but the 'No year' stamp puts this cover in the year between 1875-1883.

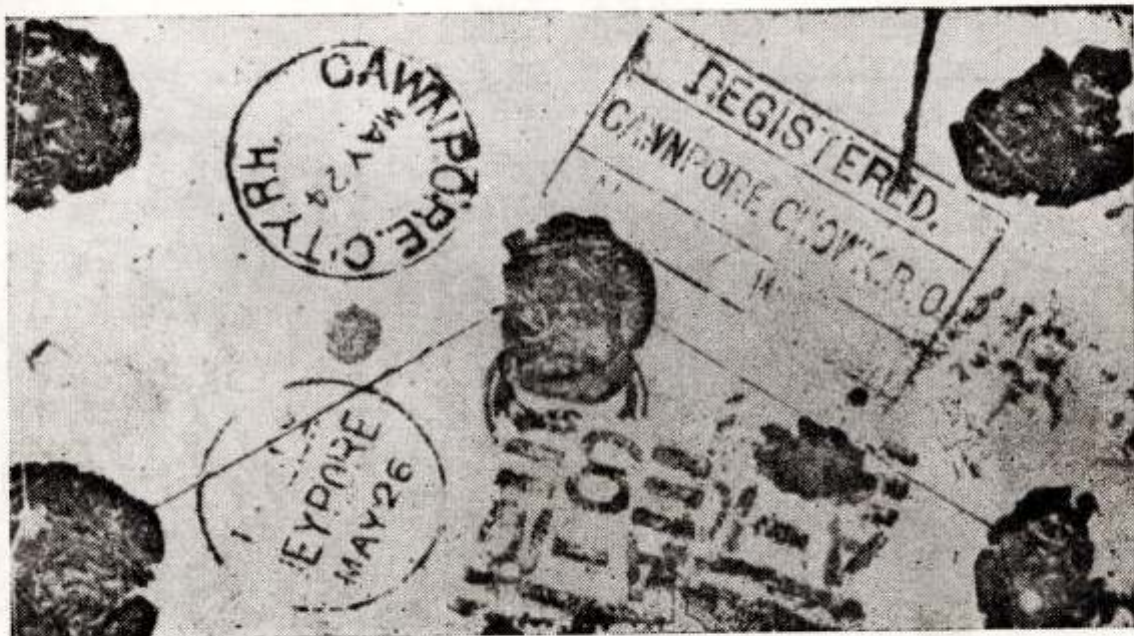


Fig. 32

Both the covers shown in Figs. 32 & 33 show interesting Railway Registration Marking. Both the markings show 'R.O.' word after the name of city. (R.O. = Receiving Office).

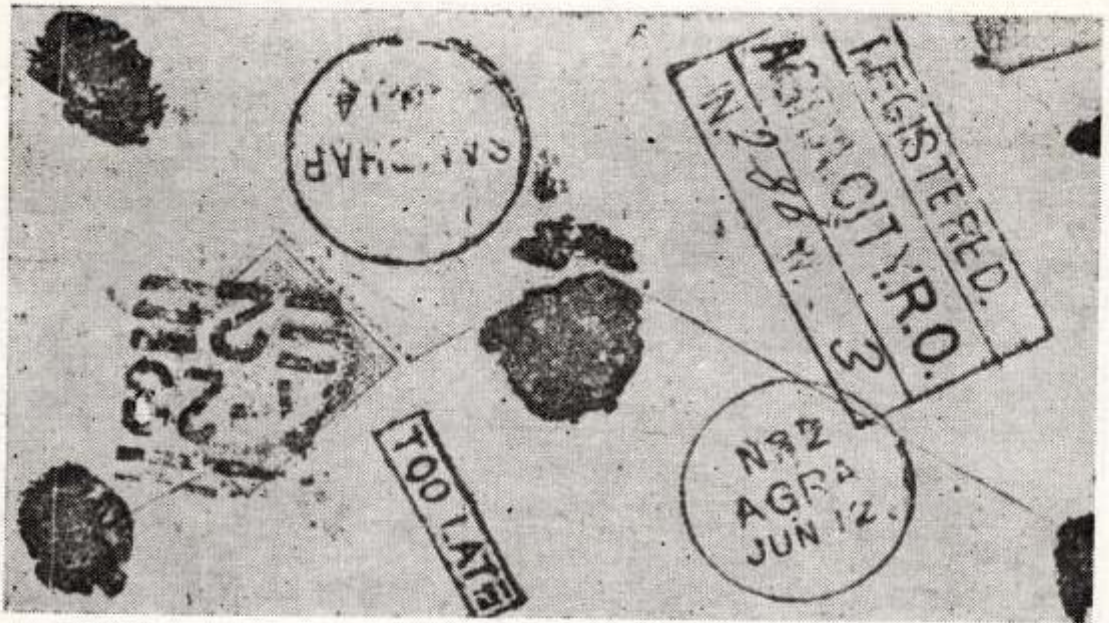


Fig. 33

The cover shown in figure 34 is similar to R.O. type in size and shape, but the word "R.S." is there in place of R.O. (R.S. "Railway Sorter").

"R.S." Type

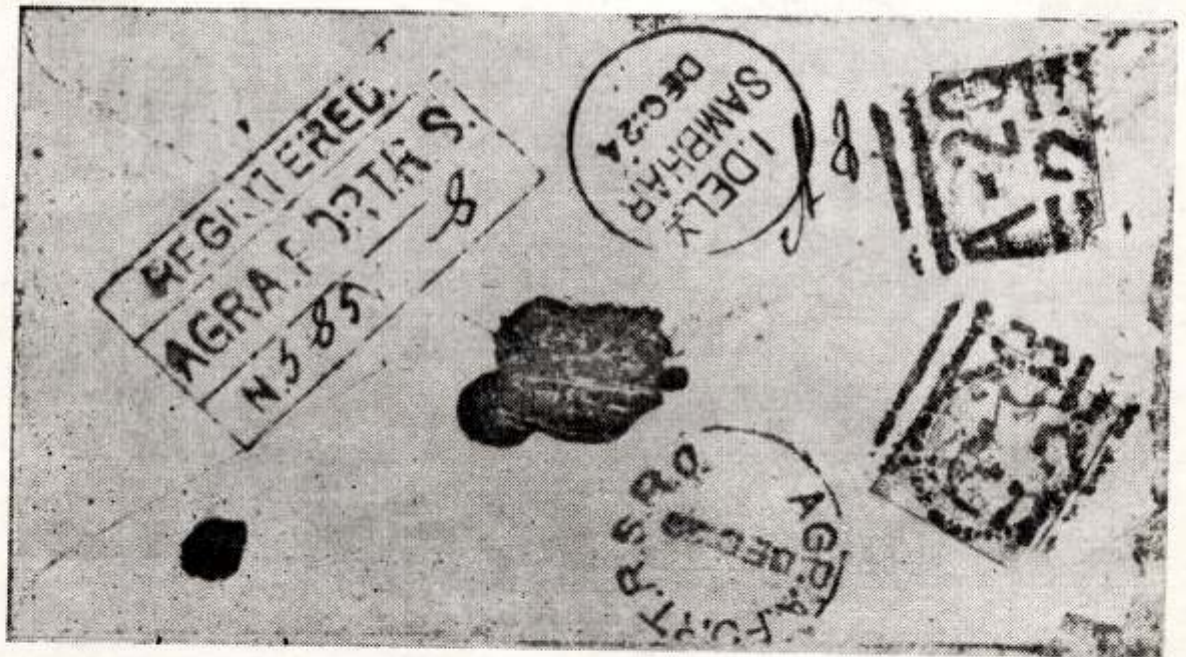


Fig. 34

The "No year Stamp" suggests the date between 1875 and 1883.

R.S. No. Type

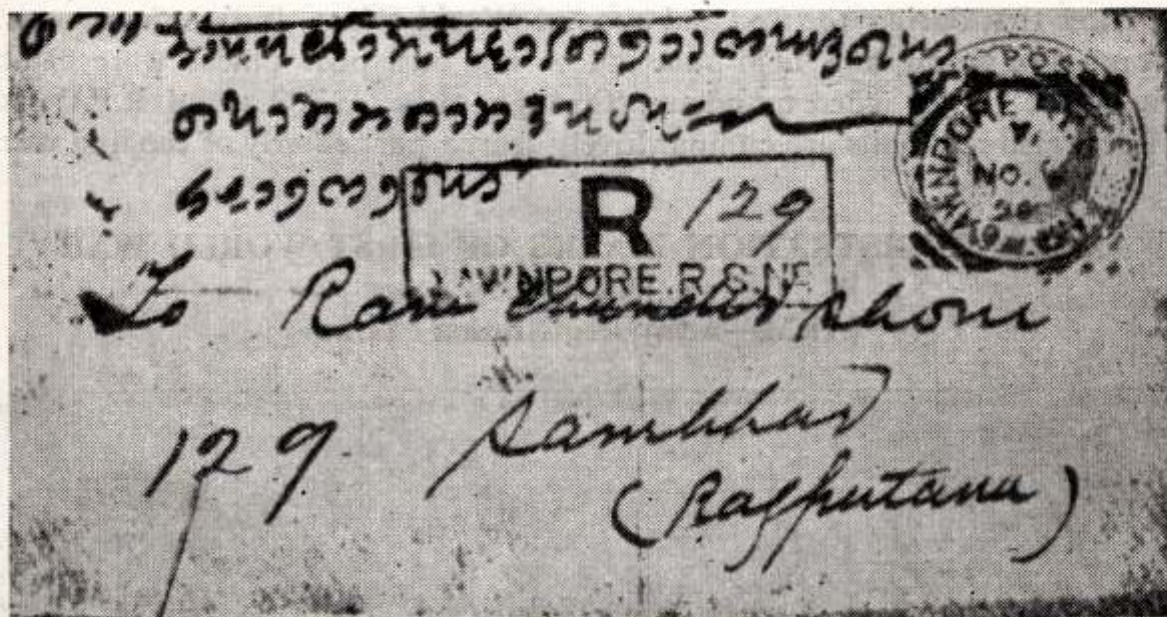


Fig. 35

The above is a sub-type of type 32a. The only unusual thing is that it is showing "R.S.No." in place of "Ry. Stn."

ADDITIONAL NAME OF POST OFFICE FOR TYPE 24c

A registered cover in my collection posted from TIJARA expands the list of post offices which were using type 24c. Previously recorded post offices were Bikaner, Woriur, and Seohara.

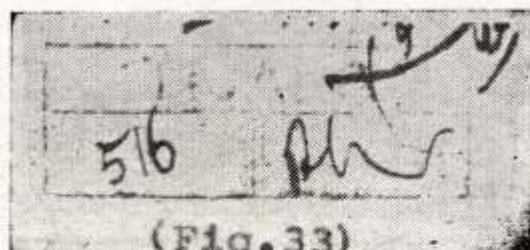


Fig. 36

The cover also shows a variety of 'Two thin lines' as dividing bar instead of a heavy bar as recorded by R.S. Nuttall.

SOME UNRECORDED ARMY REGISTRATION MARKS

We know that during the first and second World Wars, Indian Army was sent to different parts of world, and field post offices and base post offices were established. Many items of postal correspondence through these F.P.O.s and B.P.O.s can be found. But registered mails are comparatively scarce, particularly of the first world war.

ARMY REGISTRATION MARKS OF FIRST WORLD WAR

ARM-1

(ARM—Army Registration Marks)

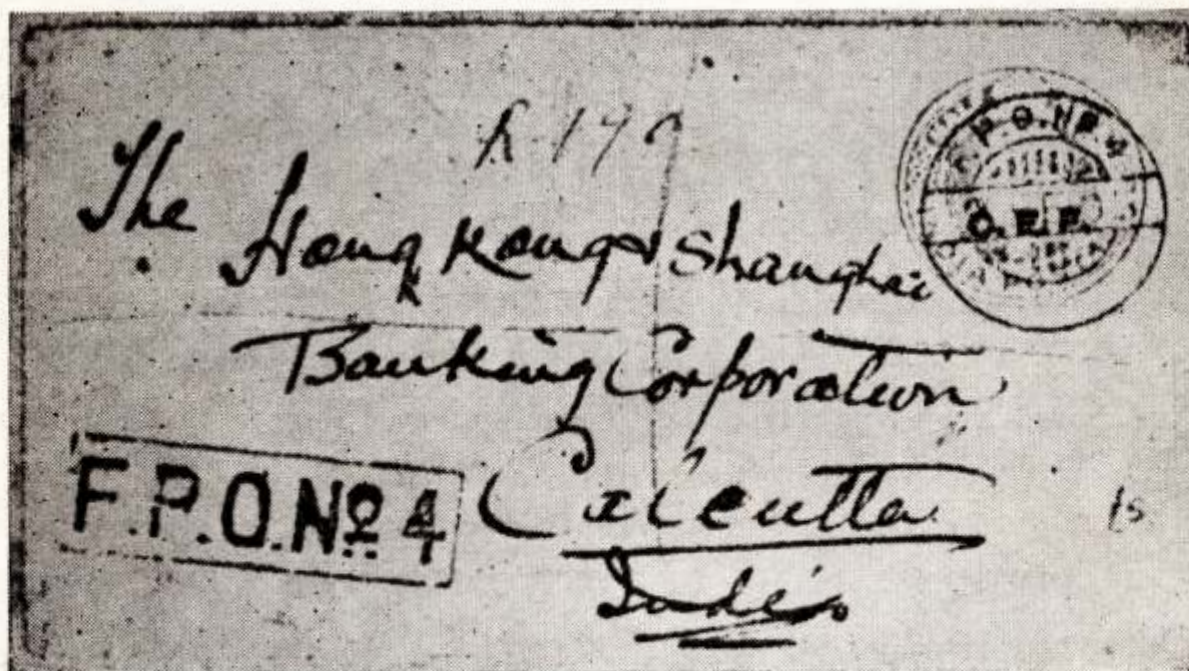


Fig. 37 (Front side)

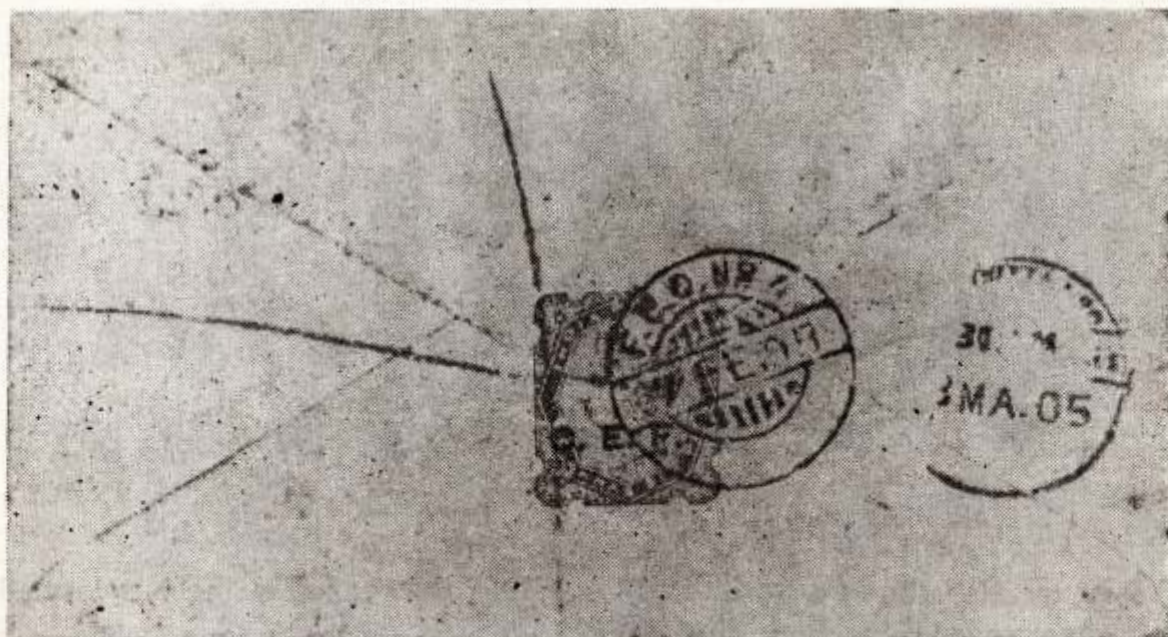


Fig. 38 (Back side)
(Courtesy: Shri H.C. Mehta, Ahmedabad)

An interesting K.E. VII stationery cover dated 7th Feb. 1905 overprinted C.E.F. shows F.P.O. No. 4 Registration Mark. (Figs. 37 & 38)
Size 38 x 11 mm.

ARM-2



Fig. 39

(Reference: *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps—1775-1950 Volume 39, Part III*)

Gyantse opened as a Field P.O. in 1904 and passed from British to Indian Administration in 1947. Type ARM-2 is earliest recorded in 1906 and latest in 1908.

ARM-3

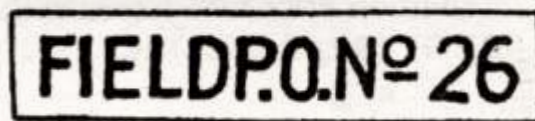


Fig. 40

(Reference: *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps—1775-1950 Volume 39, Part III*)

Yatung used the above Registration Mark the earliest recorded date is 1905 and latest is 1907.

ARM-4

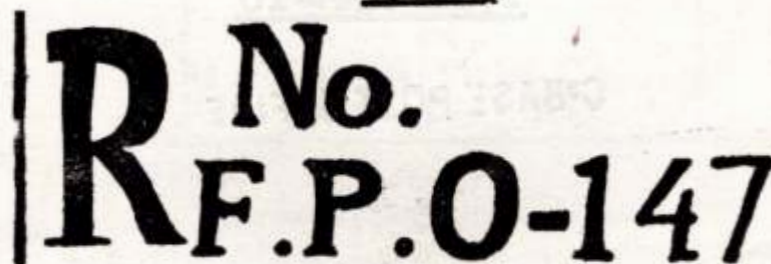


Fig. 41

(Reference: *Indian Army Post Offices 1939-1947 By Brigadier D.S. Virk*)

The standard type of Field Post Office date stamp and Registration hand stamps followed the pattern used by the Indian Army before, during & after the 1914-18 war.

Type ARM-4 is one of the examples of Registration Marks used by Regular Field Post Offices during Second World War. F.P.O. 147 number was allotted to an Indian Territory located F.P. O. period 15-12-42 to 8-4-1946.

Type ARM-5

F.P.O. R.10

Fig. 42

(Reference: *Indian Army Post Offices 1939-1947* By Brigadier D.S. Virk)

Like the regular F.P.O.s, improvised FPOs were usually issued with hand stamps for Registration. The above type ARM-5 shows one of them.

ARMY REGISTRATION MARKS USED BY BASE POST OFFICES AND DEPOTS

Like Field Post Offices, the Base Post Offices issued with date stamps for cancelling mail, name stamps etc. but in addition were also issued with a variety of date stamps, inscribed "SOR" (Sorting), "REG" (Registration) etc.

Type ARM-6

NO. 14A. B.P.O

Type ARM-7

BASE POSTAL DEPOT

Type ARM-8

NO 8 ADVANCE BASE POST OFFICE

Type ARM-9

NO 28 ADVANCE BASE POST OFFICE

Type ARM-10

C-BASE POST OFFICE

Fig. 43

The above examples of Registration Markings are some which were used by Base Post Offices during the Second World War.

Type ARM-11



Fig. 44

(Reference: *The Post Marks of ADEN, By M.H. Robertshaw*)

Type ARM-11 is also an example of ARM used by Base Post Office, I.E.F. ADEN.

COMMEMORATIVE REGISTRATION MARKINGS

(i) Coronation Durbar



Fig. 45

(Courtesy: Shri A.K. Bayanwala)

The registered cover above, dated 10th Jan. 1903, shows "CORONATION DURBAR No. 5 DELHI" Registration marking. This is obviously Nuttall type 25a, but with commemorative Post Office.

(ii) U.P. Exhibition Camp



Fig. 46

(Courtesy: Shri A.K. Bayanwala)

The above registration mark was issued from U.P. Exhibition, Allahabad. This is again Nuttall type 25a, but used for commemorative purpose.

(Next issue-Registration Cancellations)