
 * JAI HIND - 1947 *

by B. T. CHEVERTON.

Immediately after attainment of independence in 1947, a special postmark was introduced to celebrate the event. This was the "Jai Hind" cancellation. We could, perhaps, call it a commemorative postmark (the first of Independent India), or a Slogan (since it conforms to that pattern), but whatever the classification, its wide use shows it to be an All India type used in all head post offices.

Clearly the dies were made from a master drawing, but there are sufficient differences in interpretation to suggest that they were produced locally by the postmasters concerned. The cancellation was confined to large towns - no doubt to those in which machine cancellation was available. It appeared first on August 15th. 1947, and continued in use in some places until 1948.

Whereas the town names, which naturally vary in length, are contained in a circle constant at 24 to 25 mm. diameter, the tablet with the words "Jai Hind" in English and Hindi varied quite appreciably in general layout and in length. Examination of the 18 postmarks I list below shows length (taken at the centre) from 61 mm. (Bara Bazar) to 67 mm. (Bombay). The width of the middle section containing the words "Jai Hind" varies from 11½ mm. (Barrackpore) to 14½ mm. (Bombay and others). Naturally this variation affects the size of the words "Jai Hind". Surprisingly, perhaps, the overall height of the strike is constant at about 26 mm.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Length (mm.)</u>	<u>Height of central portion (mm.)</u>
Amritsar ...	65	12
Barrackpore ...	62	11½
Bara Bazar (Calcutta)	61	14½
Bijapur ...	64	14½
Bikaneer ...	62	13
Bombay G.P.O. ...	67	14½
Calcutta G.P.O. ...	63	13
Delhi ...	65	14
Girdikot ...	63	13
Hissar ...	64	12
Hyderabad ...	64	12
Hoshiarpur ...	64	13
Jodhpur ...	64	14
Kotai ...	62	14½
Madras G.P.O. ...	62	14
Neemuch ...	64	14
Kotah ...	62	14½
Saugor ...	64	12

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, a comparable commemorative mark appeared with the legend "PAKISTAN ZINDABAD". This was in one of the old boxed Slogan formats. Perhaps one of our Pakistan experts can tell us more..... certainly I would like an example from Lahore!
