

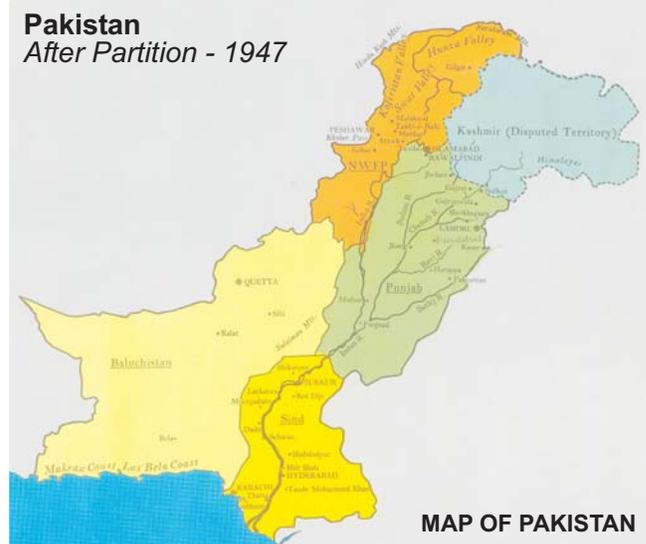
# Pakistan Postal History

by Iqbal Nanjee

*Postal Rates study till 1949...*

After the great struggle and movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah for independence, Pakistan was created as an independent nation for Muslims from the Muslim majority, eastern and western, regions of India on August 14, 1947. With the adoption of new constitution in 1956, Pakistan became an Islamic republic. A war in 1971 resulted in the secession of East Pakistan as Bangladesh.

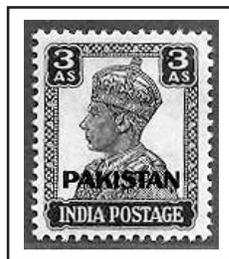
Pakistan is a sovereign country in South Asia, bounded by a coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south, it is bordered by India in the east, Afghanistan in the west and north, Iran in the southwest and China in the far northeast, while Tajikistan is separated by the narrow Wakhan Corridor in the north.



Before the partition, the British stamps were used in the region; therefore overprinting was done on the British Indian postage stamp of KGVII (1937-43) issues with the word "PAKISTAN" on October 1, 1947. Before machine printing was used handstamping was done and in some cases manuscript was applied on the stamps reading "PAKISTAN". The handstamping was also done in Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, & various regions.



NASIK-P1 (THIN)



NASIK-P2 (THICK)



KARACHI PRINT



HYBRID PRINT

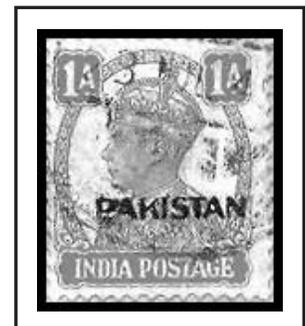


PESHAWAR PRINT

The first printing was done at Nasik and later eight plates were made at Lahore from the photographs of the Nasik overprints from which six plates were sent to Peshawar and two to Karachi. The four plates were used for low values at Peshawar and two for high values.

The hybrid prints were made in Lahore and thus have the same mottled surface as those for the Peshawar prints. The plate No.5 and 6 was used for the Hybrid prints. The printing was done in Karachi with similar ink to that used for Karachi prints. The early prints of Karachi have very close resemblance to Nasik.

The Karachi prints are separated by the rounded, fuzzy and uneven lettering from Nasik printing. Later battered prints were seen in the Karachi prints. The traces of local ink usage over lanna have been noticed in both, Karachi and Peshawar prints.



LOCAL PRINT

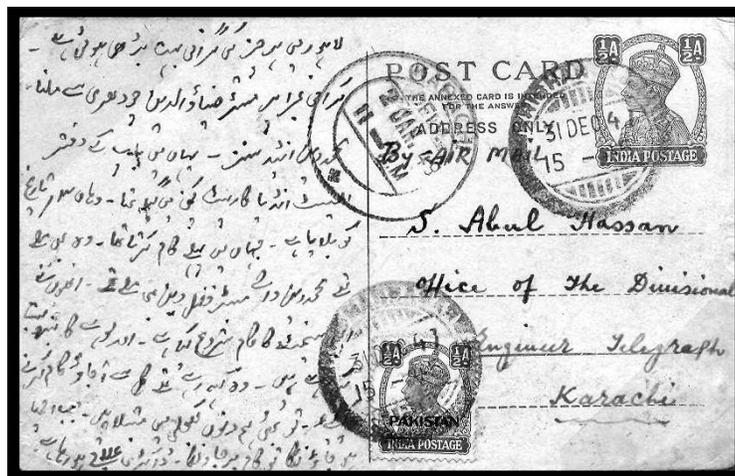
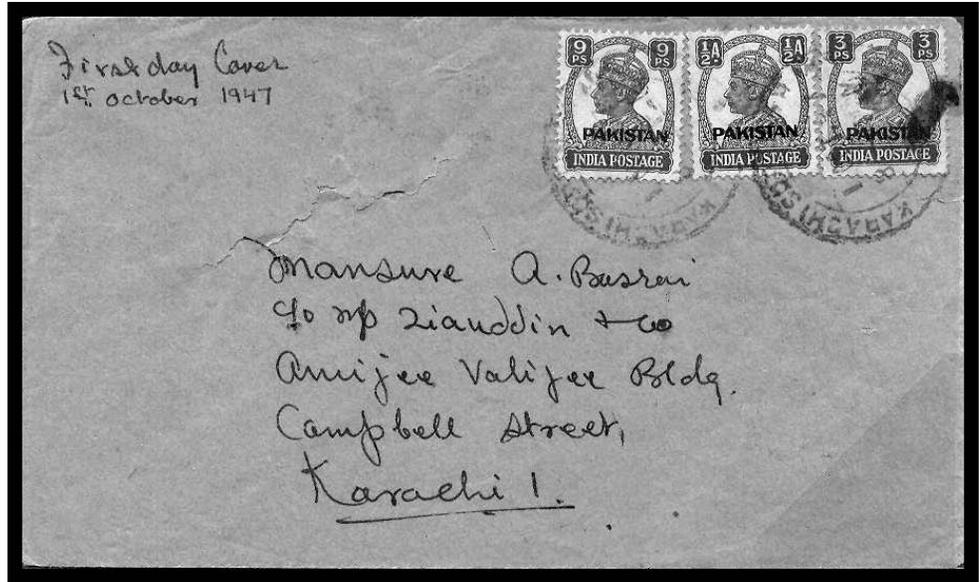
## Postal History:

After the partition, the new postal system was operated under the modified Post Office Act no VI of 1898. The office of the Postmaster General became operational at Lahore from 15 August 1947 and the British Indian stamps continued to be used without an overprint, as was practiced in other countries. The post office was part of the joint Department of Posts and Telegraph of the Ministry of Communications.

The government released the first set of adhesives on October 1, 1947 by overprinting "PAKISTAN" on the 1937-43 British India series of King George VI stamps. These issues were printed by the offset lithography at Nasik. Since these were printed at Nasik, place near Mumbai, India, this set consists of 19 stamps were known as the NASIK overprints.

*First Day usage of Nasik Prints, 3p, 1/2a, 9p, 1a, 1 1/2as and 3 1/2 tied by the double circle bridge datestamp of Karachi Airport dated October 1, 1947.*

The usages of Indian stamps were valid till December 21, 1947, in the Punjab & N.W.F.P. However, copies may be found being used in 1948 or even 1949, which were accepted by the Post Office, mostly passed accidentally. Shortly after the partition, very few examples have been recorded in manuscript "Pakistan" because it was necessary to overprint the Indian stamps for use in Pakistan.



Few example have been recorded bearing combination of overprint and unoverprinted "PAKISTAN" frankings on covers. This short period of 45 days starts from August 15, 1947 and ends on the issuance of first "PAKISTAN" overprint Issues, on October 1, 1947. During this period unoverprinted Indian stamps and stationery were used distinguishable only by postmarks.

Although the 1/2 anna KGVI postcards were overprinted with the word "Pakistan" on October 1, 1947, but the usage shown at left

without Pakistan overprint indicated that after 2 1/2 months the delivery of new machine Nasik overprinted postcards were not available at number of Post offices. This postcard was uprated with 1/2 anna Pakistan overprint (Nasik Thick Print) used from the very scarce location of Lahore and cancelled by the two strikes

of the double circle killer datestamp of Krishan Nagar dated December 31, 1947. It was delivered at Karachi on January 2, 1948, as shown on the same side.

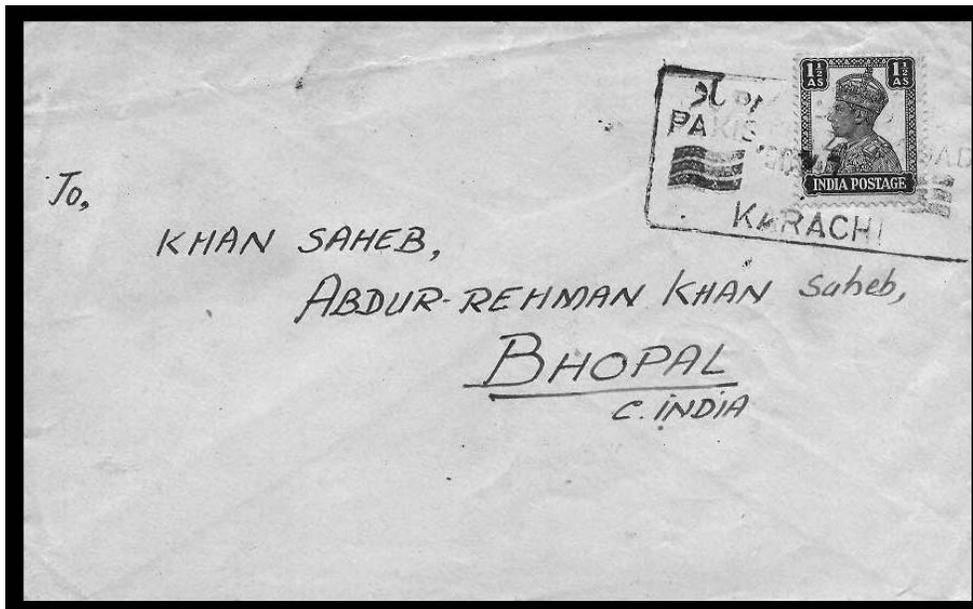
These British overprinted issues were also used in some Gulf states, both officially and unofficially. Officially these stamps were used in Muscat and Oman and its protectorate of Gwadar (located on Pakistan's Baluchistan coast) and Dubai. Muscat used these stamps for a period of only 3 months from 29 December 1947 to 31 March 1948. Gwadar used this issue and various other commemorative ones until 1958. Dubai used these stamps from October 1947 until the end of March 1948.

At the time of Partition, the postal system of some of these areas was run from Karachi, and therefore, became the responsibility of the new government. Pakistan became the 89th member of UPU- Universal Postal Union in November 1947 and after nine months, on 9 July 1948, first commemorative set was issued by the government on the first anniversary which consisted of 4 stamps.

Because of the prevailing confusion regarding the date of independence, the 1Rs. stamp was inscribed "15 August 1947" which was later corrected in the early 1949, by declaring 14 August as Independence Day. The first day cancellation for this issue was the country's first special pictorial postmark.

### **PAKISTAN ZINDABAD SPECIAL CACHET**

At the time of Independence Pakistan did not have their own stamps and stationery, therefore, Pakistan issued its own special slogan markings and Pakistan Zindabad was the first slogan marking of Pakistan, from various regions, right after the Independence on August 15, 1947.



The cover mailed from Karachi bearing Unrecorded type V of the Pakistan Zindabad / 15 AUG 47 / KARACHI special slogan marking from Karachi P.O. This cover was delivered to Bhopal (India) on August 20, 1947, as shown at the back side of the cover.

*This is the First Day usage of "Pakistan Zindabad" special frame cachet from Karachi. Less than 5 examples known to exist!*

The example at right from Gujrat on piece shows manuscript "Pakistan" in blue, tied by Unrecorded type V of the Pakistan Zindabad / Gujrat cachet. The combination usage of Pakistan Zindabad cachet and the manuscript stamps are Extremely Rare.



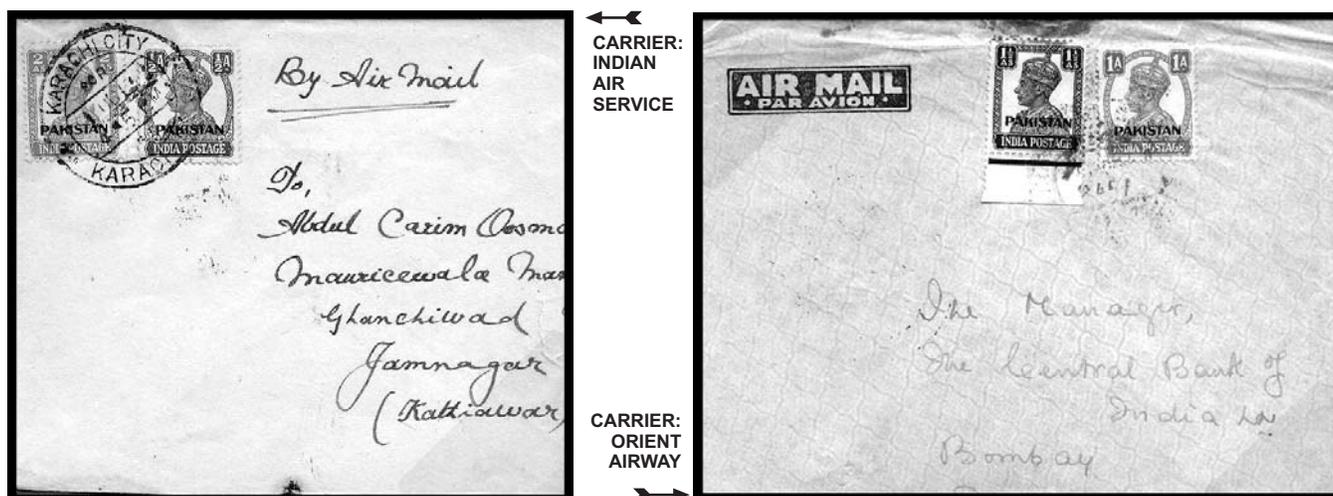
## Postal Rates:

Although the mailing system continued between Pakistan and India after partition however it was not so smooth. Therefore, from November 1, 1947 following Offices were used for Exchanging Surface Mail and for Accountable Articles:-

- \* Delhi for Lahore and Mcleodganj.
- \* Jodhpur for Hyderabad, Sind, and Bombay for Sea Mail to Karachi, for West Pakistan.
- \* Calcutta, Maldah, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Golakganj, Silchar, Agartala and Katihar for East Pakistan (Dacca).

The registered & unregistered Articles were exchanged directly by Offices and Sections in India including ordinary mail, in closed bags, vide DGPO Circular No.38 dated 31st October 1947. Dead Letter P. O. of India directly dealt with D. L. O., of Pakistan vide DGPO Circular No.47 dated 1st December 1947.

From 26th January 1948, Air Mail from Pakistan was dispatched for India only through Orient Airways which operated thrice weekly between Karachi to Calcutta. The BOAC Service between Karachi to Delhi was also operational.



The airmail rate from India to Pakistan remained unchanged. The Postal Rates remained same, as it was prevailing before 15th August 1947 (Inland Postal Rates) vide Postal Notice No.56 dated 26th January 1948. Before 1947, it appears that Air Mail to and from Pakistan was carried by Air India's by Madras Air Service. An airmail example above (left) franked with 2½a, KGVI from KARACHI to JAMNAGAR. The overprint "Pakistan" shows normal position. ***This is the first day use and one of the earliest airmail example known dated Karachi / 1 Oct 1947 and arrival Jamnagar dated Oct. 3, 1947 (carried by Indian Air Service). However, the other example at left used in March 1948 was carried by the Orient Airways.***

Pakistan was treated as a foreign country for the exchange of postal traffic, vide Postal Notice No.66 and No.67 dated 29th & 30th March 1948 respectively, with effect from 1st April 1948.

The main terms were as follows:

- A. Letters, Single & Reply Paid Postcards, Printed Papers, Business Papers, Sample Packets, & Blind Literature Packets was dealt as prescribed in Section III of the Indian P & T Guide.

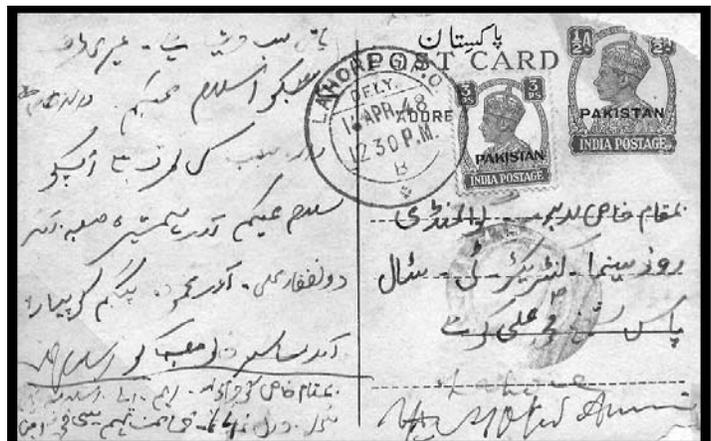
- B. Articles liable to Custom Duty was dealt as per Clause 206 of the P & T Guide.
- C. Registration, Express Delivery, Business Reply System, Money Order, Value Payable Post, Insurance and Parcel Services were available as per terms of Indian Inland Service and as prescribed in P & T Guide. Prepayment of Postage was compulsory.

The Postal Rates were as follows:

01. Letters : 3½ as (for 1oz., + 2 as., for every additional 1oz).
02. Postcard : 2 as., (for Single and 4 as., for Reply.)
03. Printed Papers : 9 pies for every 2oz.
04. News Papers : 1 ½a, (Inland Postal Rates was applied).
05. Business Papers : 3½ as., for a weight not exceeding 10oz.,  
and for every add. 2 oz.= 9pies.
06. Sample Packets : 1½ as., for 4 oz., + 9 pies for every additional 2oz.
07. Blind Literature Packets : ½ anna for every 2½ Lbs.
08. Business Reply System : The postage recoverable from the addressor on foreign postal rates.
09. Insurance : 5½ as.
10. Acknowledgment : 3 as., per article.
11. The Money Order, Air Mail MO, Telegraphic MO was treated in same manner as of Burma.
12. Value Payable Post articles were dealt as of other foreign countries.
13. Postal Order issued before 31st March 1948 was to be paid till 30th September 1948. No Postal order was to be accepted after 31st March 1948.
14. Air Mail Postal Rates inclusive of Postage were as follows:  
i) Letters 6 as., per ½ oz. (3½ as + 2½ as) & ii) Postcards 3 as each (2 as + 1a)

From April, 1948, the following revised rates of postage for inland, postcards and packets was changed (the same rates was applied to postcards and packets addressed to India, Ceylon, Aden, Nepal and Portuguese India).

*The example at right used on April 15, 1948 from Gujranwala shows 3pi affixed on front to meet the standard postal rate for postcard. Delivered Karachi next day.*



Due to change in postal rate in April, 1948, the half anna postcards were either affixed with 3pies or were surcharged by the "Nine Pies" dies. (right)

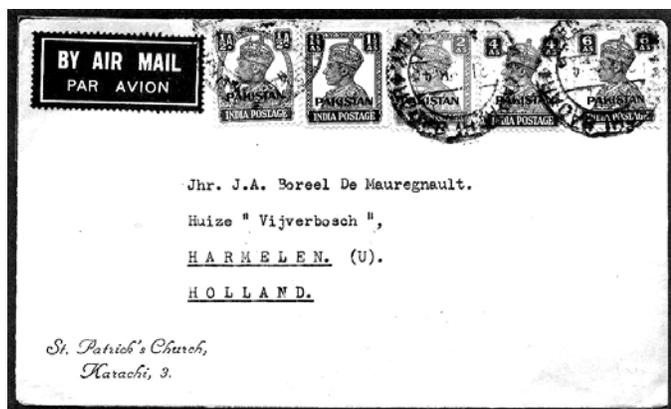
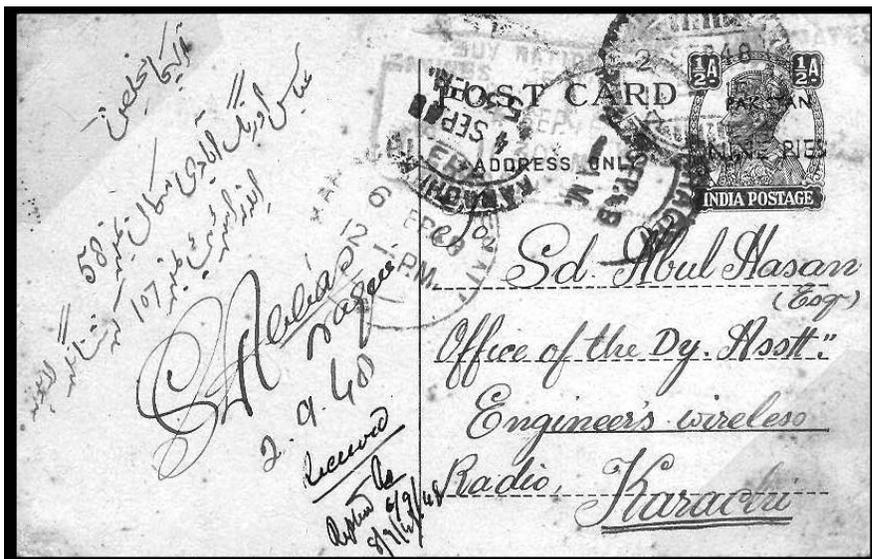
Similarly, the devalued 9pies with Half Annas postcards were re-used by obliterating the Half Annas with four bars.

On 15th May 1948, the above postal rates were reduced. The Indian Inland Postage Rates was applied on all classes of Postal

Articles sent from India to Pakistan, except Business Reply Envelopes and Cards, which were not allowed to be exchanged between the two countries and Parcel Service was to remain by registration only, vide Postal Notice No.13 dated 13th May 1948.

The Air Mail charges were also reduced and the new rates were as follows:

01. Letters and Packets  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as per tola or part in addition to ordinary postage  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as +  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as = 3 as.
02. Post Cards 9 pies per card in addition to ordinary postage  $9p + 6p = 1\frac{1}{4}$  as.
03. Money Order  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as per Money order in addition to the ordinary MO Commission.



Cover (A)



Cover (B)

*An exceptional combination of Nasik prints ( $\frac{1}{2}a$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}as$ ,  $2as$ ,  $4as$  and  $6as$ ), tied by the datestamp of Karachi dated April 21, 1948. Cover (A) shows the  $6as$  April 1948 letter rate for airmail and Cover (B) from Karachi to Bombay bearing  $2as$  franked with eight copies of  $3pi$  making up  $4as$  (Nasik prints), tied by the Karachi dated April May 18, 1948, shows the  $3as$ , airmail rate of May 1948, as letters and Packets  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as per tola or part in addition to ordinary postage  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as +  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as = 3 as per Postal Notice.*

Due to revision in Inland Postal rates of India the postal rates for Pakistan were again changed from April 1, 1949. The airmail fee remained unchanged and therefore by Air Letter or Packet was  $2 as + 1\frac{1}{2} as = 3\frac{1}{2}as$ , Post Card:  $9pies + 9pies = 1\frac{1}{2}as$  and MO to  $1\frac{1}{2}as$  irrespective of amount.