

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



12a Airmail Envelope Overprinted "PAKISTAN"

A Deeper Study

By M. Arif Balgamwala (T.I.)

While the Indian Security Press was handling a large demand for the India, an additional and urgent demand was pushed in by the Government of Pakistan. In the stock of adhesive stamps and postal stationery, Pakistan received the 14a Airmail envelopes with 'PAKISTAN' overprint. These had become useless specially the airmail rates were reduced to 12 Annas. The Security Press at Nasik, to whom Pakistan Government surrendered almost all the quantity (except a few retained for record purposes), surcharged the 14a envelopes with the same '12 As.' surcharge and returned them by the end of 1947 after the Partition took place. The '12 As' surcharged Indian envelopes were also in a current use before Independence. Here below is a deeper look at this airmail envelope temporarily keeping the 'PAKISTAN' overprint unconsidered.

THE PAPER / WATERMARK:

Watermark "IMPERIAL AIRMAIL" almost always appears inverted. Other variations are as follows:

W1. Without Watermark...	..	..	.. Less than 15%
W2. Two watermarks in one envelope.	..	..	.. Less than 5%
W3. Watermark also in the imprinted stamp.	..	..	.. Less than 2%
W4. Watermark upright as seen from front.	..	..	.. Less than 1%
P1. Paper reversed	..	..	.. Less than 2%

THE IMPRINTED STAMP:

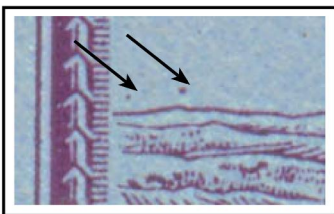
The imprinted stamp is in following colours:

S1. Purple	..	.. Normal
S2. Brownish Lake	..	.. Less than 5%
S3. Maroon	..	.. Less than 2%

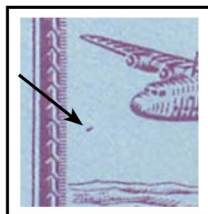
VARIETIES IN THE STAMP:

Some varieties have been seen in some envelopes which though unconstant, appear in about 30-35 envelopes.

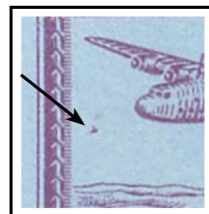
V1. Small birds in Sky		V4. Crown amalgamated into background.	.. (Rare)
V2. Large bird in Sky (I)		V5. Vertical cut on King's cheek. ..	.. (Rare)
V3. Small bird in Sky (II)		V6. Broken tail wing of plane. ..	.. (Rare)
		V7. Inner corner of 'D' (INDIA) swelled. ....	.. (Scarce)



V1



V2



V3



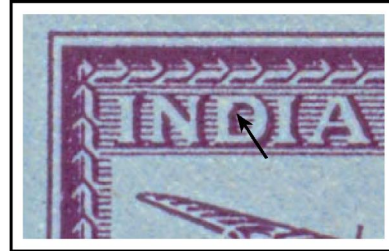
V4



V5



V6



V7

THE AIRMAIL LABEL

The Airmail label comes in four colours:

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| 1. Dark Blue | .. | .. | .. | .. | Normal |
| 2. Indigo | .. | .. | .. | .. | Scarce |
| 3. Blue | .. | .. | .. | .. | Very Scarce |
| 4. Bright Blue | .. | .. | .. | .. | Rare |

Other varieties that exist in the airmail label are as follows:

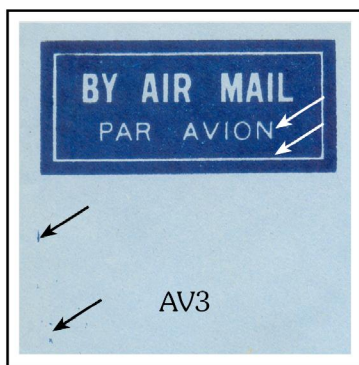
- | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| AV1. Flaws under left side of label. | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Scarce) |
| AV2. same as above but dot over 'AIR'... | .. | .. | .. | .. | (V. Scarce) |
| AV3. same as AV1 but colourless text & frame thin | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Rare) |
| AV4. Flaws at right of label. | .. | .. | .. | .. | (V. Scarce) |
| AV5. Dot above 'L' of 'MAIL' | .. | .. | .. | .. | (V. Scarce) |
| AV6. Right side of label shaved | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Rare) |
| AV7. Same as above but flaw SW of 'BY' | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Rare) |
| AV8. Left side of label shaved | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Rare) |
| AV9. Same as above but side rough | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Rare) |
| AV10. Dot below 'ON' and left of 'P' | .. | .. | .. | .. | (V. Scarce) |



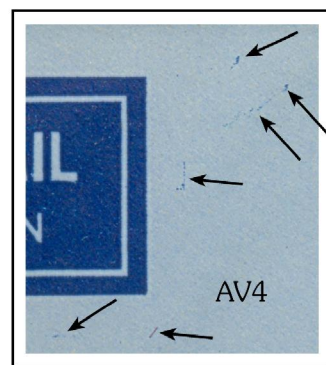
AV1



AV2



AV3



AV4



AV5



AV6



AV7



AV8



AV9



AV10

THE 'PAKISTAN' OVERPRINT ENVELOPES

In combination with the 'PAKISTAN' overprint any of the varieties listed in the previous pages, become true gems. Rarity of the 'PAKISTAN' overprinted envelopes has become even greater as awareness of the subject in general has increased several times in the past few years. The "PAKISTAN" overprinted items are more sought after and sell fast in the international auctions - if, and only if, anything does come for sale.

THE RECORDED VARIETIES IN THE OVERPRINT

"PAKISTAN OVERPRINTS / 1947-49" had listed the following varieties in the overprints. Nasik printing being excellent is generally thought to be free of any such variations but No, it is afterall a printing process handled by humans. The variations in the overprints are definitely very rare in occurrence and even greater in philatelic significance.

The varieties listed in "PAKISTAN OVERPRINTS / 1947-49" are as follows:

PA60	12a/14a	Nasik, Type 60 (with surcharge) Black	3000	2500
a.	"	" Second 'A' short	10000	8000
b.	"	" As above but right serif of 'T' also short	10000	8000
c.	"	" Fine break in the left leg of 'N'	10000	8000
d.	"	" Break in base serif of figure '1'	10000	8000
e.	"	" Overprint & Surcharge doubled.		25000
f.	"	" Pale greenish grey paper**	25000	
PA61	14a KGVI	Nasik, Type 61 (without surcharge)*	8000	



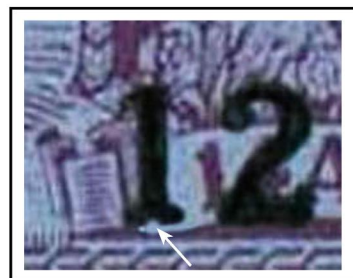
PA60a



PA60b



PA60c



PA60d

THE PRESENT MARKET VALUE

The original '12As' surcharged envelope of British India is selling in the market for no less than US\$15, though it starts at US\$8 or so on online auctions but never realizes less than \$15.

In comparison the 'PAKISTAN' overprint version is far less in quantity than the Indian counterpart and in combination with the varieties discussed in this article, it becomes a true gem. It is worth several times more with the normal overprint but with the varieties it is hard to say because they have not been highlighted yet.

ONE MORE VARIETY, IN THE SURCHARGE

Besides the "Break in base serif of figure 1" (listed as PA60d) and the Extremely Rare 'Double Surcharge' (PA60e), one more variety has been noted, of which a unique example is all that is known. The surcharge is much thinner than what is believed to be the normal thickness.



PA60e



Thin Surcharge



Normal Surcharge