

Bushire Postal Cards



Boushehr, Bandar-e-Bushehr, or Abu-Shehr (Father City), is a strategic port on the Persian Gulf about 750 kilometers south of Teheran, Iran's capital city, and about 300 kilometers southwest of Shiraz.

On August 8, 1915, a British contingent of expeditionary forces consisting of British Indian Army troops occupied Bushehr, and Major Arthur Prescott Trevor became the Commander of the Military Government on behalf of the British Government. The military occupation of Bushehr ended in mid-October 1915.



BOUCHIR (DÉPART)
16 VIII. 15

ابوشهر خروج

Earliest Postmark, the First Day of Issue postmark applied on the stamps with the BUSHIRE overprint.



BUSHIRE
Under British
Occupation.

An example of a stamp with the portrait of Ahmad Shah Qajar overprinted BUSHIRE Under British Occupation.

After the occupation of Bushehr, the name Bouchir (the French spelling) was anglicized to Bushire.

The existing stock of stamps and postal cards available at the post office was taken and overprinted Bushire Under British Occupation.

Although the study of the overprints and the settings of the stamps were done by the late Dr. Mohammad Dadkhah extensively, the study of the postal cards has been overlooked.

In this article, the focus is on the overprints applied to postal cards and their postal usage.

The Basic Postal Cards:

At the time of the occupation, two different postal cards were available. The 2 Chahis on 5Ch red with the portrait of Mozaffareddin Shah Qajar and the 5Ch red postal card with the portrait of Ahmad Shah Qajar. Both postal cards and the 2 Chahis overprints were done by the firm of Joh. Enschedé & Sons of Haarlem, Holland. The 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal cards were issued in 1910, and the 5Ch postal cards were issued in 1914.

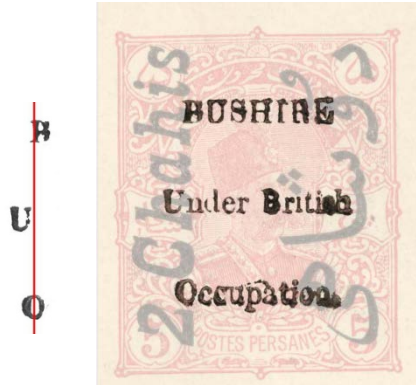


The available stock of postage stamps and postal cards at the Bushire post office were taken to the British Political Residency and overprinted BUSHIRE Under British Occupation by a small hand printing press. Leo Malcolm did the overprinting process at the British Residency.

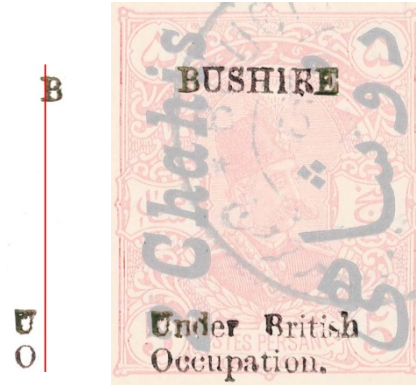


The overprints applied to the postal cards.

BUSHIRE Overprints applied to the 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal cards:



Persiphila Type I



Persiphila Type IA

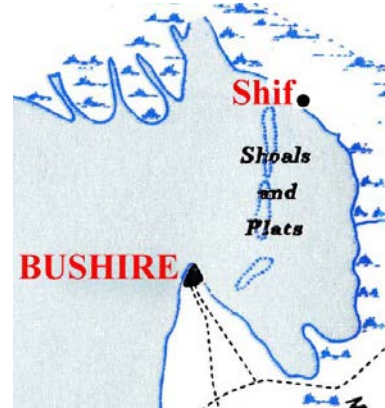
Two distinctive varieties of Bushire overprints are known on the 2Ch on 5Ch postal cards, as shown here. Persiphila type I is identified as type I, the three lines are equidistant, while Persiphila type IA shows the word BUSHIRE on the top and the two lines reading Under British Occupation with a distance of about 1.75 mm placed at the bottom.

The 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal cards were meant for local usage in Bushire and the surroundings.



*Fille juive.
Jüdisches Mädchen.*

October 15, 1915 – A postally used 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal card with BUSHIRE, Persiphila type I, overprint used locally in Bushire, with the picture of a Jewish girl.

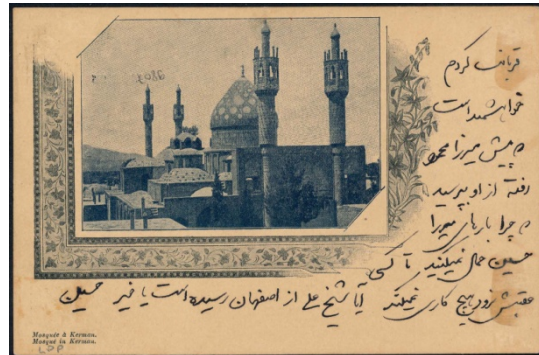


Map, showing the locations of Bushire and Shif.

October 15, 1915, a 2Ch on 5Ch postal card from Bushire to Shif, a city north of Bushire, as shown on the map.



Persiphila Type IA Overprint



View of the Mosque in Kerman.

Although the 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal cards were meant for local usage; however, few postal cards are known, franked with additional stamps used abroad. The following is a postal card with Persiphila type I Bushire overprint sent to London, England, additionally franked with a 1Ch and a 2Ch to make up the five Shahis postal card rate abroad.



October 11, 1915 - 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal card with BUSHIRE type I overprint sent to London.

It must be noted that in addition to the Iranian post offices operating at the time of the occupation, a British Indian post office was operating in the area using the stamps of India. The following 2 Chahis on 5Ch postal cards with BUSHIRE type I are mailed through one of these Indian post offices sent by Capt. William Ethelbert James to his wife in England.



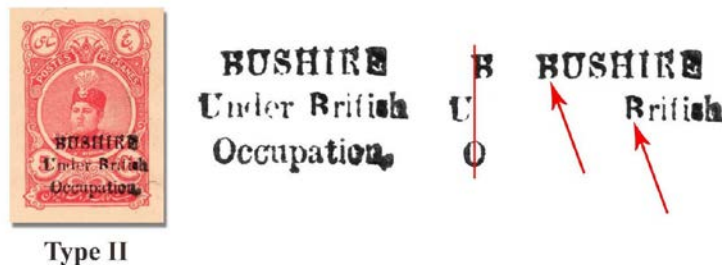
The note on the card, dated August 30, 1915, reads as follows: "No time for letter this week. Am still here likely to be for some time. I had that card sent from Karachi because there was no steamer from Bushire, don't know what made you think I had left. All well at Karachi when I heard some days ago. Much love to all E. (Ethelbert)".

The postcard rate abroad from the Indian post offices was 1 Anna. This postal card is franked with a pair of 1/2A green tied by BUSHIRF 30 AU. 15 (Indian) postmark.

5Ch postal cards:

The 5Ch red postal cards with the portrait of Ahmad Shah Qajar were overprinted with different types of BUSHIRE overprints, as they will be described below. Although the 5Ch postcards were meant for inland and foreign destinations, many of these 5Ch cards were used locally as souvenirs for collectors. Cards used abroad are very scarce.

The following are the various types of BUSHIRE overprints applied to the 5Ch postal cards.



Type II

Type II – Similar to type I but narrow distances between the three lines of the overprint and break at the bottom of letter B of British as well applied on 5Ch postal cards with the portrait of Ahmad Shah Qajar.



BUSHIRE
Under British Occupation. B
U
O

Type III

Type III – Letter B's have solid bases; a dot is within the letter U of Under.



BUSHIRE
Under British Occupation. B
U
O
→ BUSHIRE
→ Under British

Type IV

Type IV – Showing extra vertical lines next to B of British & U of Under, and letters of British are broken.



BUSHIRE
Under British Occupation. B
U
O British

Type V

Type V – The bases of the letter B are broken, and there is no dot in the letter U. This overprint is known on cards with additional albino overprints.



August 28, 1915 – 5Ch postal card sent to Kent, England with rare LONDON 29 SP 15 arrival postmark.



LONDON September 29, 1915 Arrival Postmark