

"Royal Star" Definitive Issue, 1921

Design of the previous commemorative set adopted for a definitive series with the same denominations. Stamp dimensions reduced an average overall size of $22\frac{1}{2} \times 28\frac{1}{4}$ millimeters.

Typographed • Line Perforated $11\frac{3}{4}$

Two Paper Types: Thin Hard Wove Paper and Soft Smooth Wove Paper
(In this Section, Thin Hard Wove Paper Unless Otherwise Mentioned)



10-Paisa

20-Paisa

30-Paisa

Cliché Types, 10p and 20p Only

10-Paisa Value, Type I

- Numeral 1 in value panel larger than the zero.



- Lettering in the upper center cartouche ends in a "u." (See illustration below.)



20-Paisa Value, Type I

- Lettering of lower line in top center cartouche begins at right with two "comma-shaped" letters.
- Cliché size: $23 \times 28\frac{1}{2}$ mm
- Lettering in the upper center cartouche ends in a "u."



During this period, a new system was introduced to handle the increased volume of inbound mail requiring postage due.

"Royal Star" Definitive Issue, 1921 • Selection of Period Cancellations

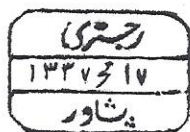
Cancellation/Postmark Illustrations are Generic • Illustrations Not to Scale

Standard Postmarks/Cancellations



Oval "Batil Shod" Cancellation

General purpose cancellation inscribed "batil shod" in top segment and town name in bottom segment.



Large Rectangular Registration Cancellation

Used on registered mail as a cancellation. "Rajistry" in top segment, town name in bottom segment.



Round Receiving Postmark

Used as a transit or receiving postmark. Also known used as a cancellation. Inscribed "re-seed" in top segment, town name in bottom segment.



Postage Due Handstamp

Used on incoming foreign postage due letters (in Kabul only). Three types are known: single-line, checkered, and no border.



"Qandahar" Oval on 10p, Type I, Smooth Soft Wove Paper



"Kabul" Registration on 10p Maroon Color Error, Type I

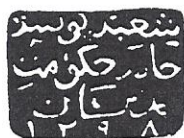


"Jalalabad" Round Postmark used as cancellation on 20p, Type I, Smooth Soft Wove Paper



"Postage Due" on 10p, Type I

Non-Standard Postmarks/Cancellations



Lamqahn "Special: Postmark

A special postmark created to handle mail from the Amir's summer residence nearby.



Aibak Provisional Postmark

Aibak (Semangan) is a very small town which probably did not have a post office until 1921. Black or violet.



"Lamqahn" on 20p, Type I



"Aibak" on 10p, Type I

"Royal Star" Definitive Issue, 1921 • Paper Types

Thin Hard Wove Paper

Paper Color is Brownish to Toned • Perforations Show Few Fibers



20p



10p, "Kabul"



10p, "Qataghan"



30p, Tête-bêche Pair

Soft Smooth Wove Paper

Color is White to Very Slightly Brownish • Perforations Show Many More Fibers, Appear Fuzzy • Printing Generally Clearer



10p, "Khanabad"



10p, "Qandahar"



30p

Ten Paise "Royal Star, 1921"



Salmon Rose



Pink



Carmine Red



Carmine



Lilac Rose

10p "Royal Star, 1921"

- Maroon Color Error on Cover ❖



Bhera, India to Kabul, Afghanistan, 1926. 10p (Type I), Maroon Color Error, affixed in Kabul to collect postage due. Faintly marked "ل" on reverse side (1 "dafda" = 10 paisa postage due). Kabul arrival, "1305 Sunbullah 27" (September 19, 1926).

Unique on Cover

10p "Royal Star, 1921" • Domestic Single-letter Rate

A domestic letter is one sent to a town inside Afghanistan or one sent to the Afghan Territorial Post Office in Peshawar or Chaman. Afghan Territorial P.O.'s had their own postmarks distinguishing them from Indian postmarks. Letters sent beyond the territorial P.O.'s would require additional postage, usually that of India. For this purpose, Indian postage was available in Kabul and the Afghan P.O.'s in India.



Qandahar to Quetta via Chaman, 1922. 10p (Type I), soft white wove paper, pays single-letter rate postage in Afghanistan only. Posted Qandahar "1340 Zou'lqa'd [1]8" (July 12, 1922).

Outbound Postage Due Letter



Turkestan to Kabul, 1927. 10p (Type I) on domestic letter, posted Turkestan, "1305 Jahdi 62" ["62" should be "26"] (January 16, 1927).

Late Use (Last Year of Use)

10p "Royal Star, 1921" • Beginning of "Postage Due" in Afghanistan

Use of the Postage Due Handstamp Begins Sometime in 1921, Exact Date Unknown •
Afghan Postage Due Rate Solely Based on Weight

Bhera to Kabul, 1922.

India Rate: ½ anna.

Afghan postage due: 10 paisa

Afghan 10p affixed to collect
postage due.

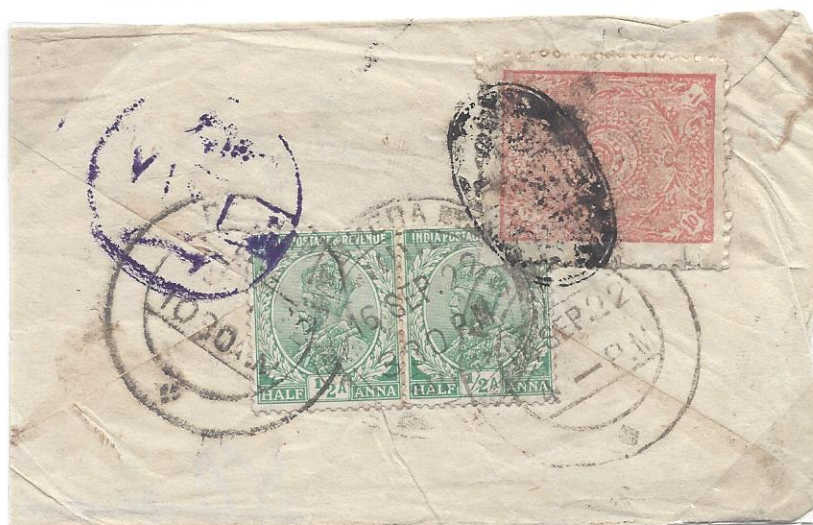


Bhera to Kabul, 1922.

India rate: 1 anna

Afghan postage due: 10 paisa

Afghan 10p affixed to collect
postage due.



Afghanistan Postage Due Rate for Inbound Mail					
Weight	"Dafda" (ج)	Rate	Weight	"Dafda" (ج)	Rate
Up to 5 grams	1 (١)	10 paisa	> 30 grams	6 (٦ or ٦)	60 paisa
> 10 grams	2 (٢)	20 paisa	> 35 grams	7 (٧)	70 paisa
> 15 grams	3 (٣)	30 paisa	> 40 grams	8 (٨)	80 paisa
> 20 grams	4 (٤)	40 paisa	> 45 grams	9 (٩)	90 paisa
> 25 grams	5 (٥)	50 paisa	> 50 grams	10 (١٠)	100 paisa

A typical postage due mark is as follows: "ج ٢" which is a **numerical amount** and the *Dari* letter "d" (short for "dafda"), the **weight**. "Dafda" marks were discontinued when Afghanistan became a member of the UPU in 1928.

Another Important Innovation: A System for Collecting Postage Due on Inbound Mail

10p "Royal Star, 1921" • New Postage Due Handstamp

For Use in Kabul on Inbound Mail Only



Single-line Border
"1300" (1921)



Checked Border
"1304" (1925)



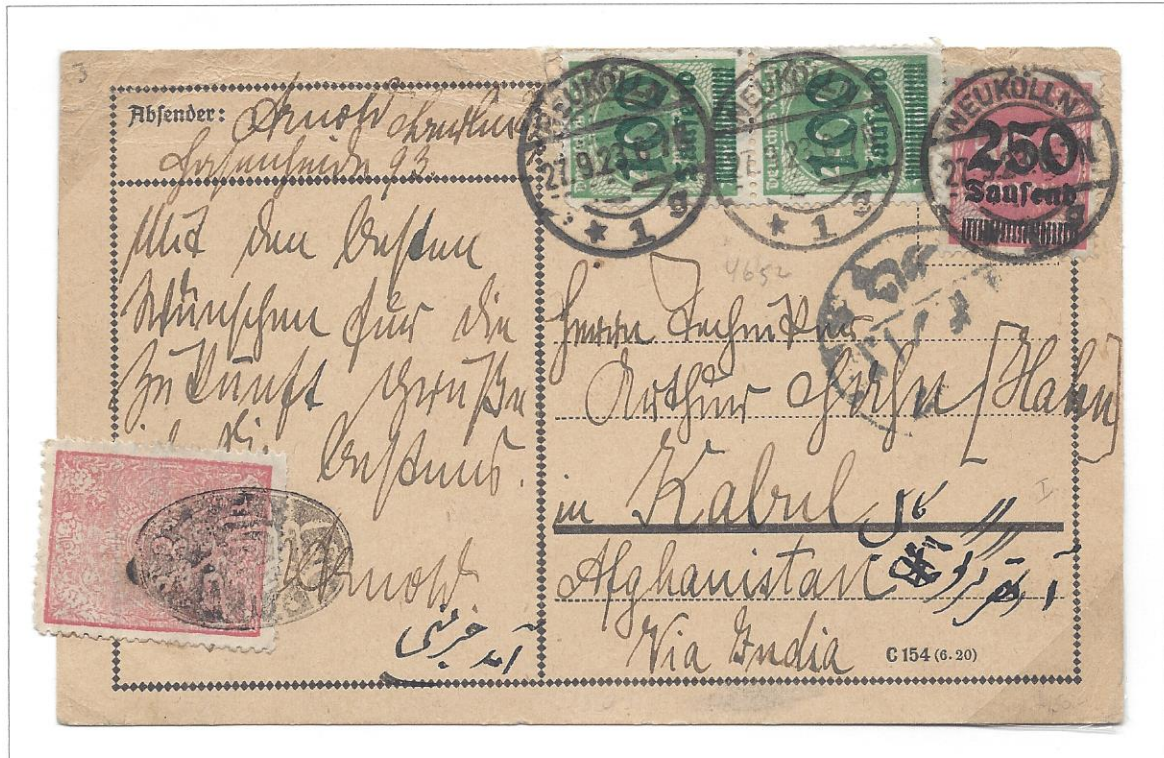
No Border
"1304" (1925)
(See Example Later in Display)

Bhera to Kabul, 1921. "Single-line Border" cancels 10p (Type I) on ½-anna India envelope posted Bhera, November 1, 1921. Arrival, Kabul, November 13, 1921.



Peshawar to Kabul, 1926. "Checked border" cancels 10p (Type I) on first-class letter posted Peshawar, October 18, 1926.

10p "Royal Star, 1921" • Inbound Postage Due,
Combination Frankings, Germany and India



Neukölln, Germany to Kabul, Afghanistan, 1923. 10p lilac rose (Type I) affixed to postal card from Germany to collect inbound postage due (10p for 1 "dafda").



India to Kabul, 1923. 10p (Type I) affixed to Indian postal card in Kabul (November, 1923) collects inbound postage due (10p for 1 "dafda").

10p "Royal Star, 1921" • Multiple and Combination Franking ❖



Milan to Italian Legation, Kabul, 1924. 20p Afghanistan postage paid by two 10p Pink (Type I) stamps added and canceled in Jalalabad ("1302 Dalwa 21" = February 10, 1924).

Only Kabul had the new postage due handstamp, thus, the use of the Jalalabad postmark to "cancel" the stamps added for postage due!

Only Known Example of this Kind of Usage from the Amanullah Period

Twenty Paise "Royal Star, 1921"



Lilac Brown

Deep Lilac Brown

Maroon

Deep Maroon
Over-inked Impression

Red Violet
Thick paper



Pale Reddish Violet

20p "Royal Star, 1921" • Domestic Registered Covers

*Mazar-i-Sharif to Peshawar
(Afghan P.O.), 1924.*

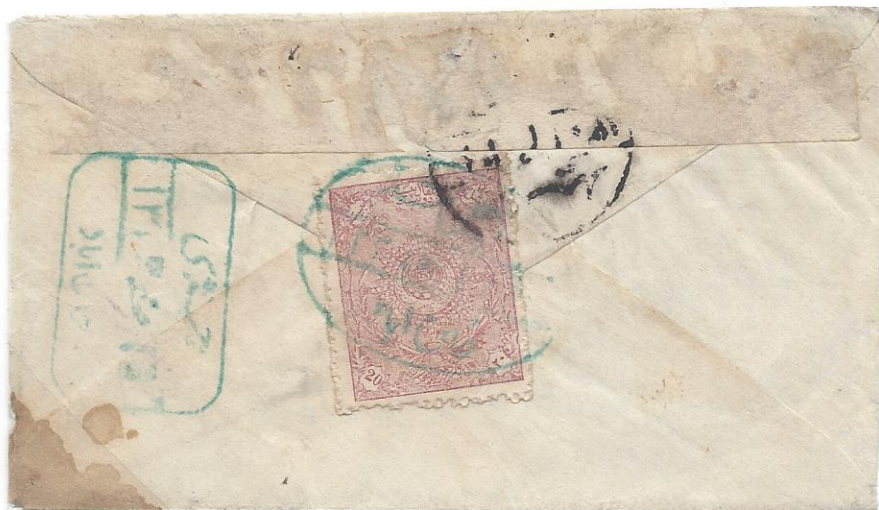
20p Type I canceled Mazar-i-Sharif and dated "1303 Saratan 2[?]" (June-July, 1924). Twenty paise pays the **single-letter registration rate**.



Khanabad to Kabul, 1922.

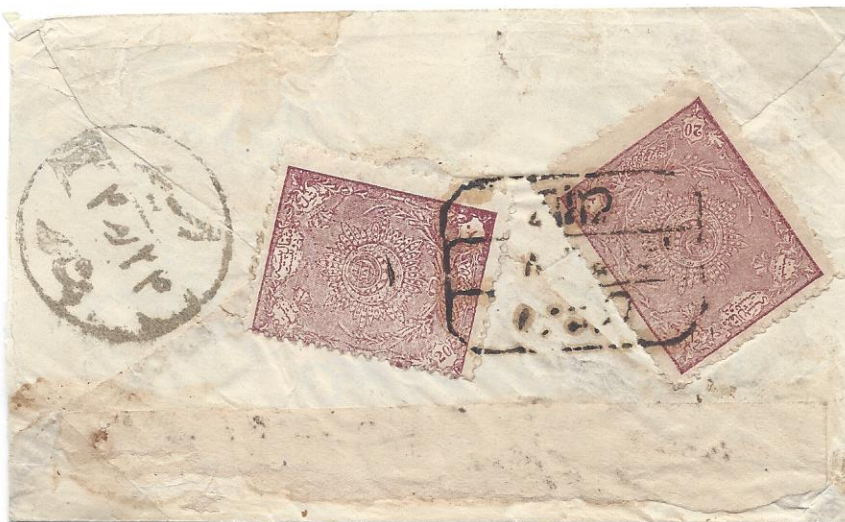
Registered letter posted Khanabad "1341 Safar 14" (October 6, 1922). 20p (Type I) pays **registration and single-letter rate**.

ex "Dietrich"



*Kabul to Peshawar (Afghan
P.O.), 1926.*

Two copies of the 20p (Type I) pay **registration plus the triple-letter rate!** Posting date illegible. Peshawar arrival, "[134]4 Ramazan 24" (April 7, 1926).



20p "Royal Star, 1921" • Multiple, Very High Franking ❖



Germany(?) to Kabul, 192?. Twelve copies of the 20p, Type I, collect inbound postage due (240p) on a portion of a periodical wrapper. A small fragment of the newspaper, in German, is visible on the reverse side.

Large Frankings Are Very Unusual and Were Rarely Used by Afghan Locals • Only Government Officials, Royalty, or Foreigners Could Afford These High Rates!

20p "Royal Star, 1921" • Italy-Afghanistan Combination Franking ❖



Firenze, Italy to Kabul, Afghanistan, 1922. In Kabul, 20p (Type I) affixed to collect postage due. Cover marked "۱۲" (= 2 "dafda" for 20p postage due).

20p "Royal Star, 1921" • Ceylon-Afghanistan Combination Franking ❖

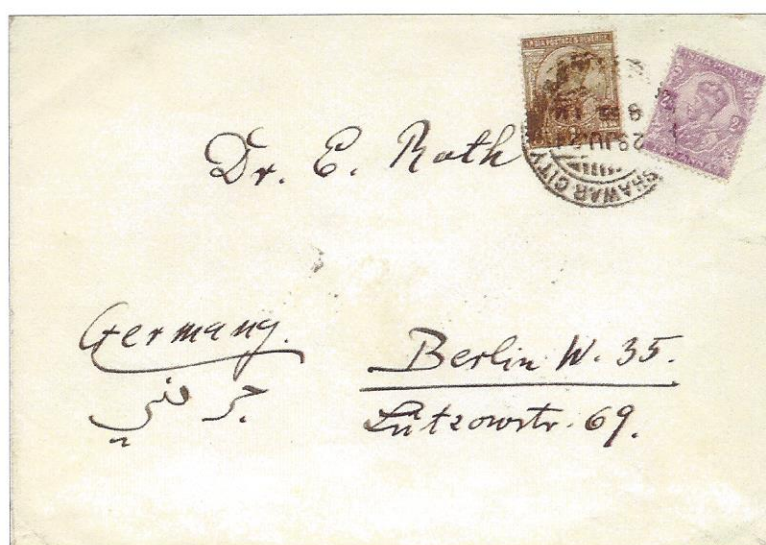


Colombo, Ceylon to Kabul, 1924. Posted, August 12, 1924. In Kabul on "1303 Sunbulah 6" (August 29, 1924) cover marked "۲" (= 2 "Dafda") then 20p (Type I) affixed to collect inbound postage due.

Only Known "Ceylon-Afghanistan" Combination Franking

20p "Royal Star, 1921" • Multiple Franking, Outbound Letter

Typically, outbound letters were routed through the Afghan Territorial Post Office in Peshawar or, less frequently, Chaman. Occasionally, as in this case, they would be transferred into the Indian postal service, where the Indian stamps would be canceled. Indian stamps were available in both Kabul and the extra-territorial post offices in Peshawar and Chaman for paying postage to destinations outside Afghanistan.



Kabul to Berlin, 1924. Franked with two 20p (Type I) values paying 40p quadruple-letter rate. Berlin arrival, July 23, 1924.

30p "Royal Star, 1921"

Singles are "Soft Smooth Wove Paper"



Deep Blue Green



Blue Green



Pale Blue Green



Forest Green



30p "Royal Star, 1921" • Single-franking

*Kabul to Peshawar
(Indian P.O.), 1923*

Posted Kabul, "1302(?)
Hamal 20(?)" (April 10,
1923). Franked with
**30p blue-green paying
triple-letter rate**. Indian
stamps affixed in Kabul
to pay postage in India.



Typical merchant's letter describing transfer of 25,000 rupees and who's involved in the transfer.

30p "Royal Star, 1921" • Registered Usages ❖



Peshawar (Afghan P.O.) to Kabul, 1923. 30p blue-green block of four and 20p (Type I) pair on piece canceled in Peshawar with Afghanistan rectangular registration cancellation dated "1341 Zou'lhajeh 29" (August 12, 1923). Rate is 160p (10p registration plus heavy—15 times—letter rate).

Multiple, High Franking



Mazar-i-Sharif to Peshawar (Afghan P.O.), 1922. 30p blue-green on soft smooth wove paper and 10p (Type I) pay 10p registration plus the 30p triple-letter rate. Cover dated "1341 Safar 9" (September 30, 1922).

Soft Smooth Wove Paper Varieties are Very Scarce

Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25, 1927

New plates for the 10p and 20p made. Designs redrawn, resulting in the production of the 10p, Type II and the 20p, Types Ia and II. No new plate prepared for the 30p.

- **10 Paisa** Originally issued in sheet of 20 (4 x 5). A second larger plate of 25 prepared.
- **20 paisa** Printed from new plate containing 25 subjects (5 by 5) of which eight were Type Ia and seventeen were Type II (positions 6, 9, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24, and 25 are Type Ia).
- **30 paisa** Printed from the original plate of 16 (4 by 4); colors changed.

Two Paper Types: Thin Hard Wove Paper and Soft Smooth Wove Paper
(In this Section, Thin Hard Wove Paper Unless Otherwise Mentioned)

Line Perforated 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ • 1922-1925



10-Paisa

20-Paisa

30-Paisa

Trial Perforation, Clean Perforation 11 • 1927

Ten Paisa Type II Value Only • No Covers are Known



10-Paisa Pale Red

In March 1927, a French expert was hired to supervise reorganization of the Post Office. It was he who probably recommended modernization of the stamp perforating equipment; new machines—single-line 11 gauge—were procured. Only the last printings of the 10p Type II were perforated. **Although, these are sometimes called the “Royal Star Second Reissue,” they are not a separate issue.**

"Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Cliché Types

Used

10-Paisa Value, Type II

- Numerals in value panel are of equal height. Within the panel, they are centered to the right.



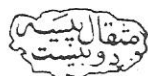
- Lettering in the upper center cartouche ends in a "d."



"Qataghan"

20-Paisa Value, Type Ia Eight subjects only in the sheet of 25:

- Cliché for this type measures 23½ millimeters by 29½ millimeters.
- Lettering in the upper center cartouche ends in a "u."



20p, Type Ia



Probably "Kabul"

20-Paisa Value, Type II Seventeen subjects only in the sheet of 25:

- Similar to Type Ia but extensively redrawn. In top cartouche, comma-shaped letters in bottom line moved to top line.
- Lettering in the upper center cartouche ends in a "d."



20p, Type II



Probably "Kabul"

20p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Cliché Types



1	2	3	4	5
Type II	Type II	Type II	Type II	Type II
6	7	8	9	10
Type Ia	Type II	Type II	Type Ia	Type II
11	12	13	14	15
Type II	Type II	Type II	Type II	Type Ia
16	17	18	19	20
Type Ia	Type II	Type Ia	Type II	Type II
21	22	23	24	25
Type II	Type II	Type Ia	Type Ia	Type Ia

Block of fifteen from lower part of sheet canceled with Postage Due handstamps (no border). Probably done like this to invalidate remainders.

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Shade Varieties



Deep Carmine Rose
Position 8
Dent in LR Margin
from Plate Screw



Rose-red



Rose Carmine



Pale Red



Carmine Rose



Red Rose



Deep Rose



Red

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Paper Varieties



Thick Hard Wove Paper
Dull Red



Soft Smooth Wove Paper
Salmon



Soft Smooth Wove Paper
Rose



Kabul to Peshawar (Indian P.O.), 1926. Ten paisa carmine rose (Type II) on soft smooth wove paper, pays postage in Afghanistan only. Canceled "Kabul." Peshawar UNPAID, January 21, 1926.

During this period, supplies of the "soft smooth wove paper" became low or were exhausted. Fewer examples are now seen.

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Sheet of Twenty, 1922 ♦

Rough Perforation 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ • Used Short Time Only • Replaced Sometime in 1924 with Sheet of 25
Carmine Shade • Note Extra Row of Vertical Perforations in Left Selvage



10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Plate Flaws

These Flaws Appear in Sheet of Twenty-five Only



Position 8
Dent in LR Margin
from Plate Screw
Rose Carmine



Position 9
Upper Left Corner Broken
Rose Carmine



6	7	8	9
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Position 6: Out of Alignment

Position 8: Dent in Lower Right Margin
(From Plate Screw)

Position 9: Upper Left Corner Broken



Rose Carmine • Strip of Four from Sheet of 25



Bombay to Kabul, 1925. Franked with 10p carmine rose, position 9 "Broken Corner," affixed to collect 10p inbound postage due.

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Slogan and Control Mark ❖

The control mark is small, so it may cover two to four stamps at most. The slogan is larger and can cover about six to eight stamps. Both were applied to the gum side of a small number of 10p sheets. Uyehara states that the slogan (with banner and national seal) served as propaganda to counteract anti-religious accusations made towards King Amanullah. Printing quantities are unknown but judging from the number of examples seen, it must have been very small.



"National Seal" Control Mark
Printed on Reverse of 10p Block
from First Plate (Early 1922)



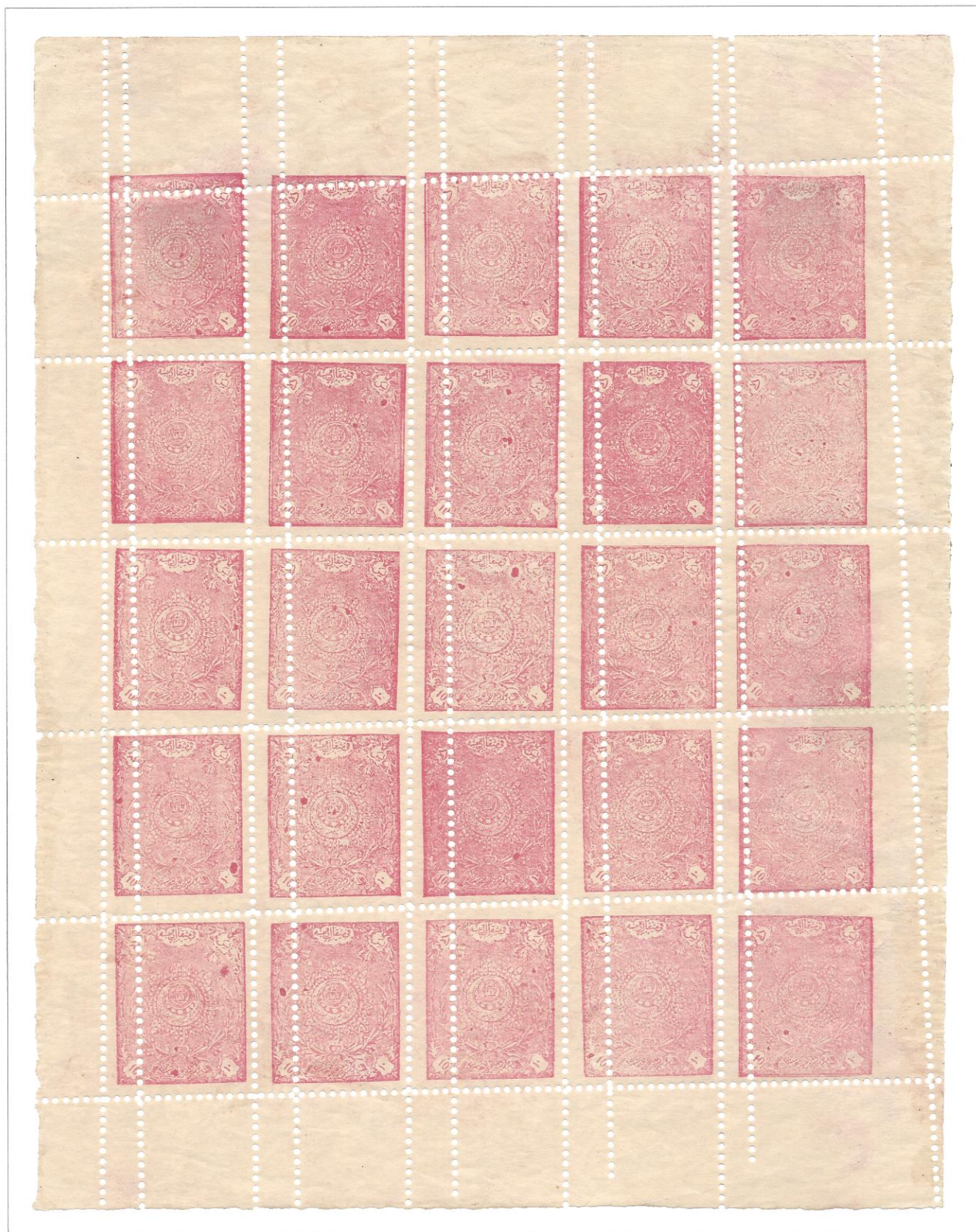
Religious Slogan Printed on Back of Block from Sheet of 25
(1924?) • For Translations of Banner and Bottom Line, See Below



Religious Slogan on 10p Block from Sheet of 20 (Late 1922[?]) • ex "Dietrich"
Translation (Disputed) of Text in Ribbon: *"Petition of a plaintiff, through the investigative judge to his Majesty."* (Uyehara, C-113) • Translation of Bottom Line: *"May I be a sacrifice to the Amirate of the Muslims, His Majesty, Light of the Nation and Religion."* (Uyehara, C-114)

"Royal Star Reissue, 1927" (Trial Perforation) • Double Vertical Perfs

Ten Paisa Type II Value Only • Complete Sheet in Bright Rose Red • Clean Perforation 11



10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Combination Frankings ❖



Baghdad to Kabul, 1924. Posted Baghdad, October 8, 1924. 10p rose added to collect Afghan inbound postage due (10p). No "dafda" mark.

Only Known "Iraq-Afghanistan" Combination Franking



Moscow to Kabul, 1924. Posted Moscow, December 11, 1924. In Kabul, 10p affixed to collect inbound postage due. No "Dafda" mark.

"Russia-Afghanistan" Combination Franking

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Multiple Franking on Wrapper ❖



Peshawar to Kabul, 1925. Posted Peshawar, May 18, 1925. Five copies of 10p deep carmine (Type II) collect 50p for inbound postage. ex "Light"

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Combination Franking ❖



New York to Kabul, Afghanistan, 1926. 10p rose (Type II) pair affixed to collect 20p postage due. Cover marked "JV" (= 2 "dafda" for 20p postage due). Posted New York, April 26, 1926. ex "Light"

Only Known "USA-Afghanistan" Combination Franking

10p "Royal Star Reissue, 1922-25" • Multiple, Combination Franking



Stuttgart, Germany to Kabul, Afghanistan, 1927. Posted Stuttgart, September 28, 1927. In Kabul, three copies of 10p Type II affixed to collect 30p inbound postage due. Cover marked "۳" (= 3 "dafda").

Max Hähnle Correspondence (German Engineer from Stuttgart, Germany) •
"Germany-Afghanistan" Combination Franking