

The Native Stamps of Portuguese India

Some Considerations

Joaquim Leote

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Author: Joaquim Leote

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Curriculum on date of 1st edition

JOAQUIM FURTADO LEOTE was born in Lagos on March 18th, 1913. He is now the best Portuguese philatelist at a competitive level and has achieved the highest classifications internationally.

A philatelist of the highest stature, whose name is on the list of "EMINENT PHILATELISTS", he is also known for the numerous philatelic articles he has published in speciality magazines.

He has been awarded the Medal of Honour by the Philatelic Club of Portugal and has been invested with the Portuguese medals of Aviz e Cristo and Military Honour. He has also received the Medal of Honour from the Spanish Government, and the Government of Brazil invested him with the rank of Officer of the President António Carlos Legion of Honour of the International Institute of Heraldry and Genealogy.

His "PORTUGUESE INDIA" collection has been awarded:

- Gold medal at the world exhibitions Philanippon 91, in Tokyo, and Polska 93 in Poznan;
- Great Gold medal at the world exhibitions Philexfrance 89, in Paris, and Granada 92, in Spain.
- Great Gold medal of Honour at the bilateral exhibitions Philaiberia 91 and Lubrapex 92. At present, this collection is competing in the Honour's class at World Exhibitions sponsored by the International Philately Federation (IPF).

From preface 1st Edition

Having established the necessary conditions to publish the study of the native stamps of Portuguese India, which is based on the first class collection of Captain Joaquim Leote and some of his work on these stamps, the National Philately Club (...) has begun a new phase of publishing.

We thought it best that this book should be written in two languages - Portuguese and English¹ - so that it could be appreciated abroad, where the stamps of India and studies into them are much sought after.

In order to emphasise the importance of this book and essentially to pay tribute to its author, the Eminent Philatelist, we considered it appropriate that it should be launched during Lubrapex 97, since the Philatelist (...) has philatelic connections with both Portugal and Brazil.

We hope that this book will be of use in the work of philatelists and, in particular, for fans of the first Portuguese India stamps.

António Alberto Fernandes de Sousa (...)

¹ The Portuguese edition is an other e-book

Foreword

The latest event in the António Fragoso Cycle - Encontros de Ovar brought together, among many other illustrious figures, two notable philatelists, the result of which can be seen in this book.

Our 'neighbour' from Vale de Cambra, Mr. José Manuel Ribeiro Nogueira, who for several years has honoured the Philatelic Section of the Ovar Choral Society with his presence, perceived that Captain Joaquim Furtado Leote had the precious knowledge that justifies, without a shadow of a doubt, the work that will guarantee the preservation of the unique knowledge of one of the most special areas of Portuguese philately - the Natives of India.

All we can take credit for is bringing together the two philatelists responsible for this book. However, it means much more than this to us:

It means that we have achieved the aims of the Philatelic Section of the Ovar Choral Society: to promote friendship among men and to spread philatelic knowledge.

Philatelic Group of the Ovar Choral Society

Brief Notes on the Postal Service in Portuguese India

After the conquest of Goa by Afonso de Albuquerque on 25th of November 1510, regular correspondence began between the Lisbon Court and the Viceroy of India. In those

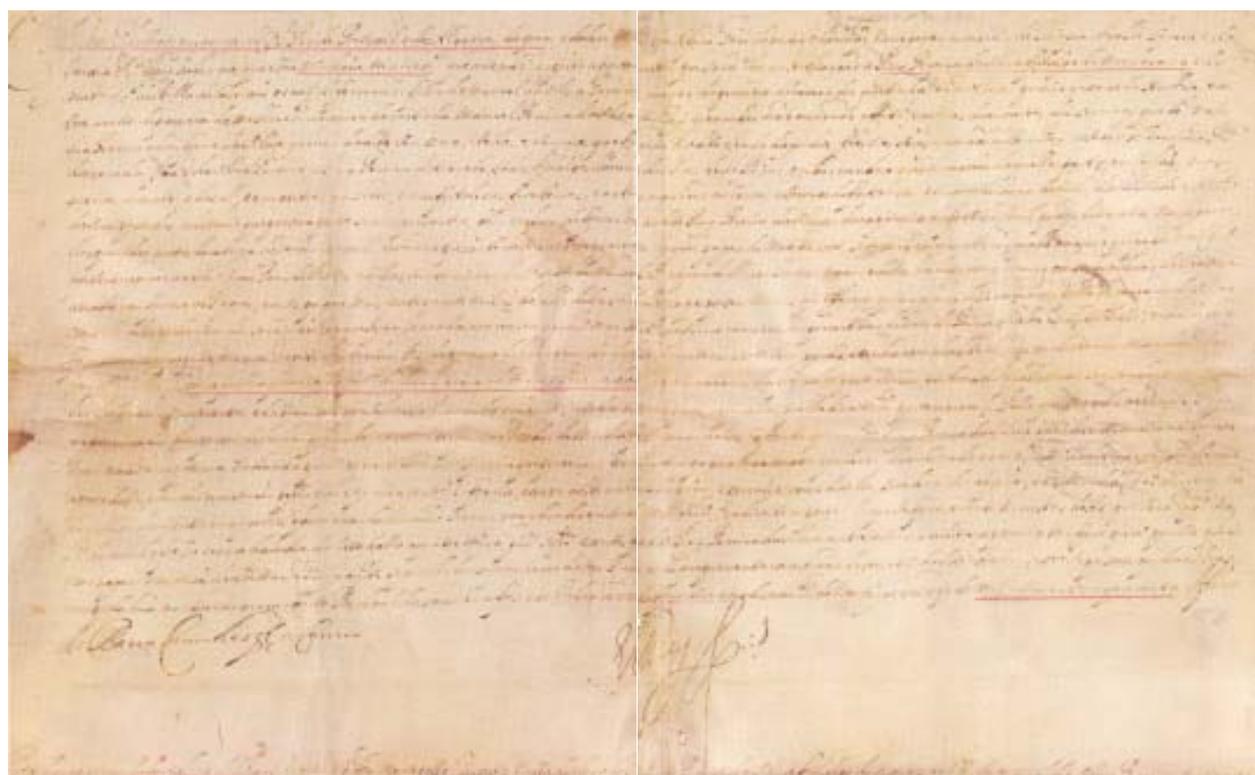


Fig. 1. PORTUGUESE INDIA - Royal letter of Filipe III of Portugal in which he grants to RUI PEREIRA DA SILVA "Noble of his House" the captaincy of the FORT OF CHAUL in India. He further orders that "To my Vice-King and Governor of the India parts and the inspector of the General finances to give him title of the post.". Written in parchment and dated from Lisbon 20th February 1640, being signed by the king himself "EL-REY FELIPE". In the back of the letter is written "SHIPPED IN 3 OF APRIL" AND REGISTERED IN GOA-INDIA - 23 OF JULY

days, correspondence was normally sent in triplicate so as to offset any losses caused by monsoons or pirate attacks. One copy would be sent on the flag ship and the other two would be handed over to the captains of the other vessels. The risks were so great that, at times, only one copy survived, as Ismael Gracias relates.

Correspondence was also transported over land and the oldest known example is a letter from King Philip II, dated March 1 1594. In the letter, addressed to Matias de Albuquerque, Viceroy of India, King Philip acknowledges receipt of a letter sent to him by land from Matias de Albuquerque, in 1592, on the subject of service.

A letter dating from 1605 was sent from His Majesty to the city of Goa and was carried overland by Baltazar Azaredo, noble and honest citizen, married, purveyor of a gunpowder house. The Royal letter from Philip III of Portugal, which is reproduced here (Fig. 1), dates from 20th February 1640 and grants Rui Pereira da Silva the Command of the Fort of Chaul in India.

However, it was only at the end of the XVII century that the



Fig. 2. PORTUGUESE INDIA, 1810 (March 4) entire letter of Capt Havilland, Madras Enginiers at Bangalore bearing manuscript "GOA, P.N.P." and "71/2" rate. That is the oldest letter known sent by Post. Piece extremely rare (118% of the original)

first attempt to *establish regular overland correspondence* between Portugal and Portuguese India was made. Filipe Nery Xavier, a writer on Portuguese India, says that the postal service was established in 1623 as a result of the royal letter of 22nd February 1622. This does not seem to have been the case, however, as Friar João da Trindade, a member of the Franciscan Order in the province of S. Tomé de Goa, presented a petition at the city courts in 1676, indicating:

“how convenient it would be for the royal service to have detailed news of affairs in the Indian States, without this news having to undergo the extensive voyage by sea.”

Unfortunately, Friar João da Trindade was unable to carry out the mission to which he had pledged himself because he died on leaving Lisbon. It was another priest, Friar Francisco da Encarnação, who had been General Commissioner in Jerusalem and in Goa, who continued Friar Trindade’s



Fig. 3. Letter from GOA, Oct 6, 1838 to Lisboa. Transit marks “INDES ORIEN. PAR ALEXANDRIE” and C.D.S. “ALEXANDRIE Dec. 7, 1838”. Note the portuguese blue port “600” (the biggest known) (125%)

unfinished mission overland.

In Goa at that time, it was said that:

“All the kingdoms of Europe sent their post by land to India except Portugal, which was the country most interested in doing so.”

But it was a century after the Franciscans’ proposal - in 1796 - that the Secretary of State, Don Rodrigo de Sousa Carvalho, wrote to the Governor - Francisco António da Veiga Cabral - saying:

“Her Majesty, Queen Maria I, has resolved that he, the Governor, should inform the Secretary of State as to the means by which to establish the transport of letters between India and the Realm.”

Two years later, in 1798, Veiga Cabral states that:

“For the time being, the postage of letters of the Realm should be registered in Goa at the same prices as those established in the Charter for letters from Brazil, and those from India to



Fig. 4. Letter from GOA, August 17, 1840 and registered under number 334. This rare piece shows “Mailing Fee Paid” and “GOA” both in red and the blue square cancellation October 10, arrived at Lisboa. (147%)

Portugal”

The charter referred to is that of January 20, 1798.

So many requests were made to the Court in 1838 that provisions were made for establishing a postal service from Lisbon to Goa and vice-versa. These requests led to an agreement between the Portuguese and British governments to establish the transport of post through the Mediterranean.

Efforts to improve the postal service continued. Thus, the royal decree of October 13 1838, states that:

“... and if correspondence were to go on the steamers from Gibraltar to Alexandria, and vice versa, it would be possible to maintain frequent contact with the situation of trade in India, and Your Majesty would be able to take any measures you might see fit ...”

In fact, we have a letter from Goa dated October 6 1838,



Fig. 5. Letter from GOA, June 8, 1842 to LISBOA, arrived August 6, and having paid the mailing fee the rate “300 Reis”. Registered under the number 289. We can see “P.P.” up “GOA” both in red, one of the oldest second mark known. (128%)



Fig. 6. Letter from GOA February 19, 1843 to LISBOA, arrived April 8, and having paid the mailing fee the right rate "360 Reis". Registered under the number 143. Note "GOA" in red without "P.P." and passing thru ALEXANDRIA. (113%)



Fig. 7. Letter from GOA to Lisboa, February 11, 1847. To be paid by the addresser "240 Reis" to the steam ship rate. In the back "GOA PP", as the cover below, used since 1842 to 1853. (138%)

with a postage of 600 réis, which came via Alexandria and was stamped in Lisbon on its arrival on January 11 (Fig. 3). Since this letter was brought by French ship, it shows that the Portuguese postal service needed to be improved.

On April 9 1840 a Commission was appointed in India to make a study into this. Its findings were presented to the acting Governor, José Joaquim Lopes de Lima.

Dated August 17 1840, we have a letter which came via Alexandria, stamped in red "Postage Paid/Goa"(Fig. 4).

Through a directive dated February 7 1841, the same Governor set up Goa's internal Postal Service, and divided it into 5 administrations.

These were:

The General Administration in PANGIM and the others at the barracks of MAPUÇÁ, MARGÃO, PONDÁ and BICHOLIM.

The post was transported three times a week.

After several complaints about how this service was run, an inquiry was made, and the resulting report of 17 March 1841 presented evidence of several irregularities.

There are also some letters in our collection from this pre-adhesive period which came via Alexandria, with different dates:



Fig. 8. Letter from GOA, Oct. 23, 1865 to Arrayolos, and arrived at LISBOA Nov. 28. Registered under the number 16. The rate "150 Reis" is from LISBOA to "Arrayolos". Note the red cancellation GOA P.P. - used since 1853 till 1871 - the last before the emission of stamps. (123%)

- 8 June 1842, with a postage of 300 réis (Fig. 5).
- 19 February 1843, with a postage of 360 réis (Fig. 6)
- 11 February 1847, with a postage of 240 réis (Fig. 7)

On the back of these letters from India, the stamp "GOA" appears in 3 different forms. The first of these, which is most certainly from 1824 to 1841, uses only the word "GOA", in sepia or black ink, and latterly, in red.

From 1842 to 1853, the word "GOA" is bigger than the one used previously and the letters "P. P." (postage paid), were placed below or above the word "GOA", in sepia or red.

Finally, from 1854 to 1871, also in sepia or red, the word "GOA" is inside a rectangle, and there is another identical rectangle below with the letters "P. P.". Both rectangles are inside a square (Fig. 8).

The Adhesive Stamp

The inefficiency of the Postal services of Portuguese India, as well as the constant complaints about it, drew the attention of the Lisbon Government and as a result, King Louis I, in the Legal Charter dated August 1869, published in the “Diário do Governo” nº 202 on 7th September 1869, determines that:

“the postal services and public stamps belonging to the State of India should be withdrawn from use ...”

and also:

“no expense should be spared on staff, material and machines for the manufacture of public stamps to be used by the people in the States mentioned...”

also in the royal decree of 22nd March 1870, published in the Government Bulletin for the State of India, nº 39, on 20th May 1870:

“ all documents at the Overseas Ministry concerning an organisation plan for the postal services should be sent to the Governor of the States of India”

On 9th February 1870, JANUÁRIO CORREIA DE ALMEIDA – Viscount of S. Januário – was appointed Governor General of the State of India (the 121st Governor). He arrived in Goa on 5th May 1870 and began his functions on the 7th of the same month, after being sworn in at the High Altar of the Bom Jesus Church, in Old Goa.

As he had brought detailed instructions from Lisbon, which



Fig. 9. Photograph of José Frederico d'Assa Castel Branco taken at the age when he drew the first adhesive stamp from the Portuguese India.

he must have studied and analysed on the journey, his first step towards organising the postal service was to appoint a Commission comprising CÂNDIDO JOSÉ MOURÃO GARCÊS PALHA, General Administrator of the Postal Service, JOAQUIM XAVIER DO REGO, and JOSÉ FREDERICO D'ASSA CASTEL'BRANCO, lieutenant of the engineers, to draw up new postal regulations which would replace the previous ones, which had been drawn up in Portuguese India in 1865.

In the meantime, he appointed the commission presided over by Joaquim Carlos da Silva Heitor, army major, and including José Frederico d'Assa Castel' Branco, engineer, and Jacinto Caetano Barreto Miranda, Community Administrator, whose aim was to make an inquiry into the Postal Services.

The inquiry revealed the irregularities in the postal service, and, on 25th July 1871, the General Administrator of the Postal Service and several other employees were consequently replaced, as can be seen from directive 270, published in Bulletin n° 57 on 25th July 1871. The head of the Inquiry Commission, the army major, Joaquim Carlos da Silva Heitor, was appointed acting General Administrator of the Postal Service.

Thus, in the space of only four months, the Postal Service in Portuguese India became regular and efficient, in sharp contrast to the system that had preceded it.

An article published on 18th July 1871 by P. G. MESNIER is very interesting in that it praises the Postal Services in Portuguese India. It says they are far better than those of British India, not only in administrative terms, but also from the point of view of public morale.

The Commission drew up the new Postal Regulations, which ran to 9 Chapters and 118 Articles.

The following is taken from these new regulations:

“The General Administration, based in PANGIM, will be divided into four administrations:

MAPUÇÁ
BICHOLIM
MARGÃO
PONDÁ”

It continues:

“which will have 13 immediately dependent delegations:

*PERNEM
COLUALE
SANQUELIM
CALANGUTE
AGOADA
GOA-VELHA
MORMUGÃO
VERNÁ
CHINCHINIM
QUEPEN
CANÁCONA
SINQUEM
MARDOL”*

Also from the Postal Regulations:

“Art. 22 - The stamps will represent the values of 10, 20, 40, 100 and 200 réis, and consist of the corresponding colours: black, red, blue, green and orange with the designation “SERVIÇO POSTAL - ÍNDIA PORTUGUESA”.

Art. 32 - The post office that receives correspondence with stamps attached shall cancel them using a special oil-based ink stamp.

1 - This ink stamp will be somewhat larger than the stamps themselves and it will bear the mark of the postal service that cancels it.

2 - The General Administration will be identified by the number 1 and each of the four administrations of Mapucá, Bicholim, Pondá and Margão will have the numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

3 - For the same purpose, the 13 delegations will be identified with alphabetical letters from A to M in the order in which Art.

4 establishes these delegations:

*A - PERNEM
B - COLUALE
C - CALANGUTE
D - AGOADA
E - SANQUELIM
F - MORMUGÃO
G - MARDOL
H - GOA-VELHA
I - VERNÁ
J - CHINCHINIM
K - QUEPEN
L - SINQUEM
M - CANÁCONA”*

In continuation of the work carried out by the Commission which had been appointed for the task, the Governor General, through Directive nº 284, published in the Bulletin of the

State of India, nº 63, on 16 August 1871:

“...establishes the bases of the new Postal Service and orders stamps of 10, 20, 40, 100 and 200 réis to be made and put on sale with the corresponding colours of black, red, blue, green and orange respectively.”

“no letters, journals or other correspondence will be sent through British India unless they are stamped with the corresponding stamps of the British Postal Service, except those that will be carried through Portuguese territory”.

As a result of this Directive, the Junta da Fazenda Pública of the State of India orders the Press of New Goa to produce stamps, and the following are printed:

10 000 stamps of 10 réis
20 000 stamps of 20 réis
5 000 stamps of 40 réis
3 000 stamps of 100 réis
2 000 stamps of 200 réis

According to José António Ismael Gracias, in his book “MEMÓRIA HISTÓRICO-ECONÓMICA SOBRE OS CORREIOS DA ÍNDIA PORTUGUESA”:

“The stamps were designed by the engineer Assa Castel Branco, the plates by the smith Goindosó, in the former Municipal Guard, and the printing done by Silvestre de Sousa, typesetter of the National Press.”

Thus:

The Governor General of the State of India, through Directive nº 319, published in Bulletin nº 75, on 26th September 1871, orders the new Postal Regulations to be put into force from October 1 1871.

As a result of this, by order of the General Administration, the first edition of adhesive stamps for public use in the State of Portuguese India were put on sale on this date. As they were made entirely within the territory, they are known, in the Stamp World, as “NATIVES OF INDIA”.

The Natives of India and their Issues

The *first issue* to be put into use is an upright rectangle with small arabesques in the corners inside which, written in white on a coloured background, are the words “SERVIÇO POSTAL” on the upper part, and “INDIA PORT” on the lower part. They are separated by two designs made up of four small lines forming a cross.

The inside of the oval has a background of 33 vertical lines, which do not touch the edges of the oval, thereby forming a white border which skirts the inside of the oval itself.

What happened at least twice was that the chisel or burin used to engrave the 33 lines very superficially scratched the white border, as we can see between the “D” and the “I” of “ÍNDIA” and between the “P” and the “O” of “PORTUGAL”.

On the vertical line inside the oval at the bottom, the word “REIS”, is written in Roman characters (Fig. 10).

The value of the stamp was added in a second printing, in the same colour as the stamp.

The first issue has the following values:

- 10 réis in black (Fig. 10)
- 20 réis in dark carmine
- 40 réis in blue
- 100 réis in green
- 200 réis in ochre (Fig. 11 and 12)

They are printed on highly calendered **fine paper**, which makes them rather fragile, and they are perforated 16-18, but in an irregular pattern.

It is commonly believed that the perforations would have been made with toothed rulers, made of ivory or iron, which



Fig. 10. 1871 - 10 reis. Ex. Admiral Bridges. Only unused multiple known



Fig. 11. 1871 - 200 reis. Only multiple known

Fig. 12. 1871 - 200 reis. Ex Admiral Bridges. From Margão to Macau - Nov. 27th 1872. Only "200 reis" on cover known.



would have been placed, teeth down, at intervals between the stamps on a previously printed sheet. The rulers would then have been hit with a mallet so that the teeth would pierce the paper.

The printing plates would have been made of lead or tin, from the punch of Jenardana Goindozó, and then nailed onto a wooden board which would have been used for printing. There were 100 stamps per sheet.

However, this does not seem to have happened seeing as a wooden board of this size would have warped with continuous printing and may even have cracked. What is more, there are various anomalies which would be difficult to explain if each sheet had been produced from just one printing.

Obviously, this is only the case with the main printing and not the printing of the figures for postage rates.

Thus:

We have a strip of three stamps, with the rate of 40 réis, in blue, from the 2nd issue, on thick paper, in which the intensity of the colour blue is clearly different on the three stamps.

In our collection we also have some pairs of stamps of various rates, in which one of the pair has a normal colour while the other has been printed twice.

How can such anomalies be explained if there was only one, simultaneous printing of the 100 plates?

As we are unable to explain this, we therefore venture that: Is it not possible that printing was done stamp by stamp, just as it was in Lisbon at that time?

Was it not in this way, already aligned and equally spaced,



Fig. 13. 1871 - 300 reis.

that the well-known Portuguese stamps of King Louis I, known as the straight band type, were printed?

The postage rate of the “NATIVES” was added after printing, manually one by one, and until we know better, this is what we believe.

The issue and sale of the 1st issue of stamps had been set for September 1 1871, but for reasons given by the acting General Administrator of the Postal Service, the Governor of India, in directive 294, published in Bulletin no. 67 on August 29th, we find that:

“In view of the considerations of the acting General Administrator of the Postal Service that it will be impossible to put the new stamps into service on the 1st of September next, as determined by directive 284 of the present month ...; ...the aforementioned postal system will come into operation on 1st of October next”.

Thus, on Sunday, October 1 1871, the stamps were issued and put on sale.

In view of the new organisation of the postal service, we are led to believe that the stamps sold out and, naturally, postage rates were high.

Even before the adhesive stamp was introduced, there was clearly a need for it since we have a letter from the time of the fixed stamp with a postage rate of 300 réis, and others with rates of 350 and 600 réis.

Therefore, shortly after the first issue was released, the Governor General of Portuguese India, in Directive no. 321, published in Bulletin no. 85 on November 3 1871, stated that:

“As there is a clear need for higher rates, the National Press will print rates of 300, 600 and 900 réis in the colour purple”.

Evidence suggests that this order was not entirely carried out and that only one rate was created and printed, which was that of 300 réis.

At this time, in the middle of November 1871, together with this 300-réis stamp, some of the more common stamps, or those already sold out, were also re-printed, this time on thicker paper.



Fig. 14. 1871-2 - 10 reis. Ex. Admiral Bridges. Proof and the only unused multiple known.

Was this paper used because the original paper was no longer available, or because it was seen to be better and less fragile?

We do not know.

The perforation also changed to 13½.

On this **thick paper**, besides the 300-réis stamp printed in a purple-brown colour, (Fig. 13) there was also a second printing of stamps with rates of 10 réis in black, 20 réis in dark carmine and orangey-red, and 200 réis in ochre (Fig. 12).

The 600-réis stamp has never been seen and the examples there are of the 900 réis are highly doubtful and, according to João Augusto Marinho, who has one in his collection, they must be “genuinely fake”.

According to Carlos George, the 600 and 900 réis stamps cannot have been printed because the 2nd issue was already well underway and it already included these rates.

In fact, this must have been what happened, since we have in our collection a letter from Goa dated 6th December 1871, franked with a red 20-réis stamp from the 2nd issue. This



Fig. 15. 1871-2 - 40 reis. Ex. Gonzalez Garcia. The biggest block known. (78%)

suggests that this rate at least was in use and it is illogical that, in such a short space of time (Directive no. 321 is dated November 3rd 1871) it would have been possible to prepare the dies to print two issues, especially as we believe that our letter is not from the first day of issue, as this would have been six days earlier.

As a result of all this, and the fact that we had occasion to study the vast documentation in the possession of Colonel Guedes de Magalhães, we are convinced that the rates of 600 and 900 réis do not exist in the 1st issue or its 2nd printing.

However, since anything is possible, especially as there was an official document which established them (directive n^o 321), there is nothing to guarantee that examples of these rates may not one day be found.

If this happens, and their authenticity can be proved, such examples can only be considered "SPECIMENS".

News of the first adhesive stamp of Portuguese India was announced to "stamp maniacs" (remember that, at the time, "timbromanie" was the name for Philately) by J. B. Moens, a Brussels stamp dealer, in the magazine "Le Timbre-Poste", number 12, page 27.

The announcement was accompanied by a fairly true reproduction of the black 10 réis stamp, which he gave this appraisal:



Fig. 16. 1871-2 - 100 réis. Ex Gonzalez Garcia. The biggest block known. (79%)



Fig. 17. 1971-2 - 40 reis. Tête-bêche 40 reis

“Le timbre se distingue par sa laideur et son execution des plus détestable; c’est même ce qui à été produit de plus mauvais jusqu’a present. Sa grande laideur cependant ne nous deplai pas trop: elle plaide en faveur de son authenticité, et lui donne un cachet tout local. Nous ne serions pas éloigné de lui donner la grande naturalisation parmi les timbres vrais”

Time confirmed Moens’ prophecy. In fact, the “NATIVES OF INDIA”, despite being ugly and plain, or perhaps because of this, have made their mark on PHILATELY as the most interesting and beautiful specimens in the stamp world, in which they are highly valued.

Continuing to provide public information, Moens, on page 47 of n° 125, of January 1873, presents the relation of stamps issued in Portuguese India in this way:



Fig. 18. 1871-2 - 40 reis. Double “40”

“1ère ISSUE - 1ère TYPE

Chiffre dans un oval a 32 lignes verticales; papier mince uni, percé en points sur ligne:

- 10 réis noir gris*
- 20 réis rouge vermillon foncé*
- 40 réis bleu terne*
- 100 réis vert-jaune pâle*
- 200 réis jaune-olive*
- 300 réis ?*
- 600 réis ?*
- 900 réis ?*



Fig. 19. 1871-2 - 10 reis. Ex. G. Garcia. The biggest block known. (89%)

*Même type, percé 13 ½ en points sur ligne
300 réis brun violet*

But before that, on page 35 of n ° 113, of May 1872, he had explained that:

“Tous les timbres que nous avons eus étaient piqués 16, sauf un 20 réis piqué 13 ½ et un autre, même valeur, avec le piquage 12 ½”

He also acknowledges the issue of another stamp with a rate of 10 réis, as on page 44 of n° 114 of June 1872, he writes:

“Les timbres piqués 16 se sont rares. Les derniers 10 et 20 réis étaient piqués 13 ½ ...”.

Since Moens was a contemporary of the first issue of the “NATIVES” and published a monthly magazine on stamps, it is extraordinary that he fails to mention the existence of 600 and 900 réis in the issue, and only talks about the 300 réis with a perforation of 13½.

It is even more surprising that the Belgian dealer failed to mention this, or was unaware of it, since he explains that he was in direct contact with M. J. CAMPOS, Director of the Goa Postal Service, who sent him examples of all the stamps that were issued.

From this first issue, we know of a letter franked with two different stamps, both in black, one of which has the rate of 10 réis, for which black was the normal colour, while the other has the rate of 40 réis, which should be blue.

For the 100 réis, we know of the emerald green variety and also of a stamp that has the 1 written the wrong way round.

On 12th December 1871, José Joaquim Macedo e Couto, Division General, became Governor, and held this post until May 10th 1875.

In December 1871, a new issue of stamps went on sale - the **second issue** - which has the following characteristics:

A background of 44 vertical lines touching the oval, the word “REIS” in Norman characters, all the letters of the word service are the same size and the decorations that separate the caption “SERVIÇO POSTAL” and “ÍNDIA PORT” are



Fi. 20. 1871-2 - 10 reis. Tête-bêche. The only unused strip of three.



Fig. 21. 1871-72 - 20 reis.
A. Ex Abecassis. The biggest unused multiple known. (92%)
B. Ex Sotto Mayor. The Only used multiple known.

made up of 5 points which form a cross. It was printed on rather calendered, **thick paper**.

It consists of the following rates:

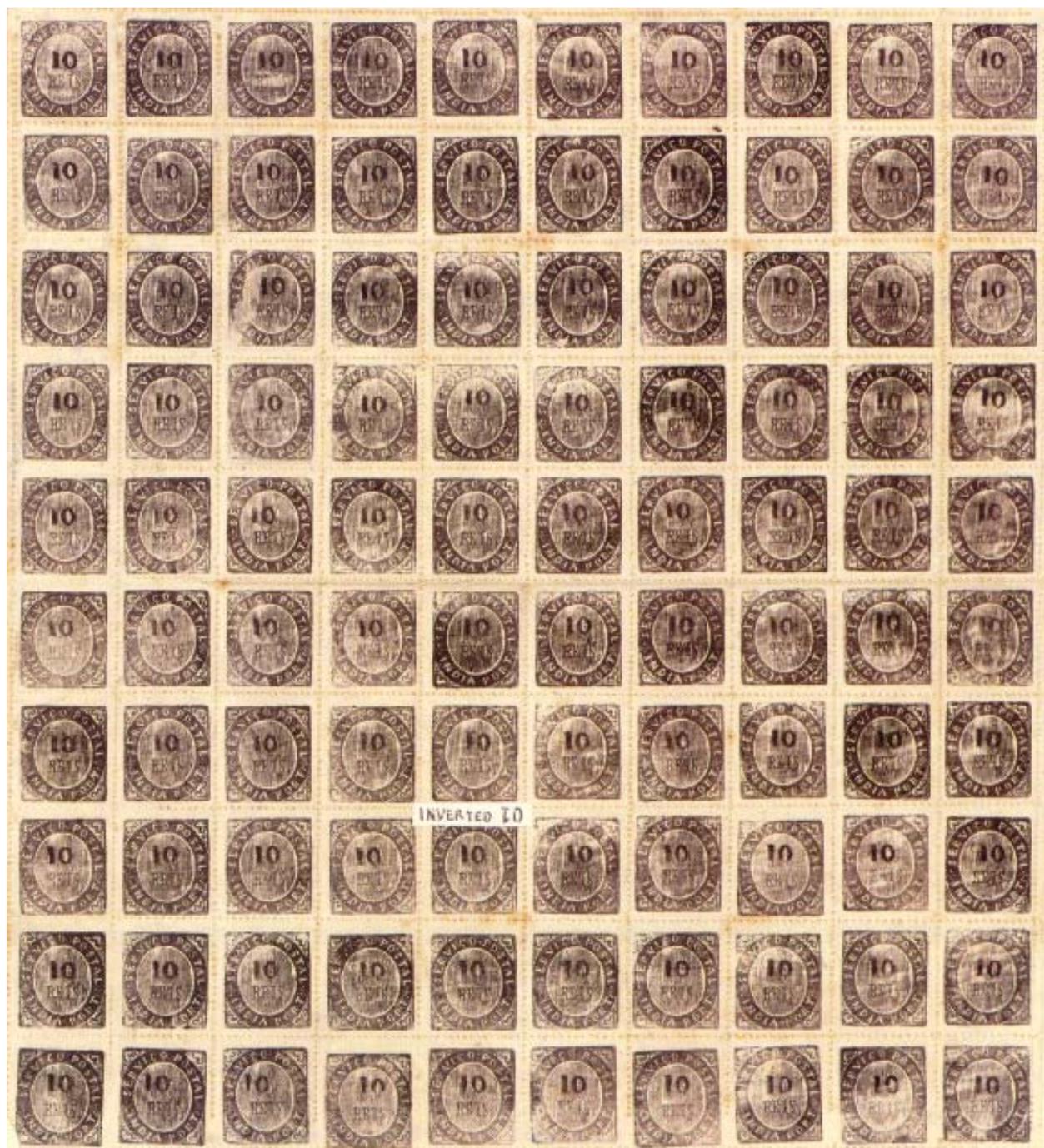


Fig. 22. 1873 - 10 reis. This is the only sheet known in the first 13 emissions without overprint on the "Native" stamps.



Fig. 23. 1873 - 20 réis. Ex. Gonzalez Garcia. The biggest block known. (73%)

- 10 réis in black (Fig. 14)
- 20 réis in red
- 40 réis in blue (Fig.15)
- 100 réis in green (Fig. 16)
- 200 réis in yellow
- 300 réis in purple
- 600 réis in purple
- 900 réis in purple

From this issue on thick paper, some rarities are known, in particular double printings of the values on the 10, 20, 40 (Fig. 17), 100 and 600 réis rates.

There is a 40 réis blue “Tête-bêche” in this issue, which, according to Moens, on page 27 of n° 124, January 1873, was first mentioned by M. A. ROTHSCCHILD, together with a 20-réis stamp on blue paper. Equally as rare, and of particular note is the double printing of the value on the 40 réis blue (Fig. 18).

The Brussels dealer tells us more about this issue in his journal:

Nous avons rencontré au 2° type, um timbre fort rare. C'est le 100 réis, vert-bleu, imprimé sur papier burelé gris et présentant en filigranne des lignes obliques croisées formant losanges. Ce timbre à le perçage actuel 14.

So far, only one example is known, which belonged to Count



Fig. 24. 1873 - 900 réis. Ex. Abecassis. The biggest block known (90%)

Fig. 25. 1873 - 10 reis. A & B. Double "10"
C. "1" inverted.



Fig. 26. 1873 - 20 reis. A. Double 20. B. Double impression



Fig. 27. 1873 - 20 reis. 10 instead 20.



Fig. 28. 1873 - 60 reis. 60 instead 600



Fig. 29. 1873 - 600 reis. Ex. Admiral Bridges. Double 600

De Ferrari and then to Sotto Mayor.

Later, in April 1872, another issue was printed on ridged paper, with the following rates:

- 10 réis black (Fig. 19)
- 20 réis orange
- 40 réis blue
- 100 réis green
- 200 réis yellow

The 10 réis "Tête-bêche", on ridged paper (Fig. 20), and the 100 réis, on moiré paper, are the two great rarities of this issue.

Even later, in January 1873, a third issue was printed, this time on **slightly blue fine paper**, which included only the

20 réis red (Fig. 21)

In July 1873, a new issue went into circulation - the third - printed with dies issued in October 1871, on relatively thin blue paper, on which the figure has thicker background lines.

It consists of the following rates:

- 10 réis black (Fig. 22)
- 20 réis orange (Fig. 23)
- 300 réis purple
- 600 réis purple
- 900 réis purple (Fig. 24)

Some sheets have the filigree “Original Turkey Mill Kent”.

The rates of 10 and 20 réis in which the “A” of the word “INDIA” was printed as an upside-down “V”, in other words, an “A” without a bar, should be pointed out as varieties of this issue.

There are other errors in this issue, of which we should mention the double printing of the rate and the upside-down 1 on the 10 réis stamp (Fig. 25)

Even rarer is the double printing on the 20 réis (Fig. 26), the printing of a 10 instead of 20 on the 20 réis (Fig. 27), the extremely rare 60 instead of 600 réis (Fig. 28), the double printing of the figure 600 réis (Fig. 29) and that of the 900 réis (Fig. 30).

The following year, in 1874, a new issue – the **fourth** – was printed.

It is of Type 1 – 1871 –, except that the letter “A” in “INDIA”



Fig. 30. 1873 - 900 reis.
A. Double last 0 of 900.
B. Double 900



Fig. 31. 1874 - 10 reis. A. Broken die under “IÇ” of “SERVIÇO” (153%). B. The biggest unused block known. (101%)



Fig. 32. 1875 - 10 reis. Ex. G. Garcia. The biggest unused block known. (89%)
Arrow show 10 anf 20 on the same stamp.



Fig. 33: 1875 - 10 reis. Envelope from Mapuçá, Jun. 6-1875, to Margão. The only pair on cover. (72%)

has no horizontal bar, so that it looks like an upside-down “V”, and has the same perforations. The figures of the value are also smaller than those of the 1873 issue.

Thin blue paper was used and it consists of:

- 10 réis black (Fig. 31)
- 20 réis red

Like the previous issue, some sheets were filigreed.

In April 1875, a new issue was printed – the **fifth** –. It is of Type 2 – lines touching the oval – but the figures of the value are smaller than those of the December 1871 issue.

It is also on **fine blue paper** and consists of:

- 10 réis black (Fig. 32/33)
- 15 réis pink and red (Fig. 34)
- 20 réis red (Fig. 36)



Fig. 34. 1875 - 15 reis. Biggest block known (92%)



Fig. 35. 1875 - 15 reis. Double impression



Fig. 36. 1875 - 20 reis. The biggest unused block known.



Fig. 37. 1875 - 20 reis. Error of colour.

Fig. 38. 1875 - 20 reis. Double impression



Fig. 39. 1876 - 20 reis. The biggest unused block known. (149%)

A 15 réis stamp was created for this issue. In the world of philately, this stamp evoked strong controversy with the "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY", which did not accept the authenticity of stamps of this value or of Moens,



Fig. 40. 1876 - 20 reis. Letter from Bombay May 16 th 1877 to Pondá, arriving 21 st. Boxed "TOO LATE" and without 1/2 Anna. Paid 1 Anna and more 15 reis for domiciliary delivery charge. Total fine 0.1.05.

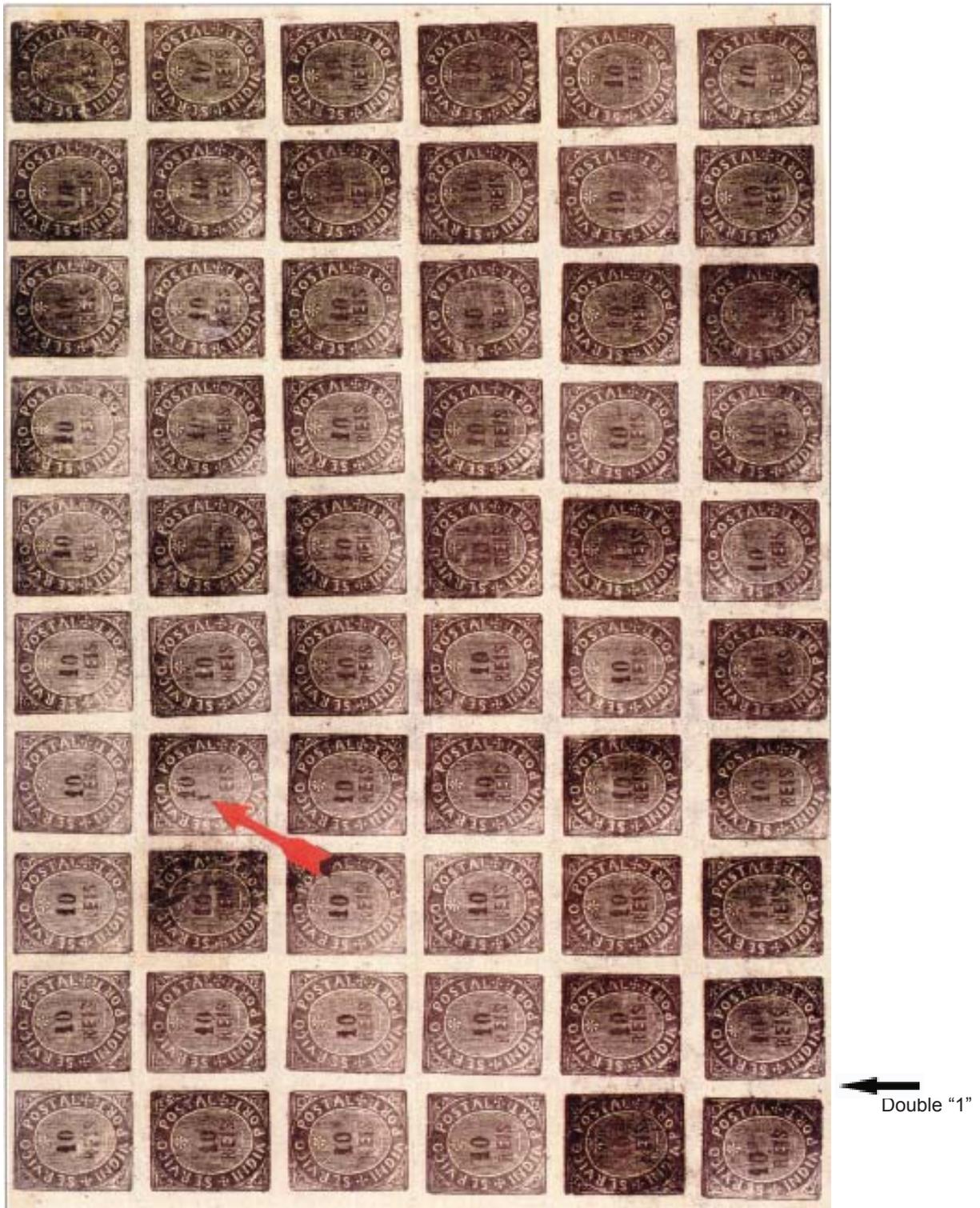


Fig. 41. 1877 - 10 reis. Ex. G. Garcia. The biggest piece known (90%)



Fig. 42. 1877 - 200 reis. Ex. Admiral Bridges. The biggest block known

who had presented them on the market.

Naturally, Moens succeeded in proving the legitimacy of the stamps that he was selling, ending his writing - page 68 of nº 153 of September 1875 - by placing the correspondence he had exchanged with the Director-General of the Postal Service in New Goa at the disposal of those who contested the stamps.

This rate was intended to pay for home delivery and the largest known block consists of 9 new stamps. 15 réis stamps with double printing of the value and of the colour are known to exist.

We also know of the 20 réis double colour printing, in reddish pink, which is the colour used for the 15 réis.

The largest known block of this issue is 60 new stamps of 10 réis.

In March 1876, the **sixth issue** was distributed for public use.

On the plates, the background is formed by 41 vertical lines above the word "REIS" and 43 below the same word. The word "REIS" is in Norman characters and the "V" in "SERVIÇO" has a bar, as if it were an upside-down "A".

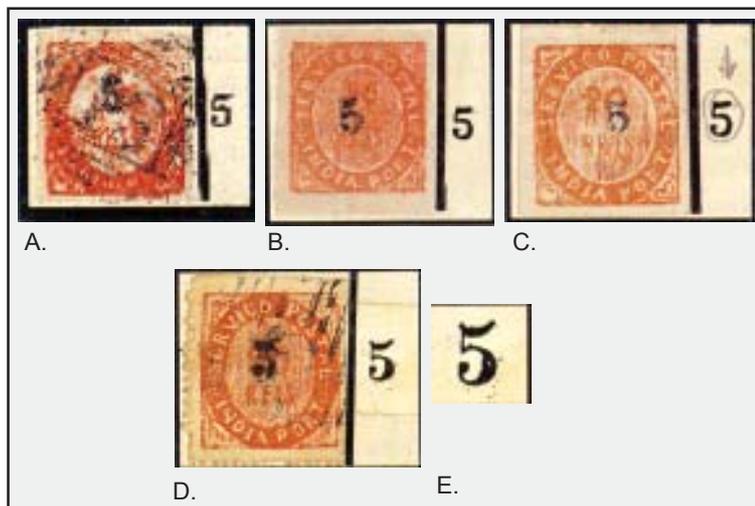


Fig.43. 1881 - Small 5 on reis. Damão - local surcharge.

A. Ex. Abacassis. Double "5" - Unique.

B. Unused - Unique

C. Ex. G. Garcia. Unused - Unique

D. Ex. G. Garcia. This stamp is signed by J. Ell and is indicated in his book "Monografia de Selos da India Portuguesa", Unique.

E. Normal "5"

Fine blue paper was used for this issue, which consists of the following values.

- 10 réis black
- 15 réis pink
- 20 réis red (Fig. 39)
- 40 réis blue
- 100 réis green
- 200 réis yellow
- 300 réis purple
- 600 réis purple
- 900 réis purple

We know of the 20 réis stamp without the numbers of the rate, but equally rare are the double printings of the 10, 15 and 20 réis.

Two months later in May 1876, the **seventh issue** was printed, which is of Type 1 - background lines that do not touch the oval - but it has the characteristic of the “V” in “SERVIÇO” being an upside-down “A”. It has the same perforations as the previous issue.

This issue is on **blue paper** and consists of:

- 10 réis black
- 20 réis red

There is a 20 réis stamp on which the value has been printed twice.

The reason for so many issues with slight alterations may have been the fear of falsification and we now have official confirmation of this fear.

By Directive dated 16th May 1877, the Governor General Tavares de Almeida had the existing dies changed adding only a star above the numbers indicating the value, and a small horizontal white line below the word “REIS”.

A period of 45 days was allowed from June 1st - when the stamps with the small stars went into circulation - for all old stamps to be collected and exchanged, at the Contadoria Geral. The old stamps would then be invalidated.

On June 1st, a new issue of native stamps went into circulation. It was the **eighth issue**.

Two more dies were made for this issue, one of Type I – lines not touching the oval – and the other of Type II – lines touching the oval, to which a star with 8 rounded points was



Fig. 44. 1883 - 6 reis. The only multiple known.

added above the numbers, and a white line below the word "REIS".

This issue included:

Type 1 – REIS in Roman characters

- 10 réis black

Type 2 – REIS In Norman characters

- 10 réis black

Type 1 with REIS in Norman characters

- 10 réis black (Fig. 41)

- 15 réis pink

- 20 réis carmine

- 40 réis blue

- 100 réis green

- 200 réis yellow (Fig. 42)

- 300 réis purple

- 600 réis purple

- 900 réis purple

A 40 réis stamp with double colour printing and without

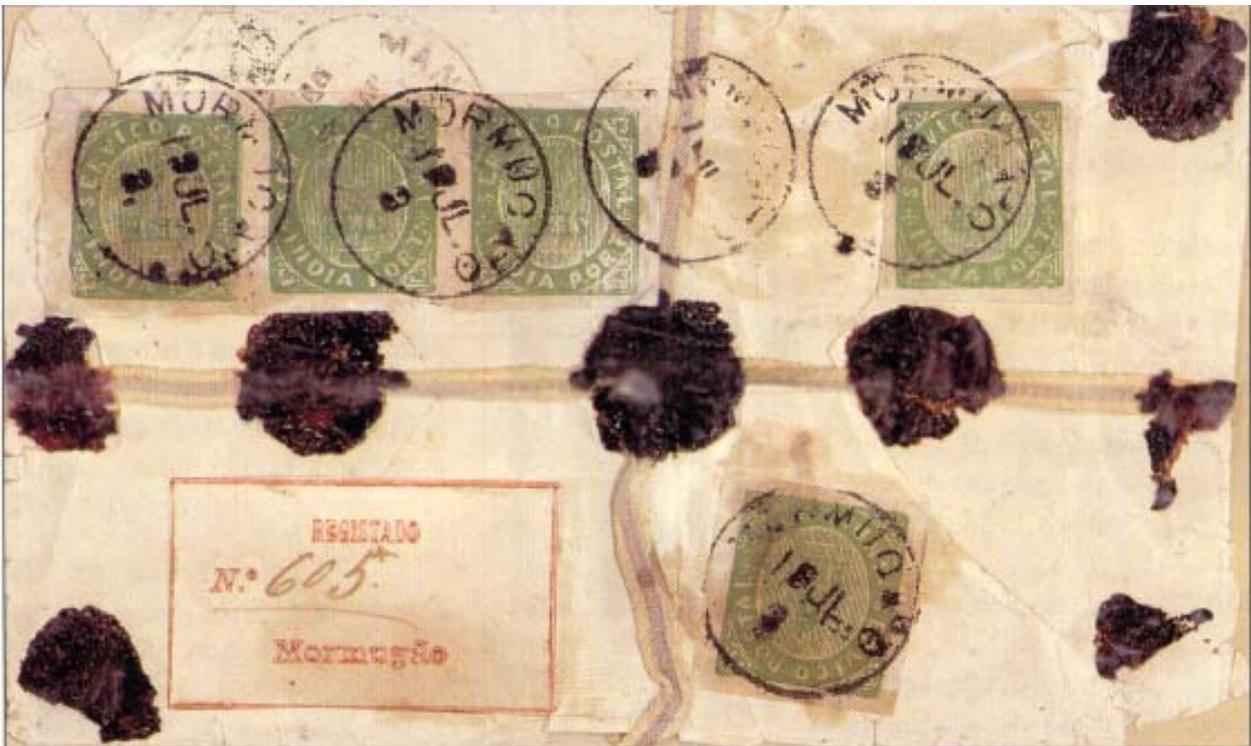


Fig. 45. 1883 - 6 reis. Cover from Mormugão - Jul. 19th 1885 - to Bombay, registered. Piece unique - strip with 2 stamps omitted value (115%)

numbers is known to exist, as well as a 900 réis with double numbers.

The stamps with the small star were only in use for a very short time, since on the following July 15th the “Crown Type” stamps from the Portuguese mainland went into circulation. This probably explains why stamps of this issue are so rare.

The reasons for such short spaces of time between issues, with slight alterations in the dies, have not been proved.

According to Carlos George, the reason was that the dies wore out very quickly. According to Vitorino Godinho, it was for the mere “pleasure of change”.

I believe, however, that neither of them is right, and that it is more likely to be due to the fear of falsification, as Moens tells us on page 76 of n° 178.

“C’est probablement pour reconnaître les vrais timbres des soi-disant faux timbres, que l’administration à pris cette mesure”.



Fig. 46. 1883 - 1 1/2 reis. A. The only Tête-bêche on strip of 4. B. Omitted value C. Double 1 1/2

In fact, there were falsifications of native stamps, not only those made at the time by a certain E. REICHMANN, of Dresden, but also those ordered around 1938 by a person living at the time at Rua Eugénio dos Santos, 99 - 3rd floor, in Lisbon. This person ordered these “copies” from a printing friend and, to find paper to print them on, he looked in old bookshops for books from around 1871 which had wide margins between the printed text and the edge of the sheet. This blank paper could then be used to print stamps.

Once, he turned up at the house of Simões Ferreira, in Rua do Arsenal, in Lisbon with a wide range of natives stuck on to sheets of yellowing foolscap. Carlos George, who was present, bought several, but rejected others saying that they were fakes.

In fact, they were all fake.

It was he who “issued” the blue 40 réis, which was included in the 1874 issue and later withdrawn.

As a result of the damaging effects on trade in general and the problems caused by the disparity between the currency of the neighbouring territory, the Governments of Portuguese and British India established the Monetary Convention in 1880, in accordance with Article 5 of the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of December 1878.

It was therefore necessary to bring into line the price of stamps in the new currency. This was done from May 1st 1881, superimposing the new value on existing stamps.

However, the “Crown” type stamps sold out and, in order to meet the needs of the postal service, 24,500 of the small star NATIVE stamps of 10 and 20 réis were used, superimposing the figure “5”, as stipulated by the Directive of March 21st 1881.

Nevertheless, in April 1881 and again in May of the same



Fig. 47. 1883 - 6 reis. A. Double “6”. B. Tête-bêche. Omitted value.

year, fearing that the previous issue would run out, 85,000 stamps of native issues were used, which were also superimposed with the new rate in Indian currency.

The figure "5" was printed in red on the 10 réis stamps and the same value was printed in black on the 20 réis stamps, a rate which was aimed at journals, as well as being printed in black on the 15 réis stamp. Three types of hand-printed "5" were used: by far the rarest is the smallest, which is about 4.5 millimetres high and narrower than the others. This is only found on the 20 réis rate (Fig 43).

In May 1881, the 20 réis native stamps were also printed over with the value 1 ½ black, in Indian currency.

In May 1883, new manual rates were superimposed, also in Indian currency, in black, with the values of 1 ½, 4 ½ and 6 on native stamps of various issues and on different types of paper.

Later, in September 1883, as there were insufficient stamps, the Junta da Fazenda Pública had some printed under the direction of Assa Castel'Branco.

Once again, the Native stamps were used, making use of the old plates, with the value in Indian currency.

The following stamps were issued:

- 1 ½ réis black, on 1st September 1883 (Fig 44)
- 6 réis green, on 17th October 1883

This issue used the die which printed the small star 10 réis, with the word "REIS" in Roman characters.

However, the 6 réis rate was omitted in some examples, so that it is now the rarest stamp of this issue (Fig 45).

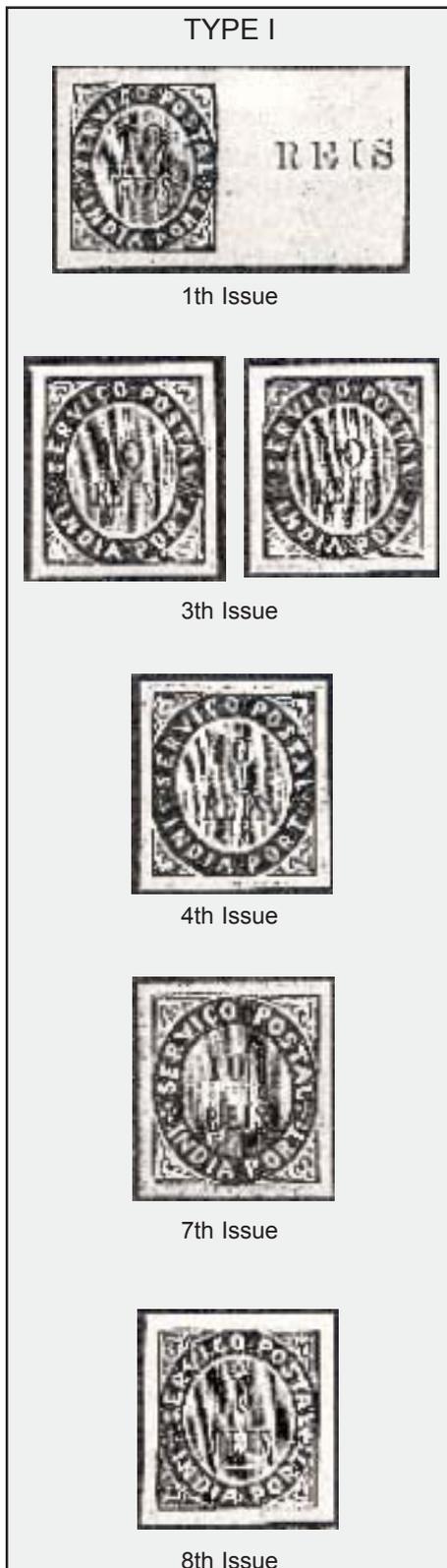
In September 1883, another issue was printed, on fine blue paper and in Indian currency:

- 1 ½ réis black, on 1 September 1883
- 4 ½ réis bistre, on 20 August 1883
- 6 réis, green, on 17 October 1883

The letters of the word "REIS" are in Norman characters and the figures are larger.



Fi. 48. 1885 - 4 1/2 reis. Omitted value



From this issue, there are the varieties of “tête-bêche”, missing value and double printing of the 1 ½ réis black (Fig 47 to 49) and the 6 réis dark green (Fig 50 to 52), as well as the 4 ½ réis stamp with the rate missing (Fig. 53).

A 1 ½ réis stamp with the rate printed in green is also known.

Mentioned here are the varieties of native issues that we know of, but which are still not included in the catalogue.

To be more precise:

Basically, only two types can be considered NATIVE stamps of Portuguese India.

Type 1 – *Background of vertical lines that do not touch the oval*

Type 2 – *Background of vertical lines that touch the oval*

All the other differences - the characters of the words “REIS”, in Roman and Norman characters, the calligraphy of the caption “SERVIÇO POSTAL - ÍNDIA PORT”, the arabesques that separate the captions, made up of small lines or points that form a cross and also the small star above the figures of the value - are no more than details introduced into these two types, and thereby form the bases that identify the various issues.

The diversity of the format of the figures used for the rates also helps to ascertain the issue.

Generally, in order to rapidly identify the Natives of India, we can summarise their characteristics in the following way.

TYPE I

- “REIS” in Roman characters
- Background of vertical lines that do not touch the oval

1st issue - 1st October and November 1871:

- The letters “S” and “R” are smaller and the letter “E” is larger than the others in the word “SERVIÇO”.
- Captions separated by two ornaments, formed by four small lines in a cross.
- Background of 33 clear vertical lines.
- Fine, white and firm paper, or thick paper, the latter corresponding to the November issue.

3rd issue - July 1873:

- The same characteristics as the 1st issue but the background lines are thick and smudged.
- Blue paper of medium thickness.

4th issue - 1874:

- The letter “A” in “ÍNDIA” has no bar, as if it were an upside-down “V”.
- The figures of the rates are smaller than those of the previous issue.
- Fine blue paper.

7th issue - May 1876:

- The letter “V” of the word “SERVIÇO” has a bar, as if it were an upside-down “A”.
- Captions are separated by two ornaments, forming 5 points in a cross.
- The figures of the rate are small and identical to those of the 4th issue.
- Fine blue paper.

TYPE II

- “REIS” in Norman characters.
- Background of vertical lines that touch the oval.

2nd issue - December 1871 - April 1872 - January 1873

- “SERVIÇO” has letters of equal size.
- Captions are separated by two ornaments, made up of 5 points that form a cross.
- Background of 44 vertical lines.
- Thick ridged paper, or fine blue, according to the issue.

5th issue - April 1875

- Identical to the 2nd issue, but the figures of the rates are smaller.
- Fine blue paper.

6th issue - March 1876

- The letter “V” of “SERVIÇO” has a bar, like an upside-down “A”.
- Captions are separated by two ornaments made up of 5 points forming a cross.



- Background of 41 vertical lines above “REIS” and 43 below.
- Fine blue paper.

The **1st June 1877 issue** needs no description, seeing as the addition of a star with 8 rounded points above the rate and the white line below “REIS” make it unmistakable.

It was printed on fine blue paper.

The **September 1883 issues**, which we consider to be just one, and which was done with two different plates of the small star issue – 1877 – was produced with the value in Indian currency.

It was printed on fine blue paper.

Finally, it was only on November 4 1952, during the Philatelic exhibition in Goa, that the 10 réis native type was presented once again, together with another stamp. They were separated by a vignette celebrating the same Exhibition

It is therefore thanks to José Frederico de Assa Castel’Branco, who designed them, and Jenardana Goindozó, humble smith, who engraved them, that the “NATIVE” stamps of Portuguese India have been left for posterity and, around the world, they are the sign of an unforgettable and undying presence of the Portuguese Spirit in the territories of Goa, Damão, Dio and Nagar-Avely, in the lands of the Hindustan.

