

(SYNOPSIS) BARWANI - THE FORMATIVE & EXPERIMENTAL PHASE (1917–1921)

Purpose and Scope: This 32-page traditional philatelic exhibit examines Barwani's earliest adhesive postage stamps, from their introduction in 1917 through the experimental printings of 1921. Its principal objective is to identify, classify, and establish the probable chronological sequence of these issues through the study of progressive cliché flaws, impression quality, ink shades, paper, perforations, booklet production, and surviving postal usages.

For decades, 1921 was accepted as the year Barwani first issued postage stamps. Subsequent research established their existence in 1917, prompting Stanley Gibbons to revise its catalogue listings. The exhibitor's discovery of a previously unrecorded ¼ anna printing, postally used on 9 February 1917, now provides compelling evidence for a further revision of the accepted chronology.

The period 1917–1921 represents the formative and experimental phase of Barwani's stamp production, characterized by numerous printings, inconsistent production methods, and an uncertain chronology. The introduction of more standardized issues in 1922, with distinctive denomination colors and additional values, provides a natural and historically significant endpoint.

Historical Background: Barwani was a small Princely State in southwestern Central India, covering approximately 1,178 square miles. Its predominantly rural population and widespread illiteracy severely limited postal correspondence, contributing to the exceptional rarity of surviving early postal material.

Established around 1860–1861, the State Post initially served official correspondence before extending its services to the public. Adhesive stamps were introduced in 1917. Throughout the period examined, the ¼ anna and ½ anna denominations were printed typographically from separate formes of four clichés, arranged 2 × 2.

Research and Original Contributions: The exhibitor has been seriously studying and researching Indian philately since 1985, with particular emphasis on the stamps and postal history of the Indian Princely States.

Building upon the pioneering studies of R. F. Stoney, Tony Mac Gillycuddy, and W. Danforth Walker, the exhibitor has identified previously unrecorded printings and developed an independent classification, designated by the prefix SJ, with corresponding Stanley Gibbons numbers wherever applicable.

The principal contributions include:

- **Discovery of the earliest recorded dated Barwani adhesive**, a previously unknown pale turquoise-blue ¼ anna with normal value inscription, used on 9 February 1917, more than six months before the earliest recorded doubled-inscription printing.
- **Reassessment of the 1917 ¼ anna chronology**, distinguishing the original normal inscription, the defective doubled inscription, and subsequent corrected printings.
- **Identification of previously unrecorded printings and varieties**, including the chalky-blue imperforate ¼ anna, the green ¼ anna with unusually wide 8 mm cliché spacing, and the partially perforated ½ anna.
- **Demonstration that impression sharpness and progressive cliché deterioration are independent phenomena**, establishing positional flaws as more reliable evidence for chronological classification.
- **Research into booklet production and perforation practices**, including the unusual combination of gauge 7 and pin-perforation and the limited introduction of gauge 11 in late 1921.

Since early Barwani cancellations generally lacked date slugs, manuscript dates and dated postal usages provide particularly important evidence for establishing chronology.

Organization of the Exhibit

- 1–2 Introduction, historical background, pre-adhesive postal history, typography, and classification methodology
- 3–4 ¼ anna cliché identification, revised chronology, and February 1917 discovery (SJ 1)
- 5–9 Early 1917 ¼ anna printings, doubled inscription, intermediate printing, and corrected inscriptions (SJ 2–4a)
- 10–11 Blue-green ¼ anna printing, with documented postal use in 1920 (SJ 5)
- 12–18 Successive 1921 ¼ anna printings, booklet production, wide-spacing discovery, and dated usages (SJ 6–10a)
- 19–20 Final ¼ anna printing on vertically laid bâtonné paper (SJ 11)
- 21–26 ½ anna cliché identification, early printings, major postal rarities, and perforation discovery (SJ 12–15)
- 27–29 Later blue ½ anna printings and unusual perforation arrangements (SJ 16–19)
- 30–31 Final ½ anna printing and provisional 1 anna pairs, 1921 (SJ 20–21)
- 32 Epilogue — transition to standardized issues beginning in 1922

Rarity and Difficulty of Acquisition: Early Barwani postal material is exceptionally difficult to acquire, particularly genuinely used stamps, postcards, and covers from the formative period.

The State's small population, limited literacy, and correspondingly modest volume of postal correspondence resulted in very low survival rates. Several early printings are represented by a single recorded postal item, while others are known only unused.

This exhibit includes important items from the collections of W. Danforth Walker and Tony Mac Gillycuddy, together with previously unrecorded printings and varieties. Several items are the only recorded examples of their respective printings.

Principal Rarities and Discoveries

Rarity statements and recorded quantities are based on the census presented in the exhibit.

Page	Item	Rarity and significance
4	SJ 1 - ¼ anna pale turquoise-blue, February 1917:	Only recorded example. Earliest documented dated use of a Barwani adhesive; previously unknown printing
5–7	SJ 2 - ¼ anna doubled “QUARTER ANNA”:	Six recorded postcard usages; only recorded multiple and cover , bearing a pair
8	SJ 3 - ¼ anna chalky-blue imperforate:	Only recorded example , an imperforate pair on cover; previously unrecognized intermediate printing
9	SJ 4a - ¼ anna milky-blue imperforate:	Only recorded cover , bearing a block of four
14	SJ 9 - ¼ anna green, 8 mm cliché spacing:	Only recorded example , a complete booklet pane divided between the front and reverse of a cover
20	SJ 11 - ¼ anna green on bâtonné paper:	Only recorded registered cover bearing this printing
22	SJ 12 - First ½ anna, deep blue, perf 7:	Only recorded example , preserved on cover
24	SJ 13 - ½ anna dull-blue imperforate:	Only recorded dated cover; registered example is one of two recorded
25	SJ 14 - ½ anna dull-blue, perf 7 on one side:	Previously unrecorded perforation variety , represented by a vertical pair on registered cover
26	SJ 15 - ½ anna ultramarine imperforate:	Only recorded cover bearing this printing
27	SJ 16 - ½ anna dull-blue, perf 7:	One of five recorded complete sheets
28	SJ 18 - ½ anna mixed perf 7 and pin-perforation:	Unusual hybrid perforation; three unused stamps recorded

Treatment and Presentation: The exhibit is arranged by denomination, presenting the ¼ anna printings first, followed by the ½ anna, each in its proposed chronological sequence.

Particular emphasis is placed on original research, positional cliché identification, dated postal usages, and the relationship between printing characteristics and chronology. The independent SJ numbering system distinguishes the exhibitor's revised classification from existing Stanley Gibbons listings.

Booklet panes, binding-hole positions, marginal configurations, paper varieties, and perforation arrangements provide additional evidence of evolving production practices.

Of particular interest is the late-1921 provisional 1 anna arrangement (SJ 21), produced by horizontally perforating existing imperforate panes of four ½ anna stamps, gauge 11, creating two pairs of 1 anna each. This temporary expedient preceded the introduction of a dedicated 1 anna stamp in 1922. No postally used examples are recorded.

Significant items are highlighted against a chocolate-colored background, with provenance and expert certificates from the BPA, RPSL, and ISES recorded wherever applicable.

Philatelic Significance: This exhibit represents a research-based reassessment of Barwani's earliest adhesive postage stamps, rather than merely a display of rare material.

Its principal contribution is the establishment of a revised chronological framework through the identification of previously unrecorded printings, progressive cliché flaws, production characteristics, and dated postal usages.

The February 1917 discovery is of particular importance, establishing that correctly lettered ¼ anna stamps were in postal use before the doubled-inscription printing long associated with Barwani's earliest issues.

Together with the newly identified printings, exceptional postal rarities, and systematic classification, this research makes a significant contribution to the understanding of Barwani's early stamp production and provides a foundation for further philatelic study and future catalogue revisions.

BARWANI - THE FORMATIVE & EXPERIMENTAL PHASE (1917 - 1921)

Purpose & Scope: This 32-page exhibit examines Barwani's earliest postage stamps, tracing their development from 1917 through 1921, with emphasis on identifying, classifying, and chronologically sequencing their various printings.

For decades, 1921 was accepted as the year Barwani first issued postage stamps. Subsequent research established their existence in 1917, prompting Stanley Gibbons to revise its catalogue listings. The exhibitor's discovery of a previously unrecorded printing, postally used on 9 February 1917, now challenges the accepted chronology of these earliest issues.

The exhibit examines successive printings through progressive cliché flaws, impression quality, paper, ink shades, and perforations, identifying previously unrecognized printings and presenting a revised classification.

The period 1917–1921 represents the formative and experimental phase of Barwani's stamp production, characterized by numerous variations and an often uncertain chronology. The introduction of more standardized issues in 1922, including distinctive denomination colors and additional values, marked a clear departure from these early practices, providing a natural and historically significant endpoint for this focused study.

Historical Background: Barwani, a small Princely State of approximately 1,178 sq. miles in southwestern Central India, with a predominantly rural population and widespread illiteracy severely limited postal correspondence, accounting in part for the exceptional rarity of surviving postal items bearing Barwani's early stamps.

Established around 1860–1861, the State Post initially served official correspondence before extending its services to the public. Postage stamps were introduced in 1917. The State Post ceased operations on 30 June 1948, and its stamps became invalid the following day.

Ink Colors: The 1917 issues were printed in varying shades of blue for both the ¼ anna and ½ anna denominations. Green replaced blue in early 1921. By 1922, each denomination was assigned a distinctive color.

Perforations: Printings from 1917–1921 occur perf 7 or imperforate, with one recorded variety combining perf 7 and pin-perforation. In late 1921, perf 11 was introduced for the horizontal separation of imperforate ½ anna booklet panes into horizontal pairs.

Papers: All but the final 1921 printing were on wove paper. The final printing was on vertically laid bâtonné paper.

Denominations: Only ¼ anna and ½ anna Dies were used between 1917–1921. In late 1921, panes of four ½ anna stamps were horizontally perforated gauge 11 to produce 1 anna pairs for double-weight letters. No postally used examples are recorded.

Postal Rates: For the entire period of this exhibit, postcards were charged ¼ anna, while the single-weight (up to ½ tola = 5.83 grams) letter rate was ½ anna. The registration fee was 3 annas, in addition to ordinary postage.

Treatment & Organization: The exhibit is arranged by denomination, presenting the successive printings of the ¼ anna stamps, followed by those of the ½ anna, each chronologically sequenced from 1917 through 1921. An epilogue illustrates the immediately succeeding issues.

Research & Original Contributions: Building upon the studies of R. F. Stoney, Tony Mac Gillycuddy, and W. Dannforth Walker, the exhibitor has identified previously unrecorded printings and established a revised classification of Barwani's 1917–1921 issues.

An independent numbering system, prefixed **SJ** (the exhibitor's initials), identifies these printings, with corresponding Stanley Gibbons (SG) numbers provided where applicable. Printings without SG numbers represent discoveries not yet catalogued.

Census: Recorded quantities, where known, are drawn from specialized publications and supplemented or updated through the exhibitor's research. The designation "On Cover" includes examples postally used on either postcards or covers.

Expert Certificate: Important philatelic items in this exhibit have been certified by the BPA, RPSL or ISES.

Important Items & Provenance: Significant items are highlighted against a chocolate-colored background, with provenance recorded wherever known.

Key references:

- *Philatelic Journal of India*, June–July 1921.
- R. F. Stoney, *Philatelic Journal of India*, July 1943.
- Tony Mac Gillycuddy, *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, 1978.
- Tony Mac Gillycuddy, "First Issue of Barwani?", *India Post*, No. 163, pp. 141–143.
- Peter Röver, "Barwani," *India Post*, No. 24, pp. 125–126.
- W. Danforth Walker, "Barwani - Four Pre-Gibbons #1 Issues," *India Post*, No. 185, pp. 66–77.