



## Forschungsgemeinschaft Indien e. V.

The German Study Circle

for the postal history and philately of the Indian Subcontinent / Southern Asia



### Fragen & Antworten / Questions & Answers

**Indien: Chalo Delhi**

**India: Chalo Delhi**

**Frage von Swapan Bose (FGI) vom 1. 8. 12**

Kann jemand anhand der obigen Abbildung unverbindlich eine Meinung abgeben, ob die Marken echt, gefälscht oder ein Nachdruck sind? Oder kann jemand einen Experten benennen, der solche Marken beurteilen kann?

**Question from Swapan Bose (FGI) dated 1. 8. 12**

Can anyone give an opinion - without any obligation – about the status of the stamps shown above? Are the shown stamp genuine, forged or a reprint? Or can anyone name an expert who is able to evaluate such stamps?



Abbildung mit 300dpi gescannt. Der Farbunterschied im oberen Teil oberhalb des waagerechten Drucks „Provisional Government...“ stammt daher, dass sich die Marken beim Scannen in einer Klemmtasche befanden.

Picture scanned with 300dpi. The difference in colour of the upper part above the horizontal printing “Provisional Government...” is caused by scanning the stamps being housed in a protective mount.

**Antwort von Markand Dave (ISC) vom 4. August 2012**

Seiner Meinung nach sind die gezeigten Marken echt. Er fügt zur Information einen Scan (siehe unten) aus dem Buch „Azad Hind and Chalo Delhi Stamps“ bei.

**Ergänzung vom 6. 8. 2012:** Seiner Meinung nach sind Marken mit der Inschrift “PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA” echt, während Marken mit der Inschrift “PROVISIONAL GOVT OF FREE INDIA” gefälscht sind.

**Answer by Markand Dave (ISC), 04. August 2012** he assures that the shown stamps are genuine. For further information he adds a scan (see below) from the book „Azad Hind and Chalo Delhi Stamps“.

**Addition from 6. Aug. 2012:** In his opinion the stamps inscribed “PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA” are the genuine stamps while stamps with the inscription “PROVISIONAL GOVT OF FREE INDIA” are forged.

**Antwort von Joachim Wrede (FGI) vom 4. August 2012**

es gibt weitere Literatur zu dem Thema:

1. Freeston, Andrew: The Azad Hind and Chalo Delhi Stamps of the Indian Legion and Indian National Army of Subhas Chandra Bose 1941-1945, 1999
2. Eine PDF Publikation: Richard Warren: „Chalo Delhi“, the real story (siehe öffentliche Bibliothek auf der FGI-Homepage)

**Answer by Joachim Wrede (FGI), 04. August 2012**

some more literature on this topic:

1. Freeston, Andrew: The Azad Hind and Chalo Delhi Stamps of the Indian Legion and Indian National Army of Subhas Chandra Bose 1941-1945, 1999
2. A PDF publication: Richard Warren: „Chalo Delhi“, the real story (see Public Library on the FGI Homepage)

**Antwort von Dr. Jagtap, 10. 8. 2012**

Dr. Jagtap geht speziell auf die Frage von Herrn Bose zur Ursache der Farbveränderung der Marken ein:

„Seine [Herrn Boses] Frage war, ob die Farbveränderung der gescannten Marken möglicherweise durch Kontakt mit Kunststoff verursacht worden ist. Ich habe schon von Anfang an vermutet, dass die Scans nicht von Herrn Bose stammen und auch bezweifelt, dass die Farbveränderung der Marken durch Kontakt mit dem Kunststoff der Klemmtasche verursacht sein sollte. Es war es sehr merkwürdig, dass alle Scans die gleiche Art von Farbunterschieden aufweisen, so dass die obere Schicht etwas heller und die untere etwas breitere etwas dunkler aussah. Darum habe ich auch Herrn Bose geschrieben, dass sehr wahrscheinlich die ganzen Briefmarken (als Paare) nicht vollständig mit dem transparenten Teil der Klemmtasche bedeckt waren und die Marken so halb bedeckt mit dem transparenten Teil "gescannt" wurden. Ich habe Herrn Bose auch geschrieben, um sicher zu sein, sollte er den Lieferanten dieser Marken bitten, beim "Scannen" eine breitere Klemmtasche zu verwenden, so dass die ganze Marken gleichermassen mit der transparenten Folie bedeckt sind. Ich glaube nicht, dass die Marken durch die Weichmacher in Kunststoffolie angegriffen wurden (d.h. eine chemische Reaktion stattgefunden hatte).

Wegen der "echten" und "forged" Varianten ist im Stanley Gibbons Katalog (3. Auflage/ 2009) zu lesen, dass bei den echten Marken der ganzen Wortlaut "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA" zu lesen ist, während bei den "forged" Marken nur das gekürzte Wort "GOVT." statt "GOVERNMENT" steht. Ich vermute auch, dass der Druck auf "unechten" Marken etwas "gröber" ("crude") aussieht.

Übrigens, in früheren Ausgaben haben Stanley Gibbons auch die "falsche" Marke (mit "GOVT.") an Stelle einer echten Marke gedruckt! Als ich Stanley Gibbons auf diesen "Fehler" aufmerksam gemacht habe, haben sie mir geschrieben, ich sollte ihnen die "echte" Marke senden! So schickte ich ihnen eine Marke aus meiner Sammlung! (s. Scan der SG Kat.-Seite, Ausschnitt unten).

Ich weiss nicht, ob man für diese Marken ein "Echtheitszertifikat" erhalten könnte.“

**Anmerkung von Joachim Wrede, 10. 8. 12**

auf dem mir von H. Bose bereitgestellten Bild ist klar zu erkennen, dass die Marken zum Zeitpunkt des Scans in einer Klemmtasche steckten, die die Marken nur teilweise bedeckten. Für die Veröffentlichung hatte ich die oben gezeigten Bilder aufbereitet. Unten noch mal ein Bild der Klemmtasche mit Markierung der Folienoberkanten.

**Answer by Dr. Jagtap, 10. 8. 2012**

Dr. Jagtap especially discusses the question of Mr. Bose regarding the reason of the colour changing within the stamps:

“His [Mister Bose's] question was whether the colour changing of the scanned stamps could be caused by the contact with plastic. From the very first I argued that the scans are not made by Mr. Bose and I disbelieved that the colour changing should be caused by contact with the plastic of the protective mount. It was odd-looking that all scans should show the same type of colour difference resulting in the upper part a little bit more light and the lower broader part a little bit more dark. Therefore I already informed Mr. Bose that probably the pairs of stamps have not been covered in full with the transparency of the protective mount. I assume that the stamps have been scanned only partly covered by the foil. I have given the hint to Mr. Bose to be on the safe side he should ask the seller for another scan showing the stamps fully covered with the foil. I do not believe that the stamps are damaged by the plasticiser of the foil (i. e. a chemical reaction has taken place).

Regarding the “genuine” and “forged” variants the Stanley Gibbons catalogue (3. issue/ 2009) states: The genuine stamps show the wording "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA" whereas the forged stamps show the shortened word "GOVT." instead of "GOVERNMENT". I assume that the print of the “forged” stamps will look more crude.

By the way, earlier issues of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue show the “forged” stamp (with "GOVT.") instead of a genuine stamp! When I informed SG about this error they asked me to send them a genuine stamp! Thus I sent them a stamp from my collection (s. scan of the SG catalogue page, extract below).

I do not know whether you could get a certificate of genuineness.”

**Annotation by Joachim Wrede, 10. 8. 12**

on the scan given to me by Mr. Bose it clearly can be seen that the stamps were affixed in a protective mount during the scan process. The foil only partly covered the stamps. For the publication I had optimized the picture by cutting out the stamps. Below a picture showing the protective mount with marking arrows (applied by me) to show the upper edges of the foils.

**INDIA / Indian Expeditionary Force**

**INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY**

The following were prepared for use in the Japanese occupied areas of India during the drive on Imphal.

Genuine examples are inscribed "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA". Forgeries also exist inscribed "PROVISIONAL GOVT. OF FREE INDIA".



Typo in Rangoon. No gum. Perf 11½ or imperf. 1p. violet, 1p. maroon, 1a. green. Price from £70 each unused.

Ten stamps, sharing six different designs, inscribed "AZAD HIND", were produced in Germany during the Second World War, but did no postal duty.



**Antwort von J. Bornmann (FGI), 11. 08. 2012**

Ich habe Bedenken an der Echtheit. Anbei Scans von Marken, die Herr Brunel BPP als damaliger Bundesprüfer als echt geprüft hatte. Ich habe diese Marken inzwischen verkauft, habe aber noch einen Scan.



Scan aus dem Buch „Azad Hind and Chalo Delhi Stamps“

**Answer by J. Bornmann (FGI), 11. 08. 2012**

I doubt that these stamps are genuine. Attached you see a scan of stamps which the then BPP Bundesprüfer Mr. Brunel had checked and certified as genuine. I have sold these stamps in the meantime but still have the scan.

Scan from the book „Azad Hind and Chalo Delhi Stamps“

## CHALO DELHI STAMPS

Although the Azad Hind stamps never left Europe, there is another issue with some claim to field use by the Indian National Army. Jal Cooper, in his "A Specialised Priced Catalogue of Indian Stamps (1852-1970)" notes :

"Two more stamps of "CHALO DELHI" were also issued by the Indian National Army at the time of its march on Imphal from Japanese occupied Burma. The denominations issued are, 1 pice, magenta and 1 anna, green. The stamps have a common design showing one corner of the famous "Red Fort" in Delhi. The stamps are extremely rare and are extensively forged but they differ in size from the original."

Cooper illustrates a block of 12 of the 1 anna. He prices the stamps, either perforated 11 or *imperforate* at 200 rupees, about \$25, for the set.



Gibbons lists the 1 pice in two colours, violet and maroon. It does not price the stamps. At the time I purchased a pair they were selling for about \$35. None have been offered for sale in the New York area in the past few years.

W. H. Adgey-Edgar, discussing the Chalo Delhi stamps in his 1946 handbook on Japanese occupation issues, stated :

"The issue was sponsored by the Indian National Army when the Japanese were preparing to attack Imphal. Printed on both sides, they were to be used as postage stamps and as currency on arrival of the INA in India. Imphal was not captured, and the two values issued were not used in India but apparently they were issued to some of the troops in readiness. Some of these were used by the troops on covers during the expedition, and were found later on captured prisoners. They are extremely scarce even in mint condition. Size, approximately 18mm x 23mm.

"The design is crude and depicts a corner of the Red Fort at Delhi, the ultimate objective of the INA. In an arc at top is "ARZI HUKUMATE" and "AZAD HIND"; below in a straight line, "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA." Underneath is "Chalo Delhi", exhorting the troops "On to Delhi". No watermark. Perforated 11. Printed in Rangoon.

"Unfortunately the two original plates are in the possession of a dealer in Calcutta who has been producing coloured prints from them for his friends. Collectors contemplating the purchase of these issues should check the

colours, paper, and printing carefully with a genuine specimen, otherwise the best advice would be to leave them alone."

The mysterious Indian dealer in Calcutta is not the only reported owner of the "original plates." A Mr. Broomhead of Great Britain stated a few years back that he had obtained the master die of the Chalo Delhi pair, purchased in Rangoon in 1945. The die measures 34 x 42 millimeters and contains both the 1p and 1a value tablets. He stated that he had an original copy of the 1 anna which measured 17 x 22 mm. Apparently, the two vignettes are very close together on this die. Mr. Broomhead's specimen is imperforate on water-marked paper.

A pair of the 1 pice value was reportedly sold by Robson Lowe in 1956. This pair appeared to be lithographed on greyish wove paper, very soft, ungummed with perforations difficult to determine because of roughness. The perfs appeared to fall somewhere between 11½ and 12.

With variations reported in colours, perforations, printing and size, the "Chalo Delhi" stamps obviously are difficult to guarantee. This author must admit to total bewilderment.

Before we leave the Red Fort, let me quote a brief description of the stronghold as given by R.P. Alexander in "Japanese Philately" for June 1956.

"The walls of the present Delhi City enclose the center of the city and were built in 1638 by Shah Jehan, who made the city the capital of the Mogul Empire. In the northeast corner is the famous Red Fort, containing the Imperial Mogul Palace, so called for its walls and gateways of red sandstone."

Thus we end the story of the stamps created for the liberating forces of Free India. I think it fitting to conclude with the last slogan of the Indian National Army. Coined by Bose at a time when the Japanese had all but conceded defeat, it gives us an interesting insight into the almost Churchillian character of a patriot who wanted to liberate India :

*The Roads to Delhi are many*

*And Delhi remains our goal;*

*The Azad Hind Fauj will fight on*

*To the last man and last round.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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