

## One-Half Anna Black, 1899 to 1907 Printings

A black one-half anna stamp of a new design was issued in January 1899. It was issued for use in paying the new one-half anna postal rate for letters sent between the Maharaja's royal hunting camp in southern Nepal and Kathmandu. The stamps were also valid for all postal rates. There are very few known genuine uses on cover.

Between the date of issue in 1899 and the final printing intended for postal purposes in 1907, five different settings were utilized. The majority of stamps sold were left imperforate but were also available pin-perforated upon request.

### Setting 1

The first setting was the only setting with framelines on four sides. The earliest printings were on thin paper while later printings were on thick paper.



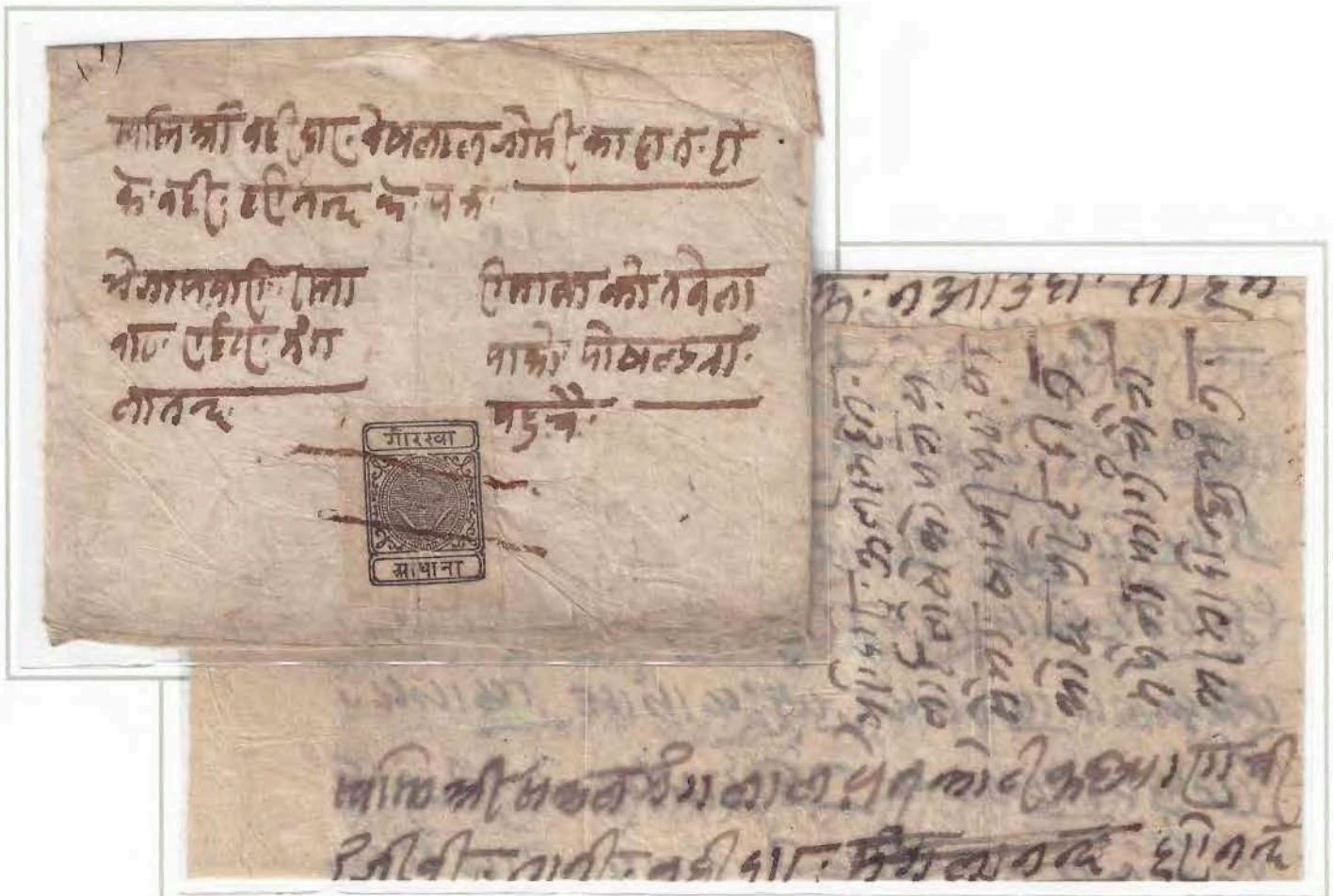
pin-perforated, this pair is the **only known multiple**



imperforate marginal blocks showing framelines at side  
on thin paper (pos. 39-40/47-48) and on thick paper (pos. 47-48/55-56)

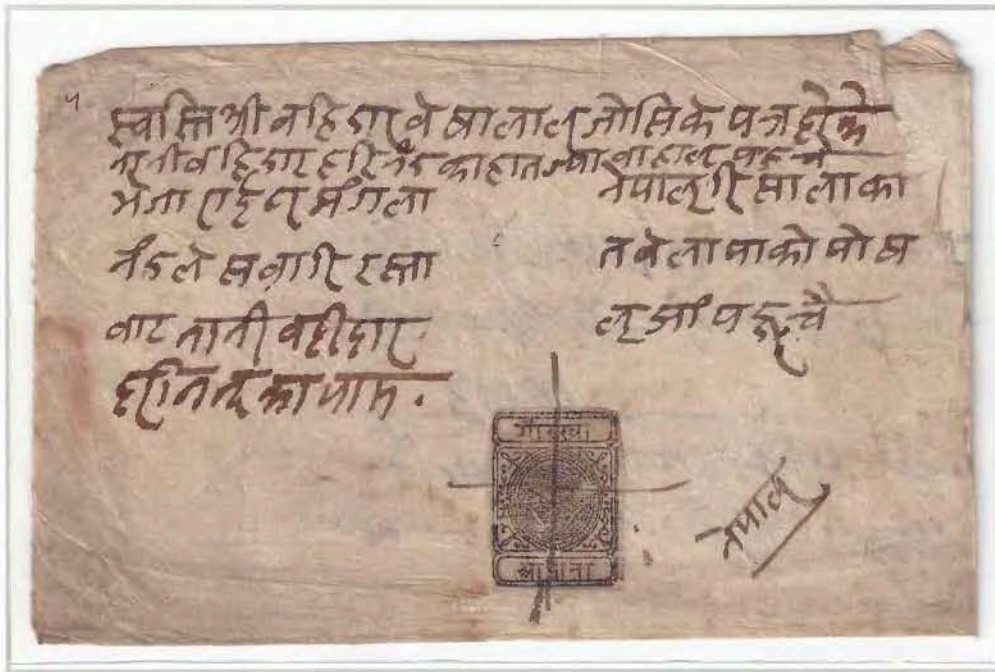
Single on Cover

Temporary "camp" post offices were established in the Terai Region for the handling of mail from and to the Maharaja's yearly hunting expeditions in the area. From 1899, mail that had previously been sent free was subject to the new one-half anna rate. Mail from these camps was franked with one-half anna stamps which were pen canceled.



22 December 1912 dated letter and cover, royal hunting camp to Kathmandu, prepaid 1/2 anna six reported covers franked with a single one-half anna stamp

Uses on Cover

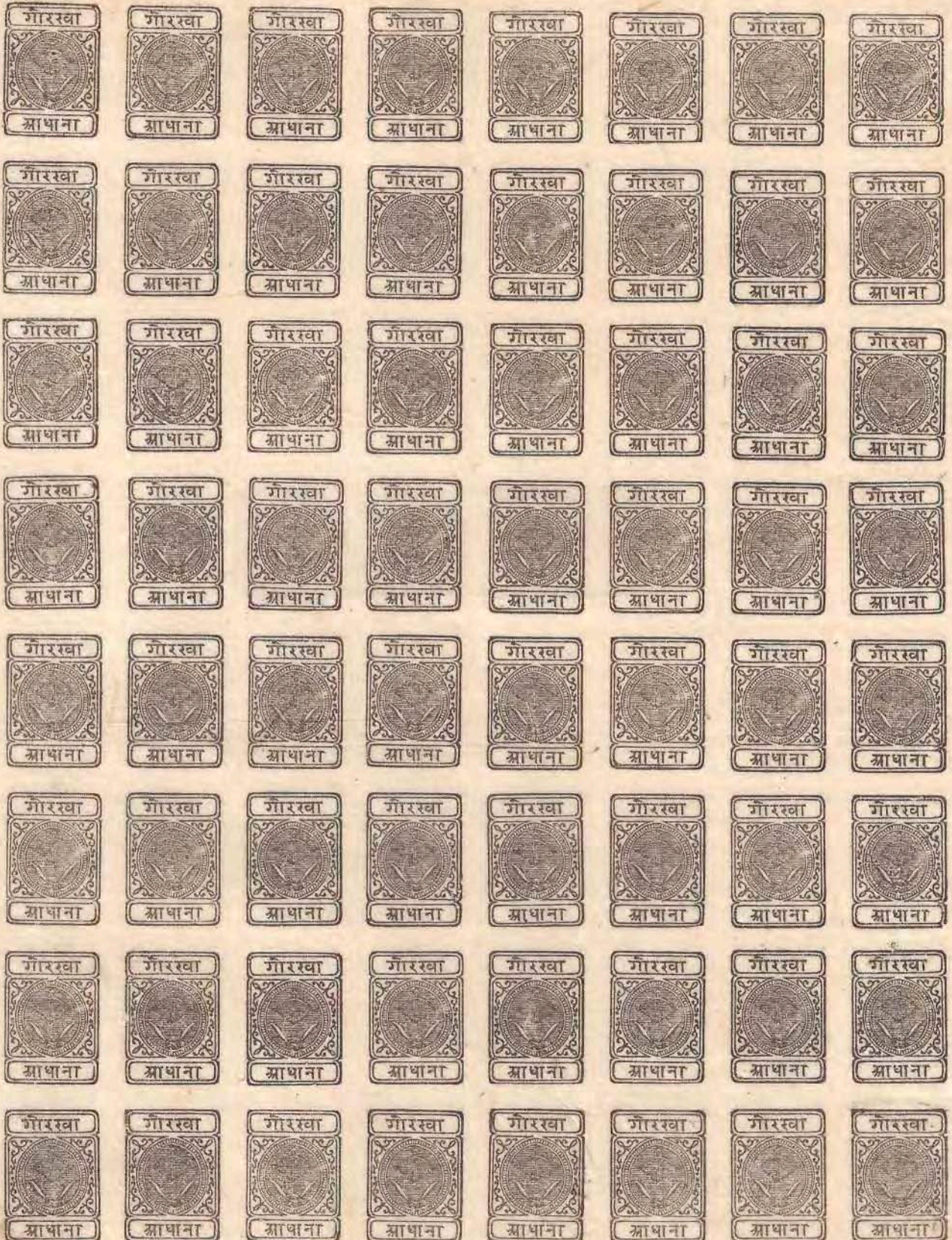


December 1910 cover from royal hunting camp to Kathmandu, prepaid 1/2 anna  
**six reported covers franked with a single one-half anna stamp**



Bhaktapur to Kathmandu, a late use, prepaid one anna rate with pair 1/2 anna  
 stamps tied by postmaster's ring seal, Bhaktapur post office cachet with crossed kukris

Setting 1, four reported full sheets



## Setting 1, Early State



early state of the setting on thick paper, blocks showing framelines with wide corner breaks  
positions: 1-5/9-13 and positions: 7-8/15-16

## Setting 1, Late State



late state on thin paper, positions 1-8, top frameline with small breaks and corners nearly closed  
reported by Hellrigl as a variant state (state C) based only on two corner margin singles  
this multiple, found since the report, proves the variant state  
**the only known multiple**

Setting 3

The third setting had one inverted cliché in position 7.



tête-bêche pair  
positions 7-8



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions 33-40/49-51



pin-perforated, thin paper, positions 33-40/49-51

Setting 3



imperforate, thin paper, block of 56 missing first row  
this block and five sheets known

Setting 4

Setting 4 had one inverted cliché (position 57) and was printed on thin paper. It is the last one-half anna setting from which pin-perforated examples are known.



imperforate and pin-perforated tête-bêche pairs both are positions 57-58, position 57 inverted in both



pin-perforated corner block, positions 37-40/61-64



### The "Notched" Cliche

The "notched" frameline cliche is located upright in position 7 in settings 1 and 2. In setting 3 it is in the same position but is inverted. In setting 5 it was moved to position 6 and remains inverted.



**setting 1 (imperforate) and setting 3 (pin-perforated)**  
notched cliche flaw in position 7

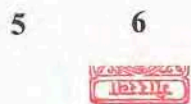


**setting 1**, positions 7-8/23-24  
position 7, notched cliche normal



**setting 3**, positions 6-8/14-16,  
position 7 notched cliche inverted

**setting 5 (imperforate and pin-perforated) tête-bêche pairs**  
notched cliche flaw now in position 6



positions 5-6 and positions 6-7 tête-bêche pairs, position 6 inverted in both

Settings



setting 2 (no inverted cliches), pin-perforated, positions 1-2/9-10



setting 2, thick buff paper, positions 1-3



setting 5 (1 inverted cliché, position 57), tête-bêche pair, positions 57-58

Setting 5

A very few sheets from setting 5 were evidently stored in the Treasury when the classic issues were replaced in 1907. These items, from the stored stock, were released in 1917 for telegraphic use. The proving pieces.



tête-bêche pair, positions 57-58  
position 57 inverted  
Birganj telegraphic cancel



positions 1-3/41-43 on telegraph form  
Birganj telegraphic cancels

## Telegraphic Period Printings, 1917 to 1930

In October 1907, when a new issue of pictorial postage stamps arrived in Nepal, remaining sheets and the printing plates of the previous classic issue stamps were placed into storage. In 1917 when a telephone / telegraph line was established, those stored stamps were pressed into service to pay the telegraph fees. When the stamps that had been stored ran out, additional printings began again and new settings were composed when needed. Although valid for postal use, the stamps printed after 1917 were intended for telegraphic use. Such stamps can be easily distinguished based on colors, papers, and the distinct telegraphic cancels that were used. In 1930 the printing of the classic design stamps ceased.

This section of the exhibit is arranged by denomination and setting. Settings can be differentiated and ordered by noting the placement of inverted clichés. These are shown with large multiples and sheets. Additional varieties include important errors of color caused by ink misapplication and the one anna error of color that resulted when a cliché of a one anna stamp was placed in a four annas setting.

### One-Half Anna Orange-Vermilion Setting 6, 1917

A short print run of the one-half anna in orange-vermilion rather than black was printed from a new setting (setting 6) in 1917. A single full sheet was discovered in 1921 by W.G. O'Sullivan, a British postal inspector serving in Nepal.



block of four (positions 18-19/ 26-27) from O'Sullivan discovery sheet (adjoining block follows)  
unused tête-bêche pair (positions 7-8), position 7 with flattened base is inverted  
**four known unused tête-bêche pairs** including this and one on following page in the block

### Largest Multiple of the "Most Famous Stamp of Nepal"

The one-half anna in orange-vermilion was printed in 1917 from a new setting. Only about 100 unused examples and 300 to 400 used examples are known. Referring to this stamp, Hellrigl coined the phrase, "Most Famous Stamp of Nepal."



bottom half of the O'Sullivan discovery sheet found in 1921, setting 6, positions 33-64  
inverted cliché position 57 (bottom left corner stamp)

*ex O'Sullivan, Watts, Dawson and Hellrigl*

**Used Tête-Bêche Pairs and Blocks**

The one-half anna orange-vermilion was printed from a new setting, setting 6, produced at the start of the telegraphic period in 1917. The setting included three inverted clichés. All are shown in used pairs below.



inverted position 7 shows  
flattened base flaw



tête-bêche pairs, position 6/14, 7-8 and 49/57

inverted clichés positions 6,7 and 57

**three of the eight used tête-bêche pairs known**



block of twelve, positions 43-46/51-54/50-62 and block of four, positions 2-3/10-11

**fewer than ten known used blocks, most being blocks of four**

### One-Half Anna Lemon Shade

The one-half anna printed in the so-cataloged "lemon" shade, or more accurately, orange-yellow, is known only in four used singles and one cover.



½ anna lemon, position 3, Kathmandu telegraphic cancel  
**four known used examples of this shade**



January 1921 cover from O'Sullivan in Ghumdhang, via British office in Kathmandu, to India  
 philatelic overpayment with ½ anna lemon plus additional Nepal and India stamps  
**the only reported example of this shade on cover**

*ex Singer*

# Telegraphic Period (1917-1930)

## One-Half Anna Black Printings

Setting 7 was the first used for the black printings during the telegraphic period.



setting 7, clear printing, positions: 6-8/14-16 (three vertical tête-bêche pairs)  
inverted position 7 flattened base flaw

## Telegraphic Cancels used 1917 to 1930

When service started in 1917 the telephone line connected the main office at Kathmandu with Birganj near the border with India. Messages were written out on a special form and transmitted verbally by telephone to the receiving office where they were transcribed. The charges for use of this "telegraphic" service was three-fourths anna per word. Stamps were affixed to the reverse of the special forms and cancelled.



Amlekganj cancel  
a circa 1927 use



telegraph form, 10½ annas fee for 14 words paid with ½ anna single and 2 annas block



# Telegraphic Period (1917-1930)

## Telegraphic Cancels used 1917 to 1930



Special cancels designating the office of origin for telegraphs were introduced in the three main offices in 1917. An additional office was added in 1927.

Cancel of the Telephone Head Office, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Kathmandu.



Cancel of the Telephone Sub-Office 1, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Chisapani.



# Telegraphic Period (1917-1930)

## Telegraphic Cancels used 1917 to 1930



Cancel of the Telephone Sub-Office II, internally dated 1917. The office was located in Birganj.

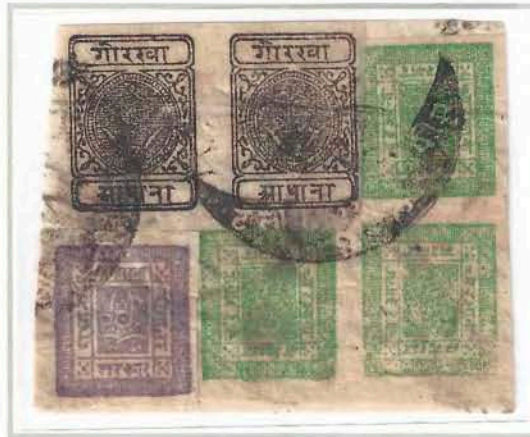


top pair is tête-bêche

Cancel of the Amlekanj office internally dated 1927. This office was added when the railway was completed in 1927.

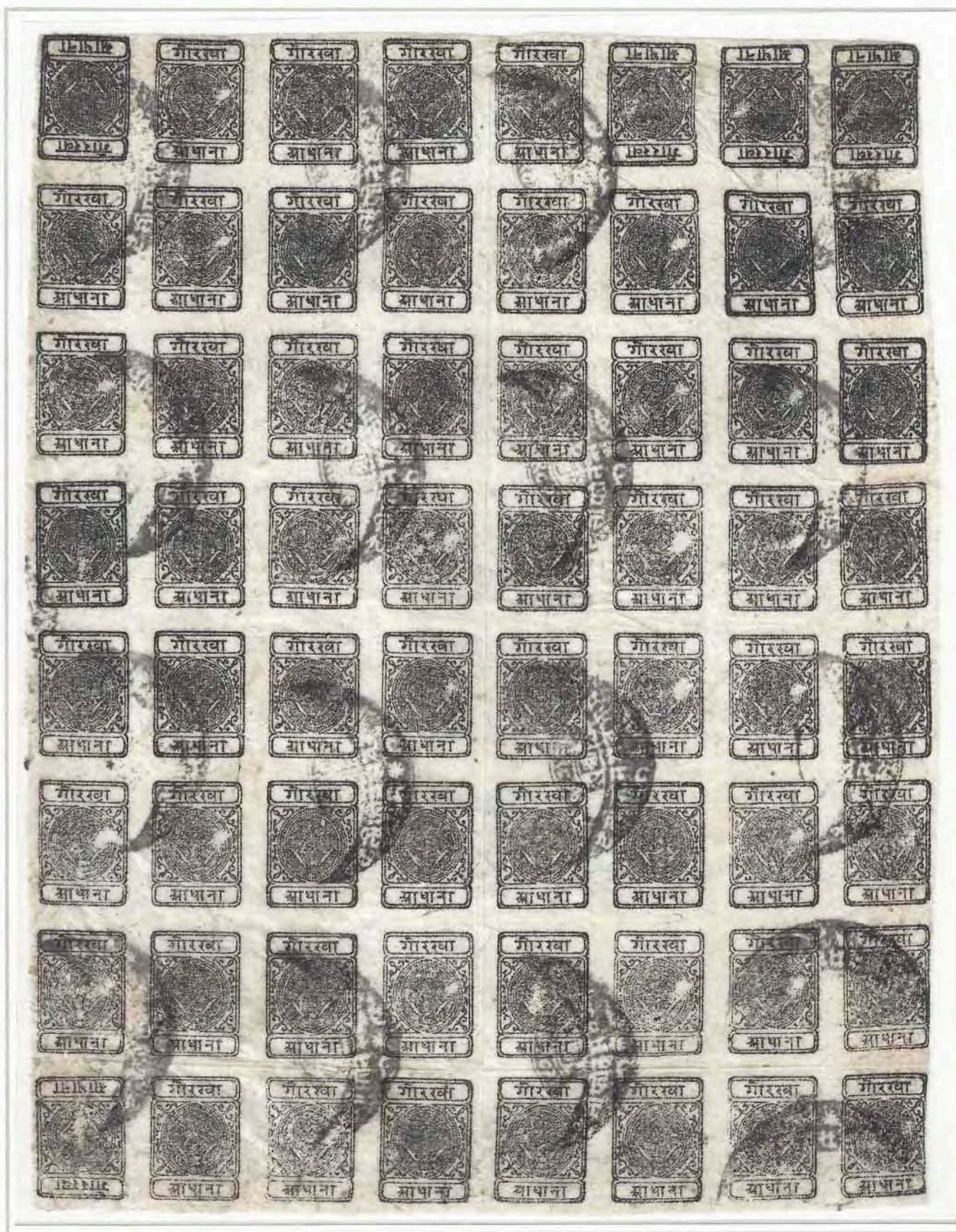


**Fifteen Annas Franking on  
Telegraph Form**



2 annas single, 1/2 annas pair, and three copies 4 annas  
affixed to portion of telegraph form used from Chisapani

Setting 7



inverted cliche positions: 1, 6, 7, 8 and 57; flattened base in inverted position 7

Setting 7



मिनेट २४ | २७०५ | 10/11/32

वि सभिस देडिङ्गनेको खन्डहो तेमापठारनेके केहि नखेरनु यसदेलि मुनिका ।

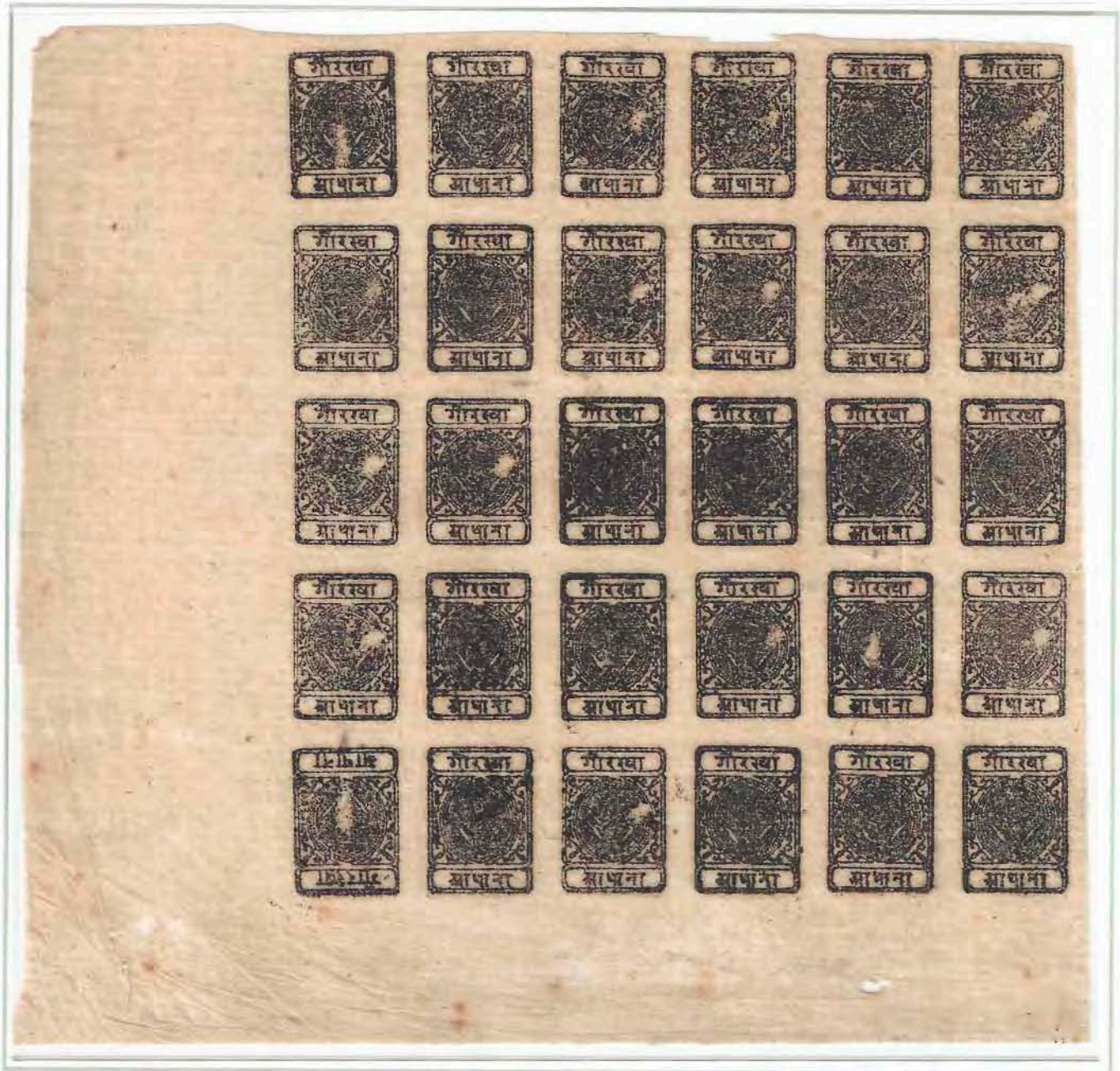
खबर पाउनेको नाम पचा डेगाना पुरातवरुंग यसखन्डमा केखनु  
 नाम *श्री. म. दे. ल. म. म. म.*  
 डेगाना

*Handwritten notes in English:*  
 Hankin wires culentia with  
 notations sent tenth febr  
 ret Kaiser Kattianan

टेलिकोमवाड नैसाने }  
 पठारनेको भाष }  
 डेगाना } *10/11/32*

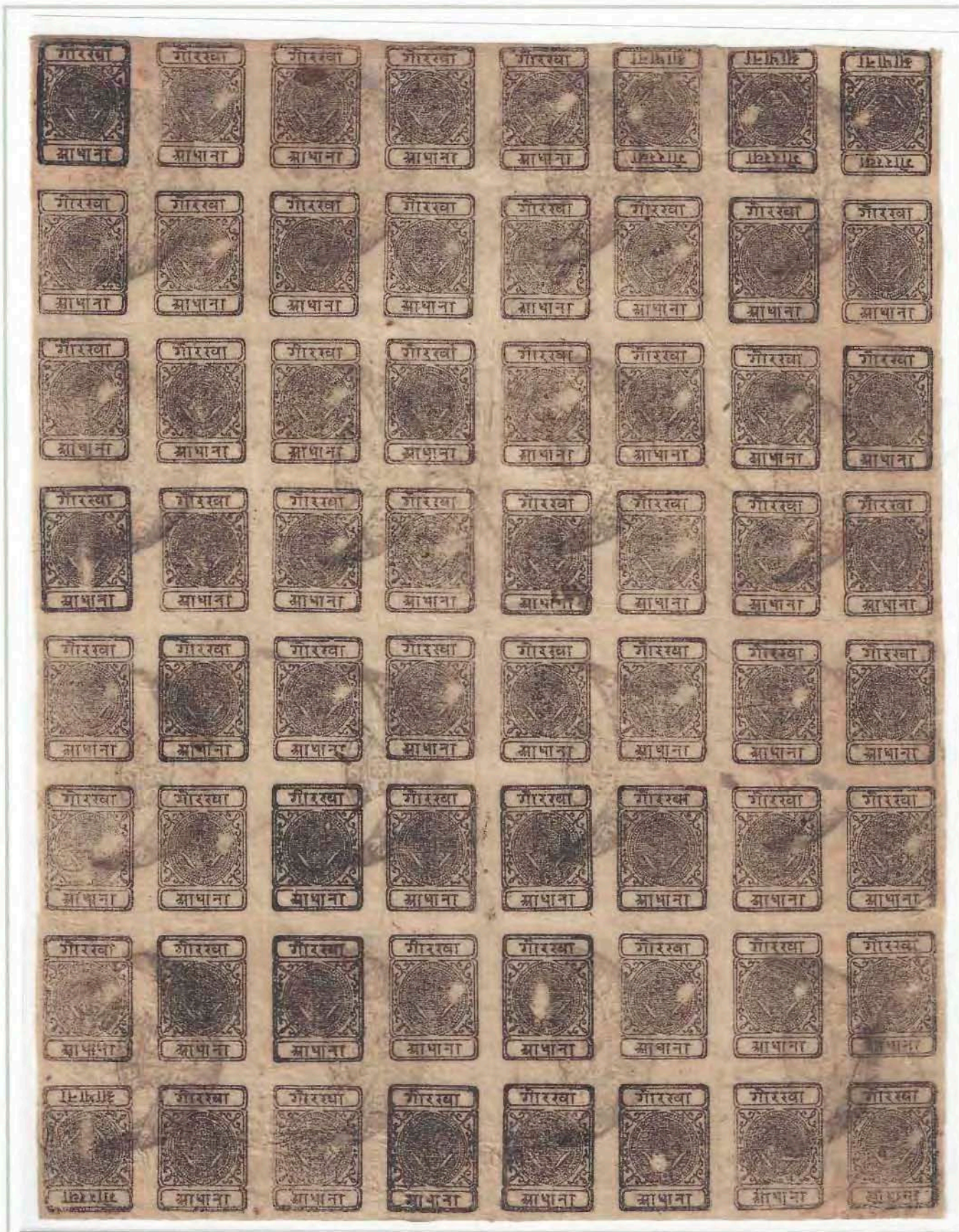
block of thirty, positions: 27-32/59-64, Birganj telegraphic cancels attached to reverse of part telegraph form, in English, as shown reduced

Setting 8



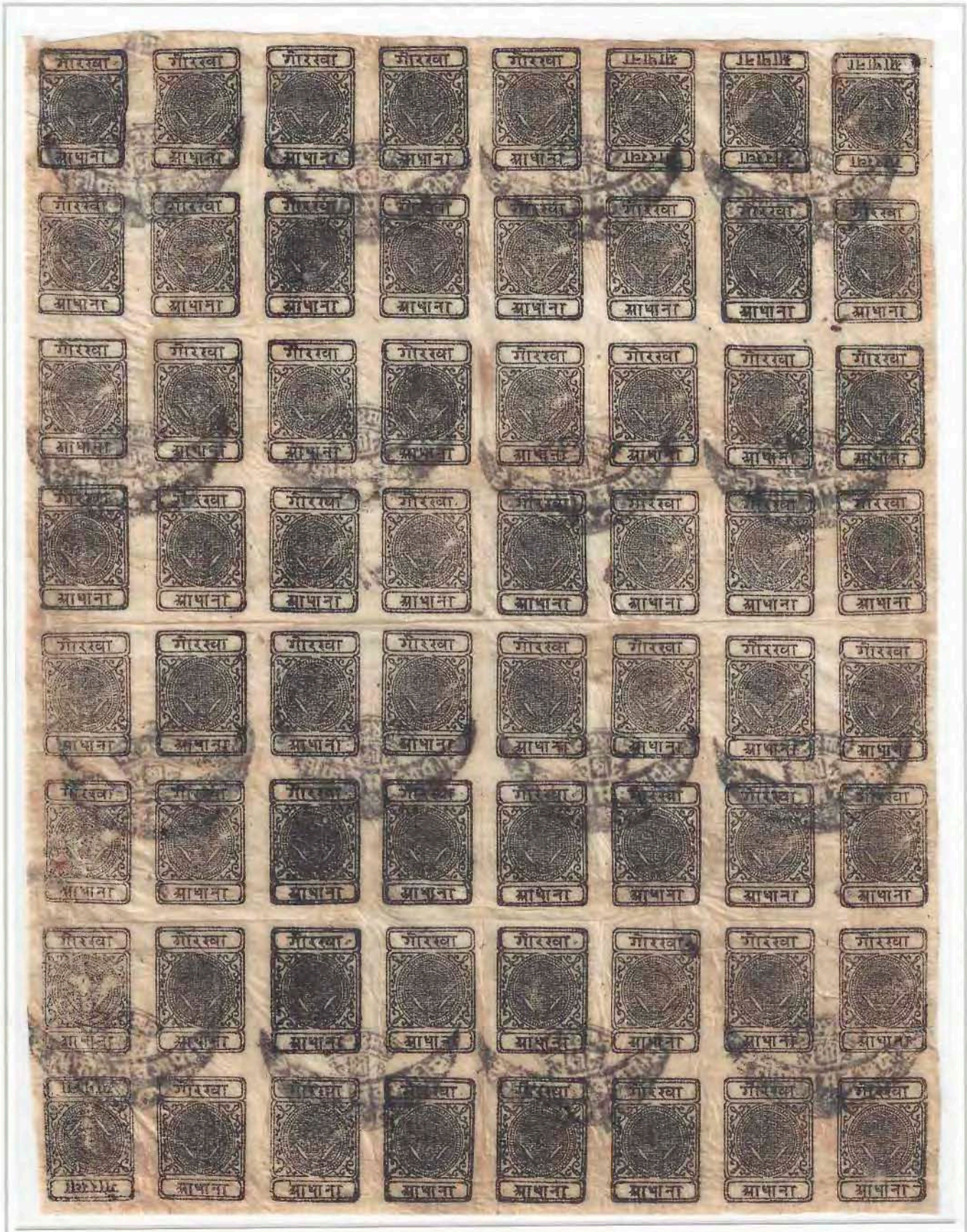
corner block of 30, inverted cliché position 57 (bottom left corner position)  
second largest unused multiple

Setting 8



inverted cliche positions: 6, 7, 8 and 57, Birganj telegraphic cancels

Setting 8, Late State



late state, position 64 has a dash at right interior frame of value tablet  
 inverted cliché positions: 6, 7, 8 and 57, Birganj telegraphic cancels



Setting 10



inverted cliche positions: 6, 7, 8, 25 and 57, flattened base cliche transferred to position 1

Setting 11

The Blister Flaw

position 42  
earliest state  
largest multiple

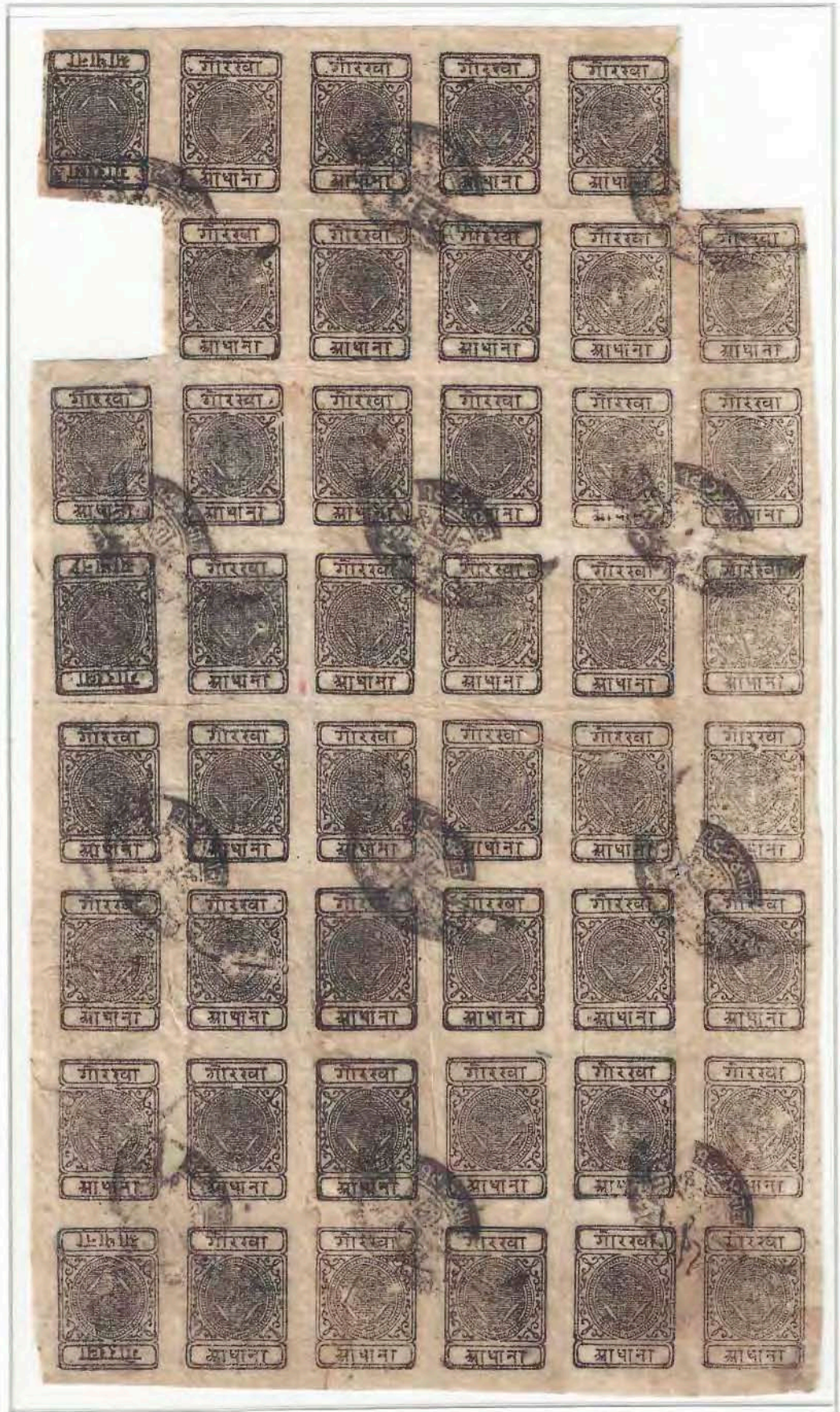


positions 33-34/41-42  
discovery block



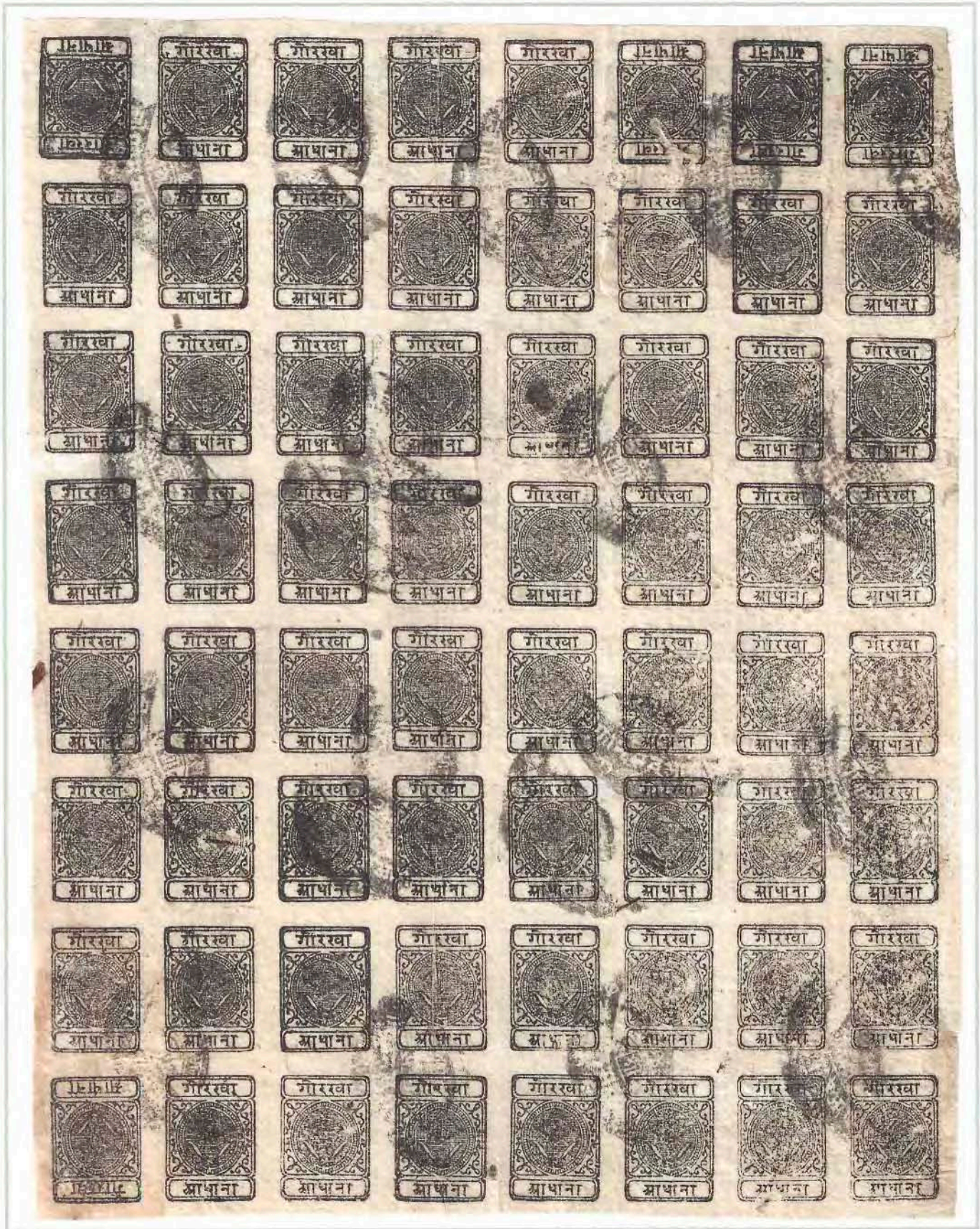
>>

single blister flaw  
earliest state which  
shows slash to left



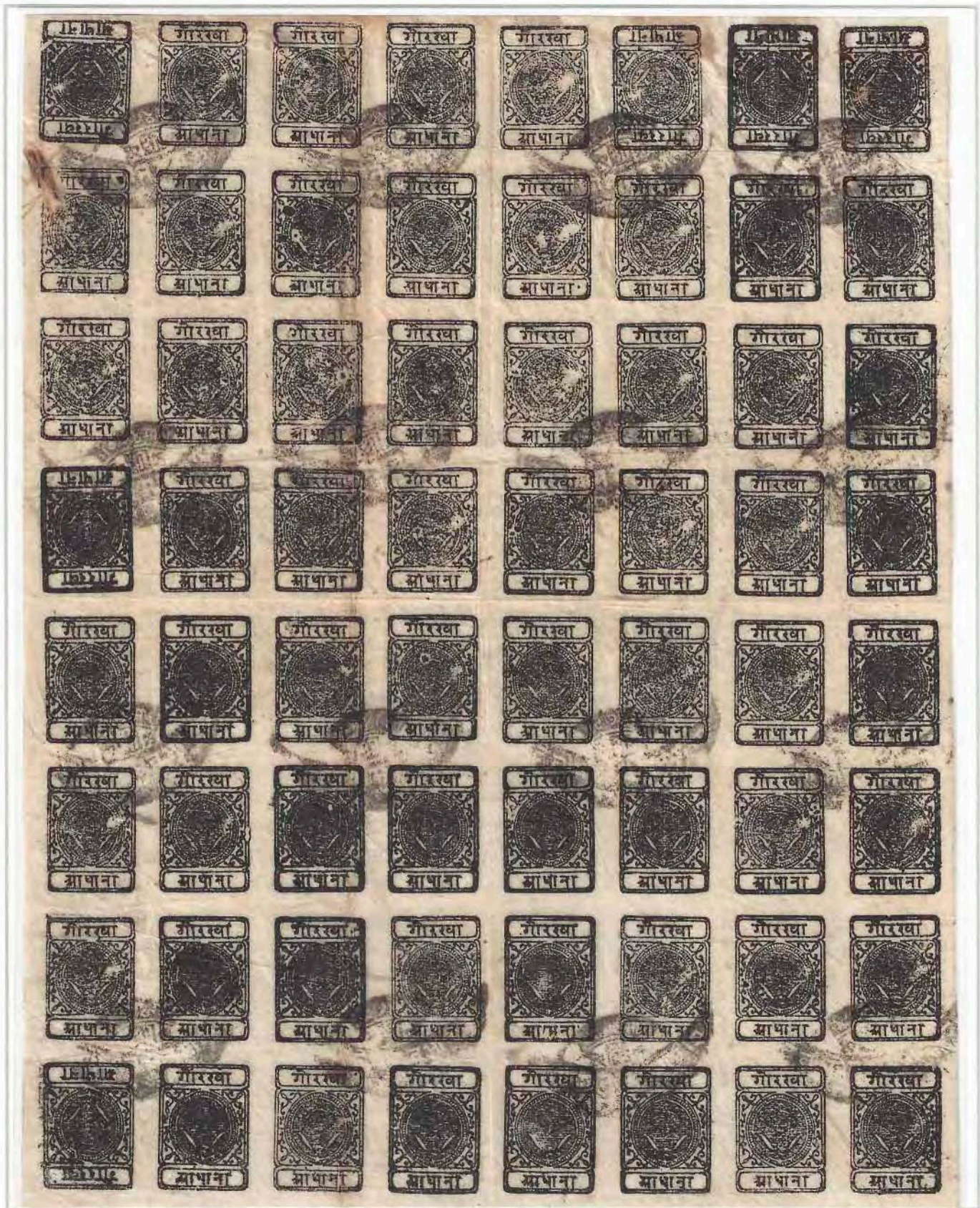
earliest appearance of blister flaw in position 42, inverted cliché positions: 1, 25 and 57

Setting 12, First State



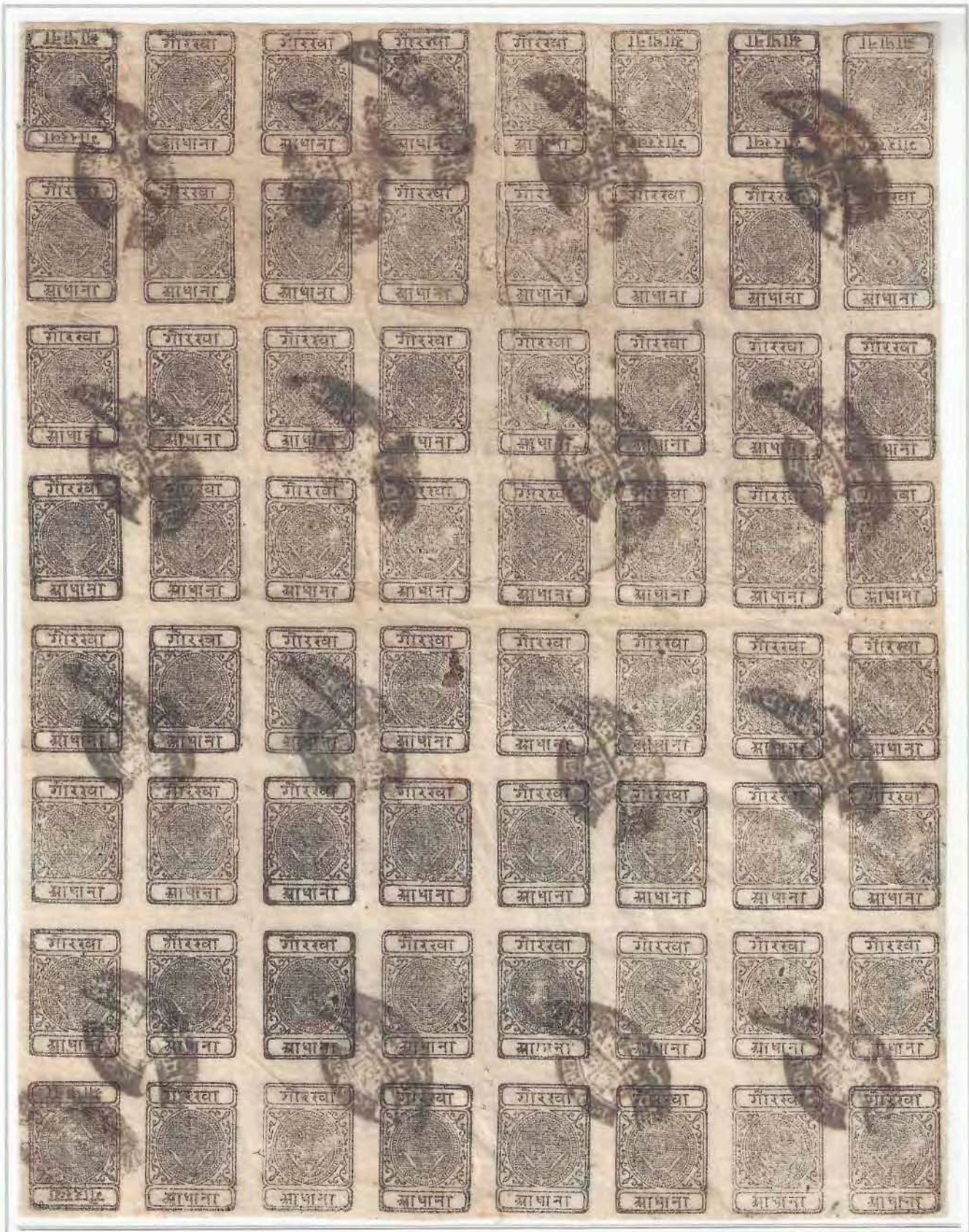
sheet, inverted cliché positions: 1,6,7, 8, and 57, single blister flaw found on position 42  
 the only reported complete sheet

Setting 12



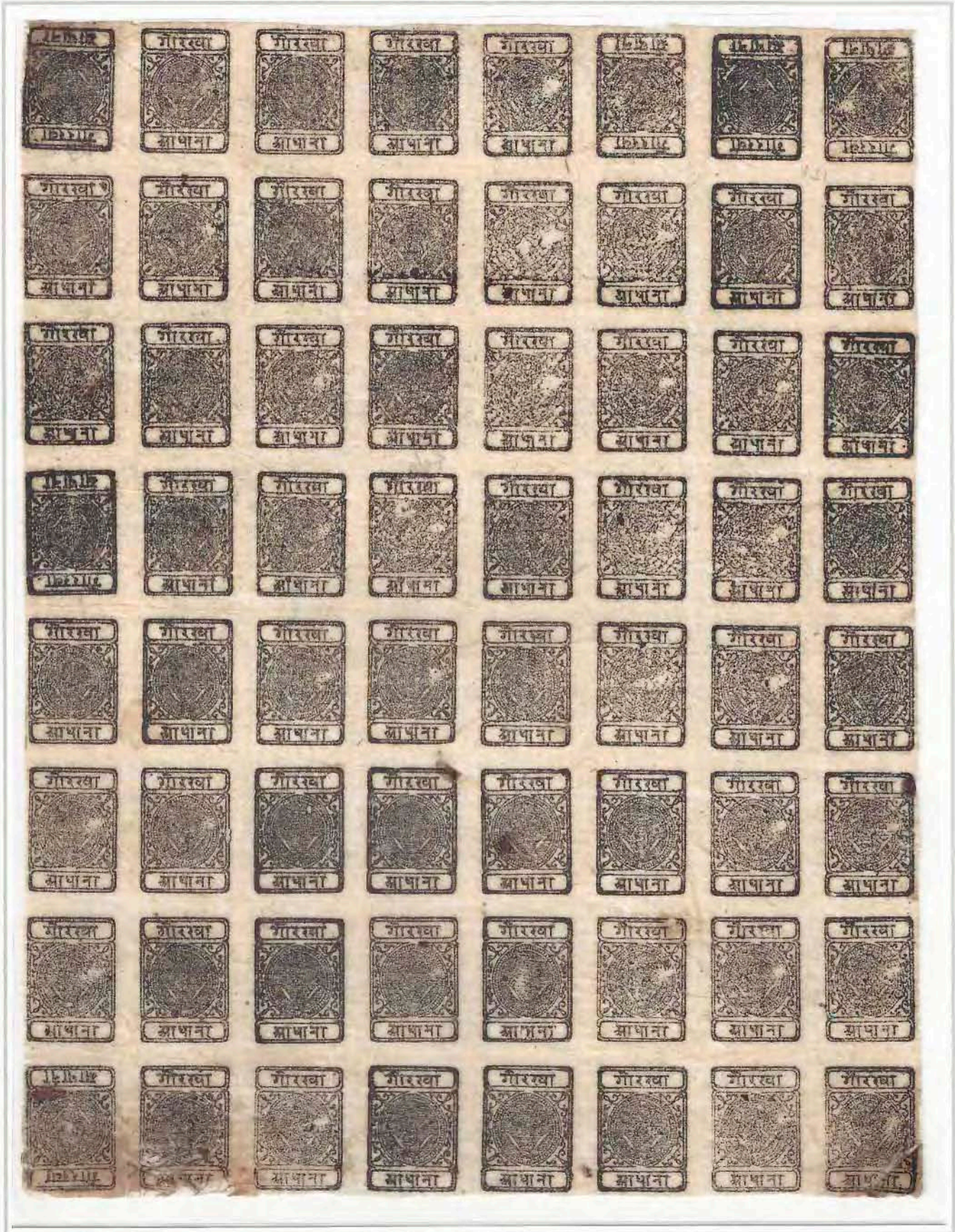
deep black, inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, 8 and 57, double blister flaw position 42

Setting 12



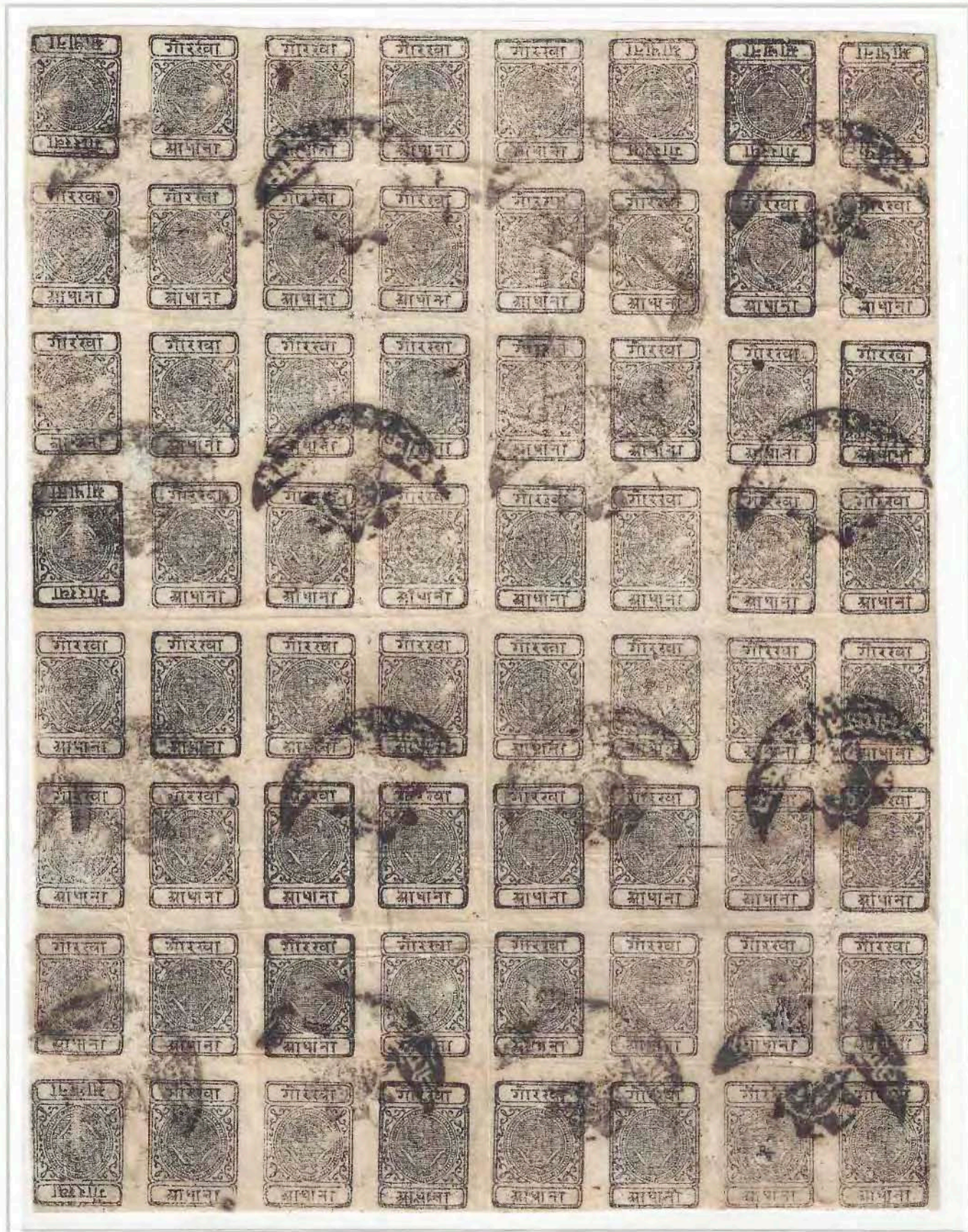
inverted cliche positions: 1, 6, 7, 8 and 57, double blister flaw position 42

Setting 13



inverted cliche positions: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25 and 57; double blister flaw position: 42  
four reported mint sheets

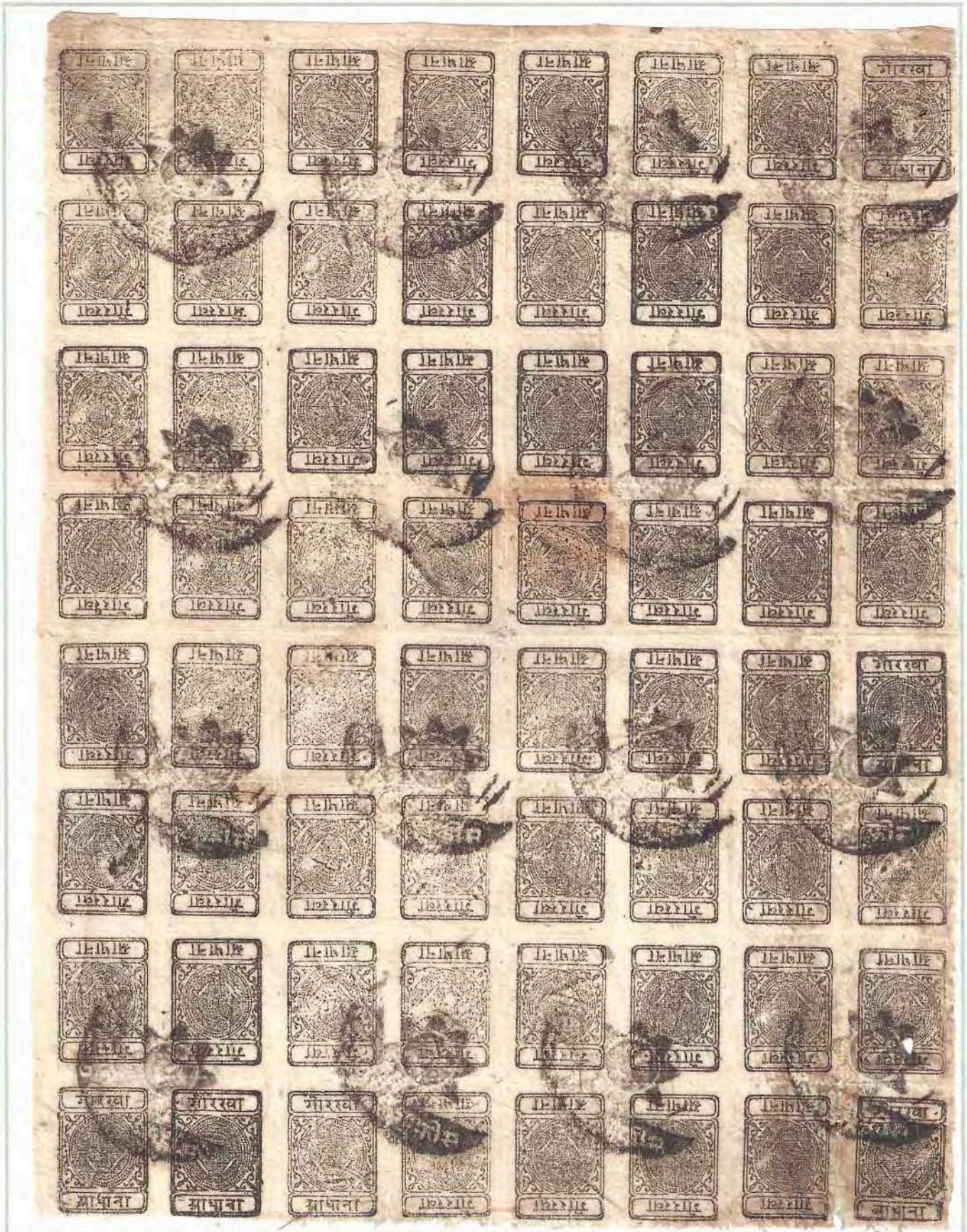
Setting 13



inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25 and 57, double blister flaw position 42

Kathmandu telegraphic cancels

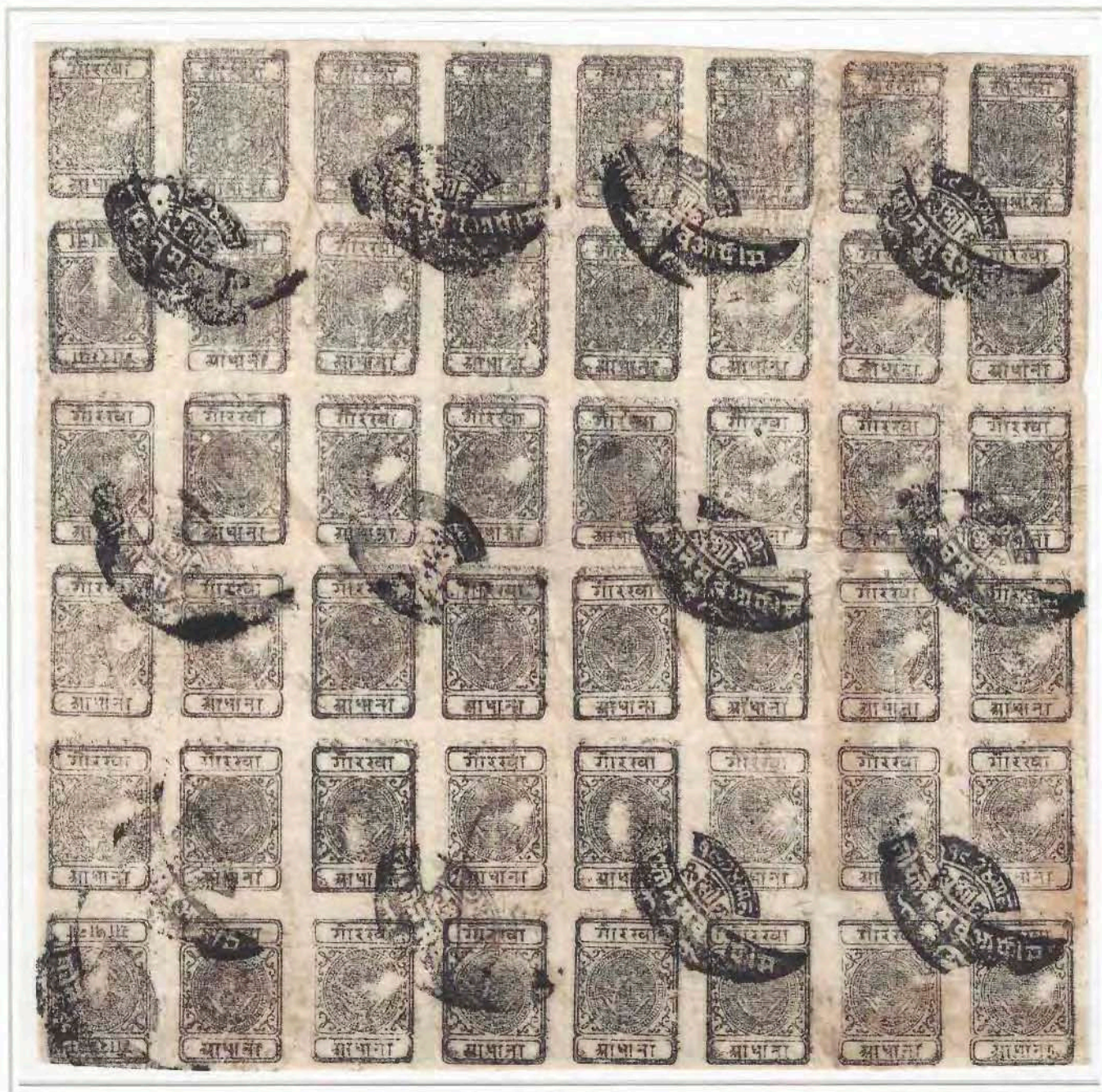
Setting 13, Pin-Perforated



inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, 8, 25 and 57; double blister flaw position: 42  
 Kathmandu cancels, the only reported used pin-perforated sheet (any denomination)



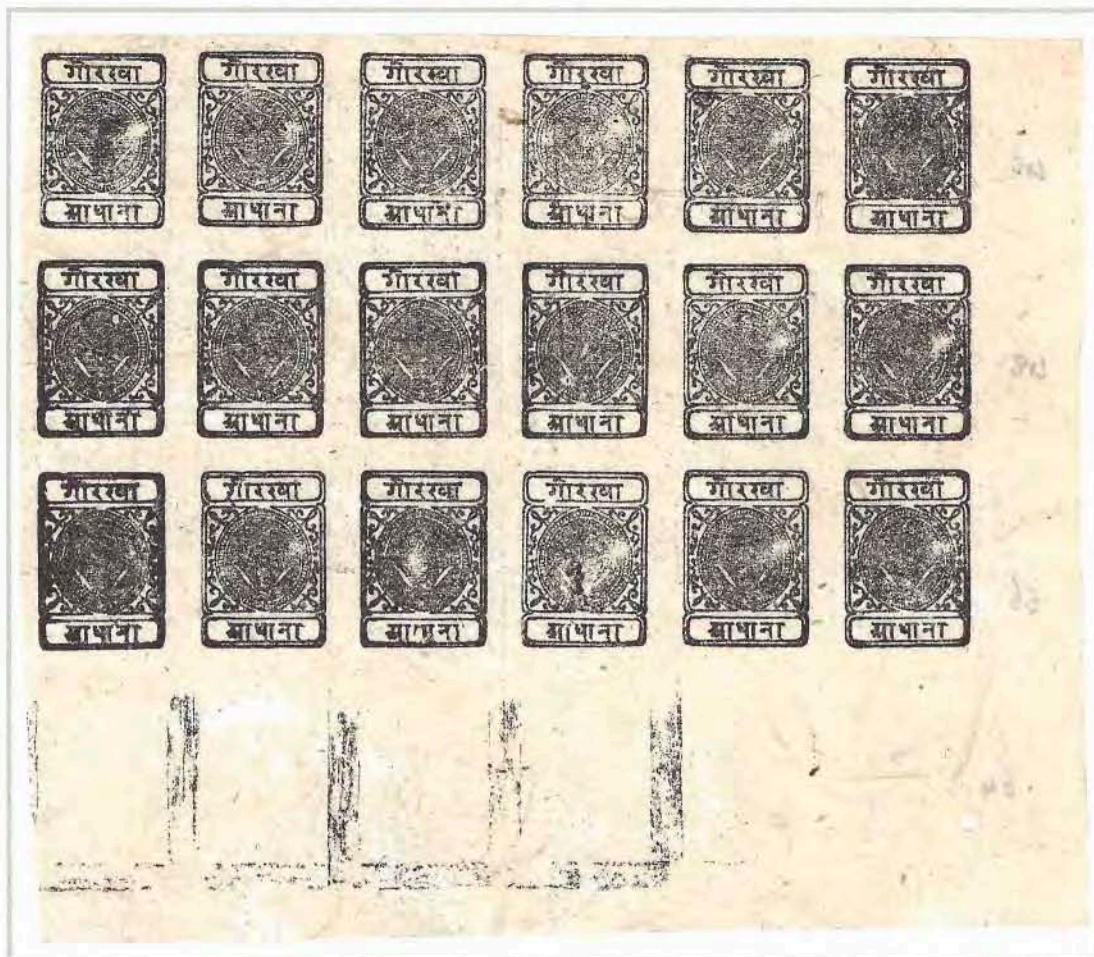
Setting 13  
Double Impression



lower six rows of sheet, positions 17-64, inverted cliché positions: 25 and 57  
missing double blister flaw usually found on position 42

## Setting 14, First State

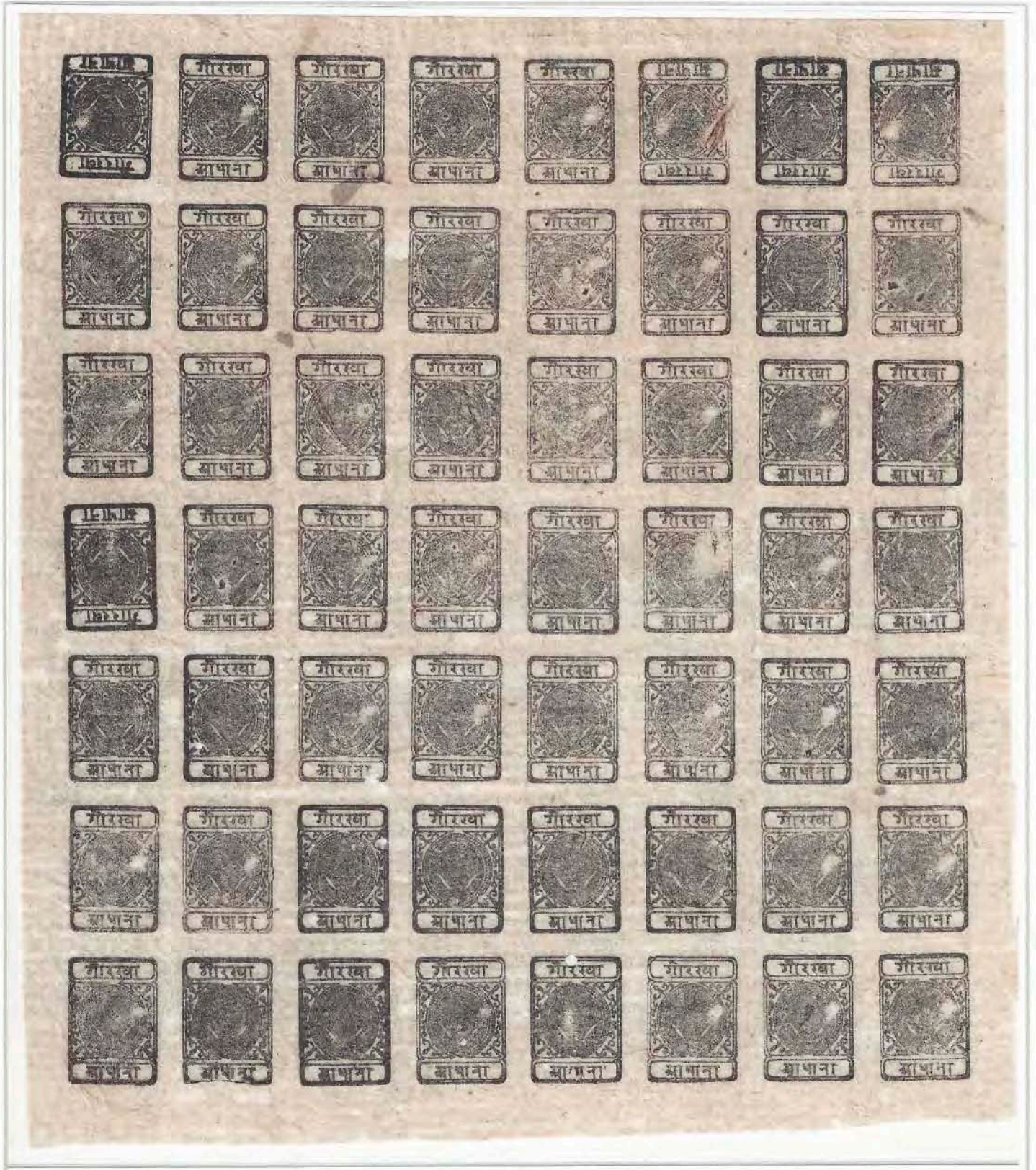
Setting 14, with only 7 rows instead of 8, was the last setting used to print the one-half anna stamps. Used copies are unknown. First state shows impression from spacers where clichés were removed at foot.



block from bottom right corner of sheet, positions 35-40, 43-48, 51-56  
**this block and two complete sheets are unknown**

Setting 14

Setting 14, with only 7 rows instead of 8, was the last setting used to print the one-half anna stamps. Used copies are unknown.

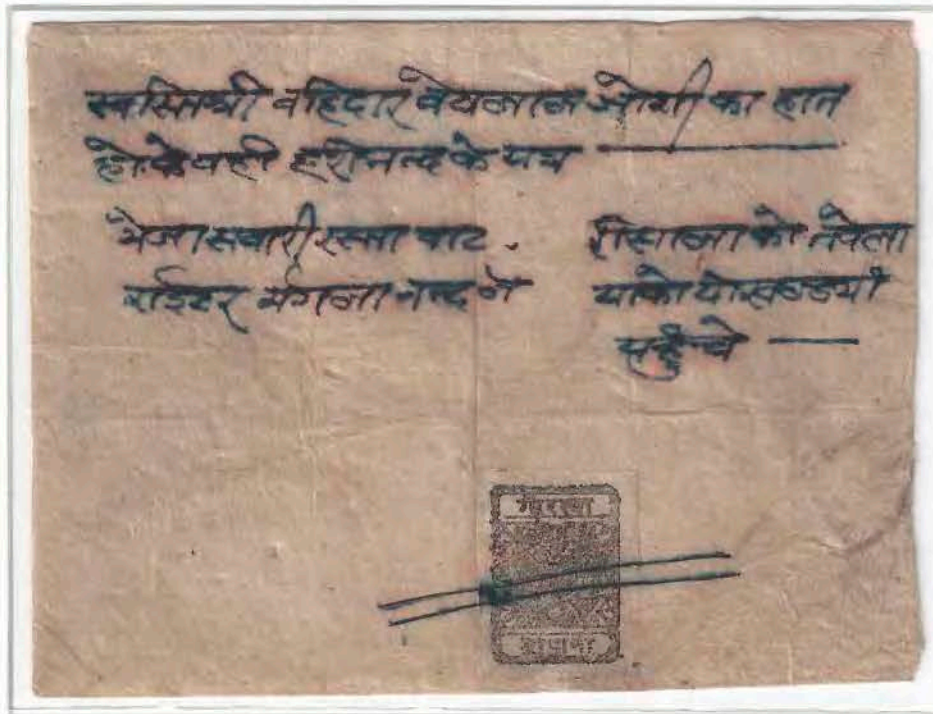


inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, 8 and 25;  
with the removal of row 8 in this setting, position 50 was damaged at foot

Forgery Sheet



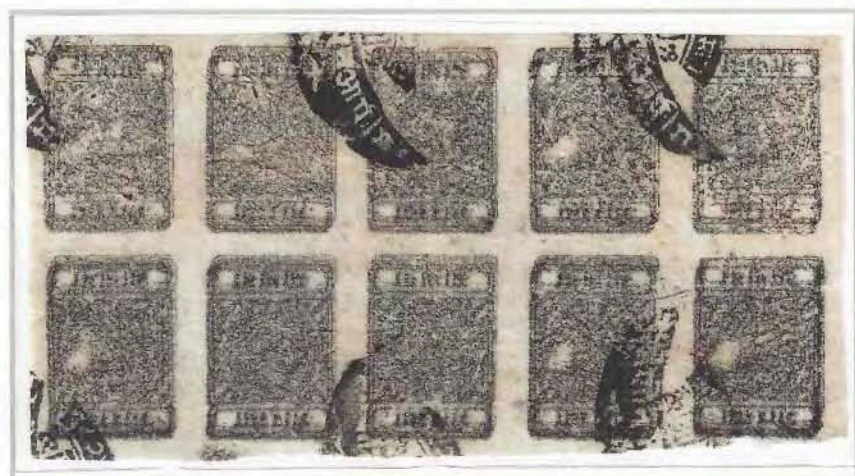
Genuine and Fakes



genuine unused stamp tied to forged cover by fake pen cancel



genuine used block  
faked double print  
(overprinted with forgery)



genuine used block of ten on thin paper  
genuine double impression  
ex Singer, illustrated on page 105

Genuine and Forgeries



genuine used  
Kathmandu cancel



forgery, tête-bêche pair with fake cancel



forgery

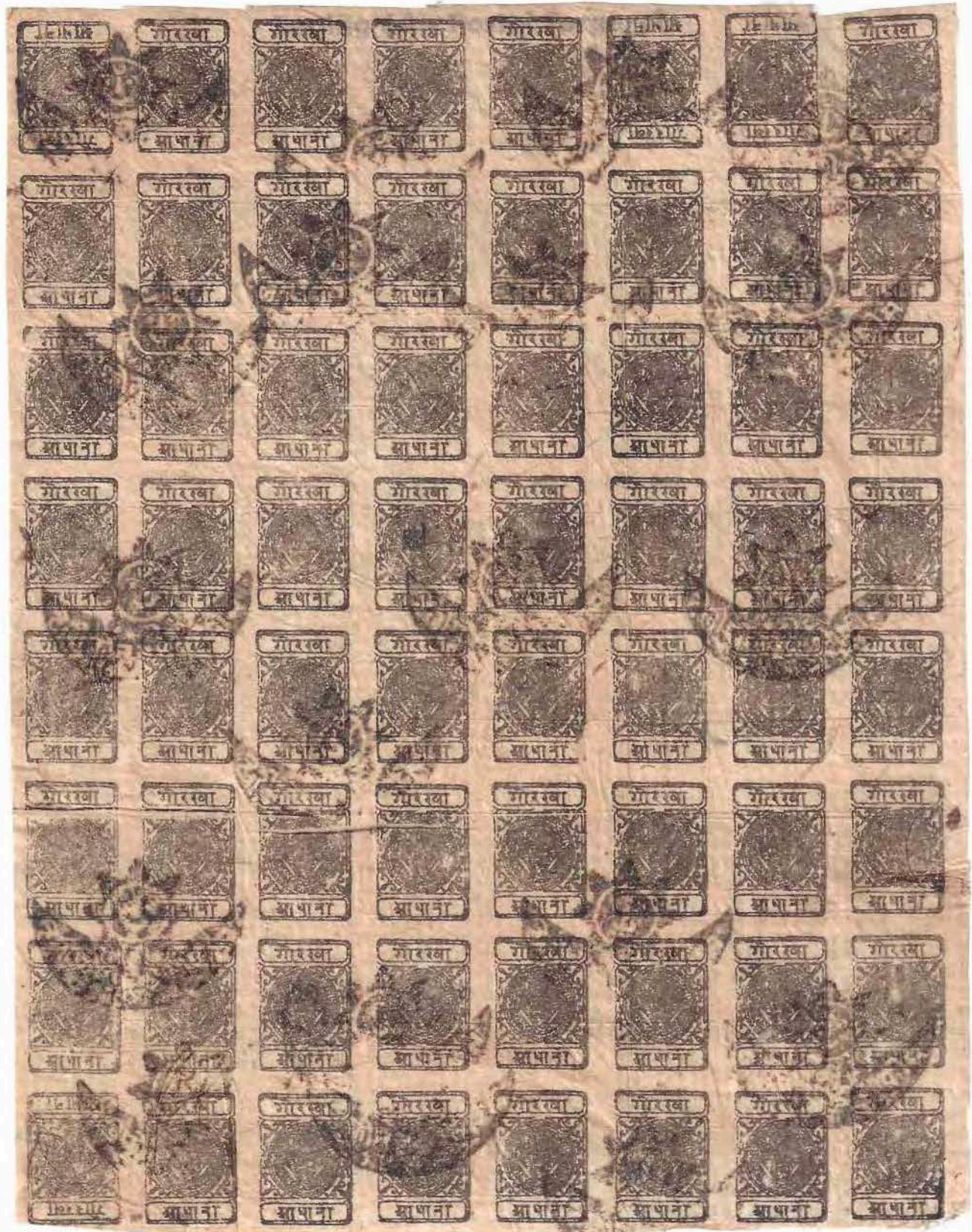


forgery with fake cancel

Forgery shows dot of color in right frame at midpoint. Ex Armand Singer, illustrated on page 107.



Forgery Sheet



inverted cliché positions: 1, 6, 7, and 57, same cliché used throughout  
Kathmandu cancels faked (?)