



The Afghan Bulletin

No. 9 December 2021



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James Miller

James Miller was a Scottish architect who worked for Amir Habibullah for seven years between 1907-14. He was originally employed in connection with the construction and fitting out of the Pashm Bafi woolen mills, but the Amir kept finding other jobs for him to do, such as the design and building of golf courses, and of the Clocktower in the Arg, Kabul.

The two photo postcards below, apparently produced by Miller for use as Christmas cards, show the Clocktower and Miller himself in local dress.



New Issues post 2012

Getting information about Afghan new issues is much harder than it ought to be! The following is the information which I have managed to glean to date. As very few of these items have actually been seen other than in online images, then it should be expected that there could be errors in this listing.

Most of the information has been taken from the Afghan Post website and Facebook pages, which are for the most part in Pashto. It is not clear whether some of the items below are miniature sheets or souvenir postcards. It is thought that the three items from 2021 are in fact postcards, but the 2017-2019 Shafiq, Biruni and Centenary of Independence items are miniature sheets.

Where dates are given for Facebook posts, the actual date of issue is probably a few days earlier.

Please note that as the actual stamps/sheets are not to hand, images are *not* to scale.

2013/14

A single stamp commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Economic Co-operation Organisation was reported to be in preparation for issue in December 2013/early 2014, but has not been seen. It was to have been a joint issue with Iran and Pakistan.

2017

Mohammad Musa Shafiq



150 Afg rouletted

250 Afg m/s imperf

Mohammad Musa Shafiq (1932-1979) became Foreign Minister of Afghanistan in 1971, and Prime Minister in 1972, but lost his position when the King was deposed in 1973. After the Communist coup in 1978 he was arrested, and subsequently executed.

2018

Afghanistan's Saffron



100 Afg. An Afghan Post Facebook post on 25th April 2018 said this stamp would be issued “soon”.

Afghan saffron is reputed to be the best in the world and comprises just over 6% of world production. Per kilo it sells for more than opium (for which Afghanistan is unfortunately rather better known!) and farmers are being urged to grow it instead.

International Seminar on Abu Raihan Biruni



50 Afg (perf/imperf/roulette unknown)

100 Afg m/s (blue green background – stamp straight) imperf

100 Afg m/s (brownish-black background, stamp angled) imperf

Al-Biruni, who was born in Beruni (Uzbekistan) in 973 and died in Ghazni (Afghanistan) in 1048 is famed for his writings on astronomy and cartography. He is reputed to have written almost 150 works.

Mohammad Wali Khan Darwazi



500 Afg (?), rouletted

Mohammad Wali Khan Darwazi (1888-1933) was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence Minister in the 1920's for King Amanullah Khan. During Amanullah's nine month long European tour in 1928 Darwazi acted as regent in the King's absence. After the fall of Amanullah he was arrested by the usurper Bacche Saqqao. He fared no better when Mohammed Nadir Shah came to throne and was imprisoned for eight years. Following Nadir Shah's assassination in 1933 a number of Amanullah's prominent supporters were executed, including Darwazi.

2019

100th Anniversary of Afghan Independence, 15th August 2019 (28 Mordad/Asad)



30 Afg. King Amanullah Khan, perf

100 Afg m/s

Designed by Shabana Rozi

Afghans count their independence from the Treaty of Rawalpindi at the end of the Third Afghan War in 1919. The miniature sheet shows the Darulaman Palace in Kabul which was built by Amanullah in the 1920's as the royal residence in Kabul, and which became the Presidential Palace when the monarchy was replaced in 1973. It was severely damaged during the civil wars of the 1990's but was fully restored between 2016-20.

150th Anniv of Birth of Mahatma Gandhi and Afghan-Indian Friendship, October 2019

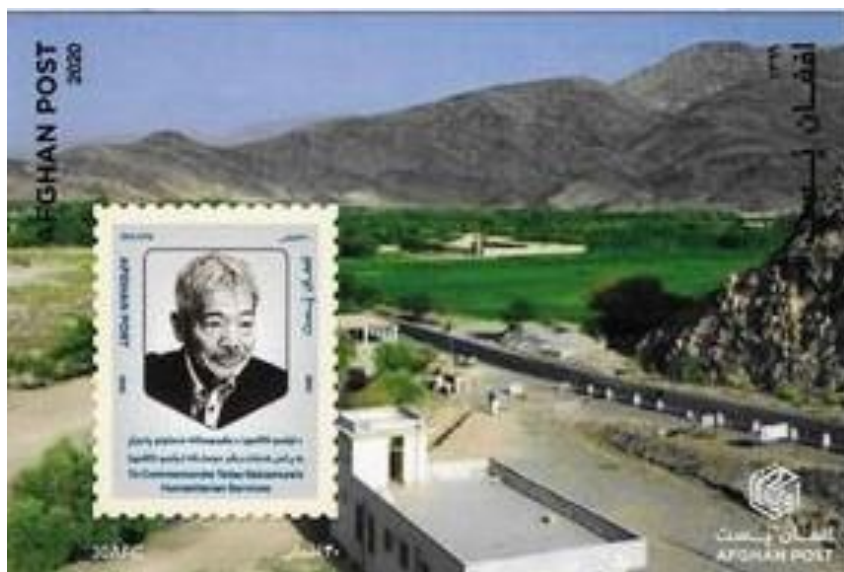


(NB The image on the FB page is at an angle!)

100 Afg, perf

2021

Tetsu Nakamura (inscribed 2020 but apparently issued 16th January 2021)



300 Afg, perf (Quantity: 50,000 – FB post 18/1/21). Printed by Afghan Postal Corporation.
30 Afg souvenir postcard?

Tetsu Nakamura (1946–2019) was a Japanese doctor and honorary Afghan citizen. He spent over 30 years undertaking humanitarian work in Afghanistan. He originally arrived in the country to treat leprosy cases, but became involved in projects for water management, building wells and irrigation canals. Using traditional Japanese architectural methods he was able to convert thousands of hectares of dry and barren land into lush and fertile areas. He was killed in a targeted killing on 4th December 2019 in Jalalabad. It was reported in September 2021 that a mural in his honour in Kabul had been painted over on Taliban instructions.

International Women's Day, March 2021



250 Afg, perf (FB post 10th March 2021)

100 Afg souvenir postcard

International Women's Day was the 8th March but it is not clear if that was the issue date.

Opening of Kemal Khan Dam, March 2021



300 Afg (?), perf (FB post 24th March 2021)

30 Afg souvenir postcard.

The Kamal Khan Dam is a hydroelectric and irrigation dam project on the Helmand River in Chahar Burjak District of Nimruz Province in south-western Afghanistan. It was inaugurated by President Ashraf Ghani on the 24th March 2021. The dam project had been opposed by Iran as it will reduce the flow of water from the Helmand River into Iran and it is believed that Iran even paid the Taliban to repeatedly attack the construction project – there were over 100 such attacks and 40 Afghan security personnel died as a result of them.

Registration receipt from 1940

Illustrated below is a receipt for a registered letter posted on the 23rd May 1940. Such receipts are not often found, and it is even more unusual to have the cover to which the receipt relates. The registration number ۵۶۶ is in the top right corner, and matches the 566 on the front of the cover.

ورقة سفارشی پاکستان

نمبر ۵۶۶

تاریخ ۲۳ مئی ۱۹۴۰

ادارہ پست و تلگراف ٹیلفون

نام _____

گھر _____

شہر _____

اسم و آدرس مرسل الیہ

فوج ارسال _____

وزن ارسال ۹ کراہ کیلو گرام

مبلغ محصول ۱۰۰۰ یول افغان

تفصیلات متعلقہ برسواہ

۵۶۶

REGISTERED.

Mr. Henry R. Heyburn,
1435 So. Third Street,
Louisville,
Kentucky,
United States of America.

NOT OPENED BY
H CENSOR

Kabul

R Nr 566

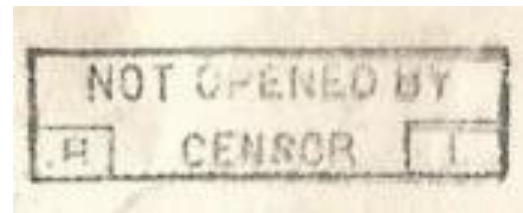
From
Sir Ken Fraser-Tyler
British Embassy
Kabul

British Legation
Kabul

-50



The cover also has the rectangular NOT OPENED BY CENSOR H 1 marking of Peshawar on the front.



The sender of the letter, Sir William Kerr Fraser-Tytler (1886-1963), was His Majesty's Minister in Kabul from 1935 to 1941, having previously served as Secretary to the Legation in 1923-4, and Chargé d'Affaires from 1930-32. He was also the author of *Afghanistan: A Study in Political Developments in Central and Southern Asia*.

Happy Christmas from Kabul!

A Christmas card depicting, and sent from, the British Legation in Kabul, probably sometime in the 1930's.

