

1906 Government of India Rules Regarding Showing Borders on Maps  
transcribed by Kyle Gardner

Foreign Dept. Frontier A, September 1906, 107-110:

- KW for Pro. 109: "To the Surveyor-General of India, No. 1584-F., dated the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1906./ Conveys approval to the suggestions contained in his letter No. 13, dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1906, for modification of certain symbols on the news series of the standard maps of the Survey of India./ ... 3. The scales on which maps will be surveyed and published admits of great accuracy, but to insert a boundary on one of them from such a description as "follows the watershed" might easily result in such a boundary being wrongly placed by 100 yards or more, and this might be serious in the case of cultivated areas [I'm not sure what "cultivated areas are on the watershed lines...]./ ... 5. Would it be impolitic to warn rulers of Native States that their States will come under Topographical Survey a year or so before operations actually commence and to request them to demarcate their limits? If so I would suggest that Surveyors should be warned to mark boundaries as pointed out in a general way, on their field sheets, but to employ a special symbol to ensure such boundaries not being copied on to the fair maps (especially if engraved).
- No. 107: "No. 13, dated Calcutta, the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1906./ From—Colonel F. B. Longe, R.E., Surveyor-General of India./ To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department./ I have the honour to request the favour of your confirming your approval of the following suggestions which were put forward by me at the meeting in the Foreign Secretary's Office on Saturday last the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1905./ That on the new series of standard maps of the survey of India—/ (a) The roads and villages shall be printed in red./ (b) That all water shall be coloured blue./ Perennial streams being shown by a firm blue line and non-perennial by broken blue lines./ (c) That the symbols for roads shall be those given on the table of symbols supplied with Quarter Master General, Intelligence Branch's letter No. 5520-I. of the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1905./ (d) That forests, &c., shall be shewn by washes or tints of green, the tint varying with the density of the forest growth./ (e) That the hill shading and contours shall be in brown./ (f) That no distinction be made between wet and dry cultivation but that the limits of cultivation be shewn./ 3. I propose that railways be printed in black on all maps, they will then stand out well, as all other continuous lines will be either in blue (rivers) brown (contours) or red (roads and paths). The symbols have been approved by the Quarter Master General in India./ 4. I have submitted a separate letter to the Government of India on the subject of boundary symbols, which was a subject of discussion at the meeting."
- Pro. No. 108: "No. 23, dated Calcutta, the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1906./ Endorsed by the Assistant Surveyor-General, In charge Surveyor-General's Office./ Copy\* [No. 22, dated Calcutta, the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1906, from Surveyor-General of India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture] forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, for information, with reference to the meeting in the Foreign Secretary's Office on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1905./ No. 22, dated Calcutta, the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1906./ From—Colonel F. B. Longe, R. E., Surveyor-General of India./ To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture./ I have the honour to submit, for the approval of the Government of India, the following rules regarding the definition of boundaries on all maps of India and of adjacent countries, in future. These rules will only have retrospective effect in cases where the necessary changes can, in the opinion of the Surveyor-General, be carried out without detriment to the original fair map or, in the case of an engraved map, to the copper plate./ Rule 1.—Every map containing a frontier or trans-frontier boundary will be submitted to the Foreign Department for orders before publication./ **Rule 2.—No portion of the external boundary of India shall be engraved or printed on any map unless it has been actually surveyed after demarcation./ Rule 3.—No boundary beyond the frontiers of India shall be engraved or printed on any of the general or standard maps published by the Survey of India unless it has been actually surveyed after demarcation./ Rule 4.—When the survey of any area in which such boundaries occur precedes demarcation, such boundaries will be shewn whenever possible on the plane table sections and be copied in blue on the original fair sheets./ Rule 5.—Two**

copies of every Frontier or trans-frontier map containing a boundary which has been shewn on the plane table section but not on the engraved or zinc plate (under rules 2 and 3) will be supplied to the Foreign Department shewing the boundaries as given on the plane table section, for those orders as to the numbers of copies which will be required by that department. These will be coloured by hand or specially printed but such coloured copies will be issued to no one without the express orders of the Foreign Department, and no boundary symbol will be used./ Rule 6.—In cases where the external boundary of India has not been demarcated and where the boundary of an external district is not definitely and finally known, as in the case of portions of Assam and Burma, the boundary of the administration area as pointed out by the local authorities at the time of survey will be inserted on the plane table sections and in blue on the fair maps. Such boundaries will not be printed or engraved until the Foreign Department has approved of their position and of the symbol to be employed. [Foreign Department controls access to all geographical information about frontier/trans-frontier regions]/ Rule 7.—The following boundary symbols will be used on all maps, but the length and thickness of the lines and intervals between them and the size and intervals of the dots may vary with the scale of the map./ [illustrations, will photocopy].”

- Pro. no. 110: “No. 1351—4—2, dated Simla, the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1906./ From—J. Wilson, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture./ To—The Surveyor-General of India./ I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 22, dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 1906, submitting for approval rules which you propose to adopt regarding boundary symbols on all maps of India and of adjacent countries, in future./ 2. In reply I am to convey the approval of the Government of India to the rules proposed by you, with the modifications below./ 3. No portion of the external boundary of India and no boundary beyond the frontier should be shown *on the printed standard maps*, which has not been authoritatively demarcated and been surveyed by the Survey Staff, any boundary which has not been so demarcated being left blank. On the standard maps, therefore, which are issued to the public, there would be no symbol for undemarcated external or trans-frontier boundaries. It would, however, be convenient if, when a surveyor finds an undemarcated boundary, he were to show it on his original maps by a special symbol, so that it could be reproduced, not on the standard maps, but on the maps made for administrative purposes. I am accordingly to ask you to prescribe such a symbol for use by Surveyors in making the original maps and to make arrangements for its reproduction on maps made for administrative purposes./ As regards the boundaries of Native States, tribal areas and districts within the external boundary of India, I am to say that it will suffice if, when they have not been authoritatively demarcated and surveyed, they are entered on all maps in accordance with the advice of the local British authorities and indicated by the special symbol mentioned in paragraph 3 above.”