

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



8 February 1948: A 1½a Indian stationary overprinted Pakistan and used in Dubai. The stationary has been uprated with 12½as covering the 14as airmail rate to Switzerland.

Edition 29 - Winter 2008

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Welcome to Edition 29 of the Quarterly

Dear Readers,

With 2008 behind us I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped me with the Quarterly in 2008. I think that we managed to illustrate some nice material and shared a lot of information that was new to us. We also managed to increase subscriptions by approximately 50%. It is now time for subscription renewals – costs remain unchanged for the Quarterly but there is a minor increase in charges for the printed version due to postage hikes.

Electron Version: USD 30

Printed Version:

- The Gulf: USD 60
- UK & Europe: USD 70
- Rest of the World: USD 80

Payment options are listed in the back of the journal.

On another note The Emirates Philatelic Association (EPA) and Emirates Post have confirmed that they will hold the 2nd Arab Stamp Exhibition from the 5th – 9th March 2009. The exhibition will take place at the Wafi Centre, Dubai to promote every aspect of philately in the region. It will cover Traditional, Postal History, Thematic, Youth, One Frame and Literature Classes. The 2nd Arab Stamp exhibition was granted during the meeting of Arab Postal Administrators, which was held in Egypt in April 2008. This will be the largest and only competitive exhibition in the west Asia in first half of year 2009.

Happy New Year
Thomas Johansen

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Reader's Feedback

The Arab World Philatelist

The Arab World Philatelist was first published by Howard Courtney in 1978 – Howard went on to release six in total. On the below listed link you can view all six issues and Howard's story about the publications.

<http://friends.peoria.lib.il.us/community/howardcourtney>

Edition 21 – Page 39



In edition 21 – Page 39 the Dubai Type 18 hexagonal cancellation was illustrated noting latest use to be 1st August 1964.

The cover illustrated to the left was sent to me by John Smith and shows Type 18 used on the 4th August 1964.

Edition 26 – Page 43



John Smith also commented on the O.A.T. mark applied to the postcard: A Heifetz Type XIX boxed O.A.T.F.S. cachet applied by the GPO Foreign Section in London, which could be of general interest.



A similar postcard was illustrated in Edition 25 – showing the Beach Hotel in Abu Dhabi. John informs me that he has enjoyed hospitality in this hotel on a number of occasions.

Edition 27 – Page 28



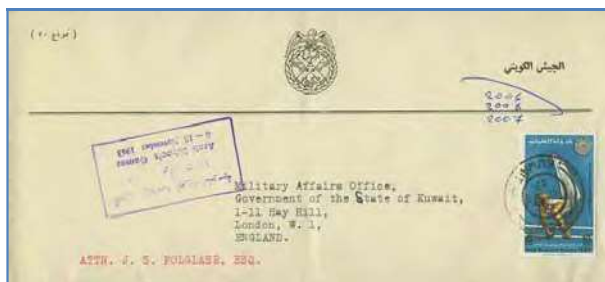
7 October 1933: A registered letter (1a postage + 2as registration) sent to Karachi, India and uprated with a total of 13½as making the total franking 16½as.

Max Smith was kind enough to go through his insured covers from 1931 to 1936 and found the following covers: One cover insured for Rs.100 where the fee is clearly 3as; One for Rs.500 with a fee of 11as and one for Rs.600 with a fee of 13as so it looks like the scale was 3as for the first

Rs.100 and 2as for every Rs.100 after that.

With the cover in question that would mean that the franking was as follows: 11as insurance + 3as registration + 2½as surface rate (1¼as per tola) = 16½as which matches.

Edition 28 – Page 25



Rob Smith sent me the two above covers showing 1963 Arab Schools Games handstamp – one dated 9 November and the 11 November. The dates of use recorded in Edition 28 were 8, 10 and 13 November so given that the handstamp commemorates the games with the dates 8-15 November we still need to record usage on the 12, 14 and 15 November.

I checked the 1963 calendar via the website <http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar> and found that the 8th and 15th of November were Fridays. The issue date of the stamps commemorating the games is the 8th November so I presume that the Post Office either opened exceptionally for the release of the set of stamps or just pre-fabricated all the FDC's in advance.

Questions for our Readers

Dubai Stamps

John Smith has sent the following question:

I wonder if any readers can help me. I am trying to put together a story on the first issue of Dubai stamps SG.1 – 17 - The printer is listed as N.C.R.Joseph Chalhoub. I would like to know where exactly they were located and how it came that they won the first contract in face of what must have been stiff international competition.

I would also like to know at what stage The Barody Stamp Company (Mr Stephan) started acting on behalf of /or in co-operation with The Dubai Postal Agency.

Further are there any publications on the numerous varieties of Dubai stamps offered for sale in the area SG.1 to SG.101 etc? – In addition to those of Howard Courtney. (What was the relationship between Chalhoub & Helio-Electronic Press?) In the Part 19 Gibbons catalogue, quite a number of the issues are listed without the printer being mentioned, is a definitive list of who printed what available ?

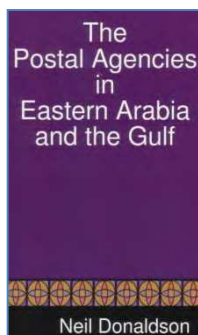
Postal Rates for the Gulf area

John also asked where he could find a comprehensive list of postal rates of the Gulf over as long a time as possible. I don't know if such a list exists but I can tell you that I am currently working on the Indian Period and 1948-1966 and will print my findings as I get through the material I have a record. After that it will be up our community to fill the gaps.

Aerogramme rates in the Gulf

John Gledhill has forwarded the following question our readers:

Do you happen to know why the rate for overprinted aerogrammes from the Gulf States was reduced from 40np to 30np in 1959? There was no reduction in UK air rates as far as I can see. The catalogues (e.g. Jones) just say it was reduced, but not why!



Alastair Gunn is pleased to announce that he has published a hardback reprint of Neil Donaldson's pivotal work on Arabian Gulf postal history. It does not have the outdated fold-out sheet of the original edition but otherwise it is as identical to the original as could be made. It is reprinted by kind permission of Neil Donaldson and HHSales Ltd. The font is actually slightly larger so it is easier to read. For further details please see:

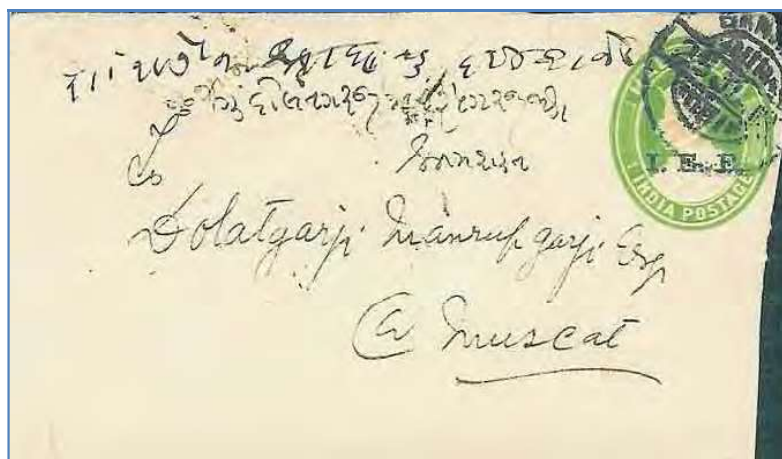
<http://www.lulu.com/content/2184198>

Bahrain

I.E.F. Stationary used in Bahrain



Illustrated above is an Indian 1/2a postal stationery envelope, overprinted I.E.F. (Indian Expeditionary Force). Addressed to Muscat and cancelled with a type 4 postmark dated 16 August 1919. Such overprints were for use in France, East Africa, Turkey and Mesopotamia. Was use in Bahrain officially sanctioned or was it just by casual carriage? Below is a similar India 1/2a postal stationery – also used in Bahrain and cancelled with Type 4 dated 25 July 1919. Both stationeries have a type 10A Muscat receiver mark on the reverse.



In both cases the sender and addressee are the same. I have illustrated a similar stationery – not overprinted I.E.F. – but besides that similar to the two I.E.F. stationeries. According to John Gillham the I.E.F. staged through Bahrain throughout WWI – en route to Mesopotamia – but the Garrison was in Muscat. A very similar example is seen in Edition 6 page 19 but dated 1908. I.E.F. casual carriage – probably?

The below two stamps were recently sold in an auction lot that also included a GWALIOR/GWALICR stamp that was later confirmed to me as genuine. Has anyone seen other double overprints of similar nature – opinions about the two stamps are welcomed?



1933 2 Rupees on cover



Commercial use of the 1933 2 Rupees overprint is scarce at best. The reason for this is that until the start of WWII postal rates out of Bahrain were simply too low that even an airmail letter to the USA would have to weigh 3 ounces or more before exceeding 32as. By the time that WWII had broken out and rates increased the KGV 2 Rupees stamp had been issued.

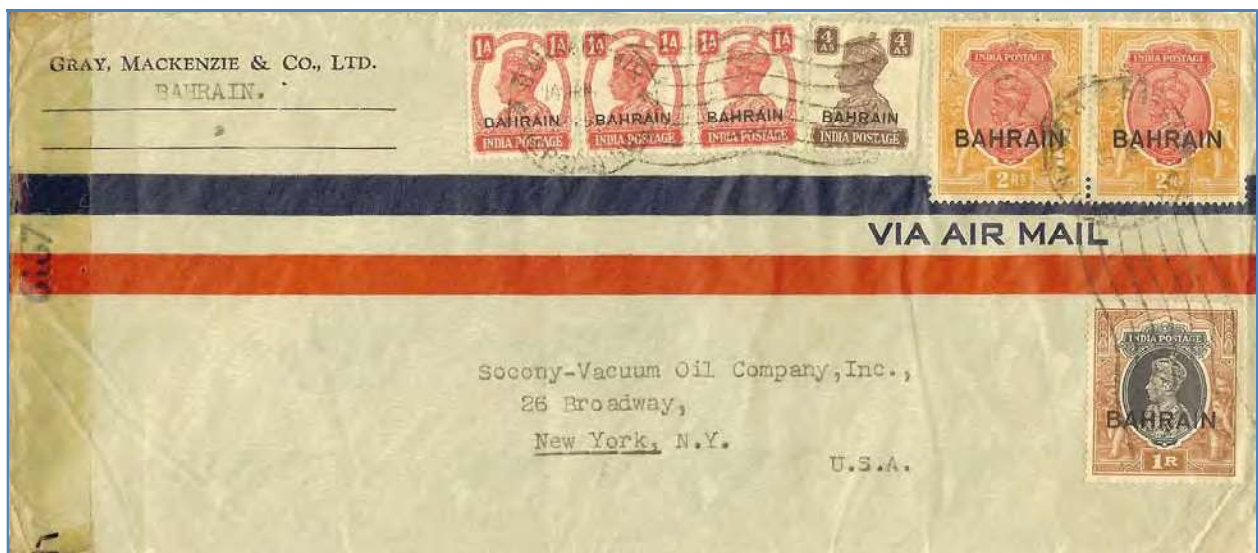


Several philatelic covers with the KGV 2 Rupees exists – especially the “Wilson” covers turn up every now and then with the above one being from 19 April 1934. The cover on the right is dated 20 December 1933 and was recently sold at a German auction for EUR 500. It has been endorsed via Karachi-Brindisi-London but would have connected to the airmail service in Basrah – and not Karachi. The going rate for airmail to Switzerland in 1933 was 9½as with 3½as being the surface fee for the first ounce and 6as being the air fee per ½ ounce – add to that the registration fee of 3as. The closest registered rate to the 32as used would be 2 ounces which would have costs 32½as: 4*air fee of 6as (24as) + 2*surface fee (3½as for first ounce + 2as for second ounce) + the registration fee of 3as.

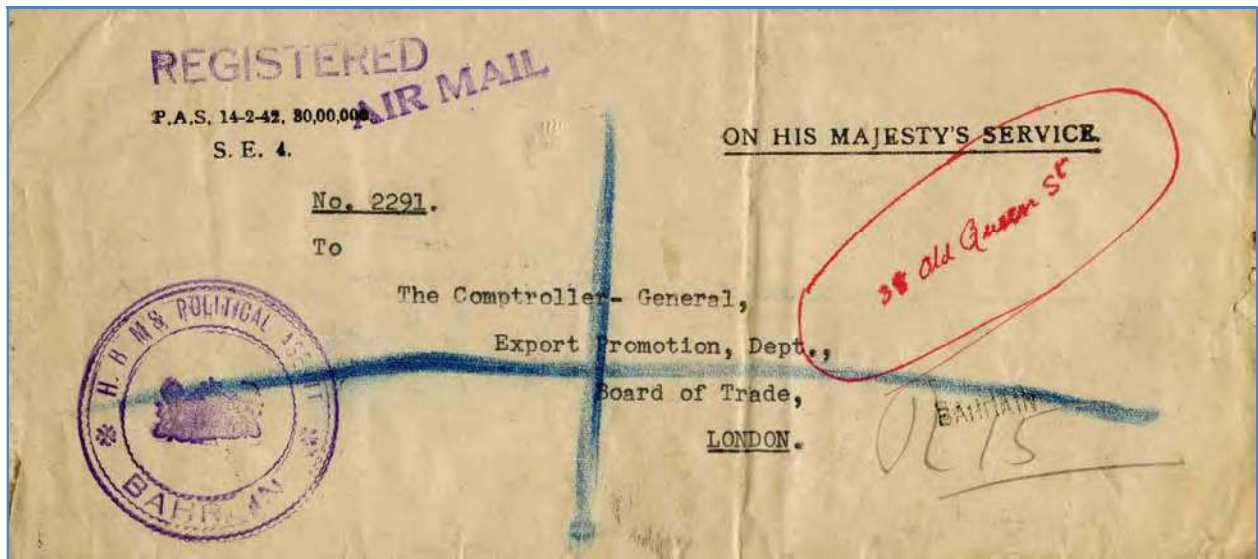


25 November 1939: A cover sent to the Vice Consul at the US Embassy in Baghdad. It has been franked with a total of 129as covering 4½ ounces of 14as a ½ ounce plus the 3as registration fee – The 14as rate was an all-inclusive rate valid for the Empire from September 2nd 1939 to 1945. The 2 Rupees stamp shows the Pearl Flaw at the bottom left.

The above cover most likely contained a report on American Citizens in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia – a practice introduced following the outbreak of WWII.



14 Jan 1945: A KGV 2 Rupees cover used in 1945 – the cover has been franked with a total of 87as covering the double rate of 80as (40as a ½ ounce). It would appear that the sender paid the surface per ½ ounce as well – i.e. 7as – instead of just 3½as for the first ounce.



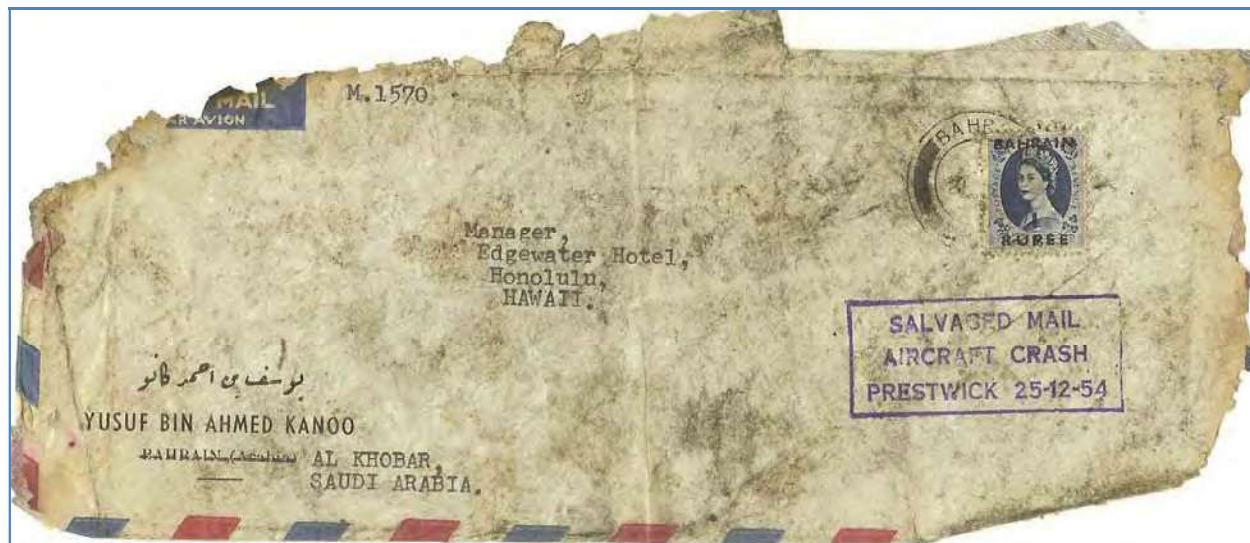
10 July 1943: A Political Agency cover shown above illustrating fine sample of the Agency's handstamp.

The cover has been franked with a total of 31s cover the double rate to the UK plus the 3s registration fee.



Above is illustrated a postcard depicting the Political Agency in Bahrain.

Early on Christmas Day 1954, at 0330 hours, a BOAC Boeing 377 Stratocruiser crashed on landing at Prestwick, killing 28 of the 36 passengers and crew onboard. The aircraft had been en route from London to New York City, when, on approach to Prestwick, it entered a steep descent before leveling out too late and too severely, hitting the ground short of the runway. A number of factors have been attributed to the cause of the crash, including pilot fatigue (the captain was well over his duty limit due to the aircraft being delayed), the landing lights at Prestwick being out of action due to repair and the First Officer either not hearing a command from the Captain for landing lights (which may have helped judge the low cloud base) or mistakenly hitting the flaps, causing the aircraft to stall.



The above illustrated crash covers shows mail from Bahrain carried on the flight. It has had a rectangular handstamp “SALVAGED MAIL – AIRCRAFT CRASH – PRESTWICK 25-12-1954” measuring 51 x 22 mm” applied. The cover has been franked with a QEII 1 Rupee 1953 definitive issue stamp covering the airmail fee to the USA and has been sent by Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo, Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia via Bahrain to Honolulu, Hawaii – a rare route and destination.

The Stratocruiser had been carrying uncut diamonds in registered mail, then valued at over £1 million, though it would be several days after the accident that investigators had any hint of the cargo being carried. An extensive search was carried out in the area surrounding the crash for several weeks, resulting in over 90% of the diamonds being recovered. The KLM Constellation that crashed near Prestwick 6 years earlier had also been carrying diamonds, then valued at over £5000



The “T – P.G.” Hexagonal Tax Handstamp

The “T – P.G.” handstamp illustrated here measures 18 x 14 mm and was used in Bahrain during the 1950s and 1960s – “T” being Taxe and “P.G.” Persian Gulf. It was also illustrated in Edition 18 on page 17 associated with Kuwait and page 20 on an underpaid cover from Doha (you will see more Doha covers in the Qatar section).



21 July 1955: An unfranked cover sent to the UK via BOAC.

The cover has been cancelled with a Donaldson Type 26.

No postage due has been endorsed on the cover, but it should have been paid with 6as making the postage due 12as.



9 April 1957: A cover sent to the USA franked with 80np – the going rate to the USA at the time was 100np or 1 Rupee. The cover has been endorsed with 20np and had the Taxe handstamp applied. The 20np was doubled and converted to 6 US cents upon arrival in New York – no mention of Gold Centimes.



6 March 1965: A cover sent from Bahrain to Saudi Arabia and franked with 20np.

The postal clerk has spotted the under payment of 20np – doubled it to 40np and converted it to 27 GC.

Under the Qatar section there are a number of covers underpaid by 10np where the underpayment has been converted to 13 GC.

Bahrain Destination Covers

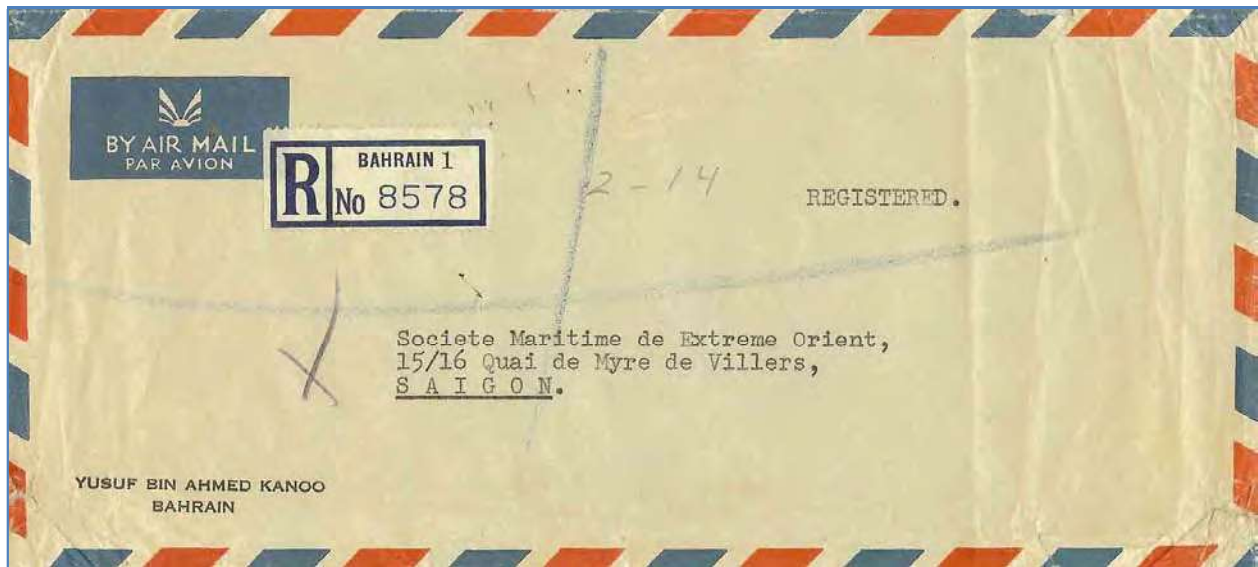


8 April 1949: A registered cover sent to Southern Rhodesia via Aeroport Farouk in Egypt (11 and 12 April) with Salisbury arrival backstamp dated 20 April. It has been franked with a total of 15as making up the air fee of 12as and registration fee of 3as. The cover has had the A.V.2, measuring 24 x 7mm, applied in blue at Cairo. According to "OAT and AV2 Markings" by Murray Heifetz published by the American Airmail Society the handstamp was either applied in black, blue, green or red and has been recorded used from 31 December 1939 until 7 December 1950.

A.V.2



17 November 1949: A registered cover sent to Uganda, East Africa again sent via Aeroport Farouk and Entebbe arrival backstamp dated 26 November. The cover has been franked with 18as of which 4as was the registration fee which increased from 3as during 1949. The remaining 14as covers the single weight airmail fee to Africa – an overpayment of 2as.



4 April 1951: A registered cover sent to Saigon with arrival backstamp dated 8 April. The cover has been franked with 46as which has been endorsed on the front by "2 – 14". The registration fee had risen to 4as by 1951 leaving 42as to cover the air fee. The rate to the USA was 16as in 1951 so was the rate to Saigon 14as and this is a triple rate cover?



22 June 1965: A cover sent to the island of St. Helena and franked with a total of. The cover also shows mixed franking – something Donaldson records in his 1975 book as "late" as August 1964.

Kuwait



28 January 1931: This cover was originally posted in Bahrain where it was franked with unoverprinted Indian stamps – the franking of 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ as is in excess of the 8as to the UK at the time indicating some philatelic inspiration. The cover has had a “Received late for inclusion with the air dispatch” cachet applied in Bahrain as the cover had missed the air dispatch mail bag for the BISN steamer connection to Basra which in turn would connection with the Imperial Airways Service IW95.

The cover was probably conveyed to Kuwait by a passenger on the same steamer which carried the air dispatch mail bag with the purpose of posting the letter there. However, the Indian stamps were not valid in Kuwait so it was necessary to reframe the cover with Indian stamps overprinted Kuwait which were then cancelled with Donaldson Type 5.

Taking the 31 January Basra transit in to consideration it would seem that the cover missed the air dispatch mail bag conveyed by daily car service to Basra. Unfortunately the IW95 service had left Basra on 30 January so the cover connected with IW96 instead which left Basra on 6 February and arrived at Croydon on 14 February.



An unusual cover that was sold on the EBay auction site recently. At first glance it is nothing but a normal 12as registration cover – i.e. 6as air to the UK plus the 6as registration fee. However, it was sent to H.E. Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, whose father, Sheikh Abdulla al-Salim, ruled Kuwait from 1950 to 1965. Sheikh Saad went on to become Crown Prince under Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed from 1977 to 2006 and finally Emir from January 15 to 24, 2006. On January 24th he was deposed by parliament and abdicated simultaneously. He passed away on the 13th May 2008.

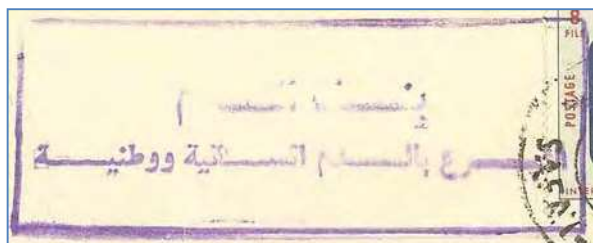


7 March 1953: Registered airmail cover from Kuwait to Bombay, India franked on reverse with Muscat stamps used in Kuwait 12as tied by Kuwait cancel Donaldson Type 21, but the cover was not collected and was returned to Kuwait. Numerous backstamps including black boxed "INCONNU /NOT KNOWN.", and black boxed black dead letter office markings of Bombay (14 April 1953) and official label in front cancelled with (D.L.O BOMBAY) and boxed RETOUR. The cover returned to Bahrain Post Office DLO section and was then returned to Kuwait.

Kuwait Handstamp from the 1960s and 1970s

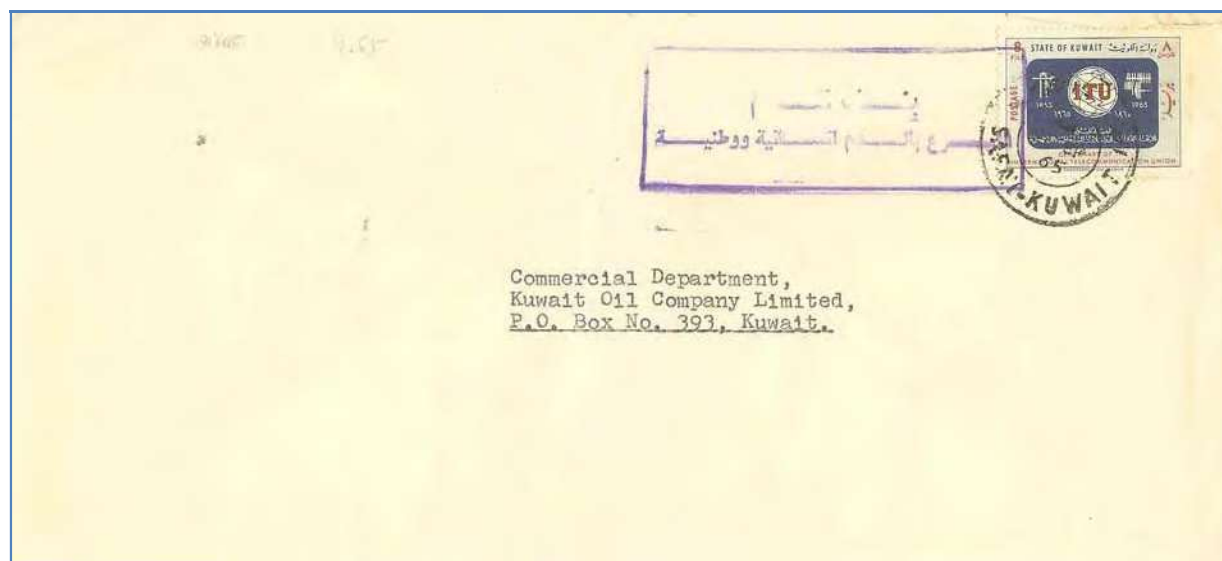
In continuation of Edition 28 I have illustrated more information handstamps from the collection shared with me by one of our readers. Some of these handstamps have already been illustrated in Edition 10 and 11 but here there are in color and size.

1965: Blood Bank / Blood Donation is Human and Patriotic



28 September 1965: An all-Arabic rectangular cachet which was applied to a local cover measures 75 x 27 mm.

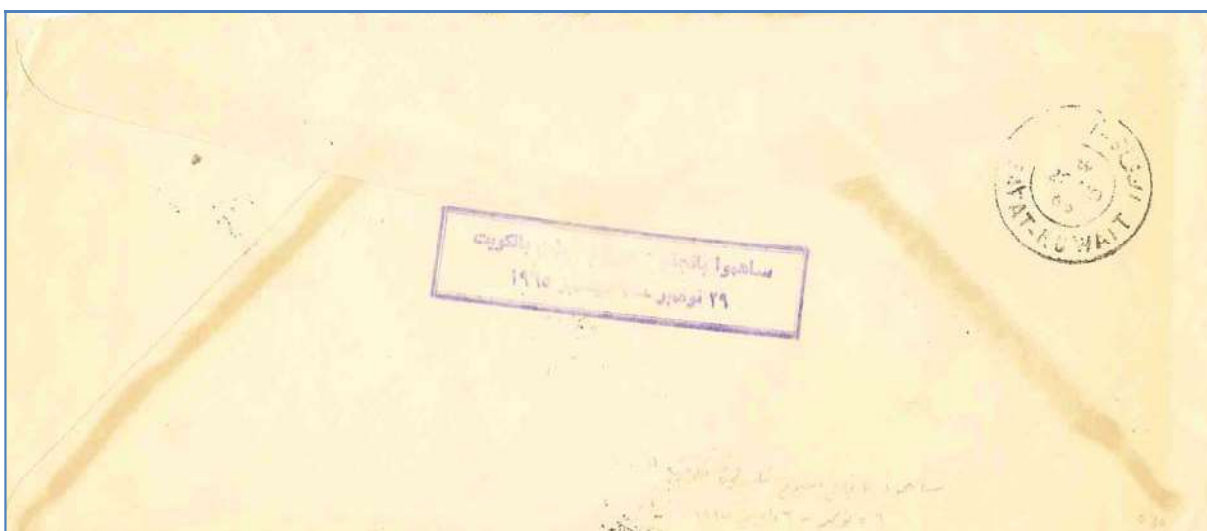
It has only been recorded on the date illustrated here.



1965: Participate for the Success of Palestine Week in Kuwait – 29th Nov to 6th Dec



25 November 1965: Again an all-Arabic rectangular cachet applied on to a local cover and measuring 73 x 18 mm. It has only been recorded on the date illustrated here.



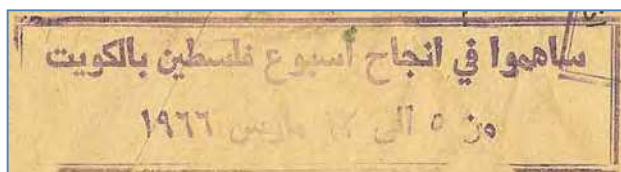
1966: Fifth Regional Conference of Arab National Commissions



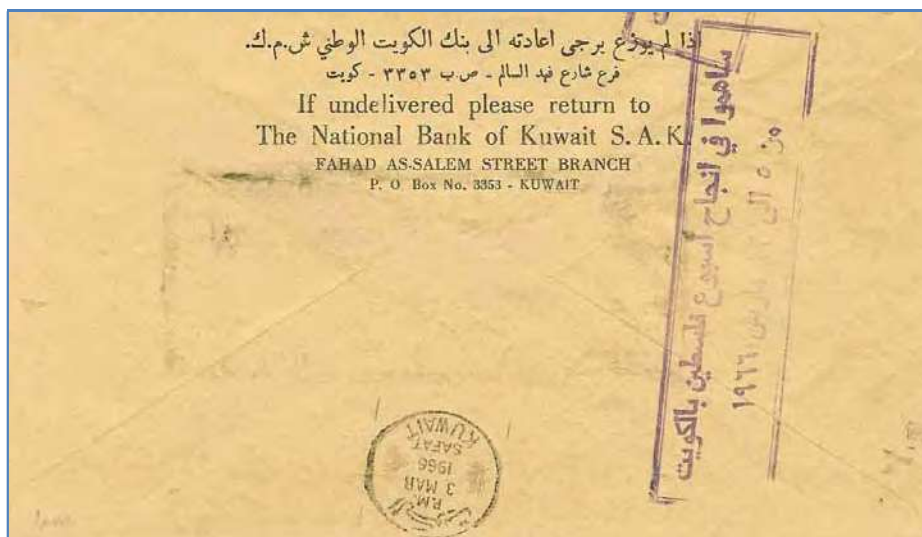
A dual language rectangular cachet, measuring 68 x 22 mm, commemorating the 5th Regional Conference of Arab National Commission which was held from the 19th to 22nd February 1966. The cover below, dated 22 February 1966 was sent to the UK and has had the cachet applied on the back. The handstamp is also illustrated in Edition 11 used on the back of an aerogramme dated 21 February 1966.



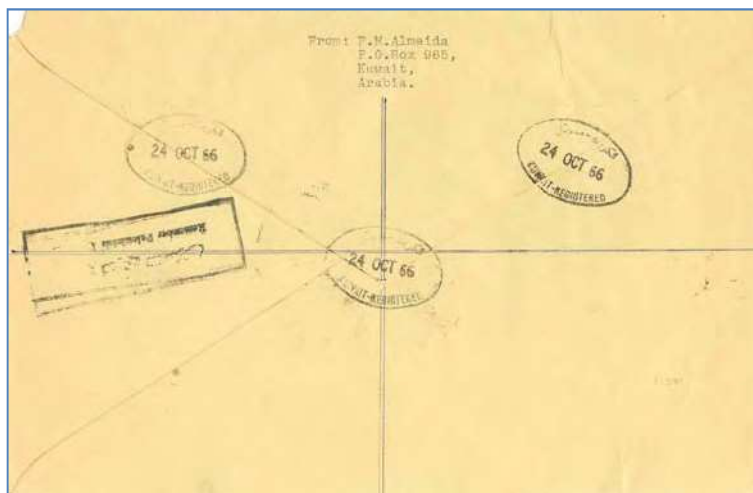
1966: Participate for the Success of Palestine Week in Kuwait – March 5th to 12th 1966



An all-Arabic rectangular cachet measuring 80 x 20 mm applied to a local cover. The cover below, dated 3 March 1966, is the only recorded date of use.

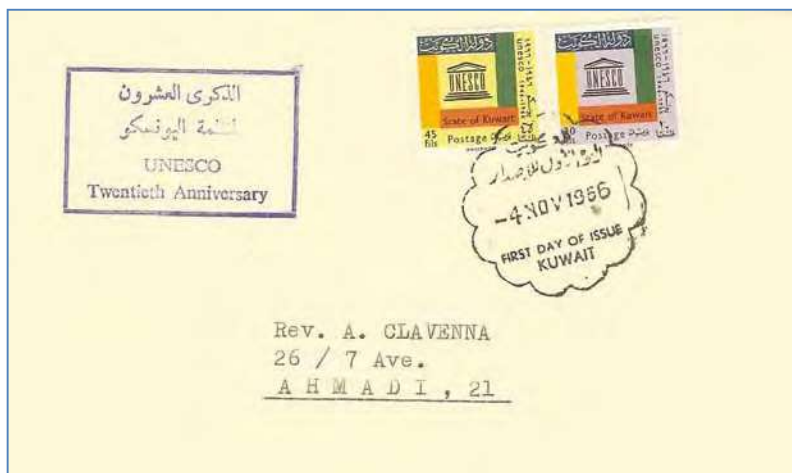


1966: Remember Palestine



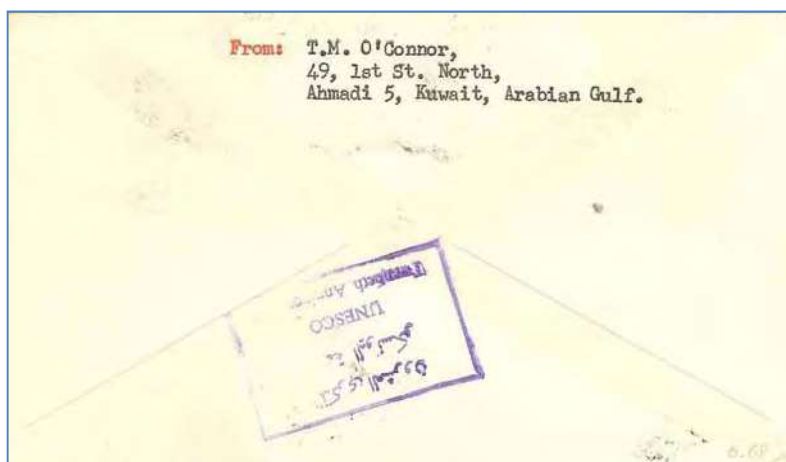
A dual language cachet measuring 61 x 22 mm applied on the back of a FDC commemorating UN Day and sent to Bahrain on 24 October 1966. It is the only recorded date of usage.

1966: UNESCO – Twentieth Anniversary

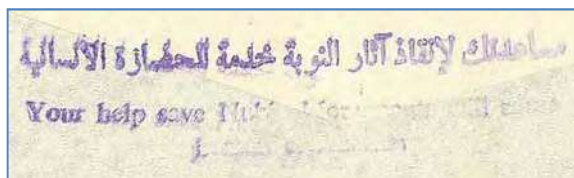


A dual language cachet, measuring 44 x 28 mm, which commemorates UNESCO's 20th anniversary.

It has been recorded on the 4 November 1966 FDC and on commercial mail dated 5 November 1966 – illustrated below.

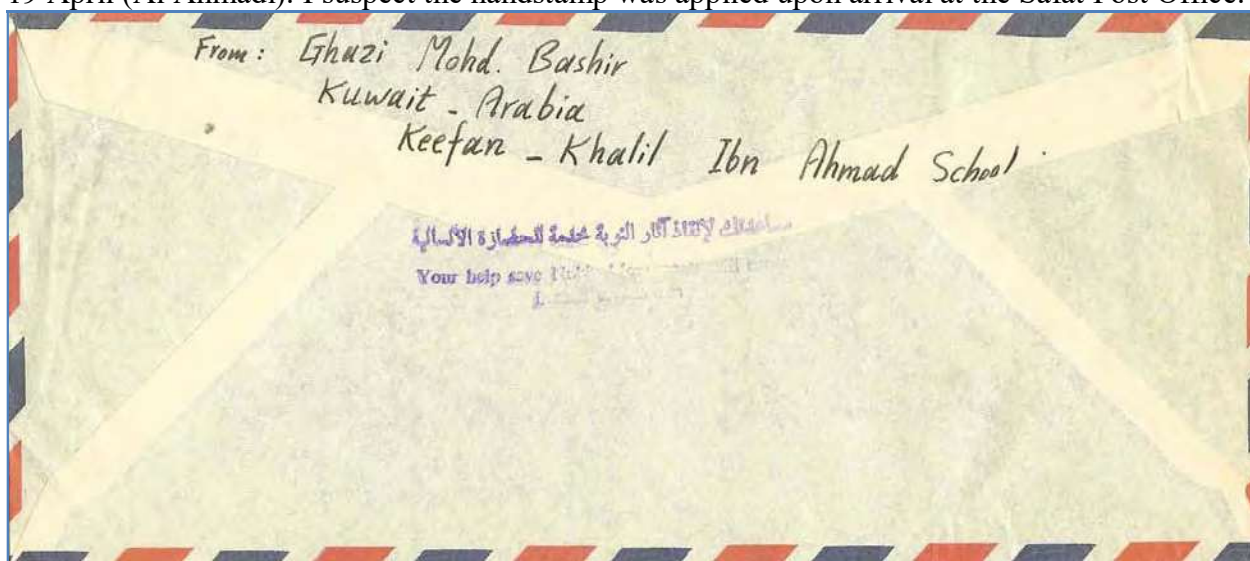


1967: Your help save Nubia Monument will serve human civilization

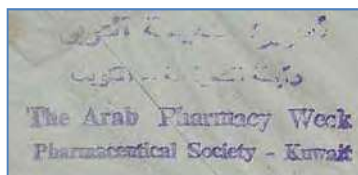


The Nubian Monument cachet measures 72 x 20 mm and has been struck on outgoing and incoming mail. The below cover sent to the USA is dated 22 April 1967. It is also recorded on another cover illustrated in Edition 10 page 9 –

this is an incoming cover with two Kuwait backstamps – one dated 18 April (Safat) and the other 19 April (Al Ahmadi). I suspect the handstamp was applied upon arrival at the Safat Post Office.



1967: The Arab Pharmacy Week – Pharmaceutical Society - Kuwait



The Arab Pharmacy Week Cachet measures 43 x 19 mm is recorded used on the below illustrated incoming aerogramme dated 21 November 1967.



Muscat & Oman

India used in Muscat cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 – The 12-bar Rhomboid



D1-37



D1-45



D1-48

India used in Muscat cancelled with Donaldson Type 1A – The 16-bar Rhomboid



D1A-54



D1A-58



D1A-62



D1A-69



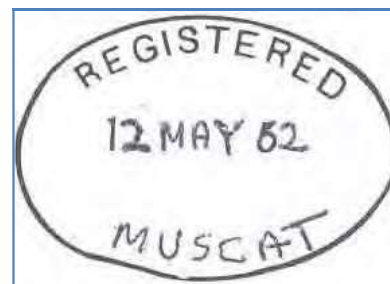
D1A-73



In Edition 28 I listed the various information that I had been able to find on Donaldson Type 3 – the Sind Circle numerical canceller number 23 – the latest illustrated use was December 3rd 1871. The pair of ½a shown to the left has been cancelled with the 16-bar 309 Muscat rhomboid. Interestingly the Bombay arrival stamp has been applied on top and is dated MA 8 1871 which means that both numerical strikes, the 309 and 23, were being used at the same time. I don't have any other Indian Post Offices to compare this with but can anyone comment on whether this was common practice?



20 March 1926: A registered letter sent to Verona in Italy having been sent via Mandvi in India and arriving in Verona on 12 April 1926. The letter has a standard Indian registration label with the red “MUSCAT” handstamp applied – a handstamp that has now been recorded several times in the mid 1920s. Total franking is 6as making up the registration of 2as and 4as for double weight.



12 May 1962: Previously mentioned in Edition 12, page 12 of the Quarterly and Alastair Gunn’s “Aspects of Oman Postal History – Part 2” here is the only recorded use of the oval Muscat registration strike –similar to that of Kuwait Type 23. It measures 37 x 24 mm.



The Bait al Falaj datestamp is one of the less common Oman cancellers and it has been recorded used from December 1971 to October 1973.

In fact, it is the earliest recorded use of the second type of the double ring date stamp and differs from the first type in that the month is three letters whereas the first type only had the month with two letters. The date and month are also further apart and more centralized than the first type.



Bait Al Falaj Airport, dating back to 1929, was nothing but a dirt track landing strip, mainly put to use for military purposes – Oman Royal Air Force in the early 1970s. It was additionally being utilized by the Petroleum Development Oman Company for its aircraft, flying between Muscat and oil exploration fields in Fahud, Warn Al Alam and other locations.



Bait Al Falaj Airport was the first airport in Oman, fitted with limited equipment and facilities to serve as a civilian airport. It had a Communication Centre, a Customs Office, asphalt parking for

aircraft and a maintenance shed, with these modest facilities, the airport was able to play a small part in the advancement of civil aviation in Oman.



In the sixties Gulf Air started using the airport for its DC3 aircraft, with the advent of the seventies Pakistan and British Airlines commenced operation in Oman with semi regular passenger flights. Although Bait Al Falaj Airport was used mainly for military purposes in addition to a few civilian flights, takeoffs and landings were fraught with dangers due to the narrow landing strip and high mountains and hills around the airport area.



Bait Al Falaj Airport is now just a memory, the site of the airfield is now the centre of modern commercial and residential buildings.

A few years back I managed to get hold of a larger correspondence from a Dave Lawrence, who was a pilot for the Royal Oman Air Force, which was based at Bait Al Falaj. Even though Dave was a busy correspondent there was not a single registered letter – cancelled at Bait al-Falaj amongst his correspondence.



And then I found this registration label applied to a cover that was cancelled Seen International Airport. The label is the first type that introduced as the British labels were faced out and is recorded in use as “Muscat” by August 1972. It made me wonder if anyone has seen registered mail from Bait al-Falaj – after all, surely Tom doesn’t come without Jerry?



The above cover recently appeared in an auction and shows the 25 Baizas Ministerial issue without date. I have now seen half a dozen of these and every single one of them has been cancelled in 1977 – four years after the issue date. Why did these “unoverprinted” Ministerial Complex stamps suddenly appear in 1977?

Qatar



25 November 1954: A cover sent to the Gaza Branch of Arab Bank in Palestine – for the sake of current world events. It was sent via Cairo. The cover has been franked with a total of 9½as.

17 September 1955: A cover sent to Sweden showing the only recorded use of the 1951 Kuwait 5 Rupee in Doha.



Seven covers illustrating the use of the hexagonal “Taxe – Persian Gulf” cachets on mail from Qatar (1957-1964) have been illustrated on the next two pages.



13 February 1960 (above left): A cover sent to Aden and franked with 30np being an underpayment of 10np which was converted to 13 GC. As per other correspondence that I have recorded the rate to Aden had increased to 40np no later than early 1960.

13 March 1958 (above right): A cover sent to Aden and franked with 20np – the postage due cachet has been applied and endorsed with 32 GC. I have a cover sent from Bahrain to Aden in December 1957 and franked with 20np without postage due, which may have been incorrect – however, this the cover was either underpaid by 10np, 20np or 30np, which at approx. 13 GC per 10np underpayment means that the 32 GC is incorrect. It should have been 26 GC or 39 GC.



10 September 1963: A cover sent to Kuwait and franked with 20np. The cover has had the hexagonal postage due cachet applied and endorsed with 13 GC - which matches the 10np deficiency as intra-Gulf mail was charged at 30np.

January 1964: A similar cover sent to Kuwait and franked with 20np. The cover has had 13 GC endorsed on the front and had a Kuwait “Horseshoe” applied which has been endorsed 15 Fils in red ink. The reverse has had 15 Fils in Kuwait Postage Due stamps applied and cancelled.



5 October 1957: A cover sent to the USA and franked with a total of 16np. The cover has received a “T – P.G.” due cachet endorsed with 15 Gold Centimes which was converted at the US Post Office to 5 US Cents. The cover was presumably sent as 2nd Class Airmail which would have cost 30np hence an underpayment of 14np. At 13 GC per 10np the charge for a 16np underpayment should have been 21 GC.

11 April 1961: Below on the left a second cover sent to the USA and franked with a total of 25np – the underpayment for 2nd Class Airmail being 5np. It has been endorsed 7GC which was then converted to 3 US Cents by the US Post Office. The 7np compares to the covers on the next page by being half of 10np so the due charge is half of 13.4 GC – i.e. 6.7 GC rounded up to 7 GC.



1 May 1960: A third cover – above to the right – again sent to the USA. This time it is franked with a total of 50np which is an underpayment of 50np – the normal airmail rate being 100np. The underpayment has been converted to 67 GC which is in line with the 13 GC per 10np illustrated on the next page – 13.4 GC per 10np to be exact.



17 December 1972: One of two recorded covers showing postal usage of stamps from the 1968 Postage Due issue and the only one showing all four values used making up a total due charge of 120 Dirhams. The other cover is illustrated in Stanley Gibbons, part 19 Middle East, 6th edition catalogue on page 252 and is dated 6 October 1973.



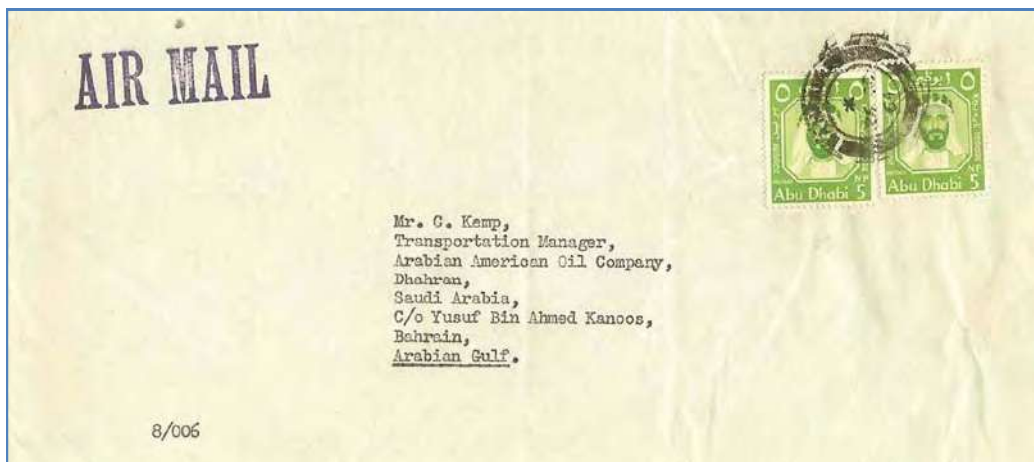
A couple more covers have come to light with the Philatelic Bureau's Doha, Qatar large double ring canceller mark and they are illustrated below. In all cases the strike has been applied to registered letters with an altered Doha 2 registration labels – the "2" has been inked out and PB applied in pen. Has anyone seen any number varieties of the canceller?



4 April 1966: Below is illustrated another PB cover showing the use of the strike.



UAE - Abu Dhabi



26 October 1964: A rare mail route illustrated here with a letter sent from Das Island to Aramco in Dhahran via Kanoo in Bahrain. The cover has been franked with two 5 Fils Abu Dhabi stamps (double local rate) and then cancelled in Bahrain.

Abu Dhabi Marine Areas Ltd., Das Island.

1970 20 Fils and 40 Fils Aerogramme issue

The below two aerogrammes were issued in 1970 but are found with two different FDC dates. Rufus Barnes, who sent in the four scans, has asked for clarification as to why this happened.



I have a write- up done by Mohammad Nazimuddin of Al Ain, who states that “this postal stationary was erroneously released on April 1st 1970 whereas the actual date of issue was set for May 11th 1970 – he makes the same comment for both aerogrammes.



Abu Dhabi's "Bogus" Aerogrammes

The aerogrammes illustrated on the next two pages have been subject to some discussion within the Arab Gulf and Yemen Stamp Group in Yahoo groups. I am sure that these aerogrammes have appeared in the past but they surfaced again in 2008 mainly on EBay where they are being sold as "Extremely Rare Unissued presentation ESSAY & PROOF" with the following comment: "Extremely RARE only few exist from the private stock of the director of Gulf Agency of Stamps the late Mr. Edmond Lorenzo". It is no surprise that the discussion centers on forgeries, fake, bogus or unsolicited issues especially since Abu Dhabi never deviated from a disciplined postal policy and as far as we know never did business with Edmond Lorenzo.



15 NP



20 NP



50 NP



40 NP



50 NP



75 NP



1 Rupee



1 Rupee

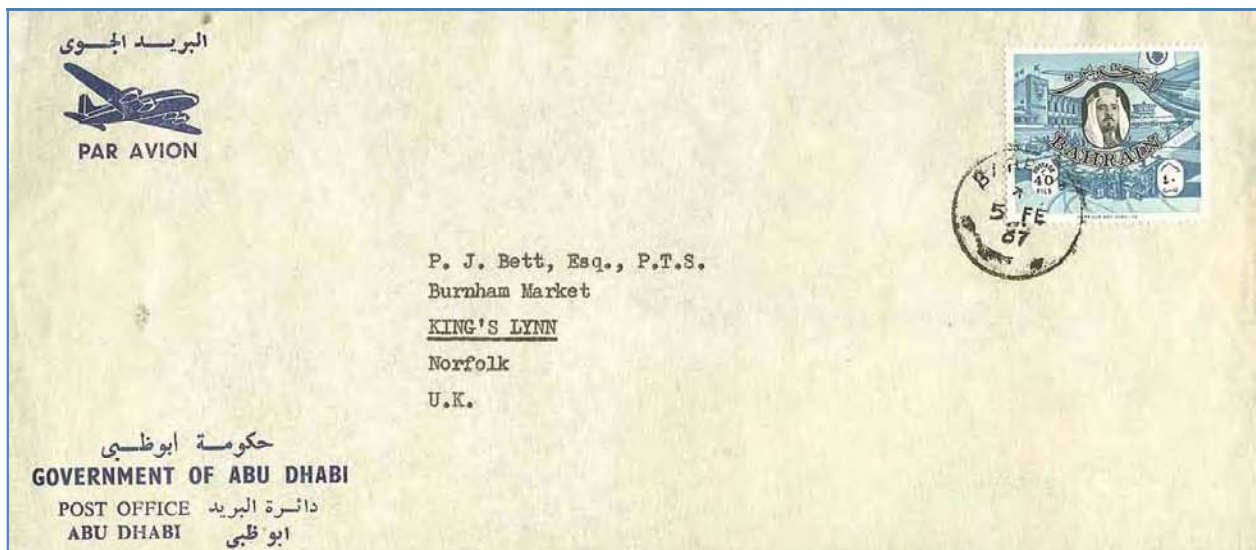


5 Rupees

We all know that in conjunction with the first set of stamps issued on the 30th of March 1963 Abu Dhabi also issued a 30 NP aerogramme. This aerogramme remained in use until 1966 and the currency change when the aerogramme was surcharged 30 Fils. Very little commercial usage of the 30 NP aerogramme has been recorded so demand must have been limited – if you exclude the philatelic demand. Looking at the value of the nine aerogrammes above none of them correspond to the rate that was in use at the time and as such would be of no use to anyone. Sure you can uprate the 15 and 20 NP aerogrammes but what would you do with a 5 Rupees aerogramme? Can something that doesn't exist be forged?

Abu Dhabi Post Office Stationary

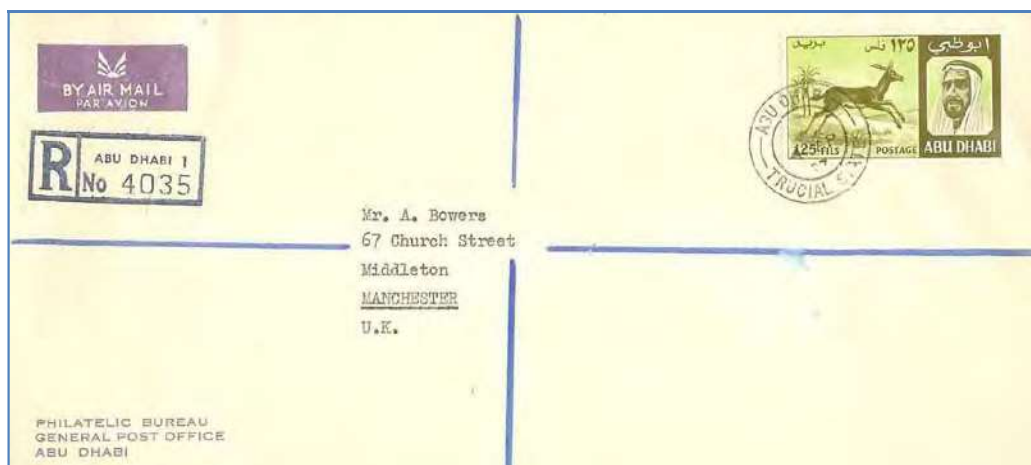
Over the past couple of years I have come across a number of various types of Abu Dhabi Post Office stationeries – the first batch are illustrated over the next couple of pages. All of them, except one, measure 232 x 102 mm. Presuming that these covers were mainly used to send out information about the Abu Dhabi Post Office's notices on stamp issues it is surprising that the earliest cover that I have recorded dates 5 February 1967 (below).



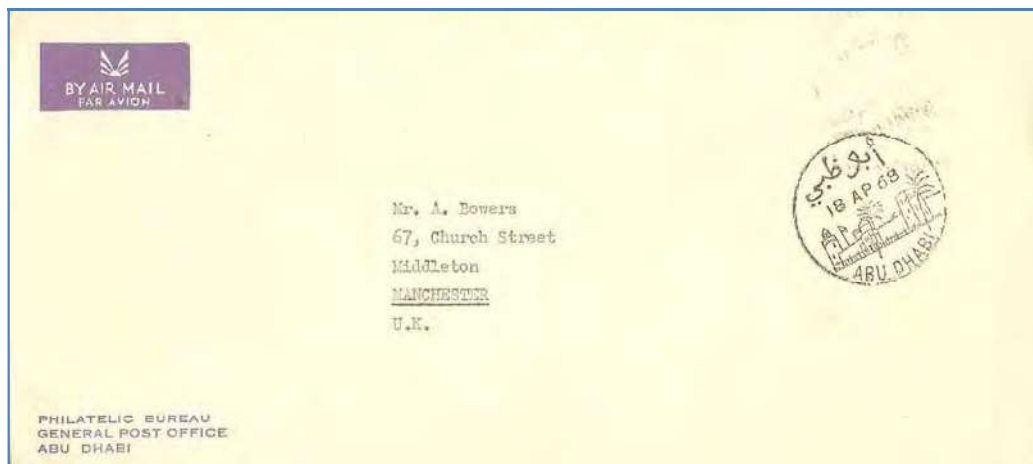
A similar cover – illustrated in edition 15, page 8 – was cancelled 4 March 1967.



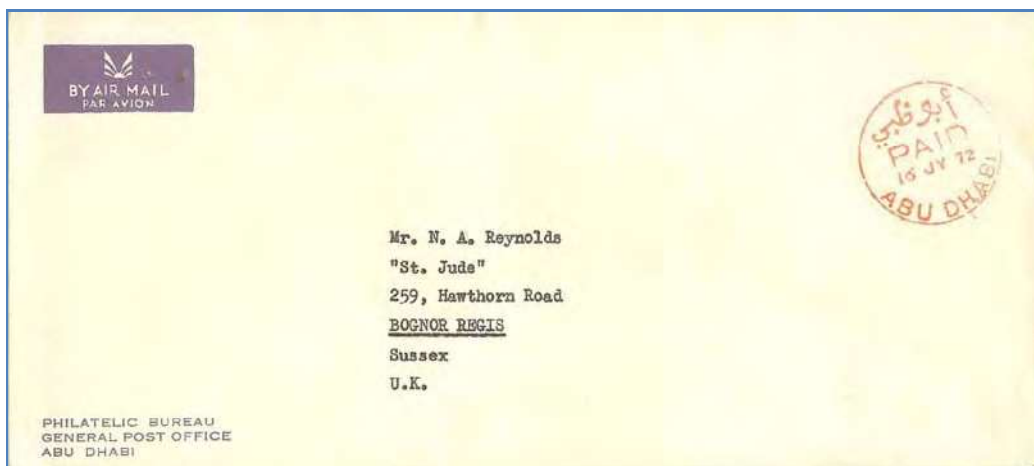
The next stationary is recorded cancelled with the PAID strike (Donaldson Type 6), shown above, on 16 March 1967 (Edition 10 page 5), which incidentally is the earliest recorded date for the strike (see Edition 10 – page 5). It has a blue “BY AIR MAIL” print at the top left and the address of the Philatelic Bureau at the bottom left – the back of the cover is blank.



4 April 1967: A registered and franked version of the stationary cancelled with the Abu Dhabi Trucial States strike – Donaldson Type 3.

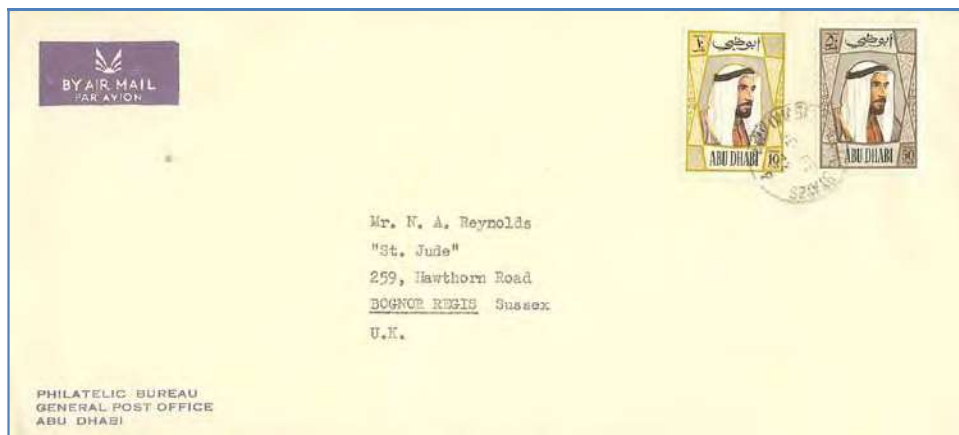


18 April 1968: The stationary cancelled with the Palace Cancellor – Donaldson Type 7 – and below: 16 July 1972 cancelled with the dual language PAID canceller – Donaldson Type 8.

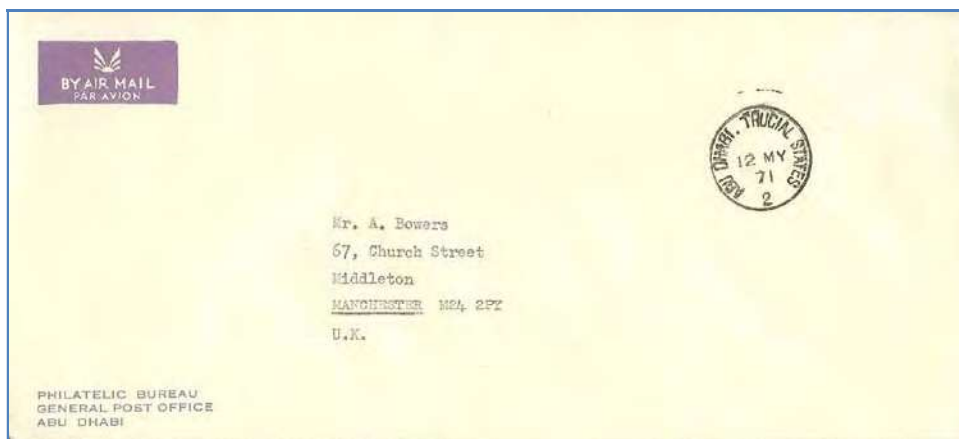




6 April 1970: The stationary registered and franked cancelled with the “RECOMMANDE” datestamp – Donaldson Type 17. Incidentally this is the earliest recorded use of the datestamp.

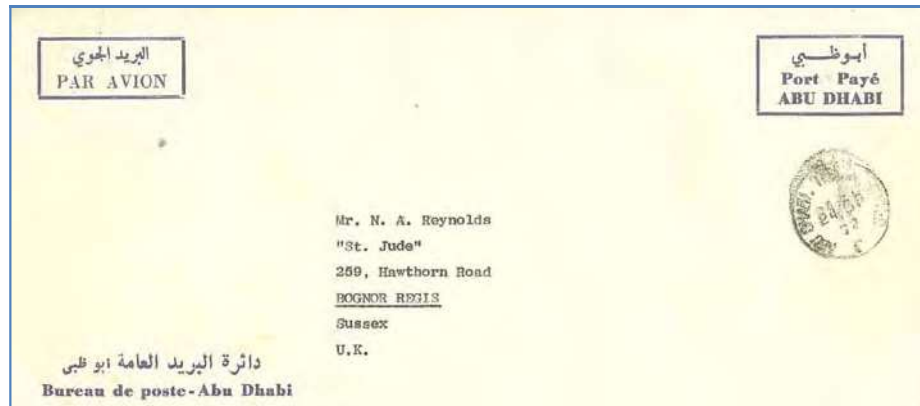
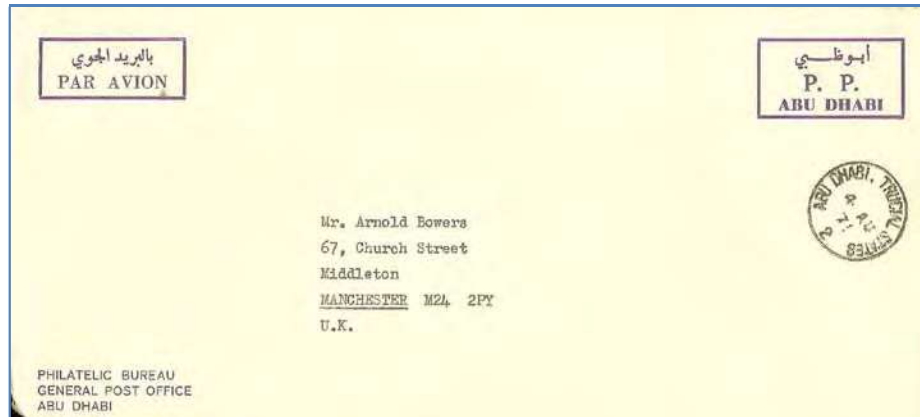


Finally two stationeries, both cancelled with Donaldson Type 2: 12 May 1971 used as “paid” and 19 February 1972 franked with 60 Fils being the single weight rate to the UK.

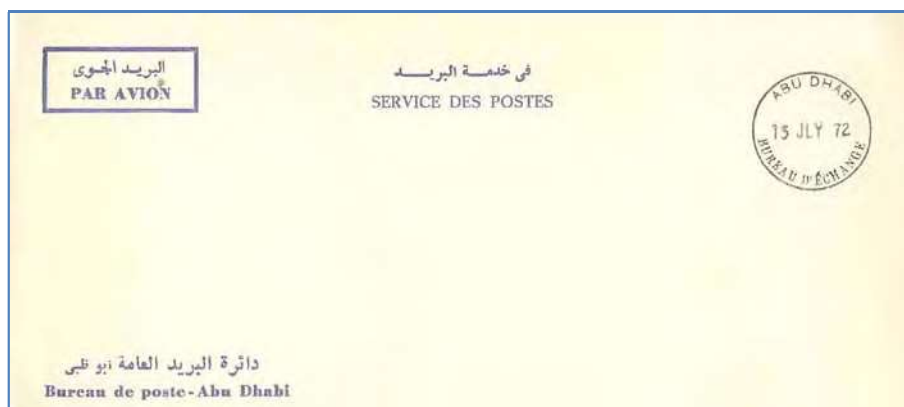


Recorded use of this stationary with the blue “BY AIR MAIL” at the top left is from 16 March 1967 to 16 July 1972.

The following six stationeries are all different with the first one have a P.P. for “Port Paye” printed at the top right corner. The below example has been cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 – Abu Dhabi 2 and dated 4 August 1971. I have also recorded its use on 28 October 1971 and 15 December 1971 both cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 (2).



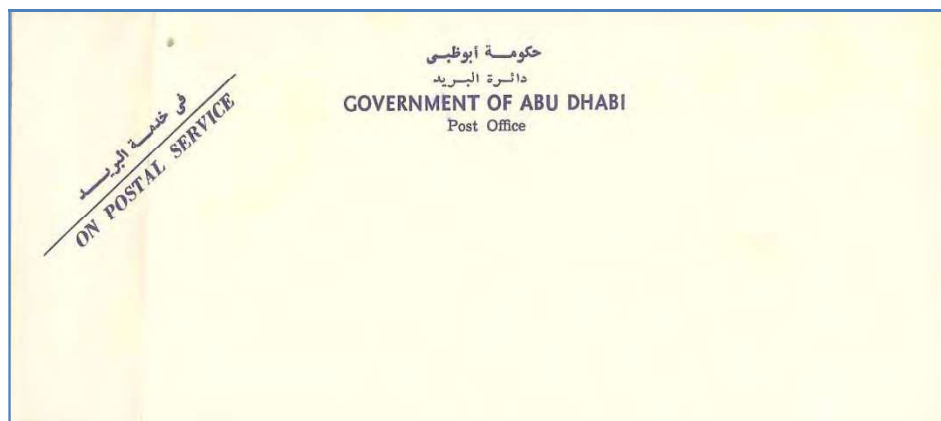
24 September 1972: The above stationery has got “Port Paye” in the top right corner and is also cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 (2).



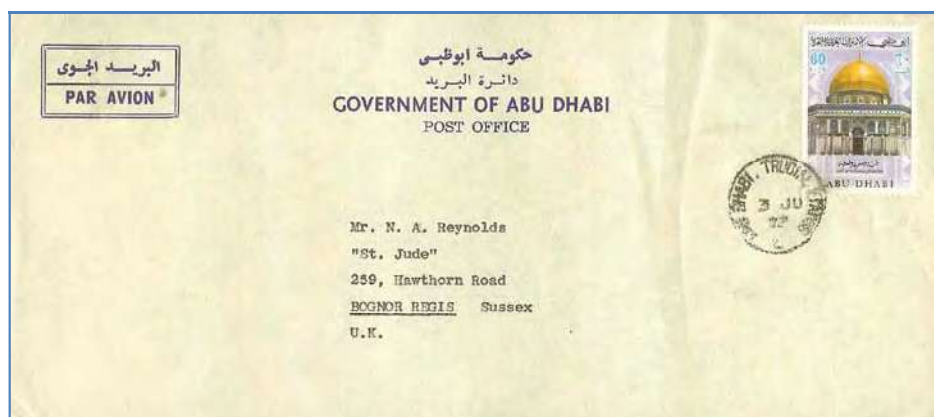
15 July 1972: An unfranked stationery cancelled with the Bureau d'Echange datestamp. The stationery distinguishes itself by having “SERVICE DES POSTES” in the top center.



23 October 1971: A smaller stationary measuring 153 x 90 mm - I have recorded this stationary twice – both dated 23 October and both unaddressed.



An unaddressed stationary with “on postal service” printed diagonally – unrecorded used.



3 July 1972: A stationary sent to the UK and franked with the Dome of the Rock 60 Fils cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 (2). Unlike the stationary above “POST OFFICE” is in capitals. Edition 10 page 6 shows the same stationary franked with 60 Fils and cancelled with the Bureau d’Echange strike dated 2 September 1970

UAE – Dubai

Dubai Small Packet Forms and Markings

By Howard Courtney

The brown paper was cut from the front of the packet and saved, along with the white Dispatch Note form and the Customs Declaration forms. This packet had been sent from Dubai to The Middle East Stamp Company (Mr. Ezzet Mosden, the American Agent for the Dubai Philatelic Agency).



There is no cancellation on the front of the packet. It may have been put on the back (Which was not saved). At the top the word “RECOMMANDE” (Registered), is obliterated by pen. The red sticker in the upper left reads “INSURED/(valeur declar(e))”. The large rubber stamped rectangular reads “PASSED THE U.S. CUSTOMS AT NEW YORK/ (unreadable at bottom).



It is interesting that the white label on the packet is a hold-over from the former Trucial States Post Office in Dubai operated by the British. The label reads “British Commonwealth and Foreign Parcel Post Label/DUBAI/9886”.

Since the packet was sent by the Post Office, the forms must have been put inside before it was sealed. These consist of a stiffer paper Dispatch Note (Misspelled as Despatch) and two copies of the Customs Declaration form.

COUPON
Post été déchargé par la destination
(After the despatch by Address)
Timbre d'admission d'origine
(Stamp of the office of origin)

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION
DUBAI
DESPATCH NOTE

Numéro(s) du (ou des) colis
1203
DUBAI

Value déclarée franc
Monnaie: Value à P.

Les articles ne sont livrés qu'en caractères latins
(To be written in full in words in French letters)

en chiffres arabes
in Arabic letters

Remarque(s)
C.O.D. Payable

Notes et adresses de l'expéditeur
Name and address of the sender

Director of Posts
POST C. 102
DUBAI

Numéro(s) de l'adresse
Number of address

52 Merens Ave.
New Hyde Park, L.I.
N.Y. 11044
U.S.A.

Titre de la douane
(Customs stamp)

Poids (weight)
kg g
kg g

Droits de douane (1)
(Customs duty)

Payé
Régie
Bureau d'échange
Office of exchange

(1) Paquet, caisse, carton, emballage, etc. (Packet, case, carton, basket, bag, etc.)
(2) Si l'expéditeur déclare que son colis ne sera pas réexpédié, il l'indiquera par une annotation dans ce cadre et sur le colis.
(3) If the sender does not wish his parcel to be reexported, he should indicate it here and on the parcel.
(4) Ce document s'applique par le bureau d'origine ou par le service de la douane du Pays de destination.
(5) This document is to be filled in by the office of origin, or by the Customs Service of the Country of destination.

Parizoli, Vienne 1964, ser. 100 (1 x 1)

Is the small white sticker on the form also a carry-over? It simply reads “1203/DUBAI”. The number is low for nearly two years after the take-over by the Government of Dubai. The form is also stamped with the date 11 February 1967.

Two copies of the Customs Declaration were stapled to the white Dispatch Note. Both have the same information written in hand on them and both bear the same postmark as the Dispatch note.

Administration des Postes de
Postal Administration of
DUBAI

DECLARATION EN DOUANE
(Customs Declaration)

Lieu d'expédition (Place of Posting): DUBAI

Lieu de destination (Place of Destination): CP3

COLIS (Parcel)		DESIGNATION DÉTAILLÉE DU CONTENU (Detailed description of contents)	Valeur (value) avec indication précise de l'unité monétaire employée (with precise indication of the monetary unit used)	POIDS (Weight)		OBSERVATIONS
Numéro (Number)	Nature (1) (Description)			Gross (Gross)	Net	
1	Brown Paper Packet	Aérogammes 120/24		Kg. 3 1. Kg. 6 2.		

Pays d'origine ou de fabrication de la marchandise
(Country of origin or of manufacture of the goods)
Dubai

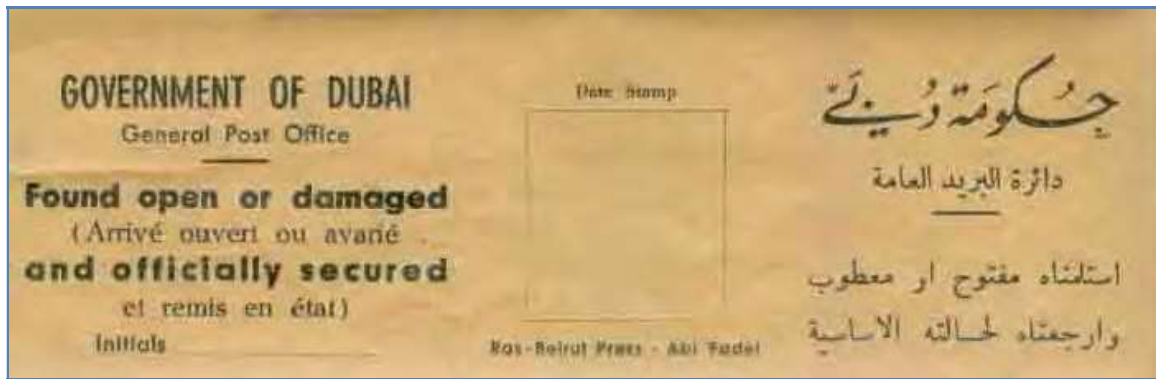
Adresse de destination (Address of addressee)
52 Merens Ave.
New Hyde Park, L.I. 11044 USA
N.Y. 11044

11/2/67 19

L'expéditeur (Sender)
Khe...an
for DOP

(1) Paquet, caisse, carton, emballage, etc. (Packet, case, carton, basket, bag, etc.)
Parizoli, Vienne 1964, ser. 100 (1 x 1)

The packet contained 120 Riyals worth of aerogrammes and the signature of the sender is not readable but reads “Khe...an” for the Director of Posts”



Howard Courtney purchased the above label from Mr. Esset Mosden, the American agent for the Dubai Philatelic Agency about 1994 but has never seen it used on an envelope.

This Dubai label was created to be applied to a damaged letter or packet, handled, or received by the Dubai Post Office. It is interesting that printed on the bottom center is “Ras . Beirut Press . Abu Fadel”. Both Mr. Michael Stephen, the owner of the Baroody Stamp Company that negotiated and obtained the original contract to print, sell and distribute the stamps of Dubai, and Mr. Edmund Lorenzo, the first Postmaster General of the country, were old friends living in Beirut. Can anyone spread any light on who, or what, Abu Fadel was?



31 December 1964: A philatelic cover sent from Germany to Muskat via Dubai. I am not quite sure what the sender's purpose was but I find it interesting as Dubai transit mail. Did all mail from Europe to Muscat in the 1960s go via Dubai? It has a Dubai Type 20c transit stamp date 5 January 1965 and a Muscat Donaldson Type 23 dated 20 January 1965. I presume that the Muscat strike was applied when the cover left Muscat.

THE PROVISIONAL CURRENCY OVERPRINTS OF 1966

By Howard Courtney

The only article I have ever seen on these overprints appeared in the January-February 1970, Vol. 62, No. 1, pp. 22-23 of the Stamp Lover, National Philatelic Society (UK) and was written by S.A. Jones. The title of the article uses the year 1967, but we now know that the stamps were actually overprinted and made available in September 1966.

In the article he stated he had been able to study mint sheets of most of the values and that the sheets consisted of 100 stamps, with the exception of the two high values, that were printed in sheets of 50. He stated the 5 Dirham to 3 Riyal values were locally overprinted by the Dubai National Printing Press, but the 5 and 10 Riyal values were overprinted in England by the De La Rue Company.

His findings were that while the type-setting was not of a very high quality, overall, for the locally overprinted stamps, the seven lower values with the abbreviation “ Dh. “ were fairly standard, but the next four values with “DIRHAMS” (the 60 Dh.) and “RIYALS” (the 1R, 1.25R and the 3R) show a variety of type.



Fig 1



Fig 2

The obvious differences in the fonts are in the 60 Dh. values. Basically, the printing was done with wide and thin fonts with them being used indiscriminately. When used together in the word DIRHAMS, Jones felt the thin fonts were always, higher in the word. (Fig. 1 - 2)



Additionally in the same value there was a constant flaw on stamp 6; row 2, where a vertical bar appears that could be mistaken for a larger letter “I” at the end of “DIRHAMS, making it appears as if it were written “DIRHAMSI”. (Fig. 3 left)

He states that the major error appears on stamp 10, row 1, where the misspelling “DIRHRMS” appears. This error is not illustrated in this article.



Oddly, he seems to have missed another genuine “major error” in the sheet where an Arabic “W” appears, rather than the “R” in the word. I have had this error in my collection for many years and believe it has been documented. (Figs. 4, 4a (left), 5)



Fig 4



Fig 5

The 1R value has three different fonts for “1” and he gives us the following information regarding them: In a sheet of 100 stamps (a) occurs 63 times, (b) occurs 34 times and (c) occurs 3 times. (Figs 6 – 7)



Fig 6

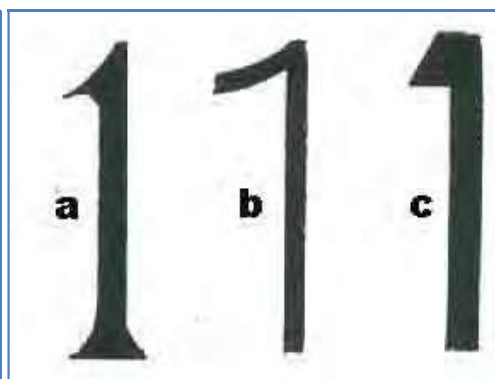


Fig 7

In the 1.25R value the “T” of “RIYALS” appears to be almost completely missing. (Fig. 8 - below)



Mr. Jones indicated he did not examine sheets of the 1.25Rs. and 3Rs. values nor many of the 5 and 10 R. values but believes there were no known errors or varieties in the two high values. I would have to agree with his assessment as I have never encountered any over the years.

Jones also provides invaluable information on the quantities overprinted and the quantities of each overprint sold.

Value	Quantity Overprinted	Quantity Sold
5Dh.	150,000	ALL
10Dh.	150,000	140,000
15Dh.	160,000	ALL
20Dh.	150,000	ALL
25Dh.	170,000	ALL
35Dh.	400,000	300,000
40Dh.	50,000	ALL
60Dh.	460,000	210,000
1R.	89,000	85,000
3R.	40,000	35,000
5R.	28,750	10,000
10R.	40,000	20,000

In 30 years of collecting the issues of independent Dubai, I have never been aware of gutter pairs of any of this set without the overprint. It was only recently I discovered that I had purchased partial sheets of some of these stamps years ago. They had remained folded in the same folder in which they were purchased. Much to my amazement I recently discovered gutter strips of the 5mp, 10np and 15np values when sorting through my files. The question that is now posed is do gutter pairs exist for other values as well, and I also wonder if gutter pairs exist for the overprinted set? (Figs. 9 – 11)



UAE & Trucial States

Postal Rates in the Gulf States by Alastair Gunn awgunn@tiscali.co.uk

One area of Gulf States postal history which has remained remarkably underexplored, in my opinion, is that of postal rates, especially since independence. I would argue that we have a good knowledge now of classic cancels, routes, further marks and the people involved with the postal history but I consider our knowledge of the various postal rates is markedly less advanced for both old and modern material. The only cogent information I know of is in my (and Cal Allen's) *Aspects of Omani Postal History* (available from <http://www.lulu.com/content/577633>) which has information for the BPAEA in 1948 (and we suspect little changed until 1957).

So what do I mean? The below is an example—



Both these Abu Dhabi modern covers are in many ways unremarkable as they are poorly cancelled with exceptionally common (and damaged) stamps. But consider the overall value of the stamps on each cover—the top has 10dh on an unregistered cover. Is there any way such franking can be valid for a normal airmail cover? Or am I to assume the company (Murray Ward and Partners) merely overpaid the cover? Consider, as well, the lower item with its 12dh 200f franking on a registered envelope from the year 2000. It seems an enormous amount of money, but again I don't know if it's valid commercial use or merely a mistake. If the items are correctly franked then they are actually rare items.

Is anyone out there doing research on the rates for each of the Gulf countries since independence? Or should we encourage the Post Office archives in each country to research and publish what ought to be in their archives concerning this matter?

Some modern U.A.E. covers by Alastair Gunn

Whilst looking through a large group of modern U.A.E. covers I came across a range of interesting items from some of the less major Emirates. For example, below is a Khor Fakkan commercial, registered cover from 1970. I consider Khor Fakkan commercially used material to be exceptionally awkward to find.



I particularly liked that it emanated from the Bank of Oman.

KHORFAKAN cds of 8.3.1979 and Dubai transit mark of 11.3.1979.

Below is a Sharjah cover of 3.3 1979 with the misspelt 'CORNISH' cds, instead of 'CORNICHE'—



A further very mixed modern cover is shown below—



A Fujairah 1980 cover with a Diba cds, but it's on a British Bank of the Middle East KHORFAKKAN (SHARJAH) envelope; a rarely seen mix.



Above is a Nakheel, Ras Al Khaimah commercial, registered, illustrated cover of 17.1.79.



A modern Ras Al Khaimah question; the single ring NAKHEEL cds I have seen only on overseas (registered) mail and the single ring RAS AL KHAIMAH cds I have only seen on internal U.A.E. mail. Is this merely coincidence? Or is there some U.A.E. official logic to this?

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury

One wonders, sometimes, how certain envelopes become available. Here are two covers to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Head of the Anglican Church, from Dubai and Abu Dhabi—



Above is a Dubai double struck machine cancel dated 7 Oct 1985, interestingly from the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank!



From St. Andrew's Church in Abu Dhabi with machine cancel of 30 August 1986.

Links, Contacts and Credits

GOVERNMENT PHILATELIC OFFICES

Emirates Stamp Club
Emirates Post
P.O. Box 99999
Dubai
U.A.E.
+973 4 2031421
Email: philatelic@emiratespost.ae
Website: www.emiratespost.co.ae

Director General of Posts
Philatelic Department
PO Box 3338
P.C 112
Ruwi
Muscat
Sultanate of Oman
Email: pttphil@omantel.net.om
Website: www.comm.gov.om

Qatar Philatelic Bureau
+974 4464309
Email: philatelic@qatarposts.com
Website: www.qpost.com.qa

Bahrain Philatelic Bureau
Postal Directorate
PO Box 1212
Manama
Bahrain
Email: stamp@bahrain.gov.bh

Kuwait Philatelic Section
Post Office Department
PO Box 888
Safat 13309
Kuwait

INDEPENDENT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

Emirates Philatelic Association
P.O. Box. 33333
Dubai, UAE
Telephone number: 00971 4 353 8383
Website: www.epa.ae

Bahrain Philatelic Society
Email: bahrainps@yahoo.com
Website: www.geocities.com/bahrainps

WEBSITES RELATED TO GULF POSTAL HISTORY

www.bahrain-stamps.com
www.kuwait-stamps.com

www.oman-stamps.com
www.dubai-stamps.com

www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com
www.qatar-stamps.com

6 interactive website containing more than 10.000 images of stamps, covers, philatelic items, cancellation marks, registration labels, postage due hand stamps, aerogramme and other postal markings. Without a doubt the biggest compilation of philatelic material related to the Gulf on the Internet today. These website are under constant development and all contributions are accepted in all forms: comments, image contributions, theories, photocopies, CD-ROMs of exhibitions and collections etc.

<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/arabgulfandyemenstampgroup>

A yahoo group created in 1999 with 899 member (As of March 2006) – a forum that focuses on anything that has to do with Gulf postal history but the group also includes Yemen and occasionally other regional post offices.

<http://www.gbos.org.uk/index.php/Home> - Great Britain Overprint Society

The GB Overprints Society (GBOS) helps members and collectors to explore the many ways and reasons why British stamps and other postal material have been overprinted, whether it is for use outside the UK or for special functions within the UK. This opens up a wide variety of avenues, which will interest not only GB collectors who want to find out other uses of their favorite stamps, but also collectors of particular countries or themes.

<http://www.indiastudycircle.org> - India Study Circle

This is the website for anyone interested in Indian Stamps, Postal Stationery, Indian States Stamps, Revenue Stamps and all areas of Indian Philately. Membership of The India Study Circle is a great way to learn more about all aspects of Indian Philately. It is also an excellent way to buy stamps, covers and all sorts of Philatelic material from other members, and to sell your own surplus material.

<http://www.postalcensorship.com> - censored and military postal history

Started in 1996 the postal censorship website was intended to concentrate on the story of Postal Censorship in Ireland during World War II, 1939-1945, known as 'The Emergency'. The site now hosts an array of Civil Censorship and Military Mail information mostly related to World War II but adding material from other periods as collectors provide covers to show and as other information comes to hand.

<http://www.wreckandcrash.org>

The Wreck & Crash Mail Society was formed in the latter part of 1994, and is devoted to the collecting and study of all aspects of delayed and/or damaged mail and interrupted mail services. Currently the Society is composed of four study groups, namely: the Air Crash Study Group, The Railroad Wreck Study Group, the Ship Wreck Study Group, and the Suspended Mail/Conflicts Study Group.

The Society publishes a quarterly journal "La Catastrophe", which contains articles on all aspects of wreck and crash mail, as well as news on new cover discoveries, auction realizations on wreck and crash mail, and questions from members who are seeking information on their crash and wreck covers and the stories behind them.

Many more pages will be added to this list once I define the exact web address that should be presented here with the web masters.

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Sterling Check can be sent to:

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United Kingdom

If you send a check to my mother-in-law please attach a little note so that she can forward me a list of what payments she gets.