

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



5 July 1933: A registered letter sent from Bahrain to Karachi and franked with two copies of the 4as 1929 airmail issue. Total postage is 8as 3ps covering the registration fee of 3as, the surface fee of 1¼as for the first 2½ tolas and the double air fee of 4as for up to 2 tolas.

Edition 40 – Spring 2012

Edited and Published by Thomas Johansen based on the concept of Terry Jones
12 Bedok Avenue, 469916 Singapore, Singapore
Email: arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com / Phone +65 92998386

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Welcome to Edition 40 of the Quarterly

Welcome to Edition 40 and the first of four Quarterlies to be issued in 2012. Amongst the contents this time are two specials; one about Neil Donaldson and one about cross usage during the British Period so my thanks to Neil's daughter, Gillian Spokes and the many of you who have sent in various examples of cross usage.

For 2012 subscriptions are up and running again so I will be sending Edition 40 with a request for you to confirm your continued interest in receiving the Quarterly – please note that you can now pay by UK bank transfer to my UK STG account. Should I not hear from you I would presume that you are no longer interested?

For Edition 41 the following topics are on the agenda:

- Complimenting examples of cross usage
- Bahrain Type 22 (interesting covers are welcome)
- Dubai and the first 1963 issues
- Kuwait Indian Postal Rates

As always material is very welcome and need with the content of the Quarterly depending on what you send in.

Edition 41 will be released by the end of July.

Have a nice June/July
Thomas Johansen

Neil Donaldson – 1920 to 2012 by Gillian Spokes

Following the sad passing of Neil Donaldson on January 2nd Gillian Spokes, Neil's daughter, has been kind enough to share the following pictures and story about her father and his life. *(Anything in Italic was added by the editor).*



My father was born on the 3rd August 1920 in Broughton Park, Manchester and was educated at North Manchester Grammar School followed by Terra Nova prep school and finally King William's College on the Isle of Man.

The picture shown here is Neil at his 91st birthday.

His mother bought him a pack of stamps in Barcelona in 1929. This started his stamp-collecting career. He originally collected all World, then British Empire and finally when George VI died, he concentrated on Postal History of the Gulf States.

In 1938 when his team won The Cottesloe Vase for shooting at Bisley they went to collect the trophy by plane which was my fathers first time flying.

Bisley Shooting Ground is just 30 miles from London and has been described as the most beautiful shooting ground in the Country. It comprises of two grounds, Cottesloe Heath and Long Siberia which both lie in an unspoiled setting of 3,000 acres of Surrey heath and woodland making an ideal setting for shooting.

In 1939 he joined the Manchester Regiment at the start of the war then the Cheshire Regiment and from there was sent to India to train as an Officer in 1940. He finally came back to England in 1946 as Major A.N. Donaldson of The Sikh Regiment. He learnt Urdu whilst he was in India.



Two pictures of Neil Donaldson surrounded by people from the labor department at KOC

He joined The Kuwait Oil Co. in 1948 as the 56th person to be recruited, to take charge of the Indian and Pakistani labor force.

Initially he lived in Beit Naqib on the shore of the bay half way between the Dickson's house and the Political Agency and later moved to Ahmadi to live in a tent. This was when he first made friends with the Dicksons whose books on Kuwait he had. The labor office was in a Nissan hut.



The picture on the left shows Neil serving up Haggis at Burn's night during his early years in Kuwait – probably 1948 while the picture on the right shows Neil at Scott's leaving party – probably in July 1966.

H.L. Scott was the managing director of KOC from July 1965 until July 1966.



Before he moved to Ahmadi he made the acquaintance of Mohammed Khan the Postmaster in the upstairs Post Office in the bazaar. This resulted in his first philatelic article (G.S.M. August 1948). Many more articles were written culminating in the book published in 1975.

Eventually they lived in Nissan huts then concrete buildings. Drinking water came by boat from Basra although water was often rationed. The total labour force eventually numbered 13,000 and he was responsible for their employment and welfare.

Conditions for the staff were improving with social and leisure activities. He was a founding member of the Falstaff Society in 1948.

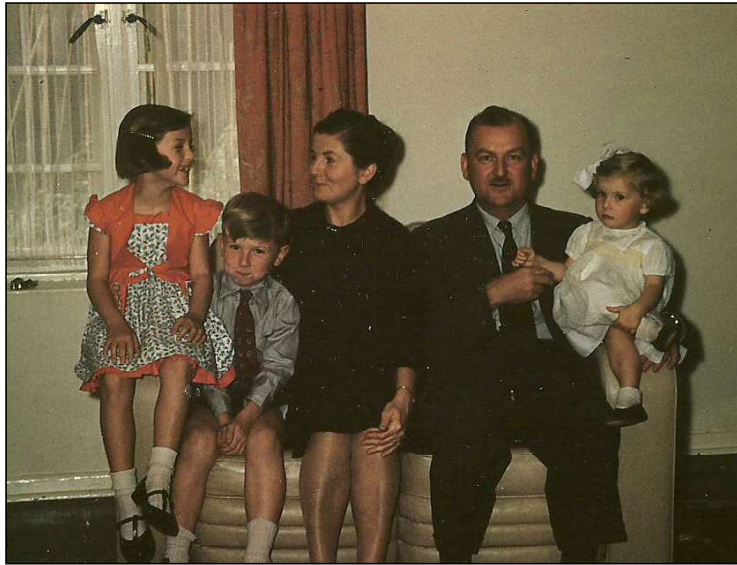
In 1950 he attended a New Year's Eve party in a Bedouin tent near Kuwait town given by Yusuf al Ghanim and Angus and Dolly MacDonald from Skye who ran the company guesthouse in Kuwait town. It was here that he met my Mother, Margaret Ellen Leonard (Peggy), formally of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, who was working as a Nursing Sister. They became engaged in 1951 and married in Clifford, England.



The picture on the left shows Neil learning how to deep sea dive while the one on the right shows Neil at PJ Correa farewell reception.

The picture in the middle shows Neil with his wife Peggy being presented with a Jaeger Lecoulre Atmos clock by Awal Khan (probably at the Nahklistan Club which was a cricket club formed by junior staff of the Kuwait Oil Company).

They returned to Kuwait and their son Fergus was born in October 1952. On New Year's Day 1953 my Father was badly burned on his hands and face by a methane gas explosion in a manhole but with physiotherapy he recovered the use of his hands. I was born in 1954. At this time the Suez affair resulted in the sabotage of the oil well just north of Ahmadi. Whilst in Kuwait he learned to write and read Arabic script. In 1957 my sister Annie was born. In 1958 the family spent some time in England as his father was losing his sight.



The picture here shows Neil and his family in 1959 at 45, Main Street in Ahmadi.

He learned the art of silkscreen printing, which he then established in Kuwait setting up the employee communications section with Ramzi Kayello (artist) and they printed pictorial posters for the Company Safety Section.

My father then became involved in the security of Kuwait writing plans for the evacuation of personnel, anti-sabotage of oil wells and other vital installations. The first time these responsibilities came into force was in 1961 with the Iraqi dictator threatening Kuwait. In accordance with the Treaty of Protection, units of the British Army were in Kuwait within 24 hours.

My father also traveled extensively whilst in Kuwait forming the basis of many of his stamp articles, especially once we children had started at boarding school in England from 1963. He enjoyed gardening and in both KS1 and KS3 houses had help from Ghulam, originally from Qishm on the Iran side of the Straits of Hormuz, who had been a slave and had obtained his freedom by grasping the pole in the British Agents compound in Muscat. They had a cook Ribeiro who died and his widow then came to join us, as our Ayah replacing Rosie and then D'Costa became our cook. We were very fond of them all. We went swimming in the sea and at The Hubara Club and we enjoyed many breakfast picnics on the beach at Fahaheel going out to see the flamingoes in Kuwait Bay, going on fishing trips out to Kubbar Island and many other activities.

The picture here shows my father wearing his kilt at my wedding in 1983.



All through his time in Kuwait my father was involved in stamps, spending many hours working at the dining table on them; even designing one with R. Kayello although it was not produced.

As children we loved living in Kuwait as did my parents and were very sad when it came time to leave. My Father felt that he needed to give us children a base in England and the family left in 1967 19 years after arriving in Kuwait.

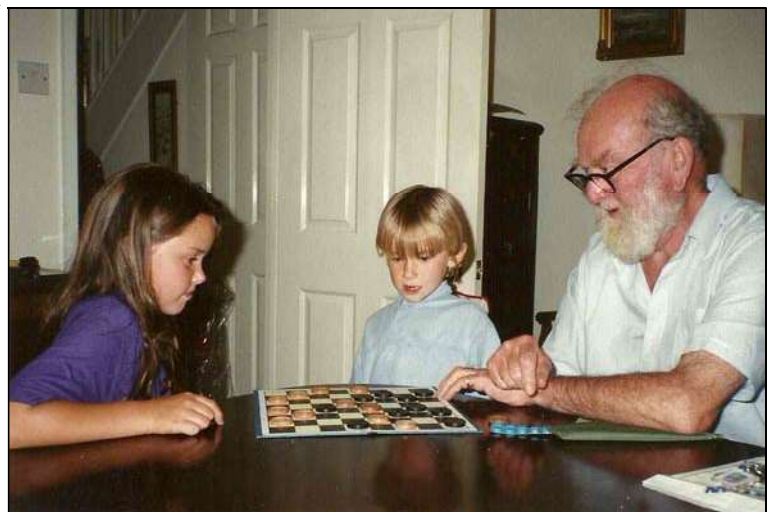


The picture here shows Neil in Middleton on Sea in West Sussex where the family lived from 1977 to 1987. He is wearing his Afghan coat which he acquired while serving in the Indian Army – he would wear it during the winters.

My father then worked for Bridger and Kay for 5 years with Allan Leverton and left to become Secretary of the Expert Committee of the British Philatelic Association and remained working there until moving to St. Neots 15 years later to be nearer my family.

He and my mother, who died in 2003, loved spending time with their grandchildren in England and their two grandchildren from the USA. The Bahrain Government bought the Bahrain segment of his collection and most of the rest was sold at Harmers in 1988. He continued to have contact with stamp colleagues up until the time of his death.

The final two pictures show my father in his study at Middleton on sea in Sussex writing one of his articles and the other is of him with two of his grandchildren teaching them to play draughts in about 1991.



Cross Usage

On 1 April 1948 The British G.P.O. took over the administration of the Gulf Post Offices. The office of the Postal Superintendent, who at the time was H.C. Breach, was established in Bahrain and it was from his office that requisitions for stamps, cancellers and other post office equipment were placed. It was also in this office that the main stock of stamps for all the British Agency post offices was kept. (Source: Neil Donaldson's book)

The following presentation of cross usage of British Gulf overprints has its base in what Neil Donaldson tells us in his book along with the many illustrations that were sent in by our readers over the past two years.

Bahrain

The British Agency Post Office in Bahrain was operational until 31 December 1965 and was the only place where the British Agency took over two post offices – Manama and Muharraq. A third post office was opened in Awali on 1 July 1950.

It is from Bahrain that the largest amount of cross usage originates, mainly “Value Only” overprints but also Kuwait and Qatar overprints. In fact, Donaldson tells us that all the “Value Only” overprints (SG 16 to 93) were used in Bahrain – hopefully this study and subsequent follow-up articles well help to support his statement. Whereas the use of “Value Only” and Kuwait overprints is sporadic, much of the use of Qatar overprints can be credited to Reg Flook – more about his creations later.

In order to make things a little bit more organized/challenging the cross usage will be listed according to the type of canceller used.

The first group of cancellers used by the British Administration in Bahrain were three Indian cancellers – Type 5C, 6 and 9. The cancellers were gradually faced out during 1949 restricting their use in cancelling Kuwait and “Value Only” overprints to the 1 April 1948 definitive issue, the 26 April 1948 Silver Wedding issue and the 29 July 1948 Olympic Games issue.

Type 5C (recorded used until 6 Jun 1949)



Shown above are three values from the BPAEA Olympic issue (SG 28-30) – all cancelled with Type 5C. At the top of the next page all four values of the same issue are illustrated in blocks of four CTO (SG 27-30) on 18 August 1948.

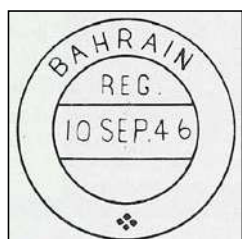


Type 6 (recorded used until 9 Jan 1949)



Two pieces and two covers carrying cross usage and cancelled with Type 6 are shown here. The first of the two pieces is dated November 1948 and shows use of the 1948 BPAEA 1R value (SG 23) while the second piece is dated 24 September 1948 and shows the use of the 1948 BPAEA 1R Olympic value (SG 30).

The below left cover is dated 13 November 1948 and has been franked with the 1948 BPAEA 6as (SG 22) along with the 1948 Kuwait 1½as (SG 66) and the Kuwait 2½as Royal Wedding value (SG 74). The cover on the right is dated December 1948 and has been franked with the 1948 BPAEA 6as Olympic value (SG 29) and a pair of the Kuwait 1R Olympic values (SG 79).



Type 9 (recorded used until 1 June 1949)

A total of six covers carrying cross usage are illustrated on the next page – all cancelled with Type 9. Out of the six covers five went to India (four of which were from Eastern Bank) while the sixth cover was sent to the UK.



The first cover, dated 24 March 1949, has been franked with six copies of the 1948 BPAEA ½a (SG 16) and two copies of the 1948 Kuwait 3as (SG 69). The second cover, dated 29 July 1948 and the only one sent to the UK, has been franked with the 1948 Kuwait 3as Olympic issue (SG 77). Interestingly it is cancelled on first day of issue, which confirms that the stock of stamps for the British Agencies in the Gulf were stored and available in Bahrain. The third cover, dated 12 September 1948, has been franked with three copies of the Kuwait 3as Olympic issue.

The fourth and fifth covers are identical in that they are both franked with the 1948 Kuwait 3as (SG 69) – one of them was sent from Bahrain in December 1948 whereas the other date is unclear. Though the difference in registration label number is significant they have been endorsed in blue with 120 and 122. The sixth and final cover was sent from Bahrain in November 1948 and has been franked with the 1948 BPAEA 6as (SG 22).



Type 21 (recorded use 21 Jun 1949 to 2 Dec 1982)



Moving on to the British cancellers and their location certainly gives us a good idea of where the philatelic entrepreneurialism was located – Awali. Type 21 is the longest serving British canceller and was used at the Manama PO. Still, only two pieces of have been submitted and are illustrated below. The first one showing the use of the 1952 BPAEA 1a (SG 43) while the second shows the use of the 1953 BPAEA 1R Coronationa value (SG 55).



Type 26 (recorded use: 23 Jun 1949 to 26 Nov 1976)



Type 26 appears more frequently on cross usage and most commonly on stamps from the QEII period.

The three items below all illustrate Type 26's use on KGVI BPAEA stamps the first of which is a cover dated 25 May 1952 franked with two copies of the 1948 BPAEA 6as (SG 22). The second item is a piece dated August 1954 showing a pair of the 1951 BPAEA 2Rs (SG 41) while the third shows the use of the 1955 BPAEA 2Rs – Type II (SG 41a).



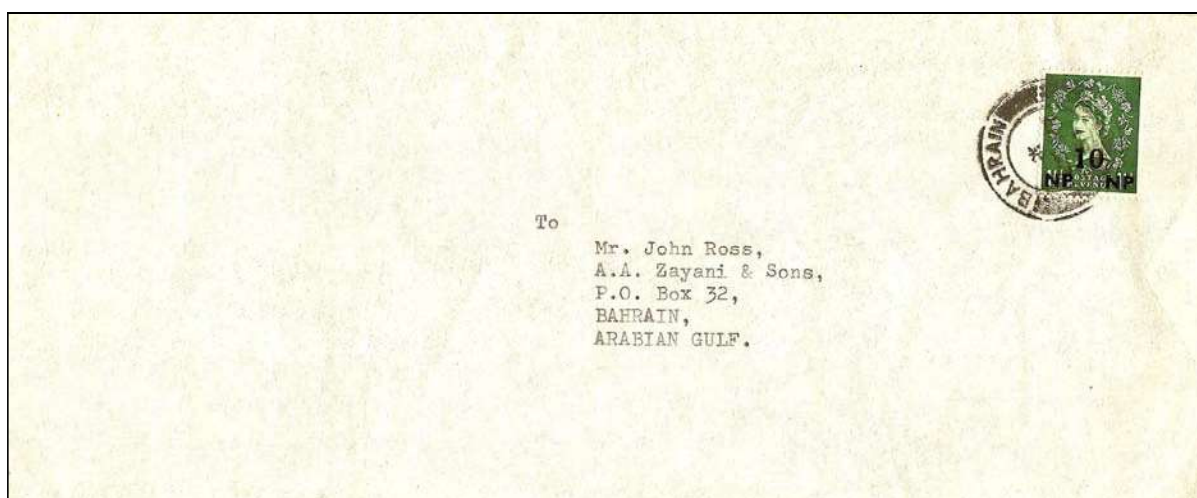
Moving on to the QEII period and starting with the “Anna” issues the piece shown here on the left dated 4 August 1954 has been franked with the 1952 BPAEA 2as (SG 45) and 6as (SG 49). The cover below, dated 18 October 1955 and sent to the USA, has been franked with the 1952 BPAEA 4as (SG 48) – the cover has a Qatar sender's address on the back.

The first of the three covers at the bottom is dated 22 March 1955 and franked with the 1952 BPAEA 1½as (SG 44) and the Kuwait 1953 2½as Coronation value (SG 103). For the second cover the date is not clear but it is franked with three 1952 or 1956 Kuwait 2as (SG 96 or 113). The final cover is dated 15 December 1955 and has been franked with the BPAEA 1952 ½a (SG 42).





Six stamps from the Naye Paise issues of BPAEA cancelled with Type 26 are illustrated here. Whether the 12np is SG 69 or 84, the 20np is SG 71 or 86 and the 40np is either SG 73 or 88. The 10np is SG 83 while the 30np is SG 87 and the 5Rs is SG 57. The below local cover has also been franked with SG 83 and though the date is not clear the 10np was only issued on 8 April 1961 making it a late use of overprinted British stamps in Bahrain.



The below left cover has been sent from Bahrain on what appears to be 1 December 1959 and is franked with the 1957 BPAEA 6as value (SG 73) while the cover on the right is dated 3 December 1959 and franked with the 1957 BPAEA 25np Scout value (SG 77) and the 1957 Qatar 15np Scout value (SG 16).



Type 22 (recorded use: 24 Dec 1950 to 20 Sep 1952)



Only one entry of cross usage cancelled with Type 22 is recorded being the cover below that was sent to the USA on 2 May 1951 and franked with two copies of the 1948 BPAEA 2½as value (SG 20) and four copies of the 1950 BPAEA 4as value (SG 40).



Type 24 (recorded use: 9 Oct 1950 to 13 Feb 1982)



Introduced in 1950 Type 24 continued in use throughout the remainder of the British Period. It is one of two actively used Awali cancellers.

Illustrated below are six values in blocks of four from the Kuwait 1948 definitive issue – SG 64 to 69. Though philatelic in appearance they all seem to have different dates while some have two strikes of the canceller.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to have their dates confirmed.





Above left is the 1948 Kuwait 6as value (SG 70) and in the middle an interesting combination of the 1948 Kuwait 3as value (SG 69) and the 1948 BPAEA 3as value (SG 21) cancelled on 29 March 1952. The two stamps on the right are the 1951 Kuwait 2as value (SG 87) and 2½as value (SG 88).

On the left is shown a philatelic Francis Field air letter commemorating the first Comet Jetliner Service from Bahrain to London, dated 13 August 1952, which has been franked with one copy of the 1951 Kuwait ½a value (SG 84) along with three copies of the 1951 BPAEA ½a value (SG 35).

The two covers below are two philatelic Cook covers commemorating the same occasion – the first letter also franked with 1951 Kuwait ½a value (SG 84) and 1951 BPAEA ½a (SG35) while the second letter has been franked with 12 copies of the 1951 BPAEA ½a value (SG 35) – the block including the cylinder number in the margin.



Moving on to the QEII era and the below blocks of 4 all of which are Kuwait used in Bahrain.



The block on the previous page are dated as follows: SG 93 is dated 24 May 1954 – SG 94 is dated 22 January 1953 – for SG 95 and SG 96 the date is not clear.

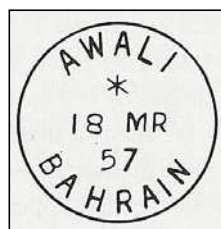


The five pieces shown here are the 1953 Kuwait 4as value (SG 99) dated 13 December 1953 and the 1953 Kuwait 1R value (SG 102) dated 19 June 1955. Only three examples of BPAEA cancelled with Type 24 were submitted – the 1952 BPAEA ½a (SG 42) and 1½as values (SG 44) – the first dated 7 November 1954 while the second appears to be from 1954 as well. The last piece is franked with the 1np value (SG 79) dated 17 November 1960.

The below postcard and cover show Qatar used in Bahrain with the postcard, dated 16 May 1959, showing the use of the 1957 Qatar 3np definitive value (SG 2). In addition to the 3np value the cover, dated 23 August 1959, has also been franked with the 1957 1np definitive value (SG 1) – both rates, the 20np for the post card and the 40np for the cover, are correct.



Type 25 (recorded use: 2 Oct 1950 to 23 May 1957)



The type 25 Awali cancellation is mainly used on registered mail and except for the two covers shown at the top of next page no other examples of Type 25 cancelling cross usage has been reported.

Both covers are 1 August 1957 Scout Jamboree FDCs – one franked with the Qatar issue and the other with the BPAEA issue.



Type 27 (recorded use: 5 Apr 1953 to 25 Feb 1974)



The Type 27 is the second registered canceller to be introduced during the British Period. The above strip of three is the 1952 BPAEA 6as value (SG 49) dated 23 July 1954.

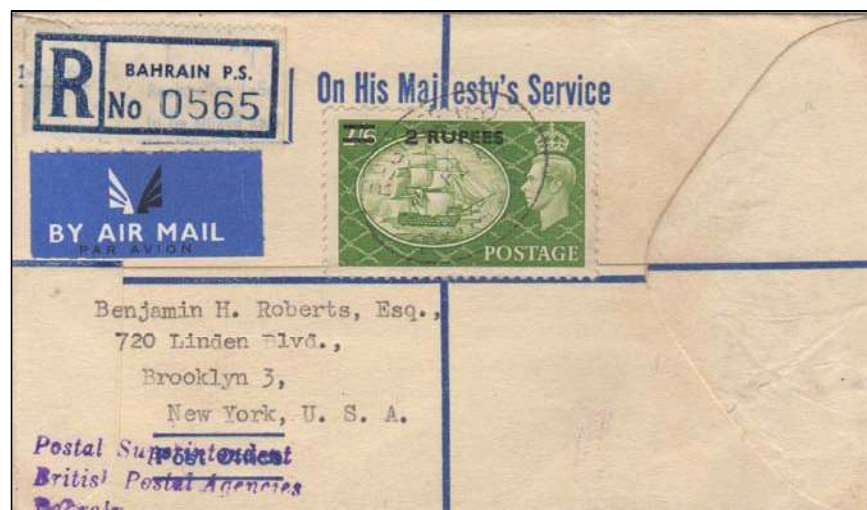


The two items shown here are the 1953 BPAEA 1R Coronation value (SG 55) and a registered cover sent from Bahrain on 1 May 1955. The cover has been franked with four BPAEA values – three values from the 1948 Olympic issue being the 2½as, 3as and 6as values (SG 27-29) along with the 1952 1½as definitive value (SG 44).

The block of 15 below is the 1955 BPAEA 2Rs Type II value (SG 41a) and is dated 11 May 1956. The block includes the “Raised S” variety in “RUPEES” which is listed in the Commonwealth Catalog as CW 17aa.



Below is a cover with the ordinary 1951 BPAEA 2Rs value (SG 41) dated 4 February 1954 and sent registered from Bahrain on an OHMS cover from the office of the Postal Superintendent.



Type 27A (recorded use: 19 Jun 1957 to 6 Oct 1976)



Two entries cancelled with Type 27A were submitted both of which are QEII 5Rs values.

The pair on the left is Type I while the single stamp on the right is Type II.



Type 35 (recorded use: 20 Oct 1959 to 30 Dec 1970)



The Awali (1) canceller was used on many of Reg Flook's creations while he lived in Awali. There is no record of any cross usage cancelled with the Awali (2) version of the same canceller.

The piece shown above shows the use of the 1960 BPAEA 1np and 3np definitive values (SG 79 and 80) along with a Bahrain definitive stamp. In spite of its very philatelic appearance/nature Reg Flook normally created his covers franked with the right postage rate – when possible.

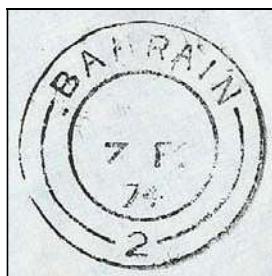


The two covers above have been franked with the BPAEA Scout Jamboree set. Both covers were sent to England the one on the left dated 13 November 1962 while the one on the right is dated 9 December 1961.



The final four covers shown here have all been franked with Qatar overprints or a combination of Qatar and BPAEA overprints. The top left cover is dated 26 February 1961 and has been franked with the Qatar 15np Scout Jamboree value (SG 16) and the 1np and 3np definitive values (SG 1 and 19). The top middle cover is dated 18 February 1961 and franked with the 25np Scout Jamboree value (SG 17) again with the Qatar 1np and 3np values but also two copies of the 1960 BPAEA 3np value while the top right cover, dated 2 September 1961, is franked with the final value of the 1957 Qatar Scout Jamboree set – the 75np value (SG 18). The fourth cover is dated 30 March 1961 and has been franked with one copy of the 1957 Qatar 1np value along with six copies of the 1960 Qatar 3np value and six copies of the 1960 BPAEA 3np value. Making up the final 3np of the 40np airmail rate to the UK is one 1960 Bahrain 3np definitive value.

Type 40 (recorded use: 1 July 1962 to 26 April 1977)



Donaldson tells us that Type 40 was the last British Agency canceller to be introduced in Bahrain and that it comes with numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 – he also mentions that it was registered in the GPO impression book on 5 December 1961. Unfortunately we cannot see the date of the 1957 BPAEA 5Rs Type I stamp shown here but the “2” does show. Covers with the high value castles are often seen cancelled with the “2” but for some reason I don’t have any on file so if anyone has any of them please forward me scans so that they can be illustrated in Edition 41.

Qatar

The British Agency Post Office in Qatar opened on 16 May 1950 and was operational until 22 May 1963. Donaldson mentions that Bahrain overprints were placed on sale during the very

early days of the post office but that this was quickly changed to “Value Only” overprints due the various sovereignty problems between Bahrain and Qatar. As such “Value Only” overprints will be considered correct usage for the period up to 31 March 1957 and any use of Bahrain overprints will be considered cross usage. Following the issue of Qatar overprints on 1 April 1957 the use of “Value Only” overprints will be considered as cross usage.

Type 1 (recorded use: 16 May 1950 to 23 May 1950)



As mentioned above Donaldson mentions that Bahrain overprints were initially put on sale at Doha and the covers recorded with Type 1 tend to support this. A total of four dispatches of mail were made before the use of Type 1 was stopped. On 16/5 an unaddressed “FDC” and a postal document is known both of which have been franked with a pair of the BPAEA 1a definitive value. A total of three covers, all of which were sent to France by the advisor to the ruler of Qatar, dated 18/5, 21/5 and 23/5 have been franked with the 1948 Bahrain 6as definitive value. The only recorded cover to go through the postal system and not franked with Bahrain overprints is a cover from 21/5, which was sent to Bahrain and franked with one copy each of the 1948 BPAEA ½a and 3as definitive values.

Type 2 (recorded use: 1950 to 1961)



Type 2 was the first Agency canceller to be introduced at the Doha Post Office and remaining in use for 11 years it is one of the more prolific cross usage cancellers.

The below left cover is a commercial cover sent from Doha on 12 October 1950 and franked with three copies of the 1948 Bahrain 2as definitive value.

The cover on the right is a philatelic Marshall cover dated 28 September 1950, which has been franked with two values from the 1948 Bahrain definitive issue – the 1a and 2½as.



Moving on to the next page and the three covers shown at the top. The first cover is dated 12 November 1950 and franked with the ½a and 1as values from the 1948 Bahrain definitive issue, the philatelic air letter is dated 8 September 1951 and franked with the 1948 Kuwait 4as value

while the second cover, again philatelic, is dated 12 November 1950 and franked with the 1948 Bahrain 1a value.

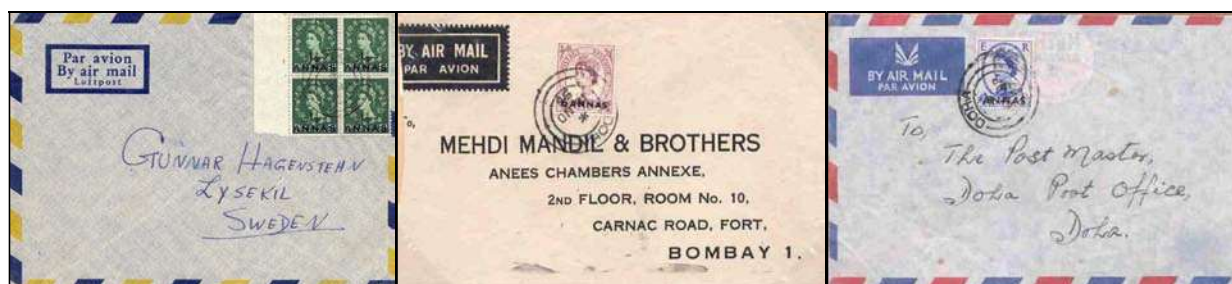


The final piece with KGV cross usage is dated 7 December 1951 and has been franked with the 1948 Bahrain 1/2a value.

Moving on to QEII with the below covers being the only three covers franked with “Anna” values and in all three cases BPAEA stamps used in Qatar after 1 April 1957.



The first cover is dated 26 April 1958 and has been franked with a block of four of the 1952 BPAEA 1 1/2as value. The second cover is dated 18 November 1958 and has been franked with a 1954 BPAEA 6as value while the third cover is dated 11 April 1957 and has been franked with the 1956 BPAEA 4as value.



Two covers from the Naye Paise period are shown below the first of which is dated 22 September 1958 and franked with a copy of the 1957 Bahrain 9np value. The cover was sent to Canada and franked with 15np falling short of the 40np required for surface mail and subsequently received postage due. The second cover is dated 11 January 1959 has been franked with one copy of the 1957 Bahrain 1np value – presumably sent to the USA as printed matter.



Type 3 (recorded use: 1953 to 1955)



The only example of cross usage cancelled with Type 3 is the piece shown here. It is dated 4 May 1954 and has been franked with two copies of the 1954 Bahrain 12as definitive value.



Type 4 (recorded use: 1956 to 1959)



Only one example of cross usage cancelled with the oval “Doha – Persian Gulf” registered canceller is recorded here being the below philatelic cover sent to Gunnar Hagenstehn in Lysekil, Sweden.

The cover, dated 17 September 1955, has been franked with the Kuwait 1951 5Rs Festival value.



Type 6 (recorded use: 1956 to 1962)

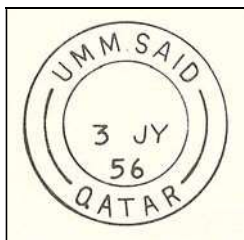


As was the case with Type 4 only one example of cross usage cancelled with Type 6 is recorded here.

The philatelic cover illustrated at the top of next page is dated 6 July 1957 and has been franked with one copy of the 1952 BPAEA 1½as value.



Type 8 (recorded use: 1 February 1956 to 1966)

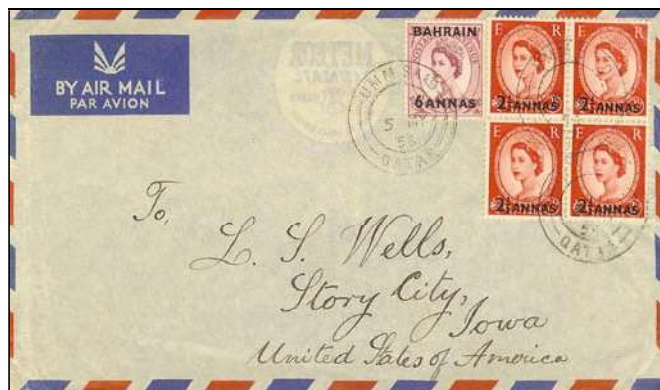


The Type 8 Umm Said canceller is the most prolific Qatar canceller when it comes to cross usage. Introduced when the post office opened on 1 February 1956 it covers the QEII Anna and Naye Paise periods.



The first three pieces include the below left cover sent to Australia on the day the Umm Said Post Office opened – 1 February 1956. Though philatelic of nature it is franked at the correct rate of 12as, which includes the 1954 Bahrain 1/2a, 1a and 2 1/2as definitive values. The piece above is dated 21 February 1956 and franked with the 1954 Bahrain 6as definitive value while the cover on the right is dated 26 February 1956 and franked with the 1954 Bahrain 1/2a and 1as definitive values.





The above left commercial cover was sent to Karachi on 16 April 1956 while the above right cover was sent to the USA on 5 May 1956. In both cases the covers are combination covers showing the use of the 1954 Bahrain 2½as and 6as definitive values.

The below left cover was also sent to the USA and is dated 21 May 1956. It shows the use of the 1954 Bahrain 2as and 4as definitive values while the cover on the right, sent to New Zealand and dated 25 June 1956, shows the use of the 1954 Bahrain 3as definitive value.



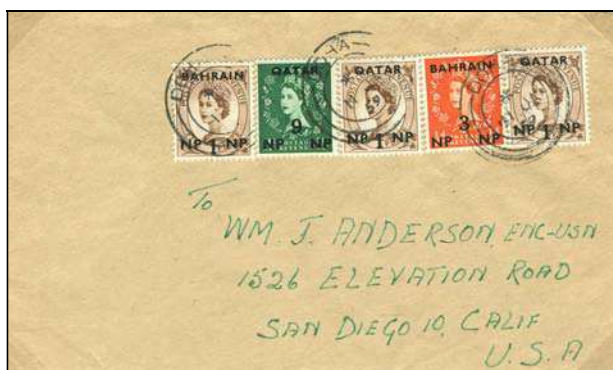
The final cover is a double rate cover sent to England – unfortunately the date is not clear but nonetheless it is interesting from the perspective that it arrived in England in a damaged state and has had an official seal applied.

Even though there were several additional cross usage covers submitted from the Anna Period of the Umm Said canceller they

were all franked with the same Bahrain values as illustrated here meaning that no examples of values above 6as have been recorded as well as no use of Kuwait overprints.



The QEII Naye Paise period is mainly made up of philatelic D'souza covers. The above left cover, dated 28 November 1957, is franked with the 1957 Bahrain 6np definitive value. The above right cover, dated 20 December 1957, is franked with the 1957 Bahrain 12np definitive value and the 1957 BPAEA 20np definitive value. The below left cover, dated 11 November 1959, is franked with the 1957 Bahrain 1np and 3np definitive values while the below right cover, dated 5 January 1960, is franked with the 1957 Bahrain 15np and 25np Scout values.



The above left cover, dated 24 January 1961, is franked with the 1960 Bahrain 20np definitive value and the 1960 BPAEA 9np definitive value while the above right cover, dated 5 November 1960, is franked with the 1960 Bahrain 3np definitive value and the 1960 BPAEA 12np definitive value.



The final four Type 8 covers are shown here the first of which is dated 19 December 1959 and shows the use of the 1957 BPAEA 6np, 9np and 25np definitive values. The second cover is dated 11 March 1961 and franked with the 1960 Bahrain 25np and the 1960 BPAEA 1960 12np definitive values. The third cover is dated 7 April 1961 and franked with the 1954 Bahrain 2s and the 1960 BPAEA 3np definitive values while the fourth cover is dated 21 November 1961 and franked with the 1960 BPAEA 9np definitive value.

Type 9 (recorded use: 1956 to 1957)



Unlike the prolific Type 8 cross usage cancelled with the registered Umm Said Type 9 cancellation is scarce. In fact, only one piece is recorded in this presentation.



The block of four illustrated here shows the 1954 Bahrain 2Rs Type II value cancelled with a very clear Type 9 strike dated 16 June 1956 and is the only record of Type 9 cross usage recorded so far. It was recently sold at Prestige Auctions in Melbourne.

Kuwait

The British Agency in Kuwait inherited a single post office on 1 April 1948 and during its administration, which lasted until 31 January 1959, several new post offices were opened. The Indian cancellers, Type 11, 12 and 13, remained in use until 1949 but no cross usage struck with these cancellers is recorded in this presentation. Several new cancellers were also introduced during the administration but only six cancellers are recorded struck on cross usage.

Type 21 (recorded use: 1949 to 1958)



Type 21 was amongst the first batch of British cancellers introduced in Kuwait shown here on a cover and two pieces.

The cover below is dated 8 March 1951 and has been franked with a strip of four of the 1948 BPAEA 6as value (SG 22).



The first piece on the left shows the use of a pair of the 1948 BPAEA 3as value (SG 21) dated 5 March 1953 where as the second piece shows the more unusual use of the 1951 BPAEA 4as value (SG 40) in a block of four. Unfortunately the date is not clear.

Type 24 (recorded use: 1950 to 1958)



Introduced by 1950 Type 24 appears to be the more prolific of the Kuwait cancellers when it comes to cross usage.

The majority of the examples are franked with the 1948 BPAEA 3as and 6as values which Donaldson tells were on sale in Kuwait during April-May 1951 and again February-June 1953 due to shortages of the corresponding Kuwait overprinted values. The first piece shown here is dated 15 April 1954.



The top left cover, again franked with the 1948 BPAEA 6as value, is dated 23 November 1952 – the middle cover, franked with the 1951 BPAEA 4as value, is dated 23 March 1953 while the top right cover, dated 13 April 1953, is franked with the 1948 BPAEA 3as value.

The pieces below with similar BPAEA frankings are dated 17 March 1953, again 17 March 1953 while the last piece is dated 7 November 1953.



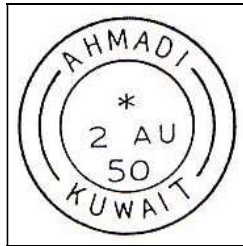
Again in 1954 shortages of Kuwait overprints led to BPAEA QEII "Value Only" stamps being sold in Kuwait.

The cover shown here is dated 15 December 1954 and franked with the 1952 BPAEA 1a value while the 1952 BPAEA 1½as cannot be dated.

On page 178 of his book Donaldson tells us about the Scout covers of Kuwait listing the ones that exist by cancellation type and date. In addition to this he mentions the existence of five covers that passed through Kuwait during October, all sent local, two of which are illustrated below. The first of the covers is dated 7 October while the second cover is dated 9 October.



Type 25 (recorded use: 1950 to 1958)



The two Ahmadi cancellers (Type 25 and 26) were introduced on 2 August 1950 the first of which is shown here used on six cross usage pieces.

The top left piece being a pair of the 1948 BPAEA 3as value dated 4 March 1953. The top right piece shows the uncommon use of the 1951 BPAEA 2Rs Type I value on a piece dated 31 March 1953.



The cover on the left shows the use of the 1948 BPAEA 6as value dated 3 April 1951 while the block of four, dated 25 April 1951 shows similar use.

The philatelic cover below is dated 20 December 1953 and has again been franked with a block of four of the B1948 PAEA 6as value but also a block of four of the 1952 BPAE ½a value.

The right cover, being a commercial cover to the UK, has been franked with 6as in total. It is dated 27 December 1953 and shows the use of the 1952 BPAEA 2as value.



Type 26 (recorded use: 1950 to 1958)



Type 26 is shown used on the standard BPAEA values above with the first piece dated 14 April 1951 and the two blocks of four dated 1 October 1953. The two philatelic registered covers illustrated below were both sent from the Mena-Al-Ahmadi Post Office on 27 March 1954. Rather than being cancelled with the Mena Al Ahmadi canceller, Type 31, they were cancelled at Awali. The first cover has been franked with the 1951 BPAEA 2Rs value while the second has been franked with the 1952 BPAEA 1a value.



Type 29 (recorded use: 1953 to 1958)



Type 29 is only recorded once being on a block of four of the 1956 BPAEA 2½as value.

Unfortunately the date is not clear.

Type unknown



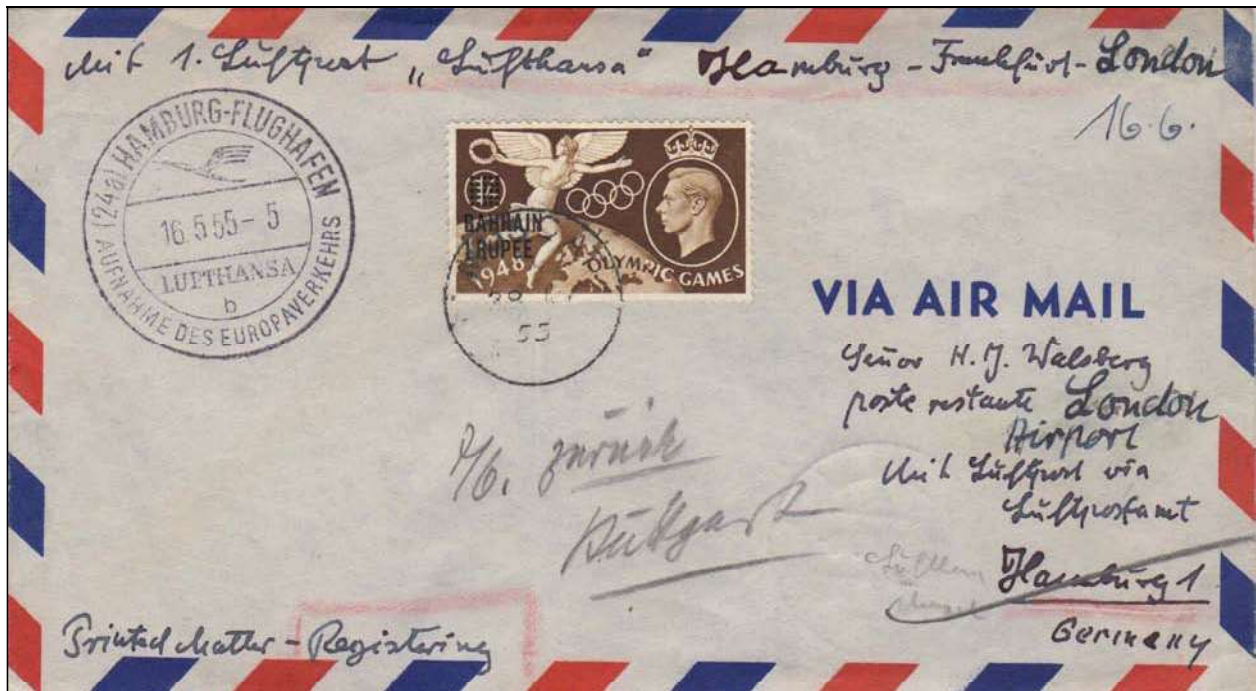
The final two examples of cross usage in Kuwait are the two QEII values shown here – the 1952 Bahrain 4as value (SG 86) and the 1952 BPAEA 1952 12as value (SG 50). Unfortunately it is difficult to say which cancellation mark was used though they look more oval than round.

Muscat

The British Agency Post Office in Muscat inherited one post office when it took over, a situation that remained unchanged until postal independence on 30 April 1966. Very little cross usage has been recorded at the Muscat Post Office all of which is illustrated below.

Bahrain used in Muscat:

The philatelic cover illustrated below shows the only record of Bahrain overprinted stamps used at Muscat and is cancelled with Type 22. The cover is dated 28 April 1955 and has been franked with the 1948 Bahrain 1R Olympic value.



Kuwait used in Muscat:



Two examples of Kuwait stamps used in Muscat have also been recorded and are illustrated here. It's the 1948 Kuwait 1a and 2as definitive values both of which have been cancelled with the Indian Muscat canceller – Type 14.

Dubai

The British Agency Post Office in Dubai was operational until 14 June 1963. Like Muscat it only took over one post office, which remained the only post office until postal independence. Cross usage in Dubai, being the use of Bahrain and Kuwait overprints, is equally scarce and only one cover has been recorded.



The cover, courtesy of Khalid Omaira, is dated 23 March 1954. It has been cancelled with Type 13 it is a registered single rate cover sent to India. It has been franked with a strip of three of the 1953 Bahrain 4as definitive value.

Thoughts about mixed usage in Bahrain by John Carter

(Many will noticed that many of the images illustrated here have already been illustrated on previous pages but are shown here again to enhance John's thoughts)

During the period 1948-1955 my father worked for Gray Dawes who, as part of the Inchcape group, were managing agents for the British India Steam Navigation Company. He had access to



Fig 1 which was retained, is the illustrated triple usage (Fig 1). He displayed this cover at London stamp society meetings together with many of the mixed pieces (Fig 2) and requested information, which was never forthcoming.

Fig 2

Only when Neil Donaldson wrote his first articles did any mention of this usage come to light and he attributed it to “casual carriage” except where it was known that the Kuwait overprints ran out for a time (especially the 6as).

I have given this some thought and would suggest that casual carriage is possible for visiting sailors, tourists etc but unlikely for a commercial company. Is it not possible that the Post Office mixed up the Bahrain and Value only overprints at times and sold them in the Bahrain Post Office? The revenue from all the Gulf agencies went into the same account and all the stamps were distributed from Bahrain so this could be possible and there would be little reason for the postal clerks to correct the matter. As a side issue I do not know whether Gray McKenzie bought sheets of stamps or had their mail stamped at the post office but would guess the former. The stamps my father brought home included very few values greater than R1 and many pairs, strips and blocks including multiples of 12 among the many 100s of the R1s. This could indicate the company bought sheets of stamps and affixed them to letters themselves. Shipping documents were notoriously bulky but I do not know whether there was a small packet rate or whether multiples of the 6as letter rate were used. We never found parcel postmarks.



Fig 3

I also attach photos of bank covers with Value only and Kuwait used in Bahrain (I have seen several others) which maybe also indicate they were sold at the Post Office (Fig 3)

With regards to philatelic experiments I wonder if the Bahrain Post Office would sell other overprints on request. If so this might explain some of the covers including this triple franking. (Fig 4) I have noticed the tendency for expats to use “multiple colour” low values to write home and possibly could also sometimes request the other overprints. I suppose they could also get them from the other agencies.



Fig 4

With Kuwait the situation is different since the stamps would have been distributed from Bahrain. I have over 20 pieces of value only stamps, which my father collected, most of which

are 6as in November – December 1953 which is slightly later than Neil Donaldson's periods of shortages (Fig 5). I later had to buy a cover! (Fig 6)



Fig 5



Fig 6

With regards to Qatar I have:

1. 1956 cover from Umm Said with Bahrain stamps (Fig 7)
2. Other cross usage in 1956-7 (Fig 8)
3. Cross usage in 1961 (Fig 9). Philatelic I'm pretty sure – I have seen other covers from this chap.



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9

I have not included covers from oil co personnel sent to Bahrain for posting (registered examples in 1951 and 1955). I also have a Qatar 6as used in Bahrain in 1960, which is addressed to a stamp dealer.

Bahrain



Shown here is a cover dated 25 October 1911 sent to the unusual destination of Dordrecht in the Netherlands. It has been franked with the correct rate of 2½as with the stamps applied to

the front of the cover and has received an 18 November 1911 Dordrecht arrival backstamp indicating 24 days in transit. The cover did not receive any Bombay transit stamps but would have gone via Bombay and Brindisi.



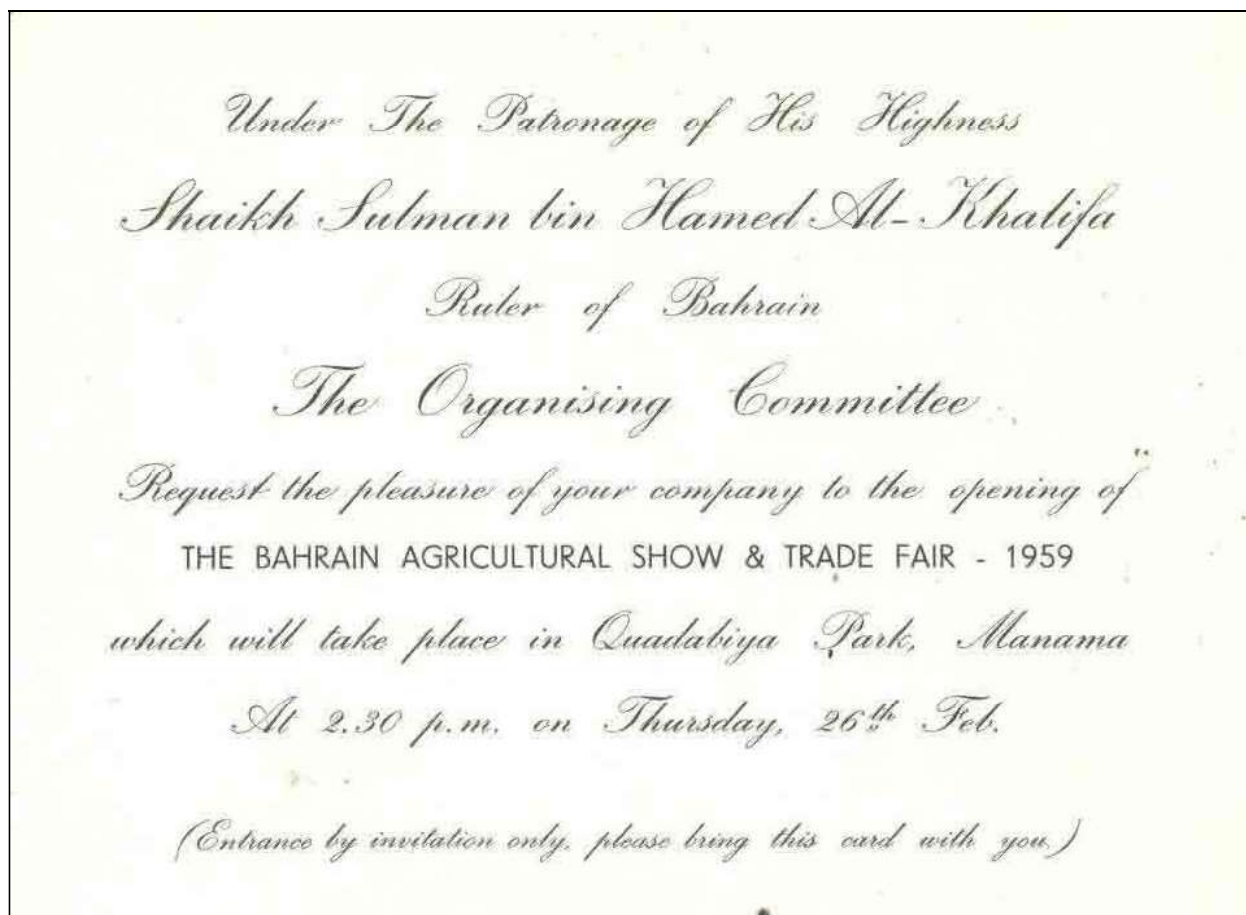
The above cover was sent to the USA in early July after the introduction of Trans-Pacific airmail rates. You will notice that it has been franked with 21½as being the rate to the USA introduced at the outbreak of WWII. The rate was valid for westbound travel via the UK for most of WWII but its use following the fall of France is uncommon due to irregular service and the availability of other routes. In this case the cover went via HK passing Hong Kong censorship and receiving a Hong Kong transit stamp dated 11 July 1940. The correct rate for the eastbound route to the USA during July 1940 would have been 43½as, a rate that was

introduced in February 1940 and remained in use until December 1940.



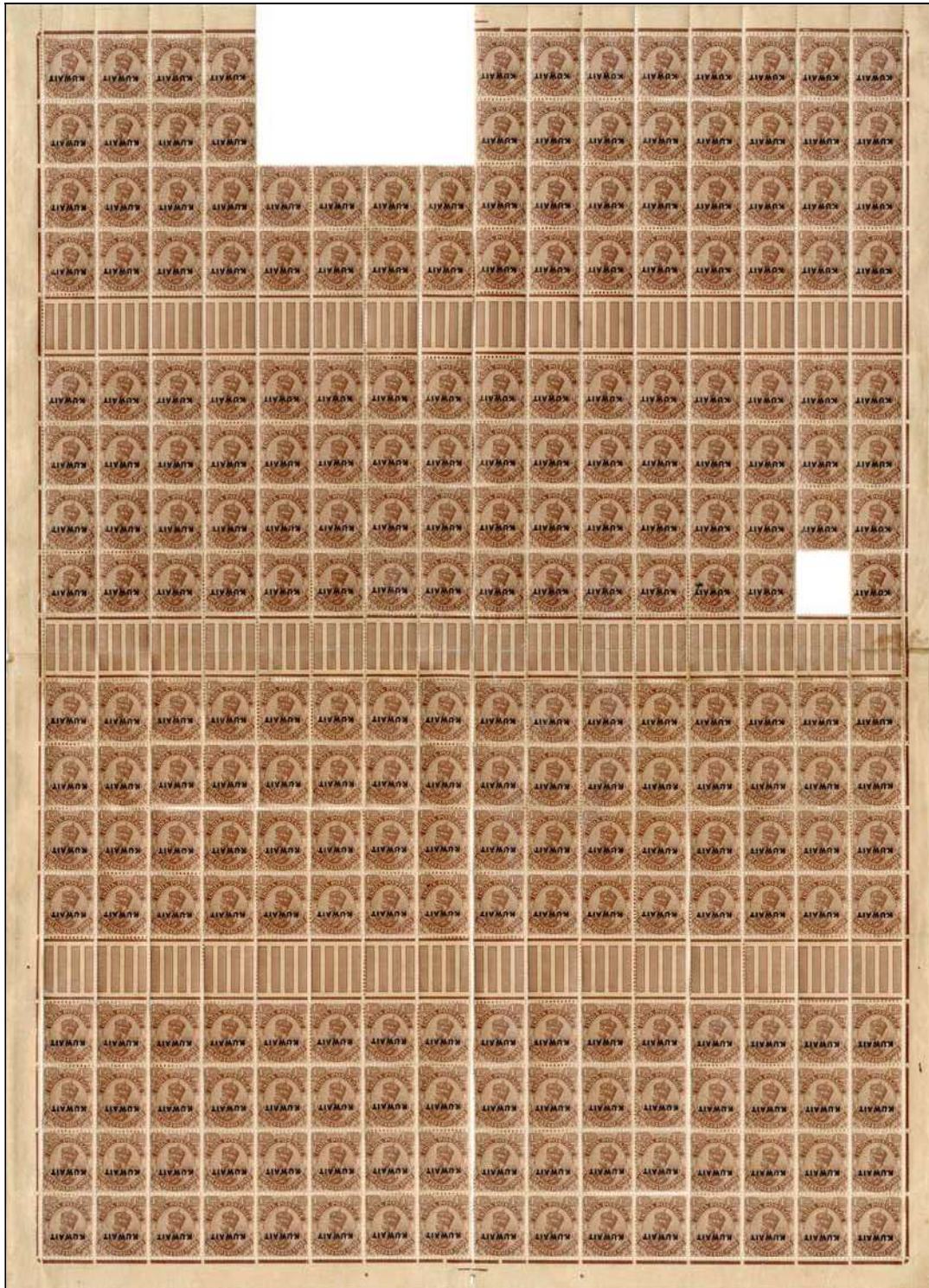
The two covers shown above have both had the Agricultural Trade Fair handstamp applied. The cover on the left is a local cover dated 3 March 1958 and is rather unusual in that it has been franked with a strip of three of the 1957 QEII 3np value but has been cancelled with the local canceller Type 29. The cover on the right, philatelically franked with a combination of QEII and local stamps, is dated 14 March 1960.

Courtesy of Mike Phelan we are able to illustrate below was the actual invitation to the 1959 Agricultural Fair looked like.



Kuwait

The sheet of the inverted 1½as value below was recently sold at auction in London and takes us back to the discussion as to whether or not these stamps were part of the official printings or not.





As can be seen from the top and bottom of the sheet there is no number printed in the margin which means that the sheet, if part of the official printings, would have had to come from the 1923 printings. With this being the case the question which then rises is “why are all the covers with inverted overprints dated 1926”?



The below cover is a Calverley cover sent from Kuwait to Jerusalem and then redirected back to Kuwait since the addressee was not found:

Kuwait:	28 March 1928	Departure
Jerusalem:	9 April 1928	Arrival
Jerusalem:	12 April 1928	Departure
Port Said:	14 April 1928	Transit
Basrah:	3 May 1928	Transit
Kuwait:	5 May 1928	Arrival





Here is an odd one being the use of the K-79 experimental canceller dated 24 May. According to Donaldson's statistics the first canceller to be introduced following the departure of the Iraqi postmaster was the Postal Superintendent handstamp (Type 10) with earliest recorded use being 24 May 1941. The earliest use of Type 11, however, is recorded as 11 June 1941.

I have compared what K-79 covers I have on file with the strike on this stamp and see no reason why it should be a forged postmark – your opinion is appreciated. If it is genuine does that mean that the K-79 was available on 24 May but not authorized for usage, maybe due to the experimental status of the post office not yet official, leaving the use of Type 10 as a stop gap until K-79 could be activated?



The above registered surface cover was sent from Kuwait to Tel-Aviv on 31 July 1944 and has been franked with 6½as. It has received a “PASSED BY CENSOR – KUWAIT” handstamp applied in purple and also passed Iraq censorship. It has Basra (3 August) and Baghdad (5 August) transit stamps and a Tel-Aviv arrival stamp dated 11 August indicating 11 days in transit.

The below registered cover sent to the UK and dated 21 May 1942 shows a very clear strike of the Political Agent Kuwait circular handstamp along with a partially visible unboxed similar handstamp seen on the right.



Muscat & Oman

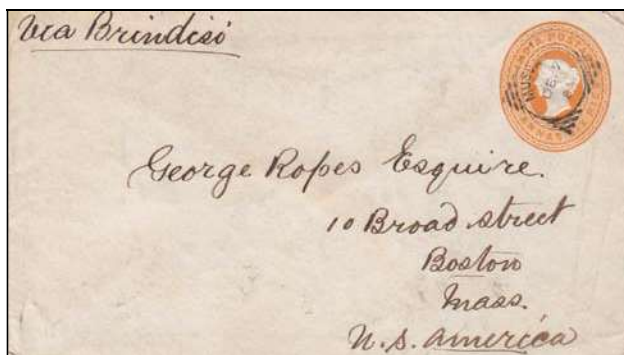


Illustrated here is an early westbound cover sent from Muscat to Dublin in 1872. It has been franked with 8s and obliterated with Donaldson Type 1A and also has a Type 2 Muscat datestamp applied in red ink on the back of the cover, however, the date can not be read due to the absence of the back flap. The two Bombay transit stamps are dated 12 July 1872 while the H&K backstamp is dated 9 August 1872. Given the date of the cover the Muscat – Bombay transit would have been 7 to 9 days.

The 8s rate is correct and was in use for mail to the UK from 10 December 1870 until 1 July 1876 when the rate changed to 6s. The route via Brindisi and France (Paris/Calais) was established on an experimental basis from 17 November 1869; however, The Franco-Prussian War resulted in the route via France being changed to a less direct route on 19 September 1870 in order to avoid Paris. On 19 October 1870, when the Marseille route was finally cancelled, the Brindisi route went via Germany and Belgium. On 5 Jan 1872 with the opening of the Mt. Cenis Tunnel the route returned to via Brindisi and France (Calais).

The rate and route information comes from the 1975 book "Overseas Letter Postage from India 1854 – 1876" which was edited by Colonel Neil Blair based on notes compiled by Colonel Martin Blair.

The two covers shown below were both sent to the USA but during different centuries. The 2½as QV stationery on the left was sent from Muscat on 7 December 1894 via Brindisi and cancelled with Type 9. The stationery is PN # EN18, H&G # B6, Lang # EK1 which is believed to have been issued on 1 January 1893 with the specific purpose of issue being to pre-pay for letters from India to any UPU country. The cover on the right was sent from Muscat on 31 May 1938 with a two-reign franking being the KGV 3as carmine (SG 237) and the KGVI ½a red-brown (SG 248) making up the 3½as surface rate to the USA.



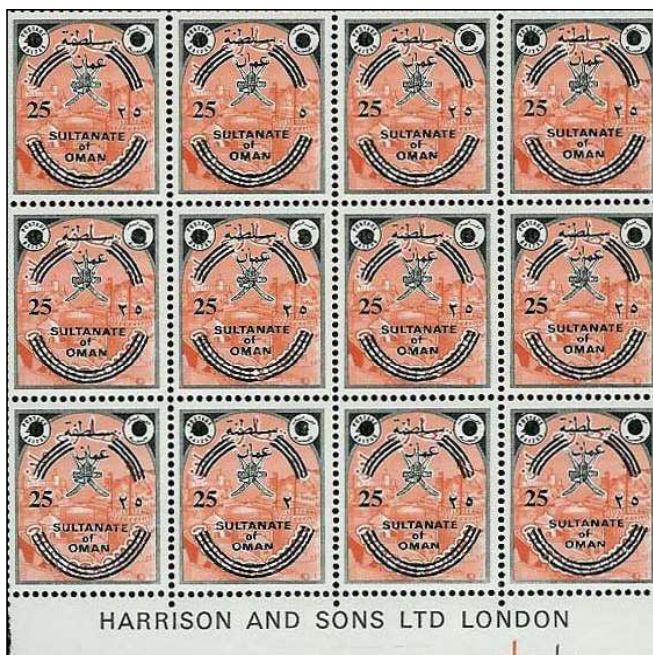


The second piece is a cover front sent to Donaldson and shows something that has already been illustrated in the Quarterly before being that when the 1972 Harrison overprints were made they had to print a whole new stock of the 5B value – surely that was the point Donaldson wanted to illustrate with this cover front?

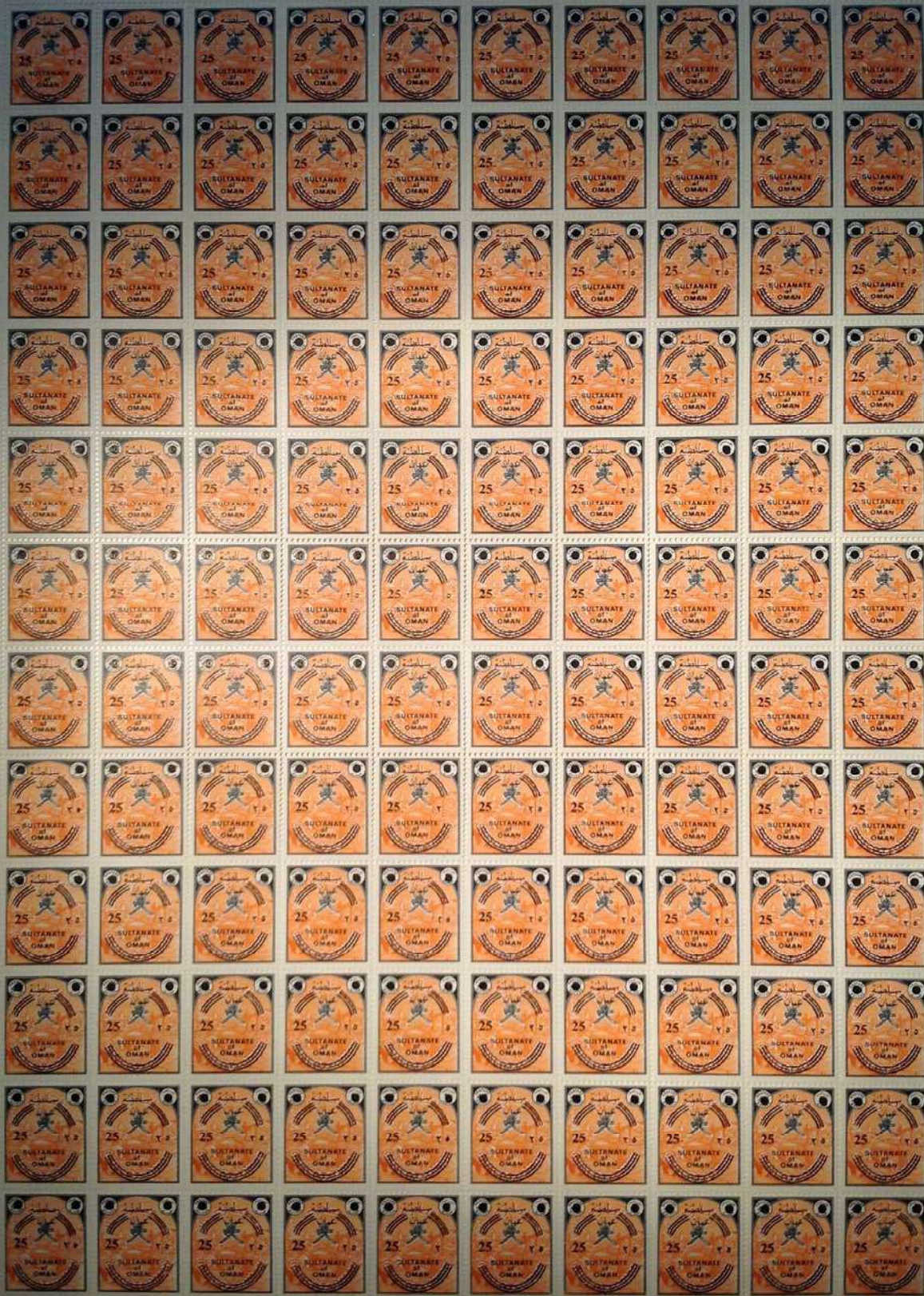
Back to the 1972 missing 2s and 5s and one of these things that just happens in philately. I was selling a few of these errors who had bought them

recently came across a gentleman that was when he was a pilot in the Sultan's air force back in 1972. In one of our conversations he made a very interesting comment being that he bought the errors before he went to Salalah on a mission and when he returned to Muscat and tried to buy more he was told, "The sheets with the errors were no longer for sale". When I asked when he returned he checked his flying book and told me that 14 August 1972, when he also posted a letter from Muscat Post Office, was probably the date.

With the 25B overprints meant to fill a gap until the new definitive 25B value was issued on 23 July 1972 does this mean that the surcharges were withdrawn when the new definitive set was issued? (Sheet illustrated on next page)



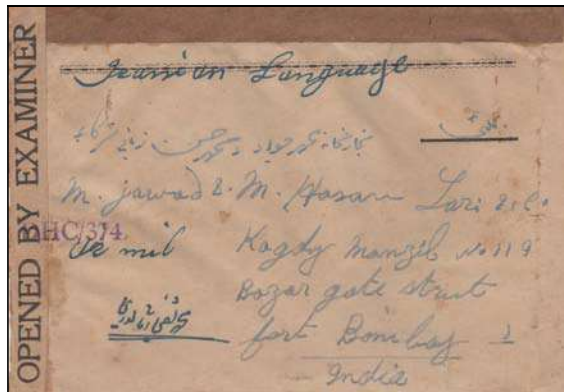
1304



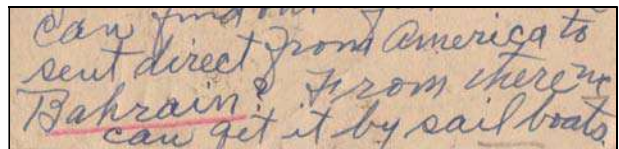
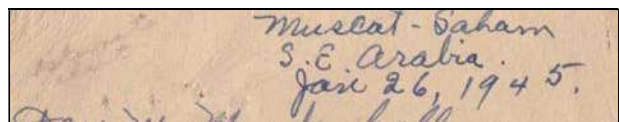
HARRISON AND SONS LTD LONDON

IA 1A

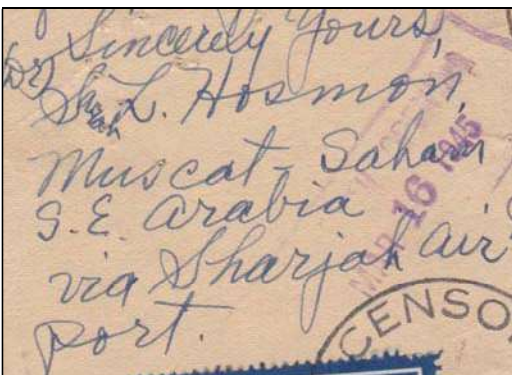
UAE – Dubai



The cover shown here was sent from Dubai to India in February 1944 - a very ordinary and common cover franked correctly at 2½as. What makes the cover slightly special is that it has arrived at the Censorship Office in a damaged state, been censored and then repaired. The “repair seal” has been tied to the cover with two handstamps; a “RECEIVED DAMAGED – POSTAL CENSORSHIP” along with a larger “RECEIVED – POSTAL CENSOR” handstamp.



Dubai illustrating one of the airmail options that residents in Muscat had prior to the introduction of an airmail service there. The postcard makes a couple of references to postal routes the first of



which can be seen in the way the sender signs off on the postcard: Muscat, Saham – S.E. Arabia – via Sharjah Air Post – the postcard traveling westward and passing censor in Bahrain.

The postcard was written in response to heavy rains during the winter of 1944-45 with the sender acquiring about various asphalt roofs. At one point he mentions shipping from the USA direct to Bahrain with onwards transport done by sailboats (Dhows). The postcard gives us an interesting insight in to first a postal route and then a merchandise route.

Incident covers – not crash covers

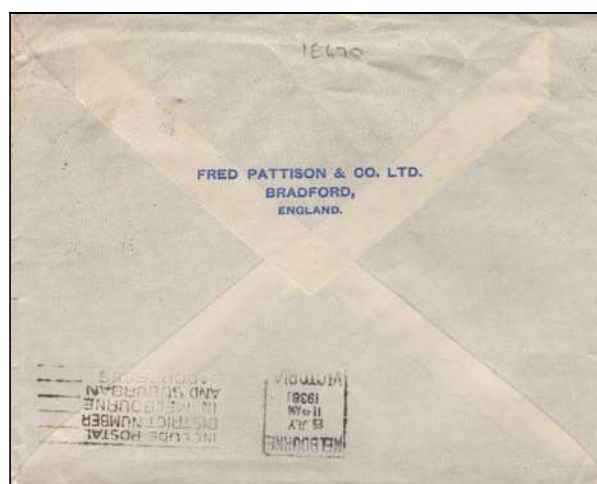
The following two London – Australia covers were sold as part of an Imperial Airways collection late last year. According to the Quarterly it is the first record of these two “Incident Covers” where the two flights carrying the covers were involved in some level of incident at Dubai/Sharjah airport.



The first cover was sent from Salford on 5 May 1938 connecting with the IE 651 leaving Southampton on 8 May onboard the Qantas Corio. The Corio force landed at Dubai on 10 May due to engine trouble but eventually made it to Karachi on 11 May where the mail was transferred to the Cordella. The mail was again transferred at Singapore on 14 May arriving in Brisbane on 18 May from where the cover was forwarded to Melbourne receiving a 19 May 1938 arrival backstamp (confirming its inclusion on the IE 651 flight).

Eastbound Services 1938 Southampton-Brisbane Continued														
Flight	Plane	Southampton	Marseilles	Brindisi	Athens	Alexandria	Basra	Karachi	Calcutta	Rangoon	Bangkok	Singapore	Ramang	Darwin
IE 650	Ceres	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.5	6.5	6-7.5	7.5	Landed at Corfu 5-6 May due to bad light.					
	Corinthian							8.5	8-9.5	9.5	9-10.5	10.5		
	Sydney											11.5	11-12.5	12-13
IE 651	Corio	8.5	8.5	8.5	8-9.5	9.5	9-10.5	11.5	Force landed Dubai 10-11 May due to M.T.					
	Cordelia							12.5	12-13.5	13-14.5	14.5	14.5	Delayed by winter at Rangoon	
	Adelaide											15.5	15-16.5	16-17.5
IE 652	Caledonia	12.5	12.5	12.5	12-13.5	13.5	13-14.5	14.5	Developed E.T. after leaving Marseilles, returned, left again after five hours.					
	Cassiopeia							15.5	15-16.5	16.5	16-17.5	17.5		
	Melbourne												18.5	18-19.5

The second cover (next page) was sent from Bradford on 12 July 1938 connecting with the IE670 leaving Southampton on 14 July - again onboard the Qantas Corio. At Sharjah, on 16 July, the Corio was involved in a collision with another Qantas plane, the Cooee, necessitating transfer of mail load to the Circe. The cover has had a 25 July Melbourne arrival backstamp applied confirming its inclusion on the IE670 flight.



Eastbound Services 1938 Southampton-Sydney

Flight	Plane	Southampton	Athens	Alexandria	Basra	Dubai	Karachi	Calcutta	Bangkok	Penang	Singapore	Sourabaya	Darwin	Townsville	Brisbane	Sydney
IE 668	Camilla	7.7	7-8.7	8.7	8-9.7	9.7	9.7									
	Castor						10.7	10-11.7	11-12.7	12.7	12.7					
	Melbourne										13.7	13.7	14-15.7	16.7	16.7	
IE 669	Clio	10.7	10-11.7	11.7	11-12.7	12.7	12.7									
	Coogee						13.7	13-14.7	14-15.7	15.7	15-16.7	16-17.7	17-18.7	18-19.7	19.7	19.7
IE 670	Corio	14.7	14-15.7	15.7	15-16.7	Corio was involved in a collision at Sharjah with Coogee (CW40) 16 July. Corio took over load.										
	Circe					17.7	17-18.7	18-19.7	19-20.7	20.7	20-21.7	21-22.7	22-23.7	23-24.7	24.7	24.7

The below cover was sent from Dubendorf, Switzerland on 27 July 1944 being a scarce example of an incoming cover of western origin to Dubai. It was opened by German censor where after it went to Cairo where it was opened again – receiving a Cairo transit stamp dated 27 September. It was then forwarded to Dubai via Bahrain where it received a transit stamp dated 4 October. The cover is addressed to Ali Haji Abdulla Awazi & Co.



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

Yahoo Group: arabiangulfphilately

Group home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arabiangulfphilately>

Arabian Gulf Philately is a yahoo group for people interested in the postal history and stamps of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Muscat and the UAE - Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the Trucial States.

The group is meant as a forum for exchanging information, asking and answering questions. It is neither a forum for buying and selling nor marketing and advertising - so a zero advertising policy. Amongst the many tasks planned for the group is setting up libraries and uploading documents about forgeries from Dubai, Abu Dhabi and other areas of the Gulf. This is done in order to safeguard and protect new collectors and requires input from the more seasoned of you. The information sent in to the group and the discussions that take place about material are not subject to pre-approval – as such there is no moderator for the group unless the group rules are broken.

Should you be interested in joining the group you can either do so via the above link or you can send me an email to one of the following addresses and I will send out an invitation.

arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com

kameltom2004@yahoo.com

The current membership stands at 17 with 16 photo albums and 3 PDF files uploaded in the group Library.

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.

<http://friends.peoria.lib.il.us/community/howardcourtney/Catalog1.html>

Howard Courtney's fabulous website illustrating his knowledge about Dubai's Independent Postal Administration.

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.

CREDITS

Edition 40:

Gillian Spokes
John Carter
Mike Phelan
Barrie Cook
Khalid Omairah
Hussain Rajab
Prestige Auctions
Thomas Johansen
Francis Kiddle
Mike Perkins
Martin Taylor
Sandeep Jaiswal

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