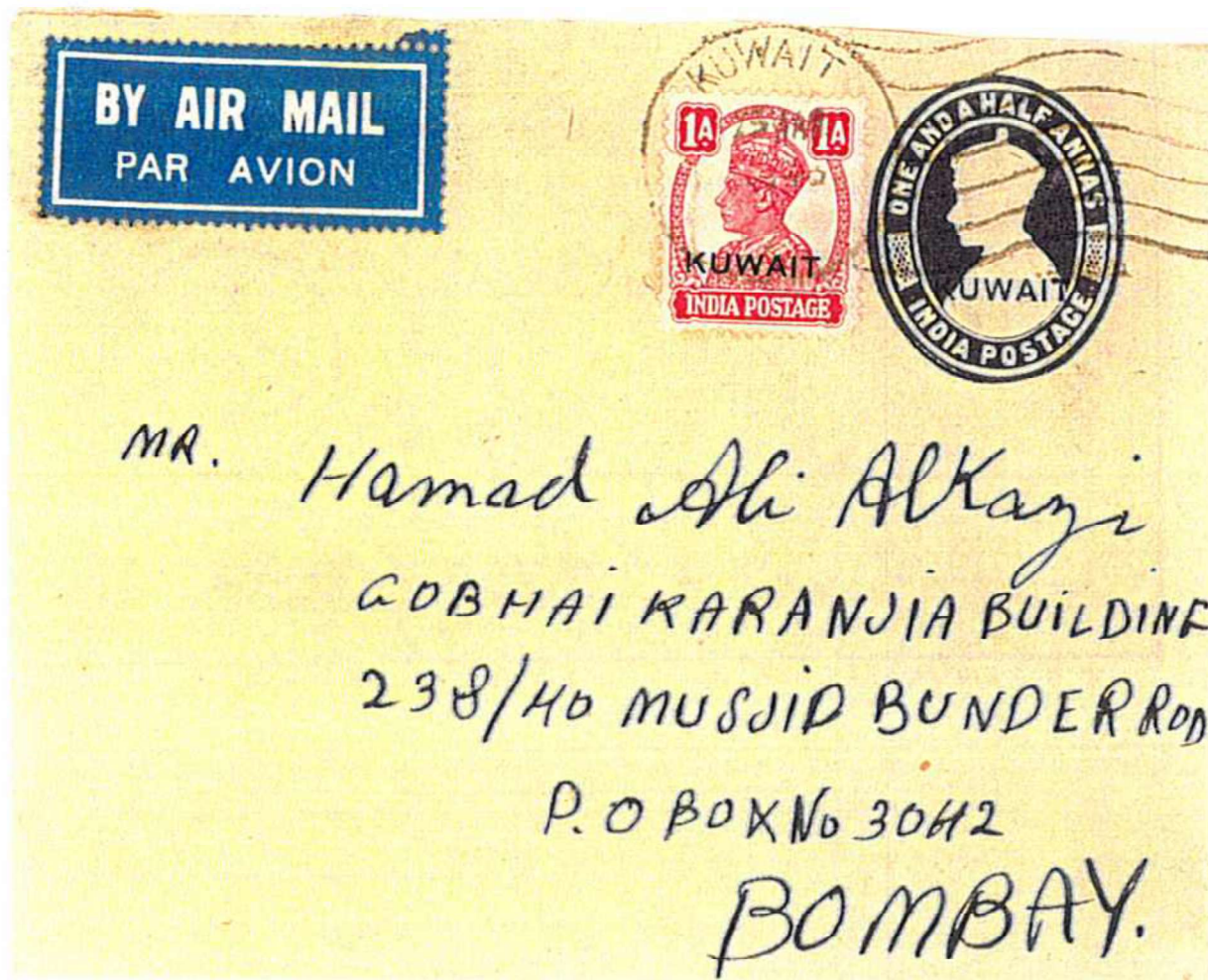


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



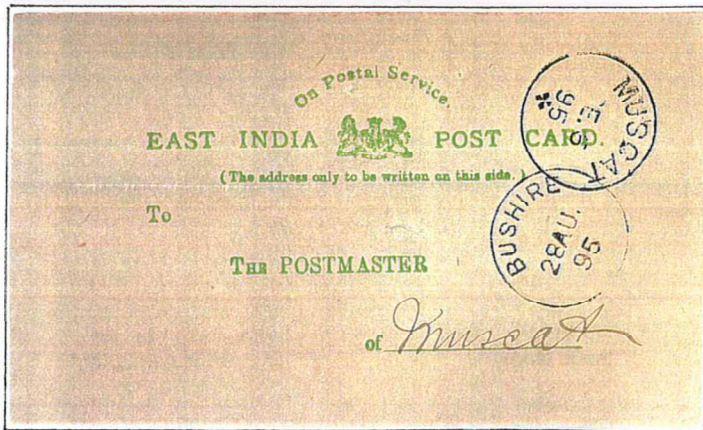
India one&half annas stamped letter from Kuwait.
This is the only recorded postal stationery item
overprinted Kuwait.

Cancelled 25.3.46 with type 11

++++
Issue No. 67

Spring 2002

'ON POSTAL SERVICE' cards from Bushire to Muscat



The message side of the two 'On Postal Service' post cards from Bushire.

If you want to have a go at deciphering the message and/or explaining it I can sent a full size colour photocopy.

No 637 Bushire No
4/7-9-95
To The Postmaster
Muscat
Thirty three
September 1895

No 395 Bushire No
4/8-8-95
To The Postmaster
Muscat
Thirty three
August 1895
Postmaster

Bushire to Muscat

The two 'On Postal Service' post cards on the previous pages straddle the period between different styles of date stamps. Both were sent from the Postmaster of Bushire to the Postmaster of Muscat. When the earlier card was sent on 7.9.93 Bushire was still a branch office but by 28.8.95 it had been upgraded to a post office.

Earlier card :

Bushire single ring date stamp 7.9.93 and Muscat receiving stamp of the same design (type 8a Donaldson) dated 17.9.93. This is 9 days later than recorded so far. This card with serial number 637 reads

To the Postmaster
Muscat
Thirty seven.....eleventh
September.

signed
postmaster'

I can't decipher the message written across the card.

Transmission time of 10 days.

Later card :

Sent from Bushire 28.8.95 and received Muscat Sep.5.95.

Again the date stamps have the same design (Donaldson type 10).

This card with serial number 395 reads

To the Postmaster
Muscat
Forty fiveserial
thirty three

signed
postmaster'

The date of receipt, 6.9.95 is written across in red ink. This time one day later than the postmark.

Transmission time 8 days.

Overprinted Indian Postal Stationery

From the 1930's Bahrain was supplied with stamped postcards, letters and registered letters overprinted with the name of the state. Kuwait followed suit in the 1940's. There is little recorded use of any of these and even mint examples are scarce. The reference numbers quoted below are from the India Study Circle catalogue of India P.S. and the Gulf listing from the Higgins & Gage catalogue. Postcards:

CF1, HG1 India GVR 9 p green optd. BAHRAIN (14mm).

Recorded used to Kuwait 26.4.41

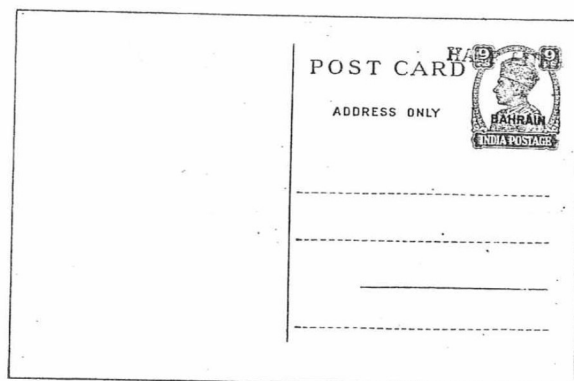
CF2, HG2 India GVR reply paid 9 p+9 p. Both halves overprinted BAHRAIN (14mm).

(Both thought to have been issued from 1934 and have the Royal Arms and India heading the card.

CH3, * India GVIR 9 p optd BAHRAIN (13.5x2mm). The stamp is the white background type, 100a in SG. It has only been recorded down rated by a hand stamped HALF ANNA struck in violet and measuring 30mmx3mm.

(A KUWAIT version may exist)

(* Not recorded by H&G. No used examples recorded yet).



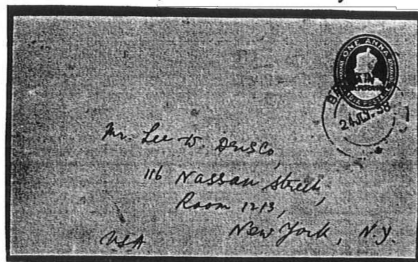
Stamped letters:

EE2,HG1 GVR 1 anna brown on cream laid paper optd.
BAHRAIN (14mm).
Recorded Nov.1934 to Bombay
July 1942 to Poona

EE3,HG1a GVR 1 anna brown on manilla paper optd.
BAHRAIN (14mm).Envelope 153x89mm
Recorded July 1938 to New York
Aug.1938 to Germany
Nov.1940 to Muscat
March, April 1941 to Bombay
April 1942 to Bombay

EJ1, * GVIR 11/2 annas purple-brown optd.BAHRAIN
(13.5x2mm)
Recorded March 1946 to Bombay
April 1946 to Bombay
Nov. 1946 cut out with rough and
rounded letters in the overprint.
Sept. 1947 to Bombay

EJ1,* as above optd KUWAIT (13.5x2mm)
Recorded April 1946 to Bombay (front cover)
Sept. 1947 to Bombay



Bahrain 1anna (EE3) to USA 24.7.38

Comment

For those who prefer material from the earlier periods I have started a survey of postal stationery. This will include postcards, letters and registered letters as used by the India P.O., both ordinary stationery and that overprinted for the Gulf and Pakistan. If any readers have any overprinted items let me know.

Only Bahrain and Kuwait P.O. were supplied with overprinted stationery which is pretty scarce. Ordinary India P.O. items used in the Gulf and which may have been the result of casual use, make up a much larger and more easily obtainable group.

The Trucial States continue to provide interest to a dedicated group of enthusiasts. The amount of material is small and I am sure there is much still to find out.

The list of Oman cancellers is progressing nicely with a lot of data coming in.

A note from Neil Donaldson

On page 129 of his handbook reference

VISAS

is made to a small violet mark

'Political Agency Kuwait',

which has been seen on a few covers

sent from Kuwait in late June and

early July 1941. This same mark has

recently come to light on the page

of a passport as shown below. The

inference is that this mark denoted

'Passed by censor' until a purpose

made type became available in 1942.



1. The straight line cachet

'Despatched by rail route to avoid detention' was recorded in Edition no.3, page 11 from Bahrain to India. It was obviously not a Gulf mark and I have recently seen the same on a 1941 cover cancelled 'Indian Section Base Post Office no.7' addressed to Bombay.

2. Sharjah

I have recently examined a small selection of used which Rufus Barnes has kindly let me look at. These were from a former executive in the accounts department of BP who took them from incoming mail.

(1) Grenoble Winter Olympics 3R

(2) Previous Olympic Games - various values

(3) Unicef - Paintings of Children 50dh

Of course single stamps do not constitute absolute certainty of commercial use but in our estimation the above appendix listed items were so used.

Kuwait 15Rs used on cover

The cover on the facing page is probably philatelic and has a franking of 15Rs 10&1/2 annas. It is dated 20.7.48 and cancelled Indian type 13. I have always been rather sceptical about the reason for issuing such a high denomination Silver Wedding stamp. Was the P.O. just cashing in? A few days after writing this page I rediscovered a note from Neil Donaldson (8.11.80) which noted that:

'We frequently sent air mail packets from Kuwait to UK containing shipping documents weighing 5lbs and requiring 60Rs postage. The rate was 6annas for 1/2 oz. and registration also 6annas. A packet weighing only 20 oz. would have been charged 15Rs'

This applied from the late 1940's. High value used would not have been seen service on small air mail covers such as the one here.

Kuwait Silver Wedding stamps on registered cover from Postmaster, Kuwait. (20.7.48)



10
RAS AL KHAIMA surcharges



top: note uneven bars of the 5 Dh and the sloping bars of the 1 riyal surcharges. (dated 5.11.65)

middle: misplaced surcharge. (dated 31.5.69)

bottom: 5 Dh surcharge.



11
New currency surcharges- Ras al Khaima
(SG 60)

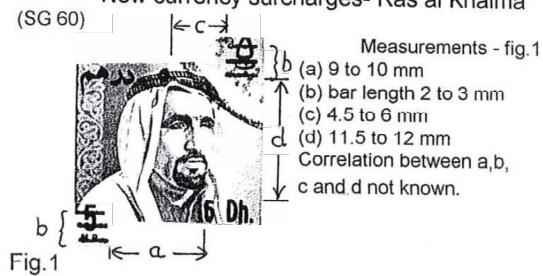


Fig.1



Fig. 2 Strip of three showing variations in the bars.



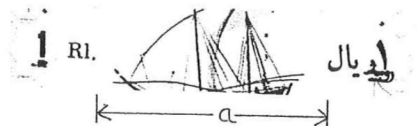
Fig. 3 Strip of three showing double overprint.

1 riyal on 1 rupee -(SG 65) 'One bar' surcharge.
The standard form of this surcharge is with one sloping bar cancelling the 'R'(upee) under the 'I' and a similar sloping bar under the Arabic 'I' on the right hand side. See fig.5.



Fig. 4 SG 65 with the 'One bar' surcharge.

1 riyal on 1 rupee -(Not catalogued) 'Two bar' surcharge.



Figs.5&6 SG 6 with the uncatalogued 'Two bar' surcharge.
(a) = 22mm for SG65 and 21mm for 'Two bar'.

1 riyal on 1 rupee (SG 67a)

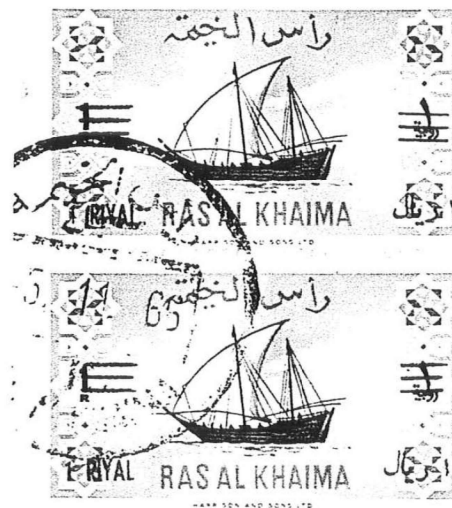


Fig.7 A vertical pair showing variation in the bars.



Fig.8 Sloping bars.

1 riyal surcharge contd.

Variations applying to SG 67a and shown in figs. 7 and 8.



- Fig.9
- (a) Space between 20 to 23 mm
 - (b) Length of bars 4 to 5 mm
 - (c) Space between 24 to 25.5 mm

also

- (i) Left and right hand bars do not always line up horizontally.
- (ii) Sloping bars on some examples as in fig.8

2 riyals on 2 rupees (SG 67a).



Fig. 10 Broken bars due to a paper fold.

Also misplaced surcharge.

This list will be continued in the next issue.

Oman registered date stamps

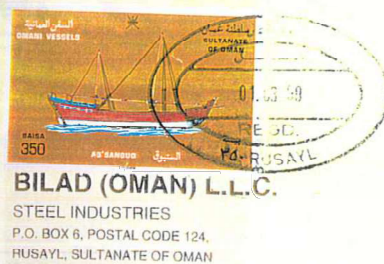


By. REGD. POST

anate of Oman



07659060MRY*



top: type 1d large single oval thick rim.
bottom: type 1e double oval belted.

To,
M/S. MEED SU
P.O. BOX -14
THE BUSINESS
HAROLD HILL
ROMFORD
ESSEX RM2
ENGLAND

16

Oman registered mail

er Service Executive
al Subscription Services
IST

1, Harold Hill

sex RM3 8 EQ

ROYAL MAIL INTERNATIONAL

IR 1987 2593 1GB



سلطنة عُمان



NEWSPAPER LTD.

top: type 1f double oval with short central bars.
bottom: type 1g smaller dia., no bars.

17

Oman Registration Marks by Alastair Gunn contd.
Type 1c - large double oval dia. horiz. 44mm
(see pg.23, no.6)



Type 7a
dia. 55mm
'REGISTERED'

1. Al Harthy Complex	9.3.94 - 6.10.95	9. Mina Al Fahal	16.9.95 - 28.9.95
2. Al Aw Qadain	9.12.00	10. Ruwi	21.9.95 - 15.1.02
3. Barka	21.3.01	11. CPO Salalah	23.5.95
4. Jibroo	12.6.94 - 20.1.97	12. Soha	10.4.00
5. Al Murtaffa	17.12.95	13. Wudam As Sahil	30.8.00
6. Muscat	24.9.95 - 5.3.97		
7. CPO Muscat	23.11.93 - 27.5.95	7a. CPO Muscat	17.10.01
8. Madinat Sultan Qaboos	17.4.96 - 28.2.01		

Type 1d - single oval thick rim horiz. dia. 50mm
(see pg.23 no.6)

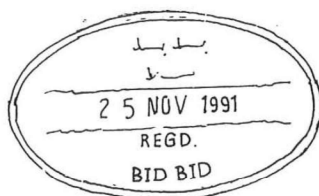
1. Jawharat A'shahi 20.1.00 - 20.5.00
Struck in blue on the only two recorded covers.

Type 1e - double belted oval horiz. dia. 44mm



1. Jibroo	20.1.97 - 18.11.98
2. Madinat Sultan Qaboos	26.2.96 - 30.6.97
3. Al Rusayl	13.1.99 - 15.4.99
4. Ruwi	19.5.97 - 7.7.01

Type 1f - double oval with short central bars.



1. Bid Bid (horiz. dia. 56mm)* 25.11.91
2. Al Tarrif (" " 48mm)* 1.12.94

* Struck in blue.

Type 1g as type 1f but no central bars.



1. Al Azaiba (horiz. dia. 44mm)* 16.6.99
2. Al Harthy Complex (48mm)* 9.10.95
3. Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos 28.9.95
4. Al Khuwair* 14.11.00

* Struck in purple.

3 and 4 have stars between Arabic and English



Registered mail post independence - type 3



The third type of mark is a large, purple, double circle mark from the CPO Muscat. It has a diameter of about 4.2 cm, has double circles with lined date in the centre and has an R-2 number below the date on the cover shown suggesting at least one other number would exist. The only known date is shown.

Registered mail post independence - type 4

At least one unusual cover was sent to Australia - it has an early CPO Muscat Registration label and a boxed bilingual On Postal Service mark in purple. It also has a large oval R mark in red, presumably indicating its registered status. It is from the Philatelic Department of the PTT (a large purple oval mark on the reverse clearly indicates this) but has no registered marks from Oman on it, only two Australian marks on arrival. Therefore type four at the moment is for the oddities of the system!

I have not examined here the registration label issue but note that green and red labels seem scarce and that at least once the letter P has been printed on a sheet of labels instead of R.

I would very much appreciate being contacted to improve this list with other types, dates and places of use. Please contact me at alastair@gunnawidrbt.screaming.net or c/o this Journal. An online version of this article is available on www.arabiaphilatica.com and follow the link to articles where I will include any further information.

20

Registered mail post 1974 – type 2a



Known from Greater Mutrah are circular Registration marks of approximately three cm. in diameter. They are very similar to normal cds marks except the numbering begins with the letter R. R-1, R-4 and R-6 are known suggesting other numbers may be used. First known date is 24.4.1985

Registered mail post independence – type 2b



Type 2b is known from Nizwa, Salalah CPO, Sultan Qaboos University and Matrah. It is of the same diameter and structure except that below the date, REGD. appears with no number. Earliest known use is 18.04.1987 from Matrah.

21

Type 2a 3cm dia d. ring belted with R-No. in lower segment.



1. R - 1	Greater Mutrah	-6.87 - 28.4.94
2. R - 3	" "	23.1.94 - 29.10.94
3. R - 4	" "	13.7.84 - 18.5.92
4. R - 6	" "	17.1.92

Type 2b 3cm dia.d.ring belted with REGD. in lower segment.



1. Alrusayl	30.1.94 - 15.4.99	
2. Alwadi Alkabr	12.1.98	
3. Greater Matrah	5.10.93	
3a " " branch	27.11.89	
4. CPO Muscat	18.4.95	
4. Mutrah	8.6.87 - 20.11.99	
5. Nizwa	25.10.90	
6. O K Centre	14.3.92 - 1.12.92	
(O K = Oman Commercial !)		
7. Salalah CPO	28.6.87 - 9.9.91	
8. Seeb Airport	28.8.84	
9. Soha	21.1.92 - 9.5.92	(Thanks to Graham Perfett for additional information).
10. Sultan Qaboos Univ.	6.11.90	

Page facing :

A Bahrain cover dated 29.9.42 franked with a mixture of three stamp issues (SG 19,23,26,33) making up a 2Rs 10as rate to Basrah. Cancelled Bahrain type 8 identifiable by the 27mm diameter of the ring; other details not clear enough to discern. The Iraqi censorship mark reads 'Not Examined/Iraq Censorship'. On the back is a very good 'Passed by Censor/Bahrain' which was generally used on westbound mail.

Back cover :

A surface mail cover franked with UPU 3as/3d (SG 68) and cancelled type 21 (16.5.50). The rate and franking make this an attractive item.

Earliest use of BPA datestamps.

There is no record of when these were introduced in the Gulf Post Offices but I have just turned up some information from Neil Donaldson - circa 1982 which will be a starting point.

Bahrain

- types: 21 21.6.49 on a commercial cover to Scotland
franked 15Rs (Silver Wedding).
22 27.12.50 single oval Registered
23 21.11.53 Muharraq S.O. Bahrain.
26 2. 7.49 Killer.

Dubai

- types: 12 30. 8.49 Killer
13 11. 6.50 single ring
Kuwait

- types: 21 10.10.49 single ring *
22 1. 5.50 single ring 1
23 8.10.52 registered oval
24 29. 9.49 killer

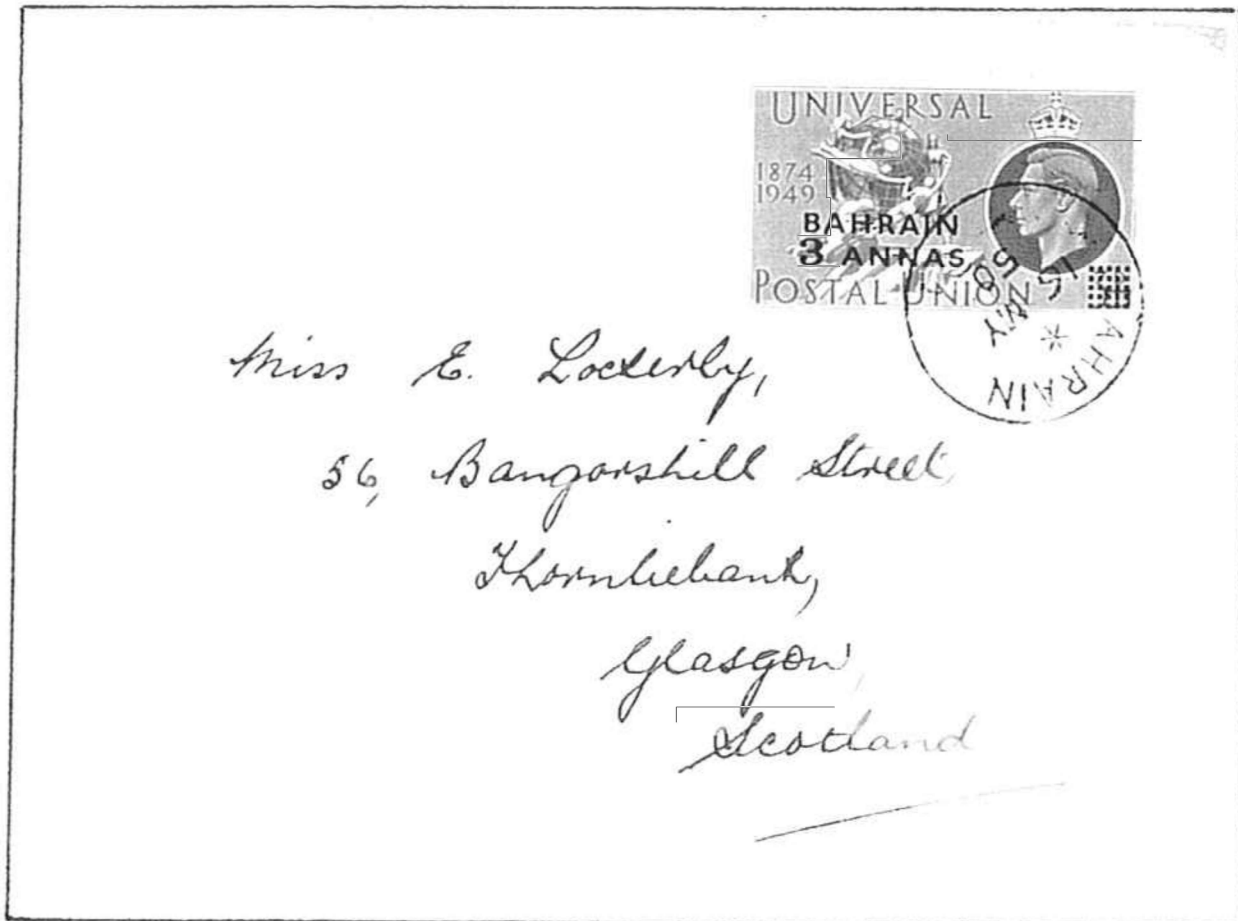
Muscat

- types: 21 10.10.50 killer
22 12.10.49 single ring

BAHRAIN to IRAQ censored mail
(Sent on the day I was born!)

Bahrain Surface Mail

A fine and early example of the type 21 datestamp. The exact date of its' introduction was not recorded but Indian P.O. types continued in use until mid-1949.



Surface mail and covers franked with any of the 1948/49 commemorative issues are not often seen.

+++++

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