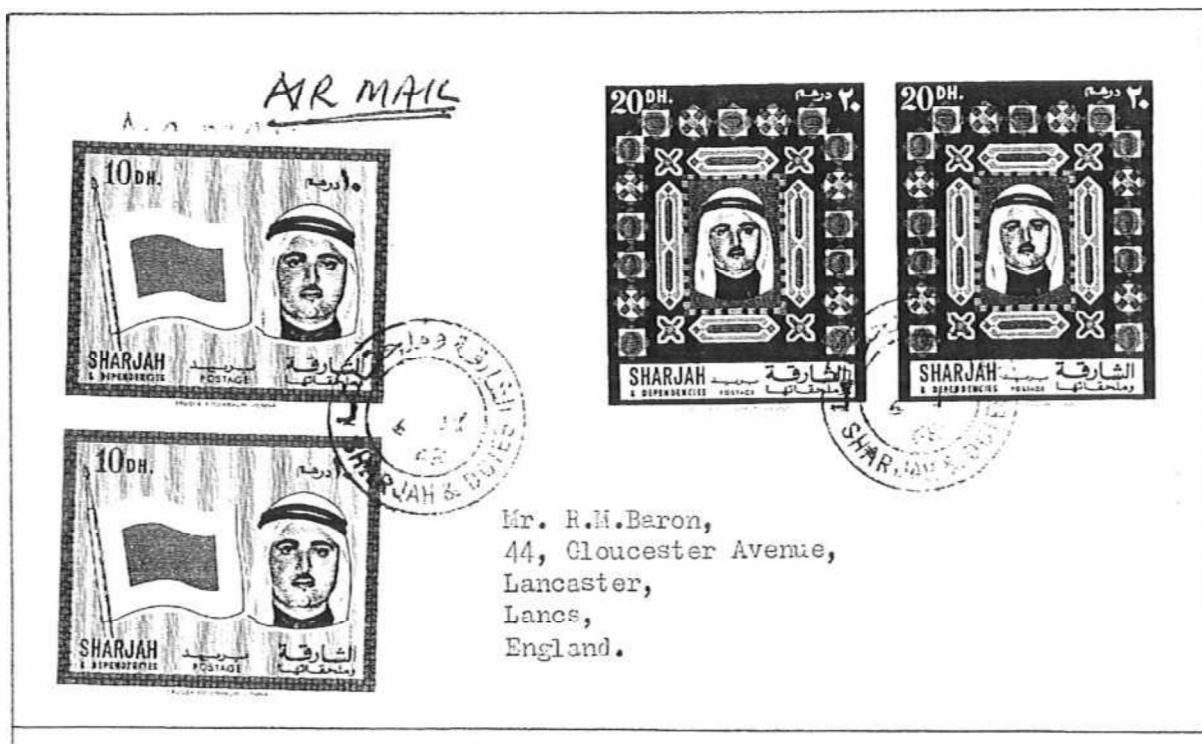


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY

(including 8 colour plates)



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Published by T E Jones, 36 Cobham Rd., Accrington,
Lancashire BB5 2AD England

No.3 Spring 2001

Thanks to everyone who has given their enthusiastic support for this magazine so here's the next issue. I have also been pleased to receive more articles for publication and additional information on various topics. This time I am publishing two of those articles and the new information. Other articles have been held over solely to ensure they can be tied in nicely with the colour plates in issue No.4.

The overseas airmail rate is more than I expected - not 75p but £1.15. This rate enables two copies to be despatched so if anyone wants to economise then buy two and pass one on.

Quite a lot of information has come in about the independent postal services very little of which has as far as I know been recorded before. Please keep this flowing even if it is only one puzzling item you would love to find out about or just an extension of period of use of a date-stamp. As a cautionary tale let me tell you that twenty years ago I nearly threw away the cover bearing the Bahrain War Tax forerunner shown in issue No.1. It had been roughly opened, the overprint didn't seem of particular significance and anyway there was no apparent interest in the post Agency period.

Ray Mcmillan has sent me some pages from the internet. These can be found on :-

<http://www.angelfire.com/ok2/ABUDHABICANCELS/index.html> and ok3.

Emirates Philatelic Association is planning to issue a quarterly journal. The publication date has not been announced yet. I will keep you posted.

Front cover

As reported in this issue the postal integrity of Sharjah has been enhanced by some careful research. The cover shown here is franked with stamps from the 1968 set (SG 256,258) and date-stamped 6.7.68. In the part 19 Middle East catalogue published in 1990 this was the last Sharjah issue accorded full status.

Back cover

When Sheikh Shakhbut was deposed in August 1966 the then current stamps were re-issued on 1st October 1966 with Shakhbut's portrait defaced by parallel bars and were also surcharged in the new currency, fils and riyals. The current aerogramme was treated similarly. Both the stamps and the aerogramme had a short life and were replaced in May 1967.

Kuwait date-stamps

The Certificate of Posting shows the small Mabarakiya Kuwait Registered date-stamp mentioned overleaf.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING شهادة ايداع ان رزمة البريد المذكورة ادناه قد سجلت في هذا المكتب اليوم The undermentioned Postal Packet has been registered and posted here this day.	
Regn. No.: رقم التسجيل: 0919	Postage incl. رسم التحويل: ٥٥
To: Mr. A. M. Dorad Sar الى: السيد أ. م. دراد سار	Date: 21 AUG 62 التاريخ: 21 آب 62
Accepting Officer: Khwadi الموظف المستلم:	Date Stamp Registered طابع التاريخ مسجل

I intend to number the Kuwait date-stamps onward from type 42 in the Donaldson handbook.

1. Large diameter, type 5 (Issue No.2 p4/6)

A second cover bearing this has been recorded 25.7.59. As both covers were sent by Grey, Mackenzie & Co. whose office was adjacent to Sief P.O. it is the possible location of type 5. (Graham Perfett, Neil Donaldson).

2. Mabarakiya St., type 34 (Issue No.2 p5)

The single ring Agency type 34 seems to have been returned to service temporarily when the new Mabarakiya P.O. opened 14.7.62. (This was the one recorded in 1982). Both types of registered cancellers were available in time for the opening but no ordinary mail bilingual one. Shown opposite and on previous page all three date-stamps in use 21.8.62. The cachet on the back I think queries the use of the single ring rather than the authorised registered type.

3. Mabarakiya St. type 35

This type returned to service temporarily in 1965 and has been recorded on the following dates:-

25.1.65/30.5.65/2.10.65/20.12.6 (Neil Donaldson)

4. Large diameter type 3

Recorded 8.12.65

5. Large diameter type 4

Recorded 27.1.64 on cover to UK

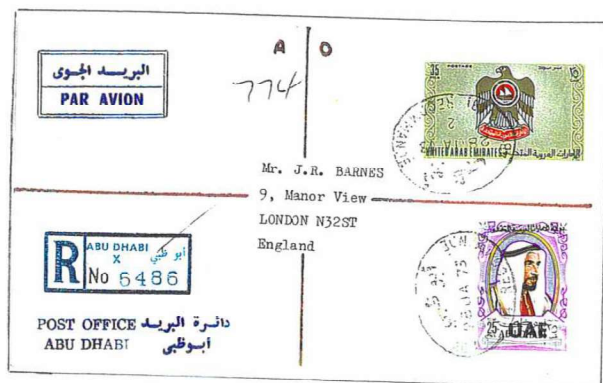
(Alastair Gunn)

Mubarakiya Kuwait

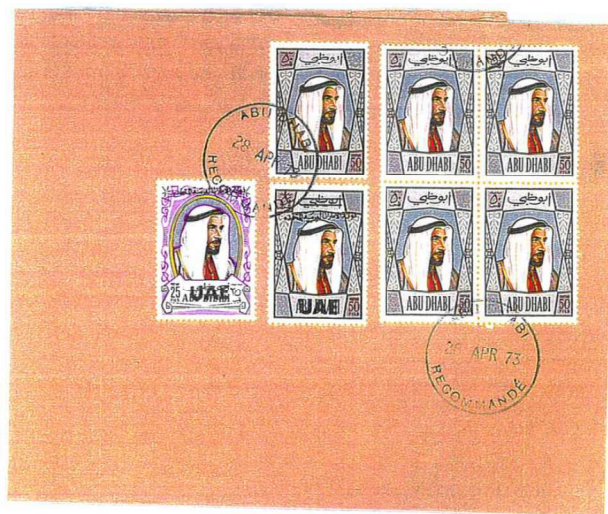
The single ring Mabarakiya St. canceller was used temporarily at the new post office.



6
Abu Dhabi



Cover franked with UAE stamps



cover with Abu Dhabi and UAE stamps 28.4.73

7
The last months of the Abu Dhabi Philatelic Bureau by
Rufus Barnes

Although I started collecting the stamps of Abu Dhabi in 1966 it was not until 1971 that I contacted the Philatelic Bureau and discovered the gems available from that source.

My first impressions were that it was a clone of the British P.B. in Edinburgh. Even the postal stationery used by the Bureau was printed in the purple used by Edinburgh! The service was excellent and I was greatly saddened when the advent of the UAE meant my dealings with this friendly and helpful office came to an end.

I could not believe my eyes when the first stock list arrived. Not only did it contain full sets of the 1964 definitives, the 1965 falcons set and the 1966 overprints but also the 1961 Trucial States. In early 1972 I wrote to enquire about the validity of the latter in Abu Dhabi. I also contacted P.O. Headquarters, London to ask why stamps issued by the British Postal Agency were now on sale in Abu Dhabi. On 3.4.72 I received a formal but generally helpful letter from the Director of Posts, Abu Dhabi which explained....

'A few remained in stocks as an asset and during a clear-out at the Bureau my secretary, rather than withdrawing the stamps for destruction, offered them to those collectors who were interested. She did not know that they had not been used here. However my attention was drawn to these sales by virtue of enquiry made to Postal Headquarters, London (sic). The balance has now been destroyed.'

In February 1972 just three full sets of the of the 1966 overprints were still available - I bought all three to add to the set bought earlier in the month. I have since found out that the 20fils in all four sets is the rare 14.5 perforation variety. I later learned that I was lucky to get the last three

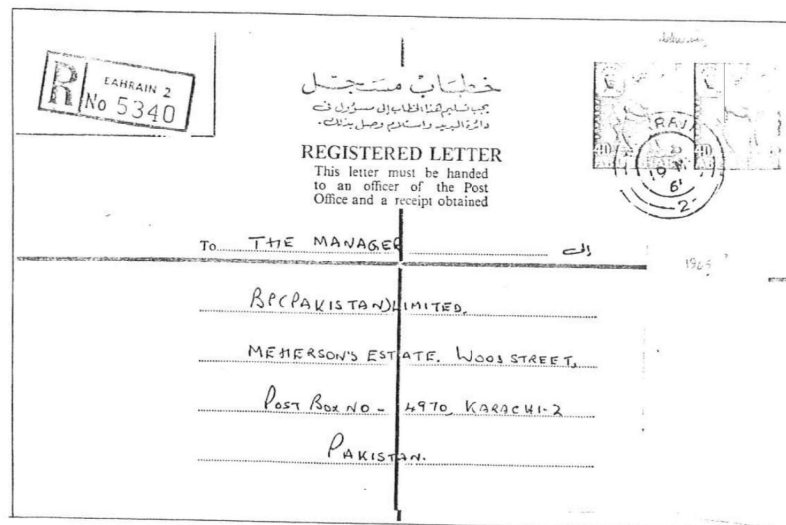
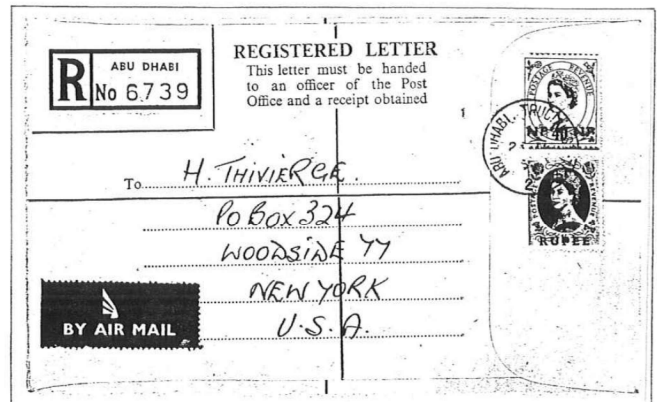
sets because in the same post, opened after my letter, was another order for the same issue.

Apparently the Bureau stock of this issue had consisted of half sheets of the 5 and 10 fils and full sheets of the other denominations. Had I thought about it at the time, I could have obtained half sheets of the higher values at face value, including the now highly priced varieties.

Later in 1972 the current definitives and aerogrammes were overprinted UAE and in early 1973 the first United Arab Emirates issues proper were released. I do not know when the stamps of Abu Dhabi ceased to be valid. I do have a local cover sent 30.1.73 franked with an unoverprinted Abu Dhabi stamp and a registered cover dated 28.1.72 (see page 6) with a mixed franking. This contained my last communication with the Abu Dhabi P.O. and advised me of the release four weeks earlier, of the new UAE definitive issue and that the Head Office of the new UAE Postal Service was located in Dubai from where all future philatelic orders would be sent.

The Bahrain 40np registered letter was also on the Abu Dhabi stock list and Mr Barnes bought one from the philatelic bureau. This may explain a photocopy I received a few years ago from Andrew Gondocz. It shows the 40np Bahrain registered letter used from Abu Dhabi with the stamp design carefully covered by a stamp. The top and bottom of the design is just visible. It appears commercial and is dated 23.3.64. Was this available for general use in Abu Dhabi? (see P18)

Another item I only have as a photocopy is Bahrain formula registered letter which I thought was issued after postal independence - 1.1.66. But the date here looks like 19.5.65 which places it firmly in the Postal Agency period. There are already recorded uses of the Bahrain(2), type 40 canceller on Das Island mail during the period 1965/6 but is this a previously unrecorded stationery issue from the Postal Agency?



Three covers are shown on the next two plates and are good examples of mail from this period. The first cover poses a question and the second was sent from Bahrain P.O. being administered from Karachi automatically transferred to Pakistan P.O. control without visible postal signs.

1. Bahrain cancelled type 7 on 17.7.41. Karachi 26.7.41.
Censored Karachi B16 triangle.
42 in circle.....what is this?
Airmail label bearing boxed 'Cancelled'.
'Despatched by rail route/to avoid detention'.....which rail route? Presumably the cover went by sea to Karachi, censored and delivered there.

2. Bahrain cancelled type 9 on 30.10.47 which was after the partition. Boxed BAHRAIN, type 19 on registration label. A fine example of commercial mail with stamps, reg. label and receiving mark all on the same side of the cover.

3. Dubai cancelled type 7 on 31.7.47 the day before partition. Indian 1 1/2 annas postal stationery letter franked on the reverse 1 anna and bearing Bombay RMS and boxed Bombay delivery 4.8.47.

+++++

Please report any use of postal stationery from any period. I include formula registered letters, ordinary Indian P.S., and aerogrammes.

+++++



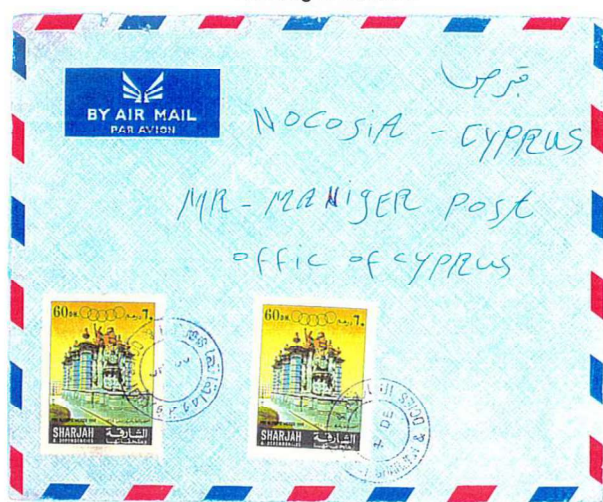
To Cyprus franked 60/75dh (SG334) - undercover mail



Registered to Qatar franked 35dh, 1riyal (SG291, 263)

14
Sharjah

Two covers franked with stamps not yet given full catalogue status.



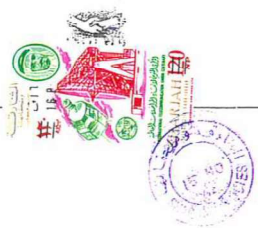
11
Bahrain



Instructional and censor marks on a 1941 cover

GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
& Its Dependencies

Gerrard Ouellette,
PO Box 3443,
St. Roch. Quebec 2,
P. Que.,
CANADA.

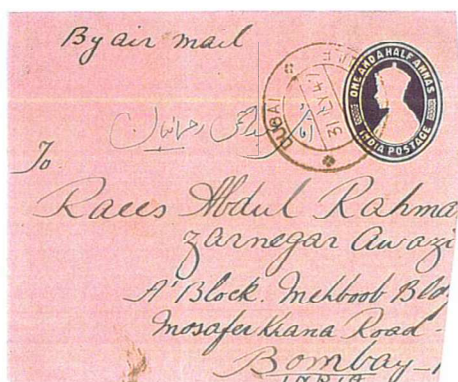


ارقه



Sent after the partition of India and Pakistan 30.10.47

Indian 1 1/2 annas stamped envelope from Dubai 31.7.47
showing front and back.



Sharjah

David Donald has been instrumental in convincing Stanley Gibbons, Part 19 editor to give full catalogue listings to some of the Sharjah issues languishing in the Appendix. Those of you who have seen the latest edition of Part 19 will have noted the following additions :-

0269/70	Official
285/303	Fifth anniv. of accession
306/324	Six anniv. of accession
325/330	Proclamation of the UAE
331/343	Various overprints

Part 19 notes the above are known commercially used (thanks of course to Mr Donald's efforts) but only 285/303 were actually distributed to the stamp trade.

Mr Donald has also recorded other postally used stamps which are at present appendix issues. These are :-

- 1967 - 22nd anniv. of UN 30,60d; Olympic Preparation 30,60d,2r; Flowers and butterflies 60d,1r; Famous paintings 1,4,5r.
- 1968 - 12th World Jamboree 4,10,30,50,60d; Sportsmen 2,3,4r; Olympic winners 35d,4r.
- 1969 - Apollo 20d; Famous ships 5d (8 designs)
- 1970 - UNICEF 5d (9 designs),20,25,60,75d,1,3r; De Gaulle 2r.

This list is now further updated (4.01.01)

As SG 256 but inscribed official;

SG 333 error in surcharge with Arabic reading 25 instead of 35d;

SG 325/30 exist on two types of paper ; postally used on matt and thicker shiny for CTO.

Page 13 shows covers bearing some of the stamps previously listed in the appendix. These are :-

- top - undercover mail to Cyprus SG334,31.12.70
- below - SG291 (&263) to Qatar.

Page 14 shows stamps still not afforded a full listing.

- top - Olympic Prep. 2x60d (appendix) on undercover mail
- below - Sg173 surcharged 16p(iastres),status uncertain.

Piastres and Riyals were not adopted as units of currency in Sharjah but in at least two instances these stamps were accepted on international mail duty. The one shown here has a Kuwait machine cancel transit strike on the back dated 16.11.66.

The stamps upgraded to the main listing have been recorded in varying numbers either as loose stamps, on piece or on rare occasions on cover.

A list of covers and pieces I have seen are :-

covers - 1970 UNICEF 75d used 24.7.71

- Fifth anniv of Accession 60d used -.10.70

- Reg. cover franked 5x35d(293), 4x35d(291),

20d(290) and 5 on 40d(337) dated 22.6.72.

(This cover to be shown next issue.)

- UNICEF 3x5d, 60d(303) dated 20.1.71

pieces - 1970 UNICEF six pieces on airmail envelopes

used in 1970 and bearing various combinations

of the values 20, 25, 40, 60d.

60 on 75d(334) and 1r(263).

stamps - 65d on 2r (343)

5 on 40d (338)

Please report any appendix issues you have seen used, on cover etc from any of the Trucial States. There may be more to record. Keep your eyes open!

Three date-stamps have been recorded during this period :-

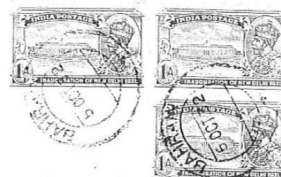
1. 3.5cm double ring inscribed 'Sharjah & Dcies' and 'T.S.' in the lower arc. (See issue No.1)
2. 3cm double ring without 'T.S.' (shown here)
3. 2.7cm double ring without T.S. (see front cover)



The Persian Gulf air route 1932

In 1929 the Government of Persia gave their permission for Imperial Airways to fly along the Persian coast. This section of the route, from Basrah to Gwadar, completed the land and air route from Britain to India (Karachi). However the agreement was only for three years and the British Government foreseeing difficulties in re-negotiating this route detailed RAF Squadron 203 (Flying Boat) to survey a new route outside Persian air space.

In March 1929 three flying boats of Squadron 203 flew to Iraq and used the base at Maquill, a few miles from Basrah. From there they flew along the Arabian shoreline looking for suitable anchorages and landing sites for land based planes. They found the most satisfactory route to be Basrah, Bahrain, Ras al Khaima and Gwadar. But protracted talks, threats of violence and rivalries between Dubai, Sharjah and Ras al Khaimah meant that agreement was only reached in late July 1932 and with Sharjah not Ras al Khaimah. Fortunately Persia extended their three year period enabling Imperial Airways to set up facilities for the new route and the first flight left Croydon on 1 October 1932. Below is a cover from the return flight which left Karachi on 5 October 1932. (To be continued)



P. W. Ireland, Esq.,

c/o The Secretary,

Y. H. C. A.

Baghdad, IRAQ.

Bahrain War Tax issues.

In late 1973 the first printed Tax stamp SG T192 was put on sale. As mentioned in PH issue No.1 covers have been recorded with this stamp unnecessarily overprinted in Arabic with a straight line handstamp reading 'Al Majhood Al Harbee'. An example of such, dated 11.11.73 is shown with the overprint tying the stamp.

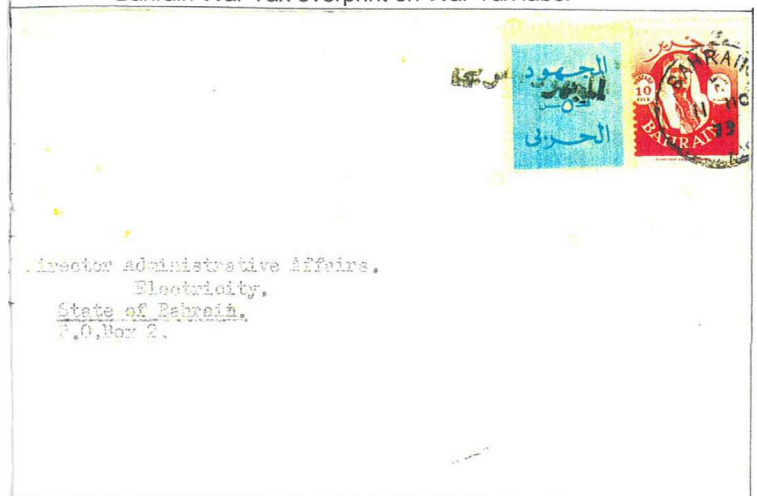
The Tax stamps were also used on official documents such as driving licenses.

The earliest reported use of T198 is now 31.3.74. The actual date of issue is not recorded (as far as I know).

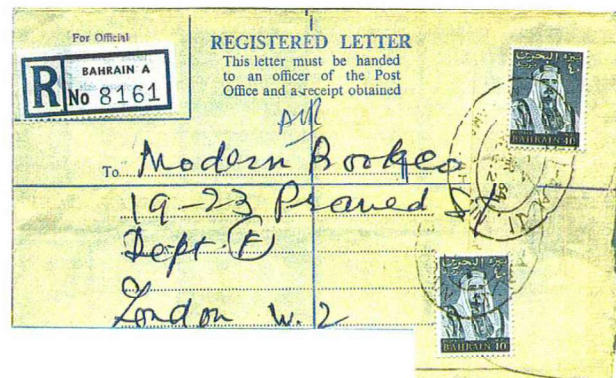
Bahrain Registered Letters

There is a possibility that the British Postal Agency made available formula registered letters during 1964-5. There are two reasons for supposing this may be the case. The registered letters printed with the 40np Sheikh Suleman stamp design are known with the portrait defaced by two vertical bars. These may have been an expediency caused by the death of the Ruler Sheikh Suleman and before new stationery could be produced. None of these barred types have ever been recorded in use and in fact may never have been issued. Ian Gregory has told me the report he heard was that the barred portrait was unacceptable locally. In March 1964 I have recorded the G size registered letter with a 40np (Isa) definitive carefully stuck over the printed stamp. This is not obvious from the picture opposite but I have personally examined the item. Two other examples have also been recorded both dated 13.6.64. No new registered letters with a printed design were issued. By 1.1.66 Bahrain had its own postal services and formula bilingual registered letters were and still are in common use. This brings us back to the formula registered letter on page 9. This is identical to those used in Bahrain from 1.1.66 and along with the reports of Bahrain registered letters used from Abu Dhabi it seems possible that the formula type was issued by the Postal Agency.

Bahrain War Tax overprint on War Tax label

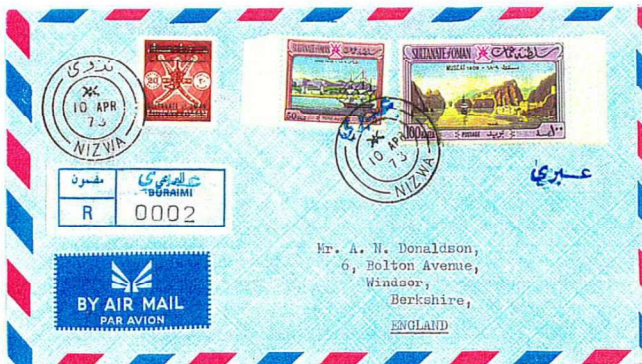


Bahrain G-size registered letter with Sheikh Suleman printed stamp design covered by 40np Sheikh Isa stamp





Samail - first registered letter from the new P.O. 10.4.73



The second registered letter from Ibri 10.4.73

The development of Oman as a modern state began in 1970 when Sultan Taimur was removed from power and replaced by his son Qaboos. From this time the infrastructure of the country rapidly improved. Roads were built and the postal system expanded from a single post office in Muscat town to a national service. In 1966 at the close of the British Postal Agency in Muscat there was just the one office. By 1983 there were 38 offices and 63 by February 1990.

Two of these post offices opened on 10 April 1973, at Samail and Ibri. Samail received its own date-stamps and registration labels ready for the first day's business. The very first registered letter from Samail (or Samail on the date-stamp) No.0001 is illustrated opposite bearing the 50 and 100 baiza stamps (SG 152,154) and 20 baiza (SG 143, the Harrison printing). The latter stamp is a tangible reminder of the country's development into a unified state. Qaboos took over, from his father, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. One of his first acts was to rename the country the Sultanate of Oman thereby establishing his jurisdiction over what had been a divided state. The then current stamps were overprinted and all subsequent issues bore the name Oman.

Ibri post office on the other hand was not fully prepared for the opening day. It had received no date-stamps or registration labels. The illustration shows how these difficulties were overcome. They borrowed from other post offices; registration labels from Buraimi and date-stamps from Nizwa. But as you can see these were overprinted with a straight line canceller which reads 'Ibri' in Arabic. So for those who only read English there is some confusion as to the origin of this letter. This is the second registered letter from the new office. Later in 1973 Marbat and Taqa post offices had to make do with Salalah registration labels when they first opened. (courtesy of A.N. Donaldson)

The Date-stamps of Abu Dhabi

This information has been compiled with the assistance of Rufus Barnes who sent me two sheets bearing strikes of the (all?) cancellers held by the Abu Dhabi Post Office circa 1969. I extended the list from the original 1-7 in the Donaldson handbook and to avoid any confusion I have adopted the 'Angelfire' numbers for the later types.

type	description	location
1	Abu Dhabi 1 and 2 (single ring)	1 in stores 2 in sorting office
2	Das Island 1 and 2 (single ring)	not listed
3	Abu Dhabi Trucial States (d. ring)	in stores
4	Parcel (rectangular)	on counter
5	Parcel "	not listed
6	Abu Dhabi Paid (large s.ring)	reserve
7*	Abu Dhabi (pictorial)	already destroyed
8*	Abu Dhabi Paid (bilingual large s.r.)	strong room
9*	Abu Dhabi Recommande (large oval)	counter 1
10*	Abu Dhabi Recommande (small oval)	no.2 counter 2 no.3 reserve
11*	Al Ain Abu Dhabi (single ring)	not listed
12*	Al Ain Abu Dhabi Recommande (small oval)	
13	Al Ain Abu Dhabi Trucial States Parcel (rectang.)	
14	Al Ain Abu Dhabi Trucial States (s.r.3cm)	not listed
15	Abu Dhabi Bureau D'Echange (s.r.)	despatch
16	Das Island Abu Dhabi (s.r.3cm)	not listed
17	Abu Dhabi Recommande (large s.r.)	not listed
18		
19	Abu Dhabi Remittance Branch (s.r.)	counter
20*	Abu Dhabi (double ring. 3 cm)	not listed
21	Abu Dhabi Registered Section (large d.r.)	not listed
22	Abu Dhabi (machine canceller)	not listed

This may not be a full list. Please check and report.

* bilingual

Type	Dates of use		seen by T.E.Jones	
	Reported by Angelfire		earliest	latest
	earliest	latest		
1(1)	not		30.3.64	
1(2)	reported		29.4.63	8.6.72
2(1)	separately		-	
2(2)	"		25.4.63	27.11.66
3	17.8.67	8.12.71	-	4.67 - 19.6.70
4	8.10.66		-	
5	8.12.66		-	
6	16.3.67	1.4.70	16.3.67	13.4.70
7	1.4.68	25.11.68	21.4.68	15.6.68
8	-	- - - 2.84		8.11.78
9	11.7.70			27.9.69
10(1)	x		x	
10(2)	x		30.10.71	
10(3)	3.6.70		x	
10(4)	x		5.3.75	
10(5)	15.3.77		x	
11	3.4.68	20.4.72	19.8.71	16.9.71
12	22.12.69	10.8.75	x	
13	6.12.68		x	
14	5.10.70	8.12.71	15.7.69	15.7.71
15	15.3.71	4.11.76	20.5.70	2.9.70
16	8.12.71		x	
17	10.8.70	15.10.70	x	
18	4.10.70	18.9.73	#	
19	14.2.76		29.11.76	
20	13.12.69	24.12.69	x	
21	-	12.70 - 20.5.76	#	

x ----- not reported # ----- see next issue

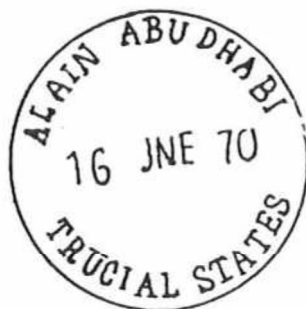
Single date means only reported sighting.



type7 type8



type9 type10



type14 type2



Hon. Harold Cocker,

42, Russell Street,

Bolton, Lanes.,

England.