

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



18 September 1941: An airmail cover sent from Kuwait to the USA and cancelled with the K-79 experimental canceller. The cover has been franked with a total of 47½as making up the air fee of 44as plus surface fee of 3½as.

Edition 33 – Winter 2009

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Welcome to Edition 33 of the Quarterly

Dear Readers,

Trust you all had fantastic Eid, Christmas, Hijr, Ashoorra and New Year celebrations.

First of all thanks to the 15 of you that have helped with Edition 33 – your contributions are much appreciated. Some of the articles included in Edition 33 went through lengthy discussions between 2 or more contributors before they were satisfactorily completed (teaches me to start early rather than last minute as I have a habit of doing). However, another year has gone and with it another 4 editions of the Quarterly so my thanks to all of you for helping out in 2009 and for continuing to subscribe to the journal.

With the 2010 upon us it is also time to renew subscriptions – details are at the back of the journal.

Finally, I mentioned in the previous journal that we are looking for as many scans and as much information about various forgeries of Gulf material so that we can create an image library via the “arabianguilphilately Yahoo group with the intent of protecting new (and old) collectors from the fraudsters out there – so please keep this in mind if you come across dubious material.

And with that I can only wish you all the best in 2010.

Thanks

Thomas Johansen

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Reader's Feedback

Victory Covers (Edition 32):



Two covers sent by John Carter showing the Victoria issue used in both Bahrain and Kuwait. The Bahrain cover has been sent to Scotland with the correct airmail fee of 14as applied in overprint stamps and the 9Ps Victory value added with philatelic intentions. The Kuwait cover has the full Victory set applied to it and is sent to JC Thompson in Sydney – a recipient of similar philatelic Victory covers sent from Bahrain. Can we expect similar “full set” philatelic covers to appear from Dubai and Muscat?

1963: Dubai Postage Due used on cover

John Smith has sent in a request regarding postal use of the 1963 Dubai Postage Due issue – does anyone have any covers to share with us?

The postal history of Fujairah (Edition 31)

A question about the Fujera Wilding overprints was asked to John Vassallo after his piece in Edition 31 and this is John's reply (done in cooperation with Khalid Omaira)

Question: In Fujera Chapter 1 reference was made to Wildings overprints. Can you please go through your sources to confirm and document the Bogus Status of these stamps once and for all?

As recorded on page 166 of 'Records of the Emirate 1961-1965', there is a letter from Mr. AJ Craig from the Office of HM Political Agency in Dubai dated 30th December 1963 to Mr. JR Rich – Political Residency in Bahrain (the letter is illustrated under the UAE/Trucial States section). In it he describes an unpleasant meeting he had with Mr. Stephen, representative of Baroody Stamp Company which had signed the Postal agreement with the Ruler of Fujairah (and Ajman and Umm Al Qiwain). Mr Stephen suggested that in the first month, they intended to use these overprinted Wildings (as in Muscat). Besides these overprints, Mr Stephen also presents

(RESTRICTED)

1444/63.



H. E. Political Agency,
Trucial States,
Dubai.

December 30, 1963.

Please refer to my despatch No. 12 (1444/63) of October 13 about the postal agreements between the Baroody Stamp Company and the Rulers of Ajman, Umm al 'aiwain and Fujairah.

2. The Company's representative, Mr. Stephen, after a long absence turned up last week. He said he was now ready to open the three post offices, but wanted for the first month to use in them British stamps overprinted (as in Muscat). Furthermore, he had concluded an agreement with the largest stamp firm in the world J. H. Stolow Inc. of New York, assigning to them all rights in the three Trucial States agreements. He had also brought with him quantities (14,000 at a time) of specially-designed stamps which he proposed should be eventually issued from the three states.

3. I pointed out to him that he had already been guilty of three breaches of his contracts with the Rulers. First, he had not opened the post offices on the due dates; secondly, he was behind with his cash payments; thirdly, he had printed stamps (he claimed they were proofs but I could not accept 14,000 as proofs) without first obtaining the Rulers' approval. Next, he had assigned his rights in the three contracts to a third party without any reference to the Rulers. Furthermore, I was sure that the GPO would not agree to the sale of British stamps in post offices over which it had no control.

4. Under pressure, he admitted that the point of selling British stamps overprinted for the first month was to establish the prestige of the three post offices in preparation for the issue of their own stamps. He admitted, too, that the reason for his contract with Stolow was that he had been unable to raise the capital from banks (a point on which he had given me specific assurances during his first visit). The Stolow contract, of which he gave me a copy, is unintelligible in parts and in others highly unsatisfactory - particularly in that Stolow take on all rights and obligations from the three Trucial States agreements except the advance payments: they will make no advance payments at all. The resulting structure is highly complex: we have Stolow; Baroody; another firm called Arabphil in whose name Stolow has made the contract; a fourth firm which the contract says will be formed to operate the agreement; and a mysterious man called Jack Kay who is to make the advance payments which Stolow will not undertake.

other stamps for the 3 Sheikdoms (the Fujeira ones are documented as 'Baroody Proofs' in the Fujeira Chapter 1 article). He says that they have printed 14,000 of these stamps (assuming 4 stamps for each of these 3 Emirates gives over 1100 of each stamp).

When told that this is not acceptable and that he has produced stamps without Rulers permission, he states that they are just proof. But Mr. Craig points out that 14,000 are too many to justify this. Under pressure, Mr. Stephen confirms that they intend to use the Wildings 'for the first month to establish the prestige of the three Post Offices in preparation for the issue of these other stamps as presented'.

It is also stated in this letter that Baroody had signed over responsibilities for this contract to Stolow involving a 4-Tier structure. This was also unacceptable to the authorities especially who is responsible to remunerate the Emirates.

In the Arabian Gulf Philately (Yahoo Group), Mr. R. Howard Courtney states that Mr. Mosden told him that Finbar Kenny (of Stolow) had made these overprints (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arabiangulfphilately/message/38>). This confirms that Baroody had passed over responsibilities of issuing stamps to Stolow. But since the contract with the authorities was still with Baroody, they were the 'mouthpiece' and it was Mr Stephen from Baroody that presented these overprints and the first set to the authorities and asked for approval.

Presumably Kay gets a cut, too, but his letter accompanying a first cheque was illiterate and ridiculous.

5. To crown all, some anonymous person has sent us newspapers from Beirut which shew that Stephen is before the courts for forging stamps.

6. I told Stephen that I would advise the Rulers not to sign anything more but to write him letters, reserving their right to cancel the agreement, if they wished, on the grounds of his several breaches. I should also write to Stolow and tell them that if they wanted to operate stamp concessions for Trucial States Rulers they should make contracts direct with the Rulers.

7. I am sending copies of this letter to David Crawford in the Foreign Office and to Glen Balfour-Paul in Beirut (together with a copy of my original despatch). I also enclose a spare copy for Thorne, the Postal Superintendent, whom Stephen was going to see about the sale of overprinted stamps.

As a result of this unpleasant meeting, Mr. Craig states that he is going to encourage the Rulers to renegotiate the contract from Baroody to Stolow directly. This did happen and the 3 Emirates signed a more beneficial contract with Stolow. Because of the problems the idea of these overprints created in the first place, Stolow did NOT resurrect the idea once they had the contract and so these stamps were never used. The design for the first Definitive series was also

improved and newer, more professionally-produced, colorful stamps were produced when the Post Offices were finally opened.

Now does this 'confirm the Bogus Status of these overprints'? No, I do not think so - and in fact it confirms that these 2 issues (Wilding overprint and first definitive designs) were produced with the sole intention of being used. The people that produced them had the authority to produce stamps in the name of these countries. They made a mistake in not sending the design for approval by the Rulers before producing them but this was only a technicality. For me, a Bogus issue is when an agent produces stamps without any authority to represent that country, these stamps are just labels and never intended to be used for payment of a Postal Service. Bogus stamps are only produced to defraud collectors. I think this is clearly not the case here. Baroodi and/or Stolow were all prepared to use these stamps once the Post Offices were operational. This only changed when Mr. Craig disagreed with the process undertaken to produce these stamps. Hence I believe that they should be included in any serious catalogue of Fujeira stamps as 'not issued' stamps.

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.

cameltom@batelco.com.bh

kameltom2004@yahoo.com

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

The 2010 International Stamp Show in London will be taking place from 8 May to 15 May at the Business Design Centre in Islington. John Vassallo has also sent in the following question:

Do you know if anyone will be attending the London show? I might consider going if others are going to be there?

To put John's question in to perspective – he lives in Australia. If you are going to attend John can be contacted at john@compaspl.com.au

British Postal Rates (Edition 31-32)

John has contributed some more rates to our British Rates Table:



A cover sent from Bahrain to Australia – a group 3 destination - by registered seamount and franked with a total of 6as covering the 3as registration fee and the 3as surface fee.

In addition to this cover John has added some rates that he has found in old notes acquired from an ex-Muscat collector – they are shown in the updated British Rates table below:

	Airmail	2nd Class	Post Card	Post Card	Surface Mail	Surface Mail	Printed Matter
	(per 1/2 oz)	(per 1/2 oz)	Airmail	Surface mail	(first oz)	(additional oz)	
Group 1	3.5as 20np	(2as) 12np	2.5as (15np)	1/2a	(1.5as) (9np)	1a	1a 6np
Group 2	6as 40np	(3as) 20np	3as 20np	2as	2.5as 20np	1a	1a 6np
Group 3	12as 75np	(4as) (30np)	6as (40np)	2as	3as (20np)	1a	1a 6np
Group 4	16as 100np	(6as) 40np	9as (50np)	2as	3as (20np)	1a	1a 6np
Local Mail	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	(1a) (6np)		1.5as 9np		1a 6np

The light grey rates have been confirmed by correspondence or documents. For the dark grey rates in brackets we are still looking for letters to confirm the estimated rates.

Finally, you will notice that two new columns have been added; Surface mail for post cards and the price for additional ounces of normal Surface mail (medium grey). We now need covers to confirm the accuracy of the rates.

GULF - UK AIRMAILS

RATES & ROUTES – 1921 to 1948

The following presentation of Indian Airmail rates to the UK is based on the work of Jeffrey Brown – if you do not have the CD I can strongly recommend you buy it – Jeff's contact details are listed at the end of this article (The rates from Bahrain were the same as those from India).

The rates illustrated here are applicable to all Gulf post offices except Kuwait – Kuwait only came under Indian rates in 1941.

In 1921, the RAF began the fortnightly *Desert Airmail Service* between Cairo and Baghdad. From October 1921, it carried private as well as official mail. Many of these covers flown from Baghdad to Cairo were addressed to the UK and were carried from Egypt by surface mail. The 840 mile long route was Baghdad (Hinaidi) to Cairo (Heliopolis) via Ramadi and Ziza in Transjordan and took 12½ hours flying time. This was usually split over two days although three days was not uncommon. For security and safety reasons, the planes flew in pairs. As the route between Ramadi and Ziza was largely over featureless desert, a 400 mile long track was laid out as a navigation aid. In places, a tractor and plough were used to make a furrow. This did not blow away as the ground was stony rather than sand. D.H.10s opened an air-mail route across the desert but the RAF eventually replaced them with the Avro 561, later named Andover.



5 August 1925: A large rectangular registered letter sent via the early Baghdad – Cairo airmail route (endorsed in red on the front of the cover). Basra (11 August) and Baghdad (13 August) transit stamps have been applied to the back.

The cover has been franked with 10½as comprising the airmail rate for one ounce (a6as + s1½as + r3as).

The symbols used for the various rates are: air fee (a), surface rate (s) and registration fee (r).

Air Fee – 3 Annas

7 January 1927 to 30 March 1929

The RAF service was taken over by Imperial Airways in 1927 and the route was extended to Basra. It started out as a bi-weekly service but by April 1927 the service had become weekly. Airmail from Bahrain to Basra was transported by steamer until October 1932 but chartered flights are known to have occurred – the first of which (DH 66) was chartered by a pearl merchant on August 12 1927. The first air fee to be introduced on scheduled airmail from Bahrain was 3as which covered one ounce – each additional ounce was another 3as. The ordinary postage was 2as for the first ounce and 1½as for each additional ounce.



19 June 1928: A cover sent to Huddersfield franked with 5 Annas making up the airmail rate for the first ounce. The cover has been transit stamped Basra 22 June 1928.

6 May 1929: A cover sent to London franked with 5 Annas. The cover has been transit stamped Basra 10 May 1929 and has had a “Received Late for Inclusion with the Air Dispatch” cachet applied. The cover shows usage of Basrah – Cairo route after the Marseille – London leg air service was introduced (see next page).



Air Fee – 6 Annas

26 March 1928 to 1 December 1931

In March 1928, the Post Office offered an accelerated service that combined the Basra-Cairo airmail service with the Marseille-London service. This latter leg was also priced at 3as. The air fee until 29 March 1929 was 6as per oz – the air fee from 30 March 1929 was 6as per ½oz and the Surface fee was 2as first oz and 1½as each additional oz.



20 December 1930: A cover sent to Nottingham franked with 14as making up the airmail rate for 1oz (a2x6as + s1x2as). The cover has a Basrah (24 December) transit stamp and was transported onwards by the Imperial Airways Service IW90 from Basra to London.

17 March 1929: A cover sent to London franked with 6as. It has had been endorsed with "2ozs" and "2/55" the latter meaning it was 2nd weight stage (up to 2ozs) as this air fee was per oz. The 55 indicates the charge of 55 gold centimes to be collected. There is also a "T" mark next to the postage due stamps which means "Taxe". The problem with the cover is the "55". The correct charge should be s2as+s1½as + a2x3as so 9½as resulting in an underpayment of 3½as ($3\frac{1}{2}\text{as} \times 2 \times 25\text{c} / 2\text{as} = 88\text{c}$). Going direct to sterling: $3\frac{1}{2}\text{as} \times 2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}\text{d} / 2\text{as} = 5\frac{1}{4}\text{d}$ rounded up to a 5½d fee as collected so it seems that the clerk in Bahrain has calculated the postage due using the UK method of calculation.



Air Fee – 6 Annas

1 December 1931 to 27 November 1934

On 1 December 1931 the surface rate for the 1st ounce was increased from 2as to 2½as though the air fee remained unchanged at 6as per ½oz. The route was initially by steamer to Basra and onwards by air via IA service to London. By October 1932 the air service had reached Bahrain.



22 May 1932: A cover sent to Bristol franked with 8½as covering the airmail rate for a ½oz. The cover has a Basrah (27 May) transit stamp and was transported onwards by the Imperial Airways Service IW164 (Air & Rail) departing Basrah on 27 May and arriving in Croydon on 31 May.



28 November 1934: A cover sent to London franked with 8½as covering the airmail rate for ½oz. The last day for the 8½as rate was actually 27 November but the letter was probably handed in to the post office prior to the rate change on 28 November.

Combined rate - 7½ Annas
28 November 1934 to 23 February 1938

On the 28 November a new all inclusive postage and air rate was introduced. The route continued via Basrah, Cairo and France - The new rates were 7½as for the first ½oz and 7as for each additional ½oz. Why the fee structure was such has probably got something to do with the previous rate where a 1oz letter would have cost 14½as.



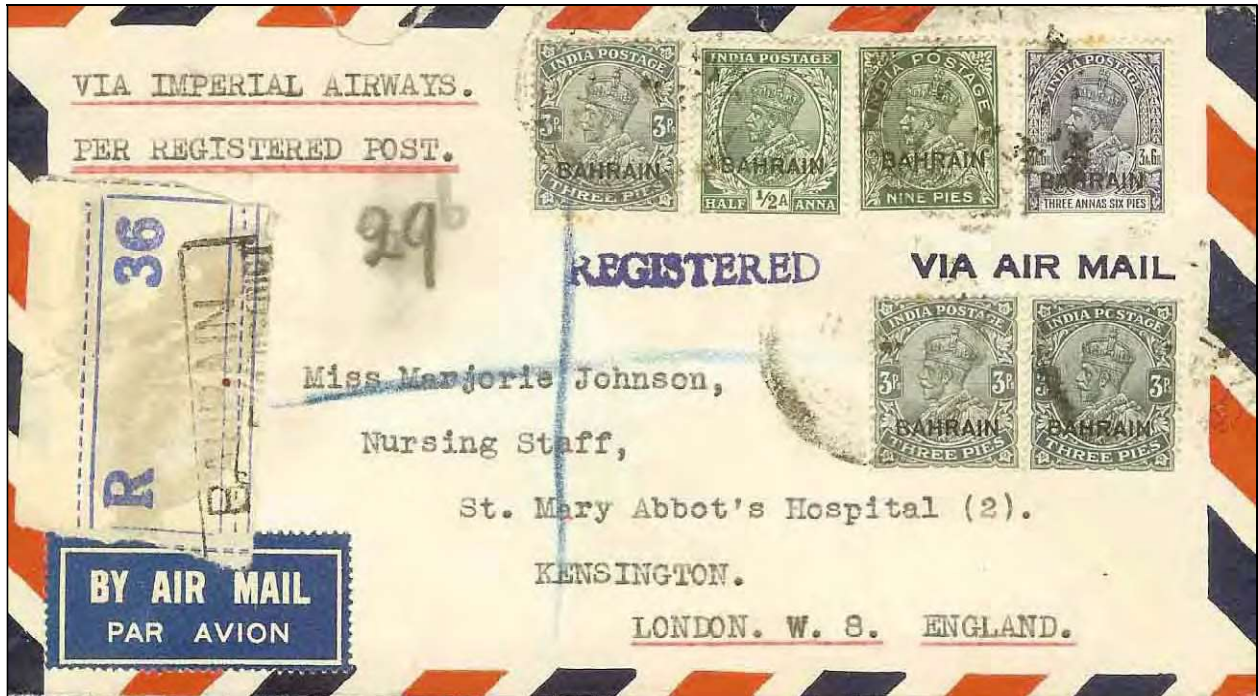
5 February 1938: A cover sent to Eastbourne and franked with a total of 7 ½ Annas making up the airmail rate for ½ an ounce – the rate was only valid for another 17 days.



29 May 1937: A cover sent to London illustrating the uncommon high franking for covers of Bahrain origin of 42½as comprising the combined rate for up to 3oz to the UK (7½as + 7as x 5)

All Up rate -2 ½ Annas
The Empire Air Mail Scheme
23 February 1938 to 2 September 1939

The EAMS Rate was 2½as for each ½ ounce.



11 March 1938: A cover sent to London, England franked with a total of 5½as making up the 2½as airmail rate for ½ an ounce + the 3as registration fee.



13 December 1938: A cover sent to Barnstead and franked with a total of 10½as making up the triple all up airmail rate of 7½as for 1½oz + the 3as registration fee. The cover arrived damaged in the UK and has been resealed accordingly.

All Up rate -14 Annas 2 September 1939 to 1947

On 2 September 1939 following the outbreak of World War II the amount charged for the All-Up services was increased from 2½as to 14as for each ½oz.



14 September 1939

A cover sent to England franked with 14as making comprising the rate for ½oz. The cover has an additional 5 Annas of franking sealing the back flap.

7 February 1947

A cover sent to England illustrating the use of the 14as rate in 1947.

The all inclusive rate was reduced at some point in probably August 1947 but the exact date is not known.





6 January 1946: A cover sent to Harrow franked with a total of 84as comprising the all up rate for 3oz (a6x14as). Most of the mail to the UK recorded from Bahrain during the 1939-1947 period was single and double rate covers but higher frankings are rarely seen.

The Trans-Pacific – Trans-Atlantic Route

On 28 October 1940 the Trans-Pacific – Trans-Atlantic route was made available for mail to the UK. The service was eventually suspended on the 24 of December 1941 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Air Fee 48 Annas

**20 December 1940
to
23 May 1941**

20 December 1940: A cover sent to the UK and franked with 55as. The cover has been overpaid by ½a – possibly a late fee or just convenience – the 54½a rate made up by a48as + s3½as + r3as.

The 48as rate was introduced on 28 October 1940 and the surface rate to the UK was increased from 2½as to 3½as at some point of time in late 1940.

Air Fee – 49½ Annas
21 December 1940 to 23 May 1941
Trans-Pacific – Trans-Atlantic via Auckland

Air Fee: 49½as for each ½oz - Ordinary Postage: 3½as for the first oz + 2as for each additional oz.



10 June 1941: A cover sent to the UK via India, Auckland and the USA. The rate with which the cover is franked actually expired on 23 May 1941 but this may not have been known to the Bahrain Post Office.

Air Fee – 52 Annas
23 May 1941 to 24 December 1941

Air Fee: 52as for each ½oz – Ordinary Postage: 3½as for the first oz + 2as for each additional oz.



25 June 1941: A cover sent to Mansfield and franked with 55½as comprising the airmail rate for ½oz. The cover has been superscribed 3-7-6 and India-Auckland-England confirming the rate and the route.

Air Letter Rate 1945 to 31 March 1948

In 1945 an air letter rate of 6as was introduced for air letters sent to the UK. This rate remained unchanged during the remainder of the Indian Period.



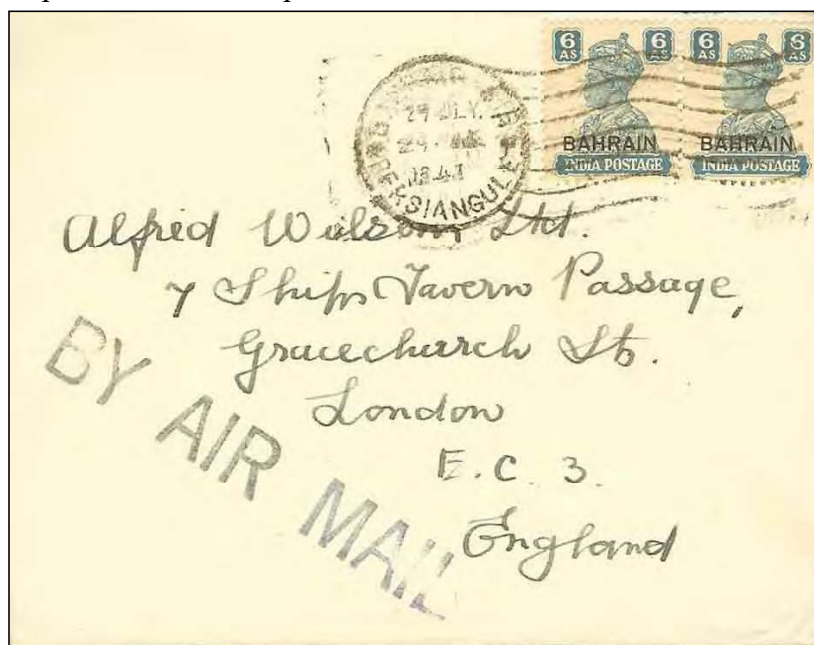
An air letter sent from Bahrain on **25 September 1945** to Surrey.

The letter is written by the son of the addressee and talks about his frustrations over none of his previous letters having “made it through”. This letter is his 9th attempt to his Dad since the August 9th. It also refers to all the letters sent from the UK arriving to him within 4 or 5 days – maybe an illustration of the postal and global chaos following the end of WWII. He concludes that he will register all future letters and that the air letter is just an attempt to see

if it gets through.

12 Annas 1947 to 31 March 1948

In 1947 the final Indian Period Air Postage Rate for mail to the United Kingdom was introduced. The change is first mentioned in the Postal Guide Supplement from November 1947 but the implementation took place earlier. The cost of each ½oz was reduced to 12as.



29 July 1947: A cover sent to London franked with a total of 12as comprising the rate for a ½oz.

SUMMARY

All Indian air mail rates to the UK have been illustrated over the past 10 pages using covers from the Gulf except for the 66as Trans-Pacific rate via Chungking which was in use between 21 December 1940 and 23 May 1941.



Bahrain



15 December 1904: A cover sent from Bahrain to Castell in Germany and franked with a total of 9as made up by 12 copies of the 1899 QV 3 Pies value and 12 copies of the 1902 KE ½a value.

It is a big cover measuring 211x125mm so clearly there was some weight to be covered but with the going rate for foreign post UPU countries being 2½as per half ounce it appears that the weight covered was 1½oz (7½as), whereas the remaining 1½as was added for esthetic reasons. Other options are not possible as the rates for printed matter were ½a for every 2oz; business papers 2½as for 10oz plus ½a for each extra 2oz; and samples 1a for 4oz plus ½a for each extra 2oz.



On the right a mail bag tag used to seal the mail bag to Bahrain and on the right the ½a KGVI value showing the variety of the missing “-” in the “H” to the right.



This item was previously included in Edition 27 but with limited information and only with one side illustrated. The other side of the cloth parcel bag is illustrated above and Max Smith was kind enough to supply us with the following information about the parcel bag:

“Actually they are very difficult to find, but are so full of insight into what people actually felt was important enough to send through the post.

There is at least one stamp missing from the cover - one small-size stamp (less than 1R) next to the other three and perhaps another near the other datestamp on the right. I don't have surface parcel rates to GB at this time. The nearest I have is from 1926 when the parcel post rate for up to 3lbs was R1 - 8 - 0. It probably didn't change by much in between. Note that it was considered to be fully paid when sent from Bahrain. It was not taxed and there is no 'postage due'. The charge in GB is entirely Customs Duty based on the value of the goods (probably because they were made in Japan), plus a handling fee.



I have seen many types of improvised 'number slip', including converted VP labels, but I have not seen one before with the pre-printed red bars to delete VP. Very pretty! I think the improvisations were all done locally, because there were so many of them.”



The 1a3ps and 3½as values of the KGVI 1942-45 cancelled with the British Period Awali Type XX double circle canceller.

The stamps were not valid for postage after 31 March 1948.

The Awali “B” Registration Label



The blue “B” applied to blank registration labels during 1947 was first explained by John Gillham in Edition XX of the Quarterly, where he used a number of covers to illustrate that the “B” signified Awali origin.

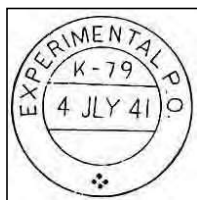


Until recently all the recorded covers were from 1947 dated between 22 April and 14 December. A new variety of the “B” label recently appeared with the “B” (and Bahrain) applied by hand. It is found on first day covers of the first British issue on 1 April 1948. Below are three covers all from the same batch of first day covers franked all illustrating the Awali “B” label.



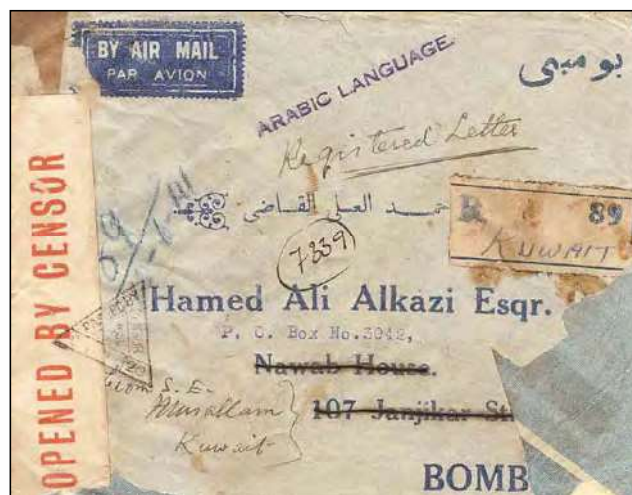
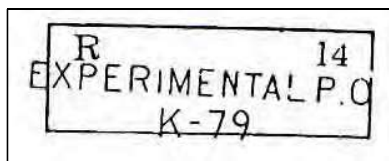
Kuwait

The K-79 canceller (Donaldson Type 10) and the registration handstamp (Donaldson Type 17) have been covered well in Neil Donaldson's 1975 book and 1994 supplement, but since then I do not believe that anything has been written about the K-79. Over the past couples of years we have seen a number of new covers come on the market so in cooperation with Khaled Abdul-Mughni this short update of the information supplied by Neil in his book and supplement has been made:



Earliest Recorded Use: 10 June 1941
Latest Recorded Use: 30 September 1941

Neil highlights two addressees in Bombay to which most of the known covers were addressed – Rashid Abdul Gafoor and Ali Hamood Shaya. Of the covers that have come on to the market over the past two years many were addressed to Hamed Ali Alkazi (left) whereas several other covers were addressed to Uttaram Atmaram jariwala (below).

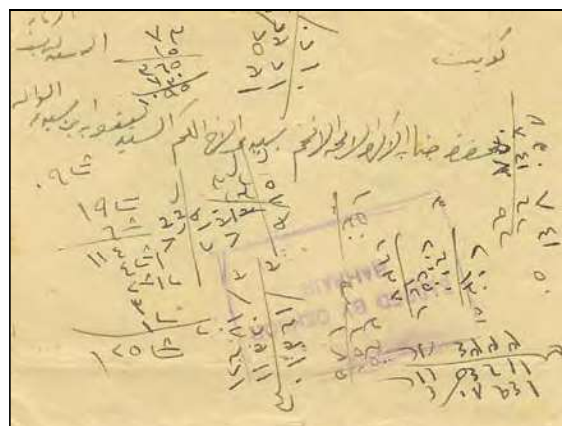


Earliest Recorded Use: 26 June 1941
Latest Recorded Use: Unknown (sometime towards the end of September 1941)



The cover illustrated to the left, dated 26 July 1941, shows the use of the registration handstamp.

Another registered cover dated 8 July 1941 and sent to Ali Hamood Shaya is illustrated on the next page.



The 1994 supplement mentions the existence of one incoming cover from Bahrain where the K-79 was applied as backstamp. The cover, illustrated above, was sent from Bahrain on 21 August and backstamped with the K-79 upon arrival in Kuwait on 23 August.

Finally, as of the 1994 supplement only one K-79 cover to destinations other than India was recorded. It was sent to the USA on 23 September with arrival in California on 8 January (107 days in transit). An additional 4 covers are recorded here – two below and the

airmail cover to the USA illustrated on the front page of this issue.

The cover above is a seamail cover, dated 18 August, franked with 3½as and sent to the UK. It was probably cancelled in error at the post office where after, upon discovering its destination being the UK, it was put in the diplomatic mail bag at the Political Agency (explained by Neil Donaldson on the next page).

The below comments are Neil's reply to what I presume is a similar cover cancelled with the K-79 and send to the UK – the comments are from August 2005.

Many thanks for your letter of 10th. What a coincidence – Donald Campbell was one of the very few (&/- half dozen) British staff kept as caretakers by KOC during the war years. I knew him as A/GM later and it was him who put me on the track of the history of Kuwait's P.O. in 1941 (see Supp. p. 26) ; and told me of the use of the Diplomatic Bag for mail to UK. This was later confirmed by Col. Dickson and his daughter Zara who was then up at Cambridge and remembered receiving letters from Kuwait bearing British stamps.

The despatch of mails through Basra ceased in May 1941 and did not resume until early 1942 and it must therefore be assumed that the use of the Diplomatic Bag continued over approximately 8 months. However, there were at least two occasions (Dec 1941 to Bombay and Feb 1942 to UK) on which letters ex Kuwait were carried to Basra by hand and posted bearing Iraqi stamps.

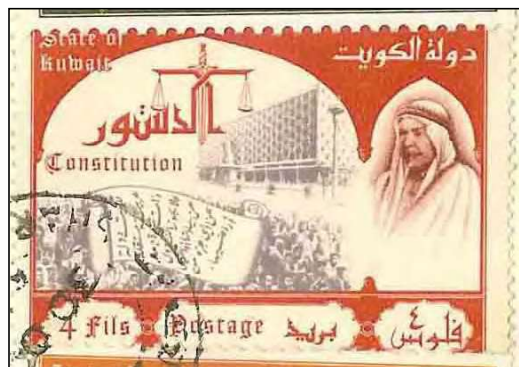
Now to the question of Campbell's cover. Assuming no ⁵¹ sign of b/s or of censor there seem to be three possibilities :

1. Having been inadvertently stamped and posted instead of being unstamped and handed to the P.A., the P.O. having cancelled the stamps realised it was to UK and handed it to the P.A. who despatched per Bag ; and the P.O. put it into the UK post without re-stamping.
2. Kuwait P.O. sent direct to Karachi (same as Item 47 : Sep 23) but why no Karachi Censor ? And why did neither of these two apparently avoid Bahrain (as did most others addressed to Karachi) ?
3. God knows ! But I favour No 1

The cover shown on the front page and sent to the USA also illustrates the earliest recorded use of Indian Air Fees to other destinations than India. The final cover is illustrated below – sent to the USA via seamount and like the front page cover it has been censored in Bombay. The cover was cancelled on 23 September (like the previously mentioned cover) but without arrival stamp).



1963: New Constitution Center



Now here is one that the jury is still out on – the missing Arabic and English year?

The people I have sent to scans to have never seen it before – there doesn't seem to be any sign of chemical fiddling and why would you fiddle with a cover like this rather than the stamp?

All opinions are welcome.



British Postal Rates in the Gulf – Book Post



A cover sent to the UK, as Book Post, on 24 October 1959 and franked with a total of 6NP. It has received a bilingual “TAXED” handstamp measuring 37 x 14 mm which was then subsequently annulled by a red crayon “X”.

It seems to add support to the idea that Book Post was charged at 6NP during the British Period in the Gulf regardless of destination as we have now recorded Book Post to the USA, UK and local mail all charged at 6NP.

Kuwait Handstamps during the 1960s and 1970s



Found in the Letter Box

A cachet introduced during the latter 1960s measuring 49 x 15 mm applied to mail presumably not collected.

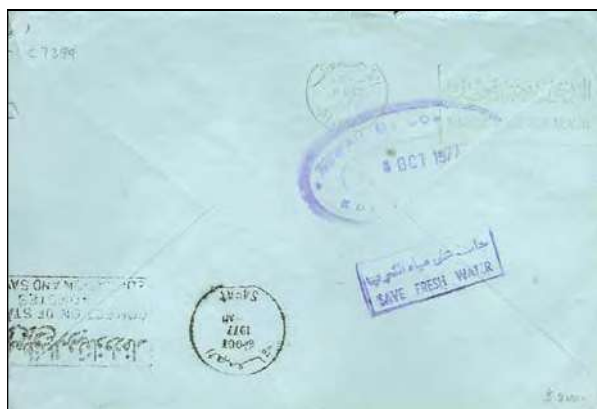
The below registered cover, dated 16 May 1967, was sent from Fahaheel to Iran and not collected by the recipient. I recall have seen several of these but unfortunately do not have them on file so cannot provide an initial date range.



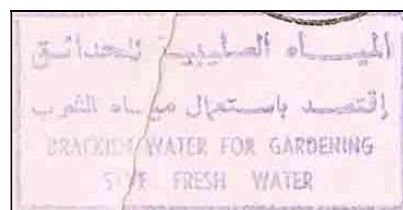


Save Fresh Water

A rectangular cachet measuring 36 x 14 mm with recorded use in October and November 1977. In both cases the handstamp was applied to incoming mail which I guess is fairly logical since there is not much point in sending that message abroad when you live in a desert.

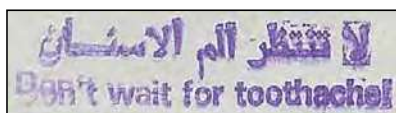


The top cover has an incoming Safat backstamp dated 8 October 1977 whereas the cover below has an incoming Safat backstamp date 6 November 1977.



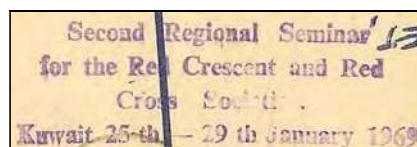
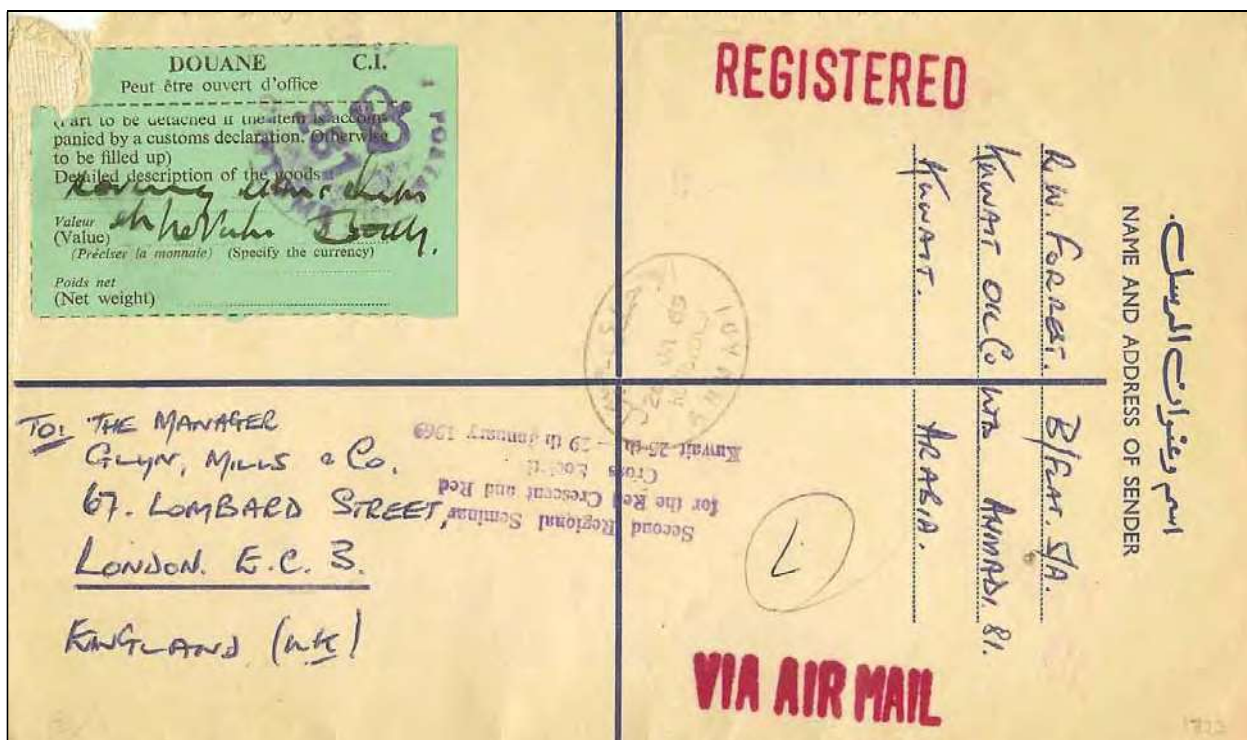
Brackish Water for Gardening – Save Fresh Water

A triangular cachet measuring 45 x 23 mm and applied to an incoming cover from the UK dated 2 February 1978.



Don't wait for Toothache!

A handstamp measuring 40x9 mm and recorded used on an incoming cover from the USA dated 18 March 1969.



Second Regional Seminar for the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies – Kuwait 25th – 29th January 1969.

A handstamp measuring 53 x 16 mm applied to a registered letter dated 26 January 1969.

Muscat & Oman

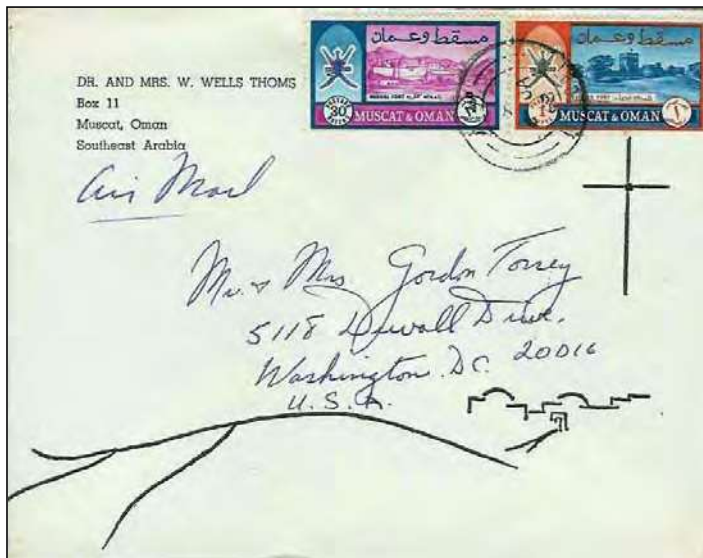


W. Wells Thoms, M.D., F.A.C.S.
American Mission Hospital,
Mutrah, Oman, S. E. Arabia.

15 May 1940: A letter sent from Karachi to the USA but with W. Wells Thoms of the American Mission Hospital in Mutrah, Oman as the sender's address.

As mentioned in Edition 32 mail from Muscat paid for airmail was picked up by steamers from the BINC and transported either to

Karachi or Bahrain due to the lack of an adequate airstrip. In this case the letter was hand-carried to Karachi probably as a consequence of the irregularity of BINC steamers calling Muscat following the breakout of WWII when weeks often passed between visits. The letter has been paid with 21½as which covered the air fee of 18as for ½ oz plus 3½as to the USA.



And while on the topic of a letter sent by W.W. Thoms here is another one dated 6 January 1968, so, 28 years later. Curious as to whom this guy was I did an internet search and found the following information about him on Wikipedia under the headline "*The Scudder family of missionaries in India*":

Ethel "Beth" Talcott Scudder was born May 17, 1904 in Kodaikanal, India to Ethel Talcott (Fisher) and Lewis Rousseau Scudder. The Scudders were missionaries of the Reformed Church of America (RCA). Beth's early education

through the elementary grades was at Kodaikanal, a boarding school for missionary children in the Palani Hills of South India. She received her high school education in the United States while she was a part of her maternal uncle's family. Ethel graduated from Oberlin College (class of '26) with an A.B. degree and a teaching certificate in Physical Education. She served as a short-term Reformed Church of American (RCA) missionary in Vellore, India.

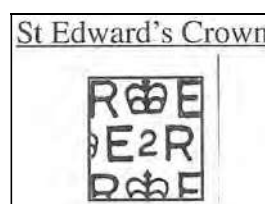
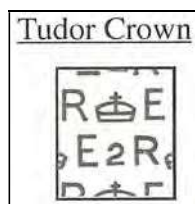
In 1930 she married **Dr. William Wells Thoms**. Together they went to Jerusalem in Palestine to study Arabic in preparation for RCA medical mission work in Arabia. This was the pre-petroleum era and their pioneering work was in societies very different from today. Beth and Wells served in Amarah Iraq, Bahrain and Kuwait during the 1930s. Most of their missionary career was spent in Muscat, Oman, where they went in 1939 (only one year before letter illustrated here). Beth assisted Wells in his medical work by training laboratory assistants, organizing and dispensing medical supplies, keeping hospital accounts, meeting payroll, visiting the sick, teaching hospital staff and their families to read Arabic, and accompanying Wells on medical excursions into the Arabian Peninsula to treat those unable to come to the hospital. Thousands upon thousands of men, women, and children were treated - from Kings, Sultans, and Sheikhs to the least of the common people (Bedouin, farmers, and laborers). Beth and Wells retired to Stinson Lake, New Hampshire and Flint, Michigan in 1970.

Having traced down the husband of W.W. Thoms daughter I have learned that a book about the life of W.W. Thoms is underway though the date of release is not known yet.

SG 58a 1½as on 1½d – British Postal Agencies of Eastern Arabia

The following presentation of 58a has been compiled with the help of Mike Osborne (emmjayo@aol.com) and Adel Al- Sarraf (asarraf@kockw.com).

58a is an error of watermark, having the St Edward's Crown instead of the Tudor Crown watermark.



It was initially believed that just one sheet of this error existed, the centering of the stamps being 'High Left'. Only one unused copy from this sheet has come to light being a mounted example. Several used copies have appeared in auctions over the years all with the same centering.



Sheet 1: The original sheet from which copies of 58a have been certified. The above images illustrate the "High Left" positioning of the stamp. The copy on the left was sold recently at

Grosvenor Auctions (2009) and the pair on the right is from the cover illustrated on the following page – ex Rossi Collection – which was sold in 2005.



During recent years several different varieties of 58a have come to light. It is not the purpose of this piece to give credence to all or any of the new discoveries but rather to create awareness about their existence. Caution as to the authenticity of the new varieties, i.e. those that are not centered high left, should be taken. Though there is no logical explanation of how just one sheet could have existed with the wrong watermark, it is even more difficult to explain why, after a number of years with just the one 'type', several new sheets should come to light.



Sheet 2 (left): Although the centering of this stamp is somewhat similar to Sheet 1 it is quite definitely not from the same sheet. The upper left placement of Sheet 1 is higher than Sheet 2.

This copy was also sold as part of the Rossi Collection in 2005.

Sheet 3: The below two stamps show the centering of the stamps being 'Low Left'. The centering of stamps is similar but the overprint on stamp 2 is noticeably higher than stamp 1. This could be because one stamp came from the top half of the sheet and the other from the bottom half. Two plates each of 120 formes were used in the overprinting process, one each on the top and bottom halves of the sheet. Close examination of rows 10 and 11 will usually show a slight misalignment of the overprints in either the horizontal or vertical plane.

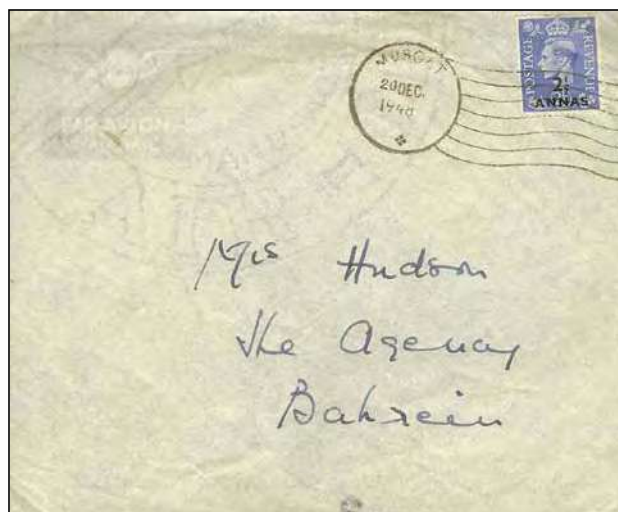
The mint copy was recently sold at a US auction whereas the used copy was sold at a German auction some years back.



Sheet 4: The final sheet shows the centering of the stamp as being “High Central”. This stamp was sold on EBay some years back and was judged by the RPS as having a forged surcharge – possibly because the only recognized sheet at the time was Sheet 1. The owner of the stamp disagrees with the findings of the RPS a view which is supported by the discovery of Sheet 2. Though it is not completely clear to me it does seem that the overprint of Sheet 3 matches that of Sheet 2.

As far as the scans go, the different centering of the stamps indicates that they are from 4 or more sheets. SG’s recent Middle East catalogue (7th edition) states that “No. 58a came from a few sheets of the St. Edward’s Crown watermark included, in error, with a printing of No. 44. Most examples were used in Dubai, but two are known from Muscat, a pair & a single on separate covers from Bahrain & a single postmarked F.P.O. 936 (Sharjah). Three single mint examples also exist – each from different sheets.

It has been suggested that as many as 50 used examples could exist so if you have additional copies of this stamp in your collection we would greatly appreciate scans of what you have. We are also looking for a scan of the Dubai cancelled block of 4 that was sold at Harmers back in 2002 – any other queries or questions are welcomed.



Latest Recorded use of Type 15

In Edition 23 a cover was illustrated dated 22 November 1948 which, at the time, was the latest recorded use of Type 15 – the same date was mentioned in Donaldson’s 1994 supplement.

The cover here, sent to the Political Agency in Bahrain and dated 20 December 1948 is now the latest recorded use of Type 15.

The following circular was sent out in conjunction with the currency change that took place in Muscat & Oman on 7 May 1970. It was a notification of the upcoming issue of the 1966 definitive designs with the new currency – the Saidi Rial.

POSTAL SUPERINTENDENT,
SULTANATE OF MUSCAT AND OMAN, S.E. ARABIA.

CIRCULAR

Dated Muscat 4th June 1970.

The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman have issued a new Saidi Currency with effect from 1st Rabi-al-Awal 1390 (7th May 1970). The Exchange rate of the new currency is as under :

1 Rial Saidi = 1000 Baizas = £ Sterling 1 = U.S. \$ 2.42

The present set of 12 definitives of the Sultanate Postage Stamps issued on 30th April 1966 will remain in use till stocks are exhausted. Simultaneously a set of 12 new definitives depicting same colours and designs but in Saidi Currency denominations will be issued on 27th June 1970.

In view of the similarity of the designs and colours, it has been decided not to offer any official first day cover service. Collectors own covers received here by 27th June 1970 with proper remittance will, however, be affixed with the new stamps desired and franked with a 'FIRST DAY OF ISSUE' cancellation. Orders for mint stamps would be processed as usual. The new set has the following values :

Baizas 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75, 100 & Rial Saidi $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 *

Total value = Rial Saidi 2.⁰⁰₄₅ = £ 2-2-2d.

Air letter design and value no change. New air letter will be produced in 1971.

If you wish to order for mint stamps or a first day cover, please fill in the portion of this notice and remail it back alongwith your remittance and self addressed covers to the Postal Superintendent, Philatelic Section, Muscat, S.E. Arabia. Mint stamps in bulk quantities can also be ordered from Crown Agents, St. Nicholas Road, St. Nicholas House, Sutton, Surrey, England.

.....
ORDER FORM

Name:

Full Address:

Values Ordered: * Rial Saidi one/half/quarter, Baizas 100, 75, 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, Baizas 10, and 5.

Remittance:

No. of Covers sent:

Qatar



A cover sent from Doha Qatar on 21 February 1960 to Turin in Italy paid correctly with 40np and cancelled with Type 2.

The cover has had the Bahrain Agricultural & Trade Fair 1960 cachet applied to it indicating that mail from Qatar in 1960 went via Bahrain.

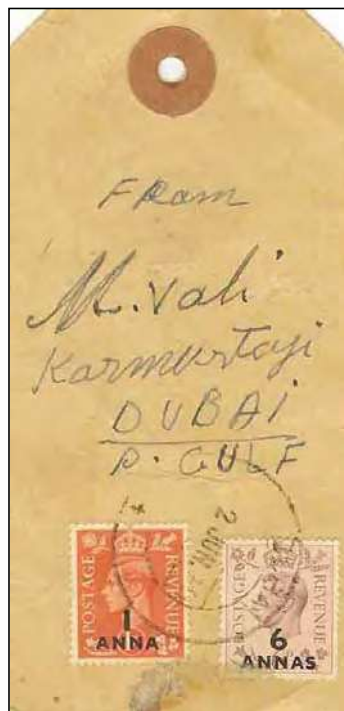
To my knowledge it is the only recorded example of the cachet used on mail from other origins than Bahrain.

1965 Nubian Monuments Preservation – Double Black Printing

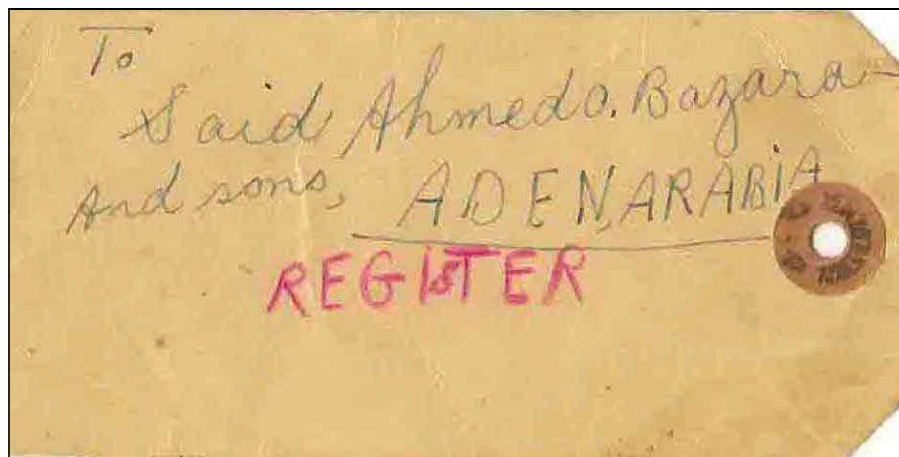
The below illustrated 1np and 2np values of the Nubian issue are found with the black print doubled. It has been suggested by Adel Al-Sarraf that it is printers waste but does anyone have any knowledge of these stamps that were printed by Harrison?



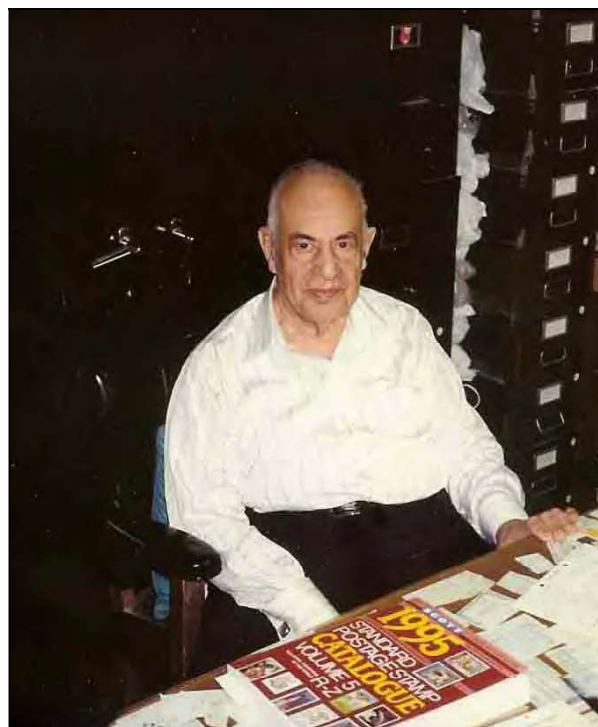
UAE – Dubai



A postal packet tag used in Dubai and cancelled on 2 June 1949 sent to Aden. It mentions that the packet was registered which would have cost 4as at the time leaving only 3as for postage. The airmail rate to Aden at the time was 6as but unfortunately I have seen no information on similar postal packet rates.



Howard Courtney has been nice enough to supply us with some pictures of personalities affiliated with the Dubai Post Office during the early years of Postal Independence. The gentleman to the left is Michel Stephen and to the right is Ezzet Mosden.





The picture above shows Edouard Lorenzo to the far right.

New Discoveries of Dubai Cancellation Marks

By Khalid Omaira

THE HEXAGONAL PARCEL CANCEL

In Edition 21 (pages 38-39) the five different types of Hexagonal cancels used from 1963 to 1964 were illustrated. A new type, a parcel post canceller, inscribed "طرود - دبي" in Arabic and "DUBAI - PARCELS" in English with bilingual dates has now been recorded used during the same period. The earliest recorded use is on 14 August 1963 (though it was most likely introduced on 15 June 1963) whereas the latest use is May 1964.





THE LARGE CIRCLE PARCEL CANCEL

Also in Edition 21 (pages 39-41) the nine different types of large circle cancels used from 1964 to 1965 were illustrated. A similar parcel post canceller inscribed "طرود" "1 / دبي - in Arabic and "PARCELS - DUBAI/1" in English with bilingual dates has now been recorded used during the same period.

The earliest recorded use for this type is in 1964 whereas the latest use is 9 June 1965.

New Earliest and Latest recorded usages (All previously illustrated in Edition 30)



Type 39d previously recorded with earliest use being 17 March 1969 and illustrated above as used on 8 February 1969.



Type 40e previously recorded with earliest use being 8 May 1969 and illustrated here used on 17 March 1969.

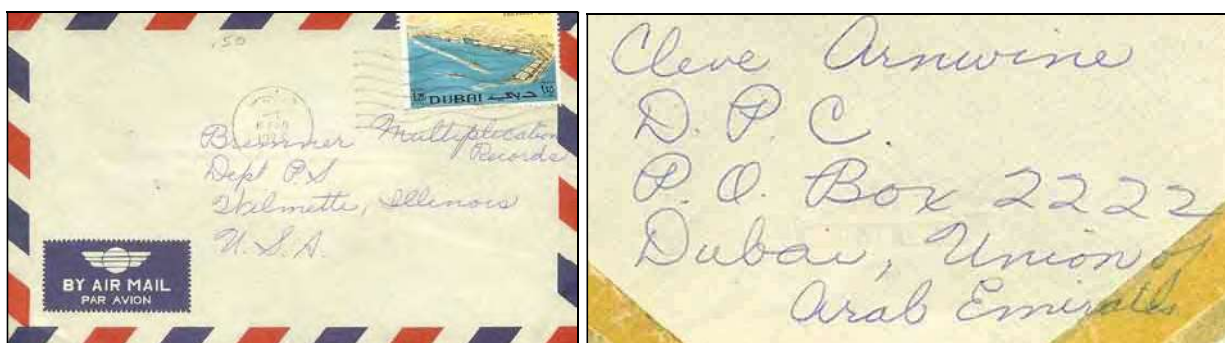


Type 39c previously recorded with earliest use being 24 October 1969 and illustrated here used on 7 June 1969.



Type 40b previously recorded with earliest use being 28 January 1969 and illustrated above as used on 11 January 1969.

Below a cover cancelled with 40b and dated 6 February 1973 showing the use of Dubai stamps after the formation of the United Arab Emirates. The sender has given his origin as the Union of Arab Emirates.



The 1966 Guide to Postal Services and Charges partly illustrated in Edition 32 specifies guidelines about insurance: (The remainder of the Postal Guide is illustrated in the Yahoo Group)

INSURED VALUE		
The amount for which an article is insured must be written in ink by the sender or his representative both in words and in figures, at the top of the address side of the cover, thus		
"Insured for Riyals TWO HUNDRED (Rls.200)"		
No erasure or other alteration of this inscription is allowed. An insured item cannot be insured for more than the actual value of the contents and packing, but it may be insured for part of its value, and a letter, or parcel of which the contents have no pecuniary value may be insured for a nominal sum in order to obtain the safeguards of the system. Over-insurance is an obstacle to compensation.		
INSURANCE FEES		
The fees for insurance, in addition to postage, are as follows:		
Limit of compensation	Fee	
Rls.	Rls.	dh.
300	-	85
600	1	10
900	1	35
1200	1	60
1500	1	85
1800	2	10
2100	2	35
2400	2	60
2700	2	85
3000	3	10



An insured cover sent from Dubai to Switzerland in 1970 which has been paid with a total of 13 Rials and 90 Dirhams. As per the section of the 1966 postal guide illustrated on the previous page the sender has written the insured amount in both words and figures on the front of the cover and at the top of the address side.

From studying other covers from 1970 to Europe it can be concluded that the airmail rate to Switzerland in 1970 was unchanged from 1966 at 60Dhs per 10 grams as was the registration fee of 1R. The insurance costs are slightly more difficult to estimate but given that 600 Rials costs 1R10Dhs in 1966 and 1R70Dhs in 1971 (as per the 1971 postal guide) the costs in 1970 must have been somewhere in between – so presuming that the cover is correctly franked the

following should be the math.



Total Postage: 13.90

Registration Fee: 1.00

190 grams weight: 11.40

Balance for insurance: 1.50

UAE & Trucial States

FUJEIRA – The true story: Chapter 3: 1967 – March 1969

By John Vassallo

Introduction:

Chapter 1 addressed the beginning of Fujaira Post Office and the issue of the first definitive set in Sep/Nov 1964, the airmail definitive set in Aug 1965 and the official set in Oct/Nov 1965. Chapter 2 looked at the issues between Dec 1964 and 1966, including the change in currency. It also addressed the introduction of miniature sheets with virtually every set and the gold and silver foil stamps issued ‘for demonstration purposes’.

Chapter 3 will address the issues from 1967 up to March 1969 which represents the end of the original contract with Finbar Kenny. Each stamp and miniature sheet is produced in both perforated and imperforated formats unless otherwise stated.



May 1967 New Currency Definitive Issue – Butterflies

In total 27 stamps were issued over three different dates – nine stamps on each date:

8th May: 1Dh, 2Dh, 3Dh, 4Dh, 5Dh, 10Dh, 15Dh, 20Dh & 30Dh postage issue.

11th May: 40Dh, 50Dh, 70Dh, 1R, 1.50R, 2R, 3R, 5R & 10R postage issue.

31st May: 15Dh, 25Dh, 35Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 2R, 3R & 5R airmail issue.

Fig 1 – Advertising brochure (reduced) for the 11th May additional issue – states that these stamps are ‘produced in brilliant six-colour photogravure ...one of the most colourful stamp issues ever to be released’!

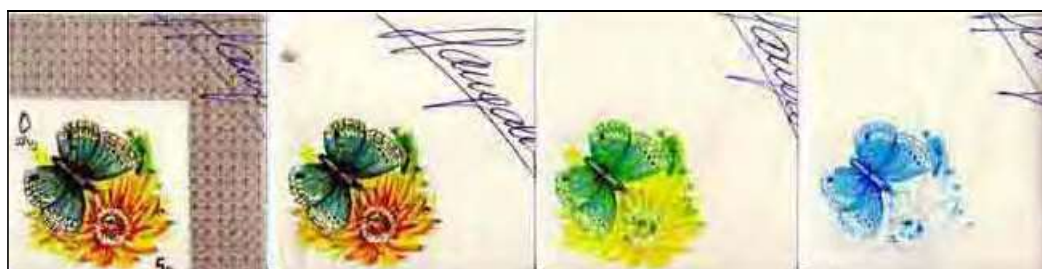
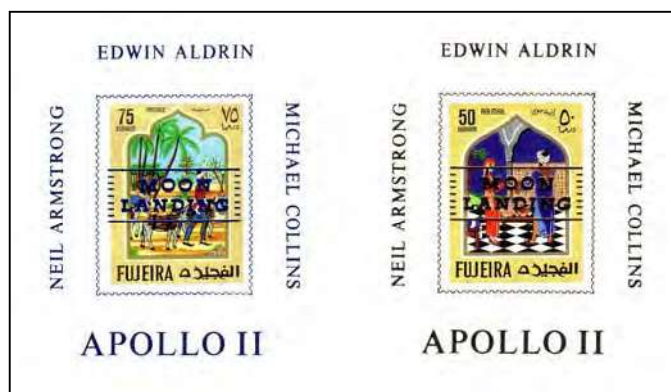


Fig 1a – Progressive plate proofs (reduced) for the 5R denomination (Euchrysops Philbyi) with the printer's signature cut out from the sheet corner upper right.

17 & 24 July 1967 – Fairy Tales



A total of twelve stamps issued over two dates – six on each date.

17th July: 10Dh, 15Dh, 30Dh, 75Dh, 1R & 1.50R postage issue with scenes from Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

24th July: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 1.25R & 2R airmail stamps with scenes from Aladdin and the Magic Lamp.

Fig 2 – Miniature sheets with overprints – one in metallic Blue and the second one in Gold.

Each stamp is also produced in miniature sheet format but overprinted Moon Landing/Apollo 11 either in Gold or Metallic Blue – only 500 sets were issued (. The sheets are not known without this overprint. This concept of producing the set in miniature sheets was used quite extensively by other 'Trucial States' – but not often by Fujeira.

9 October 1967 – Paintings: Eight values: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R & 1.50R postage stamps and 2R, 3R & 5R airmail stamps.

2 November 1967 – Cats: Eight values: 10Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 1R & 1.50R postage stamps and 1.25R, 2.75R & 3.50R airmail stamps.

25 January 1968 – Winter Olympics



A total of seven values were issued: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 1.50R, 2R & 3R postage stamps.

A miniature sheet containing the 1.50R, 2R & 3R values was also issued but as airmail stamps.

Fig 3: According to the publicity brochure the souvenir sheet would be available perforated and imperforated but I believe it was only made available as

imperforated. It is also interesting to note that this miniature sheet was also overprinted for the 1968 Summer Olympics and is also only known imperforated. Michel lists the miniature sheet as being overprinted Sapporo '72 in both perforated and imperforated but I have never seen either.

The brochure also highlights a restriction for buying imperforated stamps: "stamps will be supplied in the ratio of one imperforate series to every four perforated series ordered". This was

the general rule with all Fujaira issues and as a result imperforated stamps are much more difficult to obtain. Each stamp was also available as deluxe miniature sheet (fig 4) while the 25 Dirham value was available in Gold (fig 5)



Fig 4: One of the deluxe miniature sheets used on cover to US. Interesting how there is no mention of this format on the official publicity of this issue. How did customers know that they are available? Some literature indicates that only 500 sets were produced.

Fig 5: The 25 Dirham stamp was also produced in Gold. Again there was no mention of this format in the publicity brochure for this issue. I suspect that these gold issues were only produced after 1970 when the contract was terminated by the Government and Finbar Kenny tried to benefit from the legality of issues that had already been produced. Any comments from anyone confirming this or otherwise would be greatly appreciated.



5 June 1968 – Paintings: Ten values: 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 2R & 3R Postage stamps and 1.50R, 2.50R, 3.50R, 4R & 5R airmail stamps.

1 July 1968 – History of Seafaring: Nine Values: 15Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh & 1R postage stamps and 2R, 3R, 4R & 5R airmail stamps.

2 September 1968 – Summer Olympics

Overprint '1968 OLYMPIC GAMES/MEXICO/October 12-27'

Two sets of stamps were used for the overprinting the first being the 1964 Olympic values 1R, 1.50R, 2R, 3R & 5R postage stamps. The second set used was the 1968 Winter Olympics issue where the four values overprinted were 1R, 1.50R, 2R, & 3R postage stamps. The miniature sheet overprinted was the imperforated miniature sheet from the 1968 Winter Olympics.

The following errors have been recorded:

- Overprint Inverted
- Overprint reading October 12-27/MEXICO/October 12-27October. (Fig 6)
- Overprint reading 1968 OLYMPIC GAMES/MEXICO/1968 OLYMPIC GAMES (Fig 6)
- Overprint on unissued stamps from the Winter Olympics set (Fig 7)



Fig 6: A strip of 5 with the correct overprint on stamp 1, 3 and 5; stamp 2 has Olympic Games both top and bottom and stamp 4 has the date on both top and bottom.



Fig 7: The 3 lower values of the 1968 Winter Olympics set overprinted for the Mexico Summer Olympics issue but not issued. It has been indicated to me that the overprint on these stamps are 'in an inappropriate place on the athletes' and therefore decided not to be included in the set.

16 September 1968 – Prehistoric Animals: 10 Values: 15Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, & 1.50R postage stamps and 1R, 2.50R, 3R, 4R & 5R airmail stamps.

16 September 1968 – Robert F Kennedy: 4 values: 1R, 2R, 3R & 5R from the 1965 John F Kennedy issue overprinted 'In Memory of/SENATOR/ROBERT F./KENNEDY/(1925-1968)

1 October 1968: Summer Olympics

10 values: 15Dh, 25Dh, 35Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh & 1R postage stamps and 1.50R, 2R, 3R & 5R airmail stamps. A miniature sheet with the top three airmail values was also produced.



Fig 8 – The 1.50R stamp was also produced in Gold as perforated and imperforated. The imperforated was also produced in a deluxe miniature sheet on a thick cardboard.

Again, no mention of this gold stamp is provided on the publicity brochure produce by the post office promoting the issue.

23 November 1968 – Gold Medallists: In this set all the stamps and miniature sheets were overprinted with the winner of the event illustrated by the stamp. This time the 25Dh cycling stamp overprinted with Pier Franco Vianelli (Italy) was produced in Gold – both perforated and imperforated. The imperforated was also produced in prestige miniature sheet on stiff paper but not as thick as in the previous issue.

24 October 1968 – Paintings – International Letter Writing Week: 8 values: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh & 1R postage stamps and 1.50R, 2R, 3R & 5R airmail stamps. A miniature sheet with the top two airmail values was also produced.

9 November 1968 – EFIMEX – International Letter Writing Week Overprinted EFIMEX: All the stamps and the miniature sheet were overprinted EFIMEX in Gold (and miniature sheet also has emblem Gold Overprint)

8 January 1969 – Wild Animals: 9 values: 15Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh & 1R postage stamps and 1.50R, 2R, 3R & 5R airmail stamps.

13 January 1969 – Scenes from Shakespeare's plays: 9 values: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R & 2R postage stamps and 1.25R, 2.50R, 3R & 5R airmail stamps.

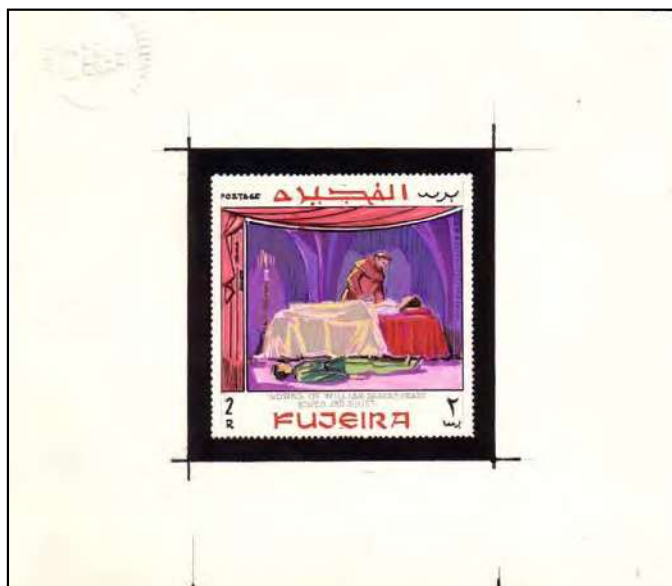


Fig 9 and Fig 10: An un-adopted drawing by artist F. Llamosas for the 2R stamp depicting a scene from Romeo and Juliet and the final proof of the adopted design.

8 March 1969: 1972 Summer Olympics – the 1968 issue overprinted XX OLYMPIAD in a circle of MUNICH GERMANY 26 AUG-10 SEPT 1972 in Gold. All 10 values and the miniature sheets were overprinted but I do not believe that a gold stamp was produced for this overprint.

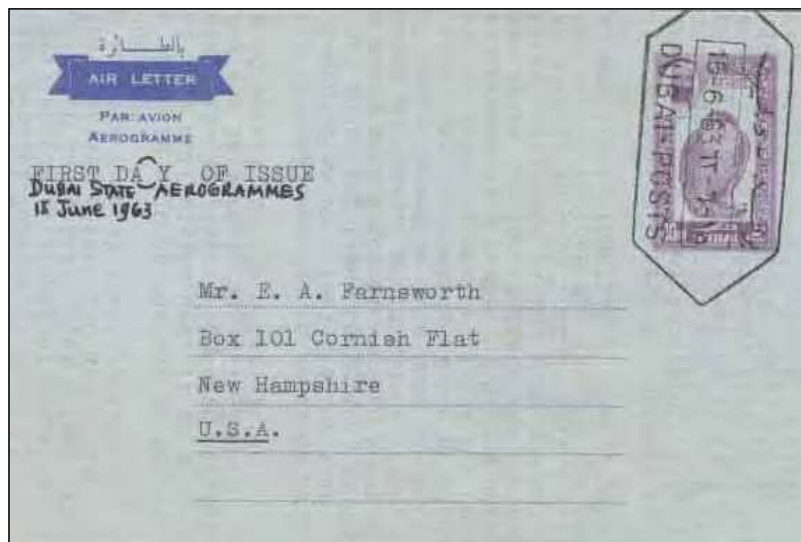
31 March 1969: Locomotives: 8 Values: 15Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh & 1R postage stamps and 2R, 3R & 5R airmail stamps.

It was getting towards the end of the original contract signed by the Government of Fujeira and Mr Finbar Kenny on 15 June 1964. Clause 15 of the contract stated 'this agreement shall be in force for a period of 5 years automatically renewable for an additional 5 years'. The government was very unhappy with the performance of Mr Kenny especially since he was never available and payments were not prompt. In spite of this the Minister of Telecommunications went ahead and signed for another 5 years. However, the Sheikh of Fujeira was considering alternatives and only issued the already approved sets for May and June. These and the events that followed will be discussed in the next chapter.

THE STORIES AEROGRAMMES CAN TELL

By Gary Watson

Recently I acquired examples of two of Dubai's first trio of Aerogrammes, the 1963 30np and 40np both used on the First Day of Issue to the United States.

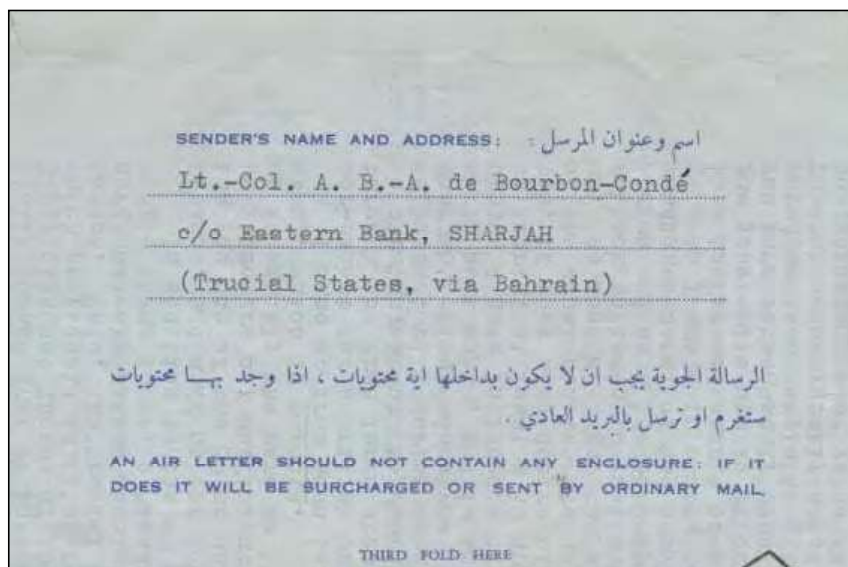


There are a number of particularly interesting aspects to this duo. Firstly, the sender lived in Sharjah, as evidenced by both the address on the reverse and the superscript within. It seems odd that the address is given as “Sharjah...via Bahrain”, rather than “via Dubai”. Secondly, they contain different full letters but about that below. Thirdly, the 30np is uprated with a 10np adhesive affixed to the reverse, the only uprated example from the first

issue that I have recorded.

The sender of this remarkable pair was the flamboyant American, Bruce Chalmers, who styled himself as “Lieutenant-Colonel Abdurrahman de Bourbon-Condé” and who, at the time, was both the “postal officer” of the Royal Yemeni 1st & 2nd Armies, and the instigator of the Sharjah postal service. It is no exaggeration to say that Chalmers’ story should be made into a feature film.

One of the last of the gentlemen-adventurers, Chalmers was born at San Juan Capistrano, California in 1913. Fluent in Spanish, he served during World War II as an American counter-intelligence officer, enjoying a number of escapades in Europe and Japan. But his claim to fame dates from 1958 when he established himself in Yemen, then one of the most undeveloped countries in the world.



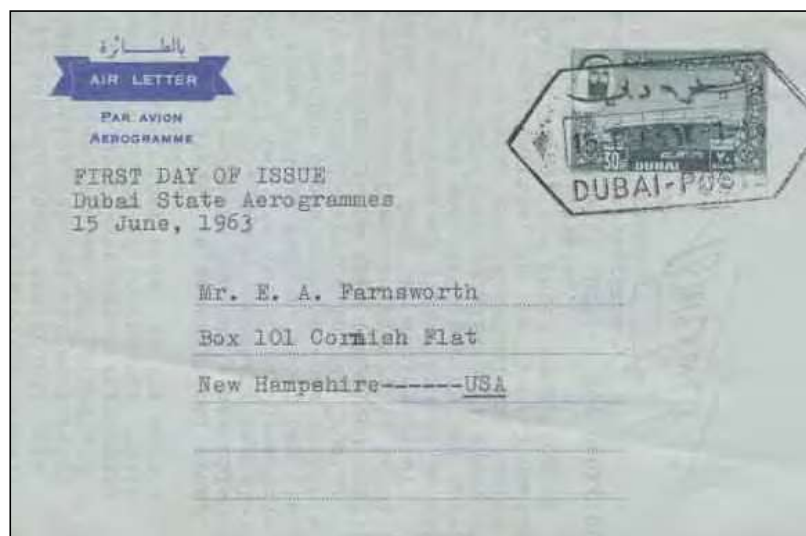


About that time, Chalmers assumed his grandmother's family name "Condé", and through her claimed to be descended from the French Royal House of Bourbon. (A *Google* search will reveal thousands of entries for French royals with the surname "de Bourbon-Condé".) Quoting from his obituary in London's "The Independent": "His love of Yemen, then still a feudal kingdom, began in his boyhood when he wrote to its fearsome

ruler, Imam Ahmad, asking for a pen-friend with whom to swap stamps. A reply came from the secretary of the Imam's son 'His Majesty has commanded me to be your friend'!"

This contact was to serve him well. After moving to the Yemen, converting to Islam and renouncing his American citizenship, Condé was appointed Director of Yemeni Propaganda & Postal Affairs. However, his postal activities upset the Minister of Communications who, according to the same obituary, accused Condé of espionage and caused him to be deported.

A short stint in Beirut, where he became a stringer for *Linn's*, was followed by a move to the then dusty and economically depressed Sharjah, where he turned his hand to establishing that emirate's post office. *Gibbons* credits the design of Sharjah's first stamp series to "Abdurrahman Condé" and he is said to have personally organized *Harrison & Sons*, the prominent London printers who had printed a number of Yemeni issues, to produce them.



"Condé returned to the Yemen in 1962 during a time of dynastic turmoil in the Royal Family, and civil war between the Royalists and republicans backed by Egypt's President Nasser. Again in the Imam's service, he rose to the rank of general, while continuing to promote the Yemeni post office. With two others, "B Conde" [sic] is acknowledged by *Gibbons* as having designed the 1964 Patriotic War issue (SG R39-43).

After the insurgents' final victory in 1970, Condé removed himself to Spain, and later to Morocco, where he died a "stateless person" in 1992.

Returning to the aerogrammes, Condé was clearly friendly with the addressee EA Farnsworth. The content of his letters is full of detail, much of it philatelically interesting and relevant: "It is not only the first day for the aerogrammes but for the Dubai stamps as well, as it was not until this morning that the Dubai GPO of the Trucial States of Oman was officially turned over to Postmaster General Lorenzo of Dubai by Superintendent Thorpe of the British Postal Agency of Bahrain, which previously administered it for the GPO of London."

Terry Jones in his "The Aerogrammes of the Arabian Gulf: Post-Independence Issues" (1998) states that Dubai's 20np value paid the rate for sending to members of the Arab Postal Union; the 30np was for the European rate; and the 40np was for North American destinations. While this would appear to be sensible, is it accurate? Condé states "In addition to the 40np **there is a 30np for use to Beirut Lebanon**, and a 20np for local Arab Gulf States use".



This certainly seems odd but, given that the Dubai stamps and stationery were printed in Beirut, a special rate for the Lebanon is not entirely far-fetched. (I for one would welcome seeing evidence that either confirms or challenges Condé's statement.). Condé then speaks of his reason for being in Sharjah: "I came up from Aden...to try to straighten out the Sharjah stamp deal which did not go through satisfactorily during my absence in Yemen. If it can be saved, Sharjah's first adhesives will appear sometime late this month (*June*) or early next month, and in the order for destruction of the printing plates I have a clause to save the master cliché [*sic*] for use to print at least a 30np aerogramme or a series of higher ones too, if they also desire higher rates for longer distances..."

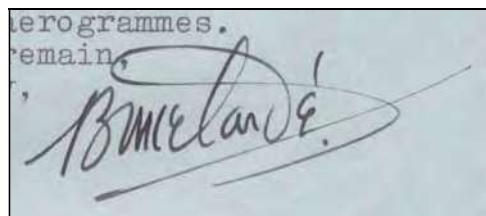
Of course, both the stamp and aerogramme issues eventuated and Condé's letter explains how it came about that Sharjah's aerogrammes peculiarly have the printer's imprint below the stamp impression. I can't think of any other aerogramme from anywhere in the world bearing an imprint of this nature.



The uprated Dubai 30np aerogramme contains detail about the stamp designs on the Dubai aerogrammes: "the medallion portrait is of HH Sheikh Rashid bin Said Maktoum. The central object on the 40np is one of the sheikh's favourite hawks. On the 30np green and 20np magenta is seen the new cross-estuary bridge linking the two parts of Dubai city hitherto separated by a seaway forming Dubai port. I drove across that bridge today to get these new aerogrammes..."

He continues "...the GPO is on the southwestern side of the seaway, while Sharjah is 20 miles away, on the other side, to the northeast, and in a separate Trucial State...The total population of the Trucial States cannot be much over 100,000 with 60,000 in Sharjah and Dependencies and perhaps over that half that figure in Dubai (Arab population). There are also tens of thousands of Persian and Pakistani and Indian immigrants, most of them illegal entries in the Trucial States and there may be over 30,000 in Dubai, the chief smuggling as well as commercial port of the Trucial States."

Despite his highfalutin' title on the reverse of the aerogrammes, both letters are signed simply "Bruce Condé": Surely it is content such as this that provides one of the great attractions to collecting postal stationery.



Links, Contacts and Credits

GOVERNMENT PHILATELIC OFFICES

Emirates Stamp Club
Emirates Post
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Website: www.emiratespost.co.ae

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Muscat
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Website: www.comm.gov.om

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Website: www.qpost.com.qa

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

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

INDEPENDENT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

WEBSITES RELATED TO GULF POSTAL HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.wreckandcrash.org>

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

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

<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.

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

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