

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



Taxed cover from Umm Said - Bahrain local issue not valid.

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2
The Awali 'B' registration label



Awali registered mail using label Bahrain 1

Caltex Oceanic Limited,
Bahrain, Persian Gulf.



AWALI BAHRAIN

Lot No.37 in the catalogue of the Dubai - Gulf States auction reported in the last issue, is an April 1947 registered cover from The Bahrain Petroleum Co. with a blue 'B' stamped on the registration label. The description surmises that this label was only used on BPC mail. Jon Gillham has confirmed this and given me more information and covers showing the 'B' label.

Awali was the administrative centre of the Company and operated a Mail Office there for its own and its employees postal requirements. Stamps could be bought, letters posted and incoming mail distributed. It follows then that letters could be weighed, charged and franked correctly. The mail was then transferred to Manama for cancelling; Awali Mail Office being merely an appendix to Manama Post Office. (Donaldson p148).

1. The earliest Awali item I have seen was registered 13.7.46, cancelled type 9 and with the type 18 'BAHRAIN' cachet directly on the cover. The sender's details were FH Hunter/Box 630/Awali/Bahrain Island PG. In all respects this piece of mail received the same treatment as one posted in Manama and only the return address identifies its origin.

A change of practice took place in early 1947 when the Mail Office started registration. Registered covers from Awali can be identified by the 'B' label even if no sender's address is shown. Batches of the locally printed blue on buff numbered labels were stamped with a 'B' at Manama PO and sent to Awali as required.

2. Lot 37 Registered cover from BPC April 1947 with blue/buff R150 B. It is franked 2R GVIR (SG33) and 4a GVR (SG19) cancelled type 9. It is not unusual to see stamps from the GVR period being used up - post war shortages?

3. From Bell/Awali [Box] 25/Bahrain Islands. The franking of 15 annas is made up of 14 annas reg. airmail + 1 anna late fee, cancelled type 9 dated 12.11.47 with the registration label R07 B on the back. This is shown on next page.

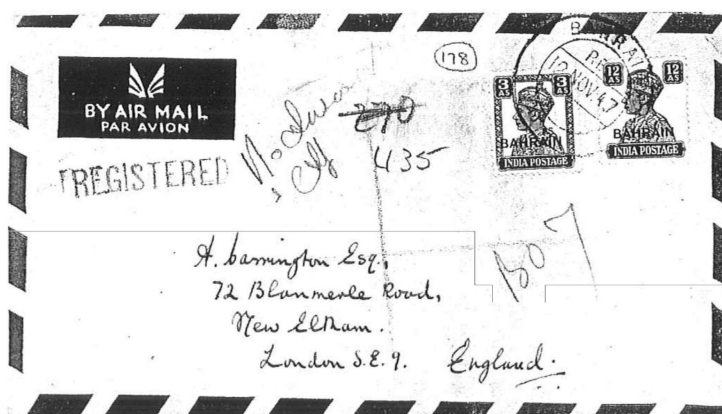
4. From Flock/Bahrain Islands/PG franked 1R(SG32) and 1a(SG41) cancelled type 9 14.12.47 with R167 B.

The British PO took over in April 1948 and their familiar blue/white labels were in use by Autumn 1948, superseding the 'B' type. The BAHRAIN label was used in Manama and the BAHRAIN 1 in Awali. A UPU set is recorded on cover dated 10.10.49 bearing this label and return address Awali.

5. The Caltex cover shown is franked 2R(SG59), 2&1/2as(SG67) and 3as(SG68) cancelled type 21 6.12.49. It has the same label but doesn't have Awali in the return address. Caltex was the parent company.

On 1 July 1950 Awali became a post office and was soon supplied with its own cancellers and registration labels. The earliest cover I have seen with the Awali label is 1.6.51.

Below is the front and back of cover no.3. It is surprising to see a registration label used to seal the cover. I neither know the significance of the pencil numbers 270 and 435 nor message.



INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT EXPRESS LETTER

The first thing to note is that the full printed heading cannot be seen. Is it 'Posts and Telegraphs Department'? Also the wording 'EXPRESS LETTER' has been crossed out in the same ink as that used to write the address. Probably the officer writing this letter just used the first cover he could lay his hands on.

The letter is official mail - no stamps used.

The type 18 'BAHRAIN / PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT' boxed cachet is used here to identify the origin of the letter. There is another example on page 12. More commonly it was used to mark the blank numbered registration labels used throughout the 1920's and 30's.

The type 19 straight line 'BAHRAIN' cachet struck on the R 164 label superseded type 18 early in the war.

The use of the 'BY AIR' cachet confirms the official status of this mark; something I have long suspected but couldn't prove. Page 61 of Donaldson's book shows this mark on a 1928 air cover.

M/s 164 & 19/4 records the registration number and date. The name and address on the cover doesn't give me any clue to the contents.

The PC 90 sealing strip (code 51-2103 G&F Ltd.) is a British censorship label. On the back is the Bahrain type 9 date stamp for 19.4.44.

The curious thing is that the blue crayon crosses have been drawn after the letter had passed through the censor's office. (page 17)

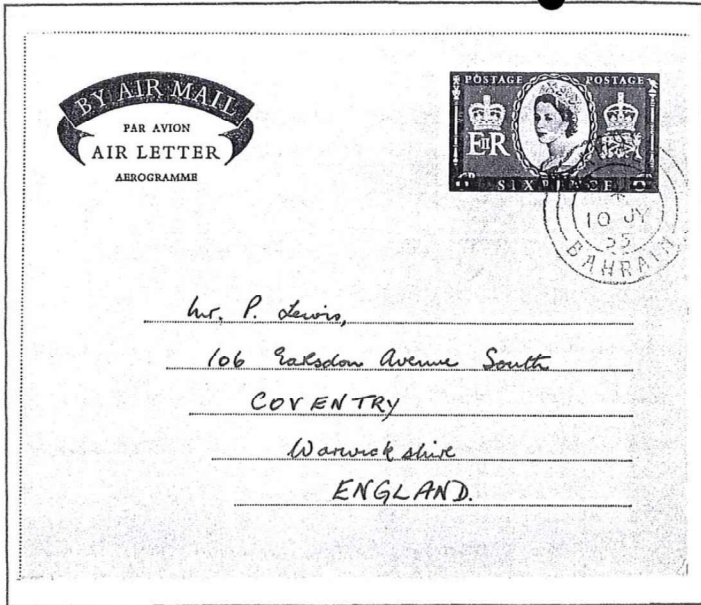
1948 SILVER WEDDING ISSUE

A cover franked with the Kuwait Silver Wedding stamps was shown on page 9, edition 7.A cover shown this time on page is franked with the Bahrain Silver Wedding issue, has same addressee and is also from the post office. It is of course philatelic being hugely overfranked. The type 9 date stamp, and the registration marks with the straight line 'BAHRAIN' cachet and m/s number R150 are all standard for this time. (page 18)

1955 BAHRAIN 6 ANNAS aerogramme

A commercial use of type COL 4b from Awali 10.7.55. An extract reads :-

'Last week I went out on a pearling trip. About 20 assorted sahibs, memsahibs and locals [not the word he used] set out at midnight thursday in a tub 20 yards by 5. We dragged along at about 3-4 knots until 11am friday morning steering first by the stars and then by an antiquated compass, the only navigational aid on board. We watched the pearl divers - they stay under for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes - and the oysters being opened and searched. We got back at 6pm with the aid of a sail. For me it was chiefly memorable for a personal record of 20 pee-less hours, as the toilet arrangements were rather primitive and it was impossible to piss from the only position one could adopt without falling over the stern.'

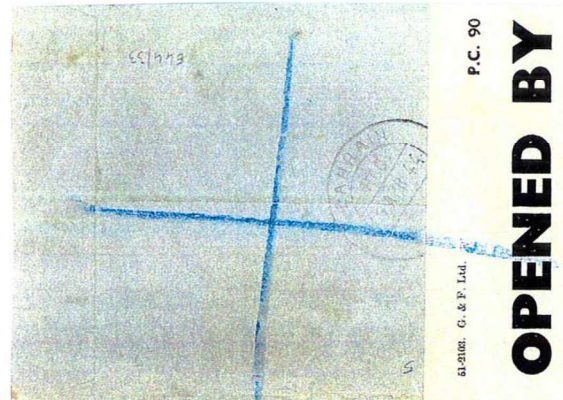
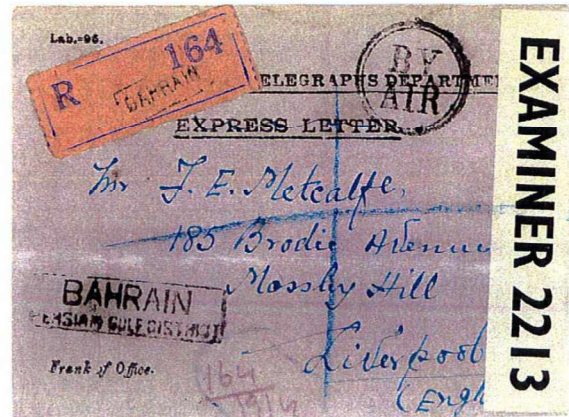


The aerogramme with the pearling story
BAHRAIN LOCAL MAIL

More examples of local mail have been sent in by Mike Parker :-

1. Registered local mail to Awali 14.2.55 with a mixed franking of 8 annas cancelled with type 27. If this was a proper rate it could not be made up with local stamps since only the 1½ annas had been issued. Standard blue/white PO label 'BAHRAIN' See page 17.
2. Ordinary mail with 1½ annas local stamps cancelled 7.11.57 with type 31. In spite of the change to decimal currency in 1957 the anna values continued in use; March 1959 being the latest date so far recorded. A couple of examples of the decimal local issue on cover were shown last time.
3. Underfranked letter from Umm Said. I mention this one because it probably answers a query about the contents of a letter I reported in issue no. 7 where the writer refers to ... 'one of the local issues'. The 'T / P.G.' lozenge and red crayon leave us in no doubt about the status of these stamps. See front cover
4. The 5p printed paper on this 1962 cover cancelled with type 34, Manama (1), (page 17)
5. Internal letter rate 10p is recorded on this cover cancelled type 34, Manama (1).

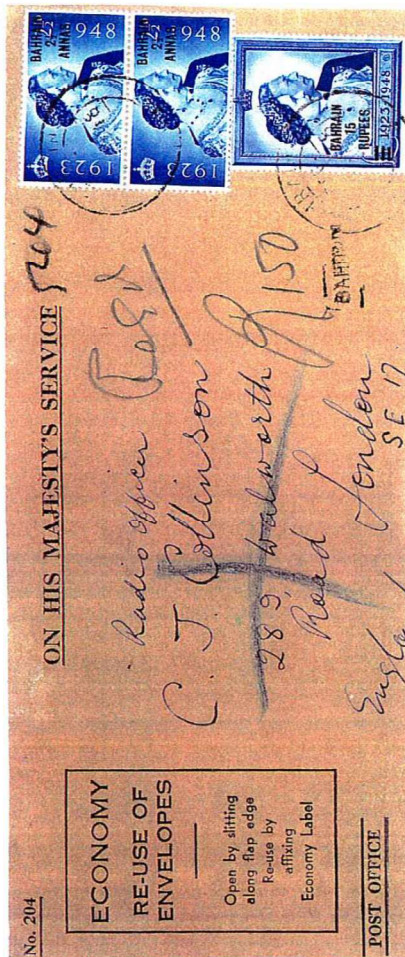
Official Mail from Bahrain PO 1944



P.C. 90

G. & P. Ltd.

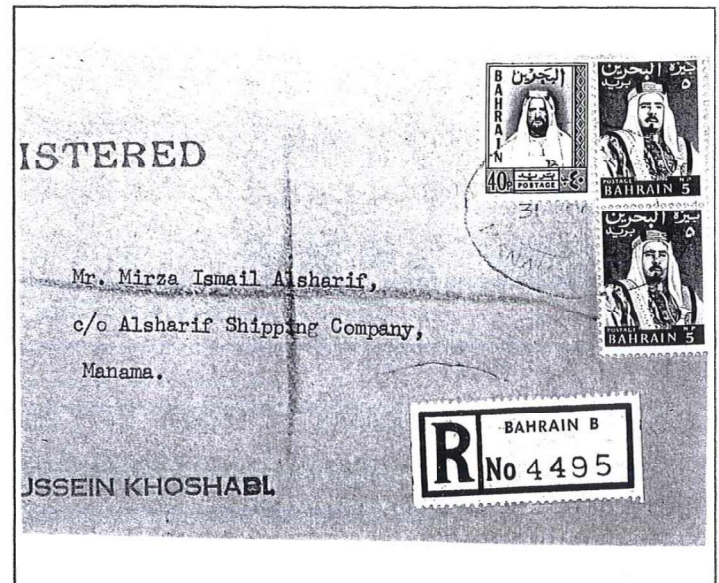
OPENED BY



and Jon Gillham :-

4. Local mail 24.8.65, franked 50p local registration rate (3x15p local and 1x5p last Agency issue). Cancelled type 37.

5. Local mail, date unclear franked 50p local registration rate (40np local and 2x5np last Agency issue). This is shown below. 'Naye Paise', the official name of the decimal currency introduced in 1957 was abbreviated to 'paise' on the 1957 local issue and further abbreviated to 'p' on the third and final local issue. (shown below)



All the local registered mail I have recorded over the last few months bears the standard blue/white GPO registration labels. Unlike Kuwait, local registration labels were not used.

INCOMING MAIL TO BAHRAIN 1901- 21

Thomas Johansen has compiled the following information and I am pleased he is sharing it with us. A recently discovered archive of business papers on Muharraq Island included much incoming mail still in original covers. This was addressed to Mohamed Doey who had the largest fleet of sailing vessels (dhows to Europeans) in Bahrain at this time. His fleet traded throughout the Gulf and ports on the Indian sub-continent. It is remarkable that written records from this period have survived so well and we should be grateful to Mohamed Doey and his successors that they ran such an orderly business. Some of these covers and their postal markings are described below.

'BAHRAIN UNPAID' Oval

This is recorded in the Donaldson supplement page 13 and the similar 'Muscat Unpaid' is shown on page 8. The four incoming covers described here all bear the Bahrain Unpaid oval as well as a horseshoe shaped postage due mark.

1. Bombay to Bahrain backstamped Bombay 29.1.04 and Bahrain 7.2.04, type 3. On the front there is a 'Bombay Due -- AS' open horseshoe marked 1 (anna) representing an underpayment of 1/2a and Bahrain oval which is dated 7.2.04. You will notice that Bahrain is spelt Bharin and the addressee Dooei. Different spellings of personal and place names are a common feature on Gulf covers. These variations are often due to the transliteration of the Arabic. Even modern Kuwait covers can be found where the office name on the registration label has a different spelling to that on postmark.

2. Karachi to Bahrain franked 1/2a, cancelled Karachi 28.9.07 and Bahrain type 3 dated 5.10.07. Also on the back is the Bahrain Unpaid oval. The address side has the 'Bahrain /Due/ One Anna' horseshoe*. Why was it taxed in Bahrain when it was accepted in Karachi? A 1/2a underpayment must have occurred often enough for the Bahrain post office to have a 'ONE ANNA' hand stamp made up. (page 18)

3. Karachi to Bahrain unfranked with Karachi datestamp 21.7.15, Bahrain oval (date unclear) and Bahrain type 3 (date not readable). This letter has passed through the postal censor's office and bears a boxed 11 /P.C.K. (Postal Censor Karachi) struck in blue. There is also an open horseshoe 'Karachi/Due AS' marked 1(anna).

4. Karachi to Bahrain unfranked with Karachi datestamp 4.7.21, a Karachi open horseshoe marked 1(anna), a Bahrain type 5A dated 14.7.21 and a Bahrain oval of the same date.

Nine covers in this archive show the 'Bahrain Unpaid' oval; 7.2.04 to 10.10.21.

'BAHRAIN DUE' HORSESHOE

There were two in use at the time (1) preset ONE ANNA and (2) open value type. The dates of use currently recorded are:

(1) 10.2.02 / 5.10.07* / 12.2.09 (uprated m/s Zannas) / 5.3.10 / 15.10.13 / 12.1.19.

(2) 23.2.21(1/2a) / 24.9.21(1/2a) / 27.9.21(1a) / 10.10.21(1a).

BAHRAIN TYPE 4

used as a receiving mark.

These covers described below all bear the type 4 rather than the type 3 receiving mark; the first so recorded.

(1) Registered Calicut, franked 3as and received Bahrain 2.1.14

(2) Registered Bombay, franked 3&1/2as received Bahrain 8.2.14

(3) Bombay franked 2&1/2as and received Bahrain 17.7.14. The back of this cover, shown on page , has a printed label reading "VP/ 1147 Bombay39". 'VP' is the Indian PO equivalent of COD (Cash on Delivery). See Donaldson page 135 and AGPH edition no.1 for another version of this label. In both these later examples it was amended for use as a registration label.



BAHRAIN TYPE 18

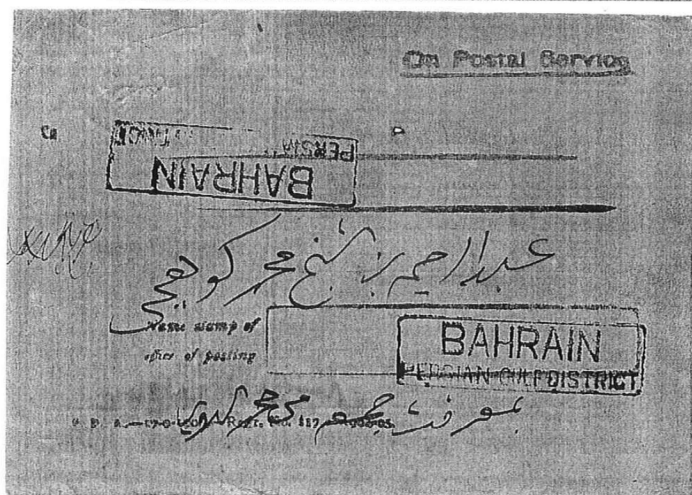
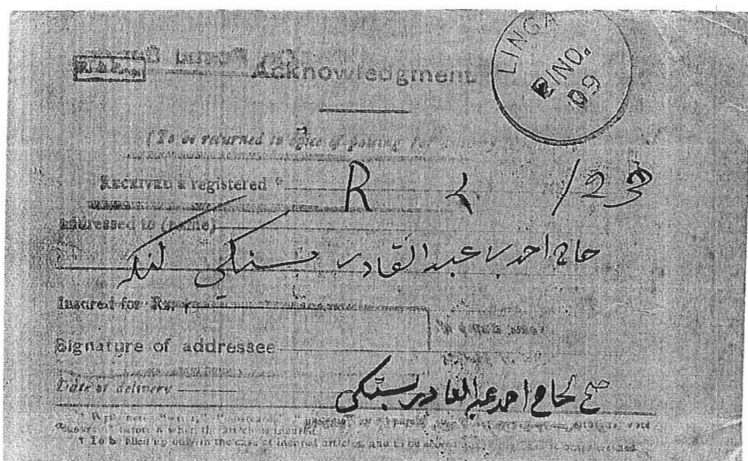
'BAHRAIN / PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT'

This cachet was used on blank registration labels and also to denote the office of origin on official mail. By coincidence the earliest and latest dates of use on official mail are recorded in this edition.

Earliest 21.11.09 on an Advice of Receipt card accompanying a registered letter to Linga shown on the next page.

Latest 19.4.44 on the Indian Posts & Telegraphs cover described on page 5.

Measurements taken show that this is almost certainly the device used on both occasions and therefore it holds the record for the greatest longevity of any Gulf postal marking - 34years 5months 28days.



THE BRITISH POSTAL AGENCY IN QATAR

Mike Parker has sent me details of some excellent Qatar postal history spanning the years 1950 to 1961.

At the time I received his letter I had just been put in the picture about the two Qatar lots in the Harpers sale. It was a contest between two telephone bidders neither of whom would let go. The classic situation beloved of all auctioneers. The prices realised in no way give a true picture of the market in the postal history of Qatar - I hope!

1. Doha to Bahrain 12.7.50 franked with a mixture of Bahrain and Value Only definitives and cancelled with Qatar type 2. This is the earliest recorded date for type 2. (not shown)

2. Registered airmail franked 12as and cancelled 5.9.54 with type 3. Doha registration labels were in use by this date but a gap in supply led to the use of the Bahrain 2 label. (page 23)

3. Umm Said. The QPC operated a mail room at Umm Said until a post office was opened on 1.2.56. I have no details of the services it offered, when it opened or how the mail was dealt with. The cover shown here is franked with the 1/2a Bahrain, cancelled type 26A (2.3.54) and has type 21(3.3.54) alongside as a receiving mark. The Umm Said connection is by virtue of the sender's address. Can anyone give more information e.g. if 2annas was the correct rate?



3. From Umm Said? Datestamp Bahrain 2.3.54



3. Front of cover from Umm Said
KUWAIT CANCELLERS

The numbering continues from page 21 of edition 12. The three listed here are all registered types and are usually struck in purple. There are variations in the dimensions, size of the lettering and position of the wording. I have included details of the registration labels. I suggest the best way of listing is to write: Type 48(Bayan) etc.

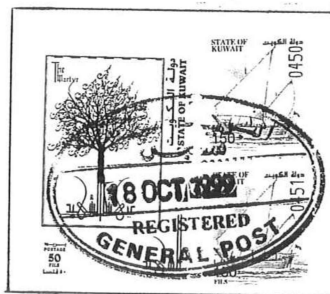
TYPE 48 REGISTERED DOUBLE OVAL BELTED

48(GENERAL POST)	There are 4 varieties so far recorded.
Horiz. dia. (mm)	variations in typeface
(a) 50	'registered' 22mm long in lower case.
(b) 50	'REGISTERED' 20mm long in upper case seriffed.
(c) 48	'registered' 12mm long in sloping lower case.
(d) 45	'registered' 20mm long in lower case.
	dates recorded registration label
(a)	4.8.94 - 16.10.95 e.g. Kuwait 157
(b)	16.12.98 - 18.10.99 e.g. Kuwait 9
(c)	31.5.99 Kuwait 96
(d)	18.1.96 GPO Kuwait D
	18.4.96 Salihiya
	1.8.99 GPO Kuwait B

No other type 48 cancellers are reported with varieties

Type 48 continued,

Office name	description	dates recorded	registration label
48(Bayan Post)	horiz. dia. 51mm 'Registered' in seriffs	30.05.94	Kuwait 148 stamped Bayan in arabic only.
		24.06.96	Kuwait Bayan
48(Faiha Post)	'REGISTERED'	13.05.03	bar code label FAIHA
48(Riqqa Post)	'REGISTERED'	9.04.01	bar code label RIQQA
48(Salmiyah Post)	'REGISTERED'	2.11.99	Kuwait 200 m/s A
48(Shawaikh Post)	horiz. dia. 40mm 'registered' in seriffs	30.11.00	bar code SHUWAIKH INDS
48(Shuwaikh Cnt Post)	horiz. dia. 45mm 'Registered' 45mm	10.7.95	SHUWAIKH - KUWAIT
		6.7.99	SHUWAIKH CNT - KUWAIT



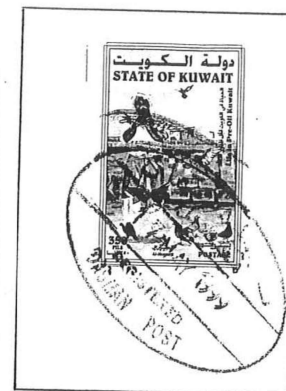
Type 4-8



Type 4-8



Type 4-9



Type 50

TYPE 49 DOUBLE OVAL REGISTERED

This canceller has only been recorded from two P.O.'s so far.
The layout is the same as type 48 without the belt i.e. the two horizontal bars.
All incorporate the word 'Registered'

Office name	description	dates recorded	registration label
49(Qadisiyah)	horiz. dia. 51mm	18.10.93	Qadisiyah
	boxed date		
	'REGISTERED' in arc	14.04.96	Qadisiyah-Kuwait

49(Souk Al-Dhakly Post) There are three known varieties.

Horizontal dia.	Description
(a) 55mm	PO name in arc, letters 3mm high 'REGISTERED' 20mm. All serifed letters.
(b) 55mm	as (a) but letters in name 2.5mm high and more spaced out.
(c) 55mm	as (a) but letters in name 2mm high. 'Registered' 17mm.

Dates recorded	Registration label
(a) 31.8.94 - 9.4.95	Souk Amir-Kuwait
(b) 7.11.95	Souk Al-Dhakly-Kuwait
(c) 12.11.97 - 28.7.99	" " "

The change of name occurred in February 1994 but the Souk Amir labels continued in use for at least another 14 months.

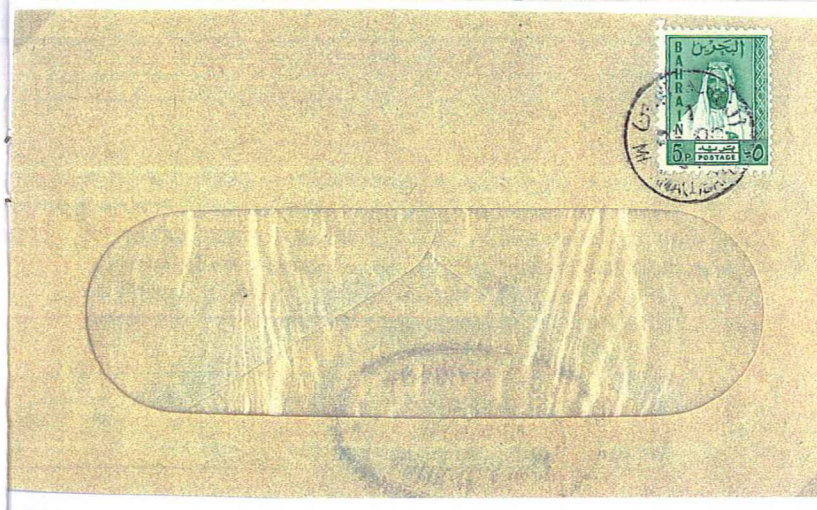
TYPE 50 SINGLE OVAL REGISTERED BELTED

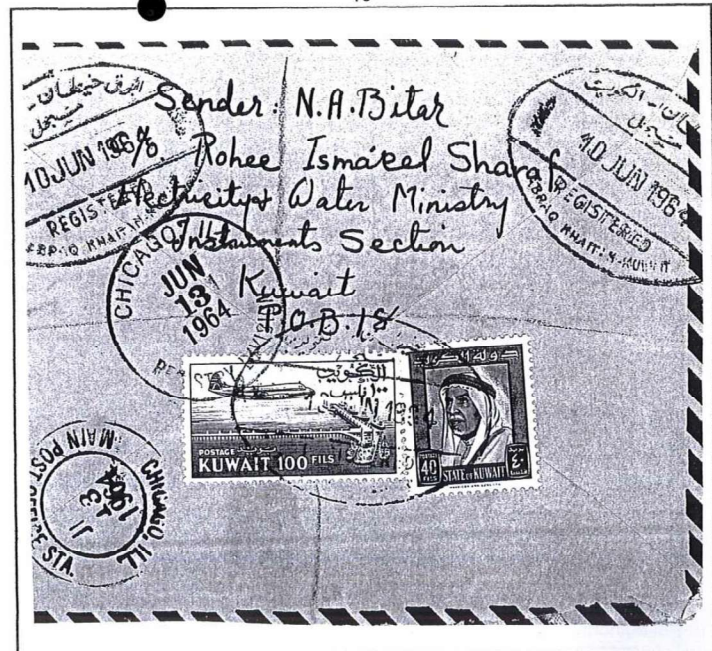
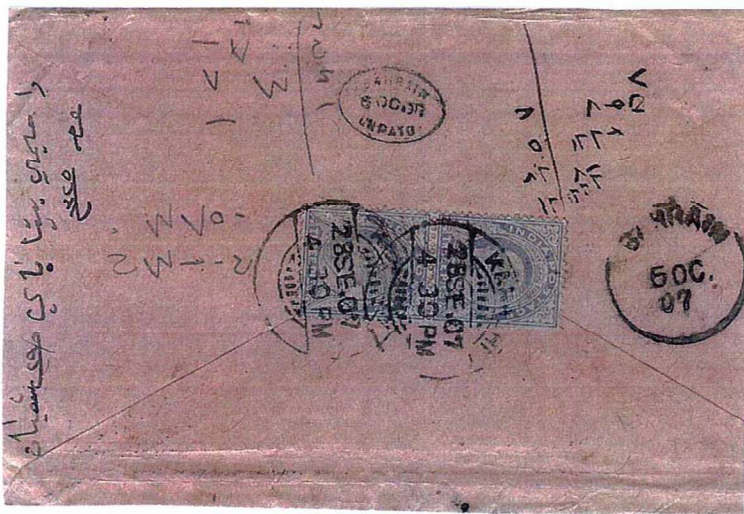
The single oval has been a familiar date stamp from the early years of the British Postal Agency. Some of the PO's opened after the Agency closed were also issued with this design. All incorporate the word 'Registered'.

Office name	description	dates recorded	registration label
50(Abraq Khaitan			
-Kuwait)	horiz. dia. 48mm	10.06.64	Abraq Khaitan-Kuwait
50(Khafji NZ			
Kuwait)	" " 48mm	7.11.64	Khafjie-Kuwait
50(Dasman)	" " 47mm	17.05.99	Dasman-Kuwait
50(Kaifan-Kuwait)	" 45mm	2.10.66	Kaifan-Kuwait
50(Safat Off Post	" 57mm	16.10.02	bar code - SAFAT
	Kuwait -) with two stars in the central belt.		



Bahrain local mail





Type 50 (Abraq Khaitan-Kuwait)

The above lists include some varieties in print size and layout. These have been included here as examples of how detailed these list could be. I doubt it is worth doing this as a general rule.

TYPE 51 LARGE SINGLE OVAL REGISTERED

The progression of the type numbers only indicates the order I have chosen to record the different date stamps. It is not chronological since the dates of introduction into service is not usually known. However on the evidence below I should have put type 51 much further up the list.



The oval has a diameter of 47/48mm and all incorporate 'Registered' in an arc.

Office name	Dates of use	examples of Registration labels
51(Safat)*	27. 6.79 - 9.1.84	SAFAT - A/E/F/110/130
51(Aaqool)	3.10.83 - 15.1.84	AAQOOL
51(Fahaiheel Central)	27.4.82	FAHAIHEEL CENTRAL
	25.8.99	FAHAHEEL KUWAIT
51(Shamiyah)	15.7.81	SHAMIYAH
51(Salimiyah Central)	4 12.82 - 12. 6.84	SALIMIYAH CENTRAL A/B
51(GPO Kuwait)	26. 2.82 - 21.12.82	GPO KUWAIT
51(Ahmadi)	28. 5.81 - 24. 8.81	AHMADI 2/4
51(Hawalli)	27.7.81 - 25. 5.82	HAWALLI B

* A smaller version diameter 43mm against 48mm is recorded 1.9.86 SAFAT B

TYPE 52 LARGE DOUBLE OVAL BELTED

This is an ordinary mail canceller with stars in the belt.

52(General Post)	19. 9.8?	Horiz. dia. 51mm
	5.10.84	" " 56mm

CORRESPONDENCE

FUJEIRA

Marc Van Daele has sent me a copy of a FDC dated 24.4.73 and franked with a set of 7 imperforated stamps showing paintings. It was backstamped Dubai 10.5.73. This set was is not listed in either SG part 19 or the 1974/5 edition of the Minkus Trucial States catalogue. Perhaps this isn't surprising as the stamp supply contracts to individual states were terminated on 1.8.72 when the UAE postal authority was inaugurated, making this, at best, an unauthorised issue.



A part of the Fujeira cover and the Dubai backstamp.

1957 SCOUT 'JUBILEE JAMBOREE' ISSUES

Mashael Alhageri is currently working on a paper about the background to the unissued Kuwait Jamboree stamps and would welcome any information. She tells me that Khalid Al-Abdulgghni has already given her valuable information about dates of use of those which did go on sale in Bahrain and the other Postal Agencies.

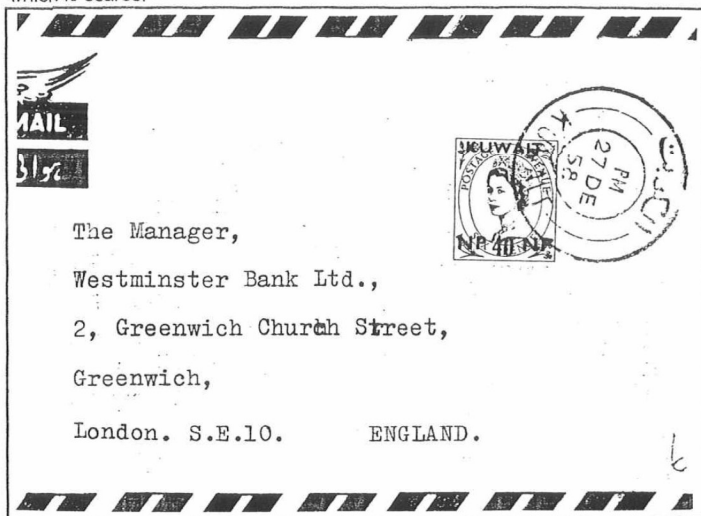
KVIR POSTAL STATIONERY USED IN KUWAIT

A second paper in preparation is India Stationery envelopes used in Kuwait and India PS overprinted Kuwait during the KVIR period.

E-Mail:redab70@hotmail.com

KUWAIT TYPE 38 USED ON EXTERNAL MAIL

Barrie Cook has sent me photocopies of 7 covers sent from Kuwait dated from 3.3.58 to 27.12.58. All were cancelled with Type 38 canceller, designated for local mail but used in these instances on external mail. I am grateful for his response and would ask everyone to report any covers they have which were sent between 1 February 1958 to 31 January 1959. This includes internal mail which is scarce.



A clear example of type 38 on external mail dated 27.12.58

LATE USE of INDIA POSTAL STATIONERY

This cover was offered in an ESA sale and is the only recorded example of Indian PO stationery used after 31.3.48. It is a GVIR 1&1/2as PS envelope (yellowish paper) with stamp design in deep purple and overprinted Bahrain. It was additionally franked on the back 3xSG61 making up a 9 annas rate. Datestamped 16.5.48 with type 9 and bearing the type 19 cachet (twice!).

REGISTER-LETTER



M. S. WADIA.

To: M/s. E. F. KAVARANA & CO.

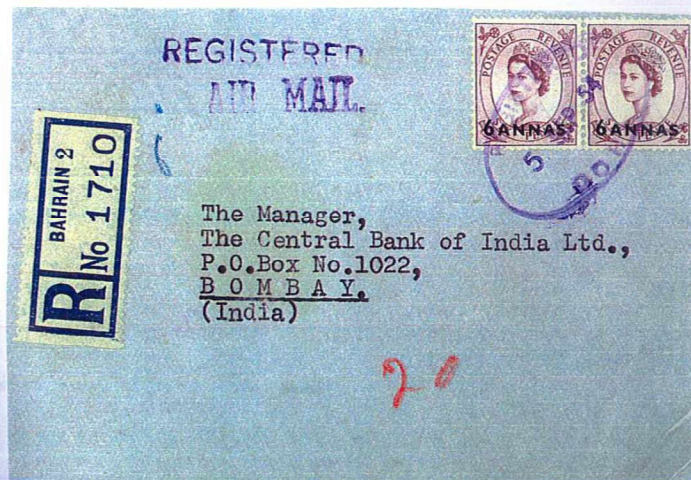
BOTWALA BUILDING 1st Floor

ROMANJEE - MASTER ROAD

BOMBAY - 2.

T. SHARAF ALI
BAHRAIN - (P.O. GULF)

1950's mail from Doha



REGISTERED



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