

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



30 July 1972: A cover sent from Bait Al Falaj Post Office in Muscat franked with a strip of three of the 5 Baizas on 3 Baizas surcharge cover the single weight airmail fee of 65 Baizas to the UK. The cover shows the combination franking of the 1972 Surcharge and new definitive issue.

Edition 31 - Summer 2009

Edited and Published by Thomas Johansen based on the concept of Terry Jones
PO Box 5410, Manama, Bahrain
Email: camelto@batelco.com.bh / Phone +973 39614651

www.bahrain-stamps.com - www.oman-stamps.com - www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com
www.dubai-stamps.com - www.kuwait-stamps.com - www.qatar-stamps.com

CONTENTS

- Welcome to Edition 31	02
- Comments, Questions & Corrections	03
- British Postal rates in the Gulf	05
- Bahrain	20
- Kuwait	24
- Muscat & Oman	29
- United Arab Emirates	
o Abu Dhabi	34
o Dubai, UAE & Trucial States	37
- Links, Contacts and Credits	48

Welcome to Edition 31 of the Quarterly

Dear Readers,

Edition 31 wraps up my 3rd year of accumulating, gathering and redistributing the information that you all send to me along with what I find myself from browsing the global auction market and communicating with various collectors around the world.

As such it is quite pleasing that Edition 31 has had contributions from 19 people and that I have had to leave 3-4 pieces out as I had reached my 50 page target – it certainly also helped getting the issue ready on time so my thanks to all of you.

In Edition 30 I mentioned that the next GCC exhibition will take place in Muscat in November this year – unfortunately there are still no final dates confirmed. In addition to this we will have a major exhibition in Qatar next year – due to be in spring.

Finally, on the subscription front many of you have renewed so thanks for your continued support and for those of you who have not please let me know your intentions. I hereby wish you all a wonderful summer – I will be spending most of July and August in the south of France and will be back in Bahrain on August 16 when I will begin work on Edition 32.

Have a great summer!
Thomas Johansen

Subscription details are found in the back.

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Reader's Feedback

Edition 30 – Dubai Varieties – Page 36



Norayr Agopian was kind enough to comment as follows: I noted that the article by Howard Courtney about Dubai 1969 Fishes issued in full sheets of 25 stamps mentions that these are known only CTO. I'm afraid that is not correct as I have several full sheets of 25 from 2 values that are not CTO at all. I have in the past sold the full set in blocks UM with no CTO and therefore can confirm all stamps from sheets of 25 are known mint without CTO.

Joachim Duester came across the following about Russell E. Murr:

(See the mixed franking Fujaira cover under UAE Trucial States – page 43)

A recent eBay auction for a Muscat 16 January 1971 FDC reminded me of an enquiry regarding Russell E. Murr to whom this FDC was addressed. Russell Murr died on 15 October 2007. This is the obituary from the Intelligencer Journal Lancaster of 17 October 2007:

"Russell E. Murr, 89, of 220 Noble Street, Lititz, PA died on Monday, October 15, 2007 at the

United Zion Retirement Community, Lititz. Born in Lititz, he was the son of the late Harold Murr and Florence Imhoff Hoover. He was the husband of Anna Mae Gilbert Murr, and they celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in August of this year. Russell was a graduate of the former Rothsville High School, and he was a veteran of the United States Navy serving during WW II. Retired in 1983, Russell was a personnel manager at the Wilbur Chocolate Company, Lititz. Mr. Murr was an active member of the Lititz United Methodist Church. His interests included stamp collecting and writing to Pen Pals.

Surviving in addition to his wife are three sons, Brian K. Murr of Elizabethtown, Larry E. husband of Patricia Murr of Texas and Sheldon L. husband of Rita Murr of Manheim; one daughter, Tracy wife of Gregory Winters of Lititz; four grandchildren, Kim Colorado, Kyle Murr, Hayley and Alyssa Winters; one great granddaughter, Janet Colorado; and a sister, Violet Shoff of Lancaster. He was preceded in death by a brother, Gilbert Enck.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral service from Buch Funeral Home, 21 Market Square, Manheim, PA on Friday, October 19, 2007 at 10:30 AM with Reverend Harry L. Kaufhold Jr. officiating. Interment in Brunnerville United Methodist Cemetery, Warwick Township. There will be a public viewing at the funeral home on Friday morning from 9:30 AM until the time of service. Please omit flowers. Those desiring may send contributions in Russell's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, 3544 North Progress Avenue, Suite 205, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or Hospice of Lancaster County, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604-4125."

Always so sad to hear about a great collector only when he is dead...

Aerogramme rate change in the Gulf:

I spoke to an old friend with vast aerogramme experience about the question that has now come up a couple of times relating to the drop in aerogramme rates from 40np to 30np on the 1st of April 1959 – his comment was:

“In regards to your query, the rate change, to my knowledge, has nothing to do with postal rates in UK, the rate for aerogramme never altered from 6 pence between 1943 and 1966, nor was there any reduction in postal rates.”

Where there any other areas within what was left of the British Empire in 1959 that saw similar changes in aerogramme rates or was this unique to the Gulf?

Postal Rates of the British Post Office in the Persian Gulf

THE LONDON GAZETTE, 29 JUNE, 1948

IV. *Air Mail Packets from British Postal Agencies in the Persian Gulf.*

(i) *Letters 3½ annas per ½ ounce or part thereof; Postcards 2½ annas.*

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Muscat, Pakistan (Western), Palestine, Sharja, Syria, Transjordan.

(ii) *Letters 6 annas per half ounce or part thereof; Postcards 3 annas each.*

All countries in Europe.

Aden, Algeria, Ascension, British Somaliland, Burma, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Ceylon, Cyrenaica, Eritrea, Ethiopia, French Somali Coast, India (including French and Portuguese), Madeira, Morocco (French and Spanish Zones and Tangier), Pakistan (Eastern), Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Siam, Somalia, Sudan (Anglo-Egyptian), Sudan (French), Tibet, Tripolitania, Tunis, U.S.S.R. in Asia.

(iii) *Letters 12 annas per ½ ounce or part thereof; Postcards 6 annas each.*

All countries in Africa, Asia and Australasia except the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Marian Islands (Guam) and those countries mentioned in (i) and (ii) above.

(iv) *Letters 1 Rupee per ½ ounce or part thereof; Postcards 9 annas each.*

All countries in the Western Hemisphere.

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands and the Marian Islands (Guam only).

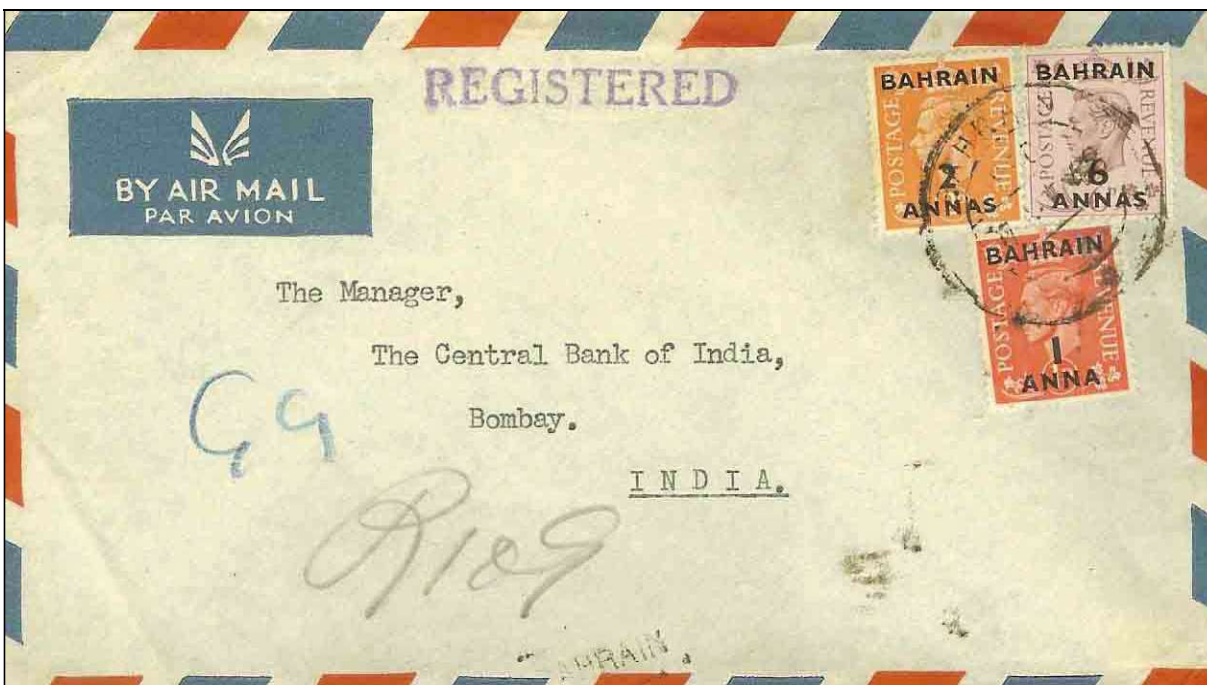
Over the past 3 years I have been asked several times to compile a presentation of the postal rates during the British Period of the Gulf. Having now spent a few years of accumulating a database made up of material from Kuwait, Qatar, Muscat, Dubai and Bahrain and getting my own Bahrain stock organized I have been able to put together the findings illustrated over the next few pages.

Helping the project is the section of the London Gazette illustrated above and sent to me by John Copeland, which shows us that the postal rate matrix was divided in to 4 different groups.

In addition to the 4 groups the presentation also looks at the development of registration rates from 1948 to 1952 and various other postal rates such as local postage rates, book post, surface mail and 2nd class air mail.

Registration Fees:

The costs of registering letters increased from 3as to 6as – via two increments - during the British Period. The first registration fee to be applied was 3as – a fee that had also been in use during the last 17 years of the Indian Period.



7 April 1948: A registered cover showing the use of the 3as registration fee. The total postage paid is 9as covering the registration rate plus the 6as charge for ½ oz to India.

A small detail relating to early registered letters was that the origin was still being applied directly on the letter by handstamp because registration labels were still not available following WWII.



At some point of time in May or June 1948 the first British style registration labels were introduced. The cover above to the left with the Indian Type handstamp is dated 6 May 1948 whereas the cover to the right with the registration label is dated 17 June 1948. If anyone has any covers closing the date gap please forward them to me. I have also recorded a philatelic cover franked with the Bahrain 1948 definitive set dated 6 July with the handstamp applied.

The first increase in the registration fee took place in May 1949. The below cover is dated 1 May 1949 and shows the use of the 3as fee.



The first record of the 4as registration fee applied is 3 May 1949 – the cover is illustrated below.



The 4as fee remained in use at least until the end of March 1952 – the below cover, dated 31 March 1952, shows the use of the 4as registration rate on a letter to South Africa. The total franking of 52as covers the quadruple weight of 48as (4x12as) plus 4as registration fee.



By mid-April the registration fee had increased from 4as to 6as. The below cover sent to Switzerland is dated 14 April 1952 and is this earliest record I have found of the 6as registration fee. The remaining 6as of franking covers the air fee to Europe for a ½ oz.



The 6as registration fee changed to a 40np registration fee with the currency reform of 1957 – a rate that stayed in use until the end of the British Period.

The below cover was sent from Muscat to the USA on 31 July 1965 and shows the use of the 40np registration rate. The cover has been franked with a total of 140np covering the 100np fee for a ½ oz to the USA plus registration.

Though I have not recorded any registered covers franked with British stamps in the period between 1 August 1965 and 29 April 1966 I have recorded one local cover from Bahrain dated 31 October 1965 which has been paid with a 40np registration fee.



Group I: Letters 3½as per half ounce or part thereof and post cards 2½as

This group covers the APU with some exceptions – Aden and Saudi Arabia have been left out whereas Afghanistan, Cyprus and Western Pakistan have been included.



The above letter dated 2 January 1950 has been sent to Iran and franked with a total of 7½as covering the 3½as airmail charge for ½ oz plus the 4as registration fee. The two below letters are both franked with 3½as – one was sent to Kuwait (30 June 1951) while the other was sent to Egypt (8 December 1955)



With the currency reform in 1957 the 3.5as rate was converted to 20np.

The cover to left sent to Lebanon has been franked with 20np and is dated 7 February 1958.

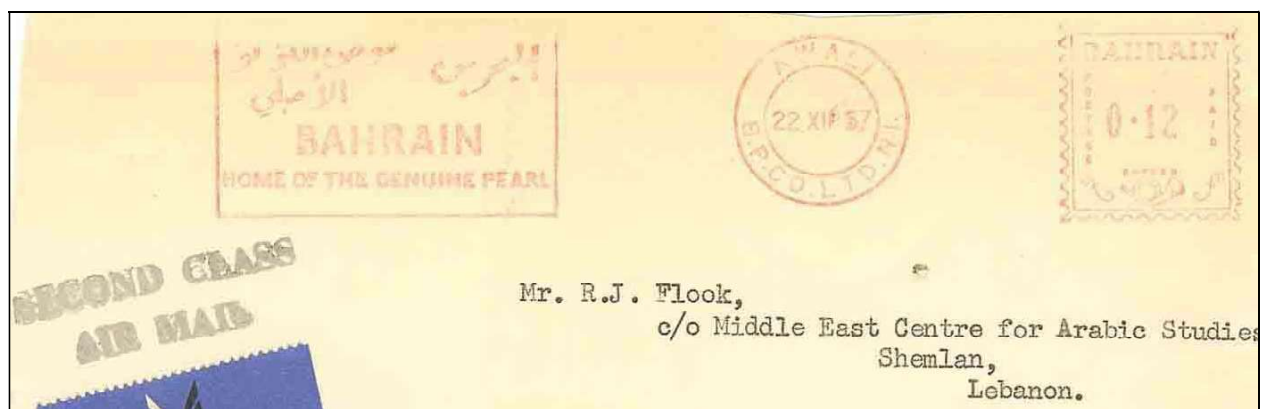


The above cover (7 September 1957) illustrates the registered double rate to Kuwait of 80np covering 1 oz whereas the cover below (17 September 1957) illustrates the registered triple rate of 100np to Kuwait.



The cut-out shown below is from a meter mark cover that was sent to Lebanon. It is dated 22 December 1957 and has had a handstamp "Second Class Air Mail" applied to it. The postage paid for 2nd class airmail was 12np.

I have not recorded any 2nd class airmail from before the currency reform but based on the known conversions I would expect that the charge to have been 2as.



Group II: Letters 6as per half ounce or part thereof and post cards 3as

This group mainly covers Europe and the UK but also destinations such as India, East Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and Aden.



By the end of the Indian Period the inclusive air fee for ½ oz to the UK was 12as and 14as to Europe. The air fee to India was 2.5as.

Postcards to the UK cost 4as while they cost 5as to Europe.

The cover illustrated to the left and dated 8 April 1948 shows early use of the new 6as rate to the UK.



The two covers above show the 6as rate applied to mail destined for Saudi Arabia (24 December 1952) and Goa in Indian (30 April 1954).

The cover illustrated to the right was sent to Denmark on 21 January 1955 and shows the use of the 6as rate to Europe in the form of a double rate of 12as covering 1 oz plus the 6as registration fee – totaling 18as.





Following the 1957 currency reform the 6as rate changed to 40np – a rate that stayed in use until the end of the British Period. The top left cover dated 28 May 1957 shows the 40np rate to the UK whereas the cover to the right shows late usage of the 40np rate from Muscat to the UK dated 24 November 1965.



As per the bulletin the post card rate introduced was 3as illustrated above via a QSL card dated 11 March 1950. The rate was converted to 20np in 1957 as illustrated by the above right postcard to the UK dated 19 May 1959



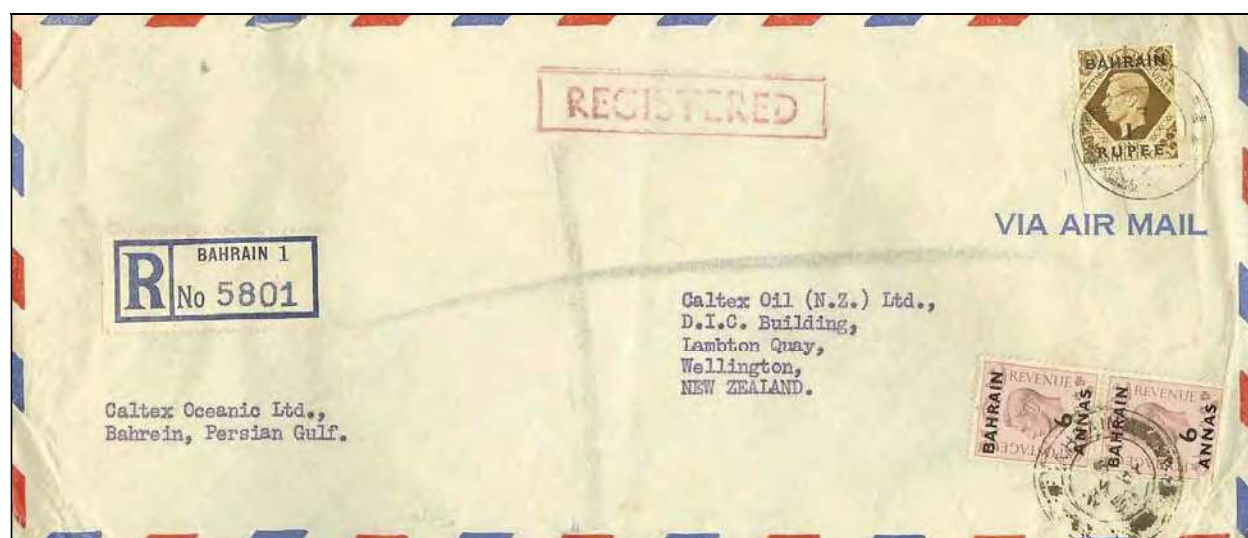
2nd class airmail was available at 20np following the 1957 currency reform. The cover to Aden is dated 11 December 1957, the cover to Cochin, India is dated 20 June 1959 and the Muscat cover to the UK is dated 23 February 1966. Using the postcard rates as benchmark the 2nd class airmail rate would have been 3as prior to 1957.

Group III: Letters 12as per half ounce or part thereof and post cards 6as

This group covers the rest of Asia, Australasia and Africa not covered by Group I and II.



The above cover sent to Australia and dated 6 December 1949 (previously illustrated in Edition 17) is franked with a total of 40as covering the triple weight (1½ oz) of 36as plus the 4as registration free. The below cover sent to New Zealand and dated 27 July 1950 shows the double rate of 24as plus the 4as registration fee.





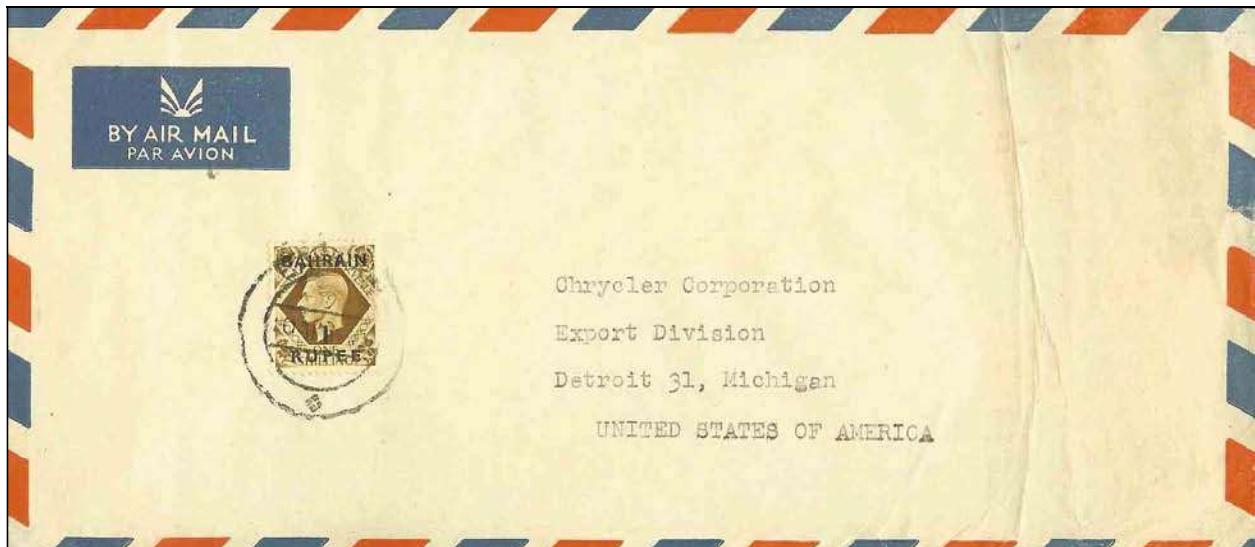
Two covers, one sent to South Africa (1 July 1952) and the other sent to Kenya (13 September 1955), both franked with 12as.

12as became 75np in 1957 and the cover to the right, sent to St. Helena on 22 June 1963, illustrates the use of the 75np rate.



Group IV: Letters 1 Rupee per half ounce or part thereof and post cards 9as

This group covers all countries in the western hemisphere.

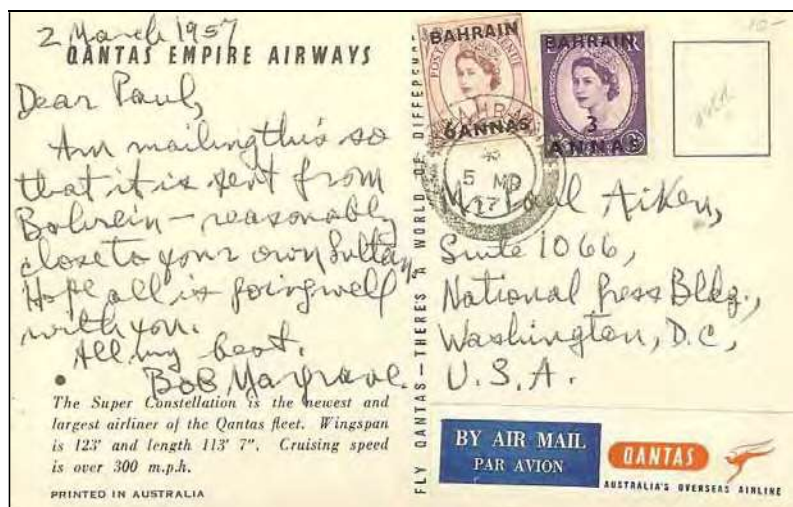


By the end of the Indian Period the inclusive air fee for ½ oz to the USA and Canada was 18as whereas post cards were 8as. With the introduction of the British Period these rates changed to 1 Rupee and 9as respectively. The cover illustrated above and dated 10 April 1948 shows early use of the new 1 Rupee rate to the USA.



The above cover dated 6 October 1955 shows the same 1 Rupee rate to Canada. The below cover was sent to the USA on 12 September 1954 and shows the quadruple registered rate of 70as (4x16as + 6as registration fee). The cover also shows commercial usage of the 2 Rupees KGVI issue with the "raised 2" – SG 77a.





The post card on the right was sent to the USA on 5 March 1957 – 27 days before the currency reform.

The two below covers show new currency stamps used on mail to Canada (22 September 1959) and USA (12 January 1960).

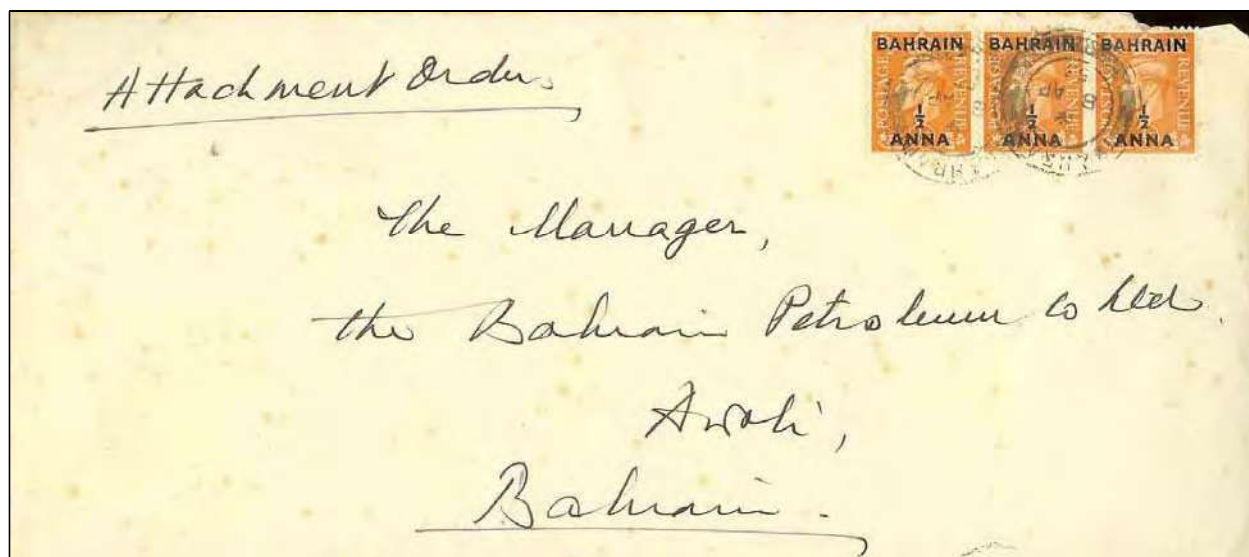


The two covers below have both been endorsed “2nd class airmail”, however, one cover has been paid with 50np while the other has only been paid with 40np.

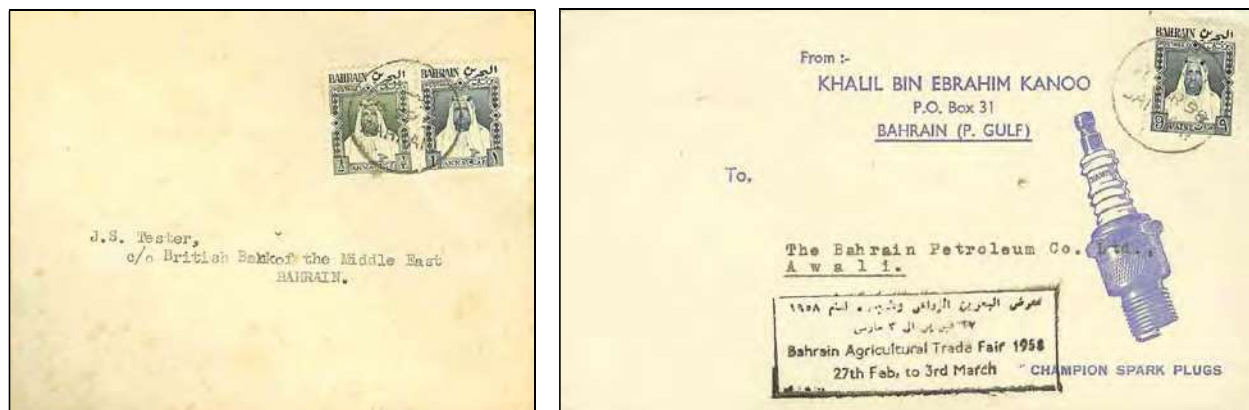
Looking back at Group I where normal airmail was 20np and 2nd class airmail was 12np (60%) and Group II where normal airmail was 40np and 2nd class airmail was 20np (50%) doesn’t offer any consistency. But since the 40np covers has not been charged postage due I would expect 2nd class airmail in Group IV to be charged at 40np. However, I have not been able to source any other 2nd class airmail covers in order to clarify which rate is the right one.



Local and surface mail was not covered by the London Gazette bulletin but seems to be equally uncomplicated.

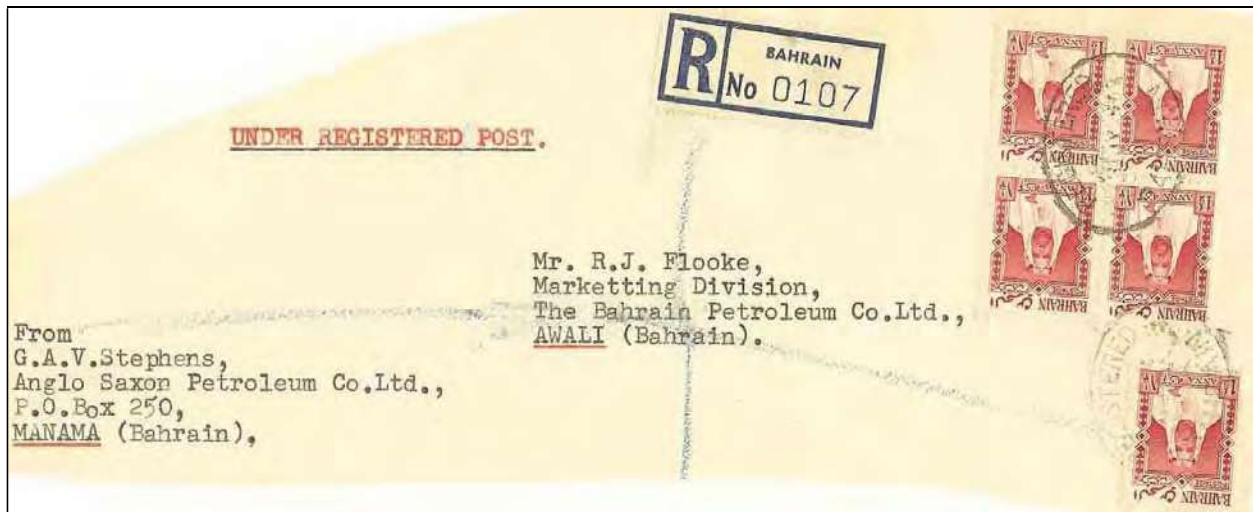


The local cover above dated 8 April 1953 has been franked with 1.5as as a rate that changed to 9np in 1957 as illustrated by the below right cover dated 1 March 1958.



The two below covers (dated 31 May 1958 & 20 Dec 1959) appear to have been sent as printed matter/book post – neither both cover was sealed – and have both been franked with 6np.





Local registered mail was subject to the same registration charge as international mail. The cover above is dated 28 July 1955 and has been franked with 7.5as covering the 1.5as local mail fee plus the prevailing 6as registration fee.



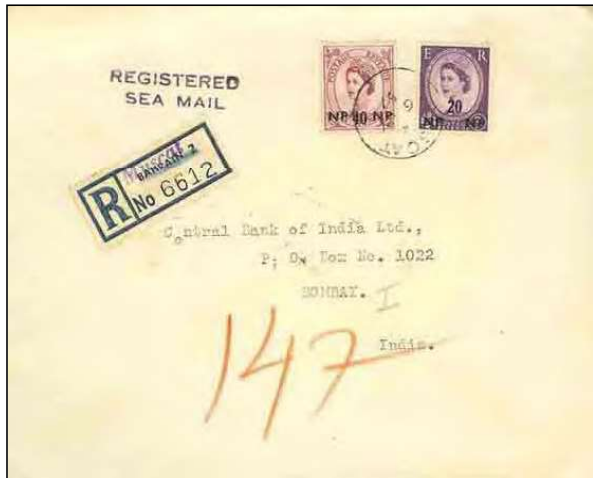
The surface mail rate to the UK and Empire during the final days of the Indian Period was 2.5as and this rate was carried forward to the British Period.

The cover illustrated to the left and dated 13 April 1948 show the 2.5as rate used on surface mail to Scotland.

The two below covers indicate that the 2.5as continued to be applied to Empire or Commonwealth countries – the cover to

South Africa is dated 26 February 1949 and the cover to India is dated 21 June 1956. The India cover has been franked with 11as covering double surface rate of 5as + the 6as registration fee.

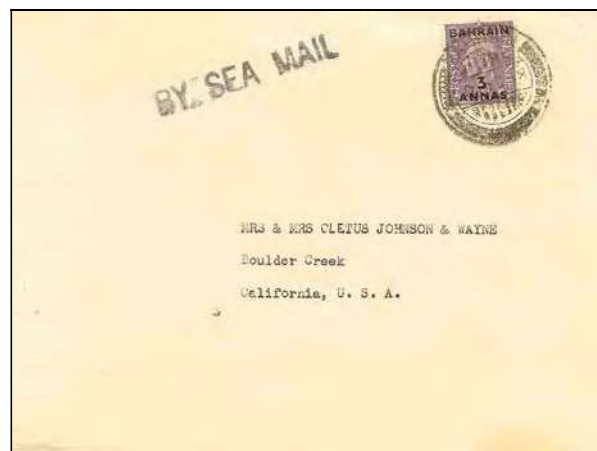




Following the currency reform of 1957 it would appear that the 2.5as surface rate was converted to 20np as indicated by the cover to the left. It shows the registration fee of 40np plus the surface fee of 20np.

A cover dated 10 December 1948 and sent to the USA with a "BY SEA MAIL" handstamp applied to it. The cover has been franked with 3as.

The below cover dated 1 November 1955 has been endorsed "Book-Post" and sent to the USA. It has been franked with unoverprinted values but they correspond to 1.5as of "Bahrain Anna" overprints.



Bahrain

Mail of Unusual Origin: Incoming mail from Mauritius



A cover sent from Mauritius on 16 Aug 1899 via Tuticorin (29 Aug 1899) with Bahrain Donaldson Type 3 arrival backstamp dated 10 Sep 1899.

The postal guides from July 1898 and Jan 1903 both confirm that there were two routes for foreign post to Mauritius - via Bombay and Aden thence by French Packet; or via Tuticorin and Colombo by BISN Co steamer - Tuticorin was the 'office of foreign exchange' in southern India. Foreign mail (other than individual letters by private ship under Paquebot arrangements) could enter and leave India only through an office of foreign exchange. There were major ones - Bombay, Aden, Calcutta etc. - and minor ones such as Duzdab, Bharno, Karachi, Tuticorin, Negapatam etc.

For people in India posting mail to Mauritius the Aden route would be the more common ... but not necessarily in the opposite direction. The BISN contract steamers via Colombo carried mail inwards from all over the Far East - Australasia, China, Malaya and the rest of SE Asia particularly - and there was a lot of it. There was a daily steamer between Tuticorin and Colombo, as opposed to a weekly one from Bombay to Aden. Sometimes the route was determined by different postage rates, but at other times it depended on which steamer would enable the letter to arrive soonest.

Below is illustrated a cover from 1945 sent to the USA and franked with two copies of the 1933 5 Rupees value – a very late and usual use on commercial mail. Unfortunately I don't know the exact date of the cover but given that it doesn't carry censorship and that it has a "Via UK" superscription it was most like sent



after August 1945 and would have been subject to an air fee of 29as. As such the 160as paid would have covered 2½ ounces at 29as per ½ oz (145as) plus the required 7.5as for surface mail (3.5as for 1st oz plus 2as for each additional oz) totaling 152.5as leaving the cover overpaid by 7.5as.

1955 2 Rupees: Type III – SG 77b/77ba – The Inverted “I”



Type II. At the time they report less than 10 mint copies of 77b recorded but illustrated here is a sheet of 40. The inverted “I” is found in position 2/1 and the max quantity of the variety is 150.

SG 77ba – the inverted “I” is currently the highest priced Bahraini stamp with an SG valuation of 3000 pounds for the mint copy. In the November 1994 GBOS study paper on KGV stamp issues of the British Post Offices in the Persian Gulf the following comments are made: A total of 6000 copies of Type b were printed in March 1955 – like Type II (77a) the “2” is raised above “RUPEES” but the lines of the overprint are 16mm apart instead of 15mm apart on



The opening of Sanad Post Office:

On 30 December 2008 Bahrain's latest post office was opened:



The cancellation mark above was used on the day of opening and possibly later on as well but we have not found any commercial mail with the strike. The below registered letter was sent to

me by Salam Al-Shakar so we could introduce the post office in the Quarterly. It has been cancelled on 23 May 2008 and was sent to my work address. The canceller used (SD 6) has got Sanad – Bahrain as origin. The red boxed “AR” stands for “Avis de Reception” – i.e. advise of receipt.

رقم التسجيل Registered No.		
POSTAL SERVICES		
Type of Service:	نوع الخدمة:	
Name: <u>Thomas Johanson</u>	الاسم:	
Address: <u>P.O. Box 5410</u>	العنوان:	
<u>Manama</u>		
<u>Bahrain</u>		
L – LOC : 36347		
201 – 20130 – 18/05/2009 11:47:57		
الهاتف:		



So far three cancellation marks are in use at Sanad Post Office – all 3 are shown below:



SD 4 and 5 are similar and have the date in different color ink that the rest of the strike – SD 6 is all the same ink. We have been told that SD 1, 2 and 3 exist but they have not yet been activated.

The Sanad Post Office strike shown on the previous page (and used on the back of the above registered letter) is no longer active.

Kuwait



The 1923 Service issue – Double Albino Overprint:

The image to the right was recently sent to me and illustrates double overprint (one albino) on the 5 Rupee value SG O12a.

It is priced at STG 150.

KUWAIT to the USA via the Trans Pacific Route – 1940 (via PanAm)



Kuwait (19 SEP 40) to New York, USA franked with 26½as (air 23½as + surface 3as) cancelled by Donaldson Type 5 – censored with handstamp “Passed By Censor 161 SINGAPORE”.

First carried overland to Basra, then by air to India, transferred from the BOAC flight to CNAC (China National Aviation Corp) via Chungking to Hong Kong and then via Singapore (no Hong Kong transit marks). Then onwards by PanAm, Trans Pacific, Flight FAM 14 flown on Clipper Flying Boat *American* – departed Hong Kong 03 October and arrived at San Francisco 17 October. The route was via Singapore, Manila, Guam, Wake Island, Midway and Honolulu.

AN EARLY KUWAIT REGISTERED AIRMAIL COVER

By Frank Mallalieu

Kuwait's use of metered mail, largely ignored in its earliest days, has become an area that has attracted a lot of interest in recent years from collectors of Kuwait's postal history. The reasons are probably what one would expect; meters are rather bland in appearance as compared to their often much more colorful and attractive stamp "cousins", and Kuwait's use of meters only date to the early 1950s, making them a late entry into the larger areas of Kuwait stamp collecting. One result has been that much of the metered mail from Kuwait in the early years of its usage (the 1950s) has been lost, as it was not extensively saved. The end result of this that the earlier metered covers have relatively high value according to two catalogs that price such covers (KUWAIT POSTAL CANCELLATIONS (1915 - 2000), Salam & Saleem Al-Shakar, and THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE METER STAMP CATALOG, Joel Hawkins & Richard Stambaugh). Possibly there are other similar types of catalogs with which I am not familiar, but these two are fairly well known and are generally considered to be accurate in their data.

Although the purpose of this article is not to present an in-depth history of Kuwait postal meter usage, a brief background is appropriate. According to Salam & Saleem Al-Shakar, when the British Postal Administration opened the Ahmadi post office on May 1, 1950, the operation of this facility became the responsibility of the Kuwait Oil Company. Even after the independence of Kuwait was accomplished the Kuwait Oil Company continued to operate the Ahmadi post office, and did not relinquish this responsibility until April 30, 1965. From its inception until about 1960 the postmarks of metered mail from Ahmadi bore the name (initials, actually) of the Kuwait Oil Company. At the time metered mail was initiated the currency used was Annas and rupees. In the late 1950s the currency was changed to Naye Paise (N.P.). After Independence the currency was changed to Fils.

The exact year in which the Ahmadi post office first used metered mail is not precisely known. Al-Shakar does not list any year date when meters were first used on Kuwait mail. Hawkins & Stambaugh state that the first meter was "installed" in 1953. The earliest year dates I have seen are 1953. The more-or-less typical meter design used from the inception of its usage until about the late 1950s consists of two different components. On the right side of the typical overall cancellation is found a nearly square decorative tablet designed to look like a stamp, with perforations around the edges (the perforations on the right vertical side are missing in some instances). KUWAIT appears near the top of the tablet while the currency value appears in a small rectangular box at the middle bottom of the tablet. The currency denomination (Annas, Rupees, N.P.) appears in initials as well as spelled out to the left and right of the denomination. In the middle of the tablet, just above the denomination and value tablet are two mirror-image curling ribbons inscribed "POSTAGE PAID". To the left of this tablet/stamp is the postmark, consisting of a single-ring circle inscribed "KUWAIT" at the top and "K.O.CO.LTD.N.1." along the bottom. There is a partial inner ring located below KUWAIT and above K.O.CO.LTD.N.1, but the segments are not connected. The date appears across the middle in a straight line in the manner used by the British, the day first with the month (in Roman numerals) in the middle followed by the year (only the last two digits). Hawkins & Stambaugh identify this postmark as being Neopost LV-6 as well as Meter Number N.1.

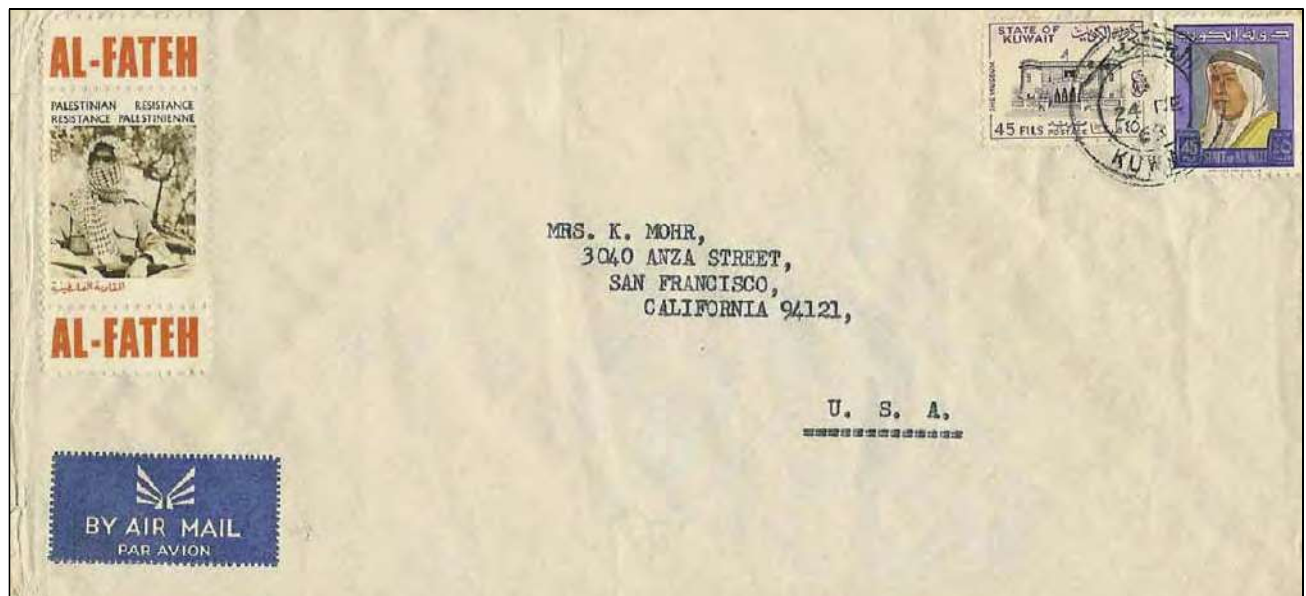


The cover which is the subject of this article is described as an early Kuwait registered airmail meter cover by virtue of having a 1953 postmark. It is also interesting because it was sent registered and via airmail (at least in part) to its destination in Genoa, Italy. The cover is franked with the double meter of 6as value each (total 12as). This cancel is listed in the Al-Shakar catalog as KMM03, the only difference being that the illustration in the catalog shows the two tablets as missing perforations on their right sides, while the right sides of the tablets on this cover show a very slight amount of the perforation design. The circular postmark matches that in Al-Shakar's catalog, and is dated 15 VI 53 (June 15, 1953). There is also a well-preserved AHMADI-KUWAIT registration label attached to the cover front.

The back of the cover (see next page) has five different backstamps, which are certainly appealing to postal history collectors. They tell an interesting story as to the route this cover took to get to its destination. There is a large circular postmark from Cairo, Egypt inscribed AERODRUME __ CAIRE and dated 20.JU.53. This is followed by a very faint postmark of which I am able to only decipher POSTA ROMA FERR (?) and dated 21.6.53. Another postmark, inscribed TORINO (though this may be ROMA - TORINO, as Torino (Turin) is a bit out of the way for mail going from Rome to Genoa), is also a little hard to decipher but the date appears to be 21.6.53 as well. The last two postmarks are from Genoa (GENOVA in Italian), the first being a registration postmark (RACCOOM.A) dated 22.6.53, while the last one reads S. OLCESE GENOVA and is dated 23.6.53. The total length of the journey from Kuwait to Genoa, Italy took eight days, not too long considering the number of stops along the way. One last odd



thing; the sender's return address on the back of the cover is Dunkirk (Dunkerque) France. Perhaps a businessman on a business trip to Kuwait who listed his home address in France rather than have his letter be returned to Kuwait should it not be able to be delivered to Italy? I guess it will never be known, but it adds just another little bit of mystery to a fascinating postal history cover.



The above cover (dated 24 Dec 1968) was also forwarded by Frank following the reprint of the Robert Hudson Al-Fateh article in Edition 30. I believe it shows the label categorized as AF8a.

Further to the British postal rates section I have found the following six covers in my database.



I am illustrating the above covers together since they are all local Kuwait mail but they have six different frankings. The covers are part of a lot of some 50-60 local covers of which more than half are franked with 9np confirming that the “normal” local rate was 9np in Kuwait as well as Bahrain. There are a couple of 6np covers but unlike the Bahrain covers recorded they have been sealed. As for the 12np and 15np covers I can only imagine that they were slightly heavier.

Finally, we have covers with 20np and 40np franking. There is no doubt that these covers were incorrectly paid – several other covers in the batch go to Jordan and they are all franked with 20np as well. As for the 40np franking I have recorded four covers and the covers are identical to the ones franked with the correct local fee of 9np.

Muscat & Oman



Above is illustrated an Indian registered letter used in Muscat (3 June 1913) and sent to Constantinople in Turkey (24 June 1913). It measures 255x107mm and has a “face value” of 2as covering the registration fee at the time – in addition, it has been franked with 2.5as covering the non-Empire surface. It shows the use of

Donaldson’s Type 17 “Muscat” handstamp applied on to the registration label.



In Edition 28 are illustrated two covers with the “Sultanate of Oman” handstamp applied. In both cases the covers were cancelled in November 1970.

The aerogramme illustrated here has been cancelled on 28 September 1970.

Again it falls within the time frame of 23 July 1970 (when HM Sultan Qaboos took over) and the 16 January when the 1970 definitive issue was overprinted with the new name of the country.



1983: 38th Anniversary of the League of Arab States:

A dual language rectangular cachet which measures 49x24mm and is struck in black.

The cover has been cancelled Nizwa on 23 October 1983. Terry Jones mentions a similar cachet in

his Volume 3 Oman but the 39th anniversary.



1984: Arab Day for Eradication of Illiteracy & Adult Education

A dual language double rectangular cachet measuring 54x19mm and struck in black.

The cachet has been applied to a registered letter sent from Muscat to Ruwi on 3 January 1984.



1983: Arabic Day for Eradication of Illiteracy.

An Arabic cachet measuring 41x16mm and struck in black.

The cover has been sent from Seeb Airport on 6 January 1983 to Kinshasa in Zaire.



1987: 9th September – Arab Telecommunication Day

A commemorative handstamp measuring 40x34mm and struck in purple.

The handstamp has been applied on a cover sent express from Salalah on 9 September 1987 to Tennessee, USA.

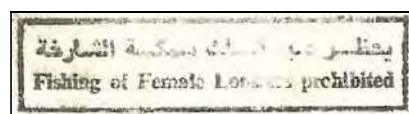
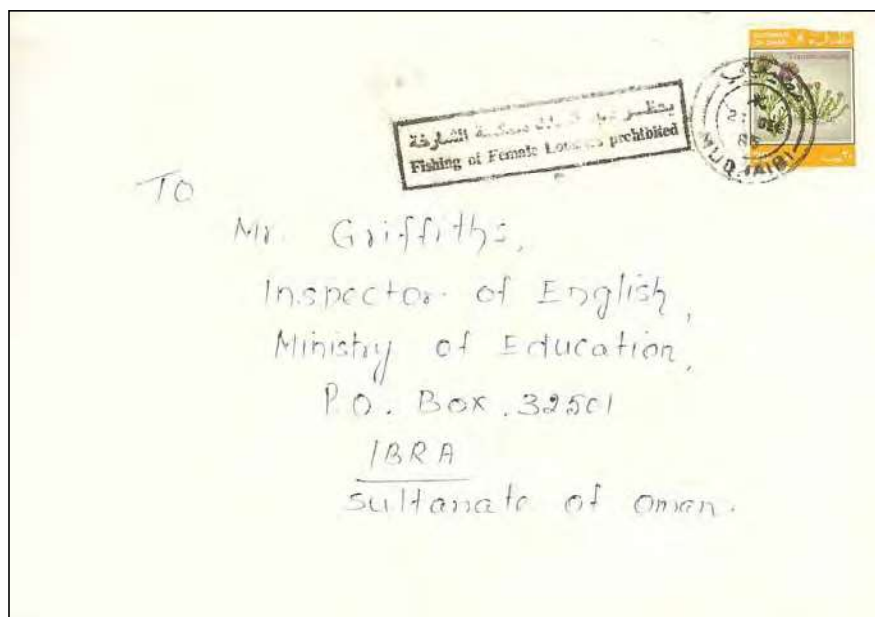




1992: Birth Spacing for Family Health

A circular awareness handstamp struck in purple and measuring 44mm in diameter.

It has been applied on to a cover sent from Sur to Bangladesh on 3 May 1992.



1985: Fishing of Female Lobsters Prohibited

A rectangular awareness handstamp struck in black and measuring 64x15mm.

It has been applied on a cover sent from Mudhaibi on 21 December 1985

Oman 1986 National Day Printing Error (by Calvin Allen)

On November 18, 1986 the Omani post office issued three stamps (50 baisa, 100 baisa, and 130 baisa) commemorating the 16th National Day.

The 50 baisa value features the Burj al-Sahwah and various views depicting progress in Oman; the 100 baisa value publicizes the opening of Sultan Qaboos University; and the 120 baisa value commemorates the 20th anniversary of Omani postage stamps.



A major printing error links the first two denominations as at least one sheet of the 50 baisa stamps went through the gold printing of the 100 baisa stamps. As a result, the circular frame around Sultan Qaboos' portrait is shifted to the right, and the seal of the university appears in the upper left corner of the stamp.



UAE - Abu Dhabi

Registration labels bearing the origin “Abu Dhabi” were only made available following the opening of the post office in Abu Dhabi on March 30th 1963. Prior to that, as Neil Donaldson mentions in his book, registered mail from Abu Dhabi, or Das Island, would most likely have had a “BAHRAIN P.S.” registration label applied to it.



All registration labels introduced in Abu Dhabi between 1963 and 1972 were British type labels and the first one was introduced only for use at the Abu Dhabi Post Office. It appears with different placement varieties of the overprint “ABU DHABI” and the numerals but the remaining features are consistent. The label has the standard two boxes with the clear “R” in the left smaller box and “No” placed in the lower left corner of the right box.



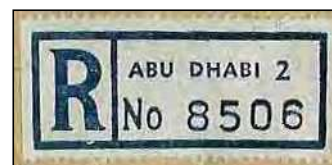
Officially only 11 of the “Value-Only” stamps were sold at the Abu Dhabi Post Office (for reference see the “Introduction of Postal Service in Abu Dhabi covers), however, stamps of other denominations were seen used. They were perhaps considered valid for usage so long the two post offices of Abu Dhabi and Das Island remained under British administration. It could also be that because of the similar design the usage of the stamps had been overlooked by the handling clerk (though less likely). This cover shows the usage of 4 additional values: 1 NP, 3 NP, 6 NP and 12 NP. The cover has the appearance of a philatelic item but shows this rare usage of “non-distributed” stamps in Abu Dhabi.

The Abu Dhabi registration label is recorded used between 27 June 1963 and 20 May 1967.

The second batch of registration labels to be introduced in Abu Dhabi were similar British labels but with a numeral added. Four varieties have been recorded: ABU DHABI 1, 2, 3 and 4.



The standard rectangular registration label printed with "Abu Dhabi 1" on it. It is found exclusively used on mail from the Philatelic Bureau. It is recorded used between 1 April 1967 and 28 April 1970.



The standard rectangular registration label printed with "Abu Dhabi 2" on it.

The significance of the 2 is yet to be defined but all the covers that I have recorded with this registration label

have all been mail from the British Bank of the Middle East in Abu Dhabi.

It is recorded used between 27 April 1965 and 7 April 1968.



The standard rectangular registration label printed with “Abu Dhabi 3” on it. The significance of the 3 is not known.

It is recorded used between 25 October 1967 and 21 September 1970.



The standard rectangular registration label printed with “Abu Dhabi 4” on it. The significance of the 4 is not known.

It is recorded used between 4 November 1967 and 2 December 1967.



UAE – Dubai

Howard Courtney has sent us the following cover and air letter:



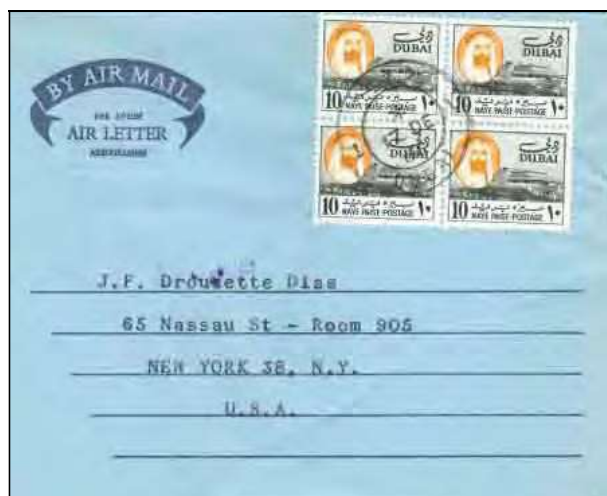
A cover from the General Post Office on official business, dated 21 September 1965.

What is interesting is that it is addressed to “Mr. E. Moshi” in Long Island, New York.

E. Moshi was the original name of Ezzet Mosden, who became Mr. Michel Stephan’s partner in producing and distributing the early Dubai stamps.

The name Mosden represents the first three letters of his family name and the three

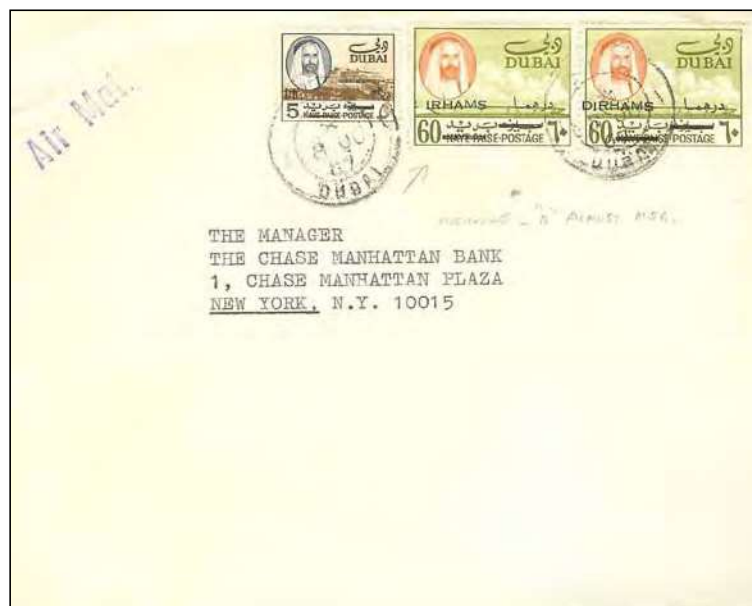
letters of the name of one of his previous partners in one of his many businesses.



The Government of Dubai, after terminating the contract with the Baroody Stamp Company, had no current aerogrammes and began to sell the “APSLEY” Air Letter in the mid 1960s. This one was sent by the Director of Posts of Dubai on 17 December 1966, to Mr. Drouette Dias, the famous Indian stamp dealer, then living and operating out of New York. The message on the inside stated that they could not fulfill his order for the World Cup and Winners Souvenir Sheets. It states that they and the ICY sheets most likely would not become available.



In Edition 30 Khalid Omaira continue his presentation of Dubai cancellation marks. He makes a note of Type 40c as being one of the rarest cancellation marks of the Independent Period – a variety of the common Type 40b but with the year on top of the date rather than vice versa. He refers to 40c as only being recorded in July 1970, however, the below cover submitted by Alastair Gunn extends the lifespan of the variety to 22 June 1970.



We have illustrated a number of varieties from the 1966 surcharge set in previous Quarterlies and here is another one. It has not previously been recorded so it may not be constant – time will tell. It shows a missing “D” in Dirhams on the stamp to the left and fortunately, it was found on cover rather than just on stamp – the cover is dated 8 June 1967



The DUBAI 2” (Type 27) canceller was mentioned in Edition 23, where Khalid Omaira labels it as “the hardest strike to find from the period of the Independent Postal Administration”. Back then he mentioned that it was only assigned for registered mail, however, recently a number of pieces with the strike cancelling clusters of high value stamps have turned up. It allows for some rethinking as to why the strike is so elusive – could it be that its use was meant for cancelling parcels and since very limited amounts of parcel mail (or cut-outs from parcel mail) has survived the “Dubai 2” canceller remains elusive? Two such pieces (out of some 15-25 pieces) are illustrated here.



Another Overprint Variety:



The 1966 surcharging of the International Co-operation Year sheet illustrated here was submitted by Sami Al-Salman

Sami points out the short Arabic “L” seen on the left overprint above and found in position 3/1.

Apparently the short “L” shows up in this same position in all sheets or at least so in the 5 sheets of the set that are in Sami’s collection.

UAE & Trucial States

John Vassallo was kind enough to forward me the following article which he printed for his society's (the Philatelic Society of Canberra) quarterly magazine – Capital Philately. As John mentions in his email to me this should be regarded as Chapter 1 as he intends to write Chapter 2 (Issues up to and including change in currency); Chapter 3 (Issues to the end of the Agent's contract); Chapter 4 (Contract extension and granting new contract to opposition) and Chapter 5 would be a 'round-up' and place of Fujaira in the UAE. Given the scarcity of articles and information about Fujaira I think we all look forward to reading what John has to tell us.

FUJEIRA – The true story

Introduction: Fujaira, the only Trucial State not touching the Persian Gulf, was considered part of Oman. In 1952, the British Government accepted Fujaira as an autonomous State and signed the same treaties with Britain as the other Trucial States – including the Exclusive Agreement allowing Britain to conduct all their foreign relations. This is the story of the Postal System in Fujaira till integration into the United Arab Emirates in 1972. On 1st April 1973, all Fujaira stamps lost their validity and replaced by the UAE stamps. I am greatly indebted to KHALID A. AL OMAIRA of Abu Dhabi who has been of great help in obtaining the 'local information'

Where is Fujaira? Please refer to maps (Fig 1 – 3.) Fujaira consists of two areas on the Gulf of Oman with Khor Fakkan (used to be a Sharjah Dependency - but now the cancellation under UAE states 'Khor Fakkan Fujaira') sandwiched in between is about 500 square Miles and population in the sixties (when they started producing stamps) was only about 15,000. There was only one boys and one girls school and therefore letter-writers are certain not to be many!



Fig 1 (left): The Middle East

Fig2 & 3 (above): United Arab Emirates is expanded further

(Maps courtesy of the Michel Catalog)

BEFORE THE FUJEIRA POST OFFICE

Before the first Post Office was opened in Fujaira, the locals used a courier Saeed Mohammed Tanaji to take letters to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and collect mail on his way back to Fujaira. Secondly, there was also a grocery named Abdul Rasak Grocery. They would accept mails from locals and take it to Dubai to be sent out. He would also collect any mails for locals from the Dubai Post Office. This information was obtained from locals and unfortunately, there are no letters known from this period to confirm this.

To announce the issue of their first stamps, covers were sent out in August 1964 franked with the value-only overprinted stamps of the 'British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia' and cancelled with the large hexagonal Fujaira Postmark. It is said that this was quite improper since these stamps were never supplied to Fujaira nor was there ever a British Postal Agency there. It is worth noting that at this time, the Fujaira 'Postal Service' consisted of nothing more than a rented PO Box in the Dubai Post Office!

The Trucial States Issue: In 1960, the Trucial States agreed to produce a stamp issue that would be used by all Sheikdoms. Unfortunately, when the designs were ready for printing, the smaller states were not happy that their country was represented by a smaller palm tree than the bigger states. As a result, the issue was produced and only used in Dubai. The other States continue using the 'British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia' stamps.



Fig 4: The Design of the stamp causing the problem.

The set was issued on 7th January 1961. It comprised of 7 values with this design and 4 higher values depicting the 'Dhow'. The lower values were issued by Harrison by Photogravure and the dhows were recess printed by De La Rue.

The Baroodly Essays: In 1963, each of the Trucial States was planning to issue stamps of their own. The Ruler of Fujaira signed agreements with the Baroodly Stamp Co of Beirut (Lebanon) by which the company will open a small post office and pay the Ruler a moderate sum for the concession of printing and marketing their stamps. This was announced in the report issued every month by the Political Agent for England – Refer to Fig 5 (next page).

Essays were made for Fujaira (and also Ajman and Umm Al Qiwain) by the Baroodly Stamp Company. These essays were designed by M.M. Arthur and produced by NCR Litho at the same time as the first issue of Dubai (similar design). Stamps are known perforated 12x11½ or imperforated and on gummed or un-gummed un-watermarked paper. These stamps were printed containing stamps for the 3 Sheikdoms all in 1 sheet – see Fig 6.

For Fujaira, 4 designs were used, The Leopard, The Grouse; Falcon on a branch and Falcon on the ground. Various color combinations exist for each stamp – including red and white; blue and white; blue and red; brown and yellow; red and pink; blue and pink. Please refer to Fig 7 (following page) for the four designs and some of the color combinations.

It is believed that these stamps were produced in late November 1963.

Fig 5 – Page 212 of the Political Diaries of the Arab World for September 1963 announcing the agreement by the Ruler of Fujaira (and Umm Al Qiwain) with Baroody Stamp Co.

212

Political Diaries of the Arab World

- RESTRICTED -

TRUCIAL STATES DIARY FOR THE PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 1 - 30, 1963.

AGENCY

The Political Agent and Mrs. Craig returned from leave in the United Kingdom on September 16.

2. Sayyid Ali Busalrah, M.B.E., Arab Assistant also returned from leave.

Dubai

3. Shaikh Rashid bin Sa'id, Ruler of Dubai, arrived back from his journey to Europe and America on September 16.

Sharjah

4. Shaikh Saqr bin Sultan, Ruler of Sharjah, returned from his travels on September 16 in a specially chartered plane with the Political Agent. At the end of the month he was in residence at Kalba.

Ras al Khaimah

5. Shaikh Saqr bin Mohammed, Ruler of Ras al Khaimah, returned to the Trucial States on September 30.

Postal Affairs

6. The Rulers of Fujairah and Umm Al Qiwain have signed agreements with the Baroody Stamp Co. of Beirut by which the company will open small post offices in their states and pay the Rulers a moderate sum for the concession of printing and marketing their stamps. The Ruler of Ajman is expected to conclude a parallel agreement shortly.

Visitors

7. Visitors during the month included Mr. Forrest of Cable & Wireless Ltd., Mr. Evans of Spinneys (1948) Ltd., Mr. McKinley of Continental Oil Company, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan, First Secretary of the Pakistan Embassy in Baghdad and Mr. H.C.N.W. Oulton from the Doha Agency.


(A. J. H. Craig)
Political Agent.

September 30, 1963.

RESTRICTED -



Figure 6 showing part of a sheet showing stamps of the 3 Sheikdoms printed on the same sheet.



Fig 7 – The Baroody essays for Fujera showing the Leopard, Falcon standing on a branch, the Grouse and another design of the Falcon on the ground.

Mr Stephan, the representative of the Baroody Stamp Company, was not easily contactable. Eventually he was found guilty of breaches of contract and in addition had transferred his rights under this agreement to Mr Finbar Kenny of J&H Stollow Inc of New York, without consulting the Ruler. As a result these stamps were never produced and the original agreement cancelled. The Ruler was not happy with this arrangement and the new American company was contacted directly to organize a new contract.

This contract was quite advantageous to the Government including article 3 – The Agency will employ a Postmaster and other personnel needed for a basic minimum Postal Service...; Article 13 – the agencies guarantees the Government minimum net revenue of 300,000 Rupees in the first year, 400,000 Rupees during the Second year 500,000 during year 4 and 600,000 for the fifth....Article 15 stipulated the contract's period is five years.

FUJEIRA Overprints: In the meantime, Mr. Finbar Kenny from New York, USA, wanted to produce stamps immediately to recover the costs of buying the contract off Baroody Company. So he produced these overprints on existing stamps that he had available. Unfortunately, the British Postal Administration rejected the design and they were not accepted for use – see Fig 8.



Fig 8: Only these 4 values were produced with this 'Fujairah' overprint.

The First Set: The first official set was issued on 22 September 1964 consisting of 12 values. Each value had the portrait of Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad al Sharji, the then ruler of Fujera on the left. It was printed by 'Heraclio Fournier' of Vitoria in Spain. Stamps were produced by Photogravure in 3 sizes. Close to 500,000 each of the lower values were produced, but only 10,000 of the top values.



Fig 9 - Cover with 'Value only' stamps used in Fujera together with 2 stamps from the first issue within a month of the official post office opening in Fujera itself. Although philatelic, this is the only cover known to exist with both 'British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia' stamps (incorrect usage as explained above) and Fujera stamps.

From this first issue, a tradition started where **EVERY** stamp (except 1 mini-sheet) was produced both perforated and imperforated. The imperforated edition was always in limited supply and could **ONLY** be purchased if a number of perforated sets were also bought. The documentation says that the imperforated stamps were used for presentation purposes (whatever

that means!!). As a result, these imperforated versions are much more difficult to obtain. It is believed that only 2,000 imperforated sets were produced for this issue.

Another tradition was created by providing cancelled-to-order stamps at a fraction of the face value directly to dealers. These were mainly the perforated stamps. These cancelled-to-order stamps are still available in large quantities and of not much philatelic value. On the other hand, used stamps on covers are greatly sought after and not easy to come by!

On 14th November 6 additional values were produced in the same format. On 16 August 1965, another set of 9 stamps was produced using virtually the same designs except that Fujera and the value are transposed and additionally inscribed 'AIR MAIL's – these were also produced by Fournier. In October 1965, a new set of 9 was produced, similar in design but with Fujera and denomination transposed and additionally inscribed 'ON STATE'S SERVICE'.



Fig 10: Depicts the imperforated high value stamps from each issue.

Figure 10 – 12 are usage of stamps from the normal, airmail and official sets.



Fig 11 (left): Letter to Germany dated September 1965 using the standard letter rate to Europe at that time of 25np.



Fig 12 – letter to England dated Oct 1967 – by now the standard letter rate to Europe had increased to 30np.



Fig 13 – Letter dated Jan 1966 using Official stamps. The standard letter rate to USA was 50np.

LATE NEWS from "Nomad"

HURRY UP—ONLY 10,000 SETS!

The post has just brought me a most exciting document, and I feel that it would be very selfish if I did not hasten to share the good news with you. Fujairah Post Office "Press and Broadcast Notice" dated July 21st, 1965, announces the issue on August 16th of the First Airmail Series—a multi-coloured nine denomination series with a total face value of R.13 (=19s.6d.).

The notice gives details of the six-colour photogravure stamps—the six lowest values measuring 46.5 × 30 mm. and the three highest measuring 37.5 × 57 mm. Now this is real value for money—just think of it, 7249.5 square millimetres of glorious technicolour, and at face value, too! Hurry up—there are only 10,000 sets, and you don't want to miss these stamps.

But Wait! "Fujairah Post Office"—is there one? "Press and Broadcast Notice"—no press or radio in Fujairah! "First Airmail Series"—that's it; there is no airport in Fujairah, and they want one; so you are to be allowed to make the first contribution of £10,000 towards its cost. Further airmail stamps will, no doubt, keep the Exchequer refreshed when you have got this lot safely in your collections.

Come to think of it, perhaps there isn't really all that need for haste; none of these stamps will ever be needed for postage, and there can't possibly be 10,000 fools ready to be parted from their money. Or are there?

However, don't be disheartened, the Fujairah Post Office also announces that other stamps are available—all at face value (but note that remittances must be made "in fully convertible funds").

For instance, there are the Kennedy Memorial stamps for only 18s.5d. with a miniature sheet at the bargain price of 12s.; but "Mail orderers should not ask for more than one souvenir sheet for every two regular series ordered". Then there is the Olympic Games set for 32s.3d., and remember that "to make the Special series more memorable a quantity of each denomination was left imperforated"! Don't forget the 18 definitives—they will only set you back 37s.6d., and you must get rid of your money somehow.

P.S.—To the Post Office of Fujairah, Fujairah, Arabian Gulf (via Bahrain):—

You really are letting your imagination run away with you when you say that the definitive stamps were "placed on sale in the Post Offices . . . to replace the overprinted Great Britain Stamps used in this territory previously". G.B. overprinted stamps were never sold in a Post Office that did not exist. Also, you know, "(via Bahrain)" gives the game away!

A small point, but may I suggest that, in your next "Press and Broadcast Notice" you spell "Office" correctly in the Arabic—it will look better; particularly when you consider that, by the omission of the Arabic letter "t", the expression "Post Office" can be misread as "Postal Rubbish Dump".

Please also refer to Fig 14 – a 'tongue in cheek' commentary by NOMAD in the 13th Aug 1965 issue of Stamp Collecting.

Obviously stamps from Fujera achieved quite notoriety from the start! Imagine the sentiments when up to 10 sets were being produced per month (about 100 stamps) during 1971 and 72! And if that is not enough, each of these stamps was available 'in limited supplies' in imperforated format!

Fig 14 – Copy of 'Late News' from page 825 of the August 13th Edition of 'Stamp Collecting' magazine.

Final word from John:

John asked me to include his email so that anyone else with interest in Fujera can contact him with questions, corrections, etc: john@compaspl.com.au

On another note:

As is probably known to most of you "Nomad" was the pseudonym that Neil Donaldson used when writing articles.

Links, Contacts and Credits

GOVERNMENT PHILATELIC OFFICES

Emirates Stamp Club
Emirates Post
P.O. Box 99999
Dubai
U.A.E.
+973 4 2031421
Email: philatelic@emiratespost.ae
Website: www.emiratespost.co.ae

Director General of Posts
Philatelic Department
PO Box 3338
P.C 112
Ruwi
Muscat
Sultanate of Oman
Email: pttphil@omantel.net.om
Website: www.comm.gov.om

Qatar Philatelic Bureau
+974 4464309
Email: philatelic@qatarposts.com
Website: www.qpost.com.qa

Bahrain Philatelic Bureau
Postal Directorate
PO Box 1212
Manama
Bahrain
Email: stamp@bahrain.gov.bh

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

INDEPENDENT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

WEBSITES RELATED TO GULF POSTAL HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.wreckandcrash.org>

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

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

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

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

Many more pages will be added to this list once I define the exact web address that should be presented here with the web masters.

CREDITS

Edition 31:

Frank Mallalieu
Howard Courtney
Thomas Johansen
Sami Al Salman
Norayr Agopian
Khalid Omaira
Joachim Duester
John Copeland
Max Smith
Gary DuBro
Tom Grosse
Calvin Allen
Salam & Saleem Al-Shakar
Khaled Abdulmughni
Rufus Barnes
Ahmed Al-Serkal
Alastair Gunn
Ray Mcmillan
John Vasallo

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Electronic Version:	USD 30	STG 20
Printed Version:		
The Gulf & India	USD 60	
UK & Europe	USD 70	STG 47
USA & Rest of the World	USD 80	

Payment: By Paypal to Paypal Account: kameltom2004@yahoo.com

USD Cash can be sent to:

Thomas Johansen, Calyon Bahrain, PO Box 5410, Manama, Bahrain

Sterling Check can be sent to:

Gill Humphries

37, Bhylls Crescent

Merry Hill, Wolverhampton WV3 8DX

United Kingdom

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