

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



20 April 1940: A cover sent from the Bahrain Petroleum Company to the Vice Consul at the American Embassy in Baghdad. The cover has been franked with a total of 101as covering the rate for 3½ ounces plus registration at the all inclusive Empire Rate of 14as (7*14as+3as). The letter is part of a correspondence presumably containing information about US citizens in the Gulf following the outbreak of WWII

Edition 30 - Spring 2009

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Welcome to Edition 30 of the Quarterly

Dear Readers,

First of all please accept my apologies for the delay in releasing the first issue of 2009. I could mention numerous reasons but will just say that it was a real struggle managing my responsibilities in Q1. Furthermore Q1 2009 was the period in which I received the lowest number of contributions since I took over the Quarterly from Terry back in 2006 so I can only presume many people's priorities have shifted over the past 6-9 months.

With that being said I have already started writing Edition 31 as you read this and it will be released on time closed to June 30. Please keep me in mind if you find something nice that you would like to share with me.

On another note it seems that my server, batelco.com, is becoming increasingly dubious so my mails may not always arrive at their destinations due to the security of the receiving surfer – so please confirm your receipt of the Quarterly each time.

Finally, the next GCC exhibition will take place in Muscat in November this year – dates to be announced as soon as I have them.

Enjoy spring!
Thomas Johansen

Subscription details are found in the back.

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Reader's Feedback

Edition 28 – Kuwait Human Rights Handstamp – Page 26

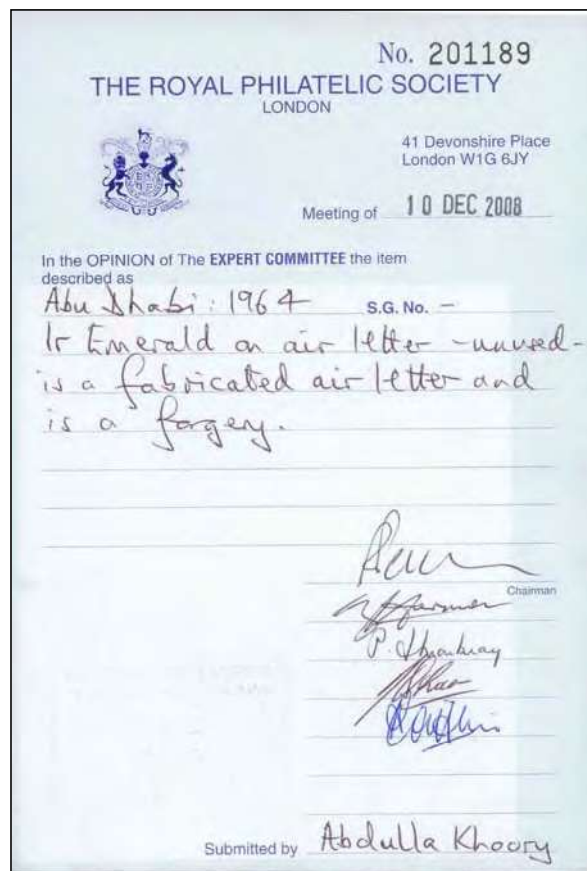


A type error was made in referring to the handstamp as “Arab School Games” rather than “Human Rights”.

Frank Mallalieu has forwarded a scan of a cover he has with the Human Rights handstamp applied. In edition 28 three covers are illustrated – two dated 10 December and one dated 12 December – Frank’s cover is dated 11 December.

Edition 29 – WARNING: Abu Dhabi Forgeries

In Edition 29 a number of dubious Abu Dhabi aerogrammes were illustrated – all the illustrations were taken from EBay where they are most commonly offered for sale. The initial illustration was meant as a warning since Emirates Philatelic Association had already sent off one of the aerogrammes to the RPS for certification – the result and aerogramme is illustrated below.



The conclusion of the RPS did not come as a surprise and while waiting for their reply more information came to light. A former student of one of our subscribers, and a collector, visited the seller and reported that “He has people working for him doing the forgeries” and he has done overprints on other Middle Eastern items as well. The eBay username which sells these forgeries is tonyhelou and many of the Dubai errors sold under this name are claimed to be forgeries as well.

The Dubai forgeries consist of aerogrammes, postal cards, overprinted stamps, and essay, or trial items. Many are readily identifiable when viewed by any collector with even a little knowledge of such material. The Postal cards were created by taking the background of a genuine aerogramme and adding a different stamp image. The attempt is very amateurish as the postal cards have the dotted lines in some of the margins, where one would fold the aerogramme. Other factors that one should be aware of are the cheap paper used for some creations, the absurd face value of some postal cards, and the fact that all known aerogrammes and postal cards that were created were issued years ago. His claim that these are unapproved items that Mr. Michel Stephan, who had the contract for the first Dubai issues, had in his stock. This is totally untrue.

There were no surprises in Mr. Stephan's stock, which the seller purchased, waiting to be discovered. Mr. Stephan did not have a good reputation in the stamp world and sold everything from stamps to printer's waste and certainly would not have held back on these items, even though the seller claimed Mr. Stephan was afraid of legal action and did not release them. According to sources the seller himself stated that he spent some time with Mr. Stephan and learned about making forgeries from him.

In case any readers have bought items from the seller mentioned and you want a copy of the RPS certificate let me know and I will forward you the scan.

Aerogramme rates in the Gulf – Question asked again:

Do you happen to know why the rate for overprinted aerogrammes from the Gulf States was reduced from 40np to 30np in 1959? There was no reduction in UK air rates as far as I can see. The catalogues (e.g. Jones) just say it was reduced, but not why!

Edition 29: Page 4-5 Questions about Dubai Printers:

Please have a look at the following two links:

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

Edition 29: “Postal Rates in the Gulf States” by Alastair Gunn

Abdullah Khoory comments: The two shown covers of Abu Dhabi with claim that rates are not matching: I cannot analyze first cover, which is not registered and franked with 10 Dirhams as he did not mentioned date or year.

As for the second cover the year is 2000 and the rate is 12 Dirhams 200 Fils – so 14 Dirhams. This rate is 6 Dirhams for letters weighing from 20 grams but less than 50 grams + 6 Dirhams for registration and an additional 2 Dirhams in acknowledgement fee.

The postal rates have been changed frequently during last few years. In fact now the postal rate for this weight today is 9.50 Dirham, whereas it was 6.25 Dirhams between 2003 and 2006 and 6.50 Dirhams between 2006 and 2008.

I don't understand his comment: "if the items are correctly franked then they are actually rare items" as these are very ordinary covers and nothing special at all.

Edition 29: Page 38 – Germany to Muscat

Ralf Kollmann informed me that the German cover sent to Muscat via Dubai illustrates the last day of validity of the German stamps used to frank the cover, so this is a LDC.

Terry Jones – Volume 4 - Aerogrammes

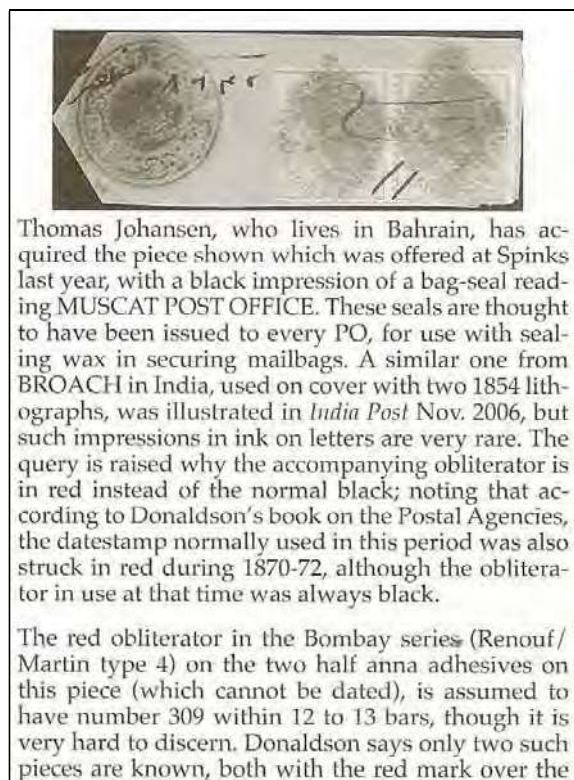


Terry Jones' has released his latest study of Gulf Aerogrammes. It is a revised edition of the book first published under the same title in 1995.

Aerogrammes are an integral part of the postal history of the Gulf and have been briefly mentioned already in the other books of this series but they form a large enough topic to merit two separate volumes of their own. This volume records aerogrammes used during the Agency years from 1942 – 1966.

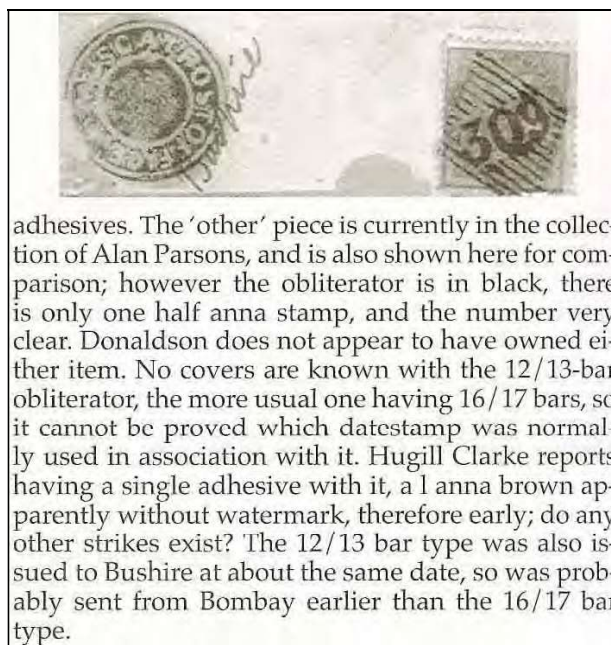
If you are interested in obtaining the book you contact Terry on the following email address: kandt.jones@hotmail.co.uk

Edition 23-24: The Muscat Wax Seal (Under Muscat and Comments)



Thomas Johansen, who lives in Bahrain, has acquired the piece shown which was offered at Spinks last year, with a black impression of a bag-seal reading MUSCAT POST OFFICE. These seals are thought to have been issued to every PO, for use with sealing wax in securing mailbags. A similar one from BROACH in India, used on cover with two 1854 lithographs, was illustrated in *India Post* Nov. 2006, but such impressions in ink on letters are very rare. The query is raised why the accompanying obliterator is in red instead of the normal black; noting that according to Donaldson's book on the Postal Agencies, the datestamp normally used in this period was also struck in red during 1870-72, although the obliterator in use at that time was always black.

The red obliterator in the Bombay series (Renouf/Martin type 4) on the two half anna adhesives on this piece (which cannot be dated), is assumed to have number 309 within 12 to 13 bars, though it is very hard to discern. Donaldson says only two such pieces are known, both with the red mark over the



adhesives. The 'other' piece is currently in the collection of Alan Parsons, and is also shown here for comparison; however the obliterator is in black, there is only one half anna stamp, and the number very clear. Donaldson does not appear to have owned either item. No covers are known with the 12/13-bar obliterator, the more usual one having 16/17 bars, so it cannot be proved which datestamp was normally used in association with it. Hugill Clarke reports having a single adhesive with it, a 1 anna brown apparently without watermark, therefore early; do any other strikes exist? The 12/13 bar type was also issued to Bushire at about the same date, so was probably sent from Bombay earlier than the 16/17 bar type.

When the second copy of the Muscat Wax Seal was auctioned off a couple of year ago I sent a request for information about the Wax Seal to the editor of the INDIA POST – The journal of the India Study Circle for philately (their website is mentioned at the back of this journal). In volume 42 – Number 171 which was issued in July 2008 the INDIA POST printed their reply which I have scanned and illustrated here.

In the second example the word 'Bushire' is written alongside the seal, which Alan says might indicate this was the top item in a bundle for this place. In Mr. Johansen's piece some Arabic characters are across the seal, and the mystic invocation '8642' alongside; there is a pen-mark over the stamps. It seems probable that the two items were posted on different occasions, suggesting that the use of the seal in lieu of a datestamp was not an error, but in unavoidable circumstances. Such a situation did arise early in the 1870s when the later MUSCAT/23 duplex (Renouf/Martin type 9) was broken; is it possible that the seal and a previously unused spare numeral were then used briefly?

A third example of the seal used on a letter did exist a hundred years ago; Melville in 'Phantom Philately' (1923) quotes from the 'Philatelic Record' vol. XXVI p.155, dated June 1904: 'An Anglo-Indian correspondent' provided the illustration (reproduced here), and assumed it was an 'improvised stamp of Muscat' which India had failed to recognise; the cover or piece also had INDIA UNPAID on it, and obviously no adhesives. His interpretation was wrong, but the existence of the item then cannot be disputed.



The article is reproduced with the permission of the ISC. The INDIA POST is a quarterly journal comprising of approximately 50 pages. It is a comprehensive journal covering multiple areas on Indian philately and a must for anyone with an interest in India. If you are interested in subscribing to the INDIA POST you can email indiapost@mac.com – the ISC also has a website www.indiastudycircle.org which is also mention in the back of this journal.



[7]
Photogravure by Harrison & Sons.

1948 (29th July). Olympic Games Commemoratives. G.B. Nos. 429 to 432 overprinted and surcharged as Type [7]

(Overprinted in sheets of 120—6 × 20)

63	63	2½ annas on 2½d. blue.....	0	4	0	6
64	64	3 " on 3d. pale violet...	0	5	0	9
65	65	6 " on 6d. purple	0	9	1	6
66	66	1 rupee on 1/- bistre-brown...	2	6	3	6

NUMBERS SOLD: 2½a., 89,264; 3a., 91,203; 6a., 83,677; 1r., 83,395.

VARIETY: 2½a. Overprint and surcharge double. One sheet only known. Sold at Kabrit P.O.

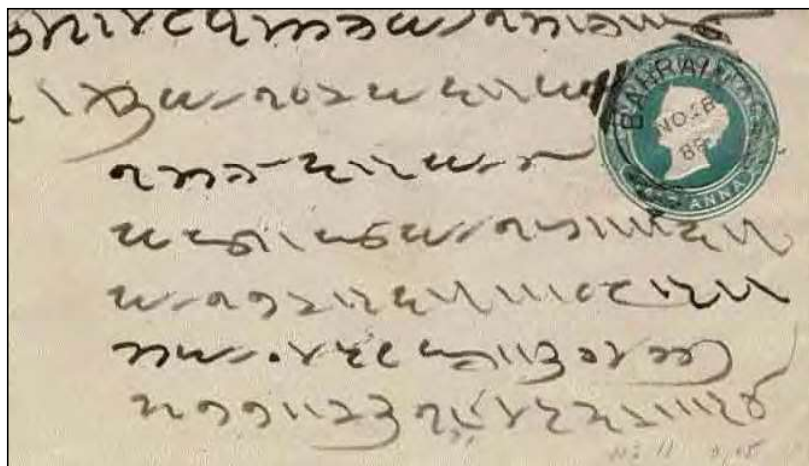
CYLINDER NUMBERS: 2½a., 2; 3a., 1; 6a., 9; 1r., 3.

The image here is from Robson Lowe's British Empire Postage Stamps – Volume III – The Empire in Asia – which was issued in 1951.

It illustrates part of the Bahrain section – the 1948 Olympic issue. The reason why I am illustrating is that during a discussion about the Olympic double overprint Norayr Agopian pointed out to me that the catalogue refers to the only known sheet as having been sold that the Kabrit P.O.

Given that this comment was made in a catalogue just 3 years after the stamp was issue does anyone know why Robson Lowe refers to the Muharraq Post Office as Kabrit P.O.?

Bahrain



28 November 1988: A ½a postal stationary sent to Bombay, India with 10 December arrival backstamp.

OVERLAND MAIL – The Nairn Way

Back in Edition 27 we did an article on Overland mail sent from Bahrain and Kuwait. Since then I have been communicating with Rainer Fuchs about the topic with the intent of adding an Overland section to my Bahrain exhibit. The exhibit was finally completed mid-April and my findings (with the help of Rainer) are listed below:

The overall conclusion is that normal surface mail that went via the Baghdad – Haifa overland route was charged an extra 2.5as and that though this service was in use from 1923 the charge never went up regardless of changes in the underlying surface rates. Furthermore the majority of mail went to the USA and UK with most other destinations being rare.

From a comparative perspective keeping the overland charge stable between 1923 and 1948 made sense (the surface rate to the USA rose from 2.5as to 3.5as and from 2as to 2.5as to the UK). The benefit of overland mail was substantial at the start of the service given that it cut transit time by 8-10 days but the introduction of airmail changed this.

Surface Rates				
	Weight	1920	7.1-1927	1.12-1931
USA & Other World	First oz	2.5as	3as	3.5as
	Add. oz	1.5as	2as	2as
UK	First oz	1.5as	2as	2.5as
	Add. Oz	1as	1.5as	2as
Europe	First oz	2.5as	3as	3.5as
	Add. Oz	1as	1.5as	2as
Book Post	1st 2 oz	0.5a	0.5a	0.75a
Post Card	N/A	1as	1.5as	2as

I don't have the exact date for when the surface rates changed between 1920 and 1927 so if anyone has the date please let it be known.

The rise in surface rates on 1 December 1931 was the last of the Indian Period.

Snapshot of covers used:

USA & Other World							
Destination	Date	Weight	First Oz	Add Oz	Reg	Overland	Paid
USA	23-Jun-24	4 oz	3as	2as	2as	2.5as	13.5as
USA	31-Jan-27	1 oz	3as			2.5as	5.5as
USA	17-Jun-36		2as			1as	
USA	3-Nov-37	1 oz	3.5as			2.5as	6as
USA	15-Nov-37	1 oz	3.5as			2.5as	6as
USA	13-Dec-39	1 oz	3.5as			2.5as	6as
USA	4-Jan-40	1 oz	3.5as			2.5as	5.5as
USA	8-Jan-40	1 oz	3.5as			2.5as	6as

*1) Registration rate and surface rates have not yet confirmed.

UK & Some Empire							
Destination	Date	Weight	First Oz	Add Oz	Reg	Overland	Paid
UK	23-Jul-27	1 oz	2as			2.5as	4.5as
UK	29-Sep-29	2 oz	2as	1.5as		2.5as	6as
UK	9-Sep-30	1 oz	2as			2.5as	4.5as
UK	17-Apr-32	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
UK	30-Apr-33	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
UK	30-Jul-33	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
UK	17-Nov-34	9 oz	2.5as	8x1.5as	3as	2.5as	20as
UK	12-Dec-36	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
UK	25-Sep-37	7 oz	2.5as	6x1.5as		2.5as	14as
UK	11-Nov-37	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
UK	27-Nov-37	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
Uganda	24-Dec-39	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as
Canada	22-Jan-40	1 oz	2.5as			2.5as	5as

Continental Europe							
Destination	Date	Weight	First Oz	Add. Oz	Reg	Overland	Paid
Germany Book Post	18-Jan-36	1 oz	0.75as			0.25as	1as

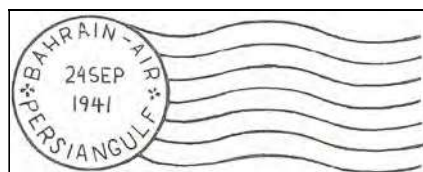
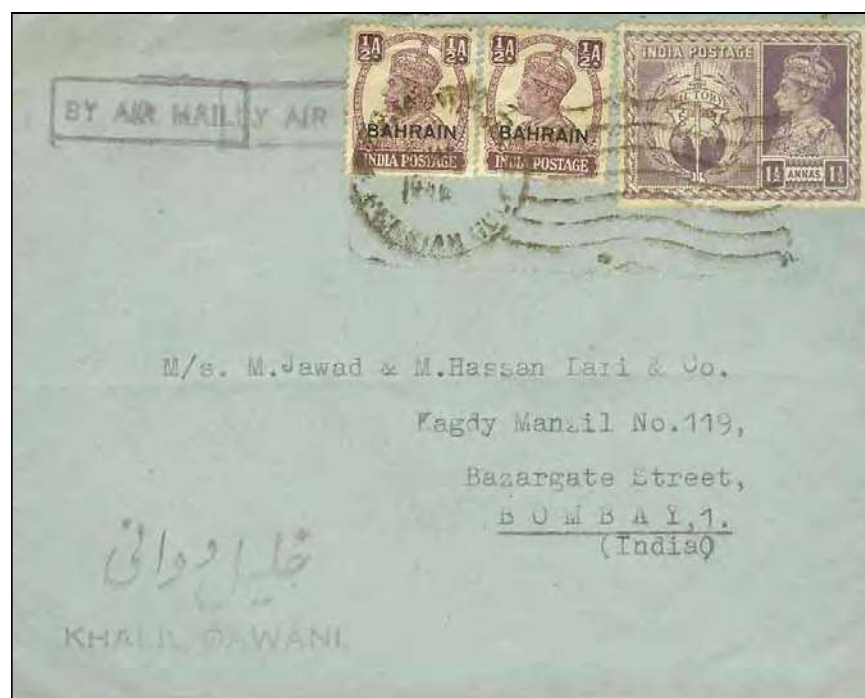
In addition to the basics of surface rates, weight and Overland charge a couple more observations have been made:

1. Two covers to the UK franked with 2.5as and one to the USA franked with 4.5as both had Overland handstamps applied. In both cases, however, there was no Basrah transit stamp so it would appear that unless the Overland rate was fully paid the covers would go via normal surface mail. In the case of the two UK covers the surface rate was 2.5as and in case of the US cover the surface rate was 3.5as.

2. One cover to the USA has been recorded on 21-7-1938 which was underpaid by ½a and with Basrah transit stamp but it is impossible to determine if it slipped through or was re-directed to surface mail after Basra control. I have recently seen a cover sent from Iran via Overland Mail which received postage due but it may be that as Iran was not under the Indian postal system procedures in dealing with underpaid mail were different.
3. With the introduction of the EAMS airmail scheme on the 23 February 1938 the all inclusive airmail fee to the UK was reduced to 2.5as – a rate that remained in use until 2 September 1939. As such Overland mail to the UK in this period would not make sense.

I would greatly appreciate scans or information about any Overland mail that you may have in order to expand the database.

Finally, these observations do not apply to Kuwait, since Kuwait was under Iraqi postal administration until 1941, but will apply to Dubai and Muscat.



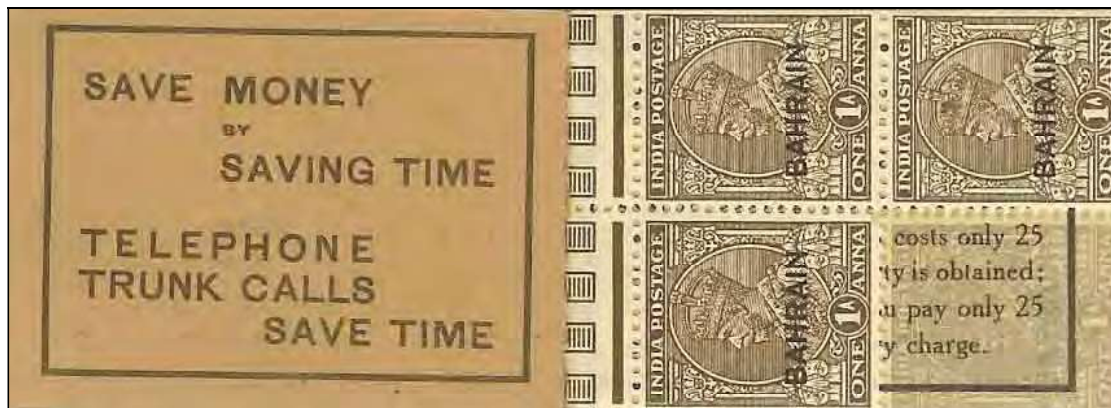
12 March 1946: A cover sent to Bombay, India illustrating the use of Donaldson Type 8 and franked with a total of 2½as making up the air mail rate to India for a ½ oz (a1a + s1½ a).

To my knowledge this is the latest recorded use of Donaldson Type 8.

A few things about Stamps and Booklets:



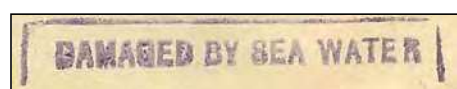
Illustrated here is the Bahrain booklet listed in the SG's Part 19 Middle East catalogue as SB1. It is the one that used to belong to Neil Donaldson and was sold in his 1988 sale at Harmers as lot number 48 for STG 352 – three stamps have been removed from the booklet so 13 stamps are left. It is a very rare booklet – I have once seen one with only 3 or 4 stamps left and heard of one complete booklet sold at a German auction some 5-6 years ago for EUR 2500. Does anyone have any knowledge of other booklets?



Four overprinted stamps with various overprint varieties. The 6as shows the “small second A” in ANNaS – the 1a showing most of the BAHRAIN overprint as missing – the 1R showing part of the “B” in Bahrain missing and the same for the QEII 2Rs stamp.

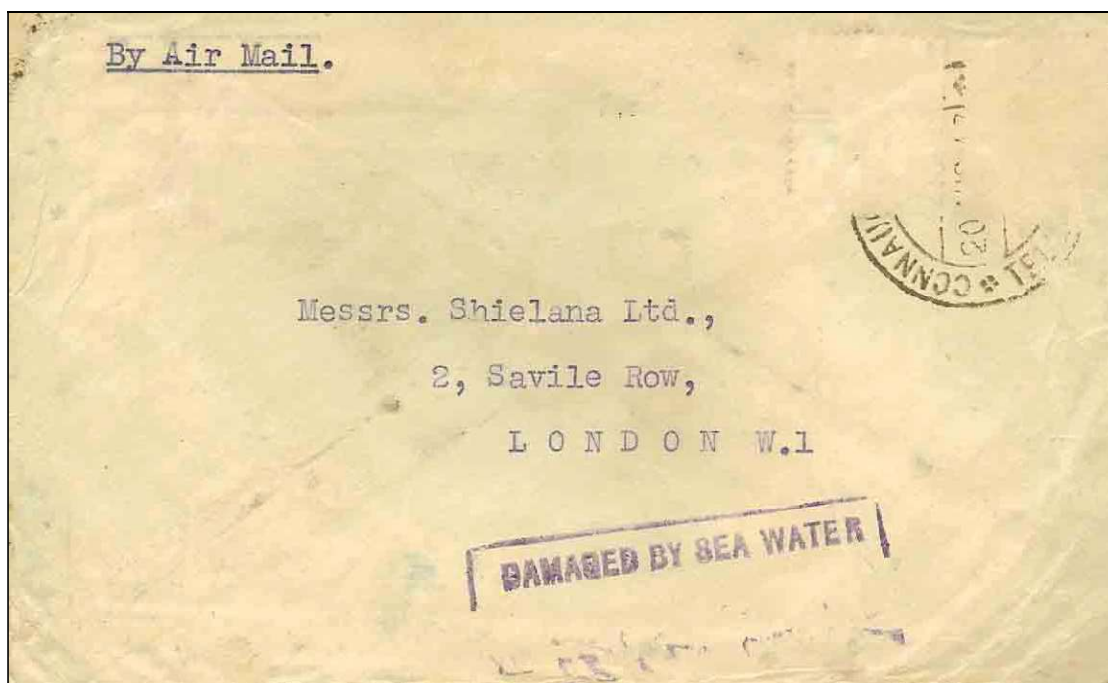


A cover sent to Bahrain in 1975 and franked with 60 Pfennig. The rate, at the time, was 70 Pfennig by seamount and 1 Mark for airmail. Given that the cover was franked with only 60 Pfennig it was underpaid by 40 Pfennig for airmail transmission and has been correctly charge 80 Pfennig in postage due – endorsed 80/70. Due to non delivery the was returned to Germany but the sender was incorrectly charged 70 rather than 80 Pfennig



In Edition 26 five different “Damaged by Sea Water” cachets applied to crash mail from the 1947 BOAC Bahrain accident were illustrated. A sixth cachet is illustrated here measuring 55 x 8 mm – in both samples that I have recorded the bottom line of the cachet is missing.

One of the two covers is illustrated below – the other is an air letter sent from Karachi.



Palestinian AL Fateh Labels



Some time back I had some correspondence with Haim Malka, a student of Palestinian politics and history. Back then he contacted me regarding the Al-Karamah label shown above which was applied to a cover of Bahrain origin dated 18 February 1969 – the cover, shown below, was sent to Switzerland.



Recently I came across another cover of Bahrain origin with a different label – dated 3 May 1969 and sent to the UK. It prompted me to contact Haim again to see if he had additional information as to the background of the labels, where they were produced and why – he replied:

“Unfortunately, I know very little about the labels, and have not been able to uncover any authoritative information about them. The Palestinian collectors that I'm in contact with seem to have little useful information, and I've not found a definitive study on the subject. I have seen primarily the PFLP also issued labels, and I have seen them on covers, though don't own any. I do have some other Fateh labels which I will scan this week and send you.”

Remembering that I had once read something somewhere about these labels I started searching and ended up finding what I was looking for in one of Howard Courtney's old Arab World Philatelist. Given how interesting the article from Howard's AWP is and the perspective of the situation at the time it gives I decided to reproduce it here – with the permission of Howard. Is Robert Hudson still around?



PALESTINE PROPAGANDA LABELS by ROBERT HUDSON



While living in Beirut, Lebanon, I was advertising in most of the major stamp publications to buy and sell Lebanese and other Arab nations stamps. Several of these publications had short blurbs of someone finding a propaganda label from the al-Fateh, Palestine Arab Organization, or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Although my ads did not mention anything about propaganda labels, I started to receive inquiries regarding them due to my Beirut mailing address.

Basically, I'm a talker and I believe most problems can be settled without resorting to fighting. As a result of this philosophy, I wasn't interested in having anything to do with the Palestinian labels. The people that wrote to me were politely informed of such and that ended the matter - or so I thought.

Business had been good prior to the 1967 war, but after having been evacuated to Germany and returning several months later, I found the demand for all Arab related material had slacked off considerably. I had married an American studying in Beirut and it appeared that if business didn't pick up we would soon be starving. In view of such, I felt it was time to review the situation regarding the labels.

To start with, I had no idea of where to obtain them. I felt if anyone would know, it would be a Palestinian taxi cab driver. So, into a cab I went, with instructions to the driver that I wanted him to take me to the Palestinian Liberation Organization Headquarters.

We were met outside by an armed Palestinian in full battle dress who wanted to know "what-in-hell" I was doing there. A brief exchange of conversation followed and the guard gave the taxi driver directions to an apartment building which was only a ten minute walk from where I lived.

The apartment turned out to be a small part of the propaganda machine of the al-Fateh and was staffed with a polite but nervous secretary. I was informed that she didn't have any of the labels but could get them and I should return in a week. I was back a week later and found that she had forgotten. Again, I was told to return in a few days. After four or five such trips, she eventually had something for me. That last trip made all the others worthwhile.

She pulled out imperf sheets of each of four different labels - #'s A1, A2, A6 & A7 (*See listing at end of article*) and asked if that was what I wanted. To be sure! One sheet had been partially torn and before I could do anything, she finished separating it. She explained that what she had were samples and she couldn't sell them to me. "Why not?" She explained that they didn't have any "teeth" (non dentele) - a translation from French meaning imperforated, or without teeth. I told her it was alright as I could separate them at home with scissors. Joy in the morning, she sold me the whole lot.

Once I had that deal consummated and my appetite whetted, I wanted to know where I could get more. She was quite concerned with my interest and said it was "secret". I told her I needed more and, furthermore, I had no intentions of blowing up their offices. Surprisingly, she gave me an address of an apartment building where I could obtain more.

Again, it was within walking distance of my apartment. It turned out to be the central offices of the al-Fateh propaganda machine. I rang the doorbell and was examined by a pair of eyes, which called a couple of his buddies and eventually admitted me. After telling them what I wanted and my efforts, I was given a table and was permitted to sort through what they had available.

One of the first labels issued was a blue Coat of Arms, probably issued about 1964. This is the only item I have been missing to date but have been offered some and should have them shortly. The next label issued was #A10, probably around 1964-65. Most of those that I found were rejects. Their stock consisted of about seven sheets of 16 stamps each of imperf, misperf, unaligned color, or the normal variety. The balance had long since been either sold or destroyed.

A5 was probably issued just after A10, followed by A3 and then A8 and A9. The A1, A2, A6 and A7 were printed in panes of 144 and then cut into sheets of 36. Of the latter four, only a few errors of each were found. The last issues were A4, A11 and A12.

For dates of issue, I can only guess and have used "probably" to be on the safe side. I tried to establish their dates with the staff but was unable to do so as everyone working with the al-Fateh was a volunteer. Transfers between offices were common and none of the staff knew where the information could be obtained.

The majority of the stock had been held in Jordan. When the civil war broke out the King gave instructions to his loyal troops to destroy. During the war, eyewitnesses stated if gun fire was directed at the King's troops from a building, either the entire building was dynamited or a tank would fire directly into a particular apartment. In any case, the result was devastating. What labels remained in the hands of private collectors were banned. Prior to the war, one would find the propaganda labels on letters along with government franking. After the war, it was forbidden to use the labels with any postage stamp picturing King Hussein.

After acquiring as many varieties as I could from the al-Fateh, and spending as much as I could afford, I had to wait about six weeks before pursuing the Popular Front labels.

About ten days before Thanksgiving I decided to try the P.F.L.P. The al-Fateh are a mild bunch compared to the gun-toting, grenade throwing, plane hijacking group at the P.F.L.P., and I wasn't certain I wanted to get near them. I knew I had to get their labels, so off I went, cash in hand, not sure if I would return, much less with the labels or money carried.

I arrived at their headquarters late in the afternoon. All was peaceful. They invited me in and I was ushered to a back office and introduced to their executive director. As we sat and talked, I had the feeling he wanted to recruit me. He mentioned others that had visited them, including an American husband and wife who had come in a few days earlier and wanted to offer their "services." Thank you very much but "No thank you." I was still upset over the multiple plane hijackings to the Jordanian desert and for very personal reasons. Just prior to the hijacking, I had dispatched a large shipment of stamps to the U.S. and there was a remote possibility they could have been on one of those planes.

A conversation with an Arab is initially never to the point. This one was no exception. After much idle chit chat, we finally got down to what labels he had. As it turned out, most of theirs too had been in Jordan and, as it was shortly after the civil war, the earlier sets were now ashes. I ended up buying what he had left of the Views of Palestine, some of the Martyrs of the P.F.L.P. and two other single values.

Perhaps I should mention that the walls were covered with posters. The most noticeable and notable was one of a desert scene with skull and crossbones and a picture of King Hussein.

When he opened the door to his office for me to leave, there were at least 20 people in the front room, few of who had been there when I arrived. Grabbing me by the arm he asked if I recognized anyone. The faces were vaguely familiar, and I had the feeling of having seen them on the front pages of the newspapers. He rattled off names and places - "That's Leila Khalid, who was just released from prison in London this morning and flew in this afternoon via Cairo; that's so-and-so who hijacked a plane in Zurich, Munich, Athens, London, etc., etc." The whole room was full of hijackers! Fortunately, they were all in good spirits and celebrating the return of Leila.

The first set of labels issued by the P.F.L.P. (# PF 1) was a literal advertisement of things to come. One value in the set of four portrays an airliner burning. I haven't been able to determine when this set first appeared. There is a later issue of the P.F.L.P. of "Paintings by Kanafani," with inscriptions in several languages - perhaps three or four. There is also a set of four stamps portraying a woman and child with U.S. currency valuations (face \$6.75).

To my knowledge, the Palestine Arab Organization (P.A.O.) issued only one label and it was obtained for me by one of my suppliers. From what I understand, the P.A.O. is a relatively small Syrian based group.

I eventually started to advertise the labels in the U.S. and sold more than I expected. But the story didn't end there.

In March of 1972, about nine months after returning to the U.S. and settling in Florida, I received a phone call.

"Are you Robert E. Hudson?"

"Yes."

"Are you the stamp dealer?"

"Yes."

"Good, I'll be out to see you in 20 minutes."

Click. The conversation went exactly as described. I was a bit put off by the brevity of it all. Twenty minutes later my doorbell rang.

"Hello. My name is Mr.-----, F.B.I."

"Judas Priest!", I thought to myself. I don't mind saying it surprised the hell out of me. The closest I'd ever been to the F.B.I. was an elementary school tour in Washington, D.C.

I invited the agent in and he began questioning me. Was I an American? My wife? etc. Fine, no problem. He then asked about my connections with the Palestinians and the labels I was selling. After explaining why I had them and how I acquired them, he asked "Who buys them?"

"Israel collectors mostly, but also some of my regular clients for the Arab countries." From his expression, I knew my answer surprised him. "How do you know they are Israel collectors?"

"Well, how far can you go with Israel? - 1948 to date. And it's no problem to buy Israel complete. So, what do you do" Either you go backwards into Palestine Mandate and/or even further back into the Ottoman Empire occupation or you branch out and add some color to your collection." I also told him that many of the customers were Jewish.

"Yes, but how do you know they are Jewish collectors of Israel?"

"Well, while I was living in Beirut, I received a number of letters which stated, 'We are sorry we are at war with you.' Well now, I'm an American and no one was at war with me."

The F.B.I. agent was finally convinced. During our conversation I learned he too was a stamp collector. For nearly six years now he has been on my mailing list, occasionally buying Canadian lots from my auctions.

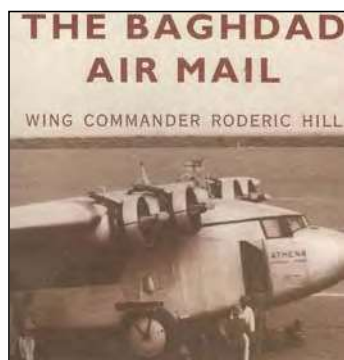
PALESTINE PROPAGANDA LABELS	
Item #	Description
	<u>AL-FATEH</u>
AF 1	Coat of Arms
AF 2	Horse (brown)
AF 2a	imperf vertically
AF 2b	imperf single
AF 2c	"2b" with rusty-red color shift
AF 2d	diagonal misperf (vert. or hor. strip of either 3 or 4)
AF 2e	horizontal multiple misperf single
AF 3	Horse (blue)
AF 3a	top margin imperf
AF 3b	imperf vertically
AF 3c*	imperf single, red color shift
AF 4	Palestine Flag
AF 4a	Arabic inscription missing
AF 4b	"4a" imperf single
AF 5	Al-Karamah
AF 5a	imperf single
AF 5b	horizontal misperf single
AF 5c	vertical misperf single
AF 5d	black color ("al-Fateh", "Palestinian", "Palestinienne") entirely missing
AF 6	Al-Karamah souvenir sheet of 4
AF 6a	shifted color (black)
AF 6b	shifted perfs
AF 7	Jerusalem
AF 7a	imperf single
AF 7b	shade variety
AF 8	Resistance Fighter
AF 8a	top margin perf error, tab at top & bottom
AF 8b	"8a" in block of four with two normal
AF 8c	bottom margin perf error, as "8a"
AF 8d	color variety
AF 8e	imperf single
AF 9	Shalom and Napalm
AF 9a	brown color shift
AF 9b	imperf single
AF 10	Body Borne Aloft
AF 10a	imperf single
AF 11	Fifth Anniversary (stamp on stamp), red
AF 12	Fifth Anniversary (stamp on stamp), yellow

Item #	Description
AF 13	Fifth Anniversary (stamp on stamp), brown
	<u>PALESTINE ARAB ORGANIZATION</u>
P 1	Resistance Fighter
	<u>POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE</u>
PF 1(a-d)	Hijacked Plane in Flames, Israel Octopus, Falcon Attacking Israeli Snake, Woman with Torch and Flag, complete set of 4 inscribed "5 fils"
PF 1 shts.	-As above, miniature sheets (4) of 30
PF 2	Woman with Torch and Flag "25 fils"
PF 3 sht.	Views of Palestine, 10 values and 2 tabs se-tenant in miniature sheet
PF 4	Notorious Hijackers and Martyrs of P.F.L.P., 24 values plus 1 tab se-tenant in miniature sheet
PF 5	"The Zurich Affair", 1 value complete, Burning Plane and Hijacker, inscribed "50 fils"
PF 6(a-d)	Woman Refugee Holding Child, 4 values complete (face \$6.75)
PF 7	Paintings - 2nd Anniversary Martyr Comrade Ghassan Kanafani, 7 values se-tenant strip, English text
PF 7a	-As above, but blind perfs between two values
PF 8	-As PF 7, French text
PF 9	-Same, German text
PF 10	-Same, Spanish text



Kuwait

The Baghdad Air Mail



30 June 1922: A cover sent via the newly opened Baghdad – Cairo fortnightly air service franked with 9as making up the fee for one ounce.

The earliest recorded cover from Gulf having taken this route and possibly the earliest airmail cover franked with Indian stamps – excluding the 1920s Allahabad and Bombay-Karachi flights.

The purpose of this airmail route was to reduce the time it took for mail from Bombay to reach London – which by sea had a transit time of approximately 28 days. The introduction of the Baghdad – Cairo airmail route reduced the transit time to 5 days.

The first consignment of official mail via this route left Baghdad on August 9th 1921 with the first official mail leaving London August 4th. On October 8th 1921 the airmail service was thrown open to the public at a special fee of 1 shilling per ounce in addition to the ordinary postal charges. On December 13th 1921 the special air fee was reduced to 6 pence per ounce. Over the next 16 months as experience was gained and the reliability of the service improved the amount of mail carried multiplied tenfold and the airmail was timed to fit as efficient as possible into European sailing. Eventually the special air fee was reduced to 3 pence.

KUWAIT: 'MECHANICALLY EXAMINED' CACHET

By Dr. Mashael A. Alhajeri – redab70@hotmail.com - © Mashael A. Alhajeri, 2007

The *Al-Samitah* Incident

Beginning in the early 1970s, Iraq's desire to develop a deep-water port on the Gulf led to demands that the two Kuwaiti islands of Bubiyan and Warbah be transferred or leased to Iraq (these islands dominate the estuary leading to the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr). Kuwait refused, and on 20 March 1973, Iraqi troops seized *Al-Samitah*, a border post in the northeast corner of Kuwait, and announced it was annexing a small strip of Kuwaiti territory near the Iraqi port city of Umm Qasr.

A conflict ensued and Saudi Arabia immediately came to Kuwait's aid and, together with the backing of the Arab League, secured Iraq's withdrawal (i.e. diplomatically booted Iraq out).

There was a minor border incident in this area in 1983, but this issue was temporarily shelved in 1984 because of the pressures of the war with Iran, as Baghdad needed access to Kuwait's ports to import weapons and ammunition.

'MECHANICALLY EXAMINED' Cachet

This above political introduction is necessary to report a cachet that I recorded being used during that time, which I could not help but associate with the said incident.

This is a boxed, rectangular cachet with the Arabic inscription "فحص ألياً (التوقيع)" ('MECHANICALLY EXAMINED [Signed]'). All recorded examples are struck in red. Cachet is previously unreported.

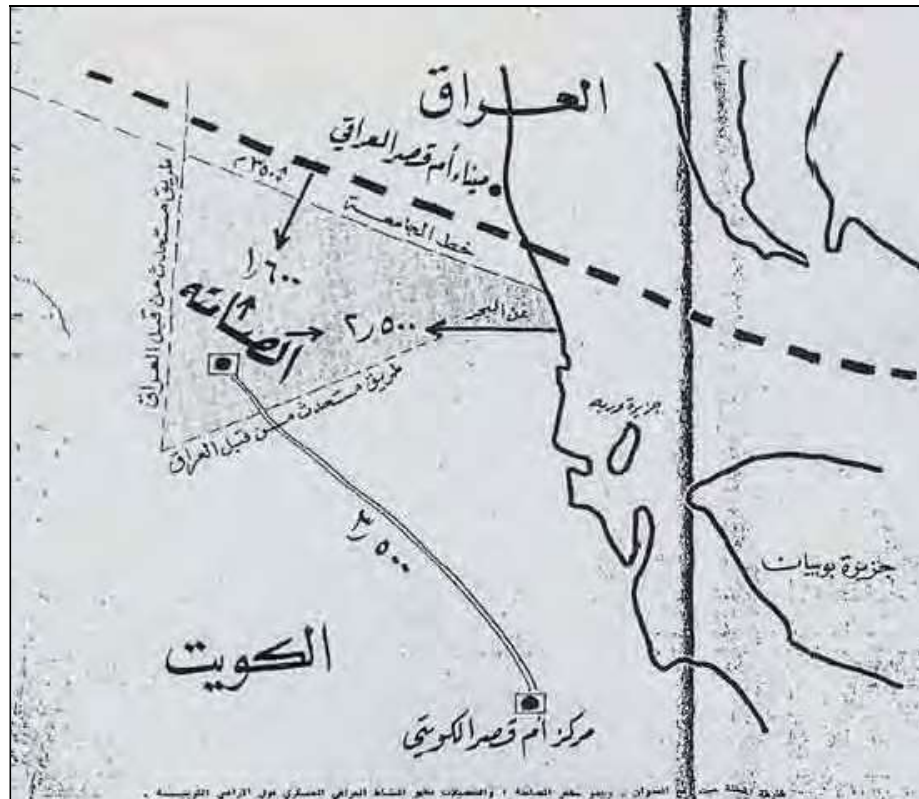
I have recorded four examples. Details are as follows:

ADDRESSEE	FROM	DATE
Ministry of Posts and T&T - Kuwait	New York, USA	No dated postmarks
The American Embassy - Kuwait	Kuwait (local cover)	Cancelled: 23.7.1973
Director of the Postal Sector - Kuwait	France	Cancelled: 20.8.1973
Ministry of Posts and T&T - Kuwait (two covers)	New York, USA	No cancellation date. Received: 10.6.1974

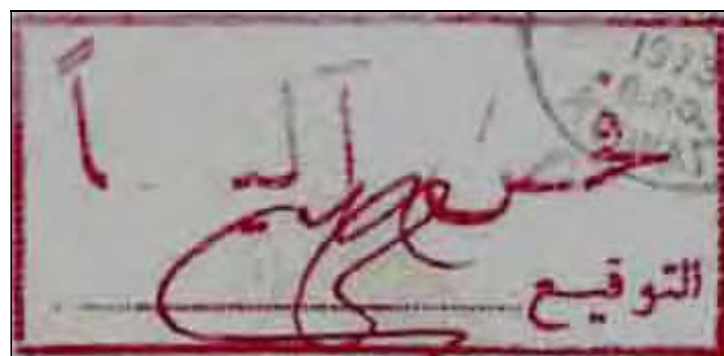
My theory in this connection is that, subsequent to the *Al-Samitah* aggression, mail addressed to governmental bodies, diplomatic missions and dignitaries was apparently checked by Kuwaiti postal authorities for security reasons. I have excluded the 1973 Arab-Israeli War as an improbable reason for this security measure, as this war broke in October 1973, whereas *al-Samitah* took place seven months earlier, in March of the same year.

I do not know how plausible my theory is. It would be interesting indeed to hear contending views from other collectors over the use of this cachet.

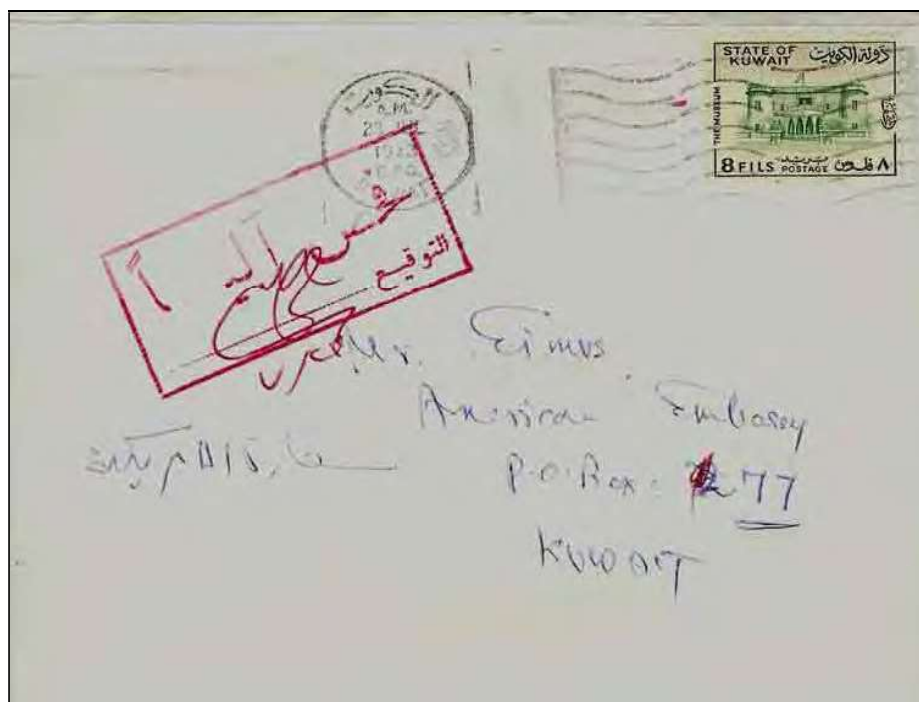
I would like to thank Khalid Abdulmughni for furnishing me with examples from his own collection.



Illustrated is the location of the Al-Samitah police station, over which the Iraqi aggression took place. The map also shows Iraqi military activities over Kuwaiti soil (Source: *Al-Siyasa* newspaper, 25 March, 1973)



'MECHANICALLY EXAMINED [Signed]' boxed cachet (unrecorded)
The cachet measures 50 x 24 mm



Local cover (machine cancelled GPO 23 JUL 1973', Alshakar Type KMC 01) addressed to the American Embassy in Kuwait; rate: 8 Fils (received 'SAFAT 23 JUL 1973' machine slogan 'SMOKING SPOILS YOUR HEALTH'; Alshakar Type KMS 61). Cover bears the 'MECHANICALLY EXAMINED' boxed cachet, struck in red.



Inward cover sent from Fontainebleau, France (machine cancelled 20.8.1973) addressed to the Director of the Postal Sector in Kuwait (received 'SAFAT 23 AUG 1973' machine slogan 'SMOKING SPOILS YOUR HEALTH'; Alshakar Type KMS 60). Cover bears the 'MECHANICALLY EXAMINED' boxed cachet [signed].



Another inward cover sent from Bahrain on 9 April 1973 showing the use of the cachet.



A cover sent to Kuwait with postage due mark from Germany. Seamail rate in spring 1975 was 90 Pfennig and charged amount is 60 Pfennig, making 30 Pfennig missing with the 60 Pfennig stamps. So this is incorrectly charged as not the airmail fee is charged. In Kuwait, the cover was sent to Kuwait Hospital with no P.O.Box address and a "Ministry of Health" mark in lilac applied, returned with a red mark and a further red hand stamp applied (which I cannot read properly). German "Nachgebühren" (postage due) handstamp was applied but seems nothing was charged as no blue number applied.

Muscat & Oman



The item illustrated here appeared in an Internet auction a few months back. At first glance it is nothing special but notice that the year has been omitted, something that I have not seen or heard of before in the squared circle (Type 9). Furthermore, that it is not due to weak ink seems to be supported by the Indian arrival stamp also having the year omitted. We know that the year was removed from the datestamp in 1873 and Donaldson mentions the re-introduction of the year in 1883 or 1884. However, Donaldson records the earliest use of the



31-Aug-1885



2-Jun-1886



Type 8



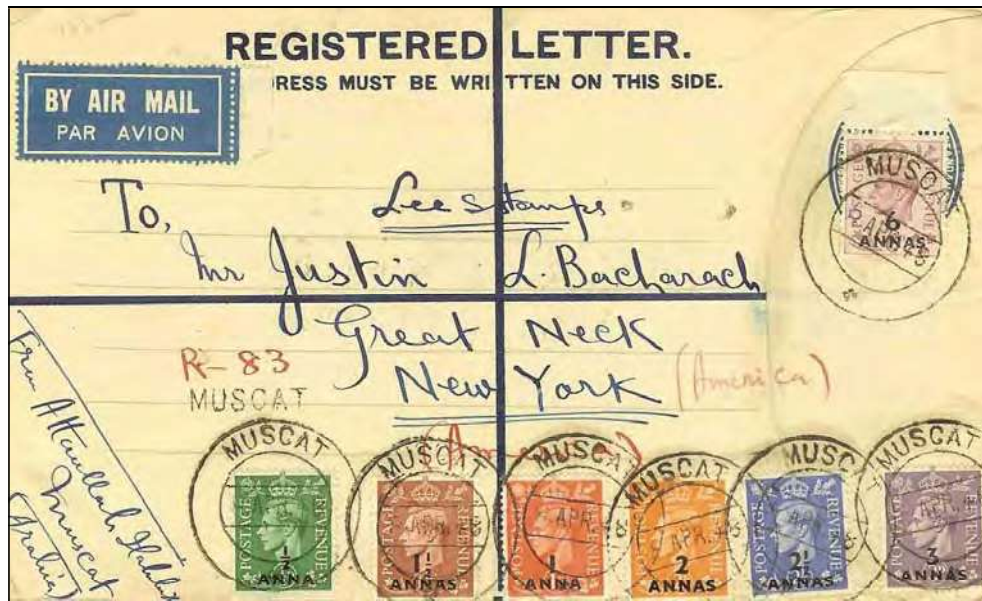
Type 8A



squared circle as the 17 April 1885 and Type 8 and 8A have respectively been recorded with year as early as 20 Feb 1884 and 21 March 1884. Does the above item represent the earliest use of the Muscat squared circle as 15 January 1885 and did Indian post office omit the year in the arrival stamp as late as 1885 or 1886. Most of the recorded samples of the squared circle from 1885 have the cancellation applied East India stamps but the 1a block of four illustrated to the left shows that QV stamps from the 1882 – 1890 issue were in use in Muscat by 1885.



22 December 1947: A philatelic Bu'Said cover showing the use of the 14as and 8as values – total franking being 36as. At the time the rate to the USA was 18as which would represent double weight but as the cover has been sent registered there is a shortfall of 3as.



8 April 1948: A philatelic inspired cover sent to the USA, however, it illustrates early usage of GVI stamps following the transfer of the Muscat Post Office from Pakistani to British administration. It also shows the use of Indian stationary, which is rarely seen used in Muscat – the Indian origin and the 4.5as have been annulled by applying a 6as stamp over the value of the stationary.



19 August 1948: A registered cover sent to Aden franked with a total of 2Rs 14½as. The cover has been superscribed “Insured for Rps 2,667”, “Registered with Acknowledgement” and “52 grams” – so a weight of up to 2 oz. The registration fee at the time was 3as and it was 3½as per ½ oz to Aden which covers 17as of the 46½as paid - can anyone clarify what the remaining 29½as covered – so the distribution between the fee for acknowledgement and insurance?



8 February 1959: A cover sent from Muscat to Tel Aviv, Israel. The cover has not been subjected to any censorship or undercover routes. The question is why there was no censorship in Israel. Usually the covers had a closing tape with numbers, but this cover shows only the rectangular census mark on the bottom, which presumably means it went via London.



29 April 1964: The image to the left illustrates part of a large cover on which the value only stamps of the British Postal Administration were applied and cancelled as a "Last Day Cover".

It was also the last day that the "MUSCAT 1" canceller was used.

During a recent trip to Muscat I met with Mustafa Said who created the cover 43 years ago and his recollection of the day is written on the back of the cover. Incidentally, he also told me a story about how one large merchant in Muscat used to collect his mail in big bags and when the mail took up too much space he would send one of his staff to sea and dump the bags in the ocean.

BEFORE THESE STAMPS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM USE IN MUSCAT, I FIXED
2 SETS ON TWO COVERS AND HAD THEM POSTMARKED WITH THE LAST
DAY OF USE AT THE POST OFFICE IN MUSCAT

MUSTAFA SAID



9 May 1973: Cable and Wireless operated the telegram service in Muscat back in 1973 – they would receive incoming telegram and then post them to the receiver. Not only one of only two such telegrams that I have seen but also a very unusual example of local Muscat mail – the local rate for such mail was 10 Baiza.



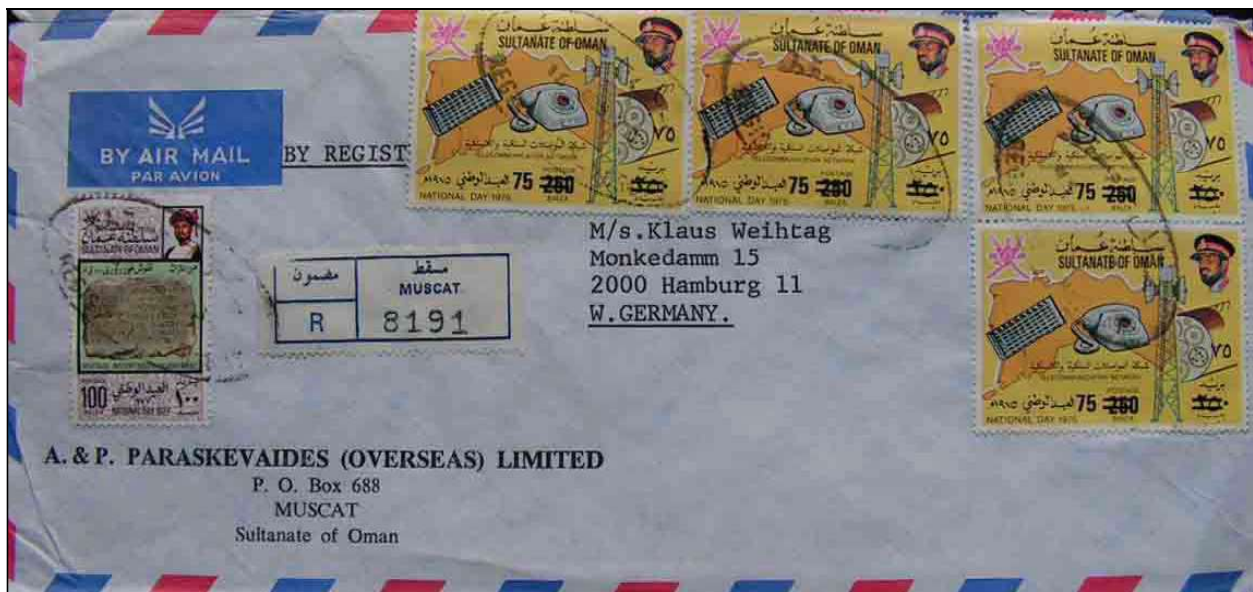
The two above stamps were recently sent to me by Sami Al Salman and they show a line under “of” and “OM”. I have not previously seen this variety on the 16 January 1971 overprints and am wondering if its existence on two values means that it is a constant variety.



On the 24th of May 2000 Oman issued a stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Gulf Air. The stamp was issued in sheets of 50 and shows a flaw in the form of a "Gold connection" between the "2000" and the "5". It is found in position 4/5. I was shown three sheets 6 years ago and each sheet had the flaw.



During my visit to Mustafa Said's home he told me about how he had been collecting his stamps and covers over the years. As I went through his collection I came across the 1973 Ministerial Complex issue where Mustafa had both stamps and covers. He told me that he didn't realize what he had bought until he saw it mentioned in an SG catalogue many years later. He then checked his FDCs and stamps and found a number of missing dates. In short, he had been queuing to buy FDCs and stamps and had been given a mix. I would guess he was there in the morning before it was pointed out the post office clerk – the FDCs are there only usage of the “missing year” that I have recorded before 1977.



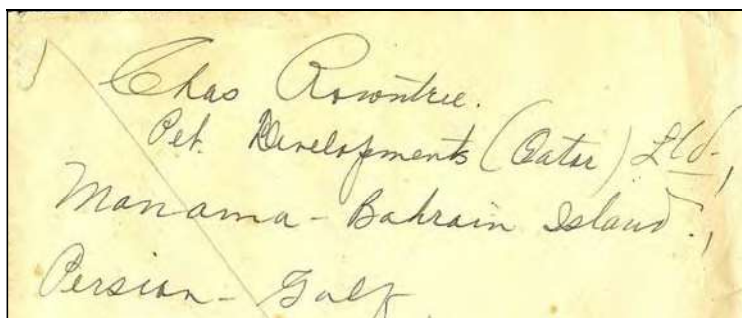
13 August 1978: The above cover, cancelled at Muscat, shows the highest recorded number of the 75 Baiza on 250 Baiza surcharge used on cover. It was sent to Germany and has four copies of the stamp plus one copy of the 1977 100 Baiza National Day issue making up the registered rate of 400 Baiza.

Qatar

Early mail via Bahrain with Qatar origin

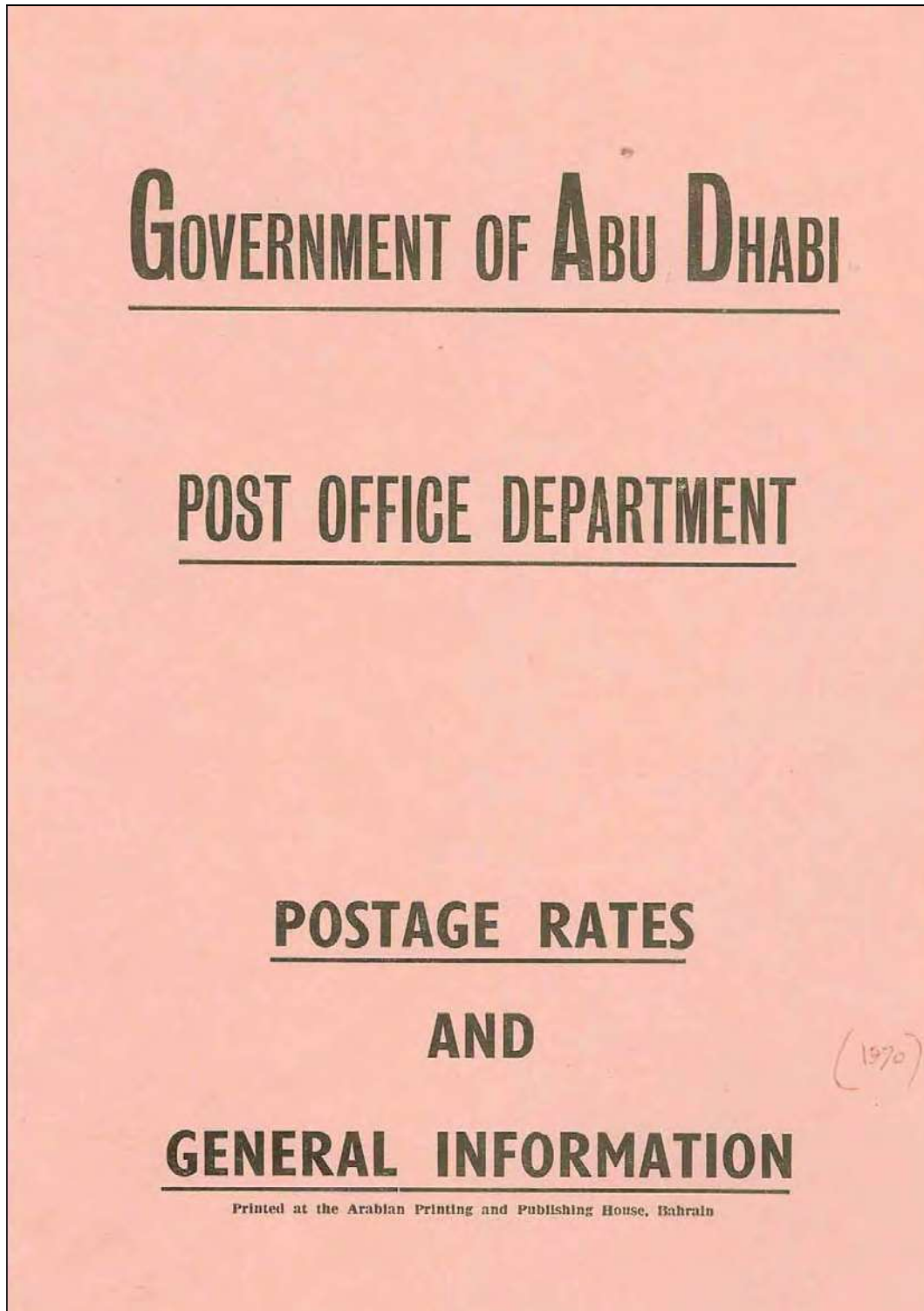


30 November 1938: A cover sent from Pet. Development (Qatar) Ltd via Manama, Bahrain to California, USA. It has been franked with a total of 9½as making up the rate for ½ oz being the air fee of 6as and the surface fee of 3½as. It is one of the earliest covers from Qatar.



UAE - Abu Dhabi

Over the next 6 pages I have illustrated the contents of an Abu Dhabi Postal Guide seemingly dated 1970. It is the only such postal guide that I have come across to date.



AIR MAIL

Class of Correspondence	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D
Letters each 15 grammes	Fils 035	Fils 060	Fils 125	Fils 150
Postcards	Fils 025	Fils 035	Fils 070	Fils 080
Printed papers each 15 grammes	Fils 025	Fils 025	Fils 050	Fils 060
Small packets each 10 grammes (To those countries which accept them - enquire at counter)	Fils 025	Fils 025	Fils 050	Fils 060

SURFACE MAIL

Class of Correspondence

Arab Countries (Zone A)

Letters	{ Fils 020 for first 20 grammes and Fils 010 for each additional 20 grammes.
Postcards	Fils 015
Printed papers	Fils 010 for each 50 grammes or part thereof.
Small Packets	{ Fils 015 for each 50 grammes (minimum charge Fils 050)

Other countries (Zone, B.C.D.)

Letters	{ Fils 040 for first 20 grammes and Fils 020 for each additional 20 grammes.
Postcards	Fils 025
Printed Papers	{ Fils 015 for first 50 grammes and Fils 010 for each additional 50 grammes.
Small packets (To those countries which accept them.)	Fils 015 for each 50 grammes.

AIR MAIL POSTAGE RATES

AEROGRAMMES TO ALL DESTINATIONS Fils 40

ZONE A

ARAB COUNTRIES

Ajman	Aden	Morocco	Sharjah
Algeria	Iraq	Muscat	Sudan
Bahrain	Jordan	Qatar	Syria
Dubai	Kuwait	Ras al Khaimah	United Arab Republic
Fujairah	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia	Yemen.
Gaza Strip	Libya	Ummal Qwain	

ZONE B

Europe, North and East Africa, Iran, Pakistan and India.

	Eritrea	Kenya	Roumania
Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Latvia	Seychelles
Albania		Liechtenstein	Somali Republic
Andorra	Faroe	Lithuania	Spain
Austria	Finland	Luxembourg	Sweden
Balearic Isles	France	Madeira	Switzerland
Belgium	French Somali Coast	Mukalla	Tanzania
Bulgaria	Germany	Majorca	Thailand
Burma	Gibraltar	Malta	Tibet
Canary Isles	Great Britain	Minorca	Turkey
Cape Verde Isles	Greece	Monaco	Uganda
Ceylon	Greenland	Nepal	Ukraine
Corsica	Hungary	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Crete	Iceland	Norway	U.S.S.R.
Cyprus	India	Pakistan	Yugoslavia
Czechoslovakia	Irish Republic	Poland	
Denmark	Italy	Portugal	
Dodecanese Isles	Kamaran Isles	Rhodes	

<u>ZONE C</u>	<u>Far East, South, Central and West Africa</u>		
Australia	Gabon	Mongolia	Reunion
Azores	Gambia The	Mozambique	Rhodesia
Banks Isles	Ghana	Nauru	Rio de Oro
Burundi	Gilbert & Ellice Isles	New Caledonia	Rwanda
Brunei	Guinea Rep.	New Guinea	Samoa
Cambodia	Hong Kong	New Hebrides	Senegal
Cameroun	Indonesia	New Zealand	Sierra Leone
Central African Rep.	Ivory Coast	Niger	Soloman Isles
Chad	Japan	Nigeria	South Africa Union
China	Korea South	Norfolk Isles	Spanish Guinea
Christmas Isles	Laos	North Borneo	Spanish W. Africa
Cocos & Keeling Isles	Liberia	Papua	Togo
Congo	Macao	Phillipines	Tonga
Cook Isles	Malawi	Pitcairn	Torres
Dahomey	Malaysia	Portuguese E. Africa	Upper Volta
Fanning Isles	Maldiva Isles	Portuguese Timor	Viet Nam
Fiji	Mauritania	Portuguese W. Africa	West Irian
Formosa	Mauritius	Portuguese Guinea	Zambia
<u>ZONE D</u>	<u>North, Central and South America</u>		
Alaska	Costa Rica	Guyana	Nicaragua
Antigua	Cuba	Haiti	Panama Can. Zone
Argentine	Curacao	Hawaii	Panama Rep.
Bahamas	Dominica	Honduras Rep.	Paraguay
Barbados	Dominican Rep.	Jamaica	Peru
Bermuda	Dutch Guiana	Leeward Isles	Puerto Rico
Bolivia	Ecuador	Marianne Isles	St Helena
Brazil	Falkland Isles		St Kitts & Nevis
Brit. Honduras	French Guiana	Martinique	St Pierre-Miquelon
Canada	French Polynesia	Mexico	Trinidad & Tobago
Cayman Isles	Grenada	Montserrat	U. S. A.
Caroline Isles	Guadeloupe	Neth. Antilles	Uruguay
Chili	Guam	Nevis	Venezuela
Colombia	Guatemala	Newfoundland.	Virgin Isles

REGISTRATION**Letter Post only**

With the exception of parcels any postal packet may be registered. The registration fee is Fils 65. Compensation not exceeding BD 4 may be paid to the sender of a registered packet which has been entirely lost whilst in the custody of the Abu Dhabi Post Office. On the transfer of a registered packet to another postal administration the responsibility of the Abu Dhabi Post Office ceases, in accordance with the regulations of the Universal Postal Convention. When a packet is lost whilst in the custody of a foreign post office the decision to pay rests with the foreign post office. Compensation is not normally paid for the loss of contents of a registered packet.

INSURANCE

Letters and parcels may be insured to countries which participate in the service. For details enquire at the post office. An insured item cannot be insured for more than the actual value of the contents. Insurance fees are:—

<u>FEE</u>	<u>Compensation limit</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>Compensation limit</u>
<u>Fils</u>	<u>Dinars</u>	<u>Fils</u>	<u>Dinars</u>
120	30	220	180
140	60	240	210
160	90	260	240
180	120	280	270
200	150	300	300 (Maximum)

MONEY ORDER SERVICE

Money Orders may be sent from Abu Dhabi to more than 100 countries. The Maximum amount which may be sent by a single money order is BD 50. For details enquire at the post office. The rates of commission are as follows:—

<u>Amount of Order</u>	<u>Commission</u>	<u>Amount of Order</u>	<u>Commission</u>
<u>Dinars</u>	<u>Fils</u>	<u>Dinars</u>	<u>Fils</u>
5 to 9.900	200	30 to 34.900	600
Less than 5	100	35 to 39.900	700
10 to 19.900	350	40 to 44.900	800
20 to 24.900	400	45 to 50.000	900
25 to 29.900	500		

POSTAL ORDER SERVICE

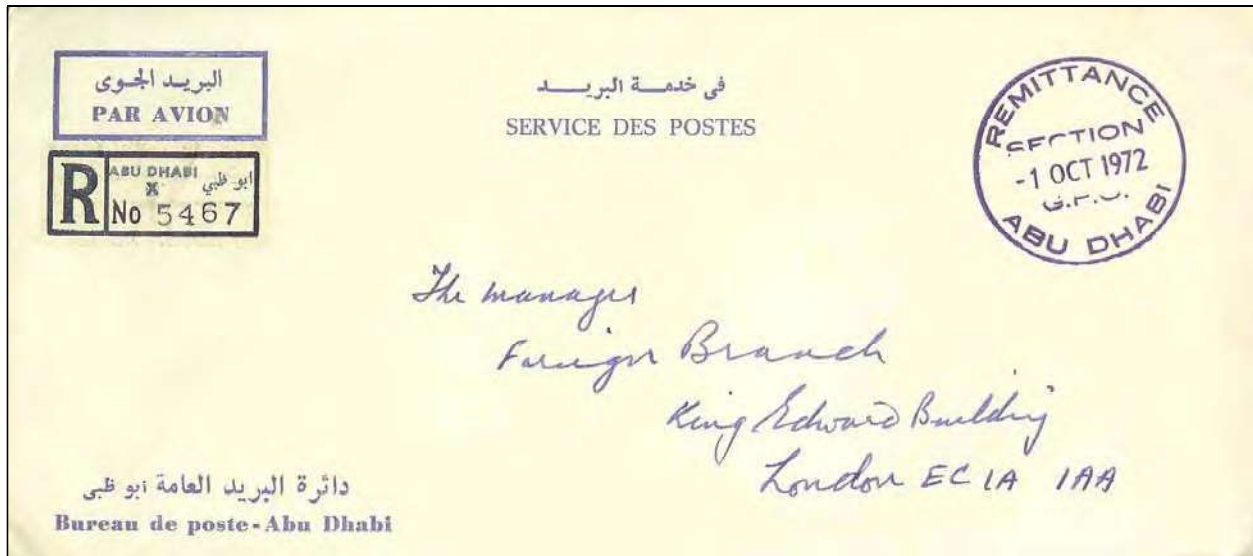
British Postal Orders are issued and are payable in more than 50 countries. Enquire at the post office about the countries which participate in this service. Postal Orders, Overprinted ABU DHABI are available in the following denominations:—

<u>Sterling Currency</u>	<u>Local Currency</u>	<u>Sterling Currency</u>	<u>Local Currency</u>
<u>£ s d</u>	<u>BD Fils</u>	<u>£ s d</u>	<u>BD Fils</u>
- 1 -	— 65	- 10 -	— 665
- 1 6	— 100	- 15 -	1 000
- 2 -	— 135	1 - -	1 335
- 2 6	— 165	2 - -	2 665
- 3 -	— 200	3 - -	4 000
- 4 -	— 265	4 - -	5 335
- 5 -	— 335	5 - -	6 665
- 6 -	— 400		
- 7 -	— 465		



Here is another example of Post Office stationery that was not illustrated in Edition 29.

In addition to this the stationery has received a Remittance datestamp that, as far as I know, has not previously been recorded. It has a diameter of 37mm.

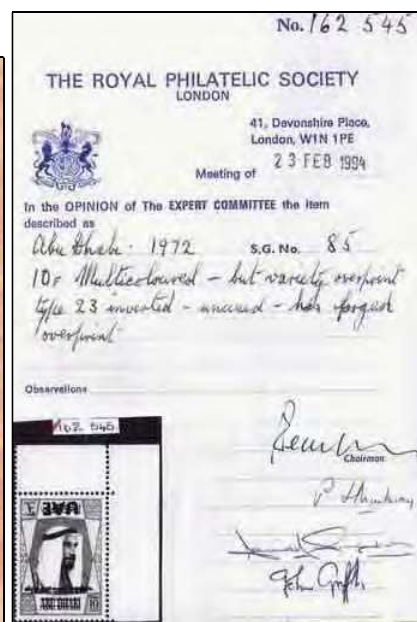


Another, to my knowledge, previously unrecorded Abu Dhabi datestamp struck in green. It has a thick outer circle and a thinner inner circle and has "section" "F" on top and below the centrally placed date. At the top of the circle is "Registered" and the bottom reads "Abu Dhabi". The diameter is 47mm so it's bigger than the similar "Section A" registration datestamp known from late 1969, normally struck in red, which measure 37mm.

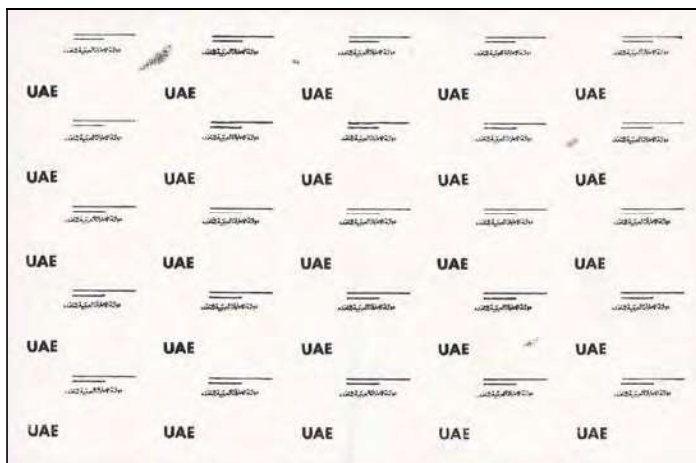
1972 Inverted 10 Fils overprint



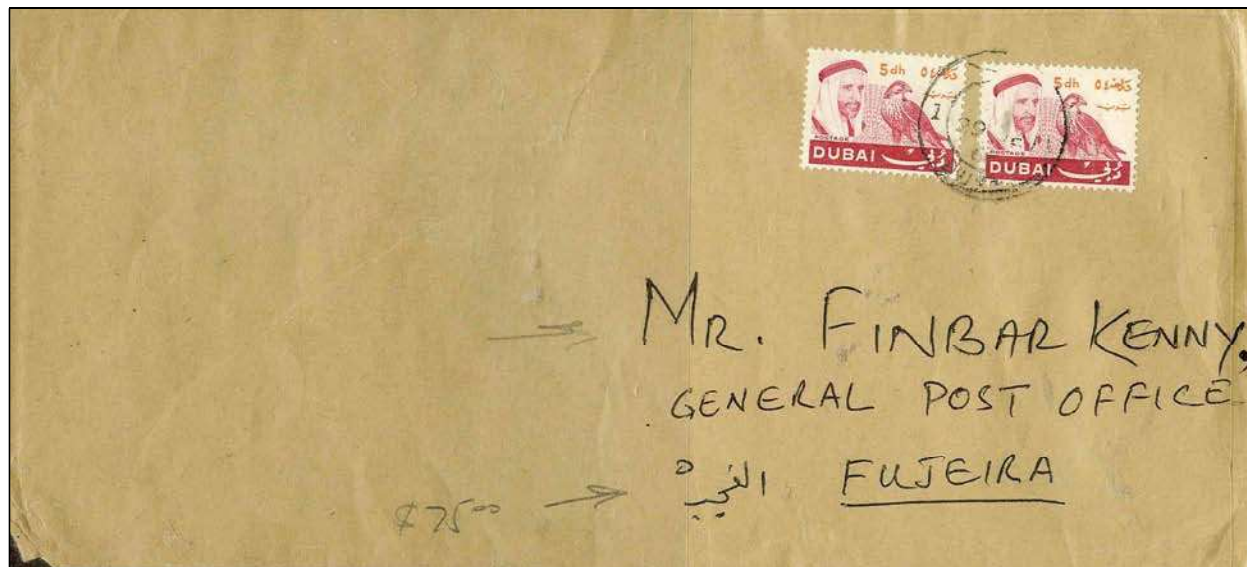
Illustrated here is the 10 Fils inverted overprint which is subject to some controversy at the least. On one side there are claims that it is the result of printer's waste and on the other side, as illustrated below by a RPS certificate, that it is a forgery.



Finally two overprint layout of the 1972 UAE overprint issue – if you want copies let me know.



UAE – Dubai



29 December 1965: An usual cover sent from Dubai to Fujairah and franked with 10 Dirham. Finbar Kenny was one of the people who had one or more of the Trucial States contracts and was working for Henry Stolow (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Stolow). Finbar Kenny presumably he served some time in prison for his stamp shenanigans.

Dubai Varieties by Howard Courtney

One would think that collecting the issues of a country that only issued stamps for nine years would be an easy task. Especially so, since most of the issues were also available as CTOs (Cancelled To Order). This is not the case with Dubai as there are no large sources of the issues after 1965. Dealers who are not familiar with them invariably list the CTOs as “used”. To have a complete collection of the country genuinely used is next to impossible.

What most collectors do not know is that most of the CTO stamps have two different cancellations printed on them. Note that I say “printed” as the cancellations were printed on full sheets of stamps and went to the agency, or distributor promoting the stamps. The CTOs were never sold at the post offices. The printed cancellations exist with a date, within the circle, and without a date. When present, the date is always the same for all CTOs of one issue.

Another unknown aspect of the stamps that most collectors are not aware of is that the stamps were often issued in more than one format. If the issue consisted of multiple designs, issued together in one sheet, these stamps were also issued in individual sheets and in some cases in two different layouts.

To complicate matters more, the perforation size is sometimes different as well. Attempting to collect the two types of cancellations, the various sheet sizes and matching them with the perforation varieties is a lifetime of work and I feel fairly comfortable in stating that no one knows what really exists at this point, and as time passes it will become more difficult as the

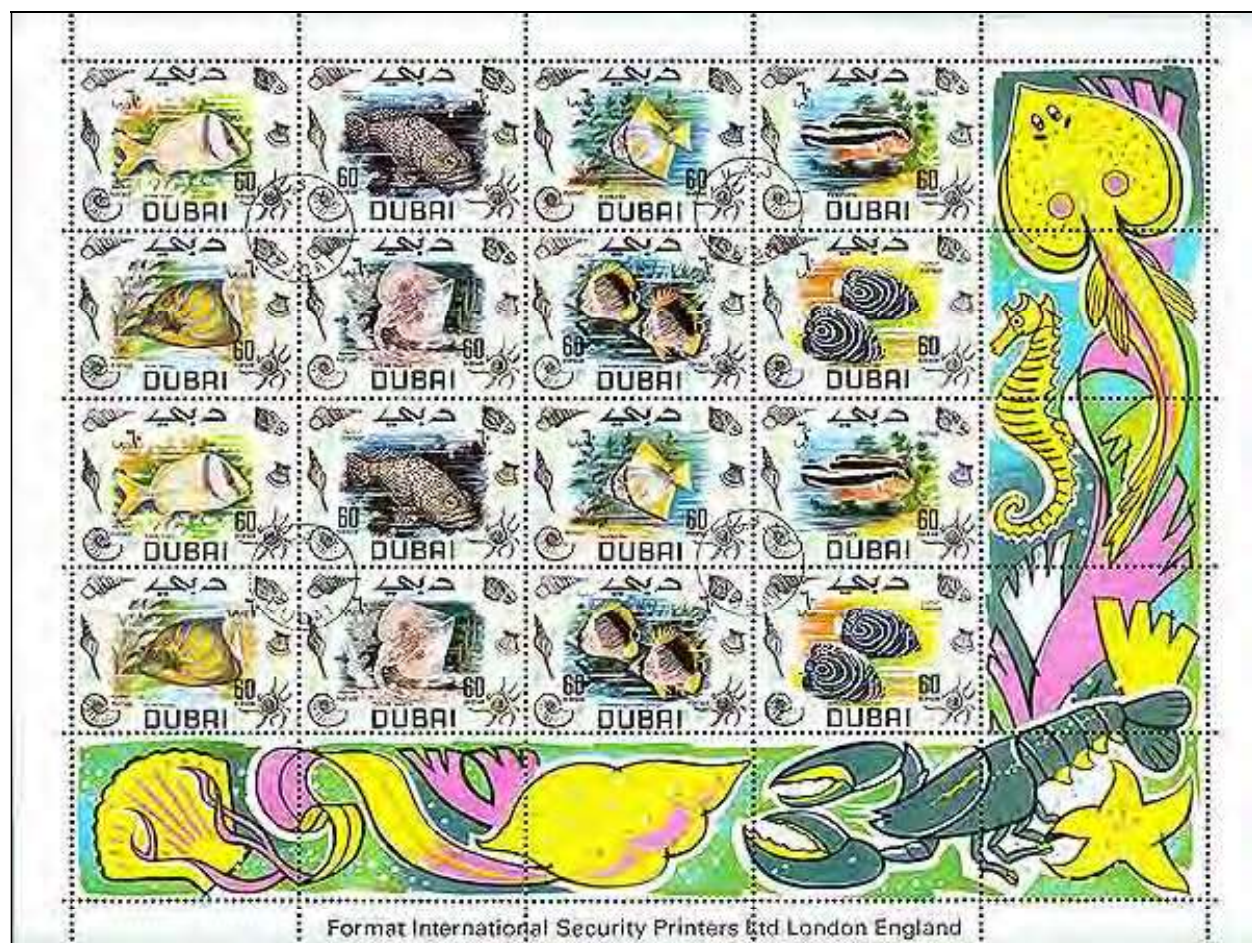
CTO sheets are broken up and sold. In my case, every discovery was by accident, even though I was collecting the stamps and working on a catalog.

Below are a few examples of the problems facing the determined Dubai collector:

The set of eight stamps portraying the fish of the area was released in a sheet of two horizontal rows. Additionally, there was a second set of stamp below them and a decorative border on the right side and bottom of the sheet. The border is very distracting and does not match the stamps, as it is almost cartoonish in appearance.

The sheet of stamps was sold at the Post Office as a mint item and the perforation is $10\frac{3}{4}$.

The sheet was also CTO, but was only sold by the agent, or agency, for the country. The perforation was the same as the mint sheets.



Above: Full sheet containing two sets of the stamps, plus the decorative border. This sheet is CTO and does not have a date in the cancellation.

The individual stamps of each fish were also printed in sheets of 25 (5 x 5). These were all CTO and have the perforation of $10 \frac{3}{4}$, the same as the sheets with the decorative border. However, the cancellations can be found with a date within the circle and without a date, within the circle.



Full sheets of the individual stamps with printed cancellations with, and without, the date. What is interesting is that the paper of the sheets appears to be slightly different from the other and the perforation on the sheet without the dates does not continue to the edge of the sheet.



By accident one day, while visiting Ezzet Mosden in Las Vegas, I noticed a partial sheet of one of the fish that had a slight color variation. Weeks later he sent it to me and it was then that I discovered they had a different layout. It seemed logical that the sheet would have contained 10 stamps, but I was not certain. Months later I found a similar sized sheet of the Flower issue and it contained ten stamps. Therefore, it seems logical to conclude that this one did as well. The problem is that the perforation is $13\frac{1}{2}$. The sheet is also CTO and the cancellation does not have any date within the circle.



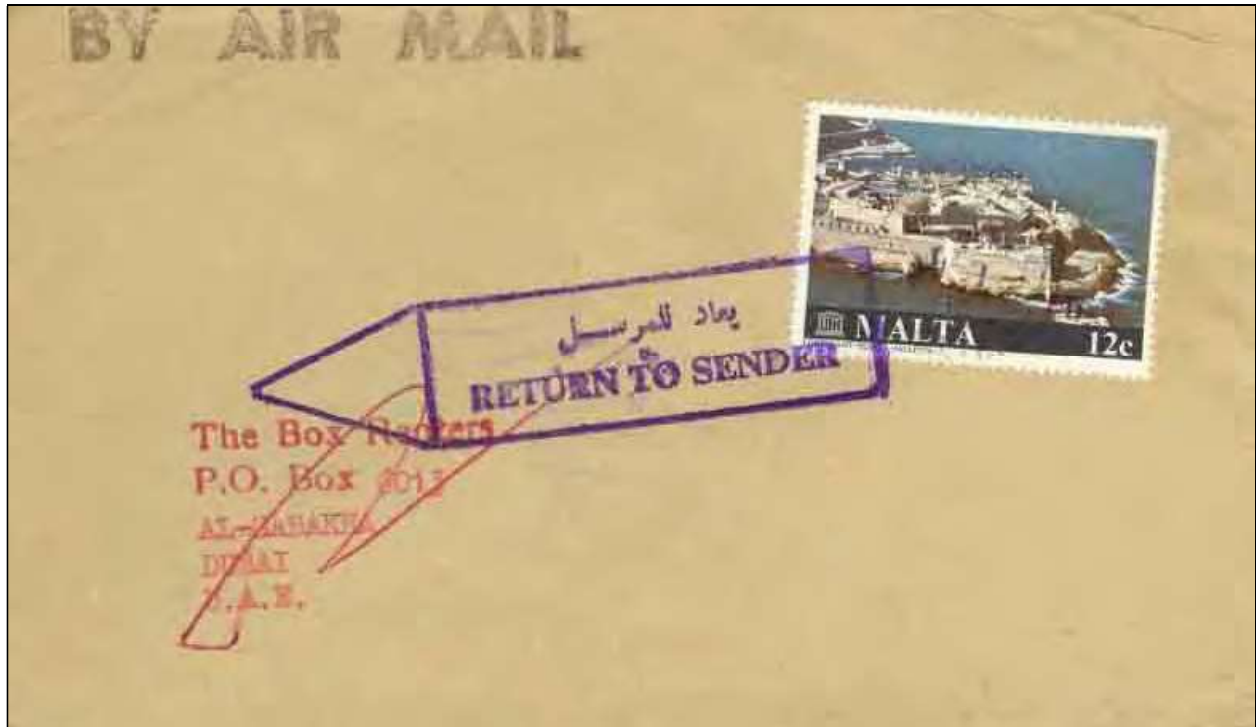
A smaller sheet that I presume originally contained ten stamps, with a perforation of $13\frac{1}{2}$ and no date in the printed cancellation.

The task ahead is to determine what CTO varieties, perforations, paper types, and layouts exist for any of the stamps that were sold at the post office containing more than one design in a sheet.

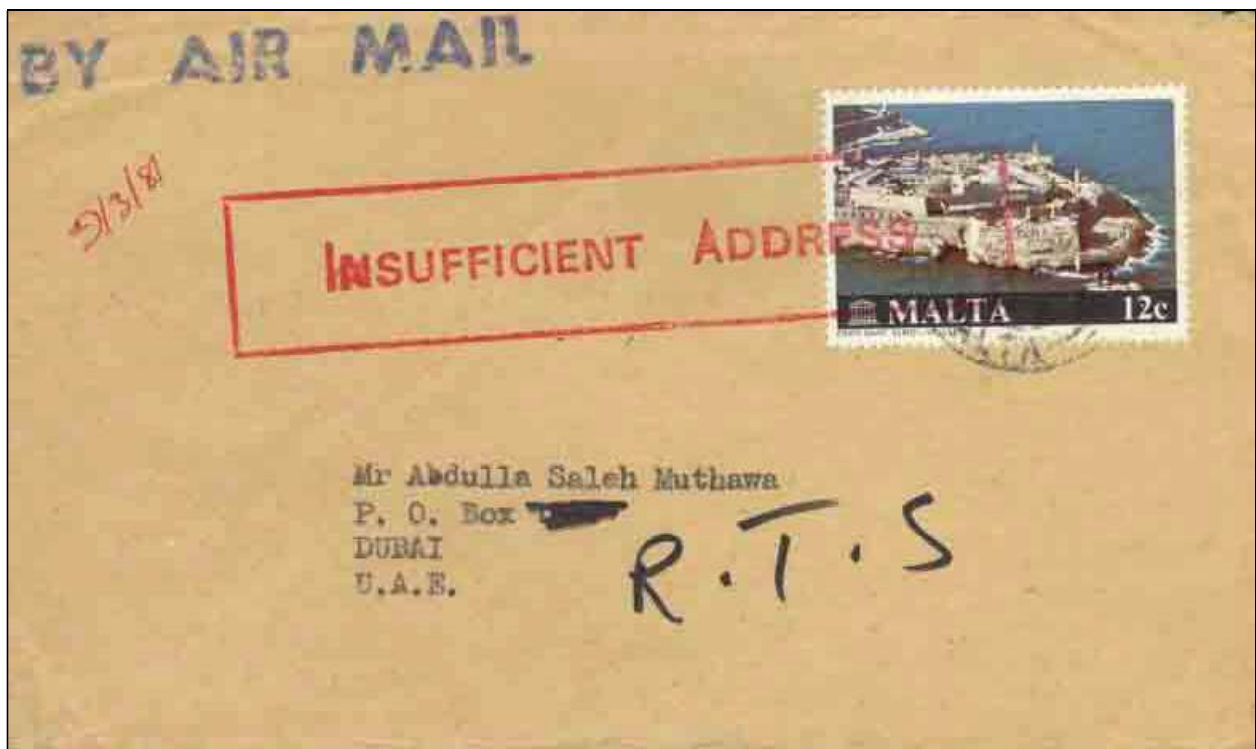


15 April 1975: A cover from Germany to Dubai showing a German postage due mark 80/70 applied. Until 31 Dec 1975 it was used and the missing amount was doubled – i.e. 80 Pfennig illustrating a 40 Pfennig underpayment - no compulsory fee was charged. The cover was not called for and received two “return to sender” handstamps in Dubai – where no postage due was applied - and sent back to Germany where the sender was charged the 80 Pfennig.

Illustrated are four covers with various handstamps used in Dubai.



“RETURN TO SENDER”



“INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS”



“UNKNOWN”



“NOT COLLECTED”

THE “A” & “B” WAVY LINES MACHINE CANCEL

By Khalid Omaira

Type 39a: The first type was introduced during 1967 and inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English with a “B” facing up and seven wavy lines. The earliest recorded used for the first type of the “B” machine cancel is on August 5th, 1967, and the latest on November 11th, 1968.



Type 39b: The second type was also introduced during 1967, inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English but instead has the “B” facing down and seven wavy lines. The earliest recorded used for the second type of the “B” machine cancel is on May 29th, 1967, and the latest on August 13th, 1968.



Type 39c: The third type of the “B” machine cancel was introduced during 1969 commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the postal services in Dubai. This type inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English and with a “B” facing down and had a slogan instead of the wavy lines inscribed “60th Anniversary – Dubai – Postal Services” in English followed by six straight lines. The earliest recorded use for the third type of the “B” machine cancel is on October 24th, 1969, and the latest on November 4th, 1969.



Type 39d: The forth type of the “B” machine cancel was introduced during 1969 commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the postal services in Dubai. This type inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English has the “B” facing up and has the slogan inscribed “60th Anniversary – Dubai – Postal Services” in English. The earliest recorded used for the forth type of the “B” machine cancel is on March 17th, 1969, and the latest on September 2nd, 1969.



Type 39e: The fifth type of the “B” machine cancel was introduced during 1969 commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the postal services in Dubai. This type inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English and with a “B” facing up but instead of the slogan being in English the “60th Anniversary – Dubai – Postal Services” is in Arabic only.



Five different types of the “A” machine cancel were recorded used in Dubai post office during the independent postal administration. Two of the five were continued in use during the UAE postal administration.

Type 40a: The first type was introduced during the year 1969, inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English and with an “A” facing right, with a seven wavy lines. The earliest recorded date for this type is 23 November 1969, and the latest is on May 2nd, 1973 on UAE stamps.



Type 40b: The second type was also introduced during 1969 and inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English but with the “A” facing left and with a seven wavy lines. The earliest recorded date for this type is 28 January 1970, and the latest is 6 October 1973 on UAE stamps.



Type 40c: During July 1970 the “A” wavy line machine cancel with “A” facing left has been recorded with the year and month transposed – i.e. year above the month. This variety has only been recorded in July 1970 and is as such one of the rarest cancellation marks of the independent period. The earliest recorded use is July 5th, 1970 and the latest is July 15th, 1970.



Type 40d: The fourth type was introduced during 1969 commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the postal services in Dubai. This type inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English and with an “A” facing right and with a slogan instead of the wavy lines inscribed “60th Anniversary – Dubai – Postal Services” in English. The earliest known used is on March 15th, 1969 and the latest is on September 18th, 1969



Type 40e: The fifth type of the “A” machine cancel was introduced in 1969 commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the postal services in Dubai. This type inscribed “DUBAI” in Arabic and English but with the “A” facing right and with a slogan instead of the wavy lines inscribed “60th Anniversary – Dubai – Postal Services” in Arabic only. The earliest recorded used is on May 8th, 1969, and the latest is on May 23rd, 1969.



UAE & Trucial States

Coupon قسيمة يجوز الاحتفاظ بها من قبل المرسل اليه peut etre detache par le destinataire خاتم تاريخ المصدر Timbre du bureau d'origine اسم وعنوان المرسل Nom et domicile de l'expediteur <i>Mr. H. N. Maccom</i> <i>Box 30</i> <i>Sharjah</i> خاتم الجمارك Timbre de la douane		حكومة الشارقة وملحقاتها GOUVERNEMENT DE SHARJAH ET DEPENDANCES ادارة No. رقم الطرد 98 يلسق الرقم هنا حافطة ارسال الشارقة وملحقاتها SHARJAH فرتكات FCS اسم المرسل اليه عنوان المرسل اليه <i>Mr. A. H. Rahensburg</i> بلدالورود <i>P.O. Box 2566</i> <i>U.S.A.</i> القطر		10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 1 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 1 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES	
Montant du remboursement من على Nom du destinataire Adresse du destinataire Lieu de destination Pays de destination Poids الوزن الجمركية Droits de douane		الشارقة وملحقاتها SHARJAH اسم المرسل اليه عنوان المرسل اليه بلدالورود القطر الوزن الجمركية		10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 10 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 1 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES 1 SHARJAH & DEPENDENCIES	

A parcel card from Sharjah date 1965 paid with a total of 42Rs and 65np (an additional 60np on the back) for a parcel number 98 weight 950 oz and sent to the USA. A very unusual item - interestingly the parcel cards used in Sharjah were in French, the official language of the UPU.

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

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

INDEPENDENT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

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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 mother-in-law please attach a little note so that she can forward me a list of what payments she gets.