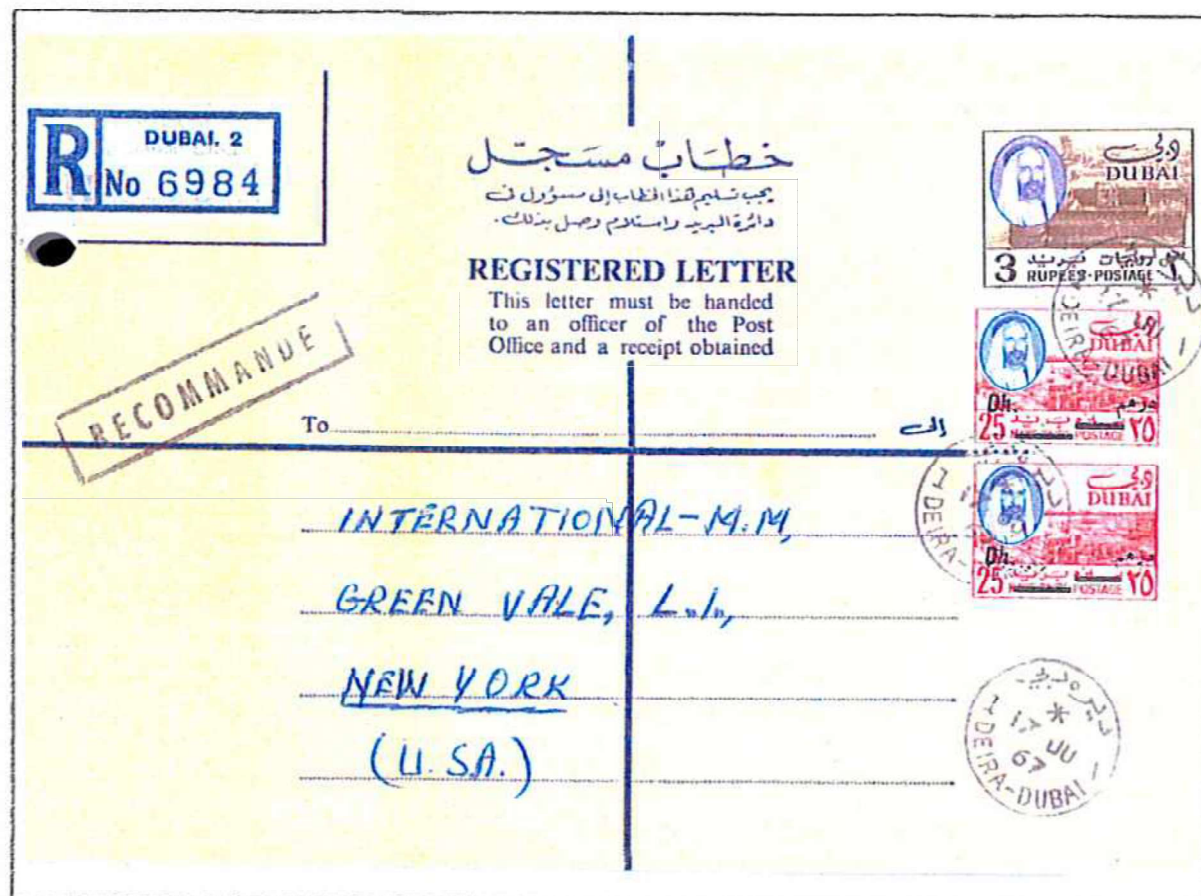


ARABIAN GULF STATES POSTAL HISTORY QUARTERLY



1967 H size Registered Letter from Dubai

CONTENTS

- Pages 3 – 6 Dubai cancellers
- Page 7 British Postal Agency stamps used in Fujaira
- Page 8 Fun and Games in Sharjah
- Page 13 Editorial; Tales from Muscat
- Pages 14 Kuwait postal stationery
- Page 17 Kuwait 'Return to Sender'
- Page 18&19 Kuwait 1958-59
- Page 20 Taxed in Doha
- Pages 21-2 Notes from readers

Edition 18 Winter 2005
Published by T E Jones, 36 Cobham Rd., ACCRINGTON,
Lancashire BB5 2AD, UK
e-mail kandtjones@tiscali.co.uk



DUBAI 1963-73

In edition no.8, summer 2002 I listed the cancellers I had recorded in use after the closure of the Dubai Postal Agency on 14.6.63. The evidence to date suggests that all the Agency cancellers were withdrawn on this date and replaced with new bilingual types. The earliest so far recorded is the lozenge shaped type 20 on a cover dated 15.6.63. I am grateful to J. Gillham for additional information which is included in this list. I have included illustrations of Nos. 18 to 24 as previously shown and one new type No 25. (See edition No.8 p 25-28)

- Type 18 small single ring (24mm Diameter)
- 18(DUBAI) (a) With square shaped 'D'
Recorded 1965 - 16.8.1972
Seen without year on CTO stamps
(b) There is a second canceller set with a smaller type and a more rounded 'D'.
The date is also known set in one line e.g. 12.12.65 rather than the two lines shown.
- 18(DUBAI 2) Not recorded
18(DUBAI 3) Recorded on used stamps 10.5.73
Also on CTO stamps without a year.
18(DUBAI 4) Seen as a transit mark on a cover from Fujairah (See edition 17, page 20)
- 18(DEIRA --DUBAI 1) Recorded 17.6.67 - 21.10.67
18(DEIRA --DUBAI 2) Recorded 4.3.68 - 2.7.70 :The latter with a DUBAI 2 registration label.
18(DEIRA --DUBAI 3) Recorded 18.7.67
18(DUBAI AIRPORT) Exists but no recorded dates.
- Type 19 large single ring belted (mm diameter)
- | | Recorded | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| 19(DUBAI-1 POSTS) | 22.9.64 - 21.12.64 | |
| 19(DUBAI-2 POSTS) | 6.10.64 | |
| 19(DUBAI - 1 REG) | 12.7.64 - 12.7.67 | |
| 19(DUBAI - 2 REG) | 31.1.67 | |
- Type 20 lozenge
- | 20(DUBAI - POSTS) | " | 15.6.63 - 21.11.63 |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 20(DUBAI - REGISTERED) | " | - .10.63 |
| 20(DEIRA - DUBAI / POSTS) | " | 8.12.63 - 2.7.64 |
| 20(DEIRA - DUBAI / REG) | " | 11.3.64 - 13.7.64 |

4

Type 21 - Small double ring

21(DUBAI - 1)	Recorded	7.12.65 - 15.7.71
21(DEIRA - DUBAI 1)	"	30.6.70
21(DEIRA - DUBAI 2)	"	2.10.67 - 16.4.68

Type 22 - Large single ring (32mm dia.)

22(DUBAI) 'Dubai' in small serifs. Recorded	13.8.72
'Dubai' no serifs	" 23.5.72 - 6.3.73
22DUBAI - 6) Arabic '6' only	" 6.3.67 - 23.7.70
22(DUBAI - 7)	" 14.7.67

Type 23 machine canceller 7 wavy lines

ERROR I only drew 6 wavy lines for edition 8 - whoops!

23(DUBAI - A)	Recorded	13.11.69 - 7.6.72
23(DUBAI - B)		7.8.67 - 18.5.72

Type 24 slogan canceller '60th Anniversary of Dubai Postal Services'

24(DUBAI - A)	"	22.2.69 - 12.4.69
24(DUBAI - B)	"	2.9.69

NOTE The 'A' and 'B' are sideways in types 23&24

Type 25 large rectangular with indented corners

25(DUBAI - REGISTERED)	"	-- .5.65
------------------------	---	----------

I have only seen one incomplete strike of this on a registered packet.



BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST,

Type 19

5

DUBAI - 60th ANNIVERSARY of POSTAL SERVICES

Rufus Barnes sent me an official presentation pack of this 1969 issue containing the 6 stamps listed. (SG318- 323) :-

25d S S *Bamora* 1914

35d De Havilland '66', 1930

60d *Sirdhana* 1947

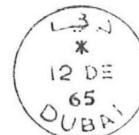
1r Armstrong Whitworth 15 'Atlanta', 1938

1r 25 *Chandpara*, 1949

3r BOAC 'Sunderland', 1943 (Described as Short 'Sunderland' in SG)

The 60d which covered the standard airmail rate at the time is the most commonly seen stamp on cover. If anyone has background information on any of the ships or planes please send it to me.

DUBAI CANCELLERS



18 (DUBAI) (a) and (DEIRA-1)



19(DUBAI-1) and 22(DUBAI)



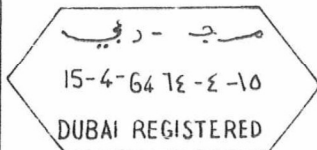
21(DUBAI-1) and (DEIRA-1)

6

DUBAI CANCELLERS



23(DUBAI-A)



20(DUBAI-REG) and 25(.....DUBAI Reg)

Airmail from Deira franked with 20np Red Cross Centenary
and cancelled 8 12.63 with type 20 lozenge.



7

FUJEIRA POST OFFICE

Mike Parker has sent a scan of a cover bearing British Postal Agency stamps cancelled Fujeira, 21 Aug. 1964, and some background information about how this came about. Fujeira had no postal service until late September of 1964 and could only be contacted through a PO Box in Dubai Post Office. Dubai PO now independent, would not have accepted the old overprinted stamps. Fujeira PO on the other hand would not have wanted to use Dubai stamps. It looks like a 'deal' was reached whereby the covers which had received an unauthorised cancellation were forwarded by Abu Dhabi PO. The 20np airmail rate applied to the Arab Postal Union countries and this letter was underfranked to Holland.

AIR-MAIL



Nederlandsch Naamblad
Wetgelegenlaan 71
Driebergen, Netherlands

FUN & GAMES IN SHARJAH

I have just been reading some wartime notes written by LAC Richens listing his postings in the Middle East during 1944. These included two tours of duty at Staging Post No. 44 where his letters home (airgraphs) received the 'RAF CENSOR 484' mark. He wrote at least once a week carefully numbering his letters and recording these numbers, the Staging Post number and location each time. Letters 93 and 102 were two of those sent from Sharjah.

The Airgraph service was not available to civilians and replies from home were usually sent by Letter Cards. In this correspondence they are recorded as taking between 10 and 11 days to reach the Middle East.

Letter 93: 23.6.44

.....The lamp has burnt out in our projector so we're not getting any film shows at the moment. We've had several good films in too, including Bette Davis in 'Now Voyager' and Grace Fields and Matt Woolley in 'Holy Matrimony'.

and..... Haggis is asleep under my bed at the moment. My big trouble with her is to stop her barking at locals and all the other dogs. She always seems to pick the time when the chaps are asleep. I've got her down to growling under her breath but she always has the last word.

Letter 102: 11.9.44

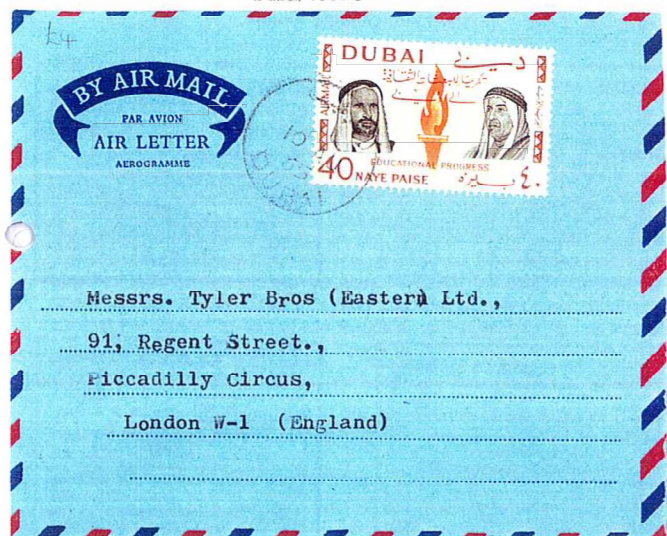
.....I got a good laugh today. One of our chaps asked his billet orderly to tell him all the swear words he knew in Arabic. In return he'd give him a comprehensive list of English equivalents. However instead of giving him the English swear words he told him the names of musical stars. You never heard anything so funny as this orderly saying 'You Flanagan and Allen! You Stainless Stephen!

Also of interest are some notes about LAC Richens's flights.

- By Empire Flying Boat from Sharjah to Bahrain took 2 1/4 hours.
- " " " from Bahrain to Basrah was 3 hours.
- By DC III from Bahrain to Sharjah was 2 hours.

Write Address in large BLOCK letters clearly within this panel	Mr. M. C. A. RICHENS 12 LASCOWLES AVENUE, HARROW MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND	Postage Office's Signature and Post Office Stamp POST OFFICE HARROW
THIS ADDRESS MUST NOT BE REWRITTEN	Military Airgraph Service authorized by Royal Mail Administration Write the message very clearly below this line 1395870, LAC RICHENS, C.L., NORTH STAGING POST, Sharjah, 23.6.44. R.A.F. AIRFORCE. Dear Mum, Dad, and Nev, Just a few lines in answer to you	

9
Dubai 1960's





Front

A 1967 formula Registered Letter from Dubai. This is an H size envelope with an extract from the compensation note reading :-
'...registration fee of 60np covers compensation up to Rs39.'

A formula Registered Letter with an identical front and the same compensation rate is recorded from Bahrain in 1967. There are differences in the layout of the compensation notes but neither piece of stationery identifies a particular state or postal authority. The franking of the Dubai Letter is with stamps in two currencies ; 3R (SG163, external Rupee) and 2X25dh (SG237, dirhams and Riyals). The change over took place in 1966 but the old stamps were obviously still being accepted for use more than a year afterwards. The canceller is a very clear strike and earliest known use of any of the type18's. **RECOMMANDE** is a post office cachet. (See also edition No.3 page 9)

Page2

Top – A registered cover sent in the last months of the State of Dubai postal service. It is franked with 5R (SG370) and cancelled with type18 on 16.10.72.

Middle – A cover franked with 2X 60dh (SG320) Anniversary of the Dubai Postal Service and machine cancelled with type 23 (DUBAI – A) on 13.11.70.

Bottom – A philatelic cover struck with with type 22 (DUBAI-6) on 23.7.70, a **DUBAI P** registration label, **POSTAGE PAID** and **RECOMMANDE** cachets.

Page9

Top – A commercial formula aerogramme franked with 40np (SG) and cancelled with Type18a (DUBAI). There were many aerogrammes issued in Dubai during the 1960's mostly aimed at the stamp market and therefore rarely seen used other than CTO.

Bottom – '60th Anniversary' slogan cancelling 60dh (SG315)

Page15

Top – A Kuwait 'Black Rectangle' Registered Letter sent from Kuwait to Somalia with a Cairo transit stamp 5.9.65 and Mogadisu receiving stamp 11.9.65.

Bottom – 8fls stationery envelope with additional franking to Cyprus. The addressee indicates that this envelope enclosed a letter in another envelope (undercover mail), from an ex-patriot worker in the Kuwait oil industry, to be sent on from Cyprus to Palestine.

Colour plates continued

Page 16

Top – 'Return to Sender' mail Kuwait to Bahrain and back again.

Bottom – Kuwait foreign registered mail cancelled with the ordinary mail type 38. During the dual period Safat PO was supplied with Agency style registration labels, printed in English as well as bilingual labels for the local service. The use of type 38 is always a lucky break for collectors since the designated rubber registered type 39 and its successors rapidly distorted to produce inky nightmares. No-one loves number 39.

Page 23

Top – A registered letter from the Postmaster of Bahrain to a collector in New Zealand containing his order for 32 mint stamps. Part of the original covering letter is shown on page 22. The letter is franked 5 1/2as (reg. fee 3as, postage 2 1/2as) and cancelled on 7.5.34 with Bahrain double ring type 5. The blank reg. label is stamped with the BAHRAIN/PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT cachet. The receiving strike on the back is dated 10.6.34.

Bottom – A wartime registered airmail to New York via the Pacific. The franking is 52as (or 3R 4as) and the canceller on 26.2.41 with Bahrain type 7. There is also a NOT OPENED BY CENSOR A10 cachet and an unreadable backstamp – a double ring India PO type with a 'J' the only discernable letter. Also a San Pedro, California transit mark dated 24.3.41 and NY 25.3.41, adding up to 30 days.

The stamps on this cover are a mixed franking :-

GVR 3as carmine SG18 ; 1R chocolate and green SG12

GVIR 2X1/2a red-brown SG21; 8as slate violet SG30; 2X12as red SG31.

The 8as and 12as are particularly elusive on cover.

Page 24

Top – A registered sea mail cover to Bombay franked with 2X1&1/2as (SG37) and cancelled January 1953. It is unusual to see this stamp on cover and this is reflected in the catalogue price.

Bottom. – A Bahrain Registered Letter with a 40np stamp impression printed in red depicting Sheikh Suleman. There was a demand for these envelopes which was not fulfilled by the British Postal Agency until the late 1950's when Bahrain was supplied. This is one of only two Bahrain envelopes known used from another state; in this case Muscat in 1963 and from Abu Dhabi in 1964. (See edition No.3). In both instances this is likely to be casual use by individuals.

The red imprinted stamp is just showing above the righthand 40np stamp.

Editorial

This edition has been fascinating, frustrating and fun to compile with a lot of information coming just before the deadline. I have now published more than 400 pages in 18 editions and it is difficult to keep all this information in mind when writing the next issue so I have decided to take up a recent suggestion from one of our readers and collate it all in six handbooks.

These will cover Bahrain, Dubai, Kuwait, Qatar, Muscat & Oman and the Trucial States (excluding Dubai). I haven't researched the UAE enough to produce anything here yet. The cost will be £7 per book based on an average of 70 sides including 20 in colour. The first will be Bahrain and I will announce a publication date asap. Please let me know if you are interested so I can judge demand.

A second suggestion was to list the contents of each edition. As you can see this has been done. The last was to float a topic or two for the next edition. I actually tried this last time with the result that one reader responded with information about the 1957 Scout Jubilee issues. Was there any commercial use or as with the early aerogrammes did they all get taken up by collectors?

The British Embassy in Muscat

A short History

By

Ruth Hawley

In 1983 I bought a copy of this booklet, published privately in 1980, from a contact in Muscat. Although it doesn't refer to the post office it gives a vivid account of life in this unknown corner of Arabia. To me the interest in collecting postal history is greatly enhanced by the experiences recounted in books such as this one by Ruth Hawley. Two extracts printed here give a flavour of life in Muscat in former times. By which I mean before the mid-1960's!

The compound – The flag pole in the courtyard was used for manumission, i.e. the freeing of slaves, from the time of its erection until about 1963 when Sultan Said told the Consul General that no further certificates of manumission need be issued as he had instructed his Walis (Governors) to free any slaves and inform their owners. Slaves seeking manumission clasped the flag pole and were then issued with a certificate in English and Arabic.

Anecdotes – Until the 1950's formal arrivals and departures from the Consulate were always by sea and a whaler manned by four local sailors was kept for this purpose.....dignatories were carried ashore in a special chair, similar to a cane-bottomed dining chair, with two poles each about 5 foot long fixed to the sides. Sir Rupert Hay, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf was the last person to use this conveyance in 1951.

14 KUWAIT

I have received some interesting information and scans from Waleed Meshari Al-Saif, Barrie Cook, Khaled Abdul- Muzhni, Mike Parker and Mike Phelan.

1. 'Black Rectangle' Registered Letters

Kuwait Post Office introduced a range of postal stationery after the closure of the Postal Agency. This included registered letters bearing a printed impression of the 40np definitive (SG137). In 1961 the currency was changed from the Rupee to the Dinar and a new definitive set was issued incorporating the previous designs. The registered letters were reissued with the stamp design blacked out and saw service until the end of the decade. The overprinting was so effective that stamp design and therefore the origin of this postal stationery was hidden and was a puzzle to many collectors who had only seen mint copies.

I have recorded three used examples :-

- 17 March 65 to Switzerland G-size
- 4 September 65 to Somalia H-size
- 27 June 69 to Qatar G-size

There have been three sizes of registered letters in use at Kuwait since the end of the Agency PO. Their dimensions are identical to British PO stationery of the period:-

G = 157mm x 95mm; H = 203mm x 122mm; K = 288mm x 150mm.

These code letters are not printed on any of the Kuwait stationery but those used in Bahrain and Dubai had **G SIZE ENVELOPE** etc, printed on them. The only K- size Registered Letter I have seen from Kuwait is a formula type. [KA-M,]

2. Kuwait 8fils Stamped Envelope

This is another piece of postal stationery which is rarely seen and has only been recorded in use from 1968 to 1971. The 8fils stamp is different from any other issued stamp of the period. The inland letter rate was 8fils from 1961- 70 which explains the extra franking needed on the covers listed below. A 4fils rate has also been recorded in the same period. This covered the cost of sending a letter within Kuwait Town and was known as the 'Local Rate'. This was sometimes marked on local covers.

- 1 March 1968 First Day local cover.
- 26 May 1968 to UK with extra 37f = **45f airmail rate**
This is the correct rate.
- 22 April 1970 to Cyprus with extra 90f = **98f rate**
A cover from Khafji in the Neutral Zone.
- 19 Oct. 1971 to Cyprus with extra 22f = **30f rate**
This is probably the correct rate.

15 Kuwait 'Black Rectangle' and 8fils envelopes

REGISTERED LETTER

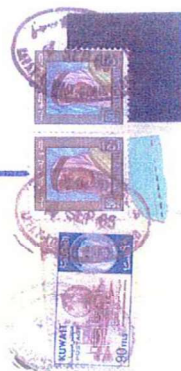
THIS LETTER MUST BE HANDED TO AN OFFICER
OF THE POST OFFICE AGAINST RECEIPT

864

الصفحة ١٠٠٠
SAFAT KUWAIT ١٠٠٠
R 9985

رسالة مسجلة
تحت طابع طابع البريد
مكتبة البريد مقابل ايصاله رسمي
الجمهورية العربية السورية
مقدش
٣٤٥

لم حليمه عيسى
جامع القمه



The postmaster.
G. P. O.
NICOSIA - CYPRUS

16
Kuwait 1958



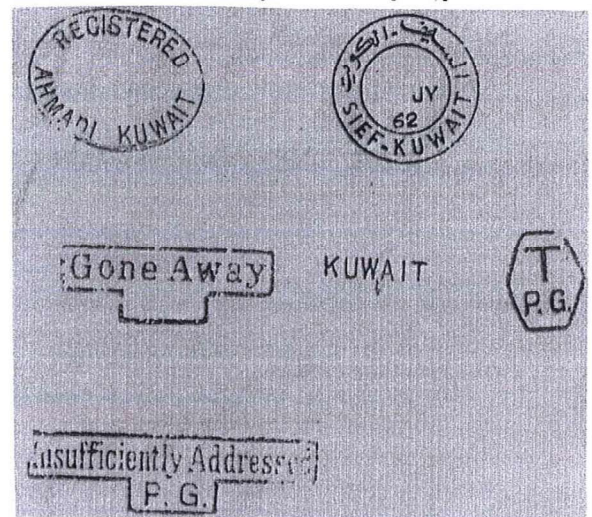
17
KUWAIT

3. Kuwait - Bahrain 'Return to Sender'

This cover bears two instructional markings :-

- (1) 'GONE AWAY' Until now has only been recorded on a piece of plain paper along with strikes of other handstamps held in the Kuwait PO stores in 1962. An identical cachet was also in use in the UK
- (2) 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED/RETURN TO SENDER' is also recorded on plain paper along with other Kuwait PO instructional marks and on a letter from Das Island to the UK on 10.5.78. (see AGPH issue 10)

We can't conclude that either was struck in Kuwait and probably both (1) and (2) were supplied to all the Agency PO's. The use of the Bahrain type 29 local canceller may or may not have been a standard procedure in the case of returned mail. We just don't know. [KA-M]



UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO SENDER

18
Kuwait 1958/9

This article gives a round up of information received from readers about this short but fascinating period when the agency and local postal services worked together.

I have only seen 3 examples of local mail from this period- two registered and one ordinary - and a lot more foreign mail bearing overprinted stamps cancelled with the 'local' bilingual types.

Kuwait (agency) and Safat (local) offices (and possibly Ahmadi) were issued with two types of registration labels:-

Foreign (English language) - KUWAIT and KUWAIT(SAFAT)

Local (bilingual) - Sief-Kuwait and Safat-Kuwait

Agency type 29 (Kuwait Registered)

• Local mail

One cover recorded is franked 10np+40np and cancelled with type 29 on 11.3.58. The local registration label printed in Arabic and English reads Sief Kuwait. (See edition No.2 page8)

The name Sief didn't appear on cancellers until February 1959.

Bilingual type 38(1)

• Local registered mail

One cover is known from Safat to Ahmadi franked 10np+40np with a local bilingual registration label

• Foreign mail with overprinted stamps.

This was intended for cancelling local mail only but has been recorded on 10 occasions cancelling Agency mail franked with overprinted stamps - dates range from 3.358 to 18.12.58. One cover was registered from Safat - see page 16.

• Foreign mail with local stamps.

One local cover recorded, dated 20.2.58, had a 10np local franking(2XSG131) and was redirected to UK without surcharge.

• Foreign mail with mixed franking.

One airmail cover recorded to USA dated 1958 and franked 10np(SG132) local plus 1R on 1/6d overprinted stamp.

Bilingual type 38(2)

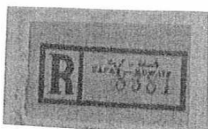
• Foreign mail with overprinted stamps.



Type 38(1)



Type 38(2)



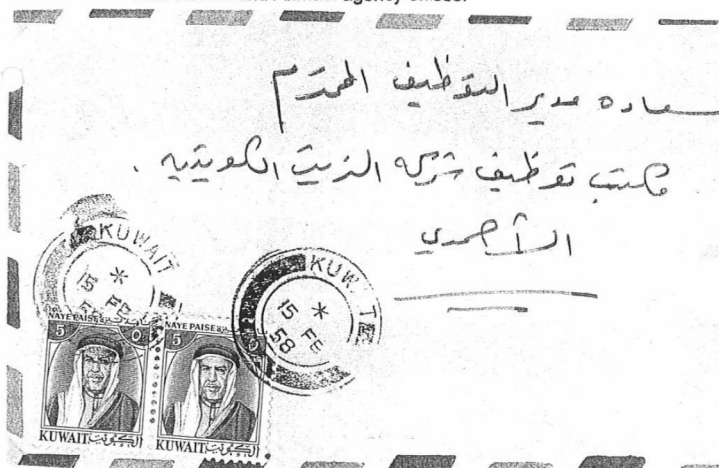
Local Safat registration label

There are 2 recorded uses of this canceller on Agency mail; 20.12.58 and 11.1.59. The latter is a registered cover bearing a Kuwait 4 label.

Agency double ring type 24

• Local mail franked with local stamps.

There is one recorded instance of local mail cancelled with an Agency datestamp. This was the correct procedure for mail sent from Kuwait and Ahmadi agency offices.



Local mail from Kuwait 15 Feb 1958

Large double ring type 39(Safat)

- It has been stated that this type was intended for all registered mail both local and international. Safat also used type 38 to cancel registered mail. (See page 16)

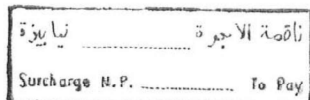


Taxed in Doha

This letter was franked 20np and cancelled with the double ring Doha on 5.8.59. The airmail rate from Qatar to Kuwait was 30np at the time and the underfranking marked in Doha by the coffin shaped TPG. The cover has a Surcharge N.P....To Pay cachet on the front and a Safat- Kuwait datestamp on the back of 6.8.59. Kuwait Postal Agency had closed on 31 January 1959 and this cachet was not, as far as I know, an Agency type. (See edition No.5 for another example of this on an incoming letter from Iraq dated 10.11.60.



سيد / وجيد محمود ارسيد الحنم
مخزن المليون الحضري
المرفأ ب - الكويت



Notes from readers

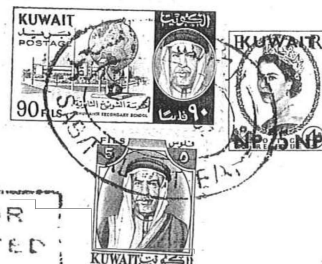
Ray Mcmillan -

- Mis-spelt registration labels. Ray has shown me some 1970's commercial covers from Kuwait with labels reading GPO KUWITA. This only occurs on the 'D' label.
- UAE commercial registered to London franked with the 150fiils '6th National Day 1977' and cancelled 8.1.78. This is the first recorded use on commercial mail.
- Kuwait aerogramme KUL6 40np/6d. A new variety with surcharge 3.7cm, MLOI 9.7cm and bars 4mm long.

Marc Van Daele -

- Air mail letter from Kuwait with a mixed franking cancelled with the large double oval 'Safat Kuwait Registered' in 1962(?). It looks like a Mickey Mouse production.

NOT-KNOWN



UNDELIVERED FOR
THE REASON STATED
RETURNED
TO SENDER

David Donald -

- Sent me a piece from GSM Nov. 2004 highlighting the existence of a perforation variety on the 1976-80 Bahrain high value definitive set :-
300f, 400f and 500f also exist perf. 13½ x14 against the previously reported 12x12½. Michel also lists the 500f & 1D

Mashael Alhaieri -

- 25.2.1958 - a Kuwait 'Return to Sender' letter. The scan I have isn't clear enough to show the cover but I have photocopies of the two cachets struck on it. These have not been recorded before on cover.

Thomas Johansen -

- 24 September 1884 - the earliest Bahrain cover I have seen. It is franked 1/2a and cancelled on 24.9.1884 with type 1.



32
54p

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

From *The Post Office* To *Mr. A. H. Bull*

Bahrain *Ady Street, Greytown*

No. *10* dated *Bahrain* the *24* 1884

Dear Sir,

For reference to your letter of 24/9/84

I have the honor to enclose herewith the

Bahrain Star charged postage stamp for

the amount you have remitted

to me by your order of 24/9/84. I have

supplied you one set of stamps to the

value of including extra for the balance

of your order of 24/9/84.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Johansen

Bahrain Indian Postal Agency



24
Muscat

REGISTERED
SEA MAIL



The Manager,
Central Bank of India Ltd.,
P.O. Box No. 1022,
BOMBAY

INDIA



For Official



REGISTERED LETTER

This letter must be handed
to an officer of the Post
Office and a receipt obtained



To MESSRS. KELLY'S DIRECTORIES LTD.

NEVILLE HOUSE, EDEN STREET,

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES,

ENGLAND (U.K.)

