

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY

AEROGRAMME

بطاقة جوية مظروفة

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS AEROGRAMME WILL
BE SENT BY SURFACE MAIL

إذا وضع أى شئ بداخله ترسل
هذه البطاقة بالبريد العادي



60

International correspondence

Schools World Limited in

P.O. Box 1471

SCRANTON PA

U.S.A.



AY 60

Registered Aerogramme from Kuwait May 1960.
Type 44 canceller.

Published by TE Jones, 36, Cobham Road, Accrington
Lancashire BB5 2AD England
Issue No.11 Spring 2003

2

Kuwait Type 40 cancellers.

Update from edition 4

Extended dates of use:-

Dasman	11.11.65 - 9.9.67
GPO Kuwait	28.9.76 - 9.3.77
Kuwait Int. Airport	22.6.70 - 27.7.77

Alternative wording:-

Post Offices already listed but using other cancellers of the same type with different wording e.g. Hawalli (Hawalli - Kuwait already listed).

Fahaheel	25.5.68 - 1.2.70
Hawalli	20.12.78
Safat	24.5.68

New to the list:-

Failaka	29.2.64
Raas	14.8.78 - 23.3.80
Samiya - Central	20.7.67
Shamiya	12.12.72
Zour	3.6.80

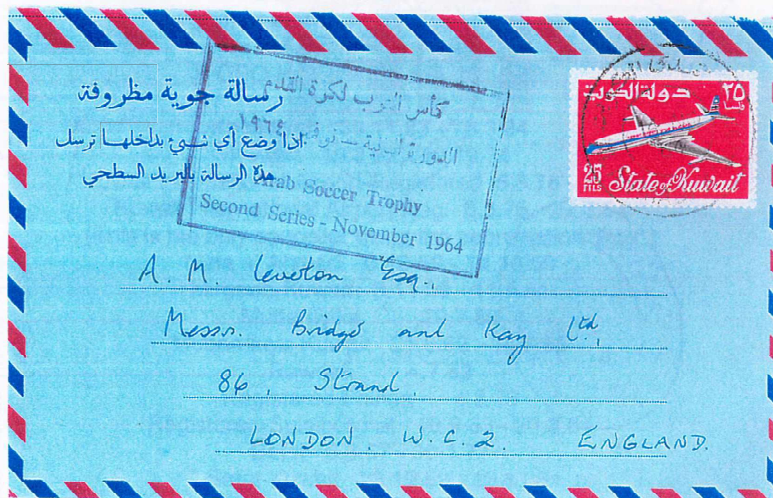
Kuwait single oval registered canceller Type 44.

This type was introduced after postal independence in 1959. The front cover of this edition shows a registered aerogramme from Mena (Mina) al Ahmadi dated 16.5.60. The information recorded on page 175 of Neil Donaldson's book with regard to the cancellers in use at this PO needs to be amended. This new information has been supplied by Mr Donaldson and three cancellers now known to have been in use from 1959 until the PO closed in 1961 and have already been recorded in edition 5 p2/3.

Type 44(Safat) was also used struck in purple as a transit mark and has been recorded on a number of covers during the early 1960's.

3

WW I Censor strip added to genuine cover



Type 44 canceller used as transit mark. Struck in purple.



There are currently 27 post offices recorded using this style of registered canceller spanning the years 1959-1984. There has over this period been some minor variation in type face, dimension and layout from office to office but all are readily identifiable as type 44. The Kuwait International Airport - Registered canceller wins the prize for having the smallest type face ever seen on a Gulf canceller. It is remarkable that many of the examples recorded have very clean readable strikes. Kuwait's must have particularly good eyesight because many of the modern stamp issues also have type face so small that it requires a magnifying glass to be certain of the words. All incorporate the word 'registered' which I haven't included here unless it occurs as the first rather than last word in English or as an abbreviation.

- Ahmadi 6.5.69 - 11.4.84
- * Ahmadi-Kuwait 15.11.60 - 19.1.66
- Airport-Kuwait 13.4.61 - 8.10.66
- Al-Aaqool 16.6.79 - 25.12.82
- Fahaheel-Kuwait 25.8.60 - 20.12.60
- Failaka 31.1.79
- # GPO-Kuwait 6.5.81 - 18.10.89
- Kaifan 7.1.79
- Khalidiyah 30.11.83 - 26.3.84
- Kuwait 19.3.62 - 19.10.74
- Kuwait International Airport Registered 5.8.78 - 27.6.82
- Kuwait International Airport Reg. 6.3.76 - 27.3.84
- (This is the only canceller using the abbreviation 'Reg'.)
- Mina al Ahmadi 3.10.59 - 14.10.59
- Mirgaab-Kuwait 3.11.59 - 11.5.61
- Mubarayika 29.7.80
- Mubarakiya-Kuwait 21.8.62 - 14.7.65
- Rawdah 4.7.82
- Registered-Faihaa 4.2.79
- Registered-Sulaibeikhat 10.9.83 - 20.3.84
- Safat 6.8.67 - 30.1.77
- * Safat-Kuwait 28.12.59 - 19.1.66
- + Salmiya Central 3.3.79 - 8.12.80
- Sharq-Kuwait 21.10.65 - 3.7.66

6

Shamiyah date not clear
 Shuwaikh Industrial Area 28.3.79
 Shuaiba date not clear
 Sief-Kuwait 24.3.59

* These cancellers or identical ones struck in purple were used as a receiving mark at Ahmadi PO or on mail in transit through Safat PO.

The latest known use of type 44.

+This canceller has a more circular shape.

By the early 1980's there were more than 50 post offices open in Kuwait and we can take it that the above list is not complete.



7

Kuwait Type 44(Mirgaab)

A registered cover to Bahrain dated 3.11.59. Note an alternative transliteration of the post office name, Mugqab, on the English only registration label. The post office opened 19.7.58 just six months before the Agency closed and used type 40 (Mirgab) and 41 cancellers (I haven't seen the latter).



The Manager Esq.,
 The British Bank of the Middle East,
 BAHRAIN.

6/11/59



Sender: Mohrin Bin Jkaid,
 c/o Mr. Rashad Al-Hafifi,
 P.O. Box 2270,
 Kuwait.

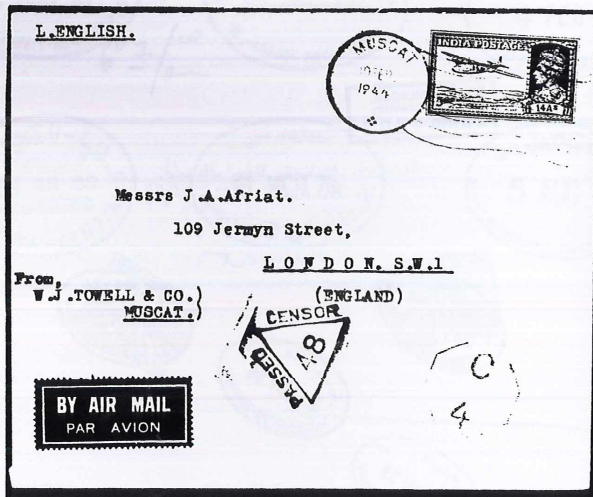


Muscat Wartime Censorship

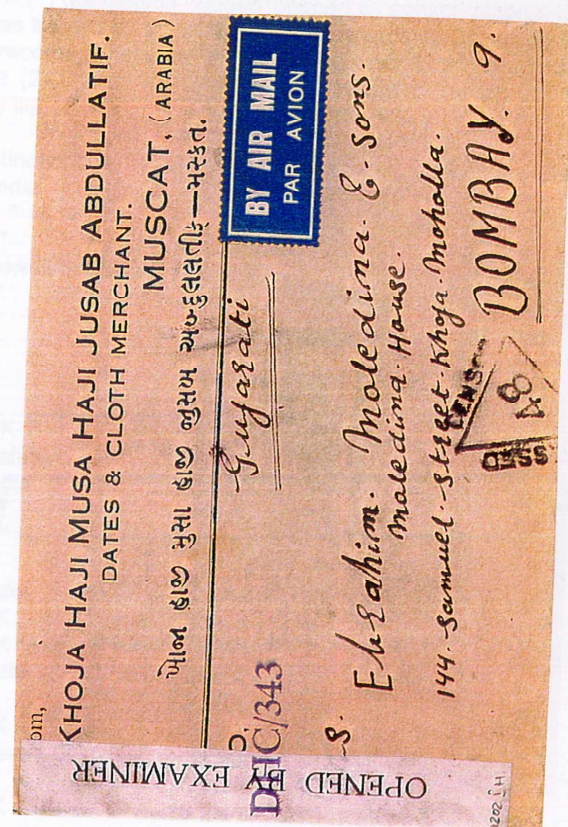
During the 1970's sufficient information had been gathered to confirm the location of the triangular 'PASSED CENSOR' marks - numbered 46,47,48 and 49 as being Muscat. A cover bearing censor mark no.48 is shown in colour on pp 9&10 of this magazine. This has also been opened and censored in Bombay. The airmail label would have had no effect as all mail left Muscat by sea. The time between cancellation (Muscat type15) and receipt is 18 days.

A second cover shown below to London also bears an airmail label. On receipt in India the cover would have been forwarded by air. The octagonal C4 is a postal checker's identification mark applied in Bombay. The 14 annas franking was the standard Empire airmail rate to the UK from the Gulf and India. The Muscat type15 is dated 10.2.44. There are no backstamps.

Neil Donaldson's 1994 supplement illustrates two more of these censored covers.



Muscat triangular PASSED BY CENSOR mark





Muscat 'PASSED CENSOR' triangle covers

This list was compiled by Neil Donaldson in the late 1970's and probably needs updating. The numbers are those on the original list. Note: (1) the column headed 'opened by censor' records how the mail was treated by the Indian Postal Censorship Department. There is no recorded instance of mail being opened for examination in Muscat (2) I have recorded all the details of the covers as per original list.

No.46

destination	date of cancellation	opened by censor
2. India	1.2.40	no
5. "	7.8.40	x
12. "	30.12.41	no
17A Kuwait to Muscat	22.11.42	yes
18. "	19.11.42	no
23. "	1.11.43	yes
25. "	6.11.43	x
26. "	11.11.43	yes

No.47

1. UK	22.11.39	no
11. Bahrain	25.10.41	no
14. India	30.6.42	no
15. "	5.8.42	no
17. "	10.9.42	x

No.48

3. India	3.8.40	no
4. UK	15.5.40	x
5. UK	1.8.41	x
19 India	1.6.43	yes
19A "	22.6.43	yes
21. UK	6.8.43	yes
22. India	9.9.43	x
24. "	1.11.43	x
27. UK	10.2.44	no

No.49

6. Bahrain to Muscat	6.11.40	no
8. India	1.2.41	Not opened by censor
10. "	5.9.41	no

No particular pattern of use can be discerned from this list. No. 27 is the present latest known use. Nos. 6 and 17A are the only inward covers recorded bearing the triangular cachet.

Bits and pieces.

Ray McMillan has sent me a photocopy of a used example of the Kuwait aerogramme KUL25a (Sea Club), dated 3.6.86. This was five years after issue and was uprated using the current 80 fils stamp (SG903) part of a definitive set which had a long period of use. I don't know when Kuwait stopped issuing aerogrammes but this is latest known use of an aerogramme from the state.

Bahrain Trade Fair cachet :

There are three recorded varieties with different dates. See issue No. 10 and issue 1/99 page 18 of the 'Overprinter'; the journal of the GB Overprints Society whose secretary is Tony Stanford, PO BOX 2675, Maidenhead SL 69 ZN. E mail gbos@talk21.com

'10 CENTS' postage due cachet (issue no. 10):

The consensus is that this is NOT a Bahrain or India PO marking. It would also seem that this mark misled the British PO to overcharge on the postage due. This has been calculated by John Gillham as :-

Deficit 1/4 anna

Postage due charge 2x1/4 anna = 1/2 anna

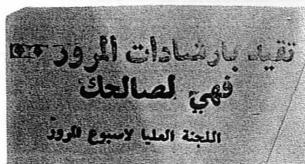
Conversion : 1 anna = 20 gold centimes

and 2d (2 pence) = 25 g.c.

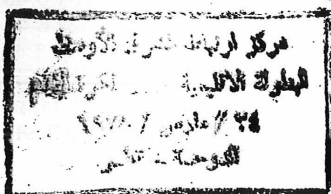
Therefore 1/2 anna = 10 g.c. = 0.4d rounds up to 1/2d

Information Cachets (continued)

Mashael Alhajeri has kindly translated two Arabic only cachets not reported in the first part of this article.



a



b

تقييد بارشادات المرور ..
فهي لصالحك
اللجنة العليا لاسبوع المرور

مركز ارتباط (الشرق؟) الأوسط
البطولة الاقليمية (الاولى؟) لكرة (القدم؟)
24 / مارس / 197?

Comply with traffic regulations ..

They are for your own good

The High Committee For Traffic Week

a

a On a Dubai cover dated 1974

b On a Qatar cover dated 1978. This is not a clear strike but the only one recorded.

Liaison Centre of the Middle (East?)

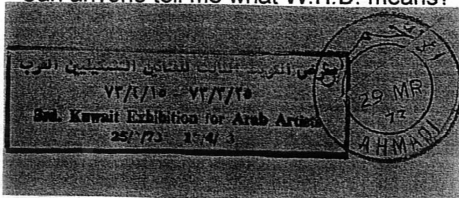
(First?) (Foot?) Ball Regional Championship

24 / March / 197?

b

1961 Kuwait cover 'Accidents need not happen'

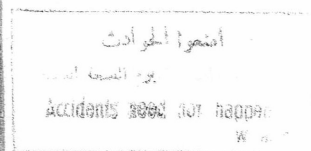
Can anyone tell me what W.H.D. means?



1973 Kuwait cover 'Artists Exhibition'

1965 Kuwait aerogramme. (kindly sent by Neil Donaldson)

A very poor strike of a boxed cachet struck in purple. Translation by M Alhajeri.



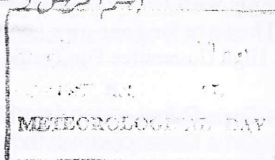
تذكر فلسطين و اعمل من اجل عودتها
REMEMBER PALESTINE
AND STRIVE FOR ITS
RECOVERY

Also from Neil Donaldson :

1964 aerogramme KUL12 (see page 3) Arab Soccer Trophy.
1966 aerogramme KUL 14 (see below) International Met. Day
1966 aerogramme Formula type (see below) Nat. Commissions

Sender's name and address اسم المرسل وعنوانه

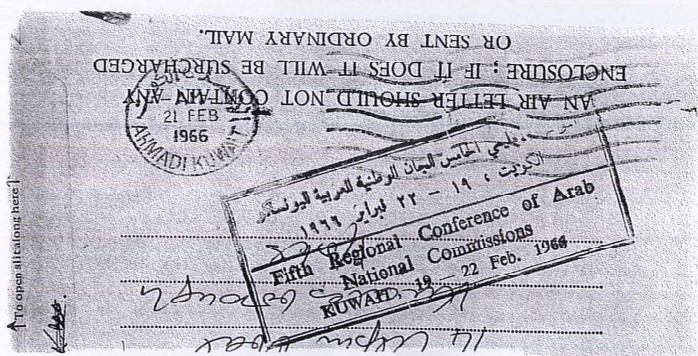
A. W. Donaldson
45 Main Street
Ahmedi 5
Kuwait



IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS AEROGARME MAY
BE SENT BY SURFACE MAIL

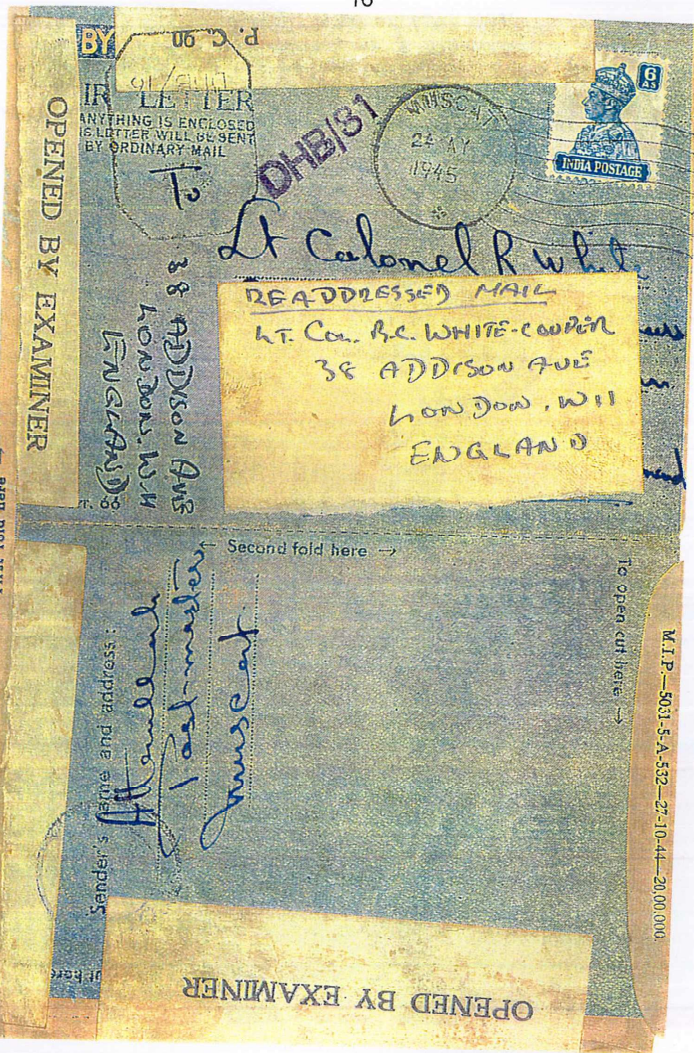
إذا وضع أي شيء بالخطاب أرسل
هذه الرسالة بالبريد السطحي

March 1966



Two early covers from Qatar





Bahrain WW II Censored Mail Forgeries by John Gillham

This information has been previously published in the Bulletin of the Civil Censorship Study Group dated April 2002. The first of the two covers described in the article is shown on page 3.

The two covers both have WW I censor labels added by an enterprising entrepreneur. Both are from Bahrain in 1940 to USA and correctly paid 1 Rupee, 5 1/2 annas; this is for airmail to Britain (18 annas) and onwards by surface mail to USA (3 1/2 annas). Note that the Empire air mail rate of 14 annas, commonly seen on covers to Great Britain during the wartime period did not apply to mail in transit to USA.

The envelopes are genuine and from a well-known correspondence, but the labels (apart from being reduced) are wrong. The first cover was posted 21.4.40 and has a Mark type 4E label with the words OPENED BY cut off to reveal a large part of the sender's address. The parallel red bars were applied in Britain to indicate that the airmail part of the transmission had finished. The m/s 1-5-6 indicates the rate as above. The back of the cover has no postal markings but does have the number 428 printed on the folded over part of the censor label. Note that there was some genuine use of WW I labels during WW II. Presumably using up left-over stocks. These were not used on Gulf mail.

The second cover posted 15.5.40 has a Mark type 5D label added. This was also reduced to show the sender's address. At these dates airmails were carried via Egypt to Britain. Germany invaded France before the second cover was sent but the airmail service to and from the Middle East was not interrupted until early June so it is likely it got through before the suspension. From Britain the covers would have gone by sea mail to New York and then onward by land.

It is a little surprising that neither of the covers was opened for censorship. Other covers known from this period were not examined in Britain, but some do show censorship handstamps applied in Bahrain. Did the British censor avoid opening transit mails to USA at this time? According to the official 'History of the Postal and Telegraph Censorship Department 1938-46 transit mails to the USA

appear to have had a low priority until mid-1940. Mid-East censorship operations were expanded at this time to focus on KLM mails but BOAC is not mentioned. It therefore seems unlikely that Bahrain mails in transit to the USA were intercepted for censorship purposes at this time. There may even have been sufficient traffic for the Bahrain PO to make up separate bags of US bound mail which would have been far less likely to be examined in London than transit mail rebagged in London for onward transmission to the US.

P. D. Q.

There is usually great difficulty identifying mail from the Qatar peninsula prior to the opening of the first PO in Doha in 1950. Mail from Petroleum Developments Qatar (P.D.Q.) and from their office in Manama, Bahrain were routed through the Bahrain PO and bore Bahrain stamps and date stamps. After 1950 mail was sometimes still routed through the Bahrain office. A typical cover is shown on page 15 (back) and the front on page 19.

A more intriguing cover recently recorded (but not illustrated here) has a return address

Electrical Dept. Dukhan / Q.P.C. Ltd. / Qatar P.G.

It is franked Bahrain 6 annas and Cancelled type 26, dated 27.12.54. Dukhan had no PO at this time. This cover appears to have been sent by hand to Manama for franking and posting.

Part of the contents reads :-

.....here in I will enclose one of the local issue (This must refer to the Bahrain 1 1/2 annas local issue) and that is the only one used as inland it's not 1 anna but 1 1/2 annas; about the postmark of Qatar is if the letter goes to the place called Doha then you get that mark, but no postage stamps are issued by the Govt. They may have them in time to come and it will be like Bahrain and Kuwait.....

A reference to the Bahrain local issue may indicate it was valid for mail from Qatar to Bahrain and vice versa. No such covers have yet been recorded.

Also on page 15 is a typical example of an early Doha cover franked 7 annas (was there such a rate?) including a Bahrain 1 anna stamp. The colour of the postmark is a kind of dirty-blue but can be found in a variety of shades of blue in the early period.

BY AIR MAIL

REGISTERED



From
C.P. Menon
P.D.Q. LTD
C/o P.C.L.
BAHRAIN
Persian Gulf

To 62
The Accountant,
The Central Bank of India Ltd.,
Breach Street, Fort,
BOMBAY
INDIA

REGISTERED POST.

H.S.

Front of cover from PDQ 27.1.51

Muscat double censored air letter 1945

On page 16 is a much better illustration of the item I showed in the last issue. It bears the honourable stains of time and travel as befits a rare we say unique item of postal history from our area.

Editorial

I would like to thank all the contributors to this and previous issues. Without your help this would be a far less interesting magazine. It is surprising how much information has come in and leads us to hope there is a lot more to come. Your contribution is valuable whether big or small. In fact small could be a valuable last piece to complete a picture.

Forged and bogus overprints of Bahrain by John Gillham

A number of the overprints on the Indian GVR and GVIR stamps have been forged. Bogus issues also exist. Both are mentioned in Neil Donaldson's book, page 63 and this note further examines this murky area of Gulf philately.

4annas, 8annas, 12annas (SG28, 30, 31)

These are dangerous forgeries of stamps with high catalogue value. Enlargements of the genuine and forged overprints are shown on page 21. As can be seen the forgeries are well executed and without the genuine for comparison easily escape detection.

The following details highlight the differences :-

1. The forged overprints have thinner print with less sharp lettering and more rounded corners (particularly noticeable in the 'B' and 'N').
2. Overprint 12.75mm forgery but 13mm genuine.
3. There is a stray ink mark over the '2' of '12 ANNAS' on the forgery. This is probably not constant.

1 Rupee, 2 Rupee (SG 12, 13)

The GVR High Value forgeries shown on page 21 are easily detectable. (See Donaldson page 63).

On both Values :-

1. Forgery has letters 3.5mm high instead of 3mm.
2. Lettering is very rough compared with genuine and has rounded corners.
3. The forgeries shown are on used stamps with Indian not Bahrain cancellations.

5 Rupee, 10 Rupee (SG34, 35)

These GVIR High Value forgeries shown are also easily detectable.

On both values:-

1. Height of overprint 2mm on forgery and 3mm on genuine.
2. Lettering clean and thin on forgery, rougher and rounded on genuine.
3. The forgeries are on stamps cancelled in India not Bahrain.

Bahrain forgeries

The used stamps have forged overprints. Mint are genuine.



g>



f>



g

f



forgeries of Bahrain continued.

10 Rupees inverted overprint

This is bogus. No genuine overprinted stamp has been recorded.

1. Lettering rough and 3.25mm high against 3mm for genuine SG 35
2. This stamp has an Indian PO cancellation.

Service overprints

Bahrain was not supplied with Service stamps. Those shown here are genuine India Service stamps (SG0138, 0139) with a bogus Bahrain overprint similar to the overprint on the 10R listed above. Both stamps have Indian PO cancellations, as would be expected. (Note that the 2R is printed in deep purple and brown, a shade variation listed by Murray Payne but not Gibbons.)

3 annas, 8 annas of GVR

Both the stamps shown below have forged overprints.

3 annas shown here is printed in ultramarine (SG308 of India) and not issued with a Bahrain overprint. It is therefore a bogus issue. The 8 annas was issued overprinted for Bahrain.

Both forged and bogus stamps have :-

1. Rough rounded letters in overprint which is 13.5mm in length compared to 13mm in genuine.
2. The 8 annas has enough of the postmark to show it is not from Bahrain
3. Both forgeries are on stamps with inverted watermarks.

forged



genuine



Postal Stationery from Bahrain Post Office



This is the first recorded example of an official Returned Letter envelope from the Postal Superintendent's office, Bahrain. This is a standard item of stationery from the GPO and only the PS registration label identifies Gulf use. There are no other postal markings or cachets. The date 19.4.62 is written in pencil on the back.

[Thanks to Mike Parker for this information]