

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



A registered cover from Muscat 5.12.66 showing use of the oval bilingual date stamp introduced in use from postal independence April 1966.

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Correspondence.

Kuwait 1941 - Reply from Neil Donaldson

Q. What happened to the date stamps types 5,6,7,9?

A. These were taken out of use when the post office was handed over to the Superintendent, P&T, Karachi. The status of the post office had now changed and it was only correct to use the Experimental type; K-79 in this case. What actually happened to the old cancellers is anyone's guess.

Q. Why were unoverprinted stamps used afterwards?

A. The stamps taken over from Iraq in June 1941 probably amounted to no more than a small working stock. The main stock was held in Basrah and not accessible. War-time conditions probably delayed the issue of new overprinted stamps until 1945.

Kuwait - d.r. oval cancellers from Mike Phelan.

Mike has extended the list published on page 14, issue 4.

Hawalli from 28.11.65

Safat " 10. 5.60

Salmiya 15. 1.61 This is the first recorded use.

(Note the name is sometimes spelt Salamiya).

Aerogrammes

Kuwait (KUL23e) has now been recorded with the front panel showing the storage tanks at Mina Abdulla.

United Arab Emirates (UAL3) the surcharge has been recorded with a different setting :-

19mm inner distance and 44mm outer distance.

See pages 54 and 83 of my booklet 'Gulf Aerogramme - Post Independence Issues'.

Information received from Alfred D. Reichle, Baton Rouge.

Oman (OAL 19) some while ago I received some earlier dates of use. From Alastair Gunn 22.10.93 and 4.1.94. Also from Graham Perfett 19.4.93.

Machine cancelling of aerogrammes is unsatisfactory and often unreadable. Posted under separate cover to get well cancelled copies from branch offices often results in over-inked, blurred strikes or even machine cancelling on top of the hand cancelling. I have given up trying to get used aerogrammes. Does anyone have an answer?

Paquetbot - Kuwait

Further to the article on page 21, issue 5, the illustration shows a paquetbot cover from Kuwait written on board a BISN ship bound for Basrah. Strictly speaking the Basrah P.O. should have cancelled the Kuwaiti stamp with the PAQUETBOT cachet and struck the Basrah datestamp alongside.



Mixed franking.

A 1&1/2 annas Indian postal stationery envelope overprinted for use in Bahrain has been recorded 16.5.48 from Bahrain registered and additionally franked with G.B. overprinted stamps namely 3x SG61 (Silver Wedding). This is a rare mixed franking. (Empire Stamp Auctions)

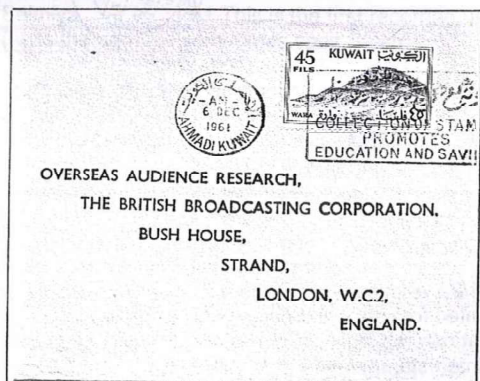
Deficit franking of mail - Kuwait.

Mike has significantly expanded the information published previously (see edition 5).

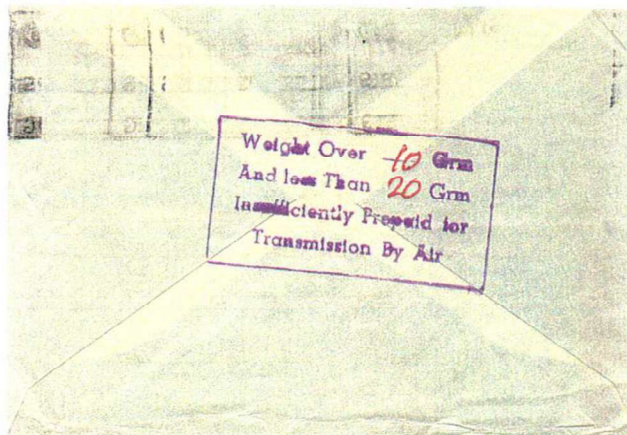
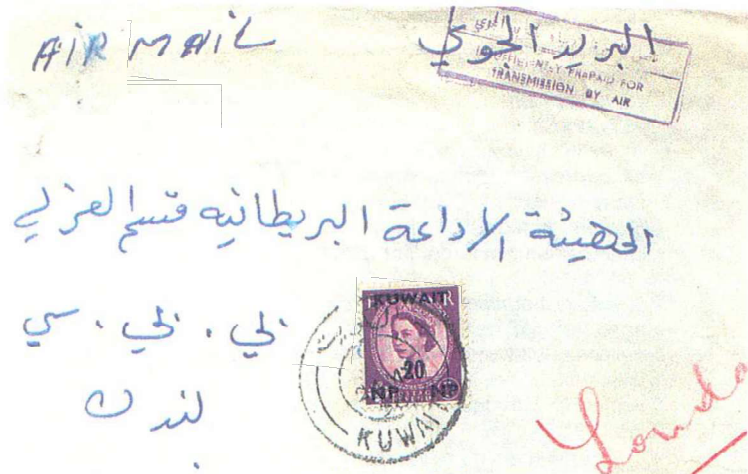
1. 'Insufficiently prepaid for / transmission by air'.

This cachet has now been seen in its undistorted state and is shown opposite on a 1958 cover. The date stamp (type 38, Donaldson) was used at Safat P.O. for cancelling local mail. Any foreign mail was passed to the Agency P.O. but was sometimes inadvertently cancelled using type 38. There is no record of the Agency P.O.'s using bilingual date stamps or instructional markings and so this cachet was probably located at Safat even though until February 1959 it didn't handle international mails.

2. The cachet most likely in use by all the agency P.O.'s is shown on the next cover. This is the first recorded example and was obviously in use well after the Agency P.O.'s closed in Kuwait.



Kuwait underpaid mail



Inward to Kuwait Postage Due

SEA-MAIL

1087

Mr. G. F. Irani,
P. O. Box 2861,
KUWAIT.



BOMBAY 400008 (India)
17, South Street,
A. H. DALAL
P.O. Box 1573
Mumbai 400 017

INDIA'S STAMP JOURNAL

COLLECTION OF STAMPS

ENQUIRIES



3. India to Kuwait Nov. 1973.

An opened up cover showing the full range of postal markings on this item of underpaid mail from Bombay. The 'T' in circle was applied in India. The correct rate was 80 paise against the franking of 75 paise. Hence the charge of 10 p = 2x deficit. The Kuwait charge was 12 fils (m/s in the purple cachet) and paid using 4f and 8f post due stamps cancelled 'Enquiries - Safat 28.11.73. This was, I think, an inadvertant use of a date stamp normally reserved for official postal mail. Note the '1078' serial number mentioned in edition 5. Mike records that 7 out of 9 inward taxed covers he holds bear a printed serial number and one other has a m/s mark.

Postage Due stamps have now been recorded in use to 18.11.76 and were most often cancelled by the large single ring type shown in edition 5 but were also cancelled by other types.

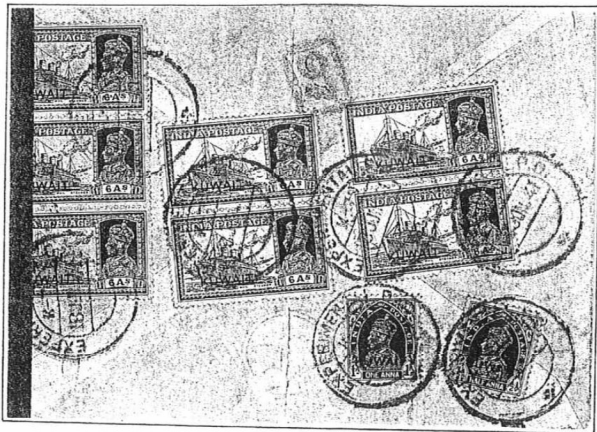
Below is one such cancellation from Safat 10.8.71 which has not been recorded before.



Further to page 2 the following cover has recently been recorded and confirms the continued availability of overprinted stamps after the temporary closure of Kuwait P.O. This cover was sent 8 days after the first recorded use of type 10. There is no Bahrain transit marking and what makes this cover interesting is that it is one of the few from the 'Exp.P.O.' period which was not addressed to India.

Kuwait - Experimental P O K - 79

This cover from Kuwait to New York is franked with Kuwait overprinted issues 1/2, 1 and 6 annas (SG36, 38 and 44) cancelled with the Exp. K-79 (type 10) dated 18.6.41. There is also a small boxed '97', almost invisible on this photograph and located above the stamps. This identified the individual censor. The front of the cover (not shown) has the standard 'Passed by Censor' triangle code A13; the A denoting Calcutta, a m/s 'By Air Mail' and also a m/s T57c, although there is no evidence the postage due was collected. The sealing strip reads 'Opened by Censor' and is not tied to the cover. Japan had not yet entered the war and the Calcutta censorship may indicate a Pacific airmail route for this cover.



Ras al Khaimah

A small batch of pieces from commercial mail has recently come to light. This indicates that there was a need for a postal service in the state during the 1960's and that some stamps which were consigned to the appendix had a proper postal use. Some of these pieces are shown :-

page	stamps	status	date
piece 1	15d/15np *2R/3R Winter Olympics	SG61 appendix	17.6.68
piece 2	5d/75np *45d Int. Museums	SG60a appendix	25.11.68
piece 3	* 80d, 2x2.50R Int. Museums	appendix	23.10.68
page 12			
piece 4	1R/1R (Compare overprint with adjacent stamp on next piece)	SG65	
piece 5	+ The same stamp has a double bar under the Arabic 1. The other two stamps do not have catalogue numbers as their status has never been verified. 20dh SG type 17 6.5.72 30dh SG type 18 (this and other pieces I have seen would indicate that these saw postal service)		
piece 6	40dh/40np 5dh, 30dh	SG 63 SG type 18	20.5.72
piece 7	The surcharges on stamps on this piece are in fils. This currency was not official adopted for use in the State but a number of stamp issues were surcharged thus and used on commercial mail. 2R SG 7 25.10.66 5fils/5np(double opt.) as SG 1 30fils/30np as SG 3		

Notes : + This is an unrecorded variety.

* Not recorded on commercial mail before.

Type 18 also exists denominated 60dh.

Other commercially used appendix issues recorded :-

Value	issue	date used
3 Rls	1967 Cats	15.1.71
2 Rls	1970 Famous Frenchmen	-
3 Rls	1970 Philympia	- .9.71
75dh/75np	as SG39.Pan-Arab Games	26.6.68
20dh	1967 Arab Paintings	-
3 Rls	1967 Arabian Nights	- .- .67
30dh	1967 Mexico Olympic Prepn.	14.5.68
40dh	" " "	4.9.68
5 Rls	1967 Grenoble Olympics	-
40dh	1968 Mothers Day	- .4.68
1,2 Rls	" " "	- .4.68
30,70dh	1968 Int.Museums Campaign	- .- .69
1,1.25 Rls	" " "	- .- .69

Note : - means part or none of postmark readable but all stamps are on piece.

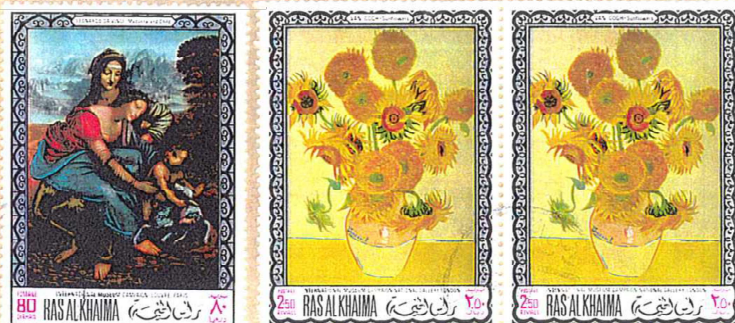
One cover has also been recorded franked with 4x30dh Arabian Nights issue addressed to Cyprus as undercover mail.

The new currency surcharges, some of which already have full catalogue status, have been found to exist with major and minor variations. These will be published in the next issue.

The date stamp used on the pieces is shown here.



Ras al Khaimah commercial pieces



12
Ras al Khaimah commercial pieces



13
Look on the back





'Look on the back

It pays to look on the back of covers from the Gulf, not just because the stamps are used as seals but because a return address can be a surprise. We tend to forget that postal services were not generally available in many parts of the Gulf until the 1970's and mail was sent many miles, sometimes to a neighbouring state, to enter the mail systems. The two covers shown on page 13 are good examples of mail from the Gulf not bearing Gulf stamps.

FPO 293

This registered cover which is franked with GB stamps has a return address 'RAF Sharjah / BFPO 64' and date stamped 6.3.62 / Field Post Office 293.

Aden

Another forces cover this time with a return address 'RAF Salalah/Aden/S.Arabia'. In political terms Salalah has always been a town in the Dhofar region of Oman. The return address gives a location for postal purposes but not one that the Sultan would have authorised.

page 14

Abu Dhabi registered letter.

This letter is referred to in Issue 4, page 2. Here is a complete picture showing the position of the boxed 'Registration Fee'. This letter is otherwise the same as the Bahrain formula issue of the same period. This is highlighted by the compensation note on the back which quotes Bahrain dinars.

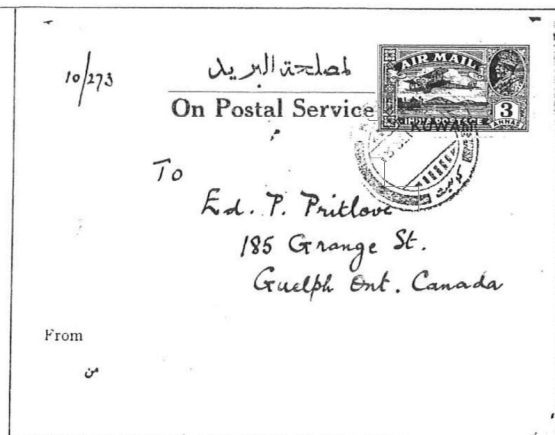
The single oval date stamp reads Abu Dhabi Recommande (3) and is type 10 in the list published in Issue 3 pages 23/24.

The backstamp is Beyroust 25.8.71 and Nicosia 27.8.71

Kuwait Airmail stamps

This is an On Postal Service cover to a stamp collector in Canada and would now come from the Philatelic Bureau. However that doesn't diminish the historical value of this souvenir from long ago and far away. The 3 annas (SG 32) is cancelled with type 18.9.35 and backstamped Basrah 20.9.35. This cover has no indication of being sent airmail and by the time difference neither had the original order for the stamps. Between Ed Pritlove writing the order on 19.8.35 and the date of this reply on 18.9.35 a whole month had already passed by. Perhaps he got is 6 annas stamp by middle October but was a very disappointed man!

The letter informs us that both the 2annas and 4 annas values were already sold out even though there are examples of both denominations on cover from later dates.



توزيع عام (١١)
 From Postmaster
 Kuwait
 To Mr. Ed. T. Pritlove
 رقم 10/273
 التاريخ 18.9.35

Dear Sir

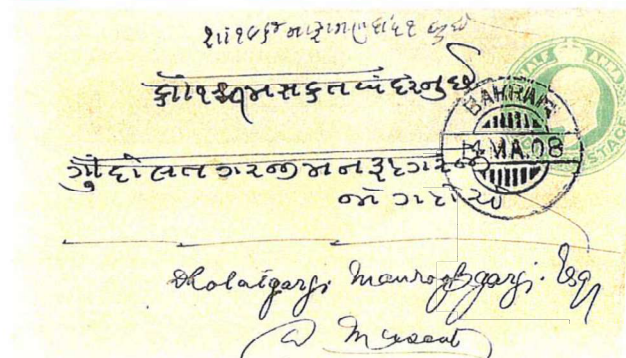
Reference your letter dated 19th Aug. 1935

I am to inform you that the Two + Four annas Air Mail stamps has since been exhausted + therefore please find enclosed one air stamp of Six annas + One stamp of 3 annas has been affixed on this envelope to cover the postage fee and the said stamps value of 9 annas being in settlement of your money order for 35 cents viz annas nine.

Jas. Ali
 Mounir

Politically Incorrect

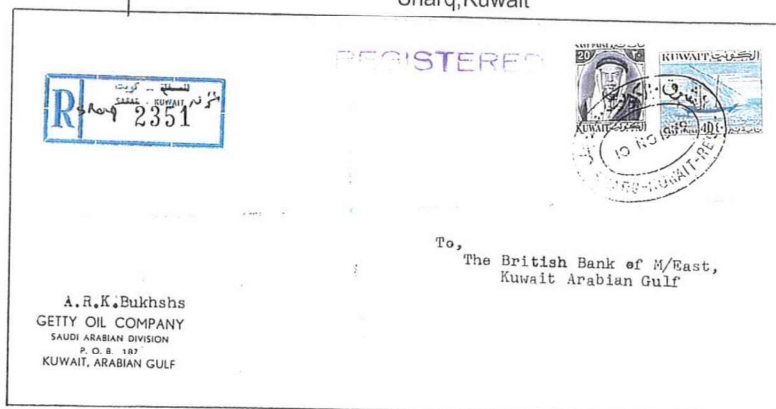
The cover underlines the great change which has come about in the Gulf States in recent times. Commerce and post operated by foreign nationals in non-Arabic languages (and using stamps bearing the portraits of foreign rulers) is now only a distant memory.



20
Dukhan, Qatar



Sharq, Kuwait



21
Dukhan

This cover appears to have been sent during the final period of the Agency Post Office in Qatar. The stamps are from the first and only issue of local design sold by the Agency in Qatar 30np and 40np (SG 30,31) and cancelled by a single oval Dukhan, Qatar, Registered 5.2.67. This date stamp although an Agency type was only put into service in 1965. The use of the Doha registration label was probably the result of Dukhan coming under the control of Doha P.O. (See Donaldson page 225). In 1966 the Indian external currency was replaced a local one. The final stamp issue in the old currency was November 1966 and various other issues were surcharged and put on sale during this interim period. The franking on this cover was apparently still acceptable. There is a lack of information about this period and very few covers seem to be available. If you have any information to contribute please let me know.

Sharq

This was opened in April 1958 as a local post office and gained full post office status in February 1959. The cover was sent 10.9.59 (canceller recorded previously) and Sharq P.O. making do with a Safat registration label. B/s single oval Safat, also 10.9.59. A registered cover sent one week before on 3.9.59 has the same Safat registration label altered in m/s with a serial number 2341. Only 10 registered items in a week!

This is the first part of a recent study by Alastair Gunn and I have added some of my own data listed on page 24. We would appreciate any additional information by mid April for immediate publication in Issue 7. Too late for publication Alastair sent me some amendments which are listed at the bottom of the next page.

Omani Registration Marks post 1974 – by Alastair Gunn

The aim of this article is to try and provide a basis for systematic study of one aspect of Omani postal history through tracking changes to Registration marks from 1975 but possibly from earlier!

Registered mail post 1974 – type 1A

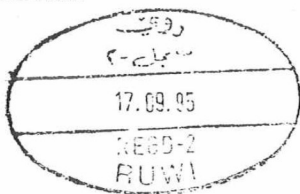
The mark is oval of approximately 4.8 mm in width with a height of approximately 2.6 mm. The top is in Arabic and the bottom is in Latin script. The English reads 'REGISTERED – POST OFFICE NAME / AREA' at the bottom with date through the centre.



This type is definitely in use by 1975 and continues until at least 29.5.1986. Individual Post Offices names may change. For example Central P.O in 1975 becomes just C.P.O. in 1981.

Registered mail post 1974 – type 1B

The second type has the date compressed with lines above and below the date but it also has a 'Regd- number'. It is only a single oval and is known used at CPO Muscat 31.10.1982 as a backmark and since then at Ruwi, CPO Muscat and Muscat. It is still in use in 2001.



Registered mail post 1975 – type 1C



The third style of registration mark is known used 20.11.93 at CPO Muscat. It is linked to the first as it is still oval, with Arabic name at the top and the Latin script at the bottom. The main change is that there is an inner oval ring. The other change is the word 'Registered' has been removed from the perimeter of both the Arabic and English and placed as REGD. below the date in English and in Arabic above the date. This mark is known used at Khasab, Al- Murtafa, Al-Hamriyah and CPO Muscat and I suspect much more widely. It is still in use in 2001

Registered mail post 1974 – type 1d



The fourth type is also a single oval mark but impressed in blue, and with a different structure. At the top is the place name in Arabic, then the Arabic for Registration, a single line date in English, underneath the abbreviation for Registration in English, then the place in English. It seems to be a very recent mark.

Notes: omit Al-Hamriyah from type 1c and add the date 23.11.93 after CPO Muscat.

Recorded dates of use.

Type 1a - single oval

1.	Registered	Central Post Office	18.8.81
2.	"	" P O	19.6.78 - 21.8.81
3.	"	C P O	5.7.79 - 30.6.81
4.	"	Marbat	28.8.73
5.	"	Matrah	27.4.78 - 9.3.81
6.	"	Mina al Fahal	29.5.82
7.	"	Muscat	* 5.12.66 - 2.6.81
8.	"	Quriyat	22.7.79
9.	"	Salalah	17.7.78 - 24.5.84
10.	"	" C P O	12.3.79 - 8.1.92
11.	"	Seeb	10.5.78 - 2.2.84
12.	"	Seeb airport	3.3.83
13.	"	Soha	18.2.82
14.	"	Taqa	1.9.73

* This is the earliest recorded example of the single oval type which was introduced at the start of independent postal services in April 1966.

Type 1b - belted oval

1.	Regd	Jibroo	18.11.98 - 13.12.98
2.	"	Madinat Qaboos	- . 2.98
3.	" - 1	" "	21.3.93
4.	" - 2	Matrah	18.5.82
5.	" - 1	Mina al Fahal	20.8.84
	" - 2	" " "	5. 5.92 - 2. 2.93
6.	" - 1	Muscat	2.10.83 - 21.3.93
7.	" - 4	CPO Muscat	30. 5.82 - 27.5.92
	" - 6	" "	31.1.83 - 7.6.84
8.	"	Ruwi	19.5.97 - 21.4.99
	" - 1	"	18.1.97 - 17.5.00
9.	" - 1	Seeb	11.8.83 - 3.1.84
	" - 4	"	26.6.84
10.	"	Airport	16.10.83