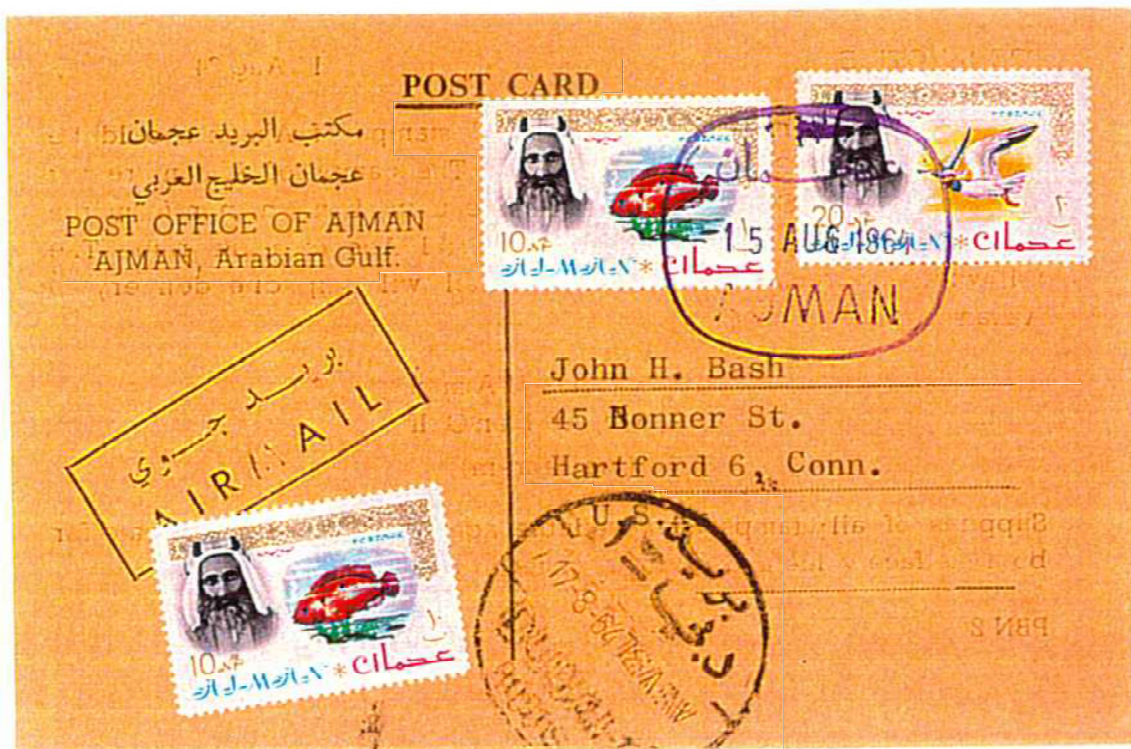


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



Publicity card from Ajman Post Office 1964

Contents include

Commercial mail from the Trucial States

A 19th century Muscat cover

A First Flight cover from Kuwait

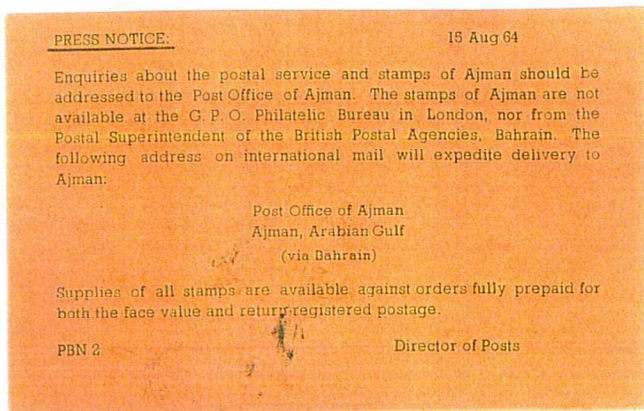
1940's airmail from Muscat

Published by TE Jones, 36 Cobham Rd., Accrington

Lancashire BB5 2AD England

Issue No. 12 Summer 2003

Message side of Ajman post card



Ajman cover 1964



This was sent surface mail to Canada.
It is philatelic and one of a series of similar covers sent to this addressee

Trucial States review

Rufus Barnes has just sent me a photostat of a research paper presented at the 59th American Philatelic Congress held ten years ago, August 1993 in Houston, Texas. The title is

'Reckoning with the Stamps and Postal History of the Independent Trucial States, 1963 - 73'

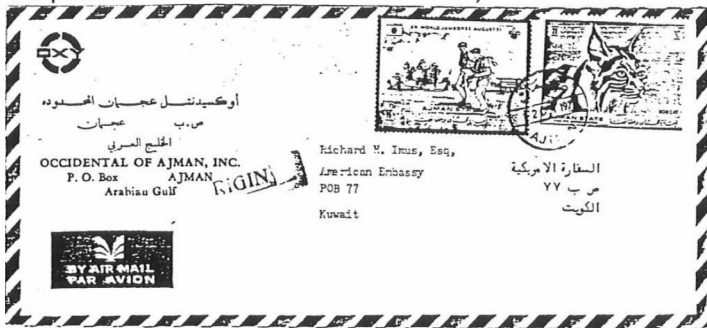
What disappointed me about this paper was that of the 16 covers illustrated 15 were from the philatelic bureaux of Ajman, Fujeira, Ras al Khaima, Sharjah and Umm al Qiwain. The inference was that these covers sent through the international mails provided evidence of a public postal service and that the stamps so used should no longer be relegated to the catalogue appendices. In American terms the stamps should no longer be Black Blotted.

I had actually read the date of the Congress as August 2003 and was about to fire off a letter to the author when I realised my mistake. But in the intervening ten years so little information has been forthcoming about the postal affairs of the Trucial States that the cachet of age has given the appendix issues and philatelic covers a value and legitimacy they don't deserve. All this mail was forwarded by recognised postal authorities, in particular Dubai whose backstamps are recorded on a number of the covers. Then of course they were accepted at their destinations without surcharge. In recent years these covers come up quite frequently at auction and many of the stamps in the appendices are quite acceptable to thematic collectors.

I am not castigating the Trucial States. They saw an opportunity and took it. Many other states have since followed suite. Just look at the listings for some of the Caribbean Islands. The point I am making is that none of this material gives us any insight into the postal service, if any, provided by these states and it should not be treated as postal history.

The 16th cover illustrated was from 'Occidental of Ajman' postmarked 2.10.1972. This is a commercial item sent in the interim period from the end of the Ajman State Postal Service 1.8.72 and the first stamp issue by the new unified UAE Postal Service on 1.1.73. It is franked with a 1968 stamp from the Cats issue (Bob Cat) and a 1971 stamp from the Scout Jamboree

issue. This cover is evidence of commercial use of 2 out of the hundreds of stamps listed in the appendix for Ajman.
(I must admit however that these covers provide clear strikes of the postmarks used on the commercial mail.)



The 'Occidental' cover (A photostat of a photostat)

Over the last three years sufficient Trucial States items have been recorded to lead me to accept that Ras al Khaima and Sharjah P.O.'s did provide a regular public postal service. The effect of running a black list was that no one took any interest in what was going on and most of the material was lost. Mr David Donald is one of the few who has been working hard with some success to get the Stanley Gibbons editor of Part 19 to promote some of the later Sharjah issues to the Premier Division.

On page 7 of this edition two commercial covers from Ajman are shown. These are the first recorded from Ajman and both are addressed to Foyle's Bookshop, London.

Top cover : cancelled 17.3.68
franked 10,50 dh from the 1967 appendix issue
'Tales of the Arabian Nights'.

Bottom cover : cancelled 20.10.67
franked 2x30 dh same issue

Page 8 has two further Trucial covers.

Top cover : registered from Khor Fakkan and pretty obviously philatelic but privately sent. There are no backstamps. This could have been posted under separate cover to Sharjah PO. It has no

return address. All stamps from this dependency of Sharjah are listed in the SG appendix and no commercial mail has been recorded. The canceller and the registration label are both identical to those used at Sharjah P.O. (See edition 3 page 13). This begs the question 'where was Khor Fakkan post office?'

Page 8 bottom shows a PO cover from Rasulkhaima (one of the accepted transliterations). This probably contained a mail shot and bears no date stamp.

Page 24 top cover :

shows the second recorded commercial item from Umm al Qiwain - (the first one is in edition 3, page 11) again to Foyle's, London. This place must have been a gold mine for covers.

franked : 2x 10,40 dh (SG121,125)

cancelled : 4.4.48 with trapezium shape canceller.

There are no backstamps.

Under normal circumstances this would not be a desirable item. The stamps all overlap each other and one is upside down.

Page 24 bottom cover :

An On Postal Service registered letter from Dubai PO.

A Bulletin of Verification confirms a new stamp issue?

Date stamp is a single ring bilingual Dubai type 27 as listed in edition 8 page 26. I can't see whether it is simply Dubai or Dubai 7. Dubai had a well established postal service from 1909 and the design of this official cover is obviously based on the British PO official stationery.

Cancelled 16.8.72

Dubai issued stamps under its own authority until July 1972.

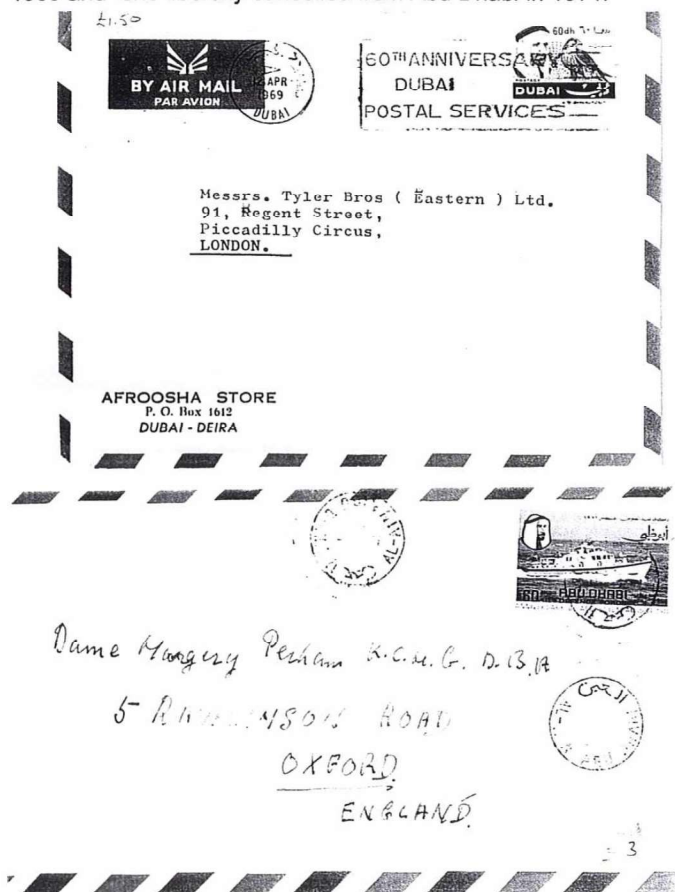
To date the following commercial covers have been recorded from the five states listed above :-

Ajman 3 ; Fujaira 1 ; Ras al Khaima 2 plus many pieces
Sharjah 12 ; Umm al Qiwain 1

6

Abu Dhabi and Dubai

I am not including these states because neither have stamps listed in the catalogue appendices and both had well established postal services. Below are an apposite cover sent from Dubai in 1969 and one liberally cancelled from Abu Dhabi in 1971.



7

Ajman commercial covers



Philatelic covers from Khor Fakkan (1972)

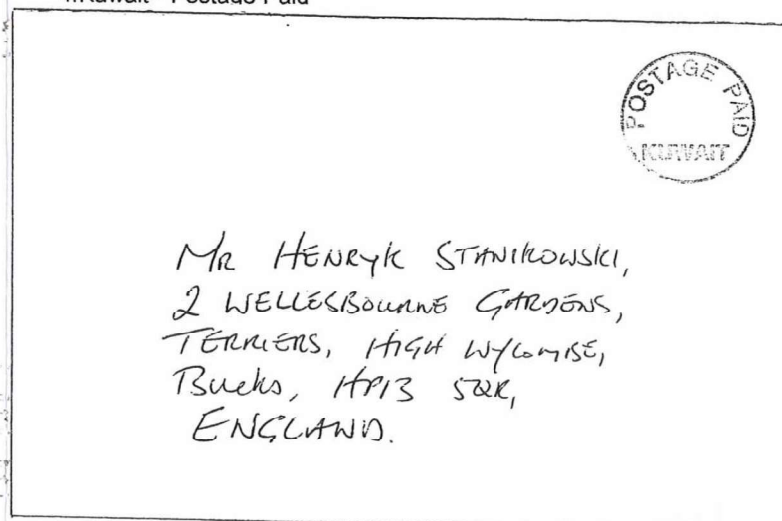


and Rasulkhaima (undated)



Bits and Pieces

1. A further example of mixed currency franking from Ras al Khaima (np and fils) on commercial piece. clear R(egistered) date stamp 17.10.66.
2. Ras al Khaima appendix issue (2x80dh International Museums) also on commercial piece -dated 18.1.69.
3. Iraq propaganda? - part of a window envelope from Iraq. Has anyone got an idea about this oddball.
4. Kuwait - Postage Paid



This is the first time this strike has been recorded. Does anyone have any information? (3 and 4 from M. Alhajeri)

5. A query from Ralf Kollmann has been answered by M. Alhajeri. It concerns three postal markings on a returned registered cover from Kuwait. These marks were not well struck so the translation cannot be 100% guaranteed.

Cover sent from Germany 31.5.02 and returned 4.6.2002.

(a) Looks like a canceller used on regular postal duty.

(b) and (c) are internal instructional markings.

Bits and Pieces continued :

مكتب البريد - الصفاة - ؟

4 - JUL 200?

?

These
are not
accurate
diagrams

(a)

Post Office - Safat - ?
4 - JUL 200?

?

دارة (الحركة البريدية؟)

3 JUN 200?

مراقبة الفرز

(b)

(Mail Circulation?) Department
3 JUN 200?
Sorting Control *

التأكيد الاول

التأكيد الثاني

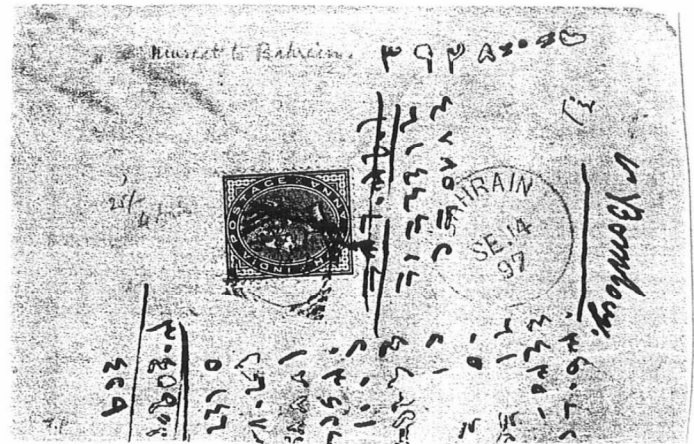
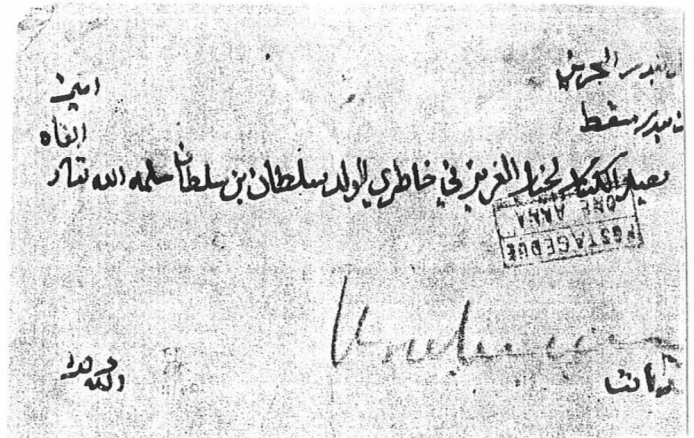
(التأكيد الثالث؟)

(c)

First confirmation _____
Second confirmation _____
(Third confirmation?) _____

Contents of a letter from John Carter re Muscat

1. Muscat - Bahrain cover 1897



Where was the postage due mark applied?

Did this cover go via India?

Written underneath the address in blue crayon is a word we cannot decipher.

Muscat squared circle type 9 - date unclear.

Bahrain receiving strike type 3 is dated 14.9.97

2. Mr Carter has a block of 4x 50np/9d (EIIR Value Only) cancelled with a registered single oval Muscat dated 12.5.62. I don't think this has been recorded before. It is very similar to Kuwait type 29 and Dubai type 17.

3. Muscat triangular censor mark. Add :-

46 16.12.39 to India

48 1011.43 to India Opened by Examiner. Bombay 14.12.43
34 days to Bombay. 'Did it go by dhow!' John exclaimed.

4. Guadur to Muscat

This is the first mention in the Postal History Quarterly of the enclave of Guadur. This is partly because I sold all my Guadur covers many years ago and have never seen any more. Also none of the correspondents until now have mentioned the place. Anyway John has a cover and a question.

In issue 1 page 16 I listed a BISN schedule for 1929 which did not include Guadur. How then did a cover from Guadur dated 27.11.27 reach Muscat on 29.11.27?

5. Muscat 1940's airmail service.

In issue 11 page 8 I stated that there was no airmail service from Muscat during this period. It took me quite a few days to remember how I came to this conclusion. I am very grateful to Mr Carter for querying what I had written. It has led to an interesting piece of research which is presented on the next page.

If you the reader disagrees with any statements I make please write and tell me. Who knows where it might lead?

Muscat airmail service 1940's

Data from Mr Carter :

1. 1946 cover franked 18½/2as which has a blue crayon mark 'no air fee'.

2. 1943 - 1947 several covers franked 2as 6p which was the standard airmail rate at the time.

Page 9 of the last issue shows a typical airmail cover of the period. Eighteen days delivery may suggest this particular cover took a rather slower route than the one paid for but by itself does not support my statement that there was no airmail service.

Lets look at some more data. This time a list compiled by Neil Donaldson of some 44 wartime covers to and from Muscat. The list is a record of covers bearing the triangular censor marks. The mystery of these was only solved in the late 1980's and recorded in the 1994 supplement to Neil's book. Fifteen or more years after the original was published.

I have extracted the data relevant to this enquiry.

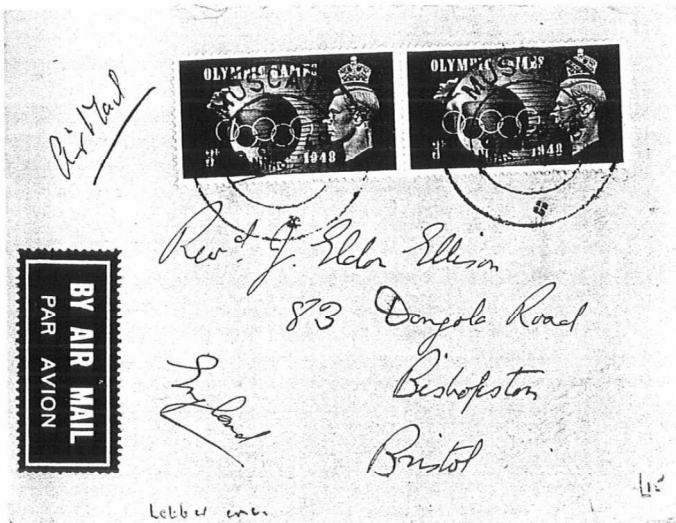
rate	date	destination	delivery time
1. 1a	6.11.40	Bahrain to Muscat	7
2. 1a	13.12.40	India	11
3. 1a3p	25.10.41	Bahrain	6
4. 1a3p	9.41 to 8.42	India (4 covers)	7 to 12
5. 1a6p	5.2.45	India	18

The above are all surface rated. Those listed below are rated for airmail.

6. 2a6p	11.42 to 12.46	India (3 covers)	8 to 9
7. 2a6p	22.6.43	India	18
8. 4a3p	1.2.41	India registered	12
9. 4a6p	23.11.44	India registered	18
10. 4a6p	27.2.44	India express (fee 2a)	9
11. 7a6p	18.5.44	India reg. express (2a+3a)	14

There doesn't appear to be a lot of difference in delivery times in the two groups

A 1948 cover from Eldon Ellison containing a very interesting letter to his father in Bristol has recently turned up. As can be seen this cover is labelled and franked for the airmail service.



Dated : 9 September 1948 with type 14a canceller.

Franked : 2 3as/3d Olympic Games (SG 28)

Very little mail is recorded from Muscat at this time and even fine used stamps of the Olympic Games set rate a premium over the readily available mint examples.

Part of the letter is shown on pages 15 and 16. I think it is important enough to be given some space. The crucial sentence is 'Tomorrow there is one (a ship) for Karachi, and this (letter) will go by air from there.'

The conclusions I draw from this sentence and other remarks in the letter is

(a) there was no regular mail service of any kind in 1948 and probably not in the preceding war years either.

(b) paying airmail rate meant onward air transmission from India.

First paragraph of the Muscat letter

Muscat

September 6th 1948.

Dear Father
I expect you have been wondering why I have been so long writing. There hasn't been a ship out of this place - either direction since a day or two after I arrived, so I have had no opportunity to send off a letter. Tomorrow there is one for Karachi, & this will go by air from there.

Second and third paragraphs of the Muscat letter

I am told that ships usually come in any week or so, but it depends on days, so you must be surprised if there is an interval of anything up to three weeks.

The weather has not been too bad in the whole, though they say the earlier part of the summer was very bad indeed. The private delay in my departure made me miss a particular

A political cover from Dubai - late 1970's

ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE

P. O. Box No. 63,
DUBAI - U. A. E.

مكتب مقاطعة اسرائيل

ص. ب. ٦٣
الإمارات العربية المتحدة



السادة محمد يوسف احمد دكانو المحترمين
ص. ب. ٢٩٠
دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة



3



2

See 'Bits
and Pieces'

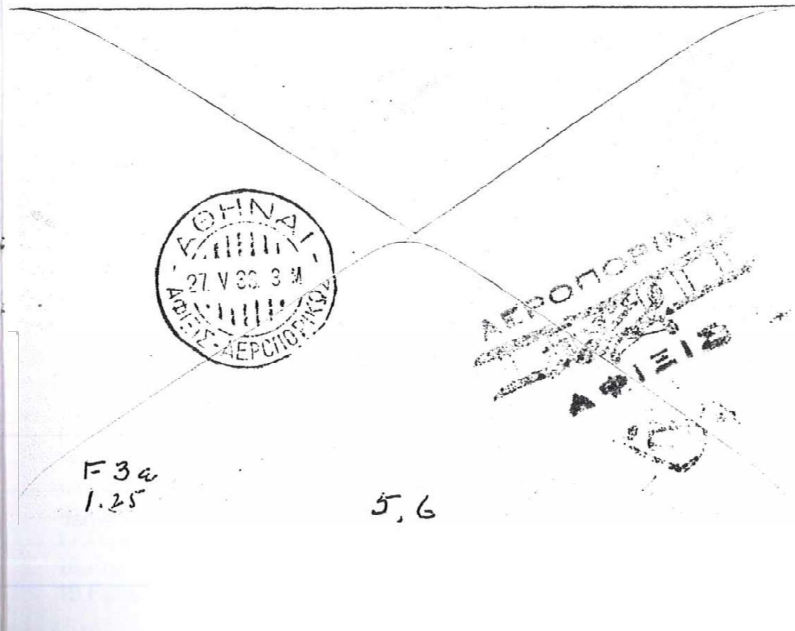
First flight cover from Kuwait to Athens 1933
Kuwait became a stop on the Imperial Airways Service from December 1932. Airmail despatches from Kuwait often included covers commemorating the various extensions to the service. It is surprising that this cover does not bear one or more of the airmail stamps issued in Kuwait at this time.

Franking : 2as, 2as 6p (SG18,5)

Canceller : type 5 dated 23.5.33. Kuwait was the only Indian Agency PO to be supplied with bilingual date stamps and registration labels. I wonder why that was?

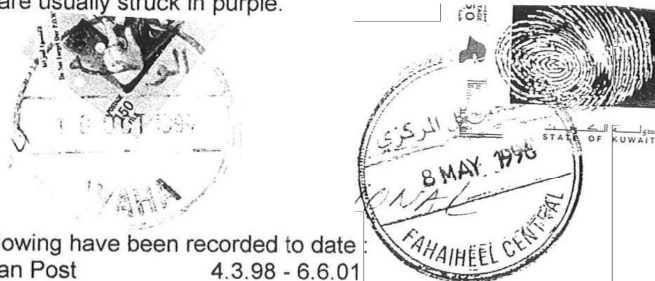
A translation is needed for the pink label and the cachet on the back. It took 4 days to reach Athens.

(M Alhajeri)



KUWAIT CANCELLER TYPE 46

Large double ring belted, diameter approximately 4 cm.
These are usually struck in purple.



The following have been recorded to date:

1. Bayan Post	4.3.98 - 6.6.01
2. Ardiya Post	16.5.95
3. Out Mail Sorting Centre 1	16.1.99
4. Mansouriyah Post	21.5.95
5. Shuwaikh B	3.4.00
6. Dasmah Post	20.2.99
7. Safat Post	22.6.99
8. Salmiya Post	27.6.96
9. Al Rawdah	18.11.00
10. Farwaniya Post	29.9.94
11. Air Mail Desp. Section	2.10.94
12. Hadiyyah Post	29.6.94
13. A. Al Salem Post	9.4.01
14. Hawalli Post	9.4.01
15. Mail Sorting Centre	24.1.98
16. Shuwaikh Cnt.	19.11.00
17. Ahmadi Post	20.9.94
18. Al Waha Post	23.10.95
19. De'eyah	19.10.94
20. Fahaiheel Central	8.5.96
21. Waha	10.10.94

These have all been recorded on standard A4 airmail letters.
Hand cancelling of some ordinary mail still continued. Under what circumstances I don't know.

KUWAIT CANCELLER TYPE 47

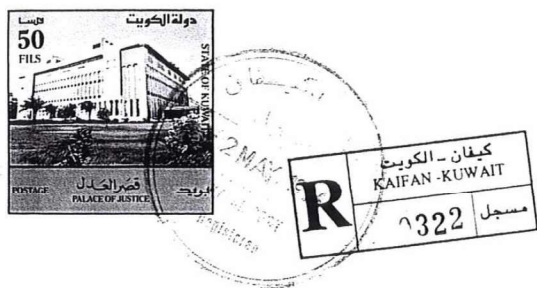
Large double ring belted registered, dia. 4cm approximately
These are usually struck in purple.
All include the word registered, usually in the lower segment.



1. Dasmah Post	27.5.95 - 10.8.98
2. Al Safat Post	
There are a number of varieties.	
*Upper case letters	10.5.00
**Lower case letters	8.7.90 - 11.1.97
***Smaller diameter 3.5cm	27.6.99 - 30.8.99
3. Nujha Post	14.10.96
4. Shuaibah Post	2.8.94 - 25.3.00
5. Al Raas	5.2.00
6. A. Al-Salem Post	27.8.94 - 18.3.95
7. Safat Post	8.7.93 - 16.5.95
8. Hawalli Post	5.2.90 - 28.6.97
9. Ahmedi post	10.1.95 - 15.2.00
10. Al-Edahliyah Post	7.3.95
11. Sura Post	15.2.95 - 20.12.95
12. Shuwaikh B. Post with boxed date	2.1.95
13. Salmiyah Post	1.10.94 - 27.6.96
14. Kaifan - K	22.5.94 - 3.4.00
15. Shuwaikh Ind. Post	11.2.93
16. Fintas Post	15.1.94
17. Dasmah Post	10.8.99
18. Farawaniya Post	-- -- --
19. Fahaiheel Post	2.2.00

Kuwait type 47 continued.
20.Abraq Khaitani

5.7.99



QATAR

This information follows on from Issue 11 page 18. John Gillham has turned up a very early cover, (the earliest?), from Qatar and before the war temporarily halted oil development in the state. This is shown on the next page.

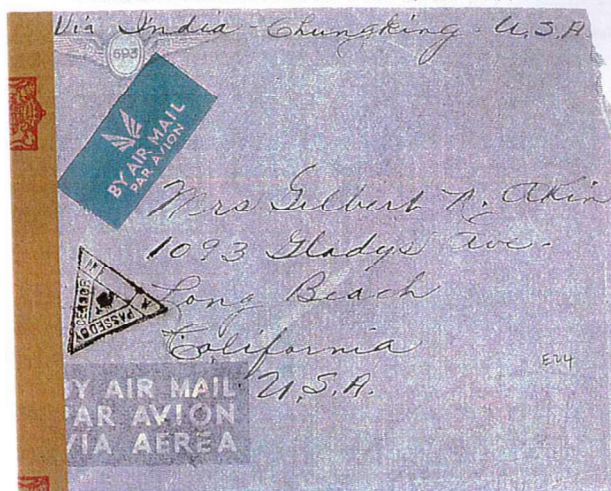
Until 1950 mail from Qatar was taken by any available means to Bahrain for franking and posting.

Front : The route taken, a well recorded one was via Calcutta, Rangoon, Chungking, Hong Kong and by 'China Clipper' to Los Angeles. Part of this is confirmed by the censorship triangle A-11 (Calcutta) and by the hand written heading.

Back : Return address is c/o P D (Qatar) Ltd.
Bahrain Island
Persian Gulf

The resealing strip is of course Indian PO. Franking is 47 1/2 annas made up of 3 1/2 annas letter rate and a wacking great 44 annas airmail fee. This is roughly equivalent to putting a £3.50 surcharge on a present day letter to the USA.

Front and back of a cover from Qatar 1941



Umm Al Qiwain 1964 commercial cover



Dubai 1972 Post Office registered cover

