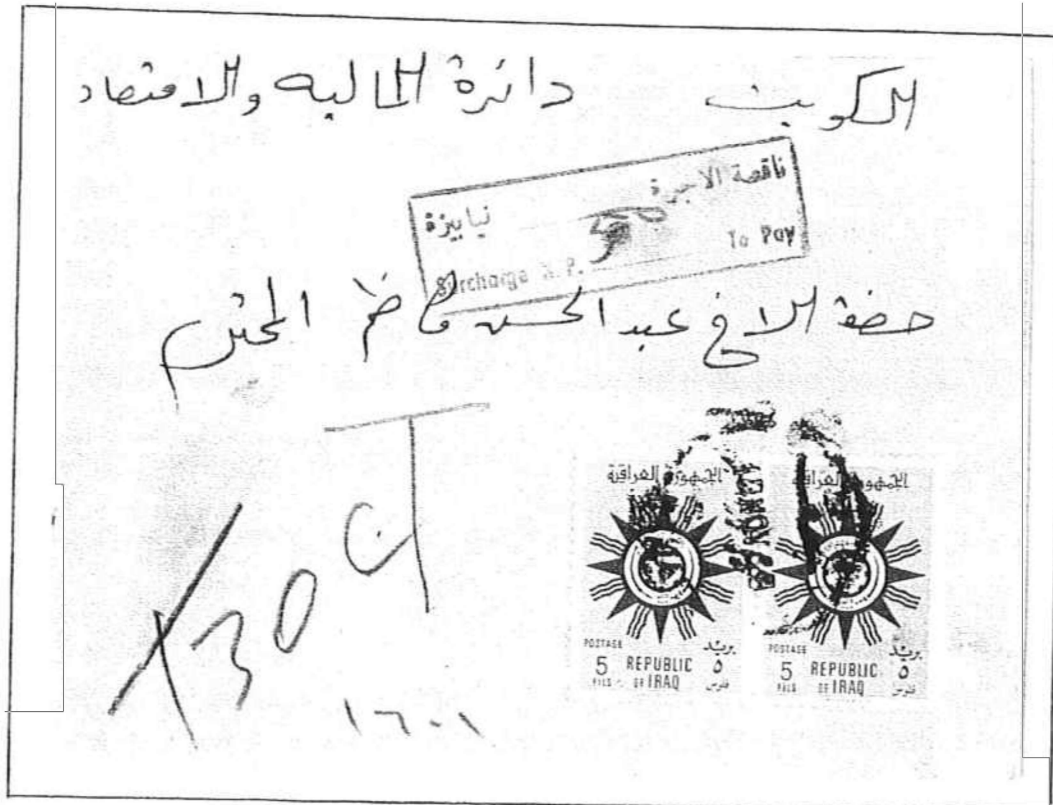


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



ناقصة الأجرة		نفاية
Surcharge N.P.		To Pay

Contents

Bits and pieces

(an update on previously published information)

The use of Indian Service stamps from Muscat

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Front cover

This cover was sent from Iraq to Kuwait on 10.11.60 well after the closing of the Kuwait Agency P.O. The 'Surcharge' cachet was applied in Kuwait but as this is the only recorded example I need more information about it including its period of use.

Comment

I have received more information from you the readers about Kuwait than any of the other postal administrations. In my experience Kuwait has always been a good source of interesting post Agency covers. The Kuwait Post Office ran a very efficient operation during the early years of the independent administration and clear postmarks and cachets were the order of the day. And even now forty two years on there are some most attractive commercial covers to be found.

The most important criterion in my opinion is a clear postmark. These are very much more difficult to find on modern mail, Kuwait usually being the exception.

Bits and Pieces

Kuwait: large dia. double ring date stamps (No.2, page 6). Neil Donaldson has given me information about Mina al Ahmadi post office. This is a correction to the information published in his handbook 'Postal Agencies in Eastern

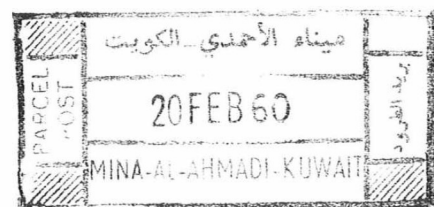
Arabia and the Gulf'. On page 175 delete lines 6 to 9 and substitute :-

'...was sent to Ahmadi Post Office until the State took over on 31.1.59 after which bilingual cancellers as shown below came into use until the post office closed on 17.12.61....'

There are now seven large diameter types recorded but this latest one has yet to be found on cover.



Type 7 (3.1cm dia)



Cachet: 'Despatched by rail route to avoid detention' (No. 3, page 11).

This is a rather surprising cachet to appear on Gulf mail but was applied in India. I have recorded a 1941 airmail cover to Bombay from Indian Section Base Office No.7 sent via Karachi which has no Gulf connection.

Kuwait: large double oval regd. cancels (No 4 page 18).

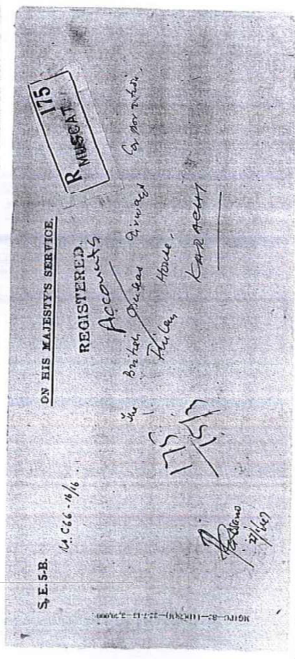
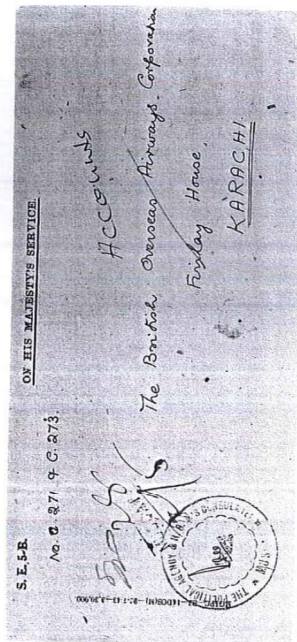
I have had a note of earlier dates from Mike Phelan :-

Hawalli from 28.11.65

Safat from 10.3.60

and Salmiya's first recorded example 15.1.61.

Indian Service stamps used from Muscat.
Service stamps are rarely seen on mail from the Gulf. They were used mainly by the office of the Political Agent or occasional wartime military detachments. The first two illustrated below, although posted only two months apart display some interesting variations. These include use of a registration label on only one of the covers and different wax seals and cachets variously worded to include 'The Political Agency' and 'British Consulate, Muscat'. Many of the covers and pieces from the 1940's are franked with both GVR and GVIR stamps.

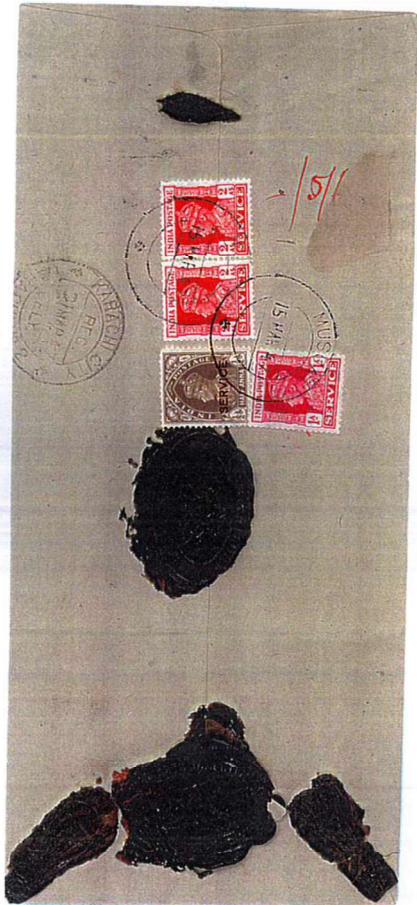


Service stamps used from Muscat
Back of left hand cover on page 4 with GVR stamps
cancelled 2.5.47



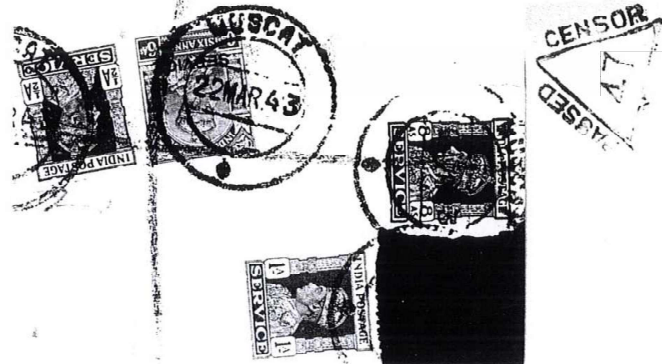
6

Service stamps used from Muscat
Back of right cover on page 4 with GVIR service stamps
cancelled 15.3.47



7

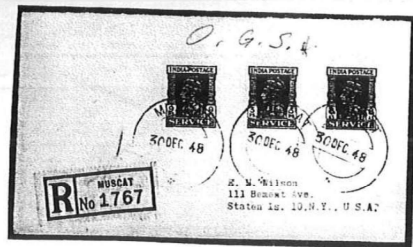
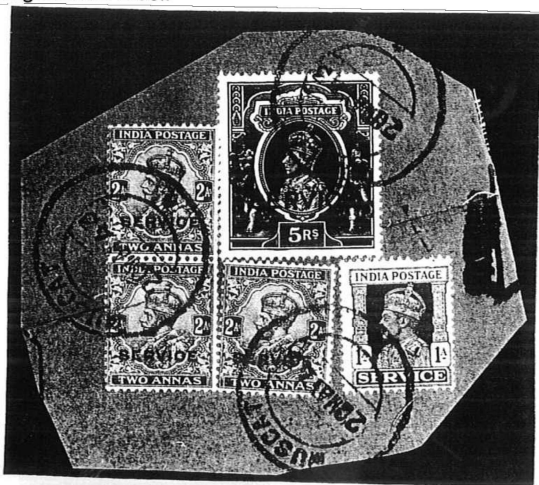
Indian Service stamps used from Muscat.
1. Piece dated 22.3.43 bearing 6a(GVR,0133). 1/2, 1, 8a
(GVIR,0144a,0146,0150) cancelled type 14.
Muscat censor mark '47'. (see Donaldson supplement)
2. Piece dated 10.4.43 bearing 6x2a(GVR,0130a). 1a, 2x1R
(GVIR,0140,0138) cancelled type 14.



3. Piece dated 20.5.43 bearing 3x2a (GVR,0130a). 1a,5R (GVIR,0140,0146) cancelled type 14.
All values above 4a are rare.

4. Irregular use of Indian Service stamps during the British Postal Agency period. Dated 30.12.48

This cover is probably a philatelic inspiration and an unauthorised use of these stamps. It is franked with 3,9p and 8a (GVIR,0143,0145,0150), cancelled India P.O. type 14a which was still in use and bearing a British style registration label.



Underpaid mail - Kuwait

Prior to 1963 incoming international mail received the cachet shown on the front cover. Outgoing international mail received a 'T' and amount due in m/s (see p16). Postage Due stamps were then issued :-

1963 1,2,5,8,10,25f (D199-204)

1965 4,15,40,50,100f (D276-80)

and recorded in use until mid-1968.

Fig.1 Inward from USA bearing US tax markings. The '36 centimes' indicates the charge to be raised expressed in 'gold centimes' the international currency for postal accounting. The straight line 'POSTAGE DUE 6 CENTS' is the amount expressed in US cents and the charge levied in Kuwait was 42fils. This Kuwait postage due marking has only been recorded in combination with the postage due stamps. Serial numbers such as '5004' have also been recorded on underpaid Kuwait mail of this period. The back of the cover bears a Kuwait backstamp dated 5.12.65 and the post due stamps 2,40f (D200,278) cancelled with a large single ring SAFAT dated the next day. This style of date stamp seems to have been reserved for this particular operation and stamps from the two post due sets were often needed to make up the prevailing rates. The cost of handling this cover must have exceeded the underpayment many times. (See page15)

Fig.2

Full size image of
Postage Due mark
with serial number.
Struck in purple

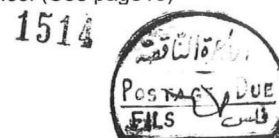


Fig.3,4 Inward underpaid mail from UK with a British PO 'Tax' lozenge and 14c (gold) charge. The initials BM have not yet been identified. The 'Surcharge ...' cachet is Kuwaiti and the 'Postage Due' mark is the same as the previous cover. The m/s 285 could be a serial number.

The b/s Safat 20.2.66 (large dia. type 4) indicates the point of entry to the Kuwait postal system. The postage dues 1,15f (D199,277) are cancelled with a belted Ahmadi 22.2.66. A canceller reserved for post due work only?

One cover from the UK has been recorded with the post due stamps cancelled with a ordinary small double ring Ahmadi-Kuwait dated 7.4.64 and 'Tax 21c' FS (British PO mark). B/s large dia. type 6, also 7.4.64 and no Safat marking.

Fig.5 above- Examination of pieces bearing the postage due stamps shows that the rubber cancellers of Safat (of which there were at least two types) and which became distorted, were replaced by steel ones in 1968. The steel type is known in purple and black.

Fig.5 below-outgoing mail underfranked and down graded to surface route. The 'T' and m/s 9c indicates it wasn't even sufficiently prepaid for this service. On the back of the cover is the cachet shown below (always distorted), a s.r. Safat b/s and in m/s 25/488 which possibly indicates charge/serial number.

These are full size illustrations :-

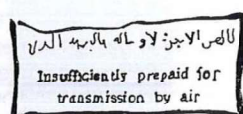


Fig.6 Posted Out of Course.

A letter franked as ordinary airmail and posted in the letter box. Spotted by the Kuwait PO and treated as 'Out of Course' registered mail. The required additional postage was paid in Kuwait and the letter despatched without registration label. West bound mail from the Gulf went via London at this time where registration took place in this case. Why I don't know! The full story of its transmission is recorded by the stamps and cachets applied in Kuwait and London.

Front : original franking 60 fils (152,156) cancelled Kuwait GPO 25.9.63 and additionally franked 80 fils (151,194) and cancelled a day later with type 2. The evidence of this cover makes it likely that type 2 was also in use at the GPO. (see issue no.2). The serial number '8017' in the style noted previously would lead me to think this was part of the Kuwait PO recording system for underpaid mail.

Posted out of course from Kuwait - 1963



12

Fig.4 Underpaid mail to Kuwait - 1966



13

Fig.5 underpaid mail to and from Kuwait - 1960's

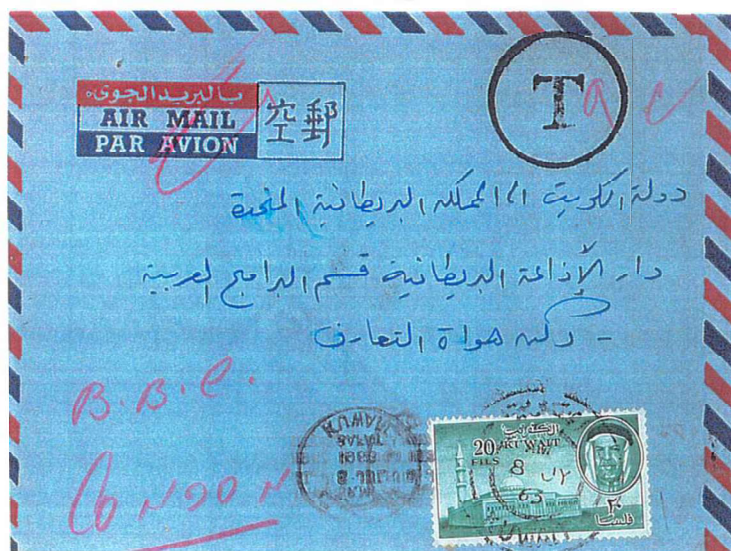


Fig.3 Underpaid mail to Kuwait - 1966

fig.1
(Yorkshire Cover Auctions lot)

cont. from page 10.

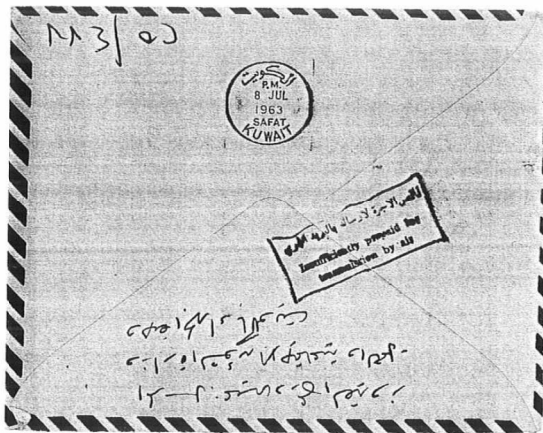
The cachets on the reverse are also dated. The first on the day it was spotted and the date carefully recorded and signed in m/s. There is also a m/s 80/241 in the lower r h corner (charge/number).

Below is the back of the BBC cover.



Found in the Letter Box

الأجرة الناقصة دفعت في الكويت
Deficit postage paid in Kuwait
شارين



In timation Cards

Cards were used for inward and outward mail and a specimen of each was sent to me by the P.O. in 1978. The 'inward' card printed in black and red on yellow card is shown below and overleaf. I haven't seen a used one yet.

السيد / السادة _____
Mr. / Messrs _____

الرقم التاريخ Date

Dear Sir,

An ordinary letter addressed to you bearing insufficient postage has arrived and is being detained.

نفيدكم بأن رسالة عادية قد وُدت إليكم وتعمل
أجرة بريدية ناقصة وقد احتفظنا بها.

Please affix postage stamps worth fils at the space provided on the reply card, detach it and post the detached card in the nearest posting box so that your letter may be released for delivery to you.

يرجى الصاق طوابع بريرية بقيمة فلس
في المكان المخصص من البطاقة الجوابية ثم فصلها
وابداؤها في أقرب صندوق لإيداع المراسلات وذلك
لتنسك من توزيع الرسالة إليكم.

In case the reply portion with the required postage is not received by me within 15 days from the date of this intimation your letter will be returned to origin.

في حالة عدم تسلمنا البطاقة الجوابية مع الطوابع
اللازمة خلال خمسة عشر يوما من تاريخ هذا
الإشعار فإن الرسالة المذكورة ستعاد إلى مصدرها.

ناظر مكتب بريد الصفاة
POSTMASTER SAFAT

The REPLY part of the card was detached and returned bearing the appropriate value of stamp. The reference number may be the one I have called the serial number but the system obviously changed with the demise of the due stamps.

١/٦٢١/٧

بطاقة جوابية
REPLY CARD

الرجاء لصق الطابع هنا

Please affix Stamp here

السيد ناظر مكتب بريد الصفاة
مكتب بريد الصفاة
شارع الهلالي
الكويت

الرجاء: _____

The layout of each card is the same as the reply paid post cards sold to the public in the UK and indeed in Kuwait in earlier times. Page 17 shows the front and back of the card sent to the addressee and above is the reply part. The back of this is blank.

Dubai

Top : cover dated 7.2.70

Lower : dated April 1963



Sharjah UAE dated 30.5.73



Kuwait 'Paquebot' 1962



Kuwait Paquebot Mail by Mashael A. Alhajeri

'Paquebot' is a French term derived from 'Packet Boat'. It refers to loose letters collected on board ships and subsequently deposited in a port for onward transmission by the post office. It was in 1891 that the UPU decreed that mail posted on the high seas might be prepaid "by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the vessel belonged, or by which it was maintained". If mailing took place in territorial waters or in port, then the stamps and tariff of that territory would apply. In 1894, the UPU issued a supplementary regulation to the effect that letters so treated should, in addition to the date stamp of the receiving office, be endorsed with the word 'Paquebot', whether as a hand stamp or in manuscript.

The authoritative work on this subject is 'Paquebot cancellations of the world' Roger Hoskins, Cavendish, 3rd edition 2000. Personally I am not in favour of calling them cancellations since their function is not to cancel stamps but to denote that the item of mail has a particular status. Postal markings would be more appropriate.

Hoskins lists four types from Kuwait :-

1. Type 2989 date: 1952-6 rectangular (C)
2. Type 2990 date: 1952-79 oval (B) * KBC 08
3. Type 2991 date: 1965 rectangular (C)
4. Type 2992 date: 1964-89 oval (B) * KLC 34

AA=very common, A=common, B=less common, C=reasonably scarce, D=rare, DD=very rare.

Only two of these * are listed in the latest work on Kuwait postal history by Salam and Saleem Al-Shakar. (See issue no. 4). Their numbers are shown above.

Information about the Kuwaiti service has never been published and the main questions to be addressed are :-

1. In which post office(s) were Paquebot letters deposited?
2. What postal rates were applied?
3. How were these rates decided when foreign stamps were used?
4. Why do some covers bear both foreign and Kuwaiti stamps?

5.Hoskins records 1989 as the latest known date.Did the service close around this time?

6.Were any alternatives offered?

Further notes by the editor.

M.S.Dumra, registered in London, is one source of Paquebot mail recorded in 1962 and 73.These two items both bear a 'foreign' stamp and a Kuwait stamp.Both also appear to be philatelic.The GB aerogramme shown here has been meter franked on 23.12.62 probably at the office of Grey Mackenzie (cachet on back) and then cancelled on the following day by the Kuwait PO.The cover recorded by m/s Alhajeri is from the same vessel and bears an Indian stamp cancelled by the ship's cachet and a Kuwaiti stamp cancelled by the post office. Is this proper paquebot mail?I am grateful for the opportunity to air this topic.I have had the aerogramme for many years and have yet to find out anything about it. (See page 20)

Trucial States

Mr Parker has sent photocopies of three colour copies :-

Page 19: registered from Deira -Dubai 7.2.70.Deira was the second post office to open in Dubai and the post office was still using British style labels.The parcel tag bears 2x40np,5R(5,10) which are cancelled with a single oval Dubai Trucial States Registered -4.63 and a double ring Dubai Trucial States types 15,17.

Page 20: a cover from Sharjah sent in the early days of the UAE dated 30.5.73.

An Ajman PO cover and contents conclude this issue.



A brave statement of intent.

POST OFFICE

MANAMA (Dependency of AJMAN)
ARABIAN GULF

دائرة البريد
المنامة (مملكة إمارة عجمان)
الخليج العربي

POST OFFICE OPENED AT MANAMA

A Post Office has been opened in the Ajman dependency of Manama, in accordance with the wishes of His Highness Sheik Rashid Bin Humaid al Naimi, Ruler of Ajman.

Full Local and international mail service (surface mail, airmail, registered mail, parcel post, etc.) is in effect, and commenced on 45th July 1966.

Manama is a Sheikdom located in the center of the Trucial Oman Area, and has been a dependency of Ajman since ancient times. It is the location of an important base of the Trucial Oman Army (Trucial Oman Scouts).

While the British Army provides mail service for its Officers and enlisted personnel in the Trucial Oman Scouts, there has been a demand for an additional Manama Post Office mail Service.

A full range of twelve denominations had been provided for the Manama Post Office by overprinting definitive and commemorative Ajman Stamps.

In addition to the name of the Sheikdom of Manama, the stamps have been surcharged with the appropriate new currency denominations in place of the former Gulf Rupee values.

The overprinted stamps are solely for postal use and Post Office sale. There will be no philatelic sale and no philatelic mail orders will be accepted.

The Post Office
Manama, Ajman Dependency
Arabian Gulf

The Trucial States boundaries circa 1966

A very complex picture of boundaries mapped out by Britain and based on tribal loyalties. Oil was discovered in commercial quantities in Abu Dhabi in 1958. The development of a modern state was an inevitable consequence of this and the federal state of the United Arab Emirates was founded only 13 years later.

BOUNDARIES OF THE TRUCIAL STATES (PRELIMINARY MAP)

- Boundaries:
- between Muscat and Oman and Trucial States
 - Muscat claim (not settled)
 - Inter-Trucial States
 - Trucial States claim
 - ===== Presumptive

