

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



30 July 1922: A cover sent from Kuwait to Bahrain – cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 and franked with 1 Anna. The cover has had a “KOWEIT” Horse Shoe applied with the postage due of 2 Annas endorsed in pen confirming the covers underpayment of 1 Anna

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Welcome to Edition 24 of the Quarterly

Once again it has been possible to accumulate material enough to supply you with 64 pages of information, illustrations and opinions. I have had contributions from more than 18 people – some opinions, some questions and some material – my appreciation to all of you.

In Edition 24 you will find illustrations of the 1933 Bahrain overprint issue that will help you distinguish between the Typo and Offset print of the 9 Pies value. You will find information and illustrations of Abu Dhabi stamps that probably haven't been printed before.

On the postal history side of things you will find cancellation marks not previously recorded under the Bahrain, Qatar, Muscat & Oman and Abu Dhabi section. A comprehensive presentation of the first registration strike of the Independent Postal Administration of Oman and a display of five Dubai covers cancelled with the "PERSIAN GULF SECTION". In addition to this different cachets from Bahrain, a look at Dubai Postage Due cachets and a warning of possible forged Muscat 1944 Bu-Sa'id Covers.

All in all I hope that you will enjoy reading Edition 24 as much as I enjoyed accumulating and editing it.

Finally, let me request that you submit material for Edition 25 as soon as possible as I would like to get it released before Christmas.

In hope of your continued support,
Thomas

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Reader's Feedback

Use of Red or Black ink on the 12 bar 309 obliterator

In Edition 23 the 12-bar rhomboid 309 Muscat strike was illustrated in conjunction with the Muscat Wax Seal and on a strip of five East India stamps. Back then it made me wonder why one 309 was struck in red and the other two 309's struck in black. As mentioned in an earlier edition of the Quarterly, the use of red and black ink was common practice up till spring 1873 in order to distinguish between paid and unpaid mail. However, it was the datestamp that illustrated the status of the cover and not the obliterator.



By coincidence I was reading through Major R.W. Pratt's book "The Postal History of Aden" and he illustrates a "124" cover which was franked with four stamps each struck with the "124" obliterator. The interesting aspect of this Aden cover is that three of the "124s" are struck in black while the fourth "124" is struck in red and he makes a specific reference to "The Red usually being reserved for Ship Mail". The difference between Ship Mail and Sea Mail lies in the official status of Sea Mail – i.e. scheduled steamers that pick up mail as part of their responsibilities and Ship Mail which is mail carried by all other ships – So, Sea Mail has black obliterator strikes and Ship Mail has red obliterator strikes – or at least – that is the idea.

Austrian Censorship on mail from the Gulf in 1952

In Edition 23 a cover sent from Bahrain to Austria with Austrian Censorship was illustrated. Ralf Kollmann was kind enough to contact the German Study Group of Austria and Censorship in Germany and came back with this reply from them:

Mr Vogt of the Censorship Study Group (W. Vogt, ArGe Zensurpost" = Censorship Study Group Germany) supplied us with the following comments:



"The censorship of the letter dated 6 May 1952 is according to the regulations and a normal one. Allied censorship in Austria ended in August 1953 and everything was censored, regardless of being registered or regular mail. This letter went through the allied censorship office Vienna, which can be derived from the censorship mark. Censorship was especially very strict in Vienna and it can be

considered that all mail went through the censorship office. Censorship in the other occupied zones of Austria was not so strict towards the end anymore but the Allied status of Vienna was something special. I am sorry but it is a normal cover with the usual censor marks in those days. It is "mass" from the censorship view as having the most common marks on it."

If you want to know more about the Austrian censorship, pls. contact the author of the English handbook Richard A. Krueger: Censorship of the civil mails in occupied Austria 1945 - 1953. (Can be bought from the author P.O. Box 441004, Fort Washington, MD 20744, USA)



Khaled Abdul-Mughni sent me a similar cover with Kuwait origin dated 30 June 1952 along with comments from Konrad Morenweiser, who is a specialist in censors and a member of Civil Censorship Study Group. His comments are as follows:

"Austria was (as well as Germany) occupied by the four allied powers

and split into four occupied zones. The centre of Wien (Vienna) was under quadripartite administration. In 1989 Richard A. Krueger wrote a fine book on "Censorship of the Civil Mails in Occupied Austria 1945 - 1953" The h/s on your cover is the most common and it is Krueger type VM-13 (Vienna Mark Type 13). The tiny green mark (figures or letters) was used to mark a certain censorship section."

The Kuwait Inverted Overprints

Following the articles about the Kuwait inverted overprints in Edition 22 I have received a number of emails from different readers concerning the stamps themselves.

Let me clarify that none of the contributing authors have classified the stamps as forgeries. The word "bogus" was used from the perspective that the stamps were not sold at the Kuwait Post Office – i.e. their official status is questionable – something which to date is commonly accepted. "Bogus" can obviously be understood differently by different people but was certainly not meant to classify Kuwait's inverted overprints as forgeries or fakes.

Now that the word forgery has been mentioned I received the following comments from Norayr Agopian regarding his observations over the years with regards to forgeries of the Inverted Overprints.

"As for the stamps with opt inverted, there are indeed copies on the market with forged overprints. However, a serious philatelist can easily see the difference between fake and genuine overprints when comparing these with genuine normal overprinted stamps. All

the forged inverted overprint stamps I came across were produced in India and had **toned** gum. Also most of the forged ones were single stamps, although multiples no doubt exist. Genuine overprinted stamps have well impressed clearer cut letters and this can be seen clearly from the back side of stamps. In conclusion, I can only repeat Donaldson's remarks that these inverted opts are **Undoubtedly Genuine**.

Furthermore he says that he knows for a fact that more than one sheet of the ½ Anna exists.



On the next page is an order form for Jeffrey Brown's handbook on Indian Air Mails. For anyone of you with interest in Air Mail from the Gulf I strongly recommend that you gift yourself and invest USD 30 in Jeff's work – it's impressive!

A circular postmark from Allahabad, U.P., dated 1911. The text "FIRST AERIAL POST" is arched across the top, and "EXHIBITION ALLAHABAD" is arched across the bottom. In the center is a stylized illustration of an early airplane with a propeller and a boxy fuselage. Below the airplane, the year "1911" is printed. The entire design is enclosed within a circular border.

Bahrain

The following is based on an article found in the November 1971 issue of Stamp Collecting. John Gillham, who I often refer to as one of my sources, had back then discovered that the 1933 Bahrain Overprint issue's 9 Pies Green had been printed both as Offset Litho and Typo. The original India KGV 9 Pies was issued on April 22nd 1932 printed Offset Litho but later appeared in 1934 printed Typo.



Offset Litho



Typo

There are a number of differences between the two stamps and as you can see above the colour is one with the Offset Litho being dark green and the Typo being yellow-green.



Offset Litho



Typo

On the above close-ups you will further notice the much clearer Offset Litho printing and in particular the thin long lower line in the nose as opposed to a thicker shorter lower line in the Typo – in my opinion the easiest way to tell them apart. The “BAHRAIN” Litho overprint is also thinner and clearer and especially the “R’s” are different. John mentions that the Typo overprint is scarce – especially unmounted mint copies.

The Oval Awali, Bahrain Steel Registration Canceller



A previously unrecorded Awali strike here illustrated on the only two covers that I have recorded so far. Similar to Donaldson's Type 22 (37 x 25 mm) and Type 27 & 27A (30 x 25 mm) but different in size as the Awali strike measures 36 x 23 mm.



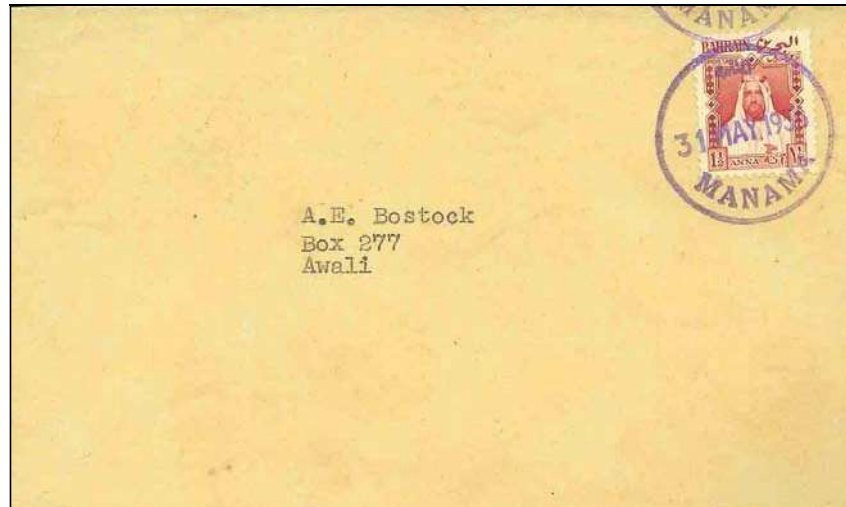
27 August 1956: A philatelic cover sent from Awali to Monday, USA franked with a variety of different stamps and cancelled with the oval Awali Registered strike.

2 October 1956: A commercial cover sent from Awali to London, England cancelled with the oval Awali Registered strike.

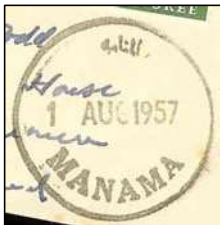


Almost all registered covers sent from Awali from 1951 to 1957 were cancelled with Donaldson Type 25.





31 May 1956: A local cover sent from Manama to Awali cancelled with Donaldson Type 30 (31 mm diameter).



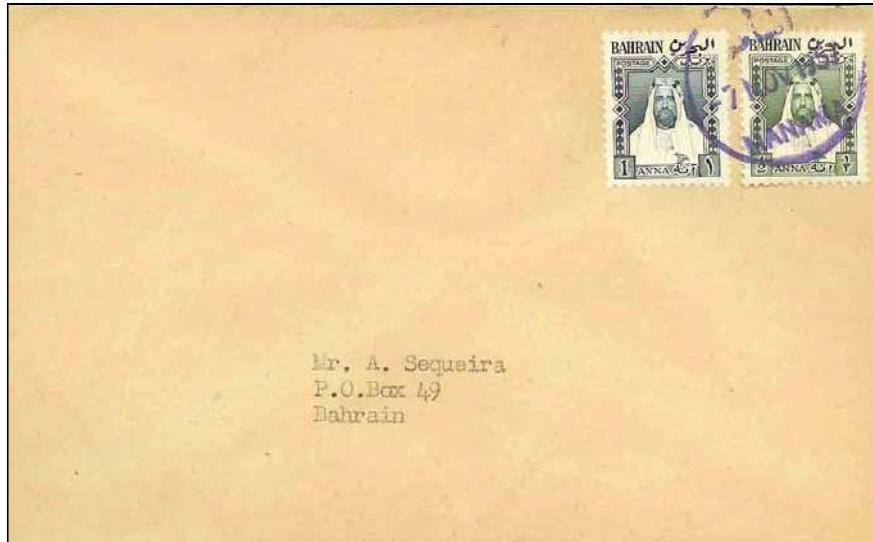
Sometime in 1956, or possibly earlier, the State Post Office introduced locally made cancellers for the purpose of canceling local mail. Two of the cancellers were the first to identify MANAMA in the strike. Donaldson records these two cancellers as Type 30 and Type 31 and illustrates the 1 August 1957 strike in his 1975 book on page 153 – presumably taken from an FDC like the one below. I have recorded a number of covers with Type 30 strikes and have noticed that it comes in two sizes; the first and normal strike has a diameter of 31 mm whereas the second strike (used on the FDC) has a diameter of 33 mm. The FDC is the only record that I have of the larger strike.

1 August 1957: A Jubilee FDC cancelled with Donaldson Type 30 (33 mm diameter)

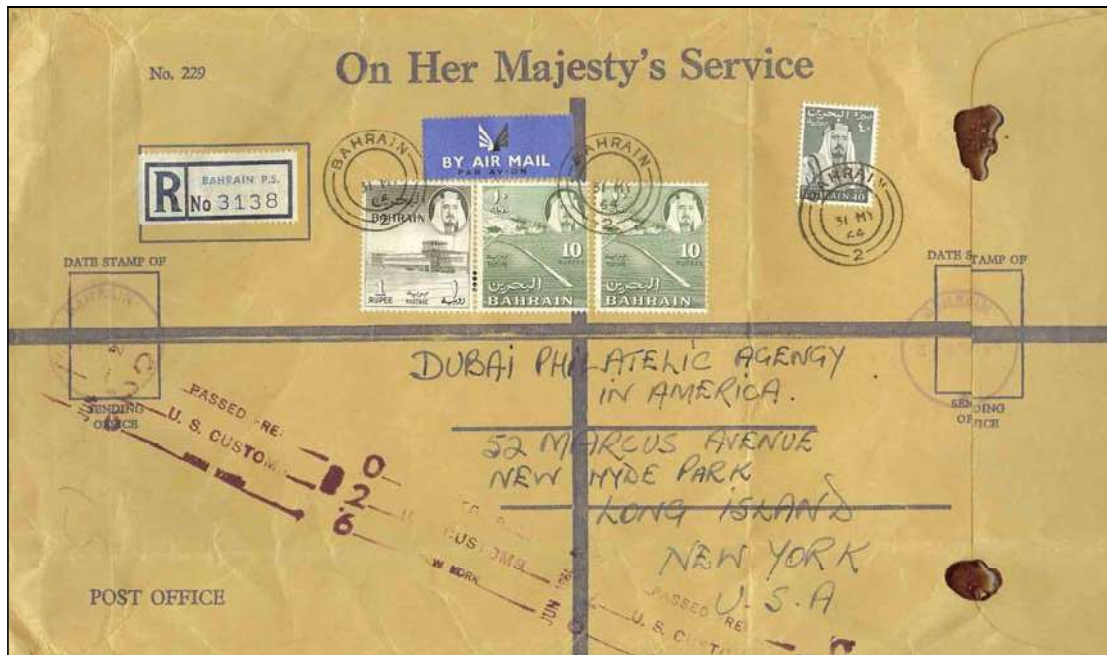


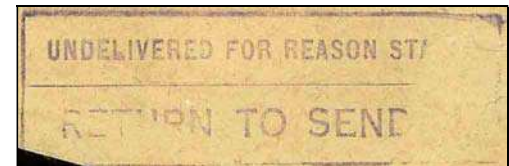
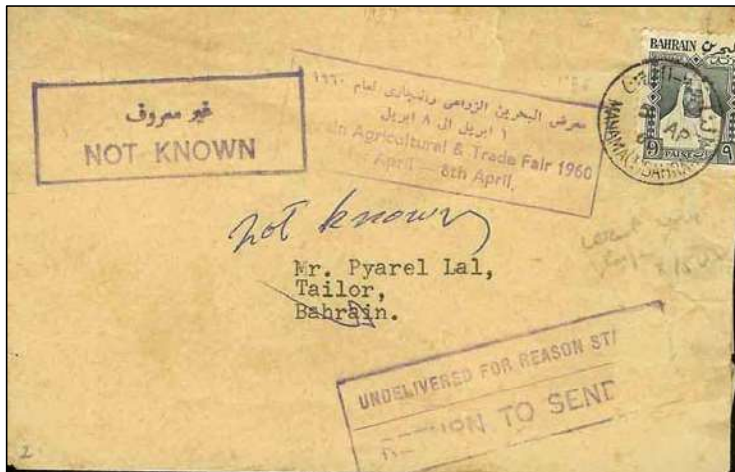


7 November 1957: A local cover franked with 1 ½ Annas of the 1953-56 local issue – i.e. use of these specific local stamps after the April 1st 1957 change of currency and the release of the new currency local stamps on October 16th 1957. The cover has been cancelled with Donaldson Type 31.



31 May 1964: A cover sent from the office of the Post Master sent to Dubai Philatelic Agency in New York. The cover has been cancelled with Donaldson Type 40 Bahrain (2) and has a Bahrain P.S. registration label. The cover has been franked with a total of 21 Rupees and 40 NP showing the rare postal use of the 10 Rupee value of the 1964 definitive issue.





5 April 1960: A local cover sent to an unknown addressee and applied with two cachets: “NOT KNOWN” in English and Arabic - the cachet measuring 51 x 18 mm and “RETURN TO SENDER” in English on – the cachet measuring 64 x 20 mm.



2 May 1962: A First Flight Cover sent from Bombay, India to Bahrain with arrival backstamp dated 3 May 1962. The addressee was unknown and the cover has subsequently had three cachets applied to it. The third cachet “UNCLAIMED” in English and Arabic measures 51 x 18.5 mm. The cover has a 25 June 1962 Donaldson Type 34 applied on the back – the day the cover finally left Bahrain and returned to the sender.



Kuwait

Two more Inverted covers

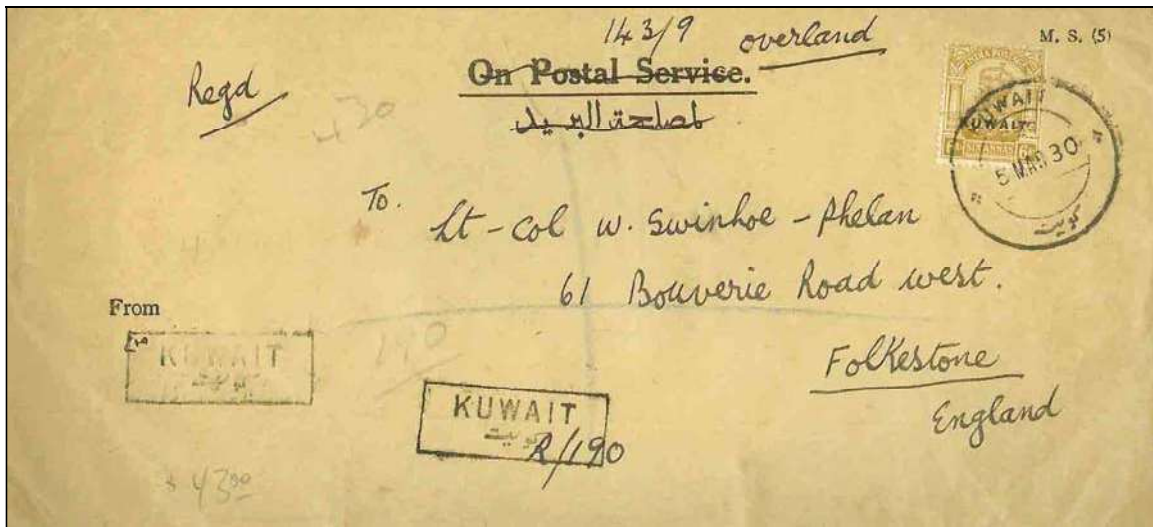


24 June 1926: Cover sent registered from Kuwait to the Imperial Commerce Company in Bombay, India franked with the 3 Annas Ultramarine with inverted overprint.



11 August 1926: Cover sent registered from Kuwait to the International & Commercial Agency in Bombay, India also franked with the 3 Annas Ultramarine with inverted overprint – same address different company name.

Donaldson Type 16 used as "Sender's Address"

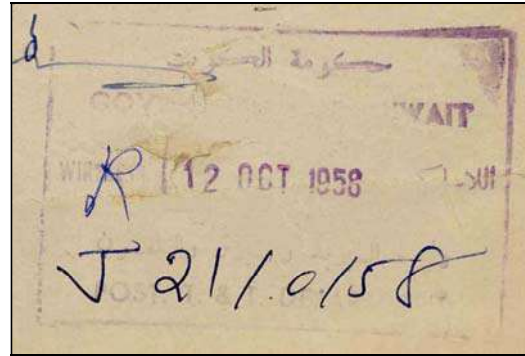


The two covers illustrated above (5 March 1930) and below (26 March 1934) are both covers sent from the office of the Post Master. The interesting aspect being that it appears that the Post Master has used the Registration handstamp – Donaldson Type 16 – as “Senders Address”. On the top cover both registration handstamps are Donaldson Type 16 but on the below cover the smaller handstamp – Donaldson Type 15 – has been applied on to the registration label.

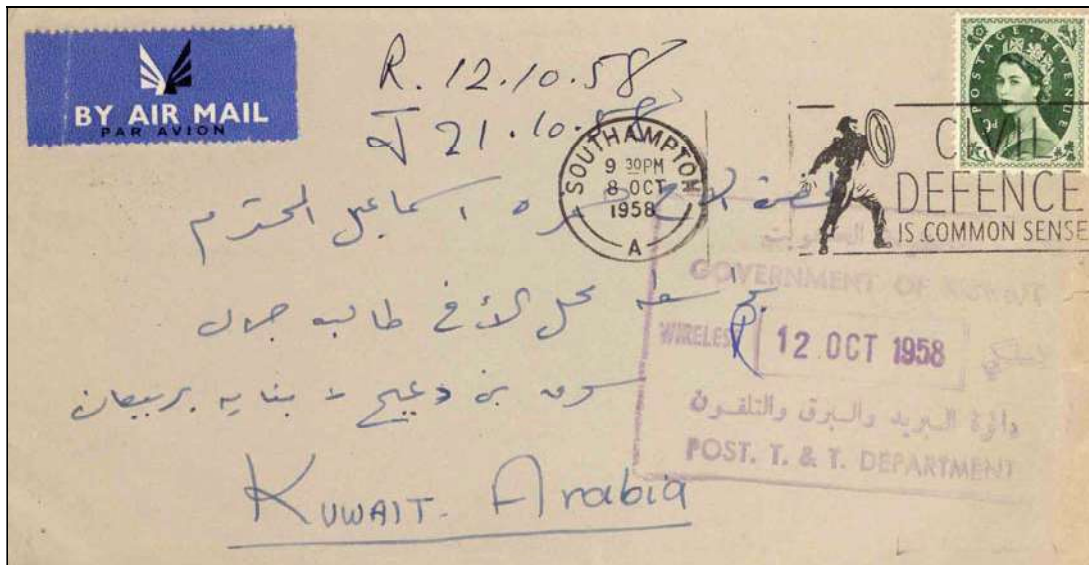


The Post T & T Department cachet

The following illustrations of incoming mail to Kuwait in 1958 point towards an interesting possibility: Did the Kuwait Post Office conduct an experimental period in conjunction with the introduction of the independent State Postal Service (SPS) on the 1st of February 1958?



Above are illustrated two examples of the same “POST. T&T DEPARTMENT” cachet – the one to the left was applied to the front of the cover illustrated below and the other was applied to the back of the cover.



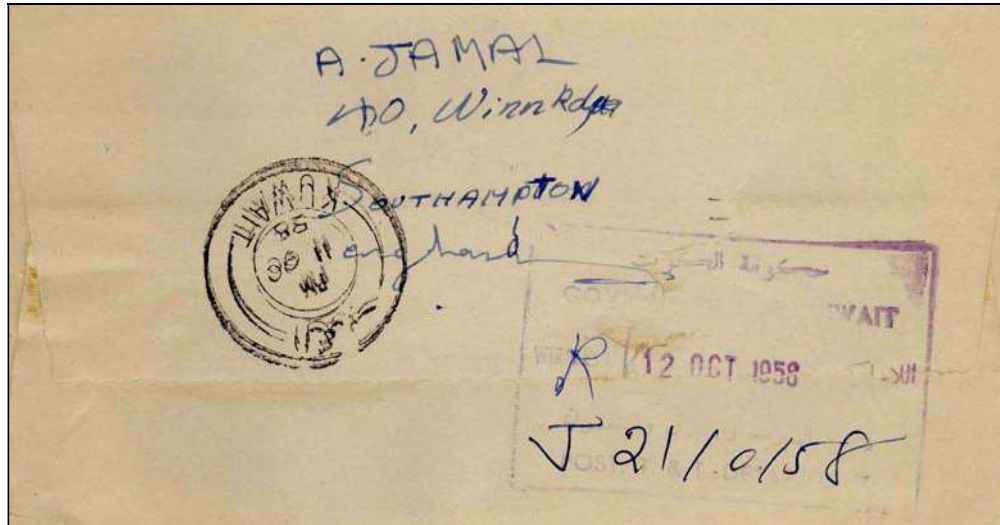
The front of the cover has had an “R” endorsed next to the cachet date of 12 October 1958.

Furthermore, in different ink, “R. 12.10.58” and “J” 21.10.58” has also been endorsed in pen on the cover. I am presuming that it is a “J” and not a “T” or another letter for that matter.

If we speculate that “R” means received or registered – what does “J” then mean?

On the back of the cover we find the same cachet but this time the “R” and “J” have been endorsed within the cachet just as the date “21/10/58” has.

The cover, which was sent from the UK on 8 November 1958, has received a Kuwait arrival backstamp dated 11 November 1958.



Here comes the speculation: The British Postal Agency was in charge of international mail so the arrival backstamp applied by the BPA. After that the letter was handed over to the SPS for delivery.

Once the letter was received by the SPS they applied cachet with date of receipt – i.e. 12 Oct 1958. The letter was then forwarded for delivery and once it arrived at the addressee the cachet was endorsed a “J” and the date next the “J”. It is very possible that there was a book that the postman brought with him for the addressee to sign giving the cachet an experimental status in the form of a method of receipt and a way for the local postal authority to monitor how long them to delivery the letter.

Alternatively, and I am not a specialist on handwriting, but the “R”, “J” and written numerals look as if they are applied by the same person on all covers so were all four letters picked up at Post Office or did the same person delivery them all? If the letters were picked up at the Post Office it may explain the difference in time between the “R” date and the “J” date of the four letters.

Over the next couple of pages I have illustrated the only four covers that I have recorded with this “procedure” applied to them. Any ideas relating to the covers would be very welcome – especially the meaning of the “J” or “T”.

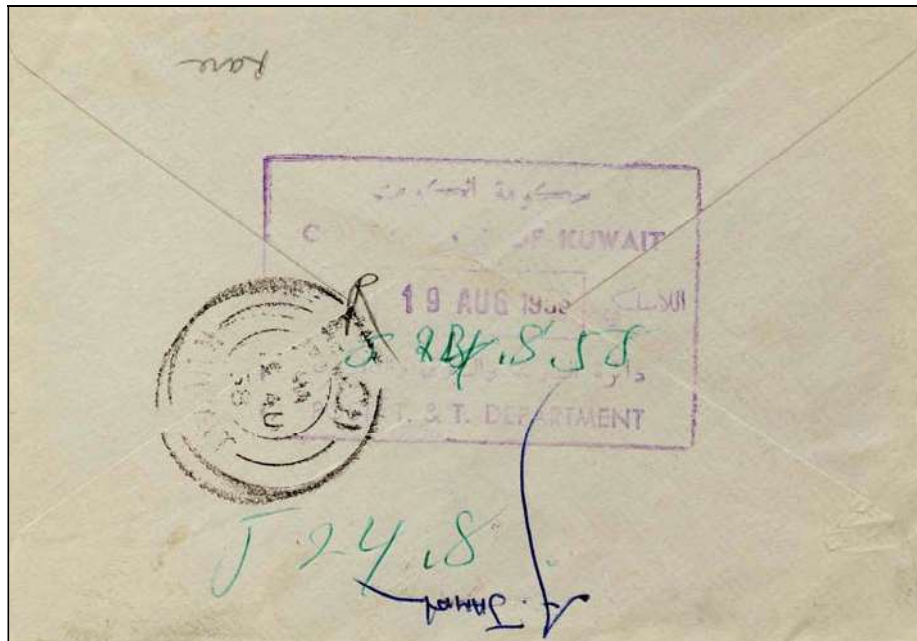
All four letters are from the same correspondence and all four of them originate form the UK.



13 January 1958: THE ODD ONE OUT – A different cachet to the one that we are discussing and without any endorsement but was the practice being introduced prior to the 1st of February 1958?

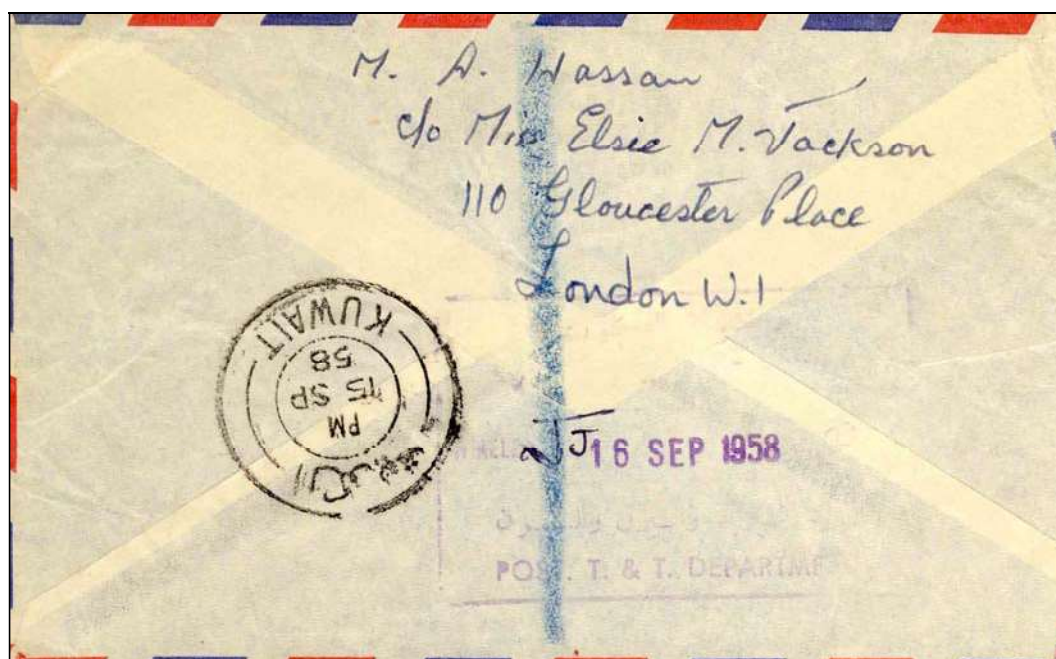


19 August 1958: An incoming letter from the UK with 18 August 1958 arrival backstamp and with the T&T cachet dated "R" 19 August 1958 and "J" 24.8.1958.



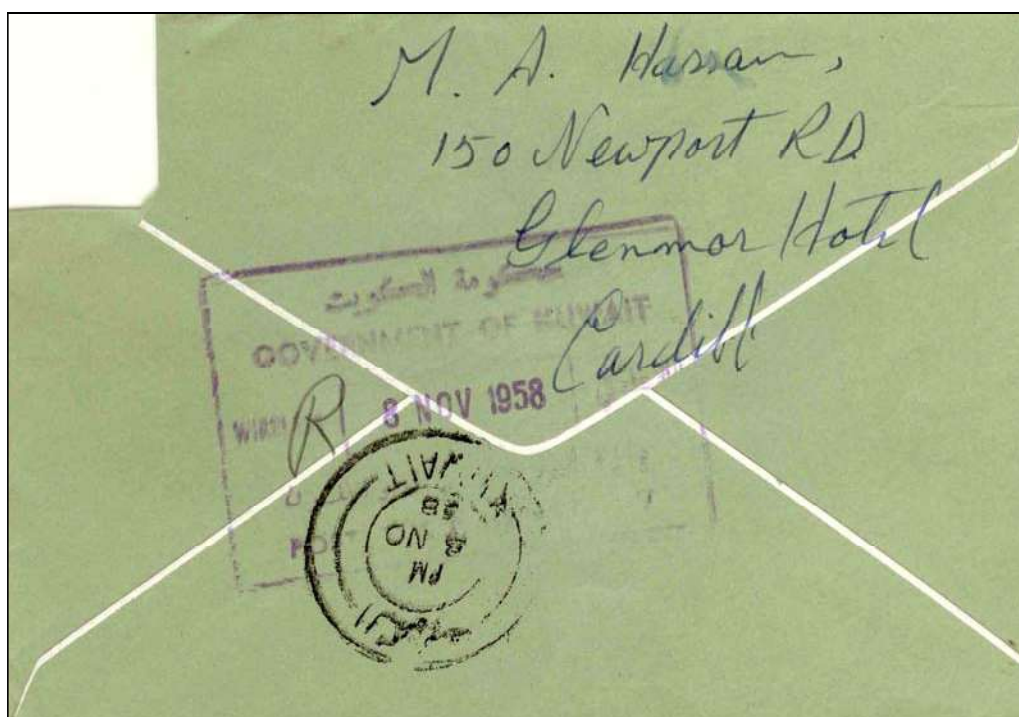


16 September 1958: Cover sent from the UK to Kuwait – seems that the UK stamps were not cancelled which was then done by a Kuwait strike which was later annulled. The arrival backstamp is dated 15 September 1958 and the T&T date is 16 September 1958 – again one day later. In this case it seems that the “J” date is 16 September 1958 as well.

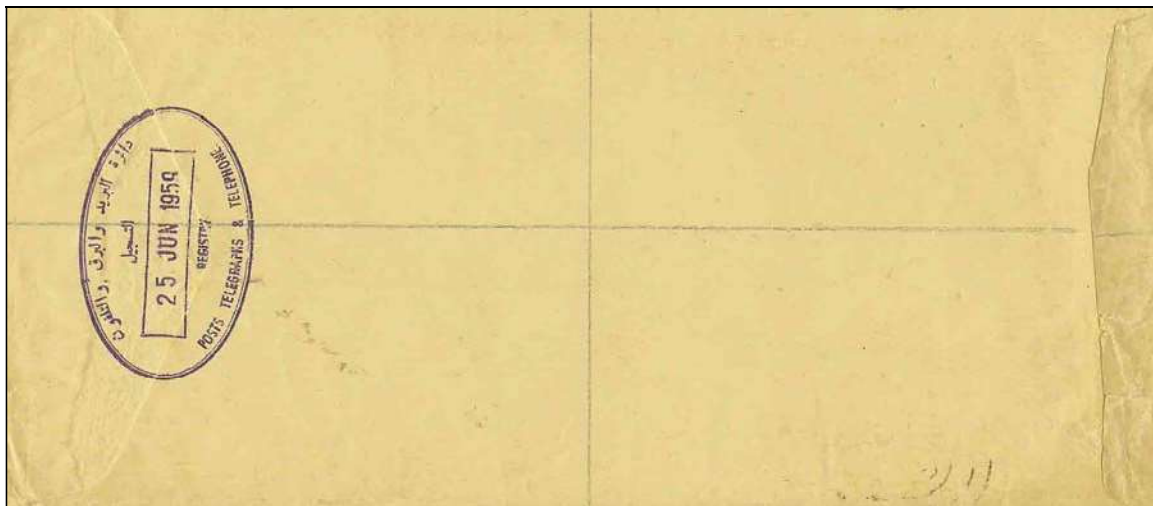


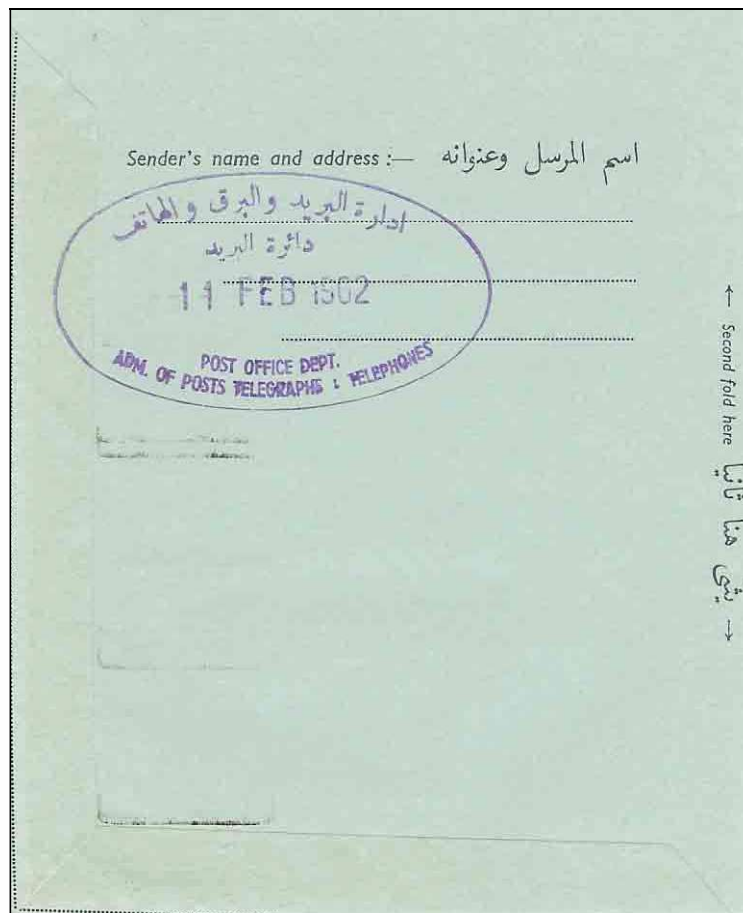


16 September 1958: Cover sent from the UK to Kuwait on 6 November 1958 with Kuwait arrival backstamp dated 8 November 1958 and the T&T date being 8 November 1958 too. The "J" date is 9 November 1958 making the full processing of the letter from arrival in Kuwait to delivery to addressee one day.



Finally a couple of other Post Office cachets similar in nature but seemingly used as a verification of sender or sender address rather than any other use – their presumably correct use.





KUWAIT POSTAGE PAID POSTMARKS

Dr. Mashael A. Alhajeri

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'Postage Paid' postmarks are handstruck to bulk postings of mail paid for from sender's prepaid account with the Post Office. This system was adopted by the British Post Office in 1966 and it is now extensively used as an alternative to other forms of bulk posting. In a way, it is similar to 'Permit Mail' in other countries.¹

In Kuwait, 'Postage Paid' postmarks were introduced during the early 1960s, and were applied at the following designated post offices:²

1. General Post Office (GPO)
2. Safat Post Office
3. Hawalli Post Office
4. Salmiyah Post Office
5. Fahaheel Post Office
6. Jahra Post Office

(To the best of my knowledge, the earliest recorded example is 18 December 1961).

But these postmarks are no longer used at the said post offices; the service is now exclusively available at the Mail Sorting Centre (MSC), located at Kuwait Airport (beginning *circa* 2003).³

'Postage Paid' postmarks are primarily used with bulk mail when it would not be feasible to affix postage stamps, especially as regards correspondence sent by civil service bodies (ministries, public authorities, etc) or private entities in the commercial sector (companies, banks, publishers, etc.).

The sender would take his bulk mailing to one of the post offices listed above, where the clerk would have a sample letter weighed, and rate would thus be accordingly decided. The agreed rate would then be multiplied by the total number of letters, and the sender would pay in advance and leave the letters to the clerk's attention, who will have them duly struck with the 'Postage Paid' postmarks and sorted.

¹ James Mackay, *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* (London: Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., 1987), p. 121.

² Muhsen Nassir Al-Musawai, Head of Kuwait's Philatelic Bureau, personal communication, 27 May 2007.

³ Ibid.

Below is a listing of Kuwait 'Postage Paid' postmarks as I recorded them, annotated with my remarks.

I did not present these postmarks in a specific chronological order, as earliest known usages (EKUs) and latest known usages (LKUs) cannot be ascertained.

Caveat:

This listing is meant to serve as a comprehensive study of all Kuwait postmarks inscribed 'Postage Paid', hence the inclusion of a couple of meter marks (and one label at the end!). It is for this very reason that 'On Postal Service' postmarks – such as the ones used by the Philatelic Bureau - were deliberately excluded from the ambit of this study. For although serving the same functions, the inscription simply does not correspond to the postmarks under investigation.

Corrections, additions, and feedback welcome, at:
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Or:

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Entry No.	Type	Notes	Scan
1	Alshakar KLC 28A ⁴ Jones PP1 ⁵	• 'خالص الأجرة الكويت' [date] KUWAIT POSTAGE PAID' • Rubber stamp, struck in red. • Used after Kuwait's postal independence 1959 (usually struck in red). • I noticed that this canceller deteriorated later on from constant use, and was applied in a worn condition (inner belt no more prints well) • Examples in own collection: 1. 11/7/1966 2. 19/2/1966 (internal mail; worn condition) 3. 2/6/1966 (external mail)	 Original condition  Worn condition
2	Alshakar KLC 28B ⁶	• Safat • Rubber stamp, used after Kuwait's postal independence 1959. • Example: Alshakar p. 122 (17 JAN 1963). •	

⁴ Salam and Saleem Al-Shakar, *Kuwait Postal Cancellations (1915-2000) and Stamp Designs after Liberation of Kuwait* (Kuwait: Al-Shira'a Al-Arabi Est., 2000), p. 75.

⁵ T E Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings* (Accrington: T E Jones, 2006), p. 76.

⁶ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 75.

3	Alshakar KLC 21 ⁷ Jones PP1 ⁸	• "الأجرة مدفوعة / الكويت" / [date] / KUWAIT / POSTAGE PAID". • Steel stamp, used after Kuwait's postal independence, 1960s-1970s. • Struck in red.		
4	Alshakar KLC 22 ⁹	• "الأجرة مدفوعة / الصفاة الكويت" / 18 FEB 1962 / SAFAT KUWAIT / POSTAGE PAID". • Steel stamp, used after Kuwait's postal independence 1959. • Struck in red. • Examples in own collection: 1.18/2/1962 (registered internal mail)	 	
5	Unrecorded ?	• Ahmadi (الأحمدي) • Inscribed: "AHMADI-KUWAIT POSTAGE PAID 16 MAY 1965". • Earliest usage I've recorded: 20 MAR.1963. • See example: Alshakar p. 89.		16 May 1965

⁷ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 74.

⁸ Jones, Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings, op. cit, p. 76.

⁹ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 74.

6	Alshakar KLC 48A¹⁰ Jones PP3¹¹	• Rubber stamp, used by the late 1960s. • Usually struck in red. • Examples recorded: 1. 15/4/1976 (scan from own reference collection) 2. 7/4/1963 – 17/2/1968.¹²	  11 FE 70	 15 AP 76
7	Unrecorded	• "خالص الأجرة / الكويت / 5 MAY 1971 / POSTAGE PAID KUWAIT". • Rubber stamp, struck in red. • Unrecorded • From own collection. • See example: Alshakar p. 89 (? JAN 1967).		
8	Alshakar KLC 48B¹³ Jones PP3¹⁴	• Safat. • Rubber stamp, used by the late 1960s. • Examples recorded: 1. 25/5/1971.¹⁵		

¹⁰ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 89.

¹¹ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

¹² Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

¹³ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 89.

9	Unrecorded	• Safat. • Rubber stamp, used during the 1970s. • Same as Alshakar KLC 48Bm but with a dash the Arabic inscription; 'الصفاء – الكويت', and a somewhat larger English inscription. • Examples recorded: 1. 22/5/1974 (scan from own reference collection)	
10	Jones PP4 ¹⁶	• GPO: General Post Office, • 'Postage Paid' applied with a postage meter machine. • Recorded usage: 20 December 1971 (From own collection?) • Jones recorded this usage: 18/12/1968 – 1990s.¹⁷	
11	Unrecorded	• Safat. • 'Postage Paid' applied with a postage meter machine. • Jones recorded this usage: 25/7/1971.¹⁸ • Examples in own collection: 1. 2/4/1983	
12	Unrecorded	• Safat 'Postage Paid'. • This is not a postage meter machine, as most postage meter machines have only the capability to print one impression, while this cover shows two impressions, which indicates it is a continuous	

¹⁴ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

¹⁵ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

¹⁶ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

¹⁷ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

¹⁸ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

		roller machines, probably a bulk rate machine of some kind. ¹⁹ • Line between month and year.	
13	Alshakar KLC 62A ²⁰ Jones PP2 ²¹	• Safat. • Rubber stamp. • Examples recorded: 13/6/1978-10/10/1978.²² •	 Original shape
14	Alshakar KLC 62B ²³ (same as Alshakar KLC 62A but in a deformed shape)	• Safat. • Rubber stamp.	 Deformed shape
15	Alshakar KLC 106 ²⁴	• Rubber stamp.	

¹⁹ Joel Hawkins, personal communication, 7 March 2007.

²⁰ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 95.

²¹ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

²² Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

²³ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 95.

²⁴ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 117.

16	Alshakar KLC 110 ²⁵	• Safat. • Rubber stamp. • Example: Alshakar p. 125. • • Examples in own collection: 1.20/7/1994 (internal mail)	
17	Alshakar KAC 01 ²⁶	- Steel stamp? - This cancel was in use for a very limited time (24/4/1991 – 27/5/1991).²⁷ - Used for a short period after the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion on 26/2/1991. The Kuwaiti postal service resumed on 27 April 1991, and from 27 April 1991 to 21 May 1991, two postage paid marks, applied directly to covers, were used.²⁸ This is because Kuwait's stock of postage stamps was stolen by Iraqi troops, so the Kuwaiti Government invalidated these stamps after the liberation, and postal service was carried over with two different cancellations: 1. Type I: small diameter - 50 Fils (in Arabic and English). Used to frank both local mail and that destined to Arab countries (used in violet and red). 2. Type II: see next entry (Alshakar KAC 02). - A large number of covers bearing these cancellations is 'Trial Mail', ie mail sent by Kuwaiti Postal Authority from one local post office to another,	

²⁵ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 120.

²⁶ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 122.

²⁷ Frank Mallalieu, *Postal Markings of Kuwait: An Exhibit Presented to AIRPEX 2002* (Tucson: unpublished, 2002), p. 99.

²⁸ Jamal, *History of Postal Services in Kuwait*, p. 356.

		to study the mail traffic and efficacy of delivery. Thus, these covers never left Kuwait. ²⁹	
18	Alshakar KAC 02³⁰ Jones PP5³¹	- Steel stamp? - An undated frank used immediately after the end of the Iraq invasion. - This cancel was in use for a very limited time (24/4/1991 – 27/5/1991).³² - Used for a short period after the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion on 26/2/1991. The Kuwaiti postal service resumed on 27 April 1991, and from 27 April 1991 to 21 May 1991, two postage paid marks, applied directly to covers, were used.³³ This is because Kuwait's stock of postage stamps was stolen by Iraqi troops, so the Kuwaiti Government invalidated these stamps after the liberation, and postal service was carried over with two different cancellations: 1. Type I: see previous entry (Alshakar KAC 01). 2. Type II: large diameter – 150 Fils (in English). Used to frank mail for rest of the world. - These two cancellers were used at the General Post Office (GPO) in Fahad Al-Salim Street.³⁴	

²⁹ Dilawar Hussein, personal communication, 2004.

³⁰ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 122.

³¹ Jones, *Postal History of the Arabian Gulf Post Offices - Volume 2: KUWAIT - Part B: the Postal Markings*, op. cit, p. 76.

³² Mallalieu, *Postal Markings of Kuwait*, op. cit., p. 99.

³³ Jamal, *History of Postal Services in Kuwait*, p. 356.

³⁴ Charles Stanikowski, personal communication, 15 Mars 2002.

		- A large number of covers bearing these cancellations is 'Trial Mail', ie mail sent by Kuwaiti Postal Authority from one local post office to another, to study mail traffic and efficacy of delivery. Thus, these covers never left Kuwait.³⁵. - See my notes in the post-liberation cancellers document. • Examples in own collection: 1. ?/?/1991 (outward mail)	
19	Alshakar KAC 29 ³⁶	• GPO: General Post Office. • Rubber handstamp. • See: Alshakar p. 127 (variety or same?)	
20	Unrecorded	• Hawalli. • Struck in red. • Examples in own collection: 1.5/10/2004 (on piece) 2.11/10/2004 (on piece)	
21	Alshakar KAC 30 ³⁷	• GPO: General Post Office, • Rubber stamp. • Examples in own collection: 1.26/11/2000.	

³⁵ Dilawar Hussein, personal communication, 2004.

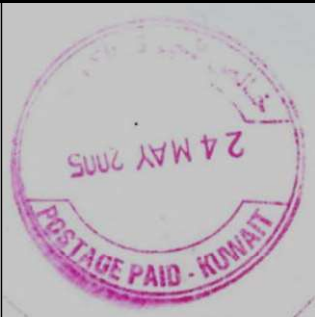
³⁶ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 127.

³⁷ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 127.

22	Alshakar KAC 81 ³⁸	• Safat. • Rubber stamp. • Examples in own collection: 1.11/10/1995 2.18/9/1995 (two strikes on cover; this almost never happens!) 3.3/12/1995 4.1/3/1996 5.14/3/1996 6.14/1/1997 7.10/11/1997	
23	Alshakar KAC 136 ³⁹	• 'POSTAGE PAID – KUWAIT / SAFAT POST / 3' bilingual red datestamp. • Large diameter. • Usually struck in red. • Primarily used for publications (magazines, etc). • Alshakar reports numbers recorded of this postmark as being: 1, 2, 3. but I have also recorded an additional one; numbered '4' (recorded examples are struck in red and in violet). • Large diameter. Usually struck in red. • Primarily used for publications (magazines, etc). • Examples in own collection: 1.?/2/2001(number '2') 2.19/8/2001(number '1') 3.20/8/2001(number '1') 4.9/8/2002 (number '4' – unrecorded; struck in violet) 5.13/4/2004 (number '4' – unrecorded; struck in red) 6.14/4/2004 (number '3')	 Number on canceller: 1  Number on canceller: 3  Number on canceller: 4

³⁸ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 137.

³⁹ Al-Shakar, op. cit., p. 151.

24	Unrecorded	• خالص الأجرة – الكويت' / [date] / POSTAGE PAID - KUWAIT'. • Struck in red. • Examples in own collection: 1.18/10/2006	
25	Unrecorded	• خالص الأجرة – الكويت' / [date] / POSTAGE PAID - KUWAIT'. • Struck in red. • Same as the above type, but with an inverted date slug! (See scan). • Examples in own collection: 2.5/4/2005 3.24/5/2005 (with an inverted date slug)	
26	Unrecorded	• [date] / الصفاة / خالص الأجرة – الكويت' / SAFAT / POSTAGE PAID - KUWAIT'. • Large diameter. • Rubber handstamp, struck in red. • Primarily used for publications (magazines, etc). • Cancellor became misshapen due to excessive wear of the rubber canceller. • I recorded two stages of deformity – see scans. • Examples in own collection: 1. 6/10/1997 2. 1/11/1997	 Stage 1: Deformity  Stage 2: Further deformity

27	unlisted	• This is an adhesive stamp; not a postmark. • Used to uprate Sheikh Sabah Al-Salim aerogrammes of the 1970s.	
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Muscat & Oman



6th June 1872: An 1872 cover sent from Muscat to tea merchants in Bombay and franked with four copies of the 1865 2 Anna orange. The stamps have been cancelled by four strikes of the “309” 16-bar obliterator and a Muscat date stamp has been applied in red indicating that the cover has been paid. The registration hand-stamp has been filled out by the post office staff and indicates a weight of 4 Tola requiring 4 Anna of postage plus an additional 4 Anna of registration fee – The registration number is 254. The use of the Muscat RL-1 registration hand-stamp is currently the only recorded example and it differs from the one recorded by Donaldson by much larger letters. The frame measures 44 by 24 millimeters. **The earliest recorded registered mail from Oman?**



15th September 1875: A cover sent to Nantes, France illustrating the rate of 9 Annas including the rare use of the 8 Annas on cover. The rate to France via Brindisi changed on the 1st of July 1876 to 6 Annas per ½ ounce as India became a member of the UPU.

Al Bu Said 1944 cover forgeries?

By Joachim Duester and Alastair Gunn

We have recently noticed a number of covers like the ones below on eBay and other auctions and feel that we should voice our concerns.



POSSIBLE FORGERY



POSSIBLE FORGERY

| We find these covers to be worrying for the following reasons—

- We would have expected a Type 18 Gunn / Allen (Donaldson 14a) cds on such covers.
- The "M" in Muscat is particularly conspicuous, with the "V" in the middle (date) not going down far enough, and the 4s in 44 are pointed and closed while they are open in all other 1944/1945 covers we have.
- The cancellations are suspiciously clear.
- How many white envelopes were used in the war?
- The use of capital letters to indicate a FIRST DAY COVER / FIRST DAY OF ISSUE is amazingly modern (Westerners at the time would overwhelmingly—if not totally—have been using joined up handwriting); in fact we can not remember another such cover with FIRST DAY COVER / FIRST DAY OF ISSUE written and certainly not in capital letters.



POSSIBLE FORGERY

- At this time the fountain pen would have been used for writing and the lines in FIRST DAY COVER / FIRST DAY OF ISSUE show no gradation in size typical of such a pen; the smoothness of the lines are, though, typical of many modern pens.
- No philatelist would have placed the stamps in such an elegant—and modern—style paying no attention to the values of the individual stamps. Normal philatelists, both then and now, would have left more space between each stamp and philatelists would also place the stamps in ascending or descending order of value. The placement of the most valuable stamp in the middle suggests a non-philatelic eye is used to make the cover.

- A further example we have seen (again with the above faults) has a single deep 'rust' mark on; this rust mark retains its colour throughout and then just stops. Rust normally fades out from an intense spot.
- The vast majority of CTO covers from this time are from India and have the blue mark from the stamp shop which prepared them, and are on brown envelopes.
- We find it historically unlikely, even given the above, that a supply of new covers would suddenly emerge.

Below is a typical cancelled to order 'India' cover for these stamps –



GENUINE COVER

Note the brown envelope, nothing written about it as First or Last 1973 Day Cover, the blue 'Indian' mark (and initialled) and the layout of the stamps.

Overall we cannot say for certain that these items are forgeries but we would certainly treat them as such in our collections.

1973 Opening of Ministerial Complex Varieties – Double Overprint



An addition to the article in Edition 23 about the 1973 Ministerial Complex issue – **The Double Overprint** – here illustrated on a used stamp.

The Oval Registration Cancellor: Oman's second Registration strike and first from the Independent Postal Administration.

With the introduction of the Independent Postal Administration on the 30th of April 1966 new cancellers were gradually introduced. The first of the registration cancellers to be introduced was an oval dual language strike with the date in the center. The canceller is referred to by Terry Jones as Donaldson Type 29 and by Gunn/Allen's book as Type RDS Type 1a. So far I have recorded three varieties of the MUSCAT strike, which are illustrated below.



RCD 2 – Type 1

Recorded use from 25-05-1966 to 30-10-1971

The specific of the Type 1 strike is that the month is illustrated with only two letters. In addition to this the Arabic and English “REGISTERED - MUSCAT” differs from Type 2 and 3 as well. I have only recorded this strike with Muscat origin.



RCD 2 – Type 2

Recorded use from 25-11-1971 to 05-04-1981

Type 2 and Type 3 both have a 3-letter months but the “REGISTERED – MUSCAT” differs in size with Type 2 being smaller.



RCD 2 – Type 3

Recorded use from 28-01-1976 to 02-08-1976

You will notice on Type 3 that the size of the lettering “REGISTERED – MUSCAT” is larger – it basically stretches from one side to the other of the bottom half to the oval - The “T” reaches up to the center the date.

On the next couple of pages I have illustrated the different origins and types that I have found from other places in Oman. Most of them come from a recent collection of 700 letters that I bought – the James “Digger” Jones correspondence. Digger Jones was a geologist and he and his team traveled throughout Oman surveying the country.

Oman is divided into five regions (mintaqah) and four governorates (muhafazah). The regions are further subdivided into 62 provinces (wilayat). Each region has one or more regional center. The total regional centers amount to 12.

The 5 Regions are: Al Dakhiliyah (main town is Nizwa) – Al Batinah (main town is Sohar) – Al Wusta (main town is Hayma) – Sharqiyah (main town is Sur) – Dhahirah (main town is Ibri). The 4 Governorates are Muscat – Musandam (main town Khasab) – Dhofar (main town is Salalah) – Al Buraimi (main town is Buraimi).



BADIYA



BAHLI



BIRKA

Badiya (Sharqiyah Region) – Recorded use from 03-07-1982 to 12-01-1987 (12-01-1987 as backstamp)

Bahli (Dakhiliya Region) – Recorded use on 22-02-1983

Birka or Barka (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use from 15-08-1985 to 10-10-1985



Bilad Bani Bu Hussan



AL-BURAIMI



BURAIMI

Jalan Bani Bu Hassan (Sharqiyah Region) – Recorded use on 09-10-1982

Al-Buraimi (Al-Buraimi Governorate) – Recorded use from 05-03-1986 to 01-06-1986

Buraimi (Al-Buraimi Governorate) – Recorded use 16-08-1982





CENTRAL P.O.
Type 2



CENTRAL P.O.
Type 3



C.P.O.

Central P.O. (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use from 19-12-1976 to 18-05-1981

Central P.O. (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use on 12-04-1981

C.P.O. (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use from 21-02-1977 to 19-09-1981

Central Post Office (Muscat Governorate) – mentioned by Terry Jones – 18-08-1981

Terry records the Central P.O. up to December 1981 but not which type



DIBA



FANJA

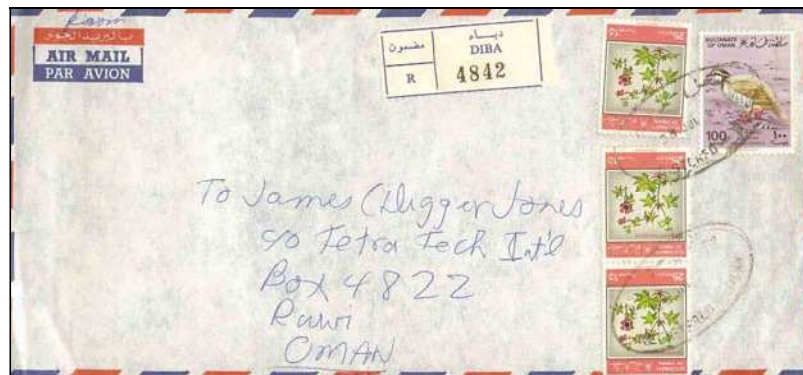


IBRA

Diba (Musandam Governorate) – Recorded use on 25-07-1984

Fanja or Fanla – Recorded use from 10-01-1987 to 21-11-1990

Ibra (Sharqiyah Region) – Recorded use from 10-07-1985 to 07-04-1986



FANJA on the RCD appears as “FANLA” so it appears that the “J” has been input inverted. The Arabic clearly read “FANJA”. This is the case on both the covers that I have so it seems that the irregularity was constant from 1987 to 1990.



IBRI



KAMIL



KHASAB

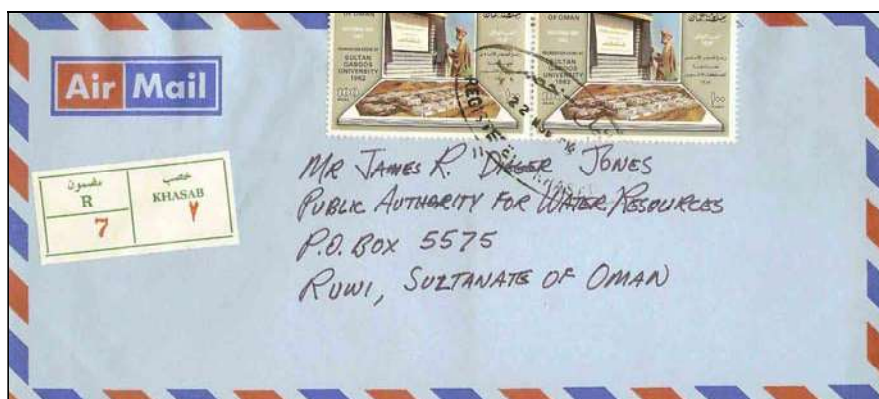
Ibri (Dhahirah Region) – Recorded use from 16-02-1984 to 15-03-1984

Kamil (Sharqiyah Region) – Recorded use on 15-07-1982

Khasab (Musandam Governorate) – Recorded use from 22-11-1983 to 17-11-1986



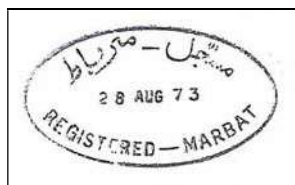
Kamil



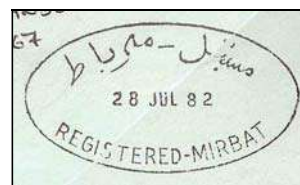


MADINAT QABOOS

Inverted Date



MARBAT



MIRBAT

Madinat Qaboos (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded used from 24-08-1982 to 04-10-1982

Marbat (Dhofar Governorate) – Recorded use on 28-08-1973

Mirbat (Dhofar Governorate) – Recorded use on 28-07-1982



MASIRAH



MASNAA



SEEB AIR PORT

Masirah (Sharqiyah Region) – Recorded use from 20-07-1988 to 01-06-1998

Masnaa/Al-Musnaa (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use from 06-03-1983 to 31-05-1986

Seeb Air Port (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use from 12-05-1982 to 03-03-1983

Seeb (Muscat Governorate) – Mentioned by Terry Jones from 10-05-1978 to 11-06-1983





MATRAH



MINA AL FAHAL



MINA AL FAHAL

(Inverted Date)

Matrah (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded used from 03-04-1976 to 13-02-1982

Mina Al Fahal (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use from 15-04-1980 to 28-05-1982

Mina Al Fahal (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use on 02-12-1981



MUDHAIBI



MUDHAIRAB

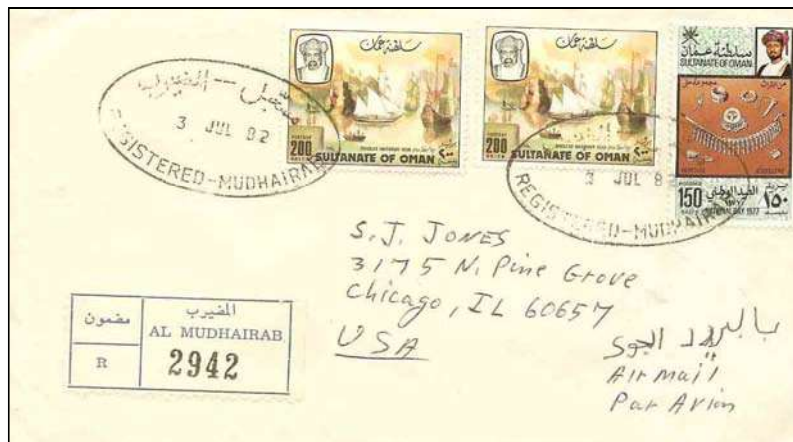


NIZWA

Mudhaibi (Sharqiyah Region) – Recorded used from 20-06-1982 to 02-12-1990

Mudhairab (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use from 30-06-1982 to 03-07-1982

Nizwa (Dakhiliya Region) – Recorded use from 01-07-1980 to 17-04-1984





QURIYAT



SAHAM



SALALAH

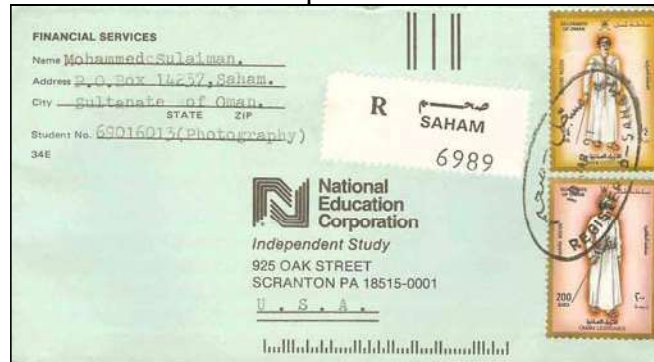
Type 2

Quriyat (Muscat Governorate) – Recorded use on 22-07-1979

Saham (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use on 10-03-1991

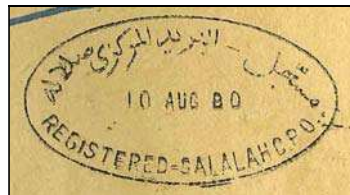
Salalah (Dhofar Governorate) – Recorded use from 24-04-1972 to 14-12-1977

Terry Jones mentions a number of varieties for Salalah but in principle use of Salalah up to 15-03-1983 and use of Salalah C.P.O. up to 02-05-1992



SALALAH

Type 3



SALALAH C.P.O.



SAMAIL

Salalah (Dhofar Governorate) – Recorded use on 12-05-1980

Salalah C.P.O. (Dhofar Governorate) – Recorded use from 13-02-1980 to 13-02-1989

Samail or Somail (Dakhiliya Region) – Recorded use on 05-06-1979





SHINAS



SOHAR



SUR

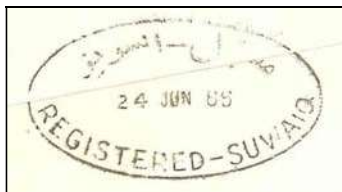
Shinas (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use from 02-06-1985 to 01-12-1988

Sohar (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use from 14-11-1976 to 13-02-1982

Sur (Dakhiliya Region) – Recorded use from 29-08-1982 to 06-03-1991



Shinas



SUWAIQ

Type 3



SUWAIQ

Type 2



TAQA

Suwaiq (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use on 24-06-1986

Suwaiq (Al Batinah Region) – Recorded use on 05-05-1990

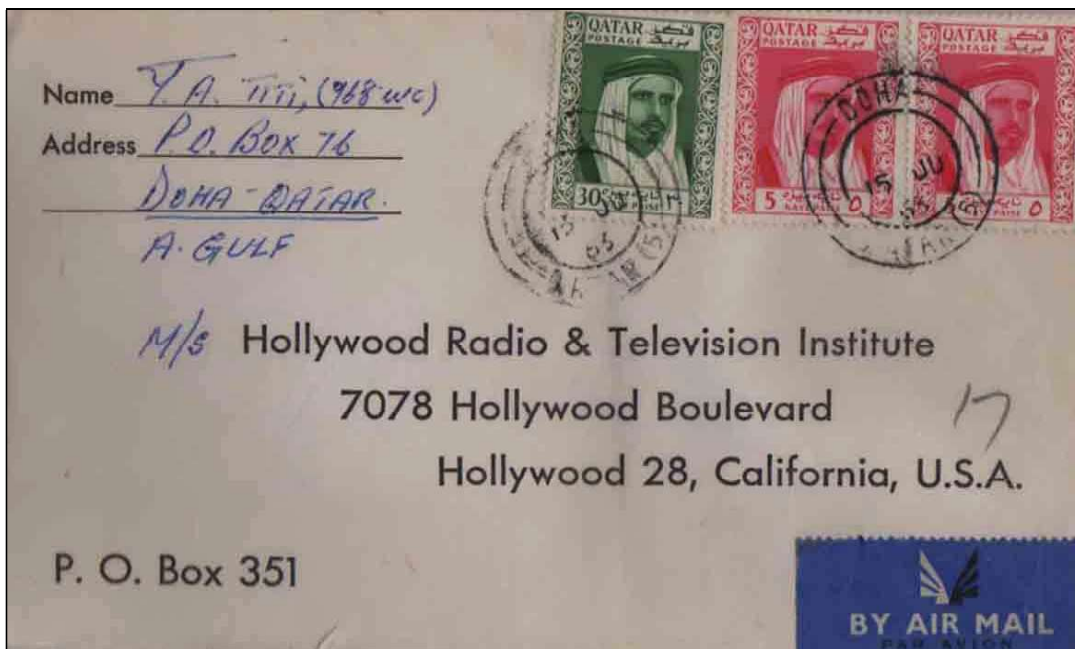
Taqa (Dhofar Governorate) – Recorded use from 01-09-1973 to 26-12-1984



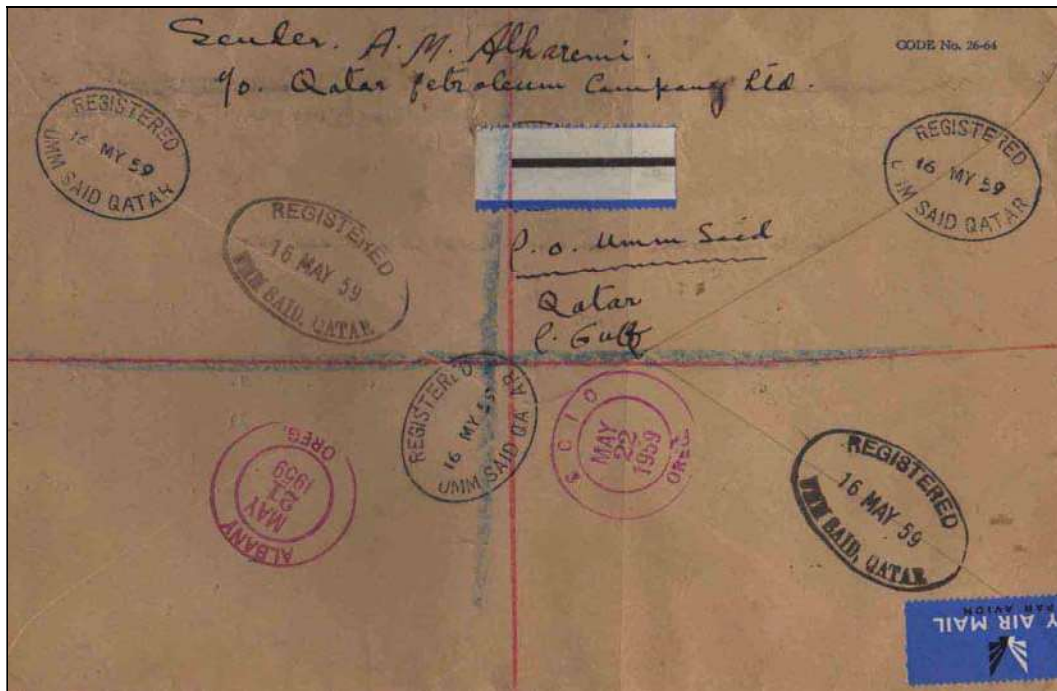
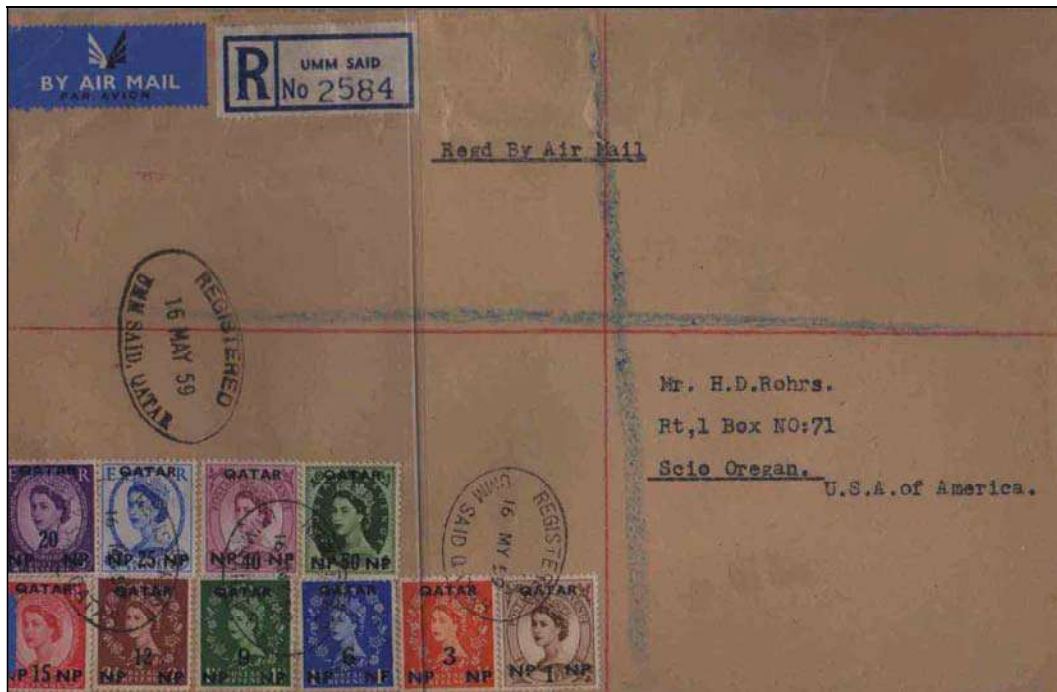
Qatar



15 June 1963: A cover sent from Doha to California, USA cancelled with the Doha (5) Double Ring CD. What is interesting is the CD applied on the two stamps on the back of the cover – a previously unrecorded strike which is completely different from any other strike known used during this period of time. Has anyone seen it before?



UMM SAID: Donaldson Type 9 and Type 10



16 May 1959: A cover sent from Qatar Petroleum Company at Umm Said to Oregon, USA cancelled with a combination of several copies of Donaldson Type 9 and Type 10.

25 August 1968: A combination cover sent from Doha to New York showing the rare use of the 2 Rials on 2 Rupees surcharge. The cover also has a 10 NP coin stamp on the back.



First Day Covers with wrong dates



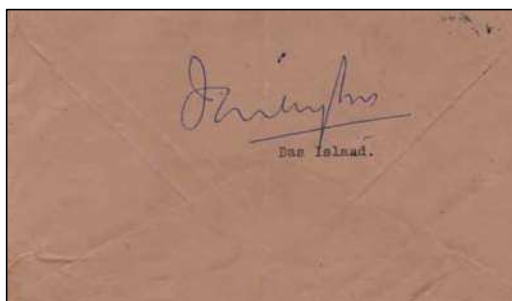
I have now come across a number of First Day Covers from Qatar where the First Day strike doesn't correspond with the catalogued date of issue - as is the case with the FDC illustrated above. Stanley Gibbons records the issue date of the Arab Labour Charter issue as September 1975 while Michel records the issue date as August 1975. Scotts, however, record the issue date as 28 May 1975 in line with the illustrated FDC.





As for the next FDC, Traffic Week, the FDC strike is dated 14 June 1975. In this case all three major catalogues agree that the issue date was 24 June 1975. Could it be possible that the issue date according to the pamphlet was planned for 24 June 1975 but the stamps arrived early so the Post Office released them early or are we just dealing with a postal clerk struggling with the numbers “1” and “2”? Does anyone have a Traffic Week FDC dated 24 June 1975?

UAE - Abu Dhabi



10th January 1961: A letter sent from Das Island to Awali, Bahrain. The cover has been franked with the 6 Pies Carmine from the 1957 local issue, which the postal clerk in Bahrain correctly has omitted canceling. Mail from Das Island should not be considered local mail regardless of the Das Island Post Office be physically placed in Bahrain.

13th December 1969: The 25 on 15 Fils Surcharge

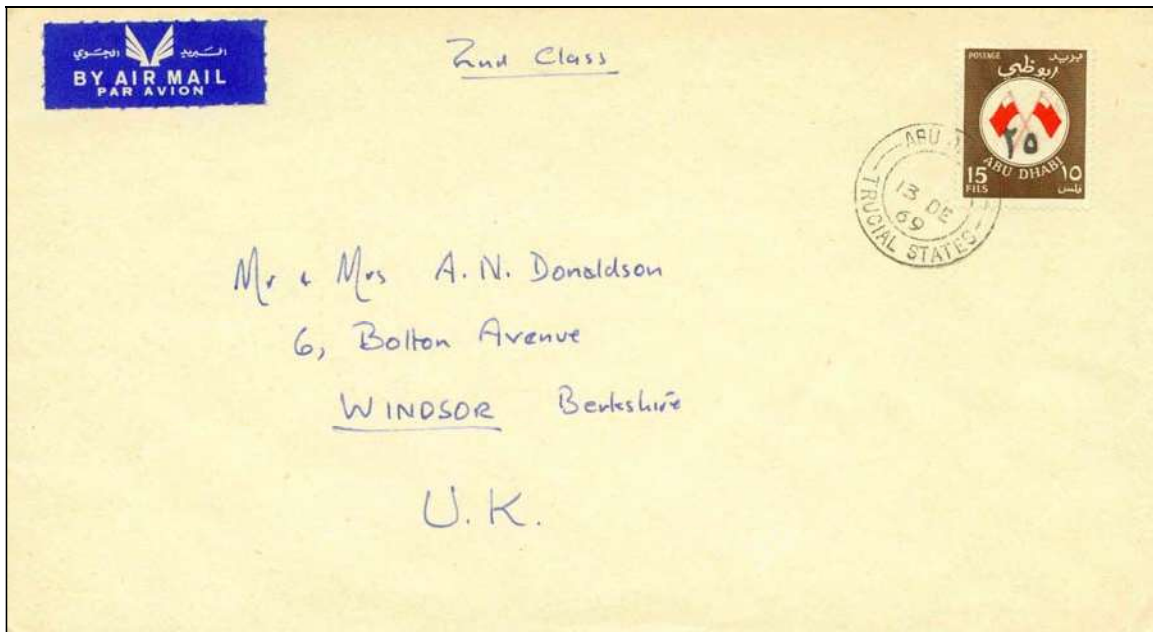
Source: Abu Dhabi Pulls a Fast One, Journal of Arabian Philately 1972 by Merv Chaplin



As the holiday season of 1969 drew closer a shortage of the 5 Fils and 20 Fils values of the 1967 definitive issue began to become apparent. With the new definitive issue not planned until after Christmas it was decided that an emergency surcharge of 25 Fils was to be carried out on the 15 Fils from the 1967. 25 Fils was the airmail rate for greeting cards to Europe, India, Pakistan and Arab countries.

The surcharge was applied by mean of a hand numbering machine.

A total of 20,000 stamps were surcharged and placed on sale on the 13th December 1969 and all had been sold at post office counters by Christmas Eve. All the stamps were either sold to philatelist or used singly on greeting cards.

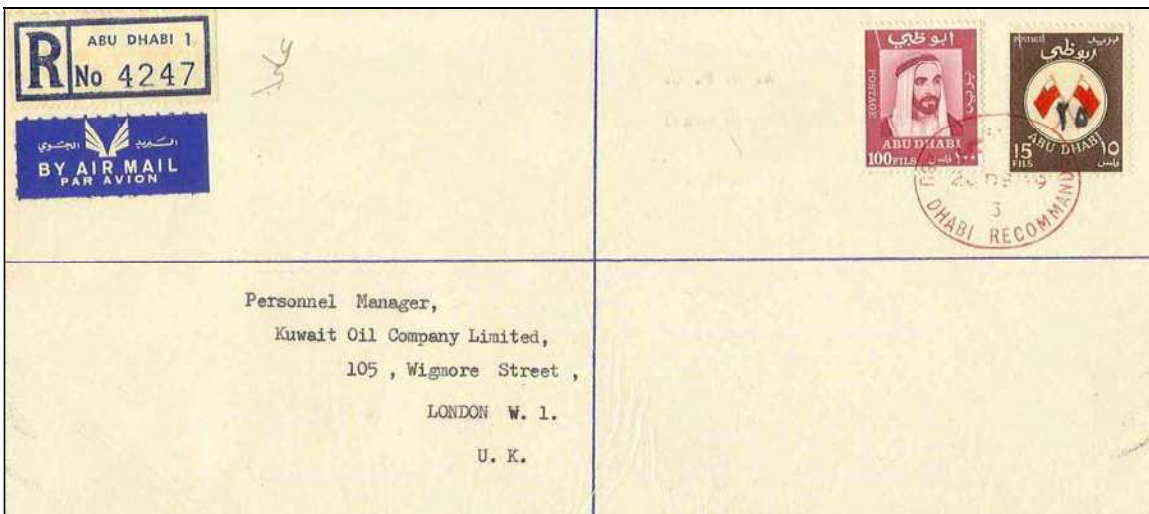


13th December 1969: A First Day Cover sent to Neil Donaldson in Windsor, Berkshire.



20 December 1969: Commercial use of the surcharge on local Abu Dhabi mail.

23 December 1969: A registered cover sent from Abu Dhabi to London, UK franked with the surcharge and the 1967 Sheikh Zayed 100 Fils Definitive. (Below)



There seems to be some variety in the quality and colour of the overprints as illustrated here. The black ink is more transparent and smudgy. I presume that this is very likely since 20,000 copies were made and the machine probably wasn't state of the art but if anyone has any comments as to forgeries of the stamp please let it be known.





Then we have the Double Overprint error –anything but a constants but rather an occasional event during the surcharging process.

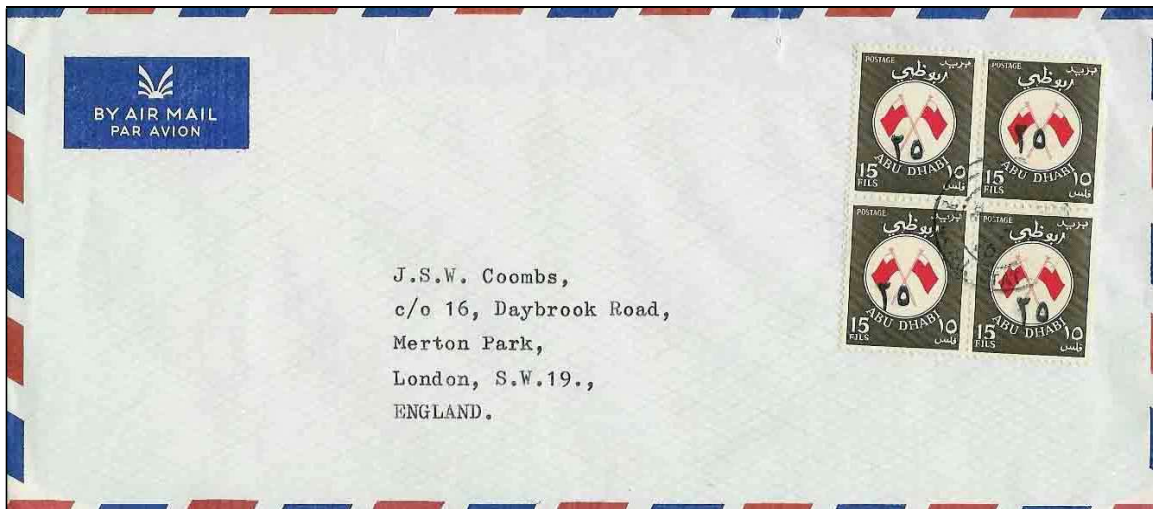


Stanley Gibbons makes a specific remark in their catalogue relating to the use of the stamp on cover: “Nearly all of these provisionals were sold over the Post Office counters between 13 Dec and 24 Dec and, if genuine, should be used on cover during this period.”

I am sure that there is some sort of documentation behind SG’s comments but to my knowledge the stamps did not become void after December 24th. I have illustrated two covers below showing such use and in neither case has postage due or any other comments been applied by the Post Office.

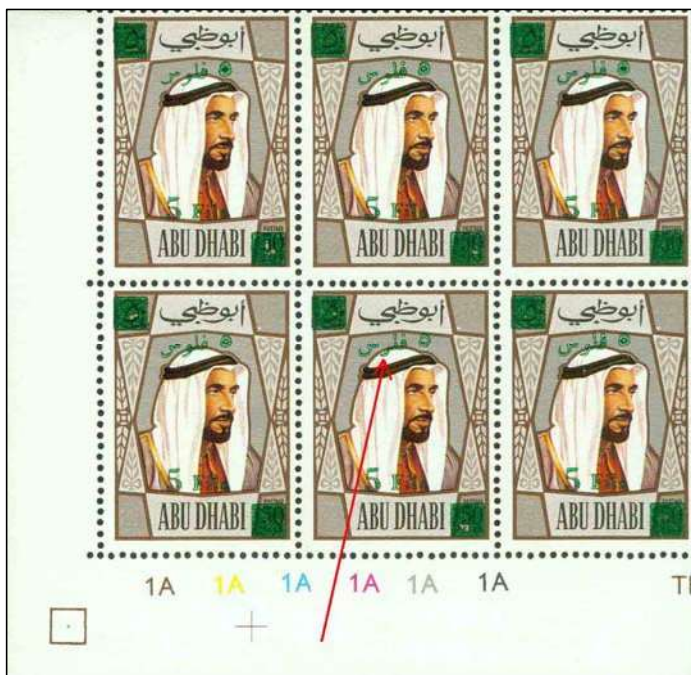


4 March 1970: A smudgy, weak black overprint surcharge used on undercover mail to Cyprus.



23 February 1970: A block of 4 of the surcharge with the proper black surcharge sent to London, England with arrival backstamp dated 26 February 1970.

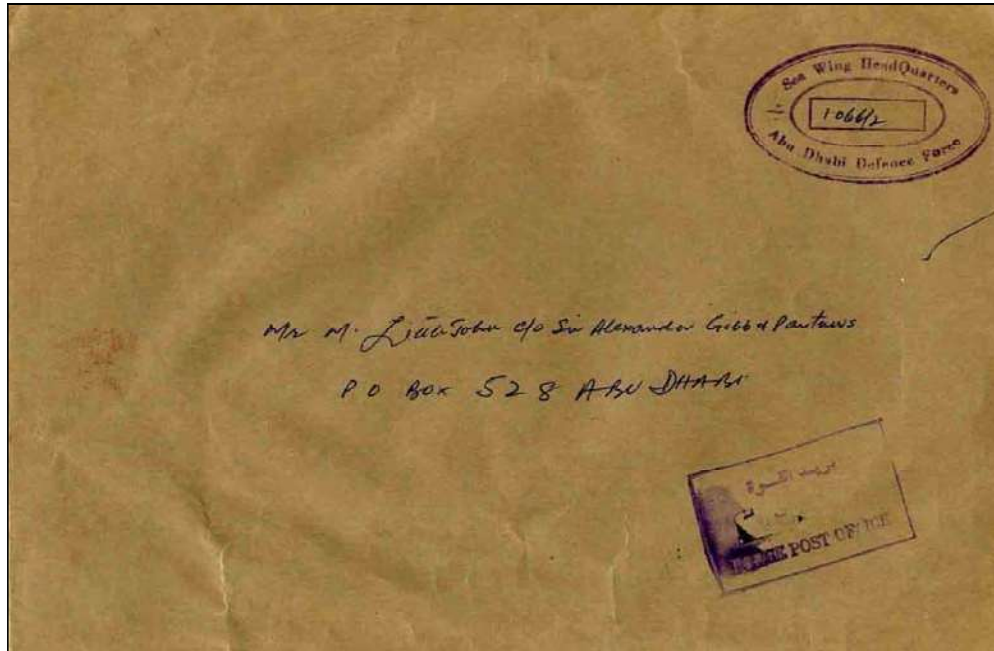
The 1971 5 Fils on 50 Fils Provisional Issue: The “FLRS” variety.



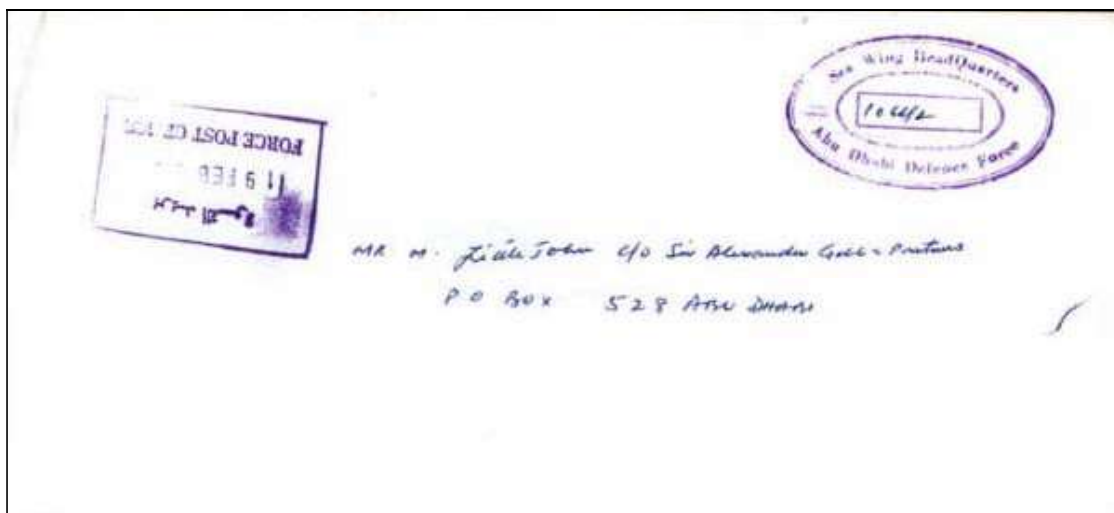
The variety is found in the bottom row of stamps and is constant which is confirmed by the proof sheet of the trial overprint illustrated in Edition 23.

The circle of the Arabic letter “و” or “waw” is missing the full circle so that it instead becomes the Arabic letter “ر” or “ra” – hence the “FLRS” instead of “FLUS” – FLUS means money in Arabic.

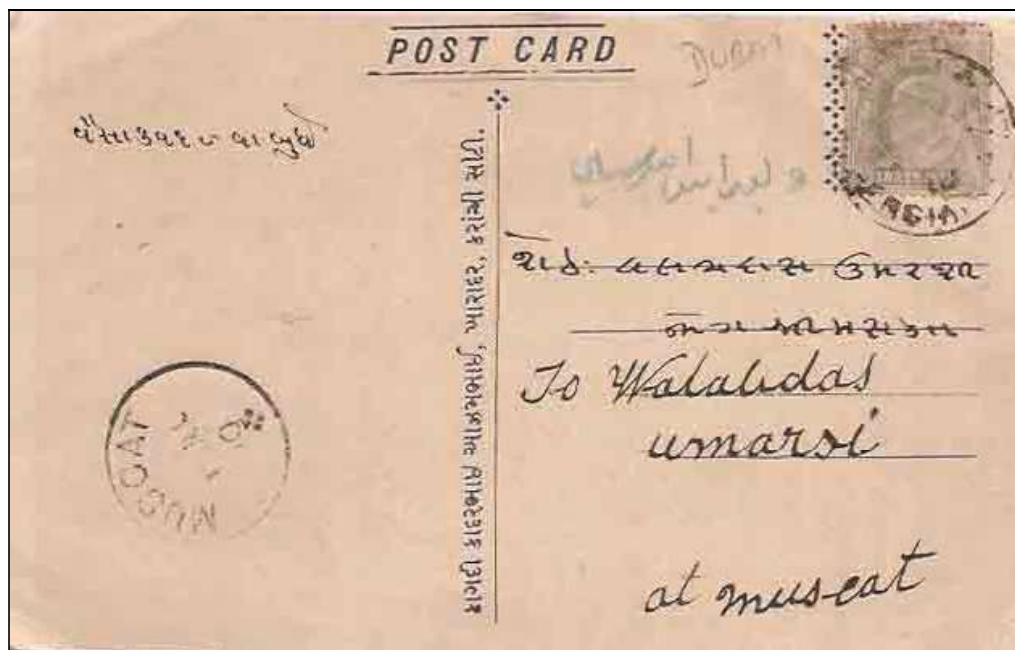
Abu Dhabi Forces Post Office Date Stamp



The only two recorded covers so far of the Abu Dhabi Force Post Office cancellation – in both cases dated – one 19 February and the other 19 March – but without year. Does anyone have another one?

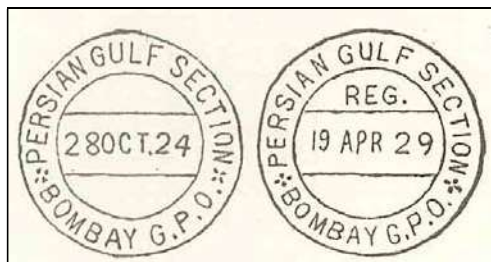


UAE – Dubai

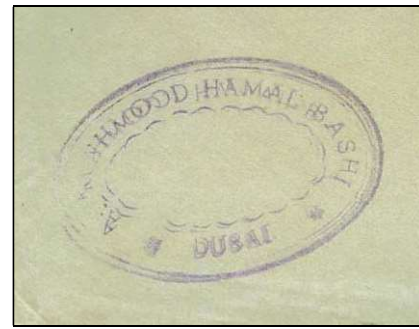


June 1910: An early and very possibly the earliest postcard sent from Dubai to Muscat and cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 (Dubai) and with Donaldson Type 10 (Muscat) backstamp.

Dubai: Persian Gulf Section – Bombay G.P.O.



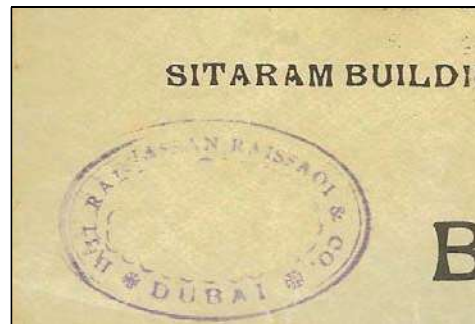
In February 1959 A.C. Gledhill wrote an article for Stamp Collection where he discussed the use of the two illustrated strikes. Donaldson equally discussed them in his book on page 78 with, I presume, similar references to the 1959 article. So what do we know about the use of these cancellations? Gledhill reports 9 such covers of which he refers to two of them having a Dubai sender's address. He also reports two of the nine covers cancelled with the registered version – both on 18 April 1929 – Donaldson reports 11 such covers and refers to all of them emanating from Dubai, whereas Gledhill only reports two – something that can only be confirmed by a sender's address. It can presumably be accepted that all covers with the strike come from the Persian Gulf but I have not yet had any other confirmed origins than Dubai brought to my attention.



5 March 1926: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 5 March 1926.

According to Donaldson it was the custom of merchants in Dubai to post letters addressed to Bombay on board the BISN (British India Steam Navigation Company) mail steamers calling at Dubai between May 1924 and November 1931 (at least). Given the maritime status of the mail such letters were in fact Paquebot mail – one cover does carry a Paquebot handstamp. The fact that the Bombay backstamp often had the same date, though sometimes next day, confirms that the cancellation was applied in Bombay.

The two covers recorded by Gledhill as bearing the registered version of the cancellation do not bear a registration mark or any other form of registered endorsement. Furthermore, the rate, at which they are posted, does not include any additional postage stamps to cover the registration fee. Gledhill does speculate that the cancellations could initially have been intended for mail from Bombay to the Gulf – hence the registration strike – however, no Bombay outward covers have been recorded so far. Since registered mail was not offered at the Branch Office in Dubai the application of the registered version of the Persian Gulf Section strike was probably applied in error.



9 November 1928: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 9 November 1928.



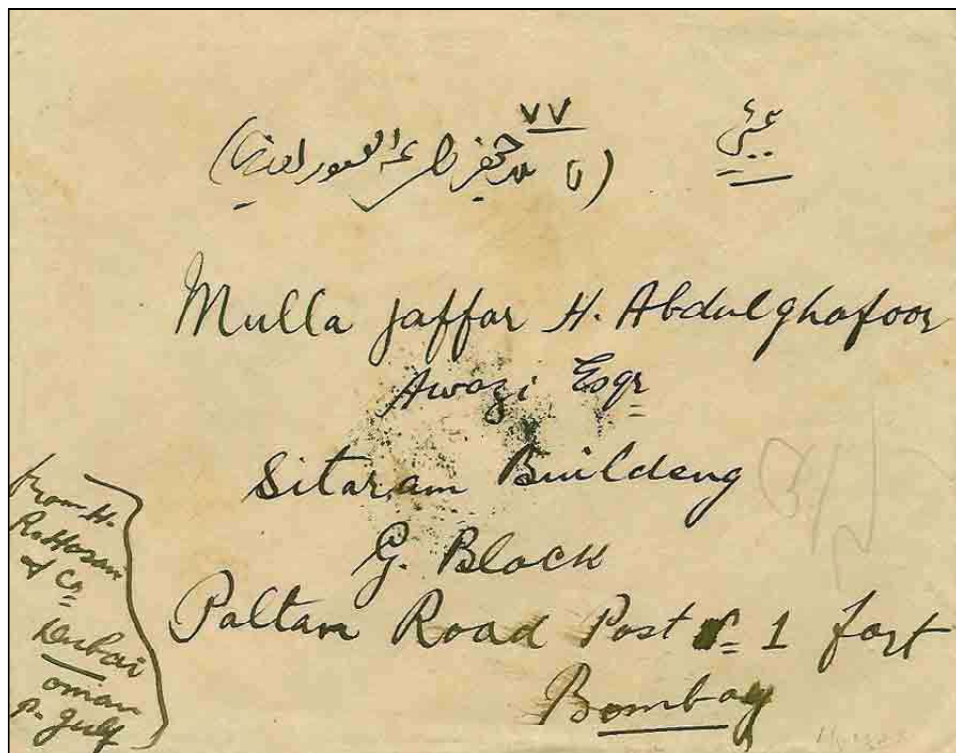
19 September 1928: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 19 September 1928.

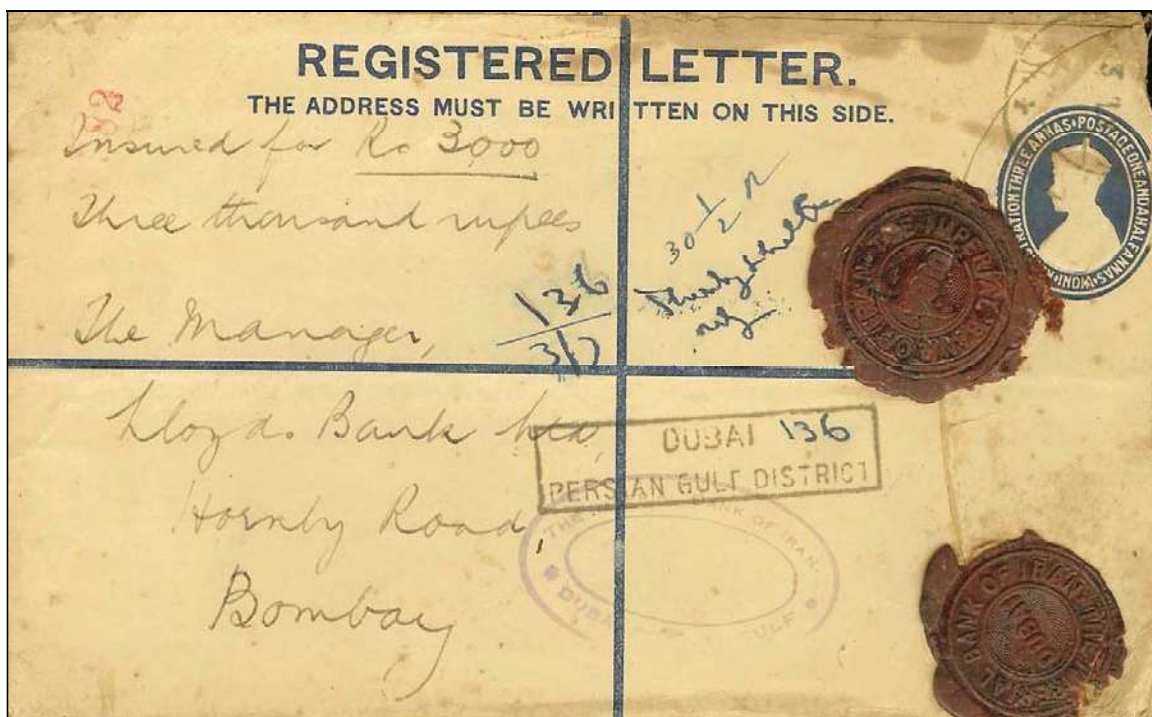
22 May 1925: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay India with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 22 May 1925.



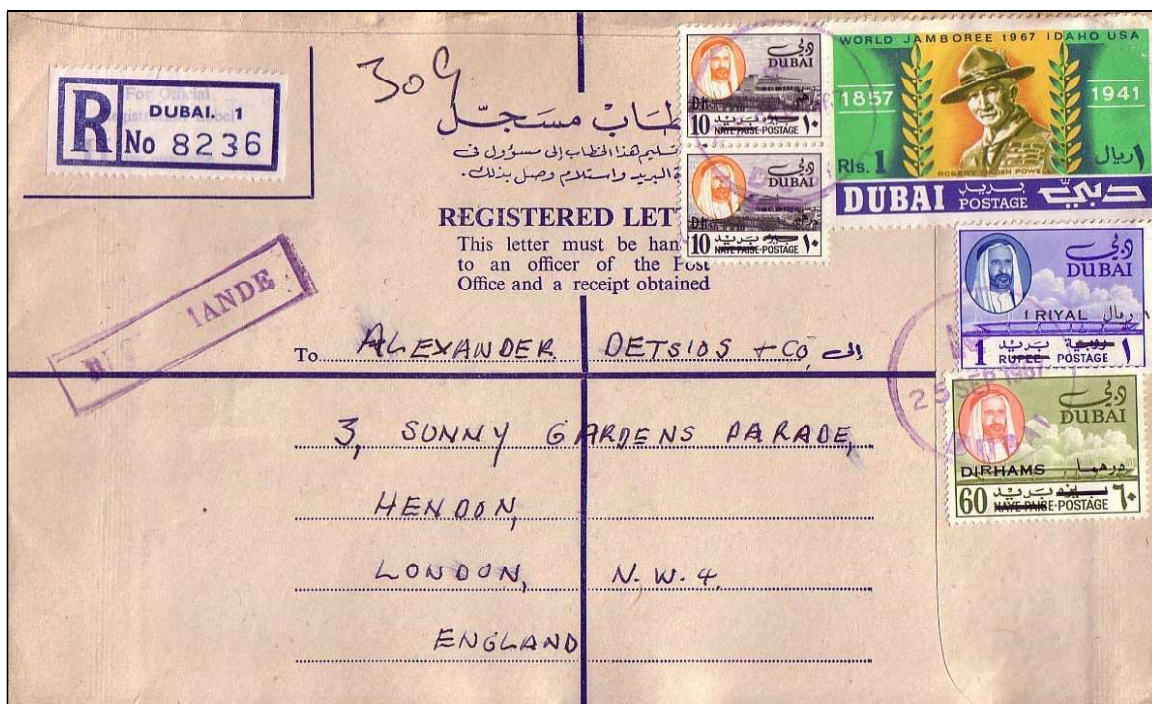


19 April 1929: A cover sent from Dubai, with an interesting sender's address being Dubai, Oman, Persian Gulf to Bombay India with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 19 April 1929.



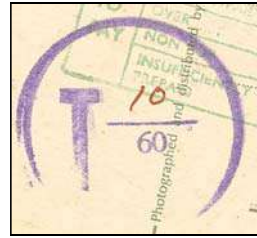
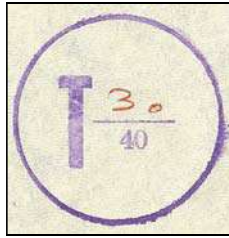


3 November 1947: A registered letter sent from the Imperial Bank of Iran, which by the way is part of today's HSBC, to Lloyds Bank in Bombay, India – postage is 1 ½ Anna with registration of 3 Annas.



25 September 1967: A registered letter sent from Dubai to London, England franked with 2 Riyals and 80 Dirham.

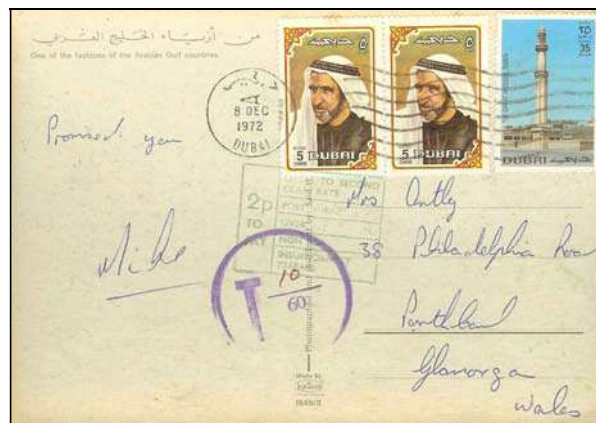
Dubai Postage Due Handstamp Varieties



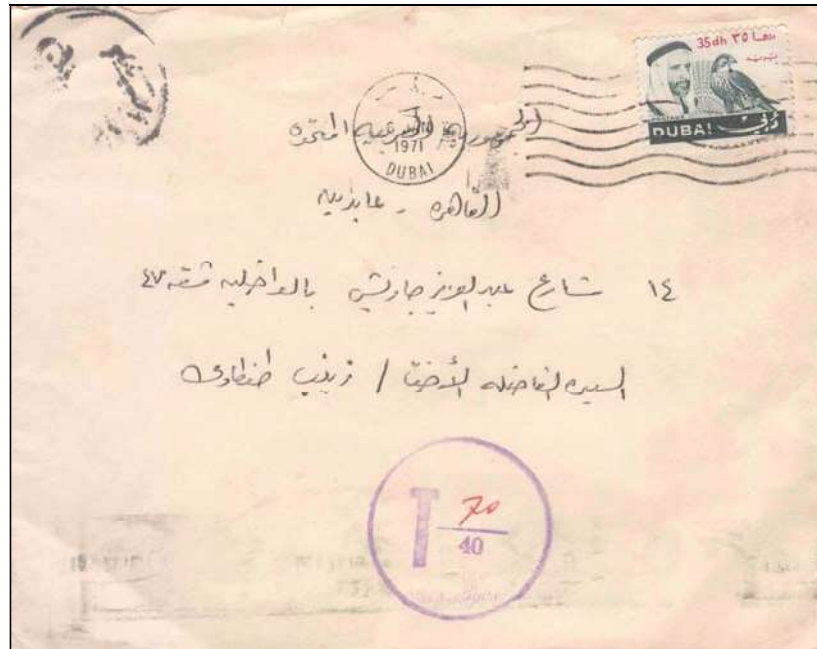
The Independent Postal Administration of Dubai used a large circular “T” Postage Due handstamp for underpaid mail which has not been recorded used in other postal administrations of the Gulf. Both handstamps have a diameter of 34 mm and the “T” measures 15 mm in length both all strikes so either the denominator was changed at each application or they had individual handstamps with each required denominator. The varieties of this type of handstamp recorded are illustrated as follows.



6 July 1971: A cover sent to Germany struck with a circular “T bar 40” with 30 applied in red ink.



8 December 1972: A cover sent to Wales, UK struck with a circular “T bar 60” with 10 applied in red ink.



6 July 1971: A cover sent to Egypt struck with a circular “T bar 40” with 70 applied in red ink.

10 March 1970: A cover sent to Cyprus struck with a circular “T bar 40” with 120 applied in black ink.



Does anyone have any strikes with other denominator and can anyone explain the fractions used in the handstamp?

Links, Contacts and Credits

GOVERNMENT PHILATELIC OFFICES

Emirates Stamp Club
Emirates Post
P.O. Box 99999
Dubai
U.A.E.
+973 4 2031421
Email: philatelic@emiratespost.ae
Website: www.emiratespost.co.ae

Director General of Posts
Philatelic Department
PO Box 3338
P.C 112
Ruwi
Muscat
Sultanate of Oman
Email: ptphil@omantel.net.om
Website: www.comm.gov.om

Qatar Philatelic Bureau
+974 4464309
Email: philatelic@qatarposts.com
Website: www.qpost.com.qa

Bahrain Philatelic Bureau
Postal Directorate
PO Box 1212
Manama
Bahrain
Email: stamp@bahrain.gov.bn

Kuwait Philatelic Section
Post Office Department
PO Box 888
Safat 13309
Kuwait

INDEPENDENT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

Emirates Philatelic Association
P.O. Box. 33333
Dubai, UAE
Telephone number: 00971 4 353 8383
Website: www.epa.ae

Bahrain Philatelic Society
Email: bahrainps@yahoo.com
Website: www.geocities.com/bahrainps

WEBSITES RELATED TO GULF POSTAL HISTORY

www.bahrain-stamps.com
www.kuwait-stamps.com

www.oman-stamps.com
www.dubai-stamps.com

www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com
www.qatar-stamps.com

6 interactive website containing more than 10.000 images of stamps, covers, philatelic items, cancellation marks, registration labels, postage due hand stamps, aerogramme and other postal markings. Without a doubt the biggest compilation of philatelic material related to the Gulf on the Internet today. These website are under constant development and all contributions are accepted in all forms: comments, image contributions, theories, photocopies, CD-ROMs of exhibitions and collections etc.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arabgulbandyemenstampgroup/>

A yahoo group created in 1999 with 899 member (As of March 2006) – a forum that focuses on anything that has to do with Gulf postal history but the group also includes Yemen and occasionally other regional post offices.

<http://www.gbos.org.uk/index.php/Home> - Great Britain Overprint Society

The GB Overprints Society (GBOS) helps members and collectors to explore the many ways and reasons why British stamps and other postal material have been overprinted, whether it is for use outside the UK or for special functions within the UK. This opens up a wide variety of avenues, which will interest not only GB collectors who want to find out other uses of their favorite stamps, but also collectors of particular countries or themes.

<http://www.indiastudycircle.org> - India Study Circle

This is the website for anyone interested in Indian Stamps, Postal Stationery, Indian States Stamps, Revenue Stamps and all areas of Indian Philately. Membership of The India Study Circle is a great way to learn more about all aspects of Indian Philately. It is also an excellent way to buy stamps, covers and all sorts of Philatelic material from other members, and to sell your own surplus material.

<http://www.postalcensorship.com> - censored and military postal history

Started in 1996 the postal censorship website was intended to concentrate on the story of Postal Censorship in Ireland during World War II, 1939-1945, known as 'The Emergency'. The site now hosts an array of Civil Censorship and Military Mail information mostly related to World War II but adding material from other periods as collectors provide covers to show and as other information comes to hand.

Many more pages will be added to this list once I define the exact web address that should be presented here with the web masters.

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