

ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY

(Including 8 colour plates)



India post card used from Muscat
Date-stamp type 11 (7.9.03), transit Sea Post 12.9.03
and receiving strike Esschen 28.9.03

+++++

Published by T E Jones, 36 Cobham Rd., Accrington
Lancashire, BB5 2AD, England

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Comment

Another interesting selection of articles and information has come in since no.3 and a quarterly interval gives me sufficient time to research new items and compile the next edition. I have a couple of corrections to make now from previous editions.

(i) quoting the currency in Abu Dhabi as fils and riyals whereas it is of course fils and dinars.

(ii) stating on page 8 in no.3 that the Abu Dhabi stock list included the Bahrain 40np registered letter. This was my mistake. The stock listed registered letter was similar to the lower cover on page 9 with the imprints shown below. Whether the letters on page 9 are the result of casual use or not I don't know.

Compensation

Subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide, the registration fee of 65 Fils covers compensation up to BD. 4,000 * (Four Bahraini Dinars)

*To most places for entire loss only.



New publication: Kuwait Postal Cancellations and Stamp Designs by S&S Al-Shakar from PO Box 5344 Manama, Bahrain. Price \$36. (I haven't seen this.)

Ras al Khaima

David Donald has sent me a list of issues which he has found postally used on piece.

1966 SG49 surcharged 5riyals

1967 appendix 35d Scout Jamboree; 30d Mexico Olympics

1968 paintings 80,90d

1969 composers 25,50d

1970? Winter Olympics 1968 5d/ 1riyal previously unlisted

Other 5d surcharges, SG60a and 64b could indicate a shortage of this denomination on regular mail.

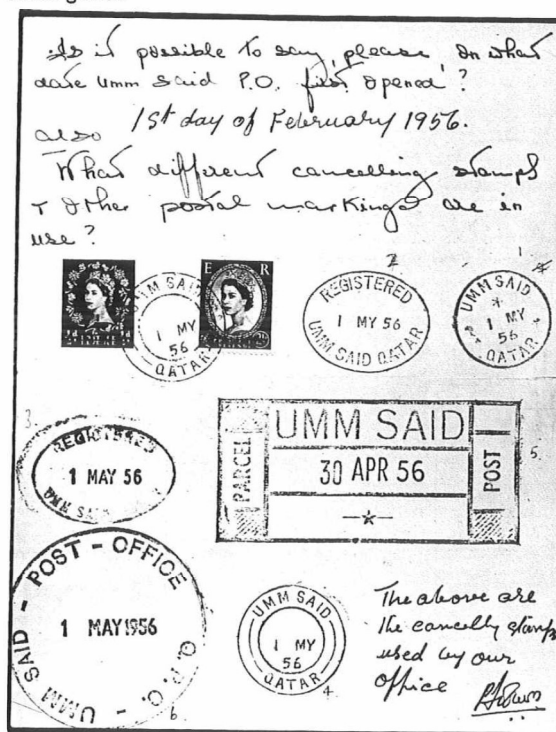
1971 Independence issue- a 60d is now recorded.

(See <http://www.omygosh.on.ca/stamps>)

I also acknowledge contributions from J Parker, A Gunn, R Barnes, A N Donaldson and R Kollmann which will be published next time.

Umm Said, Qatar

A photograph of a piece of original research will be of interest to all Gulf enthusiasts. Is it still possible to get full sets of current date-stamps from present day postal authorities or are those days of personal service long since gone?



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The date-stamps of Abu Dhabi cont.

Registered mail from Abu Dhabi continued to use registration labels 'BAHRAIN P S' (Postal Superintendent) until early 1965. The cover opposite bears the type 1(2) date-stamp and is b/s Bahrain (2) type 40. Below it is the pictorial canceller used on commercial mail.

Two cancellers not described last time are :-

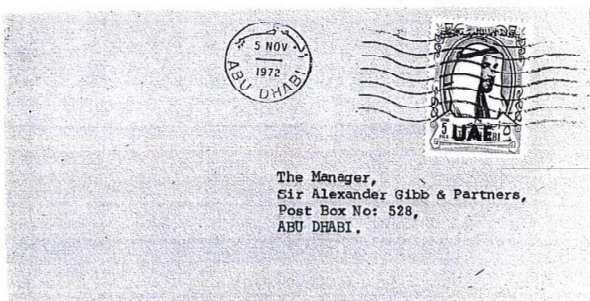
18. Machine canceller inscribed Abu Dhabi recorded
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) name in small letters | 14.12.81-13.1.94 |
| (b) " " larger " | 13.4.71 - 27.11.72 |
| 21. Registered Section A | 17.5.75 - 30.8.75 |
| B | 1.11.72 |
| E | 29.6.75 - 30.8.75 |

Correction

22. Forces Post Office which is a rectangular date-stamp reading Force Post in Arabic (Angelfire)

Update on usages :-

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1(1). 14.3.68 | 9. 25.8.69 |
| 2(1). 30.3.63 | 10(2). 28.12.70 - 28.1.73 |
| 3. 23.4.67 | 12. 14.7.70 - 27.11.72 |
- (Rufus Barnes)



Machine canceller type 18b

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Abu Dhabi



Use of Postal Superintendent registration label

AIR

J.B. Wilson, Esq.,

Secretary,

Jerusalem and the East Mission,

12 Warwick Square,

LONDON, W.1.



ENGLAND

Pictorial date-stamp showing the old palace

6
Abu Dhabi



Type 8 date-stamp 8.11.78



Aerogramme ADL5 date-stamped type 15 (20.5.70)



15



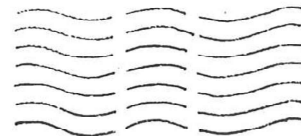
19



7



17



18b



21

- type 15 used on postal documents and transfer of mail.
- 17 registered mail
- 18 the first machine canceller
- 19 remittance of money by the postal service.
- 21 registered mail
- 15 and 19 are both known incorrectly used cancelling mail.

8

United Arab Emirates

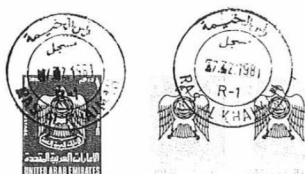
The UAE has not been referred to in the previous issues of this magazine. There will be an article next time.

REGISTERED



By air mail
Par avion

TE JONES
36 COBHAM ROAD
ACCINGTON
LANCASHIRE
ENGLAND



Above: 1981 cover bearing 1977 definitives.

Below: 1999 cover with a Postal Agency date-stamp.

BY AIRMAIL
PAR AVION

REGISTERED MAIL



MEEDMONEY
PO BOX 14
THE BUSINESS CENTRE
HAROLD HILL
ROMFORD
ESSEX RM3 8EQ
ENGLAND

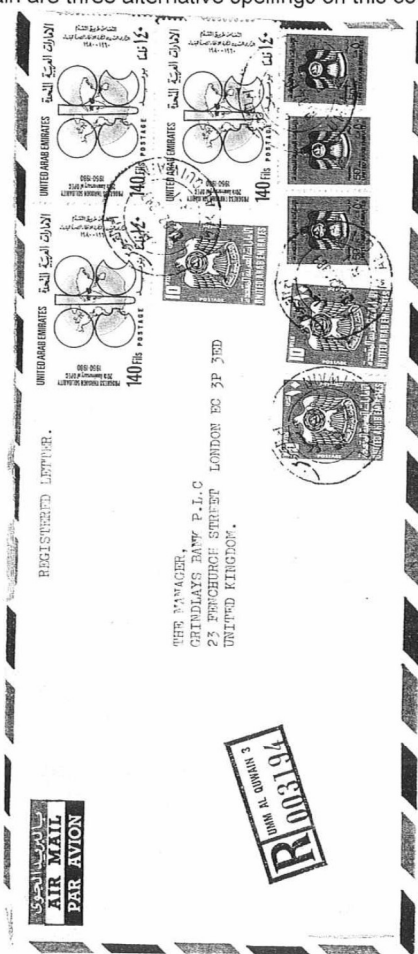


RR218618559AE

9

Umm Al Qiwayn 1983

A typical example of commercial mail. Quwain, Quiwain and Qaiwain are three alternative spellings on this cover.



Notes on covers shown on next three pages.

Page 11 top: Fujeira. A very scarce example of non-philatelic mail from one of the smaller Trucial States. The 10np (SG77, Space Achievements) is overprinted 'Dh'. This new currency overprint is not listed in SG. The 25 dh (Apollo Flight) overprinted 'Moon Landing' is listed in the appendix.

below: Sharjah. Franked 5,30np (SG115, 117) and cancelled 23.11.67. The currency changed to dirhams and riyals in late 1966. This cover is addressed to a well known Austrian collector and bears a cachet of the Trucial Oman Scouts who had their headquarters in Sharjah.

Page 12: Bahrain. A rarely seen example of GVIR postal stationery. This is an India registered letter 3 annas registration fee, 1 anna 3 pies postage overprinted Bahrain and with an additional impressive 156 annas (9r, 12a) on the back. The date-stamp is Bahrain type 9 (17.10.46) and with the single line 'BAHRAIN' (type 19) and m/s 'R175' registration mark. Received one week later in New York.

Page 13 top: Qatar. A cover from Umm Said bearing 70np (40np+30np registration) and date-stamped with the oval 'Umm Said Qatar Registered type 10 (19.11.59).

below: Qatar. A ordinary air mail to England with a clear Umm Said Qatar date-stamp type 8 (12.4.59).

These covers are all good examples of Gulf postal history with clear postmarks and interesting frankings/cachets etc. Price or scarcity are not part of the criteria I use in making my selection.

11 Trucial states covers



LT Groom & Mrs S Coles & Family
94. St Anthony Street
MOSTA

MALTA

بالبريد الجوي
AIR MAIL

Fujeira 1970

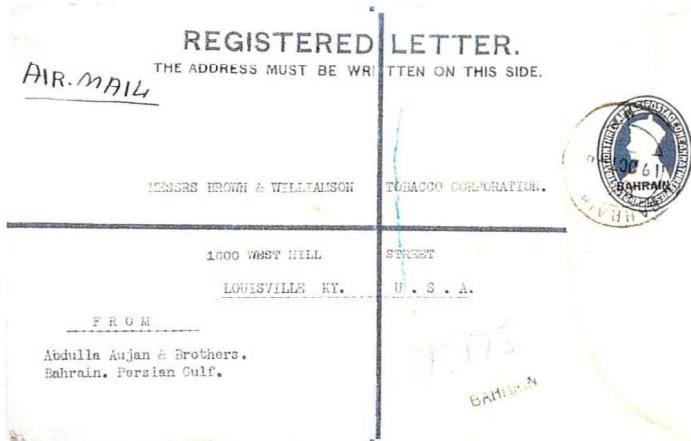


Mr
Frederick & Patsy
Pfeiffer
1/2
1000 7 Avenue, Longue

Sharjah 1967

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GVIR registered letter overprinted Bahrain 19.10.46

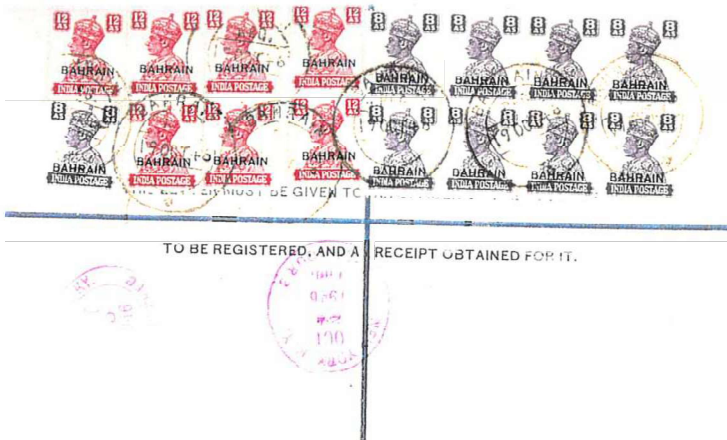


13

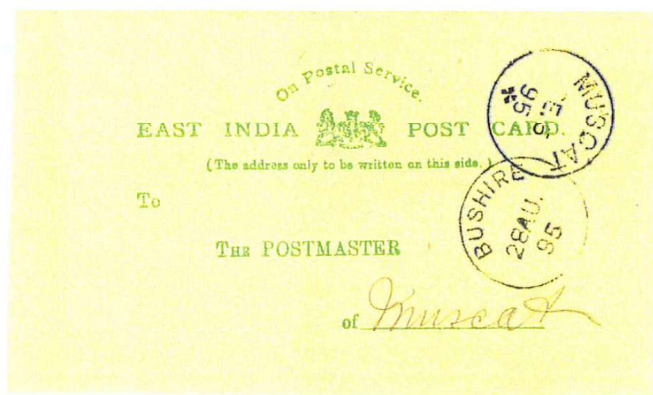
Umm Said Qatar



The first series of overprinted stamps of Great Britain specially issued for Qatar.



Service postcard Bushire to Muscat 1895



First flight cover Bahrain to Sharjah 6.10.32



The facing page shows a Service postcard from Bushire to Muscat dated very clearly 28 August 1895 and received Muscat (type 10) on 5 September. The message contains post office data and is from The Postmaster, Bushire P.O. I have recorded an earlier East India Service postcard also from Bushire 7 September 1893 and received Muscat (both date-stamps as type 8A of Muscat) 17 September. Interestingly this card is from the Postmaster, Bushire B(ranch)O(ffice). Bushire apparently changed its status during this period although there is no reason to suppose it was ever a branch office of Muscat. This is the latest recorded strike of type 8A.

The Persian Gulf air route continued

The Bahrain to Sharjah First Flight cover is shown opposite. The BY AIR cachet and the 'T' tax markings were both applied in Bahrain. The m/s 1/3 refers to the underpayment of 1anna 3pies but how the charge could have been collected is a mystery considering Sharjah had no postal service until 1963. The nearest post office was in Dubai but there is no evidence that the cover went there. It was probably delivered directly to the addressee.

Contemporary literature of the period uses the former name Persian Gulf which I have retained in this article. The Phillip Ireland covers give a comprehensive record of the mail on the first flights to and from Bahrain. Bahrain - Sharjah was a particularly interesting leg as there were no postal facilities in Sharjah. Any international mails were dealt with in nearby Dubai Post Office. Presumably the special covers on this leg got no further than Sharjah airfield. And the use of the Inauguration of New Dheli stamps and the underfranking of the covers appears to be a deliberate effort to make them more attractive items.

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First services to new timetable 1932

Eastbound			Westbound		
Croyden	dep	1 Oct	Karachi	dep	5 Oct
Brindisi	"	3 "	Sharjah	arr	5 "
Athens	"	4 "	"	dep	6 "
Galilee	"	5 "	Bahrain	dep	7 "
Cairo	"	4 "	Baghdad	arr	7 "
Galilee	"	6 "	"	dep	8 "
Basrah	arr	6 "	Galilee	dep	8 "
"	dep	7 "	Tiberius	"	8 "
Sharjah	arr	7 "	Alexandria	arr	9 "
"	dep	8 "	"	dep	10 "
Karachi	arr	8 "	Brindisi	arr	10 "
			Croyden	arr	11 "

The route map and stopping-off points do not entirely tally with the recorded Ireland covers. Castelrosso replaced Cyprus on the new route although a cover was despatched to Cyprus and various places where the planes set down were omitted from the timetable I have seen. For instance Bahrain is not listed westbound or Baghdad east-bound! Cairo and Alexandria were on a link to the Imperial Airways Africa service. Only a cover to Cairo is recorded here.

The Ireland covers

The date of the postmark does not necessarily represent the date of dispatch. *backstamped Bahrain
 Croydon/Bahrain pmk Earl's Court 30.9.32 frk 9d regd.*
 Brindisi/Bahrain pmk Milano 30.9.32 frk 5L50 regd.*
 Baghdad/Bahrain pmk Baghdad 4.10.32 frk 25fils.*
 Basrah/Bahrain pmk Basrah 4.10.32 frk 25fils.*
 Tiberius/Bahrain pmk Tiberius 5.10.32 frk 30mills.*
 Bahrain/Sharjah pmk Bahrain 5.10.32 frk 4annas.*
 Bahrain/Karachi pmk Bahrain 5.10.32 frk 4annas

17

All the covers dispatched from Bahrain bore the double ring 'BY AIR' cachet and except for the Bahrain/Croydon and Bahrain/Karachi legs were all taxed.

Bahrain to Croydon canc. 5.10.32 frk 8 1/4 annas+

"	Basrah	frk 3annas+
"	Baghdad	frk 3annas+
"	Cyprus	frk 5annas+
"	Cairo	frk 5annas+
"	Brindisi	frk 8annas
"	Tiberius	frk 4annas+

Karachi to Bahrain 4.10.32 frk 3 1/4 annas+
 +bearing one or more Inauguration of Dehli stamps.

Kuwait cancellers - continued

I have just received the first report of a Sief date-stamp for use on ordinary mail. Neil Donaldson writes with regard to that shown below (and others to be shown later) :-
 '...amongst a lot of original strikes done for me by the Postal Supt. in 1972. They were all old cancellers by then no longer in use and were held in the Postal Dept's Store - which had previously been the Sief Post Office.
 The date removed from the canceller would no doubt have been '14', the date on which the P.O. closed.....'
 I am sure there is a cover out there somewhere bearing this cancel.



Alastair Gunn reports large diameter type 3 in use to 8.12.65 and type 4 until 27.1.64.

Large double oval registered date-stamps

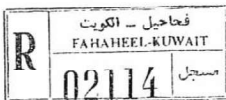
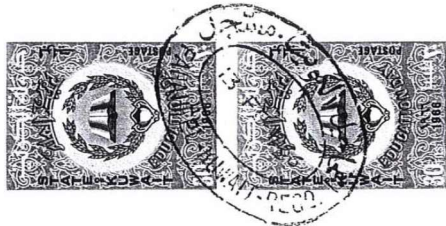
These were introduced from the late 1950's. Those recorded below all have the same design and measure 4.3cm maximum horizontal diameter.

Ahmadi - Kuwait Regd.	11.5.64 - 17.5.67
Fahaheel " "	29.1.60 - 27.9.66
Hawalli " "	18.1.66
Jewan " "	27.12.59
Kuwait " "	26.11.59 - 31.2.64 (location GPO)
Mubarakiya " "	21.8.62 - 4.3.63 (issue 3 page 5)
Mirgaab " "	12.9.60 - 14.10.61
Safat " "	18.5.61 - 20.9.66
Sharq " "	3.11.59 - 16.8.62
Sief " "	26.11.59 - 26.4.61
Airport " "	25.9.64

(Salamiya P.O. opened 1958 has not been recorded yet.)

See page 19 - above is local mail from Sief 26.4.61 to Ahmadi b/s 29.4.61 bearing a bilingual registration label.

Below is a G size registered letter 40np (local rate) from Jewan and b/s Safat 28.12.59. The existence of three post offices in Kuwait Town causes confusion about origin or destination of mail. In which of the three post offices GPO, Sief or Safat was P.O. Box 71 located?



Limited,

REGISTERED



The Resident Accountant
Kuwait Oil Company Ltd.
AHMAI.

AL-RASHED
Industrial & Contracting Co.
KUWAIT P.O. Box 241



Sief registered local mail

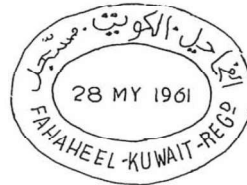
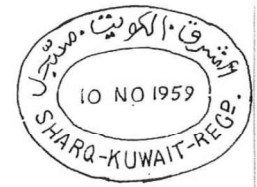


Jewan local registered letter

Oman exhibition postmarks



Four of the large double ring cancellers listed on page 18



Oman - Commemorative postmarks

1. Philexpo '86

A joint philatelic exhibition between Oman and UAE held in Abu Dhabi 11 to 17 June 1986.

2. Emirates '95

The first joint stamp exhibition by all six GCC member states held in the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi 11 to 17 April 1995. Each country was allowed 25 frames for displaying its official entry and a stand for sales.

3. Comex '95

The 5th International Computer, Office Automation and Telecom. Exhibition held in Seeb 17 to 20 April 1995.

The overprinted aerogrammes of Great Britain

Andrew Whitworth has sent me details of printing varieties occurring on the British aerogrammes which also appear on the Gulf overprinted issues. My published research into Gulf aerogrammes did not include this information.

GVIR (6d) sheet

The return address panel on the back of the sheet has three dotted guide lines with the following sets of measurements :-

1. 54,50,45.5 mm and 2. 54,47.5 43.5 mm

There are also two distinct paper tones :-

- a) grey-blue and b) light-blue

which are best compared side by side. The recorded combinations (including dates of use) are :-

Bahrain BAL1

- 1a) 26.6.52 to 9.11.52. 1b) 22.11.52. 2a) 3.6.53

Value Only COL1

- 1a) 24.2.53 (Muscat). 1b) 22.12.52 (Doha), 6.7.53 (Muscat)

Kuwait KUL1

- 1a) 26.4.53 to 12.3.54 1b) 8.1.53

The code numbers are from my publications. There are no recorded variations in any of the overprints.

EIIR Coronation (6d)

There is a break in the blue dots which make up the frame of the front panel. This occurs on all Bahrain and Kuwait sheets but only on 25% of the Value Only issue.

EIIR (6d)

The 1954 issue with the two line enclosure warning also has a frame break in the front panel recorded on :-

BAL4b 8.2.54 COL4b 8.7.54 and 28.4.56 (Muscat)

KUL4 1.2.54 and 8.7.54.

The following are recorded without the frame break :-

BAL4b 5.10.54 COL4b(mint), COL4c 30.10.56 KUL4(mint).

Position of the frame breaks



Overprint variety- new listing

A second overprint has been recorded on the Kuwait 6annas on 6d. The list will be amended as follows :-

KUL4 -.54 EIIR 6annas on 6d, sheet AP13 (Huggins)

Two line enclosure warning.

- (a) Surcharge measures 37mm

- (b) " " 35.5mm (new)

Later British aerogramme sheets also show printing variations and have been listed by Mr Whitworth :-

K 'number' refer to British aerogrammes. NOT KUWAIT

MLOI BAL dots point to remarks

format (a)

K16i	95	70.5	'ld'	
K16ii	95	68	'ld'	
K16iii	95	68	'ld'	Third address line broken 16mm from left
K17	102	70.5	'i'	
K19	97	68	'd'	several breaks in frame and 'second' fold lines
K22	96	67.5	'ol'	

format (b)

K24	94	61.5	'd'	'second fold here' 33mm
K24?	95	61.5	'd'	" " " 34mm
K24e	96	57.5	'ol'	

MLOI = 'Middle line of instructions' in warning panel

BAL = 'Bottom address line' on front panel

All measurements in millimetres.

dots point to = dotted fold lines and letters they point to.

The list below gives the correlation between the aerogramme varieties listed on the previous page and the Gulf aerogrammes listed in my catalogue. All measurements are taken to the nearest 0.5mm which in some cases was a personal judgement. Small discrepancies in our two sets of data caused no problems in identification. I am not proposing to renumber my list.

Format (a)

K16i.....BAL5a,KUL5c

K16ii.....BAL5a+;COL5c

K16iii.....BAL5c+,COL5a,KUL5b

K17.....BAL5b,COL5b,KUL5b

K19.....BAL5d+,6a,7a,7b+,7d*;COL5d,6b,7b;KUL5d,
KUL6a,6c;QAL1a,2a

K22.....BAL7b*,7c;COL7a;QAL2b

Format (b)

K24.....COL7d

K24?.....COL7f*

K24e.....COL7c

*only listed by TEJ

+only listed by AAW

No information to hand re BAL5e,6b,6c;COL5e,5f,6a,7e;
QAL1b,2c;KUL6b.

New listing

Col 7 types -.4.59 EIIR 30np on 6d

COL 7f

Surcharge 36mm.MLOI 94.5mm

folding dots to 'd' (all as COL7d) but

length of '←second fold here→' is

34.5mm against 33mm in other sheets.
