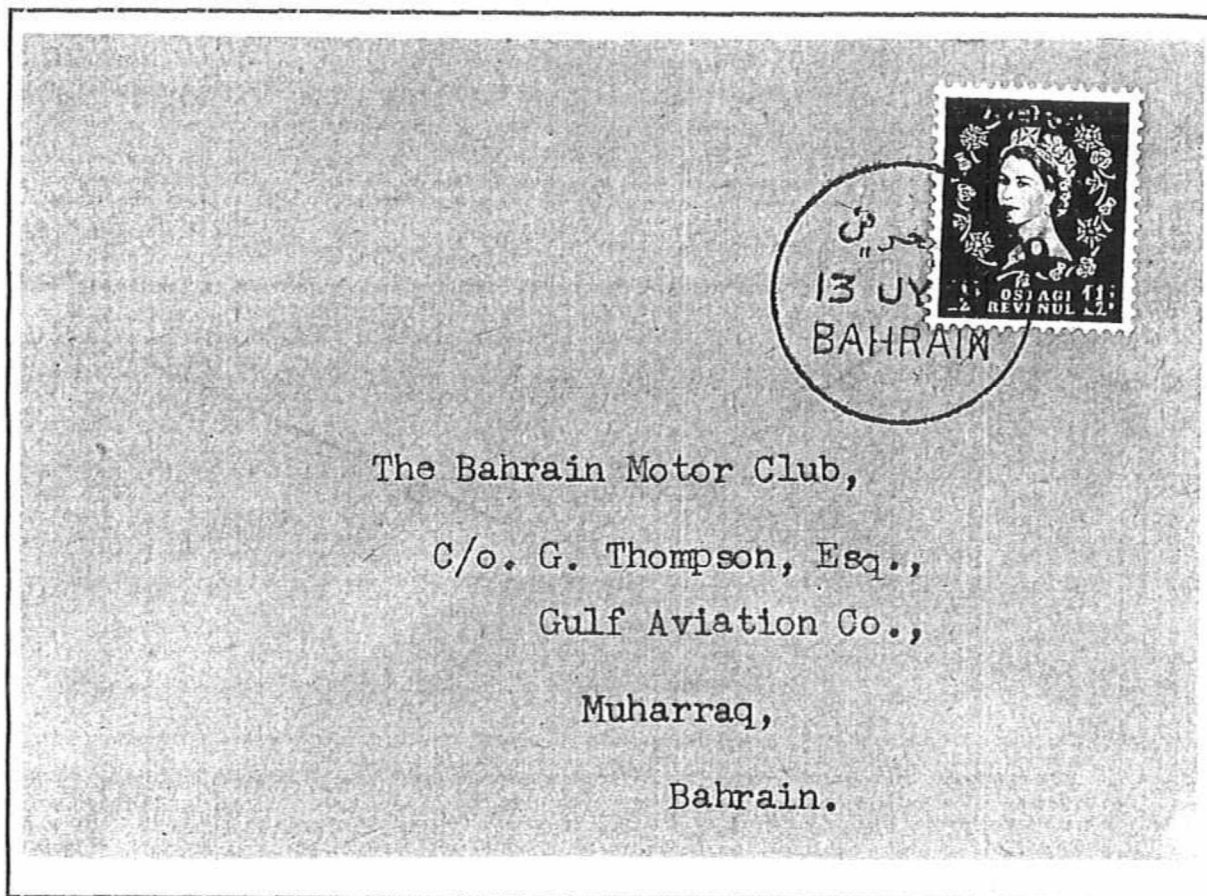


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



A local cover from Bahrain franked 9np and cancelled with
type 29, 13 July 1957

Published by TE Jones, 36 Cobham Rd., Accrington
Lancashire BB5 2AD, England
No. 16 Summer 2004

RECENT AUCTIONS

In May and June three auction sales took place in Dubai, London and Warrington which together contained the largest selection of Gulf postal history which has come on the market in recent years.

Highlights of the sales :

1. PHILAGENTA (of Munich) in Dubai 7.4.2004

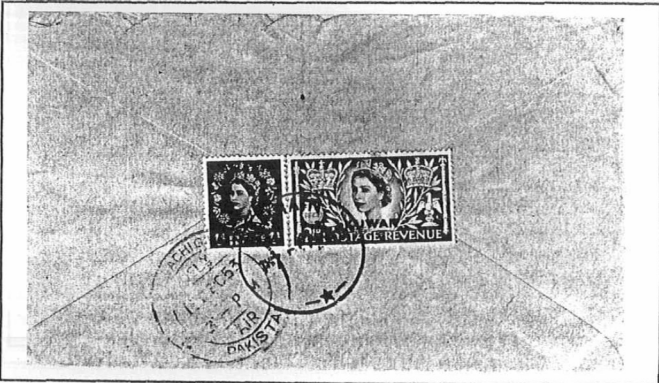
'Dubai - Gulf States Stamps and Postal History'.

This sale had 210 lots of Gulf items of which 140 were covers.

Abu Dhabi 10 out of 11 cover lots sold.

Bahrain 6 out of 9 sold.

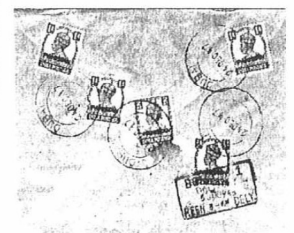
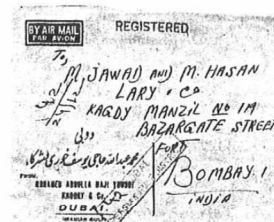
Lot	£est	£real
(4) from Das Island with SG1 to 5 canc. type 2	52	172
(34) Bahrain Zeppelin show in issue 15	1875	2475
(39) Bahrain Exchange Office canceller type 33	165	285



Lot (39) Mixed franking with Bahrain 1a and Kuwait 21/2as cancelled 17.12.53 to Pakistan. Type 33 was intended for use only on postal documents sent from one office to another.

Dubai 36 out of 46 lots sold.	£est	£real
(60) Dubai-Registered / censored 11.3.43	375	480
(Noteworthy only for the provisional label.)		
(62) Dubai-Due on censored cover tonext page		

Lot	£est	£real
(62) cont. Bombay 22.7.43.	95	unsold
See page 9		
(77) Airmail to Bombay with 1/2a&4as stamps of India overprinted Pakistan; cancelled type 6 Jan. 1948.	480	825
The strike of type 6 not particularly clear. (Not shown.)		
(78) Pakistan period reg. airmail to Bombay franked 1/2a, 3x1a, 2as with stamps of India opt. Pakistan. Canc. type 6 24.12.47 and reg. cachet type 9	375	675
(97) GVIR 6as purple Air Letter used on Postal Service from Muscat PO 1952. This sheet is COL1 in my aerogramme listing and indicates what I have always suspected, that the OHMS types were only used by the Superintendent of the Postal Agencies. Direct correspondences to individual postmasters elicited replies on whatever stationery was on sale at the time.	150	435



Lot (78)

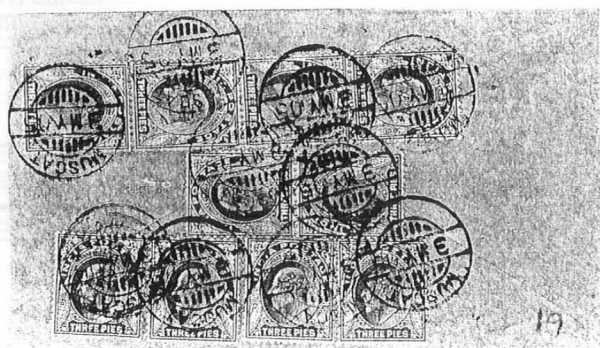
4

Kuwait : only 5 out of 21 lots sold.

	£est.	£rea
(154) 1926 reg. to Italy with type 26 canc.	165	195
(164) 1946 long airmail cover to UK 41 annas rate including 4x9p Indian Victory which were only on sale for a short time at Kuwait PO.	1125	1170

Muscat/Oman : 7 out of 9 lots sold

(177) 1905 cover with 10x3p canc. type 11	195	350
(179) 1940 Horseshoe route and triangular 'Passed Censor 49'.	473	473



Lot (177)

(182) 1949 OHMS cover with Indian canceller type 14a (latest recorded date) and Muscat cachet indicating that the BPA handstamps were not yet in service but the registration labels had been supplied.

98	192
----	-----

5

Lot (182)



In 1949 there was only irregular surface mail from Muscat. Air-mail was transferred to the air service at Karachi for onward transmission. Hence the 17 days to destination.

Qatar: Very little postal history has come onto the market over the last 25 years probably because so little exists. There has recently been great interest, and price increases fuelled by local demand. Thirteen out of the fourteen lots of postal history - 1960's covers - were sold with realisations from £120 to £150 each for commercial covers all addressed to Muscat. The interest here was for covers from the smaller PO's.

	£est	£real
--	------	-------

(216) Bahrain 40np EIIR aerogramme BAL6 cancelled Bahrain type 26, 11.11.57.
The Qatar connection is the return address : Doha, Qatar

(229) Registered Al-Kharaba 4.7.68	67	150
(230) Registered Albida - Qatar 31.10.69	52	150

Ras al Khaima : all 6 lots sold with prices ranging from £20 to £150 for single commercial covers.

Lot	£est	£real
(250) 1968 reg. to London franked with new currency surcharges. Triple overprint on the 3x IRiyal/1 Rupee (SG 65)	100	150
(251) 1967 reg. to London shown below	80	95



2. HARMERS Sale No.4725 on 6.5.2004

This was a general sale including interesting Gulf PH lots. As to be expected the estimates were too high for us ordinary mortals and some of the realisations were in the stratosphere.

Lot	£est	£real
Abu Dhabi 5 cover lots (some philatelic) all sold above estimate with average realisations of more than £100 per cover.		
Lot	£est	£real
(656) 1.11.67 Al-Ain PO opening day franked 5fils (SG26).	100	259
(660) 18.12.69 provisional 25f/15f (SG27a) Cancelled Das Island.	150	212

BAHRAIN 21 out of 40 cover lots sold. These were nearly all commercial mail.

Lot	£est	£real
(725) Reg. airmail franked India Victory set plus others. Cancelled type 9 28.10.47 (See colour page 11)	350	706
(745) GVR 4as3p reg. letter censored and cancelled type 5 on 15.1.42	250	470

DUBAI 7 lots none sold.

(888) 1946 to India with 'Dubai/Due/As' horseshoe type 11	250	-
(889) 1947 to Bombay with 5x3p optd. Pakistan on back and a very oily strike of type 11 on the front.	500	-

KUWAIT 6 out of 9 lots sold.

(1020) India air set on two reg. covers canc. type 7 on 16.2.34 (philatelic)	250	470
(1028) Bahrain to Kuwait with 'BAHRAIN PASSED BY CENSOR' on front. Franked 1a3p on back and cancelled Aug. 1941 type 5 (weak strike). Also Kuwait Exp. K-79 receiving mark dated 24.8.41. This cover on page 28 of the supplement to the Donaldson handbook.	250	565
(A unique combination of postal markings but an unsightly piece of postal history.)		
(1032) 1945 cover to Bombay with 1 1/2as of the India Victory issue plus 1a (Kuwait) canc. type 11.	250	470
(Kuwait covers franked with any of the Victory issue are rare.)		

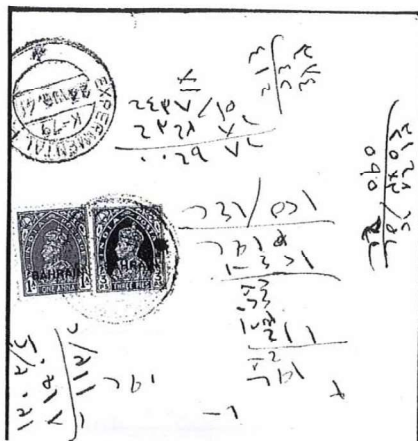
MUSCAT 3 out of 17 lots sold

(1084) 1/4a East India Post Card with additional franking of 1a3p cancelled type 11 on 15.11.00 to Berne.	150	235
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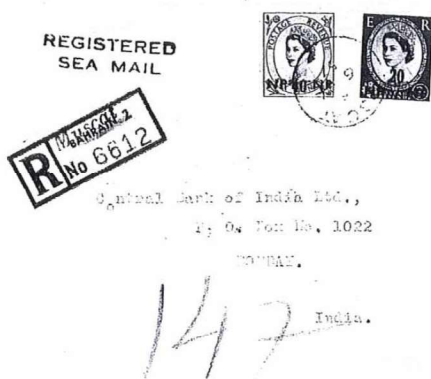
8

(1099) 1957 reg. to Bombay with Bahrain
registration label optd. Muscat.

Est Real
150 153

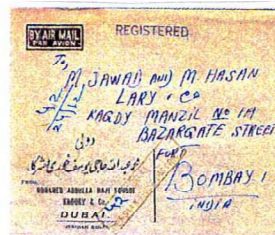
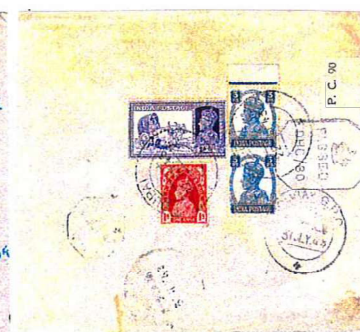


Lots (1028) part and (1032) part



Lot (1099) Temporary registration label

9



BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

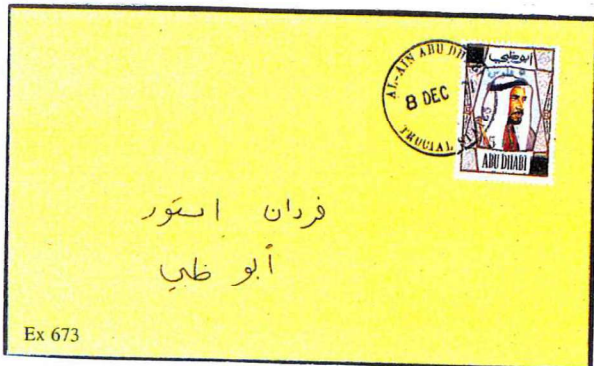


RUSCA 149

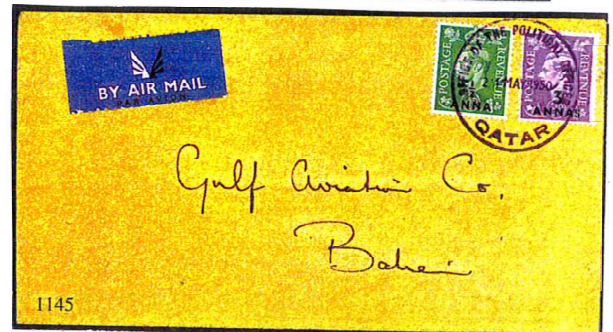
J. E. Hickinbottom Esq.
59 Watcombe Road
Southbourne
Bournemouth.
ENGLAND.



10



11





BAHRAIN
R No 0107

UNDER REGISTERED POST.

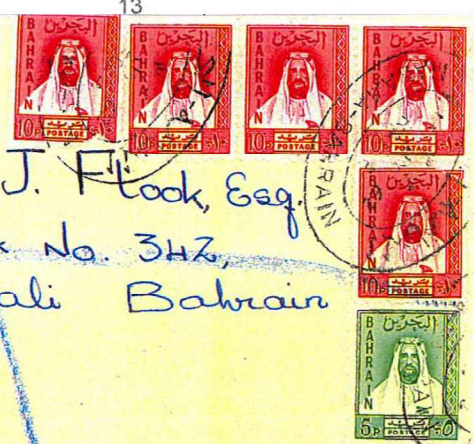
Mr. R.J. Flooke,
Marketing Division,
The Bahrain Petroleum Co. Ltd.,
AWALI (Bahrain).

Stephens,
Baxton Petroleum Co. Ltd.,
250,
(Bahrain).

REGISTERED.

BAHRAIN
R No 6946

R. J. Flooke, Esq.
Box No. 342,
Awali Bahrain



1 Manager,
Petroleum Company Ltd.,



MANAMA
Bahrain Petroleum Company Limited

14

LOCAL MAIL.

No. 018/60/18.

ATTENTION: MR. R.J. FLOOK.

342
The Bahrain Petroleum Co. Ltd.,

A W A L I,
Bahrain.

THE SHELL PETROLEUM COMPANY LTD.



15

Mr. Alan Cornack
BAPCO

A W A L I

Bahrain



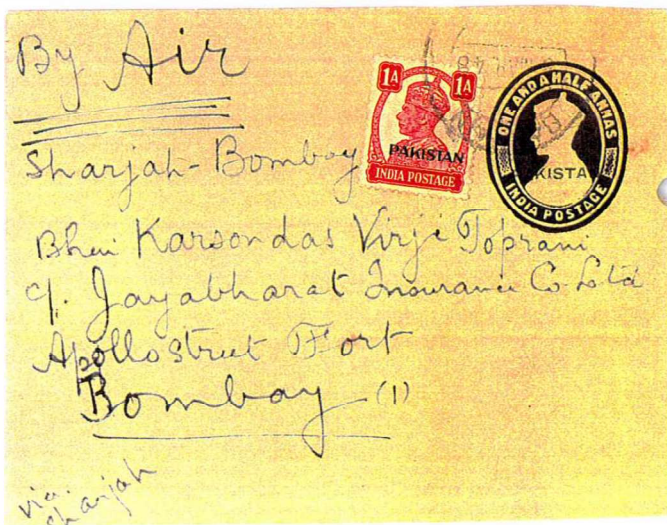
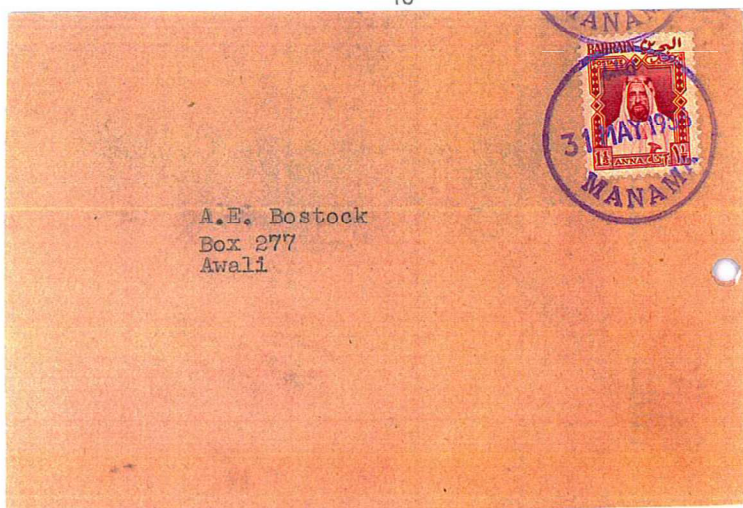
R.A.F. Seargents Mess,
AIRPORT, Muharraq.



Messrs.
French Wear House,
MANAMA



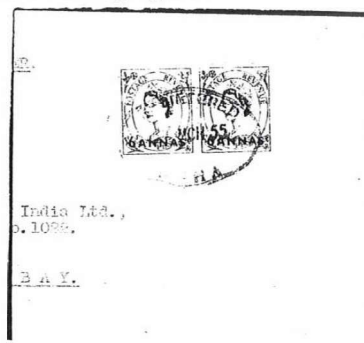
16



17

QATAR Two lots both sold

	£est	£rea
(1145) 21.5.50 to Bahrain. 1/2a and 3a cancelled with type 1 (See page 11)	2000	10586
(1145) A selection of 5 covers, 1955/60 two with Doha oval reg. type 3	150	9998



Lot (1145) part of cover with type 3 dated 17.3.55

In editions 8, 11 and 12 I have recorded some of early Qatar items which I have seen in the last few years. We can close the book on getting any more if these prices are maintained

3. PHILANGLES Sale 179 on 10.5.04

This sale had 38 lots of Abu Dhabi including 14 cover lots mainly FDC and other philatelic. Also lots of used on piece or loose including the 1966 surcharge varieties and later issues.



Lot (290) piece with SG24 short bar variety. Estimate £90/100

QATAR

Postal history from Qatar is noticeably absent from the pages of this magazine which is probably indicative of its scarcity. Here are the ones I selected to include in previous editions.

1. 1941 Censored airmail to USA - page 23, edition 12.

2. 1948 Aerogramme to London - page 10, edition 9.

3. 1951 Reg. airmail to India - pages 15/19, edition 11.

All franked with Bahrain stamps.

4. 1951 Airmail to London mixed franking - page 15, edition 11.

5. 1951 Formula aerogramme with Bahrain franking and Qatar return address - page 14/17, edition 9

6. 1952 COL 1 sheet to Liverpool - page 15, edition 9

7. 1954 Bahrain franking, Dukhan return address see edition 9 page 18, edition 11 and edition 14, page 21

8. 1958 Reg. airmail to Aden; Qatar franking - page 13, edition 13

9. 1959 Reg. airmail from Umm Said to USA - page 13, edition 4

10. 1959 Airmail from Umm Said to London - page 13, edition 4

Note 1 : 8, 9 & 10 are franked with stamps optd. Qatar.

note 2 : A PDQ return address on a cover franked with Bahrain stamps and cancelled in Bahrain only shows a connection with the oil development company which had an office in Manama as well as facilities in Qatar. Any such cover could have originated in Bahrain. In which case there is no postal history connection. But today's excitement is finding a 1940/1950's cover with any Qatar connection.

EDITORIAL

This edition includes highlights from recent auction sales which included a wide selection of postal history. Some of the realisations may just set us searching through our collections for? or bring a sigh of regret for covers we let go. Qatar is the hot spot at the moment. The Kuwait book reviewed on page 21 also gives prices.

Thanks to Jon Gilham I am now able to publish a lot of information about the Bahrain local post.

Correction - in the last edition I wrongly credited the Khor Fakkan cover to Ian Gregory instead of Graham Perfett. Sorry Graham.

BAHRAIN LOCAL POST

Thanks to Jon Gilham I can publish more information about the local postal arrangements in Bahrain during the 1950/60's. Last time I showed two local covers and those of you who collect Bahrain will realise how seldom these locals are seen. Bahrain had the first Gulf local post, promoted by the Postal Agency as a lead up to full postal independence. Three sets of locals were issued and listed in the catalogues :-

1953/6 1/2a, 1a, 1&1/2as

1957 3p, 6p, 9p

1961 5p, 10p, 15p, 20p, 30p, 40p

These went on sale at the Agency P.O.'s of Awali, Manama and Muharraq for use on local mail. Three locally made cancellers were supplied to Manama P.O. but the other offices used their existing cancellers. The recorded dates of use are :-

Type 29 (for letters) 1956/8

Type 30 (for packets) 1956

Type 31 (for packets) 1958



type 29



type 30

From the evidence it appears that :-

(a) a large part of the local demand was for a packet service which explains why type 30 and its replacement type 31 were both needed.

(b) supplies of local stamps soon started to run out because they were used in large multiples on heavier packets. The overprinted stamps were then used, particularly on the letters which were often franked with 1/2a multiples.

The postal rates were

Letters : 1½as with 1/2a steps (or later 3p and multiples)

Packets : multiples of the letter rate

Registration fee : 6as (or 40p)

By 1961 the letter rate was 5p or multiples.

A registration service seems to have been available but only two local covers have been recorded. Both were franked with local stamps but the label and cancellation were those in current use by the Agency Postal Service on external mail.

Pages 12&13 show these two covers. The earlier is dated 31.7.56 franked 7½as (1½as postage+6as reg. fee) and cancelled Bahrain type 27.

The later cover is franked 55p (15p postage, 40p reg. fee) with local stamps of the third (1961) issue and cancelled 17.7.62 with type 37.

Donaldson records that the 5&10p of this issue soon ran out. The demands of the packet service probably used up the supply.

Unlike Kuwait no local post offices were opened in Bahrain during the Agency period. All local mail was sent through the Agency offices with revenue accruing to the State. The first new state post office was opened in Isa Town in 1968.



Multiple packet franking cancelled 6.9.56 using type 30.

REVIEW

KUWAIT POSTAL CANCELLATIONS (1915 - 2000) AND STAMP DESIGNS AFTER LIBERATION OF KUWAIT

by

Salam & Saleem Al-Shakar

06108904 *Sept*

A copy of this excellently produced book has been kindly sent to me by Thomas Johansen. It is available direct from the authors via PO BOX 5344, Manama, Bahrain or Fax 973 227789 quoting ISBN 99906-600-2-6.

There are 224 pages in A4 horizontal format including over 30 colour plates showing a wide cross section of Kuwait postal history and 26 colour plates of recent stamp designs. There are detailed listings of the cancellers in use during the various periods as well as cachets and instructional marks. However not all cancellers are listed from the early years of postal independence (e.g. Mina al Ahmadi), whereas others are listed twice if their use spread over different postal periods. Recording of information in more recent times from a large postal authority is a huge task and the authors are to be congratulated in providing so much information. Each cancellation has a code (some of the worn states are given their own listings) and is priced on cover in \$US. I would tend to treat the pricing as a measure of scarcity and not a market value.

Mr Johansen asks me to list his websites.

www.oman-stamps.com

www.bahrain-stamps.com

www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com

TRUCIAL STATES - UPDATE

Some of the overprinted stamps of Ras al Khaima, SG60-67c, have been shown in edition 7. Graham Perfett has sent me copies of more examples on commercial mail. An overprint without a flaw seems to be a rarity! The piece bearing the 4 stamps is part of a cover to Foyle's Bookshop in London and the other piece from a Kodak film processing envelope. There

was probably more commercial mail from the Trucial States during this period than we thought.



David Donald has sent in copies of Sharjah SG type 35 inscribed 'Official' and 'Postage Due'.

The Official set of 8 is 10*,20*,35,60*,75dh,2,3*,5 R.

The Postage Due set of 4 is 10,20,60d,2R.

*Recorded used and mint.

COLOUR PLATES

Dubai Sale

Page 9 top : lot 62 Clear strike of 'Due' cachet. Lot unsold.

Middle: lot 78 Clear Dubai cancels on the Pakistan stamp.

Bottom : lot 179 cover inscribed 'Via Durban'. During 1940 the direct airmail service to UK by the BOAC Flying Boat service

had been interrupted by war. A truncated route was operated from Durban to Australia and New Zealand via Cairo. This is referred to as the Horseshoe route (see edition 14). A mail service to the UK was linked to this route by any means available and somewhere between Muscat and Durban this cover was transferred.

Page 10 Top: from lot (93). 1968 commercial cover to Muscat.

AR = Advice of Receipt and is previously unrecorded.

Boxed **RECOMMANDE** shows correct use of French as the international postal language.

Middle : lot 229

HARMERS SALE

Bottom : lot 673 3 FDC in lot all franked 5/50f; sold for £423

Page 11 Top: lot 725 - the only recorded Bahrain cover with the Victory set.

Middle : lot 1084 A colourful piece of PS .Is it philatelic?

Bottom : lot 1145 The 'BIG ONE'.

BAHRAIN LOCAL MAIL

Page 12 The only known example of local registered mail with stamps of the first issue.

Page 13 Top: The only known example franked with local stamps of the third issue.

Middle : Piece dated 6.3.57. Looks like the local stamps had run out by this date.

Bottom : Multiple of the 6p local issue on packet service in 1958.

Page 14 Top: Local piece cancelled 1960 with Muharraq type 36

Bottom : Awali to Muharraq local mail 25.7.57.

Page 15 Top : the old chesnut - the missing '1/2'. The postage rate was 18 1/2as so technically speaking this cover was correctly franked and cancelled with type 21. The extra stamp was just a pretty label.

Bottom : local mail also cancelled with type 21.

(Both these cancellations look like type 26 without the inner ring.)

Page 16 Top : packet canceller type 30 used on a letter. This cover is ex. Harry Hibbert collection and sold by Harmers on 11.8.87.

Some observations about the local service based on items I have seen recently and some of which are shown in this and the previous issue.

1. When supplies of the local stamps ran out the overprinted stamps were used on the local service.
2. No local registration labels or registered date stamps
3. Dates of introduction of the local cancellers not known. Type 31 is rarely seen. All types were struck in black and occasionally in violet.
4. Mixed frankings acceptable.
5. Very few local covers are recorded. The packet service was the main business.
6. Frankings with the third local issue are very scarce.

PAKISTAN POSTAL STATIONERY

On page 16 is the only recorded example of overprinted stationery cancelled in Bahrain. The letter came from Sharjah and the m/s 'By Air / Sharjah - Bombay' and the Bahrain cancellation tells us the unusual route taken. Why?

The obvious route from Sharjah, which had no post office at the time, was by hand to Dubai and on to Bombay. But any canny local merchant knew a quicker way to send his mail to India. He just needed to pick the right day and time.

The BOAC Flying Boat Service operated along the Gulf.

One service was Poole - Hong Kong via Bahrain and Dubai and return. The other service, land based, was from Herne to Australia via Bahrain (Muharraq) and Sharjah airport. Both operated weekly and passed through the Gulf on different days making it possible to forward by airmail from Sharjah to Bahrain and onward by the Flying Boat Service to India.

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