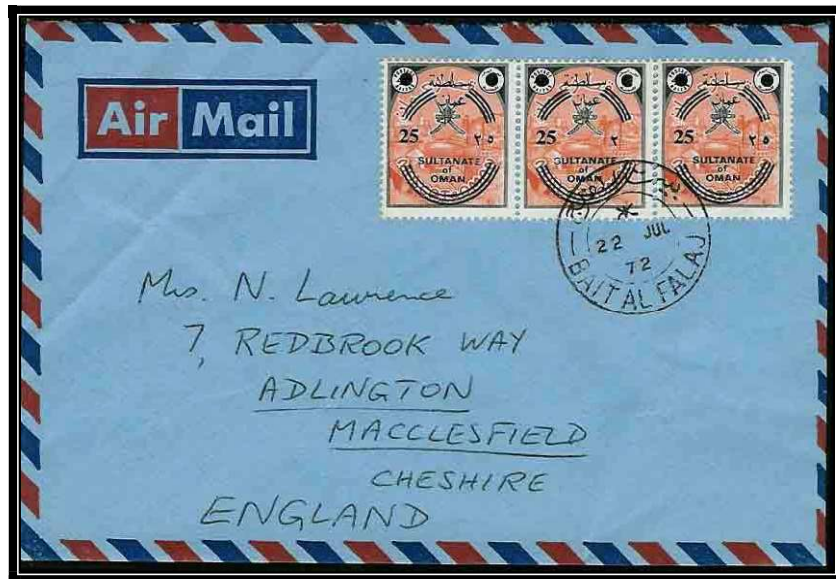


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



22 July 1972: A cover sent from Muscat, Oman to Macclesfield, UK showing the postal use of the 1972 surcharge error – The Missing Arabic “5”

Edition 22 - Spring 2007

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Welcome to Edition 22 of the Quarterly

Edition 22 has been quite enjoyable preparing for a number of reasons. First of all the feedback that I have received from many readers of Edition 20 & 21 has been extremely encouraging. Following in Terry's footsteps was always going to be interesting from a knowledge perspective but it is also a big responsibility to make sure that his concept of a journal based forum for discussing Arabian Gulf Postal History is continued and reaches as many people as possible.

Secondly, the number of individuals that have signed up for the journal exceeds 50 at first glance and hopefully more will join once they receive notification of Edition 22 having been released.

But, finally, and most importantly I have received contributions from 15 people plus a few that preferred not to be mentioned and I have had to put aside material for Edition 23 as well.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading the many contributions included in this edition, as much as I enjoyed receiving and preparing them for Edition 22.

In hope of your continued support,
Thomas

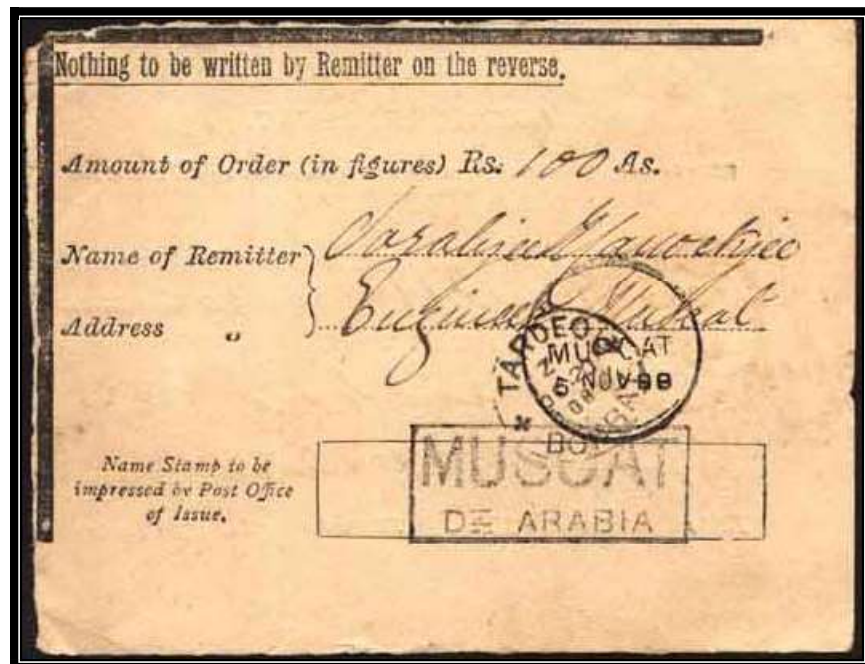
Comments, Questions & Corrections

The following feedback has been received from our readers:

In Edition 20 and 21 the Muscat Dt Arabia handstamp has been displayed and discussed. In order to just finalize the discussion for now let me conclude that the handstamp reads:

MUSCAT – DT – ARABIA with two lines under the DT – DT being the common abbreviation for District.

In addition to that the below illustration is now the earliest recorded use – 5th November 1888.



The shown “EXPRESS FEE PAID” handstamp, which was illustrated in Edition 21 on a cover sent to from Qatar to London, is with 99% certainty applied in London as it is a mark commonly found on incoming UK Express mail from anywhere abroad.



It is equally certain that the "POST OFFICE EXPRESS DELIVERY" label, although of a common British Post Office type, was applied in Qatar as we have to expect Qatar to have been supplied with this label if there was an Express service available in Doha.



30th July 1975: Another Express Delivery cover sent from Qatar to the USA without the "EXPRESS FEE PAID" cachet applied supporting is UK origin.



The "C-BASE POST OFFICE" marks were applied in the Basra area of Iraq - this office was never located in Bahrain although it was obviously used on uncanceled mail originating in Bahrain. There is nothing about the airmail envelope illustrated on page 43 in Edition 21 that suggests a Bahrain origin. Donaldson records "RAF CENSOR 796" on an airgraph from Bahrain but unless someone else has established that "RAF CENSOR 752" was in Bahrain AT THAT DATE, any claim to a Bahrain origin should be viewed with caution.

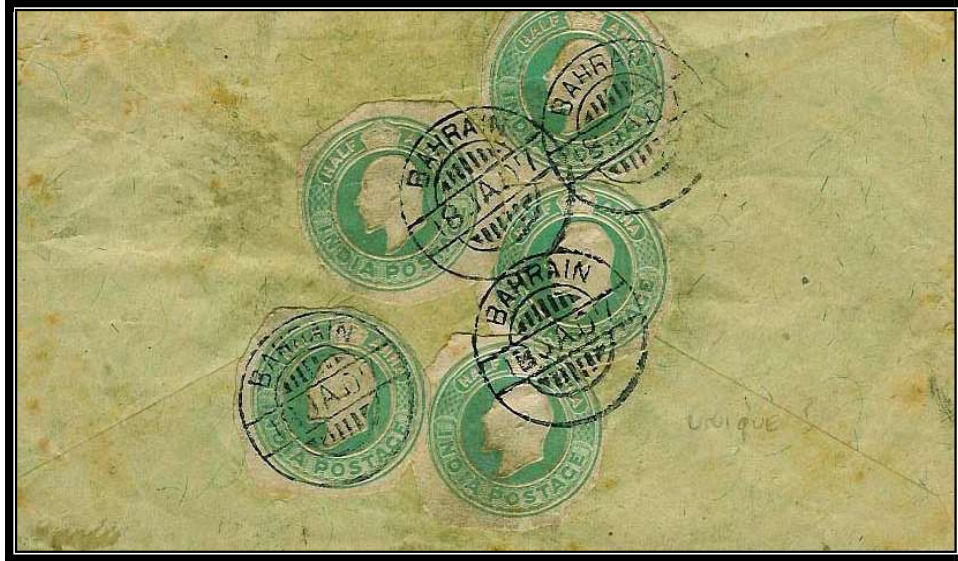


Two items recently listed at auction:

1. Iraq 10 Rupees cancelled with Donaldson Type 1: Can anyone shed some light on the use of Iraqi stamps cancelled with KOWEIT cancellers?
2. The 15 Rupees service stamp – till date only 1 recorded used stamp – this is the second, however, the cancellation strike has been drawn into question – genuine or forgery?

Bahrain

The use of embossed stationary cut-outs



Two covers illustrating the use of stationary cut-outs as franking. The top cover is dated 18th of January 1907 and sent from Bahrain to Jask. The bottom cover is dated 13th of July 1907 and sent from Bahrain to Boston, Massachusetts, where it was redirected to Vermont. The significance of the two covers, besides being uncommon, is that the below cover came with a reference to an order issued by the Director General of Post Office in Bombay, dated 15th of June 1907, that with effect of the 1st of July 1907 cut out stamps from embossed stationeries were prohibited to be used as postage stamps.



1932 First Flight Covers: Images and Information supplied by Steve Drewett



5th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Bahrain to Calcutta with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/BAHREIN-KARACHI” applied. The cover has been franked with one India 2 Annas airmail and a pair of 1 Anna “Inauguration of Delhi” cancelled by Donaldson Type 5B. How many were flown?



1st October 1932: First Flight cover sent from London to Bahrain with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/LONDON-BAHREIN” applied with 7th October 1932 arrival backstamp. How many were flown?



5th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Palestine to Bahrain with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/PALESTINE-BAHRAIN” applied. It also has the scarce “RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR/ INCLUSION IN AIR DESPATCH” cachet applied to it though this cachet was incorrectly applied. How many were flown?



October 5th 1932: First Flight cover addressed to Palestine with red “FIRST AIR MAIL/BAHRAIN-PALESTINE” applied. The cover has been franked with one India 2 Annas airmail and a pair of 1 Anna “Inauguration of Delhi” cancelled by Donaldson Type 5B. “BY AIR” and “T” tax handstamps applied along with a Palestine 8m “Postage Due” being added on arrival. **Only 7 covers were flown making it one of Bahrain’s airmail rarities.**



October 5th 1932: First Flight cover addressed to Brindisi, Italy with red “FIRST AIR MAIL/BAHREIN-ITALY” applied. The cover has been franked with one India 2 Annas airmail and a 6 Annas KGV cancelled by Donaldson Type 5B. “BY AIR” and “T” tax handstamps applied – a very rare stage but how many were flown?



30th September 1932: First Flight cover sent registered from Italy to Bahrain with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/ITALY-BAHREIN” applied. A very rare stage but how many were flown?



5th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Bahrain to Basrah with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/BAHREIN-BASRAH” applied. The cover has been franked with three 1 Anna “Inauguration of Delhi” cancelled by Donaldson Type 5B and has had a “T” tax mark and boxed “POSTAGE DUE” applied – the latter filled out with 30 Fils by the Basrah Post Office. **25 covers were flown.**



4th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Basra to Bahrain with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/BASRA-BAHREIN” applied. **A total of 30 covers were flown.**



4th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Baghdad to Bahrain with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/BAGHDAD-BAHERIN” applied. A total of 35 covers were flown.



5th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Bahrain to Cairo with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/BAHREIN-CAIRO” applied. The cover has been franked with one India 3 Annas KGV and a pair of 1 Anna “Inauguration of Delhi” cancelled by Donaldson Type 5B. A “T” tax marking has been applied and an 8m Egyptian postage due added on arrival. A total of 25 covers were flown.



October 5th 1932: First Flight cover addressed to Palestine with red “FIRST AIR MAIL/BAHREIN-CYPRUS” applied. The cover has been franked with two India 2 Annas airmail and one 1 Anna “Inauguration of Delhi” cancelled by Donaldson Type 5B. “BY AIR” and “T” tax handstamps applied along with a Palestine 8m “Postage Due” being added on arrival. **Only 7 covers were flown making it one of Bahrain’s airmail rarities.**

1945-1946: Indian Forces Post Offices in Bahrain

By Iain Gregory

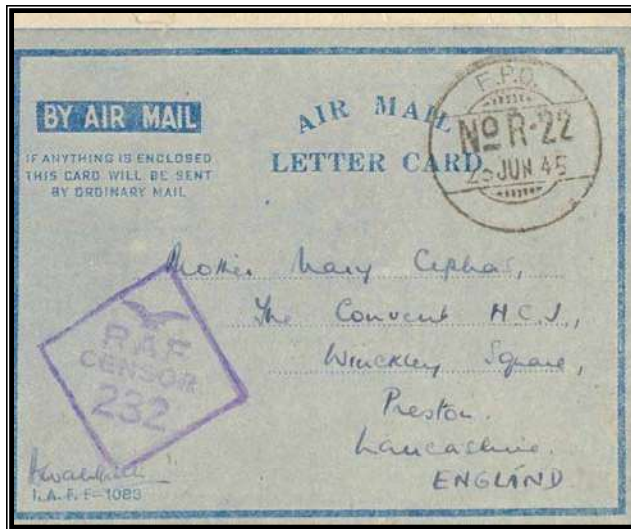
Donaldson Type 11 and 12 cancellations.

There seems to be very little written about the Indian Forces Post Offices which operated in Bahrain for a short time in late 1945 and early 1946. In our *bible*, "The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf", Neil Donaldson tells us that the Indian FPO R-22 (Type 11 cancellation) operated in Bahrain from June 19th 1945 to February 6th 1946 and was replaced from February 7th to April 15th 1946, by the Indian FPO 101 (Type 12 cancellation).

In his supplement, published in 1994, Donaldson records

- FPO R-22 earliest date 23.6.45 and latest date 16.12.45.
- FPO 101 earliest date 9.2.46 and latest date 9.4.46

These dates are based on the four covers illustrated here:



The first, No R-22 dated 23 JUN 45, is a forces air letter written from the "Sister's Mess, RAF Bahrain, Royal Air Force, Iraq and Persia" describing the increasing temperature and humidity and the hospital being in the "prickly heat business". The item has been cleared by the RAF Censor 232.

The second, No R-22 dated 16 DEC 45, is an "On Active Service" cover to UK with senders address "RAF Bahrain, Paiforce" but no other markings.



The third, No 101 dated 9 FEB 46, is another "On Active Service" cover to UK from the same sender at "RAF Bahrain, Paiforce" and again has no other markings.



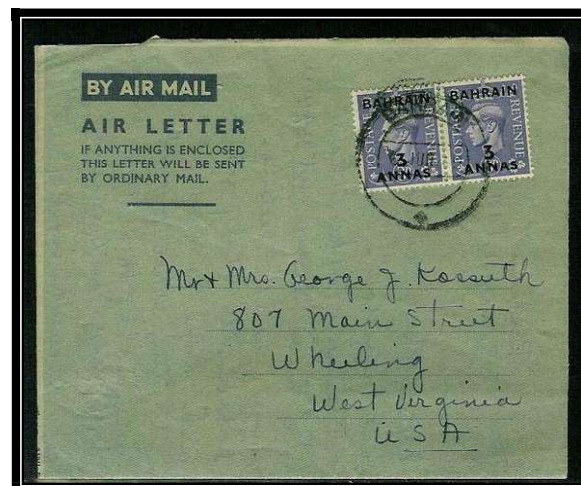


The fourth, No 101 dated 9 APR 46, has the same sender and recipient.

The transition from Indian to British Cancellers



I recently picked up the above cover dated 14th of June 1949 pushing back the previously earliest recorded use of Donaldson Type 21 by a week. With the below air letter showing the latest recorded use of an Indian canceller dated 6th of June 1949 the gap between the two is now down to 8 days.



Kuwait

Kuwait 1923/24 inverted overprint stamps: Our theory on their Story

By Adel Al-Sarraf & Khalid Abdul Mughni - KUWAIT

We will elaborate on what we believe happened in 1926 regarding the inverted overprints. Attached is a scan of all the values that were overprinted with an inverted “KUWAIT” overprint. These values are the ½ Anna, 1 Anna, 1 ½ Anna, 2 Annas and both colours of 3 Annas (dull Orange & ultramarine). The 1 ½ Annas (plural) also exists with inverted overprint and with both inverted overprint and inverted watermark. The 1 ½ Annas value, in both states (especially the inverted watermark), is scarce. We believe that one sheet of the inverted watermark variety was purposely fed in upside down to get the inverted watermark. The few examples we have seen all have brown gum. In total 8 stamps make the complete set of these “bogus” stamps.



In our opinion, in 1926, agents of the International Stamp and Commercial Agency (ISCA) in Bombay India and some of their close colleagues befriended the Indian printers, who had overprinted the Indian stamps “KUWAIT” in 1923. They then arranged to have these 8 values overprinted with inverted overprints as a favor. Since these inverts were never sold over the counter in Kuwait the company (ISCA) befriended the postmaster in Kuwait allowing them to send the stamps to him under cover with a request to supply these inverts “commercially” to India. He would apply the stamps on covers addressed to 65, Esplanade Road, Bombay, India, cancel them, and forward them through the postal system. Other covers were addressed to their colleagues in India, occasionally with the same address, Esplanade Road, as the ISCA. The Indian Postmaster then purposely crossed out the postage due cachet on arrival to indicate no extra payment was needed. There was also a cover with a pair of the 1 ½ Annas upright KUWAIT overprint addressed to this agency which supports the fact that they too were made philatelically in India. (Parsons page 20, figure 33). The 1 ½ Annas upright overprint is scarce as efforts were made not to flood the market. All invert covers, that exist, are philatelic and most, if not all, were mailed between May/August 1926. We assume that less than 25 covers exist, all of which are philatelic, as the agency had to be careful not to “flood” the market with the covers.



Most of the early letters of May/June 1926 were struck with a Kuwait Postage Due marking (Donaldson type 19), applied by the Post Master, and were subsequently cancelled. We believe the Kuwait Postmaster, unsure if these covers would pass through the postal system legitimately, applied these markings to ‘test’ their status en route. The Postmaster in India, who was probably also a friend of the ISCA, later had the postage due cachet annulled locally in India, thus allowing for the incoming covers to go through without any extra payment. After approximately 2 months, once the Kuwait Postmaster had noticed that the covers went through without a hitch, subsequent covers (August 1926) were mailed out and accepted without the postage due cachets applied. We have not heard or seen any covers posted after August 1926, which supports our theory that the International Stamp and Commercial Agency in Bombay did not want to flood the market with too many covers. They waited a little over a year before they wrote a letter to the Director-General of the Posts and Telegraphs Dept. in Iraq (who was supervising the postal services in Kuwait) to try and get these inverts officially and legitimately accepted.

The letter states:

"It has been brought to our notice that the Kuwait Post Office is under the control of the Iraq Government. If this is so, we write to point out to you that our Agents at Kuwait inform us that the inverted overprinted stamps are not accepted for postage by the Kuwait Post Office and we are told that the matter has been referred to you for orders. These inverted overprint Kuwaits are errors officially issued and have been admitted as such, and therefore, their status as postage stamps are the same for franking purposes as the ordinary stamps and should be admitted as such. We would therefore submit that this matter may receive your consideration and that you should direct the Kuwait Post Office to accept the inverted overprints for postage. (Donaldson page 111)"

Obviously the Iraqi Postmaster never accepted these stamp legitimately as there was never any official announcement declaring them so. Alan Parsons in his book "The Indian Postal Agencies in the Persian Gulf Area" states on page 19 that "In 1926 a supply of adhesives with the overprint KUWAIT inverted was released by the treasury at Basrah and sold in the Post Office. At first attempts were made to levy postage due on the grounds they were an unauthorized issue. However, after correspondence at the highest level, the charges were cancelled." Unless someone can supply us with a copy of that official letter or has supporting documents saying so, we do not believe that these issues were released by the treasury at Basrah but were made by the Indian overprinters of the Kuwait stamps in Bombay. Another reason is that none of the 1926-covers have been

found addressed other than a Bombay address destination - i.e. no European or American destinations.

However, in 1927, as this was the close of the inverts story, this action did not stop forgers in India from eventually forging all the 1923 values as this was usually done on used copies of un-overprinted Indian stamps.

Below is a list of covers that we have seen or heard of. The normal rate at that time for those covers was 6 Annas (**3 Annas for surface mail + 3 Annas for registration**):

Kuwait inverted covers

10 MAY 1926

Cover 1: 3 As, 2 As, 6 Ps, $\frac{1}{2}$ A (inv) - Postage Due – Registration number is 178 or 183 (Courtesy Frank Mallalieu)

Cover 2: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ As(x2), 3 As. (inv) - Postage Due – Reg #?

12 MAY 1926

Cover 3: $\frac{1}{2}$ A x 6, total 3 As (inv) - Postage Due - Not Reg

24 JUN 1926

Cover 4: 2 As, 1 A, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ As, 1 A, $\frac{1}{2}$ A (inv) - Postage Due - Reg #163

Cover 5: 2 As 6 Ps, $\frac{1}{2}$ A, 3 as.(inv) - Postage Due - Reg #167

11 AUG 1926

Cover 6: 6 As, 1 A (inv) - Reg #156 - The 1 Anna invert shifted looks like a possible forgery. Most if not all the inverts recorded are not shifted and are fairly centered (Courtesy Frank Mallalieu)

Cover 7: 3 As, 3 As (inv) - Reg #157

Cover 8: 4 As, 2 As (inv) - Reg #158

Cover 9: 4 As, 2 As (inv) - Reg #159

Cover 10: 2 As 6 Ps (x2), 1 A (inv) - Reg #170 (Courtesy of Frank Mallalieu)

Cover 11: 3 As, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ As, 1 A, $\frac{1}{2}$ A (inv) - Reg #175

Notes

1 - These covers do not represent all the covers which bear stamps with KUWAIT inverted over-print. However, these are what we have seen from private collections and exhibits, auctions and what is contained in philatelic reference books. Total 11 covers (10 Registered and One Not Registered).

2 - These covers were previously carefully prepared with KUWAIT inverted over-print stamps in India and sent by dealers or professional collectors in Bombay, India to the Post Master of Kuwait and asked by favor to mail them back to India where it seems no stamps with inverted over-print had been sold in Kuwait.

3 - Registered mail as per the customary regulations does not permit for Postage Due. It seems that Post Master of Kuwait was doubtful about the correctness of fare given the cover; therefore he added a "Postage Due" cachet as a precaution on the first dispatches in May & June 1929. After safe delivery of the covers to the addresses, he deemed his arrangement as correct; therefore he did not add "Postage Due" cachet on the dispatches made in Aug 1926.

4 - All the covers bear the correct fares (3 Annas for surface mail + 3 Annas Registration fee) except one cover over paid one Anna.

We hope this gives you an idea of what went on during the 1920s when it comes to these inverted overprints. We would appreciate any extra comments, scans, articles or corrections anyone can supply us regarding this topic.

KING GEORGE V STAMPS WITH INVERTED OVERPRINTS USED ON COVER – By Frank Mallalieu

The authenticity of the inverted overprint "KUWAIT" on the first issue of the King George V stamps (1923-24) has been the subject of controversy ever since they first appeared in 1926. Inverted overprints are known to exist on the first four values (1/2 Anna, 1 Anna, 1 1/2 Anna, and 2 Annas) as well as the two 3 Annas stamps (orange-brown and ultramarine issues), according to both the Stanley Gibbons catalog and the Scott catalog. In addition, Neil Donaldson, in his book *THE POSTAL AGENCIES IN EASTERN ARABIA AND THE GULF* indicates that the 1 1/2 Anna issue is also known with inverted overprint. In Donaldson's opinion these inverted overprints are "undoubtedly genuine", although he also states that "....it is doubtful if they were actually sold in the Post Office, even though they are known used on ordinary and registered covers". He doesn't elaborate on how he believes these inverted overprint stamps were procured by the senders if the stamps weren't purchased at a post office.

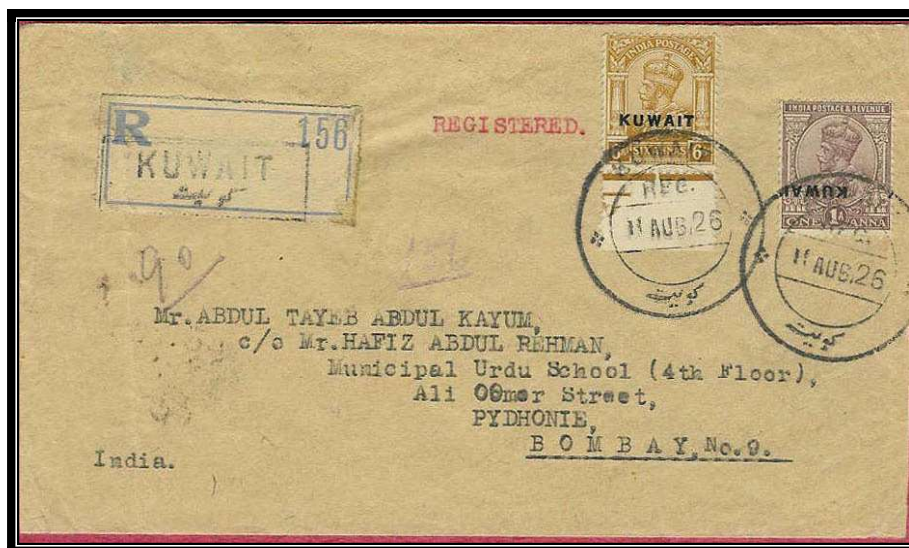
Most of the covers with the inverted overprint stamps seem to have been mailed in 1926, and most of these covers had India as their destination. There has been some speculation that many of these covers are probably philatelic in nature, especially those sent to a stamp company in Bombay, India.



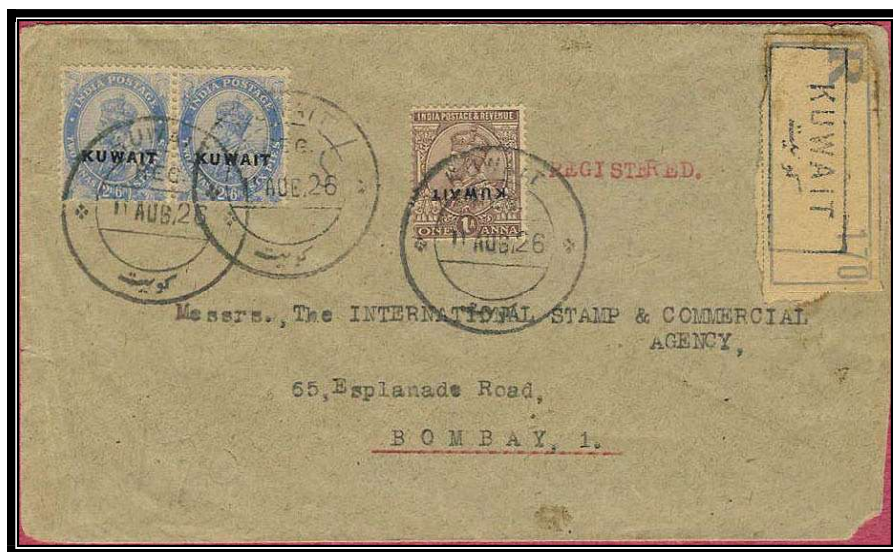
Registered cover from Kuwait to Bombay, India with postmark dated 10 MAY 26 and received at Bombay on May 22, 1926 (receiving postmark on the back). The cover is franked with a 1/2 Anna with inverted overprint, a 2 1/2 Annas (2 Annas, 6 pies), and a 3 Annas stamps, for a total of 6 Annas. The cover bears a registration label (or cachet) with a rubber-stamped Kuwait overprint in English and Arabic (Al-Shakar #KIC 12). Although it is hard to detect, the registration label appears to bear the number 183. In addition there is a bilingual postage due cachet (Donaldson Type 19), which has been crossed out with ink pen (presumably by the Kuwait Post Office before the cover left Kuwait).

Although Donaldson states that in his opinion these inverted overprints are genuine, the Kuwait Postmaster must have thought differently, at least for a time, because many of these covers received the Kuwait Post Due Marking (Donaldson Type 19). Subsequently many of these markings were crossed out or otherwise obliterated during the mailing process. However, the controversy about the authenticity of these inverted overprints continued for sometime, as evidenced by a letter sent to the Director-General of the Posts and Telegraphs Department by the International Stamp and Commercial Agency in November, 1927. It states as follows:

"It has been brought to our notice that the Kuwait Post Office in under the control of the Iraq Government. If this is so, we write to point out to you that our Agents at Kuwait inform us that the inverted overprinted stamps are not accepted for postage by the Kuwait Post Office and we are told that the matter has been referred to you for orders. These inverted overprint Kuwaits are errors officially issued and have been admitted as such, and therefore, their status as postage stamps are the same for franking purposes as the ordinary stamps and should be admitted as such. We would therefore submit that this matter may receive your consideration and that you should direct the Kuwait Post Office to accept the inverted overprints for postage."



Registered cover from Kuwait to Bombay, India with postmark dated 11 AUG 26 and received at Bombay on August 31, 1926 (receiving postmark on the back). The cover is franked with a 1 Anna with inverted overprint and a 6 Annas stamps, for a total of 7 Annas (the cover being overfranked by one Anna). The inverted overprint on the 1 Anna stamp was poorly printed, with the "T" of Kuwait missing. The cover bears a registration label (or cachet) with a rubber-stamped Kuwait overprint in English and Arabic (Al-Shakar #KIC 12). The registration label number is 156.



Registered cover from Kuwait to Bombay, India with postmark dated 11 Aug 26 and received at Bombay on August 31, 1926 (receiving postmark on the back). The cover is franked with a 1 Anna inverted overprint and 2, 2 1/2 Annas stamps, for a total of 6 Annas. The cover bears a registration label (or cachet) with a rubber-stamped Kuwait overprint in English and Arabic (Al-Shakar #KIC 12). The registration label number is 170.

It is not known if the Posts and Telegraphs Department agreed with this conclusion, and/or directed the Kuwait Post Office to accept the inverted overprinted stamps as legitimate postage. In as much as most examples of these stamps used on covers have cancellation dates of 1926, a request in late 1927 that they be allowed to be used as legitimate postage seems to have been rather after-the-fact. Several covers bearing the inverted overprinted stamps have postmarks dated 1926 that went through the mail without having any additional postage due markings. It would appear that the Kuwait Post Office had lifted its opposition to the use of the stamps for legitimate postage well before November of 1927. The use of the inverted overprinted King George V stamps for legitimate mailing purposes is an interesting element of the early years of Kuwait Philately.

The below image of an “Invert” cover was supplied by Gary Watson:



Registered cover from Kuwait to Bombay, India with postmark dated 11 Aug 26. The cover is franked with a 2 Anna inverted overprint and a 4 Annas stamp, for a total of 6 Annas. The cover bears a registration label (or cachet) with a rubber-stamped Kuwait overprint in English and Arabic - The registration label number is 169.

The cover and scans illustrated below were supplied to us by Geoff Chivers:



Registered cover from Kuwait to New York, USA with postmark dated 10 MAR 47. The cover is franked with a 1 ½ Annas inverted overprint and 2 and 6 Annas Airmail stamps along with one ½ Anna KGV stamp for a total of 10 Annas. The cover

bears a registration label (or cachet) with a rubber-stamped Kuwait overprint in English. The registration label number is 58.

The two articles illustrated above were first published in a publication called "Philatelic Magazine" in 1928. The article on the left is dated 7th January 1928 and the article on the right is dated 12th May 1928. It appears that the 7 January letter is in response to an earlier article or letter of which I don't have a copy.

ARE KUWAIT ERRORS GENUINE?

Sir,—The Office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Baghdad, now advises me as follows:—

"The Deputy-Controller of Stamps, Calcutta, has again confirmed the fact that no stamps (including the 3 annas) overprinted "Kuwait" were issued by his office, either with imprints inverted or with errors of any sort.

These Kuwait stamps, as you are aware, are printed for us, and all such stamps pass through us before they are issued for sale. On receipt they are carefully examined and checked, and, so far, we have never detected any error.

I am not aware of the authority for 'XYZ' stating that the 3 annas orange-brown with inverted prints of Kuwait is genuine and that it was legitimately issued. This is not correct. I am afraid this information is on the same lines as the remainder of the article, wherein 'XYZ' further states, 'the Postal Authorities in India who issue these Kuwait stamps have specially denied that these errors were ever sent to Kuwait.' The Postal Authorities in India do not issue these stamps, nor do they appear to have issued any statement regarding these stamps—stamps they have no connection with.

As far as we are concerned, we are quite satisfied that no errors as alleged were ever issued."

Yours faithfully,
O. G. KIERNANDER
(Major).

Basra.

*** We hold no brief for the errors, genuine or otherwise, but since an error is not an error if knowingly done, how can the impossibility of its occurrence be substantiated?—Editor, "P.M."

KUWAIT.

Sir,—Major Kiernander, in condemning all the inverted prints of Kuwait, ought to have excepted the 3 as. orange-brown. This is the only genuine error of the lot, and was legitimately issued about three or four years ago. Mr. R. Roberts, and other dealers, had it for sale at the time. (In Mr. Roberts' lists this stamp *alone* is noted now, and the others ignored). About two years ago imprints of this Kuwait setting were illegally obtained (through the connivance of an official of the Government press in Calcutta) on all the lower values up to 4 as. with the imprints inverted. The 3 as. value was in blue. At the same time some of the lowest values were similarly perpetrated with double prints. Several entire sheets of each of these frauds were made. As Major Kiernander states, some of these "errors" were posted in Kuwait (long after their pretended issue), and so exist on originals!

These facts were exposed some months ago in the "Philatelic Journal of India"; and the postal authorities in India, who issue these Kuwait stamps, have specifically denied that these "errors" were ever sent to Kuwait. The catalogue-makers, however, still retain them in their pages, and ignore all statements that have appeared (apparently being averse to omit them and so lose money "invested"). It is a small mercy the 4 as. inverted, and the double prints, have not also been catalogued. (Perhaps they were not "invested" in?).

London. _____ XYZ.



A July 1933 Zeppelin cover sent from Kuwait to Recife, Brazil from the same flight as one of only two known dispatches out of Bahrain. Herman Stoltz was a company specifically set up to handle Philatelic Zeppelin mail.



14.6.1948, Large registered airmail cover (ca. 385 x 275 mm) from 'Kuwait Oil Company' to London bearing the possibly highest franking from Kuwait with 15 R. on 1 Pd. silver jubilee + 5 x 5 R. on 5/- KGVI and 3 lower values, roughly opened and some wrinkles.

1990: The Lanner Falcon Definitive Issue

By Mashael Al-Hajeri



On the 7th of July 1990 Kuwait issued its last pre-invasion set – The Lanner Falcon issue. Upon Iraq's occupation of Kuwait on the 2nd of August 1990, Kuwaiti currency and stamps were looted and the postal service, which operated from Safat Post Office, used Iraqi stamps.



8th July 1990: A pre-invasion usage shown on a registered airmail covers send from Kuwait to the USA. It has been franked with a 100 Fils Lanner Falcon and a 250 Fils commemorative stamp making up the correct registered airmail rate of 350 Fils to the USA. The cover has been cancelled with an oval registered datestamp (Al-Shaker Type KAC 04) with an additional three strikes on the back.

8th July 1990: A similar cover (Shown on next page) to the one shown above but franked with a 150 Fils Lanner Falcon and a 200 Fils commemorate stamp in order to make up the 350 Fils registered airmail rate to the USD. The cover has been cancelled at Hawalli Post Office with an oval registered datestamp (Al-Shaker Type KLC 81B).



After the liberation of Kuwait on the 26th of February 1992, all pre-invasion issues were declared obsolete by the Kuwait Government and thus demonetized. However, in January 1993 many of these stamps were placed back in sale – including the Lanner Falcon issue.



4th July 1993 (Top Cover): An airmail cover sent from Hawalli, Kuwait to the UK and franked with a 100 Fils Lanner Falcon and 50 Fils Court issue making up the airmail rate of 150 Fils for a standard letter to a non-Arab country.

21st April 1994 (Bottom Cover): A registered Express Delivery airmail cover sent from Ahmadi, Kuwait to Princeton, USA. The cover has been franked with five 100 Fils Lanner Falcons in addition to a 50 Fils commemorative stamp making up the rate of 550 Fils covering 350 Fils for registration and 200 Fils for Express Delivery. (This cover was also shown in AGPHQ Edition 19).

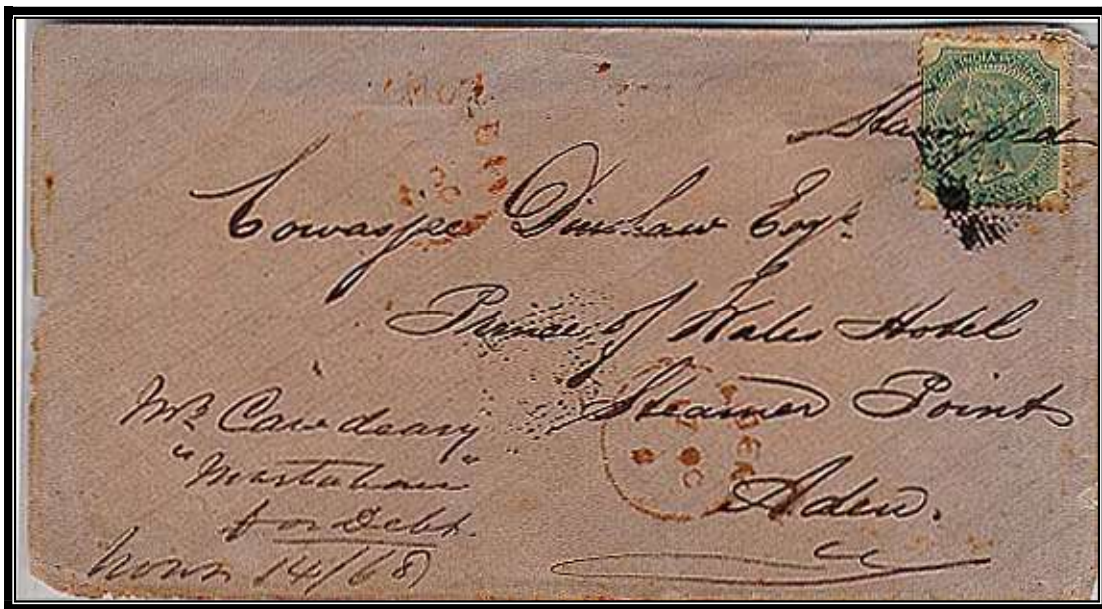
Muscat & Oman

1973: Paid or not Paid – The practice of using red or black ink

During the early years of the Muscat Post Office, mail was dispatched either paid or not paid – i.e. to be paid by the addressee. In order to distinguish between mail and unpaid mail black ink was applied to the obliterator or datestamp of unpaid mail, whereas red ink was applied to mail that had been paid.



An unpaid cover sent from Muscat on the 1st of April 1868 to Bombay. The Unpaid status of the cover has been confirmed by the use of black ink when applying the Donaldson Type X datestamp and again by the use of black ink when applying the Bombay arrival backstamp.



A paid cover sent from Muscat on the 3rd September 1868 Steamer Point in Aden via Bombay. The payment of full postage, i.e. 4 Annas has been confirmed by the use of red ink when applying the Donaldson Type X datestamp. The cover has an Aden arrival backstamp dated the 17th of October 1868, also applied in red

I presume that the practice was in place in case Post Offices ran out of stamps and as such were able to continue to handle post – if there is any other explanations please let them be known.

The practice was in place until some time between March 27th 1873 and May 10th 1873 from where on all mail was cancelled with black ink – Can anyone narrow the gap or has anyone got additional information or ideas about this practice?



A cover sent from Muscat to Calcutta on 15th of March 1873 cancelled with Donaldson Type 2 applied in black ink. The Bombay transit stamp has been applied with black ink but the Calcutta arrival backstamp has been applied with red ink.



A cover sent from Muscat to Calcutta on May 10th 1873 cancelled with Donaldson Type 2 applied with black ink as has the Calcutta arrival backstamp.

India used in Muscat

I recently got hold of a collection of India used in Muscat showing a number of different stamps along with different cancellation marks and franking combinations. The below images show some of the stamps were included in this collection.



India 1865 ½ Anna and
India 1866 4 Annas (Die
I) - Both cancelled with
Donaldson Type 1A.



India 1868 8 Annas (Die II) and India 1865 1 Anna cancelled with Donaldson Type 1A
India 1865 ½ Anna (Die I) and India 1865 1 Anna cancelled with Donaldson Type 4.



India 1873 ½ Anna (Die II) - India 1882-90 ½ Anna, 2 Annas, 3 Annas (orange) and 4 Annas – India 1891 2 ½ on 4 ½ Annas and 1892-97 2 ½ Annas all cancelled with Donaldson Type 9 squared circle.



India 1882-90 ½ Anna, 1 ½ Annas, 2 Annas, 4 Annas and 8 Annas plus 1892-97 2 ½ Annas all cancelled with Donaldson Type 11.



India 1900-1902 new colours ½ Anna, 1 Anna, 2 Annas and 2 ½ Annas all cancelled with Donaldson Type 11.



India 1899 3 Pies and India 1900-1902 ½ Anna yellow-green cancelled with Donaldson Type 11.

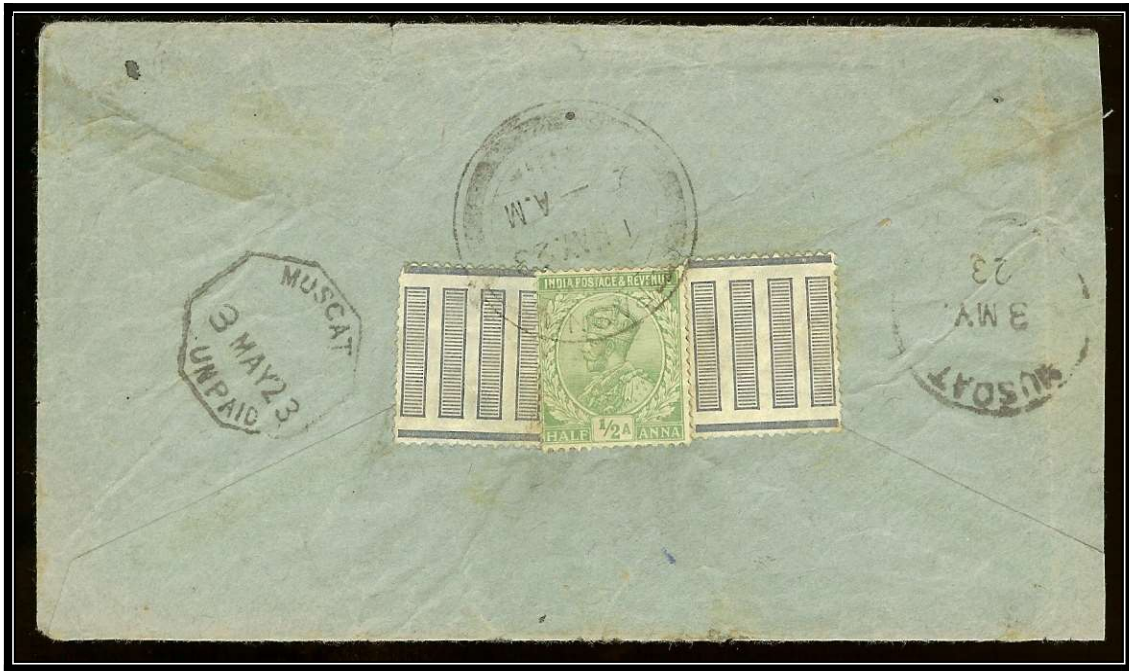


India 1902-11 ½ Anna, 2 Annas, 2 ½ Annas and 8 Annas along with India 1906-07 2 Annas all cancelled with Donaldson Type 11.

Unpaid in Muscat – The octagonal handstamp



A cover, sold at an auction last year, sent from Pasni to Muscat on the 1st of May 1923 and with arrival backstamp dated 3rd of May 1923 at an auction. Besides what is apparently a rare Pasni Postage Due Horseshoe, the cover had been correctly applied with an octagonal “UNPAID” handstamp that I had not seen before. Having researched the handstamp by asking a few other people, I have now found out that a total of 3 covers are recorded with this handstamp and that Donaldson’s 1994 Supplement records its use from the 3rd of May 1923 to the 4th of July 1942. In addition to the 3 covers I have also come across a British Period cover with the same handstamp and though I don’t remember the date of the cover, it indicates a period of use of at least 25 years.



The octagonal “UNPAID” handstamp must have taken over from the oval “UNPAID” handstamp recorded used in Muscat on the 24th of May 1901 and 27th of October 191



This handstamp is recorded used as late as 1921 in its Bahrain format (image taken from Donaldson’s 1994 supplement).

1st July 1972: 25 Baizas on 40 Baizas Surcharge



In 1970, following the accession of Sultan Qaboos, Muscat & Oman changed its name to the Sultanate of Oman. Subsequently the 1970 definitive issue was re-issued on the 16th of January 1971 overprinted “Sultanate of Oman” in English and Arabic.



The 25 Baizas value ran short before the “new” 1972 definitive issue became available on the 23rd of July 1972 so it was decided to surcharge the overprinted orange and black 40 Baizas with “25” in English and Arabic and the value was place on sale on the 1st of July 1972.

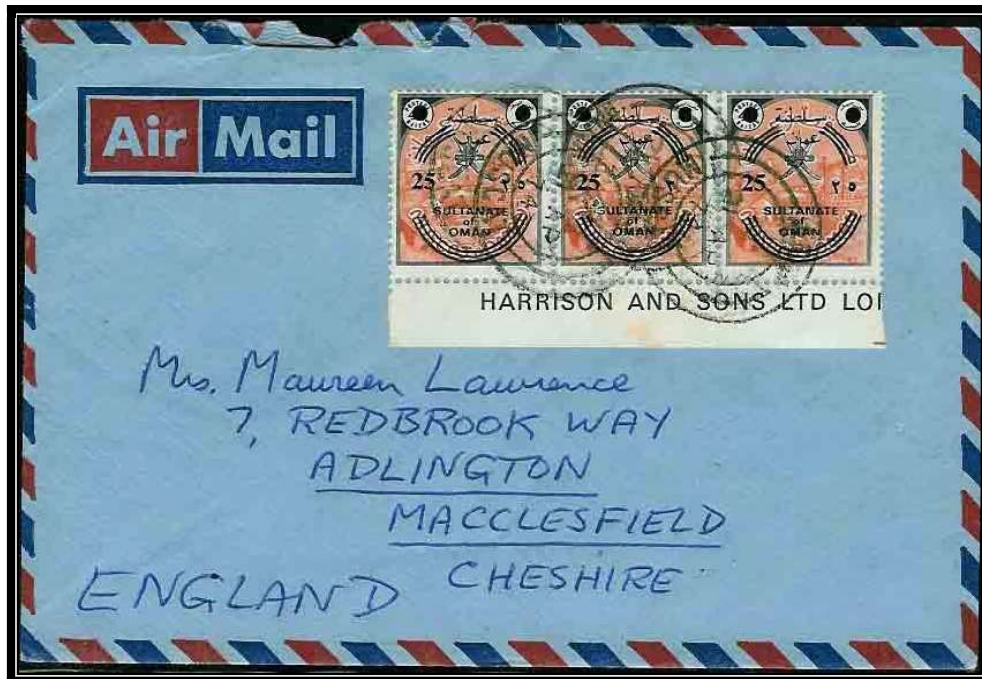
The overprinting was done by the Sultanese Printing Press in Muscat. A total of 1000 sheets of 120 were surcharged with a setting of 10 x 4 and though the overprinting was generally neatly done two errors arose from the overprinting – the missing Arabic “2” and the missing Arabic “5”.

In addition to the covers with missing Arabic “2” or “5” in Donaldson’s 1988 sale I have only recorded six covers. If anyone has any covers I would appreciate you forwarding me a scan or photocopy.



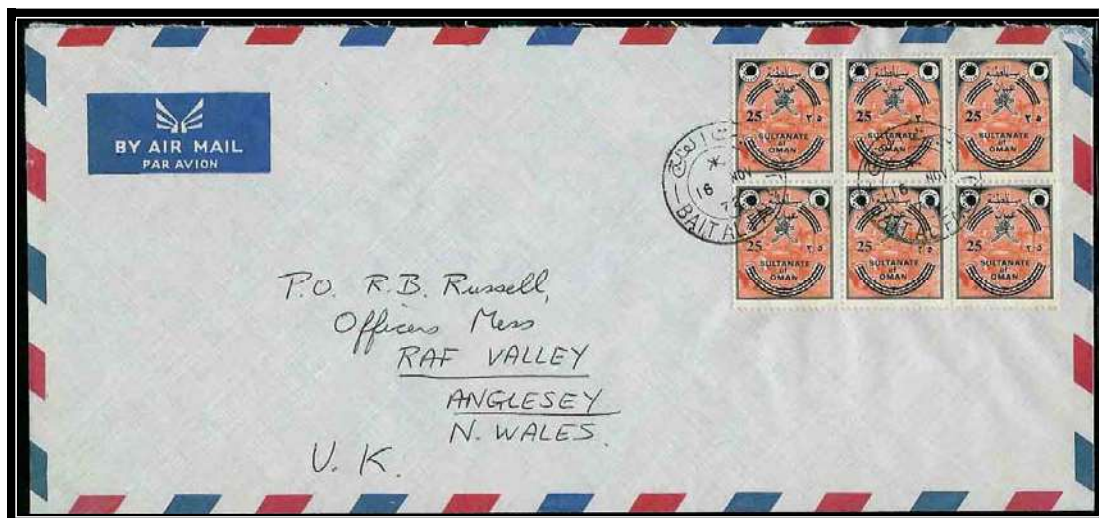
3 Covers showing the postal use of the missing Arabic "2". The covers are part of a correspondence between David Lawrence, who was a pilot in the Sultan's Air Force back in the early/mid 1970s and his family back in Macclesfield. The block of 4 and strip of 3 are both dated 22nd July 1972 and the block of 6 is dated 9th of January 1973.





Two covers showing the postal use of the missing Arabic “5”. The top strip of 3 is dated 21st of April 1974 and the block of 6 is dated 16th of November 1972.

Following his stay in Oman, David Lawrence moved to South Africa where he still lives today.



Qatar



Donaldson Type 1 – The Political Agent Handstamp.

Recently a very interesting document was forwarded to me regarding the introduction of a postal service in Doha and the introduction of Donaldson Type 1 as a canceller. I found it a good occasion to do a little presentation of this canceller along with illustrations of the Type 1 covers known to me.

Donaldson mentions in this book that this postal service was set up in the Political Officers office around May 20th 1950. He states two known batches of mail cancelled with Type dated 21st and 23rd of May. We now know that there were mailbags dispatched on May 16th and 18th as well.

At least two different colours of ink were used and each examples of the datestamp has been illustrated below:



16th May 1950



18th May 1950



21st May 1950

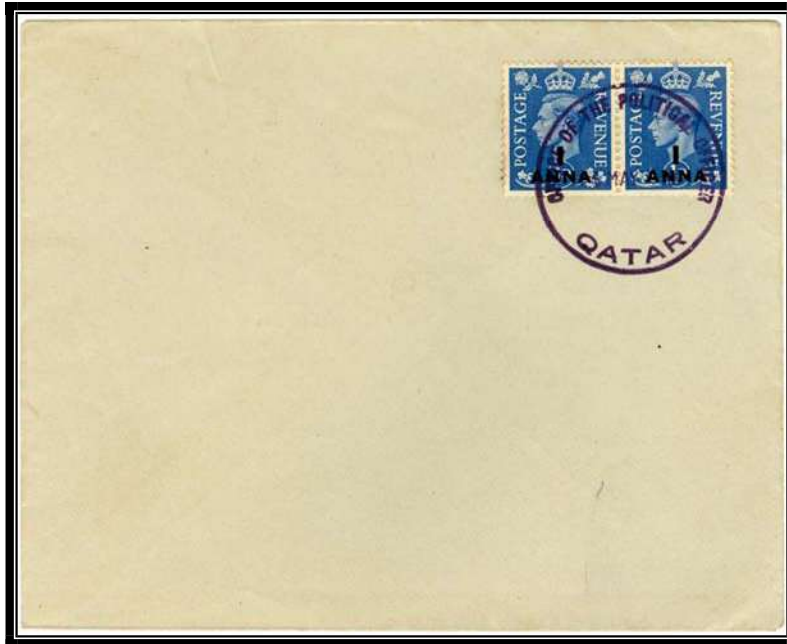


23rd May 1950

The Doha Post Office was opened on 16th May 1950.
The first mail bag from Doha was despatched on the
above date at 1045 hours.
As at the time of opening the Doha Post Office there
were no G.P.O. cancellation seals available, the
Postal Stamps were cancelled by the seal of the Office
of H. M. Political Officer Qatar as specimen shown
below.



A self explanatory document illustrated which proves that the actual postal service was inaugurated on May 16th and that the first mail bag was dispatched at 1045 on that day. Furthermore, it confirms the use of the Political Officer's seal as having been used due to the lack of GPO cancellation seals. The document itself is defined as a specimen of the strike with a sample used to cancel two Value Only KGVI 1 Anna stamps, proving that Value Only stamps were available in Qatar for postage at this time.



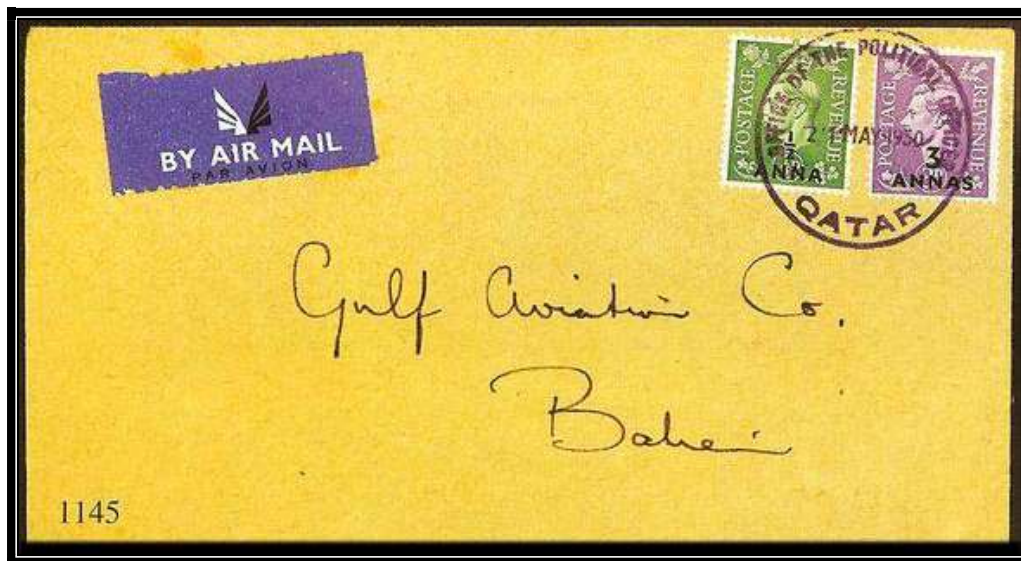
16th May 1950: The first batch of mail - the cover below illustrates an “F.D.C.” unaddressed cover. This cover was made by the Political Officer in Doha as a gift to the Political Agent in Bahrain. Note that there are no dots between the numerals in the date, the date and month and the month and year.



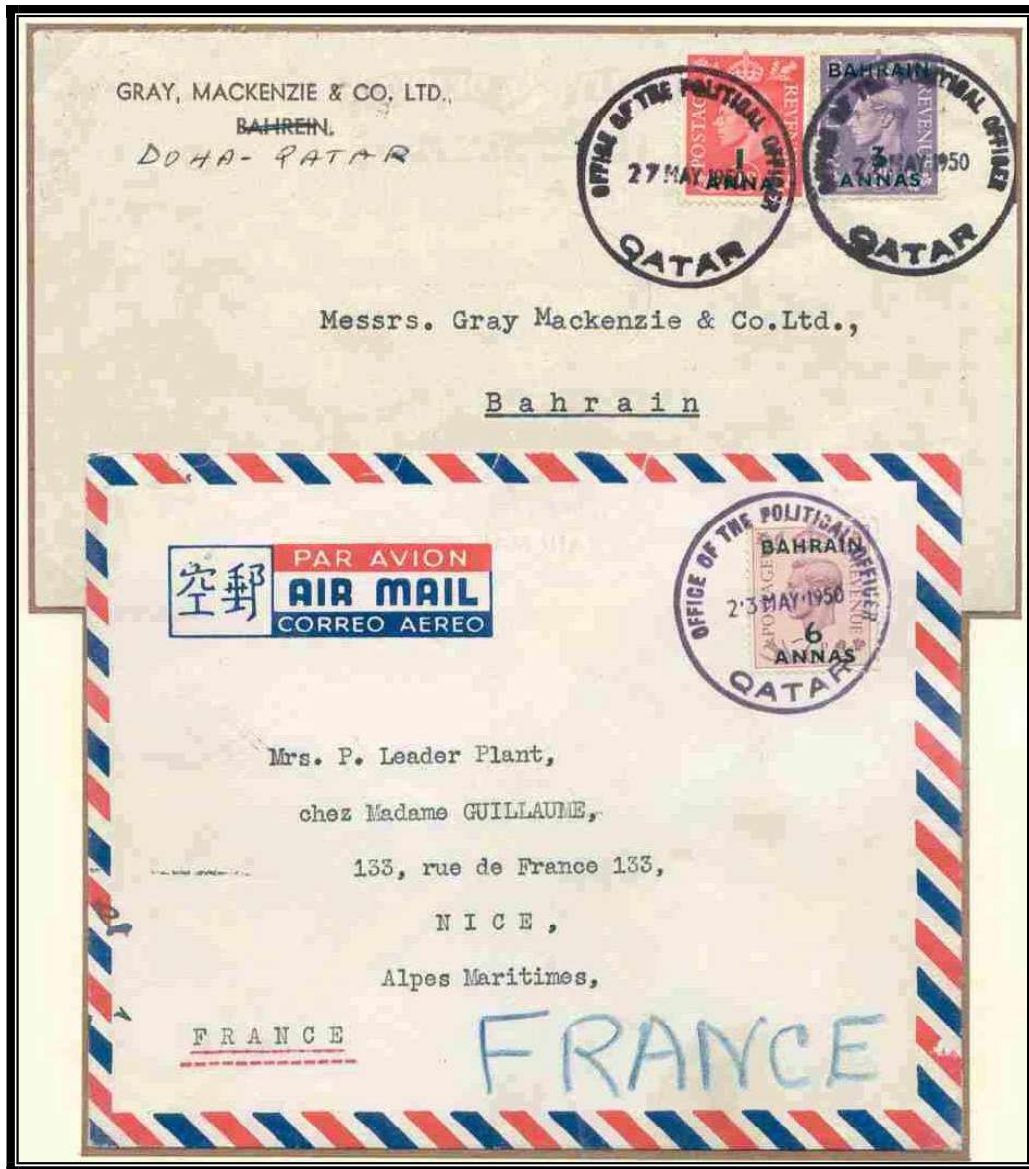
18th May 1950: The second batch of mail – A cover sent to Mrs. P Leader Plant in Nice, France and is franked with a 6 Annas KGVI. Note that there are no dots between the numerals in the date, the date and month and the month and year.



21st May 1950: The third batch of mail – A similar cover to that of 18th May sent to Mrs. P Leader Plant in Nice, France. There are now dots between the numerals in the date, the date and the month and the month and the year.



21st May 1950: The third batch of mail – A cover sent Gulf Aviation Company, which incidentally had just been established, in Bahrain. It is the only one of the Type 1 covers that has been franked with Value Only BPAEA stamps. There are now dots between the numerals in the date, the date and the month and the month and the year.



23rd of May 1950: The four and last batch of mail – A similar cover to those of 18th and 21st May sent to Mrs. P Leader Plant in Nice, France. There are dots between the numerals in the date, the date and the month and the month and the year. The image also shows a forged cover dated May 27th 1950 – note the type of ink used and the shape of the Q.

As mentioned by Donaldson the use of the Political Officer's office seal was brought to a hasty stop and only a total of 4 dispatches are believed to have taken place making Type 1 one of the rare cancellers of the Gulf.



4th November 1961: A mixed franking cover sent from Umm Said in Qatar to Kingston, Jamaica.



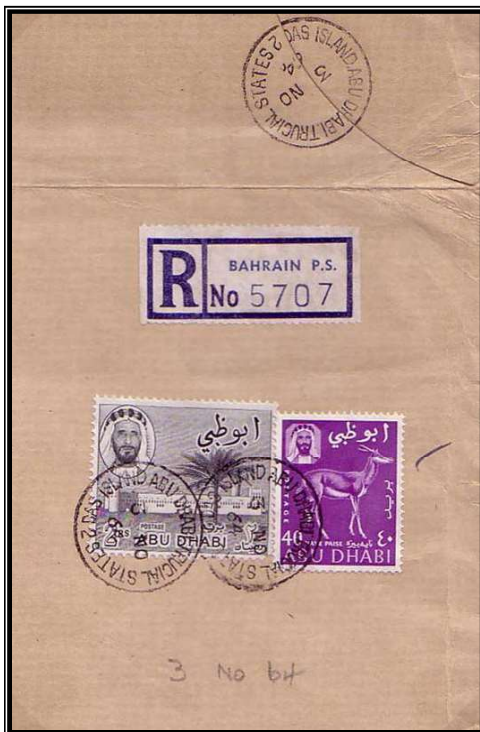
11th September 1961: A mixed franking cover sent from Umm Said in Qatar to California, USA.

UAE - Abu Dhabi

Das Island: Its registration labels and the Das Island 1&2 datestamps



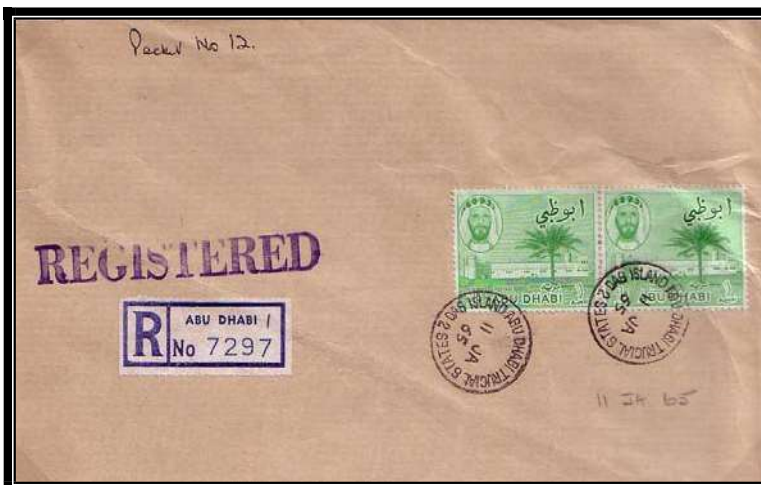
The following illustrations and dates are mainly taken from one Abu Dhabi collection and the comments added are a result to the original owners own comments. The cut-outs illustrated are all from large commercial covers sent to B.P. London from Das Island.



The use of the Bahrain P.S. label as already been defined in Donaldson's book, as an indication of Das Island use, prior to the introduction of datestamps and stamps carrying the Abu Dhabi origin.

This cut-out is dated 3rd November 1964 and is the latest example of the use of a Bahrain P.S. registration label found in the collection.

The below cut-out, dated 11th of January 1965, is the earliest example of the use of Abu Dhabi registration labels with a "1" added by pen. From this date this label defines Das Island origin and no samples of PS registration label use are found afterwards in this collection of cut-out from commercial mail.

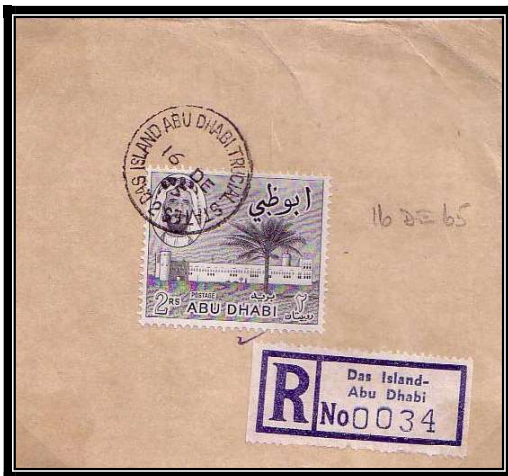




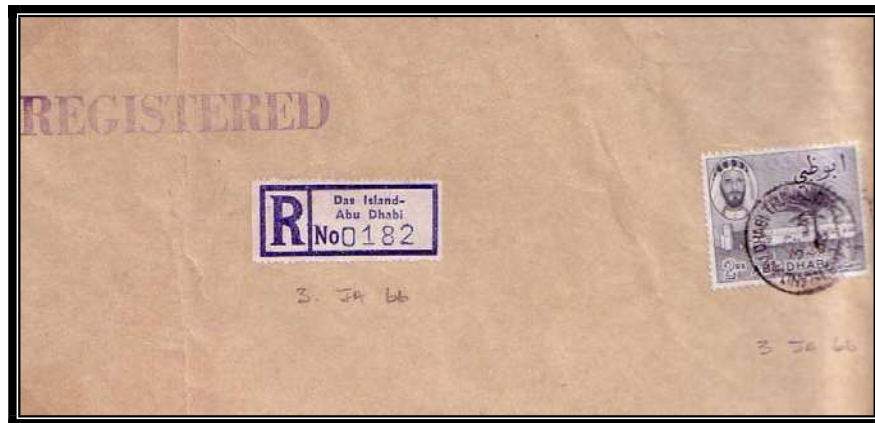
Dated 11th of November 1965 this cut-out is the latest date showing the use of the Abu Dhabi label with “1” inscribed with pen.



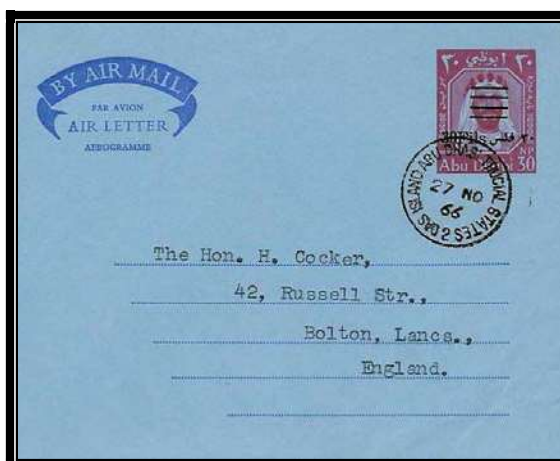
Then there were two – a seemingly overlapping introduction of two new registration labels including the origin “Das Island” for the first time.



The cut-out to the left, dated 16th December 1965, shows the earliest example of the use of the new “DAS ISLAND” label. The cut-out to the right, dated 29th of December 1965, shows the earliest use of another “DAS ISLAND” label, however, this piece is not from the specialized collection of Das Island cut-outs nor the registration label found in the collection. It could be that the label was ordered in small numbers and only used in Abu Dhabi, which appears to be the case for the illustrated example as “DAS ISLAND” has been inked out.



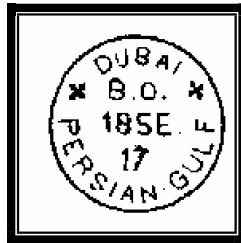
The final observation made by the original owner relates to the disappearance of the “Das Island 2 Trucial States” strike. He observes that the latest recorded use is 3rd of January 1966 and that the correspondence accumulated by him, starts using the “Das Island 1 Trucial States” strike from the 11th of January 1966 and onwards. Was the Das Island Postal Service run with two shifts until January 1966 and thereafter run with a single shift making the “Das Island 2” canceller obsolete? The fact that it was still in existence after January 1966, is proved by the two philatelic aerogrammes illustrated below, so maybe it was just taken out for use in special cases after the change in work procedures?



UAE – Dubai

Dubai Donaldson Type 1 by Abdullah Khoory

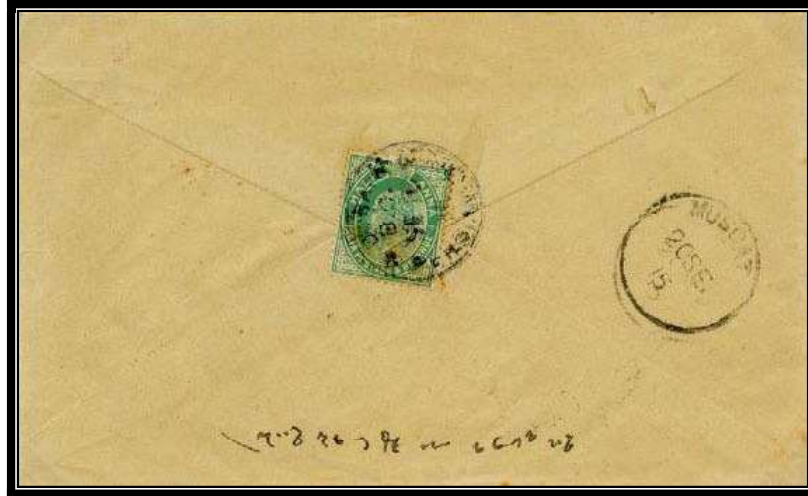
Dubai opened its first post office on the 19th of August 1909 as a result of pressure from the local business community. The post office was operated by an employee of the Mesopotamia Persia Corporation Ltd (the agents for the British India Steam Navigation Company) and was located within the company quarters. The post office had the status of a branch post office and offered basic postal services such as the sale of stamps and acceptance of surface mail. Registered and insured mail was not accepted and acknowledgement of incoming registered or insured mail was not offered. The majority of the mail was addressed to Bombay, Karachi and Muscat and franked with the ½ Anna India sea mail rate of ½ Anna for letters up to one tola.



Dubai Type 1 was circular date stamp, 26 mm in diameter, indicating Dubai Persian Gulf around the diameter. It had three levels in the middle with the letters “B.O.” (Branch Office) showing at the top, date and month (indicated by two characters each) in the middle part and finally the year displayed at the bottom (indicated with 2 digits). Type 1 remained in use until 1936 and was unlike any other type used in the Postal Agencies of the Persian Gulf.



3rd September 1910: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with ½ Anna KEV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 17th September 1910.



10th September 1915: A cover sent from Dubai to Muscat, Oman franked on reverse with ½ Anna KEVII and with Muscat arrival backstamp dated 20th September 1915.



26th May 1917: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with ½ Anna KEVII and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 4th July 1917.

The date and month are transposed (Month before Date and not vice versa) in the two above covers (the canceller had 3 slots of equal size for date, month and year).

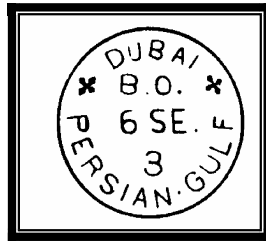
TYPE 1 CANCELLER VARIETIES

Type 1, or should we say the postal clerk/assistant handling Type 1, appeared to be very confused at times. Most likely he had very little understanding of English which resulted in a number of varieties presumably occurring when more literate staff member were on leave or off duty. Cleaning of the canceller or replacement of worn digits on the cylinders resulted in the repositioning of date and month or digits, typically in the year, being inverted.

These factors produced a varied combination of date indications.

TYPE 1.1: SINGLE DIGIT YEAR “3”

Type 1.1, shown below, illustrates the “Single Digit” variety which appeared in 1923 confirmed by the arrival backstamps with full year. It only appears as a “3”, i.e. no other numeral has been recorded, and is in fact the image illustrated in Neil Donaldson’s book as Dubai Type 1.



Type 1.1



12th May 1923: Example on piece



6th September 1923: Example on piece

TYPE 1.1.A: SINGLE DIGIT YEAR “3” INVERTED

Type 1.1 also exist with the single digit year “3” place upside down – hereafter referred to a Type 1.1.A



9th September 1923: Example on piece

TYPE 1.2: DOUBLE DIGIT YEAR INVERTED

This variety is normally found from April to November 1925



26th April 1925: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with 1 Anna KGV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 9th May 1925 (**Inverted Year**).

TYPE 1.2.A: DOUBLE DIGIT YEAR INVERTED/DATE & MONTH TRANSPOSED



26th March 1925: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with 1 Anna KGV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 6th June 1925 (**date and month are transposed and year is inverted**).

**TYPE 1.2.B: DOUBLE DIGIT YEAR INVERTED/DATE & MONTH
TRANSPosed AND INVERTED**



25th May 1924: A cover sent from Dubai to Muscat, Oman franked on reverse with a pair of ½ Anna KGV and with Muscat arrival backstamp dated 31st May 1924 (It is the only recorded example of the variety “Date and Month Transposed and Inverted”).

TYPE 1.3: YEAR NORMAL WITH DATE & MONTH TRANSPosed



19th August 1924: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with 1 Anna KGV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 30th August 1924 (Date and Month are transposed).

TYPE 1.4: THE 3 DIGIT MONTH

Maybe due to heavy use, a duplicate canceller similar to Type 1 was prepared. It is found with a three letter month (the letters are slightly larger) and recorded from 1919 and onwards but not used very often. It was used to cancel the return First Flight Covers used on Imperial Airways service to India via Arabian side of the Gulf via Sharjah airport in 1932 with violet ink. Nine covers with commercial usage between the 1st of November 1919 and the 30th of April 1932 have been recorded though many more must exist. Any feedback on such covers would be appreciated.



Type 1.4

The postal marking type1.4 the month is three digits

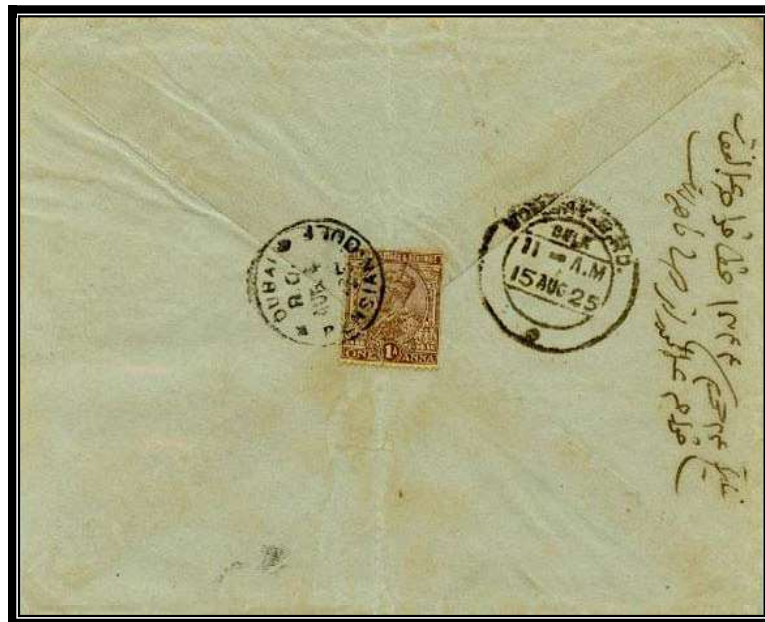


13th October 1925: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with 1 Anna KGV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 24th October 1925 (Month has 3 digits).



21st October 1930: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with 1 Anna KGV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 1st November 1930 (**Month has 3 digits**).

TYPE 1.4.1: THE 3 DIGIT MONTH – DATE AND MONTH TRANSPOSED



4th August 1925: A cover sent from Dubai to Bombay, India franked on reverse with 1 Anna KGV and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated 15th August 1925 (**Month Is In Three Digits and transposed**).

UAE - The other Trucial States

SHARJA POSTAL HISTORY by Khalid Omairah

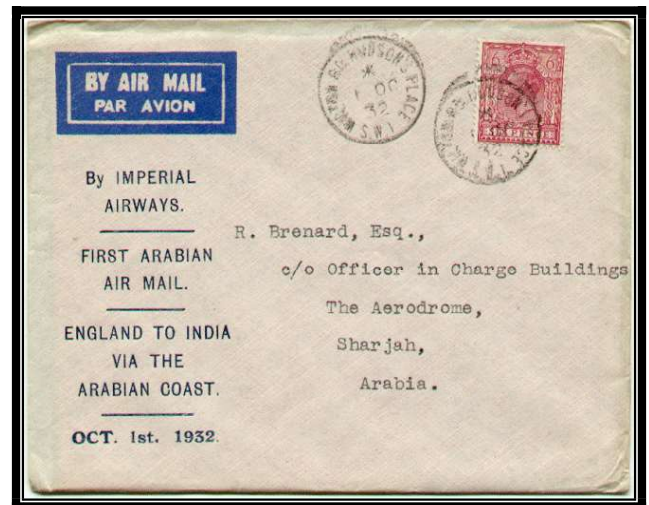
Before the opening of the Sharjah Post Office, mail from Sharjah was sent via Dubai, which was the nearest post office. Letters were typically franked at Dubai with the available stamps where after they were cancelled by Dubai postmarks.



Left, 1925 Surface cover sent from Sharjah via Dubai Branch Post Office to Bombay, India - franked on the in reverse with 1 Anna Indian KGV tied by “DUBAI / B.O. / PERSIAN GULF” strike dated “2 August 1925” and with Bombay arrival backstamp dated “13 August 1925”.

The Sharjah airport began to function in October 1932 following the introduction of the new Croydon to Karachi route on October 1st, 1932 and the return Karachi to Croydon route on October 5th, 1932. The route was a result of the “Persian Problem” and moved from the southern shores of Persia to the northern shores of the Arabian side of the Gulf.

A 1932 First Flight Cover sent from England to Sharjah, franked in front with a UK 6d stamp tied by “HILTON RD. HUDSON’S PLACE” strike dated “1 October 1932”. The route of the cover being: London to Croydon by car, then by air from Croydon to Brindisi – Athens – Galilee – Cairo – Galilee – Basra – Sharjah – Karachi by Imperial Airways airplane. Prior October 1932, the rate from England to Sharjah was charged Persian rates, i.e. 7½ d, but with the new route the new rate was changed to 6d, the standard Arabian rate for UK mail.



When the Imperial Airways service was moved to the Arabian side of the Gulf people in Dubai and Sharjah started to send their letters, pre-franked, to the aerodrome for faster transit. The Imperial Airways agent used the document boxed violet “**SHARJAH**” cancel to cancel the stamped letters.

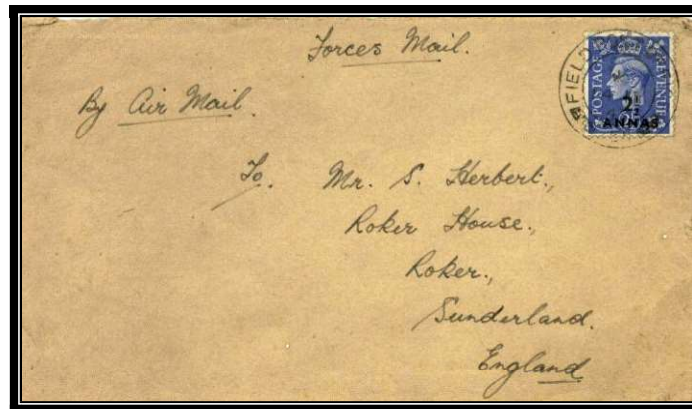


Above, 1932-33 airmail cover from Sharjah to England franked with an 8 Anna red-violet George V stamp of the 1926-36 issue tied by the document boxed violet “SHARJAH” cancel.



During WWII all letters sent from the Dubai Post Office, the only post office in the area handling civilian mail, had to have a mention of the language, in which the letter was written, inscribed on the front of the cover. This operation was done to simplify the censor's job when letters were opened.

Above, is a 1945 WWII airmail cover sent from Sharjah via Dubai Post Office to Karachi, India illustrating such an inscription The handwriting reads "Arabic L" indicating the inside letter was written in Arabic.



RAF mail during WWII was either sent via the military or civil postal services subject to location. When the RAF Base opened in Sharjah, there was no postal service, so mail from the RAF in Sharjah was sent via Dubai Post Office. By the end of 1940s, this mail was sent via Iraq and letters were tied by “FPO-171” in Habbaniyah or by “FPO-756” in Shaibah strikes. The above is a 1949 Forces mail cover sent from Royal Air Force Station in Sharjah via Shaibah, Iraq to England franked with King George VI stamp 2½ As on 2½ d tied by RAF Shaibah double circle cancel inscribed “**FIELD POST OFFICE / 756**”, dated “**May 4th, 1949**”. The cover route: Sharjah to Iraq via air / Iraq to England via air. The rate is 2 ½ Anna for airmail from Sharjah to England is correct.



The new FPO-551 canceller was used in Bahrain from 1954 to 1956. During this period RAF mail from Sharjah was usually franked with QEII 2½ As on 2½d and tied by the FPO-551 strike in Bahrain. The above cover, dated **January 27th, 1956**, was sent from the RAF in Sharjah via Bahrain to England tied by RAF Bahrain double circle cancel inscribed “**FIELD POST OFFICE / 551**”..



At that time, Trucial Oman Scouts mail was handled with RAF mail. The FPO-936 cancel, which was introduced in Sharjah on March 1st, 1957, is known to be used on Trucial Oman Scouts mail. The above QSL Card, dated “**January 10th, 1959**”, was sent from the Trucial Oman Scouts radio operator, in Sharjah to radio ZL1AC1, in New Zealand, franked with one GB QEII 2d and one value-only 25 NP on 4d all tied by “**FPO-936**” cancel. QSL cards were used by radio operators to send technical details to other radio operators around the world.



During the 1960s RAF in Sharjah started using unoverprinted GB stamps and both RAF cancels, FPO-1056 and FPO-1057, have been recorded used on such stamps. The double circle cancel FPO-1057 was known used during the period of 1966 to 1972. The early type had an “A” above the date line whereas the later type had a star above the date line. A Forces Air letter, dated “**8 October 1966**”, sent from RAF Sharjah to England franked with a GB QEII 4d tied by the double circle cancel inscribed “**FIELD POST OFFICE / A / 1057**”.

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: pttphil@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.

CREDITS

Edition 22:

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