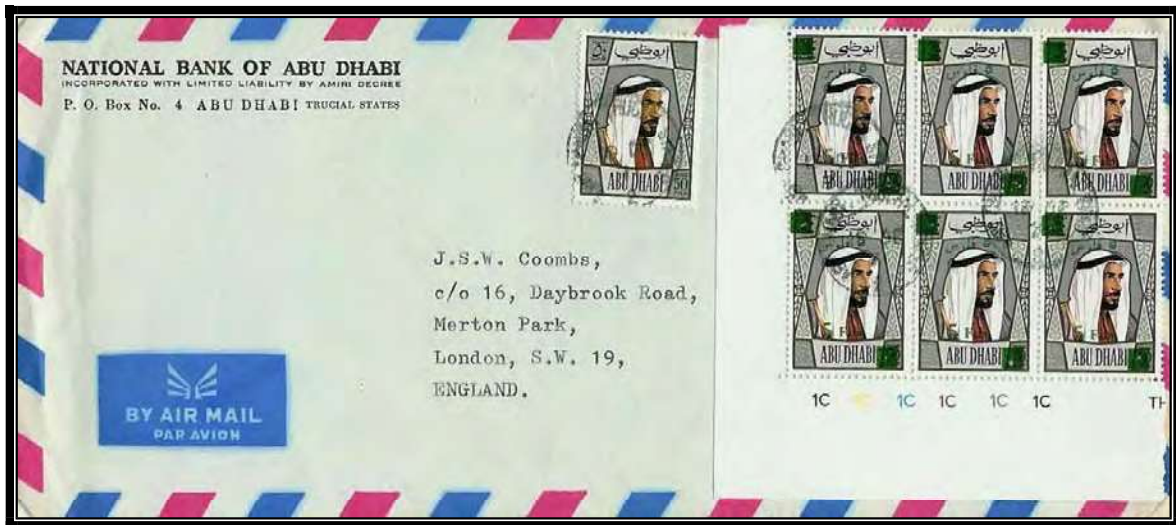


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



19th December 1971: A cover sent from Abu Dhabi to London, UK franked with a corner block of 6 of the 1971 5 Fils on 50 Fils surcharge and the 1970 50 Fils Definitive issue. The block of 6 holds the Arabic "R" instead of Arabic "U" on the middle stamp in the bottom row

Edition 23 - Summer 2007

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Welcome to Edition 23 of the Quarterly

After having released Edition 22 one reader sent me a mail asking me not to forget the spontaneous nature of Terry's publications. I quote:

"One of the joys (or horrors) of Terry's magazine was that he did not care what he was illustrating – if it was interesting it got in which meant lots of snippets, and lots of new bits. This meant all people could find something in his magazine".

Fair point and I fully agree – maybe too many articles or maybe just not enough odd bits here and there. I have started rectifying this in Edition 23 which hopefully will maintain the soul of the publication. This also means that we need more individual item contribution from all our readers.

Talking about Terry's publications I have received many queries on how to obtain the rest of the issues – i.e. Edition 1 to 19. I was also supplied by an index by a reader who asked me to publish it. However, being aware that Alastair Gunn was working on a greater project – the accumulation of all 19 issues – I left most questions unanswered until Alastair could finish (or not) his project. It now gives me great pleasure to inform all of you that all 19 issues are now available in book form – something which Alastair explains in our Comments, Questions & Corrections section on page 3.

And with that I hope that you will enjoy Edition 23.

In hope of your continued support,
Thomas

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Lulu—what a great idea! By Alastair Gunn

I'm very pleased to announce that I have just re-published (with permission) the 19 editions of Terry Jones' *Arabian Postal History Quarterly* in two, well-bound paperback volumes (6 inches by 9 inches), the first ten editions being in the first volume and editions 11-19 being in the second volume. They have the same amount of colour pages as in the original magazines, so that means 80 pages in Volume 1 and 72 pages in Volume 2.

But I have done more than that; I have also reprinted a copy of the first edition for those that did not know the magazine and wished to see one before buying the lot. And, more importantly I suspect, I have also published a very detailed *Index* to all 19 volumes as a separate paperback.

Why publish a separate paperback *Index*? Two reasons; the first was that those people who were happy with the old magazines and who did not wish to buy the new volumes would benefit from a detailed, academic *Index* (the 'Contents' and occasional 'Index' not being a strong point of the original magazines) and, personally, when I am using an *Index* I am inclined to be annoyed flipping from the *Index* to the relevant page numbers when they are in the one book. A separately published *Index* meant I could place that on my desk and search through the actual books more easily.

Why did I publish these books? Simple, I was finding it awkward to find the old magazines in my bookshelves as they are of so ephemeral a nature; therefore I wanted a bound 'nice' book or two. Secondly, when I did find the magazines it took me forever to find what I was after; so that's why I made the detailed *Index*.

The books are available from <http://stores.lulu.com/awgunn> with Lulu being a fascinating company established by an IT billionaire. It is a company who believes that the future of publishing is in 'print on demand' books; so no stock is held. They print *solely* when an order is placed, so there may be a delay of around three weeks after you have bought an item. I think it is an excellent idea for all sorts of societies and clubs. When on the above webpage just click on the underlined link (*for example - [Arabian Gulf States Postal History 1](#)*) and that will take you to more information and some sample pages. You pay for the items bought using either credit card or Paypal.

I might add that some other books concerning the postal history of the Arabian Gulf are nearly ready, as are some more general postal history books so the page is worth keeping an eye on. It was a lot of effort, but I think we do need to keep our knowledge where others can find it!

Bahrain

DONALDSON TYPE 1



Donaldson Type 1 illustrated here used on ½ Anna blue-green. It is one of only two stamps that the canceller is recorded used on by SG – the other being the 2 Annas pale blue.

DONALDSON TYPE 2B



13 January 1901: A letter sent from Bahrain to the Isle of Man franked with 1 copy of the ½ Anna pale yellow-green and 2 copies of the 1 Anna carmine making up the sea mail rate to the UK of 2 ½ Annas. Isle of Man being a very unusual destination showing early the early use of the 1 Anna Carmine QV issue which was issued on October 1st 1900 – 3 ½ months earlier.

Earliest Recorded use of the 1933 definitive 3 Pies issue



8 November 1933: A cover sent to Mandvi in Bombay, India illustrating the earliest recorded use of the 3 Pies stamp from the 1933 Bahrain King George V issue.



1 April 1948: The introduction of the British Postal Agencies in Bahrain and the only First Day Cover that I have seen with the 1st issue of British stamps in Bahrain.



6 May 1952: A cover sent to Vienna in Austria and censored by "Allierte Zensurstelle – Z.1 – 243. Can anyone shed some light on why mail to Austria was being censored by the Allies in 1952?



Donaldson Type 22 varieties "1" and "2"



First recorded by Terry Jones in Edition 15 of the Quarterly I have since managed to get hold of a few covers – 4 of which are illustrated on the following page. In all cases the usage is in 1952 – March/April for Bahrain "1" and July/August for Bahrain "2". Having done some asking around amongst friends in Bahrain it would seem that the late Ali Mattar, who was Post Master following Dickie Thorpe, has stated that the "1" and "2"

applied to morning shift and afternoon shift rather than different post offices – i.e. “1” for Awali or “2” for Muharraq.



The two covers illustrated above show the use of the “Number 2” variety of Donaldson Type 22: 21 July 1952 – A registered cover sent to Miraj, India cancelled and 17 August 1952 – A registered cover sent to Goa, India.



Two more covers the top one showing the use of the Type 22 “Number 1” variety – 17 April 1952 sent to Geneva, Switzerland – and the cover below showing Type 22 “Number 2” variety – 1 July 1952 sent to New Delhi, India.



Donaldson mentions the introduction of the Parcel Post canceller in Bahrain and records its usage around 1954. The two parcel pieces above are both cancelled 8 December 1952 and show nice strikes of Donaldson Type 28 narrowing the gap between the use of the “Exchange Office Stamp” Type 33 for canceling parcel post and the introduction of the Parcel Post canceller.

The 1950 Air France Crash Covers – June 12th and June 14th



In 1950 two Air France DC 4s crashed at Bahrain within 2 days of each other. On Tuesday the 12th of June an Air France DC 4 en route from Saigon to Paris attempted to land at Bahrain during a severe sandstorm.

Unfortunately the pilot lined up, not with the runway, but with a nearby ship pier, which extended out into the Arabian Gulf, and as a result crashed into the Gulf. A rescue mission was

launched from the US Air Base at the Dhahran Airstrip in Saudi Arabia by Captain Guy Mossier and Sergeant Lonnie Davis with an H-5H float equipped helicopter. A total of 46 out of the 52 crew and passengers died.



The sandstorm continued unabated through Wednesday and Thursday and ironically the next Air France DC-4 flight coming into Bahrain two days later made exactly the same mistake. Once again the same crew launched a rescue mission from the US base at Dhahran. A total of 40 out of the 53 crew and passengers died.

Kuwait

Iraqi stamps cancelled With KOWEIT cancellers

By: Khaled Abdul-Mughni

There is no material evidence from either covers or documents that confirm or support the selling of Iraqi stamps by the Kuwait Post Office, coinciding with the British occupation of Iraq. British Indian documents and covers only point out in regard to circulation of Indian KGV stamps, and Indian Stationary (Edward & KGV).

When the postal administration in Iraq was shifted from the British Indian Military Expedition Force (M.E.F) to the Mandate Administration in 1921, the British Political Resident in Kuwait – Major Moor – stipulated his opposition towards the use of British Iraqi stamps in Kuwait in a telegram that he sent to Baghdad. He warned that the use of such stamps was undesired and rejected by the community in Kuwait as it represents interference in the political affairs of Kuwait. It provided fear that the inclusion of the post office into the Iraq Post Office represented a commencement to absorb Kuwait itself within the State of Iraq.

The concern relating to a potential administrative transfer following the British mandate in Iraq was dealt with by the issuance of Indian KGV stamps overprinted “Kuwait” on the 1st April 1923. This was two months prior to the issue of the Iraqi stamps under mandate and confirmed the sovereignty of Kuwait as an independent state.



The only recorded occasion where and Iraqi stamp was cancelled with a “KOWEIT” strike was on the 16th December 1918, as illustrated in Donaldson’s 1994 supplement to his 1975 book, but it does not constitute evidence of the use of Iraqi stamps in Kuwait. From the recipient’s address it appears “To F.P.O in the Magil, Basrah”. When a strict examination is applied, we find

that the strike is the “KOWEIT Open Ring Cancel”, a strike that was mainly used on incoming mail. Usually, when this strike is used on outgoing mail, it denotes that the communication has been passed under acknowledgement of the Post Master. Subsequently, this sole case was accepted by the Post Master, and as such is very possibly a philatelically inspired cover.

(Illustration from the 1994 Supplement courtesy of Neil Donaldson)



7 NOV. 20
No.1 - Forged



6 AUG 20
No. 2 - Genuine

The above illustration was first shown in Edition 22 and was an item that appeared in an Internet auction. The stamp “IRAQ/On State Service/British Occupation” Ten Rupees canceled with KOWEIT has a forged cancellation strike – a comment based on the following observations:

1. This piece is indeed a professional forgery, but the person who did it was not aware that Iraqi stamps under the British Occupation were not sold in Kuwait – or at least that such use had not be documented. At the time Indian KGV stamps were circulated in Kuwait.
2. The date is found at the bottom of the central band. This is contrary to the normal application of the canceller from 1919 to 1923 where the date was placed at the top of the central band. Furthermore, the distance between month and year is greater than that of the genuine canceller (for comparison see plate No.2).
3. When comparing the thickness of the black line between the two circles with each other, we find that the forged strike is much thicker than the genuine strike.
4. “IRAQ/On State Service/British Occupation” stamps were valid for use in Iraq during the British Occupation. Kuwait was independent emirate under the protection of Great Britain following the 1899 agreement.



Form No.1 - Forged



Form No.2 – Genuine

5. On the genuine strike, the small parallel perpendicular lines under “KOWEIT” have space between the letters “O” and “W”. Furthermore, the two letters “E” & “I” extend down to join the space between the perpendicular lines below them. Finally, the genuine strike central perpendicular line separates “KOWEIT” evenly. None of these characteristics are found on the forged strike. (See Donaldson’s 1975 book – page 104)



More forgeries – in all three cases the “KUWAIT” has been applied to Indian stamps already cancelled.



14 June 1934: A Zeppelin postcard sent on the less common Argentina route. It is the only Zeppelin postcard from Kuwait that I have seen to date.



22 July 1936: A cover sent from Kuwait to Zanzibar via Alexandria (25 July) – Nairobi (29 July) - ???OMA (30 July) – Daressalam (1 August) and arrival Zanzibar backstamp dated 1st August 1936 indicating 10 days in transit. The cover has been franked with two 6 Annas and one 3 Annas 1933 Airmail issue along with two 1 Anna brown and one 2 Anna red King George V making up the rate of 19 Annas. The registration label shows the small “Kuwait” in English and Arabic.





3 April 1938: An airmail cover sent to Bahrain via Basrah to Bahrain franked with three copies of the 3 Annas Airmail issue and one 1 Anna brown KGV making up the rate of 10 Annas. The registration label shows the larger dual language “Kuwait” handstamp.



20 July 1947: A cover showing the use of the VP (Value Payable) label which was used when the post office ran out of registration labels in 1947 – the VP being annulled.



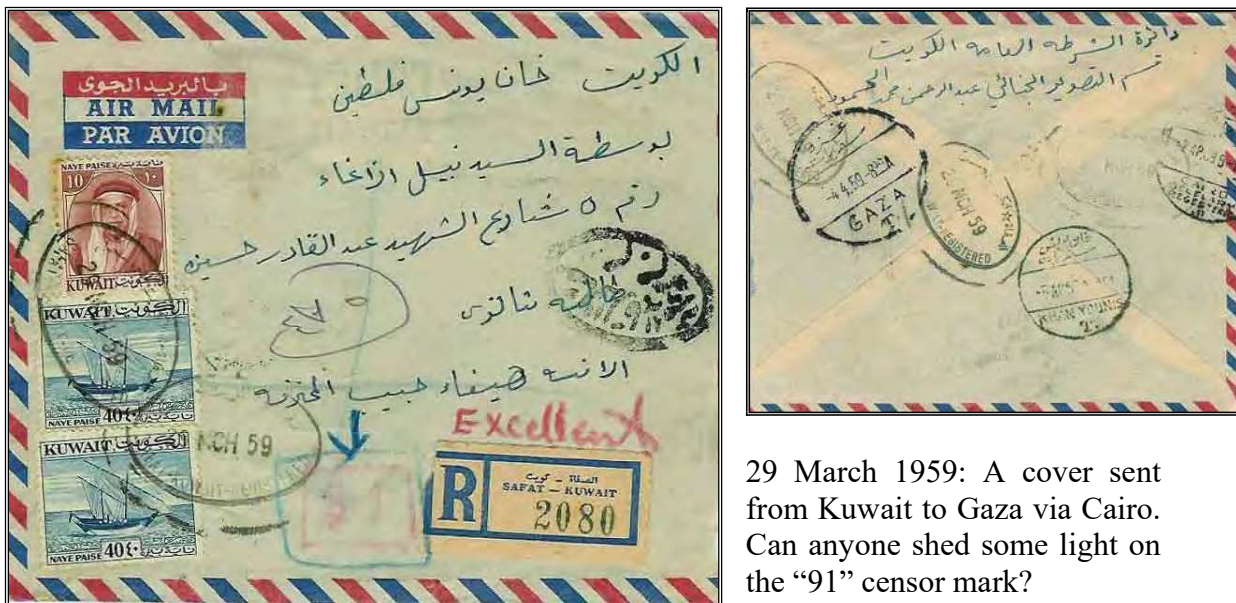
20 July 1947: A similar cover to the previous one but showing the use of the 5 Rupees instead of the 2 Rupees KGV. The VP labels of 1947 were red print on cream labels whereas the 1943 VP labels used (when the post office also ran out of registration labels) were printed black on green labels. Does anyone have a 1943 cover?



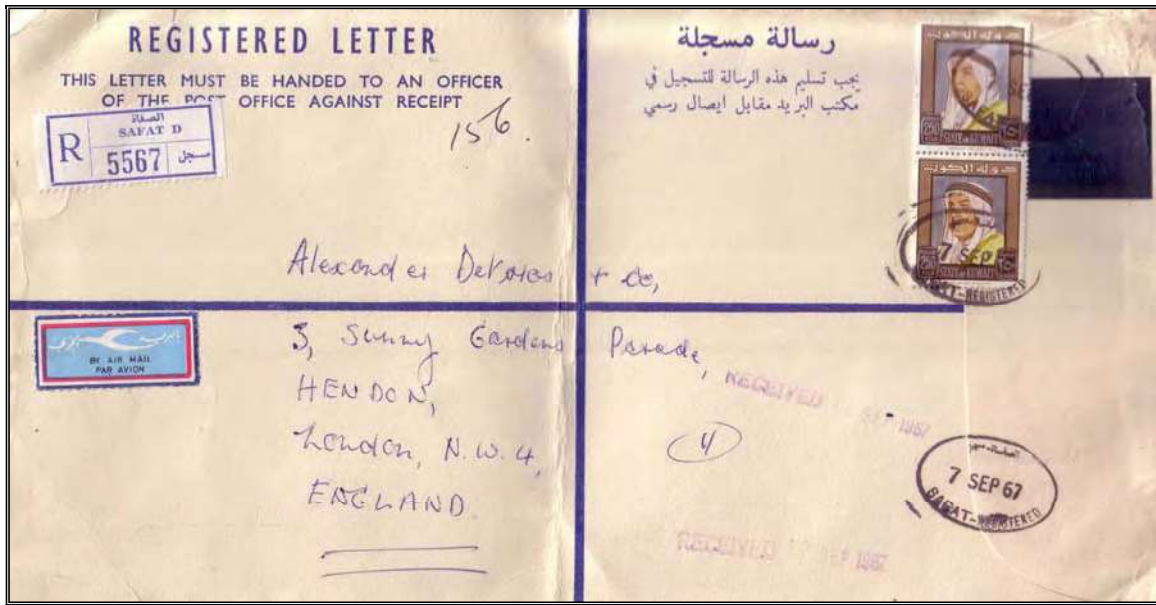
25 July 1949: A cover sent from Kuwait to the USA illustrating the early use of Donaldson Type 24 struck on the 2 Rupee British overprint.



6 March 1958: A cover showing 5 very nice strikes of a variety of the Donaldson's Type 39 sent to Bombay, India.



29 March 1959: A cover sent from Kuwait to Gaza via Cairo. Can anyone shed some light on the "91" censor mark?



7 September 1967: Postal stationery in the form of a registered letter where the picture of the old Emir has been blackened out. Sheikh Abdullah, however, was kept alive by the use of the 1964 definitive issue used to uprate registered letter. Sheikh Sabah took over the rule of Kuwait on November 24th 1965.



4 February 1969: An express delivery cover sent from Khafji, Kuwait to the UK with an "Express Fee Paid" handstamp applied.

Philatelic Propaganda: Kuwait's Diplomacy Prevails!

By: Mashael A. Alhajeri (© Mashael A. Alhajeri, 2002)

Synopsis: Iran issued a number of stamps over the past twenty years or so, which represented occasions such as taking over the US Embassy in Tehran, the "massacre" of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca in 1988, and some others. These stamps right away proved to be of interest from a philatelic point-of-view, simply because of the controversy they created. For the same reason foreign collectors of both stamps and covers were keen to obtain them, and they were also amply available. However, the question of using these stamps on covers became a sensitive matter in some countries. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia obviously disliked seeing the Mecca massacre stamps on circulating covers, and the Americans disliked seeing the Embassy and Hostage stamps on cover. The Kuwait government was strong political ally of both Saudi Arabia and the US, and obviously dismissed all such usage of stamps on covers.

For the last two decades, Saudi Arabia and Iran have been in a dispute over Iran's insistence on demonstrations against the United States and Israel at the *Haj*, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to holy sites in the western Saudi city of *Mecca*, despite the Riyadh position that deemed calls for such political rallies inappropriate during the *Haj* season.

On 1st August 1987, riots conducted by *Shi'ite* Muslims, mostly from Iran, broke out with Saudi security forces. The death toll reached 402, mainly Iranian pilgrims. This tragic incident led to a break in Saudi-Iranian diplomatic ties that lasted until 1991. In the recent years, the rallies have been held peacefully inside tents belonging to the Iranian delegation.

This political background cast its dark shadow on philately.

A philatelic item that I have recently acquired through an Internet auction was a 1988 Iran express cover sent to Kuwait, bearing a se-tenant set of commemorative stamps protesting "The Massacre of Muslim Pilgrims at Holy Mecca (6 *Dhu'l-Hijja*, 1407 A.H)". The numerous low-denominated stamps used on this cover, their neat layout, and the sender's rubber-stamped return address suggest that this is probably a philatelic cover sent to a collector in Kuwait.¹

Despite this apparent philatelic nature, this cover, with the sort of provocative stamps that it bore, must have been regarded by the postal authorities in Kuwait as representing a potential diplomatic 'headache', to the extent that hindered its delivery, and dictated that it be returned to Iran. Thus, it was returned with a boxed cachet applied on both its front and back, indicating the cover to be "UNDELIVERABLE CONTRARY TO ARTICLE NO. 9-INT'L POSTAL CONVENTION". It is noteworthy that there is no local Kuwait post office receiver mark, which suggests that it must have been returned by the Mail Sorting Centre, located on Kuwait Airport, right upon its arrival to Kuwait.

I have not seen this cachet before, and to the best of my knowledge this cachet is not reported in any of the titles covering Kuwait philately. My theory is that it must have been applied in Kuwait by the postal authorities there, in disapproval of the provocative message that these anti-Saudi stamps communicated. This position is quite understandable considering that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia enjoy very strong political ties and are both members in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); allowing such propaganda might negatively affect the diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring countries.

I have consulted the Universal Postal Union Convention (shortly known as the UPU Convention) to investigate the text of article 9. It turned out that this article reads as follows:

Article 9

Postal security

“1 Postal administrations shall adopt and implement a proactive security strategy at all levels of postal operations to maintain and enhance customer confidence in the postal services in order to ensure a competitive edge in the market

2 This strategy shall aim to:

- 2.1 raise quality of services as a whole;
- 2.2 increase employee awareness of the importance of security;
- 2.3 create or reinforce security units;
- 2.4 share operational, security and investigative information on a timely basis; and
- 2.5 propose to legislatures, wherever necessary, specific laws, regulations, and measures to improve the quality and security of worldwide postal services.”

The commentary for article 9 in the UPU’s 'Letter Post Manual' reads as follows:

“Postal security activities are an essential part of postal operation, as they provide postal services with an important tool for improving and maintaining the quality of services offered to customers. Postal authorities can therefore use this article as a basis for taking the necessary measures to adopt and implement a proactive security strategy”.

I am not fully convinced that this is a proper application of art. 9. Indeed, I find it quite questionable that this article was really meant to be used as a tool for dealing with dissenting diplomatic views, for a simple and straightforward interpretation would lead to the conclusion that it is primarily concerned with the question of ‘security’ rather than ‘diplomacy’.

Nevertheless, and despite the somehow remote connection of article nine to the said situation, it seems that it represented the only pretext under which the Kuwaiti postal

authorities could dispose of this problematic cover. In support of this argument, I should add that I have communicated with the UPU to inquire about the appropriateness of the aforementioned usage of this cachet. The UPU's short reply stated that “*We are not certain about the reason for making the reference to Art 9 on your envelope*”.

Be that as it may, this cover is certainly a unique and an interesting paradigm in which philately came quite close to threatening diplomacy!

ILLUSTRATION (A)



This is a scan of a cover that is quite similar to the one under discussion, with the same ‘UNDELIVERABLE’ cachet, in addition to another similar cachet in Arabic. It reads:

[sic.] غير قابل التوزيع
للمادة رقم (9) [sic.] مخالفا
من الاتفاقية البريدية العالمية

(Note the grammatical errors in the Arabic text.)

ILLUSTRATION (B)



Another Iranian propaganda cover addressed to Kuwait.
This one bears stamps with an 'Anti-American' theme.

Muscat & Oman

The 12-Bar 309 Rhomboid and the Muscat Wax Seal



Above are shown the images of the 2 most elusive Muscat handstamps – The 12-Bar 309 Rhomboid – one struck in red and one in black and the Muscat Wax Seal.

In his 1975 book (page 24) Donaldson refers to the Muscat Wax Seal as being known on two pieces – one with a single and the other with two copies of the ½ Anna Blue 1856-65 Queen Victoria East India issue. He also refers to the Wax Seal being struck in black and the use red ink for the 12-Bar 309.

In his 2001 book, “The Indian Postal Agencies of the Persian Gulf Area” (also page 24) Alan Parsons also refers to the 12-Bar 309 Rhomboid as being known on two pieces – each accompanied by an impression of the Muscat Wax Seal - one of the 309s being struck in black and the other in red.

Comparing the comments about the Wax Seal and 309 it is very possible that both gentlemen are referring to the same two pieces of 309/Wax Seal combinations. Below you will see, for the first time illustrated together, the two pieces with the 12-Bar 309/Wax Seal combination.

The first as illustrated in Alan Parsons’s book – 12-Bar 309/Muscat Wax Seal with a single copy of the 1856-65 ½ Anna QV blue – the 309 struck in black.



Courtesy of Sahara Publications Limited – London

And the second – ex Ellison collection and recently auctioned – 12-Bar 309/Muscat Wax Seal with two copies of the 1856-65 ½ Anna QV blue – the 309 struck in red.



Donaldson refers to the use of one and two copies of the ½ Anna and Parsons refers to the 309 being struck in red on one and black on the other. I can only presume that both authors knew of the Ellison copy and as such are referring to the same two pieces.

As a bonus an additional piece showing the 12-Bar 309 strike with the impressive franking of 28 Annas made up by 3 copies of the 4 Annas black and 2 copies of the 8 Annas carmine – both from the 1856-65 QV issue. Another ex-Ellison item but not mentioned by Donaldson and Parsons.



The Muscat Handstamp applied on Registration Label in Red



Donaldson's supplement records the use of the Muscat handstamp applied on a registration label in red in March 1925 – here is one more example of such use dated 18th of January 1926.



Latest Recorded use of Donaldson Type 15 – 22nd November 1948



A cover sent by Ellison to his family in Bristol recorded as the latest known usage of Type 15 in Donaldson's 1994 supplement and www.oman-stamps.com

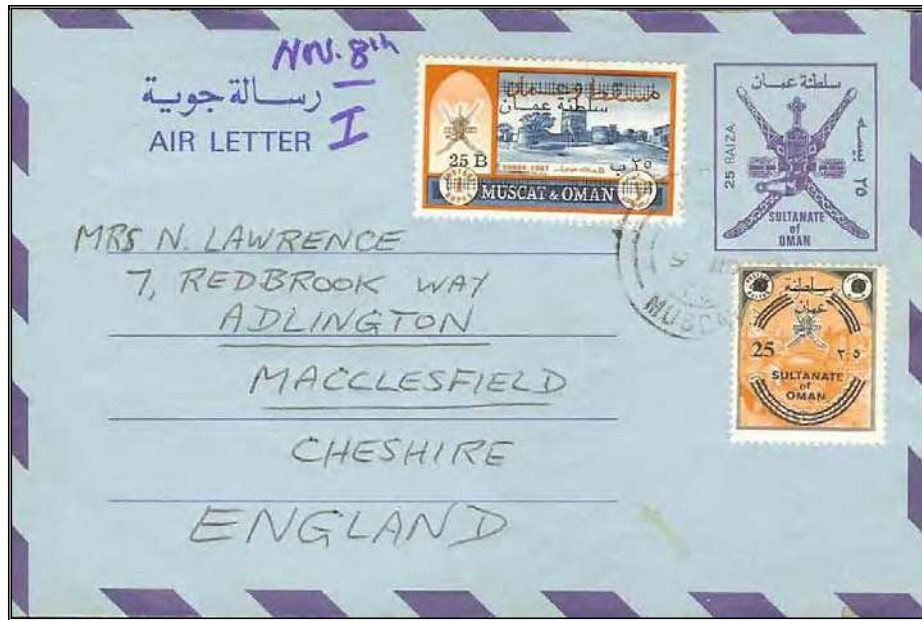


A fabulous cover date 21st of October 1948 sent from the British Consulate in Muscat to Aden with arrival backstamp dated 25th of October 1948 showing to scarce use of the 2 Rupees KGVI.

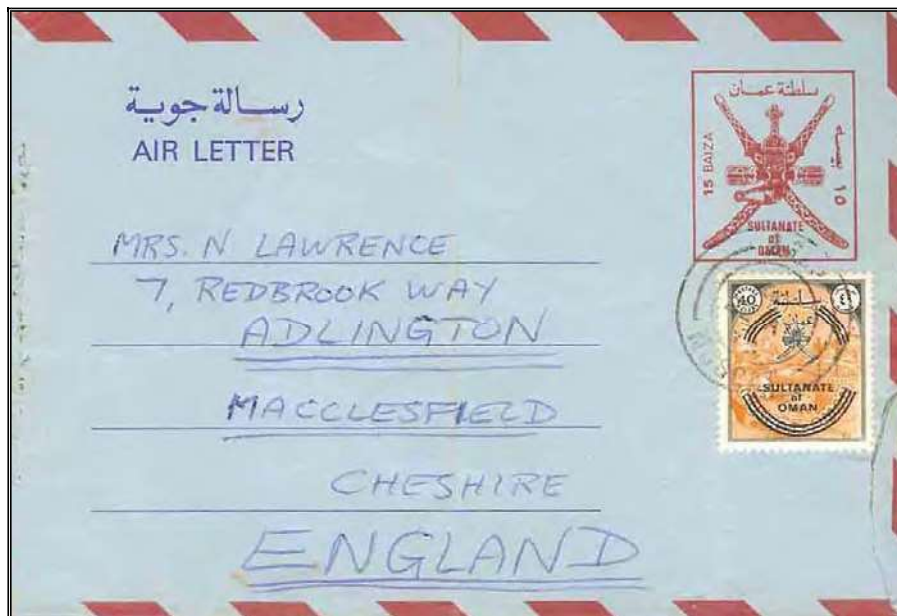
The First Sultanate of Oman Aerogrammes – Commercial Use



22nd of September 1972: Commercial use of the 25 Baiza aerogramme uprated with a copy of 1972 25 Baiza on 1 Rupee surcharge and the 20 Baiza 1972 Harrison overprint – part of the David Lawrence correspondence.



9th of November 1972: Commercial use of the 25 Baiza aerogramme uprated with a copy of each of the 1972 25 Baiza surcharges – 25 Baiza on 1 Rupee and 25 Baiza on 40 Baiza – part of the David Lawrence correspondence.



22nd of August 1973: Commercial use of the 15 Baiza aerogramme uprated with the 40 Baiza 1971 Sultanate of Oman overprint issue – part of the David Lawrence correspondence.

The 1973 Ministerial Complex issue – without date



The 1973 Ministerial Complex issue was printed by the Pakistan Security Printing. The date "1973" in English and Arabic was eventually applied in Oman by typography but some of the stamps were sold and used without the date. Speculation about the origin of these stamps differs with one version being leftover sheets in Pakistan or the simpler version that they simply were not struck with the year in Oman. The rarity of these stamps is also often a topic but with the amount of copies that I have seen the two sheets theory definitely doesn't hold.



22nd January 1977: A cover showing the commercial use of the 25 Baiza Ministerial issue without date



15th of August 1977: A cover showing the commercial use of the 100 Baiza Ministerial issue without date

A selection of unusual Oman pieces



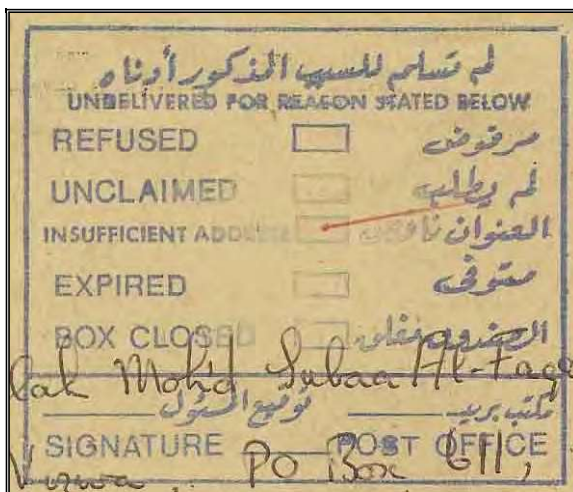
Illustrated here is a handstamp cachet applied in 1981 on mail sent from USSR to Oman. It was sent from the USSR on the 28th of February 1981 addressed to Thomas Sequeira in the Sultanate of Oman.

The “UNDELIVERABLE FOR REASON STATED BELOW” cachet measures 71 x 54 mm.

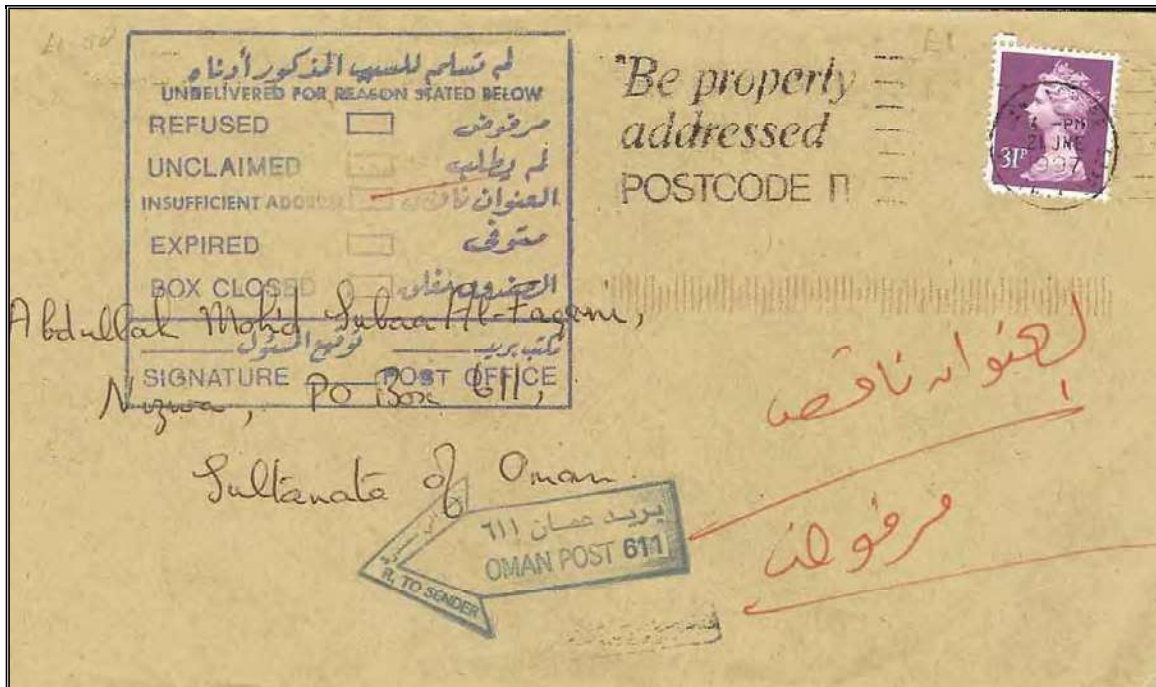


The cover, when it arrived in Oman, had the “UNDELIVERABLE FOR REASONS STATED BELOW” applied to it and backstamped “GREATER MATRAH” on the 17th of March 1981 with a transit stamp dated 19th of March 1981 at Safat, Kuwait applied.

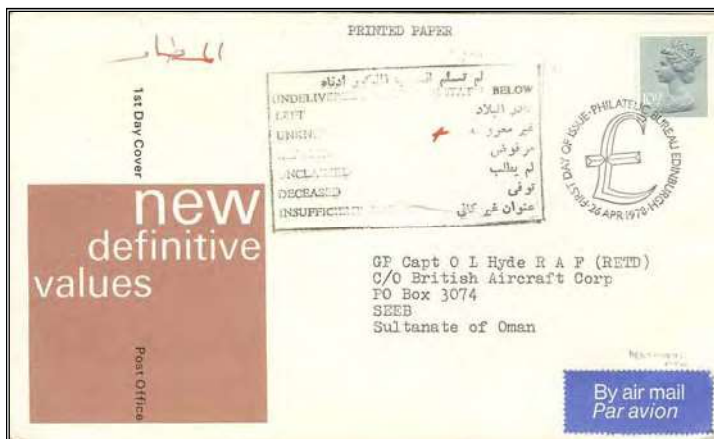
CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN THE ROUTE via Kuwait BACK TO THE USSR?



Above is illustrated two handstamp that were recently shown to me on a 21st of June 1997 cover that was sent from the UK to Oman. The cover in its entire is shown on the next page. The “UNDELIVERABLE FOR REASON STATED BELOW” cachet measures 71 x 60 mm and the “OMAN POST 611” measures 53 x 26 mm and 14 mm wide across the “rectangle”.



21st of June 1997: A cover sent from Rossendale, Lancashire to the Sultanate of Oman and applied with a “UNDELIVERABLE FOR REASON STATED BELOW” handstamp and a “R. TO SENDER – OMAN POST 611” handstamp.



6 May 1978: A cover sent from the UK to Oman on the 26th of April and with “SEEB” arrival backstamp dated 6th of May 1978.



The cover shows a third “UNDELIVERABLE FOR REASON STATED BELOW” cachet applied on the front of the cover. The cachet measures 72 x 42 mm.

Qatar



8 June 1952: A cover showing the use of Donaldson Type 2 and Type 3 but more interesting the boxed “DOHA” first illustrated in Edition 21. The previously recorded sample of the handstamp being December 1952 puts the current documented lifespan at 6 months.



A piece showing the use of Type 2 of the 2 Rupee festival issue – i.e. the raised “2” – cancelled at Doha.



A cover sent from Umm Said to the USA cancelled with Donaldson Type 10 and franked with the 1957 definitive issue at a rate of 1 Rupee and 40 Naye Paise.



A registered cover sent from Umm Said to Frank Unlandherm at PO Box 1201, Steamer Point, Aden – being the postal address of the Dhofar Cities Services oil exploration company at Raisut next to Salalah, Oman. The cover bears an altered registration label with the number “2” applied in red ink.



A similar cover sent from Umm Said and cancelled with Donaldson Type 8 to Salalah, Oman via Aden.



13 November 1968: A registered cover sent from Doha to Geneva, Switzerland showing the use of the 1966 New Currency definitive issue and with a Doha (8) registration label.



20 September 1961: A cover showing a large multiple of 8 copies of the 1 Rupee 1961 definitive issue.



26 September 1971: A registered cover sent Express Delivery to the USA showing a different type of Express Delivery label than previously illustrated in Edition 21.



UAE - Abu Dhabi



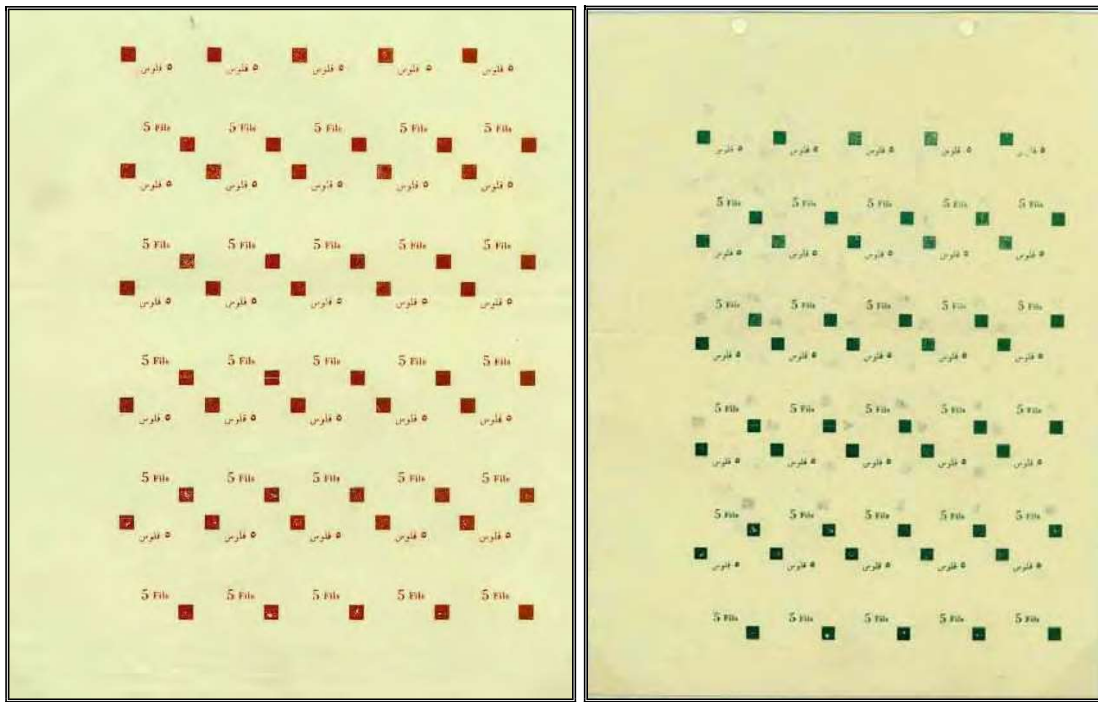
19th June 1958: A cover sent from the British Political Agency in Abu Dhabi via Bahrain to Suffolk in the UK – the earliest recorded mail from Abu Dhabi.

The 1971 5 Fils on 50 Fils Provisional Issue

Based on an article found in the "Journal of Arabian Philatelist" Second Quarter 1972



The provisional issue of the 5 Fils stamp was necessary to meet the seasonal demand for the local greeting cards and the stamp was only on sale from the 8th to 18th of December 1971, when further supplies of the 5 Fils stamp from the 4th definitive issue arrived from the printer in the U.K.



The proof sheets of the two trial overprints – the first in brown and the second in green

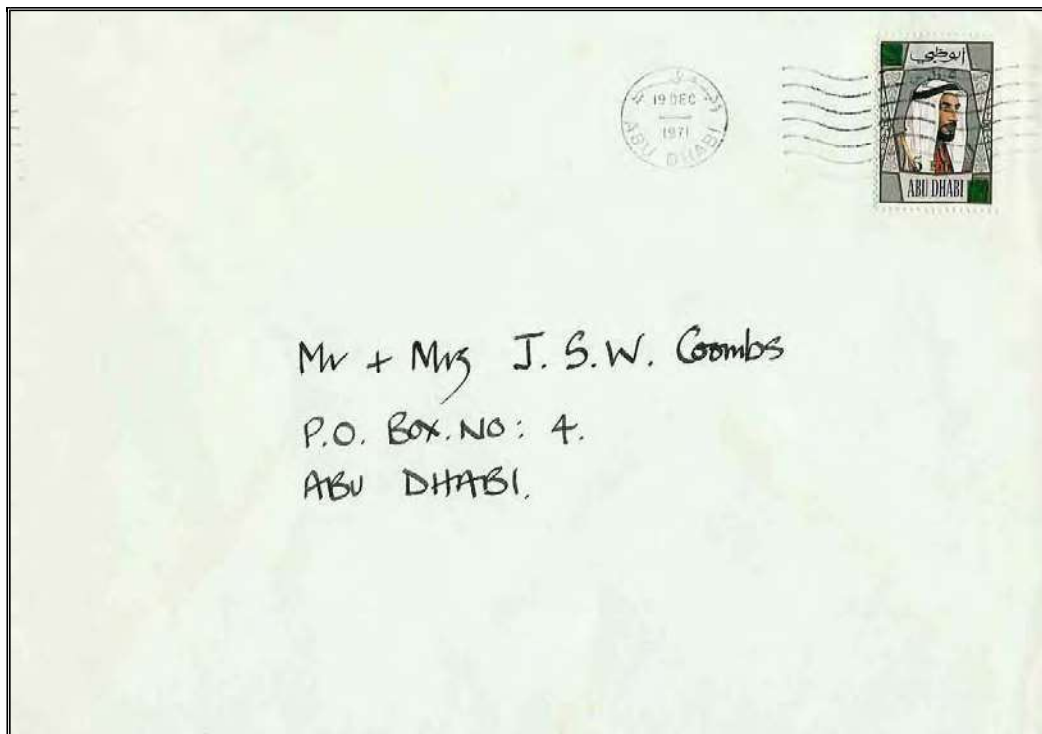


With a looming crisis due to a shortage of the 5 Fils stamp Nitco Printing Press of Abu Dhabi was asked to execute the overprinting. Having decided on a green overprint the first trial was made. However, it soon turned out that the trial print had produced a faded green colour, which not only did not cover the original denomination but the green could also be rubbed off. The Post Master could of course not accept this overprint so the printer was given instructions to produce an overprint of the appropriate quality. The initial overprints were scrapped and there is no evidence suggesting that they were ever sold at the counter. A few examples of the first trial print escaped the destruction and were given out to collectors and are known as the "Trial Print" pieces.

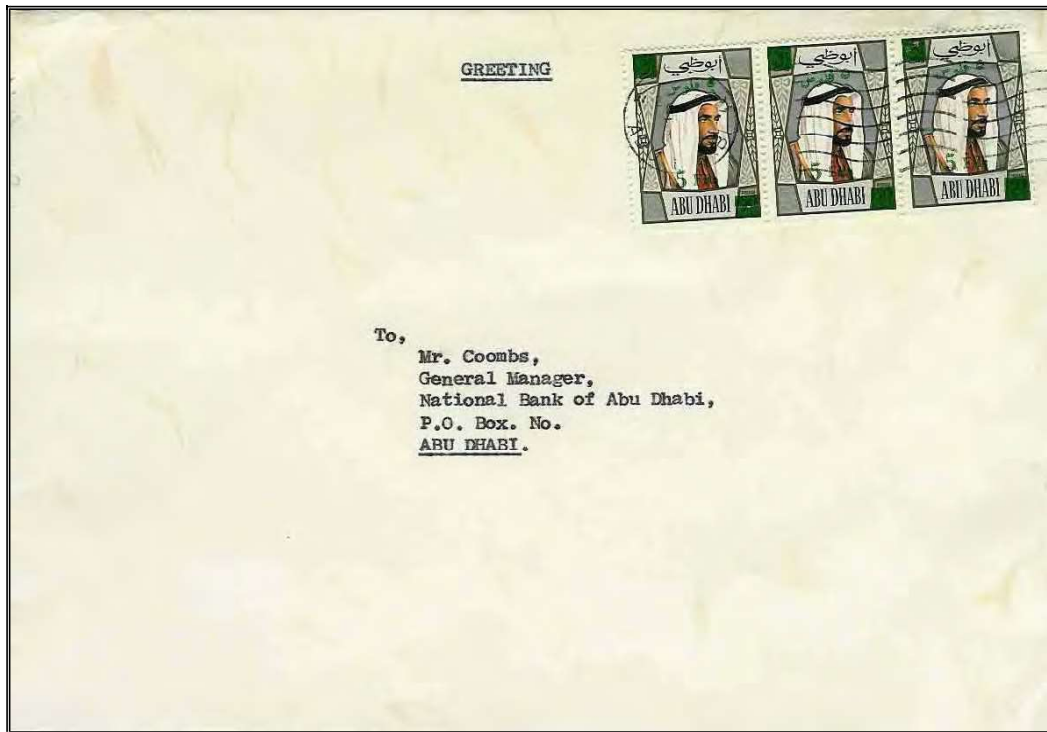
A total of 75.000 copies of the 50 Fils stamps were overprinted with 5 Fils and put on sale and these stamps bridged the gap of the 10 days before they were withdrawn and the remainder of the balance destroyed. Though the stamps were only on sale for a short period many stamps were sold to philatelist, especially from Europe, who saw a possibility for a quick profit. The run on the stamps almost created a second shortage according to the then Post Master, H.W.Wynn.



8th December 1971: An unaddressed First Day Cover cancelled at Das Island



19th December 1971: A local cover franked at the local rate of 5 Fils



23rd December 1971: A local cover franked with the triple rate of 15 Fils superscribed with "GREETINGS" – a good illustration of why the 5 Fils surcharge was necessary.



21st December 1971: A cover showing the mixed franking of the 5 Fils Surcharge and the 25 Fils from the 1970 issue making up the rate of 30 Fils.



19th December 1971: A cover sent from Abu Dhabi to London, UK showing the use of a block of 6 of the 5 Fils Surcharge along with the 1970 50 Fils definitive making up the rate of 80 Fils.

The Errors – The Albino Overprint and the Double Overprint

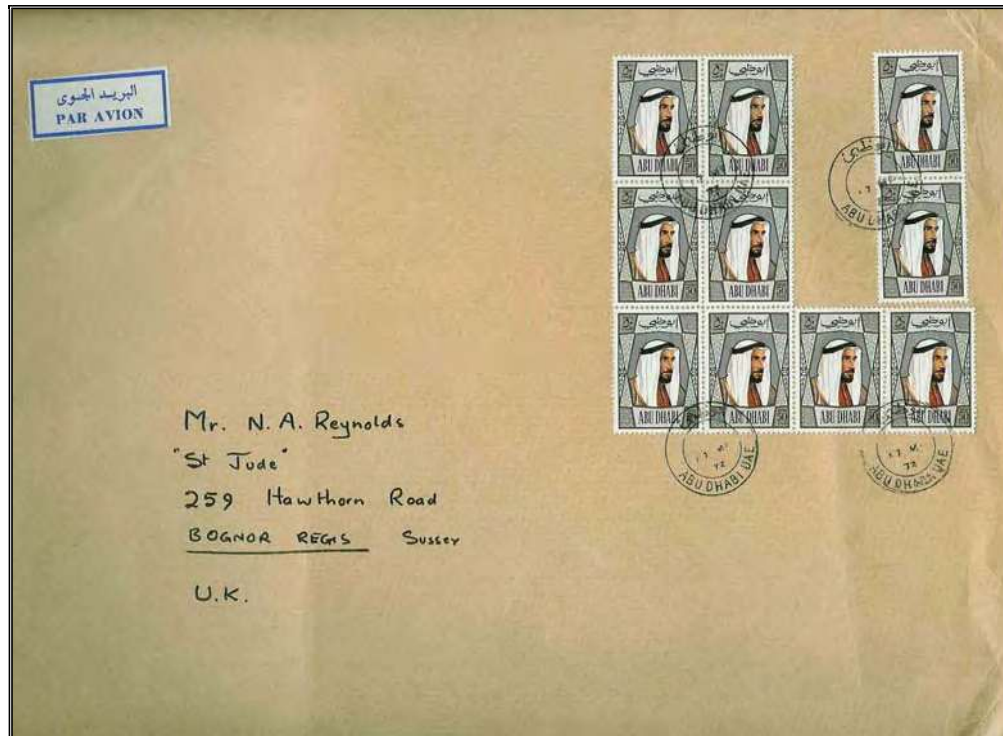


Some of the stamps were overprinted without the ink and only an impression of the overprint is seen on the stamp - the so-called ALBINO - an impression is often quite clear.

How many of these stamps exist is difficult to judge as they have been perceived as rare but following recent auctions, new discoveries and my own research it is clear that rarity is relative and that several sheets exist.



Above to the right is illustrated a block of 4 of the Double Overprint. Whereas the Albino is “common” this is the only example of the double overprint known to me. Whether that means that only one sheet exists only time will tell. (Left is an Albino block of 4)



17th of March 1973: A cover shown the use of 8 copies of the albino overprint sent by H.W. Wynn to Norman Reynolds of Bognor Regis in Sussex.



14th April 1973: A similar cover again sent by H.W. Wynn to Norman Reynolds showing the use of 9 copies of the albino overprint. Mr. Wynn and Mr. Reynolds were friends and Mr. Wynn helped Mr. Reynolds build one of the best Abu Dhabi stamp collection seen.

UAE – Dubai

Dubai Independent Cancellations

Type 23: Dubai Unnumbered Small Circle Canceller



During July 1965, a new small unnumbered circle cancel (**Type 23**), was introduced at the Dubai Post Office. It was used to cancel both registered and normal mail and has the longest lifespan of the independent cancellers spanning over 12 year from July 1965 to September 1977. The canceller is also known to have been used on parcel dispatch notes during the UAE postal administration. From late 1974 to 1977, the canceller is recorded used as a back/transit stamp of most registered mail originating from the northern emirates. The earliest recorded use for this type is on July 15th, 1965, and the latest is on September 4th, 1977.



Type 24: The 1st Deira Circle Canceller



Around September 1965, the first canceller including the origin Deira-Dubai was introduced in the Deira Post Office. The canceller (**Type 24**) included “**DEIRA – DUBAI**” in Arabic and English and was struck in two different colors - violet at the beginning and black during the year 1966. The canceller was only in use for a short period of time spanning approximately 1 year - the earliest recorded use being November 10th 1965 while the latest recorded use is October 29th 1966.



Type 25 & 26: The Deira Double Circle Canceller – Number 1 & 2

Again around September 1965, the double circled “DEIRA – DUBAI” cancellers either numbered “1” or “2” were introduced at the Deira Post Office.

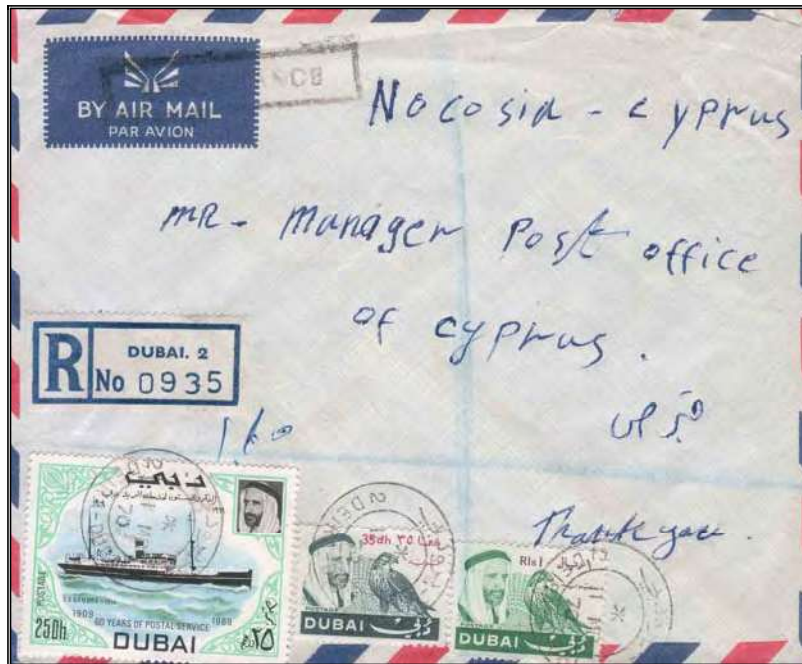


“DEIRA – DUBAI 1” (**Type 25**) – included in Arabic and English – was the first type to be introduced in the Deira post office and recorded used on only unregistered mail from 1965 to 1967. From 1967 and onwards it is recorded used on registered mail, though uncommon, as it was assigned for unregistered mail. The earliest recorded use for the numbered one type is on September 1st, 1965 and the latest recorded use is on January 6th, 1973.





“DEIRA – DUBAI 2” (Type 26) – included in Arabic and English – was the second type and assigned and was assigned for registered mail only. The earliest recorded use is on July 16th, 1967 and the latest recorded use on February 25th, 1973.

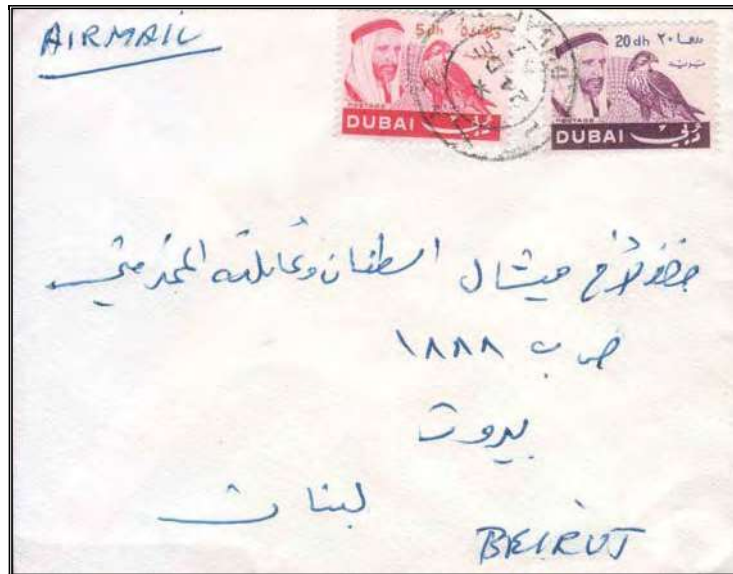


Type 27 & 28: Dubai Double Circle Canceller – Number 1 & 2



“DUBAI 1” (Type 27) – included in Arabic and English – is the most commonly seen canceller introduced during the period of the Independent Postal Administration. The number “1” cancel was assigned for unregistered mail but is occasionally recorded used on registered covers of philatelic origin. The canceller came into use during 1965 and continued its service into the first few months of UAE Postal Administration. The earliest recorded use is November 1965 and the latest recorded use is

March 27th 1973.



“DUBAI 2” (Type 27) – included in Arabic and English – is the hardest strike to find from the period of the Independent Postal Administration. It is known to have been applied in two different colors, violet and black, and was only assigned for registered. It is, however, known to have been used for parcel mail during the UAE postal administration. On September 15th and 16th 1977 it has been recorded used, improperly, with the two year digits damaged – i.e. you can’t read the year digits. The earliest recorded use is May 14th 1967 and the latest recorded use is

October 10th 1977.

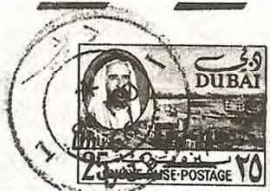
H NOTE		حافظه ارسال CP 2	
مخصص للمكاتب الرسمية For official label		مخصص لطابع البريد For Postage Stamps	
The DUBAI 6351		الرجاء الحفظ بخط طابع الاستعمال الرسمي This line is for official use	
Route to be followed لاستئناف ارساله (انظر طوله) Do not redirect (see reverse)		Stamp of the office of origin	
Ins. Value gold frs. (Fig.)		Weight Gross الوزن الكلي g g	
Custom stamp (الطابع الجمركي)		Seal Imp. الختم الشعي	
Custom duty (الضريبة الجمركية)		Seal Imp. الختم الشعي	

The article below was published by SG in November 2006 and discusses the date of introduction of the new currency “Rial” overprints in Dubai.

Catalogue Column

Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Editor,
Hugh Jefferies, reports

Dubai dates



It seems rather odd that Dubai changed over its currency from Indian naye paise and rupees to dirhams and riyals in 1966, issuing its first commemorative set in the new currency on 1 October of that year, yet, according to the catalogue, did not issue a set of definitives, surcharged in the new currency, until the following year (SG 233/45).

The dates given in the catalogue for the issue of new currency surcharges in the former Trucial States are, for the most part, not exact, although it is clear that Abu Dhabi, the largest state, brought its out also on 1 October 1966.

Thanks to John Gillham, who has shown me an example of the Dubai 25d. on 25n.p. surcharged stamp (237) on a cover clearly dated '21 NO 66' the date of issue will have to be amended in the next *Middle East* catalogue; but can anyone produce an even earlier date—possibly even 1 October 1966?

The establishment of the “Qatar and Dubai Riyal”, which was meant to establish greater economic independence by scrapping the Indian (or so-called Gulf) Rupee but was thrown into turmoil when the Indian government decided to devalue the Indian Rupee on June 6th 1966 – i.e. the Gulf States wanted to avoid a fall in the value of their purchase power. This led to the hasty introduction of the Saudi Riyal as a temporary measure until the new currency could be introduced.

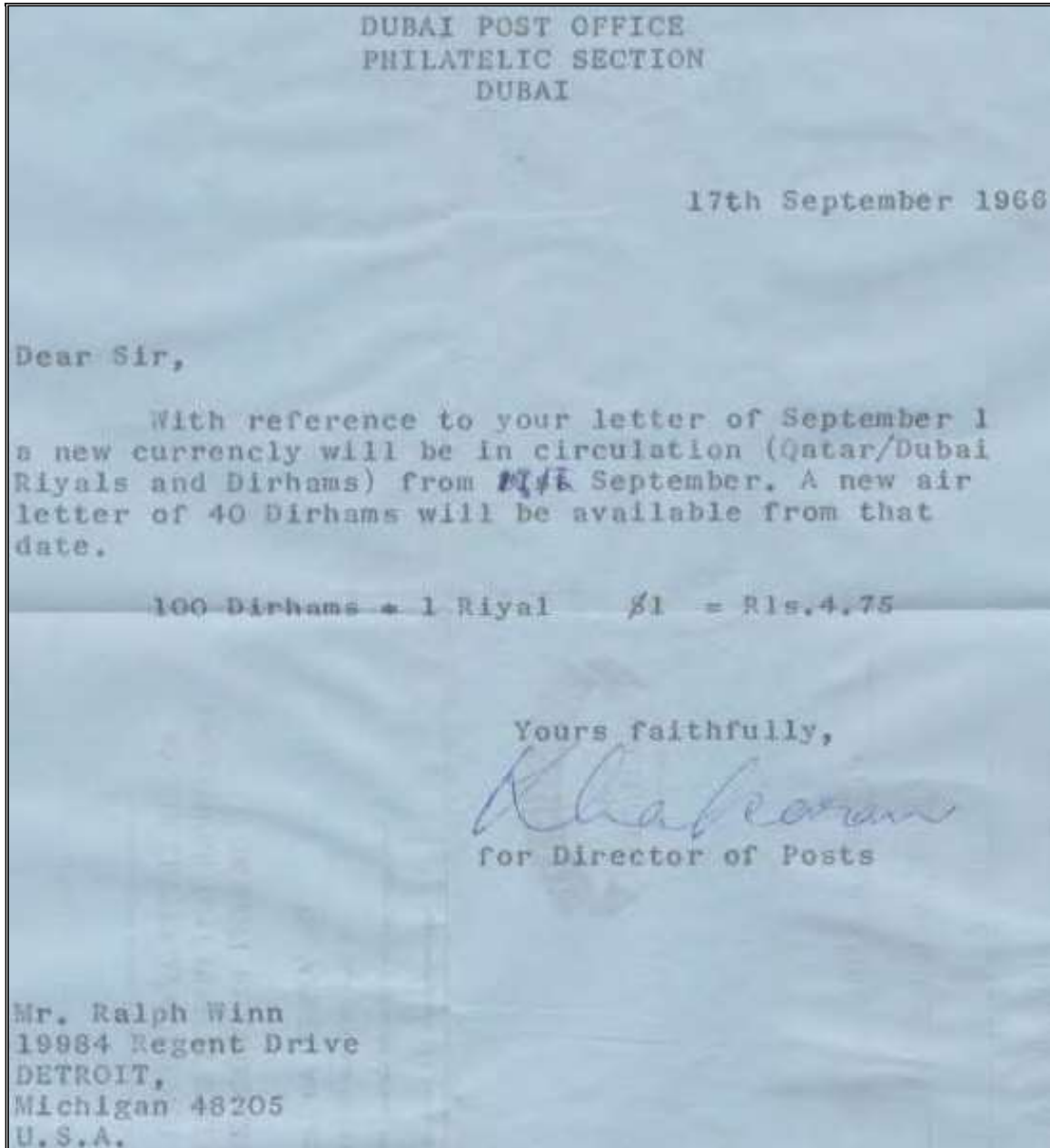
The article requests evidence of date of introduction and I am happy to say that Khalid Omairah has submitted two very interesting items which help us move a big step forward on the issue.



The first item is the above cover dated 26th September 1966 showing the earliest recorded use of a “Riyal” overprint.

The second item is shown below and illustrates an aerogram sent from the Director of Posts in Dubai on the 17th of September 1966. The letter is self-explanatory and makes reference to the “new” air letter being available on the launch date of the new currency; however, it makes no reference to the overprinting of stamps.

As you can see that date is slightly smothered but Khalid tells me that the initial date mentioned was 21st September (typed) and this was then corrected to 18th September by hand – i.e. the launch date of the new currency and the 40 Dirham air letter. This date is supported by the extract of another article on the following page.



For further information about the Qatar and Dubai currency union you can have a look on www.dubai-stamps.com and look under “The Regional Currencies” but I have pasted a couple of paragraphs bellow which could explain why the date was changed and what exactly when on during those days between the Rupee devaluation and the introduction of the Qatar and Dubai Riyal. The article was written by Peter J. Symes and has been reproduced on my website with Peter’s permission.

“Under the Qatar-Dubai Currency Agreement, the new currency to be introduced was to be called the 'Qatar and Dubai Riyal'. It was defined to be equivalent to one and a half shillings sterling, have a parity of 0.186621 grams of gold, and it was to be divided into one hundred Dirhams. Orders for new coins and bank notes were placed with the British Royal Mint and Bradbury Wilkinson and Company Limited immediately after the signing of the Currency Agreement. However the situation in Qatar and Dubai was thrown into turmoil when the Indian Rupee was devalued on 6 June, some months before the new currency could be delivered.

The announcement of the devaluation of the Indian rupee caused a great deal of concern in the Gulf states, as it was not immediately apparent whether the devaluation applied to the 'Gulf rupees' as well as the Indian rupees. Following clarification from the Reserve Bank of India that the devaluation did affect the Gulf rupees, the Gulf states moved quickly to protect themselves from speculators, as the banks within the Gulf states were still exchanging the Gulf rupees for the pre-devaluation rates. Qatar halted all air travel into Qatar for several days, and the banks suspended trading in Indian and Gulf rupees until the ramifications of the devaluation could be fully understood. In order to protect their economies, the governments of Qatar and Dubai promised that, when possible, the Gulf Rupees would be exchanged for the new currency at pre-devaluation rates. However, in order to halt speculation in Gulf Rupees, it was deemed prudent to withdraw them from circulation in the two sheikdoms as soon as possible. To this end an agreement was made with the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency to borrow one hundred million Saudi Arabian riyals to provide a circulating currency prior to the arrival of the new Qatar and Dubai riyals.

Consequently the Gulf Rupees were withdrawn from circulation towards the end of June 1966 (ceasing to be legal tender in Qatar and Dubai shortly after), and Saudi riyals entered circulation. The use of Saudi riyals by Qatar and Dubai continued for a number of months, but by mid-September 1966 sufficient notes had been delivered from Bradbury Wilkinson and Company to allow the release of the new currency. So, on 18 September 1966, Qatar and Dubai riyals were made available to the public in exchange for Saudi riyals. The exchange rate for the replacement of Gulf Rupees by Saudi riyals had been 100 Saudi riyals for 106.5 Gulf rupees; and the new currency was now exchanged at the rate of 106.5 Qatar and Dubai riyals for 100 Saudi riyals. The total value of new bank notes placed in circulation during the period of exchange was 73,944,065 Qatar and Dubai riyals.”

UAE - The other Trucial States

Sharjah First Flight Covers



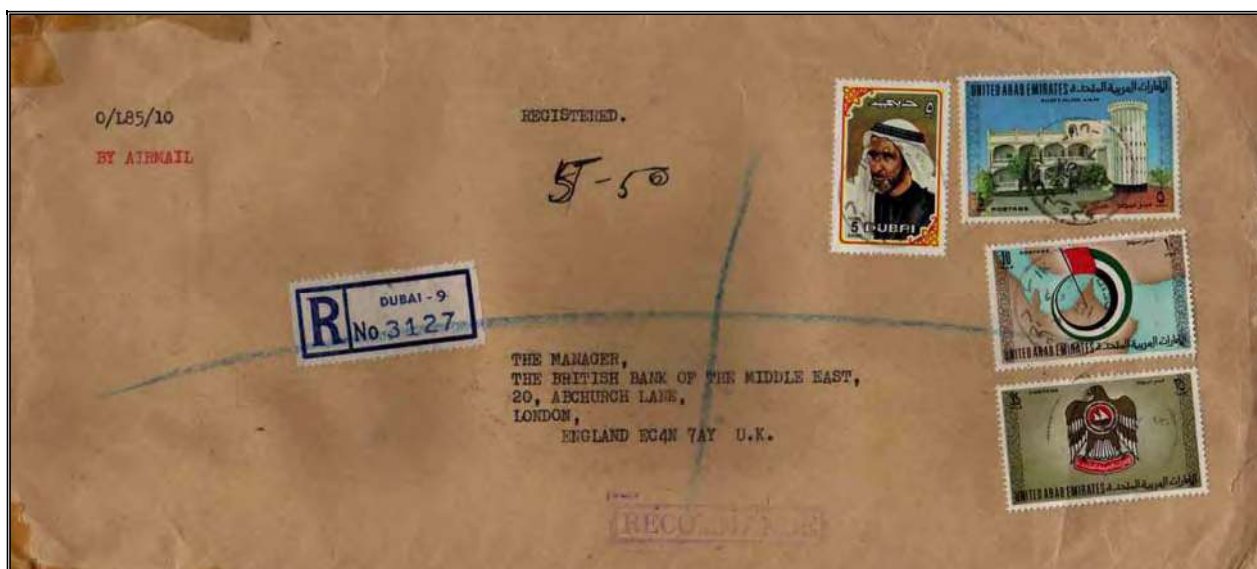
5th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Karachi to Sharjah with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/KARACHI-SHARJAH” applied. The cover has been franked with one India 1 Anna 3 Pies KGV and a pair of 1 Anna “Inauguration of Delhi” and a total of 18 covers were flown.



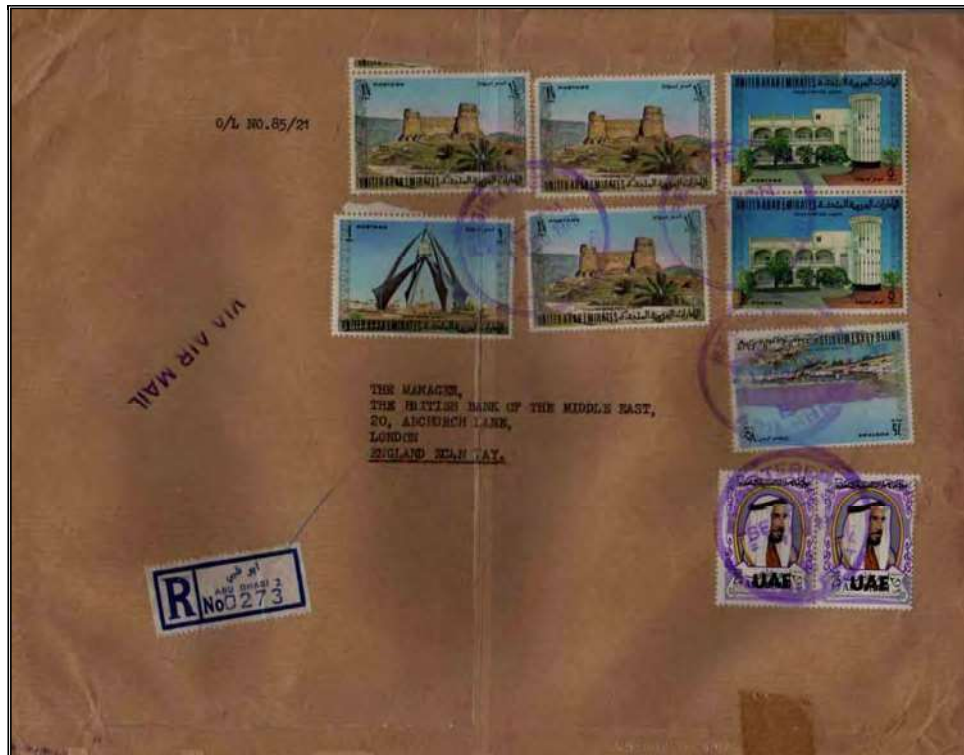
4th October 1932: First Flight cover sent from Baghdad to Sharjah with red “FIRST AIRMAIL/BAGHDAD-SHARJAH” applied.



3 June 1961: A cover sent from Sharjah via Dubai to the USA franked with 140 NP made up by two 50 NP and two 20 NP stamps from the 1961 Trucial States issue. The cover has sender as being Khalid Sultan Al-Qasimi – Sharjah's ruling family.



18 January 1973: A mixed franking cover sent from Dubai to the UK showing a combination of Dubai franking and the 1973 UAE Definitive issue.



1 February 1973: A mixed franking cover sent from Abu Dhabi to the UK showing the use of the 1972 UAE overprint definitive from Abu Dhabi and the 1973 UAE definitive issue. The cancellation make is the big Abu Dhabi “E” registration canceller.



22 February 1973: A similar covers showing the mixed franking of Abu Dhabi stamps and the 1973 UAE definitive issue.



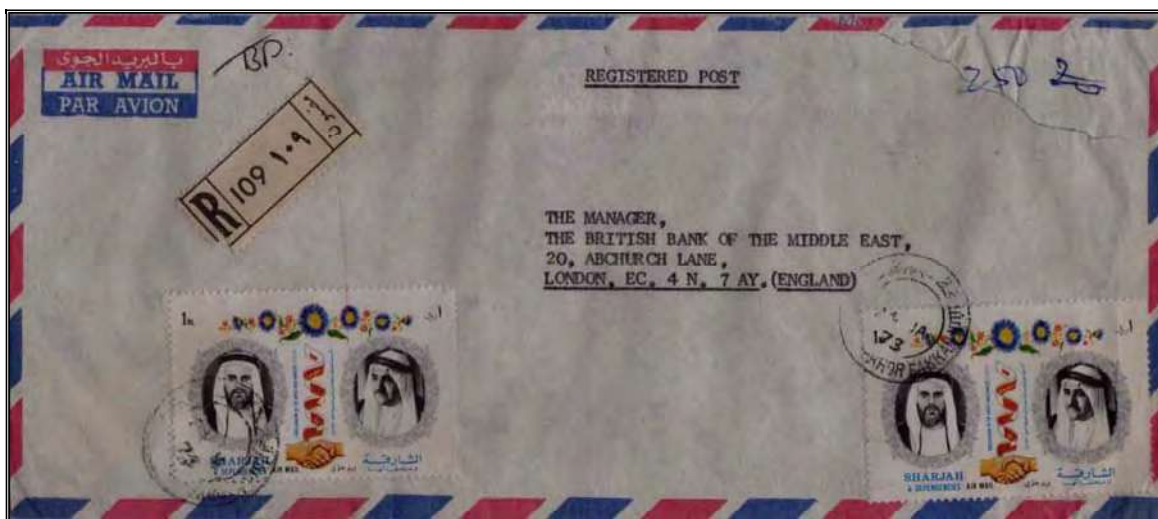
4 March 1973: A mixed franking cover showing the use of the high value 500 Fils Abu Dhabi 1972 definitive issue and the 1973 UAE definitive issue.

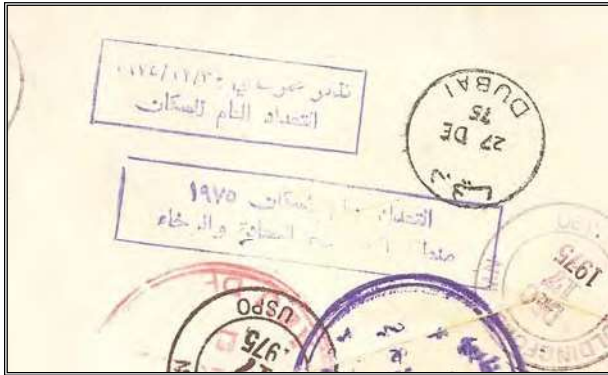


10 January 1973: A cover sent from Ras Al Khaimah to the UK showing the mixed franking of the 1966 Ras Al Khaimah New Currency and the 1973 UAE definitive issue.



24 January 1973: The back and front of a cover sent from Khor Fakkan in Sharjah to the UK showing the mixed franking of Sharjah, Sharjah & Dependencies and the 1973 UAE definitive issues.





17 December 1975: A registered cover sent from the USA to Abu Dhabi with Dubai transit stamp dated 27 December 1975 and Abu Dhabi arrival backstamp dated 28 December 1975. In either Abu Dhabi or Dubai the cover has had two cachets applied to it relating to the 1975 population census.

The top cachet reads "Remember your age in 30/12/1975 - The general census of population" and measures 47 x 14 mm and the bottom cachet reads "The general census of population 1975 - for the happiness and comfort" and measure 67 x 15 mm.



Links, Contacts and Credits

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Emirates Post
P.O. Box 99999
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U.A.E.
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Website: www.emiratespost.co.ae

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Ruwi
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Email: pttphil@omantel.net.om
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Website: www.qpost.com.qa

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Kuwait Philatelic Section
Post Office Department
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Safat 13309
Kuwait

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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

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