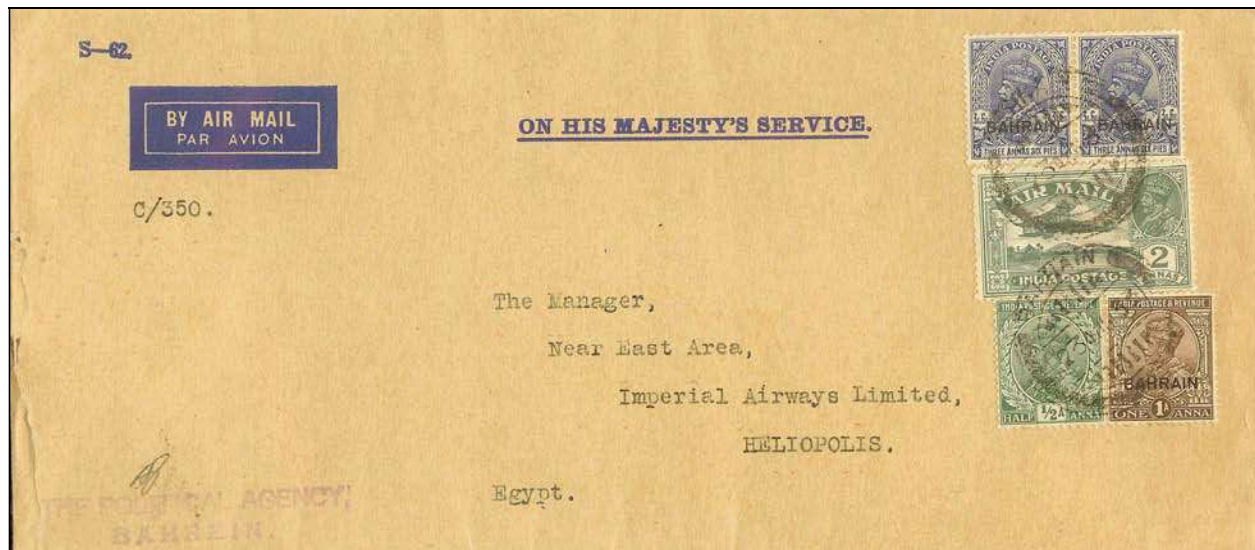


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



23 August 1933: An airmail cover sent from The Political Agency in Bahrain to the Near East Area Manager of Imperial Airways in Heliopolis, Egypt. The cover shows the mixed use of Indian stamps and Indian stamps overprinted Bahrain. The rate of 10½as covers the charge for a letter up to one ounce being the surface fee of 2½as for the first oz and 2x4as air fee for each ½ oz. The air fee of 4as per ½ oz was valid from July 1933.

Edition 35 – Summer 2010

Edited and Published by Thomas Johansen based on the concept of Terry Jones
PO Box 5410, Manama, Bahrain

Email: arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com / Phone +973 39614651

www.bahrain-stamps.com - www.oman-stamps.com - www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com
www.dubai-stamps.com - www.kuwait-stamps.com - www.qatar-stamps.com

CONTENTS

- Welcome to Edition 35	02
- Comments, Questions & Corrections	03
- Bahrain	04
- Kuwait	18
- Muscat & Oman	25
- United Arab Emirates	
o Abu Dhabi	32
o Dubai	35
o Trucial States	37
- Links, Contacts and Credits	47

Welcome to Edition 35 of the Quarterly

It is only appropriate for me to start the introduction to Edition 35 with an apology for the excessive delay of this issue. I have come to realize that being away from home makes it very difficult to put together 50 pages of information. However (and finally) Edition 35 is done.

Let me also say that coinciding with 4 weeks of stay in Bahrain between now and New Year Edition 36 and 37 should be completed on time so before the end of the year. There are already a number of topics ready for in Edition 36 and 37 including cross usage during the British Period, Kuwait's type 9 "Supdt. of Post Offices, Indian stamps used in the Gulf plus a number of modern topics. However, please send and submit as many suggestions and material as possible.

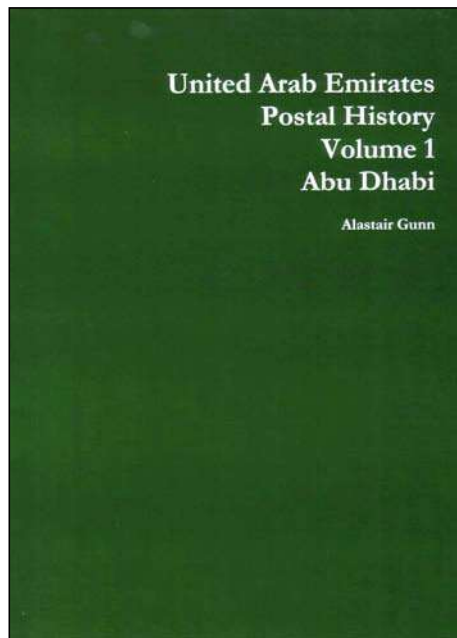
On the exhibition front the Kuwait Philatelic society and Kuwait Ministry of Communications Post Sector will hold the 16th GCC Stamp Exhibition in Kuwait from 22nd to 27th November to promote every aspect of Philately in Arabian region.

Enjoy autumn
Thomas Johansen

Comments, Questions & Corrections

Reader's Feedback

New publication by Alastair Gunn:



'United Arab Emirates Postal History Volume 1 Abu Dhabi'

Hardcover Print: £35.00

This book is the first in a series (of probably two) to introduce and explore the postal history of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in this case the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. It covers the period from 1 January 1973. All normal areas are explored; EKU and LKU dates, circular date stamps, machine cancels, registered marks and labels, parcel marks, meter cancels etc.. For full details do check the 'Contents' which you will find in the book preview section. Anyone interested in the postal history of the GCC-especially the UAE- will find this a great addition to their bookshelf. 82 pages - full colour throughout and a hardback.

It can be found at <http://stores.lulu.com/awgunn>

It's a print on demand book - so you pay first then wait whilst the company prints it (normally no more than 10 days. Payment is by credit card or Paypal. Please note that I have nothing to do with the printing process.

Like all postal history books dealing with modern material (and I do only deal with Abu Dhabi from the start of the UAE stamp issuing time) I am sure new information will be found but, as I believed there to be nothing else easily available, I thought it appropriate to put into the public domain the information I had. I recognized the issue of how to organize the information

- By Post Office?
- By individual Emirate?
- By country?

All three choices were valid options. I decided, however, to use each Emirate as the basis for setting out the information, so if you want EKU and LKU type information for the complete UAE you will just have to look it up against each Emirate. Sorry (and you'll just have to wait for the next volume).

The book has been given a discount code (BEACHREAD305) which you can use but it expires on August 15. Finally, Alastair Gunn would like to mention his thanks to Khalid Omaira; without his help the book would have been markedly less successful.

Bahrain



A surface cover sent from Bahrain to New York on the 30th of August 1931.

The cover shows the use of the 3as surface rate which was in use until December 1st 1931 when it was increased to 3½as

The Introduction of Surcharged Indian Stamp in Bahrain & the Persian Problem

It has long been my intention to share with you a document that my friend, Bjorn Sohne, discovered during his trip to the India Office Archives in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi back in 2005. Following suggestions by some of our readers that we do a piece on the mixed usage of Indian and Bahrain overprinted stamps it seemed to the ideal opportunity to summarize the 57-page document called File No. 272-N/1933 which covered the topic of issuing Indian stamp surcharged Bahrain.

Section.	File No. 272-N/1933.	File No.
Heading.		Serial No.
NOTES.		
F. & P. "N"	DEPT. BRANCH.	Pros. 19 Nos.
Subject.		
Issue of stamps surcharged "Bahrain" and matters connected therewith.		

As the various mixed franking covers are illustrated the more interesting observations made in the document will be covered. The document covers correspondence from July 1932 to 1 January 1935 mainly relating to the Persian Governments postal response to the British issuing the surcharged stamps.

Background: At the request of the Shaikh of Bahrain it was decided in July 1932 that Indian stamps overprinted with the word “BAHRAIN” should be supplied for issue in Bahrain. The Persian Government came to know about this from the circular issued by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union announcing the issue of the new stamps. The Persian Government then protested to H.M.’s minister in Tehran and communicated their protest to the League of Nations. It was agreed, as a temporary measure, to delay the issue of the new stamps in the interest of giving Persia no justification for arguing that their issue represented a breach of the status quo agreement in the Persian Gulf.



This was following a letter from the Persian Government to the UPU stating that as Bahrain belonged to Persia correspondence bearing stamps other than Persian would be treated as unpaid. A reply was sent via the Director-General of Post & Telegraph pointing out that the Persian claim was without foundation and that the Shaikh was within his sovereign rights in asking the Government of India to issue the stamps.



It was decided to issue the stamps as no practical difficulties were envisioned and the only persons who would suffer in the event of the Persian threats being carried out were the Persian subject in Bahrain. Retaliatory action by treating correspondence from Persia bearing Persian stamps as unpaid was never considered.



10-08-1933 A memo written by the Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf (Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Loch) to the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India in reply to a memo dated 31 October 1932. The memo consists of several topics relating to the issue of surcharged stamps in Bahrain.

1. It confirms that the stamp question has now gained a wider publicity – including philatelic journals and that the use of Indian stamps in Bahrain cannot be defended. The reason that surcharged stamps are being used is because Bahrain is an independent state and the Ruler requested the stamps. The continued use of Indian stamps without the Ruler’s assent would

constitute a violation of the very sovereignty that the surcharged stamps support and asking the Ruler for assent is impossible as he would regard it as destroying the value of the surcharged stamps.

2. If the Persian Government finds official British letters franked with Indian stamps they would be expected to report this to the UPU and put forward damaging claims that the issue of the surcharged stamps is merely a political device. Using the Indian stamps could be defended by the Persian reaction to the surcharged stamps if the case goes to the UPU but since it is possible that the UPU may accept the Persian contention rather than the British such use should be avoided. Furthermore, the Persian Government may only accept postage paid with Persian stamps and all other articles, including those franked with Indian stamps, as unpaid and subject to a payment of twice the internal Persian postage.



27 August 1933: A mixed franking cover sent from Bahrain to India and showing the use of four overprinted 1a3ps values and an Indian unoverprinted 3ps value.

The 5as3ps franking covers the 1a3ps surface fee for the first 2½ tolas and the double air fee of 4as (being 2as per tola)

3. If the Persian Government interferes with official articles the proper remedy is a complaint to the UPU – this course of action also applies to ordinary users of the postal system.

4. It is in this memo that the use of the Political Agent in Kuwait as a transit office for official mail from Bahrain to British offices in Persia was instructed and that nothing should appear on the outer cover. Should the Persian Government get to know of this arrangement and question it the complete answer is that the arrangement was initiated to avoid petty bickering which is likely to be caused by letters franked with surcharged stamps supported by the Persian Governments public announcement of such action. It is merely a way to avoid friction where possible pending the negotiation of a general treaty. If it is found that the Persians do not implement their threat of interfering with letters franked with surcharged stamps then the question of sending official mail directly from Bahrain to Persia can be reconsidered.

17-08-1933

Belgrave, the advisor to the Government of Bahrain, was instructed by the Ruler, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa to convey his thanks to the British Government for arranging the new issue of stamps surcharged “BAHRAIN”.

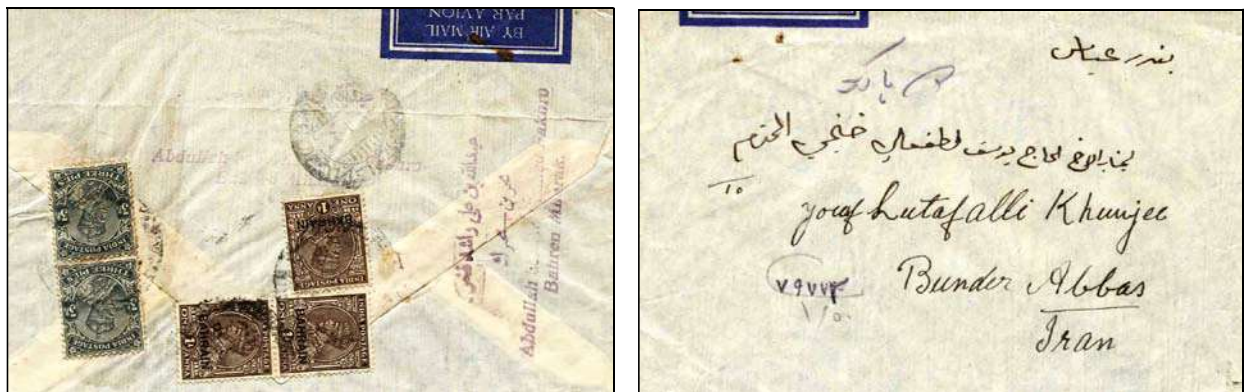
24-08-1933

The Political Residents letter is self-explanatory. It is evident that the issue of the surcharged stamps will sooner or later come to the notice of the Persian Government and once they know of

this, it is immaterial whether surcharged or ordinary stamps are affixed on letters for Persia as they had already informed the Postal Union their intentions to treat correspondence from Bahrain bearing stamps other than Persian as unpaid. So long as the Persian claim to Bahrain remains unsettled, no representation against the Persian Governments action in the matter is likely to serve any useful purpose and it would be difficult to persuade that Government not to put into force their threat.

Once the surcharged stamps were issued it would no longer be desirable for British officials in Bahrain to use Indian stamps. In response to the Persian threat and given the Political Agent in Bahrain's continued requirement to correspond with British officials in Persia the Political Resident in Bahrain directed him to send his letters for Persia to the Political Agent in Kuwait to be posted there while omitting a sender's address of Bahrain origin. This procedure would avoid giving any opportunity to the Persian Government to interfere with his official mail.

With regards to mail sent to Persia by private persons and firms they would be instructed to file their complaints with the Bahrain Post Office if problems arise. There is an admission in the document that the postal authorities would be helpless in the matter but that it was not desirable to let the public know this.



A cover sent from Muharraq in Bahrain to Bandar Abbas in Iran. It illustrates the use of Indian and Bahrain overprinted stamps and should have been subject to the Persian threat. The cover has been superscribed in purple pen but the significance of this is unclear and the cover does not seem to have received postage due upon arrival at Bandar Abbas.

29-08-1933

In a telegram sent by the Political Resident in Bahrain to Tehran he reports a complaint by an Indian merchant in Bushire who had to pay postage due on a letter sent from Bahrain with surcharged stamps.

06-09-1933

A short telegram stressing the need to warn the press and specifically philatelic journals to describe Bahrain as Arabia and not Persia. The actual announcement was sent to "The Philatelic

Bulletin”, “The Philatelic Magazine”, “The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain” and “The Philatelic Trader” on September 20 and reads:

“You will be aware that since the 10th August last, Indian stamps used in Bahrain, Persian Gulf, have been surcharged “BAHRAIN” in the same manner as Indian stamps used in Kuwait have for many years been surcharged “KUWAIT”. In this connection I beg to invite your attention to the fact that Bahrain is, like Kuwait, an independent Arab State on the Arabian Littoral of the Persian Gulf. By arrangement with the Sheikh an Indian Post Office has been maintained there for many years.



7 September 1933: A first flight cover sent to Akyab illustrating mixed franking.

The cover has been franked with a total of 5as3ps covering the air fee for up to 2 tolas.

02-10-1933

A telegram from the PR in Bushire mentioning that the supply of surcharged stamps has been insufficient though further supplies of certain denominations were received on September 25th. Order from Karachi to the Postmaster in Bahrain to use plain stamps was given but the PR makes it clear that this should not be the case. He goes on to mention that the postal authorities concerned should complete stocks of surcharged stamps without delay and this time in sufficient quantities to avoid further shortage. Meanwhile all plain stamps should be withdrawn. The telegram finishes off with the PR requesting that he be consulted before orders which clearly may have a political bearing are given to the Postmaster in Bahrain.

03-10-1933

The consequence of the PR’s telegram being another telegram from the D.G. SM to the Director of Post and Telegraph Karachi and the Master Security Printer Nasik Road reiterating the PR’s telegram amongst others the quote: “Do not ask Post Bahrain again to use plain stamps in place of surcharged stamps”.

14-10-1933 Letter from Shaikh Hamed to King George V

A memo sent to Sir Clive Wigram at Buckingham Palace from the India Office in Whitehall concerning the gift of a set of stamps from the Shaikh of Bahrain to King George V. It mentions the need for a suitable expression of His Majesty’s thanks should he be pleased to accept the stamps. The reply from the office of King George V to the Shaikh’s gift was sent on 20 October.

From Hamad bin Isa alKhalifah.

To His Majesty George V of Great Britain, Ireland
and the British Dominions beyond the seas,
King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

We offer Your Majesty many compliments and our greatest respects.

We have the honour to inform Your Majesty that your friend has heard that Your Majesty is making a collection of stamps. As a token of our gratitude and pleasure at Your Majesty's action in granting to us the surcharge "Bahrain" on the Indian stamps bearing Your Majesty's picture, which are in use in our country, we are sending for Your Majesty's private collection a set of the new stamps. We hope that Your Majesty will honour us by accepting them. We are very grateful for Your Majesty's assistance to us in this matter and we regard it as yet another token of the friendship between us and Your Majesty's government which has existed for so many generations. We feel too that this is another assurance of Your Majesty's support against any who threaten our independence.

We recall with pleasure our meeting with Your Majesty at Buckingham palace eight years ago when we visited England and we look forward always to the pleasure of another meeting with Your Majesty. With enquiries after the health of Your Majesty and Your Majesty's family and expression of respect and salaams.
Rabi-al-Thany 29, 1352. Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah.

16-10-1933

A letter sent from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to the Master, Security Printing, India, Nasik Road.

With reference to the forecast estimate for overprint “BAHRAIN” stamps sent to you by the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan, with his letter dated 2 October 1933, I am directed to say that it has been decided that, though the forecast relates to the year 1934-35, the stamps mentioned therein should be overprinted and sent to the Karachi local depot as early as possible.

In this connection I am to draw your attention to your letter dated 20 August 1933, in which you stated that the present stocks of 2½as and 6as denomination were unsuitable for overprinting and to observe that it is rather awkward to use both overprinted and plain stamps side by side at the Bahrain Post Office and that the political purpose for which the overprinted stamps were introduced would be affected to a great extent if stamps of all denomination are not overprinted. I therefore request that an effort may be made to overprint those stamps as well and a report sent to this office if this is possible.



4 October 1933: A mixed franking cover sent to the UK and franked with a total of 8½as made up by the surface fee of 2½as for 1 ounce and the 6a air fee for the first ½ ounce.

The reply to this letter is dated 30 October and confirms that new supplies of overprinted stamps were dispatched to Karachi on 13 October. As for the 6as stamps it states that: “Overprinting of the 6as stamps is impossible as the old perforated stock is not fit to put through the machines again. It is suggested that if there is political difficulty in issuing this denomination unoverprinted the balance should be withdrawn and replaced by 3as if necessary. The 2½as, 256 set, cannot be overprinted with the existing plates. A 320 set will shortly be prepared and it will be possible to overprint this in the future.

27-10-1933

Correspondence from the Deputy Director-General of Postal Services in New Delhi dated 27 October 1933 refers to a correspondence that includes the Director of Posts and Telegraphs for Sind and Baluchistan and the Master of Security Printing. It quotes “The Master, Security Printing, was also asked on the 16th instant (October) if he could arrange for the overprinting of those stamps which did not bear the overprint yet and a reply is awaited”. We can speculate as to what “those stamps” means but the earliest recorded use of the surcharged 3 pies value is 8 November 1933 and all the values issued in 1934 were already represented in the 10 August 1933 surcharged set.



09-11-1933

A memo sent by the Deputy Director General, Postal Services stating: As suggested by the Master, Security Printing, India, arrangement will be made for the supply of an increased quantity of the overprinted 3as, 2as and also of ½a stamps to replace the 6as and 2½as plain denominations for sale at the Bahrain Post Office.

18-11-1933

A letter from the Sub-Post Master in Bahrain reporting that a number of letters have been posted by Persian merchants, bearing plain Indian stamps, addressed to persons in Persia. The letters all bear the correct the correct amount of postage but have been held up pending the result of a reference by the Sub-Post Master to the Superintendent of Post Offices, Karachi, asking for orders as to their disposal.



18 October 1933: A mixed franking cover sent to Holland and franked with two copies of the 3as 1929 India Airmail issue and two copies of the 1a3ps Bahrain overprint.

The cover should have been with the 9½as rate to Continental Europe but appears to have been paid with the 8½as rate to the UK instead avoiding postage due. Though the air fee of 6as per ½ ounce was the same the surface rate to continental Europe was 3½as.

08-02-1934

The six Persian merchants have written a combined letter to the Sub-Post Master in the following terms:

“We have been given to understand by our Bushire constituents that they have not received letters to them by the last mail. As some of these letters contain drafts and other documents we shall feel obliged if you will kindly let us know if you have any information as to why and how these letters have been delayed”

10-02-1934

A reply from the PR in Bahrain to the PR in Bushire relating to the incident of the Persian Merchants suggest that the solution to the problem with specific letters was to allow these particular letters to go through without any endorsement on the envelopes and without any demand for the recovery of the amount due in order to avoid a political issue with the Persian government. It then adds, also mentioned under the 07-03-1934 memo below, that a notice be placed on the notice board at the Post Office stating the following terms:

“The Public are informed that postal articles cannot be accepted for transmission, if they bear stamps other than those bearing the surcharge BAHRAIN”

The memo finishes off by suggesting that no answer be returned to the letter of the merchants and that, if they pursue the matter, they should be referred verbally to the notice board and informed that, as an act of grace, their letters have on the present occasion been forwarded without penalty.

07-03-1934

A March 1934 memo refers to an earlier memo sent by the Sub-Postmaster in Bahrain pointing out that some residents were still using plain Indian stamps from their old stocks. His initial conclusion mentions that there was no indication that the residents using Indian stamps were doing so deliberately by getting their supply of stamps in India. Therefore issuing a public notice offering surcharged stamps in exchange for Indian stamps should be sufficient to solve the problem.

However, by March 1934 it had transpired that the residents concerned were the Persian merchants of Bahrain. Two reasons for their actions are highlighted being a show of sympathy towards the susceptibilities of the Persian Government but also the commercial reason of avoiding paying postage due on letters sent to Persia is highlighted. The response taken towards the Persian merchants was to inform them that their letters would be held up if they were not affixed surcharged stamps. This action was then modified to “the letters should be returned with instructions to affix surcharged stamps”. Simultaneous the Postmaster issued a notice stating “that postal articles cannot be accepted for transmission unless they bear surcharged stamps.”



The cover illustrated above is dated 27 September 1933 and shows the 8½as rate to the UK for ½ an ounce of airmail paid up with three Indian stamps and one Bahrain overprint.

The action taken was considered sufficient to serve the purpose of avoiding further use of Indian stamps at the Bahrain Post Office concluding that the Persian merchants will be penalized in form of postage due but that was their problem and it was up to them to persuade the Persian Government not to treat letters bearing surcharged stamps as unstamped.

08-03-1934

A telegram from the Viceroy's F&P Department in New Delhi stating "Government of India are of the opinion that the detained letters may be returned to the senders with instructions to affix stamps surcharge "BAHRAIN" – Government of India supports the action suggested.

30-08-1934 Unpaid

A memo stating that all mail from Bahrain to Abadan bearing stamps surcharged "BAHRAIN" were being treated as unstamped.

11-01-1935 Unpaid retaliatory measures

A memo highlighting that the discussion of retaliatory measures has once again been brought up if the Persians do not desist from refusing to honor Bahrain postage. The discussion comes in the light of the general treaty negotiations with the Persian Government relating to the Arab Coast and British insistence that they will not budge on the matter. Treating Persian mail arriving at Bahrain as unpaid would be a political statement by the British as to their view on Bahrain sovereignty. The concern continues to be whether such action would recoil more seriously on Bahrainis (other than Persians) and British subject than on Persia itself. In reply to the memo dated 11-01-1935 it is decided that there is no advantage by taking retaliatory measures as the Bahrain authorities would not be able justify such action which would ultimately be attributed to the Government of India which runs the postal service on behalf of Bahrain.



The above cover was sent to Tehran in 1935 and has received postage due upon arrival. The two stamps on the back avoided cancellation at dispatch but have been cancelled with red pen.

19-01-1935 Unpaid

A memo from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs in Karachi stating that no action should be taken on cases where mail from Bahrain is treated as unpaid.



Baghdad – Haifa Overland Items:

Two more Bahrain Overland items have come to light over the past 3 months.

One cover was sent to the USA on 26 August 1936 and franked with the correct 6as rate made up by the 3.5as surface fee plus the 2.5as Overland surcharge fee.

Interestingly, the cover has Otis Scott, Damman as the senders address which is the

first time that the have seen a Saudi sender's address on a Bahrain Overland cover.

The other is a postcard sent to the USA and franked with 3as – the surface rate for post cards to the USA was $\frac{3}{4}$ as with the remaining postage of $2\frac{1}{4}$ as covering the overland Surcharge. The accuracy of the surcharge rate cannot be confirmed at this stage since the postcard is the only example recorded so far.



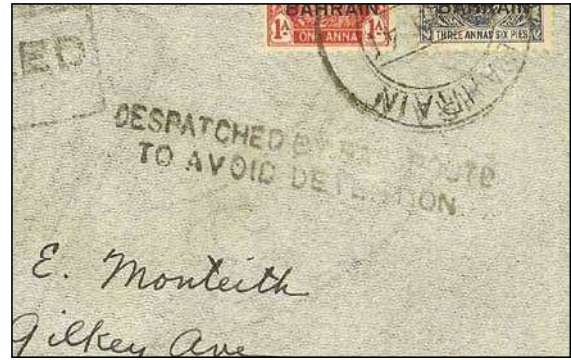
A cover sent from Bahrain dated 21 July 1941. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ as franking makes up by the 1a internal air fee for one tola (Bahrain to Karachi) and the $3\frac{1}{2}$ as the surface fee onwards from Karachi to the USA. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ as rate in itself is uncommon but what is interesting is the “DESPATCHED BY SEA ROUTE TO AVOID DETENTION” handstamp applied on to the cover – it is the first recorded example of the handstamp on mail of Bahrain origin. Where and why was this handstamp applied?

To get a better idea of what may have happened I contacted Peter Wingent to find out more about the air services

between Bahrain and Karachi at the time. Peter was kind enough to supply me with the following details:

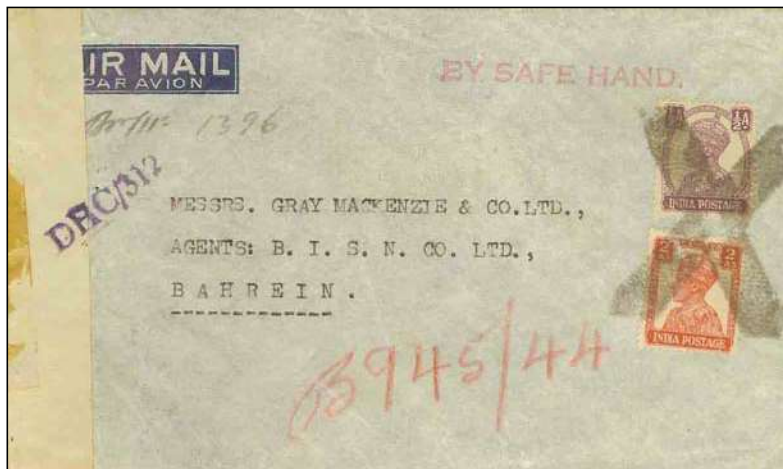
NE103 was operated by Coriolanus and scheduled to depart Bahrain for Karachi on 17 July but left two days late on 19 July while NE104, operated by Cleopatra, was scheduled to depart on 21 July but left one day late on 22 July.

The cover being cancelled on 21 July would have been intended for the airmail dispatch due to leave with the NE104 service. Knowing that the service would be delayed the Post Master must have chosen to dispatch the letter via the sea route instead, maybe with a steamer already in port and scheduled to depart on the day, instead of waiting for the flight. Since the cover was destined for the surface route once it arrived at Karachi (and not Calcutta as the cancelled superscription indicates) the most likely origin of the handstamp is Bahrain as it would make no sense to apply it in Karachi. This is further supported by the Karachi transit stamp being dated 24 July indicating 3 days in transit which supports that the cover went by surface from Bahrain to Karachi.



A short mention of Peter Wingent's books: There are two and both are titled, "Movements of Aircraft on Imperial Airways' Eastern Route". Vol. 1 covers 1927 to February 1937 while Vol. 2 covers February 1937 to September 1939. Each book gives the movements of aircraft for each I.A. service on the route from U.K. to India, and from December 1934 on to Australia. Vol. 2 also includes details of the services of the I.A. feeder service to Hong Kong from March 1936 to September 1939

Unfortunately, Vol. 1 is out of print but copies of Volume 2 available at £30 each, plus postage. If you would like a copy please contact Peter via email member@winge.freemove.co.uk



I forwarded the following cover to Max Smith who had to following comments: The X obliterator was used to obliterate high-value stamps but it was a comparatively late requirement to prevent re-use of stamps during the Geo 6 period.

It should not exclusively be associated with the war, but during this period it had a security advantage, in that it did

not give any details of when or where the item was posted. The "Safe hand" mail (some handstamps show 'Safe hand of pilot') indicated that the article was to be carried personally by the pilot of the aircraft (or captain of the sea vessel) so that he could destroy it in the event of emergency, to prevent it falling into enemy hands. The reason was that the letter contained sensitive information, normally shipping manifests and movement details.

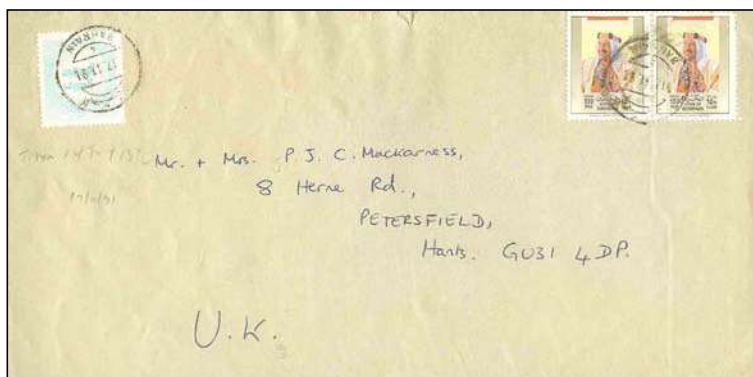


A cover sent to Denmark on 18 March 1940 by surface mail. The cover has been franked with a total of 6as representing an overpayment of $\frac{1}{2}$ a for a weight up to two ounces – $3\frac{1}{2}$ as for the first ounce and 2as for second (or each additional) ounce. Incidentally the 6as rate would have been the rate covering 1oz of Overland Mail via the Baghdad – Haifa route and may have been so intended but given the lack of the required superscription and Baghdad transit stamp it is unlikely that the cover took this route.

There is no arrival backstamp but Denmark was invaded by Germany on 9 April 1940 and the cover was censored in Berlin (the b at the foot of the black roller censor). There was also a censor station in Copenhagen (k) but no trace of that on the cover – possibly because it arrived before the 9 April invasion.

Bahrain Modern Cancellers:

Defined by Terry Jones as Donaldson Type 45 in his Bahrain book he also tells us that the small belted canceller was introduced at all offices on 1st January 1984. He goes on to record 49 varieties from 15 various “origins”: Adliya (1, 2, 4 and 7), Airport (3), Awali (1 and 2), Bahrain (7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 22, 34 and 35), Central Market (1), Diplomatic Area (1, 3, 4, 7 and 8), Hidd (3 and 4), Isa Town (1 and 3), Jidhafs (4), Manama (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 24), Madinat Hamad (4), Muharraq (1), Postage Paid (1 and 3), Riffa (1, 2, 3 and 6) and Sitra (4). The following are additions to Terry’s findings:



Bahrain 4 dated 17 November 1991 on a cover addressed to the UK.



Bahrain 5 dated 25 July 1990 on a cover addressed to London, England.

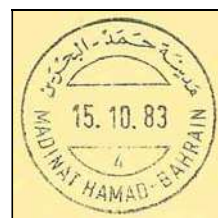


Bahrain 21 used to cancel a cover sent to the UK on 14 March 1995.



Diraz 1 used to cancel a registered letter sent to the UK and dated 4 July 1996. The illustration of the datestamp is dated 22 May 1986 and is taken from another registered letter sent to the UK.

The three strikes illustrated below are all proofs collected by Iain Gregory and show pre-1984 usage of the strikes. The Diraz and First Day of Issue are new recordings while the Madinat Hamad (4) dated 15 October 1983 is the earliest record of Type 45



Kuwait

India used in Kuwait



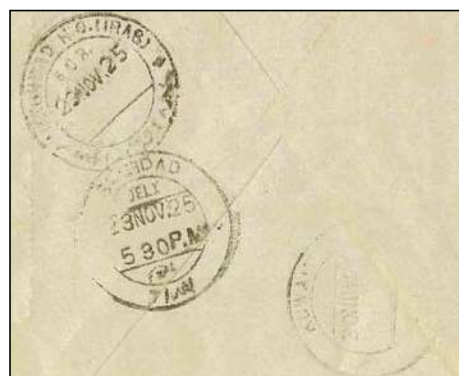
Four more examples of India used in Kuwait all cancelled with Donaldson Type 1 either with upper or lower placement of the date. Three of the stamps are the 1/2a KGV green while the 4th is the 4as Olive-Green SG 175.



An incoming Haifa-Baghdad Overland Mail cover addressed to Reverend Calverley and sent from Beirut on 17 November 1925 with two Baghdad transit stamps both dated 23 November and a Kuwait arrival datestamp dated 30 November. To my knowledge (and that of Francis Kiddle) it is the only recorded example of incoming Overland mail to Kuwait (or Bahrain for that matter).

From October 1925 and until February 1926 the surface fee for letters from Lebanon to Kuwait was 4½ Piaster for the first 20 grams and 3 Piaster for each additional 20 grams.

Given that the letter is paid with 8½ Piaster I presume that the 4½ Piaster covers the surface for the first 20 grams and that the additional 4 Piasters cover the Haifa-Baghdad Overland surcharge.



Postal Censorship in Kuwait during the Iraqi Threat of 1961

Dr. Mashael A. Alhajeri - Redab70@hotmail.com

Published as: Mashael A. Alhajeri, 'Postal Censorship in Kuwait During the Iraqi Threat of 196', *Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, vol. 37, no. 2, Number 166, April 2010, pp. 72-75. (C) Mashael A. Alhajeri, 2009

CONTENTS

- I. Historical View: The Political Tension
- II. Aftermath: Postal Censorship
- III. Procedures Observed
- IV. Covers Reported
- V. Technical Issues
 - A. Handstamps
 - B. Sealing Strips
- VI. Examples of Recorded Postally Censored Covers
 - A. Postal Censor's Handstamp No. "1"
 - A. Postal Censor's Handstamp No. "2"
 - A. Postal Censor's Handstamp No. "3"

I. Historical View: The Political Tension

Kuwait, a sheikdom ruled by the Al-Sabah dynasty was a British protectorate from 1899 until 19 June 1961 when Kuwait declared independence from Britain.

On 25th June 1961, and only six days after the declaration of independence, the ruler of Iraq, General Abdulkarim Kassim, announced that Kuwait was part of Iraq and proposed to incorporate the state within the republic where after the Kuwait Army declared a state of emergency.

Following the threats of General Kassim, Sheikh Abdulla Al-Salim, the then ruler of Kuwait, declared a state of emergency and requested the assistance of British troops, thus invoking the military cooperation treaty that was signed between Kuwait and Great Britain. On 1 July 1961, the first British contingent arrived to Kuwait in response to the Sheikh's appeal (British troops were later replaced by an Arab League contingent which stayed for 2 years).

II. Aftermath: Postal Censorship

Although postal relations were not interrupted during the 1961 political tensions between Kuwait and Iraq that followed General Kassim's threats of annexation, mail from Iraq was subjected to postal censorship in both countries.

On the Kuwaiti side, the task of postal censorship was carried out by 20 censors, operating from the Censorship headquarters at the General Post Office (GPO), located in Jared Street in Kuwait City.

The job was done at night time, where each censor opened mail incoming from Iraq, to inspect its contents. Letters were then sealed by an 'OPENED BY CENSOR' strip. The censorship handstamp was then applied, occasionally by an accompanying datestamp.

According to accounts given by postal clerks in Kuwait Post Office at that time, censorship was brought to an end subsequent to the assassination of General Kassim on February 9, 1963.

Procedures Observed

The postal censorship was conducted in the following manner:

1. Opening the suspect letter to inspect its contents.
2. Dealing with the letter:
 - a. Suspicious letters: these are isolated and a report is written about them.
 - b. Unsuspicious letters: these are returned to cover, and the following procedure is observed:
 - i. Cover is cancelled with censorship cachet 'الرقابة/الكويت', in addition to a datestamp impressed alongside the censor's mark (notwithstanding, datestamp is absent from some covers).
 - ii. Occasionally, an 'OPENED BY CENSOR' sealing strip would be applied.

It is worth the mention that studying these covers reveals the following:

1. Postal censorship was applied only to inward mail from Iraq; outward mail was not subjected to this measure.
2. It is obvious that incoming mail from Iraq was directly forwarded to postal censors, and only then was it returned to regular postal traffic. This evidenced from the norm that censor's datestamps normally predates that of the receiver marks.

III. Covers Reported

Covers bearing evidence of 1961 postal censorship are considered some of the rarities of Kuwait's modern postal history; only a handful has been recorded so far.

Until recently, only two single ring censor's handstamps were reported; numbers 2 and 3.

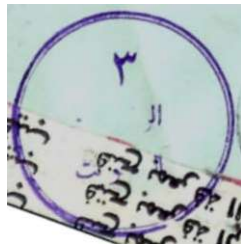
I have now recorded a 1961 postally censored cover, sent from a British firm in Baghdad, Iraq to Mr. A B Ball, who was the Commercial Secretary in the British Embassy at Kuwait, circa 1960s. The cover bears censor's mark number '1'. It is the only known example of this mark (see Fig 1).

It is to be noted that the only time in which postal censorship reoccurred in Kuwait was during the Arab-Israeli War of 1967. This was an exceptional measure, as the Constitution of Kuwait prohibits postal censorship. (Article 39 of the Constitution of Kuwait: "Freedom of communication by post,

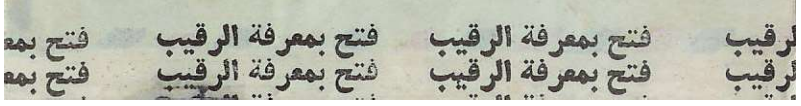
telegraph and telephone and the secrecy thereof shall be guaranteed; accordingly censorship or communications and disclosure of their contents shall not be permitted except in the circumstances and manner specified by law”).)

IV. Technical Issues

A. *Handstamps:*

TYPE	NOTES	PICTURE
Previously unreported.	• 1' الكويت / الرقابة (Censorship / Kuwait) single ring rubber handstamp. Impressed in violet. • Recorded example bears a rubber datestamp impressed alongside the single ring mark. • Recorded cover has no 'OPENED BY CENSOR' sealing strip. • Recorded covers: 1. 19 September 1961.	
Previously unreported.	• 2' الكويت / الرقابة (Censorship / Kuwait) single ring rubber handstamp. Impressed in violet. • Some examples bear a rubber datestamp impressed alongside the single ring mark. • an 'OPENED BY CENSOR' sealing strip is applied to one recorded example. • Recorded covers: 1. 22 April 1962. 2. 13 August 1962.	
Previously unreported.	• 3' الكويت / الرقابة (Censorship / Kuwait) single ring rubber handstamp. Impressed in violet. • recorded example bears a rubber datestamp impressed alongside the single ring mark. • an 'OPENED BY CENSOR' sealing strip is applied to the recorded example. • Recorded covers: 1. 8 October 1961.	

B. Sealing Strips:

NOTES	PICTURE
• ‘فتح بمعرفة الرقيب’ [‘OPENED BY CENSOR’] sealing strip (multiple impressions of the inscription). • This is the only recorded example. Some postally censored covers were not sealed by this tape.	

V. Examples of Recorded Postally Censored Covers

A. Postal Censor's Handstamps No. '1':



Figure 1

Figure 1: A dually censored cover, sent from a British firm in Baghdad, Iraq to Mr. A B Ball, who was the Commercial Secretary in the British Embassy at Kuwait, franked with General Kassim 20 Fils commemorative issue (indistinct canceller). Verso bears four handstamps: Iraqi military censor (triangular handstamps); Kuwaiti censor (single ring handstamp); Kuwaiti censor's date stamp (19 SEP 1961); and Kuwait receiver mark (SAFAT 24 SEP 1961).

B. Postal Censor's Handstamps No. '2':



Figure 2

'ON INDIA GOVERNMENT SERVICE' cover, sent from the Indian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, franked with General Kassim 10 Fils stamp (canceller indistinct) to the British Embassy in Kuwait (received 'SAFAT 22 APR 1962'; machine slogan 'COLLECTION OF STAMPS PROMOTES

EDUCATION AND SAVING' – Alshakar Type KMS 05).¹ Cover was subjected to postal censorship in Kuwait, as shown by the '2 Censorship / Kuwait' [in Arabic] single ring handstamp, with the '18 APR 1962' datestamp impressed alongside it in violet.²

C. Postal Censor's Handstamps No. '3':

Figure 3

Cover sent from Iraq to Kuwait, franked with General Kassim 10 Fils commemorative issue, cancelled '4 OCT 61', with two Iraq transit marks. Received in Kuwait with a 'SAFAT 8 OCT 1961' machine cancellation. Cover was subjected to postal censorship both in Iraq (faint 'Military CENSOR' triangular Arabic cachet) and Kuwait ('3 Censorship / Kuwait' Arabic single ring handstamp). Sealed with 'OPENED BY CENSOR' [in Arabic] tape.



¹ Salam and Saleem Al-Shakar, *Kuwait Postal Cancellations (1915-2000) and Stamp Designs after Liberation of Kuwait* (Kuwait: Al-Shira'a Al-Arabi Est., 2000).

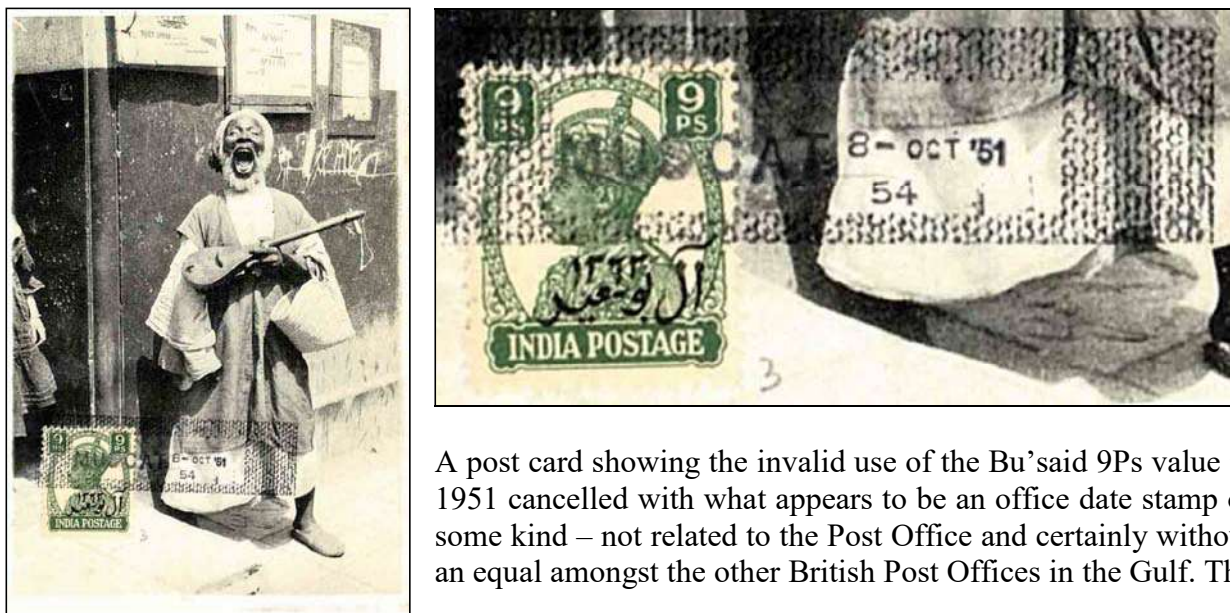
² Mashael A. Al Hajeri, 'Kuwait/Iraq Tensions - Signs of a Crisis: General Kassim's Threats to Annex Kuwait 1961', *Arabian Gulf States Postal History Quarterly*, Edition 21 - Winter 2006, p. 17-18.

Muscat & Oman

Two incoming covers illustrating the use of Donaldson Type 14 as an arrival backstamp. The first cover being sent from Mombasa on 15 April 1930 and with arrival backstamp dated 23 April 1930. The second cover was sent from Bandar Abbas and has a Muscat arrival backstamp

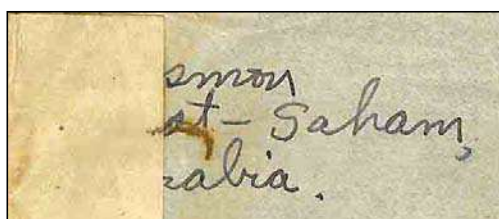
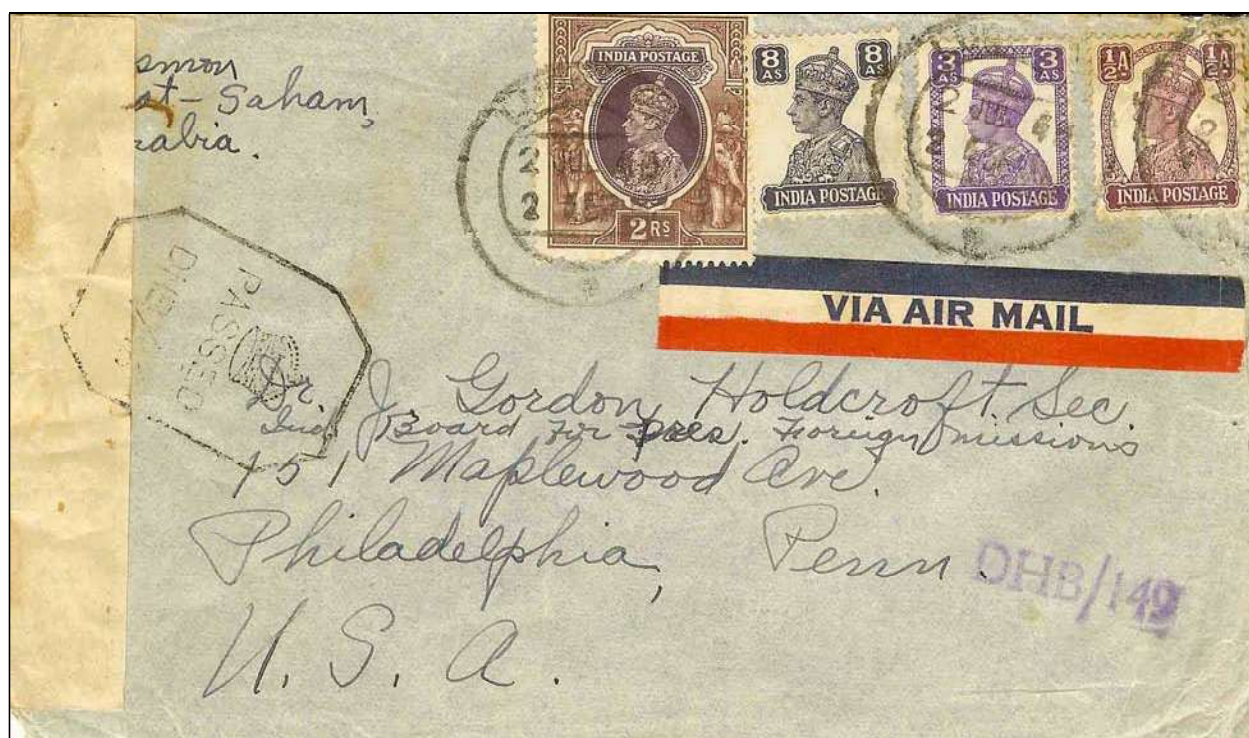
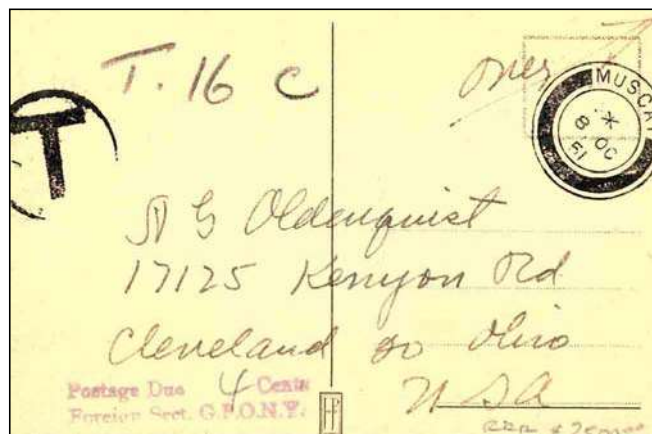


dated 1 August 1929. Type 14 is known used between 12 February 1924 and 28 August 1949.

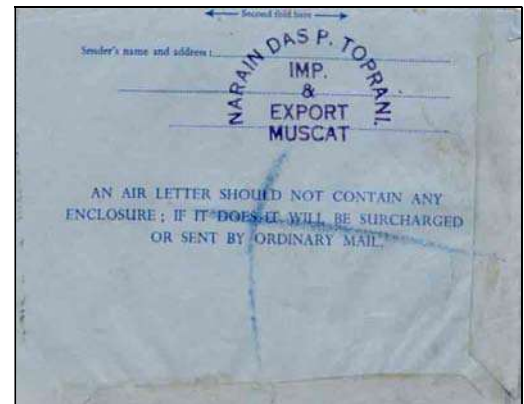
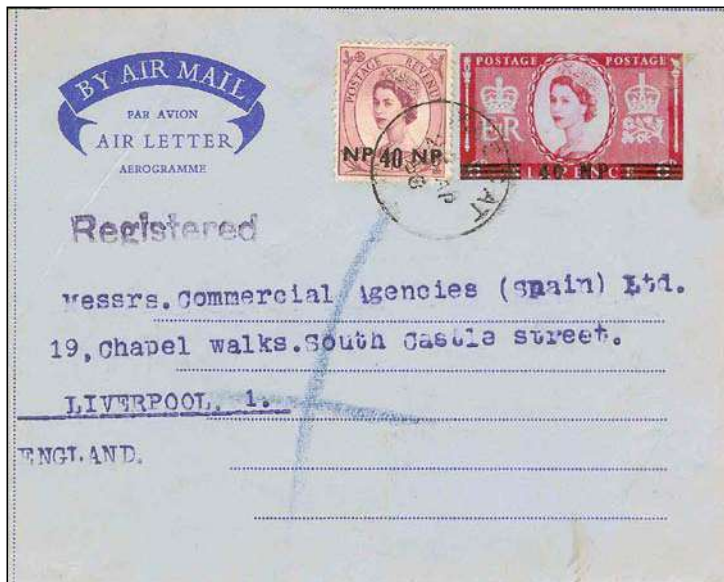


A post card showing the invalid use of the Bu'said 9Ps value in 1951 cancelled with what appears to be an office date stamp of some kind – not related to the Post Office and certainly without an equal amongst the other British Post Offices in the Gulf. The

back of the post card, on the other hand, shows a Muscat Post Office Type 21 date stamp along with a "T" mark correctly applied as a result of lack of postage paid. A post card sent to the USA and illustrated in Edition 32 was franked with 9as which would equate to postage required for airmail transmission to be at least 50np. However, the postage due calculated by the Muscat Post Office points towards the post card being treated as surface mail and penalized accordingly. In 1958 an airmail letter to Aden was underpaid by 20np which was converted to 32 Gold Centimes covering the double fee of 20np x 2. With 20np equating to 3as it is possible that the surface rate for post cards to the USA was 1.5as in 1951 explaining the calculated postage due of 16 GC?



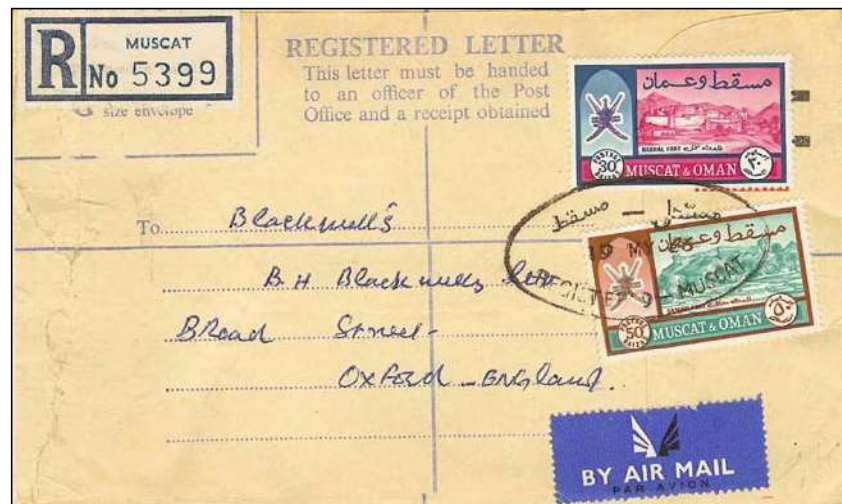
In Edition 32 Calvin Allen wrote an article for us discussing the problems of airmail access in Muscat during WWII. The cover shown here is dated 2 July 1943 and has the senders address as Hosmor, Muscat – Saham, Arabia. It is the first time that I have recorded mail with another origin than Muscat during the Indian period. The cover was probably carried by hand to Karachi where it was franked and dispatched. The rate of 43½as covers the 3½as surface fee and the 40as air fee – the air fee was in use from March 1942 to August 1945. Saham is a few hundred kilometers north of Muscat in the Al Batinah Region.



A rare example of a commercially used aerogram sent registered to the UK. The aerogramme, dated 26 April 1958, has been correctly uprated with

40np in order to cover the registration fee.

An interesting piece showing the use of the Bahrain Shaikh Salman obliterated with two black bars postal stationary used at Muscat. We have previous recorded such stationary used in Abu Dhabi, which was more “natural” given its affiliation with the Bahrain Post Office. However, this is the first time that the stationary has been recorded used at Muscat.



The face value of the stationary was invalid at Muscat so it has been franked with a 30np and 50np (the 50 Rupees variety) to make up the required 80np for registered mail to the UK (40np for airmail and 40np for registration). Dated 19 May 1966 it is the earliest recorded use of the first Muscat Oval Registration Cancellation.



Another registered letter dated 1 May 1968 showing the use of a registered letter –

It shows no indication of being prepaid or carry any kind of link to Oman nor is it a Bahrain stationary. It has been franked with 3Rs 8np and received postage due upon arriving in Italy.

A cover sent from Penang on 8 November 1973 to B.F. P.O. 53, Akrotiri (Cyprus) but miss sent to Muscat by the Malaysian Post Office. Upon arrival the cover has received a transit stamp dated 14 November 1973 and presumably it was the Muscat Post Office that superscribed the cover with "Try Cyprus" in red. The cover finally arrived in Cyprus on 22 November 1973.



Although this letter was correctly and adequately addressed if it had been posted in the UK, it was incorrectly addressed for posting in a civilian post office in Penang. They could scarcely have been expected to know that BFPO 53 was in Cyprus. BFPO 53 should not have appeared in the address at all - such addresses were for the use of mail sorters in the U.K. indicating the mail should be routed to the Army Postal Services and the country did not therefore appear in the address.

The P.O. Counter clerk in Penang, when it was tendered for Registration, should probably have refused to accept it as it was and asked for the BFPO 53 to be deleted and a country to replace it.

Luckily someone in Muscat did know where RAF Akrotiri was and it got there in the end. The 20 November 1973 Beirut machine postmark (transit mark) gives us an idea of the transit port between en route from Muscat to Cyprus.



The Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia are two UK-administered areas on the island of Cyprus that comprise the Sovereign Base Areas military bases of the UK. The bases were retained by the UK following the granting of independence and the eventual transition of Cyprus from a crown colony to an independent sovereign state. The UK demanded and succeeded in continuing to occupy a portion of Cyprus in the form of military bases because of

the strategic location of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea in pursuit of UK interests. The Sovereign Base Areas were created in 1960 by the Treaty of Establishment when Cyprus achieved independence from the British Empire. The United Kingdom desired to retain sovereignty over these areas, as this guaranteed the use of UK military bases in Cyprus, including RAF Akrotiri, and a garrison of the British Army. The importance of the bases to the British is based on the strategic location of Cyprus, at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean, close to the Suez Canal and the Middle East; the ability to use the RAF base as staging post for military aircraft; and for general training purposes. (Source: www.wikipedia.com)

In Edition 24 and 25 a total of 45 varieties, mainly of different origin, of the Oval Registration Cancellers were illustrated. A recently discovered correspondence, which appears to have been from a German expat stationed in Nizwa, included additional examples of this canceller.

First of all it has illustrated that at least 3 varieties are possible from each post office – probably subject to when the post office was opened. The three varieties recorded so far are illustrated below as they have been seen at Nizwa. The first variety from 1975 has the “REGISTERED – NIZWA” lettering very close to each other and a short hyphen separating them resulting in low lettering. The second variety shown in the middle is from 1980 the space between the lettering is wider and the hyphen is longer. The third variety shown to the right is from 1983 has the letters placed higher, the letters look larger and the position of the A is almost horizontal.



One of the new origins recorded was Bahla, which a town in Ad Dahkhiliyah region which is famous for its ancient fort and its pottery. The town is 40 km away from Nizwa and about 200 km from Muscat the capital.

Two varieties of the Matrah canceller are also recorded now – the first from 1978 with small lettering while the second from 1986 has wide lettering.



Ministerial Complex: The oval registration canceller shown below dated 10 August 1982. It is very close to the example shown in Edition 25 but the “P” is almost in line with the date.

Ruwi is a commercial hub and the main business district of Muscat. The below illustrated record of the oval registration canceller is dated 24 April 1982.



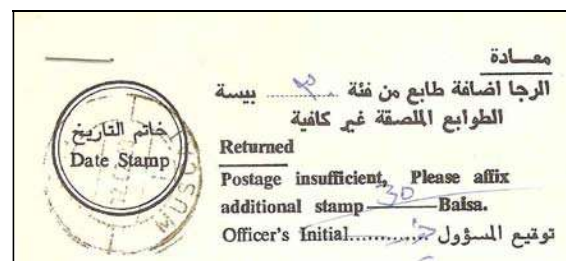
Sadah is one of the ten districts (wilayat) and one of the twelve post office located in the Dhofar governorate – recorded use on 31 March 1985.

Edition 24 showed the first recorded variety of the oval registration canceller dated 5 June 1979. It is different from the below illustrated variety by having larger letters, more space around the hyphen and the tilt on the Arabic “L” in Samail.



Edition 24 also illustrated a variety of the Sohar strike with more compact lettering – unlike the below variety the “R” in “REGISTERED” does not reach the level of the date.

Yanqul, or as written in the canceller “YANQAL” is one of three wilayats and eight post office in the Al Dhahirah region. The 11 October 1983 strike is the first record of the canceller in Yanqal.



As per the label the cover should have been returned to the sender but there is no indication that this was done since no additional 30 Baiza postage has been added.

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

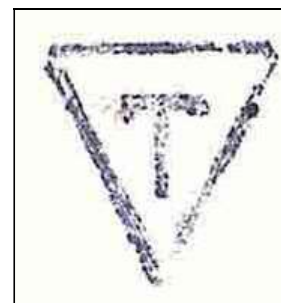
5 R
SULTANATE OF OMAN
19 APR 1983
NIZWA

5 R
SULTANATE OF OMAN
19 APR 1983
NIZWA

5 R
SULTANATE OF OMAN
19 APR 1983
NIZWA

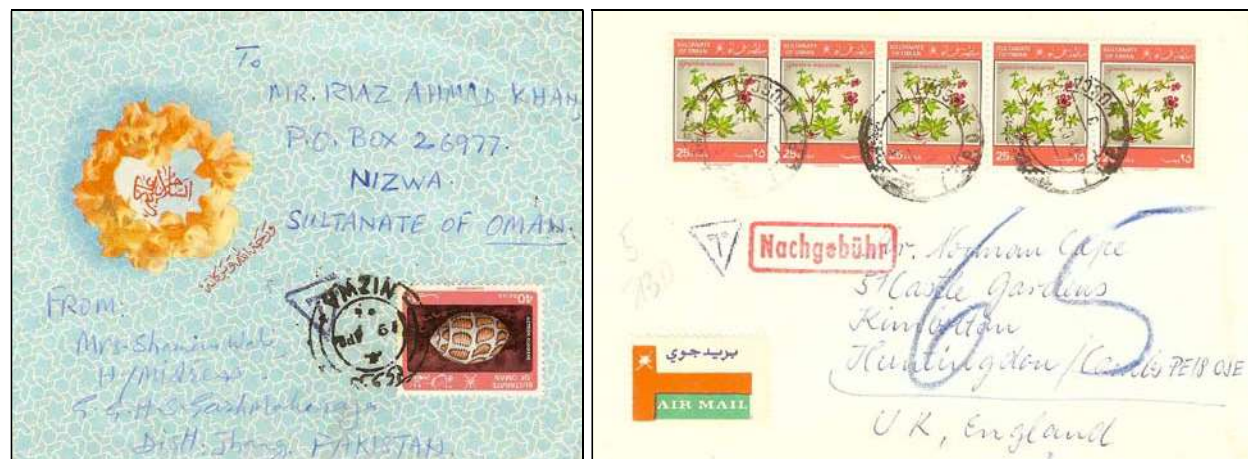
Re.1 POSTAGE
Rs.2 POSTAGE
PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN

of: RIAZ AHMAD KHAN
P. O. BOX 26977
NIZWA
SULTANAT OF OMAN



One of the beauties of studying postal history is that no matter how much you have seen and recorded you always know that something new will turn up soon - a good example of this being the triangular “T” cachet shown here.

Three covers in total, all from the Nizwa correspondence, all illustrate the use of the triangular T measuring 10x10x10 mm. Two of the covers are incoming covers from Pakistan while the third cover is an outgoing cover sent to the UK. The first incoming cover has been franked with 3 Rupees and cancelled in Pakistan on 22 January 1984 – upon arrival in Muscat it has had the T-mark applied along with three 5 Baiza 1982 definitive stamps which have been cancelled with a Nizwa double circle dated 19 April 1984 – almost three months later. The second cover has been franked with 2 Rupees but unfortunately the Pakistani date is not clear – the cover has had a 40 Baiza 1982 definitive stamp applied and also cancelled with a Nizwa double circle dated 19 April 1984. The final cover is an outgoing cover, confirmed the T-mark as of Oman origin, dated 1 February 1984 and sent to France. It has been franked with a total of 125 Baiza and had 5/130 endorsed on the front of the cover in pencil confirmed the underpayment of 5 Baiza which incidentally matches the manuscript on the label illustrated on the previous page – the going airmail to Europe at the time being 130 Baiza.



UAE – Abu Dhabi



Illustrated here is an Abu Dhabi Political Agency cover dated 19 September 1961.

The cover does not carry any Abu Dhabi postal markings meaning

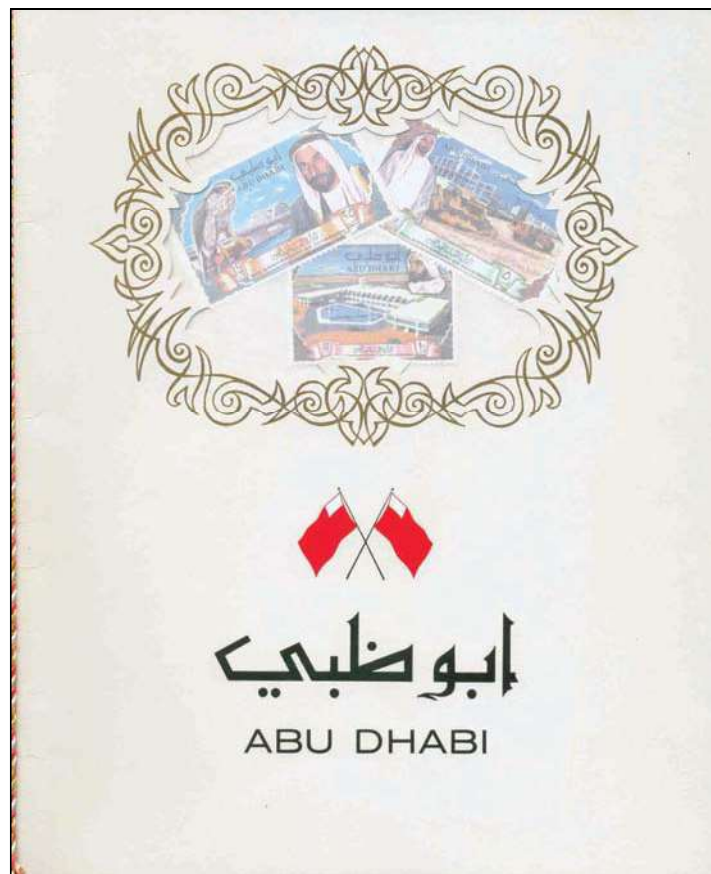
that it was probably transmitted by diplomatic bag to London – explaining why Agency mail is rarely encountered. The address on the cover indicates personal correspondence which is probably why the cover survived.

1968-69: The 2nd Anniversary of the Accession of Sheikh Zayed – Progress in Abu Dhabi.

The illustrated presentation folder recently turned up at the Cedarstamp auction – it consists of 6 pages and appears to be an advertizing folder for a Canadian Consultancy company (CANSULT).

The contents describe what Abu Dhabi projects that CANSULT were involved but also tells us a little bit about the history of Abu Dhabi.

The presentation folder is dated 6 August 1969 and the contents are illustrated on the following page.



Abu Dhabi lies in the south-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula. It has an area of 35,000 sq. miles and a population of 50,000. There are 200 islands attached to the Emirate, the most important of which is "Das Island", which is close to the offshore petroleum wells.

The climate of the Emirate is extremely hot and humid in the summer with temperatures ranging from 100-120 deg. F. and mild in the winter, with some infrequent rain falling between the months of November and April. There are numerous beaches which provide ample facilities for swimming, fishing, water ski-ing, and sailing.

AN HISTORICAL SURVEY

Abu Dhabi forms part of the Coast of Oman, which was under the Portuguese in the seventeenth century. However, the tribes of the area fought the Portuguese and forced them to leave the coast in 1624.

The discovery of water in Abu Dhabi Island by one of the Bani Yas tribesmen in 1761 led to the migration of the Bani Yas tribe to the island. Shaikh Issa Bin Nahyan (the ancestor of the present ruling family) gathered the tribes around him and was succeeded by his son Diyab and then Shaikh Zayed Bin Khalifa, who came to be known later as al-khabir (the Great). Zayed Bin Khalifa (1855-1909) succeeded in spreading his influence over the surrounding tribes and in establishing cordial relations with the neighbouring emirates. During his reign the Emirate of Abu Dhabi prospered and began to emerge as one of the important emirates on the coast. The present ruler, Shaikh Zayed, is the grandson of Zayed the Great. The Ruler of Abu Dhabi came to power in 1966 after being, for 20 years, the Governor of the Eastern District.

Abu Dhabi has a special treaty relationship with Britain since 1892.

A SOCIAL SURVEY

There were three types of inhabitants in Abu Dhabi: Coastal inhabitants, who, by virtue of living near the sea, took to diving for pearls, fishing and trade, and lived mostly in the islands of Abu Dhabi; the Oases inhabitants, in Al Ayn and Liwa, who depended on agriculture as their means of living; and the Beduin, who never settled in any one area but roamed in the mainland in search of pasture and water. The Beduin lived in tents while the Coastal and Oases inhabitants lived in mud or palm leaf houses.

These postage stamps commemorate the great strides made in Abu Dhabi since 1966 under the enlightened guidance of His Highness Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi. As consultants appointed by His Highness, CANSULT is proud to be associated with the development of Abu Dhabi through such works as the Abu Dhabi International Airport and the Al Maqta'a Bridge shown on the stamps. CANSULT planned, designed and supervised construction of these two major public works which were among the first to become operational under Shaikh Zayed's far-reaching programme for the development of the country and for the benefit of the people of Abu Dhabi.

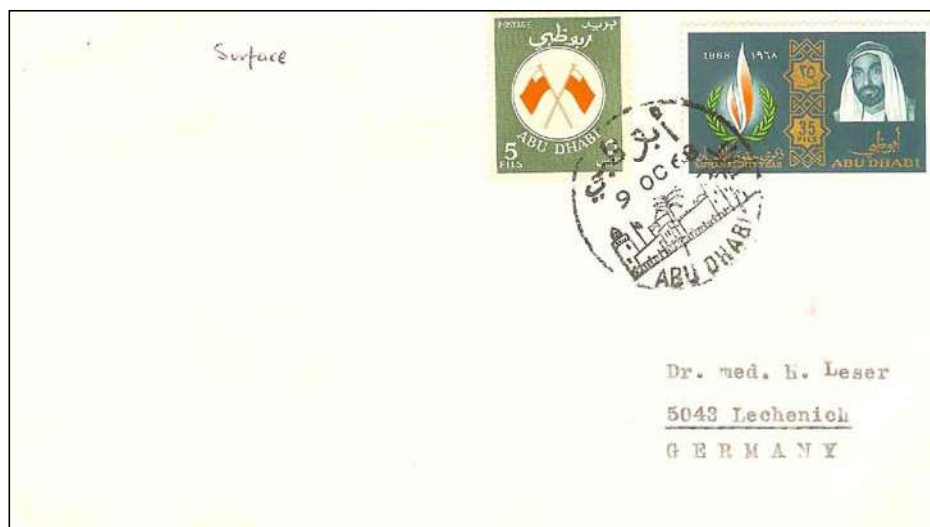
Abu Dhabi, 6 August 1969

The discovery of oil in 1960 led to vital changes in the social pattern. With the developmental process the inhabitants are being attracted to industry, commerce, and modern agriculture. The extensive education and health programmes are contributing to the raising of the standards of living in the Emirate. The Emirate has been opened also to outside technicians, businessmen and experts.

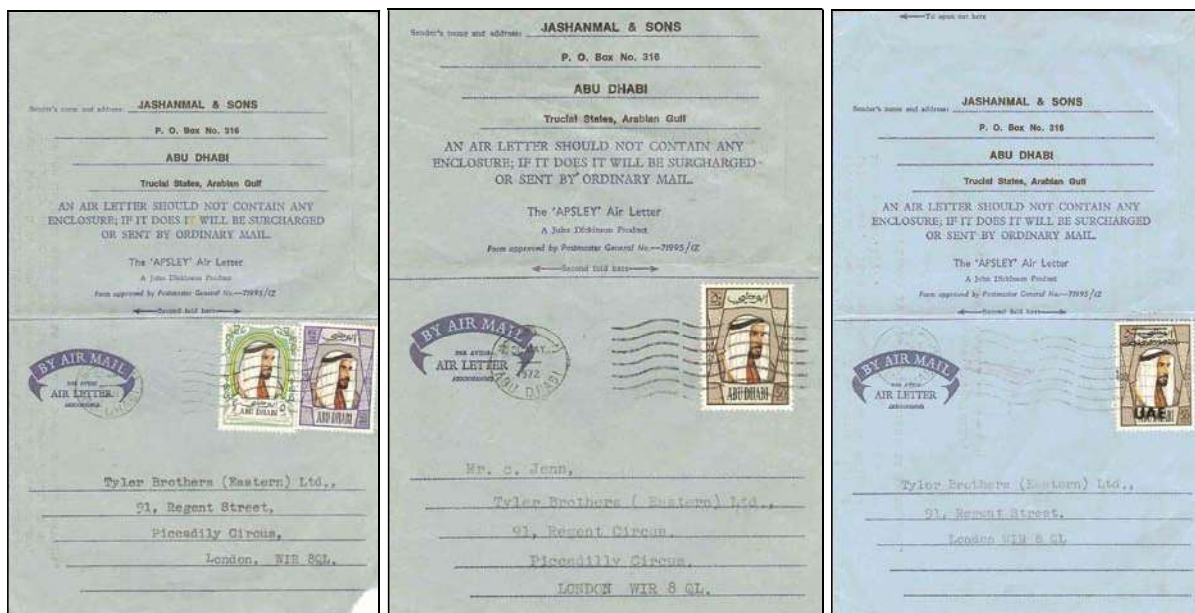
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The process of modernization since 1966 has entailed the setting up of an efficient and modern government machinery which can cope with the constant changes implicit in the Emirate's social and economic development. The Ruler has ordained the establishment of 28 departments of Government responsible to members of the Nihyan family and other leading Abu Dhabi personalities and containing expert personnel from the Gulf, Arab countries, Britain and elsewhere. The Emirate has its own security and defence forces.

CANSULT, a Canadian Consortium of consultants, feels privileged to be among those taking a constructive rôle in the development of the country under the wise guidance of His Highness, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi.



A surface mail cover dated 9 October 1968 cancelled with the "Palace" canceller and franked with 40 Fils. The 1970 Postal Guide, illustrated in Edition 30, defines the surface rate as 20 Fils for the first 20 grams and 10 Fils for each additional 20 grams.



Three commercial air letters sent from Abu Dhabi to the UK franked with 40, 50 and 50 Fils. As per the 1970 Postal Guide aerogrammes to all destinations were priced at 40 Fils. The air letter franked with 40 Fils is dated 4 May 1971 while the earliest air letter franked with 50 Fils is dated 30 May 1972 indicating a change in postal rates within this period. The UAE franked air letter is dated 9 December 1972.



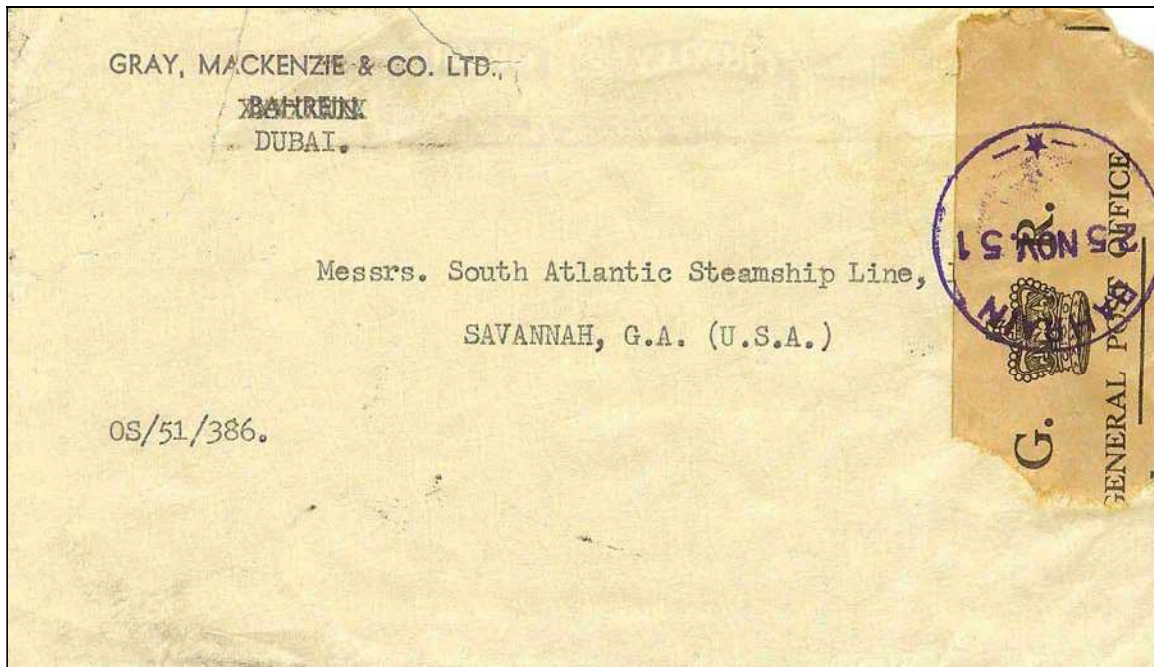
Two registered covers sent from Oman, one from Salalah dated 21 April 1976 and the other from Muscat dated 30 April 1974. In both cases the letters have received a purple "Section E" and a



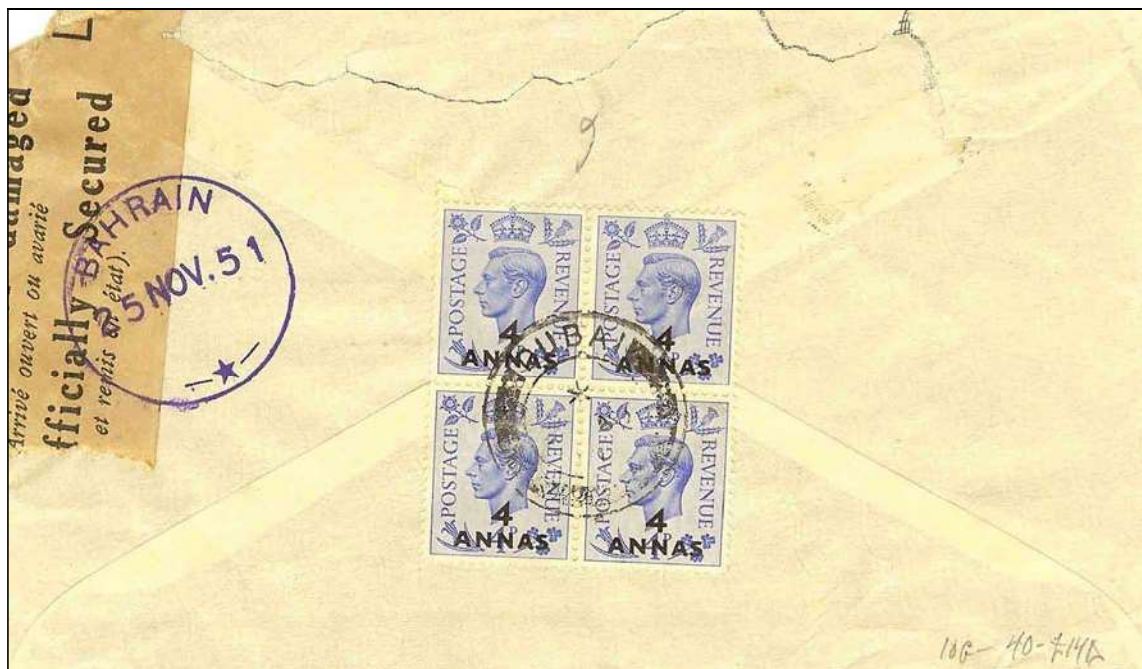
red "Section" registered arrival stamp. On the 1974 cover the two arrival stamps are dated the same but for the 1976 cover the Section E arrival stamp is dated 28 April while the red is dated 1 May indicating that the purple strike was probably applied at arrival whereas the red strike was applied prior to the letter being forwarded.



UAE – Dubai



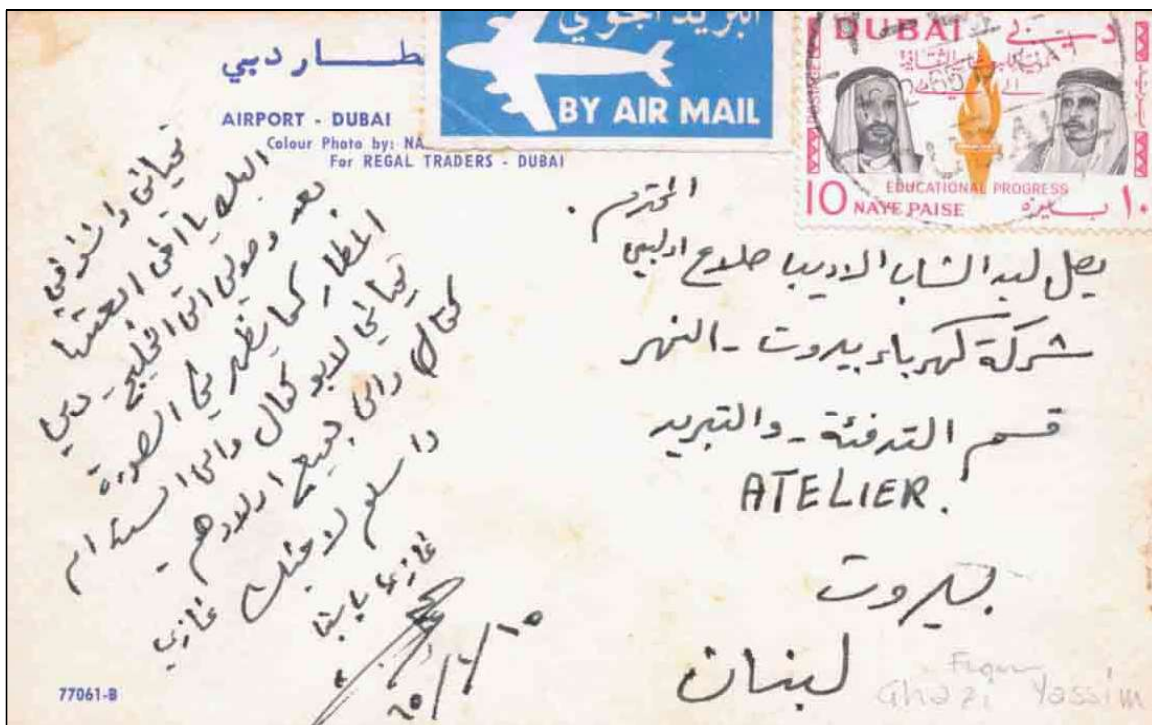
24 November 1951: A letter sent from Dubai to Savannah, Georgia and franked with a block of 4 of the BPAEA 1950 4as value. The letter would seem to have been damaged during its Dubai to Bahrain transit and has had a General Post Office resealing label “Open or Damaged – Officially Secured” applied. The label has then had the Bahrain Type 33 “Exchange Office Cancellation” applied to it on both sides of the cover.



Dubai Airport Postcard - 1965



16 February 1965: A postcard illustrating the Dubai Airport as of 1965 franked with the 10NP postcard airmail rate to Beirut, Lebanon. The postcard has been cancelled with the Dubai-2 large circular canceller – Type 21b.



UAE & Trucial States

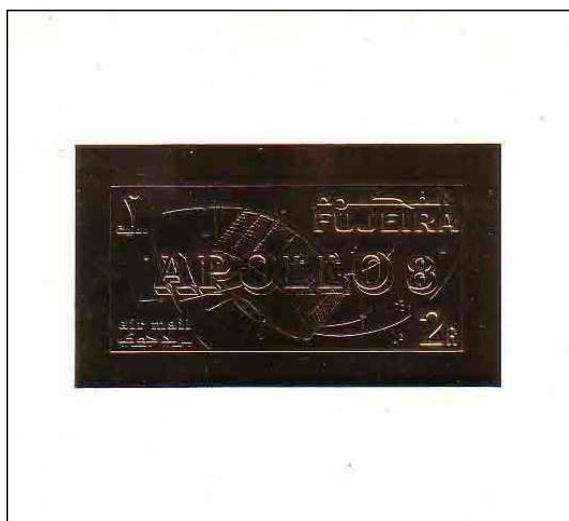
FUJEIRA – The true story - Chapter 4: May 1969 to 1971

By John Vasallo

Introduction

The original 5 year contract with Finbar Kenny was extended for a further 5 years but after this the ruler of Fujaira heard from another agency, The Middle East Stamps Co which offered him much better conditions. He must have felt that Finbar Kenny had cheated him since it made the Ruler quite upset and determined to change agent even though there was no “early termination” clause in the contract. In the meantime, the new Fujaira Stamps kept on rolling out!

APOLLO 8 Overprints



20 May 1969: The original space set of May 1966 was overprinted APOLLO 8 and some of values were changed. The set comprised of eight values; four in old currency in spite of the 1966 currency change: 50np, 75np, 1R and 2Rs and four in the new currency 2.50Rs on 25np, 3Rs on 15 np, 4Rs on 10 np and 5Rs on 5np – the minisheet was also overprinted. All values were available in perforated and imperforated format and inverted



overprints are known. The 2Rs value was also produced in gold, perforated and imperforate, and the imperforated version was also produced in prestige minisheet on stiff paper.

SAPPORO '72 Overprints

20 May 1969: The original Winter Olympics issue of January 1968 was overprinted with SAPPORO '72 and the SAPPORO logo. The set was overprinted on seven values, both perforated and imperforated: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 1.50Rs, 2Rs and 3Rs – Inverted overprints also exist. The imperforated minisheet was also overprinted. The Michel catalogue lists that a perforated minisheet of this set was also overprinted but I do not believe that this minisheet was ever produced in perforated



Elbo Stamps
Rude Vedby
Denmark



format, neither with nor without overprint. Each stamp is also produced in a deluxe minisheet and overprinted in two colors black, as the issued stamp, or in blue.

Birds

30 May 1969: A set of nine diamond-shaped values: Five postage stamps 25Dh, 50Dh, 1R, 1.50Rs and 2Rs plus four airmail stamps 1.25R, 2.50Rs, 3Rs and 5Rs. All values were issued as both perforated and imperforated but there was no minisheet produced. The progressive color plate proofs of the 5R denomination (Eagle) are shown below. ▲



Dwight D Eisenhower

2 June 1969: A set of nine values: Five postage stamps 25Dh, 50Dh, 1R, 1.50Rs and 2Rs plus four airmail stamps 1.25R, 2.50Rs, 3Rs and 5Rs. All values were issued as both perforated and imperforated but there was no minisheet produced. The 5Rs value was also produced in gold and issued as perforated and imperforated.

Champions of Peace

5 June 1969: A set of seven values: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 2Rs, 3Rs and 5Rs. All values were issued as both perforated and imperforated but there was no minisheet produced. The 25Dh value (Churchill) was also produced on gold foil as perforated, imperforate and deluxe imperforated.



Note – these gold stamps are on FDC dated 24 April 1969 – six weeks before the official issue of the regular stamps. It points to these stamps also being produced after June 1970 after Finbar Kenny had lost the contract.

International Human Rights – WHICH STAMPS ARE “SAME REGULAR STAMPS”

The same regular stamps were also issued on the 5 June overprinted: ‘INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR’ – perforated and imperforated but no gold stamp is known of these overprinted stamps.

Wild Flowers

5 June 1969: A set of nine values: Five postage stamps 25Dh, 50Dh, 1R, 1.50Rs and 2Rs plus four airmail stamps 1.25R, 2.50Rs, 3Rs and 5Rs. All values were issued as both perforated and imperforated and for the 5th issue in a row no minisheet produced.

Apollo Space Flights

5 June 1969: A set of nine values: Five postage stamps 10Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 1R and 2Rs plus four airmail stamps 2.5Rs, 3Rs, 4Rs and 5Rs. All values were issued as both perforated and imperforated while 4Rs value was produced in minisheet as well with the stamp reading postage instead of airmail. The 5Rs stamp was also produced on gold foil in perforated, imperforated and imperforated deluxe.

Apollo 10 overprints

5 June 1969: The Apollo Space Flights issue, stamps and minisheet, overprinted APOLLO 10. The English version of the Michel catalog lists the overprinted 2.50Rs stamp on Gold foil in

perforated, imperforated and imperforated deluxe but I have not seen these. Interestingly the gold foil stamps were not listed in the earlier German version Michel catalog so it was added relatively recently. Furthermore Michel does not give a date for this issue. (Date taken from FDC)

MOON LANDING overprints



5 June 1969: The Apollo Space Flights issue overprinted "MOON LANDING". The overprinted 2.50Rs stamp was also produced on gold foil in perforated, imperforated and imperforated deluxe. Michel gives the issue date for this set as 22 September but the FDC is recorded dated 5th June 1969.

Apollo 11 – 3 different overprints

22 September 1969: The top row of the sheets of the original perforated stamps were overprinted: 'FIRST MEN/ON THE MOON'; The 2nd row was overprinted: 'APOLLO 11/MOON/FLIGHT'. The 3rd row was overprinted 'NEIL/ARMSTRONG/EDWIN/ALDRIN JR. /MICHAEL/COLLINS'. The order was reversed on the imperforated stamps. The 3 overprints were used on the single minisheet with an additional overprint: 'MOON/APOLLO 11/FLIGHT'. (Note: Michel catalog incorrectly lists a separate minisheet under each overprint instead of just one with all overprints.) Three different gold stamps were produced – the 50 Dh and 5Rs stamps with 'FIRST MEN/ON THE MOON' were made available on gold foil in perforated, imperforated and deluxe imperforated while the 1R value was overprinted 'APOLLO 11/MOON/FLIGHT' was also produced on gold foil in perforated



imperforated and deluxe imperforated. There are numerous errors reported of these overprints. The main ones are the inverted overprints and the Apollo 11 overprints printed on already overprinted stamps instead of the original 'clean' issues. The minisheet is also known with 2 different overprints.

Michel also lists two gold deluxe minisheets from above overprinted APOLLO 13 and HEROES OF APLOOL 13 but I have never recorded these two issues myself.

Please also refer to Part 3 of this series. The ‘Oriental Fairy Tales’ set of July 67 was produced in deluxe minisheets each overprinted Moon Landing/Apollo 11 and the astronauts names. These overprints are available in gold overprint and also in metallic blue. The ‘Official FDC’ for these minisheets is dated 31 December 1969.



The minisheet overprinted with the 3 different overprints as compared to different minisheets overprinted with each of the overprints as listed in Michel.

Also the minisheet with APOLLO 10 overprint additionally overprinted with inverted APOLLO 11 and the 5R stamp also overprinted incorrectly on the pre-overprinted APOLLO 10.

Napoleon

6 April 1970: A set of seven values issued as postage stamps: 15Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 1.50Rs and 2Rs. The two highest values were also produced in an “airmail” minisheet. All values were produced in both perforated and imperforated format while the 50Dh value was produced on gold foil as perforated, imperforated and imperforated deluxe on thick board.

De Gaulle

15th April 1970: A set of seven values issued as postage stamps: 35Dh, 60Dh, 75Dh, 1.25Rs, 2.50Rs, 3Rs and 5Rs. The two highest values were also produced in an “airmail” minisheet. All values were produced in both perforated and imperforated format

Bible

25th April 1970: A set of eight values issued as two postage stamps and six airmail stamps: Postage values 15Dh and 1R and airmail values 35Dh, 75Dh, 1.25Rs, 1.50Rs, 2.50Rs and 3Rs. The two highest values were also produced in an “airmail” minisheet. All values were produced in both perforated and imperforated format



1.50Rs Bible issue used on cover dated 20 Jul 1970, the cancel being still the hexagonal 'Finbar Kenny' format.

EXPO '70

30 April 1970: A set of ten values issued as six postage stamps and four airmail stamps: Postage values 15Dh, 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R and 2Rs and airmail values 75Dh, 1.25Rs, 2.50Rs and 4Rs. Two minisheets were also issued containing the 1R and 2Rs postage stamps as airmail stamps and the 2.50Rs and 4Rs airmail stamps as postage stamps. All values were produced in both perforated and imperforated format.

NEW CONTRACT

On 3 May 1970, the Ruler of Fujeira, Mohammad Bin Hamad Alsharqi, signed a new contract for Postal administration with Middle East Stamps of Beirut through Mr. Hage from Lebanon. This was not taken very favorably by the previous administrator Finbar Kenny and he threatened legal action because there was no early termination clause in the contract. As a compromise, the Government allowed Finbar Kenny to produce the next space issues which had already been agreed upon and already produced and were subsequently issued on 9 May 1970 – the sets were:

APOLLO 12

Eight values issued as postage stamps: 25Dh, 50Dh, 75Dh, 1R, 2Rs, 3Rs, 4Rs and 5R – all values were produced in both perforated and imperforated format. The top four values were also issued in an airmail minisheet while the 3Rs value was produced on gold and silver foils in perforated, imperforated and deluxe imperforated versions.

APOLLO 13

The Apollo 12 issue overprinted with a silver emblem of Apollo 13 and 'SAFE LANDING'. The 5R value was also produced on gold and on silver foils in perforated, imperforated and deluxe imperforated versions.

APOLLO 14

The Apollo 12 issue overprinted in gold 'APOLLO 14/PROJECT'. The 2Rs value was also produced on gold and on silver foils in perforated, imperforated and deluxe imperforated versions.

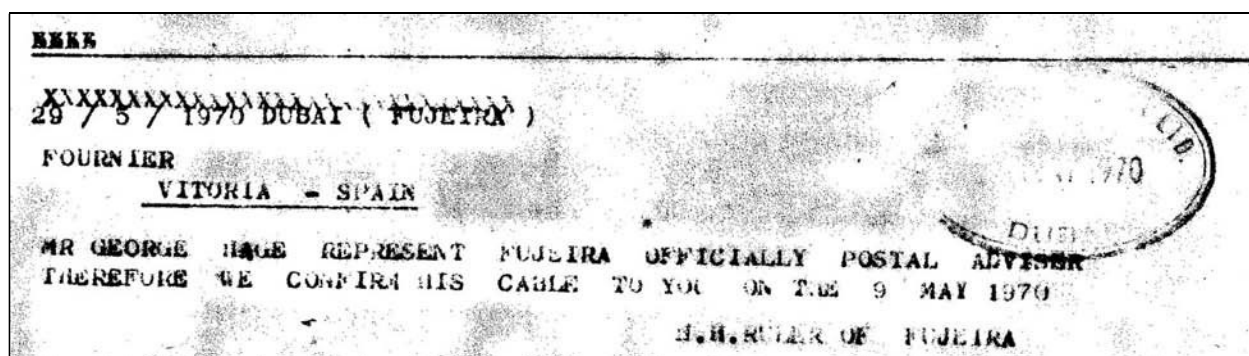
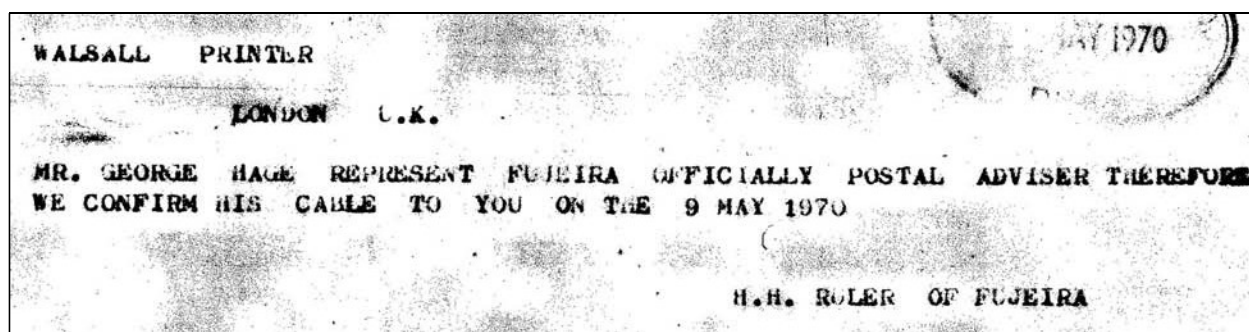
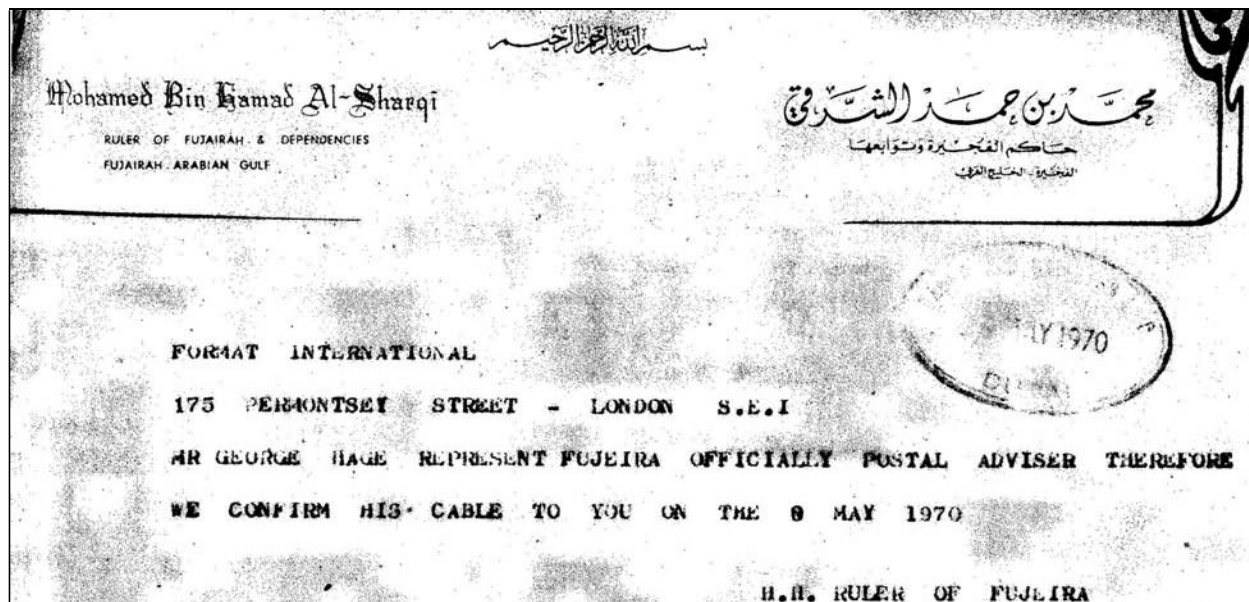


Fig 8: The Gold Apollo 13 stamp used on Cover. Unfortunately, the date is not legible, but the cancel used is the new circular one and not the hexagonal one used during the time of Finbar Kenny. So somehow these Gold stamps were also available to the new administration!

Finbar Kenny was still threatening legal action and kept on producing stamps after his contract came to an end on 9 May 1970. He issued a few circulars and sent them to his previous clients and philatelic magazines referring to the other 'labels' produced illegally by other parties. The various circulars can be view on <http://www.ohmygosh.on.ca/stamps/fujairah/fujann1.htm> where these circulars are given in their entirety. They document how Kenny was fighting back claiming that they are running the official Post Office in Fujairah.

Kenny produced many other issues after 9 May 1970 all of which were illegal. Issues include Apollo 13 and 14, English Personalities, American Personalities, German Personalities, UN, Education Year, Scouts, Dickens, Red Cross, Centenary of British Red Cross, IOC, Munich Olympics, Mexico World Cup, Brazil Winners, Expo 70, and Expo 70 on gold foil.

Simultaneously, the Ruler of Fujaira was sending out circulars to dealers and the philatelic press informing of the change in administration – see www.ohmygosh.on.ca/stamps/fujairah/1970.htm. The ruler also organized telexes, some are illustrated here, to all major Stamp printing houses explaining the situation and asking them to stop supplying stamps to Mr. Kenny.



CARTIMEX T5
BUCAREST
 MR GEORGE HAGE REPRESENT FUJEIRA OFFICIALLY POLITICAL ADVISER THEREFORE
 WE CONFIRM HIS CABLE TO YOU ON THE 9 MAY 1970
 H.H. RULER OF FUJEIRA
 29 / 5 / 1970 DUBAI (FUJEIRA)

The cancellations used at the Fujaira Post Office were also changed by the Ruler from the hexagonal Finbar Kenney datestamp to a new circular datestamp. Kenny, however, was still using the hexagonal cancel on the envelopes he was sending to clients and dealers and also applying it as CTO – he used the hexagonal cancel on all the issues mentioned above. Some examples of the hexagonal cancel dated after 9 May 1970 after this date are displayed in this chapter indicating that they emanated from Finbar Kenny – see the Bible issue cover dated 20 July 1970.

- Signed : The First Party H. H. Sheikh Mohamed
 (Arab Gulf) - Ruler of Fujairah.
 - Signed : The Second Party , Georges A. Hage, for Messrs. Middle East Stamps
 S.A.L.
 Certified for the legalisation of the seal and signature overleaf marked "X"
 of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Hamad Al-Sherqi, the Ruler of Fujairah
 This 3th day of May, 1970
 signature : Arthur Mainfork - Consular officer - seal
 Certified for the legalisation of the official stamp and signature of
 the consular officer of H. H. political Agency at Dubai
 - dated: 20/July/1970 - signature and seal: F. [illegible]
 British Pre-Consul.
 hereby certify that the contents of the
 were duly translated
 Arabic
 language
 20 July 1970


The above document illustrates the signatures of the Ruler and Mr. Hage and has been certified by the consular officer of the Political Agency in Dubai on 20 July 1970.

In spite of having sent out telexes to all major printers unauthorized Fujaira issues continued to appear meaning the Finbar Kenny was still busy issuing stamps. One of the printers that continued to print stamps for Kenny was the Wallsall printers.

The document illustrated on the next page gives us an idea of the action taken by the Ruler in order to deal with the continued activity of Finbar Kenny.

مملكة البحرين

GOVERNMENT OF AL-FUJAIRAH

حكومة الفجيرة

تاريخ ١٩٧ / /

17th October, 1970

M/S. Walsall Security Printers Ltd.,
Box No. 26, Midland Road,
Walsall, Staffs,
ENGLAND.
Gentlemen,

We, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Hamad Al-Sharqi, Ruler of
Fujairah & Dependencies, confirm the contact of our solicitors
in London to you, as well as our several cables to your establish-
ment instructing you not to accept orders, print or deliver of any
stamps, souvenir sheets etc., for Fujairah to Mr. Finbar Kenny.

But to our astonishment we learned that more stamps,
souvenir sheets of Fujairah are being printed and or delivered
to Mr. Finbar Kenny.

In spite of all the above correspondence and official
procedures taken to keep you aware of your responsibilities;
we note that you ignore our instructions.

We ask you for a full report with a detailed list of
all stamps, souvenir sheets etc., ever printed in your
establishment since 1964 up to date, in order to be aware of
our position with Mr. Finbar Kenny, to be addressed to our
solicitors in London:

Messrs. Maltz Mitchell & Co.,
Clun House,
17 Surrey Street / Strand,
London, ENGLAND

and the same copies to our Postal Representative Mr. George A. Hage,
P.O.Box 2181, Beirut, LEBANON.

We hope to receive your earliest confirmation of receipt
of this correspondence and do not expect to be compelled to
contact you again through another channel.

Thanking you,

MOHAMAD BIN HAMAD AL-SHARQI,



RULER OF FUJAIRAH & DEPENDENCIES.

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.bh

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

Yahoo Group: arabiangulfphilately

Group home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arabiangulfphilately>

Arabian Gulf Philately is a yahoo group for people interested in the postal history and stamps of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Muscat and the UAE - Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the Trucial States.

The group is meant as a forum for exchanging information, asking and answering questions. It is neither a forum for buying and selling nor marketing and advertising - so a zero advertising policy. Amongst the many tasks planned for the group is setting up libraries and uploading documents about forgeries from Dubai, Abu Dhabi and other areas of the Gulf. This is done in order to safeguard and protect new collectors and requires input from the more seasoned of you. The information sent in to the group and the discussions that take place about material are not subject to pre-approval – as such there is no moderator for the group unless the group rules are broken.

Should you be interested in joining the group you can either do so via the above link or you can send me an email to one of the following addresses and I will send out an invitation.

arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com

kameltom2004@yahoo.com

The current membership stands at 17 with 16 photo albums and 3 PDF files uploaded in the group Library.

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://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/arabgulfandyemenstampgroup>

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.

<http://www.wreckandcrash.org>

The Wreck & Crash Mail Society was formed in the latter part of 1994, and is devoted to the collecting and study of all aspects of delayed and/or damaged mail and interrupted mail services. Currently the Society is composed of four study groups, namely: the Air Crash Study Group, The Railroad Wreck Study Group, the Ship Wreck Study Group, and the Suspended Mail/Conflicts Study Group.

The Society publishes a quarterly journal "La Catastrophe", which contains articles on all aspects of wreck and crash mail, as well as news on new cover discoveries, auction realizations on wreck and crash mail, and questions from members who are seeking information on their crash and wreck covers and the stories behind them.

<http://friends.peoria.lib.il.us/community/howardcourtney/Catalog1.html>

Howard Courtney's fabulous website illustrating his knowledge about Dubai's Independent Postal Administration.

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 34:

Khalid Omaira
Jeff Brown
Thomas Johansen
Lal Makhijani
Peter Wingent
Max Smith
Cedar Stamps
Francis Kiddle
Masha'al AlHajeri
Philip Kaye
Philip Newby
John Vasallo

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Electronic Version:	USD 30	STG 20
Printed Version:		
The Gulf & India	USD 60	
UK & Europe	USD 70	STG 47
USA & Rest of the World	USD 80	

Payment: By PayPal to PayPal Account: kameltom2004@yahoo.com

USD Cash can be sent to:

Thomas Johansen, Calyon Bahrain, PO Box 5410, Manama, Bahrain

Sterling Check can be sent to and issued to:

David Humphries
8, The Meadow View
Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8NX
United Kingdom

If you send a check to my father-in-law please attach a little note so that he can forward me a list of what payments he gets.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available from Edition 20 and can be obtained by contacting Thomas Johansen at arbiangulfphilately@gmail.com

Any other distribution of Editions 20 and onwards of the Quarterly is unauthorized.

Edition 1 to 19 can be purchased on www.lulu.com