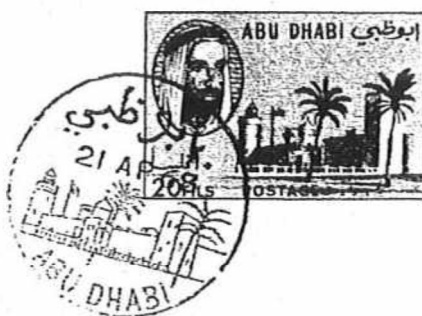


ARABIAN GULF STATES
POSTAL HISTORY
QUARTERLY

البريد الجوي
AEROGRAMME
PAR AVION



Postal Superintendent,

BAHRAIN.

The Abu Dhabi pictorial date stamp

Published by T E Jones, 36 Cobham Rd., Accrington
Lancashire BB 5 2AD, England
No. 10 Winter 2003

Abu Dhabi Philatelic Bureau Rufus Barnes

Anyone who subscribed to new issues via the British Philatelic Bureau in the 1960's and 1970's will remember that the stationery was printed in purple.

The British Post Office was responsible for postal services in Abu Dhabi until the closure of the Agency on the 31st December 1966. The British influence continued beyond that date, in fact until the emergence of the new United Arab Emirates postal service in whose first stamp issue was 1 January 1973.

Shown here are examples of the postal stationery of the Abu Dhabi Philatelic Bureau all printed in British Post Office purple.

It is also worth noting that in 1972, only months before its closure, I was given the lowly number '118' as a Bureau account holder. Abu Dhabi always suffered unfairly from its close proximity to the other more prolific stamp issuers in the then Trucial States.

The letter of the 28th February is interesting on two counts. It records the date of sale of the last full sets of the 1966 overprints and, more specifically, it records that the more common lowest values sold out before those of higher denomination.

Finally, Mrs Wynn's comment about the stocks of aerogrammes held adds light to why Abu Dhabi was able to uprate its then current aerogramme and then still have stocks available for further overprinting as a UAE provisional, rather than produce new issues at the new rates.

Letter from Abu Dhabi Philatelic Bureau.

PHILATELIC BUREAU
GENERAL POST OFFICE
ABU DHABI

Reference: 1281/118

28th February, 1972

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 24th February, a very prompt reply indeed, as I only wrote to you on 20th February. The mail service is improving too, obviously.

You were just in time actually, because by the same mail yesterday came a letter from someone who wanted 2 sets of each of the overprints. I will have to write to him and ask him if he still wants the rest of the values; not being complete sets. On the market, I know that a complete set of these overprints were fetching £10, though I do not know if the value is as high now. An incomplete set is not worth anything to speak of. Which is the reason why I must write to my other customer.

It is the 5 Fils and 10 Fils now finished. We only had half sheets of these two values and full sheets of the rest of the values.

Your name has now been placed on our mailing list, No. 118 (see reference No. above). You will receive information and order form, for all future issues of stamps and aerogrammes; though I think it will be almost two years before we will require more aerogrammes, unless a 'special' is decided upon, as we had for the Human Rights Year, which very quickly sold out.

Yours faithfully,

D. Wynn
(Mrs.) D. WYNN (Sec.)
for Director of Posts

The Bureau used stationery printed in purple and in the same style as it's British counterpart. The Office of the Abu Dhabi PO used stationery printed in blue. H Wynn, a familiar name on Gulf correspondence, worked in the Postal Superintendent's Office, Manama during the early years of the British Agencies and later became Director of Posts, Abu Dhabi.

Ordinary mail from the Bureau and the Office was usually franked with type 6 Abu Dhabi /PAID (see page 5), struck in red. But on at least one occasion (see page 6) stamps were used and inexplicably the type 15 'Exchange Office' canceller was used. Registered mail was usually franked with the current stamps.

In the 1970's new stationery appeared with a printed 'Porte Paye' cachet. The Bureau mail was then backstamped with type 1. Edition 3 page 6 shows two covers sent in 1973 after the inauguration of the unified UAE postal service. The Abu Dhabi PO used box number 7000 and a boxed cachet 'Postal Administration /of/ Abu Dhabi' is recorded on one 1972 cover from the Office.

Compliment Card

Philatelic Bureau

General Post Office
Abu Dhabi

28/2/72

Reference No. 1281/118
Please quote this number
in any correspondence

With Compliments

Stamps to the value of £5.46
are enclosed *and on cover.*

(*not the J.P.*)

Phil. 1

Abu Dhabi Philatelic Bureau 1967

The type 6 'Paid' frank is not recorded in use during the British Postal Agency period.



A. N. Donaldson
45 Main Street
AHMADI
Kuwait



PHILATELIC BUREAU
GENERAL POST OFFICE
ABU DHABI

Exchange Office canceller used on post office mail in 1970.
Most official mail from the Philatelic Bureau and the Office was
sent under the 'PAID' frank.



حكومة أبوظبي
دائرة البريد
GOVERNMENT OF ABU DHABI
POST OFFICE

A. R. Donaldson, Esq.,
6, Bolton Avenue,
WINDSOR
Berkshire,
U.K.



Abu Dhabi aerogrammes

Mr. Barnes also sent me a copy of a page from an old Higgins and Gage aerogramme catalogue listing the first Abu Dhabi issues. These have already been listed in my aerogramme catalogue but for those who haven't seen either listing :-

Jones	H&G		date of issue
ADL 1	1	30 NP, Sheikh Shakhbut	30.3.64
		'TO OPEN CUT HERE,	
ADL 1a	2	as above with new instructions	
		'TO OPEN SLIT ALONG HERE'	1965
ADL 2	3	as ADL 1a with portrait overprinted	
		by three black bars.	

To press I have only recorded one example of ADL 1a and many examples of ADL 2 and could not confirm whether it was issued without the bars or it was just an odd example which had missed the overprinting. Now we know that it was issued and listed over 30 years ago!

An official aerogramme of Abu Dhabi is listed on the same page. Unlike the British Postal Agencies OHMS types which were used only on official government business I have some doubt about the Abu Dhabi one. Only the top of the front panel is shown. It looks like a standard formula aerogramme of the 1960's and is franked with the Abu Dhabi type 8 'PAID' dated 30.6.68. Alongside is a strike of type 7, the pictorial canceller dated 1.7.68. The use of the type 8 shows an official source but doesn't categorise it as an official aerogramme.

A note from Ray McMillan prompted me to search for covers bearing handstruck cachets giving information and exhortations to the public. These cachets were applied by the postal authorities and in most cases pre-dated the more familiar slogan postmarks. They were applied indiscriminately to incoming and outgoing local and international mail. A very labour intensive operation.

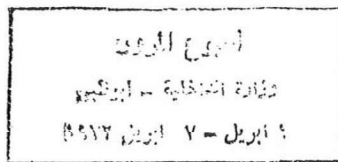
1. The only cachet used in British Postal Agency days was that for the Bahrain Agricultural and Trade Fair - 1960. (see page 9).
2. On the same page is a 1967 cachet publicising the building of the Aswan Dam and the need to resite the Nubian Monuments above from the resulting flood waters in the valley of the River Nile. I don't know whether this cachet was struck in Dubai where the cover was sent from or in Kuwait.
3. International Book Year 1972. This is a Kuwait cachet seen on a cover dated 5.6.72.

Most cachets are printed in Arabic and English but the two listed below are Arabic only.

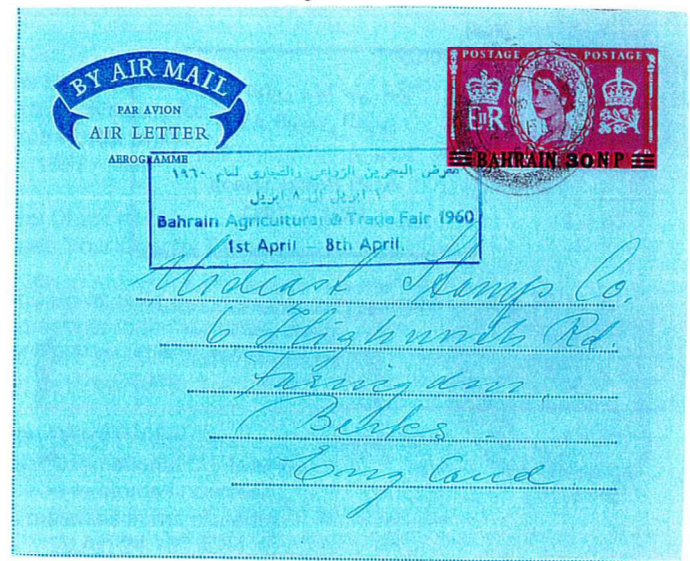
4. UAE لجمع بدمك لتجد حياة اخيك اسبوع الصحة

Translation : 'Donate your blood to save your brother's life'
On cover from Abu Dhabi dated 8.4.72.

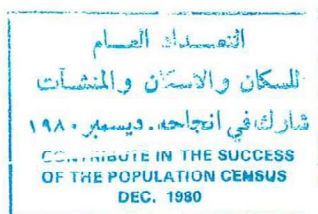
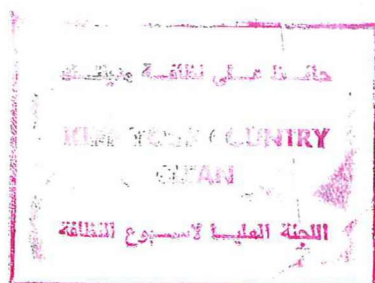
5. UAE



Translation : 'Traffic Week / Ministry of Interior
Abu Dhabi / 1.7.72



Information cachets



Information cachets continued.

	colour	date
6. Abu Dhabi (UAE) 30th Anniversary for Arab Postal Union 1952 - 1982	red	-
7. Abu Dhabi (UAE) Keep Your Country Clean	red	19.3.83
8. Abu Dhabi (UAE) Contribute to the Success of the Population Census Dec. 1980	green	1 & 10.11.80
9. Abu Dhabi (UAE) First International Conference in reinforced concrete materials in hot climates Al Ain 24 - 27.4.84	purple	24.4.84
10. Fujaira (UAE) Drive slowly your family is waiting	purple	9.4.84
11. Fujaira (UAE) 30th anniversary for Arab Postal Union	purple	14.4.82
12. Ras al Khaima (UAE) Keep your country clean	green	17.3.83

Oman and Qatar next time.

A couple of corrections from last time.

Page 10/fig.9 The message on this aerogramme is shown on page 20.

Page 16/fig.12 The message sides are shown on pages 23 and 24.

I have called this a postal history magazine but what is postal history. I suppose it is a shorthand way of saying we collect items which have passed through the postal systems in previous years and by doing this we research the postal operations of former times. It is a lot more than collecting old covers. The definition of an antique is (or was) an item at least one hundred years old. At what age does a cover become a piece of postal history? I don't think it matters. Any cover which records previous postal operations can be an important item of history and some of the most the most interesting covers I have were sent in the last 30 years.

Overheard at Pudsey "Where have all the stamp dealers gone? Most of the room has been taken over by the postal history brigade!"

Auctioneer's comment "I have had a block bid for all the Gulf lots. There seems to be a concerted effort by dealers/investors to buy up anything Gulf at the moment."

Mr. G Perfett has sent in some further information on cancellers :-

Kuwait type 38(1) also recorded 22.11.65 (AM)

" type 38(Safat) - small wedges 28.12.65/11.1.66/14.2.66

Oman type 1d(blue) Al Khoudh	28.9.2000
type 1e Sohar	6.6 to 9.8.2000
Al Hamriyah	11.4.2001
type 2b Sultan Qaboos Univ.	18.7.2000

Alastair Gunn has sent the following :-

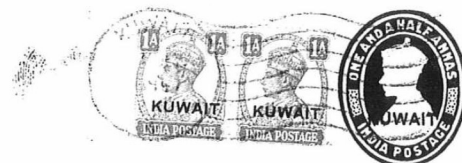
Ras al Khaima :-

An addition to the list in edition 8/p6

The date stamp shown on the right also exists without the R.

Muscat :-

The registration cachet 'Muscat Di Arabia', Donaldson type 17b is now recorded from 15.6.1889 to 1935. The earlier date was on an official piece of postal paper with a Muscat date stamp along side.
(ebay sale, realised \$300)



*Mr. Arvo Pynnönen,
Kangasniemi,
Tiehollantie,
Finland*

Kuwait 1 1/2 annas envelope to Finland.

Readers have kindly sent in colour copies of some interesting covers which are described here.

1. Graf Zeppelin - 4th South America Flight Franked 7 1/2 annas which does not accord with the previously recorded rate of 7 annas + 3 annas registration fee. stamps cancelled 20.7.33 with type 7. Franked again in London 10d and cancelled 24.7.33. Cachets applied in Friedrichshafen, Berlin. Received Pernambuco, Brazil 9.8.33. (Mashael Alhajeri)

2. Kuwait GVIR 1 1/2 annas PS envelope. A second recorded example of this rare item of overprinted India postal stationery. Additionally franked 2 r 2 as and cancelled type 13 (Kuwait) 15.12.46 with Cairo transit mark and NY 5.1.47. Registered No 1! (F Mallalieu)

3. ditto additionally franked 2 as and cancelled 1.8.47 type 11 to Finland. With Basrah and Baghdad transit marks. Not illustrated. (Mashael Alhajeri)

4. 1 annas India GVR post card cancelled 15.11.21 type 1. Note this date stamp has the former spelling Kowait. Even though type 1 was in use from 1915 to 1922 mail from this period and particularly westward bound is rare and this canceller is seldom seen.

This must be classed as a rare Gulf item. (Mashael Alhajeri)





The cover on page 16 is taxed as underpaid; the postage rate at the time was 2 1/2 annas and the underfranking 3 pice. On arrival in the UK it was given the standard GPO treatment with the large handstruck 1D / I.S. P, the postage due being raised by the 1d due label datestamped 11.4.32. There are no back markings and the puzzle is the straight line 'TEN CENTS' cachet. Does anyone know where this was applied? (thanks to Willard Allman)

Ras Al Khaimah 5 Dirham Surcharges. David Donald

Dh - tall letters



All SG64b
Sequence of
issue unknown



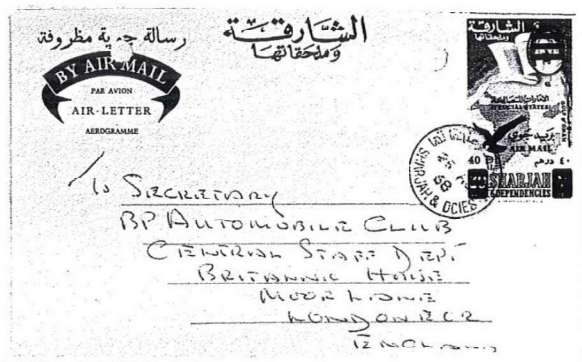
Dh - thin short
letters



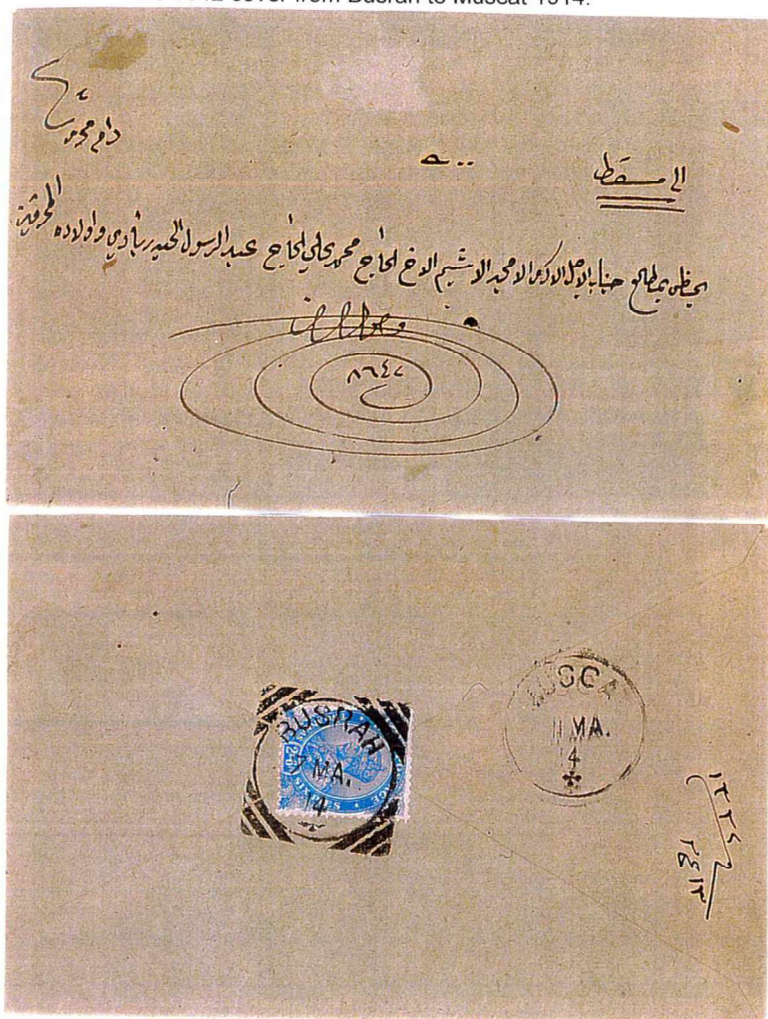
Dh - serifs

I have looked at the aerogramme on the front of this issue many times before but only just realised that the pictorial canceller shows the identical view to that on the stamp it is cancelling! This is a view of the Old Palace, Abu Dhabi.

Whilst on the topic of aerogrammes I thought it was a good opportunity to show the only recorded use of a commercially used Sharjah sheet. My various aerogramme publications have generated very little new information from other collectors and absolutely nothing at all about Sharjah. Other used Sharjah sheets I have seen are all philatelic. My definition of philatelic in this context is that the aerogramme has legitimately passed through the postal system but is still un-opened i.e. was not used to send a message. This may seem pedantic, and it may be the only way of getting a postally used item, but there is an undeniable greater pleasure about finding items used for the purposes for which they were issued.



SAL 10b dated 25.4.68



20
KHAFJI 1964



21
Cover from BUSRAH (Basrah) to Muscat 7.5.14

On page 19 is a cover from Busrah bearing ٨٤٢, the Arabic numbers 8642, circled round in ink under the address. If these numbers are reversed they spell B(E)DUH in English. This or the Persian equivalent is often seen on covers of the period and written to ensure safe arrival of the letter. The reverse of this cover bears a 2 1/2 annas stamp cancelled with a large squared circle of a type not used by the Gulf PO's. The Muscat type 10 backstamp dated 11.5.14 was in use until 1922.

KHAFJI (NZ)

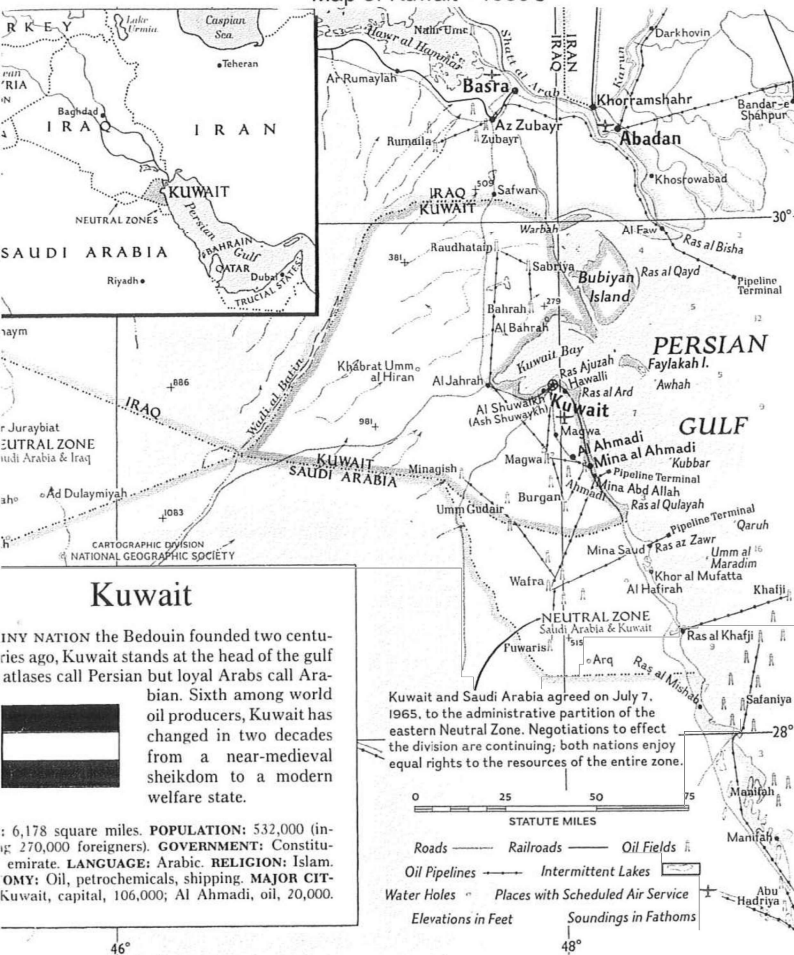
Kuwait and Saudi Arabia share(d) the resources of a small area bordering the Gulf. This area was known as the Neutral Zone. (See map on the next page) There were two and maybe three Kuwaiti PO's operating here in the 1960's and 1970's but as only three covers have so far been recorded, one from Mina Saud (see edition 1/22), and two from Khafji, information is scant.

An official PO list from 1978 gave Mina Saud and what may be the third PO at Wafrah. The latter could be the place marked Wafra on the map. A second list of PO's from the early 1980's gave only Wafrah. Neither listed Khafji.

If, as suggested on the map, the Neutral Zone was partitioned then Khafji being located in the south of the area would most likely be under Saudi administration and the Kuwait PO closed.

The particular interest at this time is because of an auction house has recently received a 'buy' bid in a postal auction for a Khafji cover. This represented a bid in excess of £100. The reader who brought this to my attention asked for my opinion of this bid. I can only say that there is increasing interest for the more modern postal history of the Gulf and significantly from collectors/investors who are nationals of the Gulf states.

22
Map of Kuwait - 1960's



A land Croesus would have envied, Kuwait has increased her revenue more than a thousandfold in little more than two decades. Her people have one of the highest per capita incomes in the world—and pay no personal income taxes. In addition to profits from her own wells, the

23
Operational Handstamps of Kuwait

Neil Donaldson has let me have two sheets showing strikes of all the redundant Postal Agencies operational handstamps gathering dust in the Kuwait Post Office stores in the 1960's. One or two have been recorded on cover but they are presented here without comment for the readers to report on.

PLEASE WRITE
COMPLETE ADDRESS
(NAME OF STREET OR ROAD)
TO AVOID DELAY.

Mabarakya St T.S.C
Kuwait

ناقصه الاجر
TAXED

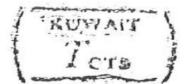
UNDELIVERED FOR
THE REASON STATED

RETURNED
TO SENDER

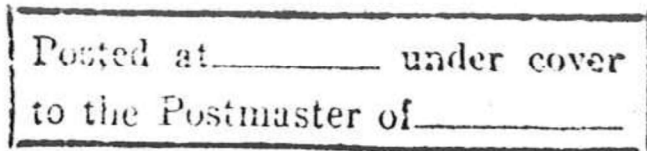
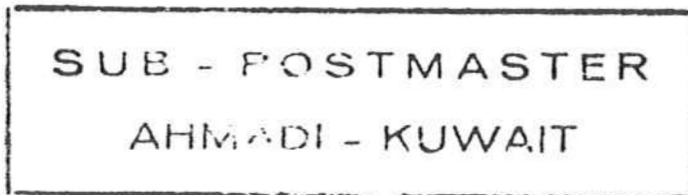
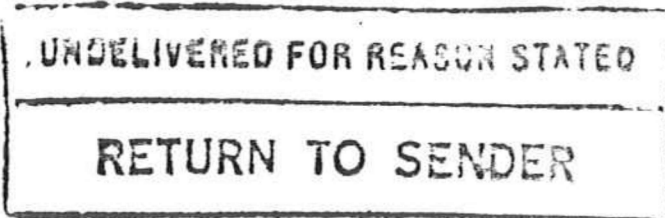
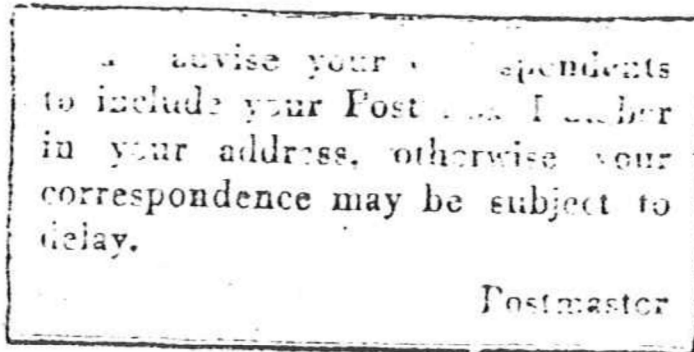
URGENT

Please advise your correspondent
to include your Post Box Number
in your address, otherwise your
correspondence may be subject
to delay.

Postmaster,



Further examples of cachets from the Kuwait Post Office.
Please report any known use



NOT-KNOWN

REFUSED

*Postmaster of
Kuwait*

Shuwaikh

LEFT.

