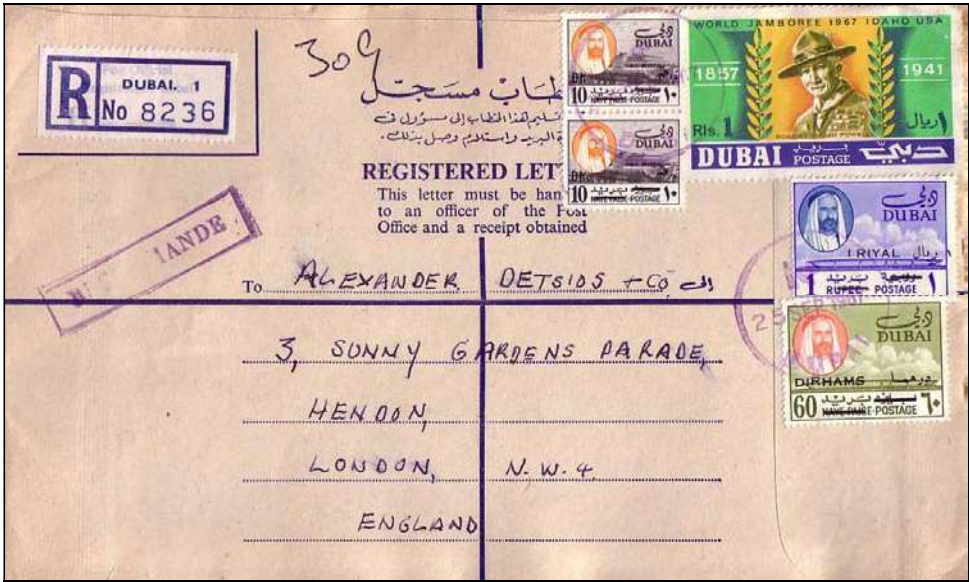


# POSTAL HISTORY



25 September 1967: A registered letter sent to the UK and cancelled with Dubai Type 37b. It has been franked with a total of 2 Riyals 80 Dirhams making up the registered rate for 30 grams – 1 Riyal for registration plus 60 Dirhams for each 10 grams.

# Edition 32 – Autumn 2009

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## **Welcome to Edition 32 of the Quarterly**

Dear Subscribers,

Hope you all had a splendid summer!

First of all thanks to the 16 of you that helped with Edition 32 – your contributions are much appreciated. As for Edition 33 please start sending me material as soon as possible – it is going to be a busy autumn for me so I will start work on Edition 33 early.

In edition 31 I mentioned that the 2009 GCC exhibition was to be held in Muscat – the dates were initially November 7-12 but the exhibition was postponed to November 14-19. As far as I know these dates are now confirmed and reconfirmed.

Finally, you should have received a couple of forgery notices/reports from Emirates Philatelic Association. We are striving to escalate our work against forgeries – especially against items being sold on auction networks like EBay so more reports are to come. Any information about forgeries or auctions with forgeries is welcome.

Enjoy autumn!  
Thomas Johansen

# **Comments, Questions & Corrections**

Reader's Feedback

## **Edition 31 – British Postal Rates in the Gulf 1948-1966 – Summary:**

| Registration Fees - 1948-1966 |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 3as                           |          | 4as      |          | 6as      |          | 40np     |          |
| Earliest                      | Latest   | Earliest | Latest   | Earliest | Latest   | Earliest | Latest   |
| 01/04/48                      | 01/05/49 | 03/05/49 | 31/03/52 | 14/04/52 | 31/03/57 | 01/04/57 | 31/12/66 |

## **BRITISH POSTAL RATES 1948-1966**

The rates in Annas were available from 1 April 1948 until 31 March 1957 and the rates in Naye Paise were available from 1 April 1957 until 29 April 1966 (Muscat).

|                   | Airmail       | 2nd Class  | Post Card   | Surface Mail  | Printed Matter |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Group 1</b>    | 3.5as<br>20np | 12np       | 2.5as       |               |                |
| <b>Group 2</b>    | 6as<br>40np   | 20np       | 3as<br>20np | 2.5as<br>20np |                |
| <b>Group 3</b>    | 12as<br>75np  |            | 6as         |               |                |
| <b>Group 4</b>    | 16as<br>100np | 40np       | 9as         | 3as           | (1.5as)        |
| <b>Local Mail</b> | N/A<br>N/A    | N/A<br>N/A |             | 1.5as<br>9np  | 1a<br>6np      |

The empty boxes need to be filled out.



One cover has been forwarded to me and is illustrated to the left. It is a Group 4 cover sent to the USA on 29 October 1959 and franked with two 1957 3np orange making up the rate of 6np - the cover is not sealed. In Edition 31 the printed matter rate to Group 4 countries during the Anna period was defined as 1.5as an assumption that may be incorrect as 1.5as would equal 9np.

If the 6np rate is indeed the printed matter rate then it should correspond to 1a prior to the currency reform.

The piece on the left is off a local letter sent from Abdulrehman Algosaibi to the Fakhro family. It has been cancelled with Donaldson type 30 dated 27 May 1956 and has had a BOOK POST handstamp applied to it. The rate of 1a is interesting as it corresponds to 6np – a rate we have seen applied to unsealed mail.



### **Aerogramme rate change in the Gulf:**

In Edition 31 I quoted an aerogramme specialist as saying that: “In regards to your query, the rate change, to my knowledge, has nothing to do with postal rates in UK, the rate for aerogramme never altered from 6 pence between 1943 and 1966, nor was there any reduction in postal rates.”

Salam Al-Shaker has come up with a possible reason/theory for the change in rate from 40np to 30np being that 40np simply was too expensive and that the Post Office was not selling its stock of aerogrammes. In addition to this it is possible that the Post Office received complaints about the very matter of price from citizens. At the time 40np was more expensive than airmail to other APU countries and the same price as an ordinary airmail letter to the UK, Europe and India. He also mentions that merchants liked to use aerogrammes and that they may have been the ones that complained.

### **Yahoo group as discussion forum:**

I have long been promoting Andrew Gondocz’s yahoo group covering Arabian Gulf and Yemen stamps and postal history at the back of the Quarterly. For those of you who are members I am sure that you have learned many interesting things from the correspondence that has filtered through the group.

However, being a member of the Indian Study Circle and their associated Yahoo group has shown me the value of a much more specialized focus and as such, I decided to launch an additional yahoo group called “arabiangulfphilately”. The purpose of the group is not to compete with Andrew’s group but deliver a more specialized discussion forum in parallel with the Quarterly publications.

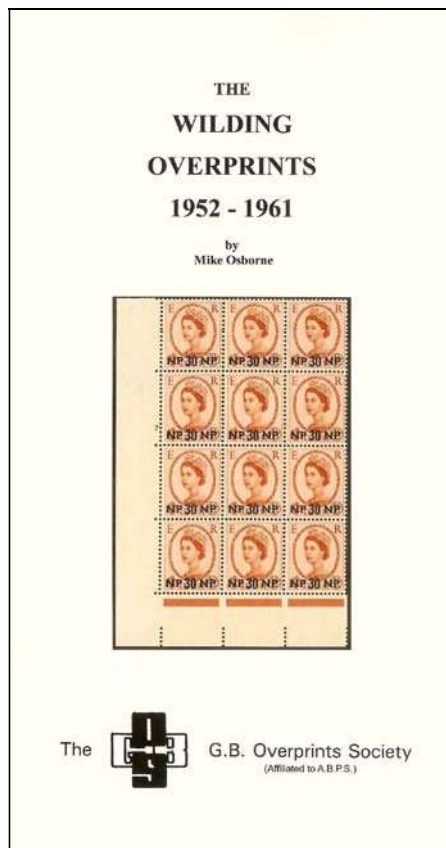
Whereas general philatelic discussions focusing on the geographic area covered by the Quarterly are key other topics such as philatelic book reviews, image libraries, articles, references and warnings about forgeries and dubious dealers (whether on EBay or other places) are equally important. The group has already got two image libraries covering the forged Abu Dhabi aerogrammes and the 1944 Bu’Said forged post marks which are often sold on EBay. A major library illustrating forged Dubai material will begin to be uploaded in the near future.

One thing that the group will not have is people offering to sell or buy material – no dealers, no buyers, no auctions, no sellers – only 100% focused on philately.

Should you want to join the group you can do so via the link below:

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

**Group email:** [arabiangulfphilately@yahoogroups.com](mailto:arabiangulfphilately@yahoogroups.com)



Mike Osbourne of the GBOS has issued a study of the various QEII stamps issued in the Gulf between 1952 and 1961.

The book was published through the Overprint Society in March 2009 and it has 32 pages of text and a 4 page color centerfold of illustrations. The price is £15 plus postage to non members or £10 to members of the society. It contains listings of all the Wilding overprints, dates of issue, quantities issued and known varieties, with lists of all known cylinders. The same information is also included for the Coronation and Scouts issues but only basic information for the Castles, which have been covered in a previous publication. Copies can be obtained from Mike Osbourne or from Tony Stanford, the GBO Society's Secretary.

Mike's email is: [emmjayo@talktalk.net](mailto:emmjayo@talktalk.net)

Tony's email is: [gbos@talk21.com](mailto:gbos@talk21.com)

The GBOS website is [www.gbos.org.uk](http://www.gbos.org.uk)

### **Airmail from the Gulf to the USA:**

Many airmail covers to the USA have been illustrated in the Quarterly over the past years. I do not recall any mention of the Atlantic crossing section so here is the necessary information: "The first Imperial Airways transatlantic service (the Northern Route) via Southampton to Ireland, Newfoundland and Montreal, was launched on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1939 arriving a day later.

A request about information about the following people involved in Gulf Philately has been submitted to the Quarterly – does anyone know their whereabouts?

**Finbar Kenny:** He was involved in Trucial States stamp issuing until the Lebanese took over.

**Martin Sellinger:** he was a stamp agent (a partner with Fouad Antoun from Lebanon) for Ajman for some time. He was a very important resource for Ajman & other Trucial States stamps.

**George Y. Koro:** he was the postal adviser for Ajman Post Office after September 1971.

# Bahrain

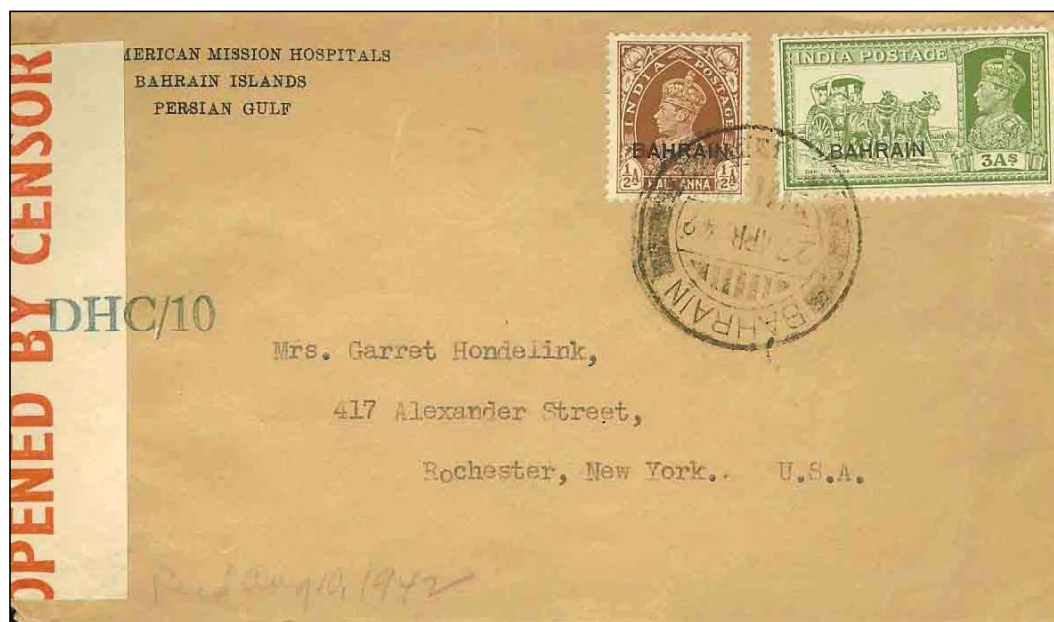


## Surface Rates to the USA:

Surface rates to the USA – or to non-Empire for that matter – were largely unchanged during the Indian Period of the Bahrain Post Office. A charge of 1a was applied to post cards as illustrated by the 1893 post card on the left whereas the charge for letters was 2.5as as illustrated below by the 1910 and 1920 covers.



On 1 December 1931 the surface rate was increased to 3.5as for the first ounce and 2as for each subsequent ounce – a rate that remained in use until the end of the Indian Period in the Gulf. An example of such a cover is illustrated below and dated 27 April 1942. Incidentally you will notice that almost all surface mail sent from Bahrain in the 1940s was cancelled with Type 6A.





Surface mail covers to the USA are not rare as such but it seems quite obvious that the oil workers in Bahrain, who were behind most of the mail to the USA, had no problem paying for the much pricier airmail option. It is difficult to estimate the ratio between air and surface mail but given the material seen in the market airmail was heavily favored.

When it comes to surface mail almost all of it is franked with 3½as since one ounce was more than sufficient to requirement.

The above cover cancelled with Type 6A on 7 September 1940 shows the double surface rate of 5½as – 3½as for the first ounce and 2as for the second ounce.

There was one variety to the surface rate out of the Gulf being the “Air to India” (Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta) and onwards by sea to the USA. Priced at 4½as it was made up of the air mail rate to India of 1a (for 1 tola) + the normal surface rate to the USA of 3½as. Please note that Indian internal airmail and surface fees were based on weight in tolas.



The above cover dated 28 August 1941 shows the 4½as combination rate on cover. Unlike normal surface mail found cancelled with Type 6A it has been cancelled with Type 7 clearly because the first leg of its journey was carried by air. It still took the cover 4 months to make it to its destination in Shelby, Michigan.

## 1946 Victory issue used in Bahrain

The Victory issue was placed on sale at Bahrain for a short period of time and cancelled with three different cancellers – Type 8, 8A and 9. All four values are recorded cancelled with Type 9 illustrated here by the four blocks below. Two values, the 1½as and 3½as, were issued on the 2 January 1946 whereas the two other values, 9ps and 12as, were issued on 8 February 1946.



One value is recorded cancelled with type 8 and two values with type 8A.



Type 8

Type 8A

Type 8A

Covers with Victory usage will be illustrated on the following pages including under Kuwait, Muscat and Dubai.

Two Bahrain covers, not pictured here, have been reported being a 12 March 1946 cover franked with the 1½as Value on a letter to India The other cover is also franked with the 1½as value and dated 6 March 1946 sent by registered airmail to the UK and franked at 2R 131/2as - 2R SG33 and 12as SG50.



A cover dated 9 January 1946 sent to Switzerland and franked with a total of 2½as. The cover shows very early use of the 1½as Victory value and has been cancelled with Type 8

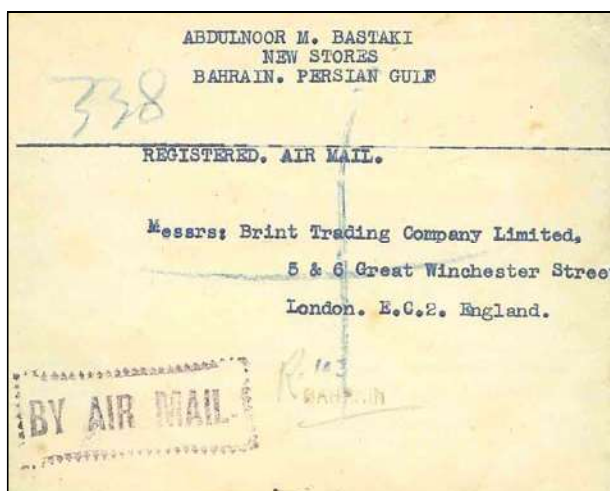
A cover dated 12 August 1946 sent to the UK and franked with a total of 40as and 3ps – a philatelic inspired cover illustrating the use of the 9ps value and cancelled with Type 8A.

The rate to the UK at the time was 14as per ½ ounce.



A cover dated 10 October 1946 sent to Bombay and franked with a total of 2½as. The cover shows use of the 1½as Victory value and has been cancelled with Type 8A.

Victory covers cancelled with Type 9:



7 April 1946: A registered commercial cover sent to the UK and franked with the 9np and 12as Victory values. The total franking being 17as making up the 14as rate for ½ ounce to the UK plus the registration free of 3as.



A cover dated 8 June 1946 and sent to the UK. The cover, which has been cut off to the left, shows use of the 12as Victory value – again the cover has been paid with 17as.

Below is a philatelic cover sent to Australia on 12 November 1946 and endorsed "by airmail up to India thence seamount". The cover has been franked with a total of 15½as where as the correct rate would have been 7½as - 1a for air to India, 3½as for surface

to Australia and 3as for registration. The cover has a N.S.W. arrival backstamp dated 28 Dec 1946 indicating 46 days in transit.





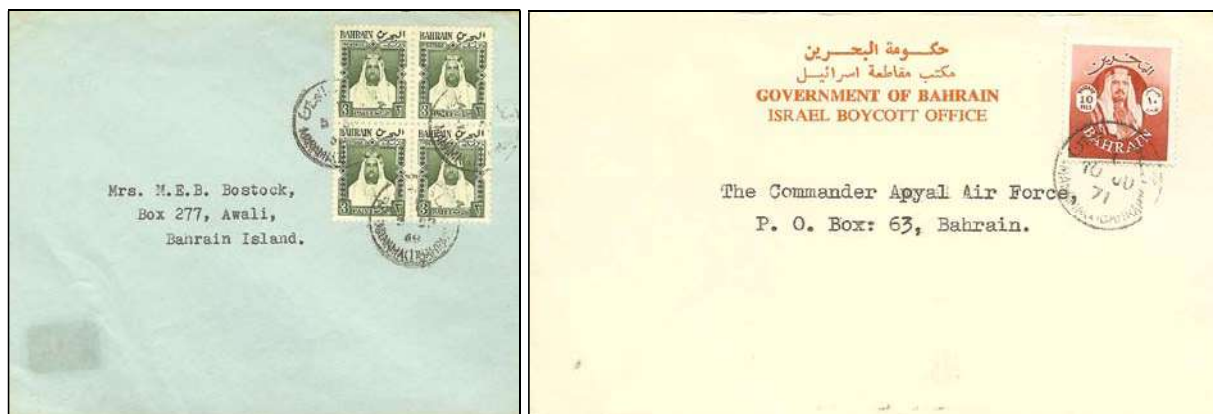
Finally, two philatelic covers with the full set – one sent to Australia and one to the USA. A similar USA cover was sold at the famous 2004 Harmers auction.

### Donaldson Type 34 – Manama 1, 2 and 3

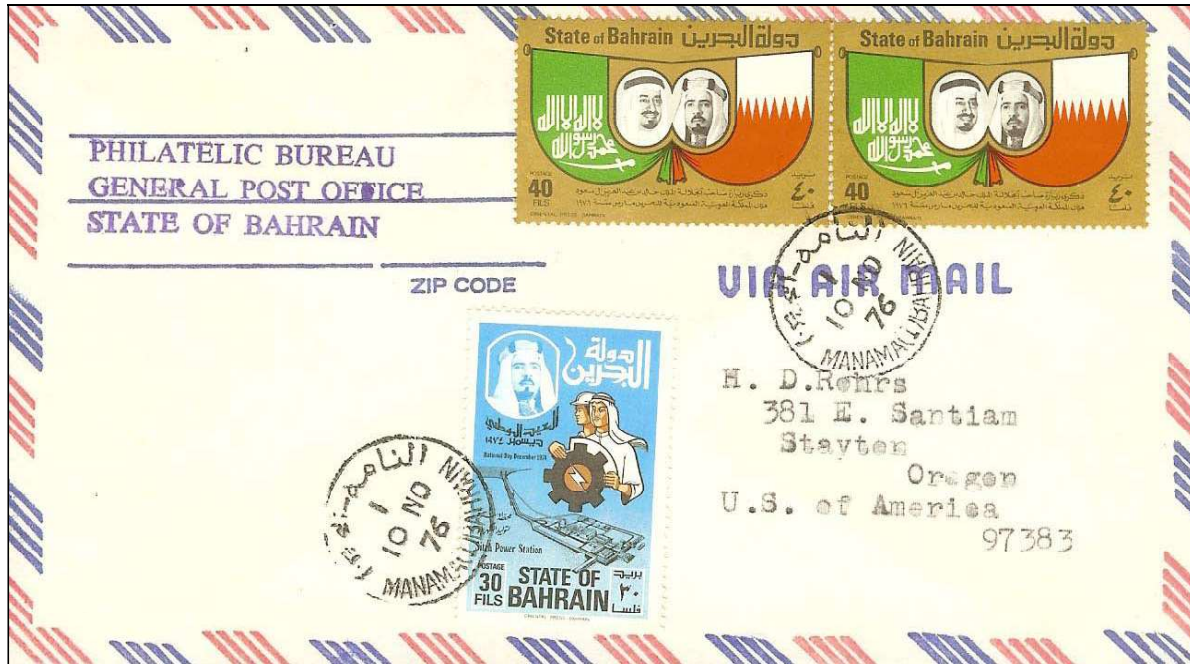
Neil Donaldson introduces us the Manama 1, 2 and 3 bilingual cancellations on page 155 of his book referring to them as registered in the G.P.O. Impression Book on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1959. It would have been nice to illustrate his referral to the Manama 4/Inverted Arabic 4 made from incorrectly assembling of the date-stamps but the image is not available. Having recently gone through a large number of Type 34 covers a few interesting observations have been made.



Manama (1) goes through three faces from its introduction in 1959 to its expiry in 1983. The first stage shows the Arabic “1” centered above the date and month. The Arabic “1” variety remained in use until at least the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1971 (see below right cover). Another interesting discovery was that all usage of the Manama (1) cancellation from 1959 and up to 1971 was on local mail.



From 1972 to 1976 there was no sample of Manama (1) being used but when it reappears again in mid-1976 two things had changed. First the Arabia “1” has been replaced with a straight western “1” – and second it was now being applied to international mail instead. The earliest recorded use of type 2 so far is 24 March 1976.



The final face of the Manama (1) canceller – appears in early 1977 and sees the western “1” replaced by a 6-point star – this presentation remains in place until its latest recorded use in 1983. The mail cancelled with it continued to be international mail.





The earliest recorded use of Manama (1) is 9 September 1959. The latest recorded use is 21 December 1983.

Late use of Manama (1) illustrating the use of type 3 dated 6 April 1983.



Manama (2) goes through two faces from its introduction in 1959 to its expiry in 1983. The first stage shows the Arabic “2” centered above the date and month. The Arabic “2” variety was used during the early years of the canceller is recorded cancelling the 1960 Definitive issue FDC on 1 July 1960 and a local philatelic cover on 21 March 1961.



The second face sees the Arabic “2” replaced by a 6-point star, a change that is recorded from 1967 and onwards. The use of Manama (2) seems to have been intended for international mail as only a few local covers have been recorded with the strike – both local covers illustrated here are of philatelic nature and no local commercial mail has been recorded.

Except for a few early covers Manama (2) seems to have been unused between 1961 and 1967 probably because the post office decided to use Type 21 and 26 instead. The earliest recorded use of Manama (2) is 1 July 1960 and latest recorded use is 27 April 1983.



Two covers above with Manama (2) – the local cover to the right is also philatelic.



Manama (3) is the rarest of the three Manama cancellers. When reading Donaldson's description it would appear that the sample in the G.P.O. Impression Book has an Arabic "3" above the date and month. However, there is no record of such a strike having been recorded on cover.

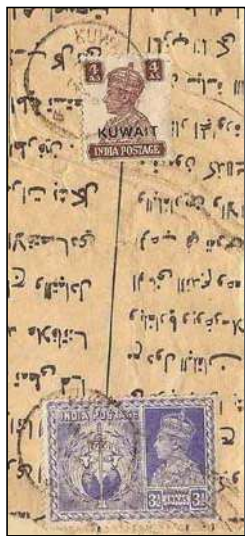


One minor variety has been noted between two covers both cancelled in 1980. The top sample of Manama (3) shows a western "1" in the date whereas the bottom sample shows an Arabic "1" in the date similar to the one seen in the Manama (1) cancellation.

Records of the use of Manama (3) come very late in the life of Type 34. The earliest recorded use is 22 August 1978 and the latest is 1 October 1980. It is not certain what happened to the canceller during the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to this all recorded Manama (3) covers have been local covers indicating that the canceller was delegated to local mail. Its scarcity could maybe be explained by the spread of meter mark machines from which substantial local mail exists during the 1970s and 1980s or that Manama (1) and (2) were adequate.



## Kuwait



1946 Victory issue used in Kuwait

Indian Victory stamps were placed on sale at the Kuwait Post Office for a short time and usage is scarce. Three values from the set of four stamps – the 9ps, 1½as and 3½as values – have been recorded used in Kuwait.

The Kuwait piece is franked at 4½as - 1as SG55 and 2as SG57 - postmark is an indistinct Type 11. There is no address on the piece.

A piece of newspaper franked with the 3½as Victory value and the KGVI 4as brown. The cancellation is dated 14 January 1946.

The below left cover is dated 15 April 1946 and the cover on the right is dated 17 April 1946 – both covers were sent to India.



The final cover shows the use of two copies of the 1½as value – again the cover was sent to Bombay.

A 10 April 1946 cover franked with the 1½as value was sold at Harmers in 2004 and another 1946 cover franked with four 9pies values was sold at the Philagenta auction in Dubai – also in 2004.



**THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (UNIKOM)**

Part One:  
An Abridged Listing of UNIKOM Postal Markings

Dr. Mashael A. Alhajeri  
[redab70@hotmail.com](mailto:redab70@hotmail.com)

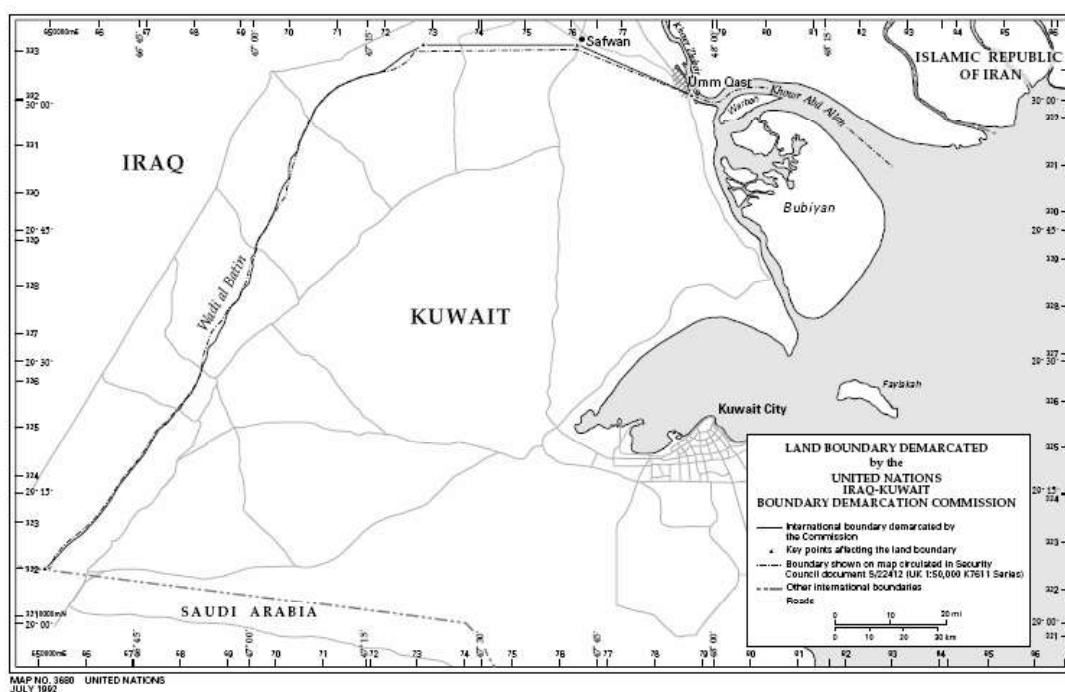
© Mashael A. Alhajeri, 2006



UNIKOM Headquarters ▲

UNIKOM observation post ►

Land boundary demarcated by the  
UN Iraq-Kuwait Boundary  
Demarcation Commission ▼



United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) was established on April 9, 1991 following the Gulf War by Security Council Resolution 689/1991. UNIKOM first military observers (MILOBs) arrived to Kuwait on April 13, 1991, and the Force was fully deployed by May 6, 1991. The task of the 300 MILOBs was to monitor the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) along the Iraq-Kuwait border, deter border violations and report any hostile action. UNIKOM's headquarters was located in Umm Qasr, Iraq, while UNIKOM's support base was at Camp Khor, Kuwait.

In February 1993, the mandate was extended to include physical action to prevent violations and the Force was expanded to an intended three mechanized infantry battalions plus support. Mission's mandate was completed on October 6, 2003. Force's headquarters is in Umm Qasr, Iraq, within the DMZ.

The UN did not set up military mail franking system for UNIKOM. Mail was generally conveyed via the Safat PO in the capital, Kuwait City (where UNIKOM address was: PO box 1425, Safat 13015, Kuwait) or by diplomatic pouches through contingents' respective embassies. However, certain large-sized contingents had their own postal system with a military PO.

This study is immediately concerned with investigating the postal aspects of UNIKOM postal activities in Kuwait, as recorded through my own collection.

A four-part taxonomy has been adopted in this study to meet the said objective:

- Part One: An Abridged Listing of UNIKOM Postal Markings
- Part Two: UNIKOM Postal Markings Record
- Part Three: UNIKOM Stationary
- Part Four: UNIKOM Postal History

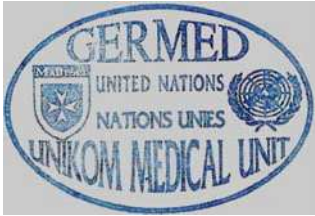
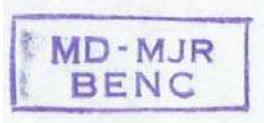
Corrections, additions, and feedback welcome, at:  
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Or:

Dr. Mashael A. Alhajeri  
PO Box 33977  
Rawda 73460  
Kuwait

## Part One: An Abridged Listing of UNIKOM Postal Markings

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Chief Military Observer</p>         |  <p>Chief Military Observer</p>         |  <p>Chief Military Observer</p>       |
|  <p>Chief Military Observer</p>         |  <p>Chief Military Observer</p>         |  <p>Italian Contingent (ITALIFOR)</p> |
|  <p>Italian Contingent (ITALIFOR)</p> |  <p>Italian Contingent (ITALIFOR)</p> |  <p>Canadian Contingent</p>         |
|  <p>Canadian Contingent</p>           |  <p>Danish Contingent (DANLOG)</p>    |  <p>Danish Contingent (DANLOG)</p>  |

|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Danish Contingent (DANLOG)</p>                    |  <p>Danish Contingent (DANLOG)</p>         |  <p>Danish Contingent (DANLOG)</p>              |
| <p>KS H.H.MADSEN<br/>POSTMASTER<br/>DANLOG/UNIKOM<br/>GENERAL POST OFFICE<br/>FELTPOST-15/KUWAIT</p> <p>Danish Contingent (DANLOG)</p> |  <p>German Medical Contingent (GERMED)</p> |  <p>German Medical Contingent (GERMED)</p>      |
|  <p>Austrian Medical Unit (AUSMED)</p>              |  <p>Austrian Battalion (AUSLOG)</p>      |  <p>Austrian Battalion (AUSLOG)</p>           |
|  <p>Austrian Medical Unit (AUSMED)</p>              |  <p>Bengali Battalion (BANBATT)</p>      |  <p>Norwegian Medical Contingent (NORMED)</p> |

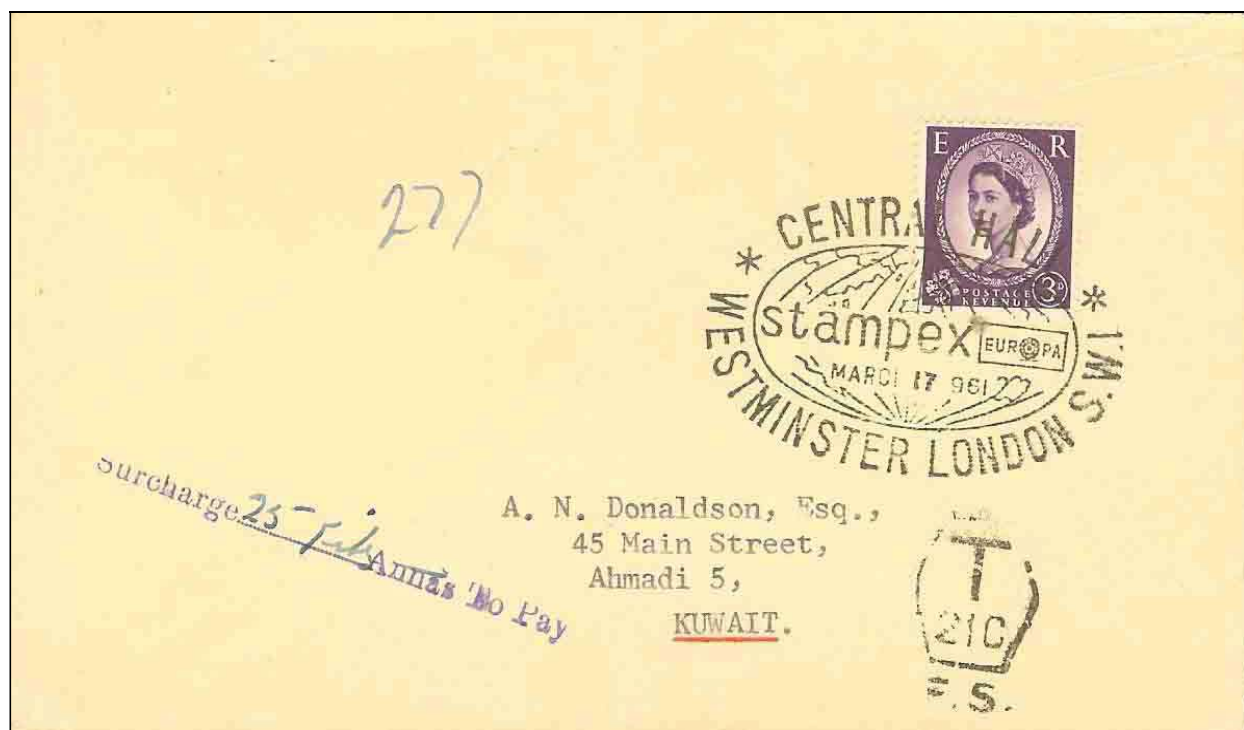
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                   |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
|  <p>French Contingent</p> |  <p>Generic?</p> | - |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|

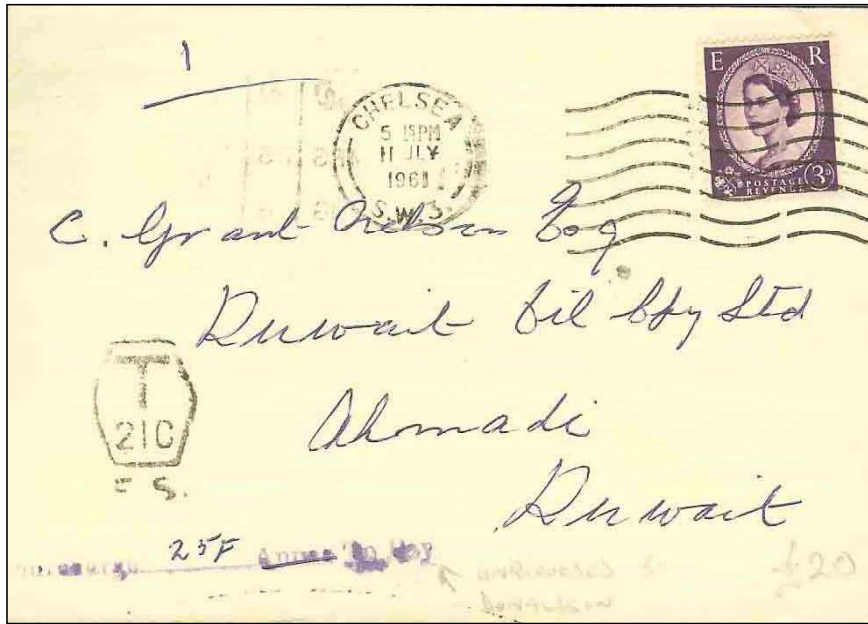
## Kuwait Postage Due Handstamps

The subject of underpaid mail in Kuwait has already been discussed in Edition 5 of the Quarterly. Additional images and information are supplied here.

 The surcharge handstamp measures 61x3mm and is shown below applied to a cover sent from the UK on 17 March 1961. This is the second type of surcharge cachet applied to incoming mail that has been recorded – the first type was illustrated on the front page of Edition 5. The cover has Ahmadi and Safat arrival stamps dated 6 April 1961.

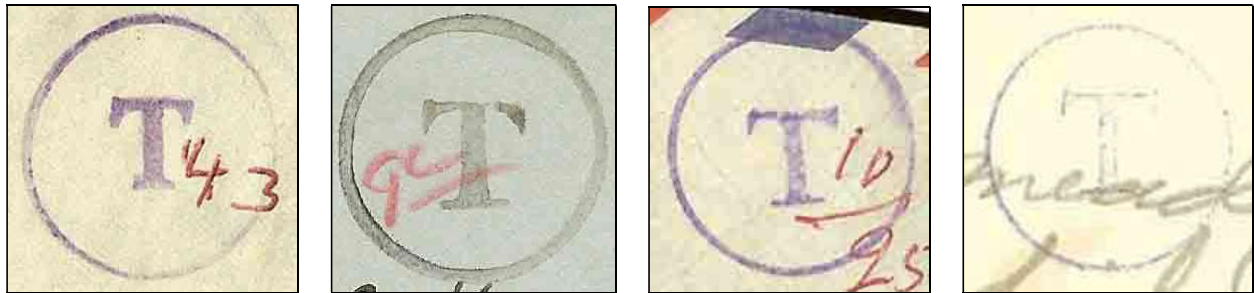
The cover also shows the use of a "T 21C FS" mark applied in the Foreign Section of the G.P.O. in London. This is recorded in "U.K. Tax Marks for International Mail 1875 - 2000" by Ken Snelson.





Another cover sent from the UK to Kuwait on 11 July 1961 showing the application of the surcharge handstamp along with the UK G.P.O. T cachet. The cover has an Ahmadi arrival stamp dated 29 July 1961.

Four "T" tax-marks have been recorded on mail from Kuwait and are illustrated below. "T" tax marks are normally applied at the office of posting or at least the country of posting

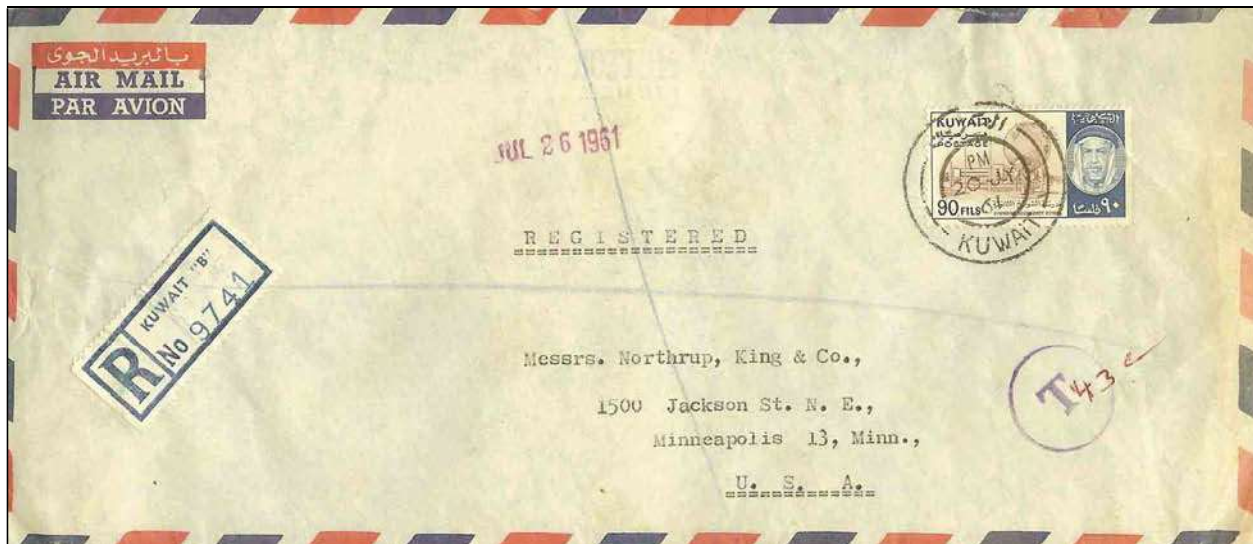


The first "T" measures 20mm in diameter, the "T" has a height of 7mm and the T-bar is 7mm wide. Its appearance indicates that it is struck with a steel mechanism – it has only been recorded struck in purple.

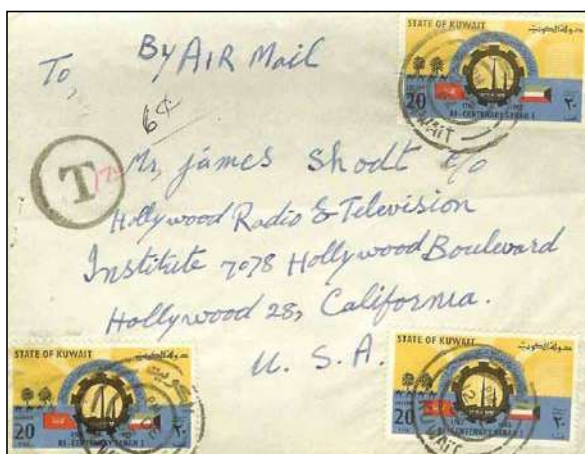
The second "T" measures 22-23mm in diameter, the "T" has a height of 9mm and the T-bar is 8mm wide. It has been struck with a rubber mechanism and is only recorded struck in black.

The third "T" measures 23mm in diameter, the "T" has a height of 8mm and the T-bar is 8mm wide. It has been struck with a steel mechanism and is only recorded struck in purple.

The fourth "T" measures 19mm in diameter, the "T" has a height of 8mm and the T-bar is 7.5mm wide. It has stuck with a steel mechanism and is only recorded struck in purple.



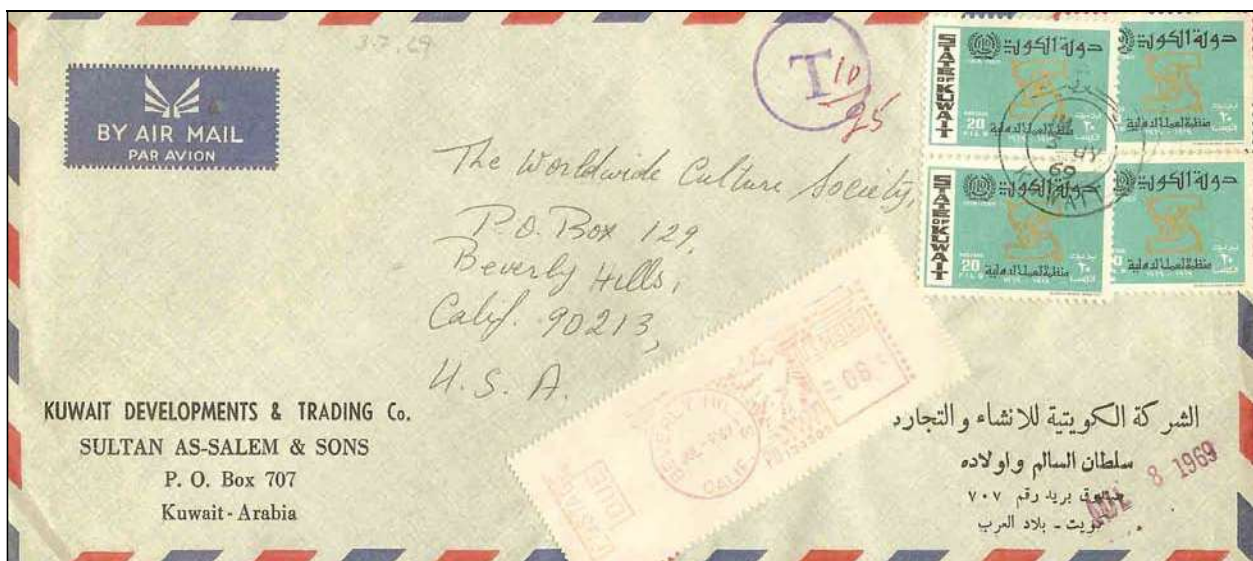
The first "T" illustrated on a cover dated 20 July 1961 which has been superscribed with 43 Gold Centimes. It is the only cover recorded cover so far with this "T" mark.

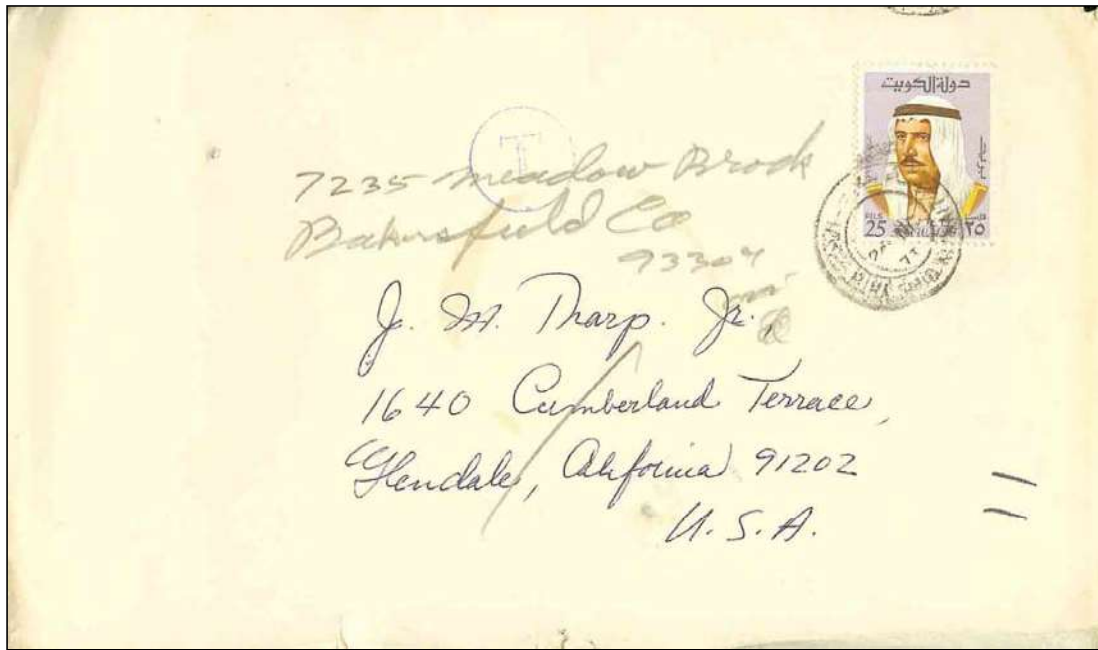


The 2<sup>nd</sup> "T" here shown on a cover dated 12 December 1962.

The "T" has been recorded on four more covers dated 12 December 1962, 8 July 1963 (Edition 5), 23 June 1964 and 19 September 1964.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> "T" is shown below on a cover dated 3 July 1969 and endorsed with 10/25 manuscript. It is also recorded on a cover dated 26 April 1967.

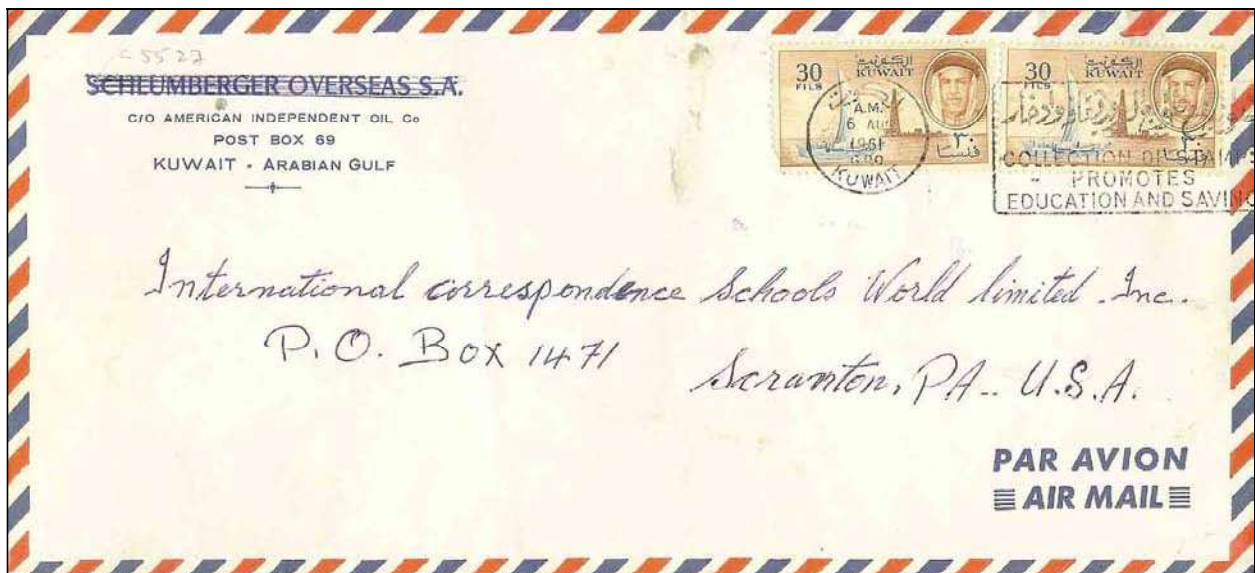




The 4<sup>th</sup> “T” is shown on the above cover dated 23 November 1973 and is the only recorded use.



The “Deficit postage paid in Kuwait” cachet measures 49x21mm.



The above cover was franked with 60 Fils and posted to the USA on 6 August 1961. The underpayment of 30 Fils was spotted by the postal clerk and the cover was held back. It would appear that the sender has then been contacted by the post office and told to come and pay the balance which was then done on 8 August where after the cover was released for dispatch.

The back of the cover shows the extra 30 Fils stamp applied and cancelled August 8 along with the rectangular cachet “Deficit Postage paid in Kuwait”



The cachet is recorded used on 26 September 1963 in Edition 5 – other covers recorded are dated 27 May 1962, 18 April 1967, 30 May 1967 and 29 August 1970.



The postage due cachet was also illustrated in Edition 5 and it measures 31x23mm.



The cover illustrated here is dated 14 September 1964 with arrival in Kuwait on 3 October 1964. Incidentally it carries the same “T” tax-mark as the cover on page 14 in Edition 5. BM is Birmingham although why a seamaile cover from Petersfield in East Hampshire to Kuwait went via Birmingham is a mystery.

When the postage due cachet was first discussed the observation was made that the cachet was only applied in combination with postage due stamps from the 1963 or 1965 issue. This observation has so far been proven accurate by an additional six cover, including the one shown on the previous page.



The cover above shows the postage due cachet used in combination with the 1965 postage due set. It is dated 14 May 1968. The third cover below, showing the postage due cachet in combination with the 1963 postage due set of stamps, is date 27 July 1971.



The fourth and fifth covers are dated 25 January 1964 and 8 March 1964 – both with the 1963 set of postage due stamps.

The sixth cover is dated 21 September 1974 and is with the 1965 set of stamps.

The below cover sent from Iraq with arrival in Kuwait on 19 November 1964 shows how the postage due stamps were used without the application of the cachet. I wonder if the fact that the cover comes from Iraq and has been through censor has anything to do with it.



## Muscat & Oman

1946 Victory issue used in Muscat

The Victory issue was also placed on sale in Muscat and again covers are uncommon. The covers and stamps are recorded cancelled with Donaldson Type 14A and Type 15.



Type 14A



Type 14A

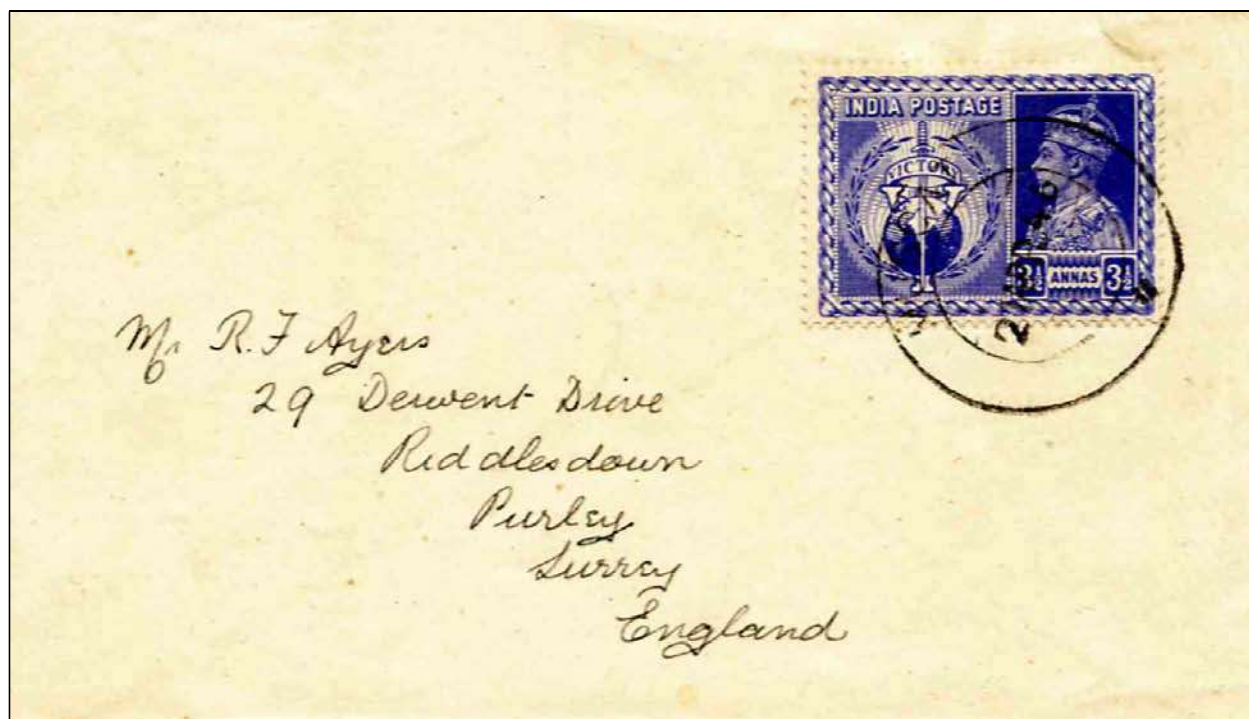


Type 15



Type 15 is shown here applied on piece with the 12as value dated 21 October 1947 (late usage) from a cover presumably sent to the UK. The airmail rate to the UK was lowered from 14as to 12as in 1947.

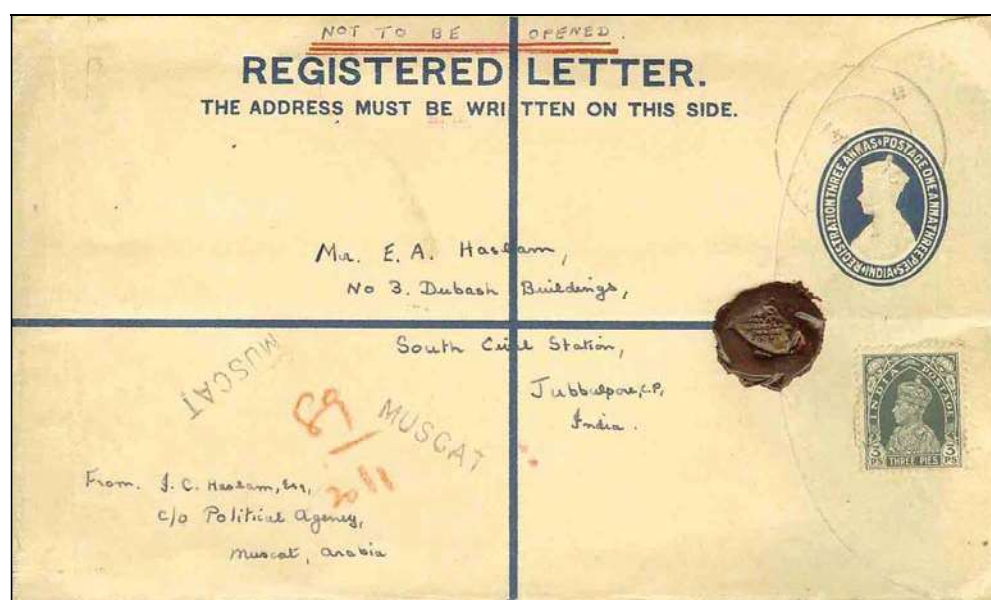
The below cover, dated 27 April 1946, shows the usage of the 3½as value to the UK cancelled with Type 14A. The surface rate to the UK was increased from 2½as to 3½as in late 1940.





A registered letter franked with four copies of the 1½as and 3½as Victory values and cancelled on 20 January 1946. The total franking is 24½as covering the registered weight of 11 tolas – Registration 3as + Surface 1½as (first 2½ tola) + Surface 9as (additional 9 tolas) + air 11as.

Postage rates for internal airmails were based upon the tola, not the ounce, and charged at 1a per tola. Surface rates were 1½as for the first 2½ tolas and 1a for each additional tola. 1 tola is equivalent to 0.4114 oz and 11.66 grams (Source: Jeff Brown). The reason for the added 3ps was that the basic surface rate had increased from 1¼ to 1½as in 1942 and since then all the registered postal stationery envelopes imprinted 'one anna three pies' were sold with the extra 3 pies stamp already added by the Post Office.



## Air Mail Service for Muscat: The British India Period

Cal Allen

In the summer 2003 (#12, pp. 12-16) issue of this journal, Terry Jones published an excellent piece of detective work in "Muscat Airmail Service 1940's." Terry examined the cancellations of a number of Muscat airmail covers from 1948 to determine the amount of time it took each to arrive at its destination. Based on that data, Terry reached two conclusions: first, "no regular airmail service of any kind in 1948 and probably not in the preceding war years either," and second, "paying airmail rate meant onward air transmission from India." The purposes of this article are to show that Terry was absolutely correct in his conclusions and fill in some of the details about Muscat's airmail service during the period of Indian postal administration.

Airmail service for the Persian/Arabian Gulf region began in 1932 when Imperial Airways initiated weekly flights via the eastern leg of the so-called "Horseshoe Route" (see Terry Jones, "Persian Gulf air route 1932," AGSPHQ, Spring 2001 (#3), p. 17 and "The Horseshoe Route," AGSPHQ, winter 2004 (#14), pp. 15-16 with map on p. 22). That route did not include a stop in Muscat as its landing ground at Bait al-Falaj, built in 1930, was suitable only for emergency landings. In order to obtain airmail service, Muscat post office patrons paid the internal India Postal Service rate of 1a 6ps for surface delivery and then added another 1a per tola (the weight of a silver Indian rupee (11.664grams) for airmail service. A commercial shipping company, throughout most of this period the British India Naval Company (commonly known as BI), held the contract to carry the mail, and it would collect letters and parcels in Muscat and then carry them either to Bahrain or Karachi (the next stop on its outgoing or incoming circuits) where they would be transferred to airmail service.

With the outbreak of World War II and the decline in trade and paucity of commercial shipping, Muscat often went weeks between BI ships calling at the port to pick up and deliver supplies and mail. As the war progressed, the merchants of Muscat became increasingly desperate for better mail service, and in March 1943 they petitioned the Indian government to look into the possibility of some kind of regular airmail service linking them with the wider world. The options were limited; the Bait al-Falaj landing ground on the outskirts of the capital was still just a graded emergency landing strip. The closest airfield was a newly constructed military facility at Ras al-Hadd, a hundred miles to the southeast of Muscat, operated by the RAF No. 216 Air Transport and Ferry Group.

Despite the limitations, the government took the request seriously. Muscat postal officials estimated that airmail service would cost approximately Rs7000 per year, against an annual profit of Rs 4000. Although it was a prohibitive amount, government proceeded. BOAC had recently opened the South Arabian Route, a spur linking the mid-points of the Horseshoe Route, which included a weekly stop at Masirah Island, some 250 miles from Muscat (see Terry Jones, "Bits and Pieces #5," AGSPHQ, Autumn 2003 (#13), p. 8 on the origins of the route), and government officials considered various options to link Muscat with the new route.

The first plan called for mail to be carried from Muscat by ship once a week to Ras al-Hadd where the flight would make a jog from Masirah for a pick-up and delivery to Karachi. However, BOAC officials doubted that the Ras al-Hadd facility could handle its Lodstar aircraft.

The government then began discussions with the RAF, which flew a Dakota airplane on a weekly shuttle route linking its Middle East bases, flying from Ras al-Hadd to Masirah on Mondays and then reversing the route on Tuesdays for a flight to Bahrain. This flight often carried government correspondence and military staff personal items that were dropped into the mail in Bahrain or Aden or wherever else they landed that had a post office, but the RAF was not inclined to extend its service to unofficial and civilian mail. The plan died.

A new proposal for airmail service for Muscat emerged in November 1944. It looked very similar to the previous year's. Mail was to be carried by launch from Muscat to Ras al-Hadd where every Tuesday evening the RAF would transport it to Bahrain where it would be picked up by BOAC flight and taken to Karachi. The route would reverse on Monday when mail from Karachi arrived in Bahrain for transfer to the RAF and the flight back to Ras al-Hadd. Despite continued concerns about the high cost of the extended service, once the government obtained assurances from the RAF that there would be no added charges for their flights, the plan was approved and the new service announced on June 6, 1945.

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## AIR MAIL POSTAL NOTICE.

**Introduction of air mail service to and from Muscat.**

With immediate effect, an air mail service to and from Muscat has been introduced. Air mail correspondence for and from Muscat will accordingly be accepted. No superscription is necessary, but the Indian inland rates of air mail fee and postage will be payable on correspondence from India to Muscat and *vice versa*, viz. at the rate of one anna per tola or part thereof on letters and packets, and half anna per postcard, in addition to ordinary postage.

2. Air mail correspondence for foreign countries will also be accepted at Muscat at the rates of air mail fee and postage applicable from India for the respective destinations.

New Delhi,  
2nd July 1945.  
Model Press, Delhi—16350—2-7-45.

Unfortunately, the announcement proved premature as no one had actually determined how to transport the mail from Muscat to Ras al-Hadd. This “technical” difficulty kept the service delayed into July, and then August, and then September and October. Then the Political Agent (PA) in Muscat made a breakthrough when the local merchants agreed to pay subscription fees totaling Rs 5000 to support the mail service. Transportation “technical” problems were resolved when the local Khimji Ramdas Company agreed to provide a launch and British Indian courier to carry the mail to Ras al-Hadd and the Sultan provided two armed guards from the Muscat Levy Corp for security. Even though the subscription program raised only Rs3300, by the end of November all was in place for the airmail service to begin.

Technical problems persisted. The Khimji Ramdas launch broke down before any mail could be carried to Ras al-Hadd. In early February 1946 the post office announced that even though the launch was still broken, they would begin accepting airmail in anticipation of its repair. Then in March the RAF announced the closure of Ras al-Hadd as its entire operations shifted to Masirah Island. Apparently not everyone had gotten word that the airmail service was delayed as the sub-post master in Muscat learned that some letters had been delivered to Ras al-Hadd and were sitting at the RAF base. It wasn't until April that a boat was dispatched to collect the three small mail bags and three letters at the RAF base. By that time, the whole scheme had died, and in October the British Agent in Muscat returned all the money to the subscribers.



Muscat's postal service remained very sporadic (as much as six weeks between steamers) throughout the late 1940s. Periodically discussion of airmail service surfaced with BOAC floating the idea of a weekly service via a small Dove aircraft that would fly a loop from Bahrain, Sharjah, Muscat, Gwadur, and Karachi and Iraqi Airlines also considering a Persian Gulf route. However, regular airmail service continued to be delayed by the absence of scheduled commercial airline service.

Material for this article drawn from India Office Records R/15/6/408 Mail Service Muscat & Gwadur and R/15/6/409 Ras al-Hadd Mail Service Proposal. For a detailed description of the air routes and facilities throughout the Arabian Peninsula see: J.E. Peterson. *Defending Arabia*, Chapter 2: Air Power and Empire in the Arabian Peninsula. Online edition from [www.JEPeterson.net](http://www.JEPeterson.net) (posted September 2000) Originally published as: J.E. Peterson. *Defending Arabia*. London: Croom Helm; New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986.

I asked David Lawrence, who mailed the cover illustrated below from Bait Al Falaj in 1972 and now lives in South Africa, to tell me a bit about Bait Al Falaj and what he possibly could remember about the post office there – he sent me the following:

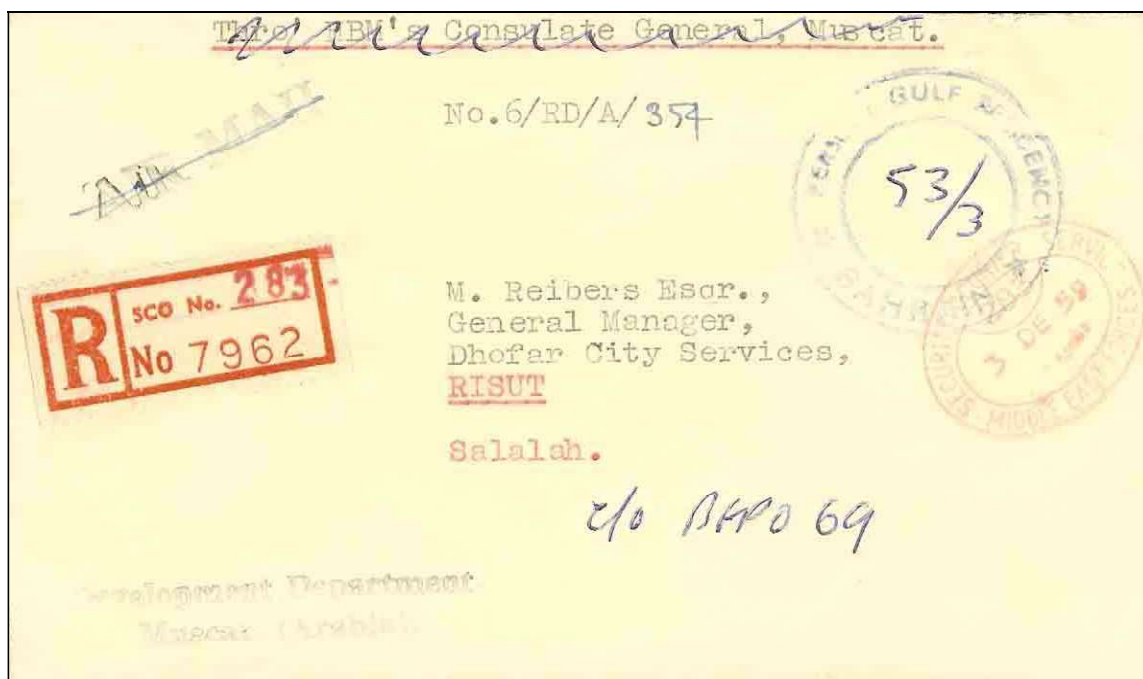


I was a pilot in the Sultan of Oman's Air Force (as it was known as then) from March 1972 until July 1975. Initially based at Bait al Falaj, we moved to Seeb Airport in January 1973, although helicopters, Beaver and Skyvan aircraft could still fly into Bait for a few more months. The runway at Bait was a hard-surface (tarred /concrete) one while I was there - not sure when this happened. It was mainly military, but Gulf Air operated services, with Fokker F.27 aircraft in those days. I think they also were able to use the BAC One-Eleven jet aircraft but nothing larger would have been able to use it.

The Bait al Falaj Post Office was not at the airport, but, as far as I remember, was within the military camp close by. This was where we lived while there. I seem to have a vague memory of it being a small room which was part of the Military Headquarters Building, but cannot be 100% sure of this. I never had any requirement to use Registered Mail (unfortunately), but that "Registration" label used at Seeb (Edition 29) would no doubt be "old stock" transferred when BAF closed.

The only thing is I am fairly certain that the Bait al Falaj Post Office was just for the military camp. It was on the camp property, in the administrative area, and I have a picture in my mind of a smallish room, possibly a single room in a row of rooms in a building, that served the purpose. Whether that is an accurate picture I can't be sure!!

The cover shown here was previously shown in Edition 21 but was in need of a more specialized description. Alistair Kennedy from the Forces Postal History Society (FPHS) sent me the following:



In the late 1950s the Royal Engineers Postal Section added Courier services to their activities, becoming Postal and Courier Section (later Postal and Courier Communications Section). The Courier branch was operated independently from the Postal activity, although usually in a secure area of the same premises. As I understand it, the courier service handled top secret mail on a hand to hand transmission and delivery basis. Little is published about the Courier service because of the confidential nature of the material handled, and I believe the FPHS agreed not to publish any details. I believe units had instructions to destroy envelopes received by the courier service, although a few "escaped".



This cover appears to be a very unusual usage of the courier system - civilian official mail from Muscat to Dhofar. Presumably the letter was passed to the British Consulate General in Muscat and thence to the British Persian Gulf Residency in Bahrain. At Bahrain presumably passed to the Forces Post Office, where it was handled in the Courier Section - the handstamps and label presumably being applied there. From there the cover was sent by

courier on a flight to Aden (BFPO 69). The RAF had a landing ground at Salalah from 1927 to 1977, so the courier taking any other relevant courier mail to Salalah would have carried the cover on an RAF flight to Salalah, and thence on to Raisut east of Salalah?). SCO would mean Security Courier Office.

An awful lot of presumptions!

## ***Qatar***

“Just in Time” by Adil Abdulla Al-Husseini

Just in Time is a famous Queuing Theory method which the Japanese developed after WWII. It means simply to supply the item/material just in the time of its need – i.e., never run short of item during the supply chain or the manufacturing process.

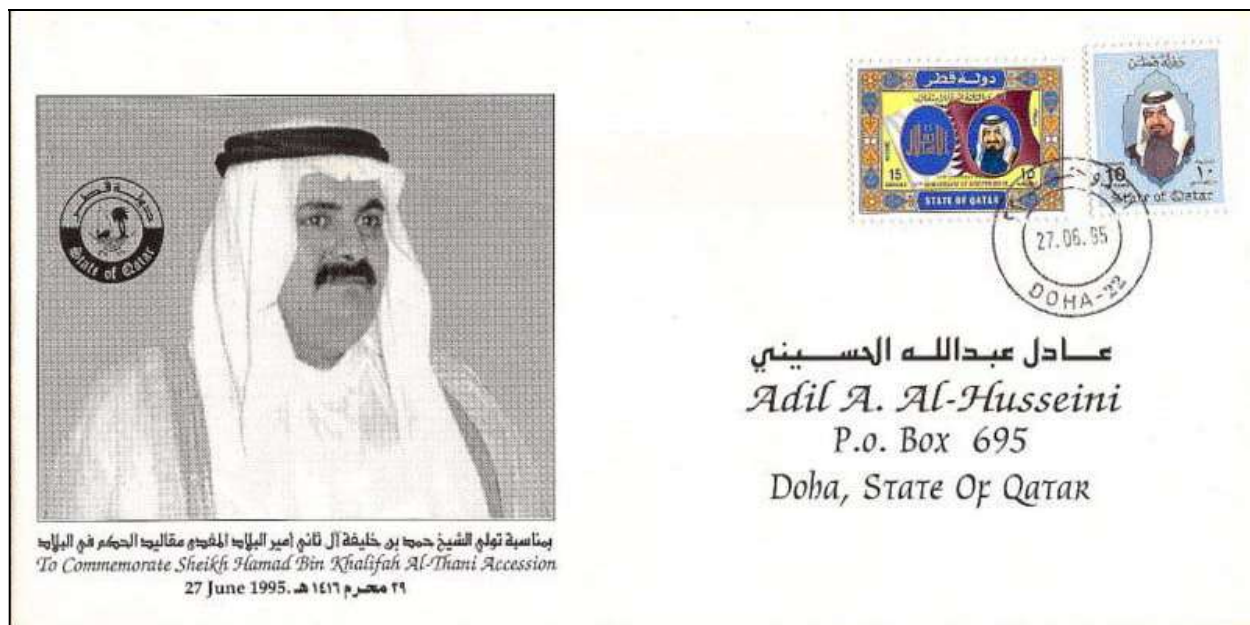
Being a coincidence or just “being there at the right place at the right time” resulted in the following two items; the first is the covers commemorating Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani’s accession in Qatar after a peaceful transfer of power from his father Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1995.



I was arriving from Paris, France on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1995 arriving in Doha at 10am to catch another flight that evening at 9pm to Mumbai, India. Everything went very smooth until we got on the plane to India and the captain announced a technical fault which would require about 30 minutes to repair and all passengers were advised to stay on the aircraft. The 30 minutes dragged on and became 2 hours and 30 minutes when the captain announced that the aircraft could not be fixed before midnight and that all the passengers would be transferred to the Ramada Hotel as guests of Qatar Airways and catch the next flight the following day. We all thought this was odd but the captain said that the runway would be closed after midnight for emergency repairs and that no aircraft would be taking off or landing. Following the captains explanation the passengers were taken off the plane and transferred to the hotel to spend the night on the airlines expense bill.



Being Qatari, I went home to the delightful surprise of my wife and my three boys. I was awakened next morning by my wife who told me about the change of power on the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> June 1995. After a hearty breakfast, I thought of how I can commemorate this event. I visited my friend who worked with computers and was a Photoshop wiz. I showed my idea of placing a full portrait of the new Emir and the Coat of Arms on one cover and the portrait with the map of Qatar as a background on another. Both covers were subtitled in Arabic and English. A few covers were made and some were presented later on to my close friends.



The second item involves aerogrammes during one of my visits to the GPO to buy some stamps and aerogrammes for some fellow collectors.

I had heard through the grapevine that a new aerogramme depicting the new Emir was issued but when I reached the counter, I was surprised to see the old issue of Shaikh Khalifa still being used. I was told that they had the new issue with the new Emir in stock but there were no instructions to release it plus they still had a huge stock of the old one (T.E. Jones QAL 14).



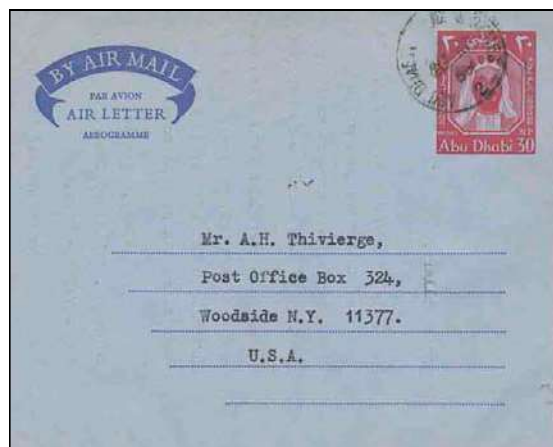
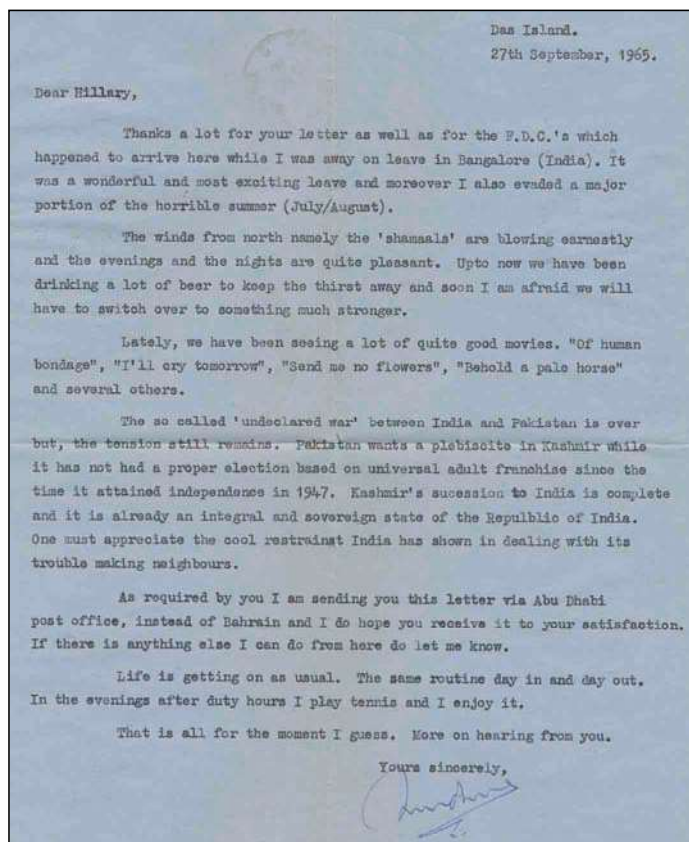
By now, the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1997, it was already a year since the Emir Shaikh Hamad had taken power so wasting no time I went to see the office of the Director of the Post where I met his assistant.

After highlighting matter, he came with me down to the counter and ordered the release of the new aerogramme and the immediate withdrawal of the old one (QAL 14).



I was the first person to buy the new issue. If I recall correctly I bought 25 aerogrammes in all. Seizing the moment, I cancelled it at the counter on that date, the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1997, which I presume can be considered the First Day of Issue. I went home very happy with my second Just in Time incident and added "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" to the aerogrammes in Arabic and English including the date using my laptop and printer.

## **UAE - Abu Dhabi**



27 September 1965: An aerogramme sent to the USA by presumably a Das Island employee. Though normal in its contents it dord make one interesting referral to the postal system: *"As required by you I am sending you this letter via Abu Dhabi Post Office, instead of Bahrain"*.

Donaldson makes a couple of comments about Das Island mail in his book the

first being that mail from Das Island was sent to Bahrain for dispatch prior to the launch of a postal service in Abu Dhabi on March 30, 1963 (page 236). From March 30, 1963 and until January 6, 1966 the Das Island Post Office was located in Bahrain (page 238-240). Presumably the writer of the illustrated aerogramme had the aerogramme hand carried to Abu Dhabi for posting.

### The 1966 overprint varieties – The Short Clubbed Bar

The 1966 overprint varieties have been well documented by Neil Donaldson in his book and over the next few Quarterly editions they will be illustrated in image form. The below four images show the second bar down is short and "clubbed" at the left end – Row 2/5.



When the first Abu Dhabi definitive set was issued in 1964 the oblong First Day Covers were made with a full philatelic conscience. If you compare various FDCs with the set you will notice that the eleven stamps were placed in almost the same sequence on all covers.



This standard was maintained when the surcharged 1966 issue came out – this in spite of no FDCs being issued officially by the post office. You will notice that each of the high values – 1, 2, 5 and 10 Rupees – has the short and “clubbed” bar at the left end on the cover above. The postal clerk must have had the sheets laid out neatly in front of him; taken stamps from exactly the same position in the sheet and applied them to the cover. This cover is one of the very few and genuine examples of a FDC which has been cancelled by the usual contemporary date-stamp at the Abu Dhabi Post Office on request by a philatelist.

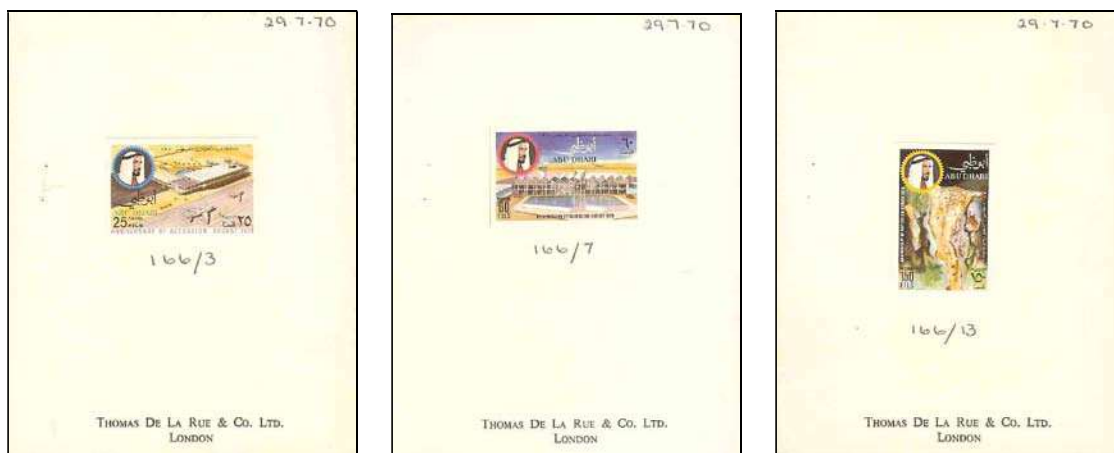
#### Abu Dhabi Proofs:

A few sets of proofs have come on the market over the past five years and if we take the reputation of Abu Dhabi as a postal administration and its choice of printers in to consideration we can presume that their numbers are very limited.

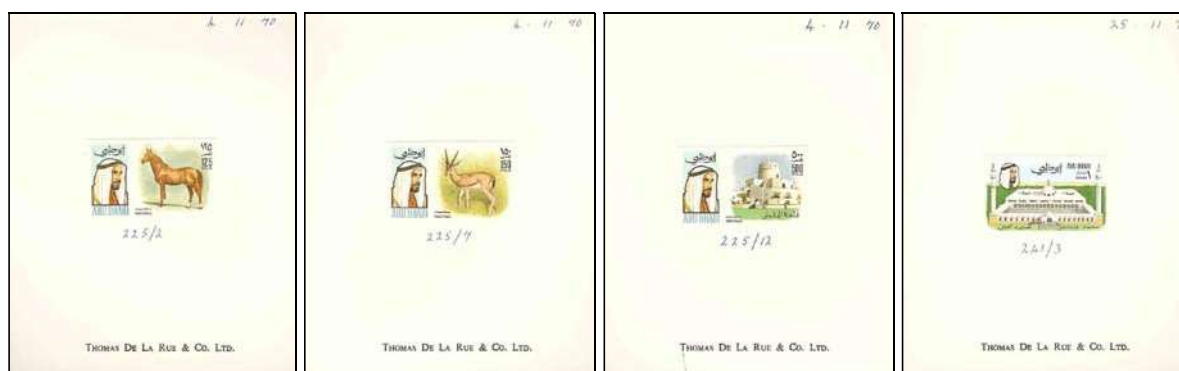
The proofs are imperforated stamps either applied to individual cards or applied on to one card as a full set. In each case the card is numbered and judging from the numbering system five to six sets exist though this is only a presumption. If anyone has any of the illustrated proof sets (or any other proofs for that matter) please forward images and/or their numbers to me.

On the following page proofs of four different issues have been illustrated:

- 1970 – Fourth Anniversary of Shaikh Zayed’s accession (Abu Dhabi Airport)
- 1971 – The four high values of the 1970-71 definitive issue
- 1971 – Fifth Anniversary of Shaikh Zayed’s accession (Abu Dhabi Defense Force)
- 1972 – Dome of the Rock



The 1970 accession set with the following numbering: 25 Fils (166/3), 60 Fils (166/7) and 150 Fils (166/13)



The 1971 definitive high values with the following numbering: 125 Fils (225/2), 150 Fils (225/7), 500 Fils (225/12) and 1 Dinar (241/3)



The 1971 Accession set with the following numbering: 35 Fils (324/1), 60 Fils (324/7), 125 Fils (324/13) and 150 Fils (324/19) and also the 1972 Dome of the Rock set numbered: 35 Fils (532/3), 60 Fils (532/9) and 125 Fils (532/15) – presumably proof of six sets of each?

## ***UAE – Dubai***

1946 Victory issue used in Dubai

As is the case with the other three Gulf post offices Donaldson mentions that the Victory issue was placed on sale in Dubai for a short time and that covers are rare.



The cover illustrated here is not only unusual due to the use of the 1½as Victory value but also because of its destination being Canada. The vast majority of Dubai mail went to India with only limited westbound mail recorded.

The cover was sent registered to Toronto in Canada and franked with a total of 29½as covering the registration fee of 3as,

the surface fee of 3½as and the air fee for ½ oz of 23as for mail via the UK.

Two more Victory covers are illustrated on next page, both with the 1½as value, one sent to India by normal mail (date indistinct) and the other by registered mail (18 March 1946).

The 3½as value is also recorded on mail from Dubai.



## 1966 Gulf Arab States Summit Conference

**DUBAI**

A genuine error found by a New York wholesaler friend in a cancelled to order stock. The name of the country and value completely missing. Only one sheet was found and since these were printed in sheets of 10 it is quite likely 10 is all that exist!

There can be not the slightest question that such an error was made deliberately. The printer is the great British firm Harrisons & Sons. They are security printers of currency and stamps both for Great Britain and many other nations and no amount of money would persuade them to create deliberate errors.

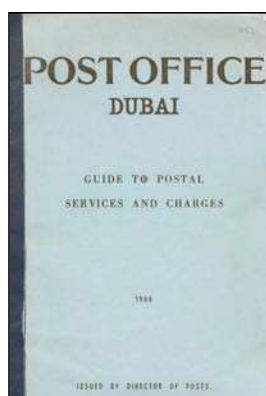
Mistakes happen to the finest of printers.

The illustrations here shows the 60p value, CTO'd, with the gold print missing. It came with the typed note pointing out that since the stamp was printed in sheets of 10 only 10 copies of this error may exist. The credibility of the error lies in the printer being Harrison & Sons

Are there other copies out there?



## Dubai 1966 Postal Guide



The information given in this guide is not exhaustive, but is intended to cover the main services provided. Further information may be obtained from the Head Post Office Dubai.

Dubai postal rates and charges conform with Universal Postal Union regulations and, generally, with Arab Postal Union recommendations.

Over the next couple of pages part of the Dubai Post Offices 1966 guide to postal services and charges will be illustrated.

It is quite comprehensive so it will be broken down over the next two or three quarterly editions.

|                           |              |                               |                |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
|                           | 2            | Registration                  | 13, 14         |
|                           |              | Parcels                       | 15, 16         |
|                           |              | Insurance                     | 17, 18, 19, 20 |
|                           |              | Correct Addressing            | 21, 22         |
|                           |              | Prohibitions and Restrictions | 22             |
|                           |              | Private Post Boxes            | 23             |
|                           |              | Private Box Delivery Service  | 23             |
|                           |              | Reply Coupons                 | 23             |
|                           |              | Postal Orders                 | 23             |
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| Dubai Post Offices        | 3            |                               |                |
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| Office Telephone Numbers  | 3            |                               |                |
| Postal Charges and Rates  | 4, 5, 6      |                               |                |
| Surface Services          | 7            |                               |                |
| Air Services              | 8, 9, 10, 11 |                               |                |
| Limits of weight and size | 12           |                               |                |

### DUBAI POST OFFICES

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Head Post Office   | Dubai |
| Branch Post Office | Deira |
| Branch Post Office | Riqqa |

### HOURS OF BUSINESS AT PUBLIC COUNTERS

8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### OFFICIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Director of Posts             | 9855 |
| Head Post Office, Dubai       | 9656 |
| Postmaster, Dubai             | 9516 |
| Postmaster, Dubai's Residence | 9549 |
| Parcel Office, Dubai          | 9516 |
| Postmaster, Deira B.O.        | 8741 |
| Officer in Charge Riqqa B.O.  | 8630 |

POSTAGE RATESINTERNAL MAIL

| <u>Class of correspondence</u> |    |    |    | <u>Postage Rates</u>                       |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS                        | .. | .. | .. | 5 dh. for the first 50 Grammes <i>each</i> |
| POSTCARDS                      | .. | .. | .. | 5 dh. each                                 |
| PRINTED PAPERS                 | .. | .. | .. | 5 dh. for each 50 Grammes                  |
| REGISTRATION FEE               | .. | .. | .. | Rls. 1                                     |
| PARCELS                        | .. | .. | .. | Rls. 1 Not Over 1 Kg.                      |
|                                |    |    |    | Rls. 1-50 " " 3 Kg.                        |
|                                |    |    |    | Rls. 2-00 " " 5 Kg.                        |
|                                |    |    |    | Rls. 2-50 " " 10 Kg.                       |
| PRIVATE BOX DELIVERY           |    |    |    |                                            |
| SERVICE ..                     |    |    |    | Rls. 25 per service.                       |

SURFACE MAIL TO ARAB COUNTRIES

Correspondence for conveyance by surface mail to the following countries:- Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Algeria, Bahrain, Fujairah, Gaza Strip, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Muscat, Qatar, Ras Al Khaimah, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, Sudan, Syria, Tunis, Umm Al Qiwain, United Arab Republic, Yemen.

| <u>Class of correspondence</u>  |    |    |    | <u>Postage Rates</u>                                                                               |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS                         | .. | .. | .. | 20 dh. for the first 20 Grammes<br>10 dh. for each additional 20 Grammes                           |
| POSTCARDS                       | .. | .. | .. | 15 dh. each                                                                                        |
| PRINTED PAPERS                  | .. | .. | .. | 10 dh. for each 50 Grammes                                                                         |
| PRINTED PAPERS AT REDUCED RATES | .. | .. | .. | 10 dh. for each 100 Grammes                                                                        |
| SAMPLES                         | .. | .. | .. | 15 dh. for the first 50 Grammes<br>5 dh. for each additional 50 Grammes<br>(minimum charge 35 dh.) |
| MAIL PACKETS                    | .. | .. | .. | 15 dh. for each 50 Grammes<br>(minimum charge 50 dh)                                               |
| LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND        | .. | .. | .. | FREE                                                                                               |
| REGISTRATION FEE                | .. | .. | .. | Rls 1                                                                                              |
| PARCELS                         | .. | .. | .. | Details obtainable at any<br>Post Office.                                                          |

FOREIGN SURFACE MAIL TO NON-ARAB COUNTRIES

| <u>Class of correspondence</u> |    |    |    | <u>Postage Rates</u>                                                     |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS                        | .. | .. | .. | 40 dh. for the first 20 Grammes<br>20 dh. for each additional 20 Grammes |
| POSTCARDS                      | .. | .. | .. | 25 dh. each                                                              |
| PRINTED PAPERS                 | .. | .. | .. | 15 dh. for the first 50 Grammes<br>10 dh. for each additional 50 Grammes |

|                                 |                                          |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| PRINTED PAPERS AT REDUCED RATES | 10dh. for the first 50 Grammes           |
|                                 | 5dh. for each additional 50 Grammes      |
| SAMPLES .. .. .                 | 15dh. for the first 50 Grammes           |
|                                 | 10dh. for each additional 50 Grammes     |
| SMALL PACKETS .. .. .           | 15dh. for each 50 Grammes                |
| LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND ..     | FREE                                     |
| REGISTRATION FEE .. .. .        | Rls.1                                    |
| PARCELS .. .. .                 | Details obtainable from any Post Office. |

#### AIR MAIL

AEROGRAMMES: ALL DESTINATIONS 40dh. each

Airmail to all Arab countries where the surface rate is 20dh.

|                                 |                                          |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS (1st Class) .. ..       | 35dh. for each 10 Grammes                |
| POSTCARDS (1st Class) .. ..     | 25dh. each                               |
| PRINTED PAPERS ETC. (2nd Class) | 25dh. for each 50 Grammes                |
| PARCELS .. .. .                 | Details obtainable from any Post Office. |

#### Airmail to Iran

|                        |                                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS .. .. .        | 45dh. for each 10 Grammes                |
| POSTCARDS .. .. .      | 30dh. each                               |
| PRINTED PAPERS .. .. . | 25dh. for each 10 Grammes                |
| PARCELS .. .. .        | Details obtainable from any Post Office. |

Airmail to:- Europe, North & East African countries shown below. Pakistan & India

|                                 |                                          |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS (1st Class) .. ..       | 60dh. for each 10 Grammes                |
| POSTCARDS (1st Class) .. ..     | 35dh. each                               |
| PRINTED PAPERS ETC. (2nd Class) | 25dh. for each 10 Grammes                |
| PARCELS .. .. .                 | Details obtainable from any Post Office. |

Aden, Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Balearic Islands, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Ceylon, Corsica, Crete, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dodecanese Islands, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe, Finland, France, French Somali Coast, Germany (East & West) Gibraltar, Great Britain, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, India, Irish Republic or Eire, Italy, Kamaran Islands, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madeira, Majorca, Mukalla, Malta, Minorca, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Rhodes, Roumania, San Marin, Seychelles, Somali Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tetuan, Thailand, Tibet, Turkey, Ukraine, U.S.S.R., Vatican City State, Yougoslavia.

Air mail to:- Far East, North, Central & South America;  
South, Central & West African countries shown below.

|                                 |       |                                             |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------|
| LETTERS (1st Class)             | .. .. | Rls.1-25 for each 10 Grammes                |
| POSTCARDS (1st Class)           | .. .. | 70dh, each                                  |
| PRINTED PAPERS ETC. (2nd class) |       | 50dh. for each 10 Grammes                   |
| PARCELS                         | .. .. | Details obtainable from any<br>Post Office. |

Alaska, Antigua, Argentine, Ascension (No Service), Australia, Azores, Bahamas, Banks Islands, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Guiana, British Honduras, Brunei, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroun, Canada, Caroline Islands, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic (former Oubangui-Chari), Chad Republic, Chagos Islands (No Service), Chili, China (Pop.Rep.), Christmas Islands, Cocos & Keeling Islands, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Cook (or Hervey) Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dahomey, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Dutch Guiana, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, Fanning Islands (Incl. Washington & Christmas Islands), Fiji, Formosa, French Guiana, French Polynesia, French West Indies (Guadeloupe and Martinique), Friendly Islands (Tonga), Gabon Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Gilbert & Ellice Islands, Grenada, Guinea (Republic of) Guadeloupe, Guam, Guatemala, Haiti, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Honduras Republic, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Korea (South only), Labrador, Laos, Leeward Islands, Liberia, Macao, Malawi (formerly Nyasaland), Malaysia (Federation of), Maldive Islands, Marian Islands, Marshall Islands, Marquesa Islands, Martinique, Mauritania (Islamic Republic of), Mauritius (Incl. Rodrigues Is.), Mexico, Mongolia, Montserrat, Mozambique, Nauru Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Nevis, Newfoundland, New Caledonia, New Guinea Territory, New Hebrides (Incl. Banks & Torres Is.), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norfolk Islands, North Borneo (Incl. Labuan), Panama Canal Zone, Panama Republic, Papua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Portuguese East Africa, Portuguese Timor, Portuguese West Africa (Incl. Angola, Port. Guinea, St. Thomas, Principe Is.), Puerto Rico, Reunion, Rhodesia (Southern), Rio de Oro, Rwanda, Samoa (New Zealand Admin.), Samoa (U.S.A. Territory), Santa Cruz Islands, Senegal Republic, Sierra Leone, Society Islands, Solomon Islands, South Africa (Union of), Spanish Guinea, Spanish West Africa, St. Helena, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Pierre and Miquelon, St. Vincent, Surinam, Togo (Republic of), Tonga (Friendly Islands), Torres Islands, Tortola, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, United States of America, Upper Volta Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Virgin Islands (U.S.A.), Wake Island, West Irian, Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia).

### SURFACE SERVICES

In general surface letters and parcels are accepted for despatch to all destinations. Direct surface mails are despatched from Dubai to:

#### Letters

Bahrain

Basrah

Bombay

Karachi

London\*

#### Parcels

Bahrain

Basrah

Bombay

Doha

Karachi

Kuwait

Muscat

Direct surface mails are received from:

#### Letters

Bahrain

Bombay

Birmingham\*

Delhi

Kuwait

Karachi

Kobe\*

London\*

Tokyo\*

#### Parcels

Bahrain

Bombay

Delhi

Hamburg\*

Kuwait

Karachi

London\*

New York\*

Muscat

\*Transit times of these surface mails are inclined to be irregular due to Dubai's geographical position.

### AIR SERVICES

Air Mail correspondence is accepted for transmission to all countries, but the air parcel service extends only to those countries listed on pages 9, 10 and 11.

All items intended for transmission by air must bear an air mail label, or be boldly marked "AIR MAIL" or "PAR AVION".

Insufficiently prepaid correspondence is normally returned to sender for the additional postage when the senders address appears on the cover of the item. When this is not possible underpaid air mail correspondence is either surcharged or forwarded by surface routes.

Direct air despatches with frequency of despatch and average transmission time to the place of destination are shown below:

| <u>Destination</u> | <u>Frequency of Despatch</u> | <u>Transmission Time</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Abu Dhabi          | 5 times weekly               | 1 day                    |
| Bahrain            | 5 times weekly               | 1 day                    |
| Bandar Abbas       | Twice weekly                 | 1 day                    |
| Beirut             | 3 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Bombay             | 3 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Cairo              | 3 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Dhahran            | 5 times weekly               | 1 day                    |
| Doha               | 5 times weekly               | 1 day                    |
| Frankfurt          | 4 times weekly               | 2 days                   |
| Hong Kong          | 3 times weekly               | 2 - 3 days               |
| Karachi            | 3 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Kuwait             | 5 times weekly               | 1 day                    |
| London             | 5 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Muscat             | Twice weekly                 | 1 day                    |
| New York           | 5 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Rome               | 5 times weekly               | 1 - 2 days               |
| Tokyo              | 3 times weekly               | 2 - 3 days               |

Direct air despatches are received from:

|              |           |           |          |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Abadan       | Cairo     | Hong Kong | Muscat   |
| Bahrain      | Doha      | Kuwait    | New York |
| Bandar Abbas | Frankfurt | Karachi   | Paris    |
| Bombay       | Geneve    | London    | Shiraz   |
|              |           |           | Teheran  |

# **UAE & Trucial States**

## **FUJEIRA – The true story: Chapter 2: 1964 – 1966**

By John Vassallo

### **Introduction:**

Chapter 1 addressed the beginning of Fujera Post Office and the issue of the first definitive set in Sep/Nov 1964, the Airmail definitive set in August 1965 and the Officials in Oct/Nov 1965. This chapter looks at the other issues between December 1964 and 1966 and deals with three major areas. The first is the issue of miniature sheets with virtually every issue; the second is the beginning of the Gold/Silver foil stamps ‘for demonstration purposes’ and the third is the way Fujera Post Office handled the Change in Currency in 1966.

### **First Commemorative Issue – Tokyo Summer Olympics:**



This first issue was a set of 9 stamps depicting various Olympic sports in the same design as the definitive issue (refer to Chapter 1). This issue was available in both perforated and imperforated formats.

The 7.50 Rupees top value with the portrait of Sheik Mohammed bin Hamad al Sharji on the left and horse-riding on the right.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> February 1965 – President JF Kennedy Commemoration**

The only set produced in 1965 was a set of 10 stamps commemorating the life of President John F. Kennedy – the 35<sup>th</sup> American President. The set was produced in perforated and imperforated format as all other sets.



The two highest values were also produced together in a miniature sheet both perforated and imperforated. This was the beginning of a trend where miniature sheets were produced for the majority of stamp issues of Fujera, and in some cases even two different miniature sheets. The quantity of stamps in each set; the additional miniature sheets and the production of these stamps in both imperforated and perforated formats were not very welcomed by collectors but at this stage, Fujera’s number of new issues was quite restrained.



Above left is a letter sent in June 1965 to USA with the correct franking of 50np illustrating the use of a Kennedy stamp – incidentally it has received a return to sender cachet. Above right is a philatelic cover illustrating the use of the low values of the Kennedy issue. The letter was sent out privately through the mail and has an arrival backstamp (Dumont, New Jersey) dated 12 June 1965 but without the ‘Fujeira Post Office’ markings that are present on virtually all other Fujeira covers.

## 27<sup>th</sup> January 1966 – Cairo International Stamp Exhibition celebrating centenary of Egypt Stamps

A nine-value stamp set was produced for this event with the two higher values also produced in a miniature sheet. Again both stamps and miniature sheet were produced in perforated and imperforated format. The miniature sheet in imperforated form is illustrated to the right.



## 28<sup>th</sup> February 1966 – Winston Churchill Commemoration

An eight-value stamp set was produced to commemorate Churchill. The higher two values were produced in a miniature sheet and both stamps and miniature sheet were produced in perforated and imperforated format.



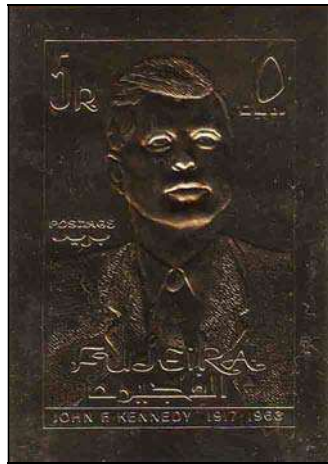
### 30<sup>th</sup> May 1966 – Space Research

Another eight-value stamp set was produced with space research as its theme. The standard miniature sheet was also produced and everything was available in both perforated and imperforated formats.

No other new issues were produced until the new definitive set was issued in April 1967 with the new currency.

### The First Gold Foil Stamps

For the Kennedy, Churchill and Space sets, a stamp from each set was also produced in gold foil – each stamp produced in both perforated and imperforated format. A deluxe miniature sheet version of the imperforated stamps was also made.

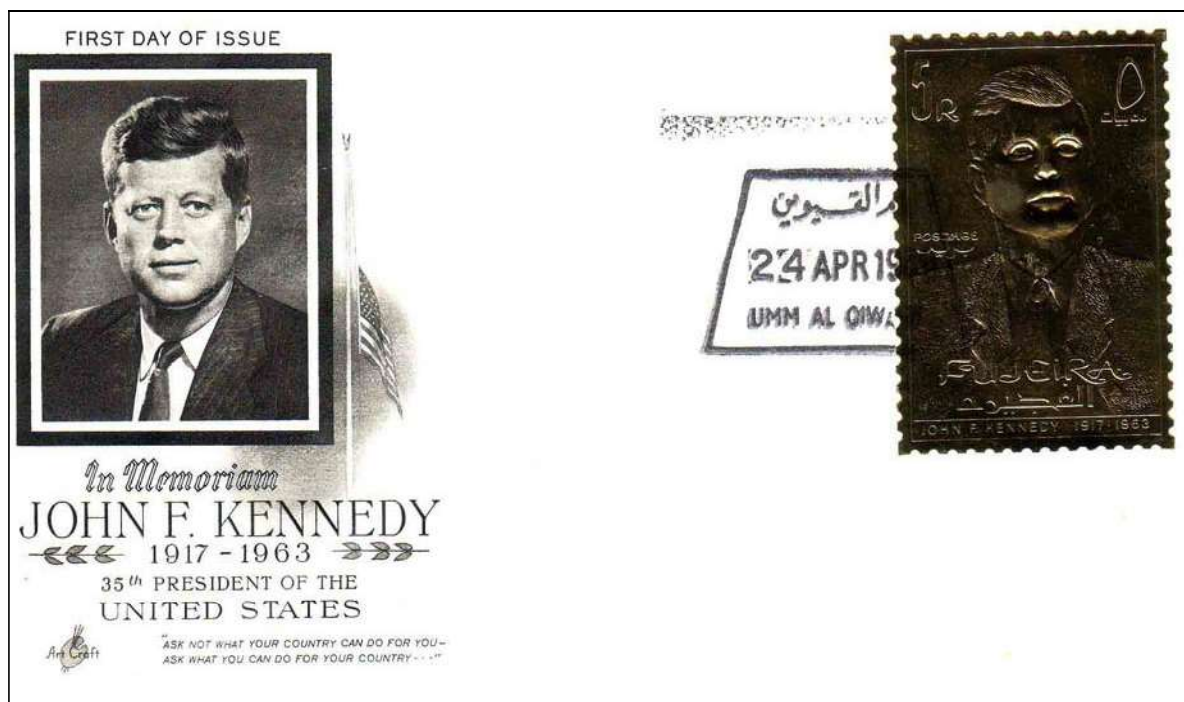


Above is illustrated the Kennedy 5 Rupees miniature sheet; the imperforated 10np Space Research value and the perforated 3 Rupees Churchill value. For some reason, Michel's Gulf States catalogue and Minkus' Trucial States catalogue do not list the Kennedy and Churchill gold foil stamps. They do include the perforated Space gold foil (A77 and 77B respectively) but make no mention of the imperforated set or the miniature sheet.

It has been suggested that there may only be 500 stamps issued in this Gold format for each type and it would be interesting to know how many were sold! The gold stamps were not advertised by the Post Office in the advertising brochure produced for the release of the stamps. So how did customers (and dealers) find out about them? Could it be that they were only known to Finbar Kenny who had the contract to issue Fujairah Stamps? The issues are said to be for 'Demonstration purposes' but what does that mean?



It is not clear when these stamps were issued. The First Day Covers with either Churchill or Kennedy gold stamp shows 24<sup>th</sup> April 1969 – way after the set was issued. I have never seen the Space Gold stamp on Cover, but the specialist space dealer Espace Lollini gives the issue date as 30 May 1966 which is the same as the original set.



The above cover shows the Kennedy perforated gold stamp cancelled in Umm Al Qiwa. It is an unaddressed First Day Cover and did not go through the mail. Fujaira Stamps were not valid

in Umm Al Qiwain, of course. How was this FDC produced? The date is also 24<sup>th</sup> April 1969 as the Fujaira FDC cancel.

A few of the later issues also had one stamp produced in gold or/and in silver including the standard imperforated and perforated issues along with the miniature sheets. Fujaira also produced gold and silver stamps that were only issued in that format and not part of a normally produced set.

### The Change in Currency

In September 1966, Fujaira changed their currency from 100 Naye Paise = 1 Rupee to the new currency 100 Dirhams = 1 Riyal. For unknown reasons they chose to overprint the remaining Kennedy stamps with the new currency values first. All stamps retained their value but the NP was overprinted with Dh. and the R overprinted with the full word Riyals.



A letter dated April 1967 to USA with 3 new-currency overprinted Stamps from the Kennedy set; the Stamp Centenary set and the Space Exploration set. The 60 Dh. franking suggest that the airmail rate for a letter to USA had increased from 50 Dh. to 60 Dh.

In 1967 all other stamps issued to date by Fujaira were overprinted in the same way. The only exceptions were the Gold Foil stamps which may or may not have been produced at the time.

Stamps produced by Fujaira were also available cancelled to order at a fraction of the original face value. It does not appear that these 'new value' overprinted stamps were available on a CTO basis. Most revalued stamps were in very short supply and it is quite difficult to get hold of them – especially in the imperforated format.

In April and May 1967, a new definitive set was issued with 27 values in the new currency.

## **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

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### **INDEPENDENT PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS**

Emirates Philatelic Association  
P.O. Box. 33333  
Dubai, UAE  
Telephone number: 00971 4 353 8383  
Website: www.epa.ae

Bahrain Philatelic Society  
Email: bahrainps@yahoo.com  
Website: www.geocities.com/bahrainps

## WEBSITES RELATED TO GULF POSTAL HISTORY

[www.bahrain-stamps.com](http://www.bahrain-stamps.com)  
[www.kuwait-stamps.com](http://www.kuwait-stamps.com)

[www.oman-stamps.com](http://www.oman-stamps.com)  
[www.dubai-stamps.com](http://www.dubai-stamps.com)

[www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com](http://www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com)  
[www.qatar-stamps.com](http://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.

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Many more pages will be added to this list once I define the exact web address that should be presented here with the web masters.

## CREDITS

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United Kingdom

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