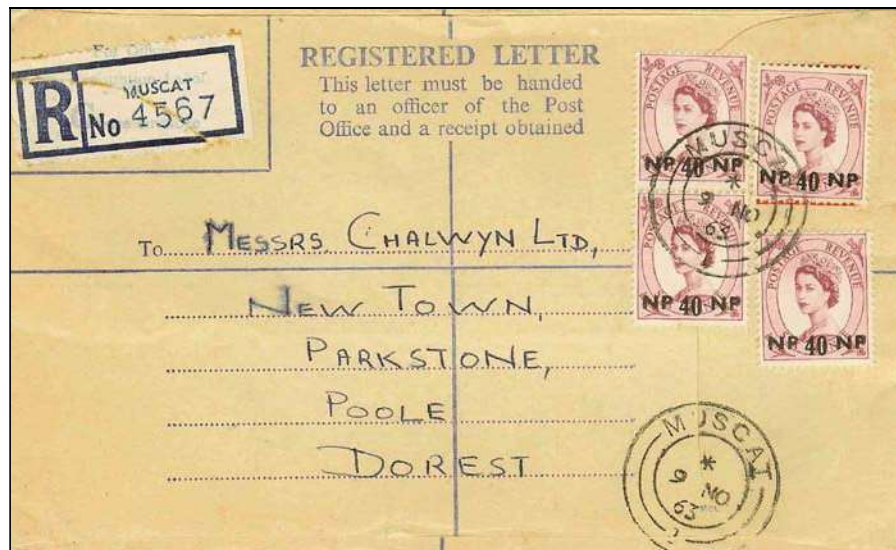


ARABIAN GULF STATES

POSTAL HISTORY

QUARTERLY



9 November 1963: A British Period Bahrain 40np Shaikh Salman registered envelope used at Muscat and sent to the UK. One 40np QEII stamp has been applied over the Shaikh Salman image to cover the registration fee and allow for the stationary to be used at Muscat. The remaining 120np pays for the triple weight of 1½ ounce to the UK

Edition 36 – Autumn 2010

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Welcome to Edition 36 of the Quarterly

First of all let me wish you all a Happy New Year with this “autumn” edition of the Quarterly – a camouflaged acknowledgement that I am still one issue, Edition 37, behind schedule for the year 2010. Edition 37 is already well under way (at least from a thought perspective) so I expect to release it by mid-February just in time to get Edition 38 ready for release by the end of March/early April.

With that out of the way thanks to all of you who helped with 36 and have already helped with 37. Since 37 will be including a substantial amount of information about cross usage during the British Period I kindly request that those of you who have not yet contributed with your own cross usage collection please do so before the end of January. Besides that I am, as always, looking for contributions that can help me fill the next 50 pages.

It is also worth mentioning that Emirates Post and Emirates Philatelic Association, will hold “The 17th GCC Countries Stamps Exhibition - Abu Dhabi 2011”, in Abu Dhabi during the first week of April 2011 (most probably - 3rd to 9th April 2011) so if you have a chance to visit then please do so. Once the dates have been confirmed they will be distributed amongst the readers of the Quarterly.

With that once again, a Happy New Year to all of you and please keep your contributions flowing.

Happy Philatelic Hunting in 2011
Thomas Johansen

Bahrain



The above illustrated type of a 2as Indian registered stationary has previously not been recorded used in Bahrain. The letter dated 27 March 1914 has been uprated with 2½as covering the surface rate to Germany. It has a Sussen arrival backstamp dated 17 April indicating 21 days in transit.



22 November 1933: A mixed franking cover sent to us by John Carter which I unfortunately missed for the previous issue. The cover has been franked with a 3as Bahrain overprint and a 3as6ps Indian stamp making up the 6½as airmail for a ½ ounce to Iraq – 3as air fee + 3½as surface fee. The cover has a Baghdad arrival backstamp dated 24 November 1933.

Bahrain Registration Handstamps

The earliest recorded registered letter (illustrated below) was posted from Bahrain to Bombay, India on the 10th of August 1886 and was cancelled with the Donaldson Type 1 datestamp. Throughout the Indian Period the Post Office used various handstamps to illustrate the Bahrain origin of registered letters. These handstamps were either used on blank registration labels, typically blue print on white or cream labels, with a printed R and number or impressed directly on to the cover.



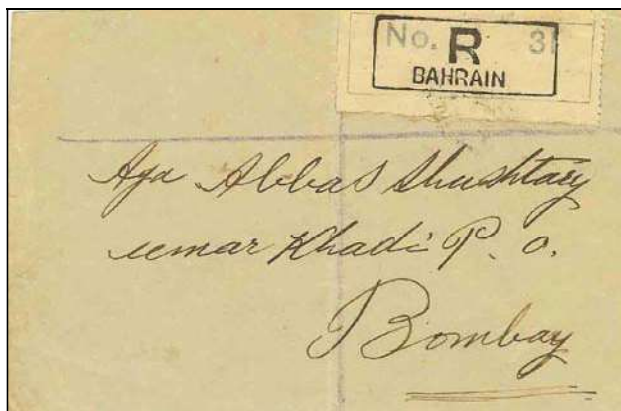
The “R-BAHRAIN” Handstamp (Donaldson Type 15)

The first registration handstamp to be used was the “R-BAHRAIN” handstamp which is recorded used between 10 August 1886 and 12 February 1909. It was applied either on to blank registration labels or directly on to the cover.

The illustration of the 1886 cover shown here is courtesy of Sahara Publication.



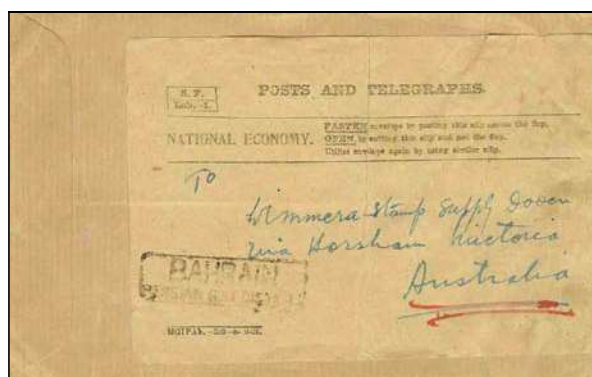
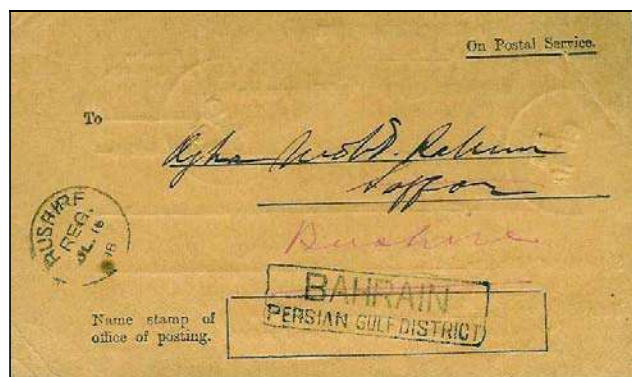
The below registered letter sent to India and dated 12 February 1909 is the latest record and shows the handstamp applied on a blank registration label. The stamp covering the 2as registration fee has fallen off.



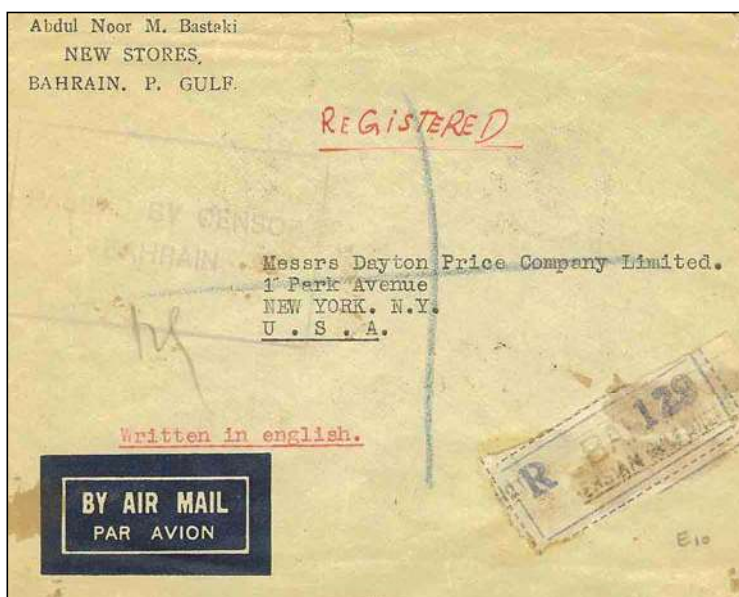


The “BAHRAIN – Persian Gulf District” Handstamp
Donaldson Type 18 (RL – Type 2)

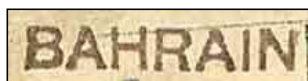
The second handstamp to be used in conjunction with registered mail was the “BAHRAIN – PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT” handstamp – commonly referred to as Donaldson Type 18. It is also the longest serving handstamp of the Post Office with recorded use from 1898 to 1945. Throughout its lifespan its applications have varied from being used on acknowledgement receipts for registered mail, being applied on registration labels and applied directly on to correspondence – either as a sign of registration or origin.



The use of the handstamp on an Acknowledgement Receipt accompanying a registered letter sent from Bushire on 16 July 1898 and with Donaldson Type 3 arrival backstamp dated 19 July 1898 where after it was returned to Bushire and has a Bushire arrival backstamp dated 25 July 1898. It is the earliest recorded use of the “BAHRAIN – PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT” handstamp. The other cover is stampless official mail sent to Wimmera, Australia on 17 May 1945 where the handstamp has been applied to identify the origin of the letter/sender’s address – the letter has got “The Postmaster, Bahrain” endorsed on the back and is the latest recorded use.

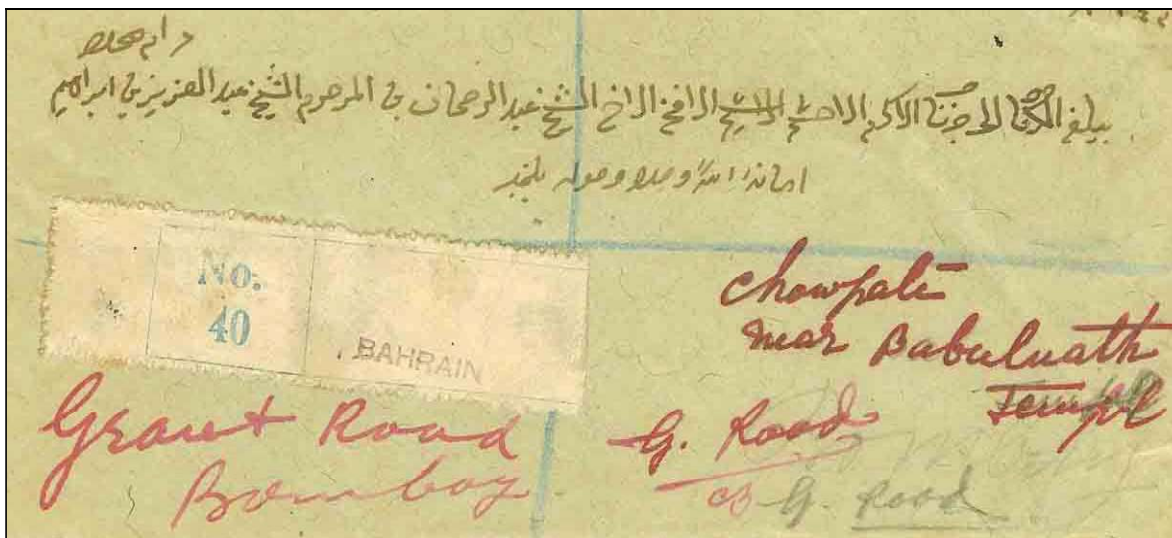


22 October 1939: A registered letter sent to the USA illustrating the use of the handstamp applied on to a registration label – a practice recorded between 1922 and 1939. It is the latest recorded use of the “BAHRAIN – PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT” handstamp applied on to a registration label.



The Small “BAHRAIN” Handstamp
Donaldson Type 16 (RL – Type 3)

The third handstamp to be applied on registered mail from Bahrain was a small “BAHRAIN” handstamp measuring 18 x 2.2 mm – commonly referred to as Donaldson Type 16. It is recorded used on registration labels between 1912 and 1923. The handstamp has so far only been recorded impressed on to registration labels.



A cover sent to Bombay on 18 March 1912 illustrating the use of the handstamp applied on to a registration label. This registration label is unusual in that it is long and only two examples of the full label are known – all other samples have been cut short and the BAHRAIN handstamp applied over the label number. It is the earliest recorded use of the “BAHRAIN” handstamp impressed on to a registration label.



A cover sent to Chicago on 7 June 1923 illustrating the use of the handstamp applied on to a registration label. It is the latest recorded use of the handstamp impressed on to a registration label.



The Large “BAHRAIN” Handstamp
Donaldson Type 17 (RL – Type 4)

The fourth handstamp to be applied on registered mail from Bahrain was a large “BAHRAIN” handstamp measuring 20 x 6 mm – commonly referred to as Donaldson Type 17. Its period of recorded use coincides with that of the “BAHRAIN – PERSIAN GULF DISTRICT” handstamp and though it has been recorded impressed on registration labels between 1929 and 1937 its scarcity raises that question as to whether this specific use was intended. Though registered mail was common at the time Donaldson only records it “as seen in 1931” in this 1975 book.



A cover sent to England on 6 September 1937 illustrating the use of the large “BAHRAIN” handstamp applied on to a blank registration label. The rate of 10½as is correct covering the air of 7½as for the first ½ ounce plus the 3as registration.



The medium-size “BAHRAIN” Handstamp
Donaldson Type 19 (RL – Type 5)

The fifth handstamp to be applied on registered mail from Bahrain was a medium-sized “BAHRAIN” handstamp measuring 17.5 x 3 mm – commonly referred to as Donaldson Type 19 and recorded used between 1940 and 1949. The handstamp was initially impressed on blank registration labels but towards the end of WWII presumably because the Post Office ran out of registration labels, the handstamp was being impressed directly on to the cover. Registered mail on record indicates that this transition took place between 28 November 1944 (last record of WWII mail with a registration label) and 30 December 1944 (first record of WWII mail with the handstamp impressed directly on the cover). The handstamp is again found impressed on registration labels in 1947 though direct impression on the cover became the norm following WWII. The cover illustrated on the right was sent to Magil in Iraq on 23 January 1941 and illustrates the use of the medium-sized “BAHRAIN” handstamp impressed on to a blank registration label.





The above cover sent to England on 14 October 1946 illustrates the medium-sized “BAHRAIN” handstamp impressed directly on to the cover. The 31as franking covers the air fee of 28as for 1 ounce plus the 3 Annas registration fee.



The Awali “B” Handstamp - Unrecorded by Donaldson (RL – Type 6)



Awali was the administrative center of the Bahrain Petroleum Company and it operated a Post Room where stamps could be bought, mail posted and incoming mail distributed. Letters and packages could be weighed, charged and franked correctly before transferring to the Manama Post Office for canceling. The post room operated as an appendage to the Bahrain Post Office in Manama and not an official post office. During the Indian Period personal mail from Awali could only be identified by the sender’s address. However, in 1947 the Post Room introduced registered mail and had registration labels, recognizable by impressed with a blue “B”, supplied. The cover shown here and sent to South Africa dated 14 December 1947 shows the use of the B impressed on a blank registration label.

The Awali “B” impressed registration label are also known used with the medium-sized “BAHRAIN” handstamp (Donaldson Type 19) handstamp. Only a handful of covers with these registration labels have been recorded (the “B” covers are also illustrated in Terry Jones’ Bahrain Postal history compilation.



The cover illustrated here and dated 12 November 1947 shows the combination of a registration label impressed with a blue “B” impressed along with the medium-sized “BAHRAIN” handstamp. The earliest recorded use of the B is 22 April 1947 while it is recorded used in to the early British Period.



Bahrain Registered Envelope introduction 1960-1964

The following presentation of the 1961 registered letter has been made possible thanks to Douglas Muir and the British Postal Museum. I recently made my first visit to the museum following an invitation from Douglas where he was kind enough to show me some of the treasures found there. While showing me an index of some of the files they have, he asked me if I wanted to see one just to get an idea of what they contain. File 52/555 caught my eye being titled "Bahrain Registered Envelope introduction 1960-1964" and turned out to be a real find.



The below is part of a document dated 13 February 1961 and is a reply to a question about registered envelope sales in Bahrain. The reply from the British Postal Agencies in Bahrain is self explanatory:

I wish I could be more helpful regarding Bahrain registered envelope sale figures, but think that we might employ our statistics as a yardstick. I can think of nothing else apart from conjecture! The figures shown below are the number of Registered Letters posted at Bahrain State Post Office counter during 1960.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
12219	11268	11377	10669	12841	10501
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10967	12176	9664	10478	10411	11434

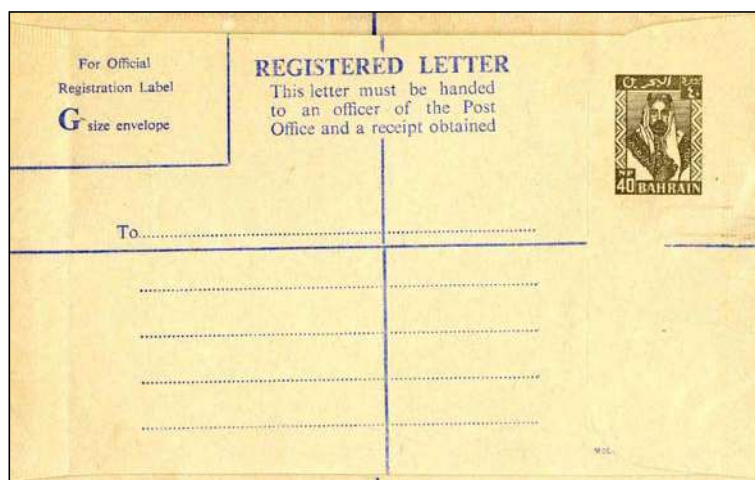
total

134,000. p.a.

Say 12000 p.m.

R.W.J. Withey,
Post Office Supplies Dept.,

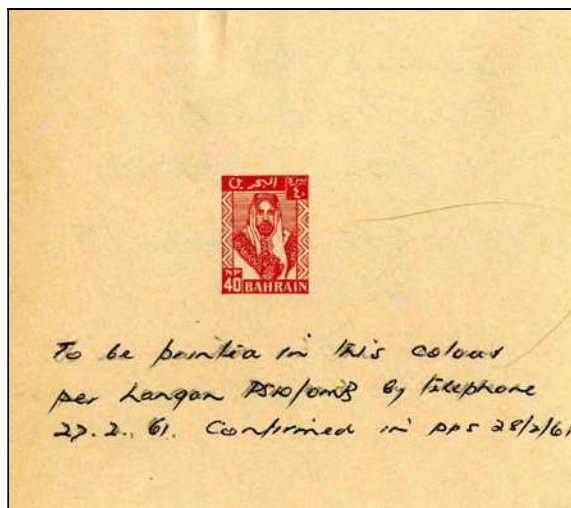
/ Now



The initial order submitted to the printers, McCorquodale & Co. Ltd in Wolverton, had asked for the stamp to be printed in grey, the same color as the actual 40np stamp issued. Illustrated here is one such G-size registered envelope.

Two 40np steel dies were provided by the Royal Mint in light grey but McCorquodale found that direct prints from the steel dies were unsatisfactory because a) the die

picks up paper dross under pressure necessitating cleaning after every 100 copies printed, b) lines tend to thicken and c) variation in depth and color. In order to overcome these problems rubber stereotypes were taken from the dies which stood better to the printing process. The impression, however, lacked clarity with generally poor definition. After considerable discussion it was decided that the grey impression didn't show the ruler's face to the best advantage which led to blue and red impressions being made.



Both blue and red were considered an improvement on the grey and in the case of blue in offered the additional advantage of being a single printing process which would speed up production, however, on 28 February 1961, it was decided on red. The initial order for envelopes were 24,000 G-size and 3,000 K-size with the total order increasing to 100,000 G-size and 10,000 K-size. The first intended date for putting the envelopes on sale was 7 April 1961 but this date was then changed to 15 April though 14 April is mentioned too. Whether they achieved this goal is unclear since the first order of G-size envelopes had already been printed in grey by McCorquodale. The Post Office mentions the finishing date of the first order as 24 March and sale date as 14 April in the same letter while the printer mentions 31 March as their achievable delivery date. With that in mind it would seem that the envelopes went on sale in Bahrain sometime between the 14th and 21st of April 1961. Presumably no H-size envelope was produced.

27/2. PSA/omb - Langan - Telephone - it has been decided to have the stamp in RED and not in Grey. PSA/omb would like a sale date of April 7th if possible, but would be prepared to delay a week or so if necessary. (April 15th agreed)

2 March, 1961.

Dear Mr. Carter,

Warrants D3/183 and 184.
Registered Envelopes.
Bahrain 40 NP. G and K.

In confirmation of telephone conversation with Mr. Watts on 28 February 1961, it has now been decided that, the 40 NP Stamp should be printed in Red, identical to the pulls submitted on the 23rd February, specimen enclosed, and not in Grey as previously instructed. Letterpress on front and back to be in blue.

It is hoped to put these Envelopes on sale in the Persian Gulf on the 14th April 1961. In order to achieve this we shall require 24,000 size "G" and 3,000 size "K", by March 24th at the latest. The balance of 76,000 "G" and 7,000 "K", to follow as soon as possible after. Six proof copies of each should please be submitted as soon as possible for approval before bulk printing commenced. I should be glad to know if you will be able to meet these requirements by the date mentioned.

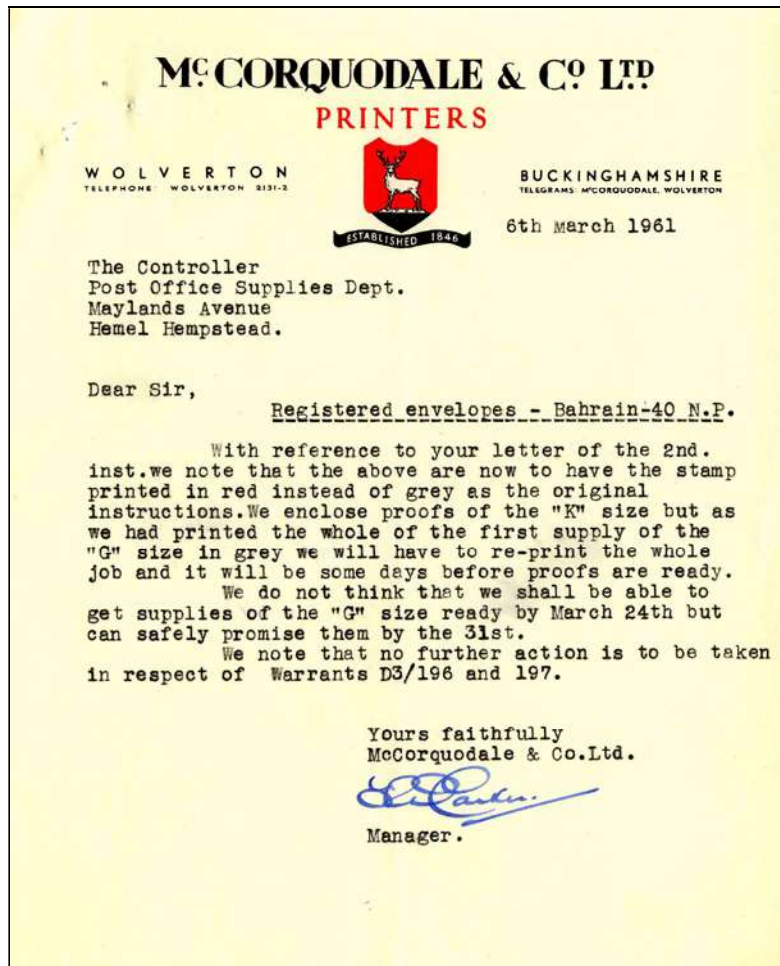
For the time being no action should be taken in respect of the follow on warrants D3/196 and 197.

Yours sincerely,

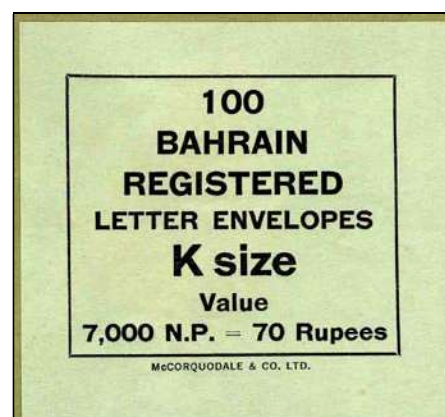
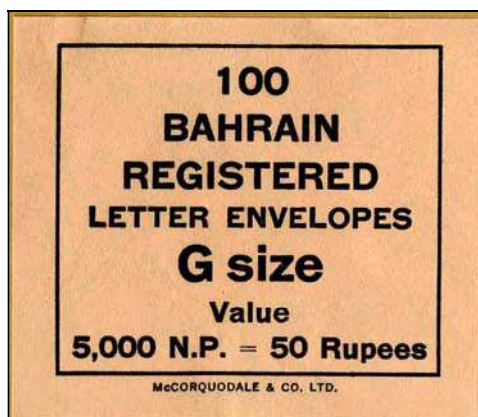
LC.

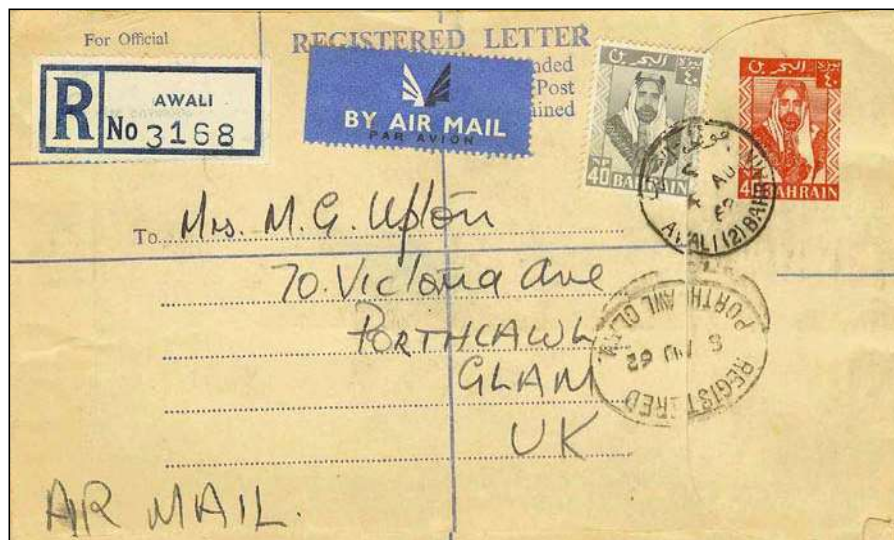
F.C. Carter, Esq.,
Messrs. McCorquodale & Co. Ltd.
WOLVERTON, Bucks.

(L. CARNIE)



The selling price of the G-size envelope was set at 50np while the K-size was set at 70np. There is no indication within the files that an H-size envelope was considered.





Finally three examples showing the use of the G-size envelope.

The first one dated 4 August 1962 and sent from Awali to England with the 40np grey value applied to cover the charge for ½ ounce to the UK.

The second one has been sent to the US with a green customs label applied to the bank indicating contents. It does mention 4 ounces of masacre but I hope they meant mascara. The rate 8 Rupees makes sense given that ½ ounce cost 1 Rupee.

It is dated 21 May 1963.



The final envelope has been sent to Switzerland on 18 September 1962 and been franked with a total of 80np covering 1 ounce to Europe.

There is no mention in the file of the subsequent overprinting by two black bars following the death of Shaikh Salman.

Kuwait



Partly missing overprint

A pair of 1924 SG7 3as ultramarine recently sold at auction and showing partial missing overprint “KU” on the left stamp.

Supdt. of Post Offices, Persian Gulf - Handstamp Donaldson Type 9

One of the more interesting “cancellation marks” in Arabian Gulf postal history has its origin in the Arab nationalist Rashid Ali and his efforts to keep British influence in Iraq limited, an effort that ultimately backfired in 1941. The story of Type 9 earned itself almost 4 pages in Donaldson’s book but besides a brief comment on page 28 in the 1994 supplement nothing else has been added since.

The following is a presentation of the various covers and pieces that have been submitted to the Quarterly over the last 6-9 months along with what could be found elsewhere and is the largest compilation of material illustrating Type 9 presented to date. In addition to this it identifies 6 unoverprinted Indian stamps (India used in Kuwait) cancelled with Type 9.



D9-248
1/2a Red-Brown



D9-250
1a Carmine



D9-235
1a3ps Mauve



D9-273
4as Brown

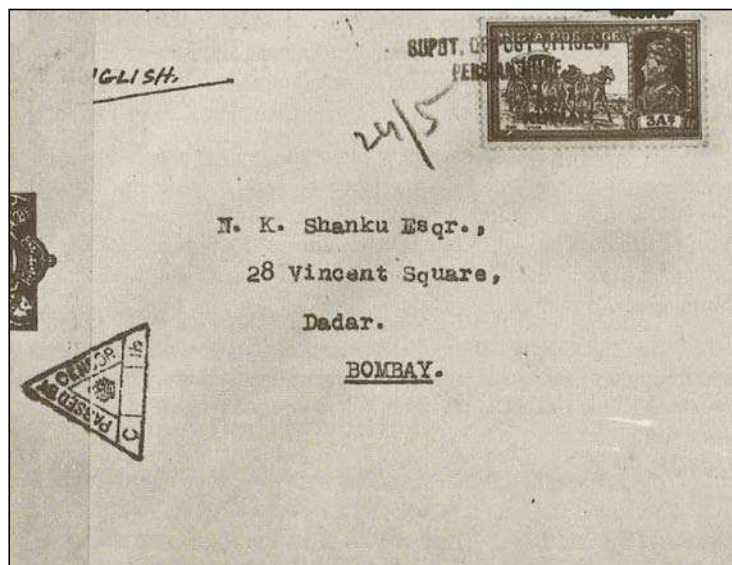


D9-252
2a6ps Bright-Violet



D9-275
8as Slate-Violet

The introduction of Type 9 (a rubber office handstamp generally struck in blue and dated by pencil first and later by rubber date-stamp) as a temporary solution has its background in the Rashid Ali rebellion in Iraq and subsequent landings by Allied Forces there. Rashid Ali (al-Gailani) was prime minister of Iraq on three occasions (first time in 1933 for eight months) but he is primarily remembered as an Arab nationalist that attempted to remove British influence from Iraq by negotiating settlements with the Axis powers of World War II during his brief tenures as Prime Minister during 1940 and 1941.



The earliest recorded use of the office handstamp is 24 May 1941 on an envelope to Bombay franked with a Kuwait overprinted 3as Yellow-Green (SG41). The image illustrated here has been taken from Donaldson's 1975 book on page 126 and shows the date of use applied in blue pencil. The below pair of SG 39 2as vermilion illustrate the complete strike.



Rashid Ali began his political career back in 1924 in the Yasin al-Hashimi government as Minister of Justice. Both men were nationalist and opposed to British involvement in the internal politics of Iraq and rejected the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty that was signed in 1930 by Prime Minister Nurjas-Said.



Three pieces, two of which are dated 29 May 1941 showing the strike applied to SG 36 and 38.



The third piece shows SG 38 and 41 struck with three strikes of Type 9. The rate of 7as could indicate that the piece comes from a registered letter.

Rashid Ali's second tenure as prime minister began on 31 March 1940 following the outbreak of World War II – adding to the vulnerability King Ghazi of Iraq had died prematurely and his 4-year old son, King Faisal, was the new king (mentored by King Ghazi's uncle Emir Abdul-Illah, who was regent). While Abdul-Illah supported Britain in the war, he was unable to control

Rashid Ali, who used the war to further his own nationalist goals by refusing to allow troops to cross through Iraq to the front. He also rejected calls that Iraq breaks its ties with Fascist Italy and sent his Justice Minister to meet with the German ambassador to Turkey to win German support for his government.



The earliest recorded use of the handstamp/rubber datestamp combination is 28 May 1941 as illustrated here by a registered letter sent to Bombay via Bahrain (Jun 41) and with a 13 June 1941 Bombay arrival backstamp. The registration label has been filled out with Kuwait in manuscript. The cover indicates that the use of pencil for dating only lasted until 27 May. Below are three pieces all dated 6 June 1941 which is currently the latest recorded use of Type 9.



Britain responded with severe economic sanctions against Iraq, while, news of British victories against Italian forces in North Africa dulled support for Rashid Ali's government, and, on 31 January 1941, under pressure from Abdul-Illah, he resigned his post as Prime Minister. This only exacerbated his mistrust of Britain and its supporters in the government. Together with the members of the "Golden Square" Rashid Ali made plans to assassinate Abdul-Illah, who discovered the plot and fled the country. (*The Golden Square was made up by four of the most important members of the so-called "Circle of Seven", a group of Sunni-Arab nationalist military officers, who were under the influence of the German Ambassador to Iraq.*) On 1 April 1941 Rashid Ali launched the coup d'état and by 3 April he had returned to power as Prime Minister replacing the government of the Regent with his "National Defense Government".

One of Rashid Ali's first actions was to send artillery forces to confront the RAF base at Habbaniya and by the end of April, the Iraqi armed forces were in place and a siege of the base began. Iraq's strategic importance as a supplier of petrol and land bridge between Egypt and India meant that a firm British response would be delivered with reinforcements being dispatched immediately from India.



Two pieces illustrated above both showing the use of Type 9 on Indian stamps. The strip of three SG 44 6as turquoise is the largest recorded franking cancelled with Type 9.

The fourth illustration is of a large piece dated 1 June and franked with SG 36, 41 and 44 making up the combined payment of 9½as which again seems to illustrate a registered rate.

The besieging Iraqis demanded the cessation of all training activities and of all flights in and out of the base but on 2 May, the commander at RAF Habbaniya responded to the Iraqi demands by launching a pre-emptive strike against the Iraqi forces overlooking the air base. This action initiated the Anglo-Iraqi War and within a week, the Iraqis abandoned the escarpment. By mid-May, British forces from Habbaniya had moved on to Fallujah moving on to Baghdad. On 29 May, fearing a British onslaught on Baghdad Rashid Ali fled to Persia. On 31 May, an armistice between the British and the Iraqis was signed and on 3 June, the Regent returned to Baghdad and his government was restored.

Until 3 April 1941 World War II had had little effect on the Kuwait Post Office but with the coup d'état, Rashid Ali in power and the siege of RAF Habbaniya base things changed. Since the post office was under Iraqi administration and had been so since 1921 it had an Iraqi Postmaster, Abdul Karim Hussain. It was about the end of April when Abdul Karim Hussain called on the Political Agent and announced that as Britain and Iraq were now at war he and his clerk had

closed the Post Office and were returning to Basra. Kuwait was now without a postal service and it later transpired that Abdul Karim Hussain and his clerk took with them all the active cancellers (Type 5-8) and, probably, the whole stock of stamps.

The action taken by the Political Agent was to call upon the Indian Postal Department to resume its responsibilities in Kuwait but in the meantime, the Political Agency took over the distribution of mails. Letters to the UK from what European residents lived in Kuwait at the time were sent in the Diplomatic bag to London where the Foreign Office franked them with GB stamps for onward posting. The Indian Post Office official arrived by mid-May and opened a temporary Post Office at the Jashanmal (an Indian merchant family) residence. From May 26th Cable & Wireless took over the operation of the Post Office as Agent for the Indian Post and Telegraphs Dept – the Post Office was moved. Indian stamps were introduced until the overprinted stock held by the Post Office in Basra was acquired.



The cover on the far left is the one illustrated in Alan Parsons' book (courtesy of Sahara Publications).

The piece shows two strikes of Type 9/

The final illustration shown here on the right shows the use of the rubber date-stamp to backstamp incoming letters – in this case a letter from Bahrain. (Donaldson page 127)

Rashid Ali did not stay long in Persia since the British and Soviet armed forces invaded Persia on 25 August 1941 to remove the pro-German Shah Reza Shah. Rashid Ali fled to Nazi occupied Europe where he was received by Hitler in Berlin and he was recognized as the leader of the Iraqi Government in Exile. Upon the defeat of Germany Rashid Ali fled again taking refuge in Saudi Arabia. He only returned from exile after the revolution that overthrew the Iraqi monarchy in 1958. Once again he attempted to seize power, and plotted a revolt against Abdul Karim Kassem's government but the revolt was foiled and Rashid Ali was sentenced to death. He was later pardoned, returned to exile, this time in Beirut where he died in 1965.



Muscat & Oman



India used in Muscat and cancelled with Donaldson Type 11

The following is a presentation of the various India stamps recorded used in Muscat and cancelled with Donaldson Type 11. The list has been aided by a similar list produced by the ISC (The Persian Gulf Study Group) in 1964. If you have additional usage of stamps not recorded here please share it with us.



1876 Queen Victoria Issue

Used on what appears to be 9 October 1903

D11-81

1882-1890 Queen Victoria Issue

			
D11-84	D11-85	D11-88	D11-90
			
D11-91	D11-92	D11-94	D11-95
			
D11-96	D11-98	D11-99	D11-100

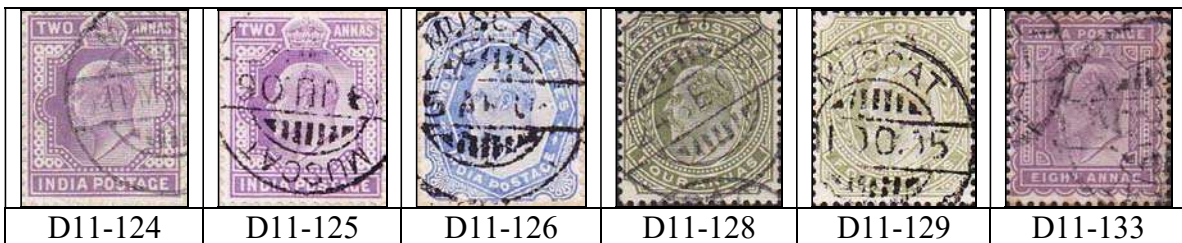
1891-1899 Queen Victoria Issues



1900-1902 Queen Victoria Issue



1902-1911 King Edward Issue



1902-1911 King Edward Issue



The type 11 cancellation mark has been recorded used from 29 November 1899 to 30 May 1917. Donaldson also records use of the canceller on the first King George V issue but refers to this as rare.

From British to Independent Postal Administration



The partial segment of the large cover above, previously illustrated in Edition 30, shows last day use of British stamps at Muscat and previously latest recorded use but now last day of use of the Muscat "1" numerical canceller. What has not yet been confirmed by post-30 April 1966 covers was whether or not the new Independent Postal Administration had their house in order on the day they took over – were their own cancellers ready?

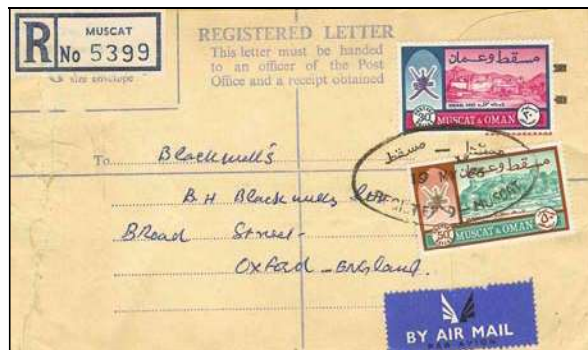
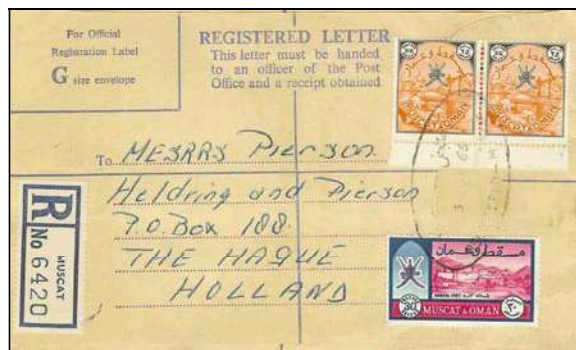


Until now, the earliest recorded use of independent cancellers was 5 July 1966 for the Muscat Double Ring and 19 May 1966 for the Muscat Oval Registration canceller. However, thanks to Sami al Salman the handing over process, at least when it comes to cancellation marks, has now been concluded. The below illustrated cover, franked with 90np and sent to the UK, is dated 30 April 1966 being the only recorded use to date of first day commercial use of the new stamps under the new postal administration. As per Calvin Allen the franking represents a triple printed matter rate.



British Registered Envelopes used in Muscat after Postal Independence

Now that it has been confirmed that the new administration had their cancellers ready for the handover did they also have registered envelopes ready? A number of British type registered envelopes similar to those of Bahrain have been recorded used in Muscat after postal independence – was the usage the result of casual carry or were they actually sold at the Muscat Post Office? The below two images show the use of British (Bahrain) style G-size registered letters one dated 3 July 1966 and the other dated 19 May 1966 and showing the obliteration bars that were applied to the Shaikh Salman image after his death and accession of Shaikh Isa.



Fortunately, and again with thanks to Douglas Muir and the British Postal Museum, it can be confirmed that the letters were sold at the Muscat Post Office. As you will see confirmed by the letter illustrated on the next page the Independent Postal Administration at Muscat retained the British/Bahrain G- and H-size envelopes available at the post office following the handover.

A total of 691 G-size and 1049 H-size envelopes were retained and remained on sale at the Muscat Post Office giving us an idea as to the rarity of such use. The printing cost of the envelopes was 4 pounds and 8 Shillings 1000 G-size while 1000 H-size envelopes cost 6 pounds 5 Shilling and 9 Pence which meant that new independent postal administration was charged 9 pound 12 Shillings and 9 Pence or 278.90 Rupees for the envelopes retained.



Unfortunately the documents don't mention what type of envelopes in detail but since the H-size cover was not issued with a Shaikh Salman 40np imprint then they must have been plain envelopes while the G-size envelopes presumably could be either or given that the use of Shaikh Salman 40np envelopes obliterated with two black bars is recorded used at Muscat after 30 April 1966. The above right registered letter is the latest recorded use of British style dated 3 June 74.

All communications should be
addressed to:—

~~The Postal Superintendent, Bahrain~~

P.O. Ref:.....BPA/MUS.....

Your Ref:.....



BRITISH POSTAL AGENCIES,

c/o Director of Posts, BAHRAIN.

29 May, 1966

Dear Meadows,

I have been busy disposing of the 'spoils' left over after the hand-over at Muscat. The cash was remitted to Abu Dhabi which has the same currency. Complete sheets of stamps and air letters are going to Partridge at H.H., and loose stamps (suitably mounted) will accompany the next cash account as spoiled stock to our Miss Dolding.

recd ✓

This leaves 'G' and 'H' envelopes which were retained by Muscat. Would you please arrange to charge these items against Muscat, in a future account, at printing costs.

G envelopes --- 691

H envelopes --- 1049

Yours sincerely,

H. W. WYNN

W. Meadows Esq.,
Postal Services Dept.,
General Post Office
LONDON E.C.1.

The two documents supporting the printing costs and final settlement with the Independent Postal Administration are illustrated on next page. They also confirm that the selling price of a G-size envelope was 10np while the H-size envelope was sold at 20np in line with the Bahrain selling prices already discussed.

With reference to Mr Wynne's letter of 29th May SupD have confirmed the following printing costs for the Gulf registered envelopes:-

"G" - £4. 8/- per 1000

"H" - £6. 5. 9d. per 1000

The selling price of the "G" size is 10 NP and of the "H" size 20 NP.

The sum of £9. 12. 9 is due to be charged to Muscat in respect of production costs.

A letter has been forwarded to Muscat today informing them of the charge.

Mr Wynne has claimed the sum of 278.9 Rs (the approximate selling price of the envelopes) in his May 1966 General account.



The illustration to the left is an image of two copies of the 25 Baizas value of the 1966 definitive issue.

They were sold at a recent auction as a yellow variety of the orange value – has anyone seen such a variety before? And if the buyer is one of our readers could you please contact me as I would like to have the stamp certified?

1971 Definitive Issue: The 30 Baizas Inverted Overprint



The below article is from a stamp magazine that I unfortunately am unable to identify.

TOPSY-TURVY SULTANATE

In an attempt at political re-unification of the territory MUSCAT AND OMAN was re-styled "SULTANATE OF OMAN" in 1971, and the definitive stamps were overprinted accordingly. The work was done very competently by the National Printing Press in Dubai, and the only error discovered so far (16 months after issue) is a complete sheet of 120 of the 30b with overprint inverted (see reduced size illustration of Plate block of four).

The original finder has kept the top two rows and we have purchased the remainder of the sheet. We understand that the error will be listed by Stanley Gibbons. (Mint single £15)

Over time I have recorded a number of singles, one pair and two blocks of four. The below block of 10 is the largest multiple recorded. In all cases the position of the stamps has been identified in pencil on that back of the stamp by Neil Donaldson.

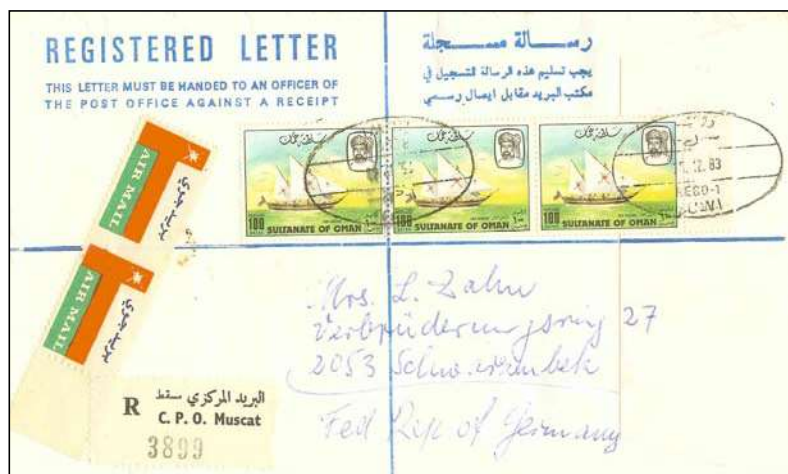


Unfortunately there is no record of how the sheet was broken up as was the case with the Abu Dhabi 20 Fils inverted overprint. With regards to covers I have only been able to find two records of such covers existing. Both covers were included in the 1988 Donaldson sale and both are dated 6 May 1972, a date which matches the “16 months after” comment in the article shown on the previous page. I have not been able to track down the two covers but they were partially illustrated in the auction catalog and shown here.



Both covers were sent to Donaldson himself – one was franked with 65 Baiza being the airmail rate to the UK while the other was sent

registered and franked with 165 Baize covering the additional 100 Baizas registration fee.



Following postal independence and as documented earlier in this issue 1740 British type registered letters were left behind by the British Agency. How long these lasted is unknown but it wasn't until 1982 that the first independent registered letter appears – or at least the earliest record of such registered letters.

A number of these registered letters recently surfaced within a

correspondence to Germany and included two sizes being what would correspond to G- and H-size. The envelopes are made of an almost plastic like material and are quite soft – the earliest record of usage is May 1982 while the latest usage is May 1985.



Five such registered letters illustrated here – the first having been sent from Ruwi on 27 December 1983, the second from Greater Mutrah on 11 May 1985, the third from Diba on 12 May 1985, the fourth from Ibra on 25 February (1985) and the fifth from Mujamma Alwazarat on 6 May 1985.

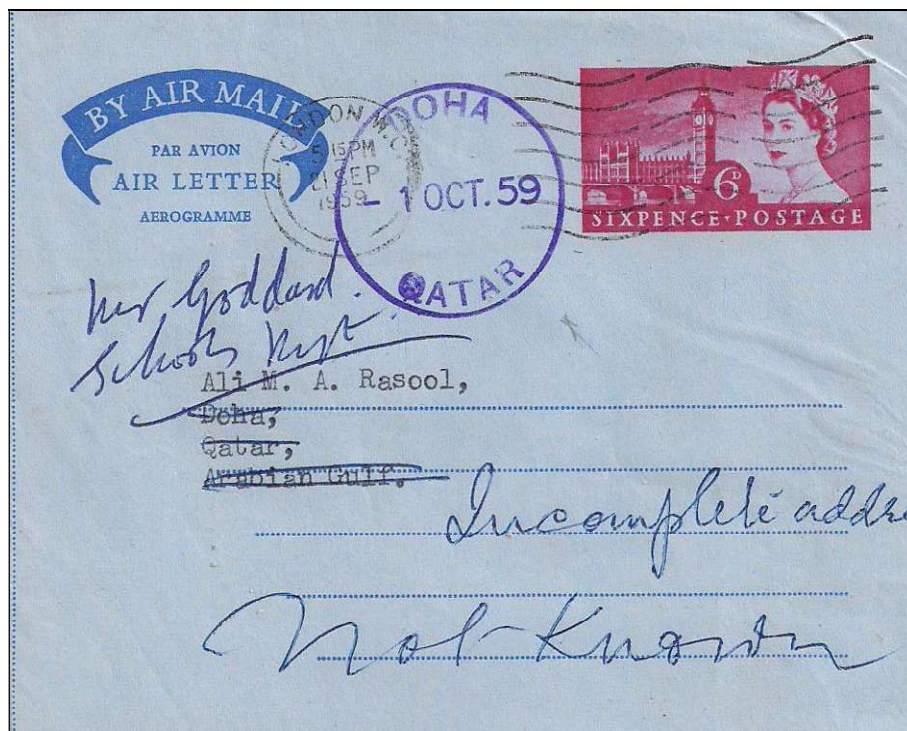


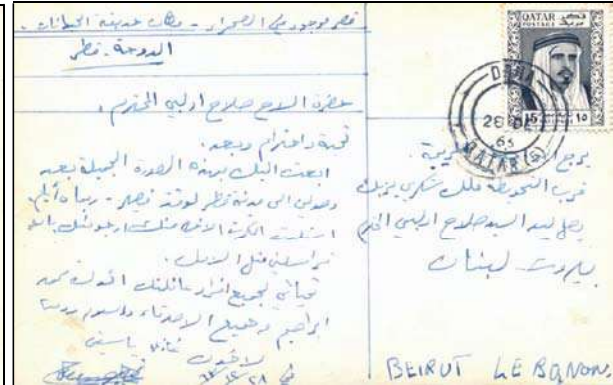
Edition 30 illustrated a 1973 telegram sent locally within Muscat and franked with 10 Baizas. The telegram illustrated here is from June 1984, sent to Nizwa and franked with 30 Baiza.

Qatar

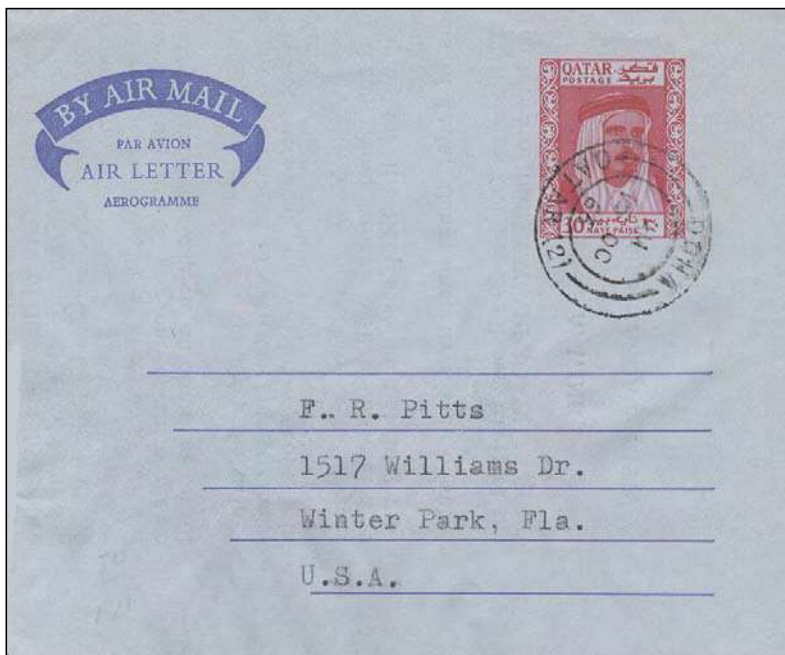


The two letters illustrated here were sold recently on an Internet auction website; both at a price just above USD 500, and illustrate, according to my records, the first examples of what appears to be a Doha, Qatar version of Bahrain's Type 32 and 33 – referred to by Donaldson as Exchange office stamps. Interestingly the above letter shows the use of the date stamp on outgoing mail whereas the below air letter shows use on incoming mail. Has anyone seen this date stamp before or have any ideas as to its purpose?





The above postcard, cancelled the 28 December 1963 and sent to Beirut, was recently sold at auction and described as depicting Doha Zoo. Can anyone confirm that the entrance to Doha Zoo looked like this back in the early 1960s?



QATAR AEROGramme
Sent in by Howard Courtney

The inverted "V" in the word "PAR" is a recognized error that was caught and corrected in this first post independence issue of Qatar. The cancellation reads, DOHA, QATAR (2), 15 OC 66.



Another cover cancelled at the Philatelic Bureau in Doha. The date stamp was last illustrated in Edition 29 and has so far only been recorded with the numeral "2" – has anyone seen it with another numeral?



UAE – Abu Dhabi

Cross Usage of British Stamps issued in the Gulf

Applying the term “Cross usage” to the use of “Value Only” stamps used in Abu Dhabi is probably not an accurate approach. However, to start of the series of “Cross usage of British Stamp in the Gulf” with the introduction of the postal service in Abu Dhabi and the opening of the Abu Dhabi Post Office on March 30th 1963 allows for a soft introduction, which at the same time makes it less comprehensive to define the framework of cross usage. So, taking the lead from collectors of India used in the Gulf the combination of stamp and cancellation mark will be used for cross usage as well.

With the opening of the Abu Dhabi Post Office it was decided to adapt the “Value Only” stamps until an issue of Abu Dhabi stamps could be prepared. The “Value Only” stamps, which were already in use at Das Island, put on sale were the same 11 values that were used on the Postal Service FDCs illustrated here. Four datestamps were also introduced – the two covers below being cancelled with Abu Dhabi 1 and 2 datestamps whereas the cover on the next page is cancelled with the Das Island 1 datestamp.





The cover illustrated here and cancelled with Abu Dhabi 2 shows the use of the 1np, 3np, 6np, 9np and 12np values. These five values were not on sale at the Abu Dhabi Post Office and subsequently the use of them at Abu Dhabi is rare.

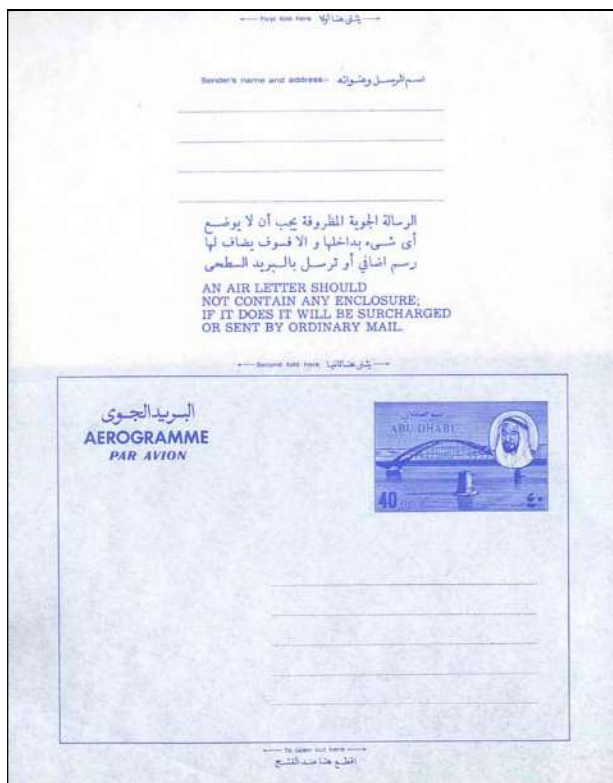
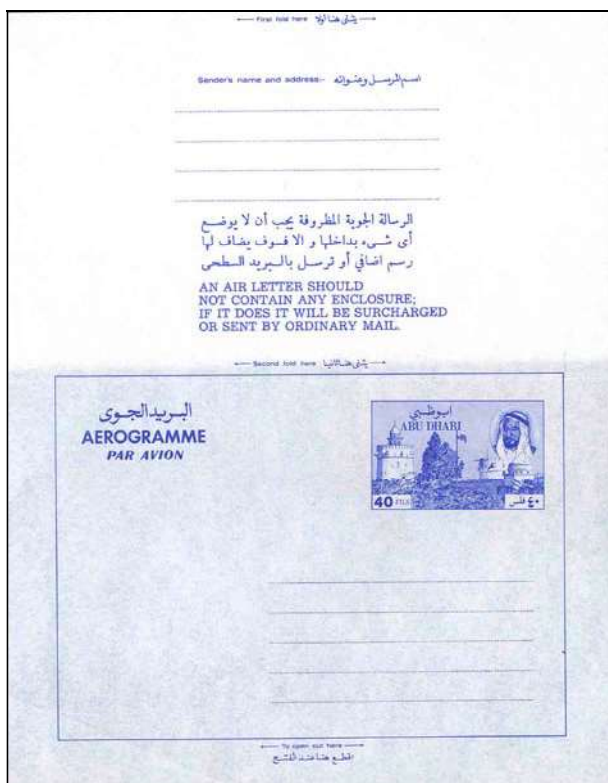
The Das Island 2 cancellation seems to be the least common of the 4 datestamps. Has anyone got the FDC cancelled with the Das Island 2 datestamp?

Below shows the 20np, 40np and 2Rs values cancelled with Das Island 2





Das Island 2 usage with the 1R value on a cover sent to the USA – I am looking for covers/usage of the following values cancelled with Das Island 2: 5np, 10np, 15np, 30np, 50np, 75np and 5 Rupees. The cover on the right shows the late use of the 2as and 2½as KGVI value – though philatelic it is the only time I have recorded the use of KGVI in Abu Dhabi.



The above two 40 Fils aerogramme samples were forwarded to me by one of our readers who received them from HP Wynn back in either late 1971 or 1972 – the date derived from the fact that the letter in which they were arrived also included photographs of 1971 Accession proofs. Though not possible to date HP Wynn did mention that they were aerogramme samples of designs that were not approved by “the Federation” which may hint at a production date in Mid-1972. He continues to say that they were produced in Abu Dhabi and that according to him they were of good enough quality to be approved.

On pages 239 to 243 of his book Neil Donaldson speaks about the first two issues of Abu Dhabi stamps - the 1964 definitive issue and the 1965 Falcon issue. His book illustrates some of the proofs/designs in black and white but thanks to Douglas Muir we are here able to show the illustration plus a few more in color. All images, except the black and white photo, are copyright Royal Mail 2011 reproduced courtesy of the British Postal Museum & Archive.



To the left is the original stamp-size offset-litho artwork of the ruler's palace design by Clive Trevor Kavanagh, rejected by the GPO in London because the head of Shaikh Shakhbut appeared in the palm tree.

Donaldson specifically mentions that he felt that this design was the better balanced one but that Shaikh Shakhbut probably didn't want his head placed on top of the palm tree. The approved design saw the palm tree moved to the right.



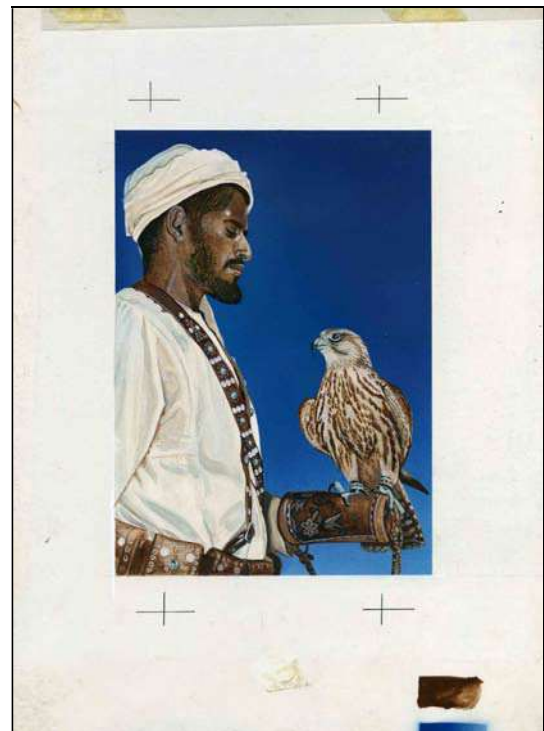
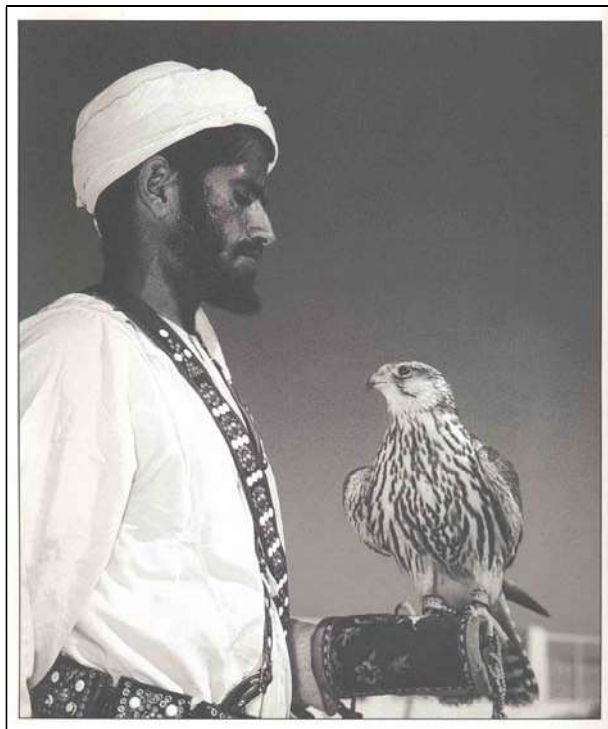
Above left are the approved recess proofs by Bradbury Wilkinson of the four high value Abu Dhabi definitive issue.

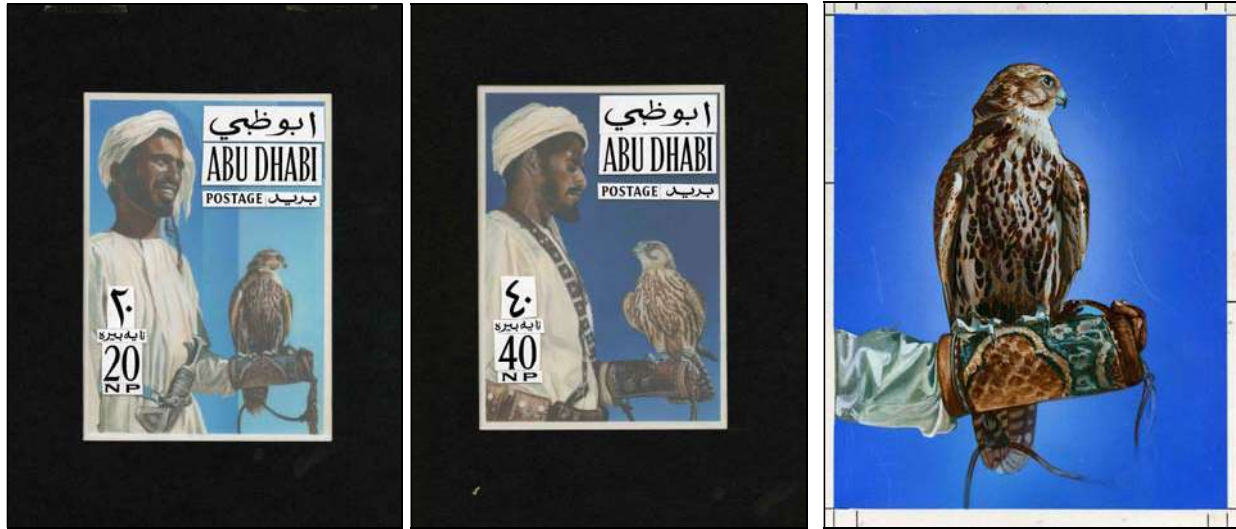
The left image shows the approved stamp-size artwork by Bradbury Wilkinson artists produced by offset-litho for the two Abu Dhabi high value designs.



In the middle is the artwork (with value overlay) by M.C. Farrar-Bell of Harrisons for the Abu Dhabi low values showing Shaikh Shakhbut, from a photograph by Captain Layther of Gulf Aviation. The above left image is the imperforate essay on card by Harrisons for one of the “Arabian Gazelle” values. The above right is the artwork (with value overlay) by M.C. Farrar-Bell of Harrisons for the Abu Dhabi low values showing an “Arabian Gazelle”. This was based on a photograph sourced by the artist and did not show the Arabian variety which was already extinct.

The below left photograph of a falcon on the wrist of a handler was supplied by the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company in June 1964 for use in the Falcons special issue. The below right image shows the coloured artwork by Victor Whiteley for Harrisons based on the falcon photograph.





The images above are the colored artworks of the 20NP and 40NP artwork (with value overlay) done by Victor Whiteley and mistakenly including the handler. Both were submitted to Shaikh Shakhbut with the correctly designed versions, but were both rejected.

The above right image is the accepted base artwork for the 20NP value.

The below left image shows the accepted artwork (with value overlay) done by Victor Whiteley for the 20 NP value.

The other two images are both of the 2Rs issue.

The middle image shows the colored base artwork by Victor Whiteley for the 2 Rs value while the image on the left shows the accepted artwork (with value overlay).



UAE – Dubai



A cover dated 30 November 1947 and franked with the 1940-43 King GVI 3½as bright blue value overprinted Pakistan (SG 8) and cancelled with Dubai Type 6. Unlike most correspondence out of Dubai at the time, which went to India, this cover was sent westbound and has been franked with 3½as covering the sea mail rate to the USA.



Two Postage Due covers both cancelled with Type 5 and with a Type 11 postage due cachet applied. The top cover is franked with 4as and has had "1" endorsed in the postage due cachet indicating that the cover was underpaid by ½a. Since the surface rate of 1½as covered the first 2½ tolas and the air fee was 1a per tola it would mean that the cover weighed above 2 tolas but less than 2½ tolas. The below cover, paid with 2as, has also had 1a endorsed indicating it was underpaid by ½a. The correct airmail rate for a 1 tola letter to India was 2½as.



DUBAI SURCHARGED AEROGRAMMES

By Howard Courtney

Many of the aerogrammes of Dubai have been ignored by collectors due to them not being certain that they were issued for genuine use. When questioned about those issued under the Baroody contract Mr. Michel Stephan would only state that Mr. Lorenzo (The Postmaster) was responsible for them. Obviously, that was not the case as Mr. Stephan and Mr. Ezzet Mosden were selling them by the hundreds, or probably more correctly, the thousands, with all the created varieties. Thirty years after they had lost the contract Mr. Mosden was still offering them in lots of several hundred.

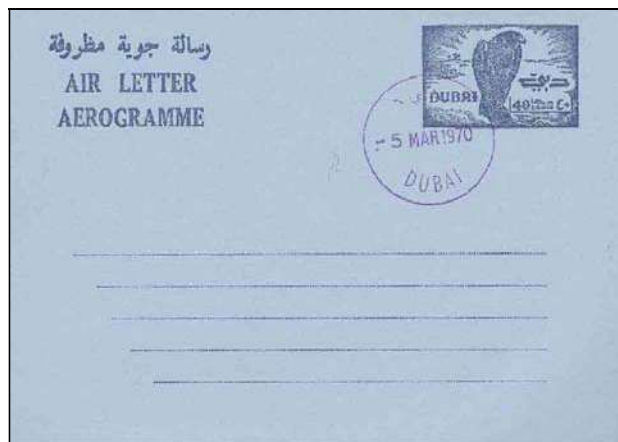
However, once Stephan and Mosden were out of the picture, the aerogrammes took on a much more respectable mantle. Even so, collectors did not take them seriously and the genuine, non-created errors and varieties are a mystery to many.

In late 1966 when Dubai changed its currency from Naye Paise and Rupees to Dirhams and Riyals, the remaining stock of aerogrammes were surcharged with the new currency valuations. At the end of Dubai's existence as an independent country and it becoming a member of the United Arab Emirates, one aerogramme was surcharged UAE, most likely only meant to be sold in Dubai. All of the surcharges were on aerogrammes issued after the Baroody contract and were created for genuine use in the country.



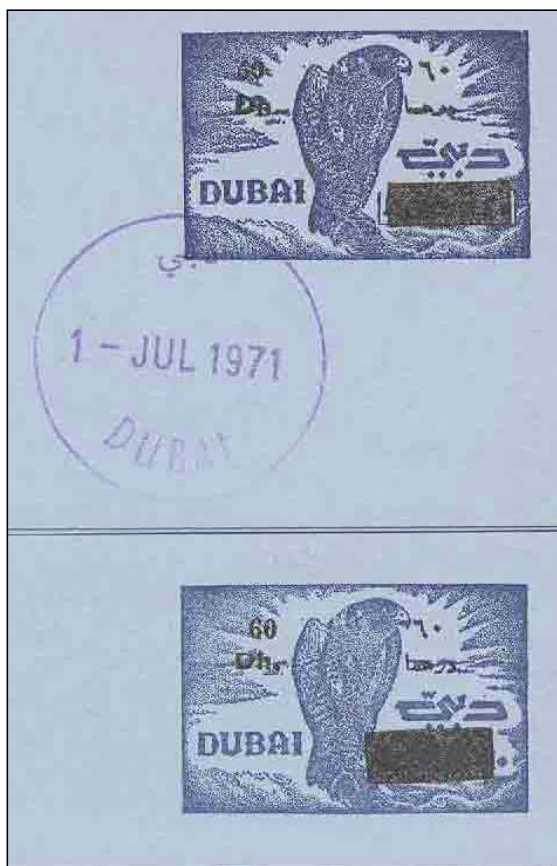
In his *Aerogrammes of the Arabian Gulf: Post Independence Issues*, Second Edition, January 1998, Mr. T.E. Jones has designated the 40 Dirhams aerogramme illustrated to the left as DAL 18.

T.E. Jones describes this issue as "Hawk", (121 x 99mm), with an unknown date of issue in 1967. The "favor" cancellation on this example appears to be 5 Sept. 1967.



DAL 19: The redesigned and larger version (149 x 99mm) of the DAL 18 aerogramme was released on an unknown date in 1970.

This example is dated 5 March 1970.



On July 1, 1971 DAL 19 was uprated and surcharged "60 Dh." in English and Arabic (DAL 20). Jones reports two varieties of the surcharge. One has a smaller "60" and "D" in English than the other.

At least two other varieties of the surcharge exist as evidenced by the illustrations shown here. Two smaller "60" examples are illustrated above on the left while the two larger "60" examples are illustrated on the right. Without the use of a magnifying glass one can see the numbers are positioned differently above either the Arabic or the English letters. The second example of the smaller 60 has a smaller obliteration as well.

The second design to be surcharged was the Arab Postal Union design with the dove at the top of the logo. The original aerogramme was issued on 1 July, 1971.

Jones designates this issue as DAL 21. The design of the stamp image was modified slightly and made larger, the Arabic and English script now moved to the upper center and the A.P.U. logo in the upper left hand corner.



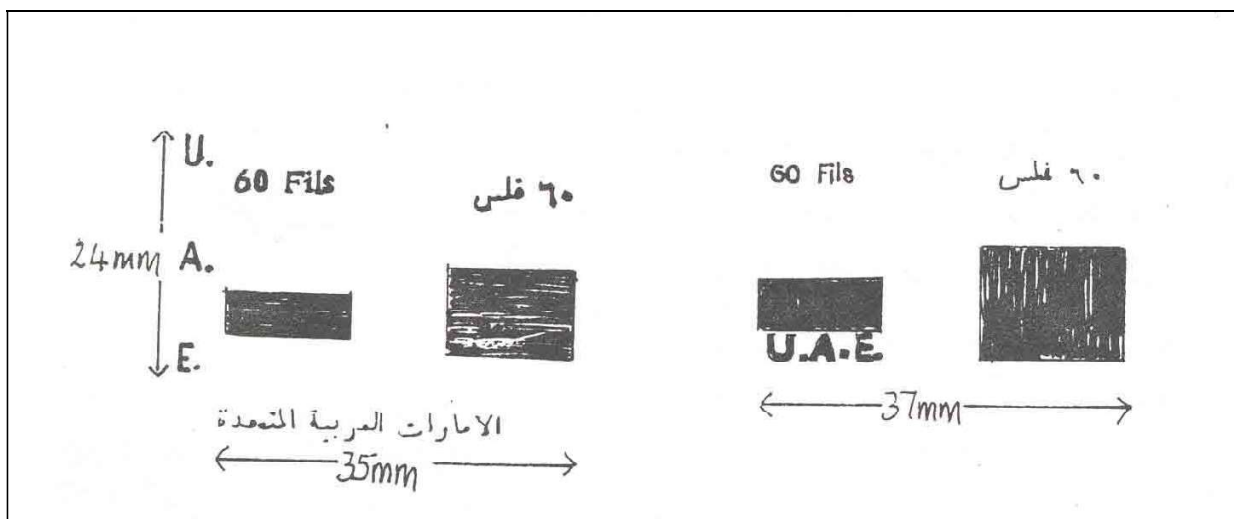


When this aerogramme was surcharged, the surcharge differed only in that the currency was now stated in “Fils”, a currency not used in Independent Dubai. It is surmised that it was a U.A.E. issue only for use in Dubai, since it still stated “DUBAI” on the aerogramme. Jones lists this as DAL 22. He also believes that this is the first U.A.E. aerogramme but again, the actual date of issue, other than 1973 is unknown.

To further muddy the waters, the above surcharged aerogramme (DAL 22) later received a second overprint and obliteration. The date is again unknown, other than 1973, but now the “DUBAI” in Arabic and English is obliterated and “U.A.E.” has been added under the English, making the aerogramme acceptable in all sheikhdoms of the U.A.E. Jones designates this aerogramme as “UAL 1”.



A third type of overprint exists on DAL 21 (illustration from Terry Jones’ aerogramme book). Its the same as the “U.A.E.” surcharge above but the “U.A.E.” is printed vertically on the left of the stamp image with wider spacing between them and denomination in Arabic and English is larger.



UAE & Trucial States

Sharjah's First Three Aerogrammes by Howard Courtney

On 6 August 1964, Sharjah issued its first three aerogrammes. The 20np, 30np and 40np values all shared the same design as Sharjah's first airmail stamp set, a portrait of the ruler, the flag, a map of the country and a silhouette of a hawk. Bruce Conde was responsible for the design of the stamps and thus the aerogramme. These three aerogramme designs were used throughout the short history of the country, only differing by having obliterations or an obliteration and a surcharge applied to them.



In 1965 Shaikh Saqr was replaced in a coup by Sheikh Khalid and the aerogrammes received a thick three bar obliteration over Sheikh Saqr's portrait. The bars were applied on all values in green or in purple. The green obliterations appeared on 19 January 1966 and the purple on April 12, 1966. Note that someone has "touched up" the "AP" in the cancellation, with a pen on the 30np value, the person mistakenly wrote "AR", whatever the case the actions decreased the value of the aerogramme.

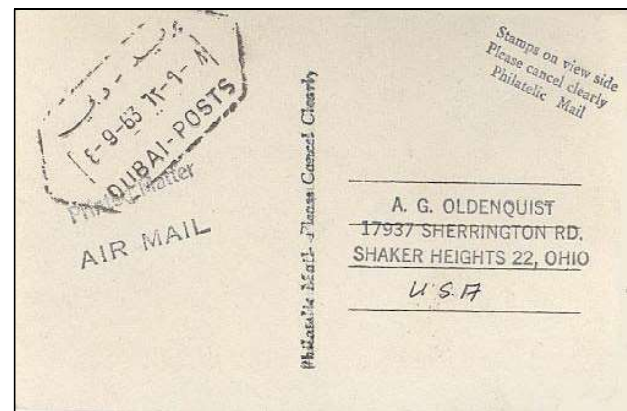


In 1966 when the currency was changed to Dirhams and Riyals, the 20np obliterated value was surcharged 40 Dirhams. The surcharge and obliterations were printed in one operation and exist in two varieties.

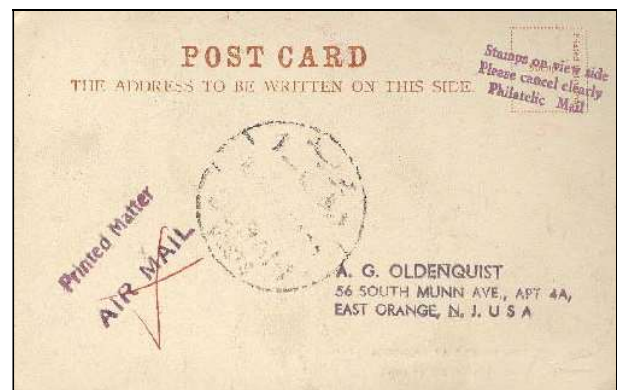


Seen here is what T.E. Jones refers to as the “b” variety. The bottom bars measure 26mm from outer edge to outer edge. Not illustrated is the “a” variety, which measures 24.5mm from outer edge to outer edge.

Below to postcard sent from Sharjah and Umm al Qiwain both show Dubai Transit Markings.



The first postcard was mailed at Sharjah on 5 September 1963 and has a Dubai transit mark dated 8 September 1963 but no US arrival stamp.



The second postcard was mailed at Umm al Qiwain on 13 August 1964 and has a Dubai transit mark dated 15 August, 1964 – again without US arrival stamp,

Both postcards appear to be images of North Africa.

Links, Contacts and Credits

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Website: www.epa.ae

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

Yahoo Group: arabiangulfphilately

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

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

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

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

arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com

kameltom2004@yahoo.com

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

WEBSITES RELATED TO GULF POSTAL HISTORY

www.bahrain-stamps.com
www.kuwait-stamps.com

www.oman-stamps.com
www.dubai-stamps.com

www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com
www.qatar-stamps.com

6 interactive website containing more than 10.000 images of stamps, covers, philatelic items, cancellation marks, registration labels, postage due hand stamps, aerogramme and other postal markings. Without a doubt the biggest compilation of philatelic material related to the Gulf on the Internet today. These website are under constant development and all contributions are accepted in all forms: comments, image contributions, theories, photocopies, CD-ROMs of exhibitions and collections etc.

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

A yahoo group created in 1999 with 899 member (As of March 2006) – a forum that focuses on anything that has to do with Gulf postal history but the group also includes Yemen and occasionally other regional post offices.

<http://www.gbos.org.uk/index.php/Home> - Great Britain Overprint Society

The GB Overprints Society (GBOS) helps members and collectors to explore the many ways and reasons why British stamps and other postal material have been overprinted, whether it is for use outside the UK or for special functions within the UK. This opens up a wide variety of avenues, which will interest not only GB collectors who want to find out other uses of their favorite stamps, but also collectors of particular countries or themes.

<http://www.indiastudycircle.org> - India Study Circle

This is the website for anyone interested in Indian Stamps, Postal Stationery, Indian States Stamps, Revenue Stamps and all areas of Indian Philately. Membership of The India Study Circle is a great way to learn more about all aspects of Indian Philately. It is also an excellent way to buy stamps, covers and all sorts of Philatelic material from other members, and to sell your own surplus material.

<http://www.postalcensorship.com> - censored and military postal history

Started in 1996 the postal censorship website was intended to concentrate on the story of Postal Censorship in Ireland during World War II, 1939-1945, known as 'The Emergency'. The site now hosts an array of Civil Censorship and Military Mail information mostly related to World War II but adding material from other periods as collectors provide covers to show and as other information comes to hand.

<http://www.wreckandcrash.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

BACK ISSUES

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

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

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