



The Postal History of Iraq

Jakob von Uexkull

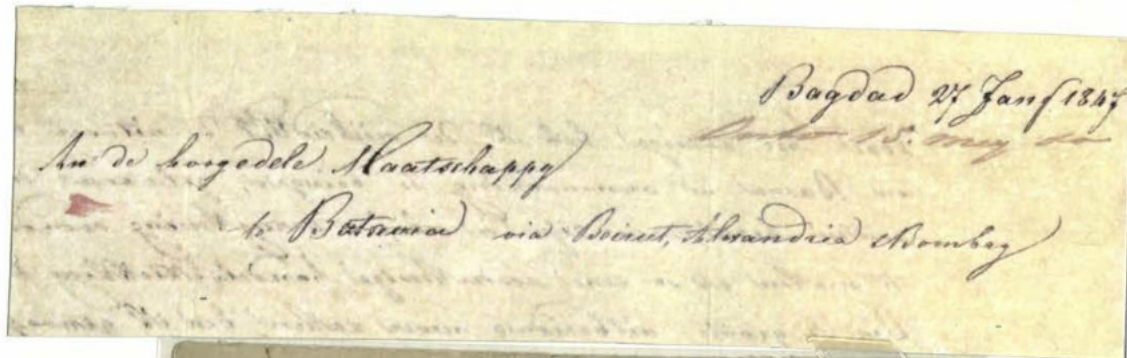
Standing Display at the Royal Philatelic Society London

April 2016

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Iraq

1847, folded letter from Bagdad to Batavia (Netherlands Indies), inscribed inside, "via Beirut, Alexandria and Bombay". Sent by Dromedary Post across the desert to Beirut and on to Alexandria, where it was inscribed "Pr. Steamer via Ceylon" on the front. Postage Bagdad to Bombay 1 R. 8 As. and Bombay to Batavia 1R. Disinfection slits.



Iraq

1849, from Mossul (27.3) to Paris (9.5).

Entire letter in Italian, with arrival postmark on the front, taxed and re-directed within Paris with boxed red "INCONNU/A L'APPEL".



An extremely rare early letter.

Iraq

1850, the Ottoman P.O. in Mosul.

Mosul negative seal (CW 65) on list of 22 postal items, including 3 insured, from Mosul to Aleppo. Total postage 383 Pia. 10 Paras. Sent 26. May (14 Mayıs), received 5. June (24 Mayıs).

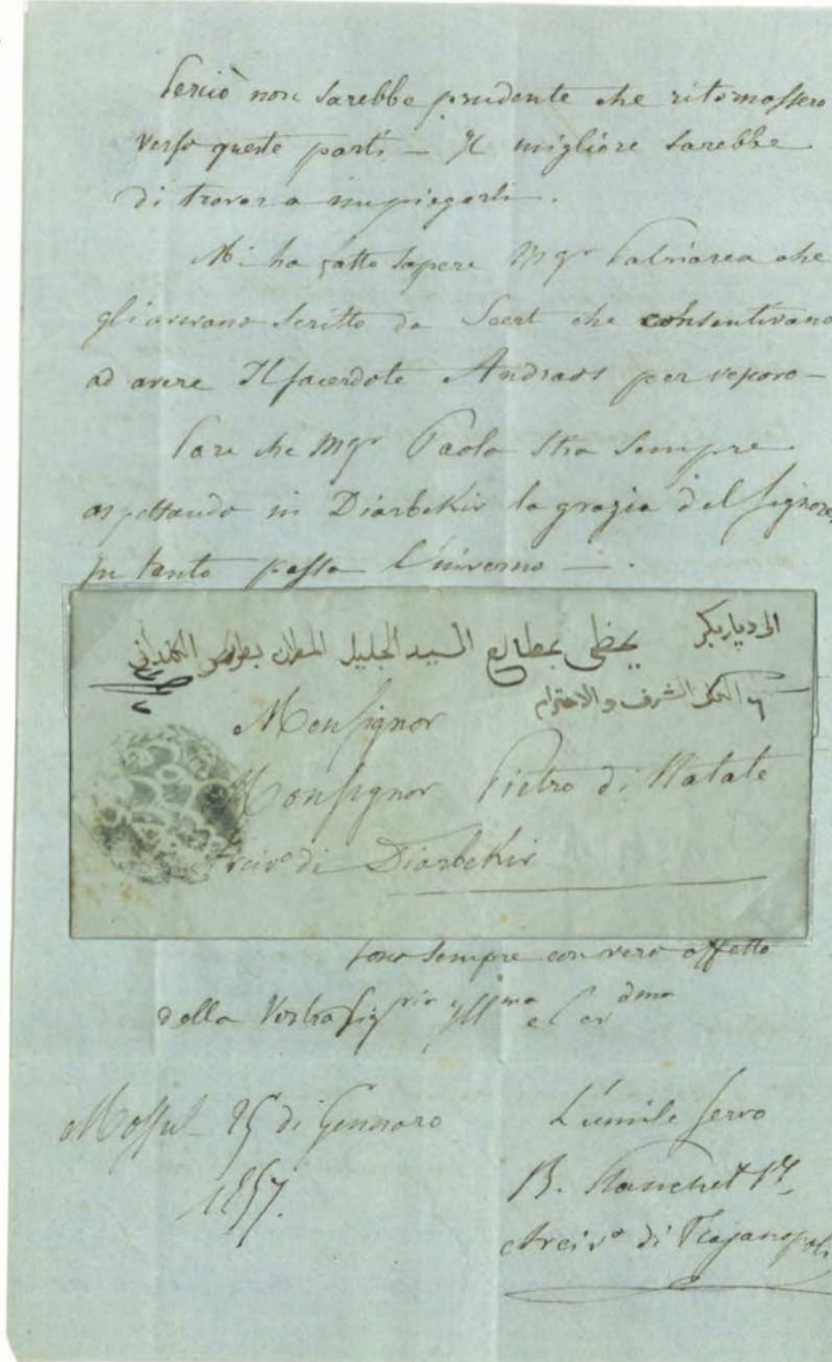
۱۴ مایس ۱۲۵۰

موسول بوسولہ خانہ سندھ مذہب بوسولہ خانہ سندھ ارسال اولیٰ مکاتبہ و سائرہ نذر نذر الیدر

جدول ہر دو خطا	غیر محلول رسالہ		اجرت نقلیہ		اوزان		اسیاعی مسکال الیہ	نوزک اشیا	انواع مکاتبہ یا محمولہ غرض	نومرو مکاتبہ و سائرہ
	اولیٰ محمولہ	شمع امانت	شمع امانت	غروش	یارہ	درہم				
							نقل کیون آخرت			
			۰۶۴	۴۰		۰۰	زندیہ جلیبی بہ	کلوز ۶۸۵۰	امندہ	۰۱
			۰۹۱	۴۰		۰۰	صوفی جلیبی بہ	کلوز ۸۰۰۰	امندہ	۰۲
			۱۰۰	۴۰		۰۰	زندیہ جلیبی بہ	کلوز ۱۰۰۰۰	امندہ	۰۳
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	تقدماہ		شارک	۰۴
			۰۰۱	۴۰		۰۰	صکار رتہ		شارک	۰۵
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	تقدماہ		شارک	۰۶
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	عبدالغبار		شارک	۰۷
			۰۱۶	۱۰		۰۷	فوزدہ		شارک	۰۸
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	ارضاخانہ		شارک	۰۹
			۰۰۹	۴۰		۰۰	زندیہ جلیبی بہ ابرصم		مقرہ	۱۰
			۰۰۹	۴۰		۰۰	زندیہ قصاب بینی		مقرہ	۱۱
			۰۰۹	۴۰		۰۰	صوفی جلیبی بہ		مقرہ	۱۲
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	سلیماہ جلیبی بہ		شارک	۱۳
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	سکس استفانہ		شارک	۱۴
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	صوفی جلیبی بہ		شارک	۱۵
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	مستی بہ		شارک	۱۶
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	صوفی جلیبی بہ		شارک	۱۷
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰	معدود جلیبی بہ		شارک	۱۸
			۰۰۲	۴۰		۰۰			شارک	۱۹

Iraq

1857, entire letter written in Italian from Mosul to Diyarbekir, Turkey, with fine Arabic
"An Canibi posta i Mosul" negative seal handstamp in greenish black, ex Cihangir
collection.



Iraq

1867-69, Camel Mail Across the Syrian Desert

1867, folded letter from Bagdad (27.9) to the Swiss Credit Bank by camel caravan to Beyrouth (French P.O. 12.10, franked with Napoleon 40+80c. for the double rate) then by steamer to Marseille, train to Lyon (Travelling P.O. 24.10 on reverse) and Zurich (26.10).

The earliest of the four recorded letters using this route.



1869, letter from Bagdad (27.11) endorsed "via Beyrouth & Marseille", carried by camel to Beyrouth (13.12), where it was franked with 30c. pair (single rate) at the French P.O. and sent by ship via Alexandria to Marseille (25.12) and then by train to Nettstal (27.12) in Switzerland.



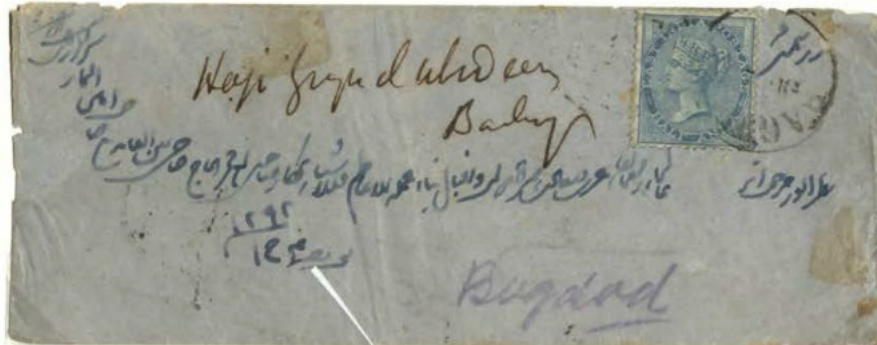
Exhibited
in the
Monaco
World
Rarities
Display.

Iraq

1869, "BAGDAD 356" duplex on cover to Bombay (dep. 3.8, arr. 31.8), one year later than recorded by Proud. A fine, full strike and unusually on the front. Illustrated in Parsons (Fig. 51).



1870, "BAGHDAD 18" duplex on folded letter to Bombay, with arr. cds. on reverse.



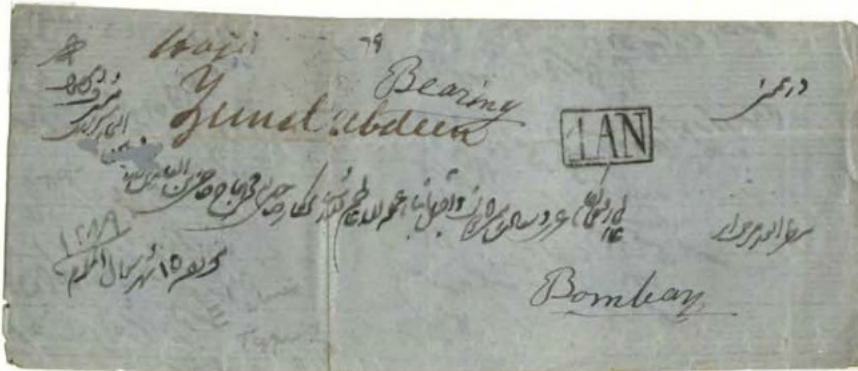
Iraq

1870-72, underpaid mail from Bagdad to Bombay

"INDIA UNPAID" and "BAGDAD 356" duplex, (dep. 5.2, arr. 26.2). A late usage. Illustrated in Parsons (Fig. 50).



"1 AN" first due handstamp, "BAGHDAD" (Proud D2) cds on reverse (dep. 19.12, arr. 13.1.73).



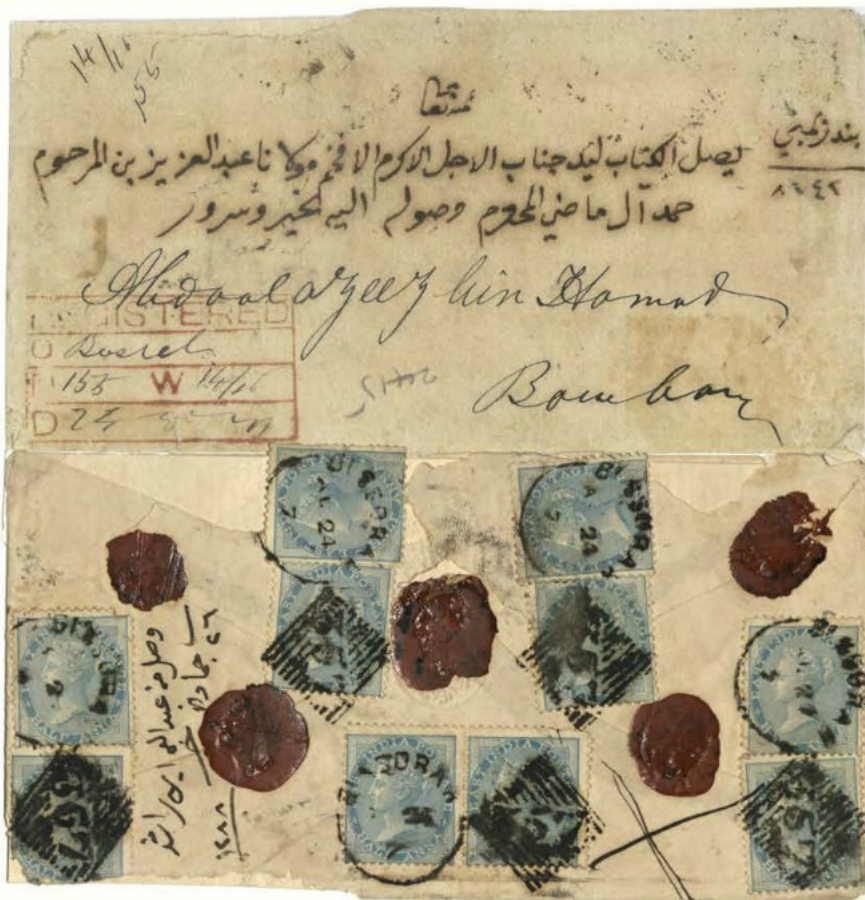
"INSUFFICIENT" and "1 AN" on cover front, with "BAGHDAD 18 duplex cancellation. Unrecorded.



Iraq

1871, the earliest known registered cover from Basra.

"BUSSORAH 357" duplex cancelling 10x 1/2 A. (5 As. rate) on cover to Bombay with the first registration cachet in red (!) used 2 weeks earlier than recorded by Proud. A unique showpiece.



Iraq

1871, "BUSSORAH/ 357" duplex cancelling 1/2 A. on cover from Basra (25.2) to Linga (27.2). The duplex with this spelling (with "H") is not recorded by Proud but listed by Cooper as "very scarce". The side cds "BUSSORAH" (Proud D1) is the only recorded example of this mark in red.



Iraq

1871, "BUSREH/ 19" duplex on underpaid overweight cover to Bombay (arr. 27.1) with framed "INSUFFICIENT" and due hs. "1 AN".

Both marks unrecorded in the Proud Handbook. A very early and rare cover.



Iraq

1871, Incoming Re-directed Ship Mail

Envelope from London (14.11) "Via Suez Canal" to the steamer 'Isphan' at Bombay, India bearing Great Britain 1d. red and 4d. vermillion (2) tied by London duplex with adjacent framed 'Too Late', forwarded from Bombay with framed 'Bombay/Bearing ½ Anna', to Bagdad with receiver (19.1) and forwarded to Basra with boxed instructional 'Redirected', hand-struck 'Too-Late' and oval 'Sea Post Office' in blue '26/1/1871' in error (for 1872). A very scarce use of the 1st Type Sea Post Office datestamp.



Iraq

1871-73, the first Registration Cachet of Bagdad in red.

Pair of covers to Bombay and Calcutta, franked on the reverse, with very early strikes of this mark, which Proud only lists from June 1874. A very rare pair.



Iraq

1872, "BUSREH/ 19" duplex on registered covers to Bombay with the first registration cachet, bearing different 6 As. rate combinations.

"Very scarce" (Cooper, "India Used Abroad").

Pair 1 A. and 4 As. on reverse.



Iraq

1878, "BAGDAD/ K6" duplex, cancelling 1 A., 2 As., 4 As. and 8 As. (15 As. rate, weight 19 1/2 tolas) on large, faulty registered cover to Lucknow (16.5), with Bagdad "POSTAGE DUE" (Proud UP4, 20 years earlier than recoded), unrecorded "UNPAID/ SORTING" hs and datestamp D3 (4 years earlier than recorded) on the reverse, all deleted in ink.

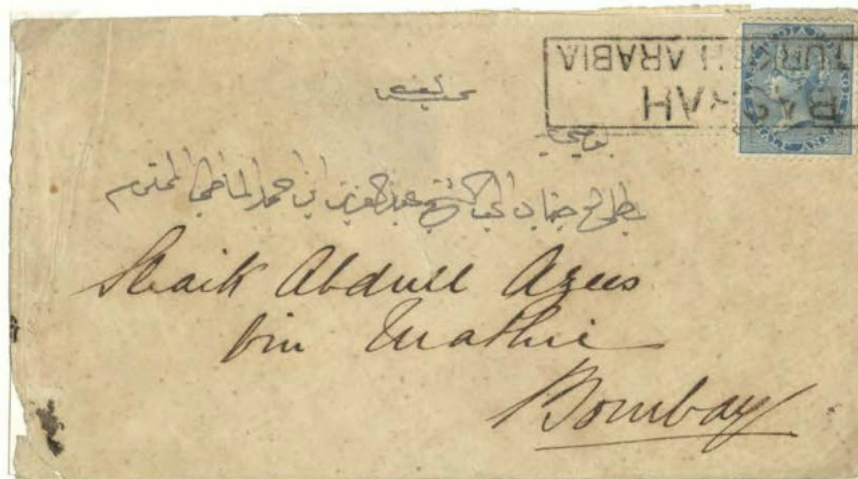


Iraq

1880, "BASRAH/ TURKISH ARABIA" on cover to Bombay (dep. 7.2, arr. 21.2). One two days the office name stamp was applied to cancel mail.

"Extremely rare". (JAL Cooper, "India used Abroad", p. 35).

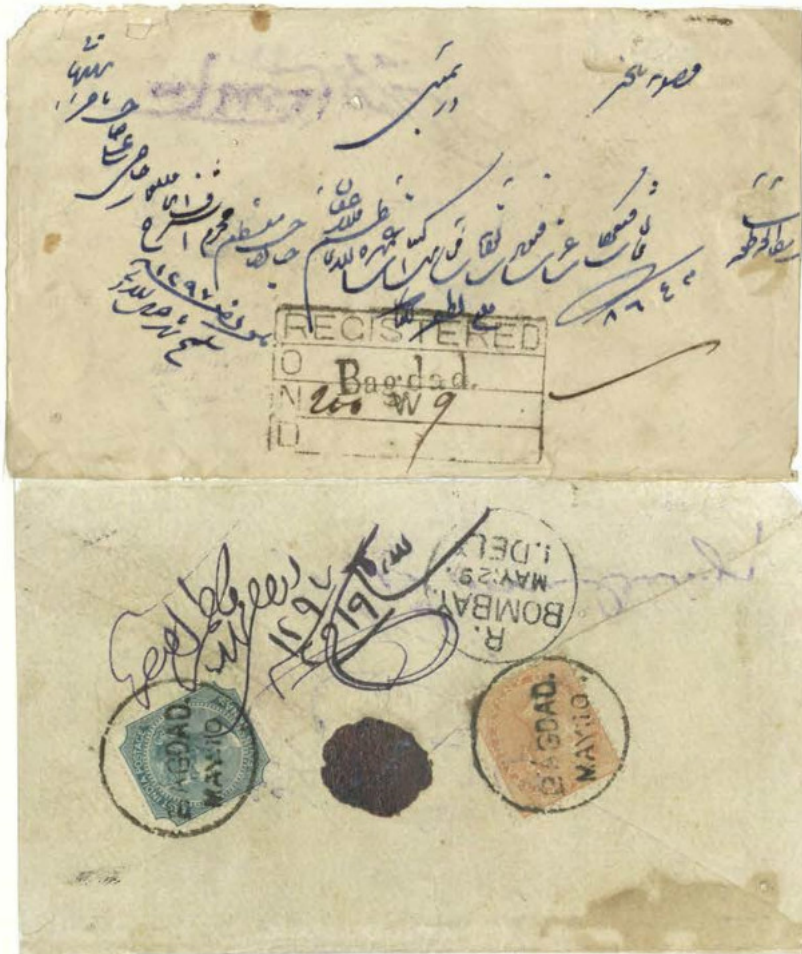
This is the most attractive of the few known examples.



Iraq

1880 (ca.), unrecorded "Bagdad" registration handstamp.

Cover from Bagdad (10.5) to Bombay (29.5), franked 6 As., bearing the first Registration cachet with "Bagdad" handstamped instead of inserted by hand.



Iraq

1881, from the Indian P.O. in Bagdad to Zanzibar.

Cover with 1A. and 2As., cancelled "B" in bars (Proud K6), on reverse cds "BAGDAD" (D4, 2 years earlier than recorded by Proud) (6.10), Bombay transit (27.10), and partial ZANZIBAR arrival cds.



A very rare destination.

Iraq

1881, unrecorded registration cachet of Bagdad

Registration cover with full contents from Bagdad (24.6) to Calcutta (13.7), franked 6x 1A., with a boxed registration cachet similar to Proud R2 but with smaller letters.



Iraq

The Indian Post Offices

1882, registered cover to Bombay with the Bagdad datestamp (type Proud D5) three years earlier than recorded and the very rare first 'Registered' cachet used almost eight years later than recorded!



A remarkable cover.

Iraq

1884, the unique "REG./ BAGDAD/ 4 SEP 84" cds

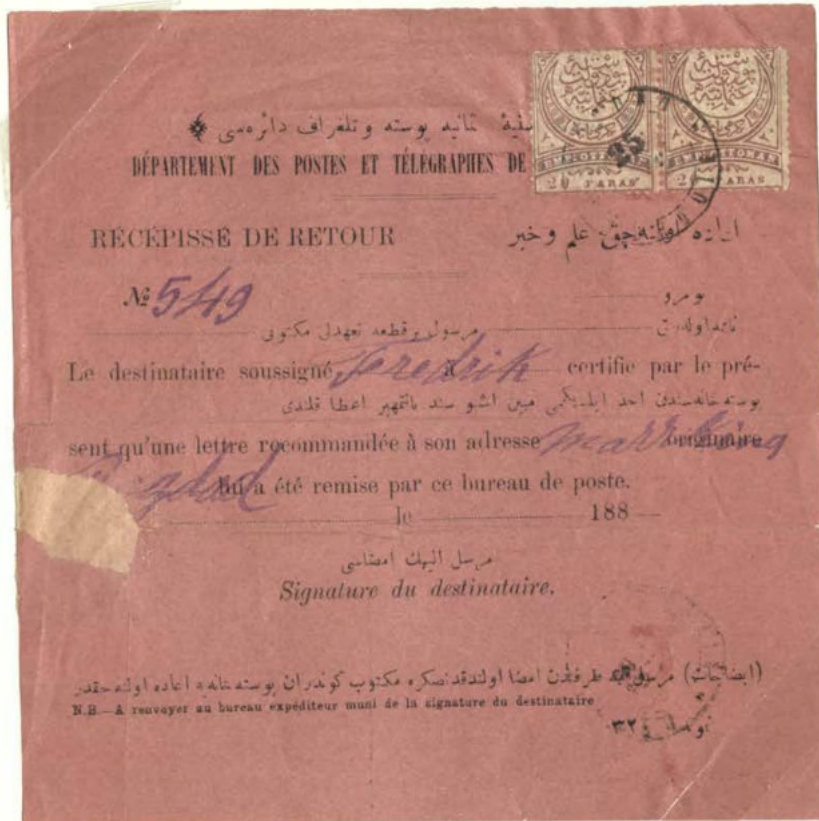
A non-duplex "B" cancellation was introduced for registration purposes and combined with a cds including the full date. Only this cover has been recorded (3 As. rate, dep. 4.9, arr. Calcuta 27.9). Illustrated in Parsons (Fig. 53).



Iraq

1885 (ca.), Ottoman Post Office in Bagdad

Printed registered letter receipt, franked with pair 20 Pa. A scarce survival.



Iraq

1887, Bagdad unrecorded cds.

Registered envelope 2 As., uprated with 1A. and 2 As., cancelled "B" (Proud K7), with Registration cachet (R4) and an unrecorded datestamp similar to Proud D5 but with the year included. Dep. 12.2, transit Karachi 28.2, arr. Lucknow 4.3.



Iraq

1892, squared circles to rare destinations.

"BAGDAD" on cover front with pair India 1/2A. to Kathmandu (21.5.92).



"BUSRAH" (9.4.92, latest recorded date) on cover via Bombay (23.4) to Melbourne (24.5), franked with pair India 2 1/2 As.

Iraq

1892, Turkey 5 Pia. used from Bagdad.

Overweight registered commercial cover from the Ottoman P.O. in Bagdad via London to Leeds (1900). Scarce high value franking.



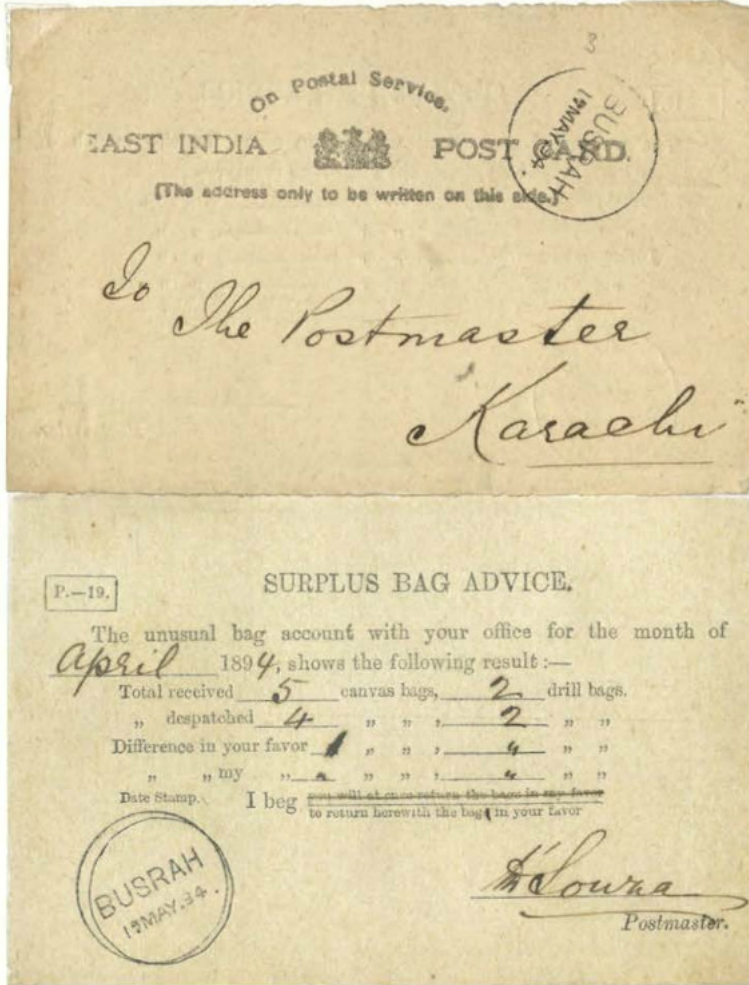
Iraq

1894, registration envelope 2 As., uprated with ½ A. and 2 As. (=4 ½ As. rate), from Bagdad (11.2) via Sea Post Office B (3.3) and Aden (8.3) to Tanga, German E. Africa (3.4), and forwarded to Dar-Es-Salaam (5.4). A rare destination.



Iraq

1894, "SURPLUS BAG ADVICE" on Postal Service postcard from Basra (19.5) to Karachi with superb strikes of an unrecorded cds, similar to Proud D5, but with the year included. Ex Parsons.



Iraq

1894-1905, rare destinations



1894 Registered
 "AR No.35",
 4 Pia rate, from
 Bagdad (18.7)
 via Port Said
 (3.8), London
 (11.8), Liverpool
 (13.8) to Sierra
 Leone (1.9) with
 1 Pia. (2), 20
 Pa. (pair) + 10
 Pa. (4) on front
 and reverse

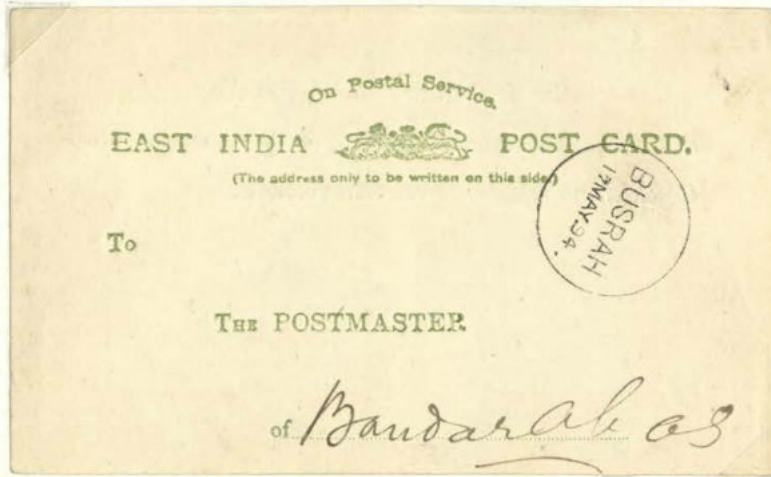
1905,
 Registered from
 Moussoul via
 Constantinople
 to Togo and re-
 directed to
 Cameroon with
 2 x 1 Pia.



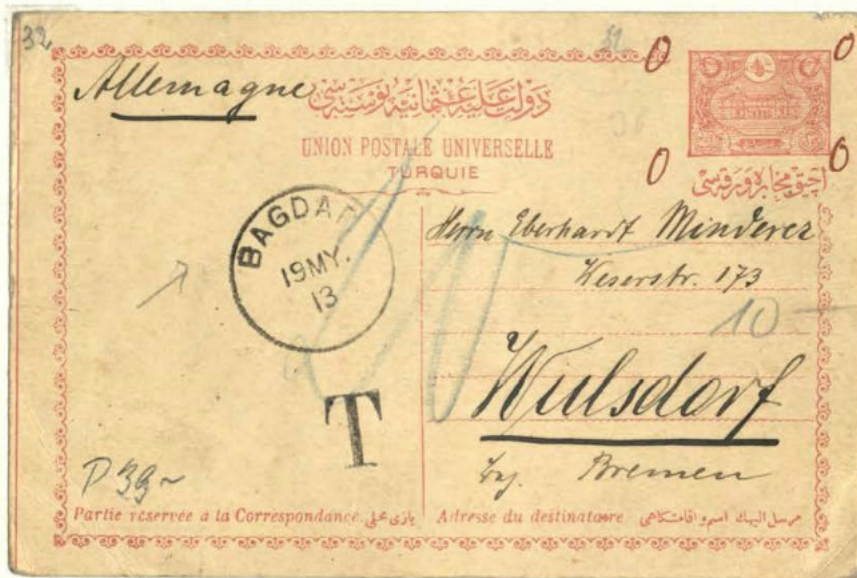
Iraq

1894-1913, British Post Offices

1894, "On Postal Service" postcard from Basra to Bandar Abbas. "The only recorded example used in Iraq." (Proud)



1913, Turkish Postcard 20 Pa., by mistake posted at the British instead of the Ottoman Post Office in Bagdad (19.5) and therefore taxed. The "T" mark used 16 (!) years later than recorded in the Proud Handbook.



Iraq

1890, Ottoman P.O. in Kirkuk

Registered cover with intact seals, franked with Empire 1 Pia. and 2 Pia., cancelled with the all-Arabic triple framed "Kirkuk" (CW Type 61), to Constantinople.



Iraq

1890-94, "MOSSOUL/ TURQUIE".

Double-ring cds with the rare spelling for this type (instead of "MOUSSOUL"), used on Turkey Empire 1 Pia. on the reverse of a receipt for a registered letter and on a 20 Pa. card via Constantinople to Germany, re-directed to England.



Iraq

1897, incoming taxed commercial cover from Shiraz (Iran), posted unpaid in Bushire (27.3) to Bagdad (9.4, Proud D8, one year earlier than recorded) where it also received the Proud UP 5 and UP 11 tax markings (earliest recorded dates). The cover was then sent on to "Karbla" (Kerbela) where 1 Pia. was added and cancelled to pay the postage due. A remarkable combination.



Iraq

1899, Ottoman P.O. in Bagdad

Registered Cover from Bagdad (16.12) to Valparaiso/ Chile (arr. cds. 19.1.00)
where it was re-registered. Seven seals on reverse. A rare destination.



Iraq

1901, "NEDJEF/ECHREF" in red.

Cover from the Ottoman P.O. via Bagdad and Teheran to Rasht, franked with Turkey, 1901, Foreign Mail 10 Paras (4) and Domestic Mail 2 Pia. (=3 Pia. rate), cancelled with three strikes of the NEDJEF/ECHREF cds. in red. Not recorded by Coles Walker in this colour.



Iraq

1901, Turkey 20 Pa. on picture postcard from Bagdad (28.8) via Port Said (7.9) and Singapore (11.10) to Saigon (14.10). A rare destination.



1901, Turkey 20 Pa. and 1 Pia. on registered picture postcard from Bagdad (8.12) to Bonn (30.12). A very scarce usage.



Iraq

1902, Ottoman P.O. in KIOUT-UL-AMARA (KUT)

Registered cover from Constantinople, franked 1901, 1 Pia. and 2 Pia., to Basra province, Chattra District. As the recipient could not be found, it was returned with man-notations, two strikes of the scarce "KIOUT-UL-AMARA", used four years earlier than recorded by Coles/Walker, and Dersaadet Bab-ali arrival cds.



Iraq

1902-14, registered reply paid postcards to Germany.

1902, double postcard 20 Pa. uprated with 1 Pia. from Bagdad (17.4) to Breslau (14.5), with the reply half attached.

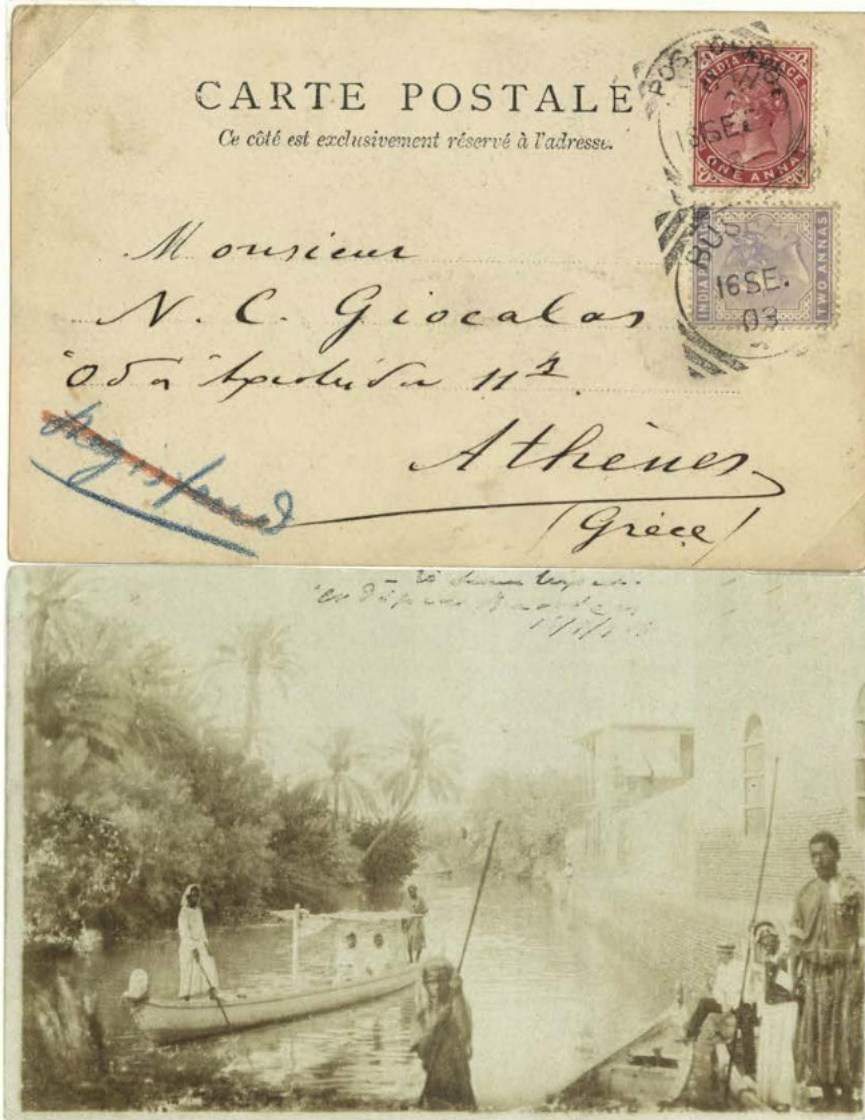


1914, Lettercard 20 Pa., uprated with 2 ½ Pia., from Kéryé Bachi (22.7) via "Bagdad 2" to Brandenburg (15.8). Very scarce usages.

Iraq

1903, postcard to Greece.

Indian P.O. 1A. and 2As. on original photograph postcard from Basra (16.3) with faint "SEA POST OFFICE" cds, to Athens. The Basra squared circle postmark is not recorded used by Proud until 1915! A scarce destination.



Iraq

1903, registered cover from Bagdad (2.3) to HM King Edward VII in London (25.4).

A remarkable showpiece.



Iraq

1903, insured parcel card from Istanbul (5.10) to Bagdad (25.10) with a very high franking of 16x50 = 800 Pia. on the front and reverse.



Iraq

1904, from Bordeaux (3.12) to Basra, requested to be sent "via Bombay" but sent via Beyrouth (12.2) overland to Bagdad (31.12) where it arrived damaged and was annotated, repaired and re-sealed by the Post Office (10.1.05).



Iraq

1904, registered cover from Basra (12.8) via Sea Post Office B (20.8) to Germany (4 ½ As. rate), with the rare oval Austrian Lloyd cachet in green. Cancelled Proud R6, used 7 months earlier than recorded.



Iraq

1906, registered rates to England.

Envelope India 1A. brown, uprated with 2 As. 6Ps. for the 3 1/2 As. registered letter rate. This envelope is scarce used from Iraq.



Registered sample mail from Bagdad (28.3) via London (20.4) to Leeds (21.4 on reverse). A very scarce rate (3As.).

Iraq

1904, Ottoman P.O. in Erbil

Turkish envelopes 1901, 20 Paras, uprated with pair 10 Paras and pair 5 Paras plus 10 Paras respectively, forming the 40 Paras (1 Pia.) rate to Constantinople with arrival cds. on reverse. Travel time two weeks. Very scarce usages.



Iraq

1908, Turkish P.O. in Bagdad.

Registered cover from Bagdad (6.8) to Buenos Aires (3.9), and returned via Galata, Turkey (9.2.09 !) with boxed "NON RÉCLAMÉ" and "REPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE/REBUTS".



A rare destination.

Iraq

1914, undeliverable mail to Basra

England, 2 ½ P. ultramarine on cover with boxed handstamp "VIA BOMBAY", green censor label "G R Opened by Censor", reverse framed "D.L.O. BOMBAY" (8 and 11 DEC. 14), one-line "Stopped by Censor" and manuscript red: "Undeliverable", and label: "No communication between India & the country of destination". A rare survival.



Iraq

1914 (ca.), Ottoman P.O. in Divanie

Turkish envelope 1 Pia. cancelled "DIVANIÉ" in violet and sent to Bagdad. The Isfila Handbook given this postmark the highest rarity rating and records it as unknown on cover. Unique.



Iraq

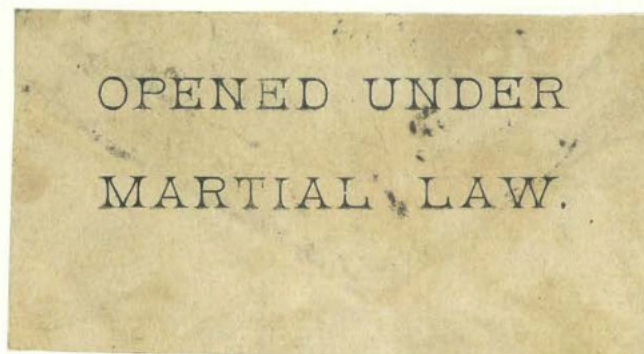
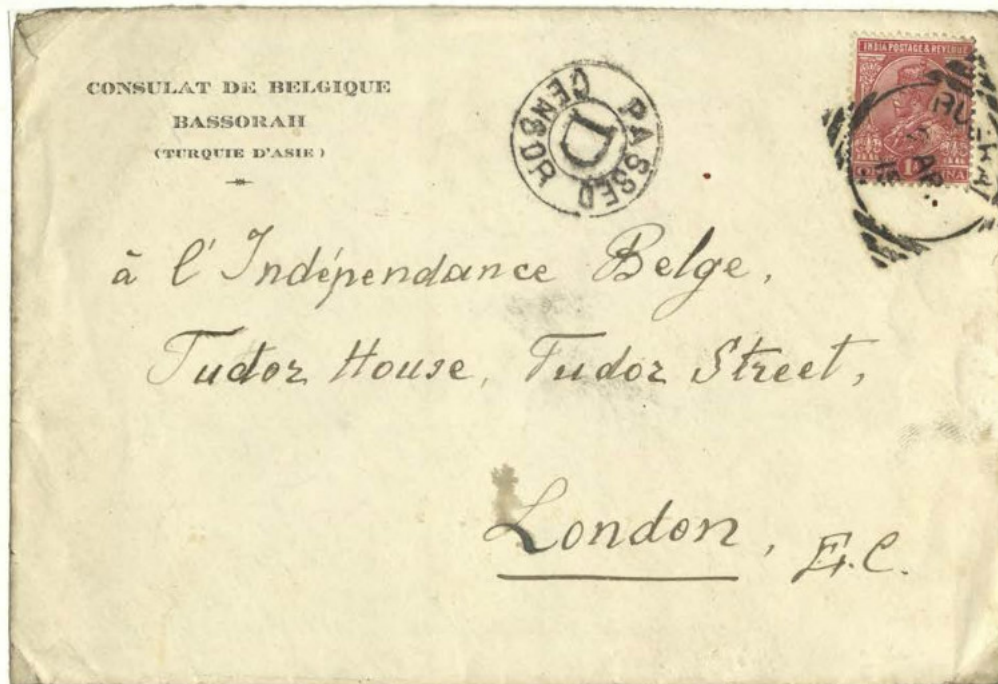
1915, "Advice of Receipt" registered cover "No.7" from Bagdad (17.2) via Kermanshah/Iran (27.2) and Teheran (8.3) to Afghanistan, franked with Turkey 1 ¼ Pia and 2 Pia. An extremely rare destination and usage.



Iraq

1915, "BUSRAH" large squared Circle (KD 10)

1A. on cover from the Belgian Consulate to London, with the earliest recorded strike of this postmark after the defeat of the Ottomans and the re-opening of the post office. Re-sealed with the scarce large "OPENED UNDER/ MARTIAL LAW" label.



Iraq



1879
 "Fao/ Turkish Arabia"
 Telegraphic cancellation

1915, "Fao"

Soldier's cover from the Assistant Surgeon in Fao to Bombay (dep. 14.10, arr. 19.10) and cover franked ½ A. to Karachi (dep. 18.9, arr. 25.9), censored on arrival, both with Proud KD2 cds. used 7 years (!) earlier than recorded. Illustrated in Parsons (Fig. 65).



Iraq

1916, cover from Simla/India (7.12) to H. St. John Philby in Basra (23.12), re-directed first to Qalat Saleh (arr. 30.12, dep. 31.12, earliest recorded dates) then to Amara (2.1.17). War relief fund Vignette 1/2 A. on the reverse. Philby served in Iraq before being appointed British representative to the Nejd.



Iraq

1916, "Iraq Karargahi No. 1" (Ottoman Headquarters, Bagdad) on Turkey 10 Pa. and 20 Pa. on provisional field postcard to Damascus.

A rare cancellation (CW Type 104).



Iraq

1916, Suk-Esh-Sheyukh (9.9)

Superb full strike on block of four IEF 4 As.

"The only one recorded" from this office (Parsons) and illustrated in "The Indian Postal Agencies in the Persian Gulf Area" (Fig. 71).



The second recorded example.

Ex Ted Proud collection.

Iraq

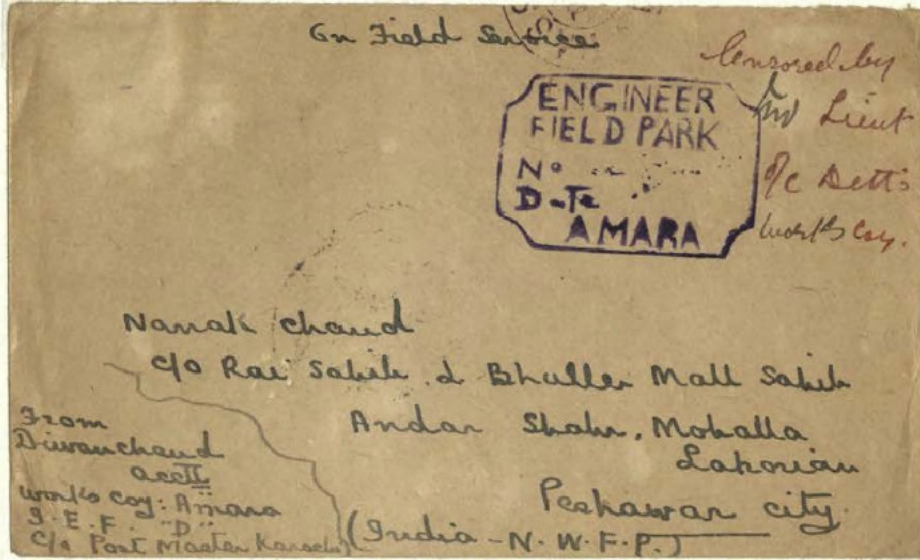
1916, incoming parcel card 10F. from Hungary, upgraded with 25F., 50F. and 2Kr., containing cigarette papers, sent from Sopron (4.4), arriving "Moussoul 1" (7.1.17 - almost 8 months later!). There the parcel was stored another two months before it was collected and the fee of 8x5=40 Pa. paid (cds. 1.3.17). A scarce origin.



Iraq

1916-18, World War I Military Mail

1916 (19.3): "Field Service" stampless cover to Peshawar City struck on reverse with Indian F.P.O. 32 cds (based at Kut) and Peshawar arrival cds (March 28th) alongside. Extraordinary "Engineer Field Park-Amara" cachet.



1918, Ottoman 'SAHRA POSTASI 7' (Fieldpost 7) on officers' Mail (which had to be franked) with negative regimental seal, from Kirkuk (3.11) to Stamboul (22.11). Very scarce



Iraq

1917, "BAGDAD" overprint 2 Ans. on Turkey 1 Pia. in combination with I.E.F. (Indian Expeditionary Force) ½ A. on a registered cover from Bagdad (19.9) to Bombay (arr. 8.10.17 on reverse), with man. "Censor Bombay" (signed).



A very rare commercial usage of this short-lived provisional issue. Ex Schaefer collection.

Iraq

1917, Occupation of Bagdad

1 An. on 20 Pa., 2 An. on 1 Pia. blue and 2 An. on 1 Pia. violet/ black on censored registered cover via Karachi (2.10) to Calcutta (6.10) and forwarded to Quetta (10.10). The majority of the known covers of this issue are philatelic and/ or local. There are only three recorded to India, including the two registered shown here.

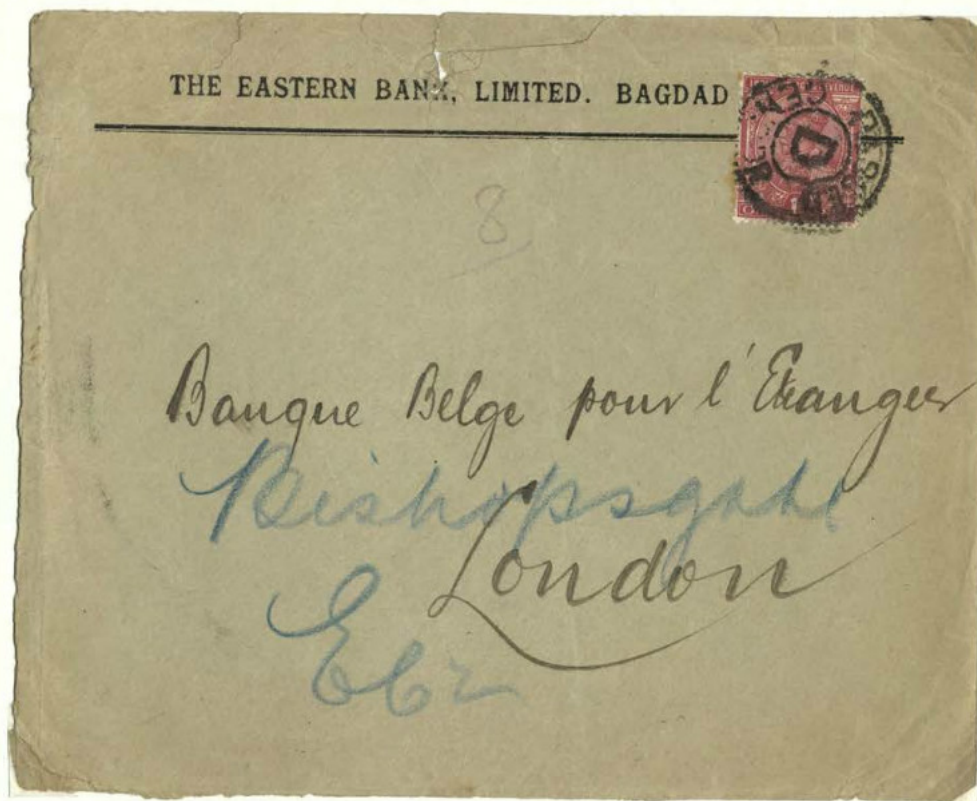


Iraq

1917, 1A. on bank cover from Bagdad to London, cancelled by the
"PASSED CENSOR/D" handstamp only.

Bagdad was captured by the I.E.F. 'D'. on 11 March 1917, and field post offices opened.
This cover is from the period before civilian P.O.'s commenced operation and received
special treatment.

A very scarce provisional usage.



Iraq

1917, Qalat Saleh (27.3, Proud KD1) on soldier's envelope to Bombay (9.4) and 1919 (3.1, Proud D2) on local packet post registered entire, franked 4 An., 6 An. and 8 An. "Covers are few" (Parsons), illustrated in his handbook (Fig. 70).

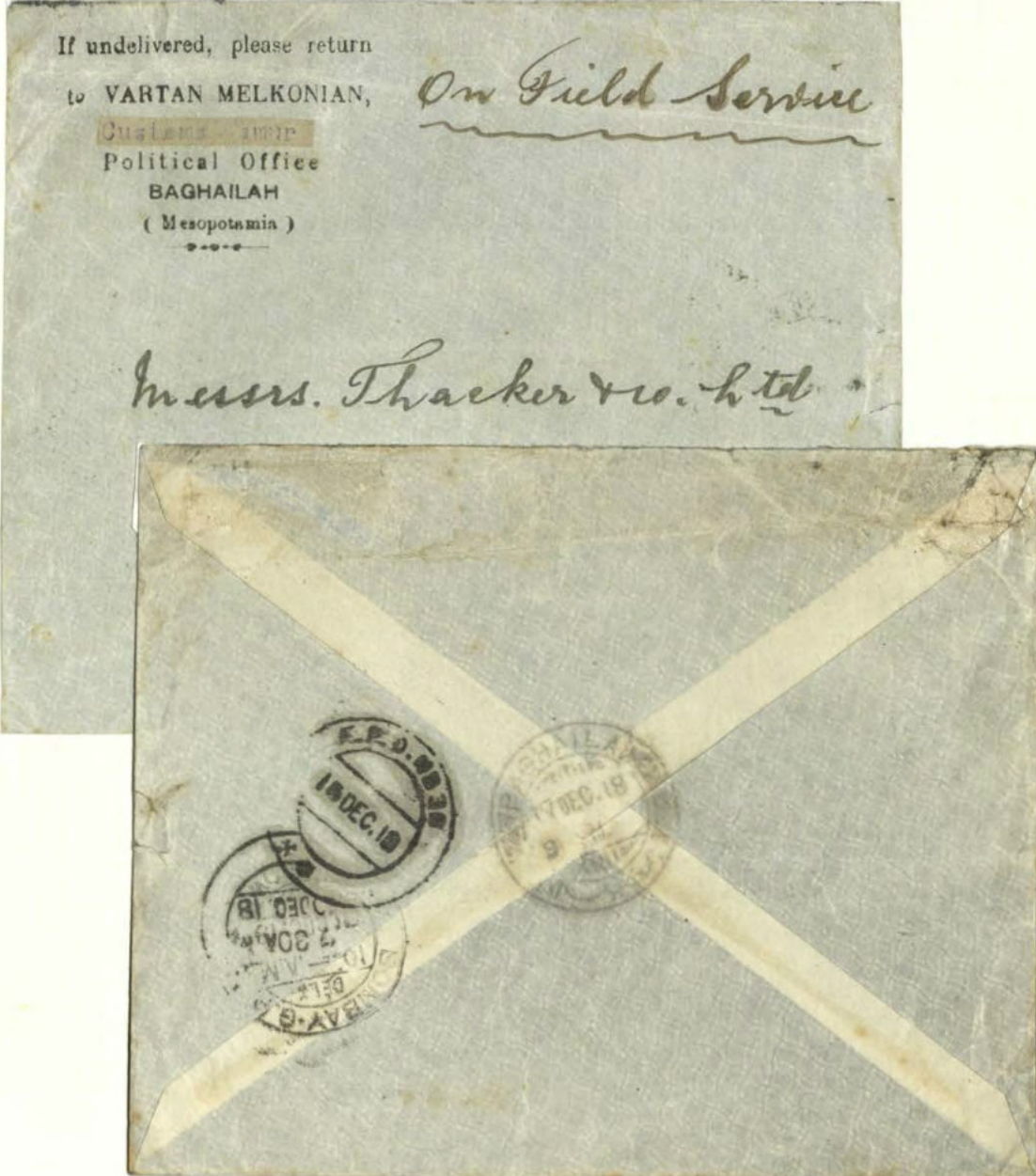


Iraq

1918, Baghaila

On Field Service cover to Bombay (dep. 17.12, FPO 36 18.12, arr. 30.12)

This is the only recorded cover from the Indian P.O. period, prior to the transfer to the Iraqi Postal Administration in 1919, when it became a sub post office to Kut.



Iraq

1918, registered cover from Mosul (27.12) to Zambes/ Belgium (24.1), franked with ½ An. and 4 An.

Mosul was occupied on 1.11.18 and a P.O. was opened using overprinted British occupation stamps. Due to French objections, as the status of Mosul had not yet been determined, these were withdrawn after a few days. The only recorded entire from this period. Illustrated in Parsons (Fig. 66).



Iraq

1919, 1An. and 3An. on parcel tag from the official photographer, sent registered from Bagdad to "General Staff Headquarters, South Kurdistan Force", endorsed "via Sulamaniyah", deleted in red, and "APO 104". Kirkuk arrival cds. (Proud R2 – by far the earliest recorded date). A rare survival.



Iraq

1919, telegramme from Najaf to the Military Government in Bagdad, asking that a Bagdad resident be informed that a house he owns in Najaf "is now in dangerous condition" and must be attended to "within five days", otherwise he will be dealt with "under section 326 Bagdad Penal Code".

ARMY FORM 6121
Modified for (A.S.M.)
(Is books of 1918)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS

No. of Message **275**

From: **57** To: **57**

Place: **Bagdad** Date: **11/7/40**

By: **WR**

TO: **mil go Bagdad**

File's Number: **2877** In reply to Number: **AAA**

HADI HADI MAMALATCHI
OF MAHALLAT BAB ALAGHA
SUQ SAFATIR Bagdad owns
house in najaf which
is now in danger
in condition and please
warn him attend to
it at once within five

From: _____
Place: _____
Time: _____

DATE: **28/7/19** (Z) Signature of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

*This form should be erased if not required, except A. A. A.

Red Head & Seal—2574—24-7-18—8,00,000 Nos. (Edn. II).

Red Head & Seal—2574—24-7-18—8,00,000 Nos. (Edn. II).

Iraq

1920, censor handstamp used as cancellation.

½ An. on 10 Paras (3) on cover from Basrah (23.12 on reverse) to Amsterdam(25.1.21), the stamp only cancelled with the violet "M/1264" military censor's handstamp. An unrecorded usage.



Iraq

1920, re-sealed in Turkey.

Censored registered cover from Bagdad (21.4) with 9 x ½ An., sent via London (21.5 – one month later) to Galata, Turkey, where the cover was opened and re-sealed by the censor with provisional labels, tied by cds (5.6). Also cds “ARMY POST OFFICE” (4.?20 – the month cannot be deciphered).



Iraq

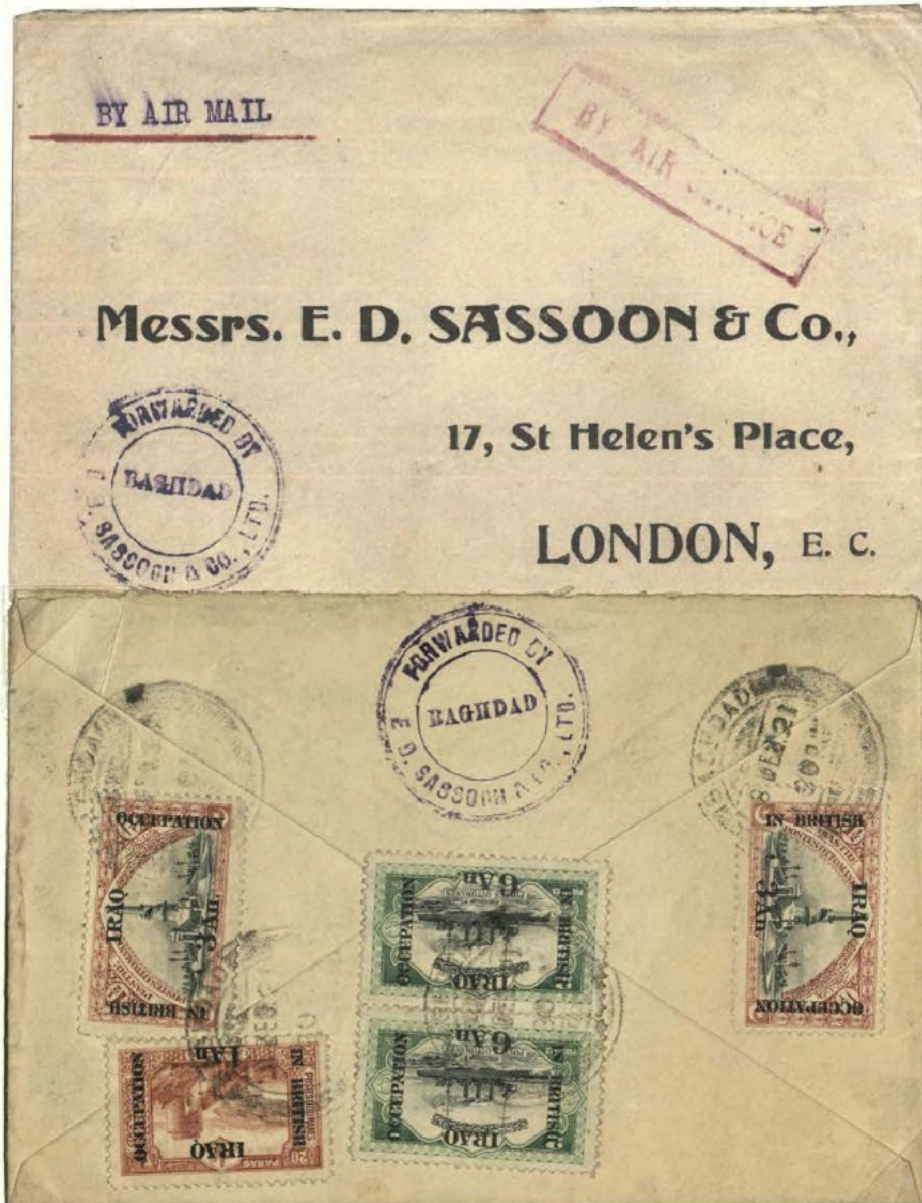
1921, registered cover from Bagdad to France, re-sealed and with cachet "ACCIDENT EN MER / COURRIER INONDÉ". Damaged on the SS. KALYAN during a storm in the Mediterranean. The only recorded item from Iraq.



Iraq

1921, Forwarding Agents.

Airmail cover with 1 An., 3 An. (2) and 6 An. (2) from Bagdad (8.12), with violet double-ring "FORWARDED BY / E.D. SASSOON CO LTD/ BAGDAD" and boxed red "BY AIR SERVICE", sent to their office in London. This service was used for urgent and important mail. From the 18th century, the Sassoons were one of the wealthiest families in the world, with a merchant empire spanning the continent of Asia.



Iraq

1921, "Baghdad Dead Letter Office".

Registered cover from Bagdad (18.5) to France (26.6), redirected (29.6) and ultimately returned with "RETOUR/ A L'ENVOYEUR/ 7158" handstamp to the D.L.O BAGHDAD (9.8) (Proud D2, earliest recorded date). The sender was identified, the cover received a D.L.O. label, was re-posted from there (27.8) and delivered ("BAGDAD/ REG" cds 29.8).



Iraq

1921-24, Overland Mail Bagdad-Haiifa

1921, OHMS Military cover via Basra (29.8), signed for free soldier's rate and with bilingual red label.



In 1924 the Nairn Transport Company was founded, to improve the facilities on this route.



Original label.



New 18-Wheeler alongside the original type coach.

Iraq

1925, "Overland Haifa-Bagdad"

Cover from Lydd/ England (8.9), franked 5 ½ d., sent overland on the very rarely used West to East route, via Bagdad (20.9) to Mosul (21.9).



Iraq

1923, registered mail to Mexico.

Envelope 1 An. uprated with 6 An., registered from Bagdad H.Q. (3.1, registered 4.1) via London (29.1) and N. Laredo (3.3) to Monterrey (4.3) in Mexico. A very scarce destination from this period.



Iraq

1923, re-sealed in England.

Overweight cover from Bagdad cantonment (3.3), franked with 1 An. (3), 1 1/2 an. (2), 6 An. (2) and 8 An. (26 As. rate), possibly containing photographs, to England, where it arrived open or torn and was officially re-sealed and re-directed. A very high rate.





Iraq

1926, the unique set of Printer's Colour proofs for the King Faisal 1 Rupee

Card from the printers, Bradbury Wilkinson, with 7 different proofs with the accepted colour marked "Colour appd. by Govt. of Iraq, 27/X/26".



Iraq

1927 cover to England bearing airmail label but with 1923 1a, 1½ a and 2a adhesives tied by Basra 'Paquebot' in black. The earliest recorded use of this handstamp.



"BASRAH"

11.12.27

on reverse

Iraq

1927, "Civil P.O. No.1 REG." (5.5) (Sulemaniyah)

On registered airmail cover via Bagdad (5.5) and Cairo (6.5) to Berlin (16.5).

This postmark for registered mail is not recorded in Proud.



Iraq

1928, INTERNAL AIR MAILS, BAGDAD TO ABU SUWEIR

The normal practice on flights from Hinaidi (Baghdad airport) to Egypt was for the pilots to stop one night at Ziza near Amman or at Ramleh in Palestine and also take on fuel at one of the landing points. However on the flight of the 14th October 1928 the Vickers Victoria J 8233 piloted by Flying Officer Switzer and crewed by LAC Cox (mechanic) and LAC Sharp (wireless operator) completed the flight non stop. A telegram was sent by the Commanding Officer in Baghdad to the RAF Depot at Abu Suweir congratulating the pilot and crew.



(29937) Wt. 18/91/792 60m pads 1/28 Harrow E.4474

R.A.F. Form 96.

MESSAGE FORM.

Charge.

Serial No. of Telegram

*The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromising distinguishing signals, etc., by omitting to remove their significance from the address, etc., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to be re-inserted in P.L.

For Postage Stamps
To be affixed by the Sender,
and
Date Stamp.

IN
Call.—
OUT

Series No.	Service Instructions.	Indication of Priority.	Words.	Time handed in
24				

Special Instructions.

TO*

FROM*

(Write horizontally).

TO: 70 Sqdn
FROM: 2/536 15/10 following for
F/O Switzer via 8233 and Congratulate
you for yourself and crew on your
fine performance in reaching a business
yesterday =

System	IN	OUT
Reader		
Sender		
TIME OF	1315	1330

Degree of Priority*

This message must be sent { AS WRITTEN } and may be sent by W/T.

Originator's Special Instructions and Signature.*

TIME OF ORIGIN. 0930
T.O.R. 1343

† If the message is not to be transmitted by W/T over any portion of its route either in P/L or cypber the originator will insert "NOT" in the blank space. ‡ Strike out words inapplicable.

Iraq

1929, special Flight Bagdad-Cairo-London. As the Airliner left Bagdad early – as per the enclosed cutting – the mail was taken by RAF to Cairo, but returned from there.

**INDIA AIR LINER'S
HUSTLE COMEDY.**

18-4-29

**R.A.F.'S VAIN CHASE WITH
MAILS ACROSS DESERT.**

BAGDAD, Tuesday.

Great surprise was caused here by the new air liner from India leaving Bagdad this morning three hours before the scheduled time without collecting the heavy local mail.

The liner, which was due here this morning, arrived last night. No explanation of the early departure to-day was offered to the Iraq authorities.

The Air Force endeavoured to cope with the emergency by detailing three Service machines to carry the Iraq mails to Cairo in the endeavour to overtake the air liner there.

They duly left, but the latest information is that the liner, which was due to stop at Gaza to-night, continued its journey to Cairo, where it arrived safely, and then left again for Alexandria.

Among the passengers on the liner was Viscount Chetwynd, chairman of Imperial Airways.—Reuter.



Iraq

1928, incoming mail to Maqil

Underpaid cover from England to the Iraq Railways in Maqil, with transit cds. of Basra (Proud D11 and DY6) and "BAGHDAD/ DELY". (DY3), octagonal "BAGHDAD/ UNPAID" (UP20) and "BASRA/ UNPAID" (as UP20 but unrecorded bilingual type), framed "POSTAGE DUE/ (2) ANNAS", half-circle "BAGDAD/ DUE/ 2As." (Proud UP17, used 9 months later than recorded) and Maqil arrival cds.



Iraq

1929, registered letter from Zagreb (19.10) to Korrisos, Greece (24.10), returned via Thessaloniki (31.10), Hekalion (1.11) and Prague (3.11) back to Zagreb (5.11), from where it was re-sent to Basra (arr. 22.11), where it received man. "Not known at Basrah/ 28. XI" in red ink and was sent on (4.12) to the Bagdad DLO (6.12) from where it was eventually (10.1.29) returned to the sender. A remarkable routing!



Iraq

1929, registered letter from Beirut (24.11) to Bagdad (7.12 and 11.12) with unrecorded framed "INCONNU/ NOT KNOWN" and D.L.O. datestamps of 13.12 and 15.1.25 when it was sent on to Basra to be returned to sender via Port Taufiq (8.2), and Qantara (8.12) to Beyrouth (arr. 9.2, returned 10.2). The "DEAD LETTER OFFICE BAGHDAD" label is rare.



Iraq

1929-30, photographic essays for two airmail sets in unissued designs. Ex De La Rue archives. Unique.



Iraq

1931-34, photographic essays for two unissued airmail sets. Ex De La Rue archives.

Unique.





Iraq

1930, late "Paquebot" Basra.

Underpaid cover from Basra (27.2) (D11, latest recorded date) to Bombay (arr. 8.3, delivered 10.3), where it was taxed 4 As., double the new 2 As. rate. It would appear that the 1A. franking on the reverse was ignored! This was cancelled with a very worn first type "PAQUEBOT". Ex Proud.



Iraq

1930-35, pair of registered airmail covers from Bagdad to Germany, one by "First Special Airmail Bagdad - Berlin" and returned as not called for, the other re-directed on arrival, with different "LATE FEE" hs. in violet ("Annas six" and "15 FILS"), both unrecorded in Proud.



Iraq

1931, underpaid cover form Samawah to France, franked with 2 As. with alongside "T" and unrecorded bilingual "SAMAWAH" postage due handstamp. On reverse Bagdad transit and Paris arrival cds. Proud does not record any branch post office having been allocated a postage due handstamp.



Iraq

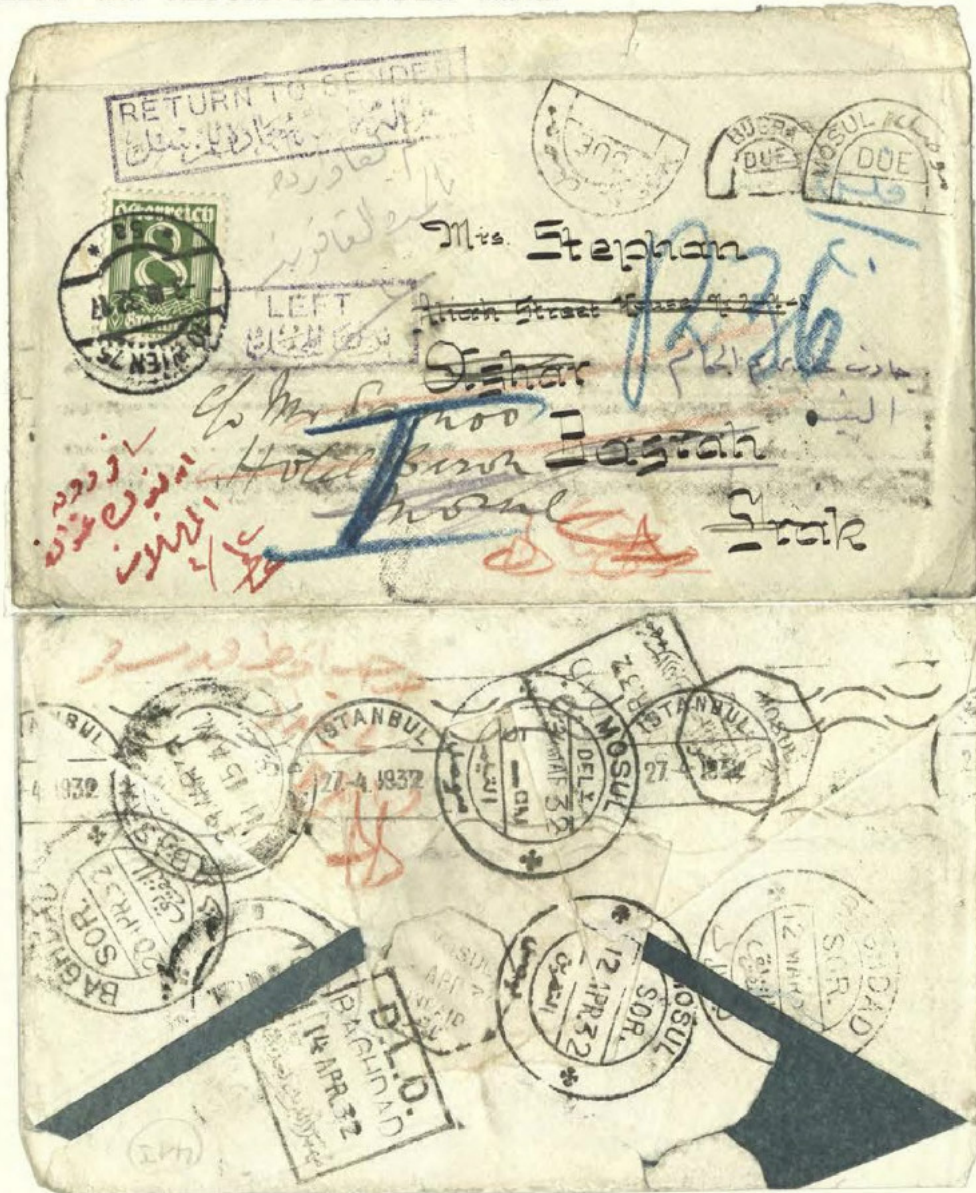
1932, remarkable returned cover from Austria to Basrah with several different unrecorded markings

Postmarked Wien 3.3, Bagdad 12.3, Basrah 29.3.

Redirected to Mosul, arr. 31.3, dep. 12.4.

DLO Bagdad arr. 14.4, dep. 20.4. Istanbul 27.4

Unrecorded "MOSUL UNPAID", "MOSUL DUE" (large size), "BUGRA DUE", "LEFT" and "RETURN TO SENDER" marks.



Iraq

1932, underpaid and taxed cover from England (11.3), re-directed and returned with a remarkable variety of Iraqi postal markings unrecorded in the Proud handbook, including bilingual boxed "RETURN TO SENDER" and "PARTI SANS LAISSER D'ADRESSE", "BAGDAD DUE" and "POSTAGE DUE" both without currency printed, "BASRAH" (28.3) and "BAGDAD" (30.3) in unrecorded types, also rare "UR JUNCTION" (26.3) and "D.L.O. BAGDAD" (2.4 and 6.4) both 2 years later than recorded, "BASRAH/ UNPAID" (25.3), "BAGDAD/ UNPAID" (30.3).



Iraq

1932-34, "INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID/ FOR AIR MAIL SERVICE"

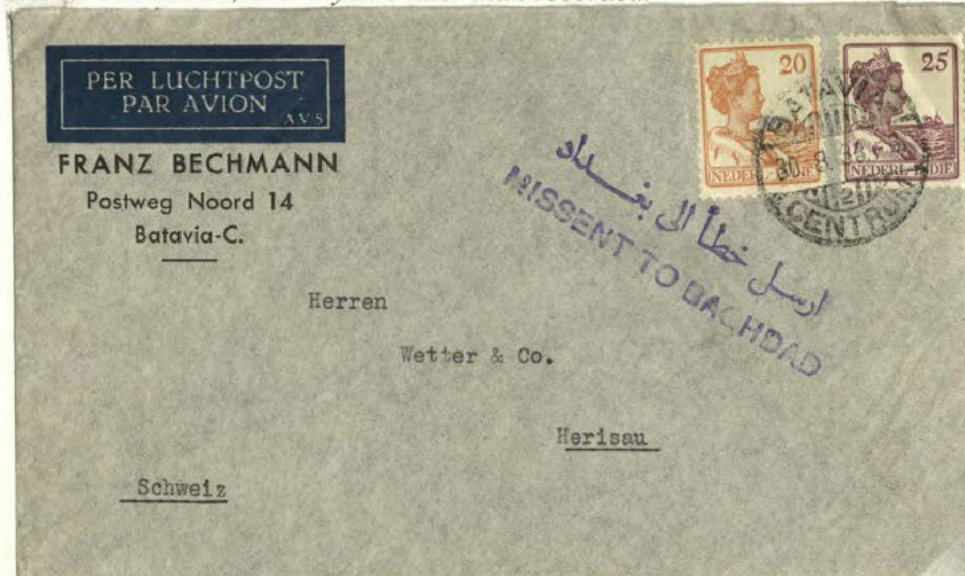
1932 cover franked 6 As. to London and 1934 cover franked 5F. to Germany, both underpaid, one with "AIR MAIL" deleted, the other taxed on arrival. Superb strikes of the scarce "INSUFFICIENTLY ..." cachets in red and violet.



Iraq

1933-36, "Missent" Handstamps.

1933, bilingual "MISSENT TO BAGDAD" on airmail cover from Netherlands Indies to Switzerland. Proud I 17, over 2 years later than recorded.



1936, prepaid Newspaper wrapper from Hull, GB (10.6) with 1d. red meter frank at top, addressed to Bagdad and struck with the very rare "MISSENT TO BASRAH" framed bilingual handstamp in violet. On reverse Basra (20.6) and Baghdad arrival (21.6) postmark. Not recorded in the Proud or Pearson handbooks.



Iraq

1933, 9th Zeppelin America flight

Registered cover flown from Bagdad (5.10) to Germany and then by Zeppelin to Pernambuco / Brazil (17.10) and onto N. America with the connecting flight, showing both cachets. Very few exist from Iraq.



Iraq

1933, Zeppelin Mail Mixed Franking.

Registered by Airmail from Bagdad (8.10) to Halle/ Germany (12.10) where it was additionally franked with the scarce "Chicagofahrt" 4 RM. Zeppelin stamp and carried on the jubilee Zeppelin Flight to the Chicago World Exhibition (dep. Friedrichshafen 14.10), and back on the return flight to Friedrichshafen (2.11).



A remarkable combination cover.

Iraq

1933, 7th Zeppelin S. America flight

Registered cover flown by Imperial Airways from Bagdad (7.9) to London (11.9), where additional postage was added, then by air to Germany and by Zeppelin to Buenos Aires (21.9) and onwards with the connecting flight. Blue and red Zeppelin cachets. A rare combination from Iraq.



Iraq

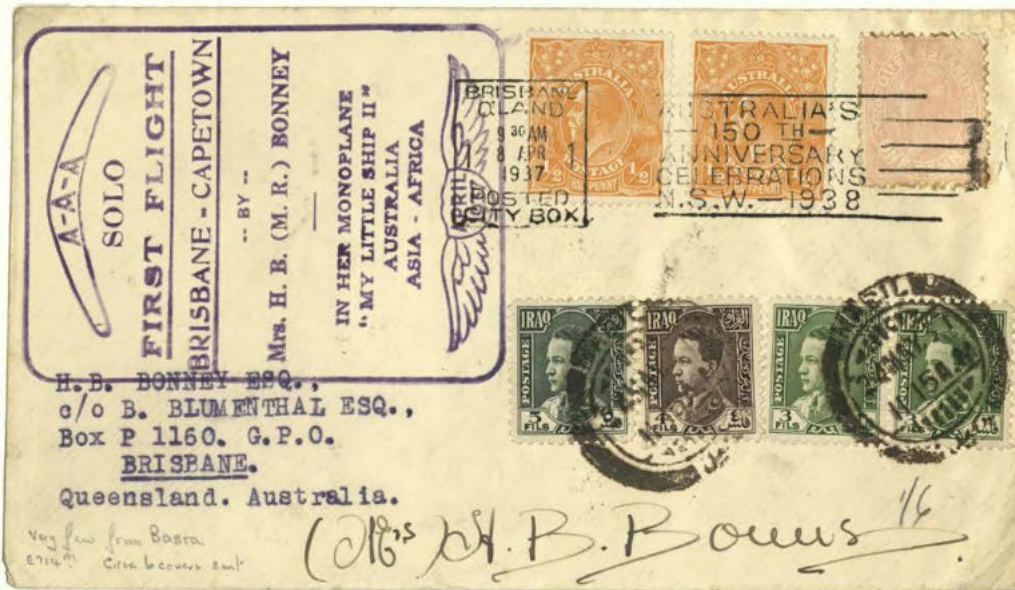
1938, insured money letter with five intact seals from Bagdad (20.8) to Budapest (31.8). A scarce destination.



Iraq

1938, First Solo Flight cover from Brisbane (8.4) to Cape Town, re-posted in Basra (24.5) to Bombay (5.6), signed by the pilot, Mrs. Bonney.

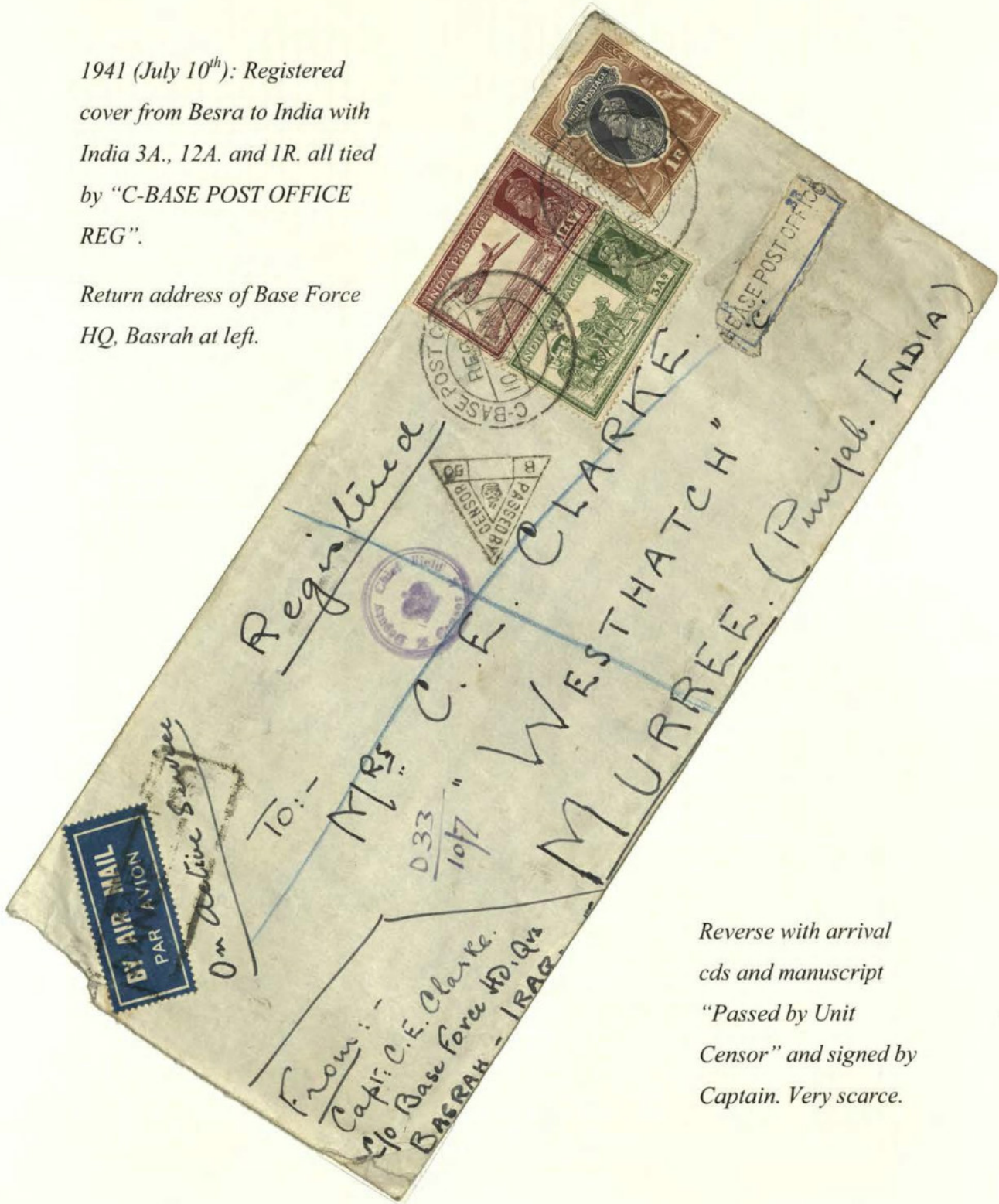
Mixed Australian (2p.) and Iraq (15 F.) franking. Only 6 covers flown.



Iraq

1941 (July 10th): Registered cover from Basra to India with India 3A., 12A. and 1R. all tied by "C-BASE POST OFFICE REG".

Return address of Base Force HQ, Basrah at left.



Reverse with arrival cds and manuscript "Passed by Unit Censor" and signed by Captain. Very scarce.

Iraq

1945 (ca.), India KG VI 3 Ps. (2), 3 As and 8 As (2) (=19 1/2 As.) on large wrapper to England, stamps cancelled by oval "Fleet Mail Office/ Basra" cachets.
Carried by 'Safe Hand'. Most unusual.



Iraq

1955 Engineering Conference, The unique set of Die Proofs



Master Die Proof



3 f. with requested changes



3 f. in issued colour



10 f. in issued colour



28 f. with changes



28 f. in rejected colour



28 f. in issued colour

Iraq

1957-58, King Faisal II, the unrecorded values

60 f.
Die Proof



This value was not included in either the issued or unissued sets

Proof of the unrecorded 16 f. value on printers' proof card, with the issued 10 f. and 5 values unissued due to the 1958 revolution



BRADBURY, WILKINSON & COMPANY, LTD.
NEW MALDEN, SURREY,
ENGLAND.

Iraq

1958, Die Proofs for the Iraq-Jordan "Arab Union" issue,

which was aborted by the 1958 Iraq Revolution. Only one other set known.



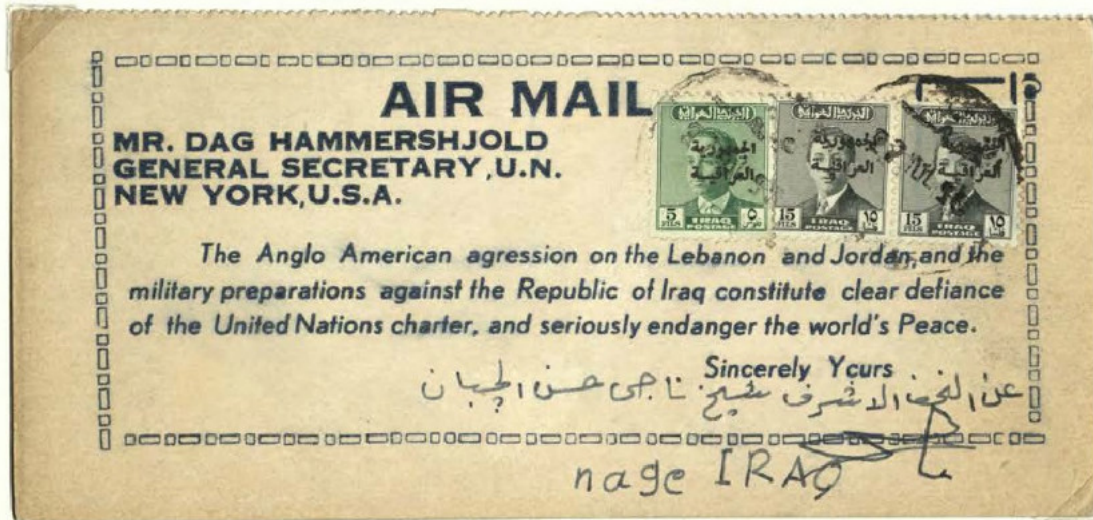
Master Die Proof with rejected "ARAB FEDERATION" inscription

Inscribed "ARAB UNION"



Iraq

1958, printed cards distributed by the government, to be signed and sent to the UN Secretary – General, Dag Hammarskjöld, protesting against Western intervention.



DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES PTT * ARCHIVE DES TIMBRES-POSTE SUISSES ET ÉTRANGERS 427

Irak / « Général Kassem »

Hélio-essais sans suite

38



Dessins: Courvoisier S. A.

Phases d'impression

Actes N° 563.3.21 du 11.4.60

Iraq

1966, Army Day, proof set from the Austrian State Printers' office in original folder, with annotations and samples for the corrections to the Arabic value on two stamps. On the reverse, notes by the Postmaster General, signed and handstamps 'DE Stamp Section/ Baghdad' Unique.



Imprimatur
355

IRAKI

10th June 1966



ÖSTERREICHISCHE

Please see overleaf.

OK

ع. نسأ



A.

B.



Iraq

1966, Tourist Union set in original folder from the Austrian State Printers' Archive. Manuscript notations and instructions by the Postmaster General in Bagdad regarding corrections. Unique.

211/II



STAATSDRUCKEREI WIEN

فلسان ٢
2 Fils



N.B. 1-Please note that the Arabic value for 2 Fils
should be like the 2 Fils of Army day, 1966
which was printed by you.
P.T.O.

Iraq

1971, Islamic Year 10 F.

Rejected proof mounted on card from the printers with manuscript corrections including the demand for the English text. Unique.



Iraq

1981, Air Force and Kuwait Hajj sets in issued colours se-tenant as collective proof. Joint proofs of issues of different countries are very rare. (Three known).

