## 1957 World Scout Jubilee Jamboree overprints for Kuwait

Hallvard Slettebö

It is well known to Scout stamp collectors that the G.B. set of three stamps for the Jubilee Jamboree were overprinted for use in the territories of Bahrain, Muscat and Qatar. Less known is the fact that overprints were also prepared and sent to Kuwait. The Journal of the Scout Stamp Collectors Club Vol 1 No 4, January 1958, gives this explanation: "Supplies for Kuwait were sent to the territory but were not put on sale because the Ruler of the territory said he would prefer that the stamps were not issued in view of the agreement with certain Arab countries to boycott the Jamboree on account of the Suez incident!".



Overprint on two lines: KUWAIT 15 NP



Overprint on three lines: KUWAIT

25

NP



Overprint on three lines: KUWAIT 75 NP

This sheet (120 set) of 4d. Boy Scout Jamboree stamps from a supply printed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons Ltd. at High Wycembe, Bucks. under their centract commenced 21st September 1955, was taken for registration of the first overprint KUWAIT 25 NP on Queen Elizabeth Boy Scout Jamboree stamps printed on paper with St. Edward's Crown watermark but in accordance with registered papers 72478/56 were not put on sale.

The overprinting was performed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons Ltd. under their contract 85567P dated 19th July 1957.

Chief Executive Officer

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Supplies Dept.,
Stamp Depot.

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The unissued Kuwait overprints are depicted above. Unfortunately, the black and white reproductions results in rather dark images. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that images of the unissued Kuwait overprints are shown in the philatelic press. The stamps have not appeared on the market, and they are not known in private hands. The only known sheets are in the Royal Mail archive and collections. These so-called registration sheets have an inscription and approval handstamp on reverse, as shown in the illustration. This inscription refers to "registered papers 72478/56", and these papers would likely have told us more about why the stamps were not put on sale. Unfortunately, it

appears that the stated papers are not present in the Archives of the Postal Heritage Trust in London (formerly the National Postal Museum).

The Royal Mail archive and collections held by the Postal Heritage Trust also have a "Provision Card" for each issued postage stamp. This card represents an account of how many sheets were prepared, how many were sent to the Postmaster and how many to stamp dealers. The cards for the Kuwait overprints show the number of sheets which were sent to the Postmaster: 1,200 sheets of the 2½d stamp (there were 120 stamps in each sheet), 800 sheets of the 4d stamp, and 400 sheets of the 1s 3d value.

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The figure above shows the Provision Card for the 1s 3d value of the Kuwait overprint. 400 sheets were sent to the Postmaster 'Persian Gulf' in July/August, and the same 400 sheets were returned in December.

Although the overprints for Kuwait never were put on sale, the overprinted World Scout Jubilee Jamboree stamps were issued in Bahrain, Qatar and Muscat, the latter overprints showing the value in local currency only. And, nevertheless, overprinted Scout Jamboree stamps were used in Kuwait: SGSC Bulletin Vol 35 No 4, July/August 1991 tells us about the very scarce usage of these overprints in Kuwait. An example is shown below.

