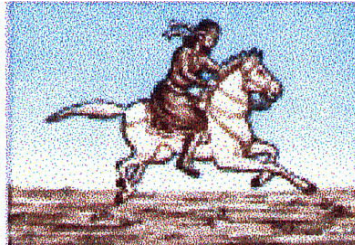


# انجمن مطالعات تمبرشناسی ایران

## Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin No. 206 August 2018



### CONTENTS:

#### Page

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 4367 | Next Meetings   |
| 4367 | Iran Philatelic Study Circle  |
| 4370 | Philatelic and semi philatelic reflections on the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran by Werner Lade |
| 4376 | Mail via Baghdad by Jeremy Stone  |
| 4380 | The 1919 Zinc Plate Issue by Behruz Nassre  |

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Congleton on **1 September 2018** when the **Reza Shah Pahlavi 1935 definitive issue** (SG 787-800, Farahbakhsh 726-739) will be displayed and discussed.

### REMAINING MEETING FOR 2018

**1st December:** Reza Shah Pahlavi 1927 & 1929 Definitives (SG 628-641, Farahbakhsh 562-575) (in London)

### IRAN PHILATELIC STUDY CIRCLE

**Minutes** of the annual general meeting and members' meeting held on Saturday 10 March 2018 at 1-45pm at 97 Burton Stone Lane, York.

Mr N R N Gooch was in the chair and Messrs S Dunn, R Jack and J Stone were in attendance. Apologies were received from Messrs D Davies, G Harries and D Tanner.

The chairman opened the meeting with a tribute to Bernard Lucas who had passed away at the beginning of January. He reported that he had attended the funeral along with Bjorn Sohrne, member from Sweden, and had met representatives of members of

other societies with which Bernard had been associated as well as members of his family.

As a novelty the chairman showed a pair of cufflinks that had been manufactured from two used copies of the mosque definitive issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran!

As a recent acquisition the chairman showed a postcard dated 1 December 1897 from Dilman to Zanzibar via Tabriz and Aden.

No minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2017 were available.

The secretary's report was read to the meeting. This indicated a UK membership of 52 at the end of 2017 – an increase of one. The average attendance at meetings had been five and two successful meetings had been held outside London in addition to a further one in London. Bulletins numbers 203 and 204 were published during the year.

The accounts of the Study Circle for 2017 had been prepared by Jeremy Stone. Total funds (outside the American Chapter) exceed £4,000 and it was noted that the present level of subscription was sufficient.

The current officers were re-appointed by the meeting.

The bulletin editor advised that he hoped to publish Bulletin 205 shortly but would need help with the circulation as he was currently unable to do this due to family commitments. The chairman promised to assist with this at the appropriate moment.

The meeting recorded their thanks to David Davies and Fritz van Beekum for collecting the non-philatelic books donated to the society by the late Tony Zonneveld from his previous home in Holland and delivering them to the librarian.

Members then showed a variety of stamps and covers illustrating the use of the issues of Iran from 1966 to 1970.

The chairman closed the meeting at about 4-30pm and thanked Robert Jack for his hospitality in once again providing a "fish and chip" lunch and the members for their attendance. He indicated that the next meeting would be held at Leicester on 19 May to consider the "Overprints and Surcharges on the first Ahmed Shah Portrait Definitives."

### **Secretary's Report for 2017**

The membership of the study circle outside the American Chapter was 51 at the start of 2017.

I believe we have welcomed one new member in the UK but I am very open to correction by either the treasurer or the bulletin editor if there is anyone I have missed! This left a roll of 52 at 31 December 2017.

I regret to record that our Life President and mentor, Bernard Lucas, passed away on 3 January 2018 – he will be sorely missed. I attended his funeral in Leeds at which there were a number of other philatelists representing other societies where he was a member. We were all made welcome by his senior niece, Helen Ashe, at a wake

where we all reminisced about incidents when we had been with Bernard which all seemed to involve philately, alcohol and curry!

Two of the society's regular meetings were held at members' homes in York and Congleton together with another at Midpex, where the new member was recruited, and a fourth at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

A variety of subject matters, requested by members regularly attending meetings, were discussed and these led to interesting and enjoyable afternoons.

The attendance at meetings is usually four or five.

The editor of the bulletin, Robert Jack, produced two editions (203 - 204) during the year and future editions are always dependent on receiving articles and commentaries for publication.

I would express my thanks to members for their continued support during 2017 and hope that you will join me at meetings in 2018.

### **Treasurer's Report 2017**

Subscriptions and donations for the year were £520 and expenditure was £311, mainly because only the costs for two Bulletins were included. The expenditure also includes £40 for the hire of a room and stand at MIDPEX\*.

The balance at the bank is now £4,293 so the present subscription of £15 seems adequate for our needs\*\*.

\* MIDPEX. Members enjoyed an interesting display on early flight material and two new members were recruited.

\*\* As we generally meet at members' houses the Bulletin is our main expenditure.

### **Iran Philatelic Study Circle– 2017**

#### Income

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Subscriptions/Donations | £520.32 |
|-------------------------|---------|

#### Expenditure

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Bulletin (stationery/postage) | <u>£310.96</u> |
|                               | £209.36        |

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Balance at bank 31/12/2016 | £4,083.70 |
|----------------------------|-----------|

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Balance at bank 31/12/2017 | £4,293.06 |
|----------------------------|-----------|

|  |         |
|--|---------|
|  | £209.36 |
|--|---------|

#### Expenditure

|                       |            |                |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Midpex Room and Stand | 19/12/2016 | £40.00         |
| ABPS subscription     | 8/2/2017   | £25.00         |
| Bulletin 203 costs    | 6/5/2017   | £124.84        |
| Bulletin 204 costs    | 30/8/2017  | <u>£121.12</u> |
|                       |            | £310.96        |

The above excludes the American Chapter.

**Minutes** of the members' meeting held on Saturday 19 May 2018 at 2pm at 23 New Walk, Leicester.

Mr N R N Gooch was in the chair and Messrs G Harries, J Stone and D Tanner were in attendance. Apologies were received from Messrs D Davies, S Dunn and R Jack.

The chairman welcomed members to a new meeting venue and commented on the excellent position close to Leicester station.

As a novelty the chairman showed a certificate of thanks which he had received following a display to the Bishop's Stortford Philatelic Society which was a unique collage of facsimiles of Persian and Iranian material.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2018 were approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

The bulletin editor had advised the chairman that currently he had important family commitments but hoped to produce a further bulletin in due course.

Members present commented on the lack of a revised Stanley Gibbons catalogue of Iranian material.

Members then showed a variety of stamps and covers illustrating the use of the overprints and surcharges on the first Ahmed Shah portrait definitives.

The chairman closed the meeting at about 5pm and thanked Gwynne Harries for his hospitality and the members for their attendance. He indicated that the next meeting would be held at Congleton on 1 September 2018 to consider the Reza Shah Pahlavi 1935 definitive issue.

### **Philatelic and semi philatelic reflections on the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran**

جمعیت شیر و خورشید سرخ ایران

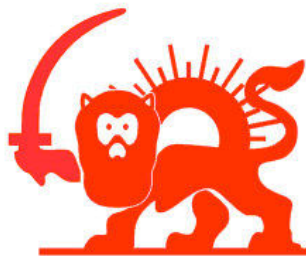
by Werner Lade

The *Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran* was established in 1923 during the regency of Shah Ahmad Ghajar by the physician Dr Amir A'lam. The chronicles say that the earthquake of May 1923 in Bojnourd, Khorasan province, was the reason for it being established. Dr Amir Alam was the director of the local health authority at this time. The society was admitted to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1923.

The Society used the 'Red Lion with Sword and Sun' emblem as its internationally recognised protection symbol:



The illustrations show the historical emblem, and the contemporary version at the right-hand side.



Apart from the field of duties which all national *Red Cross* and *Red Crescent* societies undertake, the Iranian organisation has been deeply involved in the battle against tuberculosis.

In the 1940s the income of the society came mainly from a monthly donation of ten thousand tomans from the former oil company and only few small membership subscriptions. In August 1947 members of the society's board, among others the founder Dr Amir Alam and the director Dr Moazemi, and some dedicated people such as Dr Hussein Khatibi, Mirza Fazl Allah Khan Bahrami and Dr Ali Farahmandi, held a meeting to plan a *Red Lion and Sun Action Week*. The object of this event was to collect donations and to increase the capital of the society. The result of this action week was an additional amount of six hundred thousand tomans. One feature of this action week was the issue of a 1 rial charity stamp with the inscription *Seven Days' Celebration Red Lion and Sun Iran*.



Copy of a single charity stamp

Some believe it was to be used for letters in addition to the letter rates in the first week of November 1947. There are indeed few covers existing with an additional charity stamp affixed but most of the covers which I have seen from this period do not bear one. It is assumed that most of the stamps were bought by generous donors but not used for mail at all.

There is a good case to believe that the income from the action week influenced considerations for permanent revenue. The beginning of the Persian year 1329 (21/3/1950) as the date of issuing compulsory tax stamps was probably not chosen by chance. In the spring of 1950 the *Iranian Red Lion and Sun Hospital* was opened in southern Tehran as a specialised clinic for tuberculosis sufferers.

Up to the present day we do not have exact information as to who had initiated the stamp issues in support of the *Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran*. Despite many attempts we have not been able to find written records. Neither the webpage with the parliamentary decisions of the Pahlavi era nor books in the *National Library of Iran* bear out that the Iranian parliament was involved. There is a good case to believe that the above-named board members had some influence on it. In addition, the twin sister of the Shah, Ashraf Pahlavi, was the Honorary President of the *Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran*. She was also President of the *Imperial Foundation for Social Services*, an organisation which had issued a series of nine charity stamps in the 1940s, mentioned the Ashraf series.

In any event it would have required an order of the Home Office about the surcharges for letter, parcel and telegraph services. We could not find such a document regarding the issues of 1950 but the imprints on telegraph forms of 1962 allow the inference that it was so.

The result was that these three tax stamps were issued in March 1950 and their usage for almost thirty years provided the society with additional income.



The first series of stamps of the 1950 issue

There is no information available on the amount of revenue, or whether it was published in the annual reports of the society.

These stamps and their usage are the main subjects on our homepage's catalogue section and of an exhibit shown there in the exhibit section and will therefore not be described in detail in this article. Some other stamp issues and vignettes relating to the *Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran* will be described hereinafter.

From the year 1966 there are some envelopes of the society, partly in connection with the commemorative issue *Red Cross Centenary* from the year 1963, in part however also only with a single tax stamp.



One could assume that these envelopes should also generate additional revenue, but there is no further information on that.

All in all, it is astonishing that the amount of the surcharges, seen from the slight increase for telegrams in 1962, remained unchanged for almost 30 years. At the time of its introduction in the year 1950, its amount was 50% in relation to the postage of an inland letter up to 20 grams, but only 10% in 1979; for foreign letters, the proportion fell from 20% in 1950 to about 3% in 1979.

The *Red Lion and Sun of Iran Society* celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1973. There was no special stamp issue for this event, but one stamp was issued on 8<sup>th</sup> of November commemorating the 22<sup>nd</sup> *International Red Cross Congress* in Tehran.



I have found a picture of a commemorative silver medal with the inscription:

IRANIAN RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY 1923 – 1973

پنجاهمین سال خدمتگزاری جمعیت شیر و خورشید سرخ ایران



I could not find any further information about it. Was this medal distributed to the participants of the congress or to donors in the country?

After the revolution in 1979 the newly proclaimed *Islamic Republic of Iran* replaced the *Red Lion and Sun* with the *Red Crescent*, consistent with most other Muslim Countries. On 5 November 1980 the *International Committee of the Red Cross* informed the *Central Committees of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* with *Circular No. 72* as follows:

*On 4 July 1980 the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies of its decision to adopt the Red Crescent instead of the red lion and sun as the distinctive sign of its armed forces' medical service. As a result, the Iranian National Society has changed its name and emblem. It is henceforth the "Iranian Red Crescent Society".*

Though the Red Lion and Sun has fallen into disuse, Iran has in the past reserved the right to take it up again at any time; the Geneva conventions continue to recognise it as an official emblem, and that status has continued to this day.

I would now like to refer to stamp issues that show the emblem of *Red Lion and Sun of Iran* in the picture. But I will list them only after years and countries, without showing pictures. There are also postal stationery from different countries but I do not have overviews of all items.

But first I would like to introduce two vignettes of the *League of Red Cross Societies*, of which I have never seen the 1950 issue in the original:



The vignette above was issued after the end of WWII in 1945 by the *Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge Genève* for thirteen countries in their national language. They are listed in *Mosbaugh's Red Cross Seals of the World* catalogue, 1967 edition, as number 21; the Iranian vignette as number 21f.

The next one, number 23, is a vignette issued 1950 for five countries, the Iranian vignette listed as number 23f. I can only show a copy from the catalogue illustration and a copy of the French issue for better view:



The league itself issued a vignette in 1969 on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary:



These are not official postage stamps but they might be of interest for thematic stamp collecting.

I have created the following list of official issues with the emblem in the design of the stamps with the support of other collectors. Nevertheless, this does not have to be complete. Notes from our members on additional issues are welcome.

|      |                |  |
|------|----------------|--|
| 1963 | Iran           | 100 years Red Cross                            |
| 1963 | Monaco         | 100 years Red Cross                            |
| 1963 | Turkey         | 100 years Red Cross                            |
| 1966 | Denmark        | Red Cross Charity                              |
| 1966 | Germany (GDR)  | International Cooperation                      |
| 1969 | Afghanistan    | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Cambodia       | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Chile          | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Czechoslovakia | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | El Salvador    | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Ethiopia       | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Germany (GDR)  | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Ghana          | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Iran           | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Morocco        | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Philippines    | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Spain          | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1969 | Togo           | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |



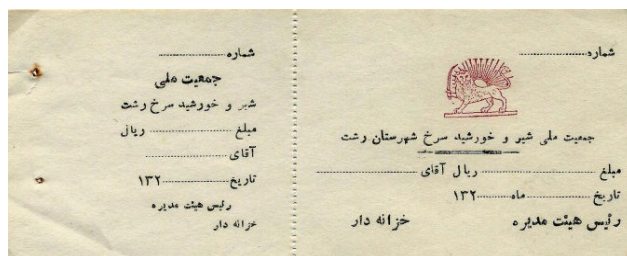
|      |             |  |
|------|-------------|--|
| 1969 | Turkey      | 21. Red Cross Conference Istanbul              |
| 1969 | Upper Volta | League of Red Cross societies 50th anniversary |
| 1973 | Iran        | 22. Red Cross Conference                       |
| 1973 | Upper Volta | World Red Cross Day                            |
| 1974 | El Salvador | 1969 issue 0,25 COL. new value overprinted     |
| 1974 | El Salvador | 1969 issue 0,25 COL. new value overprinted     |
| 1974 | Niger       | 25 Years WHO                                   |
| 1977 | India       | Red Cross Conference                           |
| 1978 | Romania     | Red Cross Conference                           |
| 1980 | Afghanistan | Afghan Red Crescent                            |
| 1980 | Mauritania  | International Red Cross Day                    |
| 1980 | North Korea | World Red Cross Day                            |
| 1980 | North Korea | World Red Cross Day                            |

The postal authorities in former Yugoslavia issued ten official surcharge stamps between 1973 and 1978.

Some National Red Cross Societies also had special envelopes for use in disaster regions. I would like to point out here only one from Germany, which concerns the quake relief 1969 in Iran:



With the recently established exhibition class Open Philately, those collectors who not only want to collect philatelic material have the opportunity to present such collections in the competition.



Donation receipt from the 1940s – unused –

At first, it was only the Postal Tax Stamps since 1950 that I dealt with. Everything else came through covers or items I got and sharing information with other collectors. With the material gathered in this way, you could design a collection in almost every competitive class: Revenues, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Thematic Philately and Open Philately.

## Mail via Baghdad, by Jeremy Stone

The Overland Route from Baghdad to Haifa began officially towards the end of 1923 based upon a five year contract which Nairn Transport had with the Iraq post office. The mail was loaded onto a train at Haifa for Port Said, reaching there within 60 hours as compared with 24 days by the sea route. Apparently the agreed rate was 3d per 20 grams for this service.

The rate charged on Persian mail however was more variable. According to Bernard Lucas's Worksheet No 53 (October 2010) it was (per 20g)–

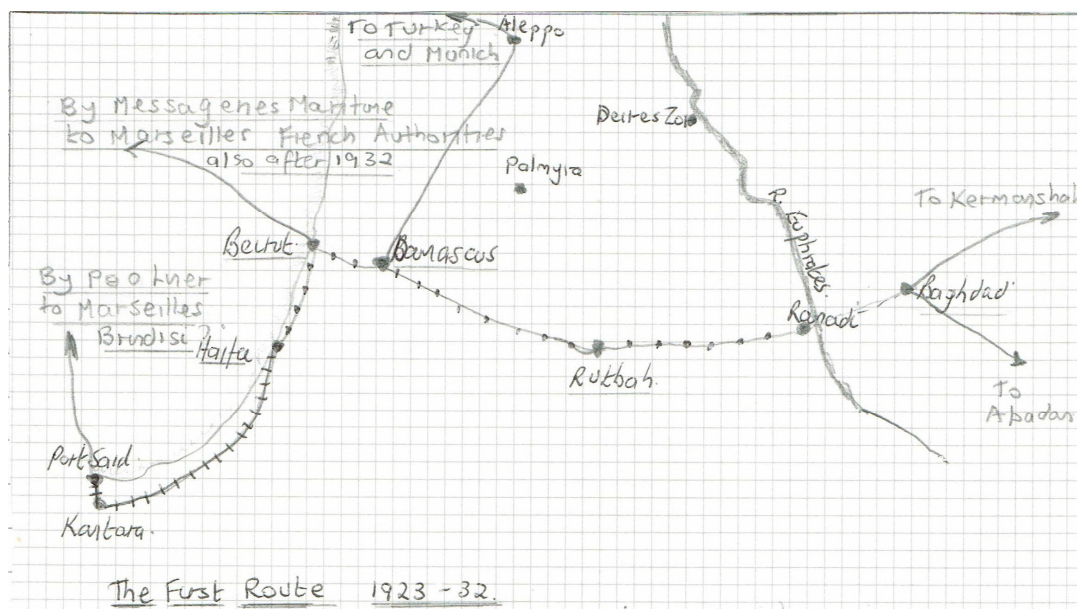
|                    |     | <i>Earliest/Latest Known dates</i> |
|--------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1 Kran (20 Chahis) | 4d  | 13.2.24–8.2.25                     |
| 14 Chahis          | 3d  | 7.7.25–28.9.26                     |
| 12 Chahis          | 2½d | 28.9.26–18.8.28                    |

(Based on 1 Kran = 4d)

After the expiry of this contract in late 1928 there was no surcharge as a cheaper contract had been negotiated. According to Bernard Lucas a small charge was still levied on Persian mail as follows–

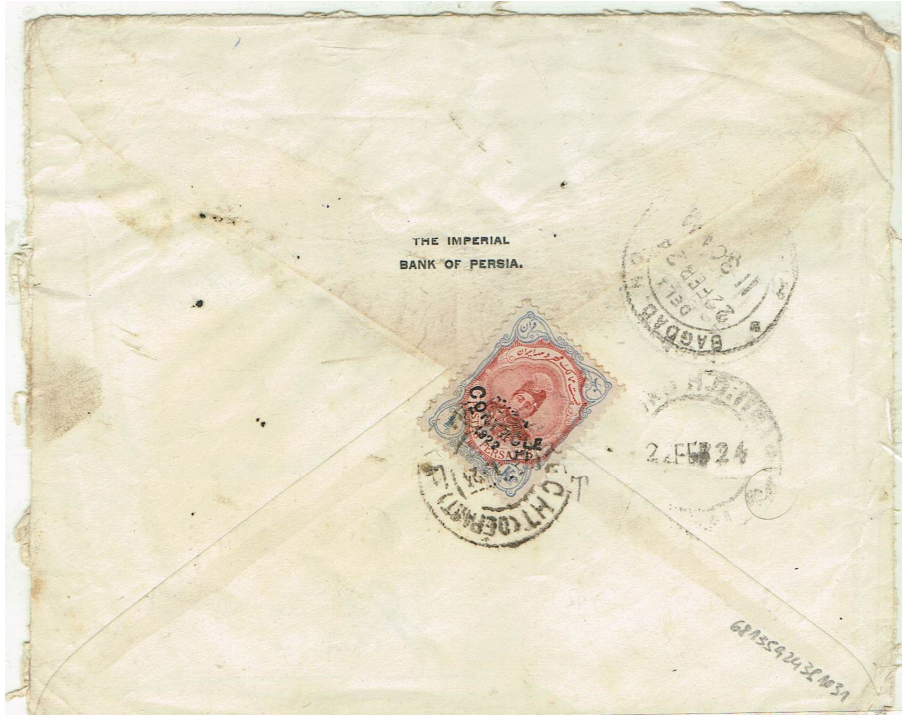
|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| 4 Chahis | 7.5.29–3.12.29  |
| 2 Chahis | 10.3.30–3.3.32  |
| 3 Chahis | 12.4.32–2.11.33 |

I am not sure how strictly these smaller surcharges were enforced. I have three covers, one from Teheran (26.11.32) and two from Abadan (26.1.33 and 25.11.33). All are stamped at the 30 chahis rate and endorsed via Baghdad Overland Mail.



A number of covers illustrate this theme.

Cover 1 is a trifle odd as it is from Recht (on the Caspian Sea) to Paris. Normally this would surely have gone via Russia – so why send it via Baghdad? It would have taken a lot longer than the Russian route.



Sent to the Westminster Foreign Bank, Paris. From Recht via Kermanshah (2.2.24) and Baghdad (22.2.24). *Not* endorsed Overland Mail. Franked with a 1922 1 Kr Control (for the foreign postal rate to 20g). No Overland Premium, which would have been another 1 Kr, has been paid

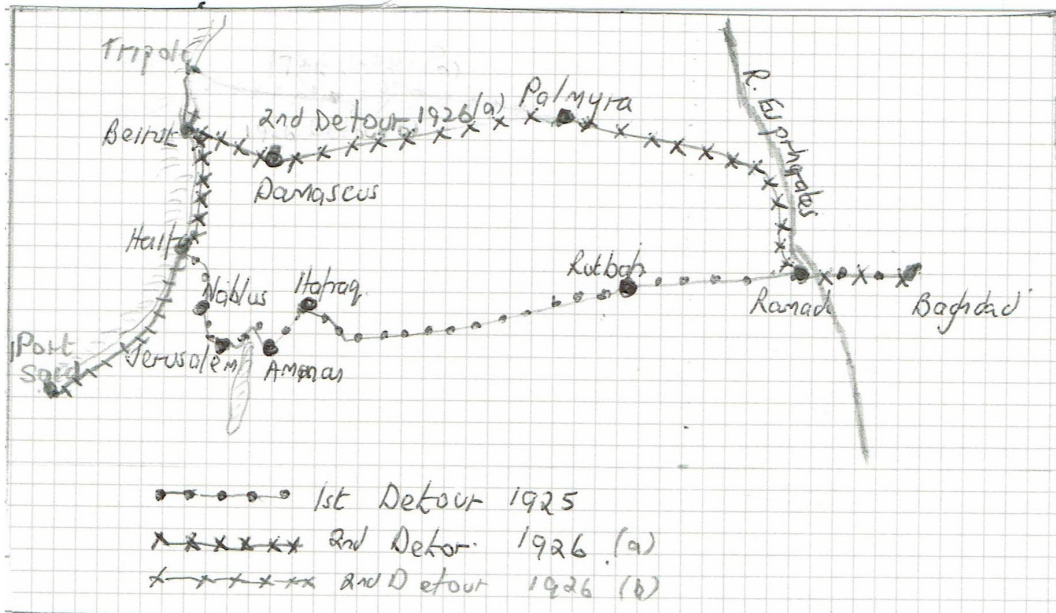
Cover 2 is from Abadan to Bournemouth, UK, re-directed to Monkseaton, Northumberland and endorsed via Overland Baghdad and Jerusalem. Franked with 1 x 9ch and 2 x 10 ch Mohammed Ali, giving a total of 29 chahis i.e., 15 chahis letter rate to 20g (effective from 2.10.25) + 14 chahis Overland Premium to 20g (effective 7.7.25–28.9.26). This cover illustrates the 1st detour to the Nairn route caused by the Druze rebellion in Syria and The Lebanon.





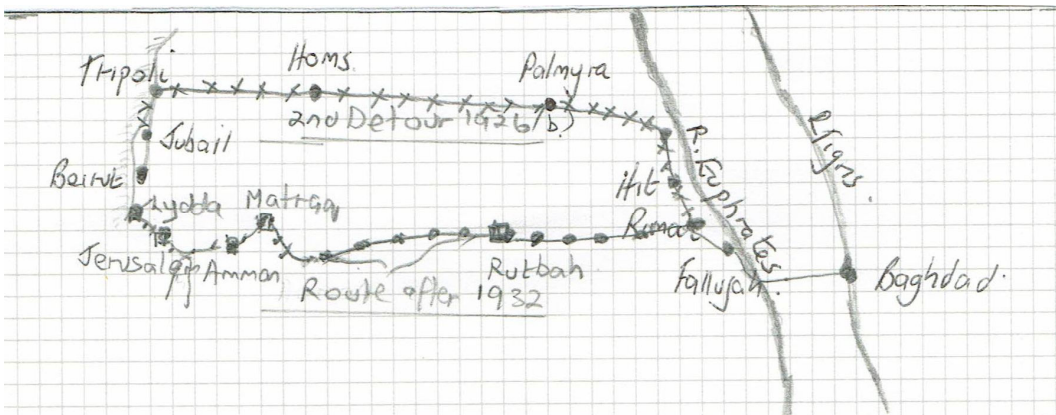
## The Druze Rebellion

In 1925 the Druze population in Syria and The Lebanon rebelled against the French and attacks on Nairn convoys occurred. The overland route was therefore changed to avoid this trouble and Cover 2 illustrates this new route via Rutbah, Hafrak, Amman, Jerusalem, Nablus and Haifa—



The revised route for this First detour was much longer and more treacherous than the original route had been (which went via the North Syrian desert). The section between Amman and Rutbah where the cars were obliged to travel across lava beds and rocky terrain criss-crossed with deep wadis which filled up quickly in the rainy season was particularly hazardous. The route not only caused damage to the vehicles and cut to pieces the tyres but also added two extra days to the journey. The Nairns therefore decided to change the route. Beirut, Tripoli, Homs, Palmyra, Ramadi, travelling in convoy with an armed escort was the route followed by Reginald Teague-Jones in early 1926 which I mentioned in a previous Article. According to some sources the route was via Damascus – maybe both were tried?

In view of the problems experienced with the first detour via Amman it is a bit surprising this was the route adopted after 1932 – maybe the vehicles were adapted to suit the hazardous conditions.



Cover 3 is Figure 13.9 from *Airmails Across the Middle East* by Laurence Kimpton\* which has an excellent chapter on overland mail and also the relation/rivalry of the overland mail with air mail during this period. I reproduce it as it would appear to be sent by the same person after my Cover 2 but before my next Cover 4. It has an Overland Baghdad-Haifa standard imprint so it is difficult to know the exact route taken. February 1926 is possibly too early for the Second Detour—

Fig. 13.9 Overland mail from Persia. 23 February 1926. Cover to England posted at Mohammerah. Backstamped at Baghdad on 25 February before dispatch on the Nairn service. Rate: 1 kran 9 chahis (15ch per 20 grammes postage, 13ch overland mail fee). (20ch = 1kr). Senders of mail in south-west Persia often used envelopes, produced in Iraq, with the imprint 'Overland Baghdad-Haifa.'

Cover 3.



Cover 4 is surprising as it is endorsed Via Overland Baghdad-Jerusalem and left Baghdad on 8.12.26 – although the route was meant to have been abandoned in May 1926—



Sent from Abadan 2.12.26 via Basrah (7.12.26—cds on reverse) and Baghdad (8.12.26—cds on reverse). There is a 1 chahis on the reverse giving a total franking of 27 chahis being 15 chahis for the 20 g letter rate + 12 chahis for the Overland premium.

Cover 5 sent by the same correspondent and endorsed via Overland Baghdad-Haifa was sent via Baghdad (19.1.27), presumably using the original route via Rutbah—

\* Available from the Author—[lj.kimpton@macunlimited.net](mailto:lj.kimpton@macunlimited.net)



Damascus and Haifa as the original route was re-introduced in January 1927 after the Druze rebellion had been put down.



This overview of the Overland mail is based on five covers – members may well have additional covers and/or information. I would be interested to hear your views: was the route via Jerusalem re-introduced in late 1926 as intimated by Cover 4 for example?

**The 1919 Zinc Plate issue**, by Behruz Nassre  
(from the IPSC Discussion Group/Facebook page)

Illustrated below is a Tehran local double rate cover dated 2-Apr-1919 which is the earliest cover I have seen using the 1919 Zinc Plate issue. If anyone has an earlier cover, please let me know. The cover is also showing the rare usage of the 'h' of 'ch' missing (position 9/10). This error was quickly corrected and there are only a handful of examples of it. Shown alongside is a 1ch stamp with a 31-March-1919 postmark which is the earliest off-cover stamp I have seen.



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