

1957 World Scout Jubilee Jamboree overprints for Kuwait

Hallvard Slettebø

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 Wycombe, Bucks. under their contract 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

.....
initials of Executive Officer
Supplies Dept.,
Stamp Depot.

..... 1957.

APPROVED
A. Whitehall
Director of Postal Services.
8 Jan 1958

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

