

To the Moon: United States Astronauts on Stamps on Registered Publicity Covers of the Trucial Emirates

“ We choose to go to the moon . . . we shall send to the moon, 240,000 miles away from the control station in Houston, a giant rocket more than 300 feet tall, the length of this football field . . . ”

-- President John F. Kennedy, Rice University, Houston, Texas, September 12, 1962



backstamped
March 10, 1969,
Campione d'Italia,
exclave of Italy,
Como Province

Ajman commemorated John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Edward Kennedy with a set of three stamps and a souvenir sheet issued March 1, 1969. The stamps each bear the imprint “TURATI LOMBARDI E C SECURITY PRINTERS.” This cover is postmarked at Ajman March 3, 1969, and backstamped at Campione d'Italia, exclave of Italy, March 10, 1969. Contents: Stuffer card reading “Government of Ajman and its Dependencies / With the Compliments of P.T.T.” The 3-riyal stamp pictures JFK and his grave site and the eternal flame at Arlington National Cemetery. The addressee of this cover, stamp collector Alexander D. Kroo, successfully encouraged Prince Rainier III of Monaco to establish in 1999 the Club de Monte-Carlo de l'Elite de la Philatélie.

In the 19th century, the emirates of the Arabian Gulf signed various treaties of truce and protection with the United Kingdom. The British protectorate lasted from 1820 to 1971, during which the emirates were semi-independent. The emirates and the years of their first treaties were Ajman (1820), Abu Dhabi (1820), Ras al Khaima (1820), Sharjah (1820), Umm al Qiwain (1820), Dubai (1835), the Kalba exclave of Sharjah (1936), and Fujaira (1952).

Oil was discovered in 1953 in Abu Dhabi at Mubnan Bab and in 1959 off Abu Dhabi at the old Umm Shaif pearling beds. Oil was discovered in 1966 off Dubai. By the mid-1960s, the British began to realize that they could no longer afford to maintain the protectorates. In 1968, the British government announced its intent to withdraw its military forces and administration from the Gulf and other locations east of Aden. The emirs of Abu Dhabi and Dubai

led the process to form a government to replace the British administration. On December 2, 1971, six emirates formed a new federated country named United Arab Emirates. Ras al Khaima joined February 10, 1972.

In the mid-1960s, the semi-independent emirates had begun to take over mail services from the British Agency Post Office, Dubai being first, on June 15, 1963. Dubai issued its first definitive stamps the same day. Sharjah opened its own post office July 10, 1963, and issued its first stamps the same day. Ajman issued its first definitive stamps in three waves in 1964 on June 20, September 7, and November 4. Ajman's Manama exclave issued its first definitives on July 5, 1966. On June 29, 1964, Umm al Qiwain issued its first definitive stamps. Fujaira issued its first definitive stamps on September 22, 1964. On December 21, 1964, Ras al Khaima issued its first definitive stamps.

Six of the seven emirates gushed topical stamps

Abu Dhabi received revenue from oil beginning in the mid-1960s and did not resort to issuing many topical stamps for collectors. It issued about four or five sets that can be considered philatelic. In all, Abu Dhabi issued 95 stamps during 1964-1972, including souvenir sheets but not counting imperforate stamps, according to the German-language Michel stamp catalog.

Dubai eventually gained revenue from oil, but it issued 50 to 60 topical sets that can be considered philatelic. In total, Dubai issued 479 stamps during 1963-1972, according to the Michel stamp catalog.

The great majority of the made-for-collector stamps were issued by the emirates Ajman, Fujeira (Fujairah), Sharjah, Ras al Khaima, and Umm al

Qiwain. The Michel catalog counts the following numbers of stamps for these issuers, not counting imperforates: Ajman (3,544), Manama exclave of Ajman (1,495), Fujeira (1,760), Ras al Khaima (1,075), Sharjah (1,612), Khor Fakkan exclave of Sharjah (247), and Umm al Qiwain (1,817).

Topics depicted on the philatelic issues include John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Napoleon, sports, paintings, sculpture, cats, dogs, Scouting, Olympics, Olympic medals, postage stamps, space exploration, astronauts, cosmonauts, costumes, uniforms, human rights, automobiles, auto racing, flowers, boxing, baseball, birds, roses, animals, butterflies, popes, locomotives, tropical fish, historic buildings, soccer, and more.

United States astronauts on emirati stamps and the covers

This exhibit focuses on registered covers bearing emirati stamps depicting U.S. astronauts and the U.S. space program. All of the Arabian Gulf emirates except Abu Dhabi issued stamps picturing U.S. astronauts.

The registered covers typically were mailed to stamp journalists, officers of philatelic groups, and stamp dealers. All of the mailed covers in the exhibit were backstamped in the country of the addressee, typically in the city of the addressee. It is believed that all or nearly all of the covers contained only a stuffer card reading "Compliments of the . . ." and that most covers were sent

sealed. The envelopes bear airmail lozenge borders and government return addresses in English. Nearly all covers bear handstamped bilingual registration markings. Some covers bear a bilingual registration adhesive label.

Many covers in this exhibit are addressed to the Stampex Co. of dealer Martin Sellinger, usually covers from Ajman or Manama. Registered covers mailed from Fujeira, Ras al Khaima, or Umm al Qiwain are scarce. Pre-1977 emirati airmail covers were transported via the Sharjah airport that opened in 1932 for Imperial Airways or via the Dubai airport improved in 1965-1966.

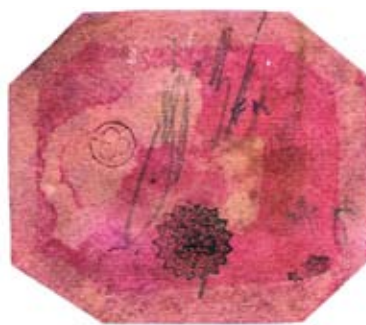
Some of the players who created and marketed the emirati stamps



Michel Stephan,
owner of the
Barody Stamp Co.,
of Beirut, Lebanon.
His agency, the
Dubai Stamp Agency,
produced many
stamps for Dubai
and the first-issue
definitive stamps
for Ajman, Fujeira,
and Umm al Qiwain
(possibly others).
Ezzet Mosden was
his U.S. partner.



Finbar Kenny,
managing director
of stamp wholesaler
J. & H. Stolow of
New York City.
Kenny worked for
Macy's in 1940.
During 1964-1969,
he was the agent
for many of the
early stamps of
Ajman, Manama,
and Fujeira.



**Kenny printed
his initials "FK"
on the back of the
One Cent Magenta after
he bought it 1940 for
Frederick T. Small.**



F K initials



**The One Cent Magenta,
issued in 1856
by British Guiana.**

**Middle East Stamps S.A.L.
of Beirut, Lebanon, had
stamp contracts with Ajman
(including Manama), Fujeira,
and Ras al Khaima. Persons
associated with the company
were Fouad Antoun, Jacques
Anhoury, and George Hage.**

**Bruce Condé created the early
stamps of Sharjah.**



Martin Sellinger,
stamp wholesaler
and philatelic agent,
Stampex Company,
White Plains, N.Y.
It is believed that
Sellinger took over
the Kenny agency in
1969 and was U.S.
agent for stamps
issued through 1973,
including after the
formation of the UAE.

Manama overprints on Ajman Gemini 4 stamps on 1966 cover to J. & H. Stolow firm



backstamped
October 13, 1966,
New York, N.Y.

The stamps, issued October 8, 1966 (the postmark on this cover), picture Gemini 4 Pilot Edward H. White II and Command Pilot James A. McDivitt. The stamps are overprinted in new-currency dirhams and riyals. On January 5, 1965, White became the first American to walk in space. While he was out of the Gemini capsule, one of his spare gloves floated out of the open hatch and became an early piece of space junk. White and others died January 27, 1967, on Launch Pad 34, during the failed test of Apollo 1 and its Saturn 1B rocket.

Umm al Qiwain 1967 cover to J. & H. Stolow firm



backstamped
February 2, 1967,
New York, N.Y.

Registered cover to the J. and H. Stolow firm, postmarked January 30, 1967. The overprinted new-currency dirham and riyal JFK stamps were issued in January 1967. The original JFK stamps denominated in naye paise and rupees were issued in 1965.

Apollo 7 astronauts on 1968 Manama souvenir sheet



backstamped
February 10, 1969,
Campione d'Italia,
exclave of Italy,
Como Province

This cover to Kroo is postmarked February 2, 1969, and backstamped February 10, 1969. The Apollo 7 souvenir sheet was issued November 26, 1968. The crew of Walter M. Schirra, Donn F. Eisele, and R. Walter Cunningham transmitted the first live television broadcast from a U.S. manned spacecraft. Their Earth-orbital flight took place October 11, 1968, to October 22, 1968.

Ras al Khaima 1969 cover to Martin Sellinger firm



backstamped
September 21, 1969,
Ras al Khaima,
September 26, 1969,
White Plains, N.Y.

Cover postmarked August 17, 1969, bearing imperforate stamps issued June 10, 1969. The 4.50-riyal stamp pictures JFK's disembodied head and the Apollo 11 lunar module. It appears that the cover was annotated in manuscript for registration before the adhesive R label was applied. The cover is backstamped September 21, 1969, at Ras al Khaima and September 26, 1969, at White Plains, N.Y.

Apollo 11 astronauts on 1969 Ajman stamps



backstamped
January 30, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

This set commemorating the Apollo 11 moon landing of July 20, 1969, pictures on the 5-riyal denomination astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin Jr., and Michael Collins. The 1-riyal stamp depicts the launch. The 2-riyal shows the lander separating. The three perforated stamps and three souvenir sheets were issued October 10, 1969, the postmark date of this cover.



backstamped
January 30, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

The similar imperforate stamps on cover, with different inks used for the three denominations compared to the perforated stamps. The green or blue backgrounds of the 1-riyal stamps appear nearly alike. Perforated and imperforate stamps with different designs inscribed “MANAMA” were issued the same day. Manama covers postmarked October 10, 1969, also are backstamped January 30, 1970. The reason for the nearly 16 weeks between postmarks is unknown.

All covers in this exhibit are believed to be franked in excess of normal letter rates and registration fees.

Think these covers are easy to find? Think again. Most are scarce or rare.

Astronauts of Mercury 7 and Apollo 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 on 1970 stamps of Ajman



backstamped
January 13, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

On January 5, 1970, Ajman issued a set of seven stamps and one souvenir sheet picturing astronauts from Apollo 1, Apollo 7, Apollo 8, Apollo 9, Apollo 10, Apollo 11, and Apollo 12. The stamps on this 1970 cover picture B. Walter Cunningham of Apollo 7 and the three Apollo 1 astronauts who died during a launch rehearsal: Roger B. Chafee, Edward H. White II, and Virgil I. Grissom. On the souvenir sheet, President John F. Kennedy shakes hands with Mercury 7 astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. Other Mercury 7 astronauts look on.

Apollo 10, 11, and 12 astronauts on 1970 stamps of Manama



backstamped
February 17, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

Cover postmarked January 5, 1970. The Michel catalog lists this Manama set as "January." It pictures Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. of Apollo 11, and Apollo 10 and Apollo 12 spacecraft, plus Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 and a spacewalking cosmonaut.

1970 Manama stamps tout Apollo 13 and “Designs for Future Moon Exploration”



backstamped
September 4, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

This cover is postmarked August 5, 1970. The perforated stamps read “APOLLO 13.” They are believed to have been issued in July 1970, about six weeks after the Apollo 13 mission looped around the moon. The Apollo 13 Lunar Module did not travel to the moon because an oxygen tank in the Service Module exploded in the 56th hour after launch. The stamps also were issued imperforate. The futuristic designs predated by 19 years similar United States airmail stamps depicting future space travel.



backstamped
September 4, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

The design of the 12-riyal souvenir sheet in the set wrongly implies that Apollo 13 astronauts walked on the moon. The 12-riyal sheet was issued perforated and imperforate. The six single stamps also were issued as six individual imperforate souvenir sheets.

1970 Manama "Designs for Future Moon Exploration" souvenir sheets



backstamped
October 9, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

The six 3-riyal souvenir sheets in the 1970 Manama set were added two at a time to covers, here postmarked August 25, 1970. The gold ink simulates perforations. The sheets cover over the return address of the Government of Ajman, General Post Office.

Where is Manama? The Manama exclave is located 50 kilometers east of Ajman City, near the Al Hajar Mountains and on the land route to the port city Fujaira. Manama has been an agricultural region for decades. An international airport is under construction there.



backstamped
October 19, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

Another Manama publicity cover bearing two 3-riyal souvenir sheets. They repeat the designs of the 1.50-riyal and 3-riyal stamps.

Apollo 13 and Apollo 14 astronauts on 1970 Fujeira stamps



This 1970 cover bears stamps noting the Apollo 13 mission of April 11 to April 17, 1970, and the upcoming Apollo 14 mission that took place January 31 to February 9, 1971. Two of the Apollo 13 stamps depict the explosion-damaged Service Module and astronauts James A. Lovell and John L. Swigert in the Command Module. Fred W. Haise is in the Lunar Module. The 4-riyal Apollo 14 stamp pictures astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Stuart A. Roosa, and Edgar D. Mitchell. Shepard and Mitchell walked on the moon.



backstamped
June 12, 1970,
Milwaukee, Wis.



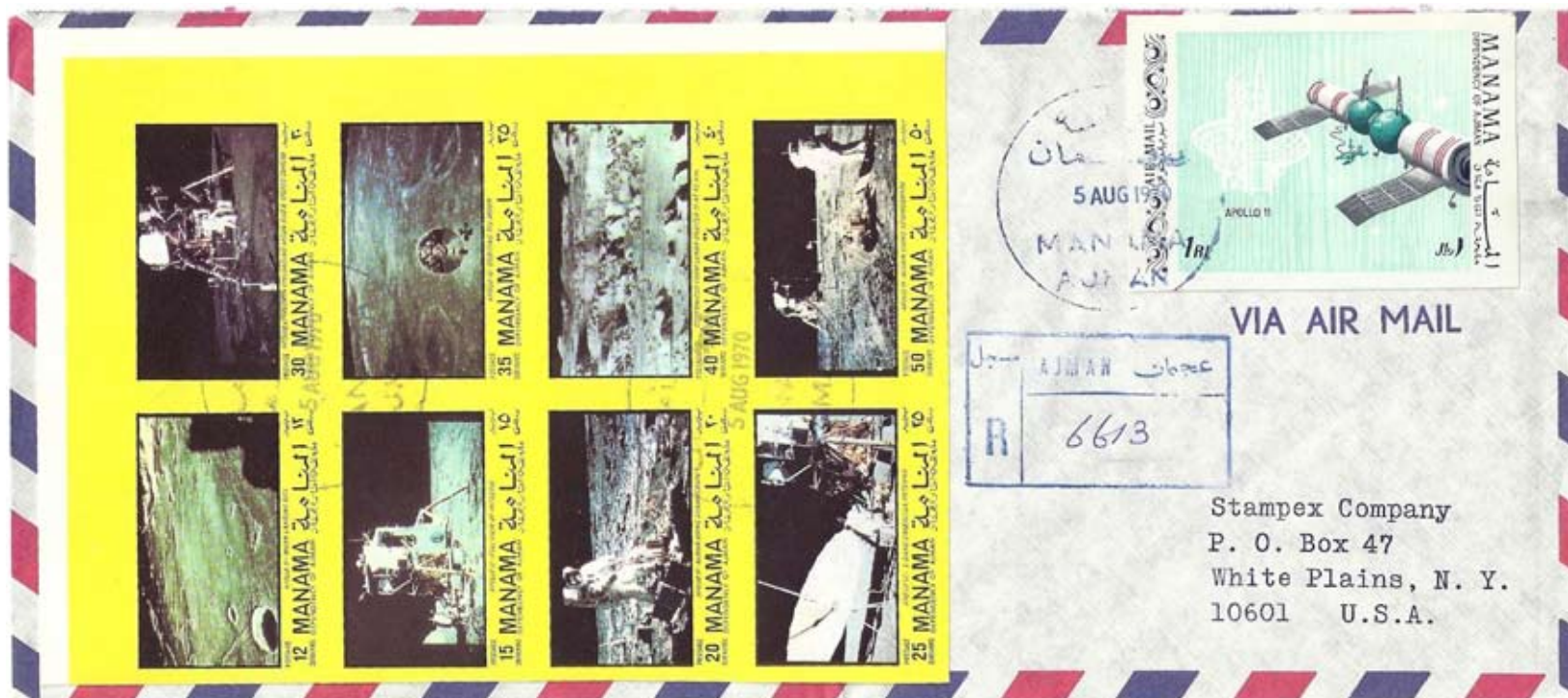
The Apollo 13 and Apollo 14 stamps were issued June 4, 1970, both perforated and imperforate, including a 12-riyal souvenir sheet. This cover bears perforated stamps and an imperforate souvenir sheet. The cover is addressed to Jerome Husak, who in 1949 at age 17 founded the American Topical Association. For many years, Husak served as the editor of the ATA journal, *Topical Time*.

Apollo 8, 10, 11, and 12 on 1970 Manama stamps



backstamped
September 10, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

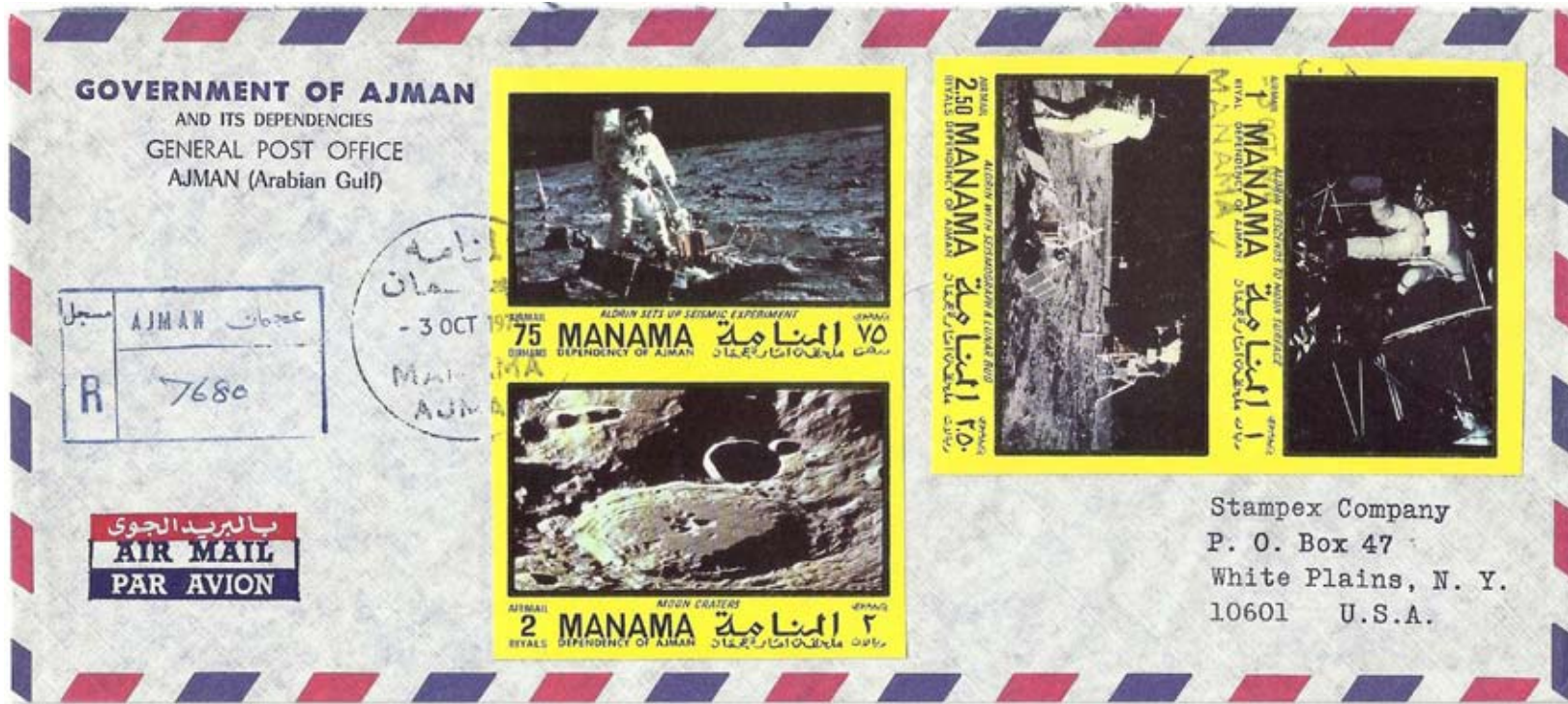
The Michel catalog describes the yellow-bordered Apollo 8, Apollo 10, Apollo 11, and Apollo 12 stamps based on NASA photos as a September 1970 issue, but here they are on a cover postmarked August 5, 1970. The stamps were issued perforated and imperforate. The 2-dirham stamp pictures Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr. holding the Apollo 12 U.S. flag. The 3-dirham shows Neil A. Armstrong casting a shadow. The 10-dirham pictures Buzz Aldrin. The pinkish 2-riyal stamp picturing the Apollo 11 Lunar Module was issued October 10, 1969.



backstamped
September 10, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

This August 5, 1970, cover bears the other eight dirham low denominations in the 1970 yellow-bordered set of 20. Two of the stamps picture Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin using a seismograph. The added 1-riyal stamp is from the October 1969 set and is mistakenly labeled "APOLLO 11." It pictures a space-walking cosmonaut and Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 docked together. This backs of this cover and the one above bear printed return addresses of the Government of Ajman, General Post Office.

High denominations of the 1970 Manama set



backstamped
October 15, 1970,
White Plains, N.Y.

This cover is postmarked October 3, 1970. It bears the four high denominations in the 1970 set. Three of the stamps picture Buzz Aldrin.

Apollo 12 stamp in 1971 Fujeira set



backstamped
March 28, 1971,
March 29, 1971,
Honolulu, Hawaii

The Fujeira 1971 Airships, Airplanes, and Spaceships set of five includes images of Gemini 12, Surveyor 7, and the Apollo 12 Lunar Module. The tandem vertical designs match older flying machines with spacecraft. Two other pairs are affixed to the back of the cover. The Vulcan Bomber / Apollo 12 design pictures astronaut Alan L. Bean and the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package. This cover to a stamp dealer in Honolulu, Hawaii, is believed to have been sent via Europe and the continental United States. The stamps bear the imprint "FABRICA DE TIMBRE - BUCUREST."

1971 Zodiac set of Ajman includes four stamps picturing U.S. astronauts



backstamped
April 13, 1971,
White Plains, N.Y.

The 12 high denominations in Ajman's Zodiac set of 24, issued March 16, 1971, picture 12 world personalities. They include Mercury 7 astronauts Alan B. Shepherd Jr., John H. Glenn, and Virgil I. Grissom, plus Apollo 11 Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. Someone nicely combined the four astronaut stamps and the souvenir sheet on this April 2, 1971, publicity cover.

Moon walkers on Apollo 14 stamps of Manama issued in 1971



backstamped
April 13, 1971,
White Plains, N.Y.

This Manama cover is postmarked April 2, 1971, two months after the Apollo 14 mission of January 31 to February 9, 1971. The 5-riyal stamp pictures astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Stuart A. Roosa, and Edgar D. Mitchell. Shepard and Mitchell walked on the moon.

Apollo 14 stamps of Ajman issued in 1971



backstamped
April 13, 1971,
White Plains, N.Y.

The imperforate stamps on this Ajman cover, postmarked April 2, 1971, commemorate the Apollo 14 mission. The 5-riyal stamp pictures astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Stuart A. Roosa, and Edgar D. Mitchell. The stamps were issued February 22, 1971.

Apollo 14 stamps of Fujeira issued in 1971



backstamped
May 8, 1971,
San Sebastian,
Spain

This cover postmarked March 31, 1971, is a first-day cover, but it is not marked as such. The 2-riyal stamp pictures Apollo 14 astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Stuart A. Roosa, and Edgar D. Mitchell. The 1-riyal stamp at lower right shows Shepherd (foreground) and Roosa. The creators of the the emirati astronaut stamps based most of their designs on official NASA photographs.

Apollo 15 stamps of Fujeira issued in 1972 after establishment of the UAE



backstamped
May 17, 1972,
Dayton, Ohio

The Fujeira Apollo 15 stamps issued January 21, 1972, picture astronauts David R. Scott and James B. Irwin on the moon. The stamps were issued after Fujeira had joined the United Arab Emirates on December 2, 1971. Each of these stamps bears the imprint "FABRICA DE TIMBRE - BUCUREST." The postmark is not clear, but the cover is backstamped May 17, 1972, at Dayton, Ohio. Old Fujeira stamps and new stamps such as this issue were valid supposedly through July 31, 1972.

Apollo 15 stamps of Ajman State issued in 1972 after establishment of the UAE



The name "Ajman State and Its Dependencies" was used on stamps produced for Ajman after the formation of the United Arab Emirates on December 2, 1971. The perforated 1-riyal stamp, issued May 11, 1972, pictures James B. Irwin transporting a television monitor. On the 50-dirham souvenir sheet issued the same day, Irwin tests the lunar soil. On the back is another Apollo 15 stamp issued June 1.

backstamped
June 23, 1972,
Cassarate,
Switzerland