

OMAN IMAMATE STATE

OMANI POSTS

after Aug '69



دولة امانة عمان

هيئة البريد العماني

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

«JEBEL AL AKHDAR»

in OMAN

JEBEL AL AKHDAR or the GREEN MOUNTAIN is a craggy and impregnable fortress. This province occupies an important strategical, political and tribal position in Oman. It is inhabited by the largest and most powerful tribe of Bani Riyam. It possesses a particular and decisive position in defining the political aspects and security of the country.

The Green Mountain, at its topmost pinnacle, reaches a height of 10.000 feet. It looks like the walls of a titanic fortress rather than mountains. It is something like a geological show-piece. It is apparently formed by a black of limestone about a mile thick. The Green Mountain is used to mean OMAN. Most of Omani towns of inner Oman lie in the shadow of the Green Mountain.

There are several towns and villages in the Jebel Al Akhdar. The most important towns are Sharaija, Mutti, Izki, *Tannouf*, Seek and Baraka. The capital 'Sharaija' tumbles down a 1000 feet of sheer cliff in a cascade of terraces and rock-clinging houses, into a cavernous gorge.

Before the British occupation of Oman in 1957, Sheikh Sulciman Ben Himyar Al Nabhani ruled the province. He is still the legitimate ruler of the Green Mountain and its dependencies and is still fighting against the British and their vassal the Sultan of Muscat. The Green Mountain province extends from El Bata in the East to the sea in the South.

Feudalism still reigns in the province. The inhabitants are strongly attached to their land and owe service to the chief of the tribe. They represent twelve sections of Bani Wassam tribe, descendants of the Bani Rayam tribe.

The Green Mountain is divided into four districts:

1. Sharaija District.
2. Wadi Bani Habib District.
3. Seek District.
4. Manakher District.

S.B. Miles in 1876 described the Green Mountain as follows:

«The Mountains leap up from the ground from the West, until they abruptly descend to the North — they look like the rock of Gibraltar.»

CLIMATE: The climate is mild during the whole year. It is more Mediterranean than Arabian. The temperature marks sometimes 0 degree centigrade. Some of the Arabs say «they have seen the Mountains covered with salt», presumably meaning that for a few weeks of a savagely severe winter the mountain is snow-capped.

AGRICULTURE: The Green Mountain is chiefly an agricultural district. Water is abundant, the climate mild. The Mountain harvests are: barley and walnuts. Many trees and fruit grow: pomegranates, citrons, almonds, nutmegs and grapes. The people make wine from their grapes to while away the cold winter nights. The Green Mountain province exports a large part of the harvest and provides other parts of Oman with fruits.

STRATEGIC POSITION: The Green Mountain occupies a strategic position of high importance. The Jebel is invincible. Only one organized army had ever penetrated those heights → the Persians in the 10th century stormed the mountains, but with great losses. Any power that dominates these heights can easily dominate the whole of Oman. The British could force the Green Mountain thanks to their airforce.

POLITICAL POWER OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN: As we said earlier, the Green Mountain means Oman. Politically, the Green Mountain occupies a predominant role in the affairs of the country. No Imam or Sultan can ever rule Oman, unless he is backed by Sheikh Suleiman Ben Himyar, the Prince of the Green Mountain and Tamimah (chief) of the Bani Riyam tribe. Sheikh Suleiman is a formidable warrior and a man of character, reported to be less fanatical and narrow minded than all other chiefs. He is the real power behind Imam Ghaleb. His word is known to be law in the mountains.

Controlled by Oman postal Dep.; a post office had been established in this principality, on 25 August 1969, to cover the postal needs of the inhabitants their in.

Oman first Diff. stamps over printed in *green* put in use: these stamps can be obtained from our General Agent by its face value, his address as below.

Oman Philetalic Agency
143 Strand
London W.C. 2

All dealers and all noble human being are invited to cooperate and help this area by any means.

P.T.T. Counsellor
Oman Imamate State
Y. S. TADROS