

APAI Monthly Zoom, 21 February 2026

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on discussing postage due stamps and postal history from Saudi Arabia, with participants examining rare covers and stamps from various periods. The group discussed different cancellation methods used in different cities, including the unique "T" cancellation found in Mecca, and debated the authenticity and rarity of certain covers. They also discussed the history of Saudi Arabian stamp production, noting that the country began printing its own stamps in 1966 after previously using De La Rue in London. The conversation ended with a discussion about creating a WhatsApp group for easier communication among members, though concerns were raised about accessibility for some participants.

Next steps

- [Martin: Find out which Ottoman city the specific "T" hand stamp is from and report back to the group.](#)
- [Joanne: Schedule and send calendar invites for the next meeting on March 28th at 10 AM.](#)

Summary

Postage Due Stamp Cancellation Methods

The group discussed postage due stamps, focusing on covers from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Baghdad. Gus Riachi shared examples of covers with insufficient postage, highlighting how different cities in Saudi Arabia handled them by applying specific cancellation methods. Martin noted that the Ottoman T cancellation was unusual and suggested it might be the only country using this method. The group also touched on a potentially fake cover from Zanzibar, with Martin indicating that experts had concluded it was a forgery.

Saudi Postal Covers Research Discussion

The group discussed rare postal covers from Saudi Arabia, noting their scarcity and the challenges in forming theories about their usage due to limited examples. Martin suggested continuing to collect and analyze these covers chemically to determine their age, while Gus Riachi highlighted the variation in postal practices across cities. Syed shared insights about stamp availability and collector groups in Saudi Arabia, mentioning that stamps were often given away or sold cheaply during office relocations, and collector clubs, primarily composed of Saudis, regularly meet to discuss stamps and attend exhibitions. Phil presented a French and Arabic-labeled postal cover from 1984, which Martin identified as a registration cachet, sparking further discussion about similar covers.

Saudi Stamp Discussion and Updates

The group discussed Saudi Arabian stamps, focusing on the "Return of the King" tax stamp used from January to August 1946, which Martin confirmed was valid nationwide. They examined a 55G revenue stamp from Jeddah and determined it was used for passport fees, with Martin explaining that the stamp was for residence renewal and the fee increased from 55 to 110. The group agreed to meet again on March 28th at 10 AM, and Syed suggested creating a WhatsApp group for communication, though Martin expressed concerns about using WhatsApp on his computer due to incoming call issues.

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