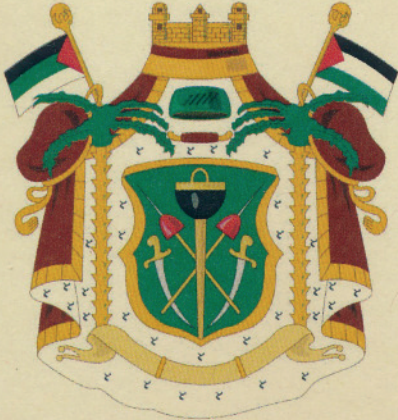


Bilal Mosque - An Iconic Structure

The Bilal Mosque is a small mosque dating back to the time of the Prophet Muhammed almost 1400 years ago. It was built on the top of Gebel Al Quweis, a small rocky hill overlooking the Al-Haram Mosque in Makkah, the centre of the Islamic Religion, and was the place that the Prophet first started preaching Islam publicly. As such it is a major part of Islamic history.

This exhibit portrays the Bilal Mosque at various stages in its existence from the 17th century to the end of the 20th century.



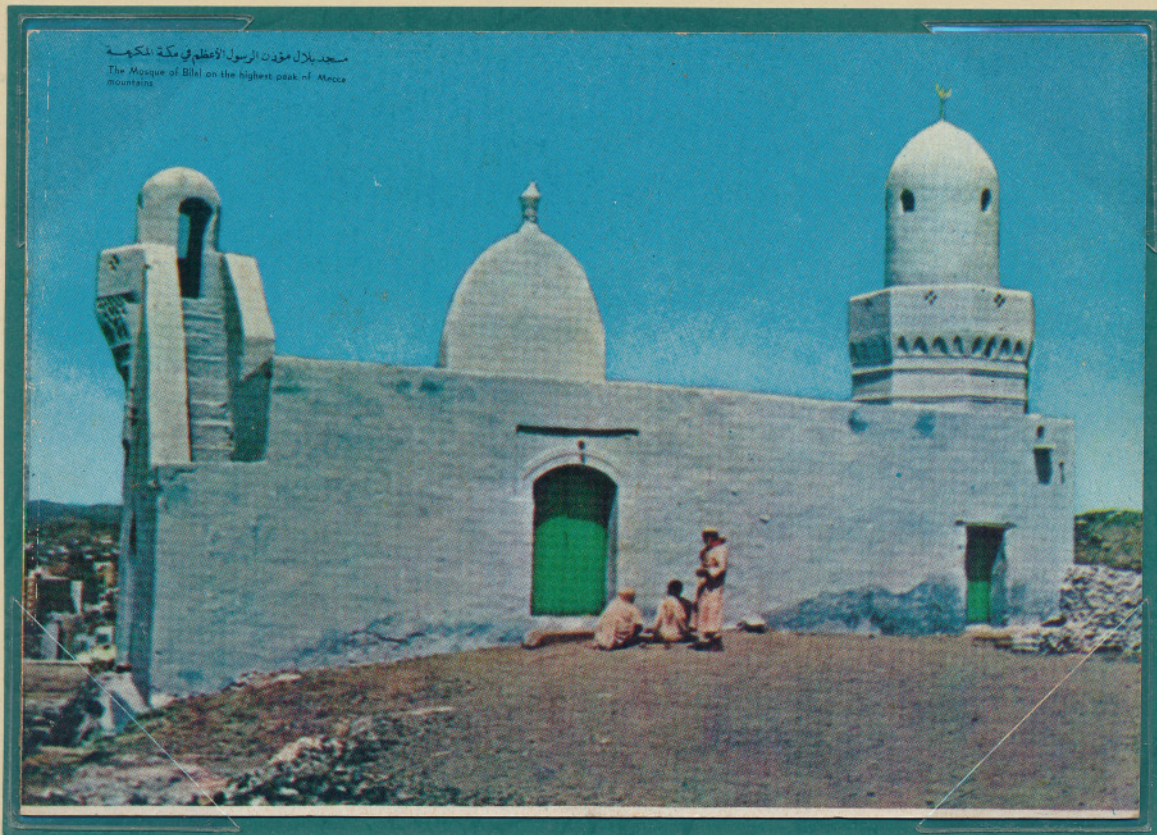
The Bilal Mosque is featured at the top of the Coat of Arms belonging to Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali of Makkah.

Exhibit plan:

Sheet

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Introduction and plan. Postcard showing the Bilal Mosque |
| 2 * | 17 th century |
| 3 | 1881 |
| 4 * | 1916: The First Postage Stamps for Hejaz |
| 5 | 1920 - 1922: Revenue Stamps |
| 6 * | 1922 - 1924: The First Postage Stamps Produced by the Hejaz Authorities |
| 7 | 1924: Currency |
| 8 | 1925 |
| 9 | The Final Days - The Nineteen Eighties |

* indicates pages containing items of special interest surrounded by a red border



The Bilal Mosque. No publisher information is printed on the postcard.

Bibliography

Journal of the Arabian Philatelic Association, Random Notes:

#62 - Gebel Abu Qubeis by Willie King FRPSL

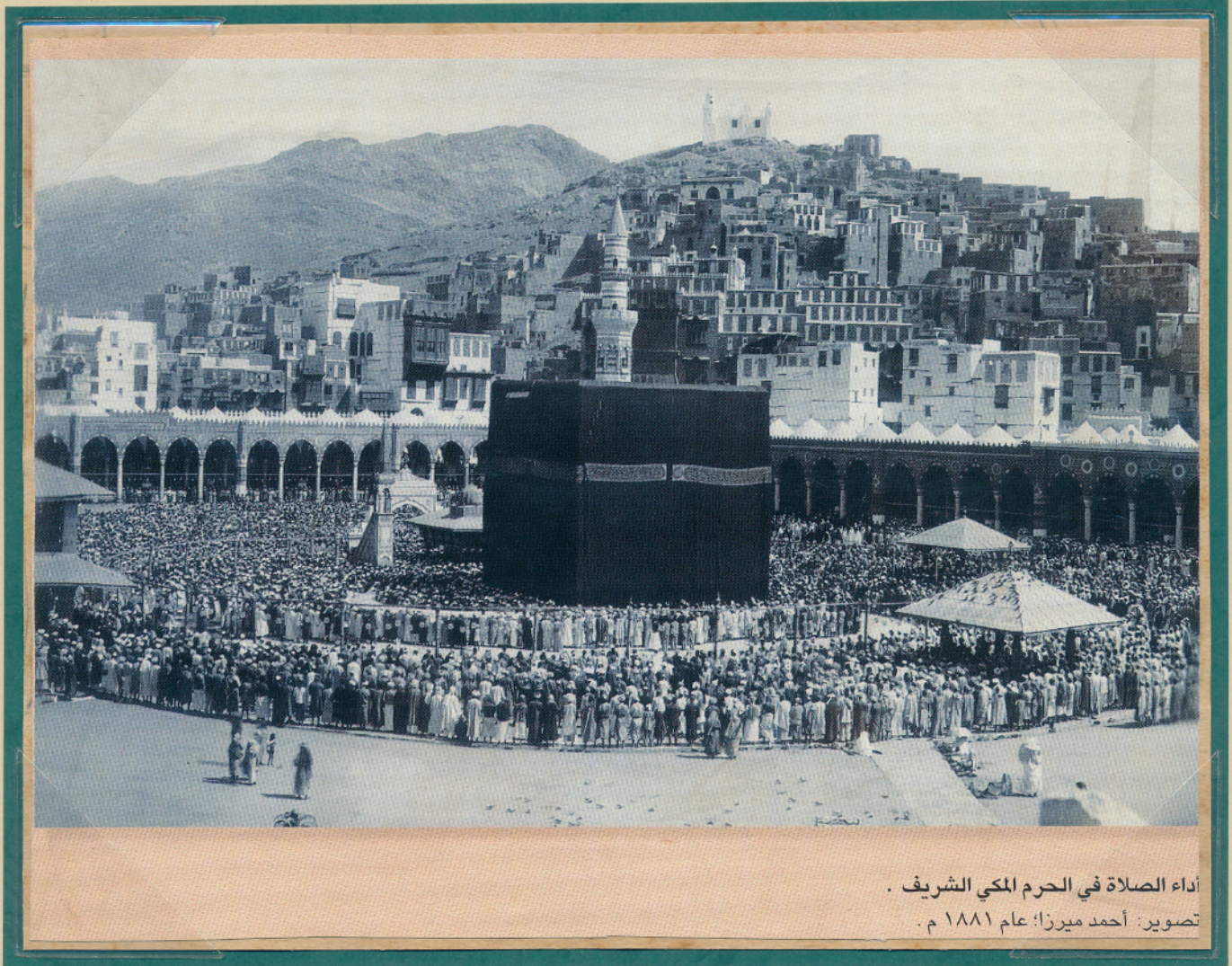
#63 - Note on Gebel Abu Qubeis by the exhibitor

17th Century

The Bilal Mosque featured in engravings by Alain Manesson Mallet in various editions of the book *Description de L'Univers*. The engraving clearly shows the mosque on a small hill overlooking the main mosque, but the image has been described by residents of Makkah as 'fanciful'.

The engraving below is from the sought after edition published in 1683.





Photograph showing the Bilal Mosque on Gebel Al Quweis in a dominant position overlooking the sacred Kaaba in the Al Harem Mosque.

Photography: Ahmed Mirza 1881.

1916 - The First Postage Stamps for Hejaz

Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali of Makkah wanted the Bilal Mosque to be featured on the postage stamps, but was rejected by those producing the stamps; a group including T.E.Lawrence (of Arabia).



Sharif Husayn's designs appeared as figures 84 and 87 in the book produced by the Survey of Egypt. Above is a scan of plate XII, the high value of this book, owned by the exhibitor, precluded removing the page for display.

1920 - 1922 Revenue Stamps

The Bilal Mosque appeared on three types of Hejaz revenue stamps: Flat Rate, Passport and Proportional Rate.

Bilal Mosque detail from stamp design.



Flat rate



Passport



Proportional rate



Pair of 20 paras flat rate stamps on 1922 document fragment



4 qirsh proportional rate



50 qirsh passport fee on travel document fragment

1922 - 1924 The First Postage Stamps Produced by the Hejaz Authorities

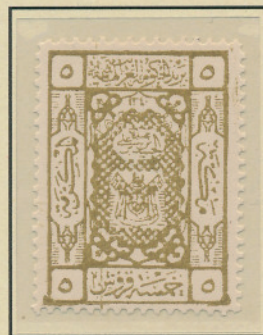
The Bilal Mosque appeared on both the essays and the issued stamps which were the first postage stamps produced by the Hejaz government.

**One of a set of essays having an identical design.
Only two sets have been recorded.**



Examples of issued stamps

First issue 1922

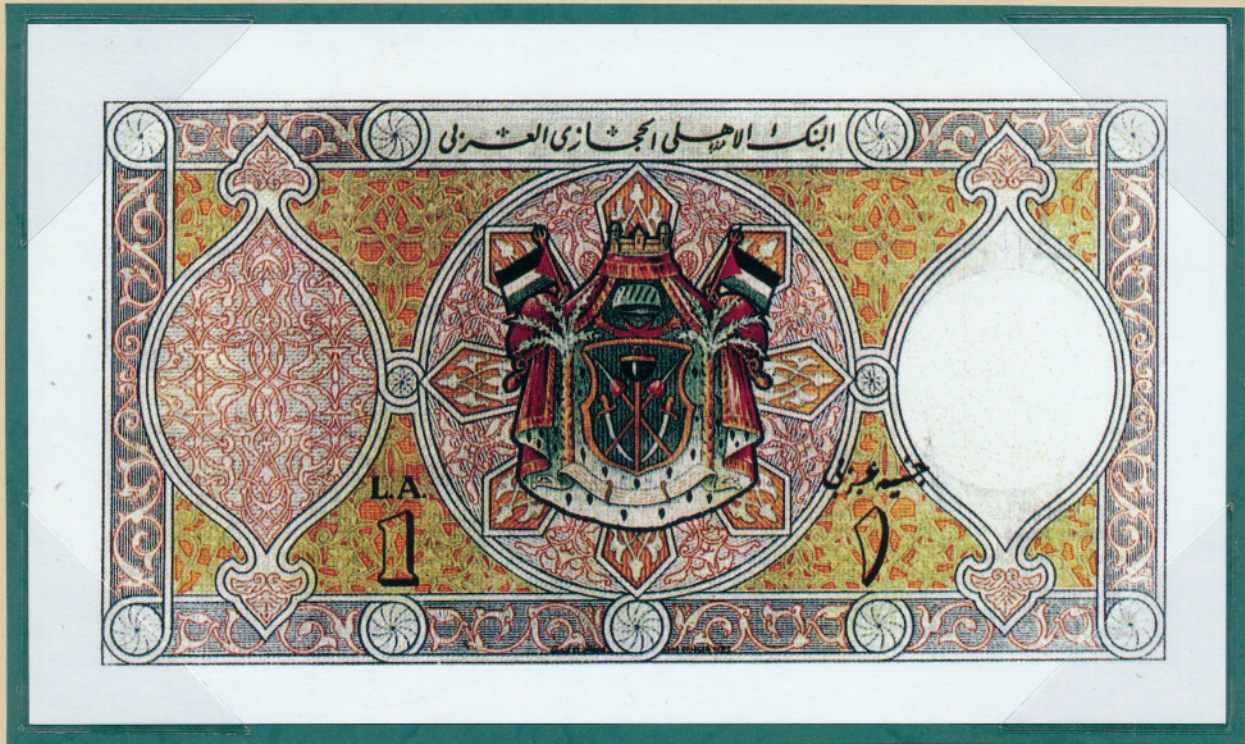


Second issue 1924



1924 - Currency

The Bilal Mosque did not appear on any officially produced currency, but did feature on the reverse of privately produced banknote essays. The banknotes were not issued because of the mistrust of paper money and most were later destroyed. Only a few sets remain, mainly in museums.

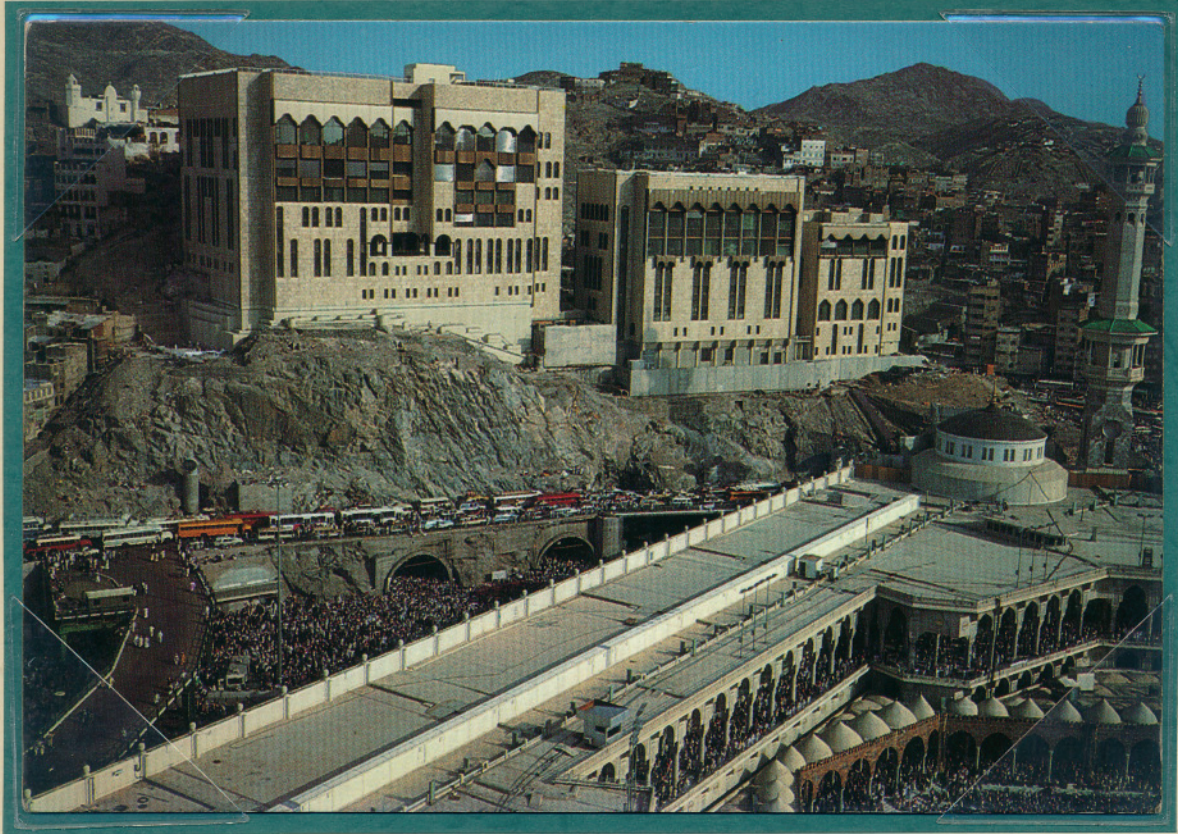


Reproduction of essay for Hejaz one pound note.

The Bilal Mosque resides at the top of the Hejaz coat of arms

The Final Days - The Nineteen Eighties

In the early 1980s, the Royal Palace was built between the Bilal Mosque and the Al-Haram Mosque.



Postcard publisher: Ministry of Information, Saudi Arabia.

Title: MAKKAH - THE ROYAL PALACE.

During the annual pilgrimage, many pilgrims climbed Gebel Al Quweis to visit the Bilal Mosque. The Saudi authorities deemed this to be a risk to the King, and so the **Bilal Mosque was razed to the ground by bulldozers.**