

Foreign Post Offices in Hejaz

By: Willie King

(This is probably an unfinished display)

Arabia : Prior to Independence

History :

The west coast of Arabia, Hejaz, was on the land trading route for frankincense and myrrh.

The Islamic religion was founded in Mecca in the 7th century and rapidly grew and by the 10th century had expanded as far as Spain and became a major scientific centre. Arabian scholars invented Algebra and modern mathematics by inventing the '0' which was omitted in the complex Roman mathematics.

In the 14th century the Ottoman Empire adopted Islam and became the new force in the near and middle east and by the 19th century controlled both the west and east coasts of Arabia.

By 1908 the Hejaz railway was built from Damascus via Amman to Medina (800 miles).

When Turkey joined Germany in WWI there was an obvious problem and Sir Ronald Storrs in Cairo 'influenced' King Hussain to initiate a revolt and independence was declared in June 1916/

Thomas Waghorn (1800-1850)

Waghorn briefly considered the land route through Hejaz for his expedited mail service to India and the far east.

The advent of steam ships solved the problems of sailing in the Red Sea and Arabia drifted back into obscurity.

Egyptian PO : 1865-81

Jeddah became a coaling port and Egyptian traders were allowed to open a Post Office in 1865.

Egypt first issued stamps on January 1st 1866 and very few (<10) examples of 1 and 2 piastre values from the first set have been recorded being used in Jeddah.

The Ottomans forced them to close their only office in Jeddah in 1881.



Egyptian 2 piastres used Jeddah in June 1867.

Ottoman PO : 1871-1918.

The Ottoman authorities opened their first Post Office in 1871 and in several other Hejaz cities and later along the Hejaz railway as it opened.



Pair of the 2 piastres 'Empire' Turkish stamps used in Mecca in June 1891.

Cancel - The scarce Uexkull Type Md in black.

Hejaz : Egyptian Post Office

The Egyptian Post Office was opened in Jeddah on June 8th 1865 and provided postal services until it was closed by the Ottoman authorities on 30th June 1881. Egypt issued stamps on January 1st 1866 for the first time and five different series were issued during the next 15 years the Post Office existed in Hejaz.

1865 : No covers have been recorded from the Egyptian Post Office in Jeddah

1866 : No covers and no stamps are recorded with Jeddah cancels during the first year of Egyptian stamps.

First Issue of Egyptian Stamps : Used at Jeddah

Seven stamps from 5 para to 10 piastres were first issued by Egypt on January 1st 1866. However only the one and two piastres values have been recorded as used at Jeddah, although Uexkull also lists the 5 piastres value but without accompanying proof. The very few one piastre stamps and covers and the single two piastres cover recorded are all dated in 1867. In the absence of any actual examples of this scarce issue scans only are shown.



Enlarged Scan of only used block recorded : Dated 1st July 1867
Source : Lot 3221 Feldmann Nov. 1989



Scan of only recorded 2 piastres used at Jeddah 9 Mag 67 : Ex Mayo

Hejaz : Egyptian Post Office

Interpostal Seals

These round seals were used to seal official mail, reseal officially opened mail and also as a tie sealing a bundle of letters. Without any actual face value they are not included under the umbrella of 'official stamps' although they carried out many similar functions.

POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE

GEDDA

Central Turkish Inscription reads 'Post of the Egyptian Government'

January 1867



The design printed was the third design and exists from two original dies None of the original seals, first produced in 1864 or second designs produced in 1865-6 were assigned to 'Gedda'.



Hejaz : Egyptian Post Office

Second Issue of Egyptian Stamps : Used at Jeddah

First Issued : August 1st. 1867

Design : Sphinx & Pyramid with pillar and obelisk in the side panels
 Values 5, 10, 20 paras, 1, 2 and 5 Piastres.

Each value was engraved four times creating a block of four. Each of the stamps in a block have slight differences which allow them to be identified. All four varieties of the one piastre value listed in the Zeheri catalogue are shown.

Usage in Hejaz : The only method of identification of usage of Egyptian stamps in Hejaz is by the "GEDDA" cancel.

A schematic of the typical POSTE VICE-REALI EGIZIANE is shown and is the only known cancel for the first two issues. Identification on individual stamps can be difficult, since the 28mm cancel is larger than the single stamp.



One Piastre



1 piastre : Zeheri Type I
 Dated 19 October 1867



1pi Zeheri Type III
 Dated 6 December 1867

1pi Zeheri Type IV
 Dated 29 July 1868



Date Slug is Inverted



1pi Zeheri Type II
 Dated 20 March 1871

1pi Zeheri Type IV
 Dated 30 December 1871

Late Usage



Two Piastres



2pi Zeheri Type IV
 Dated ?? October ??

Five Piastres



5pi Zeheri Type IV
 Illegible date

Hejaz : Egyptian Post Office

Egyptian Stamps : Penasson Issue : Used at Jeddah

First Issued : January 1st. 1872

Design : Sphinx & Pyramid with bottom panel reading POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIONE
Sometimes referred to as the 'Penasson' printings.

However most were printed by lithography at the Egyptian Government Printing Works at Bulaq
Values 5, 10, 20 paras, 1, 2 and 5 Piastres.

Usage in Hejaz : Again the only method of identification of usage of these Egyptian stamps in Hejaz is by the "GEDDA" cancel. The cancel for this issue was the POSTE KHEDEVIE EGIZIANE known in black and slightly less frequently in blue. A schematic is shown with the typical breaks in the outer rim. Note all of these issues are scarce used at Jeddah, the five piastres is the only example recorded at auction over last 15 years.



One Piastre



Dated 10 November 1874
Lithographed by Penasson Perf 13½

Five Piastres



Dated June or July 1874
Typographed at Bulaq. Perf 12½ x 13¼

De La Rue Printing : Used at Jeddah

First Issued : April 1st 1879

Design : Clear printing of Sphinx & Pyramid with upper panel reading POSTES EGYPTIENNES
Values 10, 20 paras and 1pi only recorded of 6 values issued.

The Ottoman authorities closed the Egyptian Post Office in Jeddah on June 30th 1881 and hence even this common Egyptian issue is remarkably scarce with a Gedda cancel. The Khedevie cancel shown above continued in use but became heavily worn and was replaced in 1880 by the 24.5mm Djeddah belted cancel. The example shown here was illustrated in J.M. Wilson's book *The Hejaz - A History in Stamps*



Worn Khedevie cancel
April 1880



Djeddah belted Cancel
29th July 1880
Earliest Known Date for this cancel



Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Undated Arabic Double Box and Double Ring Cancels

Blue Jeddah Double Box on Turkish 1871-2 Duloz 2 Piastres



Blue Mekkí Mukerrémé Double Ring on Turkish 1 & 2 Piastres Empire issues



Medina Munawarah Double Ring on Turkish 2 Piastres in blue & on 5 Piastres in black



Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

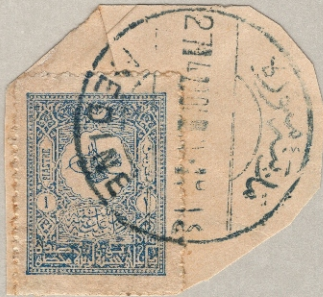
Madinah

Cancel : MĒDINĒ Bilingual
No Numbers in Segments

This 31mm cancel was used over the period 1901 to 1916 per Uexkull. While Makkah, Jeddah, Taif etc were captured in June 1916 the Ottoman forces were effectively besieged in Madinah until after the war ended in November 1918.



1901 Domestic Issue



1 Piastre : 27th April 1904

1905 Issue



1 Piastre : 11th October 1905



1 Piastre : 3rd April 1907

1908 Issue



Piece including 20 Para, pair of 1 piastre and 2½ piastres.
Note 2½ piastres unlisted by Uexkull with this or any Madinah cancel

1909 Issue



1 Piastre : 3rd January 1912



1 & 2 Piastres : 9th November 1912



2 Piastres : 12th September 1910

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Madinah

Cancel : MEDINÉ Bilingual With Numbers 3 and 4 in Segments



This 28mm cancels were used over the period 1914 to 1917 per Uexkull.

Historical Notes : Makkah and Jeddah were captured in June 1916 and Wejh, the port for Madinah in January 1917. Faisal and Lawrence then attacked the Hejaz Railway effectively imprisoning the Turkish garrison at Madinah but without the cost of permanent guards or food until after the war ended.

Numeral 3 Cancels on 1 Piastre of 1913 with 1st Overprint

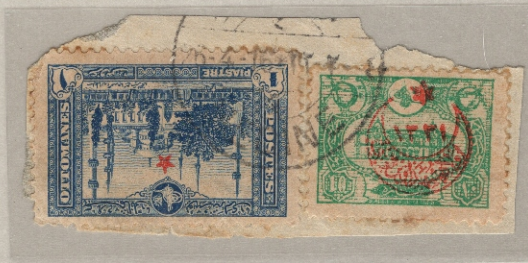
Note the accent over the first E in MEDINÉ has been dropped in the cancels with numerals



Cancelled on 18th & 25th October 1916 and 9th November 1916, apparently on pieces of money order form, possibly soldiers in the garrison sending money home.

Numeral 4 Cancel

Note the accent over the first E in MEDINÉ has been dropped and the second is very small and barely visible.



Cancel dated 26th April 1916 on
1914 1pi Foreign Mail 1pi and
1915 10para with 2nd Overprint



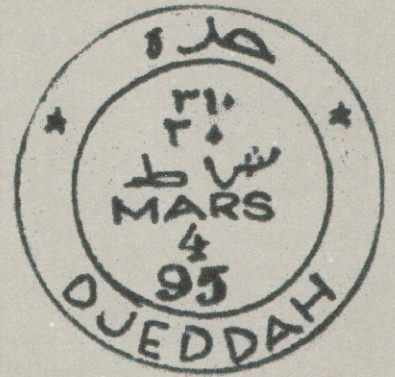
Cancel dated 27th. December 1916
10pa surcharge on 20pa 1905 issue
with 1st 1916 Overprint

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

Cancel : DJEDDAH Bilingual Double Ring

30mm DJEDDAH cancel : With 'H', wide letters and small stars.
Cancelled in black and blue on stamps issued 1884-1892.



20 Paras : 1892 issue



Black Cancel 5th March 1893

1 Piastre : 1892 Issue



Black Cancel : Djeddah 5th May 1892, Bombay Receipt 19th May 1892



Blue Cancel : Djeddah 13th October 1895

Delhi Receipt : 4th November 1895

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

Cancel : DJEDDA Bilingual Double Ring

This 30mm DJEDDA (Note no 'H') cancel has large stars..
It is mainly cancelled in blue on the 1892 series of Turkish stamps.

Scan of cancel ex Uexkull



20 Paras



Cancel 3rd September 1900



Cancel 14th December 1999

1 Piastre



Cancel : 12th October 1999



Cancel : 4th March 1896

2 Piastres



Cancel : 2nd December 189?

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

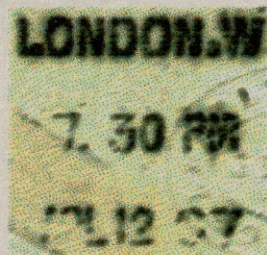
Cancel : DJIDDÉ Bilingual



Cover to London with DJIDDÉ Cancel on 10 para Turkish Issue of 1905.
The flap of the cover is embossed Gellatly & Hankey, Jeddah who were forwarding agents.
Franked at the basic overseas rate of 1 piastre = 40 paras



DJIDDÉ Cancel dated 31 March 1907
Receiving London W. cancel for April 12th 1907
Transit time of 13 days.



Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

Cancel : DJIDDÉ Bilingual

This 31mm cancel was used over the period 1900 to 1909.



DJIDDÉ Cancel on 20 para Turkish Issues of 1901 for Foreign Mail



4th May 1904



18th May 1904

DJIDDÉ Cancel on Turkish Issues of 1905



20 Para



1 Piastre : 24th June 1907



10 Piastres 30th.Dec 1906

DJIDDÉ Cancel on Constitution Issue of 1908



20 Para

This is only value of this issue recorded with Jeddah cancels.

26th August 1909 in violet

Note : This extends Coles & Walker noted usage (1902-8).

DJIDÉ instead of DJIDDÉ Cancel on Turkish Issues

Note this very similar cancel is from Anatolia. The three Anatolian cancels spelt DJIDE may also be differentiated in partial cancellations by

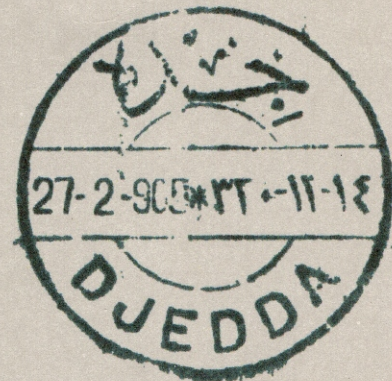
- 1 No accent over E.
- 2 With accent over É and the segments have vertical bars
- 3 With accent over É and numeral 2 in the segments.

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

**Cancel : DJEDDA Bilingual
No Numbers in Segments**

This 32mm cancel was used over the period 1900 to 1911 per Uexkull.
The 1907-1909 by Coles & Walker for Type 11 is clearly too short.



DJEDDA Cancel on pieces franked with Turkish Issues of 1901 for Domestic & Foreign Mail



1 Pi. Domestic, 20 Paras Foreign 2 Pi. Domestic, 20 Paras Foreign 5 Piastres Domestic
All pieces are dated 27th February 1905 and therefore appear to be CTO

DJEDDA Cancel on 1905 and 1908 Turkish Issues



**1905 10 Para
Dated 27th February 1907**



**1908 20 Para
Violet cancel for 9th September 1909**
Note Uexkull records violet cancel only in 1908



**1908 Behié 10 Para
Dated 24th April 1909**

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

Cancel : DJEDDA 2 Bilingual Number 2 in Segments

This cancel is used on Turkish stamps from 1905-1914 however it is 34mm and not 32mm as per Uexkull.

Coles & Walker list a blue cancel whereas Uexkull lists violet used on 4 of the 6 stamps of the 1905 set and a fifth value is shown on this page.



DJEDDA 2 Black Cancel on pieces with Turkish Issues of 1905



10 paras and 5 Piastres
Dated 8th January 1908

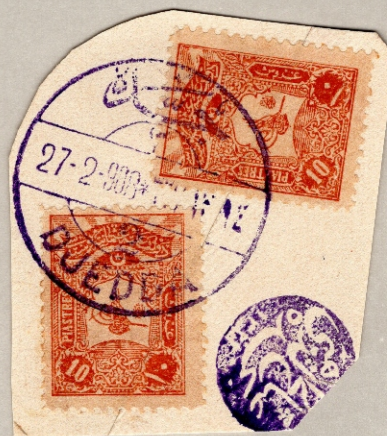


2½ Piastres
Dated 5th January 1908



1 and 5 Piastres
Dated 22nd December 1907

DJEDDA 2 Violet Cancel on 2 ½ and 10 piastres of 1905 Turkish Issue Note violet cancel on 2 ½ piastres not listed by Uexkull



Envelope pieces are successive days 26th, 27 and 28th February 1908.

Hejaz : Ottoman Post Offices

Jeddah

Cancel : DJEDDAH 4 Bilingual Number 4 in Segments

The 29mm DJEDDAH 4 cancel was widely used by the Ottoman Post Office on Turkish stamps from 1908 until 1916. However this cancel did not pass into use by the Hejaz Post Office. It is reported in both black and violet but only black cancels are shown.



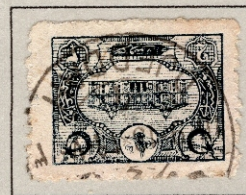
DJEDDAH 4 on 1913 Issue



1pi : Cancel 22nd, March 1913



5pi : Cancel 15th November 1913



2 pi : Cancel 15th.Sept. 1913

DJEDDAH 4 Cancels on 1914 Pictorial Issue



1½pi : Monument to Martyrs of Liberty



1pi : Sultan Ahmed Mosque
Cancel : 6th. October 1915



2½pi : Candilli in Bosphorus
Cancel : 24th Sept. 1914



20 Paras : Castle of Europe
Cancel : 4th. February 1914



5pi : Ministry of War Building
Cancel : 10th June 1914

Hejaz : Ottoman & Hejaz Post Office

Jeddah

Cancel : DJEDDAH 3 Bilingual Number 3 in Segments

The 28mm DJEDDAH 3 cancel is recorded used on Turkish stamps from 1908 onwards and then continued to be used by the Hejaz Post Office. Uexkull noted the Djedda 5 used by Hejaz PO but not this Djeddah 3 cancel.



DJEDDAH 3 Cancel on Turkish



10 para of 1913 Issue : Cancel 8th November 1913

DJEDDAH 3 Cancel on Hejaz



Hejaz ½ piastres Perf 10 : Cancel 14th October 1916
Note T.E.Lawrence arrived in Jeddah on 16th October



Hejaz ¼ piastres Perf 12 and 1 piastre Perf 10 : Cancel 30th November 1916