

RANDOM NOTES OF HEJAZ, NEJD, AND SAUDI ARABIA

The following “random notes” are offered without apology and in the hope that they will lead to correspondence, both questions and answers, as to the points raised. Saudi Arabia, including Hejaz which should be included with it in catalog listings, is a fascinating segment of philately deserving the attention of the serious collector. Its issues have been remarkably free of the “wall paper” sort of material being issued so freely by its neighbors. This is a difficult field, and there aren't, for example, many collections complete from 1960 to 1970. In the hope that more collectors will find a new interest in the stamps of Saudi Arabia, this set of notes is respectfully offered.

(All numbers are from Scott's 1971 Catalog)

HEJAZ

Imperforates of Scott L1-3 are proofs.

Scott L3 is known perf 10 x 12.

There is an interesting variety of the ¼ piaster green (Scott L1 and subsequent stamps in the same design). The letter 'r' of 'barid' (upper right block containing Arabic writing; the 'r' is the stroke curving downward to the left and not joined to the next letter to its left), contains a white dot at position 47. The different plates have been found to contain this:

(1) N-4-A and } - }V and (2) N-4-H and } - }.

Note that the first Mecca overprint (Scott L13A-21) is typographed, but the second (enclosed in box, Scott L24-29) is lithographed. (Note this is erroneous both are typographed - wak) There are excellent fakes of both.

Scott L33, ¼ pi green, was printed in a 6 x 6 sheet, two rows of which are inverted with respect to the others. The tête-bêche varieties come from the two rows where the normal and inverted sections of the sheet adjoin, one stamp in one of the rows has a large flaw, a big gash covering half the stamp.

Scott L34, ½ pi red. Position 7 shows 2/2 in the lower right corner.

Scott L42-48, the 'Caliphate' overprints were made by printing the overprint in black ink, then while the ink was wet, shaking gold dust down over the sheet to adhere to the ink. There are so-called 'black' overprints, but in almost every case a good glass will show a few specks of gold. Still, a pure black overprint may exist and is listed in Warin.

Scott L61, 67, 68-73, and 74, 75 are scarce genuine. Watch out for really excellent fakes of these and all Hejaz overprints.

Scott L135-141: there should be a separate listing of the first release without the added hand stamp. Same goes for the postage dues J26-34.



HEJAZ - continued

Scott L177A, blue on $\frac{1}{4}$ pi ultramarine, probably does not exist. The author has never seen a genuine copy. Fakes are numerous, all apparently from the same die.

Scott L185, 10 pi red and orange, is scarcer than the catalog value would indicate. If you are offered one at \$4.00 snap it up.

SAUDI ARABIA

Scott 16, 17 in yellow buff are usually from badly worn plates.

Scott 38A and 38B seem a little richly priced. No stamp in this interesting corner of philately is worth this much yet, in the author's opinion.

The cut shown for Scott 56-58A and 81-91 is a picture of what is most likely a piece of fakery. It is very bad Arabic - there are two glaring errors in the writing that no Arab calligrapher would ever make. A better version usually appears on stamps cancelled with the Medina octagon dated just after the fall of Medina to the Wahhabis. This has all the look of a provisional issue. The overprint also occurs placed diagonally. The author reserves judgement and would like to examine any covers.

Scott 69-74 and 75-80 are correctly listed in the 1971 Scott catalog except for perforation. They are perf 11 ordinarily. There are also perf 14, perf 14 x 11, and perf 11 x 14. Same goes for the corresponding postage dues. Interestingly enough, the Pan-Islamic Conference overprints appear to have been applied only to the perf 11; the other perforations may not have been regularly released without the overprint.

Saudi Arabia joined the International Postal Union in February, 1927.

For Scott 115, there is the interesting variety in the Arabic: 'Awhad' instead of 'Wahid'.

Scott 125-129 comes in two perforations: perf 11 (really $10\frac{3}{4}$ to 11) and perf $11\frac{1}{2}$ (really perf $11\frac{1}{4}$ to $11\frac{1}{2}$). Scott 135-137 also comes both perf 11 and perf $11\frac{1}{2}$.

The Heir Apparent set, Scott 138-149, remains popular and brings good prices in the auction room. A good investment! Genuinely used, copies must be extremely scarce outside of the two values commonly found, the $\frac{1}{2}$ g red and the $\frac{3}{2}$ g ultramarine. The author has seen only these two.

The Tughra set, Scott 161-172, affords a rich field of study to the specialist. There are at least eight different printings distinguishable by the paper, perforation, and color of the stamps.



Saudi Arabia - continued

Scott #177 is interesting. The inscription in the two flags bears the Arabic phrase "There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet". After release of the stamp, religious leaders pointed out that these words, the words of Allah, would be defaced by the canceller, thrown into trash bins, stepped upon on the ground with the sole of the foot, and so on. It was therefore agreed that the inscription would be effaced, and all plate positions were scratched out. The "unscratched" version seems commoner used than mint, the scratched-out version more common mint. Both perf 11½ and perf 11 exist.

Scott 179 has the variety 'POSTFS' (position 2). The sheet for this issue, either value, is 2x5, only ten stamps.

The 'Capture of Riyadh' issue gives rise to two plate varieties. The 5g (position 16) has a broken Arabic numeral '5', the character appearing like the letter 'c' and the 10g (position 11) has in Arabic 'qirsh' instead of the correct 'qurush'.

Scott #185 and 186 were first printed with the inscription 'BOYAUME' instead of 'ROYAUME'. Before final printing, the bottom of the 'B' was removed in each plate position to leave an 'R' a little shorter than the other letters and varying in shape slightly from stamp to stamp. Some sheets of the first state of the plate have come into the trade and have passed into the hands of collectors.

It was the intent of the Saudi Arabia Government to include a 5g value in the Railroad issue (Scott #187-191), but it was inadvertently omitted from the list passed to the American Bank Note Company. This issue is attributed to a suggestion made by an employee of the Arabian American Oil Company, Howard Beir. Aramco assisted the Saudi Arab Government in getting the stamps printed. Total quantity printed was 100,000 sets.

The World Refugee Year stamps of 1960, Scott #208-210, were available in large quantities. All proceeds from sale of these stamps went to the Palestine refugees. Up to this writing, you can still find large quantities below face value. Imperfs exist.

The 1960's are a difficult field for the collector of Saudi Arab stamps. If you have everything, you are doing very well indeed.

Scott #211-239 and C7-21 were printed in Cairo by the Survey of Egypt. Imperforates exist of Scott #224-226, 231-239 and C11, C14, C15, C16, and C17. The Cairo printings are distinguished by thick paper, yellow gum, and lack of watermark. The Gas-Oil Separator Plant shown is Aramco's Buqqa GOSP in the Abqaiq Field.

Three color varieties of the "Cairo" Dam Set deserve listing; the frame of the 6p (Scott #216) occurs in both black (1960) and black brown (1962); the frame of the 9p (Scott #217B) in both orange brown and yellow brown; and the frame of the 10p (Scott #218) in both blue green and olive green (1962). Other-apparent shades appear to be due to inking and can be found within the same sheet.



SAUDI ARABIA - continued

Scott #240-242, Dammam Port, were the first stamps printed by the private company Dar al-Isfahani Press in Jiddah. The miniature sheets of this issue were handed out as gifts to persons attending the Port's inaugural ceremony and were valid for postage. Imperfs exist in full sheets and must be collected in pieces at least as big as a strip of three to show that they do not come from cut-up miniature sheets. The watermark can be found with the tree up or down.

Scott #246-248: the watermark inverted (tree down) has not been seen yet by the author.

Scott #249-251 come imperforate in full sheets. They must be collected in pairs. The overprints on these stamps seem to have had no official sanction.

Inverted watermarks on Scott #256-260, 263-270, and C22-29 are scarce. The author's collection lacks most of them. Scott #271 has not been seen and it is doubtful that it exists. The papers of these stamps fluoresces a bright white, in contrast to the Cairo printings, the paper of which fluoresces a dull brown. Designs are identical. The fluorescent properties provide a good rapid sorting method.

Scott #299 has a variety in position 5 (upper right corner stamp), a broken 'A' in 'INSTALLMENT' (one pane only).

In 1965, the Saudi Arab Government approached Thomas de la Rue concerning the printing of stamps. Scott #300-322, 323-343A, and C33-52 resulted. There were 29 varieties printed in each design, all of which were delivered to the Saudi Arab Government, but some of which have not yet been released. The designs were redrawn for these printings. For the Dam and Gas-Oil Plant types, the principal difference is the smaller lettering. There is no watermark (and none on any stamps printed by de la Rue). The Airmail set has a more modern plane, a Boeing 720B of the Saudi Arab Airlines. The comb perf used has a wide tooth in the horizontal perforation both top and bottom at one end of each stamp; this characteristic enables a rapid sort. There are some (so far) scarce items; Scott #328 mint (but not scarce used), and the following airmails: 2p (unlisted) and 11p (Scott C40).

Because of demand by topical collectors, the boy scout ('Rover Moot') issues may be relatively harder to get.

In 1966, the Faisal cartouche was substituted for the Sa'ud cartouche in the definitives and airmails. Both watermarked and unwatermarked stamps exist. A complete list cannot be prepared with certainty. We understand from the Philatelic Agency that no more are being printed and that the pictorials will take their place. There are to be 52 values of the pictorials, we are told, with a 200 qirsh stamp among them. However, both first and second watermarks exist, increasing the number of varieties. For the Faisal cartouche stamps, a quick sort can be made on the basis that unwatermarked stamps have the same 'wide tooth' as the 1965 redrawn stamps, whereas the watermarked stamps are fully perforated. Scott #416, the 16q GOSP, appears to be hard to obtain here in Saudi Arabia.



The Dammam-Jiddah Road issue is fascinating. The dots which mark the locations of one or two of the cities were missing on a few of the stamps (right-hand dot or dots for Dammam or Dammam and Riyadh). Positions 27, 47, and 57 from the upper pane and position 56 from the lower have been noted. Printing plant or post office employees rectified this by hand, using (apparently) a ball-point pen. These 'hand-painted dots' are collectible, as are those that escaped this treatment and lack the dots altogether. We suppose that the hand-painted dots can be readily faked by applying a ball-point pen over existing dots. There is a fine horizontal scratch in positions 32-33 of the lower pane, and position 51 of the upper pane shows a broken tip on the lowest leaf. The positions of all these varieties are valid for all five denominations.

In the 'pictorial' issue, the Arabian stallion shown is "Amir", whose current owner is Russell Tarvin.

C80, the 10p airmail showing the falcon, had some defect in printing in positions 19, 20, 29, and 30 of the left pane. These four stamps were removed before the sheets were released to the post offices and the trade. Scratched lines were apparently drawn across these stamps, because these scratches show on adjacent stamps, positions 9, 10, 18, 28, and 39. The tearing out was done roughly, and you will usually find these last positions with damaged perforations on one side.

RA1, RA2, and RA3a are scarce mint and are undervalued in Scott.

The Arabian Philatelic Association, of which the author is president, invites correspondence and comment from all collectors of these interesting stamps. The comments expressed herein, where they are opinions and not facts, are entirely the opinions of the author. Write John M. Wilson, Arabian Philatelic Association, c/o Aramco, Box 1929, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and please use airmail. We are interested in offers of the better and scarcer material. We would also be glad to accept your want list.

John M. Wilson

Attachments:

Historical Data
List of Post Offices in 1895-1899

JMW
4/28/71

Retyped April 1987
W.A. King

HISTORICAL AND OTHER DATA

1. Fall of Hofuf to ibn Sa'ud, May 9, 1913.
Qatif and al-'Uqair fell shortly afterward.
2. Capture of Ha'il - November 2, 1921.
3. Massacre of Ta'if - September 3, 1924. Ali, son of King Hussain had withdrawn from Ta'if to spare the city from attack. As troops from Sultan ibn Bijad's army approached, however, troops in a police post who had not been briefed opened fire, and the bedu Wahhabis began a slaughter. Some 300 to 400 inhabitants died.
4. Occupation of Mecca - About mid-October, 1924. Ali abandoned Mecca about October 5. King ibn Sa'ud made his formal entry into the city December 5, 1924.
5. Occupation of Lith and Rabigh - before July, 1925. These towns were secured so that the Wahhabis could stage the first Hajj season under their own control.
6. Occupation of Medina - December 5, 1925. Medina had been under siege for about a year. Yenbu' al-Bahr fell a few days later.

Scott #56-58A and 81-91 are apparently provisional issued in Medina right after the investiture because of the unavailability of regular Nejd stamps. Earliest cancellations would be in December, 1925. Author's collection has both December, 1925, and January, 1926. The Medina octagon is the common cancellation.

7. Abdication of King Ali - December 19, 1925.
Fall of Jiddah - December 23, 1925.
8. Beginning of Yemen War - April 5, 1934. Saudi troops crossed the border and occupied Hodeida and most of the Tihama. After negotiations lasting two years, ibn Sa'ud achieved his aim of secure and recognized borders, and his troops withdrew. Cancellations from Hodeida are possible.

JMW

4/28/71

LIST OF POST OFFICES IN 1895-1899

The following post offices are taken from "List of Ottoman Post Offices according to Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste, publie par Le Bureau International de l'Union Postale Universelle", March 1895, and June 1890.

<u>HEJAZ</u>	<u>NEJD</u>	<u>EASTERN PROVINCE</u>	<u>YEMEN</u>
Djedda	Nedjed	Ahsa	Abou-Arich
Djidde		Katif	Aness' *
Dshedda			Badjil
Gedda			Beit ul-Fakih
Jidda			Camaran, Ile
Le Mecque			Cherkh Said
Mecca			Djebeli-Rime
Mekke			Djizan
Mamouret ul-Hamid, ou Leith (Lith?)			Douha
Medine			Ebha
Rabi (Rabigh?)			Ghamed
Taif			Hudeida
Yambo (Yenbu' al-Bahr)			Ibb
			Kaataba
			Kevkeban
			Lahie
			Lehj
			Menahe
			Mikhail
			Moka
			Oseir (Sanaa)
			Sanaa
			Tais
			Yerim
			Zeidie
			Zubeid

* The last character doubtful. When using this list, please make allowances for the French phonetic spellings sometimes used.

4/28/71

jmw

RN 1 retyped April 1987

W. A. King

Dhahran
November 13, 1972

ALL MEMBERS
Arabian Philatelic Association

Attached are two sheets prepared by Dr. Randall Baker of Jiddah, a member of the APA. He has asked me to circulate these among our members with the hope that they will be able to add to the cancellations that he has been able to assemble. He asks that you record in black ink, in approximately actual size on tracing paper, any cancellations you have that do not appear. If you can add to any cancellation that appears or add to the information available in any way, he would appreciate it. He says that he is particularly anxious to obtain copies of the postmarks of Ma'an, Der'a, and Aqaba, as well as any military postal markings. I will be happy to receive your material here, or you may wish to write directly to Dr. Baker at this address:

176, Drayton High Road
Drayton, Norwich,
Norfolk NR8 6BA

I hope you find time to support Dr. Baker in his efforts.

Very truly yours,
JOHN M. WILSON
President

2014 Note:

Dr. Baker no longer lives at the above address.

EGYPTIAN & TURKISH PERIOD



24 خالص الاجرة
FEE PAID
٥ ر

32 مكة
١٤ شرب ١٣٤٤
مكة

40 مكة
٢٤ ٢٣١٦١ * ١١٨ ٢٤١٦
MEDINE

50 جدة
٢٥ ٢٣١ ١٦٣٩٢٥
DJEDDA

25 مكة المكرمة
خالص الاجرة
Fee Paid
نمرة

33 مكة
٢٦ ٢٣٦٥٣٥١١١
المكة

41 مكة
١٨ ١٧١٠٢ * ٢٠ ١٥١٥١٥١
3 MEDINE

49 جدة
٢١٥١-٥ 157926
DJEDDA

26 خالص الاجرة
FEE PAID
نمرة (٢١) No

34 مكة المكرمة
٢١ ٢٢٠ ٩١٦٠٧٠٠٧
MEKKE

42 ضبا
٢٦ ١٤٨ ٢٦-١-٢
DEBA

27 FEE PAID.

28 مكة
خالص الاجرة
Fee Paid
نمرة

35 PAQUEBOT

36 مكة
٢٧ ٢٧١٦ * ١٥٣
MEKKE

48 مكة المكرمة
٣ ٣١٠٤٩١١٠٣
4 MECCHE

29 مكة المكرمة
البنية
١٣٣٧

37 الوحد
١٩ ٩٠٢١٧٢٢
EL-WAJHE

43 مكة
٠٥-٠١-٤٦*
MEKKE (RE...)

44 جدة
٢٦-٩-٤٤
DJEDDAH

30 A.R.
N° 136
Gr

38 القنفذ
?
CONFUDAH

45 TRESORS ET POSTES
* 17 17 *
* 17 17 *

46 ASSURE

31 R

39 جدة
Djeddah
نمرة No

47 ذوقية معلان عنها
valeur déclarée.