



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



April 2023

NUMBER 100

CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International	2
Random Notes #100	3
Willie A. King 1940 - 2023	17
The Leaning '3' of Radhwa - Martin Lovegrove	19
Regional Postmarks of Saudi Arabia - Part 5 - Martin Lovegrove	21
2000 - 2002 Visa Labels - Martin Lovegrove	24
Saudi Arabian Year Issues - 2021 part 1 - D.E. Jessich & Martin Lovegrove	29
From the Auctions	35



See [page 17](#)

The Arabian Philatelic Association International

The Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. The APA had over 300 members and subscribers worldwide during most of its existence. Its journal (*APA Random Notes*), and *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries*, auctions and new issue service contributed to the large increase in the popularity of Saudi Arabian philately in the 1970s and 1980s. However, interest declined in the 1990s. An initial attempt to start up a conventional Saudi stamp society in the USA failed later that decade. Since then, we have realized that an Internet-based society has a better prospect of success and we have founded the Arabian Philatelic Association International. (APAI). The APAI website is currently at <http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index.html> and has a page to enable members to contact the APAI.

A *Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia* has been written and published by Rudy Thoden and updated as Thoden 2008.

Longer range, we hope to prepare a second edition of the *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries* to cover the issues not in the original edition, plus the many new forgery discoveries, including very dangerous ones created by modern computer technology.

The following members are currently serving the APAI in the capacities indicated:

Membership secretary and Random Notes distribution: Marwan Nusair

European representative: *Vacant*

USA representative: David Jessich

USA Distribution Manager: Marwan Nusair

Treasurer: David Jessich

Editor, Random Notes: Martin Lovegrove

Random Notes

The APAI's publication, *Random Notes*, will be issued three times a year, assuming sufficient material is available. The editor is Mr. M C Lovegrove, e-mail: weatherings@aol.com, (The Weatherings, East End, Gooderstone, KINGS LYNN, PE33 9DB, United Kingdom.) Articles on all aspects of Saudi Arabian philately are urgently needed for publication in *Random Notes*, and can be submitted in manuscript, as a text file, as an e-mail or a MS Word document. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved. Opinions expressed are those of the authors only. Material from this publication may be reprinted provided credit is given to "Arabian Philatelic Association International" and the author of the article. Please send a copy of the reprint to the editor.

Scott's (2023) and Stanley Gibbons (2016) catalog numbers are used with the kind permission of the copyright owners.

Several organizations and individuals have granted permission for their work to be reproduced in this journal; our thanks go to them and their details are given on the final page of this edition.

Reference may be made in this publication to the following books by their authors' names:

HAWORTH, W.B. and SARGENT, H. L. - *The Postal Issues of the Hejaz* (1922)

WARIN, D.F.- *The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah and Nejd.* (1927)

MAYO, M.M. - *Barid Al Sa'udiyyah wa al Hijaz wa Najd* (1973)

DONALDSON, N - *The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf.* (1975)

WILSON, J.M.- *The Hejaz - A History in Stamps* (1982).

COLES, J.H. & WALKER, H.E - *Postal Cancellations of the Ottoman Empire Part 2* (1987)

THODEN, R. J - *A Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia*, (2001), Thoden 2008

VON UEXKULL, J.- *The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia* (2001).

RIACHI, G.D. - *The Sultanate of Nejd, A Philatelic Manual* (2015).

Random Notes #100

Assembled by the Editor

I wonder if Jack Wilson ever thought we would ever get to edition number 100? Well, we have, but have to record the very sad death of Willie King on January 24, 2023. A tribute to Willie appears on [page 17](#).

As usual, producing this issue has been hard work; we have the usual problem of a lack of articles or even short notes, and there has been a significant amount of work to do for other societies. I need to take time off and complete the DGA Handbook and also a series of articles, and perhaps a book, about the Hejaz stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan.

I have received some recollections of Jack Wilson from Jim Kearney:

When I arrived in Saudi Arabia in 1974 I became interested in Saudi Arabia stamps. I had always been a collector in my youth. With so much discussions about forgeries I decided to seek help from an expert. So Jack Wilson became a mentor and guided me in many of my purchases. He gave me some good advice about buying any collectible - "if you see something you like, buy it. It might not be offered again and if it is it will be more expensive".

At a stamp club meeting in Dhahran Jack passed around a Tughra cover that someone offered it to him for \$100. We all exclaimed "\$100 for a Tughra cover - what's the world coming to". Jack said very little. Later I saw it in his collection. Later I acquired that cover.

When Jack was writing his book "the Hejaz - A History in Stamps" he was pushed to complete it in time. He asked me if I could design/develop a system for segregating King Ali Jeddah I from Jeddah II. We came up with a measurement method that is detailed in his book.

Much later Jack helped me write a Random Notes article on the APA 1972 "Philby" auction. He recollected some events that led up to the obtaining and offering at auction that material.

He is sorely missed.

To that I can add my gratitude for the Random Notes produced by the APA. Jack Wilson certainly started something and I learnt much from the articles relating to Hejaz stamps and overprints. I won't mention names, one just has to look at the 'Author' section of the RN Index.

Now for the notes.

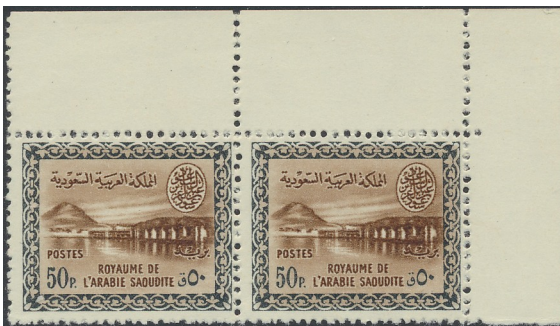
1. Barcoded registration labels for official mail have been produced. I am aware of two types, both with Code 39 type barcodes. One type has the old Saudi Post logo (below left) and the other, issued before the Saudi Post re-branding to SPL, has a logo representing an envelope (below right). Both types do not conform to the UPU S10 registration label standard. Will a new design be produced by SPL?



6. Perhaps related to the previous item is the case of the Hajj 1443 issue. The cancellation on the First Day Cover is 1443-12-5 (5 July 2022) but the stamp issue was delayed; Syed Abrar Ahmed tells me he saw them 'hot off the press' in January 2023! I wonder what issue date the catalogues will print?
7. Continuing with the modern theme, the Digital Tourism Strategy sheetlet of four se-tenant stamps, contained a QR code which contained the internet URL for the Ministry of Tourism, <https://mt.gov.sa/>.



8. Now for a couple of DGA flaws. The first is a Cairo unwatermarked 50p dam with the left dot over 'qaf' being split, thus showing three dots. It occurs in position 9. The second is a 75p from the same issue showing frame damage. The plate position is unknown. It is not known whether either of these is constant.



50p three dots




75p damaged frame



9. Saudi Post issues brochures to accompany commemorative issues. Previous editions of Random Notes have given details of the security features on recent commemorative stamps and it is pleasing to see that SPL now includes these details in the relevant brochures.

المواصفات الفنية للإصدار
Technical configuration of the version



السمات الأمنية في الطابع تشير إليها باللون الأحمر
The security features in the stamps refers to the color red

	Stamps	Card	بطاقة	طابع	
Denom	3.SR	5.SR	٥ ريال	٣ ريال	الصفات
Qty	6000	4000	٤٠٠٠	٦٠٠٠	الكمية
Dimin	30 X 55 mm	105 X 75 mm	١٠٥ X ٧٥ ملم	٣٠ X ٥٥ ملم	الأبعاد
Perf	14	-	-	١٤	التخريم
Sheet	4	1	1	٤	الصفحة
Shape	4	1	1	٤	الشكل
Version Date : 10 - 11 - 2022			تاريخ الإصدار : ١٦ - ٤ - ١٤٤٤ هـ		
Type : Commemorative			النوع : تذكاري		
Printing Technique : Offset			طريقة الطباعة : أوفسيت		
Printing : Government Printing Department			الطباعة : مصلحة مطابع الحكومة		
Stamp Designed by: Sultan al qarni Stamps Designer at Saudi Post SPL			تصميم الطابع : سلطان القرني مصمم الطابع في البريد السعودي سبل		

Security details



10. Saudi Post have updated their Al Barid Al Mumtaz stationery. On the next page is an example of a plastic envelope with associated paperwork showing the SPL logo, but note that the EMS logo remains as before.
11. The last of the 1950s 'visit' sets, that for the visit of King Hussein of Jordan in 1953, gives us some interest in the top margin. The normal format for these 'visit' sheets is for the stamps to be surrounded by a continuous marginal rule, but in this case the line is coextensive and is the same for both denominations.
Close examination shows that the line is the lower 1 mm. of the stamp design and suggests that the intention was to have more than four rows of stamps and in order to reduce the number to four, the majority of the top row of stamps had to be removed.



Coextensive top marginal rule on both denominations

12. A sheet of the 2020 three falcon stamps illustrated in RN97.28, has been seen without any trace of the text usually printed in invisible fluorescent ink.





البريد السعودي | سبل
SAUDI POST | SPL

الرقم التعريفي هنا



FROM	وصف المحتوي	To
Country: Saudi Arabia	Food	Country: United Kingdom
City: الرياض	Garments	City:
Sender Name: اسم المرسل منه	Medical Equip	Consignee Name:
ID No. رقم الهوية	Plastic Apparatus	Address:
Address: العنوان	Electronic devices	
Mobile No. رقم الاتصال	Medicine	
Street Name: شارع واسل	Tools	
Blgd No. رقم المبنى	Paper & documents	
Street Name: شارع الملك فيصل	Others	
Blgd No. رقم المبنى		
Extended Code: رقم الرمز المميز		
Postal Code: D.B. الرمز البريدي		
Mobile No. رقم الاتصال		
Street Name: شارع الملك فيصل		
Blgd No. رقم المبنى		
Street Name: شارع الملك فيصل		
Blgd No. رقم المبنى		
Extended Code: رقم الرمز المميز		
Signature of Receiver: توقيع المستلم		
Signature of Sender: توقيع المرسل		

DELIVERY OFFICE COPY

ADDRESS LABEL COPY
سبل
تسليم البريد الإلكتروني
CUSTOMS DECLARATION COPY
نسخة مكتب التخليص الجمركي

GRIP FRMILY AND SHAP OUT RECEIPT
Please keep this receipt for your records.

SAUDI POST
SPL

عدم وجود عنوان واضح للمرسل إليه قد يتسبب بتأخير تسليم الشحنة للاستعلام الاتصال على الرقم الموحد: 19992 البريد الإلكتروني: info@splonline.com.sa

Express Documents

مستندات البريد السريع

Weight: 0.050 Kg
Price: SR150.00
التاريخ: 06-06-2022 10:00:06

من: RYADH, Saudi Arabia
إلى: Mobile

24

SEPC

EH02536873GB

CAMBRIDGE DEPOT

Force Force

EH02536873GB

Completion Date: 20 Jun 2022

Barcode: 24

Barcode: EH02536873GB



13. A barcode label without a barcode? The barcode has been replaced with the registration number in 2 mm high characters having an asterisk at each end. The asterisks are the barcode type Code 39 start and stop characters. The printer probably printed the human readable characters because it encountered a problem with the barcode font. The label is type BC2 as shown in RN85.30.

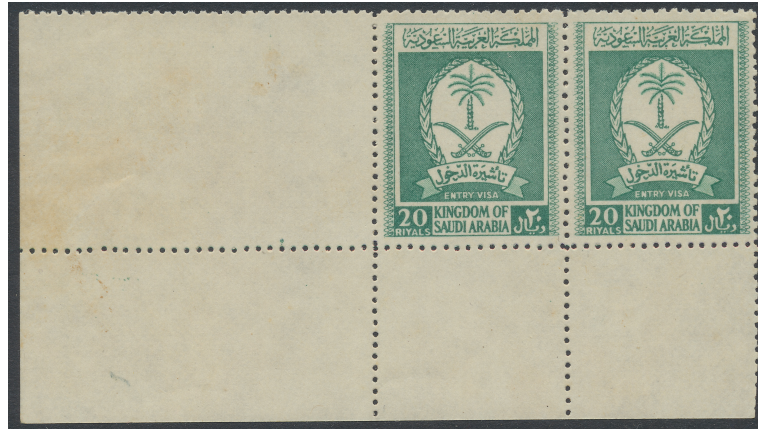


14. A good one for collectors of revenue stamps is this fragment with road tax stamps. The 2 SR stamp, Thoden RR96, was one of those seen at the Security Printing Press in Riyadh during a visit there in 1971 but the colours were not recorded at the time. The colours are black and dull blue and the watermark direction of this example is upright. In this example, the stamp is being used to pay part of the General Documentary tax and it is a shame that the 3 SR General Documentary tax stamp (RG36) is severely damaged; it is classed as 'very rare'.



15. Another revenue item is this pair of entry visa stamps. Close inspection shows that these are far from ordinary. Most easily seen is the fact that they have been line-perforated with a gauge of 13; genuine stamps are comb perforated approximately 14. The stamps are printed in lithography, but genuine stamps showing the text 'ENTRY VISA' are recess printed; the genuine lithographed stamps do not have the English text and are printed from two plates (see RN 89.29). Finally, the design has been stretched vertically by one millimetre; it is 28 mm instead of 27.





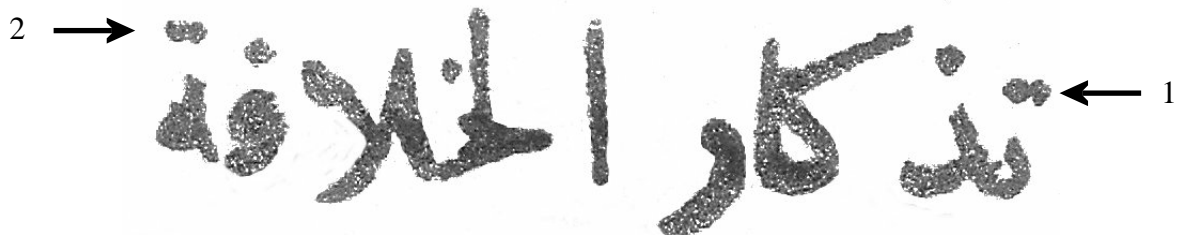
A good forgery

I cannot see this stamp being anything other than a forgery, but it does look good. Perhaps we should be checking out collection of passport stamps.

16. I was working through a pile of Hejaz forgeries when I came across a Caliphate type not in the Forgeries Manual. That in itself is not exceptional, but this one stood out. It was a forgery of the first, narrow top line, setting and had the correct number of dots and in the correct places in the Arabic, something that the genuine overprint does not. The overprint is gold on black and in many ways is similar to forgery type 1. The main points to note are:

1. Two clear dots over *teh*.
2. Two clear dots over *tah marbutah*.
3. Clear, crisp, numerals in the year.

The stamp is shown below and has quite a heavy Makkah Al Mukaramah type HA10 'dealer' cancel. Also below is my attempt to clean up the top and bottom lines of the overprint.



Caliphate forgery with enlarged top and bottom lines of overprint.



17. Not listed by Ken Knight is the type X10 with ALGHAAT office. On the stamp I have seen the cancellation is incomplete but I have attempted to reproduce a complete version. Has anyone got a complete copy?



Simulated complete version

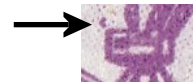
18. David Jessich's search for a 3 qirsh Dammam Port miniature sheet with the watermark sideways left has come to an end. David noticed that there was a flaw on each stamp that he had not seen on his other sheets; it is illustrated below. For an unknown reason, I started wondering about the watermark direction; why is it sideways on these sheets? I found a possible answer when I simulated a double pane Faisal Installation sheet and superimposed some of the Dammam sheets as shown on the next page. Twenty of the Dammam sheets arranged sideways in four rows of five sheets seemed to be a perfect fit for that size of paper. With the Dammam sheets vertical, there was too much wasted paper. I have, of course, made many assumptions, but it is something to think about and it works reasonably well for the Malaria sheet as well.



Expansion of Dammam Port miniature sheet

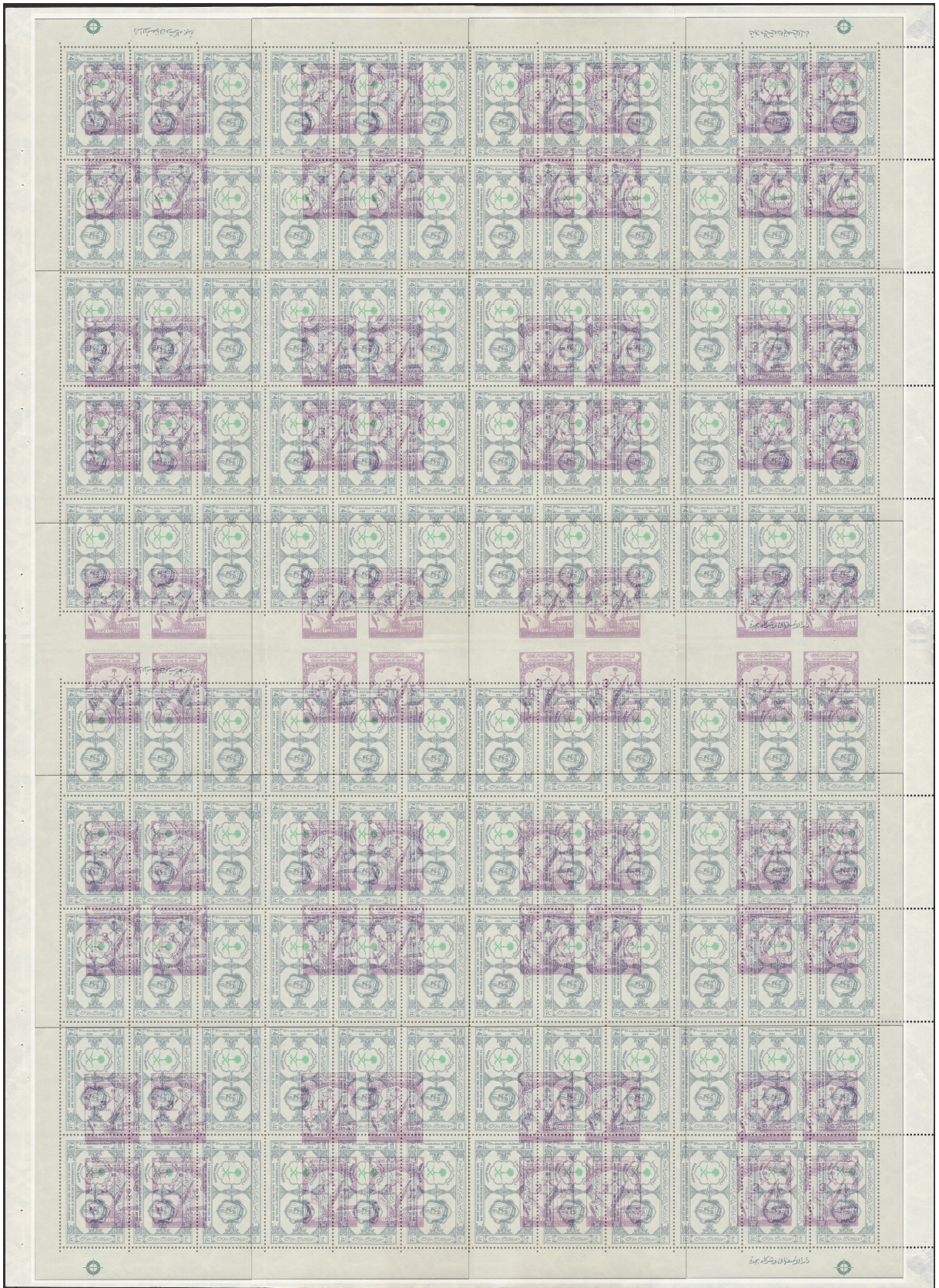


Normal crane cab



Crane cab flaw





Dammam Port sheets superimposed on Faisal Installation



19. In Random Notes #48, Kenneth Knight described the mechanical cancellation SM10 and allocated code letters to items in the date slug. An unrecorded earlier type of mechanical cancellation exists and I have used SM4 as the type identifier. It comprises seven wavy lines 55mm in length with a 11mm diameter datestamp placed about 14mm from the end of the wavy lines. Normally there is one impression on the envelope but long envelopes may show part of another Impression. Type SM4 has only be seen from Jeddah in 1950 and 1959/1960.

Office	Colour	Earliest	Latest
DJEDDA	Black	13 February 1950	25 May 1950
DJEDDA	Black	05 February 1959	18 October 1959
DJEDDA	Violet	26 January 1960	28 December 1960

The editor will be pleased to receive details of any usage outside of the above location or dates.

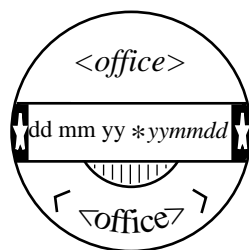


Date slug item code

Day/Month slug: (i) (Note Roman numbers for month)

Time slug: (j)

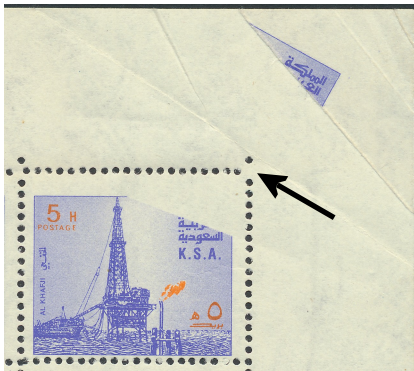
20. In RN47.12 Ken Knight lists a BEESHA office under type S48 but the counter number was unknown. The BEESHA postmark shown below appears to be a mixture of types S22 and S48 and may well be a more complete example of that listed under S48. The shaded segment beneath the datebelt has fewer bars (9) than type S22 and it does have stars in the solid portions at either end of the datebelt. The example below is dated 26-7-1379 (25 January 1960); the Gregorian date of 9-7-8 is obviously erroneous.



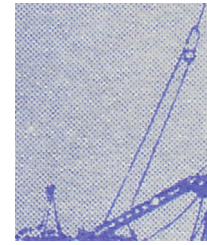
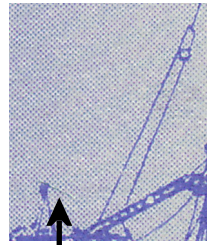
BEESHA type S22 or S48?



21. A block of the 5 halalah small Khafji, watermark sideways right, perforated 13½, has been seen with a pre-print paper fold in the sheet corner, the paper was flattened before perforating. Note the missing perforating pin at the corner of the stamp.



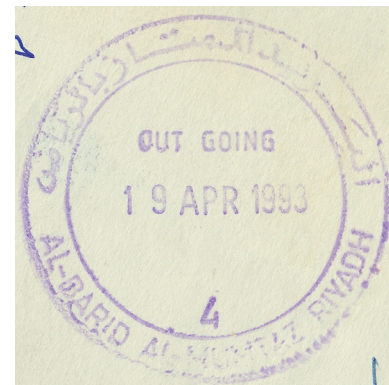
Paper fold and missing perforation pin



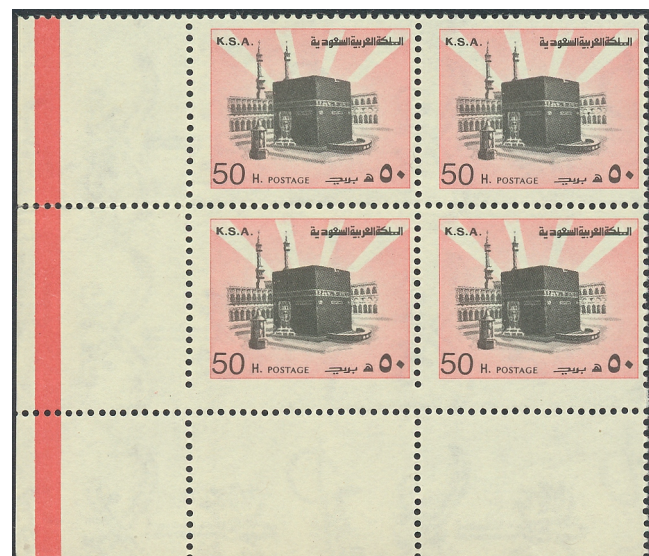
Unwanted line (left), broken rope (right)

The block also contains two minor flaws: position 19 has an unwanted line of ink, possibly a scratch, and at position 28 a broken rope flaw.

22. A Mumtaz datestamp not mentioned in Random Notes is this 48 mm. circular datestamp without the 12 or 24 hour clock between the outer rings. At the top is the Arabic *al barid al mumtaz in riyadh* and at the bottom is AL-BARID AL-MUMTAZ RIYADH. In the centre in two lines is OUT GOING/<Gregorian date>. At the bottom of the central area is a counter number, in this case 4.



23. Another of the 1982 definitives with a perforation error is this block of four of the 50p Kaaba. In this block there has been a large jump of the perforator, not the small 'wide tooth' so often seen.



Perforation comb jump

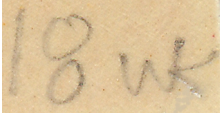
24. It is not difficult to see the problems with this supposedly 1924 cover. The stamps are Hejaz forgeries (see RN62.13) but with Transjordan overprints and the address is the one used for sanction busting mail for Palestine; not applicable for 1924. The interesting part is a comparison of the address with a genuine cover; it is a very good copy. I have seen these forgeries on cover on various auction sites for over \$150.



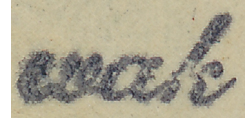
Forgery



Genuine sanction-busting cover



Willie A. King 1940 - 2023



Tributes and Memories

Willie's life began on 18th May 1940 when he was born to his parents Nellie and Alfie King and where he would be part of family which included his sister Moyra, late brother Fraser and sister Margaret .

After completing his schooling, Willie attended the Royal College of Science and Technology (now University of Strathclyde) where he studied metallurgy. He spent a placement in British Aluminium Company and worked in the Consett Iron and Steel Company. A job with Glacier metal works brought him to Ayrshire where he would meet his future wife Isobel after being set up on a successful blind date. They were married on 28th July 1966 and would go on to share a very happy life together. He and Isobel spent a year in London before settling in Ayrshire where they bought their home in 1968. Family life started for Willie and Isobel with the birth of their children Alasdair, Andrew and Aileen

Willie lost his job at Glacier and with Isobel working as a schoolteacher, Willie was left in charge of looking after Aileen, who was 2 years old at the time. His approach to childcare was to put her in a big cardboard box so he could get on with his tasks.

In 1977 Willie was offered a job in Saudi Arabia, which he decided to take for a couple of years to regain financial stability. That couple of years turned into 23 years working for the oil giant Aramco where he made many good friends. Willie would fly his family out to spend time with him over the holidays allowing them to make life-long memories. Luckily he declined the offer he once got of 5 camels in exchange for Aileen!

Willie retired on his 60th birthday which allowed him time to help his wife Isobel in the garden and with his dogs - he would walk them along the beach daily - he knew a good thing when he found it.

Willie enjoyed Jazz music and spoke fondly of how he met Acker Bilk in Glasgow while at college.

A very big part of Willie's life involved his stamps which he started to collect at an early age and this became a lifelong hobby for him; and for what he became known not only within Scotland but worldwide.

He won many local, national and international awards for his displays on his specialist areas that included Saudi Arabia, Ceylon and Scottish Postal History.

He was one of the few people awarded the McConnell Medal for his services to philately in Scotland. He became a renowned expert in his field and would be sent stamps to authenticate as being real or not (he often tell his family some of the fakes were often rarer and more valuable than the real things).

Willie was a member of various clubs locally and around the world and was president of the clubs in Ayr and Largs. In his later years he was head of Junior Philately in Scotland trying to encourage children in local schools to take up the hobby - if even one of them follows in his footsteps he will think his time was well spent.

Willie was an important figure in Saudi Arabian philately. He held many roles in the Arabian Philatelic Association encouraging collectors of all levels to display their collections and would be one of the main judges. He in fact won gold medals at both national and international shows for his Saudi collection while also producing articles for the philatelic press. In his role as club



auctioneer he introduced a computerized auction program. He was invited by eBay to join their committee to help spot and remove fraudulent sales. Willie, in conjunction with Rudy Thoden, revived the defunct Arabian Philatelic Association to form an international successor, the APAI.

When he was told the news that his illness was terminal, Willie had a remarkably positive attitude. When people asked him how he was he was heard to enthusiastically say, "I've got six months to live, but I've got a blue badge!" **

He was pragmatic and open which made it easier for everyone to come to terms with. A palliative nurse noted that he was one of the happiest dying patients she had ever met.

When asked about his life and he said, "I've had a good life. Looking back, even the bad times weren't that bad" - a great outlook and memory to leave behind.

** A Blue Badge can give you exemption from some parking restrictions and access to designated parking spaces. They are treasured by those who have them and not everyone with a disability is eligible to apply for one.



Willie King and Bob Bradford

A Very Good Friend

Willie had warmth. Staying with him in his house in Dundonald, Scotland, was a pleasure. Talking stamps was only a small part of the enjoyment; there were walks with Willie's dogs, both by the local river and on the nearby coastal sand dunes, visits to 'The Auchans' for meals and a few drinks, and even more talking about stamps!

During 2018, David Jessich and your Editor, visited Willie and enjoyed a day with some fellow collectors. In the photograph at left, with Willie is former APA member Bob Bradford who played a major part in the efforts to produce the first Random Notes index.

Willie King Philatelic Exhibits

Two of Willies exhibits are being placed on the APAI website. There is a link from the 'Exhibits' page <http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/exhibits.html>.

The Leaning '3' of Radhwa

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

The 1945 issue commemorating the meeting of King Abdulaziz with King Farouk of Egypt at Radhwa comprised four values, ½, 3, 5 and 10 qirsh. The block of four from the bottom right of the 3 qirsh sheet shows varying orientations of both the Western Arabic and Eastern Arabic numerals denoting the stamp denomination. The sheet comprises 25 subjects arranged 5 x 5; the sheet positions shown below are 19, 20, 24 and 25.



Positions 19, 20, 24 and 25



Position 19



Position 20



The variations are quite striking, but was this just applicable to the 3 qirsh plate? The answer is no. In all probability it occurs on all of the relief printing plates produced by the Government Press in Makkah. I have found it difficult to find examples in the Heir Apparent sheets I have but quite easy in the 1934 - 1957 Tughras and the 1949 Air stamps. Examples may be found on revenue stamps where more than one value exists in the set.



Below is a top-right corner block of four from the 10 qirsh value showing various orientations of the numerals.



Positions 4, 5, 9 and 10

Is it important? Well, it depends on your interests. I believe it shows that the plates were laid down from a master cliché of the stamp design without the value. Once the plate was complete, the values were added, some with more care than others.

For those interested in the sheets of stamps, there are several images on the APAI website. The collection gets updated frequently and will eventually cover the entire period from Hejaz to Saudi Arabia. I cannot guarantee there will be an example of every design! Have a look at:

<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/saudisheets.html>

For those interested in the various plates used, the author is preparing an article describing one possible method of producing the 1949 airmail plates. It is hoped that it will be published in the next issue.

RN

APAI Website

If you have any information that you think may be useful to other members, send it to the editor (details on page 2) and it can be put on the website for all to see.

Regional Postmarks of Saudi Arabia - Part 5

By: Martin Lovegrove

This part continues the series describing postmarks directly relating to Saudi Post regions, and as before, the marks are separated into those for acting post offices and regular post offices.

Only three regions this time, Najran, Northern Borders and Tabuk. Riyadh is proving difficult because the impression on covers is frequently poor and Eastern Province appears to be worse.

Najran Region

Designs for Regular Post Offices

Example 1.

Double outer ring with a diameter of 38 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom with the date horizontal at centre. I have three examples of this type from two locations with usage 2002 - 2004. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Najran region post

Line 2: <date>

Line 3: <office> postal division



Najran Regular Ex 1

Example 2.

Double oval with outside measurements, 48 x 25 mm., and text curved to fit at top (two lines) and bottom. Across the horizontal axis are two stars, pointing up, and a date in Gregorian format. I have only one example of this type with usage in 2006. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2: Najran region post

Line 3: <date>

Line 4: <office> postal division



Najran, Regular Ex 2



Northern Borders Region

Designs for Acting Post Offices

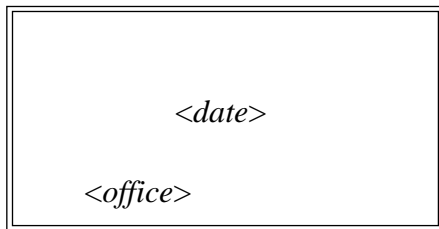
Example 1.

Rectangular postmark approximately 58 x 30 mm. with a double outer frame and three lines of text. I have one example of this type with usage in 2011. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Northern Borders region post

Line 2: <date> (Hijri)

Line 3: Acting post <office>



Northern Borders, Acting Ex 1

Designs for Regular Post Offices

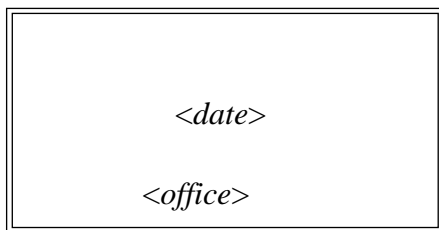
Example 1.

Similar to Acting Post Office example 1. Rectangular postmark approximately 58 x 30 mm. with a double outer frame and three lines of text. I have fourteen examples of this type from three locations with usage 2002 - 2006. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Northern Borders region post

Line 2: <date> (Hijri)

Line 3: Post <office>



Northern Borders, Regular Ex 1



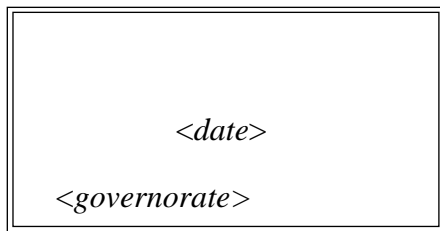
Example 2.

Similar to Regular Post Office example 1 but Governorate specified. Rectangular postmark approximately 58 x 30 mm. with a double outer frame and three lines of text. I have eight examples of this type from two locations with usage 2003 - 2007. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Northern Borders region post

Line 2: <date> (Hijri)

Line 3: Governorate Post <governorate>



Northern Borders, Regular Ex 2

Tabuk Region

Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

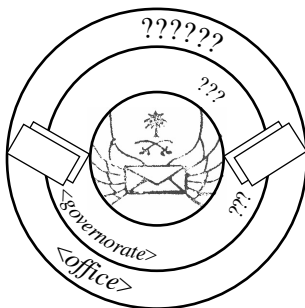
A single line outer circle surrounding two concentric circles, the inner one has a diameter of 18 mm. and surrounds a standard Saudi Post logo. The outer ring has a diameter of 40 mm. and the middle ring a diameter of 30 mm. There is text curved to fit between the rings at top and bottom, and to complicate matters, two overlapping and slanted rectangles appear at left and right between the rings. The design is very crowded and as a result it has not been possible to record all of the text, let alone translate it. I have two examples of this type from a single location with usage in 2003. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: ??? for post

Line 2: ??? <region> region post

Line 3: ??? <governorate> governorate post

Line 4: Acting post <office>



Tabuk, Acting Ex 1

2000 - 2002 Visa Labels

By: *Martin Lovegrove*

This article describes visa labels seen in use from 2000 to 2002, however it is also a plea for help. What is a type 7 visa and is there a type 9 visa?

The visa labels were completed in manuscript and attached to the passport page. The fee was recorded by the addition of the appropriate passport stamp on either the same or next page. The only labels displaying the cost of the visa were the Haj and Umra visas; both were free of charge and displayed GRATIS and مجاناً.

Number denoting visa type

Year that printing order was placed, usually or . After 1421 the print reference number is used with the first two digits representing the year.





Type 1.

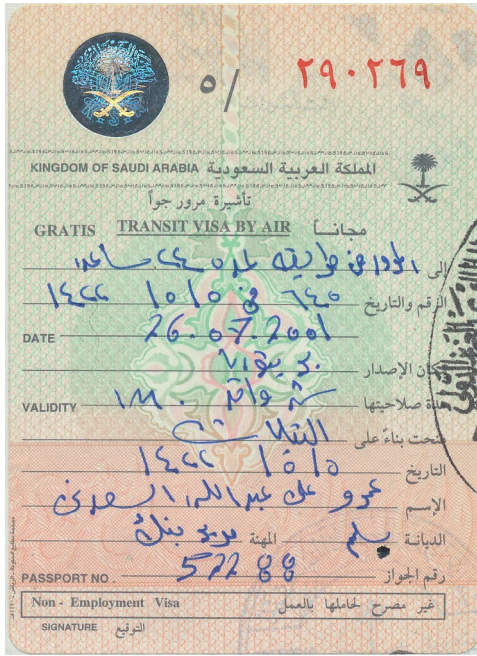
Umra visa, years seen and



Type 2.

Haj visa, year seen .
 Also print reference 23909.





Type 5.

Transit visa by air, year seen



Type 6.

Transit visa by land, years seen and





Type 8.

Courtesy visa, year seen



Non-employment visa in passport. Note low serial number 9845; over 1.1 million were printed.

Although this style of label had a short life, there should be little difficulty obtaining examples of most types. I have however, only been able to obtain one example of each of type 5 (Transit visa by air) and type 8 (Courtesy visa); these may be scarce or even rare.



Saudi Arabian Year Issues - 2021 part 1

By: D. E. Jessich and Martin Lovegrove

In this series, the items described are as supplied by the Dammam Post Office. Other regions may supply slightly different items and this may particularly apply to First Day Covers.

Unless stated otherwise, all stamps were printed at the Government Security Press, Riyadh. Simulations of the invisible ink fluorescing yellow are approximate in size and colour.

In the descriptions that follow, the print quantities, where known, are given in parentheses.

30 March 2021: Calligraphy, 1st issue

Four different 3SR stamps (10,000), perforated 14, were issued in sheetlets with the four stamps in a row. On stamps 1, 2 and 4, above the Arabic text, a reduced size (55%) version of the text is printed in invisible fluorescent ink. Similarly, below the English text, identical words, enlarged (125%), are printed in the same ink. On stamp 3 (with black background) the Arabic text at the bottom of the stamp is printed in fluorescent ink. The margins at top and bottom of the sheets seen are perforated.



Reduced 70%



First Day Cover, 30 March 2021 (reduced)



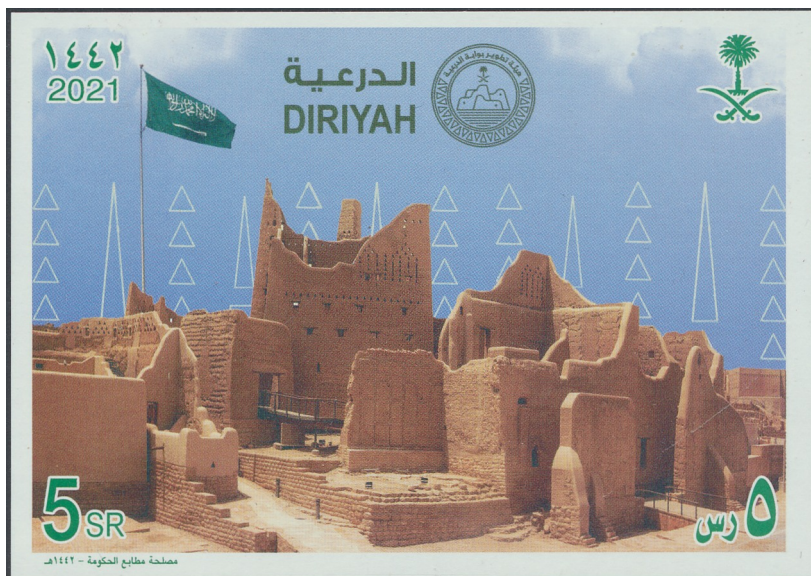
First day covers with a common design were produced for each stamp and for the se-tenant strip.

31 May 2021: Diriyah Jewel of the Kingdom

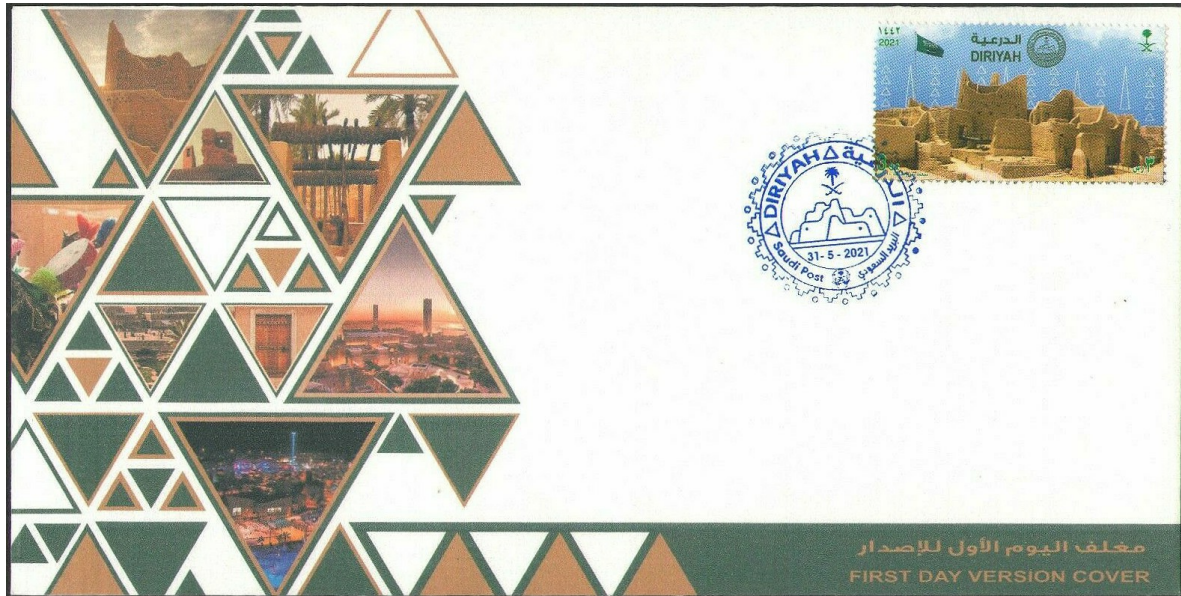
A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps arranged vertically.

An imperforate 5SR miniature sheet was produced using the same basic design as the stamp.

On both items, the triangles rising from the buildings are printed in pale yellow fluorescent ink; a simulation of this is shown on the lower stamp in the sheet below.



The same envelope design and cancellation were used for the stamp and miniature sheet first day covers.



First Day Cover, 31 May 2021 (reduced)

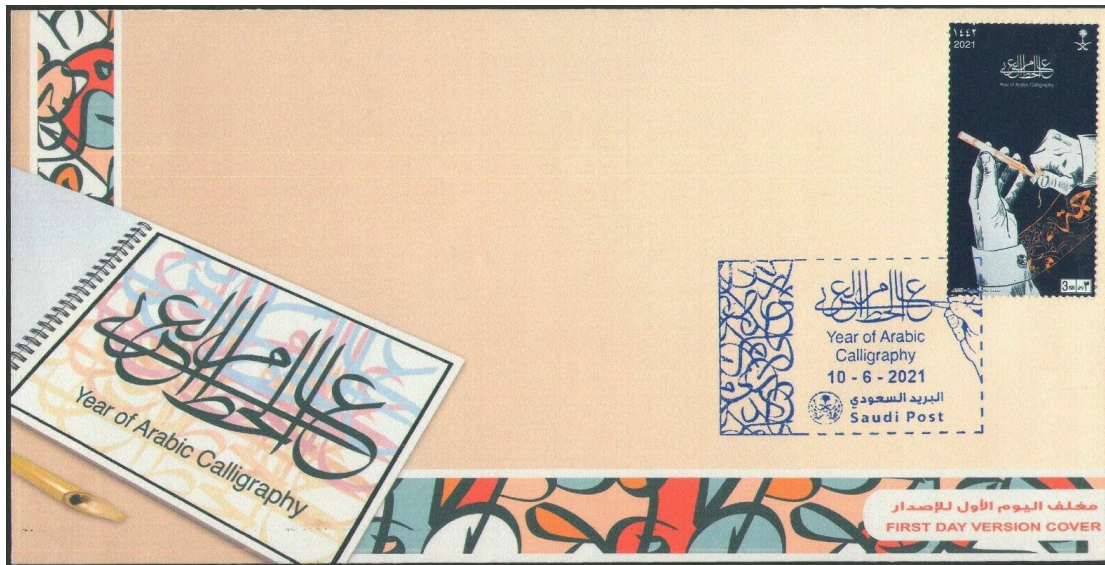
10 June 2021: Calligraphy, 2nd issue

Four different 3SR stamps, perforated 14, were issued in sheetlets with the four stamps in a row.

On stamps 2 and 3, a reduced size (75%) of the Arabic and English text is re-printed in invisible ink. One is on the cuff of the sleeve (stamp 2) and the other is across the knuckles of the left hand (stamp 3). On stamps 1 and 4, fluorescent ink appears to have been used beneath the brown ink; it is difficult to see. The margins at left and right of the sheets seen are perforated.



First day covers were produced for each of the stamps used singly; it is not known if the se-tenant strip appeared on an official FDC.



First Day Cover, 10 June 2021 (reduced)

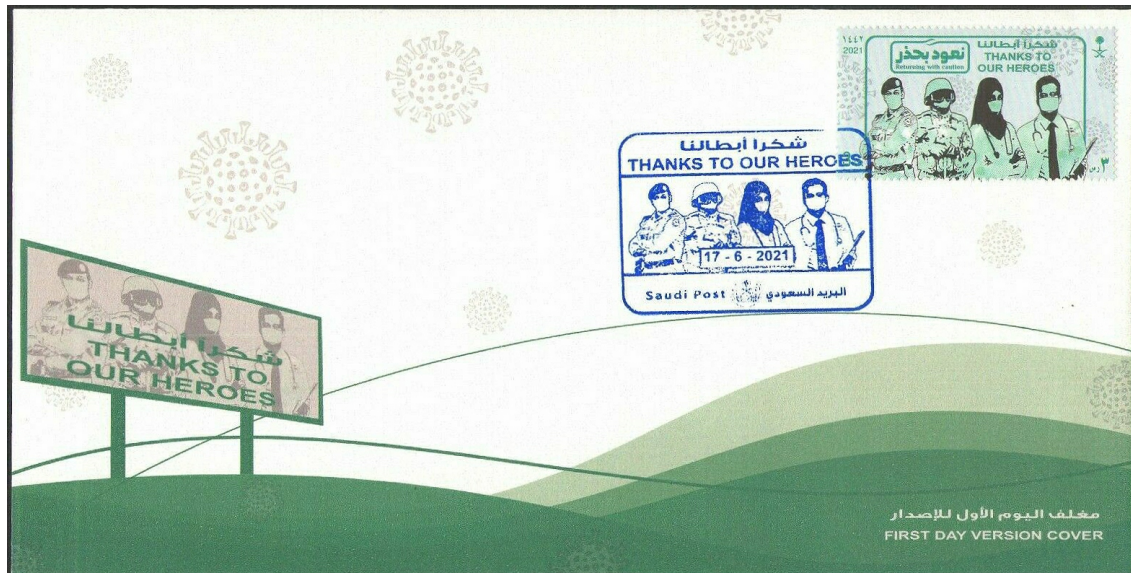
17 June 2021: Thanks to our Heroes

A single 3SR stamp, perforated 14, was issued in sheetlets of two stamps arranged vertically. An imperforate 5SR miniature sheet was produced using the same basic design as the stamp. The use of invisible fluorescent ink has not been seen on this issue.





Miniature sheet



First Day Cover, 17 June 2021 (reduced)

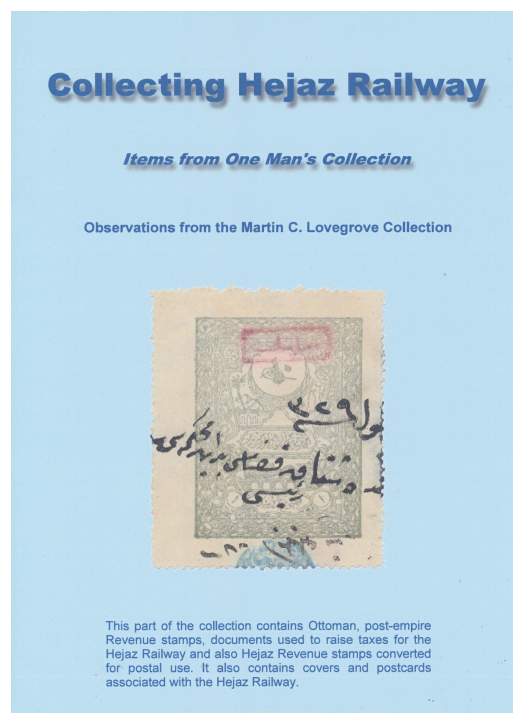
Free Adlets

Random Notes will publish as many free adlets in each issue as will fit on one page. Adlets will run for one issue only but can be renewed by sending a request by email to the editor. There is a maximum of five lines per adlet. The adlet must be relevant to Saudi Arabian philately and the editor's decision is final as to whether an adlet is suitable.

If the adlets can fill a full page, they will appear as the last page in the journal, but partial pages may be used as fillers as required.

Collecting Hejaz Railway. Part 2 of One Man's Collection. Full colour, 296 A4 pages, ringbound, limited to numbered 150 copies. ISBN 9780955824623.

Obtainable from www.balkanphila.com. GBP 32 (includes free UK delivery).



One Man's Collection - Part 1 - Saudi Arabia: Modern Technology (1970 - 2018)

This part contains Postage Meter Stamps and labels used by the Saudi Arabian postal system that display barcodes. It covers normal registration, EMS (al *barid al mumtaz*) and general purpose postal labels. 142 pages. GBP 15 (USD 20) plus post and packing at cost.

eMail Martin Lovegrove weatherings@aol.com for further details.

Bound copies of Kenneth Knight's series 'The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz and Nejd, and Saudi Arabia' are available for GBP 10 (USD 13) plus post and packing at cost.

eMail Martin Lovegrove weatherings@aol.com for further details.

From the Auctions

Compiled by: Martin Lovegrove

The Cherrystone auction held on December 13, 2022 contained many very good Transjordan items and amongst that was a Hejaz cover from EL-AKABA, postmarked 29.9.16 (erroneous) / (19 August 1918). The item was lot 463 and had a start price of USD 1000.

1918 "O.A.S." (On Active Service) endorsed cover from Aqaba to Cairo, franked with Hejaz (May 17) ½pi scarlet, two singles (SG 14), tied by bilingual EL-AKABA datestamp in black (29.9.16 dated in error as are all other known covers), with oval framed "Akaba Passed Censor" and Cairo (12.9.18) arrival on front, plus boxed "Passed Censor 4" at bottom, fine and extremely rare cover, with 2018 Gregory Todd certificate (Aqaba fell to Auda Abu Tayi, T.E.Lawrence (the Lawrence of Arabia) and Prince Feisal's combined forces on July 6, 1917).

The lot achieved a hammer price of USD 4000.



A scan of the reverse was not available, however Cherrystone are to be complimented on the number of images available on their website for this auction.

Acknowledgements and Contacts

The following organizations have granted permission for images from their catalogues/websites to be reproduced in this journal:

Cherrystone Auctions Inc.	http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com
Corinphila Auktionen AG	http://www.corinphila.ch/en/ The Saudi expert is Gregory Todd who can be contacted at todd@corinphila.ch
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	http://www.kelleherauctions.com Auction house operating from Danbury, CT, USA. Very good catalogues.
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	http://www.rumseyauctions.com

Useful links

http://mela.us/hegira.html	Date conversion sites
http://www.islamicfinder.org/dateConversion.php	
http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/	Experts
http://www.wnsstamps.post	WADP Numbering System - WNS.

RN Index

The index for all issues of Random Notes is at:

http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index_html_files/rnindex.pdf