



Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes

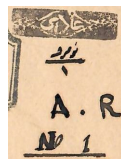


November 2023

NUMBER 101

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See article starting on [page 19](#)

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

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 whenever 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 (2024) 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 #101

Assembled by the Editor

Producing this issue has been hard work; this time of year is always busy for me and family health has not been at its best.

I have received a suggestion that we should rename the Random Notes to The ARABIAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL to give it a bit more weight as a reliable news and information medium for Arabian Philately. It is suggested that we should also add other news of interest from collectors and philatelists who collect other countries of the Middle East.

What do you think? Please let me know, my contact details are on the previous page. Remember that the editor can only publish what is received and if nothing comes in then the name of the journal is irrelevant.

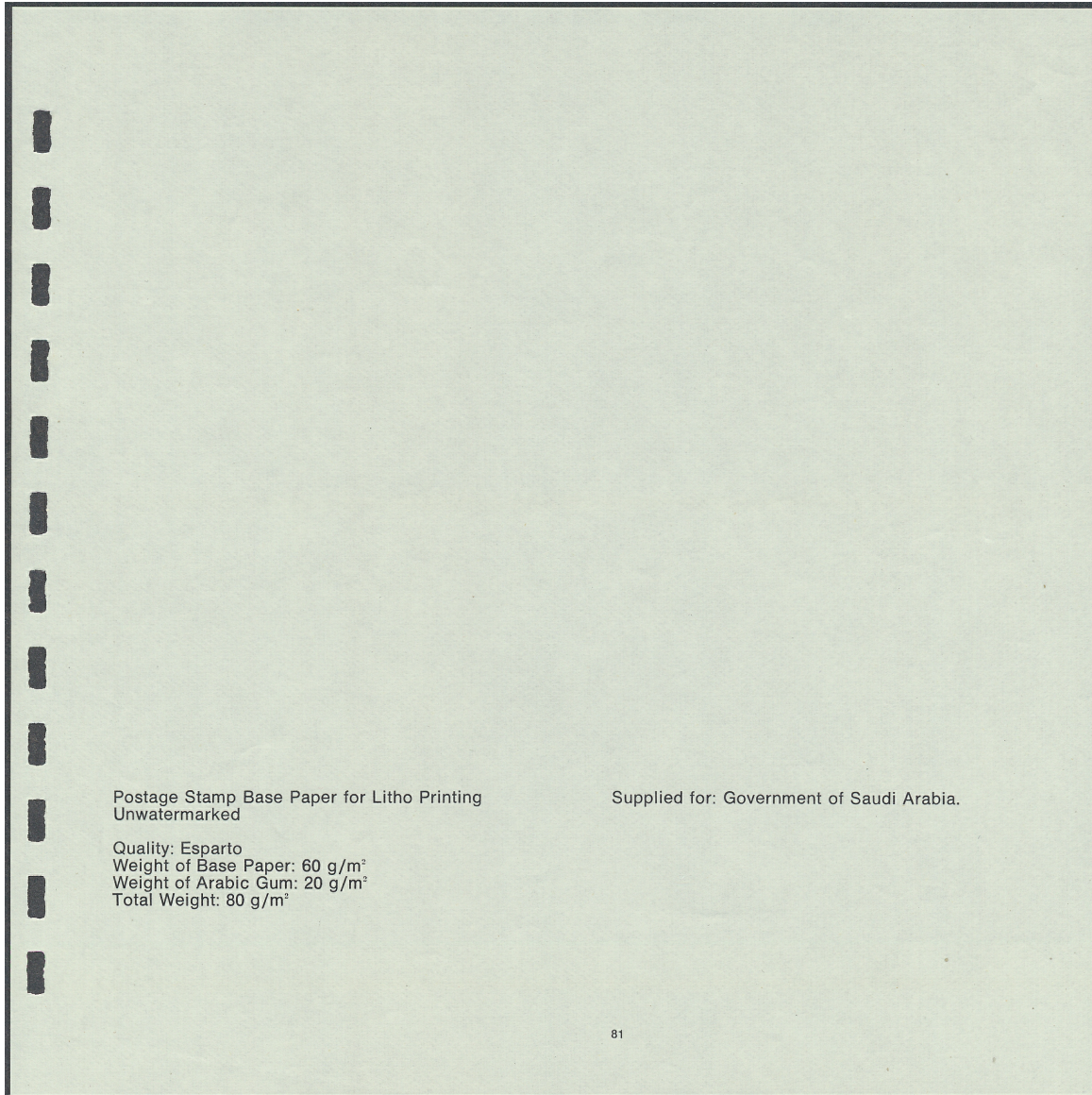
A large part of Willie King's collection by weight was a box full of auction catalogues. Seeing those has prompted me into reviewing my old catalogues as well as Willie's. Expect to see some interesting items in the coming issues of Random Notes; some are rare and I often wonder 'Where are they now?'

Now for the notes.

1. A subject for discussion at one of the APAI's Zoom meetings was this cover with a PAR AVION cancel. Parts of PAR AVION are often seen on stamps making up the surface rate, normally 3 qirsh, but the cover below is the only one I have seen. My guess is that the cancel was used to upgrade mail to unusual destinations when surface transport was not available. Any thoughts?



2. RN83.30 showed an image of a sample sheet of the second watermark paper produced by Wiggins Teape; the sheet was from page 82 of their sample book. Page 81 was a sample of their ordinary litho printing paper produced for the Government of Saudi Arabia. I include an image of the page, not because it is exciting, but just for the record.

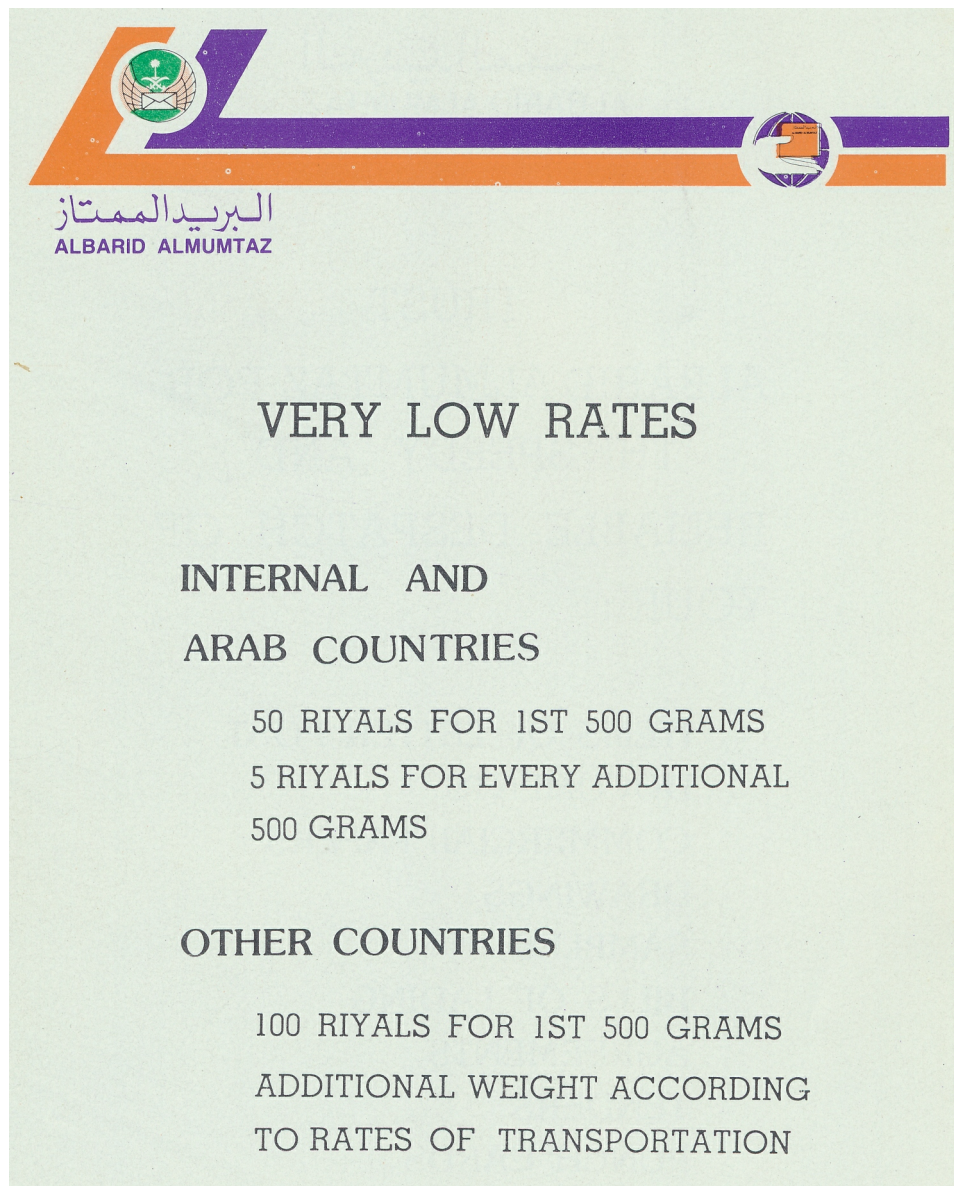


Wiggins Teape litho paper sample (reduced 75%)

3. Position 104 of the Ibn Saud University 15h value has a deformed top to the number 5.



4. At the commencement of Al Barid Al Mumtaz, the Ministry of P.T.T Directorate General of Posts produced a booklet containing, *inter alia*, postal rate information. Illustrated below is the page relating to postal rates.



The rate of 100 riyals for non-Arab countries caused problems for the postal meter machines; in a single operation they could only produce a franking of 99.99 riyals. Some postal clerks used two strikes of 50 riyals whereas others left it at 99.99, but no doubt charged the customer 100 riyals.

The details relating to the maximum weight and size were included in the booklet and are shown on the next page.





WEIGHT & SIZE

MAXIMUM WEIGHT

INSIDE THE KINGDOM 20 KILOS

OTHER COUNTRIES 10 KILOS

MAXIMUM SIZE

1.05 METER FOR ANY DIMENSION.
2.00 METRES FOR THE TOTAL LENGTH
PLUS THE GREATEST CIRCUMFERENCE
TAKEN IN A DIRECTION OTHER THAN
THAT OF THE LENGTH.

Weight and size of packages applicable at the commencement of the Al Barid Al Muntaz service

5. Yet more for the *Al barid al mumta* enthusiast: On the next page is a notice card from 1992. It has a RAHWAH-1 meter cancel and a type SM40L cancel also for RAHWAH, both for 13-6-1413 (7 December 1992). Al Rahwah is in Al Bahah region.





Al Barid Al Muntaz Notice Card

6. The catalogue status of current Saudi stamps may be uncertain. As I understand it, stamps cannot be purchased at post offices but are available only on a subscription basis. They are not valid for registered mail although can be used on normal mail but will not receive a postmark cancelling the stamps. If you put them on registered mail you will still have to pay the normal registered postage rate at the post office. If that is the case, I cannot see why they deserve catalogue status. I would be grateful for any corrections and updates to my description of current postal affairs. Below is what an unregistered cover looks like on arrival - lots of stamps and no postmarks.



7. Not recorded in the table in RN27.17 is this illegible 1q on 1q on 3q brown with handstamp triple, making it a type AU.



Surcharge triple

8. The subject of water damage surfaces from time to time and I believe the two main causes are the damage caused by extinguishing the fire at the premises of E.L. Angeloglou and the flooding of the stamp storage facility at the Ministry of Finance in Riyadh in 1971. Below are two examples of water damage, possibly from the events noted above.

Survivors of the Angeloglou fire are not difficult to find, although not many display the migration of ink from other sheets. Most of the survivors were washed and received 'dealer' cancels.

The stamps damaged in Riyadh present more of a problem. All such damaged stamps should have been destroyed, but unauthorized release of material from the Ministry of Finance is not unknown and it is possible that the official stamp shown below was one that 'escaped'. It may be interesting to note that the ink on the back is the colour of the next value in the series, the 8p.

Whatever the explanation I think they make a good talking point.



Ex Angeloglou?



Ex Riyadh flood?

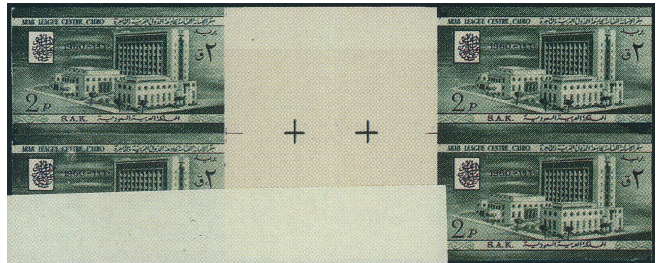
9. Covers having a mix of postage and revenue stamps are not common but can be found. They are usually forgeries or contrived covers that have somehow been allowed into the postal system. The cover on the next page may be one of the latter although it is possible that the stamps were cancelled to order. The surprise here is that the 5 qirsh revenue stamp is perforated 10, a variety not recorded in Thoden 2008.



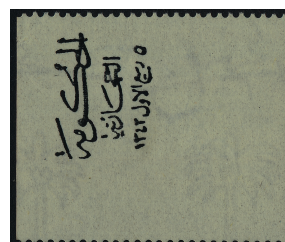
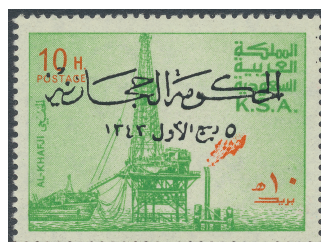


5 qirsh revenue perforated 10

10. Another item not yet illustrated in Random Notes is from the Michael Rogers May 2000 auction, lot 1231: 1960 Arab League imperf gutter block of 4, horizontal crease through center of gutter (Sc 204).



11. Willie King had a couple of laser printed Hejaz overprints on paper with the crossed swords and signature watermark. The 10h Khafji is a genuine basic stamp and the other appears to have been printed on perforated marginal paper from the same series. I cannot see these fooling anyone, so probably printed for fun.



Laser overprint on watermark II paper



12. The half-qirsh and one-qirsh surcharges used on the Survey of Egypt 20 para stamps have an interesting flaw in common. On one position in the sheet, the letter 'sheen' is the final form instead of the isolated. Below is this flaw on position 10 of the half-qirsh on framed overprint, but it is also known on some sheets of the one-qirsh overprint and in position 40 on some other sheets.

ش	ش
Final form	Isolated form

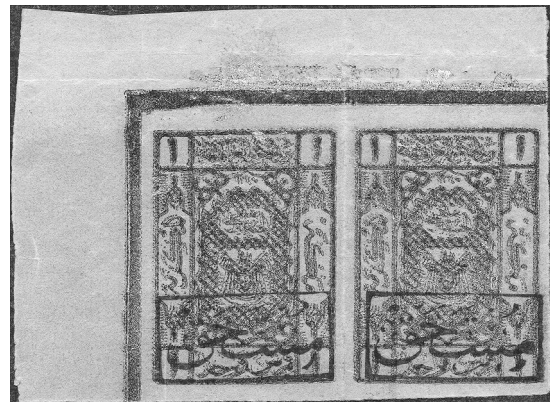
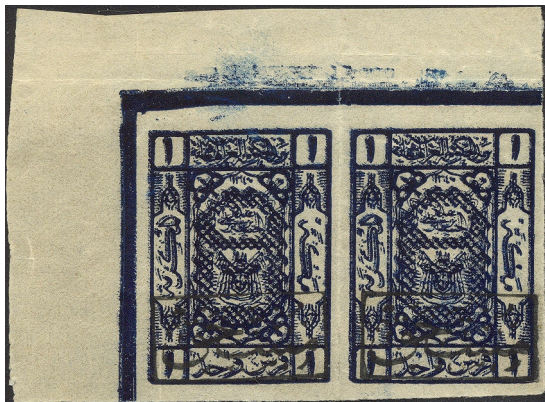


نصف قرش

13. Four examples of colour trials for the 1965 visit of President Bourguiba were shown in Random Notes 91.4. I have now seen the 8p value.



14. There seems to be a few of these 1 qirsh arms stamps printed double with a large mustahiq overprint. The basic stamps have a large offset of blue ink on the back and may be genuine printer's waste. The mustahiq overprints are type 2 forgeries. It has been difficult to separate the black and blue colours, but the image below shows the wide spaced dots of 'qaf'.



Wide spaced dots of 'qaf'.



Continued on [page 12](#)



Hejaz 8/10ths Piasters Covers

By: James Kearney

The combination of 1 para, one-eighth piaster and one-quarter piaster is the most common usage for a 4/10ths rate cover from Makkah to Jiddah, the most commonly seen routing. Jiddah to Makkah also exists and the author has been told that other routes exist. One collector opined that the 4/10ths rate was in use "for 1½ years from late 1918." A 4/10ths piaster cover was reported in RN 92.

In this article the author is going to discuss double weight 4/10ths piasters covers equal to 8/10ths piasters postage.

Recently a cover was sold on ebay with a combination of stamps making 8/10ths piasters that the author had never seen before. It was sent from Makkah to Jiddah.



Makkah to Jiddah 14 March 1920

In the David Feldman sale of Saudi Arabia on June 5, 2019, lot 30042 was offered for sale. The description, in part, was as follows "1918 Double Concessionary Rate: Double weight cover from Mecca to Jeddah" and "while covers bearing the single concessionary rate are often found, this is the sole recorded double rate cover".





Makkah to Jiddah 30 November 1918

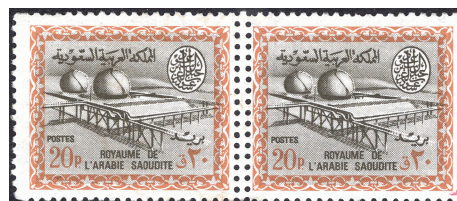
This cover appeared in Willie King's Stampex 2003 Gold Medal exhibit and was posted in Mecca on 25-2-1337 (30 November 1918) and arrived in Jeddah on 1 December 1918.

Author's Note:

Since the auction at least two other double rate covers have been identified (one of which is the 14 March 1920 cover pictured on page 1).

Continued from [page 10](#)

15. I am suspicious about this item from Willie King's collection. If it is a genuine double strike of the perforating comb, the hole size and spacing of the vertical perforations should be identical and there should be evidence of a double strike in the horizontal perforations. None of this is apparent. Willie collected forgeries and I don't think he would have been fooled.



Double perforation and detail

Continued on [page 14](#)

Early Hejaz & Nejd Airmail Usage

By: James Kearney

An interesting cover is shown below. It is Mecque to Kuwait 19 October 1929. This cover required 12 qirsh which was the airmail rate for 30 grams. Backstamped Djeddah (20 October), Por Taufiq, Cairo (25 October), Basrah (3 November) and Kuwait (5 November). The cover travelled by sea and overland to Cairo, by air to Basrah by the Cairo-Basrah Imperial Airways service which commenced in 1927 and by land to Kuwait.

The earliest known (to the author) airmail cover of this period was dated 9 September 1929, also from Mecque to Kuwait with 8 qirsh postage.



Editor's Note:

The earliest known cover referred to by the author appeared in an exhibit at London 1980. The following note appeared on the relevant sheet:

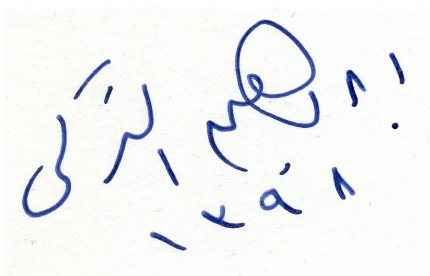
Early airmail services were mainly experimental, over limited routes and often cancelled; single rate was 4q at first.

Continued from page 12

16. For those wishing to check the signatures on the 'artwork' that is frequently offered in auctions, below is the signature of Ibrahim Al Turki, designer of many of the Saudi Commemoratives. These nice blocks were seen in Willie King's collection.



Two part-sheets signed by the designer. (Reduced 75%)



Signature Ibrahim Al Turki (150%)

Continued on page 18

The Rocket Essays

By: Martin Lovegrove

This short article is to formally record what I know about the sheets of 'rocket essays'.

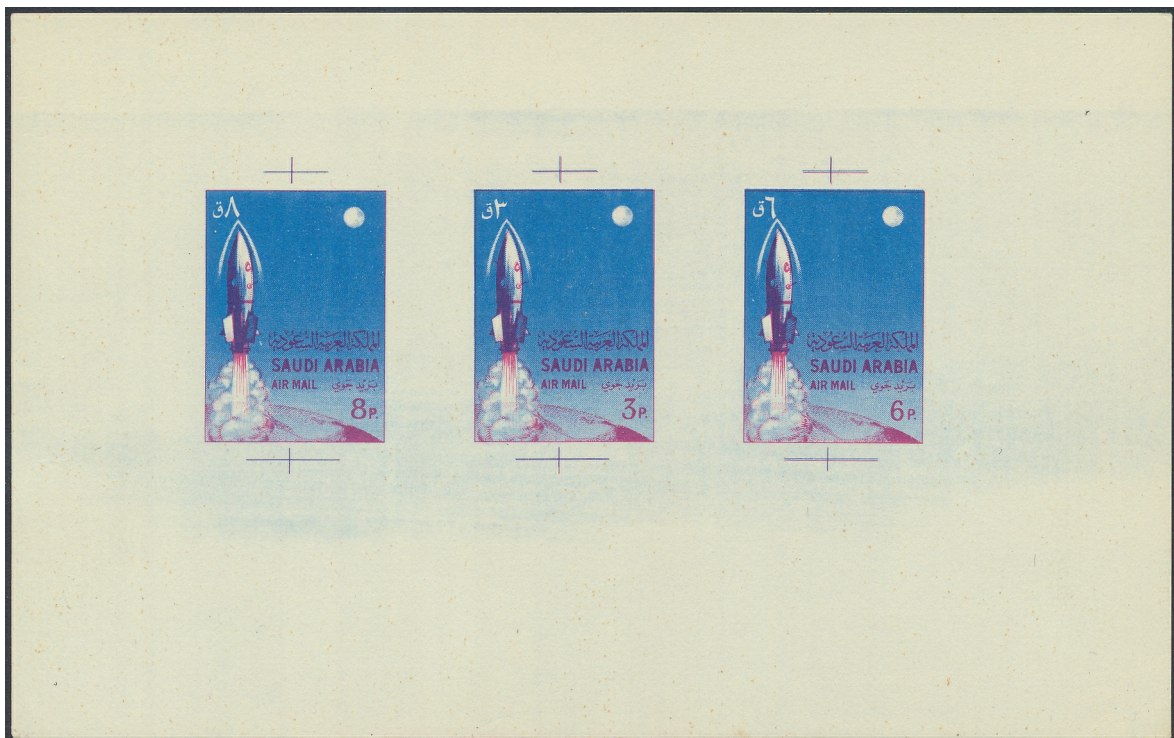
The sheets comprise three values, 8p, 3p, and 6p, of a rocket design arranged horizontally as separate subjects and printed on un-gummed paper. They are not recorded in Mayo, but two lots of these sheets, lots 656 and 657, appeared in APA Auction #20 held on 23 March 1990. These achieved SR 210 and SR 105 (RN47.4 with results at RN47.30).

A lot in a Tughra Stamps, Al Khobar, auction of unknown date, comprised two sheets described as Progressive Proofs of Souvenir Sheet by Dar Al Isfahani. To date the author has seen five different colour combinations of these sheets:

- New Blue and Carmine
- Single colour - New Blue
- New Blue and Deep Blue
- New Blue and Violet-blue
- New Blue and Purple.

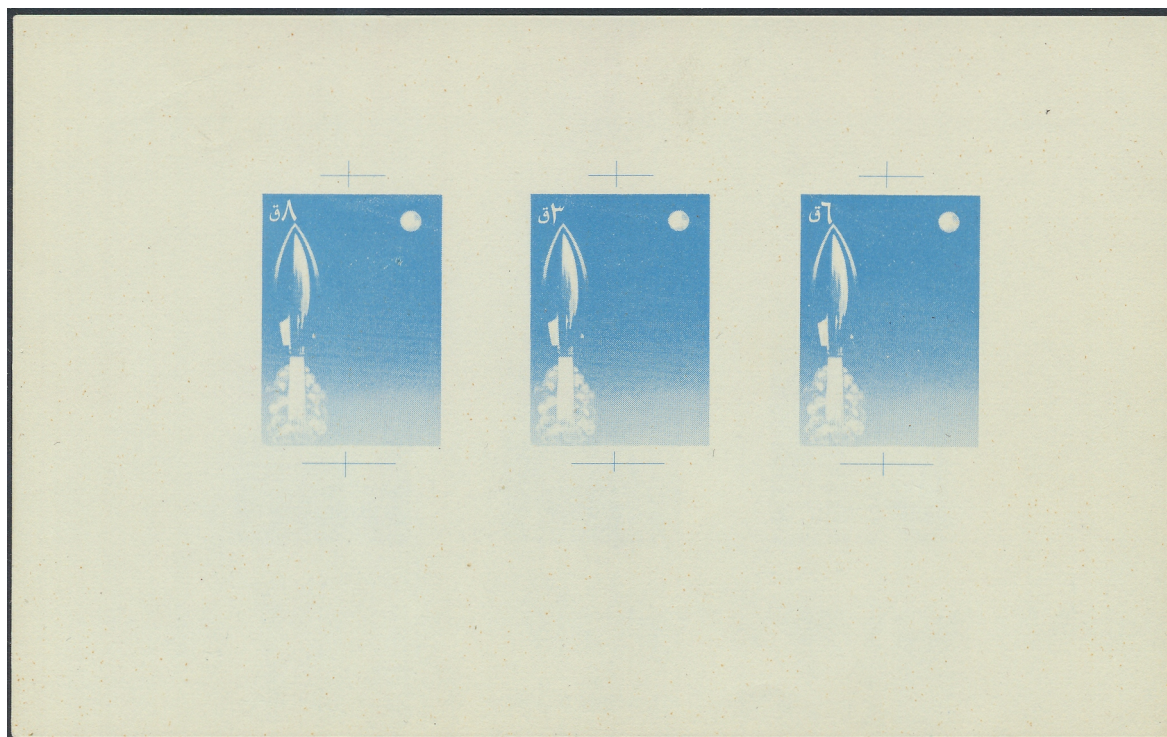
The face value is printed in the second colour listed, thus the single colour sheet does not show face values.

The author would like to hear from anyone who has other colour combinations or formats of this issue. Please send to weatherings@aol.com.

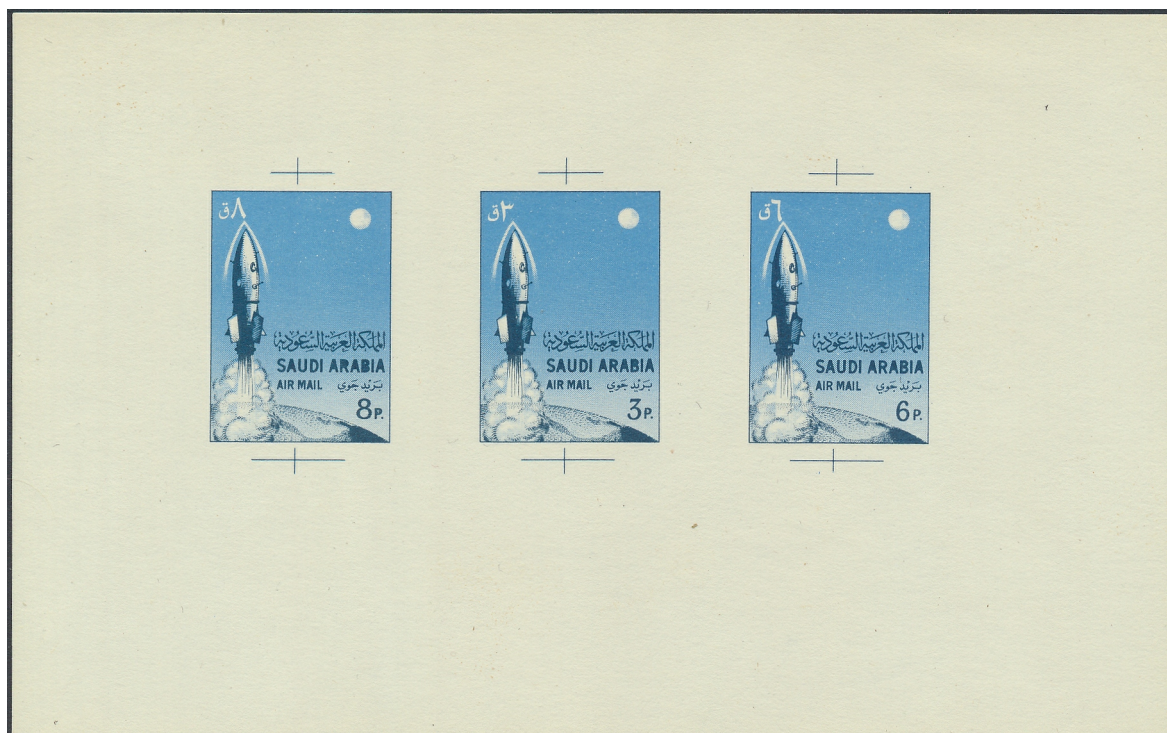


New Blue and Carmine



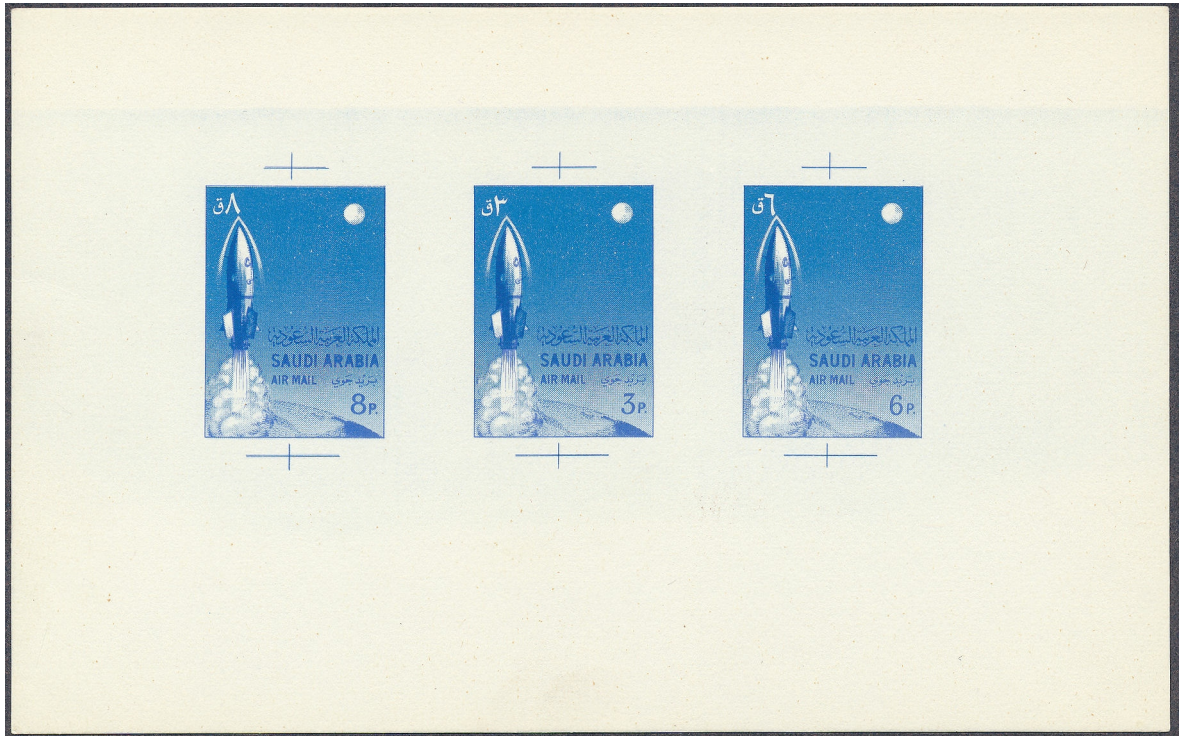


Single colour - New Blue

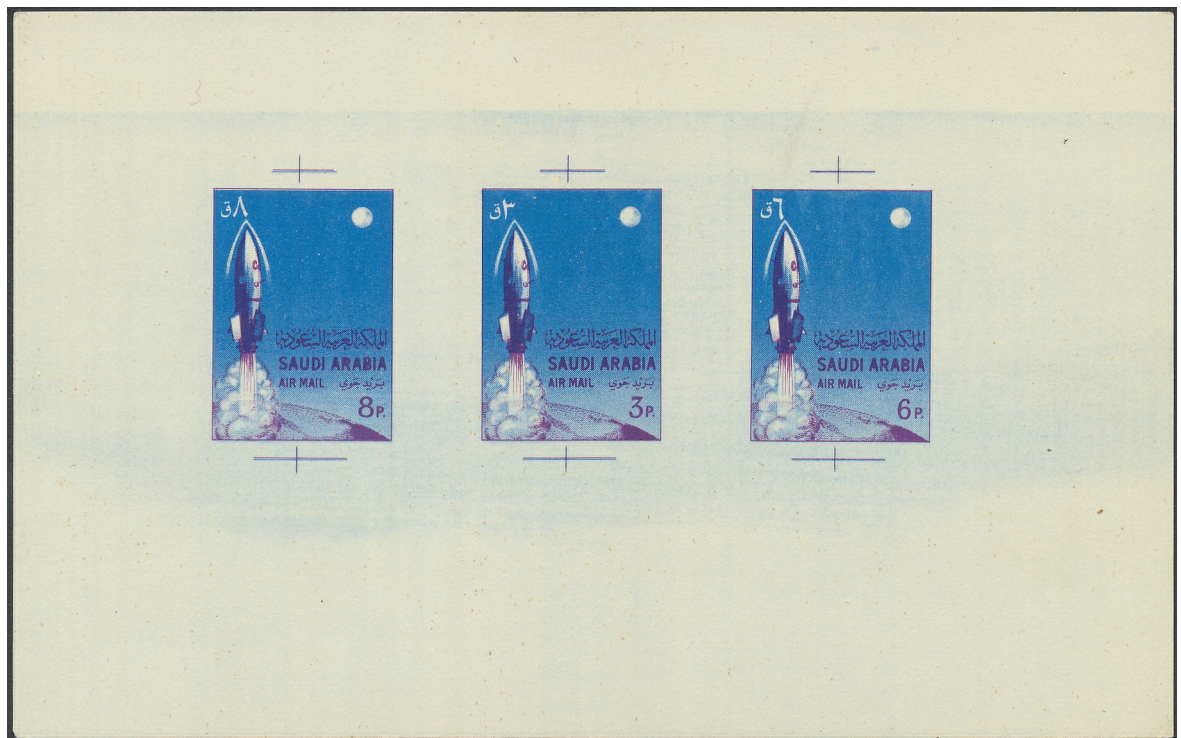


New Blue and Deep Blue





New Blue and Violet-blue



New Blue and Purple

17. Forgeries of the 1923 surcharges were not included in the 1985 forgeries manual. In the case of the 10 qirsh overprint, it is hardly surprising because, as far as I know, we do not know what a genuine one looks like in detail. Apart from the first printing of the overprint, at least one more printing appeared in the sale of the Mojaddedi collection. Sheets of the 5 qirsh with the 10 qirsh surcharge were sent to Transjordan for use there, but Transjordan forgeries are known. My own feeling is that the overprint plate was produced from stereotypes of a single subject built from moveable type. That would mean that all clichés on the plate are the same except for variations caused by the casting process and subsequent plate setting. The Mojaddedi plate(s) support this theory, although there are many variations between individual positions. The block of four below supports the stereotype theory, but the difference in vertical position of the two items in the top line is suspicious.



Positions 26,27,32,33

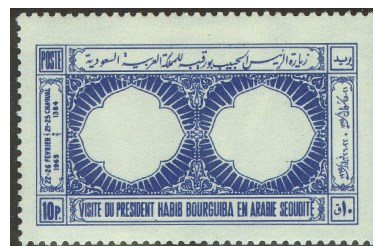
The horizontal pair below, however, shows signs of being typeset and the neat, diamond shaped dots visible in the enlarged image, almost certainly point to this being a forgery.

With the present state of knowledge, it would be a brave person to issue a certificate for this issue.



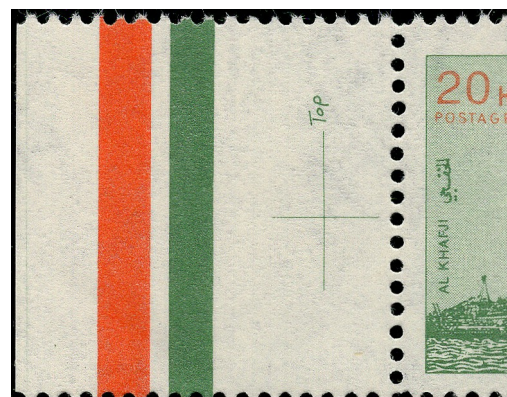
عشرة قروش عشرة قروش

18. The 10p stamp in the Visit of President Bourguiba of Tunisia set, has been recorded with the silver colour omitted. The one shown below was in Willie King's collection and is ex lot 6808 of the Thoden Sale. Unfortunately no information about the paper and watermark was recorded. Can anyone help?



Missing silver

19. Marginal markings can sometimes tell us a lot about the printing plate, but why was there a need to include 'TOP' by the cross? Because TOP is printed sideways I am not even sure what it refers to. It could be the edge that is fed into the perforator, but because this stamp is line perforated, I am not sure that is relevant.



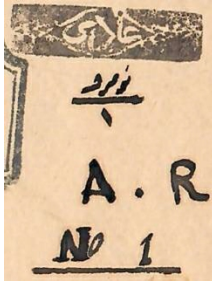
Continued on [page 32](#)



Saudi Arabia - Avis de Réception

By: Martin Kuriger

As with the postal systems of other countries Saudi Arabia introduced at an early stage a service whereby mail could be registered or be sent recorded delivery. Such service was called “Avis de Réception” [AR] and a special hand stamp was applied to letter denoting the use of this service.



Letter to Cairo originally from Mecca via Yambo dated 13 April 1917

Negative hand stamp 25x6¾ mm with seemingly manuscript AR No 1 in English and Arabic

Possibly the first registered or Avis de Réception letter from Mecca or Yambo

For interest a copy of the cover is shown below - 60% of actual size.



The letter addressed to the Sultan of Egypt originally sent from Mecca (as indicated by the red arrow) and then via Yambo to Port Tawfiq (back stamp) to its final destination.

JEDDAH

By late 1917 though most likely earlier, an Avis de Réception hand stamp was made and used in Jeddah.

Below is an example of its use but with the “A” of AR crossed out and hence used as a registration hand stamp.



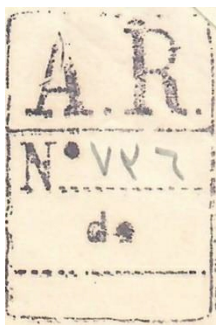


Cover Jeddah to Cairo
5 Rabea' Awwal 1336
[19 Dec 1917]

Transit & Arrival marks
Port Tawfiq 26 XII 17
Cairo R 26 XII 17

The same or a very similar AR hand stamp used in 1917 was applied on mail from Jeddah to Cairo. The following examples are from 29 March to 7 May 1926.

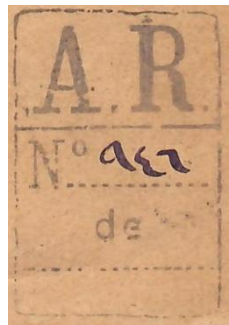
The frame is 27 mm wide and 40 mm tall.



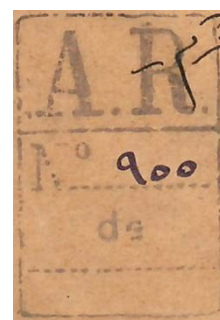
29 March 1926



9 April 1926

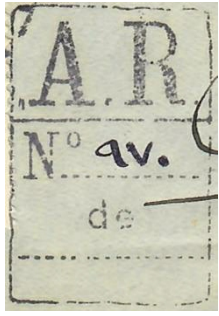


28 April 1926



28 April 1926

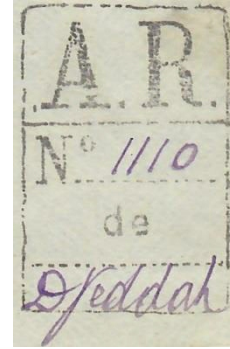




28 April 1926



7 May 1926



7 May 1926

It is not clear whether AR numbers started at no. 1 on a particular day - say 1 Muharram or possibly 1 January or whether a ledger book was used and more examples and study needs to be made to try and determine how the registration numbers were arranged.

In the 1960s Form C5 was used for Avis de Réception as shown below.

C 5 (Recto)

بريد المملكة العربية السعودية
POSTES DE L'ARABIE SAOUDITE

(تملاً بمعرفة المكتب المصدر)
(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)

* Envoi recommandé † *Letter* † مراسلة مسجلة *

† Lettre { avec } خطاب مؤمناً †
 † Boite { valeur } مبلغاً † علبة †
 † Colis { déclarée } عليه † طرد †

Mandat de poste de *حوالة بمبلغ*

Déposé au bureau de poste de *مصدرة من مكتب بريد*

le _____ في sous le No. _____ برقم

expédié par M. *#86062* مرسل من السيد *وديع عبد المنذر*

et adressé à M. *السيد طه بن عبد المنذر* برسوم السيد *طه بن عبد المنذر*

à *الرياض - ع.م.ع. عليه (الرياض) جامعة الملك سعود*

† Biffer les indications inutiles † نشطب البيانات الزائدة

AVIS DE RECEPTION / PAYEMENT علم / استلام / دفع

ختم المكتب المعتمد العلم
Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis

تملاً بمعرفة المرسل منه الذي عليه أن يذكر عنوانه الكامل أدناه.

à remplir par qui mentionne son adresse c...



M. *W. R. MALEK #86062*

ARAMCO BOX 3, R.T.

DHAHRAN

Lieu de destination *SAUDI ARABIA*

Rue et numéro _____ شارع ورقم

Service des Postes

مصلحي

The UPU issued a format to be used for Avis de Réception / Advice of Receipt as illustrated below.

Designated operator of origin		ADVISE of receipt/of delivery/of payment/of entry		CN 07
Office of posting		Date		A.R. On postal service Stamp of the office returning the advice
Addressee of the item				
Nature of the item				
<input type="checkbox"/> Priority/ Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-priority/ Printed paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority/ By airmail
<input type="checkbox"/> Registered	<input type="checkbox"/> Insured			
No of item	Amount			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary money order payment order	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpayment cheque	Amount		
The item mentioned above has been duly				
<input type="checkbox"/> delivered	<input type="checkbox"/> paid	<input type="checkbox"/> credited to giro account		To be filled in by the sender
Date	Signature*			
Name of recipient in capital letters (or other clear identification)				
Return to				
Name				
Street and No				
Locality and country				
To be completed by office of destination				

* This advice may be signed by the addressee or, if the regulations of the country of destination so provide, by another authorized person

Convention, Istanbul 2016, art. 18-003 – Size 210 x 105 mm, colour light red

The Saudi Arabian Postal Authority followed the recommended format and an example of this is shown below. It is dated 427.10.22 (13 November 2006).

ادارة بريد المصدر Administration des postes d'origine		اشعار / استلام / دفع / ايداع AVIS de réception/de paiement/ d'inscription		CN 07 الرقم (النوع) (النوع 07)	
مكتب الإيداع Bureau de dépôt	التاريخ 2006/10/27	مكتب البريد Service des postes		٣٠٠ تختم المكتب الذي يعيد الاشعار Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis POSTAGE K.S.A PB60406	
المرسِل إليه البعثة Destinataire de l'envoi	صالح بن محمد بن عبد العزيز	بالاولوية / بالجو Prioritaire/ Par avion			
طبيعة البعثة Nature de l'envoi					
<input type="checkbox"/> باولوية / رسالة Prioritaire/ Lettre	<input type="checkbox"/> بدون اولوية / مطبوع Non prioritaire/ Imprimé	<input type="checkbox"/> طرد Colis	<input type="checkbox"/>	يعاد إلى Renvoyer à	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> مسجلة Recommandé	<input type="checkbox"/> تسليم مثبت Livraison attestée	<input type="checkbox"/> بقيمة Valeur déclarée	<input type="checkbox"/> مصرح بها Montant		
رقم البعثة N° de l'envoi	المبلغ Montant				
حالة عادية Mandat ordinaire	شيك Chèque	المبلغ Montant			
حالة توريه Mandat de versement	تخصيص d'assignation			A remplir par l'expéditeur يستوفي في من قبل المرسل منه	
A compléter à destination					
تمت الحساب remis	<input type="checkbox"/> دفعتم payé	الاسم أو اللقب التجاري Nom ou raison sociale شركة الراجحي كابيتال			
التاريخ والتوقيع Date et signature	٢٠٠٦-١٠-٢٧ صالح بن محمد بن عبد العزيز		الشارع والرقم Rue et n° الحيطة الطيراي		
الجهة والبلد Localité et pays الرياض ١٨١ البريد ٥١٩٦١					
* يمكن التوقيع على هذا الاشعار من قبل المرسل إليه أو إذا نصت أنظمة بلد المرسل على ذلك ، من قبل شخص آخر مرخص له أو من قبل موظف مكتب المرسل Cet avis pourra être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination prévoient, par une autre personne autorisée ou par l'agent du bureau de destination.					

The examples in this article are extremely limited and we would appreciate if readers would check their own material and advise of other examples where the AR service was used. Scans of covers or other relevant information can be sent to Martin Lovegrove weatherings@aol.com or Martin Kuriger martin1951@163.com

1973 'Tourist' Booklets

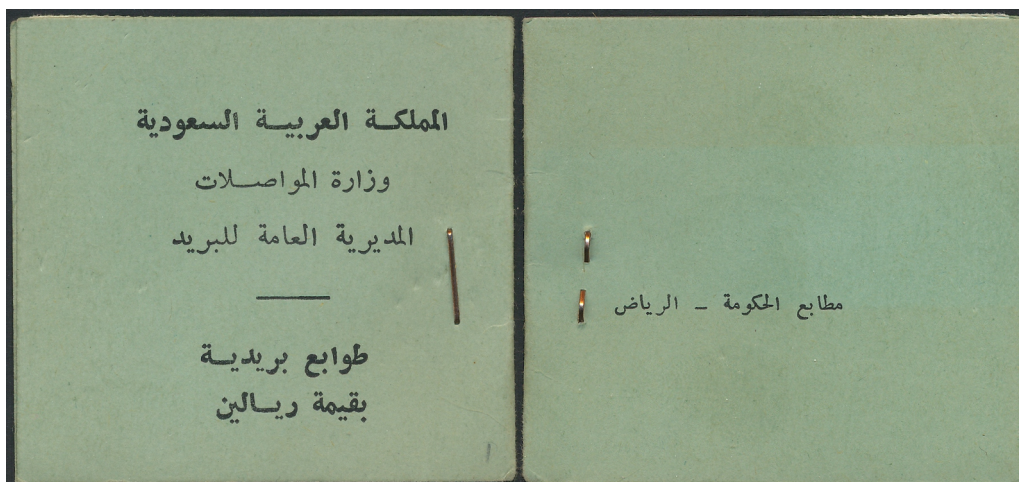
By: Martin Lovegrove

These booklets contain three panes of four stamps from the 'Tourist' series and exist in many varieties providing a challenge to list, let alone collect. A pricelist of some of these booklets appeared in Random Notes #19, but prices have changed since then! Stanley Gibbons prices range from £350 to £500 in their 2016 catalogue 'Arabia'.

The aim of this article is to promote interest in these booklets and to solicit further information about the panes used.

Construction.

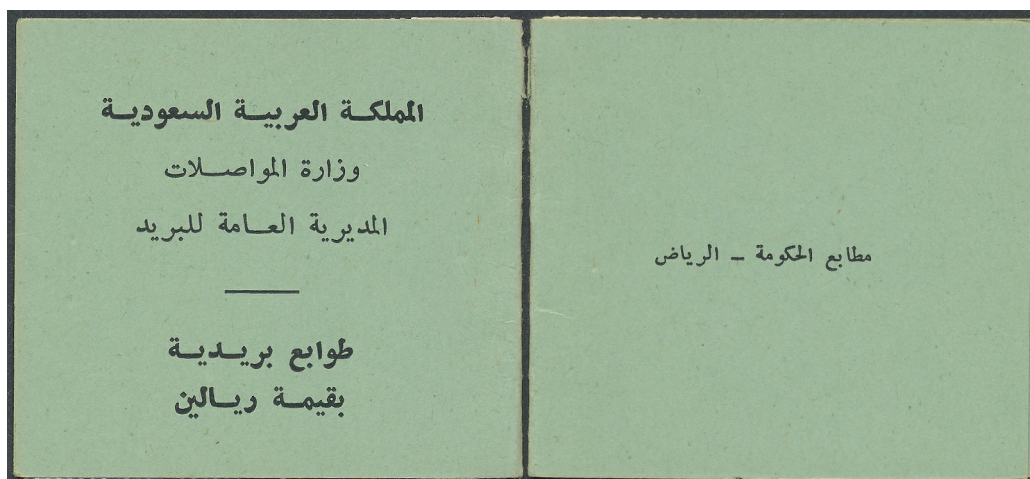
The cover is printed on green card which is folded in two. The three panes are inserted with plain interleaves to prevent the stamps sticking and are held in place either by a staple or by glue.



Front cover

Back cover

Stapled cover above, glued cover below



Cover text translation

Front Cover

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Communications
Directorate General of Post

Postal stamps
value of two riyals

Back Cover

Government Press - Riyadh

Stamp panes

The panes comprise a block of four stamps with a narrow strip of margin removed from either the left or right side of a normal post office sheet. Those with a margin at left will appear inverted in the assembled booklet.

Three stamp designs were used:

Design	Scott type	SG type
Prophet's Mosque	A49	97
Prophet's Mosque extension	A51	98
Holy Kaaba	A55	103



Booklet opened to show inverted pane with interleaf opposite



Errors

The face value of the booklet is 2 riyals (40p or qirsh) but insertion of incorrect panes has created booklets with a face value of either 32p (two panes of 2p stamps and one of 4p) or 48p (three panes of 4p).

I am not aware of any errors relating to the interleaves; there are always two and are used to separate the three panes of stamps.

Pane identification

With the availability of three designs, two margins and two watermark directions, a simple system is needed to identify the panes. A simple two-character code is used and the allocation of codes to panes is shown below.

In the illustrations below, the width of the margin has been reduced; in reality it is approximately 10 mm wide.

Pane Codes



A



B

Code	Margin	SG	Scott	Wmk. Direction
A1	Left	943	490	Left
A2	Left	943	490	Right
B3	Right	943	490	Left
B4	Right	943	490	Right





C



D

Code	Margin	SG	Scott	Wmk. Direction
C1	Left	945	492a	Left
C2	Left	945	492a	Right
D1	Right	945	492a	Left
D2	Right	945	492a	Right



E



F

Code	Margin	SG	Scott	Wmk. Direction
E1	Left	953	504c	Left
E2	Left	953	504c	Right
F3	Right	953	504c	Left
F4	Right	953	504c	Right





G



H

Code	Margin	SG	Scott	Wmk. Direction
G1	Left	955	506a	Left
G2	Left	955	506a	Right
H3	Right	955	506a	Left
H4	Right	955	506a	Right



I



J

Code	Margin	SG	Scott	Wmk. Direction
I1	Left	1005	523a	Left
I2	Left	1005	523a	Right
J3	Right	1005	523a	Left
J4	Right	1005	523a	Right



Booklets in author's collection

SG	Fixing	Pane 1	Pane 2	Pane 3
SB1	Stapled	C1	C1	A2
SB1	Stapled	D1	D1	A2
SB2	Stapled	G2	G1	A2
SB2	Stapled	H3	H3	A1
SB2	Stapled	H4	G2	A2
SB3	Stapled	C1	C1	E1
SB3	Stapled	C1	D2	E2
SB4	Stapled	C1	G2	A2
SB4	Stapled	D1	G1	A2
SB5	Stapled	C2	H3	F3
SB6	Stapled	J3	J3	B4
SB6	Stapled	J3	J3	B4
SB6	Stapled	J4	J3	B4
SB6	Stapled	J4	J4	B3
SB7	Stapled	G2	G2	E2
SB7	Stapled	G2	H4	E2
SB7	Stapled	H4	G1	F4
SB7	Stapled	H4	H4	F4
SB7	Glued	H4	H4	F4
SB8	Stapled	I1	I1	E2
SB8	Stapled	I1	I1	F4
SB8	Stapled	J4	I2	E2
SB8	Stapled	J4	J4	F4
SB8	Glued	J3	J3	F4
SB2	Stapled	J2	J3	E2
SB9	Stapled	J4	H3	F4
SB10	Stapled	J3	D2	F4

Error Booklets

32p face value	Stapled	B3	C2	A2
48p face value	Stapled	J3	J3	D2

Panes are numbered starting from the front cover.

The author would like to hear from any member who has booklets not in the above list. Considering all of the possible combinations, the list above would seem to be remarkably small.

The Sticky Problem with Forgeries

By: Martin Lovegrove

The clue is in the title - glue and forgeries. This article looks at two forgeries where glue plays an important part; one should not fool anybody and the other one did, or at least it did partially.

The first, and obvious, forgery is that of a Hejaz 10 qirsh Arms stamp with an inverted centre. The stamp frame is genuine as is the centre, but the problem is that they did not come from the same printed stamp. In this case the centre was cut from a genuine stamp and glued, inverted, to a 'frame only' variety. The edge of the centre is clearly visible and from the reverse it can be seen that the stamp to which it was attached had no centre vignette.

From a distance it is quite realistic.



The forger did make one philatelic mistake in that the frame is from position 14 and the centre from position 18; for an inverted centre it should be position 5.

The second forgery first appeared in Random Notes 32.5 item 13. It was stated the the cover was manufactured from cancelled to order blocks stuck on the cover and the DJEDDA 5 cancels touched up to tie the stamps to the cover. I have now seen the cover and disagree with the findings.



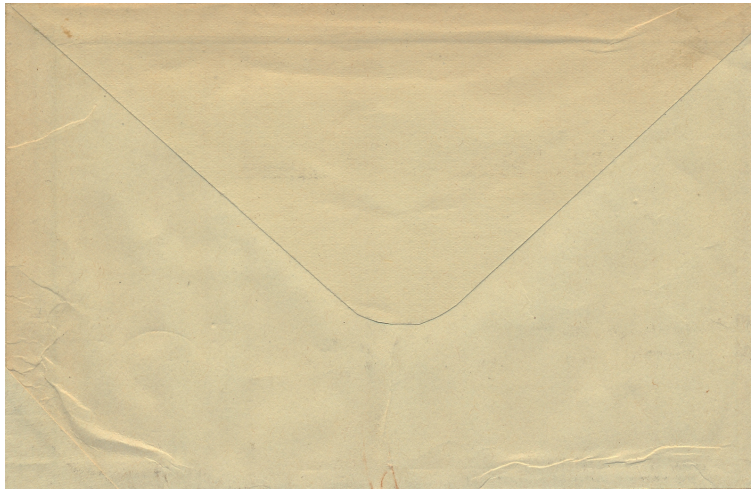
Fake cover (reduced)



The cover was made by taking a sheet with two 'Cancelled to Order' (c.t.o.) blocks, cutting it to fit the back of an envelope and gluing the two together. To increase the realism an address was added as were a REGISTERFD (sic) cachet and a manuscript registration number.

I will explain the construction of the cover using unrelated images, all reduced in size.

1. Cut back off suitable envelope.
2. Cut sheet with c.t.o. stamps about 1 cm larger than envelope back.
3. Fold edges of c.t.o. sheet back so that sheet is now about 1 mm larger than the envelope back. Glue folded edges in place.
4. Glue envelope back to folded edges of c.t.o. sheet.
5. Add address and other embellishments as required.

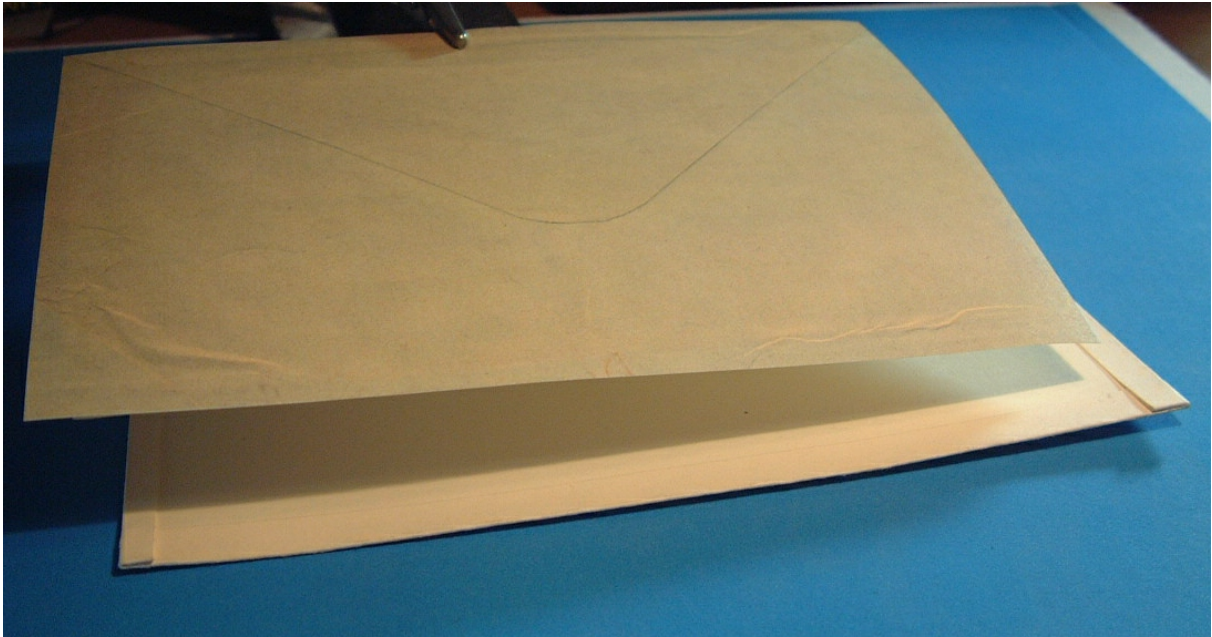


Envelope back



c.t.o. stamps on paper, cut slightly larger than size of envelope back

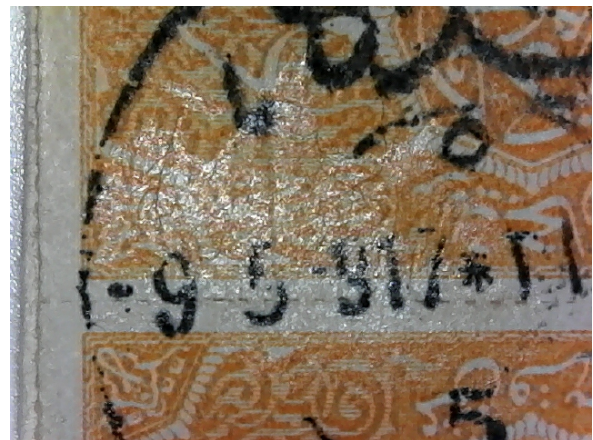




Attaching the envelope back to the back of the c.t.o. sheet.

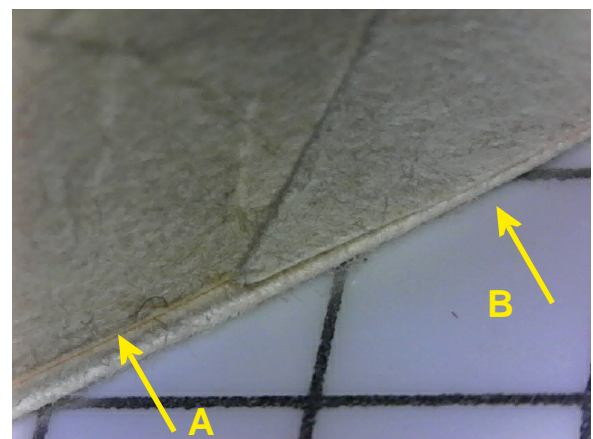
Because this method requires glue to attach the envelope back and to fix the folded edges of the cover front, there is a possibility that things can get messy. This is evident on the stamps on the subject cover; parts of the stamps have a shiny, gum-contaminated, surface.

Once you are aware of the technique used, it is not difficult to see that the original cover is a forgery, but it did fool some experts for several years.



Stray adhesive

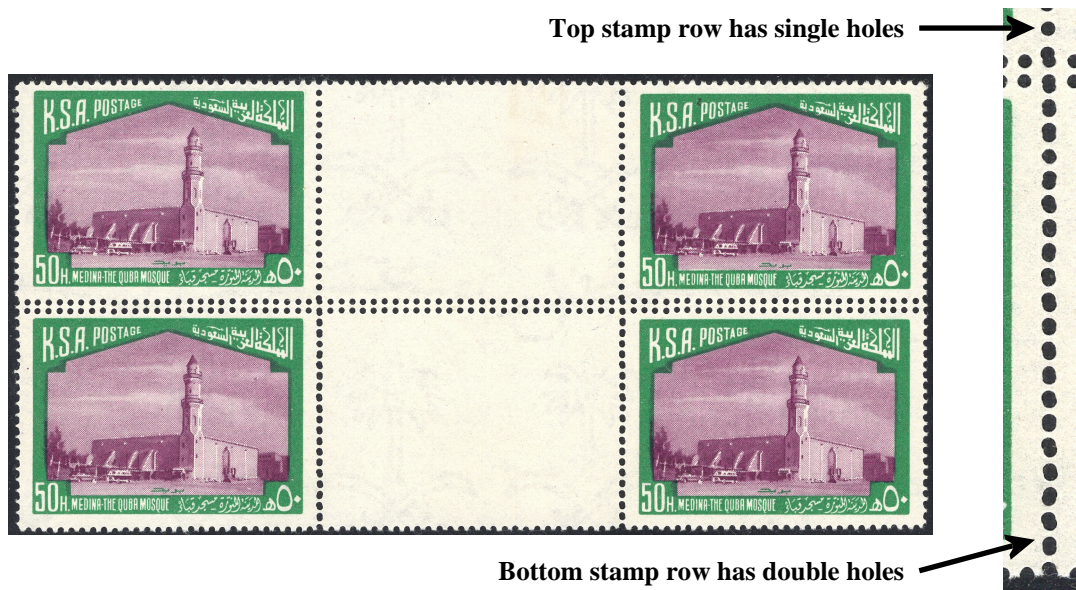
A magnified image of one back corner of the forgery shows the edge of the back of the envelope where it is attached to the front (A) and also a triangular shaped piece added to reinforce a corner (B).



Reinforced corner

Continued from [page 18](#)

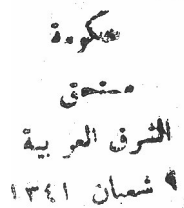
20. Item 15 showed an example of a possible perforation forgery; this one, also from the Willie King collection, is genuine. Note that the double vertical perforation holes are clearly visible.



21. At one of our monthly Zoom meetings, I suggested that Random Notes include items relating to the Hejaz stamps overprinted for use in Transjordan. I must admit that I have included a few of these in the past, but seeing that there were no objections, I will now do with a clear conscience. This one is an example, as yet uncatalogued and of unknown status, of the four line postage due handstamp, inverted, on the 1½ qirsh. Both Darlow and Ledger make no mention of this handstamp/value combination. The handstamp is a handstamp and not a laser forgery. This handstamp is not catalogued at all on this value but is on the 3 qirsh which also has a ½ qirsh surcharge. That is catalogued as SG D116. Has anyone got any information about this 1½ qirsh?



Inverted postage due handstamp on 1½ qirsh



Postage due handstamp



Postage due handstamp and surcharge on 3 qirsh

Continued on [page 38](#)



Regional Postmarks of Saudi Arabia - Part 6

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. This time we deal with the Riyadh postal region, but as stated last time not all examples are of suitable reproduction quality to allow the design to be properly assessed and hence included here.

Riyadh Region

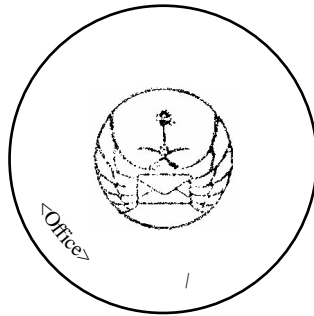
Designs for Acting Post Offices

Example 1.

Single outer ring with a diameter of 41 mm. and text curved to fit at top and bottom. The central logo is in a 19 mm. diameter circle and is the standard type. I have one example of this type with usage in 2003. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Ministry of Telegraphs and Post and Telephones

Line 2: Riyadh region post / Acting post <office>



Riyadh, Acting Ex 1

The next four types have the same text but differ in the outer frame and ornaments.

Example 2a.

A double line outer circle, the outer thicker than the inner, surrounding two concentric circles, the inner one has a diameter of 13 mm. and surrounds a standard Saudi Post logo. The outer ring has a diameter of 40 mm. and the middle ring a diameter of 22 mm. There is text curved to fit between the rings at top and bottom, and there are two stars pointing down on the horizontal axis. I have one example of this type with usage in 1997. The text has the meaning:

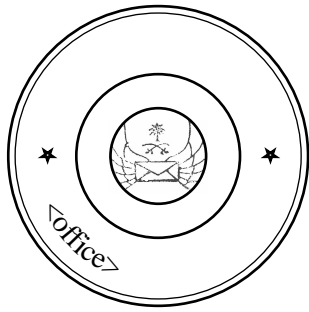
Line 1: Ministry of telegraph, post and telephones

Line 2: Directorate General of Post

Line 3: Riyadh postal region

Line 4: Acting post <office>

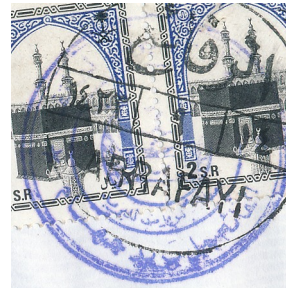




Riyadh, Acting Ex 2a

Example 2b.

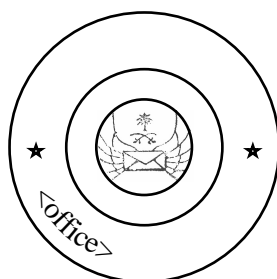
A double line outer circle surrounding two concentric circles of equal thickness, the inner one has a diameter of 15 mm. and surrounds a standard Saudi Post logo. The outer ring has a diameter of 35 mm. and the middle ring a diameter of 22 mm. There is text curved to fit between the rings at top and bottom, and there are two stars pointing up on the horizontal axis. I have three examples of this type from one location with usage in 2002 - 2006. The text is the same as example 2a.



Riyadh, Acting Ex 2b

Example 2c.

A single line outer circle surrounding two concentric circles of equal thickness, the inner one has a diameter of 13 mm. and surrounds a standard Saudi Post logo. The outer ring has a diameter of 35 mm. and the middle ring a diameter of 21 mm. There is text curved to fit between the rings at top and bottom, and there are two stars pointing up on the horizontal axis. I have one example of this type with usage in 1997. The text is the same as example 2a.

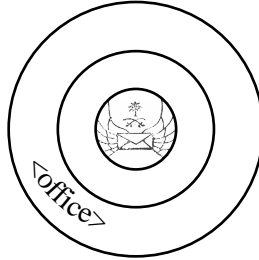


Riyadh, Acting Ex 2c



Example 2d.

A single line outer circle surrounding two concentric circles of equal thickness, the inner one has a diameter of either 10 or 11 mm. and surrounds a standard Saudi Post logo. The outer ring has a diameter of 34 mm. and the middle ring a diameter of 21 mm. There is text curved to fit between the rings at top and bottom. I have 21 examples of this type from ten locations with usage in 1990 - 2009. The text is the same as example 2a.



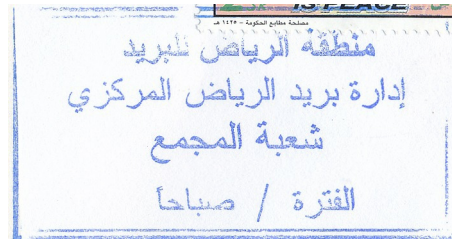
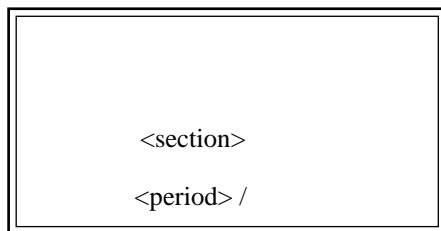
Riyadh, Acting Ex 2d

Designs for Regular Post Offices

Example 1.

Double frame rectangle 58 x 30 mm. with outer line thicker than inner, and four lines of text. I have four copies from one location of this type with usage 2006 - 2008. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Riyadh Region post
- Line 2: Riyadh Central post management
- Line 3: Section <section>
- Line 4: Period / <period> (morning or evening)

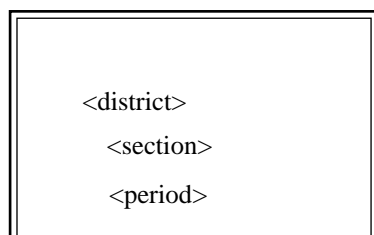


Riyadh, Regular Ex 1

Example 2.

Double frame rectangle 50 x 31 mm. with four lines of text. I have three copies from two locations of this type with usage 2006 - 2008. The text has the meaning:

- Line 1: Riyadh Region post
- Line 2: <district> post management
- Line 3: Section <section>
- Line 4: Period <period> (morning or evening)



Riyadh, Regular Ex 2



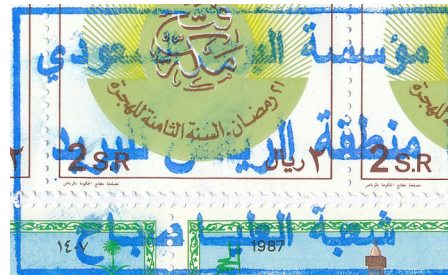
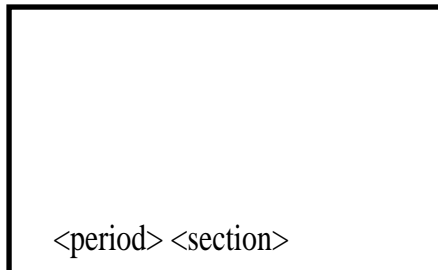
Example 3.

Single frame rectangle 58 x 35 mm. with three lines of text. I have one copy from one location of this type used in 2005. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Saudi Post Corporation

Line 2: Riyadh Region Post

Line 3: Section <section> <period> (morning or evening>



Riyadh, Regular Ex 3

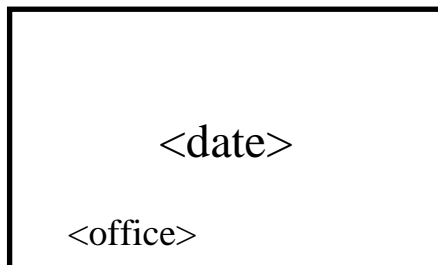
Example 4.

Single frame rectangle 58 x 35 mm. with three lines of text. I have two copies from two locations of this type with usage 2000 - 2002. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Riyadh Region Post

Line 2: <date>

Line 3: <office> Post



Riyadh, Regular Ex 4

Example 5.

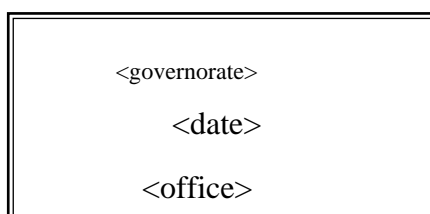
Double frame rectangle 57 x 28 mm. with four lines of text. I have two copies from two locations, both in Al Kharj governorate, of this type with usage 2008 - 2009. The text has the meaning:

Line 1: Riyadh Region Post

Line 2: Governorate <governorate>

Line 3: <date>

Line 4: <office> Post



Riyadh, Regular Ex 5

Riyadh - to be continued.....



Historic Scott Catalogue Number Changes - II (The Omitted Items)

By: Martin Lovegrove

In RN96 I listed a cross reference between the Scott 1981 numbers and the current ones. David Jessich reported to me that I had forgotten the 'back of book' air stamps. I had noticed the changes when I was reviewing the postage dues, but then completely forgot to do anything about it. So, to correct my mistake, here are the airmail cross references; there have been no changes to postage due stamps.

1965 De La Rue DGA Saud Air

Face	1981	Current
1p	C33	C33
2p	C33A	C34
3p	C34	C35
4p	C35	C36
5p	C35A	C37
6p	C35B	C38
7p	C36	C39
8p	C37	C40
9p	C38	C41
10p	C39	C42
11p	C40	C43
12p	C41	C44
13p	C42	C45
14p	C43	C46
15p	C43A	C47
16p	C44	C48
17p	C45	C49
18p	C46	C50
19p	C47	C51
20p	C47A	C52
23p	C48	C53
24p	C49	C54
26p	C50	C55
27p	C51	C56
31p	C52	C57
33p	C53	C58

1965 De La Rue DGA Faisal Air

Face	1981	Current
1p	C54	C59
2p	C55	C60
3p	C56	C61
4p	C57	C62
5p	C57A	C63
6p	C57B	C64
7p	C58	C65
8p	C59	C66
9p	C60	C67
10p	C61	C68
11p	C62	C69
12p	C62A	C70
13p	C63	C71
14p	C64	C72
15p	C65	C73
16p	C66	C74
17p	C67	C75
18p	C67A	C76
19p	C67B	C77
20p	C68	C78
23p	C69	C79
24p	C69A	C80
31p	C69B	C83
33p	C70	C84
50p	C70A	C85
100p	C70B	C86
200p	C70C	C87



1965 De La Rue DGA Faisal Air wmk

Face	1981	Current
1p	C71	C88
2p	C72	C89
3p	C73	C90
4p	C74	C91
7p	C76	C92
8p	C77	C93
9p	C78	C94
10p	C79	C95

Other air mail issues are unchanged.

RN

Continued from [page 32](#)

22. Another Transjordan mystery is the 1924 Official (Scott O1, SG O117). Although stated to have been issued in 1924 it did not make an appearance in Stanley Gibbons catalogues until the 1974 Overseas 2 (D-J) edition and is not mentioned by notable collectors of the time such as Major J.J. Darlow and R.T. Ledger. An enquiry made to Gibbons as to the authority for its inclusion in the catalogue has proved fruitless; the documentation held for the Transjordan section of their catalogues went missing when the publishing department moved to its new premises.

I have found no references to genuine covers and all of the used examples I have raise serious questions. Here are two:



Example 1



Example 2

Example 1 has a bogus Makkah cancel, possibly applied by stamp dealers following the Angeloglou fire and water damage to his stock. Example 2 has what appears to be a genuine AMMAN cancel, Najjar type Cb dated September 1923, but that was before the supposed issue date. Even if the cancel date is incorrect, this type was only used in Amman from 1920 to 1923.

Any suggestions from collectors of Transjordan?

RN

From the Auctions

Compiled by: *Martin Lovegrove*

Cedarstamps auction 35 held on 18 March 2023. Lot 361 was a Saudi airletter, details on the next page, and achieved a hammer price of EUR 200.

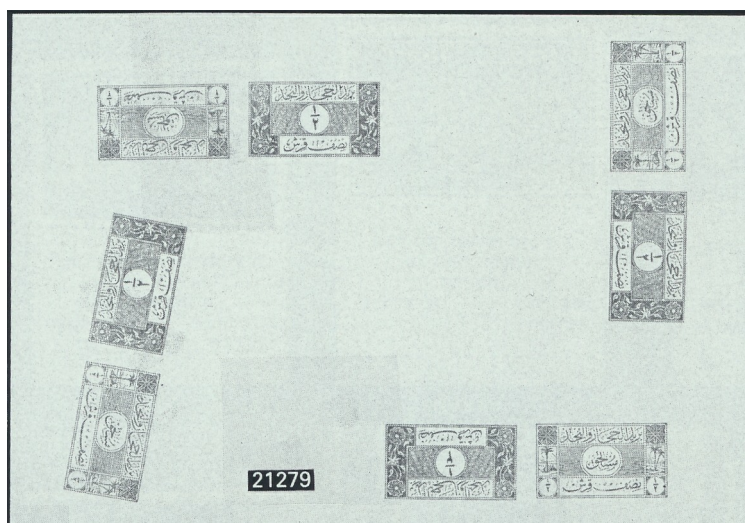


Cedarstamps auction 35 lot 361. *Saudi Arabia. Stationery Aerogramme of 10p sent to Qatar from FARASAN ISLAND using JAZAN post office on 20/6/1968. Arrive on 26/6/1968. Inside very interesting information written by the Doctor in charge of treating seasonal fishermen with news of the weekly postal link with Jazan. Farasan Island was inhabited by only a very few seasonal fishermen. CERTANLY (sic) RARE.*

The next item is from a few years ago, but is relevant to collectors of the Hejaz-Nejd period.

David Feldman auction 42, April 16-19 1986, Geneva.

Lot 21279: 1926 1/2pi + Postage Dues 1/2pi, 4 imperf se-tenant pairs in violet, slightly different design of issued stamp on large un gummed sheetlet, v.fine & possibly unique, Estimate was 2400 Swiss Francs. Hammer price unknown,



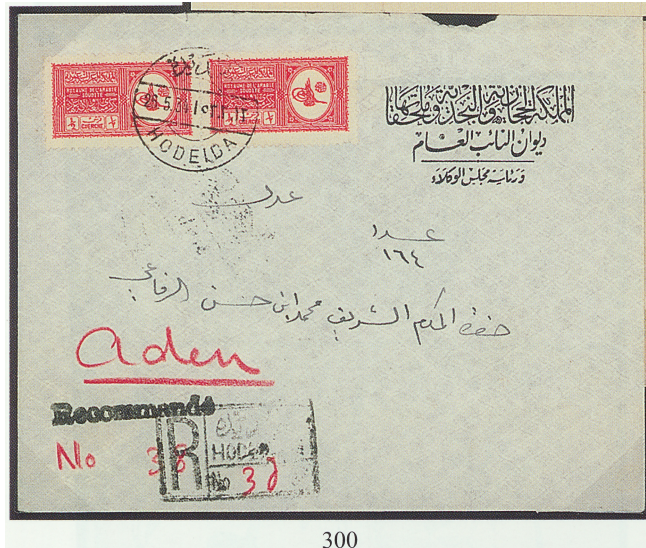
The article 'Hejaz-Nejd Large Size Essay' in RN90 described the sheetlet referred to above, mentioning that the pair of stamps were printed separately and always in violet. Some sheetlets were printed without these extra two stamps and it is interesting to see that these stamps have been printed on the normal size sheetlet paper but without the main stamps. Where are the items in lot 21279 now?

Michael Rogers auction 75, 12 May 2000, Orlando.

Lot 1220: 5g Orange block of 8 (2 x 4) separated vertically before canceled Jeddah, pin perf 6½. Largest block known.



RN35.5 makes reference to the Angus Parker collection of Yemeni cancels of which the Hodeidah ones are of special interest to us. The collection formed all of the lots in the April 22nd 2009 auction by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd in Derby, England. Shown below are two examples, one with the Yemeni cancel and the other with the Saudi cancel.



300

- 300 **ROYAL OFFICIAL MAIL - REGISTERED COVER FROM BUREAU OF PRINCE FAISAL AT SPECIAL POSTAL RATE:** Amazing 20 May 1934 env. (small fault at top does not detract) with Arabic "Kingdom of Hejaz & Nejd Dependencies, Royal Bureau of the Viceroy, H.R.H. Prince Faisal" imprint at top left, franked by a pair of the Saudi Arabia Heir-Apparent ½g Scarlet tied by a very fine Yemeni 'Bridge'-type "HODEIDA" datestamp; addressed to "Aden" with unusual very fine "Recommande" mark and mainly fine Saudi boxed bilingual "R/HODEIDAH" mark on the front, and having an "ADEN" backstamp. Exceptional example of Official mails sent during the Occupation; there was no postage charge for such mail, but the registration fee of 1g had still to be paid in stamps. Important Exhibition Item for any serious Saudi or Yemen collection.

PHOTO - see plate no.4

£2,400



302

- 302 **RARE SAUDI OCCUPATION COVER - EARLIEST KNOWN DATE? - TO EGYPT VIA ADEN:** Attractive 15 May 1934 env. (slightly roughly opened at top) to Mansura endorsed "Egypt via Aden" franked by Saudi Arabia Heir-Apparent 3½g Blue & ½g Scarlet each tied by a very fine Saudi-type bilingual "HODEIDA" Bridge-type datestamp, with very fine "ADEN" (25 June) and "MANSURA" (2 July) backstamps, plus fair "PORT TAUFIQ" & "CAIRO PORT-SAID" T.P.O. backstamps. This is believed to be the earliest recorded example of Saudi-franked mail from the Occupation. Exhibition Quality. [Ex Martin Moreton, c.1962 PHOTO - BACK COVER

£1,600

RN

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.

Part 2 dealing with items relating to the Hejaz Railway is nearing completion.

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. A PDF format file of this publication can be downloaded from the 'resources' page of the APAI website.

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

Acknowledgements and Contacts

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

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

The APAI Website

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

The URL is always subject to change so keep reading Random Notes for updates.

Note that the site is only http and not https (secure). We do not need security as personal information is not collected. The site is simple and is for disseminating information to members; we do not even use 'cookies'.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI). At the top, there is a navigation bar with four buttons: Home, Member Displays, Member Exhibits, and Random Notes. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads "APAI - Arabian Philatelic Association International" followed by "Welcome". To the right of the heading, there is a "Site updated 12 September 2023 20:00 GMT" link. Below the heading, there is a paragraph of text: "If all goes well, this site will be a major source of information about Saudi Arabian philately. Suggestions and contributions are welcome and may be sent to the editor of Random Notes whose contact details can be found on page 2 of Random Notes." Below this text is a list of resources with arrows pointing to the left: Resources (Scans of books and catalogues), Checklists (Checklists of stamps), Sheet images (Scans of sheets), Meetings (Forthcoming meetings), Can You Help? (Questions), and Contact (Contact form). Annotations with arrows point to the navigation bar buttons: "The front page of the website" points to Home, "Displays produced by members including 'Show & Tell' from our Zoom meetings." points to Member Displays, "Competitive exhibits produced by members." points to Member Exhibits, and "Access to all issues of Random Notes and the current index." points to Random Notes. An arrow points from the "Last update, so you can see if site has been amended since your last visit" text to the "Site updated" link.

The front page of the website

Displays produced by members including 'Show & Tell' from our Zoom meetings.

Competitive exhibits produced by members.

Access to all issues of Random Notes and the current index.

Home Member Displays Member Exhibits Random Notes

APAI - Arabian Philatelic Association International

Welcome

Site updated 12 September 2023 20:00 GMT

If all goes well, this site will be a major source of information about Saudi Arabian philately. Suggestions and contributions are welcome and may be sent to the editor of Random Notes whose contact details can be found on page 2 of Random Notes.

Resources ← Scans of books and catalogues

Checklists ← Checklists of stamps

Sheet images ← Scans of sheets

Meetings ← Forthcoming meetings

Can You Help? ← Questions

Contact ← Contact form

Last update, so you can see if site has been amended since your last visit

The website will never be complete, but please do what you can to help improve it.

If you have anything to add to the sections listed above, please send the editor of Random Notes your material. Your suggestions for improvements are always welcome.

If you spot any errors, you can use the 'Contact' page to submit them for site correction.

Things can only get better with feedback.