



Arabian Philatelic Association
c/o Aramco, Box 1929
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Random Notes No. 11
January 1978

Dear Member,

Random Notes No. 11 are attached. You will also find the list of prices realized for Auction No. 7, our current address list, and the latest edition of our check list for definitives from 1960 to 1970. This check list should be the final version - we are unlikely now to find anything not seen before. However, there may be errors, and who knows, one of you out there has found the odd thing that nobody else has. If you are the one, please let us know.

In the Random Notes, you will notice a number of places where we asked for comments and help. Please help us if you can - your contributions are what make these Notes useful. The idea is to spread the knowledge among us all.

DUES - yes, it's that time of the year again, and the dues for 1978 are SR10, which is now about \$2.87 but rising steadily. Pay quick, or it will be more! I have billed most of my new issue clients overseas - if I didn't, or you aren't on that list, please send your dues along. The equivalent in banknotes in dollars, Saudi riyals, deutschmarks, pounds sterling, Dutch guilders, will do, but no checks except in US dollars or Saudi riyals, please. If you send currency, don't forget to register the envelope.

All the best for 1978,

John M. Wilson, Corresponding Secretary

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ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA
January 1, 1978

RANDOM NOTES NO. 11

1. In Random Notes No. 10, Item 1, we left out one entry:

Unframed overprint on:

(1pi blue perf 10)

- a. inverted overprint

2. Scott 196, ½g carmine, Visit of King Hussain of Jordan, shows a plate variety 'GOERCHE' for 'GUERCHE' in position 13; the 'U' is closed by a line across the top (David Graham). Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim of Ta'if reports another variety on this same stamp, a prominent blob on the oval surrounding the Saudi coat of arms; this is the left-hand oval, and the blob is at lower left on the oval.

3. We have so far been unable to expertize Scott L40 and L41, the 1923 surcharges on coat of arms stamps. A quantity of these was sent to Jordan for further overprinting. The Handbook "Philatelic History of Jordan, 1920-1970" by K. C. R. Souan of Kuwait, contains the following data on quantities overprinted for use in Jordan:

1/4pi on 1/8pi 9936 issued (Scott 71, Jordan)

10pi on 5pi 1944 issued (Scott 72)

Date of issue: April 1, 1923

This same book shows a photograph of a complete sheet of Scott 71 as overprinted for use in Jordan. There is, however, a problem - the surcharge doesn't look anything like any of the Hejaz surcharges for L40 that I have here. My best guess right now is that the surcharges in the book were either applied in Jordan (why? - they would only duplicate values) or are complete fakes. Can anybody shed any light on this?

4. Our member, Samir Abdul-Jauwad, writes from California about finding at SACAPEX '77 six covers sent to the USA in the 1940's. He has sent along some nice color Xerox prints of them. These covers were sent by the famous Aramco geologist, Max Steineke, four to his wife, and two to Mr. Ira Barnhisel. They carry Bahrain stamps and cancels and are routed in different ways. A nice find.

5. Samir also sent a picture and a color slide of the 20ha Muhammad bin Sa'ud College stamp with a pronounce shift of both the blue and orange colors as compared to the brown and yellow.

6. The 10pi air letter sheet has been put on sale here again, apparently printed from the same plates. The paper is slightly deeper in color, a variation in shade only. Not different enough to worry about unless you're a specialist.

7. Postage meters have been introduced recently at many post offices. We have already seen a variety of them, all within the last month or so.

8. Recently, incoming registered mail received a special cancellation in honor of 'International Correspondence Week, Dhahran A.P.'. Nobody has very many of these. I think it will be a rarity some day.

9. The 1970-71 official, 6pi, Scott O55, has been found on the first watermark paper (Scott Wmk 337). Here is the latest listing:

<u>Scott #</u>	<u>Denom.</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Exists on:</u>	
			<u>Wmk 337</u>	<u>Wmk 561</u>
048	1pi	red brown		X
049	2	deep green		X
050	3	rose red		X
051	4	bright blue		X
052	5	brick red		X
053	6	orange	X	X
(054)	7	deep salmon	x	
(055)	8	violet	X	
(056)	9	dark blue green	X	
057	10	blue		X
(058)	11	reseda green	X	
(059)	12	seen only in proof book at	Government Press	
067	20	gray violet	X	X
(068)	23	seen only in proof book at	Government Press	
072	31	deep plum		X
(073)	50	seen only in proof book at	Government Press	
(074)	100	green		X

Scott numbers in brackets are interpolated by me. The numbers not in brackets constitute the set as released to the philatelic trade, probably without authorization. Sale of mint stamps from this official set has always been illegal except to authorized Government agencies and against receipts stating actual use on a letter. Close control was kept. Now that officials are no longer in use, some additional values are coming into philatelic hands.

10. The World Refugee Year issue of 1960, Scott 208-10, was apparently printed in two panes cut apart before issue. No gutter pairs have been seen, but panes with and without certain plate varieties have been found. The main variety is in the paper: the 8pi and 10pi have been found on a gray paper thicker and coarser than the usual paper, which is an ordinary white wove paper. Howard Courtney has sent me specimens on the ordinary

paper showing white and yellow gum; I am not sure whether they are really different or the products of different ageing. Can anybody else comment?

Plate varieties:

- 2pi: -dot joins the two Arabic value characters at upper right, pos 12.
8pi: -small 'flag' appears at lower left side of cloud, just at top of vertical rays, pos's 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10.
-dot in cloud at upper right. Position not known - can anybody help us with this one?
10pi: -blotch in numeral '1' of denomination at lower left, pos 48.

Howard also reports a 'wide' copy of #208 showing a wide tooth at the left end of the horizontal perforations.

11. Scott #46, the ½pi red with second Nejd handstamp surcharged 'one Girsh' has a variety where the surcharge is scrambled:

<u>normal</u>	<u>scrambled</u>
فرش	قالش

This has not been seen on a full sheet; it was found on position 26 of the basic stamp.

12. Part of an imperforate sheet of the 6pi Prophet's Mosque, second watermark, has been found in a bookseller's shop in Ta'if. Reported by John Beavis.

13. The following items are from Howard Courtney, who has really been looking at his stamps lately.

-Scott 135, 1/4g green, perf 11½ found with a doubled perf across the top so that the new perfs cut the old teeth; the effect is 'perf 23'.

-Scott 27, 28, and 52, Nejd overprints on Hejaz Railway Tax stamp, 2pi, has value printings with both wide and narrow spacing between the two characters at left:

<u>Narrow</u>	<u>Wide</u>
شان	شان

The wide spacing seems to be the scarcer.

-Scott 296 with pink color missing.

-Scott 454, 3pi Dammam-Jiddah Road, with the leaves and stalk at left in a pale green, very different from the normal. The fine dots for the five towns are also in this pale green color. Most unusual.

-Scott 013, 20pi violet blue official of 1961 in block of four completely misperfed, the perforations cutting almost through the middle of the stamps in both directions.

-Scott 299, Installment of King Faisal, a double paper variety, double in the left column of the sheet.

-Scott 178, 179 Visit of Zahir Shah, with copies showing both pinkish and white gum. Some of the Tughra issue stamps come on a pinkish gum, too. Paper and perforation were the same. I would welcome confirming comments from anybody.

-Scott 296-98, Human Rights, one set on white thin paper, and one on a slightly gray paper just slightly thicker. Not an obvious difference until you examine them closely. I would like some confirmation on this one, too.

14. The 10pi airmail of 1949-58 (Scott C4) has been found with a broken letter 'M' in 'ROYAUME'. Plate position is unknown - can anyone help? I would like to give the donor credit, but the stamp has become detached from the correspondence - my apologies, and you certainly deserve the credit. Please write me!

15. Caution: The green centers on the Tourist Issue (Scott 453-597) are fugitive in watermark fluids like benzene or lighter fluid - they turn blue. We have also been looking at a lot of 'shades' lately that result from attempts at washing off cancellations.

16. On September 27, the Director General of Post, Dr. Samir Hamid Banajah, opened a Postal Museum in Riyadh. The displays include, according to the September 26 issue of Ar-Riyadh, "new and old stamps of Saudi Arabia and other countries as well as various postal equipment" (translation by Aramco). The Museum is in front of the Ministry of Communications Building on Airport Road, according to Cal Ham, right across the road from the al-Yamamah Hotel; open weekdays during usual Government office hours.

17. David Graham is another guy who has been busy on our behalf, looking at those stamps again. The notes below result from a combination of his researches, his conversations with the Riyadh stamp dealer Abdul Aziz Said, and my conversations with David.

-Khafji Platform, 50ha, comes in an orange-pink with orange denominations and flare, and also in an orange with orange stuff that is apparently an error of color. I haven't seen this goody yet, but David assures me that it is quite different from the normal. This 50ha has some plate varieties:

- Position 22: large orange dot below flare. Removed in later printing.
- Positions 44 and 49: 'ha' left of Arabic value missing its tail. In the later printing, a crude tail has been added by retouching.
- Position 84: broken 'P' in 'postage', having lost its vertical stroke below the upper part, leaving a 'D'. Not retouched in the later print.

-Some denominations of the Khafji Platform show a prominent dot at the top right above the Arabic letter 'kaf' - position 97, bottom row, right hand pane. These numbers, incidentally, are across the whole row of both panes, so that 1 through 5 are the top row of the left pane, and 6 through 10 are the top row of the right pane. The extra dot occurs on the 25, 30, 40, 45, and 65ha values. Does not occur on the other values to date, so it was apparently caught and corrected.

-David showed me Scott LJ36a genuine, position 25. A scarce stamp.

-The WHO Prevention from Blindness stamp of 1976: position 40 shows an extra horizontal stroke in the letter 'L' making it look like an inverted letter 'F'.

-The 3pi Malaria, Scott 249, is reported with the blue color double.

-King Faisal Installation stamp of 1964, Scott 299. We have previously reported the broken 'A' of 'INSTALMENT' -upper right corner stamp, position 5. There is now a position showing a dot at the right hand side; position unknown, and I would like to hear from anybody who can help.

-Scott 176, the 10g 'Harbor at Radwa*' is said to exist in two different colors or shades. Can anybody show them to us?

-1967 Traffic Light, Scott 610-12. The 3pi with blue green light ray was printed in sheets of 30, watermark inverted, and with color control squares at right. The 3pi with gray green light ray was printed in sheets of 60, watermark upright, no color control squares. Position one on the 30-subject sheet shows a blue dot above the green beam, just touching the wreath. There is a variety on the 60-subject sheet (not on my 30-subject sheet) showing a red dot above the green beam, position unknown. Any help?

-1926 Pan Islamic Congress overprint, Scott 92-7, has been forged - Mihran Hagopian donated a set on the postage dues early in 1977. The 3pi, Scott 96, is reported with overprint double, and the 1/4pi orange, Scott 92, with overprint triple, both genuine, of course.

-David showed me some 'SPECIMEN' overprints. How do we get those!?!

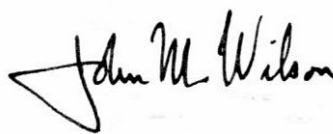
-Abdul Aziz Said expressed doubt about Scott 115, the 'qirsh wahid' overprint in violet on Turkey Scott 258, 10 para green. He thinks it is bogus. We have never seen any covers. Can anyone demonstrate that it was used to pay postage? I note that many interesting 'varieties' appear in the sheet, and it well may have been created to 'stimulate trade'. I suggest that you consider it doubtful for the time being.

-Abdul Aziz also has doubts about the 'T' overprint on the ½g red, listed as Scott J24. Again, no covers known. Does anybody have any substantial information?

18. The framed overprint (L24-29) was applied to the very plentiful 1 para lilac brown and then surcharged ½pi and 1pi to produce these needed denominations. Not only is the 1pi more plentiful (Scott L31), it was made from several make-ups of the basic plate. They usually differ only slightly, but in one case, the 'qirsh' and 'wahid' are in reverse word order (position 23), and in another case, the first two characters (rightmost) of 'qirsh', the 'qr', are inverted (position 27). I have not seen a sheet with both at the same time; I have a number of sheets with neither. Were these deliberately created? They are unlikely sorts of natural mistakes. At any rate, don't throw yours away, and I show mine when I get a chance.

19. Query: was the 1/4pi green coat of arms, Scott L33, ever actually used on Hejaz mail? I have never seen it on cover, even though the rate was a common one that required a surcharge in 1923 to make up needed denominations. Please let me know if you have it on cover or legitimate piece. It was not available with the original set and was not overprinted when the Caliphate overprints were prepared. It should probably be listed with the 3pi brown red and 10pi bicolor, Scott L49 and 50. Most of the copies seen are proofs made later in yellow green and dark green - the correct color is a pale blue green, we believe.

20. Random Notes No. 9 contained a listing of GOSP, Dam, and Air definitives with inverted watermarks, both Cairo and Faisal printings. Maarten Schreuder has found the 8pi Air Faisal with inverted watermark, and it should be added to the list.



John M. Wilson
Editor, Random Notes

RESULTS OF
AUCTION NO. 7
October 21, 1977

I thought you might like a guided tour around the recent auction. I will focus on the highlights, and you can check the prices realized for any further details.

Hejaz in general brought good prices, better than in previous auctions. Mint sets brought full catalogue or better. Lot 16, L3a mint, the 1pi perf 12, went for \$40; Lot 186, L2a mint, the scarce 1/2pi red perf 10, \$35. A set of the unframed overprint, L14-19 (these are all Scott numbers) plus three postage dues all mounted on a sheet and favor cancelled brought \$89. These favor cancelled sheets are scarce and interesting. A part set of L15-19 mint made \$24, showing the value attached to plated items, and in particular for this lot, to the 1/8pi orange. Four plated framed overprints L26-29 brought \$6; another part set (Lot 422) including L30, 31 brought \$8.60. These overprints are underpriced in the 1977 Catalogues. In Lot 192, L30 and L31 made \$10. The coat of arms set, L32-39, MNH made \$7.75, and L33a, the tete-beche pair MNH, \$10.

A part set of Jeddah three-line overprints in blue, Lot 217, made \$10, about \$2 per stamp; in black, Lot 218, \$14.50 or about \$2.50 per stamp. The big four-line surcharges, L142/8 (part set) in Lot 219 brought \$4.60, about 90¢ per stamp. The King Ali overprints, Cairo, offered as complete sets with the year date all in the same direction brought \$11 per set, way over Catalogue - of course, this reflects the offer as a 'special' set, and the individual stamps remain plentiful and cheap.

The rare L68, Lot 426, brought \$25, very reasonable and a bargain for a plated copy. 90% of the ones I see are fake. L72, from the same set, Lot 427, showing an early example of the framed overprint, made \$32, another good price for the buyer. Lot 431 containing L107, showing a red overprint from Plate IA, brought \$7.75.

A complete sheet of LJ24, in average condition plus a few unimportant worm holes and a complete sheet of L51 each brought 60% of Cat. A lovely block of six of L50b, center inverted, unmounted mint, brought \$37, and probably a bargain, as single copies are about all you ever see. Lot 176 was an important item: a pair of LJ25b showing a double overprint, plated, and fetching \$92, over four times 1977 Scott Catalogue. A rare item.

Lots 25 through 33, complete mint sheets of Tughras, all sold well over the reserves. For example, a complete sheet of Scott 170, the 20g Tughra, made \$80. Complete sheets of #178-9, Visit of Zahir Shah, including the 'POSTFS' error, brought \$43 and might have made more except that some bidders waited for Lot 55, a similar lot, which had to be withdrawn because it was misdescribed as to condition. A complete mint sheet of #184, the 10g 50th

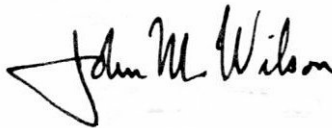
Anniversary of the Capture of Riyadh, containing the error #184a, brought \$115 (Lot 33). A pair showing the same error (Lot 350) brought \$78. A complete sheet of RA7, two panes with gutter between, Lot 40, brought \$57. A proof of C1 sold for \$43, and a proof pair of C5 in black brought \$50 (Lots 56 and 57). Lot 61 featured a group of first flight covers and made \$43 - and that might look cheap some day. Lot 63, a nearly complete set of the Saud redrawn Dam, #300/322, missing only two values, realized \$37 against Catalogue of \$16, showing the premium attached to complete sets of 1965 and 1967 definitives.

Lot 66 contained a group of mint sheets of 76-80, J16-18 missing the ¼pi orange carried a reserve of \$72, which I thought high as compared to Catalogue of \$57 - it made, however, \$200 to the tune of spirited bidding, which shows how much I know. Lots 130 and 131, Capture of Riyadh, averaged \$12, and Catalogues are too low on this. Lot 133, Dhahran Airport with 6pi showing missing dot, made \$9. The last official set, Scott 048/72, made \$20 (Lot 134) and \$23 (Lot 396). The big official set, 021-47, Lot 395, was sold as a complete set, the missing value having been found and added to the lot before the sale, too late to notify the mail bidders; this set brought \$98, and with mail bids might have made more. Try to find one and you'll understand the price.

I'll not describe the covers individually. Highlight was Lot 411, a rare stampless carried to Kuwait by camel and backstamped there with an early use of the 'KOWEIT' canceller; it made \$110. I've seen lesser stuff go for more.

Lot 372, the Faisal Souvenir Sheet, made \$63. And the last item that I'll mention is the set of Cairo GOSP imperforate pairs, Lots 375-384, which were sold as one lot for \$460.

- (1) Better luck next time
 - (2) Congratulations
- } → select one!



John M. Wilson, Auctioneer