



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

Random Notes No. 12
24 June 1978

Dear APA Member,

Herewith are Random Notes No. 12.

We hear through the rumor mill that another special issue may come out in July possibly with first day cover and souvenir sheet. The design is said to be stamp on stamp, featuring the 1930 set commemorating King Ibn Sa'ud's accession to the throne of the Hejaz on January 8, 1926. Wish us luck in obtaining them.

If anyone has an address for our member Mrs. Joyce Shana'a, please let me know or ask her to write.

We finally got the cachets for the show, APEX-7. If you want one, cancelled day of show, please write and let me know. Price has not yet been calculated, but I would guess three dollars or so.

Best regards,

John M. Wilson
Corresponding Secretary
Arabian Philatelic Association

C/o Aramco, Box 1687
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

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ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia
June 23, 1978

RANDOM NOTES NO. 12

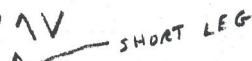
1. We have just seen offered at auction a cover purporting to be from Jiddah to Mecca, bearing Scott L82, L91, L99, L101, and L102. The overprints are all among those we would classify as fakes (large dot over 'taa marbuta' of 'Hukuma'). The cancellation is "Djedda 5" dated "10-11-917"; the year format without the first '1' is common, and would be 1917, eight years too early. The Arabic date is "24-1-1326" which would be in 1907. The whole is on a rather modern, airmail envelope clearly marked "Via Air Mail", long before such service was available. Beware!

2. Samir Abdul-Jauwad has sent me copies of Scott 265, 266, and 268 imperforate. They are in the correct colors and on the correct watermarked paper.

3. Bob McFarlane sent in a couple of items.

-On the Abdul-Aziz University issue of 1971, Scott 624-26, there is a constant variety on all three denominations, position 17. There is a short left leg on the Arabic '8':

Normal: ١٣٨٧

Variety: ١٣٨٧ 

-On the World Literacy Day issue of 1972, Scott 635, there is a rectilinear design (a 'meander') running horizontally across the stamp just below the upper, pictorial portion. On position 1 there is a strong retouch of a portion of the line near the left side of the stamp.

-Same issue: an extra dot after 'p' under the number '10'. Bob didn't know the position. I have a copy in position 7 that shows an extra dot between the 'p' and the proper dot - maybe this is the one. In position 16, there is a dot between the left-hand frame and the inner frame surrounding the '10 p'.

4. Bob Jung wrote in to say that he was the one who sent me the copy of Scott C4 with the deformed 'M', which he says is from the second row of the sheet. He sent along some misperfed varieties of the Mecca-Taif Road issue of June, 1965; two of them have the vertical perfs almost through the center of the stamps. He sent Scott L149 with the surcharge shifted to the right so that the '1/8' is at the left side of the stamp. He also sent two varieties of Scott 292: (1) missing the two dots over the last character in 'nafatha' just below the 'i' of 'Arabie', and (2) the letters 'l' and 'a' of the word 'l'aeroporto' are shortened at bottom. He also notes Scott 299 with an extra dot over the first 'a' of 'Jamad' at the left. He says he found it on three of six copies of it he looked at. Bob also reports seeing the King Ali in rose instead of blue, listed in Mayo as 285G.

5. I have just seen the first copy of "The Arab World Philatelist", a new quarterly journal edited and published by R. Howard Courtney, 2135 N. Bigelow, Peoria, Illinois 61604. Howard is one of our fellow members in the APA. Price is \$4 per copy in USA and Canada, \$4.75 foreign via airmail. Howard has done a nice job on this journal and promises me that articles on Saudi Arabia will continue to appear. He deserves your support through contributed articles or letters and through subscriptions.

6. We will be holding another in our series of annual mail auctions this fall, probably in October. Come on, you sellers, get your stuff together - the market has never been better!

7. Beware of fake overprints on Scott L67 and L69. All genuine, plateable copies seen here have definite shifts in the overprints - they are not centered on the stamps. In all cases, the genuine stamps seen have come from one original sheet in each case.

8. Scott L76 and L76A are commonly found with an overprint clearly not made by the plate that produced the other two-line overprints. This plate is the one found in Warin; prints from it were taken after it had been defaced, and these prints are inserted in every copy of Warin. However, we have seen a very few copies of both with a genuine overprint. In these cases, because of the spacing, at least part of a second overprint shows. The ones we have seen always have one overprint nicely centered, and it must be conjectured that perhaps individual stamps were put under the plate to receive the overprint. We doubt that this stamp is an official issue.

9. I recently acquired a fake of the framed overprint of January, 1922, in red. Don't let these fool you.

10. Herewith are some outstanding unresolved questions for the Handbook. Please let us know if you have any material bearing on these matters or any comments.

a. Scott L33, L49, and L50 were printed in 1924, probably later than April (not 1922 for L33 as given in Scott). Their period of usage must have been rather short. Has anybody seen them on cover? Does anyone know that they were officially issued? For the time being, we are accepting Warin's statement that they were issued.

b. All covers known to us bearing the King Ali issue show stamps with Jiddah control overprints. Does anyone have a cover with Cairo controls? Can anyone show that the Cairo controls were legitimately used for postage or were sold through the Jiddah post office?

c. L61 exists on both blue and red underprint. Does L62 exist on blue underprint? All copies plated by us have been on red underprint. Copies of L62 on black underprint always fail to plate against the genuine sheet and must be regarded as doubtful.

d. For Scott LJ11-16, we have a variety of overprints made apparently by different 'printers'. We doubt that all are genuine. Unfortunately, we have no covers or other way of determining which (if any) are in fact legitimate products of the Hejaz Government. Can anyone help?

e. Does Scott LJ18 exist as a genuine stamp? I have yet to see one that I can plate. Same for LJ23. LJ36a does exist, incidentally - I have seen two copies that pass all the tests.

f. Has anyone seen the Jiddah control overprints on King Ali postage dues in red or blue? (Scott LJ48-51, 52-55). Warin lists them, but nobody seems to have them.

g. Can anyone offer evidence for or against Scott L24?

h. Can anyone show us Scott L137? L138a or L138c?

11. Scott 201, the 2pi bright blue of the APU Conference issue of April 12, 1960, shows in position 10 a smear of color over the right numeral extending out beyond the margin of the stamp into the right margin of the paper. Quite distinctive. Many positions show various extra dots, too small to be worth cataloguing, I think. There is also much apparent 'doubling' of letters in the inscriptions.

12. In the 8pi of the World Refugee Year set, Scott 209, we have mentioned a 'flag' in the cloud at upper left. So far, positions 2, 4, 6, 8, 35, 37, 39 are known to have this flag. While we are talking about this set, has anybody seen the 2pi on the thick gray paper? - we have seen the other two denominations.

13. In Random Notes No. 11, Paragraph no. 17, we mentioned the forgery of the Pan Islamic Congress overprint of 1926. We have now seen it on both the postage dues and the regular issue; moreover, the stamps themselves are also fakes. Colors and papers are slightly different, and the perforation is 11½ instead of the correct 11. The fake stamps are also found without overprint.

14. In Paragraph 18 of RN No. 11, we commented on Scott L31. We have seen large quantities of used copies of this stamp in bundle stock from sources in India. It must have been a workhorse stamp of its day, doing duty long after the values from the normal set had been exhausted. The 1 para lilac brown was printed in large quantities by the Survey of Egypt, over 1,600,000 according to the figures given in Warin. Hence, it must have been available in quantity to receive the overprint and surcharge. Later printings show many badly worn and damaged cliches, testifying to the large usage. The letters franked with these stamps were probably from Indian merchants writing to their agents and families at home.

15. In February of this year, I visited the mail room of the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) and found that business mail addressed to Aramco's affiliate in Houston, Texas, the Aramco Services Company, was being sent by courier. The mail was weighed, the correct postage was calculated, and the stamps were affixed to a form letter certifying both the weight of the mail and the value of the stamps. The stamps were cancelled by the mail room employees with a one-line date stamp in the format: "FEB 27 1978". A photocopy of the sheet with the stamps affixed to it accompanies the pouch to show that the stamps were actually applied and cancelled. Earlier, the sheets appear to have gone along in the pouch. We understand that the earlier method may again come into effect.

16. Random Notes No. 11 contained a listing of the 1970-71 official stamps. Please note that we have now seen the 50pi, which is in light brown on the second watermarked paper. That leaves only the 12pi and the 23pi not yet accounted for. Has anybody seen them? - or any other denominations?

17. The 200pi Sa'ud redrawn airmail (de la Rue printing of 1965) has been seen in the hands of a postal official. We have no information as to whether it was ever issued.

18. New issue prices for Saudi material have jumped substantially in recent months, we are told. Prices of five times face are reported. This kind of thing does the hobby no good at all.

19. In December, 1977, incoming mail received a backstamp worded: "International Correspondence Week, Dhahran A.P." (see Paragraph 8, RN No. 11). This cancellation has just shown up again here in the last month or two.

20. While I was on vacation in April, Gordon Torrey showed me a complete fake of the 1/4pi green of 1916. It would not fool anyone who had any comparison copies of the genuine stamps.

21. I had an opportunity to visit the Philatelic Foundation in New York in April and see their reference collection of Saudi Arabian material. The Hejaz section was particularly strong and contained only a very small number of doubtful items. L69 was present as a genuine stamp, although L61 and L67 were not. Among their covers was one showing both the talisman '8642' and its translation in Arabic alphabetic characters. The collection was originally formed by the noted collector, John N. Luff. One page contained two Nejd newspaper stamps, and below them was a clipping from a stamp journal. I quote it here in full.

Nejd. Mr. A. Wahab kindly sends us what appears to be a copy of an official gazette, and gives the following translation of one of its items: "It has been discovered by the Authority that stamps in the reign of Sultan Nejd (sic) were surcharged with the equivalent

of 'Matbua' (= 'Printed Matter'), and as the Authority did not issue such stamps it is important for all men to take notice and beware of this kind of stamp. Those who possess any number of them, or are able to give information leading to the discovery of those who possess these stamps, should communicate with the Authority".

We do not know whether the stamp referred to is the one listed as No. N1 in our Catalogue, which has been accepted, we believe, by all specialists, and came from the same sources as the other stamps of Nejd, or whether other "Printed matter" stamps are in existence which we have not seen. Perhaps some of our readers have further information.

-This would appear to put the cat among the pigeons so far as the newspaper stamps are concerned. Your editor confesses that he has always been puzzled by the very limited quantities involved for stamps which would have had a large requirement for the intended purpose; perhaps the above notice puts the matter straight. Any comment?

22. Bob Jung sent me copies of the 5g Tughra issue perforated 6. Does anyone have any further information? Frank Patterson notes that the paper ("a rather coarse soft wove paper") is 'not standard'. The stamps were on cover, but were unfortunately soaked off.

23. Our last check list of definitives, sent out with the previous set of Random Notes, turned out to have some deficiencies. Many of you wrote in and pointed them out to us. I apologize for the trouble they caused. We omitted the 8pi Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque, original frame, second watermark. The 6pi Ka'abah with black background behind the numeral of value, shown as having redrawn frame, exists only with original frame. We'll try to get out a better version later on.

24. There was a startling ad in the London periodical: "Stamp Collecting Weekly" for 11 May 1978. The ad was placed by Randall S. Jaye, who offered complete sets of Saudi Arabian definitives beginning with the Tughra issue of 1934-57. Detail as to what denominations were in each set was not given, but the total number of values in each set was given, enabling us to work out that the sets offered probably contained all or most of the hard-to-find items. Unfortunately, Mr. Jaye had to withdraw the offer and nothing was delivered; our checks were returned. The most interesting part of the ad was an offer of unlisted items, as quoted below - all comments are Mr. Jaye's:

- "1. King Saud Refinery, 26p, black and red, completely imperf pair.
- "3. King Saud Boeing, re-drawn Air, 13p. apple green and BLUE, i.e., colours of 18p Air, probably result of wrong frame plate being used.
- "4. King Saud Five values re-drawn designs, very significant as they are on WATERMARKED PAPER. Never before described. Values as follows: 2p Oil, 20 Wadi Hanifa, 5p Wadi Hanifa, 4p and 14p Air (yes, 14p)

"5. King Feisal. Air stamps 6p and 16p with watermark."

The ad went on to offer nearly complete sets of Faisal watermarks inverted. I am trying to keep in touch with Mr. Jaye and I'll report further if anything develops.

25. Frank Patterson writes in answer to our question about Scott J22. I quote:

Re the two types of J22. The differences occur in the two upper corner circles with the words "Querch Wahid". These were apparently plugged into the common frame plate (viz. - the error J22a). The script engraving differs, one being thicker than the other, and the individual letters vary slightly in orientation to each other.

26. The recent First International Symposium issue showed Ptolemy's map of the world. A variety shows a blue dot in Africa as though there were a lake, so let's call it the "lake in Africa" variety.

27. Our annual show, APEX-7, drew many exhibitors and spectators. The Grand Award was taken by Richard Fagence with a beautifully written up and mounted collection of Channel Islands under German Occupation. First Prize Adults went to A. D. Ainslie for Canadian Airmails, and second to Warren Latshaw for Private Die Proprietary Stamps. First Prize for Mini-exhibits, one frame only, was won by Jim Kearney for a strong showing of Turkish stamps used in Saudi Arabia, including some very nice covers; second went to Mr. Ainslie for Newfoundland Airmails. Top prize for juniors was won by David Ketchum; this is David's third win in a row.

We had some trouble with our cacheted envelopes, and we'll get back to that subject later on.

28. The red Jiddah two-line overprints, as well as some of the later Jiddah overprints in red, come in two colors. One is a "bright red", and the other a darkish, brownish red; I propose to call the latter color "blood red" because of its resemblance to dried blood. Some find this inaccurate because fresh blood is so different in color. Any opinions from our readers? I am trying to collect the two-line overprints in both colors; the difference is quite distinctive, I think. I have no data on relative scarcity.

29. The 1977 20ha stamp for the Islamic Jurisprudence Conference of Riyadh, Scott 725, has been found with widely shifted colors (horizontal shift), and also with the brown color omitted entirely.

30. The Faisal FDC and Souvenir Sheet set are currently priced in Saudi Arabia at SR500 to 600, which is \$145 to \$175, approximately. These were only sold to individuals who came personally to the post office and signed for them. Few are on the international market, and not very many with dealers here. A few of the souvenir sheets are showing up by themselves, not with the FDC, apparently given to UPU members and passing from them into the hands of dealers. Those S/S's sold in Jiddah were laid on the brochure that came with the set and cancelled with the first day cancel so as to "tie" the sheet to the brochure without actually sticking the

sheet to it. Five cities sold the sets, and each had its own first day cancel: Jiddah, Mecca, Medina, Riyadh, and Dhahran (not Dammam, although sold there). You say you don't have the complete set of five? Join the crowd.

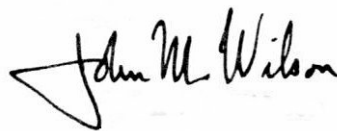
31. The APA now has a Chapter in Holland. This group began operations early this year under the guiding hand of Art Sundberg, one of the APA's Charter Members. Good luck to all of you in the Low Country!

32. Ah, yes, the Handbook. I have been circulating a draft copy of the Hejaz portion in a rather incomplete state to get what comments I can. While I was home in April, I saw (in addition to the Philatelic foundation collection) the reference material of Gordon Torrey, who has an excellent array of covers as well as other items. Later, I journeyed to Voorburg and visited with Frank Patterson. Frank wrote the Handbook on modern Afghanistan and so is an old hand at the game. His suggestions were most valuable, as was the detailed look I got at his material. Some time in the next few months I hope to try for a final version for local review. What with the need to get all the pictures taken for the illustrations and captions written up, I doubt that we'll see anything before the end of 1978. As you will note elsewhere in these pages, we still face some substantial unresolved questions.

33. In Warin, following the description of the fourth printing of the 1 para lilac brown of 1917-20, there appears the following note: (p21)

Up to this time Hejaz stamps had been obtainable in Alexandria in either used or unused condition. In 1918, however, we believe that this was stopped, and the export of unused stamps forbidden. To enforce this, all unused stamps sold were affixed to correspondence by the Post Office officials.

This seems to call for some interpretation. Certainly, later unused issues are in fact available, and some means of exporting was apparently found. Can anyone offer any evidence as to what canceller was used by the Hejazi officials in Alexandria? Part sheets cancelled to order are available on the market, and this canceller needs to be examined - what characteristics does it show, is it always the same date, and so on. If you have the material, please take a look.



John M. Wilson, Editor
Random Notes

NOTES ON CURRENT DEFINITIVES

<u>Khafji Platform</u>		<u>Wmk Up</u>	<u>Wmk Down</u>	<u>Wmk Right</u>	<u>Wmk Left</u>
5ha violet blue and orange	'76	X	X	X	X
10ha yellow green	"	X	X		
15ha yellow brown	"	X	X		
20ha dark green	"	X	X		
25ha dark purple	"	X	X		
30ha blue	"	X	X		
35ha gray brown	"	X	X		
40ha dark red	"	X	X		
45ha red violet	"	X	X		
50ha orange	"	X			
50ha pink	"	X	X		
55ha bluish green	"	X	X		
65ha sepia	"	X	X		
SR1 gray	"	X	X		

All values were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) with a vertical gutter one stamp wide between the 5th and 6th vertical rows. Printer's inscription under the 91st and 96th stamps. Plate numbers (Western 1 and 2) in the gutter between the 5th and 6th stamps. The same background plate (with occasional retouching) has been used for all values, with separate impressions for the denominations. (Ed.: the orange of the numerals varies from a dark red to a yellow on some values.)

The 5ha was also printed in sheets of 50 (5x10). Printer's inscription under the 46th stamp. No plate number. In the interior of these sheets, the corner perforation between stamps is as:

i.e., the center perforation missing.



It has been reported that this set will eventually consist of 25 values, i.e., every 5 halalahs from 5ha to 95ha and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 riyals.

The 50ha in orange was probably a small first printing. It is believed that the color was found to be unsatisfactory because the orange denomination did not contrast sufficiently with the orange design. The later, bulk printing was in pink.

The 1R value is known on two kinds of paper, one thinner and smoother, the other thicker and rougher. All other values are as far known on only one of the two kinds of paper.

Holy Ka'abah - Original Center

Note: background color given. All centers are black

			Wmk <u>Up</u>	Wmk <u>Down</u>
15ha	pale orange	'76	X	X
20ha	light blue	'77	X	X
40ha	green	'77	X	X

Holy Ka'abah - Redrawn Center

5ha	violet	'78	X	X
10ha	gray blue	'78	X	X
	a. Imperf top margin		X	
25ha	yellow	'78	X	X
	a. Double perf at bottom		X	
30ha	gray green	'78	X	X
35ha	brown	'78	X	X
40ha	green	'78	X	X
	a. Imperf			X
50ha	red	'78	X	X

All values were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) with a gutter (one stamp wide) between the 5th and 6th vertical rows. Printer's inscription under the 91st and 96th stamps. No plate numbers.

The redrawn center has the entire design strengthened to make it much darker and clearer. The original is lighter and less distinct. The difference is perhaps most noticeable in the two minarets. In the 40ha, the only value to appear thus far in both original and redrawn states, there are also differences in the relative positions of the Western and Arabic "40" and "H". It is not known whether the 15ha and 20ha values will be re-issued with the redrawn center.

The imperforate 40ha stamps were purchased through normal post office channels by the APA New Issue Service and distributed to subscribers.

This set is also reported to consist eventually of the same 25 values as reported for the Khafji Platform set.

Quba Mosque

			Wmk <u>Up</u>	Wmk <u>Down</u>	Wmk <u>Right</u>	Wmk <u>Left</u>
20ha	orange and gray	'76	X	X	X	X
	a. red orange and greenish gray	'78	X	X		
50ha	green and purple	'76	X	X		

Both values were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) with a gutter one stamp wide between the 5th and 6th vertical rows. Printer's inscription under the 91st and 96th stamps. Plate numbers (Arabic 1 and 2) in the gutter between the 5th and 6th stamps. The 1978 reprint has no plate numbers.

The 50ha was also printed in sheets of 50 (5x10). Printer's inscription under the 46th stamp. No plate number. In the interior of these sheets, the corner perforation between stamps is as:

i.e., center perforation missing.

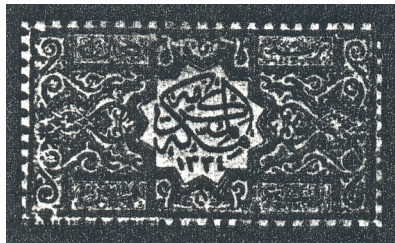


It is not known whether any more denominations in this design will be issued. None has been announced.

R. J. Thoden
23 June 1978



Los 513



FAKE STAMP