



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

RANDOM NOTES NO. 14

Dear APA Member,

These Random Notes simply must start off with a most important announcement: Max Mayo is going to sell his entire collection of Saudi Arabia at auction. The sale is part of a Sotheby Parke Bernet auction starting March 18 in New York. I am told that the catalogue will be available about March 1. All that you need to do in order to appreciate what Max has is to take a look at the listings in his handbook. Fabulous! I have seen much of it myself. For those of us who still need a few little things, bankruptcy impends.

Incidentally, Max still has some copies of his Handbook left, and they are available at \$10 each. You should get one if you haven't already. Write Max at:

M. Max Mayo
193-21 Nero Avenue
Hollis, New York 11423

Have you been receiving R. Howard Courtney's new journal, The Arab World Philatelist? If not, you should. Write to:

R. Howard Courtney
1325 West Moss
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Howard says that some of you are slow to pay up. He has no big financier to bankroll him, and like the rest of us he needs to get paid for each issue so that he can pay for the next printing. He needs our help, and his journal is certainly worthy of our support. If you're a collector, take out a subscription; if you're a dealer or otherwise, take out an advertisement. If you can write something for him, I know that he would appreciate it.

The Random Notes are attached, as is a rather lengthy summary of the recent Feldman Sale in Switzerland and the APA Sale in Dhahran. If you have been wondering what you should pay for various issues, this might help. I have also attached a price list of a few special items that I have on hand just now. Further, the prices realized can be found herein, for the APA Auction in Dhahran last November.

Sorry about the lack of correspondence this last year. The move to Houston and some other problems and so forth have combined to eat up all my time and keep me away from the stamps and stamp affairs. I doubt that it will improve a great deal until I return to Saudi Arabia some time this fall. To those of you who may have paid me 1980 dues -- some of you were overcharged, and I will be making refunds. Correct amounts for people not living in Saudi Arabia: USA -- \$5; Europe -- £2.

John M. Wilson
Editor

2113 Winrock
Houston, Texas 77057 USA

PRICE LIST

John M. Wilson
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HEJAZ

L14-19 plus L18a, seven stamps MNH \$45
L24-29 MNH \$16.50

L52 MNH \$6
-block of 4 25
L52 full sheet, folded across the middle mint \$300
L52a MNH \$ 25
-block of 4 110
L53 MNH 50
L55b pair MNH (only one available) \$75
L56 pair with plate number MNH 25
L58a MNH \$ 25
L59a MNH 50
L62 MNH 25
-block of 4 110
L64 MNH 50
L64a only one block of four available MNH \$400

L28b inverted overprint, rare; disturbed gum, scuff marks
visible on face of stamp. Better than adequate space filler. \$3

EGYPT CANCELLED "GEDDA"

1pi red, Scott #13 - clear cancel \$150
2pi blue, Scott #14 - clear cancel, most
desirable specimen 200
1pi red, Scott 22, - clear cancel, another
desirable specimen 150
1pi red, Scott 22c - partial cancel, only the
word "GEDDA" legible 125

SAUDI ARABIA

205-07 MNH \$ 2.00 287-89 Proofs of the 3pi value,
208-10 First Day Cover 10.00 unissued; set of three
240-42 Miniature sheets 60.00 imperf pairs, one in each
240-42 MNH set 2.00 of the issued colors
-blocks of four pro rata - \$75
240-42 set of three imperf
margin singles mint 12.00 610-12 MNH set \$1.20
249-51 MBH 1.50
249-51 with ovpts, six
stamps mint 7.50

--- 1pi Dam imperf, with
watermark -- see note in
Scott after #260
Margin single \$30.00
Pair 60.00
Block of 4 150.00

20 Feb 1980

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

February 19, 1980

Random Botes No. 14

1. Figures given to Linn's Stamp News by Elias Kawar show an October 13 date of issue for the 20ha and 80ha Ka'aba Gate set. According to the article, the door is made of 396 pounds of gold; if my arithmetic is correct, that's 4,752 troy ounces, worth at \$680 per ounce about \$3,230,000. Quantity printed: 400,000 sets.

2. In the same issue of Linn's (November 19), Dr. Kawar also reported on the new issue for the 50th Anniversary of the Kingdom's first commemorative issue. The new set features a stamp-on-stamp design that will make it popular with topical collectors. Also shown is a portrait of the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz, better known to Americans as Ibn Saud. The set comes in 20ha, 50ha, and 115ha denominations, the first and last being respectively the airmail rates to Arab Postal Union countries and to the United States. Readers may recall the the 1975 Faisal Issue similarly had denominations suitable to use on mail that would go out of the country and be seen by the world at large. According to the Linn's article, 800,000 sets were printed together with 15,000 souvenir sheets in a 100ha denomination. Many of these sheets, I understand, were given as favors to UPU and APU members, and perhaps only a few thousand were sold to the public. To get one, you had to appear in person at one of a few central post offices and sign a register. The APA was unable to get enough for all its members, and priorities based on being signed up for the new issue service, and in some cases on length of time in the APA, had to be adopted. Rumors have it that some sheets still repose in the central vaults, but there is no confirmation of this whatever.

The 50ha comes in two quite different blue colors, a dark and a light. On position 19, there is a break in the "0" of "50" -- seen only on panes from the dark color. On the light color, there is a vertical stripe of white (more like a streak) running vertically through the entire left-hand column of stamps; in position 42, there is a white scratch below the "a" of "Memlaka". The Souvenir Sheet itself shows some plate flaws, the best of which is a horizontal gash in the "1" of "100", position unknown.

3. Also from Linn's for November 19: the First Conference of the Gulf Postal Organization was issued in 20ha and 50ha denominations; quantity, 800,000 sets. No issue date was given. The Hajj Issue came out in the same denominations on October 27, and the quantity was 400,000 sets.

4. The 20ha Dome of the Rock comes with dark yellow or light yellow, making a distinctive difference in the appearance of the stamp. It is a little hard to be sure which one you have unless you have a margin copy with the color bars, which make it easy to tell. The light yellow appears to be the scarcer at this writing.

5. Dues for 1980 have been announced by the APA for overseas members:

USA Five dollars
Europe Two pounds sterling

I have sent to a few of you, along with your new issues, bills for a higher rate of dues -- this was an error, and I'll correct it for you. In fact, this problem with the amount of the dues has held up the sending of the remainder of the new issues. I hope to get them out soon.

6. Mrs. Paul Combs has just sent me from Paradise, California, a few old issues of "The Holy Land and Middle East Philatelic Magazine", from 1958, edited by E. Moshi (who was, I believe, connected with the Mosdens in some way) as well as some issues of Robson Lowe's The Philatelist from the 1946 through 1949 period. These latter contain articles by Brigadier Glynn Grylls on Arabian philately. You may recall the December 1973 sale (do I remember that date right?) of the Glynn Grylls Hejaz collection, the one we never got the catalogue for. The Brigadier passed away before completing the series of articles, and the last one that I have was written by Major T. L. C. Tomkins, who has also published articles on the subject in other places. Thank you, Mrs. Combs.

7. From the Major Tomkins article (The Philatelist for February 1949), I quote this statement:

"There is in the Grylls' collection a set of the 'Control' Issue of Hedjaz with an overprint reading 'Al Sa'ud, Sultan of Nejd' in two lines in black. This is believed to be a local Medina overprint, unauthorisedly applied by the local Postmaster who no doubt hoped to propitiate Abdul Aziz on his entry. This set, together with the Postmaster, was suppressed a week later."

There are problems with this version. Several undoubted covers exist that had to pass and did pass through other Nejd post offices and that received the backstamps both of these post offices and of receiving post offices outside the country. The mail is not philatelic in character. Perhaps Grylls owned one of the complete sets of King Ali with faked overprints, such as used to be listed in Scott.

8. In the same article is a listing of quantities for the second Nejd handstamp, which I repeat here for reference:

July-August 1925

<u>Orig'l stamp</u>	<u>No. Issued</u>	<u>Ovpt color</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Invert</u>	<u>Imperf</u>	<u>Vertical</u>
Turk 5 para bister	3,000	Blue	*	*		
10 para green	2,500	Blue	*	*		
2pi Hejaz Notorial	(not given)	Black	*			
RR Tax 1pi blue	4,000	Red	*			
1pi blue	ng	Black	*			
2pi orange	ng	Blue	*			
3pi pale violet	2,000	Blue	*			
3pi pale blue (proof)	ng	Blue	*			
5pi green	2,500	Blue	*			

<u>Orig'l stamp</u>	<u>No. Issued</u>	<u>Ovpt color</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Invert</u>	<u>Imperf</u>	<u>Vertical</u>
On 1922 framed overprint						
1pi blue	950	Red	*			
2pi claret	950	Blue	*			
On 1922 Coat of Arms						
1/8 chestnut	ng	Blue	*	*		
1/8pi scarlet	4,000	Blue	*	*	*	*
1/8pi scarlet	ng	Black	*	*	*	
1pi slate violet	3,000	Red	*			
1 1/8pi lilac rose	ng	Black			*	
1 1/8pi rose	3,000	Black	*	*		
2pi orange	750	Blue	*	*		*
2pi buff	1,250	Blue	*			
2pi plum	1,200	Blue	*			
3pi red brown	3,000	Blue	*	*		
5pi red	2,000	Blue	*	*		

Some comments are in order. I have the 3pi pale blue Railway Tax stamp listed in the article as a proof, and I had always assumed that it was simply a shade of the regular stamp. The 1/8pi, listed by Scott as 38B, is given in the list, but Scott 38A, the 1/8pi with black overprint instead of blue, is not given. The "ng" above means "not given"; the quantity column was blank in these places in the article. The 1pi black violet Scott 40a is also not listed, but it exists. I have the vertical overprints listed, but I am sure short of having all the inverts. Of course, with all these listings there is the possibility that fakes were unwittingly included.

9. In an article by Grylls in The Philatelist for December, 1947, entitled "Part III - The Hedjaz", he comments on the 1/8pi green, Scott L1, as follows:

"The perforation was normally 12.

"Three sheets, 3 only, each of 50 stamps (total 150), were perforated 12 X 10. These are of great rarity, for one sheet was lost on its way to the Hedjaz; one is in the Royal collection of H. M. King George VI; the third was broken up in course of normal use in the Hedjaz post offices. One copy is in the writer's collection. Forgeries must be guarded against; the writer has a cleverly-faked used copy which was originally an edition 3 issue, zigzag roulette 13. A careful collector can spot the alteration with a little close study."

Again there are problems. Grylls's article makes no mention of perf 10, and yet there were three lots of this stamp in the sale of his collection. Haworth & Sargent report that no such stamp was issued, which agrees with the article. Were the stamps sold in the auction fakes? The "12 X 10" in my collection is actually 12 1/2 X 10, and I don't think much of it -- no mention is made whatever by the Survey of Egypt of any 12 1/2-guage perforator. The Curator of the Royal Collection has written me denying the existence of any perf 12 X 10 sheet in that collection. It's all a puzzle. I would like to see any 1/4pi green perf 10 or perf 12 X 10 that anyone has -- please send them along. No mention is made of the 1pi blue perf 10 X 12 that a few of us have, and again I think there was one in the sale.

10. In the December 1946 issue of The Philatelist, Grylls deals with "Yemen", and discusses the Hodeida cancellations on Heir Apparent stamps. There is a picture of a pair of the 1/2pi perforated on cover cancelled "Hodeida" with a "CAIRO" receiving mark also tying the pair. Grylls says:

"But the occupying troops took a small number of Saudi postage stamps with them, and a very small number of covers bearing these is known. Most of them are believed to have been sent to Egypt by the Egyptian postmaster of Hodeida to his relatives in that land. . .

"So far as is known all these covers were franked with stamps of one issue which was that put into circulation in Saudi Arabia on 1st January, 1934, to commemorate the declaration of the Emir Saoud as Heir-Apparent to his father. These are not common stamps, genuinely used in their own country, and the perforated series is less frequently seen than that which was issued imperforate; used abroad are very naturally scarcer still.

"The period of issue was short, the collection contains one other example which was sent from Hodeida to Sana'a on June 11th, 1934, travelling via MAOUIA, and reaching the capital 21.6.1934."

11. The Sept/Oct 1958 issue of The Holyland and Middle East Philatelic Magazine contains the continuation of an article the first part of which is in the previous issue, which I did not receive from Mrs. Combs, but in any case it includes a complete listing of the varieties for the March 1926 Hejaz-Nejd Issue, Scott 75-80 and J16-18. There is too much detail to reprint here, but suffice it to say that all values are reported to exist in perf 11 (normal), imperf, perf 14, perf 11x14, and perf 14x11. Quantities issued are given as follows:

<u>Scott No.</u>	<u>Den/color</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
75	1/4pi orange	45,000
76	1/2pi blue green	30,000
77	1pi carmine	90,000
78	2pi violet	41,860
79	3pi dark blue	91,560
80	5pi light brown	30,000
J16	1/2pi carmine	16,320
J17	2pi orange	30,000
J18	6pi light brown	30,000

In the same article, the author says, as part of a paragraph bemoaning the lack of issues from Saudi Arabia,

"The airmail set, issued nine years ago, was nice, but I have it nine years now. By the way I have picked up some few varieties on this set.

All imperf, with double imprints or colour errors."

- I have the 3pi and 100p imperf double print, and the 100pi imperf. These occur on a good quality thin paper that doesn't seem to me to be any of the regular issue papers. I have not seen any 'colour errors'.

12. I have received some nice covers from a Long Island dealer: they are a set of three covers from the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to the Gulf area via Concorde:

1. Kuwait to Bahrain, Feb 12, 1979
2. Riyadh to Bahrain, Feb 17, 1979
3. Dhahran to Bahrain, Feb 19, 1979

These carry the usual fine cachet showing Concorde in flight.

13. A stamp auction in Bahrain? In front of me is a catalogue for Universal Stamps International Postage Stamp Auction, held at the Hotel Delmon, Manama, Bahrain, January 23-24, 1980. There was an extensive section for Bahrain stamps and the rest of the Gulf. There were also 53 lots of Saudi Arabian material, much of it poorly described and hard to bid on by mail. There were some problems with the illustrations in that the lot numbers were left off, which made it difficult to tell which lot was which. The printing was well done on nice, slick paper, and the catalogue makes an attractive impression. Not too bad for a start, and I wish them luck. Did any of you attend? I'd like to publish a report on this auction in the next Random Notes, including any prices of interest to us.

If you want future catalogues, apply to:

Universal Stamps
P.O. Box 120
Manama, Bahrain

According to the catalogue, one year's subscription is four pounds sterling -- I presume that this is by airmail to Europe, but the catalogue is silent on the matter.

JM Wilson
19 February 1980

REPORT
SAUDI ARABIAN STAMP MARKET
SECOND HALF OF 1979

There has been a fair amount of action for the period under review. It is clear that the true rarity of many items is appreciated by many collectors, and the prices of these items are still definitely on the way up. The following analysis includes occasional advice to the reader as to what items he should go for, and what items he can relax and wait patiently for. The market is thin -- that is, there are not really many collectors looking, and many many items exist in quantities easily sufficient to satisfy all our demands. For the Hejaz, there are even fewer collectors looking, and this is probably because of the well publicized difficulties in this field; the result is that only a few will bid on some items. There were some good stamps in the recent APA Auction that failed to attract any bids at all, for example.

With that for background, what follows is the analysis. Scott Catalogue Numbers are used throughout. The principal sources are the David Feldman Sale in Zurich, September, and the APA Auction in Dhahran, November. The opinions expressed are completely mine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

John M. Wilson

PRICE REPORT

HEJAZ

- L1-3 This set was generally unsold in Dhahran - apparently, most collectors have this set. A mint set containing L3a (1pi blue perf 12, Cat \$50) made \$69 in Dhahran. There are adequate supplies of the common perforations, but the uncommon ones should be bought whenever you find them. Scott is probably a little high on L1 and L2, but definitely low on L1a and L2a. L3b is rare.
- L4-7 Roulette 20. A mint set made \$12.50 in APA vs \$6.25 in Scott. A mint set plus a used set made \$15. Sets are not common, even though individual values seem to be found in quantity from time to time. I wouldn't reach for this.
- L8-13 Roulette 13. Even part sets sold. A complete mint set made \$25; another with minor defects, \$15. A used set on pieces made \$25; These are APA results. A Mohamed Ali Abdou sheet containing a complete set made \$36. A used block of four of L9 made \$6. A proof of L8 on ungummed paper, Mayo 17W made \$33, and this wasn't too much.
- L14-19 Unframed Overprint. Mint, all never hinged except one, made \$40 against Scott of \$34. Individual stamps also sold rather well, with only one lot of many unsold at APA. Varieties were sought after:

	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Feldman</u>	<u>APA</u>
a. L15 two stamps: one inverted ovpt, one double		\$295	
b. L16 block of nine, date missing			\$120
c. L16 double overprint, both invtd			120
d. L17 shifted overprint, two dates at right (on piece)			14
e. L16, 17 double overprints, both inverted		\$553	
f. L18a Brown overprint (Scott: \$10)			16.50

Note that L22 and L23 were not offered in the review period. They are very rare. L18b with black overprint was also not offered, and you should buy this when you see it.

- L24-29;
L30,31 Framed Overprint. A set made \$18 in APA; Scott is \$15. Two part sets found buyers at about catalogue. L28b, inverted overprint, made \$50; L29a, double overprint, \$114. Both are rare and badly undercatalogued, I think. L31 with overprint inverted and surcharge double made \$90. Another L31, with 'gr' inverted, Mayo 46S, made \$15, which looks to me like a bargain.

PRICE REPORT

L32-39; Sets of L32-39 sold well at about Catalogue. The same set plus
40-41; L48A-50 made \$16.50, \$15, and \$9. Be patient - these are still
48A-50 around, and you ought to be able to put a set together out of
individual stamps. L40 and L41 are scarcer; however, a set made
only \$12.50 against Cat of \$10. A horizontal pair of L40, used,
a useful piece for plating, made \$22.50. L48A-50 made \$8.40; L50
sold for \$4. A pair of L50a, inverted center, made \$50, right
on Catalogue. A lot of 16 specialized items of L50 and varieties
sold in the Feldman Sale for \$246, about \$15 per item.

L42-48 Most sets made close to Catalogue in Dhahran. One set was an
exception at \$30. There may have been something unusual about
it - I didn't attend the sale and didn't see any of the lots.
L47 with an extra row of perfs: \$9. A used block of four of L43
made \$12.50. This set is still not too hard to find.

Jiddah Overprints: Only odds and ends were offered. A lot of stock was
absorbed over the past seven or eight years, which means that a
lot of us have many of these items. At the same time, some items
remain elusive, and due to the limited quantities printed, the
existing stocks will begin to dry up at some point. I wouldn't
wait too long on these.

L51a \$33 in Dhahran (Cat \$15).
L52b A block of six made \$135 in Feldman; catalogue as singles: \$75.
L54 \$15 in Dhahran (Cat \$10).
L55 \$5 in APA.
L55a \$22 in APA (Cat \$12.50).
L55b \$36 in APA (Cat \$17.50).
L55c A block of ten was sold in Feldman for \$292 against Cat of \$350.
L57b \$39 in APA (Cat \$17.50).
L58 \$7.50
L59 \$12
L60 \$7.50

-- A lot containing blocks of four of L52c, L55b, and L59a plus a
block of six of L56a made \$283 in Feldman; Catalogue is \$345.

L61 This rare stamp has not been offered in some time, but watch for
the Mayo Sale in March:

L63 \$9
L63b A block of ten (Feldman) made \$292 (Cat \$350).
L65 \$13
L65var With overprint vertical, block of four: \$615 in Feldman.
L66a \$30 in APA vs \$20 in Scott.
L66B A pair of this difficult item made \$738 in Zurich. Scott says
that two singles should be \$300. Grab this item whenever you see
it.

L67, 69 Neither of these two rarities was offered.

L70 \$16.50
L71 \$19.50

-both of these below Catalogue. They are the commonest values
of this tough set, but I think the buyers got bargains, and they
got genuine stamps.

L71a A pair of this rarity made \$800 in Zurich; a single made \$400.

PRICE REPORT

- L75a Another toughie; it made \$185 in Zurich.
- L76,76a A set in blocks of four made \$135 in Feldman. I'm not sure which overprint was on these.
- L77 Reading down: \$39.
- L79,80 Reading up and down (four items); \$63
- L80 Reading up: \$15.
- L80 Double overprint, one inverted, block of four; this unusual piece made \$922 in Feldman.
- L82-107 The three-line overprint. These sold generally in line with Scott Catalogue values. An exception was L93a, inverted overprint, which made \$18 in Dhahran.
- L122 \$8.40
- L135a,var Double surcharge: \$81
- L142-8 Set went for \$36. Cheap when guaranteed genuine, as APA Sale items are.
- L143a \$22.50
- L159a \$75
 -genuine inverted overprints are scarce.
- King Ali Single stamps sold at about Catalogue, but sets sorted by control overprint type and position (left or right) sold for much more, ranging from \$15 to \$25 a set. Varieties sold well (see below).
- L160-68 Proof set unoverprinted: \$22.50
- " Two sets, perf and imperf: \$48
- " Imperf proofs: \$27
- L186 Ten different proofs: \$48; six different: \$22.50.
- L168 Imperf: \$45 (seemed high to me)
- L184 Imperf: \$30
- L165 Without overprint, offset on back, block of four: \$49
 - Frankly, I was surprised at the prices paid for the proof items. I guess I have an impression that there is still a lot of that kind of thing around. They used to sell for 25 cents apiece. I would have thought that a couple of dollars each would have been plenty. So much for my opinion!

PRICE REPORT

NEJD

- 1-29 The First Handstamp. Anything offered was sold. Prices hovered around Catalogue, with an occasional exception. For example, 1-4 with slight defects made \$33, 5 and 6 made \$12.50; both prices are about twice Scott.
- 30-34 The Pilgrimage Issue remains both popular and elusive. A set made \$192 against \$250 Catalogue. 30 and 31 offered separately made \$22.50 each, just under Catalogue. I still think that you should buy this when you see it.
- 35-54 The Second Handstamp. Prices were generally at or below Catalogue. These are easier to find than the First Handstamp. #39B with inverted overprint, a scarce item, made \$32, which looks cheap to me. A pair of 39c (imperf) made \$39, and this sure isn't as good as the preceding item. Two used copies of 51, one of which showed the Type II Train, made \$15. 47a with inverted surcharge made \$15.
- 55 The Medina Provisional. This item made \$138 against Catalogue of \$75. Grab it when you find it. This wasn't offered in Feldman, and I can't recall seeing it in any auction outside Dhahran.
- 59-63; 64-68 These sold below Catalogue except when condition was above average. A VF set of 59-63 made \$132. 65 with an extra diagonal row of perfs made \$30.
- 69-74 Hejaz-Nejd, First Colors. One set made \$63 in APA, the other only \$24. It is not an easy set to find. I don't have an explanation for the difference in price, though.
-The "Al-Nejd" proof of #75 made \$28 - these are not common, and if you collect proofs, you should get these when you can. Proofs of 75, 76, and 78 in carmine made \$18. 73 imperf in margin made \$25. 75 and 76 in blue (proofs) made \$15.
- 92-7 98-105 107-114 These sets sold at about Catalogue. However, a never-hinged set of 107-114 made \$45, almost twice Scott. Don't tell me that we are starting to play the gum game!
- 117-20 \$36. By way of interest, Apfelbaum prices this set in his latest list at \$35 (Vol 3, No. 1 of their monthly price list.)
- 125-29 \$24.

PRICE REPORT

SAUDI ARABIA

138-49 The Heir Apparent Set. If you don't yet have this, read 'em and weep!

-Set without three top values: \$125
-Set imperf, Feldman: \$677
-Three top values; two were mint,
and one (1/2 sov) used, Feld \$554
-Three high values perf Feldman \$523

146 the 1/4 sovereign APA \$60
147 the 30g APA \$57
148 the 1/2 sovereign APA \$225

-I think that this extremely popular set, perhaps the most important item in a collection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will never get cheaper. You can expect to pay \$600 to \$700 from here on out, and higher by the end of this year. Don't wait.

159-72 The Tughra Issue. No complete set was offered; such a set should sell well over full Catalogue. Many collectors are holding this material until they find out how to deal with the different printings. A set lacking the 100g and 200g made \$51! A sheet of #159 made \$48, and so did a sheet of #162. #168 with pin-perf 6-1/2 was unsold at \$54, but it was probably worth something like that -- it's rather scarce.

173-6 One set at \$27 (NH); two others at \$15 each.
177 This always seems to find buyers. Two sets of 177 and 177a made \$10 each. 177 by itself NH made \$6.60.

178,9 'POSTFS' error made \$24 as a single, but a set of two containing the error made only \$15.

180-84 Lunar Anniversary, Capture of Riyadh. Three sets sold at prices that ranged from \$10 to \$16.50, all NH. Cat: \$11.

187-91 Railroad Set. Four sets sold, all below Cat of \$20: \$10, \$12, \$13.50, and \$15. Has everybody finally gotten this one? It is still relatively hard to find, and topical collectors are looking for it, too.

192-3 \$4.80 and \$5.70 vs Cat of \$2.

194-5 \$12 NH; \$4.50 with thin; another set at \$6. Cat: \$2.

196-7 \$4.80 NH. Cat: \$2.75.

198-200 \$8 and \$7.50; Cat: \$7.25.

201-03 \$5 and \$4. Cat: \$2.20.

205-07 \$5 and \$3. Cat: \$2.75.

208-10 \$4 and \$3. Cat: \$1.05

-Note re 201-210. I think buyers paid a bit too much; these sets can still be found at about Catalogue in the US.

PRICE REPORT

- 211-23 \$108 vs Cat of \$56.80. A used set made only \$7.50, about half Cat. -Imperfs: A set of blocks of four consisting of 211, 211A, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 217Am 217B, and 218 made \$1623. This is just over \$40 per stamps. Demand for modern imperfs is strong.
- 224-39 \$126 vs Cat of \$92.15. I guess I don't understand why this set should catalogue more than the preceding one. Again, a used set made about half Cat.
-Imperfs: A set in blocks of four consisting of 225, 226, 227, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, and 235, lacking the usually offered top four values, made \$1311, just over \$36 per stamp.
- 240-42 \$3.60, almost twice Cat. These are still available at about Cat. The Miniature Sheets made \$96 against Cat of \$24. Availability is uncertain on these, but I note that they keep on turning up. I still think that \$50 or \$60 is about right, but then I'm not looking for them! Imperforates (not from miniature sheets, which means that you need at least a strip of three) -- a set in blocks of six made \$494 in the APA Sale and \$369 in Feldman; this is \$27 and \$20 per stamp, respectively, not too much at all.
- 243-5 Imperforates. Pairs made \$255 per set in APA, and strips of four made \$308 in Feldman. Another example where the APA got more for the seller than a heavily advertised international sale!
- 246-8 Imperforates. A set of singles made \$72, or \$24 per stamp.
- 251a Malaria miniature sheet. These made about Catalogue, but slightly more for sheets 'watermarked left' as seen from front: \$11 and \$12.50. Most people have this item, and supplies are adequate.
- 249-51 With overprints. Made \$4. Not all collectors want these, and they still show up from time to time. \$4 seems a little cheap, however. Yet, I suspect that supplies are still in the hands of the original 'distributor'.
-249var: faint second impression of the blue color; not sold at a reserve of \$52. I guess nobody knew what to make of it.
- 252a Missing color, from the original find at the Dhahran Aramco Mail Center: \$75.
- 255 \$4.50 vs Cat of \$-.75. Too much! You can still find these.
- 256-60 Not often offered as a set. Made \$16.50 and \$22.50 against Cat of \$8.75. Even a used set made \$4.50 vs Cat of \$3.50.
- 261-2 Not sold by itself. Here are prices for 'complete sets':
- 255, 261-2, and C30-32 \$25
255, 261-2 \$16.50
- popular!
-The unissued lpi Dam, imperf with watermark (Mayo 1001WV) in block of six made \$68 in Feldman, only \$11 per stamp. I wonder why this item is "worth" less than the other imperforates? All are equally "irregular".
-261 frame only: \$30

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- 263-70 Made \$36 vs Cat of \$16.50. Used sets made \$4.50 and \$5 vs Cat of \$5.90. Seldom are used sets in as much demand as mint.
-266 with inverted watermark made \$33. These are scarce.
-270: vertical pair with one stamp stronger in color than the other: \$14.
-Set of imperfs in pairs: 265, 267, and 268: \$210. This is \$35 per stamp. Rarely offered, and not too much to pay.
- 287-89 Imperf pairs: \$198 in APA. Imperf blocks of four made \$283 in Feldman. This is, respectively, \$33 and \$24 per stamp, again higher in APA.
-Essay 3pi value; block of four in issued color made \$369 in Feldman; two blocks in other colors made \$400.
- 292a The 'TAHRAN' error made \$7.50; another was unsold at a reserve of \$12. Catalogue is \$2. Remember, the whole middle horizontal row contains the error on every stamp, so it is not all that scarce. Patience is advised.
- 296-8 \$4.80 NH.
344-6 \$9.60. Seems high.
347-9 \$3.
350-3 \$13. Also looks high to me.
373-6 \$10. Another high price.
-All these last five lots seem on the high side. I'll admit that I haven't been looking lately, but these should be available from time to time. I guess that I'd counsel patience.
- 369-72 Gutter pairs. Sets of these made \$28.50 and \$33. Not offered very often - if you collect gutter pairs, get these when you can.
- 393-402I A set complete as listed in Scott made \$114. Sets will always bring a premium, and \$114 is relatively cheap, I think. Nine values from the set made \$24; the 200pi (402I) made \$24. Catalogue was simply brushed aside on this and the next set.
- 403-420A A set complete as listed in Scott made \$132. Five selected values made \$24. The unlisted 26pi made \$90.
- 421-5 \$4.50
426-30 \$3.00 Again, I think you can get these for less.
- 432-441A Complete as in Scott except for the difficult 1pi, but including the tough 4pi: \$81.
442-52 Complete except for the 3pi (which may not exist): \$30.
-445, the 4pi value: \$22.50.
- 458-597 The Tourist Issues. The data are confusing, but the future for these is ever-increasing prices for complete sets. Single stamps made \$1 to \$2, with a 100pi making \$3.60 (about Cat). There were some surprises. #508a, first watermark, redrawn frame, made \$22.50 and \$27; a block of four made \$78. 509 with watermark upright instead of sideways made \$39, \$45, and \$48. Scarce: 489, the difficult 3pi deep orange and gray, Mecca Mosque, made \$54 mint and \$18 used.

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- 645-7 100th Anniversary UPU. Sets made \$15, \$21, and \$22. Supplies are there, but holders are cagey and hanging on. It takes these kinds of prices, apparently, to tempt them to sell. One lot was unsold at a reserve of \$27.
- 671-4 King Faisal Issue. A complete set plus FDC and miniature sheet, Riyadh cancel of the FDC, made \$225. A similar set with Dhahran cancel was not sold. A Medina FDC made \$132; a Riyadh FDC was not sold at \$30, although certainly worth that. It may be that only a few collectors are looking for FDCs (see comments further along in this Report.) The miniature sheet alone made \$240, and it's clear that collectors value this more highly than the FDC. I think that high prices will still be paid on occasion for the FDCs with difficult cancels, and these will be paid by collectors trying to complete sets of all possible cancels. A private FDC made \$75.
- 691-711; Imperfs: 35ha in pair, \$120, and in gutter pair \$132. 40ha in
731-50 pair, \$78.
-imperf in margin: blocks of four of 692, 696, the 65ha, 734, and 743 made \$37.50 each block.
-gutter pairs made from \$2 to \$2.35 per pair.
-#731, the 5ha with sideways watermark from the first printing, made \$4 single, \$12 in block of four.
- 719 20ha Quba Mosque with wmk both left and right (two stamps) \$11.
- 727a-28a King Khalid wrong dates. Sets went for \$20 and \$30; a set in blocks of four made \$90.
- 740a 50ha orange color error: \$18 and \$16.50; Cat \$10.
- C1-6 A set on "early papers" made \$28. Two other sets sold at \$33 each, below Cat of \$47. C-6 on "yellowish paper" made \$22.50.
- C7-21 Mint sets made \$37.50 and \$45, not out of line with Catalogue of \$47.35. Used sets made \$3 and \$15.
-Imperfs. Margin singles of C11, 14-17 made \$210 and \$284 in APA. In imperf blocks of four, \$430 in Feldman.
-C16, center only, in block of four: \$132.
- C24-9 The watermarked set. It made \$21 vs Cat of \$8. C26 with freak perforations, a block of nine, made \$75.
- C30-32 See also under 261-2. The 3pi and 20pi in one lot made \$9. Sets made \$8.40, \$10, and \$12.50. A set used plus a set of mint pairs made \$19.50.
- C34-53 A part set of 14 values made \$33. C40, the 11pi Sa'ud redrawn air, made \$22 and \$22.50. Get it while you can -- when the supply runs out, it has nowhere to go but up. C47A, the 20pi, made \$16.50.
- C54-70C A set without the 5pi, but including the 6pi and 20pi, both difficult made \$60. Fourteen selected values made \$42. C68, the

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- 20pi, made \$33 mint and was unsold used at \$7.50. C70C, the 200pi, also made \$33. C70A, the 50pi, made \$54. That ought to show what's scarce!
- C71-79 There never were a lot of these, and price of \$33 for a set should give you an idea. C71 with inverted watermark made \$7.50, but I must inform you that both C71 and C72 are relatively common with inverted watermark. I saw C72 inverted watermark in a complete stack of full sheets in the Dammam post office.
- C96-99 No sets offered! Again, these are far from plentiful, and you should accept them gratefully when offered. C96 and C98 each made \$5; C99, the 20pi, made \$11, \$12.50, and \$24, quite a spread.
- LJ1-3 \$3.60 and \$4.50 against Cat of \$7.50. These are not hard to find. A lot consisting of three copies of LJ-1 used, one of which was on piece, made \$6.
- LJ4 LJ4 and 4b NH made \$18, about Catalogue.
- LJ11-16 A set of LJ11-13 made \$6. A set of LJ11-13, LJ11-13 with inverted overprint, and LJ14-16 with inverted overprint, made \$39, cheap considering the scarcity and the completion of three sets.
- LJ17-21 LJ17a, a tough item, made \$615 in Feldman! Other items from this set sold near Catalogue, except that LJ20a made \$48 in APA against Cat of \$25.
- LJ22-25 LJ24: \$18. LJ24 and 25: \$10. LJ24a made \$19.50 and \$30 (Cat \$20.) LJ25 made \$10 (Cat \$7.50).
- LJ26-34 The problem is expertization. Five expertized values made \$48, close to Catalogue.
-LJ29, 30 with inverted handstamps made \$12 each.
-LJ32 with both surcharge and handstamp inverted made \$42.
- LJ40-55 King Ali postage dues. Two sets, LJ48-55, in one lot, made \$6.60. Varieties were popular, even though all are obviously irregular.
-LJ40 double impression, block of six \$204
-LJ41 " " " " " 132
-LJ42 " " " " " 132
-LJ43 " " " " " 132
LJ40-43 imperf, plus a proof \$18; perf and imperf sets \$20.
LJ44-47 perf and imperf sets, \$22.50
LJ44-47 imperf, double impression, blocks of fours \$86 (Feldman).
LJ49 quadruple perfs: \$10.
LJ50 imperf: \$10
LJ52-4, imperf, \$13 to \$15 each.
- J1-15 Only a few scattered items were offered, and they sold mostly close to Scott Catalogue.
- J16-18 Several sets averaged \$3 vs Cat of \$4.50.
-J17-18 imperf: \$21.
-J16 proof "Al-Nejd" \$12.50. Cheap for this scarce item.
-Proof set in dark blue: \$18.
- J19-21 \$6.
J22-23 \$15
J24 A horizontal strip of three of this rarity made \$156. Singles made \$30 and \$36. Catalogue is \$30 in italics in Scott.
- J25-7 \$9 vs Cat of \$4. Seems high, but maybe it's scarcer than I think.
J28-30 \$2.

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- O1-6 \$65 against Cat of \$73. Not often offered, and you should buy it at any price up to, say, \$85.
- O7-15 A set made \$12.50, well under Cat of \$18.
 -011-15, imperf singles, made \$96, or \$19 per stamp. A set of these same imperfs in blocks of 20 was offered in Feldman, and they brought \$1845, or \$18.45 per stamp.
- O16-20 Two sets made \$11 and \$12; Cat is \$4.25. The 3pi brown seems to be the difficult value. I think you should pay closer to Catalogue. A short set, including some values not in the usual commercial set, made \$66. Another much shorter set made only \$3, and probably wasn't worth more. A complete or nearly complete set should be worth a substantial premium.
 -056a, the '19' instead of '16' in black: a full sheet with the error made \$114; in a block of four, \$87. Buy it whenever you see it.
- O48-62 The usual set, as originally sold to dealers and collectors, includes the 1pi-6pi, 10pi, 20pi, and 31pi. This set made \$22.50
 The same set plus the 7pi made \$30, cheap. The 7pi alone in another lot made \$54!

1956 Reply Coupon: \$60. I never saw it offered before.

Air Letter Sheets: 4pi and 10pi mint: \$3.60
 4pi \$3.60
 10pi \$3.60
 -opinion unanimous!

- RA-1 Mint: \$30, only half Catalogue. These are easier to find than mint copies of RA-2, none of which was offered.
- RA-9 Many lots were offered. Prices ranged from \$6.60 to \$12, mostly in the \$9 to \$12 range. Scott Catalogue is clearly too low.

Booklets: Three sales recorded at \$12 each. Six other lots made about \$20 each. Take your choice.

1975 APEX cacheted cover: \$3.

Transmittal sheet for Aramco Courier Mail, 1978: \$27.

Copy of Warin: \$150

Haworth & Sargent: \$108

1918 Presentation Book: not described well in Feldman Catalogue, but it appears to be the book prepared by the Survey of Egypt on the first issue of the Hejaz. Made \$800! The auctioneer's estimate was twice this, which I think was a little ambitious. Even the \$800 sounds high to me. It's a beautiful book, and certainly worth something.

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FIRST DAY COVERS This area is neglected by many collectors, partly because they didn't get started in it and now find it too hard to catch up, and partly because they truly don't care for this stuff. Complete collections will be perfectly astonishing.

201-03 official: \$12; \$15.
204 private: \$3. Official: \$12.
208-10 official: \$16.50.
251a Malaria souvenir sheet: cacheted cover, \$24.
299 Medina cancel, official, not sold at \$22.50. Should have been worth that much, I think.
350-53 Official: \$11.
354-58 private: not sold, and people are not as interested in these as they are in the official covers.

-by way of a note, the only information I have on quantities is that these special official covers were made for presentation to various officials, and that perhaps only 300 or so exist of some.

388-92 official, cancelled in Riyadh: \$19.50
614-15 three covers, each in a different city: \$30. Medina: \$16.50; Dammam: \$12.
622-3 official: \$22.50. Another not sold at \$10, and a private cover not sold.
630 an official FDC envelope, but showing an ordinary Riyadh cancel, made \$12.
688 a private FDC not sold; another private FDC made \$4.50
721 Five private covers made \$3 each.
722 Two private covers made \$3 each.
727a-28a King Khalid wrong dates: a private FDC made \$90.
-- The new stamp-on-stamp souvenir sheet on private FDC made \$78.

COMPLETE SHEETS A lot of 33 Hejaz full sheets, four of which lacked a few stamps, was put up in the Feldman Sale with an estimate of SF3,000 - 5,000. It made SF8,000, which is just under \$5,000. This is about \$150 per sheet, not too much, really.

-repeating items from above on the Tughra Issue:

#159	\$48
#162	\$48

J15, no gum, no selvage: useful for plating. The stamps signed by A. EID. Made \$162.

O40 \$33.

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EGYPT CANCELLED IN SAUDI ARABIA

From the Feldman Sale:

-1867 lpi \$52

-1872 lpi \$55

-Gedda Interpostal Seal, a lot consisting of one copy of the blue stamp and one of the black: \$98.

-These didn't make as much as I would have thought. Gibbons asks (and gets) over 50 pounds sterling for this kind of thing.

TURKEY CANCELLED IN SAUDI ARABIA.

Djeddah: circular cancels: \$18, \$21, \$22, \$22; one at \$11.

An item on piece made \$31 in Feldman.

A box-type cancel (early) made \$185 in Feldman; an early rectangular cancel made \$86.

Mekke: \$22, \$24, \$25, \$28.50 in APA; In Feldman, \$62 for two items, \$117 for one item, and \$52 for another.

Medina: \$30 in APA. In Feldman, \$80; also, three different lots of two items each made \$68, \$92, and \$98.

The following all from Feldman:

Abha: on piece, \$258.

al-'Ula: on piece, \$620.

Mekke: a nice strip of four, \$86.

Taif: a lot of two items for \$148; one at \$80; a strip of six on piece \$615.

Tebouk: on piece, \$308; another on piece \$221.

Yambo: on piece, \$111.

Nine items as one lot: \$148.

COVERS There were a lot of covers sold in the period under review and so there is plenty of data to look at.

Hejaz

Fee-paid wrappers: APA: \$1063
Feldman: \$984.

not too different in price. Worth every penny, very rare.

Philby stampless covers: 1916 to England (not from Arabia) \$100
1918 from Shaqra' via Kuwait, with
"KOWEIT" transit marking \$494

A group of lots from Capital Auctions:

1916 1/4pi plus lpi, philatelic cover, Djiddah to
Port Said \$60
1916 Mekke to Port Taufiq, censored 460
1917 lpa, 1/2pi, and 2pi plus postage dues
(philatelic) 40

Three lots from Feldman:

1916 1/4pi and lpi on cover \$369
1916 November letter from T. E. Lawrence in his
own handwriting, outstanding item \$4,305

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1917-18 Three covers: \$1230

Nejd

1926 cover with 1/pi 1922 surcharged	\$360
1924/5 two covers, one Hejaz, one Nejd	461
1925, 26 two good covers	369
1926 two good covers to Trieste	615
1926 Albert Eid cover	861
-these are always in demand!	
1931 Two large covers "Netherlands Trading Society"	554
1933 Cover with gold seal from Prince Abdallah stampless	584
1926 3 X #77 to India	120
1926 3 X #94 to India (scarce)	125
1929 #99, 102	162
1929 #102	162
1929 2 X #117, defects	112
1930 2 x #117	130
1931 registered: 101, 2 X 133	225
1929 cover to Egypt, #117	54

Saudi Arabia

Covers from 1947 onwards through the 1950s seem to make about \$5.
They make about \$10 if they have unusual routings or markings.

Hajj covers made from \$5 to \$30 depending on the date and the particular interest of the cover itself. A cover, which may be a Hajj cover, described in Feldman as having "many postal markings and colour illustrations of Holy places, desirable and unusual", made \$209.

Official covers are not common and are sought after by cover collectors.

- 01 on registered cover \$61
- 01 on airmail cover (Feldman) 185
- 02 on 1955 cover 75

-it should be noted that all official covers are handled in the Saudi postal system as registered letters.

-1946 official cover to Port Said \$54

Some special items:

Cover with C4 showing broken 'M'	\$5
1953 Mecca to Aden	36
#138-140 on Philby cover (scarce)	315
covers <u>to</u> Philby from England to Saudi Arabia, made \$20 to \$25.	

Three Dutch Legation covers from Mecca to Jiddah, nice:

- 7 X #101 \$22.50
- 2 X 163, RA-1 22.50
- 4 X 133 plus 6 X J23 96.00

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1940 cover from Max Steineke to Mrs. Steineke
via Bahrain not sold at reserve of \$144

1975 air letter, used \$3

#177 on 1946 cover 36

#177a on 1946 cover 48

#177 on 1946 wrapper 10

-in my stock/collection, #177 and #177a on cover are
about equally used.

1952 airmail, Taif to Aden \$24

1951 registered air to Canada, C2, C5 15

Two 1959 covers to Aden with Jizan transit marks, each \$30.

JM Wilson
23 February 1980