



Arabian Philatelic Association

c/o Aramco, Box 1929
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Random Notes No. 16
Summer 1981

Dear Member,

Your Editor has been bullied and bludgeoned into taking the rash step of making these Random Notes into a Quarterly. We will have, beginning with this issue, Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring editions. At the same time, we will retain the old numbering system to avoid any confusion. This schedule will, we hope, provide us with our own bludgeon with which to terrorize our contributors into providing their informative articles on time. Actually, we feel lucky to get them at all. We hope you approve of this new step.

APEX-10 was a great success, thanks to the efforts of the Chairman, E. W. (Gene) Bain. There were nineteen exhibitors, and their frames spanned the whole range of possible philatelic interests. Your Editor showed Hejaz and ran away with the Grand Award. Other award winners were:

- First Prizes: Richard Fagence -- British Forces in Egypt
Warren Latshaw -- USA Fancy Cancels
Bennie Walthall -- Somaliland Protectorate
- Second Prizes: Richard Fagence -- The Coronation Aerial Post - 1911
Michael Norman -- Machin Definitives (GB) Specialized
- Honorable Mention: Chris Fagence -- Bears of the World
Jim Kearney -- Turkey used in the Hejaz
- Junior Awards: Debbie Morgan -- Stamps on Stamps
Gary Tan -- Olympics

Our Show was attended by the Director General of Posts for the Eastern Province, Abdulkarim A. Dhowaihi, a long-time friend of the APA. He was accompanied by several postmasters from towns in the vicinity of Dhahran. The show was written up in an article by Jean Grant in "Saudi Business" for Sha'ban 3, 1401 (June 5, 1981)--Ms Grant was at the show and interviewed a number of participants. She produced a fine two-page piece about us.

Membership? The attached address list shows 192 members, of which 106 are local, and 86 overseas. We started as a specialist society interested only in the stamps and postal history of Saudi Arabia, but many of our local members are not interested in this specialty. Even those who are do not always have an interest in the Hejaz, a difficult area. Many start with the formation of the modern Kingdom in 1954--but that still leaves the problem of finding the Heir Apparent set, the top jewel in the crown of the modern period. Welcome to those of you reading these Random Notes for the first time, and may you all contribute to them some day.

Mr. Rudy Thoden has updated his listing of the Tourist Issues, and it is attached. Please let us know about anything you have that we don't list--and as always, let us have a look at it if you can.

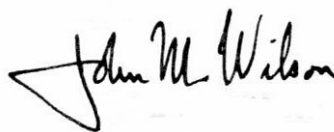
This past year has seen, we fervently hope, the end of the recent stamp speculation eras which seemed to go on and on. In London last fall, I was paying Stanley Gibbons Catalogue value discounted 40% for quality Great Britain; in New York in May, I was paying 50% of Michel for quality German material. I went down to Atlantic City to a dealers' bourse--it turned out to be a poor place to hold one--and I saw that those dealers who were selling low and medium-priced material to collectors were doing fine, but those with expensive "investment-grade" items had no business at all. I say "hurrah", the hobby is once again in the hands of us collectors. The speculators are, I think, holding the material that the fancy dealers sold them, material these same dealers had been unable to sell to anyone else for years at such high prices, and which they will certainly not buy back at anything like those levels. My opinion is that now is an excellent time to buy the better items that will build up your collection.

In the Fall Issue, we will attempt a listing of all known imperforates and part perforates beginning with the Nejd period. We attach a starter list giving what we have here among just a few of us, and we feel sure that many of you have items that we have not heard about. The main impetus for this effort comes from the appearance recently of many new imperforates, and we doubt that all are regularly issued.

Your Editor asks for information in this letter and in the Notes themselves in several places. Please respond--what we reprint here becomes available to all our members and goes as well to the American Philatelic Research Library and the Philatelic foundation. We need your help. Photocopies are most useful, and usually we would like to see the actual item.

Finally, we propose to start an "adlets" page, using a term borrowed from the American Philatelic Society's excellent journal. We will print your short ads--things to sell, want lists, requests for information or contacts, and so on. Here are the rules:

1. You get up to 25 words
2. The Editor will accept or reject, edit or not, as he sees fit,

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

John M. Wilson
Editor

1 July 1981

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
SUMMER, 1981

RANDOM NOTES NO.16

1. We are still worrying about Scott LJ18 (we do have a record of LJ18a). We would appreciate seeing a copy of anything you think is this stamp. We would also like to see L124 (SG 144), three-line overprint in black on top of the Caliphate overprint, $\frac{1}{2}$ pi red; when we rechecked our copies, they all turned out to have very dark blue overprints, not black ones. Now, we don't know if L124 exists or not.

2. We also had a flap here recently over Scott 177c (2003 - Scott RA4Be, SG 356a var), the $\frac{1}{2}$ g map stamp, Type II, perf 11. A quick check showed that none of us has this elusive item. Dr. Stokoe shortly turned one up, but he warned that this item may be scarcer than indicated by catalogue values. Frank Patterson reports that the specimens of this stamp, received by the British Post Office from the Universal Postal Union, are from the scratched flag plates, which may indicate that the scratching was done early on. My own covers with this stamp, however, are equally divided between scratched and unscratched. We hope to have an article on this whole subject soon.

3. Announcing the new book:

THE HEJAZ - A HISTORY IN STAMPS, by John M. Wilson

Publication date: August 1. A prepublication price of \$17 will hold until that date. Order from the publisher:

Lance D. Limoges, Inc.
PO Box 315
State College, PA 16801

4. From "The Collectors Club Philatelist", Volume 50, No. 3, comes an article under the heading: "the Clubhouse" describing a talk given November 4, 1970, by Robert W. Stuchell on "Ottoman Empire Postal History". In the article is the table for converting the Turkish Civil Calendar dates in cancellations to Gregorian dates:

"From 1256 to 1316 - add 584 to the year, 2 to the month, and 12 to the day.

"From 1317 on - add 584 to the year, 2 to the month, and 13 to the day.

"-good until March 1, 1917. From then on, add 584 to the year. On March 1, 1917, the Turkish calendar was synchronized with the Gregorian and the beginning of the year was moved to January 1."

Mr. Stuchell pointed out that Western dates in Turkish cancels are not reliable, especially in small towns, and the Turkish date must be relied on.

Mr. Stuchell again spoke to the Collectors Club on May 20 of this year, and your Editor was privileged to hear him and to meet him at the dinner before the talk. He is a very knowledgeable collector. Among the covers that he exhibited were several with Turkish stamps cancelled in Saudi Arabia, lovely indeed.

5. We have the 40ha from the Khafji Oil Rig definitive series printed by error in the color of the 25ha. This is not just a shade variety.

6. We have seen (finally!) Scott 105a (SG 102), the 3pi brownish red with a genuine three-line overprint in red, inverted. It had been in hiding here. Does anyone have it upright?

7. Your Editor will shortly begin work on a book that will cover the Nejdi period and beyond. It is not certain how far forward this book will extend. The period up to 1934 may be too brief in terms of postal emissions to make a satisfactory book, and a longer period may be necessary, perhaps up to 1955 or so, leaving the various large definitive series to a later work.

Your correspondence on the whole period after 1925 is invited. All letters will be answered, even is not very promptly. Please report holdings of interest, i.e., anything not catalogued or showing new information. Your contributions to the first book were invaluable.

8. We have seen the reprints of the 100th Anniversary of the UPU, Scott 645-7 (SG 1073-5). We were not able to distinguish them from the originals.

9. Rudy Thoden has successfully launched his new Forgeries Manual. The first instalment is ready, and if you would like to receive it, please write directly to:

R. J. Thoden
c/o Aramco, Box 1802
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

No charge. You must write; there will be no automatic distribution.

10. Tom Wood has set August 30 for publication of his revised article on the Tughra, Airmail, and Hospital Tax issues. We hope to have it out with the Fall 1981 Random Notes.

11. Frank Jamison kindly sent along a tear-out from "Linn's Stamp news" for Monday, September 22, 1980. It was "Trends of Stamp values" covering Saudi Arabia. By and large, there were no surprises, but here are a few items of interest:

<u>Scott No.</u>	<u>Price</u>		<u>SG</u>
647	\$8.00	100th Ann'y UPU	1075
(645-7 as a set, not listed)			
648-9	10.00	Intern'l Book Year	1076-7
653-4	4.00	Int'l Criminal Police	1081-2
655	2.00	Postal Studies	1083
656-8	10.00	UPU Headquarters, Berne	1084-6
665-7	5.00	Sixth Rover Moot	1093-5
778	32.50	Souvenir sheet	MS1223

We would buy all the #778 Souvenir Sheets that the man wants to offer at \$32.50.

12. David Graham reported to me that last year the 1980 Hajj set came to post office counters in Riyadh with position 1-3 of the 20ha, and 26-50 of the 50ha, apparently not available, having been removed from the sheets. He speculates that there was a problem in the printing resulting in faulty stamps. Those sheets (panes) found in the eastern Province were complete, and we did not notice any problems.

13. There has been a lot of discussion in these pages about rare perforation varieties of L1, L2, and L3. Use of a perforation gauge may lead to error. The best test is to lay the specimen in question up against a copy of L1 (for perf 12) or L3 (for perf 10) and see if the teeth and holes match exactly in gauge. Many counterfeit copies can be eliminated in this manner.

(L1 = SG 1, L2 = SG 2, L3 = SG 6)

14. David Graham reports seeing Scott 38B (SG 224) with normal and inverted handstamps. We have not yet seen these items. Nobody has reported Scott 38A (SG 224a). What do you have?--can we get a look?

15. New Issues.

- Telecommunications.

20ha Expansion of the Telephone Network
80ha Microwave System
115ha Satellite Communications

- Fifteenth Century Hijra: 20ha, 50ha, and 80ha. The design is a map of Saudi Arabia showing the very early Quba Mosque, which the Prophet himself helped build on the outskirts of Medina, and the Thor Cave near Mecca where Muhammad and his friend Abu Bakr, who later became the first Caliph, took refuge for three days during the hegira (Hijra), the flight from Mecca to Medina. In the upper corners are placed photographs of King Khaled (on the right) and Crown Prince Fahd (on the left).

- Industry Week: 20ha and 80ha. The outline of an industrial plant in chocolate appears against an orange circle, set against a silver background for the 20ha and a gold background for the 80ha. The set was first released December 14, 1980, but quickly withdrawn; it was then officially released late in February, 1981.

The above three items were in large part taken from The Saudi Gazette for Thursday, February 12, 1981.

- Jiddah Airport: 20ha and 80ha. Views of the new airport, with an airplane flying overhead.

- Day of the Arab City: 20ha, 65ha, 80ha, and 115ha. The center of each stamp shows a map of the Arab World in green. The background is a delicate Arabic tracery in, respectively, blue, maroon, brown, and orange. We don't have full information on the events that caused the issuance of these stamps.

16. In Random Notes No. 5, we mentioned the 3pi Dammam Port with sideways watermark and a pin-perf 6½. James DeVito reports the 8pi value with the same characteristics. Does anyone have the 6pi?

17. In Random Notes No. 15, Item 17, I wondered in print how the Hejaz stamps could have been found in Medina to receive the provisional "Al Sa'udiyyah" overprints. Frank Patterson says that Jiddah maintained communications with Medina by sea until late November, 1925, and this may indeed explain the matter. Randall Baker's book, King Husain and the Kingdom of Hejaz, supports this view as well.

18. Some very nice examples of Turkish stamps with Saudi Arabian cancels are being offered now. From the choice quality, we judge that an important collection has been broken up. Check your favorite dealer.

19. Souvenir sheets have again made their appearance here. We attach pictures, thinking that you may not be able to see them in any other way.

- Fifteenth Century Hijra. A large imperforate stamp in a 300ha denomination. Printing: 5,000

- Telecommunications. Three sheets, each bearing one of the issued stamps together with marginal inscriptions. Printing: 5,000.

Of the 5,000 printed in each case, 3,000 were reserved for official presentation purposes, leaving only 2,000 for collectors. These were divided up between major post offices, the Saudi Philatelic Society (we believe), and the Philatelic Agency. No one place received a large proportion. All were quickly disposed of. In the Eastern Province, the main post office received only 150 copies.

20. We quote from Ar-Riyad No. 4856, June 11, 1981, using the Aramco translation/summary:

Director General of Posts Samir Banajah said there are 437 offices and 126 post office branches extending services to 3,200 towns and villages throughout the Kingdom. He added that there are three postal training centers and three postal institutes with a total enrolment of 590 students.

21. Bob Jung reports seeing the 10pi Horsemanship (Tourist Issue) with watermark left (seen from the back of the stamp). It must be rare, and has not been seen here.

22. We got to looking closely at a copy of Scott LJ37 (SG D151) the other day and suddenly realized that the boxed postage due overprint had gold particles clinging to it. A few of the particles are silver instead of gold. Can anyone report anything like this from his own holdings?

J. M. Wilson, Editor
1 July 1981

Fifteenth Century Commemorative
Souvenir Sheet



Telecommunications

Souvenir Sheets



Legend at top reads:

"Accomplishments of the Ministry of Telegraph, Posts, and Telephone, Section of Wire and Wireless Communications Affairs"



SAUDI ARABIA

MODERN IMPERFORATES
AND PART PERFORATES--
TRIAL LISTING

In this list, we have used the Scott major numbers to represent the imperforate whenever they are not listed as such by Scott. Where Scott has a listing, the Scott minor variety listing is given. For convenience, we will include all the Nejd issues, even though the major focus of this report is the various issues since 1960. Part perforate varieties are also shown, and we suspect that many more exist than are listed below.

Readers are urged to report their holdings that are not listed below. Please be careful on some of the imperforates -- for the Dammam Port issue, for example, imperforate singles and pairs can be cut out of the souvenir sheets, and the true imperforates come from full sheets -- these can only be distinguished if there is a strip of three as a minimum. You must have at least a pair for the Malaria issue, and so on.

We feel certain that other imperforates exist. Many very recent issues are now showing up imperforate, possibly not regularly issued. Please report what you have so that we can extend and improve this listing for publication at a later date.

Care must also be taken with the Tughra issues, where blind perfs are a substantial problem.

Please report whether you have a single, a pair, a margin single, or whatever. Single stamps will be hard to validate. In doubtful cases, we hope that you will give us the chance to see the item in question. We will of course return anything that you send, registered airmail.

The list follows.

JMW
1 July 1981

MODERN IMPERFORATES AND PART PERFORATES
SAUDI ARABIA

Scott Catalogue Numbers

23 horizontal pair, imperf between
39a
39- horizontal strip of three, imperf between left two stamps, and
imperf in left margin
39c
(40b) not seen
40- imperf vertically
(43a) not seen
(44a) not seen
(45a) not seen
46a
47a

64- horizontal pair, imperf between
64- vertical pair, imperf between

69
70
71
71- horizontal pair, imperf between
72- vertical pair, imperf between
74

75-80
78- imperf horizontally

129 imperf in right margin
130 horizontal pair, imperf between
136 imperf in bottom margin

138-49

161
165
208-10
211
211A
213-17
217B
218

224-27
230-239

240-42
243-45
246-48
249-51

MODERN IMPERFORATES AND PART PERFORATES (CONTINUED)

265, 266, 268

287-89

293 imperf on unwatermarked paper -- proof?

296-98

347 imperf in top margin

692-97

698b

701 (55ha)

710

720

732-35

737a

739

743

750

782-83

787

788-89

20ha Arab League

20ha Arab University

50ha Books

C1, C2, C5, C6

C11, C14-17

J16-18

J16 Vertical pair, imperf between and in top margin

J17 Vertical pair, imperf between

J18 Horizontal pair, imperf between

O11-15

RA-8

Saudi Arabia's "Tourist" Issue

General Notes

These stamps, the first of which were issued in 1968, appeared piecemeal over a nine year period through 1976. Many of the stamps were in use for only a short time, and have become scarce. Some were never distributed in the Eastern Province and thus were not available to the A.P.A. New Issue Service.

All stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10). Some values had plate numbers (1 or 2) and/or printer's inscriptions, others not.

Two different watermarks were used. The first stamps has Scott's watermark 361 (sometimes called the second watermark in the A.P.A.). Later on, watermark 337 (first watermark) was used for a while. The last stamps issued were again with watermark 361. An ultra-violet lamp can be used to quickly distinguish between watermarks 337 and 361. Stamps with watermark 337 are strongly luminescent, while those with watermark 361 are not.

Two types of paper (with watermark 361) were used for some values of the Prophet's Mosque, Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque, and Holy Ka'aba designs. The second type of paper is slightly thinner than the original type, and shows vertical lines when viewed from the back.

Shades exist of some of these stamps. In many cases, they are thought to be due to the amount of ink on the plate, rather than to different inks being used. Only major shade differences are included in the attached listing.

Some stamps exist with slight doubling of the frame or center, usually on only part of the sheet. Thus, there is doubt whether these can be considered to be true double impressions.

The stamps from redrawn frame plates started appearing in 1972. In the original frame, the dot in the Arabic taa marbutah in the top line is very small. In the redrawn frame, it is much larger and clearer. This can easily be distinguished with the naked eye. In addition, each value has several other differences by which they can be distinguished. However, a magnifier is needed to see most of these. Some of these differences are tabulated below.



"ta marbuta"

redrawn "ta marbuta"

1p	Original	- A and R of Arabia not joined. ق and \ 0.8mm apart.
1p	Redrawn	- A and R of Arabia joined at bottom. ق and \ 0.6mm apart.
2p	Original	- RA and AB of Arabia joined at bottom. 2 below and slightly to left of T of postage.
2p	Redrawn	- RA and AB of Arabia not joined. 2 below and slightly to right of T of postage.
3p	Original	- No dot after 3p.
3p	Redrawn	- With dot after 3p.
4p	Original	- Top of 4 under S of postage.
4p	Redrawn	- Top of 4 between S and T of postage.
5p	Original	- RA and AB of Arabia joined at bottom.
5p	Redrawn	- RA and AB of Arabia not joined.
10p	Original	- RA and AB of Arabia joined at bottom.
10p	Redrawn	- RA and AB of Arabia not joined.
20p	Original	- RA and AB of Arabia joined at bottom. ق and ۲ 0.9mm apart.
20p	Redrawn	- RA and AB of Arabia not joined. ق and ۲ 0.5mm apart.

Specialized listing

The following listing includes varieties known to exist by the author. Readers who have other varieties are invited to report them to the author. Watermark position varieties are as seen from the front of the stamp (R=wmk to the right, L=left, U=up and D=down)

Prophet's Mosque



		Original frame				Redrawn frame			
		Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
		R	L	R	L	U	D	R	L
1p	Orange & green	x	x						
2p	Red brown & green	x	x			x	x		x
3p	Violet & green	x	x	x	x				
4p	Ocher & green			x		x	x		x
	a. Brown & green								x
5p	Lilac rose & green	x	x						
6p	Black & green			x	x				
	a. Gray & green			x	x				
10p	Brown & green			x					x
	a. Dk. Brn. & Green			x					
20p	Dark brown & green			x	x				x
50p	Vio. brn. & green			x	x				
100p	Dark blue & green			x	x				
200p	Red & green			x	x				

Expansion of Mecca Mosque



	Original frame				Redrawn frame			
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>
3p Orange & gray			x					
4p Green & gray			x					
10p Magenta & gray			x					

13p, 14p, and 26p values were printed, but are not known to have been issued.

Expansion of The Prophet's Mosque



	Original frame				Redrawn frame				
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361		
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	
1p Orange & green					x	x	x	x	x
2p Brown & green	x	x					x	x	x
3p Black & green	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
a. Gray & green									x
4p Orange & green			x		x	x			x
5p Red & green	x	x							x
6p Blue & green	x	x	x						
8p Red & green			x	x					
10p Red brown & green	x	x	x		x	x			
10p Orange & green									x
20p Violet & green					x	x			x

The Remains of Madayin Saleh



	Original frame				Redrawn frame			
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>
2p Ultra. & brown			x	x				
4p Dark brown & brown				x				
7p Orange & brown			x	x				
10p Slate green & brown			x	x				
20p Lilac & brown			x	x				

A 17p value was printed, but is not known to have been issued.

Horsemanship



	Original frame				Redrawn frame			
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>
4p Magenta & orange brown				x				
10p Black & orange brown				x				
14p Blue & ocher			x	x				
20p Olive green & ocher			x	x				

Yesterday & Today



	Original frame				Redrawn frame			
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>
4p Purple & red brown				x				
10p Ultra. & red brown				x				

The Holy Ka'aba (Value on black background)



	Original frame				Redrawn frame			
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>
4p Green & black			x				x	x
6p Lilac & black			x	x				
10p Orange & black			x	x			x	x

The Holy Ka'aba (Value on white background)



	Original frame				Redrawn frame			
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361		Wmk 337		Wmk 361	
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>
4p Green & black							x	x
6p Lilac & black			x	x				
8p Red & black			x	x				
10p Orange & black							x	x

Falcon Airmail



	Original frame					
	Wmk 337		Wmk 361			
	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>D</u>
1p Green & red brown			x	x		
4p Dark red & red brown			x	x		
10p Blue & red brown			x	x		
20p Slate green & red brown					x	

15p, 18p, 19p, 23p, 27p, 33p, 50p, 100p, and 200p values were printed but are not known to have been issued.

These stamps are customarily included as part of the "Tourist" issue. However, they have a different frame.

R. J. Thoden, The Arabian Philatelic Assn., November 1980