

## RANDOM NOTES NUMBER TWO

### HEJAZ, NEJD, AND SAUDI ARABIA

The first set of "Random Notes", issued by the Arabian Philatelic Association April 28, 1971, were well received. Their success has let us to venture a second set. Our hope remains the same, which is to stimulate discussion, improve knowledge in the field, and serve as a medium for distribution of information to interested collectors.

You will find a number of questions interspersed among the paragraphs. If you can shed any light on these problems, please write the Editor. We also welcome any articles or paragraphs you may wish to contribute. The Editor reserves the right, however, to reject or select any article. All material becomes the property of the Arabian Philatelic Association when published.

Postage is pretty heavy for this material. We would welcome any financial contributions to our mailing expense. Make checks payable to "Arabian Philatelic Association".

#### News

Our correspondent Mr. Max Mayo is making excellent progress on his handbook. He has completed a revised draft of the Hejaz section and is working on the Nejd section. We wish Mr. Mayo luck with his project, a substantial undertaking.

Local newspapers have announced four new stamp issues without giving anticipated date of issue or design. The issue names are the Editor's translation, and you may see something slightly different in other sources later on:

World Week for Palestine  
Jeddah Desalinization Plant  
International Year for Education  
Ten-Year Anniversary of OPEC

Our latest check list is attached. Here is a listing of Tourist Issues seen so far (I is first watermark, II is second).

Prophet's Mosque: 1p I, 2p I, 3p I, 4p II, 5p I, 10p II, 20p II  
Mecca Mosque Expansion: 3p. II, 4p II, 10p II.  
Expansion of Prophet's Mosque: 2p I 3p I, 3p II, 4p II, 5p I, 10p I, 10p II.  
Meda'in Saleh: 2p II, 4p II, 10p II.  
Horsemanship: 4p II, 10p II, 20p II.  
Yesterday and Today: 4p II, 10p II. Holy Ka'bah: 4p II, 10p II.  
Falcon (airmail): 1p II 4p II, 10p II.



## HEJAZ

Correction to first Notes: Scott L24 - 29 have typographed overprint, not lithographed as first stated.

The large plate flaw in one position on the ¼p green, Scott L33, does not show on all sheets and must represent something that happened to the plate part way through the printing.

Scott L32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 ( p through 1¼p) occur on a fairly thin paper. The design of the stamp can be seen through the back. Numbers L32-35 also occur on the thinner paper of the 3p red, L49. The 2p, 3p olive brown, and 5p (L37-39) are on a thick paper. We have seen L47 with genuine overprint on a very heavy coarse paper.

The third Jeddah overprint (Scott L82 - 131) has a dot in the "kaf" in position 13, and dropped and hooked dot under the "jim" in position 36. We are indebted to Mr. Kaczmarczyk for pointing these out to us.

Scott L42-48, Caliphate Issue. There is an overprint in thinner lines, more deeply impressed and with brassier ink, offered in place of the genuine. These overprints measure only 17mm to 18mm across the top line instead of 19mm. Most inverts on the market are of this kind of overprint, and many copies appear to have blind overprints, impressed in the paper without ink. The author has a pair, one with overprint normal and one with it inverted; each stamp contains the blind impression of the overprint on the other, and the perforations between show the traces of the fold made before the pair was inserted at the edge of the plate.

Can anyone supply the name of the firm that applied the Jeddah overprints? Also, can anyone tell us anything about the history of the press in Mecca?

We badly need a complete list of King Ali showing what was issued with year date left and right in each of the printings: first Jeddah, second Jeddah, and Cairo. The first Jeddah overprint was impressed in a plate of 25 subjects and had to be impressed twice to cover the sheet. Some sheets existed with one impression inverted with respect to the other, giving rise to tête-bêche pairs. If the year box measures 16mm and month box 15½ mm, you have the first Jeddah. Second Jeddah, impressed with a plate of 50 subjects, has both boxes measuring 15mm. You will find some stamps that seem to measure somewhere in between; until the author can get complete sheets or more information, he has decided not to collect these doubtful specimens. The Cairo overprint on postage dues (J44-45) has one position (in the top row) in which the year box is reversed.

Who can tell us anything about J36a?

For the postage dues, the Warin Handbook says that the Jeddah overprints come in all three colors. Can anyone offer us the red or blue Jeddah overprints on J48-55? Please write and tell us what you have.



## SAUDI ARABIA

Scott 97 has been seen perf 11 x 14 x 11 x 11.

Royal Decree No.2716 dated 17 Jumada I, 1351, (18 September 1932) changed the name of the Kingdom from "The Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd and Its Dependencies" to "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" effective 21 Jumada I 1351, September 22, 1932.

Another correction to the first Random Notes: we said that Scott 328, the 9p GOSP, was scarce mint. It has since appeared at the post offices in quantity.

Query: why are the 11p airmail stamps, Sa'ud redrawn, Scott C40, so scarce? A Jeddah dealer has at this writing three sheets at \$9 per stamp.

Another query: where were the watermarked issues of 1963 - 1965 printed? We refer to Scott 256-60, 263-70, and C22-29. Inverted watermarks are scarce.

The Fourth Rover Moot Issue of 1970 was originally to have been a three value set (3g, 4g, and 10g). However, the Ministry of Education did not make the designs available until about a month before the proposed date of issue, and it was decided that time would allow only one denomination.

Scott J4 - J6 seem scarce. Are they underpriced?

We have new official stamps: 1p - 6p, 10p, 20p, and 31p. The proof book at the Security Press contains 1p - 12p, 20p, 23p, 31p, 50p, and 100p, so maybe there are more to come. However, many stamps were destroyed in last April's flood at the Security Press, and we don't know yet which ones.

The two air letter sheets ran out some time ago at the post offices and have not been replaced. We don't know of any plans for new ones.

Position 43 of the 200p Dam Sa'ud redrawn set has a prominent white blotch in the lower frame line.

John M. Wilson - Editor

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### **2014 Note:**

The attachment mentioned on page 1 is not available, but updated lists appear in later RNs.