

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

FALL, 1982

Random Notes No. 21

1. The Postal Buildings Issue has been released, date of issue July 14, 1982. Four souvenir sheets, one for each stamp, were also released, but we haven't yet obtained any and I don't have any information on how many were printed, released, etc. Three stamps show the new postal buildings, just now being completed and occupied; the fourth shows, in somewhat dark colors, an interior with mail sacks hanging on an overhead conveyer, plus sorting tables, and other equipment.

In the new definitives, we now have:

Perf 13½: Ka'abah 20ha wmk left, right; SR1 wmk left, right

Perf 14x13½: Ka'abah 20ha wmk right; 65ha wmk right; SR1 wmk
left, right
Khafji Platform 20ha wmk right; 65ha wmk right

--watermark directions as seen from the front of the stamp.

The designs are slightly different from the large definitives. The Ka'abah has been redrawn in a sharper, clearer format with more surrounding area for the denominations and legends. The Khafji Platform is reduced in such a way that more of the top of the derrick appears, as well as more of the water at the bottom.

We still have no data on how many denominations will appear.

2. We have just seen the 20pi airmail of the 1949-58 series, Scott #C5, in an imperforate pair with the left stamp only having a triple print. Most likely it is some kind of printer's waste, but interesting. If you look at the auction catalogue, you will see a listing of imperforate items from the 1960-63 period that have just come on to the market--if you collect this sort of thing, don't miss this opportunity.

3. The post offices have been very short of stamps for the last several months. For this reason, the correct denominations are not always in supply, and some provisional changes in rates have been occurring. Some time in June the Aramco Mail Center began to allow airmail with SR1.10 to go to the USA, as compared to the correct SR1.15; SR2 has been charged for the double rate for many months as compared to the correct SR1.90. Just this past week, the SR1.10 rate was again in effect, having been stopped for a while on July 28. It is hoped that the new definitives, which can be printed at the rate of 150 stamps to the sheet, will help fill the gap. There is a lot of mail moving here, both inside the country and to points outside.

4. Bob Jung sent along some time ago a short listing of varieties of the Hejaz Railway tax stamps overprinted for use as Nejd postage stamps. The list covers Scott 26-8 and 50-2 and shows variations in the spacing of the written words of the denomination on the basic stamp. He also lists some color differences in both the stamps and the overprints. Since his list includes sketches, I have reproduced it as Figure 1, attached.

5. Dr. Leon Chernee sent us from New Orleans copies of some pages from David Feldman's auction catalogue of last May with some of the prices realized written in. Two GEDDA interpostal seals, one with full original gum (rare), made about \$120, as did an Egyptian 2pi stamp with GEDDA cancellation. Turkish stamps with various Hejaz cancels made from \$25 to \$100, depending on condition and scarcity; Turkish stamps on cover with these cancels made from \$150 to \$400, except for a 1910 cover from YAMBO to Scutari--from Medina, I see on a second look, with the YAMBO as a transit marking--this cover brought \$880. Somebody wanted it! A 1916 cover from Jiddah to Egypt with the 1/2pi perf 12 and 1pi perf 10 made \$167. A pair of first flight covers Medina-Jiddah and Jiddah-Medina went for \$120. The Freedom from Hunger set of 1963, in imperforate pairs, mnh vf, made \$200.

6. At the last APA meeting, Yousuf Aidroos showed me a full sheet of the 45ha Ka'abah with watermark almost invisible.

7. Four scarce books of interest to collectors of Saudi Arabian material were sold at the Roger Koerber auction of June 10-12, 1982, and here is how they went:

Warin	Lot 126	\$210
Tomkins	Lot 125	42
Brandt	?	110
Passer		130

The Passer is entitled "The Stamps of Turkey", **and** was published in 1938. The copy of Warin that we advertised in the last Random Notes for \$110 has been sold. I wonder what the special book put out by the Survey of Egypt is worth?--limited edition of 200 copies, each inscribed to an individual of the time. A beautiful thing, top quality, and with a complete set of stamps stuck down near the front of the book.

MORE FROM PAST RANDOM NOTES

Because of the difficulties involved in trying to reprint back issues of the Random Notes, we plan to reprint individual paragraphs from them, updating the information as we go to make each item more useful.

C98, the 10pi falcon airmail, had some printing defect in positions 19, 20, 29, and 30 of the left pane. When we saw this sheet at the printing plant some years ago, these four positions had some scratches drawn across them. The scratches are in blue, indicating that the frame plate was involved. These four stamps were torn out of every sheet before release to the post offices. It should be possible to find copies from the adjacent positions that show the ends of these lines just reaching into the margin of the next stamp. I have looked for a long time, but have not ever seen one. (C98 is Scott Catalogue Number, as are all numbers used in these Notes.)

Scott L48A, the 1/4pi green Coat of Arms, occurs with a large plate flaw, a big gash in position 13, taking that end of the sheet as top. It does not occur on all sheets, and must represent some accident that happened, along the way.

Scott L42-48, Caliphate Issue. There is an overprint in thinner lines, more deeply impressed into the paper and with a brassy ink, offered in place of the genuine. These overprints measure only 17mm to 18mm across the top line instead of the correct 19mm--there are Plate C genuine overprints measuring 18mm that may confuse you. Most inverted overprints in dealers' hands are of this make. Many of the copies appear to have blind overprints, uninked, in addition to whatever appears. The Editor has a pair, one with normal overprint and one with inverted overprint; each stamp contains the blind impression of the overprint on the other, and inspection shows the fold lines along the perforations where the pair was folded before insertion into the press and removal so that the pair could be turned around to take the other overprint. Position 6, at the corner of the genuine plate, is often a candidate for similar shenanigans, and it is surprising how many copies of L81 are from Position 6 of the plate. Tain't logical.

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, or 22 September 1932.

The 1970 Fourth Rover Moot Issue was originally to have been a three stamp 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 permit the printing of only one denomination.

More from Past Random Notes (contd)

April 1971 was the date of the 'big' flood in Riyadh that inundated the Government Press building and destroyed many stamps in the basement. We saw a whole wall of stacked sheets stuck solidly together, completely useless. Many additional values of the Falcon Airmail set must have been in there, plus some of the values from the 1970-71 official set. Were any sheets saved?--the best evidence says that all the damaged sheets were destroyed officially. This may account for the scarcity of some stamps, but not all. The 1lpi Sa'ud redrawn air, Scott C40, was simply left on the shelf for a long time, except for a few sheets that somehow found their way to the Jiddah Post Office early on. At the last moment, just before the Sa'ud cartouche stamps were withdrawn and destroyed in favor of the Faisal issues, the whole stack of 1lpi airmail stamps was sent down to Damman, and the APA was able to get its new issues demands met. Someone then said "say, if this thing is only available here, then perhaps we ought to lay some aside". Our representative rushed back, but they were already gone. I think that those copies in the possession of APA members constitute just about the whole of the available stock.

Position 43 of the 200p Dam Sa'ud redrawn set (Scott 322D) has a prominent white blotch in the lower frame line. We're not sure that this occurs on every sheet.

Here is a Note resulting from our visit to the Press in March, 1975. After issue, the 100th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union set (Scott 645-47) was frowned upon because it shows the human form, used in the symbol of the UPU reproduced on the stamps. The set was printed in quantities of 200,000, but many will probably not be distributed. We never heard how many, if any, were held back or destroyed. The figure of 200,000 was the normal quantity for commemorative issues of that period.

Here are the values shown in the production book at the Press, taken from the complete proof sheets, that have not so far been seen as issued stamps:

Falcon Airmail: 15, 18, 19, 23, 27, 33, 50, 100, 200p

The Arabian Horse: 12p

Expansion of the Mecca Mosque: 13, 14, 26p

Meda'in Saleh: 17p

Officials: 12, 23p

We were told that up to 1972, the Ministry of Communication prepared about 300 first day covers of each issue for "favored distribution". The practice then ceased until the Faisal Issue in 1975, and we haven't seen any since. On this basis, first day covers would seem to be hard to find.

More from Past Random Notes (contd)

According to Mr. al-Zamil of the Ministry of Communications, 30,000 copies of the map stamps, Scott 177a, were issued.

The existence of the 3p Dammam Port perforated 10½ instead of the regular perf 13 was reported. I have one of these. It is undoubtedly irregular.

The 1964 Human Rights issue, Scott 296-98, has the spelling ROYAME instead of ROYAUME on all three denominations.

The Algerian Library issue, Scott 363-68, has two errors, both in the Arabic inscriptions at the bottom. The word "barid" above the Arabic numeral of value should have two dots under the letter "ya", but has only one. The word "li-Saleh", for the benefit of, has an extra decorative and redundant alif over the letter Sad; this is a short vertical stroke that extends too far downward and appears to change the Sad to a Taa, making the word now mean for the bad of. The issue was removed from sale after only eleven days. At the time, we noted that new issue dealers had stocked up and there wasn't any apparent scarcity; today the issue is a bit hard to find.

The 4p value of the Prophet's Mosque Scott 461 has an "open 4" in position 59.

Mr. Frank Patterson has pointed out that most proofs of Scott 69-80 and J16-18 had "Nejd" in the design, as did the issued stamps. However, the first proofs had "al-Nejd", and these are much scarcer. The inclusion of "al" would be an error and suggests that the designs were prepared in Egypt by an artist not familiar with the proper usage.

Mr. Alton Blank, of Cleveland, Ohio, sent us copies of Scott C68 and C70, sold to him as "watermarked". The paper had the fine, close-set quadrille laid lines of the de la Rue printings, and the stamps had the "wide tooth" characteristic of the unwatermarked stamps. We did indeed see traces of some sort of "watermark", but certainly neither of the two regular Saudi watermarks. De la Rue has informed the Editor that they did not use any watermarked paper. We examined our own copies of de la Rue stamps and found traces of a "watermark" on several copies, but we could not make out any definite design. We believe that this is some sort of mark made during the manufacture unintentionally or represents some accident.

-- more in future Random Notes --

FIGURE 1

TYPE I		TYPE II	
HIGH		LOW	
زرقا		زرقا	
OVERPRINTS ON HEJAZ RAILWAY STAMPS			
SCOTT/MAYO	26/511	26/511A	50/566A
COLOR (STAMP)	BLUE	INDIGO	DEEP INDIGO
" (OVERPRINT)	RED	RED	LIGHT BLUE
MINT	IX II	IX II	RED
USED	I II	I II	RED
			50/566
			50/566A
			50/566B
			51/567
			51/567A
			51/568
			51/568A
			51/568B
			51/568C
			51/568D
			51/568E
			51/568F
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			51/568R
			51/568S
			51/568T
			51/568U
			51/568V
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STUDY OF PAPERS UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT
LARGE SIZE KA'ABAH AND KHAFJI DEFINITIVES--
SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Rudy Thoden's paper of December 1980, attached to Random Notes No. 18, listed all the known definitives in the current series with the Ka'abah and al-Khafji Platform designs. On the second page, he recorded his observations about the different papers as they appeared under ultraviolet light. This paper expands on these papers, since there seem to be other varieties under UV light than thought.

The studies described here were performed in a dark room, and a "short-wave" UV light was used, as it appeared to give sharper distinctions than the "long-wave" light on my machine, which is a BLE Spectreline having two windows emitting light of two different wavelengths. Absolute darkness is essential if the differences discussed below are to be seen.

All users of UV lights are cautioned that they are dangerous to the eyes--the results of incautious use are blindness that comes on gradually and is due to painless burning of the cornea. Don't look directly into the light, and don't allow it to reflect into your eyes. Work on nonreflecting surfaces and keep the light always pointed away from your face.

I have arbitrarily divided up the different papers into two main categories: Bright papers (A), and Dull papers (B). Within the A category, I thought I could see six different papers, and within the B category, four. The technique in distinguishing the different papers is first to have enough material to make comparison, and second to lay one stamp on another to see if they are different, and how they are different. Single stamps, without comparison material, probably cannot be assigned accurately to any of the subclassifications under A or B. Mr. Thoden's papers A and B are included in my A, and his C is included in my B.

The Bright papers are all luminescent, some more than others, whereas the Dull papers are mostly not luminescent, although one variety shows some luminescence.

Some of the papers are wove paper, but some show a texture of horizontal and vertical lines in a grid pattern, apparently "laid" lines from the paper manufacturing equipment. The thickness of the paper and the surface appearance are also guides to differentiating the papers described below.

There is a possibility that some of the observed differences in reaction to UV light result from properties of the gum. Study of used stamps did not support the distinctions made above. However, the used stamps available (large quantity) were so badly contaminated with some kind of luminescent material from the envelopes from which they were soaked that accurate study was impossible, and the effort was abandoned. The results of the study reported here are based entirely on mint stamps.

The ink of the stamps themselves showed some interesting variation. In the listings that follow, an "X" indicates that the stamp exists on the particular paper; where the stamp has some fluorescent/luminescent property in the ink that make it appear a different color under UV, then the stamp appearance is given. The 65ha on Paper B-1/B-2 shows four quite different inks, and some copies of the 50ha (both are Khafji) show very bright orange under UV, called here "fire orange".

J.M. Wilson
RN 21
1 Sep 82

Appearance Under UV

Paper

Bright Papers (A)

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| A-1 | White with a greenish cast as compared to A-4 | thin wove paper with a somewhat shiny or oily surface. The 55ha comes only on this paper. |
| A-2 | Same as A-1, but definitely brighter. | |
| A-3 | Same as A-1, but definitely duller. | |
| A-4 | White with a pinkish cast as compared to A-1 | thin paper containing a grid pattern of "laid" lines. |
| A-5 | Same as A-4, but definitely brighter | |
| A-6 | Same as A-4, but definitely duller. | |

Note: A-1 through A-3 correspond to Mr. Thoden's Paper B; A-4 through A-6 to Mr Thoden's Paper A.

Dull Papers (B)

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| B-1 | Dull, yellowish brown. | wove paper |
| B-2 | Dull brown, a bit more violet than B-1. | Note: the distinction between B-1 and B-2 is difficult to make, and perhaps not worth struggling with. In collecting, I group B-1 and B-2 together. B-2 is on wove paper. |
| B-3 | Dull brown, but somewhat lighter | grid pattern of laid lines |
| B-4 | Slightly luminescent, but not as bright as any A paper | wove paper. |

Note: The wove paper for the Dull Papers is thicker than the A papers.