



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

RANDOM NOTES NO. 23
SPRING 1983

Dear Member,

Our 1983 elections were duly held in January, and the officers and appointees are as follows:

President	Warren Latshaw
Vice-President	Al Sonntag
Secretary	Woody Leonhard
Treasurer	Greg Polonica
Librarian	Gene Bain
New Issues	Local: Rudy Thoden Overseas: Jim Kearney
Show Chairmen	Ken Quarfoth Bennie Walthall

And this seems to be as good a point in this letter as any to remind everybody that the annual show, APEX-12, will be held on Thursday, April 28, in the Dhahran Auditorium at 10:00 a.m.

These Notes contain the announcement of my imminent retirement and departure from Saudi Arabia, and the next Notes will be edited in Houston, Texas. You will also find, attached, the latest address list, showing who has and who has not paid dues for this year—if you have already sent in your check, please ignore the warning notice. Our address list is now computerized, and Woody Leonhard, who I think is also partly computerized, can make it stand up and do tricks. We report on a few recent auction sales, and Jim Kearney has done a summary of his own, attached.

Good collecting!

John M. Wilson
Editor

1 April 1983

ANNOUNCEMENT

Your Editor is retiring from Aramco effective July 1, 1983. I have some vacation credits saved up that will enable me to leave here after work on May 25. I will stop off in New London, Connecticut, to watch my son, Edward, graduate from Connecticut College, and then on down to Houston, Texas, where I intend to settle down. You can contact me at this address:

John M. Wilson
c/o R. G. Wilson
2513 Maconda Lane
Houston, Texas 77027

I intend to start up a small stamp business, specializing in Saudi Arabian material. Once I get settled, I will try a few price lists and see what happens. Customer satisfaction will be guaranteed. I am ready to buy any collections, accumulations, or individual items.

JMW
1 April 1983

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice to all those receiving new issues from J. I. Kearney:

"Random Notes No. 22 carried a notice dated 2 December 1982, to local new issue subscribers, informing them of an annual SR20 charge. This was for local subscribers only. For those of you who are not local, and who sent in the SR20, it will be credited to your account".

ANNOUNCEMENT

The APA would like to inform its members who send checks to the Association for dues, auction lot purchases, new issues, etc., that our bank will not accept checks drawn on the private company AL RAJHI COMPANY. There are apparently inter-bank clearance problems. Please use the National Commercial Bank or some other bank integrated into the clearance system.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Local new issue subscribers who have not paid the dues by the next APA Meeting, April 9, 1985» will be dropped from the service. You must be a member to participate in this most worthwhile service.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Available from E. J. Brill, P.O. Box 9000, 2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands; Cat. 530, no. 354:

PHILBY, H. St.J. B. Sa'udi Arabia. London, 1955., 1st Edition
D. fl. 125

-courtesy of Dr. Chernee

ADLETS

We still make space available for your adlets!

FOR SALE: Two sets of United Arab Emirates Scott 1-12, the overprinted set. Price SR500 or \$150 each.

John M. Wilson
c/o Aramco, Box 8641
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

FOR SALE. Mr. P. C. Palmer writes in, saying that he has been building up a Saudi collection for some years by buying small collections and putting them together. In the process, he has accumulated quite a few duplicates, and he offers them to our members. He has, and I quote his letter:

FORE-RUNNERS: Ottomans with DJEDDAH, TAIF, YAMBO cancels, one of each.

HEJAZ: First issue: 1 piaster blue, perf 10, shades, mint. ½pi red perf 12, mint.

Roulette issue: some mint, some used.

Roulette 13: mint and used, some cancels: MEDINE, TAIF, YAMBO Framed and unframed overprints, mainly mint.

Caliphate gold overprints, Jeddah 2-line 1pi and 2pi, mint

Few later overprints and Ali controls, mint

NEJD: First overprinted set, few later, mint and used.

HEJAZ/NEJD: A few mint, but mostly used, including 5pi Establishment with "YAMBO" cancel, last definitives, scarcer perfs. 1927 10pi chocolate, mounted mint; dues, used.

SAUDI ARABIA: Heir Apparent usual ½g and 3½g perf and imperf used, plus the 1½g imperf used. Also ½g with "HODEIDA" cancel, probably a production using misappropriated cancel, but nice looker! Toughras to 200g mint and used. From here on a mixture of mint but mostly used to the present day. First watermarked defs with inverted w/mk, used. Various officials, most of the 300-odd defs used including those still unpriced in catalogue, many nice blocks and mixed on piece: - 200p GOSP Faisal x3 on piece. Most commems mint or used, only Anti-Malaria Min Sheet. Many covers from 1945, including several FDCs. Human Rights, etc, plus 1964 Accession on Presentation Folder with "ARAFAT" cancel. 1977... an so

Write to:

P. C. Palmer
71 Narbonne Avenue
Clapham, London SW4 9JP
England

Adlets - continued

I need a quantity (about 50 or 60 copies) of the 40ha Ka'abah, large format definitive, second (common) type. Watermark direction not important. Write, or send stamps with your price.

John M. Wilson
c/o Aramco, Box 8641
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

SPRING, 1983

Random Notes No. 23

1. The new sets for King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdallah have been issued, and here are the data, courtesy of Abdul Aziz Sa'id:

King Fahd 20ha, 50ha, 65ha, 80ha, 115ha, S/S (115ha)
Crown Prince Abdallah 20ha, 50ha, 65ha, 80ha, 115ha, S/S (115ha)
Issue Date: February 12, 1983
Quantity : 20ha - 330,000 of each
 Others - 400,000 of each
 S/S - 10,000 of each
Designer : Mr. Ibrahim Tahtawi

The Post Office did not prepare any first day covers. The Saudi Philatelic Society of Riyadh prepared its own FDCs for its members only.

In the panes that I have seen, the 50ha King Fahd had no plate inscription. Does anyone know about the other panes? incidentally, I have put some of these stamps on envelopes to the USA, and the gum tastes terrible - something like lacquer thinner. The Souvenir Sheets have the stamp perforated all around. The Press has never tried anything like this before, and the results are pretty uneven. Discriminating collectors will not like the resulting "centering".

2. Ahmed Hussein reports the 5ha al-Khafji large format definitive with a clear double print of the orange color, both numbers and flare.

3. In the Feldman Sale of November 29 - December 3, 1982, was Lot No. 21706: "1925 Hejaz 1/8pi chestnut overprinted in black...(SG 224a)". This would be Scott 38A. I wrote before the sale asking for a look, but the stamps were being shown here and there and it was not possible. After the sale, I wrote again, hoping to contact the purchaser. The firm replied, and said that the lot was withdrawn "because it was a forgery". Better luck next time.

I have never seen either Scott 38A or 38B. Does anybody have either of these? I would like very much to see any stamp purporting to be one of them. If you know anyone who has one, let me know so that I can write him.

4. Would you believe an auction in Dubai? East of England Philatelic Auctions were there Thursday and Friday, March 24/25. No Saudi material, but they had singles and blocks of the two good UAE sets: 1972 "UAE" provisional overprints, Scott 1-12, and the 1977 National Day set, not listed by Scott.

5. The small format definitives, al-Khafji and Ka'abah designs, continue to appear, but only the more useful denominations. To complicate matters, there are two different perforators in use, and watermarks come both left and right. Here is the current listing:

Design Perf	Al-Khafji				Ka'abah			
	13½		14x13½		13½		14x13½	
Watermk	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>
5ha	X	X	X	X				
10ha	X	X					X	X
15ha	X	X	X	X				
20ha	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
50ha	X	X	X	X	X	X		
65ha	X	X	X	X			X	X
SR1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

These definitives are printed in panes of 150 without gutters. Some of these items have not yet been released by the APA through its new issue service, as the required quantities have not yet been found.

6. Art Bianchi has shown me a few interesting items.

- o A copy of the 2pi Madin Saleh, Scott 528, in which the two diagonal strokes above the middle word at the top are missing.

- if you have this, please report, so we know if it is repeating.

- o A copy of the 20ha Idrisi World Map issue of 1977 (Scott 762) on which the background is a very deep yellow, and another on which it is a pale yellow.

- o A copy of the 80ha Hajj Issue of 1978 (Scott 772) on which the black color is shifted upward, so that the top "gold" band of the Ka'abah cover is left colorless.

Thanks, Art.

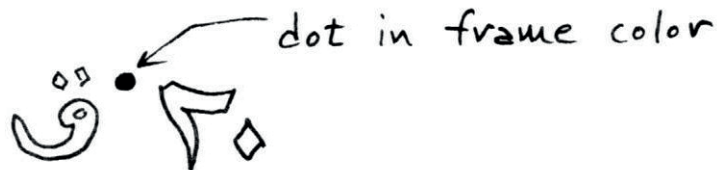
7. Last November/December's Feldman Sale set some high prices for the rarer items. I have listed a few below. For convenience, I have added the 15% buyer's commission and converted the total from Swiss Francs to US Dollars.

- o Cover with Type 1 cancel - POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE/GEDDA - tying a Penasson 2pi blue \$ 5635
- o EBHA Type 2 cancel (barred double circle) on cover, "possibly the only known cover" 6200
- o Fee Paid cover, MEKKE 2 2820
- o "NEJD 1" cancel on piece (an Eastern Province cancel - Editor) 1465
- o Two-line overprint and unframed overprint on 1/2pi red (1925, Scott L67) 2140

- o Two-line overprint and framed overprint on 1/8pi orange (1925, Soott L69) \$ 1690
- o Nejdi newspaper stamp, 1/8pi, Soott P1 790
- o Heir Apparent set, 1934. Set "missing the 1½g, all but 30g perfs" 1800

8. Lance Limoges recently showed me a half dozen of the proof sheetlets for the Hejaz-Nejd definitives and postage dues of 1926. These sheetlets are illustrated on page 120 of Warin and page 77 of Mayo. They contain three very large stamps and four normal-size stamps, ordinarily - on the ones that Lance had, two of the normal-size stamps were missing, not printed. I notice that one of these in the gold color is in the April Feldman sale, as is one with all impressions, but multicolor, most unusual. I wonder what they will make.

9. Mr. P. C. Palmer, of Clapham, London, wrote in to say that he had noticed a plate variety on the 20pi Tourist Issue stamps, original frame® I looked around among my copies and readily found a few. Some were in blocks that allowed me to establish a couple of plate positions, so we can say that it occurs several times in the sheet and hence ought to be fairly easy to find. Mr. Palmer thought that he had one on a redrawn frame, but I was not able to find any of these. Here is a sketch:



I found it on positions 3 and 8 in the top row, and from one position on the bottom row. These sheets were made up of multiples of the basic die repeated over the sheet about six times, accounting for the repetition of the variety. Happy hunting! Sorry I can't be more exact. Does anyone have a complete sheet?

10. The next Feldman Sale, April 10 - 15, has several pages of better Saudi Arabian items, plus a few stuck in the Egyptian Post Offices Abroad section. A few are worth mentioning now, but I will try to report completely in the next Random Notes after the dust has cleared.

- o Lot 32311 1867 cover from Djedda with cancel GEDDA dated 28 Apr 67, stamp is first issue Egypt. Estimated at SF15,000. Very early cover.
- o Lot 32312 The rare star and crescent cancel on Egypt 1pi blue. Estimated at SF800, but in my opinion worth a lot more. Let's see what it brings!
- o Lot 32315 Diagonal bisect of 2pi yellow Egyptian stamp with GEDDA cancel. This cover has been up several times in the past few years. This time, the estimate is SF15,000.

- o Lot 32956 MEKKE 1916 FEE PAID cover: SF4000.
- o Lot 32961 The Survey of Egypt book with the design information, intermediate designs, etc. Estimate: SF5000.
- o Lots 32978-32982 Several lots of the 20 para postage due with different Hejaz Jiddah overprints, all rare.
- o Lots 32973, 32974 Both of these are apparently forgeries.
- o Lot 32999 1/2pi Newspaper stamp, the rare one (said to be only 18 copies) Estimate: SF15,000
- o Lot 33011 Cover from Mekkah to Egypt via Qunfudha and Massaua, a route used for a few months only in 1925 for mail from the Nejdi areas. Estimate: SF3000.
- o Lot 33034 1966 Telecommunications, complete sheet of two panes with gutter, completely misperforated. Estimated at SF20,000, but not worth anything like that, in my opinion. I have been wrong before.

MORE FROM PAST RANDOM NOTES

Our previous excursions into the past Random Notes got us up to about the end of RN #4, and we will start out here with some items from RN #5.

We have below a provisional listing of Dam, GOSP, and Air definitives with inverted watermarks. If you have anything not listed here, please send it to the Editor for a look. We ought to try to get this listing correct.

Exists inverted			
<u>Cairo</u>	<u>Dam</u>	<u>GOSP</u>	<u>Air</u>
1/2pi		x	
1pi			x
4pi		x	
5pi	x	x	
6pi		x	x
9pi		x	
 <u>Faisal Cartouche</u>			
1pi	x		x
2pi	x	x	x
5pi		x	
6pi		x	
8pi			x
10pi		x	
23pi		x	

The 1pi and 2pi Faisal Air and the 23pi Faisal GOSP are more common than the others.

There have been some interesting plate varieties on the Tourist Issue, and we have reported on one in these Notes. Here are some from earlier Notes.

- o 3pi Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque with watermark upright, either up or down, instead of the usual right or left.
- o Same stamp, first center, there is a "grape cluster" hanging from the top, position 2. Position 59 shows a damaged "T" in "PROPHET'S" - the "T" is missing the top stroke. Position 100 of the frame, for both the Prophet's Mosque and the Expansion, shows a small dot to the top right of the "p" in the value.
- o The 4pi Prophet's Mosque, redrawn frame, second watermark, exists in brown and green instead of ochre and green, very nearly the color of the 10pi value in this design.
- o Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque, redrawn center - position 5 has a small white circular blotch between and toward the top of two close-together pillars. In the 10pi, original center, there is a variety with the horizontal bar connecting the arches partly or completely missing.

The 10pi Faisal Dam, GOSP, and Air stamps come from eight or ten positions in the sheet that show three dots over the "Qaf" next to the value instead of the correct two.

Scott lists a "T" handstamp on the 1/2g red Toughra stamp, as postage due #J24. This same handstamp, a big "T" in a circle with the Arabic just above it, has also been found on a 1g blue-green from the same issue. Nothing much is known about these, and any information would be greatly appreciated.

A used copy was reported of RA5 with double impression. Since then, the Editor has seen another. They must be very rare.

RA9, the Ramadhan postal tax stamp, was in aid of a charitable society. The funds were used to pay debtors' obligations and thus get them released from prison.

The second watermark, which is the one found currently on watermarked Saudi Arabian stamps, contains a stretched-out line of writing. It is the signature of Aba al-Khayl, Minister of Finance. We should probably point out here that the Government Security Press, which prints the stamps as well as tax stamps and official copies of the Quran, is owned and operated by the Ministry of Finance, and not by the Postal officials.

On our visit to the Press in March, 1975, Mr. Nassir Rasheed, the Manager, told us that the 100th Anniversary UPU set was frowned upon after its issue because it shows both the human form and a bird. The set, he said, was printed in a quantity of 200,000, but many "will probably not be distributed". At that time, 200,000 was the normal printing for all commemorative sets. It is 400,000 today.

The "Blinds' Day" set, Scott 668-9, 1975, carries a braille message in Arabic, which translates as follows:

"Knowledge is Light

"Long live Faisal to whom thanks be given for lifting the blind man from the darkness of blindness to the light of knowledge so that he can provide himself through his own efforts with a decent way of life."

This item was supplied by Mr. Carl Catherman. Some of us have copies of the Heir Apparent set, 1/2g value, with nice, clear "HODEIDA" cancels. Carl says: "The cancelling device was removed to Mekkah after the occupation (of the Tihama: ed.) and fake covers were also produced. Thus, it is quite possible that loose copies of the 1934 issue with HODEIDA cancels are favor cancels. Indeed, the very nice (emphasis Mr. Catherman's) cancellations add to the suspicions about their origin." Only covers that were registered and properly backstamped would be above suspicion. The postmaster in Hodeida during the Saudi occupation was an

Egyptian, and he is said to have sent covers home to his relatives in Egypt. I have never seen any of these. Does anybody have one?

One of the Notes contains the statement that only 350 copies of Warin were printed. Does anybody know more about this?

Random Notes No. 7 contained an address list that showed 57 local members plus 25 in Riyadh, Taif, and overseas, a total of 82. Today, we have 262 on the list, but not all have paid up for this year yet.

SAUDI ARABIA AUCTION ACTIVITY

by

J. I. Kearney

There seems to be a trend developing in auctions where Saudi material is offered. In the past in the middle sized auction houses Saudi material was offered in lots and covers. Now it is possible to purchase at auction Saudi stamps in sets. The popularity of this country is increasing a little and recent prices have enabled auction houses to describe individual sets.

Some recent auction prices with the appropriate surcharges are:

1. 1925-1957, 175 mostly different between 1 and 179 with a cat. value of \$2,000+	\$1,100
2. 1925-1955, coll. of over 100, cash value \$150-200	523
3. 1916-1925, coll. of over 125, cash value \$150-200	468
4. 1916-1925, coll. of 300, cash value \$1,000	2,090
5. 1916-1925, coll. of 100, cash value \$150-200	413
6. 1921-1925, 200 dups. used btween L4-L38, cat. value \$347	110
7. 1916-1950, coll. cat. value £450	£280
8. 1917-1960s, coll. cat. value £238	£190
9. L68, 70-5, mint	\$319
10. L135-41,38c, mint	209
11. L135a-141a, mint	187
12. 138-49, mint, 1s. has thin, perf. set	990
13. 138-49, mint, 10g. has thin, imperf. set	1,430
14. SG 154-60 (Scott L142-8), mint	£30
15. SG D154-161 (Scott LJ26a-34a)	£45
16. SG 210-214, mint (Scott 30-34)	£200
17. SG 244-48, mint (Scott 59-63)	£110

In the next Random Notes we hope to report on the Feldman sale. Did anyone see the Superior auction catalog of March 9, 1983? We did not see this Los Angeles' firm's catalog. Advertized was "Saudi Arabia-virtually complete".