

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

SUMMER, 1983

Random Notes No. 24

1. We have seen and accepted a copy of Scott #38 with double hand stamp.
2. I visited with Tom Wood here in Houston recently. Tom is known to most of you through his outstanding work on the Tughra issues, published as part of the Random Notes a while back. He showed me a cover from Jiddah to Morteau (Doubs), France, in 1958, bearing (among other stamps) a copy of the 4pi orange airmail, Scott C3, with the scarce perforation 6-1/2. You should pay attention to covers of this period--there is no telling what you might find.
3. Another "goodie" floated across my desk last month. Some of you will recall the article by Randall Baker dated 27th April 1973, which I believe was attached to one of the Random notes at about that time. I can't check that, because all my back RNs are in my shipment, but I do think it's there. Any way, he talked about a handstamp from a metal die with inscriptions reading: "Posts of the Nejdi Sultanate, Al-Saoudia - One Guerche, 1344, Fee Paid". I have seen a number of these on cut-out pieces of paper, usually in purple ink, and have always wondered exactly what they were. Well, Attachment 1 is a copy of a photograph of a cover, belonging to Dave Williams, from 1926 from Medina showing this handstamp used as a fee paid marking. This is the first one of these that I have seen on cover. A very nice item indeed. As to the question of whether these are collectible as cut-outs, I really don't have an opinion, but they are obviously a whole lot better on cover, and they should be relatively cheap as cutouts.
4. Another item I have been looking a long time for is either of the two stamps listed in Scott as 38A and 38B. This is the second Nejdi handstamp on the 1/8pi Coat of Arms. Well, Dave Williams recently showed Rudy Thoden and me not only 38B, but another copy of 38B with the handstamp inverted! The companion stamp, 38A, remains elusive. David Graham writes and says that Dr. Kawar also has a copy of 38B, signed "A. EID", but I haven't seen it.
5. David also wrote and said that the pictorial album is still in process of publication. The album will stop with the recent King Fahd/Prince Abdallah sets, and the small definitives will not be included - they will be left for a supplement to come out in "two years' time or whenever".
6. David also asked if I could send out a check list of the so-called "illegibles" (Scott L135 - 141, etc.) to find out what everyone has and

thus establish what exists, what quantities are out there, and so on. I thought that I would respond to that here, since it raises so many problems. I have in the past sent out such requests, and two things invariably happened. First, very few people bother to answer. The average collector assumes that he can't possibly have anything of interest to the "expert", and others just don't take the time, I guess. Second, once I have the lists in hand, I have no way to tell if the listed items are genuine or not. In those cases where I am looking for only one or two items, I can write off and ask that the owner send it in, and in those cases I just usually ask that people send in such and such, and someone will usually respond. In the case of the "illegibles", there are so many varieties that this just isn't feasible. I might also say that this particular issue gives every indication of speculation and manipulation, as the number of varieties is astonishing.

7. Bob Jung is a faithful correspondent, and I have just heard from him again (he wrote May 1, actually). If you look at Attachment 2, you will see at the top a photo of "a light beige coloured piece with a rusty brown 'Fee Paid' cancel of Mecca; a dark blue Mecca cancel bearing the date 12 Sefer 1345 or 22.8.26 and a Damas cancel of 28.9.1926 in ordinary black. The 1926 cancels are 10 years too late so the whole piece smells." Most collectors in this area know by now of the use of Fee Paid markings during 1916 and 1917 when stamps were new to the Hejaz and were often lacking at post offices. It is probably not so well recognized that there was a need for Fee Paid markings in Medina at the end of 1926 and early in 1927. In fact, the cover mentioned in Paragraph 3 above is an illustration of one kind of provisional solution to the problem. Another is the "Al-Saudia" overprints listed by Scott under #s 55-58D. Mr. Jung's specimen is yet another example. These are all quite scarce and most desirable.

8. Also in Attachment 2, at the bottom, is a picture of an Ottoman postal card with some additional stamps added philatelically, including some revenues. The best part of the cover is the KONFIDA cancel.

9. In the last Random Notes, I put out a listing of inverted watermarks for the Dam, GOSP, and Air series, taken from RN #5. Bob Jung reminded me that he had already sent in some information, and that I had in fact already commented on it in RN #20, Paragraph 12. I have taken note of his advice, and the corrected list is appended as Attachment 3. He questioned whether or not the 8pi Faisal Air existed, and asked if I were sure of it; unfortunately, my collection is not available at the moment for checking, so I can't look, but I will when I get a chance.

10. Attachments 4 through 6 were received from David Graham, and are an interesting series of fake overprints and surcharges. I'll try to summarize David's comments for you.

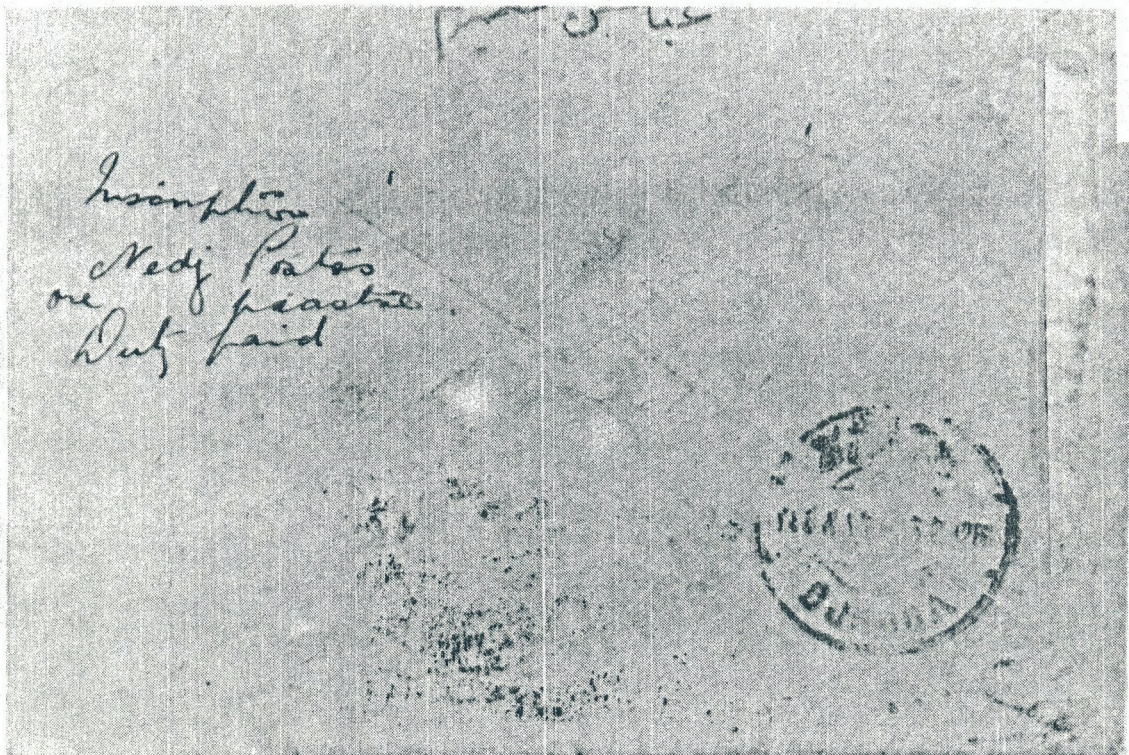
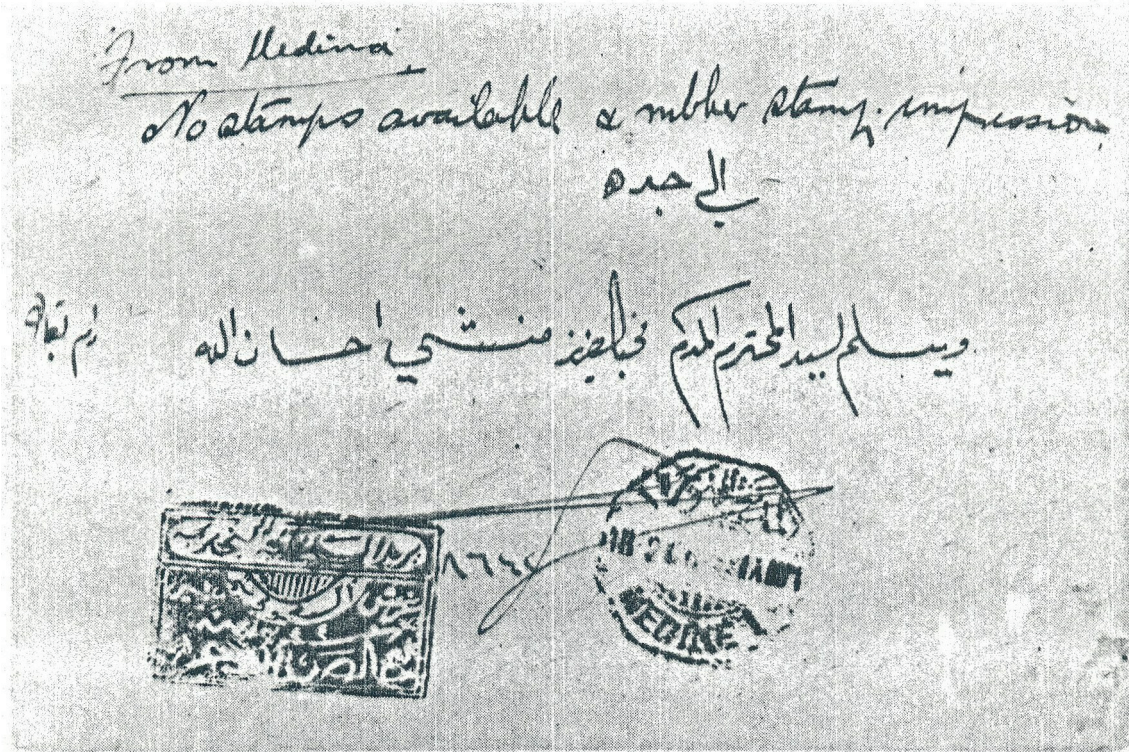
On Attachment 4, Items 1-3 are "almost identical", and were probably made by the same faker. The three surcharges in Items 4-6 are another

type, and the overprints are also fake. David says that Items 7-9 are "all different; presumably No. 7 was done by the perpetrator of 1 to 3 and the other two by 'independents'." The last three, Items 10-12, feature "the catch-all denomination" of "qirsh wajid" instead of the correct "qirsh wahid" - note the extra dot under the second character from the left. Arabists will recognize that "wajid" means "many" or "lots".

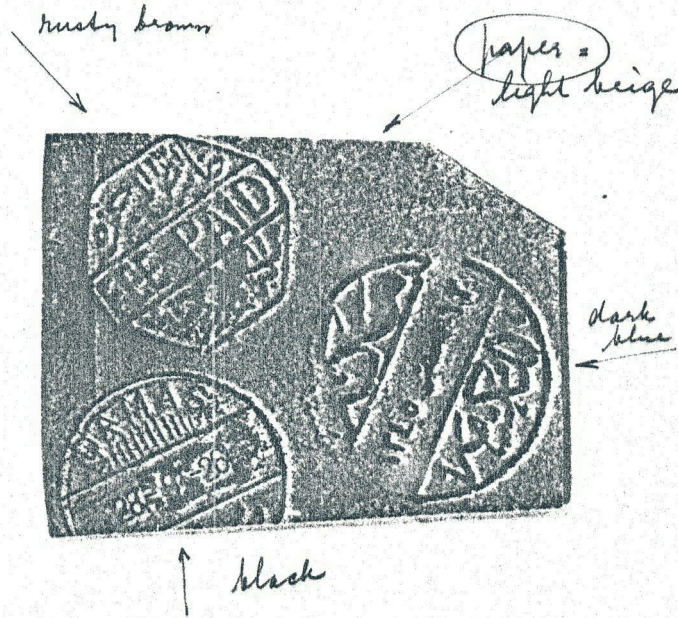
Attachment 5 shows a big block with fake overprints. Note the clear breaks at the bottom and left side of the boxed added handstamp. Attachment 6 shows two examples sold in the Superior Stamp and Coin Sale of February 7-8 - these are the standard lithographed fakes applied widely to stamps of the King Ali issue. David is correct in saying that the Arabic "is atrocious and shouldn't fool anyone" with a knowledge of Arabic.

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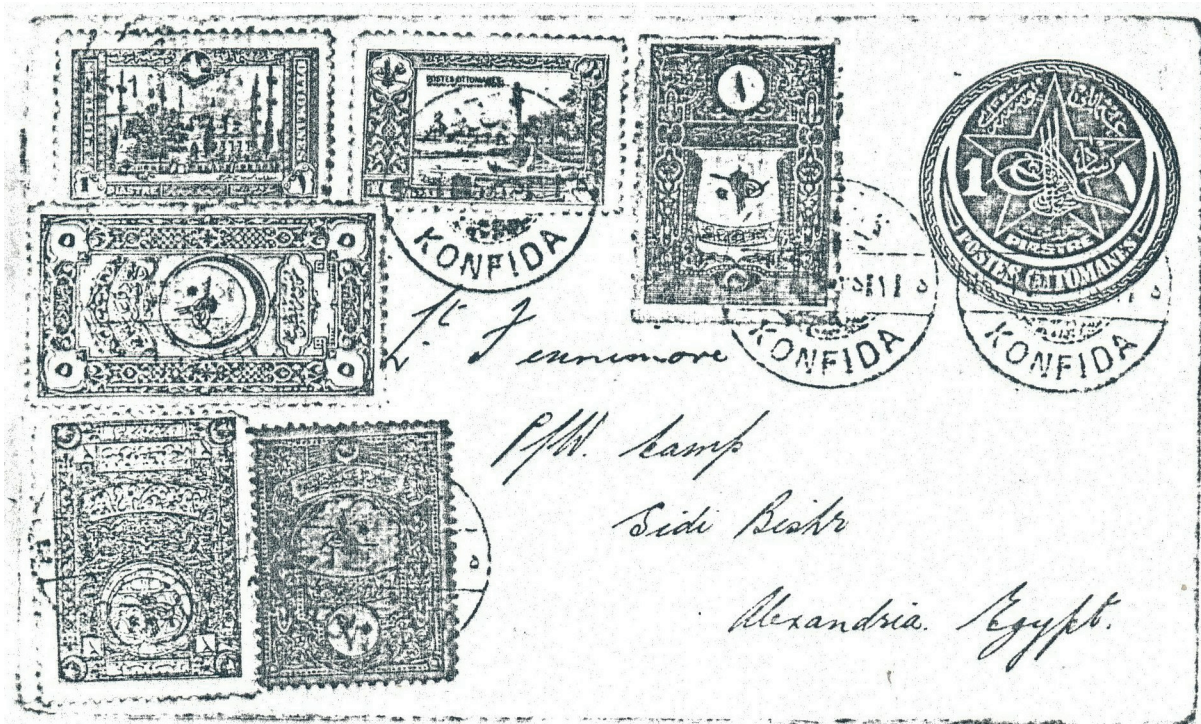
1926 MEDINA PROVISIONAL



1926 MEDINA FEE PAID CANCELLATION



KONFIDA CANCELLATION ON TURKISH POSTAL CARD



ATTACHMENT 3  
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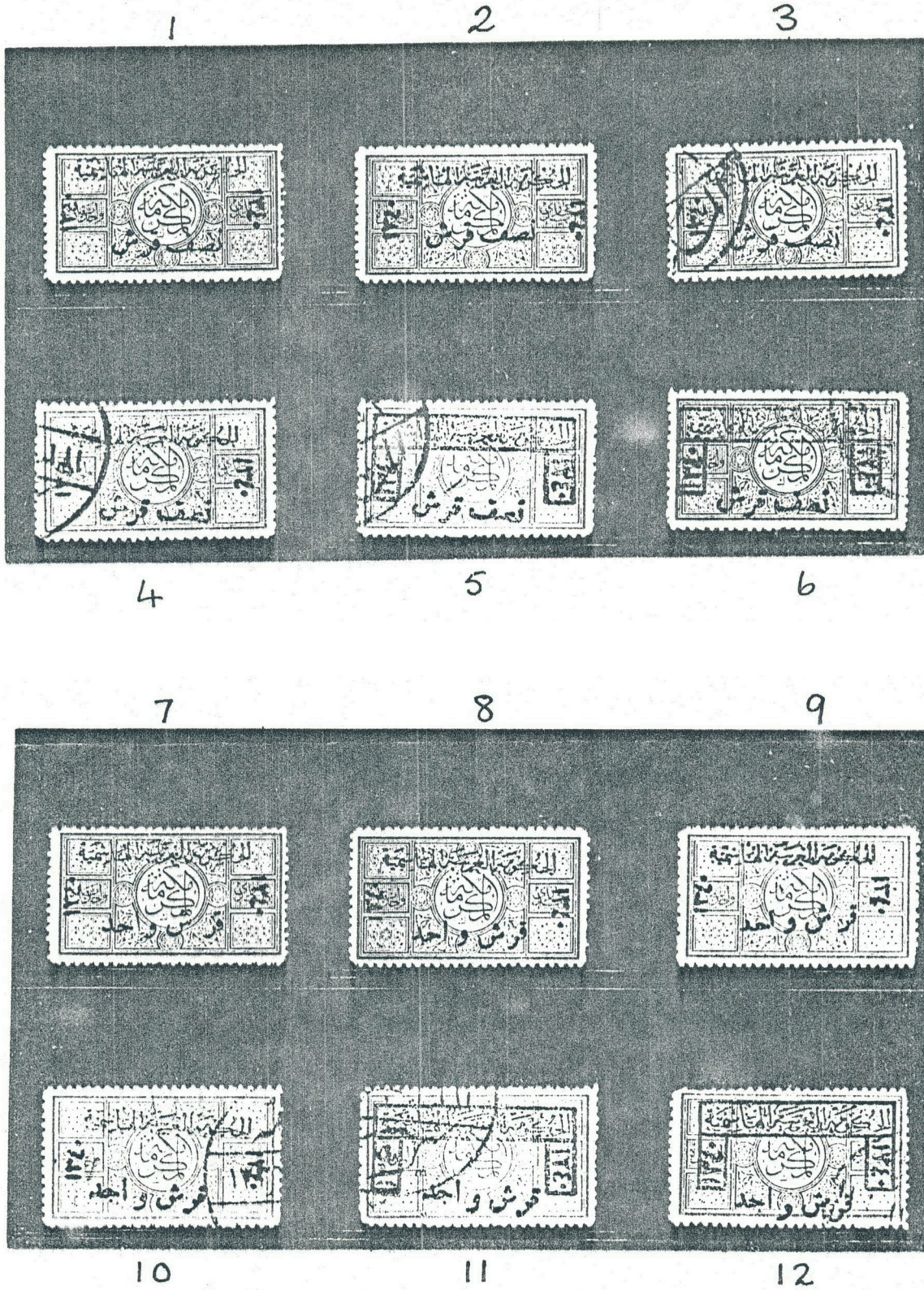
INVERTED WATERMARKS

<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	

Faisal Cartouche

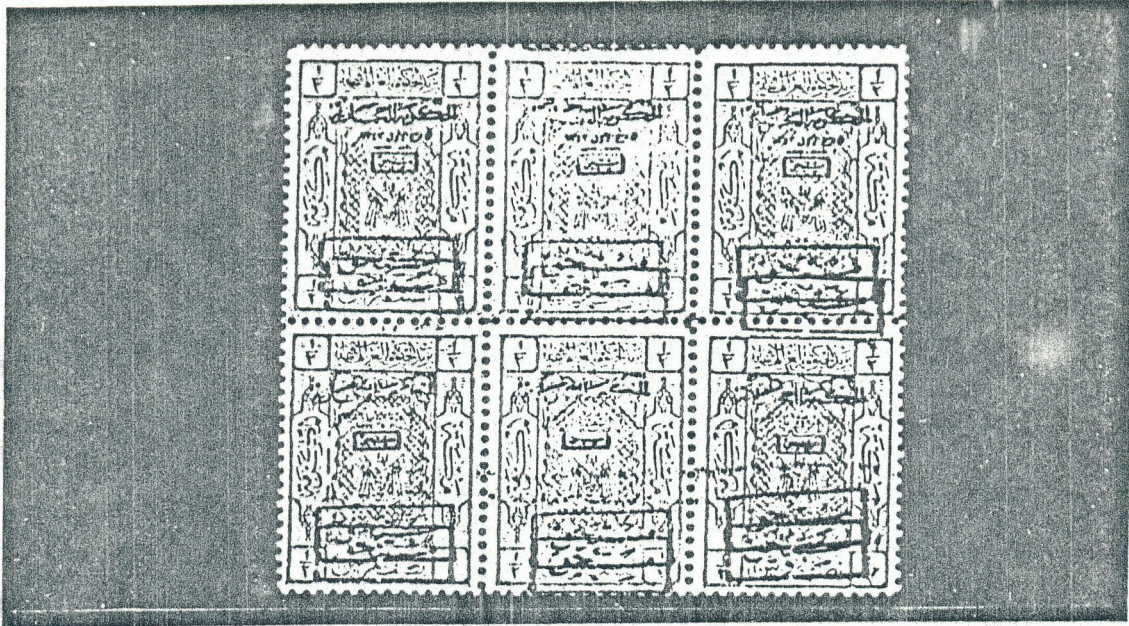
1pi	x		x
2pi	x	x	x
4pi			x
5pi		x	
6pi		x	
8pi			x
9pi			x
10pi		x	
23pi		x	

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ATTACHMENT 4  
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FAKE OVERPRINTS AND SURCHARGES



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ATTACHMENT 5  
RANDOM NOTES NO. 24

FAKE OVERPRINTS AND SURCHARGES





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ATTACHMENT 6  
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FAKE AL-SAUDIYA OVERPRINTS