



# Random Notes

## Arabian Philatelic Association

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SPRING 1984

NUMBER 27

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## THE ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The Association was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. The Association's publication, *RANDOM NOTES*, is issued four times a year. Membership is open to all sincere collectors who are interested in Saudi stamps. Annual dues are SR 10 in Saudi Arabia, \$5 (U.S.) in Europe, and \$7 in the U.S.A. There is a one-time initiation fee of SR 25 or U.S. \$7.50. Annual dues includes all publications for the year (airmail).

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All changes of address should be sent to the Secretary. Applications for membership, with dues and initiation fees, should be sent to the Treasurer. Checks should be made payable to the Arabian Philatelic Association.

### RANDOM NOTES

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Contributions for publication in the *RANDOM NOTES* are solicited and may be submitted to either the U.S.A. editor or the Dhahran editor. The right to edit all submissions is reserved.



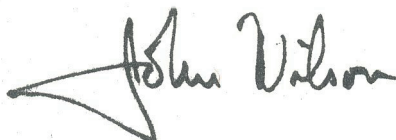
JOHN WILSON'S RANDOM NOTES

Dear Member,

Thanks to those of you who made contributions to this issue. Also, thanks to those who added items to the last two Notes. The USA had a miserable winter and is having in some places a miserable spring, but spring has sprung in this part of Texas and the flowers are bustin' out all over.

I hope to exhibit at ROMPEX in Denver in May. I am sure to see Bob McFarlane there, and perhaps some others of you may be able to come, too. I will just do the Hejaz, as the limit on the number of frames available to any contestant will restrict me to that. It means remounting everything, and I am busy trying to get ready to set up the pages on the computer so as to use its printer for the task. Should be interesting. There are still a few things I would like to have but don't, and the judges will need to be generous if I am to win anything.

Philatelically yours,

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" that extends to the left.

John M. Wilson

1. Our members are once again active in the philatelic press. I note William A. Reiser's letter to the Editor in Linn's for March 26 suggesting some improvements in the numbering system used in Scott, as well as some rarities that ought to be listed by them. David mentions, in particular, the three postage due overprints on the stamps of the Caliphate issue, not listed, but definitely in existence. Given that impetus, I have written Scott myself suggesting their inclusion next time around.

I also note a fine article by Dr. Steven Carol, an APA member who is also Director of the International Relations Centre and a professor in post-World War II affairs, according to THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST. Dr. Carol's article, entitled: 'The United Arab Emirates: A Philatelic Assessment' appeared in the Philatelist for March 1984, beginning on page 227. I have tried picking up some of these things from time to time, but there are some surprisingly rare and difficult items. I agree with Dr. Carol when he says that some of the issues involved are worth collecting from the standpoint of the culture and the history of the area and that some of them are valuable acquisitions as well. Not all of these stamps are 'wallpaper'.

2. In the previous Random Notes, Item #1, I mentioned again the newspaper stamps ('Matbua') from the Nejd Period. Frank Patterson wrote to me at

length on this subject. He reminded me that in the 'fantastic collection of full sheets of all the Nejdi overprinted issues (on sale in London at 3000 pounds)' there were some covers, at least two of which bore the Matbua items together with other stamps. I saw these at the time, and like Frank, cannot recall exactly how many such covers there were. These were indeed Eid covers, as Frank suggests. Frank goes on to say:

"The limited number of such stamps available and overprinted precluded their use only on newspapers even if such were being published at the time. The said stamps were used as ordinary postal adhesives and are so known on cover. Ergo, these items represent Hejazi trial overprinted essays validated for ordinary postal use by the Nejdi occupation provisional government." Possible, possible.

Frank also states that he tried to get some others to go in with him on the big Nejd collection, which as I recall was billed as being "ex-Farouq". I looked at it too, as did some other of our members at that time, and my chief complaint was that many of the issues were incomplete. Given the difficulty of finding these stamps today, I wish I had been able to find the coin of the realm needed to buy the thing. Ah, what might have been!

3. Recent new issues include the 20ha and 65ha al-Khafji small format definitives perf 13-1/2. This comb is different from the previous one with the same measurement. The old comb was aligned so that one perforation hole at the end of the stamp merged with the first one at the corner, producing a sort of longish hole. The new one eliminates this by shifting the pins to the left (right?) about half a perforation, leaving a broad tooth at one side.

4. Our member, Carl Catherman, recently obtained a copy of a 1914 Postal Guide of the Turkish PTT and has extracted from it a list of post and telegraph offices specifying precisely which services (registration, parcel post, etc.) are available at each. The list follows (P=post office, T=telegraph office). Notably absent is al-'Ula, which, says Carl, surely had a post office at this time. Alternative names are given in parentheses.

Ahsa (Nedjed) P  
Bahre P, T  
Beir ul-Djedid T  
Biar Naasif (Mililih)  
Confidah P  
Dar-ul-Hamra T  
Djedda (several spellings) P, T  
Djizan P, T  
Ebha P, T  
Elmouazam T  
Hafire T  
Hedye T

Medain-Saleh (Elhadjer) T  
 Mecque (Mekke) P, T  
 Medine P, T  
 Mihail P, T  
 Taif P, T  
 Tebuk (Aassi-Hourma) P, T  
 Yembou (Yenboughl-bahr) P  
 Zumurud T

5. There were a few nice lots in the recent Feldman auction (March 29-30) in Zurich. I will comment on some of them in the next Random Notes, when I get the prices realized.

6. David Graham has written a two-part article entitled: 'Saudi Arabia: The Nejdi Sultanate Post' that has just been published in the British weekly STAMP COLLECTING, for March 15 and March 22. He has obtained permission from STAMP COLLECTING for us to reprint this article in the Random Notes. There are a few errors, all on page 917:

- Text for figures 20-25 should read 'with no year'
- Caption for fig. 36 should read 'Al-Saudiyah/Al-Sultanat Al-Nejdiyah'

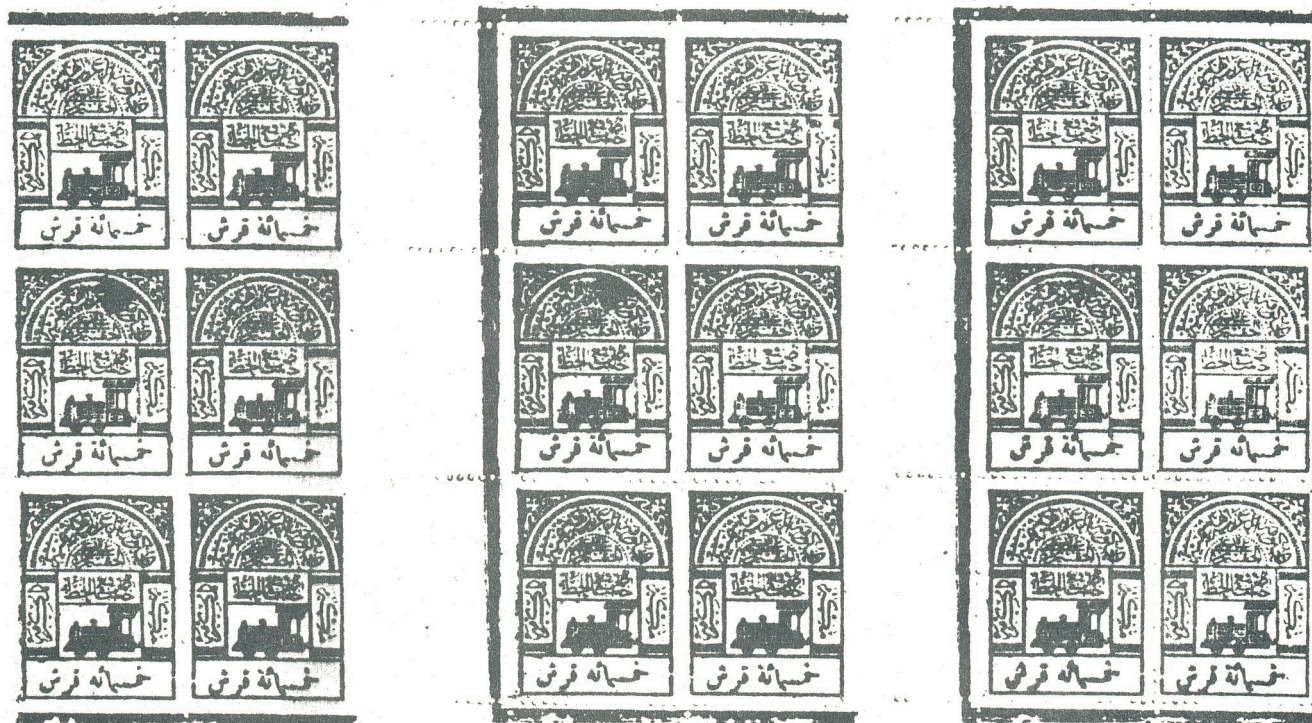
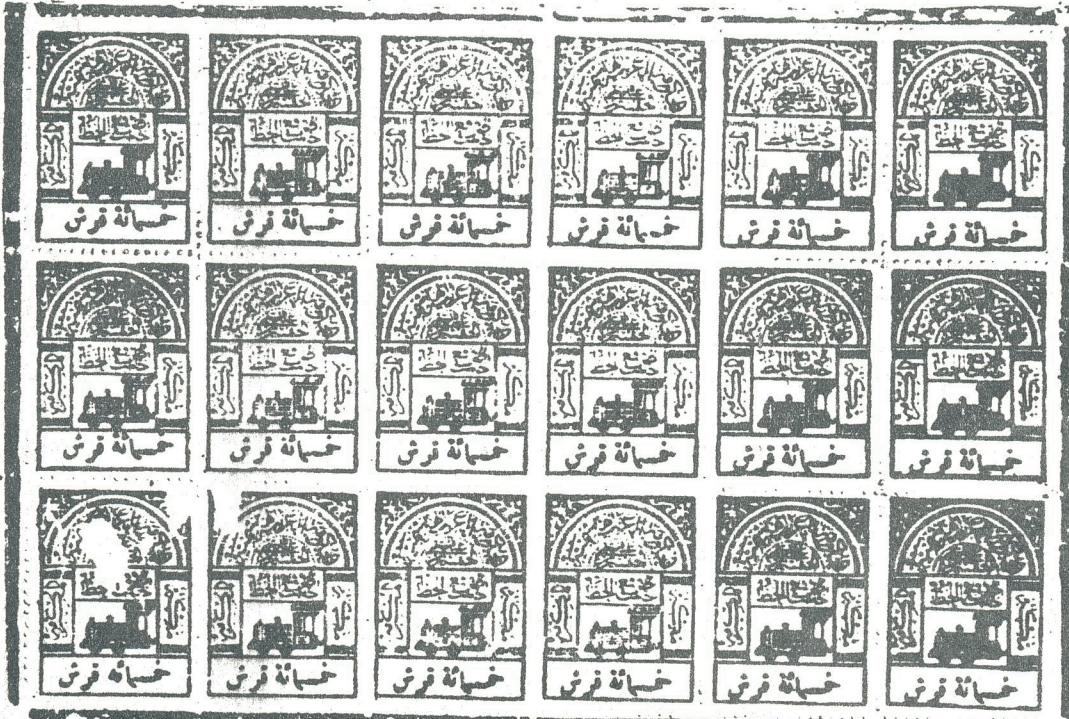
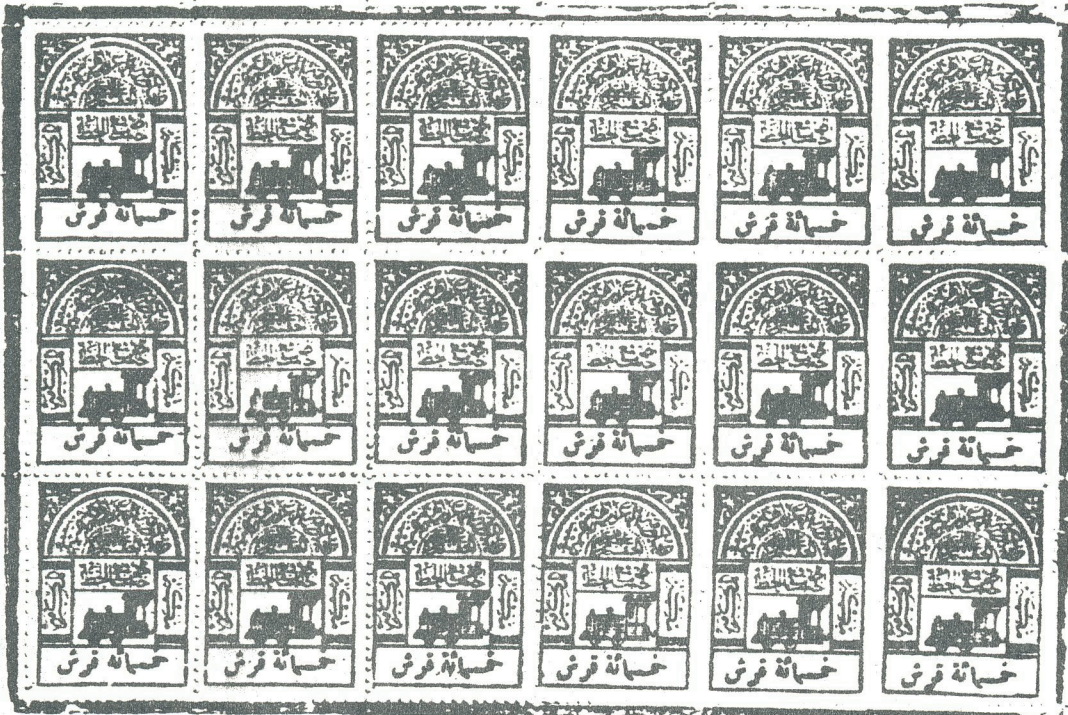


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



Referring to the two types of locomotive on the railway tax stamps, the article says that a 'second type of locomotive is found once on every sheet of 36 (Position 30)'. This is correct for the lower values, but the 500g comes in a sheet of eighteen stamps, and the Type II is position 12 on this sheet. Frank Patterson has a part sheet, being the bottom three rows of the 36-subject (?) sheet in which Type II does not appear. I do not know what other denominations come in the 18-position sheet. We covered this in Random Notes No. 10, Item 9, and there is a sketch showing the differences between the two types.

Attached are photocopies of some sheets and blocks of the 500g. Examination will show that the denominations are spaced differently on the different pieces, showing that they were printed in a separate operation. These are Figures 1 and 2.

7. David also sent along a picture of a forgery of L23 not seen before. It is Figure 3.



FIGURE 3

Overprint:

- (1) Three diagonal lines over centre of text not parallel.
- (2) Distinctive patterns of dots at far left of text.
- (3) "3's" in date have distinctive tops, neater than usual.
- (4) Zeros in date small and positioned higher than usual.

Surcharge:

- (1) Variety not recorded anywhere.
- (2) Letters slightly taller than usual.
- (3) 3 dots over "shiyin" separate and to the right.
- (4) Mark over "Haa".

8. Again from David is a listing of Hejaz stamps printed on top of ochre railway tax stamps. We mentioned two of these in an earlier Random Notes, and David has a much bigger list. Figures 4 to 11 show his material (nice!). The listing is as follows (it includes those we listed earlier):

- 1/2g on railway stamp, one inverted with respect to the other, no value on the railway stamp, imperf. Mayo 52Cg (Fig. 4).
- 1/2g on railway with no value, perf 11-1/2, doubtful cancel. (Fig. 5).
- 1/2g on 2g railway stamp, invert, rough perf 11-1/2 at right. (Fig. 6).
- Same as above, vertical perf 11-1/2 both sides (Fig. 7).
- 1g on railway with no value. Perf 11-1/2 (Fig. 8).



• 1g on railway with no value, imperf, two or more strikes of the tax stamp, Mayo 53Cg. (Fig. 9).

• 1-1/2g on railway with no value, invert, misperfed 11-1/2. Mayo 54f (Fig.10).

• 5g on railway with no value, perf 11-1/2. Mayo 57w. (Fig. 11).

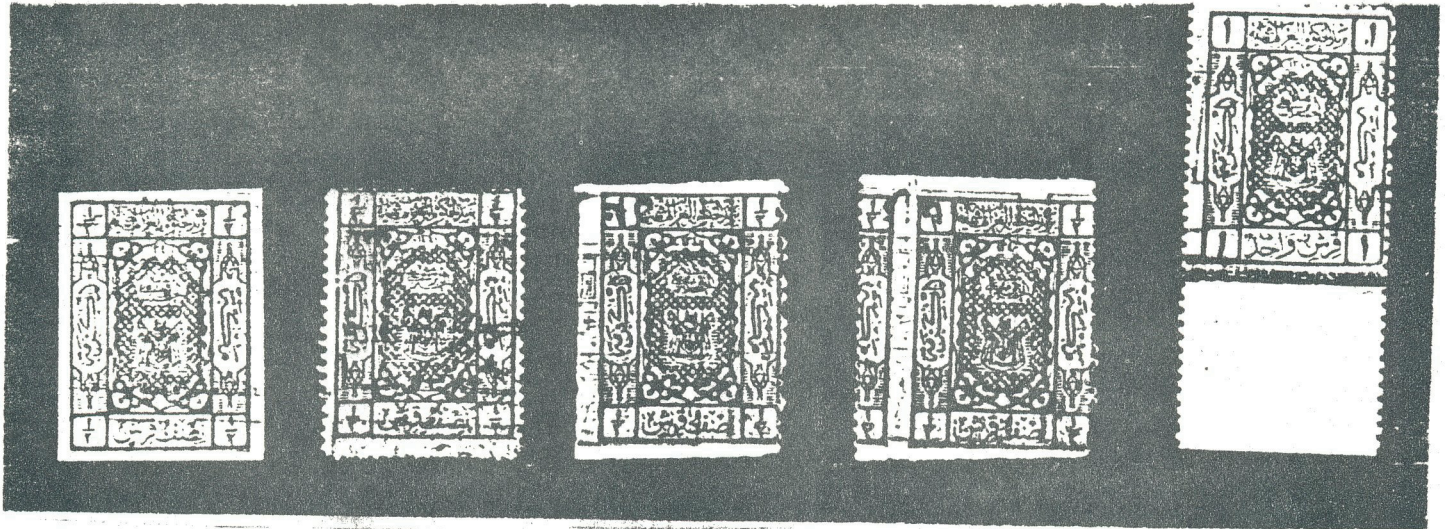


FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5

FIGURE 6

FIGURE 7

FIGURE 8



FIGURE 9

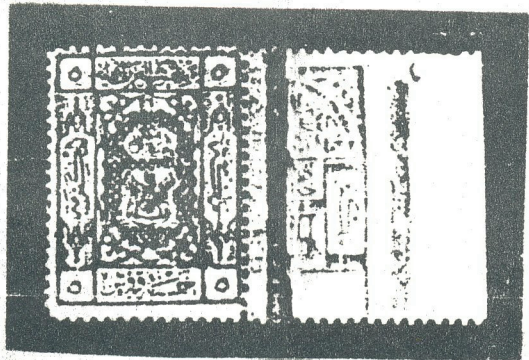


FIGURE 11

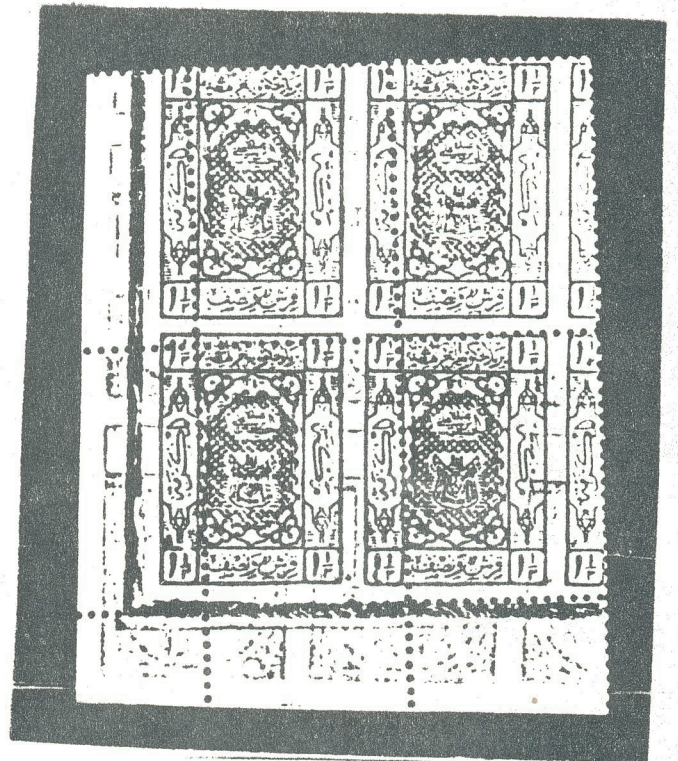


FIGURE 10



9. Would anyone like to comment on Figure 12? It shows an example of a first day cover that appears to have legitimate Saudi Arabian cancellations, but with the bogus overprints on the Malaria issue. Photocopy supplied by David Graham.

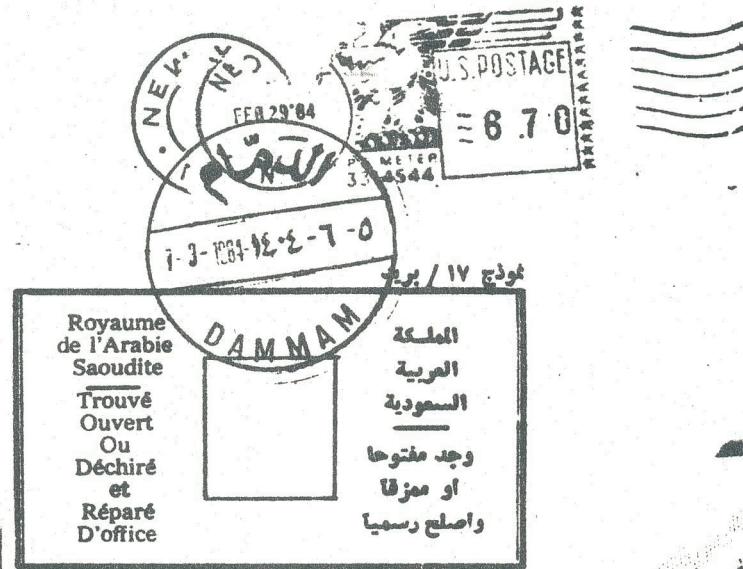


FIGURE 12

RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R.J. Thoden

1. The illustrated label has shown up here on bulky envelopes or packages received damaged in the international mails by the Saudi Post Office. It is tied to the article with a regular dated postmark. The seal reads "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Found open or torn and officially repaired". This is the first Saudi official seal known to us. Can anyone report any others?



2. Part III of THE REFERENCE MANUAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN FORGERIES continues to be delayed. The Aramco Photo Labs, which have provided the photography for this project in the past, have been extremely busy and unable to find the time to help us. Please be patient. Part III will have a complete section on Caliphate Issue forgeries, plus additional forgery types for the "unframed" and "framed" overprint issues and the various Jeddah provisionals.

3. R. Howard Courtney has published Issue No. 6 of THE ARAB WORLD PHILATELIST. Of interest to the Saudi collector are "Saudi Anti-malaria Overprints", "Saudi Used in Yemen" and "Saudi Arabia's 1946 map Stamp". There are other articles on Yemen's Wartime Postal Stationery, Design of Sudan's Gordon Memorial Issue, the Bahrain "War Tax" stamp and the Four Bogash Surcharges of Yemen 1939 - 1966.

With reference to Item 9 of John Wilson's Random Notes in this issue, the article on "Saudi Anti-Malaria Overprints" states that these FDC's were fraudulently manufactured by a Middle Eastern stamp dealer in collaboration with an official in the Saudi Government.

This really excellent publication deserves your support. Copies are available from Mr. Courtney at 1325 W. Moss, Peoria, Illinois 61606 U.S.A. Cost is \$4 in the U.S. and Canada and by sea mail to foreign countries,



or \$5.75 by air mail to foreign countries. Mr. Courtney has sent a batch of copies to the A.P.A. in Dhahran by sea mail, but it's anybody's guess as to when they might arrive.

4. Due to an unusually large number of prospective exhibitors being on vacation in April - May, the A.P.A. Board has postponed the annual show, APEX-14, until some time in October or November 1984. The exact date will be announced when determined.

5. The A.P.A. Board has decided to hold the next auction in February 1985. Traditionally, the annual A.P.A. auctions have been held in November each year. However, this had the disadvantage that most members had not yet seen the new edition of Scott's catalog, Volume 4, containing the Saudi Arabia listings. The new auction date provides buyers and sellers time to consult the new Scott's. Auction rules will be put together by the Auctioneer and published in the Fall 1984 Random Notes.

6. With reference to Item 1 of John Wilson's Random Notes in this issue, the Dhahran editor begs to disagree with Messrs. Wilson and Graham that postage due stamps with the Caliphate overprint ought to be listed in Scott's. Only a handful of these seem to exist, and no evidence has been presented anywhere that they were regularly issued. Who has any information, pro or con, regarding the status of these stamps?

7. A number of new issue subscribers have written recently asking why they have been getting only one copy of each souvenir sheet when they subscribe for several copies of each stamp. The A.P.A. New Issue Service has recently been allocated one, repeat, one, souvenir sheet for each member by the Dammam Post Office. On several occasions in the past, we did not even receive the one sheet per member, and a distribution on the basis of club seniority and a lottery had to be resorted to. So, please don't write asking for more than one souvenir sheet. We cannot accommodate you. If and when Post Office policy is changed, we will distribute additional copies automatically.

8. Many people still have not paid their 1984 dues. If a red mark appears here, you are one of them (unless your dues are in the mail, or you paid the treasurer just before he went on his vacation). Those not paying dues will not receive the Summer 1984 issue of the RANDOM NOTES.

YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

JEDDAH PROVISIONALS - FOURTH ISSUE

By R. J. Thoden

Historical Background

The Jeddah issues owed their origin to the siege of King Hussain's forces in Jeddah (and Medina and Yanbu') by the Wahabis of King 'Ibn Sa'ud in late 1924. King Hussain abdicated on October 4, 1924 in favour of his son, 'Ali. Mecca, where the government stamp printing press was located, was abandoned to the Wahabis in mid-October. To prevent the use of captured stamp stocks, it was necessary in January-February 1925 to overprint all remainders in Jeddah with "Al Hukumat al Hejaziah / 5 Rabi' al Awwal 1343" (The Hejazi Government / October 4, 1924). A second reason may have been to appease the Wahabis who long resented Hussain's claim to authority over all the Arabs as evidenced by the inscription "The Hashemite Arab Government" on current Hejazi stamps.

The Fourth Jeddah Provisional Issue

By March-April 1925, supplies of the 1/4q, 1q and 10q denominations of the first three issues of Jeddah provisionals were exhausted. Available supplies of the 1922-24 definitives were therefore surcharged with the usual "Al Hukumat al Hejaziah / 5 Rabi' al Awwal" and a new value in very small letters. The 1/8q and 1/2q were surcharged to 1/4q, the 2q and 3q (both brown and brown red) were surcharged to 1q, and the 5q was surcharged to 10q. At the same time, there was a need for additional postage dues. These were produced by overprinting 1922-24 definitives with the same inscription as the postage provisionals, except that the word "Mustahiq" (Postage due) replaced the surcharge in the third line. (Figures 1-4).

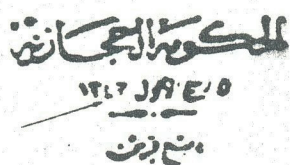


FIGURE 1  
1/4 Qirsh



FIGURE 2  
1 Qirsh

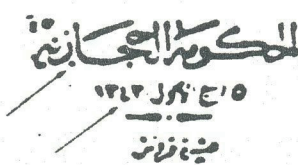


FIGURE 3  
10 Qirsh



FIGURE 4  
Postage Due

It was quickly realized that the surcharge (expressed in words only for the postage set) was so small as to be illegible. (This issue has come to be known within the A.P.A. as the "illegible" issue). To correct this problem, the bulk of the issue was handstamped in larger letters with the same value as originally surcharged. The postage dues were handstamped with a large "Mustahiq" in a box. (Figures 5-8).

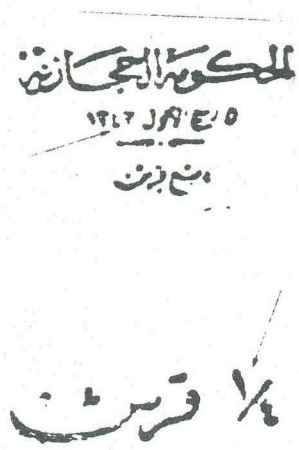


FIGURE 5  
1/4 Qirsh

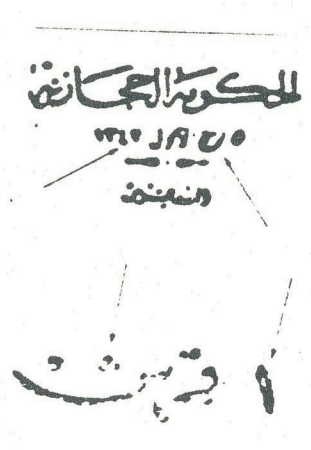


FIGURE 6  
1 Qirsh

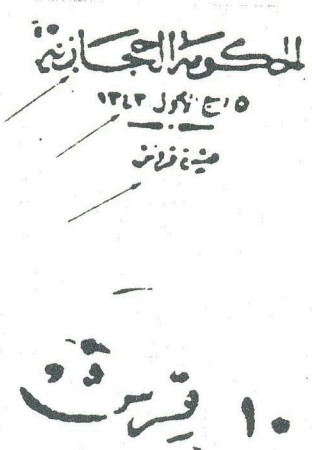


FIGURE 7  
10 Qirsh

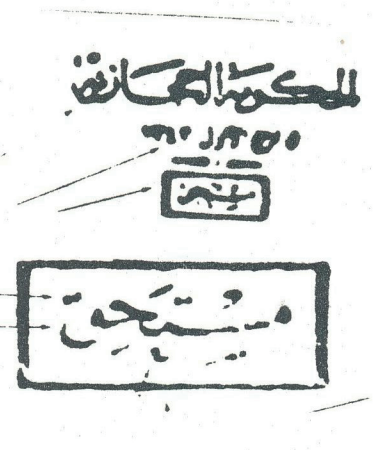


FIGURE 8  
Postage Due

Varieties

The normal position of the handstamp was below the original overprint or surcharge, but many varieties of both overprint/surcharge and the handstamp exist. A dark violet ink was used instead of the usual grayish black on occasion, and is particularly noted on many of the handstamp errors. The huge number of varieties that exist of these issues may be attributed to either the haste and unskilled labor used in their preparation, or more likely, to philatelic influence.

When handstamping the already surcharged stamps, the wrong handstamp was occasionally used. In addition, a few stamps were originally surcharged with the wrong denomination, but then received the proper handstamp. These errors produced stamps on which the handstamped denomination did not agree with the originally surcharged value. Collectors should examine closely all copies of these issues as it is occasionally possible to find rare errors offered as the normal stamps due to lack of adequate illustrations in the Scott's catalog.

Other listings of this issue

A.P.A. member F.E. Patterson prepared a listing of this issue in 1968 and A.P.A. member T. Righter did one in 1972. Both of these had only limited internal circulation within the A.P.A. Scott's catalog (L135-141, LJ26-34) is hopelessly inadequate for the serious collector as it ignores all inverts, doubles, etc. of the overprints/surcharges and handstamps, and lists the first issue without handstamps only as minor varieties. In addition, they confuse things by listing one of the wrong denomination errors as a major variety (L137), five more as minor varieties (L136a, L138a-d), but ignore completely several others known to exist in genuine condition.

Gibbons lists the varieties of the original overprint/surcharge, but not of the handstamp (148-D171). Mayo lists an enormous number of varieties (207-T250), many of them questionable.

## This listing

In recent years, the A.P.A. has become aware of the prevalence of forgeries of this issue. This, together with the discrepancies in existing listings, had created considerable doubt as to just which varieties existed as genuine stamps.

In an attempt to answer this question, the author carefully examined Mayo's collection of this issue at the March 1980 auction in New York. The attached listing is the result of that examination, together with the varieties in his own collection, and those of certain other A.P.A. members.

The listing uses an identification system consisting of two letters to denote firstly, varieties of the overprint/surcharge, and secondly, the varieties of the handstamp. Varieties without handstamp have a single identifying letter only. For example:

B = inverted overprint/surcharge, no handstamp  
AF = normal overprint/surcharge, inverted handstamp  
EH = double overprint/surcharge both inverted, inverted violet handstamp at top

The complete set of variety identification letters is as follows:

### Overprint/surcharge Varieties

A = Normal  
B = Inverted  
C = Double  
D = Double, one inverted  
E = Double, both inverted  
F = Double, one up  
G = Double, one down  
H = Triple, one up, one down  
I = Triple, one inverted  
J = Triple, all inverted  
K = Surcharge on both sides  
L = Surch. both sides, invtd. on back  
M = Double on front, invtd. on back  
N = Normal on front, double on back  
O = Diagonal  
P = Double, one diagonal  
Q = Double on front, one diagonal, inverted on back  
R = Double on front, one diagonal, dbl. invtd. on back, one diagonal  
S = Omitted  
T = Surch. both sides, invtd. on front

### Handstamp Varieties

A = Normal  
B = Pair, one without handstamp  
C = At top  
D = Violet or bluish  
E = Violet at top  
F = Inverted  
G = Inverted at top  
H = Inverted violet at top  
I = Double  
J = Double, one at top  
K = Double, both at top  
L = Double violet  
M = Double violet at top  
N = Double, one inverted  
O = Double, one inverted at top  
P = Double violet, one inverted  
Q = Double violet, one inverted at top  
R = Double, both inverted  
S = Double, both inverted at top  
T = Double violet, both inverted at top  
U = Triple  
V = Triple, one at top  
W = Triple, one inverted at top  
X = Handstamped on both sides  
Y = Double, both at top, one inverted

In the detailed listing attached, the stamps are identified as follows:

- X = Verified to exist genuine.
- F = Seen only as a forgery.
- ? = Listed in Mayo or Gibbons, or by Patterson or Righter, but never seen by the author.

The author would like to hear from readers who can report other varieties, including varieties which are listed herein only as "F" or "?", but which the reader thinks are genuine. If possible, the author would like to see all such varieties in order to verify their genuineness.

Forgeries

Forgeries of this issue are very prevalent. Perhaps outnumbering the genuine copies, especially doubles and inverts. Most dealers seem to have very little awareness of the forgery situation, and it is up to the buyer to know his material, even when dealing with the most reputable dealers. A number of forgery types exist, and the interested reader should consult "THE REFERENCE MANUAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN FORGERIES". However, probably upwards of 90% of the forgeries in circulation can be detected by comparing the stamps in question with the following illustrations of the common forgery types. (Figures 9-12).

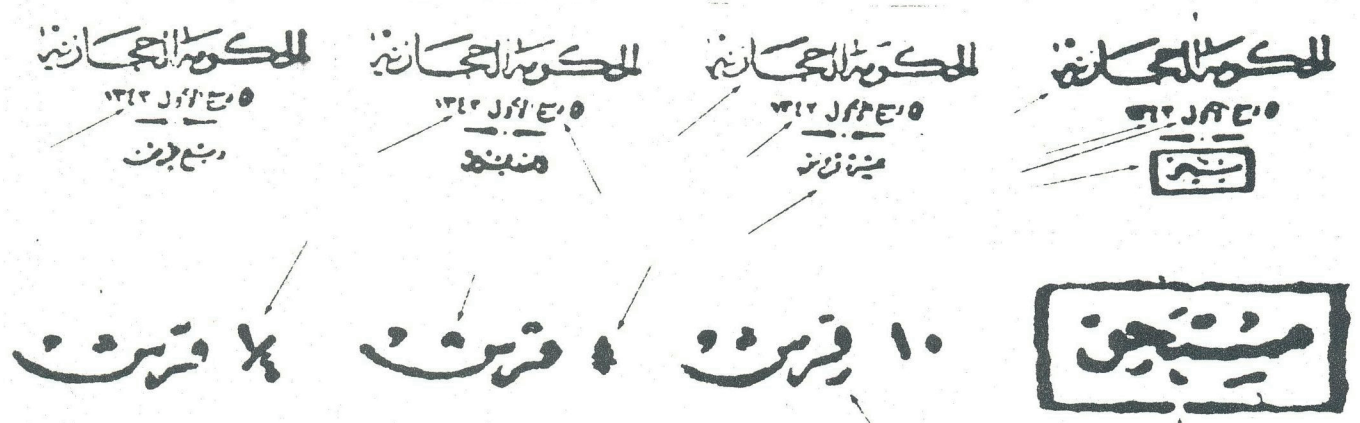


FIGURE 9  
1/4 Qirsh  
Forgery

FIGURE 10  
1 Qirsh  
Forgery

FIGURE 11  
10 Qirsh  
Forgery

FIGURE 12  
Postage Due  
Forgery

A special note applies to double and inverted handstamp varieties, which have been extensively faked. These exist genuine only as isolated copies within a sheet, as the handstamps were applied individually to each stamp. Blocks and other multiples which all have the same handstamp error are invariably forgeries. One of the common postage due forgeries actually had the "handstamp" printed from a plate and blocks can thus be found with double "handstamp" on each stamp, all perfectly aligned, which would not be possible with a true handstamp.

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Mayo, M. Max. - BARID AL-SA'UDIYYAH WA AL-HEJAZ WA NEJD.  
Thoden, R.J. - THE REFERENCE MANUAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN FORGERIES.  
Stanley Gibbons. - STAMP CATALOG PART 19 MIDDLE EAST.

This paper is an updated version of one published in 1980, attached to  
RANDOM NOTES No. 15.

FIRST PRINTING - NO HANDSTAMP

POSTAGE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1/4Q on 1/8Q red brown	X	X	X	F	X						?	?	
a. orange brn.													
1/4Q on 1/2Q scarlet	X	F	X	X		?			?		?		
a. deep rose	X	F											
1Q on 2Q orange	X	F	X	F									
1Q on 3Q brown	X	F											
1Q on 3Q brown red	X	F	X	F									
10Q on 5Q olive	X	F											

ERRORS

1/4Q on 2Q orange	?												
1Q on 1/2Q scarlet	?	?											

POSTAGE DUE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	P	R
1/8Q red brown	X	F	?	F		X		X							
a. orange brown															
1/2Q scarlet	X	X	?			X		X							
a. deep rose	F														
1Q dark blue	X	X													
1-1/2Q violet	X	X													
2Q orange	X	X	?	X		X									
3Q brown	X	F													
3Q brown red	X	X	?	F		X	X	X							
5Q olive	X	X		?		?									
10Q violet & brown	X	F	X	F	F								F	F	F

SECOND PRINTING - POSTAGE - WITH HANDSTAMP

	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK	AL	AM
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/8Q red brown	X	X		X		X	X		X	X			
a. orange brn.	X												
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/2Q scarlet	X	X	X	X		X	?	X	X	X	?	X	X
z. Imperf rt mgn	X												
a. deep rose	X								?				
1Q on 1Q on 2Q orange	X	X		X		X			X	X		F	
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown	X	X		X	X	X			X			F	X
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown red	X	X	X	X		X			X				
10Q on 10Q on 5Q olive	X	X	X	X		X			X			F	

	AN	AO	AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT	AU	AV	AW	AX	BA	BF
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/8Q red brown	?	?			X			?	?		?		
a. orange brn.													
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/2Q scarlet	?												
a. deep rose													
1Q on 1Q on 2Q orange	?		X										
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown	?	?	X	X									
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown red	?		X									X	X
10Q on 10Q on 5Q olive	X		X				F			F			

	BG	BH	BS	BT	CA	CB	DA	DG	ED	EF	EG	EH	JG
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/8Q red brown	X	?	X		X		F				?	X	?
a. orange brn.													
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/2Q scarlet	X		?		X					?			
a. deep rose	X												
1Q on 1Q on 2Q orange	X				X	?	F						
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown	X							X					
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown red	X		X		X		F						
10Q on 10Q on 5Q olive	X		X	?				X	?	?			

	KA	KD	LA	LD	LI	SA	SF	SI
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/8Q red brown			X	X	?			
a. orange brn.								
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 1/2Q scarlet	X	X						
a. deep rose								
1Q on 1Q on 2Q orange							F	
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown								
1Q on 1Q on 3Q brown red								
10Q on 10Q on 5Q olive						F		F

SECOND PRINTING - POSTAGE - WITH DENOMINATION ERRORS

	AA	AD	AF	AI	AL	BG
1/4Q on 1/4Q on 2Q orange	X	?				
1/4Q on 1Q on 1/8Q red brown (with 1/4Q surch. on back)						F
1/4Q on 1Q on 1/2Q scarlet	?					?
1/4Q on 1Q on 2Q orange	X					
1/4Q on 1Q on 3Q brown	?					
1/4Q on 1Q on 3Q brown red	X					
1/4Q on 10Q on 5Q olive	?					
1Q on 1/4Q on 1/8Q red brown	X	?	X			
1Q on 1/4Q on 1/2Q scarlet	X	X		?	X	?
a. deep rose	F					?
1Q on 1/4Q on 2Q orange	X			?		?
1Q on 10Q on 5Q olive	X					
10Q on 1Q on 2Q orange	X			X		
10Q on 5Q postage due olive	?					



SECOND PRINTING - POSTAGE DUE - WITH HANDSTAMP

	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AI	AJ	AK	AL	AY	BA	BF	BG	BH
1/8Q red brown	X	X	X		X	X		X	?				X		X	
a. orange brown	X															
1/2Q scarlet	X	X				X		X	F	X			X		X	
a. deep rose	F						F	F							?	
1Q dark blue	X	X				X		F	?						X	
1-1/2Q violet	X	X	X		X	X		X	F						X	
z. imperf vert.	X															
2Q orange	X	X	X	X		X		X					X	X	X	
3Q brown	X	X	X			X		X							X	
3Q brown red	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	?		X	X			X	
5Q olive	X	X	X			X		X	F						X	
10Q violet & brn.	X	?		X		X		F	F				X	X	X	F

	BO	BR	BS	CA	DA	DI	FA	GA	MA	NA	OA	OF	PA	QA	TF
1/8Q red brown				X	F										F
a. orange brown															
1/2Q scarlet				X											
a. deep rose															
1Q dark blue															
1-1/2Q violet	?	X		?	X		?	X	X						
2Q orange				?		F					F	F			
3Q brown															
3Q brown red				?	X	X									
5Q olive															
10Q violet & brn.			?	F	F					?			F	F	

ERROR	AA
10Q on 5Q postage olive	?

Arabian Philatelic Association, April 1984.  
 Publication elsewhere prohibited.

# The Nejdi Sultanate Post

BY DAVID GRAHAM

THE House of Saud, which later gave its name to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, first came to prominence in the middle of the 18th century. Muhammad ibn Saud was the head of a small tribe based on the oasis of Diriya in central Arabia, near the present capital, Riyadh. He became the host and ally of a puritanical religious leader, Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab, whose fundamentalist preaching of a return to the orthodox practices of early Islam had made him persecuted elsewhere. The two men cemented their political and religious alliance with a series of family intermarriages — a pattern which would, nearly two centuries later, form the basis of the modern Saudi state.

The new movement of Wahhabism soon won the allegiance of the central Nejd zone and, by the beginning of the 19th century, had expanded over most of the present-day Saudi Arabia, including the Hejaz region in the west. However, the loss of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina made the Ottoman government in Constantinople aware of the Saudi-Wahhabi threat to its income as well as its prestige, and a punitive expedition against the desert upstarts was organised by Muhammad Ali, the powerful viceroy of Egypt. He captured and destroyed their capital, and further setbacks, including internal dissension, so weakened the House of Saud that by the end of the 19th century, the head of the family was in exile in Kuwait with a

small band of devoted followers.

The restoration of the family fortunes began with the capture of Riyadh in 1902 (SG 365-69) by Abdulaziz ibn Abderrahman Al-Saud, generally known as Ibn Saud (SG 1220-23), who was then only twenty-one. Abdulaziz and his handful of men gradually re-established Saudi rule over their former domains in the Nejd and the eastern region of Hassa.

During the 1914-18 war, the British and French allied themselves to Sharif Hussein ibn Ali of Mecca and the Hejaz, whom they encouraged to lead the Arab revolt against Ottoman rule, and accordingly provided with stamps in 1916-17 for his independent state (SG 1-16, D1-3). At the same time they had been negotiating with Abdulaziz, whom they persuaded to continue harassing his old enemies, and allies of Turkey, to the north, while maintaining an uneasy truce with the Hejazis.

When the World War ended, the victorious European powers proceeded to divide the former Ottoman empire into zones of influence and virtual colonies. Hussein, whose sons Abdullah and Faisal were made kings of Transjordan and Iraq respectively, regarded himself as entitled to the leadership of the Arabian Peninsula at least, and had the Hejaz stamps of 1917 overprinted with the words "Government of Hashimite Arabia" and the year 1340, corresponding to 1921-22 (SG

17-D34, 31-D41). In March 1924, he assumed the vacant title of Caliph of all Muslims, and had the current definitive and postage due stamps overprinted accordingly (SG 50-D59).

This act served as a final provocation to Abdulaziz and his followers, who were already irritated by the fact that Mecca and Medina were in the hands of those whom they regarded as deviates from the true religion. The Saudis invaded, took Taif, and advanced into the Hejaz, meeting little resistance, but proceeding cautiously for fear of British intervention. Hussein abdicated in favour of his son Ali, who abandoned Mecca and moved his administration to Jeddah. There all the stamps currently in use were overprinted in various ways (SG Types 15-19) with the text "The Hejaz Government" and the date of King Ali's accession, 5 Rabia al Awwal, 1343 (4th October 1924).

Up to this time, there had been little need for any postal service in the Nejd and other areas controlled by the House of Saud; early covers and cancels, even up to the end of World War II, were almost all from the trading and pilgrimage centres of Jeddah and Mecca, with smaller quantities from Medina, and a few from Wejh, Taif, Yanbu and other towns, most of which were Red Sea ports or stations on the Hejaz railway between Damascus and Medina. During their advance, the Saudis captured

First Nejd Sultanate Post handstamp, with year 1343 on various stamps: Fig. 1 Ottoman 1913 G.P.O. with 1915 overprint, 5pa; Fig. 2 Ottoman 1914 pictorial 10 pa; Fig. 3 Mecca Arms 1/4q scarlet reprint; Fig. 4 Hejaz 1921 fiscal 1q; Fig. 5 Hejaz 1917 2q inverted (unlisted); Fig. 6 Ottoman 1q revenue inverted (unlisted); Fig. 7 Arms 2q with 20 value lower right corner; Fig. 8 inverted on 2q in yellow orange shade; Fig. 9 Yellow buff reprint; Fig. 10 crude forgery of Fig. 9; Fig. 11 Postage Due 2q with 20 variety.



Fig. 1.

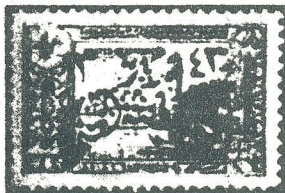


Fig. 2.

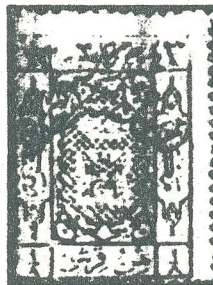


Fig. 3.

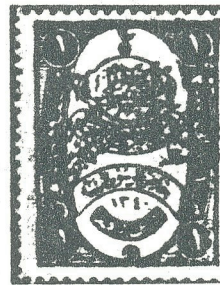


Fig. 4.

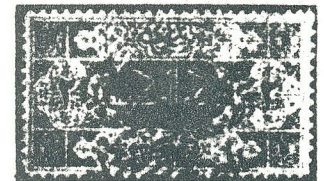


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

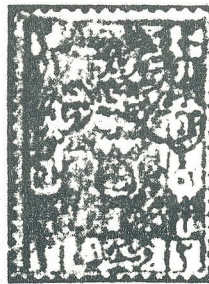


Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.

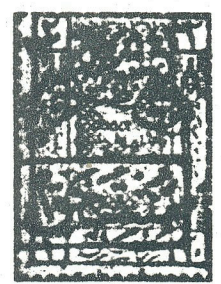


Fig. 11.



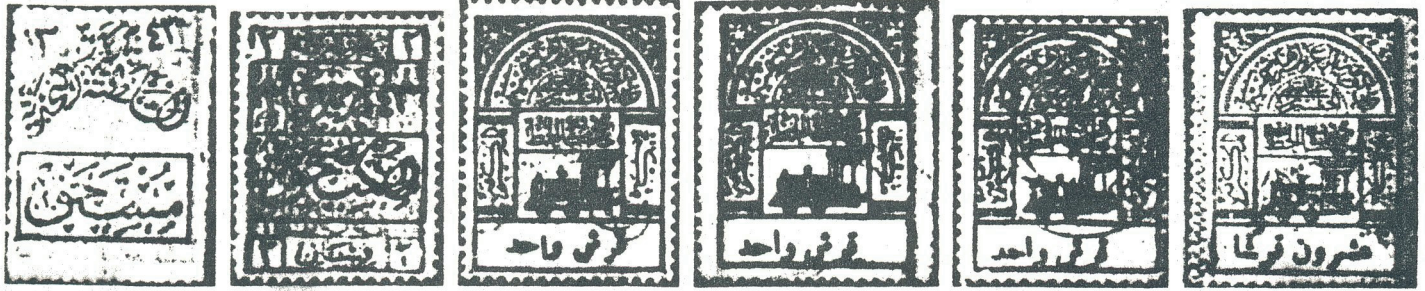


Fig. 12. Fig. 13. Fig. 14. Fig. 15. Fig. 16. Fig. 17.

various Ottoman and Hejazi stamps, including fiscals and tax issues for the railway, which had been put out of action by T. E. Lawrence and his guerrilla forces. These stamps were at first handstamped in March-April 1925, with the words "Nejdi Sultanate Post" and the Hejira year "1343" in black, blue, red or violet (SG 190-202). Because the stamps were hand-stamped, rather than overprinted, errors seem to have been made singly, instead of by the sheet as in the case of the Hejazi overprints; the few inverted or vertical handstamps known of this type are extremely rare.

The 1/8q of the "Mecca Arms" series, hitherto known in shades of chestnut, brick, and red-brown only, has a scarlet (SG) or carmine (Scott) variety with the Nejd handstamp in one of three colours (SG 198c, ca, cb). The 2q orange (SG 201) has also a yellow-buff version, and it is uncertain whether these colour variations were captured proofs or reprints. It is worth noting that the 1/4q, 3q brown, 5q and 10q values of the "Arms" issue must have been used up by this time, as none has been found with any of the Nejd handstamps.

Whether to meet postal needs or the demands of dealers and collectors — the Arabian Peninsula was, like Egypt and Palestine,

First Nejd Sultanate Post handstamp with year 1343 on: Fig. 12 Postage Due handstamped on yellow buff reprint; Fig. 13 forgery of Fig. 12; Figs. 14 & 15 Hejaz Railway revenue 1q with two engine and value types; Fig. 16 forgery of Fig. 15 with bogus Jeddah "keyhole" cancel of 1916; Fig. 17 Railway 20q (unlisted).

regarded as part of the British Empire by contemporary philatelists — several postage due stamps were issued, although few if any achieved proper postal use on insufficiently franked mail. The 1923 set of Hejaz dues was given the usual handstamp (SG D203-5), and those with the "Postage Due" overprint in blue are rare, especially the 1q value (SG D204B). Further varieties are known to specialists — a light blue type of the 1q and the yellow buff version of the 2q mentioned previously (Scott J2; J3; SG unlisted). On these two stamps the "Postage Due", in black only, was produced by a handstamp probably made up of a strip of three clichés from the original plate of 36 used by the Hejazis. A new handstamp, without box, was also used on the 1/4q and 3q "Arms" values (SG D206-7).

Completing the "Nejd Sultanate Post, 1343" series are three types of stamp in two values with a "Printed Matter" handstamp (SG N29). These have the highest catalogue value of any listed stamps in the group but are highly

controversial, as none has so far been found on any type of periodical wrapper indicating authentic postal usage. Furthermore, a copy of the official Saudi Government Gazette in the Smithsonian Institute states that their use was unauthorised. However, a few rare covers exist with these stamps, including error varieties, among other genuine Nejd issues, addressed to Albert Eid in Cairo. This notable dealer and collector of the time organised the preparation of highly philatelic covers replete with varieties, and evidently enjoyed ready access through the back door of the post office to cater for his more demanding clients, including the Egyptian monarchy. In any case, if genuine commercial usage were the criterion for what is philatelic-ally collectable, many of the Nejd issues would be ineligible, in common with modern "first day" covers of all countries, and stamps celebrating the achievements of Redondan Olympic athletes and the astronauts of Ajman.

*To be continued.*

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# SAUDI ARABIA: The Nejdi Sultanate Post

BY DAVID GRAHAM

## Part 2

ONE of the most important duties of the new Saudi administration in Mecca was to organize the annual Haj or pilgrimage. Five assorted stamps — two Ottoman, two 1917 Hejaz definitives and one railway stamp were overprinted by two handstamps bearing the words "Commemorating the First Haj under the Nejdi Sultanate", with the year "1343" (1925) and "Wednesday"; value tablets were also added to all but the railway 3q (SG 210-14). Since this overprinting was done in three stages, it is not surprising that a few errors were made, though these are very rare.

The second Nejdi Sultanate Post handstamp (SG Type 32) has the same text as the previous one but no longer carries the year "1343", and is supposed to have been introduced in July-August of 1925, corresponding to the beginning of 1344. This was again applied to a mixture of Ottoman and Hejaz stamps (SG 215-243), with

some of the Mecca "Arms" type appearing in new colours as well. Judging by plate conditions, the 2q in yellow-buff (Scott 42, SG unlisted) is probably a Nejdi reprint, while the plum version (SG 229) may have been a Hejazi colour trial.

The 1/8q (SG 224a) is extremely rare, and most known specimens are skilled forgeries. Four railway stamps were also handstamped in different colours for use as definitives and postage dues (SG 218-21 and D232-37): these show a delightfully primitive locomotive (SG Type 28) and are sought by many thematic collectors.

Either because the Mecca "Arms" plates were too worn for further use or the captured stocks ran out, it was decided to overprint the plentiful 1/2q and 3q values with surcharges of 1, 1½, and 2q. Presumably this was done in haste, since several different error varieties have been found, which are not too uncommon, as

well as different type formats of the first two surcharges (SG 239-43).

The railway stamps were adapted for use once more in December 1925, when two handstamped and surcharged sets of five values commemorated the surrender of Medina and then Jeddah to the Nejdi forces. Another controversial issue appeared with the fall of Medina, where the postmaster apparently introduced a handstamp to honour the victorious Saudis. Most catalogues illustrate a crude forgery in quite incorrect Arabic; a crude but correct variety of this handstamp is known to have been used on covers to various destinations, and a second genuine type may also have been employed.

Two or three different kinds of forgery of each of the Nejdi Sultanate Post handstamps have been identified, and there are also very crude imitations of the basic stamps with Nejdi overprints, mostly in bright colours with the wrong



Fig. 18.

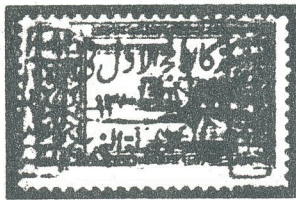


Fig. 19.



Fig. 20.



Fig. 21.



Fig. 22.



Fig. 23.



Fig. 24.



Fig. 25.



Fig. 26.



Fig. 27.



Fig. 28.



Fig. 29.



Fig. 30.



Fig. 31.



Fig. 32.



Fig. 33.





Fig. 34.



Fig. 35.



Fig. 36.



Fig. 37.



Fig. 38.

Fig. 34 "Nejdi Post, 1344, Commemorating Medina" handstamp with 5q surcharge on Railway 1000q; Fig. 35 "Commemorating Jeddah, 1344, Nejdi Post" handstamp with 1q surcharge on Railway 10q; Fig. 36 "Al-Saudiyah/Al-Nejdiah" handstamp on Railway 1q with part octagonal Medina cancel of 21/1/26; Fig. 37 usual forgery of "Al-Saudiyah" handstamp on Hejaz King Ali 1½q. Fig. 38 photocopy of rare fake handstamp on King Ali 1½q.

paper and perforations, and some with poorly faked cancellations to gild the lily. These monstrosities have even turned up on what purport to be airmail envelopes with striped borders. Relatively few genuine commercial covers of the Nejdi Sultanate period have survived, and most of the scarce covers which occasionally appear on the market are handsome philatelic ones to Albert Eid, which usually fetch several hundred pounds.

Among individual rarities, apart from the Newspaper and 1/8q stamps mentioned previously, several other varieties are worthy of note. Imperforate sheets of the ½q Mecca "Arms" were both given the second Sultanate handstamp and were also surcharged later. Newsprint paper was used for a few of the reprinted 1, 1½, 2, and 5q values, and most of the Hejazi stamps put into use had distinct shade variations. A second type of locomotive is found once on every sheet of 36 of the railway tax stamps (Position 30), while the 1 and 2q ones have two value types. The rare error varieties are generally in the form of inverted or double handstamps or surcharges, with some vertical handstamps also known, and there are occasional perforation errors to be found. A few specimens of the 1917 Hejaz set with apparently genuine Nejdi Sultanate handstamps exist, as well as a further unlisted stamp, the 1/8q Mecca "Arms" with "Postage Due" handstamp in red (SG Type D29), and bearing a Mecca favour cancel used by at least one contemporary dealer.

These observations should have indicated

some of the attractions that stamps of the period of the Nejdi Sultanate Post have for collectors. As with the Hejazi and later Saudi issues, some varieties remain to be catalogued, and scarce treasures may lurk inside unwanted Turkish accumulations. The growing number of Saudi collectors of their nation's stamps has further increased the demand for Nejdi stamps, reflected by the substantial increases in both Stanley Gibbons and Scott 1983 catalogue prices. However, these figures reflect the

volatile market of recent years, affected by relatively large sums of money pursuing relatively small quantities of stamps, and occasionally bargains can still be picked up at British and U.S. bourses. Nevertheless, the supply of albums from little old ladies in Beaver Falls, Ecclefechan, or wherever, must be nearly exhausted, and, in the meantime, less wealthy collectors should strive for completion before the petrodollars begin to pour in earnest into Saudi philately.

Fig. 39 provisional handstamp reading "Nejdi Sultanate Post/Al-Saudiyah/One Qirsh/Year 1344/Fee Paid" found as cut-outs and on very rare covers. Fig. 40 first handstamp with "Postage Due" handstamp (SG D29) in red on Arms ½q (unlisted) tied to paper with Mecca favour cancel dated 11 May, 1925; Fig. 41 first handstamp with controversial "Printed Matter" handstamp on Arms ½q.



Fig. 39.



Fig. 40.



Fig. 41.

Fig. 18 "First Hat" three handstamps in blue and red on Ottoman pictorial; Fig. 19 handstamps in black (unlisted) and red, signed A. Eid; Figs. 20-25: Second "Nejdi Sultanate Post" handstamp, with year on - Figs. 20 & 21 Arms 2q orange and yellow buff types both with "20" variety from worn plates; Fig. 22 Arms 2q with handstamp inverted; Fig. 23 false handstamp of Fig. 22; Fig. 24 plus reprint from clean plate "20" variety and Fig. 25 false of Fig. 24.

Figs. 26-32: Second handstamp (blue) with "One Qirsh" overprinted on Arms ½q - Fig. 26 18mm surcharge; Fig. 27 "Qirsh" inverted; Fig. 28 "Wahid" (= One) inverted; Fig. 29 18mm surcharge; Fig. 30 handstamp inverted; Fig. 31 handstamp vertical, part cancel "Mecca 1344"; Fig. 32 handstamp and surcharge inverted; Fig. 33 Second handstamp on Hejaz 1917 2q with 1922 "Hashimite Arab Government 1340" overprint.

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SAUDI ARABIAN REVENUE CATALOG PROJECT

By: R.J. Thoden

I am trying to gather sufficient data to prepare a comprehensive catalog of Saudi Arabian revenue stamps, including those of Hejaz and Nejd. However, gathering information has proven very difficult. Quantities of older revenues seem to be non-existent here in Saudi Arabia. Attempts to locate a contact in the Saudi Ministry of Finance who might be willing to open up the official records on what exists have been fruitless.

Therefore, I appeal to the A.P.A. membership in general to let me know what they have in Saudi revenues, and to our Saudi members in Riyadh to see if there isn't some way to gather official data.

To facilitate the project, I will include in each RANDOM NOTES some tentative listings for one or more categories of Saudi revenues. Those who can add to these listings, please write and, if possible, send the stamp(s) for my examination.

An earlier reference is "A Preliminary Listing of the Revenue Stamps of Saudi Arabia", printed in THE AMERICAN REVENUER in January-February 1977, and reprinted in RANDOM NOTES No. 9.

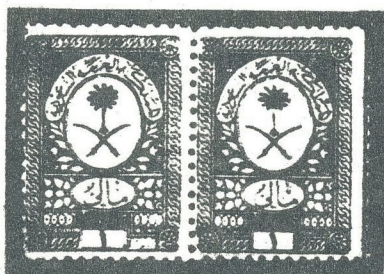
Following is a tentative listing of General Documentary Stamps.

GENERAL DOCUMENTARY STAMPS

USAGE: These stamps replaced the flat-rate and pro-rata documentary stamps as the means of indicating payment of a general revenue tax on all categories of documents. They were sometimes used interchangeably with Road Tax stamps. These taxes were discontinued on May 3, 1973.



G1



Redrawn 1Q.



Redrawn 2-1/2Q.



Redrawn 5Q.

1950	Perf. 11.	Unwmkd.
Typographed by State Printing Works, Makkah		
RG1	G1	1/2q rose a. pink
RG2	G1	1q dull green a. blue green b. dark green, redrawn
RG3	G1	2q violet brown a. red brown
RG4	G1	2-1/2q green a. perf. 14-1/2 b. redrawn c. dark green
RG5	G1	3q ultramarine a. blue b. pale violet blue
RG6	G1	5q orange a. redrawn b. yellow orange c. luminescent paper
RG7	G1	10q greenish blue a. luminescent paper
RG8	G1	15q red violet
RG9	G1	20q violet a. luminescent paper
RG10	G1	25q indigo
RG11	G1	30q magenta
RG12	G1	50q dark olive a. olive green
RG13	G1	100q bright green
RG16	G1	1000q gray

Top inscription reads "Al Mamlakah al-'Arabiyah al-Sa'udiyah" (The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). Inscription in the oval at lower center reads "maaliy" (revenue).

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) with outer frame line.

Stamps with variations in the palm tree and crossed swords are called "redrawn". It is not known if this is technically correct. No. RG2b has slightly smaller palm tree and swords. The branches of the palm are irregular. The corners of the design are rounded instead of square. Individual stamps of this type vary considerably. On No. RG4b, the palm is larger and somewhat irregular, and the sword hilts are much stronger. On No. RG6a, the palm is smaller. Only one copy of each of Nos. RG4b and RG6a has been seen.

The perforations on these stamps are usually rough. In the late printings, they are often so poor that the stamps were cut from or torn out of the sheets. Many apparent imperforates exist, but close examination will usually show a few faint impressions in the paper from the perforation pins.

Several varieties of paper exist. The luminescent paper was apparently the last paper used (mid-1960s).

1965	Perf. 11.	Luminescent paper.	Unwmkd.
Similar to 1950 issue, but values now in halalah and riyals.			
RG18	G1	5h dark green	
RG19	G1	10h red brown	
		a. non-luminescent paper	
RG20	G1	15h greenish blue (non-luminescent)	
RG21	G1	25h orange	
		a. yellow orange	
		b. non-luminescent paper	
RG22	G1	50h bright blue	
		a. non-luminescent paper	
RG23	G1	1R violet	

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) with coloured outer frame line.



G2

1968	Perf. 13-1/2x13-3/4	Non-luminescent paper.	Wmkd. 361
Recess printed by the Security Press, Riyadh			
RG28	G2	5h slate gray	
RG29	G2	10h pale violet	
		a. gray	
RG30	G2	15h rose carmine	
RG31	G2	25h brown	
RG32	G2	50h black brown	
RG33	G2	75h	
RG34	G2	1R red	
RG35	G2	2R	
RG36	G2	3R greenish blue	
RG37	G2	4R	
RG38	G2	5R	
RG39	G2	6R	
RG40	G2	7R	
RG41	G2	8R	
RG42	G2	9R	
RG43	G2	10R	

Inscriptions are the same as those on Nos. RG1-23.



Printed in sheets of 100 (10x10).

Nos. RG33, 35, and 37-43 were seen at the Security Press during a visit there in 1971, but have not been seen in use. It is not certain whether these values are part of this set, or of the next two sets.

The watermark exists in various directions. Watermark is Scott's number.

1969 Perf. 13-1/2x13-3/4 Unwmkd.

Similar to 1968 issue, but now on luminescent unwmkd. paper.

RG47 G2 25h brown

RG48 G2 50h brown black

1971 Perf. 13-1/2x13-3/4 Wmkd. 337

Similar to 1968 issue, but now on luminescent paper with new wmk.

RG52 G2 10h gray  
a. gray violet

RG54 G2 25h brown

RG55 G2 50h brown black

RG56 G2 1R red

Watermark directions vary. Watermark is Scott's number.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdulaziz A. Sa'id

Nov.-Dec. 1983\*: Four additional values of the current Al-Khafji definitives in the small format were issued in sheets of 105 stamps. Perf. 12. Watermark Scott #361, up direction.

10h bright green & orange	Nov. 15, 1983
15h yellow brown & orange	Nov. 23, 1983
25h deep purple & orange	Dec. 12, 1983
50h rose red & orange	Nov. 10, 1983



Nov. 16, 1983: A set of two stamps, 20h and 65h, were issued to mark the inauguration of the King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh. The designs depict views of the airport. The 20h stamp was designed by Ibrahim Turki, while the 65h stamp was designed by Ashfaq Ghani. Offset printed by the Government Security Printing Press in sheets of 50 stamps. Unwatermarked paper. Perf. 13-1/2x14. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



Nov. 29, 1983: A 20h stamp was issued to commemorate the World Food Day. The stamp was designed by Ibrahim Turki. The design depicts two ears of corn (wheat) and the F.A.O. emblem; at the bottom it shows irrigation by spraying and silos for storing grain. Offset printed by the Government Security Printing Press, Riyadh, in sheets of 50 stamps. Unwatermarked paper. Perf. 14. Quantity: 400,000 stamps.



Dec. 13, 1983: A 20h stamp depicting the Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem, was issued. Designed by Ibrahim Turki and offset printed by the Security Printing Press, Riyadh, in sheets of 50 stamps. Unwatermarked paper. Perf. 14. Quantity: 500,000 stamps.



Jan. 11, 1984\*: The 20h and 65h current Al-Khafji definitives in the small format were reprinted from the new plates in sheets of 105 stamps. Watermark Scott #361, up direction. Perf. 13-1/2; some sheets have a wide tooth at the corner, while others are with an extra hole at the corner. This printing was perforated by hand-perforator machine.



March 1984\*\*: A 20h additional value of the current Holy Ka'aba small format definitives was issued in sheets of 105 stamps. Perf. 12. Watermark Scott #361 in the up direction.



\* Issue dates for definitive stamps are those for Riyadh. Stamps can be released earlier in other places in the Kingdom depending on stamp requirements.

\*\* Issued in Damman.

FREE ADLETS

RANDOM NOTES will publish as many free adlets in each issue as will fit on one page. Maximum five lines per adlet. Send to either the U.S.A. Editor or THE Dhahran Editor. If more adlets are received than there is space available, a priority system will be used whereby repeat adlets by the same A.P.A. member will be put at the bottom of the waiting list.

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We periodically publish price lists of stamps and postal history from countries throughout the Islamic World. For a copy of our latest list contact Patrick Riggs, P.O. Box 5082, Santa Fe, N.M. 87502, U.S.A.

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Wanted - F-VF used Heir Apparent Scott's 140,141,144-148.  
R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

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Wanted - Non-philatelic cover bearings Scott's 196 and/or 197.  
R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

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Wanted - Scott's C69B and O61 mint or used.  
R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

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