

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

RANDOM NOTES NO. 3

HEJAZ, NAJD, AND SAUDI ARABIA

Welcome to our third set of 'RANDOM NOTES'. We have a lot of stuff for you, so here goes.

NEWS

The APA held its first exhibition on March 30. Twelve adults and four children showed their stamps, and two of these collaborated to show a complete set of Nejd-Saudi Arabia (well, almost complete!) Art Sundberg won the Grand Prize for an exhibit of Arab Syria, and your Editor had a First Prize (Adults) for Nejd, 1925-1960. First Prize (Juniors) went to Janice Templer for religion on stamps. The show was attended by perhaps 500 people. The main benefit was that a lot of us buckled down and finally got our stuff mounted up.

Western Auctions, Ltd, in their Sale No. 515-516 of March 18, 1972, put up a substantial portion of a Nejd collection said to have belonged to King Farouk. This collection is overcomplete with many unique items. The routine and proof material made 75% to 85% of the auctioneer's estimates, but ten lots made more, and in some cases, quite a bit more. The newspaper stamps and the covers that were in the collection were held back by the owner, who says that they will be put up in a later sale.

Scott Publishing Company has informed us that it will combine Hejaz and Saudi Arabia in future issues of Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue.

Our revised check list of definitives, 1961 to date, is attached.

Paul Jensen, our member in Norway, sent us a copy of a page from the Ascher Postal Stationery Catalog, published in the 1920s, which lists three Turkish envelope stamps, two Turkish wrappers, and two Turkish post cards, all over-printed with new values expressed in Egyptian currency for use in "Westarabian (Hedschas)". Paul's copy wasn't strong enough to reproduce here. The Turkish designs have a Tughra inside a five-pointed star inside a circle with values in English and Arabic script at the side. There is a crescent surrounding the bottom of the circle and containing the words: "Postes Ottomanes". A narrow decorative circular border surrounds the whole. Date: 1916.



HEJAZ

For those of you having trouble with the King Ali overprints, some help is attached. For the first Jiddah overprint, we found a half sheet missing positions 21 and 22 and a block of four containing these, and we pieced them together and photographed them. The plate had twenty-five positions and was impressed twice on the sheets of fifty stamps; thus the half sheet contains all positions. Those of you who have Warin: The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah, and Nejd will find that the various cliches move around in the sheet, and it is apparent that the plate was disassembled and reassembled a number of times. Warm's "Key Stamp" does not appear to occur on our sheet. Some of the cliches illustrated in Warin that show substantial blotches seem to have been removed. Many of the "month box" cliches in the sheet we photographed have a broken Arabic "5", which is the figure shaped like the letter "O"; also, this letter is sometimes close to or touching the end line of the box. No such variety, although quite distinctive, is mentioned in Warin. These cliches may have been damaged during use.

Keep in mind that this is the first Jiddah overprint. We have not yet had access to any large multiples of the second Jiddah overprint. The second overprint has boxes which are slightly smaller, and you will not be able to match them to our first Jiddah positions or to Warin's. Measurements of box length are not conclusive; check position 16 (our numbering) and you will find both boxes measuring about 15mm, a criterion we had earlier tried to make stand up as distinguishing between the two printings.

Also appended is a photograph of the overprint, King Ali, as it appeared on the postage due stamps (Cairo print). The upper left block of ten is removed, as it is in many sheets, because it contains the scarce variety with the "year box" reversed.

We have still not found anyone who can show us Scott J47-51 or J52-55 with red or blue Jiddah overprints that appear to us to be genuine.

Attached is a photograph of a strip of five stamps with a blue Jiddah overprint on the ¼p ultramarine. This stamp is listed in Scott as L177A. Warin (page 100) lists it as existing with the second Jiddah overprint only. Our strip of five purports to have one stamp without overprint, a circumstance that should make us cautious. More important, all four overprints appear to have been made with the same die. These two facts taken together have caused the Editor to consider this overprint as a fake. The same die is found on postage due stamps with the boxes at top and bottom and on various other suspect "goodies". In addition, these dies have also been used to make imitations of quite cheap and ordinary stamps. Until better evidence is forthcoming (use of these dies on a legitimate cover, for instance) the Editor will continue to regard them as bogus or fake.

The photograph makes the distinctive features of these dies clear. Note the extra line outside the year box joined to the frame at the end by a semicircular line and by a slanted line at the other; this is usually the easiest mark to spot.



Saudi Arabia

We have a comment from Mr. al-Zamil of the Ministry of Communications in Riyadh, that 30,000 of Type I Scott 177a., were issued. It comes in both perforations, perf 11 and 11½. One perf 11 has just turned up on cover.

Dammam Port, Scott 240-42. The 3p has turned up perf 10½ instead of perf 13. We doubt that this was regularly issued.

Scott 246-48, Arab league Building. Only the 3p is known to us with inverted watermark and is scarce.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Issue, Scott 296-98, has "ROYAME" instead of the correct "ROYAUME" on all positions, all denominations.

The Algerian Library Issue 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 a decorative and unnecessary alif over the letter "Sad"; this alif is extended too far downward, making the word appear to read "li-Taleh" - "for the bad of". We don't know which error caused the removal of the issue after being on sale only eleven days. Plenty of copies seem to exist, and apparently new issue dealers got adequate supplies. Don't pay any premium for these because of "scarcity".

Scott C6, 100g airmail, exists imperforate and in double print. These varieties do not appear to have been regularly issued.

Scott J5 is not in Warin and was not the "Farouq" collection material recently auctioned. Our opinion is that Scott ought to delete it.

Scott J13 with blue and blue overprints was in the "Farouq" collection and appears to be made with genuine handstamps.

Scott O11-15 have been seen imperforate.

Mr. Alton J. Blank, of Cleveland, Ohio, sent us Scott C68 and C70, sold to him as "watermarked". We did indeed see traces of some sort of "watermark", but it was certainly neither of the regular Saudi Arabian watermarks. The paper had the fine, close-set quadrille laid lines of the de la Rue printings, and also had the "wide tooth" at one end of each horizontal row of perforations, another distinguishing characteristic of the de la Rue printings. 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 several denominations showing traces of a "watermark". We are unable to make out any definite design. We believe that this is either some kind of manufacturer's mark or represents some accident of the gumming roll or other device used during the process of preparing the paper and printing the stamps. The Editor thanks Mr. Blank for bringing this to our attention.



We have found the 9p GOSP and 20p GOSP, Cairo printings, in a comb perforation differing slightly from the regular perforation and showing a wide tooth. Can anybody comment?

Scott 161, the ½g Tughra, can be found in gutter pairs. One printing is in two panes, delivered that way to post offices. Are there other denominations?

The 5g Prophet's Mosque has a bright purple border that runs in water. Be careful when you take it off paper.

The Pictorial Issues are now coming out with a redrawn frame. The originals have slightly fatter letter letters in the white-on-color inscriptions, and the letters "IA" of 'ARABIA' are joined at the foot. Also, the letter "ain" in the top Arabic inscription is broken at the top in the following positions of the 10p value: 5,10, 35, 40, 65, 70, 95, and 100. The re-drawn frames have slightly thinner letters, the "IA" of 'ARABIA' are usually separated at the foot by a fine line of color, and the broken "ain" of the 10p is not found. The redrawn 3p values have a dot after "p" where the original 3p has no dot.

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

Mr. Frank Patterson, Voorburg, Netherlands, points out that most proofs of Scott 69-80 (Designs A1 and A2) and J16-18 had "al-Nejd" in the design, but the "al" was properly omitted in the issued stamps. The inclusion of "al" would be in error and suggests that the designs were prepared in Egypt by an artist not familiar with the correct form of the name. Actually, the "al-Nejd" proofs are scarcer than the others.

Attached is an article by APA member Thomas P. Wood of Anaheim, California. Tom used to dazzle us at APA meetings with displays of the different printings and papers of the Tughra and Hospital Tax Issues, and his fine article is a summary of his findings. The APA welcomes comments on Mr. Wood's article.

JOHN M. WILSON Editor

Attachments

3. Forgery of Jiddah King Ali Overprint

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W.A.KING

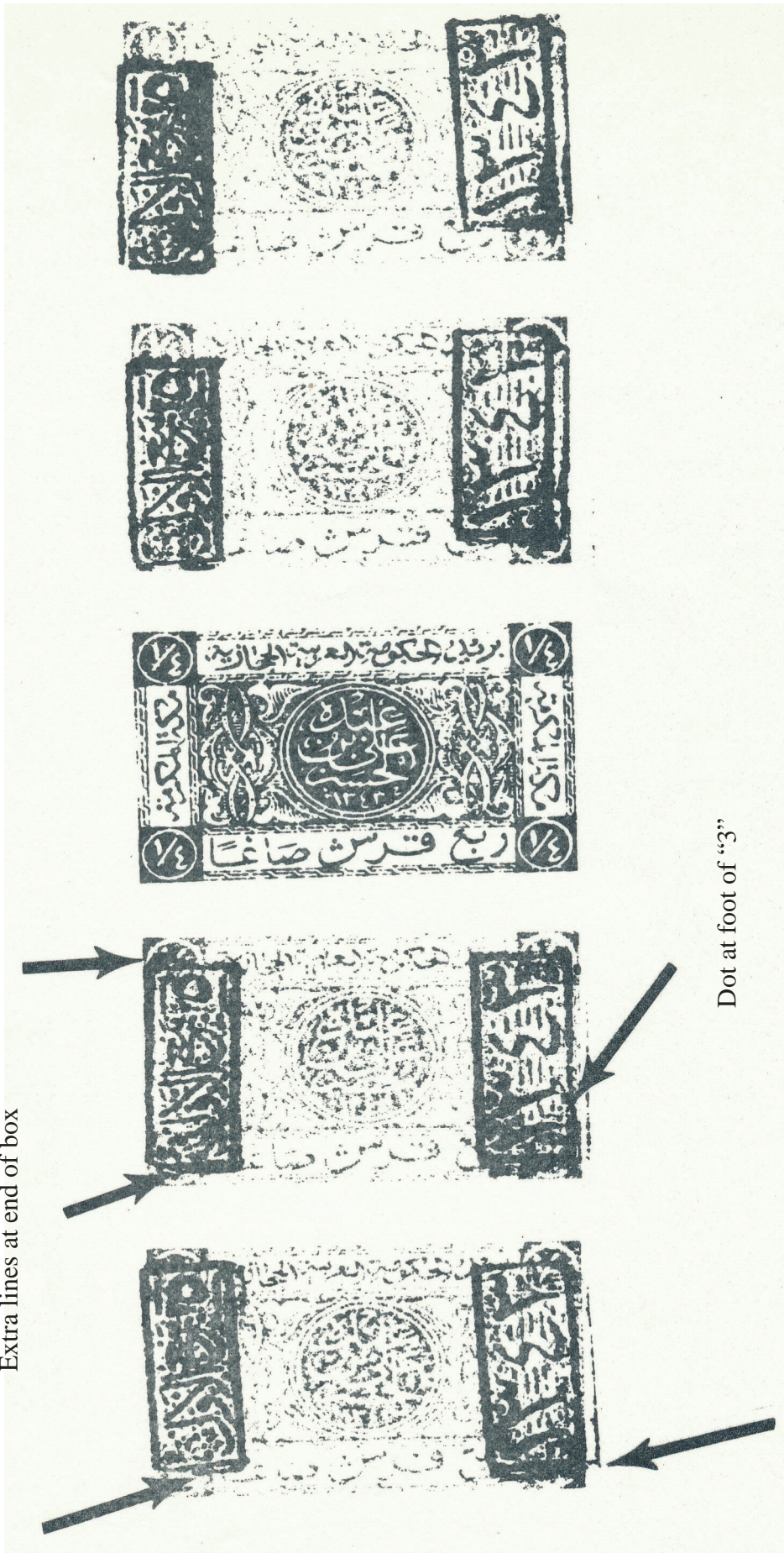
Notes

The article by Thomas P. Wood originally published as an attachment to Random Notes #3 is not reproduced in this 2021 reprint. Tom expanded the work and it will be published later as a separate item.

The revised check list of definitives, 1961 to date, mentioned on page 1, is not reproduced in this reprint. Expanded listings appear in later editions of Random Notes.

FORGERY OF JIDDAH KING ALI OVERPRINT

Extra lines at end of box



Extra line connected by half moon