



جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes

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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. Membership is open to all interested Aramco employees and their dependents eligible to use Aramco facilities. Annual dues are SR 10. Others may subscribe to A.P.A. publications and participate in the A.P.A. new issue service and auctions. Annual subscription fee is 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 for both members and subscribers. Annual fees include all publications for the year (by airmail).

Applications for membership or subscriptions, together with dues or fees, should be sent to the treasurer. Checks should be made payable to The Arabian Philatelic Association. All changes of address should be sent to the secretary.

All of the following A.P.A. officers may be addressed c/o Aramco Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

B.H. Walthall, President.

A.E. Sonntag, Vice President	R.J. Thoden, Forgeries Manual
W. A. King, Secretary	J.I. Kearney, Auctioneer
S. Manjikian, Treasurer	K. Quarfoth, Annual Show Chairman
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A.P.A. meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 7 P.M. in Aramco facilities in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The A.P.A. provides a new issue service for Saudi stamps to its members and subscribers. This is handled by:

R.J. Thoden - for members attending meetings in Dhahran.

J.M. Wilson - For subscribers in the U.S.A. Mr. Wilson charges a fee for his services. His address is: P.O. Box 3054, Humble, Texas, U.S.A. 77347-3054.

J.I. Kearney - for subscribers elsewhere, including Saudi Arabia.

RANDOM NOTES

The A.P.A.'s publication, RANDOM NOTES, is issued four times a year. The editor is Mr. R. J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

Contributions for publication in the RANDOM NOTES are solicited and should be submitted to the editor. Short items from subscribers in the U.S.A. may also be submitted to Mr. J.M. Wilson for incorporation into his regular article. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved.

RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

1. Part III of the REFERENCE MANUAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN FORGERIES has finally been completed. Copies have been distributed to all A.P.A. members and subscribers who previously obtained Parts I and II, and who have paid their 1985 dues. Members and subscribers who do not have Parts I and II and are interested in obtaining copies of all three parts, may contact the editor.

2. As a result of the listing of the small Khafji and Ka'aba definitives in RANDOM NOTES NO. 30, a number of new issue service subscribers have reported that they are missing some of the items listed. Please note that the following varieties were not obtainable by the new issue service and were not distributed to subscribers:

15h Khafji perf. 13½, wmk R and L.
50h Khafji perf. 14 x 13½, wmk R.
65h Khafji perf. 14 x 13½, wmk U.
65h Ka'aba perf. 13½, wmk R and L.

Those interested in obtaining these will have to try their luck with dealers.

3. The A.P.A.'S three-time President, Warren L. Latshaw, has left Aramco for retirement. I am sure all members join me in thanking Warren for his many services to the A.P.A., and wishing him well.

4. APEX-14, our annual show, will be held December 5 in Dhahran. It is not too early for our local members to start thinking about and preparing their exhibits.

5. No one responded to the call for a volunteer to prepare an index for the first 30 issues of the RANDOM NOTES. The opportunity for someone to make a meaningful contribution to the A.P.A. thus remains open.

6. More contributors of articles for the RANDOM NOTES are needed. There is currently no backlog of material. Thus the editor may not be able to maintain quarterly publication much longer unless more contributions are received. We can use not only study-type articles on the early Hejaz and Nejd issues, but also articles on postal history, forerunners, in fact, just about any topic relating to Saudi philately. Articles explaining the significance of modern issues would also be welcome. For example, I'm sure our readers would appreciate an article explaining the Hajj (pilgrimage) as depicted on the annual series of stamps issued on this occasion.

7. Our subscriber in Holland, Bob Jung, has prepared his own list of the 1960-78 Dam, GOSP and plane definitives. This listing differs from B.H. Walthall's in RANDOM NOTES NO. 30 in that it includes watermark position varieties of the 1963-65 Cairo printing, 1963 Jeddah printing, and 1968-76 Riyadh printing. Also, it differentiates between the "wide-tooth" at the left or the right of the stamp for the De La Rue Sa'ud and Faisal cartouche

issues. Bob's table is reproduced on page 5 of this issue.

Bob has also prepared a table listing the watermark position varieties of all commemoratives issued on watermarked paper. The editor would like to check this over before publishing it. Hopefully, it will appear in RANDOM NOTES NO. 32.

8. Stamps of the Hejaz Third Jeddah Provisional issue and the King Ali issue exist with ship or "paquebot" cancels in black, purple or red:

straight line "PAQUEBOT"
framed "PAQUEBOT" (two sizes)
straight line "PLEINE MER"
framed "PLEINE MER" (two sizes)
two line "PACQUEBOT / POSTED AT SEA"
straight line "BOULAC"

The overprints on the stamps seen by the editor are always genuine, and the king Ali issues have Jeddah (not Cairo) overprints. Nevertheless, the editor has always suspected these markings as philatelically inspired (at best) or fakes. Does anyone have any definite information?

9. Max Mayo, in his book BARID AL-SA'UDIYAH WA AL-HEJAZ WA NAJD, says that the first airmail set (Scott Cl-6) was lithographed in Cairo, with later printings by the Government Printing Press, in Makkah (Mecca). Does anyone have any information in support of this statement? All sheets seen by the editor have the imprint of the Saudi Government Printing Press, Makkah, and are dated 1368 Hijrah (1949). The relatively crude printing of this issue is typical of the products of the Government Press at that time.

Also, what is the explanation for the existence on the market of the many imperforates, double impressions, trial colors, etc., of this issue? Similar varieties are not known of the Tughra and other issues printed by the Government Printing Press. Their existence could possibly mean they were printed elsewhere.

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS: The Saudi Arabian Government now approves only the spelling "Makkah", in reference to the Holy City of the Hijaz, for use in English-language Saudi publications. The spelling "Mecca" or other forms can be used in RANDOM NOTES in quoting earlier printed matter, in which cases quotation marks should be added if the name is not otherwise included in a quotation. Otherwise, authors should henceforth use the spelling "Makkah" (without quotes).

MORE ON THE 1946 MAP STAMP

By: J. P. Mandaville



My search for references to the "map stamp" in UMM AL-QURA (the official government newspaper) finally paid off, although not very generously. Issue no. 1089, dated 15 Safar 1365 (18 January 1946) carried a small note on page 4, submerged in a larger article describing the work of the committee set up in Jiddah to organize the ceremonies and festivities for the King's return from his 1946 state visit to Egypt. The full text is as follows:

Commemorative Stamp

The Welcoming Committee has decided to produce a commemorative stamp on the occasion of His Majesty the King's return to his country, to express (appreciation for) the good deeds (he has done) for his people. This stamp will be used for a period of six months, and it is an excellent and appropriate proposal.

It was clear that a number of special fund-raising activities were underway on this occasion. A committee was collecting charitable contributions from businessmen and the public, and the amounts of their donations were published in the gazette along with appeals for more public participation. The primary purpose of the drive was establishment of a new hospital to commemorate the King's return. The stamp may conceivably have been issued as part of these charity fund-raising efforts, although so far there is no real evidence for this.

Aramco's files also contained a few tidbits:

The Director of the Department of Companies (the Ministry of Finance office then responsible for Aramco liaison) wrote to Aramco's Jiddah representative on 6 April 1946 instructing him to have Aramco's "Dhahran offices observe the use of the stamps issued in remembrance of His Majesty's return on their mail, and also to use revenue stamps on work permits as a general rule." This does not, of course, prove that the map stamp itself was classed as a revenue stamp.

A few weeks later, however, on 14 May, a Ministry of Finance representative in the Eastern Province wrote to the Company's Local Representative with instructions apparently intended to clarify those sent earlier. He referred to the April 6 letter and went on, "in accordance with the Ministry's order to us, we instruct you to add a half Saudi qirsh (one common qirsh) to every

national or foreigner's work permit for the cost of the stamp in memory of His Majesty's return with effect from 21 Safar 1365 (24 January 1946) to 21 July 1946, for a period of six months." (New paragraph): "We hope that you will comply with this and credit us with same. Also, we hope that you will affix this stamp on all your postal letters." The Arabic of this letter, unfortunately, is not on file, but it would appear that the word meaning "we hope" (a polite way of saying "we expect") was the same in reference to both the revenue and postal use. The gist of the directive suggests that the stamp was primarily a general revenue device.

There was one earlier memorandum in the file which almost certainly referred to this stamp. This was an Aramco internal letter of 24 March 1946 quoting in part another Company memo of 12 March: "All departments are aware of the documents within their Department which require stamps. This new stamp is to be affixed to such documents in addition to the stamps already required." This again reinforces the "official" or "revenue" stamp theory.

It seems clear, however, that companies and probably individuals were also encouraged, if not required, to use the stamp on letters.

The King's trip to Egypt in January 1946 was simply a formal state visit responding to King Faruq's invitation of early 1945, offered as required by usual protocol when the Egyptian monarch was visiting the Hijaz. H. St. John Philby accompanied the King to Suez and Cairo and described the visit vividly in his book ARABIAN JUBILEE (London 1952), pp. 245-246. According to UMM AL-QURA, King 'Abd al-'Aziz left Jiddah for Egypt Monday, 7 January 1946. When returning, he disembarked at Jiddah on Friday, 22 Safar 1365 (25 January 1946). The Red Sea trip was made both ways on King Faruq's royal yacht.

A point of interest on this stamp is the diagonal line across the lower right corner of the map. It appears (judging from the placement of the map border) to portray an international boundary line but does not correspond to any international boundary recognized or claimed by the Saudi Arabian Government at the time the stamp was issued. It somewhat resembles the "Blue" and "Violet" lines of the Anglo-Turkish Conventions of 1913 and 1914, signed by Great Britain and Turkey to divide Ottoman territory from states in southern and eastern Arabia represented by Britain. The stamp diagonal does not, however, correctly represent those, which in any case were not recognized by Saudi Arabia as successor government in the eastern (al-Hasa) province. Saudi Arabia's position on the boundary between 1935 and 1949 was that defined in a Saudi diplomatic note to the British Government on 3 April 1935. The line proposed there, however, extended far to the east of the "map stamp" diagonal. The diagonal thus appears to be nothing more than an artist's vague impression of a "boundary" that was still undefined, perhaps intended mainly to divide inhabited parts of the country from the Rub' al-Khali.

Editor's Note: I think that the above information together with that in my article on this stamp in RANDOM NOTES No. 17 (Fall 1981) is sufficient to justify the reclassification of this stamp from a regular postage stamp to a postal tax stamp.

1925 FEE PAID HANDSTAMPS

By: J. I. Kearney

This article is written to solicit as much as to disseminate information about the 1925 FEE PAID usage.

The author has had in his collection for about eight years a cut-to-shape red octagonal FEE PAID handstamp on piece. Not knowing what to do with it, it has been sitting in a stockbook. In the Sotheby sale of March 1980, Mayo apparently had such an item included in lot 1716 but the author was unable to attend that auction. In an effort to locate other information, past auction catalogs were reviewed and another example was found Feldman's September 1979 auction, lot 4838. This was described as "1925 wrapper to Germany with MECQUE/26.11.26 bilingual type alongside octagonal FEE PAID in red, rare". Another example appeared in the April 1983 Feldman auction as lot 32993 described as "1925 FEE PAID handstamp in red from Mecca, used as a provisional for a short period after the occupation by Nejd forces until the overprinted stamps were ready. Very fine strike on piece with Mecca datestamp". The date appears to be 1345 (which began 12 July 1926) and is monolingual. Another example appeared in Feldman's sale on April 24, 1985 as lot 32907 with a Makkah (Mecca) monolingual datestamp of 22 Dhu al-Hijjah 1344 (3 July 1926).

Recently the author had an opportunity to view five examples of this red FEE PAID handstamp and three copies are shown on Attachment I. All examples had the red FEE PAID beside the Makkah monolingual circular date stamp.

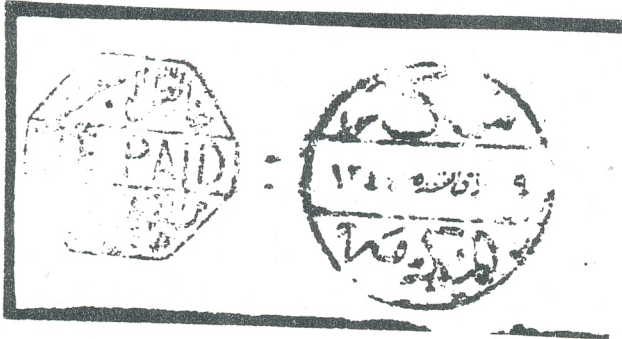
The small piece labelled Item I is dated 9 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1344 (21 May 1926). The large piece labelled Item II is dated 16 Rajab 1344 (30 January 1926). What is most significant about Item II is that glued to this piece is a label that can be translated as "newspaper UMM AL-QURA issued in Makkah sent to Damascus, Syria in exchange for the newspaper JERB AL-QIRDI". This may explain why this has been seen on wrappers and it may explain why the Attachment 2 to RANDOM NOTES No. 24 which illustrated this FEE PAID handstamp has a Damas backstamp. Item III is applied on a small unaddressed envelope with a Makkah datestamp of 19 Sha'ban 1343 (15 March 1925). Does this mean that one could purchase postage in this manner? Other examples (not shown) were postmarked 29 Rajab 1344 (12 February 1926) and an illegible 1345.

As best as the author can determine, there was not a shortage of postage stamps in Makkah during early 1926. The author has several examples of the Second Regular Hejaz and Nejd issue (Scott 75-80) used in Makkah during March 1926. There may have been a shortage of postage stamps from October 1924 (when Makkah surrendered) to when the Nejd stamps were available perhaps in December 1925 (the date of the author's earliest Nejd stamps used in Makkah) but this FEE PAID has not been seen used during this period.

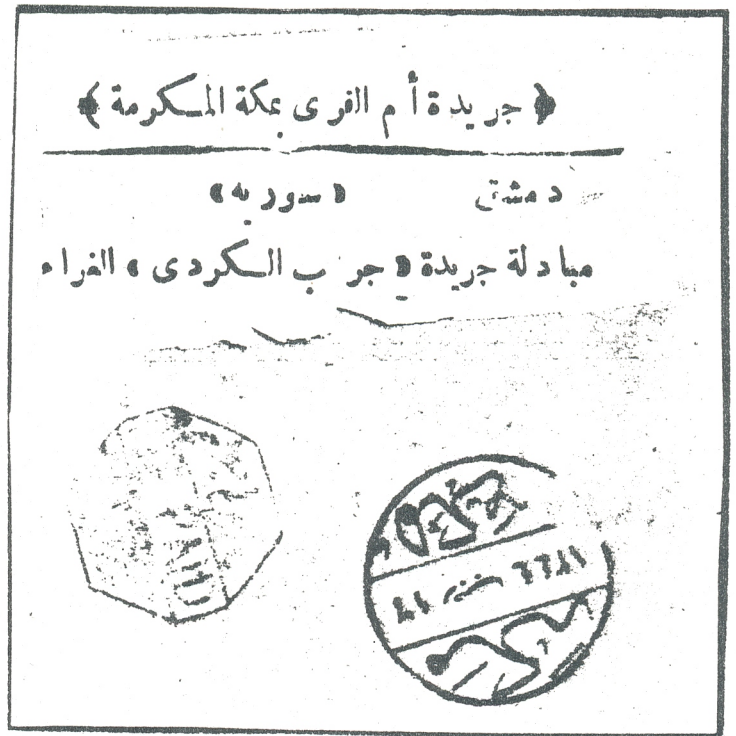
I propose that this FEE PAID was for printed matter. It does not appear to have anything to do with being a "provisional (postage stamp) issue" as described by Feldman. If we can believe that the newspaper postage rate was one-eighth piaster (as evidenced by the Nejd newspaper stamps), there were not any one-eighth piaster stamps until January 1927 (Scott 98). Nejd 5 paras postage stamps (equal to one-eighth piaster) and one-eighth piaster stamps were issued in March 1925 with the first Nejd handstamp but saw little postal usage. The same values appeared with the second Nejd handstamp and again saw little postal usage. Until someone can find such a handstamp on a cover that went through the mail perhaps this is a reasonable conclusion.

An additional reason for the above conclusion is shown on Attachment II. This cover, addressed to a merchant in Makkah, is handstamped in violet with a Jiddah Fee Paid and postmarked in Jiddah on 6-5-1343 (the Gregorian date shows 32-12-1925) and backstamped 6-6-1344 Makkah. I can only surmise that there are a couple of errors in the postmark on this cover. One, the Jiddah postmark should probably be 6-5-1344 which is equivalent to 23 December 1925, and not 32 December, the second error. This is important because a shortage of postage stamps could be expected in Jiddah in December 1925 when Jiddah surrendered. If there was a shortage and the Nejd's pulled out an old Fee Paid handstamp from the 1916 period for use in Jiddah, why wouldn't something similar happen in Makkah?

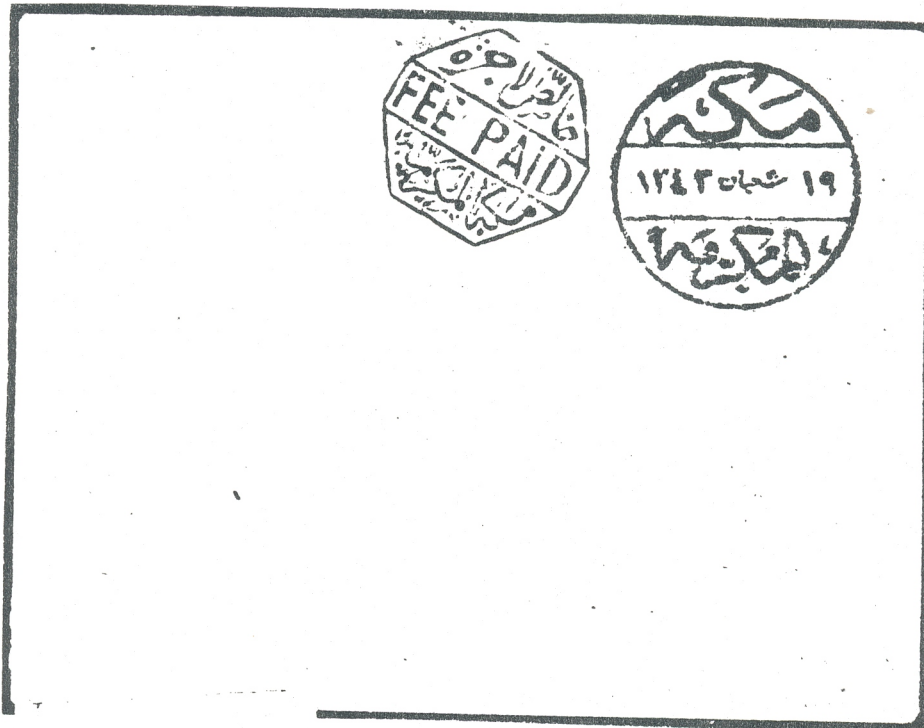
I would appreciate comments and/or photocopies of any 1925 FEE PAID (in red) or Fee Paid handstamps that members have in their collections.



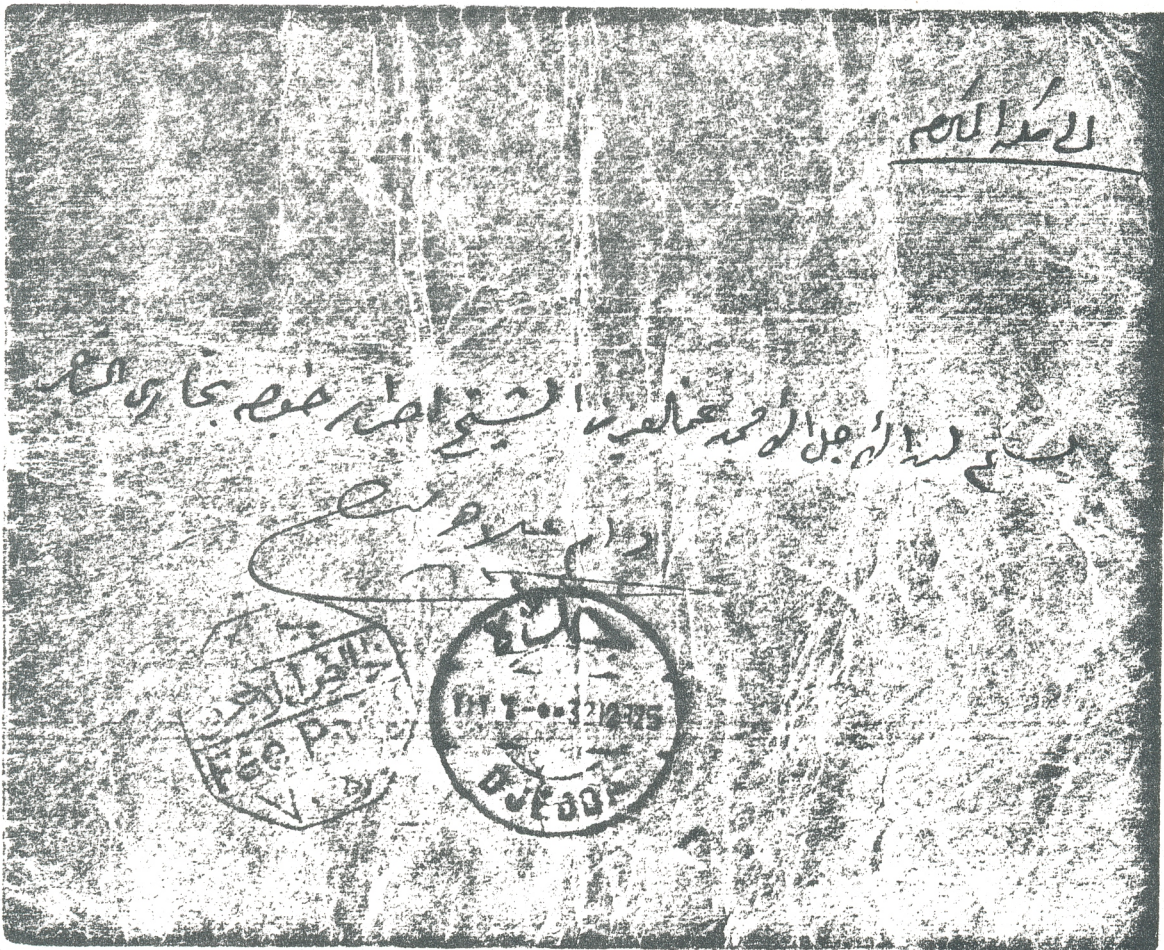
Item I



Item II



Item III



EASTERN PROVINCE POST OFFICES AND THEIR CANCELLATIONS

By: Philip Stokoe, Ali M. Quraish and Abdullah Marhoun

INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia has shown rapid growth from 1976 causing an increase in construction. The latter gives rise to expansion of existing towns and the development of new ones. Accompanying this rapid growth is the influx of indigenous population from other parts of the country and the enormous number of expatriates needed for this rapid development. The government, in keeping with the expansion, has also allowed its communications to develop and this includes the rapid expansion of post offices or the systematic renovation and upgrading of existing postal departments.

We have over the years tried to visit most of the post offices in the Eastern Province. The experience of seeing the working of the individual departments and in most cases, the efficiency of the mail to the utmost rural areas, only goes to show the rapid strides by which the Kingdom has developed.

POST OFFICES OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE

The Eastern Province is situated in the Eastern part of the Arabian peninsula. Its approximate boundaries are Kuwait in the north, the Arabian Gulf to the east, the United Arab Emirates to the southeast, and Riyadh to the west.

For convenience, the postoffices have been divided into approximate geographical areas.

A. Northern Area:

ALKHAFJI
NARIYAH

ASSAFFANIYAH (Safaniya)
JUBAIL/JUBAYL/JOBAIL*

B. Ras Tanura and satellite areas:

RAS TANNORA & RAHIMA
RAHIMA/RAHEEMA/RAHIMAH*
ANAK

UMM ASSAHIQ
SAFWA

C. Dammam and surrounding areas:

DAMMAM

SAIHAT/SEEHAT*

D. Qatif oasis complex:

QATIF/KHATIF/ALQATEEF*
TARUT
ALQIDAIH
JURODIAH
ALBUHARI

UMM ALHAMAM
DARIN
AWAMIA
ALTHOBI

E. Al Khobar area:

ALKHOBAR
DHAHRAN

ALTUGBAH
DHAHRAN AIRPORT

F. Hofuf oasis and vicinity:

ABQAIQ
ALSAYERAH/ALSA'EERA*
MUBARRAZ

UYUNI
AL HASSA

* Various "English" spellings of cancellers.

CANCELLATIONS

Hand cancels come in circular, rectangular or oval forms. In addition, there are machine cancels. For the purpose of this paper, we have limited ourselves to hand cancels in use in the 1980's.

A. Bilingual cancels (Post office name in Arabic and English).



Hijrah date only

Western date only

Hijrah & Western dates

B. All Arabic cancels



C. New cancels (Post office name in Arabic and English. Date in either Hijrah or Western form.)



D. Special cancels.

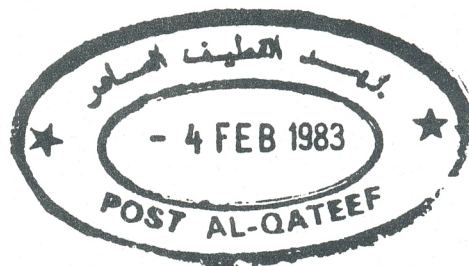
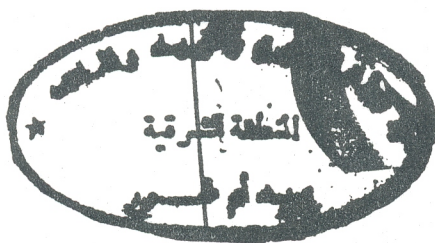
Some very interesting circular cancels carrying a completely Arabic script which reads "Post and Telegraph Department of Dammam and Qatif of the Eastern Province" (names of small villages in the center) have been found and are illustrated.



An all-Arabic seal having a similar inscription in an outer circle, with a letter and crossed swords and palm tree in the center, over the name of the postoffice:



Oval cancels about two inches across:



The above cancels are scarce and do make attractive collectors items.

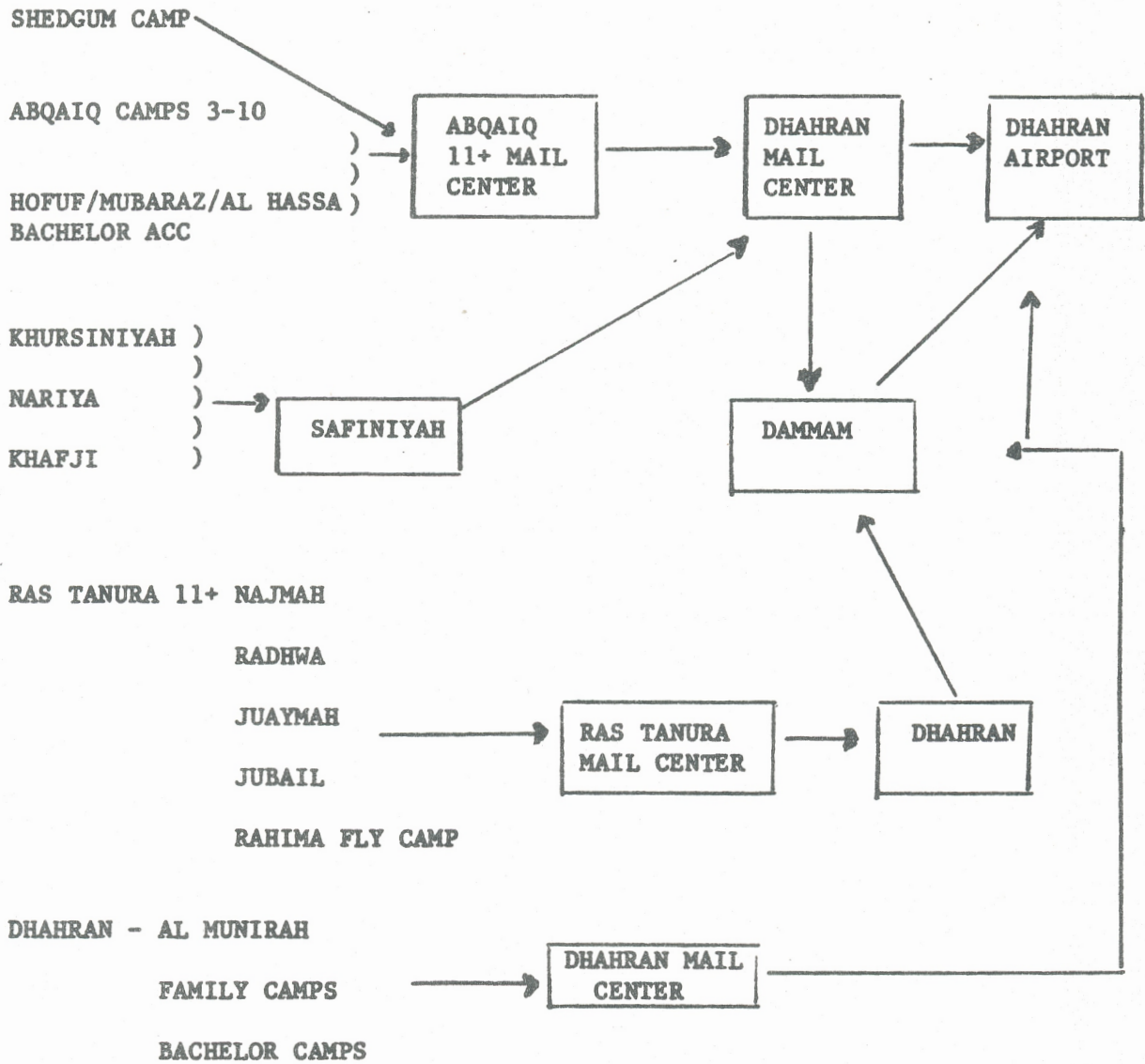
MAIL COLLECTION, DISTRIBUTION AND FORWARDING

Aramco from its very beginning has played a very close integral role with the Kingdom's postal system. Its camps in Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, Safaniya, Shedgum, Khursaniyah and Ju'aymah have company mail centers where mail is collected, sorted and then forwarded to government postoffices at Dammam and Dhahran Airport for onward transmission. The diagram below shows the various methods of postal collection.

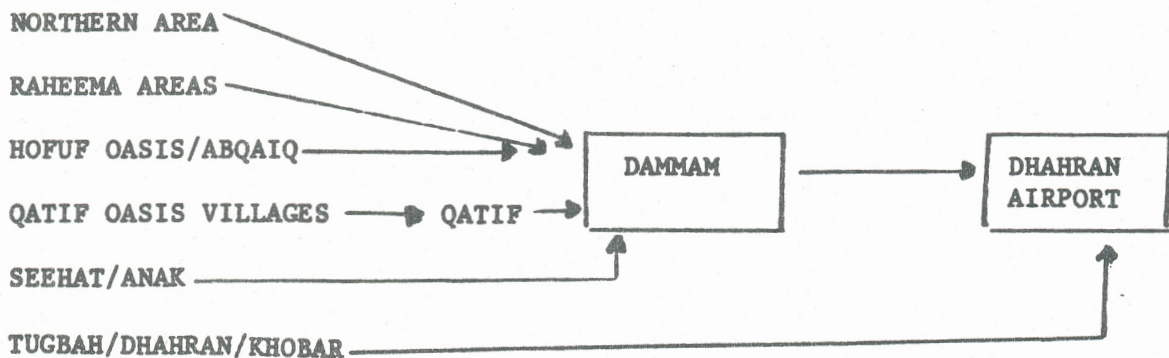
SUMMARY

Postal history in recent times has become a popular pasttime among stamp collectors. It also gives philatelists an insight into the workings of a postal system. It has been a very interesting hobby collecting these cancellations and we do hope readers have new insight into this very important aspect of philately.

ARAMCO SYSTEM



GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS



PLATING THE STAMPS OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Tom Righter

1950 THE ARMS OF SAUDI & AFGANISTAN (Scott Cat #179)

This issue was printed in 2 across and 5 down format, Scott does not state the position of the error. The error is in Pos. 2, i.e. in the upper right corner of the sheet. The error spelling is POSTFS; the correct spelling is POSTES.

Each stamp in these miniature sheets can be plated from checking placement of the value cliches and shadings in the curves in the ribbon under the coats of arms. However the stamp is not that rare. What we collectors want to know is the scarcity of the basic stamp and it's errors.

DOES ANY ONE HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAUDI STAMP PRINTING CONTROL DATA? How many of each stamp were printed? If e.g. the regular stamp is valued at \$10 and the error ratio is one : nine then the mathematical value is \$90. While we know that demand creates value in stamp collecting, knowing the scarcity helps in establishing value.

SC# 184a This error is plated very well in Scott's footnote.

1965 THE OPENING OF ARAFAT-TAIF ROAD (Scott Cat. #s 350-353)

(The Dhahran Post Office sold panes of these stamps printed 5 horizontal and 10 vertical, i.e. 5 x 10 = 50 to the pane. But print guides in the selvages indicate that perhaps as many as 4 panes may have been in one printer's sheet.)

In this set with colored background the white lines, scrolls, and words are finely drawn. Are colors in the white words or lines caused by dust during printing or errors made in the design when the stamp was approved? How many samples are necessary to prove that a particular position in a particular pane is a true design variation? Does anyone have confirming copies of the following?

In The LEFT SIDE Inscription Rectangle

S.C.# 350 2p Pos.11 A hanging glob of white (i.e. a defacing notch in the colored background) attached to the lower left part of the letter G in the word OPENING. This error occurs in sheets with the complete selvage on the left side having 3 color ink guides and the Arabic scrip in lower left corner. Pos.11 (I have 2 copies)

S.C.# 351 4p Has any one noticed the 4p LEFT border inscription?

Under the second "A" of ARAFAT some stamps have a round defacement cut into the blue background. This is a regular reoccurring error in specific positions, but the positions are

randomly in the sheet. That is, we would expect a systematic positioning of these (border inscription) rectangles (containing the defacement) in the same position in the next row or in the next half the pane but this was not found.

I did not keep a full pane nor sheet, so I can only state that I have the 'Chip in Left Border' error in the following positions, starting from the right top stamp and counting across.

Pos. 4 in sheet with right selvage containing Arabic scrip and color target in upper corner. (Have 3 copies)

Pos. 27 in sheet with left selvage containing Arabic scrip in lower corner but with out the color target. (Have 3 copies)

Pos. 25 with piece of right selvage containing an ink target guide. (Have 1 copy)

SC#353 8p Pos. 50. A white scratch zigzags up left, from the top right of "F" of the word OF, to the white border line. The right side selvage for this error (?) has no lower right markings. The left side selvage does have the color ink guide and the Arabic scrip in the lower left side. (Have 1 copy only)

In The BOTTOM Inscription Rectangle.

SC# 350 2p A break in the line under ARABIAN; the break occurs in the space between the A and B. Selvage on left side has 3 color ink guides and the Arabic scrip in lower left corner. Pos. 42

SC# 351 4p A thin line break is in the line under the first leg of the first A in ARABIAN. (selvage piece has color ink guides on right side) Pos. 44. (2 copies)

SC# 352 6p A break in the white line is under the FIRST leg of 'M' in KINGDOM. (Noted in a pane with selvage on the right side; the circle ink guide and Arabic scrip is in the upper right part of selvage.) That error repeats in the following positions: Pos. 5 , Pos. 25; Ditto but very light inking in Pos. 31. (2 or more copies of each)

In a pane with a piece of right selvage containing circle ink guides; but the Arabic scrip is in the lower left side selvage. (This might be part of the same sheet or pane noted above - I don't have complete sheets.) The same error repeats in Pos. 27, Pos. 30, Pos. 46 and Pos. 49; Ditto but very light inking in Pos. 29 and Pos. 37. (2 or more copies in each position listed)

SC# 353 8p Under the down stroke of the "A" in SAUDI there is color in the white line. (The selvage lower left side is without ink guide but with Arabic scrip.) Pos. 46. (3 copies)

8p The up stroke of first A in ARABIAN was thickened in Pos. 12. (same selvage marks as above) (2 copies)

SC# 353 8p The horizontal bar of the first A in ARABIAN was knotted or tied to the front leg (i.e. thickened) in Pos. 48 (same selvage marks as above) (2 copies)

In The UPPER Description Rectangle

SC# 350 2p A line break 14 1/2 mm in from left side of stamp at top of the UPPER rectangle, same selvage marks as above, Pos. 37.

1967 TO COMMEMORATE INAUGURATION OF DAMMAM - JEDDAH ROAD

(Scott Cat.#s 453-457)

This set is a nitpickers night mare! There are halos, color dots and dashes, scratches, and smudged inks; and some true design errors including missing colored dots for cities.

The print shop methods produced the 'halos'. Dust settled on the paper before printing. The dust by capillary action sucked ink around itself. When the dust fell off, after printing, a 'halo' (a circle of color around a CIRCLE of white with or without a colored center) was left.

The dots and dashes may have been caused by splattering ink.

For the scratches, my speculation is that a printer wiped a plate with a dirty rag or handful of waste which left streaks on the plates. The streaks became less noticeable as printing continued. (Noted on the BLUE ink printings.)

The "smudged ink" varieties were caused by paper rippling slightly during the feeding process. On one side of the sheet the printing is usually sharp. Progressively across the sheet the ink becomes more and more smudged until on the other side of the sheet the printing is impressed twice - but it is NOT a double print variety. (Noted in the GREEN ink printings.)

ERRORS IN GREEN INK printings (or printer's secret defacements)

The GREEN ink printings were on at least 2 panes that had stamps 10 across and 6 down. Although the selvages I have do not show any printer's guides in green ink it is possible that four panes were in the printer's sheet. I base that conjecture on the fact that there are color guides for the value color on either the right or bottom selvage of different panes that I do have.

Pos. 51 on one pane is different from the Pos. 51 of other panes as follows: The green grass (wheat) stem that bends to the LEFT has a distinct notch in its tip. It is an ERROR for the same position on all values; 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, and 10p.

SC#453-7 Pos. 34 on a pane that does not have 'notched tip' variety is different from the other Pos. 34 as follows: On the right side of the green grass stem that bends to the RIGHT there are two tiny nicks 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 mm. from its tip. (I have this error on 1p, 2p, 4p values. I expect the error exists on other values. Does any one have extra 3p or 10p Pos. 34s to swap?)

(How does one calculate the relative scarcity of this error? If it occurs once in a pane of 60 stamps, then how many panes were printed in a printers sheet? Is this a 1 in 60 or 1 in 120, or 1 in 240 error? How many of copies of each value were printed?)

I speculate that the egomaniac not only left his mark in the positions noted above but also;

Pos. 27, Pos. 47 have missing city dots for Dammam and Pos. 57 has a missing city dot for Dammam and the second city from the east (is it Haradh?) on the pane that has the Pos. 51 'notched tip' error.

(I was told that the dots were inked in by ball point pen in the print shop before release to post offices. The ink used was of a slightly different hue than the printed dots in other positions. My copies do not show a dent in the paper under the correction dot. Perhaps John Wilson or Rudy Thoden can recall what was said when we visited the print shop in Riyadh.

I have Pos. 27 NO DOT for Dammam on 10p stamp
Pos. 27 faint touch up DAMMAM dot on 4p stamp
Pos. 27 touch up DAMMAM dot on 2p, 3p, 4p, 10p stamps
Pos. 47 touch up DAMMAM dot on all values
Pos. 57 touch up DAMMAM and HARADH dot on 1p, 10p "
Pos. 57 touch up DAMMAM dot only (?) on 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p
Pos. 56 touch up DAMMAM dot on 2p value.

(We need lots of assistance to list all the "Missing City Dot" varieties. Who can give us more data?)

1965-70 OFFICIAL STAMPS Scott Cat. # 040 23p value

Pos. 11, the left value is "28" instead of 23. These stamps were printed 5 across and 5 down. This Pos. 11 is against the left selvage. In the selvage a portion of the Arabic year number 1 might exist if the horizontal perforations were cut widely below the row of stamps in positions 11 to 15.

This error does not appear to be caused by inserting the wrong number (such as the upside down 6 making a 9 in Scott Cat. # 036a in Pos. 14) but rather it may be the result of too much ink when printing. (I have 2 copies)

SC# 322D 200 p value of the Wadi Hanifa Dam redrawn set.

Note the border design at bottom. Find the 4th Flor-de-Lor from the LEFT. In its lower right side the background color is substantially defaced (leaving white) in at least one stamp in a pane. (I have one mint and at least two used copies with this error. One of the varieties is the mid stamp in a vertical strip of 3.) I do not know the plate position.

(It is possible that this same border was used for printing the 200p GOSP stamp, SC# 343D, since the value color is the same color as the border.)

SC# C98 Falcon 10p value.

All panes of these stamps as received at the Dhahran Air Port and Aramco post offices had a block of 4 stamps missing in positions 19,20 and 29,30. Does any APA member have stamps from those positions? Can any one tell us why these particular stamps were not issued? I have a 'hollow' block surrounding that position and find very faint horizontal streak marks leaving the space for the 'missing stamps'. Could it be that a print shop employee or visitor thought the Falcon, bird image, was too life like and should be defaced?

SC# C14 9p value. Pos. 3 has a break in the upper right curve of the P after the 9 guerch value. I only have one copy. Can any one confirm this break as a repeated flaw?

The above are samples of the findings I have in plating Saudi stamps. I'm sure other APA members can add many many more examples, corrections, and supporting evidence to develop a Specialist's Plate Catalog. With personal computers and floppy disk storage it should not be too difficult to consolidate our members' knowledge for the benefit of all.

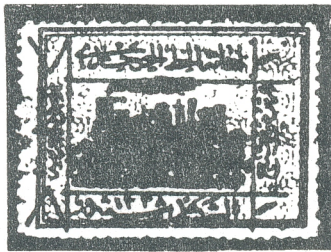
Please write to me: Tom Righter
1183 Wabash Avenue
Medford, Or. 97504
U. S. A.

P. S. I use a KAYPRO CP/M driven computer with 2 disk drives using high density one side diskettes. Are we compatible with your personal computers? If we are compatible we can exchange disks rather than hard copies.

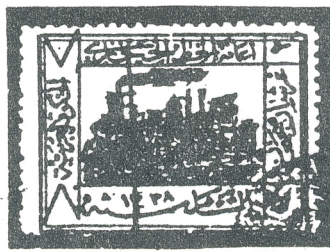
SAUDI ARABIAN REVENUE CATALOG PROJECT

By: R. J. Thoden

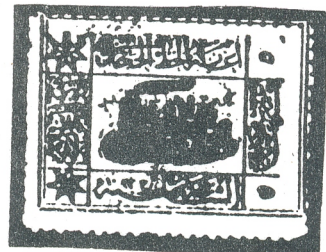
The Hejaz Railway revenues continue to generate interest. Some of our members and subscribers collect these from all Middle East governments that issued them. Anthony Hopwood sent photostats of the 1920 issues of the Arab Government in Damascus. He'd like to know if anyone has values other than the illustrated 1, 2 and 5 qirsh (#1, 2 and 3). He also sends a photocopy of an "IRAQ 8 ANNAS" surcharge on TRR9 (#4). He and Bob Jung sent photocopies of the 10 para surcharge on TRR9 for use as currency (#5). Also illustrated are two examples of the "H.J.Z" revenues of the British Palestine administration (#6 and 7) and a number of "HEDJAZ" revenues of the French occupation authorities in Lebanon and Syria (# 8-14).



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8



#9



#10



#11



#12



#13



#14

The listing of Saudi revenues this time is of the proportional documentary stamps.

PROPORTIONAL DOCUMENTARY STAMPS

ISSUES OF HEJAZ

Usage: Used to indicate payment of a fiscal stamp tax on financial documents on a pro-rata basis, where the tax was related to the amount of money involved. No further details on the usage of these Hejaz issues are available, except that the stamps themselves show the value ranges of the documents for which they were applicable, e.g. 1 qirsh for transactions from 1001 to 2000 qirsh, 2 qirsh for 2001 to 4000 qirsh, and 10 qirsh for 10,001 to 15,000 qirsh (for the three denominations seen by the editor).



1920-21(?)

Perf. 11-1/2

Unwmkd.

RQ3	Q1	1q red (1001-2000)
RQ4	Q1	2q orange red (2001-4000)
RQ7	Q1	10q red (10001-15000)

The 10 qirsh has numerals in white on colored squares in the corners. Probably printed in sheets of 36 (6x6) with imperforate sheet margins. Additional values undoubtedly exist.

The inscriptions read: "Abdu" (God's servant), "Al-Husain bin Ali" (King's name), "Al-Hukumah Al-Arabiyah Al-Hashemiyah" (The Hashemite Arab Government), "Makkah Al-Mukarramah" (Honored Mecca), and "khass bi al-rusum al-nisbiyah" (special for pro-rata fees).

1921-22

Perf. 11-1/2

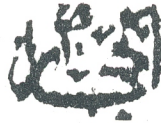
Unwmkd.

RQ12	Q2	1q violet (1001-2000)
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Inscriptions similar to those on type Q1. Dated "1340".

No. RQ12 was overprinted in 1925 by the victorious Saudi forces as a postage stamp. See Scott's number 22.

Stamps of 1920-22
handstamped (a)
in black



1925(?)		Perf. 11-1/2	Unwmkd.
RQ20	Q2	1q violet (1001-2000) a. handstamp in violet	
RQ21	Q1	2q orange red (2001-4000)	

These are probably Jeddah provisionals issued while the city was under siege by the Saudis, similar to RQ30-39. The handstamp reads "Al-Hejaz".

Stamps of 1920-22
handstamped (b)
in black



1925		Perf. 11-1/2	Unwmkd.
RQ30	Q2	1q violet (1001-2000) a. handstamp in blue	
RQ31	Q1	2q orange red (2001-4000)	

No. RQ30 with additional
handstamp surcharge
in black



1/4q



1/2q

RQ38	Q2	1/4q on 1q violet a. both handstamps in blue
RQ39	Q2	1/2q on 1q violet

Numbers RQ30-39 were provisionally issued in Jeddah during its siege by the Saudi forces. Handstamp (b) reads: "Al-Hukumah Al-Hejaziah 1344" (The Hejaz Government 1925). The handstamps were applied to prevent the use of stamps seized by the Saudis when they captured Mecca, where the Stamp Printing Press was located.

Additional values of these provisionals undoubtedly exist.

ISSUES OF HEJAZ AND NEJD

Usage: "Stamp Dues Regulations" governing the use of flat rate and proportional tax stamps on documents were put into effect on March 6, 1926. Originally the regulations were stated to apply in the Hejaz, but they were gradually enforced throughout the Kingdom. According to the regulations, "stamps of proportional rate are affixed to documents and bills in consideration of and in proportion with the sums contained in such documents". Certain types of documents were subject to both flat rate and proportional tax. The tax schedule was given as:

Documents covering an amount up to 100 qirsh:	1/4 qirsh
Documents from 101 to 1000 qirsh:	1/2 qirsh
Documents from 1001 to 2000 qirsh:	1 qirsh
Documents from 2001 to 10,000 qirsh, for every 2000 qirsh and remaining fraction:	1 qirsh
Documents from 10,001 to 100,000 qirsh, for every 5000 qirsh and remaining fraction:	2-1/2 qirsh
Documents of 100,001 qirsh and over, for every 10,000 qirsh and remaining fraction:	5 qirsh

Fines for documents found without stamps were "collected at the rate of 5% (of the value of the documents), and the remainder, if any, will be regarded as 100 qirsh". These fines were payable in stamps. Flat rate and proportional stamps could not be used interchangeably.



Q3

1926

Perf. 11-1/2, 10-3/4

Unwmkd.

			A. Perf. 11-1/2	B. Perf. 10-3/4
RQ41	Q3	1/4q carmine (1-100)	X	
RQ42	Q3	1/2q olive (101-1000)	X	
RQ43	Q3	1/2q yellow green (101-1000)		X
RQ44	Q3	1q dark yellow (1001-2000)	X	
RQ45	Q3	2q dark blue gray (2001-4000)	X	
RQ46	Q3	3q dark slate green (4001-6000)	X	
RQ47	Q3	4q purple (6001-8000)	X	
RQ48	Q3	5q olive green (8001-10000)	X	
RQ49	Q3	10q violet (10001-20000)	X	

Inscription in the central rectangles reads "Al-Hukumah Al-Arabiyah" (The Arabian Government) and "nisbiy" (proportional).

The Arabic numbers in the side panels indicate the value range (in qirsh) of the document on which the stamp was to be used.

Higher values may exist. Size of stamps: 20 x 36 mm.

ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA



Q4

1934-45		Perf. 11-1/2, 10-3/4	Unwmkd.	
			A. Perf. 11-1/2	B. Perf. 10-3/4
RQ55	Q4	1/4q carmine (1-100) a. grayish paper	X	
RQ56	Q4	1/2q green (101-1000) a. yellow green on grayish	X	X
RQ57	Q4	1q orange (1001-2000) a. brown orange on grayish	X	X
RQ58	Q4	2q dark blue gray (2001-4000) a. grayish paper	X	
RQ59	Q4	3q dark gray green (4001-6000) a. grayish paper	X	
RQ61	Q4	5q dark olive green (8001-10000) a. grayish paper	X	

The various denominations vary slightly in size from 17-1/2 x 31-1/2 to 18-1/2 x 33-1/2 mm. The inscription now reads "Al-Mamlakah Al-Arabiyah Al-Saudiyah" (The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

Additional values may exist. The grayish paper was used for 1945 printings.

As provided by the Revised Stamp Dues Regulations approved by the Royal Cabinet on June 6, 1949, the distinction between flat rate and proportional documentary stamps was eliminated, and the existing stamps of these types were made interchangeable. They were replaced by general documentary stamps in 1950.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdul Aziz Sa'id

Mar. 23, 1985: A set of four stamps, 20h, 50h, 65h and 80h, was issued to mark the Fourth Five Year Plan of Development, 1985-90. The stamps have a photograph of King Fahd and depict:

- 20h - Industrial Jubail and the emblem of the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu. Designed by Mohammed Ghareeb Barwar.
- 50h - T.V. tower, earth station and microwave tower. Designed by Ashfaq Ghani.
- 65h - Agricultural fields and tractor. Designed by Ashfaq Ghani.
- 80h - Industrial Yanbu and the emblem of the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu. Designed by Mohammed Ghareeb Barwar.

Printed in sheets of 54 (6 x 9), consisting of 12 se-tenant blocks of four, with the lower row of the sheet comprising six different labels urging the public to use the postcode. Unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



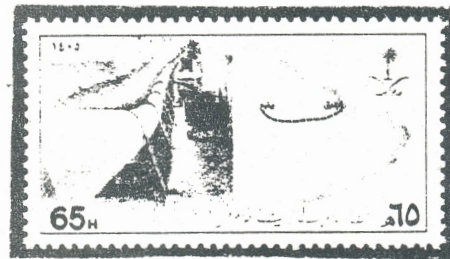
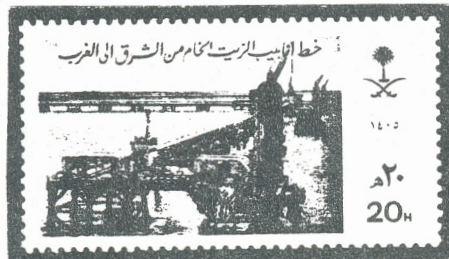
May 4, 1985: A set of two stamps, 20h and 80h, was issued to mark International Youth Year. The design depicts the I.Y.Y. emblem. Designed by Mohammed Ghareeb Barwar. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps (5 x 10). Unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



May 4, 1985. A 20h stamp was issued on the occasion of self-sufficiency in wheat production. The design shows the Arabian Peninsula covered with stalks of wheat. Designed by Ashfaq Ghani. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps (10 x 5). Unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 stamps.



June 9, 1985: A set of two stamps, 20h and 65h, was issued to publicize the East-West Pipeline, which delivers crude oil from Abqaiq in the Eastern Province to Yanbu on the Red Sea, and which was inaugurated on Jan. 30, 1983. The 20h shows a tanker loading berth at Yanbu, and the 65h shows a view of the line (under construction?) and a map of Saudi Arabia with the pipeline route. Designed by Ashfaq Ghani. Printed in sheets of 52 (4 x 13) which consist of 50 stamps plus two postcode labels in the first two positions of the bottom row. Unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



All the above issues were offset printed by the Government Security Printing Press, Riyadh.

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 the editor. If more adlets are received than there is space available, a priority system will be used whereby repeat adlets by the same person will be put at the bottom of the waiting list.

AVAILABLE: Scarce Saudi definitives and commemoratives. Want lists are welcome. Aouni Edriss, P.O. Box 2578, Hofuf 31982, Saudi Arabia. Phone: 03-5874483.



WANTED: Passport Stamps.

2 Riyals "A Country Addition"
10 Riyals "Transit Visa" (in Arabic only)
3 1/2 Riyals "General Services Tax"

R.J. Thoden, P.O. Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

FOR SALE: to highest bid received by August 10th. Hejaz Scott L159a (cat \$25) SG164a (cat £100). Mint never hinged. Fine centering. Genuine, plated. R. J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

ACCEPTED: Hejaz want lists from A.P.A. members in Dhahran and vicinity. Most low and medium priced stamps available. All are genuine. Indicate your preferences on centering and hinging, although not all stamps are available in all grades. R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

WANTED: Hejaz stamps with clear postmarks of CONFIDAH, MAAN, RABIGH, TEBOUK and other less often seen cities. No DJEDDAH or "MECCA" required. R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

WANTED: Your free adlets for this page. Send to R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

WANTED: Your articles on all aspects of Saudi philately for publication in RANDOM NOTES. Send to the editor, R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

TO BE SOLD: by Robert Siegel, 160 E. 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 in October, on behalf of an A.P.A. subscriber: Saudi Arabia Scott's L51a (sheet of 50), P1 and P3. These items were in the 1980 Mayo sale as lots 1810, 1916 and 1918. P1 and P3 have Philatelic Foundation certificates.
