



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 SR10 in Saudi Arabia, \$5 (U.S.) in Europe, and \$7 in the U.S.A. Late renewals, after April 1, are SR 20, \$8 and \$10, respectively. 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 membership secretary. Checks should be made payable to The Arabian Philatelic Association. All changes of address should also be sent to the membership secretary.

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

J. I. Kearney, President	
B.H. Walthall, Past President	P. C. Stainer, 1st Vice president
R.J. Thoden, 2nd Vice president	R Bradford, Corresponding Secretary
W.A. King, Membership Secretary	J. I. Kearney, Auctioneer
G.P. Polonica, Treasurer	K. Forber, Annual Show Chairman

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/subscribers attending meetings in Dhahran.
J. M. Wilson - for subscribers in U.S.A. & Canada. Mr Wilson is a stamp dealer and charges a fee for his services. His address is: P.O.Box 3054, Humble, Texas 77347-3054. U.S.A.
W.A. King - 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.

Articles on all aspects of Saudi Arabian philately are urgently needed for publication in the RANDOM NOTES, and should be submitted directly to the editor. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved.

RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

1. The A.P.A.'s annual show, APEX-15, will be held on Thursday, November 20, 1986, in the Ad-Diwan Building in Dhahran. The show chairman, Mr. Keith Forber, would like to hear immediately from those who intend to exhibit or have a bourse table.
2. The A.P.A.'s 16th auction will be held on February 26, 1987 in Dhahran. A prospectus for sellers has already been mailed to all members and subscribers. Note that those wanting a copy of the auction catalog must specifically request it from the auctioneer.
3. The new issue service formerly provided by Mr. J. I. Kearney has been transferred to Mr. W. A. King. This covers all subscribers except those attending meetings in Dhahran, or residing in the Western Hemisphere. Affected subscribers will be hearing from Mr. King shortly about revised procedures.
4. The full name of the Kehr book on Interpostal Seals mentioned in RANDOM NOTES #35 is "The Posta Europea and 1984 Kehr Catalogue of Interpostals", by Ernest A. Kehr and Philip Cockrill (Cockrill Series Booklet No. 33). Copies are available from Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 399 Strand, London WC2, England, for £5. Thanks to W.A. King for this information.
5. John Ross' "Stamp Market Tips" (now in LINN's STAMP NEWS) recently recommended Scott's #729 (25th anniversary of the Dammam-Riyadh Railroad). Mr. Ross says Middle Eastern stamp dealers are paying \$5 each for this stamp. Catalog price was only \$1.50 in 1986, but was raised to \$10 in the 1987 Scott's.
6. The same number of sheets were printed of the new Hajj issue as for other recent commemorative issues, despite the fact there were eight different designs in the sheet! This means only 100,000 of each design exist. Apparently following this lead, the Dammam Postoffice reserved the same number of sheets for the A.P.A. as it normally does for each issue, rather than the eight times normal that we required. By the time bulk sales reopened after the two week 'Id al-Adha closure, the stamps were sold out. The postal authorities then tried their best to help by contacting all the large offices in the Eastern Province to which the stamps had been distributed, and also Riyadh, but no unsold stocks could be located. As a result, each A.P.A. new issue subscriber received one or two blocks of eight depending on his standing order. Sorry, but these circumstances were obviously beyond our control.

Mr. A. A. Sa'id reports that the newspapers in Riyadh gave advance publicity to the issue, and demand from collectors and the public was so heavy that the issue was sold out on the first day. A few days later, sheets were changing hands at SR25-35. He expects a good future for the set because of the small quantity printed.

7. Much to my surprise, no one has written to say he/she has an Aramco A.P.O. cover as described in my article on "Early Aramco Postal History" in RANDOM NOTES #35. I'd at least like to see a photostat. Who can help?
8. More missing dots! Dr. O. Al-Abbasi reports the 5 qirsh airmail of the Cairo printing, Scott's #C11, with only one dot over the "ق". Dr. Al-Abbasi also sent a photostat of the 9 qirsh GOSP of the Cairo printing, Scott 233, with clear double impression of the frame.



9. Another copy of the rare newspaper stamp, Scott's #P3, was offered in the Italphil sale of July 10-11, 1986 with a starting price of 12,000,000 lire (about \$8,575). The stamp remained unsold.
10. Again this year there was a special cancellation marking Universal Day of the Post, October 9. The inscription at the bottom reads: The Post is a messenger of peace. No city name is included, and use from Riyadh and Dammam is known. Probably, it was used elsewhere as well.



HAJJ

By: S. H. Abdul-Jauwad

"The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka (same as Makkah, perhaps an older name), full of blessing and guidance for all kinds of beings. In it are signs manifest; (for example), the station of Ibrahim, whoever enters it attains security; pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to God, those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, God stands not in need of any of His creatures."
(Holy Quran III, 96-97).

The pilgrimage to Makkah was established long before the prophet Muhammad began to preach Islam and summon the Arabs and all mankind back to the worship of One True God. It was established since the time of Ibrahim (Abraham) after rebuilding the first house of God, the Ka'aba (Fig. 1), with his son Ismael (Ishmael). All Muslims believe that the prophet Muhammad's message is a natural extension or a revival of that of the Patriarch Ibrahim.

Figure 1.
The Holy Ka'aba.



Figure 2.
Arriving Pilgrims In Ihram.

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, a duty which a Muslim must perform at least once in his or her lifetime if it can be afforded and health permits. There are two kinds of Pilgrimage to Makkah. The first kind is the Umrah, or Lesser Pilgrimage, which can be performed at any time of the year. Then there is the Hajj proper, which combines the rites of Umrah with others outside Makkah and takes place once a year in the first part of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This discussion will cover the Hajj proper.

Those who choose to perform the Hajj start by putting themselves in a state of sanctity by ablution, prayer and donning the pilgrim's dress (Ihram), which for a man consists of two unsewn towels, one worn wrapped around the lower part of the body, the other thrown over the upper part (Fig. 2). There is no special dress for a woman except that her face must remain unveiled. This dress code emphasizes the equality of all pilgrims before God. Once in a state of Ihram, Muslims should accompany their state of submission to God by relinquishing some of their earthly pleasures such as sex, use of head gear or scent, or even hunting. The most essential part of Hajj is the cleanliness of thoughts and spoken words to fellow humans and causing no harm to any living creature of God. The pilgrim makes a formal Declaration of Pilgrimage and pronounces a devotional utterance called Talbiyah.

After donning the Ihram, and only after, may the pilgrim enter the Haram (Sanctuary), a geographical area which surrounds Makkah. Its frontiers were established by Ibrahim and confirmed by Muhammad, and is a sacred precinct in which all violence is prohibited. During Hajj, pilgrims from outside Saudi Arabia must have a special Hajj visa in their passports which is stamped by immigration officials at check points leading to the Haram.

On the eighth day of Dhu al-Hijjah, pilgrims go from Makkah to Mina, a small normally uninhabited village about 8 km. from Makkah, and stay there all day preparing for the "Standing" which takes place the next day and is the central rite of the Hajj. On the morning of the ninth day, the Day of Hajj, they go to the Plain of Arafat (22 km. east of Makkah) and stay there until sunset, meditating and praying (Fig. 3). On the Plain of Arafat rises a small hill called "Jabal al-Rahmah" (Mount of Mercy) on which the prophet Muhammad gave his farewell sermon.

Figure 3.
Standing at
Arafat.



Figure 4.
Spending the
Night at
Muzdalifah.



The pilgrims leave Arafat after sunset, spending most of the night at Muzdalifah (Fig. 4), a place between Arafat and Mina, and go back to Mina on the morning of the tenth day and perform a symbolic stoning of the devil (Fig. 5), who tried to persuade Ibrahim to disobey God's command to sacrifice his son.

Then begins the greatest feast of Islam: the "Id al-Adha" - the Feast of Sacrifice. An animal (usually a sheep) is sacrificed and some of the meat is given to the poor. This is made in commemoration of Ibrahim who willingly responded to God's call and would have sacrificed his son Ismael in submission to the will of God. The pilgrims must then return once more to Mina, for it is there that the period of consecration ends. With a final shaving of his head or symbolic clipping of his hair, the pilgrim emerges from the state of Ihram and may bathe and put on clean clothes.

Figure 5.
Stoning the
Devil.



Figure 6.
Tawaf
al-Ifadhah.



The pilgrims then return to Makkah and the Masjid al-Haram (The Sacred Mosque) which contains the Ka'aba. They circle the Ka'aba seven times, reciting prayers (Tawaf al-Ifadhah - Fig. 6). While circling, they kiss, touch or salute the Black Stone (Al-Hajar al-Aswad). Kissing the Stone is a ritual that is performed only because the Prophet did it and not because any powers or symbolism are attached to the Stone per se. After they complete the circling, pilgrims go to the Station of Ibrahim (lower left corner of Fig. 7) and complete two cycles of individual prayer. The Tawaf of the Return is the last essential ritual and the pilgrims are now "hajjis" - that is, they have completed the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims also perform the Running (Sa'y) - a reenactment of the search for water by Hagar, wife of Ibrahim. Hagar was led into the desert with her infant son Ismael and left near the present site of Makkah. Frantic for water for the child, she ran desperately back and forth seven times

between two rocky hillocks, al-Safa and al-Marwa, until the angel Gabriel appeared, and stamping the ground with his heel, brought forth water. This is the origin of the Well of Zamzam. Pilgrims drink from the well, then enter an enclosed corridor appended to the Sacred Mosque called al-Mas'a (the Place of Running - Fig. 8) and walk briskly between the hills seven times.

Figure 7.
Station of
Ibrahim.



Figure 8.
The Sa'y.



It is customary for the pilgrims to return to Mina for the third time between the 11th and 13th days (Tashreeq Days - Fig. 9). They cast more pebbles at the three pillars, visit with other pilgrims and bade farewell to the new friends made during Hajj. When the day of his departure is fixed, the pilgrim goes to the sacred mosque in Makkah for the last time and performs a farewell tawaf (Tawaf al-Wida - Fig. 10) as a means of bidding the Holy City farewell.



Figure 9. Tashreeq Days.



Figure 10. Tawaf al-Wida.

The Ka'aba is a cubical building almost in the center of the Masjid al-Haram (The Sacred Mosque). The front and back walls are 12.15 and 11.88 meters respectively, and the side walls 10.25 and 9.92 meters. The height is 15 meters (three times the original height). The four walls which run NW, NE, SW and SE, are re-covered every year with a black cloth called Kiswah (Fig. 11). The lower part of Kiswah is usually lifted during Hajj. The golden door of the Ka'aba is in the NE wall 2.13 meters from the ground with a length of 3.12 meters, width of 1.68 meters and thickness of 0.50 meters (Fig. 12). Embedded in the SE corner is the Black Stone.



Figure 11.
The Kiswa.



Figure 12.
The Golden Door.



Figure 13.
The Prophet's Mosque.

Pilgrims usually combine their Hajj with a visit to Medina and visit the Prophet Muhammad's Mosque (Fig. 13). This is the second city of Islam, the city to which Muhammad fled from persecution in his native city, where he established the Islamic State, and where he lies buried with so many of his noble companions.

Postal history of Saudi Arabia is very much related to the presence of the two Holy Cities of Makkah and Medina, and to the performance of Hajj and Umrah by Muslims. The earliest postoffice was the Egyptian office at Jiddah (Gedda), which opened June 8, 1865 and closed October 30, 1881 (according to Mayo). Muslim pilgrims making the Hajj usually either carried their correspondence on their person until they returned to Jiddah, or passed it on to the care of caravan people going in that direction. The only regular mail service between Jiddah and Makkah at that time was a daily private courier service using strong donkeys, at a cost of one qirsh. The journey from Jiddah started at Bab Makkah (one of the gates of old Jiddah) in the late afternoon and ended at dawn in Makkah.

Postoffices are opened at Mina and Arafat during the Hajj for use by the pilgrims. Figure 14 is an example of a relatively early letter from Mina to Egypt, dated 9.12.65H (3/11/45). Dates of 10, 11 and 12 Dhu al-Hijja are sought after in Mina cancels. More modern Mina cancels are shown in Figure 15.

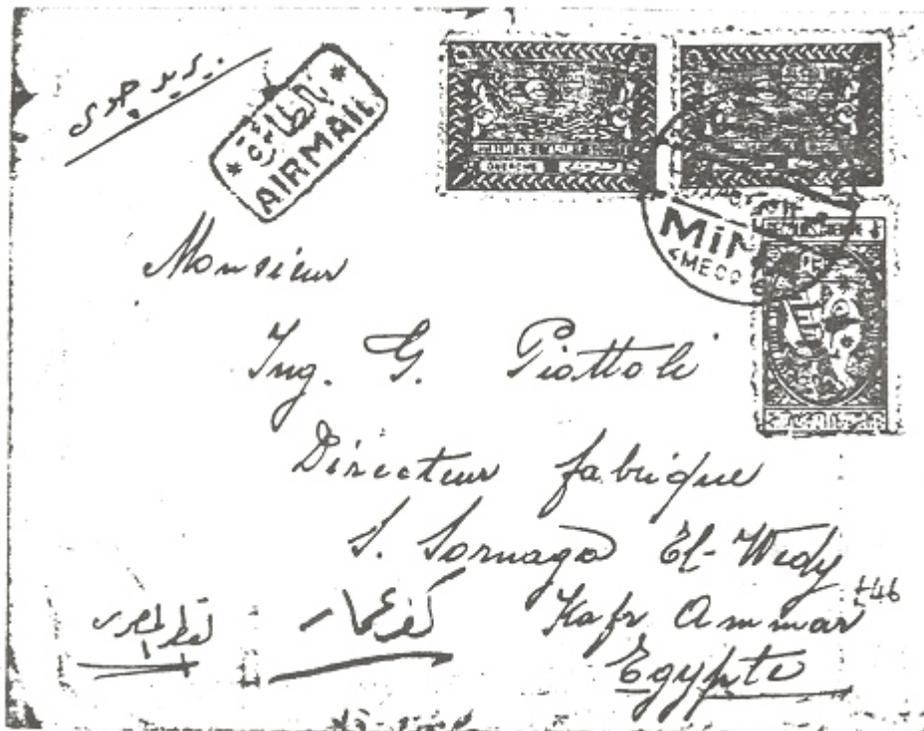


Figure 14. A Hajj letter from Mina.

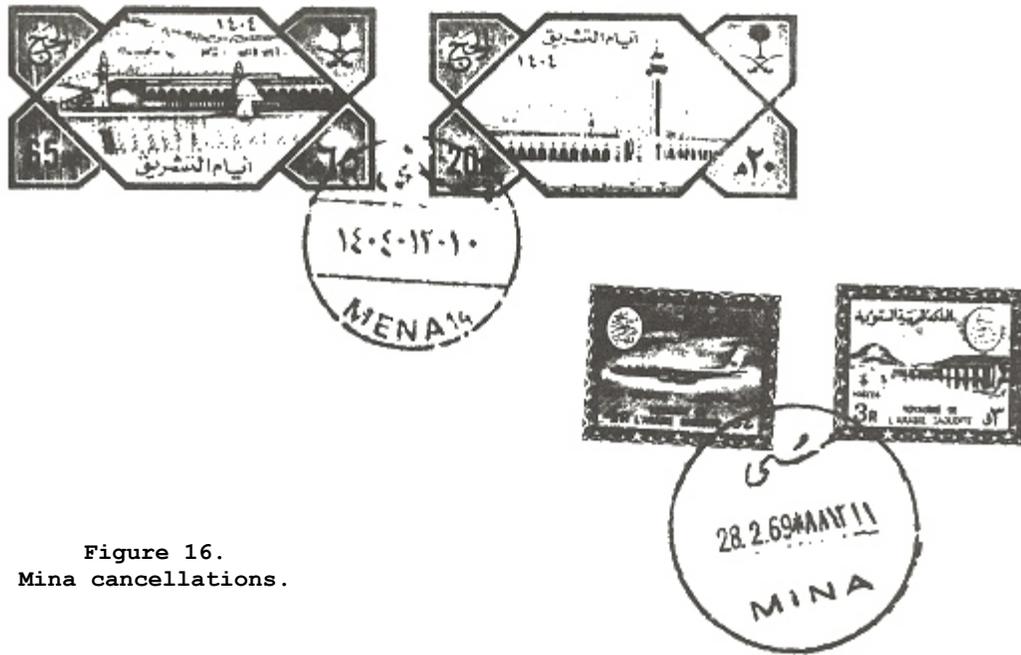


Figure 16.
Mina cancellations.

In the 1960s and 1970s special Arafat cancellations were prepared and used to cancel stamps on souvenir covers. Several examples are shown in Fig. 16. In recent years, normal style cancels have been in use. The date on Arafat covers should be the 9th of Dhu al-Hijja (9.12), the date that the pilgrims stay there.



Figure 18. Arafat cancellations

The first Hajj stamps were issued by the Saudis in July 1925 to Mark the first pilgrimage under their control. Five denominations of remainder Turkish and Hejaz stamps were surcharged. These exist on sheets of paper with a souvenir Makkah or Mina cancellation (Fig. 17).

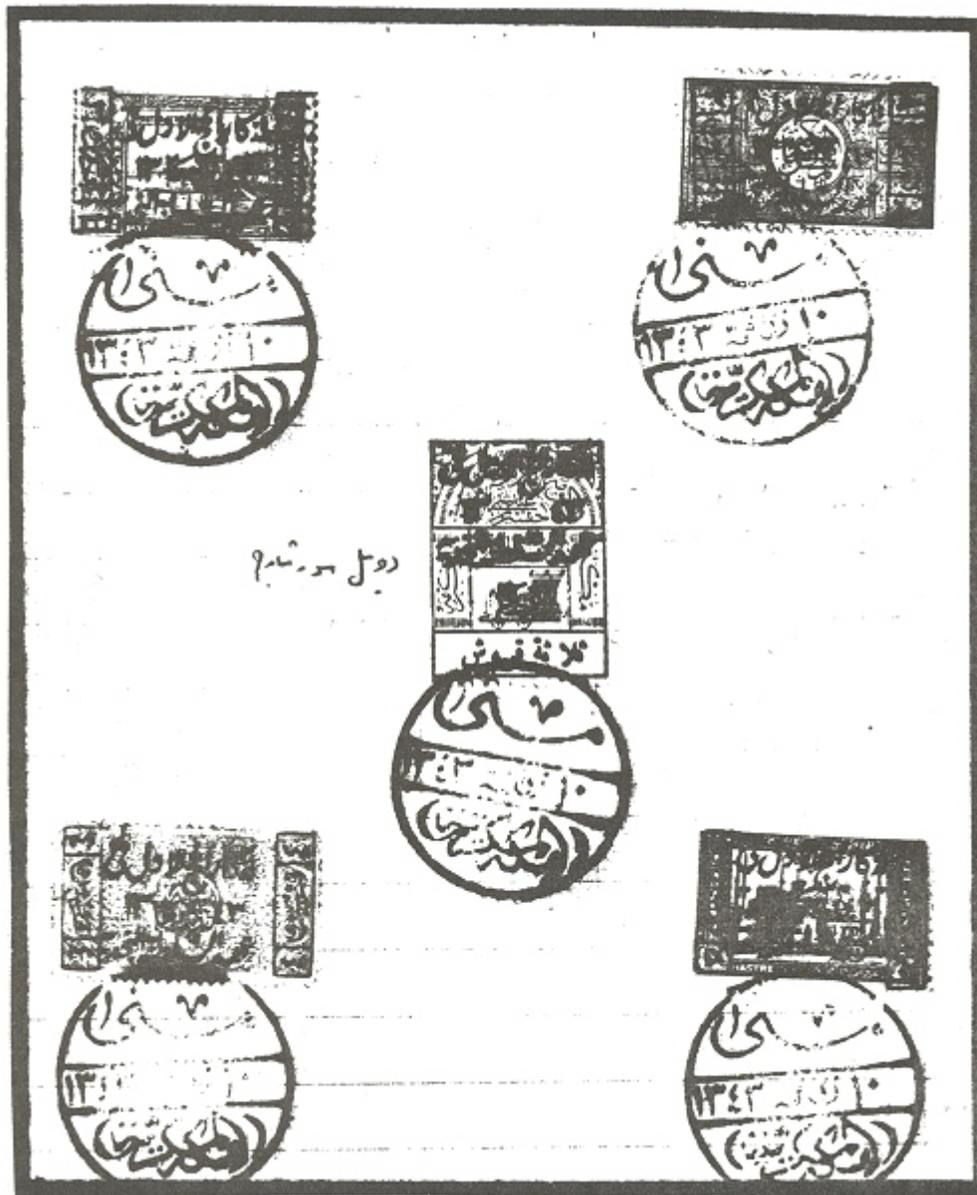


Figure 12. First Pilgrimage issue cancelled Mina.
(Courtesy of P. Stokoe)

Starting in 1978, and continuing through 1985, there has been an annual set of stamps commemorating the Hajj, showing the various Hajj rituals. An example of each of these has been shown in this article. In 1985, these eight designs were reproduced in block form.

The above description of Hajj and the trickle of some postal history is by no means complete, but it is just an attempt to shed some light on Hajj and to fulfill a promise to the editor to write something about Hajj.

THE KING ALI ISSUE

PART IV

By: J. I. Kearney

Introduction

In this final installment of the King Ali Issue I will discuss and list the postage due issues. As with the regular postage stamps there are stamps as originally intended to be issued and related proofs and the overprinted issues with Jeddah and Cairo overprints.

THE POSTAGE DUES

At about the same time as the regular issues were printed a set of four stamps in a different design appeared. The format was upright, in sheets of 10 by 5 and consisted of numerals in Arabic in the center of a similar design. The values and colors were 1/2 piaster light blue, 1 piaster orange, 2 piasters light brown and 3 piasters pink. A number of proofs exist of which their status is unknown. Attachment I is a listing of the unoverprinted stamps and proofs. This listing does not contain all the possibilities that exist due to the printing of imperforate sheetlets as pictured in Mayo's book on page 48. Mayo states that these reprints are on ungummed, porous and natural in color paper. All four values exist perforated and all are thought to exist imperforated. The following colors were printed; chocolate brown, deep pink, light blue and orange. These reprints have been found on white paper which is the same as the issued stamps. They are included in Attachment I.

As with the regular issues it was decided to overprint with tablets. The tablets were applied vertically on the stamps and in almost all cases with the year to the right. The overprinting was first applied in Jeddah and two types are known to exist which correspond to the two types used for the regular issues. Type I, a 5 x 5 overprint applied twice, seems to be relatively scarce. Type II was a 10 x 5 overprint. As best as I can tell the measurements used in determining the differences in the types of the regular issue are valid for the postage dues. Attachment II is a listing of the Jeddah overprints (both types).

The tablets in the Cairo printing exist in a number of varieties. Also as with the regular issues we have a variety in which the tablets are arranged in a different fashion on the stamps. They are described as normal and horizontal on the next page.

Attachments III and IV list the Cairo overprints in black, and red and blue, respectively.



Normal



Horizontal



Inverted Year Tablet

UNOVERPRINTED STAMPS

<u>VALUE & COLOR</u>	<u>PERFORATE</u>	<u>IMPERFORATE</u>
½ pi light blue	x	x
a. double impression		x
½ pi orange	M	x
½ pi pink		x
½ pi grey prussian green	x	x
½ pi light brown		x
½ pi olive green		x
1 pi orange	x	x
a. double impression	x	x
b. horizontal pair, imperf. vertically	M	
1 pi brown orange		x
1 pi pink		x
1 pi olive		x
1 pi light blue		x
1 pi olive green		x
1 pi brown	x	x
2 pi light brown	x	x
a. double impression		x
b. beige paper		x
2 pi orange	M	x
2 pi deep grey		x
2 pi olive grey		M
2 pi pink		x
2 pi grey tan		x
2 pi light blue	x	x
3 pi pink	x	x
a. double impression		x
b. beige paper		x
3 pi orange	M	x
3 pi brown		x
3 pi deep grey		x
3 pi light blue	x	x
3 pi grayish pink		x

M - reported by Mayo, not seen by author

JEDDAH OVERPRINTS

<u>COLOR OF TABLETS, VALUE & COLOR</u>	<u>TYPE I</u>		<u>TYPE II</u>	
	<u>PERFORATE</u>		<u>PERFORATE</u>	
	<u>YEAR</u> <u>LEFT</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>RIGHT</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>LEFT</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>RIGHT</u>
<u>Black overprints</u>				
½ pi light blue	x		x	M
1 pi orange	x		x	M
2 pi light brown	x		x	M
3 pi pink	x		x	M
a. month tablet inverted				M
<u>Red overprints</u>				
½ pi light blue	W		WM	M
1 pi orange	W		WM	M
2 pi light brown	W		WM	M
3 pi pink	W		WM	M
<u>Blue overprints</u>				
½ pi light blue	W		WM	M
1 pi orange	W		WM	M
2 pi light brown	W		WM	M
3 pi pink	W		WM	M

M - reported by Mayo, not seen by author. Mayo does not distinguish between Jeddah Types I and II. I have assumed they are all Type II.

W - reported by Warin, not seen by author.

WM - reported by both Mayo & Warin.

CAIRO BLACK OVERPRINTS

	<u>NORMAL</u>				<u>HORIZONTAL</u>			
	<u>PERFORATE</u>		<u>IMPERFORATE</u>		<u>PERFORATE</u>		<u>IMPERFORATE</u>	
	<u>YEAR LEFT</u>	<u>YEAR RIGHT</u>	<u>YEAR LEFT</u>	<u>YEAR RIGHT</u>	<u>YEAR TOP</u>	<u>YEAR BOT</u>	<u>YEAR TOP</u>	<u>YEAR BOT</u>
½pi light blue	x		x		M	x		
a. year tablet inverted	x		x					
b. double ovpt., one set year left, one year right		(x)						
c. as b. Year tablet inverted		(M)						
d. double impression			x					
e. both tablets inverted					x			
f. pair, one stamp year top, one stamp year bottom						(M)		
g. pair, one stamp no tablets					M	M		
h. top margin imperf							M	
1pi orange	x		x		M	x		
a. year tablet inverted	x		x					
b. double ovpt., one set year left, one year right		(x)						
c. as b. Year tablet inverted		(M)						
d. double impression			x					
e. vertical pair, imperf between							x	
f. as e. & imperf in left margin							x	
2pi light brown	x		x		M	x		
a. year tablet inverted	x		x					
b. double ovpt., one set year left, one year right		(x)						
c. as b. Year tablet inverted		(M)						
d. double impression			x					
3pi pink	x		x	M		x		
a. year tablet inverted	x		x					
b. double ovpt., one set year left, one year right		(x)						
c. as b. Year tablet inverted		(M)						
d. double impression			x		M			
e. right margin imperf	M							
f. top margin imperf							x	

M - reported by Mayo, not seen by author

CAIRO RED & BLUE OVERPRINTS

<u>COLOR OF TABLETS, VALUE & COLOR</u>	<u>NORMAL</u>			
	<u>PERFORATE</u>		<u>IMPERFORATE</u>	
	<u>YEAR</u> <u>LEFT</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>RIGHT</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>LEFT</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>RIGHT</u>
<u>Red overprints</u>				
½ pi light blue	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	M			
b. both tablets inverted	x			
1 pi orange	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	M			
b. triple perfs at left	x			
2 pi light brown	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	M			
b. month tablet inverted	M			
3 pi pink	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	x		M	
b. month tablet inverted			x	
<u>Blue overprints</u>				
½ pi light blue	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	M			
1 pi orange	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	M			
2 pi light brown	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted	M			
3 pi pink	x		x	
a. year tablet inverted			M	

M - reported by Mayo, not seen by author.

SCOTT 1987 SAUDI ARABIA PRICE REVISIONS

Compiled by: David Graham

Cat. No.	1987	1986	Cat. No.	1987	1986	Cat. No.	1987	1986
251a	\$20	\$15	725	\$5	\$1.50	791	\$2	\$0.50
435	\$9	\$8	726	\$5	\$1.50	794-795	\$1.50	\$1
436	\$5	\$4	727-728	\$4.50	\$2.25	796-797	\$1.50	\$1
437	\$5	\$4	729	\$10	\$1.50	806-807	\$2	\$1
614-615	\$5	\$3	730	\$20	\$5	820-821	\$7.50	\$1
645-647	\$120	\$90	730a	\$3	\$0.75	822-823	\$5	\$1
678-679	\$15	\$4	740a	\$50	\$10	824	\$1	\$0.50
680-681	\$15	\$4	761	\$3	\$1.50	825-832	\$7.11	\$5.40
682	\$7.50	\$2.50	762-763	\$3	\$2.25	834-835	\$37.50	\$75
683-684	\$12	\$4	764-765	\$5	\$2.25	836	\$1	\$0.50
691-711	\$19.50	\$9.75	766	\$2	\$1.25	837-838	\$2	\$1
693a	\$0.30	\$0.15	769-770	\$3	\$2.25	839-840	\$2	\$1
694a	\$1	\$0.50	771-772	\$3	\$2.25	845	\$0.75	\$0.50
698a	\$0.80	\$0.40	779-780	\$3	\$2.25	846-847	\$2.25	\$1
719-720	\$4	\$3	782-783	\$2.50	\$1.75	848-849	\$1.40	\$1
721	\$5	\$1.50	784-785	\$2.50	\$1.75	850-851	\$1.50	\$1
722	\$3	\$1.50	786-787	\$20	\$5	852	\$1	\$0.50
723	\$10	\$2.50	788-789	\$2.50	\$1.75	853	\$1	\$0.50
724	\$5	\$1.50	790	\$1	\$0.50			

All prices are for mint.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

Compared to the large number of price changes in the 1986 edition, changes this year are limited to increases in selected modern commemoratives. The erroneous price for 834-835 last year has been only partly corrected. At \$37.50, this is still far too high. The issue is no scarcer than others of the same time period. The recent booklets are priced at about double face value, Scott's normal rate for new issues.

It is disappointing that Scott has taken no action to correct their excessively low prices for the scarce Hejaz issues and scarce modern definitives. Although Scott and Linn's now have the same owners, it appears the Scott catalog editor and Linn's Trends editor don't talk to each other!

Also disappointing is the continued failure of Scott to incorporate the A.P.A.'s recommended listing improvements. Other than addition of new issues, editorial changes this year are limited to (1) correction of the caption for Type A140, (2) improved note under 731-751 and (3) listing of the newly-discovered 20p of the 1965-70 official set as O39A (but with incorrect color).

MISSING DOTS ON THE 3 QIRSH AIRMAIL

By: T. M. Righter

I had a lot of fun nitpicking the watermarked definitives and airmails after reading the RANDOM NOTES #35 note on qirsh dots.

The variety 3q. "one dot missing" shown in the RANDOM NOTES has the RIGHT dot missing. I confirm it as the second stamp from the left selvage but without a complete sheet I do not know the exact position. It is not found (on my copies) in positions 12, 22, 32, 52, 62, 72, 82 or 92 of the Dam 3q. (Scott #433).

A variety of dots over the " ق " exist on the 3q. airmail. All dots are much smaller than on the 1q. airmail. Some 3q. dots are pinpoints such as in positions 3, 13, 23 when compared to positions 1, 11, 21. (I have two copies of each).

The big surprise was in position 4 where the right dot exists but the LEFT dot is missing.

The biggest surprise was in having a block of 12 in which one " ق " is missing BOTH dots. (Position not known).

Below the "missing BOTH dots" variety is a " ق " with a normal left dot while the right dot is extremely faint. The right dot is so faint that on a cancelled stamp it might easily be mistaken as missing. In pair or multiples, it should not be confused with the "missing RIGHT dot" variety because the dots on surrounding stamps are bigger (appear normal) while the stamp to the right of the "missing RIGHT dot" variety has pinpoint sized dots.

So far we have the following varieties: "missing BOTH dots", "missing LEFT dot", "missing RIGHT dot" and "right dot extremely faint" on the 3q. airmail; and "three dots" on all three 10q. stamps. Let's hear it from other collectors. Are there other varieties and can we plate them?

Incidentally, if you want to see a pair of beautiful diamond-shaped dots, look for them over the " ق " on the 1q. airmail (Scott #C71). None of the other stamps in this issue have such beautiful dots.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred Benedict has written that he has a 3q. airmail with LEFT dot missing, with bottom selvage. He also has bottom corner blocks of 4 or 6 of the 3q. dam which do not have any stamps with dots missing. Thus, this variety must come from positions 94, 95, 96, 97 or 98 if the frames are the same. Fred also has a 3 x 5 upper left corner block of the 3q. dam with no missing dots. However, it is believed these stamps were printed in sheets of two panes, thus the varieties could be on some panes but not others.

SAUDI STAMPS AT AUCTION

Compiled by: R. J. Thoden

From time-to-time, RANDOM NOTES will include a tabulation of auction results for Saudi stamps and postal history. The intent is to report prices for rare and unusual items, and also prices for not-so-unusual items where they differ substantially from catalog prices. Since not all auction catalogs and prices realized are available to the editor, assistance from interested readers is requested. All prices will be in the currency in which the auction was conducted. The buyer's premium percentage will be noted next to the name of the auction house. All catalog numbers and prices are Scott's, and condition is mint, hinged, unless otherwise noted.

Lot No.	Cat No.	Description	Cat. Price	Sold Price
<u>DAVID FELDMAN (GENEVA) - April 16-19, 1986 - (+15%)</u>				
21245	-----	Gedda Interpostal seal in gray. F.	-----	SF420
21248	-----	El-Ula 20p Turkish card w/ negative ccl.	-----	SF5500
21260	L17,18	On cover to Suez.	-----	SF1900
21261	L40d	Inverted surcharge. VF.	-----	SF700
21262	LJ26var	Pair, one without handstamp. VF.	-----	SF1000
21263	LJ30var	Pair, one without handstamp. VF.	-----	SF1000
21264	J13var	Both handstamps blue. VF.NH.	-----	SF2200
21266	L106b var	Corner pair, one without overprint. F.NH.	-----	SF2000
21267	L83d	Corner pair. VF.NH.	-----	SF3600
21268	L140var	Pair, one without handstamp. VF.	-----	SF1100
21269	L141var	Pair, one without handstamp. VF.	-----	SF1200
21270	30-34	Blocks of four. F. (34 NH).	\$2280	SF4200
21271	48var	Inverted overprint. VF.	-----	SF5000
21293	296-8 var	Imperf. corner blocks of four. VF.NH.	-----	SF1000
21300	C35A	5p. Saud airmail, used.	\$75	SF1000
21302	C70A	50p. Faisal airmail on cover w/C67B.	-----	SF1900
<u>DAVID FELDMAN (AMERIPEX) - May 30, 1986 - (+10%)</u>				
50358	-----	Fee Paid cover. Makkah to Jiddah.	-----	\$2000
50365	L76A	Overprint reading down (ELA). Gum thin.	\$1500	\$850
50366	LJ29var	Corner block of four, double overprint, one reading up. NH.	-----	\$3000
50367	38	Inverted handstamp. F.	-----	\$4800
50368	38B	Inverted handstamp. VF used.	-----	\$8000
50369	58D	Inverted handstamp. VF.	-----	\$7000
50370	732/750	10 values in imperf. blocks of 4. VF,NH.	-----	\$2600
<u>PETER KENEDI OF CALIFORNIA - June 3-6, 1986 - (+10%)</u>				
2783	L76	Overprint reading up. HR, F.	\$1000	\$600
2784	L76A	Overprint reading down. HR, VF.	\$1500	\$725
2785	L81	Vertical overprint, H, VF.	\$300	\$220
2791	33	VF used.	\$350	\$150

Lot No.	Cat No.	Description	Cat. Price	Sold Price
<u>FILATCO - June 30, 1986 - (No buyer's premium)</u>				
505	L18c	Black overprint, few pulled perfs, VF.	\$100	\$400
506	L19var	Missing date at right, F used.	-----	\$42
509	L26a	VF.	\$60	\$80
513	L40d	Inverted surcharge. F-VF.	-----	\$160
546	L77	Overprint reading up. Tiny paper flaw.	\$100	\$380
547	L77	Overprint reading down. VF.	\$100	\$130
557	L90a	VF used.	\$12.50	\$180
559	L93a	Badly centered.	\$12.50	\$75
561	L108-115	Mixed centering. G-F.	\$180	\$375
570	L123a	VF used.	\$15	\$100
571	L125	F-VF.	\$12	\$150
572	L125a	G used, toned.	£20	\$70
574	L127a	F used.	\$35	\$50
577	L128a	F used.	\$25	\$60
578	L129var	Inverted "1" in 1343, G-F used.	-----	\$90
616	L159a	VF.	\$25	\$100
617	L159a	VF used.	\$25	\$50
636	LJ35-39	LJ36 LH, rest NH. F-VF.	\$800	\$550
670	38A	Small defects, used.	\$1100	\$2100
680	J1-3 + a	Two shades of each (6). F-VF.	\$64	\$220
682	J3a	F-VF,NH.	\$15	\$60
684	J4	F-VF.	\$25	\$420
685	J6	Gum toned. F-VF.	\$75	\$220
721	177b	VF,NH.	\$20	\$65
735	261var	Frame only. F-VF,NH.	-----	\$90
738	291/4vars	Three values, each one color omitted.NH	-----	\$140
739	-----	Dhahran Airport, 3p essay. NG. VF.	-----	\$140
740	300-322D	Complete set. VF,NH.	\$274.80	\$550
745	323-343D	Complete set. VF,NH.	\$300.60	\$575
755	402A	23p Faisal GOSP. VF,NH,	\$100	\$320
756	402A	23p Faisal GOSP. VF used, v/light ccl.	\$0.35	\$110
757	402I	200p Faisal GOSP, VF used, light ccl.	\$3	\$110
758	403//420A	Faisal GOSP complete ex 26p, 50p. NH.	\$316.85	\$550
759	419A	26p Faisal GOSP. VF,NH.	\$110	\$175
760	420	100p Faisal GOSP. VF used block of 4.	\$8	\$130
761	420A	200p Faisal GOSP. VF used, light ccl.	\$2.50	\$80
763	432//9	Faisal wmkd. dam, ex 1,4,11,12,13p. NH.	\$51	\$145
764	442-452	Faisal wmkd. GOSP, complete. VF,NH.	\$34.80	\$250
766	459a var	2p Prophet's Mosque, redrawn frame. NH.	-----	\$320
770	489	3p Makkah Mosque, no gum, VF.	\$125	\$420
793	C70C	200p Faisal airmail, used, F.	\$2.50	\$90
794	C71-79	Faisal wmkd. airmails complete, VF, NH.	\$45.50	\$210
795	C96-99	Falcon airmails complete, NH.	\$49.50	\$110
796	J24	"T" postage due, VF, NH.	\$50	\$180
797	J24	"T" postage due, part OG, G-F.	\$50	\$150
801	O10var	Imperf. block of 4, VF.	-----	\$200
802	O21/46	Fourth officials (26 vals, ex 20,100p). VF,NH.	\$163.75	\$2500
804	O48//59	Fifth officials, 1-6,10,20p. NH.	\$4.95	\$35
805	O48//59	Same, inverted wmkd. NH.	\$4.95	\$210

SPECIALIZED LISTING 1982-1986 DEFINITIVES

By: R. J. Thoden

With the appearance of the first values of the new definitive set, it is perhaps time for another update on the 1982-86 definitives. Presumably no further values will appear, although, as with most things about Arabian philately, nothing is certain.

A. KHAFJI PLATFORM



	Perf. 14x13-1/2			Perf. 13-1/2			Perf. 12	
	WM	WM	WM	WM	WM	WM	WM	UN
	U	R	L	U	R	L	U	WM
5h. violet blue & orange ('82)		X	X		X	X		
10h. yellow green & orange ('82)		X	X		X	X		X
15h. yellow brown & orange ('83)		X	X		X	X		X
20h. dark green & orange ('82)		X	X	X	X	X		X
a. double print of orange								X
25h. purple violet & orange ('83)								X
50h. pale red & orange ('82)		X	X		X	X		X
65h. brown & orange ('82)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
1R. gray black & orange ('82)		X	X		X	X		X
a. gray & orange								X

The 1R. gray black appears black under ultraviolet light; the 1R. gray is greenish gray under UV.

B. HOLY KA'ABA



	Perf. 14x13-1/2			Perf. 13-1/2			Perf. 12	
	WM	WM	WM	WM	WM	WM	WM	UN
	U	R	L	U	R	L	U	WM
10h. gray blue & black ('83)		X	X					
15h. pale orange & black ('85)								X
20h. light blue & black ('82)		X	X		X	X		X
50h. pale red & black ('83)		X	X		X	X		X
65h. blue & black ('82)		X	X		X	X		X
a. brown violet under UV)								
1R. yellow olive & black ('82)		X	X		X	X		X
a. gray olive & black								

The normal 65h. is blue violet under ultraviolet light. All 1R. are yellow under UV except the perf. 12 watermarked which remains olive.

WATERMARKS

Watermark is Scott's type 361. WM "U.R.L" refers to the direction of the watermark: up, right or left, as seen from the front of the stamp. No stamps have been found with a watermark in the down (inverted) position.

PAPER

Watermarked stamps are on a slightly cream-colored paper with ordinary gum. Under ultraviolet light, it is non-luminescent, gray violet or brownish. Unwatermarked stamps are on very white paper with "invisible" gum.

PERFORATIONS

Perf. 14x13-1/2 stamps can be distinguished from perf. 13-1/2 in that those perf. 14x13-1/2 have even perforations at all corners while those perf. 13-1/2 do not. This can be most clearly seen in a block.

ISSUE DATES

All stamps perf. 14x13-1/2 and stamps perf. 13-1/2 (wmk. R and L) were issued as indicated above. Stamps perf. 13-1/2 (wmk. U) were issued in 1984. All perf. 12 Khafji stamps were issued in 1983. The watermarked perf. 12 Ka'aba stamps were issued in 1983 (1R), 1984 (20h and 65h), and 1985 (15h and 50h). The unwatermarked Ka'aba stamps were issued in 1985 (65h and 1R) and 1986 (20h).

SHEET LAYOUT AND INSCRIPTIONS

Perf. 14x13-1/2 and perf. 13-1/2 (wmk. R and L) stamps were printed in sheets of 150 (10x15) without gutters. Variations exist in the location and size of the printer's inscription. The author has seen the following types - others may exist:

Type A-	24mm under stamps	149/150:	Khafji - 5, 20, 65h. Ka'aba - 10, 50, 65h, 1R.
Type B-	24mm under stamp	150:	Khafji - 10, 15, 20, 50, 65h, 1R. Ka'aba - 20, 65h.
Type C-	29mm under stamps	149/150:	Khafji - 20h, 1R.
Type D-	24mm under stamp	141:	Ka'aba - 20h.

Perf. 12 and perf. 13-1/2 (wmk. U) stamps were printed in sheets of 105 (7x15) without gutters. The Khafji sheets have Type B printer's inscription (24mm) in the lower right corner. The Ka'aba sheets have Type E printer's inscription (18mm) in the lower left corner. The 65h Ka'aba also exists without printer's inscription.

STANLEY GIBBONS CATALOGUE OF 1917

By: *Peter C. Stainer*

Stanley Gibbons catalogues over the years have always been considered an essential reference for stamp collectors and the earlier volumes can sometimes reveal a "philatelic fashion" with collectors of the period.

I have a copy of the 27th edition of "Stamps of the British Empire" issued in 1917 which probably contains the very first listing of Saudi Arabian stamps - but which curiously lists them in a "Supplementary List of War Stamps" at the end of the catalogue.

In the introductory notes at the beginning of this edition it is stated: "War stamps are in ever increasing demand and the prices will be found to be substantially higher than those of last year". Although the 1914-1918 "Great War" was still in progress at the time and many stamps of other countries were overprinted WAR TAX or WAR STAMP as a contribution to the war effort of the respective countries involved, the first stamp issues of Saudi Arabia in 1915 hardly fell into that category. Technically, as the Hedjaz (as it is spelled in this edition) was then under British protection, and as the Turks were on the side of Germany, it could be stated that the Hejaz was at war with Germany and its allies. However, it is thought more likely that Gibbons listed these issues under "War Stamps" to include them in a section of the catalogue that was obviously a popular collecting theme of the day.

The listing is reproduced below:

<p>MECOA (HEJAZ). (UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.)</p>  <p>1</p>  <p>2</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">No.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Um.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Used.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">s. d.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">s. d.</td> </tr> </table>  <p>3</p>  <p>4</p>	No.	Um.	Used.		s. d.	s. d.	<p>Aug., 1916. Types 1 to 3.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1/2 piast., green (perf. 12) ..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1/2 " scarlet " ..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>1 " blue { " 10) ..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> </table> <p>Set of 3, 12/6, unused.</p> <p>1916-17. Same types and Type 4 (1/2 piast. rouletted 20).</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>1/2 piast., yellow (1917) ..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>1/2 " green ..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>1/2 " scarlet ..</td> <td>1. ..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>1/2 " blue ..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> </table> <p>Set of 4, 12d., unused.</p> <p>The Emir and Sherif of Mecca declared his territory independent of the Ottoman Empire, and the above stamps were issued to take the place of Turkish stamps which were previously used there.</p>	1	1/2 piast., green (perf. 12)	2	1/2 " scarlet "	3	1 " blue { " 10)	4	1/2 piast., yellow (1917)	5	1/2 " green	6	1/2 " scarlet ..	1. ..	7	1/2 " blue
No.	Um.	Used.																											
	s. d.	s. d.																											
1	1/2 piast., green (perf. 12)																											
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5	1/2 " green																											
6	1/2 " scarlet ..	1. ..																											
7	1/2 " blue																											

Although Gibbons did not print catalogues every year in the early days, they did produce their 26th British Empire edition in 1916, despite war-time paper shortages. It is doubted, however, if it contained a listing of the first Saudi Arabian stamps as the first issues were made on August 20, 1916 (and not 1915 as listed), which was probably too late for the 26th Edition. As the collection of old Gibbons catalogues is a sideline hobby of mine, I will keep a special lookout for a 1916 edition to answer this question.

It is perhaps interesting to note that the difficult one piastre blue perf. 10 x 12 and perf. 12, and the 1/2 piastre scarlet perf. 10 varieties had not been catalogued in 1917!

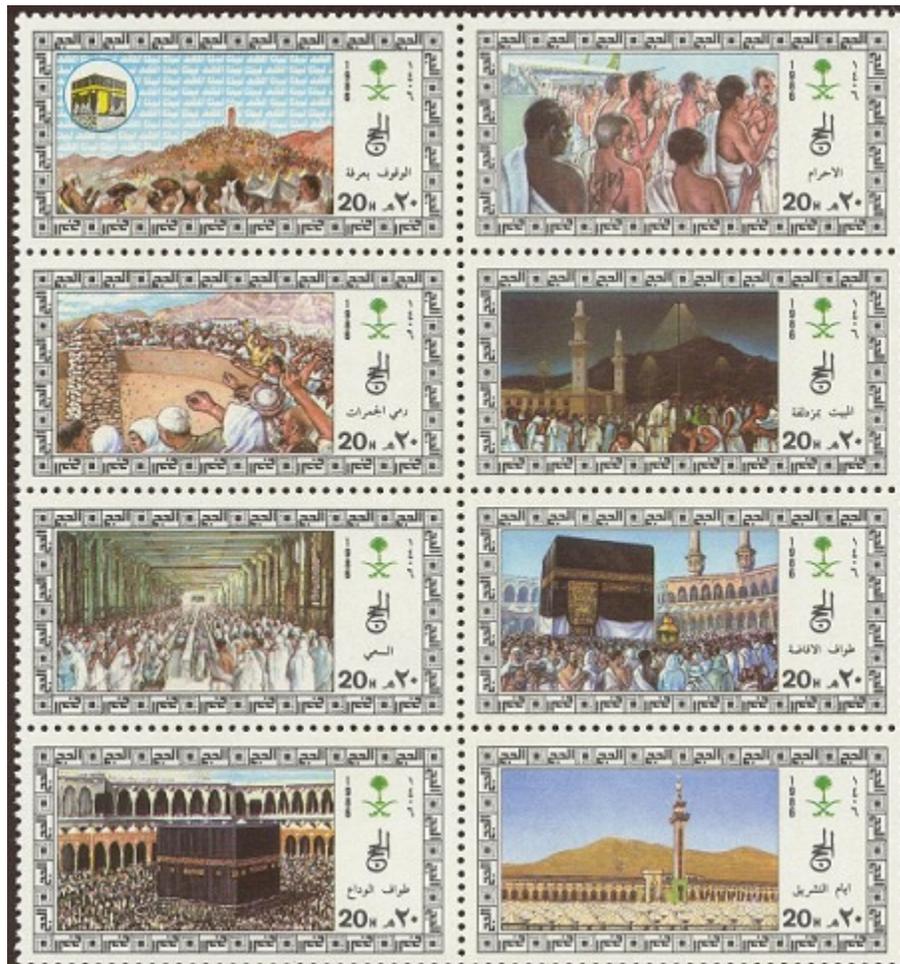
NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id

August 5, 1986: Two definitive stamps, 30h and 40h, were issued. The design depicts the Holy Ka'aba and an Islamic arch with ornaments. Designed by Abdul Qader Al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 105 (15 x 7). White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12.



August 13, 1986: A block of eight se-tenant 20h stamps was issued for HAJJ (pilgrimage) 1406H. The designs reproduce those of the 8 issues of Hajj stamps of 1978-1985 in new frames. Redesigned by Mohammad Gharib Barwar. Printed in sheets of 48 stamps (6 blocks), 3 postcode labels and one label with printer's inscription (4 x 13) on white unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 100,000 of each design.



September 16, 1986: A set of two stamps, 20h and 65h, was issued to mark the 50th (Hijrah) anniversary of the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in Saudi Arabia. This occurred on March 4, 1938 at Dammam well #7. The 20h shows an oil derrick with a refinery in the background, while the 65h shows an oil derrick on a map of Arabia. Designed by Abdul Qader Al-Husseini (20h) and Ashfaq Ghani (65h). Printed in sheets of 50 stamps (10 x 5) on white unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



October 16, 1986: A set of two stamps, 20h and 115h, was issued for the F.A.O. World Food Day. The symbolic designs show a date palm tree and wheat (20h), wheat and corn (115h), the F.A.O emblem and a hemisphere. Designed by Mohammad Ghareeb Barwar. Printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5) on white unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



All the above stamps were offset printed by the Government Security 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.

FOR SALE: New Saudi booklets - SR 200 per pair of complete booklets, SR 50 for one pane from each booklet. Personal checks not accepted. AbdulAziz A. Sa' id, PO Box 1317, Riyadh 11431, Saudi Arabia.

FREE - Fall Mail Bid Sale catalog now available. Over 300 Saudi lots and a further 700+ Middle East. FILATCO. Box 1461, Appleton, WI 54913, USA.

FILATCO Saudi album pages 1983-86 - printing held up pending bulk order to determine quantity. Specialized Saudi catalog unfortunately delayed by illness of author - publication hoped to be early 1987.

I WANT TO BUY: K.S.A. Scott #177,185,185a,186,186a,192-197,252a,292a,419E,431,489,737a,738a,740a,C2a,C5a,C33A,C35A,C57A,C69B,C70A,C70B. MNH. Well centered. A.E. Vajda, UPM Box 1476, Dhahran 31261. Saudi Arabia.

FOR SALE: Syria, including Syria/U.A.R., collection of 301 stamps of the 1960-72 period. Mostly MNH complete sets. Some duplication. Price \$50. J.I. Kearney, Aramco Box 5060, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

MAIL SALE: For catalog of December Middle East mail Sale, write to: The Perfect Perf, P.O. Box 16127, Pittsburgh, PA 15242, USA.

WANTED: Yemen Ottoman and early period postal history, postcards, specialized material, covers from smaller postoffices. Describe or send insured on approval to David Newton. American Embassy, P.O. Box 2447, Alwiyah, Baghdad, Iraq or Baghdad, Dept. of State, Wash. D.C. 20520, USA

STILL AVAILABLE: THE REFERENCE MANUAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN FORGERIES. New members and subscribers - if you collect Hejaz & Nejd, you need this to protect yourself against the forgeries so prevalent today. Write for price. R. J. Thoden, ARAMCO Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

WANTED: Early, pre-1937 CASOC covers with Saudi stamps: 1942 CASOC cover to U.S.A. with South African censorship tape; 1944-46 ARAMCO A.P.O. cover. R.J. Thoden, ARAMCO Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

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