

ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION  
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

RANDOM NOTES NO. 4  
HEJAZ, NAJD, AND SAUDI ARABIA

News:

The big news of Random Notes No. 4 is that our friend and fellow member Max Mayo has published his long awaited handbook. The book contains 158 pages and covers everything from the Egyptian Post Office in Jiddah to the recent commemorative for the International Hydrological Decade. The book is well illustrated and most entries are priced. Some of the items pictured will make your mouth water! You can order the book from Max for \$20.00 post paid:

Mr. Max Mayo  
193-21 Nero Avenue  
Holliswood, Queens  
New York 11423

Notes:

Attached are updated check lists for the GOSP, Dam and Airplane series and for the more recent pictorials [*not included in 2021 reprint*] The pictorials are now appearing with redrawn frames. The way to tell frames apart is illustrated below.

REDRAWN



LARGE DOT  
OF COLOR

FIRST STATE



SMALL DOT,  
SOMETIMES MISSING

Of the four new stamp issues listed on the first page of Random Notes No. Two, three have since appeared. The one for the Jiddah Desalinization Plant has not so far appeared.



In Random Notes No. Three we talked about the Ascher Postal Stationery Catalog from the 1920's that listed overprinted Turkish items under "West Arabien (Hedjaz)". Mr. Paul Jensen has now found a more recent version of this catalog (Neuer Gansachencatalog, 1937) which reallocates these issues to Syria. Mr. Jensen also sent along an article in German describing Turkish revenue stamps issued between 1904 and 1918 and specified for use on petitions, receipts and bills to raise money for the Hejaz Railway. Some of these stamps were also used postally, sometimes being used in ignorance and not caught by postal officials and sometimes being sold at post offices to cover temporary non-availability of some denominations. Thus, they can be found with Hejaz cancellations; the article shows a negative "Medina" cancel. These would be rather rare. The article is : "Die turkischen Eisenbahnmarken". (The Turkish Railway Stamps), by Colonel Ismail H. T. Okday of Istanbul, form the Collegium Philatelicum, published by the German Society for continuation of the Kohl Handbook.

We have long speculated where the 1963 watermarked GOSP, Dam and Airplane stamps were printed. Our member Fred Benedict has come across a 'center only' item on the Saudi watermarked paper and another similar copy on an Egyptian watermarked paper. It would seem that the plates must still have been in Egyptian hands at that time. This has always been the most likely explanation; the Survey of Egypt was not likely to have given up the plates.

The Heir Apparent issue of 1934 turns out to be more interesting than we thought. According to a letter to Stanley Gibbons from H. St. J. Philby, January 7, 1934, the denominations are in Saudi Arabian gold piasters. There were 110 gold piasters to one British pound gold. One pound gold at that time was equivalent to £1.523 sterling, according to Phiby, and was equivalent to US\$ 8.29. This made the piaster worth \$0.075. The sovereign denominations have the following values in piasters:

¼	sovereign	27.5	piasters
½	sovereign	55	piasters
1	sovereign	110	piasters

The full cost of a set both perforated and imperforate was £7.50 sterling, or about US\$ 37.00. This would make the standard airmail rate or 3½ piasters equal to about \$0.26. There were only 4,000 sets altogether. Date of issue was January 1, 1934.

*[2021 Note: There were two versions of the above and both contained mistakes. The above figures are believed to be correct]*

We are pleased to attach a short article: "A New Nejdi Stamp?", by our member Dr. Randall Baker of 176 Drayton High Road, Drayton Norwich NR8 6BA. Please write Dr. Baker and us if you have any information on this item, and especially if you have a cover that went through the mails *[2021 Note: Dr Baker no longer lives at this address]*.

We attach also a photograph of the framed overprint of 1922 (Scott L24 - 31) for your use. *(A scan of L26 has replaced the original photograph - 4 March 2014)*



A 3p value was prepared for the Freedom from Hunger issue of 1963. Three sheets, one each in the issued colors of the 2½p, 7½p, and 9p, have come to light. The sheets are imperforate and ungummed. If you're interested, let us know - the sheets are being broken up, and copies are available, price on request.

The gold overprint of January 1925, (Scott L61), is now known on both red and black underprinting. Please check your copies of both L61 and L62 and inform the editor what color of underprinting is on your stamps; we'll publish whatever we get.

Our member, Mr. F. C. Benedict, contributes the following. Jeddah cancellations during the siege of 1925 often seem to be a meaningless jumble of numbers until you get the key to them. A number of covers are available addressed to Egyptian cities, and the key can be obtained by use of the transit markings. First of all, the year is indicated by '925'; the "1" is never used. Second, the date may be written from right to left as in Arabic. The numerals in Arabic are usually on the right side of the date stamp, but examples are known where they are on the left. The spacing often varies. Some actual examples follow:

<u>Date Numerals</u>	<u>Actual Date</u>	<u>Corroborating Transit Cancellations</u>
925729	29 July 1925	TANTA 4 AU 25
9257-3	3 July 1925	PORT TAUFUQ 15 JL 25
9.58-7	7 August 1925	CAIRO 12 AU 25
18 2925	18 February 1925	CAIRO 25 FEB 25
92 5916	16 September 1925	ALEXANDRIA 12 SE 25
(this cover in reverse direction with Jeddah cancel on postage dues)		
92 58-7	7 August 1925	PORT TAUFUQ 11 VIII 25

We have still not seen LJ48-51, LJ 52-55 with Jiddah overprint. Has anyone got these?

Best wishes!

Very truly yours,  
JOHN M. WILSON  
Editor

JMW:sjr  
22 December 1973

Retyped May 1988  
W.A. King

## A NEW NEJDI STAMP?

In October 1924 Ali ibn Hussein assumed the throne of the Kingdom of the Hejaz following the abdication of his father, King Hussein ibn Ali al Hashemi. At the time the Hejaz was locked in a struggle with the forces of the Nejd Ikhwan. Soon, Mecca was to fall and the remaining settlements were laid to siege. Amongst these was Medina which was facing siege for the second time : for it had previously (June 1916 - Jan 1919) been surrounded and besieged by the Hejazi Army and held by Fakhri Pasha for the Turks. Fakhri held the city even beyond the signing of an armistice between the Entente and the Ottoman Empire until Jan. 1919. At that time, the Hejazi Army occupied the city and used the distinctive metal negative die I illustrated in my handout of Hejaz cancellations (No. 29).

I have recently come across another, seemingly provisional issue, which resulted from the second siege.

Ali had, by December 1925, resorted to selling his own property to pay the soldiers who were defending Medina against the Nejd forces but the situation appeared desperate. The troops informed the king that if they did not receive food and payment they would surrender (many were mercenaries). The commander of the Medina garrison, Abdul Mejid al-Midfa'ie and Azzat Effendi, local director of the Hejaz Railway were obliged to negotiate terms of surrender with Prince Mohammed al Saud. Prince Mohammed agreed the conditions of an amnesty and the Saudi forces entered the town on Saturday morning December 5th. 1925 (19th. jamat'awal 1344) after 10 months of siege.

I recently located a piece cut from an envelope bearing the impression that I have illustrated. It is a crudely cut metal die, of the type used by the Bedu for letter seals, combining recess and relief type. The inscriptions read: Posts of the Nejd Sultanate, Al-Saoudia- One Guerche, 1344, Fee Paid. This would seem to be a provisional fee paid handstamp probably resulting from the exhaustion of existing stamp supplies after the siege. The item I illustrate bears an octagonal Medina cancellation (as my Mecca No.36) dated 16th. Feb. 1926. I suspect the item is much the same as the provisional fee paid handstamps used in the Hejaz just after the declaration of independence in 1916 (see my nos. 24, 25, 26 28). The strike is in magenta using ordinary rubber stamp ink.



If anyone knows any more about this item I should be pleased to enter into correspondence. The size of my illustration is that of the original. Has anyone seen this mark on an entire cover?

Randall Baker (Dr.)

27th April 1973.



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(Colour image added 4 March 2014 - MCL)



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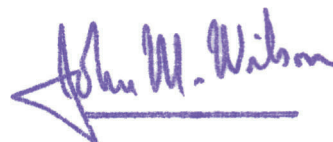
N-4-H.

Arabian Philatelic Association  
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia  
December 2, 1972

Dear Member:

Enclosed please find an extract from the old Ascher Catalog, the original of which was kindly provided by our member in Norway, Paul Jensen. The print is not very clear as to details of the design, but on a recent visit to Istanbul I had no difficulty myself in recognizing the basic envelope stamp involved. The illustration in the catalog does not show the overprint, and I have no help for you on what it may look like. Please search your collections and your memories and provide us with any information you can about this.

JOHN M. WILSON  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John M. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right. The line ends in a small arrowhead pointing to the left.

## WESTARABIEN.

(Hedschas.)

Ägyptische Währung.

Türkische Ganzsachen früherer Ausgaben mit arabischem  
Aufdruck.

### Umschläge.



1916. Umschläge Nr. 22, 33, 34 mit  
Aufdruck.

- |                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. 20 para rot (Nr. 23) . . | 6 — 10 — |
| 2. 20 „ „ ( „ 34)           | 5 — 6 —  |
| 3. 1 Piaster blan (Nr. 34)  | 5 — 7 —  |

### Streifbänder.

1916. Nr. 7 und 8 mit neuem Wertaufdruck.

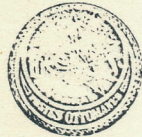
- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. 1 Millième auf 2 p. braunviolett,<br><i>sämisch</i> | 3 — 6 — |
| 2. 1 „ „ 10 „ grün, „                                  | 3 — 6 — |
- 1310

Westaustralien

[WES

### Postkarten.

1916. Postkarten Nr. 39 und 43 a mit Aufdruck bezw.  
neuer Wertangabe.



- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. 4 Millièmes auf 10 p.<br>grün (Nr. 38) | 4 — 6 — |
| 2. 20 para karmin (Nr. 43a)               |         |
| a) Aufdruck schwarz                       | 4 — 6 — |
| b) „ violett                              | 3 — 5 — |