



جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

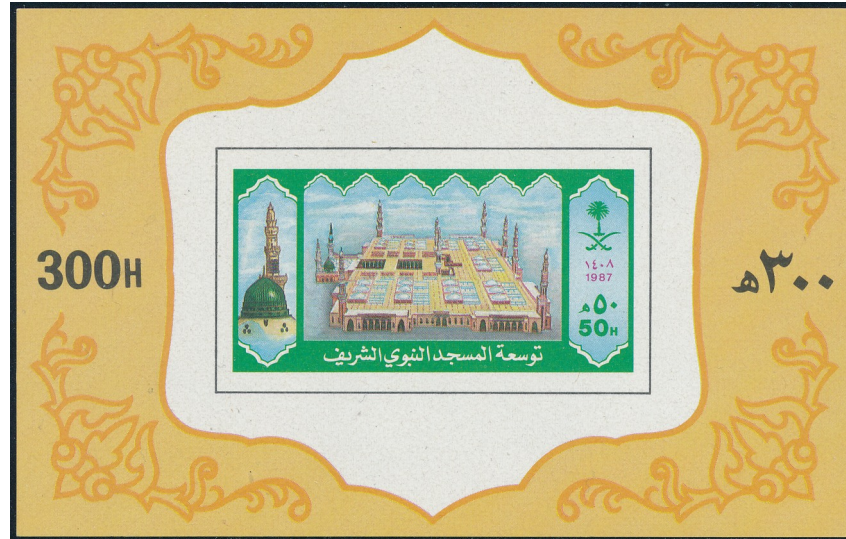
Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1987

NUMBER 40

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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 Saudi Aramco employees and dependents eligible to use Saudi Aramco facilities. Annual dues are SR 25. 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 25 for Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, and U.S. \$11 for all other countries. A discount of SR10 or U.S. \$3 is allowed for renewals paid before March 1, and for new members/subscribers. The one-time initiation fee for new members and subscribers is SR 25 or U.S. \$7. Annual fees include all publications for the year via 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.

Dr. S.S. Amr, President	R. J. Thoden, Vice president
R.R. Barracano, Vice president	W.A. King, Membership Secretary
D.A. Jessich, Treasurer	R. Ul-Haque, Corresponding Secretary
W.A. King, Auctioneer	R.R. Barracano, Annual Show Chairman

A.P.A. meetings are held the second Saturday of each Gregorian 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.
W.A. King - for subscribers anywhere who want new issues by mail.

RANDOM NOTES

The A.P.A.'s publication, RANDOM NOTES, is issued four times a year, provided sufficient contributions have been received. 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 to the editor. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this publication are those of the authors and should not be considered to be those of the A.P.A. or the editor.

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Scott's (1992) and Gibbons' (1990) catalog numbers are used with the kind permission of the copyright owners.

References are sometimes made in this publication to the following books by their authors' names:

Haworth, W.B. & Sargent, H.L - THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE HEJAZ (1922)
Warin, D.F. - THE POSTAL ISSUES OF HEJAZ, JEDDAH AND NEJD (1927)
Mayo, M.M. - BARID AL SA'UDIYYAH WA AL HEJAZ WA NAJD (1973)
Wilson, J.M. - THE HEJAZ - A HISTORY IN STAMPS (1982)
Coles, J.H. & Walker, H.E.- POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE,
Part Two (1987)

RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

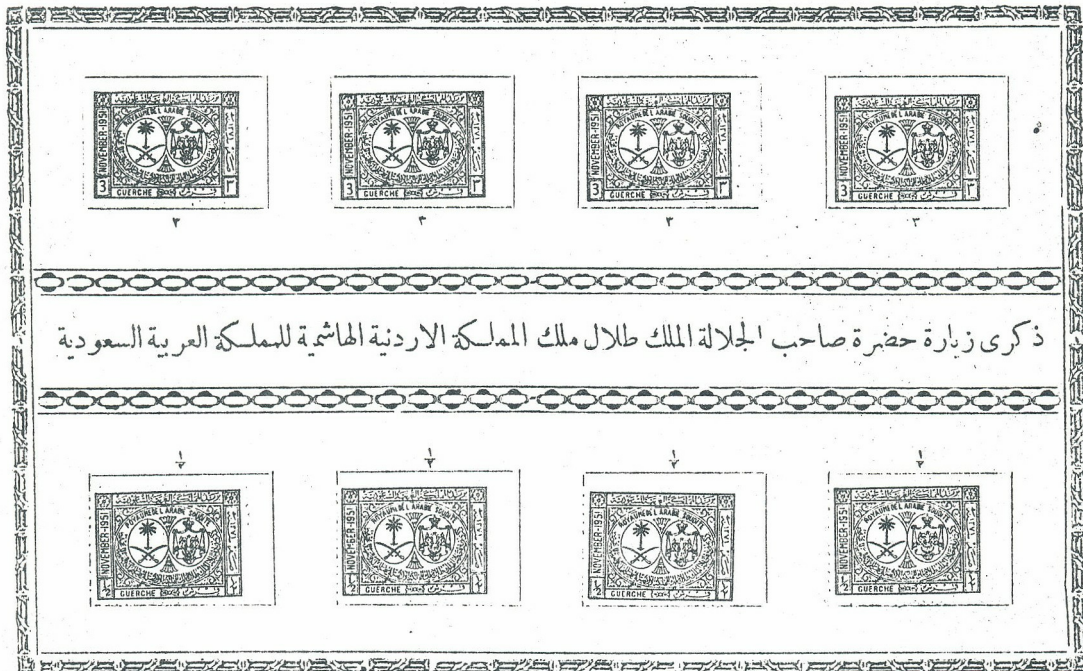
1. Our annual show, APEX-16, was held on Thursday, November 19 in the Dhahran auditorium. The attendance was excellent, probably a result of the publicity in the ARABIAN SUN on the 18th. The show cover this year marked the 25th anniversary of the new Dhahran Airport Terminal Building.

Awards were made as follows:

- Grand - Early Aramco Postal History (R. J. Thoden)
- Gold - Bahrain - The Indian Postal Administration 1933-1947
(J. I. Kearney)
- Silver - Hejaz - The Arms of the Sherif of Makkah (J. I. Kearney)
- The Penny Post (W. A. King)
- Bronze - Oddities & Cachets of KSA (Y. Aidroos)
- King Hussein of Jordan - The Life of a Monarch on Stamps
(Dr. S. Amr)
- Postal History of British India 1854-1947 (Z. Islam)
- Sudan - From 1948 (V. A. King)
- Honorable - 50th Anniversary of the Commonwealth (R. Ahmed)
- Mention - Junior Exhibit (F. S. Naeem)

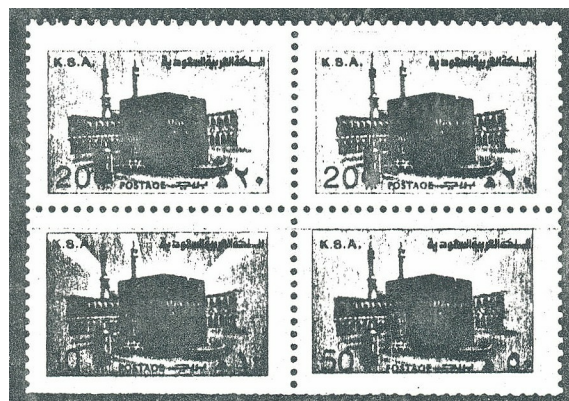
2. RANDOM NOTES #39 mentioned the Superior sale of November 16 which contained 260+ Hejaz lots. Unfortunately, many if not most of the overprinted stamps appeared to be forgeries, including L61 and L67. I assume that the sale was prepared before Superior obtained the A.P.A.'s REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES and that they could not tolerate the embarrassment of withdrawing a large proportion of the lots. Once again, it was up to the buyer to know his material. But, there were some good genuine items also. For example, Scott's L70a, L71a, and L105 were good. Prices seemed lower than those in the Feldman sale (see next item), possibly because many advanced collectors can now spot forgeries from photostats, and the high proportion of apparent forgeries in this sale deterred serious bidding by some.
3. The collection of former A.P.A. subscriber Alexander Kaczmarczyk was auctioned by David Feldman in Geneva on November 17. This was a very complete specialized collection containing almost all of the major rarities. Mr. Kaczmarczyk must be very pleased, as the material generally brought excellent and often spectacular prices. Bidders for the overprinted stamps must have been encouraged by knowing that the lots were primarily those owned by Mr. Kaczmarczyk, a pioneer in the study of Hejaz forgeries and one of the contributors to the A.P.A.'s REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES. In many cases, the overprint plate positions were given in the auction catalogue. However, there were some lots from other owners included in the sale, a few of which appeared to be forgeries.

4. Thanks to Philip Stokoe for a photostat of a presentation card similar to those illustrated in RANDOM NOTES #39. This one has the 1951 issue commemorating the visit of King Talal of Jordan.

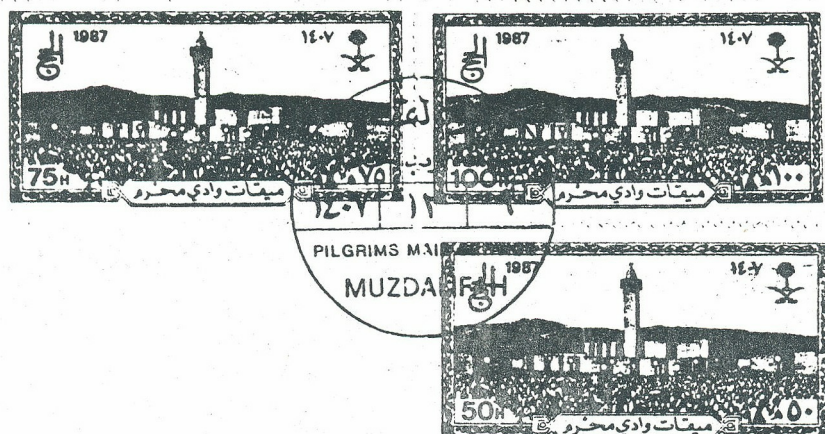


Black frame. Gold inscription at center reads "commemorating the visit of King Talal of Jordan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia".

5. A philatelic bureau has existed in Riyadh for many years, from which philatelists could obtain new commemorative issues by subscription. Now philatelic bureaus have been opened in 11 additional cities: Dammam, Jiddah, Madina, Yanbu', Tabuk, Ha'il, Najran, Jizan, 'Abha, Makkah and Jubail.
6. Yusuf Aidroos reports finding a single copy of the Holy Ka'aba booklet pane with the rows reversed, that is, with the two 20h stamps on top, and the 10h and 50h stamps at the bottom.



7. Special Hajj 1408 cancels were used at Makkah, Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah. This is the first time a cancel was used at Muzdalifah.

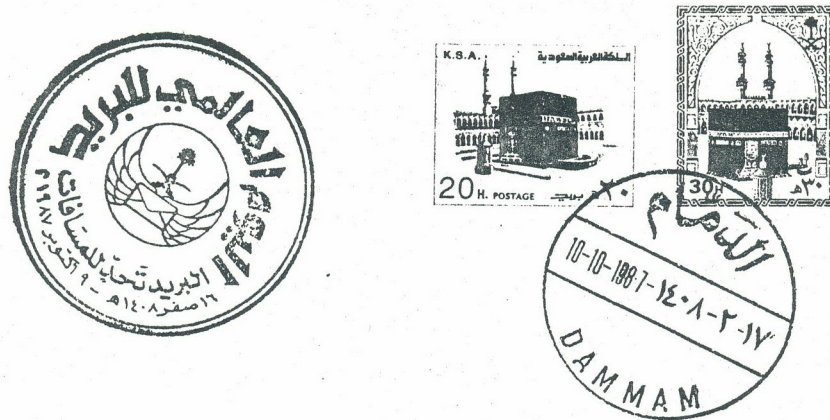


8. The illustrated label occasionally turns up in Saudi collections. I am told it is a voluntary contribution stamp. It comes in 1 and 15 riyal denominations. Inscriptions: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia / Algeria Day / 15 Sha'baan 1377 (March 5, 1958) / denomination. Color: carmine and green. (Courtesy of Samir Abdul-Jauwad).



9. Scott's design type PT3 exists in 1q green and 5q dark blue values in addition to the listed 1/8q and 1/4q. All stamps listed in Scott as postal tax stamps are really revenue stamps which were mandatory on virtually all documents requiring other kinds of stamps. Letters are just one type of document. Normal usage was a single 1/8q stamp until late 1956, and then a single 1/4q stamp. A few philatelic usages of pairs or blocks on letters are known, and a few fiscal documents have been seen where multiples were used in lieu of other types of fiscal stamps. But the purpose of the 1q and 5q values remains unknown. No used copies have been seen, and unused copies are very scarce. Are there still other denominations? Who can help?
10. David Graham wrote a short article about the photocopier forgeries of the unframed Hashemite Government overprints on rouletted 20 and perf. 10 basic stamps reported here in RANDOM NOTES #39 for LINN'S STAMP NEWS of October 5. David also reports that a recheck of the forgeries described in his article "Forged Overprints Like Scott Illustrations" in RANDOM NOTES #32 shows that they were produced by photocopying, presumably from the Scott illustrations.

11. Again this year, a special marking was prepared for Universal Day of the Post, October 9. The marking was used primarily as a cachet starting about a week before October 9.



12. The Christie's-Robson Lowe auction in Zurich on November 12 included as lots 2233-2235 complete sets of the De La Rue Sa'ud cartouche GOSP, Dam and air definitives. These sets included the unissued denominations, namely 100p GOSP, 50p Dam and 50, 100 and 200p airs. Estimated at SF2000, 1500 and 6500 respectively, I understand they actually sold at multiples of those figures, although I haven't seen the actual realizations. I wonder if any more will appear.



(Stock images, not necessarily in auction)

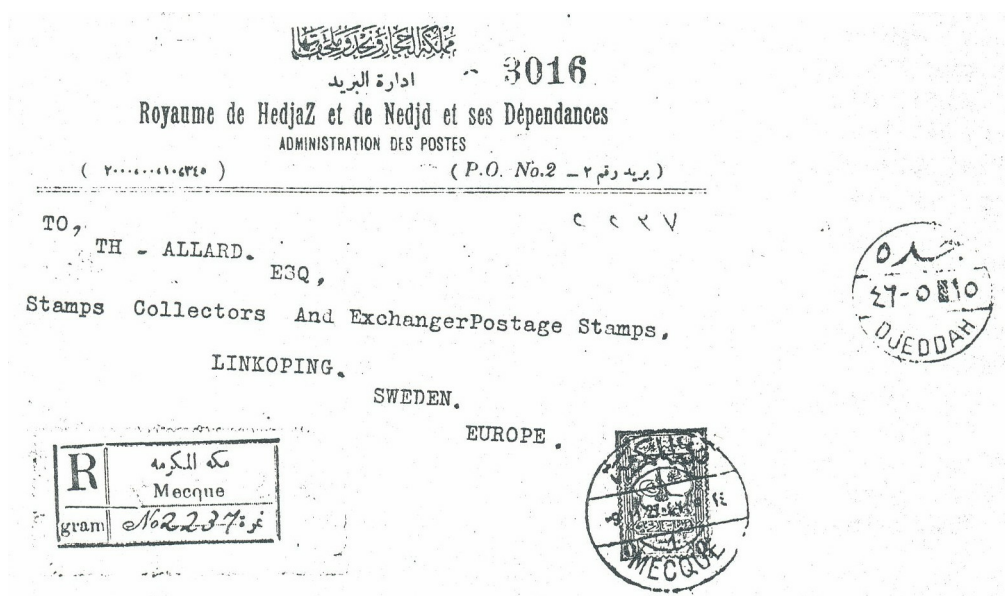
13. FEE PAID markings are still in use in Saudi Arabia. Yusuf Aidroos' exhibit at APEX-16 showed several examples. The one illustrated here was used on a newspaper wrapper from Dammam in 1985. The Arabic reads "khalis al-ajra", exactly the same as on the 1916 FEE PAIDs. (Courtesy of Dr. Samir Abdul-Jauwad).



14. The cover shown below appears to be official mail - note the return address "Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd and its Dependencies Postal Administration" - to a stamp collector. Of interest is the postage, only 1 qirsh (paid by a copy of Scott 101) although this is a foreign registered letter. Normal postage for a foreign letter in 1927 was 1-1/2 qirsh, plus another 1-1/2 qirsh for registration. Thus, this cover appears to have a special rate for official mail.

Nothing is known about the rates for official mail, even in later years. The first official stamps (Scott O1 and O2) were issued in 1939 in 3 and 5 qirsh denominations, and only single copies of these are found on official letters through about 1960, and these rates do not match regular postage rates. Who can help in this area?

Another thing of interest about this cover is that it has the small purple DJEDDAH cancel as a backstamp. This cancel is usually only seen on "Albert Eid" philatelic covers and some specialists have doubted its authenticity.



15. The number of A.P.A. members and subscribers at year-end 1987 was 309, an increase of 12 over 1986. About 30 additional applications have been received, but are being held for 1988 due to a shortage of 1987 issues of RANDOM NOTES. A breakdown by country follows:

149 Saudi Arabia
 110 U.S.A.
 23 U.K.
 10 Netherlands
 2 each Germany, Norway
 1 each Austria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq,
 Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Spain, Turkey, U.A.E.

16. The long awaited RANDOM NOTES index, covering issues #1 to #39, was mailed out in September. That this finally got done is a tribute to Bob Bradford who put together a committee to do the job which was too much for one person to do in a reasonable amount of time.

17. The variations of CASOC covers seem endless. I just obtained the two shown here. The first is postmarked "KHOBAR 16.12.41", only nine days after the outbreak of the war in the Pacific. The sender seems to have been aware that the BOAC-Pan Am Pacific route had been interrupted as he wrote "the best possible route to S.F." on the cover. The actual routing can't be determined from the cover which has a BAHREIN backstamp of 17.12 and a triangular Indian censor marking. There are also purple bars at the upper left which look like those from an American hand-canceller from which the circular part has been removed. The cover has the normal 33-1/4 qirsh rate.



The second cover is postmarked "KHOBAR 31.12.41", is registered with a bright red KHOBAR registry label, and has no routing instructions at all. The cover has the triangular Indian censor mark, censorship tape and wax seals. The only backstamps are "NEW YORK 2-8-1942" and "MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF FEB 11, 1942", suggesting the cover went over the Atlantic by some means. Postage is 36-1/4 qirsh, including 3 qirsh for registration.



PLATING OF THE LARGE FRAMED "MUSTAHIQ" OVERPRINT

By: F. C. Benedict and A. Kaczmarczyk

The postage due issues of the Hejaz and Nejd include three with framed "Mustahiq" (Due) overprints. Two were small handstamps, one used on Scott LJ26-39, and the other used on Scott J10-15. The large framed overprint, used on Scott LJ11-16 and J1-6, is the subject of this paper.

The large framed "mustahiq" overprint was initially done in the 6x6 format of the three definitive "Arms" stamps on which it was printed. These were the 1/2, 1 and 2 pi. The plate was made of six rows of six cliches each. Figure 1 shows the overprint in black on a sheet of the 2 pi. The frame size is quite consistent, with the width varying from 22.0-22.5mm (except for positions 7 and 25 which are 22.75mm), and the height is 11.0-11.25mm (except for position 14 which has the top frame line broken). Measurements were taken at the center of the cliches and in the middle of the frame lines. The overprint was done in both black and blue inks.

There were three different settings of the overprint plate. Figure 1 is Setting A and is the most common. The six rows were rearranged once to form a complete Setting B, and two rows were repeated three times for Setting C. Figure 2 shows the positions of the (Setting A) cliches in Settings B and C, and a small block from these settings. There are two variations of Setting C as either row can be first (C1 and C2). No complete sheets of Settings B and C have been seen by the authors, so the orientations were determined by plating overprinted singles and blocks against the underlying stamps.

Note in Setting B that the third horizontal row was originally the first row in Setting A, and that positions 1 and 2 have been interchanged. One could surmise that the plate was dropped on that corner and repairs were necessary. The rows were then reassembled in the orientation of Setting B. Perhaps further damage caused the printers to resort to Setting C. Setting C shows nail holes between columns 2/3 and 4/5 (see the block in Figure 2). Many of the inverted overprints are known only from Setting C. Table 1 shows which stamps exist from the three settings.

The inks used for the three settings are somewhat different. In the black inks, Setting A is gray black, Setting B is deep dull black, while Setting C is a shiny deep black. In the blue inks, Setting A is a true blue, that is, it stays blue throughout the width of the line with no dark buildup along the edges. Setting B is a dull deep blue-black which appears black until held up to a light. Setting C blue ink seems almost black at the edges.

Mayo, in his book BARID AL-SAUDIYYAH WA AL-HEJAZ WA NAJD, states that LJ11-16 (his numbers T58-T64) were overprinted using a handstamp consisting of three cliches arranged horizontally. No sheets or blocks have been seen to substantiate use of a handstamp on these Hejaz issues. However, a three-cliche handstamp was used on Nejd postage dues as described below.

The Nejd postage dues, Scott J1-3, were first issued using remainders of the earlier Hejaz printings from Settings A and B. Note in Table 1 that the 2pi is found with Setting B only, and that no stamps from Setting C have been found.

Evidently there were insufficient Hejaz remainders and more postage dues were produced with a three-cliche handstamp. Figure 3 shows use of this handstamp on a sheet of the 1/2pi. These cliches appear to be positions 16, 17 and 18 of Setting A.

The blue "mustahiq" overprints, Scott J4-6, have only been found with the handstamp. All are scarce, especially the 1pi. A number have been plated, and at one time it was thought that perhaps only one sheet of each existed. Recently however, a second position 8 of J6 has been seen indicating at least two sheets of this value.

Warin in THE POSTAL ISSUES OF HEJAZ, JEDDAH AND NEJD does not list the 1pi with blue overprint (J5) and calls the 1pi pale blue (J2a) and 2pi buff (J3a) proofs. These are now thought to be the colors of new printings of the basic stamps.

Note in Table 1 the prevalence of forgery type 1. It is a common forgery and many blocks offered are this forgery. It is made from two horizontal strips of six cliches, and the frame lines are slightly smaller than the genuine. The width is 21.75-22.0 mm and the height is 10.75-11.0 mm. There is an extra dot at the top, there are no vertical lines between the cliches, and the bottom frame line has very distinctive protrusions. The complete forgery is shown below. For descriptions of some of the many other less common forgeries, the reader is referred to the A.P.A.'s REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES.

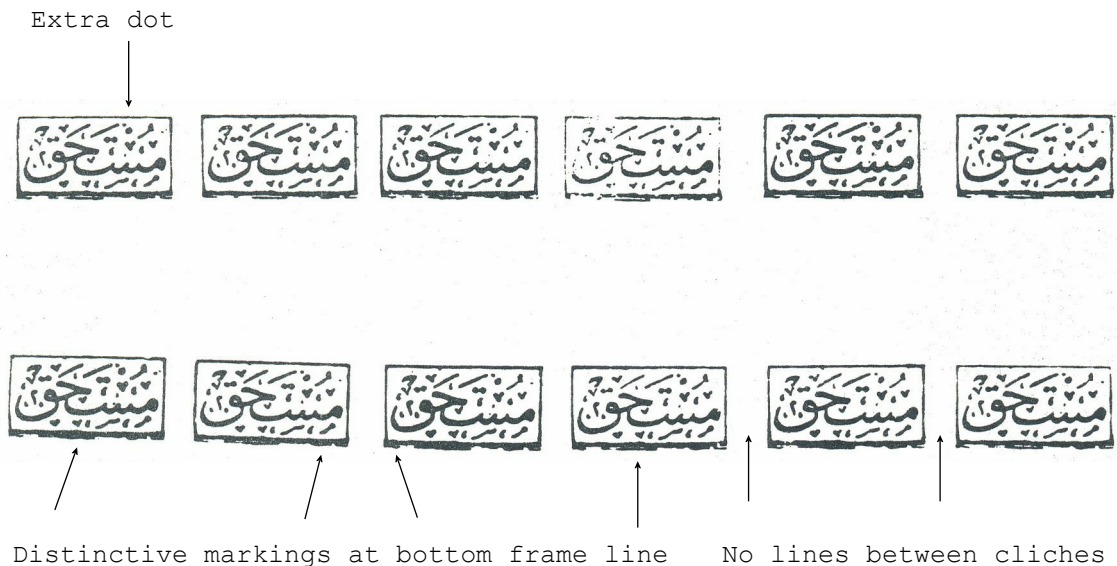


TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LARGE FRAMED MUSTAHIQ OVERPRINT

SCOTT		SETTING			HAND- STAMP	FORGERY TYPES							
		A	B	C		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	<u>Black Ovpt.</u>												
LJ11	1/2 pi red	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		
	invtd ovpt		X	X		X		X	X				
	rose		X			X							
LJ12	1 pi dark blue	X	X	X		X							
	invtd ovpt			X		X		X					
	double ovpt		X										
LJ13	2 pi orange	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
	invtd ovpt			X		X							
	yellow buff												X
	invtd ovpt					X							
	<u>Blue Ovpt.</u>												
LJ14	1/2 pi red	X	X	X		X							
	invtd ovpt			X		X		X					
LJ15	1 pi dark blue	X		X		X							
	invtd ovpt			X		X							
LJ16	2 pi orange	X	X			X							
	invtd ovpt			X		X							
	<u>Black Ovpt.</u>												
J1	1/2 red	X			X								
	rose		X										
J2	1 pi light blue				X								
a	dark blue	X	X										
J3	2 pi buff				X								
a	orange		X										
	<u>Blue Ovpt.</u>												
J4	1/2 pi red				X								
J5	1 pi blue				X								
J6	2 pi orange				X								

NOTE: Forgeries of J1-J6 are of two types: (1) On stamps with forged first Nejd handstamp of various types (2) total forgeries of stamp and both overprints.

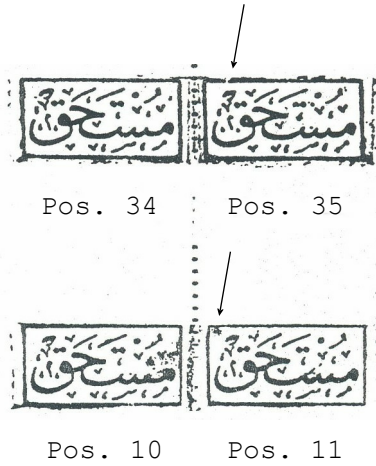
Many More forgery varieties undoubtedly exist. Refer to the A.P.A. REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES for descriptions of types 2 to 7.



Figure 1. Full Sheet - Setting A.

19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
2	1	3	4	5	6
31	32	33	34	35	36
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18

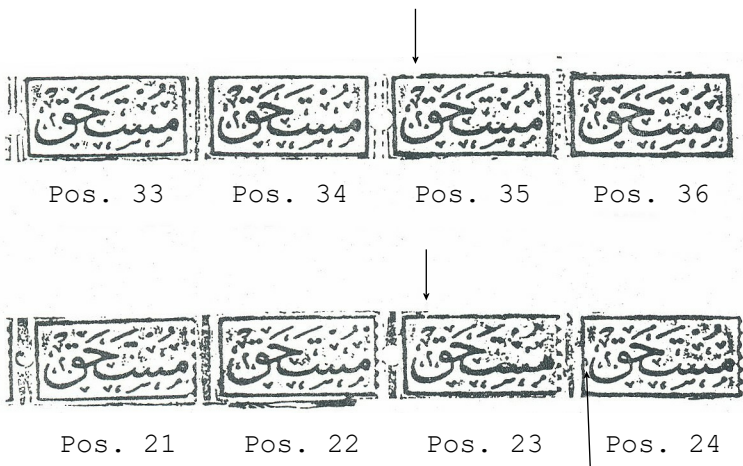
Setting B Layout.



Inverted overprints
on stamp pos.
15/14
9/8

31	32	33	34	35	36
19	20	21	22	23	24
31	32	33	34	35	36
19	20	21	22	23	24
31	32	33	34	35	36
19	20	21	22	23	24

Setting C1 Layout.
Setting C2 has rows reversed.



Inverted overprints
on stamp pos.
10/9/8/7
4/3/2/1

Blob by tail of ق

Figure 2. Examples from Settings B and C.



Figure 3. Full Sheet showing handstamped strips of three.

THE FIRST STAMPS OF HEJAZ:

AN ADVENTURE IN SAUDI ARABIAN PHILATELY

By: *Dr. E. A. Kwar*



Hussein

The conception, preparation and printing of the first stamps of Hejaz were so intertwined with the seedy politics of the First World War that it would be difficult for the Saudi Arabian philatelist to understand the numerous contradictory reports on purpose, varieties and issue dates without a brief review of historical perspectives. Like other stamps of the period, the stamps of the Hejaz were conceived first and foremost as a result of Arab determination for independence. The Arab revolt against the Ottomans coincided with the British need in the first World War for an ally in the Middle East who could help break the empire from within its borders. The Arabs of Hejaz in the south, Syria and Iraq in the north and Nejd in central Arabia were ideally suited for such a task.

The Sherif Hussein bin Ali, governor of Makkah, provided a rallying force for revolt and the British promised independence in return for Arab support against the Ottomans. Unfortunately, the British made two other secret agreements. The first is the Sykes-Picot Treaty which outlined the division of Arab lands between the British and French. In return for financial and American support to the British war effort, a second agreement known as the "Balfour Declaration" was made with the international Zionist organization which promised Arab Palestine as a national home for the Jews. The British High Command had taken special pains to prevent the disclosure of these two agreements to the Arabs.

Having established a working relationship with the Governor of Makkah, the British proceeded to make plans for the Arab war effort out of their regional military headquarters in Cairo. Enter T. E. Lawrence, a young British army officer who was in charge of the printing works of the Geographical Survey of Egypt (GSE), which was a surveying and map-making organization used by British military intelligence. Trained as an archeologist and well-travelled in the Middle East, Lawrence became more and more involved in the aspirations of the Arab revolt. On July 1, 1915 he wrote to his mother from Cairo:

"The Reuters telegram on the revolt of the Sherif of Mecca I hope interested you. It has taken a year and a half to do, but now is going very well - I hope the movement increases, as it promises to do. This revolt, if it succeeds, will be the biggest thing in the Near East since 1550."

On August 22, 1916, Lawrence wrote again:

"Arnie (Lawrence's younger brother) will be glad to hear that I am printing stamps for the Sherif of Mecca. I'll send him some when they come out. Of course, they are only a provisional issue. It's rather amusing, because one has long had ideas as to what a stamp should look like, and now one can put them roughly into practice."



T. E. Lawrence

The worst is they can only be little designs, not engraved, so that the finer detail is not possible. I'm going to have flavored gum on the back, so that one say lick without unpleasantness."

Lawrence's increasing commitment to the Arab cause was also evident in the great interest he had in the production of the first stamps of Hejaz. His involvement, however, was instrumental in creating confusion about printing and official issue dates. If the first stamps were issued on August 20, 1916, as stated by all the catalogues including Stanley Gibbons, Scott, Yvert & Tellier and Michel, why aren't there any stamps used on or off cover which show anything close to that date? What happened in the the interim that delayed the issuance of these important stamps to the public which everyone, the British, the Arabs, and especially the Sherif of Makkah were in a hurry to get into the hands of the pilgrims to announce to the world Arab secession from the Ottoman empire? These tiny documents would please the British and the Allies for they would be the point of no return for the Arab revolt. They would further serve Arab interests by announcing the news to sympathetic Moslems around the world.



To date, the earliest cover known of the first issue is one recently sold in Harmer's auction showing an October 16, 1916 Jeddah cancel. It was mailed by Lawrence from Jeddah to the Arab Bureau, Savoy Hotel in Cairo. It bore the one piastre dark blue perf. 12 of the first printing which was supposedly issued August 20, 1916.

Valuable philatelic information can be assembled from various historical developments as reflected in the literature. The August 20 date for the one piastre blue, first printing, is the date the perf. 12 stamps were printed, not issued. This is reflected in the GSE's record and as published in the 1919 book on the Postage Issues of Hejaz. There is no question that the first one piastre blue perf. 12 was printed on August 20, 1916. What then caused this unnecessary delay for issuing the stamps in Hejaz since it would have taken only a few days to deliver them to Jeddah?

The delay stemmed from a disagreement between the Director of the Telegraph and Post Office in Makkah, Abd El-Qadir, and Lawrence about the proper design of the first stamps. The ensuing correspondence precipitated another visit by Lawrence to Jeddah on October 16 to convince Sherif Hussein why the design should be purely Arabic. The GSE reports on these events as follows:

"The series was originally initiated in somewhat of a hurry, as has already been explained. It is not, therefore, very remarkable that, while design was proceeding in Cairo, a tentative design was also prepared in the Hejaz. This latter was received after the first stamps had been issued, and hence the discussion with His Highness on the cardinal points to be maintained followed the completion of the earlier issues instead of preceding them, as would have been logically and normally the case."

When the GSE used the term "issued", they actually meant "printed". The official issue date should in reality be the date the Hejazi government released the stamps for sale to the public. The actual date is still in question, nevertheless it can be narrowed down from the information we receive from available cancelled stamps and covers. To illustrate the above points, I elected to include here the full text of the correspondence between the Sherif of Makkah and the GSE. The information, I am sure, should prove interesting and valuable for any student of Saudi Arabian philately.

Letter from H.H. The Emir and Sherif of Makkah to the British Diplomatic Agent in Jeddah:

"With great thanks for Your Excellency's efforts. I have received your letter enclosing the postage stamps. After submitting them to the Director of the Telegraph and Post Office in Mecca he has sent us the enclosed message to the writing of which we have Hussein. With great respect. The Sherif and Emir of Mecca (signed) Hussein. 6 Zu el-Qa'da, 1334 (Sept. 4, 1916)".

Letter from the Director of the Telegraph and Post Office in Makkah:

"To His Highness the Sherif of Sacred Mecca and its exalted Emir, the Guardian of our blessings, our Master and the Master of all. May God preserve his greatness!"

"The slave presents the postage stamps together with the letter concerning them which was handed to your slave. He has received them. The above-mentioned stamps are delicate in ornament and printing and good in design, only they do not contain the drawing of Gebel Abu Qubeis, and the inscription 'The Government of the Sherifate of Holy Mecca and its Dominions' as was printed on the design formerly sent. If it seems suitable to Your Highness, if the glorious opinion of the Hashemite approves, large quantities of the stamps should be printed of different prices according to the list formerly sent to Egypt (if God wills). They should contain the above-mentioned drawing and there should appear on them, instead of the words 'Hejaz Postage', the words 'Stamps of the Government of the Sherifate of Sacred Mecca and its Dominions'."

"As for the colors, which are said to be suited to the branches of the Postal Union, there is no harm in this, and in every case the command is to him who holds command." (signed) The Slave. 'Abd El Qadir. 5 Zu el-Qa'da. 1334 (Sept. 3, 1916)"

Memorandum by the GSE for H.H. The Sherif and Emir of Makkah concerning the stamp issue for his dominions, dated Oct. 1, 1916:

"The principal objects kept in view in designing the three series of postage stamps already issued to the order of His Highness the Sherif and Emir of Mecca were:

(1) To make it self-evident to the world that the series was not a survival or copy of the Ottoman postage stamps in any form whatsoever, but an entirely new and independent national issue which had not molded itself on that of any other government, least of all that of the Ottoman Empire.

(2) That the design should in wording, spirit and ornament be, as far as possible, representative and reminiscent of a purely Arab source and inspiration."

"To achieve these two purposes all existing designs of postage stamps were swept aside, and designs never adopted before for stamps were drawn from beautiful existing specimens of Arabesque ornament. These had to be selected with care, as the printing of stamps is a delicate operation. Too intricate a pattern and too many fine lines must be avoided if a clear and pleasing impression is to be obtained, while, on the other hand, too bold a design looks coarse and rough when placed upon the small area of a postage stamp."

"Pictures and views were intentionally avoided, for these never formed part of Arab decoration and are foreign to its art. For the same reason European lettering was, for the time being, omitted, although it is, of course, understood that the name of the originating government and the value of the stamp in European lettering must be added before His Highness's stamps can, after the return of peace throughout the world, take their place among recognized postal issues, be acknowledged by the International Postal Union, and be accepted by all nations."

"It is, indeed, perhaps better to prepare for this event as soon as possible, and forthwith give the stamps all the requirements of international usage, and this is a point upon which I should like the orders of His Highness."

"When European lettering is introduced, I would suggest that it be kept to the utmost brevity, so that it can be put near the margin and interfere as little as possible with the main design of the stamps. The words 'Hejaz Government Postage' along the top margin of the stamp, and the value, 'One Piastre', 'Half Piastre', 'Quarter Piastre' (or whatever it may be), in the middle of the bottom margin, ought to be the most that should appear, if the Arabic character of the stamp is to be preserved. European lettering takes up more space than Arabic and, of course, it cannot in the same happy way be made to conform to, and be embodied with, the design."

"His Highness's letter, dated 5 Zu el-Qa'da, and the interesting note of the Director of the Telegraph and Post Office in Mecca, were received too late to allow any modification in the wording or design of the stamps if they were to be issued in time for the pilgrimage; but it has been possible to alter the wording on the covers of the books in which the stamp sheets are bound, in accordance with His Highness's wishes."

"Mr. Ronald Storrs also forwarded me the design sent by His Highness for trial, a copy of which I enclose. It is a very nice-looking design, and if a good photograph of Gebel Abu Qubeis were supplied to me, I could readily get a beautiful stamp made from it."

"I would, however, point out to His Highness that, beautiful as the stamp would be, it would none the less in the eyes of the world be an obvious copy of the Ottoman postage stamps, which all consist, in exactly the same manner, of a central panel containing a view, and a surrounding border bearing the necessary postal inscription in Arabic lettering and in French."

"If His Highness desires a series of stamps of the Ottoman type, there will be no difficulty in making him these, if he will let me have a good set of photographs of the places he would like portrayed thereon, then I will most gladly carry out his wishes."

"I would, however, submit for His Highness's careful consideration that these postage stamps will be His Highness's silent emissaries and messengers; firstly, to all Islamic nations who are not subject to the Ottomans and secondly, to all nations of the entire world who are not the vassals of Germany. Much will be read and deduced from the character and appearance of the stamps by those who will receive them, and it would seem a pity if so rich an opportunity of emphasizing the national Arabic character of His Highness's rule were not reaped to the uttermost."

The memorandum by the GSE to convince Sherif Hussein reflected Lawrence's persistent viewpoint that the design of the new stamps should reflect Arab and Moslem art in its purest form, with no pictorials as in the Ottoman stamps. This was in line with his background as an archeologist, for neither Col. Storrs, Capt. Ormsby-Gore nor anyone else in charge at the Arab Bureau or British Military Intelligence seemed to care what the design should look like. In another letter dated November 18, 1916, he writes of an urgent excursion to Jeddah, although he does not allude to the reasons for his visit:

"I left on October 13 from Cairo, reached Jidda on October 16, left there on October 19 for Rabegh. Left Rabegh on October 21 by camel; went up to Sherif Faisal's H.Q. at a place called Bir Abbas, halfway between Medina and the sea, about 100 miles north of Rabegh. After a few days there returned by road to Yenbo, and embarked on Nov. 1 for Jidda. On November 4 changed ships there, and went across to Port Sudan with Admiral Wemyss. Reached Khartoum on November 7, and stayed with the Sirdar until November 11, when I took train down the Nile to Halfa, then steamer to Asswan, and then by rail to Cairo."

Following Lawrence's visit to Jeddah, a letter dated 25 Zu al-Hijja, 1334 (October 23, 1916) from His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs was sent to the British Diplomatic Agent of Jeddah:

"We have decided to accept the first issue of stamps, namely, that with 'Mecca el Mukarrama' in the middle of the stamp, and not to have the kind with 'Gebel Qubeis', and thus they should be printed of the above kind up to the value of #1000 of different values on the attached list.

With the best of thanks. (Signed) Abdalla, Minister of Foreign Affairs."

Since non-Moslems are not allowed in Makkah it was normal practice that when a British official wished to speak to the Sherif in Makkah he would call him from the British Agent's office in Jeddah. When Lawrence arrived in Jeddah on October 16, he must have obtained verbal approval of the already printed stamps from the Sherif since on that day he mailed a letter to Captain Ormsby-Gore of the Arab Bureau in Cairo bearing one of the approved stamps, the earliest known usage to date of the one piastre blue.

The official issue date of the first printing of the one piastre blue perf. 12 is therefore the date the Sherif of Makkah gave his approval and which prompted Lawrence to use the stamp in Jeddah on the same date. The Lawrence cover is most probably unique and the only first day cover known for the first printing.

Editor's Note: Makkah is the current spelling of "Mecca". The old spelling is retained where it is directly quoted.

Suggested Pictorial Designs



Fig. 84

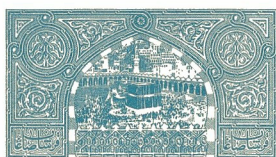


Fig. 85



Fig. 86



Fig. 87

DESIGN TYPES N-3 THE MISSING LINK EXAMPLES OF THE PICTORIALS SUBMITTED BUT NOT APPROVED. OTHER PICTORIAL DESIGNS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO EXIST WITH OLD-TIME COLLECTORS. THE ABOVE WERE TAKEN FROM THE 1919 SURVEY OF EGYPT LIMITED EDITION OF 200 BOOKS ON "THE POSTAGE STAMP ISSUES OF THE HEJAZ".

Editor's Note: An explanation of design types will be given in Dr. Kavar's next article in his series on the first stamps of the Hejaz.

SCOTT 1988 SAUDI ARABIA CATALOG REVISIONS

Compiled By : R. J. Thoden

PRICE CHANGES:

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
LI	\$45	\$40	L87a	\$17.50	\$12.50	L148	\$15	\$12
L3	\$12	\$10	L87b	\$35	\$25	L149-53	ea \$12	\$5
L14	\$30	\$15	L87c	\$175	\$150	L154	\$25	\$8
L15d (U)	\$1500	\$1200	L87d	\$35	\$25	L154a	\$60	\$45
L16	\$12	\$10	L88	\$12	\$4	L154b	\$40	\$25
L17	\$15	\$10	L88a	\$20	\$12.50	L155	\$35	\$10
L18	\$12	\$10	L88b	\$35	\$25	L155a	\$60	\$25
L18c	\$400	\$100	L89	\$12	\$6	L156	\$25	\$5
L19	\$17.50	\$10	L89a	\$35	\$25	L156a	\$50	\$20
L22-23	ea \$400	\$200	L90a	\$50	\$12.50	L157	\$25	\$5
L24a	\$150	\$75	L91	\$5	\$4	L157a	\$60	\$25
L24c	\$200	\$120	L93	\$14	\$4	L157b	\$50	\$20
L25a	\$100	\$60	L93a	\$75	\$12.50	L158	\$25	\$6
L25b	\$200	\$90	L94	\$4.50	\$3	L158a	\$50	\$25
L26a	\$100	\$60	L99	\$17.50	\$6	L158b	\$40	\$20
L26b	\$200	\$100	L99a	\$30	\$20	L159	\$25	\$6
L27a	\$100	\$50	L99b	\$20	\$10	L159a	\$50	\$25
L27b	\$200	\$90	L101	\$9	\$3	L177,179	ea \$1	\$0.60
L28b	\$200	\$100	L101a	\$25	\$15	L180,181	ea \$1	\$0.75
L30	\$22.50	\$15	L101b	\$35	\$25	L182	\$1	\$0.90
L31	\$3	\$2	L102	\$3.50	\$3	L183	\$3	\$2
L40d	\$175	---	L103	\$13	\$3	L184	\$4	\$3
L51-52	ea \$15	\$10	L103a	\$20	\$10	L185	\$400	\$300
L53	\$60	\$50	L104	\$13	\$5	LJ4b	\$27.50	\$25
L54	\$35	\$30	L104a	\$25	\$15	LJ5	\$6	\$5
L55	\$12	\$10	L106	\$8	\$4	LJ7	\$11	\$5
L56,59	ea \$30	\$25	L106a	\$25	\$20	LJ9	\$3.50	\$3
L60	\$35	\$20	L107	\$17.50	\$12.50	LJ10	\$3.50	\$3
L61	\$3000	\$1500	L107a	\$35	\$25	LJ20	\$27.50	\$25
L63	\$25	\$15	L107b	\$30	\$20	LJ21	\$16	\$10
L66B	\$800	\$750	L111	\$85	\$20	LJ27	\$27.50	\$20
L67	\$3000	\$1500	L112	\$70	\$25	LJ30	\$22.50	\$20
L69	\$3000	\$1500	L114	\$75	\$25	LJ31	\$22.50	\$20
L70-71	ea \$60	\$50	L115	\$65	\$25	LJ32	\$50	\$20
L75	\$85	\$75	L123a	\$75	\$15	LJ33	\$22.50	\$20
L77	\$200	\$100	L125	\$100	\$12	LJ47	\$4	\$3
L78	\$125	\$100	L125a	\$200	\$20	LJ48-51	ea \$4	\$3
L79	\$75	\$60	L127	\$65	\$10	LJ52-55	ea \$4	\$3
L80	\$50	\$30	L127a	\$100	\$35	2	\$15	\$12
L81	\$500	\$300	L128a	\$50	\$25	3	\$30	\$12
L82	\$4.50	\$3	L130	\$75	\$20	4	\$20	\$12
L83	\$8	\$3	L135	\$32.50	\$8	7	\$25	\$17.50
L85	\$12	\$6	L136	\$20	\$8	8	\$35	\$17.50
L85a	\$20	\$15	L138	\$20	\$12	9	\$25	\$17.50
L86	\$12	\$4	L139	\$14	\$10	10	\$30	\$17.50
L86b	\$17.50	\$12.50	L140	\$22.50	\$10	11	\$35	\$17.50
L86c	\$25	\$20	L141	\$11	\$10	12	\$20	\$17.50
L87	\$10	\$3	L142-7	ea \$6	\$5	13	\$12.50	\$10

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
14	\$12.50	\$10	167	\$20	\$11	333	\$20	\$3.50
16-17 ea	\$60	\$35	169	\$15	\$12.50	334	\$7	\$5
17a	\$35	\$40	170	\$20	\$9	335	\$8	\$5
18	\$25	\$17.50	170a	\$25	\$17.50	336	\$8	\$6
20	\$20	\$12	171	\$80	\$45	338	\$15	\$8
22	\$12.50	\$10	172	\$100	\$90	339	\$15	\$11
24	\$20	\$15	177a	\$60	\$30	340	\$250	\$90
27,29 ea	\$20	\$30	177b	\$50	\$20	341	\$250	\$35
30-31 ea	\$60	\$45	177c	\$40	\$15	393	\$150	\$135
35	\$17.50	\$12	258	\$8	\$5	394	\$20	\$0.30
36	\$15	\$17.50	259	\$15	\$6	395	\$10	\$0.50
38A	\$1500	\$1100	260	\$6	\$5	396	\$10	\$0.40
38B	\$2000	\$1400	261-262 ea	\$8	\$6	397	\$40	\$20
39a	\$15	\$17.50	263	\$15	\$12	398	\$25	\$20
40,40a ea	\$30	\$15	264	\$7	\$5	399	\$20	\$0.50
41	\$30	\$15	265	\$3	\$4	400	\$5	\$1.50
41a	\$40	\$22.50	266	\$4	\$1.50	401-4 ea	\$5	\$2
42a	\$60	\$35	267	\$3	\$1	405	\$15	\$2
43	\$30	\$35	268	\$10	\$4	406	\$15	\$1.50
44	\$17.50	\$12	270	\$5	\$4	407	\$20	\$3
45	\$22.50	\$17.50	272	\$12	\$8.50	408	\$35	\$2
48	\$12	\$8	273	\$15	\$11	409	\$20	\$2
49	\$14	\$8	286	\$10	\$3.50	410	\$20	\$3
50	\$14	\$6	287	\$2.50	\$0.35	411	\$6	\$3
51	\$22.50	\$10	288	\$3	\$0.60	412	\$60	\$25
52	\$27.50	\$8	289	\$2	\$0.60	413	300	\$100
54	\$12	\$10	290	\$2	\$0.75	414	\$60	\$25
64-68 ea	\$40	\$30	291	\$6	\$1	415-6 ea	\$8	\$5
69-70 ea	\$7.50	\$4	292	\$3	\$1	417	\$50	\$5
71	\$10	\$6.50	293	\$50	\$6	419	\$75	\$10
72	\$8	\$5	294	\$40	\$1	420	\$250	\$75
73	\$10	\$6.50	295	\$30	\$75	421	\$250	\$90
74	\$5	\$3	296-7 ea	\$3.50	\$2.50	422	\$30	\$10
75	\$5	\$1.25	298-300 ea	\$4	\$2.50	423	\$3	\$0.15
76	\$2	\$0.75	301-3 ea	\$4.50	\$3.50	424	\$6	\$0.15
77	\$1.50	\$0.60	304-6 ea	\$5	\$4.50	425	\$4	\$0.25
78-79 ea	\$2	\$0.75	307	\$6	\$4.50	426	\$20	\$0.30
80	\$5	\$1.25	308-9 ea	\$7.50	\$6	427	\$25	\$12
92-97 ea	\$3.25	\$2.25	310-1 ea	\$8	\$6	428	\$20	\$0.50
99-101 ea	\$4	\$3.50	312-3 ea	\$250	\$60	429-30 ea	\$3	\$0.50
102	\$12	\$10	314	\$5	\$0.75	431	\$6	\$1.50
103	\$10	\$9	315	\$5	\$0.75	432	\$40	\$12
104	\$20	\$15	316	\$2	\$0.50	433	\$3	\$2
105	\$50	\$45	317	\$4	\$0.60	434	\$30	\$2
115	---	\$175	318	\$20	\$12.50	435	\$25	\$2
130-131 ea	\$12	\$7.50	319	\$50	\$1.50	436-7 ea	\$8	\$2
133	\$18	\$10	320	\$20	\$1	438	\$6	\$2
159-160 ea	\$4	\$2	321	\$3	\$1	439-40 ea	\$10	\$2
161	\$3	\$2	322	\$8	\$4	441	\$8	\$2
151a	\$15	\$2	323	\$275	\$85	442	\$20	\$12
162	\$5	\$3	324-5 ea	\$3	\$1.50	443	\$8	\$3
163	\$4	\$2	326	\$4	\$1.50	444	\$250	\$110
164	\$8	\$2	327	\$4	\$2	445	\$40	\$7
164a	\$30	\$2	328-9 ea	\$5	\$3	446	\$8	\$7
165	\$5	\$3	330	\$15	\$3	447	\$12	\$7
166a	\$25	\$6	331-2 ea	\$6	\$3	448	\$400	\$100

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
449	\$250	\$75	511	\$20	\$5	J29	\$10	\$2
450	\$350	\$150	511a	\$8	\$5	J30	\$12	\$5
461	\$600	\$250	512	\$20	\$12	01	\$4	\$1
462	\$20	\$7	513	\$4	\$1.50	02	\$5	\$2
463	\$15	\$7	514	\$50	\$20	03	\$10	\$3
464	\$200	\$20	515	\$10	\$7.50	04	\$20	\$10
455	\$20	\$9	516	\$8	\$6	05	\$80	\$70
466	\$15	\$5	517	\$5	\$1.50	06	\$60	\$50
467	\$30	\$5	518	\$15	\$4	07	\$1	\$0.50
468	\$10	\$4	519	\$30	\$5	08	\$1.50	\$0.75
469	\$70	\$4	520	\$10	\$6	09	\$2	\$1
470	\$50	\$10	521	\$20	\$5	010	\$2.50	\$1.25
471	\$60	\$20	522	\$15	\$6	on	\$3	\$1.50
472	\$50	\$10	523	\$8	\$3	012	\$5	\$2
473	\$75	\$10	523a	\$20	\$1.50	013	\$9	\$6
474	\$12	\$0.15	524	\$4	\$1.50	014	\$25	\$17.50
475	\$5	\$0.15	524a	\$30	\$1.50	015	\$45	\$30
476	\$80	\$20	525	\$30	\$1.50	016	\$1	\$0.50
477	\$15	\$1.25	526	\$15	\$7.50	017	\$2	\$1
478	\$20	\$1.25	526a	\$20	\$1	018	\$7	\$3.50
479	\$40	\$5	691	\$0.15	\$2	019	\$5	\$2.50
480	\$7	\$1.50	692	\$0.25	\$0.40	020	\$6	\$2.50
481	\$20	\$1.25	693	\$0.35	\$1	021	\$4	\$0.25
482	\$30	\$1.25	693a	\$2	\$0.30	022-24 ea	\$4	\$1
483	\$30	\$3	694	\$2.50	\$1	025-26 ea	\$6	\$2
489	\$3	\$2.50	694a	\$2	\$1	027-28 ea	\$6	\$1.50
490	\$4	\$1.50	695	\$0.50	\$1	029-30 ea	\$30	\$1.50
490a	\$3	\$1.50	596	\$0.75	\$1.25	031	\$50	\$5
491	\$4	\$1.50	697	\$0.40	\$0.70	032	\$250	\$5
491a	\$3	\$1.50	698	\$1.50	\$3	033	\$8	\$2.50
492	\$4	\$1.50	698a	\$3	\$0.80	034	\$8	\$4
492a	\$5	\$1.50	698b	\$125	---	035-36 ea	\$100	\$6
493-5 ea	\$10	\$7.50	699	\$0.45	\$0.90	036a	\$500	\$50
496	\$20	\$7.50	700	\$0.50	\$1	037-39 ea	\$100	\$10
497	\$25	\$10	703	\$0.65	\$1.25	040	\$250	\$10
498	\$25	\$20	710	\$1	\$2	041-42 ea	\$100	\$10
499	\$35	\$30	711	\$3.50	\$4	043	\$100	\$12
500	\$350	\$125	719	\$1	\$1.50	044	\$150	\$15
501	\$4	\$1.50	720	\$2	\$2.50	045	\$100	\$15
502	\$8	\$6	731	\$0.10	\$1	046	\$400	\$20
503a	\$4	\$1.50	737a	\$125	---	047	\$900	\$40
504	\$2.50	\$1.50	738a	\$200	---	048	\$3	\$0.15
504a	\$3.50	\$1.50	741	\$20	\$10	049	\$3	\$0.30
505	\$4	\$1.50	751	\$2.50	\$2	050	\$4	\$0.40
505a	\$8	\$1.50	834	\$1	\$12.50	051-52 ea	\$5	\$0.50
505b	\$20	\$1.50	835	\$2	\$25	053	\$5	\$0.60
506	\$5	\$1.50	872	\$0.10	\$0.06	053a	\$200	---
506a	\$5	\$1.50	874, a ea	\$0.20	\$0.12	057	\$7	\$1
507	\$7.50	\$1.50	880, a ea	\$0.50	\$0.30	059	\$15	\$1.50
507a	\$5	\$1.50	881, a ea	\$0.65	\$0.40	059a	\$300	---
508	\$10	\$3	881b	\$0.65	\$0.40	059B	\$300	---
508a	\$6	\$1.50	882, a, b ea	\$1	\$0.60	060	\$50	\$2
509	\$25	\$2	J24	\$150	\$50	P1	\$2000	\$1500
510	\$6	\$3	J25-6 ea	\$6	\$3	P2	\$1500	\$1000
510a	\$7	\$4	J27	\$12	\$6	P3	\$3000	\$2500
510b	\$12	\$3	J28	\$6	\$1			

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
RA1	\$150	\$100	RA5	\$30	\$20	RA6a	\$8	\$2
RA2	\$500	\$350	RA5a	---	\$10	RA6b	\$10	\$2
RA3	\$75	\$45	RA5b	---	\$5	RA8	\$3	\$1.25
RA3b	\$250	\$100	RA5c	\$15	\$5	RA9	\$50	\$25
RA4a	\$30	\$25	RA6	\$6	\$4			

Notes: All prices are for mint. Catalog numbers are 1988. ea = each.

CATALOG NUMBER CHANGES:

<u>1988 No.</u>	<u>1987 No.</u>	<u>1988 No.</u>	<u>1987 No.</u>	<u>1988 No.</u>	<u>1987 No.</u>
L69a	L68a	274-276	287-289	484-488	453-457
L136b	L137	277-281	290-294	489-499	458-486
161	161a	282-284	296-298	500-502	489-496
161a	161	285	299	503-511	507-524
212-226	211A-223	286-313	300-322D	512-516	528-546
227-242	224-239	314-341	323-343D	517-520	550-566
243-245	240-242	401-417	400A-402E	521-522	571-577
246-248	243-245	419-421	402G-402I	523-526	591-597
249-251	246-248	422-450	403-420A	C34-C58	C33A-C53
252-254	249-251	451-455	421-425	C59-C80	C54-C69A
255-257	252-254	456-460	426-430	C83-C87	C69B-C70C
258-263	255-260	461-473	431-441A	C88-C95	C71-C79
264-273	261-270	474-483	442-452		

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

There are two major changes in Scott's 1988: (1) significant repricing in Hejaz, modern definitives and "back-of-the book", and (2) renumbering of modern definitives.

Price changes are drastic in many cases with some stamps increasing ten or more fold in value. Obviously, the market did not change this much in one year. Rather, Scott had been lax in keeping its prices in line with the market. While I, and probably everyone else, does not agree with all the new prices, certainly they are much more realistic than the old.

The Hejaz rarities, L61, L67 and L69 were doubled from \$1500 to \$3000 each. L66B had only a small increase from \$750 to \$800.

Many of the Jiddah three-line inverted and double overprints increased by \$5 or \$10, but are still below the market. For example, I had been looking for a genuine copy of L95a for 18 years and recently got one at auction for almost \$100, vs. Scott's price of \$17.50.

Some, but not all, of the gold Jiddah three-line overprints (L108-L115) increased from \$20 to \$65-\$85. I always thought all these were equally scarce.

Strangely, some of the scarcest and most underpriced stamps of the Hejaz were left untouched - L84, L90, L92, L98, L100, L105 and L120 come to

mind. Results in the Hibbert, Superior and Feldman sales would indicate genuine examples of these are worth in the range of 5 to 15 times Scott! (Naturally, most copies on the market are fake).

In Nejd, there were many increases and a few decreases. One of the decreases is hard to understand. The imperf pair, 39a, fell from \$17.50 to \$15, and is cheaper than two perforated stamps. The rarities, 38A, 38B, P1, P2 and P3 all increased by \$400-\$600. The two commonest stamps 51 and 52, in the set of 50-54, are now the highest priced. The doubtful 115 is now unpriced, vs. \$175 last year.

In the Kingdom issues, the Heir Apparent set is unchanged and seems more than adequately priced, considering recent auction prices. The Tughra set rose from \$193.50 to \$278.

The Dam, GOSP and "Tourist" definitives enjoy rather drastic increases, except for the original Cairo printing sets. Some examples: 394 and 426 from \$0.30 to \$20, 320 and 526a from \$1 to \$20, 319 from \$1.50 to \$50, 408 from \$2 to \$35, 469 from \$4 to \$70, and 464 from \$20 to \$200. Oddly. Scott left all the airmail prices unchanged. Hopefully, they will correct this oversight in the 1989 edition.

Some of the modern definitive increases may have been a bit overdone, in my opinion, although one new price list is already asking prices higher than the 1988 Scott. If you shop around, you may be able to get some stamps at a discount from Scott for a change. The already overpriced 100 and 200p Prophet's Mosque, 498-499, which show up in just about every auction in large blocks and even full sheets, got \$5 increases!

The Ka'aba definitives, 691-711, which were doubled in the 1987 catalog, got cut about 50% this time. The overpriced 1981 Hajj set, 834-835, fell from \$37.50 to \$3. It was \$75 in 1986. One wonders where Scott gets some of these prices from. I hope no A.P.A. people bought these at the high price, as some dealers were trying to capitalize on the Scott's price. There was even one set in an auction when the price was \$75!

Many postage due and postal tax stamps, and every official stamp, were raised. The long official set of 1965-1970 went from \$203.75 to \$3026.

Definitives and airmails of the 1960s-1970s were renumbered to eliminate the A,B,Cs and the gaps, a move long overdue. Scott had a golden opportunity to improve their "Tourist" issue listing, but they failed to take it, leaving the watermark varieties as minor numbers and still ignoring the redrawn frames.

Other than the renumbering and listing of new issues, editorial changes were negligible. I could find only the following:

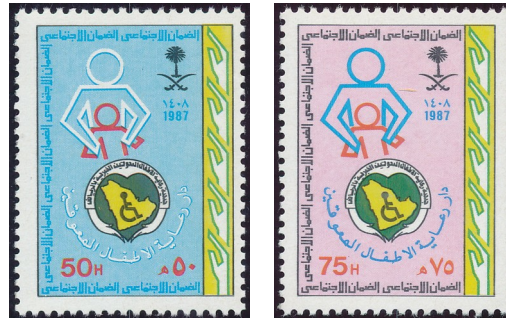
1. Years of issue were corrected for L4-L13.
2. L37 was added to the known imperforates in the footnote after L39.
3. The former L137 was changed to L136b to make it consistent with the other "illegible" denomination errors. However, there are now two different stamps listed as L136b!
4. Denomination was corrected for L141b.

Unfortunately, Scott continues to ignore most of the suggestions for improved listings that were made by the A.P.A.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: *Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id*

September 3, 1987: An additional denomination of 150h was issued in the Saudi Cities series. The design shows the Shobra Palace in Ta'if. Sheets of 52 (4x13). White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12.

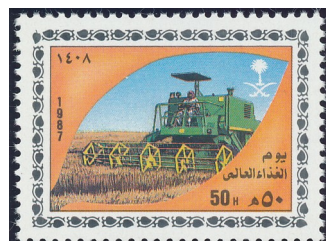


October 3, 1987: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to publicize the first anniversary of the founding of the Social Insurance Home for the Care of Disabled Children. The symbolic design shows an adult holding a handicapped child, and the emblem of the Home. Sheets of 50 (10x5). White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.

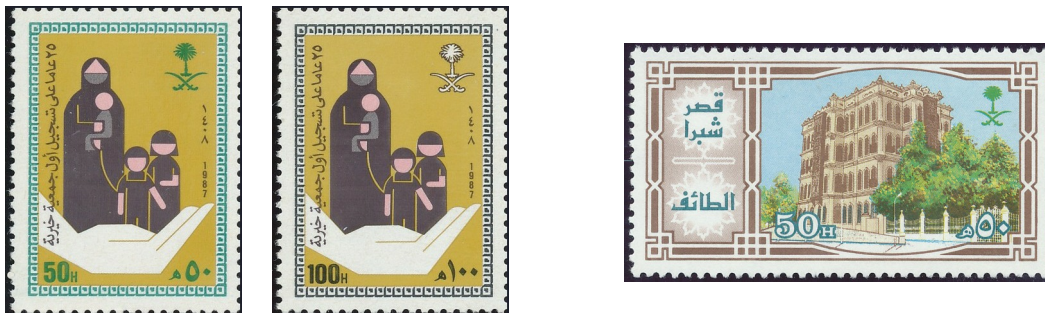
October 10, 1987: Two stamps, 50h and 150h, were issued to commemorate International Day of the Post. The design, within a border simulating an airmail envelope, show a hand writing with a quill pen and the emblems of the U.P.U., Saudi PTT, Intelpost, and Express Mail (Barid Al-Mumtaz). Sheets of 50 (4x13) plus two postal code labels. White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



October 17, 1987: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to commemorate World Food Day. The design shows a harvester in a wheat field. Sheets of 50 (5x10). White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



October 26, 1987: Two stamps, 50h and 100h, were issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the registration of the first Social Welfare societies. The design shows a hand supporting a mother and her three children. Sheets of 50 (10x5). White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



November 3, 1987: The 50h stamp in the Saudi Cities series depicting the Shobra Palace in Ta'if was reissued on white unwatermarked paper. Sheets of 52 (4x13). Perforated 12.

December 5, 1987: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued with the theme "Arab Jerusalem". The design show the Al-Aqsa Mosque (Dome of the Rock) in Jerusalem. Sheets of 50 (10x5). White unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



December 15, 1987: Three stamps, 50h, 75h and 150h, and a 300h souvenir sheet were issued to mark the new expansion of the Prophet's Mosque in Madina. The design shows the mosque. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 2 postal code labels (4x13). White unwatermarked paper. The stamps are perforated 13-3/4 x 14 and the souvenir sheet is imperforate. Quantity: 800,000 sets of stamps and 25,000 souvenir sheets.



December 21, 1987: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to mark the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Hettin to the west of the Sea of Tiberias, in which the Moslems commanded by Salah Eddin Alayoubi, defeated the Crusaders on July 4, 1187. The design depicts the Dome of the Rock, a battle scene and an Arab Knight on horseback. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and four postal code labels (9x6) on white unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.

A grammatical error exists in both stamps. The word to the left of the Arabic "800" at the bottom reads "عاما" while it should be "عام".



December 26, 1987: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to mark the 8th session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (G.C.C.) in Riyadh. The design depicts the G.C.C. emblem. Printed in sheets of 50 (10x5) on white unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.

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

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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.

HELP WANTED: I have positions 1-18 and 25-36 of the 1923 1/4p on 1/8p surcharge (Scott L40). Would like to view other multiples for comparison and to complete plating. If you can help, please send your multiples to me. I will return them promptly.
W.A. King. Aramco Box 5797. Dhahran 31311. Saudi Arabia.

WANTED: Contacts with persons interested in Ottoman postal history, cancels, etc of the former Middle East territories.
K.H. Jung. West Sidelinge 78, 3043-SP Rotterdam, Netherlands.

YEMEN collector would like to exchange and correspond with another collector or dealer in Yemen or in Saudi Arabia.
Ray Sternburg, 5250 Woodland Lakes, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418, USA.

WANTED: Book by the Survey of Egypt, Cairo. "A Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postage Stamps Prepared by the Survey of Egypt.....". State price to Arthur Bianchi, 1201 Redford #2205A, Houston, TX 77034 USA.

COLLECT KSA, UAE & former "Trucials", Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Jordan? Free catalogue.
MAGAN STAMPS. PO Box 32, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1EZ, UK.

AVAILABLE: Max Mayo's BARID AL-SA'UDIYYAH WA AL-HEJAZ WA NAJD (new). £12.50 + postage. MAGAN STAMPS, Box 32, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1EZ, UK.

FOR SALE to dealers and investors: Saudi commemoratives and definitives from Scott 691 (Gibbons 1122) to date in complete sheets. Advise numbers wanted and top price you are willing to pay.
Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id, P.O. Box 1317, Riyadh 11431, Saudi Arabia.

AVAILABLE to A.P.A. members/subscribers only: Color album pages of Saudi Arabia at 50 percent of retail price, \$60. Supplement \$15. Binder and slip case \$29.50. Postage extra at 20% of total purchase.
FILATCO, Box 1461, Appleton, WI 54913, USA.

AVAILABLE: KSA souvenir sheets, year issues (1981-1986) and modern FDCs, (including vending machine booklets). Prices on request.
Y. Aidroos, Box 87874, Riyadh 11652, Saudi Arabia.

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FREE: Catalogs for our periodic mail sales of Middle East. The Perfect Perf, Box 16127, Pittsburgh, PA. 15242, USA.

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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.