



# جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

## Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes

APRIL-JULY 1988

NUMBER 42

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King Fahd bin 'Abdul 'Aziz  
The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

## 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 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.

W.A. King, President	R.J. Thoden, Vice President
R. Bradford, Vice President	T.K. Forber, Membership Secretary
B.H. Walthall, Treasurer	N. Lannin, Corresponding Secretary
J.I. Kearney, Auctioneer	G.E. Benham, Jr., 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. 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.

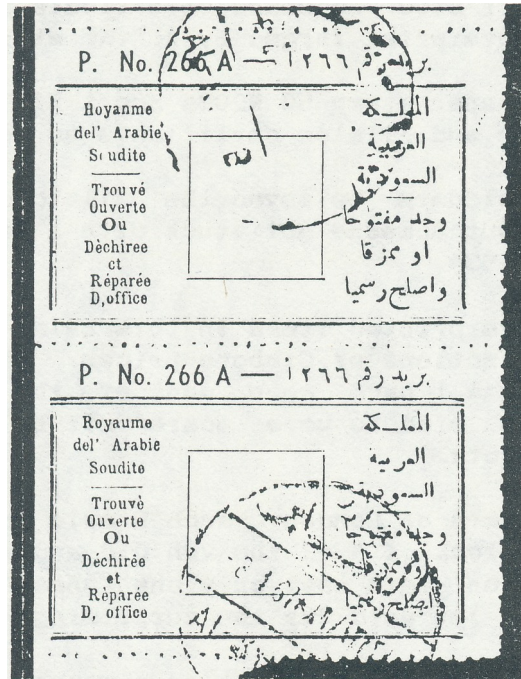
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## RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

1. Thanks to Tom Wood for a third type of official seal. The design is very much like the two types reported previously in Random Notes #27 and #38. Perforated 11 on thick white paper. Note the spelling errors in the first seal: "Hoyanme" for "Royaume" and "ct" for "et". The cancellation is that for Al-Khobar in 1967.



2. LINN'S of May 2, 1988 included "Trends of Stamp Values" for Saudi Arabia. Their conclusions were that "prices for a large majority of Saudi stamps continue to rise, many of them spectacularly" and "proceed with caution - prices asked by various dealers differ widely". Comments are made that some dealer's lists have not used the 1988 Scott numbers. Unfortunately, the price tables given by "Trends" seem not to have translated old Scott numbers appearing in these lists, and thus the listings for the 1960s-70s contain many errors.
3. Kenneth Knight submits the following comments on the "More on the 'FEE PAID' Handstamps" article in RANDOM NOTES #41:

"The wavy lines handstamp on the cover illustrated as Figure 8 is a mark applied in Alexandria by the Egyptian Civil Censorship. It is one of a series of 'dumb' marks applied by them to mail during World War 1. The mark on Mr. Alireza's cover appears to be the Egypt Study Circle's No. 3, recorded as struck in black or red and used between August 27, 1915 and May 11, 1919. (Articles relating to these markings can be found in the Egyptian Study Circle's publication THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR Nos. 116, 117 and 137/8).

It is normal to charge twice the amount underpaid on short paid items of mail. Therefore, despite the lack of confirmatory markings, a case could be made for the postage due stamps affixed to the cover illustrated as Figure 5 to have served their legitimate use."

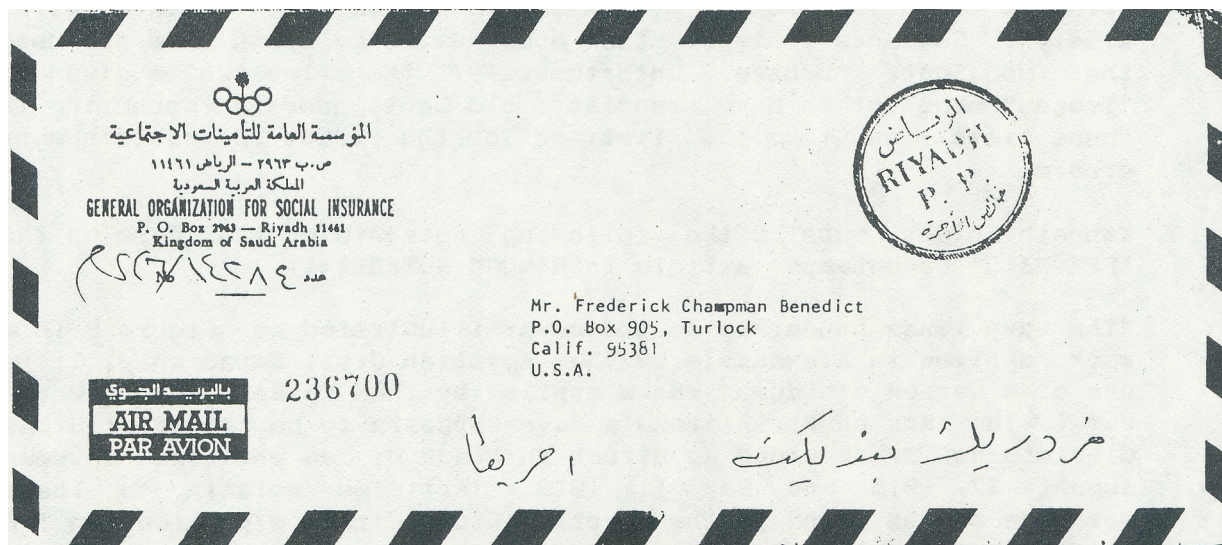
4. In RANDOM NOTES #41, we mentioned three lots in Harmers of London March 9 sale. The results on these lots were:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Result</u>
1548	10p Makkah Arms with two-line Jeddah overprint SG 87 Scott L76A. Holcombe and BPA certificates as genuine and Filatco certificate as forgery.	Unsold
1554	1/2p Makkah Arms with red three-line Jeddah ovpt. SG97 Scott L100. Holcombe certificate as genuine, but with overprint forged by APA standards.	£330
1568	1/8p newspaper stamp SG N208a Scott P1. BPA cert. As genuine and Filatco certificate as forgery.	£44

Obviously, the bidders believed the Filatco certificates on lots 1548 and 1568, but someone got stuck with a very expensive fake in the case of lot 1554.

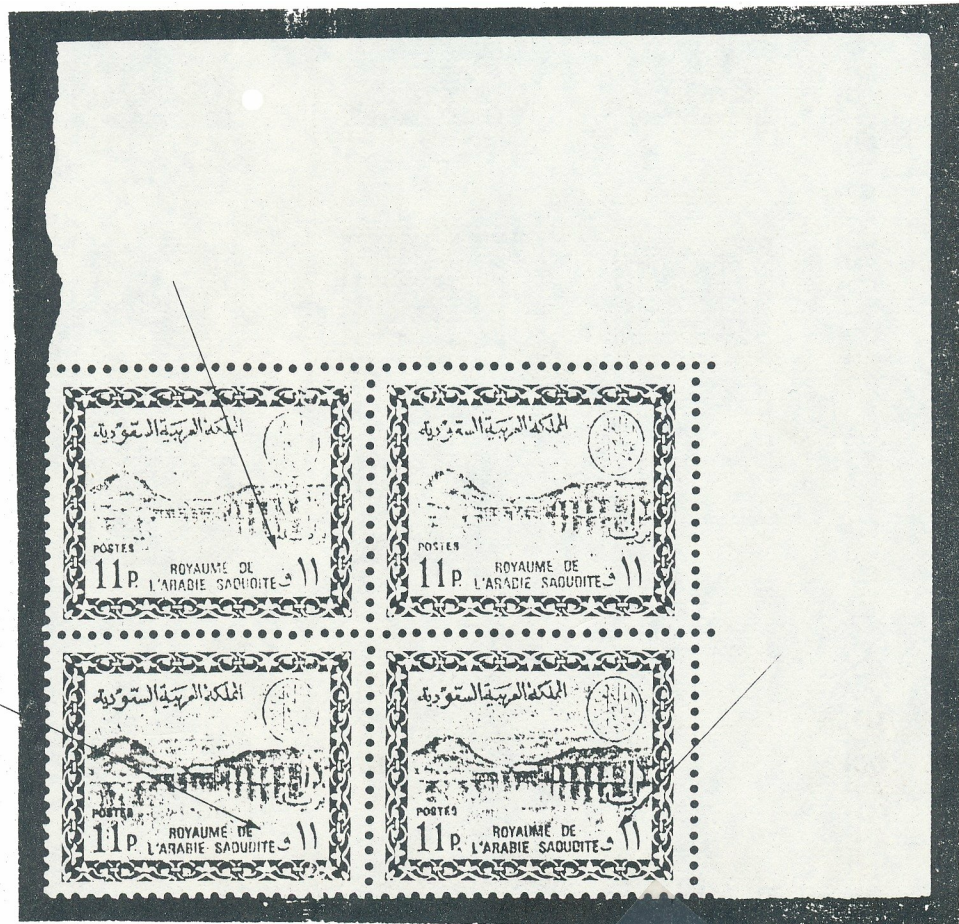
Many very good overprinted items in this sale, without certificates, sold at small fractions of Gibbons prices. The buyers of these got good bargains, as I have seen many of the lots and they were genuine. Perhaps bidders were scared off by the problems with the above mentioned lots.

5. Lot 1584A in Harmers of London March 9 sale consisted of an imperf. corner marginal block of 4 of the 20h Old and New Riyadh definitive. The lot description said that only one sheet of 52 stamps is known imperforate. This lot sold for the surprising price of £770!
6. Fred Benedict submits a Photostat of a cover with another type of modern "FEE PAID" handstamp. The Arabic reads "khalis al-ajra" as usual.



7. Subsequent to publication of the information on the A.P.A. New Issue service in RANDOM NOTES #41, Mr. J. M. Wilson has discontinued his service, and has notified his customers. Any subscriber, regardless of where he lives, who is interested in obtaining new issues by mail should contact Mr. W. A. King. The terms of Mr. King's service were given in RANDOM NOTES #41.
8. Zahid Islam has shown me a copy of Scott's 985, the 40h definitive of 1985, lacking the lilac rose color. The stamp is uncanceled, but feels rough to the touch, compared to the smooth feel of a mint copy, suggesting it has been immersed in something. I am suspicious that this may have been "created" after it had left the printers. Has anyone else seen a copy of this missing color variety?
9. Fred Benedict reports that he has an upper right corner block of the 11p watermarked dam (Scott #471) with position 9 having the right dot over "ق" missing, and positions 19 and 20 having both dots over "ق" missing. Position 10 has the normal two dots, as do also positions 6-8 and 16-18 which Fred also has. Fred says it could be that more stamps along the right sheet margin have dot problems.

I can confirm these varieties, having found a similar block among my duplicates. I did not find these varieties on my UR corner block of the De La Rue printing.



10. Both Fred Benedict and Tom Wood have copies of a presentation sheet that was evidently printed between 1937 and 1939. It has spaces for the 3p Tughra stamp and 1p postage due stamp of 1937, but not for the 1/2p and 2p dues of 1939. Fred's sheet has the space for the 3 1/2p Tughra filled with a 1/8p postal tax stamp of 1943, and has the 100p and 200p Tughra stamps of 1942 affixed in the top margin. This indicates the sheet was still being used at least as late as 1943. The Arabic at the top reads "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia / Department of Telegraphs, Posts and Telephones".



11. Fred also reports having a lower right corner block of nine of the 1p Cairo Dam (Scott #212) with the right dot over "ق" missing in position 78. This variety has been known for a while, and is even listed in Mayo (#901f). I have one of these blocks also, and in checking it, I note that positions 90 and 100 have a broken "ق" character.

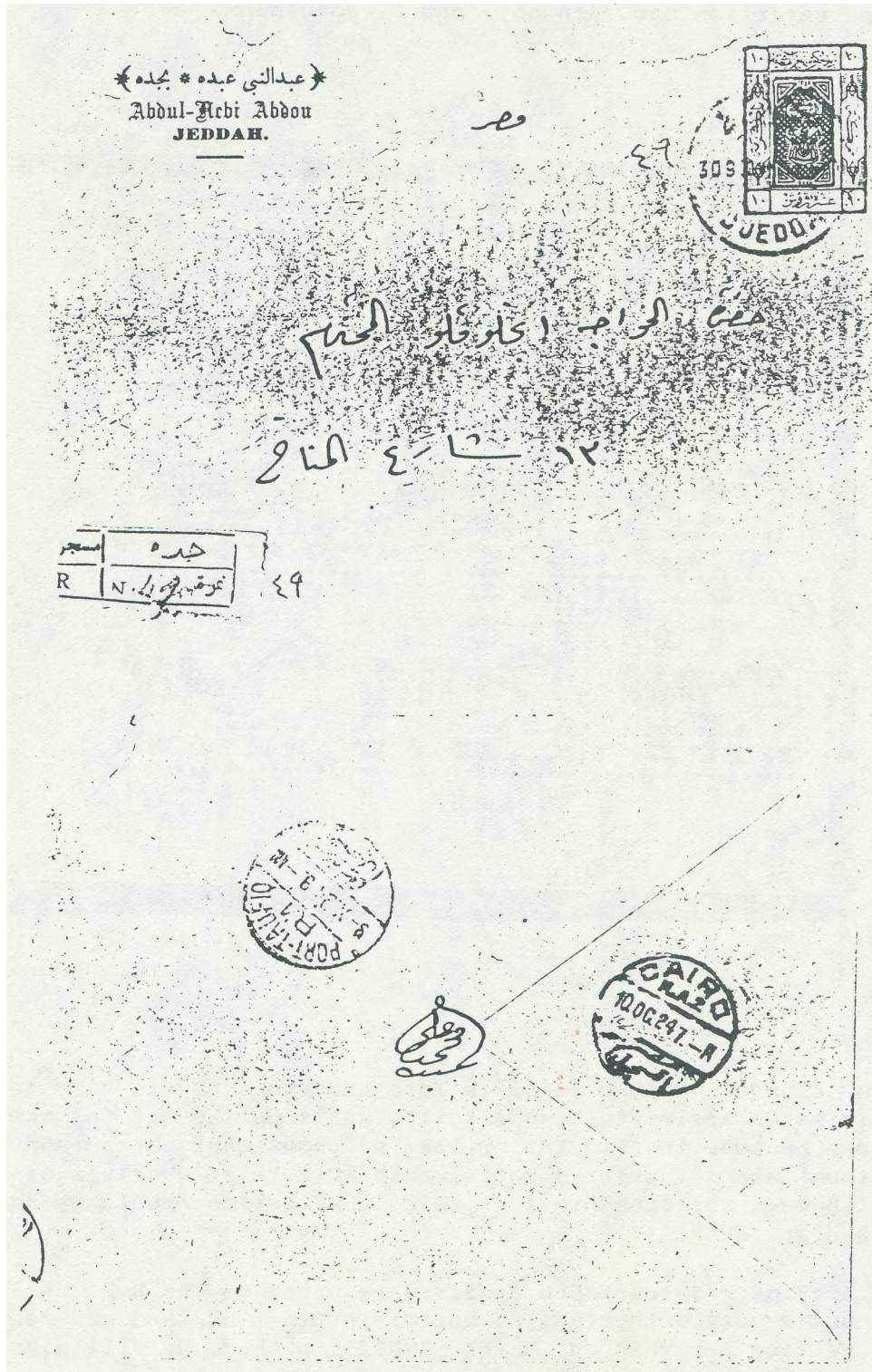
Incidentally, the Cairo printings were printed in sheets of two panes of 100, one over the other, separated by a 50mm. gutter. They were cut into post office panes of 100. It is not known whether these varieties occur in only one or both panes.



12. This issue of RANDOM NOTES is late because I had to wait for enough articles to arrive to make a full-size issue. We try to make 30 page issues because this is the number of pages that can be sent for the minimum airmail printed matter rate. If this shortage of articles continues, the schedule for this publication could become quite irregular. HELP!!!

13. A.P.A. Vice President Bob Bradford returned to the U.K. on August 1. Bob was a very enthusiastic worker for the APA and was responsible for getting the RANDOM NOTES INDEX finished. We will miss him and we wish him well.

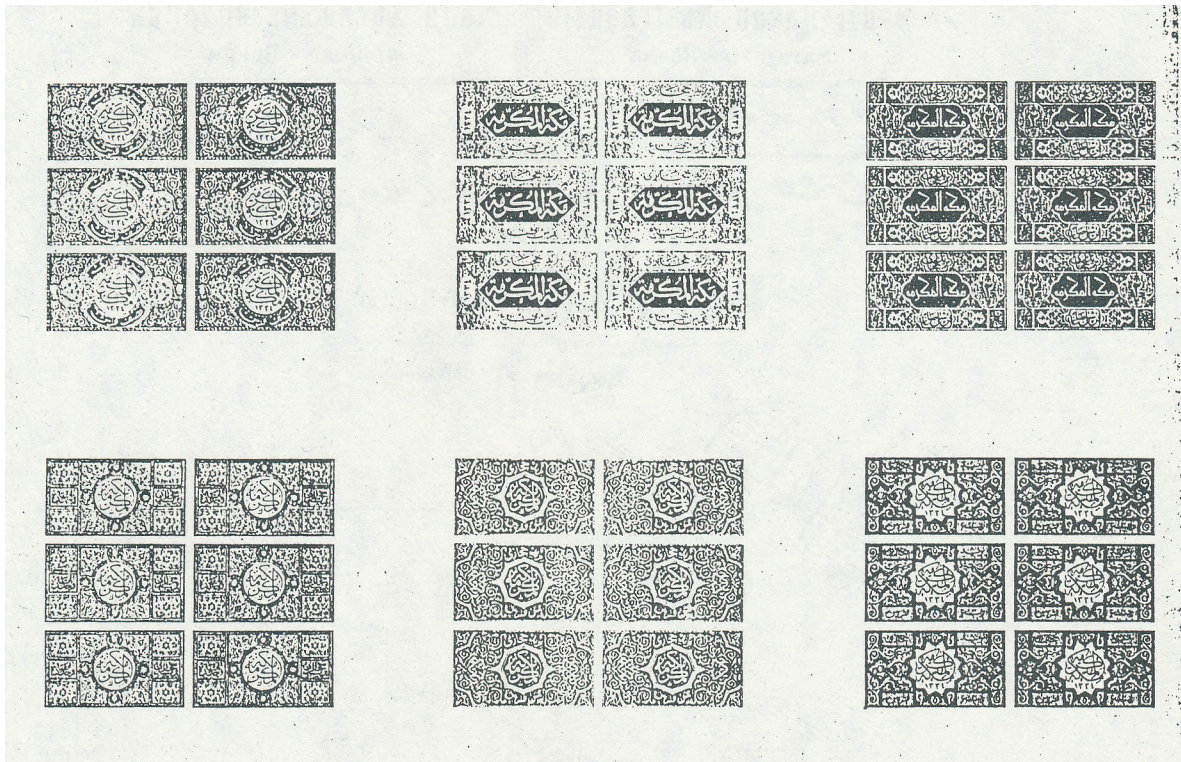
14. Thanks to Tarik Alireza for a photostat of a cover bearing the 10p "Makkah Arms" stamp of 1924, cancelled DJEDDAH 30.9.24. Although overpaid and possibly philatelically inspired (it is addressed to the stamp dealer Angeloglou - "ela"), this must be an extremely rare cover. Even genuinely used stamps are scarce. Now who can show us covers demonstrating legitimate use of the 1/4p green and the 3p dull red of 1924? These stamps probably were issued late in 1924 and thus in use for only a short time before the Jeddah overprints were issued.





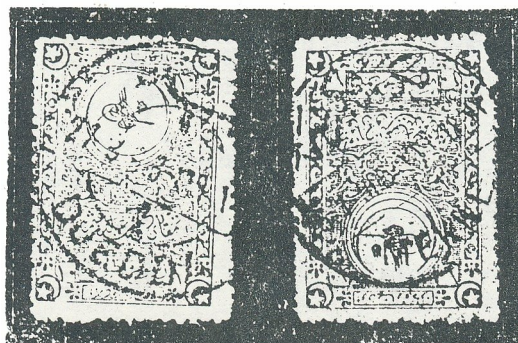
15. Tarik Alireza reports what are apparently proof sheets of the first Hejaz designs (Scott types A1-A6) in a format new to me:

- (a) A set of six imperforate miniature sheets of six stamps each (2 x 3) in colors very close to the issued stamps.
- (b) One large ungummed imperforate sheet measuring 315 x 230mm. With blocks of six of all six values, all in the same color, approximately brown rose per the SG Stamp Colour key.



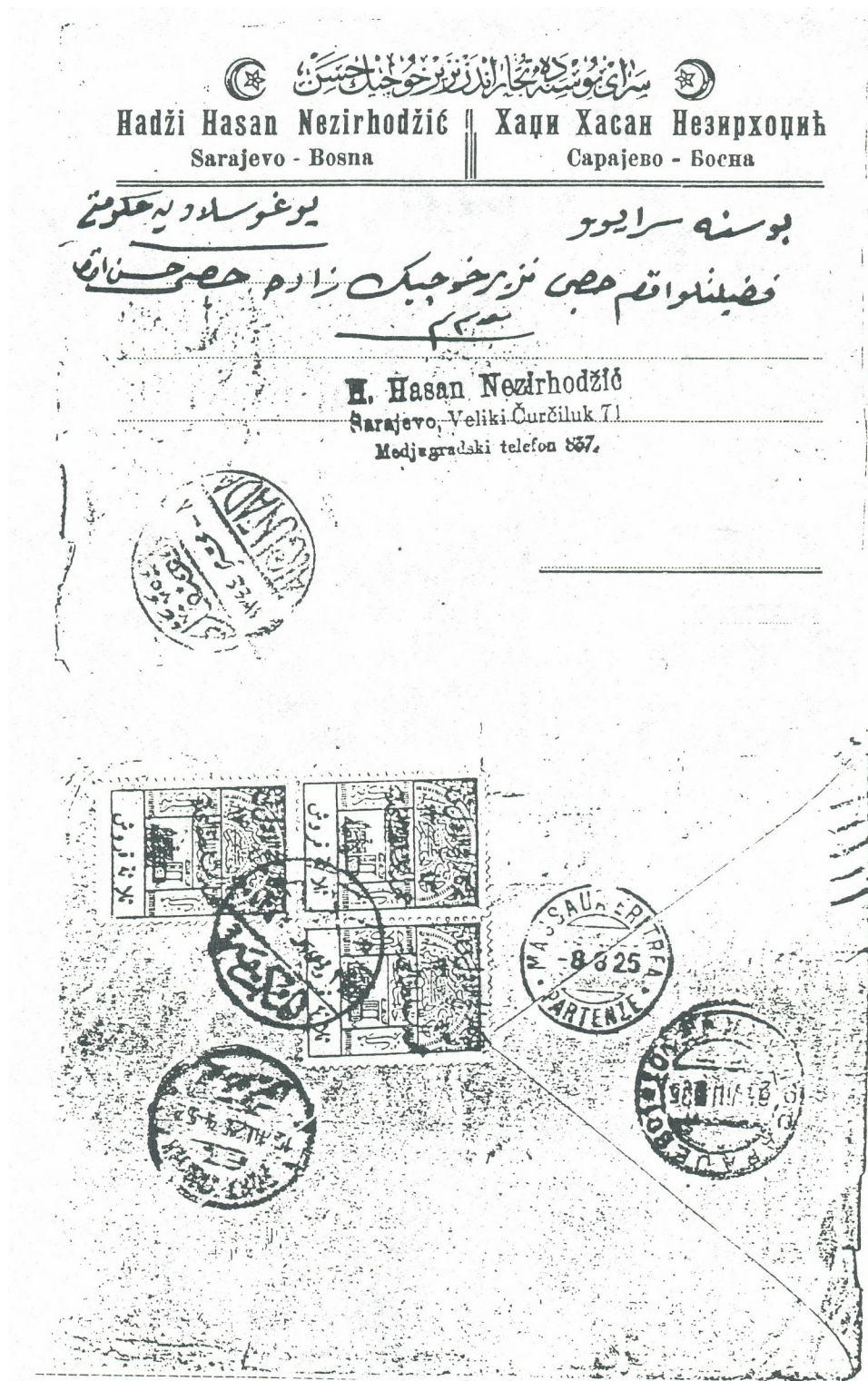
16. I have several Turkish 10 para flat rate documentary stamps with postal cancellations of Jiddah or Makkah. Does anyone know whether these represent emergency use for postage or whether there was a fiscal tax on certain postal documents? (C&W = Coles & Walker)

DJEDDA 1  
(C&W Type 13)

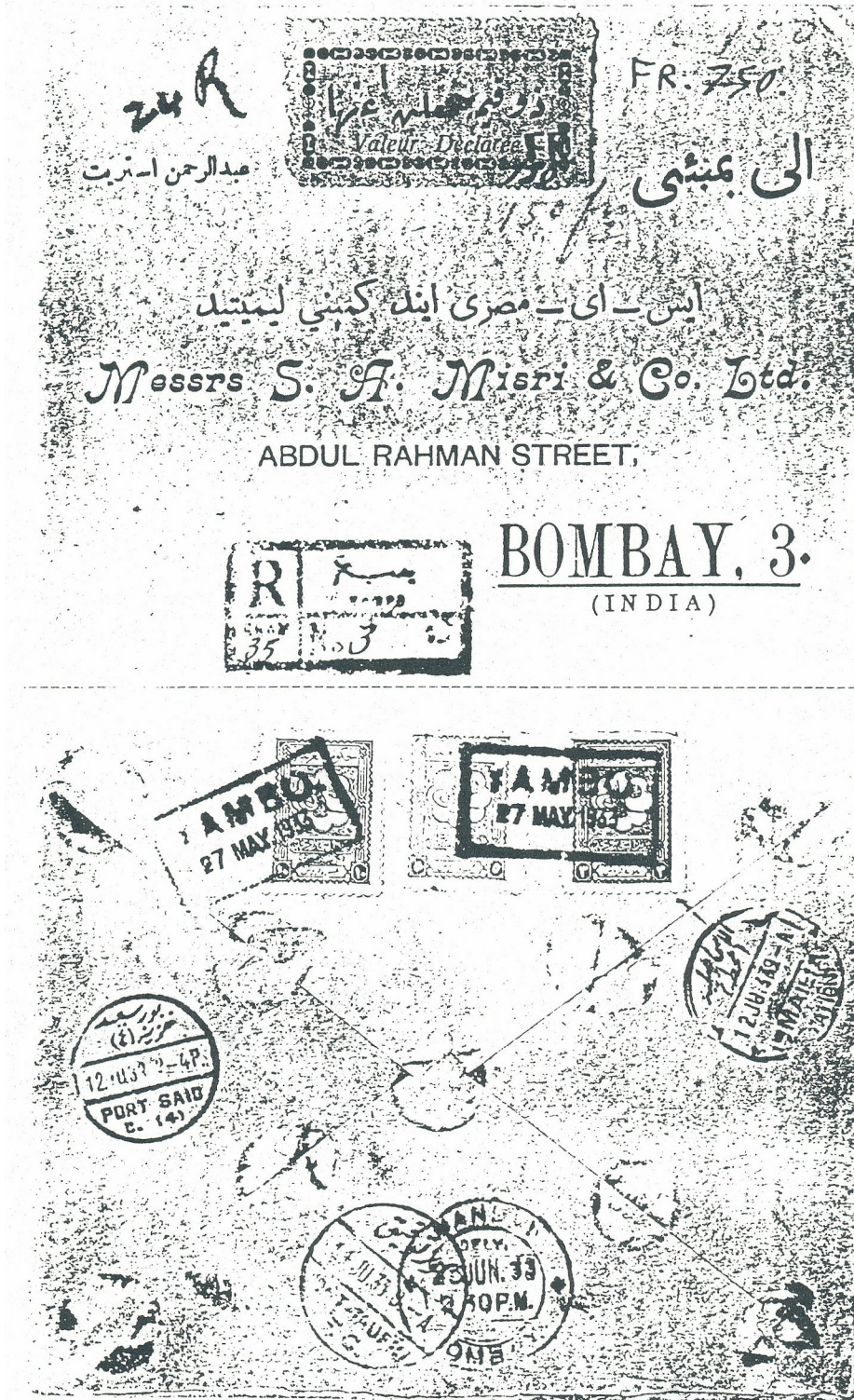


MEKKE  
(C&W Type 24)

17. Another cover in Tarik Alireza's collection has 3 copies of the 3p of the first Hajj issue of 1925. Cancelled Makkah 12 Dhu al-Hijjah 1343, the cover made its way via Al-Gunfada (8 Muharram 1344), Massaua, Eritrea (8.8.25) and Port Taufiq (15.VIII.25) to Sarajevo, Yugoslavia (21.VIII.25). The 9p rate is a mystery, unless this is an overweight cover, or it is a philatelic cover sent by a Haji to himself. Note the addressee is the same as the sender.



18. Yet another Alireza cover shows the rectangular YAMBO cancel used in 1933-34. Note the lack of an Arabic city name and Hijrah date. Can anyone explain this? Addressed to Bombay, India, the cover picked up three transit cancels in Egypt first.



19. Glen Benham, APEX show chairman, reminds us that 17 November is the date of the annual Arabian Philatelic Exposition. APEX-17 will be held in the Auditorium next to the Dhahran Theater, the same place as last year. The exhibit will open at 1000 in the morning.

All members and any interested persons are hereby encouraged to assemble some creative exhibit that in any way relates to the collecting, producing, distributing, etc. of anything philatelic.

Present plans include an exhibit of the techniques and methods, from conception to delivery, used by a highly successful designer of United Nations stamps. This gentleman is presently living and working in Saudi Arabia. Also, the ever popular display of recently released Saudi stamps will be present. Rumors of a language quiz involving the very fringes of philately are running rampant. The usual Adult and Junior display categories will be in use at APEX-17. What do you have that you are interested in sharing with others.

The present exhibit display panels are designed to hold sheets that measure about 11 inches top to bottom and up to 26 inches wide. There are three such holders in each panel. This actually means that a person can display up to nine 8-1/2 by 11 inch standard size album pages in each display panel. Each panel is covered with a 1/4 inch thick clear plastic sheet to protect your exhibit from sandstorms and dripping ice cream cones.

Think about what you will exhibit and let the show chairman know at any meeting prior to 31 October 1988, or write to him in care of the APA address.

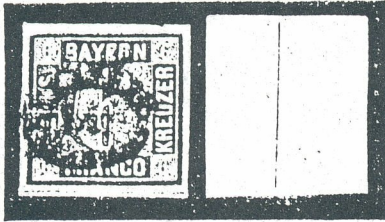
20. Thanks to A. A. Sa'id for a first day cover of the Palestinian Uprising set. This cover has a first day cancellation I haven't seen before. It appears to be a general type, rather than specific to this issue.



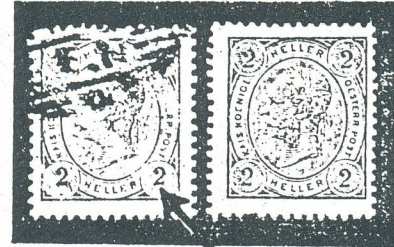
# THE FIRST STAMPS OF HEJAZ: SECRET MARKS AND VARIETIES

By: Dr. E. A. Kavar

By the early part of the twentieth century, it had become commonly known that security printers of stamps incorporate secret marks in their products. These marks have been included in the designs of many stamps for purposes of identification, differentiation and/or prevention of forgeries, three aims which have often overlapped. The paper used for printing was selected for similar objectives but also for the specific purposes of providing a better printing surface and preventing the fraudulent re-use or forgery of stamps.



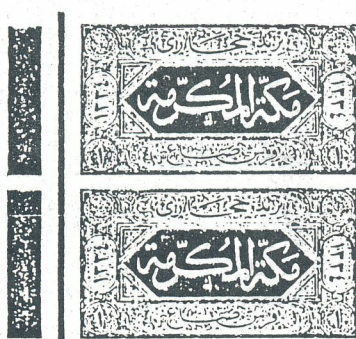
↑ ↑ Sc.#5  
1850 Bavaria with silk thread



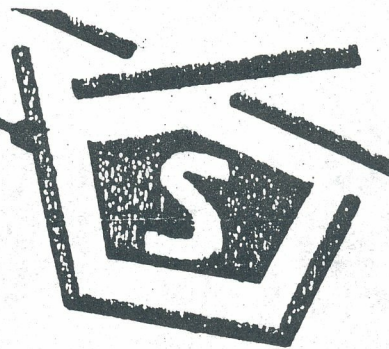
Sc.#71a  
19a Austria with varnish bars

In 1839, John Dickinson adopted his method (invented in 1829) of introducing a silk thread into paper during manufacture so that each stamp printed would carry one thread. Forgery proved extremely difficult and this type of paper was used successfully by Bavaria, Switzerland and Great Britain.

In 1900, to prevent the re-use of stamps, certain countries, notably Austria and Russia, applied diagonal lines or bars of uncolored shaving varnish to the paper surface before stamps were printed. Any attempt to remove a cancellation removed the varnish and with it part of the stamp design. Many kinds of safety paper were used by different countries, including Guild paper, Burele, Noire, Winchester, "Goldbeaters" skin, Security paper, Quadrille, Palimpsest and watermarked paper.



1916 Saudi Arabia



SECRET MARK  
"S" INCORPORATED  
IN DESIGN OF ALL  
ONE PIASTRE BLUE

Designers and printers also incorporate secret marks which are logged by the printers and never publicized until they fall under the persistent scrutiny of philatelists. Designers often sign their name or initials as a "cachet" of their work. One such subtle signature is the recently discovered "S" in the 1916 one piastre blue of the Hejaz. I first found this secret mark when examining the first plate proof of the one piastre at AMERIPEX 86 in Chicago. This mark, which eluded the scrutiny of collectors for over 70 years, consisted of a clear "S" for Survey of Egypt (printers of the first Hejaz stamps) incorporated in the lattice around the rose in the top right corner (at 5 o'clock) of each one one piastre blue. It showed on all printings including the rouletted issues.

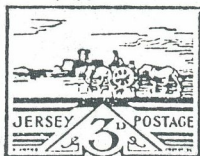
SECRET MARKS USED  
BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES

Despite the watchfulness of the Germans, the designer of the Guernsey stamps managed to incorporate a tiny 'V' for Victory at each of the four corners in the dotted border, a gesture which the Germans did not appear to notice.



Guernsey 1941

Similarly, the design of the 3d violet stamp of Jersey issued on 29th June 1943 included a thinly-disguised 'GR' cypher in the scroll work at the sides of the figure 3.



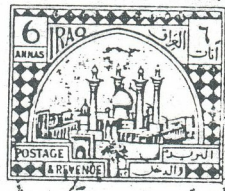
Jersey 1943



Initials CL  
on rock on left



Initials MJM  
lower right



Initials EC  
bottom centre

Akin to secret marks are the "Hidden Dates" which occur in many Canadian stamps produced since 1935.



Under lower hand



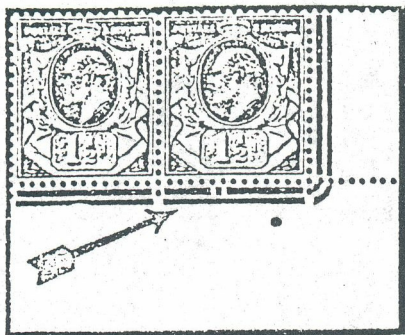
Below compass



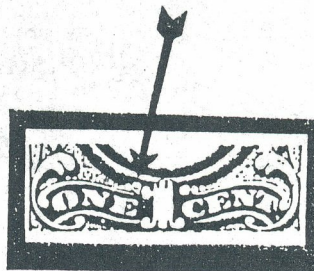
Under lower hand



Over T on safety



1902 Great Britain with Jubilee Double Line to Identify Second Printing

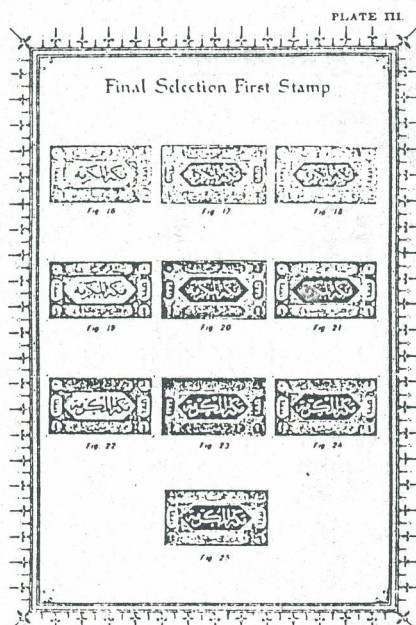


1c Franklin

1873 U.S. Secret Marks incorporated by the Continental Banknote Co.

Once this discovery sparked my interest, I proceeded to delve into the literature and the stamps in my collection seeking further secret marks. I found that many stamp-issuing entities include secret marks not only in each stamp in the sheet, but also to differentiate printings from the same plate that occur on different dates.

Somerset House, in printing the British Edward VII stamps, included a double line in the margin or Jubilee line under the 11th stamp in the bottom row denoting the 1911 printing, and another double line under the 12th stamp denoting the 1912 printing. The Continental Banknote Company in printing the 1873 U.S. issue, added secret marks on the 1c to 15c values to differentiate them from the first printing done by the National Bank Note Company in 1870.



Two hundred Copies of this Special Edition have been printed. This Copy being the Fifth dated 15th March 1919

is presented to:—  
His Highness The Sultan of Egypt

Plate III from the GSE Book of Hejaz with essays and proofs of the first issues. This is one of the first 5 copies presented to the Sultan of Egypt.

Likewise, the Geographical Survey of Egypt has consistently included new marks every time a certain plate was used for a new printing. The great concern the G.S.E. exhibited for the "technical protection" of the Hejaz stamps from potential forgers is evidenced in the discourse presented in the G.S.E. book published in November 1918. Even the book itself, which comprised 87 color proofs and essays of the ten different designs and was a limited edition of 200, included two secret marks.

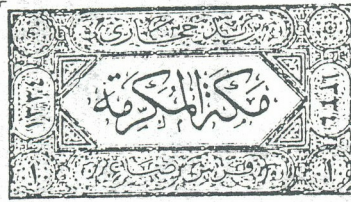


Fig. 16

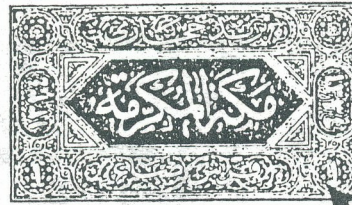


Fig. 17



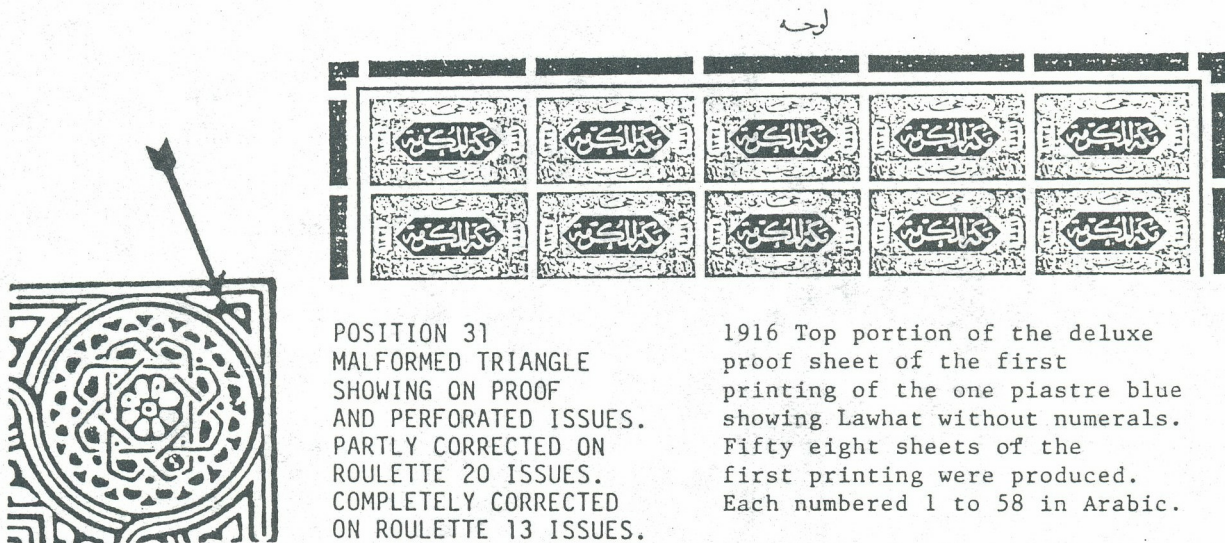
Fig. 18

Plate III of the 1918 GSE Book

Secret Marks: Blue Dots added to Fig. 17 and 18.

For those fortunate enough to own this book, these marks can be seen in Plate III at the top of the page where the one piastre essays are shown in red. Figure 17 has a blue dot added by hand in the bottom right circle at 8 o'clock. Figure 18 has a blue dot also added by hand in the right tablet Arabic numeral "4" of 1334. Every book I examined, nineteen in all of the 200 printed, include these two marks. Since they were done by hand, they may vary slightly in position but they are all in the general area described above.

This was sufficient evidence to substantiate further research of secret marks incorporated by the G.S.E. in their printings. The plate proof sheet of the one piastre blue examined at AMERIPEX 86 was of the first printing and had "lawhat" in Arabic at the top of the sheet. Printed on a thick white card, the first printing(1) from which this proof was made consisted of 58 sheets each numbered consecutively by handstamp with Arabic numerals, one to 58.



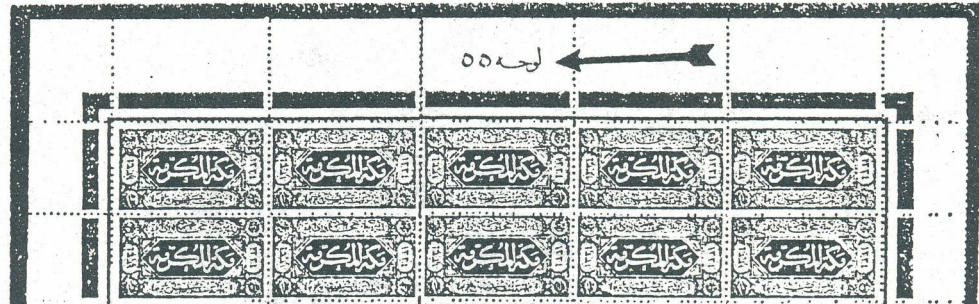
POSITION 31  
MALFORMED TRIANGLE  
SHOWING ON PROOF  
AND PERFORATED ISSUES.  
PARTLY CORRECTED ON  
ROULETTE 20 ISSUES.  
COMPLETELY CORRECTED  
ON ROULETTE 13 ISSUES.

1916 Top portion of the deluxe  
proof sheet of the first  
printing of the one piastre blue  
showing Lawhat without numerals.  
Fifty eight sheets of the  
first printing were produced.  
Each numbered 1 to 58 in Arabic.

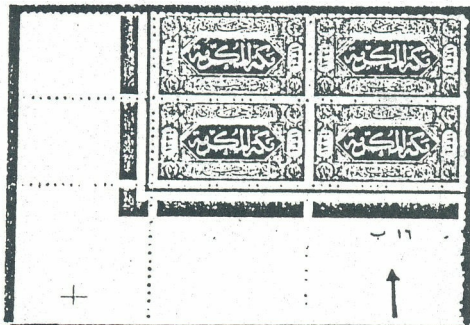
This proof sheet showed a crystal clear impression of each stamp and was initialed "T.E. Lawrence File" on the reverse suggesting and confirming Lawrence's involvement in the design and printing of these stamps(2). It showed very clearly without magnification the secret mark in position 31, a malformed triangle in the top right corner of the stamp. This mark persisted in all the perforated issues, was partially modified for the rouletted 20 issues and then completely corrected for the rouletted 13 issues. As will be seen later in the listing, others were created to replace the position 31 mark.



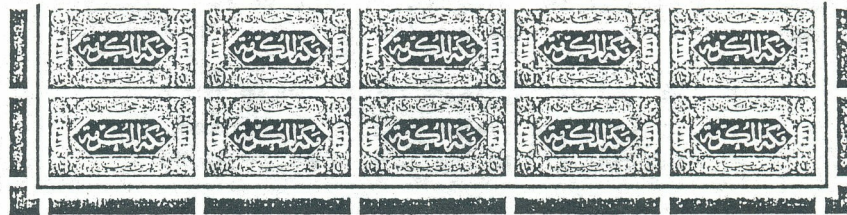
THE THREE PRINTINGS OF THE ONE PIASTRE BLUE



The First Printing: "Lawhat"  
perf. 12 (58 sheets)



The Second Printing: "B-16"  
perf.10 (381 sheets)



The Third Printing "T-16"  
perf.10 or 12 (272 sheets)

Two other issues of proofs were pulled from the third printing with the T-16 controls. One set of proofs which included the one piastre blue on thick white card was prepared for the Egyptian Royal collection. Another set of proofs prepared for presentation to notables and dignitaries was printed on off-white thick smooth paper. The overall clarity and intricacy of design of the first impression illustrated in the "lawhat" proof sets it apart from the later proofs and reflect the true beauty of this superb piece of artwork.

Although there are plate varieties which may have been overlooked by the meticulous G.S.E., it is evident that many marks discovered by me were purposely included in the plate. Whether these secret marks were meant merely to differentiate the various printings or to prevent potential forgery of full sheets is not at issue here. In any case I concerned myself only with marks that appear constant to each printing; plate varieties which develop during the printing process as a result of minor flaws in the plate are not constant, do not show on the proofs and thus are not listed in this work. The sudden appearance of a variety at the beginning of a printing run, usually with the proof, and its sudden disappearance in a later printing may be construed as an intentional secret mark. Notwithstanding, I have listed all constant varieties specific to each printing and leave it up to the student to separate the voluntary from the involuntary marks.

Plate Varieties of the Perforated Issue

One piastre Blue

LOWHAT B-16	First printing Second printing	perf 12 perf 10	Secret Mark pos.31 Secret marks pos.31 Var. pos.32 Var. pos.2	malformed triangle malformed triangle missing wedge wedge in "1"
T-16	Third printing	perf 10 or 12	Secret mark pos.31 Var. pos.32 Var. pos.2 Var. pos.5	

1/2 PIASTRE RED

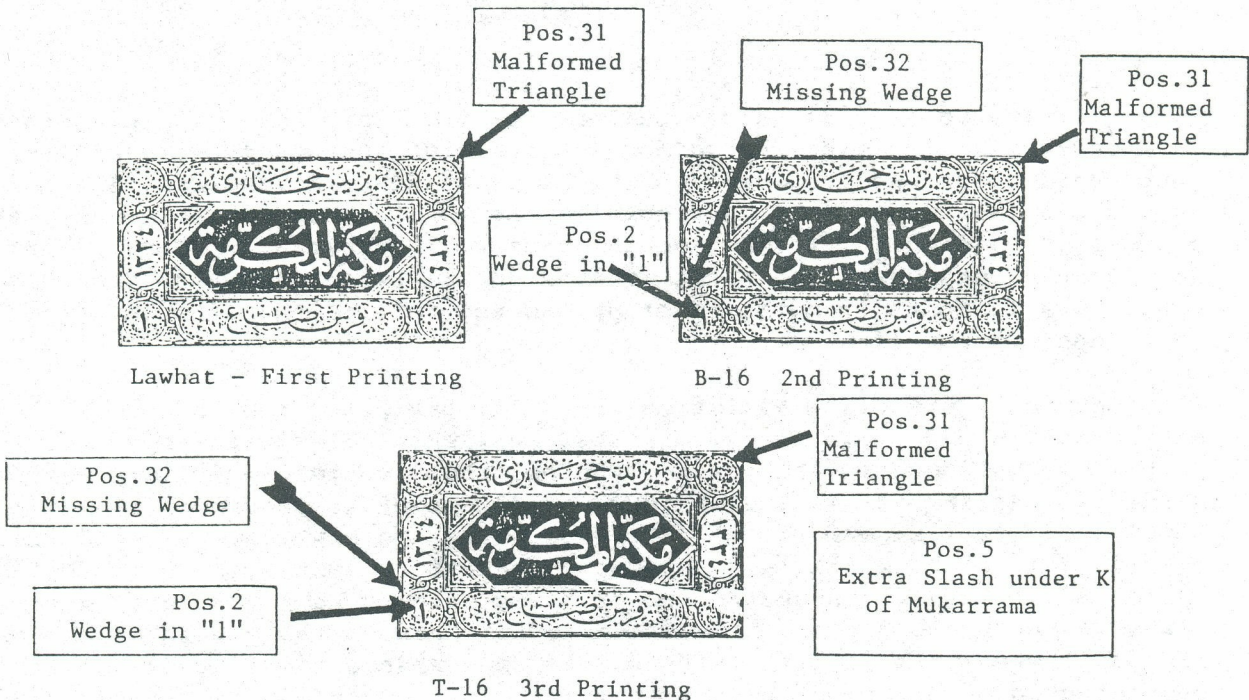
1-16	First printing	perf 10	Secret mark pos.11 Var. pos.17	rose petal broken DAMME
B-16	Second printing	perf 12	Var. pos.10,11,12,13,15,16,17, 19,20,22,24,25,27,34	

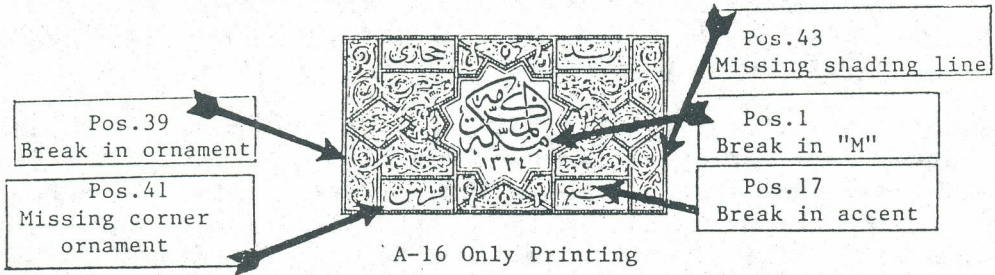
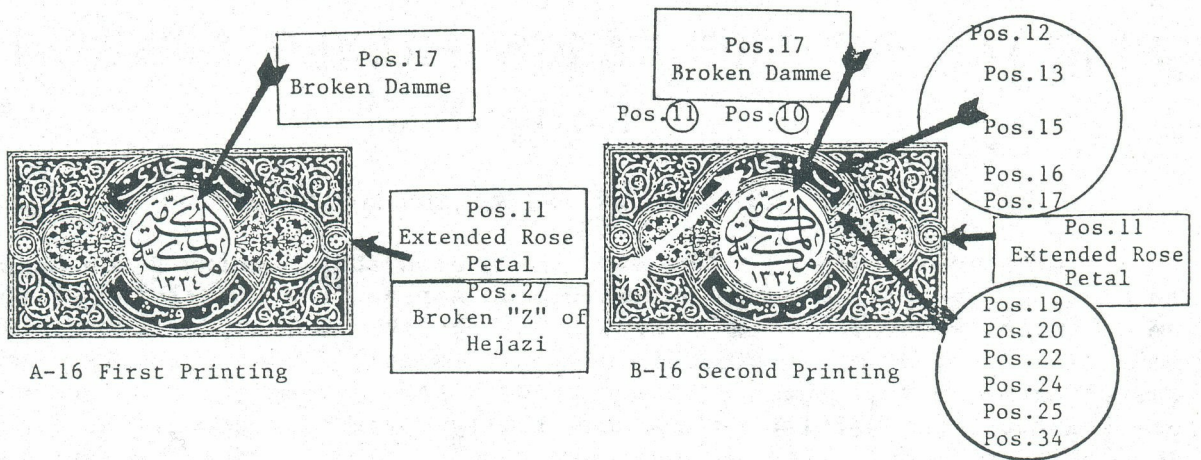
1/4 piastre Green

1-16	First printing	perf 12	Secret mark pos.1 Var. pos.17,39,41,43	
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It is interesting to note that there is only one position variety that is unique to each value of the perforated issues:

- Position 31 in the 1 piastre blue.
- Position 11 in the 1/2 piastre red.
- Position 1 in the 1/4 piastre green.





These positional varieties can be safely construed as purposeful secret marks since in this form they disappear altogether in the rouletted issues.

Other varieties which persist in the rouletted 20 issues disappear in the rouletted 13 issues, but still may have been logged by the printers as further identifying marks of each printing.

What is more interesting is that in position 31 the triangle is clearly protruding toward the top frame and also connected to the inner circle. Before the rouletted 20 were printed, the triangle was disconnected from the top of the frame but was obviously not disconnected from the inner circle. The fact that the G.S.E. was aware of such a glaring flaw but did not completely correct it implies purposeful intent and not mere oversight.

As if to reassure us of this intent, yet another triangle in the bottom left corner of position 26 shows up missing its base on all rouletted 20 printings and disappears again in the roulette 13 issues. The malformed triangle of position 31 was completely corrected in the rouletted 13 issues although it can still be distinguished as a position different from others.

- (1) E. A. Kawar. "The 1916 One Piastre Blue of Hejaz: The Three Printings". THE COLLECTOR'S CLUB PHILATELIST, March-April 1987; Volume 66, Number 2.
- (2) E. A. Kawar. "The First Stamps of Hejaz: An Adventure in Saudi Arabian Philately". ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION RANDOM NOTES, Sept-Dec. 1987, Number 40.

# PLATING OF THE LARGE FRAMED MUSTAHIQ ADDENDUM

*By: F. C. Benedict and A. Kaczmarczyk*

In our article in **RANDOM NOTES #40**, we stated that Setting B was based on plating overprinted singles and blocks against the underlying stamps as we had not seen complete sheets. Through the courtesy of an A.P.A. subscriber supplying photostats of a part sheet of the 1pi with black overprint and a full sheet of the 2pi with black overprint, we can now confirm that our postulation was essentially correct. However, the story is a bit more complicated as there were two different conditions of the third horizontal row resulting in Settings B1 and B2.

Figure 1 shows portions of the bottom four rows of the 1pi sheet. Row 3 has positions 1 to 6 of Setting A in the correct order, and the tilt of positions 1 and 2 indicates that damage was done to the plate with Setting A. We will designate this as Setting B1.

In trying to repair the tilted cliches, it appears that position 3 was damaged and removed from the plate as shown in Figure 2. We will call this Setting B2. Positions 1 and 2 are in the reversed order as we had shown previously. Position 1 has a nick in the tail of the "qaf" of "Mustahiq" at the left side of the tablet. On Page 13 of **RANDOM NOTES #40**, change the Setting B layout by deleting "3" and change the title to "Setting B2 Layout".

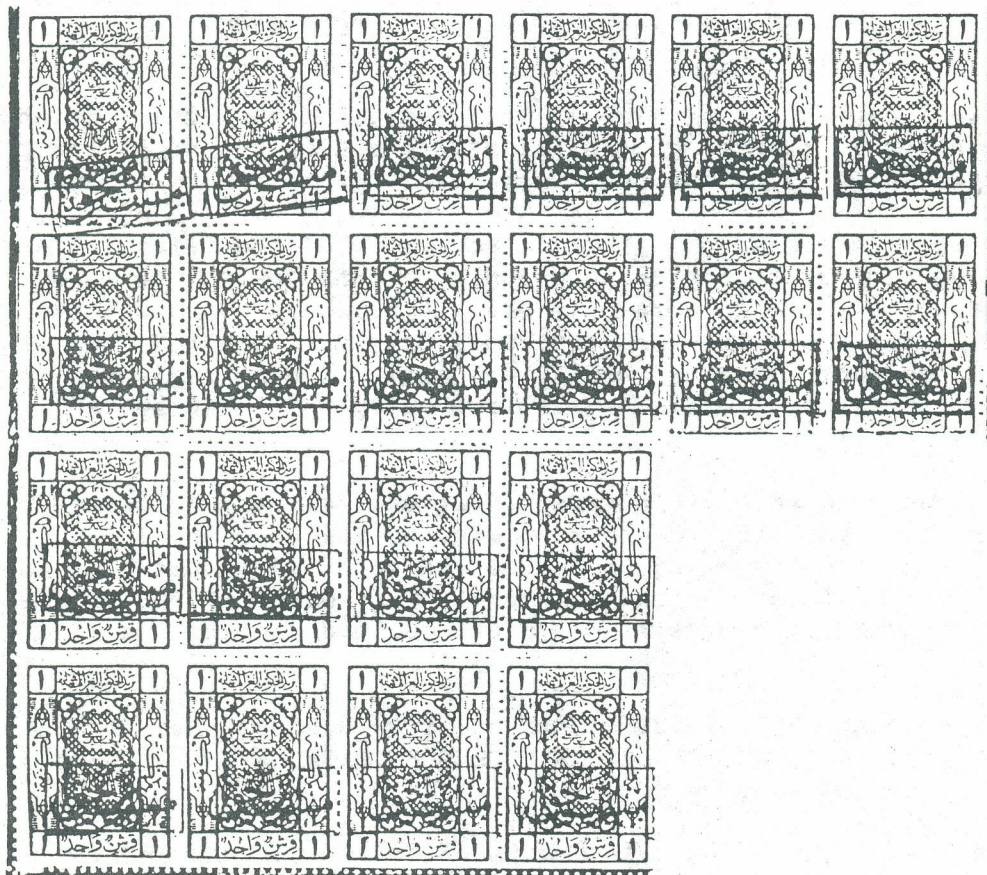


Figure 1. Setting B1, bottom of sheet.

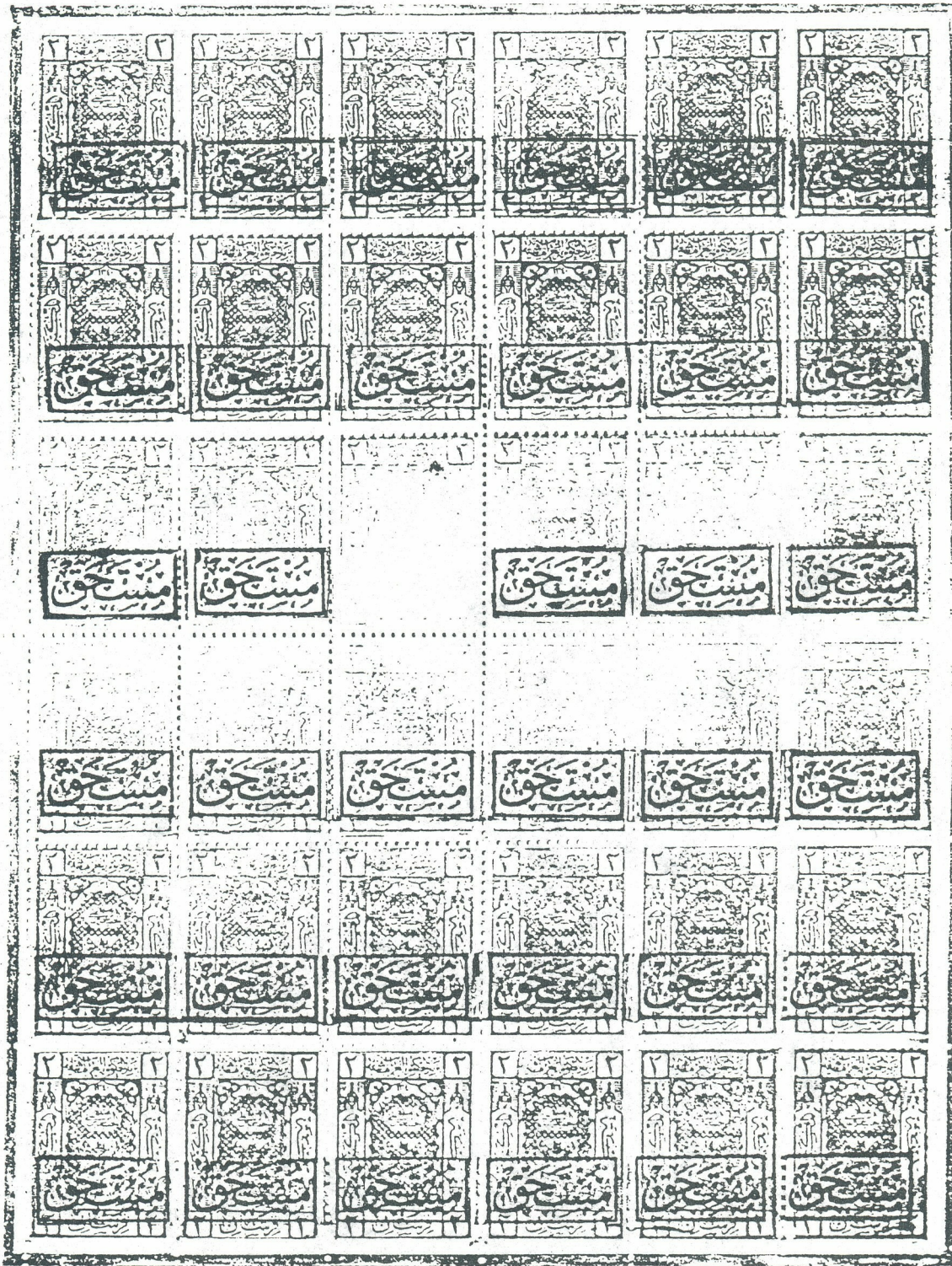


Figure 2. Setting B2, complete sheet.

# SAUDI COVERS FROM HUDEIDA

By: Carl R. Catherman

Following publication of my article on the Saudi occupation of Hudeida in Yemen in RANDOM NOTES #37, no new information has come to light until recently when Rudy Thoden\* sent me photocopies of four covers from the occupation period. Unfortunately, these covers raise more questions than I am able to answer at this time, but it is important nevertheless to place them on record.

The first cover (Figure 1) is franked with a 1/2g of the 1934 Heir Apparent issue which is tied by the Yemeni canceller dated May 15, 1934. The 1/2g represents the correct rate for domestic postage, which would be appropriate for mail addressed to points within Saudi Arabia. The DJEDDAH transit cancel is dated May 18 and the MECQUE arrival cancel is dated May 19. This is the first cover I have seen addressed to Saudi Arabia and as such is an important contribution to our sparse fund of knowledge.

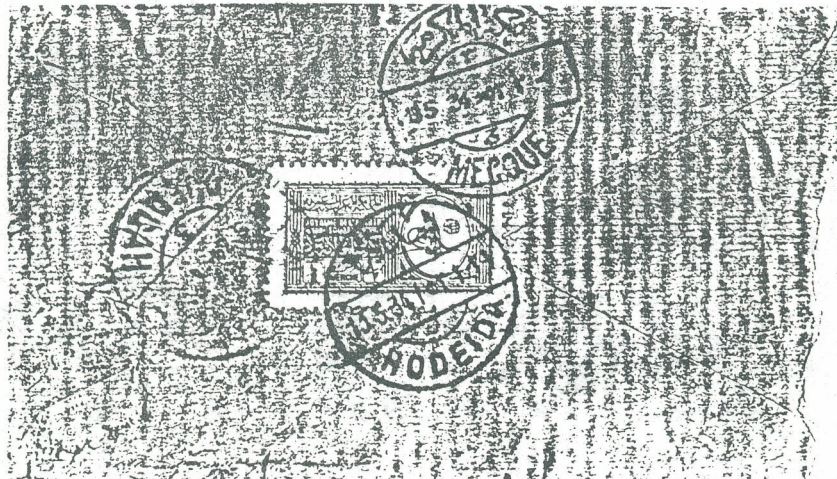
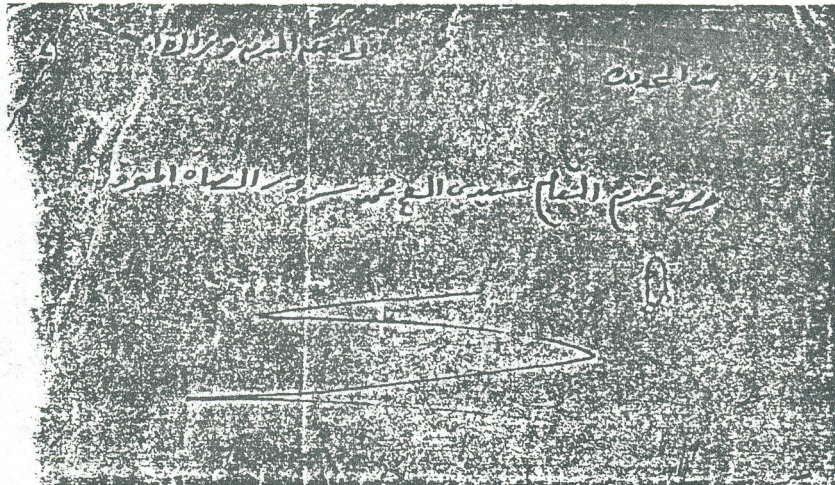


Figure 1.

\* Editor's Note: These were furnished by Mr. T. A. Alireza.

The second cover is registered and addressed to Beirut (Figure 2). It bears the correct franking, 3-1/2g postage plus 3-1/2g registration fee. The two 3-1/2g stamps of the 1934 Heir Apparent issue are tied by the Saudi canceller dated May 15, 1934. The ADEN transit marking is dated June 18 and the BEYROUTH arrival cancel is dated June 26.

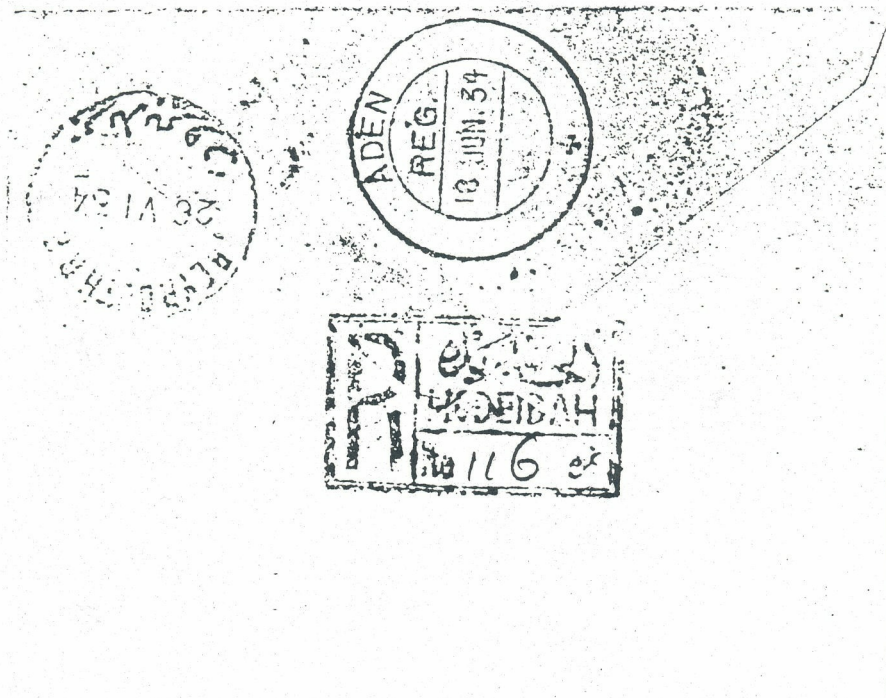
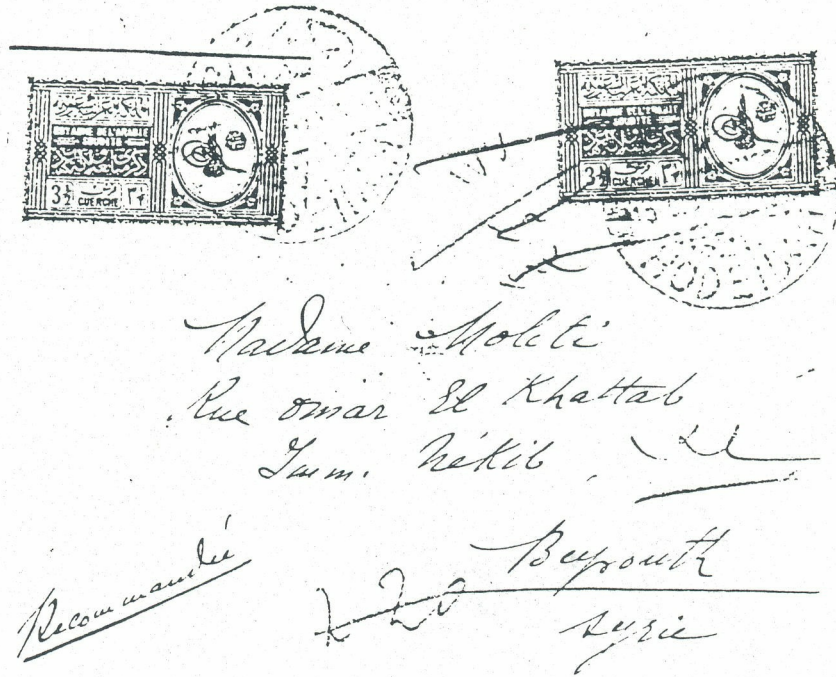


Figure 2.

The third cover (Figure 3) is also registered, addressed to Suez. It bears the correct franking, two 3-1/2g imperforate stamps of the Heir Apparent issue, plus what appears to be an incidental Yemen war tax stamp. This is the only known Hudeida cover bearing this stamp (and the only known cover of this date) so it is unknown whether this usage was obligatory. The stamps are tied by the Saudi canceller dated May 17, 1934. The ADEN transit cancel is dated June 23 and the PORT TAUFIQ transit cancel is dated July 2. The two Suez arrival cancels are dated July 2 (with incorrect year 23 instead of 34).

لاالسوية  
 لبيد حفة القافل السيد سيدو بن  
 السوي المحترم  
 ومنه الاجده لبيد محمد بن النور افندي  
 كاتب قنصلية جده المحترم

سوي

HODEIDAH  
 154

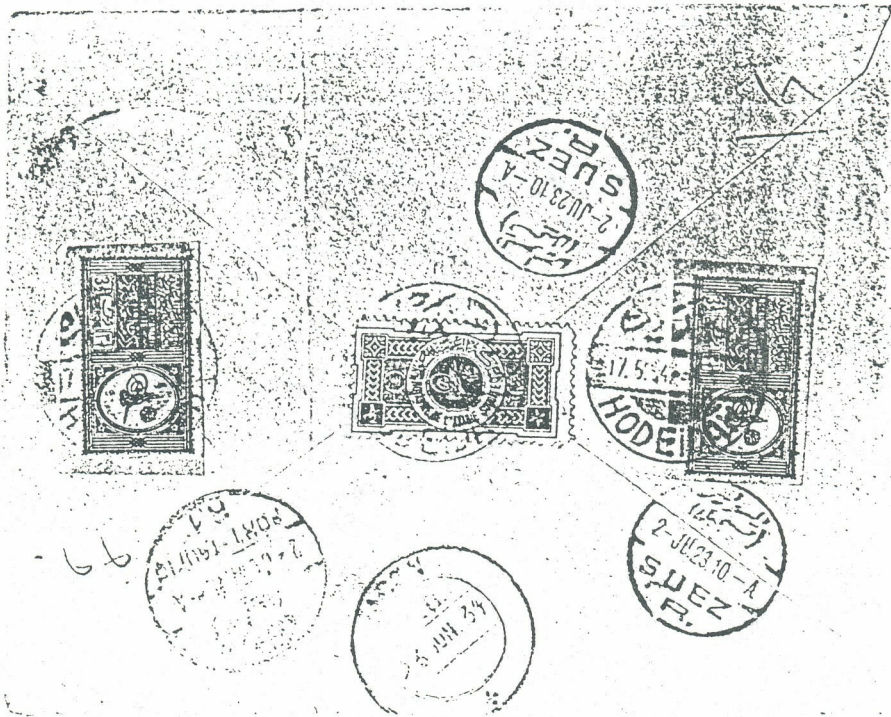


Figure 3.



These two covers and the "Hudeida postmaster" covers reported in RANDOM NOTES #37 raise some interesting questions. The two covers mentioned above took 33 days and 36 days, respectively, from date of dispatch to arrival at Aden. Clearly these covers could not have been in transit for such a long time. They must have been in the Hudeida post office waiting entry into the mailstream, but why? Instead of holding them for transit to Aden, why were they not sent up to Jiddah, which presumably would have been much faster?

These covers prompt us to re-examine the one "Hudeida postmaster" cover that was routed through Aden. That cover, reported in RANDOM NOTES #37, was cancelled at Hudeida on May 15 and at Aden on July 2. Here we have a transit time of 48 days! Why would this cover have taken 48 days to reach Aden when the May 15 cover of the present article took 'only' 33 days? They were cancelled on the same day at Hudeida. If we are to believe the Hudeida cancellation dates, the May 17 cover of this article reached Aden nine days earlier than the May 15 cover of the previous article!

One has to wonder whether the "Hudeida postmaster" covers were not cancelled with a back-dated Hudeida canceller. Why? I return to my suggestion in RANDOM NOTES #37 that May 15 was the first day for the Saudi canceller and that May 14 was the last day of use for the Yemeni canceller. I still adhere to this theory in spite of the existence of used stamps cancelled by the Yemeni canceller with dates after May 14. I feel certain that these were favor cancels, as were the cancels on the fourth cover to be considered in this article.

الى كته

يا لم ليدي الاف الكرم اخينا محمد قطانه لطيفه طالع  
افندي باخطهم بدائره الشد طه المنعم

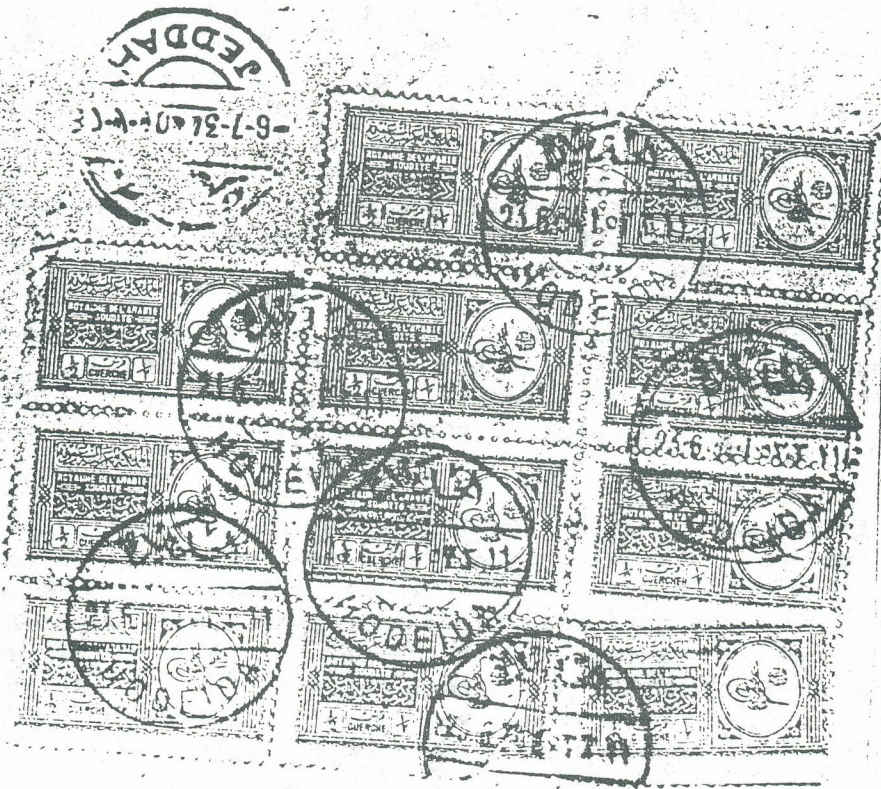


Figure 4 - Back.

The fourth cover (Figure 4) bears eleven copies of the 1/2g of the Heir Apparent issue. The stamps are cancelled with the Yemenei canceller dated June 23, which I suggested in RANDOM NOTES #37 might have been the last day of the occupation. This cover appears to be a totally philatelic creation. The postage of 5-1/2g does not meet any known postal rate. In addition, there is doubt that these stamps originated on this cover. Note that they are not "tied", especially at the bottom. The letter is addressed to Makkah, but there is no Makkah receiving cancel, although there is a JEDDAH transit mark. I wonder what may be beneath the stamps!

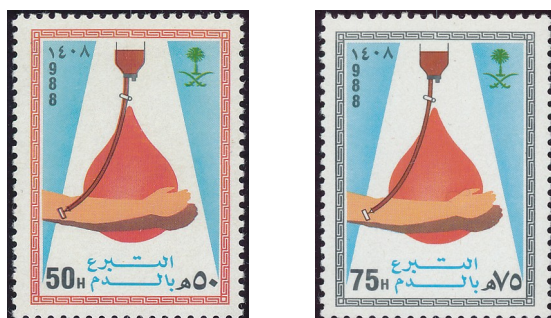
I thank Rudy Thoden for bringing these covers to my attention and also for his remarks regarding correct postal rates.

Once again, I ask members with additional Hudeida covers or information to report same to either the author or the editor.

## NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: *Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id*

April 13, 1988: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued as publicity to encourage blood donations. The design shows a blood transfusion taking place and a large drop of blood. Perforated 12. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Quantity: 800,000 sets.

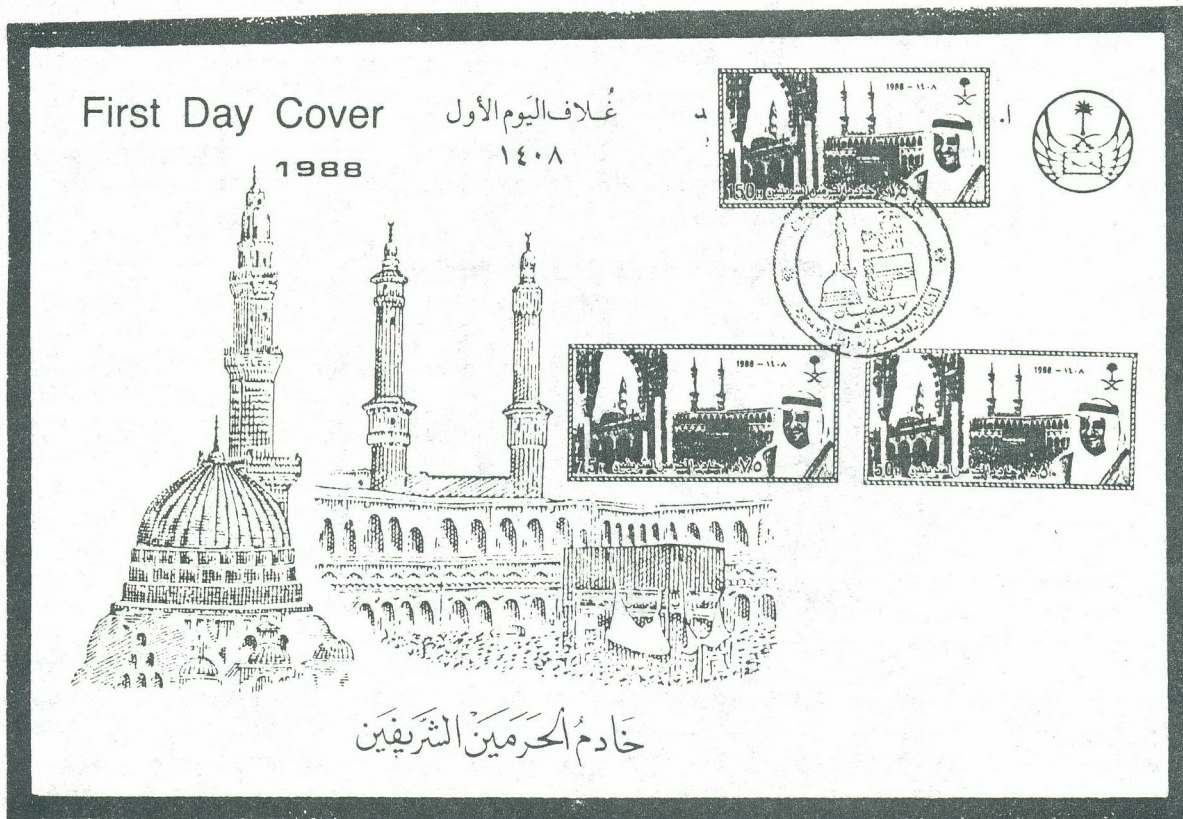


April 23, 1988: Three stamps, 50h, 75h and 150h, and a SR3 souvenir sheet were issued to commemorate the decision of King Fahd (on October 27, 1986), that his title would be "Custodian of the two Holy Mosques" instead of "His Majesty". The design shows the King and views of the Makkah and Madina mosques. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 2 postal code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.

The souvenir sheet contains a single copy of the 75h stamp, but in a larger size within an ornamental frame. Perforated 13-3/4. Quantity: 15,000 sheets.

Official first day covers with a set of the three stamps were prepared but they were not ready on the date of issue of the stamps. They were put on sale in Riyadh on June 20, but were sent to other cities a week earlier. Quantity: 14,950 covers. A limited number of first day covers bearing the souvenir sheet were also prepared.





May 4, 1988: An additional 150h stamp in the Saudi Cities definitive series was issued. The design shows old and news views of Riyadh. Printed in sheets of 52 (4 x 13). Perforated 12.



June 5, 1988: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued as publicity for environmental preservation. The design depicts various aspects of the environment. Printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5). Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.

There is no printer's inscription in the sheet margin, as had been customary. Instead, it appears at the bottom of each stamp in the sheet.

July 10, 1988: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the Palestinian uprising in Gaza and the West Bank against the Israeli occupation. The design shows a hand holding a stone, the Palestinian flag and a group of protesting Palestinians in the background. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



July 23, 1988: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to commemorate Hajj 1408. The design shows Meeqat Al Sail Al Kabiyr, a group of arriving pilgrims and other groups leaving for Makkah dressed in Ihram. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 2 postal code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.

The stamps were issued only in Makkah on July 23, and in Riyadh, Dammam and elsewhere on July 26.



All the above were printed by offset on white unwatermarked paper by the Security Printing Press, Riyadh.

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