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ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association  
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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 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
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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.

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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# RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

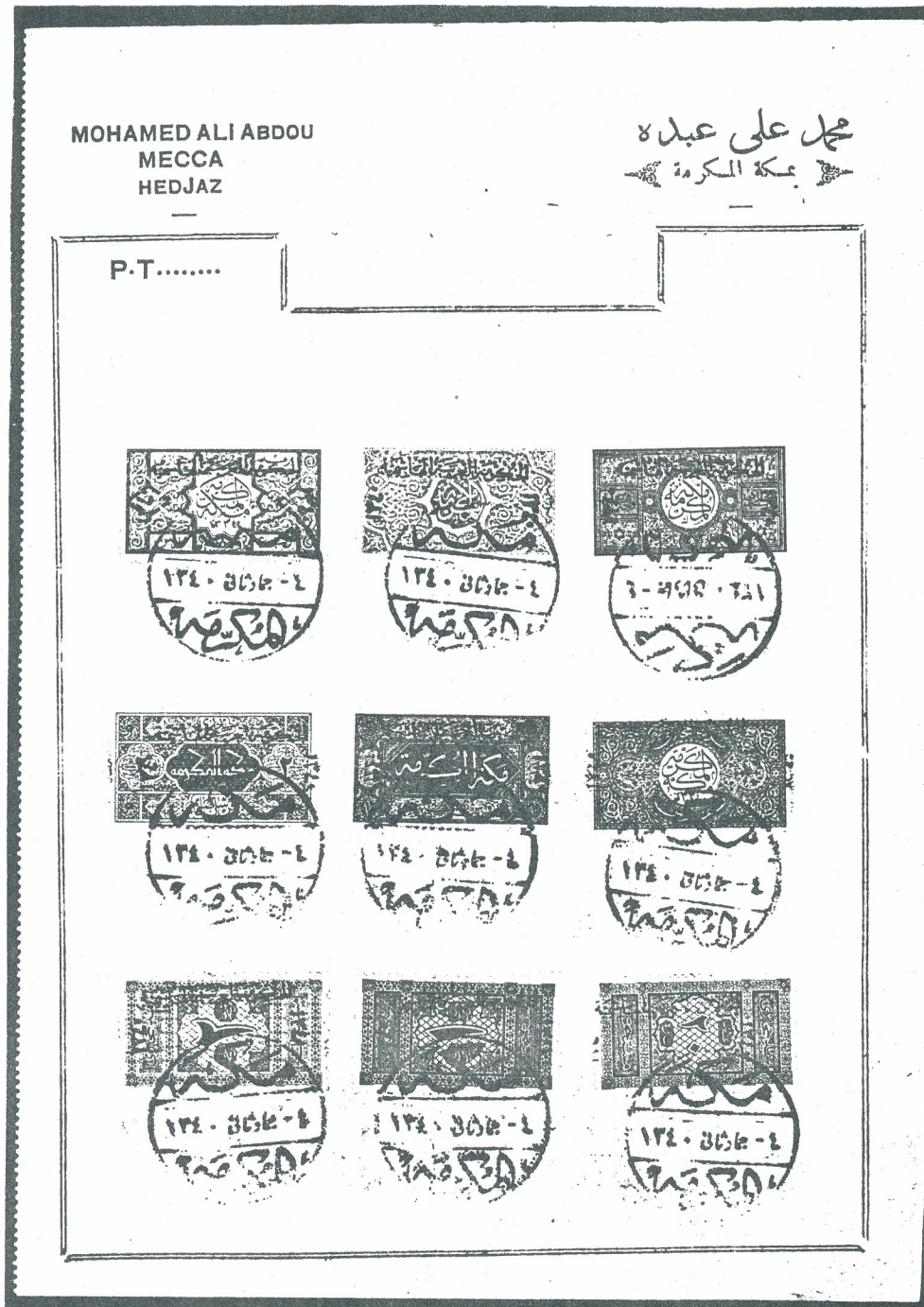
By: R. J. Thoden

1. A. A. Sa'id reports the following new discoveries.
  - (a) A few copies of the 4p World Telecommunications Day stamp of 1970 (Scott #616) have been found where the red and green colors were shifted upward by 2mm.
  - (b) A few sheets of the 10h Holy Ka'aba, perf. 12 unwatermarked, have been found in which position 96 has a small dash at the upper left of the "0", so that it looks like an inverted "Q".
  - (c) Four covers have been seen bearing copies of the 10h Holy Ka'aba stamp printed in mauve and black. They also have a 65h Holy Ka'aba stamp and were sent by the same sender in Al-Majma'a.
  - (d) The 65h Holy Ka'aba stamps (perf. 12 watermarked up) mentioned in (c) above have a double impression of the black color. The value 65h is very clear.
  - (e) One copy of the Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque souvenir sheet has been found with a double impression of the value.
  - (f) One copy of the Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque souvenir sheet has been found miscut through the right "0" of the Arabic value.
  - (g) A part sheet of the 50h Fortieth Anniversary of W.H.O. stamp has been found with the outer frame printed in mauve.
2. RN #42 illustrated a new style of first day cancellation. This kind of cancellation is now obtainable at Dammam, and presumably also at the philatelic services established at other major cities. Persons desiring these cancels may present their own covers bearing the appropriate stamps, and the cancellation with the official date of issue will be applied. There are two cancels, identical except that one has a Hijrah date and the other Gregorian.
3. My article "Early Aramco Postal History" in RN #35 discussed the conveyance of Aramco mail by U.S. Army Post Offices (APOs). Fred Benedict has obtained a copy of GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF U.S. APOs 1941-1984, which has information on where the APOs which handled Aramco mail were located.

APO 816, which handled outgoing Aramco mail between June 1944 and March 20, 1946, was located at Basra, Iraq from Nov. 7, 1942 to Oct. 15, 1943. It was reactivated at Muharraq, Bahrain on June 14, 1944. It moved to Cairo, Egypt in January 1946 and was located at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia from March 1946 to December 13, 1946.

As reported in RN #37, Aramco covers are also known cancelled at APO 678. This was located at Headquarters, Middle East Service Command, Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt from Nov. 7, 1942 to July 1, 1946.

4. Tarik Alireza advises that the initials "MA" occasionally found on early Hejaz stamps are those of Mohammad Ali Abdou of Makkah. Many of you are familiar with his printed sheets bearing the roulette 13 definitives, "unframed" and "framed" issues cancelled-to-order.



Tarik also tells how most of the varieties of the "unframed" and "framed" overprint issues came on the market. Apparently Abdel Qadir Qotah, the old-time Jeddah dealer, bought all the reject material from the post office in Makkah just before it was abandoned by the Hashemites in September-October 1924. This would explain why these varieties are seldom found used. They had been put aside, possibly for emergency use, by postal officials who had to account for every stamp received from the printers. In a similar way, Angeloglou or

another dealer may have been able to monopolize the overprint errors from the Jeddah post office when it was being taken over by the Nejd administration.

5. Reference is often made to the term "dealer cancels". This term should be reserved for fake or questionable cancels found on genuine Hejaz stamps of the 1922-25 period. The most common of these is this fake MEKKE cancel. Note the date "9-11-916", which is before the date of issue of the stamps it is found on.

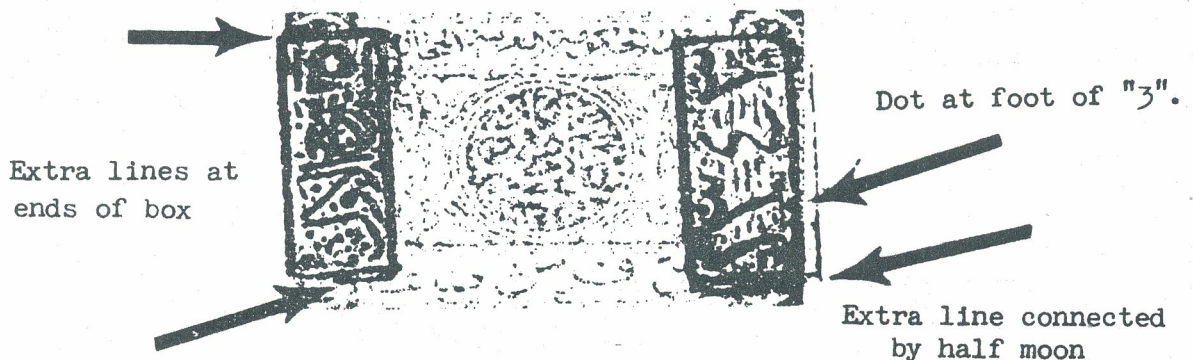


Mayo, on page 19 of his book, tells why these were made, but has gotten his story somewhat mixed up. He confuses stamps from the Mohammed Ali Abdou CTO (cancelled-to-order) sheets mentioned in item 4 above with dealer-cancelled items. His illustration is a cutout from one of these sheets, rather than of "dealer cancels".

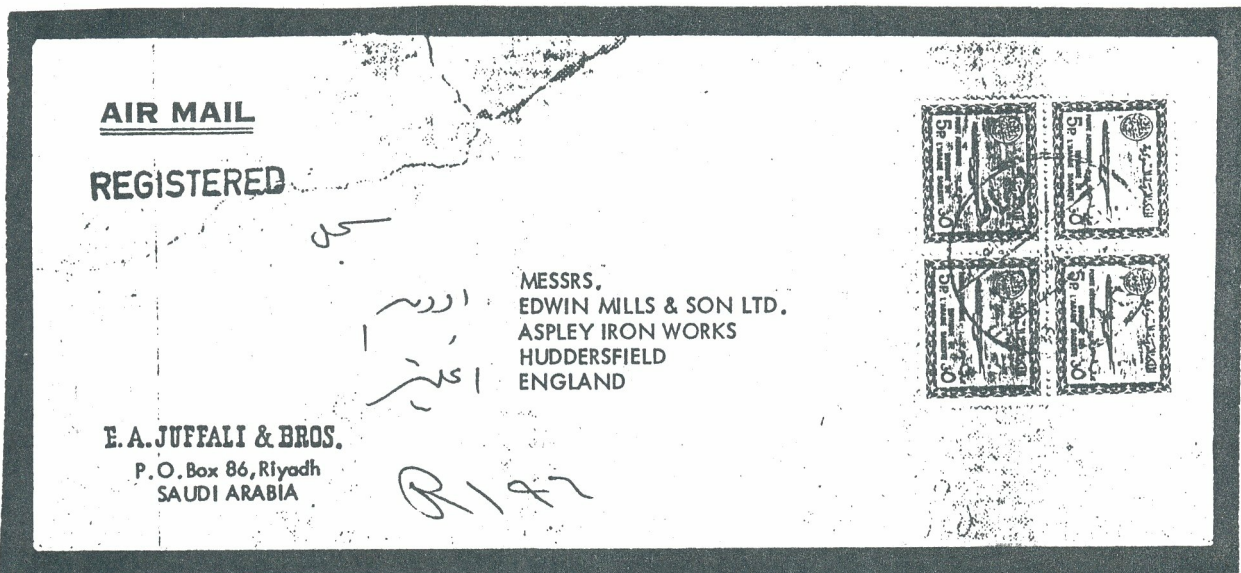
Mayo's reference to stamps pasted on pieces of paper and neatly cancelled in blue apparently refers to stamps of the 1925-26 Nejd issues which show only a small part of a genuine CTO Makkah cancel.

6. A recent price list offered a single Scott "L178", the blue overprint on the 1/4p King Ali stamp, at \$45, and a block of 12 of the same, one without overprint, at \$1200! There is currently no Scott "L178", it having been deleted years ago per A.P.A. recommendation because it is not known to exist as a genuine stamp. While I have not seen the stamps in question, I am very skeptical of them. The dealer says they have now been withdrawn.

This forgery was discussed in RANDOM NOTES #3 (1973), which showed a strip of 5, one without overprint. This was produced by handstamping separate year and month cliches on unoverprinted stamps, which exist in large quantities. The cliches are always identical. This fake overprint was also applied to other values of the King Ali postage and due sets, but is not often seen (or recognized as such because of the abundance and low price of these stamps). One variety of this fake that is fairly common is the horizontal overprint on the 1/2p postage due (in black). Here is how to recognize this fake:



7. A new price list from one of our subscriber dealers has the scarce 50p Faisal GOSP (Scott 448 - \$80) used at \$450! The same list also offers the used 5p Faisal airmail (Scott C63 - \$300) at \$350, and the used 100p Faisal airmail (Scott C86 - \$250) at \$300. These stamps are almost never seen in mint condition.
8. Shown below is a recent discovery, a cover with a block of four of the rare 5p Saud airmail (Scott C37). Scott's 1989 price is \$3000 per stamp, however, this is undoubtedly an error, and should probably be \$300. The cover was found in an auction lot of mixed covers at the Hibbert sale in 1987. There are still some goodies out there waiting to be found by the knowledgeable collector!



9. Newspaper stamps (Scott P1-3) which are fake by A.P.A. standards seem to be appearing more frequently at auction lately. Lot 50600 (shown in color on the front cover of the catalog) in the Habsburg, Feldman sale of December 7 and lots 1473 and 1474 of the Stanley Gibbons sale of December 8 were apparent fakes. We'll try to have an article on how to identify these forgeries in the next RANDOM NOTES.
  10. Peter Feltus advises that someone has printed up a batch of forgeries of Types III and VIIIA Egyptian Interpostal seals. Peter has not reported any fakes of the "GEDDA" seals yet, but considering the prices commanded by these, prospective purchasers should be careful.
  11. Mr. Y. Al-Zoubi has shown me a copy of the 115h First Gulf Olympics Day stamp of 1985 (Scott #950) showing abnormal colors. Most of the shades on this multi-colored stamp were produced by blending colors. The abnormal stamp has a "dry print" of the blue, which has affected all the blended colors except the cerise at the right of the stamp. The normal bright green is yellow green, the grays are pale browns, the brown is orange brown and the blue itself is very pale and blotchy.
- Mr. Al-Zoubi says one sheet of 50 of this variety was found at a Riyadh post office, but the upper half of the sheet was defective. Thus only 25 copies of this variety exist in good condition.

12. In RN #30, page 5, item 3, Bob Jung asked for help in identifying an "ARMY POST OFFICE" cancellation on a 1/2p Hejaz stamp (Scott L12). Bob is now able to answer his own question. The full marking is "BASE ARMY POST OFFICE Z". There were several such post offices in Egypt during World War I.

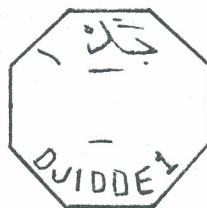
BAPO K : Kantara  
BAPO T : Port Said  
BAPO Z : Alexandria  
BAPO Z/LOD: Alexandria/Local Delivery  
BAPO Y : Cairo (?)

The postmark sketched in RN #30 was used in Alexandria between 27/6/1916 and 17/5/1918. Its presence on a Hejaz stamp presumably resulted from its application as a receiving mark to a cover which had the Hejaz stamp on the reverse.

Source of this information: ARMY AND FIELD POST OFFICES OF EGYPT AND THE EEF, 1914-20 by Michael M. Sacher, London.

13. Ole Tonseth of Norway sent a photostat of a part octagonal MEDINE 2 postmark used on Hejaz-Nejd stamps of the 1927 issue. Unfortunately it is not clear enough to reproduce here. There are examples of this cancel in the Alireza collection and I hope to have a clear photostat for the next RANDOM NOTES.

This is an old Ottoman postmark, Coles and Walker\* type B0, but noted by them for MEDINE 1 only. Tonseth has two examples, dated 27.6.29 and 18.7.29. He would like to know if later dates are known. I would like to know if anyone has this cancel on an Ottoman stamp.

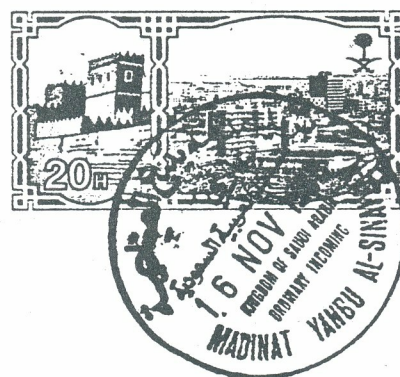


14. Speaking of Ottoman postmarks used after the Ottoman period, has anyone seen this octagonal DJIDDE 1 postmark genuinely used on Hejaz stamps, or on Turkish stamps? It is not listed in Coles & Walker.\* I have seen it only on unplateable, and thus presumably fake Hejaz Jeddah two-line overprints, which casts doubt on the cancel as well. The date is illegible.

\* Coles & Walker = POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, PART 2.

15. Some of you no doubt have noted the lateness of this issue of RANDOM NOTES and the fact that there were only three issues for 1988. As I mentioned in the last issue, there is currently not a sufficient flow of contributions to do this publication every three months. When and if contributions increase, we'll be happy to return to four issues per year.

16. Jim Kearney submits these cancels from Madinat Yanbu Al-Sinaiyah (Yanbu Industrial City). These styles seem to be unique to this post office. Note that #1 and #2 are similar except for size (39mm for #1 vs. 36mm for #2).



17. The A.P.A. membership/subscription list at year-end 1988 had a total of 311 names, a net gain of two over 1987. The breakdown by country follows:

146 Saudi Arabia	12 Netherlands
110 U.S.A.	3 Bahrain
26 U.K.	2 Norway
1 each Austria, Belgium, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Oman, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, U.A.E.	

18. APEX-17, our annual show, was held on Thursday, November 17 in the Auditorium in Dhahran. Quality of the exhibits was quite good. The show cover featured the 1p value of the 1926 Hejaz-Nejd definitives. The award winning exhibits, which were written up in a nearly full page story in the December 7 ARABIAN SUN were:

**Grand:** Early Postal Services in Western Saudi Arabia - J.I. Kearney

**Gold:** Postal History of Hejaz and Nejd - J.I. Kearney

**Silver:** Hejaz - The First Designs - W.A. King

**Bronze:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - The Hajj Issues - Rashed Ahmed  
Diplomatic Pouch Mail - G.E. Benham  
Airmail Etiquettes - G.E. Benham

**Honorable Mention:** Iraq 1958-1967 (in Arabic) - Abdulaziz Al-Sahal  
Palestine - History of a Nation on Stamps - Dr. S.S. Amr  
Stamps of Turkey in Use During Turkish Rule over Arabia - Dr. M.A. Naeem & Fuad Naeem  
Great Britain - 20 Years of the Machin Design (1967-87) - Zahid Islam

#### Junior

**Best of Show:** U.S. Heritage - Sarah Thompson

**Highly Commended:** Yemen - Fuad Naeem  
Zambia - Resources - Anuradha Bakshi

**Honorable Mention:** Flowers of the World - Li Ping Sung  
Men of War - Blake Putnam  
The World of the Air - Alexander Swift



# THE "AL-SAUDIYAH" HANDSTAMPS

By: David Graham

I was recently able to examine the group of 20 "Al-Saudiyah" handstamps sold by Habsburg, Feldman in their November 1987 auction. This was lot 30799, offered "as is" with an estimated price of SF 1,500. The lot however, brought SF 19,000 (plus 15% buyer's commission)!!

I wrote a detailed opinion on 28/9/88 in which I said I believed four to be genuine and the remaining 16 to have fake handstamps, as follows:

"On examination of these stamps, I am of the opinion that four have genuine handstamps and the others are forgeries. Those which I believe to be genuine are (numbers refer to photostat on page 14):

- #2 - handstamp on 1/8q with black overprint, Mayo 632R (year right)
- #4 - handstamp on 1/4q with red overprint, Mayo 636L (year left)
- #5 - handstamp inverted on 1/2q with black overprint, Mayo 637Li, (year left)
- #6 - handstamp on 1q with black overprint, used, Mayo 639L (year left)

The handstamps on the above are similar to those on a cover on page 69 of the Mayo catalogue, and to those offered in the above-mentioned auction as lots 30800, 30801, 30802, 30805, and 30806, all of which have partial Medina octagonal cancels. They are all on stamps with the 'Jeddah I' type of control overprint; the black overprints are in a narrow setting. All four bear 'ela' cachets of Angeloglou of a type regularly found on genuine stamps.

The handstamps of the remaining 16 stamps of lot 30799 have certain characteristics in common, although they may be of two or more types. The most significant feature is the alignment of the second line in relation to the first. Line 2 has the AL of AL-NAJDIYAH below the DAL of line 1, whereas in the genuine type it is below the WAW. The alignment of AL-SULTANAT is also different.

The ink on the genuine stamps is greyish, fairly even, with little or no relief impression on the reverse; on the forgeries it is blacker, often shiny, with oily stains front and back on some, very uneven, but usually with a clear, heavy impression visible on reverse, and spots and blotches of extra ink, including traces of framelines.

Two of the fake handstamps are on stamps with fake Jeddah overprints; four others have clear or probable Jeddah II overprints - no genuine handstamps have yet been found on this type.

The fakes all have 'ela' cachets of uncertain provenance; in any case some may be genuine but applied to the basic or overprinted stamp only."

The new owner, who was offering them to another party, sent a fax to the potential purchaser on 18/10/88 with his comments:

"Although I agree with David's comparative analysis that 16 of the stamps do not match familiar handstamps that we normally come across, it would be premature to assume they are forgeries. I also agree with

David that the ink on all familiar types are grayish with little or no relief impression on the reverse. David should also add that if these were used, this is likely to happen to stamps that are handled a lot. The characteristics used to determine genuine 'Matbua' handstamps in David's earlier writings is that the oily appearance and heavy impression showing through on reverse are symptoms of early vintage and authenticity.

It is also evident that to date no handstamp known to us as a forgery on the King Ali issues is typical of the handstamp type discovered on these 16 stamps.

In my opinion these handstamps are trials which did not please the postmaster of Madina due to their blotchy and crude characteristics."

I made a list of further comments on 21/10/88. In it I referred to the 16 I regard as fakes as "not genuine", since I suppose that, from a very narrow point of view, one cannot describe these things as fakes or forgeries unless the forger has been identified and his materials duly recorded. This point is noted in the introduction to the APA REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES. However, I intend to use the terms "fake", "forged" etc. in the future in the looser and generally accepted sense.

"SUBJECT: Al-Saudiyah Handstamps - Owner's Memo of 18/10/88.

With reference to the above, my comments are as follows:

- (1) Regarding the suggestion that some stamps had been handled a lot, I would consider the possibility that stamps which had been washed, perhaps cleaned with chemicals, then pressed, might have greyish ink and little or no relief impression on reverse. However, three of the four stamps that I would accept as genuine are mint or unused, and would hardly have had such extensive cleaning. In any case, heavy cleaning could never bring about a totally different alignment of the two lines of the handstamp.
- (2) Comparison with the 'Matbua' handstamps is scarcely relevant; they were most probably made and used in Makkah, like the other Nejd Sultanate handstamps, which were only used on captured or possibly reprinted Hashemite stamps of issues up to the 1923 'Mustahaq' overprints, but not on any of the 1924-5 'Hejaz Government' overprints or King Ali stamps used under his administration from Jeddah. The 'Al-Saudiyah' handstamps were apparently used by the Postmaster of Madina, and genuine ones are only known on King Ali or 'Hejaz Government' stamps that would have been in the Madina post office.
- (3) 'New' or unreported fakes have been turning up steadily over the past 10-15 years, as reference to the APA RANDOM NOTES will show. The APA REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES was first published in March 1981; a number of new additions were made in April 1982; a third part had to be added in May 1985, since when there have been several more discoveries including, for example, forged 1921 'unframed' overprints produced with the aid of photocopiers. I understand that so-called facsimiles, fake cancels/perforations and 'newly-minted' (i.e. regummed) stamps of superb quality have been coming out of Germany recently, and 'doctoring' services have also been on offer in America.

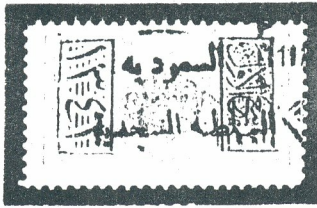
(4) None of the observations in the owner's memo offers an explanation why two of the handstamps that I stated to be forged are on stamps with fake handstamped imitations of the Jeddah control overprint, or why four others are on stamps with control overprints clearly or probably of the Jeddah II type, whereas the only known genuine Al-Saudiyah handstamps appear to be on the Jeddah I type. No Jeddah II stamps have yet been reported as postally used, so they may have been official reprints which were not distributed, or they may even have been a bogus production. Whatever the case may be, they are in my opinion at present, evidence against, rather than for, the authenticity of the items in question.

I therefore see no reason to change my written opinion of 28/9/1988 that, of the twenty stamps with 'Al-Saudiyah' handstamps which I examined then, four, as described on that date, have genuine handstamps; the remaining sixteen stamps have handstamps that are not genuine in my opinion. I cannot accept that the latter were trials or essays rejected by the Madina Postmaster, without some documentary evidence. One could use such reasoning to 'authenticate' all the other known fakes. They would, for example, have to be stuck on a card, with the defects indicated in manuscript and a note rejecting them in the Postmaster's handwriting, all of course verifiable. A design card and similar items in the Hibbert Sale illustrate this kind of item. Nor can the handstamped 'Al-Saudiyah' items be classed as similar to printer's waste, which is of course material produced from known genuine plates or handstamps, but otherwise defective."

I have since heard from the present owner, who still believes that the sixteen which I have stated are not genuine have trial handstamps. This in my opinion still does not explain why two are on stamps with fake overprints (#7 and #17 in the photocopy). Both overprints are dark red and fuzzy, with the tablets badly aligned. The ink on #7 has a glossy enamel appearance, with extra inking between the tablets, probably made by hand rather than overprinting, and #17 is similar. Nor does it deal with the problem of Jeddah II overprints. #1 has a red overprint that plates as Jeddah II; #14 has a blue overprint in the bright greenish blue of Jeddah II and seems to plate as such; #9 has a black overprint apparently Jeddah II; I couldn't classify clearly the overprint on #3.

Further points - why so many inverts among the "trials"? Why, since the ink rather than the handstamp was to blame for the rough appearance of the "trials", were there no further trials with different inks, including the type used with the genuine handstamp? Why no plain paper trials? Why are the "trials" on such a wide variety of stamps (all are different), and why does the set include four of the genuine type, including one with a clear part cancel? As I tried to indicate, perhaps not very clearly, in my second written opinion, I'd be only be willing to accept stamps as trials if they were mounted on card with appropriate markings, signatures, etc. or of a known genuine type of overprint or handstamp applied in different inks or on different stamps from those previously recorded. In the latter case, I would of course have to be sure that the impressions were indeed those of the original genuine type.

According to my research, there now seem to be five types of fakes of the "Al-Saudiyah" handstamp. The genuine type was postally used in Madina, apparently between about December 25, 1925 and February, 1926.



**GENUINE:** AL of AL-NAJDIAH directly below WAW of AL-SAUDIYAH.



**FORGERY TYPE 1:** The commonest kind, described by Mayo as a "monster". Illustrated as a fake by both Gibbons and Scott.



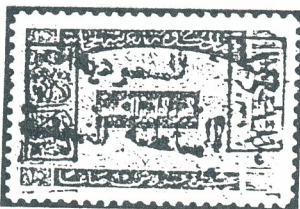
**FORGERY TYPE 2:** A forgery with clear, neat lettering but several mistakes in the Arabic lettering, some of them quite wrong. Examples are Habsburg, Feldman lots 30804 and 30807.



**FORGERY TYPE 3:** A good-looking forgery, very similar to the genuine, with correct lettering, but with different alignment. The second AL in line 2 is to the right of the DAL above, instead of being directly below the WAW. The ALIF is also thick and rather long.



**FORGERY TYPE 4:** Large, neat letters, with a couple of errors. Much bigger than the genuine and thus easy to detect. Habsburg, Feldman lot 30803 is a good example.



**FORGERY TYPE 5:** The newly discovered variety, shown in colour as Habsburg, Feldman ex lot 30799 and described by me in detail in the accompanying report of 28/9/88.

It may be worth noting that lot 30799 came with a copy of a 1949 advert offering Scott Nejd 83-90C, which I presume are the stamps in question, though I don't have an early Scott for checking\*. While rummaging through back numbers of the RANDOM NOTES for mentions of "Al-Saudiyah" handstamps, I came across a reference (RN#14, page 2, note 7) to an article in THE PHILATELIST of February 1949 which gave a brief account of a set of this issue (described as overprinted) in the Grylls collection. I wonder if the December, 1949 date of the ad might indicate that someone, somewhere, became aware of the lack in most collections of the items mentioned in the Major Tomkins' article, and decided to put a few on the market. The present owner of lot 30799 seems to feel that, since the group of 20 stamps seems to have remained undisturbed for nearly 40 years, apparently without having had the four stamps of genuine type removed, this favours his opinion that the remaining 16 have trial, rather than fake, handstamps, especially as neither he nor I had ever seen this type before the 1987 sale.

\* Editor's Note: The 1980 Scott deleted the set of 20 listed as 83-90C, and relisted the known genuine 1/2q, 1q and 2q as 58B-58D. Apparently, the 1/8q and 1/4q should be added to the listing.

DESCRIPTION OF THE 20 STAMPS (REFER PAGE 14 FOR PHOTOSTAT)

REF#	DENOM	JEDDAH OVERPRINT			COMMENT
		COLOR	TYPE	YEAR @	
1	1/8q	red	II	right	fake handstamp
2	1/8q	black	I*	right	genuine handstamp
3	1/4q	black	II?	right	fake handstamp
4	1/4q	red	I	left	genuine handstamp
5	1/2q	black	I*	left	genuine inverted handstamp
6	1q	black	I*	right	genuine with part MEDINE cancel
7	1q	red	fake	right	fake inverted handstamp
8	1q	blue	I	right	fake handstamp
9	1-1/2q	black	II	left	fake inverted handstamp
10	1-1/2q	blue	I	left	fake inverted handstamp
11	1-1/2q	red	I	left	fake handstamp
12	2q	black	I	left	fake handstamp
13	2q	red	I	right	fake inverted handstamp
14	3q	blue	II	left	fake handstamp
15	3q	red	I	left	fake handstamp (best looking ex)
16	3q	black	I	right	fake inverted handstamp
17	5q	red	fake	right	fake handstamp
18	5q	blue	I	left	fake handstamp
19	5q	black	I	right	fake handstamp
20	10q	black	I	right	fake handstamp (good-looking red "ela" on back)

\* narrow spacing.

#2, #4 and #6 all have violet "ela" of the good type; on #5 it is red. All four genuine items are in John Wilson's list published in RN #15, page 5, item 17, although he didn't note year settings (R or L).



**NEJD 83 to 90C**  
An advantageous purchase enables me to offer, at only \$390.00 one complete and genuine set of these very rare stamps. (Probably the only complete set in the hands of any dealer in the world).  
**EMIL FRIED**  
225 W. 71st Street New York, N. Y.

STAMPS ☆ December 24, 1949

# SAUDI SIDELINES

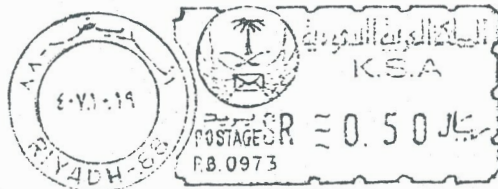
By: Yusuf Aidroos

For those collectors of Saudi stamps who have essentially completed their collections, there are various aspects of the modern postal system that can serve as the basis for a sideline collection. The purpose of this article is to acquaint collectors with current practices regarding franking machines, official mail, registered mail, express mail, postage due, redirection marks, official cachets, slogan cancels, etc. Examples of the markings involved are given.

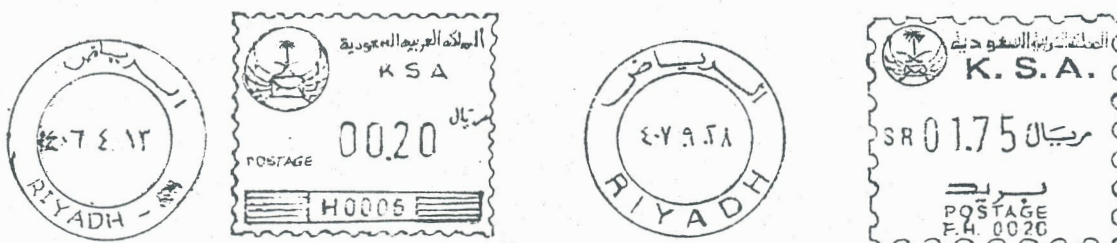
## FRANKING MACHINES

The volume of mail handled by the Saudi postal system has increased by ten-fold in a decade. To cope with this increase, franking machines (postage meters) were introduced in the larger post offices and assigned to firms requesting them starting in late 1977. It is interesting to note that no postage stamp with a denomination higher than SR1.50 has been issued since the early 1980s, and higher values of older issues have been used up. As a result, it is virtually mandatory to use a franking machine when mailing anything requiring a large amount of postage today. In addition, there have been periodic stamp shortages when mail could only be franked by meter.

The machines used by post offices are of a standard type and are made by Pitney-Bowes of the U.S.A. The impression is in red. See below.



Some large firms, banks, universities, embassies, etc have distinctive machines. Riyadh Military Hospital had a square type marking, which was replaced with the standard type in August, 1987. The Canadian Embassy introduced a different square type when it moved to the Diplomatic Quarter in Riyadh in 1986.



Franking machines are sometimes used to cancel letters bearing postage stamps, especially on registered mail. When the machine is used in this manner, the value is set to SR 0.00. See next page.



ABDULAZIZ EL SULEIMAN

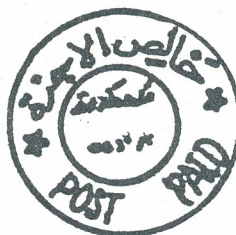
Insurance Division

P.O Box 1866

J E D D A H

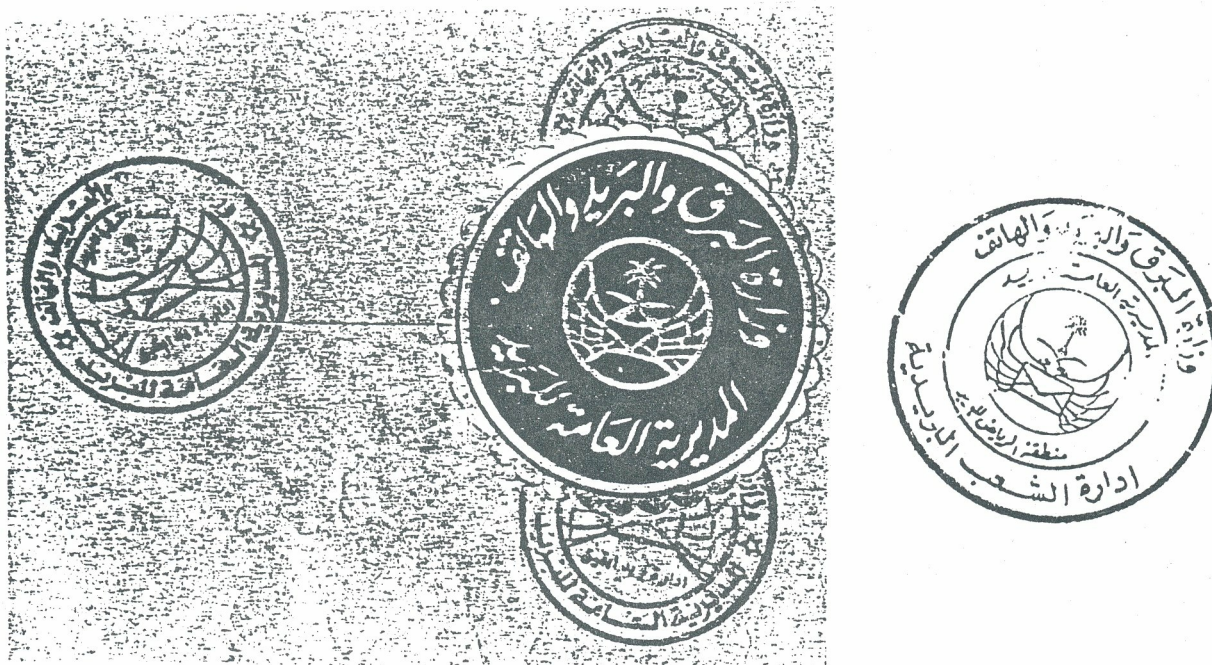
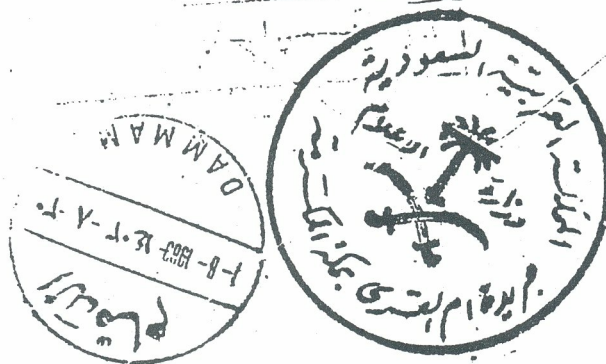
OFFICIAL MAIL

Mail sent by government agencies such as the ministries, universities, railways, the Royal Commission and the Post Office itself does not currently require stamps. This has always been the case for internal mail, which receives only an ordinary postmark. Foreign mail required official stamps between 1939 and 1974, but since then has received only a cachet with "Post Paid" or similar wording (Arabic is khalis al-ajra), with or without a postmark. Numerous types of these cachets exist, and a few examples are shown below.



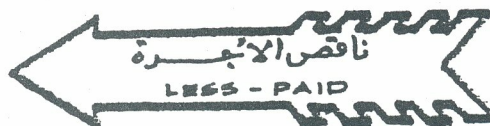


Special decorative seals, either adhesive or handstamped, are often applied to the back of outgoing official mail. A representative selection is shown here.



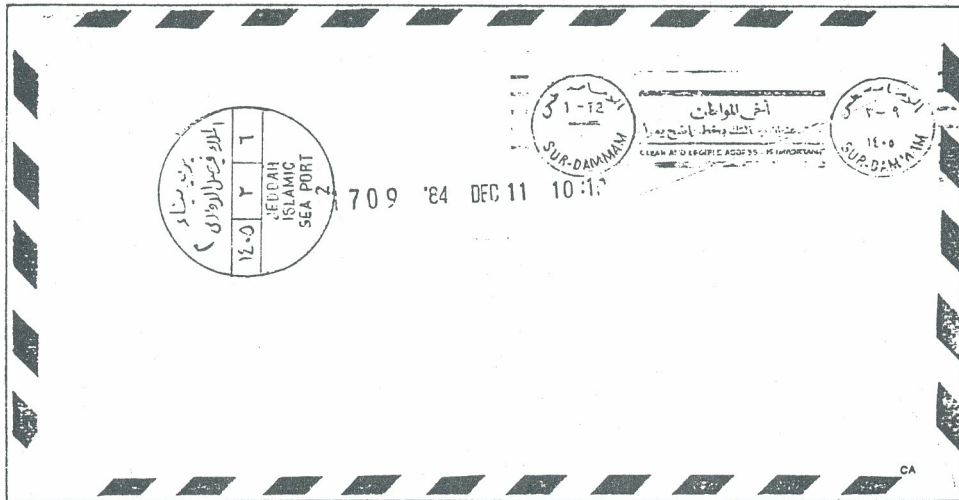
**POSTAGE DUE**

Postage due stamps were discontinued in 1963. Mail with insufficient postage or no postage at all is either returned to the sender with a hand-written note, or destroyed if there is no return address. Rarely it receives a handstamped "Un-Paid" or "Less-Paid" arrow marking in red.



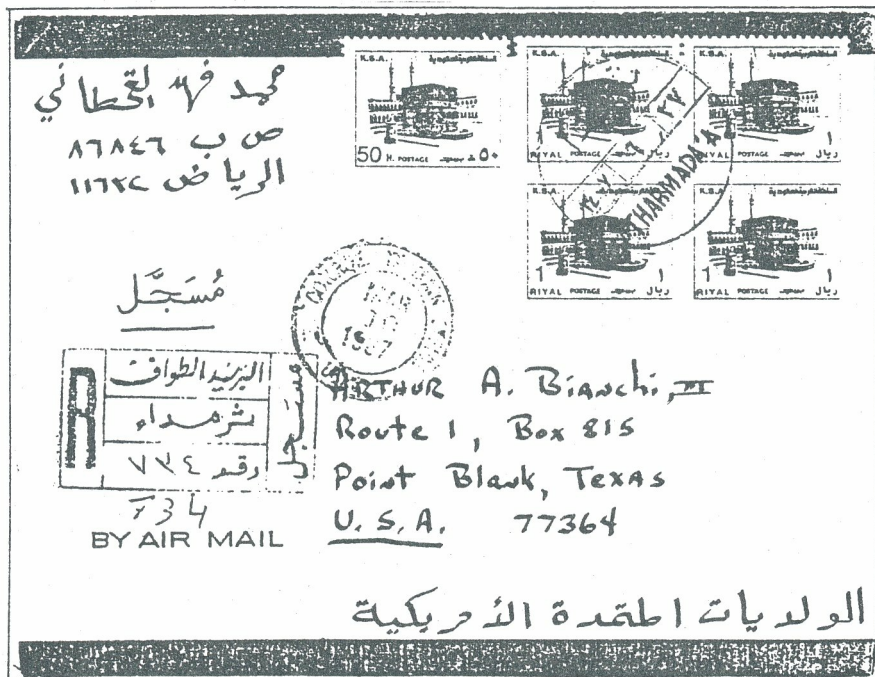
**ARRIVAL MARKINGS**

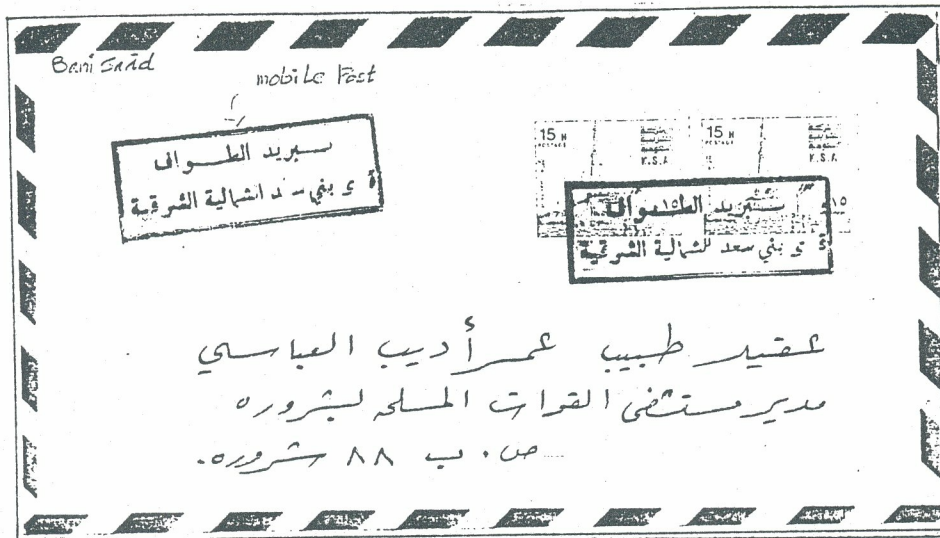
Saudi Arabia still makes a practice of backstamping all incoming foreign mail, although there are many exceptions. Incoming surface mail receives a backstamp at the port of entry, is then air-lifted, if necessary, to its destination, and may receive another backstamp there. The example shown arrived at Jeddah Islamic Seaport on 6/3/1405H (28 Nov 1984), and was later cancelled again "SUR-DAMMAM" on 9/3/1405H (1 Dec 1984); the "SUR" means "Surface".



**TRAVELLING POST**

In rural areas of the Kingdom where the population is sparse and there is no nearby regular post office, mail may be collected at a farm, a grocery shop or gas station. A motor van picks up the mail from the villages and delivers it to the nearest city which has a post office. The mail is cancelled on board the motor van with marks including the wording "Al-Barid al-Tawaf" (literally "Circuit Post"). The ordinary mail cover originated in Bani Saad and the registered one in Thermada.

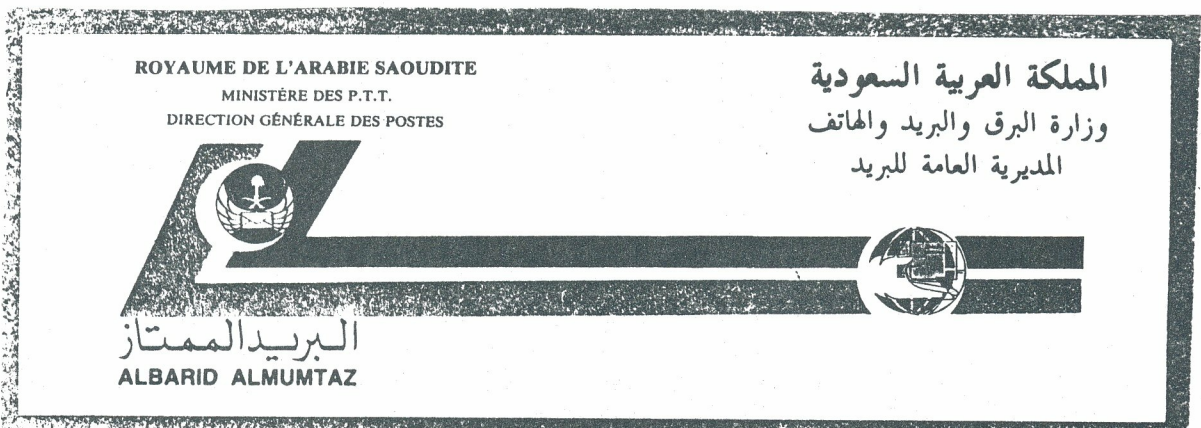




Translation: Circuit Post - the northeastern villages of Bani Saad.

### EXPRESS MAIL

The "Barid al-Mumtaz" Express Mail service was introduced on 8/10/1404H (7/7/1984). As of October 1988, it served 38 Arab and foreign countries in addition to 28 inland cities. The service operates 24 hours a day. The first rate step (up to 500 grams) is SR50 for domestic service and SR100 for foreign. The fee is paid with a franking machine strip. The envelopes receive an outgoing and incoming adjustable time stamp. A self-adhesive multicolored express mail label in two sizes (15 x 5.1 cm and 7.5 x 2.5 cm) was recently introduced. The fee for this service includes registration.



## OFFICIAL SEALS

Incoming foreign mail received in damaged condition is sealed with a rectangular label reading in French and Arabic "Found open or torn and officially repaired". Incoming parcels are opened by Customs and then sealed by the post office with self-adhesive tape imprinted with the post office emblem and the name of the post office.

نموذج ١٧ / بريد

Royaume de l'Arabie Saoudite	المملكة العربية السعودية
Trouvé Ouvert Ou Déchiré et Réparé D'office	وجد مفتوحا أو ممزقا وأصلح رسمياً



بريد الدمام المركزي



بريد الدمام المركزي

## REGISTERED MAIL

Most registered mail, especially inland mail, still has only a hand-written registration marking, and may be difficult to recognize by someone not aware of this practice.

Below is an example of the receipt issued when registered mail is accepted by the post office.

نموذج ٤ / بريد	اسم المرسل <i>P. Ibrahim</i>	رقم التسجيل <i>3954</i>	المملكة العربية السعودية
	عنوانه <i>P - 1841 Dammam</i>	التاريخ <i>11/7/1402</i>	وزارة البرق والبريد والهاتف
	اسم المرسل <i>Haleem</i>		المديرية العامة للبريد
	توقيع الموظف <i>[Signature]</i>	الاجرة <i>984</i>	مستند مسجلة
	اسم الموظف	ريال	المصدر <i>1/2007</i>
		ملا	المورد
			الوزن
			غرام

Citizens receive their mail in post office boxes. When a registered letter arrives, a yellow card telling the addressee to call at a special window is placed in the box. Green and pink cards are used as second and third notices. Examples of all these are shown on the next page.

رقم الصندوق (١٧٨٧٤)		رقم الشباك: ٣
		رقم المادة: ٤٨٨٤
		التسلسل: ١٨/٤٢
		التاريخ: ١٤٠٧/١٠/١٤
اشعار مادة مسجلة		
يوجد لكم مادة مسجلة الرجاء مراجعة الشباك لاستلامها		
عزيزي المواطن: فضلا تأكد من انبات الرمز البريدي للمرسل والمرسل اليه على الظروف.		
البريد الداخلي/٥		

YELLOW CARD

رقم الصندوق ( )		رقم الشباك: ٣
١٧٨٧٤		رقم المادة: ٤٨٨٤
		التسلسل: ١٨/٤٢
		التاريخ: ١٤٠٧/١٠/١٤
اشعار مادة مسجلة (مكرر)		
يوجد لكم مادة مسجلة الرجاء مراجعة الشباك لاستلامها		

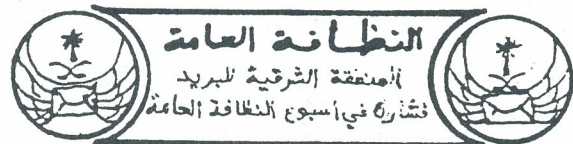
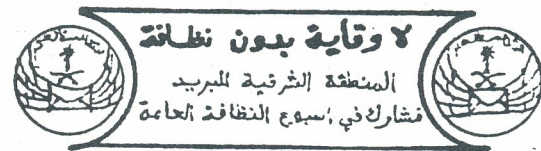
GREEN CARD

رقم الصندوق (٧٤٦٥١)		رقم الشباك: ٣
		رقم المادة: ٤٦٩٧
		التسلسل: ٤٤/١٧
		التاريخ: ١٤٠٧/١٠/١٤
اشعار مادة مسجلة (نهائي)		
يوجد لكم مادة مسجلة الرجاء مراجعة الشباك لاستلامها		

PINK CARD.

#### CACHETS

Cachets are applied to incoming and outgoing mail on special occasions such as International Day of the Post, Cleaning Week, Traffic Week, etc. Some examples are shown here.



**REDIRECTIONAL MARKS**

About 23% of the population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia consists of expatriates, who rely on letter writing as the cheapest mode of communication. With the recession in oil revenues in the mid-1980s, many expatriates have returned to their home countries and many small businesses have closed down. Thus, there has been a large increase in mail which has to be returned to the sender. Many redirectional marks have appeared, used by both the post offices and businesses who receive mail on behalf of their employees.

بريد واضح / ١٤٠٧/٢	
العنوان ناقص	العنوان خطأ
مسافر	لم يعثر عليه

بريد حائل  
العنوان غير واضح  
UNCLEAR ADDRESS

العنوان ناقص  
INCOMPLETE ADDRESS

لم يطلب  
UNCLAIMED

العنوان غير كافي

يعدمصلا

بريد حائل  
غير معروف  
UNKNOWN

الاشعار الاول  
FIRST NOTICE

غير معروف ٢

لم يطلب ٢



جائزة سمو الأمير / محمد بن فهد بن عبد العزيز  
آل سعود للتفوق العلمي  
دعم كبير لمهنة التعليم في بلادنا  
١٤٠٧ / ٢ / ١٤

شركة البرية والبرية  
المديرة العامة  
منطقة التقييم للبريد  
بريد الكرس  
لم يطلب  
شرف  
غير معروف  
غير معروف  
منطقة التقييم  
شركة البرية

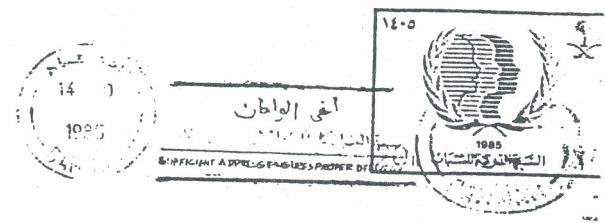
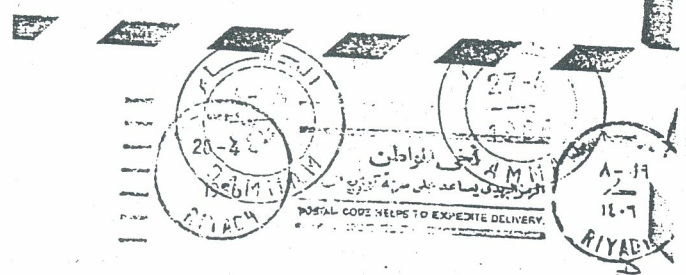
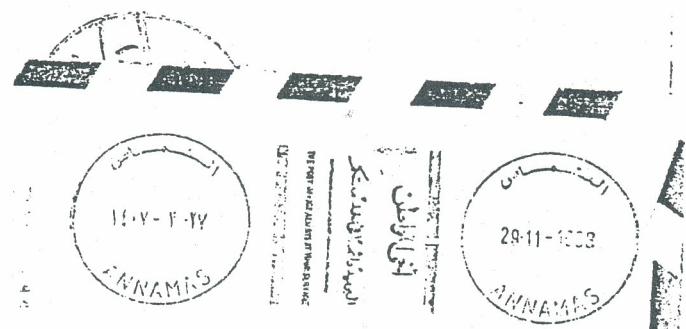
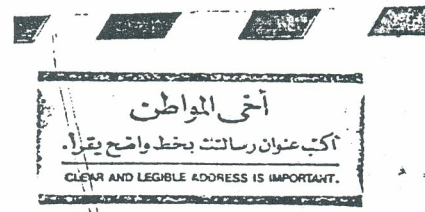
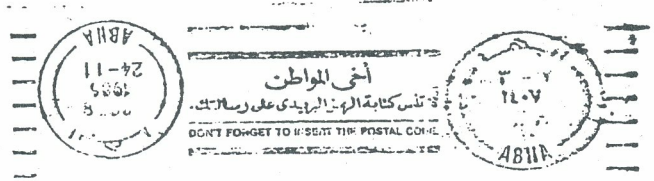
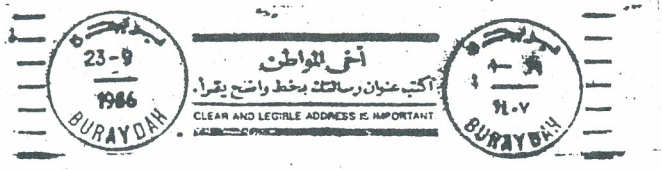


المملكة العربية السعودية	
بريد الشرقية / ٥	
Eastern Post Office / ٥	
Saudi Arabia	
Retour	يعاد لمصدره ✓
Unknown	غير معروف
Refused	مرفوض
Unclaimed	لم يطلب
Left	شادر البلاد
العنوان ناقص	
Incomplete Address	صا
Deseased	توفي
تكرر	

**SLOGAN CANCELS**

New cancelling machines incorporating slogans were introduced in 1983, the earliest known date being 17/5/1983 from Riyadh. Later, they were incorporated into the franking machine marks as well. Seven different slogans have been recorded so far. They all start with "Dear Citizen" in Arabic, then the bilingual slogan:

CLEAR AND LEGIBLE ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT.  
 DON'T FORGET TO INSERT THE POSTAL CODE.  
 IT IS BETTER TO USE ORDINARY MAIL FOR YOUR CORRESPONDENCE.  
 POSTAL CODE HELPS TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY.  
 PROPER USAGE OF STAMP DISPENSERS IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT.  
 SUFFICIENT ADDRESS ENSURES PROPER DELIVERY.  
 THE POST OFFICE ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE.



# AWARD WINNING SAUDI ARABIA EXHIBIT

By: David Graham

A.P.A. subscriber Tarik Alireza of Jeddah won a gold medal and the postal history prize at the London STAMPEX in late September. His exhibit was titled "Saudi Arabia: Development of the Independent Postal Service 1916-1921 - Arab Revolt and Hejazi Post". The items shown were all covers or newspaper wrappers, beginning with a late Ottoman Post cover from Taif (1/6/1916) via Makkah to Jeddah (4/6/1916) addressed to Ahmed Effendi Hazzazi, agent of the pro-Turkish Sherif Ali Haidar. (The Arab revolt began with a demonstration and other incidents on 5th June, although there was no major uprising until the 9th).

Next came a large group of "FEE PAID" covers, first manuscript and then six different handstamped ones - the first three Makkah types and the first three Jeddah ones. The exhibit also indicated and explained the various postal, censorship and talismanic markings, noting the continued use of Ottoman cancels and pointing out new Hashemite ones.

The first Hejazi Post stamp issue was represented by the now well known cover from T.E. Lawrence to a colleague at the Arab Bureau in Cairo, with a note about the production and issue of the stamps by the Survey of Egypt well before their actual postal use. This was followed by a similar cover of the same date (16/10/1916) from Ronald Storrs to the future King Fuad of Egypt, also with the 1q perf. 12 first issue, and comments regarding the distribution of this foreign rate stamp for propaganda purposes.

Other covers of late 1916 and early 1917 recorded the introduction of other values and the roulette 20 issues. Two were to a stamp collector or dealer in Egypt, with stamps removed in transit, showing the growing interest in these issues.

Three covers of April-May 1917 showed new types of Makkah and Jeddah "FEE PAID" handstamps, indicating a shortage of stamps. In spite of a statement by Lawrence in one of his letters home that he was taking steps to prevent dealers from purchasing the stamps in bulk, it would seem, from the quantities of early issues still available, that more of them went to dealers than were used postally. In fact, mention is made in the exhibit of Abdulrahman Kashmiri of Makkah whose printed cover of October 1917 bore the grandiose title of "Largest Post Stamps Exchanger and Dealer in the World" (see RN#37, page 9, item 14).

Later 1917 covers featured roulette 13 values, including postage dues. Two covers without stamps were from Philby in Hofuf and Riyadh when on his first mission as a M.E.F. officer, to AbdulAziz, ruler of Nejd, and sent to Bombay via Bahrain.

One of the most interesting 1918 items was a cover to Cairo with Aqaba censor handstamp and "EL-AKABA" cancel on 1q roulette 13. The CDS has double circle in the lower segment and single circle over the date belt. Another worth mentioning, from Makkah to Jeddah, has the strange rate of 16 paras (1/4q plus 1/8q plus 1pa) or 4/10 qirsh (see RN#39 page 22). Mr. Alireza's exhibit suggests that this may have been a concessionary rate to use up a surplus of 1pa stamps, or due to a currency problem. Several currencies were in use, partly because of the regular arrival of pilgrims, who were a main source of revenue in the Hejaz.

Mr. Alireza told me that the judges criticized his exhibit for too much descriptive and background writing. One might point out that much of his material was in contradiction of dates of issue and similar information passed on erroneously for decades until recently. Indeed, many of the details could be classed as discoveries or as unrecorded, so that explanations were necessary. One might also add that Saudi philately, unlike that of most other countries, doesn't have a century or more of postal records, published research and other such reference material familiar to everyone, so that an item's rarity or points of interest can be indicated in one line of description.



# SCOTT 1989 SAUDI ARABIA CATALOG REVISIONS

*Compiled by: R. J. Thoden*

PRICE CHANGES:

Cat. No.	1989	1988	Cat. No.	1989	1988	Cat. No.	1989	1988
L81	\$1000	\$500	39B	\$50	\$10	254a	\$15	\$20
L82a	\$50	\$10	40a	\$45	\$30	264	\$10	\$7
L83a	\$50	\$20	41a	\$50	\$40	265	\$4.50	\$3
L83b	\$50	\$12.50	44	\$22.50	\$17.50	266	\$7.50	\$4
L84,84a ea	---	\$75	45	\$27.50	\$22.50	267	\$6	\$3
L85a	\$50	\$20	46	\$10	\$8	268	\$15	\$10
L86b	\$50	\$17.50	47	\$15	\$10	269-70 ea	\$9	\$5
L86c	\$50	\$25	51	\$25	\$22.50	271	\$12	\$7
L87a	\$50	\$17.50	53	\$22.50	\$15	272	\$22.50	\$12
L88a	\$50	\$20	54	\$15	\$12	273	\$22.50	\$15
L89a	\$50	\$35	59-63	\$250	\$200	274-6	\$6	\$4
L90	---	\$4	64-8	\$250	\$200	277-81	\$22.50	\$15
L90a	---	\$50	69-74	\$59.75	\$48	286	\$15	\$10
L91a	\$50	\$12.50	75-80	\$21.90	\$17.50	287	\$4.50	\$2.50
L92,92a ea	---	\$65	105	\$60	\$50	288	\$4.50	\$3
L94a	\$50	\$12.50	173-6	\$94.75	\$86	289	\$4.50	\$2
L95a	\$50	\$17.50	177c	\$50	\$40	290	\$4.50	\$2
L96a	\$50	\$20	180-4	\$75.50	\$50	291	\$13	\$6
L97a	\$50	\$25	184a	\$250	\$200	292	\$6	\$3
L98	---	\$50	185a	\$200	\$75	293	\$45	\$50
L99b	\$50	\$20	186a	\$200	\$75	294	\$50	\$40
L100	---	\$40	196a	\$125	\$75	295	\$60	\$30
L100a	---	\$40	211-6 ea	\$1.40	\$1	296-7 ea	\$6	\$3.50
L101a	\$50	\$25	217	\$1.40	\$1	298-300 ea	\$6	\$4
L102a	\$50	\$15	217a	\$1.65	\$1.25	301-3 ea	\$8	\$4.50
L103a	\$50	\$20	218-9 ea	\$1.40	\$1	304	\$10	\$5
L104a	\$50	\$25	220	\$1.40	\$1	305	\$12	\$5
L105	---	\$75	220c	\$1.65	\$1.25	306	\$10	\$5
L106a	\$50	\$25	221	\$1.65	\$1.25	307	\$10	\$6
L107a	\$50	\$35	221a	\$2	\$1.50	308-09 ea	\$13	\$7.50
L120	\$50	\$18	222	\$4	\$3	310-1	\$13	\$8
L120a	\$82.50	\$30	223	\$20	\$15	312-3 ea	\$400	\$250
2	\$22.50	\$15	224	\$65	\$50	314	\$10	\$6
3	\$25	\$30	225	\$52.50	\$40	315	\$13	\$5
5,6 ea	\$18	\$15	226	\$85	\$65	316	\$4.50	\$2
13	\$15	\$12.50	227-			317	\$6.50	\$4
18	\$30	\$25	235 ea	\$1.40	\$1	318	\$24	\$20
19	\$22.50	\$15	236	\$4	\$3	319	\$60	\$50
20	\$25	\$20	237	\$2.25	\$1.75	320	\$30	\$20
24	\$25	\$20	238	\$8	\$6	321	\$7.50	\$3
25	\$20	\$15	239	\$22.50	\$17.50	322	\$15	\$8
26	\$22.50	\$20	240	\$35	\$27.50	324-5 ea	\$4.50	\$3
27	\$25	\$20	241	\$52.50	\$40	326	\$4.50	\$4
29	\$22.50	\$20	242	\$90	\$70	327	\$6	\$4
35	\$25	\$17.50	243-5	\$12.25	\$10	328	\$7.50	\$5
38A	\$2250	\$1500	246-8	\$9	\$5	329	\$10	\$5
38B	\$3000	\$2000	249-51	\$9	\$6	331-2 ea	\$10	\$6
39a	\$18	\$15	252-4	\$3.25	\$2.25	333	\$32.50	\$20

Cat. No.	1989	1988	Cat. No.	1989	1988	Cat. No.	1989	1988
335	\$10	\$8	446	\$10	\$8	648-9	\$14	\$10.50
336-7 ea	\$13	\$8	447	\$18	\$12	650-2	\$15.75	\$6
338-9 ea	\$21	\$15	448	\$450	\$400	653-4	\$22.50	\$9
340-1 ea	\$375	\$250	449	\$400	\$250	655	\$10	\$1
344-6	\$19.50	\$15	450	\$500	\$350	656-8	\$22.25	\$12
347-9	\$17	\$13	451-5	\$29.50	\$20	659-61	\$18	\$9
350-3	\$19.50	\$15	456-60	\$29.50	\$20	662-4	\$15	\$8.50
354-8	\$11.75	\$10	461	\$800	\$600	665-7	\$36	\$6
359-62	\$11	\$8	462	\$32.50	\$20	668-9	\$12	\$4.50
363-8	\$22.50	\$15	463	\$25	\$15	670	\$5.25	\$2.50
369-72	\$12	\$10	465	\$30	\$20	671-3	\$15	\$7.50
373-6	\$15	\$10	466	\$30	\$15	674	\$600	\$400
377-9	\$26.50	\$20	467	\$37.50	\$30	675	\$6	\$2
380-2	\$8.75	\$7	468	\$15	\$10	676-7	\$9	\$4
383-7	\$12.55	\$10	469	\$75	\$70	678-9	\$22.50	\$15
388-92	\$19.50	\$13	471	\$67.50	\$60	680-1	\$22.50	\$15
393	\$200	\$150	472	\$55	\$50	682	\$10.50	\$7.50
394	\$25	\$20	474	\$10.50	\$12	683-4	\$19.25	\$12
395	\$15	\$10	475	\$4.50	\$5	685-6	\$17.50	\$4
396	\$12	\$10	477	\$22.50	\$15	687	\$15	\$2
397	\$50	\$40	478	\$30	\$20	688	\$15	\$2
398	\$37.50	\$25	479	\$45	\$40	689-90	\$14.75	\$4
399	\$22.50	\$20	481	\$37.50	\$20	691-		
400-1 ea	\$9	\$5	482	\$40	\$30	711	\$26.40	\$12.50
402	\$10	\$5	483	\$50	\$30	693a	\$4.50	\$2
403	\$15	\$5	484-8	\$9	\$6	694a	\$4.50	\$2
404	\$7.50	\$5	489	\$3.50	\$3	698a	\$6.75	\$3
405-6 ea	\$25	\$15	490	\$4.75	\$4	719-20	\$5.25	\$3
407	\$25	\$20	490a	\$3.50	\$3	721	\$6.75	\$5
409	\$40	\$20	491	\$4.75	\$4	722	\$5.25	\$3
411	\$9	\$6	491a	\$3.50	\$3	723	\$15	\$10
412	\$80	\$60	492	\$4.75	\$4	724	\$7.50	\$5
413	\$275	\$300	492a	\$6	\$5	725	\$8.25	\$5
415-6 ea	\$9	\$8	493-5 ea	\$12	\$10	726	\$6.75	\$5
419	\$125	\$75	497	\$30	\$25	727-8	\$6.75	\$4.50
422	\$40	\$30	498	\$20	\$25	727a-8a	\$55	\$80
423	\$7.50	\$3	499	\$25	\$35	729	\$20	\$10
424	\$18	\$6	503-4 ea	\$5	\$2.50	730	\$27.50	\$20
425	\$10	\$4	613	\$7.50	\$5	730a	\$4	\$3
426	\$47.50	\$20	614-5	\$10	\$5	731-51	\$38	\$28.60
427	\$30	\$25	616-7	\$12	\$6	740a	\$75	\$50
428	\$40	\$20	618-20	\$13	\$10	761	\$7.50	\$3
429-30 ea	\$6	\$3	621	\$7.50	\$4	762-3	\$7.50	\$3
432	\$60	\$40	622-3	\$5.25	\$3	764-5	\$9	\$5
433	\$6	\$3	624-6	\$10.50	\$6	766	\$5.25	\$2
434	\$45	\$30	627	\$4.50	\$2	767-8	\$6	\$2.25
435	\$50	\$25	628	\$3.75	\$1	769-70	\$6	\$3
436	\$18	\$8	629	\$4	\$1.50	771-2	\$6	\$3
437	\$15	\$8	630	\$4.50	\$2	775-7	\$6.50	\$4.75
438	\$9	\$6	631-4	\$12	\$8	778	\$100	\$75
439	\$15	\$10	635	\$7.50	\$2	781	\$1.25	\$0.75
440	\$18	\$10	636-8	\$24	\$12	786-7	\$29	\$20
441	\$15	\$8	639-40	\$9	\$3	790	\$1.50	\$1
442	\$32.50	\$20	641	\$7.50	\$2	794-5	\$3	\$1.50
443	\$10	\$8	642-3	\$15.75	\$6	796-7	\$3	\$1.50
444	\$200	\$250	644	\$7.50	\$2	818-9	\$2.50	\$1

Cat. No.	1989	1988	Cat. No.	1989	1988	Cat. No.	1989	1988
820-1	\$4.90	\$7.50	C52	\$125	\$20	C87	\$1000	\$100
822-3	\$4.50	\$5	C53	\$150	\$17.50	C88-9 ea	\$7.50	\$4
833	\$100	\$60	C54	\$7.50	\$1.50	C90	\$37.50	\$20
923	\$0.60	\$0.30	C55	\$7.50	\$2	C91	\$12	\$2.50
961a	\$10	\$0.24	C56	\$9	\$2	C92	\$7.50	\$2.50
968a	\$15	\$0.48	C57	\$9	\$2.50	C93	\$50	\$2.50
1002	\$12	\$1	C58	\$12	\$2.75	C94	\$67.50	\$5
C24	\$2.50	\$2	C59-			C95	\$17.50	\$5
C25	\$10	\$2	61 ea	\$22.50	\$0.20	C96	\$7.50	\$3
C26	\$3.75	\$3.50	C62	\$12	\$0.20	C97	\$50	\$15
C27	\$10	\$7.50	C63	\$1000	\$150	C98	\$22.50	\$4
C28	\$19	\$15	C64	\$125	\$60	C99	\$37.50	\$27.50
C29	\$12.50	\$8.50	C65-6 ea	\$50	\$17.50	J1-2 ea	\$12	\$8
C30	\$6.25	\$4	C67	\$6.75	\$0.90	J2a	\$22.50	\$15
C31	\$10	\$8	C68	\$30	\$0.90	J3	\$15	\$10
C32	\$21.50	\$17.50	C69	\$15	\$0.50	J3a	\$22.50	\$15
C33	\$70	\$20	C70	\$40	\$0.60	J10-1 ea	\$12	\$8
C34	\$1000	\$85	C71	\$12	\$1.50	J12-3 ea	\$10	\$6
C35	\$12	\$0.25	C72	\$20	\$0.90	J14	\$15	\$10
C36	\$4.50	\$0.30	C73	\$12	\$2	J16-8	\$6.75	\$4.50
C37	\$1000	\$150	C74	\$18	\$0.75	J19-21	\$9.75	\$6.75
C38	\$125	\$0.35	C75	\$15	\$0.75	J22	\$10	\$7.50
C39	\$7.50	\$0.40	C76	\$20	\$0.75	J22a	\$75	\$40
C40	\$90	\$0.40	C77	\$20	\$2.50	J25-7	\$42	\$24
C41	\$7.50	\$0.90	C78	\$140	\$45	J28-30	\$30.50	\$28
C42-3 ea	\$90	\$15	C79	\$16	\$1.75	07-15	\$114.65	\$94
C44-6 ea	\$4.50	\$0.75	C80	\$30	\$1	025-8 ea	\$7.50	\$6
C47	\$60	\$0.90	C83	\$1000	\$175	033-4 ea	\$10	\$8
C48-9 ea	\$6	\$0.90	C84	\$12	\$2	RA9	\$60	\$50
C50	\$7.50	\$0.90	C85	\$650	\$85			
C51	\$7.50	\$1.25	C86	\$850	\$90			

Notes: All prices are for mint.

ea = each.

#### CATALOG NUMBER CHANGES

1989 No.	1988 No.
L136c	L136b
RA5	RA5c
RA5c	RA5

#### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Those who were hoping for editorial improvements in the new Scott will be disappointed, as they have been for many years. There are none, except for the above catalogue number changes. Scott didn't even bother to include the new issues; the 1989 ends exactly where the 1988 did!

There is extensive repricing, mostly upwards and mostly in the post-1960 issues. This is in sharp contrast to the large reductions Scott made in many other countries, especially British Commonwealth, which caused such an outcry from dealers who seem to think they benefit when catalog prices are several times real selling prices.

In Hejaz, the changes are few, mostly consisting of increases to \$50 each for the inverts and doubles in the Jeddah three line overprints. Scott seems to have used a "paint brush" approach here, with the result that stamps of widely different scarcity are all \$50 each. However, this is a net improvement since the old prices were much too low. In their usual inconsistent manner, Scott left the scarcer double, one inverted varieties unchanged.

Scott does appear to read these articles in the RANDOM NOTES when they comment on prices, since virtually every price comment in last year's article (RN #40) has resulted in a price change this year.

Prices were removed for the scarce L84, L90, L92, L98, L100 and L105 which were mentioned last year, but I would have thought that Scott could have used the tabulation of auction realizations in RANDOM NOTES #41 to come up with some new realistic prices.

Some of the Hejaz stamps which are still substantially underpriced are: L15c, L16c, L17b, L18b,c,d, L52b, L73c, L83c, L86a, L87b,d, L88b, L101b, L107b,c, L108-110, L113, L116a, L117a, L120a, L121a, L122a, L129, L131, L135a-141a, L138c, L148a. If you can find genuine copies anywhere near Scott's prices, you will be doing very well indeed.

There are numerous changes in Nejd, but nothing spectacular. The rare 38A and 38B increase by 50%

In the Kingdom issues, the "BOYAUME" errors, 185a-186a, increase from \$75 each to \$200 each, but you still can't buy them for that price. The Dam and GOSP definitives, which received such spectacular increases last year, increase further in most cases. Many of the commemoratives of the 1960s and 1970s also were raised substantially.

Scott got around to the airmails this year that they overlooked last time. In the Sa'ud redrawn set, the 2p (C34) went from \$85 to \$1000, the 6p (C38) from 35 cents to \$125, the 8p (C40) from 40 cents to \$90, the 10p (C42) from \$15 to \$90, the 15p (C47) from 90 cents to \$60, etc. The rare 5p (C37) is now \$1000. The used price of \$3000 is undoubtedly an error for \$300.

In the Faisal unwatermarked set, the 1p, 2p and 3p (C59-61) went from 20 cents to \$22.50 each, the 5p (C63) from \$150 to \$1000, the 12p (C70) from 60 cents to \$40 and the 24p (C80) from \$1 to \$30. The 50p, 100p and 200p are now \$650, \$850 and \$1000, respectively, up from \$85, \$90 and \$100. Prices for used copies of the 5p, 50p, 100p and 200p are now \$300, \$200, \$250 and \$200 respectively. As with the Dam and GOSP stamps last year, the market did not change so much in one year, rather Scott has neglected these issues for years.

In my humble opinion, Scott should follow Gibbons' approach and split the catalog into smaller sections, issue them every few years rather than each year, and make meaningful editorial and price changes in each edition. It seems that now, Scott just repeats the same inadequate listings year after year, and updates the prices only once in a while. Presumably to update the whole world's listing these days is just beyond Scott's capabilities. They should recognize this fact and do something about it.

# NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id

August 8, 1988: Two additional stamps, 50h and 150h, in the University definitive series were issued. They depict the arms of Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah within Islamic ornamentation. Printed in sheets of 105 (7 x 15). Perforated 12.

The issue date given above is when the stamps were released to the Saudi Arabian Philatelic Society. The 50h was available at the post offices in mid-September, and the 150h in mid-October.



October 16, 1988: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to commemorate World Food Day. The design shows a stalk of wheat over farmland and the F.A.O. emblem. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



November 9, 1988: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to publicize the expansion of the Qiblatayn Mosque in Madina. The design shows a view of the mosque with the Holy Ka'aba in Makkah and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem in the panels at the sides. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and two post code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 800,000 sets.



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

# FREE ADLETS

RANDOM NOTES will publish as many free adlets in each issue as will fit on one page. Maximum five lines per adlet. Adlet will be run for one issue only unless specifically requested otherwise. Send to the editor.

AVAILABLE: Photocopies of "The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah and Nejd" by D.F. Warin, softbound. Price: SR70 pickup in Dhahran, \$21 by airmail Saudi Arabia & Arab countries, \$23 by airmail elsewhere. W.A. King, c/o APA, Aramco Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

BACK ISSUES OF RANDOM NOTES: A new batch of photocopies will be printed and available for delivery in August. For details and order form write W.A. King, c/o APA, Aramco Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF FORGERIES: 6" x 4" color prints to supplement the Forgeries Manual. W.A. King, c/o APA, Aramco Box 1929, Dhahran 31311.

SAUDI ARABIA: Available all commemoratives, miniature sheets and new issues. Abdullah M.H. Al-Melhem, PO Box 1146, Hofuf 31982, Saudi Arabia

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DAVID GRAHAM is now residing at 12 Royal Avenue, London SW3 4QF, England and would welcome correspondence regarding Saudi postal history, new discoveries, philatelic forgeries, etc. in connection with his current researches.

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STILL AVAILABLE: THE A.P.A. REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES. New members and subscribers - if you collect Hejaz & Nejd, you need this to educate yourself about the many philatelic forgeries being offered by dealers and in auctions. Contains more than 100 pages that illustrate and describe the differences between genuine and forged overprints. Price on request. R. J. Thoden, ARAMCO Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.