



جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية
ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association
Random Notes

APRIL-JUNE 1989

NUMBER 45

CONTENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE A.P.A.	2
RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN - R. J. Thoden	3
EARLY ARAMCO POSTAL HISTORY - THE OHLIGER CORRESPONDANCE - F. C. Benedist	7
THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF HEJAZ, NEJD, HEJAZ AND NEJD, AND SAUDI ARABIA (continued) - K. D. Knight	20
FREE ADLETS	24
REPRINTS AND FORGERIES OF THE MAKKAH ARMS ISSUE - R. J. Thoden	25
NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA - A. A. Sa'id	29

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
Dr. S.S. Amr, Vice President	G.E. Benham, Jr., Membership Secretary
T.K. Forber, Treasurer	N. Lannin, Corresponding Secretary
W.A. King, 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.

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.

Material from this publication may be reprinted provided credit is given to "Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes" and the author of the article. Please send a copy of the reprint to the editor.

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

RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

1. Effective June 18, 1989, there was a further simplification of postal rates. The airmail rate within Saudi Arabia and to all GCC countries and all Arab Postal Union countries is now:

first 10 grams	SR 0.75
each additional 10 grams	SR 0.50

The surface rate remains at 50h per 20 grams. Thanks to A. A. Sa'id for this information.

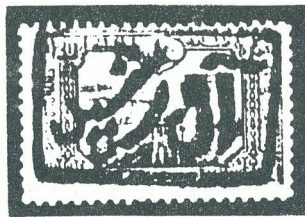
2. In RANDOM NOTES #32, page 18, a request was made for information about Ottoman stamps handstamped "Al Rasheed", which supposedly were made in Ha'il. They were being offered in auctions in Europe and the United States.

Salem Ben Othman Attwairqi, Manager of the Saudi Arabian Philatelic Society in Riyadh, advises as follows:

"Ha'il was not under the Ottoman Empire at any time. No post offices were in operation there at that time. There were no cars in Ha'il, which was the means of mail conveyance at that time. Elderly people confirmed that no post offices were open. Ha'il cancellation stamps were not available. If there were, philatelists would have discovered them by now.

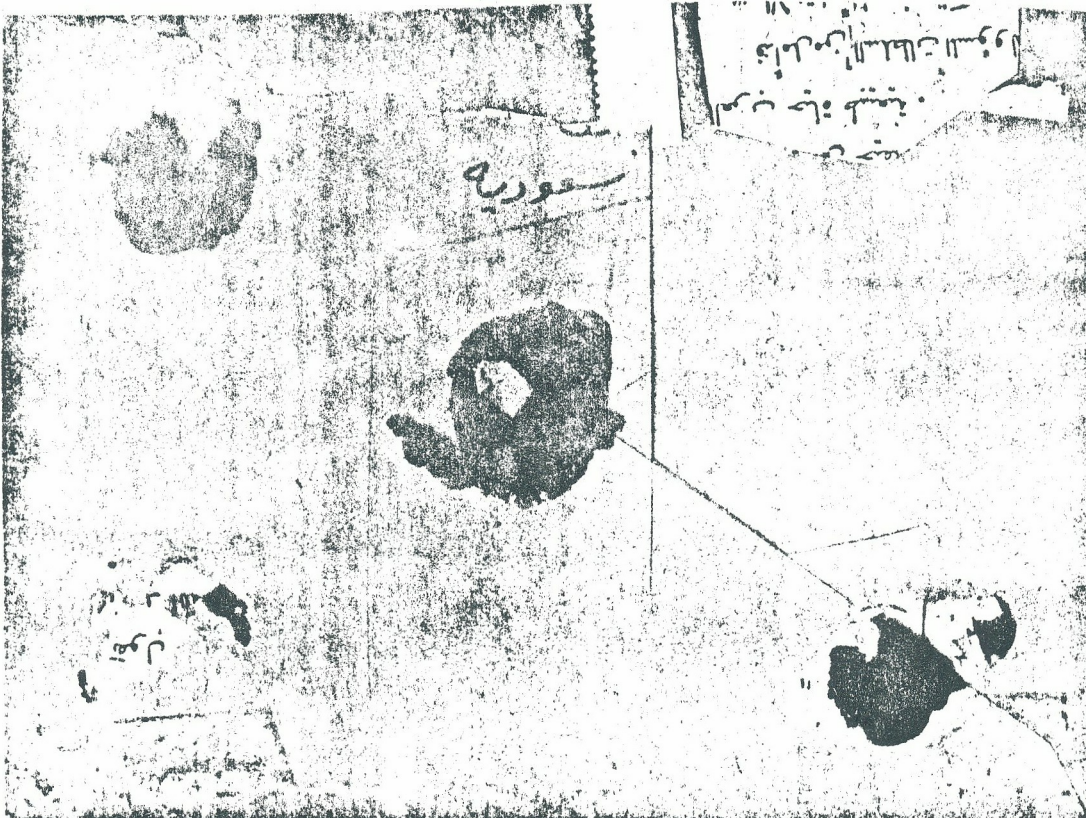
For all these reasons, and being one of the experts in Saudi stamps, I declare that this overprint is a fraud. This action was done to obtain money illegally. I advise all my colleagues not to purchase such stamps. This warning is intended to protect them from some dealers handling such fraudulent stamps."

An article with the above information also appeared on April 29 in ARAB NEWS, a Saudi English-language newspaper.



3. K. D. Knight advises that the British Library, London, has a copy of A SHORT NOTE ON THE DESIGN AND ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS PREPARED BY THE SURVEY OF EGYPT FOR HIS HIGHNESS HUSAIN EMIR & SHERIF OF MECCA AND KING OF THE HEJAZ. The Library will produce photocopies on request. Cost is unknown. For U.S. subscribers, I have heard that the Smithsonian Institution has a copy, but I cannot confirm this.
4. We would very much like to do an article on postal rates. I have copies of surface rate charts from about 1940 (except for 1960-62), and scattered airmail rate charts starting about the same time to 1958, and complete thereafter. Does anyone have any additional rate charts? Has anyone made a study of postal rates already?

5. Here is another example of the forger's "art", submitted by Mr. T.A. Alireza. The original stamps and cancellation have been cut out from the back of a genuine cover and completely forged stamps and forged Makkah postmark applied to the front.



6. David Graham writes that he suspects the order in which the Jeddah overprints are listed in the catalogues does not correspond to the actual use of these issues.

"It would appear that the overprints on the Makkah Arms stamps came first in early 1925, with two-line and small three-line overprints following in April. It would be logical for the current Arms stamps to be used up first, then the remaindered Survey of Egypt values, while awaiting the King Ali definitives from Egypt.

Covers from the T.A. Alireza collection indicating the order of use are described as follows:

- (a) Covers of 13/10/24 and 19/11/24, both with unoverprinted Arms values.
- (b) Two covers with three-line overprints on Arms issues (2q or 1/2q plus 1-1/2q) dated 7/1/25 and 18/2/25. Both are to Egypt.
- (c) Two covers from Cairo, sent with insufficient postage on 10/2/25, with added postage dues with "illegible" overprint and "Mustahiq" handstamp, cancelled 18/2/25 in Jeddah.
- (d) A home-made envelope to Cairo, with two strikes of the Jeddah negative FEE PAID handstamp. Over these have been stuck a three-line overprint on 3q and a four-line 1q on 3q, making the double rate, tied by 21/2/25 Jeddah CDS. It seems reasonable to suppose that this item was handed in to the post office, and paid for, when no stamps were available. It was held there until stamps came in, when it was franked and sent on its way. This cover was illustrated in RANDOM NOTES #41 page 14.
- (e) A newspaper wrapper to Jaffa with a four-line 1/8q on 1/2q, also dated 21/2/25. This date seems to be the earliest date of use of the four-line surcharges.
- (f) A cover from the French post office in Alexandria, insufficiently stamped, with S.G. D89, D91, D93 and D96 added in Jeddah on 26/4/25 - the full double rate. Probably philatelic, but an early example of the two-line and small three-line overprints postally used.
- (g) Two philatelic covers, with an array of odd values of two-line overprints, dated 5/5/25 and 28/5/25, to the Colonial Photo Stores. Most of these handsome items seem to have been mailed around the middle of 1925.
- (h) Cover to Cairo with two 1q King Ali (black control overprint) dated 25/6/25.

I should welcome details of any covers that might throw light on the actual dates of use of these issues. I'll be glad to work out dates, etc. from clear photocopies, if anyone has such items that he or she isn't sure of."

Editor's note: Mr. Graham's address is given in RN #43 Free Adlets.

7. David Graham offers the following from KING ABDULLAH OF TRANSJORDAN - MEMOIRS; 1950, translated from the Arabic by G. Khuri and edited by Philip Graves:

"In September 1924 the Wahabis raided Taif, and on October 5th King Husain abdicated in favour of his son Ali, and retired to Akaba, where he stayed for about eight months. He left there in June 1925, and a few days later, I issued the following proclamation:

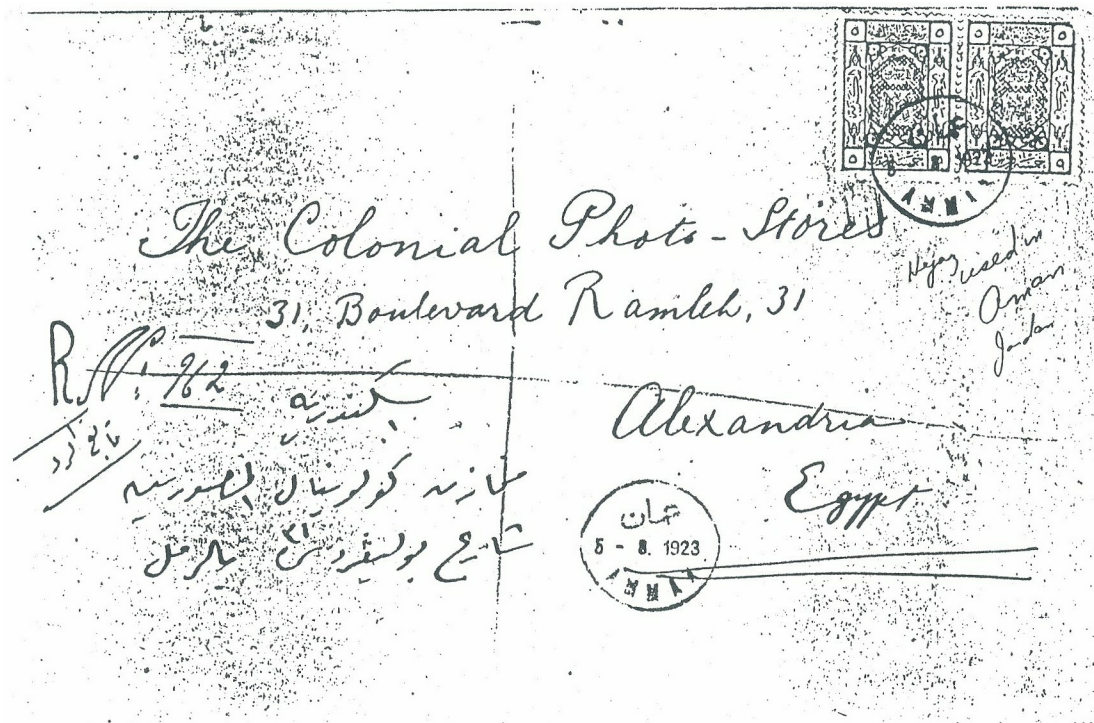
On the authority of his Hashemite Majesty King Ali, King of the Holy Hejaz, we declare the districts of Ma'an and Akaba to be part of the Amirate of Transjordan. On behalf of our people and Government, we express our heartfelt thanks to His Majesty.

The following day, accompanied by the Chief Minister, I visited Ma'an, for the official ceremony of incorporation when the flag of Transjordan was hoisted."

The editor added in a footnote that this annexation was a defensive measure against Ibn Sa'ud, who had claimed all King Hussain's possessions by right of conquest, though he had not yet completed his conquest of Hejaz. The British, who had made punitive strikes by air and armored car on several occasions when the latter had raided into Transjordan, supported Abdullah. Abdul Aziz, although he did not recognize the annexation, did not press his claim - he had, after all, less urgent need of the port of Al Aqabah than the Amir.

Mr. K.D. Knight's article in the last RANDOM NOTES showed the Hejazi cancellations used in Akaba and Ma'an. These are quite scarce, Ma'an especially.

8. Several provisional issues of Transjordan were made by overprinting stamps of Hejaz. This cover, submitted by T.A. Alireza, shows use of UNOVERPRINTED Makkah Arms stamps from Amman, Transjordan. Can anyone offer an explanation?



EARLY ARAMCO POSTAL HISTORY - THE OHLIGER CORRESPONDENCE

By: F. C. BENEDICT

Fortunately for students of postal history there are people who save envelopes along with the letters they contain. Floyd and Dorothy Ohliger were such savers, and through the courtesy of Mr. Ohliger about seventy covers were made available for study. Most are wartime covers from their correspondence to each other.

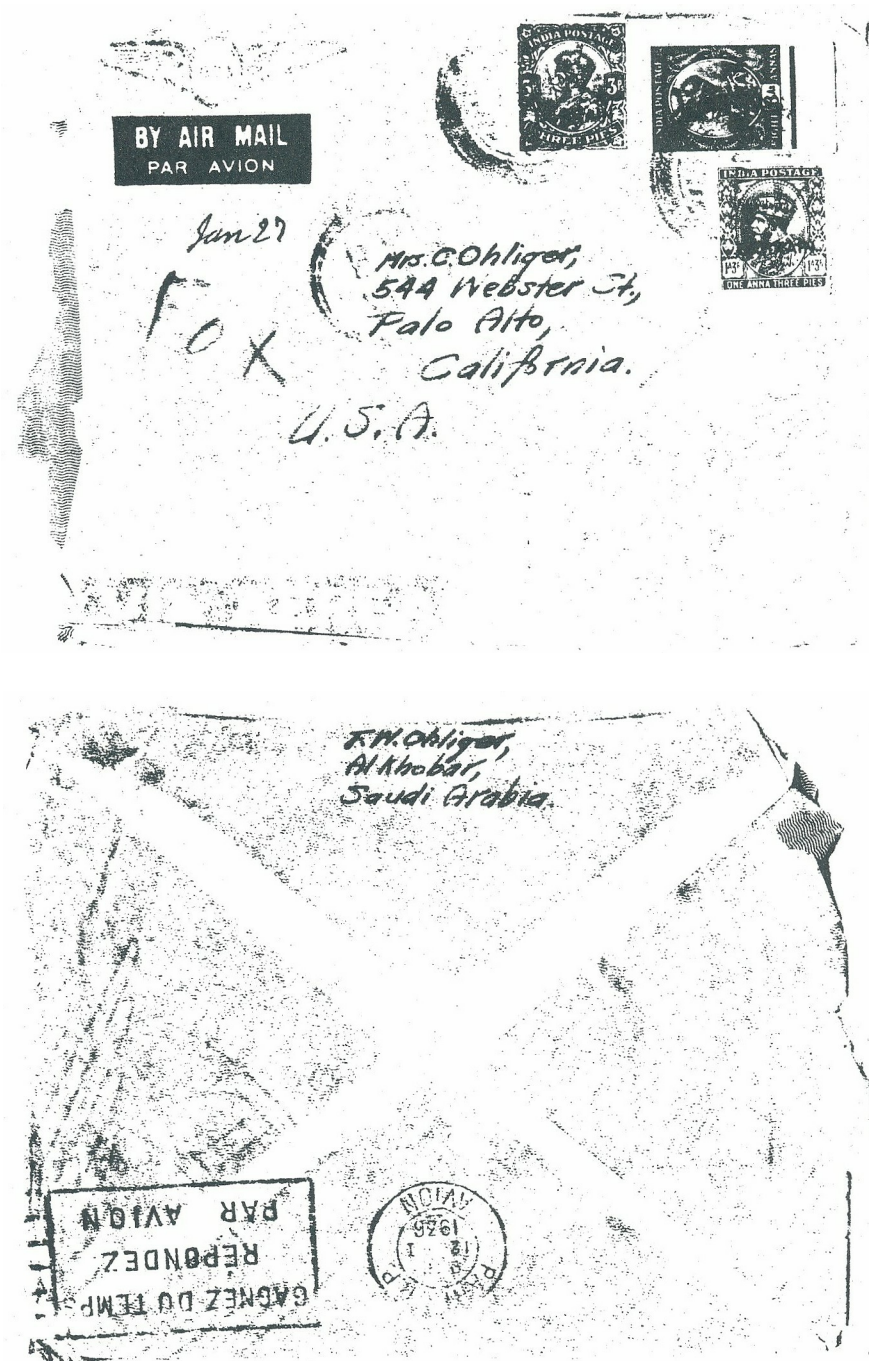


Figure 1.

Mr. Ohliger arrived in what is now the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia in late 1935. An early letter of his is shown in Figure 1, postmarked 5 JAN 36. It has the "BY AIR" circular handstamp used by the Bahrain post office until 1936. It is backstamped "PARIS R.P. AVION 12-1-36", presumably indicating the cover continued its journey from there across the Atlantic by sea, as there was not yet any commercial trans-Atlantic airmail service. Note the return address of "Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia".



Figure 2.

What happened in those days to a letter mailed from Newark, N.J. on July 8, 1936, boat mail, to "Al Kobar, Saudi Arabia" is shown in Figure 2. I surmise that the mail sorter in New York did not know where this was as the letter first went to DARESSALAAM in East Africa, arriving there 6 August. The next stop was PORT TAUFIQ, Egypt on 6 September. Thence to DJEDDAH and MECQUE, both on September 13, and on to RYAD, HASSA and KATIF, where it presumably was handed over to CASOC. The dates in the last three postmarks are incomplete, but the letter reached Katif in October, for a transit time of over three months. All of the date stamps are in black ink except for KATIF which is in purple ink. A mail sorter can misread an address in his haste as sometimes happened in the mid-60s when mail addressed to "Dhahran, Saudi Arabia" would arrive late with a backstamp of "Durban, South Africa". This is not the case with Figure 2.

Another incoming letter of the mid-'30s was a Christmas card postmarked WICHITA. KANS. Dec. 22, 1937 addressed to California-Arabian Standard Oil Co., Bahrain Island, with a notation "Via N.Y.". It is franked with 2 cent and 3 cent definitives and a 6 cent airmail stamp. There is no other indication of airmail service, and it is backstamped BAHREIN 23 APR 38 for a transit time of four months. The airmail stamp seems to have been superfluous as there was no airmail service to Saudi Arabia from the U.S.A.

The start of World War II is evidenced on an incoming letter c/o Gray Mackenzie & Co., Mamama, Bahrain Island, Persian Gulf from the Legation of the United States of America, Baghdad, Iraq. It is postmarked BAGHDAD 10 APR 40, backstamped BASRA 11 APR 40 and BAHRAIN 17 AP 40 and has the boxed "PASSED BY CENSOR/BAHRAIN" in purple ink.

The Ohligers were married in June 1938, and Mrs. Ohliger arrived in Dhahran in the Fall of 1938. After the entrance of Italy into the war, and the bombing of Dhahran and the BAPCO Refinery by the Italians in October 1940, CASOC decided to reduce operations and to send the wives and children to the U.S. Mrs. Ohliger departed with the last wives in May 1941, and the correspondence began.

These letters indicate that CASOC began using the Khobar post office between the 3rd and 8th of November 1941. Figure 3 shows the last letter using the Bahrain post office and is dated 2 NOV 1941. Note that the routing handstamp is different from Figure 7 of the RANDOM NOTES #35 article, and now reads "Via B.O.A.C. to Singapore/Pacific Clipper to/ Sanfrancisco" (this use began in early August).



Figure 3.

Figure 4 shows the first Ohliger cover through the KHOBAR post office and is dated 8.11.41. It is backstamped by the BAHRAIN post office and shows the triangular Indian censor handstamp and kraft paper sealing tape with "OPENED BY CENSOR". Missing is the routing handstamp that was used on mail originating at the Bahrain post office.

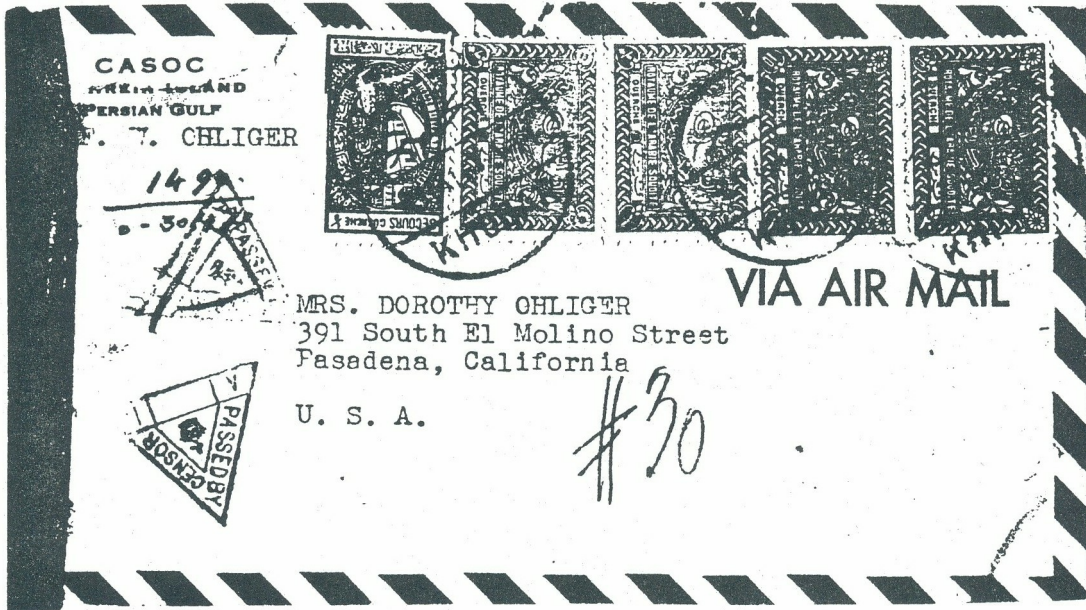


Figure 4.

Figure 5 shows the first cover mailed by Mrs. Ohliger after the U.S. entry into the war on December 7, 1941. The script routing of "Air mail to Auckland - to Bahrain" probably was not followed. Instead the letter was probably routed across the Atlantic to Egypt where it was opened and resealed with Egyptian censorship tape and received a couple of Egyptian censor handstamps. It is backstamped BAHRAIN 22 MAR 42 for a transit time of almost 3.5 months.



Figure 5 (front).



Figure 5 (reverse).

Figure 6 shows a well travelled boat mail cover to Dhahran which was forwarded back to the U.S. because Mr. Ohliger had gone on leave. It went through the usual censorship in Egypt and on to DJEDDAH. Then overland through MECQUE and RYAD to Al Khobar. "Al Khobar" is written in Arabic above the address. The RYAD datestamp is 7-5-42 for a transit time of four months.

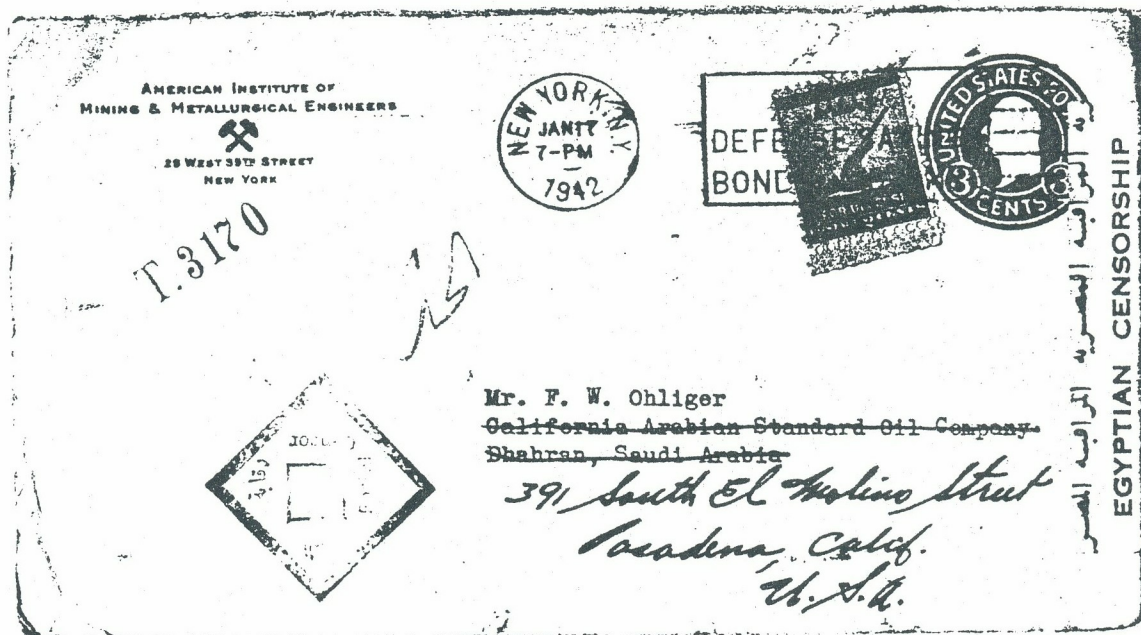


Figure 6 (front).

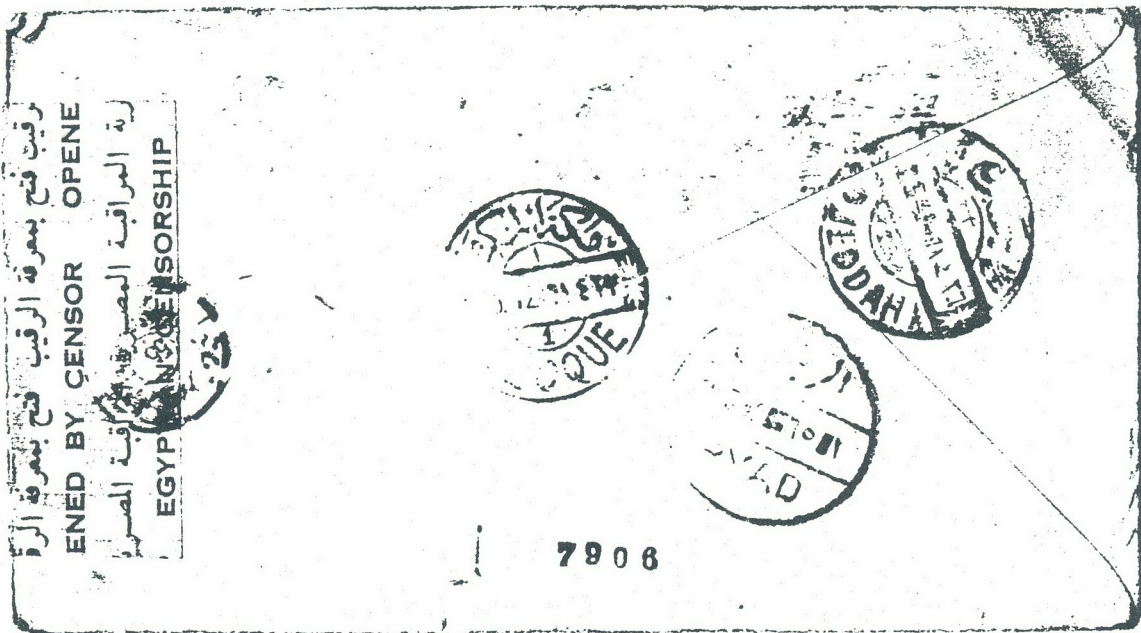


Figure 6 (reverse).

The cover shown in Figure 7 is interesting for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it shows a different South African censor tape than the cover in Figure 9 of RANDOM NOTES #35. This tape has the "OPENED BY/CENSOR" on two lines instead of three. Secondly, it was forwarded in the U.S. and thus has a PASADENA backstamp of May 25, 1942, giving a transit time of just over two months from the KHOBAR mailing of 21.3.42. Mrs. Ohliger was in New York meeting Mr. Ohliger returning on leave.

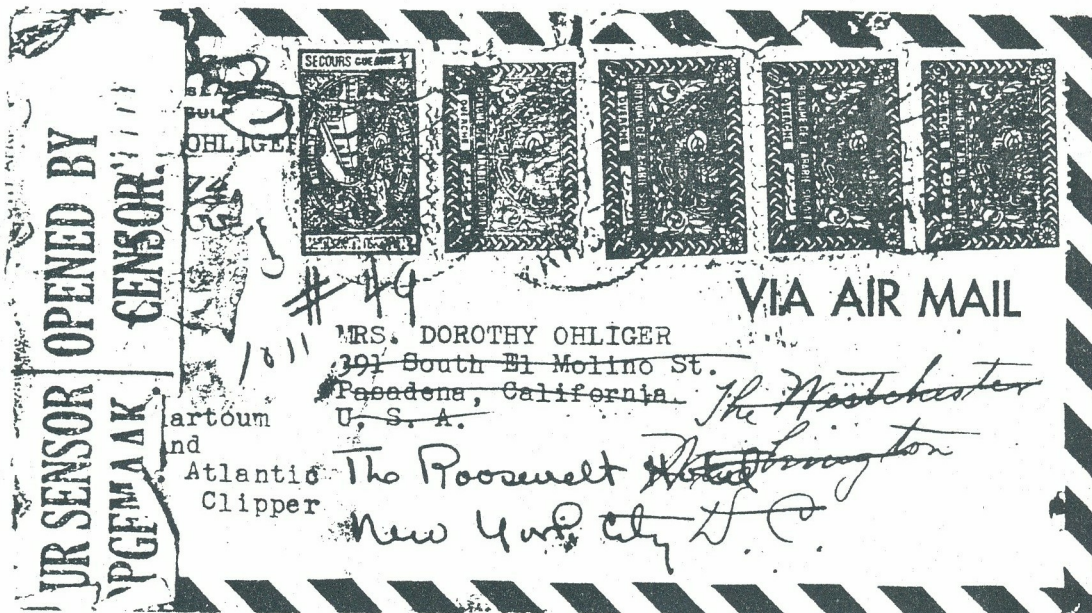


Figure 7 (front).



Figure 7 (reverse).

The Figure 8 cover was sent boat mail from KHOBAR on 24.4.42 and was backstamped PASADENA Aug. 18, 1942, for a transit time of just under four months. It shows the new rectangular censorship handstamp design used by all the British Colonies. The letters "DHC" denote India. The letter was opened by U.S. censors and resealed with white paper tape printed with "EXAMINED BY/6400". The paper tape covered part of the return address, which the censor dutifully wrote in. The U.S. later used transparent tape eliminating this problem.



Figure 8.

Mr. Ohliger returned to the Middle East via troopship at the end of 1942. Figure 9 show a letter probably posted aboard ship and censored by an Army examiner. The U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE date stamp has no APO number. It is backstamped New York. Jan. 15, 1943.



Figure 9.

The next letter on his journey was mailed from CAIRO on 25 Jan 43. This cover, shown in Figure 10. has an Egyptian censor handstamp and was opened by the U.S. censor and sealed with transparent tape printed with "EXAMINED BY/1827".

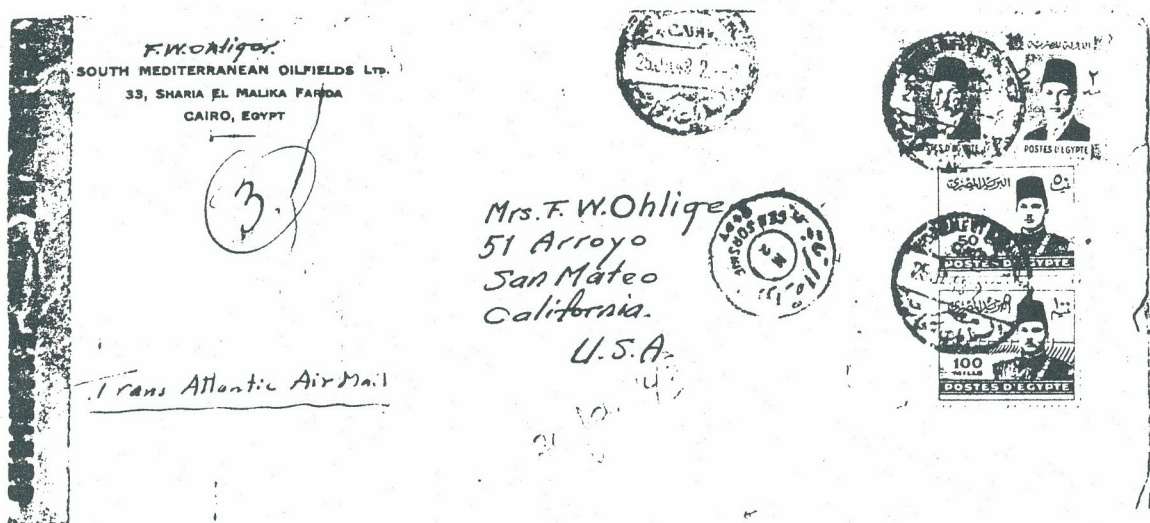


Figure 10.

Figure 11 shows the next letter to Mrs. Ohliger mailed from BAHRAIN in February with a manuscript routing notation "VIA LAGOS". It was censored in Lagos and sealed with white paper tape printed with "Opened by Examiner" and handstamped by the Nigerian censor as indicated by the letters "PP" in the rectangular handstamp with crown.



Figure 11.

Figure 12 shows a cover postmarked KHOBAR 3.4.43 which was not opened by any censor, but it was seen by the censor in Lagos as indicated by the igloo-shaped handstamp on the cover.



Figure 12.

Figure 13 is an example of the covers from Mrs. Ohliger. Airmail from the U.S. cost seventy cents per half-ounce in those days. It has been examined by a U.S. censor and closed with transparent tape printed "EXAMINED BY/3817". There is a handstamp of the Egyptian censor, and it is backstamped BAHRAIN 5 JUN 43 for a transit time of one month. Other mailings took up to two months and sometimes had a backstamp of CAIRO in addition to BAHRAIN.

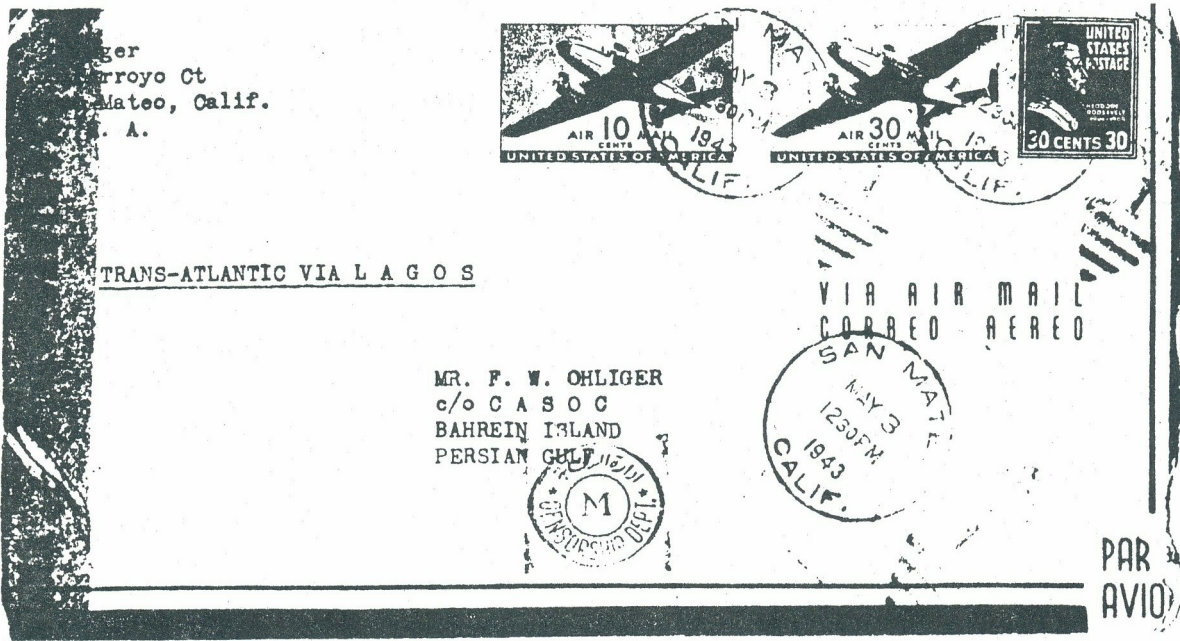


Figure 13.

Figure 14 shows a letter which was sent to Saudi Arabia through the A.P.O. system to A.P.O. 816. The cost here was only 12 cents (six cents per half-ounce). It was not opened by a censor and there are no other markings on it.

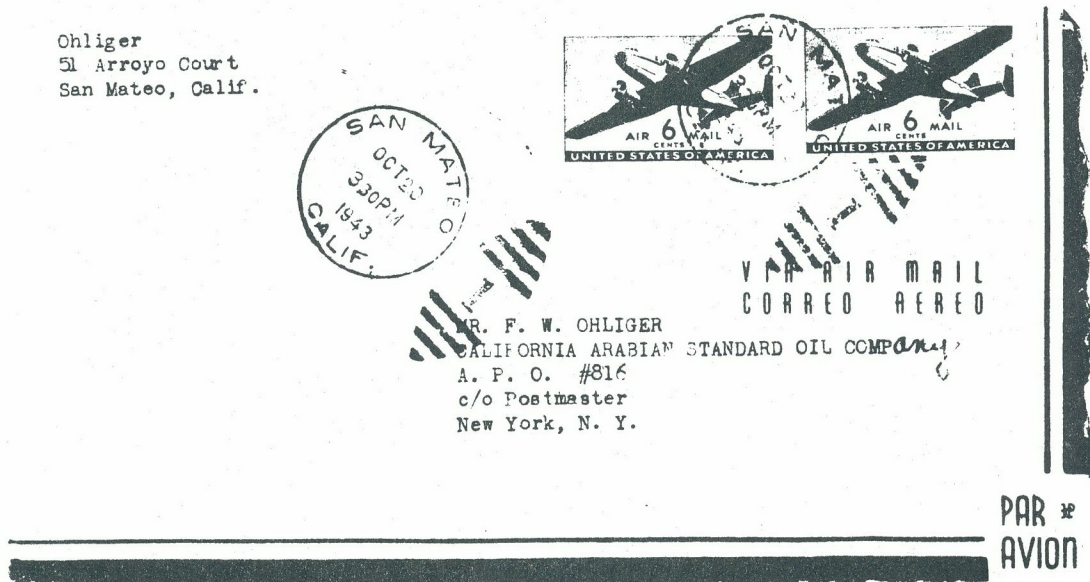


Figure 14.

Figure 15 shows a letter sent to Mrs. Ohliger in the U.S. from Saudi Arabia via A.P.O. 816. When the letter arrived in WASHINGTON. D.C. on Dec. 8, 1944, she had already sailed for Lisbon, enroute back to Saudi Arabia. The post office applied a red "RETURN TO" handstamp above Mr. Ohliger's return address. The flap was sealed by transparent tape printed "OPENED BY/U.S. ARMY EXAMINER".



Figure 15.

Figure 16 shows a cover sent from Bahrain to Mrs. Ohliger in Lisbon. The BAHRAIN date stamp is illegible, but CAIRO is 28 DEC 44. GIBRALTAR is Dec. 30 and LISBON CENTRAL is 3.1.45. The cover has the "PASSED BY CENSOR/BAHRAIN" purple handstamp as well as Egyptian censor handstamps and tape. The cover front bears the instruction "Please hold for arrival Serpapinto". This ship sailed from Philadelphia in November 1944 with Mrs. Ohliger and six other Aramco wives, arriving Lisbon in early December. As happens in wartime, things went awry and they had to wait in Portugal for about six weeks, so Mr. Ohliger's letter did get to her. The trip onward to Arabia was quite interesting for these wives. They travelled to Gibraltar on a converted yacht arranged by Thomas Cook & Son. They had to spend ten days in Gibraltar because the British troopship they were to travel on had had its stern blown off by a torpedo. They lived aboard the ship while repairs were made, then set sail for Alexandria. From there to Cairo by train, and then by C-47, rented to Aramco by the U.S. Government, to Dhahran arriving on or about February 12, 1945.

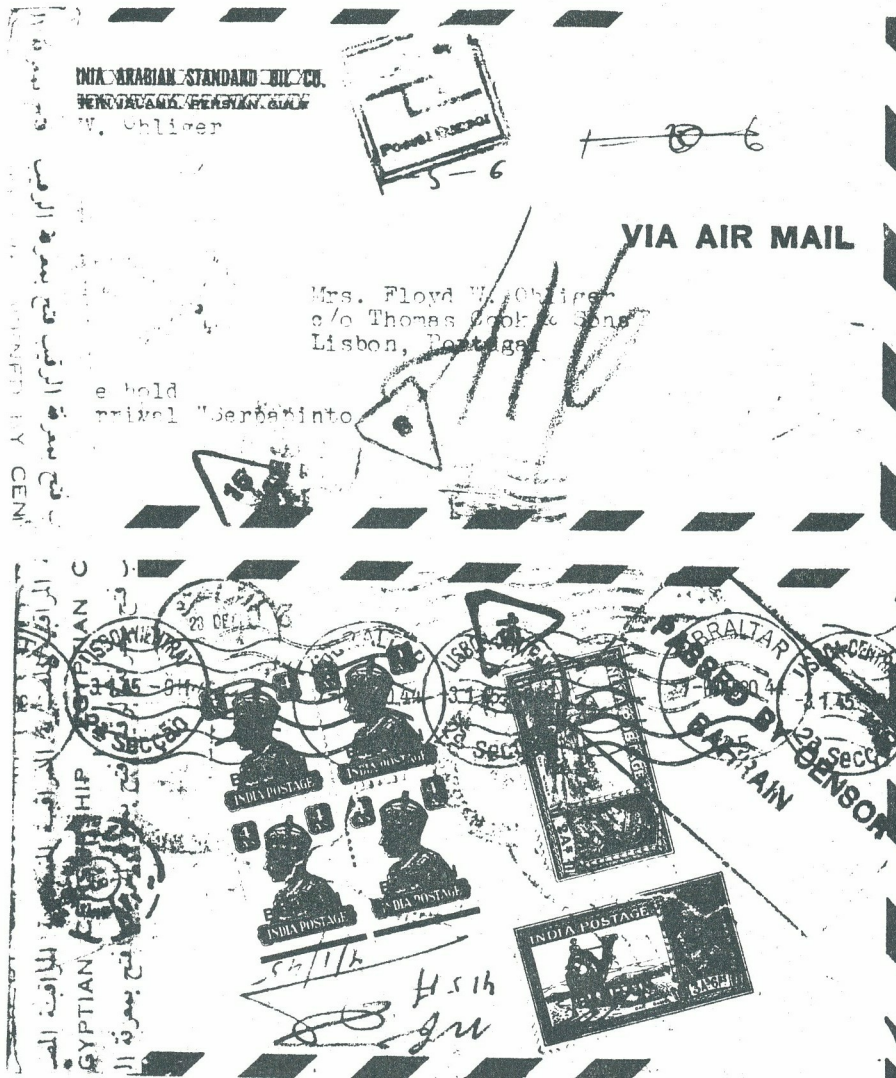


Figure 16.

Figure 17 shows a letter sent by Mrs. Ohliger to her husband on 12 Dec. 1944, but it did not arrive in Dhahran until after she did. It went through the British censor in London and is backstamped BAHRAIN 3 MAR 45. Note the address is now Arabian American Oil Co.

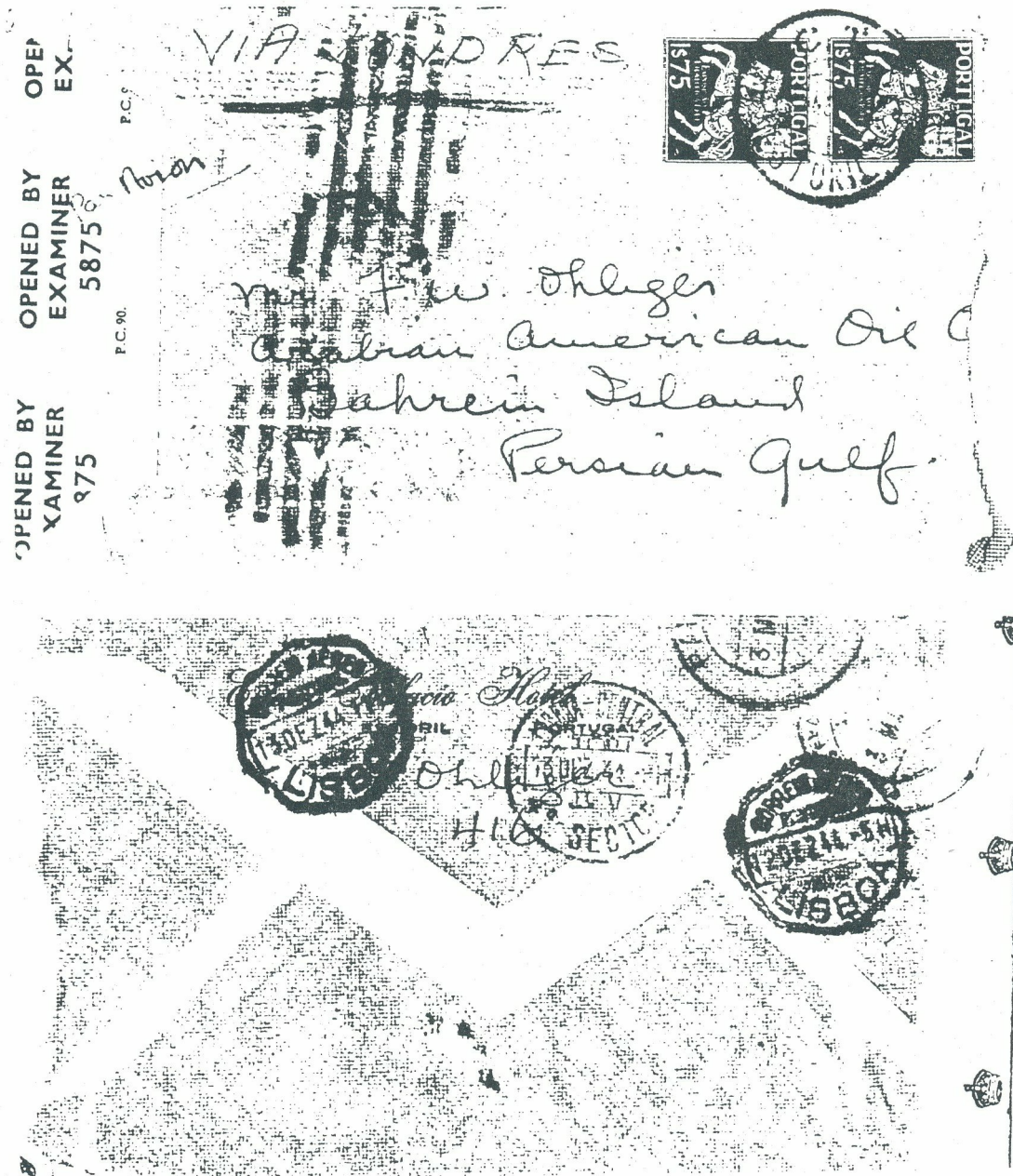


Figure 17.

Editor's Note: Mr. Benedict has written this article with the assumption that readers are familiar with the study of Early Aramco Postal History in RANDOM NOTES #35, as updated in RANDOM NOTES #37, 38, 39, 40, 43 and 44.

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF HEJAZ, NEJD, HEJAZ AND NEJD, AND SAUDI ARABIA

By: Kenneth D. Knight

Additions to the Introduction

I begin with additions to the list of correspondents who have assisted in the preparation of these articles. Firstly there is Mike Murphy who I inadvertantly omitted from my initial list. Although Arabia is outside his own collecting interests, when queried about entries relating to the Hejaz postal services in the JOURNAL OFFICIEL, he not only waded through the relevant issues, but located and generously provided a photocopy of the Survey of Egypt's booklet. Secondly, there is Mr. R. J. Thoden, the RANDOM NOTES editor; his assistance with the first of these articles is self-evident and will no doubt continue.

I have included a cancellation (NH10) in my listings of postmarks used by the Nejdi Post Office which originates from Mina (Makkah), where a post office is open only during the Hajj. Hence the creation of a new category, and the addition of "H" to the list of indicators (RANDOM NOTES #44, page 8).

A second new category, which will not be fully described until a later article, is that of "branch" post office. Such branch post offices will be indicated by the letter "B".

Corrections to Previous Article

In my first article of this series I complained at some length about the oversights, errors and mistakes of other writers, then propagated two such errors myself.

Illustrations HA10 and HA50 are transposed. The type shown as HA10 is actually HA50, and vice versa.

The reference to lot #1279 of the Mayo sale should have read lot #1729.

CANCELLATIONS OF THE NEJD POST OFFICE (1925)

It should be noted at the outset that the title "Nejd Post Office" is a misnomer chosen by the catalogues. I suspect, merely to indicate that it operated independently of, if simultaneously with, the Kingdom of Hejaz Post Office. No postal facilities existed in Nejd at this time. A more correct, if longwinded, title would be "Sultanate of Nejd Post Offices in Occupied Hejaz".

After the surrender of Makkah a postal service became necessary for the legions of Muslims it was hoped would make the pilgrimage, for the merchants who serviced the pilgrims, and to prove to the world at large, especially the Islamic countries, that the Nejdīs were more than a band of marauding bedouin.

Consequently captured Turkish postage and Hejazi postage and fiscal stamps were overprinted for use by the Sultanate of Nejd Post Office. According to Gibbons, the first stamps overprinted "1343 Barid Al Sultanat Al Nejd" were issued in March 1925. Warin is a little more precise with "at the end of March". However, the earliest cancellation I have recorded is dated 30 Ramadan 1343 (23 April 1925), almost a month later than the Gibbons date.

After Makkah was occupied it soon became paramount for the Nejdīs to capture at least one Red Sea port to allow mail, pilgrims, food and other essential supplies into and out of the Holy City, the traditional route via Jeddah being proscribed because that city was still held by King Ali of the Hejaz.

It is generally accepted that the Nejdīs occupied the small coastal towns of Rabigh, Lith, and Qunfudhah before "July 1925". The small port of Qunfudhah was selected as the inlet/outlet point for international mail. Philatelic evidence indicates Qunfudhah was captured at least three months "before July". The earliest cover from Makkah I know of which was routed via Qunfudhah is in the Alireza collection. The stamp is cancelled Makkah 30 Ramadan 1343 (23.4.25) and the cover has transit stamps of Qunfudhah (4 Shawwal 1343 - 27.4.1925), Massawa (28.4.25) and Port Taufiq (5.5.25).

In his article "The Capture of Al-Qunfudhah by Ibn Saud" (1), Dr. Randall Baker records and illustrates a cover sent from Makkah (23.5.25 CDS) via Qunfudhah (7.6.25) and Massawa (12.6.25) to Egypt.

A second cover in the Alireza collection is cancelled Makkah (27 Dhu al Hijjah 1343 - 19.7.25) and has transit stamps of Qunfudhah (8 Muharram 1344 - 28.7.25), Massawa (8.8.25) and Port Taufiq (15.8.25).

I detail the various datestamp markings of the above covers because they demonstrate the disparity of time, sometimes amounting to weeks, that mail routed via Qunfudhah could be in transit.

Three covers do not provide enough statistical evidence to make definitive statements, nevertheless they do provide evidence which allows some guesswork which, with luck, will be corroborated by the markings on other covers which travelled this route.

- (1) The covers recorded show a transit time from Makkah to Qunfudhah of between four and fifteen days. I interpret this to mean that mail was only despatched from Makkah when a viable quantity was awaiting shipment, and that actual travelling time was between four days and a week.
- (2) Likewise, there are disparities in the time taken from Qunfudhah to Massawa (one to eleven days), and from Massawa to Port Taufiq (one to seven days). I am of the opinion that these disparities were caused by the sailing schedules of the mailboats involved.

Before listing the cancellations of the Nejd Post Office in Occupied Hejaz, there is a point of semantics to consider - when did the Nejd Post Office in Occupied Hejaz become the Hejaz and Nejd Post Office? To the catalogue editor or a stamp collector unconcerned with postmarks the answer is when the first Hejaz and Nejd stamps were available; but to the postal historian, if I can claim such a grandiose title, it must surely be the date that the two postal services (Hejazi and Nejdi) were

united under a single administration. Such unification occurred shortly after the fall of Jeddah, when mail from Makkah with an overseas destination was once again routed through Jeddah. Baker records a cover from Makkah dated 29.12.25 which has a Jeddah transit stamp, but for practical purposes I propose to use 31 December 1925 as the dividing line.

Recorded Nejdi Post Offices in Occupied Hejaz

Makkah (MECQUE on bilingual datestamps)

The most common cancellation of Makkah during 1925 was the all-Arabic type HA10 (illustrated in previous article).

The bilingual type X20 (illustrated previous article) with the numeral 6 in the inner segments also saw some use at this time. I have recorded only two examples, both of them in October (21 and 22) of 1925.

Mina (Makkah) (Only all-Arabic datestamp recorded)



NH10

The Feldman catalogue of November 19-23, 1985 illustrates a special cancel which they describe as used for the first day of the 1925 Hajj pilgrimage(2). Because the post office at Mina, which is about 3 km. from Makkah, is believed to have opened --- as it does today -- only during the Hajj season, I have listed this cancel as type NH10. At this time I have no evidence to cast doubt on its authenticity, but my intuition tells me to distrust the item. Mr. R.J. Thoden points out that the cancellation date, 10 Dhu al-Hijjah (2 July 1925), is neither the first day of issue of the stamps it cancels nor the first day of the Hajj. It is however the date of the 'Id al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) which takes place in Mina. David Graham comments that Warin could have been wrong about the issue date. Was the datestamp intended only to produce souvenirs for sale to the Hajjis?

One of the reasons put forth by Abdul Aziz for his attack on the Hejaz was to reorganize the Hajj as a religious occasion rather than the extortionate fund-raising opportunity he claimed it had degenerated into. Another of his intentions was to guarantee safe passage for the pilgrim when travelling to the various religious centers. Could it be that the Mina cancel was in part a propaganda exercise and in part a philatelic money raising exercise? The money raising aspect should not be dismissed lightly as it is extremely unlikely that the Nejd Post Office in 1925 was self-financing.

Does anyone have an example on cover which would demonstrate a genuine postal use?

Madina (MEDINÉ on datestamp)

Lots #1933 and #1935 of the 1980 Mayo auction catalogue consisted of Al-Saudiyah overprints cancelled with the Madina type H50 datestamp (illustrated previous article), with legible dates of 11.12.25 and 18.12.25. Neither item is on cover so it is not possible to verify the dates of use by checking the dates of transit marks, but both dates are after the surrender of Madina to the Nejdis and consequently possibly genuine. To date I have not recorded the use of authorized Nejd overprints from Madina in 1925.

Qunfudhah (ALGUNFADA on datestamp)



H40

It would appear that the type H30 cancel of Qunfudhah was mislaid or destroyed shortly after the Nejdi invasion. Latterly the datestamp I have designated type H40, sometimes referred to as "provisional", was employed. All examples seen have has Hijra date only.

Al-Lith

I have a report of a part strike of an Al-Lith cancel similar in style to the H40 of Qunfudhah. It is in red-violet and found on a genuine S.G. 218 dated ? Rabi' Thani 1344 (Gregorian equivalent end October/early November 1925). Unfortunately I am not able to illustrate it at this time.

Possible Unrecorded Nejdi Post Offices in Occupied Hejaz

In recent years several covers with Nejdi provisional overprints which have been cancelled by the octagonal Wajh datestamp (H50) have appeared in auctions, but I have not been able to decipher the dates of use from the photographs. Consequently, I have assumed use in 1926 by the Hejaz and Nejd Post Office.

Yanbu' and Rabigh were captured before the surrender of Jeddah, but I have not recorded cancellations from any of these towns on Nejdi stamps during 1925.

Several examples of a bilingual cancel of Duba (DEBA on the cancel) are known on Nejd provisional overprints. Duba is on the Red Sea roughly half-way between the Gulf of Aqaba and Wajh, and I understand it was a quarantine station for pilgrims from Egypt. Such being the case, if in Nejd hands at the time of the 1925 pilgrimage, it would undoubtedly have been used by them. However, unless/until a cover is found with dated transit stamps, or a dated cancellation which places its use in 1925, I intend to assume it was used by the Hejaz and Nejd Post Office after the fall of Jeddah.

List of Postmarks and Recorded Dates of Use

N.B. Office names in capitals in the following list are reproduced as they appear in the non-Arabic part of the datestamp. Lower case names are all-Arabic.

D/S Type	Office Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Diam. mm.	Notes
H40	ALGUNFADA	27.4.25	*.12.25	35	Hijra date only.
H50	MEDINÉ	11.12.25	*.12.25	26	Numeral 1.
HA10	Makkah	23.4.25	*.12.25	32	
NH10	Mina (Makkah)	2 July 25	-----	33	Used at post office open only during Hajj
X20	MECQUE	22.10.25	*.12.25	32	Numeral 6 in inner segment

Footnotes:

- (1) A copy of the Baker article was distributed with RANDOM NOTES #7.
- (2) This cancel was illustrated and discussed in an article in RANDOM NOTES #36.

FREE ADLETS

OUR NEW 1989 PRICELIST is available. Many rare and unusual items – some offered for the first time – hundreds of listings. Send for your free copy from Lance D. Limoges, P.O. Box 38, Boalsburg, PA 16827 USA.

FOR SALE: RANDOM NOTES #21-43. Best offer. Lewis, 8010 Hampton Blvd., Apt. 414, North Lauderdale, Florida 33068, USA. Phone 305/722-9958.

WANTED TO BUY: Clear AKABA (no CTO), CONFODAH and MA'AN cancellations on Hejaz stamps. R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

AVAILABLE: Photocopies of THE POSTAL ISSUES OF HEJAZ, JEDDAH AND NEJD by D.F. Warin, soft-bound. Price: SR70 pickup in Dhahran, \$21 by airmail Saudi Arabia and Arab countries, \$23 by airmail elsewhere. W.A. King, c/o APA, Aramco Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

REPRINTS AND FORGERIES OF THE MAKKAH ARMS ISSUE

By: R. J. Thoden

The Makkah arms issue of 1922-24* was in use less than three years (in unoverprinted state). Despite this short period of use, the stamps exist in numerous shades and several types of paper. An article by David Graham in RANDOM NOTES #41 discussed the 1/8p value in detail; it is hoped that articles on the other values will follow in due course.

Reprints and forgeries of this issue also exist. Firstly, there are the official reprints in new colors from the original plates made by the Najdis after the fall of Makkah. They were then overprinted with the first and second "Sultanat al Najdiah" handstamps.** Some of these are also known without handstamp, and are scarce.

Secondly, the full set of these stamps exists as outright forgeries. In unoverprinted condition, they are far scarcer than the genuine stamps, and I have only a few values in my reference collection. They were obviously made for overprinting, and are most often seen with forged Najdi first and second handstamps, although they are also known with the various Jeddah overprints. The perforation is almost always 10-3/4, (although a few are 11-1/2, the same as the genuine). The paper is very smooth and for some values, the colors may be substantially different. For example, the 1/8p comes in red (as well as the normal brown red) and the 5p is bright yellow green.

Finally, there are the printings of uncertain status. These printings often differ in shade and paper from the originals, and they also differ in several other respects. The main purpose of this article is to discuss these differences in sufficient detail to make it possible for the collector to identify these printings most of the time.

These suspect stamps are rarely found "used", and then only with the bogus MEKKE cancel shown in RN #44, page 8, or the equally bogus all-Arabic Makkah al-Mukarramah 20 Ramadan 1343 cancellation. They are never found with a genuine Jeddah or Najd overprint. In fact, if a collector can learn to recognize these variant basic stamps, he need not bother checking any overprint or surcharge which may be on them; the overprint or surcharge will invariably be a forgery. (Of course, forged overprints were also made on basic stamps of the original genuine printings).

The A.P.A. has referred to these stamps as "reprints", but they may well be forgeries instead. The stamps in question do show the same plate varieties as the normal stamps, such as the "10" for "1" varieties on the 1p. They were printed in the same sheet format, 36 stamps arranged 6x6. The reprints of the 1/4q have the lower three rows tete-beche, the same as the originals. If they are forgeries, the plates must have been photographically copied from the originals. If they are truly "reprints", they must have been prepared under different conditions than the originals since their quality is noticeably inferior. Since they do not exist genuinely used or with genuine overprints, they must be unofficial reprints rather than government reprints.

* Scott L32-39 and L48-50. S.G. 39-46 and 57-58.

** Scott 10-12, 16, 17, 40, 40a, 41, 41a, 42, 43, 45. S.G. 198c-cb, 201b-ba, 226, 227, 228a, 229, 231.

Describing stamp shades and papers in terms that can be understood by everyone is difficult at best. Let us look first at some of the other characteristics of the reprints that may allow their detection.

Only the 1/8p, 1/4p, 1p, 3p brown red, and 10p values are known by me to exist as unofficial reprints. Of all the stamps of these denominations on the market, many or most are reprints. Reprints of the other values of the 1922 issues are not known to exist.

If your stamp has selvage, it is in all probability NOT a reprint. I have seen five full sheets of these reprints, of all the denominations except the 10p. All have had the sheet margins torn off. I have also never seen any single stamps or multiples of these reprints with selvage. Most of the reprints seem to have been used as basic stamps on which to apply various forged Jeddah overprints/surcharges in full sheets. Perhaps the plates for these forgeries required the removal of the sheet margins. Thus, any full sheet without margins should be suspected to be a reprint.

All genuine stamps were line perforated 11-1/2, as were the reprints. However, the line perforator used on the reprints had one pin missing. This was noted on each of five sheets of reprints examined. As a result, ten stamps in each sheet will show one "blind" perforation on opposite horizontal or vertical sides, and one stamp in each sheet will have the "blind" perforation on all four sides. Because the perforations are not always perfectly aligned, occasionally the blind perforation will appear on only one side of the stamp. Numerous genuine sheets examined had no blind perforations. Thus, a stamp with blind perforations can be assumed to be a reprint. Refer to the full sheet shown on page 27. Note the blind perforations in (horizontal) row 2 and (vertical) column 6.

There are also a lot of imperforate 1/4p and 10p reprints around; also 10p with inverted or missing centers.

The reprints often show blotches apparently caused by foreign matter on the plate. Refer again to the full sheet and note the blotches on stamps 20, 22 and 27 and also in the white space between stamps. While the genuine stamps are often blurred as the result of being printed from worn plates, I have not seen any with the kind of blotches found on the reprints. The reprints are often unevenly inked across the sheet. This can be seen even in the image.

The reprints seem to have heavier impressions, with thicker frame lines. Also many of the small dots in the Arabic inscriptions have disappeared.

Unused genuine stamps (except the 5p) usually do not show offsets of the printing ink on the gummed side. Such offsets are however found on the majority of the reprints. Presence or absence of offsets should be used in conjunction with other characteristics in deciding whether or not a stamp is a reprint, and not be relied upon exclusively.

The original stamps were first printed on an ordinary medium paper, and the design usually does not show through on the reverse. For an idea of what this paper is like, examine any copy of the 1-1/2p value; there is only one type of paper and there are no reprints. Later, the 1/2p and 1p were printed on a thinner paper, as were all of the 1924 3p brown red, and the design does show on the back. The reprints were printed on an intermediate paper, and the design usually shows through slightly on the back. All this may not seem to be very helpful to non-experts.



Full sheet of 1/8p reprints.

Most of the reprints can also be detected by the shades, but this takes considerable experience. In many cases, the shade differences are very subtle. Note that in all cases, the reprints come in several shades. The best way for someone to gain the necessary experience would be to first gather a reference group of reprints, using the blind perforations as the criterion, and then using these for comparison.

The shades given below are the closest colors found in the STANLEY GIBBONS COLOUR KEY. For those of you who don't have this, it is really an excellent tool and a necessity for the serious collector. The names given to colors by the color key sometimes seem strange compared to names we would ordinarily give them, but the color key should make it possible for two people to communicate intelligently about stamp colors.

1/8p

genuine: Venetian red, Indian red, chestnut.

reprint: brown-red, red-brown, orange-brown, lake-brown.

1/4p

genuine: apple green.

reprint: apple green, yellow-green (with brown gum), bright yellow-green.

1P

--

genuine: deep violet-blue, indigo, deep grey-blue.

reprint: indigo, slate-blue, blue-black.

3p

--

genuine: brown-red, dull scarlet.

reprint: orange-red, dull scarlet, orange, carmine (red under U.V. light)

10p

genuine: deep mauve (on white paper)

reprint: reddish lilac, slate-lilac (often on slightly grayish paper).

Some specialists include the 5p value among those existing as reprints. Some 5p stamps do have offsets of the printing ink on the back. I do not consider these to be in the same category as the reprints described above. My reasons for this opinion are: (1) These 5p stamps are found with genuine Jeddah overprints, (2) I have not seen any 5p stamps with "blind" perforations, and (3) I have seen 5p stamps with offsets on the back that also have selvage.

Note

The illustration of the complete sheet on the previous page was not the one shown in the original article. The text in this article has been amended slightly so that it is compatible with the image.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id

The date of issue of the 65h Umm-Al-Qura University stamp described in RANDOM NOTES #44 was March 23.

April 8, 1989: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to publicize World Health Day with the theme "Let us talk about health". The design shows the emblem of WHO and various means of communicating health information. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.

World Health Day was on April 7, but post offices are closed on Fridays. Nevertheless, the first day covers show a date of April 7.



April 29, 1989: Three additional 150h stamps in the Saudi Universities series were issued. The designs depict the emblems of King Faisal University in Dammam and al-Hassa, King Saud University in Riyadh and King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. Printed in sheets of 105 (7 x 15). Perforated 12.



May 30, 1989: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to commemorate the the first anniversary of the inauguration of the Sea Water Desalination and Electric Power Generation station at Shu'aibah on the Red Sea, and the pipeline to supply desalinated water to Makkah and Ta'if. The stamp design shows an aerial view of the plant. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and two post code labels (4 x 13). Perf. 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.



June 6, 1989: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to commemorate the proclamation of the state of Palestine on November 15, 1988. The design shows the flag of Palestine and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.



July 4, 1989: An additional 50h stamp in the Saudi Universities series was issued. The design shows the emblem of the Islamic University in Madina. Sheets of 105 (7 x 15). Perforated 12.



July 4, 1989: A new printing of the 10h Holy Ka'aba definitive was issued. Compared to the original printing released on April 5, 1987, the new stamps are in a slightly different shade, are on whiter paper that is non-luminescent, and have invisible gum. This is the same paper that was used for the 20h, 65h and 1R. Sheets of 105 (7 x 15). Perforated 12.

July 8, 1989: Two stamps, 50h and 75h, were issued to commemorate Hajj, the pilgrimage to Makkah. The design shows the meeqat al-Tan'eem, Makkah within an Islamic frame. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 2 post code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.

The "first day" covers show a date of July 12, the date of 'Id al-Adha.



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

Editor's Note: The issue dates given for definitives are the dates the stamps were released to the Saudi Arabian Philatelic Society, which are often earlier than the stamps are generally available at post offices.