



جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

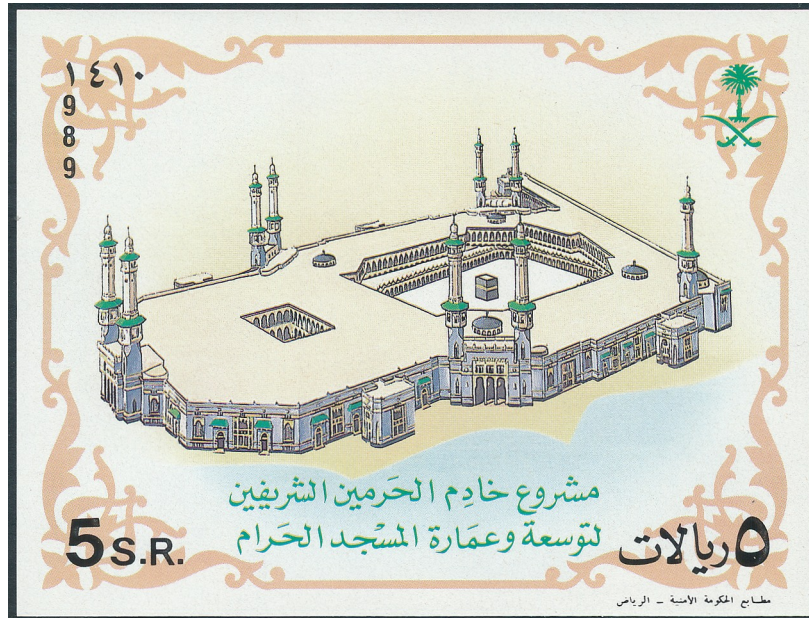
Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes

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THE ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The Association was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. Membership is open to all interested Saudi Aramco employees and dependents eligible to use Saudi Aramco facilities. Annual dues are SR 25. Others may subscribe to A.P.A. publications and participate in the A.P.A. new issue service and auctions. Annual subscription fee is SR 25 for Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, and U.S. \$11 for all other countries. A discount of SR10 or U.S. \$3 is allowed for renewals paid before March 1, and for new members/subscribers. The one-time initiation fee for new members and subscribers is SR 25 or U.S. \$7. Annual fees include all publications for the year via airmail.

Applications for membership or subscriptions, together with dues or fees, should be sent to the membership secretary. Checks should be made payable to The Arabian Philatelic Association. All changes of address should also be sent to the membership secretary.

All of the following A.P.A. officers may be addressed c/o Arabian Philatelic Association, ARAMCO Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

W.A. King, President	R.J. Thoden, Vice President
Dr. S.S. Amr, Vice President	G.E. Benham, Jr., Membership Secretary
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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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References are sometimes made in this publication to the following books by their authors' names:

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

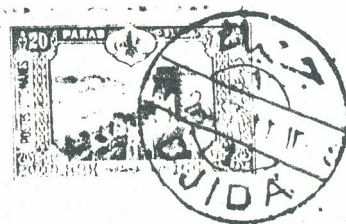
RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

1. I regret that it was not possible to deliver four issues of RANDOM NOTES for 1989. There was an almost total lack of contributions for the second half of the year. Unfortunately, there is no backlog of articles that I can select from. Each issue is dependent upon new contributions. While it is still the A.P.A.'s intent to issue RANDOM NOTES four times a year dated March, June, September and December, this can only be done if there is material to publish. In order to meet this schedule, contributions must arrive here at least one month earlier. To those of you who are experts in some aspect of Saudi philately, please write up your knowledge so others can learn. To those of you who are relative beginners, write in and tell us what you would like to see covered. Maybe we can then find an expert who can write an appropriate article.

There are many aspects of Saudi philately where no single person knows everything, but the knowledge may be spread among several members/subscribers who are not acquainted with each other. If one takes the initiative to write up what he does know, it often brings responses from others who can fill in what the original author does not know. This is the only way to figure out some of the many remaining mysteries of Saudi philately, as it seems most unlikely that official information from the early days will ever be known.

2. The cancellation shown below is sometimes offered as being from Jeddah in the Hejaz. It is illustrated as such in Max Mayo's book. Unfortunately, this is incorrect for the following reasons:
 - o - Although there are several variations in the "English" spelling on cancellations from Jeddah, the Arabic is always جدة. The cancel in question جـيدـة has an extra character "yaa", and thus must represent a different post office.
 - o - The cancellation exists with dates in 1917 (example shown has 17-2-17). Ottoman stamps were no longer used in Jeddah following the Hejazi declaration of independence in June 1916.



Subscriber Nick Macris has corresponded with H. E. Walker (co-author of Coles & Walker) on this subject. Mr. Walker states that "DJIDA", now spelled "Cide", is a small port on the Turkish Black Sea coast, coordinates 41.53 N. 33.01 E.

3. Our annual show, APEX-18, was held in Dhahran on November 17th. The show cover marked the 25th anniversary of the King Faisal stamp of 1964 (Scott 285). Attendance was disappointing, no doubt due to the show being held on a Friday instead of the usual Thursday. Those attending, however, were treated to exhibits of a very high standard. The following awards were made:

Best in Show:

First issue of Hejaz by J. I. Kearney.

Gold:

Postmarks of the Ottoman Empire by Dr. F. Naeem and son.
Airmails of British India (1911-1947) by Zahid Islam.

Silver:

Warin Varieties of Hejaz & Nejd by W. A. King.

Bronze:

Fancy Cancellations on FDCs of Saudi Arabia by Rashed Ahmed.
Kings of Saudi Arabia on Miniature Sheets by Rami Yaghmour.

Honorable Mention:

Aerogrammes of Great Britain (1953-1987) by Zahid Islam.
Pomp & Pageantry of Royal Events by C. D. Caparas.

4. For many years, Scott's listed the small three-line Jeddah overprint in blue on the 1pi blue postage due as LJ23. It was deleted in 1980 and replaced with a footnote that this was bogus. Nevertheless, I had heard some years ago from a reliable source that such a stamp really existed. I had not seen one until a copy was offered in the Phillips sale of Sept. 21 in London. I bid on and got the lot. Unfortunately, the overprint was a forgery, of a type not listed in the A.P.A. REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES. The letters "Haa" and "kaaf" were improperly joined approximately as shown in the sketch below. Of course, the lot went back for a refund. Can anyone confirm the existence of a genuine copy?

Genuine

Forgery

5. Subscriber Tarik Alireza submits the following registered cover sent from Makkah to England on 14 Jamad Al-Thani 1337 (March 17, 1919). The cover has a printed return address of the Directorate of Posts of the Arab Hashemite Government, and has a 2 qirsh stamp affixed.

Mr. Alireza was surprised to find the original letter still inside the envelope. The original letter is reproduced here along with a translation.

"The Arab Hashemite Government
 Directorate General of Posts and Wireless Cables
 Number
 60

This is in answer to your letter dated 2 February (1)919 which was sent to the Director of Posts in Jeddah. The postal transfer paper which was enclosed with your letter and valued at 10 shillings was received but we have not been able to cash it at our end. Therefore it is being sent back to you along with this letter. The postage stamps which you requested, due to the shortage of supply at our end and the Egyptian Survey Department that is printing them for us is not able to print sufficient quantities, therefore we have sent to you one stamp of each kind according to the list below and it is a gift to you from the Arab Hashemite Government and we hope it is accepted. With my best regards.

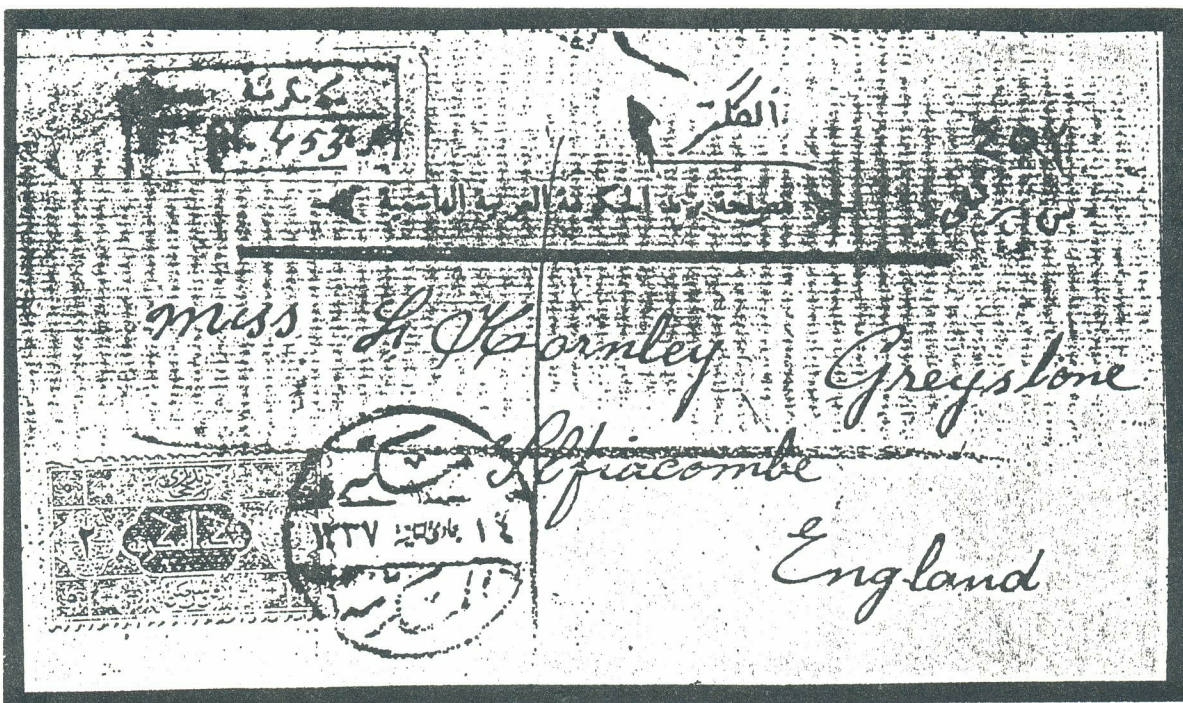
14 Jamad Alakher (1)337 Director General of the Arab Hashemite Posts and Cables

(signature)

No.					
1	postage	stamp	value		two piastres
1	"	"	"		one piastre
1	"	"	"		half piastre
1	"	"	"		quarter piastre
1	postage due	"	"		two piastres
1	"	"	"		one piastre
1	"	"	"		half piastre
1	postage	"	value		one para

8	total				

Editor's Notes: The many references in the literature to shortages of Hejaz stamps seem to be confirmed by this official letter. In fact, the eighth piastre stamp is not mentioned and was presumably out-of-stock at the time this letter was sent. Note that the government in 1919 already called itself "The Arab Hashemite Government" although this was not reflected on stamps until December 1921.



الحكومة العربية الهاشمية

مديرية عموم البريد والاسلاك البرقية

عدد

٦٠

هويلاً نفخ بكم رقم ٤ فبراير ١٩١٩ المرسل الى مدير البريد . ورفقه تحويل البوستة المرسل بكم بكم
 وقيل عشرة شهر وصلت بخبرته لم اصله صفر بطرقا واعيدت لنتم ثانياً مربوطه بوقتها هذه
 وطوبى الريان طينها بناز على قلة الموجود بطرقا وصلى الصا المصير القائم بطبعنا لم
 تمهده من طبع كليات ورفه فقد ايننا لكم مدي كل منى صديقا وهذا نهيها اليها المشروع زيد
 وهو بدونك هدية لكم من طرف الحكومة العربية الهاشمية فاطمها قبولاً وافهم لكم فانتم تحذف
 مدير عموم البريد والاسلاك البرقية

عدد	صحة	١
"	فقه	١
"	نصف الفقه	١
"	بيع	١
"	مسحوقه قه قه	١
"	قه	١
"	نصف الفقه	١
"	بريد قه باره واحه	١
المكسونه		٨

6. Thanks to Zahid Islam and A. A. Sa'id for photostats of cachets for kidney donations and Post Day. It is not known where the kidney donations cachet was used. The Post Day cachet was used in Jeddah.



7. An announcement by the Acting Director General of Posts states that commemorative stamps are only valid for one year from the date of issue. Supplies of old commemoratives in the hands of the public can be used up until July 15, 1990. This does not affect definitive stamps which are valid indefinitely.
8. Abdul Aziz Sa'id advises that Hejaz 10 qirsh stamps of 1924 with center omitted (Scott L50b) with an overprint in Arabic reading "Nejd Sultanate and Dependencies" are bogus. Copies appeared in the Habsburg, Feldman sales of May 1-3, 1989 (lot #20981 which realized SF1100) and Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 1989 (lot #32295 which realized SF260).



9. The number of A.P.A. members and subscribers at year-end 1989 was 319, which is an increase of 8 from 1988. A breakdown by country of residence follows:

164 Saudi Arabia	3 Bahrain
98 U.S.A.	2 Norway
26 U.K.	2 U.A.E.
10 Netherlands	2 Address unknown
1 each Austria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey.	

We occasionally get requests for copies of the A.P.A. mailing list. It is A.P.A. policy not to release this list, however, we will provide a remailing service for dealer-subscribers who wish to make a mailing to our members and subscribers. Contact the RANDOM NOTES editor for details.

10. The A.P.A. will hold a meeting at Stamp World London 1990 on Friday, May 4, 1990 from 12:30-15:00. The meeting will be in the Palm Court Suite Room 5 at Alexandra Palace. Tarik Alireza will be exhibiting "The Development of the Postal Services in Saudi Arabia 1836-1936". Tarik and/or David Graham will expand on this exhibit and give us more details of their research at this meeting.

It will be a great opportunity to meet others from the A.P.A. - a number will be attending from Saudi Arabia, several from the USA and we hope many of our UK and European subscribers. If you can possibly be in London on that day, please come and join us - and if you can let us know in advance then so much the better. Advise David Graham, 12 Royal Avenue, London SW3 4QF (phone 01-730-5042) or Willie King in Dhahran (966-3-878-0570).

This will be the first meeting the APA has held outside Dhahran and we hope it may be the first of many.

11. The earliest Saudi airmail service known to me was from the Hejaz to Kuwait in 1929-31. The cover shown below is an example of this service. It was sent from MECQUE (1.5.30) to KUWAIT (17 MAY 30) via PORT TAUFUQ (6 MA 30), ALEXANDRIA (6 MA 30) and BASRAH (14 MAY 30). It bears a green "PAR AVION" label. The postage was 4 qirsh, made up of two 1-3/4 qirsh (Scott 117) and one 1/2 qirsh (Scott 100) stamps. Postage for a surface letter would have been only 1-3/4 qirsh. The difference of 2-1/4 qirsh presumably was the airmail surcharge.

Covers at this rate are also known to the U.K. A 1932 cover sent to Kuwait has 5 qirsh postage (the surface rate then was 2-1/4 qirsh).

Can anyone supply additional information on early Saudi airmail? Please do not report on airmail covers bearing Hejaz Jeddah issues of 1925. These are all forgeries.



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

By: Kenneth D. Knight

CANCELLATIONS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA POST OFFICE (1926-1932)

By New Year 1926 the occupation of the former Kingdom of Hejaz by the Saudi forces - with the exception of the 'Aqaba-Ma'an enclave (1) - was complete.

Although the conquest made Abdul Aziz de facto ruler of the Hejaz, it was uncertain in 1926 whether the territory would be annexed by Nejd. Indeed, Abdul Aziz convened an Islamic Congress of leaders from other parts of the Muslim world to discuss the future government of Islam's Holy Cities. But the Congress dissolved without reaching a decision, and Abdul Aziz remained unchallenged as ruler of the Hejaz. Six years were to pass before, on September 22, 1932, he issued the declaration which united the Nejd and Hejaz into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Hence there was a period when Arabian stamps bore the legend "Hedjaz & Nejdde", in Arabic only on the first issues but in both French and Arabic on later issues.

In 1926 the title Hejaz and Nejd Post Office was a misnomer because the mails operated only in the Hejaz region. I have not been able to establish when postal services were extended eastwards - the earliest cancellations I have recorded from cities in the Nejd and the Eastern Provinces are dated 1933, after the declaration of union.

However, there is no reason why some postal facilities should not have existed in Riyadh (seat of government for Nejd, if not the whole country), Hofuf (commercial center), and possibly other towns. Whether verifiably genuine postal cancellations from these places will ever be found is another matter.

It may well be that post offices were opened in Nejd but no postal markings of these offices have survived. Until 1932, all non-Muslims, including foreign diplomats and businessmen, were restricted to the town of Jeddah. Most Muslim visitors to the country were pilgrims and journeyed no further than Makkah and Madina. A large proportion of the indigenous population were illiterate. These three facts go a long way to explain why very few stamps from this period are found with postmarks other than Jeddah, Makkah, and to a lesser extent, Madina.

At the turn of the century the country, now known as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, did not exist. Its establishment, and expansion to the boundaries familiar today, owes much to one man, Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul Rahman al Faisal al Saud.

In 1902, twentyone-year-old Abdul Aziz, hitherto the son of a royal house in exile, captured Riyadh from the descendents of Ibn Rashid, and re-established Saudi rule of the city. The early years were expended in extending the area of central Arabia under Saudi rule. In 1904 he defeated the Rashidis, adding the cities of Buraidah and Unaizah to the Saudi domain, only to lose them in 1905 and regain them in the spring of 1906. During this period a Turkish force commanded by Lieutenant General Sudgi was quartered at Buraidah and Unaizah. These garrisons were not occupying forces, but a foreign presence allowed by Abdul Aziz, supposedly (in Turkish eyes) to keep the peace between the Saudis and the Rashidis. Any postal arrangements for Sudgi's men would have to have been organized and operated by the Turkish army as there was no established civil postal service. A mail service to and from Sudgi's units would have been highly unreliable as the desert tribes were able to isolate his forces, and even official army dispatches from Sudgi rarely reached his superiors.

In May 1913 Abdul Aziz captured the town of Hofuf(2) from the Turks, and with it the Al-Hasa coastal region. Coles and Walker in their POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE list a post office with the name Ahsa or Nejd which is thought to have been located at Hofuf. There is no evidence the House of Saud operated postal services for use by the general public until after the conquest of the Hejaz. The Nejdi Post Office which operated for much of 1925 before the capitulation of King Ali was dealt with in a previous article.

The provisional stamps of the Nejd Post Office which were issued in 1925 continued in use during the early months of 1926. "FEE PAID" handstamps were also used intermittently during 1926 (and less frequently in later years). I do not list the "FEE PAID" handstamps because articles dealing with them have appeared in recent issues of RANDOM NOTES (3).

It is natural to expect that the new administration would want to reopen all the post offices which had been established by the Hashemite Kingdom. This was not possible because, as we have already seen, 'Aqaba and Ma'an had been ceded to Transjordan. Most historical writers report that the townsfolk of Ta'if were expelled after the sacking. Thus it would be expected that early dated cancellations do not exist, however such is not the case, and Ta'if cancellations are known by 1926.

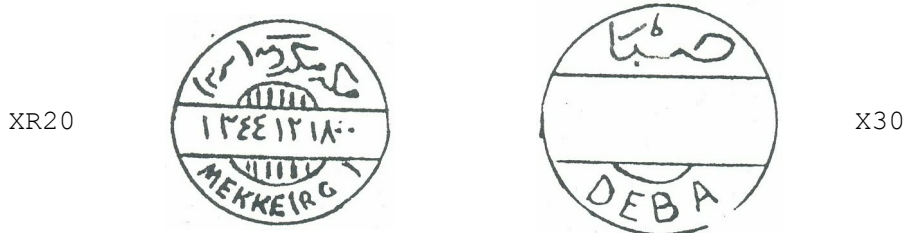
Post Offices of the Hejaz and Nejd P. O.

Makkah (MECQUE or MEKKE on bilingual datestamps)

During the period of the Hejaz and Nejd P.O., Makkah continued to use the all-Arabic HA10 and the bilingual X20 datestamps (illustrated in previous articles).

The X20 style cancellation remained in use for many years - into the 1950s. Over the years at least one new device in the same design was brought into service, differentiated by finer lettering. At this time I do not possess enough material to enable an estimation of when the recut datestamp was introduced, whether more than one new device was manufactured, or whether the old and new devices saw contemporaneous use.

The Hejaz and Nejd P.O. introduced a datestamp for a specific purpose, in this case to cancel registered mail. The cancel, which I have designated XR20, is a bilingual, double ring cancel, with datebelt and vertical bars filling the inner segments. Every example seen had only the Hijra date. The best strike I have of the XR20 cancel though on cover is somewhat smudged, hence the undoubtedly corrupted Arabic in the illustration. I would guess the "squiggle" in the brackets (top left) is meant to be the independent form of miym, and abbreviation for "mussajil", and counterpart of the "RG" abbreviation for registration in the non-Arabic half of the datestamp. The condition of this canceller seems to have deteriorated rapidly. By 1930 examples are to be found which have the letters missing from the brackets in both Arabic and non-Arabic halves. Even the example (June 1926) used in preparing the illustration shows no sign of the number "2" which must surely have followed the letters "RG". Later examples of this cancellation with the lettering excised from the brackets are listed in the table at the end of this article as type XR20a.



Duba (Deba on bilingual datestamp)

Duba, the location of a quarantine station for pilgrims arriving from Egypt, is situated roughly halfway between the Gulf of 'Aqaba and Wajh. The X30 datestamp used at Duba is datebelted and is similar in many respects to the Hejaz P.O. 'Aqaba cancel, with a single ring Arabic portion and double ring lower half. It has been recorded on stamps with the Nejd provisional overprints and the 1927 Toughra issue. However, as not one of the known examples is dated, cancellations on the Toughra issue may have been struck any time until the early 1930s.

Jeddah (Djeddah or Djedda on bilingual datestamps)

Jeddah continued to use cancellation types H10, H20 and S190, all of which have been illustrated in previous articles.

It is something of a minor mystery why S190, the neatest of the Jeddah cancelling devices was replaced. David Graham suggests it was because S190 showed only the Hijra date, but then so did the XR20 Makkah cancel yet its use continued.

Madina (MEDINE on datestamp)

Madina continued to use type H10 and H50 datestamps as previously illustrated.

The type H50 octagonal datestamp with the integral number "2", a device that had not been used since Ottoman times, was reintroduced in the late 1920s. Articles in RANDOM NOTES #43 and #44 give dates for its use from 27.3.29 through 1934.

A variety of type H10 which I have illustrated as X50 also occurred in the late 1920s. The illustration is taken from a photograph of a clear strike in the FILATCO auction catalog of June 20, 1986 (lot #836). In general the omission of the definite article from the Arabic part of a datestamp was an Ottoman trait, but the Ottoman equivalent of this cancellation had a straight line over the initial "miym" whereas X50 has three dots.



Qunfudhah

The type H40 cancellation continued to be used at Qunfudhah.

I have only recorded one cancellation from Qunfudhah during the period of the Hejaz and Nejd P.O. and that in 1926. Although there is no reason to suppose the Qunfudhah post office was closed down, further later dated examples need to be recorded before it can be said for certain that the post office there did remain open.

Rabigh

The only cancellation of Rabigh I have recorded from the Hejaz and Nejd P.O. period is illustrated as type XA20 (4). As can be seen the lower half of the datestamp is illegible, but from the odd character that can be discerned it appears to be all-Arabic. Should a legible example be found it is feasible that the Arabic in the lower half assigns it to a specific purpose, probably use with registered mail.

(Editor's Note: The Arabic in the brackets at top left seems to read "Al-Hejaz").

As with Qunfudhah it is necessary to record further Rabigh cancellations in order to ascertain that the Rabigh post office continued to function.

Ta'if (Taif on bilingual datestamp)

The only Ta'if cancellation I have recorded used during this period is illustrated as type X40, a single ring datestamp, notable for the way the English lettering extends at the bottom to follow the lower circle. Can anyone supply a complete example showing the Arabic lettering?

Wajh (El-Wejhe on bilingual datestamp)

Wajh continued to use the H50 datestamp, illustrated previously, throughout this period.

Wajh cancels seem to be more common than would be expected. Does anyone know the reason for this?

Yanbu' (Yambo on bilingual datestamp)

Yanbu' continued to use the type H20 datestamp, illustrated previously, throughout this period, usually struck in violet

Other Possible Offices

My previous article mentioned a cancellation of Al-Lith dating from 1925. I have no record of a Lith cancel dating from the Hejaz and Nejd P.O. period which would indicate continued operation of this office.

I have no recordings of cancellations from cities east of the Hejaz during this period, but suspect some postal facilities, if only for the use of representatives of the Sultan and members of the royal family, must have existed at Riyadh.

Footnotes:

(1) The 'Aqaba-Ma'an area was ceded (annexed) to Abdullah of Transjordan by King Ali. According to Abdullah in his memoirs, the annexation happened a few days after his father (King Hussain) left 'Aqaba for exile in Cyprus. Hussain sailed from 'Aqaba on H.M.S. Delhi on 17 June 1925. See also RANDOM NOTES #45.

(2) David Howarth in his book THE DESERT KING gives the date of May 1914 for the capture of Hofuf.

(3) RANDOM NOTES #39 and #41.

(4) The XA20 Rabigh cancellation illustrated in RANDOM NOTES #33, page 9 is alongside the rectangular FEE PAID mark usually regarded as having been used at Madina. The accompanying text suggests this could indicate that the FEE PAID handstamp was moved from Madina to Rabigh, or vice versa. However, as indicated in T.A. Alireza's article on FEE PAIDs in RANDOM NOTES #41, arrival or transit cancels sometimes appeared on the front of envelopes, and it is likely the Rabigh cancel here is just an arrival or transit mark.

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
H10	DJEDDAH	*.1.26	*.9.32	32	Numeral 3.
	MEDINE	*.1.26	?.?.??	29	Numeral 3.
H20	DJEDDA	*.1.26	*.9.32	32.5	
	YAMBO	*.1.26	*.9.32	33	
H40	ALGUNFADA	*.1.26	18.4.26	35	Hijra date only.
H50	EL-WAJHE	*.*.26	*.9.32	26	
	MEDINE	*.1.26	*.9.32	26	Numerals 1 and 2.
HA10	Makkah	*.1.26	7.9.26	32	
X20	MECQUE	28.9.26	*.9.32	32	Numerals 1,2,3,4,6.
X30	DEBA	?.?.26	?.?.27	32	Several examples known on SG 219 and one on SG 288. All are undated.
X40	TAIF	?.?.26		29	
X50	MEDINE	29.7.30	*.9.32	??	Numeral 3.
XA20	Rabigh	?.?.26		33.5	
XR20	MEKKE	27.6.26		27	
XR20a	MEKKE	?.9.30	*.9.32	27	
S190	DJEDDAH	23.6.26	9.9.27	25	

The following datestamps have been noted alongside FEE PAID marks used by the Hejaz and Nejd P.O.: H20 DJEDDA, HA10 Makkah, X20 MECQUE 6, H50 MEDINE, and XA20 Rabigh(4).

SAUDI ARABIA IN SCOTT'S 1990 CATALOG

By: R. J. Thoden

Scott has announced several basic changes for all its 1990 catalogs:

(1) Prices are now on a retail basis, what a collector can expect to pay a dealer. Until now, it was customary for stamps from most countries to sell at a discount from catalog prices. The discount percentage varied greatly by country, but for some countries, including Saudi Arabia, there has been little or no discount in recent years. As a result, most prices remained just as they were in the 1989 edition.

(2) Prices are now for stamps in "fine to very fine" condition rather than "fine". Scott defines "fine-very fine" to mean stamps that are somewhat off-center on one side, or slightly off-center on two sides. Fine means the design is noticeably off-center on two sides. I'm not sure this change has much significance for Hejaz stamps where only a small percentage of stamps are F-VF.

(3) Specific breakpoints are now given for each country and category indicating where pricing starts on a never-hinged basis for mint stamps.

There have even been a few editorial improvements this year. This year's improvements include:

- Correction of the footnote for the 1924 Caliphate issue (L42-48) to state that only the 1p, 2p and 5p, rather than all values, are known with genuine inverted overprints. However, it would have been better to give them "a" listings. It is also now mentioned that this overprint exists on LJ11-13 postage dues.

- The redrawn frame varieties of the "tourist" issue (489-526) are now listed. However, the listings are as sub-numbers rather than major numbers. This makes for a lot of confusion, especially considering that watermark and color varieties are also listed as sub-numbers. It would be best if Scott adopted a tabular format for such complicated issues. The listings of the redrawn types for the 4p and 10p Holy Ka'aba are wrong, being listed as on the white corner types while they are actually on the gray corner originals. An illustration of the difference between original and redrawn frames would also have been useful.

- A note that some issues of the past few years exist with labels.

- Listing of new issues through Feb. 25, 1989. In the University set, the captions for designs A202 and A205 are reversed.

Despite these rather trivial changes, much remains to be done to make Scott's a good catalog for the collector of Saudi Arabia. Scott's main problem is inconsistency; within the listings for a given country such as Saudi Arabia, between the listings for different countries, and between the listings for older and modern stamps.

Some examples of inconsistency within the Saudi listings:

(1) The first designs with different separation methods are listed as major numbers: L1-3 for perforated, L4-7 for straight-line roulette 20 and L8-13 for serrate roulette 13. Yet when these stamps have the

"unframed overprint" (L14-19), the roulette 20 stamps are relegated to minor numbers, and the lpi perf. 10 is not listed at all.

(2) Some issues, such as L51-75 and L82-131, have overprint varieties such as inverts and doubles adequately listed. Yet for other issues, the existence of such varieties is only mentioned in a footnote (L42-48, L135-141) or ignored completely (L77-80, LJ11-16).

(3) Some souvenir sheets are given major number listings (805, 811-813, 833), one is a minor number (254a), and others get only footnotes (after 844, 863, 956, 1068, 1083).

Some examples of inconsistency between the listings of old and modern issues, or of listings of similar kinds of varieties between different countries:

(1) U.S stamps of roughly the 1910-1920 period with small engraving differences are given major numbers. The redrawn Saudi "Tourist" issue was given only a footnote for almost 20 years, then given minor numbers in the 1990 catalog.

(2) Old stamps with different watermarks of all countries are given major listings. Modern Saudi issues that exist with both watermark 337 and 361 are given only minor numbers (again the "Tourist" issue and the 1970-72 official set).

(3) Stamps in different colors have always received major numbers, while shades got minor numbers. Yet the 10p Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque in orange and green is only listed as a minor variety of the 10p brown red & green. I don't see how orange can be considered to be a shade of brown red!

Despite Scott's claim that they have consulted dealer lists and ads, reviewed the results of public auctions and consulted with experts, there are still many pricing problems. Here are just a few examples:

(1) Inverted overprints of the large three-line Jeddah overprints (varieties of L82-107) are all priced at \$50 with the exception of L93a at \$75. L93a is actually one of the more frequently seen inverts, while L82a, L85a, L95a, etc. are less common. L95a cost me \$100 after years of searching for a genuine copy. Double, one inverted varieties are listed at \$25 or \$35, yet are far scarcer than most of the inverts listed at \$50.

(2) The 20p Dam definitive with Faisal cartouche in used condition is a fairly common stamp. Yet it got a price increase to \$60 a couple years ago and was only reduced to \$50 this year. Some dealers tend to adjust their prices in line with Scott pricing errors with the result that this stamp can now be found in lists at around \$50!

(3) The 5p airmail with Saud cartouche was raised to \$1000 mint and \$3000 (!) used last year. The used price obviously should have been \$300, not \$3000. This year, both the mint and used got a 20% price cut to \$800 and \$2500, respectively.

Scott has again asked for the A.P.A.'s help in improving the catalog, and we will give them an extensive list of improvements that are required. We hope these will appear in the 1991 edition.

SAUDI REVENUE STAMP CATALOG PROJECT

By: R. J. Thoden

The last updates to the listings of revenue stamps appeared in RANDOM NOTES #39. Since then, members and subscribers, including Bob Jung, David Graham, Glen Benham and Dr. O. Al-Abbasi.

CONTRIBUTION STAMPS

Usage: These are believed to be voluntary contribution stamps, rather than revenue stamps in the usual sense. Nevertheless, a revenue catalog is probably the best place to give them formal recognition.



1958 Rouletted or perforated 11. Unwmkd.

RAL1	AL1	1R bright rose red & green, perforated
RAL2	AL1	10R bright rose red & green, rouletted
RAL4	AL1	100R carmine & green, rouletted

Inscriptions: at the top, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia"; at center, "yawm al-Jaza'ir" (Algeria Day) and "15 Shaba'an 1377" (March 5, 1958). Denomination in words at bottom.

COURT REGISTRATION STAMPS

NOTE: These have previously listed as "Court Fee stamps". In view of the listing on the next page, change all previous listings from "RCF" to "RCR" and design types from "CF" to "CR".

Change No. RCR1 to RCR3; change color of RCR4 from green to red.

Add to RCR1-11:

RCR1	CR1	5p dark green
RCR2	CR1	20p yellowish green

COURT FEE STAMPS

Usage: Usage is unknown, but this seems to be a different category of stamp from those previously listed as court fee stamps. These latter, which are specifically designated for use by Shariah Court registrars, are relisted as Court Registration stamps.

CF1



1927 (?)

Perforated 11-1/2.

Unwmkd.

RCF1 CF1 1/2q black

Inscriptions: Center: "Al-Hukumah Al-Arabiyyah" (The Arabian Government); Lower middle: "lil mahakum al Hejaziah wa Najdiah" (for the Hejazi and Najdi courts).

FLAT RATE DOCUMENTARY STAMPS

Change No. RF1 to RF1A.

Add to RF1-11:

RF1	F1	10p deep brown
RF8A	F1	25q brown lake
RF10	F1	50q chocolate

Add to first footnote: The 2 qirsh has white lettering on a colored background.

Add new footnote: Imperforate color trials exist in various colors.

Add to RF65-72:

			A. Perf	B. Perf	C. Perf
			11-1/2	10-3/4	11
			-----	-----	-----
RF65	F6	1/4q		X	
RF66b	F6	1/2q			X
RF72a	F6	10q	X		

PASSPORT STAMPS

Add to RP20-25:			B. Perf 10-3/4 -----
RP18	P3	5q green	X
Add to RP37-47:		(Wmk. 361)	Wmk R L U D - - - -
RP42	P9	20R dark green (Entry Visa)	X X
RP46	P9	40R gray black (Residence Visa Renewal) a. with security mark ('85)	X

Add new footnote: The security mark on RP46a consists of a seven-line Arabic inscription visible under ultra-violet light. It exists both vertically and horizontally.

Add to RP48:		(Wmk. 337)	Wmk R L U D - - - -
RP50	P9	40R gray (Residence Visa Renewal)	X

Add to RP52:

RP52	P10	20R orange (Return Visa) a. with security mark ('83)
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Add new footnote: Refer to footnote after RP47 re security mark.

Change RP53-57 from unwmkd. to Wmk. 361 and add:

RP55	P9	100R olive brown (Final Exit)
RP57	P9	270R dark green (Additional Passport Fee)

Add footnote: Nos. RP53-57 have the same security mark described in the footnote after RP47.

Add new listing:

P11



P12



1987-89		Perforated 13-3/4	Recess	Wmk. 361
RP58	P11	50R green (Entry Visa) ('89)		
RP59	P12	100R orange brown (Reentry Visa) a. red brown ('89)		
RP60	P11	150R black (Renewal Residential Visa)		

Nos. RP59-60 have the same security mark described in the footnote after RP47. **Note: In the original issue of RN46, the types in the list were incorrect.**

PROPORTIONAL DOCUMENTARY STAMPS

Add to RQ3-7:

RQ10 Q1 25q purple (45001-50000)

Change footnote to read that the 2q (not the 10q) has numerals in white on colored background.

Add new footnote: Imperforate color trials exist in various colors.

RAILWAY AND ROAD TAX STAMPS

Add introductory note under "Railway Tax Issues of Hejaz": Ottoman railway tax stamp no. TRR9 has been seen with violet or red handstamp reading "Al Hussain Malik al-Arab" (Hussain King of the Arabs). Listing deferred until copies on document have been seen.

Add after RR28:

No. RR1 without value at bottom handstamped (b) and (c) in black

RR30 R1 1q dark blue

Add to RR75-84

			C. Perf 11

RR78	R4	5q yellow a. grayish paper	X
RR82	R4	40q bluish violet	X
RR85	R4	200q chocolate	X
RR86	R4	500q olive green	X

HEJAZ RAILWAY TAX STAMPS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

Stamps of 4p, 10p and 20p in the following design have been reported. The inscription at the top read "Dawal Damask" or "Municipality of Damascus". At the bottom is "contribution to the Hejaz railway". The top left circle contains the Hijra date "Muharram 1341" and the lower right circle has the Gregorian equivalent "September 1922". The color of the 10p is reported to be rose and the 20p blue. The color of the 4p is not known. I have not seen the stamps so can offer no further details. This information appeared in the October and November issues of THE AMERICAN REVENUER.



SAUDI COVERS FROM HODEIDA

By: R. J. Thoden

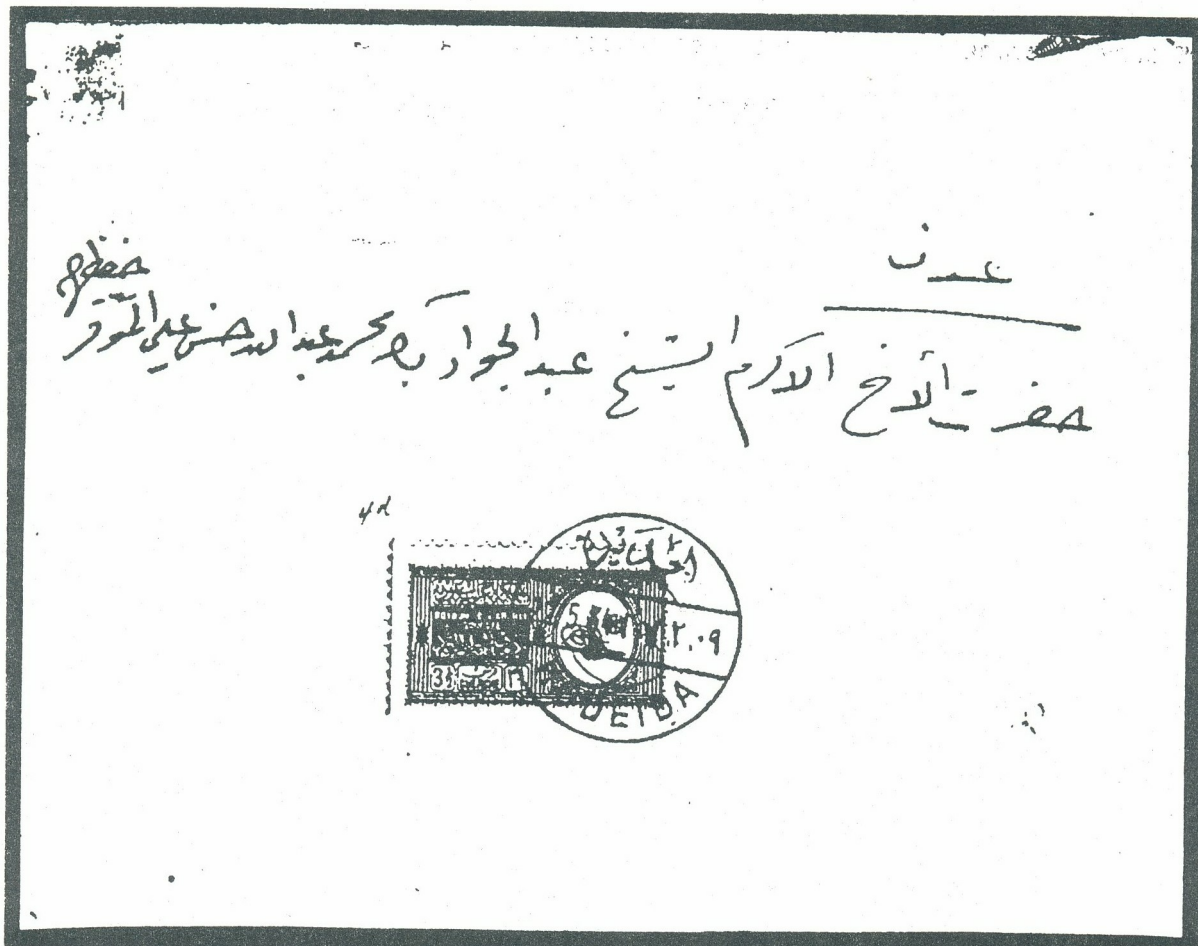
A most remarkable lot (#397) appeared in the Phillipa (London) sale of November 30. The lot description was:

Saudi Arabia: 1934 envelopes (4, two are registered) all to Aden franked 1934 Proclamation 1/2g pairs(2) and 3-1/2g pair and single, cancelled "HODEIDA" c.d.s.'s. Some imperfections otherwise fine. E £120-150.

My interest was aroused as I have been looking for a cover with Saudi stamps cancelled in Hodeida. However, I was puzzled about the very low estimate (in my opinion) and the one qirsh postage on two of the covers. I sent for photostats. The covers did indeed turn out to be what are obviously completely legitimate, non-philatelic covers.

I sent off a bid of about fifteen times estimate and had some hope that I might be successful. However, this was not to be as the lot brought £3400! No doubt the auctioneer and the owner were pleasantly surprised.

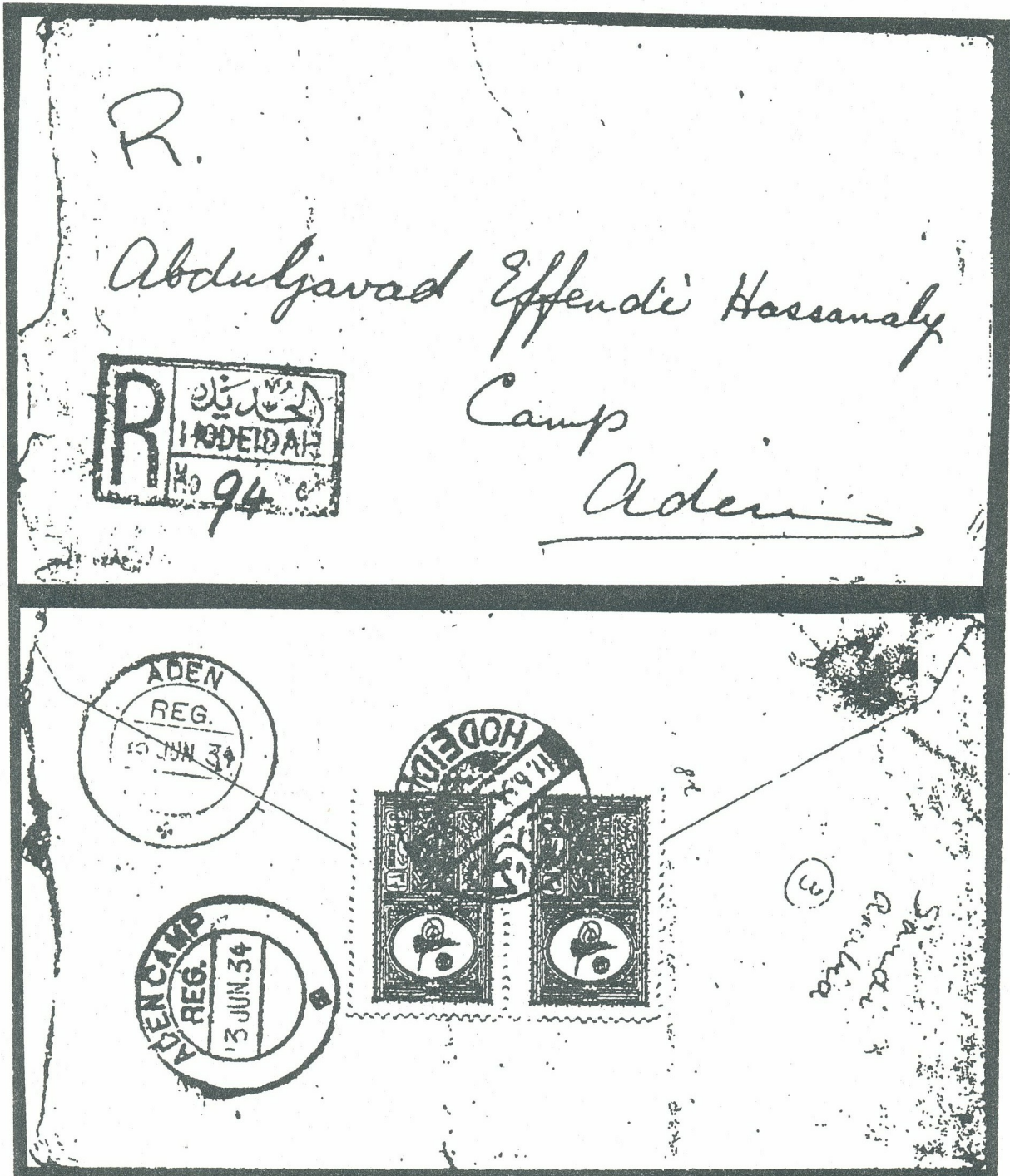
However, having the photostats, I can describe, analyze and illustrate the covers for the benefit of the readers of this publication. Readers may wish to review Carl Catherman's Hodeida articles in RANDOM NOTES #37 and #42 before proceeding.



Cover #1

Cover #1 bears a single 3-1/2 qirsh Heir Apparent stamp postmarked HODEIDA 22.5.34 (date unclear) with the Yemeni style canceller. It is backstamped ADEN CAMP 24 MAY 34. The postage represents the correct rate for an ordinary foreign letter. The transit time of two days seems very reasonable considering the relatively short distance between Hodeida and Aden. This is in sharp contrast to the unusually long transit time of the covers described by Mr. Catherman in his articles.

The addressee is Sheikh Abdul Jauwad Mohammad Abdulla Hassan Ali, Esq., possibly the same as that of cover #2.



Cover #2

Cover #2 is franked on the reverse with a pair of the 3-1/2 qirsh Heir Apparent stamp. The cover has a boxed registered marking. The rate of 7 qirsh is correct for a registered foreign letter. The stamps are postmarked HODEIDA 11.6.34 with the Saudi-style canceller. The cover is backstamped ADEN and ADEN CAMP 13 JUN 34. The transit time is again two days.



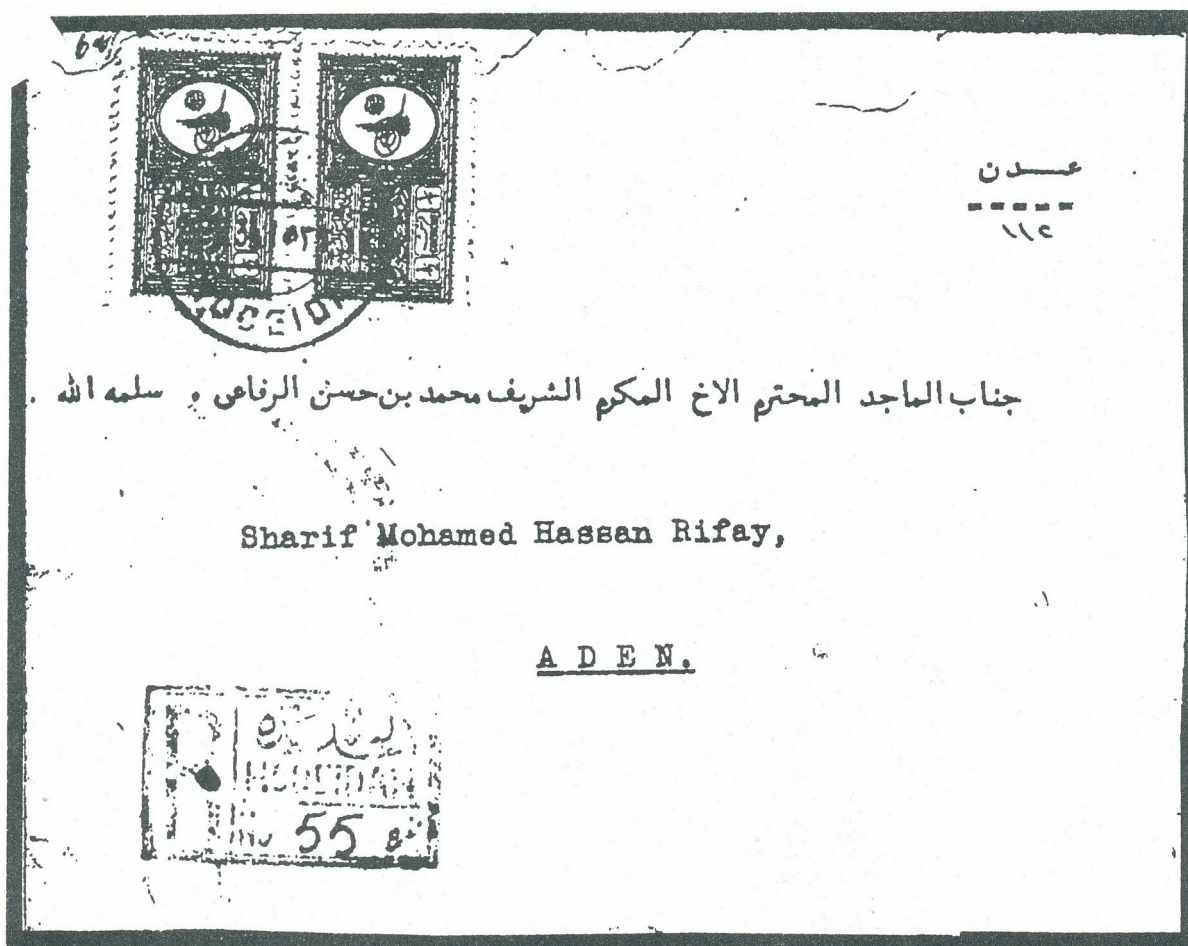
Cover #3

Cover #3 is undoubtedly the most interesting of the lot. The inscription at the upper right of this official envelope reads "Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd and Dependencies / Office of the Deputy General / and Chairman of the Council of Deputies". Since the name of the country was changed to "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" in 1932, this must be an old envelope that was taken to Hodeida with the occupying forces.

The envelope bears a pair of the 1/2 qirsh Heir Apparent stamps. It has a boxed registration mark and the word "Recommande". The postage of one qirsh for a registered foreign letter is another example of what is apparently the special rate for official mail. This rate was previously commented on in RANDOM NOTES #40 page 7.

The cancellation is the Yemeni style HODEIDA 28.5.34 (bit unclear) and the backstamps are ADEN and ADEN CAMP 31 MAY 34, for a transit time of three days.

The addressee is Sharif Mohammad Hassan Rifay, the same as that of cover #4.



Cover #4

Cover #4 also bears a pair of the 1/2 qirsh Heir Apparent stamp. It has a boxed registration mark. Although it lacks any indication of the sender, the postage of one qirsh identifies it as an official sending, like cover #3.

The date in the Yemeni style HODEIDA cannot be read with certainty from the photostat but appears to be 28. or 29.5.34. The backstamps of ADEN and ADEN CAMP are dated 31 MAY 34.

These covers should dispel any remaining doubts that there was a genuine postal service operating in Hodeida during the Saudi occupation.

THE 1/4 ON 1/8 Q. SURCHARGE OF 1923

By: R. J. Thoden

One issue of Hejaz stamps that has not been covered in RANDOM NOTES or the A.P.A. REFERENCE MANUAL OF FORGERIES is the 1923 surcharges (Scott L40-41, SG 47-49). These are simple surcharges of 1/4q and 10q on the 1/8q and 5q 1922 Coat-of-Arms definitives, respectively. Since there are innumerable forgeries of all other Hejaz overprints and surcharges, it would be naive to assume forgeries of this issue did not also exist. The reason nothing has appeared is that until now there has been no study of this issue due to the lack of sheets or even large blocks.

Recently, however, W. A. King obtained blocks consisting of 30 of the 36 positions of the 1/4q on 1/8q in an auction lot, and David Graham submitted a photostat of a complete sheet of the same stamp (shown on page 27). Comparison shows that corresponding surcharge positions on these two items match, that is, they were printed from the same plate.

I believe it is reasonable to conclude that these represent the genuine printing for the following reasons:

- o - All legitimately USED stamps DO plate against the above. That is, the 1/4q surcharge found on a particular basic 1/8q stamp position matches the surcharge found on the same position of the above.
- o - Stamps on the only two covers that have been seen DO plate.
- o - All of the approximately 5 sets of double, double one inverted and double both inverted varieties examined DO plate. These varieties are believed to be from the Abdel Qadir Qotah stock and are accepted as genuine, although they may be philatelically inspired.

On the other hand, there are in various collections many MINT singles and especially blocks of 4 or 9 that DO NOT plate against these items. Also, all of the approximately 20 examples of single inverted surcharges that I have seen DO NOT plate.

Comparison of plateable and unplateable stamps reveals the following differences:

- (1) Plateable surcharges are generally on the darker lake brown basic stamps that I think are the original printing. The unplateable ones are often on Indian red or chestnut basic stamps that I think are later printings. Most inverted surcharges seem to be on Indian red stamps. Color references are to the Gibbons Colour Key.
- (2) In the plateable surcharges, the length of the tail of the Arabic letter "ain" (ع) varies from very short to very long, with very long tails in positions 13,19,24,27,28,30,31,32,33,35 and 36. No unplateable surcharges with long tails have been seen.



- (3) Surcharges in the reference sheets, with the sole exception of position 1, have two dots over the "قـر" of qirsh. These dots are usually more or less joined, but there are definitely two dots. On the other hand, the unplateable surcharges frequently have only a single dot. and this dot is sometimes very small.



- (4) In the plateable surcharges, the Arabic character "baa" (ب) starts well above the "ain" (ع), while in some of the unplateable ones, this is too short.
- (5) Plateable surcharges have a more or less uniform black ink. while unplateable ones are dark around the edges of the characters and lighter inside.

These differences are very subtle and in very many examples, a stamp cannot be said to be "plateable" or "unplateable" without actually doing the plating.

Further examination of the unplateable surcharges shows that the surcharge on the same basic stamp position is not always the same. Mr. T. A. Alireza has two blocks of 9 of the same basic stamp positions, but with different surcharges, neither of which plates against the reference items. Also, I have seen several examples of what is obviously a replacement cliché for position 19 of the basic stamp are known with unplateable surcharges.

Are the unplateable surcharges forgeries? I hesitate to say so for sure, but I think there is a strong probability that they are. It is possible that there was more than one genuine plate, but there is no evidence known to me to support this. Judging from the scarcity of used stamps, it seems there was no large requirement for this stamp. Thus the need for more than one plate is doubtful. Help is needed from owners of used stamps, covers and large blocks so that more material can be examined.

In addition to the questionable surcharges discussed above, I know of two types of definite forgeries. The first of these is a thin, clear surcharge with inverted "قـر" of "qirsh" (the "ain" has a long tail). I have seen only a single example of this. The second forgery type is on forged 1/8 qirsh basic stamps in brown as well as scarlet. Gibbons # 48 is believed to exist only as this type of forgery.

Without doubt, the same problems exist with the 10q on 5q surcharge. I suspect that genuine and probably forged surcharges can be distinguished by the shades and other characteristics of the basic stamps. Hopefully, they can be separated by the characteristics of the surcharge as well, once sufficient material has been analyzed. However, I have so far seen no full sheets or covers and few blocks of this stamp. Even genuinely used stamps are not to be found. Who can help?

ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش
ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش
ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش
ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش
ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش
ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش	ربع قوش

Full sheet of 1/4q on 1/8q surcharges.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id

July 1989: An additional 50h stamp in the Saudi Universities series was issued. The design shows the emblem of Imam Mohammad ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh. Printed in sheets of 105 (7 x 15) on very white non-luminescent paper with invisible gum. Perforated 12.

Editor's Note: This stamp is known to have been available in Jeddah several weeks before it was available in Riyadh.

September 26, 1989: The 50h stamp mentioned above was released in Riyadh printed on slightly grayish luminescent paper with slightly shiny gum.



October 8, 1989: An additional 50h stamp in the Saudi Universities series was issued. The design depicts the emblem of King Saud University in Riyadh. Printed in sheets of 105 (7 x 15). Perforated 12.

October 8, 1989: A 150h stamp in the Saudi Cities series was issued. It shows views of old and modern Jeddah. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 2 postal code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12.

At the same time, the 150h stamps in this series depicting old and modern Riyadh and the Shobra Palace in Ta'if were reprinted in sheets of 50 stamps and two postal code labels (4 x 13). The original issue was in sheets of 52 stamps. There are no differences in design, paper, etc.



October 16, 1989: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued for World Food Day. The design shows wheat, the FAO emblem and a globe. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.

December 20, 1989: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the victory of the Saudi team in the 3rd FIFA under-16 World Tournament for the JVC cup in Scotland, June 10-24. The design shows hands holding holding the championship trophy. Printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5). Perforated 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.



December 30, 1989: Three stamps, 50h, 75h and 150h, and a SR5 souvenir sheet were issued to commemorate King Fahd's project for the expansion of the Holy Mosque in Makkah. The design shows an aerial view of the expanded Mosque. The stamps were printed in sheets of 50 plus two post code labels (4 x 13). Stamps are perforated 12; sheet is imperforate. Quantity: 500,000 sets and 20,000 souvenir sheets.

An official first day cover with a commemorative cancellation dated December 25 was also issued. The first day cancellation obtainable at philatelic centers was also dated December 25. However, the stamps were not issued until December 30.



All stamps 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.

FOR SALE: Current mint sets and souvenir sheets bought from philatelic offices of UAE, Bahrain, Australia, Pitcairn Islands, Dominica, Isle of Man, St. Lucia, Samoa, Fiji, Belize, Grenada, Thailand, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Singapore, South Korea and Philippines in two 36-page black stockbooks. Price SR3750. Call Celso Caparas 577-0653 after 3:30 P.M.

FOR SALE: Saudi Arabia and Arab countries mint and used. Commonwealth and Europe VG used. Want list please. Aouni Edriss, P.O. Box 2576, Hofuf 31982. Saudi Arabia.

SAUDI ARABIA SPECIALIST. SCOTT #1 up to date. Standing orders for new issues. Send want lists to Abdul Aziz Sa'id, PO box 1317, Riyadh 11431, Saudi Arabia.

WANTED: Hejaz railway fiscal stamps of Palestine (H.J.Z.), Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. R.J. Thoden, Aramco Box 1802, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

1982-89 SMALL FORMAT KHAFJ1 AND KAABA DEFINITIVES (Scott 872-892). All denominations and all perforations (14, 13-1/2, 12) available. Complete sets of 40 (21 Khafji. 19 Kaaba). Different watermark directions also available. Prices on request. Yusuf Aidroos, PO Box 87874, Riyadh 11652, Saudi Arabia.

BACK ISSUES OF R.N. both hard bound and unbound, reprinted to order each year for delivery September. Nos. 1-39 hardbound in 3 volumes SR420 +PP. Warin - The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah & Nejd. Reprint SR70 + PP. Photos of forgeries - various available to supplement Forgeries Manual. For details on any of these write W.A. King, 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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AVAILABLE: THE HEJAZ: A HISTORY IN STAMPS. A 131 page book combining a specialized listing of Hejaz with extensive philatelic and historical background notes. Price \$24.50 includes seamail postage to Saudi Arabia. Wilson Stamps, P.O. Box 3054, Humble, TX 77347-3054, USA.

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.
