

جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes

JUNE 1990 NUMBER 47

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THE ARABIAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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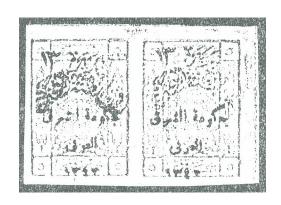
References are sometimes made in this publication to the following books by their authors' names:

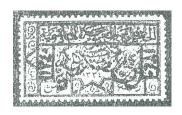
Haworth, W.B. & Sargent, H.L - THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE HEJAZ (1922) Warin, D.F. - THE POSTAL ISSUES OF HEJAZ, JEDDAH AND NEJD (1927) Mayo, M.M. - BARID AL SA'UDIYYAH WA AL HEJAZ WA NAJD (1973) Wilson, J.M. - THE HEJAZ - A HISTORY IN STAMPS (1982) Coles, J.H. & Walker, H.E.- POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF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

RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN

By: R. J. Thoden

- 1. Subscriber Tarik Alireza won a gold medal with felicitations of the jury in the postal history class at Stamp World London 90 for his exhibit "Saudi Arabia: Development of the Postal Service 1836-1936". Per the exhibit's introductory page: "This exhibit attempts to show, through a century's official, commercial and personal covers and other material, some previously unrecorded, how the postal service in Saudi Arabia developed under different postal administrations from pre-stamp forerunners up to the first years of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia". The 80 page exhibit showed many outstanding covers of the kind that most of us will never be fortunate enough to have in our own collections. Congratulations from the A.P.A., Tarik.
- 2. The A.P.A. held a successful meeting at Stamp World London 90 with approximately 30 members and subscribers from Saudi Arabia, the USA, Great Britain and other countries attending. The main feature of the meeting was a display of additional material by Tarik Alireza, which supplemented his award-winning exhibit. Several new subscribers were signed up.
- 3. Our president was recently offered a copy of the 10h small Ka'aba definitive (Scott 872, SG 1283) in the color of the 65h value of this design. He discovered that a normal stamp will change color if left in hot water for a short time. Modern color varieties should be regarded with suspicion.
- 4. I recently obtained a copy of the 1q blue with unframed overprint offered as the black overprint (Scott L18b, SG 25). However, the stamp actually had a gold over black overprint. The overprint, is perfectly genuine. I remember a copy of this stamp offered in an auction a few years ago at a fantastic estimate. It is not otherwise recorded anywhere, to the best of my knowledge. Who knows anything about the status of this item?
- 5. RANDOM NOTES #38 (page 5) reported the existence of first Nejd handstamps on various unlisted basic stamps. No differences could be noted between the handstamp on these items and the genuine handstamp. Now, A. A. Sa'id submits photographs of another, larger batch of these items. A few examples are shown here:







The complete list of items in Mr. Sa'id's photos is as follows:

Scott	SG	Description of basic stamp
L3	1	1q perf. 10
L4	7	1/8q roulette 20
L8-11,13	11-14,16	roulette 13 set except 1q
LJ1,3	D17,19	1917 postage dues
LJ5	D33	1q postage due with "unframed" overprint
L24,26,29	31,33,36	"unframed" overprints
L38,39,50	45,46,58	1922-24 definitives
L34,36 var	41, 43 var	definitives printed over railway tax stamps, perf. and imperf.
L41	49	10q on 5q provisional
LJ11	D47A	1/2q "mustahiq" overprint
L43,48	51,56	1/2q, 5q Caliphate overprint
		20q, 5000q railway tax stamps
		1q Turkey Hejaz railway tax stamp stamp
J64-66	D517-519	Turkish postage due stamps
114121	126,134	FORGED Jordan overprints on Hejaz
120 var	133 var	FORGED Jordan overprint on Hejaz basic stamp printed over railway tax
01	0117	FORGED Jordan official ovpt. on Hejaz

These handstamps come in various shades of red and blue; normal, inverted and sideways. As with the batch of these reported earlier, there are no apparent differences between these handstamps and the genuine. However, the fact that the handstamps appear on Hejaz stamps with FORGED Jordan overprints should make it clear that they are in no way genuine. At best, the original handstamp has fallen into the wrong hands and was (or is) being misused to defraud collectors. I think all these items should be regarded as forgeries.

6. The auctioneer provides the following report on the APA Auction #20:

Prices realized are reported on page 30. In all, some 75% (488) of the lots were sold. The best success was in the pre-Kingdom material with 182 of 210 lots sold - no doubt helped by the APA certificates of genuineness provided with each individual lot sold.

Bidding was strong for the blue postage due "mustahiq" handstamps on on the Arms issue - in fact for all postage dues on offer. Another highlight was the corner plate number copy of the two-line overprint on framed overprint (Lot 93) which went to SR750. The "illegibles" also attracted strong interest and there was strong room competition for the issues of Nejd.

While early Kingdom commemoratives attracted many bids, the modern material was less popular. The good Dam/GOSP/Air blocks did not sell. Since this was the main area for upward trends in the new SG catalog, perhaps some good buys were missed. Of the modern varieties, the reversed booklet pane (Lot 647) made SR1600. The final lots of rocket "essays" - printed we are now told by Dar Al Isfahani of Jeddah as trials - rocketed to SR210 and SR105.

Note next year's auction will be moved forward by 3 or 4 weeks into late February. Lots requiring expertization are required by the end of October and others by mid-November to allow preparation of the catalog before Christmas.

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 (1932 TO DATE)

On September 22, 1932, almost seven years after he conquered the Hejaz, Abdul Aziz issued a declaration which united the until then supposedly separate states of Hejaz and Nejd into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

There was a period of some fifteen months before the first stamps inscribed "Royaume de L'Arabie Soudite" - the Heir Apparent set - were issued. In the meantime, issues of the Hejaz and Nejd post office remained in use, as did several existing cancelling devices and cachet handstamps.

	Datestamps introduced by Earlier Administrations which Continued in Use						
Type	Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Notes			
Н10	DJEDDAH MEDINE TAIF	*.9.32 *.9.32 *.9.32	3. 7.33 7. 8.34	Numeral 3. Numerals 3,4. Numeral 1.			
Н20	DJEDDA YAMBO	*.9.32 *.9.32	7. 2.34 ?. ?.34	Late use of Yemen war tax stamp.			
н30	CONFODAH	*.9.32	?. ?.34	Late use of Yemen war tax stamp.			
н50	EL WAJHE MEDINE	*.9.32 *.9.32	?. 2.36	Numeral 2.			
X20	DJEDDAH MECQUE	*.9.32 *.9.32	5. 4.37 12. 8.49	Numerals 1,3. Numeral 3.			
XR20a	MEKKE	*.9.32	16. 2.34				

The continued use of Hejaz and Nejd postage stamps should not be taken as an indication of lethargy on the part of the postal administration as progress was afoot in other directions.

My earliest recording of a Riyadh cancellation dates from 1933, indicating extension of postal services to the capital. By 1936 mail routes had been further extended to the Eastern seaboard, and post offices have been reported at Hassa (Al-Hasa), Jubail, Katif (Qatif), and Okair (Al-Uqair), though as yet I have neither seen nor recorded the early cancellation(s) of Jubail.



Type X10; A single ring datestamp with belted bicalendar dateline. Arabic shaped to fit the upper portion. The western office name is straight and consists of tall thick letters.



		Type X10)	
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
HAYEL KATIF MINA (MECQUE) RYAD TAIF	5. 1.34 22. 3.37 25. 6.33 14. 9.34	?.10.36 23. 9.50 ?.10.36 14. 7.52	39 32 29 30 30	Circa late '50s. Two types exist. Diff. height of western name.



Type S15: A rectangular boxed cancellation that contains no Arabic and has only Gregorian date.

Type S15					
Office Name Earliest Latest Diameter Notes					
YAMBO		27MAY1933		Size:	37x19 mm.



S10



Type S10: A bicalendar belted datestamp with single ring upper segment and double ring lower segment. Note the style of the Western lettering.

Type S11: As S10, but western office name without serifs. Differentiated from X30 by size and style of Arabic, smaller western lettering, narrower outer ring in lower segment, and inclusion of bicalendar date.

Type S10				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
DJEDDAH	17. 1.34	5.12.34	30	
Type S11				
DEBA 3.3.40 32				

Type S22: A bicalendar belted datestamp with Arabic office name filling single ring at top. The bottom half of the cancellation is a double ring with shaded inner segment and western office name in the outer circle. The shaded segment has about 12-15 vertical bars (examples seen were not clear).



Type S22				
Office Name Earliest Latest Diameter Notes				
HASSA	14. 6.33		32	



Type S20: A single ring, bicalendar CDS with datebelt. Arabic office name fills the upper segment. Western office name is semi-circular. Note the Gregorian date appears to be reversed (34.-5.1.).

Type S20				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
OKAIR 5. 1.34 32				

Hodeida Cancels of the Saudi-Yemeni War

Recent articles in RANDOM NOTES #37, #42 and #46 by Carl R. Catherman and R. J. Thoden excellently summarized what is known about postal arrangements for the Saudi occupation forces in Hodeida. For the sake of eventual completeness, I illustrate the two cancellations used at Hodeida.

In her book THE SOUTHERN GATES OF ARABIA, Freya Stark suggests (pp22-23) that the Saudis used a naval force which acted in support of the land forces attacking along the coastal plain. If this were so, it raises the question of why the covers from Hodeida to Egypt were routed via Aden when it would nave been more practical to route them via Jeddah.

Yemeni C.D.S.





Saudi C.D.S.

* * * * * * * * * * *







Type S32: A bicalendar belted single single ring datestamp. The Arabic office name is shaped to fill the whole upper segment. The western office name is in a straight line and above an ornamental design. N.B. inked areas at each end of the datebelt.

Type S33: Virtually the same design as S32, but without inked areas at ends of the datebelt and with a different ornamental design at foot.

Type S34: A variation of the S32 MECQUE cancel with different ornament at foot and stars at each end of the datebelt.

Type S32						
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes		
HAYEL MECQUE	30. 4.35 1.11.34	9.11.39	30 30	Ornaments open but can be solid due to inking		
	Type S33					
HASSA	5.10.34	?. 9.36	30			
Type S34						
MECQUE	9.10.34	25. 4.52	30			

Mail Routes of the 1930s

I located one description of postal service in the 1930s, a summary of which may be of interest to readers. The quotation which is attributed to Dr. Rashad Pharaon describes how foreign mail was brought from Kuwait to Riyadh by truck in 1936 and dumped by the corner of the main mosque. Townsfolk dived into the pile searching for letters and packages that were addressed to themselves, and if they found anything addressed to a friend or neighbor, would deliver it on their way home. (Source: THE KINGDOM, page 251, by Robert Lacey).

Notwithstanding the above extract from THE KINGDOM, it would appear from transit marks to be found on covers which entered Saudi Arabia at this time that the normal route for mail, especially that originating in the Western Hemisphere, was through Jeddah and then overland via Makkah, Ta'if and Riyadh. The cover shown as Figure 2 in Mr. F. C. Benedict's article entitled THE OHLIGER CORRESPONDENCE (RN #45) aptly illustrates this route.

Previous articles in RANDOM NOTES which dealt with early postal services available to oil personnel employed by SOCAL (Standard Oil Company of California), its subsidiary CASOC (California Arabian Standard Oil Co), and subsequently ARAMCO, describe mail being routed through Bahrain. It should be borne in mind that the Bahrain route was available to company employees and their dependents only - outgoing mail transported by CASOC barge to Bahrain - incoming mail addressed to the employee, care of CASOC, Bahrain Island. Although in later years the Saudi authorities monitored the Bahrain service it was always, in essence, operated by the company.

* * * * * * * * * * *



Type S35: A bicalendar belted single ring datestamp. The Arabic office name is shaped to fill the whole of the upper segment. The semi-circular western office name encloses an inked segment.

Type S36: As S35, but with the inked segment broken to show a numeral.



	Type S35				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
DJEDDAH HODEIDAH OMLOUJ	28. 4.35 15. 5.34	4. 5.40 23. 6.34	29 32 29	See RN #37,42,46.	
Type S36					
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
DAFIR DJEDDAH YAMBO	5. 1.39 23. 1.37	3.10.52 1.11.49 24. 1.45	29 29 29	Numeral ? Numeral 2. Numeral 1.	

Type S5: As type H30, however, there are differences between this cancellation and the original Ottoman datestamp, and it must be concluded that the device was both manufactured and used by the Saudi postal authorities. (Major difference is in the slant of the final alif of the Arabic).



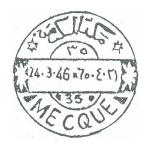
Type S5						
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes		
EL ULA	?. 2.36		29			



Type ST100: A bicalendar belted triple ring CDS with inked ends to the dateline. The outermost circle has the Arabic office name at top and the western name at bottom – note the curly foot of the letter "J" in "DJEDDAH". The bottom inner circle has the French "MANDATS" and the top inner circle the Arabic "hawalat" (حوالات) or "transfer".

In the only example of this marking seen on a cover, it was used as a transit mark on an insured letter originating in Makkah. It is also known cancelling stamps. Does anyone have more information?

Type ST100					
Office Name Earliest Latest Diameter Notes					
DJEDDAH	21. 7.37	?.10.42	32		



Type S30: A bicalendar belted double ring datestamp with star motif at each end of the datebelt. The inner segments enclose a number. The ornamentation before and after Arabic office name differs on the various cancels.

Type S30				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
ABHA DJEDDAH ELWAJHE HASSA KHARJ KONFUDAH MECQUE	3. 6.41 23. 4.42 7. 6.39 6. 7.45 13. 4.44 15. 4.38 22. 1.37	7. 4.52 10. 2.51 5. 5.49	32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Numeral 4. Numeral 23. Numeral 16. Numeral 27. Numerals 1,35.
MEOQUE MEDINE MISHAAB	24. 2.46 1. 7.38 undated	3. 3.50 3. 6.46	32 32 32	Numeral 1. Note spelling error. Numeral 1. Numeral ?. No stars in datebelt
RABEG TABOUK TAIF YANBO	26. 6.46 5. 8.44 22. 3.37		32 32 31 32	Numeral 3. Numerals 2,25. Numeral 5. Seriffed letters.





SR20c

Type SR20a: A single ring datestamp with bicalendar datebelt "filled" at both ends. This device was intended for use on registered mail as evidenced by the word "tasjeel" (تسجيال) in the Arabic portion of the design. The DJEDDAH cancel also exists not filled at ends of datebelt.

Type SR20b: The datestamp of this design used at Jeddah seems to have been damaged during the years it was in service. The main feature of the damaged state is that "R-2" at the bottom of the western segment shows as "I-2".

Type SR20c: As type SR20a, but the Arabic at top is enclosed in ovals rather than segments.

Type SR20a					
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
DJEDDAH MECQUE MEDINE	22. 2.39 21. 2.39 7. 7.43	?. 7.48 1.10.52 10. 6.52	32 32 32	R-2 at foot. R-1 at foot. R-3 at foot.	
Type SR20b					
DJEDDAH	30. 5.55	?. 9.59	32	I-2 at foot.	
Type SR20c					
KHOBAR RYAD	8.10.46 12. 6.43	?. 1.48 16. 9.46	31 32	R-5 at foot. R-4 at foot.	

Type S55: A bicalendar, belted single ring CDS with both Arabic and western lettering in a straight line. There is an office or counter number; the Arabic is within an oval at the top; the western number is in brackets <> at the bottom. This cancel is similar in some ways to the registration cancel type SR20, but there is no indication that its intended use was for registered mail.



Type S55				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
ALLIT (Al Lith)	22. 7.44		32	Numeral 5.



Type S25: A bicalendar belted single ring datestamp. Both Arabic and western office names are in a straight line.

Type S28: As S25, but the Arabic office name is shaped to fill the whole of the upper segment. The western office name is in a straight line.



S28

Type S25					
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
BAHRA DJEDDAH DURMA JEDDAH KARYA KHOBAR TAIF	undated 25. 2.50 22.12.62 ?. ?.56 12. 7.40 20. 6.69	26. 6.46	31 34 35 40 31.5 32 40		
Type S28					
JOBEIL RABIGH RYAD TAIF	6. 7.40	15. 3.48 22. 2.43	32	Circa 1970.	



Type SB100: A bicalendar bilingual double ring cancellation with Arabic script in both upper and lower inner segments. The Arabic word in the upper inner segment reads "far'a" (فرع) and is accompanied by a number, while that in the lower inner segment is the name of the branch office.

The illustration shows "far'a \" (branch 1) and "71"

The illustration shows "far'a \" (branch 1) and "Al Ma'alah". Ma'alah is the district of Makkah where Khadija, the wife of the prophet Mohammad, is buried. I have a record of "far'a Y" with the number to the left of the script rather than underneath, however, I do not have a translation of the branch office name.

Type SB100				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
MECQUE (Al Ma'alah) MECQUE (??)	17.11.47	?. ?.51	33 33	Branch 1. Branch 2.









S45 S46 S47 S48

Type S45: An unusual cancellation on two counts: (1) the date is boxed, and the box does not fully cross the datestamp; (2) the numbers in the bottom half are in negative form. Most examples of this cancel are found on registered covers, however there is nothing to indicate it was intended for use on registered mail in either the Arabic or western sections of the cancel.

Type S46: Very similar to type S45 but with the negative Arabic number in an inked semi-circle above the date and the equivalent western number in an inked semi-circle below the date. This datestamp also has stars at the ends of the datebelt.

Type S47: As type S45 but has a double outer circle.

Type S48: As type S45 but with stars at ends of the datebelt.

Type S49: As type S46 but with western number only. No Arabic number.

The common characteristic of this group of cancels is the negative office/counter numbers.

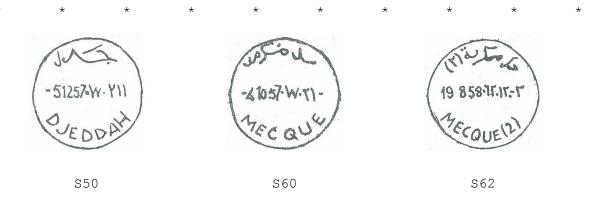


Type S45 Office Name Earliest Latest Diameter Notes AFEAF Numeral ?. undated EL-MUBARRAZ 28. 8.57 32.5 Numeral ?. ?. ?.49 DHAHRAN 20.SEP.52 32 Numeral 61. Mostly undated, but also known with Gregorian date only added. Numeral 79. Numeral 54. Numeral 50. DJEDDAH 2.12.51 ?. ?. 52 32.5 KHOBAR 14. 7.49 MEDINE 3.12.51 32 Type S46 DHAHRAN 4.11.48 32 Numeral 37. Type S47 30 Numeral 53. Type S48 Numeral ?. Numeral 28. BEESHA 32 32 DAMMAM 21. 5.44 RAS-TANURA ?. 7.48 32 Numeral ?. Type S49 Numeral 93 (?). Numeral 85. ABQAIQ undated DJEDDAH 8. 5.51 32 TAIMA Numeral 82 (?).

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Historical Note

After the end of World War II, ARAMCO's development of Saudi oilfields began in earnest. Dhahran airfield was built in 1944, and TWA began commercial airmail service from there in July of 1946. The port of Dammam was completed in 1951. Oil royalties increased, primarily because of increased production, throughout the 1950s and 1960s.



Type S50: A bicalendar unbelted single ring datestamp. Arabic office name in straight line. Western office name is semi-circular.

Type S60: As S50, but both Arabic and western office names are semicircular.

Type S62: As S60, but bracketed numeral following both Arabic and western office names.

Type S50					
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
DJEDDAH DJEDDAH HASSA JEDDAH	12. 2.52 12. 8.56 ?. 7.56 27.10.58	13. 4.58 30.12.57 15.10.64 31.11.58	29 33.5 30 35	Diff. diameter. Different western spelling.	
OMLUJ RAS-TANURA	27.11.73 22. 4.58		35 29	or o = = = = ;	
		Type S60)		
DAHRAN DAFIR DAMMAM DHAHRAN DHAHRAN AIRPORT KHOBAR MECQUE MECQUE MEDINE PORT-DAMMAM RYAD RYAD SHAQ(RA)? TAIF TAIF	31.12.52 26. 7.56 1.11.58 ?. ?.57 1.12.52 13. 3.58 6. 7.56 11. ?.55 28. 7.57 2.10.57 26. 2.60 2. 4.53 8. 4.59	19.10.53 ?7. 1.69 7. 4.69 22. 3.63 2. 3.59 5. 1.60 ?. 8.56 27.10.72	30 29 35 29 29 29 34 29 29 29 34 30 29 35	NB. spelling. Diff. diameter. Diff. diameter. Diff. diameter.	
		Type S62	2		
MECQUE	5. 6.56	5. 1.65	28	Nums. 2,3,4,6,7.	









SR55 SR56

SR62

Type SR55: A bicalendar unbelted single ring datestamp intended for use on registered mail. The Arabic office name is in a straight line above the word "musajial" (o). The western office name is semi-circular and encloses a letter R with a quotation mark or dash at both sides.

Type SR56: As SR55, but with semi-circular Arabic office name.

Type ${\rm SR62:}\ {\rm As}\ {\rm SR56}$, but counter number following both the Arabic and western office names.

Type SR50: As SR56 but larger diameter and the R in inverted commas is larger.

		Type SR5	5		
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
DJEDDAH KARYA	12. 2.53 39. 9.55	9. 9.57	29 29	Date error.	
		Type SR5	6		
ALMISSEJID ANAIZA BURAIDA	19. 5.56 5. 7.56		29 29		
DAHRAN ELWAJHE HASSA KHARJ KHOBAR	16. 2.53 24. 1.55 30. 6.56 ?. ?.57		32 29 29 29 29		
MECQUE RAHEAMA RYAD TABOUK	18. 8.54 5. 9.55 11. 1.55 ?. ?.57	?. 5.62 ?.12.56 21. 3.57	29 29 29 29 29		
		Type SR6	2		
MECQUE	12. 7.56	15. 7.62	29	Numerals 2,5.	
Type SR50					
DAMMAM DHAHRAN DJEDDAH KHOBAR MECOUE	4.12.56 10. 5.61 19. 1.62 7.11.56	2. 5.69 6. 6.62	34 34 34 35		
RAHEAMA RYAD	3. 6.56 29. 6.59	3. 9.58 7.10.69	34 35		

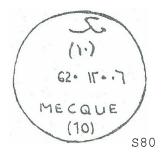


Type S40: A bicalendar unbelted single ring datestamp with semi-circular Arabic office name and western office name in straight line.

Type S70: As type S40, but both Arabic and western office names in a straight line.



Type S40					
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes	
AIRPORT DHAHRAN DHAHRAN JEDDAH RYADH	26. 4.60 ?. ?.58 27.10.58		34 34 34 34		
		Type S7	0		
AIRPORT DHAHRAN DJEDDAH JEDDAH JIZAN MEOQUE MECQUE MEDINA RYAD TAIF WEJH	26.10.59 27. 7.58 21.10.56 30.10.60 9. 1.59 26. 4.58 28.10.79	9.11.60 28.6.60 7.8.60 25.2.57 17.8.61	34 35 34 34 29 34 34 34 39 34	NB: Spelling!	







Type S80: A bicalendar unbelted single ring datestamp. The Arabic office name is over a bracketed office/counter number. The western office name is in a straight line above an office/counter number in brackets.

Type S81: As type S80, but with Arabic counter number only. No counter number appears in the lower half of the cancellation.

Type S82: As type S80, but both counter numbers are not bracketed.

Type S80				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
DJEDDAH MECQUE	30. 7.61 5. 4.59	28.10.62	35 35	Numeral 4 Nums. 5,6,9,10.
Type S81				
JEDDAH RYAD	26. 8.58 2. 5.59	10. 8.60	35 35	Numeral ?. Nums. 1,2,5.
Type S82				
DJEDDAH	26. 7.61	25.12.61	34	Numerals 2,4.

Type SA60: An all-Arabic bicalendar unbelted single ring datestamp. Upper segment contains the word "barid", or "post". Lower segment contains semicircular office name.



Type SA60				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
Dhahran Airport	?. ?.60	4. 5.69	34	



Type SRD100: A bicalendar belted single ring CDS intended for use on outgoing registered mail. The western office name is in a straight line and gives no indication of intended use. The upper line of Arabic is the office name; the lower line reads "tasjeel S". "Tasjeel" translates as registered and is equivalent to "musajjal". The letter "S" is presumed to be an abbreviation for " \(\text{ulc} \) " (departure or outgoing).

Type SRD100				
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
DJEDDAH RYADH	11. 6.62 1. 2.61		35 35	

Type SD100: A bicalendar belted single ring CDS intended for use on outgoing mail. Distinguishing feature is the word "OUT" in large letters in the lower segment. I have yet to find an example which would allow accurate reproduction of the Arabic part of the cancel.

Type SI100: As type SD100, except the word "OUT" is replaced by "IN". The Arabic is not legible in the examples seen. Presumably intended as an arrival marking, but also used to cancel stamps on outbound mail.



Type SD100						
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes		
DHAHRAN AIRPORT	17. 3.61	?. ?.67	39			
	Type SI100					
DHAHRAN AIRPORT JEDDAH AIRPORT			39 39			



Type S95: A bicalendar belted single ring datestamp. Both the Arabic and western office names are in a straight line with office/counter number underneath.

Type S95									
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes					
DJEDDAH	23.10.61	29.10.61	34	Numeral 2.					

Type SD50: A bicalendar belted single ring datestamp intended for use on outgoing mail. The semi-circular Arabic office name encloses the word " $\ \omega$ " (sadir) or "outbound". The western office name is straight and has no indication of intended use.



Type SD50										
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes						
DHAHRAN AIRPORT RYADH TAIF	31.12.62 4. 2.62 28. 6.64		35 35 34							

Type S100: A bicalendar belted single ring datestamp. Both Arabic and western office names are semicircular and enclose an office/counter number.



		Type S10	0	
Office Name	Earliest	Latest	Diameter	Notes
DHAHRAN A.P. JEDDAH LA MECQUE MEDINA	19. 1.75 1. 1.75 9. 6.62	28.11.62	40 34	Numeral 19. Numeral 26. Numeral 10. Numeral 2.
RIYADH RYADH TAIF	5.11.75 7.11.63 8.10.75	15. 2.76	40 35 40	Numeral 60. Numerals 2,3,6. Numeral 15.

(to be continued in RN #48)

EVOLUTION OF K.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS

By: Yusuf Aidroos

The postage stamps of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are designed locally and printed in the Government Security Press in the capital city of Riyadh. The quality of the kingdom's postage stamps is of a very high standard, and considered to be among the best in the world. Very sophisticated equipment is used for printing and processing.

The Government Security Press, which comes under the Ministry of Finance was established in 1967 and is located near the old Riyadh Airport. Apart from postage stamps, the press is also responsible for printing important government papers and security documents. Hence entry to visitors is extremely restricted.

Prior to the present location, the Press was in Makkah. Postage stamps were also previously printed by contract in Jeddah, Egypt, Pakistan (air letters), U.K. and once in the U.S.A. Recently, a post office in the vicinity of the present printing press (bearing Riyadh 18 on meter cancels) was demolished to enlarge the press premises.

I had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the Government Printing Press on April 20, 1988 with the recommendation of M. Salem Othman Al Twairgi, the Deputy Director General of Posts. The Director General of the Printing Press, Mr. Mohammed Al Amari, approached Mr. Sa'ad A.R. Swaigi, the chief of printing, who obliged my request. He introduced me to Mr. Saleem Ghori, the chief designer, who took me around. The last commemorative printed was the Blood Donation set issued on April 13.

In the evolution of postage stamps, three basic steps are involved - design, printing and distribution.

Design

The design concept and specifications of the stamps are initiated by the postal authorities, headed by the Director General of Posts, Mr. Samir Hamad Banaja, which comes under the Ministry of Post, Telephone and Telegraph, or by other concerned ministries for upcoming significant events.

The General Post Office Building, inaugurated in 1983, is located on Batha Street, an uptown area of Riyadh. Prior to its present location, the GPO was on Farazdaq Street in the Malaz area near the old Airport Road and came under the Ministry of Communications. Apart from various other activities, the GPO building also houses the Philatelic Bureau which provides a new issue service for collectors around the world and the Stamp Design section.

The Stamp Design Section is headed by Mr. Saleh Al Faleh and includes the experienced designers Messrs. Ashfaq Ghani, Gharib Parvar, Basir Tayeb and Abdul Kader Hussaini. This team has been responsible for the design of all issues for more than a decade.

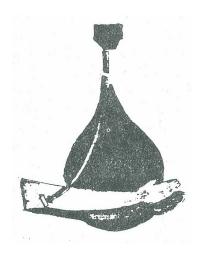
From various designs prepared by either one designer or by all four, the best one with appropriateness of the subject and aesthetic value is selected after scrutinization and finally approved by the technical committee. Flaws, if any, are corrected and the modified design presented before the final committee. Usually the design is at least four to five times the actual proposed stamp size. Then the final design is sent to the Government Printing Press which has its design team which immediately goes ahead with a proof of the design and sends the design to the photomechanical department.

Color processing - In the photomechanical department, the design is put on the process camera or scanner for color separation. Almost all the stamps of Saudi Arabia are printed by the litho offset process. The design is photomechanically reduced to print size and the colors separated (magenta, cyan, yellow and black). From the key-negative of each color, single positive acetate films are prepared. Aluminum plates are prepared from the single positive for proofing purpose. The proofs are taken out on the proofing machine. Normally three proofs of various shade grades (light, medium and dark) are sent to the Post Office for approval. The proof which conforms most closely with the design is selected and approved by the postal authorities and sent back to the press for starting the bulk printing.

Printing

The printing press design team prepares the required procedure based on the criteria of stamps selected by the postal authorities, such as color, size, perforation, denomination and quantity.

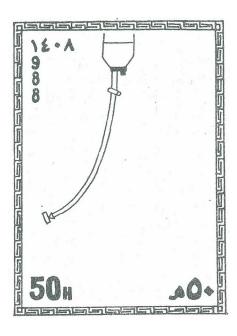
1. Plating: First, the design is prepared on different transparent acetate type sheets, each design related with particular color. Then these sheets are overlapped one above the other and the design transferred on an aluminum sheet in black and white. This is known as "plating".



Magenta (red) color with shades.



Cyan (blue) color with yellow where required (makes green).



Black color.

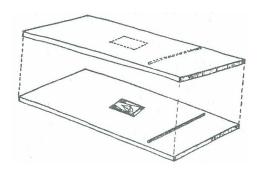


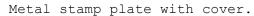
Combination of all acetate sheets overlapped.

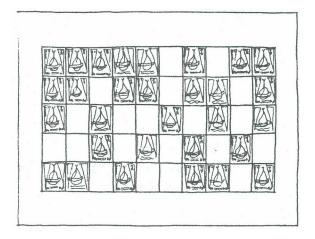
2. Stepping up process: Then in a sophisticated photographic machine, the individual stamp design is multiplied in the quantity required to be on each stamp sheet. The usual quantity for commemoratives is 50, and for definitives is 50, 100, 105 or 150. This is known as "stepping up" process.



Single stamp on plate.

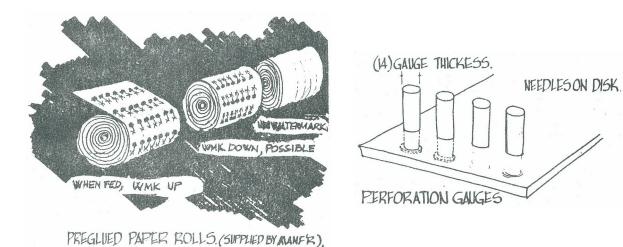






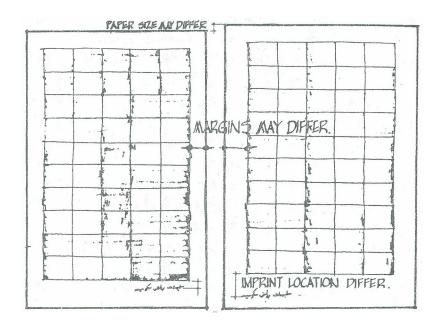
Stepping-up process.

- 3. Coloring process: in multicolor process, shades are derived from four basic colors; magenta (red), yellow, black and cyan (blue). After the quality control and proof reading, only two proofs, usually imperforate sheets, are generated for the approval of the stamp review committee of the postal authority. Once the final approval is given, then the actual printing starts.
- 4. Printing process: The pregummed and watermarked printing paper, usually obtained from foreign manufacturers, is kept ready. This paper comes in two types paper sheets, and in the form of a roll. The watermark varieties depend on the way this paper is fed in the printing machines. The paper sheets end up with watermarks left or right. For the paper roll, upright or downward watermarks result. However, since about March 1988, the watermarked type paper has been discontinued and replaced with plain unwatermarked white paper. It may be noted that the variety of unwatermarked paper differs for commemorative and definitive stamps. Whether the watermarked paper will reappear is anybody's guess.



The size of the stamp depends upon the required perforation. The perforation machine is set by the thickness of the needles which make the perforations, rather than the distance between the centers of the holes. The thickness of the needle is known as the "gauge". Therefore, when the postal authorities request perforation 14, the press uses #14 gauge which results in perforation 12 on the stamp sheets. Perhaps it is the difference in terminology.

There is no established criteria for the margin sizes of the sheets or the imprint location. Hence they could vary in sizes or locations, usually in the definitives. The machines, once set for commemoratives are not changed until completion of printing. Lately, a new adaptation of the imprint reading "Security Printing Press Riyadh" is used on every single commemorative stamp.

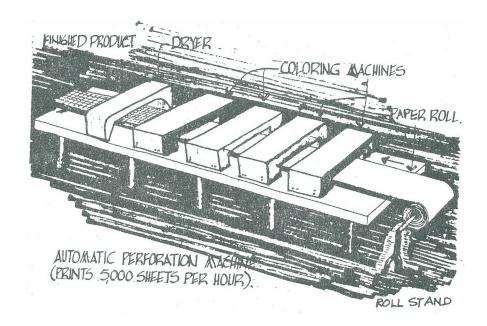


All the stamps are printed by litho process.

It is possible that stamps of different values could be printed simultaneously on different machines. However it is preferred to print one denomination after another.

The quantity of stamps depends on the criteria set by the Director General of Posts after evaluation of the demand. As of April 1988, the Kingdom printed 800,000 sets for each commemorative issue. With the introduction of franking machines in the early '80s and their increased usage because of convenience, the commemorative sets have been reduced lately to 500,000 sets only. The quantity of definitives however depends upon the demand, current useable denominations and previous unused stock. When the postal rates changed in February 1987, to utilize the large unused stock of 65 halala stamps (not an applicable value on its own), more 10h and 20h stamps had to be printed to make up the required postal rates of 75h and 150h.

After all the paper rolls or sheets are set and ready to start printing, the paper is fed through a multifunctional automatic machine. Initially, the paper goes through various coloring phases, one color after another, followed by the perforations performed by the needles set in a disk. Then it goes through the drying process, where the wet ink of the stamps is dried by the hot blown air, and finally cut into sheets (if it's a roll). About 5,000 sheets can be printed in an hour's time.



- 5. Quality control: A thorough search is performed for detecting any imperfections for destruction. Once found, the defective items are destroyed and witnessed. Nevertheless, occasionally a few items, such as imperforates, misperforations, color shifts, missing colors, etc. slip through, eventually into the hands of philatelists.
- 6. Problems: Storage is the main problem to maintain the required temperature, especially while dealing with the gum.

Distribution

The printed stamp sheets are sent to the GPO from where they are distributed. The commemorative stamps are dispatched to various cities of the kingdom at least two days in advance of the date of issue. Then, these sets are released simultaneously from all cities on the same date. The number of sets reserved for the various cities as of April 1988 are as follows:

Riyadh	150,000	Madina	50,000
Jeddah	150,000	Abha	50,000
Dammam	120,000	Jauf	25 , 000
Makkah	100,000	Ha ' il	25,000
Buraida	100,000	Jizan	25,000

The remaining 5,000 are reserved for the Saudi Arabian Philatelic Society, the Philatelic Bureau, FDCs and presentation.

From these large cities, the stamp sheets are dispatched to the neighboring smaller towns. The smaller post offices within a particular city are required to pick up their quantities when their stocks are exhausted. The sheets are supplied only to the larger post offices. A special counter caters to customers (usually large companies) whose requirements demand large amounts of stamps and usually the definitives are offered.

There seems to be no particular system of distribution for definitive stamps around the country. In large cities, either the post office staff come to pick up sheets from the GPO or they are supplied on a regular basis when the quantities in demand are known. Hence what may be available in one town may not be available in another. It is especially difficult when one is trying to collect all varieties such as different denominations, perforations, watermarks, etc. Furthermore, the definitives are usually decided upon the requirements and demand at the time. The definitive series continue until another is decided upon and these usually overlap. That is, two series could be issued or available simultaneously.

THE CALIPHATE POSTAGE DUES - HOW MANY?

By: F. C. Benedict

The three values of the large framed "Mustahiq" overprint postage due issue of 1923 were further overprinted with the Caliphate gold overprint. These are the 1/2q, 1q and 2q listed by Gibbons as D57-59. Scott finally acknowledged their existence in the 1990 catalogue by a footnote after L48 stating "This overprint is also known on Nos. LJ11-LJ13. Gibbons considers these quite rare with a catalogue value of £2500 each. Auction catalogues in recent years have stated that only one sheet of each value exists. These catalogues have splendid color photographs of the stamps which has permitted plating of the stamp and the postage due overprint. Based on the evidence these have provided, using stamp position and centering, perforation alignment and placement of the "Mustahiq" overprint, it is certain that there is more than one sheet of each value

Figure 1 shows the positions of the 1/2q stamps used in this study along with a brief description of the stamp and "mustahiq" overprint. Also shown are the plate settings of the postage due overprint. See RANDOM NOTES #40 for setting A and RANDOM NOTES #42 for settings B1 and B2. All the 1/2q are from the B settings. Position 15 is definitely setting B1 as this overprint position was removed in setting B2. It does not fit with position 21. Positions 19 and 20 are setting B2 as the lower frame lines of the "mustahiq" overprints from positions 13 and 14 visible on the upper perforations are horizontal, not slanted as they would be in setting B1. The stamp centering of position 19 is different from that of positions 20 and 21 indicating they are from different sheets. Positions 20 and 26 seem to fit together, but do not fit with the block of four. The high placement of the "mustahiq" overprint on position 35 indicates yet another sheet. Therefore, five sheets of the 1/2q are possible.

Figure 2 shows the positions of the 1q stamps used in this study. There are two position 24 stamps with different plate settings, A and B. Settings A and Cl have the same "mustahiq" overprint in position 24, but the photograph does not show the blotches normally associated with setting C. So without being able to see the ink on the stamp, it is presumed to be setting A. All of the other 1q stamps are setting B. Positions 7 and 31 could be from one sheet and positions 5 and 33 from another. The large shift of the "mustahiq" overprint on the block of four indicated it is from another sheet. So one sheet of setting A and three sheets of setting B are possible.

Figure 3 shows the positions of the 2q stamps available for the study. All of the "mustahiq" overprints are from setting A. There are two position 34 stamps so at least two sheets exist. Positions 13 and 15 are probably from the same sheet. Position 5 and the block of four could be from the same sheet. Position 34 could be from a third sheet as the "mustahiq" overprint is not low enough to be from the same sheet as positions 13 and 15. This position 34 also exists in setting C2, but the ink is the gray black of setting A.

The author would like to expand this study and requests that he be sent reproductions of other Caliphate postage dues in the collections of APA members. The address is: P.O. Box 905, Turlock CA 95381, USA.

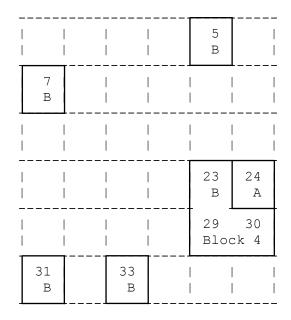
Stamp position ->
Plate setting ->

- 		' 	15 B1	 	' 	
	19 B2	20 B2		22		
 		26 B2	- Bloo 27	28		
 		 	 	 	35 B	

- Pos. 15 Feldman 11/87 lot 30447. Stamp centered. Opt left frame beyond stamp left frame and tablet low with perfs. into lower frameline. This is a rare position as cliche was removed when setting Bl was repaired and became B2. Stamp does not fit with pos 21.
- Pos. 19 Feldman 5/86 lot 50363 (Mayo lot 1792). Stamp centered high with perfs. into top frameline. Opt low and to right. Perfs. into tablet bottom frameline while right frameline off stamp. Stamp does not fit with pos 20 or 21/22. Opt bottom frameline of pos 13 show at top.
- Pos. 20 Feldman 11/88 lot 50481. Stamp centered low and to left. Opt centered low, just above perfs. Perfs at top have ink from opt pos 14. Bottom frameline of opt is over bottom frameline of stamp. Does not fit with pos 21.
- Pos. Feldman 11/89 lot 32291. Stamps centered low and to left. Perfs 21/22 touch left frameline of pos 21. Opt tablets centered with lower framelines higher than stamp lower frame lines.
- Pos. 26 Feldman 5/89 lot 20976. Stamp centered low. Opt tablet centered low with lower frameline below stamp frameline and touching perfs. Fits with pos 20. Does not fit with pos 27.
- Pos. 35 Filatco 3/90 lot 1137. Stamp centered. Opt centered with bottom frameline 1.2-1.5 mm higher than stamp frameline.

Figure 2 - CALIPHATE 1q POSTAGE DUE

Stamp position ->
Plate setting ->



- Pos. 5 Feldman 11/87 lot 30448. Stamp centered left and slightly low. Opt centered left with frameline left of stamp frameline.
- Pos. 7 Filatco 3/90 lot 1138. Stamp centered left and slightly low. Opt centered right with frameline right of stamp frame line.
- Pos. Feldman 12/89 lot 32292. Stamps centered. Opt low and shifted 23/24 to left with left frameline of right tablet over right frameline of left stamp. Bottom frameline of opt below stamp frameline.
- Pos. 24 Sotheby (Mayo) lot 1793. Stamp centered low and to right. Perfs are into bottom frameline and touch right frameline of stamp. Bottom frameline of pos 18 is below perfs at top. Opt is centered high and is from setting A.
- Pos. 31 Feldman 5/89 lot 20977. Stamp centered to left. Opt centered.
- Pos. 33 Feldman 12/88 lot 50482. Stamp centered low. Opt centered high.

Figure 3 - CALIPHATE 2q POSTAGE DUE

Stamp position ->
Plate setting ->

		 		 	5 A	
	13 A		15 A		 	
		 	27 Bloo			
		 	33 A	34 A		

- Pos. 5 Feldman 11/87 lot 30449. Stamp centered high. Opt centered left with perfs touching frameline.
- Pos. 13 Feldman 12/88 lot 50483. Stamp centered high with perfs into top frameline. Opt centered low and left with bottom frameline of tablet below stamp frameline and right frameline of tablet right of stamp frameline.
- Pos. 15 Feldman 5/89 lot 20978. Stamp centered high with perfs partly into top frameline. Opt centered low with bottom frame of tablet just above stamp bottom frameline. Probably from same sheet as pos 13.
- Pos. Feldman 12/89 lot 32293. Stamps in pos 27/28 centered high 27/28 with perfs just above top frameline. Pos 33/34 centered. Opts on pos 27/28 centered slightly left while opts on 33/34 centered right. This alignment agrees with setting A.
- Pos. 34 Filatco 3/90 lot 1139. Stamp centered left and high with perfs at edge of top frameline. Opt centered right with perfs almost touching tablet right frameline.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id

January 9, 1990: A set of two stamps, 50h and 75h, was issued to mark the International Year of Illiteracy Eradication. The design shows the emblem of the Year and the first two letters of the Arabic alphabet, "alif" and "baa". Printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5) on thin white unwatermarked paper with shiny gum. Perforated 12. Quantity: 500,000 sets.





January 17 - February 6, 1990: A series of definitive stamps showing Saudi flowers was issued, the 150h on January 17 and the 50h and 75h on February 6. There are 21 stamps of each denomination, showing different flowers, printed se-tenant in a pane of 21 (7×3) . The sheet consists of four panes separated by gutters horizontally and vertically. The vertical gutter consists of post code labels. Perforated 12.

Only the 150h stamps are illustrated because of lack of space. The 50h and 75h have the same designs as the 150h.



February 7, 1990: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of Islamic Conference. The design shows the emblem of the organization. Printed in sheets of 50 plus four post code labels (6 \times 9) on thin white unwatermarked paper with shiny gum. Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.





February 13, 1990: The Prophet's Mosque souvenir sheet originally issued on December 30 in imperforate form, was re-issued perforated 13-3/4. Printed in sheets of 9 (3 x 3). Quantity: 20,000 souvenir sheets.



April 7, 1990: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued for World Health Day. The design shows the WHO emblem and a view of the Earth from space. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and two post code labels (4×13) . Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.





April 1990: A 75h stamp in the Saudi Cities definitive series was issued. The design shows the Shobra Palace in Ta'if. Printed in sheets of $52 (4 \times 13)$. Perforated 12.



April 14, 1990: A set of 4 stamps, 50h, 75h, 100h and 150h, was issued to mark the 25th anniversary of the Equestrian Club. The designs show the heads of different horses. The same four designs also appeared in a se-tenant block of four 50h stamps. The normal stamps were printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). The se-tenant stamps were printed in a sheet of 10 blocks of four (2×5) . Perforated 12. Quantities: 400,000 sets and 100,000 50h se-tenant blocks of four. First day cover date is April 15.



June 28, 1990: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the pilgrimage (Hajj) 1410. The design shows the mosque at Meeqat Al-Johfah in Rabegh. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and two post code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets. First day cover date is July 1, the first day of the 'Id Al-Fitr.



All stamps were printed on medium white unwatermarked paper with invisible gum by the Government Security Press, Riyadh, unless otherwise noted.

PRICES REALISED APA AUCTION No. 20 - March 23, 1990

2 90							NO. 20) – Ma		3, 19				
1 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	Lot	SR	Lot	SR	Lot	SR	Lot	SR	Lot	SR	Lot	SR	Lot	SR
1 10 10 10 10 10 10 10			86	220	163	90	253	115	359	4.0	464	80	556	220
1 130	HEJ.	AZ												
2 90	1	150												42
S				180										170
Second Color	3	70	91	50	168	105	258	350	363	66	468	60	563	30
To Section	5	110	92	190	169	40	259	100	364	38	469	145	564	30
B	6	30	93	750	170	42	261	80	369	750	470	54	565	54
9 30 96 52 174 40 265 38 377 325 473 270 568 486 10 42 97 30 175 80 266 50 378 325 474 140 569 30 111 2800 99 52 176 30 268 34 379 40 475 75 570 571 30 13 4800 100 50 179 40 270 34 381 115 477 325 572 373 36 46 101 425 180 105 272 130 382 270 478 105 573 34 46 16 16 16 16 16 16 1	7	30	94	70	172	140	263	60	370	100	471	52	566	270
10	8	85	95	90		80		85		75		52		30
11														48
12 4500 99 100 177 125 269 30 380 100 476 500 571 375 375 375 381 345 381 315 382 270 478 105 573 375 375 381														
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23 900														50
24 62														32
26	24	62		30	190		290				489	80		30
277 52		95		120	191		292	375	393	80	490	75	586	100
29	26	64	113	40	193	70	293	850	394	75	491	75	588	115
30	27		114		195	750	4		395	52		44		30
30					Н &	N								160
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