



جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

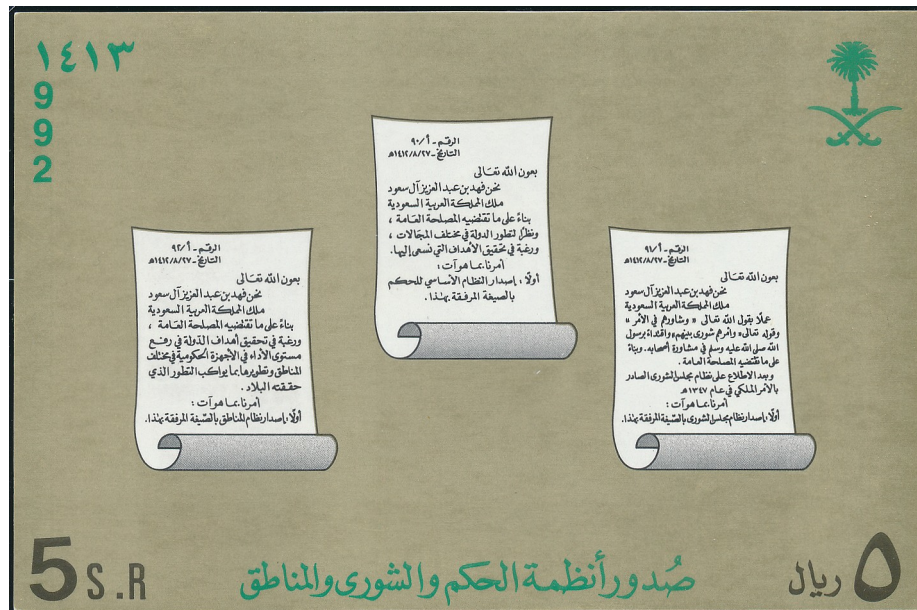
Arabian Philatelic Association
Random Notes

DECEMBER 1993

NUMBER 53

CONTENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE A.P.A.	2
RANDOM NOTES FROM DHAHRAN - R. J. Thoden	3
RANDOM NOTES FROM LONDON - D. A. Graham	8
POSTAL HISTORY OF SAUDI ARABIA AS REVEALED ON THE PAGES OF UMM AL-QURA NEWSPAPER - Dr. S. S. Amr	14
POSTAL RATES OF THE HEJAZ AND NAJD 1926-1933	21
NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA - A. A. Sa'id	24
FREE ADLETS	28
A.P.A. AUCTION NO 23 - W.A. King	29



Souvenir sheet commemorating the Systems of Government of Saudi Arabia (see page 24)

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 SR25 for Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries and US \$11 for all other countries. A discount of SR 10 or US \$3 is allowed for renewals paid before March 1, and for new members and subscribers. The one-time initiation fee for new members and subscribers is SR 27 or US \$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.

R. R. Barracano, President	M. A. Al-Kharouf, Vice president
W. A. King, Treasurer	W. A. King, Membership Secretary
D. W. Webb, Corresponding Secretary	
W. A. King, Auctioneer	D. E. Jessich, Annual Show Chairman

A.P.A. meetings are held the second Saturday of each Gregorian month at 7 P.M. in Saudi 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:

D. A. Jessich - 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 up to four times a year, provided sufficient contributions have been received. The editor is Mr. R. J. Thoden, ARAMCO Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

Articles on all aspects of Saudi Arabian philately are urgently needed for publication in *Random Notes*, and should be submitted to the editor. The right to edit or reject all submissions is reserved.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this publication are those of the authors and should not be considered to be those of the A.P.A. or the editor.

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

Scott's (1994) and Gibbons' (1990) catalog numbers are used with the kind permission of the copyright owners.

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

Haworth, W.B. & Sargent, H.L. - *The Postal Issues of the Hejaz* (1922).
Warin, D.F. - *The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah and Nejd* (1927).
Mayo, M.M. - *Barid Al Sa'udiyah wa Al Hejaz wa Najd* (1973).
Donaldson, N. - *The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf* (1975).
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. NEW WATERMARK DISCOVERIES. Subscriber Bob Laycock has discovered a copy of the redrawn 4 qirsh Holy Ka'aba (Scott #523b, SG #1005) in the "Tourist" series with down (inverted) watermark. When he checked his source, two more copies were found. This is quite remarkable, considering that it has been about 20 years since the stamp was issued.

"Tourist" issue stamps normally come with the watermark sideways (left or right). Only two other stamps of this issue with up or down watermark are known. The 3 qirsh Expansion (Scott #505, SG #867) comes with both up and down watermark and is scarce. The 1 qirsh Prophet's Mosque (Scott #489, SG #839) also exists with up and down watermark, but is rare. Only one used copy of each is known to the editor.

Does anyone know of any other "Tourist" issues with up or down watermark?

Willie King reports finding a copy of the 10q official (Scott O57, SG O1049) with watermark sideways. Stamps of this set with watermark type Scott 361 (SG type 95) normally come with the watermark up or down. I had found several copies of this variety during the last 5 years or so, but have not reported it in the RN up till now. (Note that stamps of this set with Scott type 337 (SG type 70) watermark always have the watermark sideways, as far as we know).

Does anyone know of other values of this official set with the watermark sideways?

2. SCOTT'S 1993 SAUDI ARABIA LISTINGS. Once again, there were few changes. I could find no changes in the Hijaz listings. The 1934 Heir Apparent set took a big price cut, from \$2194 to \$1651. The listing of the "Tourist" Expansion design (#503-511) was improved by separating it into 2 sets based on watermark. The same thing should have been done to the Prophet's Mosque set (#489-499) but wasn't. The small "Khafji Oil Rig" design (#885-892) was separated into 3 sets, based on perforation. The same thing should have been done to the small Holy Ka'aba set (#872-882), but wasn't. The Saudi Cities listing (#900-911A) could also be improved by separating the 3 different designs. The perforation of The Dome of the Rock stamp (#866) was finally corrected.

3. SCOTT'S 1994 LISTINGS. I eagerly awaited the 1994 listings to see if the change in their editorial staff might have resulted in the inclusion of some of the listing improvements we have been recommending to them for years. Once again, I was disappointed. There were many minor changes, especially in footnotes, but the changes needed to improve completeness and consistency were again lacking. Once again, maybe next year!

There were quite a few price changes in the Hijaz listings, mostly for the more expensive stamps. Most of the changes were down: #L61 from \$3500 to \$2500, #L67 from \$4000 to \$2750, #L69 from \$3000 to \$2000, #L123a from \$400 to \$250, #L125a, L127a and L128a from \$325 to \$250 each, #L135a-L141a from \$165 to \$100 each, #LJ22 from \$600 to \$475 and #LJ22a from \$700 to \$325. In most cases, the decreases seem justified; these stamps just were

not selling anywhere near the 1993 Scott prices. A few noted increases were: #L73a from \$1400 to \$1500, #L78 from \$125 to \$225 and #L81 from \$800 to \$1000.

Most Saudi commemoratives, and a few regulars, airmails, dues and officials, from 1945 to 1982 were reduced in price, generally by 10%-25%. There were only a very few increases: #500 (3 qirsh Makkah Mosque) in used condition was doubled from \$50 to \$100, #O54 (7 qirsh last official) jumped from \$90 to \$200 and #RA9 (TV contest tax stamp) went from \$125 to \$140.

Useful footnotes referring the reader to other stamps of the same design were added throughout, but these are somewhat confusing because only the first stamp in a set is referenced.

Footnotes state that prices for used stamps of certain Hijaz issues are for "favors" cancelled "Mecca" or "1916". This appears to refer to what the A.P.A. has been calling "dealer cancels".

The pin-perf. 6 varieties of #168 (5 qirsh *Tughra*) and #C3 (4 qirsh airmail) are now mentioned in footnotes. It would have been better if they had been given minor number listings.

A footnote was added after the trans-Saudi Arabia highway set (#484-488) stating that "some copies have the cities inserted by hand". It should have said that a few positions in the sheet had the dots for Dammam and Riyadh missing, and that most, but not all, such copies had the dots inserted by hand (by ball-point pen).

The 6 qirsh Prophet's Mosque stamp imperforate, shown in RN #51, is mentioned in a footnote. It should have been given a listing as a minor number. Finally, Scott has correctly listed the "Tourist" Holy *Ka'aba* stamps (#523-526 and varieties).

The 150h. Jeddah stamp (#911A) is no longer listed as watermarked. The small *Ka'aba* 65h. and 1R. on unwatermarked paper (perf. 12) are still unlisted, as is the 50h Ta'if unwatermarked.

The 12 and 23 qirsh values (#O58A and O59B) of the final official set have had wmk. 337 varieties added as "a" numbers. As far as I know, these exist only with wmk. 337, and the original listings showing wmk. 361 are erroneous. Or, has anyone seen these with wmk 361?

A footnote has been added after the newspaper stamp listings indicating the questionable "status" of these stamps.

4. MISSING COLORS. FILATCO's recent mail sale included a copy of the 1971 World Telecommunications Day 10 qirsh (Scott #623, SG #1051) with missing background (lilac) color. While we cannot comment on the copy offered, Willie King reports that he was able to remove the lilac from a copy quite easily by chemical means. Extreme caution is required in buying modern missing (and changed) color varieties.

5. A.P.A. MEMBERSHIP. The A.P.A. had 310 members and subscribers as of December 31, 1992, a decline of 10 from the 320 in 1991. This is the second consecutive small decline, after several years of small increases. A breakdown by country of residence follows:

Saudi Arabia	167	Bahrain	3
U.S.A.	84	Pakistan	3
U.K.	25	Canada	3
Netherlands	10		

Two each: Germany, Norway, Qatar, U.A.E.

One each: Belgium, Cyprus, Indonesia, Jordan, Oman, Syria, Turkey.

Membership in Saudi Arabia is up, that in the U.S.A, and U.K. down.

6. FAKE EGYPTIAN COVERS. Tarik Alireza has shown me photostats of some "too good to be true" covers, purporting to be from Cairo or Jeddah. There are several variations: from Cairo to Jeddah and from Jeddah to Cairo, Italy or France. The covers are stampless, or they bear first issue Egyptian stamps. An example is shown below. These are embellished with all sorts of markings in addition to the Cairo and Gedda "postmarks", including pyramid and 2 kinds of ship pictorial markings, "Posta Europea", "R65", "66", "A", "E" and circular "Direzione Generale". The covers sometimes even come with "contents". Beware!



7. FORGERIES AT AUCTION. An A.P.A. subscriber recently purchased a copy of the rare ¼q. rouletted 20 stamp with unframed overprint (Scott #L16c, SG #19) at Harmer's of New York auction in March. The stamp proved to be an A.P.A. type 3 forgery. The subscriber was given an A.P.A. letter to this effect to try to help him get a refund. We once again caution all members that they include as a condition of their bids on expensive Hijaz overprints/surcharges that the stamps be examined by the A.P.A.. The fact that the stamp is offered by a well-known and "reputable" auction house is not enough to prevent bad purchases, as has been shown time and again! See David Graham's article in this issue of RN.

8. FRAMA STAMPS. On October 30, 1990, the Directorate of Posts in Riyadh tested a machine which produces FRAMA labels. The machine was supplied by Houshan Company of Riyadh.

FRAMA labels have been used in many countries. The postal customer inserts his money, presses some buttons to indicate the denomination he wants, and the machine prints the label. For example, if the customer inserted a 100 halalah coin, and wanted a 75 halalah label, he would get the 75h label, plus one for 25h.

The Director of Posts, his assistant and others were present. About 6 labels of 10 halalah each were produced during the test. They are printed in red with a simulated perforated border. K.S.A. and the postal emblem appeared at the top, "POSTAGE" and the value in the center, and "F.P. 0001" at the bottom.

Apparently, the postal officials did not approve the use of FRAMA labels. Thanks to A. A. Sa'id for this information.



9. APEX-22. The A.P.A.'s annual show was held on November 17, 1993 in Dhahran. The following exhibits won awards:

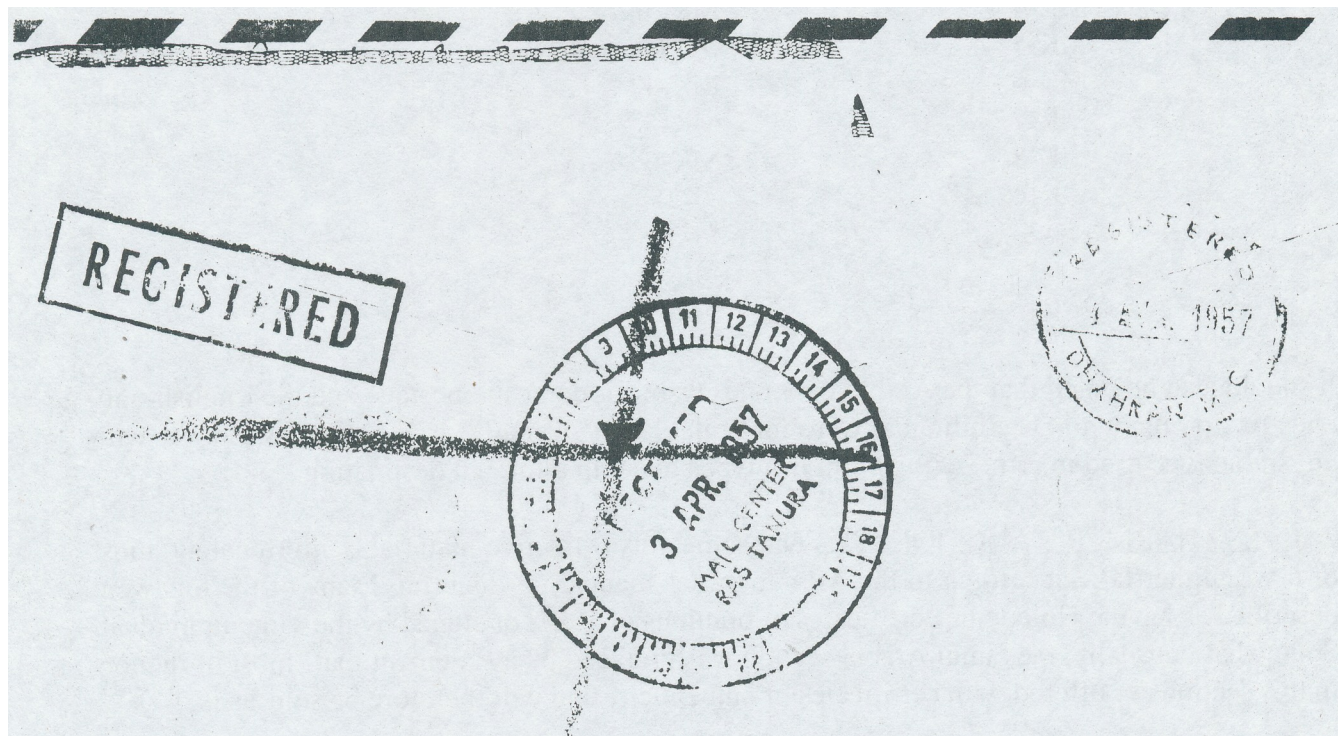
Best in show	Dr. S. S. Amr	Postal History of Jerusalem (1876-1948)
Gold	Launce Shearlaw	Saudi Official Stamps
	Ramy Yaghmour	Dome of the Rock
Silver	Masoud al-Kharouf	Early "Visits" issues of Saudi Arabia
	Salaam & Salim al-Shakar	Bahrain Postal History (1898-1990)

Non-competitive exhibits were entered by W. A. King (Sudan) and R. R. Barracano (Siege of Paris Balloon Posts).

Congratulations and thanks to the exhibitors!

10. DAVID A. GRAHAM. It is with deep regret that I report the death of longtime A.P.A. subscriber David A. Graham in London on December 26, 1993. David was a recognized authority and expertizer of Saudi stamps. He was always eager to share his knowledge and was a frequent contributor to *Random Notes*. His final contributions appear in this issue. He will be greatly missed .

11. ARAMCO POSTAL HISTORY. In *Random Notes* #52, I reported and illustrated the markings used on registered mail by the Aramco mail centers at Dhahran and Abqaiq in the mid-1950s. I have now come across a 1957 registered cover from the other Aramco mail center, Ras Tanura to England. It bears a large red violet receiving timestamp together with REGISTERED in a rectangle. It also has the Dhahran M.C. mark and a Saudi postmark.



RANDOM NOTES FROM LONDON

By: David A. Graham

1. FEE PAID HANDSTAMPS. *Random Notes* #39 and #41 contained articles on the "FEE PAID" handstamps. No additional types have been discovered since these articles were written. According to Mr. Tarik Alireza's latest research, some of the type numbers originally assigned by the *Random Notes* editor should be changed as follows:

<u>Type per RN#39</u>	<u>Revised Type</u>
MK-1	MK-2
MK-2	MK-1
MK-3	J-1
MK-4	MK-3
MK-5	J-4
MK-6	MK-4
MK-7	MK-5
MK-8	MK-6
J-1	J-2
J-2	J-3
J-3	J-5
J-4	J-6

It should also be noted that the Arabic-only ones were for domestic postage and the English-only ones for foreign mail. The bilingual were for both classes of mail. Mr. Alireza has a cover with an Arabic type used in error, with an English type added, to a foreign destination.

2. 19/1/93 HARMER'S AUCTION: This had some very attractive material. Unfortunately, most of it was either fake according to the APA forgeries manual, or doubtful. Many of the lots were described as having Holcombe certificates or opinions of 1991, or signed by the same individual. Somewhat unusually, the Saudi Arabia section was prefaced by a statement that "most of the lots in this section are offered with certificates of authenticity and will therefore be sold 'as is'".

I examined most of the lots on the day before the auction, and Tarik Alireza joined me in this task. I took a further close look on the morning of the sale, with some further reference material to hand. The bidding, or lack of it, suggested that potential buyers were well aware of the dangers facing unwary purchasers. Most items were knocked down at the starting price, around 85% of estimate, which suggests they went unsold. Details follow, with hammer price and estimates:

Lot #471. SG 23 var d+a (catalogue had it as "da", which is a listed variety, whereas this is unrecorded). Genuine pos. 11 opt. double, both with year missing at right, with small part unidentifiable CDS. On examination, it showed no traces of ink where the years should have been, nor any sign of an impression, as in "albino" overprints. Sold for £480, having started at £420 (Est. £500).

Lot #472. Imperf. top left corner pair of 1 qirsh "Arms" with double impresston and 1923 postage due overprints. With Holcombe certificate stating "...from printer's waste sheets...". The very dark appearance of the stamps made the black overprints harder than usual to check. However, I was satisfied that they did not match positions 1 and 2 of Plate A setting, nor did they have any visible ink between the framelines, so I concluded that they were probably fakes of the type that I call "add-ons". One of these was described in RN #52, and I hope to note a couple of others later. I find them most vexing as, in the case of the lot just described, the basic stamps, though perhaps not worth an arm or a leg, would certainly be worth a fingertip without the dubious overprints! £170 (£200).

Lot #473. A rejoined pair of the 1923 $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh on $\frac{1}{8}$ qirsh, with the left stamp having the surcharge inverted. Holcombe opinion, with them listed as positions 8 and 9. The basic stamps and the normal (pos. 9) surcharge were indeed those, but the inverted surcharge didn't correspond to pos. 8 with the cliché inverted nor to pos. 29, as it should if from a sheet of stamps put in the press upside-down. The latter would, in any case, show that the stamps were not a natural pair, but contrived. So I again decided that the item was a genuine ordinary stamp with an added forgery. See also lot #490, which raised similar doubts. £130 (£150).

Lot #474. Black-only Caliphate overprints on "Arms" $\frac{1}{8}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 qirsh. These do exist genuine, mainly it seems, from the stock of the late M.A. Abduh, Director of the Government Press in Makkah, and moonlighting stamp dealer. The overprints on the two higher values were quite different from that on the $\frac{1}{8}$ q which looked, like many of the fakes, rather too good to be true. Genuine black overprints ought, for various reasons, to look neater than the regular gold ones, but this one set the alarm bells ringing. £180 (£200).

Lot #475. Black inverted Caliphate overprints on a pair of 1 qirsh - a variety so far unrecorded. These looked genuine, corresponding to correct plate positions, but on re-examination I wasn't happy with the inking, and felt that the gold might have been cleverly removed from a rare normal pair. £180 (£200).

Lot #476. A good-looking single of the preceding type, with part CDS. Both Tarik and I saw faint traces of gold on the overprint. £130 (£150).

Lot #477. An extraordinary item - the basic $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh has the pos. 34 variety of missing value at lower left, also a double perf. at right. Then it had a partial black Caliphate overprint, vertical and reading down at top, with about 5mm. of it missing, as though covered by another sheet when overprinted. It also had part of the word *tidhkar* on the back. We felt this was quite weird enough to be a genuine product of the Makkah Press! Sold at £230 (£250).

Lot #478. Another oddity, with the $1\frac{1}{2}$ qirsh again having a double perf., and an apparent value of 1-1/20 at top right. Black overprint normal, but with *tidhkar* missing. £200 (£200).

Lot #479. Black Caliphate overprint badly misplaced to right on strip of three 2 qirsh overprints. Positions 33-36, as far as I could determine. Sold for £440 (£500).

Lot #480. Block of 4 "Arms" 5 qirsh with inverted Caliphate overprints. Signed Holcombe. Clearly A.P.A. type 1 fakes. £340 (£400).

Lot #481. Good-looking SG 85b, with "ela" cachet and Holcombe certificate. I didn't have time to plate the two-line overprint. £600 (£750).

Lot #482. Good-looking two-line overprint reading down on "Arms" 10 qirsh, but with partial "ghost" impression as well, which I have seen on other clever forgeries. With Holcombe certificate with overprint not plated, which I regard as essential, and was unable to do in this case. It also had a partly double "ela" cachet of the known fake type. It had no offset on the back, which I have noted on all genuine stamps of this type that I have seen in recent years. An extremely rare stamp when genuine. £340 (£400).

Lot #483. SG D88a and 89, the former in rather poor condition, and the latter just fine. Both overprints had clear variations to facilitate plating. I couldn't find them on any of the positions on the sheet I took along, nor did they have the Angeloglou cachets one would hope to find on such rarities. Signed, but not plated, by Holcombe, which didn't help me. £120 (£150).

Lot #484. Another SG D89, but with Holcombe certificate. Bad "ela" and overprint as in previous lot. £290 (£340).

Lot #485, Postage due 2 qirsh, rather misleadingly described as "overprinted in red and blue with strong red offset on reverse...", which led me to expect a double overprint. The blue overprint, alone on front, again looked good, but didn't seem to plate, and I couldn't be sure of the red offset. £420 (£500).

Lot #486. SG D93, signed and rechecked by myself, seemed a steal for a tough stamp cat. £750. £130 (£120).

Lot #487. SG 143, although described as with small, instead of large three-line overprint, was the normal stamp. £42 (£50).

Lot #488. Wrongly described as "1pi on 1pi on 2pi... surcharge double...", it had a fake 10 qirsh handstamp in smudgy violet, as well as a fake 1 qirsh handstamp and forged surcharge. A certified triple forgery is unusual, even from this "expert"! £170 (£250).

Lot #489. Another certified treble forgery, this time of the 10 qirsh on 10 qirsh on 5 qirsh, with fake double handstamp, again in smudgy bright violet. The genuine violet type is often hard to distinguish from the black one. £220 (£250).

Lot #490. We both looked long and hard and suspiciously at this oddity - a pair of "illegible" postage due 2 qirsh with overprints at bottom and handstamps at top, these in violet, though not noted in the description, confirming my note above. To these had been rejoined, not too skillfully as can be seen in the catalogue illustration, another 2 qirsh with the overprint double, one inverted, and no handstamp. We found that the stamps plated as pos. 22-24 with overprints and handstamps genuine. Because of the small to large variations in printing of the basic stamps,

the erratic perforations, as well as the irregular alignment of the overprints, we believe it is highly improbable that the rejoined stamp is from a different sheet. So we reckon this to be a masterpiece of variation from the overprinters, who by now had plenty of practice in producing philatelic material, evidently highly profitable. The Holcombe certificate is quoted as stating "... I can give no logical explanation for this variety unless it was a severed sheet which was overprinted separately and was later put together...". This also seems very unlikely, if only because if that were the case, Angeloglou or Abduh would surely have signed it. What I feel to be likely is that either (1) the sheet was misplaced when given the second overprint, with handstamp omitted to gild the lily, or (2) it was correctly placed, but the cliches for the other two positions were missing, probably on purpose. Despite the quotation above, the difficulty of explaining such an item does not seem to have bothered Mr. Holcombe when certifying the lot. £550 (£500).

Lots #191-494. All blocks of four of the Najdi 1½ qirsh handstamp on "Arms" ½q, with varieties. The Holcombe opinion for lot 491, with both handstamp and surcharge inverted, is quoted as stating "...the overprint is of unknown status (unknown to date used)". As far as I am concerned, it is also of unknown authenticity, quite apart from any problem with date of use or production. The four lots were knocked down for about 85% of estimates.

Lots 495-499. Five different King Ali values with *Al Sa'udiyah* handstamps (wrongly described as overprints) and Holcombe certificates. All were of the fake listed as type 5 in my study in RN #43 of 1988. Three were noted as having "ela" signatures, which we didn't bother to check since, if genuine, they would have been for the ordinary overprinted stamps. Apart from that, hardly any of these stamps with the Madinah postmaster's handstamp have been recorded unused, so those without part of the octagonal "MEDINE" cancel are always suspect. All five went for about 85% of estimates.

The last four lots were modern, with no forgery problems. A pretty 1939 cover from the Italian Legation realized £230 (£250). The extremely rare SG 778, unpriced mint, brought £320 (£180). This was a bargain, even with poor centering, as I believe that it is about as scarce as the familiar 5 qirsh airmails, and Scott's \$1250 mint is too low.

3. SCOTT'S 1993 CATALOGUE. While mentioning Scott, the only changes I noted for 1993, apart from new issues, are in the pricing of the 1934 Heir Apparent set, down from \$2194 to \$1651. In my view, a lot of the earlier issues are now a bit overvalued, especially the commoner Hijazi overprints and Najdi handstamps. However, the same stamps, apart from a few "work-horse" values, with postal cancels rather than favor or dud ones, are even harder to find than the ever popular MNH. I'd say the same about most commemoratives to about 1980. Apart from collectors' tastes, which largely determine price, stamps up to then were mainly used on flimsy airmail envelopes and often got messy cancels in runny violet ink. So, while it's easy enough to put together a complete collection of mint commemoratives, it might take years to get the same stamps used in VF condition, even though catalogued at perhaps 10% or less of mint.

4. NOVEMBER 1-7, 1993 DAVID FELDMAN AUCTION. I was able to inspect a few of the more unusual lots in this auction, and have made some interesting discoveries. Hammer prices given first, with estimate in brackets.

Lot #31649. SG 17 horizontal marginal pair - 1 qirsh perf. 10 with unframed overprint. It plated pos. 31-32. This, like some other goodies, had the usual rather tired appearance of material from the old-time hoard of Government Printer Mohammad All Abduh, with some adhesions of brownish glassine interleaving. There seems to have been only one sheet, though few have yet come on the market, with catalogue value £3000. SF1100 (SF2000).

Lot #31650. SG 17a horizontal pair - like the above, but with overprints inverted, and unpriced by SG. Apparently from the same source, with adhesions. I spent about four hours, in three sessions over two days, on the plating, which came out as pos. 26 and 17. Hence my disbelief and constant rechecking, against three complete sheets with different states of wear. I concluded that there must have been a rearrangement of the cliches perhaps after cleaning or replacement of fallen-out year dates. John Wilson, in his 1982 work *The Hijaz - A History in Stamps*, listed two basic plates, A and B, in which the cliches were replaced in two positions, and exchanged in two others, but not as in this case. He also suggested that the basic plate setting was a later version, while I'm inclined to believe that the substitutions were done, at least in this case, after the main printing. The basic perf. 10 stamps were scarce and quite valuable after late 1917, and these were probably part of Abduh's personal stock, specially overprinted as a philatelic enterprise. The same may well be true of the rare roulette 20 stamps with unframed overprints.

The alignment of the overprints, particularly the distance between them, suggests that pos. 26 replaced pos. 16 in this setting. I'd be most interested to hear if anyone else has ever come across any examples of altered settings, other than those listed by Wilson, particularly if their condition might indicate whether they were from early or late states of the plate. The problem is that the basic stamps are almost impossible to plate, apart from a very few in the sheet with recorded flaws. For some reason, the meticulous fly-specker and haphazard researcher D.F. Warin chose to publish plate flaw details of the almost worthless 1 para value, while virtually ignoring observable details of the three values ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 qirsh) of the Survey of Egypt's designs that had the most postal usage. So only people with multiples, or perhaps marginal singles, of these extremely rare stamps might be able to turn up other examples of changed settings. There could also be one or two on the roulette 20 varieties. This pair sold for SF1100 (SF2000).

Lot 31655. SG 23 variety, gold unframed overprint, pos. 15. Described as "over black overprint", but it seems to be a light or watery grey or even bluish black. SF1300 (SF2000).

Lot 31658. SG 23 variety (listed confusingly as " $\frac{1}{2}$ pi green" and as a variety of SG 24. It is, as above, the $\frac{1}{4}$ qirsh gold variety, but pos. 24). The sale catalogue notes that "The status of this overprint is unknown, however it is believed to have come from a relative of the postmaster at the time the stamp was issued". As noted previously, the source seems to have been the Government Printer, who may of course have been related to one of the postal officials. It has been suggested that the gold overprints may have been made for King Hussain, or for presentation. The very few stamps of different values known so far are from the above-mentioned source. Anyway, a bargain at SF480 (SF500).

Lot 31661. SG 25 variety, gold overprint on 1 qirsh. This one, pos. 4, is interesting because it is a pure gold overprint, and not as listed on the black "underprint" of the two ¼ qirsh values. SF700 (SF1000).

Lot 31663. SG 25a, block of 6, described as "Date omitted at right on two stamps, partly missing on other four". The years varied from a faint impression to just detectable. One of the overprints has a visible "1" at right that didn't correspond to the proper type in that position, and was probably an offset from another sheet in contact with it while still wet. I have seen some varieties with very light impressions of the "1334" offered for sale as with missing year, so buyers should be careful. It appears that when the plate was cleaned or repaired, the year slugs were re-inserted too deeply into the frame or matrix, and so picked up little or no ink. Other examples of what Americans refer to as "error, freaks and oddities" (EFOs) quite commonly found on these overprinted stamps are partly double impressions, especially of "1334", which seemingly came from offsets of other sheets. All such items are eminently collectable, especially the more spectacular ones, even if they do not qualify as true varieties. SF220 (SF300).

Lot 31667. SG D32 variety, gold overprint on 1 qirsh postage due, pos. 6 (horizontally). Again with no visible "underprint". SF1400 (SF2000). My use of the word "underprint" refers, of course, to the preliminary overprint on which gold dust was sprinkled, with the surplus carefully collected for future use. This process was notably used for the 1924 Caliphate issue. However, this same word is often used for overprints on the underside or back of a stamp, as was common on some Spanish and other issues, as a control measure.

Lot 31672. SG 31b, a block of 10 of the 1 para with framed overprint double. This showed a variety that I have only noticed once before, as it can only be detected on certain plate positions, namely pos. 4-5 and 9-10. These are from Plates A and B as listed by Wilson. The use of a new plate to add a second clear overprint to a clear original reinforces the view that these varieties were quite deliberate, rather than the results of mistakes by incompetent printers, as described by Warin. It is interesting to note that the Plate B overprints are only slightly misplaced, to top and left, while those of Plate A are badly off-centre in the opposite direction. It is hardly likely that the second overprints were meant as a correction, since a truly conscientious printer would scrap such errors, and not use them as a basis for creating philatelic varieties. With these overprints, I have noticed a further replaced cliché, in position 46, additional to those in Wilson's book. SF550 (SF600).

Lot 31681. SG 38c, marginal block of 4 of the 1 qirsh surcharge on 1 para, with both overprint and surcharge inverted. These surcharges, originally made on the unframed overprint stamps in very small quantities, seem to have been created to use up some of the vast surplus of 1 para stamps, for which no original postal use has yet been discovered. The enterprising printer was now able to produce some 15 marketable varieties from a combination of the overprint and surcharge, including a reversal of the words *qirsh* and *waahid*, and the inversion of certain letters. The surcharges are plateable, and also underwent the exchange or replacement of clichés in various positions. They were also forged; most have so far been found on stamps that also have fake unframed or framed overprints. SF380 (SF500).

POSTAL HISTORY OF SAUDI ARABIA AS REVEALED ON THE PAGES OF *UMM AL QURA* NEWSPAPER

By: Dr. Samir S. Amr

In a previous article I wrote for *Random Notes* on the medical themes on Saudi Arabian stamps, Mr. Rudy Thoden directed my attention to the postal tax stamps of 1934 and 1936. He stated that not much is known about why these stamps were issued except for a few sentences in the catalogs. It is stated that the 1934 issue was released for the benefit of the wounded in the Saudi-Yemeni war. The 1936 issue was said to be released for public health purposes according to Scott, and for the Makkah Hospital Fund according to Gibbons, although nothing to this effect appears on the stamp itself. The Arabic on the stamp includes the word *Isa'af* which literally means "medical aid". Mr. Thoden suggested that I investigate the matter further by reviewing the *Umm Al Qura* newspaper which was the major source of news in Saudi Arabia, and is considered now as the official government newspaper. Fortunately, we have the issues of *Umm Al Qura* on microfilm in the Technical Library of Saudi Aramco back to 1925!

I visited the library not knowing exactly what to find, and guided only by a few notes and dates given to me by Mr. Thoden. After obtaining the reel of film on which the issues of 1933-35 had been stored, and after a few unsuccessful attempts to place the film in the reader, I realized that the film should be placed the "wrong" way because this is an Arabic newspaper with the writing the other, way around, i.e. from right to left. When the pages started flashing, I realized that I had stumbled on a treasure of history; documenting an important period in the development of modern Saudi Arabia. King Abdul Aziz unified most of Arabia in the late 1920s, and in the early 1930s he had to solidify his rule, secure the borders with his neighbors, sign treaties with other Arab countries and establish various government bodies to run the affairs of a large country which had very little infrastructure in those early days. I went on reading for many hours, and I returned later for more reading to go through the 1936-37 issues.

I enjoyed reading the political news of those by-gone days, but we shall leave that to the historians. We shall concentrate on those items related to postal services. In addition, all published items related to specific stamp issues will be detailed including, of course, the aid postal tax stamps which prompted this work. I am going to divide the information collected under different headings, each dealing with one aspect of postal history of Saudi Arabia in its early formative years. Under each heading there will be a group of dated news items translated as honestly and accurately as possible from the original Arabic text.

THE HEIR-APPARENT ISSUE

May 19, 1933: Installation of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud, the oldest son of His Majesty the King as heir-apparent. Exchange of letters between King Abdul Aziz and his son Prince Sa'ud.

June 2, 1933: Postage stamps commemorating the installation of the heir-apparent. The Department of Postal Services decided to issue special commemorative stamps on the occasion of the installation of the heir-apparent. It will announce the date of their release after printing the stamps.



December 8, 1933: The heir-apparent stamps. The Ministry of finance announces to the public that it has produced postage stamps in commemoration of the installation of the heir-apparent and it has been decided to release these stamps for usage in the post offices for three months starting 15 *Ramadan* 1352 and ending 15 *Dhu al-Hijjah* 1352. Following are the details of these stamps:

<u>Value of Stamp</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Perforated</u>	<u>Non-perforated</u>
1 pound	"extra shiny"	✓	✓
½ pound	brown	✓	✓
¼ pound	maroon	✓	✓
30 piasters	dark violet	✓	✓
20 piasters	violet	✓	✓
10 piasters	orange	✓	✓
5 piasters	" <i>fakik</i> "	✓	✓
3½ piasters	dark blue	✓	✓
3 piasters	olive	✓	✓
1½ piasters	turquoise	✓	✓
½ piaster	red	✓	✓
¼ piaster	green	✓	✓

The plates from which these stamps were produced were destroyed.

December 29, 1933: The post offices all over the kingdom will start using and selling the commemorative stamps of the Heir-Apparent next Monday. The usage will be for three months as we stated in an earlier issue.

April 6, 1934: It has been decided to extend the usage of the Heir-Apparent stamps for another three months from 16 *Dhu al-Hijjah* 1352 to 15 *Rabi' al-Awwal* 1353.

NATIONAL MEDICAL AID (AL-ISA'AF) SOCIETY

April 6, 1934: It came to our attention that feeling of solidarity motivated some citizens of this country to establish a society for medical aid in support of the soldiers fighting on the frontiers. Sheikh Abdullah al-Fadal, the Vice-President of the *Shoura* Council opened the subscriptions to this society by donating 100 gold pounds. Sheikh Yousef Zeinel donated 200 gold pounds in the name of the Zeinel family. We will publish in the next issues the bylaws of the society and the names of the people who donated, with our thanks and gratitude to the citizens in charge of this charity.

April 13, 1934: National Medical Aid Society. Last week we announced that some citizens established an aid society to help the armies fighting on the frontiers (with Yemen). We add today that the people who thought of this project held several meetings and discussed setting up this society and decided to speed up its formulation. The following dignitaries attended these meetings: (29 names follow). They laid down the methods and steps needed for running the society and they sent their report on the internal law and system of the society to the government. It was approved by royal decree. A central permanent committee was established. His Royal Highness Prince Khalid, son of His Majesty the King, was asked to be honorary president of the society and he responded positively. The following dignitaries were elected:

President: Sheikh Mohammad al-Sheibi
Secretary: Sheikh Ahmad Ibrahim al-Ghazawi
Treasurer: Sheikh Mohammad Ashi
Members: Al-Sayyed Abdul-Wahhab, of the Holy *Haram*
Sheikh Abdul-Wahhab Attar
etc.



May 4, 1934: *Al Isa'af* stamps. A royal order was issued permitting the release of stamps valued at half Emiri piaster for the aid of the wounded and the war victims. The Department of Stamps and Zincograph started printing these stamps and it is expected that the printing will be done shortly.

May 11, 1934: *Al Isa'af* stamps. We published in the last issue that a royal decree was issued concerning the production of special stamps for national medical aid, and that these stamps were in the process of being printed. The Ministry of Finance notified us today that these stamps are already printed, and they will be in use starting next Tuesday, the start of *Safar* (May 15, 1934). Usage of these stamps will be according to what has been stated in the royal decree, namely: (A) on all letters sent by mail both local and international, (B) on all petitions, (C) on any transaction which requires stamps affixed to it according to the fiscal stamp law.

July 20, 1934: Medical Aid (*Al Isa'af*) Society. The readers are reminded that the National Medical Aid Society was established following the eruption of the last war in the Arabian Peninsula to take care of and treat the sick and the wounded. When the war was over and the Treaty of Ta'if was concluded, the mission of this society ended. However, this society and its likes have other duties outside the domain of aid during the war. These duties are just as important during peacetime. Accordingly, a royal decree was issued, based on the recommendations of the Department of Public Health, to allow the society to carry on its duties like similar societies in other countries. We wish the society all success.

August 9, 1934: By-laws of the Charitable Aid Society.

FIRST CHAPTER

The royal order was given approving the following by-laws:

- (1) The National Charitable Aid Society will be established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the patronage of His Majesty the King, and the presidency of His Royal Highness, representative of His Majesty the King.
- (2) This society is established for the following purposes:
 - A. To offer quickly medical aid to the victims of disasters, and to the wounded, the invalids, and those affected by disabilities or inabilities or weaknesses which might affect them outdoors or in the streets or anywhere, and transporting them after providing the necessary first aid treatment.
 - B. To offer help by all available means in the case of spread of epidemics, or massive disasters such as fires, etc. in collaboration with the Department of Health.
 - C. Support of all actions or groups which have pure humanitarian goals similar to those of this society.
- (3) The society will perform its duties in the name of humanity without any interference in political matters.
- (4) The society will provide all first aid free, and it is forbidden for any volunteer or official to take personal reward or gain from those aided, otherwise he shall be dismissed.
- (5) The society shall fulfill its duties by the following means:
 - A. Establishment of a general main center in the capital and peripheral centers in the Saudi Arabian country, as well as other aid centers distributed in various towns, and supplying them with the necessary equipment and manpower needed for quick first aid and transporting the wounded and sick.
 - B. Formation of permanent volunteer groups according to the bylaws of the society.
 - C. Formation of a medical group which will take care of first aid duties by rotation (on-call) in the centers assigned for this purpose.
 - D. Spreading and publicizing the work of the society by establishing clinics and hospitals.
 - E. Each peripheral center will be granted autonomy in running its own internal affairs, but should follow these bylaws concerning the principal goals, and formation. Each peripheral center can form its own branches in its assigned district run by an administrative committee. The general main center can determine the number of branches established in the peripheral centers.

SECOND CHAPTER RESOURCES OF THE SOCIETY

- (6) The resources of the society are as follows:
 - A. Subscription dues.
 - B. Gifts, donations or aids whatever the source might be.
 - C. Income from the parties which are held by the society to raise funds.

- D. Income from the stamps which will be made specifically in the name of this society under the control of the government, as well as any other revenues permitted by the government.
- E. Income from the cards which will be printed for this purpose, and distributed to charitable people whether they are citizens or pilgrims in the Hijaz.

THIRD CHAPTER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

- (7) The *Isa'af* Society is composed of two bodies: the Administrative Commission and the General Assembly. The latter is composed of volunteer members, participating members and honorary members. The Administrative Commission is elected from the membership of the society according to the designated by-laws.
- (8) The volunteers are those who are committed to respond to the calls of medical first aid voluntarily without any personal gain or monetary rewards, following the regulations and bylaws of the society. The volunteers shall be exempted from paying subscription dues.
- (9) The volunteer member should be of good moral character and in good health. The volunteer should attend the theoretical and practical classes which will be given at the society's headquarters for a full year, and obtain the certificate of qualification following that training with the medical reference textbook which will be designated by the society.
- (10) The participating members are those members who are committed and guaranteed to pay monthly subscription dues no less than one Saudi Riyal. The applications for participating members shall be submitted to the Administrative Commission to apply the by-laws concerning the applicant.
- (11) The honorary members are selected from those who offered a donation no less than five pounds to the society, or those who did exceptional work for the society. Their selection is made by the Administrative Commission with full knowledge of the General Assembly. Honorary members are exempted from paying dues unless they opted to be participating members as well.
- (12) Only the volunteers and the participating members have the right to vote in the meetings of the General Assembly on the condition that the volunteer had been serving the society for at least six months, and the participating members had paid all his dues 24 hours before holding the meeting of the General Assembly.
- (13) The volunteers and participating members who are salaried for their work in the society do not have the right to vote in the assembly.

FOURTH CHAPTER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- (14) The General Assembly shall be headed by the oldest member when it meets for the first time. Following that, it shall be headed by the President of the society or his designated deputy

once a year on invitation by the Administrative Commission, or on the request of at least 10 members of the General Assembly.

(15) The General Assembly shall elect an Administrative Commission from among its members at the beginning of each year to carry on its duties for the rest of the year.

(16) The General Assembly shall look into the following matters:

A. The annual financial account.

B. All the works performed by the Administrative Commission which had been entrusted to them by the General Assembly.

C. The suggestions offered to the society.

(17) The decisions of the General Assembly shall pass by a majority of those present, and this should be no less than two-thirds of the minimal attendance required for convening the assembly.

(18) The General Assembly can send an invitation to the members for an extraordinary meeting upon the request of the Administrative Commission or upon a request submitted by one-fifth of the members eligible for voting, on condition that the number of these members is no less than 20.

(19) The call for regular or extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly is made by personal invitation card, listing the agenda, to each member. The call for the meeting should be announced in two local newspapers at least five days in advance.

FIFTH CHAPTER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

(20) The Commission shall elect from its ranks a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, an accountant and a store custodian.

(21) All the Society's books and documents shall be placed under the custody of the secretary except for the books of income and expenditures which will be in duplicate, one copy kept with the treasurer, and the other with the president and vice-president, and should be verified and checked for its accuracy by the majority of the members of the Administrative Commission.

(22) All subscriptions and donations to the society should be registered in a special ledger.

(23) The society shall issue a report at the end of each year regarding all its activity during that year, and its income and expenditure.

(24) The Director of the Department of Public Health and the Chief of Public Security (Police) are considered members of the Administrative Commission.

(25) Any member who misses three consecutive meetings of the Administrative Commission without an acceptable excuse submitted to the President, shall be considered to have resigned,

and a decision in this regard will be made by the Commission. The backup member shall take his position.

(26) The General Assembly can elect an inspector to oversee the progress of the work of the Society and issue an annual report to the Assembly in this regard.

(27) The official name of the society shall be as follows: "The National Charitable First Aid Society in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia". This title shall appear on all stationary, documents and letters of the society.

(28) The flag of the society is composed of two colors: green and red.

(29) The society cannot be dissolved as long as it has at least 20 subscribing participating members, unless the government gives permission to do so.

END

October 2, 1936: A royal gesture. His Majesty the King gave his supreme wish to allocate one thousand Arabic Riyals from his personal account to the *Isa'af* (First Aid) Charitable Society. The society expressed its gratitude for His Majesty's kindness.



October 16, 1936: A decree. The government of His Majesty the King decided to print *Isa'af* (First Aid) stamps with a value of one-eighth ($\frac{1}{8}$) Saudi Qirsh. All the official government offices and the Department of Public Telegram and Postage have been notified of the necessity to use this stamp on all letters and official transactions.

(To be continued.)

POSTAL RATES OF THE HIJAZ AND NAJD 1926-1933

By: James I. Kearney

Official information on postal rate changes and the introduction of *Valeur Declaree* and airmail services during the Hijaz and Najd period has not come to light, thus this can only be determined by examination of existing covers. Fortunately, mail volumes seemed to increase with the fall of the Hashemites in 1925 and a fair number of covers survive today. Examination of these covers permits some tentative conclusions; however, assistance is required from readers of *Random Notes* to pinpoint the dates of rate changes and to prove my hypothesis that the rate changes precede slightly the issuance of certain stamps or sets.

In 1926, the basic rates for letter mail up to 20 grams were 1 qirsh for domestic and 3 qirsh for foreign destinations. These were a carryover from the Hijazi rates. Registration was an additional 1 qirsh for domestic mail and 3 qirsh for foreign mail. The general rule that the registration fee for foreign destinations was equal to the foreign postage rate held true for many years.

The first rate change was in late December 1926. The Third Hijaz & Najd issue (SG 284-291, Scott 98-105) listed in the catalogs as issued in January 1927 contained a 1½ qirsh value. This rate became the basic foreign rate. The earliest 1½ qirsh cover I have seen is cancelled December 19, 1926, with the 1½ qirsh stamp from the "January 1927" issue. The latest usage of the old 3 qirsh foreign rate I have seen is December ??, 1926 used from Makkah. There was probably a corresponding reduction to ½ qirsh for domestic mail at this time.

One interesting cover from this period is a large registered cover to England with a total of 6 qirsh postage, which I explain as a triple rate cover (4½ qirsh) with 1½ qirsh being the registration fee.

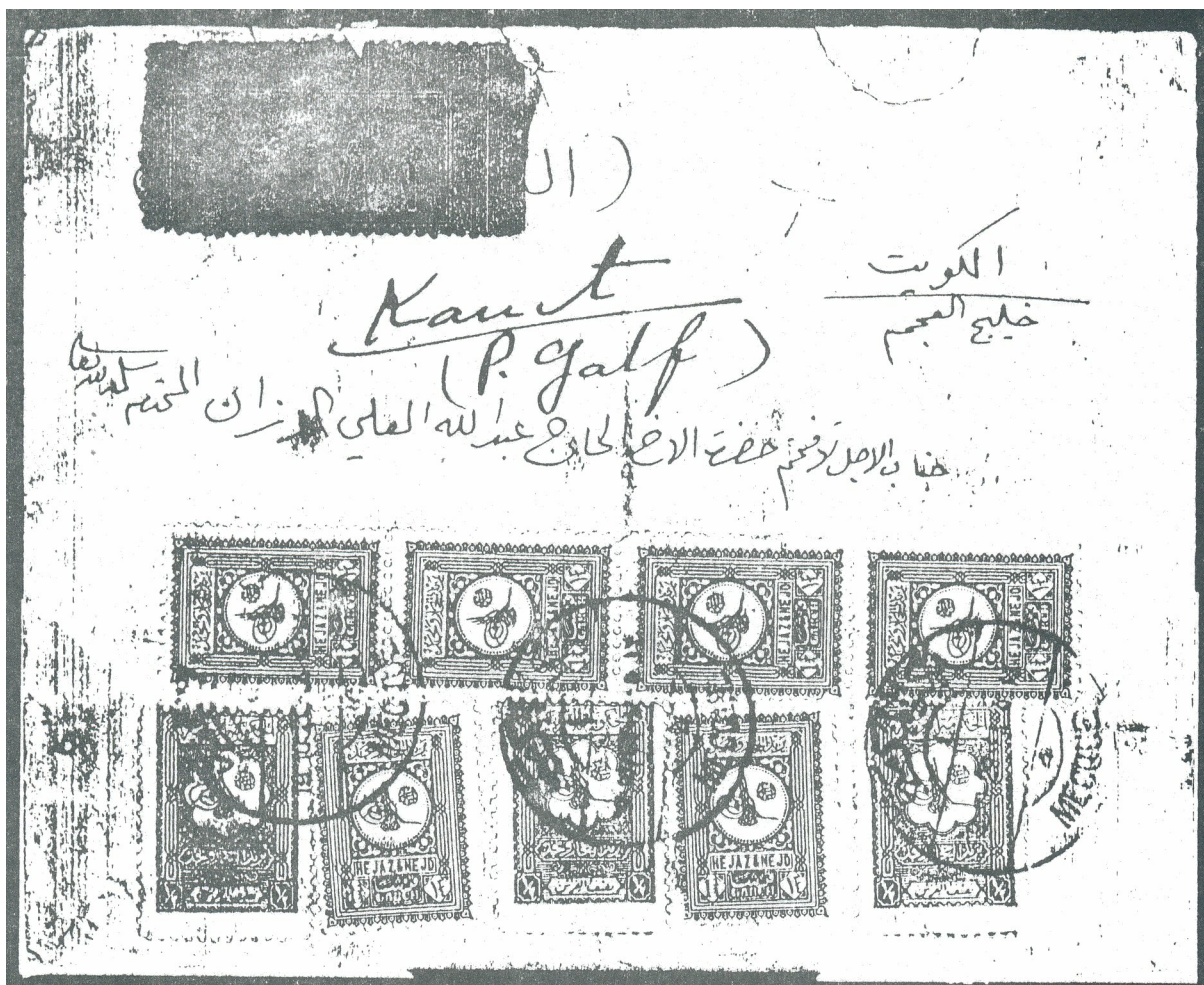
About this time, dull pink *Valeur Déclarée* labels in Arabic and French were used to designate letters containing value, usually cash. I have only seen a few covers (the earliest being late December 1928), and I am not able to determine the fee structure for this service. The following table is presented to solicit your assistance:

	<u>Cover A</u>	<u>Cover B</u>	<u>Cover C</u>
Total postage in qirsh	25	31½	35½
Weight in grams	38	71	79
Registered	yes	yes	yes
Value (francs)	1,500	1,575	2,000
Value (qirsh)	6,600	6,930	8,800
My calculation:			
Postage, qirsh	3	6	6
Registration, qirsh	1½	1½	1½
Fee for value, qirsh	20½	24	28

The next change occurred in 1929 when the foreign surface rate changed to 1-3/4 qirsh. I can only presume the domestic rate remained unchanged. A new set containing a 1-3/4 qirsh stamp was

issued about this time (SG 302-304, Scott 117-120). The earliest use of the 1-3/4 qirsh rate that I have seen is April 25, 1929. The earliest use of the new 1-3/4 qirsh stamp is June 20, 1929.

About this time, gray-green *Par Avion* labels in Arabic and French came into use to designate airmail. The rate appears to have been 4 qirsh for up to 10 grams (1-3/4 qirsh for foreign surface rate plus 2¼ qirsh for airmail surcharge). The earliest cover seen is dated September 9, 1929. Destinations seen are England and Kuwait. The England cover was backstamped Alexandria; the Kuwait cover Cairo. Can anyone advise the routing from Alexandria to England? The Kuwait cover appears to have utilized the Cairo-Basrah Imperial Airways service which Donaldson says began in 1927. Covers bearing 8 qirsh (double rate) and 12 qirsh (triple rate) have been seen. The 12 qirsh cover is shown below.



Covers with the 4 qirsh rate have been seen as late as May 1931. It is uncertain exactly when the next rate change occurred. A new set with ¼, ½ and 2¼ qirsh values was issued during 1932 (SG 313-315, Scott 135-137). Both Stanley Gibbons and Scott just report the date as "1932". Gibbons Stamp Monthly (GSM) in their May 1932 issue reported "the new rate of 2¼ q. for foreign postage will require a new value". GSM reported in their August 1932 issue "the new ½ q. stamps were printed", and in their September 1932 issue "a new 2¼ q. denomination has been issued".

The earliest cover I have seen with the 2¼ q. rate is July 5, 1932. The earliest use I have seen of the new issue is in September 1932. There was also a corresponding increase in airmail rates with the surcharge increasing from 2¼ qirsh to 2¾ qirsh. I have only seen two examples of this 5 qirsh airmail rate. The one cover I have examined in detail is shown below. It is addressed to Kuwait and is backstamped Cairo and Baghdad. I believe there was a Cairo-Baghdad airmail service which began in 1932.



The 2¼ qirsh rate to foreign destinations remained in effect until October or November 1933 when it increased to 3½ qirsh. This is based on a report in GSM's November 1933 issue. The earliest use of the 3½ qirsh rate I have seen is December 6, 1933. The postage rate was met by using two of the 1¾ qirsh stamps of the 1931-32 issue (SG 312, Scott 133).

The following table has been prepared to summarize the above:

Period	Domestic Rate	Domestic Reg'n	Foreign Rate	Foreign Reg'n	Air Surch
Prior to Dec 1926	1q	1q	3q	3q	?
Dec 1926 - Apr 1929	½q	1q	1½q	1½q	?
Apr 1929 - June 1932	½q	1q	1¾q	1¾q	2¼q
July 1932 - Oct/Nov 1933	½q	1q	2¼q	2¼q	2¾q
Oct/Nov 1933 -	½q	1q	3½q	3½q	7q

Your comments are solicited.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: *Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id & Ramy A. Raghmour*

August 29, 1992: The Holy Ka'aba 150h definitive stamp was reprinted. The stamp is the same in all details as the original printing, but the printer's inscription in the sheet margin has been changed to "Government Press - Riyadh" by erasing the word "Security".

مطابع الحكومة الأمنية - الرياض	Government Security Press-Riyadh
مطابع الحكومة - الرياض	Government Press-Riyadh
مصلحة مطابع الحكومة - الرياض	Government Press Authority-Riyadh

September 8 - November 1992: The 50h, 75h and 150h Holy Ka'aba definitive stamps were reprinted. The stamps are the same in all details as the original printings, but the printer's inscription in the sheet margin has been changed to "Government Press Authority - Riyadh". The postal code labels in the 50h sheet (only) have been changed. Issue dates: 50h - Sept. 26; 75h - Sept. 8; 150h - Nov.



December 12, 1992: A set of two triptyches, 75h and 150h, and a SR 5 souvenir sheet, were issued to commemorate the three systems of government declared on March 1, 1992. The designs show scrolls with the start of the declaration for each system. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. The stamps were printed in sheets of 51 (17 x 3 se-tenant strips) plus three postal code labels. The stamps are perforated 12 while the souvenir sheets are imperforate. Quantity: 133,000 sets and 20,000 souvenir sheets. Official first day covers were prepared.

January 9 - April 25, 1993: The 50h, 75h and 150h city of Jeddah definitive stamps were reprinted on paper similar to that used for commemorative stamps, thick and with visible grayish gum. The postal code labels were changed. The printer's inscription in the sheet margins was unchanged, still "Government Security Press - Riyadh". Issue dates: 50h - Apr. 25 in Dammam (May 4 in Riyadh); 75h - Jan. 9; 150h - Apr. 19. Quantities: 50h -250,000; 75h - not reported; 150h -75,000.

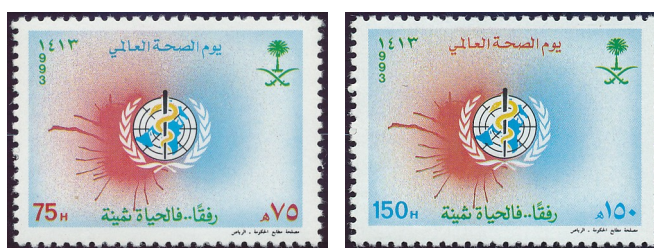
January 19, 1993 in Dammam (January 23 in Riyadh): The 150h city of Jeddah definitive was reprinted on the definitive stamp paper. It is the same as the original printing except the border is in a different shade of green. The postal code labels were changed.

March 1, 1993: The 100h definitive showing birds of Saudi Arabia was issued. The format is a block of 9 (3 x 3) different designs, with 8 blocks in the sheet (2 x 4). All details similar to those of the 150h denomination. See *RANDOM NOTES* #51. Quantity: 110,000 blocks.



March 15, 1993: Set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, was issued to mark the "Continental Football Cup", which was won by the Argentine team on October 20, 1992. The design shows the globe and the King Fahd Stadium in the top half, and the flags of Saudi Arabia, U.S.A., Argentina and the Ivory Coast, and the emblems of the continental football associations in Asia (AFC), Africa (CAF), South America (CONMEBOL) and North America (CONCACAF). Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.

There are two errors in the design of these stamps: (1) The number and layout of the stars in the American flag are wrong. (2) The Arabic inscription in the Saudi flag is in the al-Dewani script instead of the correct al-Tholoth script.



April 7, 1993: A set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, was issued to publicize World Health Day. The design shows the WHO emblem and a spot of blood. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



May 15, 1993: A set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, was issued to commemorate the Khandaq Battle in Shawwal 5 (March 627 A.D.) between the Muslims of Madinah under the leadership of Prophet Mohammad and the polytheists of Makkah. The design shows the name of the battle in Arabic within a circular Islamic decoration. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 4 postal code labels (6 x 9). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



May 17, 1993: A set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, was issued to mark the 25th World Telecommunications Day, with the theme "telecommunications and developing human resources". The design was sent by the I.T.U. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps (10x5). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



May 26, 1993: A set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, was issued to commemorate the pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj 1413). The design shows the mosque of That Irb Miqat, located about 100 km. northeast of Makkah. Designed by Ashfaq Ghani. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and 2 postal code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.

June 15, 1993: The 50h city of Riyadh definitive stamp was reprinted on the normal definitive stamp paper. The stamp is identical to previous printings except that the borders, black in the previous printing, are gray black in this printing. The center of the original printing fluoresces a yellowish orange, while the center of the reprint does not fluoresce (it is brown). The printer's inscription was changed to "Government Press Authority". The sheet consists of 50 stamps and 2 postal code labels in the upper left corner.

July 6 - September 7, 1993: The 50h, 75h and 150h Holy Ka'aba definitive stamps were reprinted. They are the same as the previous printings, but the postal code labels were changed. The printer's inscription in the sheet margins is "Government Press Authority, Riyadh". Dates of issue: 50h - Sept. 7; 75h and 150h - July 6.

August 14 - November 24, 1993: A number of definitives of the Saudi Universities series were reprinted. The shades are slightly different in some cases, particularly the 150h stamps. The sheets now have 100 stamps and 5 postal code labels (7 x 15). The printer's inscription is unchanged. Quantities for each university: 50h - 200,000; 75h - 1,000,000; 150h - 500,000. Dates of issue follow:

Aug. 14:	75h King Fahd of Petroleum & Minerals, 75h King Faisal.
Sept. 7:	75h Umm al-Qura.
Sept. 18:	150h King Faisal.
Oct. 9:	150h King Fahd of Petroleum & Minerals.
Oct. 18:	75h Imam Mohammad ibn Sa'ud.
Oct. 20:	150h King Sa'ud.
Oct. 31:	75h King Abdul Aziz.
Nov. 2:	50h Imam Mohammad ibn Sa'ud.
Nov. 6:	50h Umm al-Qura, 50h King Faisal, 50h King Abdul Aziz, 75h Islamic.
Nov. 22:	150h Umm al-Qura, 150h Imam Mohammad ibn Sa'ud.
Nov. 24:	150h King Abdul Aziz.

All stamps are printed by the Government Press Authority, Riyadh. Unless stated otherwise, all definitive stamps (except the bird stamps) are printed on thin white paper with invisible gum and commemorative stamps are printed on medium-thick paper with grayish slightly shiny gum.

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 adlet to the editor.

SAUDI ARABIA & ALL ARAB COUNTRIES. Stamps, MS, errors, anything. Mint & used. Want lists, please. Aouni Edriss, PO Box 30178, Damascus, Syria.

SAUDI ARABIA 1916 up to date inclusive. Retail and wholesale. For a free price list, write to Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id, PO Box 238, Mafraq 25110, Jordan.

BACK ISSUES of RN both hard bound and unbound, reprinted to order each year for delivery in September. Nos. 1-39 hardbound in 3 volumes SR420 +PP. Warin - *The Postal Issues of Hejaz, Jeddah & Nejd* reprint SR70 plus PP. Photos of forgeries - various available to supplement Forgeries Manual. For details on any of these write W.A. King, Aramco Box 1929, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

STILL AVAILABLE: The A.P.A. *Reference Manual of Forgeries*. New members and subscribers - if you collect Hijaz & Najd, 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, 4125 Windover Way, Melbourne, FL 32934-8514, USA.

WANTED: Used stamps from old passports/residence permits. Entry Visa 30R, 50R; Residence Visa 100R; Additional Passport Fee 270R; A Country Addition 2R; General Services Tax 31½R; Final Exit 100R. Will pay a good price for the first copy of each received. R.J. Thoden, 4125 Windover Way, Melbourne, FL 32934-8514, USA.

NEEDED: Ka'aba and Khafji definitives in imprint blocks of four. I need both large and small formats, not necessarily in complete sets. Please send a list of those available including watermark direction, perforation and price wanted. Ramy Yaghmour, P.O. Box 511, Dhahran Airport 31932, Saudi Arabia.

FIRST DAY COVERS: Unofficial FDCs for Saudi Arabia are available for most of the previous and future new issues. For more information, please write to Ramy Yaghmour, P.O. Box 511, Dhahran Airport 31932, Saudi Arabia. A sample cover will be sent free on request.

A.P.A. AUCTION NO. 23

By: W. A. King

The 1993 auction was slightly smaller than the previous year but bidding was much stronger than in previous years and a very high proportion of lots found a new home.

The issues of Hijaz were in very strong demand with 90% of the Jeddah overprints and the King Alis being sold. Of the earlier issues, the unframed brown overprint on the 1 pi was notable. Two room bidders left the mail bidder at double estimate and fought it out with the winner buying at treble catalogue SR 325 (\$90 or £60). The King Ali Jeddah overprints also achieved prices well over catalogue. The Najd issues were fairly quiet up to the postage dues; most started well over estimate due to strong mail bidding, with the room bidders joining. The Hijaz & Najd section was almost completely sold - the postage dues again being prominent.

The early Kingdom material continues to show strong buyer interest with over 90% selling, including the block of six Heir Apparent 1 sovereign at SRI 1,000. Covers again attracted many bids, except for the philatelic cancels which the buyers chose to ignore this year. The Dam, GOSP and Air definitive series continues to attract many customers. The small section of Tourist issues was completely sold out with several bidders complaining about the lack of supply! Vendors with spare copies please note!! Modern definitives were less active and for the first time, the "normal" Ka'aba booklet panes failed to attract buyers although both scarce reversed panes were purchased at SRI 600 and SR1500.

The watermarked commemoratives achieved enough demand to persuade me to feature a special section next year. The speculative issues and souvenir sheets of the middle-late period continue to fall in price, or else not find a buyer at all. There was little interest in post-1980 material which is easily available from dealers. The full list of prices realized follows.

Next year we plan to try the auction one week earlier in November which may help some local travellers. Potential vendors are invited to send for the prospectus.

PRICES REALIZED

LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR
1	1500	34	75	66	150	93	230	120	120	152	70	178	135	209	100
2	150	35	52	67	230	94	280	121	120	153	425	179	160	210	90
3	70	37	450	68	105	95	170	122	50	154	350	180	150	211	42
5	600	38	700	69	100	96	350	124	54	155	145	181	160	212	56
6	300	40	325	70	95	97	50	125	80	156	125	182	125	213	85
9	64	41	60	71	30	99	70	126	30	157	60	184	125	214	85
10	100	43	210	72	140	100	260	127	160	158	50	185	160	215	50
11	60	44	120	73	260	101	230	128	425	159	70	186	210	216	60
13	100	45	100	74	80	102	105	129	150	160	400	187	135	217	140
14	42	46	58	75	50	103	46	130	130	161	100	188	160	218	100
15	150	47	280	76	180	104	46	131	70	162	475	189	800	219	125
17	48	48	325	78	575	105	46	133	135	163	150	190	500	220	140
18	30	50	400	79	800	106	30	134	30	164	400	191	350	221	135
19	100	51	260	80	60	107	80	135	240	166	150	193	200	222	80
20	30	52	250	82	40	108	200	136	40	167	100	194	525	223	140
21	80	53	475	83	50	110	200	137	125	168	1250	196	180	224	130
22	125	55	260	84	105	111	280	141	90	169	450	197	180	225	80
23	40	57	32	85	32	112	425	142	44	170	260	199	200	226	40
24	30	58	500	86	270	113	200	143	30	171	260	200	200	227	75
25	750	59	450	87	50	114	325	144	200	172	240	201	50	228	40
26	700	60	75	88	60	115	300	145	110	173	500	202	325	229	85
27	42	61	110	89	160	116	325	148	110	174	450	203	280	230	290
28	40	62	300	90	100	117	325	149	70	175	200	204	1000	231	32
29	75	63	44	91	90	118	750	150	135	176	450	205	900	232	30
31	400	64	32	92	375	119	75	151	58	177	30	208	450	233	68
32	850	65	32												

APA - AUCTION 23 - November 19th 1993
PRICES REALIZED

LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR	LOT	SR
234	38	315	160	398	50	478	130	553	130	640	30	730	260	808	30
235	32	316	300	399	40	479	120	554	220	641	100	731	350	809	80
236	30	317	250	400	62	480	130	555	30	642	100	733	80	810	32
237	30	318	160	401	75	481	80	556	120	643	80	735	36	811	36
238	58	319	80	402	75	482	36	557	80	644	50	736	36	812	46
239	54	320	80	403	85	483	75	558	145	645	325	737	34	813	30
240	50	321	1250	404	40	484	270	559	90	646	300	738	60	814	190
241	105	322	135	405	30	485	280	560	62	647	4750	739	150	815	32
242	125	323	100	406	32	486	135	561	30	648	4500	740	50	816	32
243	90	324	200	407	30	487	90	562	95	649	4500	741	50	817	30
244	60	325	42	408	30	488	120	563	120	650	11000	743	32	818	30
245	40	326	50	409	62	490	30	564	100	654	190	744	30	820	280
246	675	329	36	410	80	491	50	565	45	655	180	745	34	821	240
247	170	330	425	411	30	493	105	566	250	657	125	746	32	824	64
248	120	332	120	412	36	494	105	567	85	658	135	747	75	825	135
249	110	336	100	413	300	495	52	568	300	660	160	748	30	826	36
250	60	337	95	414	250	496	75	569	105	663	500	750	30	827	36
251	85	338	105	415	325	498	30	570	100	664	220	751	30	828	50
252	115	339	425	416	30	499	425	571	60	665	210	744	80	830	30
253	105	340	260	418	375	xxxx	xxxx	572	105	667	105	745	30	833	90
254	40	341	50	419	62	500	105	573	40	669	950	756	32	836	50
255	80	342	170	420	80	501	30	574	325	670	85	757	110	837	140
256	60	345	130	421	80	502	125	575	105	673	300	758	90	838	50
257	60	346	100	422	60	503	750	576	100	674	300	759	90	840	120
258	60	347	50	423	60	506	500	577	54	675	42	760	36	841	64
259	60	348	80	424	75	507	50	578	32	676	70	761	36	842	54
260	150	349	90	425	750	508	450	579	500	677	56	763	100	843	150
261	30	351	220	426	475	509	250	580	52	678	38	764	50	844	36
262	375	352	220	427	80	510	110	582	170	679	200	765	66	846	36
263	250	353	160	428	44	511	325	583	450	680	60	766	30	848	34
265	100	354	48	429	200	512	260	584	300	681	56	767	50	849	60
266	40	356	270	430	180	513	180	585	160	684	100	768	30	850	42
267	80	357	240	431	210	514	110	586	230	685	62	769	30	852	800
268	44	358	220	432	62	515	450	589	350	686	60	770	30	853	750
269	58	359	125	433	100	516	210	590	180	687	32	771	32	854	750
270	100	360	115	434	70	517	62	591	90	688	75	772	32	855	140
272	500	361	145	435	1600	518	325	592	650	689	40	773	30	856	30
273	70	362	140	436	70	519	52	593	105	691	30	774	64	857	60
274	70	363	30	437	260	520	190	598	1600	692	38	775	40	858	36
275	54	364	56	438	160	521	150	599	1500	693	125	776	42	861	90
276	135	365	260	438	125	522	650	600	62	694	32	777	120	862	34
277	54	366	54	440	260	523	100	601	42	695	30	778	56	864	90
278	105	367	250	441	220	524	30	602	62	696	58	779	180	866	42
279	42	368	150	442	90	525	40	603	62	697	66	780	80	868	60
280	32	369	150	443	700	526	525	604	54	698	30	781	210	869	30
281	54	370	375	445	130	527	95	605	50	700	40	782	50	875	80
282	54	371	52	447	425	528	58	606	200	702	30	783	160	889	30
283	54	372	170	450	150	529	120	607	200	704	40	784	40	894	52
284	40	373	180	451	145	530	100	608	350	705	1050	785	115	897	34
285	44	374	40	452	30	531	160	609	280	706	120	786	60	900	90
287	100	375	155	453	40	532	160	610	40	707	32	787	160	917	60
288	50	377	425	454	70	533	80	611	70	708	32	788	30	918	42
289	30	379	1150	455	85	534	52	612	32	709	38	789	30	920	135
290	54	381	1400	456	85	535	1050	614	32	710	50	790	60	921	70
291	40	382	650	457	1500	536	375	615	32	711	54	791	52	922	100
292	52	383	56	458	525	537	190	616	150	712	60	792	140	927	36
293	30	384	105	459	700	538	90	617	80	713	60	793	48	936	700
297	100	385	36	461	50	539	62	618	40	714	200	794	95	937	44
298	120	386	100	462	280	540	625	619	44	715	30	795	70	938	275
300	85	387	30	463	280	541	40	622	260	716	36	796	60	939	250
302	90	388	800	464	200	542	40	623'	60	717	30	797	125	944	105
303	60	389	30	465	75	543	180	628	48	718	32	798	46	946	32
304	120	390	325	466	300	544	220	632	90	719	32	799	40	948	75
305	75	391	140	467	1250	546	32	633	60	720	30	800	75	951	100
306	280	392	850	468	475	547	110	634	30	724	220	801	38	952	50
307	100	393	180	470	60	548	125	635	80	725	105	802	36	954	105
308	40	394	240	472	475	549	100	636	80	726	62	803	30	956	160
309	100	395	150	474	42	550	450	637	30	727	60	804	48	958	30
313	145	396	125	476	135	551	32	638	50	728	300	805	60	963	50
314	205	397	160	477	250	552	40	639	50	729	230	806	95	965	6000