



# جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

## Arabian Philatelic Association Random Notes

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Inland registered letter. See article on surface postal rates ([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.

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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. Typo in David Graham's article in RN #53.**

David Graham's article referred to the Feldman auction of November 1-7, 1993. This should have said 1992, not 1993.

**2. 1993 A.P.A. membership.** The A.P.A. had 300 members and subscribers as of December 31, 1993, a decline of 10 from the 310 in 1992. This is the third consecutive small decline, after several years of small increases. A breakdown by country of residence follows:

Saudi Arabia	150	Bahrain	5
U.S.A.	88	Pakistan	3
U.K.	25	Canada	3
Netherlands	10		

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

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

**3. Watermark varieties.** In Random Notes #53, page 2, it was stated that the 1 qirsh Prophet's Mosque stamp (Scott 489, SG 839) was known with watermark up and down. This was an error by the editor. This should have referred to the 1 qirsh Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque (Scott 503a, SG 933). Sorry for the confusion!

Willie King reports another watermark variety that I don't think has been reported previously. This is the 2 qirsh Convair airmail (Scott C25, SG 482) with watermark inverted (down).

**4. Forgeries problem.** Some more examples that illustrate the extent of the problem:

An A.P.A. subscriber won a copy of the black large Jeddah three-line overprint, inverted, on the 5 qirsh Caliphate issue in the U.K. Sandafayre auction #157. Both the Caliphate and Jeddah overprints proved to be forgeries.

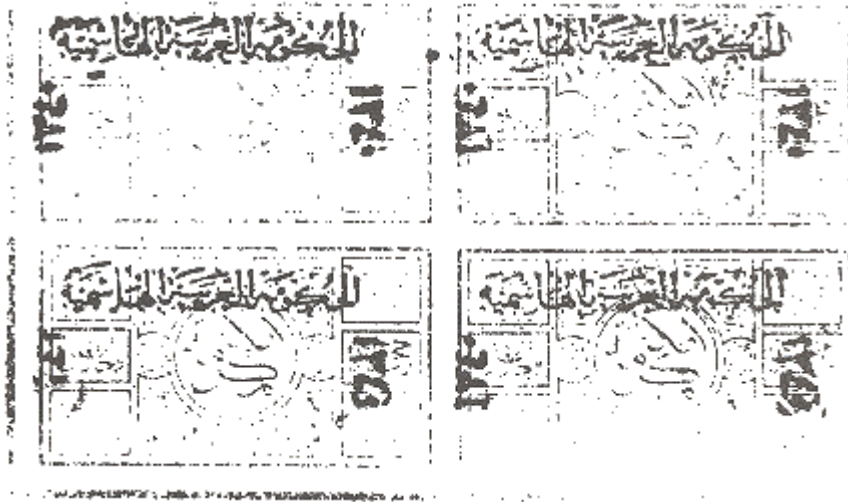
The same subscriber received a shipment of 63 inverted Jeddah three-line overprints on approval from a source in Germany. All 63 stamps had forged overprints!

The Cherrystone (New York) auction of Feb. 2-3, 1994 included the 1 para unframed Hashemite Government overprints with ½q and 1q surcharges. Based on the photo, the overprints appeared to be what the A.P.A. considers to be type 4 forgeries. The Cherrystone auction of June 15-16, 1994 included 3 lots that appeared to be forgeries by A.P.A. standards: the "illegible" 10p on 5p with double violet handstamp, and mint 1p and 2p King Alis with inverted Madina handstamps (Scott 58C and 58D). The latter 2 lots were estimated at \$2000 each, but were apparently unsold. All the mentioned lots were stated to have Holcombe certificates, which are considered to be unreliable by the A.P.A.

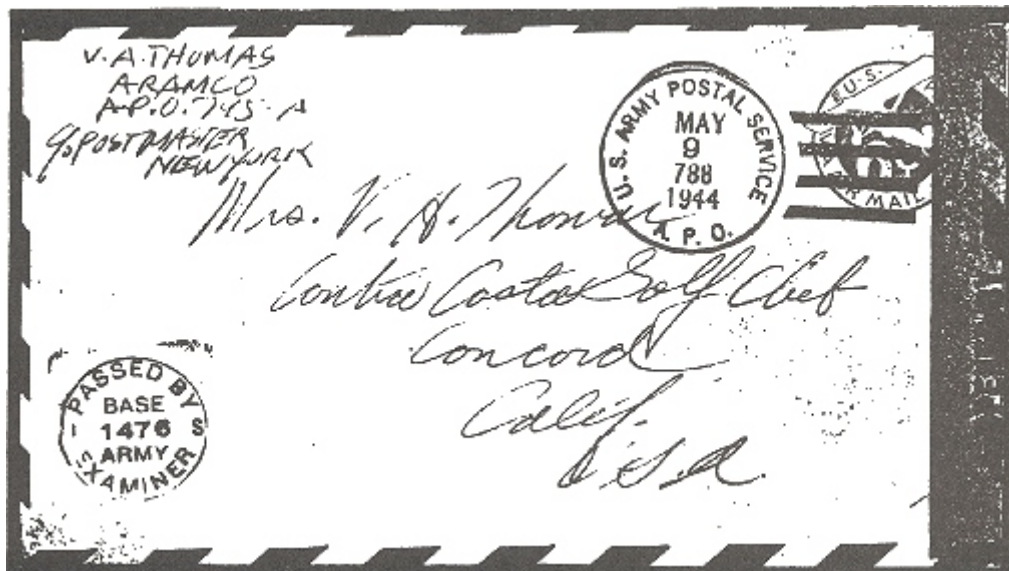
**5. Early rovers to/from the CASOC camp at Jubail.**

I have recently seen several covers to or from Mr. Richard C. Kerr sent in 1934-35. Mr. Kerr was employed at the first CASOC camp at Jubail. A writeup of these covers is planned for *Random Notes* #55.

6. The plating of the Unframed Hashemite Government overprint. David Graham commented in RN #53 that lot #31650 of the Feldman 1992 sale seemed to be from a different plate setting of the "unframed" Hashemite Government overprints. Fred Benedict has submitted this photostat of a lower left corner block (positions 41,42/46,47) with overprints 11,49/38,36 from the standard setting. Does anyone have a complete sheet with overprints that do not match the standard setting?



7. AP0 795-A cover. Fred Benedict submits this photostat of a cover dated May 9, 1944, during the period when Aramco civilian employees' incoming mail was serviced by AP0 795-A. The cover was actually cancelled at AP0 788, which was located at Payne Field in Egypt. As mentioned in RN #s 43 and 44, Aramco mail was handled by AP0 816 (at Basra, Iraq) from May 1943 to October 15, 1943, then by AP0 795 (at Khor-am-Shahr, Iran), then by AP0 816 again (relocated to Muharraq, Bahrain) from June 14, 1944.



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

**By: Dr. Samir S. Amr**

(Continues from Random Notes #53)

## POSTAL NEWS



July 13, 1934 (Rabi' al-Thani 1, 1353) New postage stamps.

The Ministry of Finance notified us that starting from the first day of Rabi ' al-Thani 1353, it will stop dealing with all types of old postage stamps, and these shall be replaced by the new postage stamps which are imprinted with *Al-Mamlakah al-'Arabiyah al-Sa'udiyah (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)*.

October 12, 1934 (Rajab 3, 1353) Mail service between Makkah and Riyadh.

It was decided that the mail cars between Makkah and Riyadh should run once every 15 days. This shall be implemented starting next Monday 6.7.1353. The cars will take and accept all letters and parcels, as well as passengers at reasonable prices, from Makkah to Riyadh and vice-versa.

January 4, 1935 (Ramadan 28, 1353) Concern of the Government Regarding the Comfort of the Pilgrims. Chapter 13. Postal and Telegraphic Services.

In order to assure the pilgrims that they can communicate with their relatives in their home countries, we publish the details regarding the local and international mail services, as well as the tariffs for telegrams, letters and parcels.

(1) Mail is sent abroad via Port Tawfik (Egypt) post office to Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, India, Java, Turkey, Iran, Tripoli West (Libya), Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and all Europe, America, Asia and Africa according to the following schedule:

- A. By the Khedivial (Egyptian) ships once a week on Wednesday.
- B. By the Italian ships once every two weeks on Friday.
- C. By the German ships once every month.
- D. By the ships which belong to the ALPES Company once a month.

(2) Mail is sent to the Sudan by the Khedivial ships once a week on Sunday.

(3) Mail is sent to Eritrea by the Italian ships once every two weeks on Sunday.

(4) Incoming mail from all above mentioned countries shall be brought by the above mentioned ships on their arrival.

(5) Internal (local) mail is dispatched as follows:

A. Between Makkah al-Mukarramah, Jeddah and Ta'if once a day by car in each direction.

B. Between Al-Madinah, Jeddah and Makkah once a week by cars. The cars are dispatched from Makkah on Monday morning to Jeddah, then to Al-Madinah with arrival on Tuesday evening. The cars shall leave Al-Madinah on Thursday morning and arrive in Makkah via Jeddah on Friday evening.

(6) The postal rate for letters (20 grams) for foreign countries is 3.5 qirsh, and for local mail is 0.5 qirsh. For (foreign) letters over 20 grams, there is a charge of 2 qirsh for each additional 20 grams.

(7) The registration charge is 3 qirsh for foreign mail and 0.5 qirsh for local mail.

(8) The charge for notification of confirmation of arrival of a letter is 2 qirsh for foreign mail and 0.25 qirsh for local mail.

(9) Postal money orders are accepted directly for Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, India and Germany. For other countries it is done through the Palestine Postal Administration.

(10) The fee for postal money orders (transfers) is 0.5% for local (inland), and 1.5% for foreign (abroad) for the time being.

(11) Postal parcels shall be accepted to all countries which accept them.

(12) The rate for postal parcels is 1 qirsh per kilogram for inland parcels. For foreign countries there is a special rate for each country according to the parcel tariff.

(13) Insured letters are accepted to all countries which deal with and accept these letters.

(14) The rate for an insured letter is the rate for a registered letter plus the insurance fee of 4 qirsh for each 12 pounds value if the letter is sent to a foreign country. For inland letters, the insurance rate is 0.5 qirsh for each 10 pounds value.

(15) The fee for newspapers and all types of printed matter and forms is 5 paras for each 50 grams inland, and 30 paras for out-of-country.

(16) All post offices are ready to provide postal services during the day hours only after sunrise until the call for the sunset prayer every day.

(17) Telegrams are accepted to all cities and towns inland and abroad from Makkah according to the following fee per word:

(2 inland and 23 foreign rates follow)

Telegrams from Al-Madinah cost an additional 2 qirsh per word. For telegrams sent from Jeddah, There is a reduction of  $\frac{1}{2}$  qirsh per word.

(18) Neglected" telegrams are sent for half the above stated rates.

(19) Also accepted to India are telegrams of the sign or category which are distributed to the addressee in 48 hours for one-quarter of the regular fee.

(20) A telephone call between Makkah and Jeddah or Makkah and Ta'if is 6 qirsh per three minutes.

(21) The telegraph and telephone offices are open all day and night.

#### March 14, 1936 (Dhu al-Hijjah 19, 1354) Al-Madinah postal service.

The Department of Postal Service decided to make the mail service to Al-Madinah twice instead of once weekly. The first mail car shall depart from both Makkah and Al-Madinah each Monday morning, and the second mail car shall depart each Thursday morning.

#### March 27, 1936 (Muharram 4, 1355) Instructions regarding currency exchange rates from the Ministry of Finance.

In order to stabilize the exchange rate of Saudi Arab currency, the following was decided:

(1) The so-called gold qirsh is cancelled in the transactions of the Ministry of Finance and is replaced by the Saudi qirsh.

(2) The Saudi riyal is equivalent to eleven Saudi qirsh. For the fractional coins made of nickel, two qirsh are equivalent to one Saudi qirsh.

(3) The English gold pound is accepted at an exchange rate of 220 Saudi qirsh buying or selling.

(4) Since some of the taxation income is calculated on the basis of the gold qirsh, it shall be converted in the original tariff so as to be in Saudi qirsh.

(5) Those revenues which had originally been calculated on the basis of the Saudi qirsh can also be paid in English gold pounds for 220 Saudi qirsh, or Arabic riyals for 11 Saudi qirsh, or nickel coins at 2 qirsh for one Saudi qirsh.

(6) The Ministry of Finance and its departments of taxation and revenues shall accept payment for revenues in the types of money accepted officially, namely the English gold pound, the Arabic riyal, and the qirsh and nickel coins according to its exchange rates now.

(7) This decree shall be enforced starting *Muharram 1, 1355*.

Februarv 5, 1937 (Dhu al-Qada 23, 1355) Airmail between Jeddah and Al-Madinah al-Munawwarah.

It was decided to carry the mail by airplane from Jeddah to al-Madinah al-Munawwarah and vice-versa daily and at the regular postal rates. The departure of the airplane from Jeddah shall be in the morning, and it will return in the evening starting tomorrow, Saturday.

February 12, 1937 (Dhu al-Hijjah 1, 1355) The airplane between Jeddah and Al-Madinah.

It came to our attention that the airplane which belongs to Misr Bank Company and which was given license by His Majesty's Government to carry pilgrims and mail between Jeddah and al-Madinah started its operation last Monday morning. It departed at 8:00 AM and landed at al-Madinah at 9:40 AM with five Palestinian pilgrims aboard. Then it left al-Madinah at 10:30 AM and landed in Jeddah after 1 hour 45 minutes. On Tuesday it left Jeddah for al-Madinah with four pilgrims aboard, and returned in the same day in a manner similar to the previous day. Undoubtedly this is the first such activity in the Holy Country, and we hope that it will receive encouragement and support so that it will get stronger, because the advancement in the means of transportation to this extent in carrying pilgrims to visit Al-Madinah is of great significance in making comfort available to the pilgrims and guests of the Holy Shrines.

March 19, 1937 (Muharram 6, 1356) Reduction of the fees for foreign mail.

We received the following from the Department of Telegraph and Posts: It was decided to reduce the fee for regular mail going abroad from 3.5 qirsh to 3 Saudi qirsh, and for this purpose new stamps have been printed and are being used on such mail.

July 9, 1937 (Jumada al-Awwal 1, 1356) Postal Regulations Concerning Regular and Registered Correspondence.

(1) Exclusive rights.

The Department of Posts has the exclusive rights and privilege to carry private letters and all hand-written and printed correspondence whether public or private.

(2) Penalties.

If anyone violates the rights of the Postal Service by carrying or transporting any correspondence, he is fined 10 times the value of the registration fee for the item for the first violation. If he repeats the violation, he will be fined 5 pounds, and this fine shall double with repetition of the offense.

(3) Confidentiality.

It is forbidden to publicize the contents of letters and postcards. Any postal employee who dares to do so is punishable by dismissal and a fine ranging from 1 to 10 pounds or by imprisonment from one week up to 2 months.

(4) Mail inquiries.

The sender has the right to inquire about any registered or insured letter or any parcel or money order (transfer) sent by mail. The fee is 6 qirsh if the correspondence was to a foreign country, and 1.5 qirsh if it was inland. After inquiry, the results of investigation are conveyed to the inquirer promptly.

(5) Enclosing dutiable items in mail.

It is forbidden to enclose items liable to customs duty within regular or registered letters or folders. If a letter or folder suspected of containing such items is detected at the post office, it will not be distributed, and the addressee shall be summoned to the Department of Posts, and the contents of the letter shall be opened in the presence of the postal officials. If such correspondence is found to contain dutiable items, then it will be sent to the Department of Customs for the required formalities, but the written letter shall be given to the addressee immediately. In the case of samples, printed matter, newspapers and business papers whether regular or registered containing dutiable material, it will be sent directly to the Department of Customs so that it will be charged according to the tariff and regulations.

(6) Banknotes.

Letters which contain paper money or postage stamps should be insured, and never sent by regular or registered mail. Anyone violating this and claiming a loss and asking for compensation shall be ignored.

(7) Addresses on correspondence.

The addresses on all correspondence shall be clear and contain full name, titles and nicknames as well as the full name of the town and country so it can be sorted with ease at the post office and distributed. Correspondence to foreign countries (except for the Arab countries to which mail is forwarded directly) shall have address written in the Latin alphabet. The address should include the name of the country and the region to which it belongs, so as to avoid confusion and mixup of countries or towns with similar names. If the address is not clear in the manner described, then the postal administration is not responsible if the letter does not arrive at its destination.

(8) Unacceptable addresses.

Letters that have addresses including humiliating or degrading statements or insults shall not be accepted. Also letters with abbreviations, or false numbers or agreed upon codes are not accepted at all for any type of correspondence. Such letters shall not be delivered to the addressee.

(9) Mail addressed care of the Post Office.

Mail addressed care of the Post Office window should have the name of the addressee.

(10) Distribution of mail.

The mail shall be distributed first to the private mail boxes, then to places of residence.

(11) Mechanism of mail distribution to private mail boxes.

Mail to private mail boxes is distributed only to those who subscribe to this service. The purpose of this service is to facilitate mail delivery and avoidance of undue delays which may take place with regular mail delivery.

(12) Subscription for private mail boxes.

The annual rate for subscription to a private mail box is five riyals. If the subscriber does not come to pick up his mail or does not send someone to do so, the Department of Posts shall send his mail to his residence.



(13) Mail distribution to place of residence.

The items of mail that shall be distributed to places of residence are those that carry a clear address of the residence place, unless the addressee requested that his mail be kept at the post office.

(14) Distribution of large size items.

Items of mail that are difficult to carry and distribute by the mail distributors due to quantity, size or weight shall be kept at the Post Office. The addressee shall be notified. Letters are exempted from this rule.

(15) Distribution of registered mail.

Registered letters are handed to the address or his delegate in person at the Post Office. The addressee is notified regarding the arrival of the registered letter by the Mail Distributing Officer on the day of arrival of the letter. Pilgrims and persons unknown to the Post Office clerks should show proof of identity either by their *mutawwef* (pilgrimage guide) or by persons known to the Post Office who should co-sign with them on the receipt for the registered material.

(16) Undistributed mail.

Items of mail which the addressee refuses to accept are returned to sender in the next mail dispatch. Items of mail that the Post Office cannot distribute because the address is unknown or the addressee has changed his address to an unknown place shall be kept for 1-2 months, and then returned to the sender.

(17) Returned mail.

Mail items returned to the dispatching post office for any reason are delivered to the senders if their addresses are known, otherwise they shall be kept in the post office for six months for ordinary mail items and one year for registered mail, pending its release to the persons who have the right to take them back. If items are not claimed within this period, they are disposed of by burning.

(18) Unclaimed mail containing valuable papers.

Mail items containing paper money or valuable papers or documents that are not claimed shall be kept at the post office for five years, then they will be burned or become the property of the government.

(19) Compensation for lost mail.

If a registered mail item is lost, then the sender or the addressee, based on a request by the sender, has the right of compensation of two gold pounds, and when this compensation is paid, the Postal Service is no longer responsible or liable to the sender or the addressee. If the mail coming to or leaving the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is lost for causes beyond the control of the Postal Service, then no compensation shall be paid.

(20) Mail service to countries not members of the Universal Postal Union.

Mail services to countries that are not members of the Universal Postal Union are accepted only at the risk of the sender.

(21) Retrieval of mail or changing the address of mailed items.

The sender of a mail item may retrieve it or change the destination address under the condition that he submit a request to this effect in writing and that he prove he is the sender of this item of mail. If it is required to send an official letter or telegram to fulfill this request, then the sender shall be charged the expenses.

(22) Incoming mail to the accused or criminals.

Incoming mail to individuals accused or charged with violating the law or to criminals can be submitted to the courts if requested by these courts according to legal procedures.

(23) Incoming mail to prisoners.

Mail items for prisoners shall be delivered through the prison warden.

(24) Rewards for detecting mail not sent through the Postal Department.

A reward is given to the inspection officers of the Postal Department for intercepting mail not sent through the Postal Department and bringing it to the post office. The reward is half the value of the fine collected.

(25) Official mail.

Official mail of a government department should carry the official seal of that department on the cover.

(26) Mail returned due to illegible or unclear address.

Mail items returned due to illegible or unclear address can be remailed by the sender if he corrects the address and makes it clear, and the full postal fee shall be charged in addition to the fee paid originally.

(27) Mail fees.

The fee charged for mailing an inland letter whether it is to the same town or to another town shall be 0.5 qirsh for each 20 grams. For foreign mail, it shall be 3 qirsh for up to 20 grams, and 2 qirsh for each additional 20 grams. The charges must be paid in full before the letter can be mailed.

(28) Specifications of size and weight for letters.

The weight of a letter shall not exceed two kilograms, and its size shall not exceed 45 centimeters in any dimension. If it is cylindrical in shape, it shall not exceed 75 centimeters in length and 10 centimeters in diameter.

(29) Charges for newspapers and printed matter.

Newspapers, printed matter and business papers mailed inland shall be charged  $\frac{1}{8}$  qirsh for each 50 grams. Items mailed to foreign countries shall be charged  $\frac{1}{2}$  qirsh for each 50 grams.

(30) Specifications of size and weight for newspapers and printed matter.

The upper acceptable weight limit for newspapers, printed matter and business papers shall be two kilograms. The size shall not exceed 45 centimeters in any dimension, and if cylindrical in shape, then it shall not exceed 75 centimeters in length or ten centimeters in diameter.

(31) Conditions for mailing newspapers, printed matter and business papers.

Newspapers and all printed matter and business papers should be placed in an ordinary wrapper, cylindrical wrapper, within strong paper, within an opened box or unsealed envelope so that the contents can be inspected, or bound by an easy-to-untie string knot for purposes of inspection. The printed matter, including greeting cards, should have few handwritten or printed additions so as to indicate that the contents are private correspondence. A serial number, a date, signature of the sender and a few codes or signals not to exceed five words may be placed on such items. If these limits are exceeded then it shall be considered to be a letter and shall be charged as such. Business papers such as invoices, documents, proofs of books and newspapers, and copies of old correspondence or transactions and the like should not have the character of personal correspondence.

(32) Fee for mailing samples.

The fee for mailing samples is  $\frac{1}{4}$  qirsh for each 50 grams mailed inland, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  qirsh for each 50 grams mailed abroad.

(33) Specifications for samples.

The weight of the sample shall not exceed 500 grams if sent abroad, and two kilograms for inland. Its dimensions shall not exceed 45 cm. in length, 20 cm. in width and 10 cm. in thickness.

(34) Conditions for mailing samples.

Samples should be sent in bags, boxes or envelopes which are not sealed so that the contents can be inspected easily. If the sample is made of glass, then it should be mailed within a strong metal or wooden box or container to avoid any mishaps. If the sample is liquid, then it should be placed within a tightly sealed bottle using red wax, and the bottle should be placed in a metal container or a wooden box and surrounded by an ample quantity of sawdust, cotton, or a spongy material sufficient to absorb any fluid which might leak if

the bottle gets broken. The cover of the box should be tightly secured in a manner so that it is not easy to remove. Solid greasy substances such as soap, ointments and the like should be placed within a box or bag, then be placed within a second box made of metal, wood or strong leather, and all should be wrapped by cardboard or thick paper on which the address shall be written and the postage stamps affixed.

(35) Fees for postcards.

Charges for postcards sent without envelope are  $\frac{1}{4}$  qirsh inland, and 2 qirsh for foreign countries.

(36) Size of postcards.

The size of the postcard shall not exceed 9 cm. in width and 14 cm in length, and should be less than 7 cm. in width by 15 cm. in length. Postcards should be made of cardboard or "fortified" paper so that they can be handled easily.

(37) Conditions for mailing postcards.

Postcards are mailed uncovered, without an envelope. The postage stamps are affixed at the upper right corner on the front, and the address should always be written on the front side.

(38) Fees for registration.

The fee for registering all sorts of mail shall be 1 qirsh for inland mail and 3 qirsh for foreign mail.

(39) Requests for notification of delivery.

Senders of registered mail may request a notification of delivery after paying a fee of 1 qirsh for each item of mail sent inland. For mail sent outside the country, the fee is 3 qirsh if the notification is requested at the time of registration, and 6 qirsh if the notification is requested later on.

(40) Items which cannot be accepted for registration.

All of the following cannot be accepted in any way for registration: Mail items which are addressed by the first initials of names without clarification, items with addresses written in pencil, letters with traces of gum or dirt at the edges of its envelope which may raise suspicion that it had been opened and resealed, and letters sealed by printed or white gummed paper.

(To be continued)

# AIRLINE FLIGHTS SINCE 1946 TO/FROM SAUDI ARABIA RECOGNIZED BY ISSUANCE OF PHILATELIC COVERS

*By: Ron Merritt*

The attached chronological list has been prepared for collectors of first flight covers in an effort to identify airline flights to and from Saudi Arabia which have been recognized by issuance of philatelic covers. This list should not be considered all-inclusive and additions, comments and/or corrections are welcome. It should be noted that philatelic treatment of covers for commemoration of flights is initiated by the airline involved and not by postal authorities. Accordingly, many flights which would be of historical as well as philatelic interest are not included in this list because the airline involved did not request or sponsor philatelic treatment of covers. Conversely, many flights are included which are not a true "first scheduled flight" to a new destination but the cognizant airline requested philatelic treatment of covers in observance of its first scheduled use of a new type of aircraft on flights to or from Saudi Arabia.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Airline</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Notes</b>
07/02/46	TWA	Boston	Dhahran		(1)
07/02/46	TWA	New York	Dhahran		(1)
07/02/46	TWA	Washington, DC	Dhahran		(1)
07/02/46	TWA	Philadelphia	Dhahran		(1)
04/21/50	KLM	Amsterdam	Dhahran		
03/22/54	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Jeddah		
11/10/56	Swissair	Zurich	Dhahran	DC-6	
04/17/57	Swissair	Zurich	Dhahran	DC-6	
04/18/57	Swissair	Dhahran	Zurich	DC-6	
11/25/59	SAS	Copenhagen	Dhahran	Caravelle	
11/25/59	SAS	Oslo	Dhahran	Caravelle	
11/25/59	SAS	Stockholm	Dhahran	Caravelle	
04/06/60	SAS	Rome	Dhahran	Caravelle	
04/26/60	KLM	Amsterdam	Jeddah	B-707	(2)
04/26/60	KLM	Cairo	Jeddah	B-707	
04/27/60	KLM	Jeddah	Amsterdam	B-707	
08/03/60	Lufthansa	Bangkok	Dhahran	Constellation	
08/03/60	Lufthansa	Calcutta	Dhahran	Constellation	
08/03/60	Lufthansa	Karachi	Dhahran	Constellation	
08/03/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Rome	Constellation	
08/03/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Frankfurt	Constellation	
08/03/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Düsseldorf	Constellation	
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Karachi	Constellation	
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Calcutta	Constellation	
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Bangkok	Constellation	
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Hamburg	Dhahran	Constellation	
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Dhahran	Constellation	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Airline</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Notes</b>
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Rome	Dhahran	Constellation	
08/04/60	Lufthansa	Vatican City	Dhahran	Constellation	
08/10/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Rome	Constellation	
08/11/60	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Frankfurt	Constellation	
11/01/60	TWA	New York	Dhahran	B-707	(3)
11/01/60	TWA	U.N. (New York)	Dhahran	B-707	(3)
11/03/60	TWA	Dhahran	New York	B-707	
01/23/61	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Tokyo	B-707	
01/25/61	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Hong Kong	B-707	
01/25/61	Lufthansa	Hong Kong	Dhahran	B-707	
01/25/61	Lufthansa	Tokyo	Dhahran	B-707	
04/04/62	Swissair	Zurich	Dhahran	Convair 990	
04/01/63	Lufthansa	Dusseldorf	Dhahran	B-720	
04/03/67	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Delhi		
04/12/67	Lufthansa	Delhi	Dhahran		
04/29/67	Air France	Paris	Dhahran	B-707	
05/02/67	Saudia	Geneva	Jeddah	B-720	
05/02/67	Saudia	Jeddah	Geneva	B-720	
09/05/67	Sabena	Brussels	Jeddah	B-727	
09/06/67	Sabena	Athens	Jeddah	B-727	
04/03/69	Lufthansa	Munich	Dhahran	B-727	
04/03/69	Lufthansa	Athens	Dhahran	B-727	
04/04/69	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Athens	B-727	
04/04/69	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Frankfurt	B-727	
04/04/69	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Munich	B-727	
05/01/69	Saudia	Jeddah	Geneva	B-707	
05/07/69	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Jeddah		
05/08/69	Lufthansa	Athens	Jeddah		
05/08/69	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Addis Ababa		
05/09/69	Lufthansa	Addis Ababa	Jeddah		
05/09/69	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Athens		
05/09/69	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Frankfurt		
06/04/69	Alitalia	Vatican City	Jeddah	DC-8	
06/09/69	Alitalia	Rome	Jeddah	DC-8	
10/02/69	Saudia	Geneva	Jeddah	B-707	
11/02/69	Air France	Paris	Jeddah	B-727	
11/02/69	Saudia	Frankfurt	Riyadh	B-707	
11/03/70	Air India	Dhahran	Bombay	B-707	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Airline</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Notes</b>
11/26/71	Air India	Geneva	Dhahran	B-707	
11/26/71	Air India	U. N. (Geneva)	Dhahran	B-707	
04/02/72	Lufthansa	Beirut	Dhahran	B-727	
04/03/72	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Beirut	B-727	
04/06/72	Ethiopian	Jeddah	Asmara		
04/07/72	Ethiopian	Cairo	Jeddah		
04/01/74	Lufthansa	Kuwait	Dhahran	B-707	
04/02/74	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Kuwait	B-707	
03/02/75	Alitalia	Rome	Riyadh	DC-8	
04/01/75	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Dhahran	DC-8	
10/29/75	Air France	Paris	Jeddah	A-300	
10/30/75	Air France	Djibouti	Jeddah	A-300	
05/03/76	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Dubai	B-707	
05/05/76	Lufthansa	Dubai	Dhahran	B-707	
06/02/76	R.A. Maroc	Geneva	Dhahran	B-727	
06/02/76	R.A. Maroc	U.N. (Geneva)	Dhahran	B-727	
06/02/76	R.A. Maroc	Geneva	Jeddah	B-727	
06/02/76	R.A. Maroc	U.N. (Geneva)	Jeddah	B-727	
06/30/76	Alitalia	Rome	Dhahran	DC-8	
06/30/76	Alitalia	Vatican City	Dhahran	DC-8	
07/12/76	Olympic	Athens	Dhahran	B-737	
11/01/76	Swissair	Geneva	Dhahran	DC-8	
11/01/76	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Dhahran	DC-8	
11/02/76	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Dhahran	B-707	
01/22/77	Air France	Paris	Riyadh	Concorde	
01/25/77	Air France	Riyadh	Paris	Concorde	
04/05/77	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Jeddah	B-747	
04/05/77	Swissair	Zurich	Dhahran	DC-8	
04/05/77	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Dhahran	DC-8	
04/06/77	Korean	Zurich	Jeddah	DC-10	
04/06/77	Korean	U.N. (Geneva)	Jeddah	DC-10	
04/07/77	Sabena	Brussels	Dhahran	B-707	(4)
04/08/77	Sabena	Dhahran	Brussels	B-707	(4)
04/12/77	Korean	Jeddah	Zurich	DC-10	
04/13/77	Air India	Bombay	Jeddah	B-707	
04/13/77	Air India	Jeddah	Bombay	B-707	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Airline</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Notes</b>
05/04/77	Lufthansa	Dubai	Dhahran	DC-10	
04/05/78	Alitalia	Rome	Jeddah	B-747	
04/15/78	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Jeddah	A-300	
04/15/78	Lufthansa	Athens	Jeddah	A-300	
04/16/78	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Athens	A-300	
04/16/78	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Frankfurt	A-300	
05/07/78	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Dhahran	DC-10	
05/08/78	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Dubai	DC-10	
05/08/78	Lufthansa	Dubai	Dhahran	DC-10	
05/08/78	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Frankfurt	DC-10	
06/02/78	Saudia	Athens	Dhahran	L-1011	
06/02/78	Saudia	Athens	Riyadh	L-1011	
09/18/78	SAS	Copenhagen	Jeddah	DC-8	
09/19/78	SAS	Jeddah	Copenhagen	DC-8	
11/01/78	Saudia	U.N. (Geneva)	Jeddah		
11/02/78	Swissair	Zurich	Jeddah	DC-10	
11/02/78	Swissair	Geneva	Jeddah	DC-10	
11/02/78	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Jeddah	DC-10	
11/06/78	Swissair	Dhahran	Geneva	DC-8	
11/06/78	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Jeddah	DC-8	
02/02/79	Pan Am	New York	Dhahran	B-747SP	(5)
02/02/79	Pan Am	U.N. (New York)	Dhahran	B-747SP	(5)
02/17/79	British Air	Riyadh	Bahrain	Concorde	(6)
02/17/79	British Air	Bahrain	Riyadh	Concorde	
02/19/79	British Air	Riyadh	Dhahran	Concorde	
02/19/79	British Air	Dhahran	Bahrain	Concorde	(6)
04/11/79	Olympic	Athens	Jeddah		
04/13/79	Austrian	Vienna	Jeddah	DC-9	
04/13/79	Austrian	U.N. (Vienna)	Jeddah	DC-9	
04/13/79	Austrian	Larnaca	Jeddah	DC-9	
04/14/79	Austrian	Jeddah	Larnaca	DC-9	
04/14/79	Austrian	Jeddah	Vienna	DC-9	
03/01/80	Air France	Paris	Dhahran	B-747	
04/01/80	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Dhahran	DC-10	
06/11/80	Alitalia	Rome	Jeddah	A-300	
06/11/80	Alitalia	Vatican City	Jeddah	A-300	
06/11/80	Alitalia	Jeddah	Rome	A-300	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Airline</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Notes</b>
03/30/81	Austrian	Vienna	Dhahran	DC-9	
03/30/81	Austrian	U.N. (Vienna)	Dhahran	DC-9	
03/30/81	Austrian	Larnaca	Dhahran	DC-9	
03/30/81	Austrian	Dhahran	Vienna	DC-9	
11/02/81	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Dhahran	B-747	
11/02/81	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Dubai	B-747	
11/02/81	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Hong Kong	B-747	
11/29/81	Austrian	U.N. (Vienna)	Dhahran	DC-9	
12/28/81	Japan Air	Tokyo	Jeddah	DC-8	
03/28/82	Iberia	Barcelona	Jeddah	A-300	
03/28/82	Iberia	Madrid	Jeddah	A-300	
05/07/82	Austrian	Doha	Dhahran	DC-9	
01/08/83	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Dhahran	A-300	
01/08/83	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Abu Dhabi	A-300	
01/08/83	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Frankfurt	A-300	
01/09/83	Lufthansa	Abu Dhabi	Dhahran	A-300	
04/13/83	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Dar es Salaam	B-707	
04/13/83	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Port Louis	B-707	
04/14/83	Lufthansa	Port Louis	Jeddah	B-707	
04/14/83	Lufthansa	Dar es Salaam	Jeddah	B-707	
07/02/83	Japan Air	Tokyo	Jeddah	DC-10	
07/02/83	Japan Air	Bangkok	Jeddah	DC-10	
07/03/83	Japan Air	Athens	Jeddah	DC-10	
09/26/83	SAS	Copenhagen	Jeddah	A-300	
03/27/84	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Jeddah	A-300	
03/27/84	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Addis Ababa	A-300	
03/27/84	Lufthansa	Addis Ababa	Jeddah	A-300	
05/07/84	Lufthansa	Dar es Salaam	Jeddah	A-300	
05/07/84	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Dar es Salaam	A-300	
05/07/84	Lufthansa	Jeddah	Port Louis	A-300	
05/07/84	Lufthansa	Port Louis	Jeddah	A-300	
03/31/86	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Bahrain	A-300	
04/01/86	Lufthansa	Bahrain	Dhahran	A-300	
04/02/86	Lufthansa	Dhahran	Dubai	A-300	
04/03/86	Lufthansa	Dubai	Dhahran	A-300	
06/01/86	Olympic	Athens	Riyadh	A-300	
10/26/86	Austrian	Vienna	Riyadh	MD-81	
10/26/86	Austrian	U.N. (Vienna)	Riyadh	MD-81	
10/27/86	Austrian	Riyadh	Vienna	MD-81	
04/01/87	Lufthansa	Frankfurt	Riyadh	A-300	(7)
04/01/87	Lufthansa	Riyadh	Frankfurt	A-300	



<u>Date</u>	<u>Airline</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Notes</u>
04/01/87	Sabena	Brussels	Jeddah	A-310	
04/02/87	Lufthansa	Karachi	Riyadh	A-300	
04/02/87	Lufthansa	Riyadh	Frankfurt	A-300	(8)
04/02/87	Sabena	Kigali	Jeddah	A-310	
05/04/87	Swissair	Zurich	Riyadh	DC-10	
05/04/87	Swissair	Geneva	Riyadh	DC-10	
05/04/87	Swissair	U.N. (Geneva)	Riyadh	DC-10	
12/06/89	Lufthansa	Dubai	Riyadh	A-300	
12/06/89	Lufthansa	Riyadh	Dubai	A-300	
03/25/90	Lufthansa	Riyadh	Abu Dhabi	A-300	
03/26/90	Lufthansa	Abu Dhabi	Riyadh	A-300	

**NOTES :**

(1) No return flight covers from Dhahran as TWA was not yet authorized to carry mail from Saudi Arabia. Photo (Figure 1) is from APA auction lot. Per W.A. Sandrik, the following numbers of covers were carried on these flights - from Boston, 140; from New York, 1,473; from Washington, 143; from Philadelphia, 98. A Khobar cancel was applied on arrival.

(2) Round KLM cachet. See Figure 2.

(3) Backstamped on arrival with square TWA cachet and Dhahran Airport cancel. See Figures 3A, 3B, 3C.

(4) Round Sabena cachet. See Figures 4A, 4B.

(5) Backstamped on arrival by US Air Force unit 09616 at Dhahran Airport. Pan Am was not authorized to carry mail on return to New York. See Figures 5A, 5B.

(6) Large Riyadh and Dhahran hand cancels. See Figures 6A, 6B.

(7) Round Frankfurt special cancel. See Figure 7.

(8) Square Lufthansa cachet. See Figure 8.

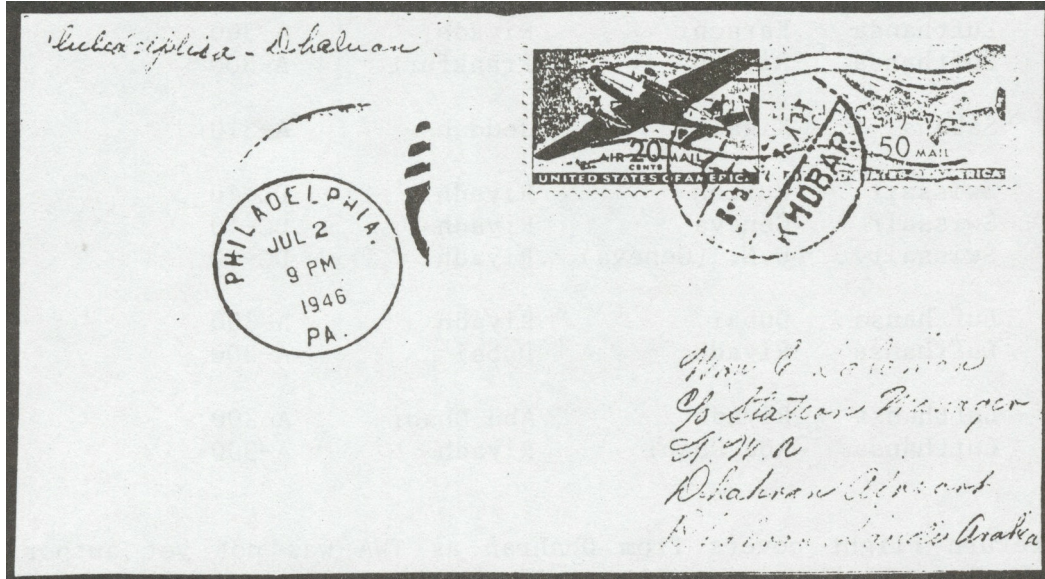


Figure 1. TWA first flight from Philadelphia to Dhahran, July 2, 1946. Machine and handstamped Philadelphia cancels. Also S25 Khobar receiving cancel with date illegible.



Figure 2. First scheduled KLM flight from Amsterdam to Jeddah. Round 26/4/60 cachet applied by KLM. Square 27/4/60 cachet also applied by KLM for return flight.



Figure 3. Cancelled at Idlewild Airport (later renamed J.F. Kennedy Airport) on day of departure. This flight classified as Foreign Airmail Route 27 (FAM 27). Numeric route designations dropped in 1968.



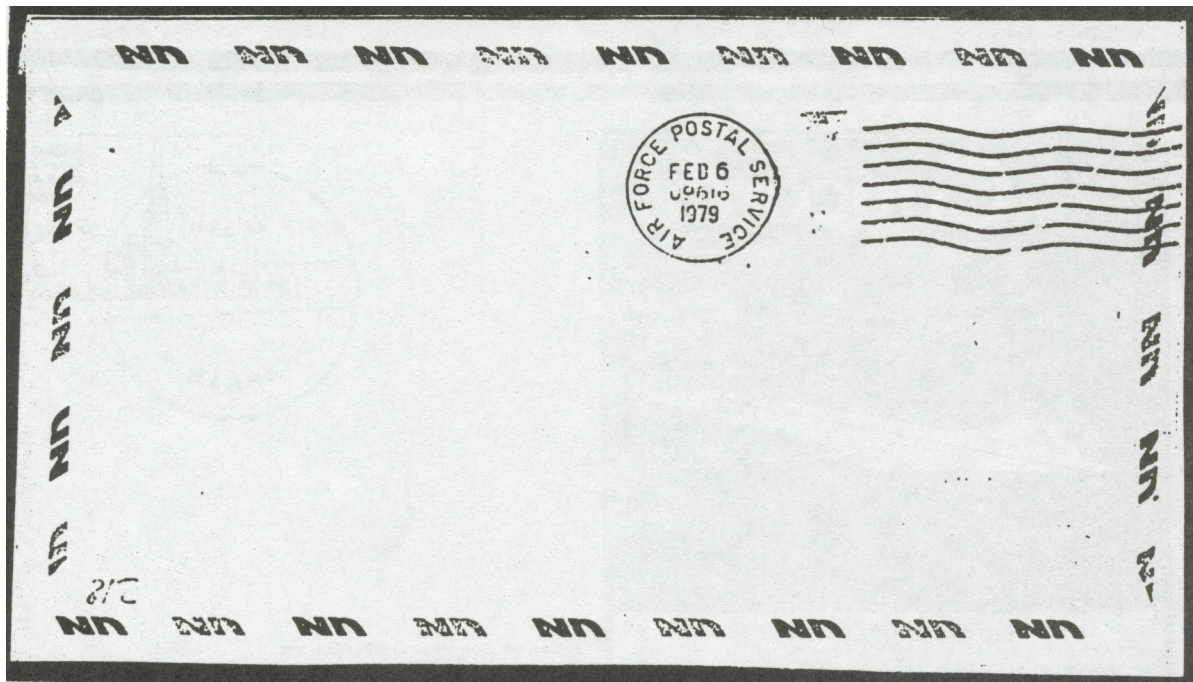
Backstamped SA60 Dhahran Airport. Rectangular cachet applied by TWA on arrival.

Figure 4. First scheduled Sabena flight from Brussels to Dhahran.



Round 8 April 1977 cachets applied by Sabena.

Figure 5. First scheduled non-stop service from New York to Dhahran by Pan American World Airways. Flight service was made possible by use of Boeing 747-SP (Special Performance) plane.



All covers were backstamped upon arrival in Dhahran by the U.S. Air Force postal detachment stationed at Dhahran Airport. This unit was officially designated as "Unit 09616" for handling U.S. military mail. No covers were backstamped by Saudi postal authorities.

Figure 6. Although not a scheduled flight, philatelic covers were prepared by British Airways for the first Concorde flight from Riyadh to Bahrain on February 17, 1979. Flight was conducted at 23,000 feet and mail was carried under sponsorship of British Airways. Similar covers were prepared for flights from Bahrain and Dhahran. All covers were backstamped upon arrival in Bahrain.



Figure 7. Nice example of official Frankfurt cancel applied by German postal authorities on day of first flights by Lufthansa Airlines to various destinations. This one was for the first scheduled Airbus 300 service from Frankfurt to Riyadh and Karachi.

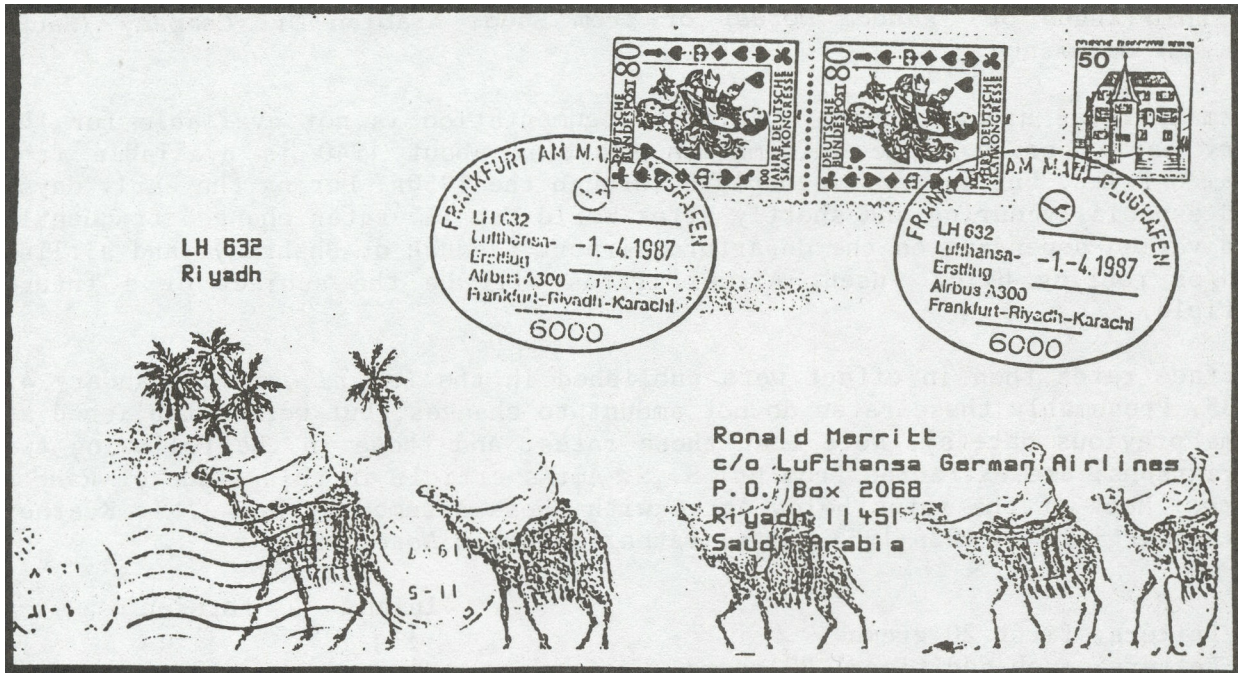
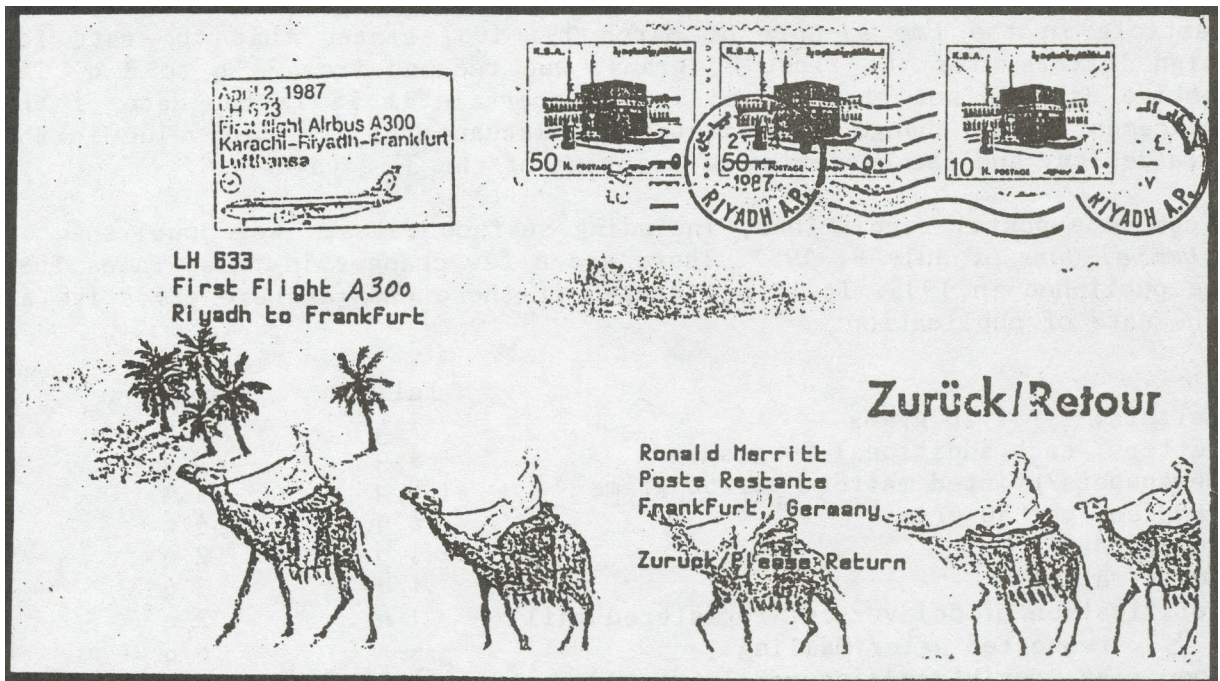


Figure 8. Rectangular cachet applied by Lufthansa to covers placed on board flight in Riyadh. Covers were returned to sender upon arrival by German postal authorities.



## SURFACE POSTAL RATES OF SAUDI ARABIA (1934-1994)

**By: R. J. Thoden**

Mr. J. I. Kearney's article in *Random Notes* #53 discussed the postal rates of the Hijaz and Najd period from 1926 to 1933. This article will discuss the surface rates from 1934 to date. Essentially complete data for surface rates are available from the government newspaper *Umm al-Qura* (see Dr. Amr's article in this issue of *Random Notes*) or from Saudi Arabian oil Company (Saudi Aramco) documents.

Airmail rates are a problem. Official documentation is not available for the very early period. Some information starting about 1940 is available from Aramco files, but is very incomplete through the 1950s. During the early days, and especially during and shortly after World War II, rates changed frequently and varied depending on the departure airport (Jeddah or Dhahran), and airline and/or routing being used. Airmail rates will be the subject of a future article.

Surface rates then in effect were published in the *Umm al-Qura* on January 4, 1935. Presumably these rates do not amount to changes, but were established at some previous date(s). Note that these rates, and those in the following two paragraphs, are extracted from Dr. S. S. Amr's article in this issue of *Random Notes*. Most of the rates below agree with those assumed by Mr. J. I. Kearney in his article on 1926-1933 postal rates in *Random Notes* #53.

	<u>Inland</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Letters, first 20 grams	½ q	3½ q
Letters, each additional 20 grams	½ q	2 q
Registration	½ q	3 q
Notification of arrival of a letter	¼ q	2 q
Parcels, per kilogram	1 q	varies by country
Insured letters, per £12 value	----	4 q
Insured letters, per £10 value	½ q	----
Newspapers/printed matter, per 50 grams.	⅛ q	¾ q

An article in the *Umm al-Qura* of March 19, 1937 stated that the rate for foreign letters, for the first 20 grams, was reduced from 3½ q to 3 q. The effective date is not stated, and it is uncertain if it is the date of the announcement. This change necessitated the issuance of the 3 q value in the *Tughra* design, and the cessation of printing of the 3½ q value.

The complete postal regulations, including surface rates, were published in the *Umm al-Qura* of July 9, 1937. There are a few changes in these rates from those published in 1935. It is not stated if these changes were effective as of the date of publication.

	<u>Inland</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Letters, first 20 grams	½ q	3 q
Letters, each additional 20 grams	½ q	2 q
Newspapers/printed matter, per 50 grams.	⅛ q	½ q
Samples, per 50 grams	¼ q	½ q
Postcards	¼ q	2 q
Registration	1 q	3 q
Notification of delivery of registered mail	1 q	3 q
" " ", requested after mailing	-----	6 q
Inquiries, registered/insured letters/parcels	1½ q	6 q



Domestic surface rates are believed to have remained stable until January 1, 1956 when the following rate schedule was announced:

Letter, per 20 grams	7/8 q
Registration fee	2 q
Greeting cards	1/4 q
Post cards	1/2 q
Printed matter and newspapers, per 50 grams	1/4 q
Parcels weighing less than 1000 grams	6 q
Parcels, 1001-3000 grams	8 q
Parcels, 3001-5000 grams	10 q
Parcels, 5001-10,000 grams	20 q

The new domestic letter and registration rates required the issuance of new denominations of 7/8 q, 2 q and 2 7/8 q stamps in the *Tughra* series.

The same announcement stated that mail between countries of the Arab Postal Union (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Libya) would be exchanged at domestic rates.

Until 1960, all postage rates were expressed, and stamps were denominated, in "Saudi" or "royal" qirsh, of which there were 11 to a riyal. Coinage, however, was in "common" qirsh (2 common qirsh = 1 Saudi qirsh). Royal Decree #6, dated December 31, 1959, stated that the riyal was to consist of 20 qirsh. The printing of new stamps in the GOSP, Dam and Airplane designs resulted.

An announcement in the *Umm al-Qura* of March 31, 1961 established the new rates in common qirsh. The following, which appears to be incomplete, is taken from a document furnished to the author by Mr. F. E. Patterson.

Domestic and APU surface letters per 10 grams	3 q
Foreign surface letters	8 q
Registration fee, domestic and foreign	8 q
Domestic and APU daily newspapers	1 q
Domestic and APU 'Id greeting cards	1 q

Royal Decree #35, dated December 11, 1962, approved Decision #364 of the Council of Ministers implementing a new Postal Tariff for Domestic and Foreign Mail. The exact effective date is not stated. The surface rates included in this tariff are as follows:

	<u>Domestic and APU</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Letters, first 20 grams	2 1/2 q	7 1/2 q
Letters, each additional 20 grams	2 1/2 q	4 1/2 q
Post cards	1 1/2 q	4 1/2 q
Post cards with reply paid	3 q	9 q
Greetings cards	1 q	3 q
Newspapers & periodicals, except dailies	1 q	1 q
Daily newspapers	1/2 q	3/4 q
Non-periodical newspapers & printed matter,		
first 50 grams	2 q	3 q
each additional 50 grams	1 q	1 1/2 q

	<u>Domestic and APU</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Business papers,		
first 50 grams	2 q	3½ q
each additional 50 grams	1 q	3½ q
minimum	5 q	7½ q
Samples,		
first 50 grams	2 q	3 q
each additional 50 grams	1 q	1½ q
minimum	5 q	7½ q
Small rolls,		
per 50 grams	2 q	3 q
minimum fee	10 q	15 q
Sound messages,		
first 20 grams	4 q	5½ q
each additional 20 grams	3 q	4 q
Registration fee	6 q	6 q
Urgent mail	9 q	18 q
Notification of receipt,		
at time of mailing	6 q	12 q
after mailing	9 q	18 q
Request for information	9 q	18 q
Request for recovery & change of address	12 q	24 q
Exchanging international reply coupon	2½ q	7½ q

A directive received by Saudi Aramco on March 4, 1964 from the Deputy Director General of Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs advised that the Medical Aid Society stamps (¼ Saudi qirsh) which were required on all postal matter in addition to the postage fee, were discontinued, and that all postage fees were to be increased by ½ (common) qirsh to compensate.

The next available reference is a table entitled "Saudi Arabian Airmail Rates" issued by the Saudi Aramco Mail Center with the rates stated to be effective September 1, 1970. The table also includes surface mail rates for "All Arab League Countries" and "Other Countries". Domestic rates are not specifically mentioned, but it is assumed that domestic rates were the same as Arab League rates, as in the past. This table was included with *Random Notes* #19. It is to be noted that rates are still expressed in common qirsh, although qirsh coins were no longer in use, having been replaced by halalah and riyal coins in the mid-1960s (1 riyal - 100 halalah = 20 common qirsh). Stamp denominations also continued to be expressed in qirsh until 1976.

	<u>Inland and APU</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Letters, first 20 grams	3 q	8 q
Letters, each additional 20 grams	2 q	5 q
Post cards	2 q	5 q
Unsealed greetings cards, each 20 grams	1 q	3 q
Daily newspapers, each issue	1 q	1 q
Samples, first 200 grams	5 q	-----
Samples, each additional 50 grams	1 q	-----
Samples, first 150 grams	-----	8 q
Samples, 150-200 grams	-----	9 q
Samples, each additional 50 grams	-----	2 q
Small parcels, first 250 grams	10 q	15 q
Small parcels, each additional 50 grams	2 q	3 q

	<u>Inland and APU</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Periodicals (newspapers & publications, except dailies), each 50 grams	1 q	1 q
Non-periodical newspapers and publications, first 50 grams	2 q	3 q
each additional 50 grams	1 q	2 q
Vocal messages, first 50 grams	4 q	6 q
each additional 50 grams	3 q	4 q
Registration fee	6 q	6 q

These rates remained unchanged until January, 1987 when they were generally increased and expressed in riyals and halalah. These rates were summarized in *Random Notes #38*.

	<u>Domestic and APU</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Letters, first 20 grams	0.50 R	1.00 R
Letters, each additional 20 grams	0.25 R	0.50 R
Postcards	0.25 R	0.50 R
Small parcels/vocal messages, first 100 grams	1.50 R	3.00 R
each additional 100 grams	0.75 R	1.50 R
Periodicals (newspapers and publications), first 100 grams	0.50 R	1.00 R
each additional 100 grams	0.25 R	0.50 R
Non-periodical newspapers and publications, first 100 grams	1.00 R	2.00 R
each additional 100 grams	0.50 R	0.75 R
Packages, 1 gram to 1 kilo	5.00 R	-----
1 to 5 kilos	10.00 R	-----
5 to 10 kilos	15.00 R	-----
10 to 20 kilos	25.00 R	-----
Registration fee	2.00 R	3.00 R
Tracer fee	2.00 R	2.50 R

Quite a challenge is presented to the collector of postal history trying to obtain examples showing these rates. Many of the "exotic" usages will of course be impossible to obtain. However, even examples of the ordinary inland postcard, letter, etc. rates will not be easy to find. The author has noted that relatively few examples of older inland correspondence have been preserved, and in any case, are rarely found in the stamp markets outside Saudi Arabia. There will also be difficulty in obtaining examples of more recent foreign surface correspondence, since virtually all foreign correspondence was by air.

The author wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Saudi Aramco Government Affairs Services department in allowing him to search through their microfilm files on postal matters.

## NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

**By: Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id**

December 12, 1993 - February 26, 1994: Additional definitives of the Saudi Universities series were reprinted. The sheets now have 100 stamps and 5 post 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:

Dec. 12, 1993: 50h Islamic, 150h Islamic, 75h King Sa'ud.  
Dec. 25, 1993: 50h King Sa'ud  
Feb. 26, 1994: 50h K.F.U.P.M.

December 14, 1993: A set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, was issued to commemorate World Food Day. The design shows the FAO emblem and four scenes representing food production from the desert, mountains, oases and sea. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 50 (10 x 5). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



February 12, 1994: The 75h birds blocks of nine were reissued. The designs of the stamps are the same as the first printing, but the stamps are now perforated 12 instead of  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ . In this printing, there is a black vertical line through the central vertical gutter from top to bottom of the sheet. The sheet format remains unchanged, eight blocks (2 x 4) per sheet.

February 26 - June 11, 1994: The 75h and 150h flowers blocks of 21 were reissued, the 75h on Feb. 26 and the 150h on June 11. Specifications are the same as for the original printings, except that the paper is now that normally used for commemorative stamps - medium thick with slightly shiny grayish gum. The original printing was on thinner white paper with invisible gum. Quantities: 75h - 17,850 sheets of four blocks of 21 stamps; 150h - not reported.

April 9, 1994: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate World Health Day. The design includes a head showing the mouth area, a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, and the WHO emblem. Designed by Mohammad Ghareeb Barwar. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets. First day covers are dated April 7.



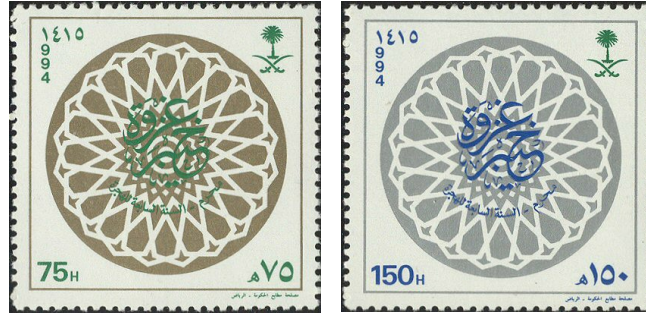
April 23, 1994: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the centenary of the establishment of the International Olympic Committee. The design shows the five Olympic rings over the number "100" in the background. Designed by Ashfaq Ghani. Printed in sheets of 50 (5 10). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



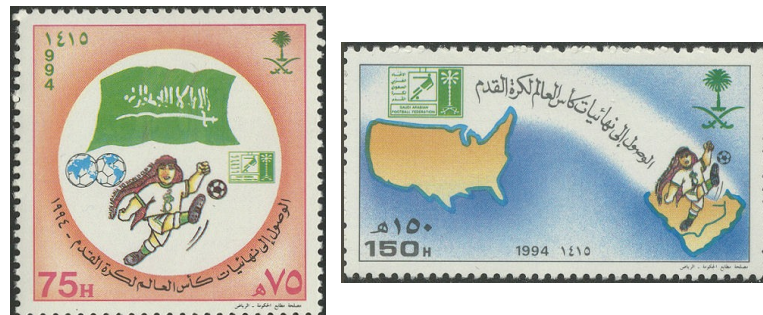
May 14, 1994: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate Hajj 1414. The design shows the Namirah Mosque and the tents of the pilgrims at Mount Arafat. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Hussaini. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps plus two post code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets, however about 30% of the quantity printed was damaged through exposure to rains in Riyadh and Dammam. First day covers are dated May 19.



June 14, 1994: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the battle of Khaibar in the month of Muharram in year 7 Hijrah. The design shows the name of the battle on circular Islamic ornamentation. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps plus 4 post code labels (6 x 9). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



June 18, 1994: Two stamps, 75h and 150h, were issued to commemorate the Saudi Arabian team reaching the preliminary round of the World Cup finals in the U.S.A. The design of the 75h stamp shows the Saudi flag, the Saudi Arabian Football Federation emblem, a map of the world shown on two footballs, and a Saudi player kicking a football. The 150h stamp shows the Saudi Arabian Football Federation emblem, outline maps of the U.S.A. and Saudi Arabia, and a Saudi player kicking a football. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. The 75h was printed in sheets of 50 stamps plus 4 post code labels (6 x 9), and the 150h was printed in sheets of 50 stamps and two post code labels (4 x 13). Perforated 12. Quantity: 400,000 sets.



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.