



جماعة هواة الطوابع العربية ملاحظات عابرة

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Finally, we now know what this is! See page 15

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.

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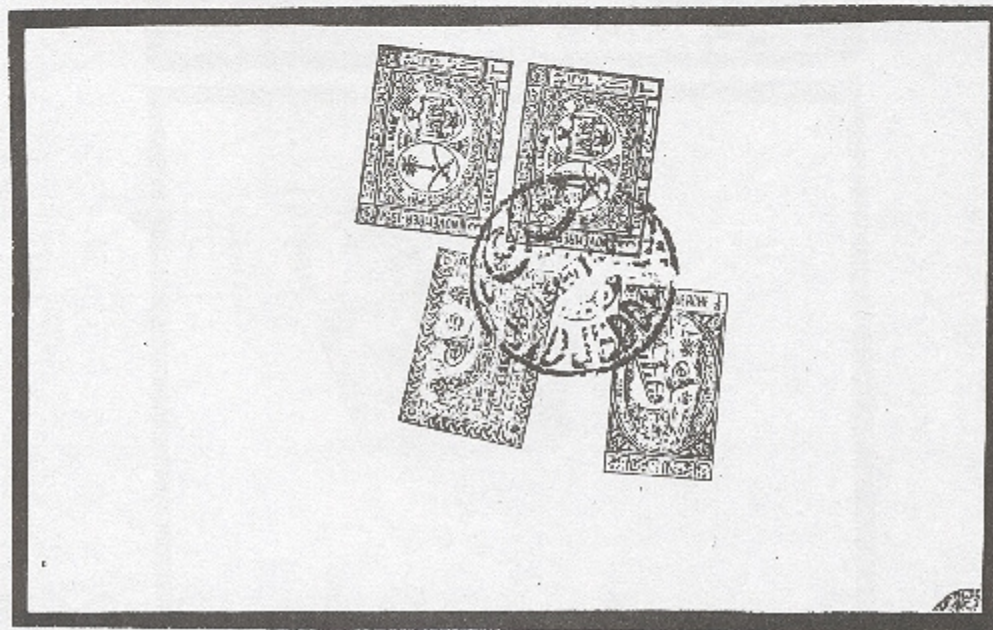
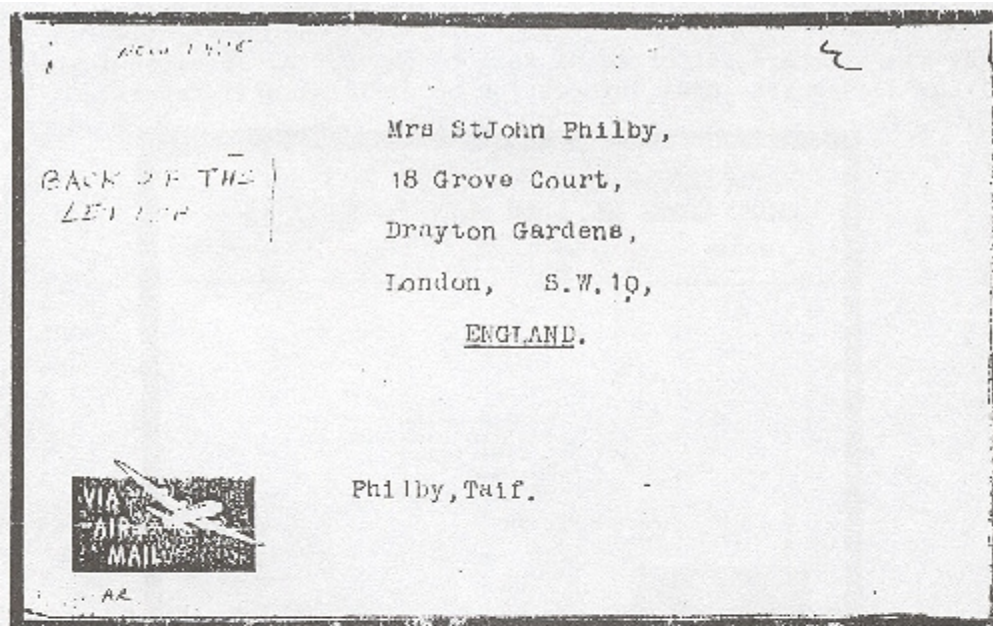
References are sometimes made in this publication to the following books by their authors' names:

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

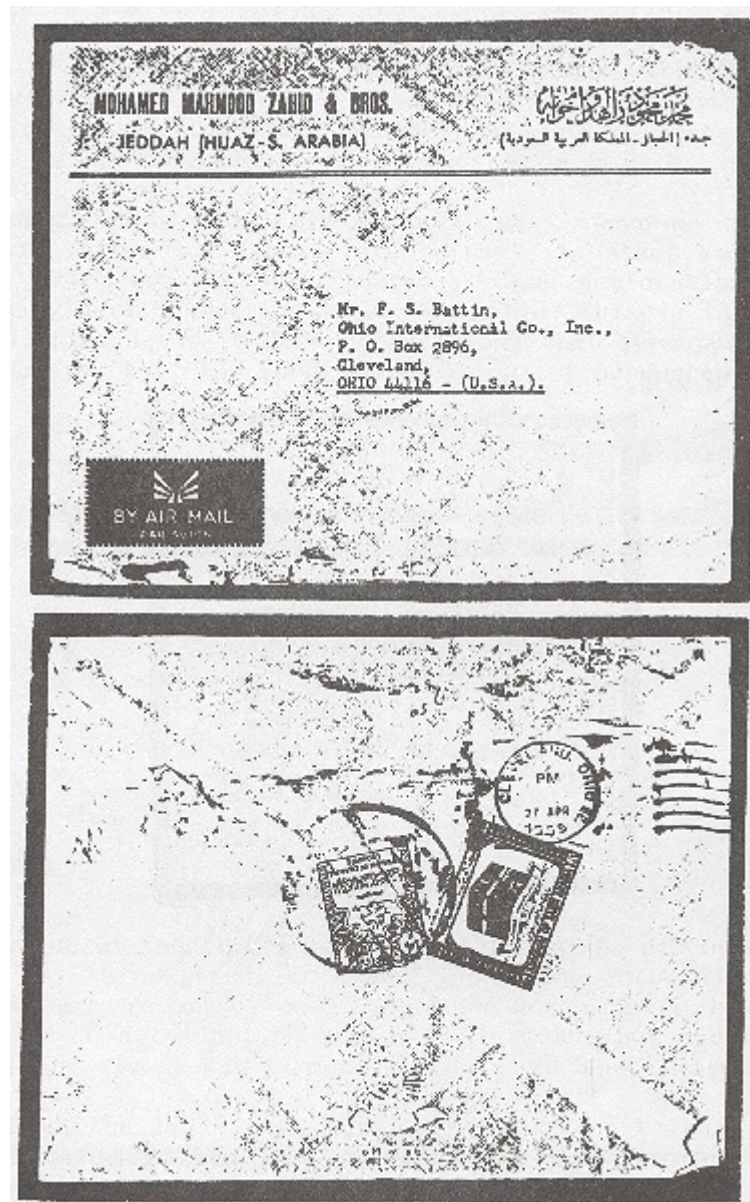
By: R. J. Thoden

1. Date of Issue - Visit of King Talal Issue (Scott 370-1, SG 185-6). Scott's gives the date of issue as Nov. 1951, while Gibbons says November 25, 1951. Masoud al-Kharouf has a cover showing a pair of the 3q of this issue cancelled in DJEDDAH on November 15, 1951. He checked *Umm al-Qura* newspaper to see whether the stamps might be mentioned there, but they were not. It did mention the actual date of the visit was November 10, 1951 (*Safar* 10, 1371). From this we can assume that Gibbon's date is incorrect, and that the stamps were actually issued sometime between the 10th and 15th of November.



2. **Official Cover.** This cover is unusual in that it bears a combination of ordinary and official stamps: ordinary 6q Muslim League Conference (Scott 345, SG 612) and 14q official (Scott O34, SG O515). I have not previously been aware of such combinations. The front of the cover shows the sender to be Mohamed Mahmood Zahid & Bros in Jeddah. Although the cancellation date is unclear, the cover has a receiving mark of CLEVELAND, OHIO, U.S.A. of April 27, 1965. The cover is by airmail, but is not registered. The postage totals 20q, which agrees with that usually seen on official letters to the U.S.A. Commercial letters to the U.S.A. required 23q (for 10 grams). Thus this cover raises a number of questions:

- Was the use of official stamps by a non-official sender legal, or was Zahid & Bros, "official"? It is noted that the 14 qirsh stamp of this official set is one of the values sold to stamp collectors.
- Why was the rate for official mail to the U.S.A. 20 qirsh instead of 23 qirsh? Does anyone have information on official mail rates?

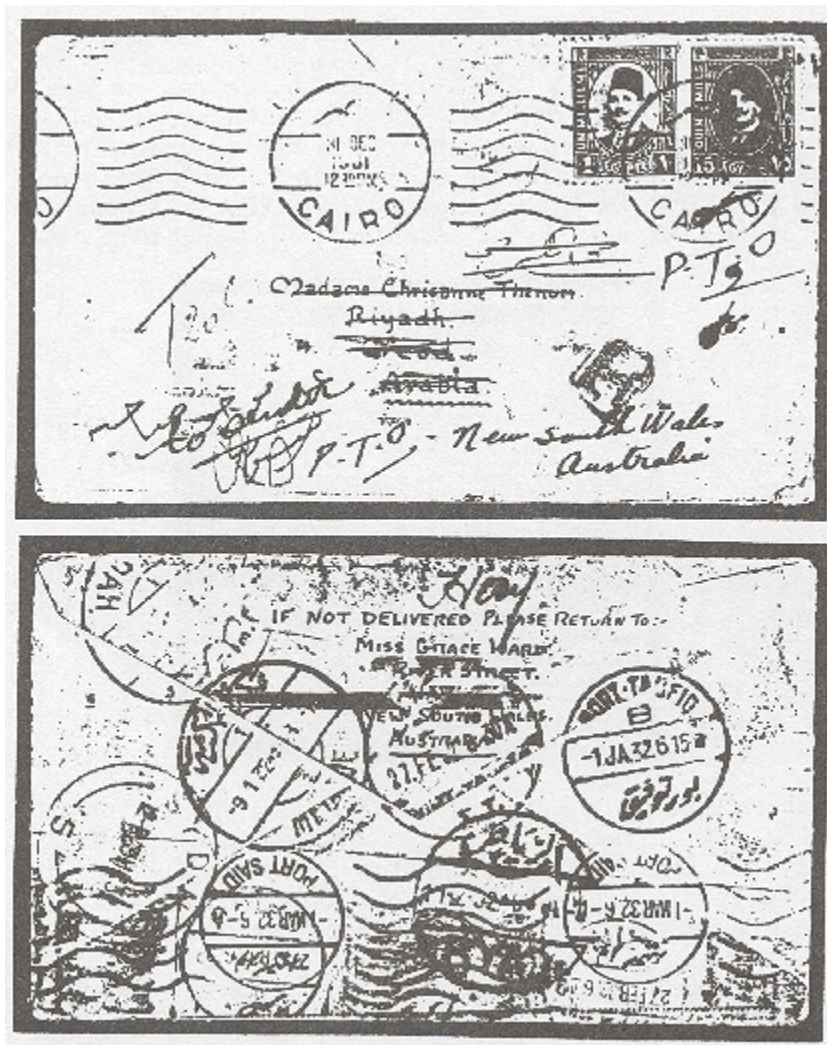


3. Inward Cover to Riyadh (1932). I recently came across the illustrated cover sent from Cairo to "Madame Chrisanne Thenum, Riyadh, Nejd, Arabia", and then returned to the sender in Australia. The cover with 16m in Egyptian postage, is cancelled CAIRO 31/12/31, and travelled by way of PORT TAUFIQ (1/1/32), DJEDDAH (date illegible) and MECQUE (9/1/32), arriving at RYAD on 11/2/32. The addressee was not found. The address was crossed out and the cover marked "to sender, P.T.O. New South Wales Australia". The cover then went back to the sender in Hay, New South Wales, Australia by way of PORT TAUFIQ (27/2/32), CAIRO (27/2/32), PORT SAID (1/3/32) and SYDNEY (28/3/32).

The cover has a handstamped "T" and handwritten "T 20c" postage due markings. It is not known where these were applied, and there are no postage due stamps to indicate that postage due was actually collected.

The date of 11/2/32 for the type X10 RYAD marking is considerably earlier than the earliest date given by Mr. K.D. Knight in his article on Saudi cancellations (see RN #47).

Another interesting thing about this cover is the addressee. One wonders who she was, and what she was doing in Riyadh, as the presence of western women in Riyadh in 1932 would be highly unusual.



4. **Booklets tape problem.** One end of the 1986 stamp booklets (Scott 961a-968a, SG SB11S, SB12S) is sealed with "Scotch" type tape. I recently looked at my booklets, which have lain untouched for several years. I noted slight traces of staining caused by the tape. I removed the tape using lighter fluid. I suggest readers also check their booklets and consider removing the "Scotch" tape to prevent future serious staining.

5. **"Unframed" gold ovpt on 1 para.** Gold 1922 Hijaz "unframed" overprints have previously been reported on the $\frac{1}{4}$ p, $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 1p definitives and the 1p postage due. These are actually gold over black, like the Caliphate overprints of 1924. See note after Scott L19. Their status is unknown. Does anyone have authoritative information on these gold overprints? Why were they unknown until a few years ago?

About six months ago, Ramy Yaghmour sent me a marginal block of four of the 1 para stamp with a gold "unframed" overprint for my comment.

Assuming that there was only one setting of this overprint, I tried to plate the block as a whole, but could not, although the overprints had the general characteristics of genuine ones. I returned the block with an opinion of "no opinion". However, in Random Notes #54, a possible second setting of the "unframed" overprint was reported. Another attempt to plate Mr. Yaghmour's block according to the individual stamps needs to be made.

6. **Part-perf Tughra.** Subscriber Steve Frumkin has shown me the following $\frac{1}{2}$ q Tughra block with bottom row imperforate between the stamp and sheet selvage. This is on the 1940s grayish paper and has clean perforations. There is no doubt it is really partly imperforate as described. This is in contrast to the many late 1950s printings with poor perforations that appear to be partly or fully imperforate, but show faint indentations of unpunched perforations.



7. **Scarce 20q value of fourth official set.** I found the discovery copy of this stamp (Scott 079A, SG unlisted) in 1986. See *Random Notes* #35. Until now, no other copy has been reported. Ramy Yaghmour now reports he has found the second known copy in a collection he bought in 1989, but did not check until recently. There are almost surely more of these out there waiting to be found.

8. **Saudi Arabia in the 1995 Scott Catalog.** As in recent years, those looking for major improvements in Scott's listing will be disappointed, as I was.

Prices. I could not find a single price change. A used price of \$1 was added for 610a, the 3q shade of the Traffic Day issue (cheap!).

Listings. Other than new issues, the only additions were: (a) perf 11 varieties of the 1932 definitives were added as 135a-137a (unpriced), (b) the perf 14x13½ animals block listed as 1146Jt, and (c) the 1992 Consultative Council SR5 souvenir sheet added as 1170A. Other souvenir sheets of recent years remain as footnotes only, or are omitted completely. In the last official set, O58Aa and O59Ab that were added in 1994 have been deleted, and the note above the set now says that the 12q and 23q values are wmk 337. The illustrations above the "illegible" set (L135-141) now include all three value handstamps (¼, 1 and 10q), but similar treatment was not given to the surcharges.

Footnotes. Scott seems very agreeable to making changes/additions to footnotes in contrast to their reluctance to add minor (and a few major) varieties. Those suggested by the A.P.A. and appearing in the new catalog are: (a) Note after L39 that "values are for copies with perfs touching the design". This recognizes that Scott's normal standard of "fine-very fine" does not apply to the "Arms" designs A7-A8 and overprints thereon.

(b) Note after L48 (Caliphate issue) that "inverted overprints on other values are forgeries". The genuine inverts (1, 2 and 5q) still do not have a listing and are mentioned only in the footnote.

(c) Notes after the King Ali issue (L160-186) clarifying that Cairo overprints are cheaper than Jeddah ones, and that "postally used copies are rare". "Scarce" would have been more accurate in general, although I have never seen genuinely used examples of some values.

(d) Note after Trans-Arabia Highway set (484-488) concerning the missing dot varieties was clarified.

(e) Note before 1009 mentions the lack of official dates of issue for definitives.

(f) Note above RA2 says "RA2-RA8 raised funds for the Medical Aid Society", per Dr. Amr's recent research.

9. Plating of the caliphate Issue. The definitive work on Caliphate issue plating was done by Fred Benedict (see *Random Notes* #30). Complete sheets of this issue have always been scarce. When I recently saw five complete sheets (1/8, 1, 1½, 2 and 5q) of this issue, I was eager to compare the plating with Benedict's study. I found all of Benedict's constant varieties on the sheets (except I found faint dots in some positions where Benedict said dots were missing). This confirmed that the sheets were from Benedict's Plate A. I also found the "unconstant" varieties, including the "missing *raa* in *tidhkar*" on the 1q and 2q sheets. This has previously been reported only on the 2q. I quickly checked all my singles to see if I could find this variety on other values, but was not successful. Readers are urged to check their holdings to see if it appears on values other than the 1q and 2q.



Missing *raa* in *tidhkar* variety.

Note: It also exists on the 5q. (MCL 2018)

MAIL TO/FROM THE CASOC CAMP IN JUBAIL 1933-35

By: R. J. Thoden

A concession agreement was signed in Jeddah on May 29, 1933 between the government of Saudi Arabia and the Standard Oil Company of California (SOCAL) covering oil exploration in eastern Saudi Arabia. The agreement, which became effective on July 14, 1933, called for exploration to begin within three months.

Accordingly, on September 23, geologists R.P. (Bert) Miller and S.B. (Krug) Henry crossed from Bahrain and landed at Jubail. At that time Jubail was a pearling town with about 1,000 inhabitants.

With the help of the great merchant family, the Al-Gosabis (Bahrain agents of King Ibn Sa'ud), an office in Jubail and a branch office in Hofuf were set up. A subsidiary of SOCAL, the California Arabian Standard Oil Company (CASOC) was created. Geological reconnaissance started, but the going was slow due to the inhospitable terrain and total lack of infrastructure in that part of Saudi Arabia. It was quickly confirmed that an airplane was needed.

Additional personnel arrivals were geologist J.W. Hoover on October 22, geologists Art Brown and Tom Koch on November 10, geologist Hugh Burchfiel on November 21, mechanic Felix Dreyfuss in December, and engineer Allen White in December. All worked out of Jubail, except Brown, Koch and White, who were assigned to the Hofuf office.

In San Francisco, Clark Gester, SOCAL's co-chief geologist, hired R.C. (Dick) Kerr. Kerr was an ex-Navy pilot then running an air mapping business in Los Angeles. He was a pilot, mechanic and photographer, as well as a geologist, just what was needed for the effort in Saudi Arabia. A Fairchild 71 plane was purchased and shipped by boat on February 6 from New York to Egypt, arriving at Alexandria on March 1. After delays relating to departure permits, Kerr and co-pilot Charley Rochville took off from Cairo on the way to Jubail via Gaza, Baghdad and Basra. They arrived late in March, as the 9th and 10th CASOC men in eastern Saudi Arabia.

The above information, and the maps on pages 13-14, are taken from *DISCOVERY!* by Wallace Stegner, published by Middle East Export Press, Inc., Beirut, Lebanon in 1971 (Library of Congress no. 74-148026).

I have seen only one cover, to the U.S.A., from the Hofuf camp. It was illustrated in *Random Notes* #34 on page 11. Unfortunately, it has no transit markings, so the routing is not definitely known.

It is known that Jubail had a wireless (telegraph) station. David Graham reported a partial Jubail cancel on an Heir Apparent stamp in *Random Notes* #39, but until now, no covers with Jubail markings have been seen. The only examples of mail seen were a few outgoing letters sent via Bahrain. See *Random Notes* #38 page 6 for an example of such a cover.

I have now been fortunate to see four 1934-35 covers, three sent to R.C. Kerr at Jubail, and one sent by him from Jubail. Close examination of these covers permits drawing certain conclusions about how the mail was handled and why, but still leaves some questions unanswered.

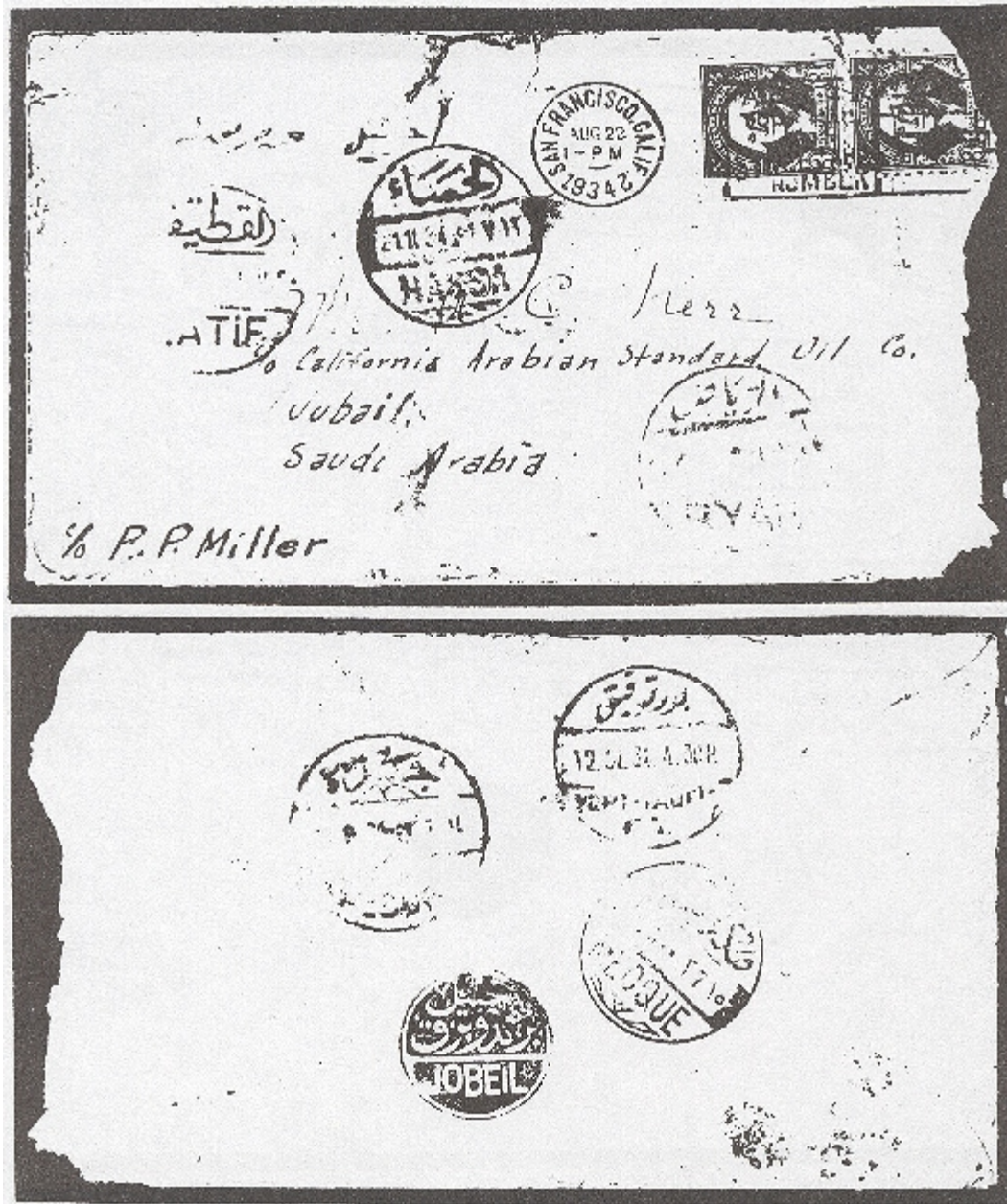


Figure 1 - Cover from U.S.A. to Jubail

The first cover was sent by sea mail from SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., USA, on 22/8/34 with 6 cents postage (an overpayment of 1 cent). This remarkable cover has seven transit and receiving marks - PORT TAUFIQ (12/9/34), DJEDDAH (?/9/34), MECQUE (24/9/34), RYAD (12/10/34), HASSA (21/10/34), KATIF (date unclear) and JOBEIL (undated) - detailing the route to its destination.

From this we can see that the transit time was over two months, most of it crossing the deserts of Saudi Arabia. The post office may have recently been opened since the violet negative marking is not a normal one - it is undated and appears to be a seal. It reads "Jobeile Post and Telegraph" (*barid wa barq*). See Figure 1 for the front and back of this cover.

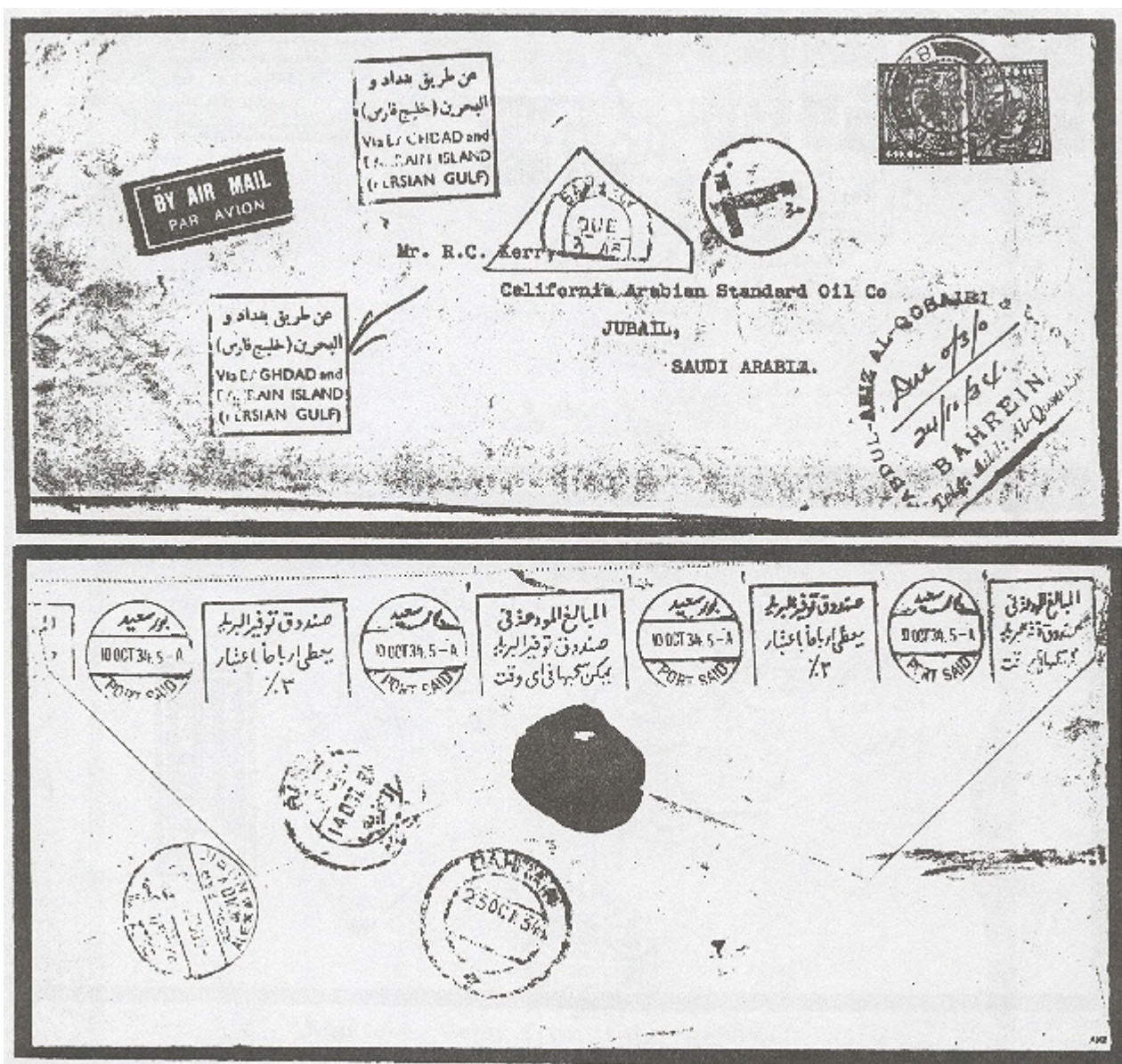


Figure 2 - Cover from England to Jubail.

The next cover is from LONDON, England, on 5/10/34. It has no sender, but was probably from the London office of SOCAL. The cover was short paid and has a "T 30" postage due marking. It also has a bilingual square transit mark "Via BAGHDAD and BAHRAIN ISLAND (PERSIAN GULF)". The transit marks are ALEXANDRIA (9/10/34), PORT SAID (10/10/34), BASRA (14/10/34) and BAHRAIN (23/10/34). There is also a "BAHRAIN DUE 3 AS" marking. The interesting thing is what happened to the cover when it reached Bahrain. Apparently, there was no arrangement for mail to get from Bahrain to Jubail, so it was picked up by the agent, Abdul-Aziz al-Qosaibi & Bros, who applied its own handstamp, complete with date (24/10/34) and due marking, presumably took it to Jubail by boat and delivered it to the CASOC camp. See Figure 2 for the front and back of this cover.

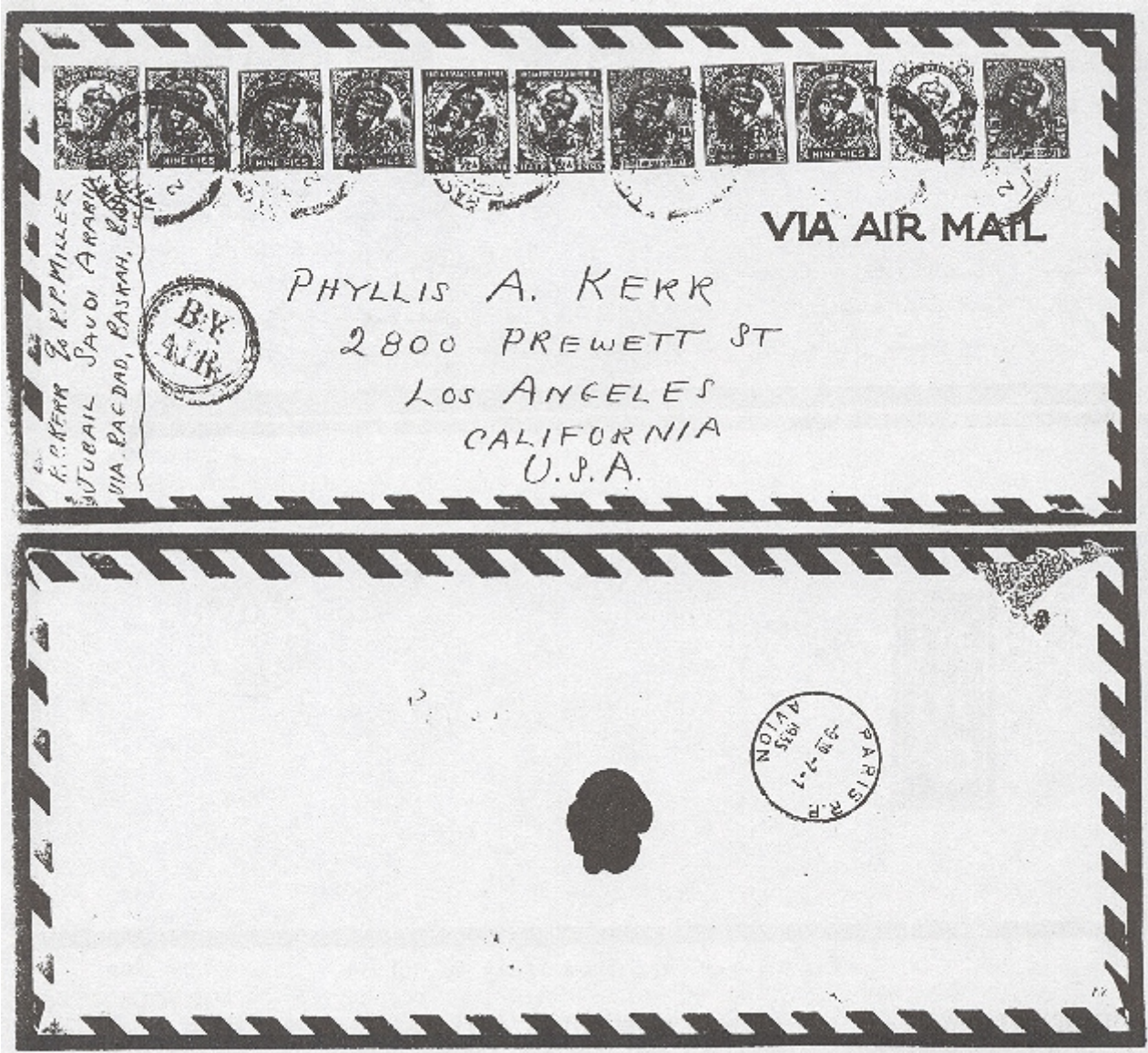


Figure 3. Cover from Jubail to U.S.A.

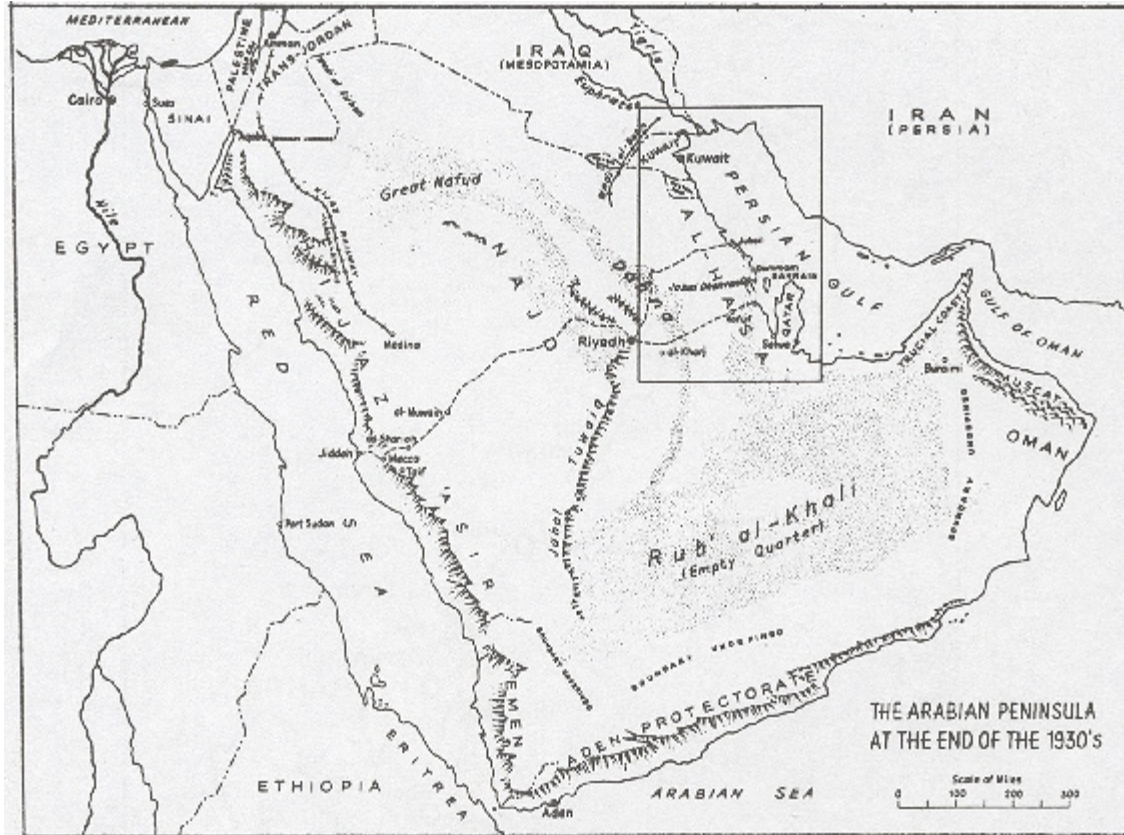
We have seen from the previous cover that there was presumably no official arrangement for transit of mail outside Saudi Arabia at Jubail. This then explains why outgoing mail was sent from Bahrain, presumably carried there by the agent, Al-Gosaibi. The next cover, sent by Kerr to his wife, is an example of this. It has 11 stamps totalling 1 rupee in Bahrain postage, is cancelled 2/1/35, and has a circular "BY AIR" marking. The return address is "R.C. Kerr, c/o R.P. Miller, Jubail, Saudi Arabia, Via Baghdad, Basra, Bahrain". The only marking on the back is "PARIS R.P. 7/1/35 AVION". The letter was sent by surface mail from Paris because there was no transatlantic airmail service at this time. The wax seal on the back reads "Dick Kerr" in Arabic. See Figure 3 for the front and back of this cover.



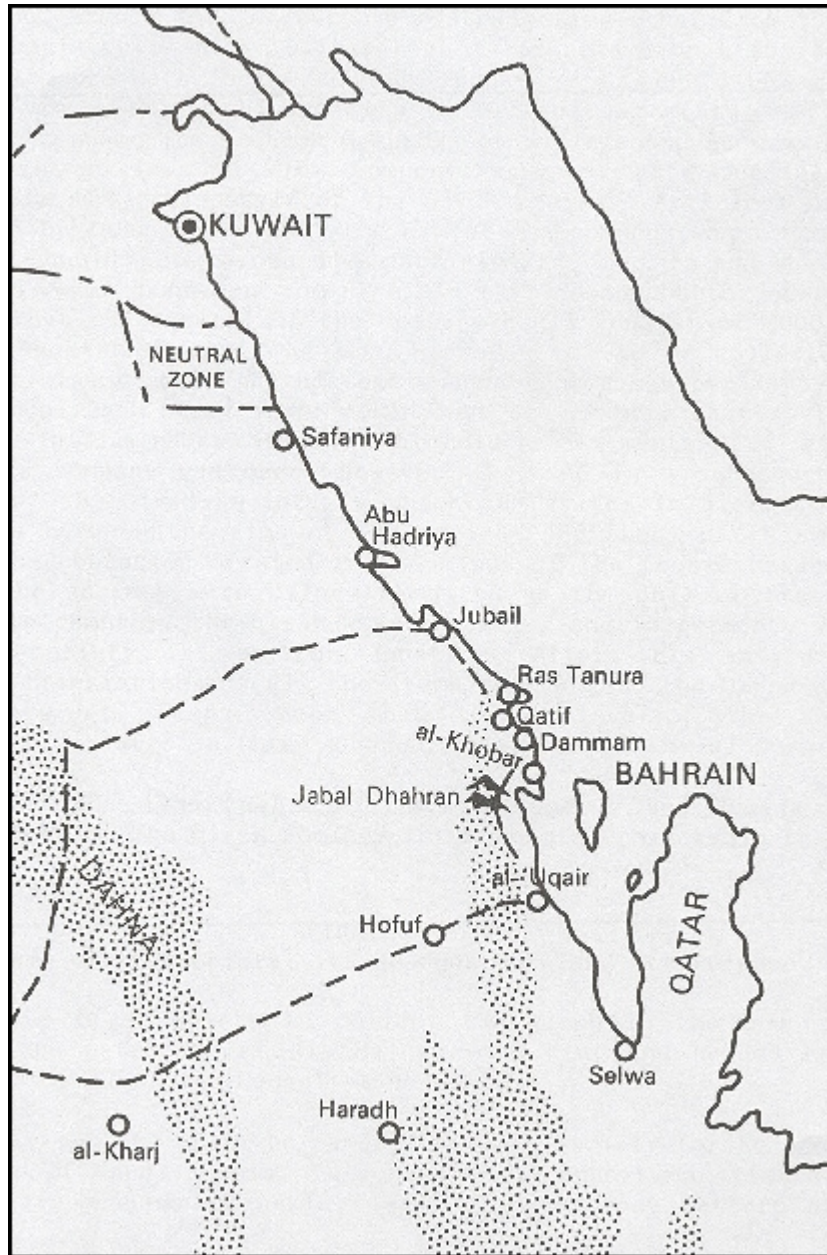
Figure 4. Cover from Italy to Jubail.

The final cover in this group is from Mrs. Kerr, mailed from ROMA, Italy on 23/7/35. It has 6.50 lire in Italian postage and is marked "Persian Gulf Route Baghdad Basrah Bahrain Island". The transit and arrival cancellations are: CAIRO (??/7/35), PORT TAUFIQ (26/7/35), DJEDDAH (8/4/35), RYAD (22/8/35), KATIF (2/9/35) and JOBEIL (8/9/35). The Jubail cancel is now a normal one, rather than the negative seal seen on the earlier cover. The question here is: why did this cover go by surface across Saudi Arabia rather than by the Persian Gulf route as marked? Was there no arrangement for transfer of mail at Cairo between the Italian airline (Ala Littoria) and the British airline (Imperial) which flew the Persian Gulf route? Can any of our readers help in answering this question? The consequence was that Mr. Kerr had left on his summer vacation, and the cover was marked "c/o Mr. G.C. Gester, San Francisco-please hold for Mr. Kerr's arrival". There are no markings to indicate the cover went to San Francisco by mail, and it was presumably hand-carried by another employee leaving Jubail at the time. See Figure 4 for the front and back of this cover.

The author is interested in hearing from readers who have other covers to or from Jubail in the 1933-35 period. Covers to or from the CASOC camp in Al-Hassa (Hofuf) during this period would also be of interest.



Note to the reader : What was known earlier as the "Persian Gulf" and is referred to as such in this article, is now known as the "Arabian Gulf".



Eastern Saudi Arabia in the 1930s

INTRODUCTION

The first time the name of this society was recorded in the *Umm al-Qura* was in the July 10, 1936 issue when the by-laws were published. It seems that a similar society existed earlier in Egypt and was named the Qirsh Society. Some citizens of Makkah thought that a similar society should be established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the purpose of collecting money from the public on a charitable basis, utilizing the qirsh as the monetary unit for donation, to promote economic projects in the country. However, it should be noted that on May 16, 1936 *Umm al-Qura* published the by-laws of a company, not a society, which carried the name The Arabian Company for Savings and Economy. By reading the text of the by-laws of this company, one gets the feeling that this company could be the predecessor of the Qirsh Society. Article 4 of the first chapter of the by-laws stated that the aim of the company was to collect money in a way that would not burden the participants, and to use this money in investments in legal trade and commerce. In the second chapter of the by-laws, it is stated that the capital of the company shall consist of 2000 shares and the value of each share shall be 1200 nickel qirsh to be collected for 1200 days. The participant could pay his daily dues (one qirsh per day) on a weekly or monthly basis. Each participant could have one or more shares. These shares were recorded in the names of the shareholder. No mention of stamps to be issued by this company was made. However, I found in a subsequent issue an editorial about the Qirsh Society in which the writer is alerting readers to the difference between the aims of the society and those of the company, and pointing to the confusion created in the minds of the people because both the company and the society were using the qirsh as the unit of transaction. In the case of the company, the qirsh was for saving and investment, while in the case of the society it was for donation. After this introduction, the following are translations of all the items relevant to the Qirsh Society in a chronological order. Please note that the by-laws of the Society were published in three parts in three successive issues of *Umm al-Qura*.

July 10, 17 and 24, 1936 (Rabi' al-Thani 20 and 27 and .Jumada al-Awwal 5, 1355)
The by-laws of The Qirsh Society for Economic Projects in the Country of Saudi Arabia.

FIRST CHAPTER

Name of the Society, its Headquarters and its Purpose.

Article 1. This is a society to collect the qirsh in the country of Saudi Arabia under the patronage of His Majesty the King and headed by the first vice president of *Al-Shura* (Consultative Council).

Article 2. This society shall be named The Qirsh Society for Economic Projects in the Country of Saudi Arabia. This name shall appear on all the centers of the society, its documents, seals, legal transactions, letters and anything related to it.

Article 3. The main legal headquarters of the Society is in Makkah al-Mukarramah. Branches are to be established in the towns of Saudi Arabia in which it is seen to be feasible and useful to do so.

Article 4. The purpose of the Society is to achieve economic independence in Saudi Arabia by establishing modern industrial and agricultural projects and encouraging existing ones, as well as opening venues of work and employment for the citizens of the land.

Article 5. The Society shall carry on its economic activities without interfering in political matters.

SECOND CHAPTER

Formation of the General Assembly

Article 6. The Qirsh Society for Economic Projects in Saudi Arabia is composed of:

- A. General Assembly.
- B. Board of Directors.

Article 7. The General Assembly is composed of:

- A. Forty members elected by secret ballot.
- B. Honorary members appointed by the Board of Directors.
- C. Participating members who shall pay to the society a monthly dues of five Arabian riyals, to be paid immediately. The Board of Directors has the right to increase or decrease the amount of dues as they see fit according to the best interests of the Society.

Article 8. The member of the Assembly should be of good character and of high moral values, not have been convicted for dishonorable crimes, and his age should be no less than 22 years.

Article 9. The forty members shall be elected by a general body of citizens of the land.

Article 10. The elected members should be citizens of Saudi Arabia.

Article 11. The term of office for the elected members of the Assembly is four years starting at the time of establishment of the Society. At the end of this period, new members shall be elected in the same manner specified in article 9 of these by-laws.

Article 12. The General Assembly shall elect two vice-presidents and one secretary to the Assembly from the ranks of the elected members at the beginning of each new General Assembly.

Article 13. The elected members of the General Assembly as stated in article 7 shall be composed in the first session specifically of the following:

- A. The members who are signatory to these by-laws.
- B. The rest of the members (to reach 40 members) shall be elected according to the method stated in article 9.

THIRD CHAPTER

Formation of the Board of Directors

Article 14. The Board of Directors is composed of:

1. Sixteen members elected by the General Assembly from its elected ranks.
2. Honorary members who are decided upon by the Board of Directors if it is seen fit to serve the goals of the Society.

Article 15. The membership on the Board of Directors is for three years, on the condition that the membership of four members shall be dropped by chance selection. Four new members shall be elected by the General Assembly. It is permissible to re-elect those whose membership on the Board had been dropped.

Article 16. The Board of Directors shall elect from its ranks a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and an accountant.

FOURTH CHAPTER

Duties of the Board of Directors

Article 17. The Board of Directors has full power and authority to run the Society and manage its affairs, including any transactions or dealings done in the name of the Society and on its behalf, buying real estate or replacing or exchanging real estate, construction of needed buildings, renting and leasing, approval of loans and borrowing of needed sums of money, performing pawn transactions and cancelling them with or without monetary payment, signing all contracts, agreements and commercial transactions and guarantees and writing its conditions as deemed fit. The Board also has the right to receive and pay any amount of money, select the method for investment of accumulated sums of money, estimation of the reserve and regulating its use. It is also responsible for all legal suits emanating from or against the Society, including presentation at courts, defending at courts, delegation, appealing, petition for review of court decision, request for third-party judicial opinion, making final agreements, clearance, giving or declining rights, answering courts or judges, and signing contracts of loans, withholdings, and real estate interests for the benefit of the Society even if that is without monetary rewards, and issuing the necessary permissions and authorizations. The Board has the authority to perform all the functions related to management of the affairs of the Society and implement all the internal by-laws seen necessary for regulating the functions and workers such as appointing needed officers to help in running the affairs of the Society. The Board has the right in all circumstances and under any conditions to take any actions seen necessary to protect the property, assets and interests of the Society in general. The Board should implement the decisions taken by the General Assembly. All that is mentioned is not intended to limit the authority of the Board. The Board has full and absolute authority in running the Society.

Article 18. The Board of Directors shall meet once a week and whenever the business of the Society requires based on a call by the chairman or his designee, or on request by five members of the Board.

Article 19. The decisions of the Board shall pass by majority vote. If there is a deadlock, then the side on which the chairman voted shall prevail. The meeting shall not be legal unless the majority of members are in attendance.

Article 20. If a member of the Board fails to attend three successive meetings without an acceptable excuse offered in advance, the Board shall alert him to this, and if this conduct is repeated, the Board shall look into the matter.

Article 21. The Board of Directors shall supply the following to the General Assembly:

- A. The budget for the new year, at least 20 days before it is due so that it shall be examined and verified.
- B. A detailed general report on the activities of the Society during the preceding year. This report shall be published in the local newspapers after being reviewed by the General Assembly.
- C. A detailed report of income and expenses and all related items for the preceding fiscal year.

Article 22. The fiscal year of the Society shall start with the beginning of the month of *Muharram* and finish by the end of the month of *Dhu al-Hijjah*.

Article 23. The chairman or the vice-chairman of the Board of Directors shall represent the Society in signing on its behalf and in the courts of law in accordance with the decisions of the Board of Directors.

Article 24. None of the members of the Board of Directors shall be responsible in his personal capacity for the legal obligations of the Society.

Article 25. The duration of membership on the Board of Directors shall not end with the end of membership in the General Assembly, and the member shall stay on the Board till the end of his legal tenure in accordance with article 15 of these by-laws.

Article 26. The Board of Directors shall develop its own internal by-laws and submit them to the General Assembly for approval.

FIFTH CHAPTER

Duties of the General Assembly

Article 27. The General Assembly shall hold its regular annual meeting in the month of *Muharram* each year to look into the following:

- A. The report of the Board of Directors on the activities of the Society in the preceding year.
- B. Review of the accounts of the preceding year and its approval.
- C. Study of the budget for the new year and its approval.
- D. Appointment of needed inspectors for the new year.
- E. Dealing with other topics placed on the agenda.
- F. Study of suggestions presented to the Society.
- G. Election of new members for the Board of Directors replacing the elected members who died, resigned or were terminated.

Article 28. The General Assembly can hold an extraordinary meeting at any time when the Board of Directors sees that the business of the Society requires holding such a meeting, or based on a written request to the president by one fifth of the members of the General Assembly.

Article 29. The call to the members to attend regular or extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly shall be sent at least three days in advance, mentioning in brief the items which will be discussed at the meeting.

Article 30. The president shall preside over the meetings of the General Assembly, and in his absence, the first vice-president, then the second vice-president. In the absence of the second vice-president, the chairman of the Board of Directors shall preside over the meeting.

Article 31. The meeting of the General Assembly shall not be legal unless the majority (half the total members plus one) are in attendance.

Article 32. Any amendments to these by-laws should be approved by the General Assembly by a decision accepted by no less than half the members plus one.

Article 33. The General Assembly may appoint from its ranks one or more committees to review the financial accounts and to review and check the actions taken by the Board of Directors.

SIXTH CHAPTER

Finances of the Society

Article 34. The finances of the Society are composed of the following:

- A. Collection of the qirsh once every three months and on other occasions seen appropriate by the Board of Directors, by collection campaigns using methods which have legitimate legal character.
- B. Donations and aid to the Society.
- C. Membership dues.

Article 35. The revenues generated by the establishments which belong to the Society shall be added to the treasury in accordance with article 34, to be utilized in fulfilling the goals of the Society as outlined in these by-laws.

Article 36. None of the members has any right to the annual income or profits of the Society or in any of its properties or possessions or any items left after its liquidation.

Article 37. All the cash money accumulated by the Society shall be deposited in a bank approved by the Board of Directors. There should be no more than 3,000 qirsh with the treasurer. If the Board of Directors retains more than this amount, it is legally responsible for the whole amount retained.

Article 38. The money deposited in the bank must be in gold. Accordingly, all the Society's money intended for bank deposition shall be converted to gold (coins), and the conversion shall be at the exchange rate of the day approved by the Board of Directors putting in consideration the best interests of the Society. A document of the exchange transaction should be made and approved by the chairman of the Board of Directors and by the owner of the money exchange establishment.

Article 39. No withdrawal of any sum of the deposited money can be made unless decided upon by the Board of Directors. The request for withdrawal should be signed by the chairman or the vice-chairman, the treasurer, the secretary, and one member of the Board.

SEVENTH CHAPTER

Registration of the Stamps of the Society, its Marks and Punishment of Forgers

Article 40. The stamps, whose shape, design and measurements shall be decided and agreed upon by the Board of Directors, that will be given for the collected qirsh, as well as the marks or any relevant items shall be registered in the name of the Qirsh Society by the legal means.

Article 41. Anyone who might forge or imitate the stamps of the Qirsh Society or its marks or seals, or ask another individual to do so, and sell or delegate others to sell such forgeries or imitations shall be subjected to the punishment decided by the government.

Article 42. Anyone found using forgeries or stamps previously used, or who aids others in doing so, shall be subjected to the punishment decided by the government.

Article 43. If the Qirsh Society has knowledge of such forgery and verifies its existence, it shall ask the Department of Public Security (police) in Makkah or the chiefs of police in the districts to pursue legal action in immediate holding of these forgeries. An official request should be sent to the head of Public Security in Makkah or to the chiefs of police in the districts in a speedy and confidential manner.

EIGHTH CHAPTER

Limit of the Society, its Dissolution, and the Disposition of its Money

Article 44. The Qirsh Society does not have a fixed limit or time at which its functions come to an end.

Article 45. The abolition of the Qirsh Society occurs only by a royal decree.

Article 46. In case of the dissolution of the Qirsh Society or its abolition, it shall be succeeded by another society composed of the principals of the private schools (non-elementary), His Eminence the Chief Judge of the highest *Shari'ah* Court, the officer of the *awqaf* (religious endowments), the director of education in Makkah, and the mayor of Makkah at the time of the dissolution of the Society.

Article 47. The Society which will succeed the Qirsh Society shall seize the monies of the Qirsh Society and all its accounts and properties, and shall spend them in the manner described in article 48 of these by-laws.

Article 48. After the abolition of the Qirsh Society, all its money and properties shall be endowed for the purpose of sending the sons of this country on scholarships to study the arts and crafts seen needed by this country as judged by the members of the succeeding society.

Article 49. His Eminence, the judge of the highest *Shari'ah* court in Makkah, in the name of the Islamic faith, shall call in collaboration with the officers of endowments and education of the succeeding society which has been cited in article 46, for a meeting to put into action articles 47 and 48 of these by-laws.

Article 50. The dissolved Qirsh Society shall advertise in all the local newspapers the contents of articles 46, 47, 48 and 49 of these by-laws, for the notification to the public to clear itself from the property and the money of the Society.

Article 51. The society which will succeed the Qirsh Society according to article 46 of these by-laws shall proceed immediately in acquiring all the accounts and money of the Society and its properties and take charge of it.

Article 52. These by-laws shall be valid for implementation after approval from the authorities.

END

July 17, 1936 (Rabi' al-Thani 27, 1355) The Qirsh Project. A Joint Endeavor. The Duty of the Public Towards it. (An editorial).

We published in the last issue the first part of the by-laws of the Qirsh Society for Economic Projects in Saudi Arabia. The fourth article stated the purpose of establishing the society, namely "The aim of the Society is to achieve economic independence in Saudi Arabia by establishing modern industrial and agricultural projects and encouraging the existing ones and opening the venues for work for the citizens of the land". This goal is one of the most important topics to which we have to attend and care for because we are in a great need to establish economic independence and find jobs for the unemployed, and to invest for the interest of the public and the country.

Accordingly, we feel our duty to state our opinion in this important project which is expected to have fruitful good results if the individuals in charge of this project carried on with all the efforts and attention needed, and utilized the results of their work and campaigns in a manner useful to the nation and the country.

The Qirsh Project is a joint endeavor and activity which cannot be done by individuals. The participation of the whole nation is essential for the success and fulfillment of this project. If the old days did not witness the participation of the public in such activities due to various considerations, then tire present days demand the participation of the citizens in these activities because the new developments in life removed many difficulties standing in the way and we have to proceed to remove remaining obstacles. It is the duty of the people to join in such activities in a manner which will guarantee a unity for this nation.

We stated that the Qirsh Project is a joint activity, and there is no way for this project to succeed unless the whole public participated in supporting it. This participation shall not only benefit the project but it will benefit the nation which will appear united and cohesive. We are in bad need of this kind of unifying action because we see some traces of disintegration in our works.

The Qirsh Project is the people's project because it is supported, propagated and directed by the people for the best interest of the country. The functions of the Qirsh Project are the functions of the people only, its money is from the people only, and its interests are those of the people only. So, it is the duty of all the people of the nation to participate in this project, no difference between the rich and the poor, the old and young, and everyone should join this project: the men at their place of work, the women at their homes, the students at their schools and the children in their playgrounds.

The contribution to this project shall not cost the people too much burden or distress and shall not affect them in a negative way. If each of us participated in the project by donating one qirsh on his personal behalf, and one qirsh for each individual in his household, this is not going to affect him adversely or negatively. The single qirsh donated by each one of us to this project is a stone in the tower of economic independence of our beloved country. This country, whose well-being we are all concerned about, and which is in dire need of economic independence because there is no greater danger to the nation than its lack of such independence, and the economic invasion is an invasion at the heart of the country.

We have to believe in the value and benefit of this project, and not belittle the value of the qirsh. God willing, we will be able to establish large factories from this little weakling, the qirsh, and all that is needed for the success of this project is our support and solidarity. Our brotherly neighbor Egypt had its people supportive of a qirsh project there, and was able to establish a factory for tarbooshes (fezes, or Turkish type head-dress) which is the largest and greatest of its type in the world. Last winter, Egypt established a factory for wool weaving, and in a few years it will establish more factories.

The success of the project depends on the basic principle that all its functions depend on voluntary activity of the participating individuals. The officers of the Qirsh Society do not have the right to a salary, and the individuals who collect the donated qirsh are not entitled to any monetary rewards for their work. And as we stated earlier, the project is from the people and to the people to serve the public interest. The volunteers have few privileges to encourage them and to facilitate their duties, and it is

anticipated that the by-laws of the society shall delineate these privileges. We like to request the attention of the Arabian Car Company to support this project by allowing the volunteers to use the bus lines according to guidelines outlined by the Board of Directors of the Society in due time, to facilitate their work, and we are hopeful that the patriotic owners of the company shall be supportive of this project and to ensure its success.

The voluntary work for this project shall depend on the support of the shop owners, the youth and the school students. They are responsible for widening the voluntary activities and publicizing it. The shop owners have the clout and influence on their customers and can supply workers from their shops to do helpful voluntary work. The youth in their sincere efforts, strong will and the vigor of youth in their blood can volunteer to collect the qirsh to serve their country and its interests without shyness or arrogance. The students in their activity, nationalistic patriotism, and vigor can do a great deal towards this national public duty.

Each individual of us should not shy away from carrying the qirsh stamps and volunteering to collect their value from donors. The good deeds of others should be a good example for us if we want to succeed. The qirsh project in Egypt succeeded only when the elite of the nation went into voluntary work for the society. The sons of the ministers or the presidents or the high ranking officials did not find it below their dignity to collect the qirsh from the poor or the rich, so as to build glory for their country. We have not to shy away from such work which will bring success and prosperity to our country. It is known to all that the qirsh you are collecting is not for your own use or that you are making a living out of it, but it is for building a glorious country, so let us think about this and live our new life which is different from our earlier ways, and life today is different from the past.

We ask in the name of the welfare of our country from the educated and the intellectuals to implant this idea and spread it among the citizens, and we hope that the teachers will tell their students at the schools about what they can do for this project, because this is a good direction and venue for their activities which can be directed to serve the interest of the country which is above and before any other interests.

Ibn Abdul-Maksood, Makkah

July 17, 1936 (Rabi' al-Thani 27, 1355) The Qirsh Project.

It came to our attention that the founding committee of the Qirsh Society is still holding its meetings and it decided on a provisional basis to continue the election of its General Assembly (26 members) on the evening of the coming Thursday the 18th of this month. In this election, all the sectors of the public shall be represented. It is expected the founding committee will appoint a sub-committee which will share in collaboration with some educated notables in supervising the election process including ballot boxes and sorting the votes which shall take place immediately after the election and the results shall be declared as soon as they are available.

July 31, 1936 (Jumada al-Awwal 12, 1355) A public appeal from the founding committee of the Qirsh Project.

Oh, Concerned Patriotic Citizen!
THIS IS THE QIRSH PROJECT!!

This is the first nucleus of the life of your beloved country, and this is the great foundation on which its economic independence and its construction shall be built upon!! Poverty, unemployment, loss of harvests and loss of

national industry are all the deadliest enemies of your country, which does not stand a chance unless it is rid of them.

This is the Qirsh Project. Its task is to continue our progress in the economic field and to put the corner stone in our economic renaissance. It is hoped that the people in charge of this project shall continue their efforts to achieve this grand noble goal to conquer the above mentioned deadliest enemies of your country!!

This is the Qirsh Project. As you can see, it combines simplicity and greatness. Simplicity because it does not cost our citizens much except for a few qirsh, and greatness because from these accumulated qirsh spectacular results shall take place which we are going to witness, God willing.

But how and when? If you are interested in this project and encouraged its fulfillment, and if you worked hard for it in spirit and action, considering that your patriotism and loyalty prompted you to be among the first people to encourage and support it.....

THEN, AND NOW.....

You are asked first to think of whom you see the most suitable individuals to be members of the General Assembly for this project. Accordingly, we shall leave it to your conscience to think about, because it shall not miss the goal and the people you are going to select, as we hope, are among the best citizens who shall be patriotic, effective, hard-working, productive, honest and faithful! And may peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

July 31, 1936. (Jumada al-Awwal 12, 1355) The Qirsh Project.

The founding committee of the Qirsh Project has notified me that it decided to definitely hold a public meeting on the evening of next Thursday in the garden of the Makkah Hotel to elect the rest of the members of the General Assembly of the Qirsh Society. We shall inform our readers on the outcome of this meeting in due time.

August 7, 1936 (Jumada al-Awwal 19, 1355) The Grand Meeting for the election of the General Assembly for the Qirsh Project.

The Qirsh Society held a big meeting last Thursday night to elect its General Assembly. Hundreds of invited guests from all sectors of the public attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Ali Jaa'far started with verses from the Holy Kora'n, then Mr. Mohammad Shata welcomed the audience very warmly. He was followed by the renowned writer Ahmad al-Seba'i who gave a speech in which he stated the urgent need for cooperation among the citizens to promote the Qirsh Project. He talked about the project and its benefits, and what had been achieved in Egypt by the Qirsh Project in that country. He also talked about the origin of the idea behind the Qirsh Society in this country and how it developed and evolved. He asked the audience to elect 26 members to join the 14 founding members to form together the General Assembly. Soon after that, the elections took place. A committee was immediately formed to count the votes. It was headed by Sheikh Mahmoud Shalboub, members included Sheikh Mohammad Ali Malatani, al Sayyed Mohammed Shata, Abdul-Wahab Ashi and Subhi Effendi al-A'ama. The ballots completely filled the polling box. When the voting was done about 2:00 A.M. the committee gathered in a corner of the hotel and started counting the votes. The following gentlemen had the required majority of votes: Omar Sairafi, Abdul-Raouf al-Sabban, Hamzah Shehatah, Jamil Dawood, Ibrahim Nouri, Hamed Ka'aki, Ahmad Kandil, Mohammad Ali Malatani, Omar Mahdi, Abdulla Fida, Abdul-Hai Gazzaz, Taher Habashi, Mahmoud Shalhoub, Mohammad Ali Riza, Abdulla Khoujah, Abdul-Qader Abu al-Kheir, Hassan Kotabi, Jamil Sajjini,

Abdul-Fattah Fida, Abdul-Rahman Mazhar, Ata Elias, Hamzah Marzouki, Mahmoud Qattan, Ibrahim Filali, Hussein ibn Sarhan and Mohammad Sadeq.

The counting of the votes took six and a half hours. The above mentioned were added to the following founding members: Mohammad Sorour al-Sabban, Mohammad Shata, Mohammad Sa'id Abdul-Maksoud, Abdul-Wahab Ashi, Ahmad Seba'i, Hashem Yousef al-Zawawi, Subhi al-A'ama, Aziz Dhia, Mohammad Hassan Faqui, Mohammad Sa'id al-Amoudi, Hamzah Ajaj, Abdulla al-Mazrou', Abdul-Salam Omar, and Mohammad ibn Aqeel. These are the members of the General Assembly of the Qirsh Society. May Allah guide and support them for the beneficial work and the good of the country.

August 7, 1936 (Jumada al-Awwal 19, 1355) The Qirsh Project. A serious historical event (an editorial).

It is not strange to know that economists of various schools of thought agree that financial unification is a guarantee for success. They stated that an enlarged investment capital, forfeiting profits, and proper management are three guarantees which complement each other, leading to the success of people in charge.

Our project today is a unified investment capital the whole nation is participating in. It is expected to grow in the years ahead if the system works, and because no profits are to be distributed. Also, its management will be the responsibility of effective men elected from the ranks of citizens.

It is not strange, then, that our project shall be a historical event which will put life in us if we succeed, a life which relies on investment in its broadest sense to salvage our unused resources, then to invest it properly to increase its yield and productivity.

It shall put a new life in us so as to cope with the other countries which supply us with their leftovers which is barely sufficient to sustain us. These countries lend us the sewing needle and the match box and all the basic essentials and necessities of life from what is valued at one eighth of a qirsh up to what is valued at one thousand or tens of thousands of qirsh.

It shall put life in us so that we grow strong by what we produce and be able to be independent of the masters at least in some items which we import. We grow stronger by being independent through what our farmers plough, our workers build, and our hands manufacture.

The naive and the primitive may have a big laugh about these dreams. I am really concerned about the laughter or the sarcasm of the ignorant who does not believe at any time in the logic of things because the philosophy at the start of things before the achieved results does not have a value in his eyes. This is probably the secret of the backwardness of many ignorant nations on this earth.

The imperialists knew this through experience, and they learned not to argue the people under their rule if these people are ignorant and do not know what is good for them. They shall leave them to learn events the hard way.

So let the naive and the ignorant laugh and make fun of this idea, but we shall proceed in our way until we put in front of him facts and solid realities which cannot be ignored. Patience shall eventually lead us to victory and success which will break the arrogance and stubbornness of such an individual and humiliate him, making him ask for forgiveness for his attitudes. So, let us leave these skeptics and proceed on our way. Let us detail some facts about the project.

Some people confuse our project (Qirsh Society) and the Saving and Investment Company, because this company made the qirsh as its unit, building its foundation on it. However, the difference between the two is enormous: The Saving and Investment Company is limited while our project is public, open to the citizens of the country from one end to the other. The Savings and Investment Company collects from the participants one qirsh every day of the

year for the owner of one share and twenty qirsh daily for the owner of twenty shares, then it shall pay a profit to the participants at the end of the year proportional to his number of shares. Our project is based on one qirsh to be paid every three or four months, and it is paid as charity or donation and no profit is expected.

No one is allowed to manage or take control of the accumulated money except a few elected individuals who are trusted with the money, and they manage it within the boundaries of the regulations and the laws. These laws are summarized in this regard that the money shall be spent only for economic projects (agricultural or industrial), such as cultivating and reclaiming neglected land or establishing a factory for weaving or clothing and similar types of industry. The country shall be supplied with the products of these factories and farms, and the citizens shall find job opportunities. The profits shall be returned, as well as a by new donations, to the treasury of the Society so that it can spend on new additions or expansions of the established factories and farms. This is to be repeated year after year.

A worthwhile question may be asked at this point: Everything has a destiny, what would be the destiny of the accumulated money many years later? The by-laws of the Society did not ignore this particular point. It stated that there is no time limit on the Society, and it can be dissolved only by a royal decree. In this situation, a group of caretakers shall be appointed and they include the mayor of the capital, the director of education, the director of Islamic endowments (*awqaf*), and the principals of the private schools. They shall meet headed by the superior judge of the supreme court and shall be in charge of all the assets of the Society, and shall spend it in one way only specified by the by-laws of the Society, namely on scholarships to send students to study abroad to learn what is needed for the progression of this country. The by-laws also made it clear that if the Society is dissolved, that this should be announced in the newspapers of the land.

August 28, 1936 (Jumada al-Thani 10, 1355) Election of the Board of Directors for the Qirsh Society.

The General Assembly of the Qirsh Society held a meeting last night to elect sixteen individuals from among its ranks to form a Board of Directors. The election was done by secret ballot, and the following notables had the highest number of votes: Ahmad Seba'i, Mohammad Sa'id Abdul-Maksoud, Subhi al-A'ama, Abdul-Wahab Ashi, Ibrahim Nouri, Mohammad Sorour al-Sabban, Abdul-Salam Omar, Mohammad Ali Malatani, Mahmoud Qattan, Jamil Sajjini, Aziz Dhia, Mohammad Sadiq, Hamzah Ajaj, Abdul-Qader Abu al-Khair, Omar Mahdi and Mohammad Hassan Faqui. Accordingly, these people are in charge of making this project a success, and we wish them good luck.

The readers were expecting that Sheikh Mahmoud Shalhoub, the chairman of the committee in charge of counting the votes, and al-Sayyed Mohammad Shata, one of the founding members, to be elected, but they had asked their friends not to nominate them for election to the Board of Directors due to their heavy official and government duties.

September 25, 1936 (Rajab 9, 1355). Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Qirsh Society.

The Board of Directors of the Qirsh Society held its first meeting last night at the headquarters of Voice of al-Hijaz newspaper. The first order of business done was the election of a president, vice-president, secretary, accountant and treasurer. The result of the voting was the election of Sheikh Mohammad Sorour al-Sabban as president, Sobhi Effendi al-A'ama as vice-president, Ahmad Seba'i as secretary, Sheikh Omar Mahdi as accountant and Sheikh Mohammad Ali Malatani as treasurer. The board decided to meet each Sunday and

Thursday evening at the headquarters of the Voice of al-Hijaz until it chooses a private place of its own for its work and meetings.

We expect from the honorable members of the board, after noting that serious work of the Society had started, to carry on with interest and enthusiasm so that what the nation is waiting for shall be fulfilled.

November 27, 1936 (Ramadan 13, 1355) The Board of Directors of the Qirsh Society receives the volunteers in its new headquarters.

The President of the Board of Directors has asked us to announce to readers that the Board is ready to receive in its offices at al-Safa School the volunteers to collect the qirsh among the ranks of students and others, starting on the evening of Sunday, *Ramadan 15, 1355*. The Board is hopeful about our youths and their enthusiasm.

We urge our active young people to support this project by volunteering to collect the qirsh, so that the project can stand on its feet with their help. Isn't it the youths who are the most qualified to make such beautiful nationalistic projects succeed?

December 4, 1936 (Ramadan 20, 1355) Functions of the volunteers for collection of the qirsh.

The duties of the respected individuals volunteering for the collection of the qirsh are as follows:

1. The Board of Directors of the Qirsh Society shall give at least one hundred commemorative stamps to each volunteer.
2. The volunteer shall sell these stamps to anyone he wishes to sell to.
3. The means of selling the stamps are numerous and is left to the tact and judgment of the volunteer. In general, he may sell them to people when they come out of the mosque after performing the 'Id prayer, and on any occasion the people have a gathering. He may also sell them to people visiting him or that he is visiting on the 'Id holiday. He can sell the stamps to the people in his neighborhood in the way he sees most suitable.
4. After the quantity of stamps given to the volunteer is sold, the volunteer shall deliver the collected qirsh to the Society's office, and receive a new quantity of stamps to sell.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Aziz Dhia

December 25, 1936 (Shawwal 11, 1355). Donations for the Qirsh Society.

The following dignitaries helped the Qirsh Society by buying quantities of its stamps, and the Society thanks them for their support and appreciates their noble spirit: Prince Turki ibn Abdulla, Sheikh Abdullah al-Sumyyer, Sheikh Hassan ibn Omran, Sheikh Suleiman ibn Jawhar, Prince Saleh ibn Abdul-Wahab, Sheikh Ibrahim al-Smeeri, Sheikhs Sa'ad, Saleh, and Abdul-Aziz Al-Smeeri, and Sheikh Abdullah ibn Obaid.

February 12, 1937 (Dhu al-Qadah 26, 1355). The Qirsh Project.

We received the following from the Qirsh Society:

We announce to the public that the season for the Qirsh Society starts from today. We ask all the volunteers to come to our offices to receive the stamps. We would like to direct the attention of the volunteers that the stamps shall be sold perforated, and they must verify this and be sure that the stamps are perforated. (Ed. Note: The significance of this is unknown; only perforated stamps have been seen).

February 12, 1937 (Dhu al-Qadah 26, 1355). A new conquest for our modern press.

For the first time in the history of our modern press and our guided projects, the Board of Directors of the Qirsh Society shall produce a special extra issue about the Qirsh Society from our sister newspaper Voice of al-Hijaz, with many pictures written by a group of our well known dignitaries and notable writers of the country. Wait for this issue next Tuesday, the fourth of *Dhu al-Hijjah* 1355; its price two qirsh.

You shall read in this issue valuable detailed articles from the following: Ahmad Kandil, Mohammad Ziedan, Sa'id Abdul-Maksoud, Ahmad Saqer, Ishaq Azouz, Dhia Rajab, al-Sayyed Mohammad Hassan Kutabi, Abdul-Qaddous al-Ansari, Ahmad Seba'i, al-Sayyed Ibrahim Nouri, al-Sayyed Ahmad al-Magrebi, Ali Hafez, Hussain ibn Serhan, Ahmad Ibrahim al-Ghazawi, etc.

March 26, 1937 (Muharram 13, 1356) A warning and notification.

The Qirsh Society announces hereby to all volunteers of the Qirsh Society that it is going to take legal action against all those who are delinquent in settling their accounts with the Society, after seven days of publication of this notice. The Society hopes that it shall not resort to such firm action as long as the accounts are settled within this grace period of seven days. We wish this hope will be fulfilled.

I stop at this point in the history of the Qirsh Society. Review of further issues of *Umm al-Qura* is needed to check on the date of its dismantling and liquidation of its assets, and what happened to the stamps in stock at the Society's headquarters. I shall report on this in a future article in the *Random Notes*.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This article contains extensive non-philatelic detail. For future guidance, the editor would like to hear from readers as to whether they find such material appropriate and interesting.

NEW ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By: *Abdul Aziz A. Sa'id*

July 12, 1994: A set of two stamps, 75h and 150h, and a SR 5 souvenir sheet were issued to commemorate the opening of the Consultative Council. The stamp design depicts the Council building exterior. The souvenir sheet shows one each of the stamps (with simulated perforations) and the building interior as a background. Designed by Abdul Qader al-Husseini. Printed in sheets of 50 stamps and four post code labels (4 x 13). Stamps perforated 12; souvenir sheet imperforate. Quantity: 400,000 sets and 20,000 souvenir sheets.



Early August 1994: The 100h and 150h birds blocks of nine were reissued. The designs, colors, paper, etc. 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.

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 (and the bird definitives) 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, Mafrag 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 wmk. direction, paper type, 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.

YEAR SETS AVAILABLE. These include all commemoratives for the year, but exclude definitives and souvenir sheets. 1976(8)-\$43; 1977(14)-\$54; 1978-79(16)-\$30; 1980(12)-\$27; 1981(36)-\$34; 1982(15)-\$13; 1983(21)-\$14; 1984(10)-\$6; 1985(37)-\$20; 1986(29)-\$27; 1987(34)-\$27; 1988(21)-\$15; 1989(17)-\$10; 1990(34)-\$23. Add \$4.50 for registration if wanted. R.J. Thoden, 4125 Windover Way, Melbourne, FL 32934-8514, USA.

U.K. CONTACTS WANTED. The other 24 A.P.A. subscribers in the U.K. are invited to contact me for buying, selling, or exchanging Saudi material. Launce Shearlaw, Owey View, Timberscombe, Somerset, TA24 8NX.

NEEDED: Kaaba new format 75h and 150h perf 14 only (Scott 987a, 989a). I need imprint blocks of four and blocks of 10 with the 5 postal code labels. One or both values. Send your prices to Ramy Yaghmour, P.O. Box 511, Dhahran Airport 31932, Saudi Arabia. Tel/fax 966-3-891-4529.

BUY/SELL: First flight covers to/from Saudi Arabia such as those in the *Random Notes* #54 article. H. Dieter, PO Box 1127, D69251 Gaiberg-Heidelberg, Germany.
