



الجمعية الدولية للطوابع البريدية العربية

ملاحظات عابرة

Arabian Philatelic Association International

Random Notes



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CONTENTS

The Arabian Philatelic Association International	2
Random Notes #57 – <i>R. J. Thoden</i>	3
The “Chicago” Forgeries – <i>Willie King</i>	5
Interesting Caliphate Overprint – <i>Martin C. Lovegrove</i>	12
Saudi Arabian Postal Rates	13
Cancellations on the 1925 Jeddah Issues - <i>R. J. Thoden</i>	15
Birds of Saudi Arabia – <i>Kay Tripp Taylor</i>	22
The Weatherings Column-- <i>Martin C. Lovegrove</i>	24
A Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia – Review by <i>Kenneth Trettin</i>	26
The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia – Review by <i>Willie King</i>	27
New Issues of Saudi Arabia – <i>Willie King</i>	28



An O.A.T. cover from Saudi Arabia to USA (see [Page 4](#))

The Arabian Philatelic Association International

The Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) was established in 1968 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia by a group of Aramco employees particularly interested in Saudi Arabian philately. The APA had over 300 members and subscribers worldwide during most of its existence. Its journal (*APA Random Notes*), and *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries*, auctions and new issue service contributed to the large increase in the popularity of Saudi Arabian philately in the 1970s and 1980s.

The journal was published starting in 1971 and reached #56 in 1995. Three instalments of the *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries* totaling over 100 pages were issued in the 1980s.

In the 1990s, however, activity by the group dropped off sharply. In 1999-2000, notices appeared in several auction catalogs and other society journals that a group of former members in the USA was trying to start up APA-USA. However, response was poor and deemed to be inadequate to proceed. We apologize to those who did respond.

Since then, we have learned that use of the internet could reach many more people, and we now think there is a better prospect of success for an APA INTERNATIONAL. An APAI website www.arabian-philatelic.com and an e-mail address arabphilassocin@aol.com are being set up by Willie King, but they are not yet functional. A *Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia* has been written and published by Rudy Thoden. This issue (#57) of *APAI Random Notes* is being distributed free-of-charge to all who have requested and returned an APAI Membership Application.

We had hoped to establish some sort of relationship with a new issue service in Saudi Arabia that would supply Saudi new issues to APAI members on a reliable basis, but we have not yet been successful. We do not expect to resume auctions because plenty of Saudi material is now appearing in commercial auctions, including e-Bay.

Longer range, we hope to prepare a second edition of the *Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries* to cover the issues not in the original edition, plus the many new forgery discoveries, including very dangerous ones created by modern computer technology.

Response to this free issue of *APAI Random Notes* will determine whether or not we will proceed with the organization of the APAI. We need officers willing to work in behalf of the APAI, and we will need to collect dues. You will be hearing from us shortly on these matters. We may offer you options for receiving *Random Notes* by post printed in black&white as before or by e-mail which may be in color.

The APAI Organizers,
Willie King and Rudy Thoden

Random Notes #57

Assembled by: R. J. Thoden

1 About RANDOM NOTES in general.

The editor: I was an employee of Saudi Arabian Oil Company (ex ARAMCO, EX CASOC) resident in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I started collecting Saudi stamps including revenues in 1969. I was editor of the APA Random Notes from 1984 (#28) through 1995 (#56), after which publication ceased. The only other editor was John M. Wilson (#1-27).

Frequency: Although I would like nothing better than to issue Random Notes on a regular basis, it can be issued only when there is sufficient material to fill 30 pages. Experience has shown that this will vary widely. Therefore, if you would like to see it often, contribute items to include, long or short.

Opinions: Opinions expressed in any article are those of the author of that article ONLY and are NOT those of the APAI nor of the editor of this publication.

Spelling: The aim is of course for correct spelling, grammar, etc. However, we accept British English in articles written by British authors. Saudi Arabia in recent years has adopted official spellings of the names of cities etc. We accept either the current official spellings (e.g. Hijaz, Najd. etc) or traditional philatelic spellings (Hejaz, Nejd, etc). One exception - only Makkah is accepted for the holy city.

What's included: This is the place for all short items, generally ½ page or less in length. Source will be mentioned.

- 2 **APAI website.** The official APAI website isn't yet functional, except for the bulletin board. This is seeing almost no use, probably because few people know about it. However, there is another site available to APAI members. This is a personal site of Martin C. Lovegrove, who states "The aim of this site is to complement the official web site for the APIA. The views expressed in this site are mine and may differ from those held by the APAI; where they do, I hope healthy discussion will follow, preferably on the APAI Bulletin Board, but I will be happy to accept e-mail sent to me at weatherings@aol.com".

Martin is interested in most aspects of Saudi philately, but his current efforts are mainly directed at research into the Makkah Arms stamps and forgeries. There is a lot of original information out there so go to <http://mysite.freemove.com/saudi>.

- 3 **Modern forgeries.** The forgers have been very busy in recent years, compounding what those of you who are former APA members know was already a serious problem in our collecting field. They are producing both very dangerous overprint forgeries of the old Hijazi issues as well as forgeries of modern issues. This issue of RN includes an article by Willie King on the forgeries of the "tourist" issues and several commemoratives. Forthcoming issues of RN will bring you information on other forgeries, including the overprint forgeries that plate correctly produced by using modern computer technology. More than ever, the buyer needs to use extreme caution.

Many auctions, both conventional and eBay, make statements such as "guaranteed genuine without time limit". This does NOT mean the item IS genuine, but only that it places the burden on YOU to prove it to be fake, in which case you do get your money back.



- 4 **British Library Exhibition of First Issue of Hejaz.** After the First World War, the Imperial War Museum in London built up a collection of artifacts including over 5,000 stamps. This included the first issue of Hejaz. These stamps were not readily accessible to philatelists in the museum so now the collection has been transferred to the British Library in its superb new premises at St. Pancras. Selected items from the Hejaz collection are currently on display within the exhibition frames housed near the entrance to the library. On the British Library web site www.bl.uk you will see a specimen overprint on a ¼g green.
- 5 **A Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postage Stamps Prepared by the Survey of Egypt for His Highness Husein Emir & Sherif of Mecca and King of the Hejaz – Request for information.** David Beech FRPSL of the British Library is compiling a record of all of the copies of the book. Your help is requested in listing the number of the book, to whom it was assigned, and optionally the name of the current owner. A number of you have already submitted information to David but we need the assistance of everyone to register their copy or copies about which they have retained records. Details can be passed to Rudy Thoden or Willie King directly or by e-mail to philatelic@bl.uk.
- 6 **Heir Apparent forgeries.** I had always wondered why there were no forgeries of this expensive set (Sc138-149 cat.\$1477; SG 3126-327 cat £1300). I am not wondering any longer. Last June, a complete imperforate set of mostly marginal examples appeared in eBay. I immediately spotted two things wrong with them: (a) there was no frame line in the selvage and (b) some of the colors were not quite right. The seller withdrew the lot, and Martin Lovegrove was able to obtain the set for examination. He found differences also in the size, paper and gum, and small design differences as well. Go to his website (address above) for his findings. In view of the importance of this, his study will be included in the next RN.
- 7 **O.A.T. markings.** The Random Notes cover shows a beautiful 7 color franking cover with a red O.A.T. mark. O.A.T. means ONWARD AIR TRANSMISSION. These markings were used in connection with the sorting of bundles of “open” mail at mail exchange offices. Usually, only the top item in a resorted bundle of mail continuing by air would receive this marking. This is a gross oversimplification. Interested readers are referred to *OAT and AV2 Markings* by Murray Heifetz, published by the American Air Mail Society. Mr. Heifetz’s book analyzes the approximately 20 types of these markings according to where they were used. Usage of this mark is unrecorded on mail from Saudi Arabia but the related A.V.2 mark is noted.
- 8 **Tarik Alireza Exhibit in London.** Tarik will be showing almost 600 pages of his collection to the fellows, members and their guests at the 25th April 2002 meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. We will have a full report in the next issue of Random Notes.

The “Chicago” Forgeries of Modern KSA Stamps

By W. A. King FRPSL

Collectors of Saudi Arabia have always had the problem of enterprising individuals adding to the available stocks of stamps by the addition of their own overprints and surcharges. Most of the surcharge and overprint forgeries on Hejaz period stamps were to the plentiful First and Arms issues. These forgeries, and those of Nejd handstamps, are thought to be reasonably contemporary with the originals and were probably produced in Cairo and Beirut in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Despite the apparent complexity most are relatively easy to identify and make an interesting back-up collection.

However technology advances and a new forger has appeared placing items to “enhance” your collection. I am identifying this modern series of forgeries under the name “Chicago” since the majority identified have initially been sold through an auction house in that US city. Complaints have been made directly to the auction house and to the American Philatelic Society in whose magazine they advertise. The auction house, have to date, refunded all cash paid for these fraudulent issues but, to my knowledge, **only when requested**. Unfortunately they continue to market forgeries of the same generic type. This forger is using modern laser printing technology, and, not content to work only on the Hejaz overprints, has also provided a selection of “modern varieties”, which were never issued by the Saudi Arabian Post Office.

Note the laser forgeries of the Hejaz which have appeared will be covered in a future article that will also include those with **Forgeries of DG Signature**. This particularly damaging variation is where the forger has also been adding David Graham’s initials to Hejaz issues, or is adding an extra overprint to stamps already signed. I have already offered to review all stamps and issue an APA certificate free of charge for any stamps signed by David and bought in Chicago since 1997. I will now extend this to cover all DG signed stamps, which do not currently have his personal fully signed certificate. As noted these problems will be covered in a later article. Meantime anyone with concerns please contact me directly.

Chicago Forgery 1 : Doubled Frames on the Tourist Issue

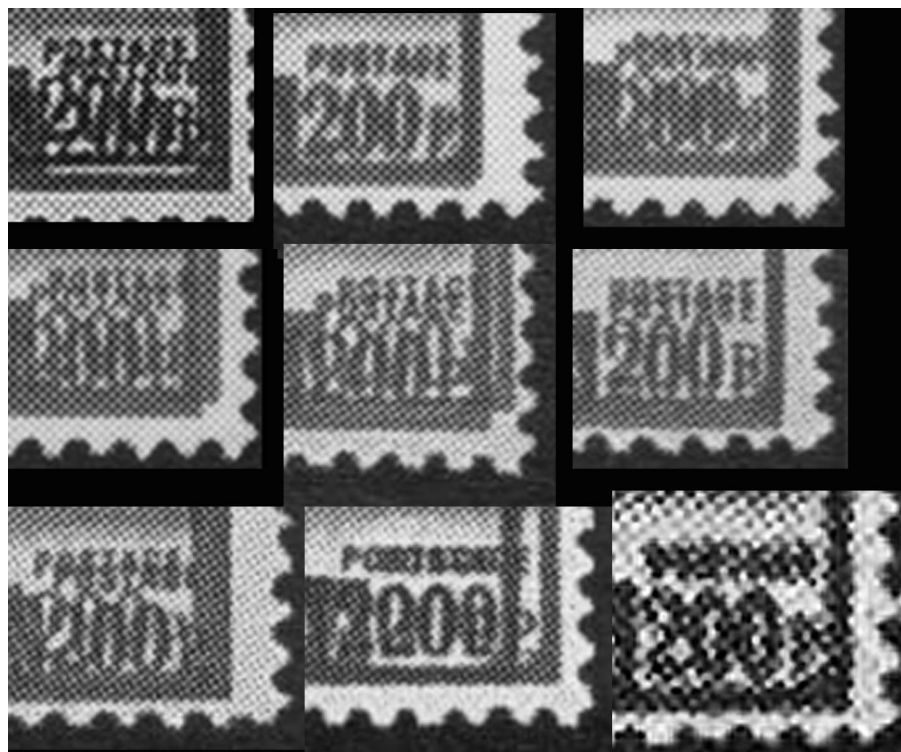
I have examined a 200p Tourist (SG 866 Sc 499) with a “doubled” frame prior to return to the auction house. The red colours did not match and the second “frame” was formed of “powder” and not ink as the original. This can be seen clearly at high magnification. Photographs of lots alleged to be doubled frames on the 200p values have also been reviewed closely and scans taken from the auction catalogues are shown. As may be perceived from the scans there is no possibility of these being from a recently discovered “part sheet” since in no two cases does the “doubling” match.

The stamps do have a high face value 200p = SR10 = \$2.67. However there are excess quantities on the market held by dealers who over purchased. The author bought supplies, which were still readily available in Dhahran Mail centre until in 1987. Reported in December 1986 in RN37p10.

Lots offered for Sale in Chicago May 1998 to July 1999



Showing the entire stamp did not show up well when scanned therefore a small corner of each stamp was selected and enlarged for comparison. The strikingly different doubling is evident



and also the differing margins on each stamp between perforations and design. Below is the description that accompanied each lot and also the estimate.

Analysis

Lot descriptions claimed *only one part sheet discovered* or *rare and only a few exist*.

Row	Description	Est	Shift	Margins
1-1	Red Frame printed Double a striking very rare error	\$200	Down++, Right +	Bottom Wider
1-2	Red Frame printed Double, only one part sheet discovered nh, scarce	\$250	Down, Left	Wide Right
1-3	As Above	\$250	Down, Left +	Bottom wider
2-1	As Above	\$250	Down, Left++	Bottom wider
2-2	Red Frame Printed Double, only one part sheet discovered nh.	\$250	Up, Right+, skewed	Even
2-3	As Above	\$250	Down+	Even
3-1	As Above, centered just fine	\$250	Up+, Left+	Wide Right
3-2	200p with the red frame printed double, rare, only a few discovered.	\$200	Left+++ Major skew	Both Narrow
3-3	Red frame printed double, rare (only a few exist)	\$300	Down, Right	Even



This variety is clearly quite impossible for the following reasons:

- 1 **Colour:** Different colour of margins – colour photographs are available showing that the two shades are quite distinct.
- 2 **Printing Constituents:** The second frame consists of powder and not ink. Requires magnification of x25 to differentiate.
- 3 **Varying Offset:** A *part sheet* with varying offsets of the double frame is not possible, especially as the offset on a couple of stamps would mean the second frame would gradually extend to neighbouring stamps.
- 4 **Margin Variation:** A *part sheet* with varying margins around each stamp is not possible.
- 5 **Absence of Multiples:** A part sheet and not selling any multiples? Why the forger worked on single stamps is not known. However this is quite often the case in other countries' forgeries. Of course this could be rectified so please beware!
- 6 **No Provenance:** Never reported to or by the APA. These items, unrecorded until appearing in the 1998-1999 auction catalogues, are apparently from a single source, using a Chicago auction house as an outlet.
- 7 **Related Material:** The related 'frames' only were also forgeries and show the forger has the individual frames available. Also related "new" varieties all being sold at this same outlet do not give confidence in the propriety of any similar varieties.
- 8 **Practicality:** Separating by colour into frame and vignette is easy using modern computer technology for manipulating photographs.

Conclusion : There is no doubt that these doubled frames on the Tourist issue are forgeries and have been individually printed using modern laser printing technology.

Chicago Forgery 2 : Frames Only (Stamps with Centre Omitted)

The same auction house offered over a period of just over a year many copies of the tourist issue with centres omitted. These were on properly watermarked and gummed paper. An example came for my evaluation was printed in very fine powder and not ink when examined at high



4-1

4-2

4-3

4-4

magnification. These were apparently printed on "gutter snipes" or the completely blank margins, which frequently occur on the Tourist issue. The following lots were offered. The average asking price was \$50-100 per copy; an excellent return for an otherwise piece of blank paper, although it was watermarked, gummed and perforated.

Frames Only

Analysis



Lot descriptions made no claims on numbers available but claimed that the central vignette was

Fig	Auction Description	\$Est.	Face Values
4-1	Original frames only in red with center omitted)	\$100	10p and 20p
	As above frames black	\$100	“
	2 stamps with frames in black and red with centers omitted	\$125	200p
4-2	Center designs missing and borders in black	\$250	10, 20 & 200p
	Center design and frame in black	\$80	10p
	As above	\$80	10p
	2 stamps frames in black and red plus centers omitted	\$125	200p
	With center missing and frame in black.	\$85	200p
	As above	\$85	200p
4-3	2 stamps frames in black and red plus centers omitted	\$125	200p
4-4	center design missing and frame in black.	\$80	10p
	center design missing and frame in black.	\$85	200p

missing, thus deviously trying to bring attention on what was missing rather than what had been printed! This variety is unsatisfactory for the following reasons:

- 1 **Printing Constituents.** The frame on the example examined consisted of fine powder and not ink. Requires magnification of x25 to identify.
- 2 **Margin Variation:** Variable margins are most unlikely.
- 3 **Marginal copies:** Note the very close margin on two copies and the virtual absence of perforation on 4-1. Also the perforations on 4-4 are trimmed not torn, all typical of gutter snipes which are readily available on this issue.
- 4 **Absence of Multiples:** A part sheet and not selling any multiples? In this case only single blank stamps are generally available although a couple vertical pairs could be manufactured. Many gutters or marginal gutter snipes do have marginal markings.
- 5 **No Provenance:** No proven historical provenance.
- 6 **Related Material:** Plenty of "new" similarly produced material also on sale from the same source.
- 7 **Practicality:** Separating and printing a frame by colour into frame and vignette is easy using modern computer technology for manipulating photographs. The author converted a marginal block of four into this type of rarity in under 20 minutes.

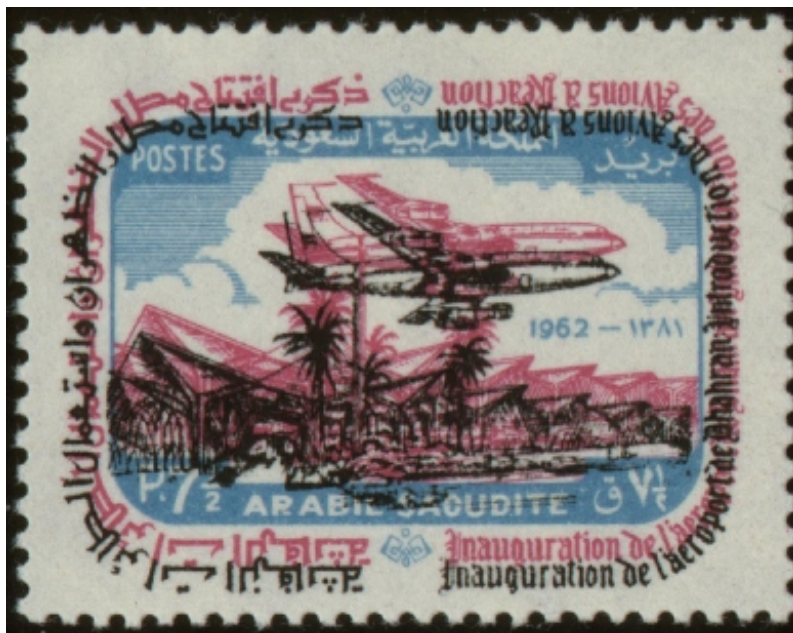
Conclusion : All Tourist "frames only" are forgeries created using available gutter snipes from same issues.

Chicago Forgery 3 : Doubled Frames on Dhahran Airport Set

SG 482-6 Scott 277-81



The creation of a second black frame and part of the vignette for the issue marking the opening of Dhahran Airport Issue is an attempt to create an additional saleable variety. The additional black overprinting consists of very fine “powder” dots typical of ‘laser’ printing.



6-1



6-2

6-3

6-3

6-4

Genuine Varieties : There are several known varieties of this issue including:

3p Values: Colour trials based on a 3pi value exist. – 6 are known. These are of the 5 issued colour combinations + one unissued combination. All are imperforate, ungummed and unwatermarked paper. Multiple sheets – possibly as many as 10 - were available.

Missing Colours : Examples exist of each value missing the second colour - each with missing values and sky. These are on gummed & watermarked paper, 4 of the 5 are normally perforated.

Blue-grey only printed on gum. The 1g is known with missing ochre printed on the gum both on watermarked and unwatermarked paper.

To date, on all previous varieties seen, the ink is the same colour and shade as the original. **No printings in black** have been recorded.

Analysis

Lot descriptions claimed these “double prints” to be colour trials. They were priced at approximately \$50 per stamp being sold as groups.

1 **Colour:** No printing in black has ever been recorded.



- 2 **Printing Constituents:** The misplaced print consists of powder and not ink. Requires magnification of x25 to differentiate.
- 3 **Varying Offset:** The varying offsets of the double frame are not possible without an adjacent print also being present. See 6-3 and 6-5.
- 4 **No Provenance:** As noted before.
- 5 **Related Material:** As before.
- 6 **Undisclosed variety :** Note on 6-5 that the doubling is actually inverted but this was not noted in the auction description.

Conclusion: These are so bad as to be perhaps early developments of the “technique”. The density of the colour is poor and black only has been seen – which is much easier than copying the colour. Centring is particularly poor and, as noted, even had an unrecorded invert.

Chicago Forgery 4 : Four Imams and the link to Yemen

SG 1202a Scott 730

A doubled print of the Arabic script in the Four Imams set is recorded but is in the same ultramarine of the original. The doubled script which are sourced to Chicago are black. Note only the marginal script is in black in the original printing. Interestingly the Yemen stamps displayed in the overlapping photos from the sales catalogue were also rejected as forgeries by the American Philatelic Society when referred by OPAL member A. MacDonald. These were reported in OPAL 195 (Pages 64-65).

Analysis : Black doubled Arabic script are forged. Genuine doubled are in same colour.

Chicago Forgery 5 : Doubled Frame on GOSP 23p

Whoever bought this item or similar needs to send it for expertizing for the reasons noted below.



Analysis



Lot descriptions claimed these “frame printed double, signed Graham” to be rare and only a few known. These were priced at approximately \$250 per stamp!

Colour: From a colour photo on the cover the colour of the second frame does not match the original.

No Provenance: This extremely important variety was not reported to the APA even although David was in frequent contact right up to his untimely death. It is just not feasible that this was not mentioned in his regular correspondence.

Related Material: Forgeries of David’s initials have been found on Hejaz material from this source.

Mint or used that is the question: These are variously described as no gum or used. Just how did this mix-up occur – careful scrutiny shows part of a cancel on the stamp shown. Look above the O of Royaume and through the right sphere.

Conclusion: Whilst such a variety is obviously important the various examples appear to be related. Possibly further early trials by the forger on available used material.

Summary : All modern KSA varieties of this type should be viewed with extreme suspicion and preferably should have a fully signed APA certificate. This is particularly important when the varieties purport to be doubled parts of the design.

However, any collector can identify most of these so-called varieties by using a microscope that



can magnify at least x 25 and comparing to a genuine part of the design. Note : P. Salinger indicates there is a 4 year limitation acceptable to claim recompense in the USA. Ref. Fakes Forgeries Experts No.2 page 118-122 of July 1999.

An Interesting Caliphate Overprint

By: Martin C. Lovegrove

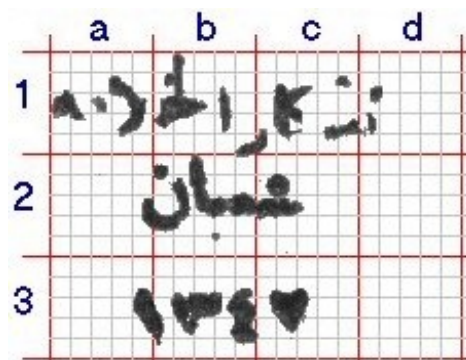
This article attempts to describe what appears to be an unrecorded, and therefore suspect, stamp from the 1924 Caliphate issue. The overprint certainly does not match that accepted as genuine.



The stamp is a ½ qirsh from position 29 and purports to be SG51, Scott L43.

The overprint looks as though it was produced by sprinkling gold dust over black ink; the same method as used to produce the genuine one. The quality of printing of the overprint is poor, as is the adhesion of the gold dust to the ink. There are several breaks in the characters in the top line. There are no breaks in the characters in the middle line, and dot under the Arabic letter ‘B’ is diamond shaped. The numbers in the bottom line are not accurate. The number 3 has a fat top with very little stem, and the number 2 is heart shaped. The other numbers also vary from the genuine. On the gum side there is a slightly raised impression of the overprint.

To more accurately illustrate the overprint, computer aided image manipulation was employed. The stamp was scanned at 254 dpi, which results in each pixel representing one tenth of one millimetre. By splitting the colour channels on the scanned image, it was easy to separate the overprint from the stamp. The image of the overprint was then made transparent and floated over the grid. Each grey square in the grid represents one millimetre, making the larger red squares occurring at 5mm intervals. It can thus be seen that the overprint is 16mm wide and just over 14mm high.



Closer inspections of the image with software that can show a pixel grid, the actual dimensions are 16.1mm wide by 14.3mm high. Neither the Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries nor Random Notes, especially the excellent article by F C Benedict, make reference to forged overprints with the lines so close together.

Can anyone shed any light on this item?

RN

Saudi Arabian Postal Rates
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
MINISTRY OF P.T.T.
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF POSTS
POSTAL ITEMS, RATES & TARIFFS

SURFACE POSTAGE RATES								
No.	Categories of Items	Categories of Weight	In the KSA & GCC Countries		Arab Countries		Rest of the World	
			Riyal	Halala	Riyal	Halala		Riyal
1	Letter	Up to 20 gms	1	00	1	50	2	00
		For every extra 20 gms or fraction	0	50	0	50	1	00
2	Postal Cards	For Each Post Cards	0	50	1	00	1	50
3	Printed papers	Up to 100 gms	1	00	1	50	2	00
		For every extra 100 gms or fraction	0	50	0	50	1	00
4	Small Packets & Phone Post	Up to 100 gms	2	00	3	00	4	00
		For every extra 100 gms or fraction	1	00	1	00	2	00

P.O. BOX SUBSCRIPTION FEES	
S.R. 300	for every 3 years
S.R. 5	for key insurance (One Time)

(EMS) AL-BARID AL-MUMTAZ						
Categories of Items	In the KSA & GCC Countries		Arab Countries		Rest of the World	
	Riyal	Halala	Riyal	Halala	Riyal	Halala
Up to 500 gms	50	00	100	00	150	00
For every extra 500 gms or fraction	15	00	20	00	25	00

SPECIAL POSTAL SERVICES RATES							
No.	Categories of Service	In the KSA & GCC Countries		Arab Countries		Rest of the World	
		Riyal	Halala	Riyal	Halala		Riyal
1	Registration	2	00	3	00	4	00
2	Reclamation	2	00	3	00	4	00
3	Delivery receipt upon Mailing	2	00	3	00	4	00
4	Refunding Receipt and change of address	2	00	3	00	4	00

AIR MAIL POSTAGE RATES								
No.	Categories of Items	Categories of Weight	In the KSA & GCC Countries		Arab Countries		Rest of the World	
			Riyal	Halala	Riyal	Halala		Riyal
1	Letter	Up to 10 gms	1	00	1	50	2	00
		For every extra 10 gms or fraction	0	50	0	50	1	00
2	Postal Cards	For Every Card	0	50	1	00	1	50
3	Printed papers	Up to 100 gms	2	00	3	00	6	00
		For every extra 100 gms or fraction	1	50	1	50	3	00
4	Ceco Gramme	For every 100 gms	0	50	0	50	1	00
5	Small Packets & Tapes	Up to 100 gms	3	00	4	00	7	00
		For every extra 100 gms or fraction	2	00	2	00	4	00
6	Envelopes Letters	For every letter	0	50	1	00	1	50

IN-LAND POSTAL PARCELS		
S.R. 10 to be added for every 1Kg or fraction by air conveyance	Rates	
	Riyal	Weight Categories
1	5	Up to 1 Kg
2	10	More than 1kg. - up to 5 kgs
3	15	More than 5kgs. - up to 10 kgs
4	25	More than 10kgs. - up to 20 kgs

AIR MAIL
EFFECTIVE APRIL 20, 2000

LETTERS										
	1-10g	10-20g	20-50 g.	50-100 g.	100-250 g.	250-500 g.	500-1000 g.	1000-2000g.		
K. S. A.	1.00	1.50	2.50	4.00	8.00	15.00	25.00	35.00		
ARAB & GCC	1.50	2.00	3.50	6.00	13.50	26.00	45.00	70.00		
NON ARAB	2.00	3.00	4.50	7.00	15.00	30.00	55.00	100.00		
PRINTED										
	1-50g	50-100 g.	100-250 g.	250-500 g.	500-1000 g.	1000-2000g				
K. S. A.	1.50	2.00	4.00	7.00	15.00	30.00				SR. 14 TO BE ADDED TO EACH IKG.
ARAB & GCC	2.00	3.00	6.00	12.00	24.00	40.00				SR. 20 TO BE ADDED TO EACH IKG.
NON ARAB	3.00	4.00	9.00	17.00	32.00	55.00				SR. 25 TO BE ADDED TO EACH IKG.
SMALL PARCELS										
	1-100g	100-250g	250-500g	500-1000g	1000-2000g					
K. S. A.	3.00	6.00	10.00	17.00	33.00	0.50				2.00
ARAB & GCC	4.00	8.00	15.00	30.00	45.00	1.00				3.00
NON ARAB	6.00	13.00	23.00	40.00	60.00	1.50				4.00
REGISTER & INQUIRY										

NOTE

The complete table of Saudi Arabian postal rates on page 13 became effective on February 12, 1996. The previous tariff may be found in *Random Notes #38* page 3.

The table of airmail rates on this page was effective on April 20, 2000 redefined the weight categories.

These tables supplied by David Jessich of Dhahran.



Cancellations on the 1925 Jeddah Issues

By: R. J. Thoden

Background: The Jeddah provisionals were issued in 1925 for use in the cities of the Hijaz still under control of the King Ali Government. They were necessary to prevent use of stamps captured by the Najdis when Makkah fell in September 1924. The stamp printing press was located in Makkah. The stamps are those listed by Scott as L51-L186 and LJ17-LJ55, and by Gibbons as 59-D189.

I have been trying to form parallel unused and used collections of these issues during the over 30 years I have been collecting Saudi stamps. While I have come close to completing the unused collection, I have made little progress on the used.

Many of the Jeddah provisionals were issued in small quantities, and it appears that most of them were obtained by stamp dealers. Only a few specific stamps are seen genuinely used for postal purposes with any frequency, such as L94, L144, L163 and L165 (SG 119, 173b, 180C and 182C). Many postally used stamps originated on Colonial Photo-Stores philatelic covers, an example of which is shown here as Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Genuine but philatelic cover with DJEDDA cancellation type H20.

Unfortunately, most of the used stamps in circulation bear bogus or fake cancels. When the stamps are otherwise genuine, these cancels are often referred to as “dealer cancels”, a term which is believed to have been originated by David Graham. There is a story that a Cairo dealers premises were damaged by fire, and many of his stamps lost their gum. The dealer reportedly had the stamps cancelled to improve their saleability. Max Mayo’s book includes this story on page 19, but the Makkah cancellation (type HA10) illustrated by him is genuine and was not used on Jeddah provisionals.



For some stamps, such as many of the errors of the “illegible” issue and inverted surcharges of the four-line Jeddahs, these dealer cancelled examples far outnumber the genuine ones. I have never seen a postally used example of dozens of the Jeddah issues.

Genuine cancels: It is, of course, important to be able distinguish the fake cancels from the genuine cancels. Only cancels from Jeddah (type H20), Yambo (type H20) and Madinah (type H50) can be genuine. Yambo and Madinah cancels are very rare. Examples on covers exist in the Tarik Alireza collection. Cancels are mostly in black ink, however violet was also used.

Shown below are several legitimate covers with Jeddah overprints and Jeddah type H20 cancellations. Unfortunately, several varieties of fake Jeddah cancellations also exist. To qualify as genuine, a cancel should agree with those on the illustrated covers by having the city name in “English” or Arabic clearly visible, and have a clearly readable date in 1925 (or Hijrah equivalent in 1344-1345). The lines of the impression tend to be thick and the bars above and below the date are not complete. The diameter is about 33 mm. Jeddah, being a large city, undoubtedly had several canceling devices of type H20. The following small variations can be seen on the illustrated covers:

Figure 1 – Western date (5.5.925) at left, Hijrah at right. “925’ is inverted. There is an extra mark under the top inner semi-circle.

Figure 2 – Similar to figure 1, but has no extra mark.

Figure 3 – Hijrah date at left, western (29.7.925) date at right.

Figure 4 – Cancel style used on local mail. Has H20 receiving cancel on back.



Figure 2 - Non-philatelic cover with Jeddah type H20 cancel.



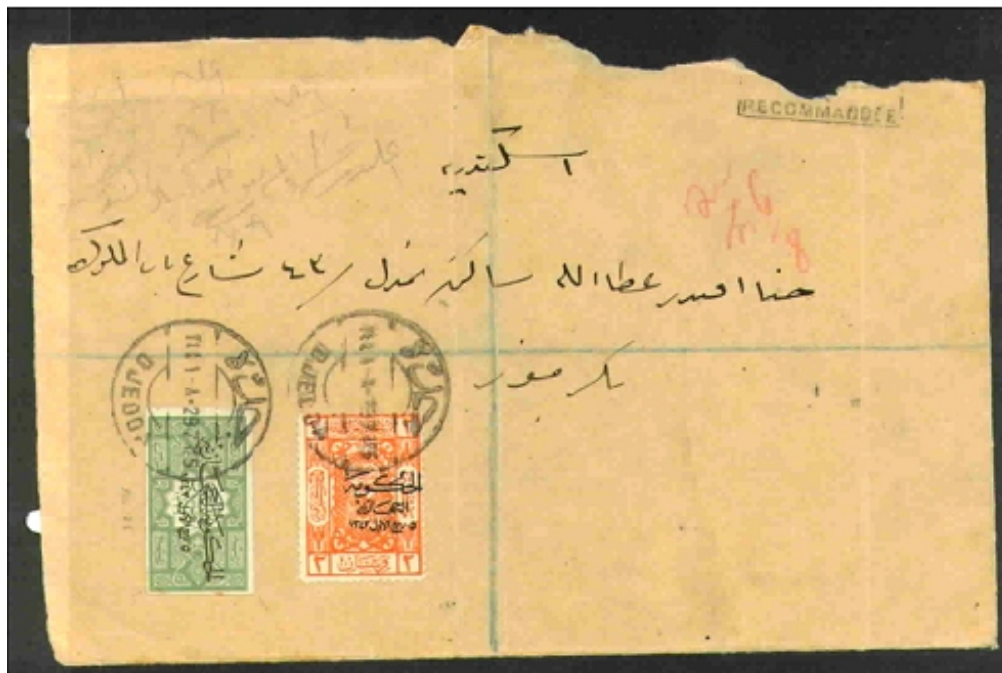


Figure 3 – Genuine cover with Jeddah Type H20 cancels.



Figure 4 - Genuine, possibly philatelic cover with Jeddah Type S190 cancels.



Fake cancels: How do we know these cancels are fake?

They purport to be from post offices where Jeddah provisionals were not in use. Thus Makkah cancels cannot be genuine because Makkah was under Najdi administration during the time these stamps were used. Cairo and Khartoum are in Egypt and Sudan, respectively, and Jeddah provisionals were obviously not in use there.

The date is earlier, or later, than 1925. The first provisionals were issued in January 1925. The Hijaz capitulated in December 1925.

The stamps (sometimes with) overprints are forged.



Type FM-1

Type FM-2

Type FM-3

Type FM-1 Bilingual MEKKE cancel always dated 9-11-916. This date is well before the issue date of the stamps. Grayish-black ink. Often “socked-on-the-nose”. Seen only on otherwise genuine stamps. A common fake cancel.

Type FM-2 All Arabic Makkah al-Mukaramah cancel always dated 20 Ramadan 1343. Usually only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cancel appears on a stamp. Black ink. Seen mostly on forged stamps, but occasionally on genuine also. Fairly common.



Type FC-1

Type FK-1

Type FM-3 All Arabic Makkah al-Mukaramah cancel always dated 21 Jumada Thani 1342. This cancel was used to cancel completely fake stamps on fake covers.

Type FC-1 Partial CAI(RO) always dated 16 JAN (year not in left half or less part of cancel showing on stamp). Thus far, mostly seen in one collection on several dozen otherwise genuine stamps.

Type FK-1 Partial Khartoum cancel always applied so that only the top left or top right quarter of the cancel is visible. Seen only on otherwise genuine stamps so far.





Type FJ-1
(not available)

Type FJ-2

Type FJ-3

Type FJ-1 Bilingual DJEDDA is usually applied in grayish ink on only a small portion of the stamp, and may be the most common “dealer cancel”. Date is not logical, includes “82”. Resembles genuine, but letters are thinner. Commonly seen on forged stamps, but occasionally on genuine also.

Type FJ-2 Bilingual DJEDDA, applied so that only a small portion of the top of the cancel (Arabic Jeddah) is visible. Sketch reconstructed from several part cancels. This resembles the genuine, but “jiym’ is filled in. Heavy black ink. Dates illogical. Mostly seen in one collection where it was applied to both genuine and forged stamps.

Type FJ-3. Bilingual DJEDDAH 3 (note spelling). Applied in purplish-black ink. Dated 18-6-1928, at which time these provisionals were no longer in use. Scarce. Seen applied to mostly fake and a few genuine King Ali stamps.



Type FJ-4

Type FJ-5

Type FJ-6

Type FJ-4. Bilingual DJEDDA. Pale grayish ink. Resembles genuine, but diameter differs (31.5mm vs. 33mm). Date too early. Only seen thus far on unissued King Ali postage dues.

Type FJ-5. Bilingual DJEDDA 5. Always dated 10-11-917, which is before the issue date of the stamps. It is a forgery of a genuine DJEDDA 5, which was no longer in use in 1925. Used on cancel stamps on completely fake covers.

Type FJ-6. Bilingual DJEDDAH. Always dated 10-6-21, which is before the issue date of the stamps. The Hijrah date is 27-3-22. Used to cancel stamps on completely fake covers. See Figure 5 for an example of a fake cover, this one unaddressed and on a plain envelope. They also come addressed and with the return addresses of TWA and KLM airlines!





Figure 5. Cover with completely fake stamps cancelled with FJ-6 fake cancel.

A further complication is the occasional encounter with a used stamp bearing a genuine Jeddah cancel that has later been given a forged Jeddah provisional overprint. In this case, attention to the cancellation date will reveal the forgery. There are even genuinely used Jeddah provisionals that have been given a second fake cancellation by the forgers!

Most dealer or fake cancels do not look like the above illustrations because only small parts are usually applied to a given stamp. Here is what they really look like:





All of the above stamps have fake cancellations.

Value of Jeddah provisionals with fake cancellations. In my opinion, otherwise genuine Jeddah provisionals with dealer (fake) cancels are by no means worthless. They should be accepted by collectors until they can find either unused or genuinely used examples. I mentioned earlier that many otherwise genuine stamps come almost exclusively with dealer cancellations. I have many of these in my own collection because they are the only examples of certain stamps that I have been able to find.

In view of the scarcity of postally used Jeddah provisionals, I believe that such stamps should be valued the same as, or higher than, unused examples. On the few occasions on which I find them, I am willing to pay the unused prices for them.

Further, I believe that otherwise genuine dealer cancelled stamps are worth about 50% of unused ones. I made a recommendation to Scott Publishing that used Jeddah provisionals be priced on this basis in their 1996 catalog. The recommendation was accepted.

The same suggestion was made to Stanley Gibbons, but no action was taken in their catalog. Used prices in most cases remain at small fractions of the unused, and represent real bargains if postally used stamps can be found at such prices.

End Notes:

- 1 All references to (genuine) cancel types are from *The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz and Nejd and Saudi Arabia*, serialized in the Arabian Philatelic Association's Random Notes #44 to #52. (1989-1992).
- 2 Mayo, M. Max: *Barid Al-Sa'udiyah wa Al Hijaz wa Najd* (1973).

RN

Saudi Arabian Birds Definitives

By: Kay Tripp Taylor

Saudi Arabia may not seem like a bird watcher's paradise, but the alert observer can identify many species. There have been about 500 different species recorded from Arabia and each year millions of birds cross the Arabian Peninsula on their annual migration. Described below are nine chosen for the Saudi Arabian Birds definitive series (Scott 1168-1172; SG 1753-1797).



- 1 **Arabian woodpecker** (*dendrocopou dora*). This endemic species is the only true woodpecker found in Arabia and is common in the southwest region. Olive brown to gray brown in color with white bars across blackish wings provides a camouflaged image among the acacia woodlands that it frequents. Males also have a red patch on the back and crown. Arabic: naggar al-khashab al-arabi.
- 2 **Arabian bustard** (*ardeotis arabs*). Resident from the extreme southwest of Saudi Arabia to Yemen, the Arabian bustard is threatened by over hunting and habitat loss. The Arabian bustard differs from the houbara in its larger size, uniformly gray neck and backward pointing crest which is more conspicuous. Arabic: al-habara al-‘arabiyah.
- 3 **Crested lark** (*galerida cristata*). A very common resident of Arabia. The crested lark's brown color is rather dull blending into its habitat of dry, fairly level sub-desert, dusty tracks and roadsides. Its short pointed crest is evident when disturbed and taking flight. Arabic: al-qunburah al-mutawajah.



- 4 **Turtle dove** (*streptopelia turtur*).juvenile. Seen over a wide range of country including open woodland, large gardens and farmland, the turtle dove is a widespread and common migrant. The adult has a checkered patch on each side of the neck, lacking in the juvenile. Arabic: qumri aurubi.
- 5 **Western reef egret** (*egretta gularis schistacea*). The reef egret is normally seen on the seashore or on offshore islands where its mainly fish diet is most abundant. Typically the egret will quietly wade with occasional sudden rushes to catch its prey. Arabic: balashoon as-sakhr.
- 6 **Arabian red-legged partridge** (*alectoris melanocephala*). This partridge is endemic to Arabia found mainly in the highlands of southwest Arabia. Usually heard more often than seen, it feeds on vegetable matter, seeds and invertebrates and visits water in the morning and evening. This partridge is distinguishable from the chukar by its blackish crown. Arabic: ahmar al-qadam.
- 7 **Hoopoe** (*upupa epops*). An easily recognizable bird, the hoopoe is favorite among even the most casual bird watchers. It is unmistakable with its barred , black and white wing and tail plumage, and black-tipped, fan-shaped crest. Its long curved bill is constantly piercing the soil as it searches for insects and grubs. Arabic: al-hudhud.
- 8 **Peregrine** (*falco peregrinus*). The peregrine is a fast-flying raptor, known for its lightning stoop in which the bird closes its wings and hurtles down onto the victim at breakneck speed. A closely related race to the peregrine, the barbary falcon, can also be seen throughout Saudi Arabia. The peregrine is much prized by falconers. Arabic: ash-shahin.
- 9 **Houbara bustard** (*chlamydotis undulata*). A popular bird in falconry, the houbara population has been greatly diminished from over hunting and habitat deterioration. The houbara still winters in the United Arab Emirates as well as being sparsely scattered over former territories throughout Arabia. The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) has established a protected area in northern Saudi Arabia to encourage breeding of the houbara and eventual expansion of the population. Arabic: al-houbara.

Note: Numbers 1 to 3 are left-to-right in top row, 4 to 6 are in middle row and 7 to 9 are in bottom row.

RN

The Weatherings Column

By: Martin C. Lovegrove

A few comments, some related to previous Random Notes (RN), and some not. They have been numbered to facilitate identification in replies.

1 In RN30.7, a FDC of the ICY issue (Scott354 – 358, SG 621 – 625) was illustrated. I was working in Riyadh at this time, and the set was available in blocks of 4 with full gum and pre-cancelled with the commemorative cancel.

2 RN10.19 requests further information on the forged basic 5 qirsh Arms stamp with 10 qirsh 4-line surcharge. This has obviously been seen because it appears in the Forgeries Manual, but I can confirm that it is identical to the 1 qirsh surcharge with a dot added. Using imaging software I floated a transparent image of the 1 qirsh over an example of the 10 qirsh and the fit was exact.

3 Figure 1 shows a diamond shaped cancellation on a postal tax stamp. Can anyone let me know its significance?

4 Figure 2 shows a copy of Scott 32, SG 212, with the central ‘Wednesday’ handstamp missing. Has anyone else seen this variety?



Figure 1



Figure 2

5 A plea for future articles. It would be of enormous help if currency exchange rates were quoted when prices are quoted. On reading old copies of RN, I have difficulty relating such values as SR55 to current values without knowing what the exchange rates were at the time. Perhaps the approximate exchange rates for common currencies could be included with each RN.

6 RN37.6 refers to the large number of forgeries appearing in auctions. As far as I can see, the situation has not changed. I recently had to return all my purchases from one auction! I have not had any problems with getting a refund, but it is interesting how many of my returned lots appear in later auctions. Beware!

7 The article on RN41.15 refers to reprints of the Makkah Arms series as “bogus”. It has been stated in other articles in RN that one way of detecting such a reprint is the missing perforation pin that can sometimes be seen. On page 83 of ‘The Stamps of Jordan 1920 – 1965’ by Abed Habib Najjar, is an illustration of a 1 qirsh with the missing pin variety and overprinted for use in Transjordan. Does this mean that some reprints were officially produced, but not for use in Hejaz/Nejd? Other possibilities are that the illustrated stamp is a forgery, or that reprints were, in fact, official. Can anyone give any information on these reprints?



8 In RN44 was a reference to the late usage of the octagonal MEDINE 2 cancellation stating that it was in use to at least 1934. Figure 3 shows a cover from February 1937 with the cancellation.



Figure 3

A Catalog of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia

By R. J Thoden

Review By: Kenneth Trettin

A Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia 1916-2001, compiled by R. J. Thoden (no ISBN), 56+ 44 pages (appendices), 8.5 x 11 inches, plastic comb binding, clear plastic covers, unpriced, scarcity rating in appendix, illustrated,. Published by the author for the Arabian Philatelic Association International. Available from the author (4125 Windover Way, Melbourne, FL32934-8514 for \$22 plus shipping & handling (\$2.08 by media rate, or \$3.50 priority), inquire for foreign delivery).

In the January and February 1977 issues of The American Revenuer the author published "A Preliminary Listing of the Revenue Stamps of Saudi Arabia". This listing was based on Saudi fiscals that he had seen in the course of his business in Saudi Arabia, and those those that could be supplied by friends, both collectors and non-collectors. That listing was limited to the fiscals of Saudi Arabia from 1926 but excluded those of the Hijaz.

Thoden's search for more revenues and any information about them has continued to this day. Although he acknowledges that the listing is not complete, the listing has expanded by a magnitude of many times. Much more is now known about what exists and the background behind them.

Although titled a catalog, this is also a handbook. Each type of stamp contains a synopsis of its use, tax rates and legislation creating the stamps. Appendices more complete translations of much of the enabling legislation. Seventeen different categories of stamps are listed while ten different appendices discuss rates, provide table for translation of values and inscriptions, discussion of the use of the stamps and illustrations of many stamps used on various types of documents.

The catalog is computer generated although done in a typewriter style if type. The illustrations are not half-toned and are often not ideal, but nonetheless are quite useable. The catalog listings are laid out in an open, easy to use, easy to understand manner. There are no running section heads but the listings make use of prefixes with the catalog number. Illustrations are all numbered and keyed to the listings. Additional notes are inserted throughout the listings.

And yes, there is at least one stamp listed issued in 2001. – a passport and visa stamp, with a hologram.

This is an amazing compilation of information about a country that really does not want collectors to know about their revenue stamps. Literature collectors, you know you have to have this one.

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The Early Postal History of Saudi Arabia

by Jakob von Uexkull.

Review by Willie King

Published in 2001 by Sahara Publications Limited. ISBN 1-903022-10-X. Hard bound. 98 pages 29.7 x 21.0 cm. Obtainable from publisher at Sahara House, 38 Greyhound Road, London W6 8NX, United Kingdom at £35 inclusive of UK or Overseas postage. Credit Cards accepted. A limited edition of 450 copies all numbered and signed by the author.

This very useful book is a detailed listing and valuation guide for all stamps and covers, posted within the area now known as Saudi Arabia, up until approximately 1916 when the first stamps of Hejaz were issued. Initially Jakob describes a number of covers, beginning in the 1830's, which predate the opening of the Egyptian Post Office in Jeddah in 1865. From this point forwards the valuation guide appraises not only covers but also the various cancellations on stamps. Initially stamps of Egypt cancelled in Jeddah are valued and Jakob includes a listing of the known covers from this period until 1881 when the Egyptian Office was closed by the Ottoman authorities.

The Ottoman Post Offices first opened in 1871 in Jeddah and the listing includes the different cancels and colours of cancels for Jeddah and its sub-offices on the many different Turkish issues. Usefully this catalogue then lists all known Ottoman Post Offices within the modern borders of Saudi Arabia with their cancellations and lists the Turkish stamps recorded by the author. For several minor Ottoman Post Offices cancels from the PTT proof books are shown – since their cancellations have not yet been recorded on any stamp or cover.

The book concludes with a 20 page listing of cancels and revenues from the Hejaz railway and other mail from this area such as Fee Paid, Philby in Nejd and the French Military Mission on which information is very hard to obtain.

Some of this information will be outdated as soon as collectors start using this listing to review their collections. However it is an essential and functional guide to this fascinating area of collecting and needs to be on the bookshelf of all Ottoman or Saudi collectors. The valuation guide is basically in \$ (but equally relevant if considered in euros or £) and, in the reviewer's experience, these valuations appear to be soundly based on relative scarcity and availability. Ottoman covers from Arabia have always been keenly sought after, but now it is possible to form a more affordable collection of fine used stamps, with some possibility of contributing to the recorded information. Who will be first to find a stamp or cover with Nedjed or Sabia cancellation? The reader now knows what to look for. Such a find would justify this handbook simply by proving that such a cancel does exist beyond the proof books in the archives. However as Hofuf had already been captured by Abdulaziz ibn Saud before the date shown on the PTT archive proof impression for Nedjed that is unlikely. However for Sabia – just maybe!

Note : Sabia is approximately 100 miles south of Taif.

ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA

By Willie King

Issues were last reported in RN #56 in 1995 and this listing will maintain the continuity from that report. Note that it is difficult to obtain official issue dates in Saudi Arabia. When issue dates are unavailable we will try and provide printing dates obtained from information attached to packs of the stamps. The title 'New' is omitted from the first few pages until we can bring you closer to 2002. Following the untimely death of Abdul Aziz Sa'id we have been unable to have details of the stamp designers or details of print quantities. If these become available later we will add that information.

Information for the definitive sets, including new values in the small Khafji oil rig, Holy Ka'aba, flowers, and birds designs as well as the new Saudi Ports designs will be presented later with all values of a design listed together.

All Saudi stamps are printed by the Security Press. Their tiny inscription may be seen at the foot of each stamp. Marginal and gutter inscriptions will be reported apart from routine colour bars and perforation positional markings. However most issues are available in complete sheets and are available as a scan should any reader require such a detailed cross reference for any feature or possible variety. Various shades are not abnormal in modern multicolour printing but will be noted where of particular interest.

Note all new issue pages are being prepared in full colour and these can be obtained by email on request. The numbering is the sequence for commemoratives in that Gregorian year.

1995-06 : 50th Anniversary of Saudia

Issued : August 21st 1995 2 values

75h : The 50 year logo for Saudia.

Sheets of 50 (10 across x 5)

150h: The new Saudi logo on the tail fins of the aircraft fleet.

Sheets of 50 (5 across x 10)

Perforation 12



Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1892-3. Scott 1224-5.

1995-07 : 50th Anniversary of FAO

Issued : October 16th 1995 2 values

75h : 50 year logo for FAO and ears of wheat.

150h : FAO Emblem illuminating globe

Sheets of 50 (10 across x 5)

Perforation 12



Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1894-5. Scott 1226-7.



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA 1996

1996-01 : Olympics (Atlanta)

Issued : April 1996. 2 values.

150h and 2SR : Emblem of Summer Olympics,
Saudi Arabia Olympic Committee & Pictogram
Sheets of 50 (5 across x 10)

Perforation 12

Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1899-1900. Scott 1231-2.



1996-02 : Haji 1416

Issued : April 21st 1996 3 values

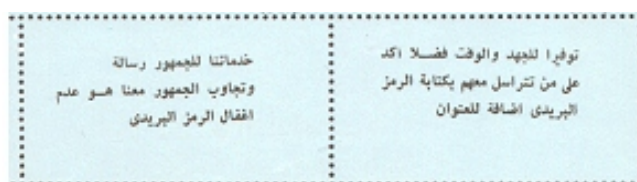
150h, 2SR and 3SR : Al Khaif Mosque
in Makkah

Sheet Format : 50 stamps + 2 post code labels
4 across by 13 down.

Post Code Labels : Position 51 PC #1
Position 52 PC #8
(Refer RN #32 p20 for translation)

Perforation 12

Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1896-8. Scott 1233-5.



1996-03 : World Health Day

Issued : July 21st. 1996. 2 values.

Printed : July 2-3rd 1996.

2SR and 3SR : Sunrise over city and
water emblem.

Sheets of 50 (10 across x 5)

Perforation 12

Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1901-2. Scott 1236-7



ISSUES OF SAUDI ARABIA 1996

1996-04 : World Food Day

Issued : October 22nd. 1996. 2 values.

2SR and 3SR : FAO emblem over irrigation channel.

Sheets of 50 (5 across x 10)

Perforation 12

Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1903-4. Scott 1238-9.



1996-05 : 50th Anniversary of UNICEF

Issued : November 12th. 1996. 2 values.

150h and 2SR : 50 enveloping

UNICEF symbol.

Sheets of 50 (5 across x 10)

Perforation 12

Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1905-6. Scott 1240-1.



1996-06 : 25th Anniversary of King Abdul Aziz Research Centre

Issued : December 25th. 1996. 2 values.

150h and 2SR : Emblem over outline of Arabian Peninsula.

Sheets of 50 + 4 Post Code labels
(9 across x 6)

Post Code Labels : 4 Printed Diagonally in Lower Left Corner block. Position 37 PC #3, Position 38 PC #1

Position 46 PC #4, Position 47 PC #2

(Refer RN32 p20 for translation)

Perforation 12

Catalogue Numbers : Gibbons 1909-10. Scott 1242-3.

